



Land at Station Road Cropredy Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd

Acting on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd

CA Project: 660727 CA Report: 16408

Site Code: SRCB16 Accession no: OXCMS: 2016.106

August 2016



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SUMMARY

Location: Land at Station Road, Cropredy, Oxfordshire

NGR: SP 4659 4635

Type: Evaluation

Date: 4th–6th and 11th–13th July 2016

Location of Archive: Oxfordshire Museum Services

Accession Number: OXCMS: 2016.106

Site Code: SRCB16

In July 2016, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of a plot of land off Station Road, Cropredy, Oxfordshire. The results of the evaluation, which was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd, acting on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd, will be submitted in support of a proposed planning application to Cherwell District Council for the residential development of the site.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of thirteen 30m trial trenches that were positioned to investigate anomalies and topographic features shown on a LiDAR and geophysical survey of the site. In the centre of the site there was a small, sub-circular enclosure with a diameter of *c*. 10m and a possible opening on its western side. Pottery recovered from the enclosure ditch fill dates to the Roman period. To the north of the enclosure six ditches on either a north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east alignment were encountered along the eastern edge of the site, either side of Spring Lane. One of the ditches contained a sherd of Roman pottery, dating to the 2nd to 4th century AD; the other ditches are undated artefactually but they predate the medieval open field system, so it is probable that they form part of a Roman agricultural ditch system.

The remains of a medieval/post-medieval open field system were evident, in the form of extant earthworks of ridge and furrow ploughing in the southern part of the site and as furrow bases in the central and northern parts, where the earthworks had been levelled. Other features, which are likely to date to the post-medieval/modern periods, comprised a hollow way that followed the line of a former hedgerow shown on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps, a field boundary ditch and a gravel spread.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of a plot of land off Station Road, Cropredy, Oxfordshire (site centred on NGR: SP 4659 4635; Fig. 1). The results of the evaluation, which was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), acting on behalf of Catesby Estates Ltd, will be submitted in support of a proposed planning application to Cherwell District Council for the residential development of the site.
- 1.2 The scope of the evaluation was set out in a *Brief* prepared by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council's Archaeological Service (OCCAS 2016). The evaluation comprised the excavation of thirteen 30m trial trenches (Fig. 2), which targeted anomalies and features shown on a geophysical survey of the site (Stratascan 2014) and LiDAR images provided by the Environmental Agency (EA).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2016). The project abided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and the Historic England (formerly English Heritage) procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).

2. SITE BACKGROUND

Site location, topography and geology

2.1 The proposed development site, which covers an area of approximately 3.3ha, is located on the south-western outskirts of the village of Cropredy, approximately 4.5km north of Banbury (Fig. 1). It comprises three irregularly-shaped pasture fields, bounded by Station Road to the east and south-east, a railway embankment to the west and housing to the north and north-east (Figs 2 and 3). The northern and central field are separated by Spring Lane, which extends westwards from Station Road and provides access to fields west of the railway line. The central and southern field are separated by a metalled track that accesses the site of a former station; this is used for railway maintenance and does not form part of the site. The

fields are partly bordered by mature hedgerows and trees, with lengths of stock fencing elsewhere. A public footpath crosses the northern field from north-east to south-west.

2.2 Topographically, the site is situated below the western slope of the Cherwell Valley, on a low rise overlooking the River Cherwell to the east, with the ground lying at c.105m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). A small stream flows eastwards along the site's southern boundary, to feed into the Oxford Canal. The solid geology comprises Jurassic rocks of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation. There are no superficial deposits mapped within the site, although alluvial deposits occur along the banks of the small stream (BGS 2016).

Archaeological and historical background

- 2.3 There are two non-designated heritage assets within the site, as recorded by the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). One comprises the remains of a medieval field system and possible prehistoric features, whilst the other comprises part of the site of the former Cropredy Railway Station, which was demolished in the late 20th century.
- 2.4 The medieval field system (elements of which correspond with features shown on an EA LiDAR survey of the site) and possible prehistoric/Roman features were identified by a geophysical survey of the site, undertaken by Stratascan in 2014. Based on the results of the survey, the site was considered to have a high potential for prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains, although the removal of large areas of ridge and furrow earthworks within the site is likely to have impacted on buried remains. The presence of Roman, medieval and post-medieval/modern remains has been confirmed by the current evaluation.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (CA 2016), 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 for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally

destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable Cherwell District Council, as advised by OCCAS, to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, 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 thirteen 30m trenches (1.6m wide) in the locations shown in Figure 2. Very few deviations were made to the original layout, other than Trench 3 being shortened to 28m to avoid a water pipe and Trench 5 being extended by 5m (at the request of OCCAS) to investigate a hollow way. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2014). The trench locations were scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT & Genny equipment in accordance with the CA Safe System of Work for Avoiding Underground Services. The final 'as dug' trench plan was recorded with GPS.
- 4.2 The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the geological substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007).
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites (CA 2003); no deposits were encountered that were suitable for sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation (CA 2005).
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Services, along with the site

archive, under accession no. OXCMS: 2016.106. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. EVALUATION RESULTS

Summary

5.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of thirteen 30m trial trenches that were positioned to investigate anomalies and topographic features shown on a LiDAR and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014) of the site. In the centre of the site there was a small, sub-circular enclosure with a diameter of c. 10m, dated by pottery recovered from the enclosure ditch to the Roman period. Ditches forming part of a probable Roman agricultural ditch system were also encountered along the eastern edge of the site, either side of Spring Lane. Other features included the remains of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow ploughing and a post-medieval/modern hollow way, field boundary and gravel spread. The results of the evaluation are summarised below and the individual contexts are presented in detail in Appendix A.

General stratigraphy

5.2 The geological substrate recorded across the site was variable but was predominately compact silty clay with various hues of bluish, yellowish and brownish grey with some reddish brown gravelly patches. It was revealed at an average depth of 0.45m below ground level. This was overlain by mid-greyish brown compact silty clay subsoil that measured on average 0.28m thick, which in turn was sealed by mid-greyish brown compact silty clay topsoil, measuring *c*. 0.18m thick.

Roman

- 5.3 In Trench 1, four ditches on an approximate north-east to south-west alignment were identified (Figs 4 and 6). Although no artefactual material was recovered from the features, three of the ditches were cut by furrows, indicating a probable Roman or prehistoric date for the features. Given the proximity of Roman remains in Trench 3, a Roman date for these features is therefore considered most likely.
- 5.4 Ditch 103, which was located towards the southern end of the trench, measured 0.97m wide by 0.24m deep and had moderately steep sides, a concave base and a

mid-bluish grey silty clay fill. The ditch did not extend beyond the furrow that truncated its southern end, suggesting that it probably terminates at this point.

- 5.5 Immediately to the south and cut by the same furrow that truncated ditch 103, was ditch 107. This was on a more north-easterly alignment and measured *c.* 1.0m wide.
- 5.6 Located at the centre of the trench and aligned roughly parallel to ditch 103 was ditch 105. It had a width of 0.68m, a depth of 0.32m and steep, convex sides and a U-shaped base (Fig. 6).
- 5.7 Ditch 117, which was located at the northern end of the trench, was aligned northeast to south-west, measured *c.* 1.0m wide and had a greyish brown silty clay fill.

Trench 3

5.8 Undetected by the geophysical survey due to the masking effect of magnetic debris in the soil, two ditches were encountered in this trench. Ditch 303, which was located at the north-eastern end of the trench, was aligned north-west to south-east, measured 1.2m wide by 0.3m deep and had moderately steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 7). Its fill contained four sherds of Roman pottery, dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Near the centre of the trench, ditch 307 was on a slightly more northerly alignment and measured 0.74m wide.

Trench 8

Trench 8 targeted a potential small enclosure shown on the geophysical survey results and the evaluation confirmed the presence of two ditches corresponding with the eastern and western sides of the enclosure (Figs 5 and 9). The easternmost ditch (803), which was aligned approximately north-east to south-west, had moderately steep, slightly convex sides, a concave base and measured 0.67m wide by 0.22m deep. The opposing ditch (807) was stepped on its north-western side and measured 1.18m wide by 0.39m deep (Fig. 8). Their fills comprised mid greyish brown clayey silt and two sherds of Roman-British pottery were recovered from ditch 803.

Medieval

5.10 Although no medieval features, other than the remains of ridge and furrow ploughing, were encountered in the trial trenches, two sherds of pottery dated to the 13th and 14th centuries were recovered from the topsoil and from the fill of a furrow.

Although they may have entered the site through the process of manuring, one of the sherds was relatively large, suggesting more definite activity in the vicinity of the site at this time.

Medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow

- 5.11 Furrows were recorded in trenches across the site and ridge and furrow earthworks were extant at its southern end, as shown on the recent LiDAR survey. The alignment of the furrows suggests that the site covers parts of at least three former open fields, with furrows at the southern end of the site (Trenches 8–13) aligned north-east to south-west and those in the northern part (Trenches 1–7) north-west to south-east.
- 5.12 In Trenches 12 and 13, the easternmost furrow (1209 and 1303) ran along the eastern boundary of the site and was noticeably wider than the other furrows in the field. The furrow measured *c.* 5.5m wide by 0.23m deep and it was filled with mid orangey brown compact silty clay. The location of a number of furrows beneath the still extant ridges in this area suggests that there may have been a reorganisation of the furlongs on at least one occasion.

Post-medieval/modern

Trench 4

5.13 Other than a layer gravel (403) immediately below the topsoil at the northern end of Trench 4, which appeared to have been put down to firm up a patch of soft ground, no archaeologically significant features were identified in this trench.

Trench 5

5.14 Trench 5 was extended by several metres at its western end to investigate a possible hollow way (504) shown on the LiDAR survey. In profile it was approximately 11m wide and presented as a shallow linear depression on a northeast to south-west alignment, with ground level within the hollow way lying *c*. 0.9m below ground level to the east. The soil profile was the same as that recorded in the eastern part of the trench, although it was slightly thicker on the eastern slope, where it increased in thickness from 0.7m to *c*. 1.0m.

5.15 Ditch 603, which was aligned north-west to south-east, roughly corresponds with a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. It measured 1.67m wide by 0.3m deep (Fig. 8); there was no artefactual dating evidence in the excavated fill. Its south-eastwards continuation was investigated in Trench 7. A smaller parallel ditch (607), with a width of approximately 1.0m, was located at the southern end of the trench.

Trench 7

5.16 Ditch 703, the south-eastwards continuation of ditch 603, passed through the northern end of the trench (Fig. 9). This was narrower and shallower than ditch 603, measuring 0.63m wide by 0.10m deep.

6. THE FINDS by Katie Marsden

6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Table 1, Appendix B and discussed further below.

Pottery

- A total of 11 sherds (106g) of pottery were recorded from five deposits (appendix B). Where possible, Oxford Archaeological Unit pottery recording codes (Table 2, Appendix B) have been applied to Roman types (Booth 1997) and the medieval types are coded according to Mellor's scheme (Mellor 1994).
- 6.3 Six sherds of pottery dating to the Roman period were recorded from two deposits. A sherd (5g) of locally produced, grog-tempered greyware (**R90**) was recorded from ditch 803 (fill 804). Four sherds (10g) of regionally-produced, Dorset Black-Burnished Ware (**B11**) were recorded from ditch 303 (fill 304). The Roman-dated sherds are small and very abraded.
- Two sherds of pottery dating to the medieval period were recorded from two deposits. One jar rimsherd (22g) in Potterspury ware (PB) was recorded from subsoil 401, dateable from the mid 13th to later 14th centuries. One sherd (1g) of Brill/Boarstall ware (**OXAW**) was recorded from furrow 1305 (fill 1306), dateable to the 13th and 14th centuries.

Three sherds dating to the post-medieval period were recorded from subsoil 801.

Two sherds (42g) from a flat-rimmed bowl/pancheon in post-medieval Brill/Boarstall ware (BB) are dateable to the 16th and 17th centuries. One sherd of black-glazed earthenware (BG EW) probably dates to the 18th century.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 The evaluation at Station Road, Cropredy was successful in locating a range of archaeological features that had previously been identified by LiDAR and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). There was a good correlation between the survey results and the features identified in the trenches, although several features were undetected by the geophysical survey due to the masking effect of magnetic debris in the topsoil in localised areas.

Roman

- 7.2 A potential sub-circular enclosure, shown by the geophysical survey near the centre of the site, was confirmed in Trench 8. The survey shows it to measure approximately 11m across from north-west to south-east and 8m across from north-east to south-west, with a possible opening on its western side. Two ditches forming its north-western and south-eastern boundaries were investigated, with the fill of one of the ditches found to contain a sherd of Romano-British pottery. Although the evidence is inconclusive, the sub-circular shape of the enclosure, the absence of internal features and the near absence of domestic refuse suggest that the enclosure may have been used as a small stock pen, rather than as a drainage ditch surrounding a roundhouse. However, a domestic function for the enclosure cannot be discounted.
- 7.3 Roman remains were also encountered in Trench 3, approximately 80m to the north of the enclosure, where there were two roughly parallel ditches, one of which contained a sherd of 2nd to 4th-century pottery. In addition, a series of north-east to south-west aligned linear ditches were encountered in Trench 1 at the eastern edge of the site, to the north of Spring Lane. Although no artefactual dating evidence was recovered from these features, stratigraphically they are earlier than the medieval furrows; the proximity of Roman features nearby suggests that they are probably Roman in date and not prehistoric. These ditches probably form part of a Roman agricultural ditch system associated with the small enclosure.

Medieval

- 7.4 Extant ridge and furrow earthworks on a north-east to south-west alignment were noted in the southern part of the site; these are clearly shown on the LiDAR and geophysical surveys of the site, extending approximately 30m to the north of the railway maintenance track, where they end at a headland. A medieval date for the establishment of the field system is indicated by the reversed S-shaped curve in their alignment, which was formed by the need to start turning in the large teams of oxen used to pull the ploughs before the end of the field (headland) was reached. Horse-drawn ploughing, introduced in the later medieval period, required smaller teams that were easier to turn, creating relatively straight furrows.
- 7.5 Although the ridge and furrow earthworks had been ploughed out in the central and northern parts of the site, the furrow bases survived and are shown on the geophysical survey; trial trenching confirmed the presence of furrows across these areas. In the central part of the site they were on the same alignment as the earthworks to the south, showing that two open fields had once butted end-to-end at the headland. In the northern part of the site the furrows were on a north-west to south-east alignment, showing that the site covers parts of at least three former open fields.

Post-medieval/modern

- 7.6 Features of post-medieval/modern date included an unstructured layer of gravel in Trench 4 and a hollow way. The latter, which passed through Trench 5 on a northeast to south-west alignment, appears to post-date the medieval field system and follows the line of a former hedgerow shown on the 1882 First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the area. The hollow way leads directly from Spring Lane to the site of the former railway station, suggesting that it may have formed a path to and from the station, perhaps offering a shorter route than going by the formal access via Station Road. The gravel layer was located on this approximate route, suggesting that it may have been laid down to firm up some boggy ground.
- 7.7 Although undated, another feature that probably dates to this period is a ditch that passed through Trenches 6 and 7. Its alignment parallel to the headland and the former railway station access track suggests that it's the remains of a former field boundary.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

8.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by James Coyne, assisted by Anna Moosbauer and Mathieu Ferron. The report was written by James Coyne, with a contribution from Katie Marsden, and the illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Find's abbreviations: ${\bf P}$ pottery, ${\bf Sg}$ slag, ${\bf fc}$ fired clay (daub etc.)

Trench 1

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
100	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.21	
101	Subsoil	Mid greyish orange compact silty clay with moderate small stones and charcoal.	-	-	0.16	
102	Geology	Light orangey yellow compact silty clay with occasional gravels and flint stones.	-	-	-	
103	Ditch	NE-SW aligned field boundary ditch with moderate, slightly convex sides and a concave base. Potential represents earlier field system to the ridge and furrow. Cut by 109.	>4.2	0.97	0.24	Roman?
104	Fill of ditch 103	Mid bluish grey compact silty clay with moderate small flint stones and charcoal. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of ditch.	-	-	0.24	
105	Ditch	NE-SW aligned field boundary ditch with steep, convex sides and a concave base. Potential represents earlier field system to the ridge and furrow. Cut by 113.	>3.0	0.68	0.32	Roman?
106	Fill of ditch 105	See 104.	-	-	0.32	
107	Ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch. Unexcavated. Cut by 109.	>2.1	0.97	-	Roman?
108	Fill of ditch 107	See 104.	-	-	-	
109	Furrow	NW-SE aligned furrow.	>1.6	2.0	-	Medieval
110	Fill of furrow 109	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay with moderate small flint stones and charcoal. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of furrow.	-	-	-	
111	Furrow	NW-SE aligned furrow.	>1.6	1.2	-	Medieval
112	Fill of furrow 111	See 110.	-	-	-	
113	Furrow	NW-SE aligned furrow.	>1.6	1.6	-	Medieval
114	Fill of furrow 113	See 110.	-	-	-	
117	Ditch	NW-SE aligned boundary ditch. Unexcavated.	>2.9	1.03	-	Roman?
118	Fill of ditch 117	See 104.	-	-	-	

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
200	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.17	
201	Subsoil	Mid greyish orange compact silty clay with moderate small stones and charcoal.	-	-	0.35	
202	Geology	Light orangey yellow compact silty clay with occasional gravels and flint stones.	-	-	-	
203	Furrow	E-w aligned furrow, part of a system of E-W aligned ridge and furrow.	>1.6	1.5	-	Medieval
204	Fill of furrow	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay with moderate small stone and charcoal inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of furrow.	-	-	-	
205	Furrow	See 203	>1.6	1.1	-	Medieval
206	Fill of furrow	See 204	-	-	-	
207	Furrow	See 203	>1.6	1.5	-	Medieval
208	Fill of furrow	See 204	-	-	-	

209	Furrow	See 203	>1.6	2.2	-	Medieval
210	Fill of furrow	See 204	-	-	-	
211	Furrow	See 203	>1.6	1.2	-	Medieval
212	Fill of furrow	See 204	-	-	-	

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
300	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.21	
301	Subsoil	Mid greyish orange compact sandy clay with moderate flint stones.	-	-	0.32	
302	Geology	Light brownish orange with compact sandy clay.	-	-	-	
303	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch with moderate, slightly convex sides and concave base. Possible field boundary ditch. P, fc	>1.6	1.1	0.3	C2-C4
304	Fill of ditch 303	Mid bluish grey compact silty clay with moderate small flint stones and gravels. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of ditch. Contains !!!	-	-	0.3	
305	Furrow	NW-SE aligned furrow. Unexcavated.	>1.6	1.6	-	Medieval
306	Fill of furrow 305	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay with moderate small flint stone and charcoal inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of furrow.	-	-	-	
307	Ditch	N-S aligned ditch. Possible field boundary. Unexcavated.	>1.6	0.74	-	Roman?
308	Fill of ditch 307	See 304.	-	-	-	
309	Furrow	See 305.	>1.6	1.5	-	Medieval
310	Fill of furrow 309	See 306.	-	-	-	
311	Furrow	See 305.	>1.6	1.3	-	Medieval
312	Fill of furrow 311	See 306.	-	-	-	
313	Ditch	See 307.	>1.6	0.75	-	Medieval
314	Fill of ditch 313	See 304.	-	-	-	

Trench 4

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
400	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.19	
401	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stones.	-	-	0.24	MC13-LC14
402	Geology	Light yellowish/bluish grey compact silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	-	-	-	

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
500	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.22	
501	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stones.	-	-	0.26	
502	Geology	Light yellowish/bluish grey compact silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	-	-	-	
503	Hollow way	Linear depression in ground surface, aligned NE-SW, filled with topsoil and subsoil, E side drops steeply, W side indistinct	>1.6	11.0	0.9	

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
600	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.23	
601	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stones.	-	-	0.32	
602	Geology	Mid reddish brown compact sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions.	-	-	-	
603	Ditch	E-W aligned cut with moderate, slightly concave sides and an irregular base. Same as 703.	>1.6	1.67	0.3	Post-med/ modern
604	Fill of 603	Mid greyish brown friable clayey silt with moderate small stone and charcoal inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of ditch.	-	-	0.3	
605	Furrow	E-W aligned furrow with moderate, slightly concave sides and irregular base. Part of a system of E-W aligned ridge and furrow.	>1.6	2.37	0.26	Medieval
606	Fill of 605	Mid greyish brown friable clayey silt with occasional small stone and moderate charcoal inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of ditch.	-	-	0.26	
607	Ditch	Linear cut, aligned NW-SE	>1.6	1.0	-	Post-med/ modern
608	Fill of 607	See 604	-	-	-	

Trench 7

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
700	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.13	
701	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stones.	-	-	0.29	
702	Geology	Mid reddish brown compact sandy clay with frequent gravel inclusions.	-	-	-	
703	Ditch	NW-SE aligned ditch with moderate sides and slightly concave base with some irregularities. Possible field boundary. Same as 603.	>1.6	0.63	0.1	Post-med/ modern
704	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay with frequent gravels. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of ditch 703.	-	-	0.1	
705	Tree bowl	Irregularly shaped tree bowl with irregular sides and base.	>1.6	1.0	0.16	
706	Fill of tree bowl	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay with frequent gravels. Naturally deposited by silting.	-	-	0.16	

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
800	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable sandy clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.18	
801	Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown friable sandy clay with moderate small flint stones. P	-	-	0.32	C18
802	Geology	Light orangey yellow compact sandy clay with some reddish orange patches and frequent gravel inclusions.	-	-	-	
803	Ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch with moderate, slightly convex sides and a concave base. Represents eastern extent of possible small sub-circular enclosure.	>1.6	0.94	0.26	
804	Fill of ditch 803	Mid greyish brown friable clayey silt with moderate small stone and charcoal inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of ditch.	-	-	0.26	RB
805	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow with moderate, slightly convex sides and a concave base. Part of a	>1.6	0.67	0.22	Medieval

		system of N-S aligned ridge and furrow.				
806	Fill of furrow 805	Mid greyish brown friable clayey silt with moderate small stone and charcoal inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of furrow.	-	-	0.22	
807	Ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch with steep sides, stepped on its western edge, and concave base along the eastern side. Represents western extent of possible small sub-circular enclosure.	>1.6	1.18	0.39	
808	Fill of ditch 807	Mid greyish brown friable clayey silt with moderate small stone and charcoal inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of ditch.	-	-	0.39	
809	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow with moderate, slightly convex sides and a concave base. Part of a system of N-S aligned ridge and furrow.	>1.6	0.78	0.17	Medieval
810	Fill of furrow 809	Mid greyish brown friable clayey silt with moderate small stone and charcoal inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of furrow.	-	-	0.17	

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
900	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.22	
901	Subsoil	Light greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stones.	-	-	0.09	
902	Geology	Very mixed compact silty clay with orangey red and light yellowish/bluish grey colouring and frequent gravel inclusions.	-	-	-	
903	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow with moderate sides and a flat base with some irregularities. Part of a system of N-S aligned ridge and furrow.	>1.6	0.71	0.13	Medieval
904	Fill of furrow 903	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay with frequent gravels. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of furrow.	-	-	0.13	
905	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow with moderate sides and a flat base with some irregularities. Part of a system of N-S aligned ridge and furrow.	>1.6	1.11	0.15	Medieval
906	Fill of furrow 905	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay with frequent gravels. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of furrow.	-	-	0.15	
907	Tree bowl	Tree bowl with irregular sides and base.	0.59	0.42	0.14	
908	Fill of tree bowl 907	Mid greyish brown compact sandy clay with frequent gravels. fc, Sg	-	-	0.14	
909	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow. Unexcavated.	>1.6	1.4	-	Medieval
910	Fill of furrow 909	See 904.	-	-	-	

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1000	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.17	
1001	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stones.	-	-	0.28	
1002	Geology	Mid brownish orange compact silty clay with frequent gravels.	-	-	-	
1003	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow with shallow, concaving sides and flat base. Part of a system of N-S aligned furrows.	>1.6	1.8	0.28	Medieval
1004	Fill of furrow 1003	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stone inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of furrow.	-	-	0.28	

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1100	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.09	
1101	Subsoil	Mid greyish yellow friable silty clay with moderate small flint stones.	-	-	0.37	
1102	Geology	Very mixed friable silty clay with patches of reddish brown, bluish/yellowish grey colour. Frequent gravel inclusions.	-	-	-	
1103	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow. Unexcavated	>1.6	1.5	-	Medieval
1104	Fill of furrow 1103	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stone inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of furrow.	-	-	-	

Trench 12

Context	Context	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
No.	interpretation					
1200	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.11	
1201	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stones.	-	-	0.33	
1202	Geology	Light yellowish orange friable silty clay with frequent gravels and with patches of mid reddish brown sand with frequent ironstone inclusions.	-	-	-	
1203	Furrow	NE-SW aligned furrow with shallow sides and an irregular base. Potentially part of a different phase of ridge and furrow as alignment and positioning doesn't match that of other furrows in the area.	>1.6	0.85	0.11	Medieval
1204	Fill of furrow 1203	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stone inclusions. Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of furrow.	-	-	0.11	
1205	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow. Unexcavated.	>1.6	1.3	-	Medieval
1206	Fill of furrow 1205	See 1204.	-	-	-	
1207	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow. Unexcavated.	>1.6	1.0	-	Medieval
1208	Fill of 1207	See 1204.	-	-	-	
1209	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow. Unexcavated, same as 1303	>1.6	5.1	-	Medieval
1210	Fill of 1209	See 1204.	-	-	-	

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description and finds	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1300	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small stone inclusions.	-	-	0.17	
1301	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown friable silty clay with moderate small flint stones.	-	-	0.26	
1302	Geology	Light yellowish orange friable silty clay with frequent gravels.	-	-	-	
1303	Furrow	Large furrow aligned roughly N-S, with steep, irregular sides and a flat base with some irregularities. Represents part of a system of N-S aligned furrows.	>1.6	2.94	0.23	Medieval
1304	Fill of furrow 1303	Mid orangey brown compact silty clay fill of furrow 1303, Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of ridge and furrow.	-	-	0.23	
1305	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow with very shallow sides and a flat base. Represents part of a system of N-S aligned furrows.	>1.6	0.87	0.08	Medieval
1306	Fill of furrow 1305	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay fill of furrow 1305, Naturally deposited by silting after disuse of ridge and furrow.	-	-	0.08	C13-C14
1307	Furrow	N-S aligned furrow. Unexcavated.	>1.6	1.2	-	Medieval
1308	Fill of furrow	See 1306.	-	-	-	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Quantification of finds by context

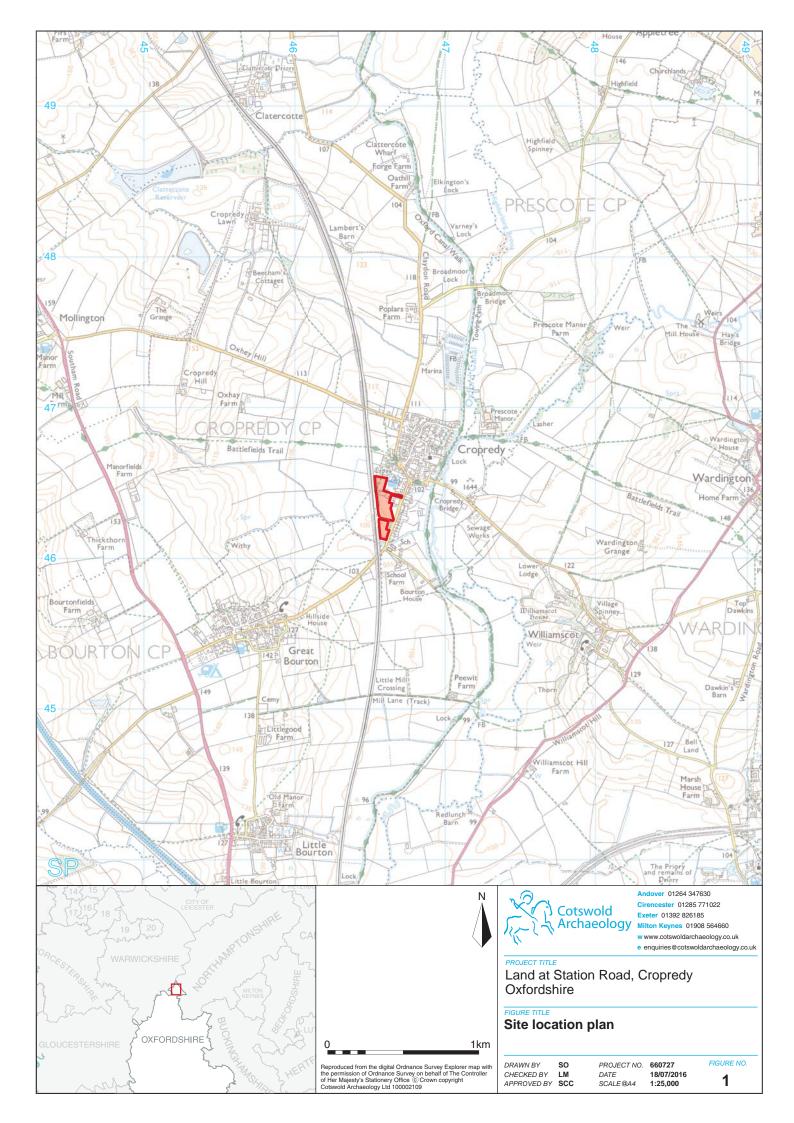
Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
303	Roman pottery	B11	4	10	C2-C4
	fired clay		2	3	
401	medieval pottery	PB	1	22	MC13-LC14
801	post-medieval pottery	BG EW	1	26	C18
	post-medieval pottery	BB	2	42	
804	Roman pottery	R90	2	5	RB
906	fired clay		1	4	-
908	fired clay		1	2	-
	industrial waste		1	4	
1306	medieval pottery	OXAW	1	1	C13-C14

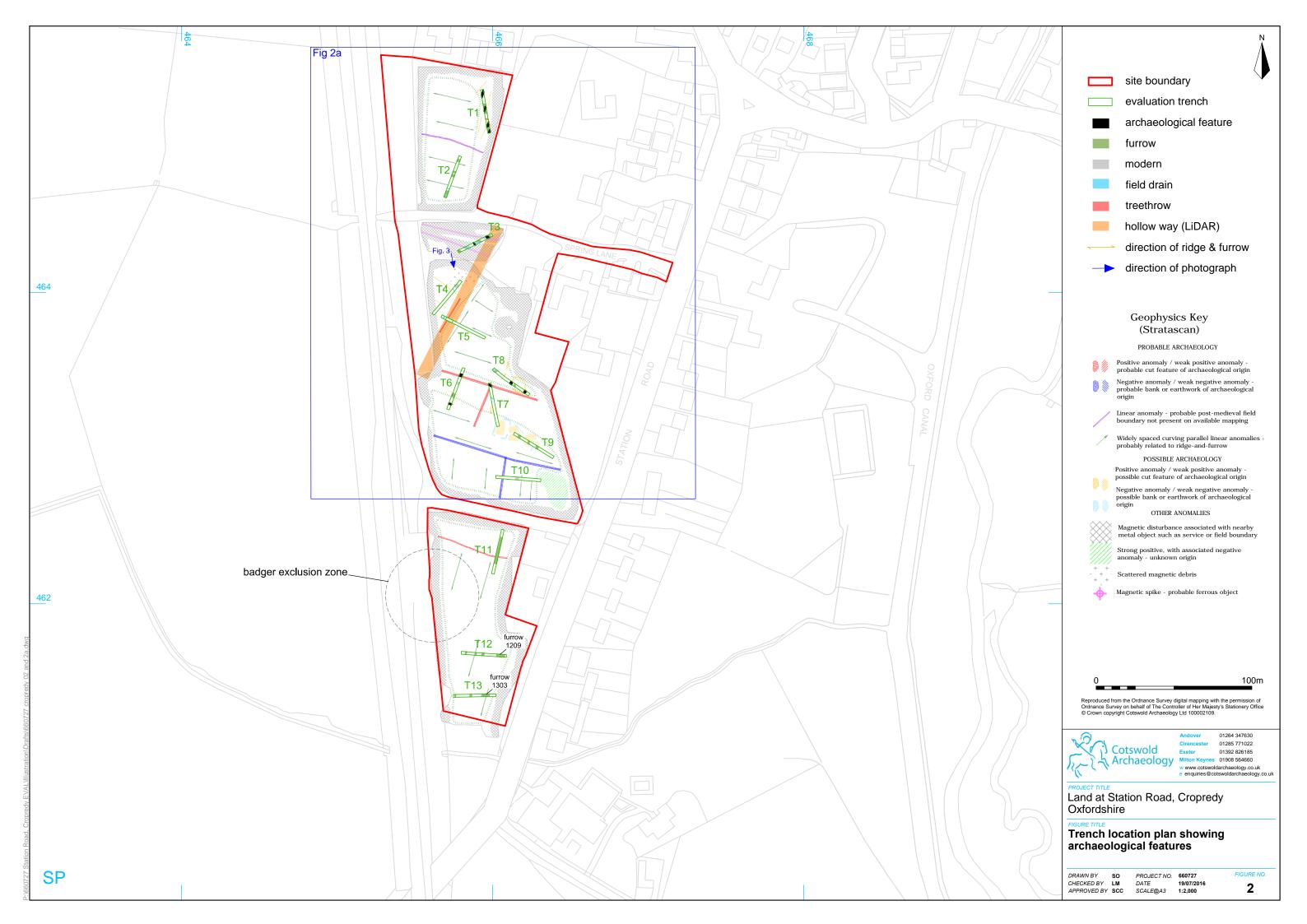
Table 2: Fabric codes

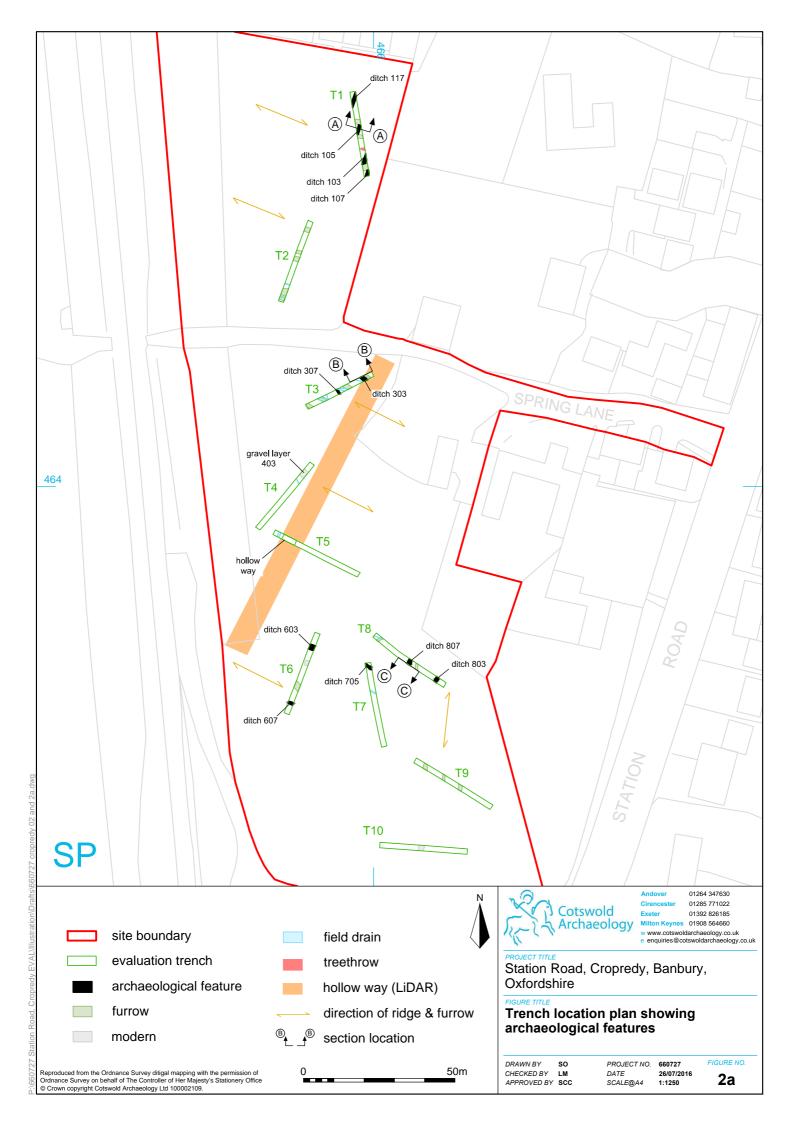
Period	Description	Code	
Roman	Dorset Black-Burnished Ware	B11	
	Grog-tempered greyware	R90	
medieval	Brill/Boarstall ware	OXAW	
	Potterspury ware	PB	
post-medieval	Brill/Boarstall ware	BB	
	Black-glazed earthenware	BG EW	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS			
Project name	Land at Station Road, Cropredy, Ox	xfordshire	
Short description	The evaluation comprised the excavation of thirteen 30m trial trenches that were positioned to investigate anomalies and topographic features shown on a LiDAR and geophysical survey of the site. In the centre of the site there was a small, sub-circular enclosure with a diameter of c. 10m and a possible opening on its western side. Pottery recovered from the enclosure ditch fill dates to the Roman period. To the north of the enclosure six ditches on either a north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east alignment were encountered along the eastern edge of the site, either side of Spring Lane. One of the ditches contained a sherd of Roman pottery, dating to the 2nd to 4th century AD; the other ditches are undated artefactually but they predate the medieval open field system, so it is probable that they form part of a Roman agricultural ditch system. The remains of a medieval/post-medieval open field system were evident, in the form of extant earthworks of ridge and furrow ploughing in the southern part of the site and as furrow bases in the central and northern parts, where the earthworks had been levelled. Other features, which are likely to date to the post-medieval/modern periods, comprised a hollow way that followed the line of a former hedgerow shown on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps, a field boundary ditch and a		
Project dates	gravel spread. 4th–6th and 11th–13th July 2016		
Project type	Field evaluation		
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Stratascan 20	14)	
Future work	Unknown	,	
Monument type	Roman agricultural enclosure and of furrow, post-medieval/modern field		
Significant finds	Roman pottery		
PROJECT LOCATION			
Site location	Station Road, Cropredy, Oxfordshir	re e	
Study area	3.3ha		
Site co-ordinates	SP 4659 4635		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)		
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire CC		
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA		
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA)		
Project Supervisor	James Coyne (CA)		
PROJECT ARCHIVE			
	Accession no. OXCMS: 2016.106	Content	
Physical	Oxfordshire Museum Services	Pottery, animal bone	
Paper		Site records	
Digital	Oxfordshire HER	Report, digital photos	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	•		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 Lan typescript report 16408	d at Station Road, Cropredy, Oxfordshire	: Archaeological Evaluation. CA	











3 General view of the site, looking south



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Station Road, Cropredy Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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 PROJECT NO.
 660727
 FIGURE NO.

 CHECKED BY
 LM
 DATE
 19/07/2016

 APPROVED BY
 SCC
 SCALE@A4
 N/A
 3



4 General view of Trench 1, looking north-east (scale 1m)



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27 FIGURE NO. 4



5 General view of Trench 8, looking north-west (scales 1m)



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FIGURE NO.

5



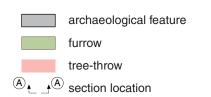
10m

1:200



SE

Ditch 105, looking north-east (scale 0.3m)





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Land at Station Road, Cropredy Oxfordshire

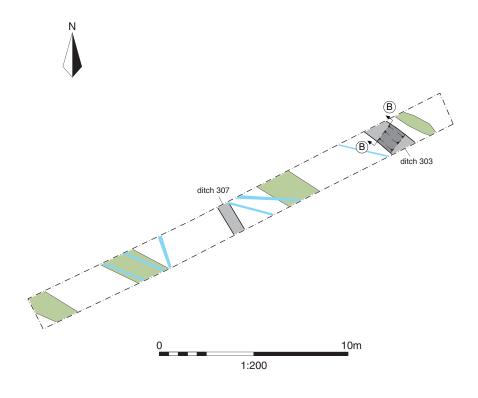
Trench 1: plan, section and photograph

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6



1:20

Section BB

SW

102.6m — AOD



NE



Ditch 303, looking north-west (scale 1m)



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archaeological feature

furrow field drain ♠ ♠ ♠ section location

Land at Station Road, Cropredy Oxfordshire

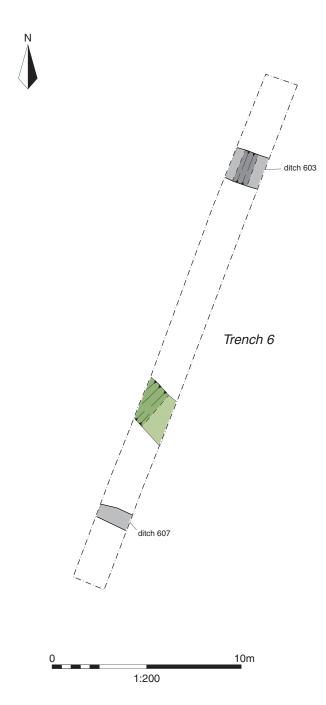
Trench 3: plan, section and photograph

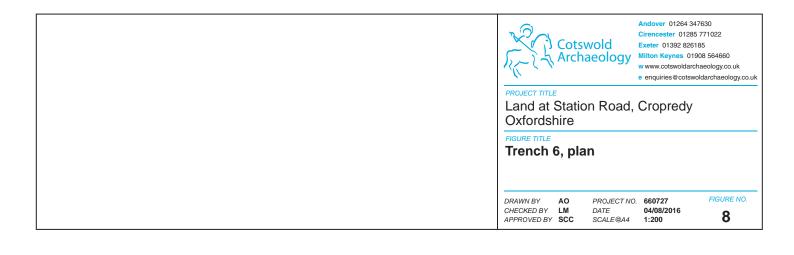
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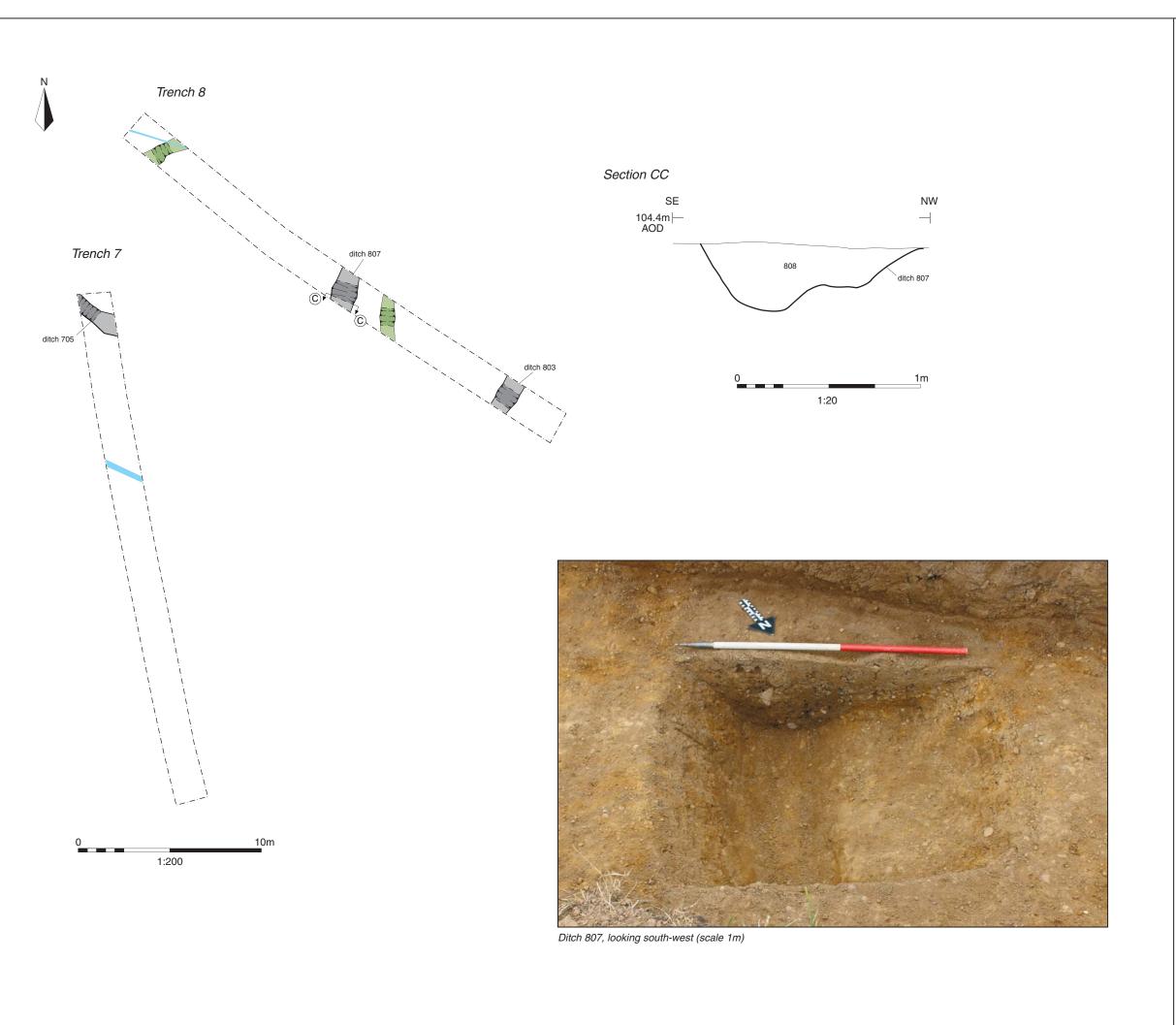
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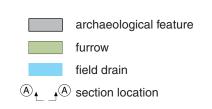
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7











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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Station Road, Cropredy Oxfordshire

GURE TITLE

Trench 7: plan
Trench 8: plan, section and photograph

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 1:20 & 1:200

7 FIGURE 1 2016 1:200 **9**



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