



making sense of heritage

Land West of Chesterton, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Ref: 14/01737/OUT
Ref: 111440.02
January 2016



Land West of Chesterton, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land west of Chesterton, Oxfordshire, centred on National Grid Reference 455775 221400. The work forms part of a programme of archaeological investigation that is being carried out prior to proposed residential development at the site.

A desk based assessment of the development area had previously identified that the site lies within an area of known archaeological potential. Akeman Street, the Roman road from Alchester to Cirencester, passes close to the south of the site and the Roman-British town of Alchester is located 1.4 km to the south-east of the site.

Previous geophysical survey of the site had indicated the presence of anomalies of probable archaeological origin existed within the site, and the archaeological evaluation trenches were mainly targeted on these anomalies as well as a small number within blank areas in order to ground test the results. The evaluation consisted of ten 30 m by 1.8 m machine excavated trenches, representing a 2% sample of the development area.

The evaluation identified archaeological features in seven of the trenches, all of which were ditches and corresponded well with the geophysical anomalies. The earliest evidence from the site was an Early Bronze Age arrowhead recovered from the topsoil. Five of the trenches targeted a rectilinear enclosure identified by the geophysical survey; the ditch was present in all of the trenches. The only dated material was a single sherd of Romano-British pottery which suggests a *terminus post quem* for the enclosure. The enclosure was fairly shallow and had been nearly completely truncated within the south-western field, but it survived to a greater depth towards the north-eastern boundary of the site.

An undated boundary ditch was recorded within trenches towards the western boundary of the site and may represent a road side ditch or earlier field boundary.

The evaluation was carried out between 14th and 17th of December 2015.



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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire to carry out the archaeological trial trench evaluation, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Andrew Green (Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire) in this regard. Richard Oram and Hugh Coddington, Planning Archaeologists Oxford County Council Archaeological Services who monitored the fieldwork are also thanked for their assistance and advice throughout the course of the project.

The evaluation was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Manning. The fieldwork was undertaken by John Powell, Bianca San Martin, Michael Trubee and David Streek. This report was written and compiled by John Powell and Benjamin Cullen, it was edited by Andrew Manning with specialist reports by Lorraine Mepham (finds) and the illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon.



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Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Chesterton in Oxfordshire (Fig. 1), hereafter “the Site” (NGR 455775 221400).

1.1.2 The Site is proposed for a residential development, and a planning application (Planning Application No. 14/01737/OUT) was submitted in October 2014 to Cherwell District Council regarding the development.

1.1.3 Although the planning application is yet to be determined, the Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), acting as the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) has placed the Site within an area of archaeological interest and has recommended that a staged programme of archaeological investigation be undertaken ahead of any development on the Site. Two draft conditions, relating to archaeology were produced, which are;

- a. Prior to any demolition on the site, the commencement of the development and any archaeological investigation, a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the Local Planning Authority shall prepare a first stage archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating to the application area, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

REASON – To safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological importance on the site in accordance with Policy BE6 of the South East Plan 2009 and Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

- b. Prior to any demolition on the site, the commencement of the development and following the approval of the first stage Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition [a], a programme of archaeological evaluation, investigation and recording of the application area shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved first stage Written Scheme of Investigation.

REASON – In order to determine the extent, character and significance of the surviving remains of archaeological interest and to safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological importance on the site in accordance with Policy BE6 of the South East Plan 2009 and Government guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.



- 1.1.4 In response to the recommendations of the Planning Archaeologist, the Site has therefore been subject to a detailed archaeological desk-based assessment (CSa 2014) and a geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2014). Following the results of these surveys the Planning Archaeologist at OCC required an archaeological evaluation to test the results of the geophysical surveys. A Written Scheme of investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2015) detailing the methodologies and standards that would be employed by Wessex Archaeology in order to undertake the evaluation was submitted to and approved by the Planning Archaeologist at OCC, and the Local Planning Authority, prior to the fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.5 This document presents the results of the archaeological field evaluation which took place between 14th and 17th December 2015.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on the western edge of Chesterton in Oxfordshire at NGR 455775 221400 (**Fig. 1**). The Site is bounded to the north-west by an unnamed road which connects Green Lane to the A4095. Immediately to the south-west is an arable field and residential housing lies to the south and south-east. To the north and north-east are allotments and beyond this, the northern part of Chesterton village.
- 1.2.2 The Site is comprised of two fields, referred to as 'Field 1' and 'Field 2' (**Figure 1**). Field 1 is the north-eastern field and is under pastoral cultivation. Field 2 is the larger field to the south-west and is under arable cultivation. The fields are separated by a fence line and hedgerows bound the Site apart from the north-eastern boundary.
- 1.2.3 The land is set on a very gentle south-east facing slope at a height around 78 m Ordnance Datum (OD) to 75 m OD. The nearest watercourse is the Gagle Brook which lies approximately 400 m to the north and east.
- 1.2.4 The bedrock geology mapped on the Site is Cornbrash Limestone Formation. There are no superficial deposits recorded on the Site (BGS 2015).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A detailed archaeological desk-based assessment for the Site was carried out in 2014 (CSa 2014) which concluded that there was a potential for buried archaeology of Roman date on the Site. A geophysical survey of the Site was recommended to allow for an informed decision to be made regarding future archaeological mitigation works on the Site (CSa 2014).
- 2.1.2 A detailed magnetometer geophysical survey was carried out on the Site in April 2014 (Archaeological Surveys 2014). The results indicate the presence of cut features of archaeological potential in the form of a large rectilinear enclosure and linear ditch. The survey also revealed several other linear and discrete anomalies which were interpreted as possible archaeological features (**Figure 1**). Field 1 in the north-eastern part of the Site contains widespread magnetic debris which may have affected the identification of linear and discrete anomalies in the survey area.
- 2.1.3 The following information on the archaeological background is derived from the archaeological assessment (CSa 2014), the OHER and the OCC Planning Archaeologist's comments, in response to consultation on the development proposal for application 14/01737/OUT.



2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British

- 2.2.1 Two contiguous circles with a raised central area located 1km to the north-east of the Site are visible on aerial photographs. These features may represent Bronze Age ring ditches (Oxfordshire SMR MOX5629).
- 2.2.2 The Site is located in an area of high archaeological potential with the Roman Road of Akeman Street (MOX1783) situated 100 m to the south of the Site where Green Lane is now situated (**Fig. 1**). Akeman Street connected Alchester to Cirencester. Alchester is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM OX18) and is situated 1.4 km to the south-east of the Site. Alchester was bounded by defences and grew from a military camp to be Oxfordshire's largest Roman town, recent fieldwork by Eberhard Sauer at the entrance recovered a gate post that has been dated to AD 44/45 (Sauer 2015).
- 2.2.3 A hoard of late Roman coins was recorded 0.7 km to the south-west of the Site (MOX11297) which suggest there may have been a Roman villa or settlement nearby.
- 2.2.4 Roman activity has been recorded along the route of Akeman Street. A trackway and system of rectilinear enclosures visible on aerial photographs have been recorded immediately to the south of Akeman Street, 1.5 km to the south-east of the Site and probably represent an extramural settlement to the Roman Alchester (Monument No. 933034).
- 2.2.5 Aerial photographs indicate a possible large Roman rectilinear enclosure with possible interior enclosure and pits 0.5 km to the south-west of the Site (MOX2682).
- 2.2.6 The size, form and location of the rectilinear enclosure and linear identified in the geophysical survey on the Site (AS 2014) thus indicate that these anomalies possibly represent Roman or Iron Age settlement activity. The anomalies are also visible as cropmarks in a photograph taken in 1994 and on modern Google mapping (CSa 2014).

2.3 Saxon and medieval

- 2.3.1 An archaeological watching brief investigation 0.5 km to the east of the Site revealed an Anglo-Saxon to early medieval rubbish pit and ditch (MOX23847).
- 2.3.2 The deserted medieval village of Bignall and the ruins of a medieval chapel are located 0.7 km to the north of the Site (MOX5586).

2.4 Post-medieval and modern

- 2.4.1 The post-medieval site of Manor Farm Mill is situated to the south-east of Chesterton village (MOX5459).

2.5 Recent archaeological investigations

- 2.5.1 Between 2000 and 2001, Wessex Archaeology were involved in the refurbishment of overhead power cables between Headington and Bicester which involved a watching brief passing near the Roman town of Alchester. This produced considerable evidence of Roman activity and some evidence for post-Roman occupation of the town and its immediate environs. (Wessex Archaeology 2002).
- 2.5.2 In 2008–2009 Wessex Archaeology undertook a large scale excavation approximately 3 kilometres to the north-east of the Site on land to the south-west of Bicester. This excavation revealed a multiphase landscape with features dating from the Early Bronze Age to the mid Anglo-Saxon period (Martin 2011).

- 2.5.3 This site contained settlement evidence, domestic activity and possible evidence for quarrying. Other features identified included, enclosure ditches, refuse pits, postholes, ditches, trackways and corn driers.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and in compliance with the standards outlined in the ClfA's Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014a), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below. The investigations also followed the broader principles set out in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (EH 2006).

- 3.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.2 Aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:

- *Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;*
- *Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;*
- *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;*
- *Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential and future mitigation, if appropriate.*

3.3 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.3.1 Following discussion with the client and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), a total of ten machine-excavated trial trenches each measuring approximately 30 m x 1.8 m were excavated in the area of development as shown on **Figure 1**. The trenches cover a total area of 540 m² and represent a 2% sample area of the development site. The trenches were targeted on the results of the previous geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2014).

- 3.3.2 Great Crested Newts are known to be present close to the Site and ecological monitoring of the trench locations was required in order to mitigate against any damage to potential habitat site. The position of Trench 9 was altered slightly during the evaluation due to its proximity to the southern boundary hedge, a suspected newt habitat. The trench was rotated through 45 degrees, from a north-east–south-west alignment to a north–south alignment.

- 3.3.3 All trenches were laid out using a Global Navigational Satellite System GNSS working to a 3D accuracy of below 0.3 m, in general accordance with the pattern given in **Figure 1**. Minor adjustments to the WSI layout were required to take account of any on site constraints such as trees or hedges. The trench locations were tied in to the Ordnance Survey.



- 3.3.4 The trial trenches were excavated using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket and under constant supervision by a qualified archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in regular spits. Upon reaching the archaeological horizon or the natural, the machine was moved back and the process repeated. If appropriate, hand cleaning was undertaken to establish the nature of the deposits.
- 3.3.5 An appropriate sample of each feature type – selected on the basis of their form, fill and stratigraphic relationship, and in order to ensure a broad characterisation – was excavated by hand to address the aims of the evaluation, and recorded to professionally accepted standards (see *Section 4* below).
- 3.3.6 Spoil derived from hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned and metal-detected as appropriate by trained archaeological personnel for the purposes of finds retrieval.
- 3.3.7 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the Client and the Planning Archaeologist for OCC were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated by Wessex Archaeology and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

3.4 Monitoring

- 3.4.1 Wessex Archaeology informed the Planning Archaeologist at OCC of the commencement of fieldwork and the progress of the investigations on the Site. Reasonable access to the Site was arranged and a monitoring meeting was attended by Richard Oram (Planning Archaeologist OCC and Andrew Green of Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire).

3.5 Recording

- 3.5.1 All exposed archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This includes both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections were annotated with OD heights.
- 3.5.2 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

3.6 Specialist strategies

Artefact

- 3.6.1 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. In such circumstances, sufficient artefacts were retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the feature or deposit.
- 3.6.2 All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of the agreed repository. The treatment of artefacts and environmental samples was in accordance with the ClfA's *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

- 3.6.3 All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the Site are the property of the landowner. They are suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, *Conservation Guidelines no. 2* (UKIC 2001).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section presents a summary of the evaluation results. Further contextual details are available in the trench table summaries in Appendix 1; full detailed descriptions are recorded within the archive.
- 4.1.2 The natural soil sequence was largely consistent across the Site and comprised a dark yellowish-brown to dark grey-brown clay loam topsoil/ploughsoil that was present to a depth of 0.33 m below ground level (BGL) (**Plate 1**). Within Field 1 (north-eastern field) a well-established turf and associated humic horizon was present in the upper 0.15 m.
- 4.1.3 Below the topsoil/ploughsoil a mid reddish-brown silty-clay-loam subsoil was identified in eight of the excavated trenches. The subsoil was noticeably deeper within trenches 2 and 3, where it was present to a depth of 0.52 m. Elsewhere, the subsoil was relatively thin and was between 0.08 and 0.21 m deep.
- 4.1.4 The underlying geology was recorded between 0.14–0.52 m BGL and archaeological features were observed cutting into the geology. The natural was consistent across all of the excavated trenches and was cornbrash limestone with lenses of mid reddish-brown clay and mid brownish-yellow clay. In places the natural limestone outcropped more prominently, and tabular bedding was observed.
- 4.1.5 Of the ten trenches seven contained archaeological features, two contained geological features only and one was blank

4.2 Archaeological sequence

- 4.2.1 All archaeological features were sealed below the subsoil, where present, and all of the features recorded were cut into the natural geology. Blank trenches are not discussed below; contextual details are given in **Appendix 1**.

4.3 Prehistoric

- 4.3.1 The earliest evidence for human activity at the Site dates to the prehistoric period and was recorded by the presence of worked flints. An Early Bronze Age arrowhead (ON 1; **Figure 1**) was found within the topsoil from trench 6, and a chronologically undistinctive waste flake was recovered from the topsoil in the vicinity of trenches 4 and 5. These finds indicate a presence at the Site during the prehistoric periods.

4.4 Possible Romano-British

- 4.4.1 The geophysical survey identified a large rectilinear enclosure across the central area of the Site (**Figure 1**; Archaeological Surveys 2014). The enclosure was identified in five of the excavated trenches, and was found to have been preserved to varying degrees. Sections excavated within Field 2 were extremely shallow; the ditch survived only as a very shallow feature that were more easily identified in the trench section than as a cut feature. Towards the eastern side of Field 2, the ditch was slightly deeper, but truncation was still evident. The best preserved section of the enclosure was recorded in trench 3, from which pottery was recovered and indicates a tentative Romano-British date for the enclosure.

- 4.4.2 Ditch 304 (trench 3; **Figure 1** and **Plate 3**) had moderately sloping sides and a concave base, it was 1.7 m wide and 0.36 m deep, and had been filled by a single deposit that had probably formed through natural erosion of the surrounding landsurface. The only finds recovered from the ditch were fragments of animal bone and an undiagnostic sherd of coarse Romano-British greyware. Both the animal bone and the pottery were found towards the base of the ditch.
- 4.4.3 Within trenches 5 and 6 the enclosure ditch was found to be very shallow. Ditches 504 and 604 (**Figure 1**), both undated, had shallow concave profiles and were up to 0.2 m deep. A small flake of 20th century brick was recovered from ditch 604, but is most likely intrusive. Both ditches were more easily visible within the trench sections than as cut features. Ditch 504 was located on an outcrop of limestone and was only cut through the upper eroded limestone regolith (**Plate. 4**). Field 2 was, at the time of the evaluation, used for arable farming and it is probable that truncation through ploughing of the original enclosure ditch had occurred.
- 4.4.4 Towards the south-eastern side of the Site the enclosure ditch was identified and excavated within trenches 8 and 10. Ditches 804 and 1004 (**Figure 1**) had shallow concave profiles and were between 0.95–1.1 m wide and up to 0.29 m deep, both were undated. Ditch 1004 (**Plate 5**) contained two deposits the lower primary fill was a mid reddish-brown sandy-clay that contained common limestone inclusions. This deposit seemed to have slumped into the ditch from its north-western side and may represent an eroded bank deposit.

4.5 Features of uncertain date

- 4.5.1 The geophysical survey identified a north-east to south-west aligned linear anomaly which was targeted by trenches 1 and 2 (**Figure 1**; Archaeological Surveys 2014). After excavation of the trenches a corresponding ditch was identified, excavated and recorded. Ditch 104 (1.64 m wide and 0.39 m deep; **Figure 1**; **Plate 6**) was well preserved and had moderate sloping, stepped sides and a concave base. It contained a single naturally formed deposit and no finds were recovered. A further section was excavated through the ditch approximately 45 m to the north-east in trench 2. Ditch 204 (1.68 m wide and 0.42 m deep; **Figure 1**; **Plate 7**) had a wide concave profile and was filled by a mid reddish-brown silty loam. Excavation of ditch 204 was hindered by the ingress of ground water. Ditches 104 and 204 probably represent a boundary feature, which may be contemporary with the enclosure but remain undated.
- 4.5.2 Two possible tree-throw holes or natural features were recorded in trench 8, features 806 and 808 (**Figure 1**). Both were irregular ovals in plan and on excavation had shallow (0.1 m deep) concave or irregular profiles. Two similar features were investigated in trench 9 (904 and 905; **Figure 1**) and, as with those in trench 8, were irregular in both plan and section. These four features probably represent natural features.

4.6 Response to geophysical anomalies

- 4.6.1 The trench array was largely determined by the results of geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2014). The results of the evaluation, described above have indicated a number of strong correlations with the results of the survey and clarified others where the data was less clear.
- 4.6.2 The enclosure ditch (trenches 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10) and linear boundary feature (trenches 1 and 2) accorded well with the results of the geophysical survey. Identification of the shallow truncated enclosure, particularly in trenches 5 and 6, which survives in part as a subsoil feature was aided by the geophysical survey.

- 4.6.3 Possible archaeological features, pit like anomalies, identified by the geophysical survey proved to be of natural origin and were related to lenses of clay within the underlying limestone geology.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered (see **Table 1**). This includes prehistoric worked flint, Romano-British pottery, modern ceramic building material (CBM) and undated animal bone.

Table 1: All finds by context*

Context	Animal Bone	CBM	Flint	Pottery
305	10/17	-	-	1 /2
Tr. 4/5 unstrat	-	-	1/13	-
601	-	-	1/3	-
605	-	1 /2	-	-
TOTAL	10/17	1 /2	2/16	1/2

(*number/weight in grammes)

5.2 Flint

- 5.2.1 The worked flint comprises one chronologically undistinctive waste flake (a topsoil find from between trenches 4/5) and a broken arrowhead (topsoil (601) find from trench 6). The latter is either an unfinished barbed and tanged or a triangular arrowhead; one corner has been broken off. In either case this object can be dated as Early Bronze Age.

5.3 Pottery

- 5.3.1 The single sherd of pottery, recovered from the fill of ditch 304 (**Figure 1**), is a Romano-British coarse greyware; this is undiagnostic, and cannot be more closely dated within the period.

5.4 Ceramic building material

- 5.4.1 The CBM consists of a small flake from a modern (20th century) brick; this came from the fill of ditch 604 (**Figure 1**). The animal bone, from ditch 304 (**Figure 1**), is undated (although associated with the Romano-British pottery sherd) and all fragments derive from a long bone of medium mammal size (species unidentifiable).

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Environmental samples

- 6.1.1 No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Archaeological conclusions

- 7.1.1 The programme of archaeological trial trenching conducted on the Site was successful in its stated aims of clarifying the presence/absence and extent of buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development.

- 7.1.2 The evaluation confirmed that the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey correspond well to buried archaeological features. Both the enclosure and boundary ditches were preserved, but to different degrees across the Site. In general truncation of enclosure was greater within the south-west half of Field 2 (trenches 5 and 6), which was currently under arable cultivation. The overlying deposits in this area were fairly shallow (0.3 m deep) and it seems likely that ploughing has truncated the enclosure ditch here. The best preserved remains were recorded within Field 1, where a greater depth of overburden was present above the ditch. Ditch 304 (trench 3) was sealed by 0.5 m of top and subsoil. The evaluation did not record any internal features, such as pits or post-holes, within the enclosure. This may be a result of the nature of the work, but if such features do survive it seems likely that the best chance of their survival would be in the area of trench 3.
- 7.1.3 Dating of the enclosure remains uncertain as the only dateable find was a small undiagnostic sherd of Romano-British pottery. Roman activity is known in the wider area and it is possible that this pottery is residual. In light of the lack of finds and internal features this feature has been interpreted as an agricultural enclosure, presumably at some distance from a settlement.
- 7.1.4 The boundary ditch (104 and 204 in trenches 1 and 2) was relatively well preserved in both fields. No finds were recovered from either section and it remains undated. The alignment of the ditch appears to follow the alignment of the unnamed road forming the western boundary of the Site, and it is possible that the ditch represents an earlier field boundary or track side ditch.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museum Resource Centre. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project and accession number OXCMS:2015.221 has been assigned. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which includes paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, has been prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the local museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site code 111440 and the museum accession code OXCMS:2015.221, and a full index has been prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- *One cardboard box of artefacts, ordered by material type*
 - *One file of paper record and A3/A4 graphics*
- 8.2.3 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> has been completed and submitted. A copy of this is included as **Appendix 2** of this report. A finalised version of this report will be uploaded in .pdf format on completion in conjunction with selected photographic images of the fieldwork. A paper copy of the finalised report will also be included with the project archive.



8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts is fully documented in the project archive.

8.4 Copyright

- 8.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations* 2003.
- 8.4.2 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

8.5 Security Copy

- 8.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records has been prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9 REFERENCES

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Trench tables

TRENCH 1			
Dimensions (m): 29.60 by 1.80		Max. depth (m):0.35	Ground level (m aOD):77.42
Co-ordinates: 455712.42E 221449.52N			
Context	Description		Depth from ground surface (m)
101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark yellow brown silty clay loam. Fine rooting throughout. Moderate sub-rounded tabular limestone <40 mm. Distinct boundary.	0–0.25
102	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid red brown sandy loam. Abundant sub-rounded limestone <110 mm. Distinct boundary. Only visible on SE side of trench.	0.25–0.27
103	<i>Natural</i>	Light brownish yellow with light reddish brown striping clay loam. Abundant tabular limestone <300 mm	0.27+
104	<i>Cut</i>	Ditch: NE–SW aligned linear with moderately sloping stepped sides and a concave base. 1.80 m+ by 1.64 m by 0.39 m. Undated possible boundary ditch. Greater extent visible in section. Filled with 105. Same boundary as 204	0.24–0.63
105	<i>Fill</i>	Secondary fill. Mid yellowish red silty clay loam. Sparse cornbrash <80 mm. Fill of 104.	0.24–0.63

TRENCH 2			
Dimensions (m): 30.45 by 2.00		Max. depth (m): 0.56	Ground level (m aOD):77.66
Co-ordinates: 455736.96E 221492.60N			
Context	Description		Depth from ground surface (m)
201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown clay loam. Moderately firm compaction. Sparse sub-angular limestone <100 mm. Thick humic layer for top 0.10 m.	0–0.33
202	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid reddish brown clay loam. Moderate compaction. Common sub-angular to angular limestone <150 mm	0.33–0.52
203	<i>Natural</i>	Cornbrash/limestone regolith with mid brownish yellow to mid reddish brown clay infilling the voids in limestone.	0.52+
204	<i>Cut</i>	Ditch: NE–SW aligned linear with steeply stepped sides and a concave base. 2.00 m by 1.68 m by 0.42 m. Undated boundary ditch, same as 104. Filled with 205.	0.32–0.74
205	<i>Fill</i>	Secondary fill: mid reddish brown silty loam. Common tabular limestone <60 mm. Clear horizon. Fill of 204.	0.32–.74

TRENCH 3			
Dimensions (m):28.74 by 2.00		Max. depth (m):0.49	Ground level (m aOD):77.24
Co-ordinates: 455769.78E 221458.83N			
Context	Description		Depth from ground surface (m)
301	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark grey brown clay loam. Moderate compaction. Gritty texture. Moderate sub-angular limestone inclusions <0.50 mm. Thin turf and humic layer with rootlets throughout.	0–0.28
302	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid reddish brown clay loam with slightly gritty texture. Moderately compact. Moderate sub-angular limestone <100 mm.	0.28–0.49
303	<i>Natural</i>	Cornbrash/limestone regolith with mid red brown clay between cracks, some patches of yellow sandy clay.	0.49+
304	<i>Cut</i>	Ditch: NE-SW aligned linear with shallow sloping irregular/straight sides and a concave/undulating base. 1.80 m+ by 1.70 m by 0.36 m, clearly defined edges. Boundary ditch found in trenches 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10, forming an enclosure. Filled with 305.	0.49–0.85
305	<i>Fill</i>	Secondary fill: mid reddish brown silty loam. Moderate sub-angular cornbrash <100 mm. 1 sherd pottery, rare fragmented animal bone. Fill of 304.	0.49–0.85



TRENCH 4			
Dimensions (m): 28.90 by 1.80		Max. depth (m): 0.28	Ground level (maOD): 76.41
Co-ordinates: 455818.57E 221409.84N			
Context	Description		Depth from ground surface (m)
401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark yellowish brown, silty clay loam with fine rooting throughout.	0–0.25
402	<i>Natural</i>	Light reddish brown clay with tabular limestone	0.25+

TRENCH 5			
Dimensions (m): 30.24 by 1.94		Max. depth (m): 0.38	Ground level (maOD): 76.66
Co-ordinates: 455728.11E 221384.00N			
Context	Description		Depth from ground surface (m)
501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Dark yellowish brown silty clay loam. Fine rooting throughout. Sparse tabular limestone <60 mm	0–0.26
502	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid reddish brown clay loam. Sparse rooting throughout. Abundant tabular limestone <70 mm. distinct horizon.	0.26–0.37
503	<i>Natural</i>	Light reddish brown clay loam. Abundant tabular limestone <400 mm	0.37+
504	<i>Cut</i>	Ditch: linear, with straight steeply sloping sides and a flat base. 1.00 m by 0.98 m by 0.19 m. Enclosure ditch, same as ditches in trenches 3, 6, 8 and 10. Filled with 505	0.21–0.40
505	<i>Fill</i>	Secondary fill: mid red brown silty clay. Common tabular limestone. Fill of 504.	0.21–0.40

TRENCH 6			
Dimensions (m): 30.08 by 1.80		Max. depth (m): 0.42	Ground level (m aOD): 76.44
Co-ordinates: 455746.34E 221363.34N			
Context	Description		Depth from ground surface (m)
601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Ploughsoil: Dark yellowish brown silty clay loam. Fine rooting throughout.	0–0.11
602	<i>Subsoil</i>	Mid reddish brown clay loam. Sparse tabular limestone. Diffuse horizons.	0.11–0.14
603	<i>Natural</i>	Light yellowish clay with patches of brown. Abundant fragmented limestone.	0.14+
604	<i>Cut</i>	Ditch: SE–NW aligned irregular ditch with straight sides and an undulating base. 1.10 m by 2.06 m by 0.20 m. forms an enclosure with ditches in trenches 3, 5, 8 & 10. Filled with 605.	0.14–0.34
605	<i>Fill</i>	Secondary fill: reddish brown clay loam. Common tabular limestone <70 mm. one sherd of pottery. Fill of 604.	0.14–0.34

TRENCH 7			
Dimensions (m): 29.90 by 2.00		Max. depth (m): 0.45	Ground level (m aOD): 76.06
Co-ordinates: 455796.92E 221356.28N			
Context	Description		Depth from ground surface (m)
701	<i>Topsoil</i>	Ploughsoil: dark grey brown clay loam. Moderate to common sub-angular limestone <120 mm.	0–0.27
702	<i>Natural</i>	Cornbrash/limestone regolith. Areas of fairly tabular bedded limestone and areas of more broken up limestone chunks with reddish brown clay infilling gaps.	0.27–0.35
703	<i>Cut</i>	Geological feature: oval in plan. 3.80 m by 2.00 m cut into limestone, possibly a wedge of clay produced by ice. Filled with 704	0.30–0.45



704	Fill	Natural fill: mid reddish brown silty clay. Abundant poorly sorted angular limestone <190 mm. fill of 703.	0.30–0.45
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TRENCH 8			
Dimensions (m): 30.80 by 2.00		Max. depth (m): 0.44	Ground level (m aOD): 75.69
Co-ordinates: 455887.38E 221345.75N			
Context	Description	Depth from ground (m)	from surface
801	Topsoil	Very dark grey brown clay loam. Thin humic turf line. Moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded limestone <100 mm. small thin rootlets throughout deposit.	0–0.29
802	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clay loam to silty clay. Common sub-angular limestone <150 mm. more prevalent/thick to SE side of trench.	0.29–0.41
803	Natural	Cornbrash/limestone regolith with mid brown yellowish clay infilling gaps.	0.34+
804	Cut	Ditch: 1.04 m by 0.90 m by 0.25 m. More visible in section, very shallow in base of trench. Forms part of enclosure with ditches in trenches 3, 5, 6 & 10. Filled with 805	0.29–0.54
805	Fill	Primary fill: Mid reddish brown clay loam. Moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded limestone <100 mm. Moderately loosely compacted. Very similar to subsoil. Fill of 804.	0.29–0.54
806	Cut	Tree-throw hole: irregular in plan with shallow concave sides. 1.20 m by 1.00 m by 0.10 m. Filled with 807.	0.37–0.47
807	Fill	Natural fill: mid reddish brown silty clay. Rare sub-angular limestone <90 mm. Common rootlets. Fill of 806.	0.37–0.47
808	Cut	Tree-throw hole or natural geology: Irregular oval in plan. Flooded upon excavation. 1.30 m by 0.96 m by 0.15 m. Filled with 809.	0.31–0.46
809	Fill	Natural fill: mid reddish brown silty clay. Sparse limestone <50 mm. Fill of 808.	0.31–0.46

TRENCH 9			
Dimensions (m): 29.40 by 1.80		Max. depth (m): 0.32	Ground level (m aOD): 75.52
Co-ordinates: 455798.88E 221310.03N			
Context	Description	Depth from ground (m)	from surface
901	Topsoil	Dark yellowish brown silty clay loam. Fine rooting. Sparse sub-rounded tabular limestone concentrated towards upper horizon <60 mm. distinct horizon.	0–0.26
902	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown loamysand. Moderate fine rooting. Abundant tabular limestone <70 mm. distinct horizon.	0.26–0.31
903	Natural	Light reddish brown loamysand. Abundant tabular limestone <400 mm.	0.31+
904	Cut	Natural geological feature, 2.8 m by 1.12 m and. Filled with 906.	0.3–0.40
905	Cut	Natural geological feature. Filled with 907.	0.3–0.50
906	Fill	Natural fill: dark reddish brown loamysand. Very common sub-rounded limestone <70 mm. fill of 904. Probably subsoil.	N/A
907	Fill	Natural fill: dark reddish brown loamysand. Very common sub-rounded limestone <70 mm. fill of 905. Probably subsoil.	N/A

TRENCH 10			
Dimensions (m): 30.10 by 2.10		Max. depth (m): 0.50	Ground level (m aOD): 75.78
Co-ordinates: 455835.28E 221328.05N			
Context	Description	Depth from ground (m)	from surface
1001	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay loam. Common sub-angular limestone <120 mm.	0–0.32
1002	Subsoil	Mid grey brown clay loam with slight reddish mottles – iron staining, fairly thin and more prevalent to SE end.	0.32–0.40
1003	Natural	Cornbrash/limestone regolith with orange/red brown clay in voids.	0.40+



		Some areas more tabular/bedded.	
1004	<i>Cut</i>	Ditch: NE–SW aligned linear with straight moderately sloping sides and a flat base. 2.10 m by 1.12 m by 0.29 m. Forms an enclosure with ditches in trenches 3, 5, 6 & 8. Filled with 1005 & 1006	0.47–0.76
1005	<i>Fill</i>	Primary fill: mid reddish brown sandy clay. Common sub-angular limestone inclusions <200 mm. Located on NW edge of feature, possibly indicating a bank. Fill 1004.	0.47–0.67
1006	<i>Fill</i>	Secondary fill: mid reddish brown clay loam. Rare to sparse sub-angular limestone <70 mm. Fill of 1004.	0.59–0.76



9.2 Appendix 3: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-239767

Project details

Project name	Land west of Chesterton, Oxfordshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Land west of Chesterton, Oxfordshire. A desk based assessment of the site identified that it lies within an area of known archaeological potential and sites dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods are located within the vicinity of the site. Akeman Street, the Roman road from Alchester to Cirencester, passes close to the south of the site and the Roman-British town of Alchester is located 1.4 km to the south-east of the site. The evaluation identified archaeological features in seven of the trenches, all of which were ditches and corresponded well with the geophysical anomalies. The earliest evidence from the site was an Early Bronze Age arrowhead recovered from the topsoil, which indicates that limited activity took place at or near the site during the prehistoric period. Five of the trenches targeted a rectilinear enclosure identified by the geophysical survey; the ditch was present in all of the trenches. The only dated material was a single sherd of Romano-British pottery which suggests a terminus post quem for the enclosure. The enclosure was fairly shallow and had been nearly completely truncated within the south-western field, but it survived to a greater depth towards the north-eastern boundary of the site. An undated boundary ditch was recorded within trenches towards the western boundary of the site and may represent a road side ditch or earlier field boundary.
Project dates	Start: 14-12-2015 End: 17-12-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	14/01737/OUT - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	ENCLOSURE Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	ARROWHEAD Early Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE CHERWELL CHESTERTON Land west of Chesterton, Oxfordshire
Postcode	OX26 1TN
Study area	540 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 4557750 2214000 51.895505281797 -1.33756807835 51 53 43 N 001 20 15 W Point



Height OD / Depth Min: 75m Max: 78m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Manning
Project supervisor	J Powell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Oxford County Museum Service
Physical Archive ID	OXCMS:2015.221
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Oxford County Museum Service
Digital Archive ID	OXCMS:2015.221
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey", "other"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Oxford County Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	OXCMS:2015.221
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

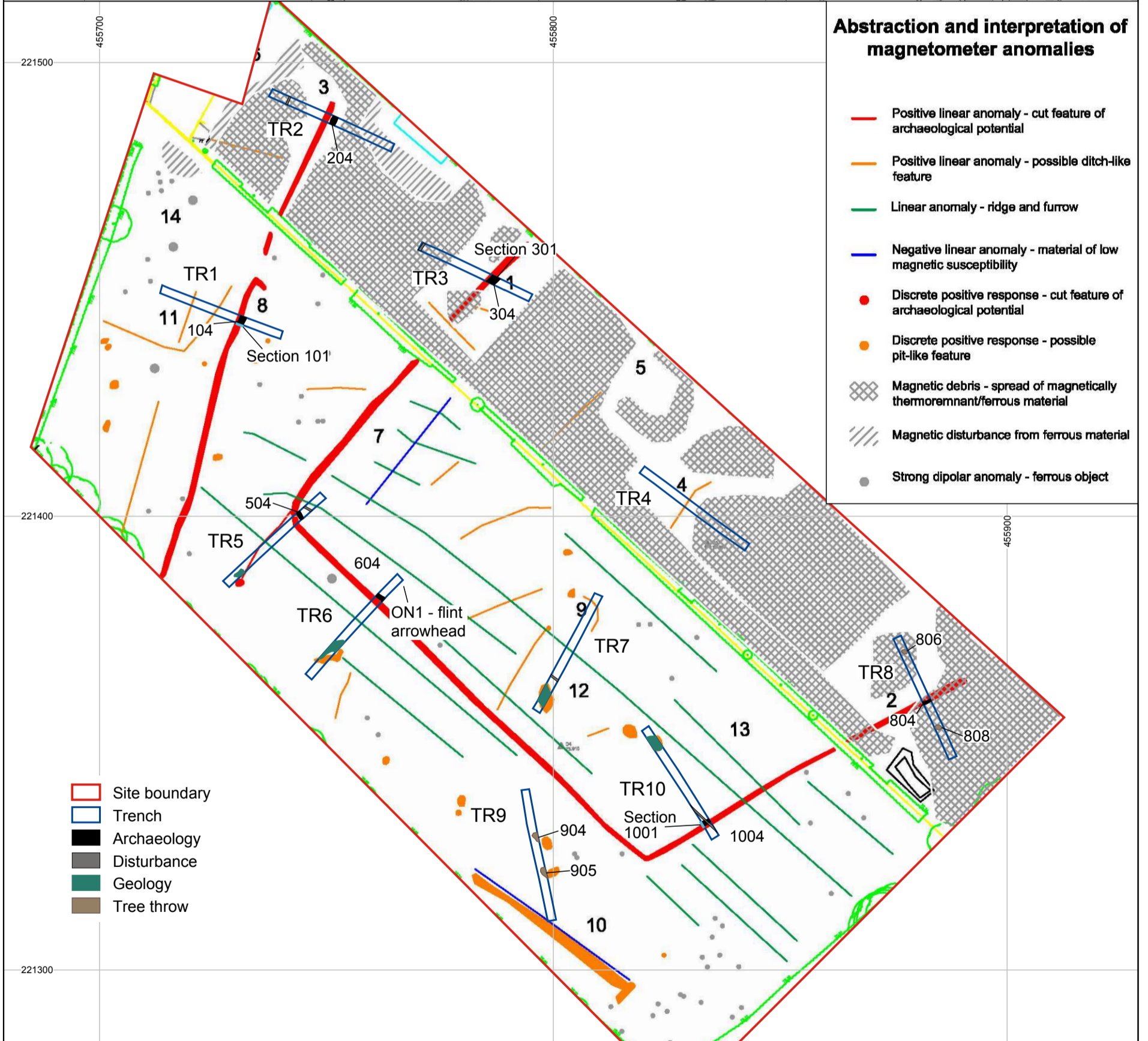
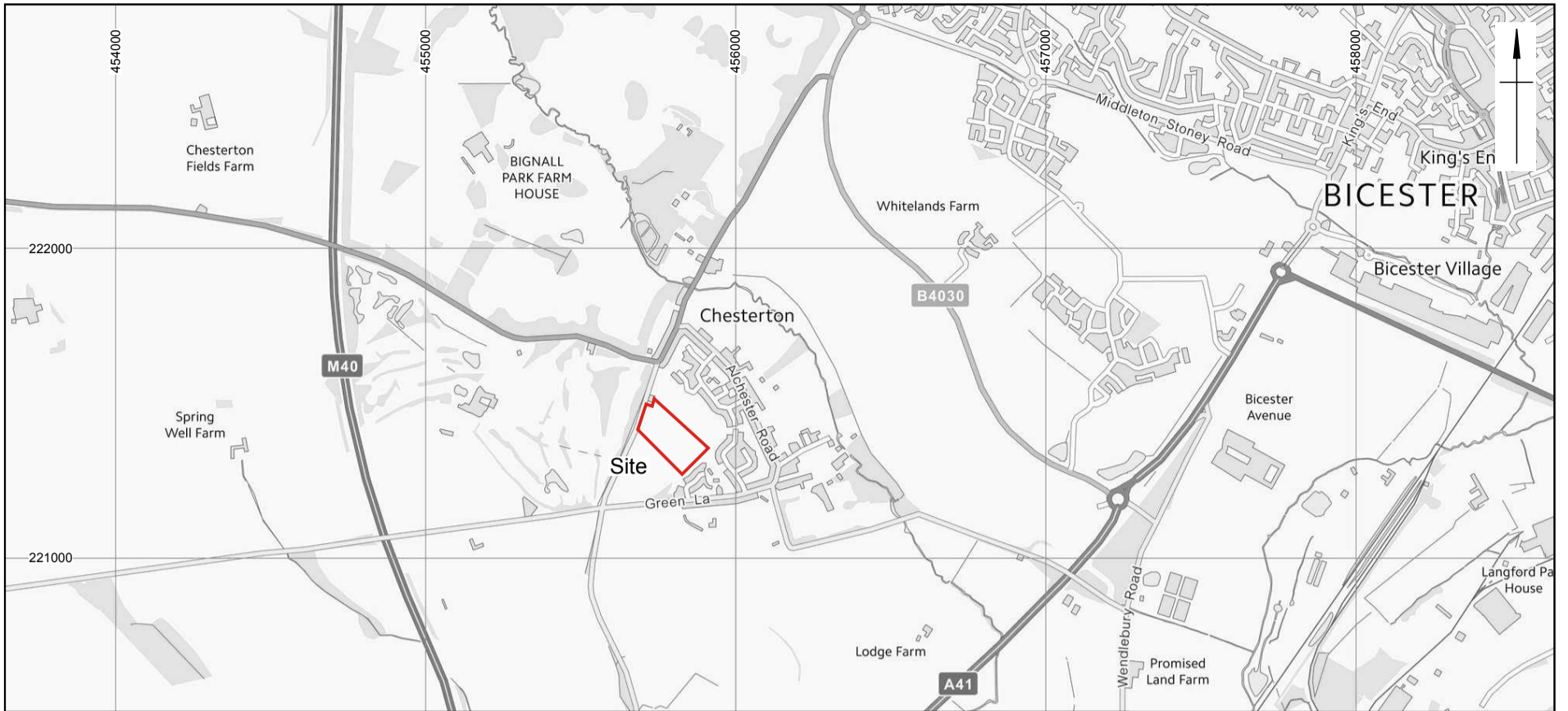
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land west of Chesterton, Oxfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Powell, J and Manning, A
Other bibliographic details	111440.03
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Date:	28/01/2016	Revision Number:	0
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Site and trench location with geophysical survey results

Figure 1



Plate 1: North-east facing section of trench 7



Plate 3: South-west facing section of ditch 304

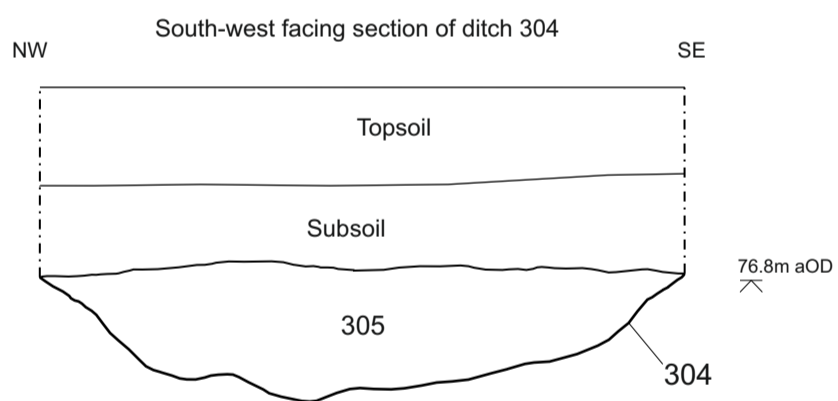


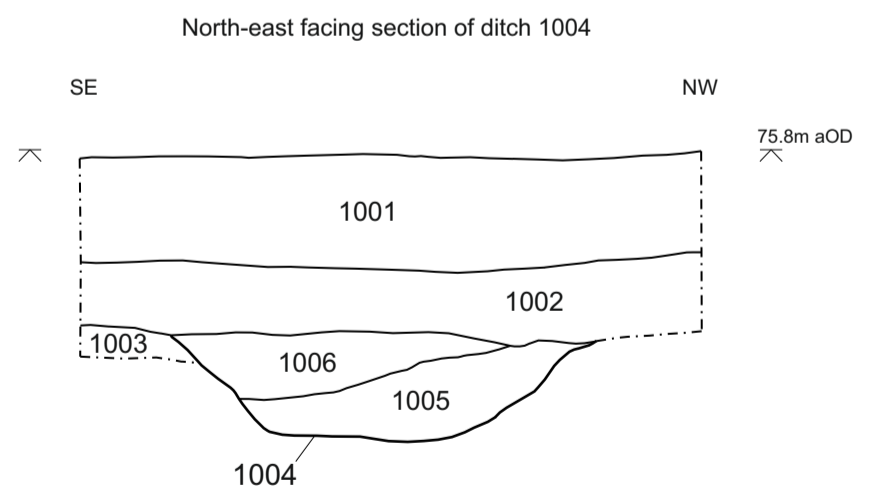
Plate 5: North-east facing section of ditch 1004



Plate 2: Trench 2 viewed from the west



Plate 4: North-west facing section of ditch 504



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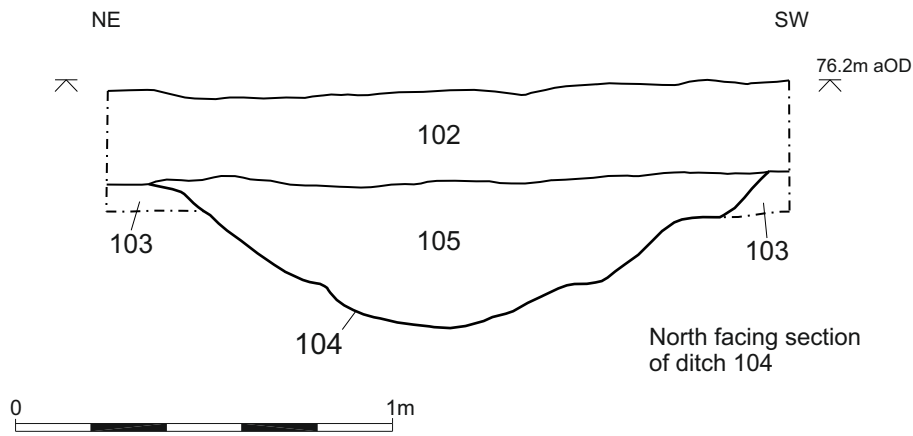
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Plate 6: North facing section of ditch 104



Plate 7: South facing section of ditch 204



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