

A417/A419 CCTV INSTALLATION GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

BALFOUR BEATTY/MOTT MACDONALD

CA PROJECT: 3027
CA REPORT: 10125

OCTOBER 2010


**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**



A417/A419 CCTV INSTALLATION GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND SWINDON

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CA PROJECT: 3027
CA REPORT: 10125

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date	29 September 2010
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date	1 October 2010
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signed	
date	1 October 2010
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: A417/A419 CCTV Installation
Location: Gloucestershire and Wiltshire
NGR: Site 4 Nettleton Bottom centred on NGR: SO 9446 2137;
Site 8 Commonhead Junction centred on NGR: SU 1927 8242
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 5-14 January 2010
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester
Site Code: BDL 10

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of new CCTV cameras along the A417/A419 in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Balfour Beatty/Mott Macdonald during construction of new CCTV cameras along the A417/A419 in Gloucestershire and Swindon. Two sites were monitored: Site 4 Nettleton Bottom, centred on NGR: SO 9446 2137, and Site 8 Commonhead Junction, centred on NGR SU 1927 8242 (Fig. 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 An initial scoping exercise was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (WA) of nine proposed CCTV sites which identified five sites (Sites 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8) where further archaeological assessment was required. Following this, and in line with the guidance set out in *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11, Chapter 3, Section 2: Cultural Heritage*, a Cultural Heritage Simple Assessment of the archaeological constraints of the scheme was carried out by Balfour Beatty/Mott Macdonald in conjunction with WA (see WA 2009).
- 1.3 Based on the findings of the Cultural Heritage Simple Assessment, it was agreed through consultation with Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeologist for Gloucestershire County Council and Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council, that an archaeological watching brief would be undertaken at all five sites. In the event, intrusive groundworks were monitored only at Sites 4 and 8.
- 1.4 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by WA (2009) and approved by Mr Parry and Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* issued by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Section (1995), the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (Archaeology Service, Wiltshire County Council, 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE) (English Heritage 2006).

The sites

- 1.5 Site 4 is located at Nettleton Bottom, Gloucestershire, on the northern verge of the A417 (Fig. 2). It lies within a dry valley at around 250m AOD. The underlying solid geology is mapped as Fuller's earth (clay and limestone) of the Middle Jurassic geological era (BGS 1972). Limestone with clay was exposed at Site 4 during the watching brief.
- 1.6 Site 8 is located on the Commonhead Junction, Swindon and lies at approximately 110m AOD (Fig. 3). The underlying solid geology is mapped as Gault deposits (mainly clay) of the Lower Cretaceous geological era (BGS 1974). The natural substrate was not exposed at Site 8.

Archaeological background

- 1.7 Site 4 is located within an area of known archaeological potential. Briery Hill Neolithic longbarrow is located to the south and a prehistoric flint arrowhead was recovered from Birdlip Quarry to the east (WA 2009). At this part of its route, the A417 follows the line of Ermin Street Roman road which linked Gloucester with Silchester in Hampshire (ibid.).
- 1.8 Site 8 also lies within an area of known archaeological potential (WA 2009). In particular, archaeological recording undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during improvements at the Commonhead Junction identified a Middle Bronze Age hollow or ditch and a medieval hollow-way (Hart and Alexander 2009; see Fig. 3, 2005 excavation area).

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2009). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks at Sites 4 and 8, comprising the excavation of foundation trenches for the bases of the CCTV masts. At each of Sites 4 and 8, a single trench measuring 3m in length and 3m in width was excavated (Figs 2 and 3). The remaining sites (Sites 2, 3 and 5) were not monitored.
- 1.10 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

- 1.11 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2–3)

Site 4 Nettleton Bottom, Gloucestershire

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate (4104), consisting of limestone with clay, was revealed at 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). It was overlain by modern dumped deposits 4102 and 4103, which were themselves overlain by the topsoil.

Site 8 Commonhead Roundabout, Swindon

- 2.2 Modern dumped layer 8102 was revealed at 1.1m bpgl and was not excavated to its full depth. It was overlain by the topsoil.
- 2.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the sites (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the areas of observed groundworks. At Site 4, the presence of modern deposits directly overlying the natural substrate indicates that any archaeological deposits that might have existed there may have been entirely truncated during the construction of the road. At Site 8, the groundworks did not penetrate below the level of the modern made ground and therefore did not expose any archaeological deposits that might have been present.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Bennett and Jonathan Hart. This report was written by Jonathan Hart with illustrations prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has

been compiled by Jonathan Hart and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1972 *Geological Survey of England and Wales. Sheet 234: Gloucester*. 1:50,000 series. Solid and Drift Edition

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of England and Wales. Sheet 252: Swindon*. 1:50,000 series. Solid and Drift Edition

Hart, J. and Alexander, M. 2009 'Bronze Age activity and a medieval hollow-way at the A419 Commonhead Junction, Swindon', *Wiltshire Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Mag.* **102**, 211-221

WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2009 *A417/A419 CCTV Installation: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief* WA report ref.: **71490.18**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Site 4

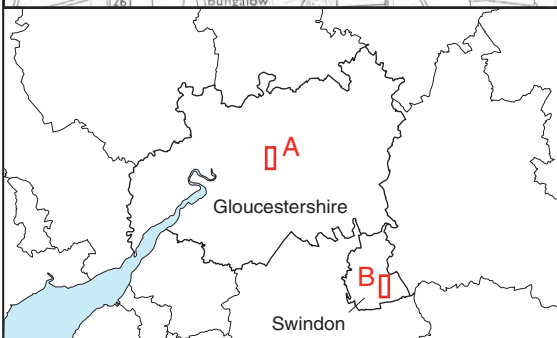
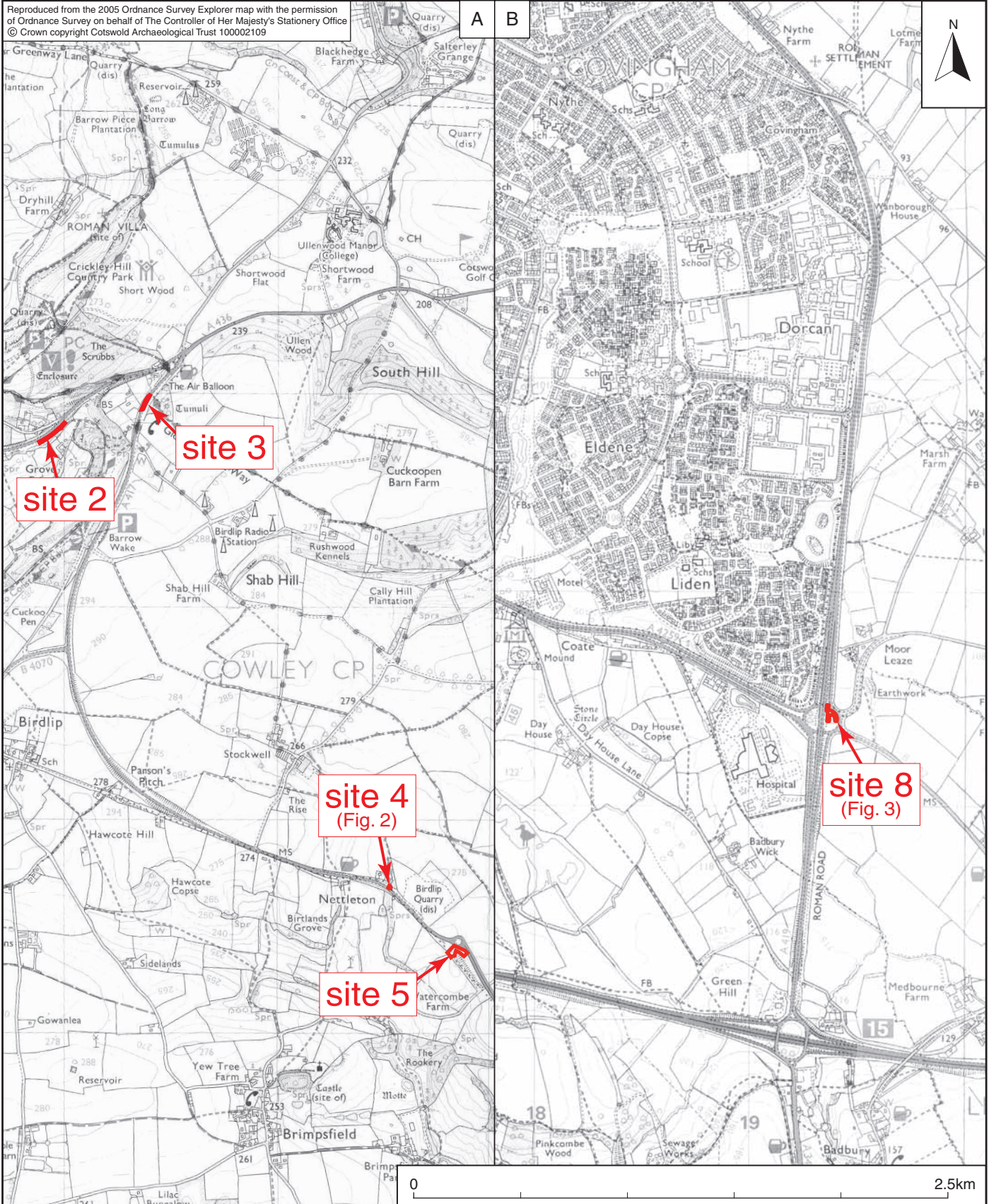
No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
4101	Layer	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt	0.2
4102	Layer	Dumped layer: redeposited natural and subsoil	0.25
4103	Layer	Dumped layer: tarmac and limestone fragments	0.05
4104	Layer	Natural: limestone with yellow clay	n/a


Site 8

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)
8101	Layer	Topsoil: dark brown clay silt	0.3
8102	Layer	Dumped layer: brown clay containing modern hardcore. Not excavated to full depth	>0.8

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	A417/A419 CCTV Installation, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of new CCTV cameras along the A417/A419 in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	5-14 January 2010	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	none	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Site 4: Nettleton Bottom, Gloucestershire; Site 8: Commonhead Junction, Swindon	
Study area	Sites 4 and 8, each measuring 3m x 3m	
Site co-ordinates	Site 4 Nettleton Bottom centred on NGR: SO 9446 2137; Site 8 Commonhead Junction centred on NGR SU 1927 8242	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Wessex Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Bennett and Jonathan Hart	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Corinium Museum	Context records, plans
Digital	Corinium Museum	Report copies, site background
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>A417/A419 CCTV Installation, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief CA typescript report no. 10125</i>		



 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE A417/A419 CCTV Installation Gloucestershire and Swindon			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	3027	1

945

946

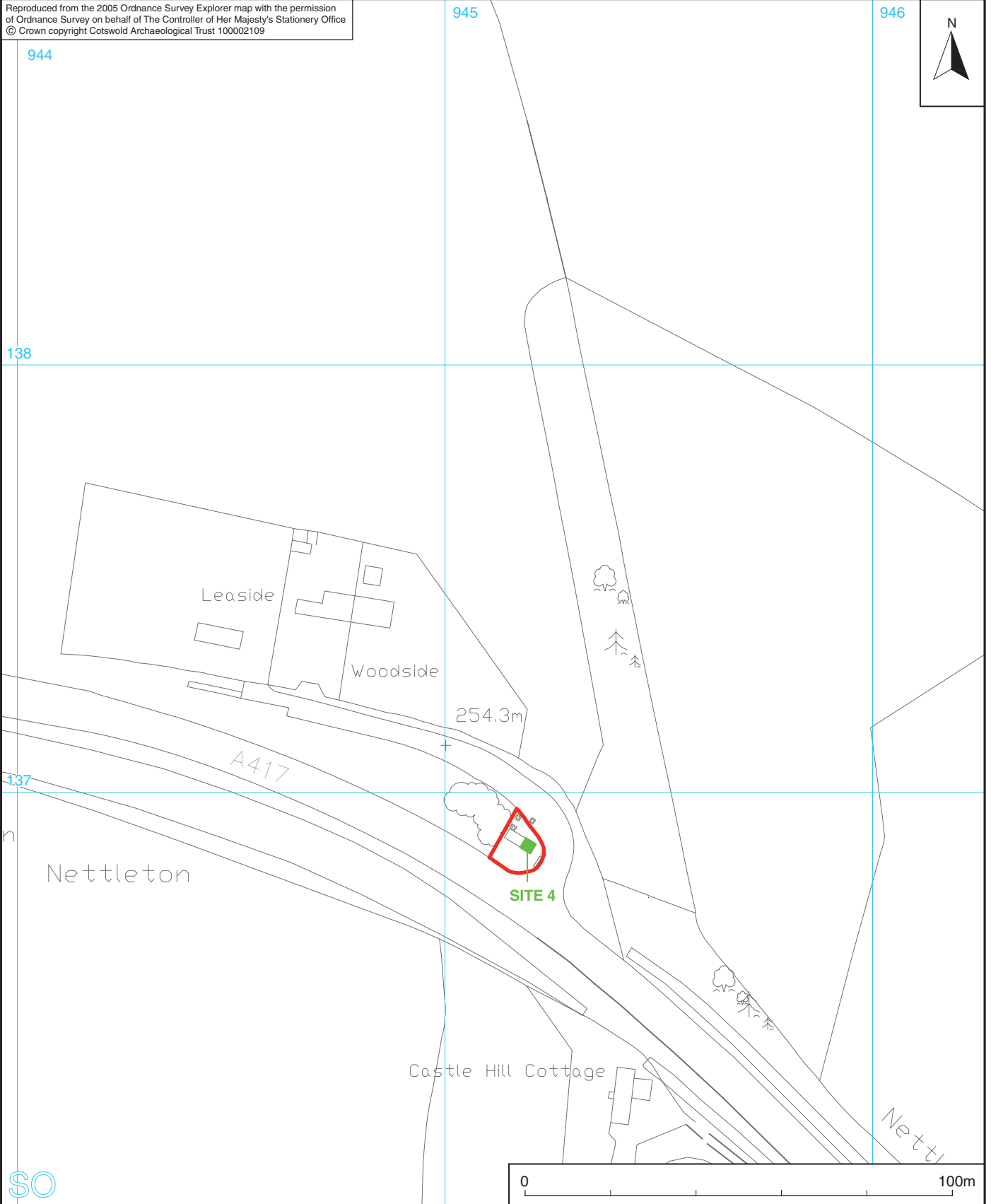


944

138

137

SO



- site
- extent of groundworks



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PROJECT TITLE

**A417/A419 CCTV Installation
 Gloucestershire and Swindon**

FIGURE TITLE

Site 4; Nettleton Bottom

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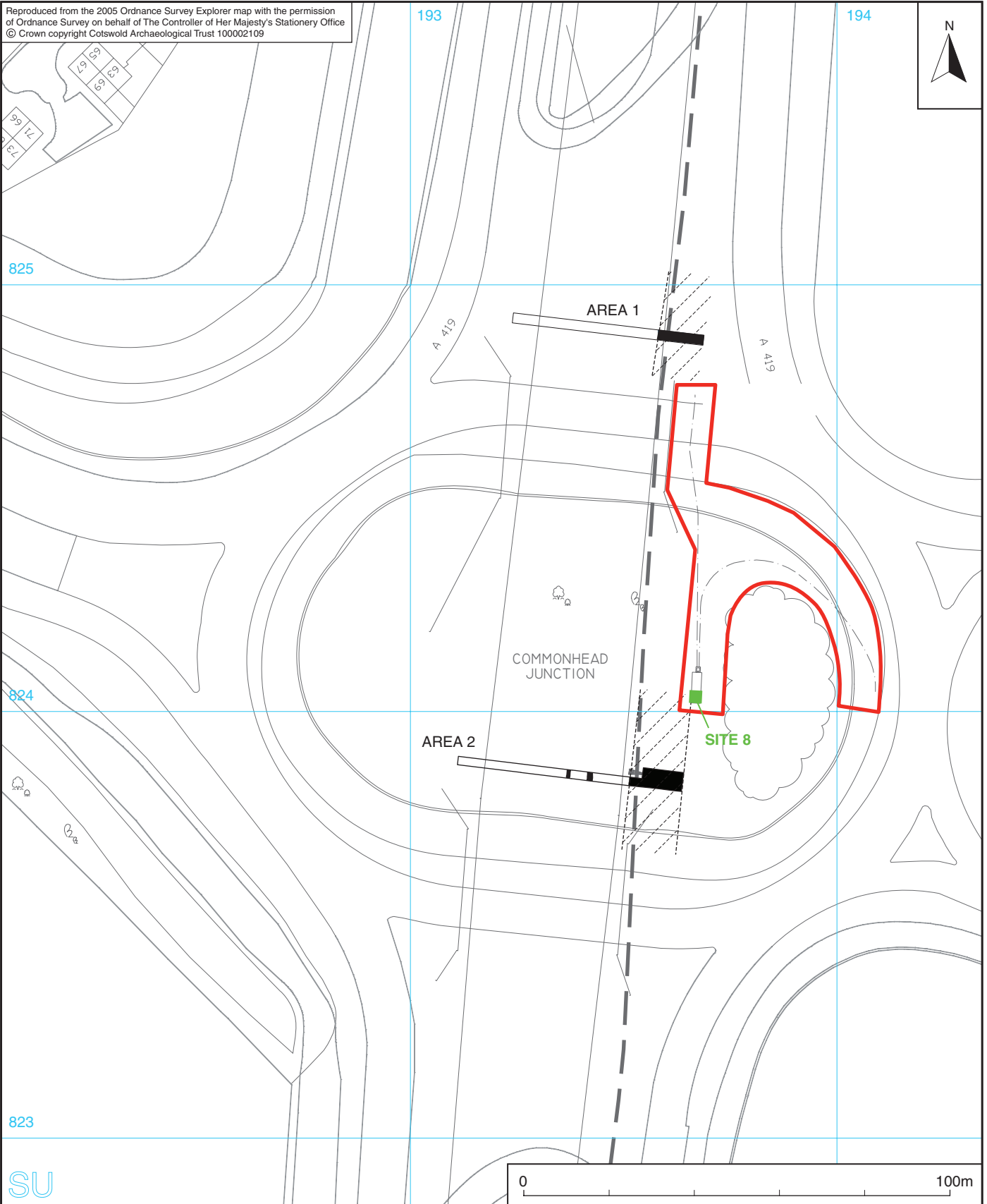
1:1250@A4

PROJECT NO.

3027

FIGURE NO.

2



SU

- site
- extent of groundworks
- 2005 excavation area (Hart and Alexander 2009)
- projected alignment of archaeological features
- projected alignment of Roman Road



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PROJECT TITLE

A417/A419 CCTV Installation
 Gloucestershire and Swindon

FIGURE TITLE

Site 8; Commonhead Junction

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PROJECT NO.

3027

FIGURE NO.

3