

**TALLY HO COTTAGE  
CONDICOTE  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**SARA WICKS**

CA PROJECT: 2623  
CA REPORT: 09132


OCTOBER 2008



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CONDICOTE  
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CA PROJECT: 2623  
CA REPORT: 09132

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date	21 October 2008
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date	10 August 2009
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signed	
date	10 August 2009
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Tally Ho Cottage  
**Location:** Condicote, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 15329 28376  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 31 August – 26 September 2008  
**SMC:** Ref: HSD/9/2/10295  
**Location of Archive:** Corinium Museum, Cirencester  
**Site Code:** TAH 08

A watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks at Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote. Probable bank material associated with Condicote henge was observed during groundworks; however no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August and September 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Sara Wicks at Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 15329 28376; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) (Ref. HSD/9/2/10295 and associated amendments) for the demolition of an existing front porch and the construction of new front and rear porches, the excavation of a new branch drain, the demolition of an existing storage building to facilitate the extension to existing stables, excavations to underpin part of the existing kitchen wall and to provide water and electric supplies to the stable block at Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with two detailed Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008a, 2008b) that were approved by Melanie Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* and the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Melanie Barge, including a site visits on 25 September and 1 August 2008.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The development area is approximately 0.5ha, and comprises a private dwelling, gardens, stables and other outbuildings.
- 1.4 The site lies on relatively flat ground at approximately 190m AOD, sloping down to the west and is bounded to the south-east by a minor road, to the south-west and north-east by neighbouring properties and to the north-west by farmland (Fig. 2).
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Great Oolite Limestone of the Jurassic era (BGS 1981). Natural limestone was encountered within the water and electricity supply trench and the extension to the existing stables between 0.25m and 0.58m below present ground level.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location within the Scheduled Monument of Condicote Earthwork (GC 140), a banked and double-ditched prehistoric henge monument. The site also lies approximately 425m to the east of the line of Ryknild Street; a Roman road linking the Fosse Way to the south, with the Roman town at Alcester, Warwickshire to the north.
- 1.7 Previous archaeological interventions within the henge have been limited. In 1991, an archaeological watching brief undertaken during construction of the existing stable block identified no archaeological deposits, although it should be noted that the works were largely restricted to the topsoil deposits. Preceding archaeological excavations in the adjacent property, Eubury Ring, in 1977 included a hand excavated section across the inner henge ditch and associated bank. It identified that the ditch, measuring 4.2m in width and 2.4m in depth, was originally vertically sided (although its upper limit is now eroded) and flat bottomed. Two radiocarbon dates obtained from lower fills of the ditch were broadly contemporary at 1770 BC and 1720 BC. The identified stratigraphic sequence suggested that up to 1m of modern material had accumulated within the upper limit of the ditch. The associated bank, comprising redeposited limestone sealing an original ground surface, was only partially excavated.

### **Methodology**

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the two approved WSIs. The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were, with the resources available, to preserve by record archaeological deposits within excavations associated with the new development, and to ensure the agreed scheme is adhered to. An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks which consisted of the excavation of footings for the extension of the stables, the construction of new front and rear porches on Tally Ho Cottage, the insertion of a new branch drain to the rear of the cottage and the excavation of a water and electricity supply trench from the cottage to the stables (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

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

## 2. RESULTS

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate (503, 706 and 803) consisting of tabular oolitic limestone, was revealed to the west of Tally Ho Cottage between 0.25m and 0.68m below present ground level. This was overlain by a decayed limestone deposit (702 and 706) averaging 0.3m in thickness representing weathering of the natural substrate and subsequently sealed by subsoil (302 and 704). Sealing the above deposits topsoil (105, 203, 301, 401, 502, 601, 701 and 801) was identified in all the intrusive ground works and contained post medieval and modern pottery although this was not recovered.

### ***Front and Rear Porch (Fig. 2)***

- 2.2 Within the front porch and rear porch trenches modern concrete and gravel surfaces overlay topsoil (105 and 203) which sealed undated deposits 104 and 204 containing frequent limestone fragments suggesting rapid accumulation of material. Interpreted as probable bank material; some degree of stratification was noted within this deposit during hand excavation for underpinning within the rear porch trench. This was represented by an increase in stone content with depth.

### ***Branch Drain (Figs 2 & 4)***

- 2.3 Probable bank material 402 and 403 was revealed within the branch drain trench and was sealed by topsoil 401. A manhole for a modern drain cut deposits 402 and 403.

### ***Water and Electricity Supply Trench (Figs 2, 3 & 5)***

- 2.4 Natural limestone substrate 703 was overlain by a layer of weathered limestone 706. At the western end of the trench, 706 was sealed by subsoil 704 and subsequently topsoil 701. At the eastern end of the trench probable bank material 705 measuring in excess of 0.35m in depth was revealed over 706 and was in turn sealed by modern dumping 707 and topsoil 701.

**Stables (Fig. 2)**

- 2.5 Natural limestone substrate 503 was revealed in the eastern stable extension and was sealed by topsoil 502 and a subsequent modern hardcore surface 501. Within the northern extension to the stables subsoil 302 was revealed, cut by a north/south orientated ditch 303 which contained a single artefactually sterile fill 304. Topsoil 301 sealed ditch 303.

**3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 A number of deposits representing bank material (104, 204, 402, 403, 602, 603, 705 and 802) were identified during the evaluation. Although undated these deposits correspond with the projected line of Condicote Henge bank visible as an earthwork to the east of the site and can confidently be interpreted as the remains of the bank. The original ground surface beneath the bank was not revealed due to the limited depth of the interventions. No evidence of associated external features was revealed during the works.
- 3.2 In addition ditch, 303 was identified but it contained no artefacts. This feature probably represents a recent land division between a paddock to the west and the garden of Tally Ho Cottage to the east and was in-filled by the previous landowner.
- 3.3 A number of additional intrusions, concrete surfaces, a gravel driveway, a trampled deposit and service trenches were also revealed and relate to the post medieval and modern use of Tally Ho Cottage.

**4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jon Bennett and Ray Holt. The report was written by Ray Holt. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.



## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1981 *Geological Survey of England and Wales Sheet 217 Moreton-in-Marsh Solid and drift edition 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008a *Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008b *Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Works*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Front porch

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Gravel driveway			0.05	Modern
102	Layer	Concrete pad			0.1	Modern
103	Layer	Hardcore and sand base for 102			0.1	Modern
104	Deposit	Probable bank material				
105	Layer	Topsoil			0.1	
106	Cut	Modern intrusion	0.22	0.22		
107	Fill	Fill of 106	0.22	0.22		
108	Cut	Modern intrusion	0.18	0.18		
109	Fill	Fill of 108	0.18	0.18		

## Rear porch

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
201	Layer	Concrete slab yard surface			0.05	Modern
202	Layer	Concrete pad			0.1	Modern
203	Layer	Topsoil			0.18	
204	Deposit	Probable bank material				
205	Cut	Soakaway	1.8	1.6		
206	Fill	Rubble infill of 205	1.8	1.6		

## Extension to stables – north side

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
301	Layer	Topsoil			0.35	
302	Layer	Subsoil			At least 0.05	
303	Cut	Ditch		1.5		
304	Fill	Fill of 303		1.5		

## Branch drain

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
401	Layer	Topsoil			0.5	
402	Deposit	Probable bank material			0.2	
403	Deposit	Probable bank material			At least 0.05	
404	Cut	Drain manhole cut				Modern
405	Fill	Fill of 404				Modern

## Extension to stables – east side

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
501	Layer	Hardcore surface			0.05	Modern

502	Layer	Topsoil			0.15 to 0.2	
503	Layer	Natural limestone				

## Underpinning of kitchen wall

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
601	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
602	Layer	Probable bank material			0.4	
603	Layer	Probable bank material			At least 0.2	
604	Cut	Water pipe trench cut		0.23	0.55	Modern
605	Fill	Fill of 604		0.23	0.55	Modern

## Water and electricity supply trench

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
701	Layer	Topsoil			0.28	
702	Layer	Decayed limestone over 703			Up to 0.3	
703	Layer	Natural limestone				
704	Layer	Subsoil beneath 701			Up to 0.15	
705	Layer	Probable bank material			Up to 0.25	
706	Layer	Decayed limestone over 703			Up to 0.3	
707	Layer	Modern trampled deposit below 701			Up to 0.1	

## Eastern continuation of water and electricity supply trench

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
801	Layer	Topsoil			Up to 0.45	
802	Layer	Probable bank material			Up to 0.35	
803	Layer	Natural limestone				

**APPENDIX B: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES**

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), calculated using the benchmark located at Woodsorrel, Condicote (187.50m AOD).

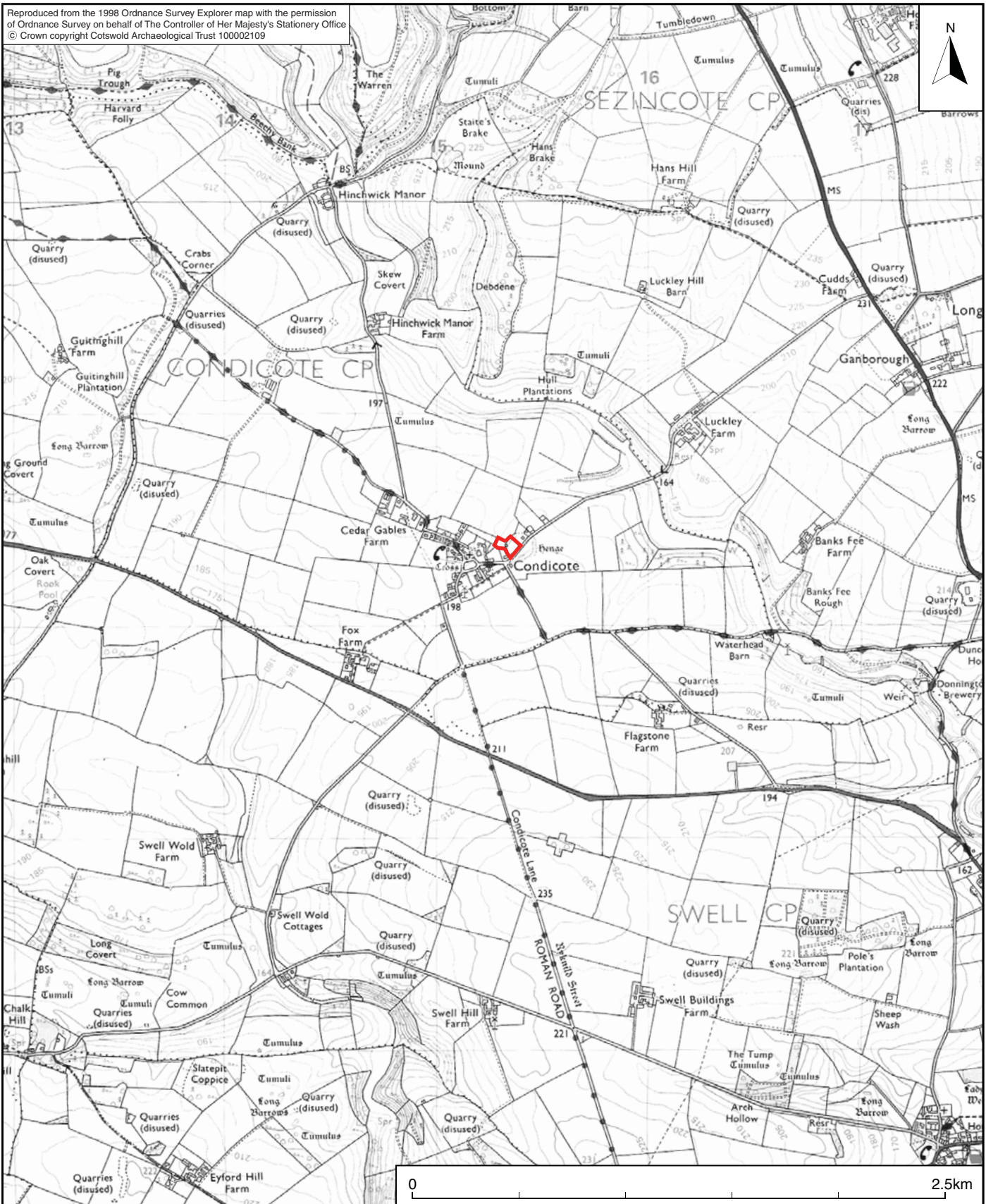
	Rear porch	Branch drain	Underpinning of kitchen wall	Eastern end of water and electricity supply trench
Current ground level	0.00m (188.82m)	0.00m (188.82m)	0.00m (188.78m)	0.00m (188.84m)
Top of probable bank material	0.23m (188.59m)	0.40m (188.42m)	0.20m (188.58m)	0.35m (188.49m)
Limit of excavation	0.33m (188.49m)	0.70m (188.12m)	0.95m (187.83m)	0.80m (188.04m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote, Gloucestershire	
Short description	A watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks at Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote. Probable bank material associated with Condicote henge was observed during groundworks; however no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	31 August – 26 September 2008	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote, Gloucestershire	
Study area	0.5ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 15329 28376	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		
Paper	Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Context sheets, trench recording sheets, drawing register, plan and section drawings
Digital	Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . Report no <b>09132</b>		

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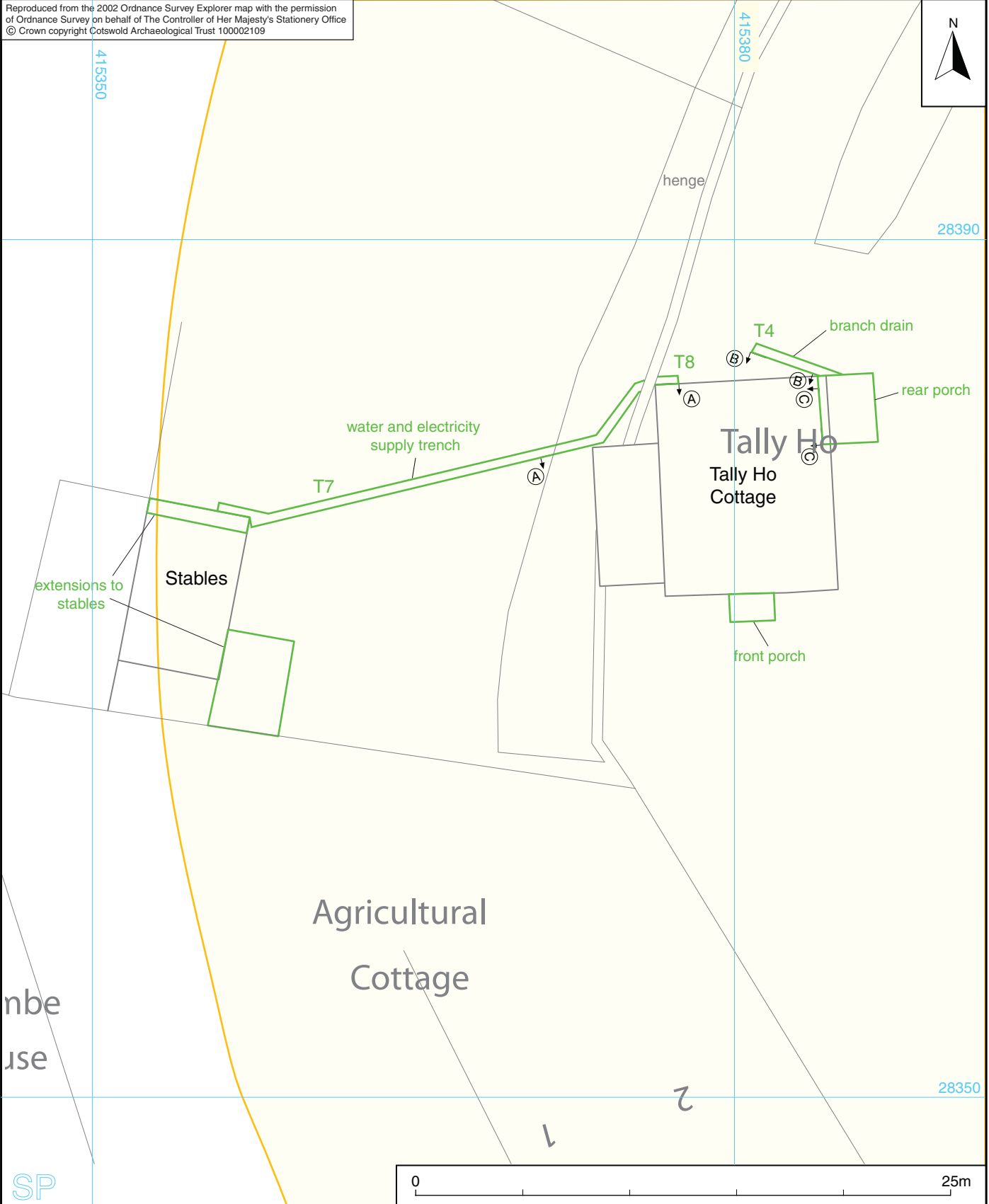


 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE  
**Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote  
 Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:25,000@A4	2623	<b>1</b>



- Location of groundworks
- } Scheduled Monument (GC 140)

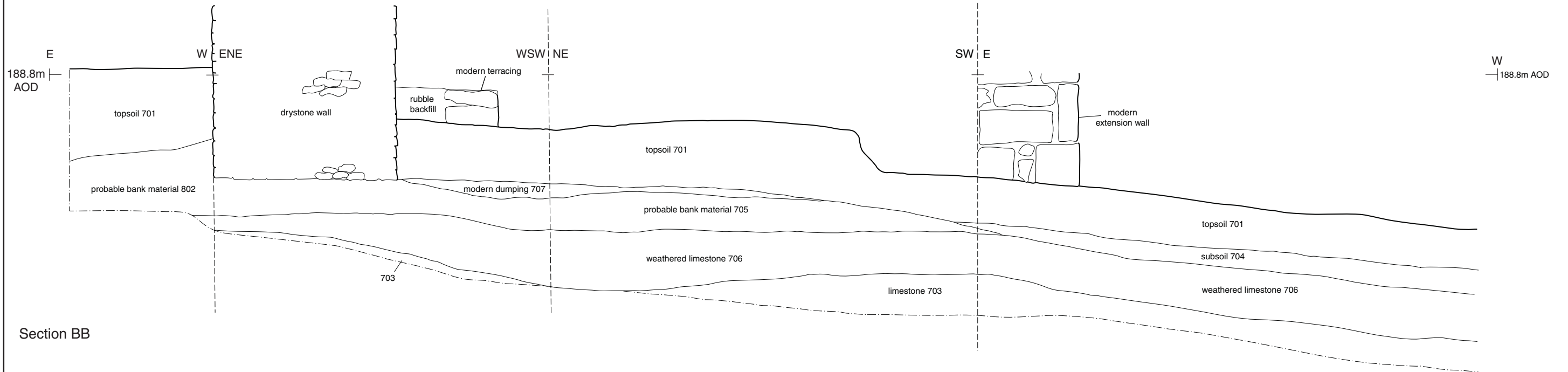


**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

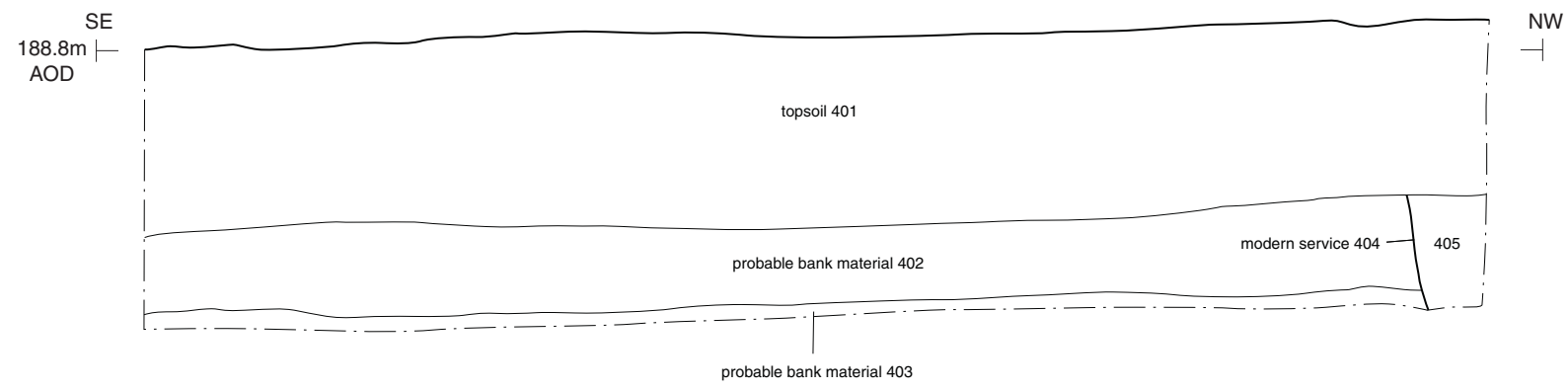
*PROJECT TITLE*  
**Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote  
 Gloucestershire**

*FIGURE TITLE*  
**The site showing location of  
 groundworks**

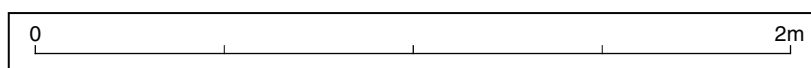
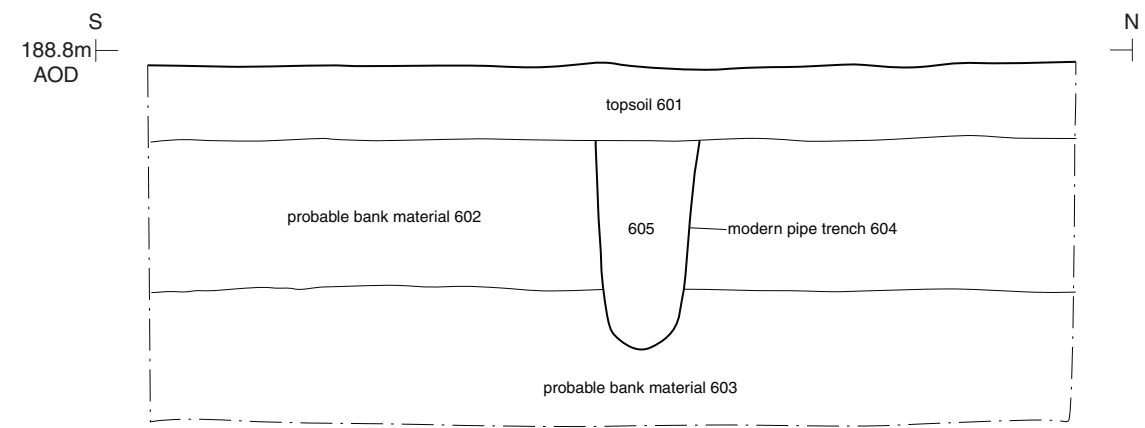
<i>DRAWN BY</i> RK	<i>SCALE</i> 1:250@A4	<i>PROJECT NO.</i> 2623	<i>FIGURE NO.</i> <b>2</b>
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Section BB



Section CC



PROJECT TITLE Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote Gloucestershire			
FIGURE TITLE Sections AA, BB and CC			
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RK	1:20@A3	2623	3





COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph of branch drain showing  
probable bank material, looking west**

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PROJECT NO.

2623

FIGURE NO.

**4**



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Tally Ho Cottage, Condicote  
Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph of water and electricity  
supply trench, looking west**

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PROJECT NO.

2623

FIGURE NO.

**5**