



WIGGOLD:  
The archaeology of a 'lofty open country'

Project Design: Phase I (2007)

**WIGGOLD: The archaeology of a lofty open country** is a research project jointly conceived and run by Bournemouth University School of Conservation Sciences, Cotswold Archaeology, and Abbey Home Farm (Cirencester) to promote a greater understanding of the ancient past and facilitate access to it for education and enjoyment.

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# 1 Background

## 1.1 Introduction

The Cotswold Hills of eastern Gloucestershire and western Oxfordshire have long been known for the quantity and richness of their archaeological remains. All periods from the early post-glacial through to the last century are well represented, yet attention has tended to focus on individual sites and monuments rather than the unfolding pattern of relationships between people and their changing environment: the manner in which communities structured, used, and gave meaning their landscape at different times. The Wiggold project is an attempt to redress the balance by focusing on a Cotswold landscape occupying the eastern dip slope. The 2007 season is essentially a scoping exercise built around the field evaluation of features likely to be of Neolithic and Bronze Age date.

The structure and content of this Project Design follows the guidance on the management of archaeological projects set out by English Heritage in the document popularly known as MAP2 (English Heritage 1991). Account is also taken of the relevant by-laws, standards, and guidance notes published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in particular the regulations for contractual arrangements in field archaeology (IFA 1998) and standards for archaeological excavations (IFA 1999).

## 1.2 Wiggold and its hinterland

Wiggold is a small hamlet of about a dozen buildings at the heart of Abbey Home Farm. It lies northeast of Cirencester, about 4km from the town centre, at NRG SP 047050. The farm currently covers about 1600 acres (648ha) and is managed as a single unit under a strict organic regime mainly on the east side of the A417(Figure 1).

Under current administrative arrangements Abbey Home Farm spans two parishes: Baunton to the west and Ampney Crucis to the east. It is wholly situated within Cotswold District, one of six local authorities within the county of Gloucestershire. Since 1966 the area has been included in the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Countryside Commission 1988) and is widely recognized as comprising some of the most picturesque countryside in southern Britain. Numerous studies of the Cotswold landscape have been undertaken (e.g. Finberg 1955; 1957; Hadfield & Hadfield 1973; Finberg 1977; Pilbeam 2006) and together these provide useful accounts of the development and character of the area.

Historically, Wiggold was a small township in the northeastern corner of Cirencester parish, itself the focus of Cirencester Hundred in the county of Gloucestershire. The manor of Wiggold was small, but contained a parochial chapel of ease that until 1236 was serviced by Cirencester Abbey. Following the dissolution of Cirencester Abbey in 1539 the associated lands were initially leased to Robert Basing. In January 1565 the reversion of the abbey was bought from Elizabeth I by Richard Master, the Queen's physician, in whose family it has remained ever since (see Beecham 1886, 83 n.2 for a brief ancestry). The present Abbey Home Farm was consolidated to more or less its present form in the mid 19th century through a series of acquisitions and transfers co-ordinated by Miss Jane Master. Through the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries the township of Wiggold formed a detached part of Cirencester

Parish, but in 1894 it was incorporated into Ampney Crucis Parish, thereby becoming part of Crowthorne and Minety Hundred.

Many of the placenames in the area refer to owners or occupiers before the Norman Conquest. 'Wiggold' itself can be traced back to the early 12th century placename *Wyggewald* which Smith (1964, 49) reads as 'Wicga's Wold', a combination of the Old English personal name *Wicga* with the Old English term *wald*. Nothing certain is known of Wicga, although he may be the same person as *Wiga* who appears as a free-man with land holdings in Pauntley, Kilcot, Ketford and Hayes at the time of the Domesday Survey in AD 1084 (Moore 1982, 68,12); the 'wald' element probably refers to 'lofty open country'. The name 'Ampney' derives from the Old English personal name *Amma* (Smith 1964, 48) while 'Baunton' refers to the farmstead associated with *Balda* which again seems to be an Old English personal name (Smith 1964, 57).

Wiggold and its hinterland occupies gently undulating downland at an altitude of between 110m and 160m OD on the eastern dip slope of the Cotswold Hills. It lies on the interfluvium between the rivers Churn to the west and Coln to the east. A small valley system with seasonal drainage runs broadly northwest to southeast through the centre of the farm, providing an out-flow for a handful of springs that link to the Winterwell before flowing into Ampney Brook, a north-bank tributary of the River Churn.

The underlying solid geology comprises the middle Jurassic limestone series with Forest Marble Formation beds outcropping across the high ground and Great Oolite represented as several successive formations beneath (Figure 2). There is relatively little by way of recorded superficial drift deposits in the area, although alluvium and colluvium is present in the valley bottoms.

Land-use is mixed with some areas of long-term pasture (especially on the steeper slopes) interspersed with rotational short-ley grass and arable. Woodland occurs as relatively well-defined blocks, mostly mixed-species plantations. One area of ancient semi-natural woodland has been identified at Wiggold Copse (Bullard 1987, 52).

### **1.3 The historic environment and archaeological context**

The general archaeological background to the eastern Cotswolds is provided by a series of period-based volumes dealing with Gloucestershire in prehistoric (Darvill 1987), Roman (McWhirr 1986), and Anglo-Saxon (Heighway 1987) times. A volume of essays on the archaeology of the county as known in 1983 (Saville 1984) has recently been updated (Holbrook & Jurica 2006) to provide a detailed overview that emphasizes just how much has been learnt as a result of developer-funded archaeology over the last 20 years or so. The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) began a general survey of monuments in Gloucestershire in the late 1960s, but only one volume covering the Iron Age and Romano-British remains on the Gloucestershire Cotswolds was ever completed (RCHME 1976). Later aspects of the historic environment in the area are covered by works on buildings (Verrey & Brooks 1999), and historic towns (Leech 1984). A brief historical study of Wiggold compiled in 1998–9 (Viner 1999) provides a valuable introduction to the relevant documentary and cartographic records as the area has yet to be covered by the VCH for Gloucestershire.

Over the last 50 years or so Cirencester and its immediate hinterland has seen numerous excavations in advance of development, many of which are fully described in a series of five substantial reports (Wacher & McWhirr 1982;

McWhirr et al. 1982; McWhirr 1986; Wilkinson & McWhirr 1998; Holbrook 1998). Several surveys and overviews are also available (e.g. Reece & Catling 1975; McWhirr 1976), and the area was the subject of a systematic archaeological resource assessment (Darvill & Gerrard 1994). Some of these studies extend as far east as Wiggold, but the surveys of archaeology in the upper Thames Valley (e.g. Leech 1977) do not reach sufficiently far to the northwest while fieldwork by the Cotswold Archaeological Research Group (Marshall 1985) does not appear to have extended this far southeast. Investigations at Bagendon and The Ditches between 1981 and 1983 (Trow 1982; 1988; Trow et al. forthcoming) expanded the results of important earlier excavations by Elsie Clifford at Bagendon in 1954–56 (Clifford 1961) and set the scene for a more extensive re-evaluation of Iron Age settlement in the Cotswolds by Tom Moore (2006a; 2006b). The planning and development of the A417/A419 improvements between 1988 and 1997 provided a valuable linear transect through the central Cotswolds with sites of prehistoric and later date identified east of Cirencester (Mudd et al. 1999). Housing and industrial development between Cirencester and the new road over the last decade has also brought to light important archaeological evidence in the Kingshill and Beeches area.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of about 95 sites and monuments recorded to date in the vicinity of Wiggold, based on records held in the National Monuments Record at Swindon, the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record maintained by Gloucestershire County Council, on-line records available through the Archaeology Data Service, the Excavation Index maintained by English Heritage, and the Archaeological Investigations Project based at Bournemouth University. APPENDIX 1 provides short notes on each and a provisional concordance of record items.

There are no records of archaeological finds by antiquarians on Abbey Home Farm, although there can be little doubt that objects of interest and intrigue were found from time to time. The celebrated field archaeologist O G S Crawford recorded an oval cropmark at Wiggold from the window of a train while travelling the Midland and South Western Junction Railway on 19th May 1931. This has been interpreted as a ring-ditch or the remains of a plough-levelled round barrow (O'Neil & Grinsell 1960, 101 (Ampney Crucis 1); Smith 1972; Darvill & Grinsell 1989, 84) but might in fact be the remains of a boundary earthwork enclosing small plantation shown on early 19th century maps, or both (Viner 1999, 1).

Fieldwalking by S F Coombs of Cirencester in the late 1960s and early 1970s revealed a handful of flint scatters in the area and these have been subject to typological and quantitative study by Holgate (1988, 71–8) and Snashall (2002, 87–102). Some of these scatters were investigated in connection with the A417/A419 improvements already mentioned. Although not yet subject to detailed investigation by the National Mapping Programme, limited scrutiny of aerial photography for the area has revealed a series of enclosures, boundary features, earthworks, and evidence of former ridge-and-furrow cultivation which together illustrate the potential for further work of this kind.

Figure 4 shows the distribution and extent of selected prehistoric, Roman, and later archaeological structures, remains, and deposits based on information from the trawl of historic environment records, published sources, and original research carried out during the development of the Wiggold Project in 2006–07. A number of possible natural features revealed through aerial photography have been omitted from this figure for clarity. The numbers on Figure 4 accord with the sites described in further detail in the following sub-sections.

### *Flint scatters*

Seven areas rich in surface scatters of worked flint have been recognized on the farm. The names reflect current fieldnames.

**Site 1: Yellow School Copse (South).** Scraper dominated industry of later Neolithic / early Bronze Age date with a smaller later Mesolithic component, possibly connected with Site 2, but Coombs reports very little material between. Flakes dominate the waste assemblage at 70.36%; tools represent 13.54% of the assemblage and the core to waste ratio is 1:8 (Snashall 2002, 92–3 assemblage 320(S)). This material may also be associated with extensive scatters south of Abbey Home Farm at Norcote Farm (Snashall 2002, 90–2 assemblage 205; Holgate figure 6.2 and 233 site 8), and perhaps the rather smaller scatter at (Snashall 2002, 89–90 assemblage 319) revealed during the A417/A419 improvements (Mudd et al. 1999, 23). Some putatively natural crop-marks have been recorded on the west side of the flint scatter (APPENDIX I Site 75)

**Site 2: Yellow School Copse (North).** Small scatter listed by Coombs with Site 1, but with little material between. The composition of the assemblage is essentially the same as Site 1 described above and not separately analysed. (Snashall 2002, 92–3 assemblage 320(N)).

**Site 3: Hare Bushes (North).** Small early Neolithic assemblage derived from excavations of a tree-throw hollow, two pits, and a posthole during works for the A417/A419 improvement. Tools represent 33.34% of the assemblage. There is also part of a pebble hammer (Mudd et al. 1999, 313-14; Snashall 2002, 93 assemblage 317). Possibly connected with Site 4 below. APPENDIX I, Site 2.

**Site 4: Hare Bushes (West).** Small undated assemblage in which tools represent 18.18% of the assemblage with a core to waste ratio of 1:7. (Snashall 2002, 93–4 assemblage 322).

**Site 5: Whiteway (South).** Scraper-dominated industry of earlier Neolithic / late Neolithic / and early Bronze Age date. A high flake component to the waste assemblage (93.11%) and a core to waste ratio of 1:8. Tools represent 8.70% of the assemblage (Snashall 2002, 96–7 assemblage 204). A linear earthwork to the east of the A417 may also be someone related to this site. APPENDIX I, Sites 37, 40 and 41.

**Site 6: Whiteway (North).** Extensive scraper-dominated late Mesolithic, late Neolithic / early Bronze Age assemblage with a medium flake component to the waste assemblage (44.23%) and a core to waste ratio of 1:9. (Snashall 2002, 97–8 assemblage 203). Possibly part of a larger scatter including Site 7 below. Much additional flintwork has been recovered in recent years from this area by W Chester Master.

**Site 7: Field Barn:** A large polyfocal scatter of Mesolithic through to early Bronze Age date. Flakes represent 59.07% of the waste assemblage. Tools represent 13.85% of the overall assemblage and the core to waste ratio 1:7. Scrapers dominate the assemblage, but there is a wide range of other tool types too. (Snashall 2002, 94–5 assemblage 323). APPENDIX I, Site 34.

### *Cropmarks*

A provisional review of available aerial photographs has revealed five sets of cropmarks.

**Site 8: Hare Bushes / 17 Acres** Short lengths of positive crop-growth suggests intersecting ditches and perhaps some enclosure corners. Possibly related to the flint scatters in the area (see above). APPENDIX I, Site 13.

**Site 9: Vern:** Lengths of positive crop-growth suggesting broadly parallel ditches mainly on a NW–SE axis, part of a field-system? Probably more extensive than plotted on Figure 4, extending also to the west of the Fosse Way. APPENDIX I, Site 30.

**Site 10: Happy Lands** Oval enclosure about 60m by 45m. As noted above, this feature was first noted by O G S Crawford in 1931 and appears on many later aerial photographs. Recorded again in 2006 by Dr R Bewley during a reconnaissance flight for this project. Cartographic evidence shows that a small block of woodland once existed in this area making it possible that is a plantation boundary. Equally, trees may have been planted on or within an existing earthwork. Possible round barrow. Two lengths of old field boundary have been recorded as cropmarks to the northeast. APPENDIX I, Site 7.

**Site 11: Little Ampney:** Extensive positive crop-growth marks suggest a series of features extending north into Happy Lands and south into Ampney Ground. Highly visible is what appears to be a square enclosure c.65m by 58m, perhaps one of a series of such enclosures in the eastern Cotswolds studied by Moore (2006b, Figure 5; and see Darvill and Locke 1988, Figure 6). In the same area are traces of what appears to be a pair of roughly concentric interrupted ditches defining part of what might be an oval enclosure, perhaps part of a causewayed enclosure, internally some 185m across with a gap of c.30m between the ditch circuits. Pits and other sections of ditches also look to be represented, although some could be the result of underlying solution hollows and contrasts between natural rock formations (APPENDIX I, Site 69). The presence of a flint scatter (Site 2 above) overlying part of this complex in Ampney ground adds weight to the possibility that at least some of these cropmarks may relate to underlying prehistoric features. A geophysical survey in Little Ampney in July 2006 confirmed the presence of sub-surface anomalies and added detail to part of what seems to be a segmented ditch and the intersecting southwest side of the square enclosure (Figure 5). APPENDIX I, Site 16.

**Site 12: Cow Ground:** Positive crop-growth marks suggestive of an enclosure, perhaps with boundaries on three sides, with further linear features and possible enclosures (not plotted) in fields to the north. APPENDIX I, Sites 17 and 28.

### *Earthworks*

No systematic search has yet been undertaken to define surviving earthworks within Abbey Home Farm, but the following have been noted.

**Site 13: Pond Ground / West Mead:** Extensive areas of ridge-and-furrow cultivation with well-marked surface undulations of typical Cotswold type.



**Site 14: Sisters:** Elongated mound c.34m east to west by 12m north-south, about 0.75m high, with the general appearance of a small long barrow to well-spread round barrow. The mound is very stony. There are slight hollows north and south suggesting possible quarry scoops. Geophysical surveys using magnetometry and resistivity in July 2006 confirmed the presence of a mound, although provided little additional insight as to whether it was long or round in form (Figure 6).

**Site 15. Barn Ground / Wiggold:** Extensive earthworks suggestive of a hollow-way with building platforms and enclosures on either side, perhaps forming the remains of a farmstead or small hamlet co-terminus with the existing farm buildings (APPENDIX I, Sites 27, 32 and 90). Possibly includes the site of the former Wiggold Chapel (APPENDIX I, Site 12 but wrongly positioned on NMR).

#### *Roman remains*

Being less than 2km from Cirencester and bisected by major Roman roads it not surprising that Roman remains have been recorded from the farm. Two areas are currently known.

**Site 16: Coneygars:** Extensive scatter of Roman pottery, broken tile, and stonework suggests the site of a building, perhaps a villa. A length of modern trackway running from the Fosse Way eastwards towards this site might have a slight agger and perhaps link the occupation area to the main road. Roman occupation has been noted at Witpit Copse to the south of Akeman Street about 2.8km away to the south (Glos. HER 3176), and an extensive villa has been fully excavated at Barnsley Park 3.7km to the northeast (Webster 1981; Webster & Smith 1982; Webster et al. 1985)

**Site 17: Whitelands Wood:** Roman cremation, possible originally contained within a wooden box, found a watching brief for the A417/A419 improvement scheme (Mudd et al. 1999, 280 and 469).

#### *Roads, tracks, and railways*

At least four ancient routeways and a modern railway line are represented, as well as a network of roads, tracks and pathways that are still-used. The area contained one of the most complicated and dense intersections of Roman roads in Britain.

**Site 18: Fosse Way:** This major Roman road (Margary 1973, 146–53: route 5d) runs roughly north–south through Abbey Home Farm followed by the modern A429. Northwards of Vern Quarry the line of the Fosse is fairly well accepted, but there is much debate about its route southwest of Raggedhedge Covert, its intersection with Akeman Street at the junction of the A429 and A433 at Fosse Corner, and its relationship with Ermine Street to the south (see Margary 1973, 146–50; Wachter & McWhirr 1982, 65–6; Darvill & Gerrard 1994, 52; Mudd et al. 1999, 280–1; Holbrook 2006, 97–8). There are two main possibilities. One is that from Vern Quarry it runs southwestwards in a fairly straight line to enter Cirencester through the Verulamium Gate on the east side of the town (now under London Road). No trace of such a road has been found but there is circumstantial evidence in field boundaries and the presence of the Tar Barrows that support such a view. Second, is that the Fosse continues south of Vern Quarry following the line of the present A429, crossing Akeman Street at Fosse Corner (Akeman Street thus providing a spur down into Cirencester) and then following southwards along the line of Cherry Tree Lane to join Ermine Street at

Preston Bridge. No sections of the Fosse Way have been excavated within the area of Abbey Home Farm; the nearest being at Leygore Hill, Northleach, some 14km to the north where Mrs H O'Neil showed it to have a metalled surface about 6m wide, flanked by drainage ditches (O'Neil 1964). This is similar in scale to Ermin Street south of Cirencester where widths of 7-8m have been recorded (Mudd et al. 1999, 272). The Fosse Way, or a predecessor of it, is believed to have been established early in the Romanization of the Cotswold area, perhaps about AD 47 (McWhirr 1986, 3), and for a short period may have formed a military frontier (Manning 1976). It should not, however, be assumed that its course remained static through the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD as other roads and settlements developed in the area. APPENDIX I, Site 35.

**Site 19: Akeman Street:** This major Roman road (Margary 1973, 158–62: route 16b) runs roughly west–east to form the southern boundary of Abbey Home Farm along the line of the modern A433 as far as SP 053 032 from where its course can be traced eastwards across open fields. Excavations at Burford Road, Cirencester, where the line of the A417/A419 improvement crossed the putative line of Akeman Street / Fosse Way between Fosse Corner and the site of the Verulamium Gate in London Road, revealed the likely line of the Roman road through the presence of linear quarries but showed that all traces of its original construction had been obliterated by recent routes (turnpike and modern) following the same line (Mudd et al. 1999, 273–76). The nearest excavated section of Akeman Street is c.9km east of Wiggold where the road crosses the Coln near the boundary between Coln St Aldwyn and Quennington parishes. Here Mrs O'Neil found a metalled surface 9.4m wide and 0.6m thick, made of rammed gravel, with a central gutter creating a 'dual-carriageway' curbstones defining the south side and a stone wall protecting the north side from erosion from the adjacent river (O'Neil 1957). Evidence from Astall and Wilcote in western Oxfordshire suggests that Akeman Street may have been Claudian or at least pre-Flavian in date (Mudd et al. 1999, 280 with references). The line of the Roman road was in part followed by later roads, including an eighteenth-century turnpike that provides the footprint for the modern B4425. APPENDIX I, Sites 29, 56, and 82.

**Site 20: Whiteway / Saltway:** This undated trackway runs northwards from Cirencester roughly south–north across Baunton Downs along a route followed by a modern minor road (RCHM 1976, xlvii); its course between Whiteway Farm and the junction with the Welsh Way defines the western side of Abbey Home Farm. Little is known about the age or purpose of the Whiteway. Margary (1973, 145–6: route 55) considered it was a minor Roman road serving the numerous villas north of Grencester and traces it through to Winchcombe where it is known as the Saltway. An excavation and watching brief carried out during the construction of the A417/A419 improvement at a point near Exhibition Barn where the road corridor crossed the Whiteway failed to find any convincing traces of a road, although field boundary ditches that could have created a green way or 'drove' of some kind were noted (Mudd et al. 1999, 142–46 and 281). Crop-marks to the east of the current Whiteway may indicate earlier alignments. A post-medieval turnpike road followed the line of the putatively earlier route; there are the remains of a turnpike cottage at Baunton and a milestone nearby. APPENDIX I, Sites 1, 15, 38, 39, and 68.

**Site 21: Welsh Way.** This undated trackway runs roughly west – east following an irregular course from Bagendon to Fairford (RCHM 1976, xlvii); the section from its junction with the Whiteway on Baunton Downs through to New Bank west of Barnsley forms the northern boundary of Abbey Home Farm. No archaeological sections appear to have been cut across this trackway, although its route would have led it join or cross Ermin Street at or near Dartley Bottom; no traces of it were revealed here during the investigation of Ermin Street for

the A417/A419 improvement works (Mudd et al. 1999, 263–4). APPENDIX I, Site 23.

**Site 22: Midland and South Western Junction Railway.** This route through the eastern Cotswolds opened in 1883 and ran from Andover via Marlborough and Swindon to a station at Watermoor on the east side of Cirencester and thence northeastwards through The Beeches before turning north to run west of Norcote and Wiggold and on to Andoversford. The line was closed in 1961. Its course is well preserved through Abbey Home Farm where is now provides an arterial route giving access to fields and settlements. APPENDIX I, Sites 31 and 95.

#### *Historic buildings and structures*

No systematic study of the existing buildings on the farm has been undertaken, but the following are identified in existing records.

**Site 23: Ampney Sheephouse.** A farmhouse dating to the earliest part of the 17th century, enlarged to the southeast in the late 18th century. Constructed of rubble stone, with quoins to the 18th century wing with a stone slate roof. Ampney Sheephouse is believed to have been a possession of Tewkesbury Abbey. APPENDIX I, Site 14.

**Site 24: Field Barn.** An eighteenth century barn with a datestone of 1769, and an open-fronted cart-shed later converted into a dwelling. Listed building. APPENDIX I, Site 33.

## **1.4 Developing the Research context**

A secure context for the development of research programmes in the Cotswolds is provided by the *South West Archaeological Research Framework* (SWARF 2006). In particular, the draft research agenda identifies landscape studies as lightly relevant to all periods, and implicitly signifies the need for diachronic studies in areas not previously examined in detail.

The following explicit research objectives noted in the draft agenda are also relevant to the development of the Wiggold Project:

- Interpretation of flint scatters (1.3)
- Better dating of Neolithic and Bronze Age sequences (2.2)
- Understanding of the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition (2.3.1)
- Examine evidence for settlement of the 4th –2nd millennium BC (2.4; 3.3)
- Fill out evidence of plant and animal use in prehistoric times (2.7)
- Examine the ‘catchments’ for typical prehistoric monuments (2.8)
- Consider the nature and sequence of ceremonial monuments (2.9)
- Document the detail of prehistoric mortuary practices (2.10)
- Background context to the emergence of roman towns (4.4)
- Context and nature of rural settlement in the later 1st millennium AD and beyond (5.7; 6.5; 7.12)

## 2 Aims and objectives

### 2.1 Overarching aims and principles

The overarching aim of the Wiggold Project is to develop a narrative understanding of a typical section of east Cotswold landscape from early post-glacial times through to the twentieth century AD with particular reference to the social, cultural, economic, and environmental contexts of the changing manner in which communities structured, used, and gave meaning their landscape at different times.

Epistemologically, the Wiggold project embraces a brand of *scientia* that recognises the role of scientific analysis, qualitative investigation, direct experiences, and indirect engagements as sources for reading the archaeological record with a view to understanding human behaviour and creating knowledge about the past. The following key terms, and the concepts they represent, may be noted in relation to the development of this project:

- **Space and Place:** Space is a physical constant and exists throughout the post-glacial period more or less in its present form; place by contrast reflects the ever-changing pattern of values, meanings, uses, and structures that human communities impose on tracts of space for their own purposes and gratification.
- **Landscape** is the framework within which space and place can be examined and studied. It is a three-dimensional continuous entity, infinitely scalable, that can variously be viewed as time-sliced segments or as diachronic palimpsests of accumulative cultural materials and structures.
- **Structuration** is the way that agency, intentionality, identity, social organization, and power relations enacted through human behaviour finds expression in the archaeological record as arrangements of material culture, constructions, impacts, and the creation of place.
- **Proxemics** is the study of socially conditioned spatial factors in human and social relationships.
- **Rehabitation** is experience of refitting a human form to the places and structures created by people in the past: for example moving through the entrance to a house or enclosure, lying down in a sleeping place, or placing objects in a pit.
- **Archaeological continuum** reflects the idea that, cumulatively, human behaviour is neither discrete nor confined in its execution or impact to particular spaces; by implication the spread of archaeological evidence must also be seen as continuous, albeit with different localized intensities.

### 2.2 Research objectives

Developing the relevant themes of the regional research framework (see above) allows the following initial research objectives to be defined:

- A Explore the nature and extent of Mesolithic settlement on the Cotswold dip slope, especially the relationships between settlement, water sources.
- B Examine the evidence for the transition between the late hunter-gatherers of the area and the early hunter-gardeners through the definition and exploration of relevant sites.
- C Investigate the relationships between long barrows, causewayed enclosures and non-monumental settlement in the eastern Cotswolds through the investigation of close-set sites using the principles of structuration and proxemics.

- D Document the changing pattern of settlements, ceremonial and ritual places, and agricultural systems characteristic of 4th to 1st millennium BC activity in the Wiggold area.
- E Consider the nature and extent of occupation in the area at the time of the Roman conquest and assess the impact of Romanization in the hinterland of a major Roman city in the 1st to 5th centuries AD.
- F Map the changing landscape from the 6th to the 19th centuries AD in terms of its physical arrangement, political and administrative order, and occupation and use.

It is anticipated that these initial objectives will reflexively mutate and expand as the project unfolds and the potential of the Wiggold landscape is better understood.

### 2.3 Social objectives

In addition to the research objectives which underpin the project as an academic exercise there are two broad social objectives (see SWARF 2006):

- G **Educational purpose.** As a collaborative partnership between Bournemouth University, Abbey Home Farm, and Cotswold Archaeology the fieldwork at Wiggold will be carried out as a Field School for students working towards approved qualifications (GCSE, degree, and post-graduate), volunteers seeking opportunities to work on an archaeological excavation, and professional archaeologists engaged in continuing professional development (CPD). As such, aspects of the investigation will be experimental and innovative
- H **Public engagement.** Because of the high level of public interest in archaeology and the investigation of familiar landscapes an important aspect of the fieldwork will be presentations to school parties, amenity groups, and the general public through tours and a public open day.

### 2.4 2007 Season objectives

2007 is the first season of work at Wiggold and its overall objective is to evaluate the nature, extent, and potential of archaeological remains in the area concentrating on Objective D but also with a view to developing a more substantial research programme over ensuing years that will start to address other identified objectives. In particular, the work in 2007 will focus on the putative 4th and 3rd millennia BC remains examined briefly through remote sensing in 2006.

The following evaluation events and activities are proposed:

- 1 Geophysical surveys in Little Ampney and Happy Lands using magnetometry and magnetic susceptibility for reconnaissance-level coverage and other techniques (eg. resistivity, EM, GPR etc.) as conditions and time allows in order to evaluate their potential for future widespread application. Objective D.
- 2 Test-pitting in Little Ampney and Happy Lands using 1m by 1m hand-excavated pits at 20m intervals in order to quantify topsoil content and recover well-contexted soil samples for geochemical study. Objective D.
- 3 Hand-excavate open-area excavation comprising a T-shaped trench across geophysical anomalies recorded in Little Ampney in 2006. The trench will cover approximately 375 square metres (see Figure 5 for location). This will

permit the sampling of a length of what appears to be a ditch and at least one 'pit-like' anomaly. Objective D.

- 4 Close-interval topographic and geophysical surveys over the possible barrow in Sisters. The geophysical survey will use magnetometry and resistivity (soil conditions permitting). Objective D.
- 5 Hand-excavated open-area excavation comprising a rectangular trench covering approximately 10 square metres across the northern edge of the mound to determine the presence / absence and nature of any preserved barrow stonework and the form of its edge. It is not anticipated that this evaluation will involve the removal of stonework beyond that necessary to show its nature. Objective D.
- 6 Walk-over surveys of available and accessible areas of Abbey Home Farm to validate and expand existing records and to document visible earthworks, field boundaries and buildings. Objective F.
- 7 Map-regression for Abbey Home Farm using cartographic and written sources in the County Record Office and other archives to determine land-use change and former boundary patterns through the later second millennium AD. Objective F.
- 8 Programme of school visits and tours for amenity societies during the period 9th to 13th July 2007. Objective G.
- 9 Public open day on Saturday 14th July to coincide with the start of National Archaeology Week. Objective H.

### 3 Method statement

#### 3.1 General

In operationalizing the principal objectives summarized above a range of specific methods and approaches will be used. The following notes describe the applications of each to work on the Wiggold Project.

#### 3.2 Geophysical surveys

The two main techniques that will be applied are:

*Magnetometry.* This is a method for detecting sub-surface features by the magnetic characteristics of their differentially aligned fills. It is a highly sensitive method, particularly useful for ditches and pits containing magnetically enhanced material. Reconnaissance survey will be undertaken with a Geoscan FM36 with 20m by 20m grids using a traverse interval of 1m and a reading interval of 0.5m. This provides a satisfactory level of resolution for general survey and the identification of major features.

*Magnetic susceptibility.* This records variations in the magnetic characteristics of the topsoil which may indicate areas of magnetic enhancement such as come above through human settlement and burning. The resultant data will be contoured and examined for patterns of local enhancement. Magnetic susceptibility readings with a field coil will be taken at 10m intervals, bench-tested samples from secure contexts within and below the topsoil will be taken from test pits at 20m intervals.

#### 3.3 Test-pitting, topsoil sampling and geochemistry

Test-pitting is an important part of sampling the soil profile for geochemical studies, provides an accurate picture of topsoil content across the site, and gives valuable information about subsoil depth for use while removing topsoil. 1m by 1m test-pits will be hand-excavated on a 20m grid. Soil will be removed in spits and sieved or hand-sorted for the recovery of finds. A standard test-pit recording sheet will be used for descriptions of the sections and contexts. Finds will be collected and recorded by context. The excavated test-pits will be refilled and compacted on completion. Samples of soil for chemical analysis will be returned to Bournemouth for laboratory analysis. The samples will be analyzed to measure: pH; phosphate (P); magnetic susceptibility; and heavy metal concentrations.

### **3.4 Open area excavation**

The topsoil and any associated overburden will be removed by hand. The exposed trench floor will then be cleaned for the identification and marking of features and deposits. Spoil from the excavations will be stored on spoil heaps adjacent to the trench.

All archaeological features and deposits falling within the trenches will be sampled by hand excavation to reveal a full profile, details of the main fills, and for the recovery of artefactual and ecofactual material. Whenever possible, the excavated fills of features will be dry-sieved.

The position and extent of the excavated trenches will be plotted accurately to allow mapping at 1:2500 scale to overlay Ordnance Survey Maps.

All excavations will be carried out to normal professional standards. All trenches will be fully recorded by descriptive context records, drawn plans and sections at scales of 1:10, 1:20, or 1:50 as appropriate, photographs, and any other appropriate means. Sections and plans are to include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum / MASL in metres correct to two decimal places. All finds will, as a minimum, be recorded by context, significant finds also being recorded three-dimensionally.

The sampling of features and deposits will be structured to provide adequate information on the profile and fill stratigraphy. Typically, the minimum levels of excavation will be: 50% by volume of postholes and small features less than 1m across; at least 25% by volume of larger pits, shafts, and similar features; at least 20% by volume of linear features with the sampled sections spaced to provide insights into the spatial variations in ditch fill. It is expected, however, that these minima will usually be exceeded in order to enrich the overall breadth and depth of information about the recorded features.

A single context recording system will be used throughout the work. As well as digital mapping and experiments with one or more electronic systems, a standard paper-based recording system will be used. This system is known as ARTHUR (Archaeological Recording Technique Having Utility for Research) and is based on systems used in a number of archaeological contractors.

Soil samples will be taken for analysis as appropriate; defined-purpose samples will be taken for specific uses (e.g. dating, identification etc.).

Finds will be processed on site. All finds will be washed and marked under the supervision of the Finds Manager as appropriate. Some materials recovered from the sieving (e.g. stone and agricultural debris) will be quantified and discarded. All other finds will be retained.

Any buried soil horizons or old land surfaces will be sampled for environmental data, as appropriate, and detailed sampling for soil micromorphology considered. A representative portion of all sealed well-dated (or datable) negative features will be bulk sampled for charcoal, plant macrofossils and small bones by floatation of samples taken from the feature fills.

An on-site floatation system on site will be used to process soil samples taken from excavated features.

### **3.5 Topographic survey**

Topographic surveys of monuments and structures in the vicinity will be carried out using a total station (TS), global positioning system (GPS), and laser scanner (LS). Georeferencing of survey points will be achieved using a GPS system.

## **4 Resourcing and programming**

### **4.1 Timetable**

The Wiggold Field School runs between Monday 18th June and Saturday 14th July 2007 inclusive.

Week 1: Monday 18th June – Sunday 24th June

Week 2: Monday 25th June – Sunday 1st July

Week 3: Monday 2nd July – Sunday 8th July

Week 4: Monday 9th July – Saturday 14th July

There will be a few days of set-up and close-down at the beginning and end respectively.

### **4.2 Staffing**

The Field School team will comprise:

- Professor Timothy Darvill BA PhD DSc FSA FSA Scot MIFA RPA (Director)
- Christopher Catling MA FSA MIFA (Assistant Director)
- Yvette Staelens BA FSA FMA (Finds Processing and Public Archaeology Manager)
- Vanessa Constant BA (Geophysical and topographic survey supervisor)
- Damian Evans BA (Finds Recording and technical support)
- Deborah Corsten BA (Environmental Supervisor)
- TBC (Senior Site Supervisor)
  
- x3 Assistant site supervisors (Level I students on work placement)
- c.x30 Level C students and volunteer site assistants

The following specialist advisors will assist with the formulation of sampling strategies and recovery options

- Mark Maltby (Advisor on faunal remains)
- Dr Ellen Hambleton (Advisor on faunal remains)
- Paul Cheetham (Advisor on geophysical survey)
- Dr Helen Smith (Advisor in palaeobotanical materials)



Invitations have been extended to possible volunteers who may wish to work on the site. Local residents will be charged a small fee to cover refreshments and the use of general facilities. Non-local volunteers will be charged a participation fee comparable to cost to the University of maintaining an in-house student on the Field School. In both cases the fees exclude accommodation which is the responsibility of individuals to arrange

#### **4.3 Budget and resourcing**

In 2007 the Wiggold Project is being financed and run as Field School of Bournemouth University. In future seasons grant aid support will be sought for specific parts of the programme.

#### **4.4 Licences, agreements, and permissions**

Permission to carry out the above-mentioned surveys and excavations has been granted by the land-owner. None of the areas in question relate to Scheduled Monuments or protected areas. All finds remain the property of the land-owner following excavation. Arrangements for the long term deposition of the records and archives will be worked through in formulating the revised project design after the 2007 evaluation season.

#### **4.5 Health and safety**

All operations concerned with the Field School fall within Bournemouth University's Health and Safety Policy. A Risk Assessment will be carried out prior to the commencement of fieldwork, and the results communicated to participants in the Project.

Briefing instructions issued to all participants in the Project include a set of Health and Safety guidelines based on past experience.

## APPENDIX I

### Summary listing of sites identified in the Wiggold area

The numbers below refer to Figure 3. The following abbreviations identify particular record sources:

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| CA Report  | Cotswold Archaeology Report                        |
| CBADOB     | Council for British Archaeology Defense of Britain |
| CIRCM      | Cirencester Corinium Museum                        |
| EHNMR      | English Heritage National Monuments Record         |
| NMRMIC     | National Monuments Record Microfilm Collection     |
| NMR_NATINV | National Monuments Record National Inventory       |
| SMR        | Gloucestershire County Council SMR                 |

- 1 Exhibition Barn, Baunton. Investigations by Oxford Archaeology in 1996 during A417/419 improvement scheme. Roman and medieval field boundary, and medieval and post medieval quarry. NMRMIC 6185. SMR 26684.
- 2 Hare Bushes North. Investigations by Oxford Archaeology in 1996 during A417/419 improvement scheme. Prehistoric pit, and undated pits and posthole. NMRMIC 6186. SMR 22432.
- 3 Burford Road site. Investigations by Oxford Archaeology in 1996 during A417/419 improvement scheme. Roman road. NMRMIC 6189.
- 4 Burford Road south. Investigations by Oxford Archaeology in 1996 during A417/419 improvement scheme. Post medieval field boundary, an undated and Iron Age v-shaped ditch, Middle Bronze Age pottery spread, and Iron Age pits. NMRMIC 6190. SMR 22444.
- 5 Cherry Tree Lane Compound. Watching brief by Oxford Archaeology in 1996 during A417/419 improvement scheme. Post medieval ditch and prehistoric pit. NMRMIC 6191.
- 6 Hare Bushes North, Baunton. Investigations by Oxford Archaeology in 1996 during A417/419 improvement scheme. Prehistoric pit. EHNMR-1087618. NPRN 6186.
- 7 Ampney Crucis. Cropmark. Oval enclosure. NMR\_NATINV-327216. SMR 2041.
- 8 Baunton. Excavation. Roman settlement(?) of uncertain nature, two uninscribed altars, and a scatter of 1st to 4th century pottery. NMR\_NATINV-327242.
- 9 Downs Farm. Findspot. A small altar and scatter of Romano-British pottery found in 1955. Finds in Corinium Museum. NMR\_NATINV-327245.
- 10 Ampney Crucis. Findspot. A concentration of Roman pottery, tile, bone, slag and flint. NMR\_NATINV-327337.
- 11 Tar Barrow. Earthwork. One of two or possibly three round barrows. Bronze Age / Roman Round barrow, Cist, and coin. NMR\_NATINV-327361. SMR 13.
- 12 Wiggold. Structure. Medieval chapel. NMR\_NATINV-327387.
- 13 East of Whiteway Farm, Investigations during A417/419 improvement scheme. Cropmarks. Enclosure and linear features of uncertain date. NMR\_NATINV - 327402. SMR 2128.
- 14 Ampney Sheephouse, Structure. Post medieval farmhouse. NMR\_NATINV - 542846.
- 15 Baunton. Cropmark. Trackway of uncertain date. NMR\_NATINV -918358.
- 16 East of Wiggold. Cropmark. Enclosures and linear features of uncertain date. NMR\_NATINV-918369. SMR 4791.
- 17 Sheephouse Farm. Cropmark. Rectilinear enclosure. NMR\_NATINV-918419. SMR 4249.

- 18 Whiteway Farmhouse. Structure. Post medieval farmhouse. NMR\_NATINV-1369240.
- 19 North of Whiteway Farmhouse. Structure. Dovecote later used as a storehouse and water tower. NMR\_NATINV-1369248.
- 20 North of Whiteway Farmhouse. Structure. Post medieval barn and farm buildings. NMR\_NATINV-1369251.
- 21 Ampney Park. Structure. Post medieval country house. NMR\_NATINV-1150825.
- 22 Near Tar Barrows. Cropmark. Temple or mausoleum of unknown date. SMR 28968.
- 23 The Welsh Way. Placename. Medieval road. SMR 2033.
- 24 Bowling Green, Cirencester. Investigations during A417/419 improvement scheme. Roman(?) settlement. SMR 2070.
- 25 East of Cleeve House. Investigations during A417/419 improvement scheme. Road / trackway. Possible alternative rout of White Way. SMR 2085.
- 26 Tar Barrow. Investigations during A417/419 improvement scheme. Possible round barrow or natural feature. One of a group of three round barrows. SMR 2096.
- 27 Wiggold. Earthwork. Settlement, trackway and associated land parcels. SMR 4244.
- 28 West of quarry, near The Welsh Way. Cropmark. Enclosures of unknown date. SMR 4250.
- 29 Akeman Street, North of Norcote. Earthwork. Roman Road. SMR 4508.
- 30 South of Daglingworth Quarry. Cropmark. Field boundaries of unknown date. SMR 4783.
- 31 Wiggold House, Stow Road, Wiggold. Structure. Railway bridge, with another approximately 170m to the south. SMR 4944.
- 32 Wiggold. Document. Medieval manor house. SMR 6319.
- 33 Baunton Down. Structure. Post medieval house, field barn, and cart shed. SMR9803.
- 34 Barn Piece. Findspot. Neolithic flint scatter. SMR 9804.
- 35 Dentice Bushes. Other Structure. Post medieval milestone. SMR 9806.
- 36 Baunton. Investigations during A417/419 improvement scheme. Post medieval linear earthworks and trackway. SMR 9809.
- 37 Denton Bushes. Earthwork. Linear earthwork of unknown date. SMR 9810.
- 38 Baunton. Document and excavated feature. Site of post medieval turnpike cottage. SMR 9813.
- 39 North of Whiteway Farm. Investigations during A417/419 improvement scheme. Post medieval milestone later reused in the twentieth century. SMR 9814.
- 40 West of Whiteway Farm. Investigations during A417/419 improvement scheme. Findspot. Neolithic flint scatter. SMR 9816.
- 41 White Way. Findspot. Prehistoric flint scatter. SMR 9817.
- 42 Bowling Green, Cirencester. Document, Earthwork. Post medieval hollow way / road following the old course of the White Way. SMR 9820.
- 43 South-west of Hare Bushes. Investigations during A417/419 improvement scheme. Nineteenth century park. SMR 9821.
- 44 East of Tar Barrows. Document. Eighteenth century lime kiln and quarry. SMR 9822.

- 45 Burford Road, South-east of Hare Bushes. Investigations during A417/419 improvement scheme. Eighteenth century milestone. SMR 9823.
- 46 Norcote. Findspot. Neolithic flint scatter. SMR 9841.
- 47 Tar Barrow. Findspot. Roman pottery. SMR 9851.
- 48 North of Norcote Farm. Cropmark. Site of unknown date. SMR 9898.
- 49 7 Corinium Gate, Cirencester. Excavation in 1990. SMR 11351.
- 50 South of Ampneyfield. Other structure. Post medieval stile. SMR 11918.
- 51 Cirencester Rugby Club. Desk-based assessment in 1992. SMR 12640.
- 52 The Hunters, Burford Road. Preliminary assessment. SMR 1188.
- 53 East of The Hunters, OS land parcel 5300. Findspot. Neolithic unworked flint. SMR 12761.
- 54 Norcote Grange, OS land parcel 5300. Findspot. Prehistoric unworked flint. SMR 12762.
- 55 North of Norcote Grange, OS land parcel 6800. Findspot. Prehistoric unworked flint. SMR 12763.
- 56 North-east of The Hunters. Earthwork. Medieval linear bank / field boundary. SMR 12764.
- 57 Akeman Street, North of Norcote Grange, OS land parcel 0006. Findspot. Neolithic unworked flint. SMR 12765.
- 58 North of Merrillhill Farm, OS land parcel 3300. Findspot. Prehistoric unworked flint. SMR 12766.
- 59 North-west of Merrillhill Farm. Findspot. Prehistoric unworked flint. SMR 12767.
- 60 Merrillhill Copse, OS land parcel 0841. Findspot. Neolithic unworked flint. SMR 12768.
- 61 North-east of Norcote Grange, OS land parcel 0976. Findspot. Prehistoric unworked flint. SMR 12770.
- 62 North of Norcote Grange, OS land parcel 0006. Findspot. Prehistoric flint. SMR 12771.
- 63 Merrillhill Farm, OS land parcel 4767. Findspot. Neolithic flint. SMR 12773.
- 64 North of Merrillhill Farm, OS land parcel 12760. Findspot. 4 fragments of prehistoric flint. SMR 12774.
- 65 South of Daglingworth Quarry. Cropmark. Field boundaries of unknown date. SMR 4783.
- 66 Merrillhill Farm, OS land parcel 4767. Findspot. Prehistoric pottery scatter. SMR 12776.
- 67 Merrillhill Farm, OS land parcel 4767. Findspot. Roman flint fragments. SMR 12777.
- 68 West of Merrillhill farm, OS land parcel 0976. Prehistoric flint fragments. SMR 12779.
- 69 South-east of The Hunters. Cartographic. Nineteenth century pond. SMR 12782.
- 70 Norcote Barn. Recorded. Medieval ridge and furrow. SMR 12784.
- 71 Norcote Barn. Cartographic, Cropmark. Site of Nineteenth century small quarry. SMR 12785.
- 72 North-east of Norcote Grange, OS land parcel 0976. Cropmark. Medieval linear feature. SMR 12786.

- 73 Merrillhill Farm, OS land parcel 4767. Cropmark. Linear features of unknown date. SMR 12787.
- 74 Merrillhill Farm, OS land parcel 4767. Cartographic. Site of Eighteenth century building. SMR 12788.
- 75 South of Yellow School Copse, OS land parcel 0006. Cropmark. Features of unknown date, some possibly natural. SMR 12791.
- 76 The Hunters, OS land parcel 0082. Cartographic. Disused Nineteenth and twentieth century quarry. SMR 12792.
- 77 Norcote Barn, OS land parcel 5300. Findspot. Neolithic flint flake. SMR 12795.
- 78 Crucis Park Farm. Earthwork. Double ditched field boundary of unknown date. SMR 15177.
- 79 South of Ampneyfield. Cartographic. Site of possible Post Medieval lime kiln. SMR 15178.
- 80 South of Ampneyfield. Other structure. Post medieval stone stile. SMR 15179.
- 81 South-east of Crucis Park Farm. Other Structure. Post medieval stone stile. SMR 15180.
- 82 North of MerrillHill Farm, Cirencester and Bibury to Burford Road. Documentary and Cartographic. Eighteenth century turnpike road and milestone. SMR 15460.
- 83 Hare Bushes. Desk-based assessment and evaluation at Hare Bushes. Post medieval quarry. SMR 20292.
- 84 Land north of London Road, Cirencester. Desk-based assessment and watching brief during monitoring of geotechnical testpitting, and geophysical survey in 2000. Ring ditch, part of an undated enclosure, and Roman road. SMR 20701.
- 85 The Sister's, Baunton. Cartographic. The Sister's place name. SMR 22401.
- 86 Crucis Park Farm. Desk-based assessment and evaluation. SMR 22421.
- 87 Burford Road, west of The Hunters. Investigations during A417/419 improvement scheme. Roman road and quarry, medieval to present road, and post medieval quarry SMR 26728.
- 88 South of Wiggold Covert. Earthwork. Post medieval dewpond. SMR 27789.
- 89 Land at Kingshill North, Cirencester. Desk-based assessment and evaluation. Early Bronze Age burials and ring ditch. Late Iron Age post holes / roundhouse, enclosures, and inhumation. Roman quarry pits. Post medieval ridge and furrow, and two ditches of unknown date. SMR 28209/ 28654.
- 90 Wiggold Farm. Earthwork. Oval enclosure of unknown date. SMR 28356.
- 91 Cirencester Rugby Club. Watching brief. Six large undated post holes. SMR 28392 / 28485.
- 92 Cirencester Rugby Club. Evaluation in 1999. Medieval and undated field systems, post hole of unknown date, and Early Bronze Age(?) post hole. SMR 28482 / 28483 / 28484.
- 93 30 Chester Street, Cirencester. Watching brief. SMR 28719.
- 94 Tar Barrow. Earthwork. One of two or possibly three round barrows. Bronze Age / Roman Round barrow and Cist. SMR 14.
- 95 Within Abbey Home Farm estate. Earthwork. Dismantled railway. NMR\_NATINV-971169.

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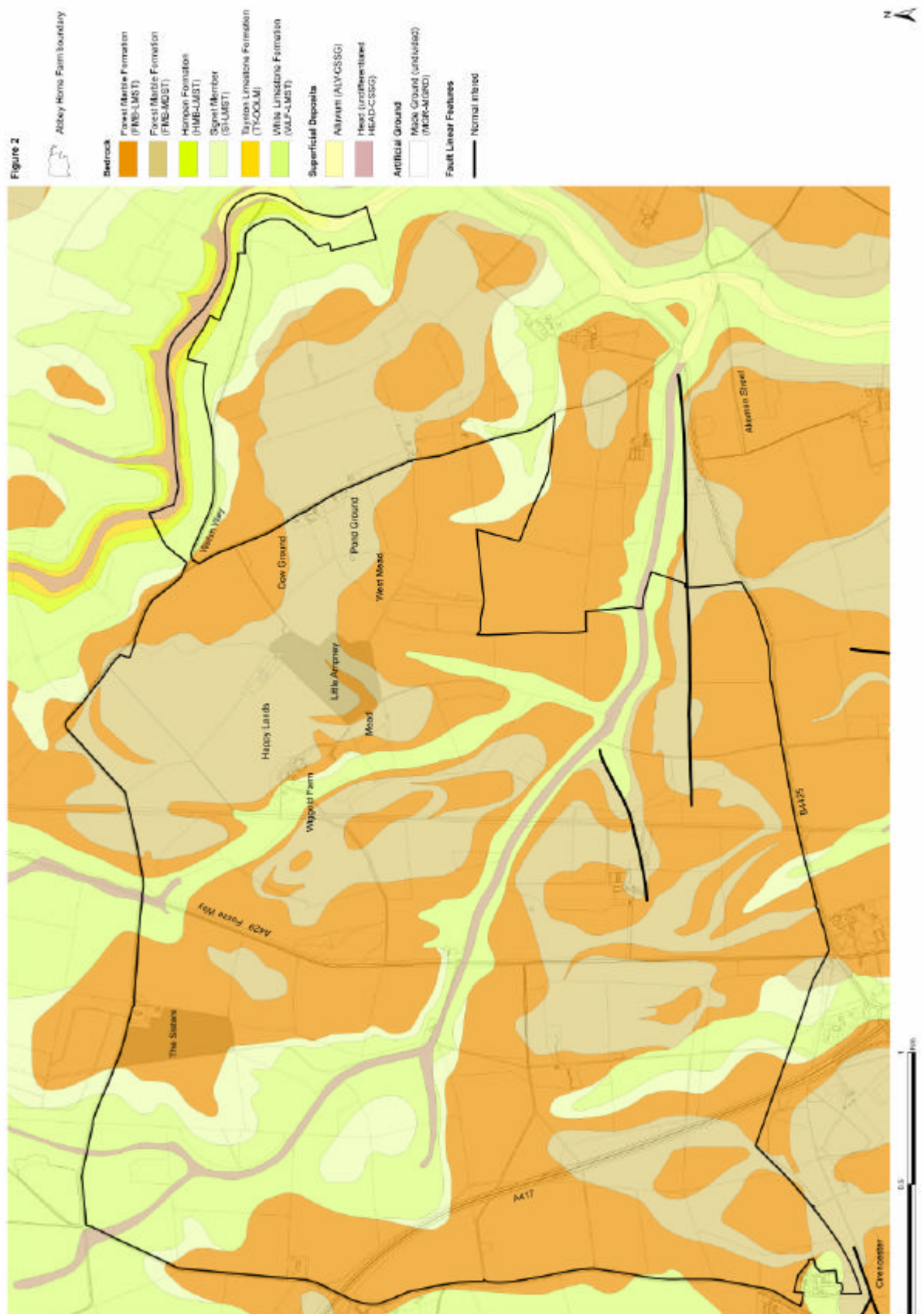
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Figure 1





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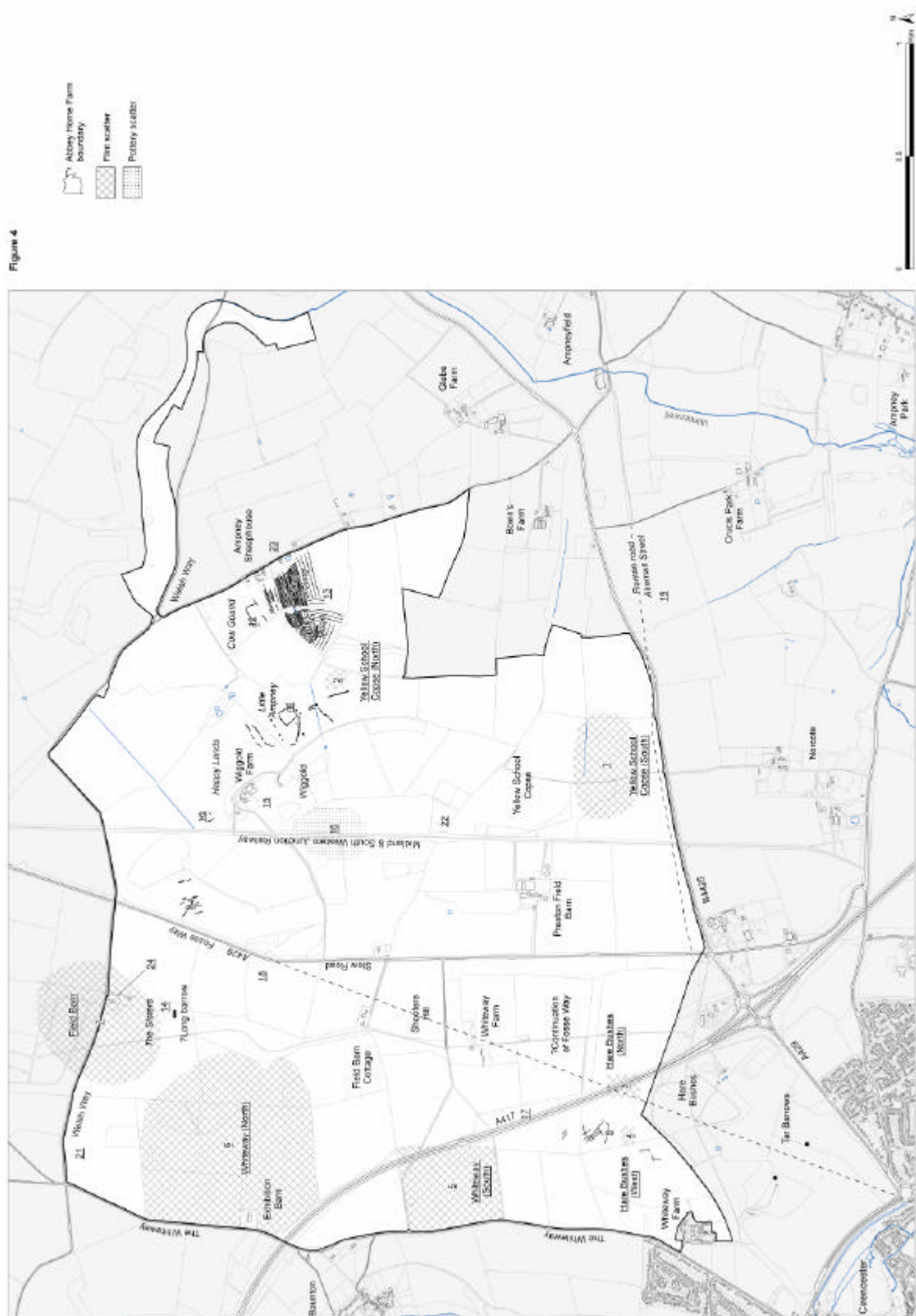


Figure 5



Figure 6

