Cotswold Archaeology

Rushy Bank
Charlbury
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

for
The Rushy Bank Partnership

CA Project: 5728
CA Report: 16009

January 2016

Rushy Bank
Charlbury
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A	28 January 2016	Peter Busby	Steven Sheldon	Internal review	Client Comment	Ian Barnes

CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Rushy Bank
Location:	Charlbury, Oxfordshire
NGR:	SP 35091 19407
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	4-7 January 2016
Planning Reference:	15/03099/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service
Site Code:	RBC 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2016 at Rushy Bank, Charlbury, Oxfordshire. A total of nineteen trenches were excavated.

A ditch containing pottery of 11th to 13th-century date was identified within the north-western part of the site and probably relates to land management/drainage or division. A medieval/post-medieval furrow was also identified within the north-western part of the site. The limited number of medieval/post-medieval features identified suggests that the site is likely to have lain within the agricultural hinterland of one or more adjacent areas of known medieval/post-medieval settlement.

A modern ditch was identified in the south-eastern third of the site and is likely to represent a drainage feature. Further modern features, relating to water management/drainage, were identified in the central and northern parts of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for the Rushy Bank Partnership at land at Rushy Bank, Charlbury, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: SP 35091 19407; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC (planning ref: 15/03099/FUL)) for the construction of 25 dwellings comprising self/custom build, market housing and affordable housing (use class C3) and a 12 bed supported living (use class C3) facility with associated access, parking and landscaping.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (OCC 2015) prepared by Hugh Coddington, Archaeology Team Leader, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), archaeological advisor to WODC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Mr Coddington. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). It was monitored by Mr Coddington, including a site visit on 5 January 2016.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 2.21ha in extent, and comprises a single agricultural field, currently under pasture. The site is bounded to the west by an area of woodland, to the south by agricultural fields, to the north by the B4437 and to the east by a railway line and industrial estate. The north-western limits of the site lie at approximately 95m AOD with the ground level sloping gently downwards to 85m AOD along its south-eastern margins.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Dryham Formation Siltstone and Mudstone of the Jurassic period across the eastern half of the site and as Whitby Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic period across the western half of the site (BGS 2016). No superficial deposits are recorded. The natural substrate encountered during the evaluation comprised compact silt clay; patches of limestone gravel and brash were also noted at the surface of the natural substrate in Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 12.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site and a wider study area, measuring a 2km radius from the centre of the proposed development area, have been subject to an archaeological desk based assessment in association with the proposed planning application (Heritage Collective 2015). The following is a summary of this assessment:

Prehistoric (up to 43AD)

2.2 No evidence of Palaeolithic or early Mesolithic activity has been identified within the site itself. In the wider study area, evidence pertaining to activity from these periods is limited to the chance finding of stone tools. These include: two Palaeolithic flint implements, uncovered in antiquity, approximately 500m and 750m to the south-east of the site, and a probable Palaeolithic flint core recovered from topsoil approximately 2.1km to the north-west of the site.

2.3 No monuments dating to the Neolithic period have been identified within the site or within the wider study area. However, a small number of unstratified flint scrapers have been identified during fieldwalking *c*. 350m to the west of the site. A fragment of polished Neolithic flint axe was recovered from a gravel pit in 1958, approximately 2.1km to the north-west of the site.

2.4 A number of Bronze Age barrows have been identified as upstanding earthworks within the wider study area, including several that are now designated as scheduled monuments. These include a bowl barrow, located *c*. 500m to the south of the site, and two additional barrows located *c*. 1.6km to the south. Two further Bronze Age barrows have been identified, but not excavated, on the edge of Wychwood Forest, approximately 2.1km to the south-west of the site.

2.5 Two sections of the North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch, a large linear earthwork, and a possible section of a territorial oppidum, thought to date to the later Iron Age, are located approximately 750m and 1.5km to the south-east of the site respectively. Although a poorly defined class of site, these oppida may have represented high status settlements in this period and usually contain evidence for industrial, commercial, ritual and burial activities.

Roman/Romano British (43 AD to c.410 AD)

2.6 Two Roman military camps are located within Cornbury Park, *c*. 400m to the south of the site. A number of Roman villas, including excavated examples at North Leigh, were established in the 1st-century AD within the area of the probable Late Iron Age oppidum. Further evidence of Roman activity in the wider study area is represented by an area of possible occupation, defined by a scatter of pottery sherds, located *c*. 1.5km to the north-east of the site and human remains, thought to date to the Roman period, were uncovered *c*. 500m to the east of the site.

Early medieval (410 AD to 1066 AD)

2.7 Place name evidence for Charlbury suggests that its origins lie in the Saxon period, derived from 'The Burg of Ceorl's people'. It is believed that by the 11th century Charlbury was the burial place of St Duima, a Christian missionary sent from Northumberland and mentioned in Bede's Ecclesiastical History, who became the first Bishop of the Mercians. This suggests that Charlbury was an early ecclesiastical centre in this region, which lay in close proximity to known Saxon cemeteries at North Leigh and Chadlington.

2.8 No evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity has been identified within the site itself. Two inhumation burials, of a male aged 30-40 and a child, were excavated *c*. 250m to the west of the site. The burials were broadly dated to the 6th or 7th centuries AD. A small assemblage of unstratified Middle Saxon pottery was also recovered at 8 Park Street, Charlbury, located *c*. 500m to the east of the site.

Medieval (1066 AD - 1540 AD)

2.9 The settlement of Charlbury grew in size during the medieval period, surrounding the pre-existing ecclesiastical institution, and included the construction of a number of buildings within the centre of the town, located approximately 400m to the east of the site. These buildings include the Church of St Mary, a probable blacksmiths workshop, a chapel and several houses. A holloway, also located *c*. 400m to the east of the site, is probably also associated with the medieval occupation. A number of other settlements dating to the medieval period have also been identified within the wider study area. These include; Walcot Deserted Medieval Village (DMV), located *c*. 250m to the north of the site, and a DMV formerly called Cote, located *c*. 2km to the north of the site. There is little evidence that the settlement of Charlbury itself extended as far west as the site, and it is likely that this area was used for agricultural purposes during medieval period.

Post-Medieval and Modern (c.1540AD to present)

2.10 Cartographic evidence indicates that the site was occupied by an agricultural field from at least the 1840s until the present. A 'Sheepwash', a place used to clean the fleece of sheep before shearing, is located within the site on maps dating to the 1880s through to the late twentieth century.

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 with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable WODC 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 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 19 trenches, each measuring 1.8m in width and 30m in length, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 3 was moved from its original position to avoid an area of waterlogged ground, Trenches 18 and 19 were moved to avoid an ecological buffer zone around a shallow pond in the south-eastern corner of the site and Trench 17 was moved from its original position to avoid overhead cables. 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*.

4.2 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*.

4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites.* No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2 & 3)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

5.2 The natural substrate was broadly similar throughout the site and comprised compact silt clay; patches of limestone gravel and brash were also noted at the surface of the natural substrate in Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 12. In Trenches 1 and 3-19 the natural substrate was overlain by between 0.18m and 0.65m thickness of subsoil which was itself overlain by between 0.11m and 0.35m of topsoil. In Trench 2 the natural substrate was directly overlain by a make-up/levelling deposit containing abundant limestone fragments, measuring 0.13m in thickness. This deposit appeared to fill a shallow, north-east/south-west aligned, hollow or depression still visible within the field. The make-up/levelling deposit was subsequently sealed by topsoil.

5.3 A shallow, north-west/south-east aligned, linear feature was identified towards the south-western end of Trench 1. Whilst it remains possible that this feature relates to land management/drainage or division, its shallow nature and open profile suggest that it represents the remains of a ploughed-out furrow. This interpretation is supported by the observation of similarly aligned ridge and furrow earthworks immediately to the north and west of Trench 1 during the course of the evaluation and by aerial photographs which show the possible remains of north-west/south-east orientated earthworks in this part of the site (Google 2016).

5.4 Shallow, narrow ditch 1202/1304/1404/1705/1805 was identified cutting the subsoil in Trenches 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18 respectively. The ditch correlates closely with parts of a faint negative earthwork, still visible in the south-eastern third of the site. It had a shallow irregular profile and contained a single, sterile, silt clay fill.

5.5 A number of features relating to modern water management/drainage were identified during the course of the evaluation. These comprised; modern cast iron water pipes identified in Trenches 2, 3, 8, 9, 16 and 17, a stone-lined drain/culvert, 305, identified in Trench 3, and modern ceramic land drains in identified Trenches 1 and 2.

5.6 An irregular and highly ephemeral feature, 504, was identified in Trench 5. After investigation this feature was determined to be geological in origin. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15 and 19.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.7 Narrow, shallow ditch 104 was identified cutting the natural substrate in the south-western third of the trench. It was aligned north-west/south-east and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single silt clay fill, 105, from which nine sherds of 11th to 13th-century pottery were recovered.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material from the evaluation was hand-recovered from three deposits (a ditch fill, an alluvial deposit and topsoil). The recovered material dates to the medieval and post-medieval periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Recording also included form/rim morphology and any evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues. Pottery fabric codes used for recording and given in parenthesis in the report text correspond, where possible, to the Oxford type series as defined by Mellor (1994).

Pottery: medieval

6.2 A total of ten sherds of medieval pottery were recovered during the course of the evaluation. The average sherd weight of 30g suggests a low degree of fragmentation. In terms of edge abrasion and surface preservation, condition is good in all cases. External sooting was noted on three sherds from fill 105 of ditch 104.

6.3 Nine sherds of pottery, in a variant of Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware (COT), were recorded in fill 105 of ditch 104. This pottery, which includes rimsherds from two jars with developed, everted rims, is dateable to the 11th to 13th centuries.

6.4 A single sherd of pottery, from the strap handle of a jug in Brill Boarstall ware (OXAW), which features fine, stabbed decoration (OXAW) was recovered from alluvial deposit 1802. This ware type was produced at Brill and Boarstall in Buckinghamshire during the 13th and 14th centuries (*ibid.*, 111–40).

Other finds

6.5 A copper alloy halfpenny token was recovered from topsoil 101. The obverse features a shield, the date 1793 and "Shrewsbury Halfpenny". The reverse reads "Salop Woollen Manufactory".

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation identified a small number of archaeological features within the proposed development area, all of which appear to relate to medieval or later drainage and/or agricultural activity. The results of the evaluation support the findings of the preceding archaeological desk based assessment (Heritage Collective 2015) that suggested that the proposed development area remained in agricultural usage from the medieval period onwards.

Medieval/Post-medieval

8.2 Medieval activity was confined to Trench 1 where 11th to 13th-century pottery was recovered from ditch 104. However, the isolated nature and form of this ditch suggests that it relates to agricultural land management or division. A single medieval/post-medieval furrow was also identified in Trench 1. Further similarly aligned, ridge and furrow earthworks were still visible outside of the excavated trenches within this part of the site. No further demonstrably contemporary features were exposed by the current evaluation.

8.3 The limited number of medieval/post-medieval features identified during the evaluation suggests that the proposed development area lay within the agricultural hinterland of one (or more) of the identified settlements (see *archaeological background* above) in the area during the medieval/post-medieval periods.

Modern

8.4 Ditch 1203/1304/1404/1705/1805, identified in Trenches 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18 respectively, remained artefactually undated. However, the ditch demonstrably cut the subsoil and is therefore likely to be modern in origin. The function of the ditch remains unclear; however it is likely to relate to drainage activity rather than land management or division.

8.5 Modern features including cast iron water pipes, a stone-lined culvert and ceramic land drains, were identified in Trenches 2, 3, 8, 9, 16 and 17.

8.6 The limited number, and type, of modern features encountered during the evaluation concur with the findings of the preceding archaeological desk based assessment that the site remained in agricultural use throughout the modern period.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Busby, assisted by Dani Adams, Lizzie Raison and Juan Moreno. The report was written by Peter Busby. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Peter Busby, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

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10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 7 January 2016

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	101	Layer		Topsoil	Dark red brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.23	
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Red brown silt clay	>30	>1.8	0.18	
1	103	Layer		Natural substrate	Light orange yellow silt clay sand with occasional gravel and limestone brash patches.	>30	>1.8	-	
1	104	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned, moderately sloping sides and concave base.	>2.2	1.52	0.56	
1	105	Fill	104	Fill	Dark grey brown silt clay with rare angular limestone fragments.	>2.2	1.52	0.56	C11-C13
2	201	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.11	
2	202	Layer		Make-up/levelling deposit	Mixed grey brown silt clay with abundant limestone fragments throughout.	>30	>1.8	0.13	
2	203	Layer		Natural substrate	Light orange yellow silt clay sand with occasional gravel and limestone brash patches.	>30	>1.8	>0.85	
3	301	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.26	
3	302	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.33	
3	303	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	>0.05	
3	304	Fill	306	Fill	Light orange brown clay silt	>2.3	0.6	0.45	
3	305	Structure	306	Stone drain/culvert	NE/SW aligned, limestone slab construction	>2.3	0.6	0.45	
3	306	Cut		Construction cut for stone drain/culvert	NE/SW aligned Orientated. Vertical sides, flat base.	>2.3	0.6	>0.46	
4	401	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.24	
4	402	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.22	
4	403	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	>0.1	
5	501	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.22	
5	502	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.18	
5	503	Fill	504	Fill	Orange brown clay silt	>8	1.5	-	
5	504	Cut		Geological feature	E/W aligned geological feature	>8	1.5	-	
5	505	Layer		Natural	Light orange yellow silt clay sand with occasional gravel and limestone brash patches.	>30	>1.8	>0.1	
6	601	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.32	
6	602	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.52	
6	603	Layer		Natural	Light orange yellow silt clay sand with occasional gravel and limestone brash patches	>30	>1.8	-	

7	701	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.31	
7	702	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.26	
7	703	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	>0.1	
8	801	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.35	
8	802	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.41	
8	803	Layer		Natural	Light orange yellow silt clay sand with occasional gravel and limestone brash patches	>30	>1.8	-	
9	901	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.34	
9	902	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.34	
9	903	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	-	
10	1001	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.35	
10	1002	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.2	
10	1003	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	-	
11	1101	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.23	
11	1102	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.63	
11	1103	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	-	
12	1201	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.28	
12	1202	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.26	
12	1203	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, moderately sloping sides and rounded base	>2.5	0.8	0.3	
12	1204	Fill	1203	Ditch fill	Single fill of ditch 1203. Mid grey brown clay silt.	>2.5	0.8	0.3	
12	1205	Layer		Natural	Light orange yellow silt clay sand with occasional gravel and limestone brash patches	>30	>1.8	-	
13	1301	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.25	
13	1302	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.43	
13	1303	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	-	
13	1304	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned, moderately sloping sides and rounded base	>3	1.1	0.35	
13	1305	Fill	1304	Ditch fill	Single fill of ditch 1304. Dark grey brown clay silt.	>3	1.1	0.35	
14	1401	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	>30	>1.8	0.27	
14	1402	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.65	
14	1403	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	-	
14	1404	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned, moderately sloping sides	>2	1.8	0.26	

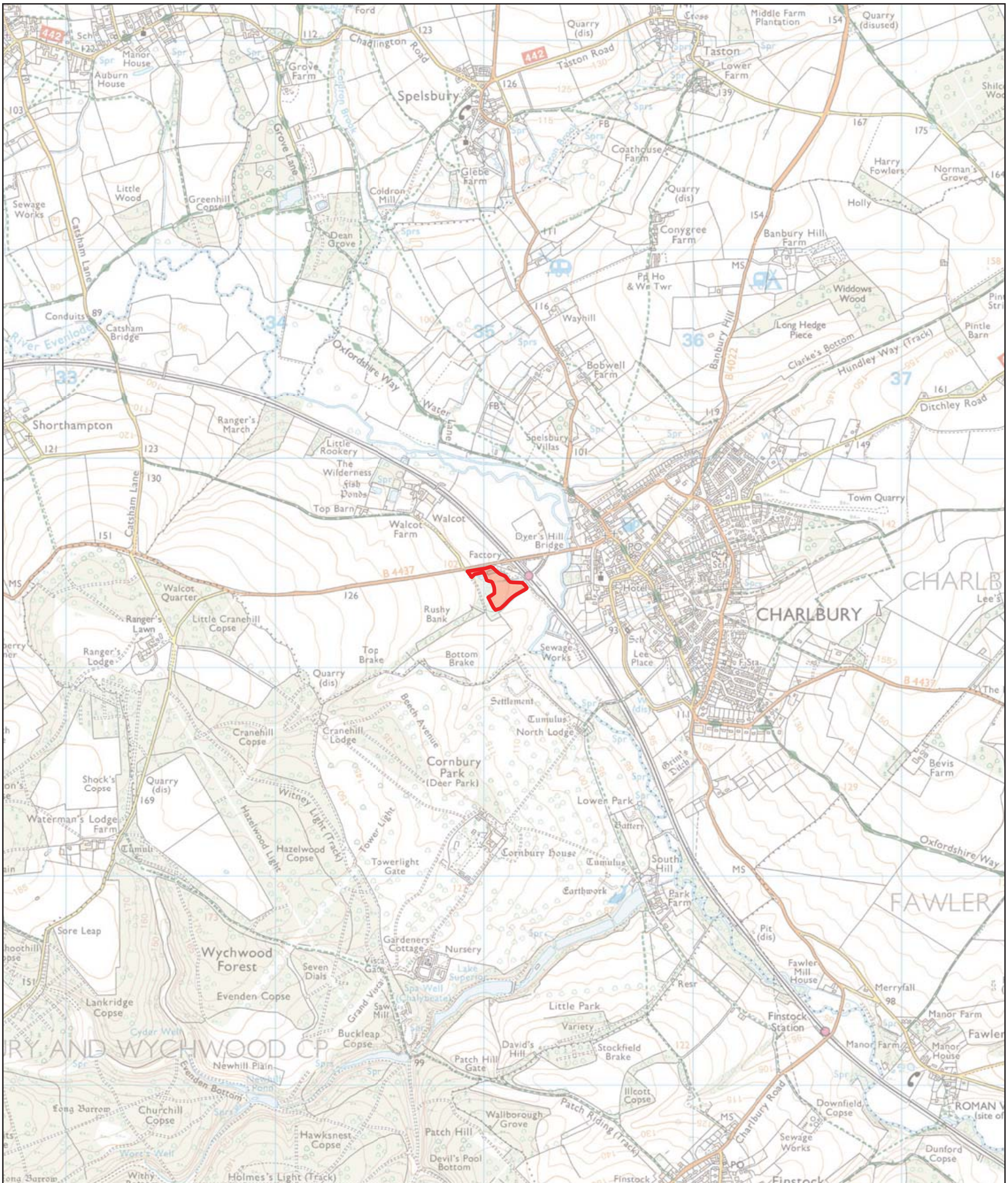
					and rounded base				
14	1405	Fill	1404	Ditch fill	Single fill of ditch 1404. Mid grey brown clay silt.	>2	1.8	0.26	
15	1501	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.25	
15	1502	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.5	
15	1503	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	-	
16	1601	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.31	
16	1602	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.23	
16	1603	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	-	
17	1701	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.28	
17	1702	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.3	
17	1703	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	-	
17	1704	Fill	1705	Ditch fill	Single fill of ditch 1705. Mid grey brown clay silt.	>2	0.78	0.21	
17	1705	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW orientated linear with shallow sloping sides and rounded base.	>2	0.78	0.21	
18	1801	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.25	
18	1802	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.23	
18	1803	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	>0.25	
18	1804	Fill	1805	Ditch fill	Single fill of ditch 1805. Mid grey brown clay silt.	>2	1.1	0.12	
18	1805	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned, with shallow sloping sides and slightly rounded base.	>2	1.1	0.12	
19	1901	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.22	
19	1902	Layer		Subsoil	Sterile mid orange brown clay silt.	>30	>1.8	0.27	
19	1903	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown silt clay with light grey brown and light yellow grey silt clay patches.	>30	>1.8	>0.1	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
101	Copper alloy	Token		1	11	LC18
105	Medieval pottery	Cotswold oolitic limestone-tempered ware variant	COT	9	235	C11-C13
1802	Medieval pottery	Brill Boarstall ware	OXAW	1	64	C13-C14

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Rushy Bank, Charlbury, Oxfordshire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2016 at Rushy Bank, Charlbury, Oxfordshire. A total of nineteen trenches were excavated. A ditch containing pottery of 11th to 13th-century date was identified within the north-western part of the site and probably relates to land management/drainage or division. A medieval/post-medieval furrow was also identified within the north-western part of the site. The limited number of medieval/post-medieval features identified suggests that the site is likely to have lain within the agricultural hinterland of one or more adjacent areas of known medieval/post-medieval settlement. A modern ditch was identified in the south-eastern third of the site and is likely to represent a drainage feature. Further modern features, relating to water management/drainage, were identified in the central and northern parts of the site.	
Project dates	4-7 January 2016	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Charlbury, Oxfordshire	
Study area	2.21ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 35091 19407	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Oxfordshire County Museum Service	Pottery, half penny token
Paper	Oxfordshire County Museum Service	Context sheets, trench recording forms, section drawings
Digital	Oxfordshire County Museum Service	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Rushy Bank, Charlbury, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report **16009**		



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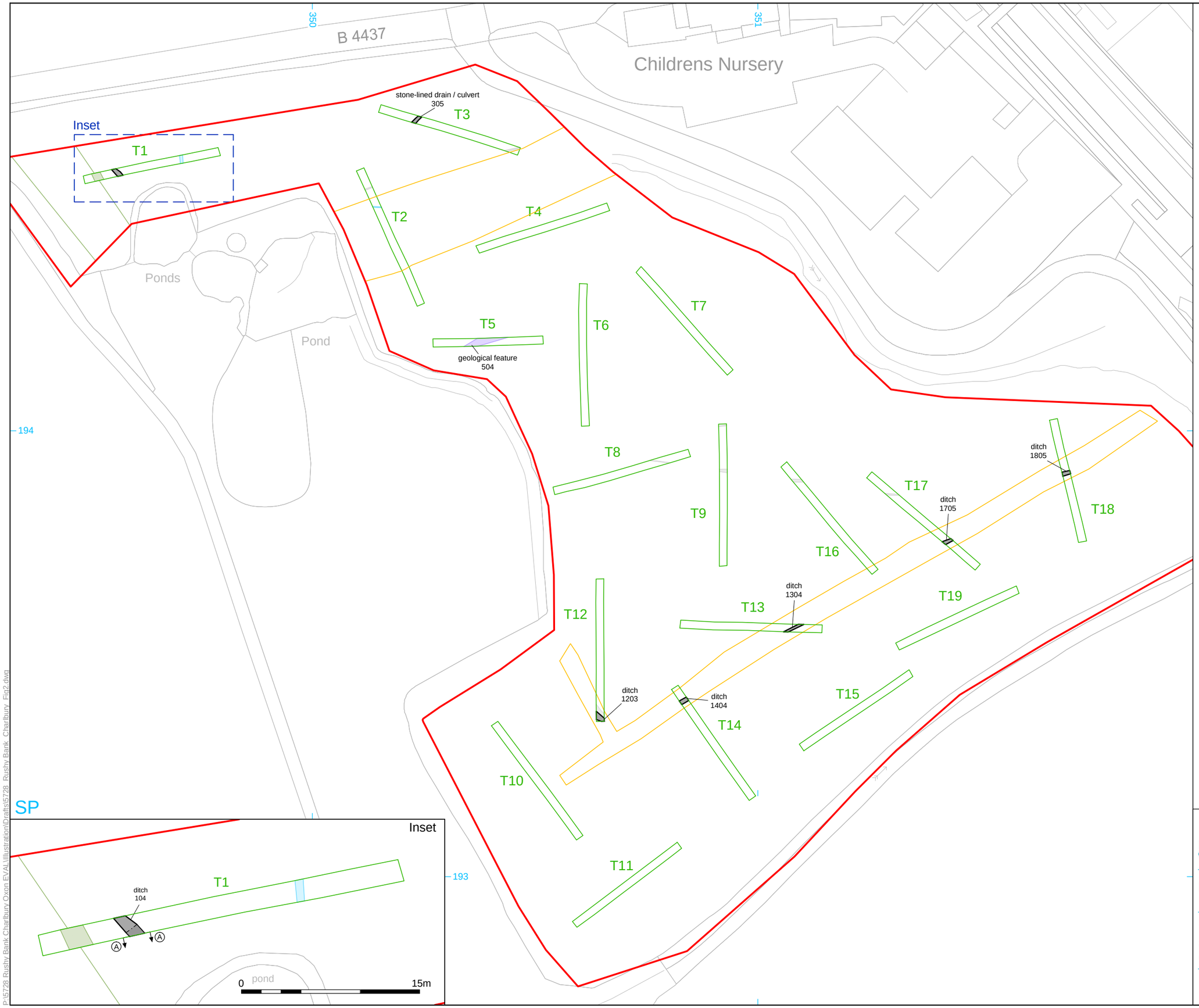
PROJECT TITLE
Rushy Bank, Charlbury, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	**LJH**	*PROJECT NO.*	**5728**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**12/01/16**	
APPROVED BY	**SS**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	**1**



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features and observed earthworks

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	5728	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	21/01/2016	2
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:800 & 1:300	

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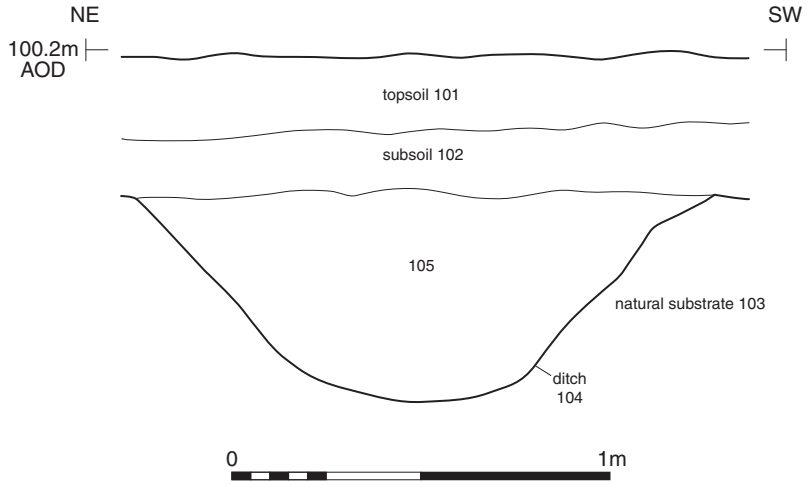
Section AA



Ditch 104, looking south-east (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 1: section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	21/01/16	3
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A4	1:20	

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