

**Land to the east of Catsfield Road,
Catsfield,
East Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

HER Event No.: EES 16055

for

OPDE UK Ltd


CA Project: 770111
CA Report: 14459

October 2014

Land to the east of Catsfield Road,
Catsfield,
East Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770111
CA Report: 14459

prepared by	Peter James, Project Supervisor
date	16.09.14
checked by	Chris Ellis, Senior Project Officer
date	22.09.14
approved by	Richard Greatorex, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	02.10.14
issue	01

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

© Cotswold Archaeology

Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Kemble, Cirencester Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	Milton Keynes Unit 4 Cromwell Business Centre Howard Way, Newport Pagnell MK16 9QS t. 01908 218320	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover, Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347630
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk		

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
<i>The site</i>	4
<i>Archaeological background</i>	5
<i>Archaeological objectives</i>	6
<i>Methodology</i>	6
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8).....	7
<i>The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence</i>	13
3. DISCUSSION.....	14
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	15
5. REFERENCES.....	15
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	17
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	22
APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	24
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	25
APPENDIX E: ARCHIVE FORM.....	27
APPENDIX F: ESCC HER FORM	28

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan, Field 1
- Fig. 3 Trenches 1 – 3: sections and photograph
- Fig. 4 Trench 6; plan, section and photograph
- Fig. 5 Trenches 7 and 11: sections
- Fig. 6 Trench 8: plan, section and photograph
- Fig. 7 Trench location plan, Fields 2 and 3
- Fig. 8 Trench 19 – section; Trench 27 – photo; Trench 36 - section

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land to the east of Catsfield Road
Location:	Catsfield, East Sussex
NGR:	SP 572150 112645
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	26 August-5 September 2014
Planning Reference:	PE/00120/2014
Location of Archive:	Bexhill Museum
Accession No.:	BEXHM: 2014.41
HER Event No.:	EES 16055
Site Code:	CNI14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August and September 2014 at Eastlands Farm, east of Catsfield Road near Catsfield. The Site comprised of three fields, currently used for pasture, bounded by arable land to the east and west. Eastlands Farm is located to the north and Christmas Tree Farm to the south. Thirty-seven trenches were excavated, twenty-one of which were 15m in length, two were 25m and ten were 30m with the remaining four measuring 40m in length. All trenches were 1.8m wide.

The evaluation results broadly correlate with what was identified by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). However, the evaluation has also identified additional linear features, (as recorded in Trench 12 (Field 1), and Trenches 16, 19, 20, 21, and 27(Field 2)). The lack of consistency is most likely due to the presence of deep subsoil and colluvium within the southern part of Field 1 and the ephemeral/truncated nature of features within Field 2.

The scarcity of material culture, the form and character of the ditches recorded indicate evidence related to agriculture in the form of relatively small enclosed field systems, close to a farmstead. There is some limited evidence in the form of re-cut ditches to indicate that there may have been two phases of activity; by re-cuts of ditches such as 614. The ring ditch in Trench 8 is most likely a Bronze Age barrow. The rectilinear ditch systems identified in Trenches 6, 7 and 10 most probably form parts of a series of small livestock enclosures and recti-linear enclosures.

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 contained features with an abundance of iron slag and fired clay. It is evident from the environmental evidence that iron working (including smelting) is likely to have taken place on site or in close proximity to it. There is evidence of possible kiln activity, all of which is typical for this part of East Sussex since the later Iron Age up until the later post-medieval period. Indeed we seem to have evidence from features which have produced material to cover at least the late Iron Age/Romano-British period and the post-medieval period.

The ephemeral/eroded ditches encountered within Field 2, may well be associated with those identified in Field 1 and may have formed extensions of the livestock enclosures to the west.

It is likely that the ring ditch will need either excluding from the development/solar panel array or at least in this area the panels must be set on concrete feet/bases. In the location around the enclosures, as identified in Trenches 6, 7 and 10, and in the area of concentrated industrial activity, identified predominantly in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, further archaeological mitigation may be required. It is likely that the extent of such an area of mitigation will be based on the results of this report.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August/September 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological field evaluation for OPDE UK Ltd at Eastlands Farm, on land east of Catsfield Road, near Catsfield in East Sussex centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 572147 112665 (see Figure 1) for the temporary use of the land as a solar farm (hereafter referred to as the Site). Greg Chuter, the ACA for ESCC and archaeological advisor to RDC, recommended that an archaeological evaluation of the Site be undertaken prior to determination of the application.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Greg Chuter. 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). The project was monitored by Greg Chuter, including a site visit on 2/9/14.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development Site is situated near the hamlet of Catsfield Stream, approximately 300m to the south-east of the B2204 and c. 1.1km to the south-west and Catsfield. The Site is approximately 3.7km to the south-west of the historic town of Battle.
- 1.4 The Site proposed for a solar farm, comprises an irregular parcel of land of approximately 20.5ha in area and occupies three agricultural fields currently used for pasture. The Site occupies a hill and comprises south and south-west facing slopes overlooking the valley of Watermill Stream. Eastlands Farm is located to the north and Christmas Tree Farm to the south, with further agricultural land to the east and west.
- 1.5 The underlying geology is a combination of the Wadhurst Clay Formation (a Mudstone Sedimentary Rock) and the Tonbridge Wells Formation, which comprises a Mudstone and Sandstone Sedimentary Bedrock and both bedrocks formed between 134-140 million years ago (BGS Online Map Viewer 2014).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The following background information, has been synthesised from the Heritage Assessment (CA 2014) and Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2014) carried out prior to field evaluation.
- 1.7 There are no known heritage assets within the development area. The geophysical survey identified features in Field 1, consisting of a ring ditch and adjoining enclosure. The character and form of these features it was been suggested are potentially of Romano-British origin (Stratascan 2014, CA 2014).
- 1.8 Further linear features were identified across the fields, indicative of former field boundaries and further enclosure of unknown date. Other anomalies identified were considered to be most probably related to post-medieval or modern farming activity.
- 1.9 Within the wider landscape there is limited evidence for settlement and farming activity of Neolithic to Iron Age date. In nearby Battle, c. 3.7km to the north-east of the Site, prehistoric activities represented by isolated findspots of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age date have been recorded on the HER (CA 2014).
- 1.10 During the Roman period, the area of the High Weald was traversed by a number of north-south aligned Roman roads, including the Hastings to Rochester road, which was located approximately 7.5km to the north-east of the Site. From the Late Iron Age and through the Roman period, the High Weald was the focus of a thriving iron industry, with numerous iron working sites recorded across the area (Harris 2011). A large scale metalworking site and settlement, with associated bath house, is recorded at Beauport Park in the vicinity of the Roman road, c. 6km to the north-east of the Site (Harris 2009 and 2011).
- 1.11 In the early 20th century during the construction of Twisly cottage, approximately 200m to the north-east of the Site, ground workers retrieved two vessels, a vase and a smaller pot, which contained cremated bone dated to the Roman period.
- 1.12 Both Catsfield, c. 660m to the north of the site, and Broomham, c. 840m to the north are mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Catsfield (Cedesfelle) comprised a medium sized settlement, supported by arable land, meadows, pasture and woodland swine pasture, a mill and a church. Broomham (Brunha) was a small

hamlet that included both woodland and pasture. Within the surrounding locality, the medieval settlement pattern, still recognisable today, had been established by the mid-14th century.

- 1.13 Historical maps of the Site identify former field boundaries that were subsequently removed in the late 19th and 20th century.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.14 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 Greg Chuter, the ACA for ESCC and archaeological advisor to RDC 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).

The specific objectives were to:

- Investigate anomalies identified during geophysical survey;
- Establish the presence or absence of prehistoric features.
- Establish the presence or absence of late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement and characterise the use of the landscape;
- Confirm the potential for light industrial activity associated with the Roman/Medieval/post-Medieval period.
- Characterise the medieval agricultural landscape;
- Establish the presence or absence of other archaeological features which inform the history of the landscape of the proposed development site.

Methodology

- 1.15 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of thirty-seven trenches, twenty-one of which were 15m in length, two were 25m and ten were 30m with the remaining four measuring 40m in length. All trenches were 1.8m wide. During consultation with

Greg Chuter, Trench 8 was extended by 14m. Trench 11 was relocated due to initial pre-excavation service surveys identifying the presence of two services of unknown origin and therefore it was decided safer to move the trench further to the east. All 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).

- 1.16 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).
- 1.17 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, were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.18 The archive and artefacts from the field evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. In agreement with the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Bexhill Museum (within six months of submitting the final report) under accession number BEXHM: 2014.41 along with the Site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8)

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

Field 1

- 2.2 On the higher ground to the north, the natural substrate was light yellow brown clayed sand with outcrops of red brown ironstone and sandstone. This was in turn

overlaid by approximately 0.19 - 0.30m of medium grey brown sandy clay plough soil.

- 2.3 On the lower ground, the natural substrate was predominantly medium yellow brown sandy clay, encountered approximately 0.40-0.85m below ground level. This was sealed by a layer of colluvium. This deposit was medium grey brown silty clay approximately 0.10 - 0.38m in depth. The colluvium was overlaid by medium grey brown silty clay subsoil and in turn sealed by approximately 0.18 - 0.30m of plough soil.
- 2.4 The focus of archaeological features was encountered on the higher ground (Trenches 1-10, 30-32). However, heavily eroded agricultural activity was also identified on the lower south-west slope of the field in Trenches 11 and 12. Trenches 4, 5, 9, 30, 31, 33, and 34 were empty.

Trench 1

- 2.5 Trench 1 was targeted on an area (identified by the geophysical survey) considered to be potentially associated with iron working. Pit 102 identified in the southern half of the trench, was sub-circular in plan, and measured approximately 5.11m wide and 0.45m in depth. This feature was backfilled with re-deposited natural, 103 and 105, and in turn sealed by a deposit containing a high concentration of iron slag and fired clay, 104.

Trench 2

- 2.6 Trench 2 was targeted on a large feature (identified by the geophysical survey) considered to be potentially associated with iron working. Ditch 205 aligned north-west/south-east approximately 2.56m in width and 0.38m in depth contained three phases of deliberate deposition, with the lowest deposit 206 compacted with Iron slag and fired clay. An abraded sherd Late Iron Age pottery was retained from the sealing deposit, 207. Ditch, 202, which respected the same alignment, was approximately 3.12m wide and 0.32m in depth. This feature which contained a series of otherwise sterile deposits produced a single sherd of post-medieval glazed earthenware pottery (of 16th-18th century date) and some post-medieval roof tile and some iron ore/stone. Although on the same alignment as ditch 205, ditch 202 appears to be of much later date.

Trench 3

- 2.7 Trench 3 was targeted on a large feature (identified by the geophysical survey) considered to be potentially associated with iron working. Ditch 305 was approximately 1.68m wide and 0.53m in depth. This ditch contained a potential oven or kiln-like feature. The lowest deposit, 315, was a compacted slag and fired clay, suggesting in-situ burning. The overlying materials, 303, 306 and 308 contains similar materials. A palaeo-environmental sample was taken of fill 306, which whilst it didn't produce any plant macrofossil material, it did contain a large assemblage of well-preserved oak charcoal. Oak was commonly used in metallurgical activities and supports the view that these fills have been associated with iron working. As all the carbonised material was identified as oak (and no twigs were recovered from amongst the assemblage), no suitable material is available for radiocarbon dating. It has previously been noted in East Sussex that small ovens/kilns (whether used for metal working or not) are sometimes located in close association with ditches so that the waste can be easily raked out/disposed of after use (Richard Greatorex pers. comms).

Trench 6

- 2.8 Trench 6 was aligned south-west/north-east and was targeted on two parallel ditches running north-west/south-east, identified by the geophysical survey. The trench actually revealed three parallel ditches. Ditch 614 (located at the western end of the trench) was approximately 1.80m wide and 0.92m in depth and was re-cut by ditch 603. The latest fill in the sequence, 604, contained iron slag. Ditch 605 was located centrally to the trench and was approximately 1.38m wide and 0.54m in depth and ditch 612 (located between ditches 614/603 and 605) measured approximately 0.45m wide and 0.16m in depth. Both 605 and 612 contained sterile fills.

Trench 7

- 2.9 Trench 7 was targeted on a north-west/south-east aligned geophysical 'ditch' anomaly. Ditch 703 was identified and recorded following a north-west/south-east alignment and measuring approximately 2.43m wide and 0.89m in depth. The ditch contained a series of humic fills, from the lowest of which (706), an abraded sherd of Roman pottery was recovered.

Trench 8

- 2.10 Trench 8 was located to characterise a circular feature identified by geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). The trench was extended to confirm full extent. Two interventions were excavated through this feature. Ditch 803 measured approximately 1.02m wide and 0.45m in depth and contained multiple, sterile, fills. The second intervention recorded Ditch 810m which measured approximately 1.33m wide and 0.44m in depth. Ditch 803 had been recut at a later date by ditch 813. A shallow gully was also identified within the trench. Gully 808 is aligned north-west/south-east measuring approximately 0.31m wide and 0.05m in depth and contained a single, sterile deposit.

Trench 10

- 2.11 Trench 10 was targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly which appeared to form a right-angle and possible corner of an enclosure. The ditch of the 'enclosure' aligned north-west/south-east (ditch 1003) measured approximately 0.58m wide and 0.22m in depth and contained a single humic deposit. The ditch of the 'enclosure' aligned south-west/north-east was mapped but not excavated.

Trenches 11 and 12

- 2.12 Trenches 11 and 12 were targeted on large linear geophysical anomalies thought to possibly form part of an enclosure or alternatively a field lynchet (Stratascan 2014). In Trench 11, a ditch (1103) was recorded aligned north-east/south-west, measuring approximately 1m wide and 0.43m in depth. The ditch contained a series of humic fills. In Trench 12, a ditch (1203) was recorded at the northern end of the trench aligned east/west, measuring approximately 0.54m wide and 0.20m in depth. The ditch contained a single fill from which a few sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered. A further ditch (1205) was recorded in Trench 12 aligned north-west/south-east measuring approximately 0.60m wide and 0.10m in depth and this contained a single sterile deposit. Both features recorded in Trench 12, were relatively shallow suggesting that they had been heavily eroded. It also possible that due to the heavy erosion action in that part of the Site, the few finds recovered from ditch 1203 may actually be residual.

Trench 13

- 2.13 Trench 13 was targeted on a potential group of discreet geophysical anomalies. One pit (1303) was recorded, sub-circular in plan and measuring approximately 1.20m in

diameter and 0.47m in depth. The pit contained a single deliberate backfill containing charcoal and fired clay.

Trench 14

- 2.14 Trench 14 was targeted on a potential group of discreet geophysical anomalies. A possible ditch/hedgerow (1404) alignment was identified and recorded and measured 1.22m in width and 0.48m in depth.

Trench 32

- 2.15 Trench 32 was not targeted on any anomalies. Pit 3202 was recorded, sub-circular in plan, measuring approximately 0.94m in diameter and 0.15m in depth. The pit contained a deliberate backfill. An abraded sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the surface of the feature.

Fields 2 and 3

- 2.16 Trenches 15-28, 35-37 were excavated in Field 2. Trench 29 was located within Field 3. The natural substrate was established approximately 0.26-0.37m and consisted of yellow brown clayed sand with banding of red brown ironised sandstone. Subsoil was encountered within a natural undulation in the centre of the field, identified within trenches 20, 21, 23, 36 and 37. Trenches 15, 17, 18, 22, 25, 26, and 28 were empty. Trench 18 and the latter three had been targeted on possible linear geophysical anomalies.

Trench 16

- 2.17 Trench 16 was located within an area of apparently low archaeological potential as indicated by the geophysical results. Within the trench ditch (1606) was identified aligned north/south, measuring approximately 0.40m wide and 0.02m in depth. The ditch contained a single sterile fill. A further ditch (1608) was recorded aligned east/west and measuring approximately 0.59m wide and 0.05m in depth. Both features are clearly very shallow suggesting that they have been truncated as a result of ploughing and general erosion. No relationship was ascertained between the two features. The remnants of a tree bole, 1604, were also recorded.

Trench 19,

- 2.18 Trench 19 was located within an area of apparently low archaeological potential as indicated by the geophysical results. A ditch, 1903, was recorded aligned north-west/south-east measuring approximately 0.51m wide and 0.20m in depth. A further

ditch (1905) was recorded on an east/west alignment and measured approximately 0.59m wide and at a depth of 0.23m. The ditches are of a similar depth and nature, both having primary and secondary fills. No finds were recorded to date either of the ditches, but it is assumed from their close proximity to one another, and their similar character, that they are probably contemporary.

Trench 21

- 2.19 Trench 21 was located within an area of apparently low archaeological potential as indicated by the geophysical results. A ditch, 2105 was recorded aligned north-east/south-west and measuring approximately 1.10m wide and 0.34m in depth. It had one fill comprising a clay/silt matrix, but which did not produce any finds.

Trench 23

- 2.20 Trench 23 was targeted on two approximately parallel linear geophysical anomalies. One of the features was recorded as a ditch (2303), measuring 0.83 wide and 0.31m deep. The fill was without finds and the feature appeared to have been truncated, possibly from ploughing. The other feature was recorded as ?post-hole (2305). Both features had fills of a similar silt/clay matrix. It is assumed that the features are contemporary.

Trench 24

- 2.21 Trench 24 was targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly. Ditch 2403 was recorded aligned north/south and measured approximately 0.83m wide and 0.39m in depth. The ditch was on the same alignment as the geophysical anomaly may be associated with the features identified in Trench 23. All of these features contained a similar, single, sterile deposit.

Trench 27

- 2.22 Trench 27 was located within an area of apparently low archaeological potential as indicated by the geophysical results. A ditch terminus (2702) was recorded aligned north/south and measuring approximately 0.90m wide and 0.31m in depth. No material evidence was recovered from the fill

Trench 36

- 2.23 Trench 27 was located within an area of apparently low archaeological potential as indicated by the geophysical results. A ditch (3603) was recorded aligned approximately east/west and measuring 0.87m wide and 0.15m in depth. The ditch

was later re-cut by ditch 3605. Both features contained sterile deposits and appeared to have been truncated by ploughing and general erosion.

The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence

Finds by Jacky Sommerville

- 2.24 Finds recovered from the evaluation included pottery, ceramic building material, industrial waste and worked flint. All finds will be retained and deposited with the archive. However iron working waste will only be retained where it has been recovered from stratified contexts. If further mitigation is required, the retention policy will be reviewed in the light of any future findings.

Pottery: Late Iron Age/Early Roman

- 2.25 A total of 43 sherds of pottery in a grog-tempered fabric was recovered from ditch fills 207, 706 and 1204, and pit fill 3203. A date spanning the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, spanning the 1st century BC to 1st century AD, is suggested. Included were rimsherds from a possible carinated bowl (East Sussex Ware with a cordon on the neck (East Sussex Ware) from fill 1204 and from a jar from fill 3203.

Post-medieval

- 2.26 A single bodysherd of glazed earthenware, dateable to the 16th-18th centuries, was recorded in ditch fill 203.

Ceramic building material

- 2.27 Ditch fill 203 produced a fragment of roof tile of post-medieval date.

Industrial waste

- 2.28 A total of 41 pieces of ironworking slag recovered from ditch fills 206, 604 and 1204 comprised fragments identifiable as smelting slag. A further 371 fragments, weighing 626g, were recovered from bulk soil sampling of ditch fill 306. Included were a number of very dense pieces exhibiting the 'ropey' structure associated with tap slags. These slags, along with the possible iron ore recorded in ditch fill 203, are indicative of iron smelting activity utilising tapping furnaces of the kind in use across the Iron Age to early medieval periods.

Worked flint



- 2.29 Ditch fill 807 produced a single worked flint flake, which is only broadly dateable to the prehistoric period.

Palaeoenvironmental evidence

by Sarah Cobain

- 2.30 One environmental sample (3 litres of soil) was retrieved from a deposit with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

Undated (Iron Age to early medieval)

- 2.31 Sample 2 was recovered from fill 306 within ditch 304. The sample contained no plant macrofossil material, but did contain a large assemblage of well-preserved oak charcoal. The slag and fired clay finds within this pit have been interpreted as iron working waste and the charcoal assemblage, dominated by oak supports this assertion. Oak was commonly used in metallurgical activities as it is a dense wood and has a high calorific value so burns efficiently and at high temperatures, which are required for metal working activities (Cutler and Gale, 2000, 205). For this reason oak would have been deliberately sought for industrial activities.
- 2.32 As all the carbonised material recovered was identified as oak, and no small twigs were amongst the sampled material, no suitable material was available for radiocarbon dating.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation results broadly correlate with what was identified by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). However, the evaluation has also identified additional linear features (as in Trench 12 (Field 1), and Trenches 16, 19, 20, 21, and 27(Field 2)). The lack of consistency is most likely due to the presence of deep subsoil and colluvium within the southern part of Field 1 and the ephemeral/truncated nature of features within field 2.
- 3.2 The scarcity of material culture, the form and character of the ditches indicate evidence related to agriculture in the form of relatively small enclosed field systems, close to a farmstead. There is some limited evidence in the form of re-cut ditches to

indicate that there may have been two phases of activity; by re-cuts of ditches such as 614. The ring ditch in Trench 8 is most likely a Bronze Age barrow. The rectilinear ditch systems identified in Trenches 6, 7 and 10 most probably form parts of a series of small livestock enclosures and recti-linear enclosures.

- 3.3 Trenches 1, 2 and 3 contained features with an abundance of iron slag and fired clay. It is evident from the environmental evidence that iron working (including smelting) is likely to have taken place on site or in close proximity to it. There is evidence of possible kiln activity, all of which is typical for this part of East Sussex since the later Iron Age up until the later post-medieval period. Indeed we seem to have evidence from features which have produced material to cover at least the late Iron Age/Romano-British period and the post-medieval period.
- 3.4 The ephemeral/eroded ditches encountered within Field 2, may well be associated with those identified in Field 1 and may have formed extensions of the livestock enclosures to the west.
- 3.5 It is likely that the ring ditch will need either excluding from the development/solar panel array or at least in this area the panels must be set on concrete feet/bases. Where the enclosures have been identified in Trenches 6, 7 and 10 and the area of concentrated industrial activity, identified predominantly in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, further archaeological mitigation may be required. It is likely that the extent of such an area of mitigation will be based on the results of this report.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter James, assisted by Caoimhin O Coileain, Kostantionas Papagiannakis, Daniel Wojcik, Robert Scott and Jeremy Clutterbuck. The report was written by Peter James. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Peter James, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land to the east of Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land at Catsfield, East Sussex: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*

Stratascan 2014 *Land at Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex: Geophysical Survey Report*

Harris, R.B. 2011 *Settlement: Summary of Historic Settlement Development in the High Weald, High Weald AONB research report*, <http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/uk-landscape-research-reports.html> (accessed 16 May 2014)



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.24	
1	101	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
1	102	Cut	-	Pit	Sub-circular pit.	5.11	-	0.45	
1	103	Fill	102	Deliberate backfill	Light grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.23	
1	104	Fill	102	Deliberate backfill	Dark grey brown sandy clay with slag	-	-	0.32	
1	105	Fill	102	Deliberate backfill	Light grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.24	
1	106	Fill	102	Deliberate backfill	Light yellow brown clay	-	-	0.22	
2	200	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid brown clayed silt	-	-	0.03	
2	201	Layer	-	Natural	Yellow brown clay sand	-	-	0.3	
2	202	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NW-SW aligned.	>1	3.12	0.32	
2	203	Fill	202	Primary deposit	Light grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.18	
2	204	Fill	202	Secondary deposit	Dark grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.22	
2	205	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear Ditch. NW-SE aligned.	>1	2.56	0.38	
2	206	Fill	205	Deliberate backfill	Dark red brown clay	-	-	0.16	
2	207	Fill	205	Deliberate backfill	Medium green grey silty clay	-	-	0.17	
2	208	Fill	205	Deliberate backfill	Dark green grey silty clay	-	-	0.1	
3	300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Light grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.37	
3	301	Layer	-	Natural	Dark yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	-	
3	302	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NE-SW aligned.	>1	0.50	0.23	
3	303	Fill	305	Deliberate backfill	Light red brown sand clay	-	-	0.23	
3	304	Fill	302	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown clayed sand	-	-	0.17	
3	305	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NE-SW aligned	>1	1.68	0.53	
3	306	Fill	305	Deliberate backfill	Dark red brown clayed silt	-	-	0.15	
3	307	Fill	305	Deliberate backfill	Dark red brown silty sand	-	-	0.23	
3	308	Fill	305	Deliberate backfill	Medium red brown silty clay	-	-	0.22	
3	309	Fill	305	Deliberate backfill	Dark yellow brown silty clay	-	-	0.37	
3	310	Fill	305	Deliberate backfill	Dark yellow brown clayed silt	-	-	0.30	
3	311	Void	-	Void	Void	-	-	-	
3	312	Void	-	Void	Void	-	-	-	
3	313	Fill	305	Deliberate backfill	Dark yellow brown silty sand	-	-	0.16	
3	314	Fill	305	Re-deposit natural	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	0.20	
3	315	Fill	305	Deliberate backfill	Dark red brown clayed sand	-	-	0.07	
3	316	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NE-SW aligned	>1	0.80	0.17	
3	317	Fill	316	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.17	
4	400	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.21	
4	401	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clayed sand	-	-	-	
5	500	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.26	
5	501	Layer	-	Subsoil	Light brown grey sandy clay	-	-	0.18	
5	502	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown and blue grey clay	-	-	-	
6	600	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.30	
6	601	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown clay	-	-	0.28	
6	602	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
6	603	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NE-SW aligned	>1	0.6	0.25	
6	604	Fill	603	Secondary deposit	Dark brown grey clay	-	-	0.25	
6	605	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NW-SE aligned	>1	1.38	0.54	

6	606	Fill	605	Secondary deposit	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	0.17	
6	607	Fill	605	Secondary deposit	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	0.15	
6	608	Fill	605	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.09	
6	609	Fill	605	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.17	
6	610	Fill	605	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.13	
6	611	Fill	605	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.12	
6	612	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NW-SE aligned	>1	0.45	0.16	
6	613	Fill	612	Deliberate Backfill	Dark brown grey clay	-	-	0.16	
6	614	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NW-SE aligned	>1	1.8	0.42	
6	615	Fill	614	Primary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.18	
6	616	Fill	614	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.16	
6	617	Fill	614	Secondary deposit	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	0.18	
6	618	Fill	614	Secondary deposit	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	0.16	
6	619	Fill	614	Secondary deposit	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	0.38	
6	620	Fill	603	Secondary deposit	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	0.16	
6	621	Fill	603	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.14	
6	622	Fill	603	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.32	
7	700	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium brownish grey soft silty clay	-	-	0.33	
7	701	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.14	
7	702	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clay sand	-	-	-	
7	703	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NW-SE aligned	>0.75	2.43	0.89	
7	704	Fill	703	Secondary deposit	Light yellow brown clay sand	-	-	0.11	
7	705	Fill	703	Primary deposit	Light yellow brown clay sand	-	-	0.06	
7	706	Fill	703	Secondary deposit	Medium brown grey sandy clay	-	-	0.28	
7	707	Fill	703	Secondary deposit	Light brown grey clay sand	-	-	0.31	
7	708	Fill	703	Backfill	Medium brown grey clay sand	-	-	0.18	
7	709	Fill	703	Backfill	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.29	
8	800	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.29	
8	801	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.11	
8	802	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clay sand	-	-	-	
8	803	Cut	-	Ditch	Curvi-linear ditch. E-W aligned	>1	1.02	0.45	
8	804	Fill	803	Re-deposit natural	Light yellow brown clay sand	-	-	0.04	
8	805	Fill	803	Secondary deposit	Light yellow brown clay sand	-	-	0.1	
8	806	Fill	803	Secondary deposit	Medium yellow brown clay sand	-	-	0.12	
8	807	Fill	803	Backfill	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.31	
8	808	Cut	-	Gully	Shallow ditch. NW-SE aligned	>0.8	0.31	0.05	
8	809	Fill	808	Secondary deposit	Medium brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.05	
8	810	Cut	-	Ditch	Curvi-linear ditch. N-S aligned	>1	1.33	0.44	
8	811	Fill	810	Secondary deposit	Light yellow brown clayed sand	-	-	0.1	
8	812	Fill	810	Secondary deposit	Medium yellow brown clay sand	-	-	0.17	
8	813	Cut	-	Ditch	Re-cut of ditch 810	>1	1.23	0.26	
8	814	Fill	813	Secondary deposit	Medium red brown sandy clay	-	-	0.26	
9	900	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.30	
9	901	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.26	
9	902	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
10	1000	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.25	
10	1001	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium yellow brown clayed silt	-	-	0.39	
10	1002	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
10	1003	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NE-SW aligned	>1	0.58	0.12	

10	1004	Fill	1003	Secondary deposit	Medium red brown silty clay	-	0.58	0.12	
11	1100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.27	
11	1101	Layer	-	Subsoil	Dark brown grey clay	-	-	0.39	
11	1102	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
11	1103	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NE-SW aligned	>1	1	0.43	
11	1104	Fill	1103	Secondary deposit	Yellow Brown sandy clay	-	-	0.17	
11	1105	Fill	1103	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.15	
11	1106	Fill	1103	Secondary deposit	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	0.13	
11	1107	Fill	1103	Primary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.08	
12	1200	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.20	
12	1201	Layer	-	Subsoil	Dark grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.25	
12	1202	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay	-	-	-	
12	1203	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NW-SE aligned	>1	0.54	0.22	
12	1204	Fill	1203	Secondary deposit	Dark brownish grey clay silty	-	-	0.22	
12	1205	Cut	-	Ditch	Shallow ditch. NW-SE aligned	>1	0.6	0.1	
12	1206	Fill	1205	Secondary deposit	Dark brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.1	
12	1207	Layer	-	Colluvium	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.38	
13	1300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.28	
13	1301	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
13	1302	Layer	-	Subsoil	Dark brown clay	-	-	0.35	
13	1303	Cut	-	Pit	Sub circular pit	-	1.2	0.47	
13	1304	Fill	1303	Deliberate backfill	Dark grey brown clay	-	-	0.47	
14	1400	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.19	
14	1401	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.11	
14	1402	Layer	-	Colluvium	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.34	
14	1403	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
14	1404	Cut	-	Ditch	Possible hedgerow	1>	1.22	0.48	
14	1405	Fill	1404	Secondary deposit	Light yellow grey silty clay	-	-	0.48	
15	1500	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.26	
15	1501	layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clayey sand	-	-	-	
16	1600	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown clay silt	-	-	0.2	
16	1601	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.1	
16	1602	Layer	-	Colluvium	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.3	
16	1603	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
16	1604	Cut	-	Tree bole	Sub-circular, irregular	0.8	0.8	0.1	
16	1605	Fill	1604	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	0.8	0.1	
16	1606	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. N-S aligned	-	0.4	0.02	
16	1607	Fill	1606	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	0.4	0.02	
16	1608	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. E-W aligned	>1	0.59	0.05	
16	1609	Fill	1608	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	0.59	0.02	
17	1700	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.23	
17	1701	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.22	
17	1702	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clayed sand	-	-	-	
18	1800	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown sandy loam	-	-	0.28	
18	1801	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clayed sand	-	-	-	
19	1900	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.3	
19	1901	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.12	
19	1902	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
19	1903	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NE-SW aligned	-	-	-	

19	1904	Fill	1903	Secondary deposit	Medium brown grey clayed silt	-	-	0.2	
19	1905	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NE-SW aligned	>1	0.59	0.23	
19	1906	Fill	1605	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.23	
20	2000	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.29	
20	2001	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.19	
20	2002	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	-	
20	2003	Cut	-	Post-hole	Circular concave profile	0.5	0.42	0.08	
20	2004	Fill	2003	Secondary deposit	Mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-	0.08	
21	2100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid brownish grey clayish silt	-	-	0.25	
21	2101	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey clayish silt	-	-	0.37	
21	2102	Layer	-	Natural	Light brown grey clayed silt	-	-	-	
21	2103	Void	-	Void	Void	-	-	-	
21	2104	Void	-	Void	Void	-	-	-	
21	2105	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NE-SW aligned	>1	1.1	0.34	
21	2106	Fill	2106	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.34	
22	2300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.28	
22	2301	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.16	
22	2302	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	-	
23	2303	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. NE-SW aligned	>1	0.83	0.31	
23	2304	Fill	2303	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.31	
23	2305	Cut	-	Post-hole	Sub-circular post-hole?	0.32	0.29	0.08	
23	2306	Fill	2305	Backfill	Mid grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.08	
24	2400	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silt loam	-	-	0.26	
24	2401	Void	-	Void	Void	-	-	-	
24	2402	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	-	
24	2403	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. N-S aligned	>1	0.83	0.39	
24	2404	Fill	-	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	0.83	0.39	
25	2500	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.28	
25	2501	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clayed sand	-	-	-	
26	2600	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.4	
26	2601	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown compact sandy clay	-	-	-	
27	2700	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.32	
27	2701	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clayed sand	-	-	-	
27	2702	Cut	-	Ditch	Ditch terminus. N-S aligned	0.85	0.40	0.31	
27	2703	Fill	-	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.31	
28	2800	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.24	
28	2801	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown sandy clay	-	-	-	
29	2900	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.23	
29	2901	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellowish brown soft clay sand	-	-		
30	3000	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium brown grey silty loam	-	-	0.24	
30	3001	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clayed sand	-	-		
31	3100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown silty Loam	-	-	0.23	
31	3101	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium yellow brown silty clay	-	-	0.07	
31	3102	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clay sand	-	-		
32	3200	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid brownish grey soft silty clay	-	-	0.3	
32	3201	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay	-	-		
32	3202	Cut	-	Pit	Sub-circular pit	-	0.94	0.15	
32	3203	Fill	3202	Deliberate backfill	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.15	

33	3300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.2	
33	3301	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.13	
33	3302	Layer	-	Colluvium	Medium yellow brown silty clay	-	-	0.19	
33	3303	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
34	3400	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.23	
34	3401	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium grey brown silty clay	-	-	0.08	
34	3402	Layer	-	Colluvium	Medium yellow brown clay	-	-	0.1	
34	3403	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clay	-	-	-	
35	3500	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.28	
35	3501	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clayed sand	-	-	-	
36	3600	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium grey brown clayed silt	-	-	0.23	
36	3601	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium red brown clayed sand	-	-	0.25	
36	3602	Layer	-	Natural	Medium yellow brown clayed sand	-	-	-	
36	3603	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. E-W aligned	-	0.87	0.14	
36	3604	Fill	3603	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.14	
36	3605	Cut	-	Ditch	Linear ditch. E-W aligned	-	0.87	0.16	
36	3606	Fill	3605	Secondary deposit	Medium grey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.16	
37	3700	Layer	-	Topsoil	Medium brown grey clayed silt	-	-	0.24	
37	3701	Layer	-	Subsoil	Medium brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.13	
37	3702	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellow brown clayed silt	-	-	-	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Project 770111: Finds by Jacky Sommerville

Finds recovered from evaluation included pottery, ceramic building material, industrial waste and worked flint.

Pottery: Late Iron Age/Early Roman

A total of 43 sherds of pottery in a grog-tempered fabric was recovered from ditch fills 207, 706 and 1204, and pit fill 3203. A date spanning the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period, spanning the 1st century BC to 1st century AD, is suggested. Included were rimsherds from a possible carinated bowl with a cordon on the neck (East Sussex Ware) from fill 1204 and from a jar from fill 3203.

Post-medieval

A single bodysherd of glazed earthenware, dateable to the 16th to 18th centuries, was recorded in ditch fill 203.

Ceramic building material

Ditch fill 203 produced a fragment of roof tile of post-medieval date.

Industrial waste

A total of 41 pieces of ironworking slag recovered from ditch fills 206, 604 and 1204 comprised fragments identifiable as smelting slag. A further 371 fragments, weighing 626g, were recovered from bulk soil sampling of ditch fill 306. Included were a number of very dense pieces exhibiting the 'ropey' structure associated with tap slags. These slags, along with the possible iron ore recorded in ditch fill 203, are indicative of iron smelting activity utilising tapping furnaces of the kind in use across the Iron Age to early medieval periods.

Worked flint

Ditch fill 807 produced a single worked flint flake, which is only broadly dateable to the prehistoric period.

Table 1: Finds concordance Table

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
203	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	1	11	C16-C18
	Post-medieval ceramic building material: roof tile	1	17	
	Iron ore/ironstone	5	161	
206	Fired clay	2	109	-
	Slag	7	403	
207	Late prehistoric/early Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1	8	LIA-C1
306 Sample <2> Sample <2> Sample <2>	Fired clay	44	26	-
	Glass	3	<1	
	Slag	371	626	
604	Slag	33	2305	-
706	Late prehistoric/early Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1	11	LIA-C1
807	Worked flint: flake	1	28	-
1204	Late prehistoric/early Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	37	214	LIA-C1
	Fired clay	2	14	
	Slag	1	7	
3203	Late prehistoric/early Roman pottery: grog-tempered fabric	4	13	LIA-C1

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Palaeoenvironmental evidence

by Sarah Cobain

One environmental sample (3 litres of soil) was retrieved from a deposit with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

Undated (Iron Age to early medieval)

Sample 2 was recovered from fill 306 within ditch 304. The sample contained no plant macrofossil material, but did contain a large assemblage of well-preserved oak charcoal. The slag and fired clay finds within this pit have been interpreted as iron working waste and the charcoal assemblage, dominated by oak supports this assertion. Oak was commonly used in metallurgical activities as it is a dense wood and has a high calorific value so burns efficiently and at high temperatures, which are required metal working activities (Cutler and Gale, 2000, 205). For this reason oak would have been deliberately sought for industrial activities.

As all the carbonised material was identified as oak, there is no suitable material available for radiocarbon dating.

References

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2003 *The taking and processing of environmental and other samples from archaeological sites* CA Technical Manual No. 2

Charcoal Identifications

Context number		306	
Feature number		304	
Sample number (SS)		2	
Flot volume (ml)		241	
Sample volume processed (l)		3	
Soil remaining (l)		0	
Period		U/D	
Charcoal quantity		+++++	
Charcoal preservation		Moderate	
Family	Species	Common Name	
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl./ <i>Quercus robur</i> L.	Sessile Oak/ Pedunculate Oak	10
Number of Fragments:			10

Key

+++++ = >500 items

U/D = undated

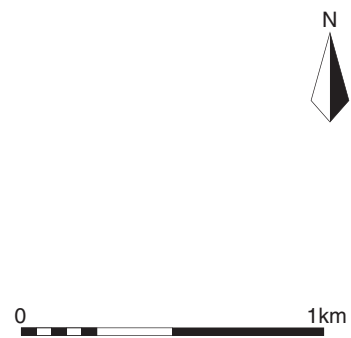
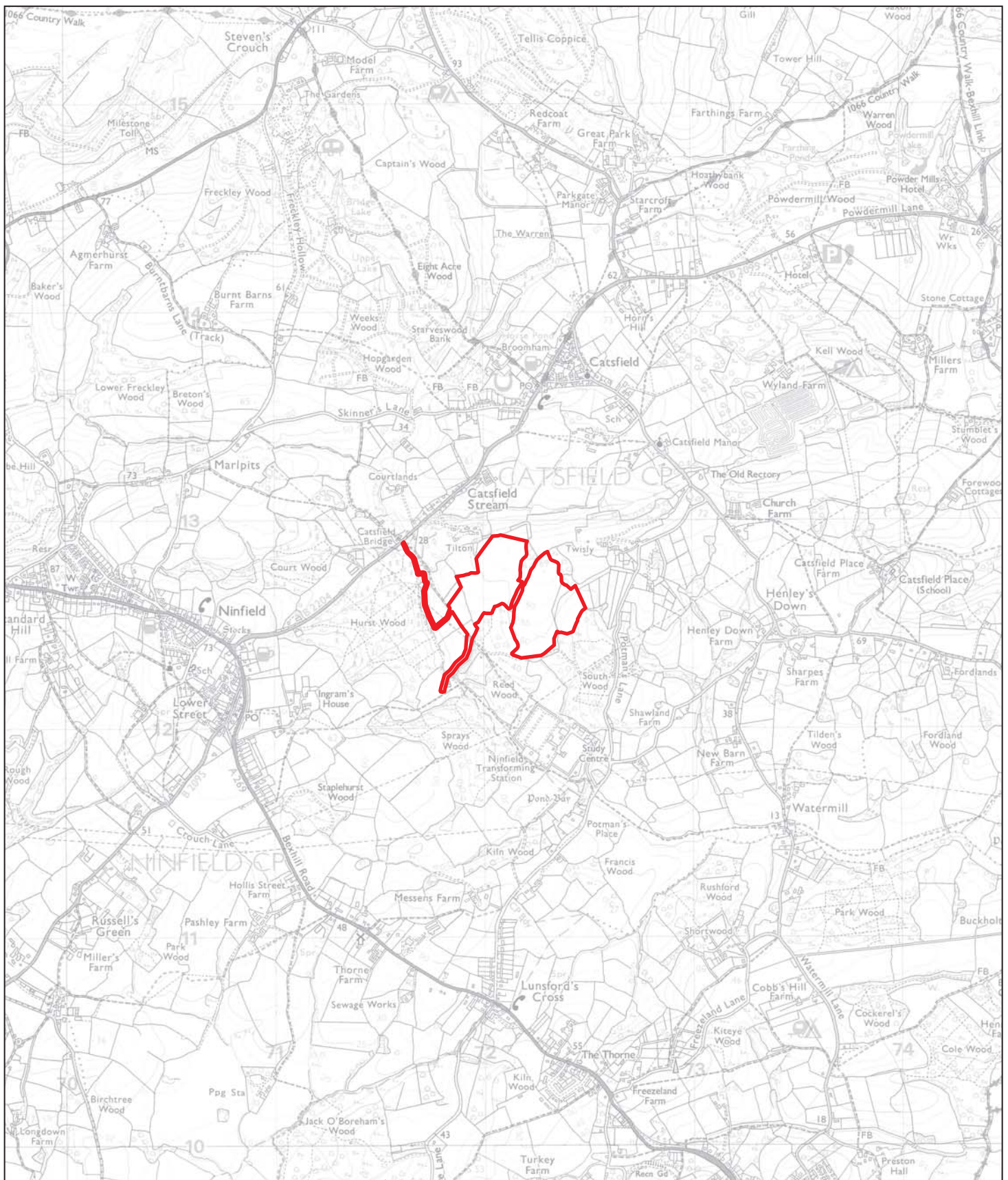
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land to the East of Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August and September 2014 at Eastlands Farm, east of Catsfield Road near Catsfield. The Site comprised of three fields, currently used for pasture, bounded by arable land to the east and west. Eastlands Farm is located to the north and Christmas Tree Farm to the south. Thirty-seven trenches were excavated, twenty-one of which were 15m in length, two were 25m and ten were 30m with the remaining four measuring 40m in length. All trenches were 1.8m wide.</p> <p>The evaluation results broadly correlate with what was identified by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). However the evaluation has also identified additional linear features (as in Trench 12 (Field 1), and in Trenches 16, 19, 20, 21, and 27(Field 2)). The lack of consistency is most likely due to the presence of deep subsoil and colluvium within the southern part of Field 1 and the ephemeral/truncated nature of features within Field 2.</p> <p>The scarcity of material culture and the form and character of the ditches recorded indicate evidence related to agriculture in the form of relatively small enclosed field systems, close to a farmstead. There is some limited evidence in the form of re-cut ditches to indicate that there may have been two phases of activity; by re-cuts of ditches such as 614. The ring ditch in Trench 8 is most likely a Bronze Age barrow. The rectilinear ditch systems identified in Trenches 6, 7 and 10 most probably form parts of a series of small livestock enclosures and recti-linear enclosures.</p> <p>Trenches 1, 2 and 3 contained features with an abundance of iron slag and fired clay. It is evident from the environmental evidence that iron working (including smelting) is likely to have taken place on site or in close proximity to it. There is evidence of possible kiln activity, all of which is typical for this part of East Sussex since the later Iron Age up until the later post-medieval period. Indeed we seem to have evidence from features which have produced material to cover at least the late Iron Age/Romano-British period and the post-medieval period.</p> <p>The ephemeral/eroded ditches encountered within Field 2, may well be associated with those identified in Field 1 and may have formed extensions of the livestock enclosures to the west.</p> <p>It is likely that the ring ditch will need either excluding from the development/solar panel array or at least in this area the panels must be set on concrete feet/bases. In the location around the enclosures, as identified in Trenches 6, 7 and 10, and in the area of concentrated industrial activity, identified predominantly in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, further archaeological mitigation may be required. It is likely that the extent of such an area of mitigation will be based on the results of this report.</p>
Project dates	August-September 2014
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Evaluation followed a Desk-Based Assessment by CA and Geophysical Survey by Stratascan – both in 2014

Future work	Targeted excavation	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land to the East of Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c. 18ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	572150 112645	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	CA	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Peter James	
MONUMENT TYPE	Bronze Age/Iron Age/Romano-British/post-medieval	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Evidence of Iron Working/possible kiln activity	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Bexhill Museum	Content: pottery, animal slag, lithics
Physical		As above
Paper		Context sheets, matrices plans etc
Digital		Database, digital photos GPS survey CAD files etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land to the east of Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</i></p> <p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land at Catsfield, East Sussex: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment</i></p> <p>Stratascan 2014 <i>Land at Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex: Geophysical Survey Report</i></p> <p>Harris, R.B. 2011 <i>Settlement: Summary of Historic Settlement Development in the High Weald, High Weald AONB research report</i>, http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/uk-landscape-research-reports.html (accessed 16 May 2014)</p>		

APPENDIX F – ESCC HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site Code.	CNI14
Site identification and address	Land to the east of Catsfield Road Ninfield
County, district and / or borough	East Sussex
O.S. grid ref.	TQ:572150 112645
Geology.	The underlying geology is a combination of the Wadhurst Clay Formation (a Mudstone Sedimentary Rock) and the Tonbridge Wells Formation, which comprises a Mudstone and Sandstone Sedimentary Bedrock
Project number.	770111
Fieldwork type.	Evaluation
Site type.	BA barrow/LIA/RB iron working
Date of fieldwork.	26/08/2014 to 5/9/14
Sponsor/client.	OPDE UK Ltd
Project manager.	Richard Greatorex
Project supervisor.	Peter James
Period summary	Later Prehistoric and Roman
Project summary. (100 word max)	An archaeological evaluation has identified several possibly Late Prehistoric rectilinear ditch systems. A ring ditch was recorded in Trench 8 which is most likely a Bronze Age barrow. Trenches 1, 2, and 3 contained features which produced iron working material possibly dated to the Later Iron Age/Roman periods.



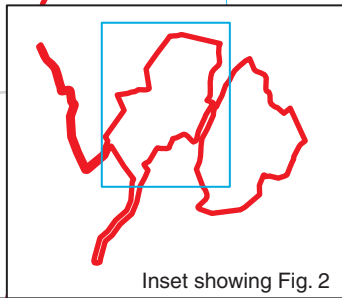
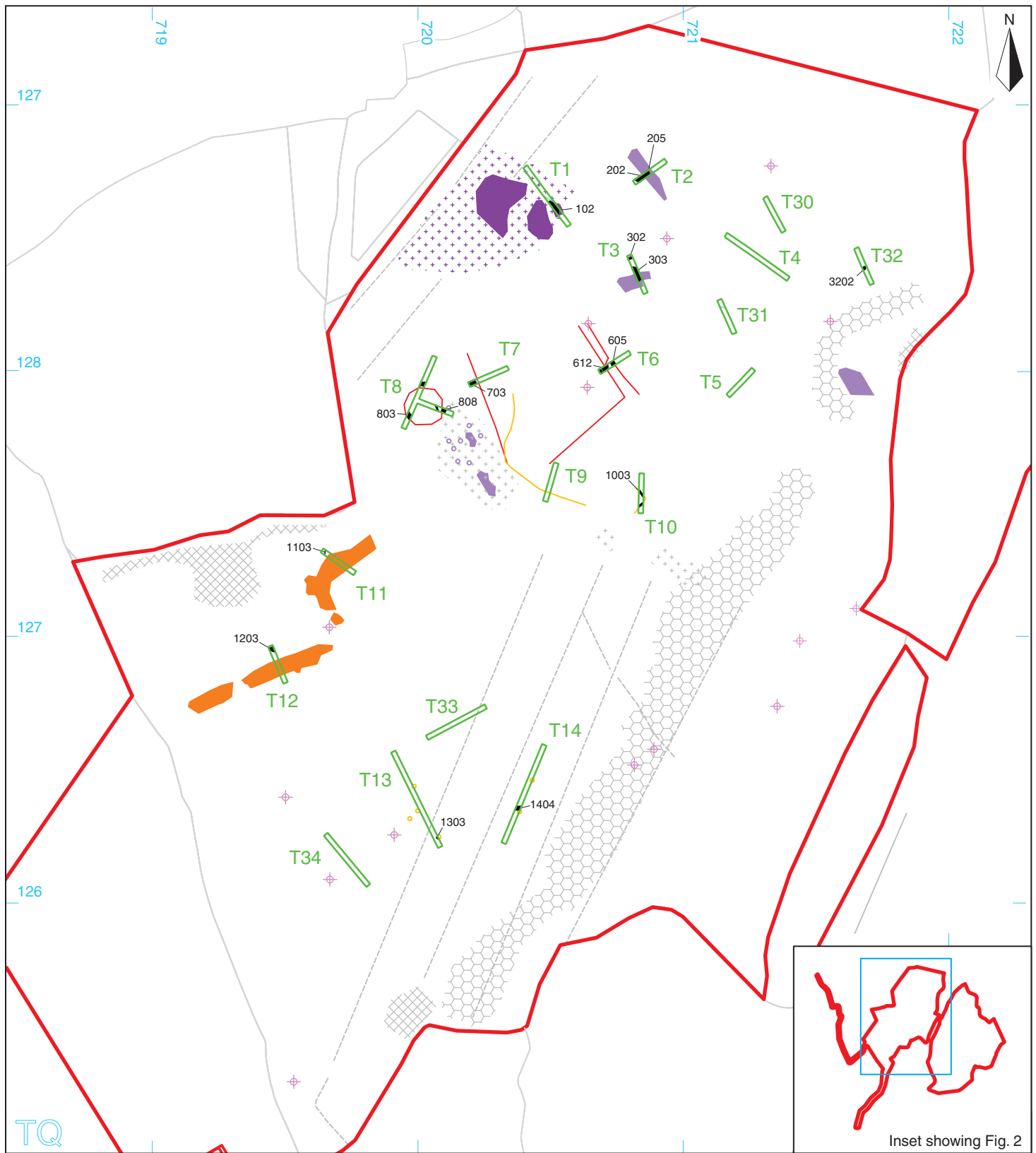

Cotswold Archaeology
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 770111	DATE 22/09/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY LJH	REVISION 00	1
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	

Reproduced from the 2011 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright
 Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109



Inset showing Fig. 2

- site boundary
 - evaluation trench
 - archaeological feature
 - 1303 context number
- Geophysics Survey Interpretation (Stratascan 2014)**
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
 - Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
 - Moderate strength discrete anomaly and associated debris - probable thermoremanent feature
 - Magnetic debris related to former field boundary visible on historic mapping
 - Linear/amorphous anomaly related to former field boundary not visible on historic mapping
 - Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
 - Moderate strength discrete anomaly and associated debris - possible thermoremanent feature
 - Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
 - Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
 - Scattered magnetic debris
 - Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
 - Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object



Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2014.
All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432

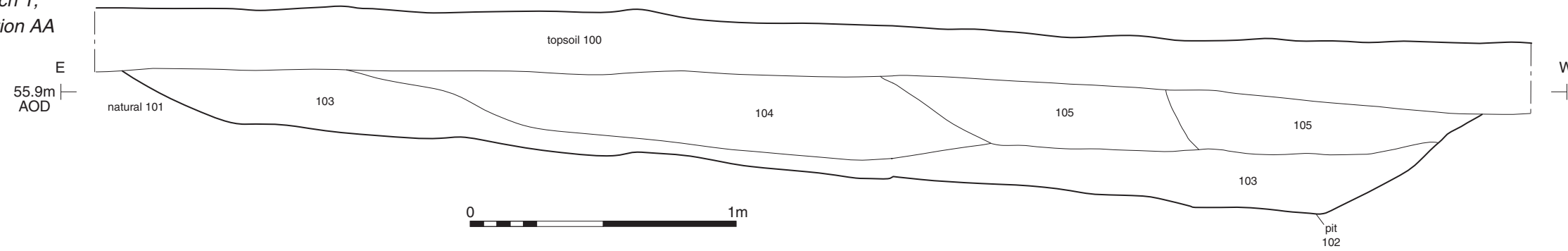
Cotswold Archaeology
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex

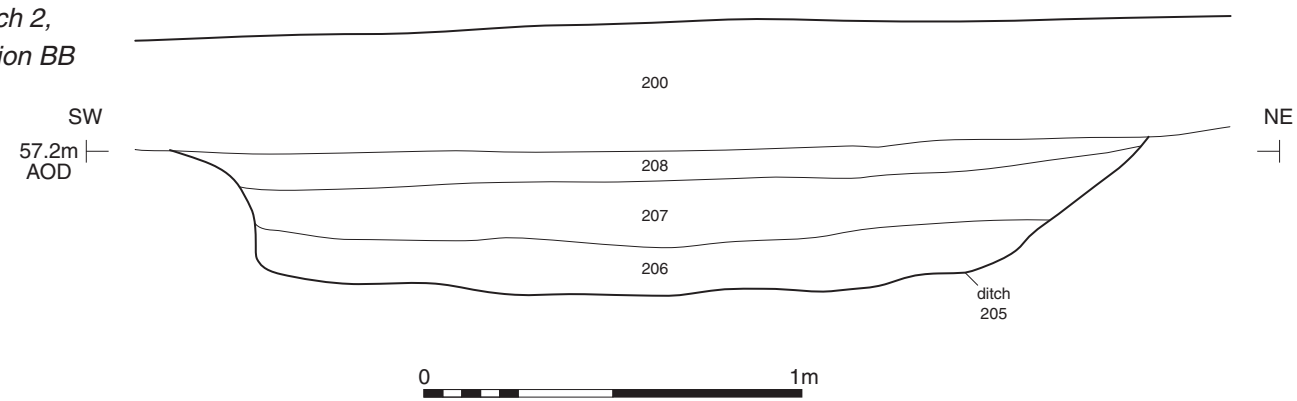
FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan: Field 1

PROJECT NO. 770111	DATE 21/10/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY LJH	REVISION 02	2
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:2000	

Trench 1,
Section AA



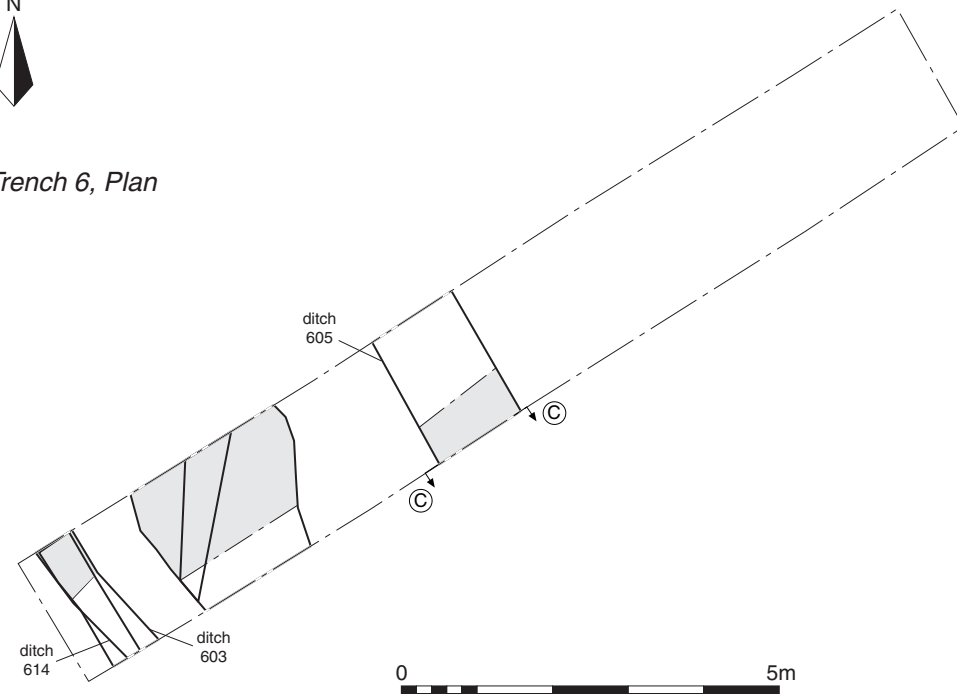
Trench 2,
Section BB


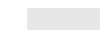


Trench 3, SW facing section of ditch 305 (0.3m scale)



Trench 6, Plan

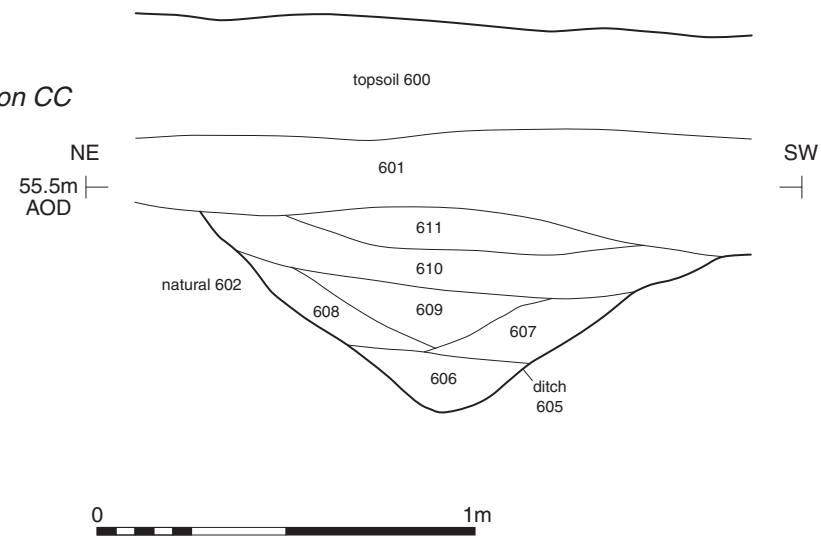


-  archaeological feature
-  archaeological intervention



Trench 6, SE facing section of ditches 603 and 614 (2m scale)

Trench 6, Section CC



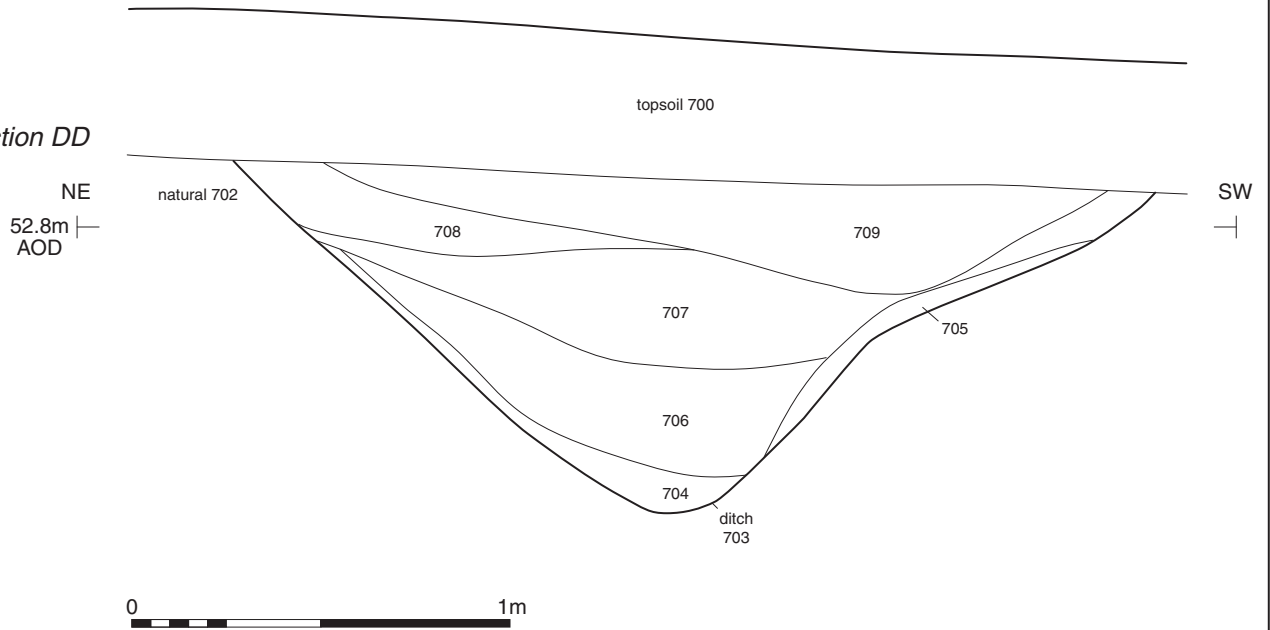
 Cotswold Archaeology
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex

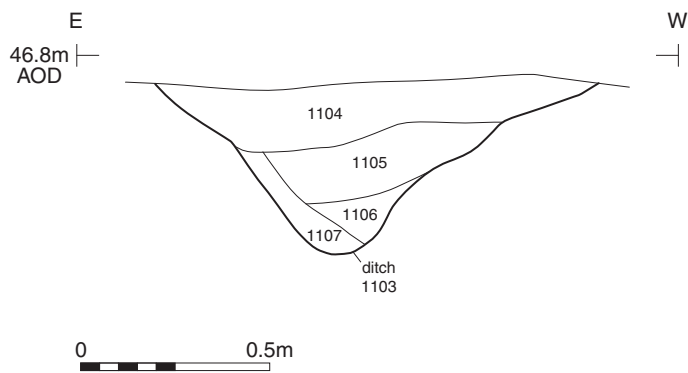
FIGURE TITLE
Trench 6: plan, section and photograph

PROJECT NO. 770111	DATE 22/09/2014	FIGURE NO. 4
DRAWN BY LJH	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A3 1:100 & 1:20	

Trench 7, Section DD



Trench 11, Section EE



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 7: section
Trench 11: section

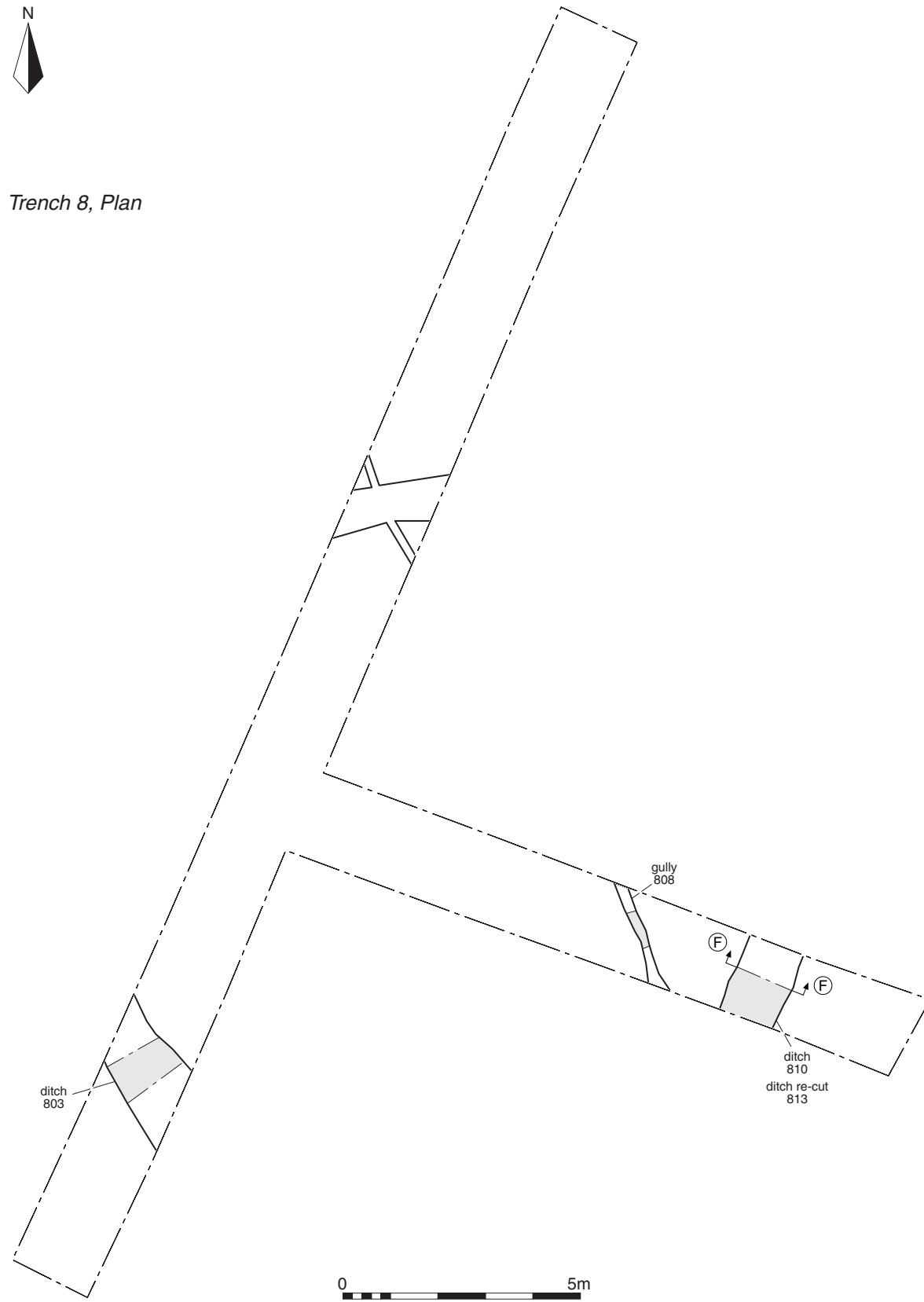
PROJECT NO. 770111 DATE 24/09/2014
 DRAWN BY LJH REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

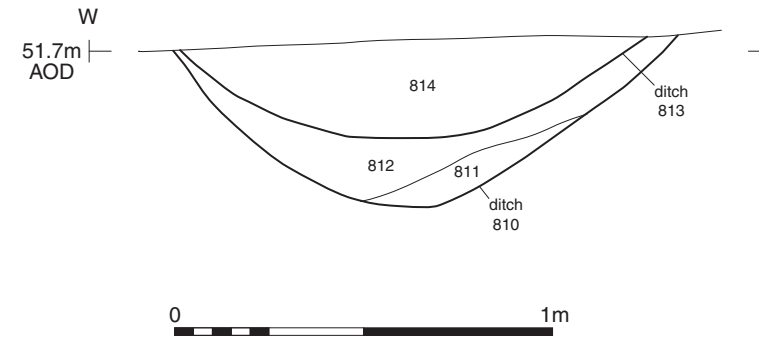
5





Trench 8, Plan



Trench 8, Section FF



Trench 8, East facing section of ditch 803 (1m scale)

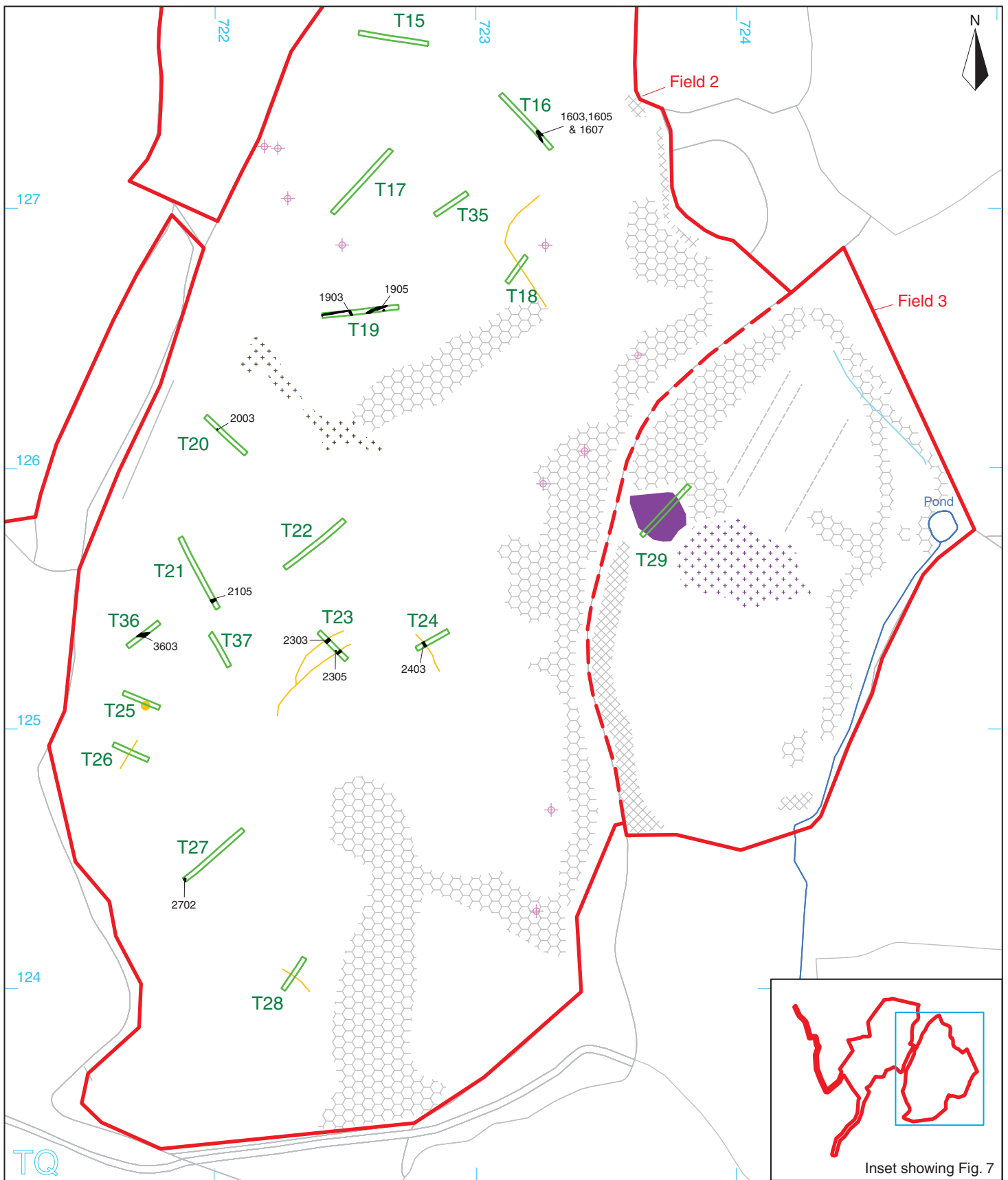
-  archaeological feature
-  archaeological intervention

 Cotswold Archaeology
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 8: plan, section and photograph

PROJECT NO. 770111	DATE 24/09/2014	FIGURE NO. 6
DRAWN BY LJH	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A3 1:125 & 1:20	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> site boundary evaluation trench archaeological feature 2702 context number <p>Geophysics Survey Interpretation (Stratascan 2014)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate strength discrete anomaly and associated debris - probable thermoremanent feature Magnetic debris related to former field boundary visible on historic mapping Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate strength discrete anomaly and associated debris - possible thermoremanent feature Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary Scattered magnetic debris Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object
--	---

0 100m

Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432

Cotswold Archaeology

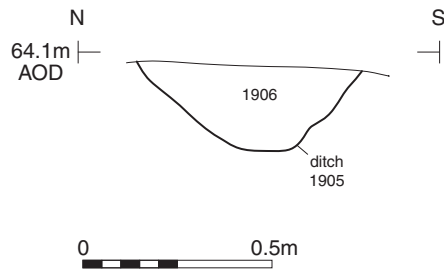
Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan: Fields 2 & 3

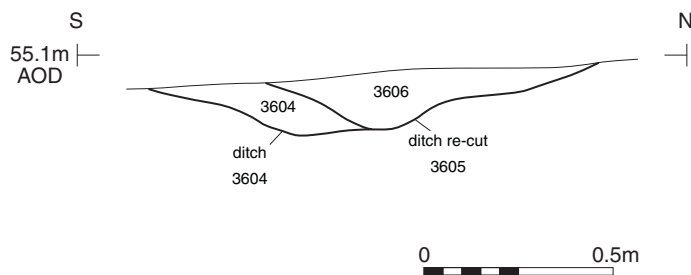
PROJECT NO. 770111	DATE 21/10/2014	FIGURE NO. 7
DRAWN BY LJH	REVISION 01	
APPROVED BY LM	SCALE@A4 1:2000	

Trench 19, Section GG



Trench 27, East facing section of ditch terminus 2702 (1m scale)

Trench 36, Section HH



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Catsfield Road, Ninfield, East Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 19: section
Trench 27: photograph
Trench 36: section

PROJECT NO. 770111 DATE 24/09/2014
 DRAWN BY LJH REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

8