ABBEY FARM
BLUNSDON ST ANDREW
SWINDON
WILTSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

DPDS CONSULTING LTD

on behalf of

MONARCH ASSURANCE PLC

CA PROJECT: 3251
CA REPORT: 10220

DECEMBER 2010

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Abbey Farm
Location:	Blunsdon St Andrew, Swindon, Wiltshire
NGR:	SU 1390 9010
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	18-28 October 2010
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	AFB 10
Accession Number:	B2010.2

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2010 at Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew, Swindon. Fifty-seven trenches were excavated.

The site at Abbey Farm was shown to have been highly truncated by agricultural activity and archaeological features were limited to several undated quarry pits, four pits containing pottery dated to the medieval period and a ditch containing pottery dated to the 18th century.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for DPDS Consulting Ltd on behalf of Monarch Assurance PLC at Abbey Farm, Blundson St Andrew, Swindon, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 1390 9010; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of housing.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a request for archaeological evaluation made by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council, the archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council (SBC), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010a) and approved by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 27 October 2010.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 23ha, and comprises land across two fields, divided by a narrow trackway running north-south. The site is bounded by Tadpole Lane and Lady Lane to the south, and by a complex of radio masts and the A419 Blunsdon Bypass to the east. Hedgerows border the site to the north and west (Fig. 2). The site lies on a ridge overlooking the Cotswolds at approximately 145m AOD. Much of the site is on a gentle south facing slope with the northern part sloping to the north.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Corallian Group (limestones, sandstones, siltstones and mudstones) of the Jurassic era (BGS 1974). No superficial deposits are mapped. Hard limestone with some clay was encountered in all trenches, generally under a shallow topsoil.

Archaeological background

1.5 A *Desk Based Assessment* has been prepared for the site by CA (2010b). The main findings are summarised below.

1.6 Iron Age pits have been recorded immediately to the south of the site, and development to the south-west uncovered a putative roundhouse. Evidence for potentially prehistoric quarrying has been uncovered to the east of the site. In addition, the presence of a number of significant Iron Age settlements to the south and south-east of the site indicates the site lay within a wider landscape of settlement and agriculture, and it was considered that potentially unrecorded remains of later prehistoric date could lie within the site (CA 2010b).

1.7 The site lies around 250m west of Ermin Street, the Roman road connecting Gloucester and Silchester via the civitas capital of Cirencester and the settlement at Wanborough. Excavations in the wider vicinity of the site have largely provided evidence for later prehistoric settlement. An excavated Roman ritual centre now comprises a Scheduled Ancient Monument, *c.* 400m south of the site (Fig. 1). There was thus also some potential for currently unrecorded Roman remains within the site.

1.8 Two Saxon burials were recorded immediately to the south of the site. The excavation of the area around the graves failed to record any further Saxon deposits, and there is no evidence for a cemetery extending north into the site. Adjacent works at Abbey Stadium failed to record any Saxon deposits, suggesting the inhumations may have been relatively confined in scope. Given the proximity of the burials, however, there was some potential for currently unrecorded associated remains within the site.

1.9 Several anomalies of potential archaeological origin were recorded 170m to the east of the site during a geophysical survey in 2009 (CA 2010b, 16). There is no evidence for associated features to extend towards the site.

1.10 Elements of the Grade II* Listed Church of St Andrew date from the 13th century, and earthworks to the south-east of this church may represent a former medieval settlement. Blunsdon St Andrew Conservation Area lies immediately to the south of the site.

1.11 A geophysical survey of the site was carried out in August 2010 by Archaeological Surveys Ltd for Cotswold Archaeology (AS 2010). Magnetometry was carried out across alternate 30m transects producing a 50% sample. Approximately 11ha of data were collected. The results indicated widespread evidence of large pit-like features or small quarries or depressions. The wide variability in size of the features and their widespread nature indicated a natural origin; however features of anthropogenic origin would produce identical anomalies, and it was therefore not possible to confidently determine their origin. A number of small discrete positive anomalies, possibly indicative of pit-like features, were located, particularly in the south-western part of the site. However, it was not possible to confidently determine the origin of the anomalies. Positive and negative linear anomalies were located across the site although they did not appear to form coherent features. The data also contained widespread evidence of modern cultivation in the form of weak linear anomalies.

Archaeological objectives

1.12 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 SBC in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

1.13 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 57 trenches of 50m length, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were distributed as widely as possible over the site but leaving a 15m buffer either side of the east-west, overhead electric cables that cross the site and a similar buffer from the field boundaries. Trenches were located to investigate the anomalies (large pits/quarries, pits and possible linear features) shown by the geophysical survey. Several trenches were excavated in two parts to avoid a public footpath in the east of the site, and in one trench a portion was not excavated due to the suspected presence of a buried service; these variations were made with the approval of Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger. 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).

1.14 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).

1.15 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 deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (2010).

1.16 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 Swindon Museum and Art Gallery under the accession number B2010.2, 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 2-5)

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 A greyish brown clay topsoil of between 0.2m and 0.3m deep overlay geological deposits that varied between very hard laminated limestone blocks lying in their bedding planes through smaller brashy limestone to limestone sand, usually in a clay matrix. Many limestone fragments up to 0.3m long were present on the surface of the field.

2.3 Little archaeology was present and the following trenches were archaeologically sterile: numbers 2, 3, 5-22, 24-28, 30-37 and 41-57.

2.4 Pits were present in trenches 4 and 29, and quarry pits in trenches 1, 23, 29, 38 and 40. A linear ditch was also recorded in trench 29.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 3)

2.5 Pits 401 and 403 were 3m apart, both continued to the south of the trench. The trench was in an area not covered by the geophysical survey. Pit 401 was oval with a length of 2.9m, an exposed width of 1.02m and a depth of at least 0.8m, excavation stopped at this depth. It had near vertical sides. The single fill, 402, was a greyish brown silty clay with frequent small, medium and large sub-angular limestone fragments. It contained brick, medieval and post-medieval pottery, 31 nails, oyster shell and animal bone.

2.6 Pit 403 was circular with a diameter of 1.45m. It had gently sloping sides to a flat base at a depth of 0.45m. The only fill, 404, was a yellowish brown silty clay, also with frequent limestone fragments, and contained medieval pottery, various iron objects and an oyster shell.

Trench 29 (Figs 2 and 4)

2.7 Possible pit 2906 was 0.9m long and *c.* 0.5m wide but extended beyond the trench so that its full dimensions are unknown. It was 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides. Fill 2907, a mid to dark brown silty clay, contained a fragment of medieval pottery and an iron nail, and had been cut by pit 2904. This pit also extended beyond the trench but was oval in plan measuring 1.7m by at least 1.07m. Gently sloping sides gave to a rounded base at a depth of 0.28m. Its fill, 2905, similar to 2907, produced a small fragment of animal bone and worked flint. It is possible that possible pit 2906 was an accident of ploughing where a stone had been torn out of place during ploughing and the void filled with topsoil. The shallow pits were both outside the area sampled by geophysical survey.

2.8 Ditch 2902 was 1.3m wide and extended 1.8m across the trench. Its northern side sloped steeply and its southern side gently giving it an asymmetric profile; its depth was 0.32m. Fill 2903 was a mottled greyish brown and yellowish brown sandy clay containing limestone fragments, flecks of charcoal and burnt clay and fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery. The ditch ran on a similar alignment to a

trackway visible on an aerial photograph from 1946 (CA 2010b) and was recorded intermittently by the geophysical survey.

Trench 40 (Figs 2 and 5)

2.9 Quarry pit 4006 was *c*. 21m across, extending the width of the trench. Sondage 4002 at its southern edge showed it to slope gently, reaching a depth of 0.38m after 1.1m. Its northern edge, exposed in sondage 4004, had the same dimensions. A mechanically excavated sondage in the middle, 4006, revealed an irregular base at a depth of 0.5m. The fills were yellowish brown sandy clays with common limestone fragments, but no artefacts were recovered.

2.10 Sondages were excavated manually in probable quarries 102, 104, 2302 and 3803, whilst probable quarry 4002 was mechanically excavated. Pottery dating from 11th to 13th century was retrieved from quarry pit 104. The other quarries remain undated.

The Finds Evidence

2.11 Finds were recovered from 14 deposits with further material recovered from unstratified deposits. The artefactual/ecofactual material recovered included a possible Saxon pottery sherd, medieval pottery, post-medieval pottery, worked and burnt flint, iron and copper-alloy objects, ceramic building material, animal bone and oyster shell.

Pottery

2.12 A pottery sherd in an organic-tempered fabric from topsoil 3400 is of possible Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon date. It was abraded and found in association with medieval pottery. Medieval pottery was retrieved from 10 deposits (Appendix B). Pottery fabrics recorded were Minety ware, Kennet Valley (Newbury A/B) ware, Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered fabric and a glazed jug fabric of uncertain source.

2.13 Recorded forms comprise a bowl and a jar in Minety ware, both of which are wheel-thrown and of late 13th to 15th-century date. The bowl rim sherd, from fill 404, compares to an example from the manufacture site (Musty 1973, 81, fig. 1). The jar rim sherd from fill 3406 resembles forms recovered from Cirencester (Ireland 1998,

130, fig. 89). From fill 105 two rim sherds in Kennet Valley ware, both jars with heavy moulded rims are probably of 12th to 13th-century date.

2.14 Pottery of post-medieval date was identified from three deposits: fill of pit 402, topsoil 1300 and fill of ditch 2903. Base sherds from a mug or tankard, from fill 402, in an earthenware fabric with a dark green coloured glaze probably date to the 16th or 17th century. A sherd in a Cistercian type fabric is of similar date. The remainder, comprising sherds in glazed earthenwares, probably Ashton Keynes type, is dateable to the 16th to 18th century. One sherd of Bristol or Staffordshire yellow slipware from fill 2903 dates to the 18th century.

Flint

2.15 Worked flint and unworked but heat-affected flint was identified from six deposits, mainly topsoil/subsoil, and further material was recovered unstratified (Appendix B). Almost all of the worked material is patinated to an overall white. The condition of the flint is overall poor, with common breakage and 'rolling' apparent, suggesting it has been re-deposited.

2.16 Scrapers from topsoil deposits 1300 and 3400 are the only tools present. Both are small and crude, and are not diagnostically datable. The remainder of the worked flint consists of secondary or tertiary flakes (retaining a small amount or no cortex). The unbroken flakes are of short or 'squat' proportions and exhibit no evidence for platform preparation. One piece from topsoil 2000 is of blade-like proportions (its length/breadth ratio exceeds 2:1) however it is thick and probably not intentionally made as a blade. The overall characteristics of the group are most indicative of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age flintworking.

2.17 The heat-affected flint is fully calcined and appears to be the result of deliberate burning. The intentional burning of flint, probably for use as heating stones, and sometimes preparatory to its fracturing and use as a pottery 'temper', is a feature of the prehistoric period. In particular it is a common find from settlement sites of Middle to Late Bronze Age date.

Animal bone

2.18 The only nonfragmentary, stratified animal bone was recovered from fill 402 of pit 401, dating from the 16th to 18th century. The bone was in a moderate state of preservation with some modern breakage. The species identified were cattle and

sheep/goat which are frequent occurrences in assemblages of this period. The cattle bone shows evidence of primary and secondary butchery, together with canid gnawing.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 The small number of archaeological features recorded at Abbey Farm would seem to suggest that there was very little activity in the area. However, it was noted that large amounts of limestone brash had been churned into the topsoil by ploughing. This deep ploughing may have truncated the natural to such a degree that any archaeological features present have been removed or severely truncated.

3.2 The earliest evidence of activity at Abbey Farm is represented by an assemblage of flint probably dating from the Late Neolithic to the Bronze Age. This material was mostly derived from the topsoil therefore its provenance cannot be determined. Its condition is poor making provenance even more difficult.

3.3 One of the quarry pits produced pottery dating to the medieval period, evidence for possible medieval quarrying was also found at Abbeymeads to the south of the site (CA 2010b). The pits containing medieval and post-medieval pottery may be associated with the nearby settlement focus to the south of the site.

3.4 The ditch containing post-medieval and modern pottery may be linked to a modern trackway, identified from an aerial photograph, running across the field.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Wright, assisted by Sian Reynish, Jessica Cook, Charlotte Haines and Lucy Maynard. The report was written by Jamie Wright and Alexandra Wilkinson. The illustrations were prepared by Peter Moore. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, 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 & Wales), Sheet 252: Swindon, solid and drift edition, 1:63360*

AS (Archaeological Surveys Ltd) 2010 *Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew, Swindon, Magnetometer Survey Report*. Archaeological Surveys typescript report

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010a *Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew, Swindon, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report: **10220**

Cotswold Archaeology 2010b *Land at Tadpole Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire; Archaeological Desk-based Assessment.* CA typescript report No.**08204**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown sandy clay, with abundant limestone fragments			0.29	
101	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				
102	Cut	Cut of large quarry pit	>4	>1.8	>1	
103	Fill	Fill of 102				
104	Cut	Cut of possible quarry pit	>5			
105	Fill	Fill of 104	>5			C11-C13

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.29	
201	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments				
301	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay with sparse limestone fragments				
401	Cut	Cut of pit	2.90	>1.05	>0.78	
402	Fill	Fill of 401				C16-C18
403	Cut	Cut of pit		1.45	0.44	
404	Fill	Fill of 403				C14-C15
405	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.33	
501	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.32	
601	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.28	
701	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.27	
801	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 9

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.33	
901	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 10

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.24	
1001	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 11

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.37	
1101	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 12

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1200	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.3	
1201	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 13

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1300	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.3	C16-C18
1301	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 14

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1400	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.34	C12-C15
1401	Layer	Subsoil: Mid brownish yellow silty clay, occasional limestone fragments			0.13	
1402	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 15

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1500	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.26	
1501	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 16

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1600	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.36	
1601	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 17

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1700	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.36	
1701	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 18

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1800	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.3	
1801	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 19

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1900	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments				
1901	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 20

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2000	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.28	
2001	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 21

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.31	
2101	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 22

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2200	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.2	
2201	Layer	Subsoil: Mid brownish yellow silty clay, occasional limestone fragments			0.13	
2202	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 23

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2300	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments				
2301	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				
2302	Cut	Cut of quarry pit	>11		U/K	
2303	Fill	Fill of 2302	>4			
2304	Fill	Fill of 2302	>7			

Trench 24

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2400	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.3	
2401	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 25

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2500	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.33	
2501	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 26

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2600	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.32	
2601	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 27

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2700	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.33	
2701	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 28

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2800	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.33	
2801	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 29

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2900	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.27	
2901	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				
2902	Cut	Cut of E-W small/ditch/gully		1.3	0.32	
2903	Fill	Fill of 2902				C18
2904	Cut	Cut of pit	1.7	>1.07	0.28	
2905	Fill	Fill of 2904				LC13-C15

2906	Cut	Cut of pit	0.9		0.2	
2907	Fill	Fill of 2906				

Trench 30

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3000	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.26	
3001	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 31

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.25	
3101	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 32

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3200	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.26	
3201	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 33

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3300	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.43	
3301	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				
3302	Cut	Cut of ditch	1.6	>1	0.48	
3303	Fill	Fill of 3302				

Trench 34

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3400	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.20	
3401	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				
3402	Cut	Cut of natural feature	2	>0.6	0.12	
3403	Fill	Fill of 3402				C11-C13
3404	Layer	Subsoil: Light brownish grey sandy clay			0.7	
3405	Cut	Cut of plough scar	1.9	0.6	0.15	
3406	Fill	Fill of 3405				LC13-C15

Trench 35

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3500	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.33	
3501	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 36

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3600	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments				
3601	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 37

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3700	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.32	
3701	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 38

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3800	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.33	
3801	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				
3802	Fill	Fill of 3803				
3803	Cut	Cut of quarry pit	20	>1.6	1.36	

Trench 39

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3900	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.32	
3901	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 40

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4000	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.32	
4001	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				
4002	Cut	Cut of quarry pit	>1.1	>0.5	>0.38	
4003	Fill	Fill of 4002				
4004	Cut	Cut of quarry pit	>1.1	>0.5	>0.38	

4005	Fill	Fill of 4004				
4006	Cut	Cut of quarry pit	>3	>1.6	0.5	
4007	Fill	Fill of 4006				

Trench 41

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.33	
4101	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 42

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4200	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.3	
4201	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 43

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4300	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.32	
4301	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 44

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4400	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.4	
4401	Layer	Subsoil: grey silty clay with sparse limestone fragments				
4402	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 45

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4500	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.25	
4501	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 46

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4600	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.22	
4601	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 47

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4700	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.3	
4701	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 48

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4800	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.24	
4801	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 49

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
4900	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.27	
4901	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 50

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5000	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.28	
5001	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 51

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.24	
5101	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 52

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5200	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.25	C12-C15
5201	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 53

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5300	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.24	
5301	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 54

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5400	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.23	
5401	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 55

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5500	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.2	
5501	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 56

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5600	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.3	
5601	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

Trench 57

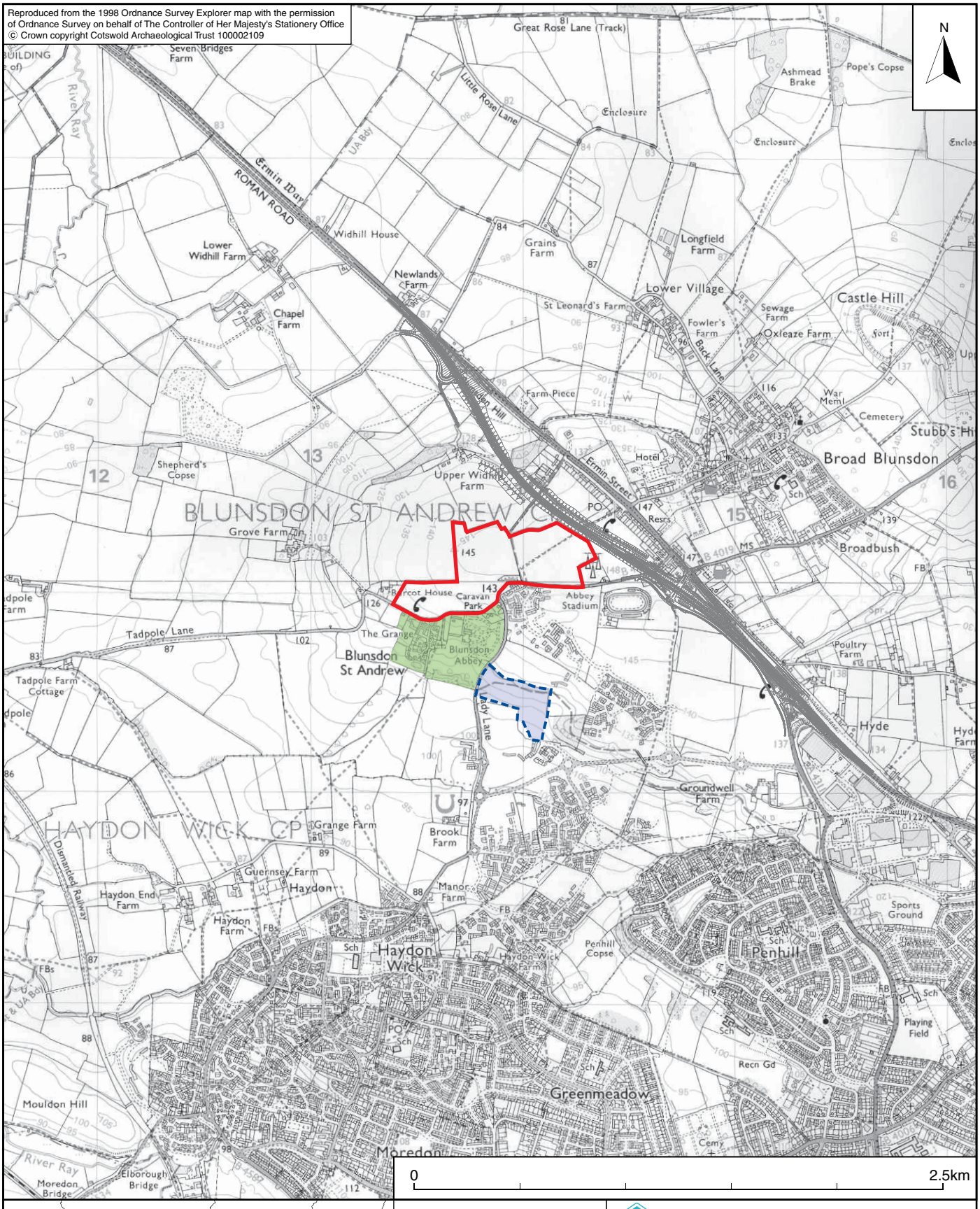
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
5700	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown silty clay frequent limestone fragments			0.2	
5701	Layer	Natural: Mottled light white yellow limestone brash in a mid yellow clay matrix				

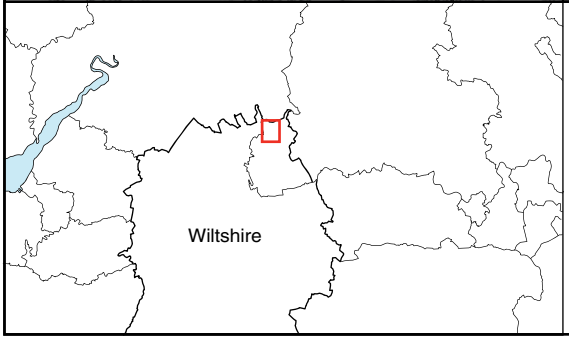
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
u.s.	Worked flint: flakes, broken flake, flake (burnt)	5	12	-
	Medieval pottery: Minety ware, Kennet Valley ware	8	66	
	Animal bone: Sheep/goat	1	1	
	Iron nail	1	3	
	Burnt flint	1	13	
105	Medieval pottery: Kennet Valley ware, Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered fabric	6	40	C11-C13
	Iron nail	1	3	
402	Ceramic building material: brick	8	750	C16-C18
	Oyster shell	3	9	
	Medieval pottery: Minety ware	11	140	
	Post-medieval pottery: Ashton Keynes earthenware, Cistercian-type ware; glazed earthenware	13	191	
	Animal bone: Cattle, sheep/goat, cow-size, sheep-size, chicken-size	17	191	
	Iron nail and object	31	268	
	Copper-alloy object	1	1	
404	Medieval pottery: Minety ware, glazed jug fabric	3	103	C14-C15
	Iron nail and object	13	136	
	Oyster shell	2	13	
1300	Post-medieval pottery: Ashton Keynes earthenware	1	14	C16-C18
	Worked flint: scraper	1	10	
1400	Medieval pottery: Minety ware, glazed fabric	2	32	C12-C15
2000	Worked flint: blade-like flake	1	3	-
2903	Post-medieval pottery: Staffordshire yellow slipped-ware	1	3	C18
	Medieval pottery: Minety ware, Kennet Valley ware	2	10	
2905	Iron nail	2	14	LC13-C15
	Medieval pottery: Minety ware	2	5	
2907	Animal bone: sheep-sized	1	1	-
	Worked flint: broken flake	1	1	
3400	Worked flint: flake, scraper, broken flake	5	37	C11-C13
	Medieval pottery: Kennet Valley ware, Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered fabric	7	31	
	Burnt flint	3	15	
	Saxon pottery ?: organic-tempered fabric	1	3	
3403	Medieval pottery: Kennet Valley ware	1	8	C11-C13
3406	Medieval pottery: Minety ware	4	25	LC13-C15
4200	Worked flint: flake	1	3	-
	Burnt flint	1	2	
4300	Worked flint: flake	1	4	-
5200	Ceramic building material	2	54	C12-C15
	Medieval pottery: Minety ware	3	27	
	Worked flint: flake, broken flake	2	7	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2010 at Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew, Swindon. Fifty-seven trenches were excavated. The site at Abbey Farm was shown to have been highly truncated by agricultural activity and archaeological features were limited to several undated quarry pits, four pits containing pottery dated to the medieval period and a ditch containing pottery dated to the 18th century.	
Project dates	18-28 October 2010	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment: Cotswold Archaeology 2010 Geophysical survey : Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2010	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area (M^2/ha)	23ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 1390 9010	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jamie Wright	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, B2010.2	ceramics, animal bone
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, B2010.2	Context sheets, trench sheets, field drawings
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, B2010.2	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew, Swindon, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report: **10220**		





site
Scheduled Monument
Blunsdon St Andrew Conservation Area

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew
Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	*SCALE*	*PROJECT NO.*	*FIGURE NO.*
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N

190400

190200

190000

189800

413600

413800

414000

quarry pit 3803

ditch 2902 see Fig. 4

pit 2904 cutting pit 2906 see Fig. 4

quarry pit 4006 see Fig. 5

pits 401/403 see Fig. 3

quarry pit 102

quarry pit 104

0 150m

site

proposed trench

quarry pit

medieval/post-medieval pit

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
Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew
Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
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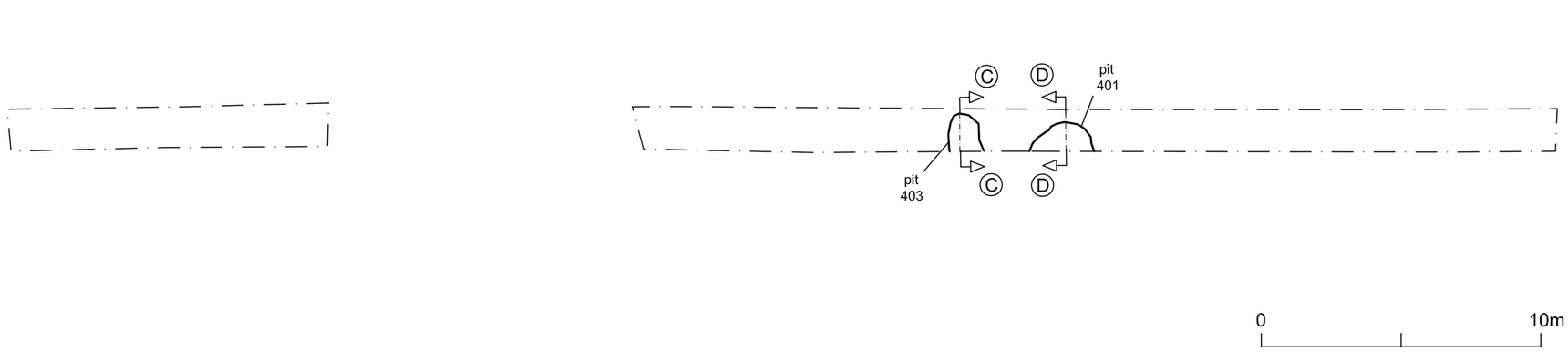

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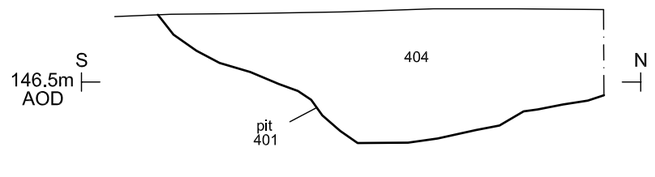

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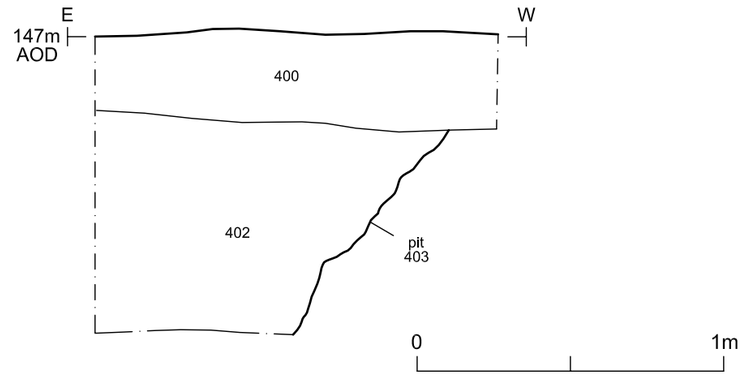

Pit 403, looking east (scale 1m)

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew
Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Pits 401 and 402: plan, sections and photograph

DRAWN BY	*SCALE*	*PROJECT NO.*	*FIGURE NO.*
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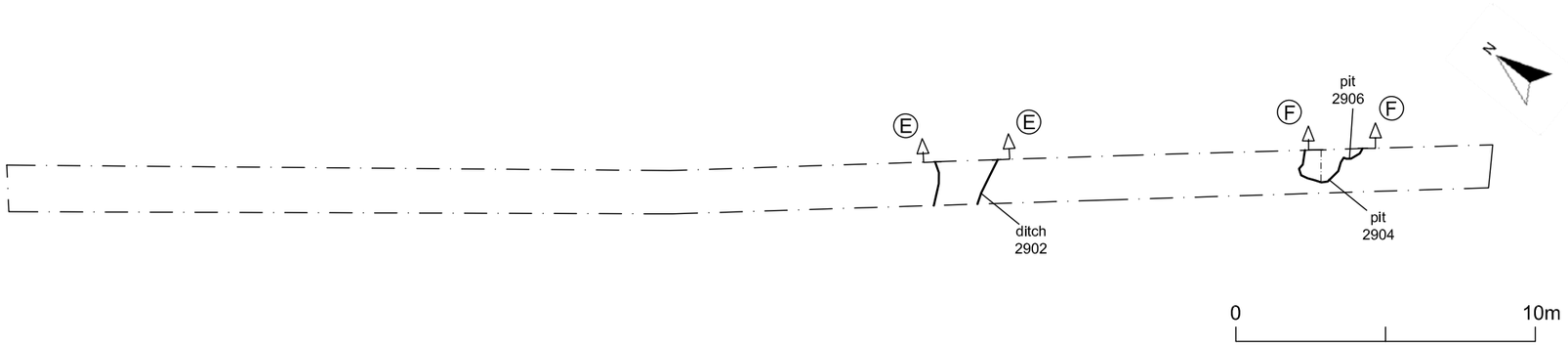

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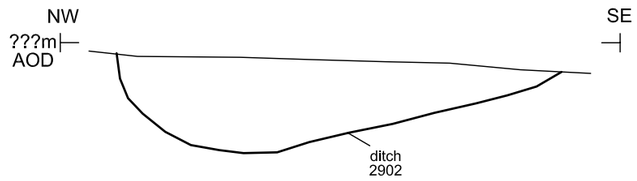

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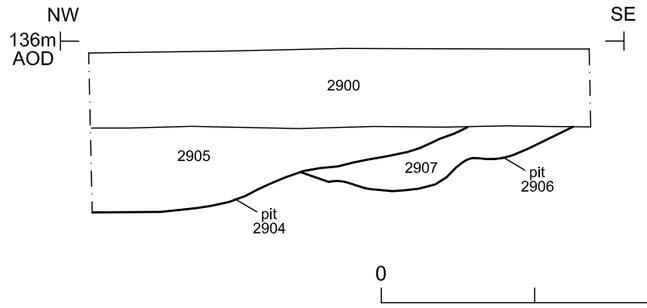

Pit 2902, looking east (scale 0.5m)

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew
Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Ditch 2902, pits 2904 and 2906: plan, sections and photograph

DRAWN BY	*SCALE*	*PROJECT NO.*	*FIGURE NO.*
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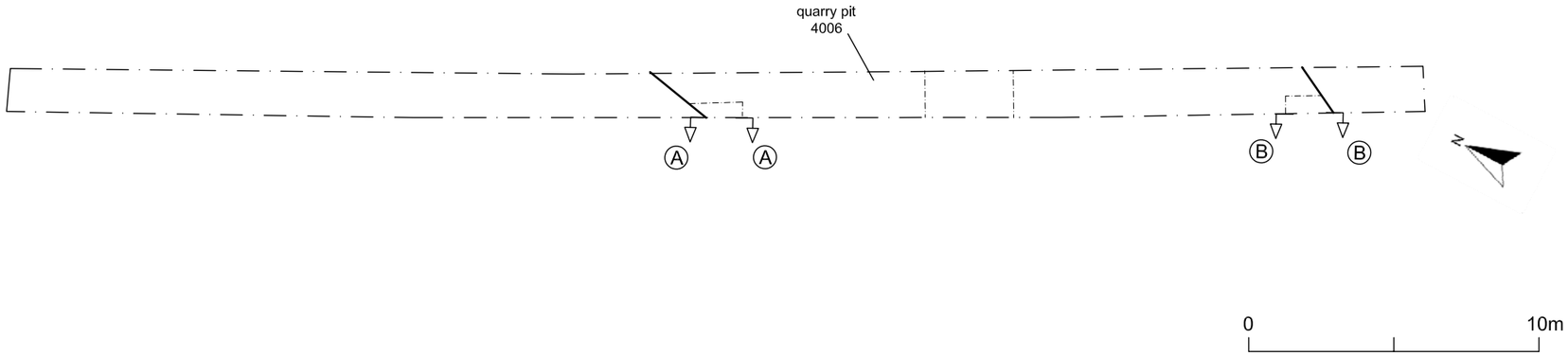

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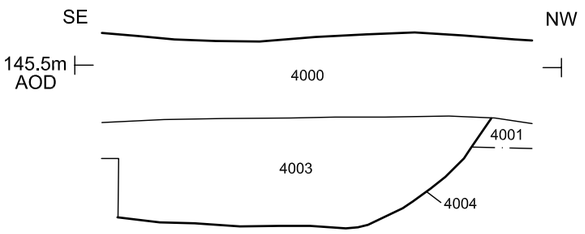

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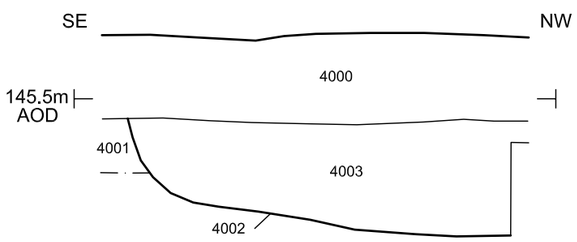

Quarry pit 4006, looking west

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Abbey Farm, Blunsdon St Andrew
Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Quarry pit 4006: plan, sections and photograph

DRAWN BY	*SCALE*	*PROJECT NO.*	*FIGURE NO.*
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