

Bottisham Meadows Bottisham Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Axis Land Partnerships

CA Project: SU0088
CA Report: SU0088_3

HER Ref: ECB6080

November 2020



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Summary

Project Name:	Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire
Location:	Bottisham, Cambridgeshire
NGR:	555079 260433
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	20-31 January 2020
Location of Archive:	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Facility
HER Event Number:	ECB6080
Project Number:	SU0088
Site Code:	ECB6080

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, on behalf of Axis Land Partnerships, in January 2020 on land at Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire. A total of sixteen trenches were excavated within the overall 7.8ha proposed development area, all located within a 5.5ha area containing the proposed built-element of the development and associated vehicular access. The remaining part of the application site comprises an area of meadow that will be retained, undeveloped, as amenity space.

The extent, density and complexity of the archaeological remains encountered in the evaluation were relatively low and the fieldwork results broadly correspond with those of a preceding geophysical survey, which primarily identified anomalies relating to former field boundaries and other agricultural activity.

Only a single feature produced prehistoric pottery although other undated features in vicinity may be of similar date, while low levels of Saxon and medieval finds suggest that the site was not a focal point of settlement activity. Instead, the site appears to have been located on the outskirts of any settlement and largely exploited agriculturally. No evidence was seen for a potential Bronze Age ring-ditch in the southwest corner of the site or in the vicinity of trench 1, a postulated alternative location for the feature. Two ditches containing Late Saxon/ medieval pottery as well as animal bone were identified in the western part of the site, correlating with a weak linear geophysical anomaly.

A possible cremation burial was partially investigated. Assessment of a sample of the cremated bone determined that the long bone and cranial fragments are consistent in size and dimensions with human cremated bone, but there were no clearly diagnostic elements.

Further, diagnostic material would be required to conclusively determine the identity of the bone as human.

Changes in land ownership or organisation over time are evidenced by some of the ditch lines encountered during the evaluation, a number of which correspond with linear geophysical anomalies and boundaries depicted on historic maps of the Site.

While bulk environmental soil samples from the site produced very little charred plant and seed remains a well-preserved mollusc assemblage suggest a well-established open landscape with some areas of longer grass in the vicinity by the medieval period.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire (hereafter the Site; Fig. 1) on behalf of Axis Land Partnerships. The evaluation was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application for the *Development of retirement care village in use class C2 comprising housing with care, communal health , wellbeing and leisure facilities; and C3 affordable dwellings (comprising up to 30% on-site provision), public open space , play provision, landscaping, car parking, access and associated development.*

1.2 Pre-application advice provided by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET 2019), in their role as archaeological advisors to East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC; the local planning authority), identified that the Site has the potential to contain heritage assets of archaeological interest, the significance of which may be harmed by the proposed development. Consequently CHET advised that a field evaluation by trial trenching should be undertaken to support and inform determination of the application. A subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* for trial trenching was produced by CA (2019) and approved by CHET. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), and the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). The evaluation was monitored by CHET, including a site visit on 29th January 2020.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area, centred at NGR: 555079 260433, is approximately 7.8ha in extent, within which approximately 5.5ha would be developed. The Site comprises two arable fields on the eastern edge of Bottisham, bounded to the west, east and southeast by residential development, and to the north and northeast by agricultural land. The Site lies at approximately 16m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with a gentle slope down towards the lowest point at the northern end, laying at approximately 13m aOD.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as chalk of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, formed approximately 94 to 101 million years ago in the

Cretaceous Period (BGS 2019). This broadly matched the natural substrate encountered within the trenches. No superficial deposits are recorded for the area.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The historic and archaeological background of the Site and surrounding area has been previously discussed in detail as part of a Built Heritage Assessment (BHA; CA 2019). A programme of geophysical survey was also carried out within the Site (Magnitude Surveys 2019). The following section is summarised from these sources.

Prehistoric

2.2 The location of the village of Bottisham, on the edge of the fens and situated between a number of small watercourses, is generally favourable for settlement, and activity within and around the village area has been recorded dating back to the prehistoric period. A number of worked flints including axes, flakes and blades dating from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age period have been identified within the village. Within the south-eastern section of the site, aerial photography has also recorded a potential Bronze Age ring ditch which may be a possible funerary enclosure or a domestic or agricultural structure. However, this was not identified by a recent geophysical survey and may have been incorrectly located when plotted (Magnitude Surveys 2019; CHET, pers comm.).

Saxon

2.3 Middle to Late Saxon activity was recorded at Bendyshe Farm c. 450m to the west of the site. Ditches were identified indicating land division and boundary plots in this period, in addition to an enclosure suggesting livestock rearing. The name Bottisham is thought to come from the Old English for Boduc's farm (Mills 2011) indicating it was the land or enclosure of Boduc although it is not known who they were. In 1043-45 it is recorded as Bidichseye meaning 'the dry ground near the ditches'. A settlement at Bodichessham is recorded in the Domesday of 1086 as having 51 households and was held by Walter Giffard (Open Domesday 2019). Prior to the Domesday the land within Bottisham was held by Earl Harold.

Medieval and post-medieval

2.4 Traces of ridge and furrow earthworks, a result of the cultivation of the medieval open fields, surround the village. There is also a large amount of evidence for medieval settlement within the village of Bottisham. A Scheduled Monument situated

c. 400m to the west of the site is the earthwork remains of Bendish Hall, a medieval moated site and associated fishpond (NHLE: 1019175). The Cambridgeshire HER also records a moated site on the west side of the drive leading to Bottisham House, to the south of the site (HER 06460A). It is recorded as 2.4m wide and 0.6m deep and still partly waterlogged on the west side. The HER suggests that it is 'probably an old farm site'.

- 2.5 In c. 1800, the village of Bottisham contained 55 houses, 13 of which were occupied by farmers (Wareham & Wright, 2002). The majority of the built form stood occupying long plots fronting onto the High Street. The High Street runs south-east through the village towards the junction of High Street and Newmarket Road, which between 1745 and 1874 formed part of the Cambridge-Newmarket turnpike (ibid).

Modern

- 2.6 Parliamentary Enclosure occurred in 1801 and the earliest cartographic source consulted as part of this assessment is the Enclosure map of 1808 (not reproduced) which depicts the site in the eastern extent of the village. The south of the site formed part of the rear of a series of plots that fronted onto the High Street. The western boundary of the site was partially defined by a footpath and the far north-western corner was formed of a series of smaller plots lining this footpath. To the south of the site a farm is depicted, owned by a Thomas Cracknell, with an L-shaped farmhouse fronting on to the High Street, another L-shaped building extending northwards from the road; and a C-shaped building to the north, both presumed to be barns.
- 2.7 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map dated to 1887 indicates that the built extent of the village had begun to expand away from the High Street, with properties lining small lanes off it. Within the site, the linear plot boundaries were replaced by a series of larger fields, although the position of one former field boundary in the west of the site was still preserved by a tree line.
- 2.8 The farm buildings to the south of the site were expanded, modified or potentially replaced. It appears the building which likely formed the original farmhouse, fronting onto the High Street, was replaced by Bottisham House, which is set further back from the road. The L-shaped Malthouse (today known as Malthouse Barn) was expanded and a kiln was added to the north end. The south part of the Malthouse is

dated to 1830 by iron wall-anchors in the east gable and it has been suggested that Bottisham House is likely contemporaneous with it.

- 2.9 The subsequent Ordnance Survey map dated 1902 shows little change within the village. While the beginning of the 20th century saw a very limited amount of growth within the village, the later 20th century saw rapid expansion. The areas to the north and west of the High Street were infilled with large modern housing developments from the 1950s onwards. The site remained largely unaltered throughout this period, and the Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1972 continued to show field boundary lines in the southern half of the site. The southern field has since been consolidated into a single sub-rectangular area.

Geophysical survey

- 2.10 Geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019) identified a series of former, mapped and unmapped, field boundaries within the northern part of the site; two of the anomalies correspond with known boundaries shown on the 2nd edition OS map. Another possible unmapped field boundary was detected in the south of the survey area.
- 2.11 Evidence of ploughing was been noted in the north of the survey area, mostly occurring parallel to the identified old field boundaries (northeast to southwest oriented); this regime is therefore likely related to the historic agricultural use of the Site. Further linear trends, possibly representing either ploughing or grass cutting, occur on a variety of orientations in the north and south of the survey area.
- 2.12 In the southwest corner of the site, an area of low-grade, undefined “noise” may correspond to a known cropmark of a prehistoric ring ditch (see 2.2 above).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI (CA 2019), were to:

Character and Significance

- determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development;

- define the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.

Environment, Economy and Industry

- determine the presence/absence of palaeosols and old land surface soils/deposits;
- establish the character of deposits and their contents within negative features;
- establish the presence/ absence and character of any palaeochannels;
- understand the nature of site formation processes generally;
- undertake an assessment of any buried soils and associated deposits to establish whether soil micromorphology or other analytical techniques may enhance understanding of depositional processes and transformations at the site;
- undertake an assessment of the potential to inform on the general environmental and dietary evidence of the inhabitants of the site through an examination of suitable deposits;
- consider the retrieval, characterisation and dating (including absolute dating) of artefact, burial or economic evidence to assist in the characterisation of the site's evidence and in the development of future mitigation strategies;
- investigate the possible location of a crop mark likely representative of a prehistoric ring ditch (see Section 2, above).

3.2 The evaluation results will be used to:

- a) determine the character, date, condition and significance of the archaeological resource;
- b) define the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.

3.3 In accordance with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable ECDC, as advised by CHET, to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage assets that are identified, consider the impact of the proposed development upon those assets, and to avoid or minimise any conflict between the conservation of those heritage assets and any aspect of the development proposal. This process

is in line with policies contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 16 trenches, each measuring 2m wide and of varying lengths and totalling 2220 square metres, in the locations shown on Figure 2. With the agreement of CHET trenching was limited to the built development area and access road, comprising 5.5ha of the total 7.8ha Site. The trenches were positioned to investigate anomalies identified by the geophysical survey as well as apparently blank areas, and as a means of prospection for remains of a type or period that may not typically respond to geophysical survey. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and, were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Facility, along with the site archive. A CHER event number has already been obtained for the works (ECB6080). In addition, 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-11)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

5.2 The stratigraphic sequence is broadly consistent across the site, with the exception of trench 1 (see below). The natural geological substrate, comprising of a mixture of mid brown orange silty sands and chalk, was encountered at an average depth of 0.65m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil deposits comprising mid brown grey silty sand with an average thickness of 0.4m, which in turn were sealed by a topsoil of mid-grey brown sandy silt measuring an average 0.2m thick. No features or deposits of any kind were identified within Trenches 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 14 and 16; in trenches 10 and 13 only localised areas of bioturbation were observed/ investigated.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 to 4)

5.3 Trench 1 was located in close proximity to the existing agricultural access point into the field with the result that as a consequence of modern dumping of soils and other material to consolidate the access the stratigraphic sequence in part of the differed slightly from the rest of the site. In the southern half of the trench, in the area of the current access track, the natural substrate (102=124) was overlain by a buried subsoil deposit (123) of mid orange brown sandy silt measuring between 0.09 and 0.16m thick, which was sealed by a buried topsoil (105) comprising dark grey brown sandy silt with a thickness of 0.14m. The former topsoil was sealed in turn by two modern levelling or ground consolidation deposits (104 and 103); the earlier of the two (104) was made up of mid brown yellow sand and gravel with frequent yellow brick fragments, measuring 0.14m thick, while the second layer (103) was comprised of material very similar in appearance to the modern topsoil, but including large proportions of plastic waste, with a thickness between 0.14-0.26m. The levelling deposits were overlain by a further layer of redeposited subsoil (103), measuring 0.13m thick, which in turn was sealed by the current topsoil (100=120).

5.4 Linear ditch 106 crossed the centre of the trench on a northwest–southeast orientation, measuring 3.05m wide and 0.4m deep with an irregular profile including

a steep southwest side and a shallow, stepped northeast side leading onto a slightly irregular base. The ditch was seen to cut subsoil deposit 102, a mid brown sandy silt with chalk flecks, and the single fill (107), which produced a sherd of post-medieval window glass as well as sheep/goat and horse bone fragments, was in turn overlain by subsoil 101, a mid brown grey silty sand with rare flints, and topsoil (100). Although not depicted on any historic maps of the site (CA 2020), the ditch broadly aligned with the existing rear boundary to Bottisham House and may be an original continuation of that boundary line.

- 5.5 Approximately 1.5m to the south of ditch 106 and running on a parallel alignment, ditch 117 measured 2.6m wide by 0.55m deep with moderately steep, stepped sides and a flat base, and was observed to cut through buried subsoil 123. The feature was filled by two sterile fills: a basal deposit (118) of mid brown grey sandy silt measuring 0.12m thick, overlain by a second fill (119) with a thickness of 0.42m, composed of mid grey brown sandy silt. The southern side of the feature was truncated by a possible smaller re-cut (121) measuring 1.7m wide by 0.32m deep, with moderately steep, straight sides and a flat base. Re-cut(?) 121 contained a single natural silting fill (122) of mid grey brown sandy silt but produced no finds.
- 5.6 Ditch 108 crossed the southern end of the trench on an east-west alignment, measuring 1.2m wide and 0.67m deep with steep slightly concave sides and a concave base. The feature contained a lower fill (1090) of mid brown grey sandy silt, with a thickness of 0.48m, which contained fragments of Late Saxon/Early medieval pottery as well as sheep/goat bone fragments. The deposit was sealed by a sterile upper fill (110) of mid grey brown sandy silt measuring 0.2m thick.
- 5.7 Just to the north of ditch 108 a cluster of three pits was investigated. Pit 111, the southernmost of the three, only extended partially into the trench from the northwest baulk section. Cutting subsoil 101, the visible extent measured 0.93m long, greater than 0.34m wide, and 0.47m deep, with near-vertical straight sides and a flat base. The single fill (112) of mid brown grey sandy silt produced fragments of sheep/goat bones as well as pottery of medieval date.
- 5.8 Pit 113, located just to the northeast, appeared oval in plan, measuring 0.6m long, 0.47m wide and 0.07m deep with a steep, straight eastern side and a gradually sloping western side leading onto a concave base. The feature contained a single sterile fill (114) of mid brown grey silty sand.

- 5.9 The northernmost of the three pits (115) extended partially into the trench from the northwest baulk section. The visible extent measured 0.74m wide and greater than 0.76m long, with moderately steep, straight sides and a flat base. The single sterile fill (116) was composed of mid brown grey silty sand.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.10 Near the northwest end of trench 4 a northeast-southwest orientated ditch (403) was encountered, measuring 0.85m wide and 0.18m deep, with moderately steep sides and a concave base. A single fill (404) of mid grey brown sandy silt contained no finds, but the feature appeared to match the location of a geophysical anomaly (see magnitude Surveys 2019). The same ditch was also observed further to the north in trench 6.
- 5.11 At the southern end of the trench a possible ditch terminus or pit (405) entered the trench from the southwest baulk, running on a northeast-southwest alignment. The feature measured approximately 2m wide and 0.45m deep, with a steep, straight side and an uneven base, and contained a single fill (406) of mid grey brown sandy silt that produced medieval pottery and, presumably residual, worked flint. A weak geophysical anomaly corresponds with the alignment of the feature. A bulk environmental sample (Sample 2) contained a small number of indeterminate cereal grain fragments alongside a single charred seed with the tentative identification of spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.). Small quantities of charcoal fragments were also noted in the assemblage alongside a large number of terrestrial snail shells. The snail shells included those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp. and *Pupilla muscorum*, and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*. The mollusc assemblage appears to suggest a well-established open landscape in the vicinity of the pit (see section 7 below).

Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 6)

- 5.12 The continuation of ditch 404 was investigated at the northwest end of trench 6. Ditch 603 measured 0.69m wide and 0.31m deep, with steep, concave sides and a concave base, and was filled by a single deposit (604) which contained fragments of clay tobacco pipe as well as post-medieval/modern ceramics.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 7)

- 5.13 The northernmost feature encountered in L-shaped trench 7 was circular pit 703, measuring 0.85m in diameter. The upper fill (704) was observed to contain large quantities of burnt bone; a bulk sample was recovered for further analysis (see section 7.5 below) but due to the possibility that cremated human remains may have been exposed then with the agreement of CHET the feature was not excavated any further. Subsequent specialist assessment has determined that the long bone and cranial fragments are consistent in size and dimensions with human cremated bone, but there were no clearly diagnostic elements and further, diagnostic material would be required to confirm the identity of the bone as human.
- 5.14 A bulk environmental sample (Sample 1) of the possible cremation deposit contained a very small number of charred indeterminate cereal grains and no other charred plant remains. Moderately large quantities of charcoal fragments were noted in the assemblage. Large quantities of terrestrial snail shells were also recorded in the assemblage, including those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp., and *Pupilla muscorum*, the intermediate species *Cochlicopa* sp., and the shade-loving species *Carychium tridentatum* and *Oxychilus cellarius*. Although the burnt bone recovered from the sample could be human the charred assemblage could be equally indicative of a dump of hearth waste material. The mollusc assemblage appears to suggest a well-established open landscape with some areas of longer grass in the vicinity (see section 7 below).
- 5.15 Approximately 7m to the southeast of pit 703, northeast-southwest orientated ditch 709 crossed the northern arm of the L-shaped trench. Sealed beneath subsoil 701 and measuring 1.64m wide and 0.47m deep with steep straight sides and a concave base, it was filled by a single deposit (704) of mid grey brown silty sand that contained fragments of cattle bone. The feature roughly correlates to a strong linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019), and was observed in the shorter arm of the trench in the form of ditch segment 707 (see below).
- 5.16 Ditch 707/ 709 ran through both arms of the trench on a southwest to northeast orientation. As ditch 707 it measured 0.48m wide by 0.21m deep and contained a single sterile fill (708) comprised of mid grey brown sandy silt. As ditch 709 it measured 0.64m wide by 0.47m deep and contained an identical fill (710) to 708 that produced seven fragments of animal bone. The ditch did not correspond with any anomalies identified by the geophysical survey but was broadly aligned with a

series of parallel trends of suggested agricultural origin, although these trends did not typically correspond with sub-surface features in other trenches.

- 5.17 To the east of ditch 707, oval pit 705 partially extended into the trench from the northern baulk section. Also sealed beneath subsoil 701 and with a visible length of approximately 2m, width of 1.91m and depth of 0.58m, with steep, straight sides and a flat base, the feature contained a single fill (706) of mid blue grey silty sand that produced no finds.
- 5.18 Ditch 711 was investigated towards the southwest end of the trench, running on a northwest-southeast alignment. The feature measured 0.64m wide by 0.22m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a single deposit (712) of mid grey brown silty sand which produced no finds. The northern edge of the ditch cut across a small pit (713), measuring 0.33m in diameter and 0.06m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from the single fill (714), which also comprised a mid grey brown sandy silt.

Trench 11 (Figs 2, 8 & 9)

- 5.19 The easternmost feature encountered within L-shaped trench 11 was ditch 1103, crossing the trench on a northeast-southwest alignment matching a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The feature measured 0.59m wide and 0.16m deep, with steep sides and a slightly concave base, and was filled by a single deposit (1104) of mid grey brown silty sand which contained two worked flint fragments.
- 5.20 Small pit 1105, located further west, measured approximately 0.54m wide and 0.07m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The feature was likely highly truncated and the remaining fill (1106), comprising mid grey brown silty sand, contained no finds.
- 5.21 Further to the west, a small circular pit (1107) was investigated. The feature measured 0.53m in diameter and 0.22m deep, with near-vertical sides and a flat base. A single fill (1108) of dark grey brown silty sand produced no finds.
- 5.22 A cluster of five pits was observed in the angle of the trench; the majority of the features only partial extended into the trench. Three pits were investigated (1109, 1111 and 1113) while two were recorded in plan only.

- 5.23 Sealed beneath subsoil 1101, pit 1109 extended into the trench from the southern baulk; the exposed part of the feature appeared circular in plan with a diameter of 1.9m and depth of 0.62m, with steep sides and a flat base. The pit was filled by a single deposit (1110) of mid yellow brown silty sand which contained fragments of bone. A bulk environmental sample (Sample 3) contained no charred cereal grains and only a single charred indeterminate seed. A very small number of charcoal fragments were noted and showed signs of vitrification. Large quantities of terrestrial snail shells including those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp., *Pupilla muscorum* and Introduced helicellids, the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp., and the shade-loving species *Oxychilus cellarius*. were recorded from within the assemblage, suggesting a well-established open landscape with some areas of longer grass in the vicinity.
- 5.24 Approximately 2m to the northwest a similar pit (1113) was investigated; the feature extended partially into the trench from the eastern baulk section and measured 1.6m in diameter and 0.4m deep with near-vertical sides and a flat base. The single sterile fill (1114) was comprised of mid grey brown silty sand. Two adjacent pits (1115 and 1117) extending into the trench from the opposite baulk section were recorded in plan only.
- 5.25 Slightly further north pit 1111 was located fully within the trench, measuring 1.6m in diameter and 0.37m deep with steep sides and a slightly uneven base. The feature was filled by a single deposit (1112) of mid grey brown silty sand which produced a single fragment of prehistoric pottery. Another smaller pit to the north (1119) was not excavated.

Trench 15 (Figs 2 & 10)

- 5.26 At the northern end of trench 15 two features extended partially into the trench from the eastern baulk, spaced approximately 4m apart. The northernmost of the two (1503) measured 3.3m wide by 1.05m deep and was observed to cut through the subsoil. A very mixed lower fill (1505), measuring 0.65m thick, comprised mid grey brown sandy silt as well as lenses of redeposited natural substrate including chalk and orange brown sand, and produced modern metal objects including the remains of a galvanised metal bucket. An upper fill (1504) with a thickness of 0.5m was composed of dark grey brown silty sand which appeared identical to the surrounding subsoil. Both fills likely represent deliberate backfilling of a tree throw. A dark, more

charcoal-rich deposit (1509) in the top of the feature, measuring 0.45m thick, may represent a separate, later feature (cut 1508 has been tentatively assigned to this) but, given the level of disturbance in this area, may form part of the same deliberate backfill activity as fills 1504 and 1505.

- 5.27 Slightly further to the south, shallow tree throw 1506 measured greater than 1.5m wide and up to 0.2m deep, with gently sloping sides and an uneven base, and was filled by a single deposit, 1506, that produced a sherd of medieval pottery.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 The artefactual material is recorded from 35 deposits; the majority from the topsoil and subsoil. A smaller proportion is derived from the fills of pits and ditches (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand and from bulk samples.

Pottery

- 6.2 The pottery recovered from the evaluation is recorded in Appendix B and discussed below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this now forms the basis of Appendix B (Table 1). The pottery 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 Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (Barclay et al. 2016) and, where appropriate, the PCRG Guidelines (2010).
- 6.3 The assemblage comprises 25 sherds weighting 257g. The majority is highly fragmented and in poor condition, with most fractures exhibiting signs of abrasion. The mean sherd weight is moderately low for a largely medieval and post-medieval assemblage at 10.3g.

Prehistoric

- 6.4 One body sherd (15g) of handmade flint-tempered pottery (FL) is recorded from pit fill 1112. The sherd can be assigned a broadly prehistoric date.

Roman

- 6.5 One featureless body sherd (3g) of sandy grey ware (UNS GW) is recorded from the topsoil of trench 13. The sherd can be broadly dated to the Roman period.

Late Saxon/Medieval

- 6.6 There are six sherds (65g) of Late Saxon/medieval pottery. Ditch fill 109 produced two sherds (31g) of Thetford-type ware (THET) dating to the 10th and 11th centuries. One sherd is decorated with an applied thumbed strip. A sherd (9g) of early medieval coarseware (EMCW) is recorded from pit fill 112, together with a sherd (9g) of medieval coarseware (MCW). A second sherd (6g) of medieval coarseware is recorded from ditch fill 406. The early medieval wares can be dated to the 11th and 12th centuries, whilst the medieval coarsewares are slightly later, dating to between the 12th and 14th centuries. A handle made in a fine sandy and micaceous fabric, recorded from the fill of tree throw 1506, is mostly a sherd of Hedingham ware (HED). The sherd has traces of a clear/green glaze. This type of pottery is known to have been produced from the late-12th to 13th centuries.

Post-medieval/modern

- 6.7 A total of 17 sherds (174g) of post-medieval/modern pottery are recorded largely from the topsoil or subsoil. Three sherds (75g) of glazed red earthenware (GRE) can be dated to the 16th and 18th centuries. The rim of a tall ointment jar, made in British stoneware (BSW), is decorated with coarse incised vertical lines. The sherd dates to between the 17th and 19th centuries. A small porcelain bowl or teacup (PORC) decorated with a painted blue floral pattern can be dated to between the 18th and 20th centuries. Four sherds (38g) of transfer printed earthenware (TPE) decorated with blue printed geometric or landscape designs, date from the late 18th to 20th centuries. The rim of a dinner plate is recorded from ditch fill 604. Five sherds (20g) of refined red earthenware (REFR), two sherds (13g) of refined white earthenware (REFW) and one sherd (2g) of mocha ware (MOC) can be dated to between the late 18th and 20th centuries.

Summary

- 6.8 The pottery evidence provided limited evidence for activity in the vicinity of the site from the prehistoric period to the modern period. Due to the small size of the groups it is not possible to draw any meaningful conclusions regarding the nature of the activity. The predominance of post-medieval/modern material from the topsoil and subsoil around the site would suggest its deposition is most likely the result of agricultural manuring or the dumping/dispersal of rubbish.

Ceramic Building Material

- 6.9 A total of 18 fragments (557g) of ceramic building material are recorded from the topsoil and subsoil of the site. The fragments are made in fine (fs), medium (ms) and coarse (cs) sandy fabrics, some with ferrous (fe) or calcareous (c) inclusions. A total of six tile, two drain and one brick fragment can be identified. A fragment of pan tile is recorded from the topsoil of trench 1. The remaining fragments were undiagnostic. Based on the forms, thickness and firing of the material most likely dates to the post-medieval or modern period.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 6.10 Five clay tobacco pipe stems (19g) can be dated to the post-medieval period. Ditch fill 604 produced one pipe stem, the remaining fragments are recorded from the topsoil or subsoil.

Glass

- 6.11 Six fragments (64g) of glass are recorded from five deposits. Ditch fill 107 produced one fragment of post-medieval colourless window glass. Two fragments of colourless window glass are recorded from the topsoil of trenches 1 and 2. A fragment of colourless glass with a regular ribboned surface is mostly likely derived from a modern vehicle light. One fragment of post-medieval green bottle glass is recorded from the topsoil of trench 7. One fragment of post-medieval? translucent blue green bottle glass is recorded from the topsoil of trench 3.

Flint

- 6.12 A total of 14 fragments (79g) of flint are recorded, largely from the topsoil and subsoil of the site. Two flakes made in yellowish-brown flint are recorded from ditch fill 1104. Both are lightly patinated with light edge damage. Five grey-brown flint chips are recorded from sample 101 taken from pit fill 406. A flake and a chip made in grey-brown flint are recorded from pit fill 1110. Two flakes, a bladelet and a chip made in either yellowish-brown or grey-brown flint are recorded from the subsoils of trenches 5, 7 and 13. A large flake made in grey brown flint exhibits signs of heavy ventral and edge damage. It is recorded from the subsoil of trench 16 and the fragment may be the result of modern agricultural activity.

Metalwork

- 6.13 A total of 55 fragments (3143g) of iron are recorded from the topsoil of the site. The assemblage is heavily encrusted and corroded and precise identification of artefacts was uncertain as a result. The iron assemblage includes 27 handmade square shafted iron nails and three round shafted nails. The topsoil and subsoil of trench 2 produced a short length iron chain and a small strip of iron. A flat plate of iron approximately 80mm x 50mm x 10mm is recorded from the topsoil of trench 3. Trench 4 topsoil and subsoil produced a section of a curved iron blade, possibly part of a sickle or small billhook, a flat strip of iron approximately 120mm x 30mm, a thick plate approximately 100mm x 80mm x 10mm and a small irregular fragment of iron of unknown function. Trench 6 produced a modern iron horseshoe, a flat strip of iron approximately 50mm x 30mm, a thick sub-rectangular plate approximately 80mm x 70mm x 10mm and large sub-triangular plate approximately 130mm x 90mm x 10mm. A cylindrical rod of iron recorded from the topsoil of trench 10 most likely represents a small door bolt. Three thin strips of iron of varying lengths but all approximately 10mm in width with regularly positioned holes are recorded from the topsoil of trenches 11 and 12. The fragments may represent iron banding, the regularly situated holes used to secure the banding. An iron fencing staple is also recorded from trench 12. The object is most likely used to secure fencing to a wooden post. The topsoil of trench 12 also produced an iron handle with a hole at one end for suspension. The object is incomplete, but it may represent the handle of a small iron skillet. A thin sheet of iron is recorded from the topsoil of trench 14. The sheet is heavily corroded, but it most likely represents the wall of a bucket. A large iron staple approximately 300mm in length is recorded from the topsoil of trench 15; its function is unknown. A galvanised steel bucket with a paint white interior is recorded from ditch fill 1505. Much of the ironwork assemblage dates to post-medieval or modern date, although the handmade nails may be of a pre-industrial date.
- 6.14 A post-medieval copper alloy button (3g) decorated with raised diamond motifs is recorded from the topsoil of trench 13. A curved strip of copper alloy, recorded from the topsoil of trench 11, represents a fragment of a large belt buckle. It most likely dates to the post-medieval period.

Worked Stone

- 6.15 One fragment (10g) of dark grey slate is recorded from the topsoil of trench 1. Based on its colour the fragment is most likely of Welsh origin and dates to the 19th century when this material was frequently used to produce roof tiles.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone by Sharon Clough

- 7.1 Animal bone amounting to 20 fragments (471g) was recovered from six deposits. Artefactual material dating from the medieval period to the Modern era period was also recovered (See Table 1, Appendix C). The material was fragmentary but well preserved enough to make possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*), horse (*Equus caballus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*).

Medieval

- 7.2 Seven fragments (99g) were recovered from deposits 109, 112 and 1056 the fills of ditch 108, pit 111 and tree throw 1507. Sheep/goat was the only species present identified from a mandible, a metacarpal shaft and a partial pelvis. None of the fragments displayed any cut marks or impact damage to suggest an origin in butchery waste but as a common domestic species, sheep goat is to be expected in assemblages of this period.

Post-medieval

- 7.3 Six fragments (73g) were recovered from deposit 107, the fill of ditch 106. Sheep/goat and horse were identified from a single fragment each, respectively a humerus shaft and a first phalanx. Once again there was no evidence of butchery and the low recovery of identifiable bone limits any inference to species identification.

Modern and undated

- 7.4 The remaining seven fragments (299g) were recovered from deposit 710, the fill of ditch 709 and topsoil layer 1100. Cattle was the only species present, with five partial vertebrae recovered from deposit 710 and a radius shaft from layer 1100.



Cremated Bone Report by Sharon Clough

- 7.5 A hand collected sample and soil sample (100) were taken from feature 703 (deposit 704) to ascertain the nature of the feature and identify the bone. This resulted in 23.7g of burnt bone hand collected and 13.4g of burnt bone from the sample. In total this was 37.1g of burnt bone recovered. The largest fragment size was 48 x 15mm. Identifiable fragments comprised cranium (with sutures), long bones which may be ulna/radius and femur/tibia.
- 7.6 The fragments were sharp and un-abraded, and had the cracking associated with burning of green or wet bone. The long bone and cranial fragments were consistent in size and dimensions with human cremated bone, but there were no clearly diagnostic elements. A consistent white colour of all the fragments (except two fragments with black in centre) indicates complete calcination. The consistent white colouration of the fragments is a common feature of human cremation burials, especially from the prehistoric period.
- 7.7 Complete recovery of the bone from the rest of the deposit is necessary to sufficiently analyse the feature. It would not be effective to comment on the total weight or fragment size without complete recovery.
- 7.8 The indications are that this is a human cremation-related feature (such as a cremation burial), however due to the lack of diagnostic elements this is not a definitive diagnosis.

Plant Macrofossils by Emma Aitken

- 7.9 A series of three environmental samples (86 litres of soil) were processed from a range of feature types from across the trenches. This was done to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site, as well as possibly giving an indication of the local environment. It was also hoped that the samples might help to confirm the dating of these features. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.10 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, 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).

- 7.11 Two shells were hand-picked from site, comprising a single fragment of an oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell (fill 1300) and a single shell of the intermediate land snail *Cornu aspersum* (fill 107).

Trench 4 - Pit

- 7.12 Sample 2 of pit 405 contained a small number of indeterminate cereal grain fragments alongside a single charred seed with the tentative identification of spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.). Small quantities of charcoal fragments were also noted in the assemblage alongside a large number of terrestrial snail shells. The snail shells included those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp. and *Pupilla muscorum*, and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*.

- 7.13 This charred assemblage is likely to be representative of wind-blown/dispersed material and does not represent the use or function of the feature nor does it assist with the dating of this pit. The mollusc assemblage appears to suggest a well-established open landscape in the vicinity of the pit.

Trench 7 - Possible cremation related deposit

- 7.14 Fill 704 (sample 1) of possible cremation related deposit 703 contained a very small number of charred indeterminate cereal grains and no other charred plant remains. Moderately large quantities of charcoal fragments were noted in the assemblage. Large quantities of terrestrial snail shells were recorded in the assemblage and include those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp., and *Pupilla muscorum*, the intermediate species *Cochlicopa* sp., and the shade-loving species *Carychium tridentatum* and *Oxychilus cellarius*.

- 7.15 This charred assemblage is likely to be indicative of a dump of hearth waste material. The burnt bone recovered from this sample appears to be human. The mollusc assemblage appears to suggest a well-established open landscape with some areas of longer grass in the vicinity.

Trench 11 - Pit

- 7.16 Sample 3 of pit 1109 contained no charred cereal grains and only a single charred indeterminate seed. A very small number of charcoal fragments were noted and

showed signs of vitrification. Large quantities of terrestrial snail shells including those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp., *Pupilla muscorum* and Introduced helicellids, the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp., and the shade-loving species *Oxychilus cellarius*. were recorded from within the assemblage.

- 7.17 The charred material within sample 3 is likely to be representative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material and does not indicate a possible use or function of pit 1109. The mollusc assemblage appears to be reflective of a well-established open landscape with some areas of longer grass in the vicinity.

Summary

- 7.18 The charred plant assemblages from samples 2 and 3 from pits 405 and 1109 provide no insight into the possible use or function of the features and suggest that no settlement activity was taking place within the immediate vicinity of these features. The material from samples 2 and 3 is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.
- 7.19 Sample 1 from possible cremation related deposit 703 does contain a large quantity of charcoal fragments which is indicative of a dump of hearth waste material. Due to the lack of charred material that may be indicative of a cremation process, such as tubers, it is not possible to state whether or not this deposit is directly linked with a cremation. This assemblage also provides no indication of specific settlement activities taking place in the nearby vicinity.
- 7.20 The shell assemblages are indicative of a well-established open landscape with some areas of longer grass. There is no evidence from these samples of material being preserved by waterlogging on the site.
- 7.21 It is recommended that if further work takes place on the site that consideration is given to taking specific samples for the recovery of molluscs, as well as standard bulk samples. Mollusc remains are well preserved on the site and they would assist in defining the nature of the local environment of the site.



8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The extent, density and complexity of the archaeological remains encountered in the evaluation were relatively low and the fieldwork results broadly correspond with those of the preceding geophysical survey, which primarily identified anomalies relating to former field boundaries and other agricultural activity. However, no evidence of cultivation furrows was encountered within the trenches despite several phases of likely furrow alignments being identified by the geophysical survey.
- 8.2 Only a single feature in trench 11, pit 1111, produced prehistoric pottery, although other undated features in the trench may be of similar date, while the low levels of Saxon and medieval finds suggest that the site was not a focal point of settlement activity. Instead, the site appears to have been located on the outskirts of any settlement and largely exploited agriculturally. Changes in land ownership or organisation over time are evidenced by some of the ditch lines encountered during the evaluation, a number of which correspond with linear geophysical anomalies and boundaries depicted on historic maps of the Site.

Prehistoric

- 8.3 Dating evidence for this period comprised a single sherd of pottery recovered from pit 1111. However, it is possible that given grouping and morphological similarity of 1109, 1111, and 1113, as well as unexcavated pits 1115 and 1117, these features may be contemporary. Due to a lack of environmental evidence, the function of the pits remains unclear. The features were not identified by the geophysical survey but this is not entirely unexpected and most likely a reflection of the interval at which readings were taken during the survey and the relatively sterile fills possessing little magnetic contrast against the surrounding natural substrate.
- 8.4 No evidence was seen for a potential Bronze Age ring-ditch in the southwest corner of the site or in the vicinity of trench 1, a postulated alternative location for the feature.

Late Saxon/Medieval

- 8.5 Two ditches containing Late Saxon/ medieval pottery as well as animal bone were identified in the western part of the site, with ditch 405/603 correlating with a weak linear geophysical anomaly. Ditch 108 and adjacent pit 111 contained fragments of 10th-11th century and 12th-14th century pottery respectively; the features were

masked from the geophysical survey by several layers of modern ground levelling or consolidation dumps.

- 8.6 A fragment of 12th-13th century pottery was recovered from tree throw 1506, in the eastern part of the site, which also produced modern material.

Post-medieval/modern

- 8.7 The majority of the artefactual evidence found across site proved post-medieval or modern in date, being recovered from the subsoil and topsoil in the majority of trenches. This is not unexpected given that the site has been under continuous agricultural cultivation throughout these periods, with waste material easily dispersed through manuring and subsequent ploughing.
- 8.8 The deposits and layers encountered in trench 1, in the area of the current site access were identified as a spread of debris by the geophysical survey. It is likely that this material represents efforts to consolidate or level the entrance area into the field in order to facilitate easy access and egress for agricultural equipment in wet ground conditions.
- 8.9 Ditch 106 contained a fragment of modern glass, although given its location in an area of high-level modern disturbance there is a possibility that the glass may be intrusive. Finds dating from the 18th to 20th centuries were also recovered from ditch 403/603, which corresponds with a weak linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.
- 8.10 While ditch 707/709 did not produce any finds or other dateable material, the feature corresponds to a strong linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and appears to represent a former field boundary.

Undated

- 8.12 Pit 703, in trench 7, which was only partially investigated may be a cremation burial. With the agreement of CHET the feature was not excavated in full but specialist assessment of a sample of the cremated bone has determined that the long bone and cranial fragments are consistent in size and dimensions with human cremated bone, but there were no clearly diagnostic elements. Further, diagnostic material would be required to conclusively determine the identity of the bone as human.

- 8.13 Ditches 117, 1103 and 1105, as well as pits 115, 705, 713 and 1107 did not contain any dateable material and could not be assigned to any period with any degree of certainty.

Environmental evidence

- 8.14 While the bulk environmental soil samples from the site produced very little charred plant and seed remains the well-preserved mollusc assemblage recovered from the samples, including two undated and one of confirmed medieval date (C 12th – 14th), suggest a well-established open landscape with some areas of longer grass in the vicinity.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jay Wood, assisted by Luke Bateson, Molly Agnew Henshaw, Chloe Merrett, and John Hardisty. The report was written by Andrew Whelan and Anna Moosbauer. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Pete Banks, Sharon Clough and Emma Aitken respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Adrian Scruby.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt rare small stones and flints.	>72	>1.8	0.27	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown grey silty sand with rare flints.	>72	>1.8	0.44	
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with chalk flecks.	>72	>1.8	0.1	
1	103	Deposit		Modern Deposit	Mid grey brown sandy silt rare small stones and flints, and frequent modern debris.	>14	>1.8	0.26	Modern
1	104	Deposit		Levelling/consolidation deposit	Mid brown yellow sand and gravel, with frequent brick and chalk.		>1.8	0.14	Modern
1	105	Deposit		Buried topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.		>1.8	0.14	
1	106	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch, NW-SE orientated with stepped SW side to concave base.	>1.8	3.05	0.4	
1	107	Fill	106	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty sand with stones and rare chalk.	>1.8	3.05	0.4	
1	108	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch, E-W orientated with steep sides to concave base.	>2	1.2	0.67	
1	109	Fill	108	Bottom fill of ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional stones and rare flints.	>2	1.02	0.48	
1	110	Fill	108	Top fill of ditch	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones.	>2	1.2	0.2	
1	111	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub circular pit with steep sides to flat disturbed base.	0.93	>0.34	0.47	
1	112	Fill	111	Fill of pit	Mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional small stones.	0.93	>0.34	0.47	
1	113	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub-oval pit with steep sides to irregular base.	0.6	0.47	0.07	
1	114	Fill	113	Fill of pit	Mid brown grey silty sand with rare stones.	0.6	0.47	0.07	
1	115	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub-circular pit with gradual sides to flat base.	>0.76	0.74	0.1	
1	116	Fill	115	Fill of pit	Mid brown grey silty sand with rare stones and flint.	>0.76	0.74	0.1	
1	117	Cut		Ditch	Linear ditch E-W orientated with stepped sides to gentle concave base.	>2	2.6	0.55	
1	118	Fill	117	Bottom fill of ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt with occasional stones and flint.	>2	2.1	0.12	
1	119	Fill	117	Top fill of ditch	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones and rare flints.	>2	2.6	0.42	
1	120	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt rare small stones and flints.		>1.8	0.16	
1	121	Cut		Re-cut of ditch	Re-cut of linear ditch 117, E-W orientated with gradual sides to flat base.	>2	1.7	0.32	
1	122	Fill	121	Fill of ditch re-cut	Mid grey brown sandy silt with stones.	>2	1.7	0.32	
1	123	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with chalk flecks (same as 102?)		1.8	0.56	
1	124	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange sand with undisturbed chalk patches.	>72	>1.8		
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.	>43	>1.8	0.26	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>43	>1.8	0.38	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mottled mid grey brown and light yellow brown sandy silt with chalk and stones.	>43	>1.8		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt.	>23	>1.8	0.28	

						>51			
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>23 >51	>1.8	0.5	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand with chalk patches and rare stones.	>23 >51	>1.8		
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>62	>1.8	0.3	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown sandy silt with small stones.	>62	>1.8	0.4	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid orange brown mottled with chalk patches rare stones.	>62	>1.8		
4	403	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NE-SW orientated with shallow sides to concave base.	>1.8	0.85	0.18	
4	404	Fill	403	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown sandy silt.	>1.8	0.85	0.18	
4	405	Cut		Cut of pit/ditch terminus	Pit/ditch terminus with concave sides to irregular base.	>1.91	>1.3	0.45	
4	406	Fill	405	Fill of pit/ditch terminus	Mid grey brown sandy silt with rare small stones.	>1.91	>1.3	0.45	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>38 >68	>1.8	0.3	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare small stones.	>38 >68	>1.8	0.42	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange and yellow brown silty sand, with frequent chalk and rare small stones.	>38 >68	>1.8		
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>38	>1.8	0.25	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare small stones.	>38	>1.8	0.52	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange and yellow brown silty sand, with frequent chalk and rare small stones.	>38	>1.8		
6	603	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NE-SW orientated, moderate curved sides to concave base.	>1.8	0.69	0.31	
6	604	Fill	603	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey silty sand with rare stones.	>1.8	0.69	0.31	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>39 >75	>1.8	0.33	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Dark yellow brown silty sand with occasional small stones.	>39 >75	>1.8	0.24	
7	702	Layer		Natural	Mid white chalk with patches of mid orange brown sand and occasional flints.	>39 >75	>1.8		
7	703	Cut		Cut of pit	Possible cremation, Sub circular pit, not fully excavated.	0.85	0.85	>0.05	
7	704	Fill	703	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown silty sand with frequent charcoal.	0.85	0.85	>0.05	
7	705	Cut		Cut of pit	Oval pit with steep concave sides to rounded base.	>1	1.91	0.58	
7	706	Fill	705	Fill of pit	Mid blue grey silty sand with angular stones.	>1	1.91	0.58	
7	707	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NE-SW orientated with moderate sides to concave base.	>2	0.48	0.21	
7	708	Fill	707	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small stones.	>2	0.48	0.21	
7	709	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NE-SW orientated with steep stepped sides to concave base.	>1.9	1.64	0.47	
7	710	Fill	709	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty sand	>1.9	1.64	0.47	

					occasional small stones and frequent gravels.				
7	711	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NW-SE orientated, steep sides to concave base.	>2	0.64	0.22	
7	712	Fill	711	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small stones and flint.	>2	0.64	0.22	
7	713	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub circular pit with shallow sides to flat base.	>0.33	>0.33	0.06	
7	714	Fill	713	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stone and flint.	>0.33	>0.33	0.06	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>40	>1.8	0.27	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare stones.	>40	>1.8	0.39	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand with occasional stones and patches of light yellowish brown and chalk.	>40	>1.8		
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>43	>1.8	0.27	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare stones.	>43	>1.8	0.46	
9	902	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand with occasional stones and patches of light yellowish brown and chalk.	>43	>1.8		
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>50	>1.8	0.32	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare stones.	>50	>1.8	0.32	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand with occasional stones and patches of light yellowish brown and chalk.	>50	>1.8		
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>28 >74	>1.8	0.28	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare stones.	>28 >74	>1.8	0.14	
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand with occasional stones and patches of light yellowish brown and chalk.	>28 >74	>1.8		
11	1103	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch NE-SW orientated with steep sides to flat base.	>2	0.59	0.16	
11	1104	Fill	1103	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small stones and flints.	>2	0.59	0.16	
11	1105	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub-circular pit, gradual sides to flattish base.		0.54	0.07	
11	1106	Fill	1105	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown silty sand with rare small stones.		0.54	0.07	
11	1107	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub-circular pit with steep sides to flattish base.	0.53	0.53	0.22	
11	1108	Fill	1107	Fill of pit	Dark grey brown silty sand with rare stones and flint.	0.53	0.53	0.22	
11	1109	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub circular pit with steep sides to flat base.	>1.26	1.9	0.62	
11	1110	Fill	1109	Fill of pit	Mid yellow brown silty sand with rare stones.	>1.26	1.9	0.62	
11	1111	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub circular pit with steep sides to irregular base.	1.6	1.6	0.37	
11	1112	Fill	1111	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown silty sand with stones and flint.	1.6	1.6	0.37	
11	1113	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub circular pit with steep sides to flattish base.	>1.06	1.6	0.4	
11	1114	Fill	1113	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown silty sand with occasional large stones and frequent small stones.	>1.06	1.6	0.4	

11	1115	Cut		Cut of pit	Unexcavated				
11	1116	Fill	1115	Fill of pit	Unexcavated				
11	1117	Cut		Cut of pit	Unexcavated				
11	1118	Fill	1117	Fill of pit	Unexcavated				
11	1119	Cut		Cut of pit	Unexcavated				
11	1120	Fill	1119	Fill of pit	Unexcavated				
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>74.5	>1.8	0.26	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare stones.	>74.5	>1.8	0.22	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand with occasional stones and patches of light yellowish brown and chalk.	>74.5	>1.8		
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>40 >40	>1.8	0.28	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare stones.	>40 >40	>1.8	0.22	
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand with occasional stones and patches of light yellowish brown and chalk.	>40 >40	>1.8		
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>30	>1.8	0.22	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare stones.	>30	>1.8	0.22	
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand with occasional stones and patches of light yellowish brown and chalk.	>30	>1.8		
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>46	>1.8	0.3	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare stones.	>46	>1.8	0.5	
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand with occasional stones and patches of light yellowish brown and chalk.	>46	>1.8		
15	1503	Cut		Cut of tree throw	Irregular cut of tree throw, irregular sides to irregular base.	>1.2	3.3	1.05	
15	1504	Fill	1503	Fill of tree throw	Mixed, mid grey brown sandy silt and orange brown sand with chalk.	>1.2	2.85	0.5	
15	1505	Fill	1503	Fill of tree throw	Dark grey brown silty sand with occasional stone.	>1.2	2	0.65	
15	1506	Cut		Cut of tree throw	Irregular cut of tree throw, irregular sides to irregular base.	>1.1	>1.5	0.2	
15	1507	Fill	1506	Fill of tree throw	Mid grey brown silty sand with occasional stones and flint.	>1.1	>1.5	0.2	
15	1508	Cut		Cut of poss. pit	Only seen in section, Cut of poss. Pit, gradual sides to curved base.	>1.8	1.5	0.45	
15	1509	Fill	1508	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional chalk and small stones.	>1.8	1.5	0.45	
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare stones.	>52	>1.8	0.28	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand with rare stones.	>52	>1.8	0.27	
16	1602	Layer		Natural	Mid brown orange silty sand with occasional stones and patches of light yellowish brown and chalk.	>52	>1.8		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Sample No.	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
100	Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery Iron Glass Worked Stone CBM		Transfer printed earthenware Refined red earthenware Nails x 2 Clear window glass x 1, vehicle light glass x 1 Slate x 1 Pan Tile x 1	TPE REFR fsfe	1 1 2 2 1 2	10 3 30 8 10 249	
107	Glass		Clear window glass		1	1	POST-MED
109	Late Saxon/Early Medieval Pottery		Thetford-type ware	THET	2	31	C10-C11
112	Medieval Pottery Medieval Pottery		Early medieval coarse ware Medieval coarse ware	EMCW MCW	1 1	9 9	C12-C14
200	Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery Iron Glass		Refined red earthenware Nails x 2, object x 2 Clear window glass	REFR	1 4 1	7 104 2	
201	Iron		Nails x 3, object x 1		4	66	
300	Iron Glass Clay Tobacco Pipe		Nails x 4, objects x 2 Blue/green bottle glass Stem x 1		6 1 1	159 50 4	
400	Iron CBM		Nail x1 objects x 6 Brick x 1	fsfe	7 1	528 47	
401	Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery Iron Clay Tobacco Pipe		Refined red earthenware Refined white earthenware Object Stem x 1	REFR REFW	1 1 1 1	1 1 2 4	
406	Medieval Pottery Flint	101	Medieval coarse ware Chips x 5	MCW	1 5	6 1	C12-C14
500	Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery CBM		British stoneware Refined white earthenware Tile x 1	BSW REFW fs	1 1 1	20 12 4	
501	Flint		Flake x 1		1	8	
600	Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery Iron Iron CBM		Mocha ware Horseshoe Nails x 3	MOC ms	1 1 5 1	2 196 442 10	
601	Iron		Object		1	366	
604	Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery Clay Tobacco Pipe		Transfer printed earthenware Stem x 1	TPE	1 1	19 4	LC18-C20
700	Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery Glass Clay Tobacco Pipe CBM		Refined red earthenware Green bottle glass Stem x 1 Tile x 1	REFR fsc	1 1 1 1	8 3 2 12	
701	Flint CBM		Flake x 1 Tile x 1	fsc	1 1	3 9	
800	Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery		Porcelain	PORC	1	6	

	Iron		Nails x 2		2	60	
801	Post-medieval Pottery		Glazed red earthenware	GRE	1	30	
	Iron		Nail		1	13	
	CBM			ms	1	1	
900	Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery		Refined red earthenware	REFR	1	1	
	Iron		Nails x 4		4	48	
	CBM			fs/ms	2	21	
1000	Post-medieval/ Modern Pottery		Transfer printed earthenware	TPE	1	8	
	Iron		Objects		2	14	
1100	Post-medieval/Modern Pottery		Transfer printed earthenware	TPE	1	1	C18-C20
1100	Iron		Nails x 5, object x 1		6	64	
	Copper Alloy		Buckle		1	9	
	CBM		Tile x 1	ms	1	31	
1104	Flint		Flakes x 2		2	5	
1110	Flint	102	Flake x 1, chip x 1		2	3	
1112	Prehistoric Pottery		Flint tempered fabric	FL	1	15	PREH
1200	Iron		Staple x 1, objects x 3		4	205	
1300	Roman Pottery		Sandy grey ware	UNS GW	1	3	
	Post-medieval Pottery		Glazed red earthenware	GRE	1	15	
	Iron		Nail		1	10	
	Copper Alloy		Button		1	3	
	Clay Tobacco Pipe		Stem x 1		1	5	
	CBM		Tile x 2	fsc	4	41	
1301	Flint		Blade x 1, chip x 1		2	4	
	CBM			ms	1	10	
1400	Post-medieval Pottery		Glazed red earthenware	GRE	1	30	
	Iron		Nails x 2, object x 1		3	127	
	CBM		Drain pipe x 2	fsfe/csfe	2	122	
1500	Iron		Large staple/pin		1	709	
1505	Iron		Bucket		1	1601	MOD
1506	Medieval Pottery		Heddingham ware	HED	1	10	LC12-C13
1601	Flint		Natural?		1	55	

Table 2: Fabric Descriptions

Period	Fabric Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)
Prehistoric Pottery	Medium flint tempered fabric. Flint ≤2mm	FL	1	15
Roman Pottery	Sandy Grey Ware	UNS GW	1	3
Late Saxon/Medieval Pottery	Thetford-type ware	THET	2	31
	Early medieval coarseware	EMCW	1	9
	Heddingham glazed coarseware	HED	1	10
	Medieval coarseware	MCW	2	15
Post-Medieval/Modern Pottery	Glazed red earthenware	GRE	3	75
	British stoneware	BSW	1	20
	Porcelain	PORC	1	6
	Transfer printed earthenware	TPE	4	38
	Refined red earthenware	REFR	5	20
	Refined white earthenware	REFW	2	13
	Mocha ware	MOC	1	2
Grand Total			25	257

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	EQ	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
Medieval									
108	109				2			2	50
111	112		4					4	34
1507	1056				1			1	15
Subtotal			4		3			7	99
Post-medieval									
106	107		2	1			3	6	73
Undated and Modern									
709	710	5						5	221
	1100	1					1	2	78
Subtotal		6					1	7	299
Total		6	6	1	3		3	1	20
Weight		294	38	53	65		16	5	471

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; EQ = horse; LM = cattle size mammal; MM = medium sized mammal; Ind = indeterminate

Table 2: Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains

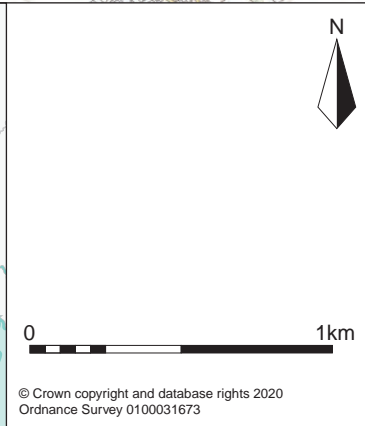
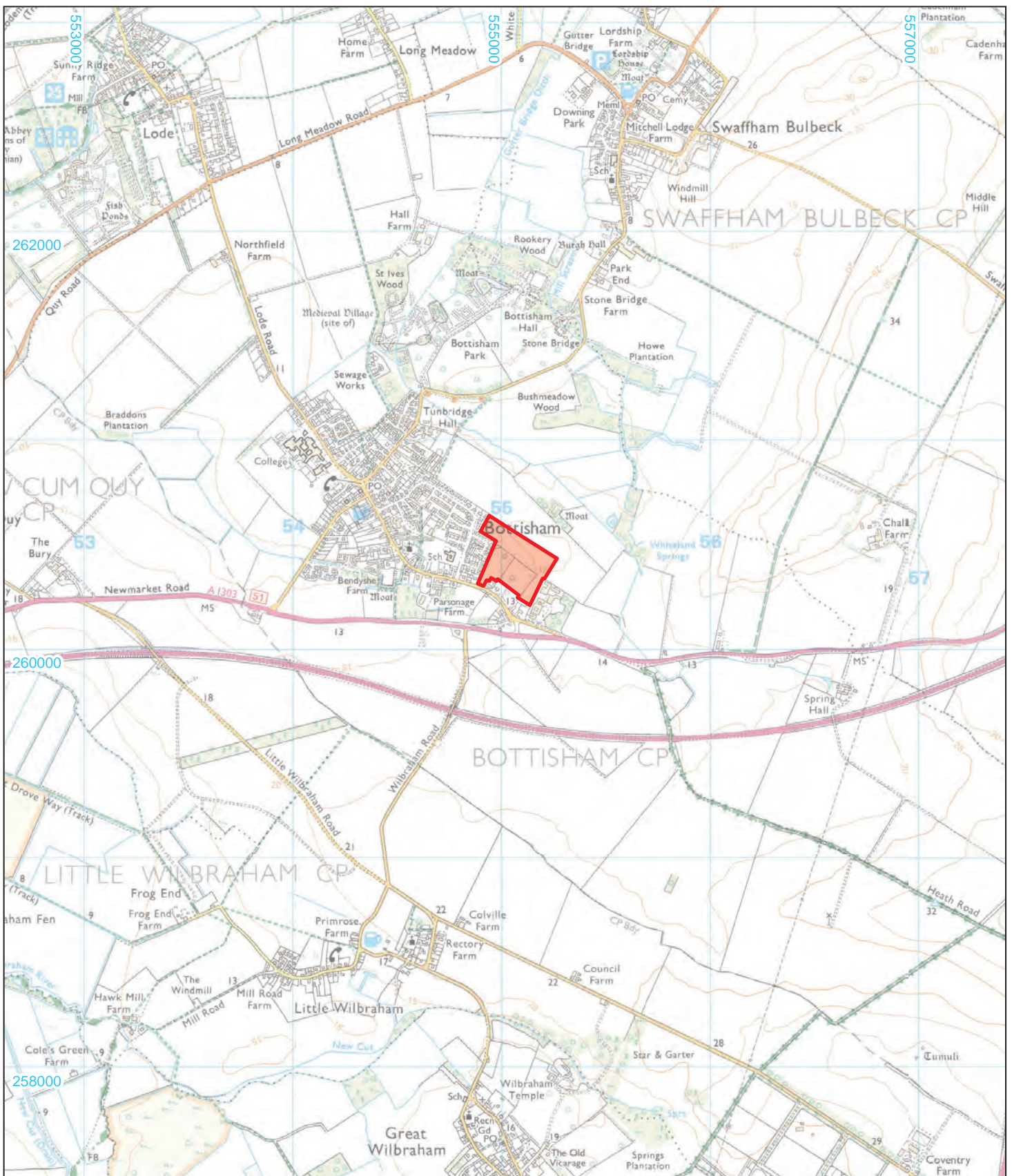
Feature	Context	Sample	Volume (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 4												
Pit 405	406	2	40	40	90	*	-	indet grain	*	cf. <i>Eleocharis</i>	*/*	moll-t****
Trench 7												
Possible Cremation 703	704	1	7	80	2	*	-	indet grain	-	-	***/*	moll-t****
Trench 11												
Pit 1109	1110	3	39	30	90	-	-	-	*	indet seed	*/*	moll-t****

Key: * = 1-4 items; ** = 4-20 items; *** = 21-49 items; **** = 50-99 items; ***** = >100 items. Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham, Cambs
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology, on behalf of Axis Land Partnerships, in January 2020 on land at Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire. A total of sixteen trenches were excavated within the overall 7.8ha proposed development area, all located within a 5.5ha area containing the proposed built-element of the development and associated vehicular access. The remaining part of the application site comprises an area of meadow that will be retained, undeveloped, as amenity space.</p> <p>The extent, density and complexity of the archaeological remains encountered in the evaluation were relatively low and the fieldwork results broadly correspond with those of a preceding geophysical survey, which primarily identified anomalies relating to former field boundaries and other agricultural activity.</p> <p>Only a single feature produced prehistoric pottery although other undated features in vicinity may be of similar date, while low levels of Saxon and medieval finds suggest that the site was not a focal point of settlement activity. Instead, the site appears to have been located on the outskirts of any settlement and largely exploited agriculturally. No evidence was seen for a potential Bronze Age ring-ditch in the southwest corner of the site or in the vicinity of trench 1, a postulated alternative location for the feature. Two ditches containing Late Saxon/ medieval pottery as well as animal bone were identified in the western part of the site, correlating with a weak linear geophysical anomaly.</p> <p>A possible cremation burial was partially investigated. Assessment of a sample of the cremated bone determined that the long bone and cranial fragments are consistent in size and dimensions with human cremated bone, but there were no clearly diagnostic elements. Further, diagnostic material would be required to conclusively determine the identity of the bone as human.</p> <p>Changes in land ownership or organisation over time are evidenced by some of the ditch lines encountered during the evaluation, a number of which correspond with linear geophysical anomalies and boundaries depicted on historic maps of the Site.</p> <p>While bulk environmental soil samples from the site produced very little charred plant and seed remains a well-preserved mollusc assemblage suggest a well-established open landscape with some areas of longer grass in the vicinity by the medieval period.</p>
Project dates	20--31 January 2020
Project type	Field evaluation
Previous work	Built Heritage Assessment (BHA; CA 2019) Geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019)
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham, Cambs
Study area (M ² /ha)	7.8ha
Site co-ordinates	555079 260433
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby
Project Supervisor	Jay Wood
MONUMENT TYPE	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Cremation Burial

PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Facility	Ceramics, animal bone, CBM, Human bone.
Paper	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Facility	Context sheets, matrices, Trench sheets, sections,
Digital	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Facility	Database, digital photos, Geomatics data,
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 <i>Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham, Cambs: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report SU0088_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
 Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham,
 Cambridgeshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	SU0088	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	27/02/2020	1
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- Site outline
- Area of trenching
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Treethrow

- Geophysical survey results
(Magnitude Surveys 2019)
- Survey boundary
 - Agricultural (strong)
 - Agricultural (spread)
 - Agricultural (trend)
 - Magnetic disturbance
 - Ferrous (spread)
 - Natural (spread)
 - Natural (weak)
 - Undetermined (trend)



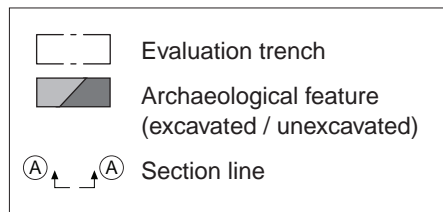
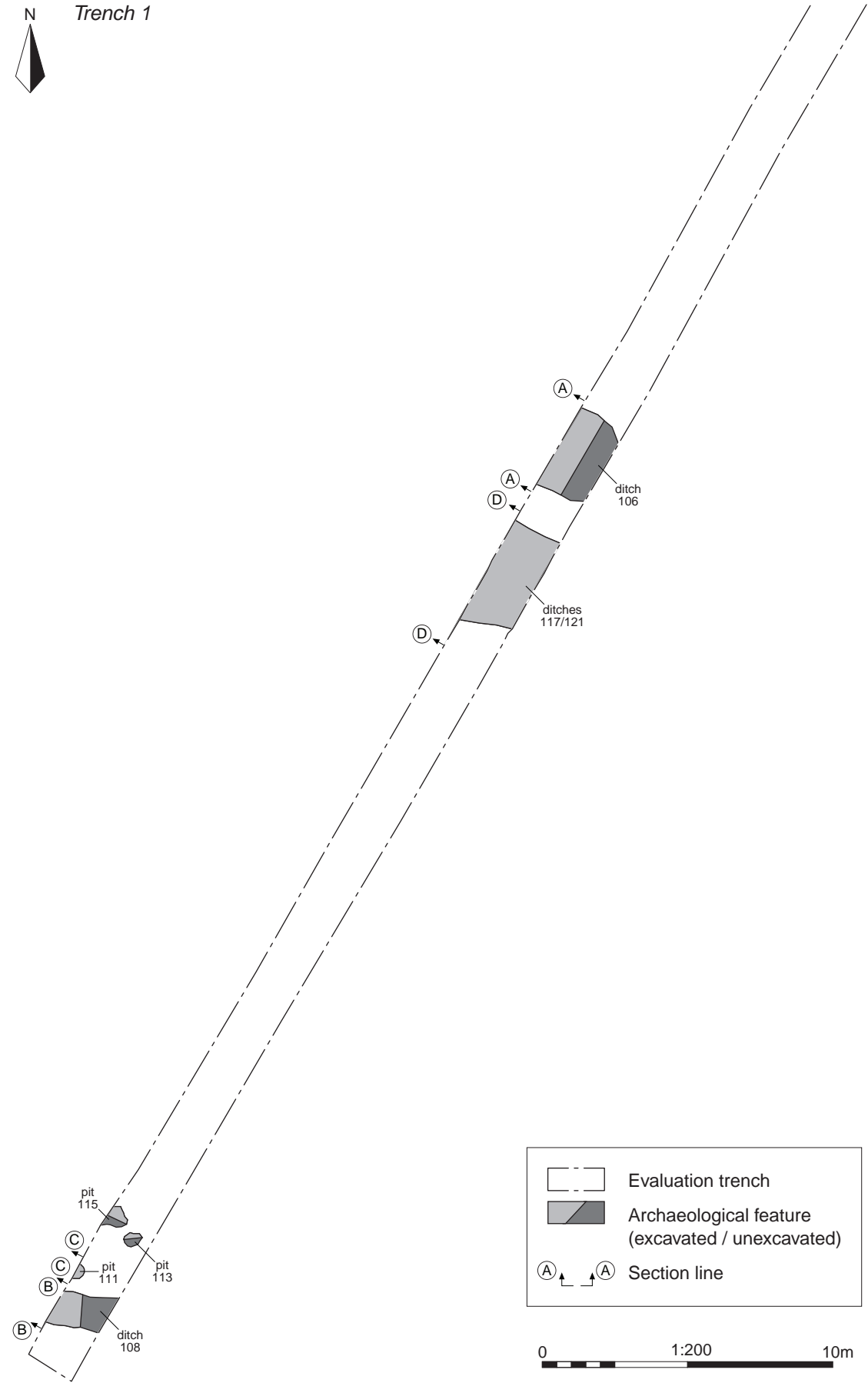
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 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

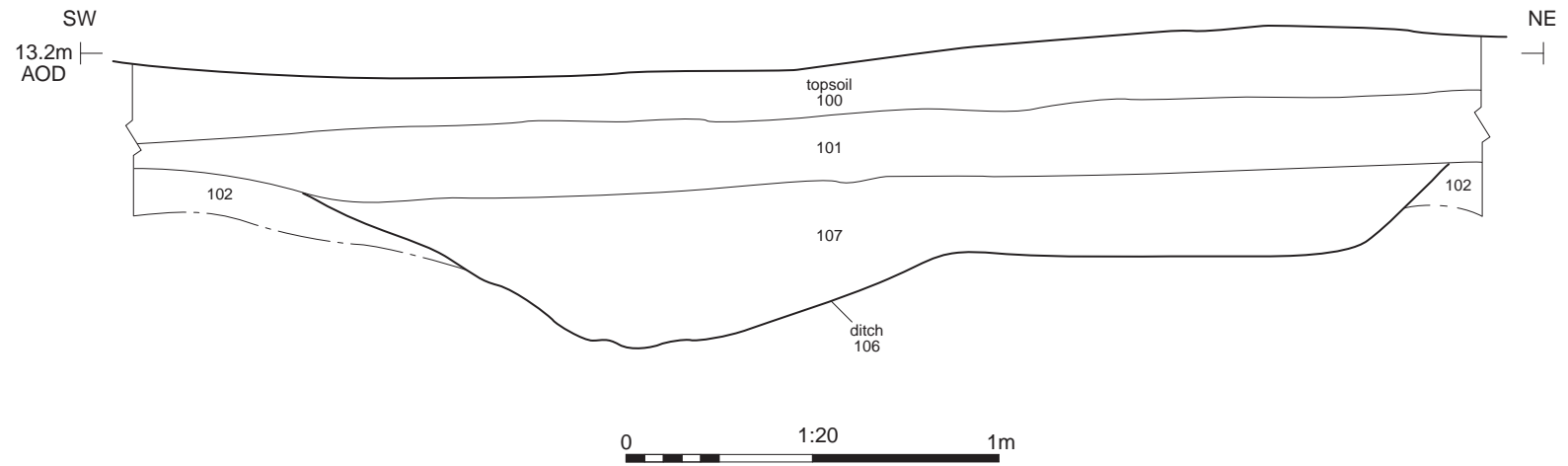
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**Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham,
 Cambridgeshire**

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan showing
 archaeological features**

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Section AA



Ditch 106, looking north-west (2m scale)



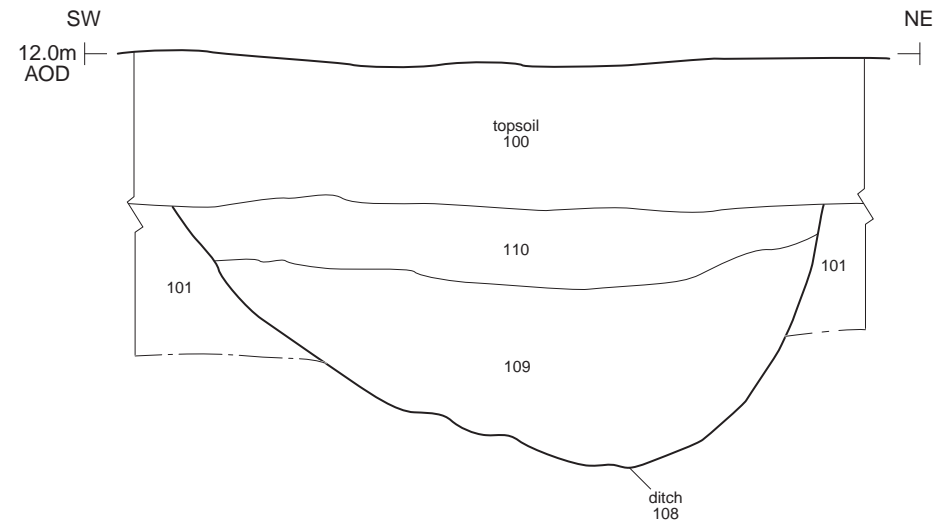
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 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
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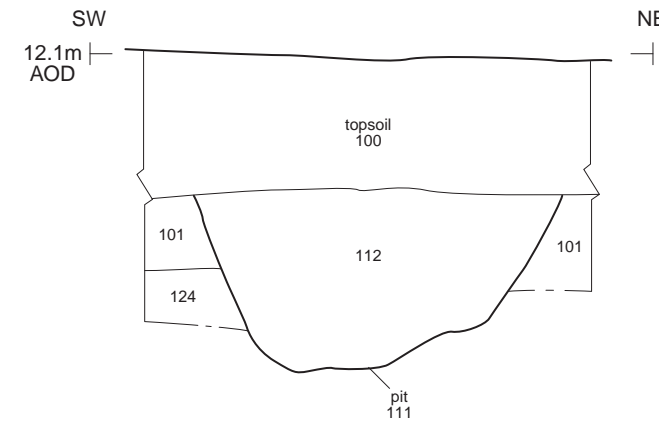
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Trench 1: plan, section and photograph

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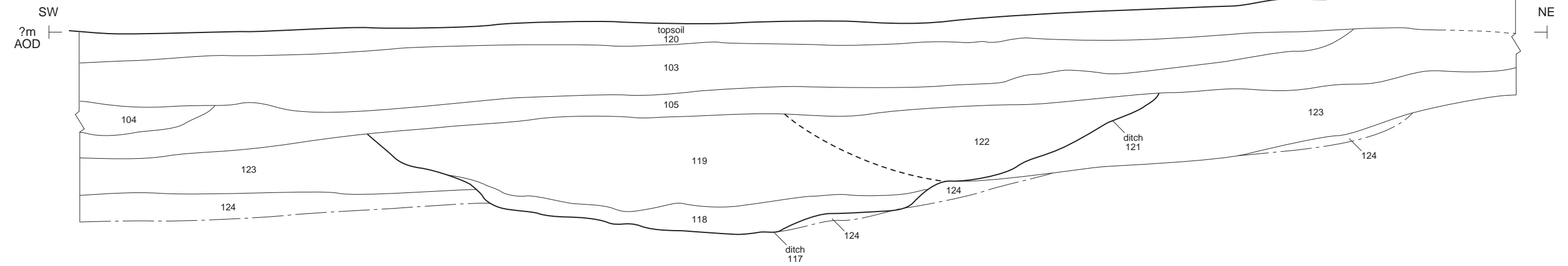
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Section CC



Section DD



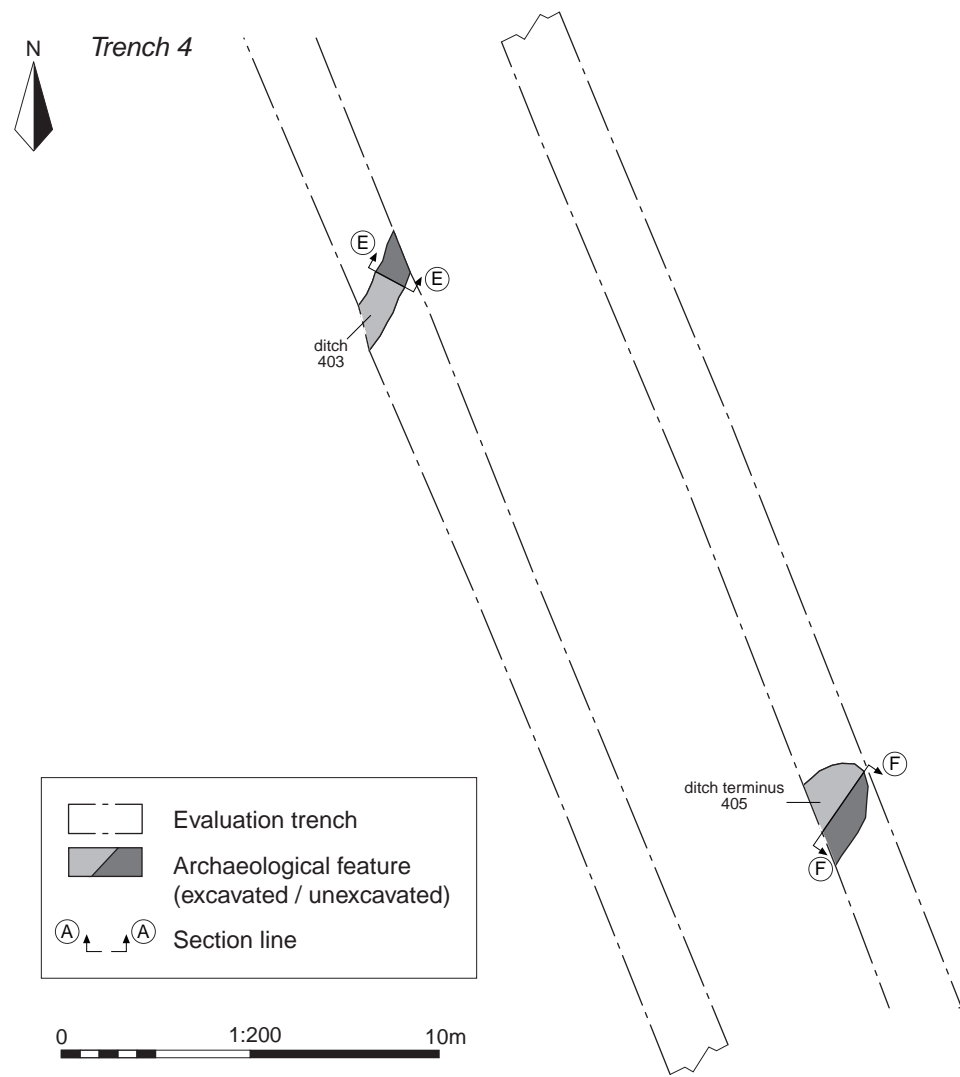
Ditch 108, looking north-west (1m scale)


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

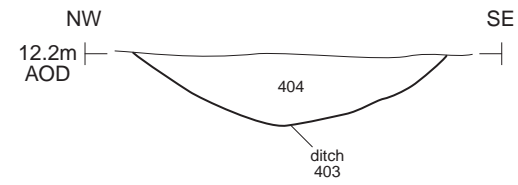
PROJECT TITLE
**Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham,
 Cambridgeshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 1: sections and photograph

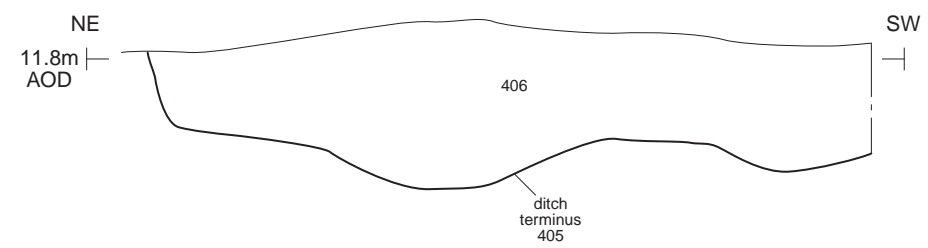
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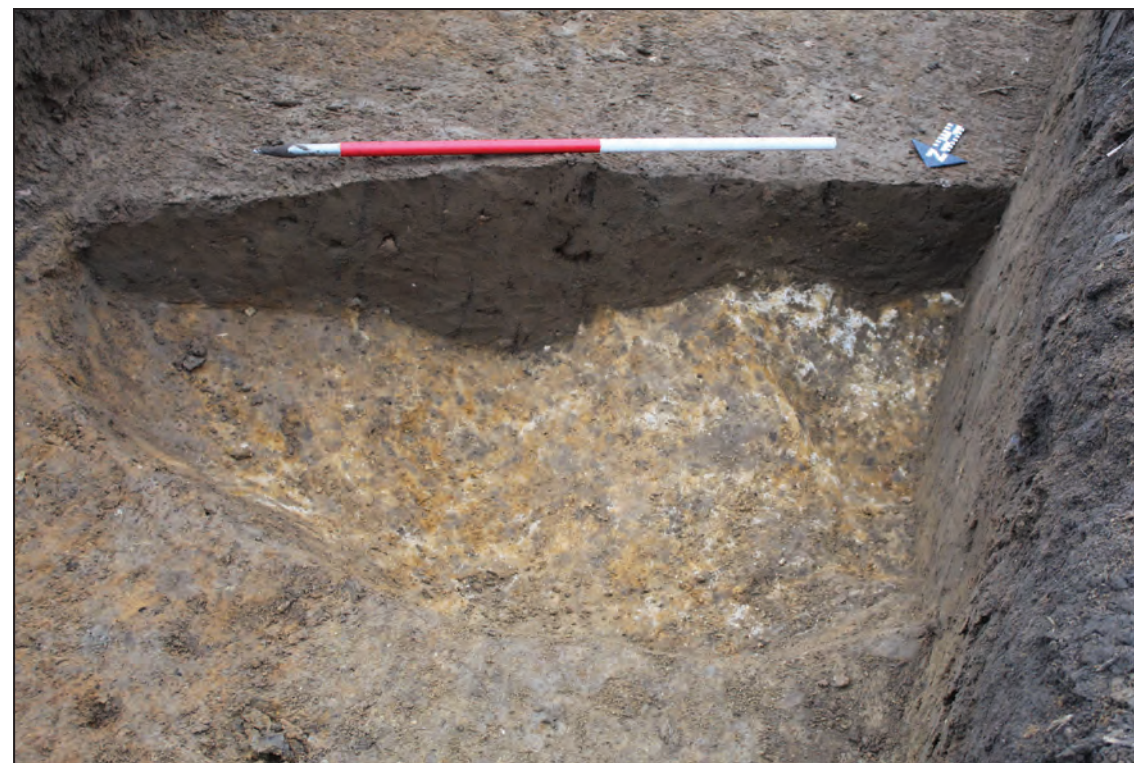
Section EE



Section FF



Ditch 403, looking north-east (0.5m scale)



Ditch terminus 405, looking south-east (1m scale)

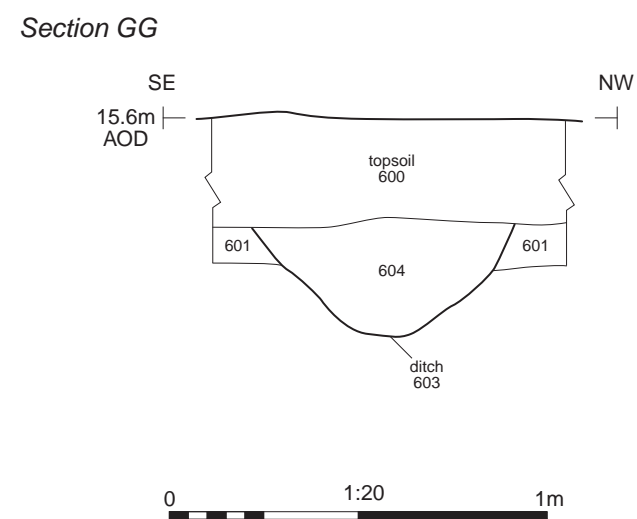
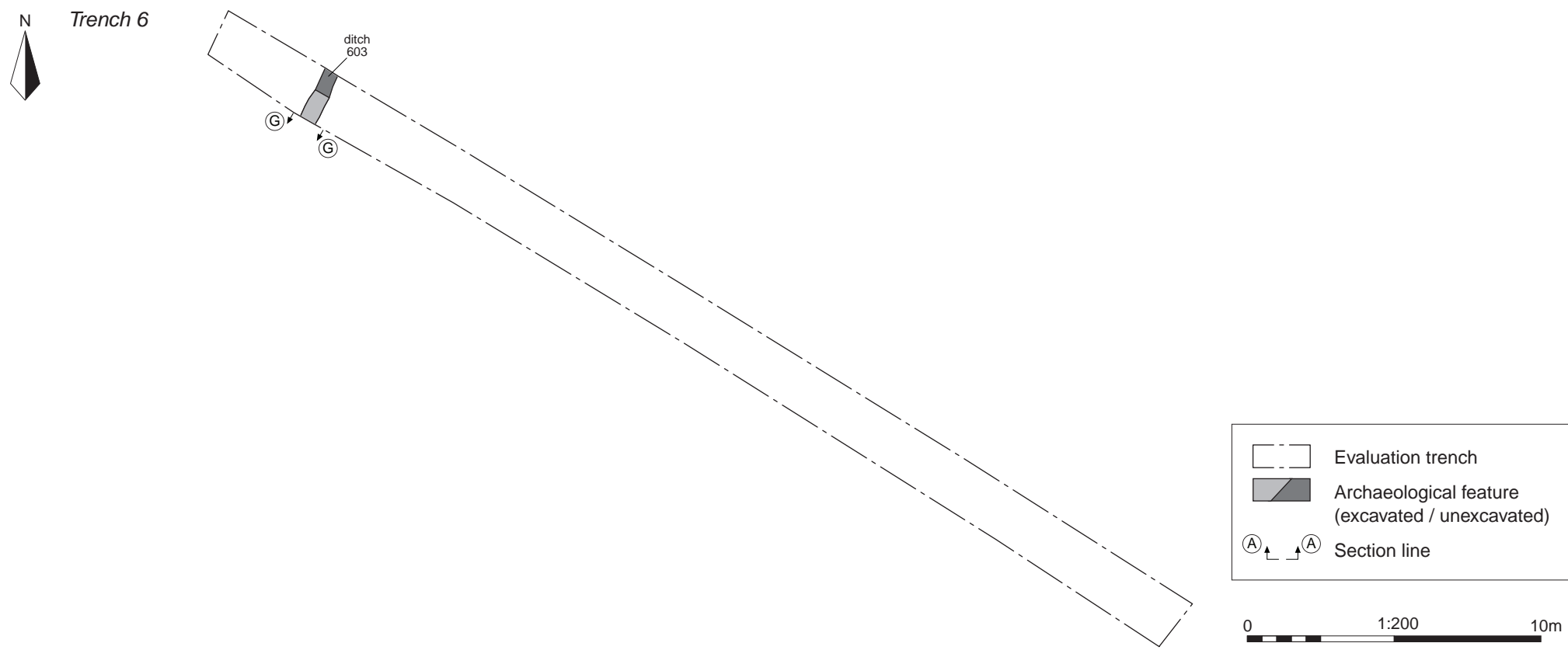
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Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
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 Cambridgeshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 4: plan, sections and
 photographs

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



Ditch 603, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

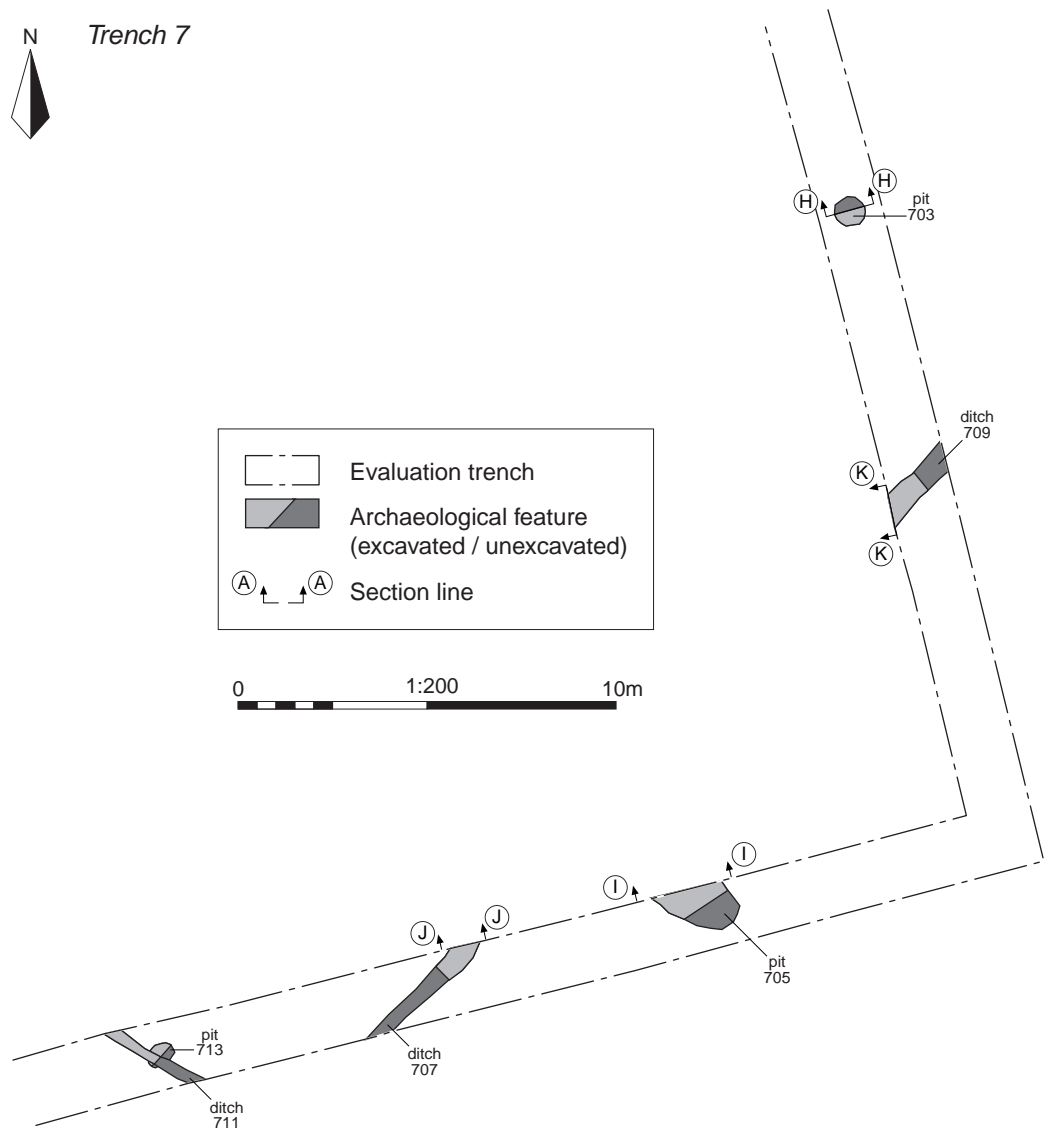
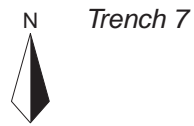
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 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

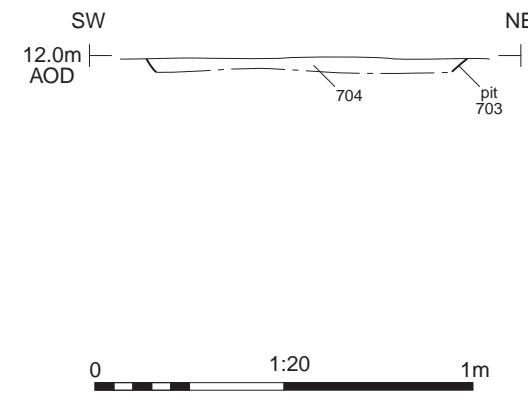
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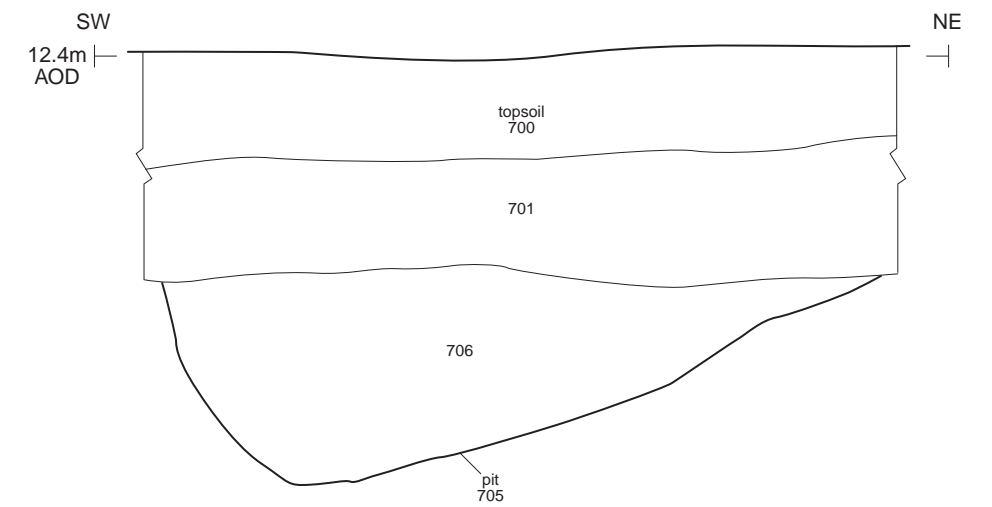
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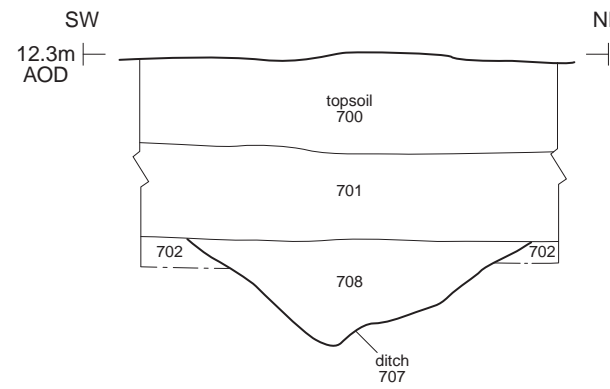
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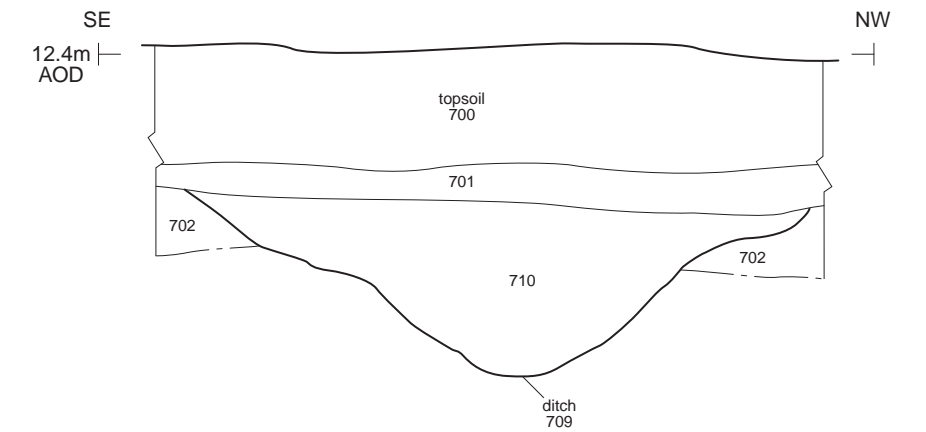
Section II



Section JJ



Section KK



Pit (possible cremation) 703, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



Pit 705, looking north-east (1m scale)

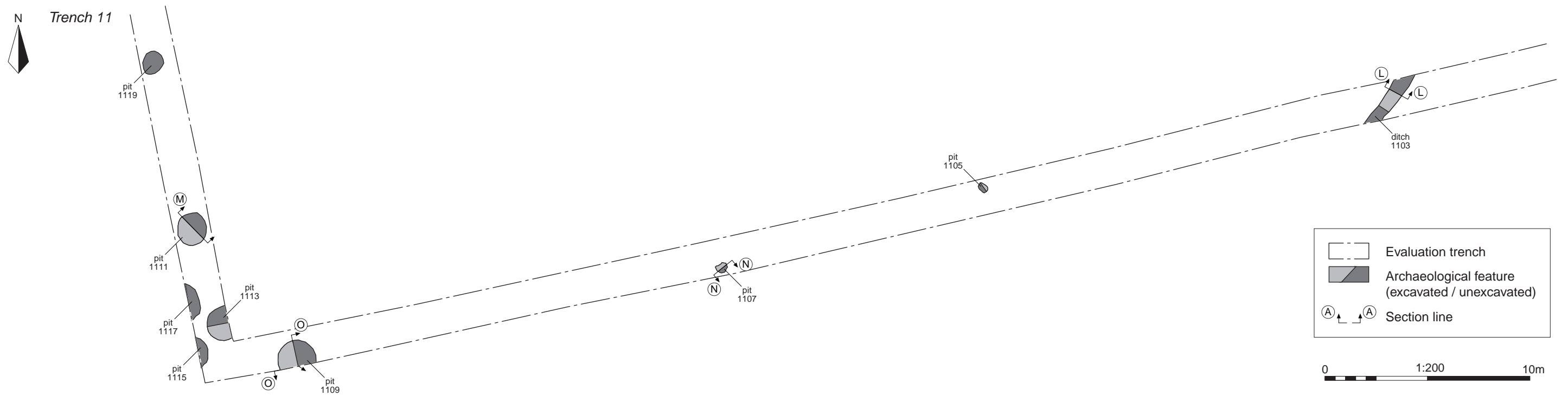


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 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

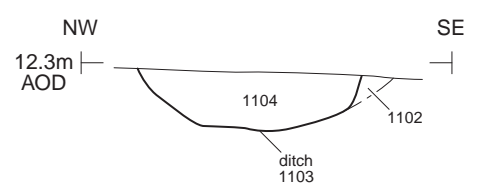
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 Cambridgeshire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 7: plan, sections and
 photographs**

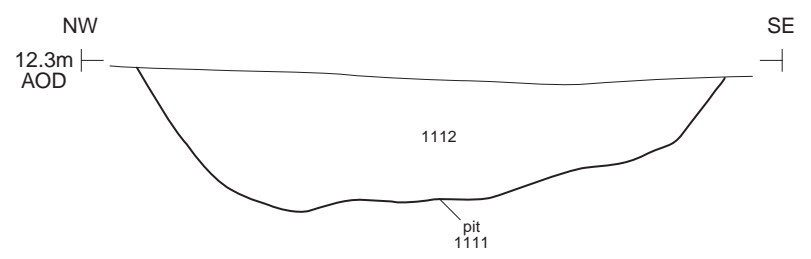
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	27/02/2020	7
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE @A3	1:200, 1:20	



Section LL



Section MM



Ditch 1103, looking north-east (0.5m scale)



Pit 1111, looking north-east (1m scale)

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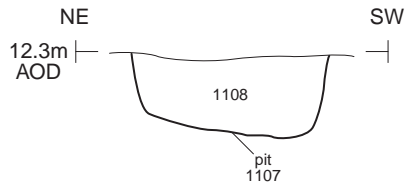
Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
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 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire

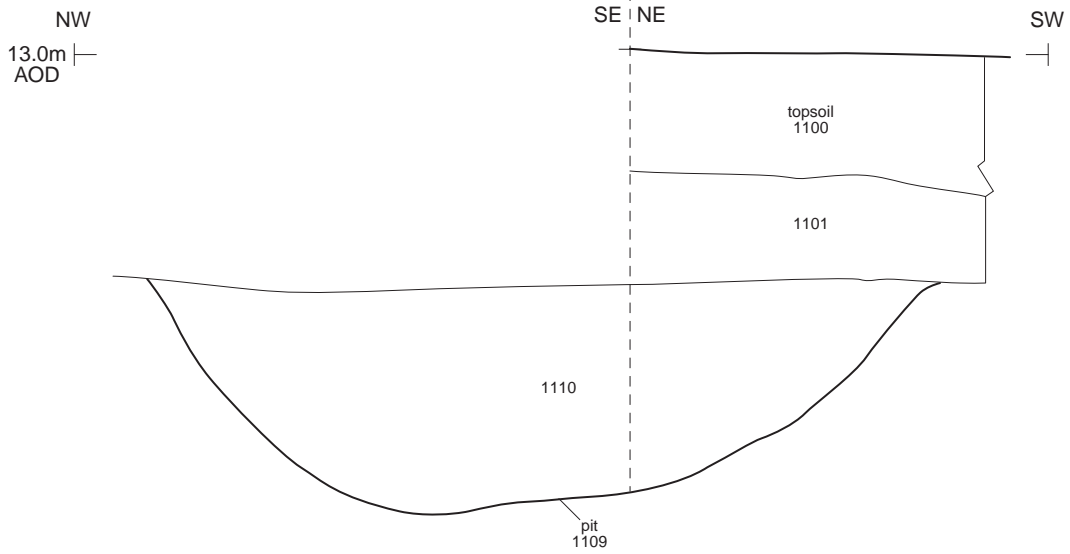
FIGURE TITLE
Trench 11: plan, sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	SU0088	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	27/02/2020	8
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	

Section NN



Section OO



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PROJECT TITLE

Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham,
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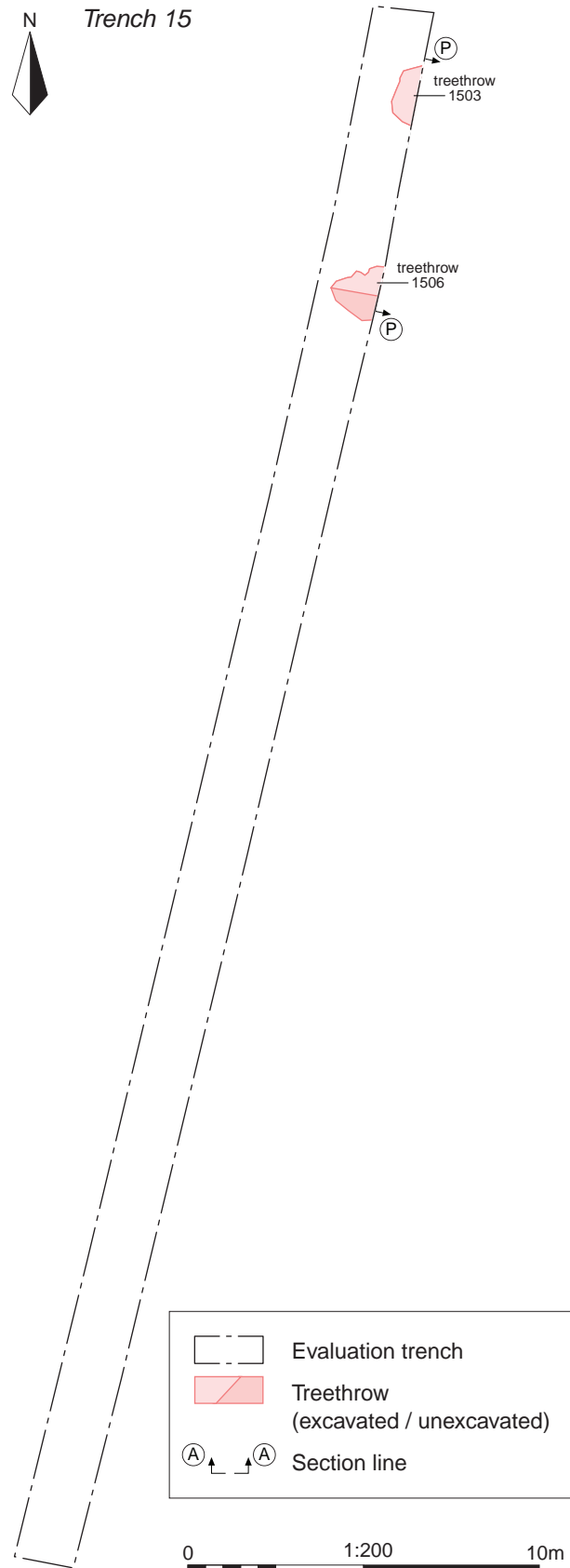
FIGURE TITLE

Trench 11: sections

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	27/02/2020	
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE@A4	1:20	9

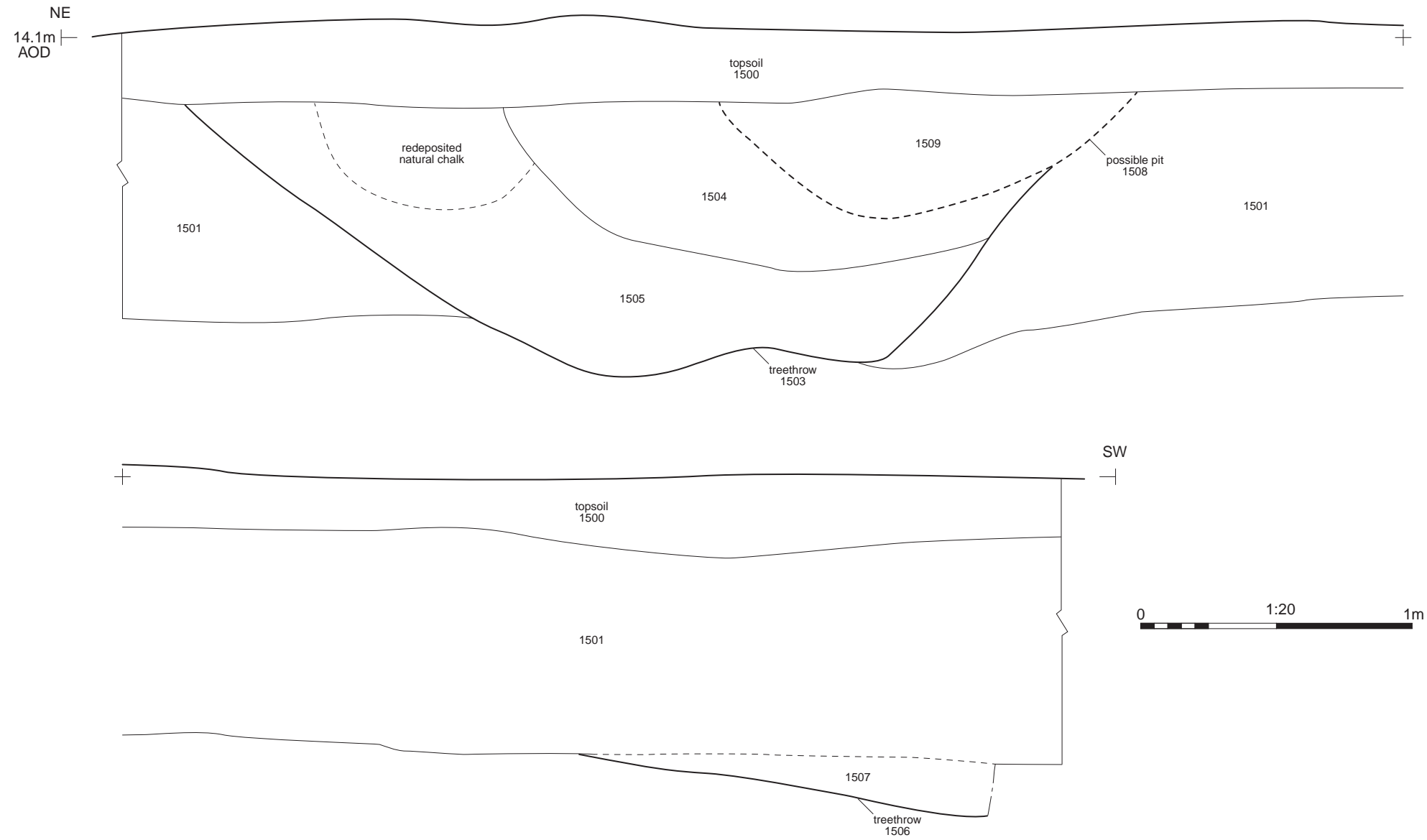


Trench 15



	Evaluation trench
	Treethrow (excavated / unexcavated)
	Section line

Section PP



Trench 15, looking south-west (1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE
 Bottisham Meadows, Bottisham,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 15: plan, section and
 photograph**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	27/02/2020	10
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



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



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



Trench 12, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 16, looking south-west (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Selection of blank trenches:
 photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	27/02/2020	
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE	@A3 NA	11

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

