LAND TO THE EAST OF MAIDENBROOK FARM TAUNTON SOMERSET

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

TARKER LTD

CA PROJECT: 3318
CA REPORT: 11017

FEBRUARY 2011

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

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CA PROJECT: 3318
CA REPORT: 11017

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land to the east of Maidenbrook Farm
Location:	Taunton, Somerset
NGR:	ST 2493 2638
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	12-24 January 2011
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Somerset County Museum, Taunton
Accession Number:	TTNCM 1/2011
Site Code:	LEM11

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2011 on land to the east of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset. Twenty seven trenches were excavated.

Archaeological features were identified across the site, the majority of which were undated; however a single pit and a ditch contained pottery dating to the Roman period. A further ditch contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery. The features encountered included a possible Roman rectangular enclosure, a potential trackway associated with this rectangular enclosure and an undated sub-circular enclosure.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Tarker Ltd on land to the east of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 2493 2638; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to support a planning application for residential development.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out prior to the determination of a planning application in accordance with a requirement outlined by Mr Steve Membery, Development Control Archaeologist, Somerset County Council (SCC), archaeological advisor to Taunton Deane Borough Council, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Mr Membery. The fieldwork also followed the *Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* (SCC 2009), 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). The work was monitored by Mr Membery, including a site visit on the 18th January 2011.

The site

1.3 The site lies on the northern edge of Taunton, immediately to the south of the A3259, and is bounded to the south by residential housing and the Bridgwater Canal, to the east by Aginghill's Farm and Allen's Brook, and to the west by residential housing (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 17m AOD.

1.4 The site is approximately 10ha in size, and comprises four adjoining fields all under pasture.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as mudstone and Halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone group, of the Scythian to Rhaetian era, with drift geology immediately to the south of Superficial Alluvium – clay, silt and sand, of the Flandrian era (BGS 2011). Mudstone was not encountered within the site, however gravel was encountered overlain with between one and three layers of alluvial clay, silt and sand.

Archaeological background

1.6 The sites lies within an area of archaeological interest. An evaluation followed by excavation immediately to the south-west of the site in 1990 revealed a Late Iron Age to early Roman circular enclosure and rectangular compound, and a later Roman ditched boundary (Ferris and Bevan 1993). Four of their evaluation trenches which extended into the present application area revealed no archaeology, however a fifth, that lies wholly within the south-west corner of the application area (Trench F on Fig. 2), identified archaeological features. These were interpreted at the time as field boundary ditches associated with the complex of features found to the south. A subsequent magnetometer survey within the application area identified further potential archaeological features including linear, rectilinear and curvilinear anomalies, possibly ditches and pits (AS 2009).

Archaeological objectives

1.7 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 then assist Taunton Deane Borough Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

1.8 The fieldwork initially comprised the excavation of 26 trenches, 24 of which were 50m long by 1.8m wide, 2 of which were 25m by 1.8m, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were distributed across the site to target both geophysical anomalies and apparently blank areas. A further trench, number 27, 23m wide by 1.8m, was requested by Mr Membery to target geophysical anomalies. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual* (2009).

1.9 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).

1.10 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) and two deposits were deemed suitable for sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (2010).

1.11 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 Somerset County Museum, Taunton under accession number TTNCM 1/2011, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

2.2 A similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the site, with approximately 0.2m of topsoil sealing between 0.2m and 0.5m of alluvium. This alluvium sealed the archaeological features which were cut through lower deposits of mid orange brown alluvium or mid orange/ purple brown clayey gravel.

2.3 Of the trenches excavated five were blank: 7, 9, 16, 22 and 27. A number of these trenches were targeting geophysical anomalies.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

2.4 A single north-east/south-west ditch 104 was identified cutting a lower alluvium 103. This contained a single fill 105 from which a single undated worked flint flake was recovered. This feature was wide and shallow in profile, and corresponded to the location of a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

2.5 A single north-east/south-west ditch 203 was identified cutting the gravel 202. This was narrow and u-shaped in profile, contained a single undated fill 204, and corresponded to the location of a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

2.6 A single north/south ditch 304 was identified cutting alluvium 302. This contained a single undated fill 305, was narrow and u-shaped in profile, and did not correspond to the location of any geophysical anomalies.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

2.7 A single east/west ditch 503 was identified cutting gravel 502, and was wide and shallow in profile. This contained single fill 504 from which a single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered. This corresponded to the alignment of a geophysical anomaly, although it lay to the north of it. The feature was interpreted as a field drainage ditch, which is still visible as an earthwork on the ground surface.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

2.8 Three north-west/south-east ditches were identified within the trench, all of which cut alluvium 602. Ditch 609 to the north was u-shaped in profile with a flat base, and contained a single undated fill 608, and although in the right location did not correspond to the alignment of a geophysical anomaly. Ditch 607 within the centre of the trench was narrow and u-shaped in profile, and also contained a single undated fill 606. Ditch 605, to the south of this, was u-shaped in profile and also contained a single undated fill 604. Neither of these corresponded to geophysical anomalies.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

2.9 Four ditches were identified within the trench, all of which cut a lower alluvium 802. North/south ditch 805 lay within the centre of the trench, was narrow and u-shaped in profile, and contained a single undated fill 806. This was later cut by north-west/south-east ditch 803 which was of a similar profile and also contained a single

undated fill 804. These features did not correspond to a geophysical anomaly. Ditch 807 lay within the south-western end of the trench. This ran north/south, was shallow and u-shaped in profile, and contained a single undated fill 808. Ditch 809 lay within the north-eastern end of the trench. This ran north/south and contained a single undated fill 810. This feature was not fully excavated due to the high water table, and neither this or ditch 807 corresponded to geophysical anomalies.

Trench 10 (Fig. 2)

2.10 Three north/south ditches were identified within the south-eastern end of the trench, all of which cut lower alluvium 1002. Ditch 1003 was shallow and u-shaped in profile, and contained a single fill 1004 from which a single fragment of undated worked flint was recovered. Ditches 1005 and 1007 were very narrow and shallow in profile, and contained single undated fills 1006 and 1008 respectively. None of the features corresponded to geophysical anomalies. A spread of undated charcoal rich material 1009 was also recorded in section within the northern end of the trench.

Trench 11 (Fig. 2)

2.11 Short east/west ditch 1103, was identified within the trench cutting alluvium 1102. The ditch was u-shaped in profile and contained a single undated fill 1104. The eastern terminal 1105 and the western terminal 1107 were both concave in profile and contained single fills 1106 and1108 respectively. This feature did not correspond to a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 12 (Fig. 2)

2.12 Five ditches were identified within trench 12, all cutting lower alluvium 1202. Within the southern end of the trench ditches 1202 and 1206 ran parallel in a north/south direction. Ditch 1204 was u-shaped in profile, with a slightly flattened base, and contained a single undated fill 1203. Ditch 1206 was wider in profile, again with a flattened base, and also contained a single undated fill 1205. A single linear geophysical anomaly was recorded in this location.

2.13 To the north of this parallel east/west ditches 1207 and 1210 were identified. Ditch 1207 was u-shaped in profile, and contained a single undated fill 1207. Ditch 1210

was wider and deeper as well as u-shaped in profile, and again contained a single undated fill 1209. A single linear geophysical anomaly was recorded in this location.

2.14 Within the northern end of the trench north/south ditch 1212 was identified. This was narrow and u-shaped in profile, and contained a single undated fill 1211. This feature does not correspond with a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 13 (Fig. 2)

2.15 A single north/south ditch 1303 was identified within the north end of the trench cutting lower alluvium 1302. It was very shallow and irregular in profile and contained a single undated fill 1304. This feature does not correspond with a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

2.16 Two ditches were identified within trench 14 cutting lower alluvium 1402. Within the southern end of the trench north/south ditch 1405 was identified. This was u-shaped in profile, contained a single undated fill 1406, and corresponded to a geophysical anomaly. To the north of this east/west ditch 1403 was identified. This was again u-shaped in profile and contained a single undated fill 1404. This however does not correspond to a geophysical anomaly, although one on the same alignment was recorded immediately to the north.

Trench 15 (Fig. 2)

2.17 A single north-east/south-west ditch 1503 was recorded cutting the lower alluvuium 1502. This was u-shaped in profile, with a slightly flattened base, and contained a single fill 1504 from which 28 fragments of undated fired clay were recovered. This feature roughly corresponded to a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 17 (Figs 2-3)

2.18 Four ditches were identified within trench 17, all cutting the lower alluvium 1702. Ditches 1707 and 1709 both ran east/west and contained single visible fills 1708 and 1710 respectively. These features correspond to the location of geophysical anomalies, but were not excavated with the agreement of Steve Membery, due to the high water table.

2.19 East/west ditch 1703 to the south of these was u-shaped in profile, contained a single undated fill 1704 and roughly corresponded to the location of a geophysical anomaly. Ditch 1705, immediately to the south, ran north/south, was also u-shaped in profile and also contained a single undated fill 1706. This feature did not correspond to the location of a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 18 (Figs 2-4)

2.20 Two north-east/south-west ditches were identified within trench 18, both cutting the lower alluvium 1802. Ditch 1804 was u-shaped in profile and contained a single undated fill 1803 (Fig. 4); it is also visible in trench 26 as ditch 2609. Ditch 1806 was also u-shaped in profile with a flat base, and also contained a single undated fill 1805. It is also visible in trench 26 as ditch 2604, and trench 17 as ditch 1707. Both features corresponded to the location of linear geophysical anomalies.

Trench 19 (Figs 2-3 and 5)

2.21 Three ditches, a post hole and a pit were identified within trench 19, all of which cut lower alluvium 1902. North/south ditch 1912 which lay within the western end of the trench was not excavated with the agreement of Steve Membery, due to the high water table. It contained an undated single visible fill 1913, and corresponded to the location of a geophysical anomaly.

2.22 North-east/south-west ditch 1907 lay within the eastern end of the trench. This was steeply v-shaped in profile and contained two undated fills 1908 and 1909 (fig. 5). North-west/south-east ditch 1910 to the west was u-shaped in profile, although the level of water made a full profile difficult to ascertain, and contained a single undated fill 1911. Both of these features corresponded to a curvilinear geophysical anomaly.

2.23 Between ditches 1907 and 1910 a single pit and a post hole were identified. Pit 1903 was sub-circular in plan, with an even concave profile. It contained a single undated fill 1904 which was sampled (see below). Posthole 1905 was also sub-circular in plan, with a shallow concave profile and a single undated fill 1906. Neither of these features were visible as geophysical anomalies.

Trench 20 (Figs 2-3)

2.24 Two ditches were identified within trench 20, both cutting lower alluvium 2002. North-east/south-west ditch 2003 was u-shaped in profile and contained a single undated fill 2004. North/south ditch 2005 was wide with concave sides and a wide, flat base, and contained a single undated fill 2006. Both of these features corresponded to linear geophysical anomalies.

Trench 21 (Figs 2-3)

2.25 North-west/south-east ditch 2103 was identified cutting the lower alluvium 2102 within trench 21. This was u-shaped in profile, with a flat base, and contained a single undated fill 2104. This feature did not correspond to a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 23 (Figs 2-3)

2.26 North-west/south-east ditch was identified within the northern end of trench 23, cutting lower alluvium 2302. This contained a single undated fill 2304, and did not correspond to any geophysical anomalies.

Trench 24 (Figs 2-3)

2.27 Two pits were identified within trench 24, both cutting lower alluvium 2402. Pit 2403 was sub-circular and shallow in profile, and contained a single undated fill 2404. Pit 2405 was slightly larger and ovoid in plan with a u-shaped profile and a single undated fill 2406. Neither feature corresponded to a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 25 (Figs 2-3)

2.28 A single pit 2503 was identified within the trench cutting the lower alluvium 2502. This was sub-circular in plan and irregular in profile, and contained a single undated fill 2504. This feature did not correspond to a geophysical anomaly.

Trench 26 (Figs 2-3 and 5)

2.29 Two ditches and a stone-filled pit were identified within trench 26 cutting the lower alluvium 2602. North-east/south-west ditch 2609 was unexcavated due to the high water table within the trench. It contained a single undated visible fill 2608 and corresponded with a geophysical anomaly which was excavated in trench 18 as ditch 1804. North-east/south-west ditch 2604 lay to the south of this, was concave in profile with a flat base, and contained a single fill 2603 from which four sherds of mid 3rd to 4th century Roman pottery were recovered. This feature corresponded to a linear geophysical anomaly also excavated within trench 18 as ditch 1806, and within trench 17 as 1707.

2.30 Within the northern end of the trench a large shallow ovoid pit 2607 was identified. This contained fill 2605 from which seven sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered. Within this fill a number of large flat rectangular slabs of limestone 2606 were horizontally placed. These do not appear to be used for packing, neither do they show evidence for use as a hearth. A sample was taken of deposit 2605 to see if it was possible to ascertain a function. The charcoal recovered was too poorly preserved, and the amount of cereal grain recovered was too small, to enable further analysis. This feature also corresponded to a discrete geophysical anomaly.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

Finds

2.31 Quantities of finds were recovered from six deposits, which consisted of Roman pottery, worked flint, fired clay and post-medieval pottery (Appendix B).

2.32 Roman pottery was recorded from two deposits 2603 and 2605. An everted rim jar in Dorset Black-Burnished ware from deposit 2603 (fill of ditch 2604) is dateable to the

middle 3rd to 4th centuries AD. Sherds in coarse grog-tempered fabric were also recorded from deposit 2605 (fill of pit 2607) and are broadly dateable to the Romano-British period.

2.33 Post-medieval pottery was recovered from deposit 504 (fill of ditch 503) and was identified as red glazed earthenware characteristic of the 17th to 18th centuries.

2.34 Two pieces of prehistoric worked flint were recovered from deposits 105 (fill of ditch 104) and 1004 (fill of ditch 1003) respectively. Both pieces are unutilised flakes, for which close dating is not possible.

Palaeoenvironmental

2.35 Environmental samples (56 litres of soil) were retrieved from two different deposits with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2) and the results are presented in Appendix C.

2.36 Sample 1 (2605) was retrieved from the fill of pit 2607 dating to the Roman period. The material recovered consisted of charcoal (oak, alder/hazel), carbonised plant macrofossil (cf barley and indeterminate cereal grains), uncarbonised plant macrofossils (fat hen and meadow buttercup) and magnetic material. The small size of this poorly preserved carbonised cereal assemblage means it is not possible to ascertain whether the burning relates to crop processing activities or the material has been in a fire or an industrial process. However, if it does come from crop processing, the identification of barley and oat is consistent with the range of crops cultivated during the Roman period. The magnetic material is derived from natural iron oxide within the soil which became magnetised upon heating. The uncarbonised plant macrofossils are suggestive of contamination, possibly through bioturbation or modern agricultural practices. The oak and alder/hazel charcoal recovered is typical of fuels used during the Roman period. The charcoal was however poorly preserved and any further work would require the recovery of large quantities of better quality charcoal to ensure sufficient material for analysis.

2.37 Sample 2 (1904) was recovered from pit 1903, which is currently undated. The material recovered consisted of charcoal (oak and alder/hazel), carbonised plant

macrofossils (cf. barley and cf. oat cereal grains, hazelnut and legume), uncarbonised plant macrofossils (meadow buttercup) and magnetic material. The small size of this poorly preserved carbonised cereal assemblage means it is not possible to ascertain whether the burning relates to crop processing activities or the material has been in a fire or an industrial process. The magnetic material is derived from natural iron oxide within the soil which became magnetised upon heating. The uncarbonised plant macrofossils are suggestive of contamination, possibly through bioturbation or modern agricultural practices. Due to the limited finds assemblage no function can be determined.

2.38 Any of the carbonised plant macrofossil material and any of the charcoal (with the exception of oak) would be suitable for radiocarbon dating, although the possibility that individual fragments may be redeposited or intrusive should be considered.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 The evaluation revealed archaeological features across the site, although only three contained dateable material, from the Romano-British and post-medieval periods. These features broadly confirm the results of the geophysical survey (AS 2009), and where archaeological features were encountered there was a variable but generally good correlation with the results of the preceding geophysical survey. However, it should be noted that a number of features were encountered which had not been identified by the geophysical survey and conversely not all features depicted by the survey were identified.

Roman

3.2 Ditch 2604 contained four sherds of well preserved mid 3rd to 4th-century Roman pottery. This ditch matches a linear anomaly also recorded within trenches 17 and 18, and appears to be part of a potential rectangular enclosure recorded during the geophysical survey, also identified in trench 20 as ditches 2003 and 2005. It is also possible that the two ditches recorded during the geophysics running east/west from the south-western corner of the enclosure, and identified in trench 18 as ditches 1804 and 1806, and in trench 17 as ditch 1707, may represent an associated ditched trackway. A lack of widespread dating evidence however makes this more of a supposition. Pit 2607 within trench 26 also contained Romano-British pottery, and

although the function of this feature is not clear, it does appear to be within the enclosure.

3.3 The settlement previously excavated to the south comprised a small circular enclosure provisionally dated to the Late Iron Age (Ferris 1993, 9), and two other rectangular enclosures. The large rectangular enclosure to the east was *c.* 30m wide, and dated from the 1st to 2nd century (*ibid* 13), with the smaller enclosure to the south-west, 18.5m by 15m, dating from the 3rd to the 4th century (*ibid* 18). It is possible that the large rectangular enclosure recorded during the recent geophysical survey, and provisionally dated during the evaluation to the 3rd to 4th century may represent either a neighbouring settlement, or an associated field system.

Post-medieval

3.4 A single feature securely dated to the post-medieval period was excavated, ditch 503 within trench 5. This appears to correspond to the east/west drains recorded across the site during the geophysical survey, and in most cases still visible as upstanding earthworks.

Undated

3.5 The greater majority of the features on site were, however, undated. These comprised ditches and pits, some of which were not represented by geophysical anomalies, although it is worth noting that those within trenches 10, 8 and 6 contained fills that were much greyer than elsewhere on site, possible due to a higher water table in this area, or a different period or type of activity.

3.6 Within trench 19, ditches 1910 and 1907 appear to be part of a sub-circular enclosure recorded during the geophysics, which contained at lest two internal features 1903 and 1908. With no dating material it is not possible to determine its relationship, if any, with the rectangular enclosure to the south-east.

3.7 The excavation to the south of site also contained assemblages of material dating from the Late Neolithic to at least the 4th century AD (Ferris 1993, 19), and with such a wide date range it is also not possible to assign a potential date to this enclosure.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kelly Saunders, assisted by Jessica Cook, Charlotte Haines, Lucy Maynard and Hazel O'Neill. The report was written by Kelly Saunders, assisted by Hazel O'Neill. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Grey. The archive has been compiled by Hazel O'Neill, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 Present ground level East end: 14.23m AOD
West end: 15.15m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.22	
101	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silt clay			0.27	
102	Layer	Natural: Mid orange brown silty clay with abundant gravel inclusions			>0.2	
103	Layer	Lower alluvium: Reddish brown gritty silt with gravel inclusions			0.30	
104	Cut	NE/SW ditch	>1.80	1.70	0.24	
105	Fill	Single fill of 104	>1.80	1.70	0.24	

Trench 2 Present ground level South end: 14.38m AOD
North end: 15.03m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.20	
201	Layer	Alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.44	
202	Layer	Natural: Mid orange brown silty clay with abundant gravel			>0.01	
203	Cut	NE/SW drainage ditch	>1.80	0.40	0.23	
204	Fill	Single fill of 203	>1.80	0.40	0.23	

Trench 3 Present ground level East end: 14.86m AOD
West end: 15.17m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.17	
301	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.16	
302	Layer	Middle alluvium: Mid brownish orange silty clay			0.28	
303	Layer	Lower alluvium: Light greyish orange silty clay			>0.19	
304	Cut	N/S ditch	>1.80	0.70	0.20	
305	Fill	Single fill of 305	>1.80	0.70	0.20	

Trench 4 Present ground level East end: 13.95m AOD
West end: 14.84m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.20	
401	Layer	Alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.50	
402	Layer	Natural: Mid orange brown silty clay with abundant gravel			>0.01	

Trench 5 Present ground level South-east end: 14.92m AOD
North-west end: 15.38m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.20	
501	Layer	Alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.38	
502	Layer	Natural: Mid orange brown silty clay with abundant gravel				

503	Cut	East/west ditch	>1.80	1.35	0.13	
504	Fill	Single fill of 503	>1.80	1.35	0.13	C17-C18

Trench 6 Present ground level South end: 15.45m AOD
North end: 15.75m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.19	
601	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.24	
602	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid brownish orange silty clay			0.03	
603		Void				
604	Fill	Single fill of 605	>1.80	0.75	0.40	
605	Cut	NE/SW ditch	>1.80	0.75	0.40	
606	Fill	Single fill of 607	>1.80	0.29	0.17	
607	Cut	NE/SW ditch	>1.80	0.29	0.17	
608	Fill	Single fill of 608	>1.80	1.30	0.63	
609	Cut	NE/SW ditch	>1.80	1.30	0.63	

Trench 7 Present ground level East end: 15.60m AOD
West end: 15.95m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.20	
701	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.23	
702	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid brownish orange silty clay				

Trench 8 Present ground level North-east end: 15.98m AOD
South-west end: 16.01m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.20	
801	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.23	
802	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid brownish orange silty clay			0.29	
803	Cut	NW/SE ditch	>1.80	0.60	0.22	
804	Fill	Single fill of 803	>1.80	0.60	0.22	
805	Cut	N/S ditch	>1.80	0.50	0.22	
806	Fill	Single fill of 805	>1.80	0.50	0.22	
807	Cut	N/S ditch	>1.80	0.26	0.09	
808	Fill	Single fill of 807	>1.80	0.26	0.09	
809	Cut	N/S ditch	>1.80	0.60	0.13	
810	Fill	Single fill of 809	>1.80	0.60	0.13	

Trench 9 Present ground level East end: 16.08m AOD
West end: 16.60m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.20	
901	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.48	
902	Layer	Middle alluvium: Light orangey red silty clay			0.20	
903	Layer	Lower alluvium: Light pinkish orange silty clay				

Trench 10 Present ground level South-east end: 16.42m AOD
North-west end: 16.56m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.28	
1001	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.32	
1002	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid brownish orange silty clay				
1003	Cut	NS ditch	>1.80	0.67	0.19	
1004	Fill	Single fill of 1003	>1.80	0.67	0.19	
1005	Cut	NS ditch	>1.80	0.20	0.03	
1006	Fill	Single fill of 1005	>1.80	0.20	0.03	
1007	Cut	NS ditch	>1.80	0.11	0.02	
1008	Fill	Single fill 0f 1007	>1.80	0.11	0.02	
1009	Layer	Charcoal rich layer	1.10		0.07	

Trench 11 Present ground level East end: 16.23m AOD
West end: 16.18m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1100	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.20	
1101	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid greyish pink silty clay			0.34	
1102	Layer	Lower alluvium: Light pinkish grey silty clay			>0.09	
1103	Cut	E/W ditch	>1.00	0.70	0.21	
1104	Fill	Single fill of 1103	>1.00	0.70	0.21	
1105	Cut	Eastern terminus of 1103	>0.50	0.50	0.12	
1106	Fill	Single fill of 1105	>0.50	0.50	0.12	
1107	Cut	Western terminus of 1103	>0.50	0.30	0.15	
1108	Fill	Single fill of 1107	>0.50	0.30	0.15	

Trench 12 Present ground level South-east end: 16.40m AOD
North-west end: 17.07m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1200	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.15	
1201	Layer	Alluvium: Mid reddish brown silty clay			0.27	
1202	Layer	Alluvium: Mid orangey brown silty clay			>0.05	
1203	Fill	Single fill of 1204	>2.00	0.90	0.31	
1204	Cut	N/S ditch	>2.00	0.90	0.31	
1205	Fill	Single fill of 1206	>2.00	1.77	0.39	
1206	Cut	N/S ditch	>2.00	1.77	0.39	
1207	Fill	Single fill of 1208	>1.80	0.61	0.18	
1208	Cut	E/W ditch	>1.80	0.61	0.18	
1209	Fill	Single fill of 1210	>1.80	1.20	0.51	
1210	Cut	E/W ditch	>1.80	1.20	0.51	
1211	Fill	Single fill of 1212	>1.80	0.52	0.18	
1212	Cut	N/S ditch	>1.80	0.52	0.18	

Trench 13 Present ground level East end: 16.63m AOD
West end: 16.56m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1300	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.23	
1301	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid grey orange silty clay			0.42	
1302	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid grey orange silty clay with abundant flint inclusions				
1303	Cut	N/S ditch	>1.80	0.58	0.05	
1304	Fill	Single fill of 1303	>1.80	0.58	0.05	

Trench 14 Present ground level South-east end: 16.20m AOD
North-west end: 16.12m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1400	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.25	
1401	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.40	
1402	Layer	Lower alluvium: Light orange brown silty clay			>0.05	
1403	Cut	E/W ditch	>2.00	0.61	0.23	
1404	Fill	Single fill of 1403	>2.00	0.61	0.23	
1405	Cut	N/S ditch	>2.00	0.90	0.31	
1406	Fill	Single fill of 1405	>2.00	0.90	0.31	

Trench 15 Present ground level South end: 16.47m AOD
North end: 16.94m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1500	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.22	
1501	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.38	
1502	Layer	Lower alluvium: Light orange brown silty clay				
1503	Cut	NE/SW ditch	>2.00	0.52	0.25	
1504	Fill	Single fill of 1503	>2.00	0.52	0.25	
1505	Layer	Natural: Gravel in mid orangey brown silty clay				

Trench 16 Present ground level South-east end: 17.11m AOD
North-west end: 17.49m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1600	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.23	
1601	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.31	
1602	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid brownish orange silty sandy clay			0.46	
1603	Layer	Natural: Mottled mid orange/red/grey gravel				

Trench 17 Present ground level North-east end: 18.03m AOD
South-west end: 17.15m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1700	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown sandy silty clay			0.29	
1701	Layer	Upper alluvium: Reddish brown silty clay			0.31	
1702	Layer	Lower alluvium: Reddish brown silty clay with frequent manganese				
1703	Cut	E/W ditch	>2.00	0.41	0.22	

1704	Fill	Single fill of 1703	>2.00	0.41	0.22	
1705	Cut	N/S ditch	>2.00	0.38	0.20	
1706	Fill	Single fill of 1705	>2.00	0.38	0.20	
1707	Cut	E/W ditch	>2.00	1.00		
1708	Fill	Single fill of 1707	>2.00	1.00		
1709	Cut	E/W ditch	>2.00	1.00		
1710	Fill	Single fill of 1709	>2.00	1.00		

Trench 18 Present ground level North end: 18.43m AOD
South end: 17.82m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1800	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown sandy silt			0.16	
1801	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid reddish brown silty clay			0.27	
1802	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid orangey brown silty clay			>0.04	
1803	Fill	Single fill of 1804	>1.80	1.17	0.59	
1804	Cut	NE/SW ditch	>1.80	1.17	0.59	
1805	Fill	Single fill of 1806	>1.80	1.18	0.70	
1806	Cut	NE/SW ditch	>1.80	1.18	0.70	

Trench 19 Present ground level East end: 19.21m AOD
West end: 18.90m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1900	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.23	
1901	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.49	
1902	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid brownish orange silty clay with gravel inclusions				
1903	Cut	Pit	0.72	0.70	0.21	
1904	Fill	Single fill of 1903	0.72	0.70	0.21	
1905	Cut	Posthole	0.21	0.32	0.06	
1906	Fill	Single fill of 1905	0.21	0.32	0.06	
1907	Cut	Curvilinear ditch	>2.00	1.25	0.60	
1908	Fill	Primary fill of 1907	>2.00	0.18	0.20	
1909	Fill	Secondary fill of 1907	>2.00	1.25	0.40	
1910	Cut	NW/SE ditch	>1.80	1.68	>0.13	
1911	Fill	Single fill of 1910	>1.80	1.68	>0.13	
1912	Cut	N/S ditch	>1.80	0.80		
1913	Fill	Single fill of 1912	>1.80	0.80		

Trench 20 Present ground level South-east end: 18.31m AOD
North-west end: 19.68m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2000	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.20	
2001	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid reddish/pinkish brown silty clay			0.40	
2002	Layer	Lower alluvium: Light greyish orange silty clay			>0.30	
2003	Cut	NE/SW ditch	>1.90	0.50	0.20	
2004	Fill	Single fill of 2003	>1.90	0.50	0.20	
2005	Cut	N/S ditch	>1.80	0.90	0.30	
2006	Fill	Single fill of 2005	>1.80	0.90	0.30	

Trench 21 Present ground level East end: 19.34m AOD
West end: 19.61m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2100	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.26	
2101	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid reddish brown silty clay			0.29	
2102	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid orangey brown silty clay				
2103	Cut	NW/SE ditch	>1.80	1.60	0.54	
2104	Fill	Single fill of 2103	>1.80	1.60	0.54	

Trench 22 Present ground level North-east end: 18.23m AOD
South-west end: 17.36m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2200	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown claylike silt			0.16	
2201	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid reddish brown silty clay			0.25	
2202	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid orangey brown silty clay			>0.03	

Trench 23 Present ground level North end: 16.65m AOD
South end: 16.37m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2300	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.19	
2301	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid brownish red silty clay			0.38	
2302	Layer	Lower alluvium: Light reddish pink silty clay			>0.06	
2303	Cut	SE/NW ditch	>1.80	0.67	0.30	
2304	Fill	Single fill of 2303	>1.80	0.67	0.30	

Trench 24 Present ground level South-east end: 17.34m AOD
North-west end: 18.42m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2400	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.23	
2401	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.42	
2402	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid brownish orange silty clay with gravel inclusions				
2403	Cut	Pit	0.40	0.33	0.08	
2404	Fill	Single fill of 2403	0.40	0.33	0.08	
2405	Cut	Pit	0.62	0.56	0.22	
2406	Fill	Single fill of 2405	0.62	0.56	0.22	

Trench 25 Present ground level South-east end: 17.35m AOD
North-west end: 19.38m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2500	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.20	
2501	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid reddish brown silty clay			0.35	
2502	Layer	Lower alluvium: Light reddish/pink silty clay			>0.10	
2503	Cut	Pit	0.65	0.45	0.18	
2504	Fill	Single fill of 2503	0.65	0.45	0.18	

Trench 26 Present ground level South end: 17.79m AOD
North end: 19.09m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2600	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.16	
2601	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.45	
2602	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid brownish orange silty clay			>0.04	
2603	Fill	Single fill of 2604	>1.80	1.12	0.46	MC3-C4
2604	Cut	NE/SW ditch	>1.80	1.12	0.46	
2605	Fill	Fill of 2607	2.05	1.15	0.28	RB
2606	Fill	Stones within 2607				
2607	Cut	Pit	2.05	1.15	0.28	
2608	Fill	Single fill of 2609	>1.80			
2609	Cut	NE/SW ditch	>1.80			

Trench 27 Present ground level North end: 17.83m AOD
South end: 17.55m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2700	Layer	Topsoil: Mid grey brown silty clay			0.20	
2701	Layer	Upper alluvium: Mid orange brown silty clay			0.32	
2702	Layer	Lower alluvium: Mid brownish orange silty sandy clay				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
105	Worked flint: flake	1	22	-
504	Post-medieval pottery: red glazed earthenware	1	120	C17-C18
1004	Worked flint: broken flake	1	8	-
1504	Fired clay	28	47	-
2603	Roman pottery: Dorset Black-Burnished ware	4	137	MC3-C4
2605	Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	7	70	RB

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Sample No	Context No	Volume (L)	Percentage of sample processed	Material	Weight (g)	Quantity	Identification (where applicable)
1	2605	34	100%	Flot 1mm Flot 0.25mm	16 66		
				Charcoal	2 + flot	C	*Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana* (Alder/Hazel) *Quercus robur/petraea* (Oak)
				Carbonised Plant Macrofossils	N/A In flot	E	*Avena* spp (Oat) *Chenopodium album** (Fat hen) *Poaceae* (Indeterminate cereal grains) *Ranunculus acris** (Meadow buttercup)
				Magnetic Material	4	C	
2	1904	22	100%	Flot 1mm Flot 0.25mm	110 131		
				Charcoal	50 + flot	A	*Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana* (Alder/Hazel) *Quercus robur/petraea* (Oak)
				Plant Macrofossils	0.2 + flot	E	*cf Avena* spp (Oat) *Corylus avellana* (Hazelnut) *cf Hordeum vulgare* (Barley) *Ranunculus acris** (Meadow buttercup) *Vicia* spp (Vetch)
				Magnetic Material	3.5	B	

All plant macrofossils are carbonised unless marked with a *

Quantity Codes:

A = 200+ fragments, B = 100–200 fragments, C = 50–100 fragments, D = 10-50 fragments, E = 1–10

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land to the east of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2011 on land to the east of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset. Twenty seven trenches were excavated. Archaeological features were identified across the site, the majority of which were undated; however a single pit and a ditch contained pottery dating to the Roman period. A further ditch contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery. The features encountered included a possible Roman rectangular enclosure, a potential trackway associated with this rectangular enclosure and an undated sub-circular enclosure.	
Project dates	12-24 January 2011	
Project type	Evaluation.	
Previous work	Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2009 *Land to the east of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton. Magnetometer Survey Report.* Ref. **293**	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land to the east of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset	
Study area (M^2/ha)	10ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 2493 2638	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Somerset County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Kelly Saunders	
MONUMENT TYPE	Ditch, Ditched enclosure	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Somerset County Museum, Taunton. TTNCM 1/2011	Pottery
Paper	Somerset County Museum, Taunton. TTNCM 1/2011	Pro forma recording sheets
Digital	Somerset County Museum, Taunton. TTNCM 1/2011	Photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Land to the east of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report **11017**		

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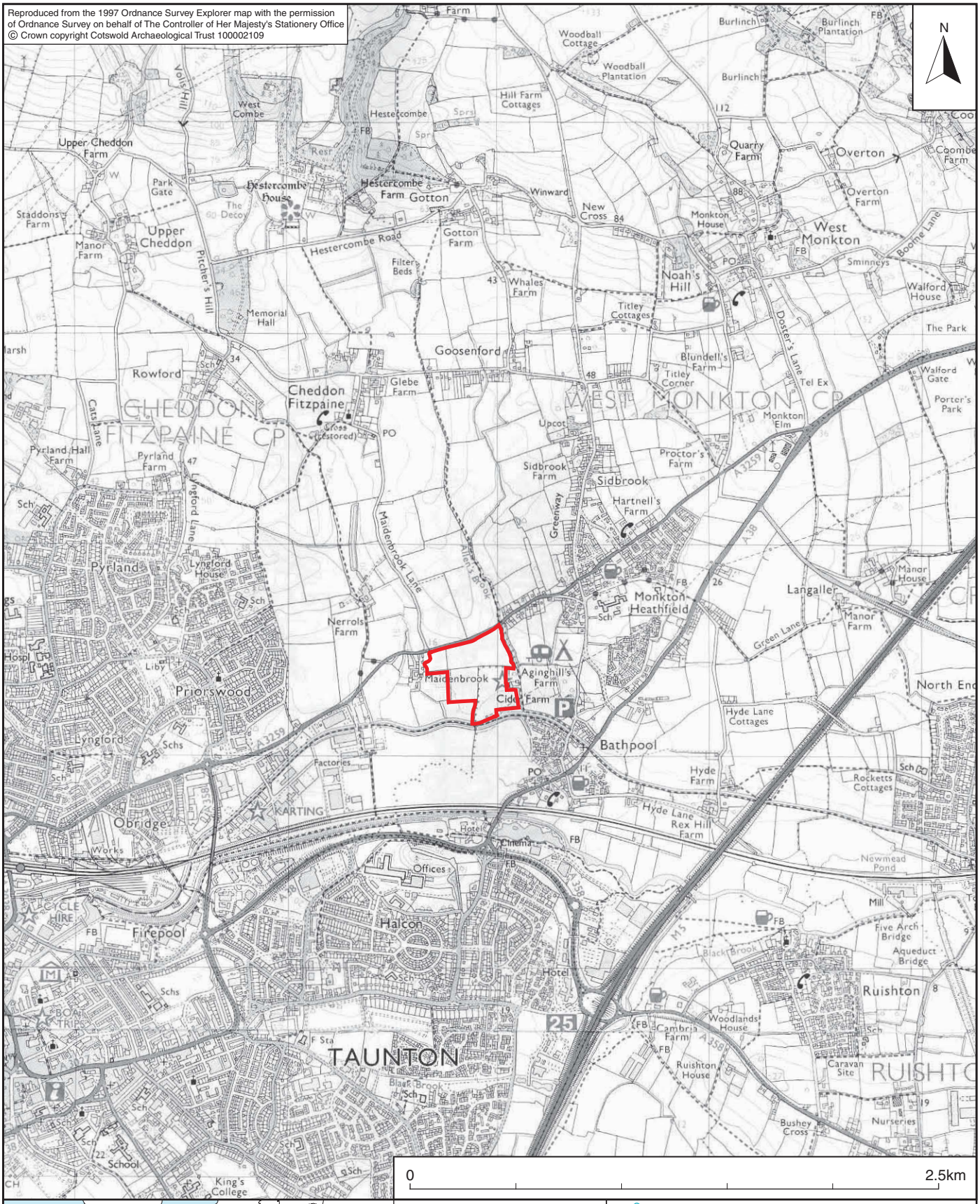

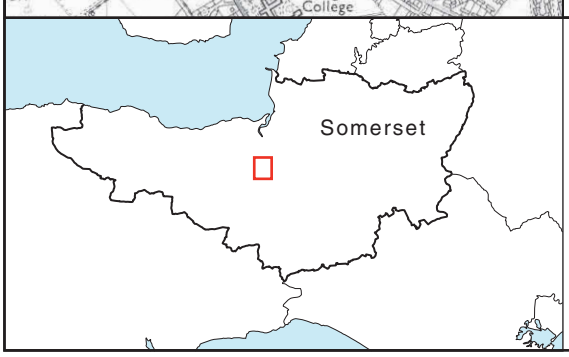

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land to the East of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	*SCALE*	*PROJECT NO.*	*FIGURE NO.*
LG	1:25,000@A4	3318	**1**

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Fig. 3

N

3246 3248 3250

1266 1264 1262

ST

A 3259

T1 T2 T3 T4 T5 T6 T7 T8 T9 T10 T11 T12 T13 T14 T15 T16 T17 T18 T19 T20 T21 T22 T23 T24 T25 T26 T27

ditch 104 ditch 203 ditch 304 ditch 503 ditch 605 ditch 607 ditch 609 ditch 803 ditch 805 ditch 807 ditch 809 ditch 1003 ditch 1005 ditch 1007 ditch 1103 ditch 1204 ditch 1206 ditch 1208 ditch 1210 ditch 1212 ditch 1303 ditch 1403 ditch 1405 ditch 1503

Trench F

0.91m RH

0.91m FF

Aginghill's Farm

Allen's Brook

Pond

Sluice

Drain

Path

Slipway

Play Area

Electricity Poles

Maldenbrook Farmhouse

The Gatehouse

The Wagon House

The Georgian

The Coach House

Brook Barn

Meads Barn

Brock Hollow Barn

Sannybrook Barn

Mill Court

Mill Leat

Brook House

Orchards

Braeburne

Jayford

Greenbank

Sandpiper

TUDOR PARK

WATERLEAZE

Towing Path

Issues

Sinks

15.9m

18.9m

20.3m

15.0m

Geophysical anomalies (Archaeological Surveys 2009)

- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature

- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Linear anomaly - of agricultural origin
- Negative linear anomaly - material of low magnetic susceptibility
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremnant/ferrous material
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong multiple dipolar linear anomaly - pipeline / cable / service
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land to the East of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysics

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:2000@A3	3318	**2**

P:\3318 Maidenbrook Farm Crewkerne Somerset EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\3318 Maidenbrook Farm Taunton Fig 2-3.dwg

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3248 3249 3250

1266 1265 1264 ST

N

A 3259

20.3m

Brook House

Overlands

CS

0.91m RH

T16 T17 T18 T19 T20 T21 T22 T23 T24 T25 T26 T27 T9 T10 T12

ditch 1912
pit 1903
ditch 1910
posthole 1905
ditch 1907
ditch 2003
ditch 2005
pit 2503
ditch 2103
pit 2607
ditch 2609
ditch 2604
ditch 1804
ditch 1806
ditch 1707
ditch 1709
ditch 1703
ditch 1705
pit 2403
pit 2405
ditch 2303

site

evaluation trench

archaeological feature

Geophysical anomalies
(Archaeological Surveys 2009)

- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Linear anomaly - of agricultural origin
- Negative linear anomaly - material of low magnetic susceptibility
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremnant/ferrous material
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong multiple dipolar linear anomaly - pipeline / cable / service
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object

0 50m

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

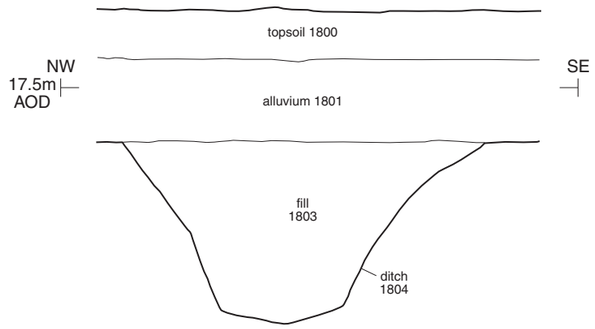
PROJECT TITLE
Land to the East of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysics

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:1000@A3	3318	3

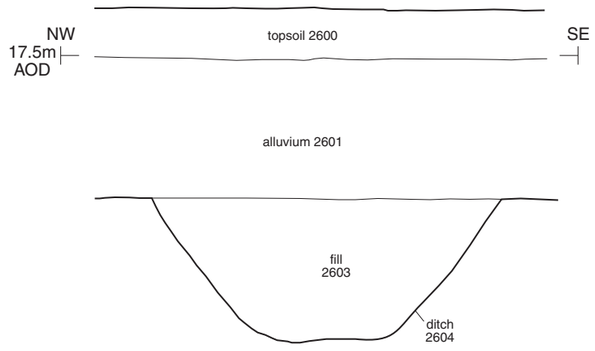
P:\3318 Maidenbrook Farm Crewkerne Somerset EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\3318 Maidenbrook Farm Taunton Fig 2-3.dwg

Trench 18; section AA



View of ditch 1804, looking north-east. Scale 1m

Trench 26; section BB



View of ditch 2604, looking north-east. Scale 1m

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land to the East of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 18 and 26; sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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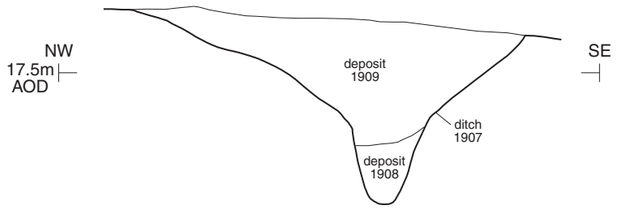
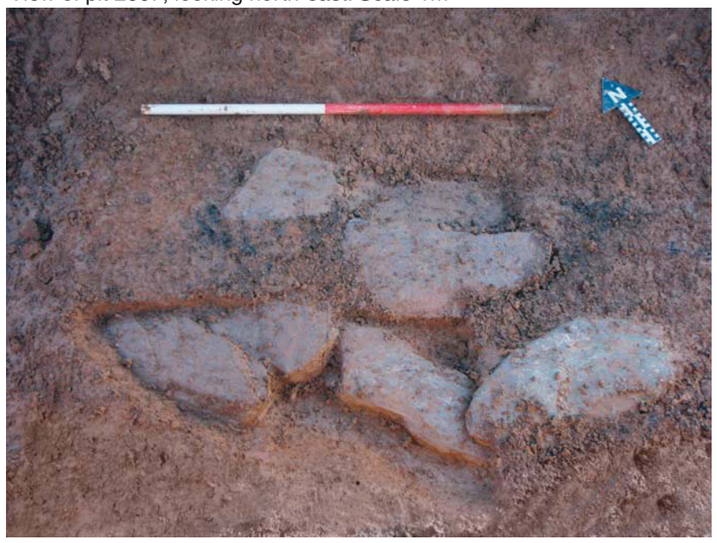
Trench 19; section CC



View of ditch 1907, looking north-east. Scale 1m

View of pit 2607, looking north-east. Scale 1m



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land to the East of Maidenbrook Farm, Taunton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 19 and 26; section and photographs

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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