



Land at Crowell Road Chinnor, South Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



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69 College Road,
Maidstone,
Kent
ME15 6SX

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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Fieldwork directed by	William Santamaria
Project management by	Jo Lathan
Document compiled by	William Santamaria
Finds report by	Lorraine Mepham
Graphics by	Andrew Souter
Palaeoenvironmental evidence assessed by	Dr Ines Lopez Doriga

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Pegasus Group (The Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Crowell Road, Chinnor, South Oxfordshire (hereafter 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 474925, 200262.

This report details the archaeological evaluation undertaken at the site between the 8th and 15th of August 2017. A total of 12 trenches measuring 30m x 1.8m were excavated within the site boundaries.

The evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the written scheme of investigation. Archaeological remains were recorded dating from the Late Iron Age/Romano British to medieval period. Several undated features were also recorded.

The archaeological features identified within this evaluation support conclusions of the Desk Based Assessment (PG. 2017) that the site, during the medieval period, was primarily used for agricultural purposes and was on the periphery of settlement activity. The features were consistent with agricultural activities in form of boundary and drainage ditches and waste pits associated with settlement activities. A single Romano-British ditch was recorded which also suggests the land was used for agricultural purposes during this period, but less extensively.

Part of a human cranium was found within the upper fill of a ditch. No grave cut was observed but the ditch appeared to cut an earlier feature, the dimensions of which are unknown as the feature extended beyond the trench.

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Land at Crowell Road, Chinnor, South Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Pegasus Group (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 1.80 ha parcel of land located in Crowell Road, Chinnor, South Oxfordshire, OX39 4HS, centred on NGR 474925, 200262 (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises 54 dwellings, new vehicular and pedestrian access, internal roads, footpath and associated infrastructure (planning application P17/S1867/FUL).
- 1.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in undertaking the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2017). The Archaeology Officer for Oxfordshire County Council approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation was comprised of 12 archaeological evaluation trenches (4% sample) and was undertaken between the 8th August and 15th August 2017.
- 1.1.5 The evaluation, along with a previous Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Pegasus Group, 2017) formed part of an archaeological assessment of the site, which aimed to provide archaeological information to aid the planning process.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision regarding the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation was located in a 1.80 ha agricultural field, located to the southwest of Chinnor, by a small hamlet known as Oakley. The site at the time of the evaluation was used as pasture and contained small trees in the northern area (PG 2017).
- 1.3.2 An outbuilding, currently utilised as a shed/workshop was located adjacent to the northwest boundary of the site and is accessed by the track from the north-eastern corner of the site (PG 2017).
- 1.3.3 The proposed development will be situated across the majority of the site, with the proposed 'trim trail' along the western boundary where the ground level is slightly lower.



- 1.3.4 The topography of the site is relatively level, with the southern area at approximately 120m aOD. The land along the southwest boundary is noticeably lower than the land in the remainder of the site, approximately 0.5-1m lower. Land in the wider area appears to slope down to the north slightly, as the area c. 70m north of the site lies at approximately 115m aOD.
- 1.3.5 The underlying geology of the site is mapped as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation which comprises of chalk formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The superficial geology is mapped as Head and comprises of clay, silt, sand and gravel which were formed up to three million years ago in the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A detailed description of the archaeological background to the site has been presented in the Heritage Desk Based Assessment produced by Pegasus Group (PG 2017) and is not reproduced in full here. For the purpose of this document a summary is presented below:

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Later Prehistoric (4000 BC-AD 43)

- 2.2.1 The Icknield Way was located c.565m northwest of the site. This ran across England linking present day Norfolk and Wilshire following the chalk escarpments that run across the country on a north-east to south-west alignment. The route is thought to be present by at least the early Iron Age and possibly originates as a broad belt of passage in the Neolithic period. The route is believed to have changed over time, creating parallel routes and possible alternative trackways.

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

- 2.2.1 Immediately to the northeast of the site, at Lower Farm, an inhumation was recorded during the excavation of a trench for a land drain. A single sherd of Romano-British greyware was recorded during the cleaning, although it is not confirmed if it came from the grave fill. Two pits and a posthole were also recorded in the trench. A further two inhumations are recorded in the centre of Chinnor, although these are undated with no clear association with the inhumation recorded at Lower Farm.
- 2.2.2 The find spot of an Iron Age Greek Bronze coin and Roman harness fitting (1st to 2nd century AD) is recorded c. 175m south of the site.
- 2.2.3 The Lower Icknield Way Roman Road was located c. 565m northwest of the site. This road follows the route of a prehistoric trackway and therefore does not have some of the characteristics of a typical road of Roman date, due to its earlier origins.
- #### *Anglo-Saxon and medieval (AD 410-1500)*
- 2.2.1 An Anglo-Saxon spearhead is recorded c. 175m south of the site. The very large spearhead was recorded after a landslip at Hempton Farm.
- 2.2.2 The site was historically located within the parish of Chinnor and potentially formed part of the agricultural hinterland to the settlement from the medieval period however, no medieval finds or features are recorded within the site.



- 2.2.3 Medieval pottery is recorded c. 85m northeast of the site at 61 Oakley Road. The pottery was recorded in a pit and dated from the 12th and 13th centuries and included fragments of cooking vessels.
- 2.2.4 Two possible enclosures and a former field boundary were identified by geophysical survey c. 165m southeast of the site. The enclosures are of potential medieval date, and are considered to have been in contemporary use. The field boundary is visible on the Chinnor Tithe Map of 1841, is potentially of medieval origin.
- 2.2.5 The remains of medieval ridge and furrow, identified in a geophysical survey, are recorded c. 350m east of the site. The area of Chinnor is located within the study area utilised for *Turning the Plough*, a study of ridge and furrow earthworks published in 2001. *Turning the Plough* identified 43 priority townships, considered to contain the most significant ridge and furrow earthworks in the Midlands. Chinnor is not a priority township.
- Post-medieval to modern (AD1500-present)*
- 2.2.6 The site is first depicted on the Chinnor Tithe Map of 1844, located on the border of the parish adjacent to Sydenham. The site includes the location of a now-demolished building, located in the northeast corner of the site, in an area that is now a track. According to the Tithe Apportionment Register, the site was under multiple ownerships and occupancies; the western edge of the site (1564) is noted as a common within a common field; fields 1559 and 1565 are under the ownership of Mary Lyne and the occupancy of Charles Maunder; and fields 1560 and 1566 are under the occupancy of Charles Greenwood and the ownership of M. Eustace.
- 2.2.7 Field 1564 known as Pit Field, along the western edge of the site, is to be retained as open green space, which is reflective of its historic use as common land. Fields 1560 and 1566 that made up the northern part of the site were under the ownership of Charles Greenwood and occupancy of M. Eustace, who also owned and occupied the farmhouse and homestead Lower Farm and the now-demolished outbuilding within the site.
- 2.2.8 The Tithe Apportionment Register records The Poplars and fields 1559 and 1565 within the site as under the same ownership of Mary Lyne and occupancy of Charles Maunder in 1844.
- 2.2.9 The site is depicted on the Enclosure Map for Chinnor and Oakley Hamlet of 1854 as situated on the western edge of the parish. The site is also depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1881 as situated across three agricultural fields. Many trees are depicted in the central area, which were probably orchard trees. A building, located in the area of the later track in the north-eastern corner of the site, was associated with Lower Farm.
- 2.2.10 No major changes are depicted on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1899 or the Ordnance Survey Map of 1921. The central area of the Site appears to be depicted as orchard, as was the plot of land to the south-west of The Poplars.
- 2.2.11 The track which connects the Site with Oakley Road was formed during the latter half of the 20th century, following the demolition of the building associated with Lower Farm in this area.
- 2.2.12 No post-medieval or modern finds or features are recorded within the site.



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The principal aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and in compliance with the ClfA '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (ClfA 2014a), were:

- To record the location, extent, date, nature, character and significance of archaeological remains that may exist on the site.
- To report on the results of the evaluation so that an informed decision could be taken on the treatment of any identified archaeological remains, in light of the impact of the proposed development

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 The objectives of the evaluation were therefore to:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- To establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- To place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- To make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by producing a report on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using GPS, in the approximate positions as those proposed in the WSI, although, Trench 3 had to be slightly moved from its original position because of on-site obstructions (**Fig. 1**).

4.2.2 The 12 evaluation trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.80m wide, were excavated in spits, c. 50-200mm at a time, using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed. Subsoil and topsoil was stored separately on either side of the trench.

4.2.3 All evaluation trench locations were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to verify the absence of any live underground services.



- 4.2.4 Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually examined for the purposes of finds retrieval and a metal detector was also used to enhance artefact recovery. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from layers of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Oxfordshire County Council Archaeologist Officer were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.
- 4.2.6 Each trench was cleaned by hand, where appropriate, and planned prior to any hand-excavation. A representative section, not less than 1m in length, of deposits through each trench from ground surface to the base of the trench was recorded.
- 4.2.7 A sufficient sample of each feature type/deposit was examined to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains.

Recording

- 4.2.8 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD: Newlyn) heights of all principal features were calculated, and levels added to plans and section drawings.
- 4.2.9 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50mm.
- 4.2.10 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (WA 2017). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with both the client and the Archaeology Officer.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Archaeological features were identified within 10 of the 12 evaluation trenches. The archaeological remains were concentrated within in the northern extent of the site (**Fig. 2**).
- 5.1.2 The features comprised ditches and pits that can be dated to the Romano-British and medieval periods. Several features however, remain undated due to the lack of artefacts present within their fills.
- 5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed in trench order.
- 5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 2** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, **Figure 3** shows examples of trench representative sections and **Figure 4** shows a selection of sections of archaeological features. **Plates 1-6** consist of photographs of the trenches while **Plates 7-19** show photographs of a selection of archaeological features.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphy of deposits across the site was consistent. The topsoil, which comprised a rich organic soil, measured 0.20m to 0.39m thick. This sealed a subsoil, comprised of mid-brown grey clay with rare flint and sub-angular stone inclusions, and varied from 0.10m to 0.30m thick. The subsoil sealed the natural geological horizon (**Fig. 3**).
- 5.2.2 There was some variance in the natural geology across the site. Along the western boundary (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10) weathered solid geology was recorded, a light yellowish white silty sand with abundant degraded chalk and sub-angular flints. In the trenches located towards the northeast and southeast boundary of site, an orangey brown silty clay with abundant small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded flint inclusions was recorded. In Trenches 3, 11 and 12 the geology varied between the two forms (**Plates 2 & 6**).

5.3 Trench descriptions

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 5.3.1 Located in the north of site, on a northeast to southwest alignment, Trench 1 contained a single archaeological feature. In the northeast end of the trench a shallow linear ditch (**104**) was recorded. This ditch was aligned northwest to southeast, measured 0.75m wide, 0.12m deep and had a flat base and shallow concave sides. The feature continued beyond the limit of excavation but was not identified in any other trench. During its investigation, two fragments of medieval pottery, four fragments of animal bone and 1 fragment of fired clay were recovered from its single secondary fill.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, Plate 1)

- 5.3.2 Located in the northwest of site, on a northwest to southeast alignment, Trench 2 contained two archaeological features. Within the southeast end of the trench a linear ditch was identified. Ditch **204 (Fig. 4: sec. 1)**, also medieval in date, was aligned north to south and measured 0.90m wide, 0.27m deep with concave base and moderate concave sides. It continued beyond the limit of excavation and was not identified in any other trenches. In centre of the trench, truncated pit **206** was recorded. It was circular in plan with a flat base and shallow concave sides, measuring 0.54m in diameter and 0.06m deep. This feature did not produce any artefacts that would date the feature but did contain animal bones.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2, Plate 2)

- 5.3.3 Located in the northeast of site, on a northwest to southeast alignment. Within Trench 3, four pits and three linear ditches were observed along the trench. Pit **311** was located in the northwest end of the trench. It appeared sub-circular in plan (but continued beyond the limit of excavation) with a slightly irregular base and steep straight sides, measuring 1.00m+ long, 0.30m+ wide and 0.53m deep. From a deliberate backfill abundant medieval pottery and domestic refuse such as charcoal, cereal grains and animal bones were recovered.
- 5.3.4 Southeast of pit **311** a cluster of intercutting features was recorded. Ditch **326 (Fig. 4: secs. 6 & 7, Plate 7)** was aligned northeast to southwest measuring 1.00m wide, 0.22m deep with irregular base and moderate concave sides. Ditch **326** cut two earlier pits. One located to the northwest of the ditch, pit **317** was sub-circular in plan (continues beyond the limit of excavation) with a slightly concave base, steep concave sides and measured approximately 0.60m in diameter. Towards the northeast, Pit **321** was sub-oval in plan (also continuing beyond the limit of excavation) with a flat base, steep concave sides and measured 0.92m long, 0.80m+ wide and 0.22m deep. No finds were recovered from within these features.
- 5.3.5 Towards southeast of these, medieval ditch **313** was recorded (**Plate 8**). It had the same northeast to southwest orientation as ditch **326**. It was linear in plan with a 'V' shaped profile, measuring 1.35m wide and 0.60m deep. Several pottery sherds were retrieved from its basal fill. It continued beyond the limit of the excavation, and was not identified within any other trench.
- 5.3.6 To the south of this ditch was medieval pit **306 (Plates 9 & 10)**. Its shape in plan was uncertain, as it continued beyond the limit of excavation, but it appeared to have a northwest to southeast orientation. It had a flat base, steep almost vertical sides and measured 2.70m long, 0.76m wide and 0.46m deep. An environmental sample was taken from the pottery rich deliberate backfill of the pit which contained charcoal and carbonised grain, including barley and wheat (unidentified to species).
- 5.3.7 Lastly, towards the southeast end of the trench ditch **304 (Fig. 4: sec. 2)** was observed. It had a clear 'V' shape profile measuring 0.69m wide and 0.31m deep. It continued beyond the limit of excavation but was not identified within any other trenches. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 5.3.8 Located in the north-western area of site on a northeast to southwest alignment, Trench 4's original location had to be slightly changed due to onsite restrictions (a row of trees that run from southwest to northeast dividing the site). Towards the southwest end of the trench two archaeological features were identified. Ditch **404 (Fig. 4: sec. 4, Plate 11)**, was northwest to southeast orientated, linear in plan with concave base and moderate concave sides. It measured 1.78m wide and 0.40m deep, continuing beyond the trench boundary to be identified within Trench 8 as ditch **804**. It produced scattered pottery of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date. Towards the northeast of the trench was the pit **407 (Fig. 4: sec. 5, Plate 12)**. It was sub-oval in plan with a concave base and steep to moderate stepped sides, measuring 3.00m long, 1.60m wide and 0.74m deep. A small quantity of artefacts was recovered from its fills which date the feature to the medieval period.

Trench 5 (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 5.3.9 Located in the north-eastern area of site on a northeast to southwest alignment. The original position of Trench 5 had to be relocated due to the same on-site restrictions as Trench 4. The trench was excavated to the natural horizon but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2, Plate 3)

- 5.3.10 Located in the west of site, Trench 8 was orientated northwest to southeast. Two archaeological features were identified within the trench. Towards the southeast, pit **604** was located along the edge of the trench. It was orientated northwest to southeast with a sub-oval plan, irregular base and irregular moderate to steep sides, measuring 2.95m long, 0.80m wide and 0.40m deep. As it only produced one sherd of probably residual Romano-British ceramic building material, the date of this feature cannot as a result be confidently determined. Towards the southeast end of the trench a linear ditch **606** was recorded (**Plate 13**). It was aligned northeast to southwest, with a concave base with stepped steep sides, measuring 0.94m wide and 0.40 m deep. It continued beyond the limit of excavation but was not identified within any other trench. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2, Plate 4)

- 5.3.11 Located in the eastern area of site on a northwest to southeast alignment, the trench was excavated to the natural horizon and no archaeological features were observed.

Trench 8 (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 5.3.12 Located towards the southwestern area of site on a northeast to southwest alignment, Trench 8 contained two archaeological features. In the northeast end of the trench a linear ditch was investigated. Ditch **804 (Plate 14)** was aligned northwest to southeast featuring a 'V' shaped profile, concave base and moderate to steep stepped sides, measuring 1.54m wide and 0.57m deep. It continued beyond the limit of excavation and it is likely a continuation of Late Iron Age/Romano-British ditch **404**. A Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic bade core was recovered from the fill of ditch **804**, however, it is most likely residual and does not date this feature.

- 5.3.13 In the southwest end of the trench a second possible ditch was identified. This ditch **808** was also orientated northwest to southeast and measured 1.48m wide. The uppermost fill of the ditch contained human remains (**Plates 15 & 16**). These remains were not investigated within this evaluation, only recorded by photograph and the location mapped by Leica GNSS in order to preserve them in situ. No grave cut was observed, although ditch **808** appeared to cut an earlier feature **811** (not fully exposed within the evaluation trench). Measures were taken to protect the remains from weathering while the trench was open to the elements and from damage during trench backfilling.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

- 5.3.14 Located in the southeast of site on a northeast to southwest alignment, a single elongated pit **908** was identified towards the southwest end of Trench 9. The feature had a curvilinear shape in plan, concave base and moderate concave sides (**Plate 17**). It measured 2.12m long, 0.64m wide and 0.22m deep. An Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery fragment was retrieved from its single secondary fill. No other dating evidence was recovered from this feature and as the pottery was recovered from a secondary fill it may be residual and as a result the date of this feature cannot be confidently determined.

Trench 10 (Fig. 2, Plate 5)

- 5.3.15 Located in the southwest of site on a northwest to southeast alignment, Trench 10 contained a single archaeological feature. A linear ditch **1004 (Fig. 4: sec. 3)**, was located roughly in the middle of the trench. It was aligned northeast to southwest with a concave base and stepped shallow sides. It measured 0.48m wide and 0.11m deep and continued beyond the limit of excavation but was not recorded within nearby trenches.

Trench 11 (Figs. 2 & 3, Plate 6)

- 5.3.16 Located in the southeast of site on a northwest to southeast alignment, Trench 11 contained a single archaeological feature. Towards the southeast end of the trench, a ditch **1104 (Plate 18)** was recorded. It was aligned north to south, with a concave base with moderate to shallow stepped sides. It measured 1.32m wide and 0.29m deep, continuing beyond the limit of excavation but not continuing in any of the surrounding trenches.

Trench 12 (Figs. 2 & 3)

- 5.3.17 Located in the south of site on a northeast to southwest alignment, Trench 12 contained four archaeological features. These features were intercutting ditches located in the southwestern end of the trench (**Fig. 4: sec. 8, Plate 19**). Ditch **1204** was orientated east-southeast to west-northwest. It had a concave base with shallow concave sides and measured 0.52m wide and 0.15m deep. It continued beyond the limit of excavation and was cut by ditch terminus **1210**, in the southeast. Ditch **1204** shared a parallel alignment with ditch **1208**.
- 5.3.18 Ditch **1206**, was northeast to southwest aligned with a concave base and shallow concave sides, measuring 0.54m wide and 0.14m deep. It was cut by **1210** towards the northeast and cut by ditch **1208** towards the southwest and it is the earliest phased ditch with the sequence.
- 5.3.19 Ditch **1208** was orientated northwest to southeast, with a flat base and shallow concave sides. It measured 1.30m wide and 0.13m deep and continued beyond the limit of excavation.
- 5.3.20 Ditch terminus **1210** was orientated east to west, with a flat base and shallow concave sides. It measured 1.10m wide and 0.16m deep, and continued beyond the limit of excavation. Ditch terminus **1210** cut two earlier ditches **1204** and **1206**, and is the latest feature within the sequence.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, mainly consisting of animal bone and pottery, and deriving from contexts in 9 of the 12 trenches excavated (no finds were recovered from Trenches 5, 7 or 11). The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, although most finds recovered were from the medieval period.
- 6.1.2 The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram with assistance from L Higbee (Animal Bone), Lorraine Mephram also authored this section of the report.
- 6.1.3 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**. A human cranium observed in trench 8 is not included in this report (as it was left in situ).

6.2 Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Flint (no.)	Pottery	Other Finds
105	4/67		2/31	1 fired clay
205	8/339		1/7	
207	1/3			
308	99/44	15	12/171	8 burnt flint; 1 iron



310	5/52		24/317	
312	68/660	12	86/1247	5 burnt flint
316	2/179		4/37	1 CBM
322	3/18			
406	1/28		3/16	
412	71/119	4	6/92	11 burnt flint
605			1/15	
608	2/22			
805	1/13			
807		1		
907			3/4	
1001				1 CBM
1209	1/7			
Total	266/1551	32	142/1937	

6.3 Pottery

6.3.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 142 sherds, weighing 1937 g. This includes material of prehistoric, Late Iron Age/Romano-British and medieval date; most finds were from the latter period. The assemblage is in fair condition; fragmentation levels are relatively high, and there is some surface and edge abrasion, observed particularly on the prehistoric and Late Iron Age/Romano-British sherds. Mean sherd weight overall is 13.6 g.

6.3.2 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type, correlating with national and regional type series as far as possible (Tomber and Dore 1998; Mellor 1994), although the position of the Site on the eastern border of Oxfordshire means that ceramic affinities may lie not only within Oxfordshire but also with the area to the east. The presence of diagnostic vessel forms, and other featured sherds, has been noted, Details of the pottery by context are presented in **Table 2**.

6.4 Table 2: Pottery by context

Context	Ware	Code	No.	Wt. (g)	Comments	Date
105	St Neots ware	OXR	1	17		Medieval
105	Misc medieval wares		1	14	calcareous ware	Medieval
205	St Neots ware	OXR	1	7		Medieval
308	SE Oxfordshire ware	OX162	10	157	1 jar rim	Medieval
308	RB greyware		1	12		Roman
308	E Wiltshire ware	OXAQ	1	2		Medieval
310	St Neots ware	OXR	4	53		Early Medieval
310	E Wiltshire ware	OXAQ	2	20	1 jar rim	Medieval
310	Oxfordshire colour coated ware	OXF RS	1	1		Roman
310	SE Oxfordshire ware	OX162	17	243	6 jar rims, 1 finger-impressed	Medieval



312	St Neots ware	OXR	1	17		Medieval
312	E Wiltshire ware	OXAQ	4	45		Medieval
312	Brill/Boarstall type ware	OXAM	1	3	small body sherd, applied curvilinear strip and glazed	Medieval
312	SE Oxfordshire ware	OX162	79	1133	3 jar rims; 1 applied thumbled strip; 1 sherd glazed	Medieval
312	Misc medieval wares		1	49	internally bevelled dish/bowl rim (sandy/shelly ware)	Medieval
316	SE Oxfordshire ware	OX162	2	13		Medieval
316	E Wiltshire ware	OXAQ	2	24		Medieval
406	Grog-tempered ware		3	16	LIA/RB	Roman
412	SE Oxfordshire ware	OX162	3	81	1 jar rim	Medieval
412	St Neots ware	OXR	3	11		Early Medieval
907	Beaker		3	4	conjoining body sherds, plain	Early Bronze Age

Prehistoric

- 6.4.1 Three small, conjoining sherds (recovered as a single fragment), from pit **908** (fill **907**) have been identified as Beaker, although as the sherds are plain and undiagnostic, identification rests solely on fabric (grog-tempered) and firing (soft-fired, oxidised surfaces and unoxidised core). Although providing the only dating evidence for this feature, these sherds may be residual, as the sherds were recovered from a secondary fill, and cannot confidently date this feature.

Late Iron Age/Romano-British

- 6.4.2 Three grog-tempered sherds from ditch **404** (secondary fill **406**), again undiagnostic, can be distinguished from the possible Beaker sherd by being harder fired, and are dated as Late Iron Age/Romano-British.
- 6.4.3 Two other sherds were found residually in later contexts, both in pit **306**: one sherd of Oxfordshire colour coated ware (OXF RS) from primary fill **310**, and one of sandy greyware (quite possibly also an Oxfordshire product) from secondary fill **308**.

Medieval

- 6.4.4 Medieval pottery (134 sherds) makes up the remainder of the assemblage. Using the regional type series (Mellor 1994), four ware types have been identified, one of which is a regional import, while a second has a source just over the county boundary in Buckinghamshire; the other two belong to regional 'ware traditions' whose origins and affinities lie at least partly out of the county. In addition, two sherds do not appear to fall into any of the well-defined local or regional ware types.
- 6.4.5 The earliest ware type identified as St Neot's ware (OXR), represented here by ten sherds, none of them diagnostic. The ware type, which has a wide distribution across the east and south midlands, has a currency of early 10th to mid-11th century in Oxfordshire. St Neot's

ware sherds provide dating evidence for ditches **104** and **204**, although were almost certainly residual in these contexts (secondary fills in both cases). Other sherds were clearly redeposited in later medieval contexts. An undiagnostic sherd in a coarse calcareous fabric found in ditch **104** is unattributable to specific type, but is likely to be contemporary with the St Neot's ware sherd from the same context.

- 6.4.6 Much of the medieval assemblage comprises sherds in medium-grained sandy wares. These have been classified here as Southeast Oxfordshire ware (OX162), although they have a close macroscopic similarity to other sandy wares current across south Oxfordshire, such as Abingdon ware (OXAG) and Oxford ware (OXY). As defined (Mellor 1994, 84–93), Southeast Oxfordshire ware includes a number of fabric types probably representing a dispersed ceramic industry with a lengthy currency; it encompasses wares probably made in the Henley area, and has close similarities with Camley Gardens products from Maidenhead, south of the Thames. The manufacture of sandy wares around Fingest, Lane End and Cadmore End in west Buckinghamshire in the 13th and 14th centuries should also be noted (Farley and Hurman 2015, 213–4). Vessel forms seen here are restricted to jars with thickened and flattened rims (one finger-impressed); there is one applied, thumbed strip, and one sherd is glazed. A broad date range of 12th–14th century applies, but the likely date range here is 12th/13th century.
- 6.4.7 Of a similar probable date range are nine sherds in a slightly sandy, calcareous fabric identified here as East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ), although again this ware (known as 'Kennet Valley ware' elsewhere: Mephram 2000) probably includes a number of different types within its regional distribution across west Berkshire, north Hampshire, south Oxfordshire and northwest Wiltshire. The sherds seen here contain a lower proportion of quartz sand than their counterparts further south and west. Two jar rims constitute the only diagnostic sherds.
- 6.4.8 One sherd of Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM) is one of only two glazed sherds found on the site (the second in OX162). This sherd, which carries applied decoration in the form of a curvilinear strip, is from a highly-decorated jug of 13th century date.
- 6.4.9 One sherd in a sandy fabric with some fine shell inclusions, from pit **311**, is from the rim of a carinated dish with an internally bevelled rim. This ware is of unknown type, but the date range is again likely to fall within the 12th or 13th century.
- 6.4.10 One large group of medieval pottery was found in pit **311** (86 sherds), where the presence of the Brill/Boarstall decorated jug sherd suggests a 13th-century date for its backfilling. Smaller groups were recovered from pit **306**, ditch **313** and pit **407**.

6.5 Worked and Burnt Flint

- 6.5.1 A blade core (Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic) was recovered from an otherwise undated ditch **804**. A further 31 pieces of worked flint were retrieved from soil samples taken from pits **306** (15 pieces), **311** (12 pieces) and **407** (4 pieces). These can be classified as miscellaneous debitage, consisting of small flakes (some broken) and chips, but these are not chronologically distinctive.
- 6.5.2 Burnt, unworked flint was also recovered from the same soil samples, amounting to 24 fragments (weighing 55 g). This material type is intrinsically undatable, although often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity, the flint was however, recovered from features also including medieval pottery.



6.6 Animal Bone

- 6.6.1 Of the 266 bone fragments recovered, 219 were retrieved from sieved soil samples, and consist largely of small fragments; as a result, only a low proportion of bones could be identified to species. These include cattle, sheep/goat, pig, dog and bird (probably domestic fowl), while some small mammal and possible neonate bones were observed amongst the sample-retrieved material. Bone elements include long bones and feet, scapulae, skull and jaw; pelvis, vertebrae and ribs are present but very scarce.
- 6.6.2 Most of the animal bone was recovered from medieval contexts, with some from undated contexts.

6.7 Other Finds

- 6.7.1 Other finds comprise two pieces of ceramic building material (a fragment of Romano-British brick/tile from pit **604**, and a post-medieval brick fragment from trench 10 topsoil); a small, undiagnostic fragment of fired clay of unknown date and function from ditch **104**; and a tiny scrap of iron retrieved from a soil sample taken from pit **306** (fill **308**).

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from a range of medieval pits and were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence, primarily charred plant remains and charcoal. The samples were assessed by Dr Ines Lopez Doriga who authored this section of the report. Sam Rogerson processed the residues and flots were sorted by Nicki Mulhall.

7.2 Aims and Methods

- 7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is the evaluation of the quality of plant remains preserved at the site and the potential for further analysis to address specific site archaeological issues and to provide archaeobotanical data valuable for wider research frameworks.
- 7.2.2 The size of the samples was on average around 40 litres. The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flots retained on a 0.25mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. A riffle box was used to split large flots into smaller flot subsamples when appropriate. The flots were scanned using a stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope for the identification of environmental remains. Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*) and animal remains, such as earthworm eggs and insects, which would not be preserved unless anoxic conditions prevailed on site. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence/absence of other environmental remains such as molluscs, animal bone and insects (in cases of anoxic conditions for their preservation), is recorded in Table 15 (Appendix 2).
- 7.2.3 Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals and not the number of remains per taxa.

8 RESULTS

- 8.1.1 The flots were generally large and there were low numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. The assemblages were fairly similar, probably originating in a range of domestic food processing activities, and the charred material was well preserved. Differences in the proportions of the taxa across assemblages could be due to social, chronological or functional factors.
- 8.1.2 The plant remains included cereals, with abundant naked wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*) grains and some chaff (rachis nodes) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) fragments. The naked wheat could be bread/common wheat or rivet wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*). These species cannot be distinguished based on the morphology of the grains alone, however, it could be argued that the most probable species present would be *T. aestivum* based on what has been found before on other sites on the region. Oats (*Avena* sp.) were also present but due to the absence of chaff (lemma bases) its cultivated or wild status could not be ascertained. Some large-seeded vetch cotyledons which could have belonged to cultivated varieties were also present. Seeds of wild plants included grasses, bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), nettle (*Urtica* sp.), pink (*Dianthus* sp.) and corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), composites (Asteraceae), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and mints (Lamiaceae). Some of these wild plants could have acted as weeds of agricultural fields as well as have been intentionally gathered for their leaves to be used as green vegetables. Wild plant exploitation is undoubtedly attested by the presence of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell remains. Neither spelt nor any other glume wheat was present on any of the assessed samples (Appendix 2: Table 15).

9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1.1 The evaluation has identified archaeological features dating from the Late Iron Age/Romano-British to the medieval period as well as several undated features. Of the features which could be dated, the majority were medieval in date.
- 9.1.2 Archaeological activity was identified across the site, with Trench 3, located within the northeast of the site, containing the greatest number of archaeological features.
- 9.1.3 The preservation of the archaeological resource was good, especially in those trenches located towards the north and west of site where the overburden was deeper. Within the northwest of the site a number of features survived to a depth of 0.5-0.6m and contained multiple fills. In the south and east of the site however, the features were much shallower and contained fewer fills, this may be a result of truncation through plough activity.
- 9.1.4 The archaeological features identified within this evaluation support the conclusions of the DBA (PG. 2017) that the site, during the medieval period was primarily used for agricultural purposes and was on the periphery of settlement activity.
- 9.1.5 Despite the close proximity of the Lower Inkfield Way Roman Road (565m northwest of the site), only a single Late Iron Age/Romano-British ditch was identified within the site (Trench 4, ditch **404**). The northwest to southeast orientated ditch **404** may continue along the same alignment into Trench 8 (**804**). The ditch was most likely a field boundary and/or drainage related with agricultural activity.
- 9.1.6 Residual activity from the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and Early Bronze Age was also identified. A Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic core was recovered from a secondary fill of ditch



804 and a body sherd of Early Bronze Age pottery was recovered from elongated pit **908**. Given that these are singular finds, from unsecure, secondary fills they have been interpreted as possibly residual and do not confidently date the features from which they were recovered. They are indicators of human activity within the area at these times, but cannot be used to characterise the nature of activity.

- 9.1.7 The most significant remains recorded were that of a human cranium located in Trench 8. The human remains appear to be located within the upper fill of a northwest to southeast orientated ditch (**808**). No grave cut was observed but ditch **808** appeared to cut an earlier feature **811**, the dimensions of which are unknown as the feature was not fully exposed within the trench.

10 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

- 10.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Maidstone; it is recommended that it be deposited in due course with the Oxfordshire Museums Service. The Museums Service has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **OXCMS: 2017.127**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

- 10.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following Oxfordshire Museums Service's 'Requirements for Transferring Archaeological Archives' (2017), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- 5 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
 - 01 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;
 - 01 A1 graphics.

10.3 Selection policy

- 10.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows national guidelines on selection and retention (SMA 1993; Brown 2011, section 4). In accordance with these, and any specific guidance prepared by the museum, a process of selection and retention will be followed so that only those artefacts or ecofacts that are considered to have potential for future study will be retained.
- 10.3.2 In this instance, it is recommended that the whole assemblage is retained for long-term curation, with the possible exception of the burnt, unworked flint, although no decision on discard should be taken pending possible further mitigation on the site, when the current assemblage should be reviewed together with any further material recovered.



10.4 Security copy

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

10.5 OASIS

- 10.5.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

- 11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- 11.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

11.2 Third party data copyright

- 11.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench 1		30 m x 1.80m x 0.48m		NGR 474912 200347		116.6 OD	
Context Number	Fill Of / Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL (m)	
101	N/A	Topsoil	Dark brownish black silty clay with frequent, poorly sorted sub-angular stone and flint, small to medium size. Organic with lots of root disturbance			0.00-0.35	
102	N/A	Subsoil	Light brownish grey silty clay with very frequent sub-angular flint and stones small to medium size. Occasional inclusions of chalk on interface between subsoil and natural			0.35-0.46	
103	N/A	Natural	Soft chalk with frequent sub-angular flint medium sized			0.46-0.48+	
104	FW (105)	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow to moderate, concave sides and a flat base. NW to SE aligned. Depth: 0.12m.			0.46-0.58	
105	FO [104]	Secondary fill	Dark brownish grey silty loam. Abundant poorly sorted angular flint small to large in size. Archaeological components: Rare pottery and animal bone			0.46-0.58	

Trench 2		26 m x 1.80 m x 0.50 m		NGR 474870 200310		116.9 OD	
Context Number	Fill Of / Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description			Depth BGL (m)	
201	N/A	Topsoil	Dark brownish black silty clay with frequent small and medium stone inclusions. Organic soil with heavy rooting			0.00-0.24	
202	N/A	Sub soil	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Appears to be a mix of top soil and natural. Frequent stone inclusions (chalk)			0.24- 0.43	
203	N/A	Natural	Natural white soft chalk			0.43-0.50+	
204	FW (205)	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate, slightly concave sides and a concave base. N-S orientated. Depth: 0.27m.			0.43-0.70	
205	FO [204]	Secondary fill	Dark brownish grey silty sand. Common amount of angular flint and rounded weathered chalk. Archaeological components: occasional bone and pottery			0.43-0.70	
206	FW (207)	Pit	Circular pit with shallow, slightly concave sides and a flat base. Depth: 0.06m.			0.43-0.49	
207	FO [206]	Possible DBF	Dark brownish grey sandy silt. Moderate amount of small angular flint and rounded chalk. Archaeological components: Rare animal bone			0.43-0.49	



Trench 3	30 m x 1.80 m x 0.50 m		NGR 474941 200319	116.8 OD
Context Number	Fill Of / Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL (m)
301	N/A	Topsoil	Dark brownish black silty clay. Frequent sub-angular flint and stones. Poorly sorted. Very organic and lots of root disturbance.	0.00 - 0.32
302	N/A	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey clay with rare flint and sub-angular stone inclusions	0.32 - 0.50
303	N/A	Natural	Light greyish white soft weathered chalk. Moderate sub-angular flint inclusions.	0.50+
304	FW (305)	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, straight sides and a v-shaped base. NW-SE aligned. Depth: 0.31m.	0.50-0.81
305	FO [304]	Secondary fill	Light greyish brown silty clay. Moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded, small to medium flint; rare sub-rounded small pieces of chalk.	0.50-0.81
306	FW (307) (310)	Pit	Pit with steep concave sides and a flat base. Possibly sub-circular in plan. Depth: 0.46m.	0.50-0.96
307	FO [306]	Secondary fill	Mid orangey grey silt clay. Frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded small flint especially along base. Poorly sorted. Rare medium sub-rounded chalk.	0.91-0.96
308	FO [306]	Deliberate Backfill	Dark brownish black silty clay. Moderate small sub-rounded to sub-angular, poorly sorted flint. Very rare sub-rounded chalk. Archaeological components: Occasional pottery and animal bone	0.50-0.91
309	FO [306]	Primary fill	Mid orangey brown silty clay. Very rare small angular pieces of flint.	0.50-0.75
310	FO [306]	Primary fill	Light greyish white silty sand. Abundant chalk nodules	0.50-0.76
311	FW (312)	Pit	Pit with steep, straight sides and a flat- slightly irregular base. Possibly sub-circular in plan Depth: 0.53m.	0.50-1.03
312	FO [311]	Deliberate Backfill	Dark brownish black silt sand. Moderate small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, poorly sorted. Rare medium to small sub-rounded chalk. Archaeological components: Occasional pot and animal bone	0.50-1.03
313	FW (314) (316)	Ditch	Linear ditch with steep, convex sides and a concave. V-shaped base. NE-SW orientation. Depth: 0.60m.	0.50-1.10
314	FO [313]	Secondary fill	Light whitish brown sandy clay. Frequent sub-angular flint. Poorly sorted. Abundant chalk flecks	0.95-1.10
315	FO [313]	Secondary fill	Mid greyish orangey brown silty clay. Abundant flint, poorly sorted, small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded.	0.81-0.95
316	FO [313]	Secondary fill	Mid to dark brownish grey clayey silt. Very frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded flint, poorly sorted, medium sized. Very frequent and small sub-angular flint. Archaeological components: occasional pottery and animal bone	0.81-0.50
317	FW (318)	Pit	Pit with steep, concave sides and a slightly concave base. Possibly sub-circular in plan. Depth: 0.24m.	0.50-0.74
318	FO [317]	Deliberate Backfill	Mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt. Moderate, small to medium sized sub-angular flints. Poorly sorted	0.50-0.74



319	FW (320)	Ditch	Linear ditch with gentle-moderate, concave sides and a flat-irregular base. NE-SW orientated. Depth: 0.22m.	0.50-0.72
320	FO [319]	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Moderate, small sub-angular flint. Rare medium sized sub-angular flint	0.50-0.22
321	FW (322)	Pit	Pit with steep, concave sides and a flat base. Possibly sub-circular in plan. Depth: 0.22m.	0.50-0.72
322	FO [321]	Deliberate Backfill	Mid-dark greyish brown silty clay. Moderate small sub-angular flint. Archaeological components: rare animal bone	0.50-0.72
323	FW (324)	Ditch	Linear ditch with irregular shallow sides and irregular base. NE-SW orientated. 0.13m deep.	0.50-0.63
324	FO [323]	Secondary fill	Light greyish brown silty clay. Moderate small sub-angular flint. Rare medium sized sub-rounded flint	0.50-0.63
325	N/A	Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay with some sandy patches. Abundant small to med sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. Occasional chalk flecks. Located on the southern end of trench	0.50+
326	Group	Containing 319 and 323	Northeast to southwest orientated ditch cutting two pits, one to the north 317 north and one to the south 321	



Trench No 4	30m x 1.8m x 0.49m		NGR 474897 200282	117.3 OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Topsoil	Dark brownish black silt with frequent poorly sorted small sub-angular flint Organic with root disturbance.	0.00-0.32
402		Subsoil	Light brownish grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of chalk Very frequent small angular flint poorly sorted.	0.32-0.45
403		Natural	Light whitish grey, soft chalk with rare sub-angular flint	0.45-0.49+
404	FW (405), (406)	Ditch	Linear NW-SE orientated ditch. Moderately steep concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.40m.	0.4
405	FO [404]	Secondary fill	Mid orangey brown silty clay. Clearly defined, very compact friable. Occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular flints. Abundant chalk flecks. No Archaeological components. 0.20m in thickness	
406	FO [404]	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey, very compact silty clay. Moderate chalk flecks and nodules, occasional small sub-rounded sub-angular flints. Archaeological components: Rare animal bones and pot. Well defined limits. Thickness: 0.31m	
407	FW (408), (409), (410), (411), (412)	Pit	NNE-SSW orientated Sub oval pit with steep to moderate, stepped sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.50m. (partial dimensions continues into L.O.E)	
408	FO [407]	Primary fill	Light yellowish white silty clay with sandy patches. Abundant chalk. Archaeological components: None thickness: 0.05m	
409	FO [407]	Deliberate backfill	Mid yellowish brown silty clay. Abundant chalk, occasional sub-angular flints. Archaeological components: None. Thickness 0.14m	
410	FO [407]	Deliberate backfill	Mid yellowish brown silty clay. Abundant chalk flecks and small to medium sub-angular sub-rounded flints. Archaeological components: Rare charcoal flecks. Thickness 0.25m	
411	FO [407]	Deliberate backfill	Mid greyish brown silty clay with sandy lenses. Moderate sub-angular sub-rounded flints. Archaeological components: Rare charcoal. Thickness 0.35m	



412	FO [407]	Deliberate backfill	Dark greyish brown silty clay with sandy lenses. Abundant sub-rounded sub-angular flints, rare limestone? occasional chalk flecks. Archaeological components: Rare pot, animal bones, charcoal. Thickness 0.74m	
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Trench No 5		30m x 1.8m x 0.69m		NGR 474939 200298	117.03 OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
501		Top Soil	Dark black / brown organic soil, small medium and large angular stone inclusions poorly sorted. Heavy rooting	0.00 - 0.39	
502		Sub Soil	Mid brownish grey clay, firmly compacted. Rare small to medium stone inclusions sub-angular flint.	0.39 - 0.69	
503		Natural	Soft white chalk with moderate poorly sorted natural flint inclusions	0.69 +	

Trench No 6		30 x 1.8m x 0.44m		NGR 474903 200261	117.9 OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
601		Topsoil	Dark greyish black very organic silty clay. Abundant small sub-rounded flints	0.00-0.25	
602		Subsoil	Dark greyish black silty clay. Abundant small sub-rounded flints and chalk nodules	0.25-0.36	
603		Natural	Light yellowish white silty sand with abundant chalk nodules, small to med sub-angular flints and silty patches	0.36-0.44	
604	FW (605)	Possible pit / ditch terminus	Oval / rectangular possible pit / ditch terminus with moderate to steep, irregular / slightly concave sides and an irregular / flat base. Depth: 0.40m.	0.4	
605	FO [604]	Secondary fill	Mid to light orangey brown sandy silt. Large amount of small medium and large flint and chalk inclusions angular and rounded well sorted. Archaeological components: 1 fragment of pot. Thickness: 0.40m		
606	FW (607), (608)	Ditch	NE-SW running Linear ditch. With steep, stepped sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.40m.	0.4	
607	FO [606]	Primary fill	Dark brown grey silt. Abundant small to medium flints natural flint nodules. Archaeological components: 1x pottery sherd. Thickness: 0.22m		
608	FO [606]	Secondary fill	Dark brown clay silt. Flint and chalk, abundant small to large angular well sorted. Archaeological components: Bone and CBM		



Trench No 7	30m x 1.8m x 0.8m		NRG 474934 200271	117.8 OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
701		Topsoil	Dark greyish black, very organic silty clay. Moderate sub-angular flint.	0.00-0.40
702		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay. Abundant sub angular flint.	0.40-0.70
703		Natural	Light greyish brown silty clay. Abundant chalk flecks and occasional sub-rounded flint.	0.70-0.80



Trench No 8	30m 1.8m x 0.45m	NGR 474931 200247	118.57 OD	
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
801		Topsoil	Dark greyish black silty clay. Abundant small to medium sub-rounded flints and chalk flecks	0.00-0.26
802		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular flints and chalk nodules	0.26-0.33
803		Natural	Light yellowish white silty sand. Abundant small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints & soft chalk. Silty patches throughout the trench	0.33-0.45
804	FW (805), (806), (807)	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate to steep, stepped sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.57m.	0.57m
805	FO [804]	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Abundant small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, moderate chalk. Archaeological components: Rare animal bones	
806	FO [804]	Primary fill	Light yellowish brown silty clay. Abundant chalk flecks and occasional small sub-rounded flints. Archaeological components: None	
807	FO [804]	Secondary fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Moderate small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, occasional chalk flecks, some limestone. Archaeological components: Rare worked flint (core)	
808	FW (809)	Ditch	Northwest to southeast orientated possible ditch which continues beyond the limits of excavation. 1.48m wide. Feature not excavated due to presence of human remains	
809	FO [808]	Secondary fill	Possible secondary fill mid greyish brown silty clay with common sub-angular and sub-rounded flint. Feature not excavated due to presence of human remains.	
810	FO [808]	Human Remains	Human cranium. Only cleaned and photographed. Facing east	
811	FW (812)	Unknown feature	Possible feature cut by ditch 808, not investigated in order to preserve human remains in situ.	
812	FW (811)	Fill	Light grey brown silty clay with abundant chalk and flint inclusions	



Trench No 9		30m x 1.8m x 0.54m		NGR 474951 200249	118.1 OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
901		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey silty clay. Moderate small to medium sub-rounded flints.	0.00-0.30	
902		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Abundant small sub-angular and sub-rounded flints.	0.30-0.47	
903		Natural	Mid brownish orange silty clay. Abundant small to medium sub-angular & sub-rounded flints and occasional chalk nodules.	0.47-0.54	
904	FW (905)	Elongated pit terminal	N-S orientated curvilinear pit terminal. With moderate, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.09m.		
905	FO [904]	Secondary fill	Dark brownish grey silt. Abundant small and medium natural flint nodules. Thickness: 0.09m		
906	FW (907)	Elongated pit terminal	N-S orientated curvilinear pit terminal with gradual (se) / moderate (nw), concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.22m.		
907	FO [906]	Secondary fill	Dark brownish grey silt. Abundant natural small / medium flints. Archaeological components: Pottery sherd.		
908		Ditch	Group number for N-S running curvilinear ditch		

Trench No 10		30m 1.8m x 0.35m		NGR 474936 200218	118.6 OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL	
1001		Topsoil	Dark blackish grey silty clay. Occasional small sub-rounded flints	0.00-0.25	
1002		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay with sandy patches. Moderate small to med sub-rounded and sub-angular flints. Moderate chalk nodules	0.25-0.35	
1003		Natural	Light yellowish white silty clay with abundant sandy patches. Crumble chalk with abundant abraded sub-rounded and sub-angular flints	0.35+	



Trench No 11	30m x 1.8m x 0.5m		NGR 474968 200235	118.4 OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1101		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey silty clay very organic. Moderate small sub-rounded flints and occasional chalk flecks	0.00-0.032
1102		Subsoil	Light brownish grey silty clay. Abundant small to med sub-rounded and sub-angular flints. Abundant chalk nodules	0.32-0.50
1103		Natural	Mid orange brown silty clay. Abundant eroded small to med sub-angular sub-rounded flints chalk and limestone stones	0.50+
1104	FW (1105), (1106), (1107)	Ditch	Linear ditch with moderate to shallow, stepped sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.29m.	
1105	FO [1104]	Primary fill	Light yellowish white silty sand with clayish patches. Rare medium sub-angular flints and abundant chalk flecks. Archaeological components: None	
1106	FO [1104]	Secondary fill	Mid orangey brown silty clay. Occasional small sub-rounded to sub-angular flints and chalk flecks. Archaeological components: None	
1107	FO [1104]	Secondary fill	Mid orangey brownish silty clay. Abundant small to medium sub-angular to sub-rounded flints and occasional chalk flecks. Archaeological components: Rare charcoal flecks	
1108		Natural	Light yellowish white degraded chalk with abundant sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. Located in the SE half of the trench	0.50



Trench No 12	30m x 1.8m x 0.35m		NGR 474953 200198	118.8 OD
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1201		Topsoil	Dark greyish black silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded flints	0.00-0.20
1202		Subsoil	Dark brownish grey silty clay. Abundant small to med sub-angular and sub-rounded flints, limestone and chalk	0.20-0.35
1203		Natural	Light yellowish white silty clay with sandy patches. Abundant chalk nodules and small to med sub-angular to sub-rounded flints	0.35+
1204	FW (1205)	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.16m.	
1205	FO [1204]	Secondary fill	Light orangey grey silty sand with clayish patches. Abundant small sub-rounded and sub-angular flints and chalk flecks. Archaeological components: None	
1206	FW (1207)	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Depth: 0.16m.	
1207	FO [1206]	Secondary fill	Light orangey brown silty sand with clayish patches. Abundant chalk flecks and nodules. abundant small sub-rounded and sub-angular flints. Archaeological components: None	
1208	FW (1209)	Ditch	Possible linear ditch with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Depth: 0.16m.	
1209	FO [1208]	Secondary fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Abundant small sub-angular flints and occasional chalk flecks. Archaeological components: Rare animal bone	
1210	FW (1211)	Ditch	Linear ditch with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Depth: 0.16m.	
1211	FO [1210]	Secondary fill	Light orangey brown silty clay. Abundant small sub-rounded sub-angular flints and chalk flecks. Archaeological components: None	
1212		Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay. Abundant small to med sub-angular and sub-rounded flints and occasional chalk nodules	0.35+



Appendix 2 Environmental Data

Table 15: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Group	Sample	Volume (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sample	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Charcoal	Other	Analyses	Comments (preservation)
407	412		1	32	80		2%, A, E, I	A***	B	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (A**), <i>Triticum</i> sp. (inc. <i>aestivum/turgidum</i> grains A* and rachis nodes), Triticeae grains	A	Poaceae (<i>Avena</i> sp., <i>Lolium/Festuca</i>), Viciae, <i>Galium</i> sp., <i>Rumex</i> sp., Asteraceae, Lamiaceae, <i>Corylus avellana</i>	35ml	Mature	Moll-t, Sab	P	Fair
306	308		2	41	250		25%, A, E, I	A**	C	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> , <i>Triticum</i> sp., Triticeae rachis internode	A*	Poaceae (<i>Avena</i> sp., <i>Lolium/Festuca</i> , <i>Poa/Phleum</i>) Viciae, <i>Galium</i> sp., Asteraceae	90ml	Mature	Moll-t, Sab, Slag	P	Fair



											ae, <i>Corylus avellana</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Urtica</i> sp., <i>Dianthus</i> sp.					
311	312	3	39	125		25%, A*, E, I	A*	C	<i>Triticum</i> sp. (inc. <i>aestivum</i> / <i>turgidum</i> grains A* and rachis node), <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (C), Triticeae culm nodes	A*	Poaceae (<i>Avena</i> sp., <i>Lolium/Festuca</i> , <i>Poa/Phleum</i>), Viciae (inc. large seeded), <i>Galium</i> sp., Asteraceae, <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Agrostema githago</i>	55ml	Mature + roundwood	Moll-t, Sab,	P	Fair, some sprouting

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab/f/c = small animal/fish bones/charred faecal pellets, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs, Moll-m = marine molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon



Appendix 3 Specialists and task descriptions table

Table 16 Specialists and task descriptions

Specialists and task descriptions	
Task description	Staff
Management and support	
Project management	J Lathan M Williams
Graphics management	K Nichols
Pre-analysis	
Check phasing and grouping, update site database	W Santamaria
Digitisation of selected drawings	A Souter
Plate and Figure production	A Souter
Extraction of environmental materials	S Rogerson N Mulhall
Analysis and specialist reporting	
<i>Finds</i>	
Prehistoric and Romano-British pottery	L Mepham
Medieval and post-medieval pottery	L Mepham
Flint report	L Mepham
Briquetage and ceramic objects	L Mepham
Animal bone summary	L Higbee
<i>Environmental</i>	
Plant remains	I López-Dóriga
Report compilation	
Introduction and background	W Santamaria
Discussion	W Santamaria
Compile and integrate report	W Santamaria
Bibliography	W Santamaria
Captions (figures, plates and tables)	A Souter
Illustrations (drawn & photographic)	A Souter
Edit report	J Lathan
Review report	M Williams
Illustration revisions	A Souter
Archiving	
Physical archive preparation	A Souter
Final finds archive checking; carry out and document agreed selection policy	J Whitby
Final environmental archive checking	N Mulhall



Appendix 4 Oasis Record

OASIS ID: wessexar1-296912

Project details

Project name	Land at Crowell Road, Chinnor, South Oxfordshire
Short description of the project	12 trench evaluation before house development. Identified medieval activity relating to agricultural land use on the periphery of a settlement. one securely dated Late Iron Age/Romano-British ditch and some residual prehistoric artefacts
Project dates	Start: 08-08-2017 End: 15-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	117790 – Site code
Any associated project reference codes	OXCMS:2017.127 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	P17/S1867/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Significant Finds	HUMAN CRANIUM Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded



Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE CHINNOR Land at Crowell Road, Chinnor
Postcode	B75 5SH
Study area	1.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	474925 200262 474925 00 00 N 200262 00 00 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pegasus Group
Project brief originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project design originator	Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager	Joanne Lathan
Project supervisor	William Santamaria

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Oxfordshire Museums Service
Physical Archive ID	OXCMS:2017.127
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Oxfordshire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	OXCMS:2017.127
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Human Bones"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Oxfordshire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	OXCMS:2017.127
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Human Bones"

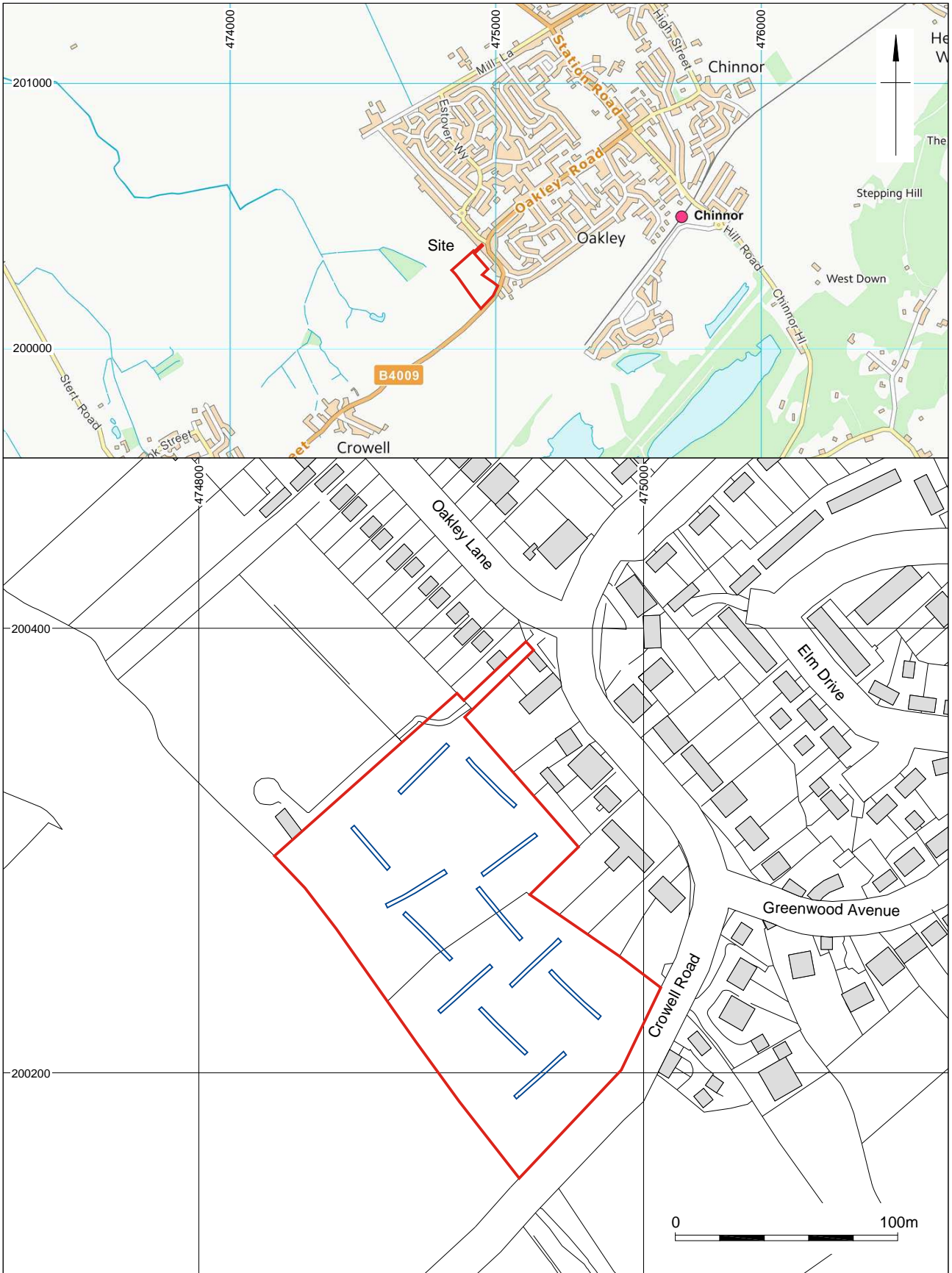


Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Crowell Road, Chinnor, South Oxfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	William Santamaria
Other bibliographic details	117790
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Maidstone
Description	Illustrated report for an archaeological trial trench evaluation, consisting of 12 trenches within which medieval agricultural activity on the periphery of settlement. A single human cranium was identified within a feature not fully exposed on site. This was left in situ and covered.
Entered by	Joanne Lathan (j.lathan@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	27 September 2017



- Site Boundary
- Evaluation Trench



Coordinate system:
OSGB36
(OSTN15/OSGM15)

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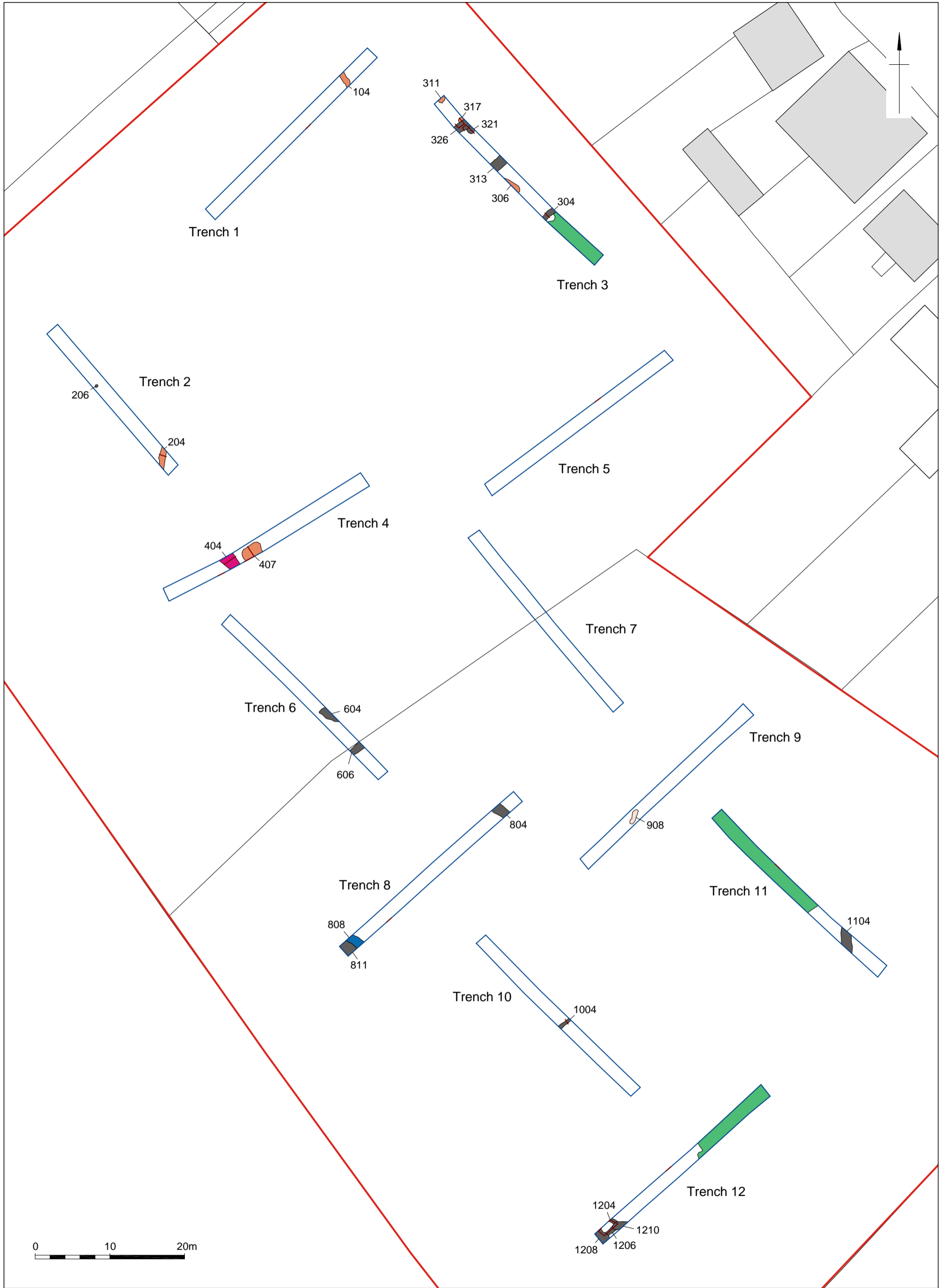
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Site location and trench layout

Figure 1

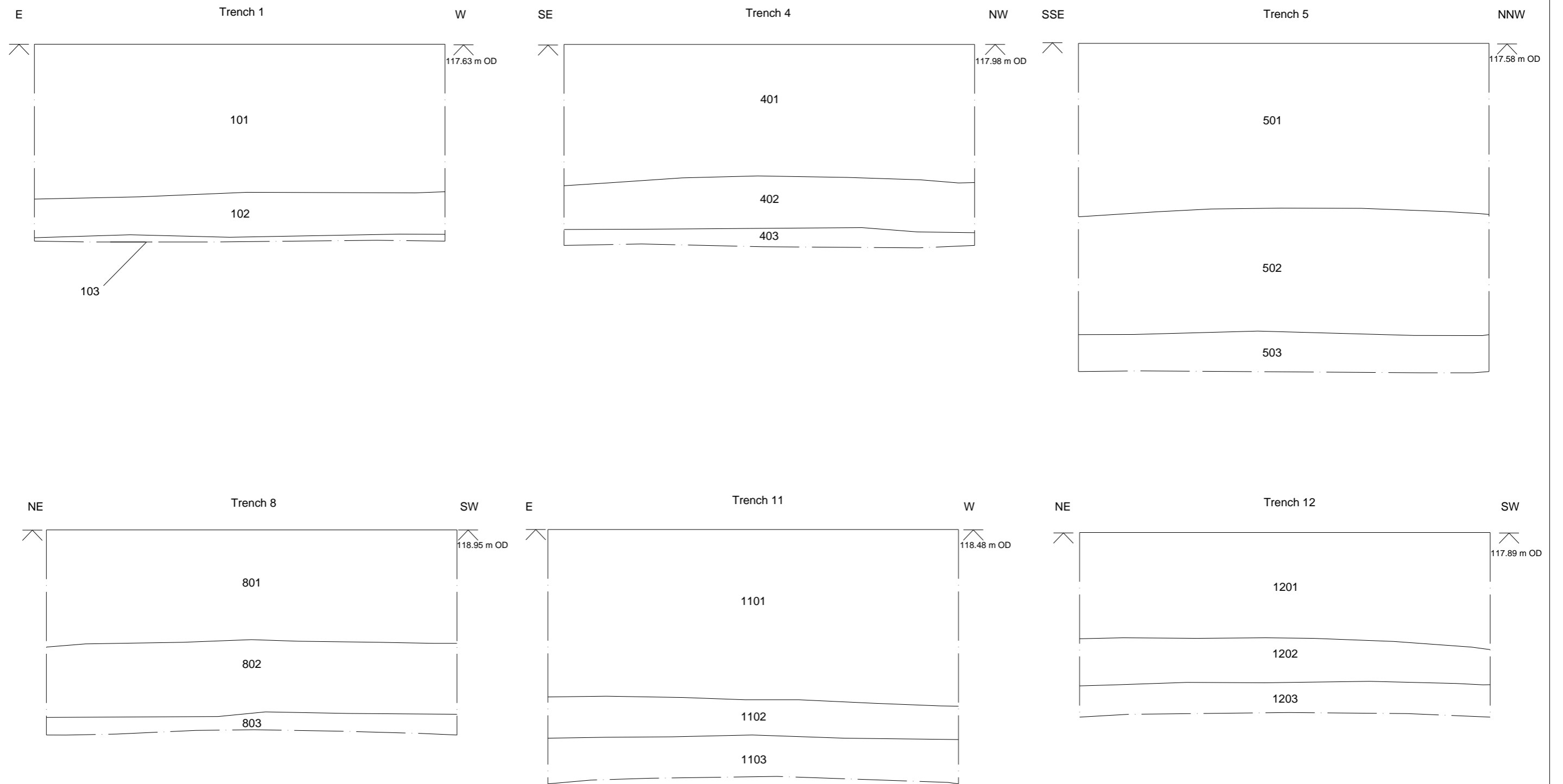



Site Boundary	Late Iron Age/Romano-British	Human Remains
Evaluation Trench	Medieval	Geology
Early Bronze Age	Undated	Section

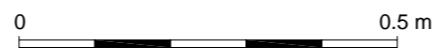
Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

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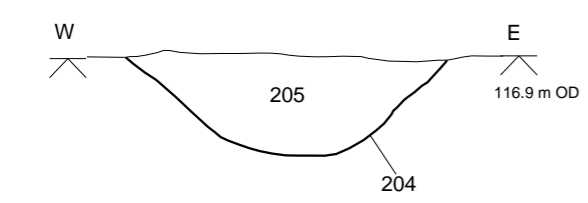


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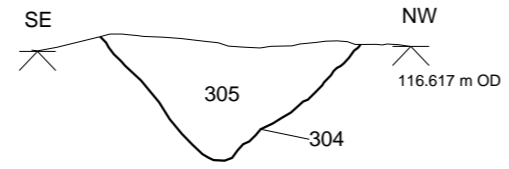
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Representative trench sections

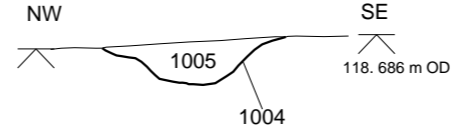
Figure 3



Section 1: South facing section of ditch 204



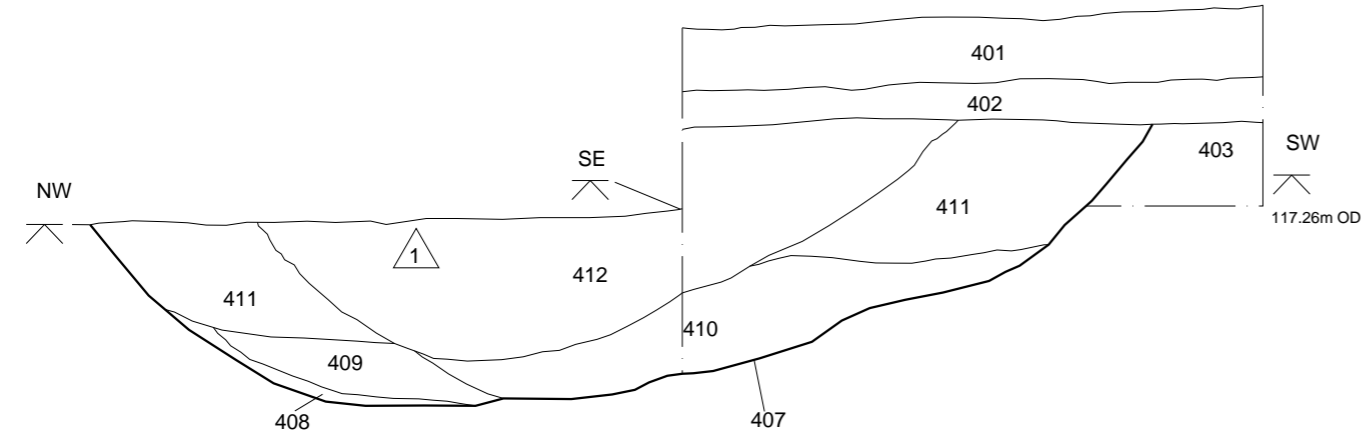
Section 2: Northeast facing section of ditch 304



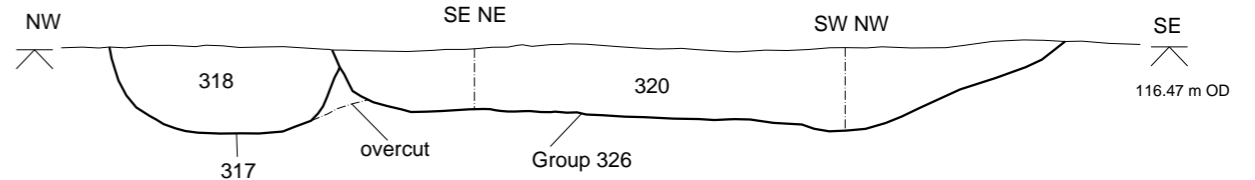
Section 3: Southwest facing section of ditch 1004



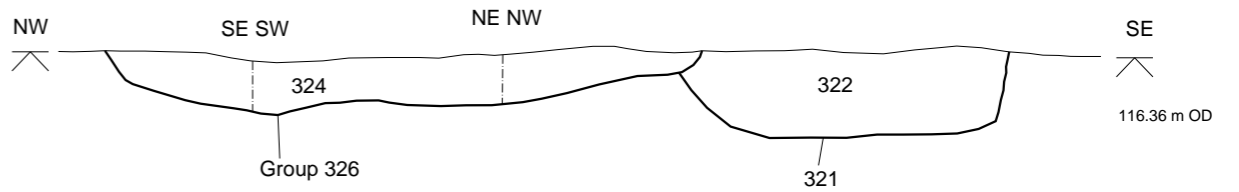
Section 4: Southeast facing section of ditch 404



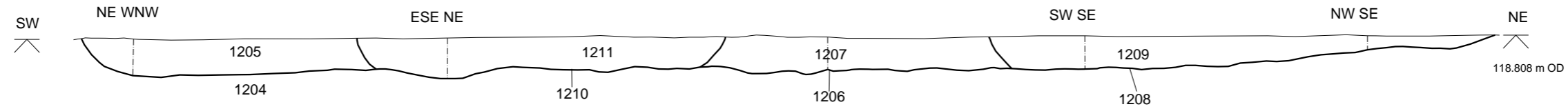
Section 5: Wrap around section of rubbish pit 407



Section 6: Wrap around section of pit 317 and ditch group 326



Section 7: Wrap around section of ditch group 326 and pit 321



Section 8: Wrap around section of ditches 1204, 1206, 1208 and 1210

Coordinate system:
OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)

— Section
— Cut
- - - Limit of Excavation



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Plate 1: Trench 2, viewed from the southeast



Plate 2: Trench 3, viewed from the northwest


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Plate 3: Trench 6, viewed from the northwest



Plate 4: Trench 7, viewed from the northwest


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Plate 5: Trench 10, viewed from the northwest



Plate 6: Trench 11, viewed from the northwest


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Plate 7: Pits 317 & 321 cut by ditch group 326, viewed from the southwest



Plate 8: Ditch 313, viewed from the southwest


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Plate 9: Pit 306, viewed from the northeast



Plate 10: Pit 306, viewed from the southeast


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Plate 11: Ditch 404, viewed from the southeast



Plate 12: Pit 407, viewed from the west


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Plate 13: Ditch 606, viewed from the southwest



Plate 14: Ditch 804, viewed from southeast


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Plate 15: Human remains within Trench 8



Plate 16: Human remains within ditch 808 in Trench 8


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Plate 17: Ditch terminus 906 group 908, viewed from the northeast



Plate 18: Ditch 1104, viewed from the west



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Plate 19: Ditches 1204, 1206, 1208 and 1210, viewed from the west

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Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

