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**LAND AT HARRY STOKE, NEAR FILTON, SOUTH
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
(CENTRED ON NGR ST 6250 7890)**

Results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation

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Results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation

Summary

An archaeological evaluation by means of trench excavation on land at Harry Stoke, near Filton, South Gloucestershire (ST 6250 7890), was carried out by AC archaeology during August 2005. This work followed a desk-based archaeological assessment, which identified that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, and a geophysical survey carried out by Archaeological Services (AS) WYAS.

The evaluation provides some limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of isolated occurrences of unstratified or residual artefacts across the site. However, securely dated prehistoric features have been identified only in Areas 2 and 4. The earliest earthworks in Area 1 have been dated to the 12th or 13th centuries. These are considered to be related to field boundaries and trackways, associated with a settlement focused outside the site area.

Other medieval and post-medieval features across the evaluation area relate to field boundaries and agricultural activity. An area of possible in situ iron smelting has been identified in Area 3 (TR 55), but it is undated.

The survey identified few subsoil deposits than can be directly related to the results of the geophysical survey; only in TRs 26 and 41 can any associations be identified, but none of these features contained dateable artefacts.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological field evaluation, by means of trench excavation, on land at Harry Stoke, near Filton, South Gloucestershire (ST 6250 7890). The location of the site is shown on Fig. 1.
- 1.2 The evaluation, carried out by AC archaeology during August 2005, was commissioned by CPM Environmental Planning and Design Ltd (CPM) on behalf of Crest Nicholson South West Limited. It was undertaken in order to provide supporting information for a planning application for a proposed development, and was requested by the South Gloucestershire Council Archaeology and Conservation Officer.
- 1.3 The site has been sub-divided into four areas (Fig. 2 Areas 1 - 4); the current land use in Areas 1 - 3 was pasture and much of Area 4 recently ploughed arable. The topography varies across the site with the highest points in the north-western portion of Area 1 at around 62mOD and the southern extent of Area 4 at around 63mOD. The ground then generally falls away to the south-east and north-west with the most low-lying point within Area 2 at its northern extent at around 50mOD. The underlying

geology varies from west to east across the site comprising Jurassic and Cretaceous Clays and Permo-Triassic reddish mudstone.

- 1.4 The aim of the investigation was to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits on the site by the least destructive means and to determine their date, nature, function and degree of survival, thus determining whether the site contains overriding archaeological constraints to development.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A desk-based assessment of the development area (CPM Report no. H1455-01a) has been previously presented and the principal points are summarised here as follows:

The site contains archaeological potential for deposits dating from the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. This includes earthworks in Area 1 (SMR 11033), believed to be associated with the former medieval settlement of Harry Stoke, that have previously been investigated by trial trenching in an adjacent area (Samuel & Young 1996) and found to be medieval or later in date. In the southern area of that investigation, to the west of the current Area 3, subsoil features of prehistoric date were located. These deposits were dated to the Early Bronze Age and included subsoil features indicative of settlement and possible funerary activity. Significantly, this evidence indicated that associated prehistoric activity would be anticipated running into Area 3. Other probably post-medieval features within the site boundary include field boundaries and cultivation remains, a post-medieval house site (SMR 10277) and a trackway (SMR 10278).

A geophysical survey by scanning and targeted recorded magnetometer survey revealed the presence of a 'horseshoe-shaped feature' in the south of Area 2, a possible oval enclosure in the north of Area 4 and a group of pits in Block 9, at the north end of Area 2.

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by CPM (H1455-06b) and comprised the machine-excavation of 52 trenches, totalling 2,600m in length, with each trench 50 x 1.9m in plan. On-site constraints however, such as overhead cables and public access led to a number of the trenches having to be re-aligned or re-positioned (TRs 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 14, 42-44 and 47). A further six trenches in Area 3 could not be excavated (TRs 48 – 53) due to access restrictions. Several trenches in Area 1 were positioned to investigate earthworks supposedly associated with the settlement of Harry Stoke, which had previously been investigated further south (Samuel & Young 1996). The position of all trenches as excavated (or proposed, if unexcavated) is shown on Fig. 2.
- 3.2 Topsoil and soil overburden were removed by mechanical excavator working under constant archaeological supervision. Machining ceased either on the top of the natural subsoil or intact archaeological deposits. Where appropriate, all trench sections and bases were cleaned by hand to clarify the deposit sequence.

- 3.3 All deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 1*. Detailed sections or plans were produced at 1:10 or 1:20. All site levels relate to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.4 The archive has been prepared using the site code AC 981 and Museum Accession no. BRSMG 2005/60.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

All trenches which revealed archaeological cut features are described in text. Trenches deemed to be 'Negative' (i.e. not containing subsoil features), are summarised in table form only (Table 1 - 4) below.

4.2 Area 1

Fourteen trenches (TR 1 - 14) were excavated in this area of the site, a number of which were positioned across a series of earthworks. On site constraints (public access and overhead cables) resulted in Trenches 1, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 14 either being re-positioned or re-aligned. Archaeological deposits, relating to medieval and later activity, were encountered in several trenches.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3a - b)

This trench was re-aligned and split to avoid public access. It was aligned approximately NE-SW and positioned in the north-west extent of Area 1, on partly undulating ground represented by a linear earthwork. Turf and topsoil (context 100), comprising dark brown silty clay loam was removed to a depth of 200 - 300mm before three features were revealed. It is unclear whether the earthwork is natural in nature or associated with two of the features investigated (F102 & 104). Natural subsoil comprised yellowish brown clay (context 106).

Excavated features

Feature/layer **101** comprised a shallow sub-circular / irregular feature, not fully exposed in plan with dimensions up to 1.4m. Hand-excavation revealed a gentle sloping profile and uneven base at a maximum depth of 200mm, with a fill composed of dark brown silty clay containing much root disturbance. This feature appears to be natural in origin and probably representing a tree bowl. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the surface of this feature.

Feature **F102** was aligned approximately NW-SE and not fully exposed within the trench. It appeared in plan as a broad linear feature, its north-eastern extent poorly defined, with visible plan dimensions of 1.9m in length and 2m in width. Hand-excavation revealed a gentle sloping profile and flatish base up to a depth of 180mm. It contained a single fill (103), composed of dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small limestone pieces and charcoal flecks. The nature of this feature is undetermined. Medieval pottery and animal bone were recovered.

Feature **F104** represents a clearly defined ditch, aligned approximately NW-SE and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 1.9m in length and 1.1m in width. Hand-excavation

revealed a steep sloping profile and flatish base at a depth of 400mm. It contained a single fill (105), composed of a charcoal-rich, dark grey brown silty clay, with occasional limestone and sandstone pieces (including burnt fragments). Medieval pottery was recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3c-d)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and positioned in the south-west extent of Area 1, on ground that slopes down to the north and west. Towards the eastern extent of the trench the ground is undulating, represented by two parallel linear low and broad bank-like earthworks. Turf and topsoil (context 200), comprising dark grey brown silty clay loam were removed up to a depth of 350mm. A further layer (context 201), possibly representing a colluvial deposit and present towards the eastern extent of the trench was only excavated within a hand-dug slot in the area of the earthworks. This deposit comprised a pale brown silty clay with manganese flecks and up to 500mm deep, where it appears to form part of the make-up for both linear earthworks, its extent possibly as a result of these earthworks being ploughed down. Medieval pottery was recovered from this layer. One very shallow linear feature F202, likely to be post-medieval in origin was revealed truncating deposit (201). A further linear feature, F206 was revealed within the hand-dug slot, below the earthworks and clearly sealed by deposit (201). Natural subsoil comprised yellowish brown clay (context 208).

Excavated features

Feature **F202** was aligned NE-SW and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 1.9m in length and 1.6m in width. Hand-excavation revealed a gentle sloping profile and flatish base up to a depth of 80mm. It contained a single fill (203), composed of mid-dark brown silty clay with occasional limestone and cinder pieces and sparse charcoal flecks. Worked flint was also present. The feature possibly represents the base of a ploughed out ditch.

Feature **F206** represents a probable ditch only partly revealed within a hand-dug slot against the north-east facing section of the trench and below layer (201). It was aligned NW-SE with plan dimensions of 600mm in length and 1.1m in width. Hand-excavation revealed a moderately sloping profile and slightly rounded base at a depth of 300mm. It contained a single fill (207), composed of dark brown silty clay, with no coarse components. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4a – b)

This trench was split to avoid public access and was aligned approximately N-S, positioned in the south-west extent of Area 1, on ground that slopes down from the north and south. Turf and topsoil (context 300), comprising dark grey brown silty clay loam was removed up to a depth of 300mm. The northern extent of this trench contained a single limestone filled drain (context 301) and a spread of material composed of small limestone pieces and brick fragments (context 302). Neither of these was investigated. The southern extent of this trench contained a large ill-defined feature F305, not fully exposed in plan with dimensions present of at least 8m from north to south. This was cut by a linear feature F303. A further ill-defined area (context 307) was also investigated. Natural subsoil comprised reddish brown clay (context 308).

Excavated features

Feature **F303** represents a ditch, aligned NW-SE and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 2.2m in length and 1m in width. Hand-excavation revealed a moderately sloping profile and flatish base at a depth of 400mm. It contained a single fill (304), composed of orange-brown silty clay with sparse charcoal flecks. No dating evidence was recovered.

Feature **F305** represents a large poorly defined possible sub-circular feature, only partly revealed within the trench. A hand-dug slot was excavated across this feature which did not reveal the profile but did determine a flat base at depth of 1.5m. It contained three fills composed of pale brown silty clay with no coarse components (uppermost fill 310), mottled dark grey silty clay with occasional limestone pieces and charcoal flecks (secondary fill 306), and mottled light grey silty clay with no coarse components (primary fill 311). Medieval and later artefacts, including pottery, were recovered from the secondary and upper fills.

Context **307** represents a box section through a ill-defined 'band' of dark reddish brown silty clay with no coarse components. Artefacts recovered included struck flint and medieval / post medieval pottery. This context is undetermined in nature.

Trench 8

This trench was re-positioned slightly further to the south due to the close proximity of overhead cables. It was aligned E-W and positioned in the eastern extent of Area 1, on generally level ground. Turf and topsoil (context 800), comprising dark grey brown silty clay loam was removed to a depth of 260mm before one archaeological feature was revealed (context 801). This feature was also revealed in Trench 9 where it was subsequently investigated. Natural subsoil comprised reddish brown clay (context 802).

Context **801** represents a linear feature aligned NW-SE and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 1.9m in length and 1.8m in width and composed of dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small brick fragments (not excavated).

Trench 9 (Fig. 4c- d)

This trench was re-aligned due to the close proximity of overhead cables. It was aligned NE-SW and positioned centrally within Area 1, on generally level and undulating ground, represented by two earthworks. Turf and topsoil (context 900), comprising dark grey brown silty clay loam was removed to a depth of up 300mm before two archaeological features were revealed. One of these features (F906), comprises part of a shallow linear surface depression orientated NW-SE, and the other (F903), part of a large sub-circular surface depression. Natural subsoil comprised reddish brown clay (context 901).

Excavated features

Feature **F906** represents a ditch, aligned NW-SE and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 1.9m in length and 2m in width. Hand-excavation revealed a gentle sloping profile and flatish base at a depth of 180mm. It contained a single fill (902), composed of dark brown silty clay with sparse limestone pieces, cinder and charcoal flecks. Post-medieval pottery was recovered.

Feature **F903** represents part of a large sub-circular feature, partly revealed within the trench with plan dimensions of approximately 5m and a depth of up to 700mm. A hand-dug slot was excavated across this feature which revealed a moderately sloping profile, defined by a layer of limestone pieces appearing to represent a lining which was only minimally investigated to determine the depth of this

feature. It contained a single fill (904), composed of reddish brown silty clay with sparse small limestone pieces and charcoal flecks. Layer (905) composed of up to two courses of tightly packed angular/tabular limestone pieces up to 250mm in size. This layer appeared to be a deliberately laid deposit. Medieval and later artefacts were recovered from fill (904).

Trench 11

This trench was aligned NE-SW and positioned in the northern extent of Area 1, on ground that slopes down to the south. Turf and topsoil (context 1100), comprising dark grey brown silty clay loam was removed to a depth of 250mm before one archaeological feature was revealed (context 1102). This feature, although not visible on the ground surface is part of a linear depression, also revealed in Trenches 8 and 9 where it was subsequently investigated. Natural subsoil comprised reddish brown clay (context 1101).

Context 1102 represents a linear feature aligned NW-SE and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 1.9m in length and 1.5m in width and composed of dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small brick fragments (not excavated).

4.3 Area 2

Twenty-two trenches (TR15 – 36) were excavated in this area of the site. Several of these were positioned in the most low-lying areas of the proposed development, each revealing a deep soil sequence, possibly representing colluvial deposits (Trenches 15 - 20, 31, 35 and 36). A further subsoil present in the remaining trenches in this area possibly derives from former ploughed-out ridge and furrow, however this could not be fully determined. Machine-dug sondages were excavated through a number of the trenches containing deep soils. Most of the trenches positioned in the low-lying areas contained a series of land drains, all of which likely to be post-medieval and modern in origin. Archaeological deposits comprising prehistoric and post-medieval activity was encountered in some trenches. The presence of possible 'elongated pits' in Block 9 of the geophysical survey could not be verified by TRs 35 and 36.

Trench 15 (Fig. 5a – b)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and positioned in the north-western extent of Area 2, on generally level ground. Turf and topsoil (context 1500), comprising greyish brown silty clay loam was removed to a depth of 250mm before revealing a further layer (1506). This layer was up to 300mm in depth and composed of dark brown silty clay with occasional limestone pieces. Three land drains, all of limestone construction (contexts 1501 - 1503) and one archaeological feature, undetermined in nature were revealed cutting layer (1506). A further layer (1507), composed of mottled mid-dark brown silty clay, was excavated within a machine-dug sondage at the north-eastern extent of the trench, excavated to a depth of 2.65m. Natural subsoil was not exposed.

Excavated feature

Feature F1504 was undetermined in nature and not fully exposed within the trench, with plan dimensions of 1.2m in length and 800mm in width. Hand-excavation revealed a steep sloping profile and flat base at a depth of 300mm. It contained a single fill (1505), composed of dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small limestone pieces. Post-medieval artefacts were recovered.

Trench 20 (Fig. 5c – d)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and positioned in the south-western extent of Area 2, on ground that slopes down from the south-east, gradually rising to the north. Turf and topsoil (context 2000), comprising greyish brown silty clay loam was removed to a depth of 300mm before revealing a further layer (2004). This layer was up to 600mm in depth and composed of dark brown silty clay with occasional limestone pieces and charcoal flecks. One land drain of limestone construction (context 2003) and one archaeological feature, representing a probable drainage ditch, were revealed cutting layer (2004). A further layer (2005) composed of mottled mid-dark brown silty clay was excavated within a machine-dug sondage at the north-eastern extent of the trench to a depth of 1.35m before natural red clay subsoil was encountered (2009).

Excavated feature

Feature **F2001** represents a relatively recent infilled ditch, aligned approximately NE-SW and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 2.2m in length and 3.5m in width, with a steep sloping profile to 750mm where at this depth a large ceramic drain pipe was encountered. This feature was not further investigated. The lowermost fill of this feature (2006), was composed of dark brown clay silt with small brick and possible tile fragments. The remaining fills (2002 / 2007-8) varied in composition and all appeared to represent deliberate backfilling. Post-medieval pottery was recovered.

Trench 26 (Fig. 5e – f)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and positioned in the south-eastern extent of Area 2, on ground that slopes gently down to the north-west. Turf and topsoil (context 2600), comprising greyish brown silty clay loam was removed to a depth of 300mm before revealing a further layer (2601). This layer was up to 250mm in depth and composed of slightly mixed reddish / pale brown silty clay with occasional small limestone and cinder pieces and charcoal flecks. One possible archaeological feature was revealed below layer (2601). Natural subsoil comprised reddish brown / grey clay (context 2602).

Excavated feature

Feature **F2603** represents a poorly defined possible ditch, aligned approximately N-S and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 1.9m in length and 1m in width. Hand-excavation revealed a slightly irregular steep sloping profile and uneven base at a depth of 550mm. It contained a single fill (2604), composed of dark reddish brown silty clay with no coarse components. No dating evidence was recovered. This feature may relate to the curving magnetic anomaly identified by the geophysical survey in Block 5 of the geophysical survey and suggested to be associated with the former nursery.

Trench 27 (Fig. 5g – h)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and positioned centrally within Area 2, on ground that slopes gently down to the north-west. Turf and topsoil (context 2700), comprising greyish brown silty clay loam was removed to a depth of 250mm before revealing a further layer (2701). This layer was up to 150mm in depth and composed of reddish brown silty clay with occasional small limestone pieces. One archaeological feature

was revealed below layer (2701). Natural subsoil comprised reddish brown / grey clay (context 2704).

Excavated feature

Feature **F2702** represents a shallow probable ditch, poorly defined and aligned approximately N-S and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of approximately 3m in length and 700mm in width. Hand-excavation revealed a moderately sloping profile and flatish base at a depth of 180mm. It contained a single fill (2703), composed of dark reddish brown silty clay with no coarse components. A single flint tool was recovered.

4.4 Area 3

Three trenches (TR 54 – 56) were excavated in this area of the site, two of these in a low-lying area containing deep soils. On site constraints (overhead cables) resulted in Trenches 55-56 either re-positioned or re-aligned. The deep soils encountered possibly represent ploughed-out ridge and furrow, demonstrated by the surrounding undulating ground, and a colluvial deposit also encountered in the adjacent south-western extent of Area 2. Machine-dug sondages were excavated through two of the trenches containing deep soils. Archaeological activity of unknown date and origin was present in Trench 55.

Trench 55 (Fig. 6a – b)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and positioned in the northern portion of Area 3, on undulating ground. Turf and topsoil (context 5500), comprising greyish brown silty clay loam were removed to a depth of 250mm before revealing a further layer (5501). This layer was up to 600mm thick and composed of pale brown clay-silt with sparse charcoal flecks. One archaeological feature was partly revealed below layer (5501) which resulted in the north-western extent of this trench being extended to the south-west to expose the extent of this feature. A further layer (5504), composed of mottled mid-dark brown silty clay, was excavated within a machine-dug sondage at the north-western extent of the trench to a depth of 1m before red - light grey clay natural subsoil was encountered (5505).

Excavated feature

Feature **F5502** represents a sub-linear feature, aligned approximately NW-SE with plan dimensions of approximately 2.1m in length and 700mm in width. Its profile was moderately sloping with a slightly uneven base at a depth of 250mm. It contained a single fill (5503), composed of mixed black-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional burnt / scorched limestone pieces. This fill contained large quantities of small to medium sized slag pieces. No dating evidence was recovered.

4.5 Area 4

Thirteen trenches (TR 37 – 47, 57 – 58) were excavated in this area of the site, one of which was positioned in a low-lying area (TR 37). On site constraints (overhead cables) resulted in Trenches 42-44 and 47 either being re-positioned or re-aligned. Deep plough scars was evident in many of the trenches. Archaeological deposits, comprising prehistoric and later activity, were encountered in some trenches. It was

not possible to identify any evidence in TR37 for the 'possible oval enclosure' interpreted in Block 8 of the geophysical survey.

Trench 41 (Fig. 6c – g)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and positioned in the central portion of Area 4 on generally level ground. Ploughsoil (context 4100), comprising mid-dark brown silty clay, was removed to a depth of 300mm before natural subsoil or archaeological deposits were revealed. Natural subsoil comprised dark reddish brown clay (context 4101).

Excavated features

Feature **F4102** represents a ditch, aligned NW-SE, and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 2.5m in length and 1m in width. Hand-excavation revealed a steep sloping profile and rounded base at a depth of 350mm. It contained a single fill (4103), composed of mid-brown silty clay with sparse small limestone pieces and moderate charcoal flecks. Bronze Age pottery and other artefacts were recovered.

Feature **F4104** represents a small probable truncated pit, with plan dimensions of 500mm in diameter. Hand-excavation revealed a gentle sloping profile and flat base at a depth of 30mm. It contained a single fill (4105), composed of mid-brown silty clay with sparse small limestone pieces. Medieval pottery was recovered.

Feature **F4106** represents a poorly defined ditch, aligned NW-SE and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 2.2m in length and 1m in width. Hand-excavation revealed a moderately irregular profile and uneven base at a depth of 200mm. It contained a single fill (4107), composed of reddish brown silty clay with sparse small limestone pieces. Artefacts, including worked stone and animal bone, were recovered.

Feature **F4108** represents a probable pit, with plan dimensions of 1.25m x 600mm. Hand-excavation revealed a steep sloping profile and slightly uneven base at a depth of 180mm. It contained a single fill (4109), composed of dark brown silty clay with sparse small limestone pieces and charcoal flecks. A moderate quantity of small to medium sized slag pieces was recovered. This feature lies close to the recorded position of a 'horseshoe-shaped' magnetic anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Block 6).

Trench 43 (Fig. 6h – i)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and positioned in the southern portion of Area 4 on level ground. Ploughsoil (context 4300), comprising mid-dark brown silty clay, was removed to a depth of 300mm before natural subsoil and a single archaeological feature were revealed. Natural subsoil comprised dark reddish brown clay (context 4301).

Excavated feature

Feature **F4302** represents a ditch, aligned approximately NE-SW and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 2.3m in length and 1.7m in width. Hand-excavation revealed a gentle to moderately sloping profile and uneven base at a depth of 250mm. It contained a single fill (4303), composed of grey brown silty clay with sparse small limestone pieces and charcoal flecks. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 45 (Fig. 6j – k)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and positioned in the southern portion of Area 4 on level ground. Ploughsoil (context 4500), comprising mid-dark brown silty clay was removed to a depth of 280mm before natural subsoil and a single archaeological feature was revealed. Natural subsoil comprised dark reddish brown clay (context 4503).

Excavated feature

Feature **F4501** represents a ditch, aligned approximately NW-SE and not fully exposed within the trench. It had plan dimensions of 2.3m in length and 1.7m in width. Hand-excavation revealed a gentle to moderately sloping profile and uneven base at a depth of 600mm. It contained a single fill (4502), composed of dark brown silty clay with sparse small limestone pieces and charcoal flecks. Animal bone and Bronze Age pottery was recovered.

4.6 Negative trenches - Area 1

The following Table summarises results of 'Negative' trenches in Area 1

TABLE 1: AREA 1

Trench	Depth below ground	Contexts	Comments
4	0 - 200mm 200mm+	Turf / topsoil 400 Natural subsoil 401	Re-positioned and approx NW-SE aligned and located in the southern portion of the site on generally level ground
5	0 - 200mm 200 - 250mm+	Turf / topsoil 500 Natural subsoil 501	Approx E-W aligned and located in the central portion of the site on generally level ground. Positioned across earthwork comprising shallow linear depression - only present within topsoil horizon
6	0 - 250mm 250mm+	Turf / topsoil 600 Natural subsoil 601	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the southern portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north-east.
7	0 - 250mm 250mm+	Turf / topsoil 700 Natural subsoil 701	NE-SW aligned and located in the southern portion of the site on level ground
10	0 - 200mm 200mm+	Turf / topsoil 1000 Natural subsoil 1001	Approx E-W aligned and located in the northern portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the east and north-east
12	0 - 200mm 200mm+	Turf / topsoil 1200 Natural subsoil 1201	Approximately E-W aligned and located in the northern portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the east and south-west.
13	0 - 200mm 200mm+	Turf / topsoil 1300 Natural subsoil 1301	NE-SW aligned and located in the north-east portion of the site on level ground
14	0 - 200mm 200mm+	Turf / topsoil 1400 Natural subsoil 1401	Re-positioned and aligned approximately NE-SW and located in the north-eastern portion of the site on level ground.

4.7 Negative trenches - Area 2

The following Table summarises results of 'Negative' trenches in Area 2

TABLE 2: AREA 2

Trench	Depth below ground	Contexts	Comments
16	0 - 200mm 200 - 500mm 500 - 2m 2m+	Turf / topsoil 1600 Colluvial deposit ? 1606 Colluvial deposit ? 1607 Natural subsoil 1608	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the north-western portion of the site on generally level ground. Five land drains present, two limestone constructed and three containing ceramic pipes (contexts 1601 - 1605)
17	0 - 250mm 250 - 550mm 550 - 2.45m 2.45m+	Turf / topsoil 1700 Colluvial deposit ? 1707 Colluvial deposit ? 1708 Natural subsoil 1709	NE-SW aligned and located in the western portion of the site on generally level ground. Six land drains present, all of limestone construction (contexts 1701 - 1706)
18	0 - 300mm 300 - 600mm 600 - 950mm+	Turf / topsoil 1800 Colluvial deposit ? 1804 Colluvial deposit ? 1805	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the south-western portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north before levelling out. Three land drains present, one limestone construction and two containing ceramic pipes (contexts 1801 - 1803). Natural subsoil not revealed
19	0 - 300mm 300 - 550mm 550 - 1.1m+	Turf/ topsoil 1900 Colluvial deposit ? 1902 Colluvial deposit ? 1903	Approx NE-SW aligned and located in the south-western portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north before levelling out. One limestone constructed land drain present - context 1901
21	0 - 300mm 300 - 450mm 450mm+	Turf / topsoil 2100 Subsoil 2101 Natural subsoil 2102	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the southern portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north-west.
22	0 - 300mm 300 - 450mm 450mm+	Turf / topsoil 2200 Subsoil 2201 Natural subsoil 2202	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the southern portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north-west. One land drain present containing ceramic pipe context 2203
23	0 - 250mm 250 - 400mm 400mm+	Turf / topsoil 2300 Subsoil 2301 Natural subsoil 2302	Approx NE-SW aligned and located in the southern portion of the site on slightly undulating ground that slopes gently down to the north-west
24	0 - 280mm 280 - 350mm 350mm+	Turf / topsoil 2400 Subsoil 2401 Natural subsoil 2402	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the southern portion of the site on slightly undulating ground that slopes gently down to the north-west
25	0 - 250mm 250 - 600mm 250 - 500mm 500mm+	Turf / topsoil 2500 Spread 2502 Subsoil 2501 Natural subsoil 2503	Approx NE-SW aligned and located in the south-east portion of the site on slightly undulating ground. A spread of material (2502), was present in the central area of this trench and composed of dark brown silty clay with 'patches' of charcoal and burnt clay, and occasional small limestone and cinder pieces. Post-medieval in origin.
28	0 - 300mm 300 - 450mm 450mm+	Turf / topsoil 2800 Subsoil 2801 Natural subsoil 2802	NE-SW aligned and located in the central portion of the site on slightly undulating ground.
29	0 - 250mm 250 - 450mm 450mm+	Turf / topsoil 2900 Subsoil 2901 Natural subsoil 2902	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the eastern portion of the site on generally level ground.
30	0 - 250mm 250 - 350mm 350mm+	Turf / topsoil 3000 Subsoil 3001 Natural subsoil 3002	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the central portion of the site on slightly undulating ground that slopes gently down to the north-west
31	0 - 300mm 300 - 400mm 400 - 1.9m 1.9m+	Turf / topsoil 3100 Subsoil 3102 Colluvial deposit? 3103 Natural subsoil 3104	NE-SW aligned and located in the north-western portion of the site on slightly undulating ground. Colluvial deposit 3103 occurs only at the north-eastern extent of trench. One limestone constructed land drain present (context 3101)
32	0 - 200mm 200 - 300mm 300mm+	Turf / topsoil 3200 Subsoil 3201 Natural subsoil 3202	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the northern portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north. Natural subsoil composed of clay with limestone outcrop present at SE extent of trench.
33	0 - 300mm 300 - 400mm 400mm+	Turf / topsoil 3300 Subsoil 3301 Natural subsoil 3302	Approx NE-SW aligned and located in the eastern portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north. Natural subsoil composed of clay with limestone outcrop present in central portion of trench.
34	0 - 300mm 300 - 450mm 450mm+	Turf / topsoil 3400 Subsoil 3401 Natural subsoil 3402	Approx NE-SW aligned and located in the eastern portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north-east.
35	0 - 250mm 250 - 350mm 350 - 900mm+	Turf / topsoil 3500 Subsoil 3501 Colluvial deposit? 3502	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the northern portion of the site on generally level ground. Natural subsoil not exposed.
36	0 - 250mm 250 - 350mm 350 - 1.4m+	Turf / topsoil 3600 Subsoil 3601 Colluvial deposit? 3602	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the northern portion of the site on generally level ground. Natural subsoil not exposed.

4.8 Negative trenches - Area 3

The following Table summarises results of 'Negative' trenches in Area 3

TABLE 3: AREA 3

Trench	Depth below ground	Contexts	Comments
54	0 - 300mm 300 - 600mm 600 - 1.1m 1.1m+	Turf / topsoil 5400 Subsoil 5401 Colluvial deposit? 5402 Natural subsoil 5403	NE-SW aligned and located in the north-western portion of the site on slightly undulating ground.
56	0 - 300mm 300 - 400mm 400mm+	Turf / topsoil 5600 Subsoil 5601 Natural subsoil 5602	Approx NW-SE aligned and located in the northern portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north. Natural subsoil composed of clay with limestone outcrop present at SE extent of trench.

4.9 Negative trenches - Area 4

The following Table summarises results of 'Negative' trenches in Area 4.

TABLE 4: AREA 4

Trench	Depth below ground	Contexts	Comments
37	0 - 300mm 300 - 2.2m 2.2m+	Ploughsoil 3700 Colluvial deposit? 3701 Natural subsoil 3702	Approx E-W aligned and located in the northern portion of the site on generally level ground
38	0 - 300mm 300mm+	Ploughsoil 3800 Natural subsoil 3801	Approx N-S aligned and located in the northern portion of the site on ground that slopes moderately down to the north-east.
39	0 - 300mm 300mm+	Ploughsoil 3900 Natural subsoil 3901	NE-SW aligned and located in the central portion of the site on generally level ground gradually sloping down to the north-east.
40	0 - 250mm 250mm+	Ploughsoil 4000 Natural subsoil 4001	NW-SE aligned and located in the central portion of the site on generally level ground
42	0 - 250mm 250mm+	Ploughsoil 4200 Natural subsoil 4201	Approx NE-SW aligned and located in the southern portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north-east
44	0 - 350mm 350 - 650mm 350mm+ - 650mm+	Ploughsoil 4400 Spread / layer 4401 Natural subsoil 4402	NE-SW aligned and located in the south-eastern portion of the site on ground that slopes moderately down to the north-east. A spread of material (4401), was present in the central area of this trench, possibly filling a 'hollow', and composed of dark reddish-brown silty clay containing moderate amounts of cinder, slag and limestone pieces.
46	0 - 300mm 300mm+	Ploughsoil 4600 Natural subsoil 4601	Approx NE-SW aligned and located in the south-eastern portion of the site on ground that slopes moderately down to the north-east.
47	0 - 250mm 250mm+	Ploughsoil 4700 Natural subsoil 4701	Approx NE-SW aligned and located in the south portion of the site on ground that slopes gently down to the north-east
57	0 - 200mm 200mm+	Clover / topsoil 5700 Natural subsoil 5701	Approx N-S aligned and located in the northern portion of the site on ground that slopes moderately down to the south-west.
58	0 - 200mm 200mm+	Clover / topsoil 5800 Natural subsoil 5801	NE-SW aligned and located in the northern portion of the site on generally level ground, gradually sloping down to the south-west.

5. THE FINDS

by M. Laidlaw with a contribution on the worked flint by Paul Martin

The finds assemblage recovered during the evaluation ranges broadly in date from the Mesolithic to post-medieval. The pottery comprises sherds attributed to the Bronze Age, medieval and post-medieval periods. All finds have been cleaned (with the exception of the metalwork and slag) and have been quantified by material type within each context. Quantified data are presented in Table 5 (at end of report).

All finds have been scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate.

5.1 Worked flint

A total of 15 worked flints (including three which are burnt) was collected from seven different contexts. All of the flint is from a local gravel source and ranges in date from the Mesolithic through to the Middle Bronze Age. Characteristic tools consist of a Mesolithic back bladed patinated microlith from feature/layer 307 and an Early Bronze Age thumb scraper from ditch F2702. With the exception of the thumb scraper, all are likely to be residual in nature.

5.2 Worked stone

One whetstone fragment was recovered from ditch F4106 in TR 41. The whetstone is in a fine grained sandstone with smoothed and worn surfaces. Due to the conservative form of whetstones throughout time they are not closely datable.

5.3 Ironwork

The ironwork objects are heavily encrusted and consist of one horseshoe fragment and one nail shank from TR 3, one sheet fragment from TR 15 and one unidentified rectangular fragment from TR 41. The objects are all likely to be post-medieval in date.

5.4 Slag

A total of 586 fragments of slag weighing 10,546g was recovered during the evaluation. The bulk of the fragments were recovered from one bulk sample taken from feature F 5502. This sample contained 560 fragments weighing 8150g. With the exception of 120 fragments that were large enough to have characteristic features, the remaining fragments are all very small pieces <20mm. The other fragments were found in TR 25 (1 fragment), 15 fragments from TR 41 and 10 fragments from TR 44.

Excluding the small featureless fragments recovered from the sample, the majority of fragments may be classified as smelting slag, particularly tap slag pieces with the characteristic smooth, ropey flowed surfaces. A smaller number of large pieces have irregular or more vesicular surfaces and one piece from feature F5502 may be a fragment of lining.

Tap slag is a typical by-product of Roman and medieval smelting technology, but is less common in the Saxon period (McDonnell 1993). Given the presence of medieval pottery in the area it is possible to suggest that the slag may be contemporaneous.

5.5 Ceramic building material

Three post-medieval roof tile fragments were recovered from TRs 9, 15 and 20.

5.6 Clay pipe

The clay pipe fragments were recovered from feature F903 in TR 9 and from feature 1504 in TR 15. The fragments consist of seven plain stem fragments and one bowl fragment.

5.7 Pottery

The pottery consists of 26 Bronze Age sherds (97g), 51 medieval sherds (370g) and 32 post-medieval sherds (639g). The condition of the pottery is rather poor, many of the sherds are undiagnostic body sherds and are often abraded. A summary of fabric types is included in Table 6.

Bronze Age

The bulk of the Bronze Age pottery was recovered from linear feature F4102 in TR 41. Three very small non-diagnostic sherds, from ditch F4501, were tentatively attributed to the Bronze Age on the basis of fabric type, a moderately fine sandy fabric. The remaining sherds comprise 23 sherds in a grog tempered fabric including two conjoining flat topped rims and one rounded rim with fingernail impressions around the rim. On the basis of fabric types, vessel forms and decoration this pottery may be assigned to the Middle to Late Bronze Age period.

Medieval

A small range of medieval fabrics is present, including predominantly moderately coarse sandy wares with smaller quantities of sherds in a leached limestone fabric and finer glazed sandy wares. Just over half of the medieval pottery was recovered from ditch F104 (30 sherds).

All the wares are comparable to similar fabric types commonly found in the Bristol area. The sandy fabrics including both the coarse and finer glazed wares are probably 12th/13th century products of the Ham Green kilns. Diagnostic vessel forms or decoration were scarce and comprised one jar with an upright rim and two sherds with combed wavy decoration.

Three small plain body sherds are in a leached limestone fabric. One sherd from feature F305 is in a moderately fine fabric and probably has a similar 12th/13th century date. Two sherds, however, from pit 4104 are in a more coarse sandy fabric with larger voids, possibly shell and may be pre-conquest in date (10th/11th century).

TABLE 6: SUMMARY OF FABRIC TYPES

Fabric	No	Wt	% of assemblage by weight
Bronze Age			
Grog tempered	22	83	
Sandy	4	14	
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>8.8</i>
Medieval			
Leached limestone	3	13	
Fine sandy glazed	8	31	
Sandy	40	326	
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>370</i>	<i>33.4</i>
Post-medieval			
Earthenware	27	540	
Creamware	1	59	
Stoneware	1	36	
Whiteware	3	4	
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>639</i>	<i>57.8</i>
Overall total	109	1,106	

Post-medieval

The majority of post-medieval pottery is unglazed or glazed earthenwares mainly late 16th/17th century Somerset types. One possible South Gloucestershire 'Cistercian ware' sherd was recovered from TR 3. Later wares (17th/18th century) include a stoneware bottle rim, a creamware dish and industrial whitewares.

The post-medieval pottery was concentrated in feature F305 (15 sherds) with smaller quantities dispersed within TRs 9, 15, 20, 25 and 44.

5.8 Animal bone

A total of 68 fragments of animal bone was recovered from five trenches. The bone is in a poor condition and very fragmentary. Diagnostic bones include rib fragments, longbone fragments, one vertebra, loose teeth and one jaw fragment. The majority of fragments are derived from sheep but also present are cattle-sized fragments and one very small rodent bone. The largest concentrations of bone were found in the post-medieval feature 305 and from Bronze Age ditches 4102 and 4501.

6. COMMENTARY

6.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity

Evidence for prehistoric activity on the site is based on generally low occurrences of worked flint from a small number of trenches in Area 1 (TRs 2, 3), Area 2 (TR 27) and Area 4 (TR 41 and 44); and on two occurrences of Bronze Age pottery from TRs 41 and TR45 in Area 4 only.

In Area 1 all prehistoric finds are considered to be residual either on the basis of other dateable material in contexts or from stratigraphic positions. In Area 2 the flint scraper from ditch F2702 in TR 27 may indicate a prehistoric date for this feature. In Area 4, material in TR 44 is considered residual, but in TR 41 there is sufficient quantity of worked flint and pottery to suggest that at least the two linear features (excluding F4104 and F4108) are of prehistoric date. The feature F4501 may also be of Bronze Age date.

The generally low concentration of Bronze Activity is difficult to interpret, but localised settlement activity in the vicinity of TR 41 may reasonably be expected. The distribution of features is comparable with the 'patchy' nature of features in the previous adjacent evaluation (Samuel & Young 1996), and may therefore represent field ditches, but does not provide evidence for a continuation of prehistoric activity into the western part of the current study area (Area 3).

There is no evidence that the colluvial deposits in the central area seal in situ prehistoric deposits.

6.2 Earthworks in Area 1

Earthworks and associated subsoil features examined in Area 1 contain sufficient and consistent dating evidence to indicate that many represent 12th to 13th century activity. Several ditches also contain post-medieval finds in their fills; this is to be expected as ditches are still in the process of infilling, but several features (e.g. F305 and F903 in TRs 3 and 9 respectively) are considered to be exclusively of this later period. The medieval features are therefore likely to be related to the settlement of Harry Stoke. However, it is difficult to provide an interpretation of settlement activity in the immediate vicinity, as the deposits examined are considered to represent field boundaries and trackways away from the settlement core, which is probably located outside the western boundary of the site.

6.3 Other medieval and later activity

A moderate number of linear or discrete features, containing medieval or later artefacts, were located across all areas. These features are considered to represent evidence for former field boundaries or agricultural activity.

6.4 Undated metalworking activity

Two subsoil features (Pit F4108 in TR 41 and F5502 in TR 55) contained sufficient deposits of iron slag to indicate metalworking on site. Of particular note is F 5502 in Area 3, as the presence of possible lining and other burnt material may indicate in situ smelting. Charcoal from the deposit has been retained should radiocarbon dating determination be required.

7. REFERENCES

McDonnell, J. G., 1993, 'Metalworking residues' in A. H. Graham and S. M. Davies, *Excavations in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1977 and 1986-1988. The Prehistoric, Saxon and Saxo-Norman Settlements and the Anarchy Period Castle*. Wessex Archaeology Report 2

Samuel & Young 1996 '*Harry Stoke, Stoke Gifford, South Gloucestershire – Archaeological Evaluation (SGSMR11006)*'. Unpublished client report by Avon Archaeological Unit August 1996

TABLE 5: FINDS QUANTITIES BY MATERIAL TYPE

Context	Feature	Worked flint		Ironwork		Slag		CBM		Clay pipe		Animal bone		BA pottery		Med pottery		Pmed pottery		Worked stone			
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt		
101	Tree throw																						
103	Feature 102																						
105	Ditch 104												1	3									
201	Layer																						
203	Feature 202	3	4																				
306	Feature 305	2	2	2	105							16	39						4	9	15	122	
307	Feature	3	5																1	1	1	4	
310	Feature 305	3	24																2	6			
902	Ditch 906																						
904	Feature 903									1	14	4	2									3	82
1505	Feature 1504			1	43					1	294	4	7	1	1				2	3	1	1	
2006	Ditch 2001									1	44								3	62	3	215	
2502	Layer																				5	83	
2703	Ditch 2702	1	9																				
4103	Ditch 4102	2	10																				
4105	Pit 4104																						
4107	Ditch 4106			1	21	1	560																
4109	Pit 4108					14	1,150															1	470
4401	Layer	1	2			10	646																
4502	Ditch 4501																					1	70
5503	Feature 5502																						
	Total	15	56	4	169	586	10,546	3	352	8	9	68	195	26	97	51	370	32	639	1	470		

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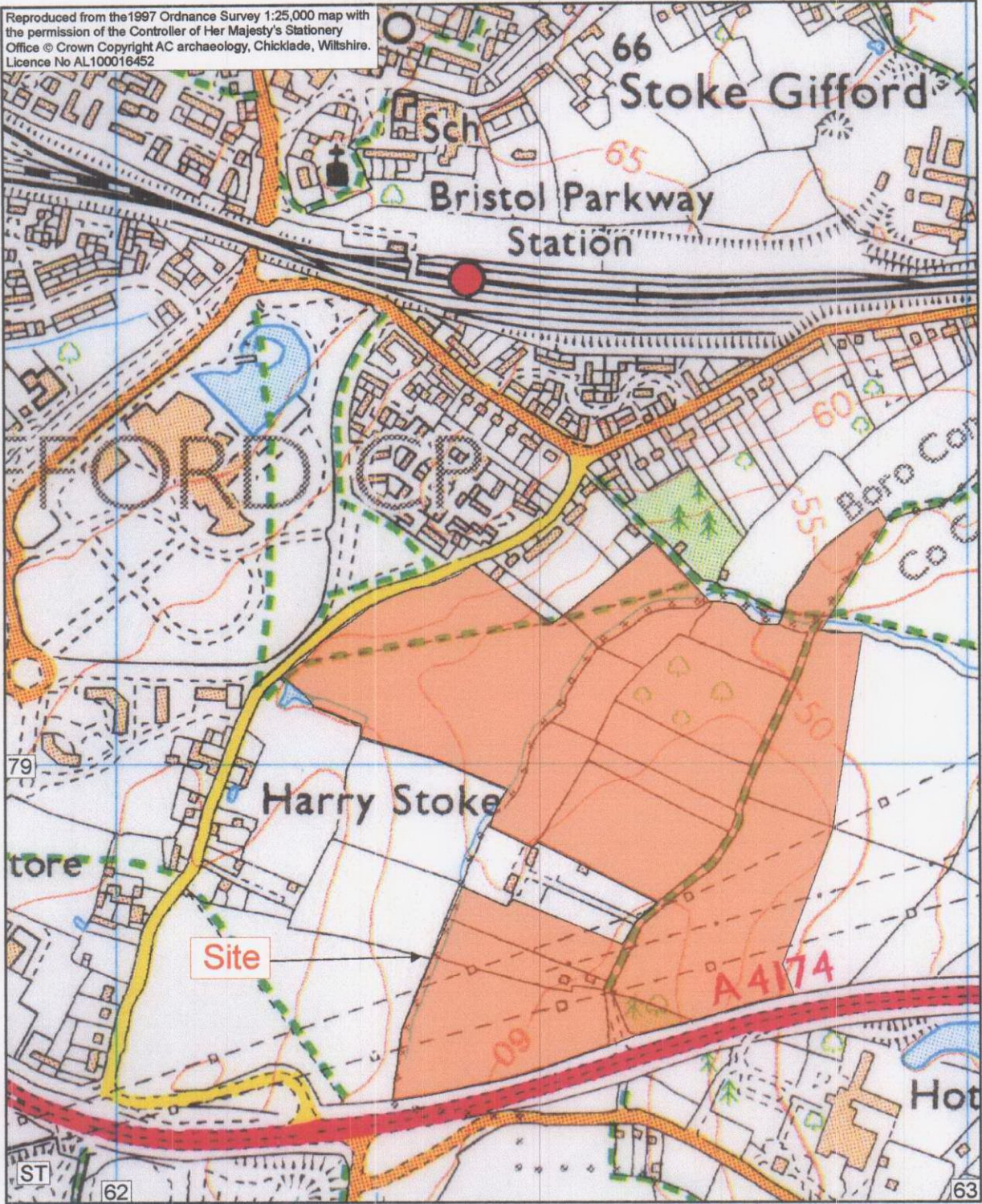


Fig. 1: Site Location