

# Land at Bicester Gateway Bicester Oxfordshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Bloombirdge LLP

CA Project: 660780

CA Report: 16560  
Site Code: BICG 16

November 2016



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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at Bicester Gateway
<b>Location:</b>	Bicester, Oxfordshire
<b>NGR:</b>	SP 5731 2114
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	26 to 30 September 2016
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service
<b>Site Code:</b>	BICG 16

In September 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester, Oxfordshire. The fieldwork was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application for the commercial development of the site. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of twenty one trenches.

The evaluation identified a concentration of archaeological remains within the south-western part of the site. The archaeological remains dated to the Roman period, spanning the 1st to 4th centuries AD, with activity concentrated in the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. An isolated and undated ditch was recorded within the central part of the site and a Roman pit was also recorded within the northern part of the site.

The earliest features encountered comprised two ditches containing pottery dating to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD. Overlying these early ditches was a substantial deposit of made-ground identified across approximately one hectare of land at the southern end of the site. This would have raised the local ground level above the seasonal floodplain of the River Ray and the evaluation results suggest that this allowed for the construction of a new road surface during the to the middle second century AD.

No definitive structural evidence was identified, however, floor surfaces were recorded along with a possible cereal drying oven/kiln, which appear to indicate small scale roadside settlement during the late 2nd to 3rd-centuries AD.

In addition the evaluation also recorded an undated ditch which followed the alignment of the ridge and furrow ploughing identified by the geophysical survey.

The remains within the south-western part of the site are considered to be of archaeological significance. Remains such as this could be preserved *in situ* beneath an area designated as car parking. In order to ensure their preservation *in situ* a 'no-dig' zone could be adopted in the south-western corner of the site. Construction within this area could consist of the ground level being raised allowing a suitable buffer to ensure their long-term preservation. The remainder of the site could be the subject of a watching brief. The Master Plan has been amended accordingly, prior to submission. The County Archaeologist will be able to advise on a suitable standard condition to be applied in the area of significance.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Bicester Gateway (centred on NGR: SP 5731 2114; Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Bloombridge LLP.
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to inform a planning application to Cherwell District Council (CDC; the local planning authority) for the commercial development of the site. In his pre-application advice regarding the site, Richard Oram, Oxfordshire County Council's Planning Archaeologist (OCCPA; the archaeological advisor to CDC) recommended a programme of archaeological trial trenching.
- 1.3 The scope of the archaeological work, which comprised the excavation of 21 trenches, was further defined during discussions between CA and Richard Oram. The discussions were informed by a Heritage desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared by CA (2016a) and a geophysical survey prepared by PCG (2016).
- 1.4 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016b) and approved by Richard Oram. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015). It was monitored by Richard Oram, including a site visit on the 29 September 2016.

### ***The site***

- 1.5 The proposed development area is approximately 5ha in size and comprises an area of highways accommodation land, located between Wendlebury Road to the east, and the A41 (Oxford Road) to the west. The site is divided into two fields by a slip road connecting Wendlebury Road in the east, to the roundabout on the A41 (Oxford Road) in the west. The site rises from c. 65m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the west to c. 67m aOD in the east.
- 1.6 The underlying geology within the site is mapped as Kellaways Sand Member, comprising interbedded sandstone and siltstone of the Jurassic Period. This is overlain in the west of the site by superficial Quaternary river terrace deposits and

by superficial Quaternary alluvial deposit, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel across the remainder of the site (BGS 2016).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in a heritage desk-based assessment (CA 2016a). A geophysical survey has also been undertaken (PCG 2016). The following section is summarised from these sources.

### ***Prehistoric (pre-43 AD)***

2.2 A Mesolithic flint scatter, comprising worked flints and cores was found approximately 500m to the north-east of the site, with a Neolithic axe recorded, approximately 620m to the north-east.

2.3 Two interrupted ring ditches representing possible Bronze Age barrows are located c. 440m north of site. A further two ring ditches are located approximately 910m to the south-east of the site, which have produced Early Bronze Age pottery.

2.4 Approximately 50m to the north-west of the site an Early Bronze Age barrow and evidence of Late Iron Age settlement with associated field systems have been excavated (WA, 2009).

2.5 Further Iron Age evidence comprises a banjo enclosure and possible hut circles and trackways, located approximately 840m south-west of the site.

2.6 Material spanning from the Late Neolithic to Late Iron Age was recorded as part of the excavations outside Roman Alcester, at the crossroads between the A421 and Chesterton Lane approximately 360m south-west of the site.

### ***Roman (AD 43–AD 410)***

2.7 Alcester Roman Town is a Scheduled monument, comprising a small town with a defended area of approximately 10.5ha. Several known Roman roads enter Alcester and more are suspected although undiscovered. The southern and eastern boundaries of the site are coincidental with the boundaries of the scheduled area of Alcester Roman Town.

- 2.8 The settlement probably originated in the early first century AD, with activity lasting until the fourth century. The defences of the Roman Town are almost square in plan, with each of its sides c. 350 yards in length. Originally bounded by a wall-faced rampart and ditch, remains of the ditch are well preserved to the west, where they still form a field boundary, while the earthwork rampart remains are easily distinguishable on the eastern and western sides. The northern rampart has disappeared as a result of road construction, and the course of the Chesterton Brook to the south has replaced the former ditch.
- 2.9 Excavations 1km to the north of the current site revealed the extent of the Roman hinterland surrounding the town. Evidence broadly dated to the Roman period included small rectangular enclosures delineated by narrow deep ditches. A number of corn drying kilns were recorded within these enclosures. A single wide shallow ditch was interpreted as a drainage channel, moving water off site to the south-west, towards a tributary of the River Ray suggesting an engineered solution to water management. However, the proximity of water was clearly important for industrial processes on site, the evidence for which included stone lined tanks, a possible sluice and system of water channels. Together with the corn drying kilns these features were interpreted as the remains of a malting and brewing site (WA, 2009).
- 2.10 Evaluation at the Faccenda Chicken Farm was carried out in 1983 by the Oxford University Department for External Studies (Foreman & Rahtz, 1984). Trenches recorded first century drainage channels, 'part of a wider scheme to utilise the River Ray wetlands associated with the major settlement at Alchester' (Foreman & Rahtz, 1984). Evidence for wood and stone revetment and a fragment of possible sluice-gate recovered from a pit, suggested a level of investment in land reclamation and water management. Excavation of pits, some of which contained crop processing waste, was interpreted as further evidence for agricultural activity within the hinterland to the north of Alchester. Second century activity was sealed by a deposit of dredged river sediment approximately 1.2m thick, marking the abandonment of the site.
- 2.10 An evaluation trench excavated between the current site and the entrance to the Faccenda chicken farm located the metalled surface and underpinning of a north/south aligned Roman road approximately 1.1m below the modern road surface (TVAS 2010; figure 2). This was interpreted as the original route running between the north gates of Alchester towards Towcester (hereafter Alchester to Towcester



Road; Margary, 1973: 163). The surface was sealed by material containing a single residual fragment of first-century pottery and several fragments of second to fourth-century pottery, with the interpretation that the metalled surface had fallen out of use by the late second to third centuries. A second trench adjacent to the northern end of the current site found no trace of a Roman road surface.

- 2.11 Excavations in the extramural settlement of Roman Alchester (1991) in advance of road construction on the A421 (Oxford Road), immediately to the west, and approximately 30m south-west of the site recorded extensive evidence of Roman, and earlier, activity (Booth *et al* 2002). The investigations identified evidence for activity dating from the first to second century AD, characterised by ditches on alignments relating to Akeman Street, while a complex system of ditched plots developed later, on each side of the lane running parallel to, and north of, Akeman Street. South of the lane, the earliest structures dated to the mid-second century. North of the lane, plots contained Roman structures of various plan and construction, and the character of this settlement appeared to indicate a predominantly agricultural use. Settlement and agricultural activity appeared to have continued into the post-Roman period. A late Roman cemetery was recorded, alongside a large pottery assemblage, with numerous other finds.
- 2.12 Archaeological investigations in the area approximately 650m south-west of the site, recorded details of an internal road, alongside evidence of a workshop, granary, an early fort, a tower, gate and water channel. Plans of buildings have also been recorded elsewhere within the Scheduled Monument and during the construction of the railway line, in 1848, sixteen skeletons were recorded approximately 660m to the south of the proposed development site. The remains of a further 28 inhumation burials, along with pottery sherds and demolition material, were located approximately 560m to the south, and a single inhumation, Samian pottery and a cremation burial were uncovered during non-archaeological trenching approximately 260m south of the site.

#### ***Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)***

- 2.13 Bicester is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The earliest account of King's End comes from the record for the Prioress of Markyate, who held a small manor, with eleven villeins holding six virgates between them (Victoria County History 1959; Craig 2009).

- 2.14 Bicester House, formerly known as Burcester Hall, is located on the site of the former manor-house of the nuns of Markyate. The nuns are suggested to have leased their estate in 1530, which in 1584 was purchased with the house by John Coker.
- 2.15 Further evidence of medieval activity within the environs of the site includes evidence of agricultural activity and settlement in the form of miscellaneous findspots, including tokens, pottery and coins, and recorded features such as ditches, pits and postholes, ridge and furrow earthworks, trackways and quarries located immediately to the west of the site, c. 800m to the north, c. 970m to the north-east, c. 310m and 900m to the east, c. 760m to the south-west and 1km to the west, and c. 50m, 70m and 740 to the north-west.

***Post-medieval (1539–1800) and modern (1801-present)***

- 2.16 Post-medieval evidence within the wider area largely comprises evidence of agricultural activity and quarrying immediately to the west of the site, and c. 740m to the north-west.
- 2.17 During this period, the site is likely to have comprised agricultural farmland. The 1793 Enclosure Map for King's End and the Bryant Map of Oxfordshire of 1824 indicate that, during the late 18th century, the site and its surroundings formed part of King's End Inclosure and King's End Mead, and that the former Roman road from Alchester to Towcester ran through the western margins of the site.
- 2.18 Further evidence of post-medieval activity comprises finds of pottery and demolition material associated with farm buildings, boundary ditches, and demolition material recorded approximately 800m to the north, and 530m to the north-east of the site.
- 2.19 The Buckinghamshire Railway, located approximately 140m east of the site, was established through the merging of two companies proposing lines from Bletchley to Banbury, and Aylesbury to Oxford. The Bletchley-Banbury section opened in 1850 and the Oxford-Verney Junction on the Bletchley-Banbury line opened a year later. The Banbury line remained a branch-line throughout the late 19th and early 20th century, while the Oxford Line developed into a major cross-county link, until its closure to passengers in 1968. The Banbury line closed to passengers in 1961, although a truncated spur to Buckingham remained open for a further three years.

The use of Banbury line for goods traffic ceased in 1963, while the Oxford section remains fully operational.

- 2.20 Britain's largest military railway system, the Bicester Military Railway, is located approximately 200m to the east of the site, and functions as the primary mode of transport at the Central Ordnance Depot, Bicester. Surveyed prior to construction in August 1942, six passenger platforms were built around the Graven Hill depot, although all except the Graven Hill platform have since been demolished.
- 2.22 The site underwent only limited alterations during the 20th century, as depicted on the 1900 and 1922 Ordnance Survey maps. By 1952, the A41 (Oxford Road) was constructed and by the late 20th century, the chicken farm to the east, Bicester Village to the north and the sewage works to the north-east, had all been established. Within the wider landscape, Bicester to the north, Chesterton to the east and Wendlebury to the south-west were subject to rapid expansion, with agricultural land remaining to the south, south-west and north-west of the site.

#### ***Undated***

- 2.23 Two possible hearths, located approximately 110m to the west of the site, and several small, burnt deposits located approximately 500m to the north-east have been recorded (Network Archaeology 2007).
- 2.24 Within the wider environs of the site, a series of cropmarks, suggesting possible ring ditches and/or curvilinear ditches are located approximately 410m and 840m to the north of the site, 1km to the north-east and 500m to the north-west.
- 2.25 Within the south-western corner of the central portion of the site, a linear earthwork, orientated north/south, may possibly represent the line of the Alchester-Towcester Road, with the modern roadway diverted slightly to the west. This earthwork has not been recorded by the RCHME aerial photographic interpretation project (1990). A spread of stone recorded to the east of the modern bridge across the A41 (Oxford Road) may represent a former ford or a road crossing over the brook, although excavations at Faccenda Farm (1983) did not record any evidence of the road in this area. However, excavations at Wendlebury Road, Bicester: Phase 2 excavation (2010), and excavations within the extramural settlement of the Roman Town (Site B: 1991) recorded evidence of this road to the west and south-west of the site. There is a possibility that this linear earthwork represents a Roman ditch, which was

either originally located adjacent to the Roman road, or was otherwise utilised for agricultural purposes.

- 2.26 A number of cropmarks visible on the aerial photographs, to the east of the current site, appear to represent earlier activity, as they do not conform to the alignment of the modern field pattern. Prominent amongst these is a reasonably large, rectilinear enclosure within the central portion of the site, which is aligned west/east. This appears to be associated with a series of smaller enclosures aligned north/south, which is typical of a late Romano-British or medieval nucleated settlement. A number of other linear features crossing the site on a north/south alignment are also not aligned with the modern field system, and could represent former trackways. The enclosure and ditches within the central portion of the site are visible on the Environment Agency Lidar coverage of this area, and have been recorded as part of the RCHME Alchester aerial photography interpretation project.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as stated within the WSI (CA 2016b), 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* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered should enable CDC 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 evaluation comprised the excavation of twenty-one trenches. Trenches 2 to 20 measured 25m long by 1.8m wide; Trench 21, which was shortened to avoid a tree root protection zone, measured 20m long by 1.8m wide. A contingency trench (Trench 23), measuring 7m long by 1.8m wide, was excavated at the request of Richard Oram. Trenches 1 and 22 were not excavated due to the presence of mature trees and undergrowth along the northern and southern limits of the site.

Trenches were located to target geophysical anomalies and areas of blank space recorded on the magnetometer survey (PCG 2016). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) coordinates, 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*. Deposits from a total of five features were selected for bulk sampling in order to recover environmental evidence. 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 Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-10)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 The results of the fieldwork showed a broad correlation with the preceding geophysical survey, which identified a series of linear anomalies, trackway ditches and discrete anomalies, as well as cultivation marks interpreted as the remnants of medieval ploughing.

- 5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified within trenches 9-13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 21.

### ***General stratigraphy***

- 5.4 A similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within each of the trenches. The natural geological substrate, which comprised clay sand with frequent chalk gravel inclusions and patches of blue grey clay within the northern part of the site, was revealed at an average depth of 0.45m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil, between 0.01m and 0.3m thick, which comprised mid brown grey sandy silt. This was in turn sealed by topsoil measuring between 0.2 and 0.4m thick.

### ***Roman (AD 43–410)***

#### ***Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 5.5 The geological substrate (202) was encountered at a depth of 0.45m bpgl, overlain along the length of the trench by a layer of made ground (214). Layer 214 comprised mid orange and grey brown silty clay sand, measuring 0.28m thick. It was observed within Trenches 3, 4 and 23 as deposits 308, 410 and 2302.
- 5.6 Located at the northern end of the trench was east/west orientated ditch 209 (Fig. 3; section AA). It measured 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep, with a slightly asymmetrical profile, moderately steeply sloping sides and a concave base. A total of seven sherds of 4th-century AD pottery were recovered from its compact silty sand fill (210).
- 5.7 Ditch 209 corresponded to a linear anomaly depicted by the geophysical survey.
- 5.8 Located approximately 4m to the south-east was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 211. It measured 0.71m wide and was not unexcavated.
- 5.9 North-east/south-west orientated ditch 207 was located at the centre of the trench. It measured 4.5m wide and 0.63m deep, with a shallow v-shaped profile (Fig. 3; section BB). It contained a single grey brown clay sand fill (208), from which 28 sherds of middle 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery were recovered. It was subsequently cut by north-east/south-west orientated ditch 203.

5.10 Ditch 203 measured 2m wide and 1.2m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Primary fill 204 consisted of compact dark brown grey clay and contained 81 sherds of late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery. This was partially overlain by deposit 205, which comprised yellow orange sandy clay, which was itself sealed by fill 206, which comprised grey brown clay sand. Fill 206 contained 56 sherds of late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery.

5.11 Ditch 203 corresponds with a linear anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey.

5.12 All the features within the trench cut deposit 214 and were sealed by subsoil 201.

### **Trench 3 (Figs 2, 4, & 5)**

5.13 The geological substrate (302) was encountered at an average depth of 0.5m bpgl. This was cut towards the centre of the trench by east/west orientated ditch 316, which was exposed for a length of 0.75m and measured 0.3m wide and 0.18m deep. No finds were recovered from its sandy silt fill (317).

5.14 Directly overlying the natural at the south-eastern end of the trench and sealing the fill of ditch 316 was deposit 308. It consisted of compact light brown grey chalk sand (Fig. 4; section CC), which measured up to 0.38m thick. This was in turn overlain by deposit 319, which comprised a spread of limestone fragments (length: 0.15m; width: 0.1m; depth: 0.05m) in a sandy silt matrix, which measured 0.15m thick. An post-medieval/modern iron belt buckle was recovered from the surface of this deposit. These deposits (308 and 319) are interpreted as the remnants of a former metalled road surface.

5.15 Located at the centre of the trench and apparently cutting deposits 308 and 319 was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 310 (Fig. 4; section CC). Ditch 310 measured 4.5m wide and 0.8m deep with moderately sloping sides with a flat base. Its primary fill (311) consisted of dark purple grey clayey silt 0.12m thick, with occasional charcoal inclusions, which was laid down under wet conditions. This was overlain by fill 312, which consisted of orange grey clay silt and may represent bank material slumping-in from the eastern side of the ditch. This was overlain by dark brown grey clayey silt fill 313 from which a single sherd of 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery was recovered. This was in turn overlain by fills 314 and 315 respectively. The latter (315) contained one sherd of 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery. Although fill 312 of ditch 310 partially overlay deposits 308 and 319, it is unclear whether the features are in

fact contemporary and it is the erosion of ditch 310 and its subsequent silting which are stratigraphically later.

- 5.16 Located to the immediate north of ditch 310 was broadly east/west orientated ditch 304 (Fig. 4; section DD). It measured 0.5m deep with a moderately sloping northern side and a flat base where revealed. Fragmented limestone blocks (307) were deposited at the base of the cut, overlain by light brown grey sandy silt fill 305, which contained nine sherds of pottery broadly attributable to the Romano-British period. Deposit 305 was in turn overlain by mid brown grey sandy silt 306, which contained six sherds of middle 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery.
- 5.17 The relationship between ditches 304 and 310 was not investigated. Both ditches (304 and 310) were sealed by deposit 303/309/318, which extended from the north-western end of the trench as far as the south-eastern edge of ditch 310. It measured 0.18m thick and comprised dark brown grey sandy silt, from which 29 sherds of late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery were recovered. The accumulation of this material, along with deposits 710 and 2301 located in Trenches 7 and 23, is likely to have coincided with the final abandonment of the site.
- 5.18 Ditches 304 and 310 likely form the northern continuation of ditches 207 and 203 seen within Trench 2.

#### **Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 6)**

- 5.19 The geological substrate (402), comprising orange-brown compact sand, was encountered at a depth of 0.75m bpgl. Directly overlying this was deposit 410, consisting of highly compact mottled grey and orange brown clay sand. It measured 0.38m thick extending across the trench (Fig. 6, section EE). Located at the centre of the trench, north/south orientated ditch 406 cut into the upper horizon of deposit 410. It measured 1.8m wide and 0.9m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base, forming a shallow V-shaped profile. Its initial fill (407) consisted of mid grey brown sandy clay, containing 42 sherds of late 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery. This was partially overlain by fill 408, which comprised grey brown silty clay deposited by natural silting and weathering processes. This was sealed by fill 409, which comprised grey brown sandy clay and represented a period of stabilisation and gradual silting. Ditch 406 corresponds with an anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.



- 5.20 Sub-oval pits 403 and 411 were partially revealed at the western end of the trench, cutting deposit 410. Pit 411, which was not excavated, was exposed for a total length of 0.9m, and measured 0.9m wide. The fill consisted of compact dark grey brown silty clay, from which no dateable material was recovered. Located to the immediate east was pit 403. It measured 0.4m deep, 1.2m wide and was exposed for a total length of 0.7m (Fig. 6; section FF). The initial fill (404) consisted of dark grey silt sand, containing 123 sherds of late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery and 11 fragments of bone. In addition a moderately small quantity of hulled wheat was recovered from an environmental sample taken from this fill. This was sealed by very friable dark brown grey silt 405 containing 99 sherds of a substantial assemblage of Roman pottery and bone, in a deposit 0.20m thick.

### **Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 7)**

- 5.21 The geological substrate (502) was encountered at a maximum depth of 0.6m bpgl. This was cut at the north-eastern end of the trench by north-west/south-east orientated ditch 512. Ditch 512, which was not excavated, measured 3.2m wide with an exposed upper fill (513) consisting of compact mid grey brown silty sand.
- 5.22 Parallel north-west/south-east orientated ditch 505 was located towards the south-western end of the trench. It measured 0.85m deep and 2.2m wide, with moderately sloping sides which tapered to a flat base (Fig. 7; section GG). Its primary gleyed fill 506, which comprised blue grey silt clay laid down under wet conditions contained 36 sherds of late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery. This was overlain by fill 507, which comprised dark black brown clay sand with frequent charcoal inclusions. A total of 13 sherds of mid to late 4th-century AD pottery were recovered from this fill. Partially overlying fill 507 was grey brown silt-clay fill 508 from which 15 sherds of middle 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery were recovered. This was in turn sealed by fill 509 from which a single sherd of probably residual 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery was recovered.
- 5.23 Ditches 505 and 512 possibly formed flanking ditches for a postulated trackway. The continuation of ditch 512 was identified in Trench 6 as ditch 603.
- 5.24 Parallel north-west/south-east orientated ditch 510 was located to the immediate south-west of ditch 505 (Fig. 7; section HH). It measured 0.61m wide and 0.19m deep with a silty sand fill (511) from which a single sherd of pottery broadly attributable to the Roman period was recovered.

- 5.25 Ditch 510 followed the same alignment as ditches 505 and 512. It most likely forms a field boundary ditch laid out along the course of the postulated trackway.

### **Trench 6 (Fig. 2)**

- 5.26 The geological substrate (602) was encountered at a depth of 0.5m bpgl, cut at the south-western end of the trench by north-west/south-east orientated ditch 603. Ditch 603, which was not excavated, measured 6.1m wide. The exposed upper fill (604) consisted of grey brown clay from which no finds were recovered. Ditch 603 was interpreted as a flanking ditch for a north-west/south-east orientated trackway, the continuation of which was identified within Trench 5 as ditch 512.

### **Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 7)**

- 5.27 The geological substrate (702) was encountered at a depth of 0.7m bpgl. The earliest feature encountered within the trench was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 717 (Fig. 8, section HH). Its full extent was not revealed either in plan or section. Its earliest encountered fill comprised grey brown silty clay (716) which contained three sherds of 1st to 2nd-century AD pottery.
- 5.28 A sondage measuring 2m long by 1m wide was hand excavated at the centre of the trench. The earliest deposit encountered consisted of a highly compacted deposit of light yellow grey silty sand (703) which was interpreted as a compacted surface or bedding layer (Fig. 8; section JJ). This was abutted by a deposit of mid grey brown silty clay 711, which contained a concentration of charcoal, pottery and unworked stone. This was overlain by deposit 704, comprising friable light grey silty sand, possibly the remains of a poured opus signinum floor surface.
- 5.29 Within the sondage, sub-circular posthole 708 cut deposit 703. It was not excavated, but measured 0.2m wide and 0.25m long. The upper fill (709) consisted of dark brown grey silty clay. At the eastern end of the sondage, a large sub-oval pit was partially revealed (705) also cutting through deposit 703. A total of 24 sherds of late 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery was recovered from the surface of the grey brown silty clay fill (706) of pit 705. Sealing the deposits within the sondage was mottled black sand silt deposit 710, which measured 0.15m thick and contained 85 sherds of middle 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery. This deposit was recorded with Trenches 3 and 23 as deposit 2301, 303, 309 and 318.

- 5.30 Cutting the upper fill 716 of ditch 717 and deposit 710 at the eastern end of the trench was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 714 (Fig. 8; section II). It measured 2.1m wide and 0.6m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. A total of 14 sherds of pottery, broadly attributable to the Romano-British period was recovered from its mid grey brown silty clay fill (715), which was cut along its length by ditch 712. Ditch 712 measured 1.44m wide and 0.35m deep with steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It contained ten sherds of middle 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery within its mid grey brown silty clay fill (713).

### **Trench 8 (Figs 2 & 6)**

- 5.31 The geological substrate (802) was encountered at a depth of 0.6m bpgl. Cutting the substrate at the western end of the trench were pits 807 and 809. Pit 807 was sub-circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by friable heat affected mid-red silty clay with moderate inclusions of charcoal (808), which did not contain any finds. This was cut by sub-circular pit 809, which measured 2m long, in excess of 1.6m wide and 0.27m deep. No dateable material was recovered from its black silty sand fill (810), which contained frequent charcoal, burnt stone and burnt clay fragments. An environmental sample taken from this deposit recovered a small amount of glume base and charcoal fragments, which may be representative of wind-blown hearth debris. Deposit 811, which comprised brown grey silty clay accumulated within the partially filled pits 807 and 809.
- 5.32 Located to the immediate east of pit 807 was north-west/south-east orientated ditch 803. It measured 0.4m wide and 0.12m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its clay silt fill (804). Located at the eastern end of the trench was sub circular pit/ditch terminus 805. It was 1.7m wide and 0.25m deep, with irregular sides and base. A total of 15 sherds of late 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery were recovered from its grey-brown silt-clay fill (806).

### **Trench 19 (Figs 2 & 3)**

- 5.33 Located towards the north-western end of the trench was pit 1903 (Fig. 10; section LL). It was 1.4m long, 1.33m wide and 0.33m deep with irregular sides and base. Its mid-brown grey silty clay fill (1904) contained nine sherds of late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery.

**Trench 23 (Figs 2)**

- 5.34 The earliest deposit encountered was mottled orange brown silty sand layer 2302, which was overlain by friable dark grey brown silty sand deposit 2301.

**Undated****Trench 14 (Fig 2)**

- 5.35 East/west orientated ditch 1403 was located towards the southern end of the trench. It measured 0.49m wide and 0.13m deep. No dateable material was recovered from its fill 1404.

**6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Artefactual material from the evaluation was recovered from 26 deposits. A small proportion was retrieved via bulk soil sampling of three deposits. All of the recovered material dates to the Roman period, with the exception of one item. 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 a note of any evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues. Roman pottery fabric codes are equated to the Oxfordshire type series (summarised in Booth 2011, 366–7) where possible. Where applicable, National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B (Tomber and Dore 1998).

*Pottery: Roman*

- 6.2 A total of 601 sherds (7.068kg) of Roman pottery was recovered from 25 deposits. The average sherd weight of 12g was suggestive of a moderate degree of fragmentation. Little abrasion was noted with this assemblage, however, surface preservation was mixed. An internal carbonaceous (burnt food) residue was noted on just one sherd from fill 208 of ditch 207.
- 6.3 The majority of the assemblage consisted of products from the Oxfordshire potteries. Oxford White ware (W12, M22) totalled 30 sherds. Two flagons from fill 204 of ditch 203 included a Young Type W15, dating to the middle 3rd to 4th centuries; a Type W3 flagon from fill 208 of ditch 207 is of 2nd to middle 3rd century-date (Young 1977, 100–2). A Type M17 mortarium from fill 206 of ditch 203 is dateable to the mid to late 3rd century, and rimsherds from three mortaria in occupation layer 710 include a Type M11 (late 2nd to mid 3rd centuries) and a Type M22 (mid 3rd to 4th centuries) (*ibid.*, 70–7).

- 6.4 Fourteen sherds of Oxford red-slipped ware (F51), manufactured from the mid 3rd to 4th centuries, were recorded. Included were: a base sherd from a mortarium in fill 508 of ditch 505; and a flagon handle from fill 509. The latter has had a face 'mask' press-moulded onto it. This was similar in style to face necked flagons in Oxford Red-slipped ware which are known mainly from mid to late 4th-century contexts (*ibid.*, 149–50). Placement on the handle would seem to be very unusual. It is likely that a proportion of the pottery identified as Oxford fine oxidised fabric (O10) actually represents red-slipped ware which has lost its slip, post-deposition. Four sherds from fill 73 of ditch 712 include a base sherd with a grafitto or ownership mark on the underside. More than half of the base is missing and only "V" can be seen: it may be part of an illiterate mark.
- 6.5 Sandy coarsewares formed the bulk of the assemblage: Oxford fine reduced ware (R11, 214 sherds); sandy greyware (R20, 18 sherds); black-firing, sand-tempered fabric (BS, 19 sherds) Oxford fine oxidised fabric (O10, 178 sherds); and sandy oxidised fabric (O20, 13 sherds). Several forms and decorative styles were observed among sherds in fabric R11. A bodysherd from occupation layer 710 displayed barbotine dot panel decoration, which was in use during the 2nd century. Also from occupation layer 710 was a vessel with a 'face' design located on the body of the pot. Subtle pinching had been used to shape the eyes and nose. The eyes, eyebrows and mouth had been formed from impressions with the end of a narrow cylindrical tool, which is a more unusual method. From fill 208 of ditch 207 were: a Young Type R31 globular beaker with out-turned rim (dateable to the middle 1st to middle 2nd centuries) and a Type R36 indented beaker (middle 3rd to 4th centuries) (*ibid.*, 217–8).
- 6.6 Joining sherds in fabric O10, from an indented beaker, were retrieved from fill 713 of ditch 712 and fill 715 of ditch 714. This form is relatively rare in this fabric and is thought to date to the 3rd century (*ibid.*, 192–5). Rosette stamping featured on two joining bodysherds from fill 507 of ditch 505 and one from fill 506 of the same ditch, both in oxidised fabric O20. This decorative technique is restricted to the mid to late 4th century.
- 6.7 Grog-tempered (E80, R90) and grog-and-quartz tempered fabrics (R94) were represented by 50 sherds, including a cordoned vessel from fill 509 of ditch 505. Dating in the 1st to 2nd centuries AD is most likely. A total of 47 handmade sherds was recovered in a coarse, shell-tempered fabric (C10). The only identifiable form

was a necked jar from fill 206 of ditch 203. In Oxfordshire this pottery type typically dates to the late 3rd to 4th centuries.

- 6.8 The most common regional import was South-east Dorset Black-burnished ware (B11): a total of 38 sherds was retrieved. This ware type was manufactured near Poole in Dorset. When found outside the manufacturing area it typically dates to the second to fourth centuries (Davies *et al.* 1994, 107). Closer dating was enabled by the identification of several forms: a Type 20 plain rim dish (late 2nd to 4th centuries) and a Type 24 flat rim dish with a groove on the rim (late 2nd to early 3rd centuries), both from ditch 203; and a Type 22 flat rim dish (2nd century) from occupation layer 710 (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 232–5).
- 6.9 A small number of other regional imports was represented. A bodysherd of Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (F52) was recovered from robber trench 209 (fill 210). It was manufactured at sites in Cambridgeshire from the middle 2nd to 4th centuries (Tyers 1996, 173). Sixteen sherds of pink grog-tempered ware (O81) were recorded. Production of this ware type is attested in Stowe, Buckinghamshire (Booth 1999) and dating across the late 2nd to 4th centuries. Four sherds of Severn Valley ware included a Webster Group K dish, from robber trench fill 210, likely to be of 4th century date (Webster 1976, 35–6). Pit 705 produced two joining base sherds in a charcoal-tempered variant of Severn Valley ware, which typically dates to the 1st to 2nd centuries.
- 6.10 Continental imports comprised three sherds of Baetican amphora (A11) and 13 sherds of samian. Baetican amphora was manufactured in southern Spain from the middle 1st to middle 3rd centuries and is the most commonly-occurring amphora type in Roman Britain (Tyers 1996, 87). The samian derived from manufacturing centres in south (S20), central (S30) and east Gaul (S40) and it was also imported to Britain from the middle 1st to middle 3rd centuries (Webster 1996, 2–3). Identifiable forms were: Drag. 33 cups from fills 204 and 206 of ditch 203; and a Drag. 37 bowl from fill 306 of ditch 304 (*ibid.*, 45–7).

#### *Ceramic building material*

- 6.11 A total of 14 fragments of ceramic building material (398g) was recovered. Included were brick from fill 706 of pit 705 and imbrex from fill 508 of ditch 505. The remainder were too fragmentary for further classification.

### *Other finds*

- 6.12 Single small fragments of natural-coloured (blue/green) Roman vessel glass (total 2g) were recorded from pit 403 (fill 404) and ditch 406 (fill 407).
- 6.13 Ditch 203 (fill 204) produced a fragment from a tapering worked bone object. It retains some knife-trimmed facets on the surfaces and appears to be a roughout for a hairpin.
- 6.14 A total of 13 iron objects (299g) was retrieved. Classifiable objects are: six nails; two hobnails; and a buckle. The latter was the only find recovered from road surface 319 and is post-medieval or modern in date.

## **7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

### ***Animal Bone***

- 7.1 Animal bones amounting to 450 fragments (1764g) was recovered via a combination of hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from ten ditch and pit features, associated with the Roman activity revealed in the southern limit of the site. The bones were generally well preserved, but highly fragmented with frequent historical and modern damage. This has rendered 89% of the assemblage unidentifiable to species, however, it was possible to identify remains of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa sp.*), horse (*Equus caballus*) and dog (*Canis familiaris*).
- 7.2 Bones from cattle were most common, with 19 fragments (1011g) found in eight deposits and originating mainly from those meat-poor skeletal areas such as the skull and bones of the lower limbs with only the occasional meat-rich bone present such as a scapular from robber trench 209 and a pelvis from ditch 712. No actual cut and/or chop marks were observed, but the bone did display fracture patterns commonly seen in the waste from primary and secondary butchery, i.e. the preparation of a carcass and its subsequent separation, not into joints of meat, but rather smaller more manageable portions of the original carcass.
- 7.3 The presence of sheep/goat, pig, horse and dog was confirmed, with the exception of a sheep/goat pelvis fragment from ditch 203, by loose molar teeth. Each of these species was a commonly exploited domestic animal in this period and as such their



presence on site is to be expected (Baker and Worley, 2014). However, none of these animals was recovered in high enough numbers to make a useful inference beyond species identification.

### **Plant Macrofossils**

- 7.4 A series of five environmental samples (68 litres of soil) were taken from a range of pits and ditches of Romano-British date within four trenches to evaluate the preservation and range of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. Four of the samples were processed by standard flotation procedures and the sample from ditch 310 in Trench 3 was processed for the recovery of waterlogged remains (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.5 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).
- 7.6 The flots were generally of moderate size with high numbers of rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation.

#### *Trench 3*

- 7.7 Sample 3.1 from fill 311 of ditch 310 contained no charred material and only a few uncharred root and stem fragments and a moderate number of mollusc shells.
- 7.8 The mollusc shell assemblage included shells of the open country species *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica/pulchella* and *Helicella itala*, the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*, *Cochlicopa* sp., *Cepaea* sp. and *Pomatias elegans*, the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus* and *Carychium* sp., the marsh species *Succinea/Oxyloma* sp. and the aquatic species *Anisus leucostoma*, *Planorbis planorbis* and *Pisidium* sp. This assemblage may be representative of a generally open landscape with some areas of long damp marshy grass in the vicinity of the ditch.



#### Trench 4

- 7.9 The fills 405 (sample 4.1) and 404 (sample 4.2) within ditch 403 contained a moderately small quantity of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) grains and seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.) and brome grass (*Bromus* sp.). There was a moderate quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm.
- 7.10 The mollusc shells present in the sample included those of the open country species *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica/pulchella*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Helicella itala*, the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*, *Cochlicopa* sp. and *Cepaea* sp., the shade-loving species *Aegopinella nitidula*, *Aegopinella pura*, *Vitrea* sp. and *Discus rotundatus*, the marsh species *Succinea/Oxyloma* sp. and the aquatic species *Anisus leucostoma*, *Planorbis planorbis* and *Galba truncatula*. There were also a few fragments of oyster and mussel shell.
- 7.11 This charred assemblage may have been a result of dispersed settlement waste within the ditch. The mollusc assemblage is indicative of a well-established open landscape with areas of long grassland in the vicinity of the ditch possibly prone to seasonal flooding and desiccation.

#### Trench 5

- 7.12 A large charred plant assemblage was recovered from fill 506 (sample 5.1) within ditch 504. The cereal remains included hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) grain and glume base fragments, free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) grain fragments and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain and rachis fragments. A number of the glume bases were identifiable as those of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). The weed seeds included seeds of oats, brome grass, vetch/wild pea, black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), docks, knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.), clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), hawksbeard (*Crepis* sp.), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) and scentless mayweed (*Tripleurospermum inodorum*). There was a moderate quantity of charcoal fragments noted, including those of round wood.
- 7.13 The mollusc shells recorded in the sample included those of the open country species *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica/pulchella* and *Pupilla muscorum*, the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*, the shade-loving species *Discus*

*rotundatus*, the marsh species *Succinea/Oxyloma* sp. and the aquatic species *Anisus leucostoma* and *Galba truncatula*.

- 7.14 This assemblage is likely to represent the dumping of crop processing waste, possibly from the processing of stored semi-cleaned spikelets, within the ditch. The weed seeds are generally species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments and spelt wheat is the predominant wheat in Southern Britain within the Roman period (Greig 1991). The mollusc assemblage may be indicative of a well-established open landscape with areas of longer grass, possibly prone to seasonal flooding and desiccation.

#### *Trench 8*

- 7.15 A small amount of glume base and charcoal fragments were recorded from fill 810 (sample 1) from pit 809. This small quantity of remains may well be representative of wind-blown hearth debris.
- 7.16 The few mollusc shells observed in this sample included those of the open country species *Vallonia costata* and *Vallonia excentrica*, and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 The evaluation identified a concentration of archaeological remains within the southern part of the site. The archaeological remains were dated to the Roman period spanning the 1st to 4th centuries AD, with activity predominantly concentrated within the 2nd to 4th century AD. There was a very low density of remains elsewhere within site comprising an isolated, undated ditch within the central part of the site (Trench 14) and a Roman pit within the northern part of the site (Trench 19). All of the artefactual material recovered during the evaluation was dated to the Roman period, aside from one post-medieval/modern buckle.
- 8.2 The results of the evaluation correlated well with the preceding geophysical survey, which suggested that linear features, pits and furrows, might be present within the south-western part of the site (PCG 2016). However, a number of additional archaeological features were also identified, with the evaluation identifying further archaeological remains within this southern part of the site, representing extramural

activity associated with Roman Alchester (*Aelia Castra*) and an isolated Roman pit within the north-eastern part of the site.

### **Roman (AD 43–410)**

- 8.4 Features dated to the Roman period were concentrated within the south-western part of the site, predominantly lying immediately west of Wendlebury Road, with only a single isolated feature of Roman date identified within the northern part of the site (Fig 2). The artefactual evidence suggests that activity began within the site during the 1st to 2nd centuries AD with attempts to raise the land surface and construct routeways across during 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

### **1st to 2nd century AD**

- 8.5 The evaluation has identified evidence for 1st to 2nd-century AD activity within the site, with the presence of ditches 316 and 717. No other features of this early date were identified during the evaluation, suggesting limited activity within this period. This activity is likely to represent extra mural activity relating to the initial occupation of the Roman fort and vicus at Alchester and the initial construction of the Alchester to Towcester Road.
- 8.6 The site appears to indicate substantial investment in water and land management. It is likely that rising water levels at this time led to the construction of artificial terraces relating to attempts to drain the site and make it accessible to road traffic. A substantial deposit of made-ground consisting of compact clayey, chalky and silty sand, up to 0.4m thick, was identified across one hectare at the southern end of the site. At this time the earlier identified features were backfilled and abandoned. This also appears to have been the case at the nearby Faccenda Chicken Farm site to the immediate east of the site. Here investigation revealed the mid second-century land surface was sealed by dredged river sediment, while an early road surface was abandoned and buried under late second century deposits (Foreman & Rahtz, 1984: fig. 6), (TVAS, 2010: fig.3).
- 8.7 The mollusc assemblages further add to his picture of a seasonally flooding landscape which appear to be indicative of a well-established open downland environment with some localised areas of longer grass probably subject to seasonal flooding and desiccation. There is evidence of open landscapes with some wetter environments on a number of other local sites such as Whitelands Farm Bicester (Wyles 2011), Alchester (Robinson 2001) and Oxford Road Bicester (Moss 1996).

- 8.8 Coinciding with this raising of the ground level, deposit 308 provided a raised platform for a new road surface (319). This landscaping and construction of a new road surface is likely to have followed the abandonment of reclaimed land and the drainage system on the Faccenda Chicken Farm site (Foreman & Rahtz, 1984: fig. 6), (TVAS, 2010: fig.3).
- 8.9 Subsequent activity was characterised by the excavation of further drainage ditches, recorded in Trenches 2, 3 and 4, along the side of the postulated road.
- 8.10 Although no definitive structural evidence was identified a number of the excavated features appeared to represent settlement activity, which is supported by the finds and environmental evidence. Putative floor surfaces were recorded in Trench 7 and may indicate some form of small scale roadside settlement. A possible cereal drying oven/kiln is recorded within Trench 8, similar in plan to those excavated by Wessex Archaeology to the north of the site (WA, 2009). The charred plant remains provide some indication of domestic settlement activities taking place in the area during the Romano-British period, particularly in the vicinity of Trench 5. There are some comparisons with other assemblages from Romano-British deposits in the vicinity such as Whitelands Farm Bicester (Stevens 2011) and Alchester (Pelling 2001).
- 8.11 The presence of Romano British structures within the site corresponds with third-century activity investigated on the southern edge of the site (Booth *et al* 2001). Here extra mural settlement was found to date to the mid second century, following on from the abandonment of lower lying land to the east, and continuing into the post Roman period in the form of agricultural plots with stone buildings and yard surfaces.
- 8.12 A total of 450 fragments of animal bone were recovered from the site, the species identified were cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse and dog; the overall make-up, nature and character would appear to be typical of occupation of small-scale domestic rural settlement (Young and Hancocks 2006).
- 8.13 Parallel ditches recorded in Trenches 5 and 6 may represent the establishment of a trackway running parallel to Akeman Street.
- 8.14 It seems likely that the pit identified within Trench 19 represents dispersed activity associated with the late Iron Age and Roman activity recorded to the north of the site

(WA 2009). Given the limited exposure of features within this area further interpretation is not possible.

- 8.15 The evidence gained from the evaluation adds to our knowledge of Roman settlement within the area. Previous archaeological work has identified evidence for first to third century activity, with excavations to the north and east having revealed that land on the edge of the Otmoor and floodplain of the River Ray, delineated by the Alchester Towcester Road, was extensively exploited during the early first and second centuries (WA, 2009; Foreman & Rahtz, 1984). To the south and east of the site there is substantial evidence for the development of extramural settlement around the junction of Akeman Street and the Towcester to Alchester Road during the second and third centuries (Booth *et al* 2001).

#### ***Post-medieval/modern***

- 8.16 The geophysical survey had revealed evidence for post-medieval/modern agricultural activity comprising ridge and furrow on an east west orientation. However, no corresponding ridge and furrow were evident in the bases of the trenches. On excavation the furrows were found to have truncated the subsoil to a depth of 0.1m, and had not entered the substrate. A single small fragment of transfer printed dish or plate was recovered from the topsoil, but was not retained.

#### ***Undated***

- 8.17 A single undated ditch was revealed within the site (1403). It was recorded running parallel to the orientation of the ridge and furrow as identified by the geophysical survey. As such it is possible that it relates to broadly contemporary activity of an agricultural nature.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 These remains are considered to be of archaeological significance. Remains such as this could be preserved *in situ* beneath an area designated as car parking. In order to ensure their preservation *in situ* a 'no-dig' zone could be adopted in the south-western corner of the site. Construction within this area could consist of the ground level being raised allowing a suitable buffer to ensure their long-term preservation. The remainder of the site could be the subject of a watching brief. The Master Plan has been amended accordingly, prior to submission. The County

Archaeologist will be able to advise on a suitable standard condition to be applied in the area of significance.

## 10. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jake Streatfeild-James, assisted by Luis Gomes, Mike Hughes and Ešthér Escudero. The report was written by Jake Streatfeild-James. The finds, animal bone and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville, Andy Clarke and Sarah F Wyles respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Lesley Davidson. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Joyce.

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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
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.25	2
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.2	2
2	202	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.45 +	2
2	203	Cut		Ditch	E-W aligned, steep straight slopes to concave base	1.8	2	1.2	2
2	204	Fill	203	Primary Fill	Compact, dark brown-grey clay, occ small chalk inc.	2	0.4	0.31	2
2	205	Fill	203	Secondary Fill	Compact, mid yellow-orange sand-clay	1.8	0.5	0.08	2
2	206	Fill	203	Secondary Fill	Compact, mid grey-brown clay-sand, occ small stone inc	1.8	2	0.4	2
2	207	Cut		Ditch	N-S aligned wide, shallow, flat bottomed ditch	6	4.5	0.63	2
2	208	Fill	207	Deliberate backfill	Compact, mid grey-brown clay-silt, freq small stone inc.	6	4.5	0.63	2
2	209	Cut		Ditch	Shallow flat irregular sided	1.6	0.7	0.3	2
2	210	Fill	209	Deliberate backfill	Compact, dark grey-brown silt-sand, freq small stone inc.	1.6	0.7	0.3	2
2	211	Cut		Ditch	Linear feature, sides and base unclear	1.59	0.71	n/a	2
2	212	Fill	212	Deliberate backfill	Compact, dark grey-brown silt-sand, freq small stone inc.	1.59	0.71	n/a	2
2	214	Layer		Made ground	V.Compact, mid orange/grey/brown silt/sand/clay mix, freq small-large sub-round stone inc.	25	1.5	0.28	2
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	3
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.3	3
3	302	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.5+	3
3	303	Layer		Occupation Lyr	Roman occupation layer	7	>1.8	0.18	3
3	304	Cut		Ditch	E-W aligned ditch	>1.5	>1.8	>0.5	3
3	305	Fill	304	Secondary fill	Light brown-grey sandy silt, <1% small angular stone inc	>1.8	>1.07	>0.26	3
3	306	Fill	304	Secondary fill	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, <1% small angular/rounded stones; <1% charcoal flecking	>1.8	>1.27	0.38	3
3	307	Fill	304	Backfill Event	Mid brown-grey limestone rubble	>0.75	0.5	0.3	3
3	308	Layer		Made ground	Light brown-grey firm chalk/silt/sand <1% small ang/rounded stone inc.	>1.8	>1.22	0.38	3
3	309	Layer		Occupation Lyr	Mid brown-grey sandy silt <1% small ang/round stones; <1% charcoal flecking	>1.8	>0.73	0.15	3
3	310	Cut		Ditch	E-W aligned ditch	>1.8	>1.25	>0.84	3
3	311	Fill	310	Secondary fill	Soft, dark purple-grey clay-silt <1% charcoal flecking	>1	>0.41	0.12	3
3	312	Fill	310	Secondary fill	Compact, mid orange-grey clay-silt, <1% chalk flecking; <1% small ang/round stones	>1.8	>1.19	0.72	3
3	313	Fill	310	Secondary fill	Firm, dark brown-grey clay-silt, <1% charcoal flecking; <1% small ang/round stone inc.	>1.8	>1.25	0.65	3
3	314	Fill	310	Secondary fill	Soft, mid orange-yellow silt-sand, <1% small ang/round stone inc.	>1.8	>0.76	0.32	3
3	315	Fill	310	Secondary fill	Soft, mid brown-grey sand-silt, <1% charcoal flecking; <1% small ang/round stone inc.	>1.8	>0.33	0.18	3

3	316	Cut		Gully	E-W aligned small gully, straight steep sides, concave base	>0.7 5	0.3	0.18	3
3	317	Fill	316	Secondary fill	Soft, light brown-grey sand-silt, <1% small ang/round stone inc.	>0.7 5	0.3	0.18	3
3	318	Layer		Occupation Lyr	Soft, mid brown-grey sand-silt, <1% small ang/round stone inc.	>3.7	>1.8	n/a	3
3	319	Layer		Road surface	Limestone rubble, approx 10% soft, dark brown-grey sand-silt soil matrix with 1% charcoal flecking.	7	>1.8	n/a	3
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	4
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.25	4
4	402	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.45 +	4
4	403	Cut		Pit	Irregular oval, steep sided to irregular concave base	0.71	1.2	0.42	4
4	404	Fill	403	Secondary Fill	Compact, very dark silt, rare small limestone inc.	0.71	1.2	0.22	4
4	405	Fill	403	Secondary Fill	Compact, dark-brown silt, rare small limestone inc.	0.71	1.2	0.2	4
4	406	Cut		Ditch	N-S aligned, moderate straight slopes to concave base	1.8	1.8	0.9	4
4	407	Fill	406	Primary Fill	Friable, mid grey-brown sand-clay, mod small chalk gravel inc.	1.8	1.06	0.85	4
4	408	Fill	406	Secondary Fill	Compact, mid grey-brown silty clay	1.8	1.4	0.37	4
4	409	Fill	406	Deliberate backfill	Friable, mid grey-brown sand-clay, occ small chalk gravel inc.	1.8	2	0.36	4
4	410	Layer		Made Ground	Highly compact, mid grey-orange brown, clay-sand	n/a	n/a	0.38	4
4	411	Cut		Pit	Un-ex feature	0.9	0.9	n/a	4
4	412	Fill		Secondary Fill	Un-ex feature	0.9	0.9	n/a	4
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.4	5
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.05	5
5	502	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.45 +	5
5	503	Cut		Bioturbation	irregular linear - un-excavated	1.8	0.7	0.22	5
5	504	Fill	503	Secondary Fill	Firm, mid brown-grey silt-clay, freq chalky gravel inc.	1.8	0.7	0.22	5
5	505	Cut		Boundary Ditch	Linear, steep sided to concave base	1.8	2.2	0.85	5
5	506	Fill	505	Primary Fill	Compact, blue-grey clay, Freq small chalky gravel inc.	1.8	1.2	0.25	5
5	507	Fill	505	Deliberate backfill	Friable, dark black-brown clay-sand, occ small stone inc.	1.8	1.4	0.3	5
5	508	Fill	505	Deliberate backfill	Firm, dark grey-brown, silt-clay. Mod small chalk rubble inc.	1.8	1.15	0.35	5
5	509	Fill	505	Deliberate backfill	Firm, mid brown-grey slit clay, mod medium sized stone inc.	1.8	2.06	0.32	5
5	510	Cut		Gully	Linear E-W aligned, steep sided to flat base	1.8	0.61	0.19	5
5	511	Fill	510	Secondary Fill	Firm, mid brown-grey silt-sand	1.8	0.61	0.19	5
5	512	Cut		Ditch	Un-ex feature	>1.5	3.23	n/a	5
5	513	Fill	512	Secondary Fill	Un-ex feature, compact, mid grey-brown silt-clay	>1.5	3.23	n/a	5
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.25	6
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.25	6
6	602	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.5+	6
6	603	Cut		Ditch	Un-ex linear poss extension of 512	>1.8	6.1	>0.8	6
6	604	Fill	603	Secondary Fill	Un-excavated fill, firm dark grey-brown, occ small chalk gravel inc	>1.8	6.1	>0.8	6
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.35	7
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.35	7

7	702	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.75 +	7
7	703	Layer		surface	Rammed earth foundation. Firm light yellow-grey silt-sand, occ small stone inc	2	1.8	0.05	7
7	704	Layer		Floor	Possible opus signinum, friable, light grey silt-sand, freq small stone inc.	0.5	0.35	0.1	7
7	705	Cut		Pit?	Sub-circular, steep sides to unseen base	2	0.4	0.3	7
7	706	Fill	705	Deliberate backfill	firm, mid grey-brown silt-clay, freq small stone; freq charcoal flecking	2	0.4	0.3	7
7	707	Layer		uncertain	firm, mid grey-brown silt-clay, freq small stone; freq charcoal flecking	0.5	1.2	0.1	7
7	708	Cut		Post hole	Sub-circular, not fully excavated	0.2	0.25	0.1	7
7	709	Fill	708	Secondary Fill	Firm, dark brown-grey silt-clay - un-ex	0.2	0.25	0.1	7
7	710	Layer		Occupation Lyr	Friable, black sand-silt, freq small stone and charcoal inc	2	2.3	0.15	7
7	711	Layer		Occupation Lyr	un-excavated, firm mid grey-brown silt-clay	1.5	0.6	0.1	7
7	712	Cut		Ditch	Linear, gradual slopes to flat base	>2	1.44	0.35	7
7	713	Fill	712	Secondary Fill	Compact, mid brown-grey silt-clay, moderate charcoal inc.	1.8	1.44	0.35	7
7	714	Cut		Ditch	Linear, gradual slopes to flat base	>2	2.1	0.4	7
7	715	Fill	714	Secondary Fill	Friable, light brown-grey clay-silt, occ small stones; mod charcoal inc.	>2	2.1	0.4	7
7	716	Fill	717	Deposit	firm, mid grey-brown silt-clay, freq small stone; freq charcoal flecking	>1.5	>0.5	0.6	7
7	717	Cut		Ditch	Linear, steep sided to unseen base; mostly un-excavated	1.8	>0.28	0.8	7
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.3	8
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.3	8
8	802	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.6+	8
8	803	Cut		Gully	Linear, gradual shallow sides to concave base	>4	0.4	0.12	8
8	804	Fill	803	Secondary Fill	V.compact, mid grey-brown, clay-silt, rare small rounded stone inc.	>4	0.4	0.12	8
8	805	Cut		pit/ditch terminus	Sub-rectangular, gradula irregular sides to irregular base	1.7	1.7	0.25	8
8	806	Fill	805	Secondary Fill	Firm, mid grey-brown silt-clay, occ small stone inc.	1.7	1.7	0.25	8
8	807	Cut		Fire Pit	Sub-circular, not fully excavated	0.8	0.6	0.1	8
8	808	Fill	807	Burnt clay	Reddish brown clay, mod charcoal flecking	0.8	0.6	0.1	8
8	809	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular, not fully excavated	0.9	0.9	0.3	8
8	810	Fill	809	Deliberate backfill	Friable black silt-sand with abundant charcoal inc.	0.9	0.9	0.3	8
8	811	Layer		Deposit	Firm, mid brown-grey silt-sand, occ small stones; occ charcoal flecking.	3	>1.7	0.3	8
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.25	9
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.01	9
9	902	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.26 +	9
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.25	10
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.2	10
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.45 +	10

11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	11
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.15	11
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.35 +	11
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	12
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.2	12
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.4	12
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.3	13
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.21	13
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.51	13
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	14
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.3	14
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown compact sand			0.5+	14
14	1403	Cut		Ditch	E-W aligned linear, gentle concave slopes to concave base	>1.8	0.49	0.13	14
14	1404	Fill	1403	Secondary fill	Firm, light brown-grey clay-silt, <1% small ang/round stone inc	>1.8	0.49	0.13	14
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	15
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.3	15
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown clay			0.5+	15
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	16
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.1	16
16	1602	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown sand and chalk gravels			0.3+	16
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.21	17
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.4	17
17	1702	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown sand and chalk gravels			0.61 +	17
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	18
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.25	18
18	1802	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown sand and chalk gravels			0.45 +	18
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	19
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.25	19
19	1902	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown sand and chalk gravels			0.45 +	19
19	1903	Cut		Pit	Irregular shape, gradular irregular sides to concave base	1.4	1.3	0.33	19
19	1904	Fill	1903	Secondary fill	V.compact, mid grey-brown, clay-silt, rare small rounded stone inc.	1.4	1.3	0.33	19
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	20
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.25	20
20	2002	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown sand and chalk gravels			0.45 +	20
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	21
21	2101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey sandy silt, firm			0.27	21
21	2102	Layer		Natural	Light orange-brown sand and chalk gravels			0.47 +	21
23	2300	Layer		topsoil	Dark, grey-brown soft silty loam			0.2	23
23	2301	Layer		dark earth	Dark grey brown silty sand, friable	n/a	n/a	n/a	23
23	2302	Layer		made ground	Mid orange brown silty sand, friable	n/a	n/a	n/a	23

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date		
204	Roman pottery	South Gaulish samian	S20/ <b>LGF SA</b>	2	10	LC3-C4		
	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	S30/ <b>LEZ SA</b>	4	27			
	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	S30/ <b>LMV SA</b>	1	4			
	Roman pottery	Les Martres						
	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	5	93			
	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware	W12/ <b>OXF WH</b>	2	12			
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	30	449			
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	14	180			
	Roman pottery	Pink grog-tempered ware	O81/ <b>PNK GT</b>	4	103			
	Roman pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	E80	11	315			
	Roman pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	C10/ <b>ROB SH</b>	1	7			
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	2	14			
	Roman ceramic building material			3	53			
Worked bone	Pin?		1	1				
Slag			1	14				
206	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	S30/ <b>LEZ SA</b>	1	6	LC3-C4		
	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	2	31			
	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware	W12/ <b>OXF WH</b>	3	4			
	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware mortarium	M22/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1	50			
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	6	94			
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	14	194			
	Roman pottery	Pink grog-tempered ware	O81/ <b>PNK GT</b>	4	401			
	Roman pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	E80	10	635			
	Roman pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	C10/ <b>ROB SH</b>	11	231			
	Roman ceramic building material	Tile		1	37			
	Shell			3	67			
	208	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware	W12/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1		35	MC3-C4
		Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	2		30	
Roman pottery		Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	24	235			
Roman pottery		Sandy greyware	R20	1	62			
210	Roman pottery	Baetican amphora	A11/ <b>BAT AM</b>	1	114	C4		
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley ware	O40/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	1	30			
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	3	59			
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	1	16			
	Roman pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	E80	1	51			
303	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	2	12	LC3-C4		
	Roman pottery	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware	F52/ <b>LNV CC</b>	1	12			
	Roman pottery	Severn Valley ware	O40/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	3	11			
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	6	24			
	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware	W12/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1	>1			
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	3	16			
	Roman pottery	Sandy oxidised fabric	O20	2	5			
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	4	36			
	Roman pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	C10/ <b>ROB SH</b>	2	21			
	Iron	Fragment		1	46			
	Industrial waste			1	17			
Shell			3	17				
305	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	7	94	RB		

	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	1	10	
	Roman pottery	Grog-and-quartz tempered fabric	R94	1	17	
306	Roman pottery	East Gaulish samian	S40	1	14	MC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	S30/ <b>LEZ SA</b>	2	17	
	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	1	10	
	Roman pottery	Oxford red-slipped ware	F51/ <b>OXF RS</b>	1	1	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	1	1	
313	Roman pottery	Grog-and-quartz tempered fabric	R94	1	15	C1-C2
315	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	1	3	C2-C4
319	Iron	Buckle		1	31	-
404	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	3	40	LC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware mortarium	M22/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1	105	
<4.2>	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware mortarium	M22/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1	7	
	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware	W12/ <b>OXF WH</b>	3	7	
<4.2>	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware	W12/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1	<1	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	5	7	
<4.2>	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	2	<1	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	39	233	
<4.2>	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	9	6	
	Roman pottery	Sandy oxidised fabric	O20	1	6	
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	2	7	
	Roman pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	E80	2	18	
<4.2>	Roman pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	C10/ <b>ROB SH</b>	17	3	
	Roman glass	Vessel		1	0	
	Fired clay			1	2	
<4.2>	Fired clay			23	1	
<4.2>	Iron	Nail		4	2	
	Burnt stone			1	119	
	Shell			6	21	
405 <4.1>	Roman pottery	South Gaulish samian	S20/ <b>LGF SA</b>	2	<1	LC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	7	35	
	Roman pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	E80	3	44	
<4.1>	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware	W12/ <b>OXF WH</b>	5	1	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	5	32	
<4.1>	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	8	2	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	13	46	
<4.1>	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	20	10	
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	2	4	
<4.1>	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	4	4	
	Roman pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	C10/ <b>ROB SH</b>	11	4	
<4.1>	Fired clay			16	1	
<4.1>	Iron	Hobnail?		2	0	
<4.1>	Shell			1	0	
407	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	S30/ <b>LEZ SA</b>	1	1	LC2-C4
	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	2	3	
	Roman pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	E80	2	3	
	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware mortarium	M22/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1	13	
	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware	W12	2	6	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	5	10	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	23	144	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		1	24	

	Roman glass Iron Shell	Vessel Nail		1 1 3	2 16 16	
	Roman pottery Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric Grog-tempered fabric	O10 E80	6 1	10 5	
506 <5.1>	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	1	6	LC3-C4
<5.1>	Roman pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	E80	1	126	
<5.1>	Roman pottery	Sandy oxidised fabric	O20	1	4	
<5.1>	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	7	20	
<5.1>	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	8	8	
<5.1>	Roman pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	C10/ <b>ROB SH</b>	4	1	
	Fired clay			13	5	
	Shell			1	18	
507	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman ceramic building material Iron Industrial waste	Oxford red-slipped ware Sandy oxidised fabric Fragment  Fragment	F51/ <b>OXF RS</b> O20	1 9 1  1 1	3 74 4  33 11	MC4-LC4
508	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery  Roman ceramic building material Fired clay Iron	Grog-tempered fabric Oxford red-slipped ware Oxford fine oxidised fabric Oxford fine reduced ware Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric Imbrex  Nail	E80 F51/ <b>OXF RS</b> O10 R11 BS	1 1 3 5 2  1 1 1	12 4 16 22 27  83 6 10	MC3-C4
509	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery	Oxford red-slipped ware Oxford fine oxidised fabric Grog-tempered fabric	F51/ <b>OXF RS</b> O10 E80	2 6 2	12 10 19	MC3-C4
511	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	1	17	RB
706	Roman pottery  Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery  Roman ceramic building material	Severn Valley ware (charcoal-tempered variant) Oxford fine reduced ware Sandy greyware Pink grog-tempered ware Grog-tempered fabric Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric Brick	O41  R11 R20 O81/ <b>PNK GT</b> R90 BS	2  4 1 5 9 2  1	72  57 6 43 212 9  86	LC2-C4
710	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery  Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery  Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman ceramic building material Iron Roman mortar Shell	Baetican amphora Central Gaulish samian Dorset Black-burnished ware  Pink grog-tempered ware Oxford red-slipped ware Oxford white ware mortarium  Oxford white ware Oxford fine oxidised fabric Oxford fine reduced ware Sandy greyware Grog-tempered fabric Fragment  Object	A11/ <b>BAT AM</b> S30/ <b>LEZ SA</b> B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b> O81/ <b>PNK GT</b> F51/ <b>OXF RS</b> M22/ <b>OXF WH</b>  W12/ <b>OXF WH</b> O10 R11 R20 E80	2 3 6  1 5 3  3 4 25 11 8 1  2 1 10	37 16 251  29 93 149  52 27 256 142 285 20  161 16 72	MC3-C4
713	Roman pottery Roman pottery	Oxford red-slipped ware Oxford fine oxidised fabric	F51/ <b>OXF RS</b> O10	4 3	53 22	MC3-C4



	Roman pottery	Sandy greyware	R20	1	7	
	Roman pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	E80	1	47	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		1	11	
715	Roman pottery	Severn Valley ware	O40/ <b>SVW OX2</b>	1	42	RB
	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware	W12/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1	4	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	10	68	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	2	16	
716	Roman pottery	Grog-and-quartz tempered fabric	R94	3	46	C1-C2
806	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	S30/ <b>LEZ SA</b>	2	<1	LC2-C4
	Roman pottery	Pink grog-tempered ware	O81/ <b>PNK GT</b>	2	7	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine oxidised fabric	O10	1	<1	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	4	7	
	Roman pottery	Sandy greyware	R20	2	11	
	Roman ceramic building material	Fragment		4	80	
810 <1> <1>	Fired clay Burnt stone			15	113 17	-
1904	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	S30/ <b>LEZ SA</b>	2	1	LC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Dorset Black-burnished ware	B11/ <b>DOR BB1</b>	1	2	
	Roman pottery	Oxford white ware	W12/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1	<1	
	Roman pottery	Oxford fine reduced ware	R11	2	3	
	Roman pottery	Sandy greyware	R20	2	<1	
	Roman pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	C10/ <b>ROB SH</b>	1	3	

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	EQ	Canid	LM	MM	Ind	un-id SS	Total	Weight (g)
203	204	1	2					3			6	63
203	206			1					1		2	3
209	210	1			1						2	83
	303						6		5		11	119
403	404	1						9		55	65	21
403	405	3	1						3	63	70	46
406	408					1			8		9	54
505	506	4		1			3		11	223	242	271
505	507	2			1		2		6		11	317
505	508								1		1	9
505	509	5			2		8	3			18	466
705	706								1		1	4
	710							4			4	22
712	713	2	1								3	285
809	810									5	5	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>450</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>1011</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1764</b>	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat, SUS = pig; EQ= horse; Canid = dog; LM= large sized mammal; MM = medium sized mammal; Ind = Indeterminate; uni-id SS = unidentifiable fragments from bulk soil samples

Table 2 Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 3 Romano-British Ditch													
310	311	3.1	2	18	n/a	n/a	-	-	-	-	(Uncharred roots and stems)	-	Moll-t (***), Moll-f (**)
Trench 4 Romano-British Ditch													
403	405	4.1	18	10	100	65	**	-	Barley and hulled wheat grain frags	*	<i>Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex</i>	**/**	Moll-t (****), Moll-f (**), shell (*)
	404	4.2	9	0	50	65	*	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	*	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	*/**	Moll-t (***), Moll-f (**)
Trench 5 Romano-British Ditch													
504	506	5.1	19	0	75	25	*****	*****	Hulled wheat, barley + f-t wheat grain frags, glume base + spikelet frags inc spelt, barley rachis frags, culm nodes	*****	<i>Avena, Bromus, Lolium/Festuca, Rumex, Fallopia, Polygonum, Trifolium/Medicago, Chenopodium, Anthemis cotula, Crepis, Vicia/Lathyrus, Tripleurospermum</i>	**/**	Moll-t (***), Moll-f (**)
Trench 8 Romano-British Pit													
809	810	1	20	0	100	70	-	*	glume base frags	-	-	*/**	Moll-t (**)

Key: \* = 1–4 items; \*\* = 5–19 items; \*\*\* = 20–49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50–99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items, Moll-t = land snails, Moll-f = aquatic snails

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester Oxfordshire	
Short description	<p>In September 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester, Oxfordshire. The fieldwork was undertaken to inform a forthcoming planning application for the commercial development of the site. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of twenty one trenches.</p> <p>The evaluation identified a concentration of archaeological remains within the southern part of the site. The archaeological remains dated to the Roman period, spanning the 1st to 4th centuries AD, with activity concentrated in the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. An isolated and undated ditch was recorded within the central part of the site and a Roman pit was also recorded within the northern part of the site.</p> <p>The earliest features encountered comprised two ditches containing pottery dating to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD. Overlying these early ditches was a substantial deposit of made-ground identified across approximately one hectare of land at the southern end of the site. This would have raised the local ground level above the seasonal floodplain of the River Ray and the evaluation results suggest that this allowed for the construction of a new road surface during the middle second century AD.</p> <p>No definitive structural evidence was identified, however, floor surfaces were recorded along with a possible cereal drying oven/kiln, which appear to indicate small scale roadside settlement during the late 2nd to 3rd-centuries AD.</p> <p>In addition the evaluation also recorded an undated ditch which followed the alignment of the ridge and furrow ploughing identified by the geophysical survey.</p>	
Project dates	26 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (PCG 2016) Excavation (Foreman & Rahtz, 1984) Excavation (OA, 2001) Evaluation (TVAS 2010)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester Oxfordshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	6.025 ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 5731 2114	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Richard Oram	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Stuart Joyce	
Project Supervisor	Jake Streatfeild-James	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	Roman road surface, pits and ditches	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	Roman pottery	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
		Content
Physical	Oxfordshire Museum Service	Pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone
Paper	Oxfordshire Museum Service	Pro-forma recording sheets and registers, WSI
Digital	Oxfordshire HER	Database, digital photos and digital records
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>16560</b>		



 Site boundary



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester  
 Oxfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

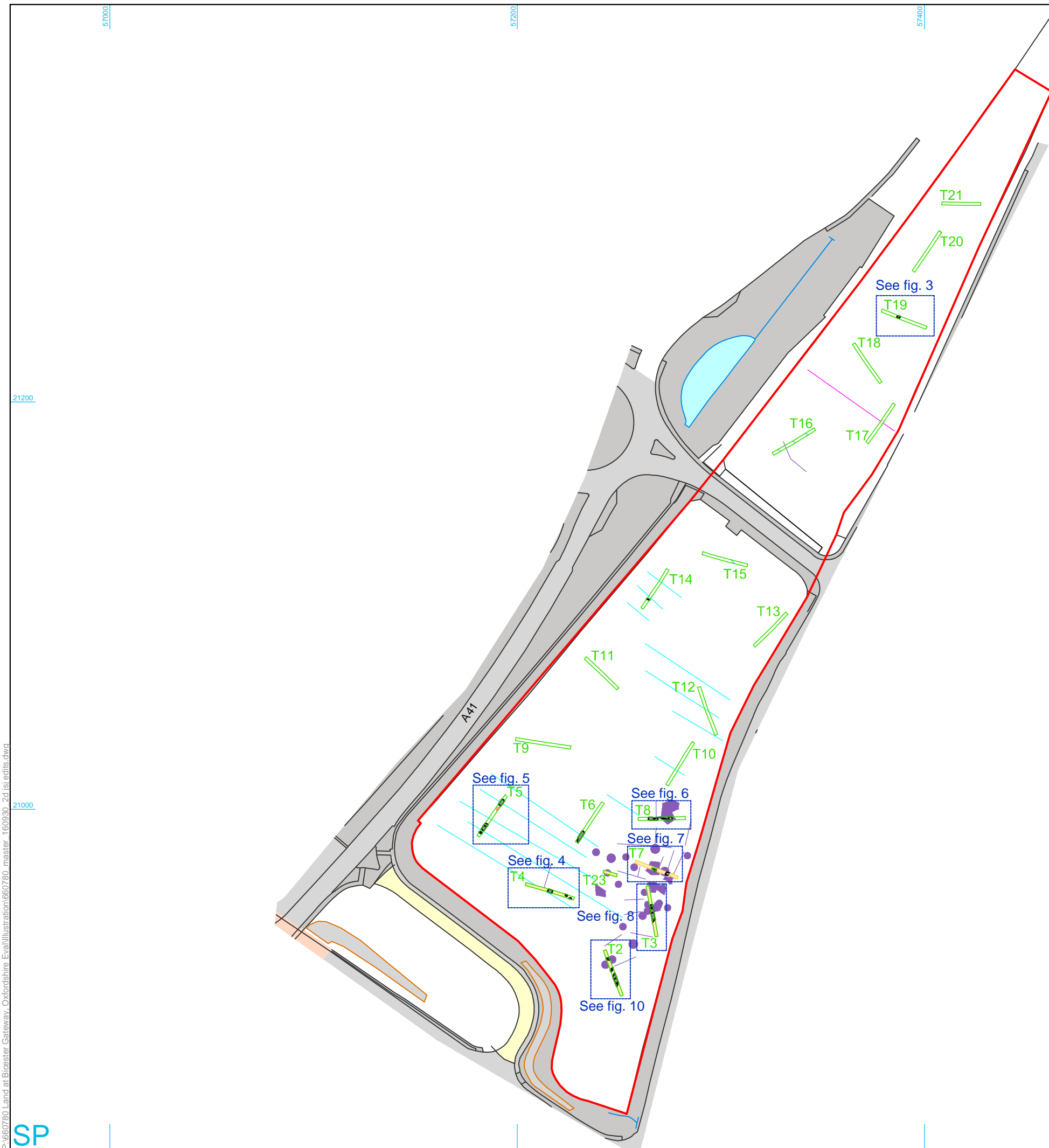
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PROJECT NO. 660780  
 DATE 06-10-2016  
 SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.  
**1**



- site boundary
  - evaluation trench/excavation area
  - archaeological feature
  - layer/deposit
  - field drain
  - treethrow
- Geophysical Survey Interpretation**
- potential archaeology
  - ridge and furrow
  - recent boundary (Historic OS)



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester  
 Oxfordshire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan**

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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	06/10/2016	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	SJ	SCALE@A3	1:2000	

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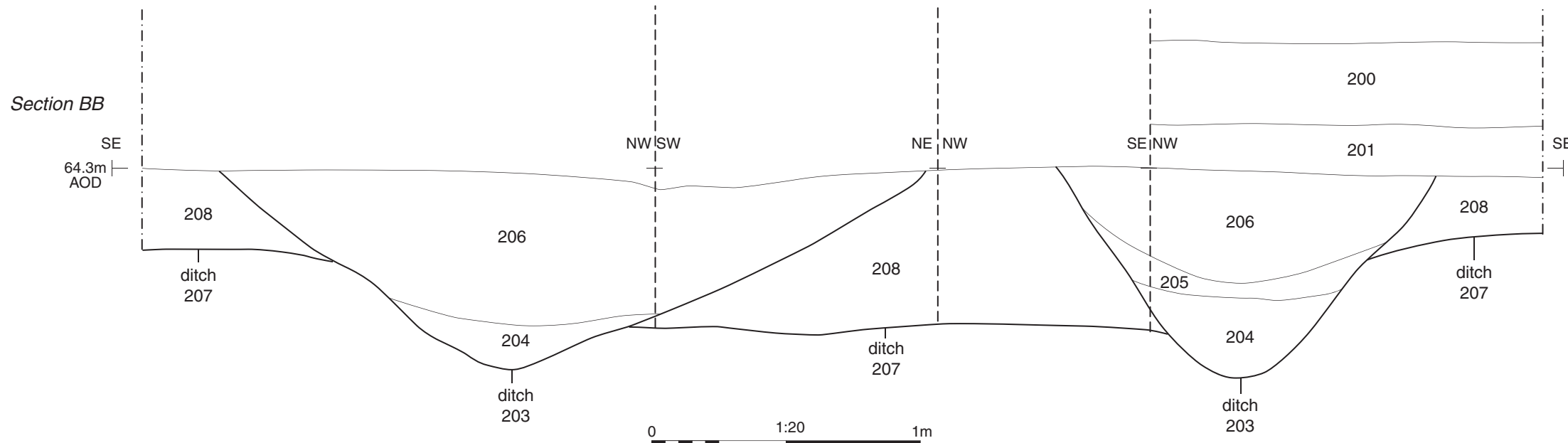
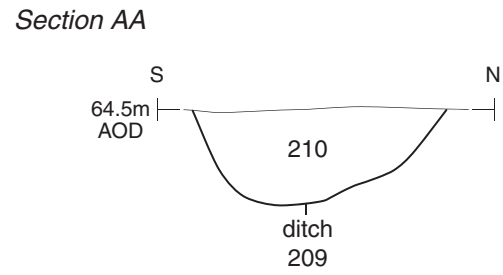
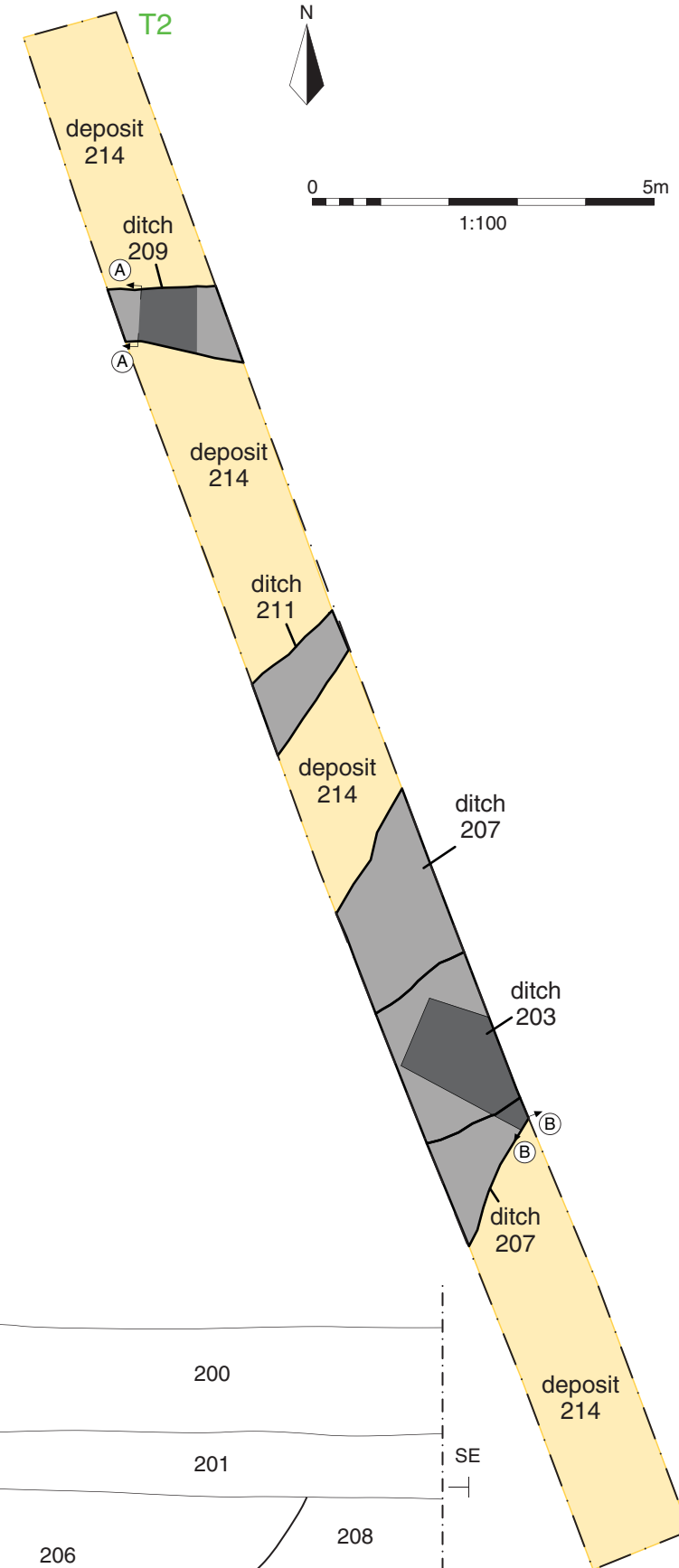




Ditches 203 and 207, looking east (0.4m scale)



Ditch 209, looking west (0.4m scale)



- excavated/unexcavated feature
- deposit

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester  
 Oxfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench 2: plan, sections and  
 photographs

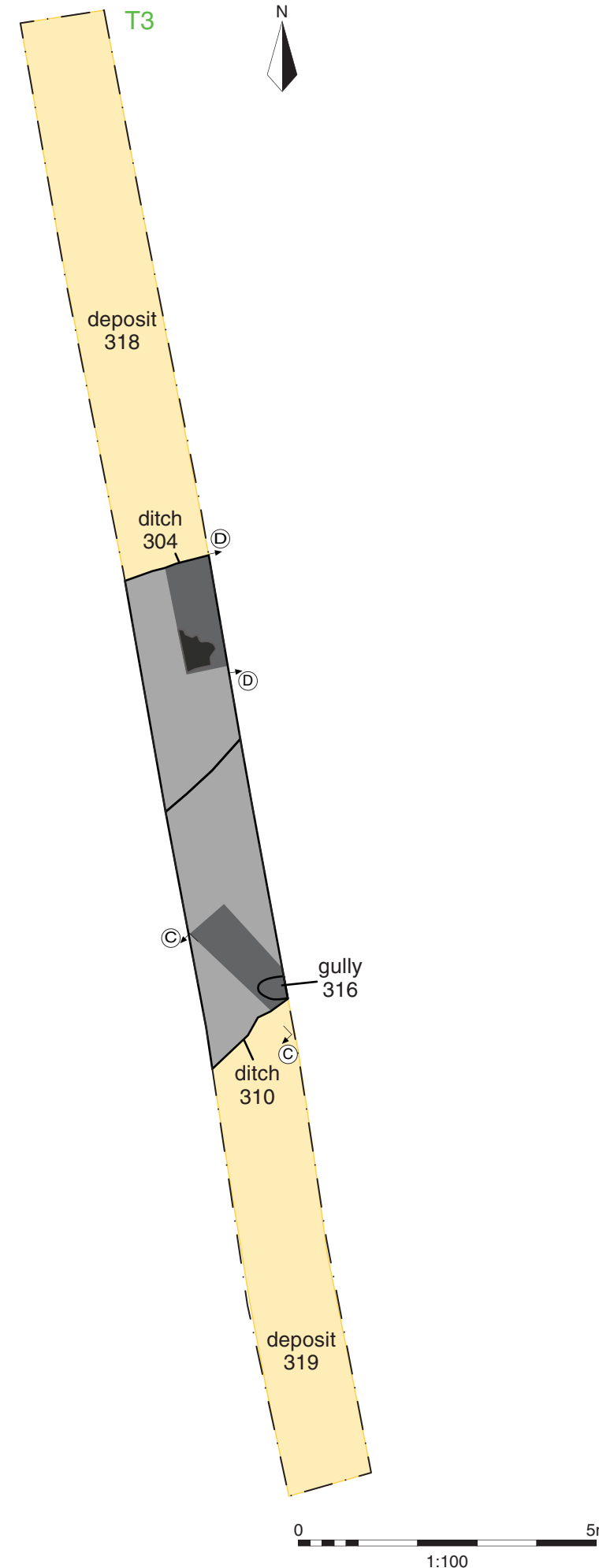
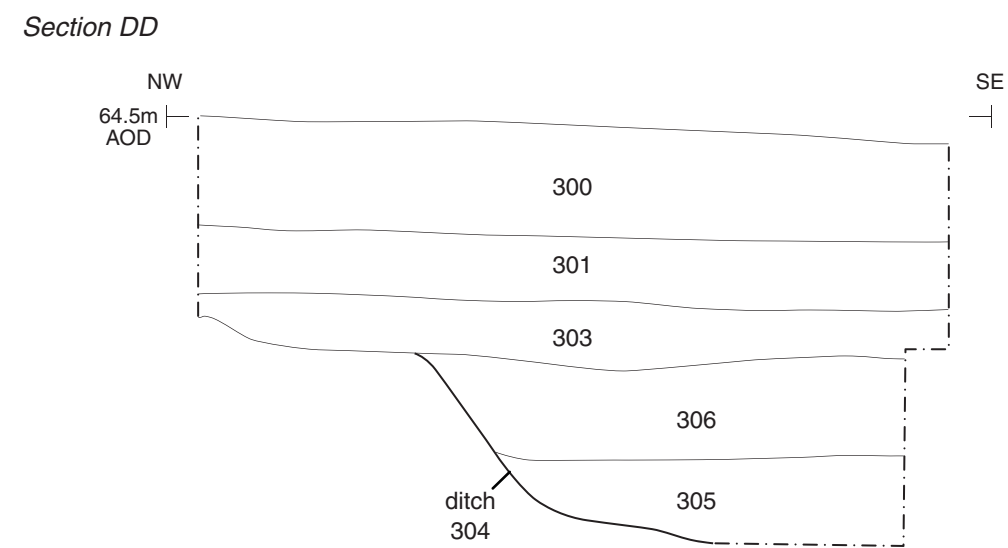
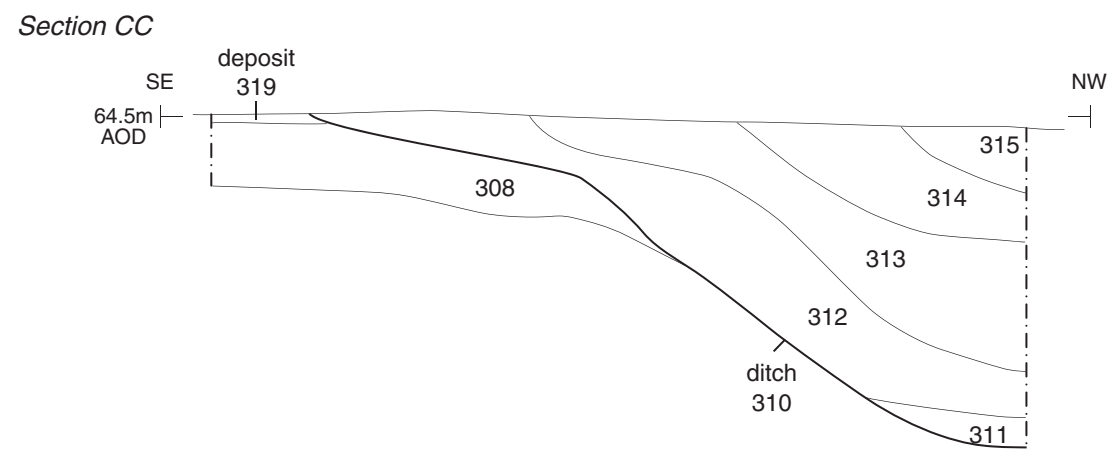
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APPROVED BY	SJ	SCALE@A3	1:100; 1:20	






Ditch 307, looking east (1m scale)



Ditches 310 and 316 and gully 316, looking north-east (1m scale)



-  excavated/unexcavated feature
-  deposit
-  stones


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PROJECT TITLE  
 Land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 3: plan, sections and  
 photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	06/10/2016	
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**5 Trench 3: metallated surface 319, looking north-west  
(1m scale)**



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester  
 Oxfordshire

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

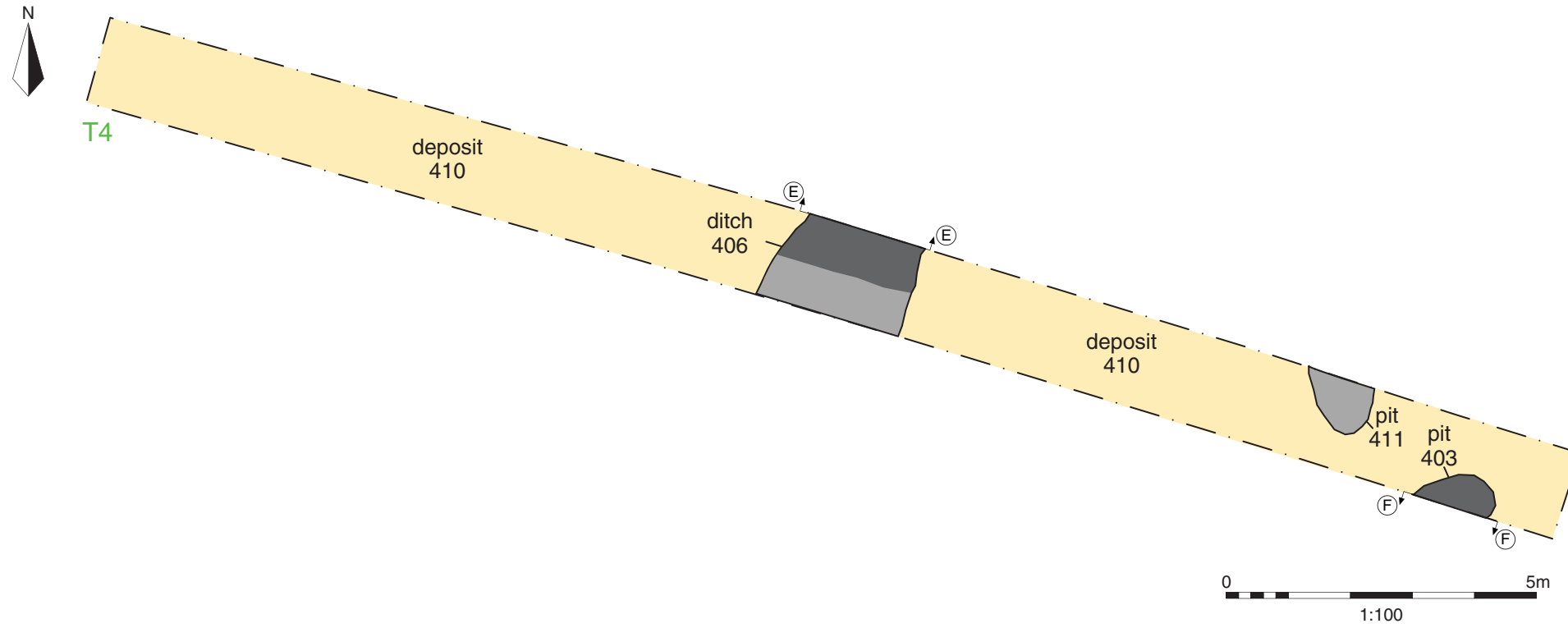
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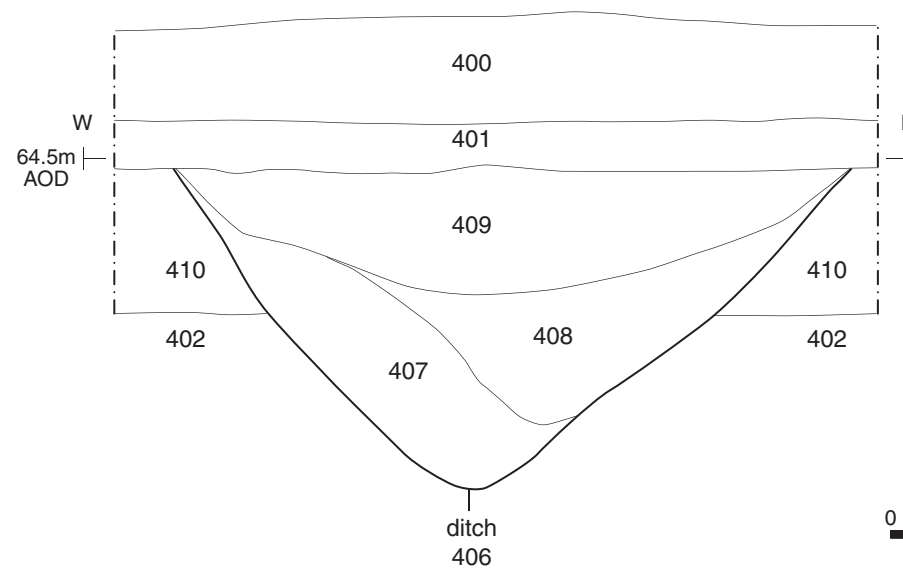
Ditch 406, looking north-east (1m scale)



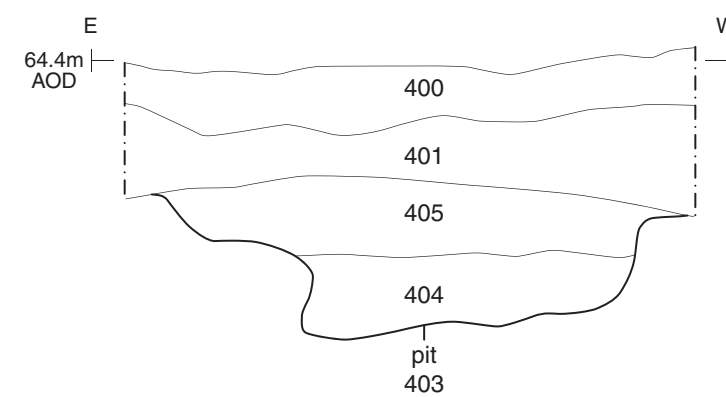
Pit 403, looking south-west (1m scale)





Section EE



Section FF



-  excavated/unexcavated feature
-  deposit

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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
 Trench 4: plan, sections and  
 photographs

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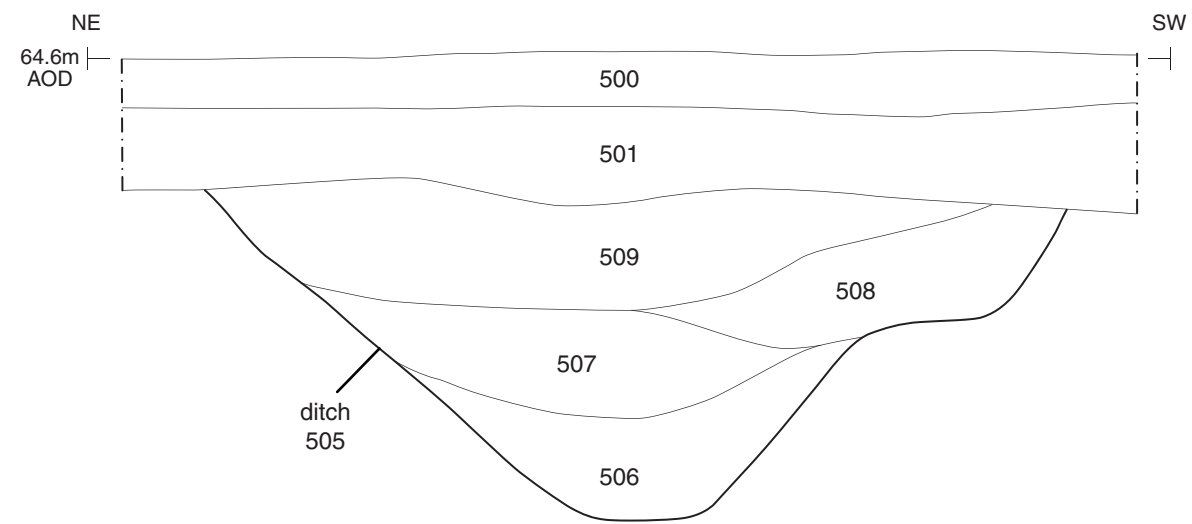


Ditch 510, looking south-east (1m scale)

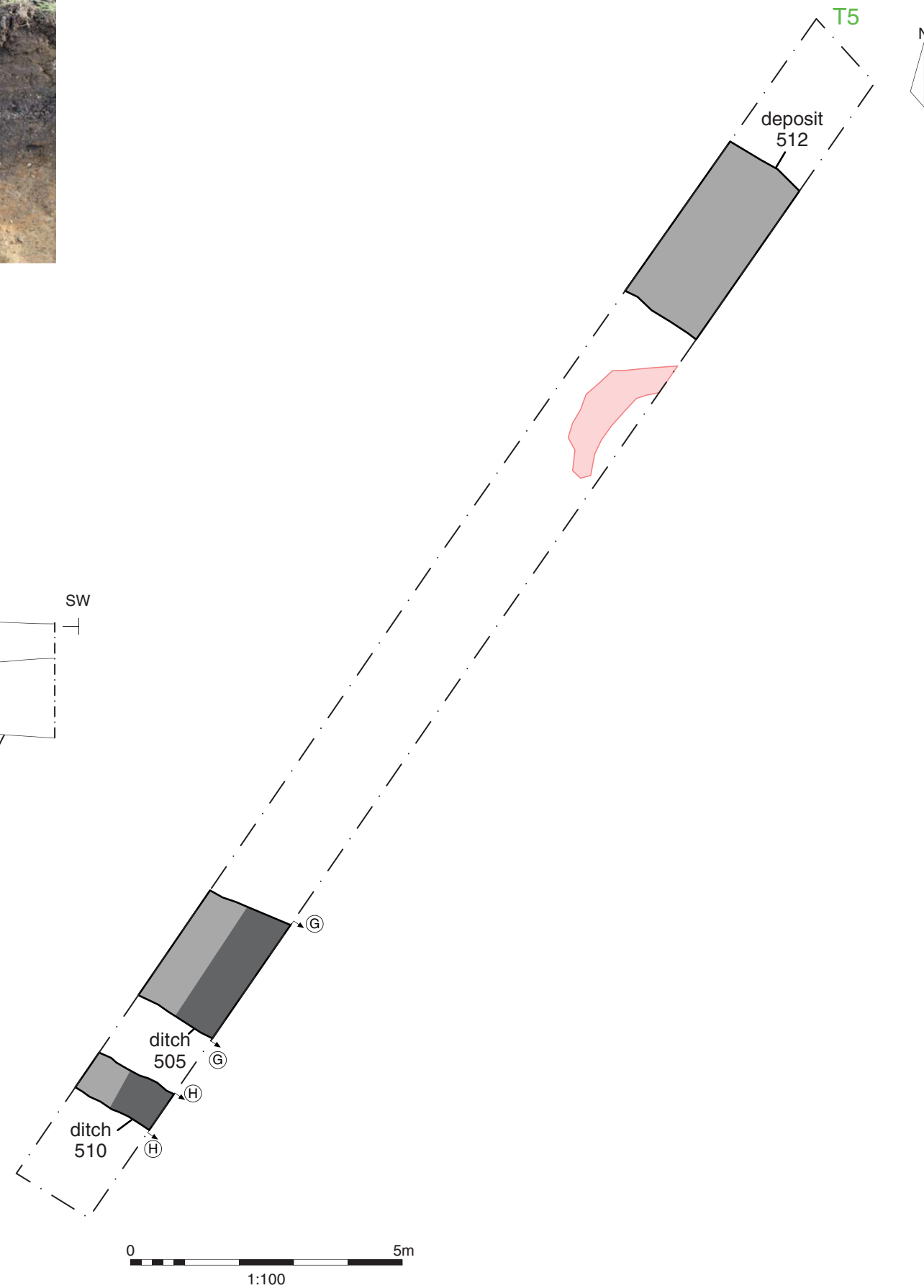
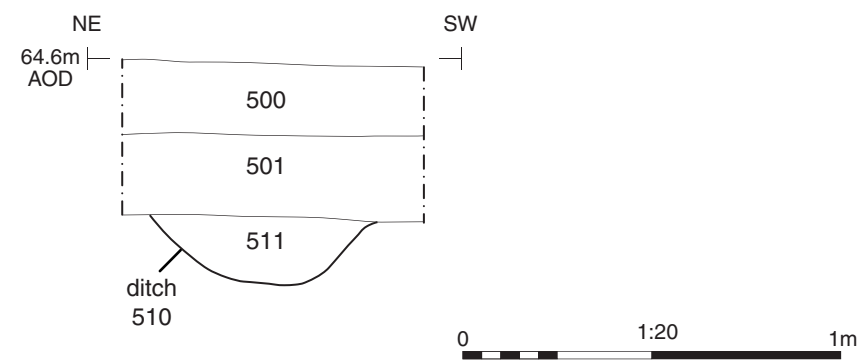


Ditch 505, looking south-east (1m scale)

Section GG



Section HH



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PROJECT TITLE  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 5: plan, sections and  
 photographs**

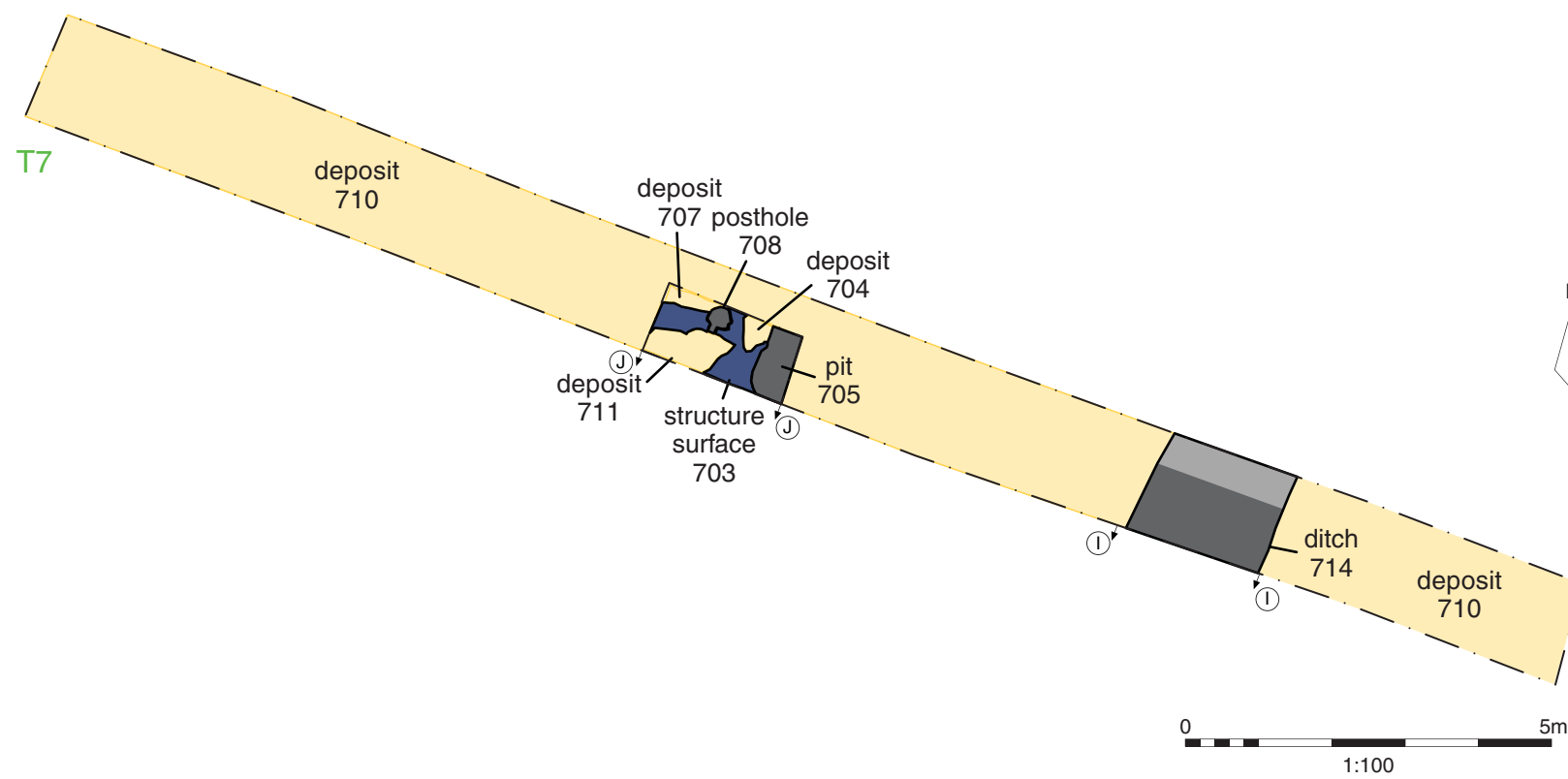
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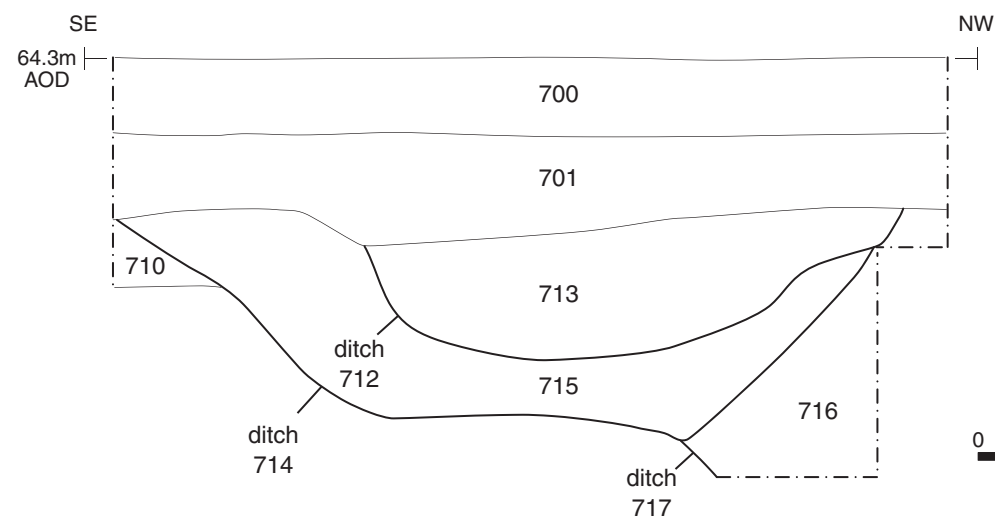
Pits 705 and 708 and structure 703, looking south-east (1m scale)



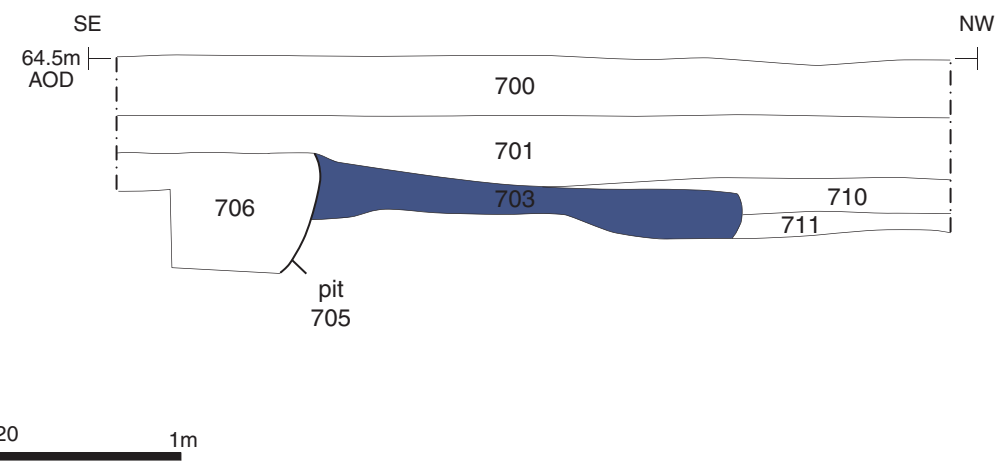
Ditch 714, looking south-west (1m scale)






Section II



Section JJ



-  excavated/unexcavated feature
-  deposit
-  surface

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FIGURE TITLE  
 Trench 7: plan, sections and  
 photographs

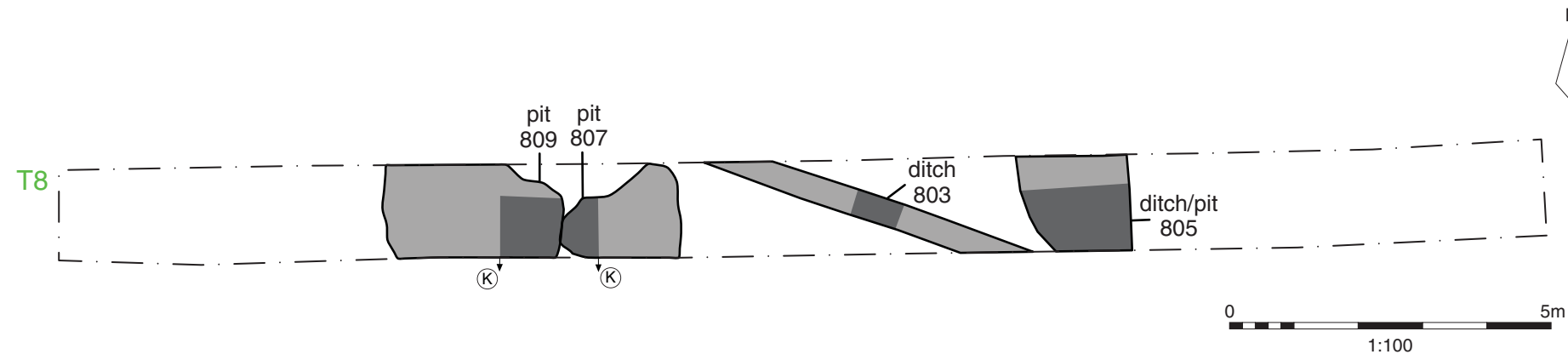
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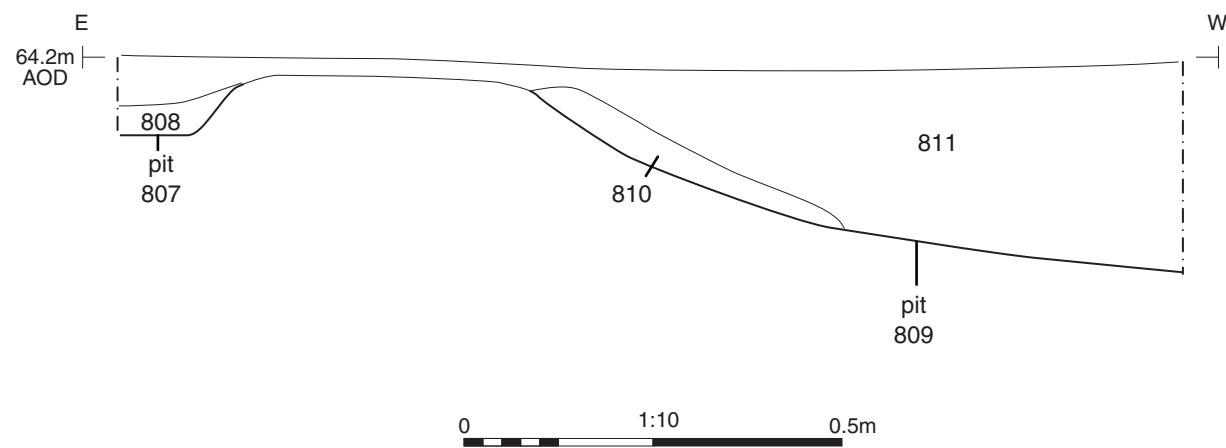
Ditch 803, looking south-east (0.2m scale)



Pits 807 and 809, looking east (1m scale)



Section KK



excavated/unexcavated feature

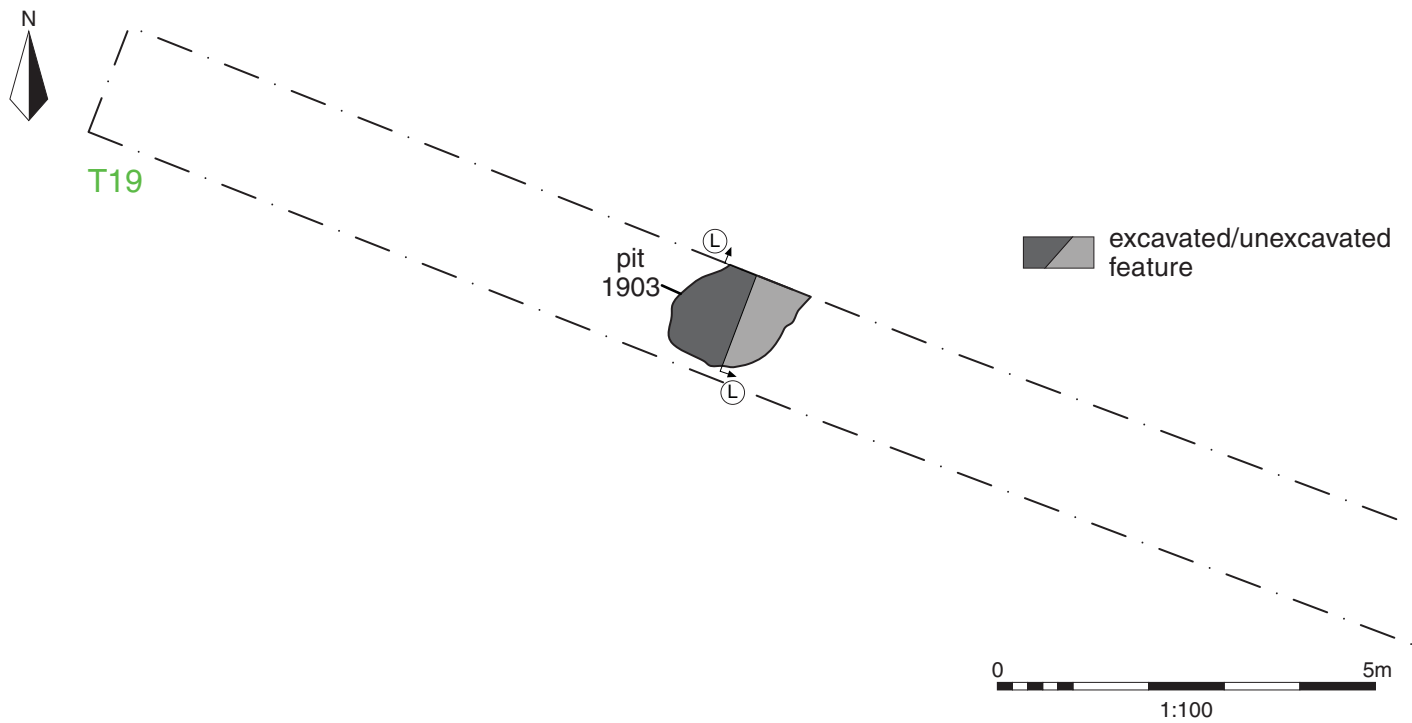
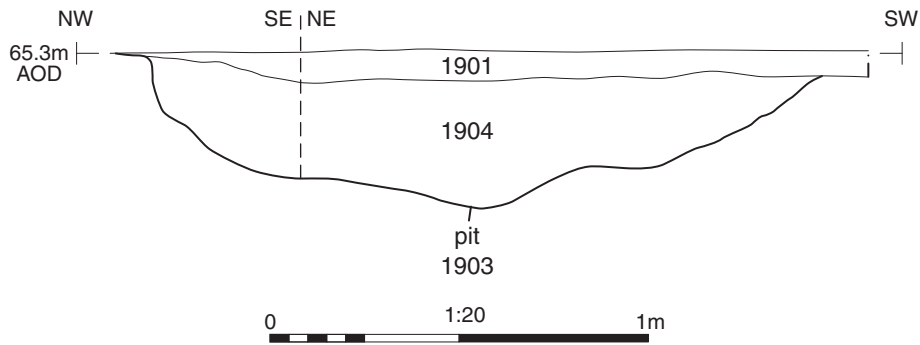

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PROJECT TITLE  
 Land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester  
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 8: plan, section and  
 photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	06/10/2016	<b>9</b>
APPROVED BY	SJ	SCALE@A3	1:100; 1:10	

Section LL



Trench 19, looking south-east (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Bicester Gateway, Bicester  
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 19: plan, section and  
 photograph**

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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	06/10/2016	
APPROVED BY	SJ	SCALE@A4	1:100;1:20	<b>10</b>

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