

Land to the north-west of Junction 7 of the A1(M) Knebworth Park, Stevenage Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

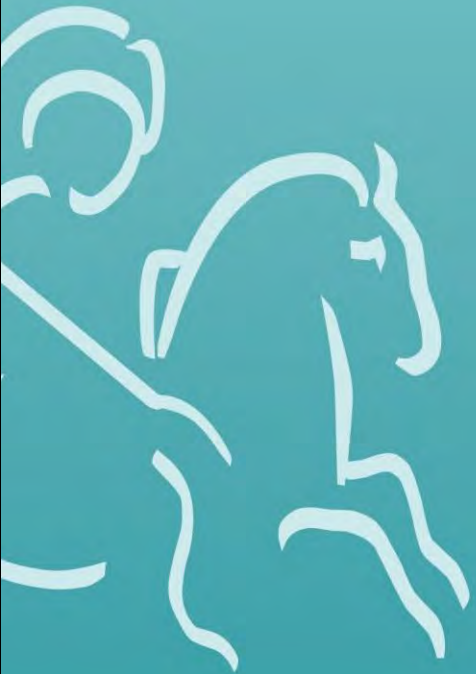


for:
HCUK Group

on behalf of:
GRIDSERVE Sustainable Energy Ltd.

CA Project: MK0740
CA Report: MK0740_1

August 2022



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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land to the north-west of Junction 7 of the A1(M)
Location:	Knebworth Park, Stevenage, Hertfordshire
NGR:	523387 222512
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	20–23 June 2022
Planning reference:	21/00536/FPM
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Stevenage Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	NWJS22

In June 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the north-west of Junction 7 of the A1(M), Knebworth Park, Hertfordshire, at the request of HCUK Group, acting on behalf of GRIDSERVE Sustainable Energy Ltd. A total of 17 trenches were excavated across the 2.3ha site in advance of the construction of an electric vehicle charging station with ancillary retail unit and associated infrastructure and landscaping.

The fieldwork revealed only a small number of archaeological features, including ditches likely representative of activity on the edge of a Late Iron Age and/or very early Roman settlement.

Two south-west to north-east aligned ditches containing 1st to 2nd century pottery were recorded in Trenches 13 and 14 respectively. Trench 17 revealed the probable continuation of the ditch identified in Trench 14. The relatively large assemblages of predominantly 1st century pottery and large volume of cereal grains recovered from the fills of the ditch in Trench 14 indicate a focal point of domestic activity in the area immediately to the south and south-west.

The pottery assemblage is predominantly utilitarian in nature, with some evidence for vessels relating to the service and consumption of food and liquids. The dominance of coarsewares suggests relatively low status activity associated with general domestic usage. The small quantities of regional and imported wares indicate limited access to both regional

and Continental markets. Several fragments of possible burnt daub were also identified within the fired clay assemblage, suggesting the presence of domestic or industrial structures in the vicinity.

Evidence of medieval/post-medieval agricultural activity was identified in the form of two furrows located in Trench 4. It appears likely that any other furrows that may have been present have been previously destroyed through modern deep ploughing, and/or during groundworks associated with the construction of the modern A1(M) and the Novotel hotel complex and associated infrastructure immediately adjacent to the Site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In June 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land north-west of Junction 7 of the A1(M), Knebworth Park, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (hereafter 'the Site'; centred at NGR: 523387 222512; see Fig. 1). The fieldwork was undertaken at the request of HCUK Group, acting on behalf of GRIDSERVE Sustainable Energy Ltd.

1.2. Planning permission has been granted by Stevenage Borough Council (SBC; the local planning authority) for the *erection of electric vehicle charging station with ancillary retail unit, associated electrical infrastructure, car parking and landscaping* (planning ref: 21/00536/FPM). Condition 25 of this planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological works:

25 The development shall take place/commence in accordance with the programme of archaeological works set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation by HCUK dated February 2022. During construction, should the approved scheme of investigation identify archaeological remains that merit further archaeological investigation (such as open area excavation, or a watching brief on groundworks), additional documentation detailing an appropriate programme of works shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

***REASON:-** To ensure the preservation of potential remains of the site following archaeological investigation.*

1.3. This evaluation represents the first stage of the programme of archaeological works, the scope of which was defined in comments on the initial planning application provided by Alison Tinniswood, Senior Historic Environment Advisor at Hertfordshire County Council (HCCSHEA), the archaeological advisor to SBC. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by HCUK Group (2022) and approved by the HCCSHEA. The fieldwork was monitored by the HCCSHEA by way of a site meeting carried out via video call on 22 June 2022.

1.4. The evaluation was also in line with the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2020a), *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 development site is approximately 2.3ha in extent and lies to the west of the A1(M) Junction 7, immediately to the north of the Novotel Stevenage hotel. The Site, which forms part of the Knebworth Estate, is presently laid to grass, and is bounded to the east by the A1(M), and to the north, west, and south by further grass fields. The ground level lies at approximately 100m AOD, rising sharply to the south and east where the embankments for the roundabout over the A1(M) junction, and the access road to the Knebworth Estate, are situated.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the Site is mapped as chalk of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation (undifferentiated), both sedimentary bedrock deposits formed approximately 90 to 101 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS 2022).
- 1.7. Superficial glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel are mapped along the eastern edge and south-eastern part of the Site. Within the westernmost portion of the Site, superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation diamicton are also recorded. Both superficial deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Site has previously been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (ADBA; HCUK 2021). A summary of the findings of the ADBA is provided below, including the findings of a search of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER).

Designated heritage assets

- 2.2. There are two designated archaeological heritage assets in the vicinity of the Site. Knebworth Park (NHLE1000255), a Registered Grade II* Historic Park and Garden, is located c.450m to the south of the Site, comprising a mid-19th century formal scheme garden around an early 16th century country house, Knebworth House, with 19th century additions. The house lies c.2km to the south of the Site.

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- 2.3. One scheduled monument, The Six Hills Roman Barrows (NHLE1015579), is located c.1.1km north of the Site and represents the largest group of burial mounds dating to the Roman period in England (HCUK Group 2021).

Prehistoric

- 2.4. A Neolithic flint implement (MHT2239) and an axe (MHR612) have been found approximately 1.2km north of the Site. The cropmark of a ring ditch (MHT7958) is located 900m to the north-west.

Roman

- 2.5. The HHER records ten archaeological heritage assets of Roman date within the area surrounding the Site, including seven assets which form part of The Six Hills Roman Barrows scheduled monument (MHT1577, MHT26, MHT4291, MHT4292, MHT4293, MHT4294 and MHT4295).
- 2.6. The line of a probable Roman road (MHT10565), following London Road, is recorded as passing in a roughly north/south-east direction on the western side of the Six Hills Roman Barrows alignment. Whilst other Roman finds, including Roman pottery (MHT1251) have been identified in the area which may indicate some degree of Roman activity, the only known Roman settlement at Stevenage is located on the eastern side of the town, at Chells Hill. Despite the Site's relative proximity to the possible Roman Road and the Six Hills Roman Barrow, only few finds of Roman material have been recorded to date.

Early medieval and medieval

- 2.7. A Saxon spearhead (MHT1627) has been recovered 750m south-east of the Site.
- 2.8. Stevenage is recorded as an established settlement of 28 households in the Domesday Book of 1086, indicating a level of continued settlement activity beyond the end of the Roman period.
- 2.9. A series of cropmarks at Norton Green (MHT6645), c.950m to the north of the Site, are recorded by the HHER as medieval in date.

Post-medieval

- 2.10. Three further records are of medieval to post-medieval date which include: the hamlet of Norton Green (MHT30281), c.900m north of the Site; the remains of ridge

and furrow strip fields (MHT13584), c.600m north-west of the Site; and trackways within the Knebworth Estate (MHT9068), c.700m south of the Site.

- 2.11. The Site has been located within the belt of agricultural land surrounding Stevenage since at least the 19th century.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains;
- To record the character, date, location, and preservation of any archaeological remains on Site; and
- To record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remain on Site.

- 3.2. The specific aims of the investigation were:

- To excavate seventeen trenches to expose the surface of any underlying archaeological horizon or the natural ground:
- To clean the base and representative sections of the trenches and record them in both plan and representative section;
- To partially excavate any identified archaeological features so as to ascertain their extent, form, function and where possible date; and
- To inform the need (or otherwise) for any future archaeological works on the site by means of an illustrated report.

- 3.3. This information will enable SBC, as advised by the HCCSHEA, 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. This process is in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

- 3.4. General objective of the projects were:

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- To undertake the archaeological evaluation to provide further information prior to the construction of the proposed development;
 - To undertake work in accordance with national best practice and guidelines;
 - To archaeologically record any deposits, features or structures of significance);
 - To analyse any remains with reference to the existing documentary evidence for historical development and land use;
 - To produce a written account to include: summary, site description, deposit descriptions, deposit levels (relative to Ordnance Datum) and conclusions;
 - To disseminate the findings of the work in an illustrated report, integrating the findings of the archaeological evaluation to produce as comprehensive a record as possible; and
 - Provide an ordered archive.

3.5. Due to the limited results of the fieldwork, no meaningful contributions can be made at this stage to research objectives identified in the *East of England Regional Research Framework* (RFN 2022).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 17no. trenches measuring 30m long by 2m wide, and one trench measuring 20m long by 2m wide, in the locations shown on Figure 2.

4.2. The trenches were located to test anomalies identified on LiDAR imagery, and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the Site. Trench 13 was excavated slightly to the east of its original position due to the presence of overhead services in the original trench location. Due to the presence of several buried services, Trench 17 was relocated from its original position at the south-eastern part of the Site to a location immediately adjacent to and running parallel to Trench 14. The trench was excavated to a length of 20m, with the remaining linear trenching capacity utilised to add extensions to Trenches 1, 2 and 3, which were excavated perpendicular to their original intended alignment. These extensions targeted geological variations observed in the original trenches which had the potential to be

archaeological in nature. All amendments to the trench layouts were approved by the HCCSHEA.

- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned, and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. 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 Stevenage Museum for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (ClfA 2020b)*.
- 4.8. 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, and details of the environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) can be found in Section 7 and Appendix C.
- 5.2. The natural geological substrate varied across the Site, with mid orange-brown compact sandy clay being observed in the western portion, in Trenches 5 and 7 –

13, and mid yellow brown friable sandy silt with frequent flint inclusions across the eastern part of the Site in Trenches 1 – 4, 6 and 14 – 17. The natural substrate was sealed in Trenches 1 – 15 and 17 by subsoil deposits of mid grey-brown compact sandy silt, measuring between 0.2m and 0.5m thick. No subsoil was observed in Trench 16, possibly due to previous disturbance caused by groundworks in relation to the adjacent Novotel complex and associated buried services. All trenches were sealed by topsoil comprising mid grey-brown friable sandy silt measuring between 0.1m and 0.3m thick.

- 5.3. No archaeological remains or deposits were identified within Trenches 1 – 3, 5 – 12, 15 and 16, and these trenches will not be discussed in further detail as part of this report. General views of the site and photographs of blank trenches are presented in Figures 5-9.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2, 3 and 10)

- 5.4. Two north-east/south-west aligned furrows were encountered running across the central and south-eastern part of Trench 4.
- 5.5. Furrow 403, near the north-western end of the trench, measured 1.25m wide and 0.11m deep, with shallow, concave sides and an uneven base. The furrow was infilled by a single deposit (404) of naturally deposited mid grey-brown compact silty sand from which no finds were recovered. Approximately 10m to the south-east of furrow 403, furrow 405 was recorded in plan only, running on a roughly parallel alignment.

Trench 13 (Figs. 2, 3 and 11)

- 5.6. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 1303 was identified at the north-western end of Trench 13. The feature measured 2.7m wide and 0.44m deep, with a steep, convex south-eastern side, a shallow, stepped north-western side, and a concave base. Ditch 1303 was infilled by a single deposit (1304) of dark grey brown compact silty clay from which three sherds of mid-1st to 2nd century Iron Age/Roman pottery were recovered.
- 5.7. The location of ditch 1303 within the trench broadly corresponds with a north-west/south-east aligned anomaly on the LiDAR mapping, however the feature's alignment markedly differs from that of the LiDAR anomaly.

Trenches 14 and 17 (Figs. 2, 4 & 12)

- 5.8. Ditch 1403 ran on a north-east/south-west alignment across the centre of Trench 14, measuring 2.4m wide and 0.78m deep with steep, concaves side and a rounded base. The ditch was filled by a lower deposit (1404) of light grey-brown compact silty clay 1404, measuring 0.34m thick, which produced a large assemblage of mid 1st to 2nd century Iron Age/Roman pottery as well as seven fragments of fired clay. This was overlain by a charcoal-rich fill (1405) of dark grey-brown compact silty clay, measuring 0.09m thick, which produced another large assemblage of mid-1st to 2nd century pottery, as well as nine fragments of fired clay. A bulk soil sample (sample no. 1; see below) contained charcoal as well as a large proportion of crop processing material. The feature was sealed by an upper fill (1406) of light grey-brown compact silty clay measuring 0.35m thick. A total of seven fragments of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery were recovered from the upper fill.
- 5.9. Trench 17 was excavated parallel to and immediately to the north-east of Trench 14, in order to explore the possible continuation of ditch 1403. Ditch 1703 was aligned north-west/south-east, running across the northern half of Trench 17. Although the feature was recorded in plan only, the similarity of the uppermost fill to that of ditch 1403, and the spatial relationship between the two ditches suggest that they form part of the same feature, likely the corner of a Romano-British rectilinear enclosure or boundary ditch.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. The artefactual material was recorded from four deposits: the fills of ditch 1303 and ditch 1403 (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand and from one bulk soil sample and 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 (Table 1) 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 (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (Barclay et al. 2016) and cross-referenced where appropriate the National Roman Fabrics Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

6.3. The assemblage comprises 177 sherds, weighing 2111g. The group is in moderately poor condition; most fractures and surfaces exhibit significant signs of wear. The mean sherd weight is moderately high for a largely Roman assemblage at 11.9g.

Late Iron Age/Roman

6.4. Most of the assemblage derives from three fills of ditch 1403, with just three sherds from ditch 1304. Imported wares are limited to two sherds (9g) of South Gaulish samian ware (LGF SA) from ditch 1403. These date to the mid-1st to early 2nd centuries AD (Webster 1996).

6.5. The oxidised wares include sandy white wares (UNS SW) and Verulamium-region white ware (VER WH). A butt beaker made in Romanised fabric UNS SW is likely to date to the mid to late 1st century AD. The two small sherds (11g) of Verulamium-region white ware (VER WH) are otherwise undiagnostic; this ware was made relatively local to Stevenage, approximately 14 miles to the southwest, during the mid-1st to 2nd centuries AD (Davies et.al. 1994). Slipped wares are also uncommon, represented by two sherds (18g) of an unsourced white-slipped ware (UNS WS) dating to the mid-1st to 2nd centuries AD, found in ditch 1403. Both sherds form part of a flange, probably from a *mortaria*, and are likely from the same vessel.

6.6. The remainder of the assemblage is dominated by transitional Late Iron Age/Early Roman fabrics, with the most commonly recorded being wheelthrown grog-tempered wares (SOB GT: 111 sherds, 1518g; UNS GR: two sherds, 18g). Grog-tempered forms include a butt beaker and a straight-walled platter, most likely copying the Gallo-Belgic form Cam.I; both date to the early to mid-1st century AD (Thompson 1982, 507, G5-1 and 441, G1-1 respectively). Identifiable forms in the sandy wares include a wide-mouthed everted-rim jar (UNS Q), probably of 1st century AD date (Thompson 1982, B3-1). A small quantity of shell-tempered pottery was also recovered (five sherds, 21g; UNS SH); a lid seated jar was recorded in this fabric. The use of this vessel form was most common between the mid-1st to 2nd centuries AD, although some examples are known to pre-date the conquest (Thompson 1982, 245). The origins of these coarseware fabrics, including the shell-tempered wares, is uncertain but they are most likely of local production.

Summary

- 6.7. The pottery is entirely of Late Iron Age/Roman date; with most diagnostic sherds probably of 1st century AD date. The assemblage is utilitarian in nature; where present vessel types consist primarily of jars, with the addition of a platter and beakers, the latter two indicating use associated with the service and consumption of food and liquids. The dominance of coarsewares suggests relatively low status activity associated with general domestic usage. The small quantities of wares from the Verulamium-region, Oxfordshire and South Gaul indicate limited access to both regional and Continental markets.

Fired clay

- 6.8. The assemblage consists of 16 fragments (264g) of fired clay recovered from two deposits. The assemblage is made in oxidised medium sandy fabrics (ms) with some clay pellet (cp) or shell (sh) inclusions. Four fragments exhibit flat surfaces and one fragment preserves round-sectioned, probable wattle, impressions and it is probable these represent fragments of burnt daub. This material is most likely derived from domestic or industrial structures and has probably preserved as a result of accidental 'firing'.

Further work and selection strategy

- 6.9. The finds have been recorded in sufficient detail at this stage and no further work is required. The assemblage has the potential for further analysis and the pottery is recommended for long-term curation. The remainder of the fired clay should be retained in the short-term and a decision made on their retention in light of any further works that may be carried out at the site.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Plant macrofossils

- 7.1. A single environmental sample (32 litres of soil) was processed from a Late Iron Age to Early Roman Ditch in Trench 14. This was done to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains in the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

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- 7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 3, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals.
- 7.3. The flot was moderately large in size with a low number of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material was generally moderately preserved. Due to this preservation level, it was difficult to identify some of the charred cereal grains to species, but where possible this was achieved.
- 7.4. Any dates discussed within this report have been obtained through the dating of finds (see Banks, this report).

Trench 14, Ditch 1403

- 7.5. Sample 1 from middle fill 1405 of ditch 1403 contained a large volume of cereal grains, including grains of hulled wheat (emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*)), spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). Some of the spelt grains were still in their spikelets. A large number of hulled wheat glume fragments and rachis fragments were also noted, with glumes from spelt wheat dominating the assemblage. A small number of coleoptile fragments were observed in the assemblage. Alongside the large volume of cereal remains, a high number of charred seeds were noted and includes seeds of curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), sheep's-sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.), oat (*Avena* sp.), oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), and red bartsia (*Odontites vernus (Bellardi) Dumort*). A single charred bud and a small number of charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shells were also noted within the assemblage. A moderately large quantity of charcoal was recovered and includes fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) wood and non-oak wood.
- 7.6. This assemblage is likely to be representative of a dump of crop processing waste material, specifically late-stage crop processing. Late-stage crop processing is the stage at which the first sieving process has taken place and during which contaminants coarser than grain are removed, leaving an assemblage of grains, occasional rachis/awn fragments and weed seeds (Hillman 1984).
- 7.7. The weed seeds are those of species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments and are likely to have been brought on to site with the crops. There is also an indication of the exploitation of a variety of different environment types such

as lighter drier calcareous soils as favoured by species such as red bartsia, more acidic sandier soils as favoured by sheep's sorrel, damper soils as used by species such as curled docks, and hedgerow/woodland edge environments typical of species such as hazelnut.

Summary

- 7.8. The environmental assemblage suggests that crop processing activities were taking place in the nearby vicinity of Trench 14 during the Roman period.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. Despite the potential for archaeological remains identified by the LiDAR data, very few archaeological features were recorded during the course of the evaluation. No features of any type or period were observed in trenches 1– 3, 5– 12, 15, and 16. The potential features investigated in the extensions to trenches 1, 2, and 3 were shown to be of natural/geological origin.

Late Iron Age/Roman

- 8.2. The earliest features identified within the Site were ditches 1303 and 1403/1703. Although not identifiable on the LiDAR data, these ditches likely represent activity on the edge of and within the immediate hinterland of a Late Iron Age and/or Early Roman settlement.
- 8.3. The change in the alignment of ditch 1403/1703, from east/west to north-west/south-east, potentially suggests the presence of a rectilinear enclosure extending southward from Trenches 14 and 17. The relatively large assemblages of predominantly 1st century pottery and large volume of cereal grains recovered from the fills of ditch 1403 indicate a focal point of domestic activity in the area, most likely immediately to the south and south-west.
- 8.4. The pottery assemblage is predominantly utilitarian in nature, comprising mainly jars, with the addition of a platter and beakers, the latter two indicating use associated with the service and consumption of food and liquids. The dominance of coarsewares suggests relatively low status activity associated with general domestic usage, although the small quantities of wares from the Verulamium-region, Oxfordshire and South Gaul indicate some, albeit limited, access to both regional and Continental markets.

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- 8.5. Several fragments of fired clay were also shown to exhibit features suggestive of burnt daub and it is considered likely that this material was derived from domestic or industrial structures in the vicinity.
- 8.6. The environmental assemblage, recovered from a bulk soil sample of ditch 1403, is likely representative of a dump of late-stage crop processing waste.

Medieval/post-medieval

- 8.7. Furrows 403 and 405, in Trench 4, were the only surviving remnants of a poorly preserved ridge and furrow agricultural system dating to the medieval/post-medieval period. This north-east/south-west aligned system is indicated on LiDAR mapping alongside the modern A1(M) carriageway.
- 8.8. It appears likely that most of the furrows have been previously destroyed through modern deep ploughing, and during groundworks associated with the construction of the A1(M) carriageway and junction, the Novotel hotel complex and associated infrastructure immediately adjacent to the Site.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by James Coyne, assisted by Trudy Craig and Jacopo Gelmi. This report was written by James Coyne. The finds reports were written by Laura Pearson and Pete Banks, and the biological evidence report was produced by Emma Aitken. The report illustrations were prepared by Li Sou. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Molly Agnew-Henshaw. The project was managed for CA by Daniele Pirisino.

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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	Mid grey-brown friable sandy silt.	30	2	0.1
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt, with occasional small stones, flint and chalk inclusions.	30	2	0.5
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown compact silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.	30	2	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown friable sandy silt.	30	2	0.1
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt, with occasional small stones and chalk inclusions.	30	2	0.38
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown compact silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.	30	2	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown friable sandy silt.	30	2	0.2
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt, with occasional flint inclusions.	30	2	0.35
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown compact silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.	30	2	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown friable sandy silt.	30	2	0.1
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt, with occasional flint inclusions.	30	2	0.25
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown compact silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.	30	2	
4	403	Cut		Cut of furrow	Cut of NE-SW aligned furrow with shallow, irregular sides and uneven base.	>1.0	1.25	0.11
4	404	Fill	404	Fill of furrow	Mid grey-brown compact silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.	>1.0	1.25	0.11
4	405	Cut		Cut of furrow	Cut of NE-SW aligned furrow.	>1.0	1.2	
4	406	Fill	405	Fill of furrow	Mid grey-brown compact silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.	>1.0	1.2	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown friable sandy silt.	30	2	0.3
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.27
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown compact sandy clay.	30	2	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown friable sandy silt.	30	2	0.1
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.25
6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown friable sandy silt with frequent flint inclusions.	30	2	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown friable sandy silt.	30	2	0.1
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.3
7	702	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown compact sandy clay.	30	2	

8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.26
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.3
8	802	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown compact sandy clay.	30	2	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.2
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.44
9	902	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown compact sandy clay.	30	2	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.22
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.42
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown compact sandy clay.	30	2	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.3
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.28
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown compact sandy clay.	30	2	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown compact silty sand.	30	2	0.1
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey-brown compact silty sand.	30	2	0.32
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown compact sandy clay.	30	2	
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown compact silty sand.	30	2	0.1
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt with moderate small stones.	30	2	0.52
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown compact sandy clay.	30	2	
13	1303	Cut		Cut of ditch	Cut of ditch aligned NE-SW, with steep, convex SE side, shallow, stepped NW side, and rounded base with gradual break of slope.	>1.0	2.7	0.44
13	1304	Fill	1303	Fill of ditch	Dark grey-brown, compact silty clay with occasional small stones and flint inclusions. Contains Roman pottery.	>1.0	2.7	0.44
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown compact silty sand.	30	2	0.18
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown compact sandy silt.	30	2	0.3
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown friable silty sand, with frequent flint inclusions.	30	2	
14	1403	Cut		Cut of ditch	Cut of boundary ditch, aligned E-W, with steep sides and rounded base.	>1.0	2.15	0.77
14	1404	Fill	1403	Fill of ditch	Light grey-brown compact silty clay, with occasional flint inclusions. Contains abundant Roman pottery and CBM.	>1.0	2.15	0.37
14	1405	Fill	1403	Fill of ditch	Dark grey-brown, compact with moderate small stones, flint inclusions and charcoal flecks. Contains Roman pottery and CBM.	>1.0	0.55	0.09
14	1406	Fill	1403	Fill of ditch	Light grey-brown, silty clay, compact, with occasional small stones and flint	>1.0	0.55	0.35

					inclusions. Contains Roman pottery.			
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown loose silty sand.	30	2	0.2
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange-brown compact silty sand.	30	2	0.2
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact silty sand.	30	2	
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid orange-brown friable silty sand.	30	2	0.2
16	1601	Layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown friable silty sand with frequent flint inclusions	30	2	
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown friable sandy silt.	20	2	0.25
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown compact sandy silt with occasional small stones, flints and chalk inclusions.	20	2	0.35
17	1702	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown friable silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.	20	2	
17	1703	Cut		Cut of ditch	Cut of boundary ditch, aligned NE-SW. Unexcavated.	>9	2.1	
17	1704	Fill	1703	Fill of ditch	Light grey-brown compact silty clay. Unexcavated.	>9	2.1	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Find Concordance.

Context	Class	SS	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1304	Roman pottery		Verulamium-region white ware	VER WH	1	8	MC1-C2
	LIA/Roman pottery		Southern British grog-tempered ware	SOB GT	2	14	
1404	Roman pottery		La Graufesenque South Gaulish samian ware	LGF SA	1	3	MC1-EC2
	Roman pottery		Un sourced sandy white ware	UNS SW	3	16	
	Roman pottery		Un sourced sandy grey ware	UNS SG	9	47	
	LIA/Roman pottery		Southern British grog-tempered ware	SOB GT	61	910	
	Roman pottery		Un sourced shell-tempered ware	UNS SH	5	21	
	LIA/Roman pottery		Un sourced sandy transitional ware	UNS Q	1	111	
	Fired clay			mssh/mscp	7	73	
1405	Roman pottery	1	Un sourced sandy micaceous grey ware	UNS SM	2	19	MC1-C2
	Roman pottery	1	Un sourced sandy grey ware	UNS SG	2	14	
	Roman pottery	1	Un sourced grog-tempered ware	UNS GR	2	20	
	LIA/Roman pottery	1	Un sourced sandy transitional ware	UNS Q	1	10	
	Roman pottery		La Graufesenque South Gaulish samian ware	LGF SA	1	6	
	Roman pottery		Un sourced sandy white ware	UNS SW	7	67	
	Roman pottery		Un sourced sandy grey ware	UNS SG	15	99	
	Roman pottery		Un sourced white-slipped ware	UNS WS	2	18	
	Roman pottery		Verulamium-region white ware	VER WH	1	3	
	Roman pottery		Un sourced sandy oxidised ware	UNS SO	7	50	
	LIA/Roman pottery		Southern British grog-tempered ware	SOB GT	47	583	
	Fired clay		Daub	mssh/mscp/ms	9	191	
	1406	Roman pottery		Un sourced sandy micaceous grey ware	UNS SM	5	
LIA/Roman pottery			Southern British grog-tempered ware	SOB GT	1	11	
Roman pottery			Un sourced sandy grey ware	UNS SG	1	12	

*National Roman Fabric Reference Collection in bold (Tomber and Dore 1998)

Table 2: Summary of pottery by fabric.

Class	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)
LIA/Roman pottery	Southern British grog-tempered ware	SOB GT	111	1518
	Unsourced sandy transitional ware	UNS Q	2	121
	Verulamium-region white ware	VER WH	2	11
	La Graufesenque South Gaulish samian ware	LGF SA	2	9
	Unsourced sandy white ware	UNS SW	10	83

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 3: Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains.

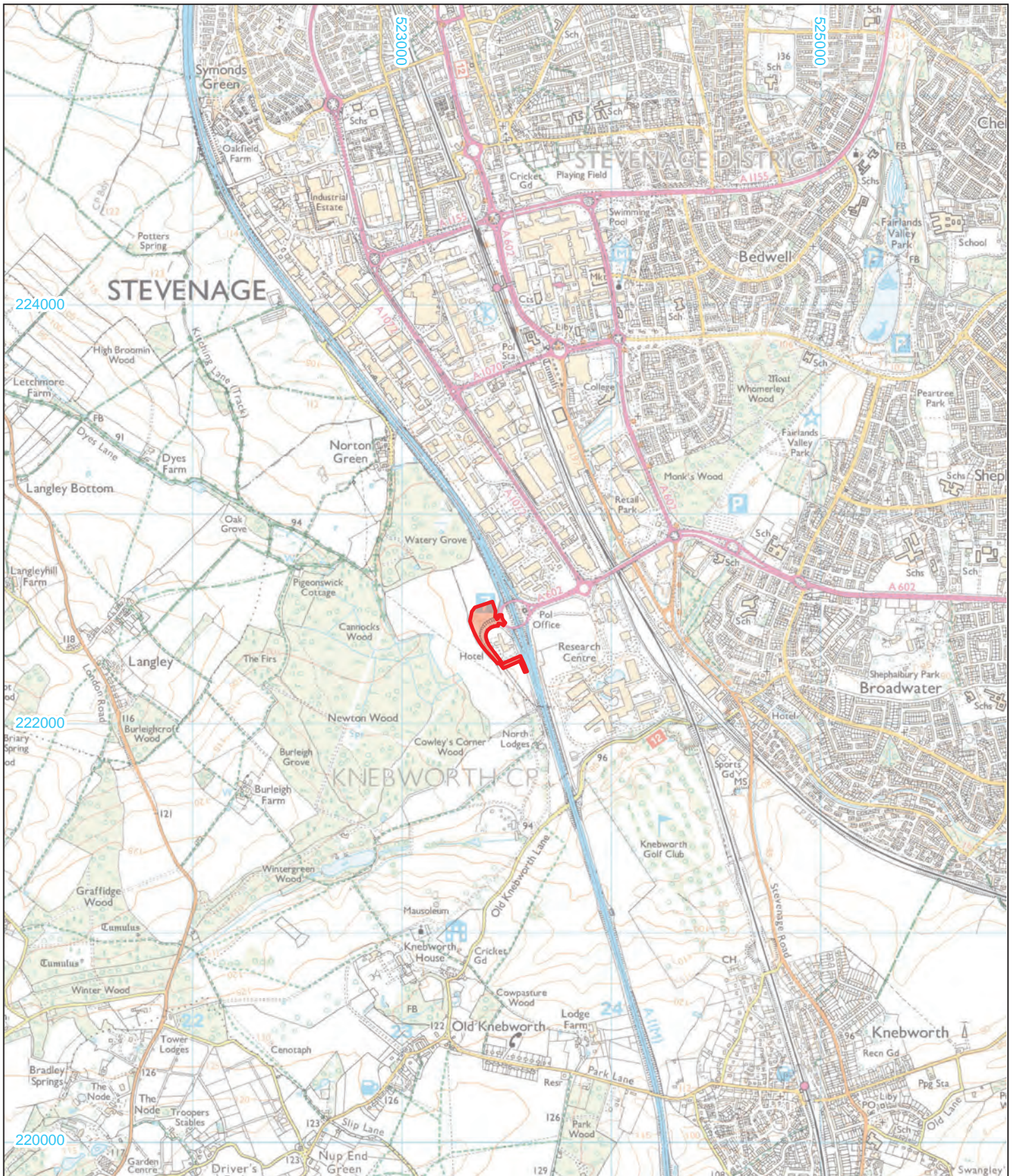
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 1												
Ditch 1403	1405	1	32	90	10	*****	*****	indet grain; hulled wheat (incl. spelt in husk*); barley; rachis; hulled wheat glume; coleoptile	*****	bud: <i>Corylus avellana</i> ; <i>Rumex crispus</i> ; <i>Rumex acetosella</i> ; <i>Lolium/Festuca</i> ; <i>Avena</i> ; <i>Avena/Bromus</i> ; <i>Odontites vernus</i>	***/*	-

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 4–20 items; *** = 21–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land to the north-west of Junction 7 of the A1(M), Knebworth Park, Stevenage, Hertfordshire	
Short description	<p>In June 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land to the north-west of Junction 7 of the A1(M), Knebworth Park, Hertfordshire, at the request of HCUK Group, acting on behalf of GRIDSERVE Sustainable Energy Ltd. A total of 17 trenches were excavated across the 2.3ha site in advance of the construction of an electric vehicle charging station with ancillary retail unit and associated infrastructure and landscaping.</p> <p>The fieldwork revealed only a small number of archaeological features, including ditches likely representative of activity on the edge of a Late Iron Age and/or very early Roman settlement.</p> <p>Two south-west to north-east aligned ditches containing 1st to 2nd century pottery were recorded in Trenches 13 and 14 respectively. Trench 17 revealed the probable continuation of the ditch identified in Trench 14. The relatively large assemblages of predominantly 1st century pottery and large volume of cereal grains recovered from the fills of the ditch in Trench 14 indicate a focal point of domestic activity in the area immediately to the south and south-west.</p> <p>The pottery assemblage is predominantly utilitarian in nature, with some evidence for vessels relating to the service and consumption of food and liquids. The dominance of coarsewares suggests relatively low status activity associated with general domestic usage. The small quantities of regional and imported wares indicate limited access to both regional and Continental markets. Several fragments of possible burnt daub were also identified within the fired clay assemblage, suggesting the presence of domestic or industrial structures in the vicinity.</p> <p>Evidence of medieval/post-medieval agricultural activity was identified in the form of two furrows located in Trench 4. It appears likely that any other furrows that may have been present have been previously destroyed through modern deep ploughing, and/or during groundworks associated with the construction of the modern A1(M) and the Novotel hotel complex and associated infrastructure immediately adjacent to the Site.</p>	
Project dates	20 – 23 June 2022	
Project type	Archaeological evaluation	
Previous work	DBA (HCUK 2022)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land to the north-west of Junction 7 of the A1(M), Knebworth Park, Stevenage, Hertfordshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	2.3ha	
Site co-ordinates	523387 222512	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Hertfordshire LEADS	
Project design (WSI) originator	HCUK Group	
Project Manager	Daniele Pirisino	
Project Supervisor	James Coyne	
MONUMENT TYPE		
Ditches (Roman); Furrows (medieval/post-medieval)		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
Pottery (Late Iron Age/Roman), fired clay, crop processing waste		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical	Stevenage Museum	Pottery, fired clay, environmental remains
Paper	Stevenage Museum	Context sheets, photographic registers, sample registers and sample recording sheets, bulk finds records.
Digital	ADS	Database, digital

		archive, digital photos, digital survey plans.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 <i>Land to the north-west of Junction 7 of the A1(M), Knebworth Park, Stevenage, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation CA typescript report MK0740_1</i>		



 Site boundary



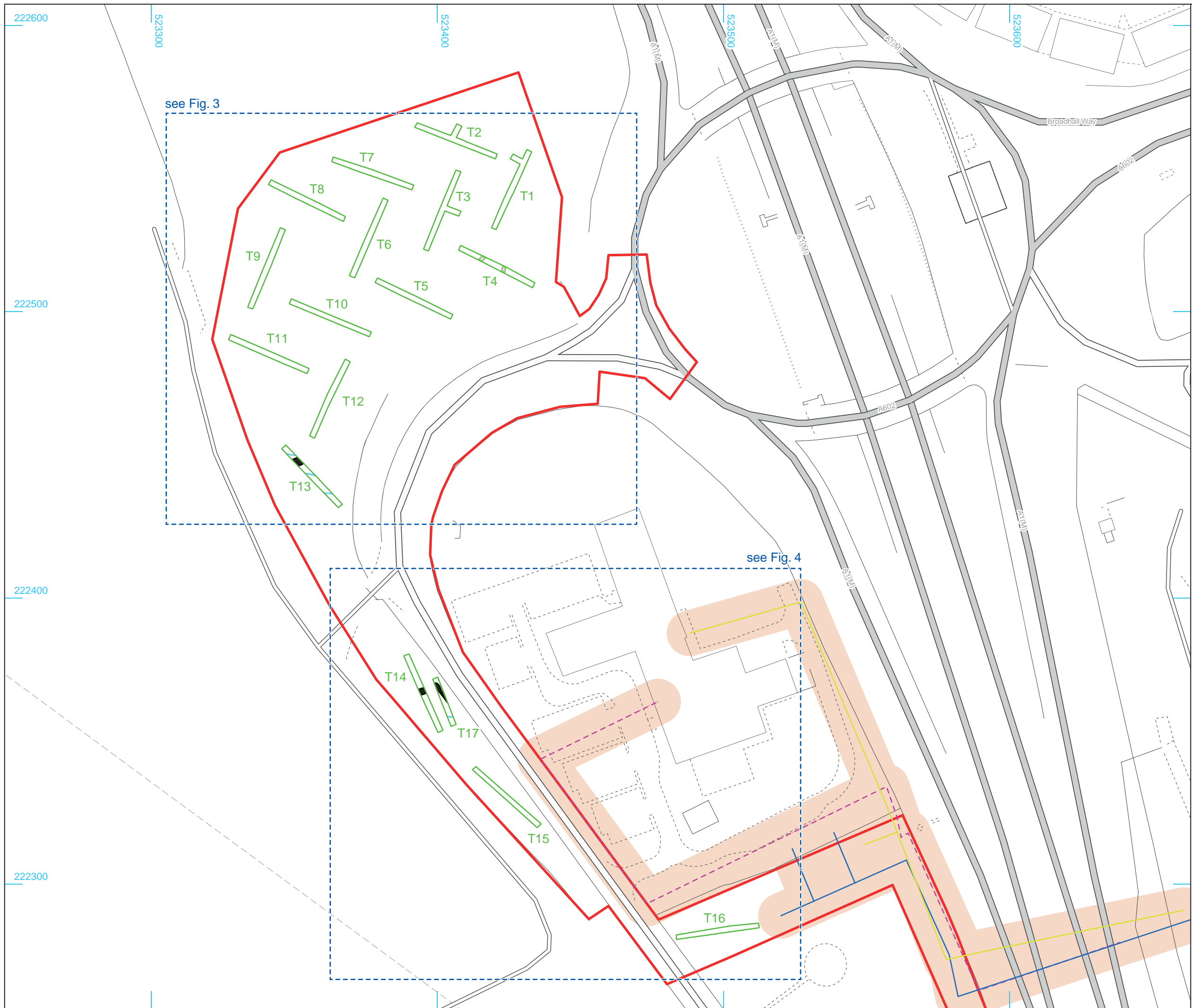
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 Suffolk 01449 900120
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enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the north-west of J7, A1M,
 Stevenage

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY LZS	PROJECT NO. MK0740	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 28/06/22	1
APPROVED BY DP	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Furrow
- Field drain
- Safety buffer 8m
- Gas (utilities)
- Telecoms (utilities)
- Water (utilities)



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the north-west of J7, A1M,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site plan showing evaluation trenches
 and archaeological features

DRAWN BY LZS CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY DP	PROJECT NO. MK0740 DATE 28/06/22 SCALE@A3 1:1250	FIGURE NO. 2
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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Furrow
- Field drain
- A A Section location



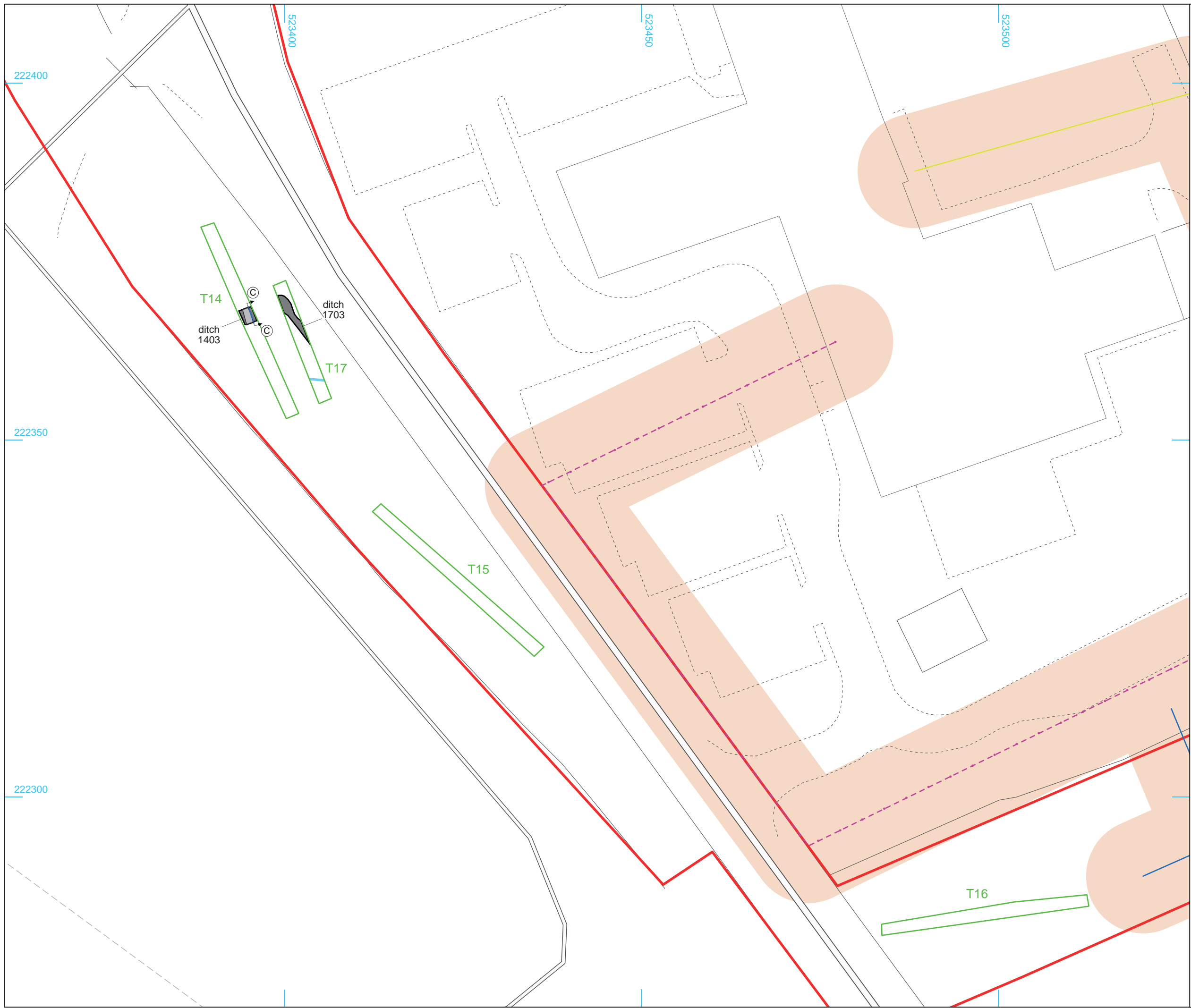
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the north-west of J7, A1M, Stevenage

FIGURE TITLE
 Plan of northern part of site, showing evaluation trenches and archaeological features (Trenches 1–13)

<small>DRAWN BY</small> LZS	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> MK0740	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 28/06/22	3
<small>APPROVED BY</small> DP	<small>SCALE</small> @A3 1:500	



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Furrow
- Field drain
- A A Section location
- Safety buffer 8m
- Gas (utilities)
- Telecoms (utilities)
- Water (utilities)



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the north-west of J7, A1M, Stevenage

FIGURE TITLE
 Plan of southern part of site, showing evaluation trenches and archaeological features (Trenches 14–17)

<small>DRAWN BY</small> LZS	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> MK0740	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 28/06/22	4
<small>APPROVED BY</small> DP	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:500	



General view of site, looking west



General view of site, looking north-west



General view of site, looking north-east


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PROJECT TITLE
**Land to the north-west of J7, A1M,
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FIGURE TITLE
Photographs: general views

DRAWN BY	LZS	PROJECT NO.	MK0740	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28/06/22	5
APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE@A3	NA	



General view of Trench 1, looking south-west (1m scales)



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



General view of Trench 3, looking south-west (1m scales)



General view of Trench 5, looking south-east (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5: photographs

DRAWN BY	LZS	PROJECT NO.	MK0740	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28/06/22	6
APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE	@A3 NA	



General view of Trench 6, looking south-west (1m scales)



General view of Trench 7, looking north-west (1m scales)



General view of Trench 8, looking north-west (1m scales)



General view of Trench 9, looking north-east (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 6, 7, 8 and 9: photographs

DRAWN BY	LZS	PROJECT NO.	MK0740	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28/06/22	7
APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE	@A3 NA	



General view of Trench 10, looking north-west (1m scales)



General view of Trench 11, looking north-west (1m scales)



General view of Trench 12, looking south-west (1m scales)



General view of Trench 15, looking north-west (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trenches 10, 11, 12 and 15:
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	LZS	PROJECT NO.	MK0740	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28/06/22	8
APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE	@A3 NA	



General view of Trench 16, looking north-east (1m scales)



General view of Trench 17, looking south-east (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land to the north-west of J7, A1M,
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FIGURE TITLE

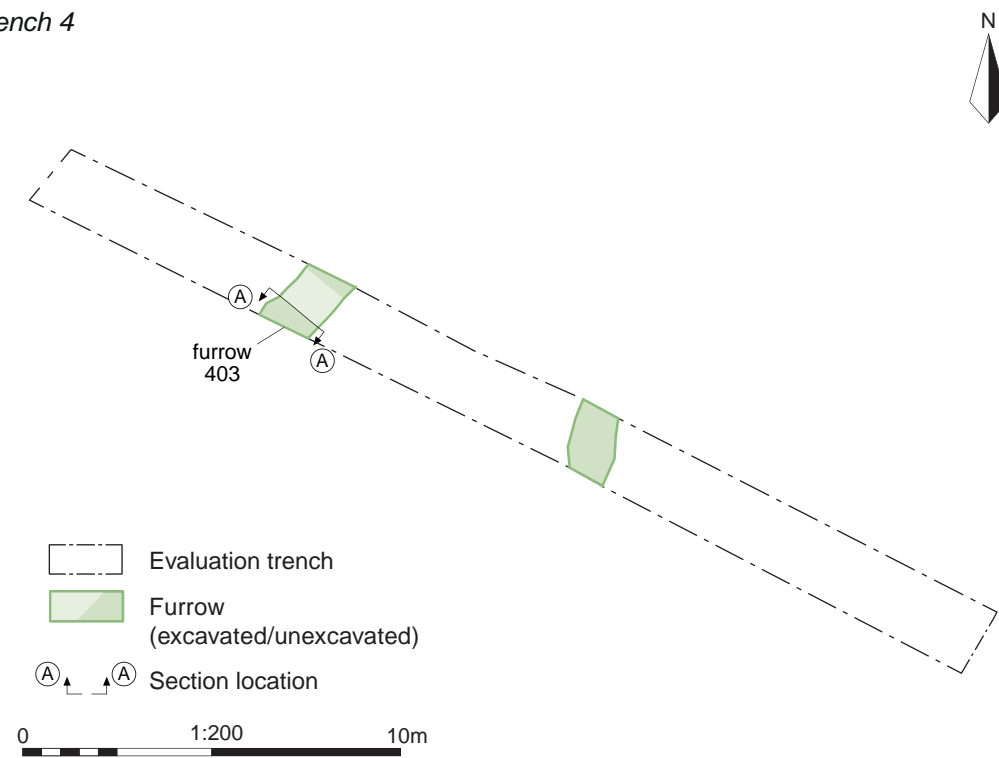
Trenches 16 and 17: photographs

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CHECKED BY DJB DATE 28/06/22
APPROVED BY DP SCALE@A4 NA

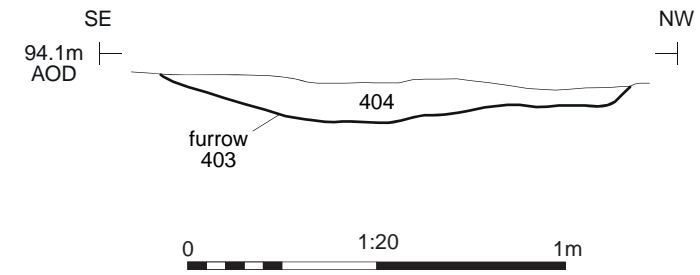
FIGURE NO.

9

Trench 4



Section AA



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

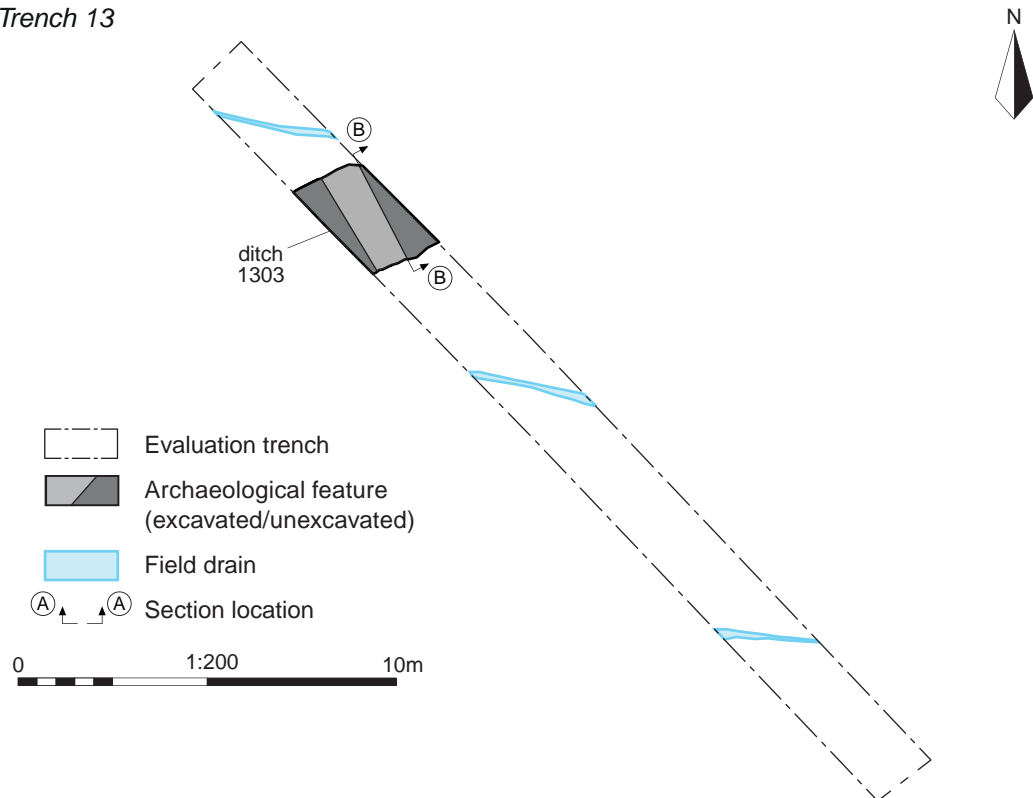

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PROJECT TITLE
**Land to the north-west of J7, A1M,
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 4: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	LZS	PROJECT NO.	MK0740	FIGURE NO.
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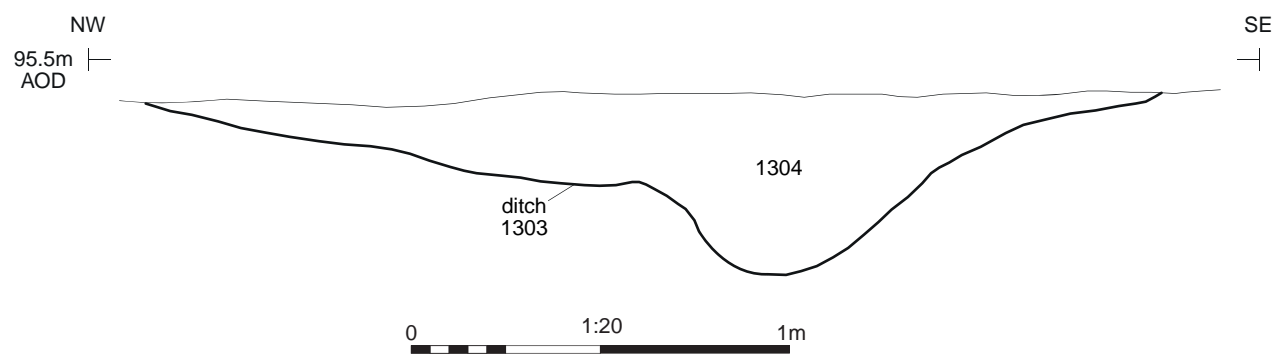
Trench 13



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



Section BB



**Cotswold
Archaeology**

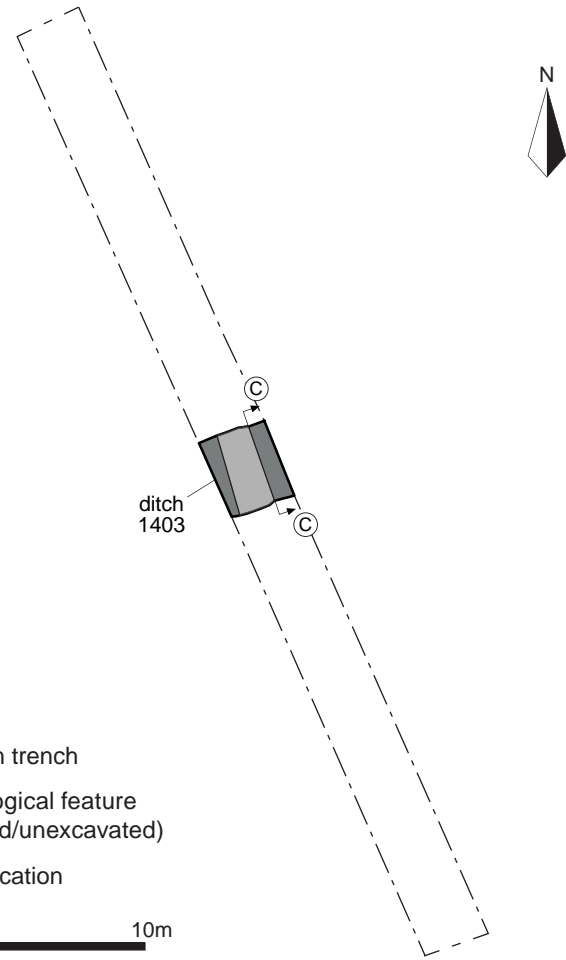
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PROJECT TITLE
**Land to the north-west of J7, A1M,
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 13: plan and section

DRAWN BY	LZS	PROJECT NO.	MK0740	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28/06/22	11
APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE@A4	1:200, 1:20	

Trench 14



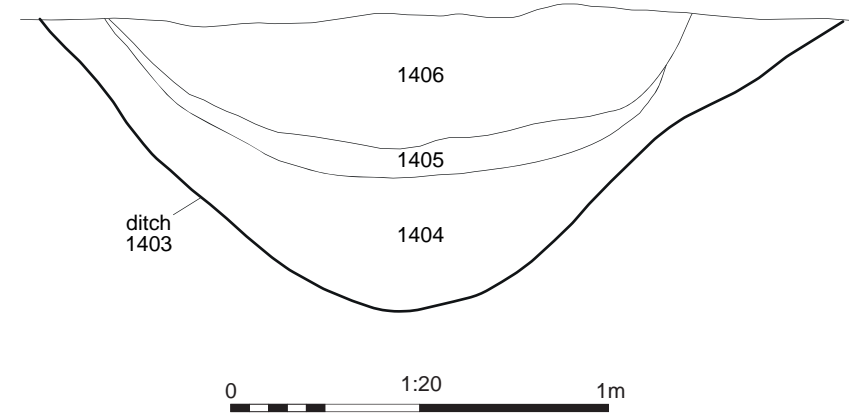
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Section location

0 1:200 10m

Section CC

NW
95.5m
AOD

SE



Ditch 1403, looking south-west (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
 Land to the north-west of J7, A1M,
 Stevenage

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 14: plan, section and
 photograph**

DRAWN BY	LZS	PROJECT NO.	MK0740	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28/06/22	12
APPROVED BY	DP	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	

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