



**Former Headlands School  
Headland Grove  
Upper Stratton, Swindon**  
Wiltshire

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*  
**Bellway Homes Wales & West**


CA Project: 4721  
CA Report: 14076

February 2014

Former Headlands School  
 Headland Grove  
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|-------------|--|
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## SUMMARY

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Project Name:</b>        | Former Headlands School                             |
| <b>Location:</b>            | Headland Grove, Upper Stratton, Swindon, Wiltshire  |
| <b>NGR:</b>                 | SU 15875 87288                                      |
| <b>Type:</b>                | Evaluation  |
| <b>Date:</b>                | 3-7 February 2014                                   |
| <b>Planning Reference:</b>  | S/11/0084/KICO                                      |
| <b>Location of Archive:</b> | To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery |
| <b>Accession Number:</b>    | SWIMG B2014.56                                      |
| <b>Site Code:</b>           | FOH 14  |

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2014 at Former Headlands School, Headland Grove, Upper Stratton, Swindon, Wiltshire. Twelve trenches were excavated.

A single ditch identified in the eastern part of the site was tentatively dated to the prehistoric period. Ditches and a deposit possibly relating to 2nd century AD settlement activity were located in the southern part of the site. Several ditches thought to be medieval field boundaries associated with agricultural activity were identified within the southern half of the site. Several undated ditches were also identified also thought to relate to agricultural practices on the site.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bellway Homes Wales and West at the former Headlands School, Upper Stratton, Swindon (centred on NGR: SU 1594 8722; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil Condition 4 of a draft decision notice granting conditional planning permission which states:

*“No development shall commence within the area indicated until:*

- a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with these approved details.*

*Reason: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.*

*Relevant Policies: DS6 Swindon Borough Local Plan 2011 (2006).”*

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995), the *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 Clare King of WCAS, including a site visit on 5 February 2014.

### **The site**

1.3 The proposed development is located in Upper Stratton, Swindon and encloses a total area of c. 6.54ha and lies at between 106m to 109m aOD. It was formally occupied in the north and west by the former Headland School buildings with the remainder of the site occupied by playing fields (c. 4ha). The school buildings have now been demolished apart from a single former school building (the community and

gymnastics facility) which is to be retained within the proposed development. The site is bounded on the north by premises off Dores Road and Beechcroft Road, on the east by premises off Masefield Avenue and Dores Road, on the south by Headlands Grove and to the west by premises off Cricklade Road (**Figure 1**).

- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology for the majority of the area is mapped as Hazelbury Byran Formation and Kingston Formation (undifferentiated) sandstone, siltstone and mudstone with Stanford Formation limestone present in the northernmost part of the site (BGS 2014). The actual geology encountered during the evaluation varied between trenches. Trenches 1 to 4 and 6 to 9 contained orangey yellow clay, trenches 10 to 12 contained gravels, likely part of the Stanford Limestone Formation and Trench 5 contained greyish blue clay.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 An archaeological desk-based assessment for the site was undertaken by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BARAS) in 2008. A brief summary of these results is presented below.
- 1.10 The general locality in which the site is situated has produced evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval activities, particularly in the area of Blunsdon to the north. A number of Roman coins have been found within the vicinity of the site and Ermin Street, a Romano-British road, passes c. 1 km to the north-east of the site. The desk-based assessment was also able to identify the possible presence of medieval ridge and furrow within the site through a study of aerial photographs. A subsequent geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (SS) in 2011 identified anomalies that could potentially be interpreted as evidence of ridge and furrow.
- 1.11 Prior to its development for the Headlands Grammar School in the early 1950s the site appears to have comprised agricultural land and allotment gardens. The historic agricultural nature of the site is further enhanced by the possible evidence of medieval ridge and furrow.
- 1.12 At Domesday (1086), the manor of Stratton (referred to as Stratone) comprised what was later Lower Stratton, Upper Stratton, St Barnabas (Gorse Hill) and St Peter's (Penhill). At the time of the survey, the manor was in the possession of Nigel,

physician to William the Conqueror (reigned 1066-1087). In the medieval period, three core-settlement areas, or hamlets, existed: 'The Street', area of Green Road and Dores Road (Upper Stratton), and Stratton Green. The configuration of the manor remained essentially unchanged until 1891 when Gorse Hill became part of Swindon.

- 1.13 Historic mapping indicates that up until the 1st edition OS map of 1883 the site comprised open fields on the edge of Upper Stratton, which at this time was still a village that had not been consumed into Swindon to the south. By the time of the 1941 OS map there had been rapid urban expansion of Upper Stratton along with the surrounding area of Swindon and residential housing had been constructed around the site. The site itself is still shown as an open area partly occupied to the north by allotment gardens.
- 1.14 The Headlands Grammar School which later became the Headlands Comprehensive School was constructed on the site from 1952. The school has since been demolished as part of the proposed development although the sports pitches still remain in use for football.
- 1.15 A detailed gradiometer survey (SS 2011) was conducted over approximately 4 hectares of the school playing fields prior to the demolition of the school buildings. Two positive linear anomalies identified in the north-eastern corner of the site are likely to be associated with former buildings or pathways. An area of linear markings was also seen in the north of the site which may be associated with ridge and furrow activity or land drainage. A network of pipes also likely to relate to land drainage were identified predominantly in the south of the survey area and generally correlated with manhole locations. A large proportion of the site demonstrated high levels of magnetic disturbance likely to be of modern origin.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.6 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 Wiltshire County Archaeology Service acting on behalf of Swindon Borough 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**

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of twelve trenches. Four of the trenches measured 50m in length by 2m in width with the remainder measuring 25m in length by 2m in width. Trenches were located to target the results of the geophysical survey, to provide a random sample and to avoid known buried services.. 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).
- 1.8 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* (2013).
- 1.9 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) and 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).
- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Swindon Museum under accession number SWIMG B2014.56 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 2-5)

- 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**.
- 2.2 The geological substrate encountered across the site is described in section 1.4 above. This was overlain by subsoil in Trenches 1-10 with an average thickness of 0.3 m in Trenches 1-5 and 7-9. It should be noted that Trench 11 contained very thin patches of subsoil whilst in Trench 12 the subsoil was completely absent. The subsoil was significantly thicker in Trenches 6 and 10, with an average depth of 0.57m. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil with an average thickness of 0.3m. Furrows running on a north-east/south-west alignment were revealed in Trenches 7 and 4. Furrows running on north-west/south-east alignment were revealed in Trenches 2 and 3. Furrows were also revealed in the section of Trench 10 cutting the subsoil which likely relate to the extant north-west/south-east aligned furrows in the northern part of the site. Archaeological features were revealed in Trenches 1-7 and 12.

### ***Trench 1 (Figures 2 & 3)***

- 2.3 Two east/west aligned ditches were located at either end of Trench 1. Ditch 1006 in the northern part of the trench was filled by 1005 which produced one crumb of flint-tempered pottery suggestive of a Bronze Age or Iron Age date. Although, given the highly abraded nature of the pottery recovered, it is possible that it is residual. Ditch 1004 to the south, filled by 1003 was cut through the subsoil and as such is likely to be of a relatively recent date.

### ***Trench 2 & 3 (Figures 2 & 3)***

- 2.4 A single ditch, 2004, was identified in the south-western end of Trench 2 filled by 2003. Whilst no dateable evidence was recovered from fill 2003, ditch 2004 runs parallel to north-west/south-east aligned furrows identified to the north, also identified in Trench 2, suggesting a contemporary date. A continuation of ditch 2004 is visible in Trench 3, recorded as 3009, as is one of the furrows.
- 2.5 Two ditches were identified within Trench 3. North-west/south-east ditch 3004, filled by 3003 was located in the western part of Trench 3 and was cut by tree throw 3007.

Ditch 3009, a continuation of ditch 2004, was located in the eastern part of Trench 3 and runs parallel to ditch 3004.

#### **Trench 4 (Figures 2 & 4)**

- 2.6 Two intercutting ditches and an intercutting gully were identified in the eastern end of Trench 4. The earliest of these, north-east/south-west aligned ditch 4010, contained a single fill, 4009, comprising grey silty clay which contained 12th to 13th-century pottery. This was cut to the east by a north/south aligned gully 4008 which was filled by 4007 a dark grey silty clay, which contained residual 2nd century pottery. Ditch 4010 was also cut to the south-west by north-south aligned ditch 4012 which was filled by 4011 a brown silty clay which remains undated, however, given that a large ceramic land drain runs along the western edge of the ditch, it is possible that it is post-medieval or later in date. Ditch 4012 is also visible in Trench 5 as ditch 5005.
- 2.7 To the east of gully 4008, and on a similar alignment, was ditch 4005 filled by 4004, a thin layer of light yellow clay which was sealed by 4003, a dark brown silty clay which contained five fragments of pottery broadly dated to the Roman period.
- 2.8 A layer of dark grey silty clay, deposit 4006, was identified in the southern half of the eastern end of Trench 4 and measured approximately 6m in length and extended approximately 1.2m into the trench. No discernable cut was associated with this layer, however it was sealed by subsoil and produced a substantial amount of pottery dating to the 2nd century AD.
- 2.9 To the west of deposit 4006 was north-east/south-west aligned ditch 4015 filled by 4014, a grey clay which produced 2nd century pottery.
- 2.10 Three intercutting ditches were located in the centre of Trench 4. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 4027, filled by 4026 and north-west/south-east aligned ditch 4023, filled by 4022 were cut by ditch 4021, filled by 4020. All three ditches remain undated.
- 2.11 Pit or treethrow 4019, filled by 4018, was identified in the western end of Trench 4. This was seen to be cutting the subsoil and as such is likely relatively recent in date.

**Trench 5**

- 2.12 Trench 5 contained a possible continuation of ditch 4012, recorded as ditch 5005. This contained two fills, the lower 5004 a dark grey clay and the upper, 5003, mid-brown silty clay, which contained a residual fragment of pottery dating from mid-1st to mid-2nd century AD and eight fragments of 12th to 14th-century pottery.

**Trench 6**

- 2.13 Trench 6 contained a large pit or in filled natural hollow 6004 which was filled by 6003, black gravel and clinker and is likely modern in origin.

**Trench 7**

- 2.14 A single ditch 7006 was identified in the northern part of Trench 7 measuring 0.55m in depth. Ditch 7006 contained two fills, the lower, 7007, blue grey clay, which contained four fragments of pottery dated to the Roman period and the upper, 7008, of brown sandy clay. North-east to south-west aligned linear features also identified within the trench are likely to be medieval furrows.

**Trench 10**

- 2.15 Trench 10 was excavated to a depth 0.8m through the extant ridge and furrow in the northern part of the site. The furrows were visible only in the sections of Trench 10 cutting the subsoil.

**Trench 12**

- 2.16 A north/south aligned ditch, 12003, filled by 12002, was identified in the north-eastern part of the trench. This ditch remained unexcavated due to groundwater rapidly flooding the trench. Given that this area of the site was a former allotment and the fact that there is no subsoil present in the trench it is likely that this area has previously been truncated and ditch 12003 is associated with the recent allotment.

**The finds**

- 2.17 Finds recovered from evaluation consisted of pottery (Table 1). Codings for Roman fabrics correspond to those defined in the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

*Pottery: Prehistoric*

- 2.18 Ditch fill 1005, produced one crumb of flint-tempered pottery. Based upon characteristics of fabric and firing, a Bronze Age or Iron Age date is suggested..

*Roman*

- 2.19 Two unfeathered bodysherds of Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1) were recovered from layer 4006. Black-burnished ware was produced near Poole in Dorset, and when found outside Dorset, it is generally dated to between the second and fourth centuries (Davies *et al.* 107, 1994).
- 2.20 A total of 22 sherds of Savernake grog tempered ware (SAV GT) were recovered from layer 4006, gully/drain fill 4007, and ditch fills 4014 and 7007. These included a rimsherd from a necked jar from ditch fill 4014. This type of pottery was produced at Savernake Forest and other sites in Wiltshire (Tomber and Dore 1998, 191).
- 2.21 A total of 44 sherds of greyware were recovered from gully fill 4003, layer 4006, gully/drain fill 4007, and ditch fill 4014. Identifiable forms included necked jars with curved rims from gully fill 4003, layer 4006 and ditch fill 4014, and an everted rim jar from ditch fill 4014.
- 2.22 A total of nine sherds of pottery in a black-firing, sand-tempered fabric were recovered from layer 4006, and ditch fills 4014, 5003 and 7007, including a rimsherd from a necked jar from ditch fill 4014. This type of pottery is broadly datable to the Roman period: however, necked jars were recovered from mid-1st to mid-2nd century AD deposits at Wanborough, Wiltshire, which is 10km from the site (Seager Smith 2001, 265-280).
- 2.23 Single bodysherds in an oxidised fabric were recovered from layer 4006, gully/drain fill 4007 and ditch fill 4014. This type of pottery cannot be dated more precisely than to the Romano-British period.

*Medieval*

- 2.24 A total of four sherds of Kennet Valley ware (East Wiltshire ware) were recovered from ditch fills 4009 and 4011. This coil-made pottery type was manufactured in the Savernake/ Braydon Forest region, and it is commonly found in Wiltshire and Oxfordshire dating to the 12th to early-15th centuries (Mellor 1994, 100-106).

- 2.25 A single rimsherd in a quartz-and-limestone tempered fabric, from a jar with a developed, everted rim, was recovered from ditch fill 5003.

### ***Faunal remains***

- 2.26 A small collection of animal bones numbering 12 fragments (114g) were recovered from deposits 4006 and 4007 dating to the Roman period. A single fragment (5g) was recovered from deposit 5011 in association with finds that indicate a potential medieval date. The six fragments (21g) from deposit 4017 remain undated (Table 2). The bones are fragmentary and display a high degree of surface erosion. However, it was possible to identify cattle (*Bos taurus*) and ovicaprid (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) remains. Given the small size of the assemblage no further interpretative data can be obtained beyond confirming the presence of these species on site. However, these species are very common occurrences and are to be expected in assemblages dated to these periods.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the modern disturbance indicated by the gradiometer survey (SS 2011) the evaluation identified numerous features of probable prehistoric, Roman and Medieval date in a good state of preservation as well as several undated features. There was likely truncation evident in the north-eastern corner of the site within the areas of Trenches 11 and 12 with little or no subsoil being present within these trenches. Possibly due to allotment activities or the creation of the playing fields.

### *Prehistoric*

- 3.2 The only feature which could be dated to the prehistoric period is ditch 1006. Though little further interpretation can be made it does represent a small potential for other prehistoric activity to be present on the site.

### *Roman*

- 3.1 There appears to be a concentration of 2nd century activity in the southern part of the site that could tentatively be associated with settlement activity. As such potential for further features dating to the Roman period in this area of the site are high. Ditch 4013 in Trench 4 may form part of an enclosure, however too little of its length was exposed in the trench to be certain. There is no continuation of ditch 4013 visible in Trench 5 which would suggest it either turns or terminates between

the trenches. Similarly no continuations of ditch 4008 were present in any other trenches, preventing any further interpretation as to whether the ditch forms part of an outlying enclosure or field boundary.

#### *Medieval*

- 3.2 Medieval activity was also identified within Trench 4. Ditches 4012/5005 and 4010 may form a field boundary and is likely associated with the medieval agricultural activity on the site. The presence of a field drain running along the western side of ditch 4012/5005 may indicate that this was a long lived boundary used into the post-medieval period.

#### *Undated*

- 3.3 The undated features in Trench 4 have the potential to be of either Roman or Medieval date, but this remains to be proven. Undated ditches in Trenches 2 and 3 may be associated with the furrows which are on a similar alignment. Ditch 12003 is probably related to recent allotment activity within the north-east corner of the site.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Weavill, assisted by Aleksandra Osinska, Michael Joyce and Sarah Foster. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The illustrations were prepared by Will Foster. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

## **5. REFERENCES**

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No | Context | Type    | Fill of | Context Interpretation | Context Description                        | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth /thickness (m) | Spot-date |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------|--|------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1         | 1000    | Layer   |         | topsoil                | dark greyish brown silty clay              | >50        | >1.8      | 0.3                  |           |
| 1         | 1001    | Layer   |         | Subsoil                | light brownish orange silty clay           | >50        | >1.8      | 0.26                 |           |
| 1         | 1002    | Deposit |         | Natural substrate      | bright orange clay                         | >50        | >1.8      |                      |           |
| 1         | 1003    | Fill    | 1004    | fill of gully          | mid orangey grey                           | >1.8       | 0.42      | 0.48                 |           |
| 1         | 1004    | Cut     |         | cut of gully           | steep sided, E-W aligned                   | >1.8       | 0.42      | 0.48                 |           |
| 1         | 1005    | Fill    | 1006    | fill of gully          | light yellow grey silty clay               | >1.8       | 0.5       | 0.35                 | BA-IA     |
| 1         | 1006    | cut     |         | cut of gully           | steep sided, E-W aligned                   | >1.8       | 0.5       | 0.35                 |           |
| 2         | 2000    | Layer   |         | topsoil                | dark grey clayey silt                      | >25        | >1.8      | 0.3                  |           |
| 2         | 2001    | Layer   |         | Subsoil                | mid greyish brown                          | >25        | >1.8      | 0.4                  |           |
| 2         | 2002    | Deposit |         | Natural substrate      | yellow sandy clay                          | >25        | >1.8      |                      |           |
| 2         | 2003    | Fill    | 2004    | fill of gully          | mid greyish brown silty clay               | >1.8       | 0.34      | 0.18                 |           |
| 2         | 2004    | Cut     |         | cut of gully           | steep sided, SE-NW aligned                 | >1.8       | 0.34      | 0.18                 |           |
| 3         | 3000    | Layer   |         | topsoil                | dark greyish brown silty clay              | >25        | >1.8      | 0.3                  |           |
| 3         | 3001    | Layer   |         | Subsoil                | mid brownish grey clay                     | >25        | >1.8      | 0.4                  |           |
| 3         | 3002    | Deposit |         | Natural substrate      | light greyish orange clay                  | >25        | >1.8      |                      |           |
| 3         | 3003    | Fill    | 3004    | Upper fill of ditch    | mid grey clay                              | >4         | 0.7       | 0.34                 |           |
| 3         | 3004    | Cut     |         | cut of ditch           | linear, steep sided. NW-SE aligned         | >4         | 0.9       | 0.34                 |           |
| 3         | 3005    | Fill    | 3004    | lower fill of ditch    | yellow sandy clay                          | >4         | 0.3       | 0.3                  |           |
| 3         | 3006    | Fill    | 3007    | fill of tree throw     | light grey brown sandy clay                |            | 0.69      | 0.14                 |           |
| 3         | 3007    | Cut     |         | cut of tree throw      | irregular shaped, flat base                |            | 0.69      | 0.14                 |           |
| 3         | 3008    | fill    | 3009    | fill of ditch          | blueish grey silty clay                    |            |           |                      |           |
| 3         | 3009    | Cut     |         | cut of ditch           | linear, straight, NW-SE aligned            |            |           |                      |           |
| 4         | 4000    | Layer   |         | topsoil                | dark greyish brown silty clay              | >50        | >1.8      | 0.3                  |           |
| 4         | 4001    | Layer   |         | Subsoil                | mid brownish grey clay                     | >50        | >1.8      | 0.22                 |           |
| 4         | 4002    | Deposit |         | Natural substrate      | light greyish orange clay                  | >50        | >1.8      |                      |           |
| 4         | 4003    | Fill    | 4005    | upper fill of gully    | dark brownish grey silty clay              | >1.1       | 0.3       | 0.11                 | RB        |
| 4         | 4004    | Fill    | 4005    | lower fill of gully    | light yellow silty clay                    | >1.1       | 0.2       | 0.03                 |           |
| 4         | 4005    | Cut     |         | cut of gully           | steep sided, concave base, NNW-SSE aligned | >1.1       | 0.3       | 0.14                 |           |
| 4         | 4006    | Layer   |         | layer                  | mid brownish grey silty clay, finds rich   | 6.5        |           | 0.2                  | C2        |
| 4         | 4007    | Fill    | 4008    | fill of gully          | dark brownish grey silty clay              | >2         | 0.32      | 0.16                 | C2        |
| 4         | 4008    | Cut     |         | cut of gully           | linear, steep sided. NW-SE aligned         | >2         | 0.32      | 0.16                 |           |
| 4         | 4009    | fill    | 2010    | fill of ditch          | dark brownish grey silty clay              | >3         | 0.68      | 0.24                 | C12-C14   |
| 4         | 4010    | Cut     |         | cut of ditch           | linear, steep sided, flat base, SW-NE      | >3         | 0.68      | 0.24                 |           |
| 4         | 4011    | Fill    | 4012    | fill of ditch          | mid brown silty clay                       | >1.8       | 0.8       | 0.3                  | C12-C14   |
| 4         | 4012    | Cut     |         | cut of ditch           | moderate sides, concave base, N-S          | >1.8       | 0.8       | 0.3                  |           |
| 4         | 4013    | Cut     |         | cut of ditch           | gently sloping, concave base, NNW-SSE      | >1         | 1.16      | 0.23                 |           |
| 4         | 4014    | Fill    | 4013    | fill of ditch          | mid brownish grey sandy clay               | >1         | 1.16      | 0.23                 | C2        |
| 4         | 4015    | Cut     |         | cut of ditch           | gently sloping, concave base, NNW-SSE      | >1         | 1.9       | 0.4                  |           |
| 4         | 4016    | Fill    | 4015    | lower fill of ditch    | mid brownish grey sandy clay               | >1         | 1.59      | 0.39                 |           |
| 4         | 4017    | Fill    | 4015    | upper fill of ditch    | mid blueish grey clay                      |            | 1.17      | 0.24                 |           |
| 4         | 4018    | Fill    | 4019    | fill of pit            | light blueish grey silty clay              | 1.7        | 0.36      | 0.32                 |           |
| 4         | 4019    | Cut     |         | cut of pit             | sub-circular, steep sided, flat base       | 1.7        | 0.36      | 0.32                 |           |



|    |                       |         |      |                     |  |      |       |      |        |
|----|-----------------------|---------|------|---------------------|--|------|-------|------|--------|
| 4  | 4020                  | Fill    | 4021 | fill of ditch       | dark brownish grey silty clay                                  | >2.5 | 0.6   | 0.18 |        |
| 4  | 4021                  | Cut     |      | cut of ditch        | linear, concave sides, flat base, NE-SW                        | >2.5 | 0.6   | 0.18 |        |
| 4  | 4022                  | Fill    | 4023 | fill of ditch       | light orangey grey sandy clay                                  | >2.2 | 0.48  | 0.16 |        |
| 4  | 4023                  | Cut     |      | cut of ditch        | linear, concave sides, round base, NW-SE                       | 2.2  | 0.48  | 0.16 |        |
| 4  | 4024                  | Fill    | 4025 | fill of ditch       | dark brownish grey silty clay                                  | >0.2 | >0.3  | 0.2  |        |
| 4  | 4025                  | Cut     |      | cut of ditch        | linear, steep sided, flat base, SW-NE                          | >0.2 | >0.3  | 0.2  |        |
| 4  | 4026                  | Fill    | 4027 | fill of ditch       | light orangey grey sandy clay                                  | >2.4 | 1.55  | 0.12 |        |
| 4  | 4027                  | Cut     |      | cut of ditch        | linear, gradual sloping sides, flat-irregular base NE-SW       | >2.4 | 1.5   | 0.12 |        |
| 5  | 5000                  | Layer   |      | topsoil             | dark greyish brown silty clay                                  | >25  | >1.8  | 0.34 |        |
| 5  | 5001                  | Layer   |      | Subsoil             | light brownish grey clay                                       | >25  | >1.8  | 0.2  |        |
| 5  | 5002                  | Deposit |      | Natural substrate   | light blueish grey clay and orange clay                        | >25  | >1.8  |      |        |
| 5  | 5003                  | Fill    | 5005 | Upper fill of ditch | mid brown silty clay   | >1.9 | 1.3   | 0.25 | C12-14 |
| 5  | 5004                  | Fill    | 5005 | lower fill of ditch | mid greyish brown silty clay                                   | >0.6 | 0.65  | 0.17 |        |
| 5  | 5005                  | Cut     |      | cut of ditch        | linear, moderately sloping sides, concave base SSE-NNW aligned | >1.9 | 1.3   | 0.4  |        |
| 6  | 6000                  | Layer   |      | topsoil             | dark grey clayey silt  | >25  | >1.8  | 0.3  |        |
| 6  | 6001                  | Layer   |      | Subsoil             | mid greyish brown  | >25  | >1.8  | 0.6  |        |
| 6  | 6002                  | Deposit |      | Natural substrate   | yellow clay and blue clay                                      | >25  | >1.8  |      |        |
| 6  | 6003                  | fill    | 6004 | fill of pit         | black gravel/clinker   |      |       |      |        |
| 6  | 6004                  | Cut     |      | cut of pit          | unexcavated  |      |       |      |        |
| 7  | 7000                  | Layer   |      | topsoil             | dark greyish brown silty clay                                  | >50  | >1.8  | 0.34 |        |
| 7  | 7001                  | Layer   |      | Subsoil             | light brownish grey clay                                       | >50  | >1.8  | 0.18 |        |
| 7  | 7002                  | Deposit |      | Natural substrate   | light grey orange and bright orange clay                       | >50  | >1.8  |      |        |
| 7  | 7003<br>Void see 7006 | Cut     |      | cut of ditch        | linear, steep sides, concave base, NW-SE                       | >1   | 1.1   | 0.55 |        |
| 7  | 7004<br>Void see 7007 | Fill    | 7003 | lower fill of ditch | mid blue grey clay   | >1   | 0.7   | 0.24 |        |
| 7  | 7005<br>Void see 7008 | Fill    | 7003 | upper fill of ditch | mid orangey brown sandy clay                                   | >1   | 1.1   | 0.31 |        |
| 7  | 7006                  | cut     |      | cut of ditch        | linear, steep sides, concave base, NW-SE                       | >1   | 1.22  | 0.57 |        |
| 7  | 7007                  | Fill    | 7006 | lower fill of ditch | mid blue grey clay   | >1   | 0.64  | 0.25 | Roman  |
| 7  | 7008                  | Fill    | 7006 | Upper fill of ditch | mid orangey brown sandy clay                                   | >1   | 1.22  | 0.32 |        |
| 8  | 8000                  | Layer   |      | topsoil             | mid greyish brown silty clay                                   | >50  | >1.8  | 0.32 |        |
| 8  | 8001                  | Layer   |      | Subsoil             | light brownish grey clay                                       | >50  | >1.8  | 0.21 |        |
| 8  | 8002                  | Deposit |      | Natural substrate   | light orange clay  | >50  | >0.53 |      |        |
| 9  | 9000                  | Layer   |      | topsoil             | dark grey clayey silt  | >25  | >1.8  | 0.3  |        |
| 9  | 9001                  | Layer   |      | Subsoil             | mid greyish brown  | >25  | >1.8  | 0.2  |        |
| 9  | 9002                  | Deposit |      | Natural substrate   | mid greyish yellow clay  | >25  | >1.8  |      |        |
| 10 | 10000                 | Layer   |      | topsoil             | dark greyish brown silty clay                                  | >25  | >1.8  | 0.25 |        |
| 10 | 10001                 | Layer   |      | Subsoil             | light greyish orange clay                                      | >25  | >1.8  | 0.55 |        |
| 10 | 10002                 | Deposit |      | Natural substrate   | light grey clay  | >25  | >1.8  |      |        |
| 11 | 11000                 | Layer   |      | topsoil             | dark grey clayey silt  | >25  | >1.8  | 0.3  |        |
| 11 | 11001                 | Layer   |      | Subsoil             | mid greyish brown  | >25  | >1.8  | 0.1  |        |
| 11 | 11002                 | Deposit |      | Natural substrate   | grey silty gravel  | >25  | >1.8  |      |        |
| 12 | 12000                 | Layer   |      | topsoil             | dark grey silty clay   | >25  | >1.8  | 0.4  |        |
| 12 | 12001                 | Deposit |      | Natural             | grey silty gravel  | >25  | >1.8  |      |        |

|    |       |      |       |               |                              |  |  |  |  |
|----|-------|------|-------|---------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|    |       | it   |       | substrate     |                              |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | 12002 | Fill | 12003 | fill of ditch | mid greyish brown silty clay |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | 12003 | Cut  |       | cut of ditch  | straight linear, unexcavated |  |  |  |  |

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS AND FAUNAL REMAINS

Table 1: Finds concordance

| Context | Description  | Count | Weight(g) | Spot-date |
|---------|--|-------|-----------|-----------|
| 1005    | Prehistoric pottery: flint-tempered fabric             | 1     | 0         | BA-IA     |
| 4003    | Roman pottery: greyware                                | 5     | 36        | RB        |
| 4006    | Roman pottery: Dorset Black-burnished ware             | 2     | 252       | C2        |
|         | Roman pottery: Savernake grog-tempered ware            | 9     |           |           |
|         | Roman pottery: greyware                                | 10    |           |           |
|         | Roman pottery: black-firing, sand-tempered fabric      | 3     |           |           |
|         | Roman pottery: oxidised fabric                         | 1     |           |           |
| 4007    | Roman pottery: Savernake grog-tempered ware            | 3     | 48        | C2        |
|         | Roman pottery: greyware                                | 8     |           |           |
|         | Roman pottery: oxidised fabric                         | 1     |           |           |
| 4009    | Medieval pottery: Kennet Valley/East Wiltshire ware    | 3     | 16        | C12-C14   |
| 4011    | Medieval pottery: Kennet Valley/East Wiltshire ware    | 1     | 1         | C12-C14   |
| 4014    | Roman pottery: Savernake grog-tempered ware            | 7     | 446       | C2        |
|         | Roman pottery: greyware                                | 21    |           |           |
|         | Roman pottery: black-firing, sand-tempered fabric      | 4     |           |           |
|         | Roman pottery: oxidised fabric                         | 1     |           |           |
| 5003    | Roman pottery: black-firing, sand-tempered fabric      | 1     | 0         | C12-C14   |
|         | Medieval pottery: quartz-and-limestone tempered fabric | 1     | 8         |           |
| 7007    | Roman pottery: Savernake grog-tempered ware            | 3     | 29        | Roman     |
|         | Roman pottery: black-firing, sand-tempered fabric      | 1     |           |           |

Table 2: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context

| Context         | BOS        | O/C       | LM        | MM       | Total      | Weight (g) |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------------|------------|
| <b>Roman</b>    |            |           |           |          |            |            |
| 4006            | 1          | 2         |           |          | 3          | 34         |
| 4007            | 9          |           |           |          | 9          | 80         |
| <b>Subtotal</b> | <b>10</b>  | <b>2</b>  |           |          | <b>12</b>  | <b>114</b> |
| <b>Medieval</b> |            |           |           |          |            |            |
| 4011            | 1          |           |           |          | 1          | 5          |
| <b>Undated</b>  |            |           |           |          |            |            |
| 4017            |            |           | 3         | 3        | 6          | 21         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>11</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>3</b> | <b>19</b>  |            |
| <b>Weight</b>   | <b>101</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>140</b> |            |

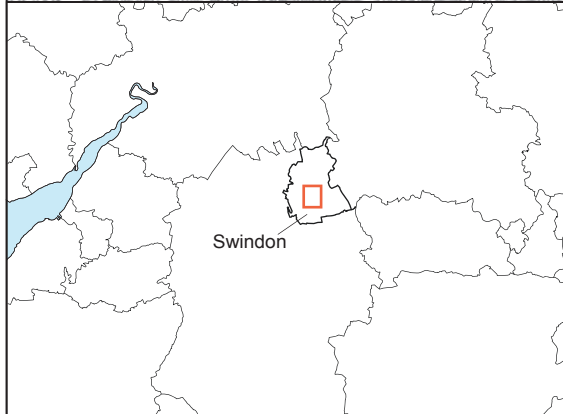
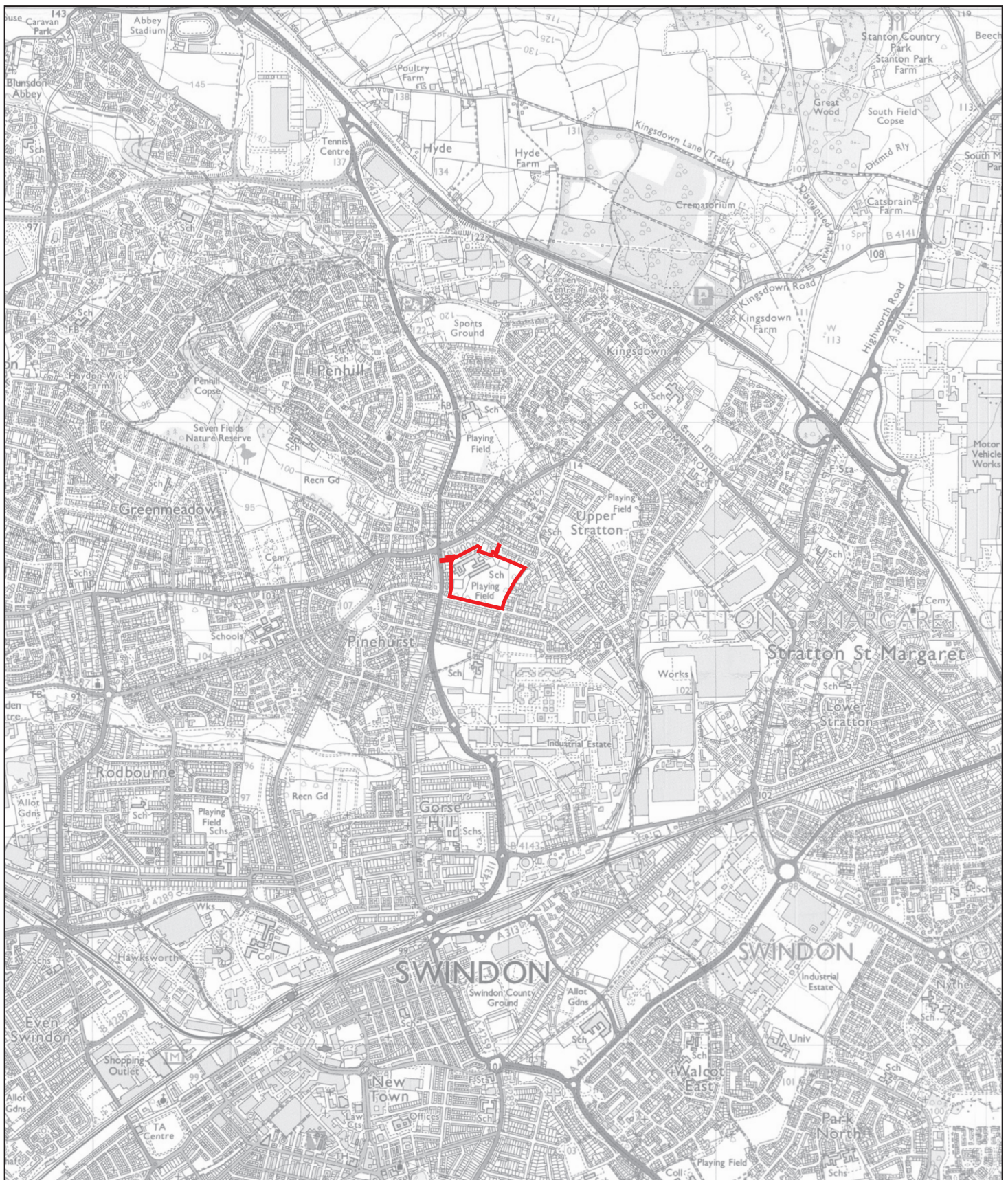
BOS = cattle; O/C = ovicaprid; LM = large sized mammal; MM = medium sized mammal

## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Project Name  | Former Headlands School<br>Headland Grove<br>Upper Stratton, Swindon<br>Wiltshire<br>Archaeological Evaluation   |  |
| Short description (250 words maximum)                           | <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2014 at Former Headlands School, Headland Grove, Upper Stratton, Swindon, Wiltshire. Twelve trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A single ditch identified in the eastern part of the site was tentatively dated to the prehistoric period. Ditches and a deposit possibly relating to 2nd century AD settlement activity were located in the southern part of the site. Several ditches thought to be medieval field boundaries associated with agricultural activity were identified within the southern half of the site. Several undated ditches were also identified also thought to relate to agricultural practices on the site</p> |  |
| Project dates   | 03.02.2014 to 07.02.2014   |  |
| Project type<br>(e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)         | Evaluation   |  |
| Previous work<br>(reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc) | Stratascan (SS) 2011. Headlands School, Swindon. Geophysical Survey Report. Job ref. J2860   |  |
| Future work   | Unknown  |  |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>   |  |  |
| Site Location   | Former Headlands School/Stratton St Margaret /Upper Stratton/<br>Wiltshire   |  |
| Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)                                 |  |  |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)                        | SU 1594 8722   |  |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>   |  |  |
| Name of organisation  | Cotswold Archaeology   |  |
| Project Brief originator  | WCAS   |  |
| Project Design (WSI) originator                                 | Cotswold Archaeology   |  |
| Project Manager   | Damian De Rosa   |  |
| Project Supervisor  | Tom Weavill  |  |
| <b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>  | Ditch – Roman<br>Gully - Roman<br>Ditch – Medieval<br>Ridge and furrow - Medieval<br>Ditch – Post-medieval<br>Pit - Undated  |  |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>  | Pottery – Roman<br>Pottery - Medieval  |  |
| <b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>   | Intended final location of archive<br>(museum/Accession no.)<br>Swindon Museum and Art Gallery<br>SWIMG B2014.56   | Content (e.g. pottery,<br>animal bone etc) |
| Physical  | Swindon Museum and Art Gallery<br>SWIMG B2014.56   | ceramics, animal bone                      |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Paper  | Swindon Museum and Art Gallery<br>SWIMG B2014.56 | Context sheets, plans                    |
| Digital  | Swindon Museum and Art Gallery<br>SWIMG B2014.56 | Database, digital photos,<br>survey data |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>  |  |  |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014: <i>Former Headlands School, Headland Grove, Upper Stratton, Swindon, Wiltshire Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>09158</b> |  |  |





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**PROJECT TITLE**

Former Headland School, Headlands Grove, Upper Stratton, Swindon

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

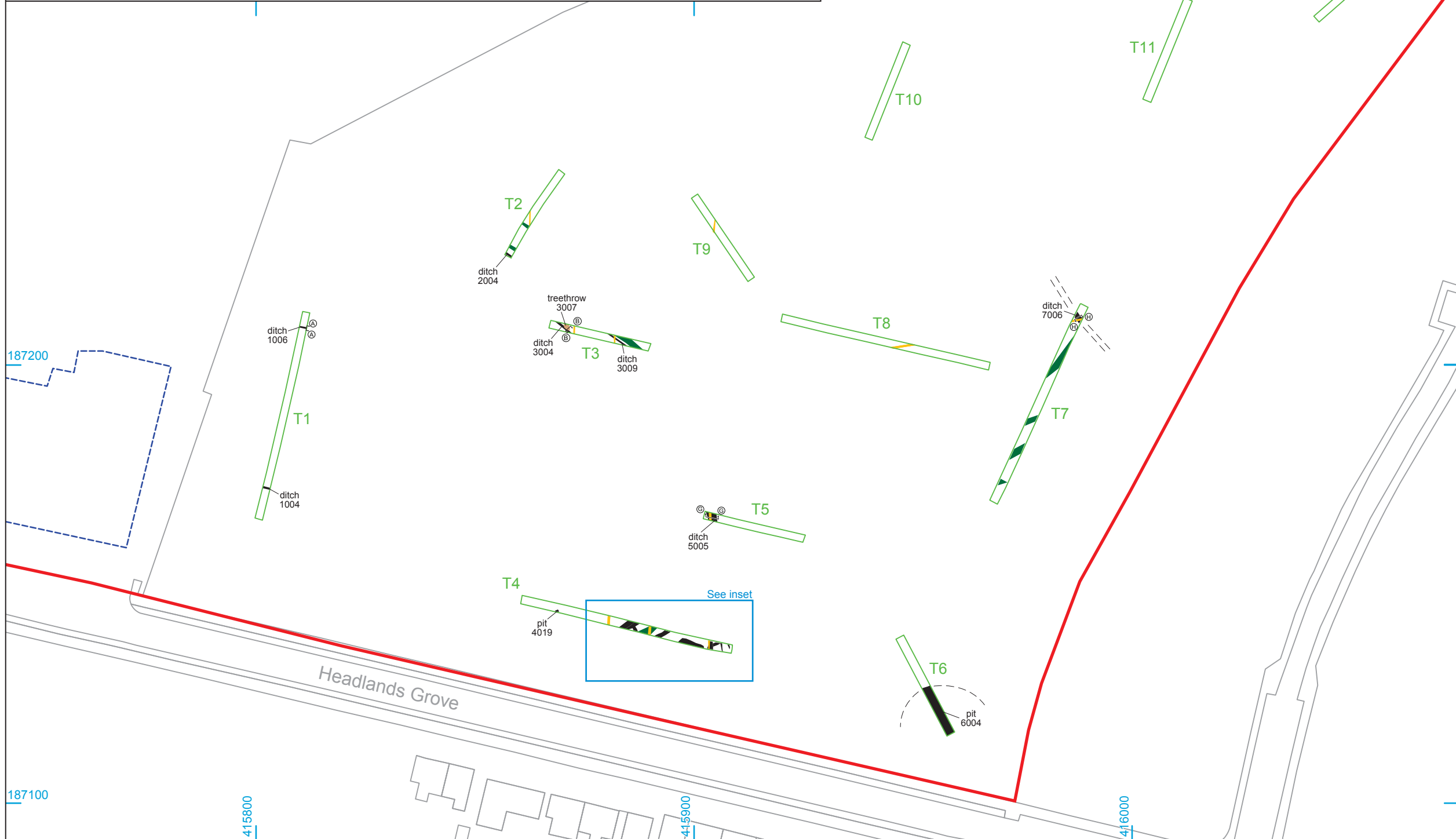
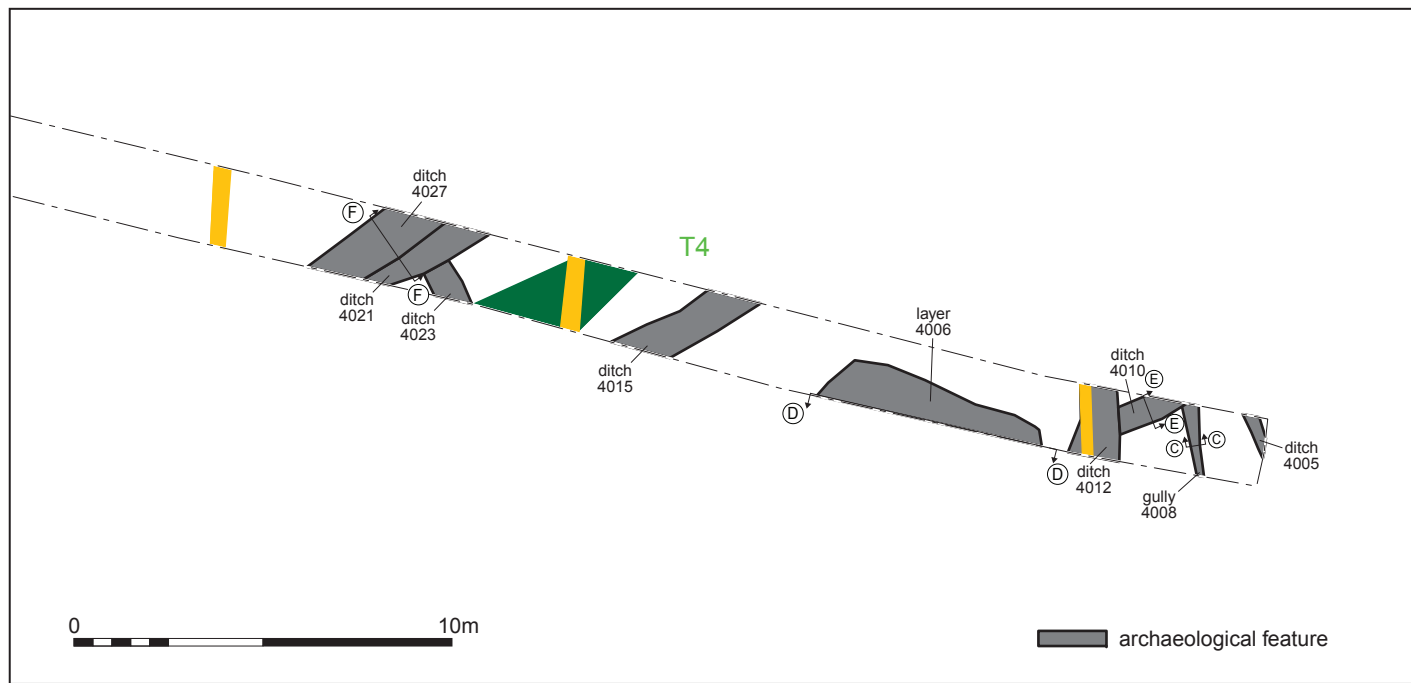
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PROJECT NO. 4721 DATE 14/02/2014  
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FIGURE NO.

1





- site
- evaluation trench
- contingency trenching area
- archaeological feature
- land drain
- furrow
- tree throw



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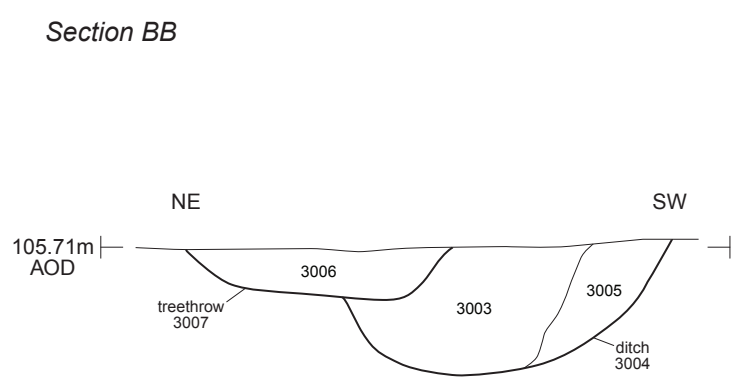
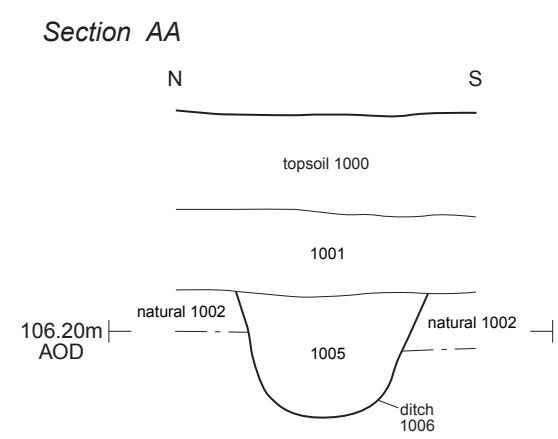
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Former Headland School, Headlands Grove, Upper Stratton, Swindon

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

|                  |                              |              |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| PROJECT NO. 4721 | DATE 14/02/2014              | FIGURE NO. 2 |
| DRAWN BY WAF     | REVISION 00                  |              |
| APPROVED BY LM   | SCALE@A3 1:1000. Inset 1:200 |              |





West facing section of ditch [1006] (scale 0.4m)



North west facing section of ditch [3004] and treethrow [3007] (scale 0.4m)



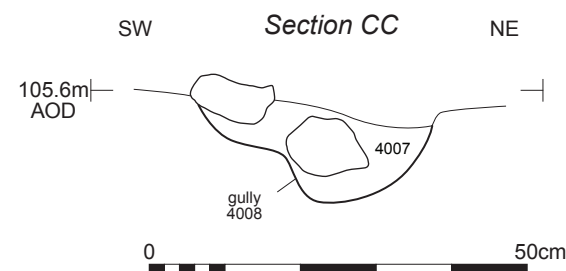
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PROJECT TITLE  
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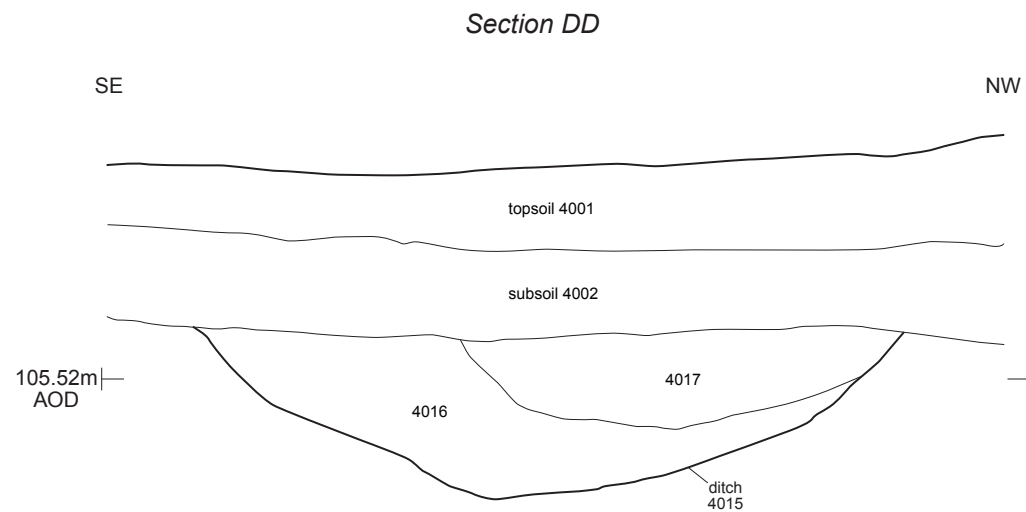
FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 1 & 3: sections and photographs**

|                  |                 |              |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| PROJECT NO. 4721 | DATE 14/02/2014 | FIGURE NO. 3 |
| DRAWN BY WAF     | REVISION 00     |              |
| APPROVED BY LM   | SCALE@A3 1:20   |              |

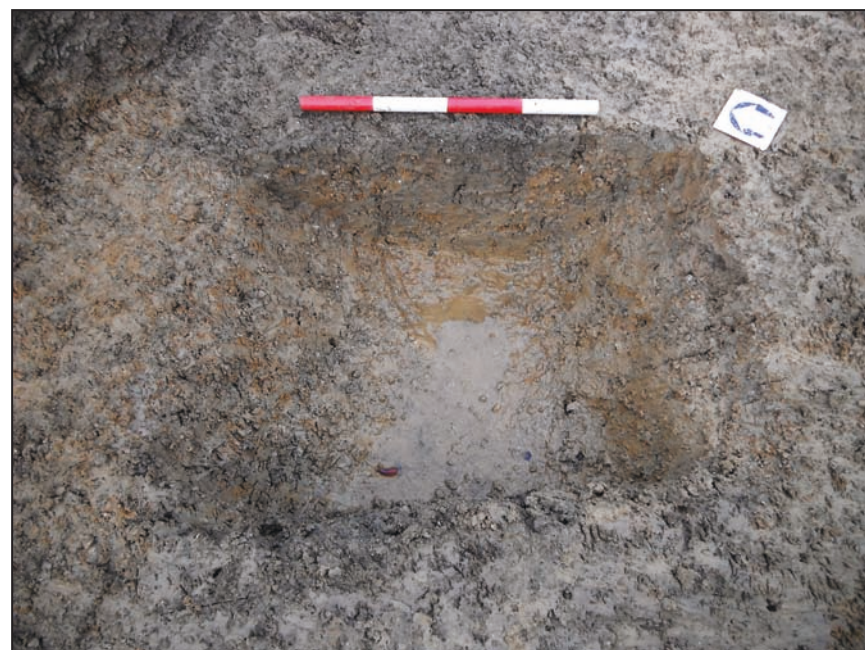
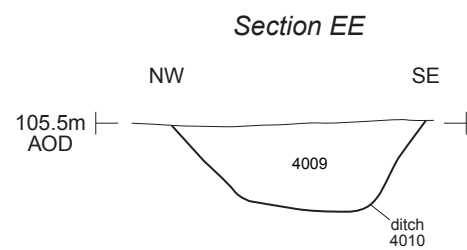




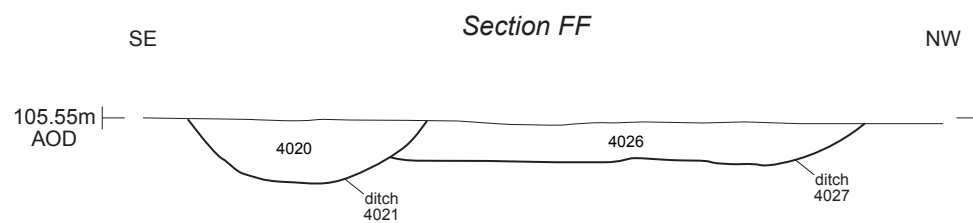
South east facing section of gully [4008] (0.2m scale)



North-east facing oblique section of ditch [4015] (1m scale)



South-west facing section of ditch [4010] (0.4m scale)



North-east facing section of ditches [4015] & [4021] (1m scale)



Layer 4006 looking south (2m scale)



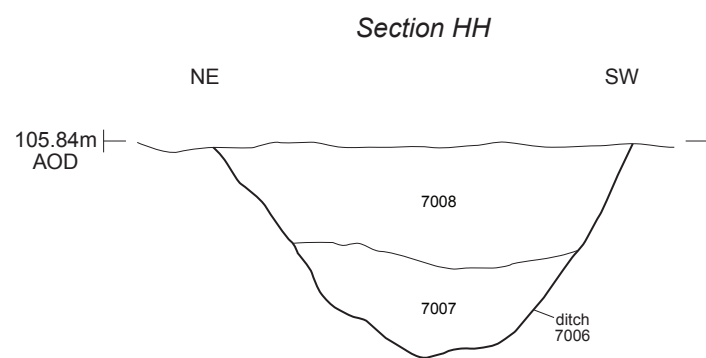
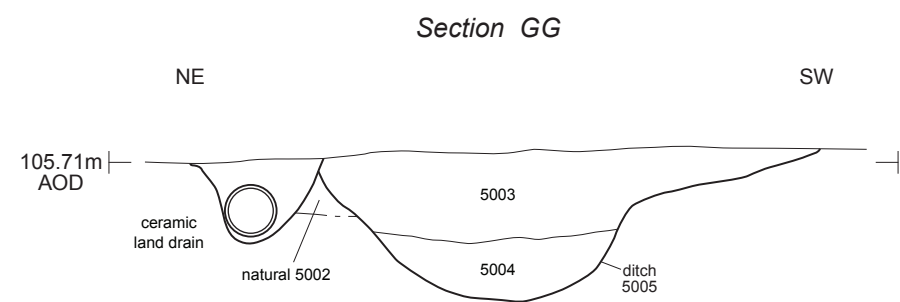
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PROJECT TITLE  
Former Headland School, Headlands Grove, Upper Stratton, Swindon

FIGURE TITLE  
Trench 4: sections and photographs

|             |      |          |             |            |
|-------------|------|----------|-------------|------------|
| PROJECT NO. | 4721 | DATE     | 14/02/2014  | FIGURE NO. |
| DRAWN BY    | WAF  | REVISION | 00          | 4          |
| APPROVED BY | LM   | SCALE@A3 | 1:20 & 1:10 |            |

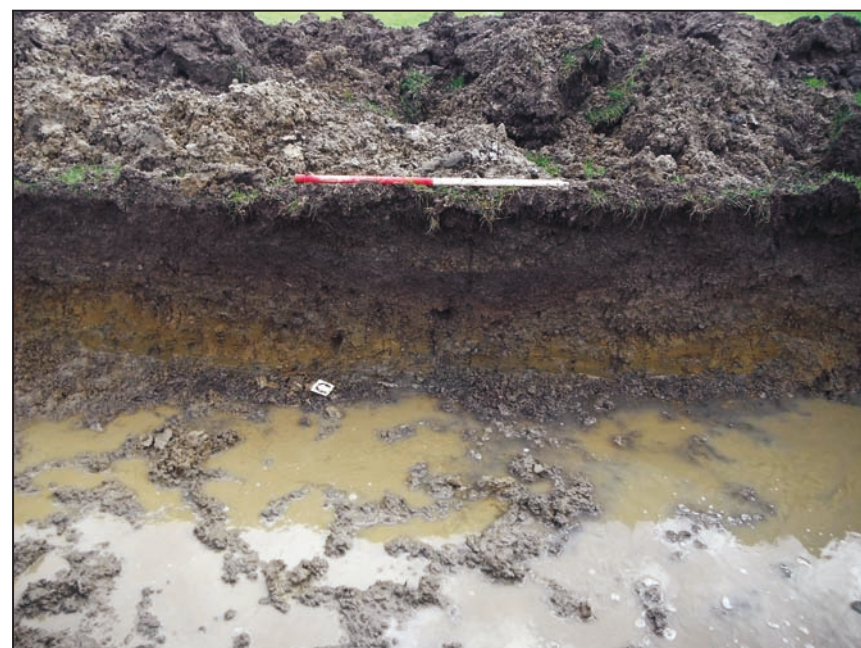




South facing section of ditch [5005] (1m scale)



North-west facing section of ditch [7006] (1m scale)



Furrow in west facing section of Trench 10 (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE  
 Former Headland School, Headlands Grove, Upper Stratton, Swindon

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 5 & 7: sections and photographs**

PROJECT NO. 4721 DATE 14/02/2014 FIGURE NO.  
 DRAWN BY WAF REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A3 1:20 **5**