

**OAKSEY CHURCH
OAKSEY
WILTSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

AVON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LTD


CA PROJECT: 3206
CA REPORT: 10205

NOVEMBER 2010

OAKSEY CHURCH
OAKSEY
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 3206
CA REPORT: 10205

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date	5 November 2010
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date	5 November 2010
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signed	
date	8 November 2010
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Oaksey Church
Location: Oaksey, Wiltshire
NGR: ST 9909 9363
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 18 October 2010
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes
Site Code: THRU 10

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks for the installation of a new oil tank and associated pipe at Oaksey Church, Oaksey, Wiltshire.

The excavations revealed a probable *in situ* graveyard soil throughout the area of the groundworks. No intact burials, disarticulated bone or other archaeological remains, were encountered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Avon Construction Services Ltd at Oaksey Church, Oaksey, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 9909 9363; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken during intrusive groundworks associated with the installation of a new oil tank and associated pipe adjacent to the church. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, Wiltshire County Archaeologist. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.4ha, and comprises the church and graveyard. The site is bounded to the north by The Street, to the east and west by residential properties and to the south by open fields.
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Kellaways Clay of the Upper Jurassic era (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The site lies within the historic core of Oaksey village. The current village has medieval origins, being referred to as Wochsie in the Domesday Book (Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record). Traces of further medieval settlement have been identified within 500m to the south-west of the historic core of Oaksey. These are visible as earthworks and 12th to 13th-century pottery was recovered from a drainage trench excavated in 1951 (WSMR ST99 SE452). All Saints' Church itself

has 12th-century origins and was altered and added to throughout the 13th to 15th centuries (Pevsner and Cherry 1985).

- 1.6 The site of a medieval tower house is located within 300m to the south of the church. This is visible as an earthwork feature although earlier references dating to the 17th to 19th centuries refer to moats, embankments and ruins (WSMR ST99 SE453).
- 1.7 The earliest map to depict All Saints' Church is the 1843 Tithe Map of Oaksey. This depicts residential development within the village along the roads radiating out from the central crossroads. The church lies within the south-western corner of the crossroads and the surrounding landscape comprises fields. This picture remains largely unaltered on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps of Oaksey dating to 1875, 1900 and 1921 respectively. The only major development came with the addition of postwar housing to the west of the historic core of the village (CA 2006).
- 1.8 In 2005 a programme of archaeological recording and historical research was undertaken by CA during groundworks associated with the replacement of the existing drainage at All Saints Church, Oaksey, Wiltshire. The groundworks disturbed only reworked graveyard soils throughout the majority of the site; however, three coffins were revealed during the excavation of a soakaway pit at the western end of the church. These were not disturbed, and the trench was backfilled once recording had taken place (CA 2006).

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2010). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the removal of topsoil and turf, to a maximum depth of 0.3m, to allow the installation of a new oil tank and associated pipe adjacent to the church (Fig. 2).
- 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 evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes. 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 (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 Highly mixed graveyard soil 101 comprising mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional limestone rubble was identified throughout the excavated area. Excavation ceased at the top of this deposit. It was sealed by topsoil 100.
- 2.2 The natural geological substrate was not revealed during the groundworks due to the relatively shallow nature of excavations. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was identified.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The excavations revealed a probable *in situ* graveyard soil throughout the area of the groundworks. No intact burials, disarticulated bone or other archaeological remains, were encountered.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Pete Moore. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) 1:63,360; Solid and Drift Sheet 252: Swindon*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2005 *All Saints' Church, Oaksey, Wiltshire: Programme of Archaeological Recording and Historical Research*. CA Report No. **05172**

Pevsner, N. and Cherry, B. 1985 *The Buildings of England: Wiltshire*. Penguin, London.

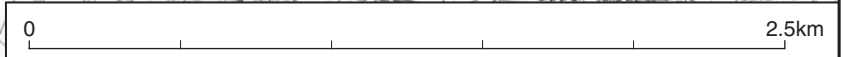
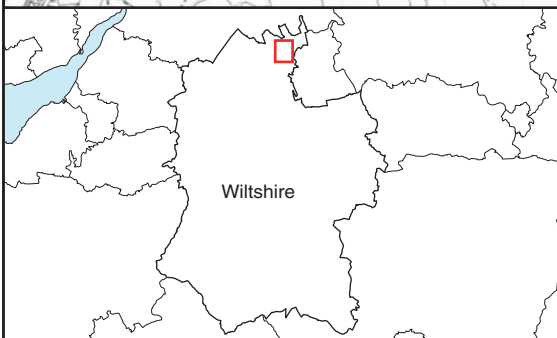
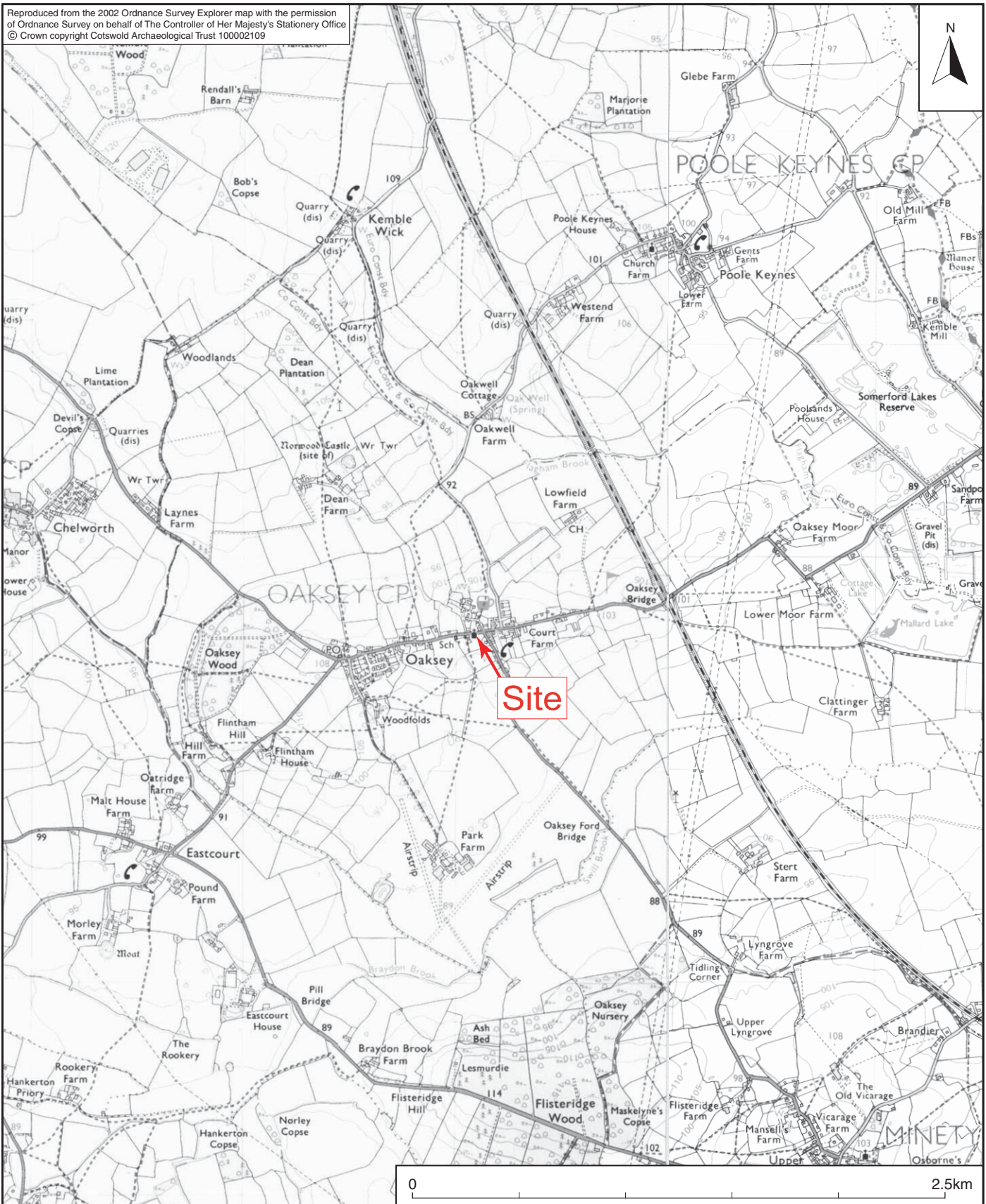
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil and turf			0.3
101	Layer	Graveyard soil: mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional limestone rubble			

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Oaksey Church, Oaksey, wiltshire	
Short description (<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks for the installation of a new oil tank and associated pipe at Oaksey Church, Oaksey, Wiltshire.</p> <p>The excavations revealed a probable <i>in situ</i> graveyard soil throughout the area of the groundworks. No intact burials, disarticulated bone or other archaeological remains, were encountered.</p>	
Project dates	18 October 2010	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Watching Brief: CA 2006	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Oaksey Church, Oaksey, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.4ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 9909 9363	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Trench recording form, black and white photographs, groundworks plan
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Oaksey Church, Oaksey, Wiltshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 10205</p>		



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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE All Saints Church, Oaksey Wiltshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:25,000@A4	3206	1



0 100m

-  observed groundworks
-  watching brief (CA 2006)



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

All Saints Church, Oaksey
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location
of groundworks**

DRAWN BY

PJM

SCALE

1:1000@A4

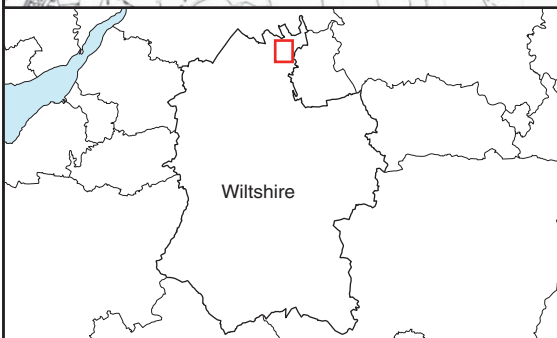
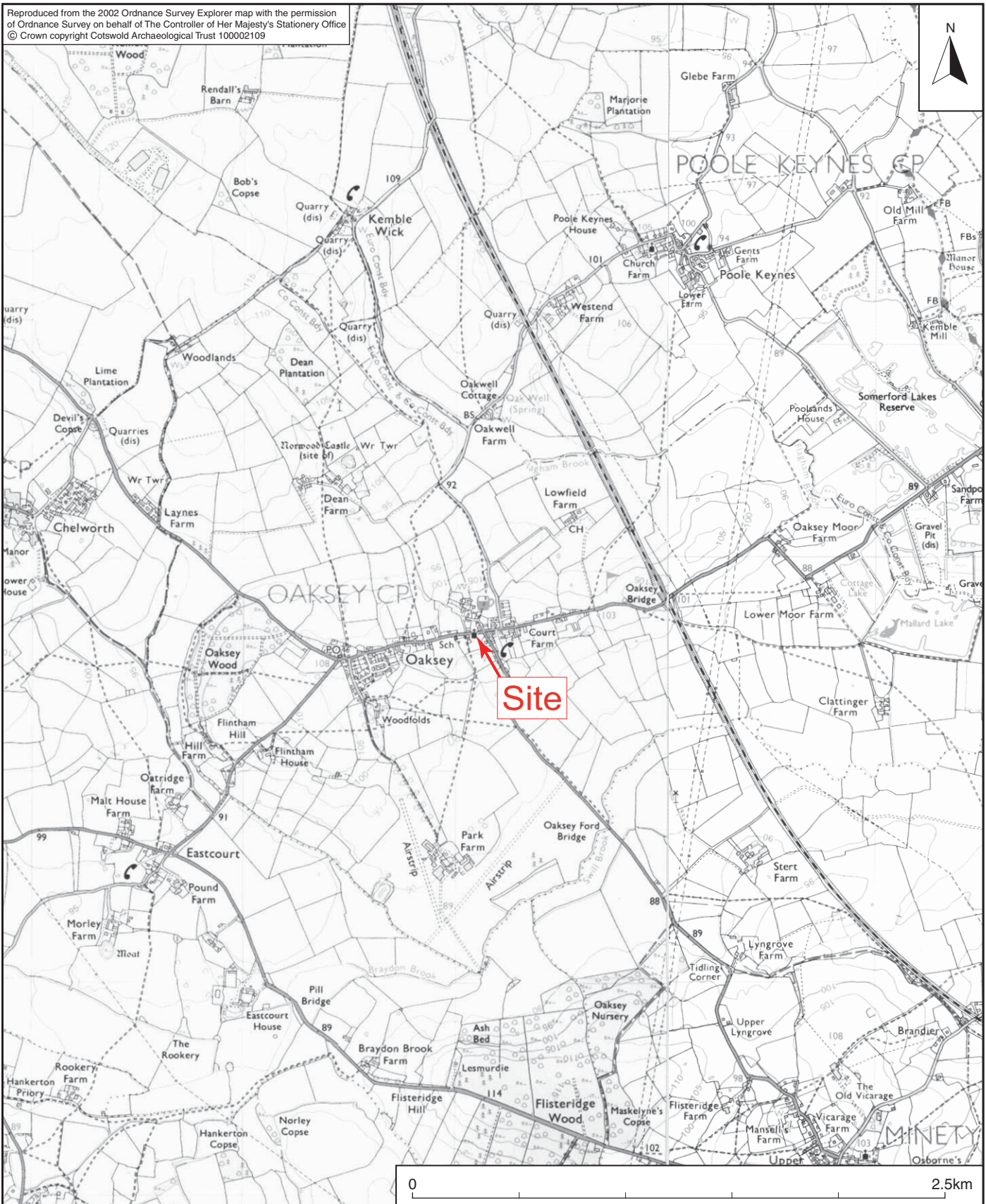
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3206

FIGURE NO.

2



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0 2.5km			
 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE All Saints Church, Oaksey Wiltshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:25,000@A4	3206	1



0 100m

-  observed groundworks
-  watching brief (CA 2006)



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

All Saints Church, Oaksey
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location
of groundworks**

DRAWN BY

PJM

SCALE

1:1000@A4

PROJECT NO.

3206

FIGURE NO.

2