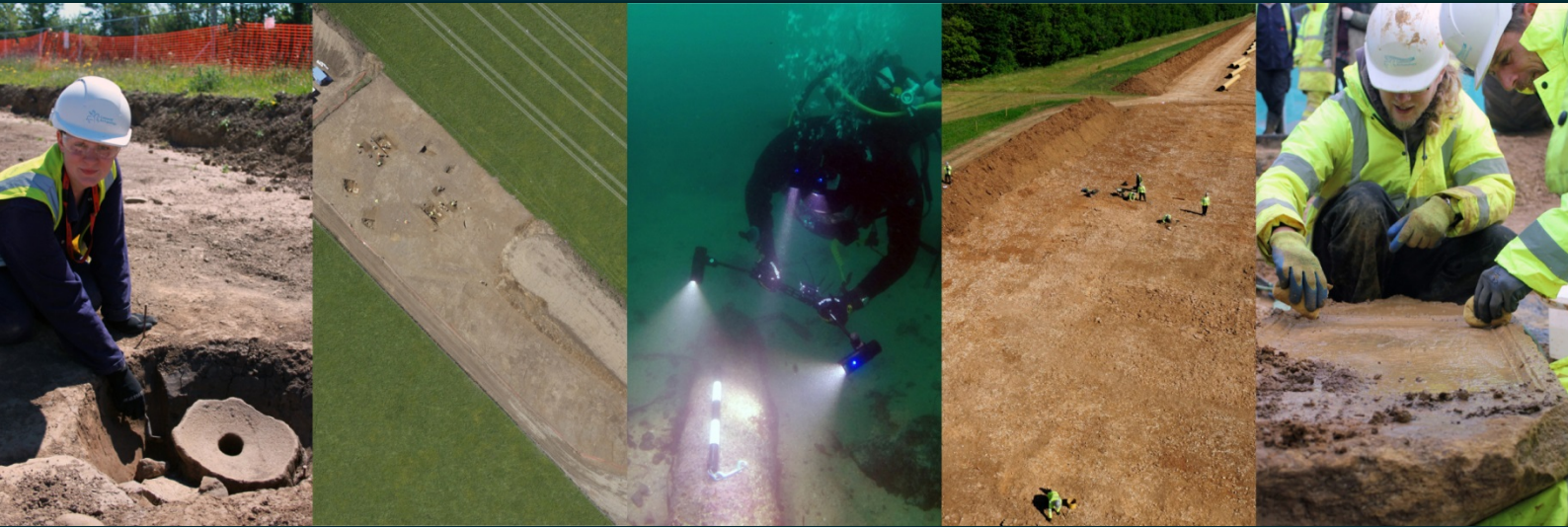




Land East of South Lawn
Swinbrook
Oxfordshire
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Savills UK Ltd

on behalf of
THHK Ltd

CA Project: CR0280
CA Report: CR0280_1

January 2020



Land East of South Lawn
Swinbrook
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: CR0280
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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	27 January 2020	Marino Cardelli	Alex Thomson	Final		Laurent Coleman

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land East of South Lawn
Location:	Swinbrook, Oxfordshire
NGR:	428797 214785
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	8-10 January 2020
Planning Reference:	WODC planning ref: 19/01310/FUL, Condition 14
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service
Site Code:	SOLS20

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2020 on land to the east of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire. Seven trenches were excavated.

Late post-medieval/modern activity, comprising a pit or ditch and a pit containing an animal burial, was identified in the western part of the site and undated ditches, one of which was curvilinear in nature, were identified within the central-northern part of the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Savills UK Ltd, on behalf of THHK Ltd, on land to the east of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: 428797 214785; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with planning consent granted by West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC; ref: 19/01310/FUL) for the provision of a facility for rural pursuits, comprising stables, forage/machinery stores, hound kennels, and key staff accommodation, conditional on a programme of archaeological work (Condition 14).
- 1.2 An archaeological evaluation was recommended by Hugh Coddington, Archaeology Team Lead, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), the archaeological advisor to WODC, to comprise the first stage of the required programme of archaeological work and to determine whether any further archaeological mitigation works would be required. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for archaeological evaluation produced by CA (2019) and approved by Hugh Coddington. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). It was monitored by Hugh Coddington, including a site visit on 9 January 2020.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.75ha, and lies within the south-western part of a large agricultural field, with an extant agricultural building within the eastern part of the site. The site is bounded to the west by Cox Rise road, to the south by pasture surrounding South Lawn Farm and on all other sides by agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 165m AOD, and slopes gently to the south-west.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as limestone of the White Formation, formed during the Jurassic Period (BGS 2019). No superficial deposits are recorded. The natural substrate identified during the evaluation comprised orange-brown sandy clay with limestone brash inclusions.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has not previously been the subject of any archaeological investigation or study. The following is a summary of available information for nearby sites and archaeological assets, as recorded by the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (OHER).
- 2.2 Prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site is evidenced by a number of burial mounds, some of which are Scheduled Monuments, such as Shipton Barrow (HE List entry: 1008493), c. 2km to the north-west of the site, a long barrow in South Lawn Plain Woods (HE List entry: 1008494) and a pair of bowl barrows near Roustage Woods (HE List entry: 1008416), both c. 1km to the south-east, and a ploughed out round barrow to the north of South Lawn Cottages (OHER ref: 4047), c. 300m to the north-west of the site.
- 2.3 Roman pottery was collected from the vicinity of the proposed development during field walking by Wychwoods Local History Society (OHER ref: 16556). The assemblage contained pottery dating to the 3rd to 4th centuries, with some Roman building material also recovered, suggesting the presence of a settlement or farmstead in the vicinity.
- 2.4 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in 2009 during the construction of a ménage, c. 140m to the south of the site (OHER ref: 26331; JMHS 2009). This revealed a series of ditches, pits and post holes, appearing to form a series of enclosures. The recovered pottery dated to the 1st century, which suggests an earlier settlement to that indicated by the field walking finds (*ibid.*).
- 2.5 The location of a possible former Saxon parish or estate boundary, visible as a linear crop mark, is recorded following the line of a valley c. 400m to the south-west of the site (OHER ref: 13072). Medieval activity in the area is known from the Scheduled site of Langley Palace royal hunting lodge (HE List entry: 1008495), c. 1km to the north-east of the site, which lay within the medieval Wychwood Forest deer park which was active from at least the 15th century. A deserted medieval hamlet or grange is located c. 650m to the south-west of the site (OHER ref: 11151). An undated, although probably post-medieval, trackway is recorded as a crop mark near Hen's Grove (OHER ref: 15011), c. 1km to the east of site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable WODC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). All trenches were 25m long and 1.8m wide. The location and length of Trenches 2 and 6 were altered slightly during the course of the fieldwork due to buried services and electric fences, with the approval of Hugh Coddington. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 The trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* but no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museum Service, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 5.2 The general stratigraphy encountered across the site was broadly uniform. The natural geological substrate, comprising of predominately orange-brown sandy clay with limestone brash inclusions, was identified at a typical depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). This was directly overlain by up to 0.4m of topsoil.
- 5.3 Archaeological features were identified within Trenches 2 and 5. Modern activity was identified in Trench 1. The remaining trenches contained no archaeological features.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 5.4 Pit/ditch 103 (Fig. 3, Section AA) was identified towards the western end of Trench 1 on a broadly north-east/south west alignment, measuring 9.8m in width, 2.23m in depth and containing a series of silty-clay fills 112, 111, 110, 109, 104, 105 and 102. Two sherds of glazed earthenware, of mid-16th to 18th century date, two sherds of 19th century refined whiteware and a fragment of ceramic building material were recovered from fill 104 within this feature.
- 5.5 The upper fill of pit/ditch 103, 102, was cut by sub-rectangular pit 106, which measured 1m in length, 0.7m in width, 0.4m in depth and contained the skeletal remains of a medium-sized mammal, possibly a sheep or goat. Two sherds of late 18th to 19th century whiteware pottery were recovered from the silty-clay fill of this feature, 108.



Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

- 5.6 Curvilinear ditch 201 (Fig. 4, Section BB) was identified towards the eastern end of Trench 2. It measured 0.92m in width and 0.21 in depth and contained a single undated silty fill 202.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

- 5.7 Ditch 501 (Fig. 4, Section CC) was identified in the centre of Trench 5, running on a north-west/south-east alignment. It measured at least 1.8m in length, 1.88m in width and 0.4m in depth and contained two silty fills, 502 and 503, from which no artefactual material was recovered.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material of post-medieval/modern date was recovered from two deposits: fill 104 of pit/ditch 103 and fill 108 of pit 106. Quantities of the artefact types recovered are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and the fabric codes have been devised for the purpose of this report.

Pottery: post-medieval/modern

- 6.2 A total of six unfeathered bodysherds (67g) were recovered. Fill 104 of ditch 103 produced two sherds of glazed earthenware (GRE) of mid-16th to 18th century date and two sherds of refined whiteware of late 18th to 19th century date. Two sherds of refined whiteware of late 18th to 19th century date, featuring transfer-printed decoration, were recovered from fill 108 of pit 106

Ceramic building material

- 6.3 Ditch fill 104 produced a fragment (5g) of ceramic building material, which is too small for classification but is likely to be post-medieval in date.



7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation identified late post-medieval/modern activity in the western part of the site and undated features in Trenches 2 and 5.
- 7.2 Pit/ditch 103 and pit 106, identified in Trench 1, both yielded pottery of late 18th to 19th century date. The function of pit/ditch 103 remains unclear, due to its limited exposure within the excavated trench, although its depth and irregular nature suggest that it may relate to modern quarrying or extraction; however no evidence of quarrying is depicted on available historic mapping.
- 7.3 The absence of artefactual material within ditches 201 and 501, identified in Trenches 2 and 5 respectively, limits the interpretation of these features at this stage. However, the curvilinear form of ditch 201 and the proximity of known prehistoric and Roman activity (see *Archaeological Background* above) suggest that this ditch may be of a similar date. It remains possible that ditch 501, located c. 40m to the east, may also be related.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Marino Cardelli, assisted by Annabel Johns. The report was written by Marino Cardelli. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by Marino Cardelli, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon and Alex Thomson.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, accessed 20 January 2020

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 *Land East of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation*

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2009 *South Lawn Farm, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*, JMHS Project No: **2122**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

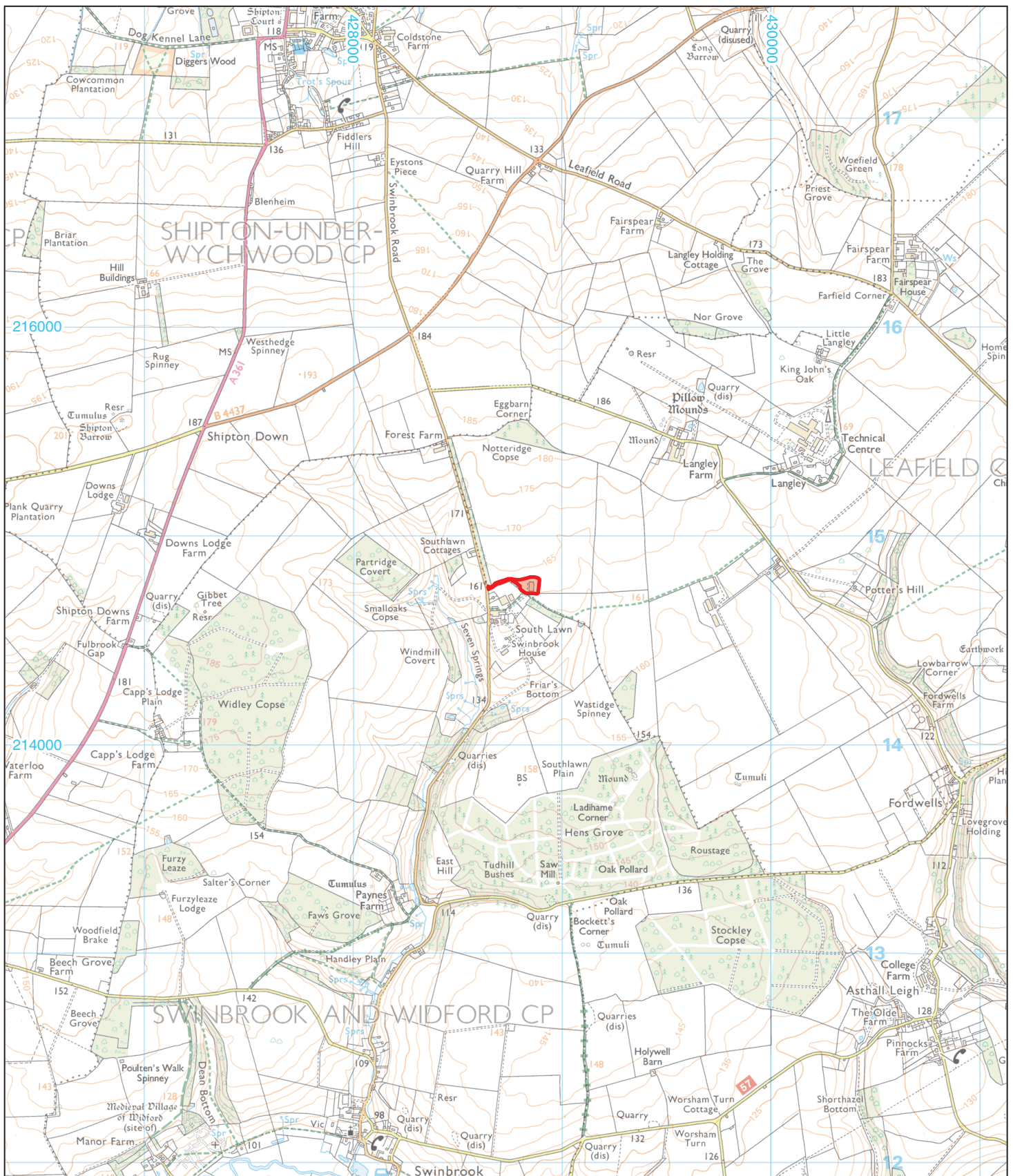
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brownish silty clay with small sub-angular stone as inclusions.	>25	>1.8	0.35	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish-brown silty clay with frequent limestone cobbles	>25	>1.8	0.05	
1	102	Fill	103	Top fill of ditch	White grey lime and silt	>1.8	9.8	0.12	
1	103	Cut		Pit/Ditch	Cut of a large potential ditch/pit, steep regular sides, concave base	>1.8	9.8	2.23	
1	104	Fill	103	Fill of ditch	Mid brown silty clay	>1.8	9.6	1.26	C19
1	105	Fill	103	Fill of ditch	Mid reddish-brown silty clay	>1.8	2.92	0.12	
1	106	Cut		Pit	Sub rectangular grave cut with concave sides and irregular base	1	0.7	0.4	
1	107	Skeleton	106	Animal skeleton	Articulated animal skeleton; left in situ	0.9	0.6	0.1	
1	108	Fill	106	Fill of pit 106	Mid brownish red and grey silty clay and flecks of charcoal	1	0.7	0.4	LC18-C19
1	109	Fill	103	Fill of ditch	Pale yellow brown silty clay	>1.8	4.22	0.12	
1	110	Fill	103	Fill of ditch	Mid-light brown silty clay	>1.8	6.2	0.42	
1	111	Fill	103	Fill of ditch	Mid light brown silty clay with lenses of charcoal intermixed	>1.8	5.6	0.44	
1	112	Fill	103	Fill of ditch	Mid reddish brown silty clay	>1.8	0.76	0.22	
1	113	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown sandy clay with limestone brash inclusions.	>10	>1.8		
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brownish silty clay with small sub-angular stone as inclusions.	>25	>1.8	0.39	
2	201	Cut		Ditch/gully	Cut of a curvilinear ditch/gully with moderately sloping sides and concave base	>1.8	0.92	0.21	
2	202	Fill	201	Fill of ditch/gully	Mid reddish brown silty clay natural silting	>1.8	0.92	0.21	
2	203	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown sandy clay with limestone brash inclusions.	>25	>1.8		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brownish silty clay with small sub-angular stone as inclusions.	>25	>1.8	0.46	
3	301	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown sandy clay with limestone brash inclusions.	>25	>1.8		
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brownish silty clay with small sub-angular stone as inclusions.	>25	>1.8	0.43	
4	401	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown sandy clay with limestone brash inclusions.	>25	>1.8		
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brownish silty clay with small sub-angular stone as inclusions.	>25	>1.8	0.44	
5	501	Cut		Ditch	Linear, concave sides, relatively flat base	>1.8	1.88	0.4	
5	502	Fill	501	Basal fill of ditch	Mid brownish red silty clay with small limestone as inclusions	>1.8	1.28	0.2	
5	503	Fill	501	Top fill of ditch	Mid reddish brown silty clay with rare limestone	>1.8	1.88	0.2	
5	504	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown sandy clay with limestone brash inclusions.	>25	>1.8		
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brownish silty clay with small sub-angular stone as inclusions.	>25	>1.8	0.36	
6	601	Layer		Natural substrate	Orange-brown sandy clay with limestone brash inclusions.	>25	>1.8		
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brownish silty clay with small sub-angular stone as inclusions.	>25	>1.8	0.32	
7	701	Layer		Natural Substrate	Orange-brown sandy clay with limestone brash inclusions.	>25	>1.8		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight	Spot-date
104	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GRE	2	38	C19
	Modern pottery	Refined whiteware with coloured glaze	RWC	2	15	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Fragment		1	5	
108	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TRP	2	14	LC18-C19

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land East of South Lawn, Swinbrook Oxfordshire Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2020 on land to the east of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire. Seven trenches were excavated. Late post-medieval/modern activity, comprising a pit or ditch and a pit containing an animal burial, was identified in the western part of the site and undated ditches, one of which was curvilinear in nature, were identified within the central-northern part of the site.	
Project dates	8-10 January 2020	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	East of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire	
Study area	0.75ha	
Site co-ordinates	428797 214785	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Marino Cardelli	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Oxfordshire Museums Service	Ceramics
Paper	Oxfordshire Museums Service	Context sheets, trench recording sheets, permatrace drawings
Digital	Oxfordshire Museums Service	Survey data, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 <i>Land East of South Lawn Swinbrook Oxfordshire, Archaeological Evaluation</i> , CA typescript report CR0280_1		



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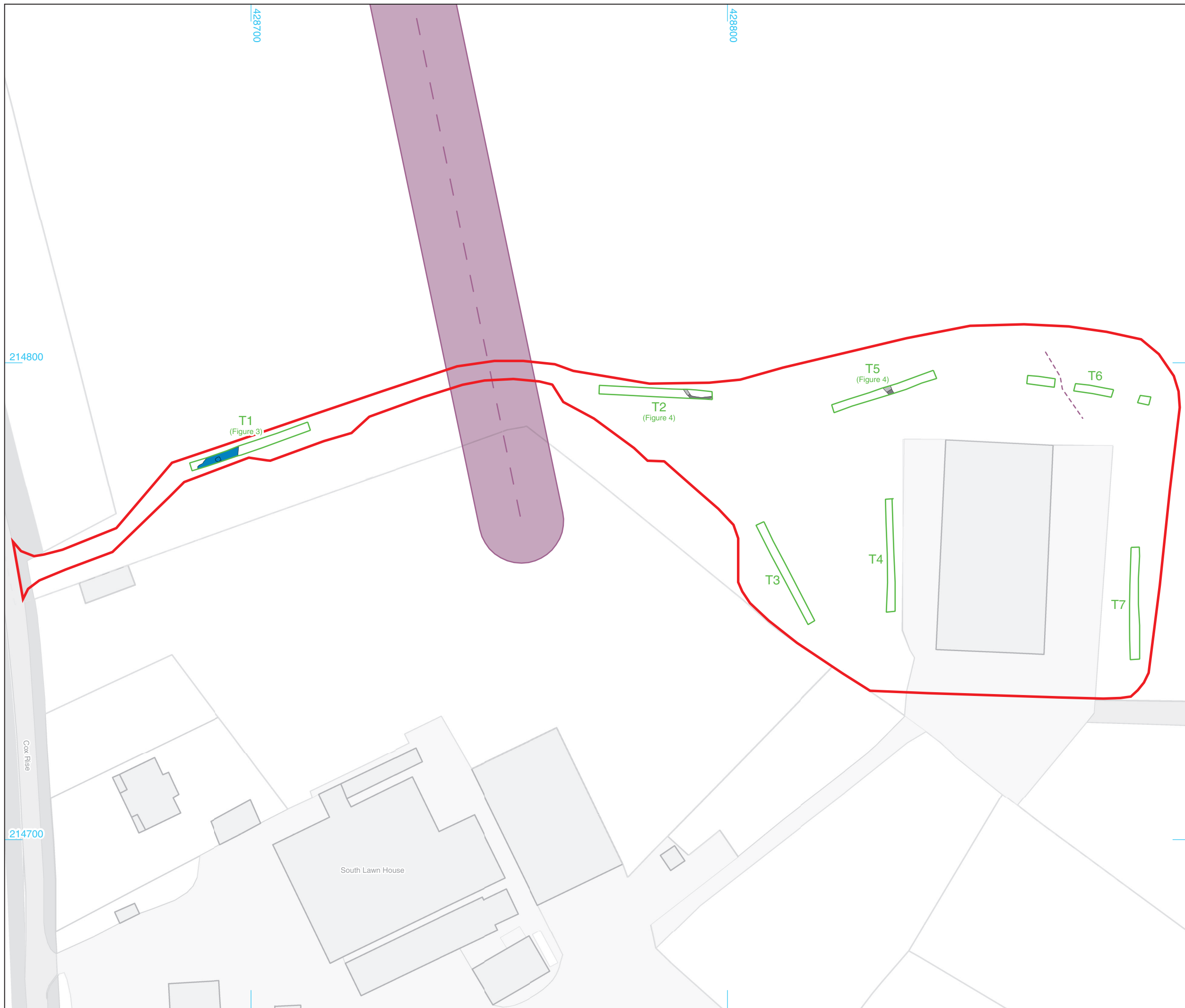
PROJECT TITLE
 Land East of South Lawn, Swinbrook,
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	15/01/2020	
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- Site outline
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)
- Modern feature
- Overhead power line (and buffer)
- Constraint



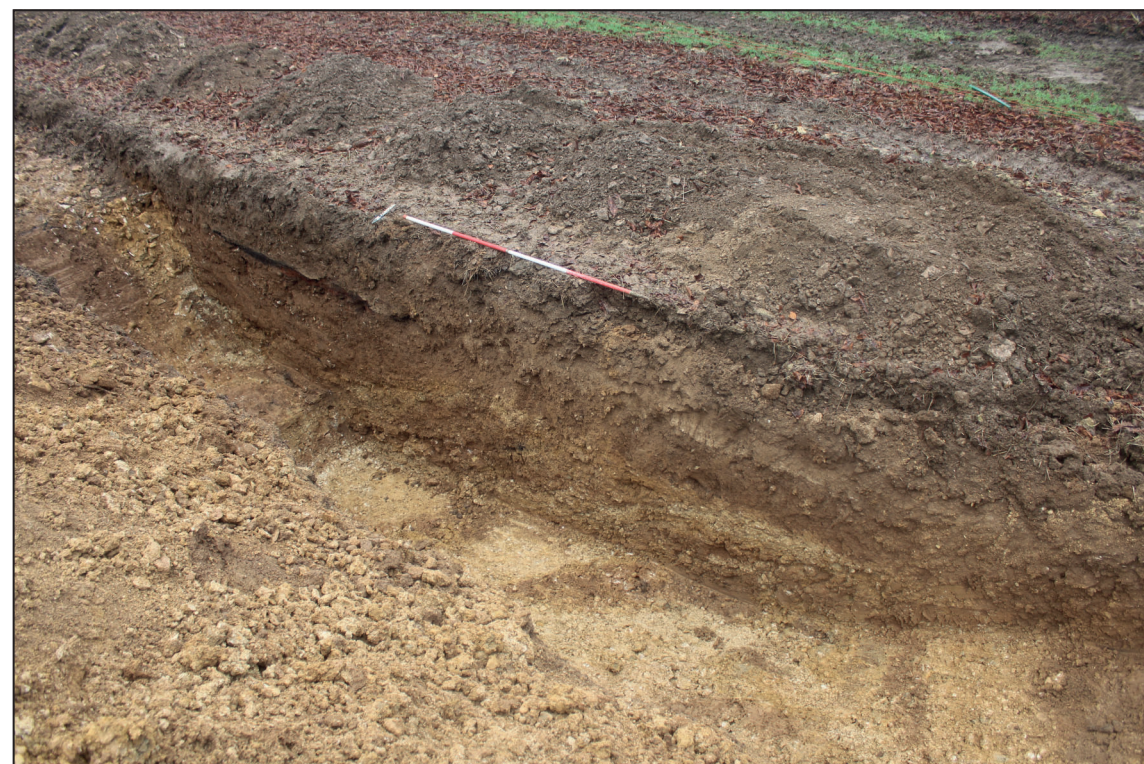
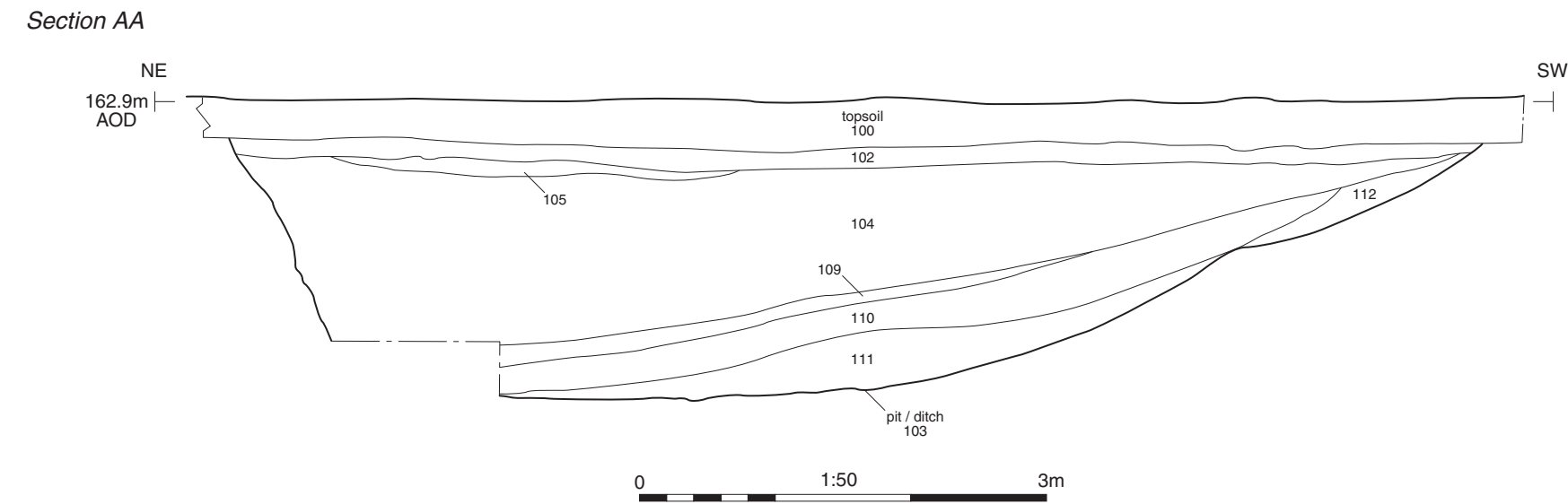
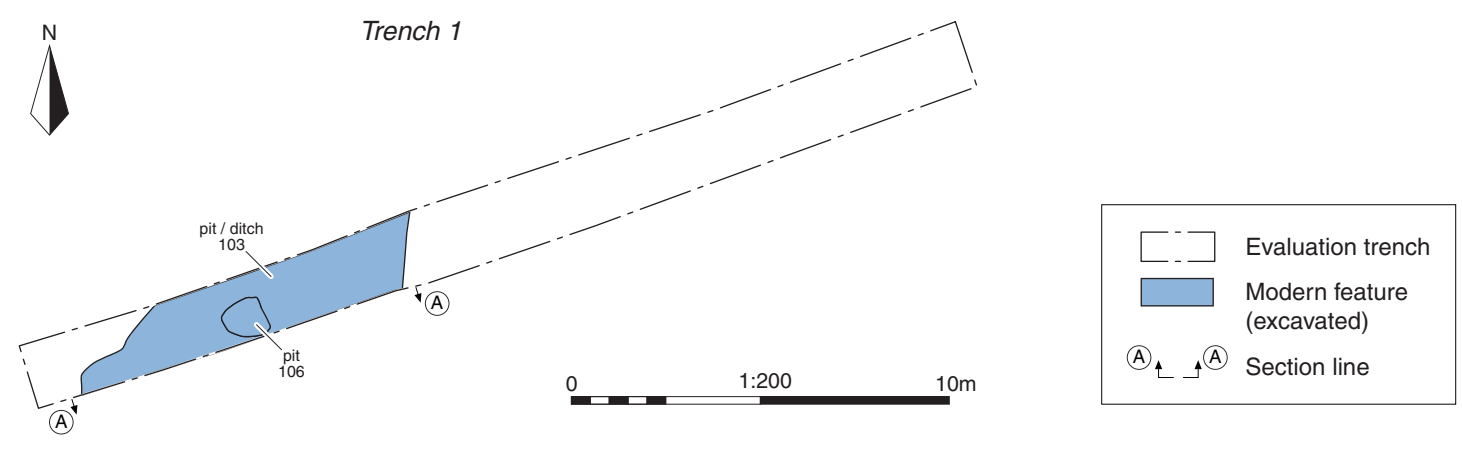
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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing identified archaeological features

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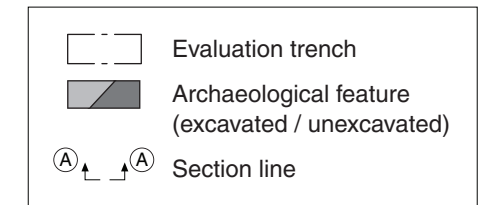
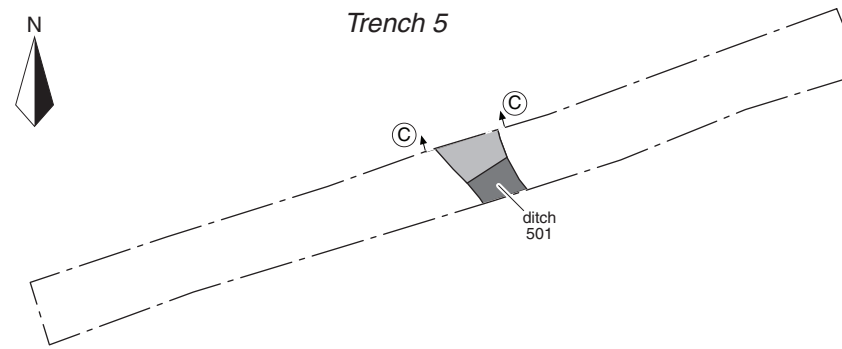
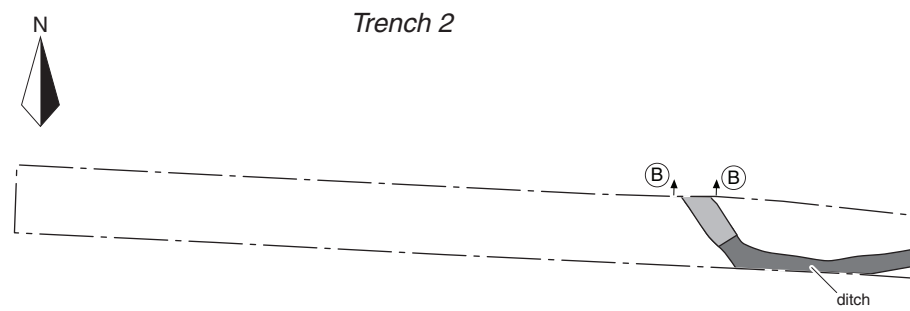
Pit / ditch 103, looking south-east (2m scale)

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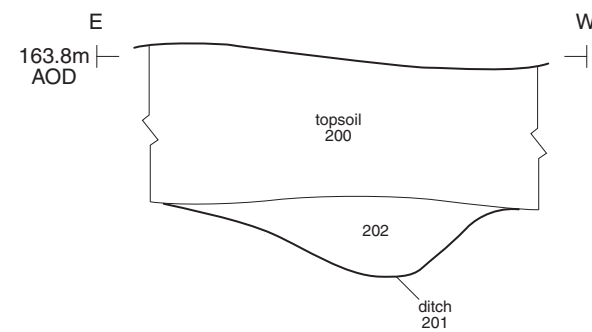
PROJECT TITLE
 Land East of South Lawn, Swinbrook,
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 1: plan, section and photograph

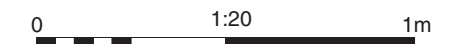
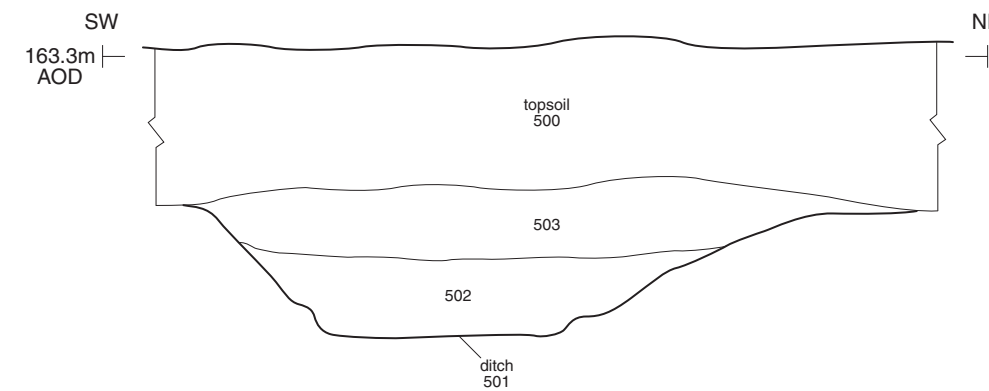
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Section BB



Section CC



Ditch 201, looking north (0.4m scale)



Ditch 501, looking north-west (1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE
**Trenches 2 and 5: plans, sections and
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR0280	FIGURE NO.
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