



Cotswold
Archaeology

**Land east of Newington Road
Stadhampton
Oxfordshire
Phase II**

Archaeological Evaluation

for
Catesby Property Group

CA Project: 660373
CA Report: 14511

November 2014

LAND EAST OF NEWINGTON ROAD
STADHAMPTON
OXFORDSHIRE
PHASE II

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 660373
CA Report: 14511

prepared by	Stuart Joyce, Senior Project Officer
date	6 November 2014
approved by	Derek Evans, Project Manager
date	18 November 2014
issue	02

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land east of Newington Road
Location:	Stadhampton, Oxfordshire
NGR:	SU 6027 9794
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	29 to 31 October 2014
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service
Site Code:	NST 14

In October 2014, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land east of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire.

A previous geophysical survey of the site identified a series of anomalies thought to relate to a series of enclosure ditches and other features. A previous archaeological evaluation of the northern part of the site confirmed the presence of field or enclosure boundaries dating to the first century AD.

The present evaluation recorded a large Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit at the site. It should be noted, however, that no evidence for further activity of this date was uncovered by either phase of evaluation at the site, with the exception of a single residual sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery recovered from the topsoil during the present evaluation.

The evaluation also recorded the remains of a medieval ridge and furrow agricultural system and late post-medieval/modern ploughing, as well as a single isolated undated posthole.

Only one of the geophysical anomalies was identified as an archaeological feature. There were numerous other anomalies which were not found to correspond to below-ground features, and these are likely to have derived from near-surface geological variations and modern activity.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2014, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for the Environmental Development Partnership (EDP), acting on behalf of Catesby Property Group, on land east of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire (hereafter referred to as “the site;” centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): SU 6027 9794; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for residential development of the site, which is to be made to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC; the local planning authority).
- 1.2 The present evaluation follows an earlier phase of archaeological evaluation conducted at the site in September 2014 (AC Archaeology Ltd 2014). The scope of the present evaluation was agreed with Richard Oram, the Oxfordshire County Council Planning Archaeologist (the archaeological advisor to SODC). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Richard Oram. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), 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 Richard Oram, including a site visit on 30 October 2014.

The site

- 1.3 The site encloses an area of approximately 2.75ha. At the time of the evaluation, it comprised a number of grazing paddocks. It is bounded to the north by properties and associated gardens fronting onto Newington Road, to the east by agricultural land, to the south by a commercial plant nursery and to the west by the A329 Newington Road. The site slopes gently downwards from c. 60m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the north-east to c. 55m AOD in its south-western corner.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Gault Formation Mudstone of the Cretaceous period (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The following text is largely summarised from the report on the previous archaeological evaluation of the site (AC Archaeology Ltd 2014).
- 1.6 A number of prehistoric monuments associated with a Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary complex (PRN 15322) have been recorded from aerial photographs within the parish of Stadhampton. These monuments include a cursus, a mortuary enclosure, a long barrow, a causewayed enclosure, an oval barrow and a hengiform monument.
- 1.7 Stadhampton itself appears to have been a manor in the Middle Ages, although Domesday records it as part of the demesne lands of the Bishop of Lincoln's Dorchester manor.
- 1.8 A magnetometer survey of the site identified a series of positive linear and rectilinear magnetic anomalies as well as discrete anomalies. These were thought to relate to a series of enclosure ditches and other features (AS 2014).
- 1.9 A previous archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken in September 2014 (AC Archaeology Ltd 2014). The evaluation comprised the excavation of six trenches focussed on the northern part of the site. The evaluation confirmed the presence of field or enclosure boundaries dating to the 1st century AD. However, several of the geophysical anomalies did not appear to correspond with sub-surface archaeological features; these anomalies seem likely to have derived from near-surface geological variations and modern activity.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.10 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 SODC to identify and assess the particular significance of the site's heritage resource, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and develop appropriate mitigation strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage resource conservation and any aspect of the proposed

development, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). In particular, the evaluation sought to further test the geophysical survey results and to add further information regarding the extent and nature of any archaeological remains associated with the previously-recorded 1st-century AD activity at the site.

Methodology

- 1.11 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of six trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.5m in width, in the locations shown on Figure 2 (Trenches 7–12). 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).
- 1.12 All trenches were excavated by a 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).
- 1.13 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). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.14 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, asset out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 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. Figure 2 shows the excavated trenches and recorded archaeological features overlain on the geophysical survey results.

- 2.2 With the exceptions of furrows, modern ploughing and land drains, archaeological features were exposed in two trenches only (Trenches 7 and 9). The remaining trenches were blank. All trenches were targeted on anomalies identified in the geophysical survey report as being possibly archaeological in nature (AS 2014). The absence of archaeological features corresponding to geophysical anomalies in the blank trenches suggests that these anomalies are likely to have derived from near-surface geological variations.

General stratigraphy

- 2.3 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in all of the trenches. The natural geological substrate comprised gravels in an orange brown sand matrix and was revealed within all of the trenches, at an average depth of 0.28m below present ground level. This was sealed by c. 0.28m of topsoil. All identified archaeological features cut the natural geological substrate and were subsequently sealed by topsoil.

Later Bronze Age – Early Iron Age (1100 BC – 400 BC)

- 2.4 A large pit (902; Fig. 5) was partially revealed at the north-western end of Trench 9. This pit correlated with a discrete geophysical anomaly. Pit 902 measured 5m in length, in excess of 1.2m in width and 0.47m in depth. The primary fill, 903, consisted of angular stones in a silty matrix and represents initial collapse, shortly after excavation. The second fill, 904, contained one sherd of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery and a fragment of animal bone. This fill comprised abundant charcoal and sub-angular heat-affected stones in a silty clay matrix and represented a deliberate act of deposition. The uppermost fill of the pit, 905, was formed by natural silting. The pit had apparently been truncated by post-medieval/modern ploughing.
- 2.5 A sherd of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from the topsoil within Trench 12.

Medieval (1066 – 1539)

- 2.6 Furrows running on a broadly north-west/south-east alignment were recorded in Trenches 8 (Fig. 4) and 12. These furrows measured between 1m and 1.75m in width and around 0.3m in depth. They are interpreted as furrows based on their symmetrical profiles with moderately sloping sides, flat bases and single clay silt fills. No dateable material was recovered from their respective fills. They represent the ploughed-out remnants of a medieval ridge and furrow agricultural field system.
- 2.7 None of these furrows had been identified by the geophysical survey, although they run broadly parallel to north-west/south-east orientated anomalies interpreted in the geophysical survey report as elements of a modern agricultural landscape (AS 2014).

Post-medieval/modern (1539 – present)

- 2.8 A number of modern land drains were identified (Trenches 7–9), as well as evidence for late post-medieval/modern ploughing (Trenches 11 and 12).

Undated

- 2.9 Posthole 702 (Fig. 3) was 0.45m in diameter and 0.17m in depth. It was undated artefactually.

The finds evidence

- 2.10 The finds recovered during the evaluation consisted of pottery and a single fragment of animal bone.
- 2.11 Single sherds of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from pit fill 904 (pit 902, Trench 9) and topsoil deposit 1200 (Trench 12).
- 2.12 A single fragment of large mammal-size rib was recovered from deposit 904 (pit 902, Trench 9). While no useful interpretative data can be drawn from a single bone, it is of the appropriate size for cattle of this period.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation recorded a large Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit towards the centre of the site (Trench 9). This pit had apparently been truncated by post-medieval/modern ploughing. No evidence for further Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity was uncovered by either phase of evaluation at the site, with the exception of a single residual sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery recovered from the topsoil during the present evaluation.
- 3.2 The evaluation also recorded the remains of a medieval ridge and furrow agricultural system and late post-medieval/modern ploughing, as well as a single isolated undated posthole.
- 3.3 Only one of the geophysical anomalies was identified as an archaeological feature. There were numerous other anomalies which were not found to correspond to below-ground features, and these are likely to have derived from near-surface geological variations and modern activity. It is notable that the geophysical anomalies tested by the present evaluation were weaker than those sampled by the Phase I evaluation.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce, assisted by Rob Scott and Kostantinos Papagiannakis. This report was written by Stuart Joyce. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville, the animal bone report was written by Andy Clarke and the illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

5. REFERENCES

AC Archaeology Ltd 2014 *Land east of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire: Results of an archaeological trench evaluation*. Document No. ACW699/2/1

AS (Archaeological Surveys Ltd) 2014 *Land east of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire: Magnetometer Survey Report*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 6 November 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 Land east of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire, Phase II: *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty clay			0.23	
7	701	Layer		Natural	Orange brown silty sand with gravel patches				
7	702	Cut		Posthole	Oval in plan. Steep to moderately sloping sides, flat base	0.45	0.45	0.13	
7	703	Fill	703	Single fill	Mid brown grey silty clay	0.45	0.45	0.13	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty clay			0.28	
8	801	Layer		Natural	Orange brown silty sand with gravel patches				
8	802	Cut		Furrow	North-east/south-west orientated furrow. Moderately sloping sides, flat base	>1.5	1.76	0.28	
8	803	Fill	802	Single fill	Mid grey brown clay silt with common gravel inclusions	>1.5	1.76	0.28	
8	804	Cut		Furrow	North-east/south-west orientated furrow. Moderately sloping sides, flat base	>1.5	1.28	0.31	
8	805	Fill	804	Single fill	Mid grey brown clay silt with common gravel inclusions	>1.5	1.28	0.31	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty clay				
9	901	Layer		Natural	Orange brown silty sand with gravel patches				
9	902	Cut		Pit	Gravel extraction pit	6.75	1.75	0.47	
9	903	Fill	902	1st fill	Mid grey brown clay sand with frequent angular stone inclusions			0.18	
9	904	Fill	902	2nd fill	Dark grey brown sandy clay with frequent sub-angular stone inclusions			0.34	LBA-EIA
9	905	Fill	902	3rd fill	Mid brown grey silty clay. Occasional sub-angular stone inclusions	6.75	1.75	0.11	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty clay			0.28	
10	1001	Layer		Natural	Orange brown silty sand with gravel patches				
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty clay			0.29	
11	1101	Layer		Natural	Orange brown silty sand with gravel patches				
11	1102	Cut		Plough scar	Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides, flat base	>1.5	1.57	0.23	
11	1103	Fill	1102	Single fill	Mid brown grey clay sand	>1.5	1.57	0.23	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty clay			0.25	
12	1201	Layer		Natural	Orange brown silty sand with gravel patches				
12	1202	Cut		Furrow	Furrow. Shallow sloping even sides, flat base	>1.5	1.21	0.13	
12	1203	Fill	1202	Fill	Slightly red, grey brown sandy silt	>1.5	1.21	0.13	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

The finds recovered during the evaluation consisted of pottery and a single fragment of animal bone.

Pottery: Late prehistoric

Single unfeathered bodysherds in a handmade, fine/medium flint-and-quartz tempered fabric were recovered from pit fill 904 (pit 902, Trench 9) and topsoil deposit 1200 (Trench 12). The absence of decoration and use of flint inclusions denotes a date earlier in the late prehistoric period for this pottery, in the Later Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

Faunal remains

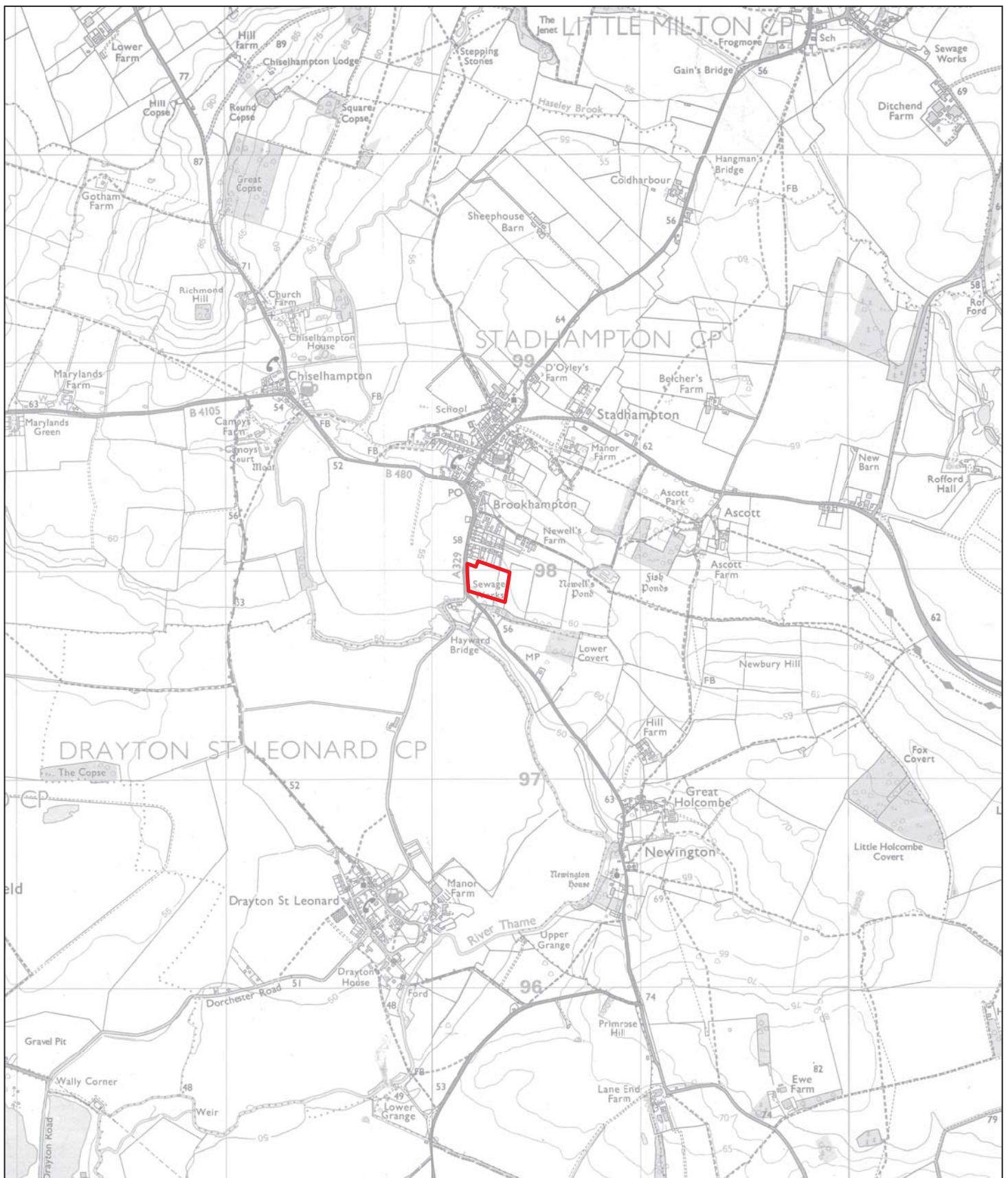
A single fragment of large mammal-size rib was recovered from deposit 904 (pit 902, Trench 9). While no useful interpretative data can be drawn from a single bone, it is of the appropriate size for cattle (*Bos taurus*) of this period.

Table B1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
904	Late prehistoric pottery: flint-and-quartz tempered fabric	1	8	LBA-EIA
	Animal bone: large mammal size rib	1	5	
1200	Late prehistoric pottery: flint-and-quartz tempered fabric	1	13	LBA-EIA

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land east of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire, Phase II	
Short description	<p>In October 2014, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land east of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire.</p> <p>A previous geophysical survey of the site identified a series of anomalies thought to relate to a series of enclosure ditches and other features. A previous archaeological evaluation of the northern part of the site confirmed the presence of field or enclosure boundaries dating to the 1st century AD.</p> <p>The present evaluation recorded a large Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit at the site. It should be noted, however, that no evidence for further activity of this date was uncovered by either phase of evaluation at the site, with the exception of a single residual sherd of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery recovered from the topsoil during the present evaluation.</p> <p>The evaluation also recorded the remains of a medieval ridge and furrow agricultural system and late post-medieval/modern ploughing, as well as a single isolated undated posthole.</p> <p>Only one of the geophysical anomalies was identified as an archaeological feature. There were numerous other anomalies which were not found to correspond to below-ground features, and these are likely to have derived from near-surface geological variations and modern activity.</p>	
Project dates	29 to 31 October 2014	
Project type	Archaeological field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2014) Field evaluation (AC 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land east of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire, Phase II	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SU 6027 9794	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		Pottery, animal bone
Paper		WSI, pro-forma registers, recording forms.
Digital		Digital photographs, digital survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land east of Newington Road, Stadhampton, Oxfordshire Phase II: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 14511		



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PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Newington Road
 Stadhampton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

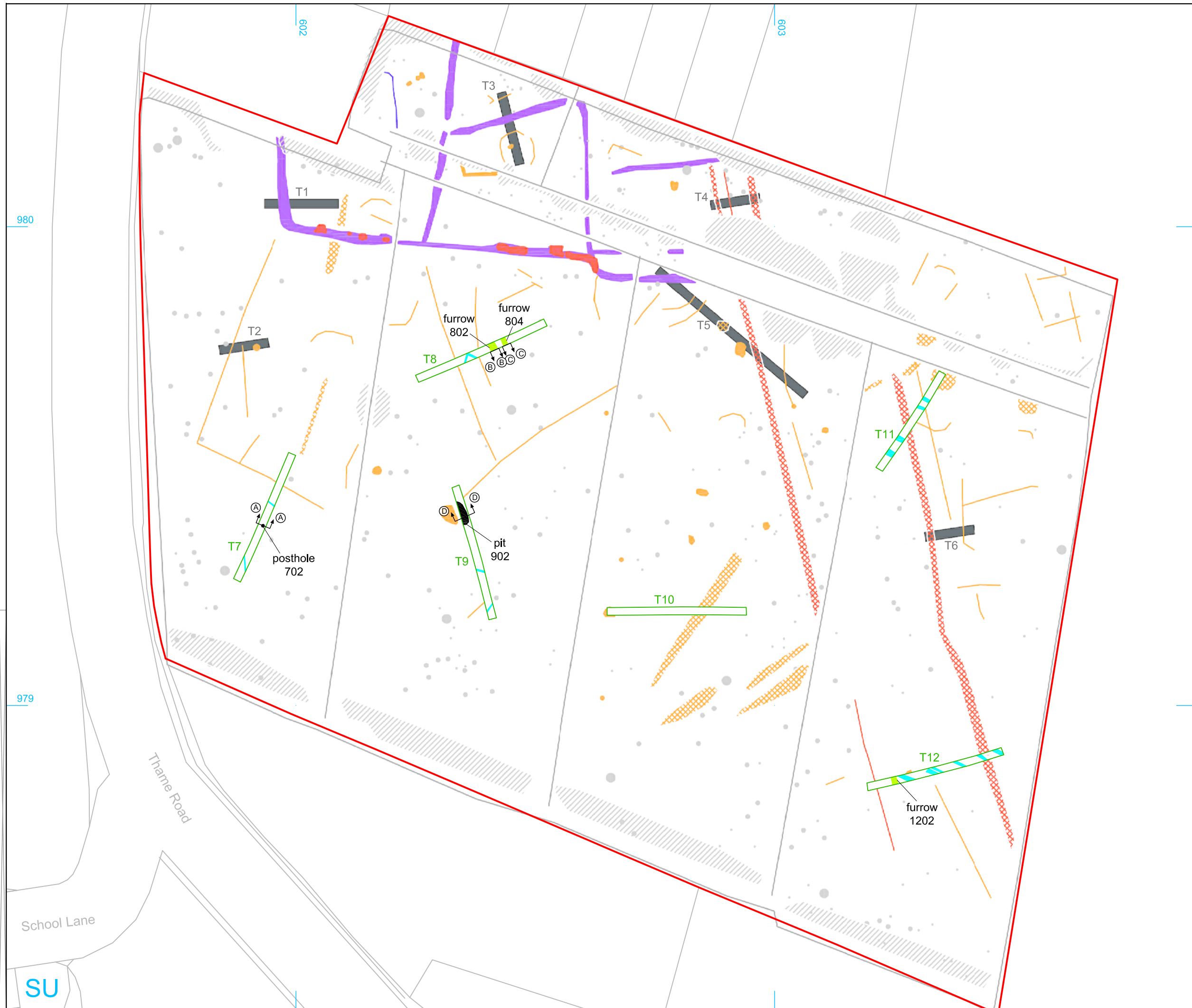


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PROJECT NO. 660373 DATE 05.11.14
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 APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- ▬ site
- ▬ Phase I (Sept 2014)
- ▬ Phase II evaluation trench
- ▬ archaeological feature
- ▬ furrow
- ▬ modern

Geophysical Survey Results
(Archaeological Surveys LTD 2014)

- ▬ Positive linear anomaly - cut feature of archaeological potential
- ▬ Positive rectilinear anomaly - enclosure ditch
- ▬ Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- ▬ Negative linear anomaly - material of low magnetic susceptibility
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- Discrete positive response - cut feature of archaeological potential
- ▨ Positive anomaly - magnetically enhanced material of archaeological potential
- ▨ Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land east of Newington Road
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing
 archaeological features and
 geophysical survey results

PROJECT NO.	660373	DATE	05.11.14	FIGURE NO.	
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APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A3	1:750		2

980

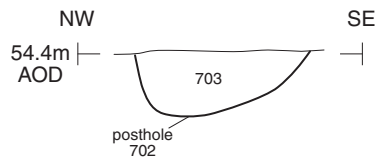
979

School Lane

Thame Road

SU

Section AA



Posthole 702, looking north-east (scale 0.3m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Newington Road
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FIGURE TITLE

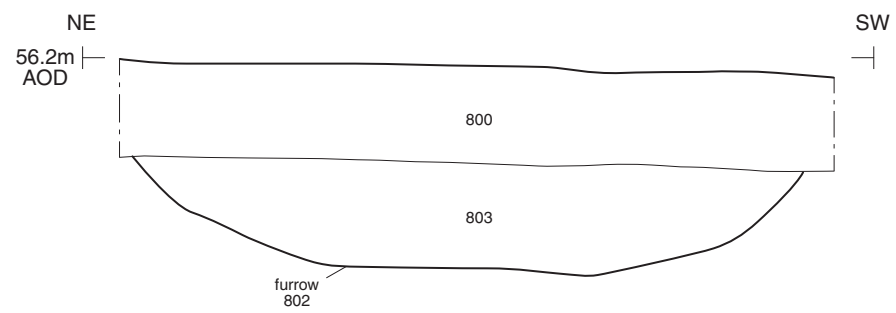
Trench 7: section and photograph

PROJECT NO. 660373 DATE 05.11.14
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FIGURE NO.

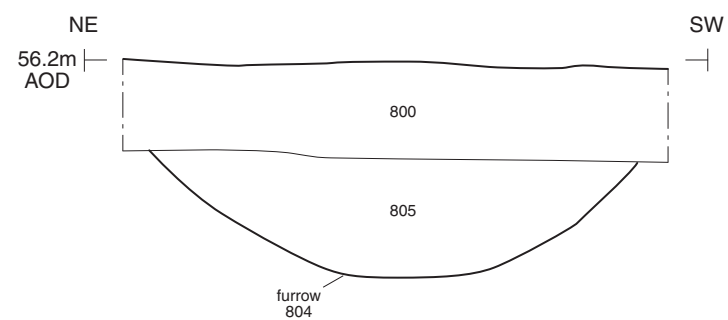
3

Section BB



Furrow 802, looking south-east (scale 1m)

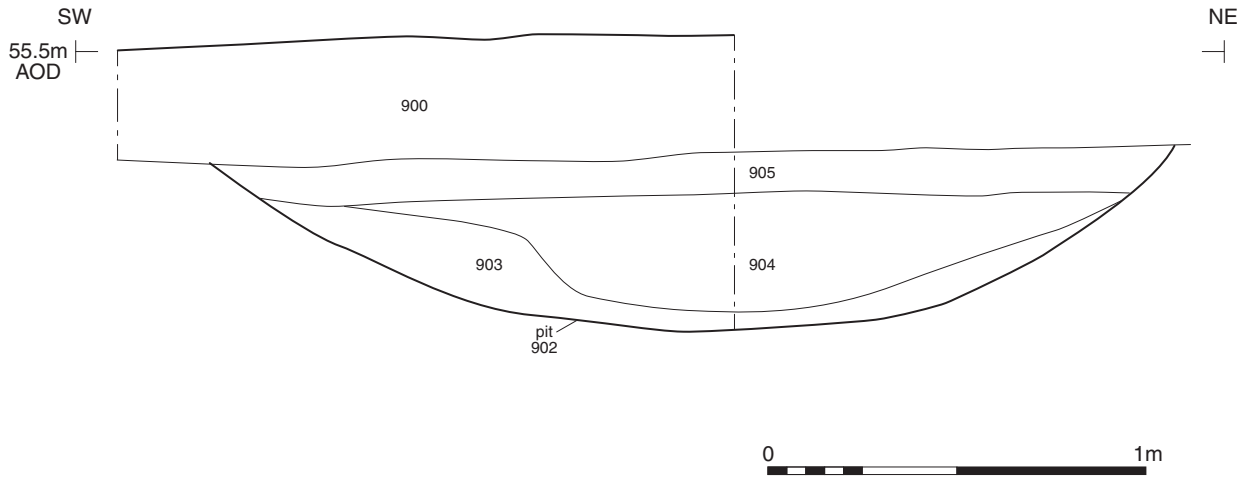
Section CC



Furrow 804, looking south-east (scale 1m)



Section DD



Pit 902, looking north-west (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 9: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

5