

**Land at Milksey Lane  
Graveley  
Hertfordshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

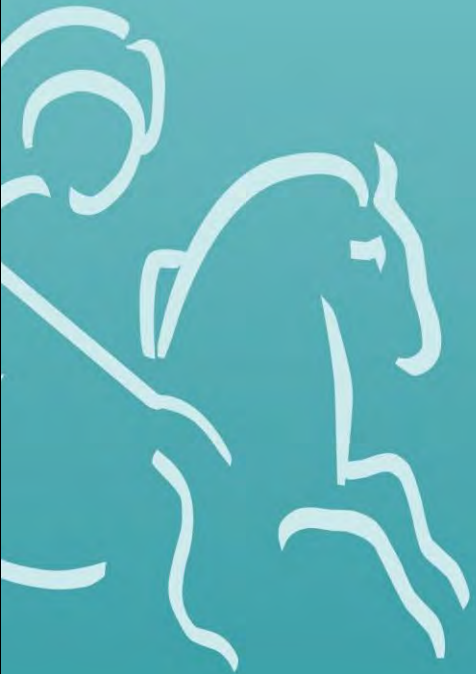


*for:  
Orion Heritage*

*on behalf of:  
Gade Homes Ltd.*

CA Project: MK0671  
CA Report: MK0671\_1  
HER ID: GRA/ML22

May 2022



# Land at Milksey Lane, Graveley, Hertfordshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Land at Milksey Lane
<b>Location:</b>	Land at Milksey Lane, Graveley, Hertfordshire
<b>NGR:</b>	523009, 228036
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	11 – 19 April 2022
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with North Hertfordshire Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
<b>Accession Number:</b>	GRA/ML22
<b>Site Code:</b>	MK0671

In April 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land at Milksey Lane, Graveley, Hertfordshire.

A total of 12 trenches were excavated. The evaluation has confirmed the presence of a north-east to south-west orientated Roman Road (Viatores 221), identified along the western boundary of the Site in Trenches 1, 2, 7, and 12; roadside ditches and an undated gully were also recorded in Trench 1.

Additional features comprised two north-west to south-east orientated postmedieval/modern field boundaries and one probable palaeochannel. Evidence for modern disturbance/made ground was also recorded in two trenches in the north-eastern corner of the site.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In April 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land at Milksey Lane, Graveley, Hertfordshire (centred at NGR: 523009, 228036; The Site; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Orion Heritage, who were acting on behalf of Gade Homes Ltd.
- 1.2. In line with Policy 16 of the District Local Plan No.2 with Alterations (NHDC 1996), the evaluation results will inform a planning application for residential development of the site that will be made to North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC).
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined in discussions between Orion Heritage and Andrew Instone, Senior Historic Environment Advisor with Hertfordshire County Council, the archaeological advisor to NHDC (AANHDC). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (CA 2022) and approved by the AANHDC.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (HE 2015a) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (HE 2015b).

### The site

- 1.5. The Site is approximately 1.6ha in extent. It lies to the immediate north of the village of Graveley, Hertfordshire, and currently comprises a single, overgrown pastoral land parcel bounded to the north by Milksey Lane, to the south by private buildings, to the east by the High Street (B197), and to the west by a footpath (extension of Turf Lane). The Site slopes slightly to the east and has an average height above ordnance datum of 105m in the west and 101m in the east.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the Site is mapped as chalk of the Hollywell Nodular Chalk formation and New Pit Chalk Formation (undifferentiated), which formed 90 – 101 million years ago, in the Cretaceous Period. This is overlain by Glaciofluvial Deposits of Sand and Gravel in the west and Diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation in the east, which formed 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2022).

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## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The archaeological background of the Site had previously been detailed within an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA), also including a Lidar assessment and walkover survey (OH 2021). The following section is summarised from the ADBA.

### Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 2.2. LiDAR assessment revealed no anomalies of likely archaeological significance, although former linear east/west orientated field boundaries were noted across the Site. Three areas of raised ground were also noted in the east of the Site, which correspond to stockpiles of modern debris.
- 2.3. A site walkover survey was conducted on 9th December 2021. No obvious features of clearly archaeological origin were detected, although there were some areas of significantly raised ground surface within the Site. The presence of surface 'dump areas' of modern bricks and other debris was noted and confirmed during the evaluation. No earlier features were recorded during the site walkover, and no ridge and furrow earthworks were present (OH 2021).

### Prehistoric

- 2.4. Prehistoric flints were recovered as surface finds c.160m west of the Site (MHT6653). A possible ploughed out Neolithic or Bronze Age barrow and a small assemblage of Iron Age pottery were identified c.930m south of the Site (MHT31556). No prehistoric features or findspots were recorded within the Site itself.

### Late Iron Age and Roman

- 2.5. Evidence for a possible Late Iron Age/Roman farmstead was found during construction of a pipeline in 1975 c.220m to the north-west of the Site (MHT101). An artefact scatter of Iron Age pottery sherds was also found (MHT121). A moderate assemblage of Late Iron Age, Roman and medieval pottery were also recovered from fieldwalking nearby (MHT6654).
- 2.6. A rural enclosure and other features belonging to a possible late Iron Age/Roman farmstead were found during excavations c.910m to the south of the Site (MHT31557). Pottery from the ditches associated with the enclosure was largely late Iron Age to 2nd century in date.
- 2.7. During pipeline construction works 810m north of the Site, a potential section of a Roman road (Viatores 221) and associated ditch were revealed (MHT2065). The



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Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) had mapped the conjectured north/south route of the road as aligned along the western extent of Site. LiDAR assessment and site walkover survey did not detect the road or any associated roadside features within the Site, but evidence for the road was recorded during the evaluation.

### **Saxon and early medieval**

- 2.8. There are no historic environment records of Saxon or early medieval date of relevance to the Site.
- 2.9. The manor of Graveley is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Gravelai'. It has been suggested that the medieval village originated by the church and migrated at a later date towards the highway, although there is no physical evidence for this. The village does seem to have reduced in size, most likely in the later medieval period (MHT2691).

### **Medieval**

- 2.10. An Area of Archaeological Significance lies immediately to the east of the Site and highlights the potential for archaeological remains associated with the medieval settlement at Graveley (AAS ID\_265).
- 2.11. Works for the construction of a water pipeline 180m to the west of the Site revealed a large quantity of medieval pottery, tiles, building stone and animal bones, thought to be evidence for a farmstead (MHT4533). Several cut features were also identified including rubbish pits that produced 12th to 13th century pottery. Further medieval pottery was recovered along the route of the pipeline to the south (MHT1774).
- 2.12. Earthworks of possible house platforms, an enclosure and a linear bank (perhaps an earlier route of the High Street) have been identified approximately 320m to the south of the Site (MHT4225).
- 2.13. The Site seems to lie beyond the historic core of Graveley and so would have formed part of the agricultural hinterland of the settlement.

### **Post-Medieval and Modern**

- 2.14. Graveley pond lies 120m to the south of the Site (MHT12563). It is typical of many historic village ponds with sloping access for animals.



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- 2.15. Graveley Hall is a 16th century manor house immediately west of the Church of St Mary in Graveley (MHT15663). The manor was formed after the Dissolution from land belonging to Sopwell Nunnery.
- 2.16. The Bryant Map of Hertfordshire of 1822 shows the Site as an unoccupied parcel of land to the west of houses fronting the High Street, and Milksey Lane is visible in its current alignment. The 1834 map of the county by C & J Greenwood shows a track outside the western edge of Site, suggesting it was an important route (MHT4635, MHT4632). In the 1881 Ordnance Survey (OS) map the Site seems to have comprised the back yards of a number of properties to the west of the High Street. The 1972 OS map shows that several internal field boundaries were removed from the Site; no significant changes within the Site have occurred since.

### 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 Hertfordshire County Council 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 2021). A further objective of the project was to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to verify the presence/absence of the potential Roman road aligned north-east/south-west along the western boundary of the Site and any associated road-side features. The results of the evaluation have the potential to contribute to the following Research Aims:
- 3.3. LIA-Rom 10: 'Can we map the development of Late Iron Age and Roman roads?' - *East of England Research Framework* (ALGAO 2022)

Roman; Infrastructure: 'We are slowly adding to our knowledge of the Roman road network ... but more archaeological evidence is needed before we can produce a comprehensive synthesis of roads and lesser routeways' - *Research and*

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*Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011, p. 48)

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 12 trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m (Fig. 2).
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test for the presence of the Roman road based on HHER data, and any associated roadside features, test LIDAR anomalies, and to provide a representative sample of the Site.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. The locations of Trenches 5, 9 and 10 were adjusted on Site to account for areas of raised ground comprising of modern debris. They were scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and genny equipment, in accordance with the CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services. 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. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential, and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 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 North Hertfordshire Museum (GRA/ML22) for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection.
- 4.8. 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*

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*deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014b; updated October 2020), *Hertfordshire Archaeological Archive Standards: A Countywide Standard for the Creation, Compilation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives in Hertfordshire* (HAM 2017), and the *ADS Guidelines for Depositors* (ADS 2021)

- 4.9. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, 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. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the Site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. A summary of the palaeoenvironmental remains can be found in Section 7 and Appendix C.

- 5.2. A total of 12 trenches were excavated across the Site, with archaeological features identified in four trenches (Trench 1, 2, 7, and 12), all in the western half of the site. All archaeological features were cut into the natural substrate. Evidence for the Roman road (MHT 2065, Viatores 221) was identified in Trenches 1, 2, 7, and 12 and fully investigated in Trenches 1 and 7 (figs. 2, 5 – 6, and 9). Two modern field boundaries were recorded in Trenches 6 and 8, respectively (figs. 2, 8, and 10). A palaeochannel was recorded in Trench 3 (fig. 2 and 7); evidence for modern made ground deposits was identified in Trenches 4 and 5 (figs. 2 and 4). Trenches 9 – 11 were blank (figs. 2 – 3). No archaeological features were identified in the eastern part of the field.

- 5.3. The natural substrate was encountered at an average depth of 0.50m in the western half of the Site (Trenches 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and 12) and an average depth of 0.65m in the eastern half (Trenches 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 11); it consisted of a varying light to medium yellowish and orangish-brown silty clay with frequent flint. In Trenches 4 and 5 this was overlain by a modern made ground deposit (403 and 503) consisting of mid yellowish-brown sandy clay with frequent modern bricks (figs. 2 and 4). The subsoil across site was recorded as a mid yellowish-orange and a mid greyish-brown silty clay measuring between 0.10m and 0.5m thick. This was overlain by a mid to dark greyish-brown silty clay topsoil that measured between 0.16m and 0.5m thick. Trenches containing archaeological features and the palaeochannel are discussed below.

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### Trench 1 (Figs. 2 and 6)

- 5.4. Gully 103 was identified at the western half of the trench; it measured 0.57m wide and 0.2m deep, with steep sides and concave base. No finds were recovered from the single orange-brown, silt clay fill (104).
- 5.5. Roman road 105, was recorded in the central eastern half of the trench; it measured c.5.5m wide as preserved and c.0.5m deep, with gently sloping sides and flat, slightly irregular base. Two distinct construction layers were identified. The basal layer (107) measured 4.22m wide and 0.26m thick; it consisted of flint and rubble fragments, the largest of which measured c0.1m to 0.2m across, interspersed with soil and deposited directly onto the natural clay 102. This was overlain by a layer of very small to medium gravel (108) measuring between 0.01m and 0.05m across), which formed the road surface and was slightly cambered in section. No finds were recovered from the two layers. However, a Roman coin was found in the subsoil of the trench.
- 5.6. Ditches 109 and 111 were cut into the road metalling, 108 at the western and the eastern edges of the road respectively. Ditch 109 was 0.5m wide and 0.56m deep, with vertical sides and a concave base; no finds were recovered from the single mid greyish-brown silty clay fill 110. Ditch 111 was cut into the eastern edge of the road; it was 1.3m wide as excavated and 0.52m deep with moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. No finds were recovered from the single mid greyish-brown firm silt clay fill 112. Ditches 109 and 111 can probably be interpreted as roadside ditches, post-dating the original construction of the road. The southern continuation of ditch 111 was possibly identified in Trench 7 as ditch 708, whereas the continuation of ditch 109 was not observed in any other trench.

### Trench 3 (Figs. 2 and 7)

- 5.7. Palaeochannel 303 ran through the middle of Trench 3. It measured 14.71m wide and 0.3m deep, with short, steep sides and irregular base. Its fill consisted of dark bluish-grey, firm clay, with frequent large flint and gravel throughout. One small worked flint was recovered from the fill. Ecofacts recovered via bulk environmental sampling included a few snail shells and a limited amount of charred grain remains, probably indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material (see Section 7).

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### **Trench 6 (Fig. 2 and 8)**

- 5.8. Gully 603 was recorded in the central southern half of Trench 6. It was roughly aligned north-west to south-east and measured 0.53m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately sloping sides and concave base. One tile fragment of possible Roman date was recovered from the single grey-brown silty clay fill (604). This find is most probably residual, as gully 603 corresponds to a field boundary shown on the 1838 Graveley Tithe map.

### **Trench 7 (Figs. 2 and 9)**

- 5.9. The southern continuation of the road identified in Trench 1 was investigated in Trench 7 as Roman road 703, where it measured 11.2m wide and 0.7m deep. It had an asymmetric profile with gently a sloping western edge, steep sloping eastern edge, and irregular base. The road construction technique recorded in Trench 7 differed slightly from that investigated in Trench 1. At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was a light bluish-grey friable sandy silt fill (704) with no finds. This was overlain by a packed earth layer (705) that consisted of mid greyish-brown firm silt clay and contained a single sherd of broadly dated Iron Age pottery and worked flint flakes. Ecofacts recovered via bulk environmental sampling comprised a small amount of cereal grain remains (probably wind-blown), charcoal, and snail shells (see Section 7). Overlaying this was an undated layer of gravel (706), possibly an initial road metalling, consisting of small flint fragments (measuring between 0.01m – 0.05m across), mixed with soil. This was covered by a later layer of metalling, consisting of small to medium gravel that measured between 0.01m and 0.05m in diameter and contained no finds.

- 5.10. Ditch 708 was possibly the southern continuation of roadside ditch 111. It was located 4m to the east of Roman road 703, but constructed along a different alignment. It measured 1.3m wide and remained unexcavated. No finds were observed on the surface of the mid greyish-brown sandy clay fill (709). Ditch 708 was not observed in Trench 6.

### **Trench 8 (Fig. 2 and 10)**

- 5.11. Ditch 803, measured 1.24m wide and 0.87m deep, with steep sides and concave base. A square shafted nail, a metal rod, a glass bead, and animal bone were recovered from the single dark greyish-brown, silty clay fill (804). Wind-blown charred remains, a nut fragment, wild pea seeds, and snail shells were recovered through bulk environmental sampling of fill 804 (see Section 7). As with gully 603, ditch 803

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is shown on the 1838 Graveley Tithe Map and is also plotted on the 1881 Ordnance Survey (OS) Map.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1. The artefactual material was recovered from six deposits: the fills of ditches, a Roman road construction layer, and from the subsoil (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand and from bulk soil samples and is recorded in accordance with the ClfA finds Toolkit (ClfA 2021).

### **Pottery**

- 6.2. The pottery from the evaluation has been recorded direct to an Excel spreadsheet from which Appendix B is derived. This forms part of the project archive. The assemblage was examined by context, using a x10 binocular microscope and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in summary in Appendix B in accordance with national guidelines (Barclay et al. 2016).

### **Late Prehistoric**

- 6.3. The assemblage comprises one sherd of shell-tempered pottery (SH), weighing 4g. It was recovered from Roman road 703, layer 705, in a moderately poor condition with both fractures and surfaces exhibiting signs of wear. The sherd does not exhibit any diagnostic features and a broad Iron Age date is considered most likely.

### **Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

- 6.4. One fragment of tile (143g) made in a soft, oxidised, fine sandy fabric with clay pellet and ferrous inclusions (fsfecp), was recorded from ditch 603. Based on the fabric, thickness and characteristics of firing it is possible the fragment dates to the Roman period.

### **Flint**

- 6.5. Eight fragments of flint (8g) were recovered from samples 1 and 3, taken from palaeochannel 303 and Roman road 703 respectively. One small tertiary flake, made in yellow-brown flint, with a proximal fracture and possible flake removal scars was recovered from sample 1. A small tertiary flake, also made in yellow-brown flint, was recovered from sample 3. It is possibly a blade fragment, although a distal fracture prohibits positive identification. The fragment exhibits flake removal scars, moderate

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recertification and has suffered heavy bulb damage. Six chips in yellow-brown flint were also recovered from sample 3.

### **Glass**

- 6.6. A small colourless glass annular bead (1g) was recovered from sample 2, taken from ditch 803. The bead is less than 3mm in diameter with a central perforation for suspension. Its date is uncertain.

### **Metalwork**

- 6.7. Six fragments of metalwork (59g) were recovered from three deposits. An iron nail was recovered from sample 2, taken from ditch 803. It is square-shafted suggesting that it is handmade. Also recovered from ditch 803 was a square-shafted iron rod approximately 150mm in length (Ra.4). It is heavily encrusted and corroded and its function and date are uncertain. A copper alloy coin (Ra.1) was recovered from the subsoil of trench 1. It is most likely Roman in date, however, the obverse and reverse detail are obscured by corrosion, prohibiting more precise dating. A small copper alloy nail (Ra.2) came from the subsoil of trench 7. It is square-shafted with a small circular head approximately 10mm in diameter. The date is uncertain, although it is probably handmade. Registered artefact 3 is a flat fragment of copper alloy sheet, approximately 45mm x 38mm. It is roughly rectangular in plan, with signs of heavy edge damage and a circular perforation in one corner. Its function and date are uncertain.

### **Further work and Section Strategy**

- 6.8. The assemblage has been recorded in sufficient detail at this stage and no further work is required. The pottery, flint, glass and Roman coin should be retained. The CBM and unstratified finds have little potential for further analysis and are not recommended for long-term curation.

## **7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

- 7.1. Three environmental samples (52 litres of soil) were processed from Trenches 3, 7 and 8 from a variety of features. This was done to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. It was also hoped that the environmental assessment may aid in providing a potential date for the undated sampled features. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).



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7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Appendix C, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded, following nomenclature according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

7.3. The flots varied in size from small to large with high numbers of root material and uncharred seeds. The charred material comprised of varying levels of preservation. Due to the poor to moderate preservation levels, it was difficult to identify many of the charred cereal grains to species, but where possible this was achieved. Much of the charcoal was comminuted and silt encrusted, which inhibited further wood species identification.

7.4. Any dates discussed within this report have been obtained through the spot dating of finds (see Section 6).

### **Trench 3**

7.5. Sample 1 was recovered from palaeochannel 303 and contained a very small number of charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains. No charcoal fragments larger than 2mm in size were observed within the assemblage and only a few shells of the open country species *Vallonia* sp. were noted. The charred remains from sample 1 are likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material. The small molluscan assemblage indicates an open landscape environment.

### **Trench 7**

7.6. Fill 705 (sample 3) of Roman road 703 contained a few indeterminate cereal grains and charcoal fragments. Terrestrial snail shells were noted in a moderate quantity in the assemblage and include those of the open country species *Helicella itala* and *Vallonia* sp., and the shade-loving species *Aegopinella* sp. and *Carychium tridentatum*. The charred remains are likely to be representative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material. The molluscan remains suggests an open landscape with areas of longer grass.

### **Trench 8**

7.7. Ditch 803 (sample 2) contained a single possible unidentifiable nut fragment and a very small number of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) seeds. Charcoal was noted in a low quantity. A large number of snail shells were observed and includes those of the open country species *Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum*, and *Vallonia* sp., the

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intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp., and the shade-loving species *Carychium tridentatum*, *Discus rotundatus*, *Clausilia/Cochlodina* type, and *Aegopinella* sp. The charred remains are likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material, whilst the molluscan assemblage suggest an open landscape with areas of longer grass and scrub/ hedgerow/ woodland edge.

### Summary

- 7.8. The charred remains from all three assemblages provide no insight into the possible use or function of their respective features, nor does it aid in the dating of palaeochannel 303 and ditch 803, the latter being most probably modern.
- 7.9. The molluscan assemblage, particularly from trench 8, suggests a well-established open landscape with areas of longer grass, and scrub/hedgerow/woodland edge.

## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 12 trenches. Of the 12 trenches investigated, four contained remains of archaeological origin, two contained postmedieval/modern field boundaries, one contained a palaeochannel. Evidence for modern disturbance/made ground were recorded in two trenches, and the remaining three trenches were blank.
- 8.2. The evaluation has confirmed the presence of a north-east to south-west orientated Roman Road (*Viatores* 221), identified along the western boundary of the Site in Trenches 1, 2, 7, and 12; roadside ditches were also identified in Trench 1. A stretch of the road had been previously identified during pipeline construction works (MHT2065), 810m north of the Site.
- 8.3. The Roman road was investigated via two interventions, in Trenches 1 and 7 respectively. The broadly dated Iron Age material recovered from the road construction layer in Trench 7 is probably residual, and accords with the Late Iron Age/Roman activity recorded at various locations in the vicinity of the Site. However, it is possible that the route of *Viatores* 221 had a prehistoric predecessor, possibly in the form of a simple track. Similarly, the prehistoric flint recovered from palaeochannel 303 is indicative of prehistoric activity in the general area around the Site, as prehistoric flints were also recovered as surface finds c.160m west of the Site (MHT6653).

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- 8.4. The intervention in Trench 7 showed two distinct phases of road metaling, which were not clearly observable in Trench 1. The two roadside ditches (109 and 111) recorded in Trench 1 were cut directly into the road metal, possibly when the road began to shrink, before it went out of use. These ditches were probably constructed after the road was repaired to facilitate drainage. Further linear features, a gully 103 and a ditch 708 were also identified in Trenches 1 and 7 respectively, with ditch 708 only tentatively interpretable as the southern continuation of ditch 111.
- 8.5. Post-medieval/Modern field boundaries were recorded in Trenches 6 and 8 respectively; they are shown on the 1838 Graveley Tithe Map and the 1881 Ordnance Survey (OS) Map; the Roman material recovered from Trench 6 and any material pre-dating the post-medieval period found in Trench 8 is therefore residual.
- 8.6. The modern made ground/disturbance identified in Trenches 4 and 5 may result from the clearance of recent buildings' backyards shown on the 1923 OS Map. The piles of demolition debris located in the eastern part of the Site may also relate to similar clearance activities.
- 8.7. The results of the evaluation have the potential to contribute to regional and research aims such as the "development of late Iron Age and Roman roads" as stated in the *East of England Research Framework* (ALGAO 2022, LIA-Rom 10), and add to our knowledge of the Roman road network as set out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011, p. 48).

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Isobelle Ward, assisted by Joao Heitor, Charlotte Nicholson and Rory Bateman. This report was written by Joao Heitor and Isobelle Ward. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Pete Banks and Emma Aitken, respectively. The report illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Molly Agnew-Henshaw. The project was managed for CA by Danielle Pirisino.

---

## 10. REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown, loose, silty clay	-	1.8	0.35
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown, firm, silty clay	-	1.8	0.23
1	102	Layer		Natural	Light orangey brown, silty clay, compact	-	1.8	-
1	103	Cut		Gully	Linear, steep sides, sharp BOS, with concave base aligned North/south	2.18	0.57	0.21
1	104	Fill	103	Natural Infilling	Mid orange brown firm silt clay with frequent small chalk charcoal and flint with occasional rooting	2.18	0.57	0.21
1	105	Cut		Roman Road	Linear with gradual sides and flat base aligned North / south.	1.8	8.36	0.96
1	106	Layer		Natural	Natural clay layer light blue grey clay with frequent natural flint.	1.8	4.38	0.54
1	107			Structure	Metalled surface of road, initial phase Stone layer of structure	1.8	4.22	0.26
1	108			Structure	Metalled surface of road, secondary phase, gravel layer.	1.8	3.06	0.22
1	109	Cut		Ditch	Linear, steep sides, sharp BOS and concave base, north / south aligned	1.8	0.5	0.56
1	110	Fill	109	Deliberate backfill	Mid grey brown, firm silt clay with frequent flint throughout.	1.8	0.5	0.56
1	111	Cut		Ditch	Linear, moderate sides and moderate BOS with concave base, aligned North / south	1.8	1.3	0.52
1	112	Fill	111	Natural infilling	Mid grey brown, firm silt clay	1.8	1.3	0.52
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid yellow brown, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.32
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow orange, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.10
2	202	Layer		Natural	Light orange, moderately compact, silty clay, frequent medium flint	-	1.8	-
2	203	Cut		Roman Road	Cut of roman road left unexcavated in this trench. Linear.	8.12	1.8	-
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid yellow brown, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.5
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow orange, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.5
3	302	Layer		Natural	Light yellow orange, moderately compact, silty clay, frequent medium flint	-	1.8	-
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, loose, sandy clay	-	1.8	0.4
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown loose, sandy clay	-	1.8	0.2
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, moderately compact, silty clay with frequent chalk	-	1.8	-
4	403	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow brown, moderately compact, sand	-	1.8	0.2

					clay with frequent modern CBM included			
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, loose, silty clay	-	1.8	0.2
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, loose, sandy clay	-	1.8	0.2
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown, moderately compact, silty clay, frequent small and medium sub angular stones	-	1.8	-
5	503	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow brown, moderately compact, sand clay with frequent modern CBM included	-	1.8	0.2
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid yellow brown, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.35
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow orange, loose, silty clay, occasional flint	-	1.8	0.15
6	602	Layer		Natural	Light yellow Brown, firm, silty clay, frequent large flint, intermixed with light yellow orange, moderately compact, silty clay, frequent flint	-	1.8	-
6	603	Cut		Ditch	Moderate sides, moderate break of slop and concave base	1.8	0.54	0.24
6	604	Fill		Fill of 603	Mid grey brown, firm, silty clay, frequent flint and chalk	1.8	0.54	0.24
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation.	-	1.8	0.19
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.33
7	702	Layer		Natural	Light yellow orange, moderately compact, silty clay, occasional large flint	-	1.8	-
7	703	Cut		Roman road	Construction cut of roman road, linear, steep sides	11.2	1.8	0.7
7	704	Fill		Fill of 703	Deliberate backfill, light grey, manganese and charcoal flecks, sandy, compact	1.8	2.18	0.08
7	705			Fill of 703	Deliberate backfill, mid grey brown, clayey sand, compact	1.8	10.98	0.46
7	706			Structure	Metalled surface of road, initial phase Stone layer of structure	1.8	3.64	0.2
7	707			Structure	Metalled surface of road, secondary phase, gravel layer.	1.8	11.2	0.3
7	708	Cut		Ditch	Linear, most likely associated with road and same as Ditch 111	1.8	1.3	-
7	709	Fill		Natural infilling	Mid grey brown firm sand clay with occasional flint. Unexcavated.	1.8	1.3	-
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.26
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow orange, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.32
8	802	Layer		Natural	Light yellow orange, moderately compact, silty clay, occasional large flint	-	1.8	-
8	803	Cut		Ditch	Linear, steep sides, moderate break of slope, concave	1.8	1.14	0.87
8	804	Fill		Tertiary	Dark grey brown, firm, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	1.8	1.14	0.87



9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.54
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow orange, loose, silty clay, frequent medium flint	-	1.8	0.15
9	902	Layer		Natural	Light yellow orange, firm, silty clay, frequent medium flint	-	1.8	-
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.46
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow orange, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.19
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Light yellow orange, firm, silty clay, frequent small chalk flecks and flint, mixed with firm yellow brown, silty clay, frequent small flint and chalk	-	1.8	-
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, loose, silty clay, frequent	-	1.8	0.43
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow orange, loose, silty clay, frequent bioturbation	-	1.8	0.17
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Light yellow orange, moderately compact, silty clay, occasional medium flint	-	1.8	-
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown loose silt clay		1.8	0.4
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow orange, loose, silty clay	-	1.8	0.16
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Light yellow orange, moderately compact, silty clay	-	1.8	-
12	1203	Cut		Roman road	Cut of roman road left unexcavated in this trench. Linear.	8.11	1.8	-

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

### Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Ra No.	Sample No.	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
101	Copper Alloy	1		Coin		1	2	
303	Flint		1	Flake		1	2	
604	CBM			Tile	fsfecp	1	143	
701	Copper Alloy	3		Object		1	8	
	Copper Alloy	2		Object		1	1	
705	Late prehistoric pottery		3	Shell-tempered fabric	SH	1	4	IA
	Flint			Flake, chips		7	6	
804	Iron	4		Object		1	42	
	Iron		2	Nail		2	6	
	Glass		2	Bead		1	1	

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains

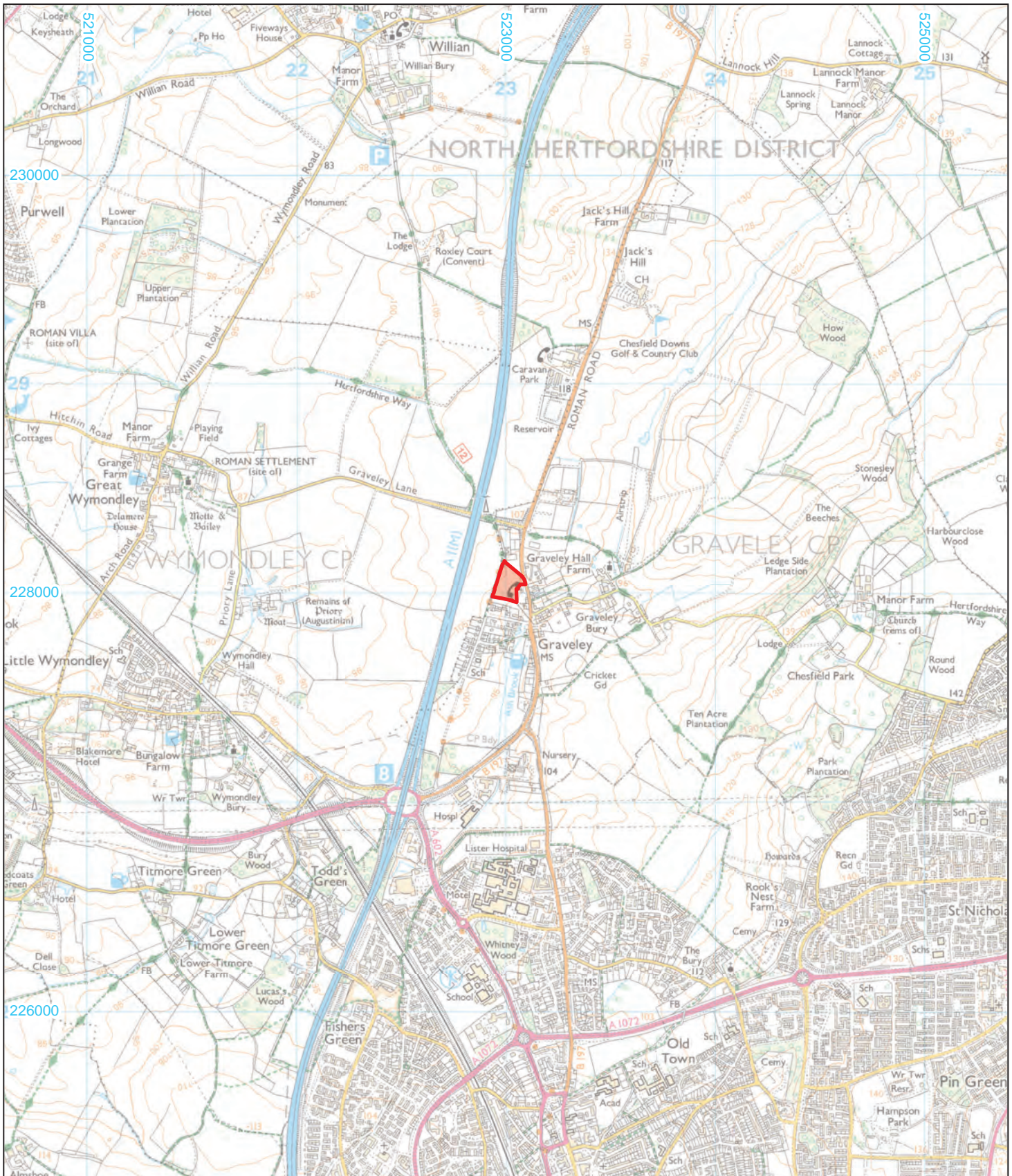
Feature	Context	Sample	Proce ssed vol (L)	Unproc essed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 3													
Palaeochannel	303	1	16	0	13	98	*	-	wheat grain	-	-	-	moll-t*
Trench 7													
Construction cut 703	705	3	20	20	90	98	*	-	indet grain	-	-	*/*	moll-t***
Trench 8													
Ditch 803	804	2	16	0	150	98	-	-	-	*	cf. nut frag; <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	*/*	moll-t*****

Key: \* = 1–4 items; \*\* = 4–20 items; \*\*\* = 21–49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50–99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items  
moll-t = terrestrial mollusc, moll-a = aquatic/freshwater mollusc

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Land at Milksey Lane, Graveley, Hertfordshire	
Short description	<p>In April 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of Land at Milksey Lane, Graveley, Hertfordshire.</p> <p>A total of 12 trenches were excavated. The evaluation has confirmed the presence of a north-east to south-west orientated Roman Road (Viatores 221), identified along the western boundary of the Site in Trenches 1, 2, 7, and 12; roadside ditches and an undated gully were also recorded in Trench 1.</p> <p>Additional features comprised two north-west to south-east orientated postmedieval/modern field boundaries and one probable palaeochannel. Evidence for modern disturbance/made ground was also recorded in two trenches in the north-eastern corner of the site.</p>	
Project dates	11 – 19 April 2022	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	ADBA (Orion 2021).	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Land at Milksey Lane, Graveley, Hertfordshire	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	523009, 228036	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Daniele Pirisino	
Project Supervisor	Isabelle Ward	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	Roman Road (Viatores 221)	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	<b>Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical	North Hertfordshire Museum	ceramics, animal bone, Bead, Metal
Paper	North Hertfordshire Museum	Context sheets, Registers, Sample sheets, Drawings
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Database, digital photos, Report, Digital Recording System
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2022 <i>Land at Milksey Lane, Graveley, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>MK0671_1</b>		





N

Site boundary

0 1km

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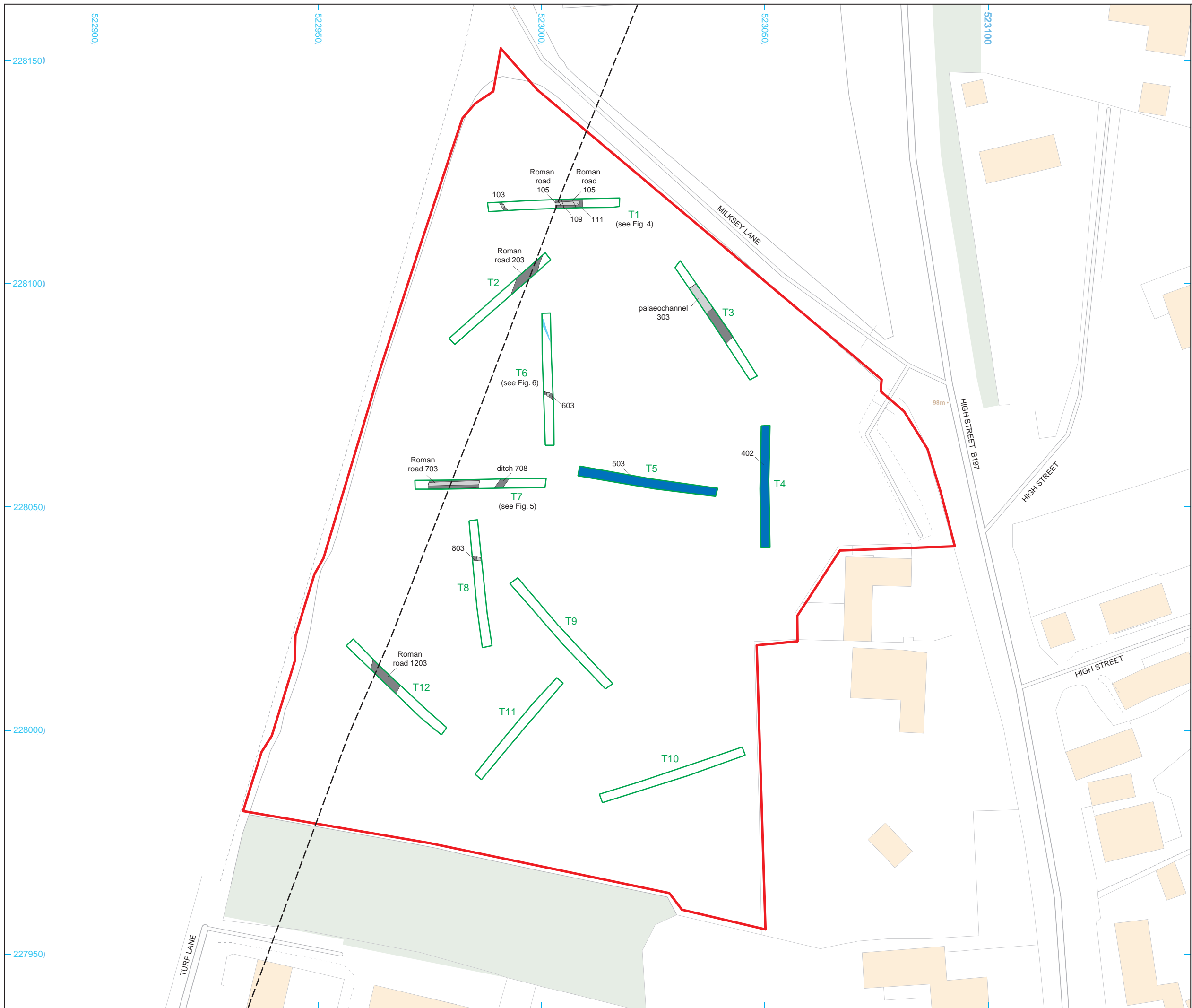
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land at Milksey Lane, Graveley,  
Hertfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Site location plan

DRAWN BY KL	PROJECT NO. MK0671	FIGURE NO. 1
CHECKED BY DB	DATE 26/04/2022	
APPROVED BY DP	SCALE @A4 1:25,000	





- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Modern
- Field drain
- Roman road (Viatores 221)



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing  
 archaeological features and route of  
 Roman road

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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	26/04/2022	2
APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE@A3	1:800	





Trench 9, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 10, looking east (1m scales)



Trench 11, looking north-east (1m scales)


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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Trenches 9, 10, and 11: photographs**

<small>DRAWN BY</small> DJB	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> MK0671	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 3
<small>CHECKED BY</small> KL	<small>DATE</small> 26/05/2022	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> DP	<small>SCALE</small> @A3 NA	





Trench 4, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 4 section showing made ground 402, looking north-west (1m scale)



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


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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 4 and 5: photographs**

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APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE	@A3 NA	<b>4</b>





Trench 12, Roman road, looking south-east (1m scale)



Trench 12, Roman road, looking north



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*FIGURE TITLE*

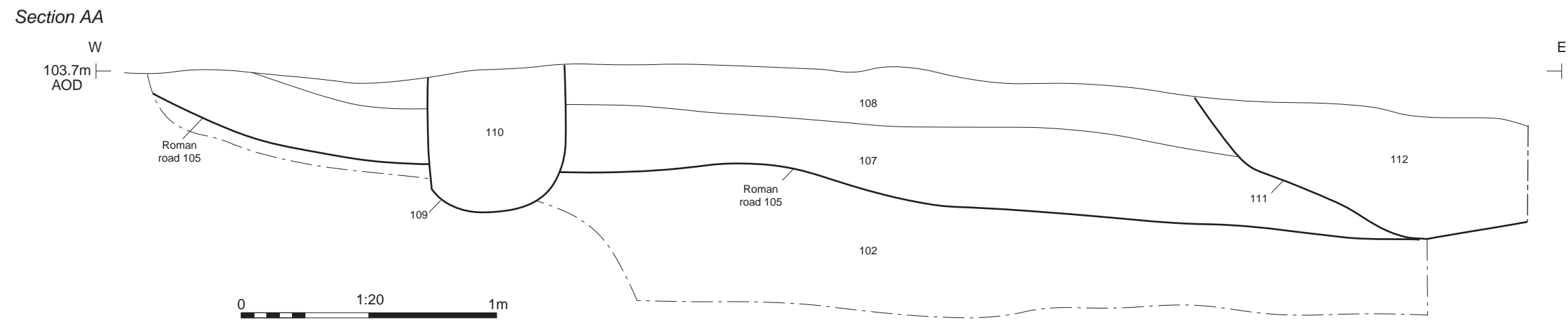
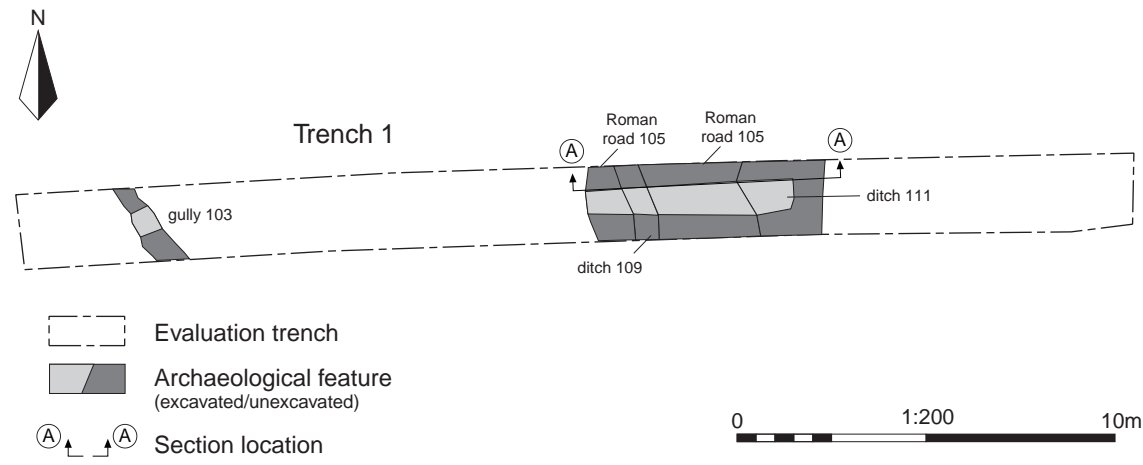
**Trench 12: photographs**

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 CHECKED BY DB DATE 04/05/2022  
 APPROVED BY DP SCALE@A4 na

*FIGURE NO.*

**5**





Gully 103, looking south (0.3m scale)



Roman road 105, looking north-west (1m scales)

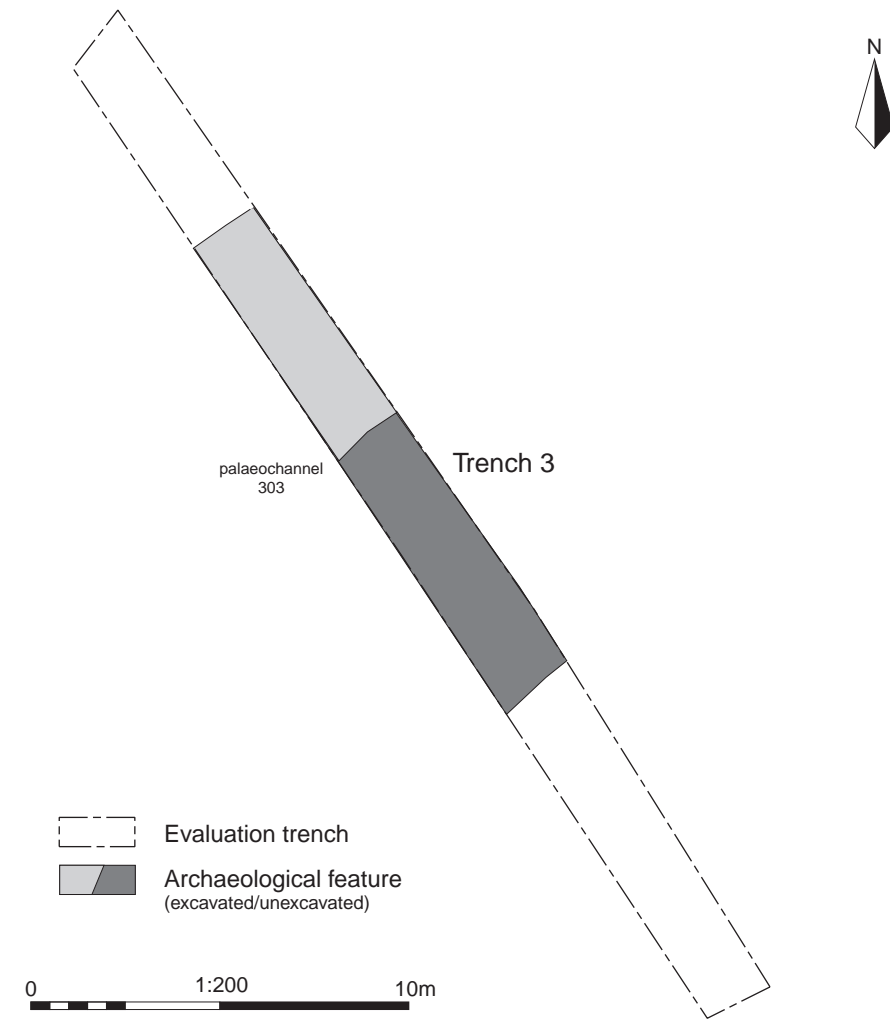
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench 1: plan, section and  
 photographs

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APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	





Trench 3 with paleochannel 303, looking south (1m scales)



Paleochannel 303, looking east (1m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 3: plan and photographs**




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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	04/05/2022	7
APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE@A3	Plan 1:200	





Trench 6

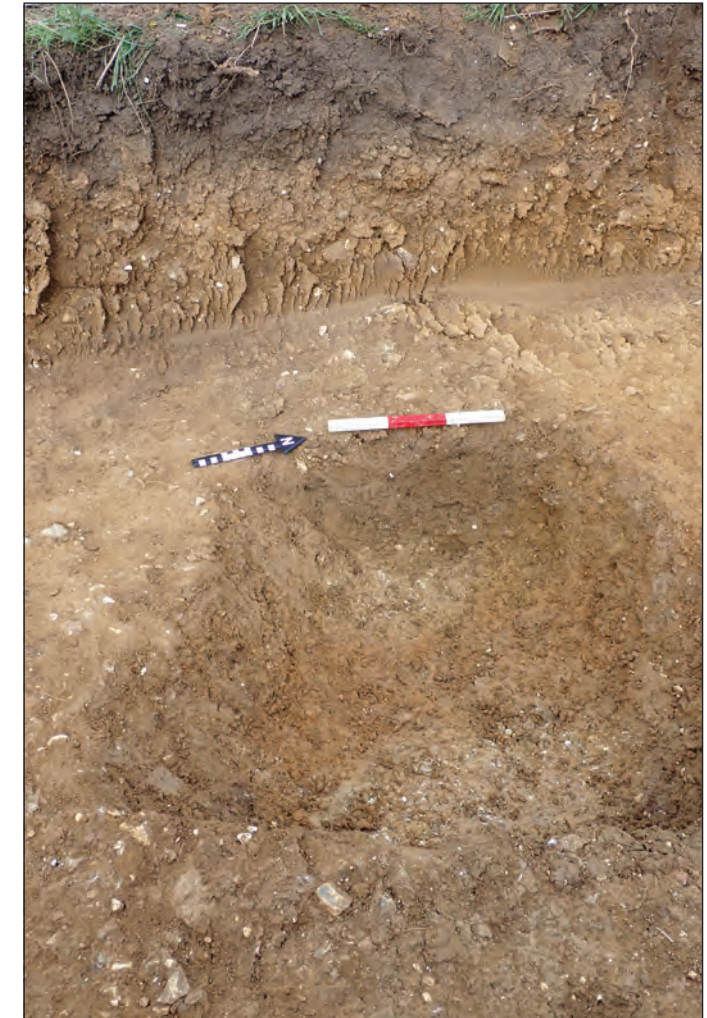
gully 603

-  Evaluation trench
-  Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
-  Field drain

0 1:200 10m



Trench 6, looking south (1m scales)



Gully 603, looking west (0.3m scale)

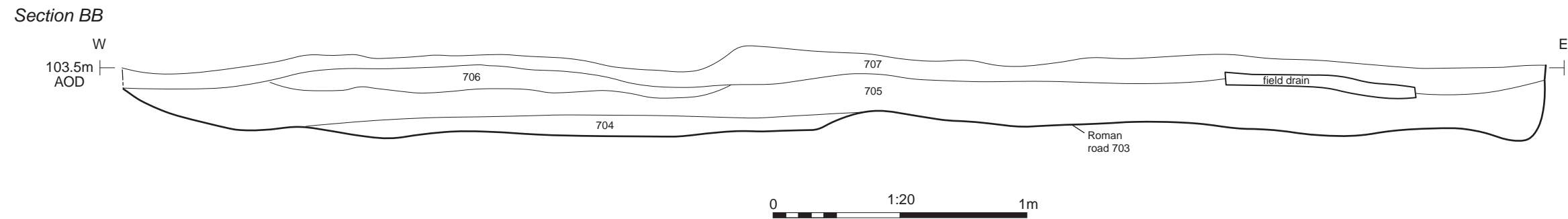
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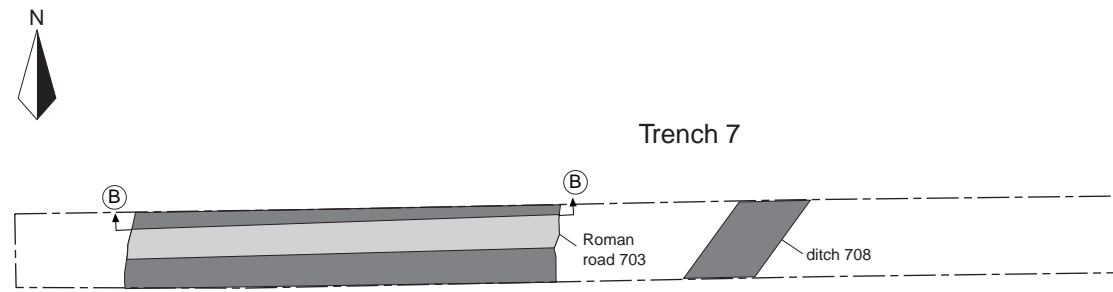
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**Trench 6: plan and photographs**

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Roman road 703, looking north-east (1m scales)



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Section location



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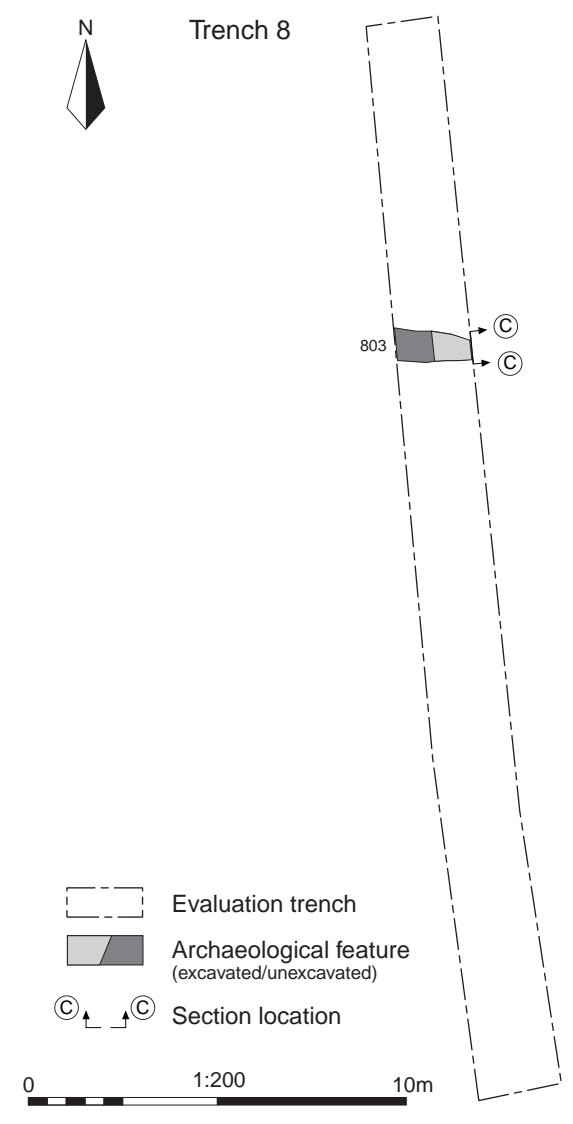
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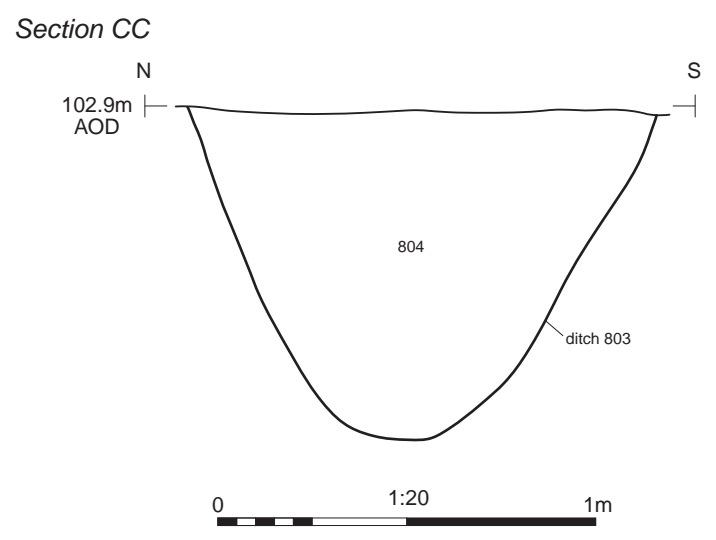
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**Trench 7: plan, section and photograph**

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Trench 8, looking south-east (1m scales)



Ditch 803, looking east (0.3m scale)

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench 8: plan, section and  
 photographs

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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	26/04/2022	10
APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



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