

**Land south of Green Lane
Chesterton
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Wates Developments Ltd

CA Project: MK0713
CA Report: MK0713_1
OASIS ref: cotswold2-508261
Accession no: OXCMS : 2022.49

August 2022



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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
INTRODUCTION	4
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	6
4. METHODOLOGY.....	7
5. RESULTS.....	8
6. THE FINDS	14
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE	16
8. DISCUSSION.....	20
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	21
10. REFERENCES.....	22
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	24
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	31
APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	33
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM	35

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan

Fig. 2 The site, showing evaluation trenches, geophysical survey results and identified archaeological features

Fig. 3 Detail from north-western part of the site, showing trenches, geophysical survey results and identified archaeological features

Fig. 4 Detail from south-western part of the site, showing trenches, geophysical survey results and identified archaeological features

Fig. 5 Trench 8: plan, sections and photographs

Fig. 6 Trench 9: plan, sections and photographs

Fig. 7 Trench 9: sections and photographs

Fig. 8 Trench 21: plan and photographs

Fig. 9 Trench 22: plan, sections and photographs

Fig. 10 Trench 29: plan, section and photograph

Fig. 11 Trench 32: plan, section and photograph

Fig. 12 Trench 33: plan, sections and photographs

Fig. 13 Trench 38: plan, section and photograph

Fig. 14 Trench 39: plan, sections and photographs

Fig. 15 Trench 40: plan, sections and photographs

Fig. 16 Trench 43: plan, section and photograph

Fig. 17 Trench 45: plan, section and photograph

Fig. 18 Trench 46: plan, section and photograph

Fig. 19 Trench 51: plan, section and photograph

Fig. 20 Trenches 3, 12, 26 and 47: representative section photographs

SUMMARY

Project name:	Land south of Green Lane
Location:	Chesterton, Oxfordshire
NGR:	455694, 221000
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	29 May 2022 – 15 June 2022
Planning reference:	22/01135/SO
OASIS ID:	cotswold2-508261
Location of Archive:	County Museum Resource Centre (Oxfordshire Museums)
Site Code:	LSGL22

In May and June 2022 Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land south of Green Lane, Chesterton, Oxfordshire. A total of 53 trenches were excavated, with some trenches located to target anomalies identified by a preceding geophysical survey. Overall, there was a good correlation between the geophysical survey results and the features identified during fieldwork.

The evaluation identified the remains of a trackway and two main *foci* of activity located in the north-western and the south-western parts of the site respectively. The north-western *focus* comprised a ring ditch, and a circular pit alignment, both undated; the south-western *focus* consisted of two rectilinear enclosures, with abundant Roman pottery and CBM, suggesting evidence for a possible building in the vicinity. Additional, more isolated features included a cremation identified in Trench 21, 100m north of the Roman enclosures. A number of undated field boundaries were recorded in the eastern half of the site.

Evidence for post-medieval and modern activity was also identified. This comprised the extensive remains of furrows, concentrated in the western part of the site, an isolated pit, and field boundary ditches depicted on the 1885 six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map.

Evidence for modern disturbance was also observed in the eastern half of the site, in the area of Trenches 48, 50, and 53.

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In May and June 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land south of Green Lane, Chesterton, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: 455694, 221000 - Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Wates Developments Ltd.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application (22/01135/SO) for the development of c. 150 residential houses, which will be made to Cherwell District Council (CDC; the local planning authority).
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined in a brief by Victoria Green, Planning Archaeologist with Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (hereafter OCAS) the archaeological advisor to Cherwell District Council (OCAS 2022). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Victoria Green.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2020a), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (HE 2015a) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (HE 2015b).

The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 15ha in extent and it lies to the south-east of the village of Chesterton (Fig.1). The site currently comprises two large enclosed agricultural fields, bounded to the north by Green Lane, to the west by an unnamed road, to the north-east by a modern development and to the south and south-east by the agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 75m AOD and is generally flat.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as 'Cornbrash Formation' (limestone) with Kellaways Clay Member (mudstone) towards the south-east. Both sedimentary Bedrocks formed approximately 164 to 166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The archaeological background of the site has already been presented as part of a recent Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Orion Heritage 2022); a programme of geophysical survey has also been undertaken within the site (Sumo Surveys 2022). The following represents a summary of these sources.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

2.2. A Neolithic to Bronze Age axe head was recovered from a field c. 965m south-west of the site. Excavations at the A421 crossroads at Chesterton Lane revealed an isolated Bronze Age burial and evidence of Late Iron Age activity was recorded adjacent to Gagle Brook, c. 700m east of the site. Further evidence of possible Bronze Age activity is recorded c. 746m west of the site, where a single ring ditch has been identified by aerial photograph.

2.3. A single Iron Age posthole was recorded during the archaeological investigations immediately west of the site. A possible Iron Age banjo enclosure and regular aggregate field system has been identified by aerial photography, c. 1km south-east of the site, to the west of Dorchester/Alchester Roman road.

2.4. Geophysical survey c. 550m north of the site recorded a possible Iron Age/Roman trackway, field system and settlement. Other potential Iron Age settlements resembling farming establishments have been identified by geophysical survey, c. 900m south of the site.

Roman (AD 43 – AD410)

2.5. The site lies immediately south of the route of a known Roman road. It is thought that Green Lane follows Akeman Street, from the Roman town of Alchester to Cirencester (Corinivm). A stretch of this road was examined in 1937 at Chesterton Lane just north of Alchester, where it was found to be substantial and well-preserved. The scheduled remains of the Roman town of Alchester are situated c. 1km south-east of the centre of the site. Alchester was a planned Roman settlement with rampart and ditch boundaries. It was occupied throughout the Roman period and preceded by a possible vexillation fort with associated parade ground. Extra-mural settlement and a cemetery have been found between Akeman Street to the north and the town itself.

-
- 2.6. A rectilinear enclosure identified by geophysical survey c. 220m north of the site has been archaeologically investigated. The only dated material was a single sherd of Roman 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.

Early medieval and medieval (AD 410 – 1539)

- 2.7. Early medieval pottery was recovered during archaeological investigations at the A421 crossroads at Chesterton Lane, 1km east of the site. The site forms the agricultural hinterland between the medieval settlements of Chesterton and Little Chesterton. The site of a 12th century Abbey grange is believed to be located at Little Chesterton c. 600m south of the site. No medieval occupation evidence has been recorded during the investigations to the east, west and north-east of the site

Post-medieval and modern (AD 1539-present)

- 2.8. The historic and archaeological record for the post-medieval period is well documented and it is clear that the site is located within the agricultural hinterland of known post-medieval settlement. It is therefore considered that the site has a low potential for previously unknown finds and features from the post-medieval period to be present.

Geophysical survey

- 2.9. A geophysical survey (Sumo Surveys 2022) was undertaken at the site. The survey detected several magnetic responses in the western part of the site which are clearly of archaeological interest. The anomalies comprised small ‘rings’, rectilinear enclosures and a possible trackway. Ridge and furrow cultivation patterns were visible in the data along with former field boundaries. A few uncertain magnetic responses were also identified, and two areas of magnetic disturbance were mapped.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Cherwell District Council, advised by OCAS, to identify and assess the particular

significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals. This process is in line with policies contained in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate the anomalies of probable/ possible archaeological and uncertain origin detected by the geophysical survey.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 53 trenches, all measuring 30m x 1.8m (Fig. 2).
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site. Trench locations were adjusted to avoid known services.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with County Museum Resource Centre (Oxfordshire Museums) for the deposition of the project archive (accession number: OXCMS : 2022.49) and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the

Archaeology Data Service (ADS 2021). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2020b) and OMS guidelines (OMS 2022).

- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the environmental samples (paleoenvironmental evidence) are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.
- 5.2. The natural substrate, comprising compact light grey limestone with occasional mid yellow sandy clay patches was encountered in most of the trenches. In several trenches in the southern area of site the natural substrate comprised of mid reddish brown sandy clay with frequent fine manganese and light greenish brown clay patches. This was overlain by a 0.15m to 0.3m thick subsoil consisting of firm mid brown sandy chalk. The subsoil was overlain by a dark brown, sandy clay topsoil measuring between 0.2m and 0.3m thick.
- 5.3. Archaeological features, all of which cut into the natural substrate, were identified in twenty-one trenches (Figs. 2-4).
- 5.4. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in the remaining trenches (trenches 1-7, 10, 12-20, 23-27, 31, 34-35, 37, 41, 44, 47-48, 50, 52 and 53). These will not be discussed any further, although a selection of representative section photographs of blank trenches can be found in Figure 20.
- 5.5. Evidence for modern disturbance in the form of isolated pits containing abundant modern material and ground reduction was identified in the south-eastern half of the site and it will not be discussed further in this report.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2-3, and 5)

- 5.6. Two north-west to south-east aligned ditches (802 and 805) were identified in the western half of Trench 8. These were most likely part of a trackway detected by the geophysical survey and also identified in Trenches 11, 22 and 28. The ditches were parallel to each other and spaced 4m apart. Ditch 802 measured 0.97m in width, and 0.44m in depth; it had a 'V'- shaped profile with a concave base. It contained a lower fill (803) of mid brown sandy clay which was overlain by an upper deposit (804) of dark reddish brown sandy clay. Soil samples retrieved from Fill 803 contained a single barley grain and snail shells. The molluscan assemblage suggests a well-established open landscape with a possible stream or river nearby. Ditch 805 measured 1.2m in width and 0.25m in depth; it had a moderately shaped profile with a shallow undulating base. It was filled by one sterile fill (806) of mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent large flat limestone inclusions.

Trench 9 (Figs. 2-3, 6 & 7)

- 5.7. Two pits and one curvilinear ditch were found in this trench. Curvilinear ditch 902/904 was recorded at the northern end of the trench and correlated with a circular anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. It measured 1.08m in width and 0.2m in depth. It had moderately sloping sides and concave base and was filled by a single fill (903/905) of mid reddish brown silty clay. This contained a minimal amount of charcoal and shells of open country species recovered through soil sample processing.
- 5.8. An oval pit (906) was found in the centre of the trench. It measured 2.4m in length as exposed and was 0.52m deep, with vertical sides and flat base. It contained three fills. The basal fill (907) comprised mid reddish brown silty clay with few fragments of animal bone along with open country shells and moving water shells recovered from soil samples. This was overlain by a mid greyish brown silty clay fill (908) that produced an iron fragment weighting 23g and animal bone fragments. The upper fill (909) comprised mid brownish grey silty clay that yielded no finds.
- 5.9. Another pit (910) was found at the southern end of the trench. Both pits correlated with discrete anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. Pit 910 had an irregular shape in plan; it measured 2m in length and 0.55m in depth, with vertical sides and flat base. It contained a single sterile fill (911) of mid brownish silty clay.

Trench 21 (Fig. 2, 8)

- 5.10. A single probable cremation pit (2102) was identified in the north-western part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan and measured 0.68m in diameter. It was left unexcavated *in situ* and covered with geotextile prior to backfilling, to prevent further damage.

Trench 22 (Fig.2 & 9)

- 5.11. Two south-east to north-west aligned ditches (2203 and 2205) were identified in the north-eastern half of the trench. Both correlated to the trackway identified in the geophysical survey, excavated in Trench 8, and further identified in trenches 11 and 28. The ditches were parallel to each other and spaced 3m apart. Ditch 2203 was 1m wide and 0.27m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single sterile fill (2204) of mid brown sandy clay. Ditch 2205 was 1.27m wide and 0.2m deep, with gently sloping sides and concave base. It contained a single sterile fill (2206) of mid brown sandy clay.

Trench 29 (Fig. 2 &10)

- 5.12. Two north-east to south-west aligned ditches (2903 and 2905) were identified at the southern and northern ends of this trench respectively. Both corresponded to geophysical survey anomalies. Ditch 2903 measured 0.9m in width and 0.25m in depth. It had moderately steep sides and concave base and contained one sterile fill (2904) of mid brown sandy silt. It corresponded to a post-medieval/modern boundary ditch depicted on the 1885 six-inch OS map and also identified in Trench 32. Further to the south was ditch 2905; measuring 1.8m wide, it was left unexcavated.

Trench 32 (Fig. 2, 4, and 11)

- 5.13. Two ditches (3203 and 3208) were identified in this trench. Ditch 3203 was located through the centre of the trench and ran on a south-east to north-west alignment. This ditch correlated with a L-shaped anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. It was 3.30m wide and 0.85m deep, with gradual sloping sides and slightly concave base. It contained three fills. Basal fill 3204 comprised of light brown silty clay and contained three sherds of broadly dated Roman pottery and CBM material. It also contained few animal bone fragments, and two fragments of native oyster shell, with clear evidence of man-made V-shaped notches to the shell margins. This was overlain by fill 3205, which was 0.2m thick and comprised mid brown silty clay with

very frequent large limestone inclusions. It produced six sherds of Roman pottery and animal bone. The upper fill (3206) was 0.65m thick and comprised dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions. It yielded almost 60g of Roman pottery, including Lezoux Central Gaulish samian ware. Also recovered were numerous fragments of tile, including *tegulae*, *imbrex*, and box flue tile. Ecofacts included a moderate assemblage of large mammal bone fragments.

- 5.14. Unexcavated ditch 3208 was found at the north-eastern end of the trench, visible for 15m. It was south-west to north-east aligned and measured 2.2m wide. The ditch had the same alignment as a post-medieval/modern boundary ditch, visible on the 1885 six-inch OS map.

Trench 33 (Fig. 2, 4 and 12)

- 5.15. Three ditches were found in this trench (3303, 3305, and 3307). Ditch 3307 was located at the southern end of the trench. It ran south-west to north-east, along the same alignment as ridge and furrow identified by the geophysical survey further to the east. It measured 2m wide and was left unexcavated in this phase of archaeological investigation. Parallel ditches 3303 and 3305 ran through the centre of the trench on a north-west to south-east alignment and corresponded to a rectangular enclosure identified on the geophysical survey. Ditch 3303 was 1m wide and 0.15m deep, with gentle sides and slightly concave base. It contained a single fill (3304) of mid brown silty clay that produced fired clay and CBM, and a moderate assemblage of 3rd to 4th century Roman utilitarian ware. Also present were a few animal bone fragments. Immediately to the north was ditch 3305, which measured 0.78m in width and 0.16m in depth, with moderately sloping sides and flat base. It contained a single fill (3306) of mid brown silty clay, containing five sherds of broadly dated Roman pottery and one animal bone fragment.

Trench 38 (Fig. 2, 4 and 13)

- 5.16. One curvilinear ditch and a posthole (3803 and 3805) were identified at the north-eastern end of the trench. Ditch 3803 ran on a north-west to south-east alignment before turning to run north-east/south-west. This ditch corresponded to a geophysical anomaly and may represent the corner of a Roman enclosure ditch identified in Trench 33. Ditch 3803 measured 8.5m in length as exposed, 1m in width and 0.18m in depth; it had gently sloping sides and flat base. It contained a single fill (3804) of mid brown sandy silt. It produced CBM and four sherds of 2nd

century Roman pottery, including Lezoux Central Gaulish Samian ware. Posthole 3805 was identified adjacent to the inner bend of ditch 3803. It was probably associated with the enclosure. It measured 0.58m in diameter and was left unexcavated at this stage of archaeological investigation.

Trench 39 (Fig. 2, 4 and 14)

- 5.17. Three north-west to south-east aligned ditches (3903, 3905, and 3907) were identified in this trench. At the western end of the trench was ditch 3905. This measured 1.54m long and 0.38m deep, with steep sides and flat base. It contained a single fill (3906) of dark greyish brown clay silt, with frequent limestone inclusions that produced CBM and sixteen sherds of 3rd to 4th century Roman pottery, as well as one sherd of residual Late Prehistoric pottery and a single fragment of animal bone.
- 5.18. Ditch 3907 was located at the western half of the trench. It measured 1.71m in width and was not excavated. It was part of a linear feature identified in the geophysical survey, possibly forming an enclosure along with the ditches recorded in Trenches 33 and 38.
- 5.19. Ditch 3903 was identified in the eastern end of the trench. It correlated to a geophysical anomaly as was on the same alignment as ditch 3203 in Trench 32. Ditch 3903 was 0.89m wide and 0.24m deep, with steep sides and flat base. It contained a single fill (3904) of mid orangish brown clayey silt with one sherd of broadly dated Roman pottery and a fragment of native oyster.

Trench 40 (Fig. 2, 4 and 15)

- 5.20. One north-east to south-west aligned furrow and one pit were found in this trench (4003 and 4007). Furrow 4003 was 1.06m wide and 0.34m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a slightly undulating/ irregular base. It contained a single sterile fill (4004) of mid brownish grey silty clay. It was also identified on the geophysical survey along with a series of similarly orientated furrows.
- 5.21. Pit 4007 was located at the southern end of the trench; it was 1.06m wide and 0.34m deep. It contained two fills. The basal fill 4008 comprised mid yellowish grey clay silt. Articulated remains of pig alongside some adipocere (corpse wax) were found in this fill. Also recovered through soil sample processing were a minimal amount of charcoal and a few shells of the open country species. Fill 4008 was

overlain by fill 4009, which was a mid yellowish brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions and a single modern iron nail or bolt. The presence of adipocere indicates the animal burial was relatively recent.

Trench 43 (Fig. 2 and 16)

- 5.22. One north-east to south-west aligned ditch (4303) ran through the centre of the trench. It corresponded to a post-medieval/modern boundary ditch, visible on the 1885 six-inch OS map, also identified in Trench 42. Ditch 4303 was cut into the subsoil; it measured 1.51m wide by 0.41m deep, with moderately steep sides and rounded base, and contained a single sterile fill (4304) of mid greyish brown clayey silt.

Trench 45 (Fig. 2 and 17)

- 5.23. One ditch was found in the north-western end of this trench. It was identified in the geophysical survey as forming part of an L-shaped linear feature of agricultural origin. Ditch 4504 ran on a north-east/south-west alignment, measuring 1.45m in width and 0.42m in depth. It contained a single fill (4505) of light greyish brown sandy silt with a single animal bone fragment. Ecofacts recovered from soil samples included a single cereal grain fragment and molluscan remains suggesting that the area was subject to seasonal flooding, which could explain the function of Ditch 4504.

Trench 46 (Fig. 2 and 18)

- 5.24. One north-west to south-east aligned ditch (4603) was identified in the western half of this trench. Ditch 4603 measured 0.70m in width and 0.12m in depth. It had gently sloping sides, concave base, and contained a single fill (4604) of mid brownish grey silty sand with no artefacts. Ecofacts recovered through soil sampling included a large number of terrestrial snail shells including, open country, shade-loving and marsh species. Shells of aquatic species were also recovered.

Trench 51 (Fig. 2 and 19)

- 5.25. One ditch was found in this trench. Ditch 5102 ran on a north-west/south-east alignment, measuring 2.53m wide and 0.49m deep, with moderately steep sides and rounded base. It contained a single sterile fill (5103) of mid greyish brown clayey silt.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. The artefactual material was recovered from 11 deposits: the fills of ditches and pits (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand and is recorded in accordance with the ClfA finds Toolkit (ClfA 2021).

Pottery

- 6.2. The pottery from the evaluation has been recorded direct to an Excel spreadsheet from which Appendix B (Table 1) is derived. This forms part of the project archive. The assemblage was examined by context, using a x10 binocular microscope and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in summary in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the national guidelines (Barclay et al. 2016) and where appropriate a concordance with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection has been provided (Tomber and Dore 1998) and the Oxford fabric series has been provided where possible (Booth unpublished).
- 6.3. The assemblage comprises 63 sherds, weighing 451g. It is in poor condition, with surfaces and fractures exhibiting heavy signs of wear in most instances. The mean sherd weight is low for a largely Late Iron Age/Roman assemblage at 7.2g.

Late prehistoric

One small sherd (2g) of handmade quartz and flint-tempered pottery (QFL) can be dated to the late prehistoric period.

Roman

The majority of the pottery assemblage comprises reduced (UNS BSW/UNS GTG/UNS GW), oxidised (UNS OX), white (UNS WW) and shell-tempered (UNS SH) coarsewares. A number of out-curved rims are noted in these fabrics, mainly in sandy grey wares. The rim of a wide mouth jar/bowl (UNS GW) was recovered from ditch 3903. The origin of these coarseware fabrics is unknown, but they are most likely of local production and can be broadly dated to the Roman period. Oxfordshire wares were recorded in small quantities. The highly fragmented rim of an M17 *mortaria* (OXF WH), dating to the mid to late 3rd century AD, was recovered from ditch 3905 (Young 2000, 72, M17). Four sherds (18g), including an out-curved rim, of Oxfordshire red/brown slipped wares (OXF RS) were recovered

from ditches 3303 and 3905. This fabric dates to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD (ibid. 123).

Regionally produced wares were limited to two unfeatured body sherds of pink grog-tempered wares (PNK GT). These can be dated to between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD.

Five sherds (23g) of Lezoux Central Gaulish samian wares (LEZ SA2) were present. Broadly these date to the 2nd century AD. The rim from a probably Drag.31 dish is the only diagnostic sherd noted and can be closely dated to the mid to late 2nd century AD (Webster 1996, 35).

Summary

The pottery mainly provides evidence for activity during the mid to late Roman period (2nd to 4th centuries AD). The single late prehistoric sherd is most likely residual in a later feature. The assemblage is dominated by coarsewares and a number of out-curved rims are most likely from utilitarian vessels such as jars or bowls. This and the relatively low quantity of fineware is consistent with low status, domestic, rural activity. The presence of a small quantity of regional and Continental imports does suggest the site had limited access to markets trading in those goods.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.4. A total of 51 fragments (3363g) of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from six deposits. The assemblage is made in oxidised fine (fs) and medium sandy fabrics (ms), some with calcareous (c), clay pellet (cp), ferrous (fe), grog (g/pnk gt) or shell (sh) inclusions. Diagnostic fragments include four *tegulae* (flanged roof tile), an *imbrex* (curved roof tile), a box flue tile, and 11 fragments of plain, flat tile, most of which were derived from ditch 3203. This ditch produced almost 3kg of CBM. Based on the forms, fabrics and characteristics of firing, the CBM assemblage most likely dates to the Roman period.

Fired clay

- 6.5. Ditch 3203 also produced 19 fragments (239g) of fired clay. The assemblage is made in oxidised fine (fs) and medium sandy fabrics (ms), some with clay pellet (cp), ferrous (fe) or carbonised organic (v) inclusions. Several fragments exhibit flat surfaces, although no other diagnostic features are present.

Metalwork

- 6.6. Pit 4007 produced two fragments (14g) of iron. The first is an iron nail, however the fragment is heavily encrusted and corroded preventing identification of diagnostic features. The second fragment is a round shafted rod with a shorter rod perpendicular to the main shaft. The fragment most likely represents a door or gate bolt and is most likely of post-medieval or modern date.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Plant macrofossils

- 7.1. Six environmental samples (105 litres of soil) were processed from ditches and pits in Trenches 8, 9, 40, 45, and 46. This was done to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains in the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. It was also hoped that the environmental material may aid in the dating of the features. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual no. 2).
- 7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 3, Appendix C, following nomenclature of Zohary et al (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded and noted, following nomenclature according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).
- 7.3. The flots varied in size from small to moderately large with moderate to high numbers of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material was generally poorly preserved with some of the cereal grains showing signs of vitrification and bubbling.

Trench 8

- 7.4. Sample 5 of undated ditch 802 contained a single charred barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain alongside a small amount of charcoal. A moderate number of snail shells were noted in the assemblage and includes those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp., *Candidula* sp., and *Helicella itala* as well as a few *Bithynia* operculum. The charred remains are indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material. The terrestrial molluscan assemblage suggests a well-established open landscape. Additionally, there are shells (*Bithynia* operculum) that are indicative of a

moving water aquatic environment which may suggest that there was moving water in the ditch at times or that these operculum were brought onto site while collecting water or rushes/reeds from the local stream/river.

Trench 9

- 7.5. Two environmental samples were recovered from Trench 9 from undated ring ditch 904 (sample 3) and undated pit 910 (sample 4). Both assemblages contained no charred plant remains and only a minimal amount of charcoal. Shells of the open country species *Vallonia* sp., *Pupilla muscorum*, and *Helicella itala* and the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus* were noted in moderate quantities in these samples. Sample 4 also contained a small number of *Bithynia tentaculata*, which is a species that favours moving water. The molluscan remains from both assemblages are indicative of a well-established open landscape, with shells indicative of a moving water environment being present in pit 910, which again may have been brought on to site while collecting water or rushes/reeds from the nearby stream/river.

Trench 40

- 7.6. Lower fill 4008 (sample 6) from undated pit 4007 contained no charred plant remains and only a minimal amount of charcoal. A few shells of the open country species *Helicella itala* and the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus* were noted in the assemblage. This pit also contained the skeletal remains of a pig (see Clark, this report) alongside some possible adipocere (corpse wax). The molluscan assemblage indicates an open landscape with areas of shade/longer grass.

Trench 45

- 7.7. Sample 2 of undated ditch 4504 contained a single cereal grain fragment with the tentative identification of barley. No charcoal was observed within the assemblage. The molluscan remains are similar to those from the previous trenches with the addition of the marsh species *Succinea/Oxyloma* type and the aquatic species *Galba truncatula*, which is a species that favours areas of seasonal flooding and dessication. The charred remains are representative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.

Trench 46

- 7.8. Undated ditch 4603 (sample 1) contained no charred plant remains or charcoal. A large number of terrestrial snail shells were noted and includes the open country

species *Vallonia* sp., *Pupilla muscorum*, and *Helicella itala*, the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp., and the shade-loving species *Carychium tridentatum* and *Merdigera obscura* alongside a small number of the marsh species *Succinea/Oxyloma* sp., and the aquatic species *Galba truncatula*. The molluscan remains are indicative of a well-established open landscape with areas of longer damp grass that is subject to seasonal flooding.

Summary

- 7.9. The charred remains and small charcoal fragments recovered are all likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material and do not provide any clear insight into the possible use or function of their respective features, nor do they provide any assistance in dating the features. The environmental remains provide no indication of any specific settlement activities, such as crop processing, taking place in the vicinity and this may suggest that these trenches are either located away from the centre of any settlement or such activities were not taking place on the site.
- 7.10. The molluscan remains indicate that the area around Trench 8 and 9 was a well-established open landscape and that there may have been some occasional moving water within undated ditch 802 or, more likely, that some aquatic snail shells were accidentally brought in when collecting water or rushes/reeds from the nearby stream/river. Trench 40 produced the least amount of mollusc shells, and these are suggestive of an open landscape with areas of longer grass/shade. Shells recovered from Trenches 45 and 46 are indicative of a well-established open landscape that had areas of longer damp grass subject to seasonal flooding and desiccation, possibly suggesting that ditches 4504 and 4603 may have been used as drainage ditches.

Marine Shells

- 7.11. Marine Mollusc remains were found in two undated ditches in trenches 32 and 39 on the site (see Table 4, Appendix C). Preservation was generally good with most shells being preserved almost completely intact.
- 7.12. Fill 3204 of undated ditch 3203 contained one left valve (38g) and one right valve (23g) of native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*). The preservation was generally good with both shells surviving almost completely intact. Both shells from this context show clear evidence of man-made V-shaped notches on the ventral margins.

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- 7.13. Fill 3904 of undated ditch 3903 contained one left valve (20g) of native oyster. The material was mostly well preserved.

Summary

- 7.14. All the marine shells recovered from the site were those of edible species. There is an indication from this assemblage that marine shell augmented the local diet.

Animal bone

- 7.15. A small assemblage of animal bone amounting to 34 fragments (1173g) was recovered via hand excavation and the processing of bulk soil samples, from ten ditch and pit fill deposits. Artefactual material dating the Romano-British period was also recovered from these features (see Table 5, Appendix C). The material was fragmentary and very poorly preserved. However, it was possible to identify the remains of cattle (*Bos taurus*), pig (*Sus scrofa* sp.) and horse (*Equus caballus*).

Romano British

- 7.16. A total of 26 fragments (180g) were recovered from the fills of ditches 3203, 3303, 3305 and 3905. A limited amount of cattle bone was recovered with this species identified from bones both rich and poor in meat yield. There was no evidence of butchery practice and the recovery was too low to contribute any useful information in terms of animal husbandry or site economy. However, cattle were a commonly exploited domestic species that are to be expected in assemblages of this period.

Undated

- 7.17. The remaining bone in the assemblage was recovered from fill of pits 906, 4007 and ditch 4504 which remain undated. Of note, among this material was the associated bone group (ABG) 4010 recovered from pit 4007. This took the form of a complete and articulated skeleton of a male pig, aged between 1 to 2 years at the time of death. There are no signs of trauma or butchery, so the reason for the deposition is unclear. However, the skeleton displayed a much better level of preservation than the rest of the assemblage and fatty deposits were also recovered with the bone. The combination of these factors suggests a modern date and the remains of an animal buried after death by natural causes or disease.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The evaluation has identified two main *foci* of activity concentrated in the north-western part of the site centred on Trench 9, and in the south-western corner of the site around Trenches 32, 33, 38 and 39.
- 8.2. No dating evidence was retrieved from any of the features in Trench 9. The exact function of the ring ditch and the pit alignment remains unclear.
- 8.3. The north-west to south-east aligned trackway recorded in Trenches 8, 11, 22, and 28, did not yield any dating evidence, but was most probably associated with both *foci* of activity. Notably, the rectangular enclosures identified on the geophysical survey and recorded in Trenches 32, 33, and 38 appear to have been laid out parallel to the trackway. The geophysical survey results revealed a gap in the eastern enclosure that most likely provided an access to/ from the trackway.
- 8.4. The enclosures ditches investigated in Trenches 32, 33, 38, 39 produced a large assemblage of Roman pottery, including Samian ware imports, and oyster shells. The abundant CBM recovered from Trench 32, which included numerous *tegula*, *imbrex*, and box flue tile fragments, strongly suggests the presence of a Romanised structure in the vicinity of the enclosures, possibly located in the field to the west of the site. Ditches 3907 and 3903 were not aligned with the enclosures and might indicate a separate phase of Roman activity, pottery from ditch 3907 being 3rd – 4th century in date.
- 8.5. An isolated cremation was identified in Trench 21, 100m north of the Roman enclosures. It was left unexcavated and its relationship with the *foci* of activity to the north and to the south of it remains uncertain.
- 8.6. A further area of activity was located in the eastern half of the site, in the form of undated ditches recorded in Trenches 45, 46, and 51. These ditches were excavated on various alignments and served land division and drainage purposes. This interpretation is supported by the molluscan assemblage recovered from these features, comprising species characteristic of seasonally flooded terrain.
- 8.7. Evidence for post-medieval and modern agricultural activity in the form of furrows was ubiquitous in the western half of the site, where two distinct patterns of furrows were identified (north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east). A number of

infilled field boundary ditches depicted on the 1885 six-inch OS map and also identified by the geophysical survey were also identified in Trenches 29, 32, and 36. A post-medieval/modern boundary was also recorded in the eastern half of the site in Trenches 42 and 43. One isolated pit of probable post-medieval/modern date was recorded in Trench 40 at the south-western corner of the site.

- 8.8. Evidence of extensive modern disturbance was identified in the eastern half of the site and corresponded with ferrous geophysical anomalies detected in Trenches 48, 50, and 53.
- 8.9. The geophysical survey has proven effective in the detection of archaeological features, especially in the western half of the site, with the majority of interventions excavated across geophysical anomalies having identified a corresponding sub-surface feature. Geophysical prospections proved less reliable in the eastern portion of the site, where the results of the survey were largely affected by ferrous anomalies owing to modern disturbances.
- 8.10. In light of the results of the evaluation, further work at the site has moderate to low potential to contribute to the following research objectives as set out in the relevant regional research framework (Hey and Hind 2014):
- *...the first centuries BC and AD were a period of increased rural settlement, but this was followed by settlement desertion in the first/second century AD. At the end of the Roman period, the lack of dated material culture has led to the assumption of widespread settlement desertion....12.6.5...the decline of 'villas' and associated reorganisation of the rural landscape should be investigated (Hey and Hind 2014, p. 181).*

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Joao Heitor, assisted by Charlotte Nicholson, Dan Riley, Alex Foley, Rachel Alexander, Jake Hewson, Alessandra Rossi, Joan Roig. This report was written by Joao Heitor, Marta Perlinska and Daniele Pirisino. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Peter Banks and Emma Aitken, respectively. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Molly Agnew-Henshaw. The project was managed for CA by Antoni Nowak.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.25
1	101	Layer		natural	Light grey compact limestone		>1.8	
2	200	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.26
2	201	Layer		natural	Light grey, compact limestone		>1.8	
3	300	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
3	301	Layer		subsoil	Mid brown, sandy clay, compact, frequent fine limestone		>1.8	0.14
3	302	Layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
4	400	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
4	401	Layer		subsoil	Mid brown, sandy clay, compact, frequent fine limestone		>1.8	0.14
4	402	Layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
5	500	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.27
5	501	Layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
6	600	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.35
6	601	Layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
7	700	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.10
7	701	Layer		subsoil	Mid brown, sandy clay, compact, frequent fine limestone		>1.8	0.35
7	702	Layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
8	800	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.25
8	801	Layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
8	802	Cut		Ditch	Nw-se aligned, moderate sides and concave base		0.97	0.44
8	803	fill	802	fill	Mid brown, sandy clay, firm, occasional small and medium limestone		0.49	0.20
8	804	fill	802	fill	Dark reddish brown, sandy clay, friable, frequent fine small and medium limestone		0.96	0.24
8	805	cut		ditch	Nw-se aligned, sloping sides and flat base		1.20	0.25
8	806	fill	805	fill	Mid greyish brown, clayey silt, friable, frequent large flat limestones		1.20	0.25
9	900	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.3
9	901	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
9	902	cut		ditch	Curvilinear NW-SE. Steep edges with flat base		1.04	0.2

9	903	fill	902	fill	Mid red brown. Silty clay. Friable, frequent angular mudstones		1.04	0.2
9	904	cut		ditch	Curvilinear NE-SW. Steep edges with flat base		1	0.19
9	905	fill	904	fill	Mid red brown, silty clay, friable, frequent rooting, and varied size mudstones		1	0.19
9	906	cut		pit	Circular in plan. Steep almost vertical edges with flat base		2.40	0.52
9	907	fill	906	fill	Slumping fill. Mid red brown, silty clay, friable, frequent varied size mudstones, and rooting		0.31	0.39
9	908	fill	906	fill	Mid grey, brown, silty clay, friable, frequent varied sized mudstones and occasional rooting		2.10	0.46
9	909	fill	906	fill	Mid brown grey, silty clay, friable, rare small mudstones, and rooting		1.84	0.20
9	910	cut		pit	Sub-angular, steep cut sides, vertical in place, flat base		2	0.55
9	911	fill	910	fill	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		2	0.55
10	1000	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.26
10	1001	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.24
11	1101	Layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
11	1102	cut		ditch	Unexcavated feature		1.03	
11	1103	cut		ditch	Unexcavated feature		1	
12	1200	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
12	1201	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.42
12	1202	Layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
13	1300	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
13	1301	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.20
13	1302	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
14	1400	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
14	1401	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
15	1500	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
15	1501	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.15
15	1502	Layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
16	1600	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.27
16	1601	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
17	1700	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.45
17	1701	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
18	1800	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.26

18	1801	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
19	1900	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.26
19	1901	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
20	2000	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.26
20	2001	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
21	2100	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.34
21	2101	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
21	2102	cut		Cremation	unexcavated		0.68	
22	2200	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.26
22	2201	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.17
22	2202	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
22	2203	cut		ditch	Linear, NNW- SSE aligned, moderate concave sides, rounded concave base		1	0.27
22	2204	fill	2203	fill	Mid brown, sandy silt, friable, Common sub-angular limestone		1	0.27
22	2205	cut		ditch	Linear, NNW- SSE aligned, shallow sloping concave sides, flattish base		1.27	0.20
22	2206	fill	2205	fill	Mid brown, sandy silt, friable, Common sub-angular limestone		1.27	0.20
23	2300	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
23	2301	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.24
23	2302	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
24	2400	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.30
24	2401	layer		Natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
25	2500	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.29
25	2501	layer		Natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
26	2600	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
26	2601	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.21
26	2602	layer		natural	Mid reddish brown sandy clay, firm with frequent fine manganese and light greenish brown clay patches		>1.8	
27	2700	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.34
27	2701	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
28	2800	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.28
28	2801	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.30
28	2802	layer		Natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
28	2803	cut		ditch	unexcavated		0.97	
28	2804	cut		ditch	unexcavated		1.32	
29	2900	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.30

29	2901	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.11
29	2902	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
29	2903	cut		ditch	SW-ne aligned, moderate sides and concave base		0.90	0.26
29	2904	fill	2903	fill	Mid brown, sandy clay, moderately compact, frequent fine limestone		0.90	0.26
30	3000	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.24
30	3001	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.05
30	3002	layer		Natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
30	3003	cut		furrow	Unexcavated		0.92	
31	3100	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.26
31	3101	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
32	3200	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.25
32	3201	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.13
32	3202	layer		Natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
32	3203	cut		ditch	NE-SW aligned, gentle sloping leading to vertical sides, slightly concave base,		3.30	0.75
32	3204	fill	3203	Fill	Light brown, Mixture of natural stone and silt, friable		0.50	0.25
32	3205	fill	3203	fill	Mid brown, large limestone pieces mixed with silty clay, compact		2.60	0.20
32	3206	fill	3203	Fill	Dark grey, brown, silty clay, friable, Common limestone pieces		2.70	0.65
32	3208	cut		ditch	Unexcavated		1.14	
33	3300	layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.26
33	3301	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.04
33	3302	layer		Natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
33	3303	cut		ditch	NE-SW aligned, moderate sloping sides, flat base		1	0.15
33	3304	fill	3303	fill	Mid brown, silty clay, soft, moderate sub-angular limestone		1	0.15
33	3305	cut		ditch	NE-SW aligned, moderate sloping sides, flat base		0.78	0.16
33	3306				Mid brown, silty clay, friable, Common sub-angular limestone		0.78	0.16
33	3307	cut		furrow	unexcavated		0.69	
34	3400	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.29
34	3401	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.07
34	3402	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
35	3500	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown, sandy clay, moderately compact		>1.8	0.27
35	3501	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.06
35	3502	layer		Natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
36	3600	layer		topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.24

36	3601	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.40
36	3602	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
36	3603	cut		ditch	unexcavated		0.89	
36	3604	cut		furrow	unexcavated		0.70	
37	3700	layer		topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.24
37	3701	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.13
37	3702	layer		Natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
38	3800	layer		topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.28
38	3801	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.12
38	3802	layer		Natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
38	3803	cut		ditch	Curvilinear, straight cut sides, flat base		1	0.18
38	3804	fill	3803	fill	Mid brown, sandy silt, friable, Common sub-angular limestone		1	0.18
38	3805	cut		posthole	unexcavated		0.52	
39	3900	layer		topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.26
39	3901	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.11
39	3902	layer		Natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
39	3903	cut		ditch	Nw-se aligned, ne side vertical, sw side steep, flat base		0.89	0.24
39	3904	Fill	3903	fill	Mid orange, brown, clay silt, compact, frequent stone inclusions		0.89	0.24
39	3905	cut		ditch	Nw-se aligned, steep sides and flat base		1.54	0.38
39	3906	fill	3905	fill	Dark grey, brown compact clay silt		1.54	0.38
39	3907	cut		ditch	unexcavated		1.60	
40	4000	layer		topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.26
40	4001	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.15
40	4002	layer		natural	Light grey, compact, limestone		>1.8	
40	4003	cut		furrow	Linear NE-SW. Steep edges with flat base		1.83	0.18
40	4004	fill	4003	fill	Mid brown grey, silty chalk, friable, occasional angular stones, and rooting		1.83	0.18
40	4005	cut		Natural feature	Truncated by furrow. Fairly steep edges with concave base		0.75	0.15
40	4006	fill	4005	fill	Mid red, silty chalk, firm, occasional angular stones		0.75	0.15
40	4007	cut		pit	Circular in plan, steep sides & flat base.		1.06	0.34
40	4008	Fill	4007	Fill	Fill containing skeleton (4010). Medium yellow grey friable clay silt.		0.84	0.16
40	4009	fill	4007	fill	Upper fill covering skeleton (4010) Medium yellow brown compact silt clay with charcoal inclusions		1.06	0.12

40	4010	Fill	4007	fill	Pig skeleton			
41	4100	Layer		topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.28
41	4101	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, Sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.42
41	4102	layer		natural	Mid reddish brown, sandy clay, firm with degraded limestone patches		>1.8	
42	4200	layer		topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.25
42	4201	layer		subsoil	Mid brown Sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.15
42	4202	layer		natural	Mid yellowish brown and light grey degraded limestone		>1.8	
42	4203	cut		ditch	unexcavated		1	
43	4300	layer		topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.25
43	4301	layer		subsoil	Mid brown Sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.15
43	4302	layer		natural	Mid yellowish brown, sandy clay with degraded limestone patches		>1.8	
43	4303	cut		ditch	Ne-SW aligned, moderate sides and concave base		1.51	0.41
43	4304	fill	4303	fill	Medium grey, brown, compact clay silt with limestone & stone inclusions		1.51	0.41
44	4400	layer		topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.25
44	4401	layer		subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.10
44	4402	layer		natural	Light brown and grey degraded limestone with mid brown sandy clay firm patches		>1.8	
45	4500	layer		topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.25
45	4501	layer		subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
45	4502	layer		natural	Mid yellowish brown and light grey degraded limestone		>1.8	
45	4504	cut		ditch	Linear, gradual sides, flat base		1.45	0.42
45	4505	fill	4504	fill	Light greyish brown, sandy silt, loose, frequent gravel inclusions		1.45	0.42
46	4600	layer		Topsoil	Mid brown, silty clay with abundant limestone		>1.8	0.25
46	4601	layer		subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
46	4602	layer		natural	Light yellowish brown and light grey degraded limestone		>1.8	
46	4603	cut		ditch	Linear NW-SE. Steep edges with concave base		0.70	0.12
46	4604	fill	4603	fill	Mid brown grey, silty sand, friable, occasional rounded stones, and rooting		0.70	0.12
47	4700	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.20
47	4701	layer		subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.14
47	4702	layer		natural	Light yellowish brown and light grey degraded limestone		>1.8	
48	4800	layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.20

48	4801	layer		subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.10
48	4802	layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown and light grey degraded limestone		>1.8	
49	4900	layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.34
49	4901	layer		Natural	Mid brown and light grey degraded limestone		>1.8	
49	4902	cut		Natural feature	Linear NE-SE. Gentle edges with flat base		0.83	0.09
49	4903	fill	4902	fill	Mid brown grey, silty sand, friable, frequent small rounded		0.83	0.09
50	5000	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.27
50	5001	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.10
50	5002	layer		natural	Light yellowish brown and light grey degraded limestone		>1.8	
51	5100	layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.27
51	5101	layer		natural	Light yellowish brown and light grey degraded limestone		>1.8	
51	5102	cut		ditch	Ne-SW aligned, moderate sides and concave base		2.53	0.49
51	5103	fill	5102	fill	Medium grey, brown, compact clay silt. Small, rounded stone inclusions		2.53	0.49
52	5200	layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.25
52	5201	layer		subsoil	Mid brown, sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.10
52	5202	layer		natural	Light yellowish brown and light grey degraded limestone		>1.8	
52	5203	cut		ditch	unexcavated		1.66	
53	5300	layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy clay moderately compact		>1.8	0.29
53	5301	layer		natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay and light grey degraded limestone patches		>1.8	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code*	Oxford Fabric Series**	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
908	Iron				1	23	
3204	Roman pottery CBM	Unsourced sandy oxidised ware Tile x 2	UNS OX ms/msfe/pnk gt	O20	3 5	13 592	RB
3205	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery	Lezoux Central Gaulish samian ware Unsourced sandy grey ware Unsourced shell-tempered ware Unsourced sandy oxidised ware	LEZ SA2 UNS GW UNS SH UNS OX	S30 R10 C10 O20	1 2 1 2	13 31 6 9	MLC2
3206	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Fired Clay CBM	Unsourced shell-tempered ware Pink grog-tempered ware Unsourced sandy grey ware Lezoux Central Gaulish samian ware Tegula x 4, Imbrex x 1, Flue tile x 1, Tile x 5	UNS SH PNK GT UNS GW LEZ SA2 fscpv/ms/msfe fs/fscp/fsfe/mscp/ msfe/pnk gt	C10 O81 R10 S30	4 1 8 2 19 20	14 8 43 6 239 2399	C2-C4
3304	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery CBM	Pink grog-tempered ware Unsourced sandy grey ware Unsourced sandy white ware Oxfordshire red/brown slipped ware Unsourced reduced grog-tempered ware	PNK GT UNS GW UNS WW OXF RS UNS GTG fsfe/ms/mscp	O81 R10 W10 F51 R90	1 5 1 2 1 7	44 30 4 15 2 64	C3-C4
3306	Roman pottery Roman pottery	Unsourced sandy oxidised ware Unsourced shell-tempered ware	UNS OX UNS SH	O20 C10	2 3	28 7	RB
3804	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery CBM	Lezoux Central Gaulish samian ware Unsourced sandy grey ware Unsourced sandy oxidised ware	LEZ SA2 UNS GW UNS OX sh	S30 R10 O20	2 1 1 1	4 3 8 38	C2
3904	Roman pottery	Unsourced sandy grey ware	UNS GW	R10	1	31	RB
3906	Roman pottery Roman pottery	Oxfordshire white ware Unsourced sandy oxidised ware	OXF WH UNS OX	M22 O20	1 7	17 35	C3-C4

	Roman pottery	Oxfordshire red/brown slipped ware	OXF RS	F51	2	3	
	Roman pottery	Unsources sandy grey ware	UNS GW	R10	4	43	
	Roman pottery	Pink grog-tempered ware	PNK GT	O81	1	21	
	Roman pottery	Unsources black fired sandy ware	UNS BSW	R20	1	7	
	Late prehistoric pottery	Quartz and flint-tempered fabric	QFL		1	2	
	CBM	Tile x 4	fscp/ms/msfe/msg		12	170	RB
3908	Roman pottery	Pink grog-tempered ware	PNK GT	O81	1	3	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	Unsources sandy oxidised ware	UNS OX	O20	1	1	
	CBM		fsc/fsfe		6	100	
4009	Iron	Nail, bolt			2	14	

*National Roman Fabric Reference Collection in bold

** Oxford fabrics series (Booth *unpublished*).

Table 2: Summary of pottery by fabric

Period	Fabric Descriptions	Fabric Codes*	Oxford Fabric Series**	Count	Weight (g)
Late prehistoric pottery	Quartz and flint-tempered fabric	QFL		1	2
Roman Pottery	Unsources black fired sandy ware	UNS BSW	R20	1	7
	Unsources reduced grog-tempered ware	UNS GTG	R90	1	2
	Unsources sandy grey ware	UNS GW	R10	21	181
	Unsources sandy oxidised ware	UNS OX	O20	16	94
	Unsources shell-tempered ware	UNS SH	C10	8	27
	Unsources sandy white ware	UNS WW	W10	1	4
	Oxfordshire red/brown slipped ware	OXF RS	F51	4	18
	Oxfordshire white ware	OXF WH	M22	1	17
	Pink grog-tempered ware	PNK GT	O81	4	76
Lezoux Central Gaulish samian ware	LEZ SA2	S30	5	23	
Grand Total				63	451

*National Roman Fabric Reference Collection in bold

** Oxford fabrics series (Booth *unpublished*).

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 3: Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 8												
Ditch 802	803	5	10	0	35	98	*	-	barley	-	*/**	moll-t***; moll-a*
Trench 9												
Ring Ditch 904	905	3	20	20	10	98	-	-	-	-	*/**	moll-t***
Pit 910	911	4	20	20	20	98	-	-	-	-	*/*	moll-t****; moll-a*
Trench 40												
Pit 4007	4008	6	20	10	20	70	-	-	-	-	*/**	moll-t*
Trench 45												
Ditch 4504	4505	2	17	0	40	98	*	-	cf. barley	-	-	moll-t***; moll-a*
Trench 46												
Ditch 4603	4604	1	18	0	50	95	-	-	-	-	-	moll-t****; moll-a*

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 4–20 items; *** = 21–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items
moll-t = terrestrial mollusc, moll-a = aquatic/freshwater mollusc

Table 4: Marine shell by context

Site code	Trench	Feature	Cut	Context	Oyster left valve	Oyster right valve	Oyster MNI	Total (MNI)
LSGL22	32	Ditch	3203	3204	1	1	2	2
LSGL22	39	Ditch	3903	3904	1	0	1	1
							Total	3

Table 5: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

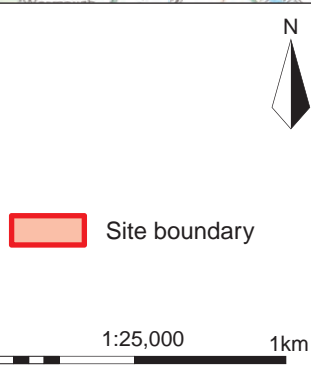
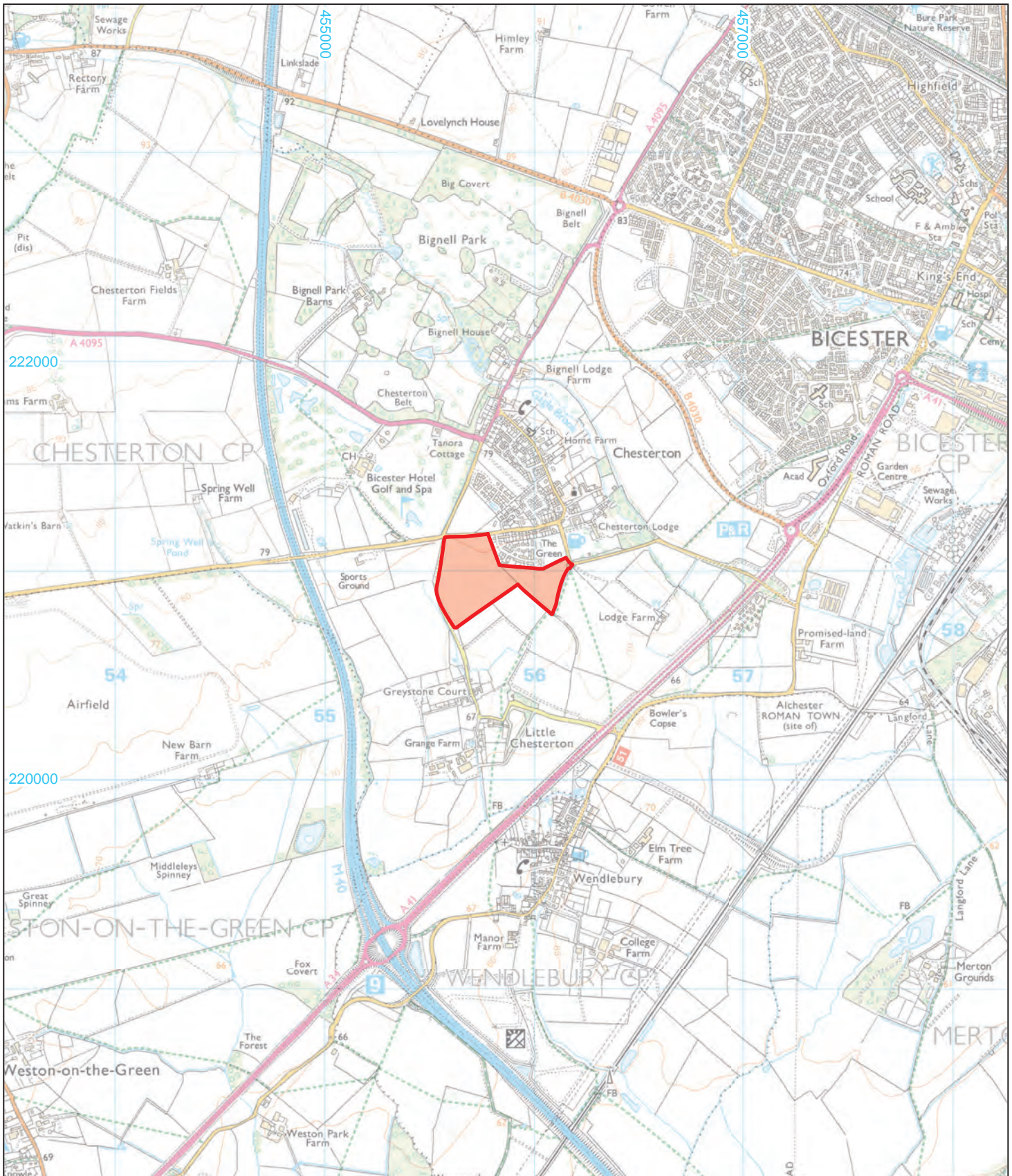
Cut	Fill	BOS	SUS	EQ	LM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
Romano-British								
3203	3204				1	3	4	18
3203	3205	3				3	6	69
3203	3206	2			9		11	60
3303	3304					3	3	4

3305	3306	1					1	24
3905	3906					1	1	5
Subtotal		6			10	10	26	180
Undated								
906	907				3		3	14
906	908					3	3	8
4007	4010		1				1	930
4504	4505			1			1	41
Subtotal			1	1	3	3	8	993
Total		6	1	1	13	13	34	
Weight		100	930	41	64	38	1173	

BOS = cattle; SUS = pig; EQ = horse; LM = large mammal; Ind = Indeterminate

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land south of Green Lane Chesterton Oxfordshire	
Short description	<p>In May and June 2022 Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land south of Green Lane, Chesterton, Oxfordshire. A total of 53 trenches were excavated, with some trenches located to target anomalies identified by a preceding geophysical survey. Overall, there was a good correlation between the geophysical survey results and the features identified during fieldwork.</p> <p>The evaluation identified the remains of a trackway and two main <i>foci</i> of activity located in the north-western and the south-western parts of the site respectively. The north-western <i>focus</i> comprised a ring ditch, and a circular pit alignment, both undated; the south-western <i>focus</i> consisted of two rectilinear enclosures, with abundant Roman pottery and CBM, suggesting evidence for a possible building in the vicinity. Additional, more isolated features included a cremation identified in Trench 21, 100m north of the Roman enclosures. A number of undated field boundaries were recorded in the eastern half of the site.</p> <p>Evidence for post-medieval and modern activity was also identified. This comprised the extensive remains of furrows, concentrated in the western part of the site, an isolated pit, and field boundary ditches depicted on the 1885 six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map. Evidence for modern disturbance was also observed in the eastern half of the site, in the area of Trenches 48, 50, and 53.</p>	
Project dates	29 May 2022 – 15 June 2022	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land south of Green Lane Chesterton Oxfordshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	15ha	
Site co-ordinates	455694 221000	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services	
Project design (WSI) originator	Jonathan Orellana	
Project Manager	Antoni Nowak	
Project Supervisor	Joao Heitor	
MONUMENT TYPE	Ditch, pit, trackway	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Moderate assemblage of Roman pottery and CBM	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box
Physical	Oxfordshire Museum Services	Ceramics, animal bones, metal
Paper	Oxfordshire Museum Services	Context sheets, drawings
Digital	Archaeology Data Service	Digital photos, Shapefiles
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 <i>Land south of Green Lane, Chesterton, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> Rep n.MK0713_1		



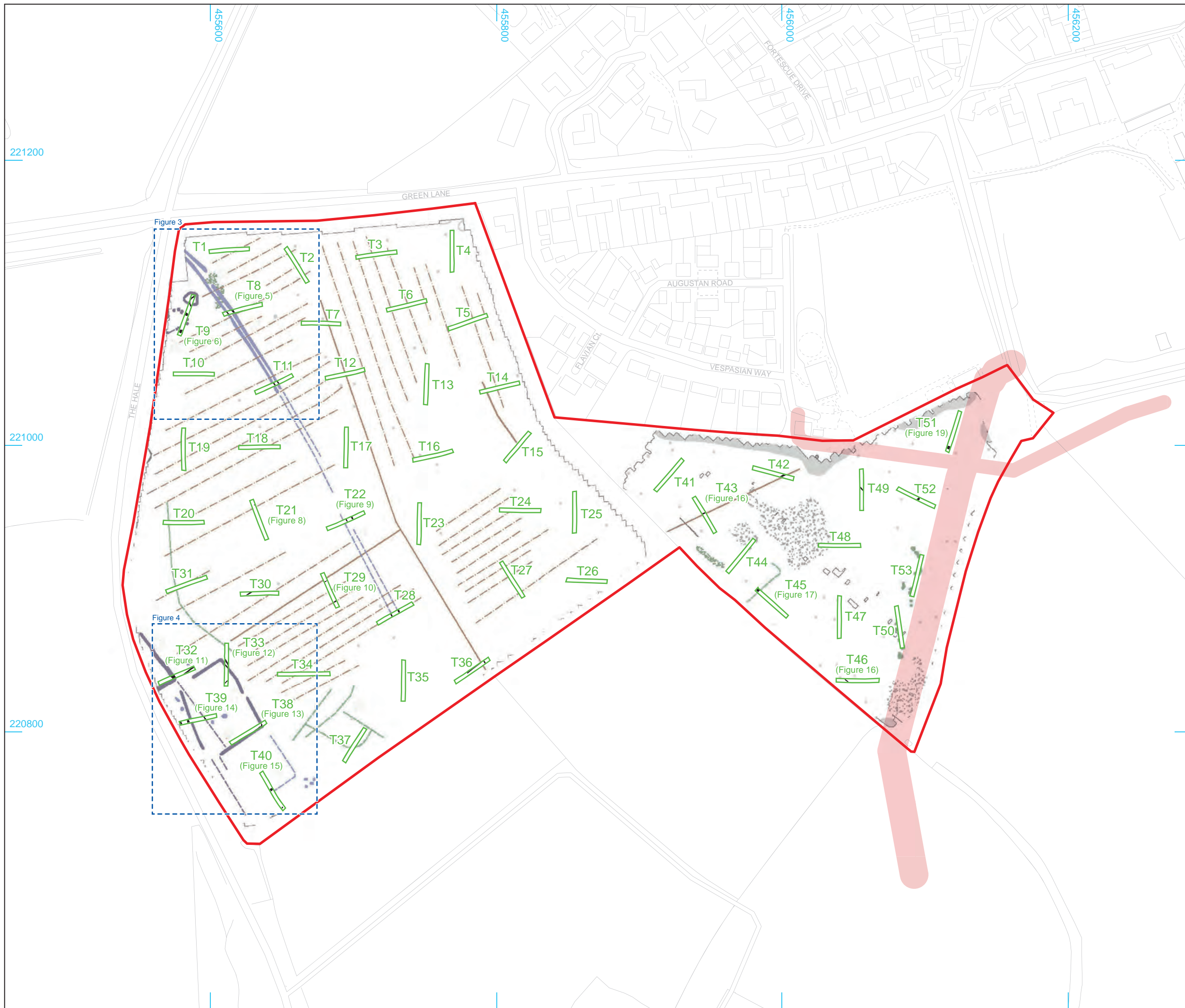

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Green Lane, Chesterton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Identified feature
- Constraint

Geophysical survey results (Sumo Surveys 2022)

- Probable archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)
- Possible archaeology (trend)
- Uncertain origin (discrete anomaly / trend / increased response)
- Former field boundary (corroborated)
- Agriculture (ridge and furrow)
- Service
- Ferrous



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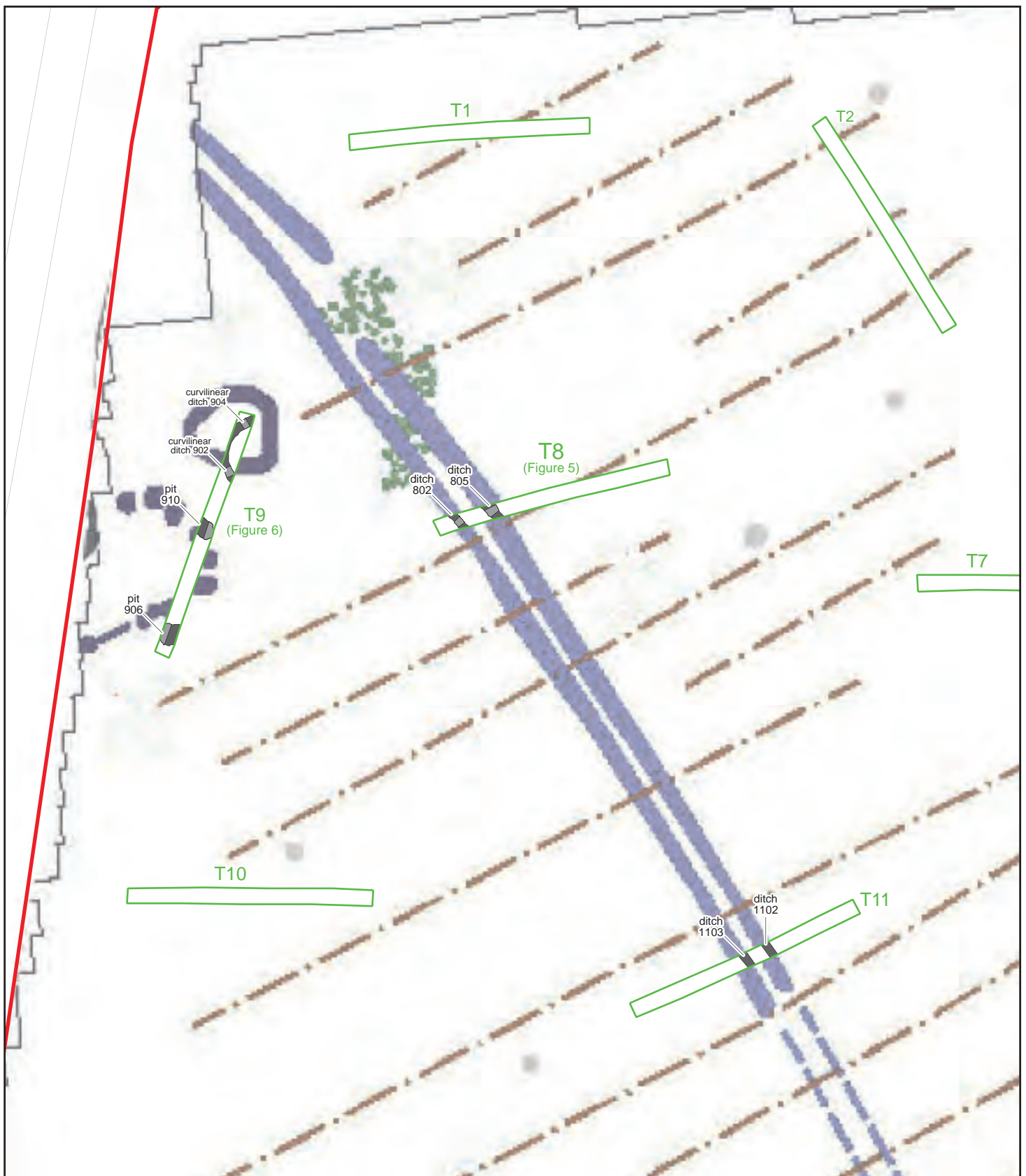
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Green Lane, Chesterton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing evaluation trenches, geophysical survey results and identified archaeological features

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)

- Geophysical survey results (Sumo Surveys 2022)**
- Probable archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)
 - Possible archaeology (trend)
 - Uncertain origin (increased response)
 - Agriculture (ridge and furrow)
 - Ferrous

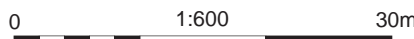


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PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Green Lane, Chesterton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Detail from north-western part of the site, showing trenches, geophysical survey results and identified archaeological features

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Furrow (excavated/unexcavated)

Geophysical survey results (Sumo Surveys 2022)

- Probable archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)
- Possible archaeology (trend)
- Uncertain origin (trend)
- Agriculture (ridge and furrow)
- Ferrous



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PROJECT TITLE

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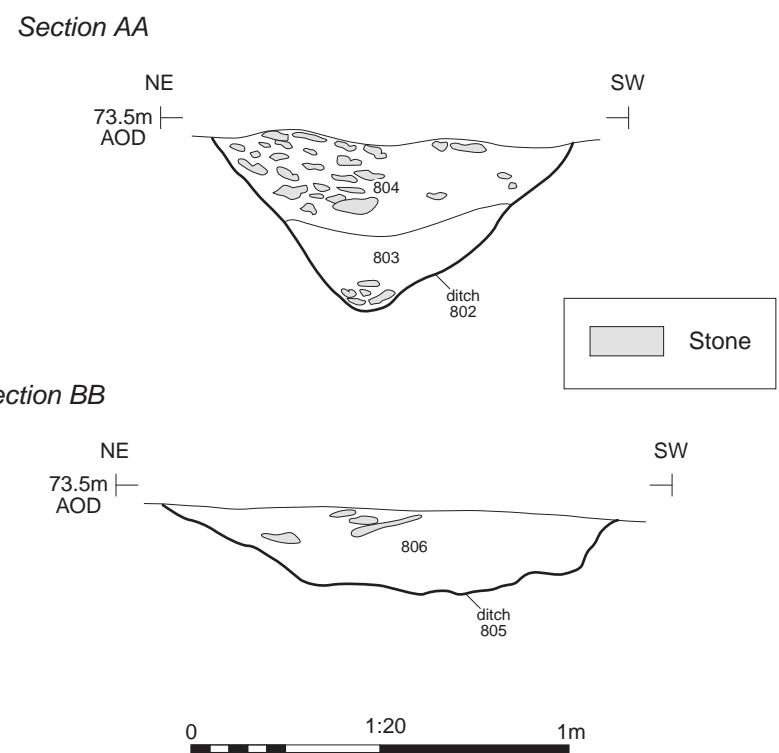
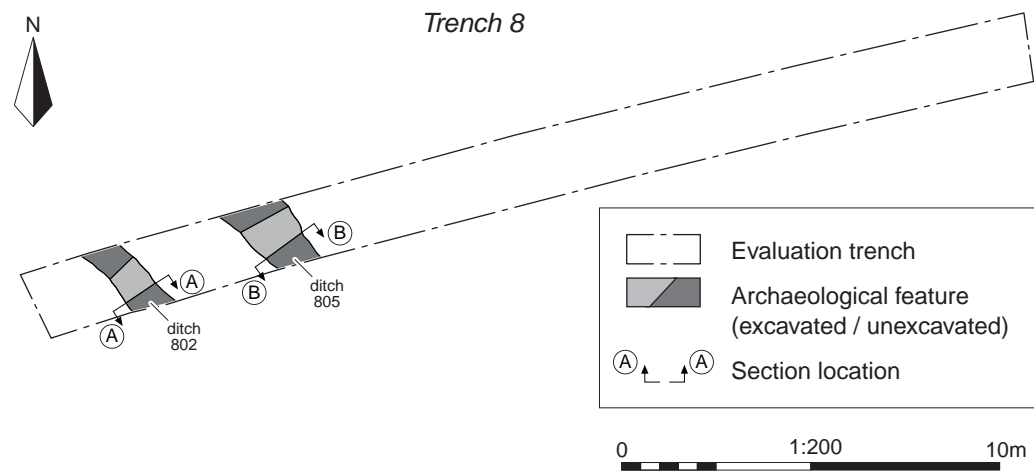
FIGURE TITLE

Detail from south-western part of the site, showing trenches, geophysical survey results and identified archaeological features

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FIGURE NO.

4



Ditch 802, looking south-east (1m scale)



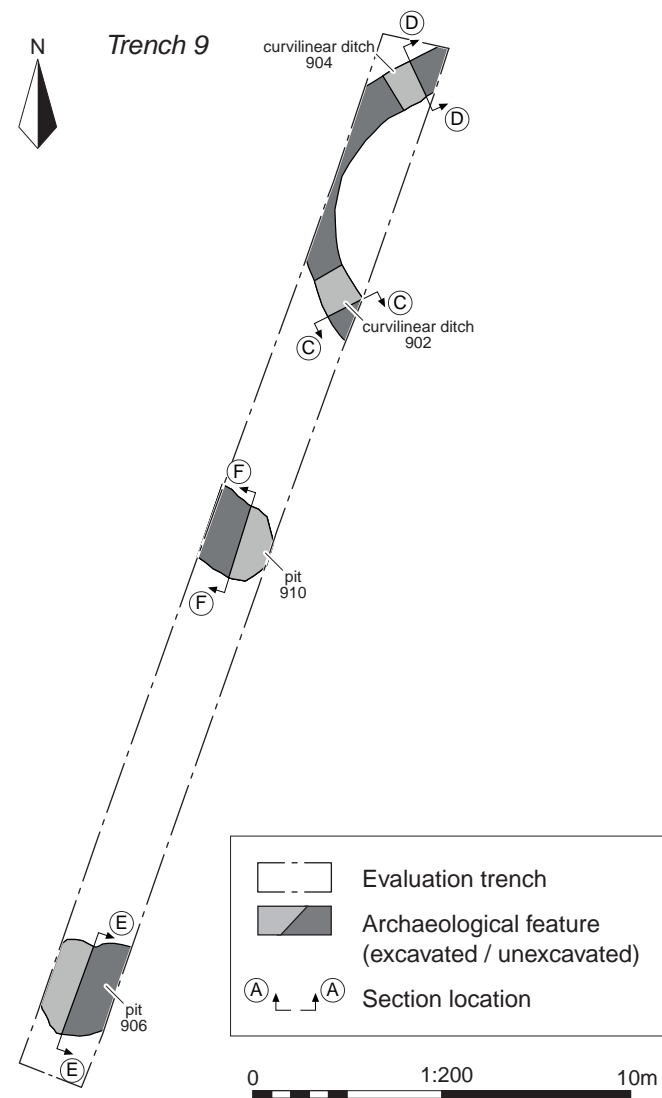
Ditch 805, looking south-east (1m scale)


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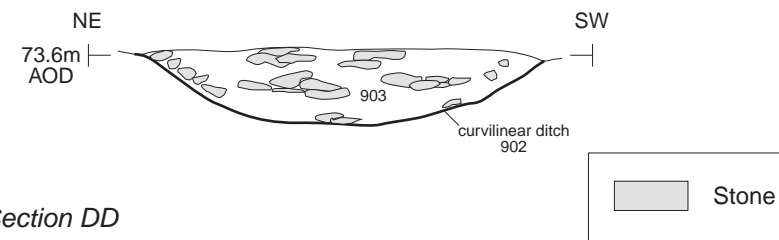
PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 8 : plan, sections and photographs

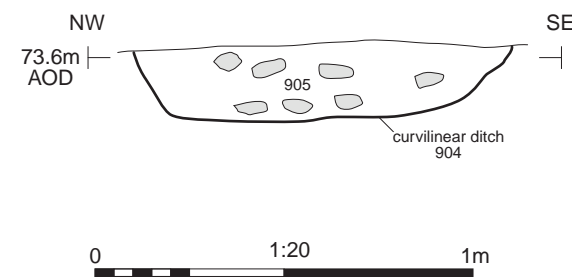
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Section CC



Section DD



Curvilinear ditch 902, looking south-east (0.3m scale)



Curvilinear ditch 904, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

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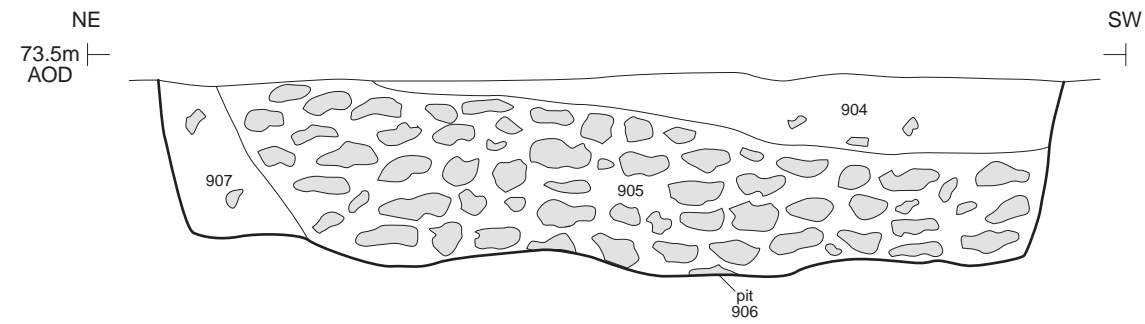
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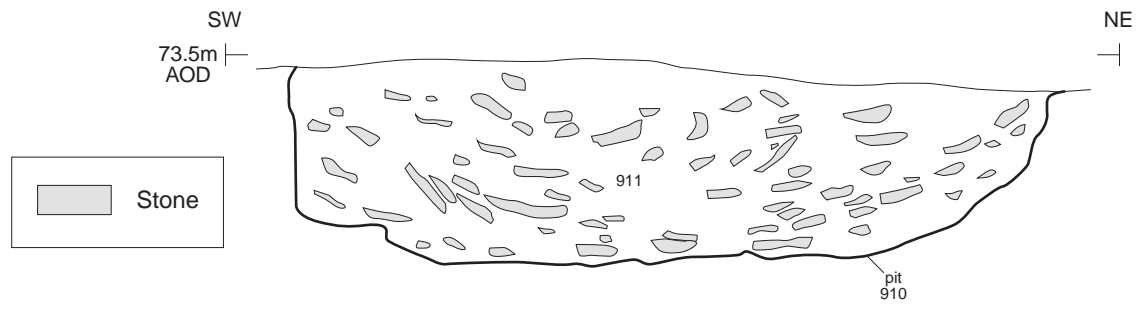
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 9: plan, sections and photographs

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Section EE



Section FF



Pit 906, looking south-east (1m scale)



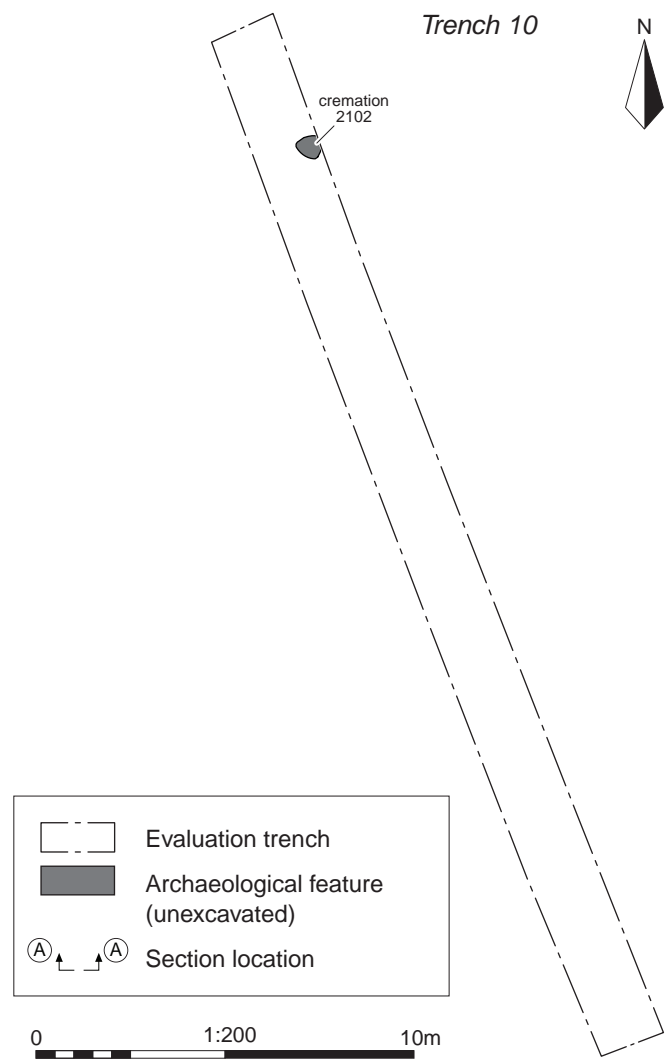
Pit 910, looking north-west (1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 9: sections and photographs

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Trench 21, looking south-east (1m scales)



Cremation 2102, looking north-east (0.3m scale)


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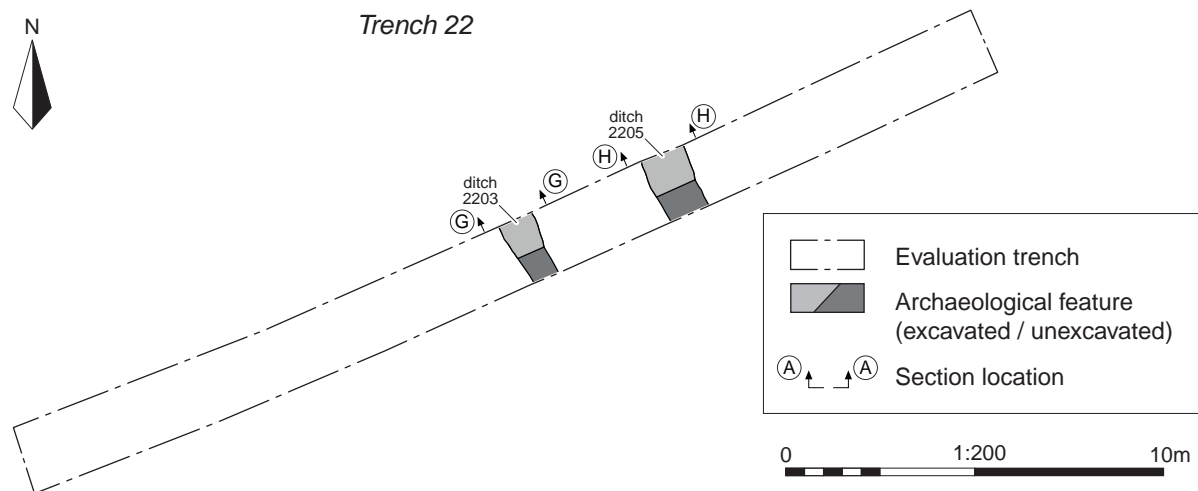
PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 21: plan and photographs

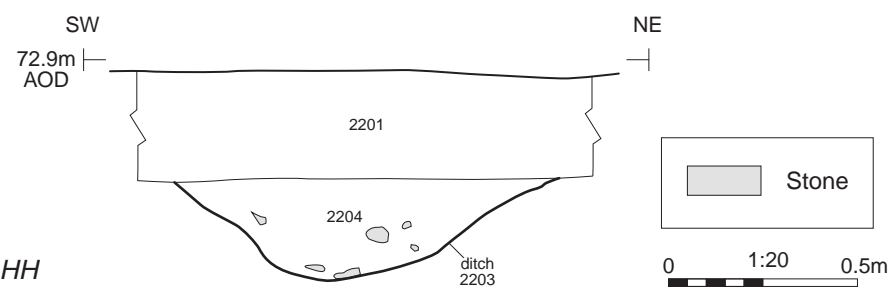
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	24/06/2022	8
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Trench 22



Section GG



Section HH



Ditch 2203, looking north-west (1m scale)



Ditch 2205, looking north-west (1m scale)



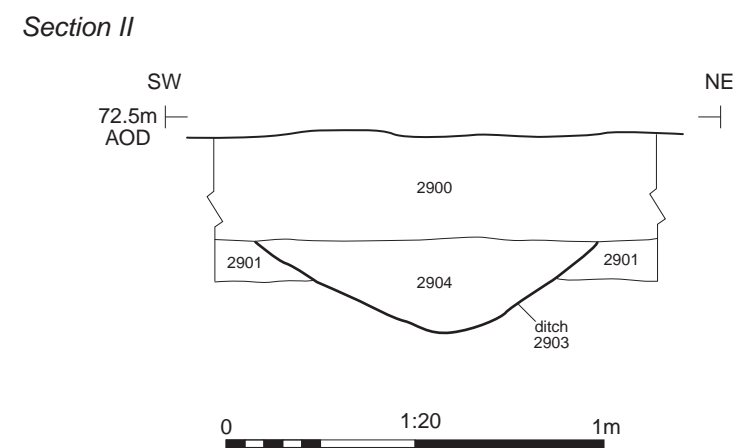
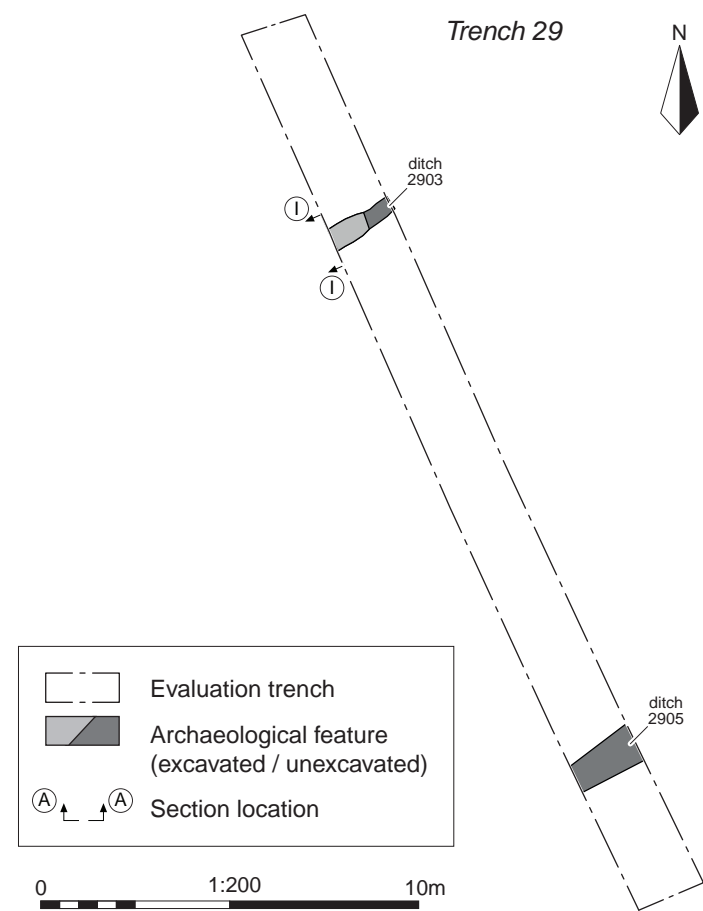
Ditches 2203 (foreground) and 2205 (background), looking north-east (1m scales)


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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 22: plan, sections and
 photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	24/06/2022	9
APPROVED BY	AN	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



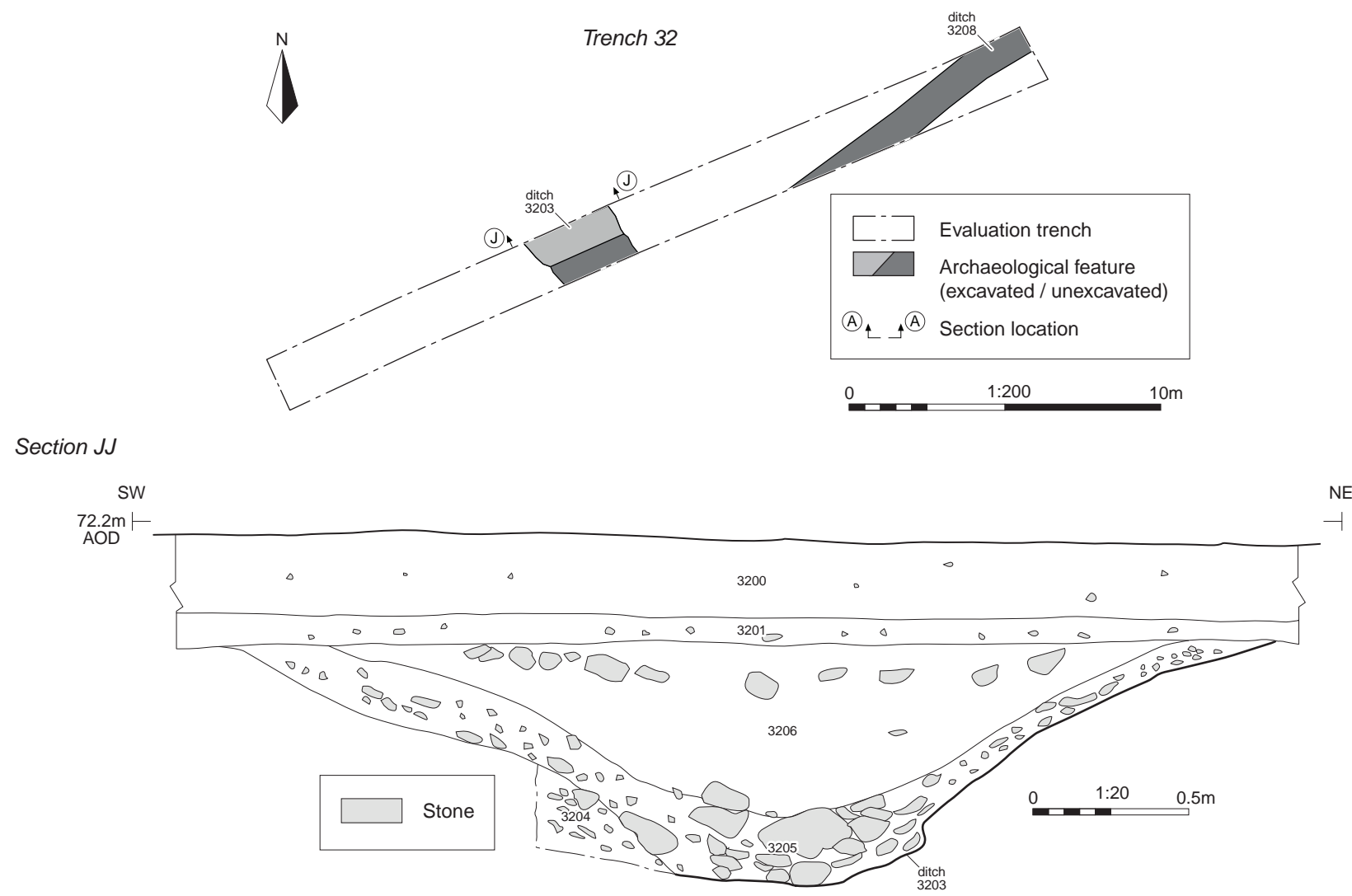
Ditch 2903, looking south-west (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Green Lane, Chesterton,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 29: plan, section and
 photograph**

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> MK0713	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 24/06/2022	10
<small>APPROVED BY</small> AN	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:200, 1:20	



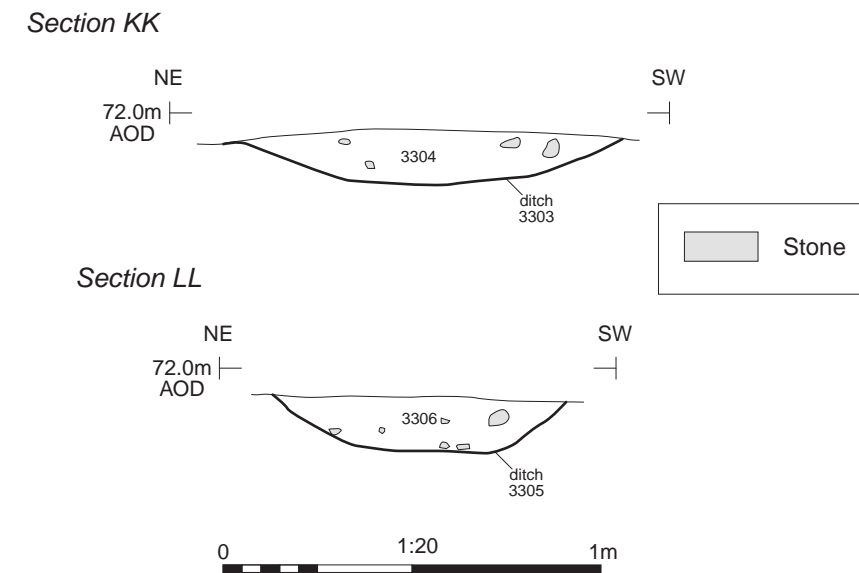
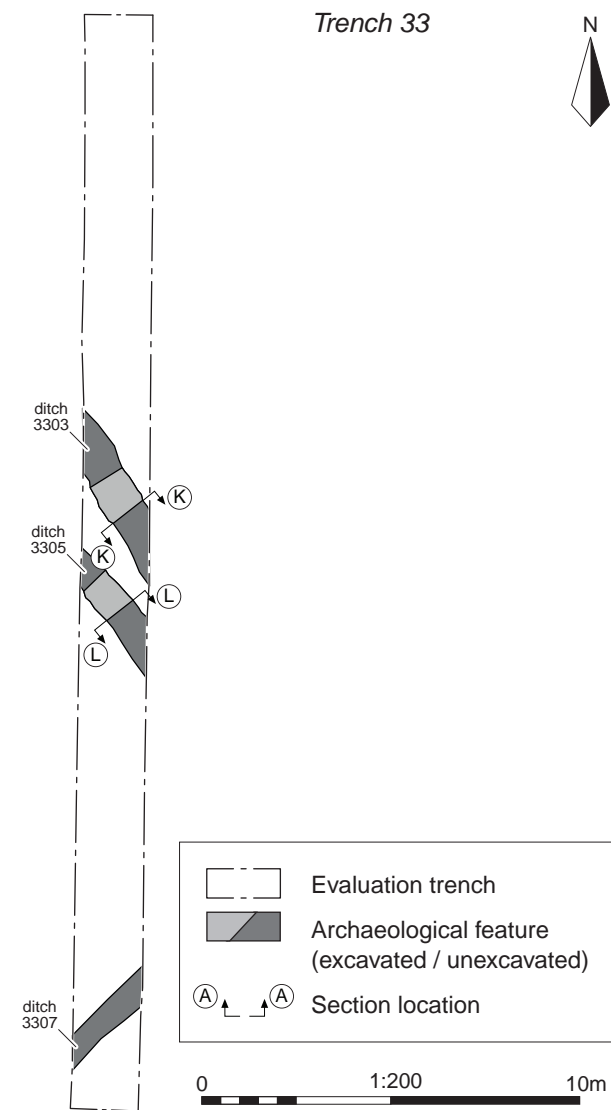
Ditch 3203, looking north-west (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 32: plan, section and
 photograph**

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APPROVED BY	AN	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



Ditch 3303, looking south-east (1m scale)



Ditch 3305, looking south-east (1m scale)

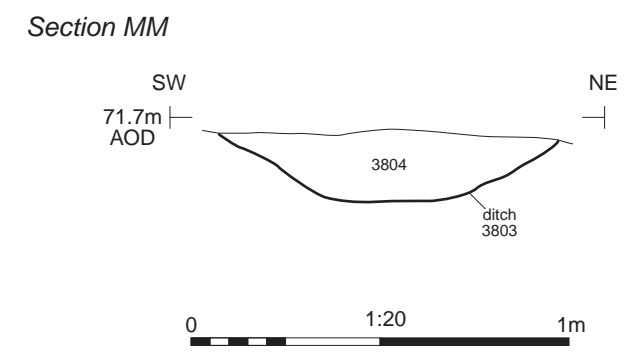
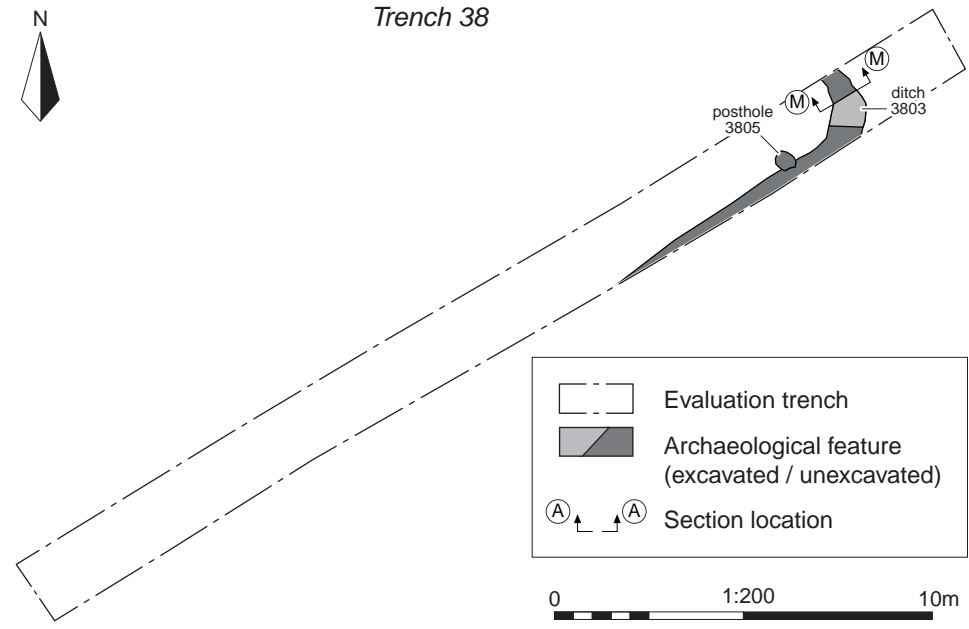
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 Land South of Green Lane, Chesterton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 33: plan, sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	MK0713	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	24/06/2022	12
APPROVED BY	AN	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



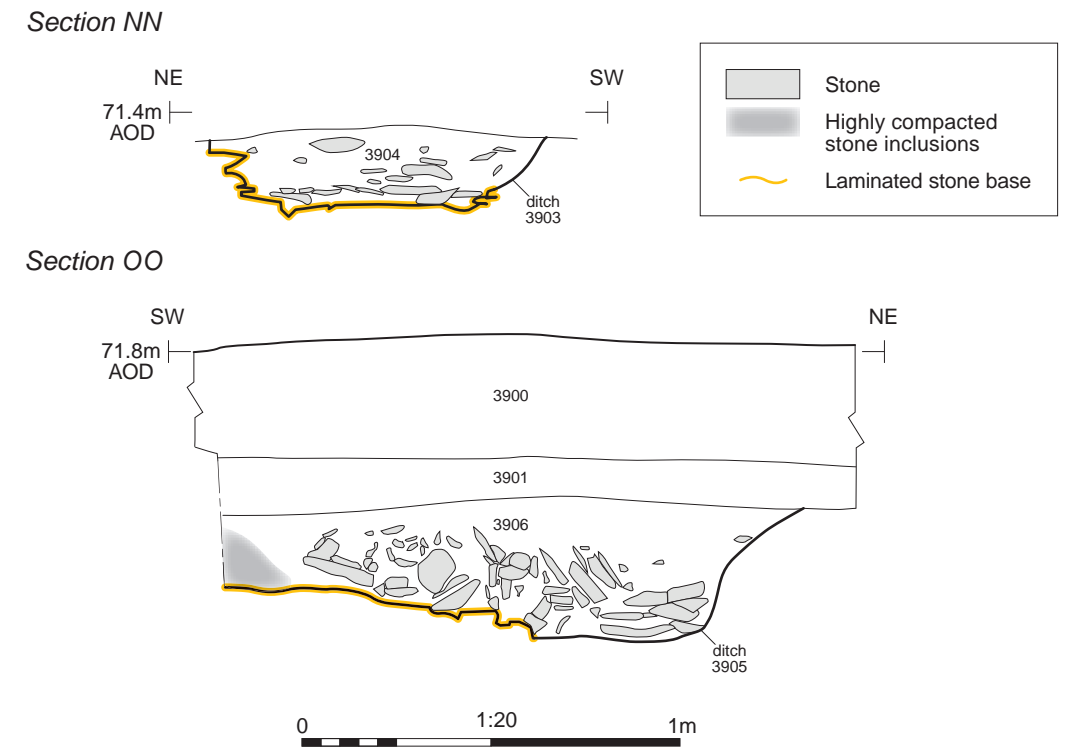
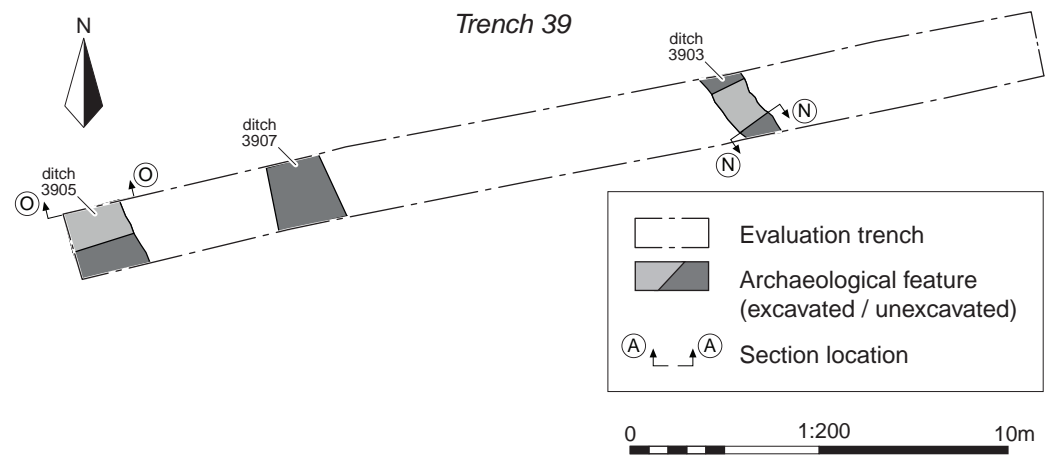
Ditch 3803, looking south (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Green Lane, Chesterton,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 38: plan, section and
 photograph**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	24/06/2022	13
APPROVED BY	AN	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



Ditch 3903, looking south-east (1m scale)



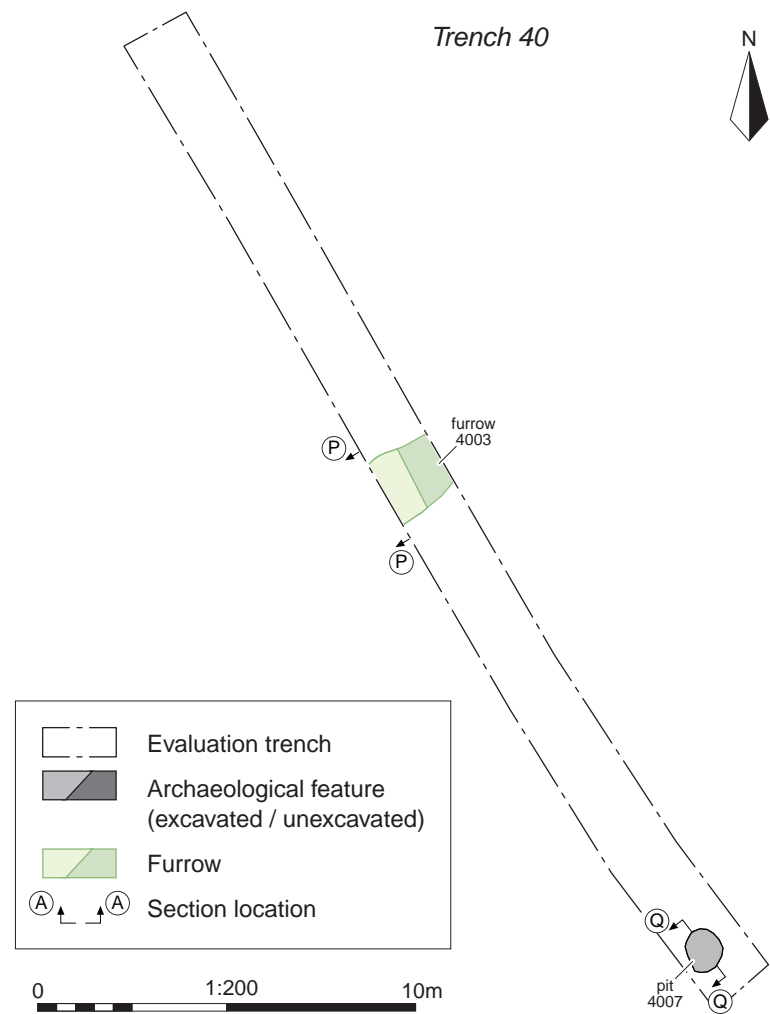
Ditch 3905, looking north-west (1m scale)

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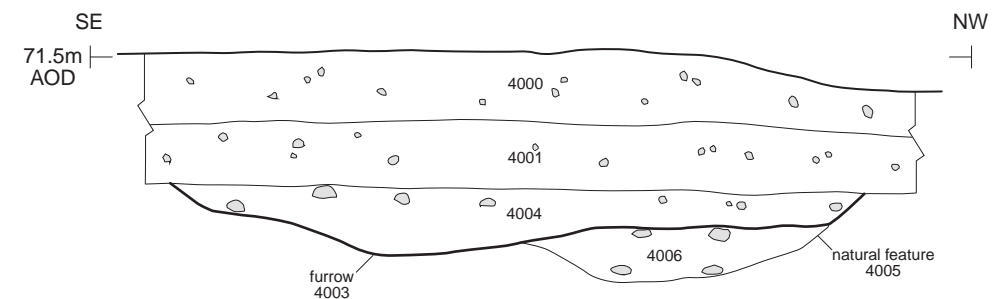
PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 39: plan, sections and
 photographs**

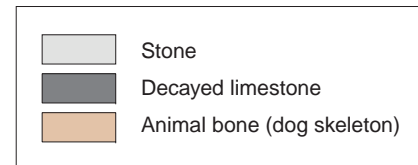
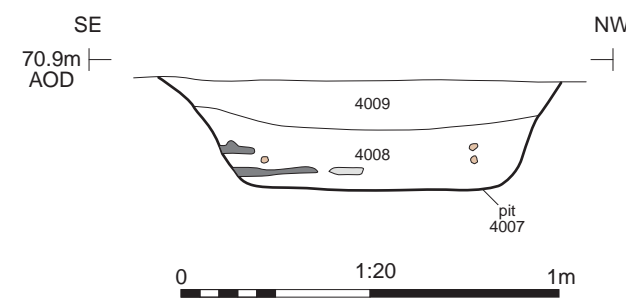
DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. MK0713 FIGURE NO.
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 24/06/2022
 APPROVED BY AN SCALE@A3 1:200, 1:20 **14**



Section PP



Section QQ



Pit 4007 mid-excavation, looking south-west (1m scale)



Pit 4007 fully excavated, looking south-west (0.3m and 1m scale)

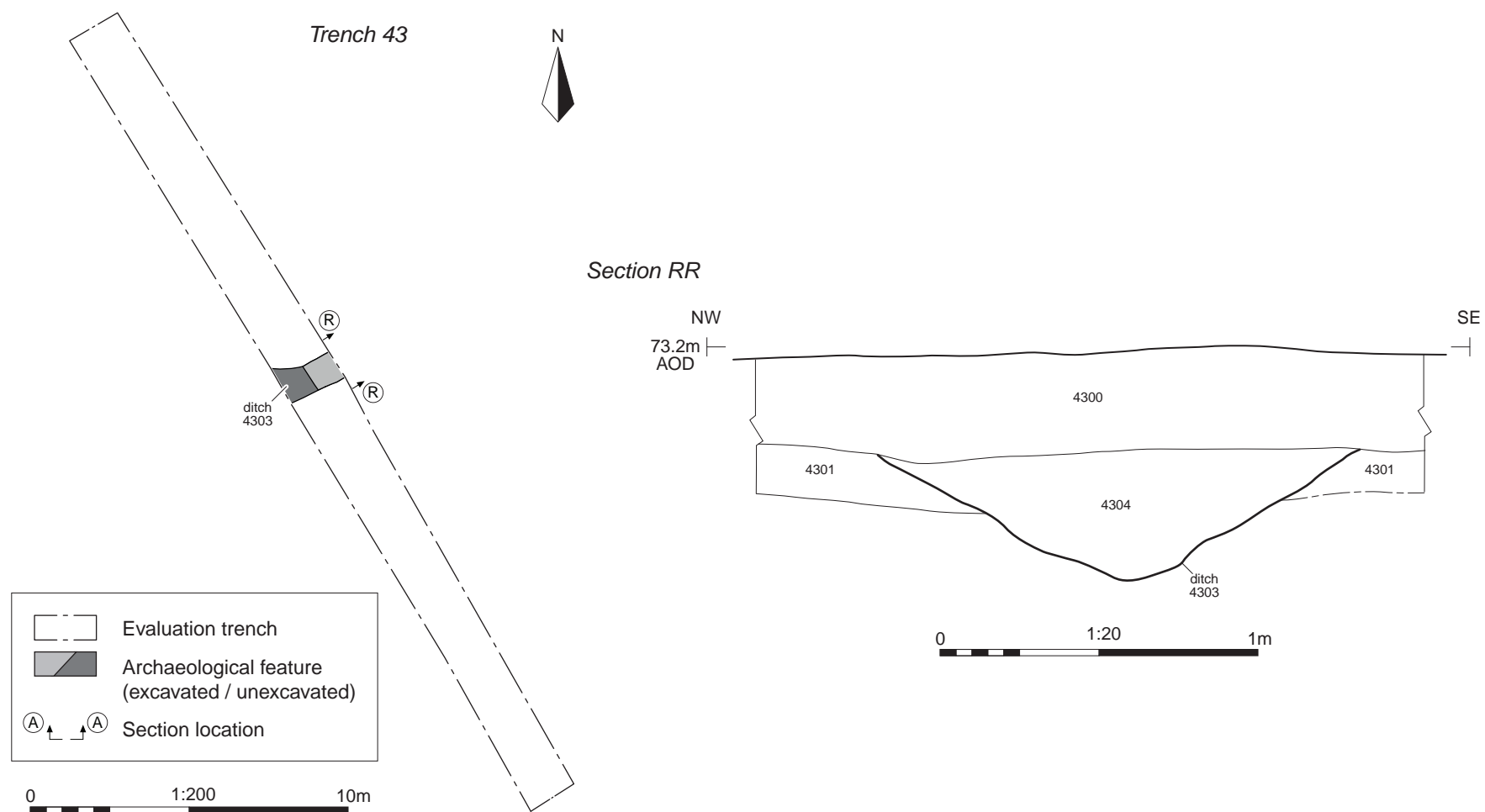
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 40: plan, sections and photographs

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APPROVED BY AN **SCALE@A3** 1:200, 1:20



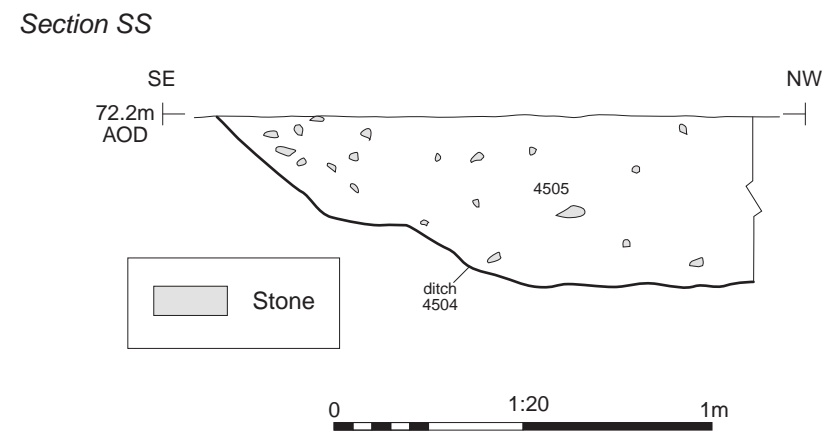
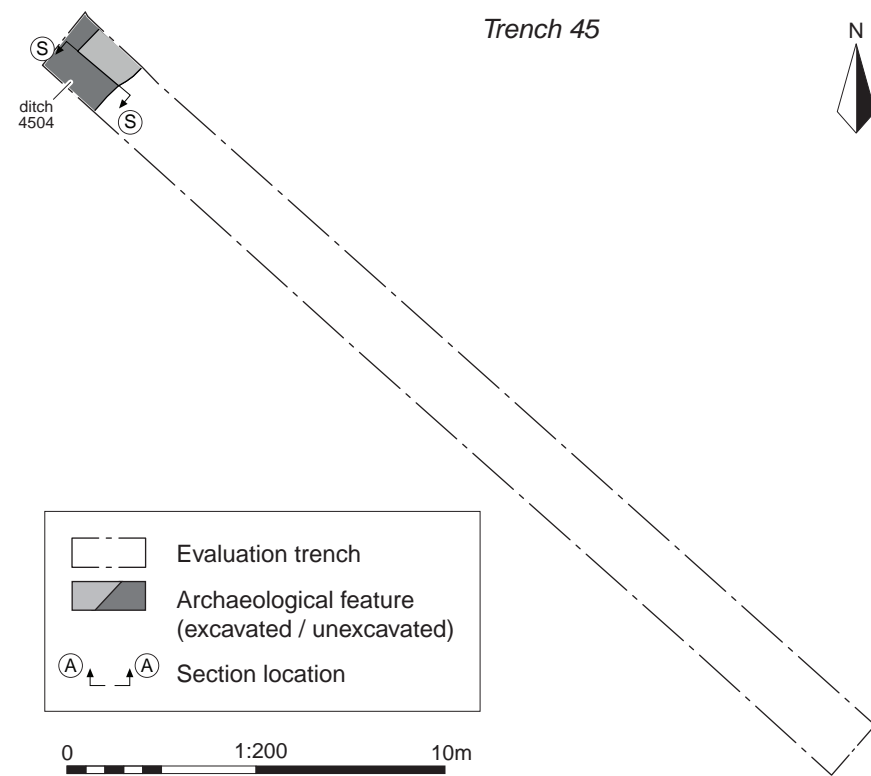
Ditch 4303, looking north-east (1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 43: plan, section and
 photograph**

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> MK0713	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 24/06/2022	16
<small>APPROVED BY</small> AN	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:200, 1:20	



Ditch 4504, looking south-west (1m scale)

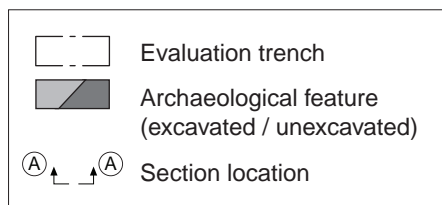
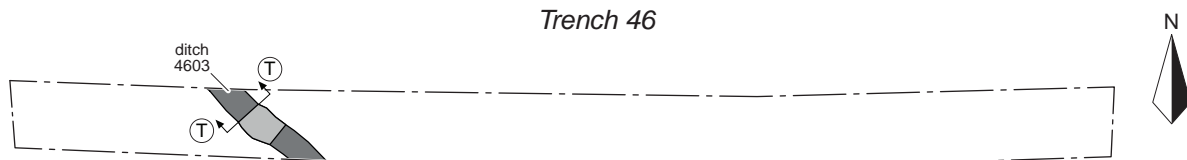

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 Land South of Green Lane, Chesterton,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 45: plan, section and
 photograph**

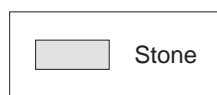
<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> MK0713	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 24/06/2022	17
<small>APPROVED BY</small> AN	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:200, 1:20	

Trench 46



0 1:200 10m

Section TT



0 1:20 1m



Ditch 4603, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



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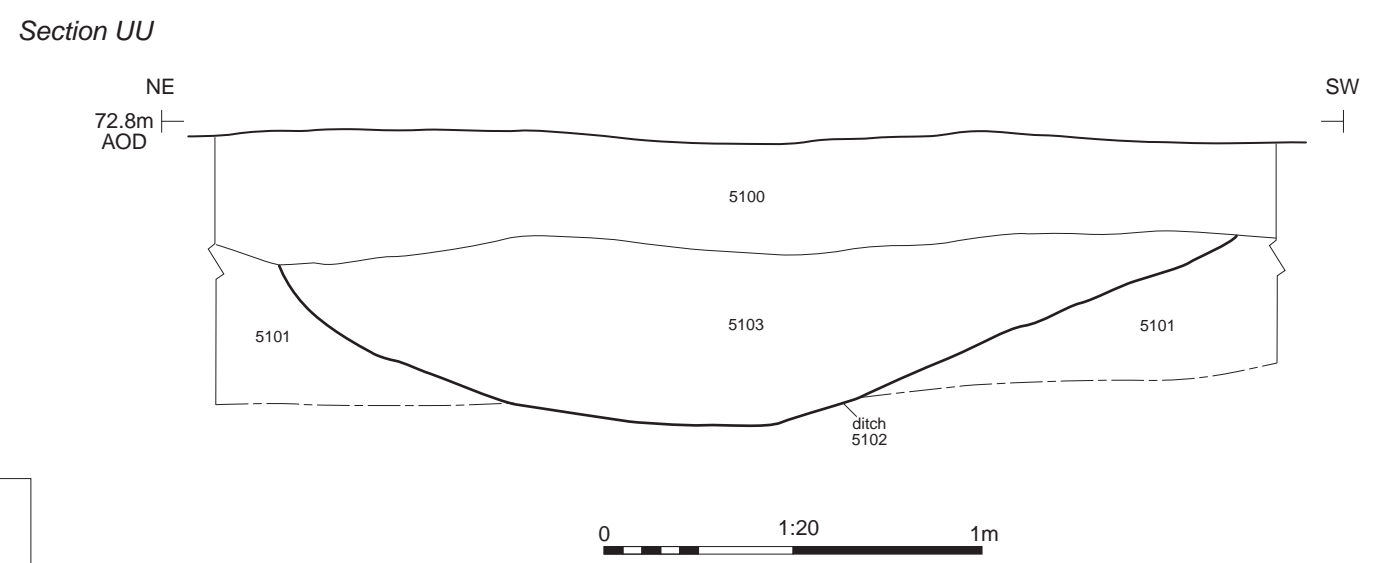
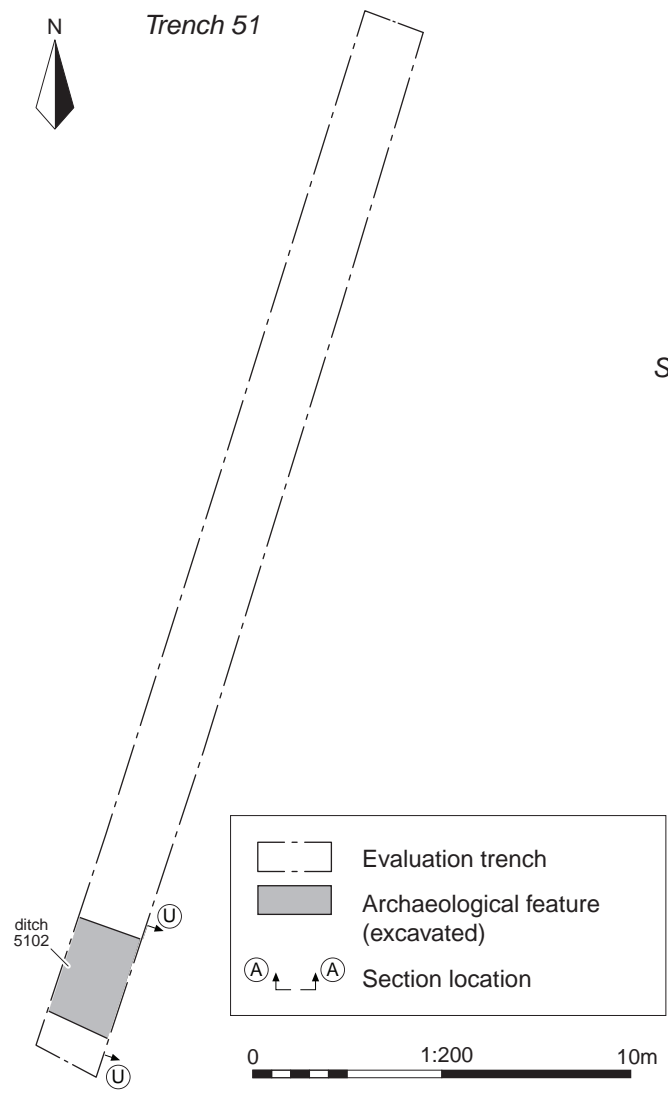
FIGURE TITLE

Trench 46: plan, section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

18



Ditch 5102, looking south-east (1m scale)

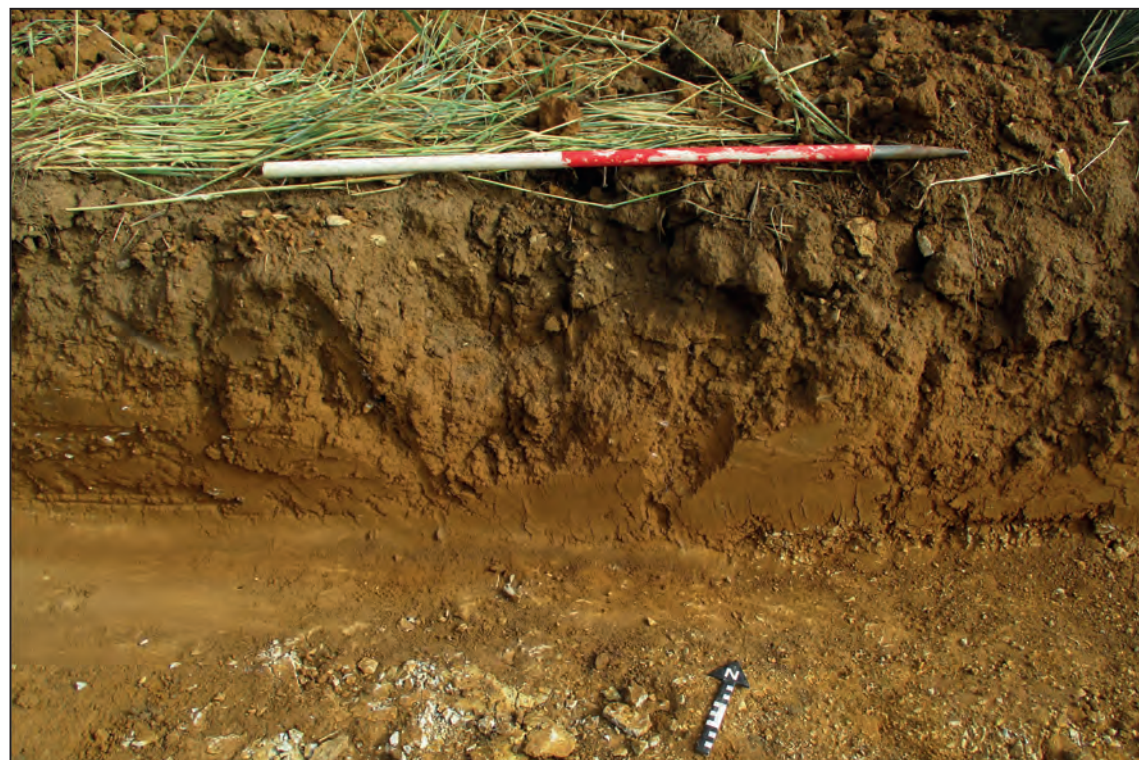
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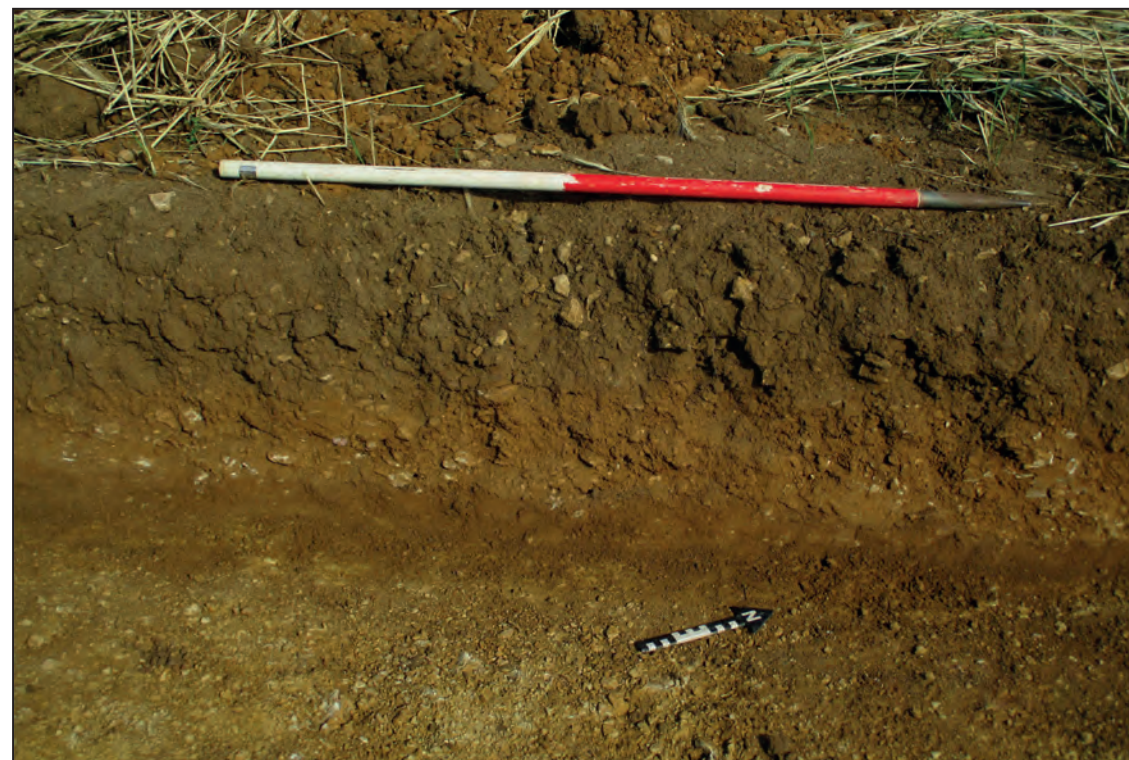
PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Green Lane, Chesterton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 51: plan, section and photograph

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> MK0713	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 24/06/2022	19
<small>APPROVED BY</small> AN	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:200, 1:20	



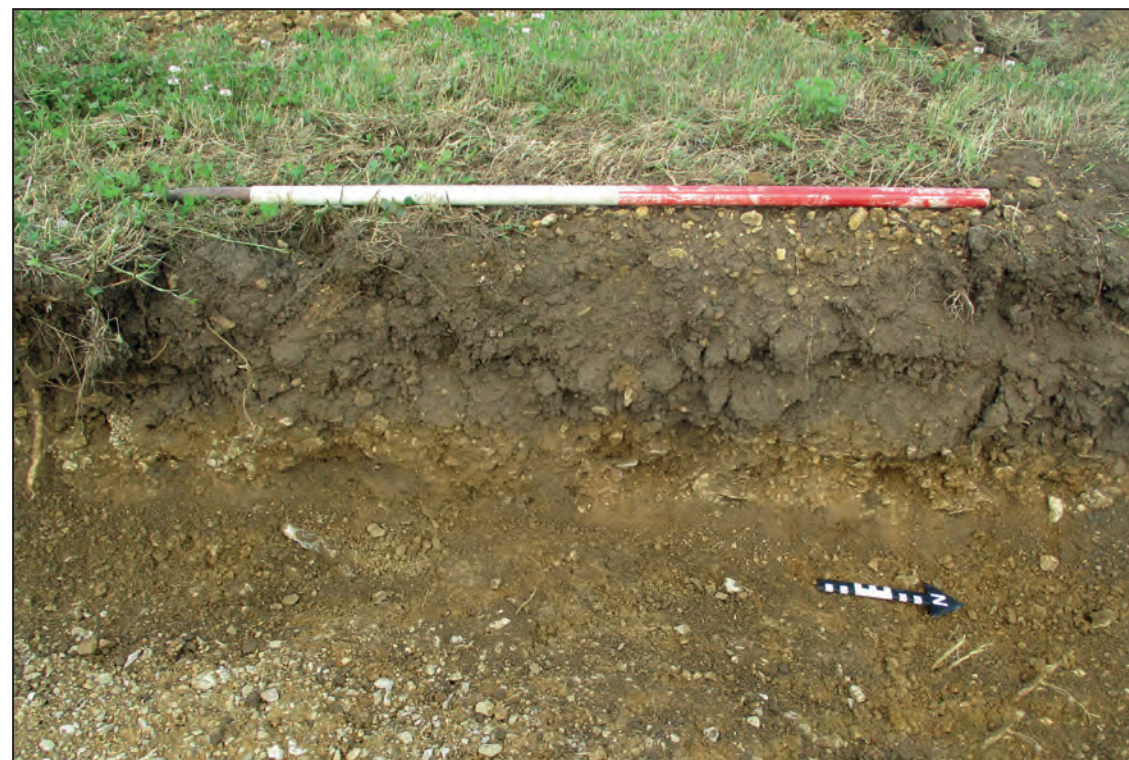
Trench 3 representative section, looking north-west (1m scale)



Trench 12 representative section, looking north-west (1m scale)



Trench 26 representative section, looking south (1m scale)



Trench 47 representative section, looking west (1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE
**Trenches 3, 12, 26 and 47
 representative section photographs**

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