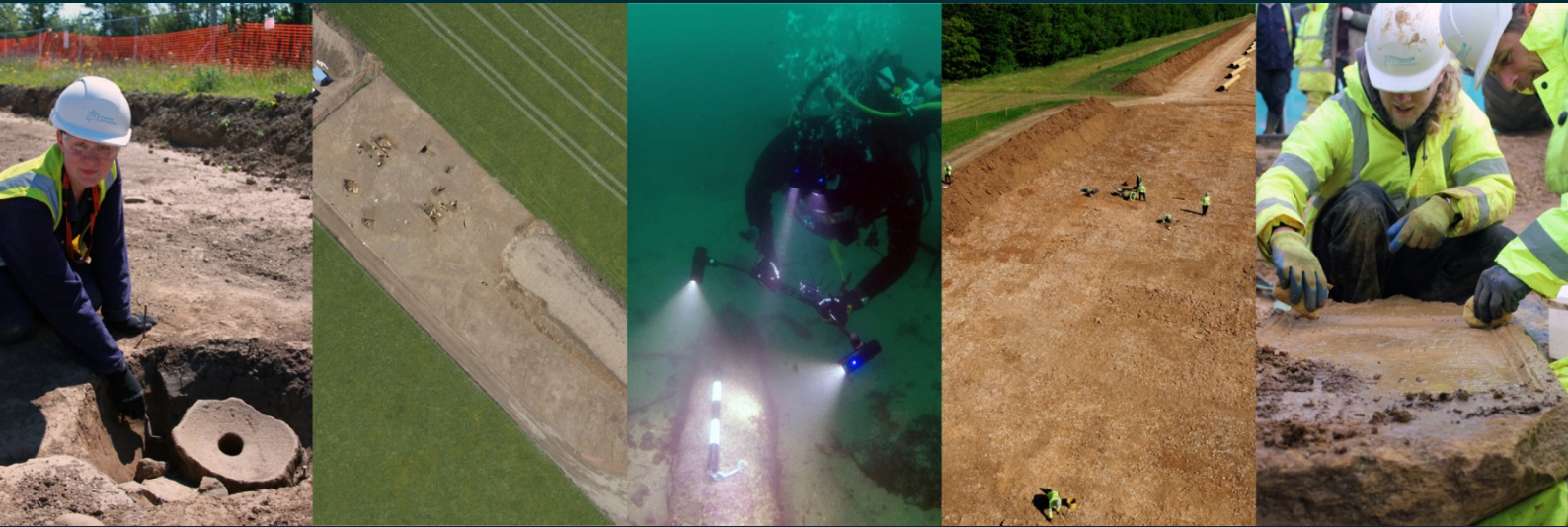


**Land at Warren Lane  
Long Ashton  
North Somerset**  
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
SOVUX Developments

CA Project: CR0019  
CA Report: CR0019\_1  
OASIS ID: cotswold2-343580

March 2019



Land at Warren Lane  
 Long Ashton  
 North Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	28 March 2019	PA Busby	Alex Thomson	Final		Cliff Bateman

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at Warren Lane
<b>Location:</b>	Long Ashton, North Somerset
<b>NGR:</b>	353305 169860
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	6-7 March 2019
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	North Somerset Council ref: 18/P/4939/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Somerset Museums Service
<b>Accession Number:</b>	WESTM: 2019.5
<b>Site Code:</b>	WARL 19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2019 on land at Warren Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset. A total of three trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for SOVUX Developments on land at Warren Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset (centred at NGR: 353305 169860; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken following the advice of Ms Cat Lodge, Senior Archaeologist, Development and Environment, North Somerset Council (NSC), the advisor to NSC, to support the resubmitted planning application for the site (NSC ref: 18/P/4939/FUL). The application is for the construction of four detached houses, associated access driveway, bin store and landscaping.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019a) and approved by Cat Lodge. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is 0.16ha and comprises an existing dwelling and its associated gardens. The site is bounded to the south-east by Weston Road, to the north-east by Warren Lane and to the north-west and south-west by a large arable field which is part of a Scheduled Monument (National Monument number 1011978) of late Iron Age and Roman settlement and associated agricultural activity. The site is level and lies at approximately 53m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone and Halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone Group formed in the Triassic Period (BGS 2019). The natural substrate encountered throughout the excavated evaluation trenches comprised clay and mudstone gravel.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development site has previously been the subject of a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (DBA, CA 2019b) and reference should be made to that document for further detail. A brief summary of the results of the DBA are outlined below:

- 2.2 The site lies immediately adjacent to a scheduled Roman settlement, associated field system and earlier Iron Age settlement at Gatcombe Farm (National Monument number 1011978; see Fig. 2). A further Scheduled Monument, comprising the earthwork and buried archaeological remains of a Roman field system and deserted medieval settlement (National Monument number 1011979) is located c. 500m north of the current site (*ibid.*)

#### *Prehistoric*

- 2.3 There are no prehistoric remains pre-dating the Iron Age recorded within the site or its immediate vicinity, however find spots of a Neolithic greenstone axe and a flint assemblage are recorded approximately 380m to the south-east of the site (*ibid.*).
- 2.4 The Gatcombe Farm settlement is focused approximately 250m to the west of the current site, and includes features indicative of a small Late Iron Age agricultural settlement, probably comprising a limited number of timber-built roundhouses. An associated field system is recorded immediately to the west of the current site and potentially extends into the proposed development area (*ibid.*)

#### *Roman*

- 2.5 Numerous archaeological investigations have been undertaken at Gatcombe Roman settlement and are described in detail by Branigan (Branigan 1977). The earliest Roman settlement comprised a series of buildings, at least one of which had stone foundations, which appear to have replaced the Late Iron Age roundhouse settlement. These structures are likely to represent a small-scale farmstead which went out of use by the late 2nd century AD. Following the abandonment of the farmstead the area below Failand Ridge appears to have remained unoccupied until the rapid construction of a villa complex between AD 280 – 300 (CA 2019b). Although the exact function of this settlement is unclear, its large enclosing compound wall, relatively rapid construction and evidence for high-status structures including a colonnade, mosaic, a stretch of fine masonry, hypocaust and baluster bases, suggest this was a settlement of considerable importance. The limestone compound wall, which passes approximately 350m to the west of the current site, was up to 4m thick and possibly 3m to 4m high, and enclosed an area of c. 7ha. Along with the probable villa a number of associated subsidiary buildings, arranged upon three terraces, were situated within the northern part of the compound (*ibid.*).

- 2.6 Beyond the villa complex a possible Roman field system has been recorded upon the south-facing valley side. The irregular field system covers an area of c. 20ha and occupies the hill-side to the north and east of the Roman settlement (*ibid.*).
- 2.7 The projected alignments of several possible Roman roads appear to lead to/from Gatcombe, and whilst archaeological evidence for these features near Gatcombe is slight, one possible section of a Roman road has been identified by geophysical survey in the field to the east of Gatcombe Farm, and may continue into the current site (*ibid.*).
- 2.8 Geophysical survey (AS 2012) and archaeological evaluation (CA 2013) in the field immediately to the west of the current site identified a 1st–2nd AD century field system; as a result the boundary of the Scheduled Monument was extended up to the western extent of the proposed development area (see Fig. 2 of this report for location and extent). The evaluation recorded ditches, a number of pits and/or postholes and one quarry pit, along with artefacts of Late Iron Age/Early Roman to modern date; two of the ditches excavated during the evaluation may extend into the current site (*ibid.*).

#### *Medieval, post-medieval and modern*

- 2.9 Features associated with medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity and land division were also identified during the geophysical survey and evaluation immediately to the west of the site (AS 2012; CA 2013). Furthermore, undated enclosures which may also be medieval or post-medieval in date were recorded (CA 2013). The Scheduled Monument (National Monument number 1011979) located c. 500m to the north of the current site includes a deserted medieval settlement.
- 2.10 The current site has been a distinct plot from the larger field to its west since at least the mid-18th century and has been in residential use (hosting a dwelling and garden) since the mid-20th century.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and*

*guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable NSC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

#### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches, each measuring 10m in length by 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 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*.
- 4.3 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*, but no deposits were identified that required sampling. Despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered during the evaluation
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Somerset Museums Service under accession number WESTM: 2019.5. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain (under reference: cotswold2-343580).





## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 3-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the site. The natural substrate, typically encountered at a depth of 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl), comprised clay with patches of angular mudstone gravel and cobbles. It was overlain by subsoil, consisting of silt-clay with occasional angular mudstone gravel and cobbles, measuring up to 0.25m in thickness. The subsoil was in turn sealed by silt-clay topsoil, which averaged 0.25m in thickness.
- 5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. However, a number of small, modern animal burials were identified within Trenches 2 and 3 cut fully through the subsoil horizon; one of the burials was contained within a plastic bag. A modern metal water pipe was also located cutting the subsoil at the northern end of Trench 3.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see Fig. 2 and Archaeological Background above), no features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified during the course of the archaeological evaluation and no artefactual material was recovered.
- 6.2 The lack of pre modern artefactual material suggests that the Iron Age and Roman occupation and agricultural activity known to exist directly to the west of the current site does not extend into the application area, as supported by the results of the adjacent geophysical survey (see Figs 2 and 3). Furthermore, the putative line of the Roman road was also not identified (see Section 2.7 above), suggesting that it too lies outside of the proposed development area's boundary.
- 6.3 A number of modern pits containing animal burials, presumably relating to the domestic usage of the site, were identified in Trenches 2 and 3.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby, assisted by Jack Harrison. The report was written by Peter Busby. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

## 8. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys (AS) 2012 *Land at Gatcombe Farm, Long Ashton, North Somerset: Magnetometer Survey Report*, Report ref: **432**

AS 2018 *Gatcombe Farm, Long Ashton, North Somerset: Magnetometer Survey Report*, Report ref: **J749**

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CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Land at Gatcombe Farm, Long Ashton, North Somerset: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Report No. **10262**

CA 2013 *Land at Gatcombe Farm, Long Ashton, North Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report: **13193**

CA 2019a *Land at Warren Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA 2019b *1 Warren Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*, CA Report: **19001**

Gatcombe Environs Research Team (GERT) 2009 *Gatcombe Farm: 4 Grids in East Field – 29th October 2009*

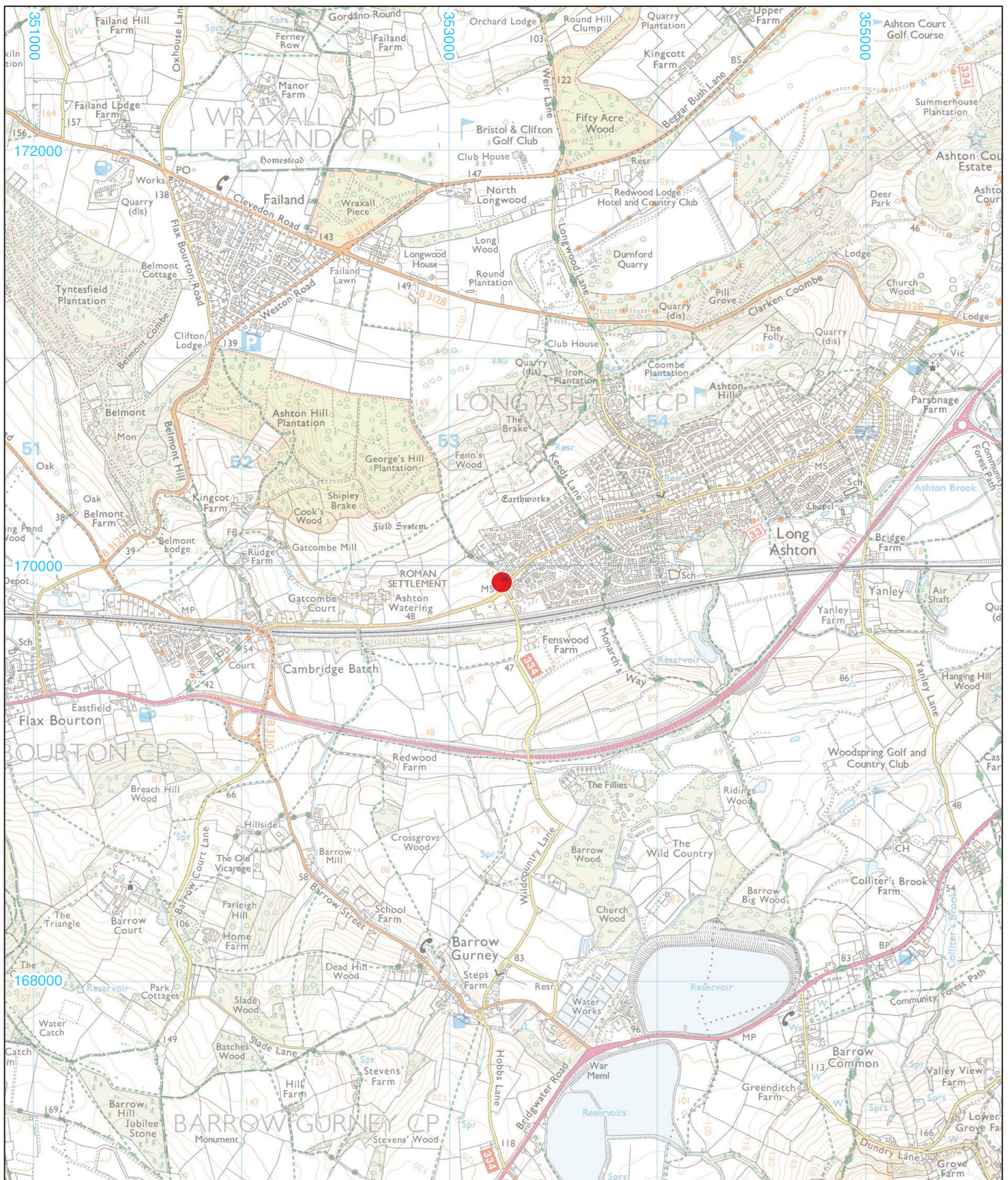
Smisson, R. P. M. and Groves, P. 2014 *Gatcombe Roman Settlement: Geophysical Surveys 2009–2010*. *Britannia* **45**, 293–302

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	101	Layer	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	>10	>1.8	0.26
1	102	Layer	Subsoil	Mid to light brown silt clay with occasional angular mudstone gravel and cobbles	>10	>1.8	0.25
1	103	Layer	Natural substrate	Brown red clay with patches of angular mudstone gravel and cobbles.	>10	>1.8	>0.09
2	201	Layer	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	>10	>1.8	0.28
2	202	Layer	Subsoil	Mid to light brown silt clay with occasional angular mudstone gravel and cobbles	>10	>1.8	0.25
2	203	Layer	Natural substrate	Brown red clay	>10	>1.8	>0.13
3	301	Layer	Topsoil	Grey brown silt clay	>10	>1.8	0.22
3	302	Layer	Subsoil	Mid to light brown silt clay with occasional angular mudstone gravel and cobbles	>10	>1.8	0.23
3	303	Layer	Natural substrate	Brown red clay	>10	>1.8	>0.17

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at Warren Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2019 on land at Warren Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset. A total of three trenches were excavated.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	6-7 March 2019	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Assessment (CA 2019)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Warren Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.16ha	
Site co-ordinates	353305 169860	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	North Somerset Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Somerset Museums Service	Trench sheets
Digital	Somerset Museums Service	Digital photos and drawings
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Land at Warren Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report <b>CR0019_1</b>		



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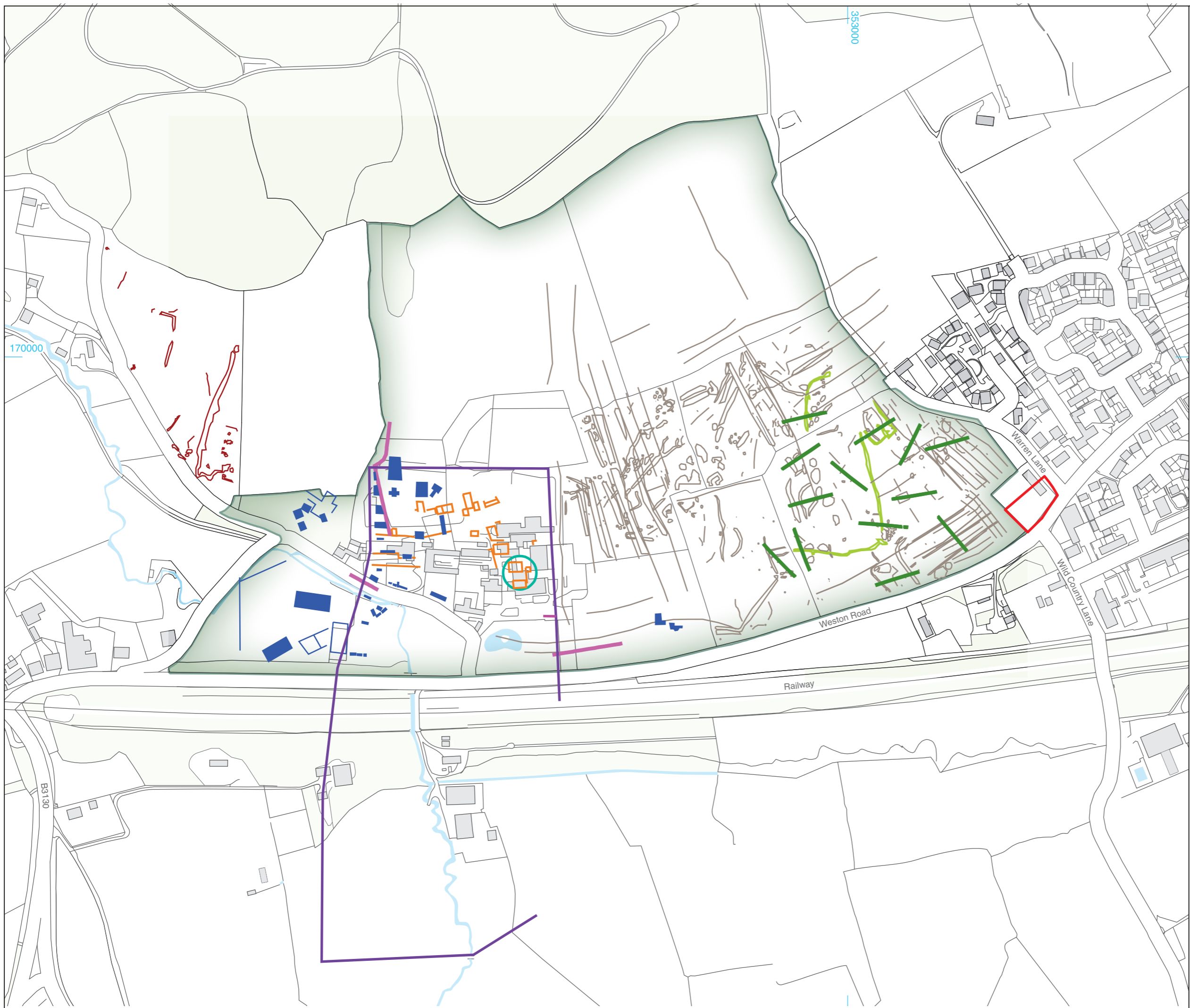
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Warren Lane, Long Ashton,  
 North Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

0 1km

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DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	CR0019	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	EE	DATE	11.03.19	1
APPROVED BY	PB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- Site boundary
  - Scheduled Monument (1011978)
  - Area of Late Iron Age and Early Roman settlement
  - Buildings and walls (Branigan, 1967-1977)
- Geophysical survey  
(Gatcombe Environs Research Team, 2009; Smisson and Gloves 2014)
- Compound wall
  - Wall
  - Building
  - Possible road
  - Ditches of later prehistoric/Romano-British field enclosures (Archaeological Surveys, 2012; Cotswold Archaeology, 2012)
  - Ditches of historic field systems and furrows from historic ploughing (Archaeological Surveys, 2012; Cotswold Archaeology, 2012)
  - Evaluation trench (Cotswold Archaeology, 2013)
  - Ditches, pits, and other features of uncertain origin (Archaeological Surveys, 2018)



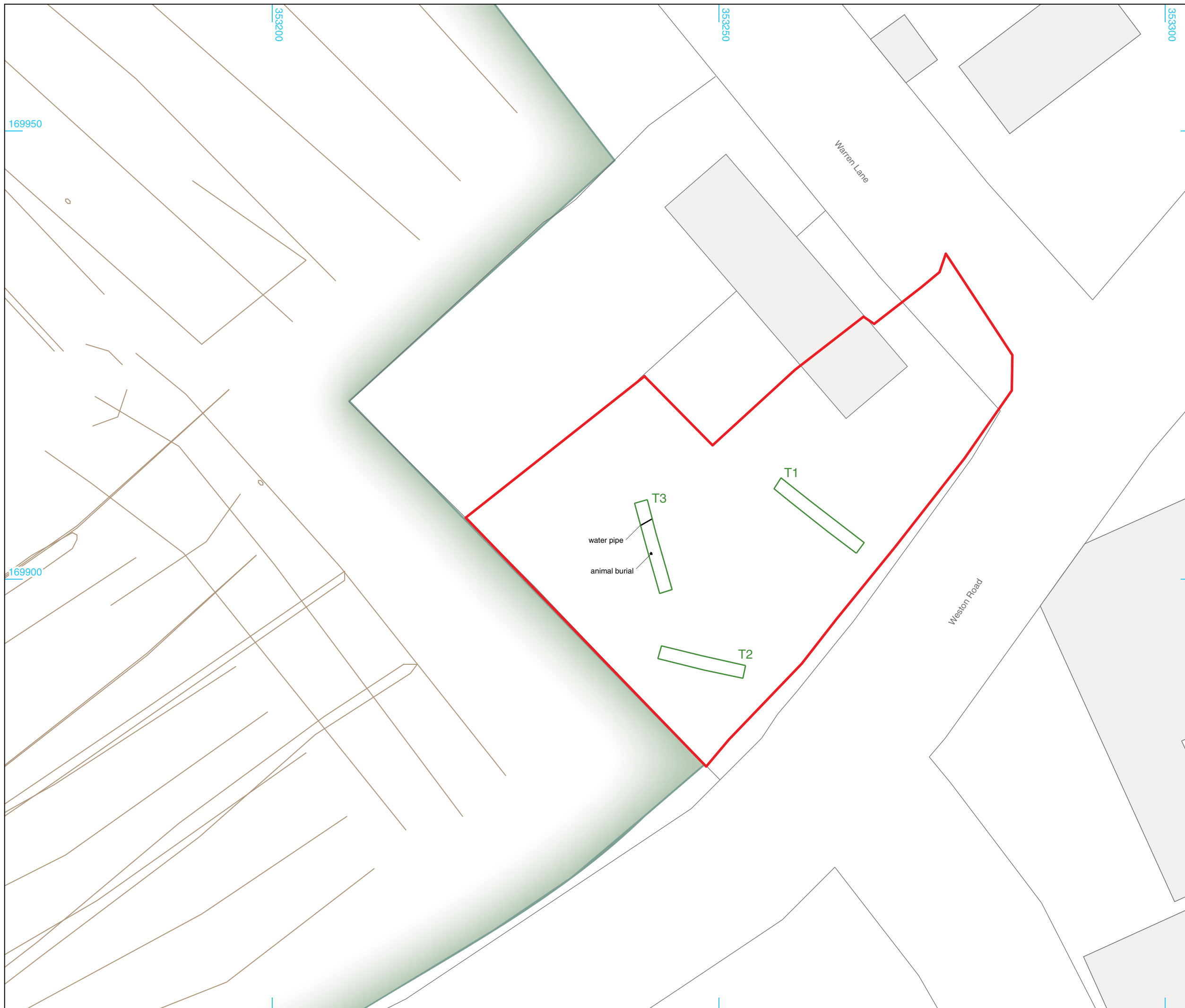
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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Warren Land, Long Ashton, North Somerset**

FIGURE TITLE  
**The Site showing Scheduled Monument and previous archaeological works**

DRAWN BY <b>AW</b> CHECKED BY <b>DJB</b> APPROVED BY <b>EP</b>	PROJECT NO. <b>CR0019</b> DATE <b>26.02.19</b> SCALE@A3 <b>1:4000</b>	FIGURE NO. <b>2</b>
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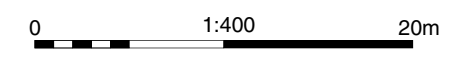


- Site boundary
- Scheduled Monument
- Evaluation trench
- Modern
- Geophysical survey  
(Archaeological Surveys, 2013)

T3  
water pipe  
animal burial

T1

T2



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Warren Lane, Long Ashton,  
 North Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan, showing  
 archaeological features

<b>DRAWN BY</b> AW	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> CR0019	<b>FIGURE NO.</b> 1
<b>CHECKED BY</b> EE	<b>DATE</b> 11.03.19	
<b>APPROVED BY</b> PB	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:400	



Trench 1 post-excavation, looking south-east (1m scale)



Section of trench 2, looking south-west (1m scale)

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