

**Grange Lane
Redhill DBS (*Uxacona*)
Telford
Shropshire**

Fieldwork Summary

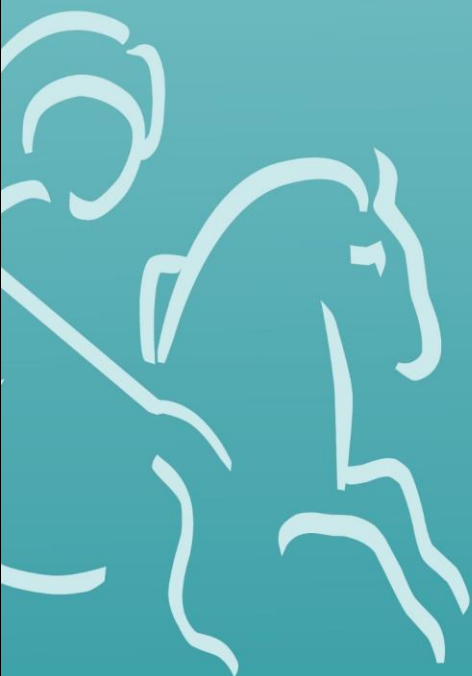


for:
Mott MacDonald Bentley

on behalf of:
Severn Trent Water

CA Project: 6773
CA Report: 6773_1

November 2018



Grange Lane Redhill DBS (*Uxacona*) Telford Shropshire

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	19/11/2018	Sam Wilson	Steve Sheldon	Internal review	–	Steve Sheldon

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Grange Lane, Redhill DBS (<i>Uxacona</i>)
Location:	Redhill, Telford, Shropshire
NGR:	372561 310912
Type:	Excavation
Date:	October-November 2018
Planning reference:	TWC/2017/1054
Location of archive:	To be deposited with Shropshire Museum
Accession number:	23/10/2018
Site code:	RUS18

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. During October-November 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation of 52sqm of land at Grange Lane, Redhill DBS (*Uxacona*), Telford, Shropshire (centred on NGR: 372561 310912; Fig. 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Mott Macdonald Bentley (on behalf of Severn Trent Water) in accordance with a brief for archaeological recording, following consultation between Mott MacDonald and the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Hugh Hannaford, Senior Archaeological Advisor at Shropshire County Council. This was undertaken in accordance with a subsequent detailed WSI produced by Mott Macdonald (2018) and Method Statement produced by CA (2018) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Hugh Hannaford.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1. The earliest discernible feature was a broadly north/south aligned ditch 1044 of *fossa punica* type. Its western side was more steeply sloping and a narrow base was identified. This profile largely matched ditch CG2 encountered in an evaluation trench directly to the south and likely represents an early phase of defensive works construction associated with the known forts to the north (Mann *et al.*; Fig. 2). It may potentially relate to the truncated ditch CG39 identified by Worcestershire

Archaeology to the east (Mann *et al.* 2015, fig. 5), possibly forming an early defended enclosure or previously unidentified fort which appears slightly out of alignment to the presumed line of Watling Street under the modern road.

- 2.2. The upper fills of 1044 were truncated by the construction of a minor foundation 1041 that consisted of irregularly packed sandstone within clay bonding. The purpose of this foundation is unclear. It may represent a consolidation of the ditch, although its limited scale seems to make this unlikely, or is perhaps a plinth for supporting a timber post or other structure. Structure 1041 appears to have been cut by large pit 1036, perhaps a quarry pit, and stones from 1041 are seen in section within fills of 1036 where they have tumbled into the cut. The upper fill of 1044 was also truncated by ditch 1054 which appears to partially respect the alignment and re-cut it, before turning to the west. This may be forming a minor enclosure to the west, perhaps associated with large posthole 1012. A buried subsoil or colluvial layer, which was encountered across much of the site, appears to also form the upper fill of all these features, suggesting a flooding incident or similar, whereby the above-ground remnant of the features appears to have been silted up.
- 2.3. Ditch 1044 was truncated in the north by a substantial pit (1063). It was not fully exposed in plan but measured at least 6m in diameter. It was excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 2.7m and contained multiple deposits from which Roman pottery was recovered. A substantial waterlogged fill was encountered at 1.2m, which contained waterlogged wood and butchered animal bone, which was practically non-existent elsewhere on site due to the soil conditions. It was initially hypothesised that pit 1063 may have been a large quarry pit, however its depth seems to preclude that. More likely perhaps is that it is a large water-hole associated with the settlement of *Uxacona*.
- 2.4. In the east of the area an 'L'-shaped ditch was encountered. This dramatically varied in profile between the excavated slots, appearing to become significantly wider and shallower at the corner, within slot 1027. This ditch is directly on the line of the projected ditch marking the *Uxacona* settlement boundary, encountered in the excavation area to the east and an evaluation trench to the south as ditch CG8 (Mann *et al.* 2015, fig. 5). Slot 1059 showed the ditch to be symmetrical in profile with a narrow, flat base which appeared consistent with previously excavated slots through Worcestershire Archaeology ditch CG8. This ditch was partially masked by the buried subsoil which lay across the central part of the ditch, prior to its removal by machine.

- 2.5. A minor ditch (1002) was recorded cutting the natural and containing Roman pottery, although it was not possible to determine its function within the confines of the excavated area. In all likelihood it relates to some form of minor enclosure. Three additional postholes (1008, 1032, 1057) were also excavated and although they were undated, it is likely they are of Roman date. Posthole 1008 was recorded as cutting the buried subsoil, while the remaining two both directly cut the natural, as no subsoil was present in these areas.

3. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 Redhill DBS (Uxacona), Redhill, Shropshire: Method statement for an archaeological excavation and watching brief

Mann, A., Evans, J., Griffin, L., Pearson, E., Richer, S. and Hurst, D. 2015 Excavations in 2011–13 at Redhill (uxacona, Telford, Shropshire: Archive Report Worcester Archaeology report 2209

Mott MacDonald 2018 Redhill DBS (Uxacona): Archaeological written scheme of investigation

APPENDIX A: SUMAMRY OF ARTEFACTS AND BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Table 1: Summary of artefacts and ecofacts

Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comments
Roman pottery	516	7295	Spot dated to mid 1st-4th century AD. Incl. Baetican amphora with maker-stamped handle
Samian	11	57	-
Stone	10	673	-
Worked stone	2	92	whetstone, lava quern
Ceramic building material	4	585	tegula, tile
Metalwork			-
Copper alloy	5	47	Polden Hill (Dolphin brooch), 2 x coins (heavily eroded), hooked vessel mount, socketed object with side loop
Lead alloy	1	8	strip frag.
Iron	2	66	-
Fired/burnt clay	24	757	-
Industrial waste	1	21	-
Animal Bone	40	819	-

Table 2: Summary of environmental samples

Context no	Sample no	Context type	Vol	Buckets
			170	17
1004	1	Ditch	20	2
1011	2	Ditch	20	2
1015	3	Ditch	20	2
1024	4	Pit	10	1
1048	5	Ditch	10	1
1050	6	Ditch	20	2
1062	7	Ditch	20	2
1064	8	Pit	20	2
1064	9	Pit	10	1
1037	10	Pit	20	2

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project name	Grange Lane, Redhill DBS (Uxacona), Shropshire
Short description	During October-November 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation of 52sqm of land at Grange Lane, Redhill DBS (Uxacona), Telford, Shropshire. The work was undertaken at the request of Mott MacDonald Bentley (on behalf of Severn Trent Water) in accordance with a brief for archaeological recording, following consultation between Mott MacDonald and the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Hugh Hannaford, Senior Archaeological Advisor at Shropshire County Council. The earliest discernible feature was a broadly north/south aligned ditch 1044 of <i>fossa punica</i> type. Its western side was more steeply sloping and a narrow base was identified. This profile largely matched ditch CG2 encountered in an evaluation trench directly to the south and likely represents an early phase of defensive works construction associated with the known forts to the north. The upper fills of 1044 were truncated by the construction of a minor foundation 1041 that consisted of irregularly packed sandstone within clay bonding. Structure 1041 appears to have been cut by large pit 1036. The upper fill of 1044 was also truncated by ditch 1054 which appears to partially respect the alignment and re-cut it, before turning to the west. This may be forming a minor enclosure to the west, perhaps associated with large posthole 1012. A buried subsoil or colluvial layer, which was encountered across much of the site, appears to also form the upper fill of all these features, suggesting a flooding incident or similar, whereby the above-ground remnant of the features appears to have been silted up. Ditch 1044 was truncated in the north by a substantial pit (1063). It was not fully exposed in plan but measured at least 6m in diameter. It was excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 2.7m and contained multiple deposits from which Roman pottery was recovered. A substantial waterlogged fill was encountered at 1.2m, which contained waterlogged wood and butchered animal bone, which was practically non-existent elsewhere on site due to the soil conditions. In the east of the area an 'L'-shaped ditch was encountered. This dramatically varied in profile between the excavated slots, appearing to become significantly wider and shallower at the corner, within slot 1027. This ditch is directly on the line of the projected ditch marking the Uxacona settlement boundary, encountered in the excavation area to the east and an evaluation trench to the south. A minor ditch (1002) was recorded cutting the natural and containing Roman pottery, although it was not possible to determine its function within the confines of the excavated area.
Project dates	October-November 2018
Project type	Archaeological Excavation
Previous work	N/A
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site location	Grange Lane, Redhill, Shropshire
Study area (m ² /ha)	52sqm
Site co-ordinates	NGR: 372561 310912
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project brief originator	Shropshire Council

Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steve Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Sam Wilson	
MONUMENT TYPE	Possible Roman defensive ditch Roman foundation Roman ditches Roman pits/postholes Roman quarry pit Buried soil	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Shropshire Museum	Pottery, metalwork (lead, iron, copper-alloy), CBM, fired/burnt clay. Industrial waste, animal bone, worked stone
Paper	Shropshire Museum	Context sheets, registers, sample sheets, photographic registers
Digital	Shropshire Museum	Database, digital photos GIS files
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2018 <i>Grange Lane, Redhill DBS (Uxacona), Shropshire</i> CA fieldwork summary 6773_1		

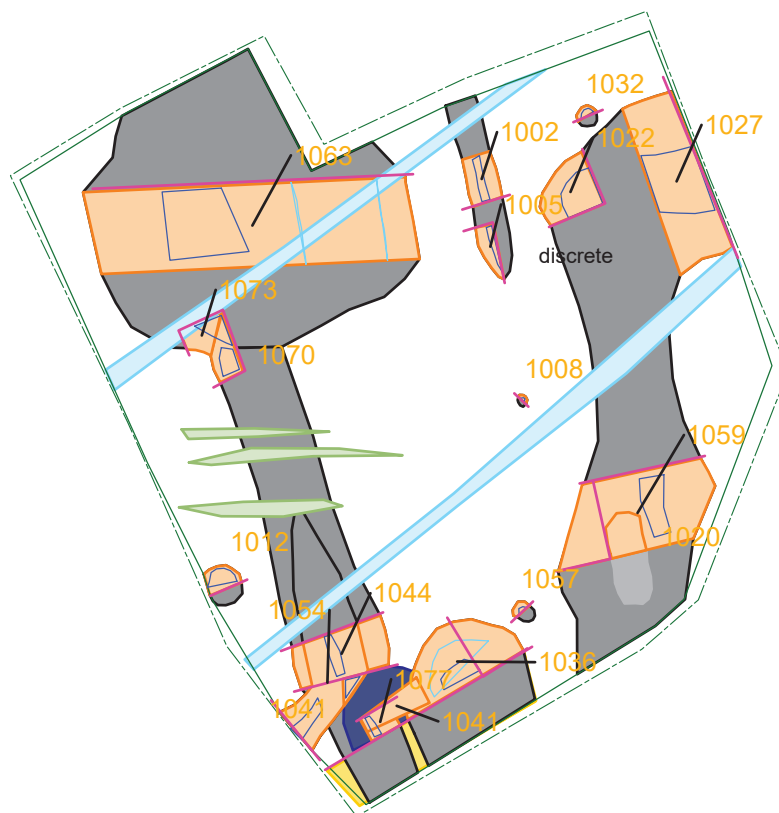


Figure 1: Plan of the excavation area

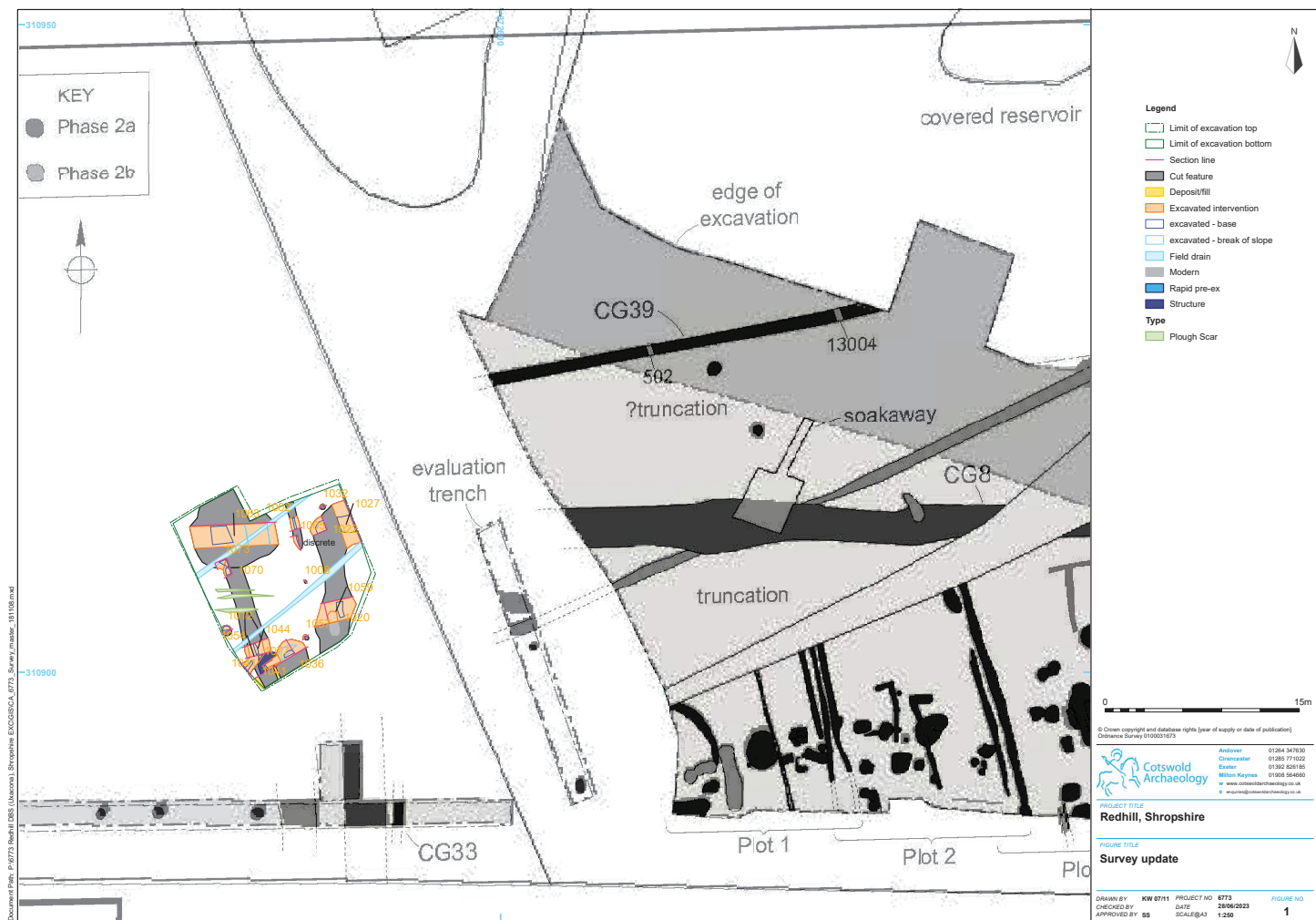


Figure 2: The excavation area and adjacent archaeological investigations

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