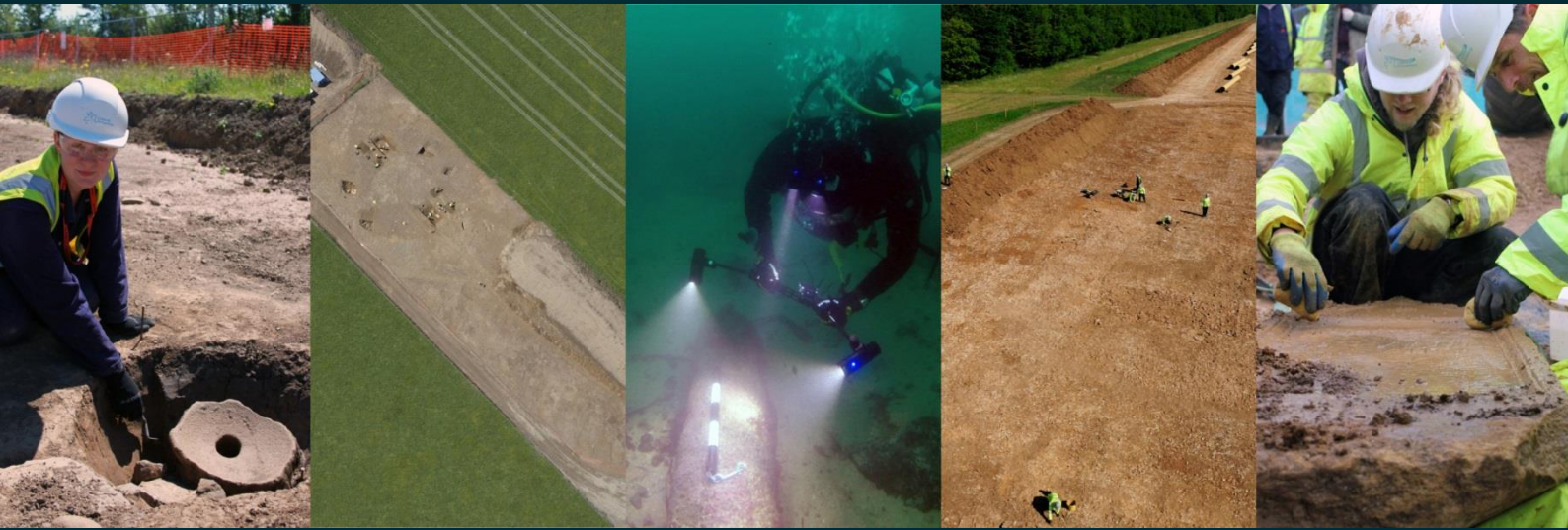


# H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon Water Main: Phase 1

## Oxfordshire and Wiltshire

### *Archaeological Mitigation Programme*



for  
SMB JV

on behalf of  
Thames Water Utilities Ltd

CA Project: 6723  
CA Report: 18757

December 2019



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## Archaeological Mitigation Programme

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CA Report: 18757



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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon Water Main: Phase 1
<b>Location:</b>	Coleshill, Oxfordshire and Highworth, Wiltshire
<b>NGR:</b>	420395 193825 to 422767 195020
<b>Type:</b>	Strip, Map and Sample Investigation and Excavation
<b>Date:</b>	08 August to 01 October 2018
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Services
<b>Accession No:</b>	OXCMS:2018.106
<b>Site Code:</b>	CWAR 18

An archaeological mitigation programme, comprising a strip, map and sample investigation and a formal excavation of identified features, was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August and September 2018. The archaeological mitigation programme was implemented along the proposed route of the new H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon Water Main: Phase 1, which extended across the Oxfordshire/Wiltshire county boundary.

A late prehistoric ditch was recorded towards the eastern end of the Phase 1 route. A small number of other, undated features, comprising two further ditches, a curvilinear ditch, a gully and a pit, were also recorded in this area. A number of these appear likely to be of later prehistoric date. A small number of unstratified finds included Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Extensive, plough-degraded evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation, of probable medieval date, was recorded at the western end of the Phase 1 route and is likely to be associated with known contemporary settlements within the surrounding area.

Due to the paucity of archaeological discoveries no further work is recommended beyond what is presented here. This report will be made available through the well-established CA online report series and a summary of the findings will also be published in the CBA's *South Midlands Archaeology* journal. The archive will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museum Services.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 From August to October 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) undertook a programme of archaeological mitigation relating to the installation of new pipeline connections for Phase 1 of the H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon Water Main scheme. The programme of archaeological work extended across the Oxfordshire/Wiltshire county boundary (from approximately NGR: 420395 193825 to 422767 195020; Fig. 1), and was undertaken at the request of SMB JV, on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd. SMB JV is a joint venture, incorporating Skanska Construction UK Ltd, MWH Treatment Ltd and Balfour Beatty Solutions Ltd.
- 1.2 Thames Water proposed to replace approximately 2.8km of water main, between Pennyswick Farm, Snowswick Lane, Coleshill, Oxfordshire, and the A361, Lechlade Road, Highworth, Wiltshire. This programme of work comprised the Phase 1 section of a larger 16km replacement scheme for which the proposed route is yet to be confirmed in detail. Following consultation between the SMB Joint Venture Archaeologist and the relevant county archaeological advisors, Hugh Coddington (Archaeology Team Leader, Oxfordshire County Council) and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council), a mitigation strategy, comprising an area of archaeological strip, map and sample investigation, and an area of formal excavation (see Fig. 2), was agreed for the proposed works.
- 1.3 The strip, map and sample investigation and formal excavation were undertaken in accordance with the provisions included within a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI), produced by CA (2018) and approved by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and Wiltshire Council (WC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a), *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide*, and the accompanying *PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015). It was monitored by Hugh Coddington, including a site visit made on September 5, 2018.
- The site**
- 1.4 The area of archaeological mitigation within the route of the H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon: Phase 1 scheme was divided into two parts, which corresponded with the respective lengths of pipeline route located within adjoining counties, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation, comprising Mudstone of the Jurassic era. Dispersed superficial alluvial deposits, of clay, sand and silt, are also recorded (BGS 2018). The natural substrate, comprising red and yellow sandy clay and gravel, was encountered across the areas investigated during the programme of archaeological work.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Recorded evidence of earlier prehistoric activity within the surrounding area includes flint scatters, some of which are potentially of Mesolithic date, including that at Coleshill, Oxon (Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (OHER) 7991), c.1km south-east of the Phase 1 route. A small number of recorded cropmark ring ditches appear to represent barrows of Early Bronze Age date, including two examples at Buscot, located c. 1km north-west of the Phase 1 route (OHER 9576; RCHM(E) 1993).
- 2.2 A small number of cropmark enclosures and ditched boundaries have been recorded around the Phase 1 route, include examples at Coleshill and Buscot, Oxon (Pastscape Monuments 1043602 and 1043603). Although undated, a number of these may be attributed, on the basis of size and morphology, to the later prehistoric period (see Lambrick 2009, 66-7).
- 2.3 Scattered evidence of Roman-period activity appears to be relatively widespread within the area surrounding the Phase 1 route, particularly around Highworth. Historically, evidence for Roman and later prehistoric activity within the area to the west of the Vale of the White Horse has been limited, although this paucity appears to reflect an earlier excavation and research bias (Gaffney and Tingle 1989; Tingle 1991). The remains of buildings interpreted as possible villas have been recorded at Highworth (Pastscape Monuments 222185, 222187 and SU29 SW37; Scott 1993, 103). A double-ditched enclosure at Eastrop, c. 1.3km south-east of the eastern end of the Phase 1 route, was associated with Roman material, and may represent the site a further villa (Scott, *ibid.*; Canham 1977-8, 204). Immediately to the west of the A361 (and west of the Phase 1 Scheme), archaeological investigations have identified evidence of later prehistoric and Roman activity, suggesting the presence of a farmstead complex (Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) 2018).

- 2.4 Evidence of an Early Saxon cemetery was recorded in 1841, during the laying of a water pipe between Coleshill and Middle Leaze Farm, Oxon, some 900m east of the easternmost extent of the Phase 1 route (OHER 7991; Antiquaries Journal 1933). A number of Early Saxon sunken-featured buildings (SFBs), of *Grubenhäuser* type, have been recorded around Highworth, including an example associated with a Roman villa site at Priory Green (Pastscape Monument SU29 SW37; Scott 1993, 103).
- 2.5 Previous archaeological investigation has identified a sub-circular enclosure, possibly a medieval livestock enclosure, located east of the Phase 1 route, at Pennyswick Farm. To the north and east of Highworth (beyond the westernmost extent of the route), a number of extant earthwork enclosures have been recorded. These vary between sub-circular and sub-rectangular in form, typically with flat-bottomed ditches, surrounded by external banks. The location of the majority of the enclosures, within the historical Hundred of Highworth, suggests a medieval date, and an association with stock management. A cropmark of a circular earthwork enclosure, of probable medieval date, is located between the A361 and the River Cole, 130m north of the Phase 1 route (Wiltshire Historic Environment Record reference MWI20365). Evidence of an undated field system, which appears to underlie medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, has also been identified 440m to the north (MWI20358). An undated, square-shaped earthwork, of possible medieval date, is located 200m to the south (MWI20466).
- 2.6 Within the westernmost fields associated with the Phase 1 route, extensive remains of ridge and furrow earthworks are mostly plough-degraded, and have been recorded by aerial survey (Figs. 2 and 3). Additionally, at Brookfield, Highworth, a medieval settlement was indicated by the presence of stone foundations and associated artefacts (MW16800; Pastscape Monument 867709).
- 2.5 Geophysical survey undertaken in advance of the Phase 1 scheme identified a wide range of anomalies of potential archaeological interest, which identified those target areas to which the mitigation strategy was applied. To the north of Highworth, the survey identified numerous ring ditches, linear boundaries and enclosures of possible prehistoric or Roman date. To the east of these, a number of weak positive anomalies appeared to have been truncated by medieval ridge and furrow features, and suggested the presence of further archaeological features. Towards the eastern extent of the Phase 1 scheme, a group of anomalies suggesting ditches were identified (AS 2018; Fig. 3).



### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological mitigation were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered during the course of archaeological mitigation, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological features and deposits revealed on the Phase 1 route;
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of any structural and occupational remains;
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual remains;
- produce an integrated archive of archaeological work at the conclusion of the project, together with a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from recorded data.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018). In consultation with the SMB Joint-Venture Archaeologist, Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (WC) and Hugh Coddington (OCC), it was agreed that an archaeological strip, map and sample investigation would be undertaken across the Phase 1 route located in Oxfordshire, measuring approximately 1km in length (Fields 1-4, Figs. 2 and 3), while formal excavation would be undertaken across that part of the Phase 1 route, measuring some 1.15m in length, which is located in Wiltshire, (Fields 5-9, Figs. 2 and 4). An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for all intrusive groundworks outside the identified strip, map and sample and formal excavation areas (Fig. 2). These areas were recorded on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates, using Leica GPS, and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*.

*Strip, Map and Sample Area: excavation and recording methodology (Figs. 2 and 3)*

4.2 Fieldwork commenced in this area with the mechanical removal, under constant archaeological supervision, of non-archaeologically significant soils, using a toothless ditching bucket. This was completed to a level comparable to that required for the proposed groundworks of the easement-strip stage, or to the first archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Machine excavation within the water main trench itself, which was subsequently stripped under constant archaeological supervision, ceased when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate was revealed.

- 4.3 Where archaeological features or deposits were encountered which extended beyond the limits of the water-main trench, the stripped area was extended in order to fully examine and record these. The limits of such extensions were defined either by the edge of the works easement, or by the margin of the adjacent surfaced haul road (including passing areas), beneath which any archaeological assets would be preserved *in situ*.

*Formal Excavation Area; Excavation and recording methodology (Figs 2 and 4)*

- 4.4 Fieldwork in this area commenced with the mechanical removal, under constant archaeological supervision, of non-archaeologically significant soils, using a toothless ditching bucket. All machining ceased when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate was revealed, whichever was encountered first.

*Archaeological Watching Brief: Excavation and recording methodology (Fig. 2)*

- 4.5 The groundworks comprised the removal of overburden to expose a boundary ditch crossing. Non-archaeologically significant soils were removed by a mechanical excavator, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under constant supervision by a competent archaeologist. A number of other ditched boundary crossings were excavated within both the strip, map and sample area (Trenches 2 and 3) and the formal excavation area (Trenches 4-6) (Figs. 5 and 6).
- 4.6 Within all groundworks undertaken on the Phase 1 route, the spoil generated by machine excavation was carefully monitored to recover artefactual evidence, including systematic sweeping with a metal detector. Metal detecting and the hand-cleaning of stripped surfaces, to better define any identified archaeological deposits/features, and to record the distribution of unstratified/surface artefacts, was undertaken as appropriate.
- 4.7 Where archaeological features were revealed, these were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*. All artefacts recovered were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

## 5. RESULTS OF EXCAVATION (FIGS. 3-8)

5.1 This section provides an overview of both the strip, map and sample investigation and excavation results; detailed summaries of recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B of this report.

### ***Strip Map and Sample Area; Fields 1-4 (Figs. 3 and 5-8)***

5.2 The natural substrate, 10002, comprising a mix of yellow sandy and dark-grey clays, was revealed at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl) in this area. It was sealed by a 0.2m-thick subsoil of yellow/brown clay and sand, 10001, which was overlain in turn by a topsoil of grey/brown sand and clay, which averaged 0.2m in depth (10000). Six archaeological features, comprising four ditches, a gully and a pit were recorded. All features cut the natural substrate, and were sealed by the subsoil.

5.3 Gully 10003, which measured 0.36m in width and 0.3m in depth, was recorded within Field 1 (Fig. 5; Section AA). It was east/west-aligned, with irregular sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill, 10004, of yellow/grey silty clay. No dateable material was retrieved from this feature, which was truncated by a modern land drain.

5.4 The remaining features were all located within Field 4 (see Figs. 2 and 6), where three broadly parallel, north-west/south-east aligned ditches, 10006, 10008 and 10014, were recorded. Ditch 10006 (Fig. 7; section BB) displayed a V-shaped profile, and measured 0.55m in width and 0.48m in depth. It contained a single fill, 10005, of blue/grey silty clay, from which no finds were recovered. Ditches 10008 (Fig. 7; Section CC) and 10014 (Fig. 8; Section FF) displayed U-shaped profiles, and measured between 0.73m and 0.98m in width, and approximately 0.3m in depth. They contained single fills, 10007 and 10013, respectively of grey/brown silt and sandy clay. While no dateable material was recovered from ditch 10014, ten sherds of late prehistoric pottery, together with an unfeathered flint flake and fragments of fired clay, were recovered from fill 10007, of ditch 10008. This feature broadly corresponded to a linear anomaly identified by the preceding geophysical survey (AS 2018; see Fig. 3).

5.5 Unlike the other ditches, ditch 10010 was curvilinear in plan. It measured 0.21m in width and 0.1m in depth, and contained a single fill, 10009, of dark-grey silty clay, (Fig. 8; Section DD). This ditch was only partly exposed, and no evidence of its date

or function was identified. A small pit, 10012, which was oval in plan, was located immediately to the west of the ditch terminal (Fig. 8; Section EE). The pit measured 0.61m in length, 0.25m in width and 0.23m in depth, with a steep-sided, U-shaped profile. No finds or dateable material were recovered from its single fill, 10011, of blue/grey silty clay. Neither of these features had been identified by the preceding geophysical survey (AS 2018).

***Formal Excavation area; Fields 5-9 (Figs 4, 6, 7 and 8)***

- 5.6 The natural substrate, 10002, of yellow/grey clay, was recorded at an average depth of 0.5m bpgl within this area. It was sealed by c.0.2m-thick subsoil, comprising yellow/brown silty clay (10001), which was overlain in turn by c. 0.3m of grey/brown sandy clay topsoil (10000). With the exception of north-west/south-east aligned medieval or post-medieval furrows which were identified across the area (Figs. 3-5), no archaeological features or deposits were observed. The furrows were identified by the preceding geophysical survey (AS 2018). Single sherds of Roman and medieval pottery were recorded as unstratified finds within Field 5.

*Archaeological Watching Brief (Fig. 2)*

- 5.7 Within the groundworks undertaken between the strip map and sample area to the east and the excavation area to the west, the natural substrate comprised yellow grey clay, and was recorded at an average depth of 0.55m bpgl in this area. It was sealed by a 0.25m-thick layer of yellow brown silty clay subsoil which was in turn overlain by c.0.3m depth of grey/brown sandy clay topsoil. With the exception of the north-west/south-east aligned furrows which were identified across this area, no archaeological features or deposits were observed.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Late prehistoric pottery, worked flint and fired clay were hand-recovered from only one deposit; fill 10007, of ditch 10008. Further artefactual material, comprising Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery, and a gunflint, were recorded as unstratified finds, from Fields 3, 4 and 5. The finds are summarised, in tabular form, in Appendix B of this report.

### ***Flint***

- 6.2 Two items of worked flint (17g) were recovered. Ditch 10008 (fill 10007) produced an undiagnostic flake of probable later prehistoric date. A gunflint, a type in use from the 17th to 19th centuries, was recorded as an unstratified find from Field 4.

### ***Pottery***

- 6.3 The pottery was recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Fabric codes for prehistoric pottery have been devised for the purpose of this report. Those for later periods are in accordance with the Oxfordshire pottery type-series (summarised in Booth 2011, 366–7).

#### ***Late Prehistoric***

- 6.4 Pottery representing a broad date-range, spanning the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age periods, comprises 10 unfeathered bodysherds (50g), all recovered from fill 10007 of ditch 10008. Three hand-made fabrics are represented; fine quartz-tempered (QZF), coarse quartz-tempered (QZC) and quartz-tempered vesicular (QZV). The latter is likely to have resulted from the leaching-out of calcareous inclusions, probably of shell or limestone. In the absence of any indications of vessel form or decoration, this pottery is only broadly dateable to the later prehistoric period.

#### ***Roman***

- 6.5 Roman pottery consists of an abraded, unfeathered bodysherd (20g), in a fine greyware fabric (R30) of broad Roman date, which was recovered as an unstratified item in Field 5.

#### ***Medieval***

- 6.6 A base sherd (47g), probably from a jug of Laverstock ware (Z20), was also recovered, as an unstratified item, from Field 5. This ware-type was manufactured in south-east Wiltshire from the mid to late 13th century.

#### ***Post-medieval***

- 6.7 A bodysherd of glazed earthenware (Z30, 47g), dateable to the mid-16th to 18th centuries, was retrieved as an unstratified find from Field 3.

### ***Fired Clay***

- 6.8 A total of nine fragments (61g) of fired clay were retrieved from ditch 10008 (fill 10007). All are medium-fired and orange in colour, some with a dark-grey core. Two fragments

are present in a sandy, organic fabric, and the remainder are sandy. None of the fragments display surfaces, or other diagnostic features, which might suggest an original form or purpose.

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### *Animal Bone*

- 7.1 Six fragments of animal bone (5g) were recovered from deposit 10007, the fill of ditch 10008. Pottery of broad later prehistoric date was also recovered from this feature. The bone, which was fragmentary and very poorly preserved, was unidentifiable to both skeletal element and species, and can offer no useful interpretative information. The animal bone is summarised in tabular form in Appendix C of this report.

## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 A small number of archaeological features were recorded at the eastern end of the Phase 1 route, within the strip, map and sample area. With the exception of ditch 10008, which can be broadly dated to the later prehistoric period, all recorded features remain undated. However, ditches 10006 and 10014 were aligned broadly parallel with ditch 10008, and it is possible that they are broadly contemporary with it, and may comprise elements of a field system. No evidence for the date or function of the curvilinear ditch 10010, or pit 10012, was recovered. It is possible these features may also be of later prehistoric date. The presence of cultural material, including pottery, within the fill of ditch 10008 suggests the relative proximity of domestic occupation.
- 8.2 Gully 10003 was recorded in relative isolation, to the east of other recorded features. No dateable evidence was recovered from this feature, which may be associated with agricultural drainage related to eighteenth or nineteenth-century land improvements.
- 8.3 Extensive evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation, of probable medieval date, was identified within the formal excavation area. The furrows were aligned north-west/south-east, and had been identified by the preceding geophysical survey (AS 2018). These features are likely to be associated with a wider pattern of medieval activity within the surrounding area, represented not only by existing village settlements but the recorded remains of deserted villages and farmsteads, including

stone foundations at Brookfield, Highworth (MW16800). The unstratified Roman pottery sherd recovered from Field 5 may derive from manure-scatter, or simply reflect wider dispersal from a possible Roman settlement identified immediately to the west of this area by the geophysical survey (AS 2018).

- 8.4 With the exception of ditch 10008 and the probably medieval furrows, none of the archaeological features recorded by excavation had been identified by the preceding geophysical survey (AS 2018). Furthermore, a number of possible anomalies identified by geophysical survey at the eastern and western ends of the Phase 1 route were found to be not of archaeological origin (Fig. 3).
- 8.5 With the exception of ditch 10008 and the probably medieval furrows, none of the archaeological features recorded by excavation had been identified by the preceding geophysical survey (AS 2018). Furthermore, a number of possible anomalies identified by geophysical survey at the eastern and western ends of the Phase 1 route were found to be not of archaeological origin (Fig. 3).

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1 CA would like to thank the various staff of SMB JV (incorporating Skanska Construction UK Ltd, MWH Treatment Ltd and Balfour Beatty Solutions Ltd) and Stantec UK, in particular Catherine Barnett, for their support and guidance during the course of the fieldwork and during the subsequent reporting, as well as Andrew Baines of Thames Water Utilities Ltd. We would also like to thank the relevant county archaeological advisors, Hugh Coddington (Archaeology Team Leader, Oxfordshire County Council) and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council) for their support and advice.
- 9.2 CA would Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Searle, Alison Roberts, Sue Walker and Paolo Guarino. The excavation report was written by Charlotte Haines and Sian Reynish, and the finds reports were written by Jacky Sommerville. The animal bone report was written by Andy Clarke, and the illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill, and the fieldwork was managed for CA by Ian Barnes. The report was edited by Richard Massey.

## 10. STORAGE AND CURATION

- 10.1 The archive and finds are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and, with the agreement of the legal landowners, will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service, under Accession No. OXCMS:2018.106. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Table 1: Context descriptions

Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
10000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey/brown sandy clay			0.2	
10001	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow/brown clay sand			0.2	
10002	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow sandy clay and dark-grey clay				
10003	Cut		Gully	E/W, irregular sides, & concave base	>5	0.36	0.3	
10004	Fill	10003	Fill of gully	Yellow/grey silty clay	>5	0.36	0.3	
10005	Fill	10006	Fill of ditch	Blue/grey silty clay	>3	0.55	0.48	
10006	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE- aligned, V-shaped	>3	0.55	0.48	
10007	Fill	10008	Fill of ditch	Grey/brown sandy clay	>6	0.98	0.31	
10008	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE- aligned, concave sides and base	>6	0.98	0.31	
10009	Fill	10010	Ditch	Dark grey silty clay	>1.5	0.21	0.1	
10010	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear, steeply-sloping sides, concave base	>1.5	0.21	0.1	
10011	Fill	10012	Fill of pit	Light-blue/grey silty clay	0.61	0.25	0.23	
10012	Cut		Pit	Oval, w sloping sides, & concave base	0.51	0.25	0.23	
10013	Fill	10014	Fill of ditch	Dark-grey/brown silty clay	>2	0.73	0.3	
10014	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE-aligned, w sloping sides & concave base	>2	0.73	0.3	
20000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey/brown sandy clay			0.3	
20001	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow/brown clay sand			0.2	
20002	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow sandy clay and dark-grey clay				
2000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey/brown silty clay			0.32	
2001	Layer		Subsoil	Red/brown silty clay			0.18	
2002	Layer		Natural substrate	Red/yellow sand and gravel				
3000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey/brown silty clay			0.3	
3001	Layer		Subsoil	Red/brown silty clay			0.2	
3002	Layer		Natural substrate	Red/yellow sand and gravel				
4000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey/brown silty clay			0.28	
4001	Layer		Subsoil	Red/brown silty clay			0.23	
4002	Layer		Natural substrate	Red/yellow sand and gravel				
5000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey/brown silty clay			0.3	
5001	Layer		Subsoil	Red/brown silty clay			0.2	
5002	Layer		Natural substrate	Red/yellow sand and gravel				
6000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey/brown silty clay			0.3	
6001	Layer		Subsoil	Red/brown silty clay			0.18	
6002	Layer		Natural substrate	Red/yellow sand and gravel				
7000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey/brown silty clay			0.32	
7001	Layer		Subsoil	Red/brown silty clay			0.2	
7002	Layer		Natural substrate	Red/yellow sand and gravel				

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Concordance of finds

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
10007	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine quartz-tempered fabric	QZF	7	25	LBA-IA
	Late prehistoric pottery	Coarse quartz-tempered fabric	QZC	2	15	
	Late prehistoric pottery		QZV	1	13	
	Late prehistoric pottery	Quartz-tempered vesicular fabric		1		
	Flint	Undiagnostic flake		9	61	
Fired clay	Medium-fired and orange in colour, some with a dark-grey core					
Unstratified	Roman pottery	Fine sandy greyware	R30	1	20	RB
Unstratified	Medieval pottery	Laverstock ware	Z20	1	47	MC13-LC13
Unstratified	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	Z30	1	29	C16-C18
Unstratified	Flint	Gunflint		1		C17-C19

## APPENDIX C: ANIMAL BONE

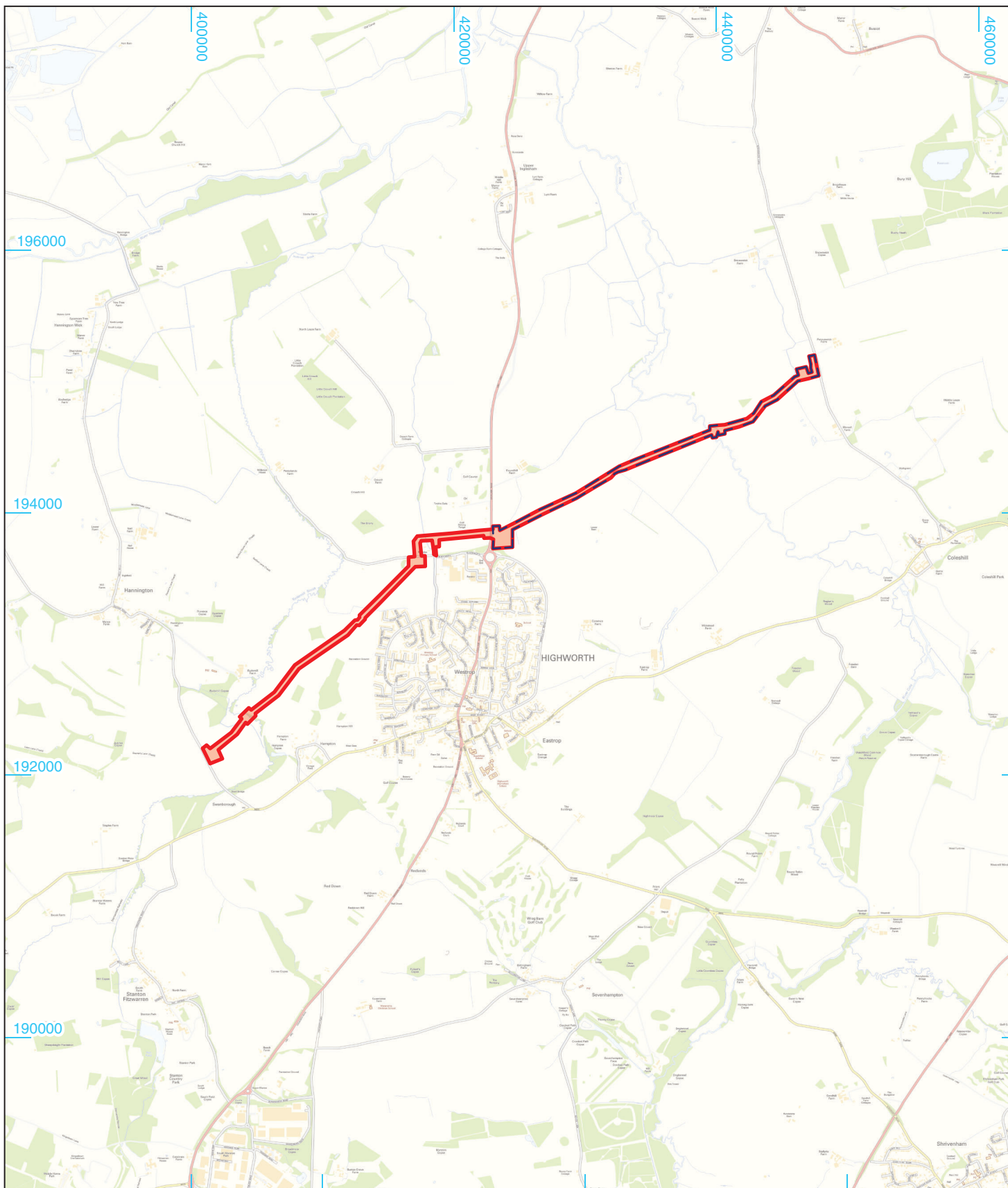
Table 2: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	Unid	Total	Weight (g)
10008	10007	6	6	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	

Unid – fragments unidentifiable to element and species

**APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	H186 Blunsdon to Faringdon Main: Phase 1, Oxfordshire & Wiltshire: Archaeological Mitigation Programme	
Short description	<p>An archaeological mitigation programme, comprising a strip, map and sample investigation and a formal excavation of identified features, was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August and September 2018. The archaeological mitigation programme was implemented along the proposed route of the new H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon Water Main: Phase 1, which extended across the Oxfordshire/Wiltshire county boundary.</p> <p>A late prehistoric ditch was recorded towards the eastern end of the Phase 1 route. A small number of other, undated features, comprising two further ditches, a curvilinear ditch, a gully and a pit, were also recorded in this area. A number of these appear likely to be of later prehistoric date. A small number of unstratified finds included Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.</p> <p>Extensive, plough-degraded evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation, of probable medieval date, was recorded at the western end of the Phase 1 route, and is likely to be associated with known contemporary settlements within the surrounding area.</p>	
Project dates	08 August to 01 October 2018	
Project type	Strip Map and Sample and formal Excavation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey 2018	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Highworth, Wiltshire and Coleshill, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	N/a	
Site co-ordinates	420395 193825 to 422767 195020	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Peter Searle	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Pits and ditches	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Oxfordshire Museum Services	Ceramics, flint, fired clay
Paper	Oxfordshire Museum Services	Context sheets, section drawings, registers
Digital	Oxfordshire Museum Services	Digital photos, survey data, geomatics data
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon Water Main: Phase 1 Oxfordshire &amp; Wiltshire: Archaeological Mitigation Programme</i> , CA typescript report <b>18757</b>		



- Site boundary
- Phase 1 route



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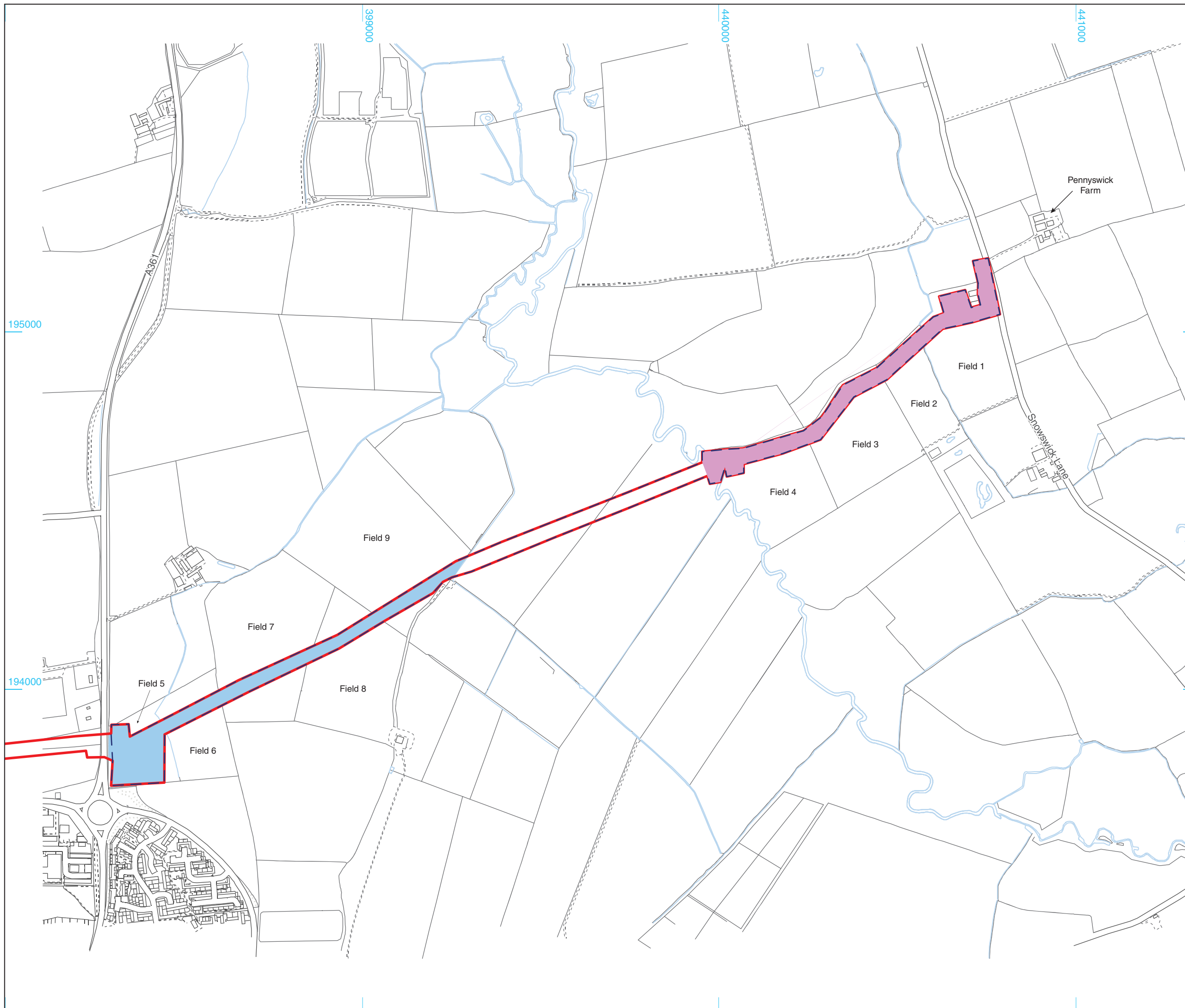
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon Main: Phase 1  
 Oxfordshire and Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY **AW** PROJECT NO. **6723**  
 CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **17.01.19**  
 APPROVED BY **CH** SCALE@A4 **1:40,000**

FIGURE NO.

**1**



- Site boundary
- Phase 1 route
- Strip, map and sample area
- Formal excavation area



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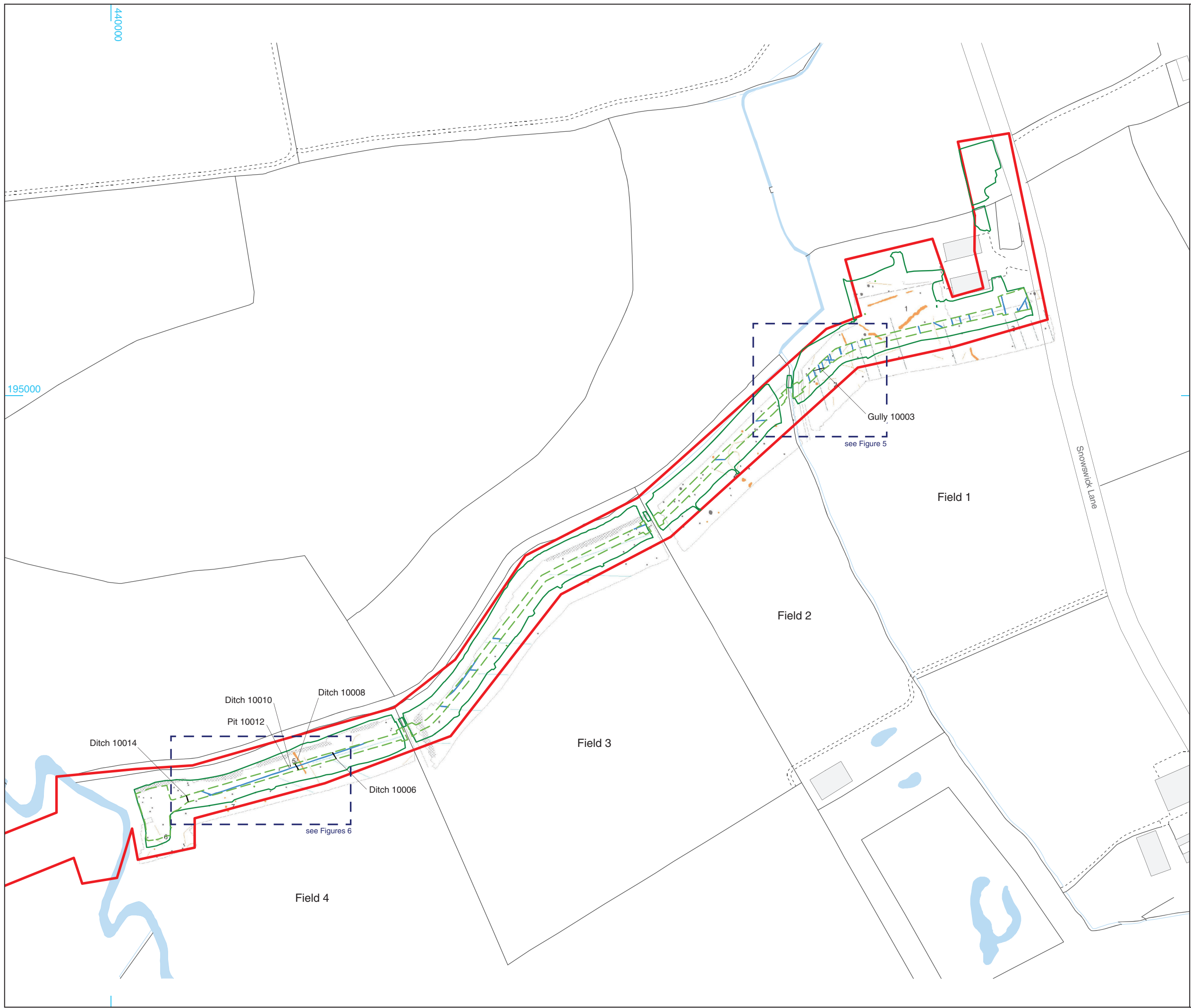
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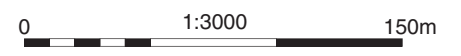
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon Main: Phase 1  
 Oxfordshire and Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Phase 1: site plan

DRAWN BY <b>AW</b> CHECKED BY <b>DJB</b> APPROVED BY <b>CH</b>	PROJECT NO. <b>6723</b> DATE <b>23.01.19</b> SCALE@A3 <b>1:10,000</b>	FIGURE NO. <b>2</b>
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- Site boundary
- Excavated area
- Pipe trench
- Archaeological feature
- Field drain
- Geophysical survey  
Archaeological Surveys 2018
- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Linear anomaly - ridge and furrow
- Linear anomaly - land drain
- Discrete positive anomaly - possible pit-like feature
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent/ferrous material
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



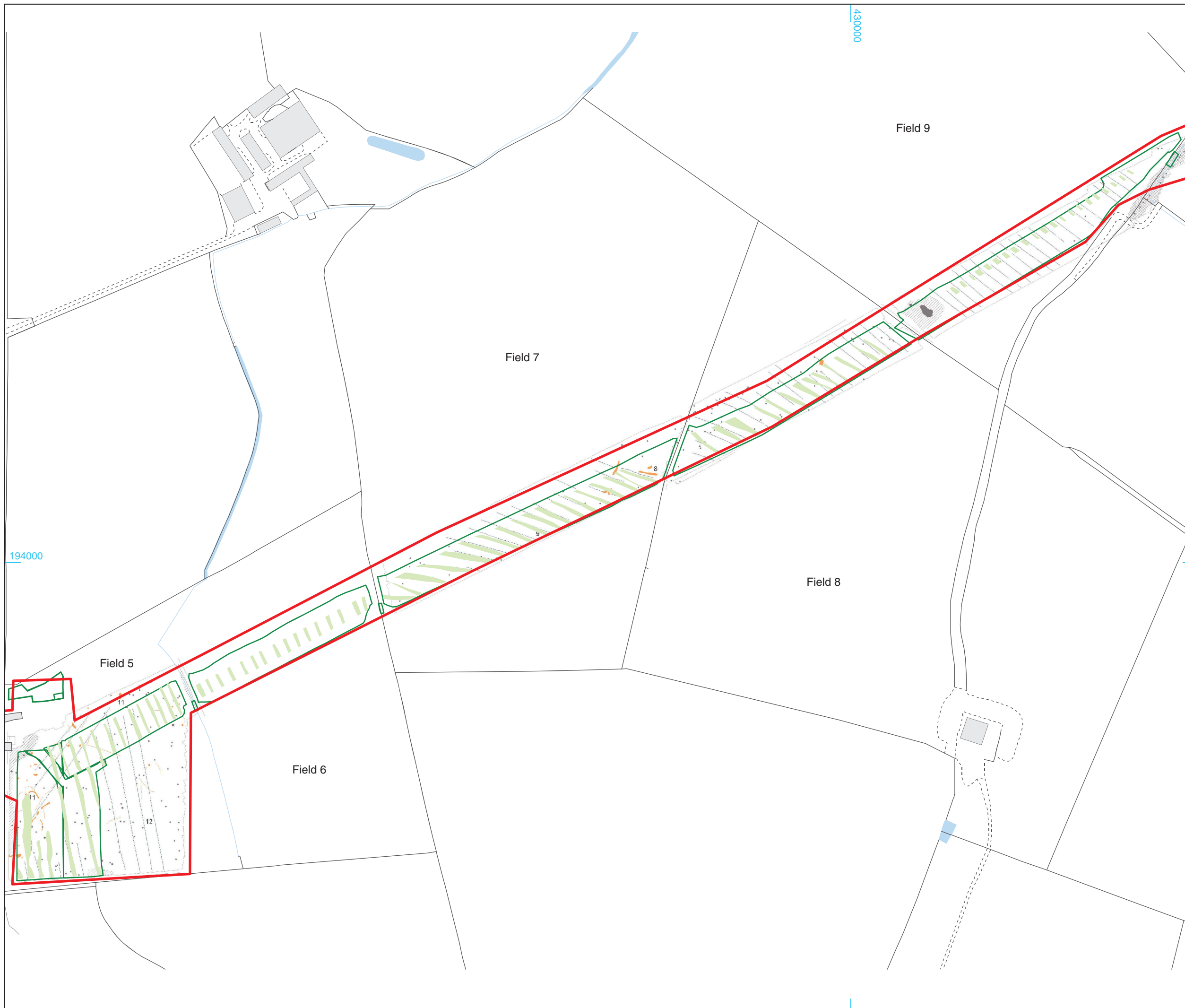
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon Main: Phase 1  
 Oxfordshire and Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Strip, Map and Sample Area; Fields 1-4,**  
**showing archaeological features and**  
**geophysical survey results**

<small>DRAWN BY</small> AW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 6723	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 21.01.19	<b>3</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> CH	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:3000	



- Site boundary
- Excavated area
- Ridge and furrow
- Geophysical survey  
Archaeological Surveys 2018
- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- Linear anomaly - ridge and furrow
- Linear anomaly - land drain
- Discrete positive anomaly - possible pit-like feature
- Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremnant/ferrous material
- Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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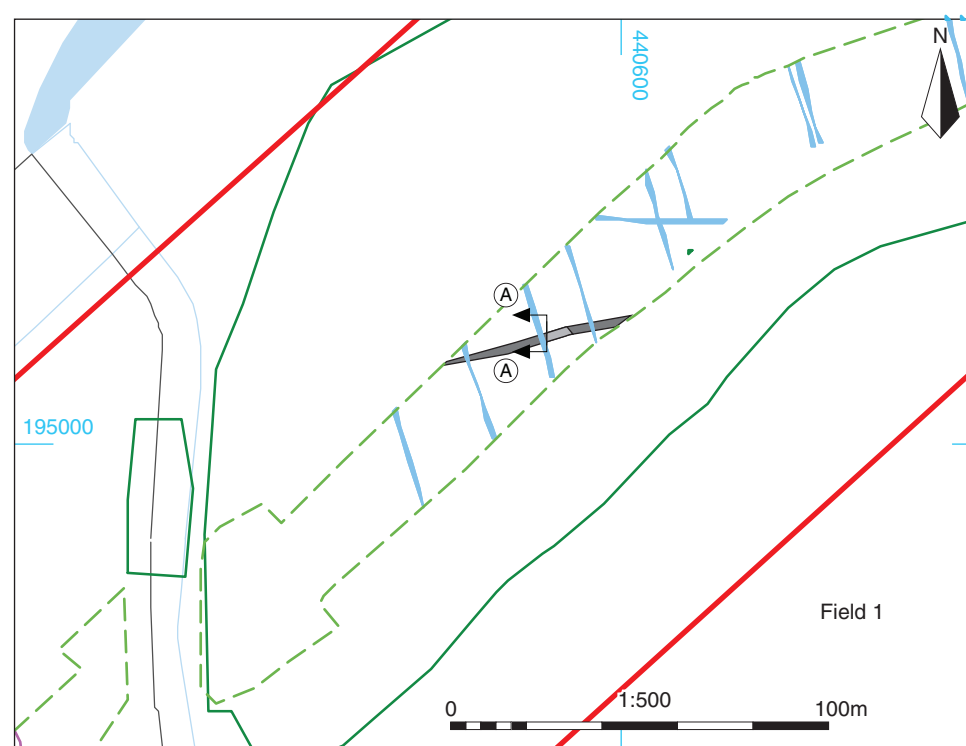
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 H186 Faringdon to Blunsdon Main: Phase 1  
 Oxfordshire and Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Formal excavation area; Fields 5-9,  
 showing archaeological features and  
 geophysical survey results**

<small>DRAWN BY</small> <b>AW</b>	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> <b>6723</b>	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> <b>DJB</b>	<small>DATE</small> <b>21.01.19</b>	<b>4</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> <b>CH</b>	<small>SCALE@A3</small> <b>1:3000</b>	





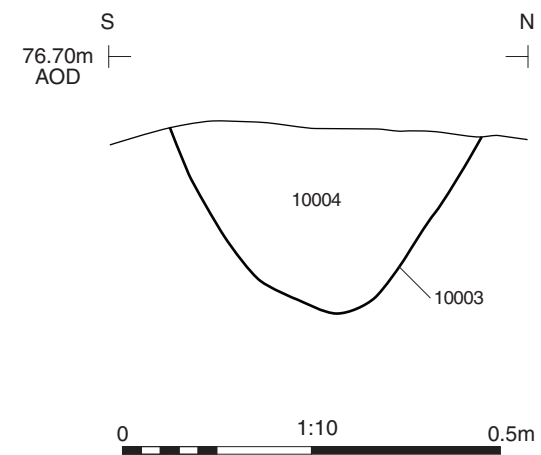
Plan of gully 10003

- Site boundary
- Excavated area
- Pipe trench
- Archaeological feature
- Field drain
- A A Section location



Gully 10003, looking west (0.2m scale)

Section AA



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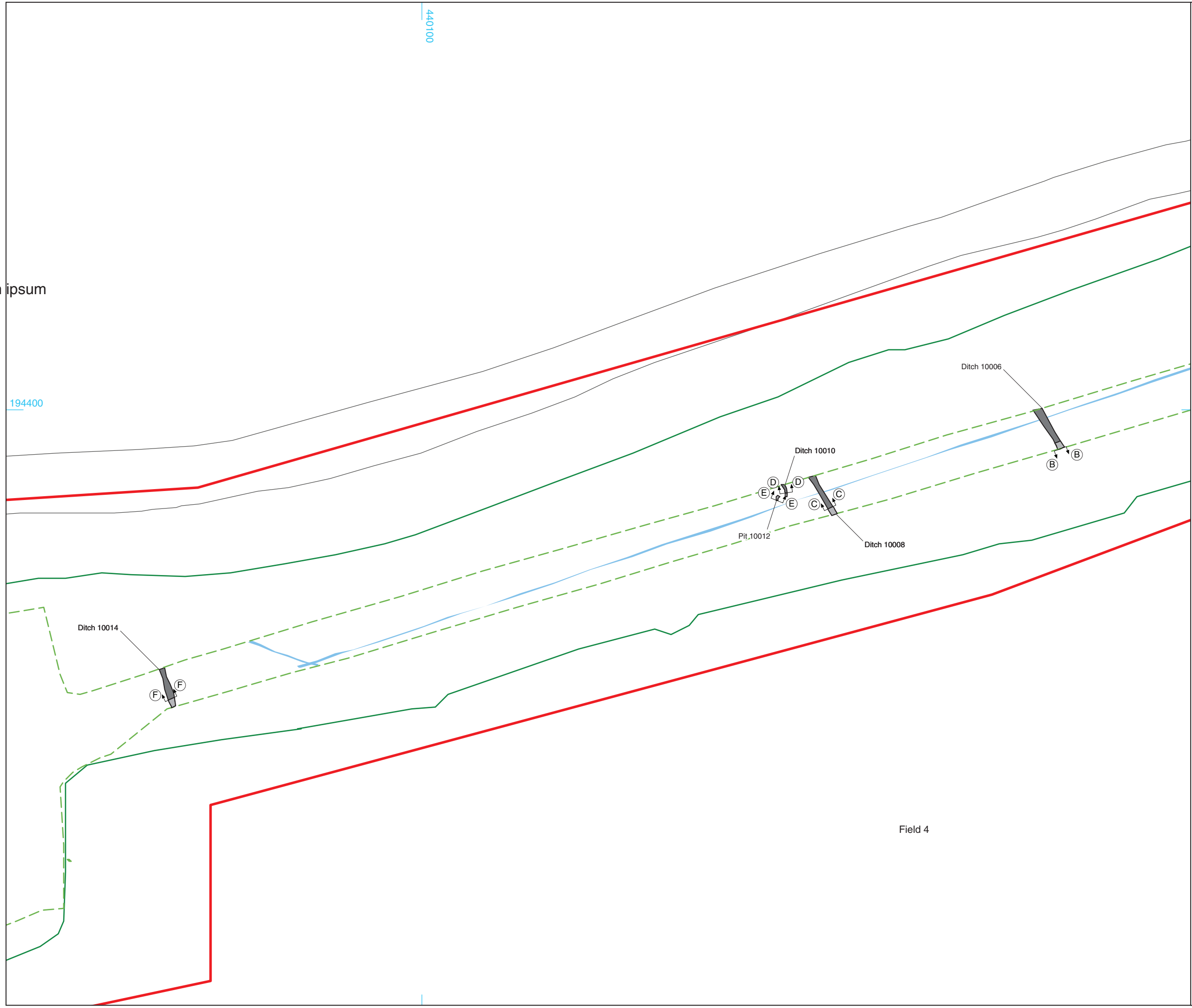
PROJECT TITLE  
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 Oxfordshire and Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Gully 10003: plan, section  
 and photograph**

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- Site boundary
- Strip map and survey area
- Excavation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Field drain
- A A Section location



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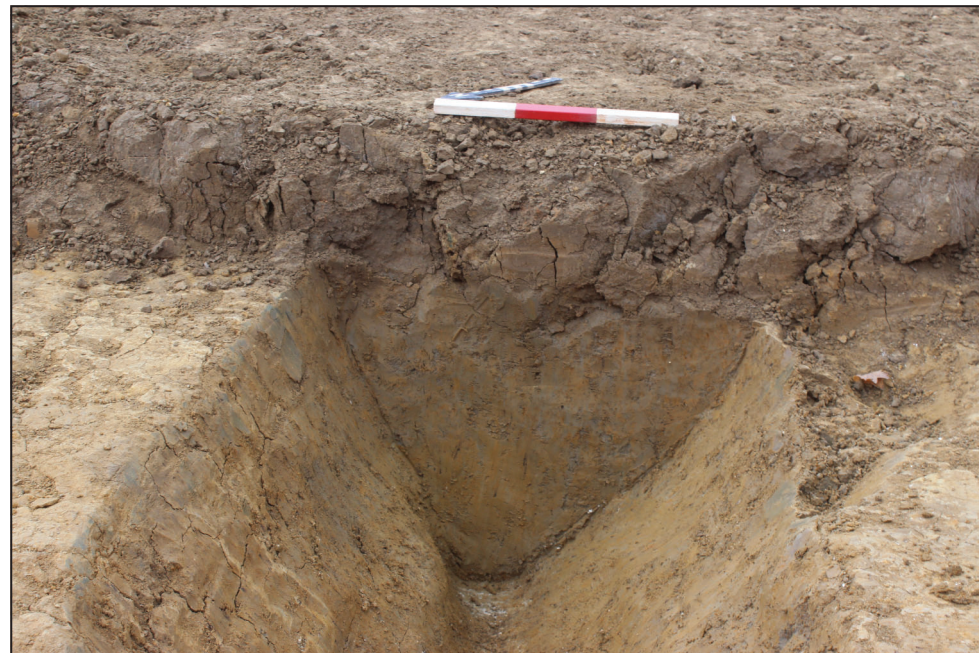
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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 Oxfordshire and Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Ditches 10006, 10008, 10010, and  
 10014 and pit 10012: plan

<small>DRAWN BY</small> <b>AW</b>	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> <b>6723</b>	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> <b>DJB</b>	<small>DATE</small> <b>17.01.19</b>	<b>6</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> <b>CH</b>	<small>SCALE@A3</small> <b>1:500</b>	

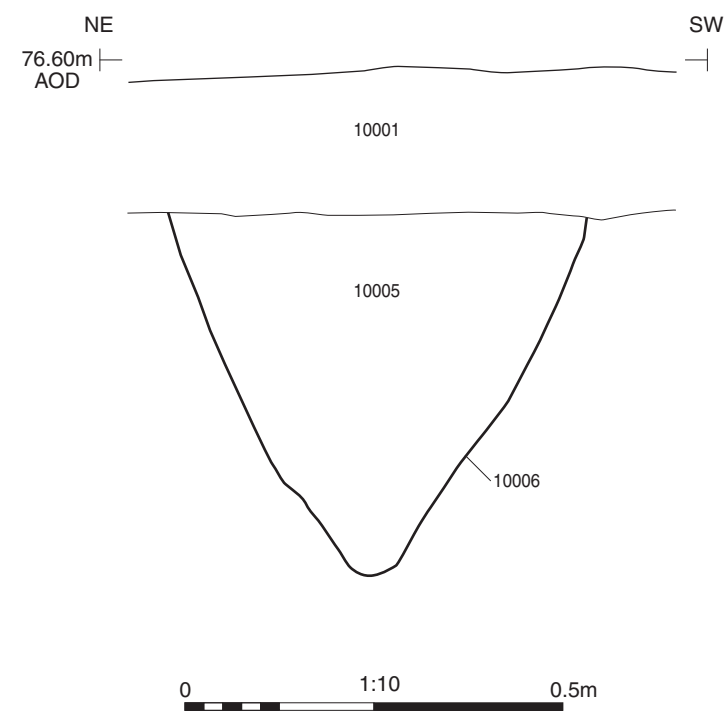


Ditch 10006, looking south-east (0.3m scale)

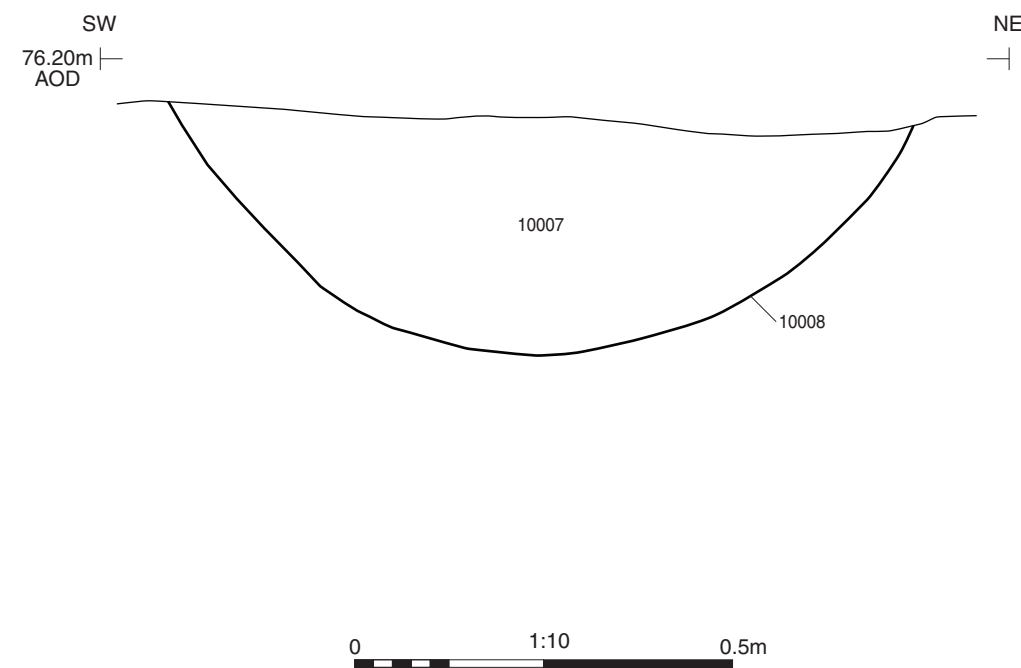


Ditch 10008, looking north west (1m scale)

Section BB



Section CC





Ditch 10010, looking north west (0.2m scale)

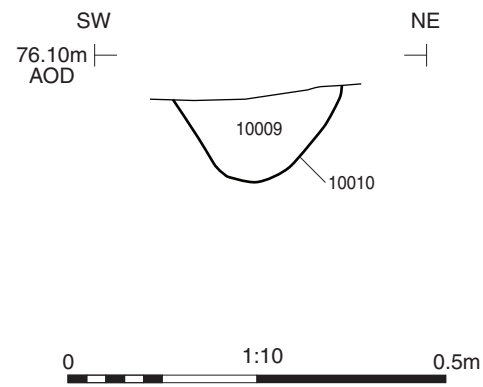


Pit 10012, looking north east (0.3m scale)

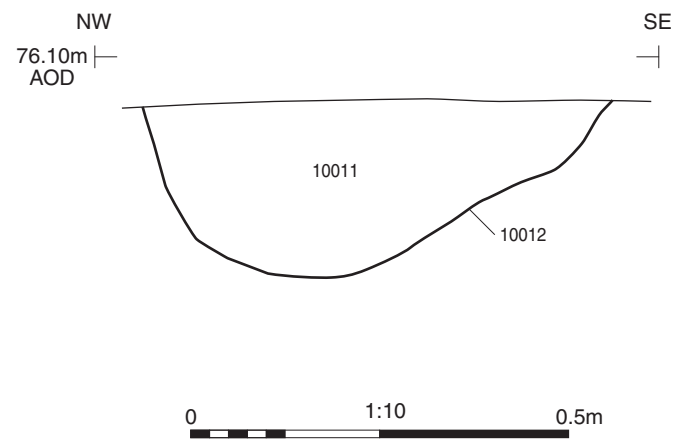


Ditch 10014, looking north west (0.3m scale)

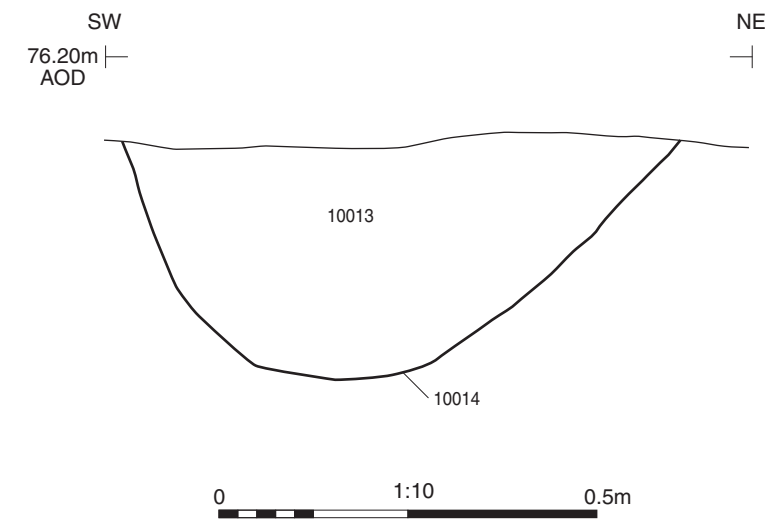
Section DD



Section EE



Section FF




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FIGURE TITLE  
**Ditches 10010, 10014 and pit  
 10012: sections and photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	17.01.19	8
APPROVED BY	CH	SCALE@A3	1:10	

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