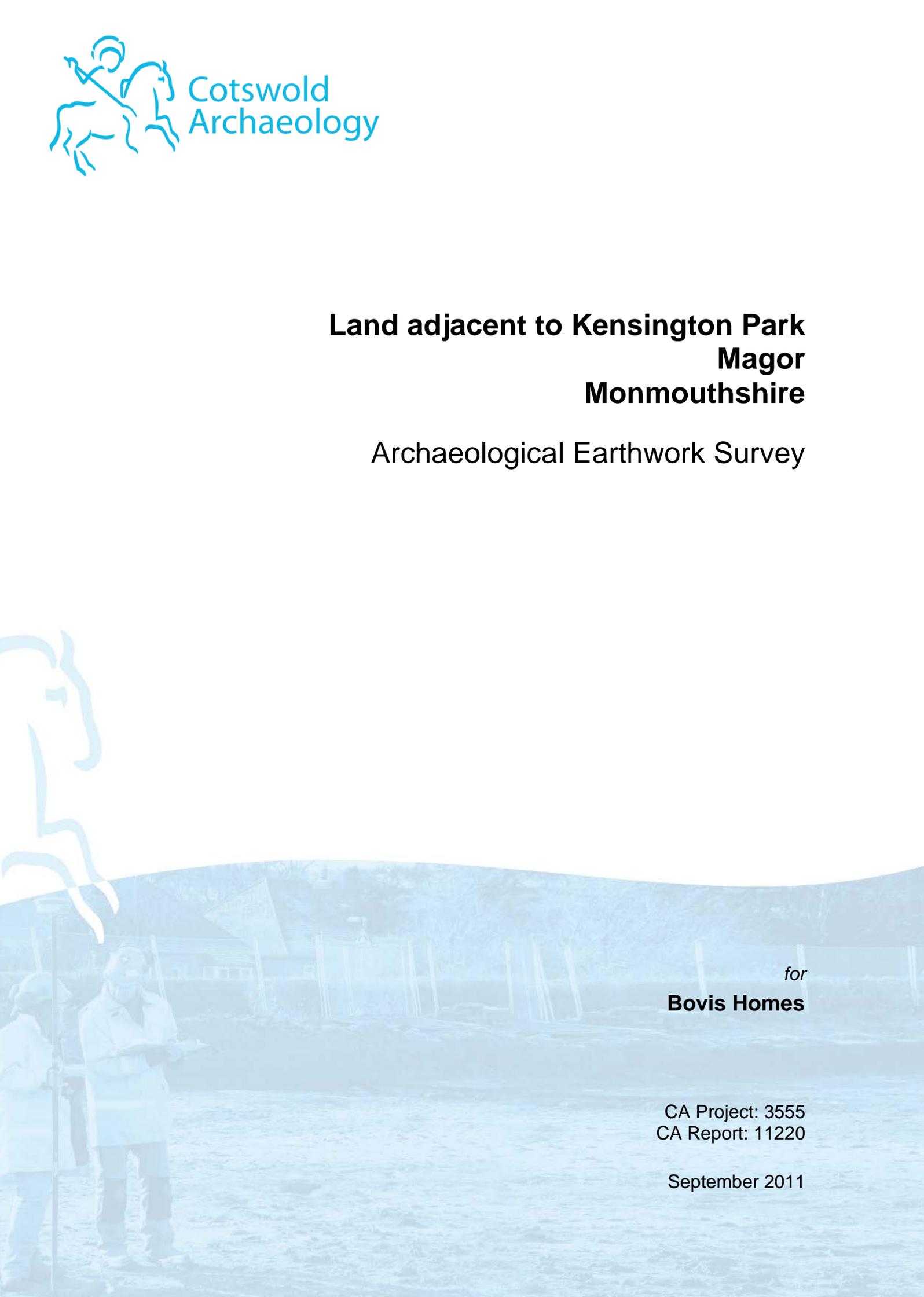


**Land adjacent to Kensington Park
Magor
Monmouthshire**

Archaeological Earthwork Survey



for
Bovis Homes

CA Project: 3555
CA Report: 11220

September 2011

Land adjacent to Kensington Park
Magor
Monmouthshire

Archaeological Earthwork Survey

CA Project: 3555
CA Report: 11220

prepared by	Alexandra Wilkinson, Project Supervisor
date	9 September 2011
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	13 September 2011
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	14 September 2011
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Site showing earthwork survey results (1:1000)



SUMMARY

Project Name: Land Adjacent to Kensington Park
Location: Magor, Monmouthshire
NGR: ST 41945 87031
Type: Earthwork Survey
Date: 5 September 2011
Planning Reference: DC/2006/01113

An archaeological earthwork survey was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2011 on land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire.

The earthwork survey recorded ridge and furrow field systems, a low bank and associated ditch, and a number of possible quarry pits.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological earthwork survey for Bovis Homes at land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire (centred on NGR: ST 41945 87031; Fig. 1). A planning application for residential development has been approved by Monmouthshire County Council (MCC; ref: DC/2006/01113). A condition on the consent (no. 12) requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The programme of archaeological work was recommended by Mr Neil Maylan, Archaeological Planning Manager, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) Curatorial, archaeological advisor to Monmouthshire County Council.
- 1.2 The survey was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation and Project Design* prepared by CA (2011) and approved by Mr Maylan. The survey also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006); the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 2008), *Recording Archaeological Field Monuments, a descriptive specification* (RCHME 1999), *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes, A good guide to recording practice* (EH 2007), Section 6 of *Metric Survey Specification* (English Heritage), *Guidelines for the use of GNSS in land surveying and mapping 2nd edition* (RICS Practice Standards, UK) and *Best Practice Guidance Notes for Network RTK Surveying in Great Britain* (The Survey Association 2008).

The site

- 1.3 The site comprises an area of approximately 2ha, and lies on the west side of Magor, bounded to the north-west by Green Moor Lane, to the north-east by the housing of Kensington Park and to the south by a railway line. It lies at between 8 and 14m AOD, and is located on Second Terrace Gravel Drift deposits overlying Tintern Sandstone deposits of the Upper Old Red Sandstone Group (BGS 2011). At the time of the survey the site was being used for agricultural purposes.

- 1.4 A Desk-Based Assessment of the site was carried out in 2004 and subsequently evaluated by trial trenching (GCCAS 2004; 2005). While prehistoric and Roman activity is recorded from within the area of the site, there are no recorded remains of this period within the development area. Ridge and furrow cultivation remains are visible within the site, particularly on aerial photographs. There is evidence from the desk-based assessment and the evaluation of quarrying on the site in certain areas, and a possible quarry is visible within the field surface. The 2005 evaluation consisted of the excavation of 11 trenches. Features were found in seven of these, including six undated linear features, one post-medieval and one undated posthole, and three quarry pits as well as other undated features. No evidence was found for the possible ridge and furrow cultivation remains or a possible enclosure identified by the desk-based assessment.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.5 The general aim of the survey was to:

- provide further data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the site to determine the scope of further works.

The objective was to:

- Produce a detailed record of any earthworks present within the site

Methodology

- 1.6 The survey was carried out using a Leica 1200 and Viva series “SmartRover” (real-time kinematic) RTK GPS. The Leica RTK GPS is quoted as +/- 20mm in accuracy for all 3D observations and measurements. When Kinematic GNSS data collectors are used for earthwork measurement they are set to a horizontal precision of 30mm and a vertical precision of 50mm.
- 1.7 The survey is orientated to Ordnance Survey National Grid, all major surface features have been included in the survey but the complexity of detail relates finally to the plotted scales and to the specific requirements of the survey brief. This must be borne in mind when interpreting the plan. All mapped features have had their heights calculated and related to Ordnance Datum Newlyn. The precision of heights

on soft surfaces may be taken to within $\pm 50\text{mm}$ due to the autopoint technique used and the limitations of the instrument.

- 1.8 Throughout, field notes and digital photographs were taken to supplement the digital survey record. Once the survey fieldwork was complete, the data was downloaded from the instrument into Leica GeoOffice, a proprietary survey processing package, and then exported to a CAD system, from which a plan drawing was produced. This is a composite of surveyed data, superimposed on detail obtained from the OS base-map, and supported by manually recorded additional information.
- 1.9 In addition to hard copy prints at a suitable scale, the survey will be available as a digital file, in DXF, shapefile or other similarly widely applicable format, and with drawing layers in accordance with EH guidance on the presentation of digital survey data.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 Ridge and furrow field systems running on a north-west/south-east alignment were identified in both the north-west and south-east parts of the site. Medieval ridge and furrow are typically spaced 10m apart (Rackham 1986, 167) whereas later ridge and furrow are generally spaced every 4.5 to 5m (ibid, 169). Medieval ridge and furrow can also have a gentle curve to them (Taylor 1975, 82) whilst later ridge and furrow is generally straight (Rackham 1986, 168). Given that ridge and furrow was only recorded in small areas it is not possible to tell whether there is any curvature of the earthworks. The spacing in the south part of the site would suggest a medieval date however the spacing in the north part of the site does not indicate a clear date. The 2005 evaluation did not record any evidence of ridge and furrow.
- 2.2 The survey identified an area of probable quarry pits in the south part of the site, along with an isolated pit in the north part of the site. The areas identified correspond well to quarry pits recorded during the evaluation. No dating was recovered for these features during the evaluation but they were thought to be post-medieval in date.
- 2.3 A low bank was recorded running north-east/south-west across the centre of the site. This bank was also observed during the evaluation. A shallow ditch was

excavated on the south-east side of the bank. It ran parallel to the bank and pottery of possible medieval date was retrieved. Although this ditch was not identified in the earthwork survey, a separate shallow ditch was recorded to the north-west of the bank. It also ran parallel to the bank before turning north-west. A possible stone-lined pit was identified at the end of this ditch. The bank and ditches correspond to the alignment of a former field boundary shown on the 1882 Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping and still recorded on the OS mapping of 1970.

3. DISCUSSION

The earthwork survey was able to confirm the presence of ridge and furrow field systems attested to in aerial photographs. It also confirmed the presence and location of several areas of quarrying. A low bank and shallow ditch was identified running north-east/south-west across the site. This together with information from the evaluation and OS mapping would suggest this feature is a former field boundary bank with a ditch running parallel on both sides.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork and cartography were undertaken by Jon Bennet. The report was written by Alexandra Wilkinson. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Land Adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire: Written Scheme of Investigation and Project Design for an Archaeological Earthwork Survey and Watching Brief*

GCCAS (Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service) 2004 *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire*. GCCAS typescript report

GCCAS (Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service) 2005 *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire*. GCCAS typescript report

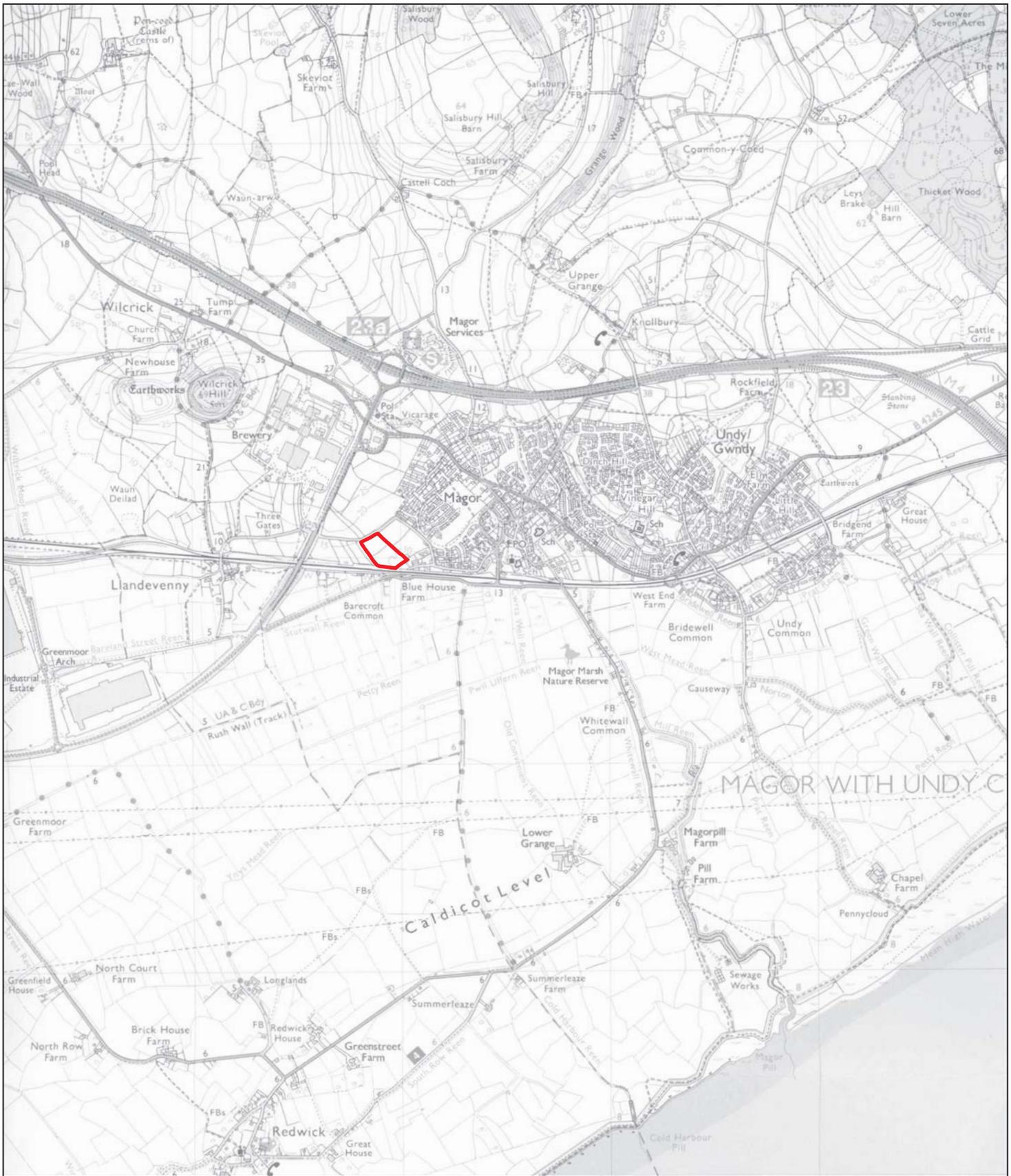
Rackham, O 1986 *The History of the Countryside*, London, JM Dent and Sons

Taylor, C 1975 *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing



APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological earthwork survey was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2011 on land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire. The earthwork survey recorded ridge and furrow field systems, a low bank and associated ditch, and a number of possible quarry pits.	
Project dates	5 September 2011	
Project type	Earthwork Survey	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Desk-based assessment and evaluation (Gloucestershire County Council Archaeological Services);	
Future work	Watching brief	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 41945 87031	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jon Bennett	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	N/A	N/A
Digital	N/A	N/A
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Land Adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor, Monmouthshire: Archaeological Earthwork Survey</i> . CA typescript report 11220		



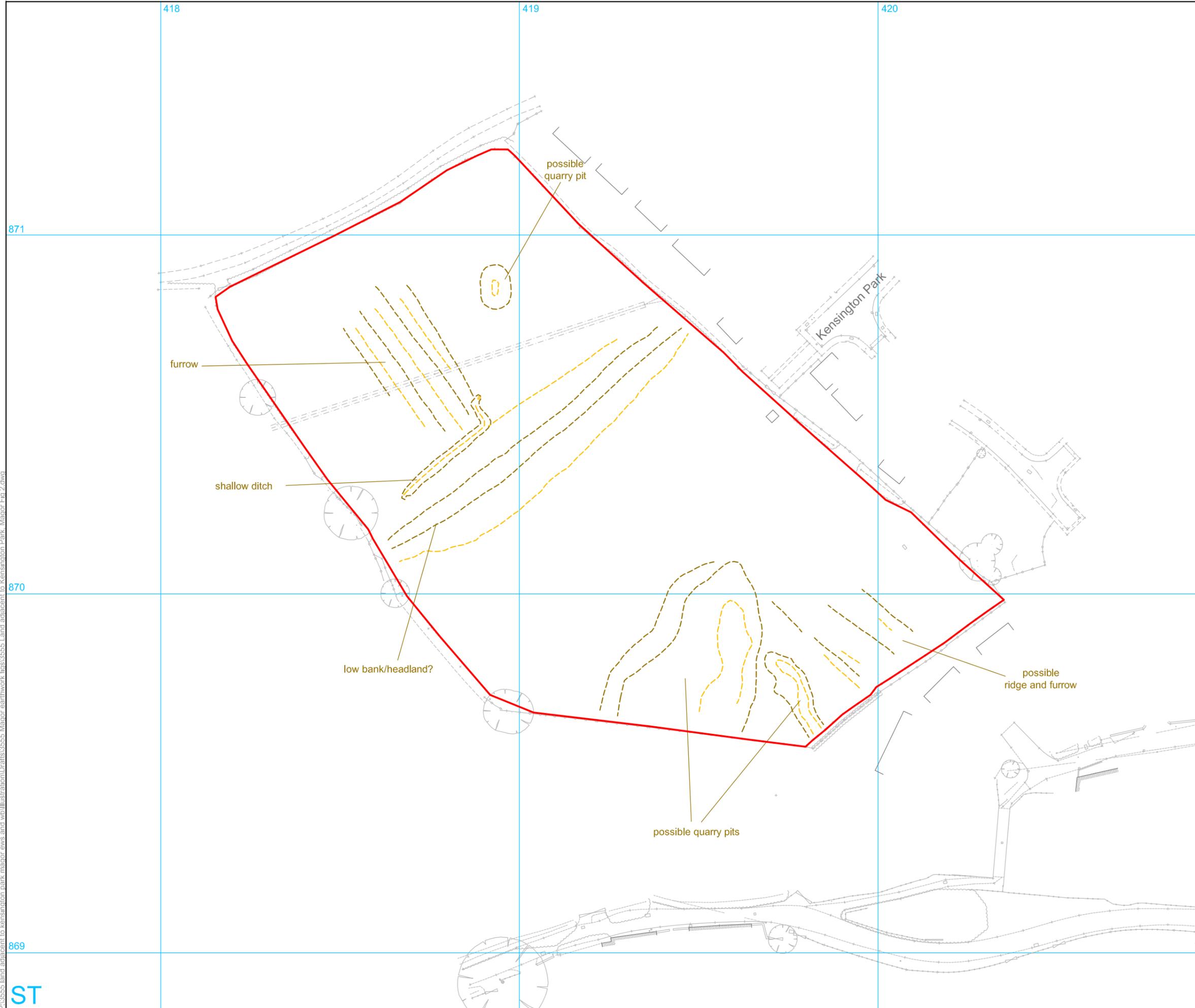
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 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land adjacent to Kensington Park, Magor
 Monmouthshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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PROJECT NO.	3555	DATE	05-09-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	1
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- site
- top of slope
- bottom of slope



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land adjacent to Kensington Park
 Magor, Monmouthshire
FIGURE TITLE
 Site showing earthwork survey results

PROJECT NO.	3555	DATE	05-09-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY		SCALE@A3	1:1000	

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