Cotswold Archaeology

Land at Abingdon Road
Drayton
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

For

WYG acting on behalf
of
Miller Homes Ltd

CA Project: 5361
CA Report: 15199

April 2015

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Abingdon Rd
Location:	Drayton, Oxfordshire
NGR:	SU 447790 195000
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An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2015 at land at Abingdon Rd, Drayton. Twelve trenches were machine excavated.

Trench 11 was targeted upon a suspected prehistoric barrow site identified during the desk-based assessment and previous work (WYG 2014). The potential barrow site was visible as a low-lying earthwork during the evaluation. At least three of the features identified within the trench to the west were sealed beneath the suspected extensive mound material. Limited excavation has shown that this feature post-dates the Romano-British period.

Evidence for Bronze Age activity was identified by the discovery of an Early Bronze Age miniature, bipartite collared urn that was found within a cremation pit in Trench 11. The location of the collared urn to the later mound material is intriguing. A bulk sample taken from the pit fill did not establish whether the recovered but poorly preserved bone, consisted of either animal or human remains. It is unclear whether the collared urn recovered contained cremated human remains or a simple, votive offering containing animal and organic remains. It is also unclear whether the cremation pit the urn is an isolated example or part of a wider Bronze Age ritual site.

The evaluation also revealed a series of ditches which can be associated with an extensive field system concentrated to the north-western half of the Site. Linear ditches of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date were identified within Trenches 1, 10, 11 and 12. The artefactual evidence recovered from the ditches indicates domestic activity at or near to the Site, with pottery recovered consisting of domestic course and fineware and central Gaulish imported wares. It is likely that the ditches found during the evaluation date to the Late Iron

Age/Romano-British *transition* and form part of an agricultural landscape. The pottery assemblage recovered also suggests possible settlement activity situated to the north and beyond, outside the development area. This is supported by the finds already recovered to the north of the Site (WYG 2014). Several fragments of Roman ceramic building material (CBM) were also recovered from several ditches located within Trenches 1 and 12.

A possible unexcavated post-medieval field boundary ditch was also identified within Trench 10. The extent of this feature was not established and the feature was not excavated during the evaluation. It is likely that the ditch dates to the post-medieval to modern period, based on its fill characteristics and/or possible correlations with post-medieval/modern mapping evidence.

Trenches targeted within the southern half of the site revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for WYG acting on behalf of their client, Miller Homes Ltd. at Abingdon Road, Drayton (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 447790 195000 hereafter referred to as the Site (see Figure 1).

1.2 Planning consent is currently being sought from Vale of the White Horse District Council (VWHDC) for development at the Site comprising a residential led development divided into two sections. One part of the site is proposed for residential development and the other for community facilities including sports pitches and changing facilities.

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the planning brief for an archaeological evaluation prepared by Hugh Coddington, the Archaeology Team Leader to Oxford County Council. This evaluation forms part of an archaeological assessment of the Site, also comprising a geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2014), as part of the planning application.

1.4 A detailed Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) was produced by WYG (2014) and *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was also produced by WYG (2015) and both approved by Hugh Coddington. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the OCC Archaeological Brief, 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 archaeological evaluation was informed by the geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica Ltd 2014).

1.5 The evaluation was monitored by Hugh Coddington to include a site visit on 9 April 2015.

The site

1.6 The proposed development area of the Site comprises approximately 8 hectares containing two fields which are under arable cultivation located on the north side of the village of Drayton, Oxfordshire. The Site lies at approximately 60-64m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.7 The Site is bounded by further arable fields to the northeast and northwest, with Abingdon Road and associated housing to the southeast and track, arable fields and housing to the south west.

1.8 The British Geological Survey identifies the solid geology of the area of the Site as sand and gravel overlaying Ampthill Clay (BGS Online).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The proposed development is situated in a rich archaeological landscape with a variety of recorded remains both within the development area and in the surrounding environs. A detailed desk-based assessment (DBA) has been produced (WYG 2014) for the proposed Site and extracts from the DBA archaeological background are provided below.

Prehistoric Periods (up to 43AD)

2.2 Activity in the Drayton area for the early prehistoric periods is largely characterised by discrete findspots of lithics and handaxes, comparable to the wider Thames valley region, where stone tools and waste flakes constitute the main type of evidence. Within the survey radius of the Site, there is one record of a fragment of a Lower Palaeolithic handaxe, which was discovered in plough soil to the northeast of the development site, near Stonehill Farm; additionally, three Mousterian handaxes were found in gravel approximately 800m to the southeast of the Site. There is evidence from Sutton Courtenay, located approximately 6.5 km southeast of the Site, for Lower Palaeolithic material including handaxes (2 quartzite), two quartzite cleavers, flakes and quartzite cores found in a gravel pit, and further findspots of similar material from Abingdon, to the north of the Site.

2.3 It is very rare to find in-situ evidence for Mesolithic settlement sites. There is no evidence for activity within the survey radius, with the exception of a flake and Microlith of Mesolithic date, recovered as part of an extensive assemblage of multi-period lithics to the southwest of the Site. There are further isolated find spots and small assemblages of lithics within the wider region which have been dated as Mesolithic.

2.4 There is no evidence for Neolithic activity within the Site, with the exception of the un-diagnostic Neolithic to Bronze Age flints recorded within the northern portion of the Site. Within the survey radius, a probable Neolithic long barrow and a series of pits and an enclosure have been identified from aerial photographs (seen as cropmarks), approximately 500 metres to the east of the Site, in a large arable field close to Sherwood Farm. There are also a number of discreet findspots in the wider vicinity including polished stone axes and flints. Abingdon causewayed enclosure(s) and the Drayton Cursus monument represent significant earthworks from the immediate region, suggesting that the area was an important focus for Neolithic ceremonial monuments. The Drayton Cursus, located east of the Site, just beyond the extent of the survey area, is c. 1.5km in length, and extends from Drayton, northwards towards Abingdon.

2.5 Within the development area, there is a potential barrow (MOX6767) along the north western edge of the development boundary; while its precise date is unknown, prehistoric and Roman origins have been suggested, though it does not appear on the Ordnance Survey First Edition and so may be of more modern construction/formation. An HER inspection visit failed to find any confirmation of the antiquity of this asset and no definitive evidence is available. The potential barrow is poorly preserved because the field has been intensively ploughed over many years; however geophysical survey identified an oval ditch, and a potential outer circuit (ArchaeoPhysica Ltd 2014). A number of further Bronze Age barrows have been identified as cropmarks in the immediate area, including a potential round barrow(s) to the east of Sherwood Farm, approximately 500 metres east of the development, a potential barrow associated with Drayton cursus, and further examples to the south and west of Drayton.

2.6 There are no known archaeological remains dating to the Iron Age within the development area. However, the undated complexes of enclosures and ditches identified during the geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica Ltd 2014) could potentially date to the Iron Age period, and may represent pre-Roman farmsteads with associated field systems. An Iron Age farmstead has also been identified within the survey area, through gradiometery survey and evaluation; the settlement has been interpreted as a small farmstead with simple outlying fields, marked by ditched boundaries, occupying this area during the mid to late 1st millennium BC.

Romano-British Period (AD43 - 450)

2.7 There is little substantive evidence to suggest that Drayton was ever a significant Roman site. However, Romano-British pottery sherds dating to the 1st, 2nd and 4th century are reported from within the vicinity of the northern part of the Site. Additionally, the potential barrow located along the north-western edge of the development boundary may date to this period. Within the survey area, a potential Roman ditch has been identified from aerial imagery within Drayton, a Roman trackway and ditch, along with undated cremations have been identified to the east of the development, and the undated complexes of enclosures and ditches discussed above could potentially date to the late Iron Age and/or Roman period.

Anglo Saxon/ Early Medieval Periods (AD450 to 1066)

2.8 There are no known archaeological remains dating to the early medieval period within the development area; however, within the southeast of the survey area, a cluster of discrete features potentially dating to this period have been identified from aerial photographs of the region. A group of potential early medieval gravel extraction pits and possible field boundaries of the same period mark the northerly part of a cluster of similar features between Drayton and Milton to the south. A number of inhumations were also identified north of Milton, which represent a cemetery of 6th and 7th century date, approximately 2.5km south of the Site.

Medieval Period (AD1066 -1540)

2.9 There are no known archaeological remains dating to the medieval period within the Site. From within the survey area, there are a number of sites dating from the medieval period, principally concentrated to the southeast, in and around the present settlement at Drayton. The historic core of Drayton has a number of buildings with medieval origins, including the Manor House, which probably dates to the 15th century, and the Church of St. Peter, which dates to the early 13th century. The church nave, chancel and south chapel were built during the 13th century, and both of these properties are Grade II* Listed Buildings. Despite the survival of a small number of medieval buildings in the historic centre of Drayton, many of the old village houses were reputedly destroyed in 1780 in the Great Fire of Drayton.

2.10 The geophysical survey undertaken by ArchaeoPhysica Ltd (2014) prior to the trial trench evaluation identified anomalies consistent with enclosure boundaries, drainage features and ploughed-out medieval ridge and furrow field-systems.

Post-Medieval Period (AD1540 - 1750) to Modern (AD1900 to present)

2.11 Beyond architectural remains, there is little evidence for post-medieval activities in the area, and no assets from this period fall within the Site. However, the landscape was cultivated during this period and many of the medieval field boundaries recorded in the area no doubt endured into the post-medieval period and beyond.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable Hugh Coddington, the Archaeology Team Leader to Oxford County Council acting on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) 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).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Twelve trenches, Trenches 1 to 12 each measuring 40m x 1.8m were machine excavated in April 2015 in the locations shown on **Figure 2**. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (see Figure 2).

4.2 Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were sub-divided into two shorter trenches to protect known land drainage in these locations (see Figure 2).

4.3 Due regard for known services was undertaken prior to, during excavation and upon completion of the work at the Site. All work was undertaken in accordance with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and *Safe Systems of Work for – Avoiding Overhead Services & Underground Services* and correct PPE worn at all times.

4.4 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*.

4.5 Deposits were assessed for their paleo-environmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.6 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums under accession number (OXCMS: 2015.94) along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within **Appendix D**, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2 - 17)

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

5.2 Archaeological features were identified during the trial trench evaluation within Trenches 1, 10, 11 and 12. No archaeological features or deposits were found within Trenches 2 to 9. Land drains and other unidentified modern intrusions were located within Trenches 1, 10 and 11. Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were sub-divided into two shorter trenches to protect known land drainage in these locations (see Figure 2).

5.3 Artefactual evidence was recovered from Trenches 1, 11 and 12 (**Appendix B**). Finds were generally absent from the topsoil and subsoil layers throughout the Site, with exception of Topsoil **100** which produced a circular iron buckle (**Ra. 1**) perhaps used on shoes or clothing dating to the 13th to 16th centuries AD. A single potsherd was recovered from Subsoil **1101** and seven potsherds of unstratified general surface finds which date to the late Prehistoric period (see Figure 2).

Trench 1 (Figs 2 to 5)

5.4 Trench 1 contained three east/west orientated ditches **103**, **105** and **108**. All three features broadly correspond to linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. Located to the north of the trench, ditch **103** comprised a U-shaped profile and contained a single fill **104**. A large assemblage of Romano-British pottery comprising black-fired, sand-tempered fabrics and several fragments of Romano-British ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from fill **104**. Ditches **105** and **107** were located to the south of the trench with both comprising U-shaped profiles and single fills, **106** and **108** respectively. A single sherd of late Iron Age pottery was recovered from fill **106** and a small assemblage of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery as well as eight fragments of animal bone from **108**. A circular iron buckle (**Ra. 1**) perhaps used on shoes or clothing dating to the 13th to 16th centuries AD was recovered from Topsoil **100**.

Trench 10 (Figs 2, 6 to 9)

5.5 Trench 10 contained two east/west orientated ditches; ditch **1006**, and a field boundary ditch of possible post-medieval date to the south, both of which were located centrally within the trench. The field boundary ditch was not excavated during the evaluation. A small pit **1012** was located immediately to the south of the field boundary ditch and an isolated pit **1009** of similar size was located to the north of the trench. All the features broadly corresponded to linear anomalies identified during the geophysical survey.

5.6 Ditch **1006** comprised a U-shaped profile and two fills, primary fill **1005** and a final upper fill **1004**. A large assemblage of mid to late 1st century AD pottery of black-fired, sand-tempered fabric was recovered from fill **1004** as well as several potsherds of Roman course greyware pottery. Pits **1012** and **1009** comprised U-shaped profiles with each containing two fills. Pit **1012** contained a primary fill **1011** and a final upper fill **1010**. Pit **1009** contained a primary fill **1008** and a final upper fill **1007**. Both pits contained no finds and are of indeterminate function and date.

Trench 11 (Figs 2, 10 to 12 & 17)

5.7 Trench 11 was targeted upon the interior and eastern extent of a suspected barrow site identified in the DBA (WYG 2014). The barrow site was also visible during the evaluation as a low-lying earthwork. However, the trial trenching revealed that it is more likely to be an earthwork of more modern composition which measured up to

0.75m in thickness and height. Eight features were identified within the trench underlying the mound material (four of which date to the Romano-British period); north-east/south-west orientated ditches **1114**, **1103**, **1120**, **1109**, north-west/south-east orientated ditch **1111** and north/south orientated ditch **1122**, pit **1116** and cremation pit **1106**. The low-lying earthwork post-dates the Romano-British period. Many of the features identified within Trench **11** during the evaluation broadly correspond to anomalies identified during the geophysical survey with exception of cremation pit **1106** and ditches **1114** and **1103** located to the west of the trench which were not identified.

5.8 Cremation pit **1106** was located to the west of Trench 11. The pit comprised a U-shaped profile and contained a single fill **1107**. Fill **1107** of pit **1106** produced a complete vessel (**Ra. 2**) in a coarse, grog-tempered fabric (see Figures 11 & 17). The vessel is a miniature, bipartite collared urn, measuring approximately 80mm in diameter and 110mm in height. It featured geometric decoration on the collar, created from round-toothed comb impressions. Collared urns are most commonly associated with cremation burials and date to the Early Bronze Age (*c.* 2200–1500 BC). Four fragments (2g) of bone were recovered via bulk soil sampling from the fill **1107** of cremation pit **1106**. The bone displayed bright white colouration caused by heating to temperatures of 700° C and above that is associated with cremation contexts, however the bone was too fragmentary to establish either a human or animal origin. Fill **1107** also contained a fragment of worked flint a burnt flint nodule. Pit **1106** was cut by ditch **1103** located immediately to the west. The physical relationship of ditch **1103** and cremation pit **1106** was difficult to determine during the evaluation but post-excavation analysis has shown that finds recovered from ditch **1103** date to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

5.9 Ditches **1122**, **1109**, **1111**, **1120** and **1103** can be dated to the Romano-British period and are likely to represent the remains of a Romano-British field system.

5.10 Ditch **1122** was located to the east of Trench 11, comprised an uneven U-shaped profile and contained a single fill **1123**. A small assemblage of grog-tempered fabric, coarse greyware, grog-and-sand tempered fabric and Oxford white ware dating to the 2nd century AD were recovered from fill **1123**.

5.11 Ditch **1111** was located centrally within Trench 11, comprised a U-shaped profile and contained a single fill **1110**. Ditch **1109** also comprised a U-shaped profile and

contained a single fill 1108. Ditch **1109** cut ditch **1111** and no finds were identified within either of these features. It is possible that these features form part of a Romano-British field system.

5.12 Ditch **1120** was located to the west of Trench 11, comprised a shallow U-shaped profile and contained a single fill **1121**. Several potsherds of flint-tempered fabric and medium greyware dating to the Romano-British period were recovered from fill **1121**.

5.13 Ditch **1103** was located to the to the west of Trench 11, comprised a shallow U-shaped profile and contained two fills, a primary fill **1104** and a final upper fill **1105**. A small assemblage of Dorset Black-burnished ware and black-fired and sand-tempered fabric potsherds dating from the 2nd to 4th century AD were recovered from fill **1104**. A single worked flint and burnt flint nodule were also recovered from fill **1104**. No artefactual evidence was identified within fill **1105**.

5.14 Ditch **1114** was located to the west of Trench 11, comprised steep sides and a flat base and contained a single fill **1115**. Ditch **1114** was later re-cut by ditch **1112** along its length into fill **1115**. Ditch **1112** also contained a single fill **1113**. No artefactual evidence was identified within either of the ditches. It is possible that these features form part of a Romano-British field system.

5.15 An oval pit **1116** was located centrally within Trench 11, comprised an uneven U-shaped profile and contained three fills, a primary fill **1117**, secondary fills **1118** and **1119** respectively. Several fine greyware potsherds of Romano-British date were recovered from fill **1117**. No artefactual evidence was identified from fills **1118** and **1119**. The full extent of pit **1116** was not determined during the evaluation.

Trench 12 (Figs 2, 13 to 16)

5.16 Ditches **1203**, **1206**, **1212** and **1214** can be dated to the Romano-British period and are likely to represent the remains of a Roman field system. Ditch **1209** remains undated but is located parallel with ditch **1212**. It is likely that ditch **1209** is contemporary, dating to the same period of activity with the ditches identified further west within Trench 12. All the features broadly correspond to the geophysical survey results with the exception of ditch **1206** located to the west of the trench which was not identified.

5.17 Ditch **1206** was located to the west of Trench 12, orientated north-east/south-west, comprised an irregular U-shaped profile and contained two fills, primary fill **1207** and a final upper fill **1208**. An assemblage of Oxford white ware, Oxford fine oxidised ware, fine greyware and black-fired, sand-tempered fabric potsherds dating from the Late 1st century to the 4th century AD were recovered from fill **1207**. A single worked flint flake was also recovered from fill **1207**. A large assemblage of Roman potsherds were recovered from fill **1208**, dating from the middle of the 2nd century AD to late 2nd century AD. A single Romano-British roof tile (CBM) fragment was also recovered from fill **1208** as well as a worked flint and a burnt flint nodule.

5.18 Ditch **1203** was located centrally within Trench 12, orientated north-west/south-east, comprised a U-shaped profile and contained two fills, a primary fill **1204** and a final upper fill **1205**. An assemblage of Roman potsherds were recovered from fill 1204, consisting of dating from the middle of the 2nd century AD. A single worked flint was also recovered from fill **1204**. An assemblage of Roman potsherds were recovered from fill **1205**, dating to the 2nd century AD.

5.19 Ditch **1214** was located centrally within Trench 12, orientated north-east/south-west, comprised a flat base and contained a single fill **1215**. Ditch **1212** was located centrally within Trench 12, orientated north-west/south-east, comprised a U-shaped profile and contained a single fill **1213**. Ditch **1212** cut ditch **1214**. An assemblage of Romano-British potsherds were recovered from fill **1213**, consisting of grog-tempered fabric, medium greyware and fine greyware.

5.20 Ditch **1209** was located to the east of Trench 12, orientated north-east/south-west, comprised a U-shaped profile and contained two fills, a primary fill **1210** and a final upper fill **1211**. No artefactual evidence was recovered from ditch **1209**.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was recorded in 17 deposits. The pottery, which includes material of prehistoric and Roman date, has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Roman fabric codes are equated, where possible, to the Oxfordshire type series (unpublished); where applicable National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery

Early prehistoric

6.2 Fill **1107** of pit **1106** produced a complete vessel (**Ra. 2**) in a coarse, grog-tempered fabric (EPGT), weighing 311g. The vessel is a miniature, bipartite collared urn, measuring approximately 80mm in diameter and 110mm in height. It features geometric decoration on the collar, created from round-toothed comb impressions. Collared urns are most commonly associated with cremation burials and date to the Early Bronze Age (*c.* 2200–1500 BC). The small size of the vessel is consistent with that of accessory vessels which accompany some collared urn burials (Gibson and Woods 1997, 81). This example, however, was associated with only a very tiny amount of burnt bone, suggesting a non-funerary related 'special deposit'. Features which are suggestive of a date later in the collared urn sequence for this pot are: the bipartite form; lack of decoration on the interior or below the collar; and the depth of the collar (Burgess 1986, 348).

Late prehistoric

6.3 Late prehistoric pottery (encompassing the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age) totals 20 sherds (100g), retrieved from five deposits and as unstratified finds. All fabrics comprise handmade types including those tempered with quartz (LPQZ), limestone (LPLS), quartzite (LPQZT), flint (LPFL) and grog (LPGT). Condition ranges from poor (unstratified) to good: the latter from fill **108** of ditch **107** and fill **1213** of ditch **1212**. Five sherds from fill **108** also retain burnt food residue. A high degree of fragmentation is demonstrated by a low average sherd weight of 5g.

6.4 The majority of late prehistoric sherds are unfeatured bodysherds, dated on the basis of fabric/firing characteristics and wall thickness. Closer dating, in the Late Bronze Age, is suggested for a quartzite-tempered (LPQZT) bodysherd from subsoil **1101**. The use of quartzite tempering in Late Bronze Age pottery has been recorded at sites such as Eynsham, Oxon (Barlcay 2001, 127–30) and Milton Hill, Oxon, (the latter approximately 5km south of Drayton) (McSloy 2012, 231). Dating based on vessel form, or form/fabric, is possible for: a bodysherd from a carinated vessel in flint-tempered fabric (LPFL) from fill **1121** of gully **1120** (Early Iron Age); and a rimsherd from a carinated bowl or cup in grog-tempered fabric (LPGT) from fill **1213** of ditch **1212** (Late Iron Age).

Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition

6.5 A total of 123 sherds of pottery (1899g) was recovered from fill **106** of ditch **105**, fill **1004** of ditch **1006** and fill **1208** of ditch **1206**. Condition of most sherds is moderate, with some loss of surfaces and rounding of edges. Limescale deposits, evidencing use for heating or storage of water, were recorded on 23 of the 71 sherds from fill **1004**. Average sherd weight is 19g, which reveals a very low level of fragmentation. Pottery context groups range from one (fill **106**) to 71 (fill **1004**).

6.6 Represented fabrics comprise types where the primary inclusions are of quartz (QZ, LPQZ), flint (LPFL), limestone (LPLS), grog (GT) and clay pellets (PEL). Fills **106** and **1208** contain unfeatured bodysherds. Numerous sherds in fabric QZ from fill **1004** represent a shouldered bowl, with a cordon on the neck and a groove on the shoulder. This combination of sandy fabric and forms in the 'Belgic' style is characteristic in the region of the mid to late 1st century AD. The grog-tempered wares are more broadly dateable, to the 1st century AD.

Roman

6.7 A total of 131 sherds (1488g) of pottery of Roman date was hand-recovered from 11 deposits, the majority of which are ditch fills. Pottery context groups range from very small to medium-sized (one to 44 sherds) and the assemblage is mostly in moderate to good condition, with burnt food residue recorded on five sherds, limescale on one and sooting on one. Sherds in poorer condition are those from fill **1004** of ditch **1006** and fill **1123** of ditch **1222**: demonstrating some edge abrasion in fill **1004** and the complete loss of trituration grits on a mortarium bodysherd in fill **1123**. Overall, average sherd weight is 11g, which is indicative of a moderately fragmented assemblage.

6.8 The only continental import is central Gaulish Samian (LEZ SA2), of which single sherds were recorded in three deposits. Identifiable forms are a Drag. 38 bowl from fill **1204** of ditch **1203** and a Drag. 31R bowl from fill **1208** of ditch **1206**; both are dateable to the mid to late 2nd century (Webster 1996, 35; 51).

6.9 Regional imports are restricted to unfeatured bodysherds of Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1) from fill **1104** of ditch **1103** and Savernake Grog-tempered ware (SAV GT) from fill **1205** of ditch **1203**. The former ware was produced near Poole in Dorset and when found outside the county it typically dates to the 2nd to 4th centuries (Davies *et al*. 1994, 107). The latter type of pottery was produced at

Savernake Forest and other sites in Wiltshire during the 1st and earlier 2nd centuries AD (Tomber and Dore 1998, 191).

6.10 A total of 20 sherds were identified as products of the Oxfordshire kilns: Oxford white ware (OXF WH); Oxford fine oxidised ware (OXF FO); and Oxford reduced ware (GWOXF). Forms represented in the white ware fabric are: a Young M6 mortarium, of 2nd century date, from fill **1208** of ditch **1206**; and a Young W33 necked jar from fill **1207** of ditch **1206** (Young 1977, 70–1; 103–5). The reduced sherd is a rimsherd from a Young R45 bowl, dateable to the 2nd to 3rd centuries (*ibid.*, 220–1). The remainder of fabric types cannot be sourced with certainty, although many are likely to be of local origin. These mostly comprise reduced wares (GWF, GWC, GWM, BS), in addition to oxidised fabrics (OXID). Coarseware forms include: a medium-mouth, necked jar in a black-firing, sand-tempered fabric (BS) from fill **104** of ditch **103**; and an everted rim jar from fill **1205** of ditch **1203** and cordoned vessel from fill **1207** of ditch **1206**, both in a fine greyware fabric (GWF).

6.11 The bulk of the Roman pottery is suggestive of activity spanning the 1st and 2nd centuries. The assemblage is too small, however, to allow meaningful comment on site status or function.

Lithics

6.12 A total of seven worked flint items, and 15 pieces of burnt, unworked flint (weighing 39g) was retrieved from six deposits, including bulk soil samples from fill **1107** of cremation/pit **1106** and fill **1125** of cremation vessel **Ra. 2**. All but two of the worked flints were recovered as residual finds in Roman-dated deposits.

6.13 The worked flint comprises: one blade (a medial fragment); one chip; four flakes; and one end scraper. A flake from fill **1204** of ditch **1203** displays evidence of utilisation on a portion of one edge. The presence of a blade (fill **1104** of ditch **1103**) suggests Mesolithic or Early Neolithic activity on Site, however, it was residual in a Roman-dated deposit. The end scraper (fill **1205** of ditch **1203**) has been made on quite a thick flake and features steep, rather irregular retouch along the distal dorsal edge. It is not a closely dateable type and was also retrieved from a fill of Roman date. The remainder of the lithics are broadly prehistoric in date.

Other finds

6.14 A total of three fragments of ceramic building material (203g) of Roman date were recorded in two deposits. That from fill **1208** of ditch **1206** is identifiable as tile.

6.15 Topsoil **100** produced a circular iron buckle (**Ra. 1**) measuring 14mm in external diameter. The small size is typical of this type, which would have been used on shoes or clothing, and dates to the 13th to 16th centuries (Goodall 1980, 174; Fig 131).

7. THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

7.1 A collection of animal bones numbering 34 fragments (1037g) was recovered by hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from 12 deposits. The bones were generally well preserved, but highly fragmented with frequent historical damage. For the purpose of this report, the bones were identified to species and skeletal element using an osteological reference collection (Cotswold Archaeology Ltd) and standard reference literature (Schmid 1972, Hillson 1996), and quantified by fragment count and weight. Where modern breakage was observed and re-fitting was possible, those fragments were recorded as a single bone. Any material not confidently phased is not discussed beyond the details set out in **Appendix C**.

Bronze Age

7.2 Four fragments (2g) of bone were recovered via bulk soil sampling from the fill of cremation burial **1106**. The bone did display the bright white colouration caused by heating to temperatures of 700° C and above that is associated with cremation contexts (Lyman, 1994); however the bone was too fragmentary to establish either a human or animal origin.

Iron Age

7.3 Eight fragments (23g) were recovered from ditch **107**. Due to fragmentary condition of the bone it was not possible to obtain any identification beyond the level of large size mammal.

Roman

7.4 A total of 18 fragments (743g) were recovered from ditch fills spread across the site. There is little useful interpretative data that can be inferred from such a small assemblage; however it was possible to identify the remains of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*) from both meat-rich and meat-poor skeletal elements. The presence of the three major domestic species is to be expected in the Roman period (Baker and Worley, 2014) and from the chop and cut marks observed, they are likely to have an origin in butchery waste.

g

Plant Macrofossils

7.5 A total of two samples (9 litres of soil) were recovered from two deposits with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity, and material for radiocarbon dating. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA technical Manual No. 2).

Bronze Age

7.6 Fill **1107** (sample 1) from possible cremation burial **1106** contained a single False-oat grass tuber (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and a small amount of charcoal identified as oak (*Quercus*) and cherry species (*Prunus*) (**Appendix C**). Cremation burials usually contain some charcoal which has become accidently incorporated with cremated bone when pyre material collected for burial. In this case it appears oak and cherry species were used for pyre construction. Oak fuel is commonly used within cremation pyres as it reaches the high temperatures required to fully cremate human remains. Charred false-oat grass tubers are relatively commonly in cremation burial deposits and are thought to have been used either as tinder or an incidental inclusion associated with the location of pyre within a grassy area.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified archaeological features within Trenches 1, 10, 11 and 12 (see Figure 2). Trenches targeted within the southern half of the site revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds.

Prehistoric Period

8.2 Trench 11 was targeted upon a suspected prehistoric barrow identified during the compilation of the desk-based assessment and previous work (WYG 2014). The barrow site was visible during the evaluation as a low-lying earthwork. At least three of the features identified within the trench to the west were sealed beneath the suspected extensive mound material. Limited excavation indicates that this feature post-dates the Romano-British period (English Heritage 2011).

Bronze Age (2400 BC – 700 BC)

8.3 Evidence for Bronze Age activity was identified by the discovery of a miniature, bipartite collared urn that was found within cremation pit 1106 in Trench 11. A bulk sample taken from the pit fill did not establish whether the recovered but poorly preserved bone, consisted of either animal or human remains. Collared urns however are most commonly associated with cremation burials and date to the Early Bronze Age (*c.* 2200–1500 BC). It is unclear whether the collared urn recovered contained cremated human remains or a simple, votive offering containing animal and organic remains. It is also unclear whether the cremation pit the urn was found is an isolated example or part of a much larger Bronze Age ritual site. The cremation pit was cut by a Romano-British ditch 1103.

Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43)

8.4 Evidence for Iron Age activity was identified within Trench 1. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditch 106 and a small assemblage of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery, as well as eight fragments of animal bone from ditch 107 most probably indicative of domestic activity (Cunliffe 2005). The extent and function of these features was not established during the evaluation but there is some correlation with the geophysical survey results to suggest a field boundary system of Middle to Late Iron Age date in this location.

Late Iron Age / Roman (100BC to AD410)

8.5 The evaluation has revealed a series of ditches which can be associated with an extensive field system concentrated to the north-western half of the Site. Ditches of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date were identified within Trenches 1, 10, 11 and 12. The artefactual evidence recovered from the ditches indicates domestic activity at or near to the Site, with pottery recovered consisting of domestic course and finewares and central Gaulish imported wares. It is likely that the ditches identified during the evaluation date to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British *transition* and form part of an

agricultural landscape focussed in the northern part of the Site. The pottery assemblage recovered also suggests possible settlement activity situated to the north and beyond, outside the development area. This is supported by the finds already recovered to the north of the Site (WYG 2014). Several fragments of Roman ceramic building material (CBM) were also recovered from several ditches located within Trenches 1 and 12.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – AD 1066)

8.6 No evidence of the suspected Charter Boundary (WYG 2014) was identified though this may be located further to the west of the Site.

Medieval / Post-Medieval (AD 1066 – 1800)

8.7 A field boundary ditch was identified within Trench 10. The extent of this feature was not established and the feature was not excavated during the evaluation. It is likely that this feature dates to the post-medieval to modern period, based on its unexcavated fill characteristics and/or possible correlations with post-medieval/modern mapping evidence.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Kennedy, assisted by Colin Forrestal, Adam Howard and Sam Wilson. The preliminary interim report was written by Ray Kennedy and the final report was written by Matt Nichol. The illustrations were prepared by CA Illustrator Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by CA Project Manager Damian De Rosa, who also edited this report.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

N.B. All archaeological features and deposits highlighted **Grey.**

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay with frequent medium gravel inclusions	40	1.8	>0.3
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	Mid greyish yellow clay. Frequent medium gravel inclusions	40	1.8	>0.12
1	102	Layer	Natural	Mid brownish orange silty clay with abundant medium-large gravel inclusions	40	1.8	>0.42
1	103	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Linear with steep concave sides and U-shaped profile, shallow concave base	+2	>1	>0.32
1	104	Fill	Single fill of ditch 103	Dark brownish grey silty clay, moderately compact with frequent small-medium sized sub-rounded and rounded gravel inclusions	+2	>1	>0.32
1	105	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan, with steep concave sides and a concave base	+2	>0.4	>0.22
1	106	Fill	Fill of ditch 105	Dark greyish brown silty clay, friable. Sparse stone inclusions	+2	>0.4	>0.22
1	107	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with steep concave sides and a concave base	+2	>0.53	>0.34
1	108	Fill	Fill of ditch 107	Dark grey brown silty clay, friable. Sparse stones inclusions	+2	>0.53	>0.34

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	>40	1.8	>0.25
2	201	Layer	Natural	Mid brownish orange clayey silt with common rounded flint inclusions	>40	1.8	>0.25

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	>40	1.8	>0.3
3	301	Layer	Natural	Mottled mid brownish orange silty clay with light greyish brown silty clay mottling and gravel patches	>40	1.8	>0.3

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	>40	1.8	>0.28
4	401	Layer	Natural	Mid brownish orange clayey silt with rare gravel patches and rare white mottling	>40	1.8	>0.28

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	40	1.8	>0.26

5	501	Layer	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clayey silt	40	1.8	>0.3
5	502	Layer	Natural	Mid brownish orange clayey silt with rare gravel and flint inclusions	40	1.8	>0.56

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
6	600	Layer	Topsoil	Dark blackish grey clayey silt	40	1.8	>0.24
6	601	Layer	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt	40	1.8	>0.22
6	602	Layer	Natural	Mid brownish orange silty clay with common grey mottling and rare sub-rounded stone inclusions	40	1.8	>0.46

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
7	700	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	40	1.8	>0.27
7	701	Layer	Natural	Mid brownish orange clay with occasional rounded flint inclusion	40	1.8	>0.27

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
8	800	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	40	1.8	>0.36
8	801	Layer	Natural	Mid brownish orange clay with occasional rounded flint inclusion	40	1.8	>0.36

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
9	900	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	40	1.8	>0.25
9	901	Layer	Natural	Mid brownish orange silty clay with occasional grey mottling and rare sub-rounded flint inclusions	40	1.8	>0.25

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
10	1001	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey silty clay with rare sub-angular and sub-rounded small gravel inclusions	40	1.8	>0.30
10	1002	Layer	Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay with rare sub-angular and sub-rounded small gravel inclusion	40	1.8	>0.4
10	1003	Layer	Natural	Orangey grey sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions	40	1.8	>0.7
10	1004	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 1006	Mid grey silty clay with rare gravel inclusions	+2	>0.93	>0.25
10	1005	Fill	1st fill of ditch 1006	Light whitish grey sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions	+2	>0.5	>0.05
10	1006	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with steep and concave sides and a	+2	>0.93	>0.3

				concave base			
10	1007	Fill	2nd fill of pit	Greyish brown moderately compact clay		>0.4	>0.1
10	1008	Fill	1st fill of pit	Yellow softly compact clay		>0.55	>0.25
10	1009	Cut	Pit	Cut of a pit. Circular in plan with steep and concave sides and a concave base		>0.55	>0.28
10	1010	Fill	2nd fill of pit	Mid grey softly compact clay with rare sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions		+0.38	>0.08
10	1011	Fill	1st fill of pit	Yellowish brown softly compact clay with rare gravel inclusions		+0.38	>0.18
10	1012	Cut	Pit	Cut of a pit. Circular in plan with steep and concave sides and a concave base		+0.38	>0.28

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
11	1100	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions	40	1.8	>0.75
11	1101	Layer	Subsoil	Yellowish brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions	40	1.8	>0.55
11	1102	Layer	Natural	Orangey brown silty clay with rare gravel inclusions	40	1.8	>1.3
11	1103	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with concave gently sloping sides and undulating base	+2	>1	>0.18
11	1104	Fill	1st fill of ditch 1103	Dark greyish brown silty clay with common rounded flint inclusions	+2	>1	>0.18
11	1105	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 1103	Light yellowish orange gravel	+2	>0.3	>0.05
11	1106	Cut	Possible Cremation/Pit	Cut of cremation pit. Circular in plan with rounded sides and steeply sloping convex sides and a concave base		>0.28	>0.2
11	1107	Fill	Deliberate deposit. Fill of pit 1106 Contains - **RA2 Collared Urn**	Dark brownish black moderately compact sandy silt with common charcoal inclusions and occasional rounded flint inclusions		>0.28	>0.2
11	1108	Fill	Fill of ditch 1109	Light greyish brown softly compact sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions	+2	+0.4	>0.28
11	1109	Cut	Ditch – cuts ditch 1111	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with steep and concave sides and a concave base	+2	+0.4	>0.28
11	1110	Fill	Fill of ditch 1111	Light greyish brown softly compact sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions	+4	+0.4	>0.28
11	1111	Cut	Ditch – cut by ditch 1109	Cut of a ditch. Linear in plan with steep and concave sides and a concave base	+4	+0.4	>0.28
11	1112	Cut	Ditch – cuts ditch 1114	Cut of a possible ditch, linear in plan with a flat base	+2	>0.45	>0.15
11	1113	Fill	Fill of ditch 1112	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with sparse rounded stone inclusions	+2	>0.45	>0.15
11	1114	Cut	Ditch – cut by ditch 1112	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base.	+2	>0.57	>0.25
11	1115	Fill	Fill of ditch 1114	Mid orangey brown friable silty clay with sparse rounded stone inclusions	+2	>0.57	>0.25
11	1116	Cut	Pit	Pit of indeterminate function. Sub-oval in plan with gradual irregular mostly straight sides and a concave base		+1.75	>0.5
11	1117	Fill	1st fill of pit 1116	Light brownish grey soft clayey silt with frequent small rounded gravel inclusions		+0.6	>0.2

11	1118	Fill	2nd fill of pit 1116	Mid yellowish grey softly compact clayey silt, with frequent small-medium sized sub-rounded gravels		+0.9	>0.2
11	1119	Fill	3rd fill of pit 1116	Dark grey moderately compact silty clay with occasional small-medium seized sub-rounded and rounded gravel inclusions		+1.75	>0.3
11	1120	Cut	Ditch	Cut of a drainage gully. Linear in plan with shallow to steep concave sides and base	+2	>1	>0.2
11	1121	Fill	Fill of ditch 1120	Dark brownish grey moderately compact silty clay with occasional small-medium sub rounded and rounded gravel inclusions	+2	>1	>0.2
11	1122	Cut	Ditch	Cut of a drainage ditch. Linear in plan with moderate concave sides. Not fully excavated due to watertable being too high.	+2	>1.7	Unknown
11	1123	Fill	1st fill of ditch 1122	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate rounded stone inclusions. Fill of [1122]	+2		Unknown
11	1124	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 1122	Light orangey brown friable sandy gravel. Fill of [1122] Probably modern	+2		Unknown
11	1125	Fill	Fill of RA2 Collared Urn from cremation pit 1106	Dark brown friable silt with small light gravelled grains to small pebbles. Probably the same as 1107. Fill that was contained within **RA 2**			Unknown

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
12	1200	Layer	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	40	1.8	>0.3
12	1201	Layer	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown clayey silt, with common sub rounded flint inclusions	40	1.8	>0.2
12	1202	Layer	Natural	Mid brownish orange clayey silt with gravel inclusions	40	1.8	>0.5
12	1203	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan, with steep straight sides and a concave base. V shaped ditch	+2	>1.4	>0.65
12	1204	Fill	1st fill of ditch 1203	Mid yellowish grey loose clayey silt with abundant pea-grit gravel inclusion	+2	>0.7	>0.15
12	1205	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 1203	Mid brownish grey loose clayey silt with frequent small sub-rounded to rounded gravel inclusions	+2	>1.4	>0.5
12	1206	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with steep concave sides and a concave base	+2	>1.2	>0.5
12	1207	Fill	1st fill of ditch 1206	Dark greyish brown with orange mottling moderately compact sandy silt with common sub-rounded flint inclusions	+2	>0.25	>0.15
12	1208	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 1206	Dark greyish brown clayey silt moderately compact with common rounded flint inclusions. Common charcoal inclusions	+2	>1.2	>0.35
12	1209	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with concave gently sloping sides and a concave base	+2	>0.55	>0.14
12	1210	Fill	1st fill of ditch 1209	Mid brownish orange moderately compact sandy silt with common sub-rounded flint inclusions	+2	>0.55	>0.04

12	1211	Fill	2nd fill of ditch 1209	Mid greyish brown moderately compact sandy silt with common rounded flint inclusions	+2	>0.35	>0.1
12	1212	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with moderate concave side and a concave base.	+2	+0.4	>0.4
12	1213	Fill	Fill of ditch 1212	Dark brownish grey moderately compact clayey silt with common small-medium sized sub-rounded and rounded gravel inclusions	+2	+0.4	>0.4
12	1214	Cut	Ditch	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with shallow concave sides and a concave base	+2	+0.35	>0.1
12	1215	Fill	Fill of ditch 1214	Mid grey loose clayey silt with frequent small sub-rounded and rounded gravel inclusions	+2	+0.35	>0.1

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

Context	Category	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Oxon Code	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot date
0	Late prehistoric pottery	QZOR		Quartz-and-organic tempered fabric	7	6	IA-C1
100	Iron			Buckle	1	1	C13-C16
104	Roman pottery	BS	R07B	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	44	361	RB
	Roman ceramic building material			Fragments	2	35	
106	Late prehistoric pottery	LPQZ		Quartz-tempered fabric	1	9	LIA-C1
108	Late prehistoric pottery	LPQZ		Quartz-tempered fabric	9	54	MIA-LIA
		LPLS		Limestone-tempered fabric	1	5	
1004	Transitional pottery	QZ		Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	71	1430	MC1-LC1
		GT	R35	Grog-tempered fabric	41	357	
	Roman pottery	GWC	R06B	Coarse greyware	4	127	
1101	Late prehistoric pottery	LPQZT		Quartzite-tempered fabric	1	14	LBA?
1104	Roman pottery	**DOR BB1**	R07A	Dorset Black-burnished ware	1	4	C2-C4
		BS	R07B	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	1	3	
	Worked flint			Blade	1	2	
	Burnt flint				1	9	
1107	Early prehistoric pottery	EPGT		Grog-tempered fabric	18	311	EBA
	Worked flint			Chip	1	<0.1	
	Burnt flint				9	2	
1117	Roman pottery	GWF	R06C	Fine greyware	1	6	RB
1121	Late prehistoric pottery	LPFL		Flint-tempered fabric	1	9	RB
	Roman pottery	GWM		Medium greyware	2	13	
1123	Transitional pottery	GT	R35	Grog-tempered fabric	1	17	C2
	Roman pottery	GWC	R06B	Coarse greyware	2	5	
		GTQZ		Grog-and-sand tempered fabric	1	16	
		OXF WH	R11A	Oxford white ware	1	59	
1125	Burnt flint				4	0.3	-
1204	Roman pottery	GWM		Medium greyware	4	36	MC2+
		GWF	R06C	Fine greyware	1	2	
		BS	R07B	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	3	8	
		WHF	R03A	Fine whiteware	1	4	
		LEZ SA2	R01	Central Gaulish Samian	1	37	
	Worked flint			Flake	1	3	
1205	Roman pottery	**SAV GT**	R35	Savernake Grog-tempered ware	1	48	C2
		WHF	R03A	Fine whiteware	2	13	
		GWF	R06C	Fine greyware	6	17	
		GWM		Medium greyware	6	85	
		LEZ SA2	R01	Central Gaulish Samian	1	2	
		GWC	R06B	Coarse greyware	2	15	
		GTQZ		Grog-and-sand tempered fabric	1	108	
	Worked flint			End scraper	1	14	

1207	Roman pottery	**OXF WH**	R11A	Oxford white ware	10	223	LC1-C4
		OXF FO	R11	Oxford fine oxidised ware	1	10	
		GWF	R06C	Fine greyware	2	9	
		BS	R07B	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	2	7	
	Worked flint			Flake	2	6	
1208	Transitional pottery	LPQZ		Quartz-tempered fabric	3	37	MC2-LC2
		GTQZ		Grog-and-sand tempered fabric	3	14	
		LPFL		Flint-tempered fabric	1	5	
		LPLS		Limestone-tempered fabric	1	21	
		PEL		Clay pellet-tempered fabric	1	9	
	Roman pottery	**OXF WH**	R11A	Oxford white ware	4	44	
		OXF WH	R11E	Oxford white ware (mortarium	2	32	
		LEZ SA2	R01	Central Gaulish Samian	1	17	
		WHF	R03A	Fine whiteware	1	11	
		OXF FO	R11	Oxford fine oxidised ware	2	27	
		OXIDF	R05B	Fine oxidised fabric	2	13	
		GWOXF		Oxford reduced ware	1	7	
		GWF	R06C	Fine greyware	5	17	
		GWM		Medium greyware	10	92	
	Roman ceramic building material			Tile	1	168	
	Fired clay				1	3	
	Worked flint			Flake	1	9	
	Burnt flint				1	28	
1213	Late prehistoric pottery	LPGT		Grog-tempered fabric	1	12	RB
	Roman pottery	GWM		Medium greyware	1	7	
		GWF	R06C	Fine greyware	1	3	

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Faunal Remains

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

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	LM	MM	un-id SS	Total	Weight (g)
Bronze Age									
1106	1107						3	3	1
1106	1125						1	1	1
Subtotal							**4**	**4**	**2**
Iron Age									
107	108				1	7		8	23
Roman									
103	104					1		1	3
105	106	1	2			1		4	45
1006	1004		1					1	15
1103	1104		2					2	8
1120	1121	2						2	117
1122	1123	1						1	100
1203	1205		1					1	32
1206	1208	1		1	3			5	419
1206	1207					1		1	4
Subtotal		**5**	**6**	**1**	**3**	**3**		**18**	**743**
undated									
1116	1119	1			2			3	80
1209	1211	1						1	189
Subtotal		**2**			**2**			**4**	**269**
Total		**7**	**6**	**1**	**6**	**10**	**4**	**34**	
Weight		**618**	**65**	**42**	**285**	**25**	**2**	**1037**	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat, SUS = pig; LM= large sized mammal; MM = medium sized mammal; un-id SS = unidentifiable fragments from bulk soil samples.

Plant macrofossil identifications

Context number				1107	1125
Feature number				1106	Fill of RA 2
Sample number (SS)				1	2
Flot volume (ml)				16	0.5
Sample volume processed (l)				8	1
Soil remaining (l)				0	0
Period				BA	BA
Plant macrofossil preservation				N/A	Good
Habitat Code	**Family**	**Species**	**Common Name**		
P/D	Poaceae	*Arrhenatherum elatius (L.) P. Beauv. ex J. & C. Presl*	False Oat-grass		1

Charcoal identifications

Context number			1107	1125
Feature number			1106	Fill of RA 2
Sample number (SS)			1	2
Flot volume (ml)			16	0.5
Sample volume processed (l)			8	1
Soil remaining (l)			0	0
Period			BA	BA
Charcoal quantity >2mm			+++	+
Charcoal preservation			Good	Good
Family	**Species**	**Common Name**		
Fagaceae	*Quercus petraea* (Matt.) Liebl./*Quercus robur* L.	Sessile Oak/ Pedunculate Oak	3	1
Rosaceae	*Prunus* L.	Cherry species	7	2
		Number of Fragments:	10	2

Key
P = grassland species; D = opportunistic weeds
+ = 1–4 items; ++ = 5–20 items; +++ = 21–40 items; ++++ = 40–99 items; +++++ = 100–500 items; ++++++ = >500 items

BA = Bronze Age

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land at Abingdon Rd, Drayton, Oxfordshire
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in April 2015 at land at Abingdon Rd, Drayton. Twelve trenches were machine excavated. Trench 11 was targeted upon a suspected prehistoric barrow site identified during the desk-based assessment and previous work (WYG 2014). The potential barrow site was visible as a low-lying earthwork during the evaluation. At least three of the features identified within the trench to the west were sealed beneath the suspected extensive mound material. Limited excavation has shown that this feature post-dates the Romano-British period. Evidence for Bronze Age activity was identified by the discovery of an Early Bronze Age miniature, bipartite collared urn that was found within a cremation pit in Trench 11. The location of the collared urn to the later mound material is intriguing. A bulk sample taken from the pit fill did not establish whether the recovered but poorly preserved bone, consisted of either animal or human remains. It is unclear whether the collared urn recovered contained cremated human remains or a simple, votive offering containing animal and organic remains. It is also unclear whether the cremation pit the urn was found is an isolated example or part of a much larger Bronze Age ritual site. The evaluation has also revealed a series of ditches which can be associated with an extensive field system concentrated to the north-western half of the Site. Linear ditches of late Iron / Romano-British date were identified within Trenches 1, 10, 11 and 12. The artefactual evidence recovered from the ditches indicates domestic activity at or near to the Site, with pottery recovered consisting of domestic course and fineware and central Gaulish imported wares. It is likely that the ditches found during the evaluation date to the late Iron Age *transitional* phase and Romano-British periods and form part of an extensive agricultural landscape at the Site to the north. The pottery assemblage recovered also suggests possible settlement activity situated to the north and beyond, outside the development area. This is supported by the finds already recovered to the north of the Site (WYG 2014). Several fragments of Roman ceramic building material (CBM) were also recovered from several ditches located within Trenches 1 and 12. A possible unexcavated post-medieval field boundary ditch was also identified within Trench 10. The extent of this feature was not established and the feature was not excavated during the evaluation. It is likely that the ditch dates to the post-medieval to modern period, based on its fill characteristics and/or possible correlations with post-medieval/modern mapping evidence. Trenches targeted within the southern half of the site revealed no archaeological features, deposits or finds.
Project dates	7th-10th April 2015
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Trial Trench Evaluation
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2014)

Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Abingdon Rd, Drayton, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M^2/ha)	7.8 ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 447790 195000	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Hugh Coddington OCC	
Project Design (WSI) originator	WYG	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Ray Kennedy	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Early Bronze Age cremation pit with Collared Urn, Late Iron Age / Romano-British field system and post-medieval agricultural landscape. Several undated pits.	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical		Collared Urn, ceramics, CBM, animal bone, worked and burnt flint, etc
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc

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Cotswold Archaeology

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 8
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

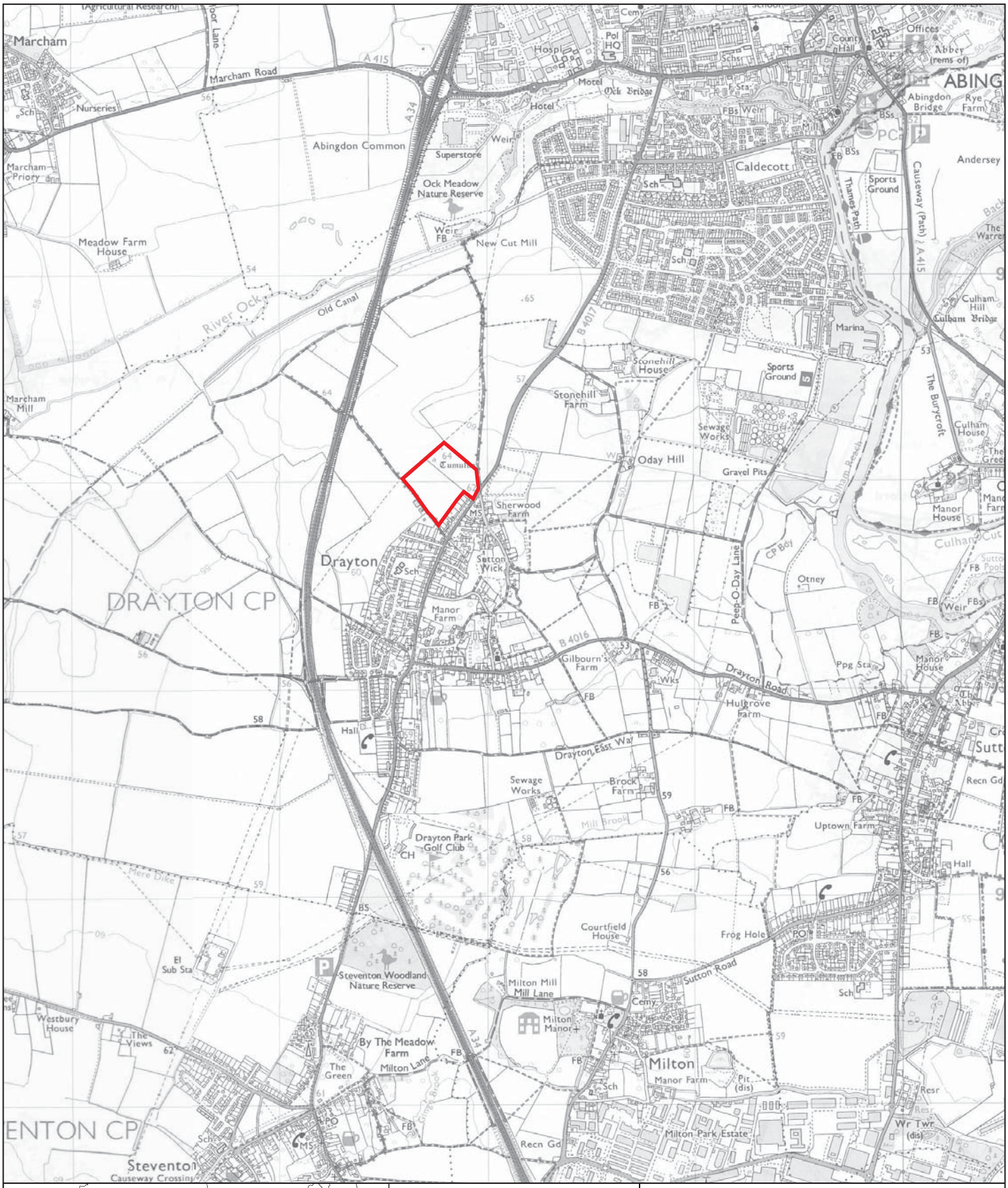
t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK1 3HA

t: 01908 564660

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk



Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Abingdon Road, Drayton Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	**DJB**	*PROJECT NO.*	**5361**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**JB**	*DATE*	**01-05-2015**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**DDR**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	

N

- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern
- field drain

Geophysics Key (ArchaeoPhysica Ltd)

Total Magnetic Field

high passed 5s/nT
0.5
0
-0.5

> 50 nT
>10nT
>3nT
<-3nT
<-10nT
<-50nT

Catalogue

text Labels

Archaeology
Fills
Zones

Agricultural
Boundaries
Cultivation Furrows
Cultivation or Boundaries(?)

Soils/Geology
Textural change

Modern
Services (UGC/UGP)

0 50m

Cotswold Archaeology
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Andover 01264 347630
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Abingdon Road, Drayton
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features, cropmarks and geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	DJB	PROJECT NO.	5361	FIGURE NO.
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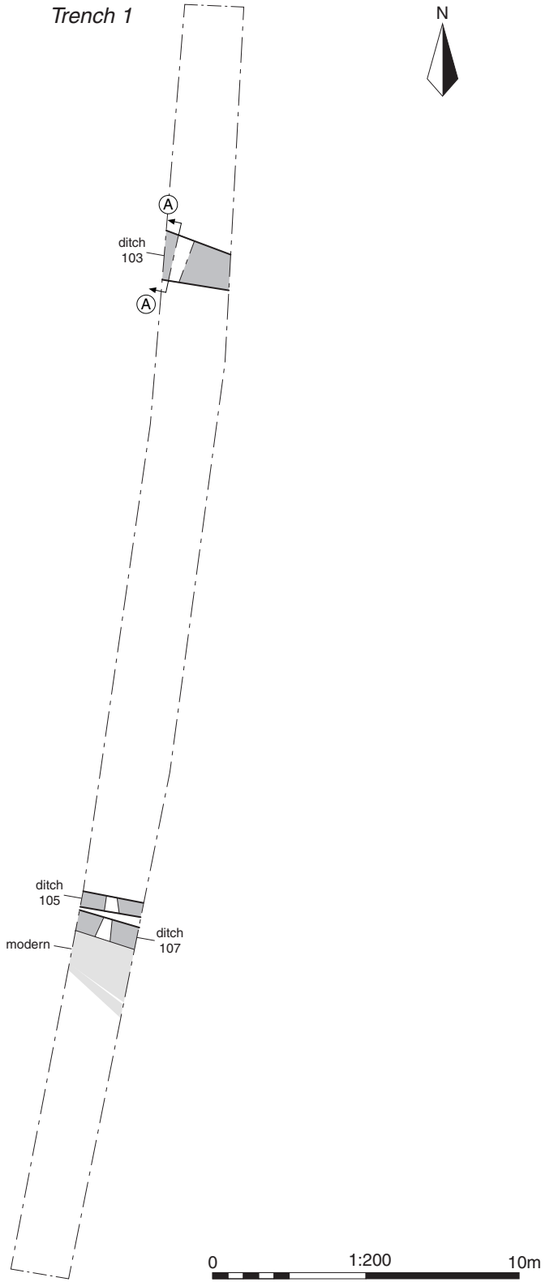
APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE@A3	1:1250	

P:\5361 Abingdon Road Drayton Oxon EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\5361 Abingdon Road Drayton Fig 2.dwg

Trench 1



Trench 1, looking south-west (scales 2m & 1m)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Abingdon Road, Drayton
Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: plan and photograph

DRAWN BY	**DJB**	*PROJECT NO.*	**5361**	*FIGURE NO.*
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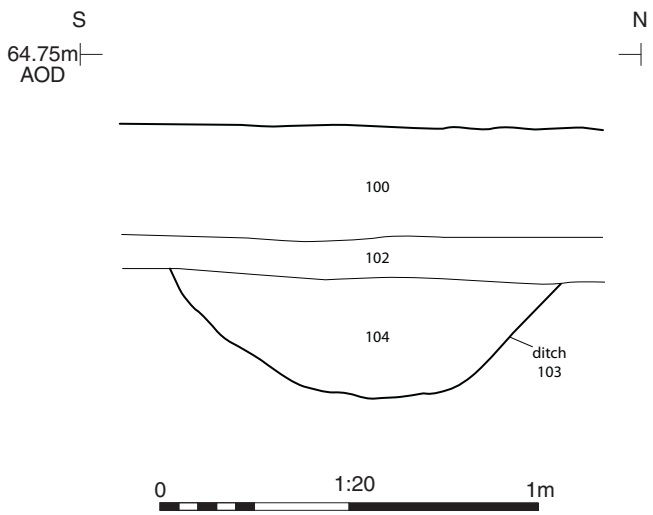

View of ditch 103, looking south-east (scale 1m)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Abingdon Road, Drayton
Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: section and photograph

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5

5 Ditches 105 and 107, looking west (scale 1m)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Abingdon Road, Drayton
Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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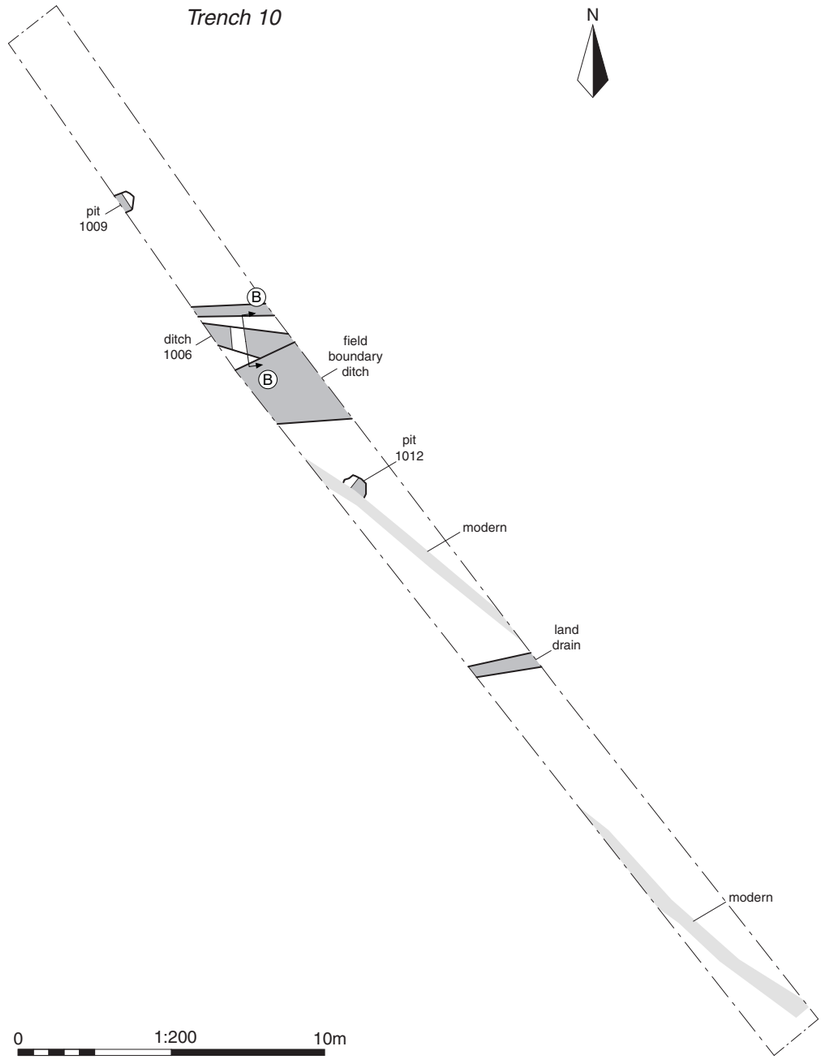
APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE@A4	NA	



Trench 10, looking north-west (scales 2m & 1m)

N

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 10: plan and photograph

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APPROVED BY	**DDR**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200**	

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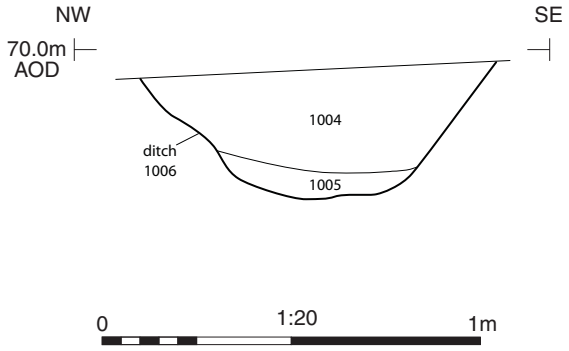

View of ditch 1006, looking south-east (scale 0.5m)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 10: section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	**JB**	*DATE*	**01-05-2015**	**7**
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8

9

8 Pit 1009, looking west (scale 0.4m)

9 Pit 1012, looking south (scale 0.4m)

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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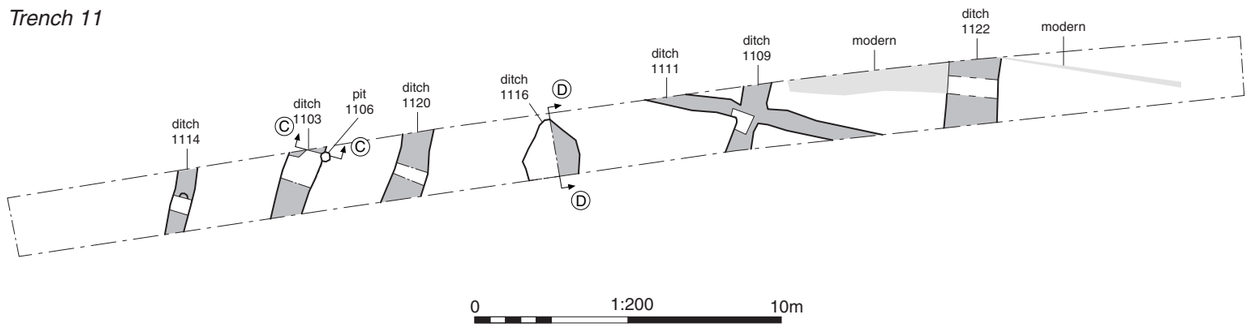
APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE@A4	NA	

N

Trench 11



0 1:200 10m

N

Trench 11, looking west (scales 2m & 1m)

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 11: plan and photograph

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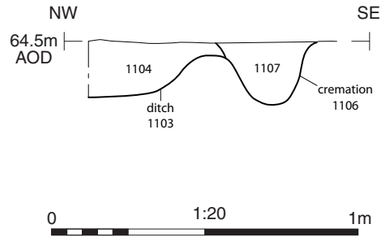
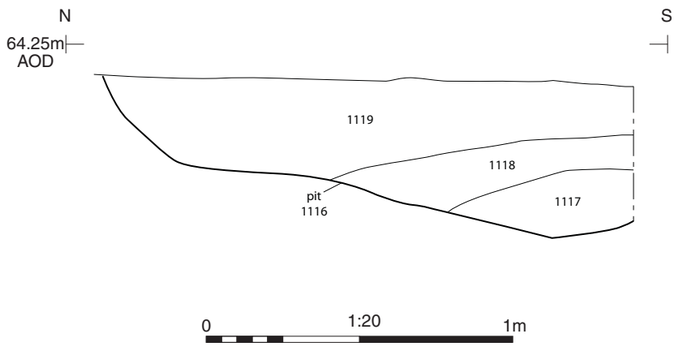


Vertical collared urn 1106, looking north (scale 0.15m)

Section DD



Pit 1116, looking east (scale 1m)

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 11: sections and photographs

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12

12 Gulley 1120, looking south-west (scale 0.4m)

Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Abingdon Road, Drayton
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FIGURE TITLE
Photograph

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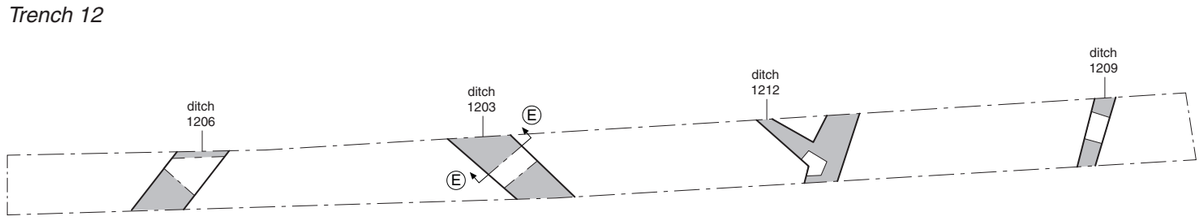
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	05-05-2015	12
APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE@A4	NA	

Trench 12



Trench 12, looking west (scales 2m & 1m)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Abingdon Road, Drayton
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 12: plan and photograph

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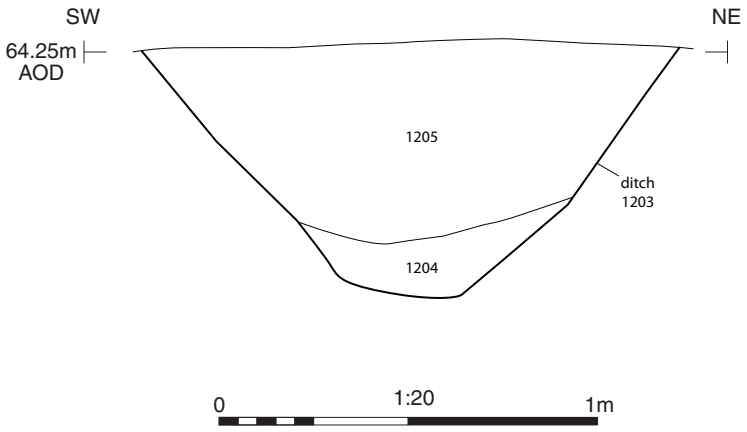

View of ditch 1203, looking north-wast (scale 1m)

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Abingdon Road, Drayton
Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 12: section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	**JB**	*DATE*	**05-05-2015**	**14**
APPROVED BY	**DDR**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:20**	

15

16

17

15 Ditch 1206, looking south-west (scale 1m)

16 Ditch 1212, looking north-east (scale 1m)

17 General view of collared urn

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Abingdon Road, Drayton Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	DJB	PROJECT NO.	5361	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	05-05-2015	15-17
APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE@A3	NA	