

SRAO17



# LAND OFF STATION ROAD, ALVESCOT, OXFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

commissioned by CgMs Consulting  
on behalf of Cerda Planning

October 2017



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### PROJECT INFO:

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Archaeological field evaluation, via trial trenching, was undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd on land off Station Road, Alvescot, Oxfordshire, over three days from the 5–7 September 2017.

The investigation revealed evidence of a circular or pennanular late Iron Age feature, with an associated pit and a prehistoric boundary ditch. Evidence of Post-medieval quarrying and later backfilling was also observed across the site. A small assemblage of prehistoric pottery was collected from the large circular feature, together with pottery and animal bone from the pit, and a single worked flint fragment from the boundary ditch.

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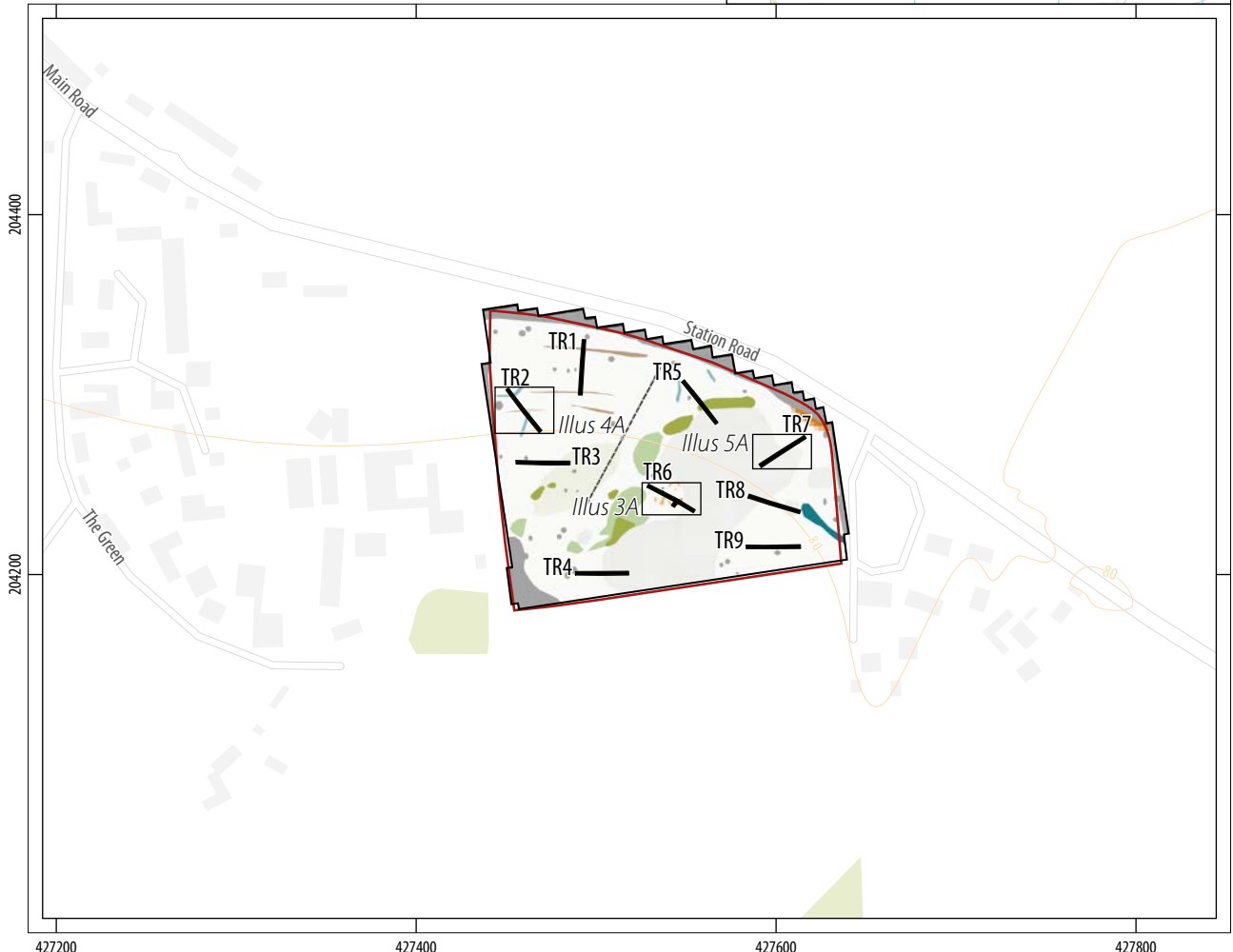
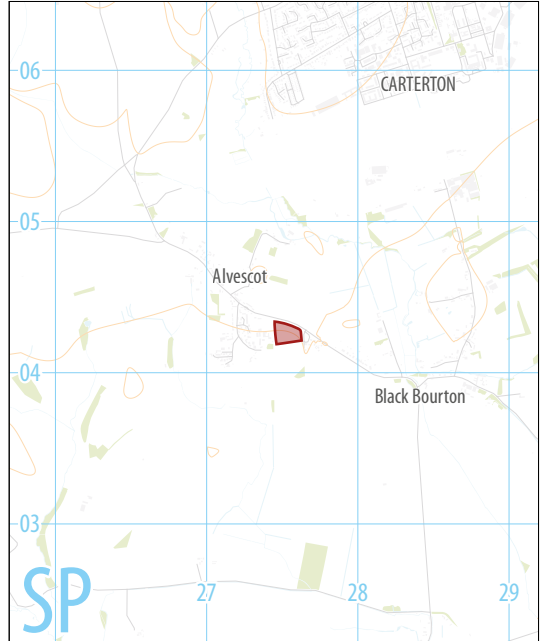
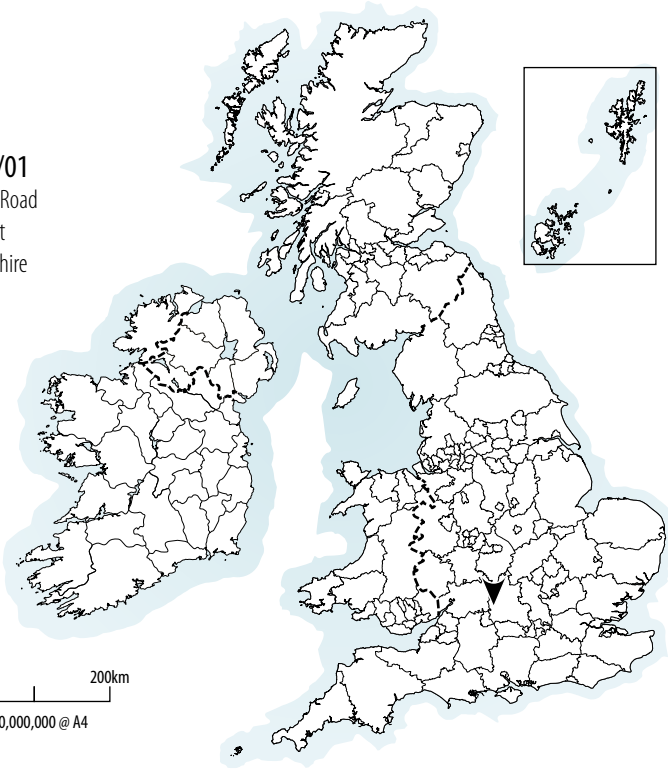
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SRA0/01  
 Station Road  
 Alvescot  
 Oxfordshire

0 200km  
 1:10,000,000 @ A4



427200 427400 427600 427800

0 80m  
 1:4,000 @ A4

- development boundary
  - trench location
  - geophysical survey boundary
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #e67e22; margin-right: 5px;"></span> strong</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #c9946c; margin-right: 5px;"></span> weak</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #9467bd; margin-right: 5px;"></span> spread</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #2ca02c; margin-right: 5px;"></span> dipolar</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f08080; margin-right: 5px;"></span> possible archaeology</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9ead3; margin-right: 5px;"></span> agricultural</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #fff2cc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> natural</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4cccc; margin-right: 5px;"></span> undetermined</li> <li><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #e6e6e6; margin-right: 5px;"></span> ferrous</li> </ul> |
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ILLUS 1 Site location



# LAND OFF STATION ROAD, ALVESCOT, OXFORDSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

### 1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation on land off Station Road, Alvescot, Oxfordshire.

#### 1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Cerda Planning (the client) are proposing residential development of the site. Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by the client, through their agents, CgMs Consulting, to carry out the archaeological works as evidence in support of a planning application.

The developer intends to submit a planning application for proposed residential development of the site and the archaeological advisor to the planning authority (Mr Hugh Coddington, West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC)) indicated that an archaeological evaluation would be required in order to inform the application.

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by CgMs consulting (Harrison 2017) and approved by Mr Coddington, prior to commencement of archaeological works. All works were undertaken in accordance with this document and with a method statement for archaeological evaluation, prepared for this project by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.

#### 1.2 SITE LOCATION, DESCRIPTION AND SETTING

The proposed development area (centred on NGR SP 27524 04260) is located immediately south of Station Road (the B4020) on the eastern side of Alvescot (Illus 1). It comprises a single field bounded

to the north and south by arable farmland and to the east and west by industrial and agricultural land. The site measures c 2.5ha and is relatively flat, sitting at around 80m above Ordinance Datum (AOD). At the time of archaeological works, the site was under arable crop, which had recently been harvested and left as stubble.

A geophysical survey was undertaken on site in 2016 by Magnitude Surveys and this showed a number of magnetic anomalies across the western side of the site, which were initially interpreted as possibly Prehistoric or Roman field boundaries. The eastern side of the site is known to have been heavily impacted by quarrying and gravel extraction during the post-medieval period. A series of cropmarks have been located in the field immediately to the south (HER 15133) and c 200m to the south-east of the site (HER 15134).

The underlying bedrock geology comprises Kellaways Sand Member, Sandstone and Siltstone, Interbedded. No superficial deposits are recorded (NERC 2017). The soils are classified in the Soilscape 7 association, being characterised as slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Cranfield University 2017).

#### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Baseline information collected by the client's archaeological consultant (CgMs 2017) has identified that there are no previously recorded designated or non-designated heritage assets within the proposed development area. A previous desk-based assessment (CgMs 2017) and a geophysical survey of the site (Magnitude Surveys 2016) were undertaken prior to evaluation fieldwork and the results of these investigations informed the placement of the evaluation trenches.

The linear anomalies identified on the geophysical survey were on a similar alignment to the undated field system cropmarks in the

fields immediately to the south (Historic Environment Record (HER) 15133) and c 200m to the south east of the site (HER 15134). The cropmarks to the immediate south of the site (15133), whilst undated, are possibly Bronze Age and consist of what appears to be a Barrow and part of a field system.

Known Prehistoric activity within the wider area includes the Scheduled Monument cropmark site of Black Bourton c.400m to the south of the site (SM 1002924), which relates to an area of very extensive Iron Age settlement, enclosures, drove roads and a possible field system.

There is a single record relating to post-medieval activity on site, which relates to a former gravel quarry (8820). The quarry is mapped on the Ordnance Survey maps from the first edition of the County Series published in 1876 and is present until the 1970s. The infilled quarry is identifiable in the geophysical survey results as a widespread area of ferrous responses in the eastern, central and southern parts of the site.

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## 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In general, the purpose of the evaluation was to provide sufficient evidence for confident prediction of the impact of the development proposal by establishing the extent, nature and importance of any heritage assets within the affected area (following the National Planning Policy Framework).

The primary aims of the archaeological work were identified as follows:

- › to test the veracity of the geophysical survey;
- › to ensure that the presence, extent, level of significance and degree of preservation of surviving buried archaeological remains within the development site are reliably established;
- › to determine whether cropmark evidence of possible Bronze Age activity to the south of the site continues within the site;
- › to determine the level of disturbance within the site caused by Post Medieval and Modern quarrying;
- › to allow agreement upon the need for and scope of any further archaeological mitigation required within the development site.
- › determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from the proposed development; and
- › disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.

The above aims were realised through achieving the following objectives:

- › establishing the level and scope of if surviving archaeological remains of any period are observed within the proposed trial trenches;

- › to interpret the nature of human activity at the site and to place the site within its local, regional and national context as appropriate, and
- › to produce a site archive for deposition with Oxfordshire Museums Service and to provide information for the local Historic Environment Record to ensure the long-term survival of the excavated data.

The local and regional research contexts are provided by the Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research. Evidence retrieved during the works has been analysed in light of the objectives contained in these frameworks.

The results of the evaluation will be used to describe the significance of heritage assets potentially affected by the development, allowing the planning authority to make an informed assessment of any potential impacts on the historic environment in line with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

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## 3 METHOD

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the above mentioned WSI and method statement and in accordance with the following documents:

- › Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a)
- › Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b)

Nine trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.8m were excavated across a single field (Illus 1) with the work carried out between the 5th and 7th September 2017. Prior to excavation, utility plans were consulted and a cable avoidance tool (CAT) was used to check for the presence of potential buried services. Trenches were positioned to avoid the conservation area immediately to the west of the site.

Trenches were excavated using a 14t tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless grading bucket, to depths where archaeological features were identified or geological deposits encountered. Test sondages were mechanically excavated in Trenches 5 and 7 to check the stratigraphic sequence.

In agreement with the archaeological advisor, a machine sondage was excavated through a large modern quarry in Trench 5 (the same feature was also observed in Trenches 4, 6, 7 and 8), to assist in understanding its complexity and to determine its full depth.

Exposed archaeological remains were recorded on Headland Archaeology pro forma record sheets and a representative sample of features identified were subsequently excavated by hand to determine form, function and to retrieve dateable material.



**ILLUS 2A** Trench 1 facing south    **ILLUS 2B** Trench 3 facing west    **ILLUS 2C** Trench 4 facing east    **ILLUS 2D** Trench 6 facing south-east

Drawings of significant archaeological remains were made on a stable media (permatrace) with sections being represented at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Each archaeological feature and the cut extent of each trench was digitally surveyed.

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The recorded contexts were assigned unique numbers and recording was undertaken on Headland Archaeology pro forma trench and context record sheets. Digital and black and white photographs were taken of all trenches and identified features, with a graduated metric scale clearly visible. An overall site plan of the trenches and recorded features was digitally produced. Digital surveying was undertaken using a Trimble dGPS system.

## 4 RESULTS

Results are presented by period with a preceding summary and description of the general stratigraphy across the entire site. Archaeological remains were generally encountered between 0.30 and 0.50m below ground level.

A summary of trenches and recorded contexts is presented as Appendix 1, with finds and environmental assessments as Appendix 2 and 3.

### 4.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The soil profile across the site was varied, represented by yellowish sandy clays in the north (Trenches 1, 2, 5 and 7) and by reddish brown sandy gravels in the south (Trenches 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9). With the exception of Trench 1 (1003), natural geological sediments (2003-9003) were highly mixed and very patchy across the site (Illus 2A–D).

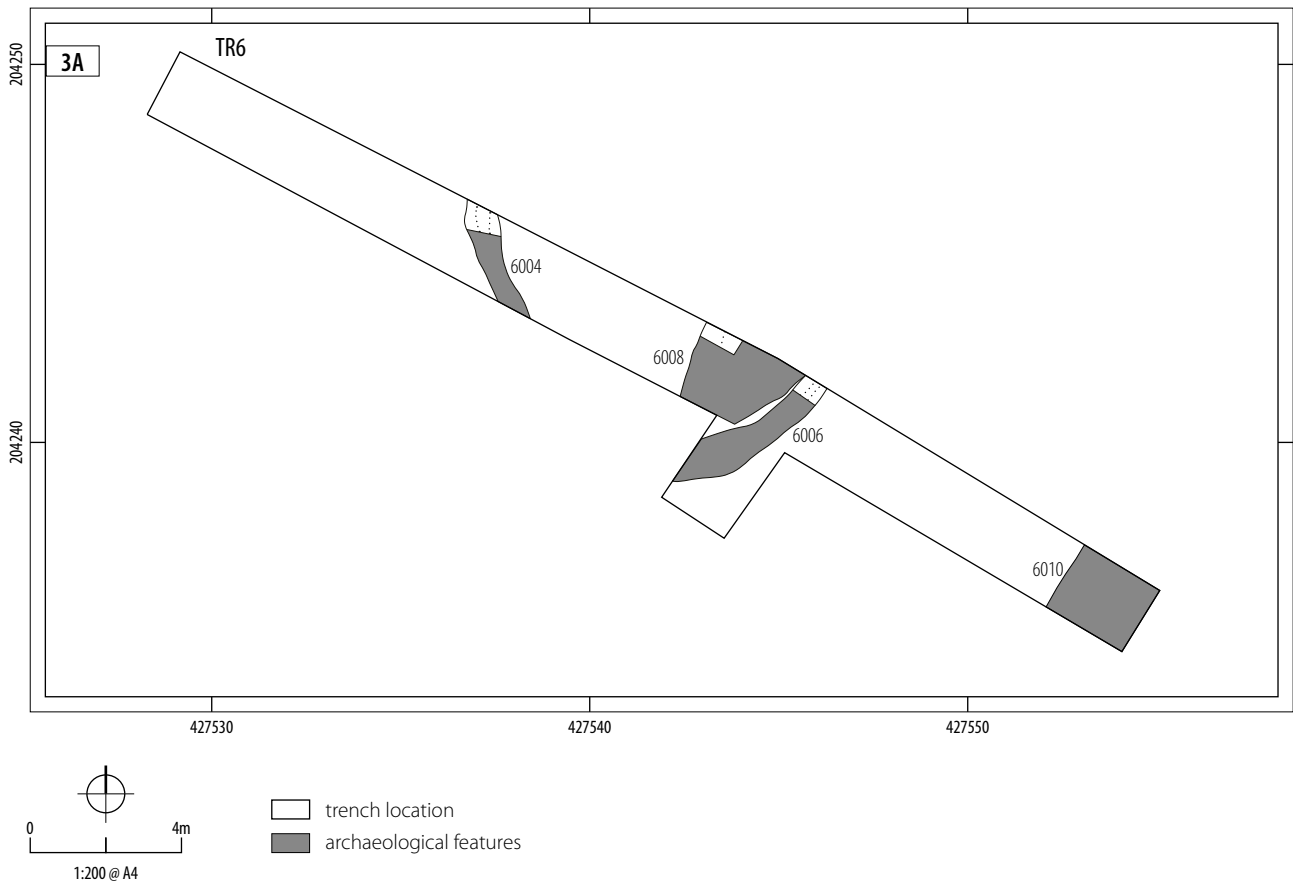
Overlying the natural was a varied subsoil, ranging in thickness from 0.10–0.27m and in colour from light to mid-reddish brown silty clay in the north (1002, 2002, 3002, 5002 and 7002), to light to mid-reddish brown sandy gravel in the south (4002, 6002, 8002 and 9002). This was in turn sealed by a mid-brown silty clay loam topsoil which varied in thickness from 0.16m 0.23m.

No artefacts were recovered from either topsoil or subsoil deposits.

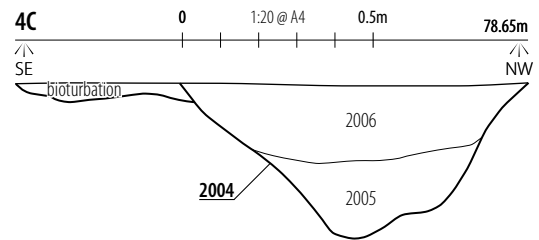
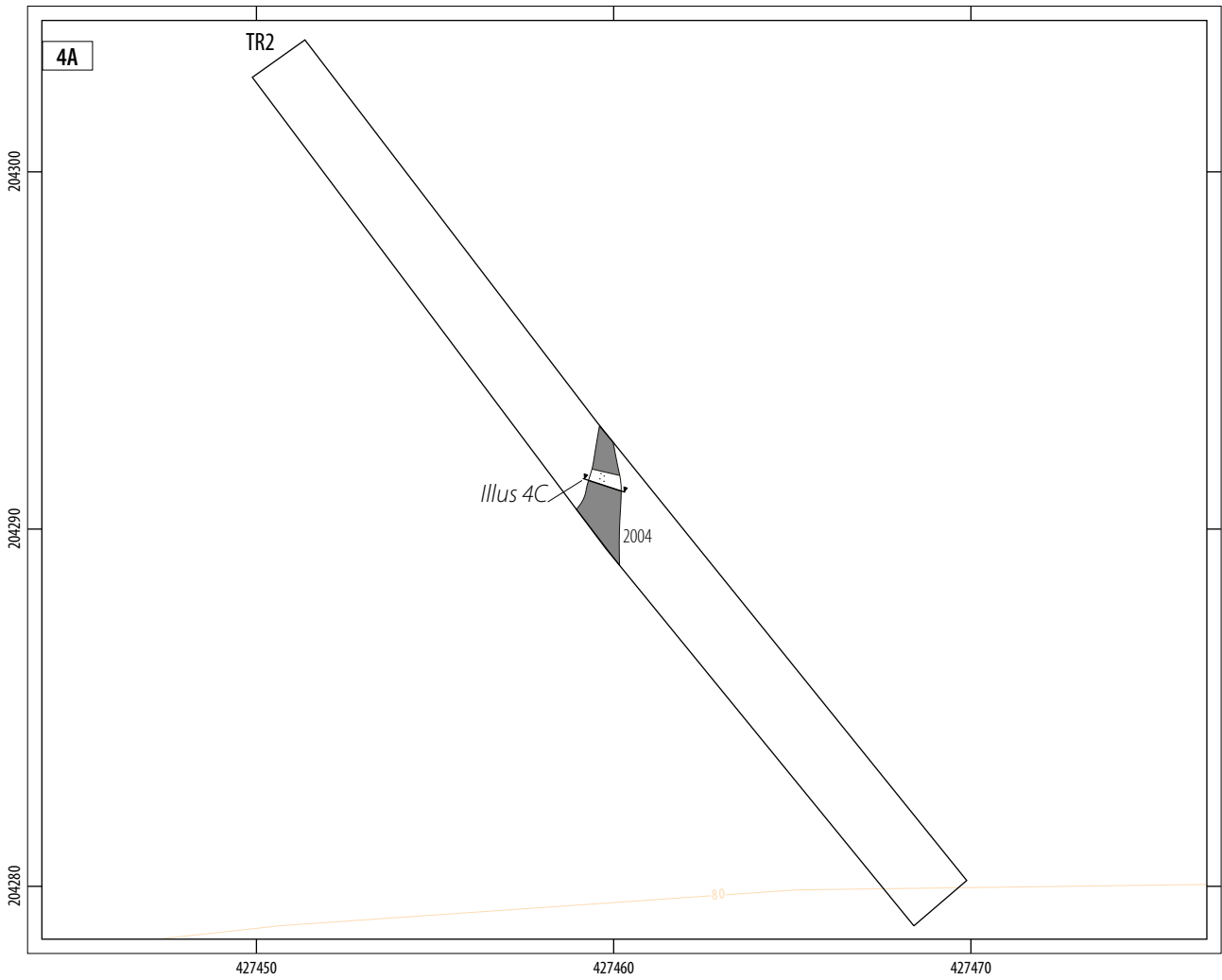
### 4.2 PREHISTORIC

A total of three prehistoric features were identified during the evaluation works. These comprised a ditch, a curvilinear feature and a pit.

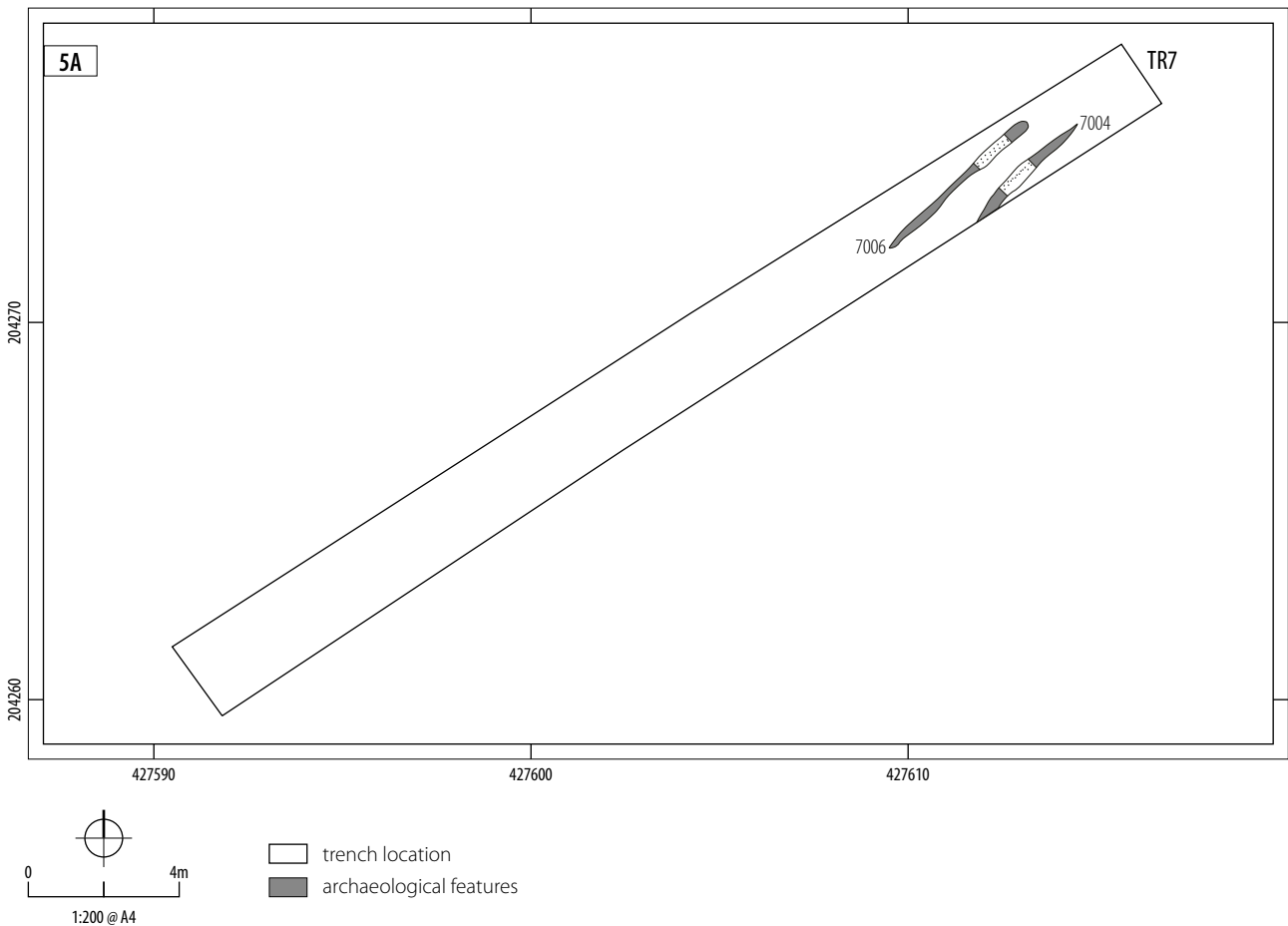
A small north-south aligned linear ditch [2004] was recorded in Trench 2 (Illus 4A–C). The ditch exhibited sloping sides c 40 degrees and a flat base and contained two distinct fills; a mid-orange brown, sandy clay silt lower fill (2005) and a mid-brown sandy silt upper fill (2006). Both fills contained c 30% sand inclusions. A single retouched flint flake was recovered from deposit (2005); although Prehistoric, it is not possible to assign the flint a more secure date.



**ILLUS 3A** Ditch [2004]    **ILLUS 3B** North facing section through ditch [2004]    **ILLUS 3C** North facing section through ditch [2004]



**ILLUS 4A** Curvilinear ditches [6004] and [6006] **ILLUS 4B** Curvilinear ditch [6004] facing north **ILLUS 4C** Curvilinear ditch [6004] facing south



**ILLUS 5A** Trackway [7004/7006]    **ILLUS 5B** Trackway [7004/7006] facing south-east    **ILLUS 5C** Trackway [7004/7006] shown in Trench 7 facing south-east

### 4.3 IRON AGE

Trench 6 was located in order to test the validity of several anomalies forming parts of a possible circular feature. These anomalies were confirmed as archaeological and comprise two sections of curvilinear ditch [6004]/(6005) and [6006]/(6007) (Illus 3A–C). Whilst there was no immediate physical relationship evident between the two sections, extrapolating their line and extent suggests that they are likely part of the same feature, which might be interpreted as a roundhouse or circular enclosure. At the request of the consultant’s representative on site, the section of Trench 6 where ditch [6006] disappeared into the baulk was extended to the southwest for approximately 2m in length. This further defined the curve of ditch [6006] and the fact that it was turning towards ditch [6004].

Ditch [6004] was no more than 0.07m deep and a maximum of 1m wide, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It contained one fill; friable light reddish brown, sandy loam (6005), which contained a fragment of large mammal bone.

Ditch [6006] was slightly deeper yet narrower than ditch [6004], being no more than 0.15m deep and a maximum of 0.74m wide. The slight difference in dimensions with ditch [6004] is most likely due to the uneven nature of the features and a degree of truncation from machining overlying deposits. Ditch [6006] also contained a single fill; friable, light reddish brown, silty loam (6007). A total of 3 sherds of later middle to late Iron Age shell tempered pottery, a single fragment of ceramic building material (either domestic hearth, oven,

kiln, clay-lined pit or wattle and daub structure) and a fragment of sheep radius were recovered from fill (6007).

Pit [6008] was recorded immediately adjacent to ditch [6004]. The section of the pit that was observed within trench 6 exhibited steep sides and a rounded base, with a sharp break of slope at the north-western edge. The pit was 0.33m deep, c 2m in diameter and contained a single friable, light reddish brown fill (6009). A total of 22 sherds of later middle to late Iron Age shell tempered pottery and a small assemblage of animal bone were recovered from fill (6009). The animal bone comprised a single fragment of sheep femur, 2 fragments of cattle horn core, 1 cattle rib fragment and 5 fragments of domestic goose bone.

#### 4.4 POST-MEDIEVAL

Two small parallel linear features [7004]/[7006] were recorded in Trench 7 (Illus 5A–C). Each one measured no more than 0.3m deep and 0.26m wide, with gently sloping sides and rounded bases. Both linears contained a single fill ((7005 and 7007) respectively) with [7004] also containing a single line of stones. The features were aligned north-east/south-west and appeared to run from the original entrance into the field, directly towards the edge of the known gravel extraction area. Given their size and location it is likely the features together form the remains of a Post-medieval trackway.

#### 4.5 MODERN AND QUARRYING

Much of the southern and eastern parts of the site have been subject to large amounts of gravel/sand extraction and deep quarrying. The quarry (identified in these works as deposit (4004)/(7008), was observed in Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. At its deepest point (recorded at the south-eastern end of Trench 5) the quarry had been dug to a depth of c 1.9m BGL. A large number of bottles were observed and noted within the quarry backfill however, these were not retained.

### 5 DISCUSSION

It is clear from the highly mixed and truncated nature of the natural sands and gravels that the area has been subject to a lot of gravel/sand extraction over an extended period of time. More recently the large open quarry area left behind by these extraction operations has been backfilled with large amounts of modern waste, most of which had been burnt prior to being dumped. The presence of a small trackway leading from the original field entrance in the north-eastern corner, likely relates to the copious quarrying operations and movement of extracted sands and gravels.

Trenches were placed to prove the validity of anomalies identified on the geophysical survey. The correlation between anomalies identified on the geophysical survey and archaeological remains was generally good, despite the heavily mixed and truncated nature of the underlying natural sediments. A small amount of anomalies identified on the geophysical survey as potentially archaeological turned out to be variations in the natural; these included an east-west aligned linear at the southern end of Trench 1; two east-west aligned linear features in Trench 2; and several discreet anomalous features in Trenches 4, 5 and 9.

The presence of a relatively well preserved roundhouse and pit and a similarly well preserved (albeit truncated) boundary ditch, along with the associated pottery from these features, indicate occupation of the site during the later middle to late Iron Age period. This is consistent with further Iron Age occupation sites known to exist in fields immediately south of the site. Due to its small size, nothing can be inferred about the economy of the site from the animal bone assemblage recovered from the roundhouse and pit.

Whilst both the roundhouse and ditch survive quite well, this is only because they are located off of the natural gravel/sand beds that have been so heavily truncated. It is possible that further remains might have been quarried away over time, although a more likely scenario is that people occupying the site during the Iron Age chose to build on the more stable naturals that have a higher clay content, avoiding building on the softer areas of gravel and sand.

### 6 CONCLUSION

Archaeological evaluation of land east of Station Road, Alvescot, Oxfordshire has successfully identified archaeological features of Prehistoric and late middle to late Iron Age date, potentially related to occupation on the site, within the wider locale. The evaluation has also corroborated some elements identified on the geophysical survey as archaeological and confirmed the extents and depth to which quarrying has been undertaken on site.

### 7 REFERENCES

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a *Code of Conduct* (Reading) <http://http.www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf> accessed 26 September 2017
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Reading) [http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GFieldevaluation\\_1.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GFieldevaluation_1.pdf) accessed 26 September 2017
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- Hey & Hind (eds) 2014 *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2017 *British Geological Survey* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> accessed 12 July 2017

## 8 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

DBGL = Depth below ground level

TR1	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	N-S	30.00	1.80	0.41
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
(1001)	Topsoil – Mid-brown silty clay loam			0.00–0.16
(1002)	Subsoil – Light brown silty clay			0.16–0.29
(1003)	Natural – Yellowish sandy clay			0.29 (LOE)
[1004]	Cut of linear E-W aligned ditch			0.08
(1005)	Light brownish grey silty clay – fill of ditch [1004]			0.08
[1006]	Excavated as post-hole but voided in post-excavation			–
(1007)	Fill of post-hole [1006] – voided in post-excavation			–
Summary: 1 x ditch				

TR2	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NW-SE	30.00	1.80	0.43
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
(2001)	Topsoil – Mid-brown silty clay loam			0.00–0.17
(2002)	Subsoil – Reddish brown sandy clay			0.17–0.43
(2003)	Natural – Yellowish sandy clay			0.40 (LOE)
[2004]	Cut of linear N-S aligned ditch			0.42
(2005)	Mid-orange brown sandy clay silt with >30% fine sand – fill of [2004]			0.22
(2006)	Mid-brown sandy silt with >30% fine sand – fill of [2004]			0.20
Summary: 1 x ditch				

TR3	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	E-W	30.00	1.80	0.44
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
(3001)	Topsoil – Mid-brown silty clay loam			0.00–0.20
(3002)	Subsoil – Mid-brownish red sandy clay			0.20–0.31
(3003)	Natural – Yellowish sandy clay with occasional gravel patches			0.31 (LOE)
Summary: No Archaeological Remains				

TR4	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	E-W	30.00	1.80	0.50
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
(4001)	Topsoil – Mid-brown silty clay loam			0.00–0.22
(4002)	Subsoil – Mid-brownish red sandy clay			0.22–0.40
(4003)	Natural – Yellowish sandy clay with occasional gravel patches			0.40 (LOE)
Summary: No archaeological remains				

TR5	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NW-SE	30.00	1.80	0.50
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
(5001)	Topsoil – Mid-brown silty clay loam			0.00–0.16
(5002)	Subsoil – Mid-reddish brown silty clay			0.16–0.38
(5003)	Natural – Yellowish sandy clay with occasional gravel patches			0.38 (LOE)
Summary: No archaeological remains				

TR6	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NW-SE	30.00	1.80	0.61
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
(6001)	Topsoil – Mid-brown silty clay loam			0.00–0.19
(6002)	Subsoil – Light-reddish brown silty clay			0.19–0.41
(6003)	Natural – Reddish brown sandy clay with occasional gravel patches			0.41 (LOE)
[6004]	Curvilinear ditch roughly aligned NW-SE with gently sloping sides and a flat base			0.07
(6005)	Light reddish brown sandy loam – fill of ditch [6004]			0.07
[6006]	Curvilinear ditch roughly aligned NE-SW with gently sloping sides and a flat base			0.07
(6007)	Light reddish brown sandy loam – fill of ditch [6004]			0.07
[6008]	Pit with steep sides and a rounded base]			0.33
(6009)	Light reddish brown silty clay – fill of pit [6008]			0.33
(6010)	Modern dumping material			–
Summary: 2 x curvilinear ditches (together forming one roundhouse), 1 x pit				



TR7	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	SW-NE	30.00	1.80	0.56
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
(7001)	Topsoil – Mid-brown silty clay loam			0.00–0.16
(7002)	Subsoil –Reddish brown silty clay			0.16–0.56
(7003)	Natural – Reddish brown sandy clay with occasional gravel patches			0.56 (LOE)
[7004]	Linear trackway with gently sloping sides and a rounded base			0.56–0.69
(7005)	Dark brown sandy, gravelly loam – fill of trackway [7004]			0.56–0.68
[7006]	Linear trackway with gently sloping sides and a rounded base			0.56–0.69
(7007)	Dark brown sandy, gravelly loam – fill of trackway [7004]			0.56–0.68
Summary: 2 x linear features forming trackway				

TR8	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	NW-SE	30.00	1.80	0.59
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
(8001)	Topsoil – Mid-brown silty clay loam			0–0.23
(8002)	Subsoil –Reddish brown silty clay			0.23–0.40
(8003)	Natural – Reddish brown sandy clay with occasional gravel patches			0.40 (LOE)
Summary: No archaeological remains				

TR9	Orientation	L (m)	W (m)	Av. D (m)
	E-W	30.00	1.80	0.65
Context	Description			DBGL (m)
(9001)	Topsoil – Mid-brown silty clay loam			0–0.18
(9002)	Subsoil –Reddish brown silty clay			0.18–0.93
(9003)	Natural – Reddish brown sandy clay with occasional gravel patches			0.93 (LOE)
Summary: No archaeological remains				

## APPENDIX 2 FINDS ASSESSMENT

The finds assemblage numbered 25 sherds (135g) of pottery, two lithics, one glass bead and one sherd (5g) of ceramic building material. These were found in four different features in three separate trenches. The Iron Age and modern periods were represented. The finds are summarised by feature in Table 1 and a complete catalogue is given at the end.

TR	Feature	Pottery (PH)		Lithics	Glass	CBM		Spot date
		Count	Wgt (g)			Count	Count	
2	[2004]	-	-	1	-	-	-	PH
6	[6006]	3	74	-	-	1	5	M-LIA
6	[6008]	22	61	1	-	-	-	M-LIA
7	(7008)	-	-	-	1	-	-	Mod
	Total	25	135	2	1	1	5	

**TABLE 1** Summary of finds assemblage by feature with spot dating

### Methodology

The report includes both hand-collected finds and those from sample retents. The finds were collected, processed and packaged for long term storage in accordance with professional guidelines (ClFA 2014; Watkinson & Neal 1998). The finds were each assessed and recorded by appropriate specialists. The resultant data was then drawn together into one MS Access database. A copy of this data is given at the end of the report.

The pottery was examined visually, using x20 magnification where necessary. It was recorded according to standards set out by specialist bodies (Barclay et al 2016; PCRG 2010).

### Prehistoric pottery

A total of 25 sherds (135g) of prehistoric pottery were retrieved from ditch [6006] (6007) and pit [6008] (6009), and are all likely to date from the late middle to the late Iron Age. The pottery is fairly typical of this area, with similar assemblages deriving from around the Oxford area (Raymond 2005).

Fabric code	Fabric	Dating	Sherds	Wgt (g)
F1	Shelly limestone	Later middle to late Iron Age	17	109
F2	Shelly limestone (2)	Later middle to late Iron Age	7	21
F3	Sand tempered	Late Iron Age	1	5
	Total		25	135

**TABLE 2** Prehistoric pottery type series

The majority of the assemblage is comprised of fabric F1, a slightly sandy fabric with moderate to abundant shell/shelly limestone, moderate to occasional black organic inclusions and rare mica. These

were recovered from both ditch [6006] (6007) and pit [6008] (6009). Most of the sherds were undiagnostic, however a simple upright rim sherd from a handmade jar with finger impressions evident on the surface of the pottery was retrieved from ditch [6006] (6007).

The other pottery fabrics were less common and were only found in pit [6008] (6009). Fabric F2 was similar to F1; a finely sanded fabric with occasional to moderate medium to large shelly limestone and reddish iron 'staining' evident in some fragments. Fabric F3 was represented by only a single sherd. It was a slightly micaceous sandy fabric with occasional to moderate white quartz, rare limestone and occasional iron inclusions.

### Glass

A single light-green translucent glass bead was retrieved from modern midden (7008). It was in poor condition, fragmented, and the glass crystallising. The bead was oval-shaped and was made from mould-pressing, with the seam running lengthwise. A series of five square facets ran along the length of the bead. As it is mould-pressed, it is likely to be 19th century or later in date.

### Lithics

An edge retouched flint flake was retrieved from ditch [2004] (2005) and an irregular core from pit [6008] (6009). They were both broken and while prehistoric, neither can be closely dated.

### Ceramic building material

A small fragment (5g) of fired clay in a fine sandy fabric was retrieved from ditch [6006] (6007). It may derive from a domestic hearth, oven, kiln, clay-lined pit or wattle and daub structure.

### Discussion

The earliest finds are probably the lithics, though they are undiagnostic and are likely to be residual. The majority of the material dates to the late middle to late Iron Age. The material from this period was concentrated in pit [6008] with further material in ditch 6006. The pottery and fragment of fired clay suggest general domestic activity in the area.

The glass bead find from midden (7008) is likely to be contemporary with the other uncollected modern material noted from this context. The presence of this rubbish dump is an indication that there was recent domestic activity in the vicinity.

### Recommendations for further work

The assemblage provides evidence for Iron Age activity in the area. Should further archaeological work be undertaken on the site, the assemblage should be added to this and re-evaluated at the time. As it stands, the assemblage is too small for further statistical analysis, though the pottery could be placed within the local Iron Age setting.

### Recommendations for archive

The prehistoric material should be retained for archive though the modern bead could be discarded. The archive has been prepared in

TR	Feature	Context	Qty	Wgt (g)	Material	Object	Description	Spot date
2	[2004]	2005	1	6	Lithics	Tool	Edge retouched hard hammer flake. Missing some edges, including distal edge. Retouch visible on left lateral	PH
6	[6006]	6007	3	74	Pottery (PH)	Fabric 1	Finely sanded fabric, moderate to abundant shell/shelly limestone, black organic inclusions, rare mica	LMIA-LIA
6	[6006]	6007	1	5	CBM	Fired Clay	Fine sandy fabric	
6	[6008]	6009	1	24	Lithics	Core	Irregular core fragment	PH
6	[6008]	6009	14	35	Pottery (PH)	Fabric 1	Finely sanded fabric, moderate to abundant shell/shelly limestone, black organic inclusions, rare mica	LMIA-LIA
6	[6008]	6009	7	21	Pottery (PH)	Fabric 2	Finely sanded occasional to moderate medium to large shelly limestone	LMIA-LIA
6	[6008]	6009	1	5	Pottery (PH)	Fabric 3	Slightly micaceous sandy fabric with occasional to moderate white quartz, rare limestone and occasional iron inclusions	LIA
7	(7008)	7008	1	2	Glass	Bead	Light-green translucent oval-shaped bead; mould-pressed, faceted with seam running lengthwise; series of five square facets; complete, but broken into 15 pieces as it is very fragile and in poor condition, dia 14mm L 18mm	Mod

TABLE 3 Finds catalogue

accordance with professional standards (AAF 2011) and the specific requirements of Oxfordshire Museums Service (OMS 2016).

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## APPENDIX 3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### Introduction

Eleven items of animal and bird bone was hand collected during an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land off Station Road, Alvescot, Oxfordshire. The material was collected from two ditches and a pit of possible Late Iron Age date. The aims of the assessment were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any faunal remains and to determine the potential of the material in indicating the character and significance of the deposit.

### Methodology

The bone fragments were examined under low magnification and, as far as possible, identified to species and skeletal element, using modern reference material and with reference to Schmid (1972), and Hillson (1992). Measurements are taken as per von den Dreisch (1976). Ageing criteria are recorded using various methods outlined in Amorosi (1989).

### Results

The results of the assessment are presented in the table below:

Context	Feature	Species	Bone
6005	[6004]	Non-Identifiable	Large mammal long-bone fragment
6007	[6007]	Sheep	Radius shaft fragment
6009	[6008]	Sheep	Femur shaft fragment
6009	[6008]	Cattle	2 Horn-core fragments, 1 rib fragment
6009	[6008]	Domestic goose	5 fragments

**TABLE 4** Animal bone assemblage

One of the 'cattle' horn-core fragments from Pit [6008] represents the last 100mm of the core. The piece was chopped through perpendicular to the axis of the horn-core. The other fragment was from the junction with the skull, most likely from a different individual.

The domestic goose (*Anser anser*) bones derive from both leg and wing as well as two fragments from the skull.

### Discussion

The small faunal assemblage does not offer any significant information relating to site economy other than species present. Preservation was mixed and the presence of the material in the ditches and the pit suggests that the material was residual.

The paucity of remains precludes further analysis.

### References

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