Cotswold Archaeology

Park Farm, Church Lane
Aston Clinton
Buckinghamshire

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

for

Archaeology Collective

on behalf of

Laxton Properties Ltd

CA Project: 669054

CA Report: 669054_1

May 2019

Park Farm, Church Lane
Aston Clinton
Buckinghamshire

Post-Excavation Assessment
and
Updated Project Design

CA Project: 669054
CA Report: 669054_1

prepared by date	Peter Boyer, Post-Excavation Manager 17 April 2019
checked by date	Sarah Cobain, Principal Post-Excavation Manager 24 April 2019
approved by signed date	Martin Watts, Head of Cirencester Office 24 April 2019
issue	01

CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Site Name:	Park Farm, Church Lane, Aston Clinton
Location:	Buckinghamshire
NGR:	487790 211990
Type:	Excavation
Date:	8 August - 4 September 2018
Planning Reference:	17/02994/APP
Location of archive:	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Accession Number:	AYBCM:2019.22
Site Code:	ASTO18

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August and September 2018 at the request of Archaeology Collective (on behalf of Laxton Properties Ltd) at Park Farm, Church Lane, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire. An area of 0.32ha was excavated across the development area, followed by the excavation of three evaluation trenches; two measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide and one measuring 34m long by 1.8m wide.

The investigations identified initial activity, probably as early as the 12th century, associated with the establishment of land boundaries, which developed into more extensive, ditched enclosures throughout the medieval period up to the 14th century. Re-cutting of boundary ditches and development of the enclosures continued into the early post-medieval period, but at some point, probably during the 18th century, there was a significant change from small enclosed areas to a much more open landscape of large fields enclosed by ditches; this may have been as a result of agricultural enclosure. In the later post-medieval period, there was some evidence for the excavation of drainage ditches, prior to the development of an extensive land drainage network in the early modern period.

Finds from the site include a moderate pottery assemblage, much of it of 12th to 14th century date, along with smaller quantities of ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, burnt flint, glass, metalwork and industrial waste. A small animal bone assemblage was also recovered, whilst limited evidence of past landscape and economy was gained from environmental samples.

This document presents a quantification and assessment of the evidence recovered from the excavation. It considers the evidence collectively in its local, regional and national context, and presents an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation analysis to bring the results to appropriate publication.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During August and September 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation and evaluation at Park Farm, Church Lane, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, (centred on NGR 487790 211990; Fig. 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Archaeology Collective (on behalf of Laxton Properties Ltd) in accordance with generic briefs issued by Buckinghamshire County Council (BCCAS 2018a; 2018b) and following discussions between Archaeology Collective and Buckinghamshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor (BCCAA), Philip Markham, the archaeological advisor to Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC), the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

1.2 The work was also carried out according to a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of BCCAA, and followed *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014); *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas* (Munby 2014); the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015a) and accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015b). It was monitored by Philip Markham, including a site visit on 14 August 2018.

Location, topography and geology

1.3 The proposed development site encloses an area of approximately 1ha, and is situated on the southern side of Aston Clinton, to the north-west of Church Lane, a road that divides to the north-east of the site, with one branch also running partly along the north-eastern site edge (Figs 1 & 2). It is bounded to the north by properties and associated gardens fronting on to London Road, to the east by properties and gardens fronting on to Church Lane, to the south by Church Lane, with fields beyond and to the west by fields and properties with associated gardens. Prior to archaeological investigation the land comprised farm buildings, a slurry lagoon and the farmyard of Park Farm, as well as open ground, utilised as rough pasture and a small area of allotment at the northern end of the site (Fig

1.4 s 4 & 5). The site slopes gently downwards from *c.* 98m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north to *c.* 95m aOD in the south.

1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area comprises undifferentiated Cretaceous mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation (BGS 2019. Superficial deposits of heavy clay, derived from the weathered Gault beds, with intermittent drift deposits of glacial till, have been identified in the village (BCMAS 1994).

Archaeological background

1.6 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been detailed within an archaeological desk-based assessment (AC 2015) and further by archaeological evaluation (CA 2015). Reference to the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) identified a number of archaeological sites in the surrounding area. The following section is summarised from these sources.

Prehistoric (pre-AD43)

1.7 In 1915, a Palaeolithic hand-axe was found to the north of the village of Buckland and metal detectorists have recovered a Bronze Age socketed axe and small collections of Iron Age coins in the general vicinity. In 1871 an amphora, containing soil and charcoal, was found west of Quaintways Farm a little more than 1km north-west of the study site; it is possible that the amphora accompanied a Late Iron Age cremation burial, similar to those recorded in Hertfordshire at St Albans, Hertford and Welwyn Garden City (e.g. Stead 1967). More recently, archaeological evaluation carried out prior to the construction of the Aston Clinton bypass revealed a series of Late Prehistoric settlements to the north of the village; these appear to have been sited on deposits of free-draining sands and gravels, which are not present within the site.

Roman (AD43 – AD410)

1.8 The Romano-British landscape around Aston Clinton was dominated by Akeman Street, a military road running between Cirencester (*Corinium*) and St Albans (*Verulamium*). The Lower Icknield Way, which may have prehistoric origins, intersects Akeman Street *c.* 1km to the south-east of the site. Isolated finds of Romano-British material, including coins, pottery and animal bone have been recovered during archaeological works associated with development within Aston Clinton. In 2009, an evaluation carried out by CA revealed a series of probable Romano-British field boundaries on land to the north of Brook Street, Aston Clinton (CA 2009).

Medieval to Modern (1066 – present)

1.9 The site lies on the opposite side of the main branch of Church Lane from the medieval church of St. Michael and All Angels. The earliest fabric within the church is the southern arcade of the nave, which dates from the 13th century (*c.* 1270); the irregular layout of this arcade suggests that it may represent a westward extension of an earlier (12th-century) nave. The church, which is a Grade II* Listed building, was extensively restored in 1867.

1.10 A moated manor house of probable medieval origin formerly lay immediately south-west of the churchyard; its site has been completely levelled and lies partially beneath the current cricket ground.

1.11 Today the southern end of the main branch of Church Lane terminates just south of the cricket field, beside a copse on the edge of Aston Clinton Park. In the medieval period the lane continued southwards to Aston watermill.

1.12 Located at the southern edge of Aston Clinton village, opposite the parish church and moated manor house and fronting the lane leading to the village watermill, the site lies close to the nucleus of the medieval village, though the exact layout of the medieval village is unknown. No earthworks indicative of former cottage and garden plots (crofts and tofts) have been recorded, in contrast with the neighbouring village of Buckland where extensive earthworks of the shrunken village have been recorded.

1.13 Ridge-and-furrow earthworks have been recorded previously in the western half of the site, indicating that this area lay within the open fields surrounding the village in the medieval period. Map evidence indicates that the site of Park Farm, which occupies the eastern half of the site, dates from at least 1816. Its previous history is unknown but there was considered to be a high potential for encountering evidence for medieval settlement within this half of the application site.

1.14 Previous evaluation within the northern and western parts of the site identified the remains of a ditch system (CA 2015), thought to represent the remains of medieval plot boundaries aligned with the main, north-east/south-west aligned branch of Church Lane. The location and orientation of a ditch in the northern corner of the site corresponds with a field boundary shown on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps which is no longer extant by the time of the 1960 Ordnance Survey Map.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological investigations, as set out in the WSI (CA 2018) were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered;
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains;
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains.

2.2 The specific aims of the work were to:

- provide further dating evidence for the field system identified in the preceding archaeological evaluation;
- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use;
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified;
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The archaeological works comprised an archaeological excavation and trial trench evaluation. The archaeological excavation was undertaken within an area covering 0.32ha and focussed around Trenches 1-3 from the preceding evaluation (CA 2016). There was a contingency to extend the excavation area if significant archaeological remains were found to continue beyond its initial boundary, but this was not required.

3.2 The evaluation, which followed the excavation, was carried at the request of BCCAA in areas towards the south-east of the site that could not be accessed at the time of the 2015 evaluation. The purpose of these trenches was to evaluate the archaeological potential of this area in order to determine whether any further mitigation would be required here. It was initially intended that additional evaluation would comprise the excavation of four trial trenches (Trenches 9 to 12), each measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide. For logistical reasons and with the agreement of BCCAA this was subsequently reduced to three trenches (Trenches 9, 11 and

12); the latter only measuring 34m in length. Following machine excavation, only Trench 9 was found to contain any archaeological features, and following discussion with BCCAA it was decided that these were not of sufficient significance to warrant further mitigation.

3.3 The excavation and evaluation areas were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica GPS, and scanned for live services by trained staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the Cotswold Archaeology *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.

3.4 Initially works in the excavation area and evaluation trenches comprised the mechanical removal of non-archaeologically significant topsoil and subsoil under constant archaeological supervision, using a toothless ditching bucket. Machining ceased when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate was revealed (whichever was encountered first). The generated spoil was monitored in order to recover artefacts, including systematic sweeping with a metal detector. Metal detecting and hand-cleaning of the stripped surfaces, to better define any identified archaeological deposits/features and record the distribution of unstratified/surface artefacts, was undertaken as appropriate. All archaeological features were recorded in plan using Leica GPS and final 'as dug' areas and trenches were recorded with GPS.

3.5 Examination of features concentrated on recovering the plan and any structural sequences within the excavation area and evaluation trenches. Particular emphasis was placed upon gaining a secure understanding of the stratigraphic and chronological development of the site, particularly on obtaining details of the phasing of the site.

3.6 All discrete features (postholes, pits) were up to 50% sampled by hand excavation unless their common/repetitious nature suggested they were unlikely to yield significant new information. All linear features (ditches, pathways, etc.) were sampled to a maximum of 10%. Priority was given to features which yielded sealed assemblages which could be related to the chronological sequence of the site.

3.7 All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2013). Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The taking and*

processing of environmental and other samples from archaeological sites (CA 2012), and although few deposits were deemed suitable for environmental sampling, five samples were collected from the excavation area, primarily with the aim of finds recovery from contexts that were otherwise undated. All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation* (CA 1995).

4 RESULTS

4.1 The archaeological potential of the 1.98ha site had been previously highlighted by the DBA (AC 2015) and the earlier 2015 evaluation (CA 2016). Although two small sherds of Late Prehistoric pottery and a single fragment of Roman ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered during the latter, these are considered to be residual, and there was no evidence for significant human activity on the site until the medieval period. A number of phases of medieval activity were identified by dating of artefactual material, stratigraphy and spatial relationships, mostly associated with apparent ditched enclosures. This activity continued into the post-medieval period, as evidenced by finds of 16th- to 18th-century date recovered from within stratified sequences and discrete features. This was again largely associated with ditched enclosures, though there were subtle modifications to the landscape layout. Agricultural exploitation of the site continued into the modern era.

4.2 This section provides an overview of the excavation results; detailed assessment of the recorded finds and environmental samples (biological evidence) are to be found in Appendices 2 - 4. On the basis of artefactual dating, stratigraphic and spatial relationships, the following provisional chronological sequence was devised:

- Period 1: Medieval (12th – 14th centuries AD)
  - Period 1.1: Medieval 1 (12th – 14th centuries)
  - Period 1.2: Medieval 2 (12th – 14th centuries)
  - Period 1.3: Medieval 3 (12th – 14th centuries)
  - Period 1.4: Medieval 4 (12th – 14th centuries)
- Period 2: Post-medieval (16th – 18th centuries)
  - Period 2.1: Post-medieval 1 (16th – 18th centuries)
  - Period 2.2: Post-medieval 2 (16th – 18th centuries)
  - Period 2.3: Post-medieval 3 (16th – 18th centuries)

- Period 2.4: Post-medieval 4 (16th – 18th centuries)
- Period 3: Modern (19th – 20th centuries)

Natural Geology

4.3 The natural geology across the excavation area comprised a compact, light brown clay with frequent small stone inclusions and was overlain by up to 0.3m of compact, dark grey clay subsoil. This latter deposit also sealed all but the most recent archaeological features. The stratigraphic sequence was completed by up to 0.3m of friable, dark grey, slightly silty clay topsoil. A similar sequence was observed in evaluation Trench 9, though contamination had discoloured the subsoil and natural deposits. In Trench 11, topsoil directly overlay natural deposits, there being no subsoil layer present and in Trench 12 modern activity had truncated all earlier deposits down to the natural geology.

Period 1: Medieval (12th to 14th centuries) (Fig. 3)

4.4 Significant occupation of the site began in the medieval period; the finds assemblage indicating activity from the 12th to 14th centuries. Whilst the artefactual material only gives a broad indication of the length of period of medieval occupation, the stratigraphic record indicates that there were at least four sub-phases of activity within this period.

Period 1.1: Medieval 1

4.5 Activity in the earliest medieval phase, beginning perhaps as early as the 12th century, included the excavation of a series of north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east-aligned ditches, forming a number of small agricultural enclosures aligned with both branches of Church Lane.

4.6 Probably the earliest feature was Ditch A, located at the northern edge of the site and extending beyond the north-eastern edge of excavation. This exhibited an apparent curvilinear alignment, though this could not be clearly seen as most of the feature lay north of the excavated area and it was truncated to the east by later Period 1.2 Ditch F). Ditch A was up to 1.18m wide and 0.32m deep, with a broadly concave profile. Towards the east, two backfilling deposits were apparent within the ditch but both were artefactually sterile, however a single backfilling deposit (1029) towards the west, yielded a small assemblage of pottery, broadly dateable to the 12th to 14th centuries.

4.7 No further ditches appeared to have followed the same alignment of Ditch A nor have been associated with it, but a number of discrete pits in the vicinity may have been contemporary features, though the broad dating of recovered pottery and lack of stratigraphic relationships means this is not certain. Immediately south of Ditch A, pit 1009 was a sub-circular feature measuring up to 1.74m in diameter and 0.73m deep (Fig. 6; photograph). The single fill (1010) comprised a compact, mid-brown grey clay that included a quantity of animal bone, roof tile, iron nails and an assemblage of pottery, indicating the feature had been used for rubbish deposition. The pottery dates to the late 12th to 14th centuries but the tile suggests a slightly later date than this. Towards the north-east of the excavation area, much shallower pit 1040 may have been as extensive but was significantly truncated by a Period 2.4 Ditch T (Fig. 7; photograph). The sub-circular pit measured up to 0.61m in diameter and was at least 0.18m deep, with near vertical sides, breaking to an irregular base. The single fill (1041) was a friable, mid-brown grey silty clay, which in terms of artefactual evidence only yielded a small quantity of animal bone.

4.8 Little more than 10m south of Ditch A was pit 1042, a small sub-circular feature measuring up to 0.26m across and 0.1m deep, exhibiting an asymmetric profile. The single, compact, dark-grey brown fill (1043) yielded a single sherd of pottery, broadly dating to the 12th to 14th century. Located a little more than 1m south-east of pit 1042 was the rather more extensive pit 1044, which was sub-circular in plan with steeply-sloping, concave sides and an irregular base. It was up to 0.75m across but just 0.09m deep, containing a single, friable, mottled mid-brown and light-grey silty clay that contained no dateable finds. A little less than 10m to the south-west was another small sub-circular feature, pit 1052. This measured up to 0.39m in diameter and was 0.12m deep, with a broadly concave profile. The single, moderately compact, mid-brown grey clay fill (1053) yielded a single small sherd of pottery of late 12th to 14th-century date.

4.9 To the south of Ditch A, a number of ditches on north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east-alignments appeared to have delineated a series of sub-rectangular enclosures running approximately parallel with Church Lane. A short distance south-east of Ditch A was Ditch D, which ran towards the south-west from the north-east site edge for almost 30m before being truncated by more extensive later ditches. The ditch was up to 0.74m wide and 0.3m deep, exhibiting a slightly irregular, though broadly concave profile. The single fill was a largely sterile,

compact, mid-grey clay, though a section through it towards the south-west, yielded two small sherds of 12th to 14th-century pottery.

4.10 Located approximately 18m to the south-east of Ditch D and running parallel with it was Ditch C. At the north-eastern edge of the site this was up to 1.18m wide and 0.42m deep but elsewhere had been significantly horizontally truncated and was little more than 0.5m wide and barely 0.1m deep. The ditch exhibited a broadly concave profile and contained a single, soft, mid-grey brown, silt clay fill, which was largely sterile.

4.11 Crossing Ditch C on a perpendicular alignment was Ditch E, which extended for 40m from the south-east edge of the excavation area before being truncated by post-medieval Ditch Q. Ditch E was up to 0.95m wide and 0.43m deep, exhibiting a steep-sided, concave profile. The lower fill comprised a firm, mid-brown grey, silt clay and was overlain by a firm deposit, mostly comprising chalk. None of the fills produced any dateable artefactual evidence. Some 4m to the south of Ditch C was Ditch B, which ran parallel to it for approximately 9m before terminating, having been extensively truncated by later ditches to the south-west. Ditch B was up to 0.53m wide and 0.21m deep with a slightly asymmetric, concave profile. Its single fill, a soft, mid-green brown silt clay, yielded two small sherds of residual, Late Prehistoric pottery. It is possible that Ditches C and B had originally marked the edges of a trackway that extended beyond the south-western edge of the site.

Period 1.2: Medieval 2

4.12 The ditched field system comprising Ditches B, C, D and E appears to have been modified at a slightly later date with the excavation of the more extensive, north-west/south-east-aligned Ditch F/G, a continuous feature that was heavily truncated by later, north-east/south-west Ditches J, L, H, N, P and Q. It ran from the north-western edge of excavation to the area of truncation and cut across earlier Period 1.1 Ditches A and D. It exhibited moderately-sloping concave sides, breaking to a slightly-concave base, though the eastern side was a little irregular. The ditch, which was more than 2m wide and almost 0.5m deep in places, contained up to three backfilling deposits; the basal fill was a moderately compact, light-brown grey silty clay, which close to the north-west site edge yielded a small quantity of animal bone and fragments of brick or tile, though the latter may have been intrusive as they appeared to be of post-medieval date. The basal fill was sealed by a thin deposit of moderately-compact, mid-greyish brown silty clay, which contained extensive rooting but no artefactual evidence. The final backfilling of the ditch was with a

moderately-compact, mid-brown grey silty clay, which again yielded no dateable finds.

4.13 South of the truncation by later features, Ditch F/G continued to the south-eastern edge of the excavation area, cutting across earlier Period 1.1 Ditch C. Its form and dimensions were similar to those recorded north of the truncation though only one or two backfilling deposits were recorded in this southern area. The basal deposit comprised a compact, dark-brown grey silty clay up to 0.3m thick, which yielded a small quantity of animal bone. This was overlain by up to 0.24m of firm, mottled mid-brown grey and light-grey yellow silty clay, which yielded a small assemblage of late 12th to 14th-century pottery.

4.14 At the north-eastern edge of excavation, Ditch C was truncated by what appeared to be the terminus of Ditch 1149/1169, though only a small part of this feature lay within the area of excavation so its full form could not be ascertained. The ditch had moderately-sloping, straight sides breaking to a concave base. It was 0.98m wide and 0.5m deep, containing a single, moderately-compact, mid-brown grey clay fill that yielded the largest pottery assemblage on the site; some 50 sherds weighing 628g, the material dating to the 12th to 14th centuries.

Period 1.3: Medieval 3

4.15 At some time during the medieval period, the layout of field boundaries and enclosures appears to have undergone a significant change with a series of ditches cutting across earlier linear features. Ditch J ran on a north-east/south-west-alignment from the north-eastern edge of excavation, cutting across earlier Period 1.2 Ditch F/G and possibly Ditch E. It continued on this alignment for approximately 34m before turning 90 degrees to the north-west and continuing for another 27m to the north-western edge of excavation, cutting across earlier Period 1.1 Ditch D. Ditch J was almost 2m wide and 0.5m deep, exhibiting a broadly symmetrical, concave profile, with moderately-sloping sides (Fig. 8; Section AA and photograph). It generally contained a single fill, comprising a compact, mid-yellow grey clay, though this did vary in colour and consistency along the length of the ditch. Small assemblages of late 12th to 14th-century pottery were recovered from the fill.

4.16 Running parallel and just 1.5m to the south of Ditch J was Ditch H, which similar to Ditch J appeared to turn 90 degrees to the north-west and continue as Ditch I, west of Ditch J, though the continuation was interrupted by truncation from later Ditch L. Ditch H/I was narrower than Ditch J but excavated to a similar depth. It exhibited an

irregular profile (Fig. 8; Section AA and photograph), though this was partly due to later truncation. It contained a single fill comprising moderately compact, mid-brown grey silty clay, the colour and consistency of which, varied slightly along the length of the ditch. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the fill; two of these broadly date to the 12th to 14th century, with the third sherd more closely dating to the late 12th to early 14th century.

4.17 Ditch H also appears to have turned 90 degrees to the south-east as Ditch K, though the relationship between the two features was lost through truncation by later Ditches M and Q. Ditch K was of similar form, though deeper than Ditch H/I, and contained three backfilling deposits. The basal fill, up to 0.31m thick comprised a firm, mottled light to mid-yellow grey silty clay and was overlain by up to 0.4m of firm, mid-brown grey silty clay. The backfilling sequence was completed by a 0.58m thick layer of soft, mid-grey brown silty clay. None of the fills produced any dateable artefactual material, though the lower two deposits yielded small quantities of animal bone.

4.18 At the north-eastern edge of the site, two pits that appeared to post-date Period 1.2 ditch 1149/1169 may have been contemporary with features of this period. Pit 1151 was oval in plan, measuring up to 1.6m across and 0.4m deep, with moderately-sloping, concave sides breaking to a concave base. The single fill comprised a moderately compact, mid-brown grey clay that yielded a moderate assemblage of 12th to 14th-century pottery, along with a residual Roman sherd. A small quantity of animal bone was also recovered. Little more than 3m to the north-west, small oval pit 1171 measured up to 0.79m across but was just 0.13m deep with moderately-sloping concave sides gently breaking to a concave base. The single fill (1172) comprised a compact, mid-brown grey silty clay that yielded two sherds of 12th- to 14th-century pottery.

4.19 Cutting across the eastern corner of the excavation area was a 30m length of Ditch R, which appeared to run approximately parallel to Ditches J and H and may have been a contemporary feature, though produced no dateable artefactual evidence. The ditch was at least 0.9m wide and 0.24m deep, exhibiting a shallow, concave profile, having been recut to the south by Ditch S. It contained a single fill, comprised of moderately compact, mid-brown grey silty clay, and although this was devoid of any artefactual evidence, Ditch S produced pottery of 12th- to 14th-century date.

Period 1.4: Medieval 4

4.20 Towards the end of the medieval period, parallel Ditches J and H/I appear to have been recut and replaced by a single feature; Ditch L, which entered the north-eastern edge of the site, ran parallel with Ditch J, including turning 90 degrees to the north, and continued to the north-western edge of excavation. Ditch L was up to 1.66m wide and 0.68m deep, with moderately-sloping, concave sides, gently breaking to a concave base (Fig. 8; Section AA and photograph). It contained a single backfill deposit comprising a compact, mid-grey brown silty clay that yielded a small assemblage of 12th to 14th-century pottery.

4.21 Ditch L also appears to have turned 90 degrees to the south as Ditch M, though the relationship between the two was lost to truncation by later Ditches N and Q. Ditch M was up to 1.3m wide and 0.62m deep with moderate to steeply-sloping concave sides breaking to a concave base. The single fill comprised a soft, mid-grey brown silty clay, but contained no artefactual evidence.

4.22 Towards the south-east of the site, earlier Period 1.3 Ditch R was recut to the south as Ditch S, and may have been contemporary with Ditches L and M. Ditch S was 1.26m wide and 0.4m deep, exhibiting steeply-sloping concave sides, breaking to a concave base. The single fill was a moderately compact, mid-brown grey silty clay that yielded a small assemblage of animal bone and pottery dating to the 12th to 14th centuries.

Period 2: Post-medieval (16th to 18th centuries) (Fig. 3)

4.23 Exploitation of the ditched enclosures continued into the post-medieval period, with the limited finds assemblage suggesting a broad 16th to 18th-century period of occupation, though the stratigraphy again suggests at least four phases of activity within this overall time period.

Period 2.1: Post-medieval 1

4.24 The earliest phase of activity in the post-medieval period saw earlier Period 1.4 Ditches L and M replaced by Ditches N and O. Ditch N extended in a south-westerly direction for 37m from the north-eastern edge of excavation, running parallel with Ditch L then turning across it and extending to the north-western edge of excavation. Ditch N was up to 1.96m wide and 0.76m deep, with moderately-sloping, slightly-convex sides breaking to a concave base (Fig. 8; Section AA and photograph). It was filled with a single deposit of moderately compact, light-brown grey silty clay that varied slightly in colour and consistency along the length of the ditch. This

yielded small assemblages of animal bone, a single iron nail and small pottery assemblages, including material of 16th to 18th-century date.

4.25 Ditch O also appears to have turned to the south, forming a 'T-shape' in plan, running parallel with and truncating Period 1.3 Ditch K. Ditch O, which extended for 17m from the junction with Ditch N, was up to 1.4m wide and 0.48m deep with moderately sloping, straight sides breaking to a concave base. A primary slumping deposit in the base of the ditch comprised a firm, light-yellow grey with grey-yellow mottling, silty clay that was devoid of artefactual material. This was overlain by up to 0.3m of firm, mid-grey brown silty clay that was also sterile of finds.

Period 2.2: Post-medieval 2

4.26 This period of activity was represented by just one feature; Ditch P, which ran south-westwards for 25m from the north-eastern edge of excavation, truncating earlier Period 2.1 Ditch N and itself subsequently truncated by later Period 2.3 Ditch Q. Ditch P was up to 1.54m wide and 0.56m deep with moderately-sloping, concave sides, gradually breaking to a concave base (Fig. 8; Section AA and photograph). Its single fill comprised a moderately-compact, mid to light-grey brown silty clay, which produced no artefactual evidence. There was no evidence that Ditch P turned to the north or south as earlier features had done.

Period 2.3: Post-medieval 3

4.27 Period 2.2 Ditch P was truncated by parallel Ditch Q, which extended from the north-eastern edge of excavation and rather than turning to the north and/or south as earlier features had done, continued on the same alignment, cutting across earlier Ditches P, N and O and extending beyond the south-western edge of excavation. The excavation of this ditch therefore indicated a fundamental change in layout of boundaries and enclosures on the site. It was up to 1.48m wide and 0.74m deep with moderate to steeply-sloping, concave sides, gently breaking to a concave base (Fig. 8; Section AA and photograph). The single fill comprised a moderately-friable, mid to dark-grey brown silty clay, which yielded a single small residual sherd of medieval pottery.

Period 2.4: Post-medieval 4

4.28 The layout of boundaries and enclosures appeared to have been modified again with the excavation of north-west/south-east-aligned Ditch T close to the north-eastern-edge of excavation, which cut across earlier north-east/south-west-aligned Ditches J, L, H, N, P and Q. It was 0.45m wide and 0.23m deep with steeply-sloping,

straight sides and an irregular base. The single fill comprised a friable, dark-grey brown silty clay and included what appeared to be *in situ* sections of ceramic land drain, indicating the feature had functioned as a land drain, though it was not clear whether this was the original purpose of the ditch. Two sherds of pottery, including one of 16th- to 18th-century date were also recovered.

Period 3: Modern (19th to 20th century?) (Fig. 3)

4.29 Other than the recent topsoil, the only features of broadly modern date were a modern dog burial in pit 1125 and a series of land drains (not on plan) that crossed the site on east/west and north-east/south-west alignments, cutting a number of the earlier medieval and post-medieval features.

Undated (Fig. 3)

4.30 Although most features across the excavation area and evaluation trenches have been phased by artefactual evidence or by stratigraphic association, a small number of ditches in evaluation Trench 9 contained no dateable finds and could not clearly be associated with any other features; they thus remain undated:

4.31 Ditch 907 in evaluation Trench 9 followed approximately the same north-west/south-east-alignment as Ditches N and O, though produced no dateable artefactual material and lay some distance from these features, so cannot be confidently dated to a particular period. The ditch was 1.1m wide and 0.21m deep with a broadly 'U-shaped' profile. It contained a single, moderately compact, light-grey brown, silty clay fill (908), with frequent chalk inclusions. Ditch 903, a little more than 2m to the south, lay on a parallel alignment and may have replaced ditch 907. Ditch 903 was at least 1.32m wide and 0.27m deep, having been truncated to the north-east by later Period 2.4 ditch 905 (see below). It had moderately-sloping, concave sides, breaking to a gently concave base. The single fill (904) comprised a compact, mid-brown grey, silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions but no artefactual remains. Ditch 905 truncated and appeared to have replaced ditch 903; lying between this and 907 to the north-east. Ditch 905 was 1.29m wide and 0.48m deep, with steeply sloping, straight sides, breaking sharply to a flat base. It contained a single, compact, dark-brown grey, silty clay fill, which had frequent chalk inclusions but yielded no artefactual material.

4.32 Two ditches in evaluation Trench 9 followed different alignments to all other linear features on site, produced no dateable artefactual material and could not be phased. Stratigraphically the earliest of these features was ditch 911, which was 1.1m wide,

0.28m deep and aligned approximately east/west. It exhibited a broad 'U-shaped' profile and was backfilled with a single, moderately-compact, dark grey-blue, silty clay, though this had been discoloured by diesel contamination.

4.33 Ditch 911 was truncated by the approximately parallel-aligned ditch 909 to the south. This later feature was 2.01m wide and 0.46m deep, with concave sides becoming convex with depth and breaking to an almost flat base. The single fill was a moderately compact, silty clay, which had also been discoloured to a dark grey-blue hue by contamination. Because of the contamination only minimal excavation and recording of the features was possible and consequently no artefactual material was recovered.

5 FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENTS OF POTENTIAL

Stratigraphic Record: factual data

5.1 Following the completion of the fieldwork an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive was compiled in accordance with specifications presented in the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (Historic England 2015a). A database of all contextual and artefactual evidence and a site matrix was also compiled and cross-referenced to spot-dating. The fieldwork comprises the following records:

Context sheets	204
Sections (1:10, 1:20)	58
Sample sheets	5
Digital photographs	180
Matrices	1

5.2 The survival and intelligibility of the site stratigraphy was good with archaeological remains having survived as negative features. There were good stratigraphic relationships between a number of linear features, though there was a relative paucity of such relationships between other features on site. There was also limited artefactual dating evidence, however most features have been assigned a preliminary period based on stratigraphic relationships, context dates and/or spatial association.

Stratigraphic record: statement of potential

5.3 A secure stratigraphic sequence is essential to elucidating the form, purpose, date, organisation and development of the various phases of activity represented. This

can be achieved through detailed analysis of the sequence and further integration of the artefactual dating evidence. The refined sequence will then serve as the spatial and temporal framework within which other artefactual and biological evidence can be understood.

5.4 While the stratigraphic record forms a complete record of the archaeological features uncovered and a number of inter-relationships between linear features have been established, relationships between other features are few and artefactual dating evidence is limited. A broad sequence of ditched boundaries at the edge of medieval and post-medieval settlement has been elucidated but there is little potential for further analysis of the archaeological dataset.

Artefactual record: factual data

5.5 All finds collected during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. A single metalwork item has been x-rayed.

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Prehistoric (Iron Age)	2	5
	Roman	2	3
	Medieval	158	1579
	Post-medieval/modern	3	115
	Total	*165*	*1702*
Burnt flint		2	4
Ceramic Building Material	All	42	3180
Glass	Vessel	1	2
Clay-tobacco pipe		1	13
Metalwork	Copper alloy	1	6
	Iron	12	146
Industrial waste		1	10

5.6 A moderate assemblage of pottery along with smaller quantities of ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, burnt flint, glass, industrial waste and metalwork was recovered from the site.

Prehistoric pottery

5.7 Two small sherds (5g) of residual late prehistoric pottery, with no diagnostic features, made in quartz sand-tempered fabric Q, were recorded from Ditch C.

Roman pottery

5.8 Two body sherds (3g) of wheel-thrown pottery broadly dating to the Roman period were recovered from sample 5, from Period 1.3 pit 1151. The pit contained a large amount of medieval pottery and the Roman material is most likely residual.

Medieval pottery

5.9 A total of 149 sherds (1558g) of medieval pottery, dating between the 12th and 14th centuries, was recorded from 19 ditch and pit deposits. The majority are handmade and/or wheel-finished (134 sherds, 1386g), whilst a small number of sherds are wheelthrown (13 sherds, 140g). The main bulk of the assemblage occurs in medieval coarseware fabrics (MCW). These coarsewares are made with quartz sand inclusions and are most likely of local production, the bulk from the Boarstall kilns *c*. 30km west of Aston Clinton. The number of diagnostic sherds in the assemblage is small. Jars with flattened rims are recorded from Ditch N. Similar vessel forms have been found at George Street, Aylesbury and date to the 13th century. Similar dates can also be attributed to jars with expanded rims recorded from pit 1171 and Ditch N (cut 1179, fill 1180). Rim sherds from pit 1009, Ditch T and ditch 1169 are from bowl forms with internally expanded or flattened rims; a form common during the 12th to 14th century.

Post-medieval pottery

5.10 Three sherds of post-medieval pottery totalling 115g in weight are recorded from Ditch T and Ditch N. The three are base sherds with no diagnostic features made in glazed red earthenware (GRE) and unglazed red earthenware (PMEW) fabrics; both date to between the 16th and 18th centuries.

Ceramic building material

5.11 A total of 42 fragments (3180g) of ceramic building material were recorded from 13 deposits. The majority of the material is Late medieval or post-medieval in date, with most fragments (33 fragments, 78.6%) recorded from ditch fills. The remainder (9 fragments, 21.4%) has been recorded from the fills of pits. A single Roman fragment and three fragments of medieval material were also recovered.

Clay tobacco pipe

5.12 One fragment of clay-tobacco pipe bowl is recorded from subsoil deposit 1001. The bowl has a heel stamped with two letters (?TD) representing the makers mark. This form of pipe can be dated to the late 17th century.

Burnt flint

5.13 Two fragments of unworked burnt flint were recorded from Ditch J.

Glass

5.14 One fragment (2g) of post-medieval translucent bottle glass is recorded from subsoil deposit 1001.

Industrial waste

5.15 One fragment (10g) of fuel-ash slag was recovered from Ditch J. Although this material cannot be closely dated, it has been recorded from a secure deposit also containing 12th- to 14th-century pottery; a date consistent with this type of industrial waste.

Metalwork

5.16 The site produced 13 metal objects weighing 152g. The material derived from five contexts and is mostly iron nails, which are in poor condition, corroded and heavily encrusted. Additionally, fill 1010 of pit 1009 produced an undateable horseshoe fragment weighing 92g. The only copper-alloy object from the site is a thin sheet folded in tubular form, which derived from Ditch N. The function of this object is unclear.

Artefactual record: statements of potential

Prehistoric pottery

5.17 The two prehistoric sherds were recovered residually from a later feature and are of limited archaeological significance. No further work is recommended.

Roman pottery

5.18 The two Roman sherds were recovered residually from a later feature and are of limited archaeological significance. No further work is recommended.

Medieval pottery

5.19 The assemblage of medieval pottery is of local significance and it is recommended that a brief description of the material, based on this report, is included in the summary publication of the site.

Post-medieval pottery

5.20 The post-medieval pottery assemblage is very small and, beyond providing broad dating for the post-medieval features, is of minimal significance and merits no further work.

Clay-tobacco pipe

5.21 The single clay-tobacco pipe fragment, although dateable, was recovered from subsoil meaning it is of minimal significance and no further work is recommended.

Burnt flint

5.22 The two fragments of unworked burnt flint recovered from ditch 1030 are undateable and of no significance. No further work is recommended.

Glass

5.23 The single glass shard recovered from subsoil has been fully recorded as part of the assessment and no further work is recommended.

Industrial waste

5.24 The single fuel ash slag fragment recovered from ditch 1083 is of minimal significance. No further work is recommended.

Metalwork

5.25 The small assemblage of metalwork recovered from a number of contexts is of minimal significance. No further analysis or illustration is required.

Biological record: factual data

5.26 All ecofacts recovered from the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. A total of five bulk soil samples were taken for the recovery of environmental remains; three from medieval ditches and one each from a medieval pit and a post-medieval ditch. It was hoped that remains recovered may give an indication of past environments and/or evidence for processing of foodstuffs.

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Animal bone		724	3872
Mollusc/shell		41	143
Bulk soil samples	Environmental	5	-

Animal bone

5.27 Bones were in good to fair condition, with a few contexts including gnawed and butchered bone. Most of the bone was fragmentary and indicative of general domestic waste, but two associated bone groups were recovered; the first from a modern, domestic dog burial, and the second a large pig of a size consistent with the larger 'improved' breeds of the post-medieval period, found with the bones from at least two perinatal piglets in later medieval Ditch L. Calf bones were also found, which are consistent with the agricultural nature of the settlement.

5.28 Cattle and sheep/ goat bones were most commonly recovered, followed by pig, with a few bones of equid (horse or donkey), chicken and possibly a wader species. The inclusion of samples has widened the range of taxa present at the site to encompass fish, micro-mammal (vole) and frog/ toad bones as well.

Plant macrofossil, charcoal and mollusc

5.29 Five bulk soil samples (90 litres of soil) were processed from three medieval ditches, one medieval pit and a post-medieval ditch. The samples from the medieval features produced small to moderate assemblages of charcoal and charred plant remains including some barley and free-threshing wheat cereal grains along with weed seeds, though preservation was poor. The sample from the post-medieval ditch produced no charred cereal remains and only a small quantity of charred weed seeds and charcoal fragments.

5.30 Moderate to large mollusc assemblages were recovered from all of the features sampled and indicated variable terrestrial environments.

Biological record: statements of potential

Animal bone

5.1 The animal bone assemblage is typical for a rural settlement of this date. However, due to the small size of the assemblage there is little potential for the recovery of mortality or metric data, and for this reason no further work is recommended.

Plant macrofossil, charcoal and mollusc

5.2 The charred plant remains and charcoal exhibited poor preservation and there was no evidence for any specific domestic settlement or industrial activities. There is no potential to determine specific activities taking place in the vicinity of these features from the charred assemblages and therefore no further work is recommended.

5.3 The mollusc assemblage indicates a well-established open landscape, with areas of longer grass and wetter areas on site. Further analysis has limited potential to elucidate a more detailed picture of the local landscape and no further work is recommended.

6 SUMMARY STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

6.1 Virtually all of the features excavated on the site date to the medieval and post-medieval periods, with each period divided into a number of sub-phases of activity

on the basis of stratigraphic relationships; the artefactual assemblage not being sufficiently closely dated to permit dating on this basis. Most of the activity relates to the excavation and re-excavation of a series of field boundary ditches, located at the edge of settlement, with a number of pits also present.

Medieval

6.2 Medieval activity on the site spanned the period from the 12th to 14th centuries. Probably the earliest feature was Period 1.1 Ditch A at the north of the site, which possibly dated as early as the 12th century, though could even have been earlier or possibly slightly later. To the south of Ditch A, a number of broadly contemporary ditches on north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east alignments appeared to have delineated a series of sub-rectangular enclosures running approximately parallel with the main branch of Church Lane. A number of pits were also possibly contemporary with these early enclosures. The earliest part of the church dates to the 13th century and there is no evidence for an earlier origin. This allied with the bulk of pottery being dated to the 12th to 14th centuries means there is no reason to think that the enclosures were any earlier than this date.

6.3 During the second phase of medieval activity (Period 1.2) the early enclosures were modified with the insertion of more extensive, north-west/south-east-aligned ditch F/G and an apparent ditch 1149/1169 at the north-east of the site. The system of ditches was significantly changed again during Period 1.3 with the creation of more extensive north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west aligned, ditched enclosures, with some further pit digging. Re-cutting of the enclosure ditches continued up to the end of the medieval period (Period 1.4).

Post-medieval

6.4 Pottery dating suggests that post-medieval activity on the site spanned the period from the 16th to 18th centuries; it is likely that there was continuity of occupation from the 14th to 16th centuries but no pottery of 15th-century date was identified. Initial activity in the post-medieval period comprised further re-cutting of enclosure ditches in Periods 2.1 (Ditches N and O) and Period 2.2 (Ditch P). A possible change in the layout of enclosures came in Period 2.3 when north-east/south-west-aligned Ditch Q cut across earlier, north-west/south-east-aligned Ditches N, O and M, suggesting these had become abandoned and more extensive, open areas were now being exploited, possibly as a result of 18th-century enclosure of the landscape. In Period 2.4, Ditch T was excavated, possibly for drainage purposes and probably as a prelude to the establishment of a more extensive network of land drains.

Modern

6.5 The only significant features of modern date were a series of land drains associated with recent agricultural activity, which crossed the site on east/west and north-east/south-west alignments, cutting a number of the earlier medieval and post-medieval features.

Undated

6.6 Although most features on the site were dated either stratigraphically, artefactually or by association, a small number of ditches in evaluation Trench 9 remain undated as they produced no dateable finds and lay too far away from other features for any relationships to be apparent. Two of these features also lay on different alignments to all other linear features on site.

Original aims and objectives

6.7 The original aims of the excavation were to provide data to aid the determination and understanding of the nature, function, and character of the archaeological remains at the site in their cultural and environmental setting.

6.8 The objectives of the archaeological investigations, as set out in the WSI were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered;
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains;
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains.

6.9 The specific aims of the work were to:

- provide further dating evidence for the field system identified in the preceding archaeological evaluation;
- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use;
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified;
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy.

6.10 The investigations had the potential to provide information relevant to the following Solent-Thames archaeological research objectives (as defined in Munby 2014 and Hind 2014):

16.4.1 The chronology of development and character of field systems and their relationship to settlement across the region needs to be further explored.

18.3.10 The impact of the agricultural revolution on the landscape needs to be explored

6.11 The broad objectives have been largely achieved, with the archaeological features uncovered preserved by record and artefactual and ecofactual material assessed. The specific aims have been addressed to some extent; further dating for the field system has been obtained and other land use, i.e. pitting has been identified. However, evidence for settlement remains elusive and the environmental remains have been of limited value. The two regional research objectives have also been met to some extent: The development of the medieval systems has been ascertained, though only in a small area and there was no direct association with settlement. The evidence for the impact of the agricultural revolution is somewhat tenuous; the change in field layout may have been as a result of 18th-century enclosure, but other aspects of the revolution, such as technological innovation and improved plant and animal varieties are not visible in the limited archaeological record recovered from the site.

6.12 The recovered artefactual and ecofactual material from the site has little potential for further research. The only further work that maybe possible is the study of historic maps in order to assess whether any of the excavated boundary features appear on these.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices, Milton Keynes, whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum (accession number: AYBCM : 2019.22), which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project.

8 UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

8.1 To fulfil the potential of the site data, the following updated objectives have been set out to provide a framework for the proposed further analysis:

Objective 1: provide a summary of the remains found

8.1 The publication report will summarise the phasing and morphology of the site.

Objective 2: define the establishment and development of the medieval agricultural systems

8.2 A broad medieval date for the establishment of the field system features has been established but this may be further refined with reference to comparable published material, which may enable further addressing of research objective 16.4.1.

Objective 2: Establish the nature of the medieval/post-medieval transition and define changes associate with 18th-century enclosure

8.3 Development of the medieval agricultural system into the early post-medieval period, followed by some landscape re-alignment, possibly as a result of 18th-century enclosure, has been established. Reference to comparable data, including historical maps and records may permit a better understanding of these changes.

9 PUBLICATION

9.1 The results from the investigations at Park Farm, Church Lane, Aston Clinton are of local significance and merit publication. The project has identified the establishment, maintenance and development of field boundaries at the edge of Aston Clinton village from as early as the 12th century, up to the early modern period. It is proposed that a summary report is published in the *Records of Buckinghamshire*.

Synopsis of Proposed Report

Archaeological Investigations at Park Farm, Church Lane, Aston Clinton 2018

by Peter Boyer

		Words
Summary		100
Introduction		150
Excavation Results		500
Discussion		500
Bibliography		150
Acknowledgements		100
	Approximate pages @ 800 words/page	2
		Pages
Illustration		
	Location of site	0.5
	Site plan with phasing	0.5
	Historic mapping	1.0
	Total publication estimate	**4 pages**

10 PROJECT TEAM

10.1 The analysis and publication programme will be quality assured by **Martin Watts MCIfA** (Head of Cirencester Office: HoC) and managed by **Peter Boyer MCIfA** (Post-Excavation Manager: PXM), who will contribute to the discussion as Senior Author (SA) and co-ordinate the work of the following personnel:

Dan Bashford ACIfA (Senior Illustrator: SI):
Production of all site plans and sections.

10.2 The final publication report will be edited and refereed internally by CA senior project management.

11 TASK LIST

TASK	PERSONNEL	DURATION/ COST
SUMMARY PUBLICATION		
Management	PXM	0.75
Abstract, introduction, acknowledgements, bibliography	SA	0.25
Excavation results	SA	0.5
Discussion, conclusions	SA	0.5
Figures	SI	0.5
Quality assurance	HoC	0.25
Submission to external referees		
Editing and revisions	SA	0.25
SUBMISSION OF PUBLICATION TEXT		
Publication		
Printing	Records of Bucks.	FEE

12 TIMETABLE

12.1 For a summary publication report, CA would normally aim to have completed a publication draft within six months of approval of the updated publication project design. A detailed programme can be produced if desired on approval of the updated publication project design.

13 REFERENCES

AC (Archaeology Collective) 2015 *Park Farm, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment,* unpublished document; Project Ref: AC00105

BCCAS 2018a (Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service) *Generic Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief / Small-Scale Investigation*

BCCAS 2018b (Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service) *Generic Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*

BCMAS (Buckinghamshire County Museum Archaeology Service) 1994 *A41 (T) Aston Clinton Bypass. Archaeological Assessment Stage 1 Report*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html Accessed 5 March 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 1995 *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation: Technical Manual No. 3*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Land to the Rear of Brook Street, London Road, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report **09215**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *The taking and processing of environmental and other samples from archaeological sites: Technical Manual No. 2*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Fieldwork Recording Manual Technical Manual No. 1*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Park Farm, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report **16035**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 *Park Farm, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation and Evaluation*

CIfA (Chartered Institute of Archaeologists) 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

Hey, G. and Hind, J. 2014 *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*, Oxford Wessex Archaeology

Hind, J. 2014 The Post-Medieval and Modern Period (AD 1540 onwards): Research Agenda, in Hey and Hind 2014, 287-290

Historic England 2015a *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MORPHE Project Manager's Guide*

Historic England 2015b *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation*

Munby J. 2014 The Later Medieval Period: Research Agenda, in Hey and Hind 2014 255-260

Stead, I. 1967 'A La Tène III Burial at Welwyn Garden City', *Archaeologia* 101, 1-62

APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSEMENT BY PETER BOYER

A total of 211 contexts were recorded during the excavation and evaluation. Six context numbers were assigned to deposits of geological or natural origin and the remaining contexts were assigned to periods as detailed below:

Period	No. of contexts
Period 1.1 Medieval I	67
Period 1.2 Medieval II	26
Period 1.3 Medieval III	34
Period 1.4 Medieval IV	16
Period 2.1 Post-medieval I	15
Period 2.2 Post-medieval II	6
Period 2.3 Post-medieval III	8
Period 2.4 Post-medieval IV	12
Period 3 Modern	9
Undated	12
Total	205

Potential for further analysis

Despite only 29 contexts providing dateable material, it has been possible to provisionally phase nearly all the archaeological contexts. This has been primarily done on the basis of spot dates from recovered artefacts and where direct dating was unavailable, spatial/stratigraphic relationships to those features containing dateable artefacts.

Given that the site stratigraphy has been fully assessed, no further finds are to be analysed and the low potential of the archaeological resource, further stratigraphic analysis will not be required for any of the contexts from the excavation area or evaluation trenches.

APPENDIX 2: THE FINDS BY PETER BANKS AND IOANNIS SMYRNAIOS

Pottery

Pottery amounting to 154 sherds (1678g) was recovered from 21 separate deposits. The pottery was examined by context, using a x40 hand lens and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. Vessel form/rim morphology, decoration and evidence of use were also noted. Recording of the pottery assemblage was direct to an MS Access database; this now forms the archive catalogue. The methodology used for assessment is in accordance with *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Barclay *et al*. 2016) and where appropriate, with the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group guidelines (PCRG 2010) and the Medieval Pottery Research Group guidelines (MPRG 2001). The type series is based on and adapted from an established regional typology (Anderson n.d.).

The larger part of the assemblage (122 sherds or 79.2%) is derived from the fills of ditches. The remainder (32 sherds or 20.8%) is from pit fills. The assemblage consisting largely of medieval material, but with a small quantity of late prehistoric and post-medieval pottery, is described by period below (Table 1).

Late Prehistoric

Two small, abraded sherds (5g) of late prehistoric pottery, with no diagnostic features, made in quartz sand-tempered fabric Q, are recorded from Ditch B (cut 1107, fill 1108). The condition of the sherds suggests they are likely to be residual.

Roman

Two body sherds (3g) of wheel-thrown pottery broadly date to the Roman period. Both sherds, manufactured in a fine sand and mica grey ware (FSMGW) fabric, were recovered from sample 5 (fill 1152 of pit 1151). The pit contained a large amount of medieval pottery and the Roman material is most likely residual, particularly given its very abraded nature.

Medieval

A total of 149 sherds (1558g) of pottery are recorded from 19 deposits, the fills of ditches or pits. The medieval pottery dates to between the 12th and 14th centuries. The majority are handmade and/or wheel-finished types (134 sherds, 1386g), whilst a small number of sherds are wheelthrown (13 sherds, 140g).

The medieval pottery is of average sherd size with a mean sherd weight of 10.46g. The majority of sherds are well preserved with no heavily abraded surfaces. The total EVEs of the medieval group is 1.42.

Range: fabrics

The main bulk of the assemblage occurs in medieval coarseware fabrics (MCW). These coarsewares are made with quartz sand inclusions and are most likely of local production. Although the exact source of production is unknown, several sherds exhibit characteristics, such as reduced surfaces and oxidised cores, of coarsewares produced in Boarstall, Buckinghamshire approximately 20 miles west of Park Farm (Farley 1982, 111). Medieval coarseware (fabric MCW) can be dated between the 12th and 14th centuries. The manufacture of a smaller proportion of the assemblage (25 sherds, 279g) can be attributed to production centres of Brill/Boarstall glazed wares (BRIL). This buff coloured fabric is made with a fine sandy matrix, smooth to the touch and in the majority of cases, a lead glaze is preserved on the exterior. These Brill/Boarstall glazed wares are broadly similar in date to the medievalcoarse wares (late-12th to 14th centuries). Eight sherds (92g) of an unprovenanced glazed ware

(UPG) are recorded from Ditch G (cut 1141) and pit 1151. The material is coarser than the finer glazed wares of Brill/Boarstall origin, with patchy glaze and is less well fired with an oxidised exterior surface and a reduced interior. It is most likely from a similar date range (late 12th to 14th centuries). Production of two sherds (48g) of pottery can be attributed to kiln sites at Olney Hyde (OHB).

Forms/decoration and stylistic affinities

The number of rims and other featured sherds in the assemblage is small. The diagnostic material described is consistent with dates ranging between the 12th and 14th centuries.

Jars with flattened rims are recorded from ditch 1149/1169 and Ditch N (cut 1179). Similar vessel forms have been found at George Street, Aylesbury and dated to the 13th century (Yeoman 1983, 26, fig.14, no.5). Twelfth to 14th-century dates can also be attributed to jars with expanded rims recorded from pit 1171 (fill 1172) and Ditch N (cut 1179, fill 1180) (Jope and Ivens 1981, 33, fig.1 no.1). Rim sherds from pit 1009 (fill 1010), Ditch T (cut 1038, fill 1039) and ditch 1169 (fill 1170) are from bowl forms with internally expanded or flattened rims; a form common during the 12th- to 14th-century period. One jug with a square rim and a fingertip impression on its neck made in a Brill/Boarstall fabric (BRIL) is recorded from deposit 1148, the fill of ditch 1147.

Two jug handles decorated with stab marks on the exterior of the handle are similar in design to examples recorded at Boarstall (Farley 1982, 112, fig.4, nos.1,4 & 9). Both sherds of Olney B ware (OHB), from pit 1151 (fill 1152) and ditch 1169 (fill 1170), are decorated with applied finger-impressed stripes. Two joining sherds (BRIL) from pit fill 1010 are decorated with a linear square-rouletted design. This type of decoration is common amongst vessels made at Boarstall (Farley 1982, 113, fig.5, nos.8 & 11). Slashed/incised lines have been used to decorate the angle of a base (MCW) from ditch 1149 (fill 1150).

Post-medieval

Three sherds of post-medieval pottery are recorded from Ditch T (cut 1038, fill 1039) and Ditch N (cut 1092, fill 1093 and cut 1179, fill 1180). The three are base sherds with no diagnostic features made in glazed red earthenware (GRE) and unglazed red earthenware (PMEW) fabrics; both can be dated to between the 16th and 18th centuries.

Table 1: Quantification of Pottery by fabric

Date	Description	Fabric code	Count	Weight (g)
Late prehistoric (Iron Age)	Quartz sand fabric	Q	2	5
Roman	Fine sand and mica grey ware	FSMGW	2	3
Medieval	Brill/Boarstall ware	BRIL	25	279
	Medieval coarseware	MCW	120	1160
	Olney Hyde (Fabric B)	OHB	2	48
	Unprovenanced glazed ware	UPG	8	92
Post-medieval	Glazed red earthenware	GRE	1	24
	Unglazed red earthenware	PMEW	2	91
Total			**162**	**1702**

Ceramic Building Material

A total of 42 fragments (3180g) of ceramic building material (CBM) are recorded from 13 deposits. The CBM was examined by context, fragment count, fabric and weight using a x40 hand lens; where appropriate forms have also been recorded.

The majority of the CBM is late medieval or post-medieval in date (Table 2), with most fragments (33 fragments, 78.6%) recorded from ditch fills. The remainder (9 fragments, 21.4%) has been recorded from the fill of pits.

Table 2: Quantification of ceramic building material by fabric

Date	Fabric Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)
Roman	Fine sand and mica	fsm	1	251
Medieval	Coarse sand and chalk/calcareous	csc	1	82
	Medium sand mixture	msx	2	80
Late medieval/ Post-medieval	Fine sand	fs	1	102
	Fine sand and ferrous	fsfe	1	236
	Fine sand mixture	fsx	1	65
	Fine sand mixture and chalk/calcareous	fsxc	2	51
	Medium sand	ms	4	461
	Medium sand and flint	msf	1	150
	Medium sand and ferrous	msfe	2	159
Post-medieval	Coarse sand	cs	1	95
	Coarse sand and chalk/calcareous	csc	1	125
	Coarse sand and ferrous	csfe	1	42
	Vesicular coarse sand	csv	1	56
	Fine sand	fs	12	630
	Fine sand, chalk/calcareous and ferrous	fscfe	1	12
	Fine sand and ferrous	fsfe	5	254
	Medium sand	ms	1	139
	Medium sand and chalk/calcareous	msc	1	105
	Medium sand and ferrous	msfe	2	85
Total			**42**	**3180**

Roman

One fragment (251g) of Roman brick or tile (RBT) is recorded from ditch 1081 (fill 1082). The fragment is made in a micaceous fine sandy fabric (fsm).

Medieval

Three fragments (162g) of ceramic building material can be dated to the medieval period. A fragment of glazed tile (GLT) (82g) is recorded from deposit 1150, the fill of ditch 1149. Green glaze is present on one side of the tile. The remaining two fragments were undiagnostic and only broadly dateable to this period.

Late medieval/post-medieval

A total of 12 fragments (1224g) can be dated to the Late medieval or post-medieval period on the basis of the thickness and firing. Nine fragments (1129g) are recorded from four deposits (ditch fills 1018 and 1082 and pit fill

1010). Two fragments (51g) of brick are recorded from ditch 1050 (fill 1051). One fragment of floor tile, or possible brick, made in an iron rich fine sandy fabric is recorded from pit 1052 (fill 1053). The remainder of the assemblage was undiagnostic.

Post-medieval

A total of 26 fragments (1543g) of ceramic building material can be dated to the post-medieval period on the basis of their thickness and firing. A pan tile fragment (192g) made in an iron rich fine sandy fabric, is recorded from ditch 1064 (fill 1066). The use of pan tiles in England only began during the 17th century, meaning this material must post-date this time. Roof tiles generally are the most common form of post-medieval CBM (19 fragments, 1011g) with three brick fragments (216g) also recorded. The remaining three fragments were undiagnostic.

Clay-tobacco Pipe

One fragment of clay-tobacco pipe bowl weighing 13g is recorded from subsoil deposit 1001. The bowl has a heel stamped with two letters (?TD) representing the makers mark; the form of the pipe dating it to the late 17th century (Atkinson and Oswald 1969, 178, fig.1, no.13). A clay pipe recently recovered in London (PAS 2018) also bears the initials 'TD', though it is unclear whether this is the same maker.

Burnt Flint

Two fragments of unworked burnt flint are recorded from deposit 1031, the fill of ditch 1030.

Glass

One fragment (2g) of post-medieval translucent bottle glass is recorded from subsoil deposit 1001.

Industrial Waste

One fragment (10g) of fuel ash slag is recorded from ditch 1083 (fill 1084). Although this material cannot be closely dated, it has been recorded from a secure deposit also containing 12th to 14th-century pottery; a date that would not be inconsistent with this type of industrial waste.

Metalwork

The site produced 13 metal objects weighing 152g, none of which was closely dateable, and a digital x-ray has been submitted as part of the site's digital archive. The material derived from five contexts and mostly comprises iron nails, which are in poor condition, corroded and heavily encrusted. More specifically, fill 1010 of pit 1009 and ditch fills 1065 (Ditch J), 1148 (Ditch C), 1170 (ditch 1169) and 1180 (Ditch N), produced a total of 11 iron nails weighing 54g. Additionally, pit fill 1010 produced an undateable horseshoe fragment weighing 92g. The only copper-alloy object from the site is a thin sheet folded in tubular form, which was recovered from Ditch N (cut 1179, fill 1180). The function of this object is unclear.

Statement of potential and recommendations for further work

The medieval pottery group is of local significance and it is recommended that a brief description of the material, based on this report, is included in the summary publication of the site. The late prehistoric and Roman pottery groups have been fully recorded during this assessment and due to the small size of the assemblage no further work is recommended. The post-medieval pottery assemblage is small, and beyond providing broad spot dates for the post-medieval features, is of minimal significance and no further work is recommended. Because of the small quantity, poor preservation, lack of dateable information and because the items have already been fully recorded,

no further work is required on the ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, burnt flint, glass or industrial waste. The metalwork from the site has been catalogued and discussed. No further work is required.

References

Allen D. and Dalwood C.H. 1983 'Iron Age occupation, a middle Saxon cemetery, and twelfth to nineteenth century urban occupation: excavations in George Street, Aylesbury', 1981 *Rec. Buckinghamshire* **25,** 1-60

Anderson, S. n.d. *Sue Anderson's Fabric Series*, unpublished spreadsheet

Barclay A., Booth, P., Knight D., Evans J., Brown D.H. and Wood I. 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology,* Swindon, Historic England

Farley M. 1982 'A medieval pottery industry at Boarstall, Buckinghamshire', *Rec. Buckinghamshire* **24,** 81-106

Jope E.M. and Ivens R.J. 1981 'Some early products of the Brill pottery, Buckinghamshire', *Rec. Buckinghamshire* **23,** 32-38

MPRG (Medieval Pottery Research Group) 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* Occasional Papers **2**

PAS (Portable Antiquities Scheme) 2018 'Clay tobacco pipe **Unique ID:** LON-427D84 https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/247900 (accessed 31st October 2018)

PCRG (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group 2010 *Prehistoric* ceramics *research group guidelines* Occasional Papers **1** and **2**

Yeoman P.A. 1983 'The medieval pottery' in Allen and Dalwood 1983, 20-9

APPENDIX 3: ANIMAL BONE BY MATILDA HOLMES

Introduction

An assemblage of 724 fragments of animal bone weighing 3872g was recovered, largely from medieval and post-medieval contexts and much of it very fragmentary. The identifiable part of the assemblage is too small to warrant further analysis.

Methods

All bones and teeth were recorded, although for some elements a restricted count was employed to reduce fragmentation bias: vertebrae were recorded when the vertebral body was present, and maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments. A basic recording method was employed to assess the potential of the animal bone assemblage. The number of bones and teeth that could be identified to taxa were noted, as well as those used to age the major domesticates (tooth wear and bone fusion). The number of potential measurements were also recorded for each bone. Other information included condition and the incidence of burning, gnawing and butchery marks. All fragments were recorded by context including those that could not be identified to taxa. Recording methods and analysis are based on guidelines from Baker and Worley (2014).

Summary of Findings

Bones were in good to fair condition (Table 1), with a few contexts including gnawed and butchered bone. Most of the bone was fragmentary and indicative of general domestic waste, but two associated bone groups were recovered. The first was a large, robust dog from modern pit 1125 that suggests the deliberate burial of a pet or work dog that would have stood c.59cm tall at the shoulder. The second was a large pig of a size consistent with the larger 'improved' breeds of the post-medieval period, found with the bones from at least two perinatal piglets in the backfill of Period 1.4 Ditch L. This is a slightly different method of burial from the dog, which had its own pit deliberately dug for it. Rather it suggests that the pig and piglets (probably sow and piglets that died during farrowing) were disposed of in an existing ditch. Calf bones were also found, which are consistent with the agricultural nature of the settlement.

Cattle and sheep/goat bones were most commonly recovered (Table 2), followed by pig, with a few bones of equid (horse or donkey), chicken and possibly a wader species. This is not unusual for a rural settlement of this date. The inclusion of samples has widened the range of taxa present at the site to encompass fish, micro-mammal (vole) and frog/ toad bones as well (Table 3). The vole suggests an environment that included cover, either woodland, hedgerows or scrubby grassland, while the frog/ toads indicate an easily accessible water source close by.

Unsurprisingly for an assemblage this small, there is little potential for the recovery of mortality or metrical data (Table 4).

Statement of potential and recommendations for further work

The sample size is too small to recommend further work.

Reference

Baker, P and Worley, F 2014 *Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice.* Portsmouth: English Heritage

Table 1: Preservation and bone modifications observed on the bones for each context

	Preservation			**Bone Modification**		
Period	Good	Good-fair	Fair	Gnawed	Butchered	Burnt
1.1	3	1	5	3	1	
1.2	2		4	3	1	
1.3	3		3			
1.4	3		2			
2.1	2		1	1		
2.4	1		1			
3	1					
Undated	1					
Total N contexts	**16**	**1**	**16**	**7**	**2**	**0**

Table 2: Number of fragments recorded for the major domesticates, birds and other taxa
(excluding pig burial in Ditch L and dog burial in pit 1125)

Period	**Cattle**		**Sheep**		**Pig**		**Bird**	**Other**	**Other taxa**
	Bones	Teeth	Bones	Teeth	Bones	Teeth			
1.1	3	2	3		2	1	1	1	?wader, equid
1.2	7	3	1	2					
1.3	3		1	1			1		Chicken
1.4	1								
2.1	2	1	1					1	Equid
2.4			1		1				
Total	**16**	**6**	**7**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**2**	

Table 3: Bones recovered from samples

Period	**Sample**	**Context**	**Burnt**	**Fish**	**Birds**	**Micro-mammal**	**Frog/ toad**	**Cattle**	**Sheep/ goat**	**Pig**
1.1	2	1055 (Ditch D)	4			1	2		1	1
1.2	4	1150 (Ditch 1149)	3			1			2	
1.3	3	1031 (Ditch J)				1				
1.3	5	1152 (Pit 1151)		1		1	1			
2.1	1	1093 (Ditch N)				1*	13			

* vole

Table 4: Number of bones and teeth likely to provide ageing and metrical data for the major domesticates

	Cattle				**Sheep/goat**				**Pig**			
Period	MWS	TWS	Fusion	Meas	MWS	TWS	Fusion	Meas	MWS	TWS	Fusion	Meas
1.1			2				1		1		1	
1.2			5	3	1		1					
1.3			4	2			1	2				
1.4			1									
2.1			1									
Total			**13**	**5**	**1**		**3**	**2**	**1**		**1**	

MWS= mandibular wear stage; TWS= wear from individual teeth; fusion= bone fusion; meas= metrical data

APPENDIX 4: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BY EMMA AITKEN AND SARAH. F. WYLES

Introduction

A series of five environmental samples (90 litres of soil) were processed from four ditches and a pit across the excavation area. Four of these features were of medieval date and one was of post-medieval date. Samples were taken with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site and examining how this changed over time. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No.2).

Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded, following nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

The flots varied in size from small to medium with variable amounts of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material was moderate to poorly preserved. Due to the poor to moderate preservation levels it was not possible to identify any of the charred cereal grains to species, or to also carry out further wood species identification on the charcoal. Much of the charcoal was poorly preserved with some pieces showing signs of vitrification and silt impregnation. This inhibits wood species identification.

Medieval

Period 1.1

Fill 1055 (sample 2) of ditch 1054 (Ditch D) contained a moderate quantity of poorly preserved charred indeterminate cereal grains and a possible barley (*Hordeum vulgare)* grain. Moderately small quantities of charred seeds were identified as oraches (*Atriplex* sp.), meadow grass/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.), clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*). Small to moderate quantities of charcoal fragments (greater than 2mm) were recorded from within sample 2. The charcoal fragments showed signs of vitrification and the presence of roundwood charcoal fragments was recorded. Large quantities of terrestrial snail shells were identified to include those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp., and *Pupilla muscorum,* the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius*. This assemblage may be indicative of dumped domestic settlement waste material.

Period 1.2

Fill 1150 (sample 4) of ditch 1149 included moderately large quantities of charcoal fragments (greater than 2mm). Small quantities of charred indeterminate cereal grains and free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) were noted alongside small quantities of oraches seeds and meadow grass/cat's-tails seeds. Free-threshing wheat is the predominant wheat species during this period in this part of Britain (Greig 1991). Moderate to large quantities of snail shells belonging to the open country species *Vertigo* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp., and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius* and *Carychium tridentatum* were also recovered from within sample 4. This assemblage is likely to be representative of dispersed domestic waste material.

Period 1.3

Fill 1031 (sample 3) of ditch 1030 (Ditch J) contained small quantities of charred indeterminate cereal grains and moderately small quantities of clover, meadow grass/cat's-tails seeds and willow herb (*Epilobium* sp.) seeds. Small quantities of charcoal (greater than 2mm) was recorded but further wood species identification could not take place

due to poor preservation levels. Moderately large quantities of terrestrial snail shells were identified to include those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp. and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius* and *Discus rotundatus*. This assemblage does not provide any insight as to a possible date for this feature and again is likely to be representative of dispersed domestic waste material.

Fill 1152 (sample 5) of pit 1151 contained small quantities of charred indeterminate cereal grains. Due to the poor preservation of the grains further species identification was not possible. Small quantities of charred oraches (*Atriplex* sp.) seeds and meadow grass/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.) seeds were recorded during assessment. Moderately small quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recovered from within the sample but due to poor preservation levels further wood species identification could not take place.

Moderate quantities of terrestrial snail shells were identified to include those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp., and *Pupilla muscorum,* the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp. and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius.* This assemblage is likely to be representative of dispersed domestic material/waste.

Small to moderate quantities of hand-collected snail shells were recovered from three ditches (1060 (Ditch J; Period 1.3), 1062 (Ditch I; Period 1.3) and 1064 (Ditch L; Period 1.4)) and included those of the intermediate species *Cornu aspersum, Trochulus hispidus,* and *Cepaea* sp.

Post-medieval

Period 2.1

Fill 1093 (sample 1) from within ditch 1092 (Ditch N) contained no charred cereal remains and only a small quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm, some of which showed signs of vitrification. Charred oraches seeds were present within the sample in small quantities. Large quantities of terrestrial snail shells were identified to include those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp. and *Pupilla muscorum,* the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus, Cornu aspersum, Cochlicopa* sp., and *Cepaea* sp. and the shade loving species *Discus rotundatus, Carychium tridentatum* and *Oxychilus cellarius*. A single aquatic snail shell was identified as *Galba truncatulata*, a species which favours areas of seasonal flooding and drying. Small quantities of snail shells were also hand-collected during excavation and belong to the intermediate species *Cornu aspersum* and *Trochulus hispidus.* This assemblage is likely to be representative of dispersed waste material and does not indicate that any settlement or industrial activities were taking place within the nearby vicinity.

A single fragment of oyster shell (left valve) was hand-collected from fill 1039 of ditch 1038 (Ditch T; Period 2.4).

Summary

Due to the poor preservation levels and lack of environmental remains there is no strong supporting evidence for any specific domestic settlement or industrial activities taking place in the immediate vicinity.

Statement of potential and recommendations for further work

There is very little potential for further analysis of the charred plant remains and charcoal to provide more detailed information on the nature of the settlement, the local landscape, range of crops, range of charcoal species and the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource due to both the generally poor preservation and small

quantities of material recovered from these sampled features. There is no potential to determine specific activities taking place in the vicinity of these features from the charred assemblages.

The mollusc assemblages appear to be indicative of a well-established open landscape with some areas of longer grass and also some wetter areas on the site. Further analysis of these assemblages has little potential to provide a more detailed picture of the local landscape.

No further work is recommended on the charred plant remains, charcoal and mollusc assemblages.

References

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *The taking and processing of environmental and other samples from archaeological sites: Technical Manual No. 2*

Greig, J. 1991 'The British Isles' in van Zeist *et al*. 1991, 229-334

Davies, P. 2008 *Snails, Archaeology and Landscape Change*, Oxford, Oxbow Books

Kerney, M.P. 1999 *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*, Colchester, Harley

Stace, C. 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press Books

van Zeist, W., Wasylikowa, K. and Behre, K-E. (eds) 1991 *Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany*, Rotterdam, Balkema

Zohary, D., Hopf, M. and Weiss, E. 2012 *Domestication of plants in the Old World: the origin and spread of cultivated plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley*, 4th edition, Oxford, Clarendon Press

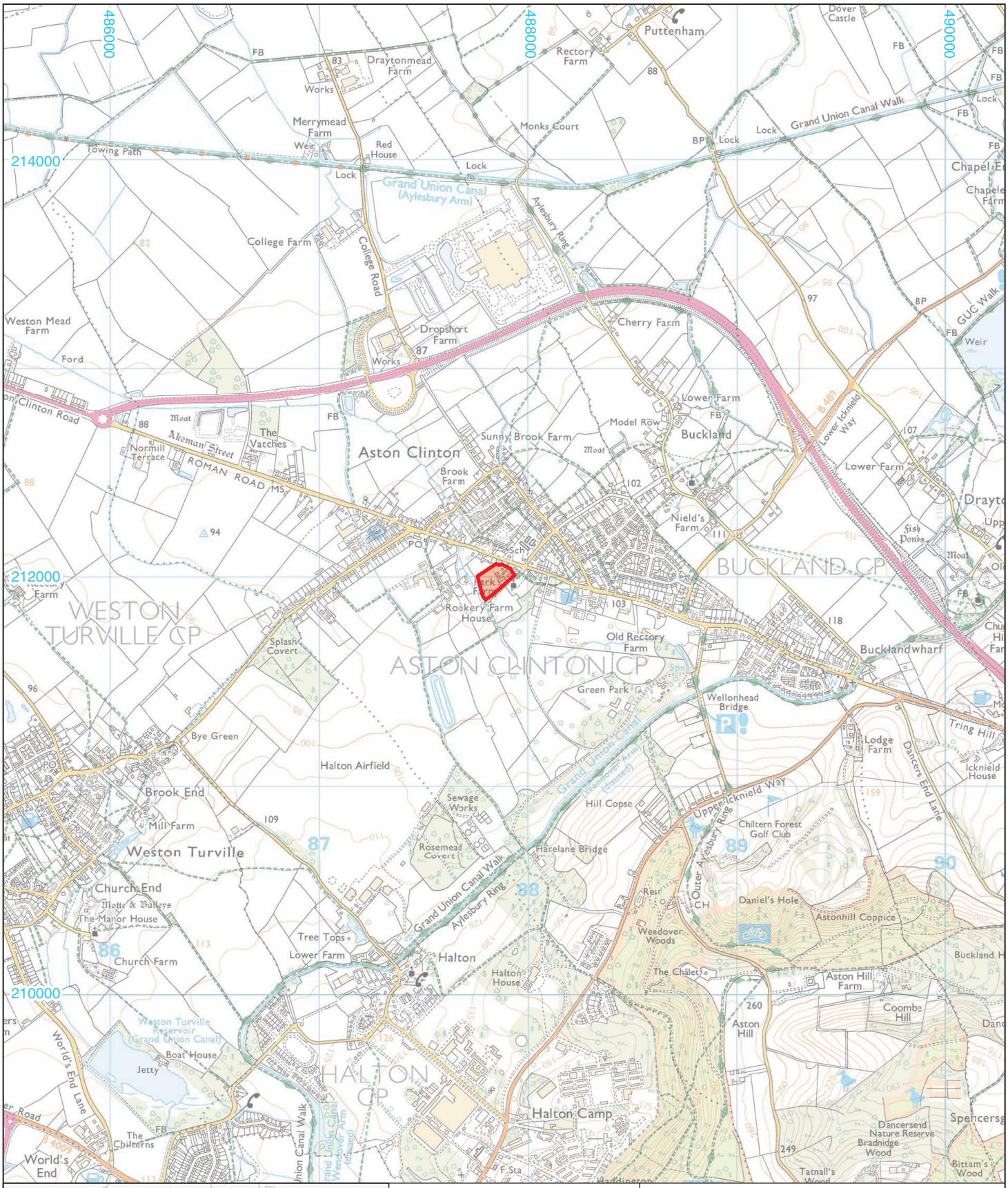
Table1: Assessment of the Environmental Remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Snail ID
Medieval														
Period 1.1														
Ditch D (cut 1054)	1055	2	20	20	15	20	***	-	indet grain, c.f. barley (*Hordeum vulgare*)	***	*Trifolium/Medicago* sp., *Poa/Phleum* sp., *Anthemis cotula, Atriplex* sp.	**/***	moll-t *****, sab *	*Trochulus hispidus, Vallonia* sp., *Vertigo* sp., *Pupilla muscorum, Oxychilus cellarius*
Period 1.2														
Ditch 1149	1150	4	10	0	20	5	**	-	indet grain, free-threshing wheat	**	*Poa/Phleum* sp., *Atriplex* sp.	***/***	moll-t ****	*Trochulus hispidus, Vertigo* sp., *Oxychilus cellarius, Cochlicopa* sp., *Carychium tridentatum*
Period 1.3														
Ditch J (cut 1030)	1031	3	20	20	8	80	*	-	indet grain	**	*Poa/Phleum* sp., *Epilobium* sp., *Trifolium* sp.	*/*	moll-t****, brnt bn*	*Trochulus hispidus, Oxychilus cellarius, Cochlicopa* sp., *Discus rotundatus, Vallonia* sp.
Pit 1151	1152	5	20	0	10	5	**	-	indet grain	**	*Atriplex* sp., *Poa/Phleum* sp.	**/**	moll-t ***	*Vallonia* sp., *Oxychilus cellarius, Vertigo* sp., *Trochulus hispidus, Pupilla muscorum, Cochlicopa* sp.
Post-Medieval														
Period 2.1														
Ditch N (cut 1092)	1093	1	20	20	40	2	-	-	-	**	*Atriplex* sp.	**/*	moll-t *****, moll-a *	*Cornu aspersum, Trochulus hispidus, Cepaea* sp., *Cochlicopa* sp., *Vallonia* sp., *Carychium* sp., *Discus rotundatus, Oxychilus cellarius, Pupilla muscorum, Galba truncatulata*

APPENDIX 5: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Park Farm, Church Lane, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire
Short description	A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August and September 2018 at the request of Archaeology Collective (on behalf of Laxton Properties Ltd) at Park Farm, Church Lane, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire. An area of 0.32ha was excavated across the development area, followed by the excavation of three evaluation trenches; two measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide and one measuring 34m long by 1.8m wide. The investigations identified initial activity, probably as early as the 12th century, associated with the establishment of land boundaries, which developed into more extensive, ditched enclosures throughout the medieval period up to the 14th century. Re-cutting of boundary ditches and development of the enclosures continued into the early post-medieval period, but at some point, probably during the 18th century, there was a significant change from small enclosed areas to a much more open landscape of large fields enclosed by ditches; this may have been as a result of agricultural enclosure. In the later post-medieval period, there was some evidence for the excavation of drainage ditches, prior to the development of an extensive land drainage network in the early modern period. Finds from the site include a moderate pottery assemblage, much of it of 12th- to 14th-century date, along with smaller quantities of ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, burnt flint, glass, metalwork and industrial waste. A small animal bone assemblage was also recovered, whilst limited evidence of past landscape and economy was gained from environmental samples. This document presents a quantification and assessment of the evidence recovered from the excavation. It considers the evidence collectively in its local, regional and national context, and presents an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation analysis to bring the results to appropriate publication.
Project dates	8 August – 4 September 2018
Project type	Archaeological excavation and field evaluation
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (AC 2015) Field evaluation (CA 2015)
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Park Farm, Church Lane, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire
Study area (M^2/ha)	0.32 ha
Site co-ordinates	487790 211990
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	Buckinghamshire County Council
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Stuart Joyce
Project Supervisor	Ralph Brown
MONUMENT TYPE	Ditch: medieval Pit: medieval

	Posthole: medieval Ditch: post-medieval Pit: post-medieval Posthole: post-medieval	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pottery: prehistoric Brick: Roman Pottery: medieval Tile: medieval Iron objects: medieval Pottery: post-medieval Brick: post-medieval Tile: post-medieval Glass: post-medieval Clay tobacco pipe: post-medieval Iron objects: post-medieval	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Buckinghamshire Museum	Pottery, burnt flint, brick, tile, glass, clay tobacco pipe, metalwork, industrial waste, animal bone
Paper	Buckinghamshire Museum	Registers, context sheets, environmental sheets, day register sheets, drawings, matrices
Digital	Buckinghamshire Museum	Database, digital photos, plans
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *Park Farm, Church Lane, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire: Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design.* CA typescript report **18670**		



N

0 1:25,000 1km

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

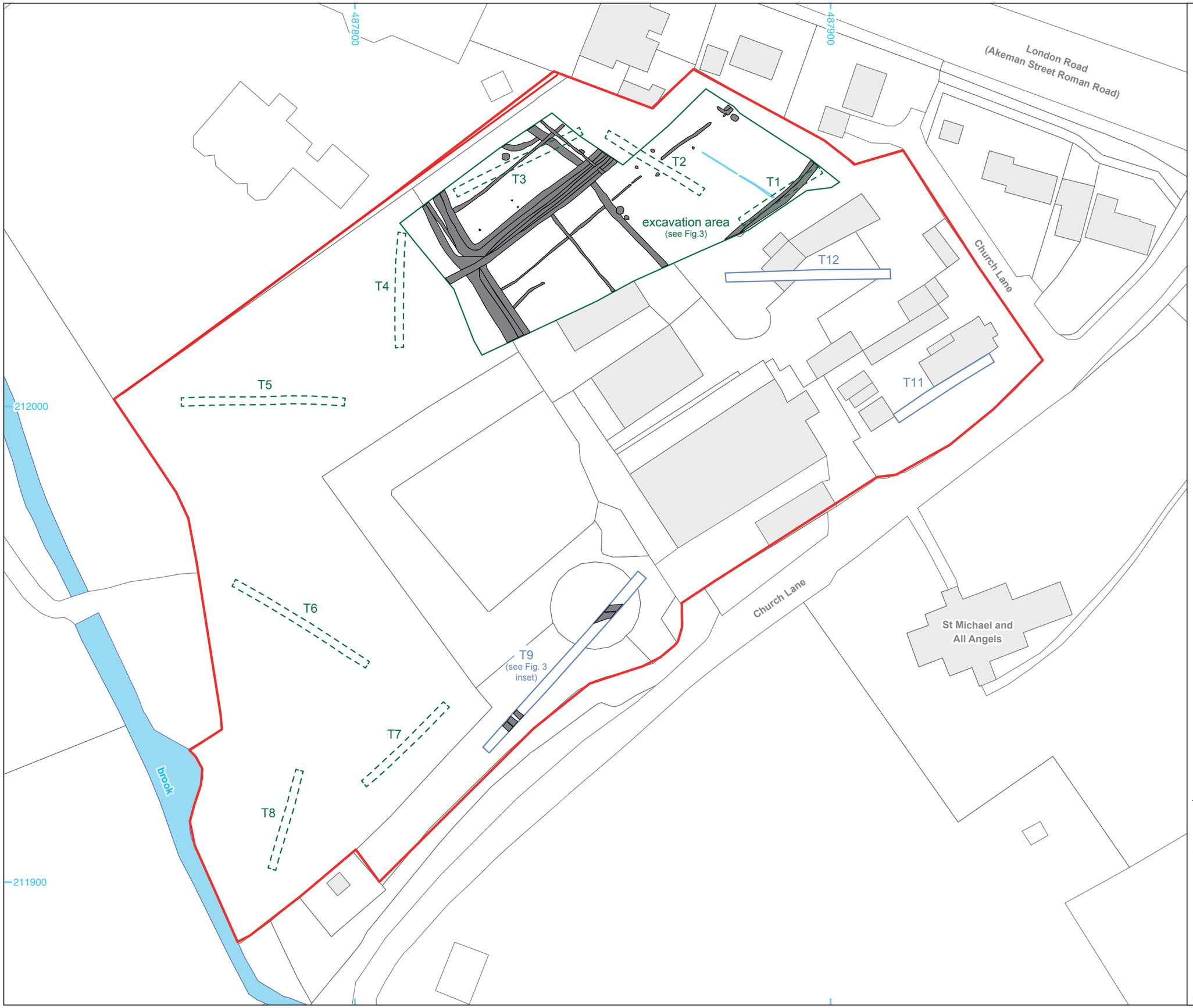
PROJECT TITLE

Park Farm, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	669054	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	21/01/2019	1
APPROVED BY	PB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



N

- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Evaluation trench (CA 2015)
- Evaluation trench (CA 2018)
- Archaeological feature
- Field drain

0 1:750 25m

Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

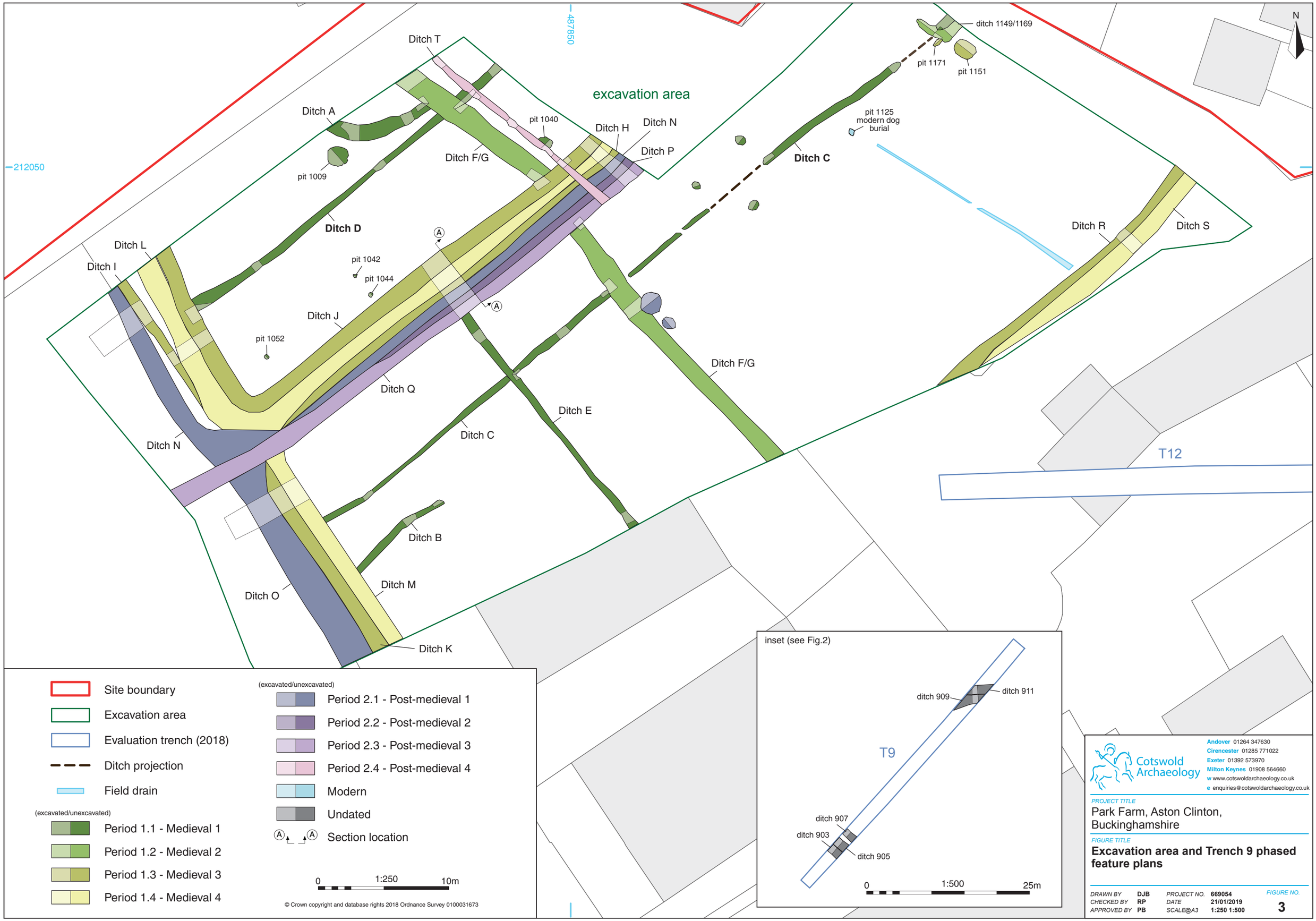
PROJECT TITLE

Park Farm, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing the excavated area and the evauation trenches

DRAWN BY	**EE**	*PROJECT NO.*	**669054**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**21/01/2019**	**2**
APPROVED BY	**PB**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:750 1:500**	



Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Park Farm, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE
Excavation area and Trench 9 phased feature plans

DRAWN BY	DJB	PROJECT NO.	669054	FIGURE NO.	3
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	21/01/2019		
APPROVED BY	PB	SCALE@A3	1:250 1:500		

4

Overall site photograph, looking west

5

Overall site photograph, looking east

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Park Farm, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	**EE**	*PROJECT NO.*	**669054**
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**21/01/2019**
APPROVED BY	**PB**	*SCALE@A4*	**NA**

FIGURE NO.

4 & 5

6

Period 1.1 pit 1009, looking north-east (1m scale)

7

Period 1.1 pit 1040 truncated by Period 2.4 Ditch T (cut 1038), looking north-west (1m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Park Farm, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE

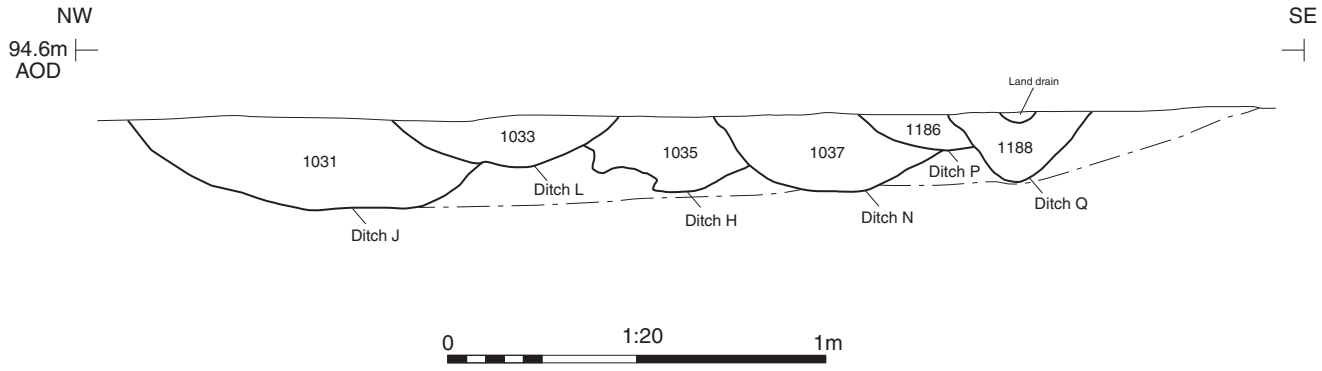
Photographs

DRAWN BY	**EE**	*PROJECT NO.*	**669054**
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**21/01/2019**
APPROVED BY	**PB**	*SCALE@A4*	**NA**

FIGURE NO.

6 & 7

Section AA



South-west facing section across Ditches J (Period 1.3), L (Period 1.4), H (Period 1.3), N (Period 2.1), P (Period 2.2) and Q (period 2.3) (2m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Park Farm, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE

Ditches J, L, H, N, P and Q, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	**EE**	*PROJECT NO.*	**669054**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**21/01/2019**	**8**
APPROVED BY	**PB**	*SCALE@A4*	**NA**	

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 1
Clyst Units
Cofton Road
Marsh Barton
Exeter
EX2 8QW

t: 01392 573970

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive
Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk