

**LAND OFF BATH ROAD  
TETBURY  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

**CGMs CONSULTING**

*on behalf of*

**HANNICK HOMES**

CA PROJECT: 3151  
CA REPORT: 10120

JULY 2010

LAND OFF BATH ROAD  
TETBURY  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 3151  
CA REPORT: 10120

prepared by	Ray Holt, Project Officer
date	21 July 2010
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	23 July 2010
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	26 July 2010
issue	01

*This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.*

## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3) .....	6
3. DISCUSSION.....	8
4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	8
5. REFERENCES .....	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	9
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS .....	11
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	12

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1000)
- Fig. 3 Sections (1:20)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Land off Bath Road  
**Location:** Tetbury, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** ST 8868 9260  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 8 – 9 July 2010  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Corinium Museum  
**Site Code:** BRT 10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2010 on land off Bath Road, Tetbury. Six trenches were excavated.

One ditch and one ditch terminal probably dating to the prehistoric period were identified, together with three undated gullies and one undated pit.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Hannick Homes on land off Bath Road, Tetbury (centred on NGR: ST 8868 9260; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of residential dwellings.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with recommendations from Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council (CDC), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CgMs (2010) and approved by Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Andrew Armstrong, GCC Countryside Archaeological Advisor, including site visits on 9 July 2010.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development site is bounded to the south-east by Bath Road, to the north-east and north-west by housing situated along Long Furlong Lane and Southfield and to the south-west by an enclosed field at the south-western extent of Tetbury. The course of the River Avon runs c. 315m to the north-east of the study site (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 115m AOD.
- 1.4 The site encloses an area of approximately 1.7ha, and comprises a single pasture field.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble of the Middle Jurassic Period, comprising limestone and clay (BGS 1970). Limestone brash and clay were encountered on site.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 An archaeological desk based assessment of the study site was completed by CgMs in April 2009 (CgMs 2009). This section summarises the results of these works.
- 1.7 The NMR records the chance recovery of two Mesolithic microliths found in association with material of Neolithic date in fields near Parsonage Farm, situated c. 400m to the east of the site. Tetbury Camp situated to the north-east of the site has also been interpreted as possibly representing the remains of a former Iron Age hillfort.
- 1.8 Documentary evidence records the presence of a possible Roman military station in the Tetbury area, the remains of which were destroyed in the mid-18th century, and also notes Roman coins to have been found within the locality of Tetbury.
- 1.9 Historic documentary evidence in the form of two early charters dating to AD 681 and AD 775-777, recording grants of land near Tetbury, suggest the presence of settlement in this period. Tetbury's place-name is thought to derive from 'Tetta's burh' meaning the fortified place of Tetta. It is also suggested from Offa's charter of AD 903 that there was an early medieval minster church at Tetbury as the charter identifies a bishop at Tettanbyrig (ibid). Some late Saxon and early medieval coins have been recovered from Tetbury Camp.
- 1.10 The historic medieval core of Tetbury, lies to the north-east of the site, and an area of the deserted settlement of Charlton, lies 540m to the north-west of the site. The site is likely to have been located within, and formed part of, the common grazing lands, known as the South Hayes, surrounding Tetbury in this period.
- 1.11 On the basis of cartographic and aerial photographic evidence, the study site would appear to have been essentially undeveloped and in likely pastoral use throughout the post-medieval period, the exception being the construction of a building with adjacent small enclosed land plot at its north eastern extent adjacent to the Bath Road in c. 1900. Aerial photographic evidence, supported by inspection of the site, would suggest that it has been subject to previous ground disturbance as a result of probable quarrying activity, indicated to have occurred at its southern extent and along its boundary with the Bath Road.

- 1.12 In May 2010 a detailed magnetometer survey of the site was undertaken by the Bartlett-Clark Consultancy (report forthcoming). This survey identified a number of anomalies of potential archaeological origin to be present on the site, comprising two sides of a probable main enclosure, possibly with internal subdivisions and containing a cluster of pit-like features or disturbances in the centre of the site. Some of the internal features appear to be slightly fragmentary, and may have been partly eroded by cultivation, a north-west to south-east linear cultivation pattern being most clearly visible at the centre of the site.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.13 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist CDC in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.14 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 6 trenches measuring 30m in length and 1.9m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The layout of the trenches was determined by the location of a number of linear and discrete geophysical anomalies.
- 1.15 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.16 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003), but no samples were recovered. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

- 1.17 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Corinium Museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)**

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 2.2 During the evaluation six features were identified within trenches 1, 2 and 4. Two of these features dated to the prehistoric period, the remaining features were undated. In all of the six trenches a broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified; undisturbed natural substrate comprising clay and limestone brash was revealed at depths of between 0.45 and 0.65m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil, up to 0.45m thick, which was in turn overlain by topsoil, up to 0.22m thick. Trenches 3, 5 and 6 were devoid of archaeological features.
- 2.3 The geophysical survey showed a number of linear and discreet anomalies. Excepting the ditches in trenches 1 and 2 these were proven to be geological in origin. Of particular note was the interface between limestone brash in the central and southern part of the site and clay deposits to the north which showed as a linear geophysical anomaly and the numerous patches of clay within the brash deposits in the central part of the site which showed as discreet pit-like features.

### ***Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 2.4 A north/south orientated ditch 107 (Fig. 3, section AA) was identified in the central portion of the trench and measured 2.24m wide and 0.58m deep with moderate sloping sides to a flat base. The tertiary fill 104 contained a single sherd of prehistoric (probably Iron Age) pottery, charcoal and burnt stone. To the west of ditch 107 a shallow gully 113 was cut by a small pit 110. No dating evidence was recovered from either of these features; however the upper fill 103 of pit 110 contained quantities of burnt clay. The fills of the archaeological features were overlain by subsoil 102 which was in turn overlain by topsoil 101.



### **Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)**

- 2.5 A north/south orientated ditch terminal 2003 (Fig. 3, section BB) was identified at the south-western end of the trench and measured 1.9m wide and 0.75m deep with moderate sloping sides to a flat base. The secondary fill 2005 of ditch 2003 contained a flint microlith. To the north-east of ditch 2003 the terminal of shallow east/west orientated gully 2009 contained a single artefactually sterile fill 2010. The fills of the archaeological features were overlain by subsoil 2002 which was in turn overlain by topsoil 2001.

### **Trench 4 (Fig. 2)**

- 2.6 A shallow north/south orientated gully 404 was identified in the central portion of the trench, measured 0.9m wide and 0.1m deep and contained a single undated fill 405.

### **The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence**

- 2.7 Artefactual material consisting of worked flint and pottery and a quantity of animal bone was recovered from three deposits.
- 2.8 A piece of worked flint was the only artefact recovered from secondary fill 2005 of ditch 2003. This consists of the proximal end of a bladelet of flint which is patinated to a mottled pale grey. A line of fine abrupt retouch extends just inside of the bulb and narrowing to the point of breakage, approximately 12mm from the striking platform. This item is very likely to be a 'micro-burin' – a preparatory stage to microlith manufacture and thus of Mesolithic date.
- 2.9 A single sherd of pottery in a leached shell-tempered fabric was recovered from tertiary ditch fill 104 (fill of ditch 107). Iron Age dating is suggested on the basis of the fabric and firing characteristics.
- 2.10 A small quantity of animal bone (11 fragments weighing 150g) was recovered from primary fill 106 of ditch 107 and secondary fill 2005 of ditch 2003. Cattle and sheep/goat were identified the remainder being sheep-sized. The animal bone was in good condition with moderate root etching noted in the bones from ditch fill 106.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 A prehistoric ditch, 107 was identified during the evaluation and may represent either a field boundary, or alternatively form part of a ditched enclosure. Ditch terminal 2003 may be considered to be broadly contemporary as it had similar fill characteristics and appears on the basis of the geophysical survey to be on the same alignment as ditch 107. The geophysics survey suggests an entranceway to the south. The microlith recovered from ditch 2003 is probably residual; however the recovery of two microliths from fields near Parsonage Farm to the east of the site may suggest the presence of Mesolithic activity in the vicinity.
- 3.2 The undated ditch and gullies probably represented field boundaries delineating the land and acting as drainage channels and may date from the prehistoric period onwards. The purpose of undated pit 110 is unknown at present.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Peter Davenport and Hazel O'Neill. The report was written by Ray Holt. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

### 5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1970 *British Geological Survey (England and Wales) Solid and Drift. Sheet 251: Malmesbury*
- CgMs (CgMs Consulting) 2009 *Land off Bath Road, Tetbury, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*
- CgMs (CgMs Consulting) 2010 *Land off Bath Road, Tetbury, Gloucestershire: Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Topsoil			0.15 to 0.2	
102	Layer	Subsoil			0.3 to 0.4	
103	Fill	Upper fill of 110	0.65	0.65	0.11	
104	Fill	Upper fill of 107	At least 1.8	2.24	0.39	IA?
105	Fill	Middle fill of 107	At least 1.8	1.8	0.1	
106	Fill	Lower fill of 107	At least 1.8	0.92	0.13	
107	Cut	N-S ditch filled by 104, 105 and 106	At least 1.8	2.24	0.58	
108	Deposit	Natural limestone brash	n/a	n/a	n/a	
109	Deposit	Natural clay	n/a	n/a	n/a	
110	Cut	Pit filled by 103 and 111	0.7	0.7	0.15	
111	Fill	Fill of 110	0.7	0.7	0.05	
112	Deposit	Natural clay	n/a	n/a	n/a	
113	Cut	Shallow gully filled by 114	At least 1.5	0.3	0.05	
114	Fill	Fill of 113	At least 1.5	0.3	0.05	

## Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2001	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
2002	Layer	Subsoil			0.3 to 0.4	
2003	Cut	N-S ditch terminal filled by 2004, 2005 and 2006	At least 1.25	1.9	0.75	
2004	Fill	Upper fill of 2003		1.1	0.3	
2005	Fill	Middle fill of 2003		1.0	0.35	
2006	Fill	Lower fill of 2003		1.0	0.7	
2007	Deposit	Natural limestone brash	n/a	n/a	n/a	
2008	Deposit	Natural clay	n/a	n/a	n/a	
2009	Cut	Gully terminal filled by 2010	0.7	0.6	0.33	
2010	Fill	Fill of 2009	0.7	0.6	0.33	

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
301	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
302	Layer	Subsoil			0.3 to 0.4	
303	Deposit	Natural limestone brash	n/a	n/a	n/a	
304	Deposit	Natural clay	n/a	n/a	n/a	

## Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
401	Layer	Topsoil			0.15	
402	Layer	Subsoil			0.3 to 0.45	
403	Deposit	Natural clay	n/a	n/a	n/a	
404	Cut	Gully filled by 405	At least 1.9	0.9	0.1	
405	Fill	Fill of 404	At least 1.9	0.9	0.1	
406	Deposit	Natural limestone brash	n/a	n/a	n/a	

## Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
501	Layer	Topsoil			0.15 to 0.2	
502	Layer	Subsoil			0.4 to 0.45	
503	Deposit	Natural limestone brash	n/a	n/a	n/a	
504	Deposit	Natural clay	n/a	n/a	n/a	

## Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
601	Layer	Topsoil			0.22	
602	Layer	Subsoil			0.18	
603	Deposit	Natural limestone brash	n/a	n/a	n/a	
604	Deposit	Natural clay	n/a	n/a	n/a	

**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

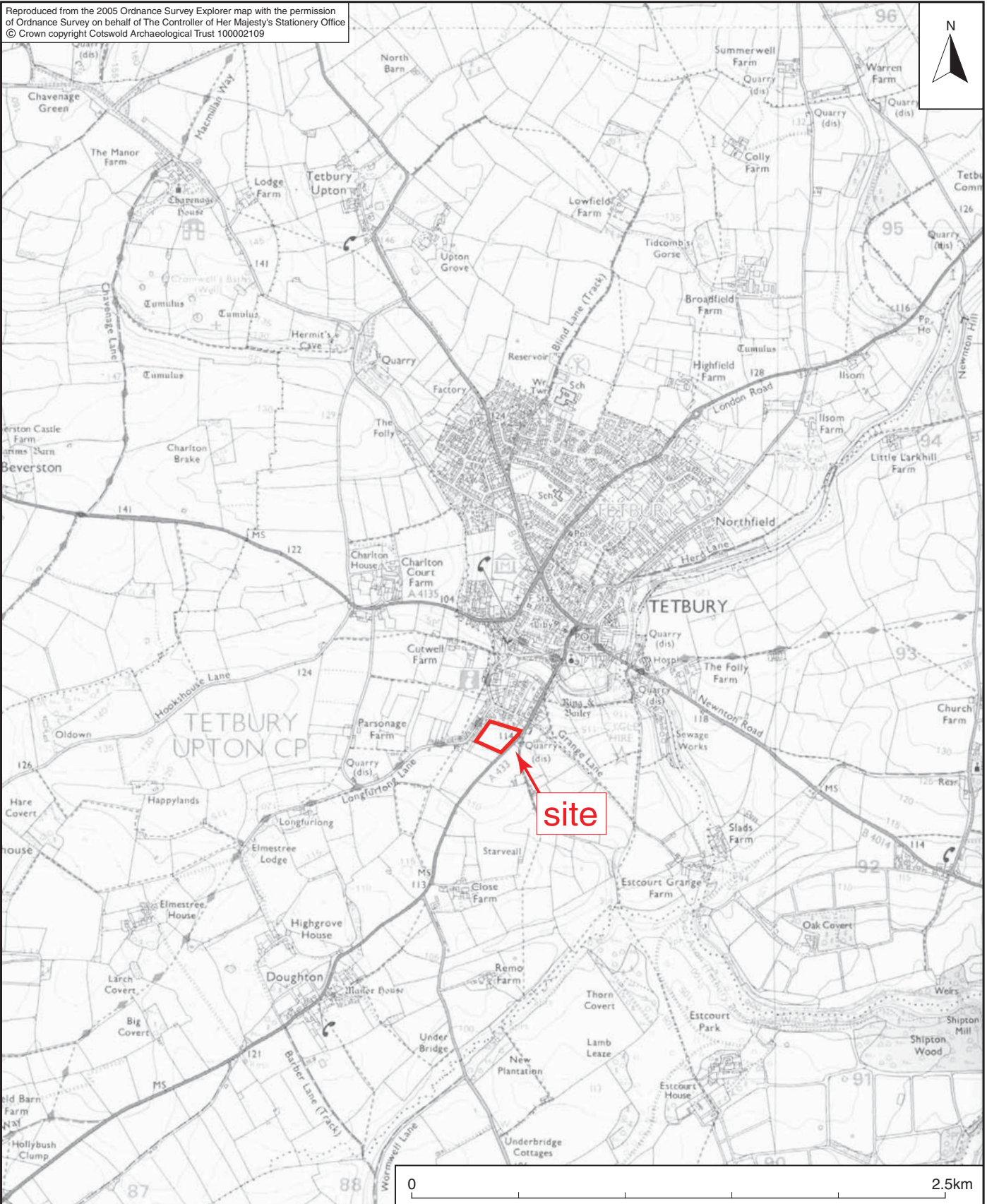
<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight(g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
104	Prehistoric pottery: leached shell-tempered	1	1	Late Pre?
106	Animal bone: cattle, sheep, sheep sized	8	148	-
2005	Worked flint: re-touched bladelet (micro-burin?)	1	<1	-
	Animal bone: cattle	3	10	-

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land off Bath Road, Tetbury, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2010 on land off Bath Road, Tetbury. Six trenches were excavated. One ditch and one ditch terminal probably dating to the prehistoric period were identified, together with three undated gullies and one undated pit.	
Project dates	8 – 9 July 2010	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Archaeological evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2009) Geophysical Survey (Bartlett-Clark Consultancy 2010)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land off Bath Road, Tetbury, Gloucestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.7ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 8865 9265	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	GCC	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Corinium Museum	Ceramics, flint and animal bone
Paper	Corinium Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, photographic registers, permatrace drawings
Digital	Corinium Museum	Survey data and digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Land off Bath Road, Tetbury, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>10120</b>		



Reproduced from the 2005 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeological Trust 100002109



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Land Off Bath Road, Tetbury  
Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY

JB

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

3151

FIGURE NO.

**1**



- ▭ site
  - ▭ evaluation trench showing archaeological feature
- geophysics**
- ▭ magnetic anomalies (archaeological?)
  - ▭ magnetic anomalies (natural/uncertain?)
  - ▭ strong (recent?) magnetic disturbances
  - ▭ strong magnetic disturbances (ferrous)
  - ▭ cultivation



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE  
Land off Bath Road, Tetbury  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan, showing archaeological features**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JB	1:1000@A3	3151	2

ST

925

926

927

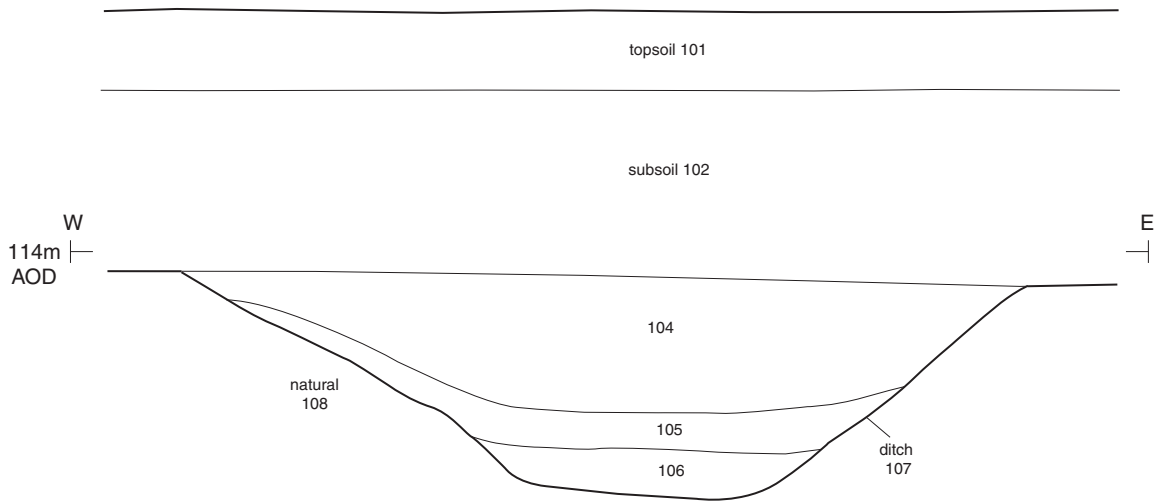
988

987

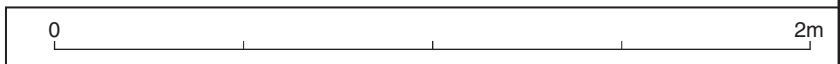
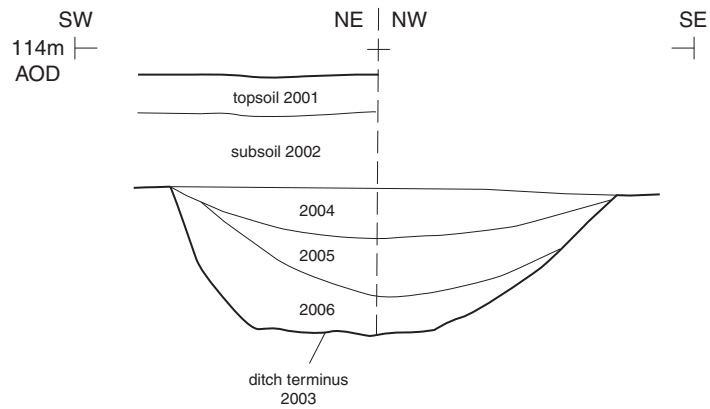
988



Trench 1; South facing section of ditch 107



Trench 2; South-east and south-west facing section of ditch terminus 2003



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land Off Bath Road, Tetbury  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Sections**

DRAWN BY

JB

SCALE

1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.

3151

FIGURE NO.

**3**