

**Land at Whitehouse Farm,
Chichester
West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

for
EDP

on behalf of

Linden Homes and Miller Homes

CA Project: 770112
CA Report: 14352

Accession Code 2014.5.

August 2014

Land at Whitehouse Farm,
Chichester,
West Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation

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date	8 August 2014
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date	18 August 2014
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date	
issue	01

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CONTENTS.

SUMMARY	4
1. INTRODUCTION.....	5
<i>The site</i>	5
<i>Archaeological background</i>	6
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	7
<i>Methodology</i>	8
<i>The Finds</i>	10
3. DISCUSSION.....	10
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	11
5. REFERENCES.....	11
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	12
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM	13

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000).
Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:2000).
Fig. 3 Trench 1: plan, section and photograph of Ditch [104].
Fig. 4 Trench 2: plan, section and photograph of Tank Trap [202].

SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at White House Farm
Location: Chichester
NGR: SU 8470 0570
Type: Evaluation
Date: 31st July to 1st August
Location of Archive: TBC
Accession Number: TBC
Site Code: WHIF14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July and August 2014 at Whitehouse Farm Chichester. Two trenches were excavated.

The evaluation comprised of the excavation of two trial trenches measuring 45m by 1.6m (Trench 1) and 25m by 1.6m (Trench 2) respectively. Within Trench 1 an east to west aligned ditch was recorded from which two sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the late 2nd to 4th centuries along with Roman ceramic building material was recovered. At the southern end of both trenches a cut which has been identified as a World War II tank trap was recorded. It is likely that the tank trap may have impacted upon the survival of earlier archaeological remains relating to the Hook Dyke or postulated line of the Roman road that issued out of the Roman West Gate at Chichester. However, the east to west ditch from which Romano-British pottery was recovered could be remnant evidence of a drainage ditch associated with the Roman Road.

1. Introduction
- 1.1 In July/August 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the request of EDP on behalf of Linden Homes and Miller Homes (The Clients) on land at Whitehouse Farm Chichester West Sussex, hereafter referred to as the site (centred on NGR: 484247; 105302; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The Clients are proposing to submit a planning application to Chichester District Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the residential development of the site. In order to inform the archaeological potential of the site a programme of pre-determination archaeological evaluation and reporting was recommended to support the planning application for the development.
- 1.3 Following consultation by EDP with James Kenny, the Archaeology Officer (AO) at Chichester District Council acting on behalf of the LPA, it was confirmed that an initial programme of trial trench evaluation to investigate the line of the “Hook Dyke”, comprising the excavation of two trial trenches should be undertaken.
- 1.4 An archaeological desk based assessment of the site detailing its archaeological and historical background has previously been prepared (EDP 2008)
- 1.5 The evaluation was carried out in accordance a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) which was produced by CA (2014) and approved by James Kenny the Archaeology Officer at Chichester District Council (CDD). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IFA 2009), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager’s Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by James Kenny, including a site visit on 31/07/14.

The site

- 1.6 The whole development site, covering an area of c.122 hectares, is located on the western edge of Chichester, between the A27(T) in the south and, for the most part, the B2178 in the north. However, a small area of land is located, in the north, between the B2178 and Brandy Hole Lane, which is a minor road, which runs east-west from the A286, Midhurst Road. The eastern boundary of the site follows the west side of Centurion Way. The southern boundary follows the mainline railway to

Portsmouth, as well as the north side of Clay Lane and extant property boundaries around Mead House. The western site boundary follows the course of a narrow stream northwards, and the east side of Upper Rouse Copse to a point just south of the B2178. Thereafter, it turns east, following the edge of the trees, and then south around the property known as “Fairyhill” to cross the B2178. It then follows the edge of East Broyle Copse, before rejoining Centurion Way .

- 1.7 The two trial trenches were located toward the southern end of the site lying c. 300m to the south of Salthill Lane and 230m to the north of Clay Lane. The trenches were located along the southern boundary of a field which still lay in crop. A public footpath runs along the line of the field boundary.
- 1.8 The land within the site occupies the lower reaches of a gentle, south-facing slope, falling from a height of c.32 metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), in the north, to approximately eight metres AOD in the south. At its northern end the site is broadly level, falling only gently, from north to south, to a field boundary c.300m to the north of Salthill Lane. From there, the land falls sharply, to the south, as far as Salthill Lane itself (c.14m AOD), from where the slope becomes less pronounced again. Moreover, the central “core” of the site forms a tongue of higher ground, which extends about as far south as Salthill Lane. To the east and west of this “tongue”, the land falls away into shallow valleys, which are occupied by streams running south towards Chichester Harbour.
- 1.9 The site is located on an area of “head deposits”, comprising a mixture of sands, clays and gravels, which have accumulated between the foot of the chalk escarpment of the South Downs, to the north, and the coastal plain, further to the south.

Archaeological background

- 1.10 A desk-based assessment of the site has been prepared detailing the known archaeological and historical background of the site. A brief summary of this is presented below.
- 1.11 A section of the Chichester Entrenchments, a dispersed system of Late Iron Age defensive alignments designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM),

comprising of a bank and ditch runs along the east side of East Broyle Copse and extending down towards the B2178, Old Broyle Road. Further sections of the Chichester Entrenchments lie to the north of the site.

- 1.12 The site contains known undesignated remains of Iron Age and Romano-British date. These include a section of the “Hook Dyke”, which runs east-west through the centre of the site. Previous limited field investigation could not confirm a date for the construction of this linear bank and ditch, which has previously been described as a section of the Chichester Entrenchments or a former road issuing from the Roman West Gate.
- 1.13 The B2178 “Old Broyle Road”, which passes through the site from south-east to north-west, is also thought to follow the course of a road issuing from the Roman North Gate. Both it and the course of the “Hook Dyke” are focal points for concentrations of contemporary activity defined by known archaeological sites, monuments and findspots. Sections of Roman ceramic water pipe were found along the Old Broyle Road in the 19th century, whilst Iron Age and Roman pottery was collected by workmen excavating the cutting at the point where it crosses the former railway line, which now forms a recreational footpath and cycle track (Centurion Way).
- 1.14 The collection of pottery, which was apparently found along with a segment of tessellated pavement, may indicate the site of a villa, or a substantial “Romanised” Iron Age farmstead. A similar concentration of pottery, and associated artefactual material, south of the site at Fishbourne Rectory, may also denote the site of another Romano-British villa. Close by, a substantial Romano-British midden, adjacent to the western site boundary, was excavated in the 1930s.
- 1.15 HER 4533 (EDP 2008) records a length of anti-tank ditch, which ran along the eastern edge of the site, discontinuously from just to the north of the bridge that carries Old Broyle Road across the former railway line (see above) southwards to Newlands Lane and then on to the Hook Dyke. The ditch may then have continued along the Hook Dyke and then south towards the head of the Fishbourne Channel.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.16 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IFA 2009). This information will enable the Chichester District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.17 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches. Trench One was 45m long, Trench 2 was 25m long both were excavated with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket. These were excavated in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). 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* (2012).
- 1.18 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken 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* (2007).
- 1.19 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* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.20 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Fishbourne Roman Palace under accession number 2014.5. along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. **Results** (Figs 2-4)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, and finds are to be found in Appendices A, and B respectively. The topsoil, a mid grey, friable silty clay, between 0.42 and 0.40m thick lay directly on top of the natural substrate an orange brown friable silty clay with a light grey silty clay mottling. All recorded features cut the natural and were sealed by the topsoil.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.2 Ditch **104** had an east/west alignment and was 1.6m long (within the confines of the trench), 2.12m wide and 0.35m deep. The sides were shallow concave and the ditch had a concave base. The ditch contained a single fill **105** of light grey loose sandy silt with rare sub-angular stone inclusions. Fill **105** contained two sherds of heavily abraded Romano-British sandy greyware pottery along with ceramic building material dating to the Roman period.
- 2.3 Ditch **102** had an east/west alignment and was 1.6m long (within the confines of the trench) and 2.2m wide. The ditch was not excavated in agreement with James Kenny as it was clearly part of a World War II tank trap, which continued into and was excavated within Trench 2 to the west. The recorded upper surface fill **103**, was a heavily compacted mid brown, friable silty clay, with common sub angular and rounded flint inclusions.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 2.4 Ditch **202**, had an east/west alignment and was 1.6m long (within the confines of the trench) 2.4m wide and 1.15m deep. It had moderate concave sides and a flat base,. The basal fill **207**, followed by **206** and **205** were a mid brown, friable silty clay. The final fill **204** was a mid orange brown, friable silty clay, which was heavily compacted on the surface. **204** and **205** contained modern ceramic building material. Ditch 202 has been identified as a World War II tank trap, which continued to the east into Trench 1.

The Finds.

- 2.5 Finds recovered from the evaluation consisted of pottery and ceramic building material.

Pottery: Roman

- 2.6 Two sherds of pottery in a coarse, sandy greyware fabric, in a heavily abraded condition, were recovered from the single fill 105 of ditch 104. These included a rimsherd from a plain rim dish, which is a form dateable to the late 2nd to 4th centuries.

Ceramic building material

- 2.7 Ditch fill 105 also produced nine fragments of tile of Roman date.
- 2.8 Modern ceramic building material was recovered from the fills of the tank trap 102 and 202, but was not retained and was discarded on site.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Ditch **104** is a shallow east to west aligned boundary or drainage ditch of possible late 2nd to 4th century Romano-British date based on the recovered dateable material. It should be noted however that the pottery sherds recovered were highly abraded and may therefore be residual. It is unlikely that the ditch is part of the Chichester Entrenchments or Hook Dyke, but could be a remnant (drainage ditch) of the postulated line of the Roman road leading out of the Roman West Gate at Chichester (*Noviomagus*). However within the confines of the evaluation trench this remains unclear.
- 3.2 Ditches **102** and **202**, have been identified as a World War II tank trap that from documentary and aerial photographic evidence is known to have run in an east to west direction along the line of the field boundary in this part of the site before heading south towards the head of the Fishbourne Channel. It is also likely that the digging of the tank trap would have impacted upon evidence relating to the Hook Dyke and/or postulated line of the east to west Roman road leading out of the West Gate of Chichester (*Noviomagus*).

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Matt Nichol, assisted by Colin Forrestal. The report was written by Adam Howard.. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Adam Howard, and prepared for deposition by Jennie Hughes. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 9 July 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Whitehouse Farm Chichester West Sussex, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

The Environmental Dimension Partnership 2008 *Land at Whitehouse Farm, Chichester, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with rounded and sub angular flint inclusions throughout.	44.6	1.6	0.42
1	101	Layer	Natural	Orange brown friable silty clay with light grey silty clay mottling throughout with sub angular and rounded flint nodules.	44.6	1.6	+0.20
1	102	Cut	Tank Trap	Linear, not excavated, possibly same as 202. E/W alignment.	1.6	2.2	n/a
1	103	Fill	Fill of 102	Mid Brown friable silty Clay with common sub-angular and rounded flint.	1.6	2.2	n/a
1	104	Cut	Cut of Ditch	Linear, rounded corners, shallow concave sides, concave base, e/w alignment.	1.6	2.12	0.35
1	105	Fill	Fill of 104	Light grey sandy silt loose sub-angular rare stone.	1.6	2.12	0.35
1	106	Cut	of Land Drain	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1	107	Fill	Fill of 106	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1	108	Fill	Fill of 102	Mid orange brown silty clay with abundant rounded and sub-angular flint nodules throughout.	1.6	1.6	n/a
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown very friable silty clay with rounded and sub-angular flint inclusions.	25	1.6	0.4
2	201	Layer	Natural	Orange brown friable silty clay with light grey sandy silt clay mottling and sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.	25	1.6	0.48
2	202	Cut	Tank Trap	Linear in plan moderate concave sides, flat base, e/w alignment machine excavated. Same as 102	1.5	2.4	1.15
2	203	Fill	Fill of 202	Mid orange brown, silty clay, with sub angular and rounded flint inclusions.	1.5	2.34	0.2
2	204	Fill	Fill of 202	Mid orange brown, friable silty clay, with sub-angular flint inclusions.	1.5	1.35	0.16
2	205	Fill	Fill of 202	Mid brown, friable silty clay, sub-angular with flint nodule inclusions.	1.5	0.85	0.28
2	206	Fill	Fill of 202	Mid brown, friable silty clay, with sub-angular flint nodules.	1.5	2.2	0.36
2	207	Fill	Fill of 202	Mid brown, friable silty clay.	1.5	1.9	0.3
2	208	Layer	natural	Blue/grey, silty clay, very waterlogged.	25	1.6	0.1

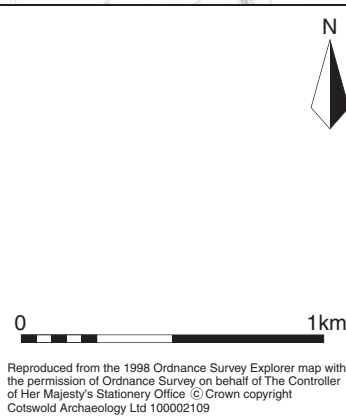
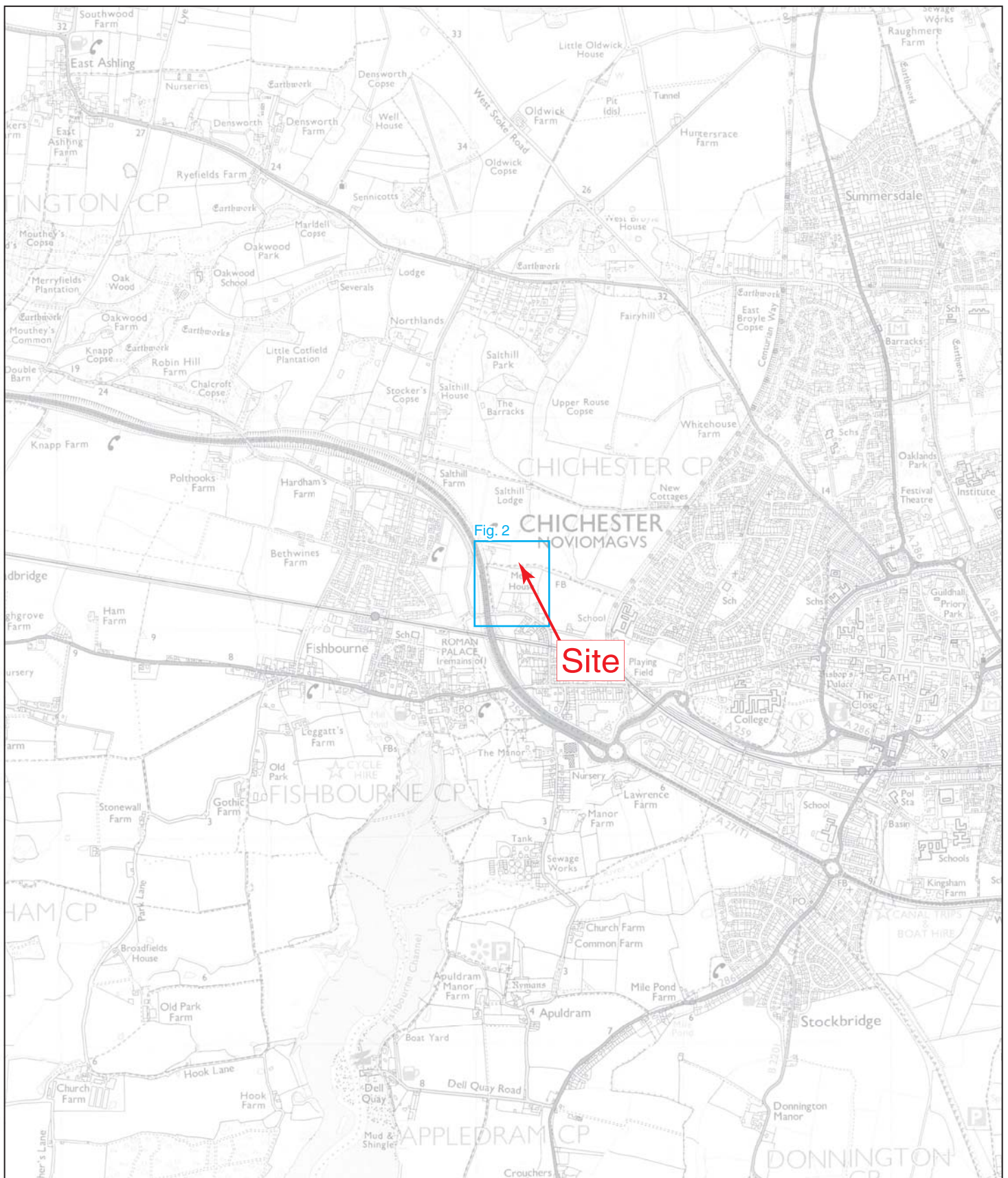
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
105	Roman pottery: black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	2	18	LC2-C4
	Roman ceramic building material	9	148	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Whitehouse Farm, Chichester, West Sussex	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July and August 2014 at Whitehouse Farm Chichester. The evaluation comprised of the excavation of two trial trenches measuring 45m by 1.6m (Trench 1) and 25m by 1.6m (Trench 2) respectively. Within Trench 1 an east to west aligned ditch was recorded from which two sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the late 2nd to 4th centuries along with Roman ceramic building material was recovered. At the southern end of both trenches a cut which has been identified as a World War II tank trap was recorded. It is likely that the tank trap may have impacted upon the survival of earlier archaeological remains relating to the Hook Dyke or postulated line of the Roman road that issued out of the Roman West Gate at Chichester. However, the east to west ditch from which Romano-British pottery was recovered could be remnant evidence of a drainage ditch associated with the Roman Road.	
Project dates	31 July – 1 August 2014	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Chichester, West Sussex	
Study area (M ² /ha)	122 hectares	
Site co-ordinates	SU 8470 0570	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Matt Nichol	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (Fishbourne Roman Palace 2014.5)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		Pottery and CBM
Paper		Context and Trench sheets, Photo sheets Survey sheets Section drawings etc
Digital		Finds Database, digital photos illustrations
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land at Whitehouse Farm, Chichester, Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report 14352		





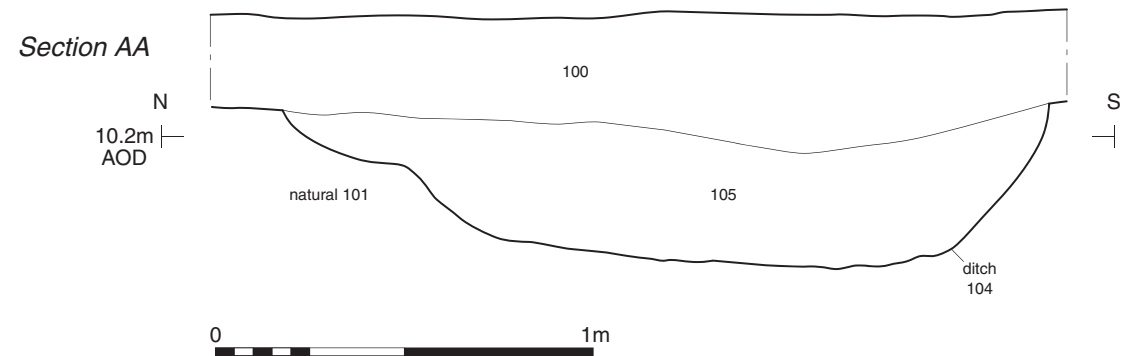
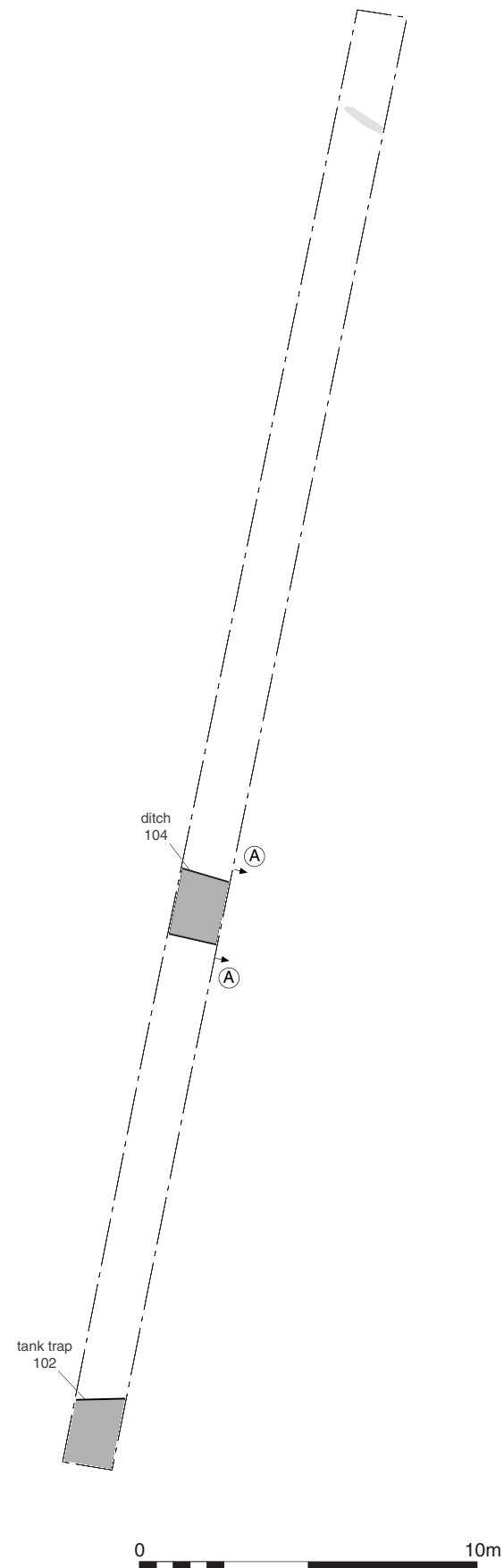
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PROJECT TITLE
Whitehouse Farm, Chichester
West Sussex

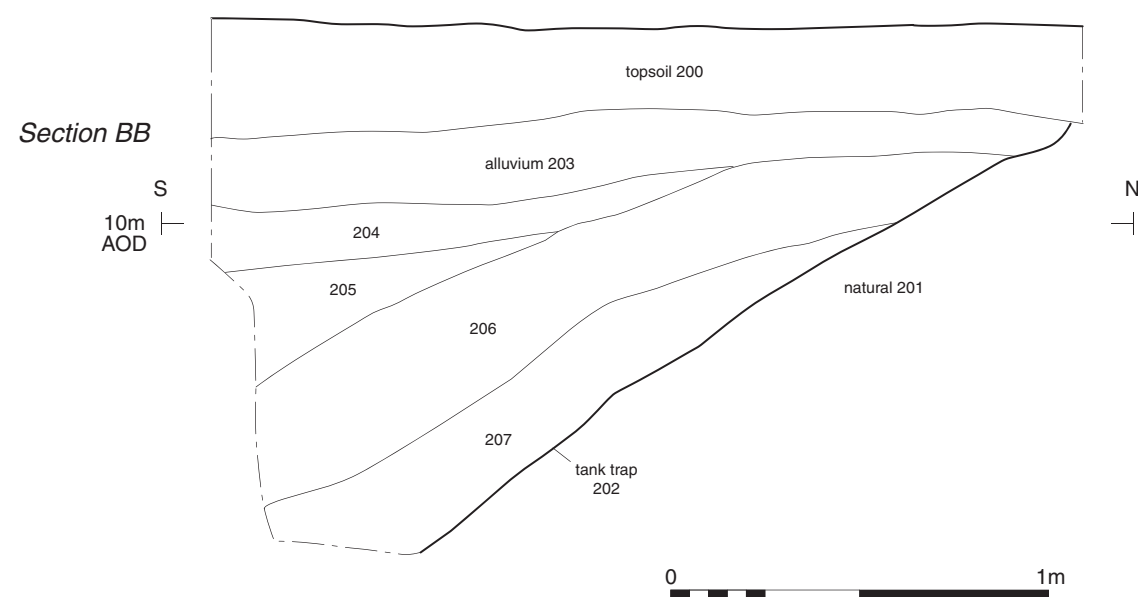
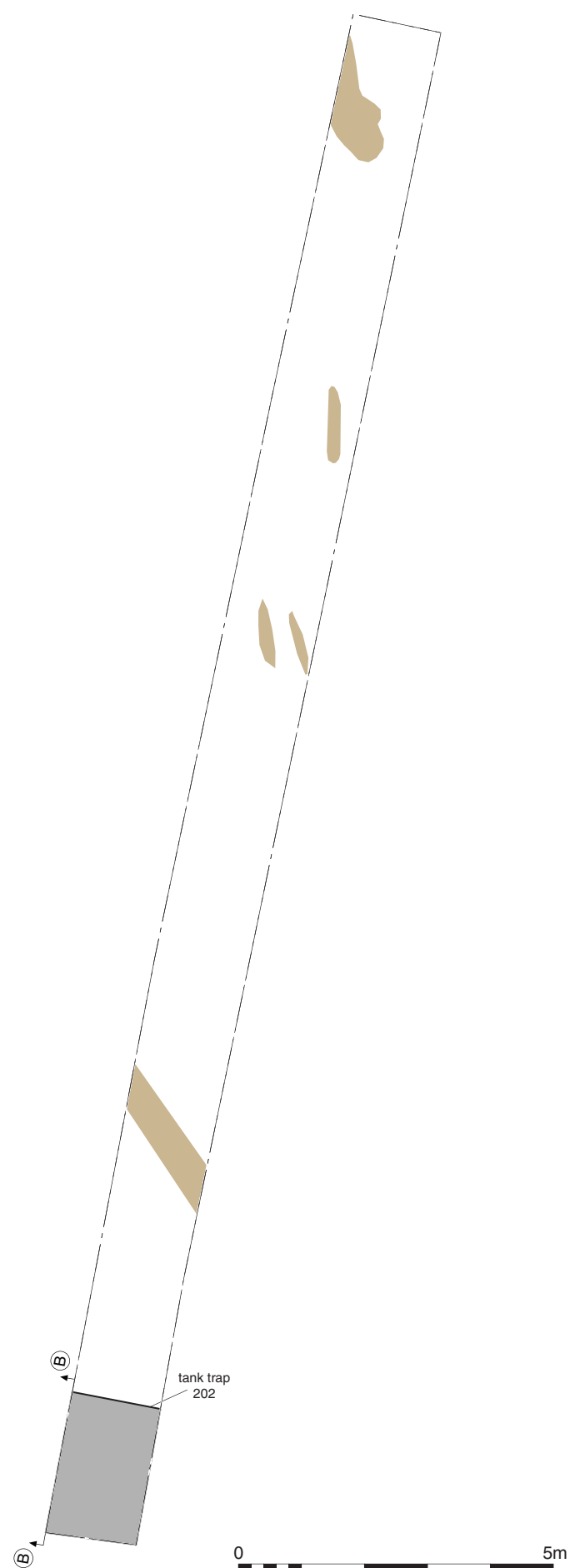
FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan



PROJECT NO. 770112	DATE 18/08/2014	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



Trench 1, ditch 104, looking east (1m scale)

- archaeological feature
- modern



-  archaeological feature
-  geology



Trench 2, tank trap 202, looking north-west (2 x 1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2: plan, section and photograph

PROJECT NO.	770112	DATE	15/08/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LJH	REVISION	00	4
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:100 & 1:20	