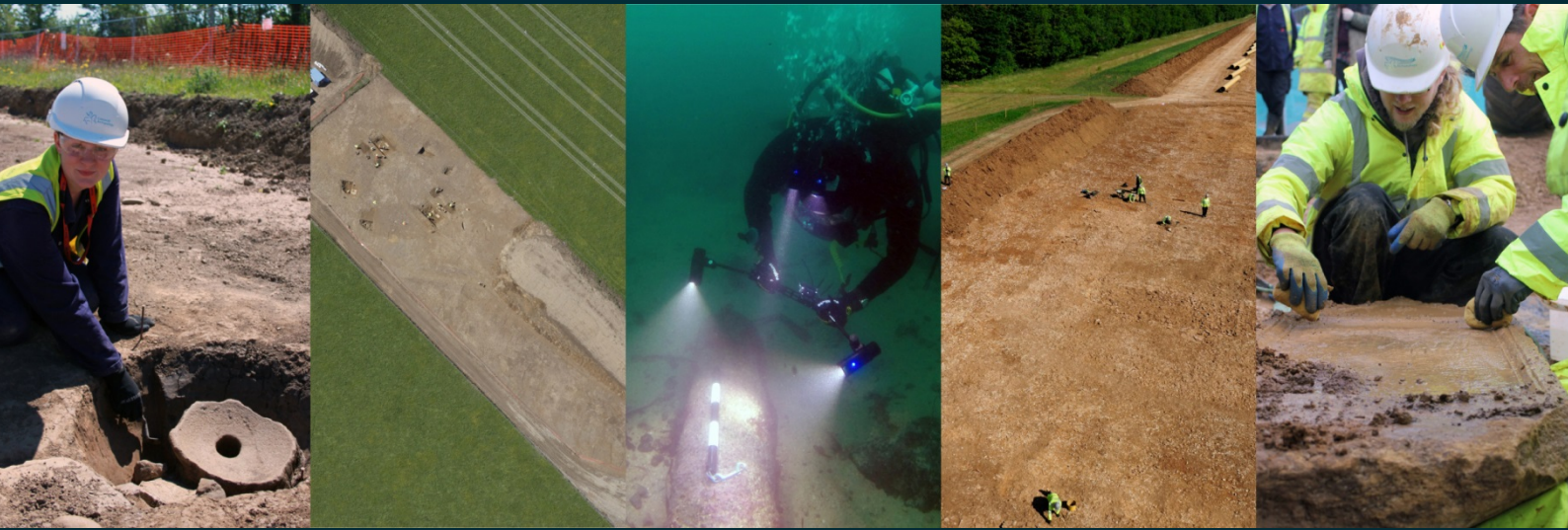


**Parcels 8 and 9b
Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead
Trowbridge
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Excavation



*For
Persimmon Homes Wessex*

CA Project: 5897
CA Report: 16307

September 2016



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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Project Name: | Parcels 8 and 9b Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead |
| Location: | Trowbridge Wiltshire |
| NGR: | ST 87850 57800 |
| Type: | Excavation |
| Date: | 31 May to 3 June |
| Planning Reference: | Ref: 15/11267/FUL |
| Location of Archive: | Trowbridge Museum |
| Site Code: | ETR16 |

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2016 at Parcels 8 and 9b south of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. The excavation area was located in the north east corner of the site targeted on Roman features identified in a previous evaluation of the site.

The majority of the excavation area was shown to be devoid of archaeological features, but this negative evidence is important in being able to define the extent of Roman activity, which has been identified to the east of the site. The excavation confirmed that within the southern corner of the mitigation area the very western extent of 2nd to 4th century Roman enclosure identified in an evaluation to the east was present within the site.

A pit dating to the Roman period was recorded and contained dumped material suggestive of nearby industrial activity, although the environmental evidence suggests the activity was more domestic in origin.

A north-east to south-west aligned ditch was recorded that is the terminal end of the western side of a Roman enclosure which lies almost wholly within the adjacent area to the east. The terminal end of the ditch would appear to correspond and correlate to a ditch terminus identified on the geophysical survey of the adjacent site to the east which indicates the eastern extent of the enclosure on the adjacent site. This would appear to suggest that the enclosure would have been open-ended along its southern edge.

The opened ended nature of the Roman enclosure is based on the dating of a north west to south east aligned ditch recorded in the current phase of work and previous investigation, which potentially could have formed the southern and enclosing boundary of the enclosure.. Quantities of recent degraded wood fragments were recovered from the ditch fills and the

results of the environmental samples strongly suggest a post-medieval date. However, the ditch is on the same alignment as the Roman enclosure and there is the possibility that although it may have been in use into the post-medieval period, the ditch itself may have been established earlier during the Roman period and continued to be defined and used as a boundary up until recent times. A small amount of Roman pottery was recovered from the ditch, but may be residual. It is possible that any further mitigation undertaken within the area to the east of the current site may be able to provide evidence to clearly date the founding of the ditch and whether this can be shown to form the southern enclosing boundary of the Roman enclosure.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June and July 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological investigation at the request of Rachel Foster Wiltshire Council Archaeology (WCA) and on behalf of Persimmon Homes Wessex, at Parcels 8 and 9b south of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 87850 57800; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 A planning application (Ref: 15/11267/FUL) has been submitted to Wiltshire Council the local planning authority (LPA) for residential development of 26 dwellings including access, car parking, landscaping and other associated infrastructure at the site.
- 1.3 An archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site (CA 2016a) was undertaken in order to inform the application, and indicated the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the site.
- 1.4 Following consultation with Rachel Foster, the Assistant County Archaeologist (ACA) at Wiltshire Council Archaeology (WCA) the archaeological planning advisor to the LPA, Wiltshire Council it was advised that based on the results of the evaluation (CA 2016a), along with the results of a trial trench evaluation undertaken immediately to the east of the site (CA 2016b) that should planning permission be granted that an archaeological condition should be attached to the approval.
- 1.5 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016c) and approved by WC prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (ClfA 2014); the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* and accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015).

The Site

- 1.6 The mitigation site occupies c.700m² to the north and along the eastern boundary of the full development site which extends to c.0.57ha in size. The site lies to the south-east of Trowbridge, at the edge of the new residential area. It is bounded to the east by new residential development and Mascroft Road and to the west by an open field, within which Cotswold Archaeology undertook an evaluation (CA 2016b).

The site comprises an area of grassland with the current construction site compound occupying part of the south western corner of the site. The eastern boundary of the site is defined by a post and wire fence. Green Lane Farm lies to the north of the site beyond which lies Green Lane.

- 1.7 The ground is flat, and lies at a height of c. 45m aOD. Overhead cables cross the northern part of the mitigation area.
- 1.8 The British Geological Survey (BGS - online) Map shows that the Site is underlain by Oxford Clay formation – mudstone and this was confirmed during the evaluation (2016a).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Previous Investigation

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2016 of the site (CA 2016a). Five 15m trenches were excavated, comprising a 2% sample (by area) of the site. To the immediate east of the current site, a geophysical survey (GSB 2015) and an evaluation (CA 2016b), recorded a series of sub-rectangular ditched fields or enclosures. The associated finds assemblage indicated settlement activity of Roman date in the area, to the immediate north-east of the present site.
- 2.2 Two features of archaeological note were recorded during the evaluation of the site (CA 2016a); a small pit/tree throw in the north of the site (Trench 1), and a ditch in the centre of the site (Trench 3). The pit/tree throw contained a sherd of Roman pottery as well as a significant quantity of charcoal. A small assemblage of Roman pottery was also recovered from the base of the topsoil in Trench 1. This would suggest Roman activity continues from the immediate east (CA 2016b), into the northern part of the current site.
- 2.3 A north-west/south-east aligned ditch of probable Post-medieval date was recorded in Trench 3, which correlated with a linear geophysical anomaly and a ditch uncovered during trenching of the adjacent site (CA 2016b). Although undated it contained a small quantity of degraded wood fragments of probable post-medieval

or modern origin, possibly suggesting the ditch was used for drainage for the woodland that occupied the area until at least the mid-19th century.

- 2.4 The evaluation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology to the east of the site (CA 2016b) targeted anomalies identified from a geophysical survey (GSB 2015). The evaluation (CA 2016b) identified extensive Roman activity comprising ditches, pits and postholes with the majority of the archaeology located immediately to the east of the Site. In the south eastern corner of the evaluation several small pits containing large amounts of burnt material including fired clay were identified. These features were similar in nature to the pit/tree throw identified in Trench 1. It seems likely that these features may relate to industrial activity possibly dating to the Roman period.
- 2.5 The evaluation (CA 2016b) confirmed the existence of at least two phases of sub rectangular enclosure dating to the 2nd to 3rd Century AD. Evidence for possible occupation activity came from the range of high status pottery along with stone masonry and roof and a copper alloy bracelet.
- 2.6 The evaluation (CA 2016b) results as a whole indicated the presence of 2nd to 3rd Century Romano-British activity in the form of field systems, enclosures and occupation activity located immediately to the east of the site.
- 2.7 A brief summary of the archaeological background in the wider vicinity of the site is presented below.

Prehistoric (pre- 43 AD)

- 2.8 No recorded prehistoric activity has previously been identified within the site; however, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from a ditch 880m to the north (Wessex Archaeology 1989). No prehistoric activity was identified during the site evaluation immediately to the east of the site (CA 2016b).

Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 2.9 Roman activity has previously been identified within the site and its immediate vicinity with two programmes of archaeological evaluation undertaken by CA (CA 2016a and b).

Early Medieval/Saxon (AD 410 – AD 1066) to Modern (1801 – present)

- 2.10 No Saxon evidence is directly known from within the site, although it lay within the historic parish of Steeple Ashton. Place name evidence suggests that Steeple Ashton has Saxon origins; tun being Old English name for a farm, a settlement or an enclosure. No Saxon activity was identified in the evaluation of the site (CA 2016a) or immediately to the east of the site (CA 2016b).

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

- 2.11 The site is close to the northern border of Steeple Ashton parish, with the parish of Hilperton lying to the north of Paxcroft Brook. The Domesday survey records settlements at Hilperton and Trowbridge, suggesting these were the main settlement foci in the latter part of the 11th century. There is limited evidence for these periods in the area within and surrounding the site, suggesting that this area formed an area of agricultural land during the medieval period.

Post Medieval and Modern (1540-present)

- 2.12 The site and its environs are shown on historic maps as areas of woodland, labelled as 'Castle Wood' on both the Andrews and Dury Map of 1773 and the later First Series OS Map of 1817. Green Lane, located to the north of the site, is a straight east-west aligned road that links appears Trowbridge with Ashton Common is also depicted on the Andrews and Dury Map. The Steeple Ashton Tithe Map of 1841 shows the location of the site as within 'Slowgrove Wood', possibly a continuation of the 13th century name Sla graf meaning sloe wood. The tithe map also shows the fields between the woodland as being used for arable activities. Ordnance Survey maps dating to 1899 illustrate the contained occupation of the site by woodland, labelled here as 'Green Lane Wood'.
- 2.13 Ridge and furrow dating to the medieval and post-medieval is recorded historically as being located within and surrounding the site, indicating the agricultural use of the landscape throughout these periods. Any traces of ridge and furrow were lost due in the late 20th and early 21st century, due to residential development of the surrounding area. Both Green Lane Farm and Brook Farm, each locate to the north-east of the site, are of 19th century date and do not appear on early historic mapping of the area.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains
- to gain a better understanding and clarify the nature, date and chronology of the archaeological features identified during the archaeological evaluation

3.2 The specific aims of the work were to:

- record any further evidence of Roman activity that may relate to past settlement, funerary activity, industrial activity or other land use as has been identified in the evaluation undertaken on the site (CA 2016a) and the neighbouring site to the east (CA 2016b).
- seek to better clarify the nature of the archaeological activity previously recorded in the evaluations (CA 2016a and b).
- seek to establish the nature of the possible industrial activity that was being undertaken at the site.
- recover artefact evidence to further refine the extent, nature and dating of archaeological features that were identified during the evaluation;
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy, and gain an understanding of the types of activities being undertaken during the Roman period and the nature of the settlement.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016c). The location of the excavation area was agreed with Rachel Foster (WC), informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation (CA 2016a). An excavation area measuring c.700m² was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*. This was divided by overhead cables with a 6m exclusion zone established either side of the outermost cable within which no excavation could be undertaken. A designated crossing point beneath the cables was established demarcated by goal posts and nettlon fencing. The excavation area was scanned for live services

by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the CA *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.

- 4.2 Topsoil and subsoil to the top of the archaeological and geological horizon was removed by a machine excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under the constant archaeological supervision
- 4.3 The archaeological features revealed were hand-excavated to the bottom of the archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and two features considered to have potential for characterising the earlier phases of activity were sampled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 4.5 All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2–8)

Overview

- 5.1 Three archaeological features were identified cutting the natural geology and sealed by the topsoil. A pit (1003) dating to the Roman period which was recorded and sampled excavated within trench 1 of the evaluation (CA 2016a) was fully excavated. A north-west to south-east aligned ditch (2) of likely post-medieval to recent date identified during the previous evaluation (CA 2016a) was further recorded within the mitigation area. A north east to south west terminating ditch (1) not previously identified during the evaluation was recorded within the southern part of the mitigation area. The ditch can be shown to be the terminating end of a ditch identified in the evaluation (CA 2016b) to the east of the site. Three Slots (1005; 1013 and 1015) excavated through this ditch (1) produced Roman pottery in the form of locally-produced (North Wiltshire) greyware, regionally-produced Dorset black-burnished ware and imported wares, exclusively samian wares from Central and East Gaul. The material is suggestive of a mid 2nd to 4th century date.

5.2 The dating evidence indicates that the archaeological activity on site dates to the mid to late Roman, and Post-medieval period.

- Phase 0: Geology
- Phase 1: Roman I (mid 2nd– 4rd Century AD)
- Phase 2: Post-medieval

Phase 0, Geology

5.3 The natural geological substrate, 1002 was a compact silty clay blueish grey with orange mottling. There were patches of orangey yellow silty clay throughout the site.

Phase 1, Roman (Figs 2 to 6) 2nd to 4th century

5.4 Two of the features on site, a pit 1003 and ditch 1 (consisting of excavated slots 1005, 1013 and 1015) could positively be dated to the Mid to Late Roman period.

Pit 1003 (Figs 2 and 3)

5.5 Pit 1003 (recorded as pit 102 in the evaluation (CA 2016a)) was sub oval in plan 0.91m long, 0.67m wide and 0.25m deep with steep straight sides and a shallow concave base. It was filled by 1004 a dark brown black silty clay. In addition, 5155g of fired clay-rich residue was retained from sample 10 of fill 1004 as well as total of 41 items (27g) of iron were recovered by bulk soil sample from pit 1003 (fill 1004). The items are small and appear to be fragments of nails and hobnails. A single fragment of lead, weighing less than 1g, was recovered from this sample. The item appears to be a pellet or droplet and is neither diagnostic of activity or dating. **1004** also contained Roman pottery including two sherds of Samian. This pit was recorded within the evaluation in Trench 1 as 102 a pit/tree throw, fill 104 was sampled and produced large quantities of charcoal and a single sherd of Roman greyware pottery.

Ditch 1 (Figs 2, 4, 5 and 6)

5.6 Ditch 1 (comprising three excavated slots: 1005; 1013 and 1015) was linear in plan on a north-east/south-west alignment and terminated at its south western end with a curving to north to south alignment. It was recorded within the excavation area for a length of 4.5m and continues in a north east alignment beyond the limits of the site where it was recorded in the evaluation to the east (CA 2016b). The ditch (1) produced Roman pottery in the form of Locally-produced (North Wiltshire) greyware.

Vessels in this fabric are limited to necked jars from slot 1005 (fill 1007) and a dish which is possibly a copy of a Samian form, recorded from slot 1015 (fill 1016). Also present was regionally-produced Dorset black-burnished ware in the form of Type 25 bowls/dishes from slot 1013 (fill 1014). Imported, exclusively samian wares from Central and East Gaul were recovered from slot 1005 (fill 1007). The material is suggestive of a mid 2nd to 4th century date. Slots 1013 and 1015 produced animal bone which was fragmentary but well preserved, making possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/capra hircus*) from meat poor skeletal elements.

- 5.7 Within slot 1005, ditch 1 had an asymmetrical v shaped profile with moderate straight sides (steeper on the south-east side) and a shallow concave base. It was 1.54m wide and 0.78m deep and contained fills 1006 and 1007. Fill 1006 was a light grey with orange mottling friable silty clay. Overlying this was fill 1007, a mid grey with orange mottling friable silty clay. Both fills contained Mid to Late Roman pottery.
- 5.8 Slot 1013 was excavated through the terminal end of ditch 1 and turned back slightly to lie on a north-south alignment. It had steep straight sides to a shallow concave base. It was 1.25m wide and 0.49m deep and contained fill 1014 a loosely compacted mid grey with orange mottling silty clay. This fill (1014) contained Mid to Late Roman pottery and animal bone.
- 5.9 Slot 1015 was excavated at a bend in ditch 1. The north-western side of the ditch had a gradual straight slope giving way to a shallow concave base. The south-eastern side was truncated by a tree throw 1017. Ditch 1 within slot 1015 was 1.98m wide and 0.42m deep and was filled by 1016 and 1019. Fill 1016 was a mid greyish brown with orange and blue mottling silty clay and was compact with occasional shell. Fill 1019 was a greyish blue compact silty clay and produced Mid to Late Roman pottery and animal bone.

Phase 2 Post-medieval

Ditch 2 (Fig 2, 7 and 8)

- 5.10 Ditch 2 was investigated by excavated slots 1008 and 1011, and was previously recorded as context 302 within trench 3 of the evaluation (CA 2016a). Roman pottery was recovered from fills 1009 (slot 1008) and 1010 (slot 1011) respectively. This consisted of locally-produced (North Wiltshire) Roman greyware and imported

wares, exclusively Samian from Central and East Gaul. An environmental Sample (11) recovered from fill 1010 is suggestive of Post-medieval hedgerow clearance, and the Roman pottery recovered is highly likely to be residual. Fragments of degraded wood of post-medieval or modern origin were also recovered from fills 1009 and 1011.

- 5.11 Ditch 2 was linear in plan and aligned north west/south east, with steep straight sides with a shallow concave base. It was 0.77m to 0.85m wide and 0.19 m to 0.28m deep and recorded for a length of 11m within the excavation area. The ditch extends beyond the limits of the excavation area to the east where it was identified in the adjacent evaluation (CA2016b), and likely extends to the west. Within slot 1008 fills 1009 and 1010 were recorded. Fill 1009 was a mid blue grey silty clay and was 0.21m thick, it contained Roman pottery. Fill 1010 was a dark black clay silt of friable compaction with abundant charcoal and burnt clay and was 0.1m thick. Fill 1010 produced Roman pottery and ceramic building material. Sample 11 contained a large assemblage of well-preserved charcoal identified dominantly as hawthorn/rowan/crab apple and cherry species twigs and a small amount of oak, a small amount of which had not been completely burnt. The plant remains identified consisted of a number of haws (*Crataegus monogyna*) and sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) stone fragments. This type of assemblage is indicative of dumped firing debris from hedgerow clearance and burning.
- 5.12 Slot 1011 contained a single fill 1012, which was a dark blue brown with orange streaks and consisted of compact silty clay.
- 5.13 Ditch 2 was also excavated within the evaluation and recorded as **302** within Trench 3 on a northwest/southeast alignment. It measured 0.67m in width and 0.36m in depth and had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill 304 represented natural silting of the cut over time. A single cow tooth was recovered from the fill of ditch **302** and it contained a small quantity of degraded wood fragments of probable post-medieval or modern origin.

6. THE FINDS

Pottery

- 6.1 A small pottery assemblage was recovered from 11 deposits, by hand and by bulk soil sampling, and as unstratified finds. The assemblage amounts to 104 sherds (871g), of which 29 sherds (349g) were recovered from the evaluation stage (see CA report 16088). The material dates entirely to the Roman period (Table 1), with the majority recovered from ditch or pit/tree throw deposits.
- 6.2 The pottery has been fully recorded; quantification has included sherd count and weight by fabric and rim EVEs. Vessel form, where identifiable and evidence for use (residues) were also recorded. Where possible, fabric codings matching the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) have been (given in bold) and fabric codes and descriptions are given in **APPENDIX B**.
- 6.3 The pottery assemblage is well broken-up, reflected in a low sherd weight (8.3g). Surface loss was a feature of most sherds from topsoil type deposits. A small fabric range was recorded, with the majority of types being locally or regionally produced. The material is suggestive of a mid 2nd to 4th century date. The large majority of this group consists of unfeathered bodysherds, a factor which makes refinement of chronology difficult. The dating, as set out below is for the most part through reference to pottery fabrics/firing characteristics and is necessarily broad.
- 6.4 Locally-produced (North Wiltshire) greyware (GW) is most abundant, totalling 46 sherds (336g) and recorded all bar one deposit. Identifiable vessels in this fabric are limited to necked jars; recorded from topsoil 1000, fill 1007 and fill 1010 and a dish which is possibly a copy of a samian form, recorded from fill 1016.
- 6.5 Regionally-produced Dorset black-burnished ware is also highly represented, totalling 38 sherds (354g). Identifiable forms are limited to jars and bowls and include a Seager Smith (1993) Type 3 jar and Type 21 oval 'fish' dish recovered from topsoil layer 1000, a Type 20 dish from fill 1010 and Type 25 bowls/dishes from fill 1014 and as an unstratified find. The forms represented in this fabric are typical of 3rd to 4th century assemblages (Davies *et al.* 1994).
- 6.6 Imported wares, exclusively samian wares from Central and East Gaul (**LEZ SA2** and EG SAM), were recorded from five deposits. Identifiable vessels include dish/bowls of form 31 or 31R from topsoil 1000, fill 1007 and fill 1010, dateable after c. AD 150/160 (Webster 1996).

Fired Clay

- 6.7 A total of 38 fragments (412g) of fired clay were recovered from four deposits by hand recovery and by bulk soil sample. In addition, 5155g of fired clay-rich residue was retained from sample 10 of pit 1003 (fill 1004).
- 6.9 The fragments occur in a soft-fired, orange-brown fabric with no visible inclusions. Most are very fragmentary and do not display features of sufficient form to determine original use/function. Larger fragments from fill 1004 feature burnt-out organic voids, consistent with identification as burnt daub or oven lining.

Metal

- 6.10 A total of 41 items (27g) of iron were recovered by bulk soil sample from pit 1003 (fill 1004). The items are small and appear to be fragments of nails and hobnails. A single fragment of lead, weighing less than 1g, was recovered by bulk soil sample from pit 1003 (fill 1004). The item appears to be a pellet or droplet and is neither diagnostic of activity or dating.

Ceramic Building Material

- 6.11 A total of four fragments (27g) of ceramic building material (CBM) were recorded from three deposits. Three small, featureless fragments occurred from Roman-dated features; ditch 1 - fill 1010 and fill 1019. A fragment from topsoil deposit 1000 is probable modern drainpipe and is small and abraded.

Clay tobacco pipe

- 6.12 One fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem, with worn breaks, was recovered from topsoil deposit 1000. It is broadly dateable from the late 16th to late 19th centuries.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 Animal bones amounting to three fragments (102g) were recovered from deposits 1014 and 1016, respectively the fills of slots 1013 and 1015 of ditch 1. The material was fragmentary but well preserved, making possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/capra hircus*) from meat poor skeletal elements. Each of these species were commonly exploited domestic animals during this period so their presence on site is to be expected (Baker and Worley, 2014) however, due

to the low recovery of material no further inference can be drawn beyond species identification see **APPENDIX C**.

- 7.2 A single fragment of animal bone (10g) was recovered from Ditch 2 during the evaluation (CA 2016a) deposit 304, the fill of ditch feature 302. The bone was moderately well preserved and identified as the molar of a cow (*Bos taurus*). Due to the low recovery and lack of association with any datable artefacts, there is no further useful interpretative data to obtain beyond species identification and it is more than likely that the fragment is residual in nature.

Charcoal And Charred Plant Remains

- 7.3 Two bulk soil samples (36 litres) were processed to retrieve charcoal and charred plant remains from a Roman pit and a post-medieval ditch. The aim of this report is to provide evidence of socio-economic activities being undertaken on the site (such as crop processing, exploitation of woodlands for fuel, woodland management), and to infer the composition of the local woodlands and the nature of the surrounding landscape.

Methodology

- 7.4 Following flotation (CA Technical Manual No 2), the residue was dried and sorted by eye, the floated material scanned. Identifications of any plant macrofossils were noted in Table 3. Up to 100 charcoal fragments were fractured by hand to reveal the wood anatomy on radial, tangential and transverse planes. The pieces were then supported in a sand bath and identified under an epi-illuminating microscope (Brunel SP400) at magnifications from x40 to x400. Identifications were carried out with reference to images and descriptions by Gale and Cutler (2000) and Schoch *et al.* (2004) and Wheeler *et al.* (1989). Nomenclature of species follows Stace (1997).

Results

- 7.5 Very few charred plant remains were recovered within the assemblages (**Table 3**). The charcoal was recovered in moderate to large quantities and was generally well-preserved. The results are presented in tabular form (**APPENDIX D - Table 4**). Taxa have been identified as one of two possibilities (for example hawthorn/rowan/crab apple - *Crataegus monogyna*/*Sorbus*/*Malus sylvestris*) where the two species exhibit similar morphology but the species are not sufficiently well-preserved to observe subtle anatomical differences required for full identification.

Discussion

Roman

- 7.6 Pit 1003 contained a large assemblage of well-preserved charcoal identified as oak (*Quercus*), beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), cherry (*Prunus*) species and hawthorn/rowan/crab apple (*Crataegus monogyna/Sorbus/Malus sylvestris*) with the majority of the identified charcoal (94%) originating from small branches/twigs. The charred plant material within this assemblage included buds and stem/root fragments but no cereal remains or weed seeds were recovered.
- 7.7 Trench 1 from the evaluation produced sample 1 from fill 104 within pit/treethrow 102 which contained large quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm. The well preserved charcoal assemblage included mature, round and twig wood fragments and is likely to be representative of dumped material. No plant remains were recorded within this sample.
- 7.8 The absence of any interpretable plant remains or artefacts from this feature means it is difficult to discern whether the firing debris was domestic or industrial in origin. As pressure on woodland and hedgerow resources increased, large timbers were typically reserved for building construction, or other fuel demanding tasks such as metal working. Fuel utilised for tasks which did not require long heating times (such as domestic fires) would have been locally collected from nearby scrub and hedgerows and include fuel made up of smaller branches/twigs and as such it is possible this fire was domestic in origin.
- 7.9 Identifications undertaken suggest that fuel was sought locally, from scrub woodland or hedgerows consisting of cherry species, beech and hawthorn/rowan/crab apple and birch. The presence of oak suggests (most likely small) stands of more mature woodland were present in the area.

Post-medieval

- 7.9 Ditch 2, fill **1008** contained a large assemblage of well-preserved charcoal identified dominantly as hawthorn/rowan/crab apple and cherry species twigs and a small amount of oak, a small amount of which had not been completely burnt. The plant remains identified consisted of a number of haws (*Crataegus monogyna*) and sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) stone fragments. This type of assemblage is indicative of dumped firing debris from hedgerow clearance and burning.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The vast majority of the excavation area was shown to be devoid of archaeological features, but this negative evidence is important in being able to define the extent of the Roman activity, which has been identified to the east of the site. The excavation confirmed that within the southern corner of the mitigation area the very western extent of 2nd to 4th century Roman enclosure was present within the site.
- 8.2 The previous evaluation of the site had indicated a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains, but was vital in trying to determine the extent of the Roman activity identified in the adjacent evaluation to the east. The evaluation of the adjacent site confirmed geophysical results by identifying extensive Roman activity indicative of settlement activity likely relating to agriculture comprising of ditches, pits and postholes dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. The adjacent evaluation also identified several small pits outside of the settlement enclosure area containing large amounts of burnt material including fired clay. It seems likely that these features may relate to industrial activity possibly dating to the Roman period.
- 8.4 The mitigation work undertaken within the site has been important as it has been able to define the western extent of the activity identified in the evaluation to the east. Pit 1003 contained dumped material from nearby activity which contained small fragments of hobnails, nails and a small pellet of lead, this is similar to the material found in the adjacent evaluation and is suggestive of nearby industrial activity, although the environmental evidence suggests the activity was more domestic in origin. As identified in the evaluation to the east pit 1003 may suggest an activity being undertaken externally to the main settlement enclosure area
- 8.5 Ditch 1 forms part of and is the terminal end of the western side of the Roman enclosure which lies almost wholly within the adjacent area to the east. The terminal end of ditch 1 would appear to correspond and correlate to a terminus identified on the geophysical survey forming part of the eastern extent of the enclosure. This would appear to suggest that the enclosure would have been open-ended along its southern edge, which is highly unusual.
- 8.6 The opened ended nature of the Roman enclosure is based on the dating of Ditch 2 which potentially could have formed the southern and enclosing boundary of the enclosure. The ditch was recorded during the current phase of work as well in the

previous evaluation of the site and the evaluation to the east, as well as being clearly identifiable in the geophysical survey. A number of slots were excavated through the ditch and in all cases quantities of recent degraded wood fragments were recovered and the results of the environmental samples strongly suggest a post-medieval date. A basic landscape analysis of the line of the ditch, the course of which is clearly visible as an undulation, would also appear to have a small remnant number of trees following its line, which again would support a more recent date for the establishment of the ditch. A ditch on this alignment however is not shown on the earliest Ordnance Survey mapping, so must at least pre-date 1870.

- 8.6 However, the ditch is on the same alignment as the Roman enclosure and other identified Roman features and there is the possibility that although it may have been in use into the post-medieval period, the ditch itself may have been established earlier during the Roman period and continued to be defined and used as a boundary up until recent times. Although this could not be established during the current phase of work it is possible that any further mitigation undertaken within the area to the east of the current site may be able to provide evidence to clearly date the founding of the ditch and whether this can be shown to form the southern enclosing boundary of the Roman enclosure.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard and assisted by Steve Bush. The report was written by Adam Howard. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden, plant microfossils and charcoal report by Sarah Cobain and Sarah Wyles and the animal bone report by Andy Clarke. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Tom Rowley. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

10. STORAGE AND CURATION

- 10.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices in Andover whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with the Trowbridge Museum, which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project. 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.

11. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Context Number | Context Type | Fill of | Context Type | Context Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|----------------|--------------|---------|-----------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------|
| 1000 | Layer | | Topsoil | Mid brown grey silty clay, firm, turf inclusions | | | 0.3 – 0.1 |
| 1001 | Layer | | Modern surface | Hard core surface | | | 0.1 – 0.2 |
| 1002 | Layer | | Natural Geology | Mid orange yellow and blue grey silty clay, compact with frequent chalk and shell inclusions | | | |
| 1003 | Cut | | Cut of Pit | Sub oval with rounded corners and steep straight sides, concave break of slope to base. Shallow concave base | 0.91 | 0.67 | 0.25 |
| 1004 | Fill | 1003 | Fill of pit | Dark brown black silty clay, firm with 50% charcoal and burnt clay inclusions. Deliberate dump. | 0.91 | 0.67 | 0.25 |
| 1005 | Cut | | Cut of Ditch | Linear ditch with right angle bend leading to terminus in South South East direction. Moderate sides with convex top roughly symmetrical. Rounded base with concave break of slope. | >1.1 | 1.54 | 0.78 |
| 1006 | Fill | 1005 | Fill of ditch | Light grey with orange mottling silty clay, friable secondary fill | >1.1 | 1.34 | 0.38 |
| 1007 | Fill | 1005 | Fill of ditch | Mid grey with orange mottling silty clay, friable secondary fill | >1.1 | 1.14 | 0.42 |
| 1008 | Cut | | Cut of ditch | Linear with steep straight sides and a shallow concave base on an east to west alignment. | >1 | 0.77 | 0.28 |
| 1009 | Fill | 1008 | Fill of ditch | Mid blue grey with orange streaks silty clay, compact secondary fill | >1 | 0.54 | 0.21 |
| 1010 | Fill | 1008 | Fill of ditch | Dark black clay silt friable with abundant charcoal and burnt clay | >1 | 0.77 | 0.1 |
| 1011 | Cut | | Cut of ditch | Linear on NW – SE alignment with gradual concave sides and shallow break to base. Shallow concave base | >1 | 0.85 | 0.19 |
| 1012 | Fill | 1011 | Fill of ditch | Dark blue brown with orange streaks silty clay, compact secondary fill | >1 | 0.85 | 0.19 |
| 1013 | Cut | | Cut of ditch terminus | Linear N – S aligned ditch with moderate sides and convex top. Rounded base with concave break of slope | >1.6 | 1.25 | 0.49 |

| Context Number | Context Type | Fill of | Context Type | Context Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|----------------|--------------|---------|--------------------|--|-------|-------|----------------------|
| 1014 | Fill | 1013 | Fill of ditch | Mid grey with orange mottling silty clay loose with <3% sub angular stone inclusions. Secondary fill | >1.6 | 1.25 | 0.49 |
| 1015 | Cut | | Cut of ditch | Linear on NE – SW alignment with gradual straight sloping sides to a shallow concave base | >1 | 1.98 | 0.42 |
| 1016 | Fill | 1015 | Fill of ditch | Mid grey brown with orange blue streaks silty clay, compact with occasional fossilised shell | >1 | 1.98 | 0.35 |
| 1017 | Cut | | Cut of tree throw | Sub oval with rounded corners and steep concave sides to a shallow concave base | >1 | >0.4 | 0.31 |
| 1018 | Fill | 1017 | Fill of tree throw | Dark blue grey with orange mottling silty clay, firm | >1 | >0.4 | 0.31 |
| 1019 | Fill | 1015 | Fill of ditch | Mid grey blue silty clay, compact | >1 | 1.52 | 0.07 |

APPENDIX B: POTTERY**Fabric codes/descriptions**

DOR BB1 (South-East) Dorset Black-burnished ware 1 (Tomber and Dore 1998, 129) *Total: 38* sherds (354g).

EG SAM East Gaulish samian ware; pale micaceous fabric with fine limestone inclusions. *Total: 7* sherds (62g).

GW Locally produced (North Wiltshire) greyware; grey throughout. Soft with sandy feel/fine quartz sand inclusions. *Total: 46* sherds (336g).

LEZ SA2 Central Gaulish (Lezoux) samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 31). *Total: 3* sherds (40g).

LOC BS Locally-produced, black sandy ware; reduced fabric with quartz inclusions. *Total: 1* sherd (5g).

NFO CC New Forest (metallic) colour coated ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 141). *Total: 1* sherd (13g).

OXF RS Oxford red-slipped ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 176). *Total: 1* sherd (3g).

OXID Locally-produced (North Wiltshire) oxidised fabric. *Total: 7* sherds (58g).

Table 1: Pottery distribution by context number (sherd count only)

| Source | Fabric | 100 | 105 | 1004 | 1006 | 1007 | 1009 | 1010 | 1014 | 1016 | 1018 | 1019 | US | Area A (US) |
|---------------------|---------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----|-------------|
| Local/ unsourced | GW | 7 | 1 | 8 | | 3 | | 6 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| | LOC BS | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| | OXID | | | | | | 1 | | | | 3 | 1 | 2 | |
| Regional | NFO CC | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| | OXF RS | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Imported | DOR BB1 | 14 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 4 | 4 | 1 | | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| | EG SAM | 6 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| | LEZ SA2 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| | Totals | 28 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 12 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 6 |

APPENDIX C: ANIMAL BONE

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

| Cut | Fill | BOS | O/C | Ind | Total | Weight (g) |
|---------------|------|-----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|
| 1013 | 1014 | | | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 1015 | 1016 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 97 |
| | | | | | | |
| Total | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | |
| Weight | | 89 | 8 | 5 | 102 | |

BOS = cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; Ind = indeterminate

APPENDIX D: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 3

| Feature | Context | Sample | Vol (L) | Flot size (ml) | Roots % | Grain | Chaff | Charred Other | Notes for Table | Charcoal > 4/2mm | Other |
|---------------------|---------|--------|---------|----------------|---------|-------|-------|---------------|---|------------------|-------|
| Romano-British pit | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1003 | 1004 | 10 | 17 | 625 | 10 | - | - | * | buds, stem/root frags | *****/***** | - |
| Post-medieval ditch | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1008 | 1010 | 11 | 19 | 600 | 25 | - | - | *** | <i>Crataegus stone + Prunus spinosa stone frags</i> | *****/***** | - |

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–20 items; *** = 21–50 items; **** = 51–99 items; ***** = >100

Table 4 Charcoal identifications

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------|-------|
| Context number | 1004 | 1010 |
| Feature number | 1003 | 1008 |
| Sample number (SS) | 10 | 11 |
| Feature type | Pit | Ditch |
| Flot volume (ml) | 625 | 600 |
| Sample volume processed (l) | 17 | 19 |
| Soil remaining (l) | 0 | 0 |
| Period | RB | PM |

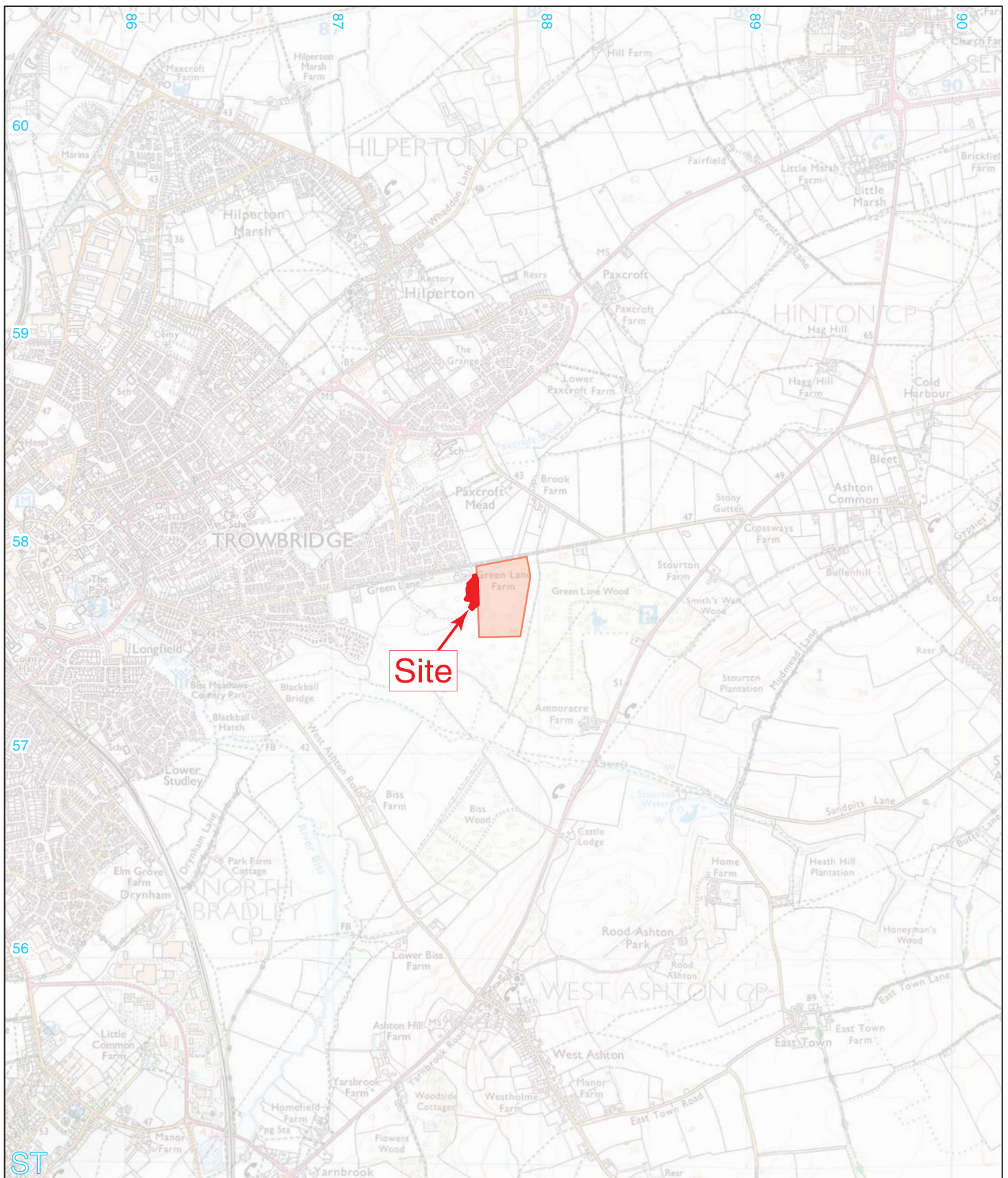
| Charcoal quantity >2mm | | | +++++ | +++++ |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Charcoal preservation | | | Good | Good |
| Family | Species | Common Name | | |
| Fagaceae | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L. | Beech r/w | 1 | |
| | <i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl./ <i>Quercus robur</i> L. | Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak | 6 | 4 |
| | <i>Quercus petraea</i> (Matt.) Liebl./ <i>Quercus robur</i> L. | Sessile Oak/Pedunculate Oak r/w | 54 | 5 |
| | <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> Jacq./ <i>Sorbus</i> L./ <i>Malus</i> <i>sylvestris</i> (L.) Mill. | Hawthorn/Rowans/Crab apple r/w | 23 | 54 |
| | <i>Prunus</i> L. | Cherries r/w | 16 | 37 |
| Total | | | 100 | 100 |

Key: + = 1– 4 items; ++ = 5–20 items; +++ = 21–40 items; ++++ = 41–99 items; +++++ = 100–500 items; ++++++ = >500 items
r/w = small branch/twi

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Project Name | Parcels 8 and 9b, Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead Trowbridge, Wiltshire |
| Short description | <p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2016 at Parcels 8 and 9b south of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. The excavation area was located in the north east corner of the site targeted on Roman features identified in a previous evaluation of the site.</p> <p>The majority of the excavation area was shown to be devoid of archaeological features, but this negative evidence is in important in being able to define the extent of Roman activity, which has been identified to the east of the site. The excavation confirmed that within the southern corner of the mitigation area the very western extent of 2nd to 4th century Roman enclosure identified in an evaluation to the east was present within the site.</p> <p>A pit dating to the Roman period was recorded and contained dumped material suggestive of nearby industrial activity, although the environmental evidence suggests the activity was more domestic in origin.</p> <p>A north-east to south-west aligned ditch was recorded that forms part of and is the terminal end of the western side of a Roman enclosure which lies almost wholly within the adjacent area to the east. The terminal end of the ditch would appear to correspond and correlate to a ditch terminus identified on the geophysical survey of the adjacent site which forms part of the eastern extent of the enclosure. This would appear to suggest that the enclosure would have been open-ended along its southern edge.</p> <p>The opened ended nature of the Roman enclosure is based on the dating of a north west to south east aligned ditch, which potentially could have formed the southern and enclosing boundary of the enclosure. Quantities of recent degraded wood fragments were recovered from the ditch fills and environmental samples strongly suggest a post-medieval date. However, the ditch is on the same alignment as the Roman enclosure and there is the possibility that although it may have been in use into the post-medieval period, the ditch itself may have been established earlier during the Roman period and continued to be defined and used as a boundary up until recent times..</p> |
| Project dates | 31 May to 3 June |
| Project type | Excavation |
| Previous work | CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016a Parcels 8 and 9b, Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Archaeological Evaluation. CA Project No. 5759. CA Typescript Report No. 16088 |
| Future work | None |
| PROJECT LOCATION | |
| Site Location | Parcels 8 and 9b south of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 700m ² |
| Site co-ordinates | ST 87850 57800 |
| PROJECT CREATORS | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology |
| Project Brief originator | Cotswold Archaeology |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Damian De Rosa | |
| Project Supervisor | Adam Howard | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | Two ditches and one pit were excavated | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | Roman pottery, hobnails and animal bone | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) | Content |
| Physical | Trowbridge Museum | Pottery, CBM, animal bone, metal |
| Paper | Trowbridge Museum | Context sheets, drawings, photographic register, context register |
| Digital | Trowbridge Museum/ADS | digital photos survey data |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Parcels 8 and 9b, Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire: Archaeological Excavation</i> . CA typescript report 16307 | | |



- Site boundary
- Previous archaeological works (CA 2016)

0 1km

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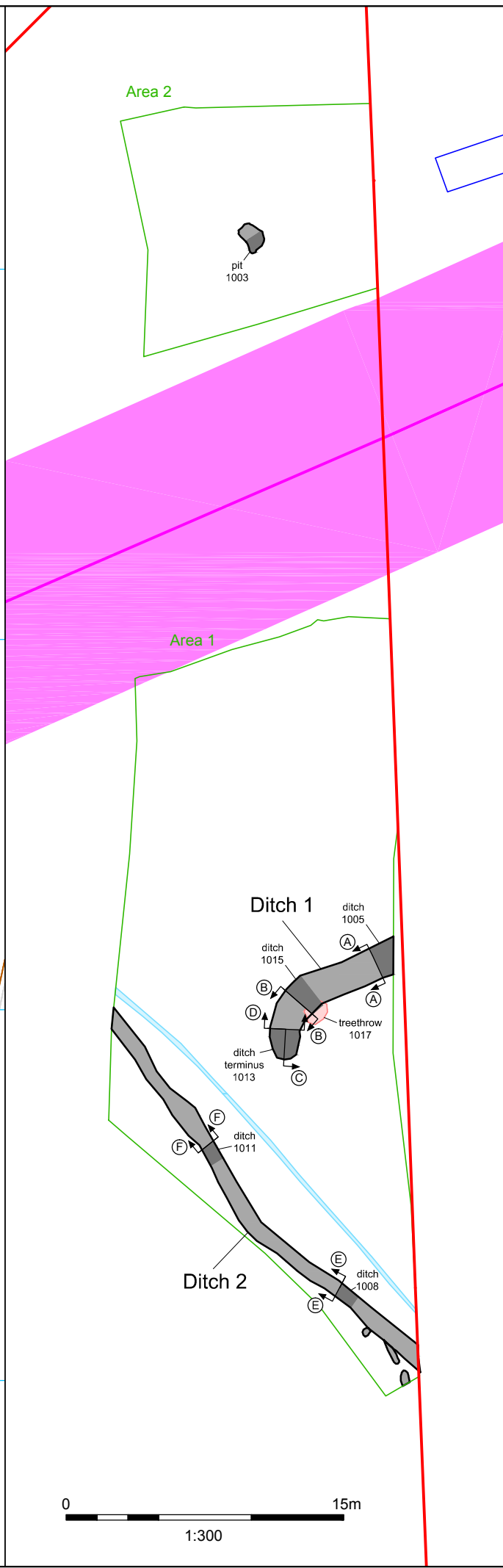
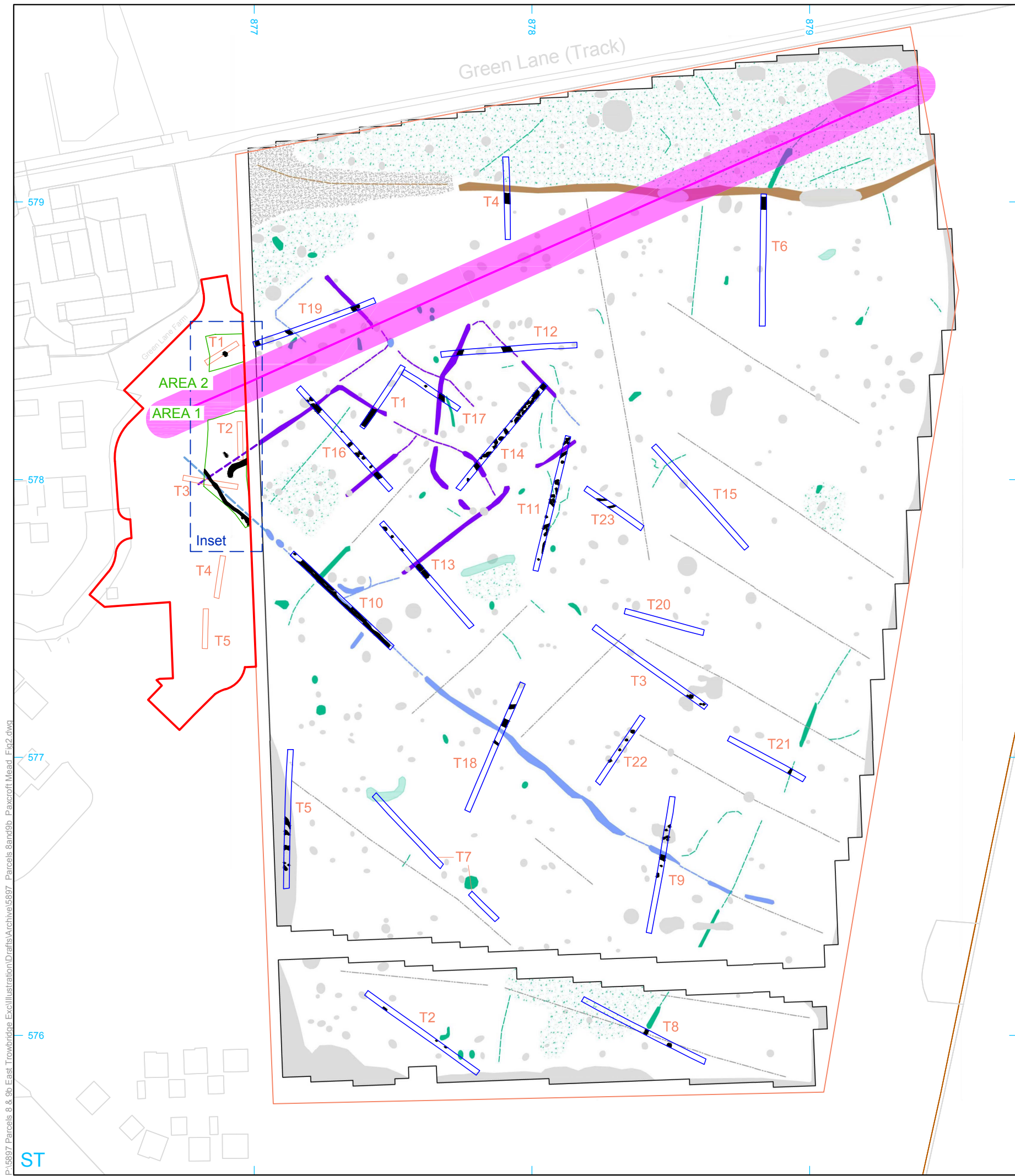


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PROJECT TITLE
 Parcels 8 & 9b, Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead, East Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|
| DRAWN BY | SO/LJH | PROJECT NO. | 5897 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | LM | DATE | 09-06-2016 | |
| APPROVED BY | DDR | SCALE@A4 | 1:25,000 | 1 |



- site boundary
- limit of excavation
- previous evaluation (CA 2016a)
- previous evaluation (CA 2016b)
- archaeological feature
- overhead cable

Inset

- archaeological feature
- archaeological intervention
- field drain
- treethrow
- section location
- overhead cable

Geophysical Survey results (GSB 2015)

- Archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)
- ?Archaeology (discrete anomaly / trend)
- Former Boundary (discrete anomaly / trend)
- Uncertain Origin (discrete / weak anomaly)
- Uncertain Origin (increased response / trend)
- Drain
- Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance

0 50m

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PROJECT TITLE
Parcels 8 and 9b, Land to the South of Paxcoft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY LJM
 CHECKED BY LM
 APPROVED BY DDR

PROJECT NO. 5897
 DATE 20/06/2016
 SCALE @A3 1:1500 & 1:300

FIGURE NO.
2

P:\5897 Parcels 8 & 9b East Trowbridge Excavation\Drawings\Archives\5897 Parcels 8and9b Paxcoft Mead Fig2.dwg

ST



Pit 1003, backfill from evaluation trench looking north-west (0.3m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Parcels 8 and 9b, Land to the South of
Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

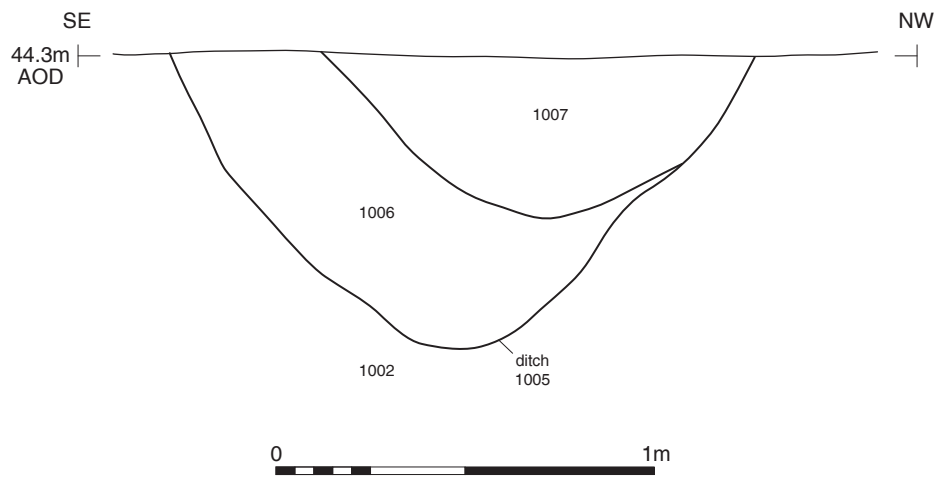
Pit 1003: photograph

DRAWN BY L J H PROJECT NO. 5897
CHECKED BY R P DATE 14/06/16
APPROVED BY D D R SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

3

Section AA



Ditch cut 1005 looking south-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

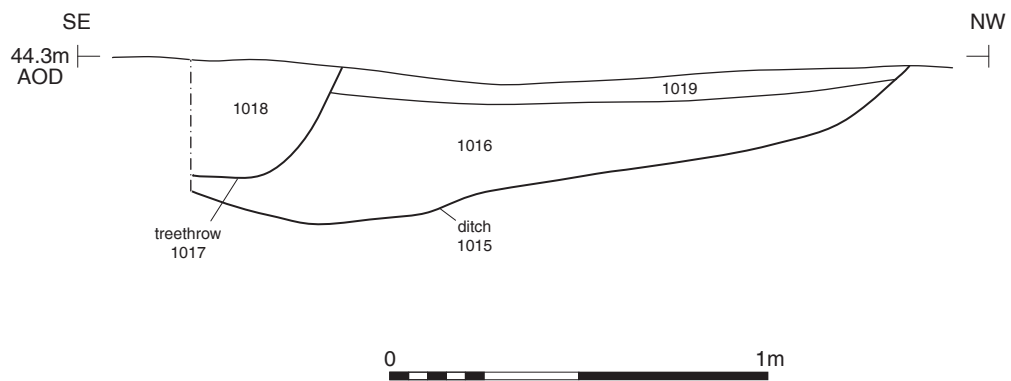
Parcels 8 and 9b, Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 1005: section and photograph

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|----------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | LJH | PROJECT NO. | 5897 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | RP | DATE | 14/06/16 | |
| APPROVED BY | DDR | SCALE@A4 | 1:20 | 4 |

Section BB



Ditch cut 1015 and tree throw cut 1017 looking south-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

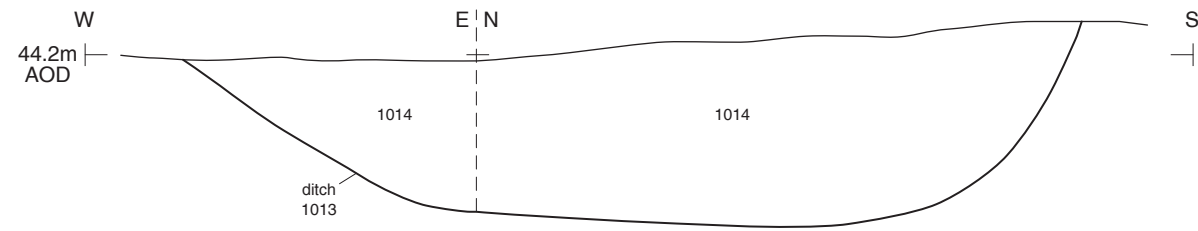
Parcels 8 and 9b, Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

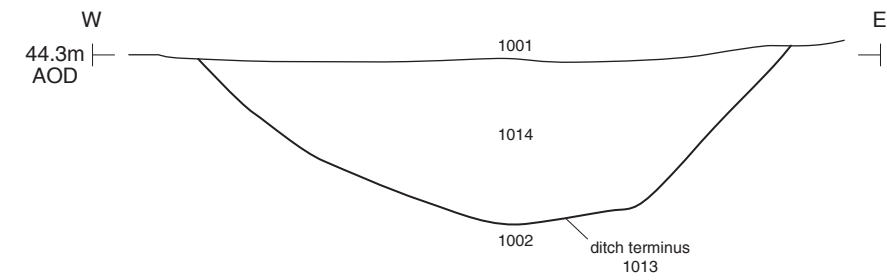
Ditch 1015 and tree throw 1017: section and photograph

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|----------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | LJH | PROJECT NO. | 5897 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | RP | DATE | 14/06/16 | 5 |
| APPROVED BY | DDR | SCALE@A4 | 1:20 | |

Section CC



Section DD



Ditch Terminus 1013 looking north-east (1m scale)



Ditch Terminus 1013 looking north (1m scale)



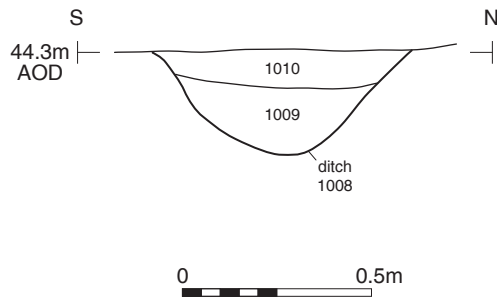

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PROJECT TITLE
Parcels 8 and 9b, Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Ditch Terminus 1013: sections and photographs

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|----------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | LJH | PROJECT NO. | 5897 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | RP | DATE | 14/06/16 | |
| APPROVED BY | DDR | SCALE@A3 | 1:20 | 6 |

Section EE



Ditch cut 1008 looking west (0.3m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Parcels 8 and 9b, Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

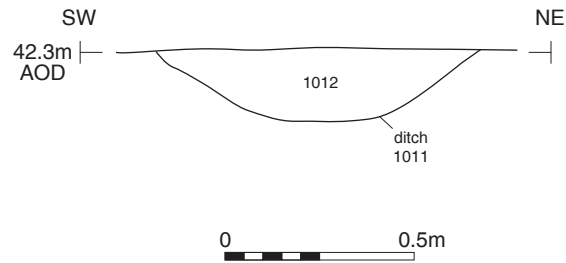
Ditch 1008: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

7

Section FF



Ditch cut 1011 looking north-west (0.3m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Parcels 8 and 9b, Land to the South of Paxcroft Mead, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 1011: section and photograph

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CHECKED BY RP DATE 14/06/16
APPROVED BY DDR SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

8

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