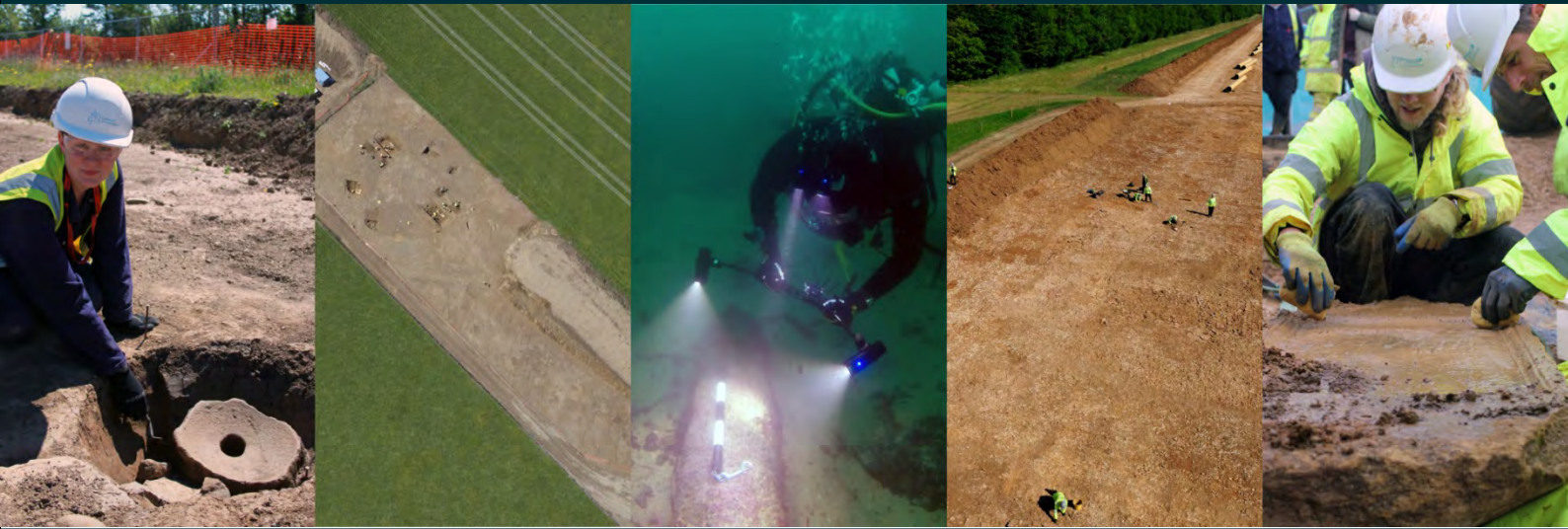


Land to the East of Tythrop Way Thame Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP)

on behalf of:
Hallam Land Management Ltd
and
Montpelier Estates

CA Project: AN0219
CA Report: AN0219_1

October 2020



Land to the East of Tythrop Way Thame Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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A	29/09/20	Ray Kennedy	Richard Greatorex	Internal review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771 022	Milton Keynes Unit 8, The IO Centre Fingle Drive Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT t. 01908 564 660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347 630	Exeter Unit 1, Clyst Units Cofton Road Marsh Barton Exeter EX2 8QW t. 01392 573 970	Suffolk Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ t. 01449 900 120
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk				

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Thame, Oxfordshire
Location:	Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Thame, Oxfordshire
NGR:	472106 205797
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	28-29 September 2020
Planning reference:	P20/S2593/O
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	LETW20

In September 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Thame, Oxfordshire. A total of 5 trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest, other than a modern ditch in Trench 4, were observed and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In September 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Tythrop Way, Thame, Oxfordshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 472106 205797 (see Figure 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Hallam Land Management Ltd and Montpellier Estates.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for the development of a Health Centre, up to 75 bedroom Care Home, up to 51 Assisted Living Units, up to 110 Pupil Day Nursery, New Vehicular and Pedestrian Accesses and associated infrastructure works which has been made to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) (planning ref: P20/S2593/O).
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Richard Oram, Lead Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council, the archaeological advisor to SODC. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2020) and approved by Richard Oram
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 2.11ha in extent. It lies on the northern side of Newells Close. The site currently comprises an arable field, bounded by Tythrop Way to the west, arable farmland to the south and the east, pasture to the north-east and woodland to the north-west. The land within the site is flat, at a height of c.75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with ground falling steadily to the east beyond the site. The British Geological Survey records the underlying solid geology within the site as Portland Group limestone and calcareous sandstone. No superficial deposits are recorded.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The archaeological background below is a succinct summary of the results of an Archaeology and Heritage Assessment produced by EDP in June 2020.

Palaeolithic-Iron Age (c.500,000BC-AD 43)

2.2. There are no recorded finds or features dating to the prehistoric period within the site. Records of prehistoric activity with the wider area are relatively sparse, with activity mainly focused to the south.

2.3. The HER records an enclosure c.350m east of the site, identified from aerial photographic imagery. Consultation with the Historic England Archive has identified that the position of the crop mark is c.120m south of the HER entry point. The HER dates this feature to the prehistoric or Roman period, though this date has not been proven by investigation. This feature is not visible on lidar imagery which may suggest that these remains have since been removed by agricultural practices.

2.4. Located c.700-850m south of the site, the HER records a 'ring ditch, visible on 1961 APs, since removed by development. Also located c.700-850m south of the site the HER records several pits and ditches containing Iron Age and Roman pottery (986, 11213) which were recorded during excavations associated with the construction of the British Oxygen plant.

2.5. An enclosure of possible prehistoric/Roman date is recorded c360m east of the site, and examination of aerial photos and Lidar imagery suggests that it is an isolated feature.

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

2.6. There are no recorded finds or features dating to the Roman period within the site. Records for Roman activity with the wider area are mainly focused to the south of the site.

2.7. A cropmark, as discussed above, is identified by the HER as being of prehistoric or Roman date and as an isolated feature, based on the current evidence, its presence is unlikely to influence the potential for archaeology of the Roman period to be present within the site.

-
- 2.8. There is evidence for Roman funerary activity c.700-850m south of the site. Two inhumations of possible Roman date, and a Roman cremation cemetery were recorded, with associated grave goods and features. Dispersed pits and substantial clay quarry pits were also recorded. Two further undated incomplete inhumations were recorded (987) along with a copper coin. These features suggest a Roman cemetery in this area.
- 2.9. A geophysical survey and a subsequent evaluation in the same area identified pits, postholes, linear features and walls suggesting an area of Roman occupation. A spread of Roman pottery was also recorded during development at the British Oxygen installation.
- 2.10. The site is located c. 680m from the focus of recorded Roman activity to the south and there is no current evidence that this activity extends towards or into the site. The enclosure feature to the east of the site remains undated and no features associated are thought to extend towards or indeed into the site.

Early Medieval to Medieval (AD 410-1485)

- 2.11. There are no early medieval finds or features recorded within the site or surrounding area. The settlement of Thame has Anglo Saxon origins, with the Church of St Mary, which dates to the 12th century, located on the site of an earlier church.
- 2.12. The HER identifies one medieval heritage asset within the wider area although none within the site. This relates to the scheduled monument known as 'Moated Site east of Moorend Lane'. This comprises the earthwork remains of a medieval moated site which is now surrounded by modern development and does not influence the archaeological potential of the site.

Post-Medieval and Georgian (AD 1485-1837)

- 2.13. There are no post-medieval finds or features recorded within the site, although there are 12 previously identified heritage assets of this date within the study area. These largely relate to the post-medieval growth of the settlement of Thame located c. 930m west of the site. These records include buildings which date from the 18th to 19th centuries and comprise residential buildings including the Grade II listed Thame Police Station, 34 and 35 Park Street, 36-40 Park Street, 77 Park Street and Cross Keys Public House, a school and a toll house. The HER also records

evidence of industry within the settlement including a windmill, the site of the brickyard and a saw pit.

- 2.14. Located c.770m north-west of the site, to the north of the scheduled medieval moat, archaeological works recorded three fishponds dated to the post-medieval period.

Victorian and Modern (AD 1837-Present)

- 2.15. There are no previously identified modern heritage assets within the site. Within the study area the HER records relate to the modern growth of the settlement. These include a police station, Thame Railway Station and a Methodist chapel (10378).

Archaeological Investigation

- 2.16. A geophysical survey was recently undertaken of the site by WYAS Archaeological Services in March 2020 at the request of the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority. The surveyors identified that the survey worked well over the site area and that magnetic disturbance was identified as a result of modern features and isolated ferrous responses. Geological responses were also identified as a result of ploughing.
- 2.17. A single feature described as a linear magnetic anomaly was identified as possibly archaeological and may represent a historic land boundary predating the consulted mapping. The report concludes that the site has low to moderate archaeological potential.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable OCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).
- 3.2. The objective of the evaluation is to determine if any archaeological remains will be affected by the current works.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 5 trenches (Fig. 2):
- 4no 30m x 1.8m trenches;
 - 1no 25m x 1.8 trenches; and
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Oxfordshire Museum Service for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.

5.2. **Trenches 1-3, and 5** were archaeologically sterile.

5.3. **Trench 4** contained a modern ditch from which no finds were recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see Archaeological background, above), the evaluation identified no archaeological remains within the site, other than a modern ditch within Trench 4

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Francesco Catanzaro, assisted by Katherine Hebbard and Craig Jones. This report was written by Ray Kennedy. The report illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The project archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Accessed 29 September 2020

Cotswold Archaeology, 2020, *Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Thame, Oxfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

EDP, Health Campus on land to the east of Tythrop Way, and South of Kingsey Road, Thame: Archaeology, and Heritage Assessment 2020

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*

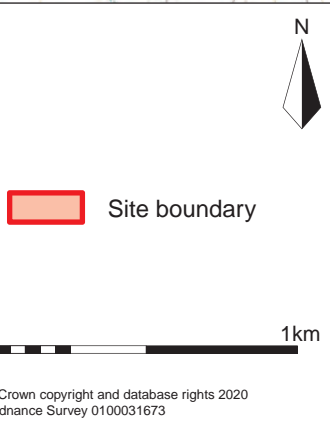
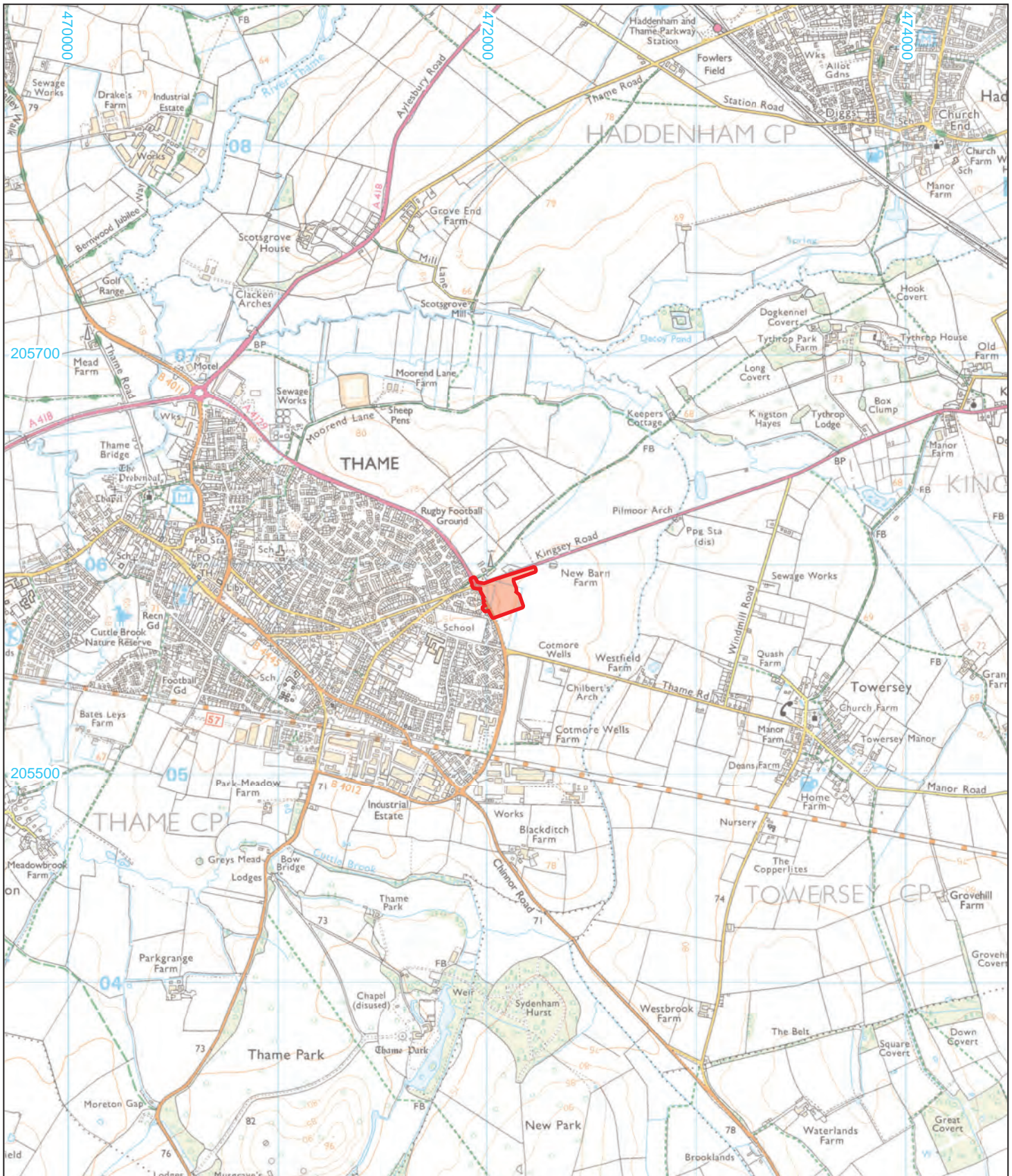
WYAS Archaeological Services, Health Campus on land to the east of Tythrop Way and South of Kingsey Road, Thame: Geophysical Survey

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey sandy silt	47	2.2	0-0.49	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt	47	2.2	0.49-0.99	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid grey green with light yellow white patches	47	2.2	0.99+	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	54	2.2	0-0.4	
2	201	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brown sandy silt	54	2.2	0.4-0.5	
2	202	Cut		Wheel ruts	mid grey sandy clay and brick rubble				Modern
2	203	Fill	203	Wheel ruts					Modern
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	52	2.2	0-0.3	
3	301	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brown sandy silt	52	2.2	0.3-0.4	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Light greyish brown sandy silt, small to large sub-angular mudstone	52	2.2	0.4+	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	50.1	2.2	0-0.37	
4	401	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey brown sandy silt	50.1	2.2	0.37+	
4	402	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear in plan with steep straight sides and a concave base	2.2	1.17	0.39	Modern
4	403	Fill	402	Fill of Ditch	Mid grey brown sandy silt	2.2	1.17	0.39	Modern
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey sandy silt	24	2.2	0-0.5	
5	501	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey brown sandy silt	24	2.2	0.5-0.62	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Thame, Oxfordshire	
Short description	In September 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Thame, Oxfordshire. A total of 5 trenches were excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest, other than a modern ditch in Trench 4, were observed and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.	
Project dates	28-29 September 2020	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work		
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Thame, Oxfordshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	Grid reference	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	OCC	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Francesco Catanzaro	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Oxford Museum Service	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology, 2020, <i>Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Thame, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report AN0219_1		



Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Kingsey Road, Thame, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY AO **PROJECT NO.** AN0219 **FIGURE NO.**
CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 01/10/2020 **1**
APPROVED BY RK **SCALE**@A4 1:25,000

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Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Kingsey Road, Thame, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	01/10/2020	2
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A3	1:1000	



Trench 1, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 2, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 3, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 5, looking north-west (1m scales)


Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Kingsey
 Road, Thame, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	AN0219	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	01/10/2020	3
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE	@A3 NA	

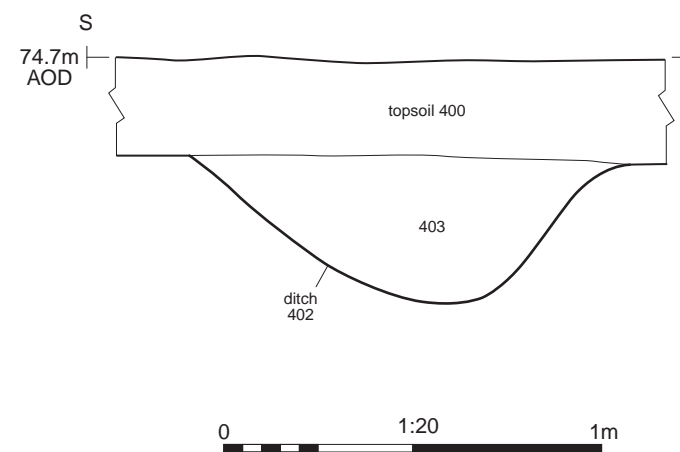


Trench 1, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 3, looking north-west (1m scales)

Section AA



www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the East of Tythrop Way, Kingsey
 Road, Thame, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 4: section and photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	01/10/2020	4
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE	@A3 1:20	

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

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

t: 01392 573970

Milton Keynes Office

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

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

