

Land at South Marston Swindon

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Orion Heritage

CA Project: 6012
CA Report: 16634

November 2016



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Rowborough Farm
Location:	South Marston, Swindon
NGR:	SU 1981 8752
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	6–20 September 2016
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	RFSM 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2016 on land at South Marston, Swindon. Twenty three trenches were excavated across land at Rowborough Farm and the adjacent Roves Farm.

The evaluation revealed evidence of prehistoric settlement activity in both areas, including clusters of pits and a cremation burial at Roves Farm and Bronze Age enclosures and a later prehistoric trackway at Rowborough Farm. Post-medieval and modern features comprising a boundary ditch, a refuse pit and building foundations were also identified at Roves Farm.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Orion Heritage on land at South Marston, Swindon (centred on NGR: SU 1981 8572; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to support an outline planning application to Swindon Borough Council (SBC) for the development of up to 2,380 dwellings, a mixed use local centre, community uses, sheltered accommodation, a primary school, green infrastructure, including formal and informal open spaces and sports facilities on the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council (WCC), the archaeological advisor to SBC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 12 September 2016.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area as a whole is 172ha, within which the current phase of evaluation trenching was targeted on two land parcels:
- Land at Roves Farm adjacent to the north side of the A420 (approx. 13ha)
 - Land at Rowborough Farm (two 10m wide transects within approx. 16.8ha)
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is varied, comprising Jurassic Down Sand Member-Ferruginous Sandstone, Hazelbury Bryan Formation and Kingston Formation (undifferentiated)- Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone and Stanford Formation Limestone, with no superficial overlying deposits (BGS 2016). The natural substrate encountered in the majority of trenches in the Roves Farm area was a yellow clay, with a yellow sand natural in three trenches at the north of the area. At Rowborough Farm a yellow sand natural was encountered in all of the trenches excavated.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background to the application has previously been detailed in a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CgMs 2014). The assessment confirmed that there are no scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, battlefields or conservation areas within the Application Site or the wider Study Area.
- 2.2 The assessment noted that the earliest archaeological activity currently recorded in the immediate area is a Mesolithic flint knapping site, c. 800m to the south-west of the Application Site (WHER SU18NE051). A single Neolithic polished stone axe has been recorded c. 300m to the south of the Site (WHER SU18NE105).
- 2.3 The crop-mark of a ring ditch of presumed Bronze Age date has been recorded c. 500m to the north of the Site (WHER SU18NE612), and a second one recorded c. 600m to the south (WHER SU18NE18601). Flint flakes of possible Bronze Age date have been recorded within the Honda plant to the north-west of the Site (WHER SU18NE202). The assessment noted that there are no definite Iron Age remains recorded on the HER within the Application Site. An Iron Age/Roman settlement has been recorded within the Honda plant (WHER SU18NE202 and SU18NE205) and evidence of prehistoric/Roman enclosures, ring ditches and pits has been recorded between 600m–900m to the north of the Site (WHER MWI31322–31326). Pottery sherds have been found at Priory Farm immediately to the south of the Application Site (HER ref. SU18NE204) and at Marston Copse (WHER SU18NE201).
- 2.4 There are no Roman remains recorded on the WHER within the application Site (CgMs 2014). The Roman town of *Durocornovium*, located near Nythe Farm c.1.3km to the south of the Application Site (WHER SU18NE300 and SU18SE302), is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The town lay along the Roman road (Ermin Street) from Silchester to Cirencester, between the crossing of the River Cole south-east towards the junction with the Roman road to *Cunetio* (Mildenhall), now the A419 (WHER SU18NE302). Finds of military equipment suggest that a Roman fort may have preceded the town and that *Durocornovium* started as a vicus. The earliest phase if the town was constructed in the 1st century and by the 4th century the settlement covered an area of about 25ha, extending over 1.3km along Ermin Street.

- 2.5 Roman field boundaries, linear features and a pit have been recorded within the wider Study area (WHER SU18NE316, SU18NE334 and SU18NW304). Roman pottery has been recorded both to the north and south of the Application Site (WHER SU18NE318, SU18NE330 and SU18NE343) and a coin has been recorded c. 900m to the south of the Site (WHER SU18NE311).
- 2.6 There are no Saxon remains recorded within the Study Area (CgMs 2014). South Marston has medieval origins (WHER SU18NE454 and SU18NE470) and evidence of medieval earthworks survive at South Marston Farm (WHER SU19508706). A secondary area of earthworks, suggestive of house platforms and hollow ways, recorded south of South Marston Farm (WHERSU18NE461) has been identified in the Swindon Borough Local Plan as a site of acknowledged archaeological importance (ENV5).
- 2.7 Medieval finds within the wider area include: three medieval burials at the Honda Plant to the north-west of the Application Site (WHER SU18NE455); Roves Farm (WHER SU18NE453); Stratton St Margaret c. 1km to the west (WHER SU18NE453); ridge and furrow; a Highworth circle, established to be medieval in date through excavation (WHER SU18NE457); pottery sherds (WHER SU18NE459 and SU18NE160) and a boundary wall (WHER SU18NE478). The site has remained as agricultural land throughout the post-medieval and modern periods.
- 2.8 The application area has also been subject to geophysical survey (Durham University 2006 and 2008; Stratascan 2013 and 2014). The survey recorded a complex set of anomalies of archaeological origin to the south, east and south-east of Manor Farm and the west of South Marston Farm. This complex of anomalies is interpreted as a late Iron Age/Roman settlement and associated field system of more than one phase of occupation. The complex appears to have a coherent structure, enabling identification of the core of the settlement towards South Marston Farm, with paddocks/animal pens and fields extending out to the west, north and north-east of the core. The edges of the settlement complex have been established as lying just to the south of Manor Farm, the west of South Marston Farm and to the east of both farms. The settlement and field system extend beyond the application boundary to the north-west of South Marston Farm and beyond the survey area to the east of South Marston Farm. Trackways heading out of the settlement have been identified to the west and north-west of South-Marston Farm and to the south-east of Manor Farm.

- 2.9 An apparently separate set of anomalies of archaeological origin have been recorded immediately to the west of Manor Farm. These appear to form part of a 'ladder' settlement of probable Iron Age date. The settlement extends beyond the western boundary of the Application Site. Three large circular features and a much smaller circular anomaly, along with a number of rectangular enclosures and linear features, have been recorded toward the north-eastern corner of the Application Site. The circles do not appear to be contemporary with the enclosures, as one of the linear anomalies appears to cut across the smallest circle. A series of linear anomalies have been recorded to the south of these features, which have been interpreted as the remains of a trackway.
- 2.10 The geophysical survey of the area of Roves Farm evaluated in this phase of work was impacted by the presence of crop on the field at the time of survey, meaning that only the outer edges of the field and a central transect could be accessed. This identified a large area of general disturbance at the south of the field and a large response in the north-west corner.
- 2.11 An archaeological evaluation of the western limit of the Application Site, undertaken in 2014, confirmed the results of the preceding geophysical survey. The earliest archaeological features identified were dated to the Bronze Age, although the most intensive activity was dated to the later Iron Age and Roman periods. Evidence for later medieval field systems was also encountered (Foundations Archaeology 2015).
- 2.12 Two archaeological evaluations were undertaken within further parts of Rowborough Farm, as well as a block of land to the east and north-east of Manor Farm (CA 2015a and 2015b). The evaluations identified deposits spanning the later prehistoric, early Roman, medieval and post-medieval/modern periods and included a Bronze Age palisaded enclosure and a nearby burnt mound at Rowborough Farm, with Middle–Late Iron Age and Early Roman settlement activity, medieval paddocks and field systems, as well as later water management features at Manor Farm. The evaluations also produced artefactual evidence dating the largest of the ring ditches in the complex at Rowborough Farm as Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, as well as dating the presumed trackway to the south as Late Iron Age– Early Roman. In addition, a number of residual lithic finds dating to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods were recovered from later contexts within this part of the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. This information will enable SBC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 23 trenches, all of which measured 50m in length and 2m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 110 was moved approximately 10m north-east of its original position to avoid an area of modern disturbance at the south end of the Roves Farm field associated with the adjacent railway line. Contingency trenches 124 and 125 were excavated following a discussion between Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (WCC) and Rob Bourn (Orion Heritage) in order to attempt to ascertain the extent of archaeological activity in Trenches 101 and 115 respectively. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. A total of eight samples were recovered, all from a cremation burial identified within Trench 115. All artefacts recovered were

processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

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

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-9)

- 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 For ease of representing the results and later the discussion, the site has been split into two areas; Roves Farm (Trenches 101–115, 124 and 125) and Rowborough Farm (Trenches 118–123).

Roves Farm (Figs 3–6)

- 5.3 The natural geological substrate, comprising yellow sand in Trenches 107, 114, 115 and 125 and yellow clay in all other trenches, was encountered at a typical depth of 0.37m below present ground level (bpgl). In Trenches 101, 104, 105, 107, 108, 110, 114, 115, 124 and 125 the natural substrate was overlain by subsoil. In all trenches modern ploughsoils formed the uppermost layer.
- 5.4 No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 102, 103, 105–108, 112–114, 124 and 125.

Trench 101 (Figs 3 & 4)

- 5.5 Four pits (10105, 10107, 10113 and 10115) were excavated at the southern end of Trench 101. The pits varied in size and shape; the largest, 10107, extended outside the trench and was 1.6m long, at least 0.85m wide and 0.1m deep, whereas ovoid pit 10105 (Fig. 4, section AA) measured 1.35m long, 0.85m wide and 0.3m deep. The pits all contained deliberate backfills containing a large concentration of sandstones, some of which showed signs of heating, although there was no

evidence of *in situ* burning in any of the pits. The smallest pit, 10113 (Fig. 4, section BB), contained a large stone against its northern edge, which may have been packing for a post. Struck flint flakes were recovered from the fills of each of the pits. Three further pits (10103, 10109 and 10111) were identified in close proximity, but were not evaluated due to their similarity to the excavated pits.

- 5.6 Ditch 10117 was located near the centre of the trench. It was 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep with steep sides and a flat base, although this had been heavily disturbed by rooting. Its single fill, 10118), was dark in colour, although no charcoal fragments were noted during excavation. A flint scraper was recovered from the fill.

Trench 104 (Fig. 3)

- 5.7 Ditch 10405 was located near the centre of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment. It was 1.8m wide, 0.15m deep with moderately steep sides and a rounded base. It contained a single grey clay fill, 10406, which contained no finds. The ditch was cut by a modern field drain.

- 5.8 Ditch 10403 was located close to the western extent of the trench on a north/south alignment. It was 1.34m wide, 0.15m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill, 10404, which contained post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material (CBM).

Trench 109 (Fig. 3)

- 5.9 Pit 10902 was located within at the southern end of the trench. It appeared to be ovoid in plan, although it partially lay beyond the confines of the trench, with shallow sides and a rounded base. It contained clay fill 10903 from which no finds were recovered. It is probable that the feature was naturally derived.

Trench 110 (Figs 3 & 5)

- 5.10 Trench 110 contained three ditches. Ditches 11005 and 11007 were parallel to each other on a north-west/south-east alignment. Both had moderately steep sides with rounded bases and contained undated fills 11006 and 11008 respectively).
- 5.11 Ditch 11003 was aligned east/west and had its western terminus within the trench. It was 0.52m wide, 0.06m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single clay fill, 11004, from which no finds were recovered.

Trench 111 (Fig. 3)

- 5.12 Trench 111 contained seven pits, a ditch and a modern wall. The pits (11105 (Fig. 5, section CC), 11107, 11109, 11115, 11117, 11119 and 11121) were all located within the central northern extent of the trench. All were typically sub-circular in plan and approximately 0.5–0.8m in diameter. They contained similar clay fills with orange mottling. A sherd of broadly dated prehistoric pottery and struck flint were recovered from fill 11108 of pit 11107, with an undiagnostic fragment of fired clay being recovered from fill 11106 within pit 11005.
- 5.13 Ditch 11102 (Fig. 5, section DD) was located near the south end of the trench on an east/west alignment. It was 0.98m wide, 0.17m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single clay fill, 11103, from which struck flint was recovered alongside a modern iron object. The feature was badly affected by rooting and it is not clear whether either object can be used to securely date the use of the ditch.
- 5.14 Modern wall 111112 was partially revealed close to the northern limit of the trench. It had concrete footings upon which three courses of red brick walling, in a stretcher bond, survived.

Trench 115 (Figs 3 & 6)

- 5.15 Cremation pit 11503 (Fig. 6, profile EE) was located at the east end of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan, 0.54m long, 0.48m wide and 0.09m deep with vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, which was excavated in quadrants and removed in 50mm horizontal spits, comprised a charcoal-rich sandy silt, which contained quantities of burnt human bone. There was no evidence that the cremated remains had been placed inside an urn prior to burial, rather subsequent analysis suggest it may have been buried within an organic container slightly off centre within the pit (see section 7.6 below).

Rowborough Farm (Figs 7–9)

- 5.16 The natural geological substrate, comprising yellow sands, was encountered between 0.38m and 0.79m bpgl. In Trench 118 a relic soil layer, 11802, was identified immediately sealing the natural substrate. In all other trenches it was overlain by silty sand subsoil, which was in turn sealed by topsoil.
- 5.17 No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 119, 121 and 123.

Trench 118 (Figs 7 & 8)

- 5.18 Two ditches (11806 and 11809/11818), corresponding to anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, were identified at the northern end of Trench 118 and possibly formed part of a rectilinear enclosure. By contrast a geophysical anomaly near the centre of the trench was not identified during the current works. Three further ditches and a pit that were not identified during the geophysical survey were also excavated.
- 5.19 Enclosure ditch 11806 (Fig. 8, section FF) was 1.16m wide and 0.39m deep, while ditch 11809/11818 was 0.75m wide and 0.32m deep. Both ditches had steep, v-shaped profiles. Ditch 11809/11818 had its south-west terminus within the trench, possibly forming an entrance in the north-west side of the enclosure. Ditch 11806 contained primary fill 11807 that was sealed by silty fill 11808. The latter was similar in colour and composition to the single fill (11810/11819) identified within ditch 11809/11818. Struck flint and Bronze Age pottery were recovered from fills 11808 and 11819.
- 5.20 Undated ditch 11803 (Fig. 8, section GG) was located at the north end of the trench on an east-west alignment. It was 1.13m wide, 0.53m deep and contained a primary erosion fill, 11804, sealed by silty clay 11805.
- 5.21 To the south of ditch 11803 two further east-west aligned ditches were identified. Ditch 11815 (Fig. 8, section HH) had its western terminus within the trench and was 1.02m wide and 0.59m deep. The southern side of the ditch was near vertical, with a more moderate slope on the northern side. It contained a primary fill, 11816, which was covered by a silt fill 11817. No finds were recovered from either fill, however a number of large flint nodules were noted at the bottom of the upper-most fill within the terminus. Such nodules do not appear to form part of the natural substrate in the immediate area and were not present in the fills of other features investigated during the evaluation, raising the possibility that they were deliberately placed. Ditch 11811 was 1.3m wide and 0.2m deep with a u-shaped profile. It contained a single silt fill, 11812, which contained a struck flint flake. The ditch was cut on its south side by undated pit 11813.

Trench 120 (Fig. 3)

- 5.22 Ditch 12003 was located at the south end of the trench and corresponded to a linear geophysical anomaly. It was 1.47m wide, 0.26m deep with moderately steep sides.

It contained a single silt fill, 12004, which had a slightly higher proportion of sand nearer the base, suggesting some erosion of the sides of the feature during use. Two worked flint flakes were recovered from the fill.

Trench 122 (Figs 3 & 9)

- 5.23 Two linear geophysical anomalies forming flanking ditches for a trackway (12209/12217 and 12215) were identified in the centre of the trench. A further two ditches, a gully, a pit and a posthole were also excavated. A modern ditch, 12205, which contained a fragment from a glass bottle, was not excavated during the evaluation. A barbed-and-tanged arrowhead was recovered found as a residual find within topsoil 12200.
- 5.24 Gully 12207 was located in the centre of the trench on a north-west/south-east alignment and had its south-eastern terminus within the trench. It was cut by the southern trackway-flanking ditch 12209/12217. The function of the gully could not be determined from the small section present within the trench, however its steep sides and flat base may indicate a construction purpose. Undated posthole 12211 was located 0.25m west of gully 12207 and was 0.27m in diameter and 0.1m deep. If the gully did have a structural function, then it is possible that the two features were related.
- 5.25 The trackway ditches were located 8.5m apart. The southern ditch, 12209/12217, (Fig. 9, section II) was 1.63m wide, 0.39m deep and was significantly more substantial than its northern counterpart 12215 (Fig. 9, section JJ), which was 1.03m wide and 0.23m deep. Both ditches contained silt fills that accumulated during the use of the ditch. Struck flint flakes were recovered from fill 12210 of southern ditch 12209. Pit 12213 was located between the two trackway ditches and was 0.7m long, 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep. No finds were recovered from its silt fill, 12214, and it is possible that the feature was of natural origin.
- 5.26 Ditch 12203 was located at the south-west end of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment and with its north-eastern terminus within the trench. It was 1.2m wide, 0.37m deep and contained a primary fill, 12219, which was sealed by silt fill 12205, neither of which contained any dating evidence. The ditch did not correlate with any geophysical anomalies and its function remains uncertain.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered during the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below.

Pottery

- 6.2 Four sherds of prehistoric pottery (69g) were recorded from three deposits (Appendix B). A range of fabrics was represented and dating in the Middle Bronze Age and Late Prehistoric (Late Bronze Age to Iron Age) is suggested. A single rim sherd (60g) was recorded from fill 11819 within enclosure ditch 11818. This occurred in a fine flint-tempered fabric and comes from a fineware bowl, possibly of bipartite or tall-necked (globular urn?) form. The fabric is densely packed with well-sorted (c. 0.5-1.5mm) calcined flint inclusions and is most consistent with Middle Bronze Age traditions, including Globular Urn styles. A second, small and unfeatured sherd (3g), from this ditch fill occurs in a in a grog-tempered fabric, which is also consistent with a Middle Bronze Age date.
- 6.3 An unfeatured body sherd (2g) in a fabric with sparse flint or quartzite-tempered fabric from fill 11108 within pit 11107 is only broadly dateable, probably within the later Bronze Age or Iron Age period. A sherd (3g), also unfeatured, and in a fine quartz-tempered fabric from topsoil deposit 12000, probably dates to the Iron Age.
- 6.4 Pottery from two deposits and amounting to four sherds (40g) dates to the post-medieval period. One sherd (2g) of yellow slipware with combed decoration was recorded from subsoil deposit 10101, and is dateable to the late 17th or 18th centuries. The remainder was recorded from fill 10404 within ditch 10403 and comprised a sherd (23g) in a white salt-glazed stoneware, a type dateable c. 1720–1780; and two sherds (14g) of glazed earthenware broadly dateable in the later 16th to 18th centuries range.

Flint

- 6.5 A total of 28 flint items (228g) was recorded from 14 deposits. The condition of this material is typically poor, with breakage and edge damage common that suggest that a proportion, at least, of this assemblage is redeposited. One piece, a flake fragment from deposit 11108 was also burnt. For the most part the utilised raw material is a good quality dark brown/grey brown flint which is unaffected by recortication (patination). An exception is a bladelet from fill 12004 within ditch 12003, the

surfaces of which are discoloured to bluish white. A number of flakes retain areas of thick and unworn cortex, suggesting use of chalk flint, probably obtained from the chalk downland of the Ridgeway to the south of Swindon.

- 6.6 The majority of this group comprises debitage (pieces without secondary working), including 23 flakes and three blades/bladelets. The bladelet from ditch fill is almost certainly a Mesolithic piece and the blades or broken blades latter from other deposits may also date to this period or to the Early Neolithic. The flakes are not closely dateable, although their commonly squat proportions, use of hard hammer percussion and absence of 'prepared' platforms would be consistent with flintworking across the later Neolithic an Bronze Age.
- 6.7 Two identifiable tools were recorded. An end/side scraper on a broad, flake with abrupt retouch to the distal end and left side, was recorded from pit fill 11108, a deposit containing pottery dating to the Middle Bronze Age. The second piece, recovered from topsoil deposit 12200, is a barbed and tanged arrowhead, a class dating to the Beaker/Early Bronze Age, c. 2500–1500 BC. It was made using a lighter grey-coloured flint which is unlike that which characterises rest of the assemblage, and is well made, utilising shallow, invasive retouch over both faces. Its small size and squat proportions identifies this example as of Sutton type (Green 1980). The single surviving barb is short and pointed.

Other finds

- 6.8 A total of four fragments (3g) of fired clay, for which original form, function and dating are uncertain, were recorded from fill 11106 within pit 11107.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 7.1 A series of eight samples (16 litres of soil) were taken in spits and quadrants through a cremation related deposit to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering cremated remains and any environmental evidence of funerary or domestic activity on the site. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures for cremation samples (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

- 7.2 The assessment results of the individual samples are tabulated in Table 1 in Appendix C. The flots were generally small, with 20 to 50% rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material was poorly preserved. No charred grain fragments, seeds or tuber fragments were recorded in these samples. Tubers, in particular those of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*) are often recovered from cremation related deposits. A few monocotyledon stems were noted in contexts 11504 (sample 1) and 11508 (sample 5), the upper and lower spits from the west quadrant of the deposit.
- 7.3 Small quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recovered from all four quadrants in both spits. There is no indication of the date of this cremation related deposit from the environmental remains.

Cremated human bone

- 7.4 A single deposit of cremated human bone was recovered from pit 11503. This feature is undated, since cremation burial was practiced from the prehistoric periods to the Anglo-Saxon period it has potentially a wide date range.
- 7.5 The total weight of the cremated bone was 120g. This is a very low weight of recovered bone. As the total weight of bone for an adult from modern crematoria varies from about 1000 to 3600g (McKinley 2000, 404), the recovered material from pit 11503 falls short of the complete individual. It is possible that the bone collected from the pyre and deposited in the pit was a token amount and may reflect the status of the individual. Experiments (McKinley 1997) have found that it is fairly easy to collect all the bones from an undisturbed pyre, which often remain in anatomical order. However, it is frequently found that 50% or less of the bone available after cremation is included in the burial (McKinley 2000).
- 7.6 The majority of bone was in the upper spit spread across the west and north quadrants (see Appendix D). This suggests that it was in an organic container slightly off centre of the pit. The bone was consistently fully white in colour which indicates full oxidation of the bone. This is only achieved by temperatures of over (over 645°C is quoted, but probably over 800°C) for enough time, usually several hours. The edges of the bone were sharp, which indicates that there was not too much abrasion from the burial environment, which may contribute to loss of bone and further fragmentation.

- 7.7 The weight of bone in each fraction size was fairly evenly distributed with a maximum fragment size was 37mm. This is below the average, 45.2mm (McKinley 1994, 340-1), and the same study found that on average 50% of the bone was over 10mm, which is not the case with this deposit of cremated bone. This indicates that fragmentation was quite high. Most fragmentation occurs during and after excavation (McKinley 1994: 341). However, the low weights of bone mean that any apparent patterns may be over inflated.
- 7.8 Bone identified included radius, rib, cranial fragments, mandibular condyle and mandibular angle. In addition lower limb bone fragments (femur, tibia) and possibly humerus (see Appendix D) were also present. There was a lower than expected quantity of cranial fragments and a complete lack of tooth roots. Cranial fragments are easy to identify and are often the highest quantity identified. This suggests there may have been some bias during retrieval from the pyre. The cranial sutures were sharp, suggesting a younger individual and the range of bone suggests that it may be from the upper and mid-section of the body.
- 7.9 The level of post depositional truncation is unknown but it is likely that some quantity of the originally deposited material has been removed, most probably as a result of modern ploughing. Complete burial of the entire cremated individual is uncommon, as a 'token' amount appears to have sufficed in most cases.
- 7.10 There was insufficient bone available for either age or sex estimation. There were no repeated elements or different age/size parts to suggest more than one individual.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The current phase of evaluation trenching revealed evidence of prehistoric settlement activity in both of the areas, corroborating the results of the previous works at Roves Farm (OA 2011) and Rowborough Farm (CA 2015a, 2015b; Foundations Archaeology (2015). Post-medieval and modern features comprising a boundary ditch, a refuse pit and building foundations, were also identified at Roves Farm.

Roves Farm

- 8.2 The trenches at Roves Farm identified prehistoric pitting in two discrete areas at the south of the field (centred on Trenches 101 and 111) and a cremation burial in

Trench 115 in the north-west of the field. Due to the incomplete nature of the geophysical survey (see Archaeological Background, above) the results of the evaluation could not be satisfactorily used to assess the geophysics results, although anomalies associated with the modern pit in Trench 115 and a modern building in Trench 111 were identified before the survey was abandoned.

- 8.3 While the majority of the features identified were in trenches close to the field boundaries, it should be noted that the natural substrate in all of the central trenches was heavily disturbed by heavy rooting caused by the use of the field as a willow plantation. It is likely that any archaeological features in this central area have been severely truncated, or are not able to be identified amongst the rooting within the confines of an evaluation trench.
- 8.4 The cluster of seven pits identified in Trench 101 is indicative of a concentrated area of activity, although the function of the pits remained unclear. The shape of the pits varied, with no obvious uniformity of size or profile; however all contained a large proportion of sandstone within their backfills, in a concentration greater than in any of the other features on site. Some of these stones were heat-affected, which could indicate that they were used in water-heating, possibly suggesting the presence of nearby domestic activity. Contingency trench 124 was located just to the west of Trench 101 to try to find a continuation of this activity, but no further pits were identified. Ditch 10117 to the north of the pits within Trench 101 also contained worked flint, and may therefore be broadly contemporary. The ditch was heavily truncated, but appeared to form part of an elongated circular feature with a flat base, and may have been a post-slot for a structure. However given the narrow scope of the evaluation, this interpretation remains tentative.
- 8.5 A further cluster of prehistoric pits was identified in Trench 111. These pits lacked the stone-rich fills of those identified in Trench 101 and, if contemporary, may indicate that zoning of activity was occurring on site, with certain areas reserved for specific types of activity.
- 8.6 An un-urned cremation burial was identified at the north-west of the field. The cremation consisted of a single deposit of burnt bone and pyre debris within a small pit. There was no evidence of scorched natural in the trench to suggest the location of the pyre, and no evidence of any structural remains associated with the pyre location.

- 8.7 Post-medieval and modern features were identified in Trenches 104, 111 and 115 and were associated with agricultural land use. The footings of a red brick building in Trench 111 pertained to a demolished farmhouse identifiable on Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping until 1941. Undated ditch 10405 is probably that shown also shown on this historic mapping and would have flanked a track leading toward the building in Trench 111 from the east. Two parallel undated ditches in Trench 110 were on the same alignment as the field system at the time of the 1941 OS map of Berkshire and, although not depicted on it, were probably related to this system, possibly as drainage or irrigation channels (ibid.). Also of note on the historic mapping is the series of ponds flanking, and most probably associated with, the railway to the south of the site.
- 8.8 Ditch terminus 11003 contained no finds and could not be associated with any of the other features on site by similar alignment or characteristics and therefore remains undated.

Rowborough Farm

- 8.9 The trenches at Rowborough Farm identified a concentration of later prehistoric pits and ditches, similar in style and form to those excavated in previous evaluations at the site. As with the previous phases of archaeological trenching, the results of the current evaluation closely correlated with that of the preceding geophysical survey. Only two linear anomalies, in Trenches 118 and 119, were not identified within the trenches and a small number of features were present that were not anticipated by the geophysics.
- 8.10 Ditches 11806 and 11809/11818 appeared to form parts of the western and southern arms of a rectilinear enclosure identified during the geophysical survey. The recovery of Bronze Age pottery from one of the enclosure ditches accords well with pottery of a similar date found associated with a similar rectangular enclosure in Trench 60 of the previous evaluation phase (CA 2015b). Within the enclosure, ditch terminus 11815 also shared morphological similarities (a vertical side on one edge and a more moderately steep side on the other) with the Bronze Age ditches in Trench 60. If this profile is characteristic of that age of feature on the site, then it raises the possibility that the ditch either represented an internal division within the enclosure, or a separate phase of Bronze Age activity. The ditch remained undated but did contain a collection of large flint nodules that appear to have been placed within the ditch terminus. Such nodules do not appear within the natural substrate

surrounding the ditch, but may have been transported to that location, however there was no indication that they had ever had a functional purpose.

- 8.11 Geophysical linear anomalies interpreted as flanking ditches for a trackway were investigated in Trench 122. Although no pottery was recovered from either ditch, struck flint was recovered suggesting a prehistoric date. The southern ditch of the trackway was notably more substantial than its northern counterpart, a similar pattern to that of the Middle to Late Iron Age trackway ditches identified in a previous phase of evaluation at Rowborough Farm (CA 2015b, Trench 39) and which may indicate that the two trackways were broadly contemporary.
- 8.12 A small number of ditches on various alignments were identified in Trenches 118 and 120 which were broadly dated to the prehistoric period based on the recovery of struck flint or pottery from their fills, but could not be attributed a more specific date. A further ditch in Trench 122 contained no artefactual material and was undated.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard and Alison Roberts, assisted by Francesco Catanzaro, Stephanie Duesning, Ed Grenier, Emily Stynes and Sikko van der Brug. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden and Sarah Wyles respectively. The human bone report was written by Sharon Clough. The illustrations were prepared by Aleks Osinska. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Roves Farm trenches**

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
101	10100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sandy clay			0.2	
101	10101			Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay			0.12	LC17-C18
101	10102			Natural	Yellow, grey and orange clay				
101	10103	Cut		Pit	Circular in plan, unexcavated	0.67	0.67		
101	10104	Fill	10103	Pit fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay	0.67	0.67		
101	10105	Cut		Pit	Ovoid in plan. Steep sides and rounded base	1.35	0.85	0.3	
101	10106	Fill	10105	Pit fill	Mid grey brown silty clay. Frequent stones, occasional charcoal	1.35	1.35	0.3	
101	10107	Cut		Pit	Ovoid in plan. Shallow sides and flat base	>0.85	1.6	0.1	
101	10108	Fill	10107	Pit fill	Mid grey brown silty clay. Frequent stones	>0.85	1.6	0.1	
101	10109	Cut		Pit	Circular in plan, unexcavated	0.7	0.7		
101	10110	Fill	10109	Pit fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay, frequent stones	0.7	0.7		
101	10111	Cut		Pit	Ovoid in plan, unexcavated	0.8	0.53		
101	10112	Fill	10111	Pit fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Frequent stones	0.8	0.53		
101	10113	Cut		Pit	Circular in plan. Steep sides and rounded base	0.6	>0.3	0.18	
101	10114	Fill	10113	Pit fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Frequent stones	0.6	>0.3	0.18	
101	10115	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Shallow sides and flat base	1.2	1	0.12	
101	10116	Fill	10115	Pit fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Occasional stones and charcoal	1.2	1	0.12	
101	10117	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear in plan. Shallow sides and irregular base	>2.5	0.5	0.1	
101	10118	Fill	10117	Ditch fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Occasional stones	>2.5	0.5	0.1	
102	10200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.3	
102	10201	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
103	10300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.28	
103	10301	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
104	10400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.18	
104	10401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 10101			0.18	
104	10402	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
104	10403	Cut		Ditch	Sub-circular in plan. Irregular sides and base	>1.8	1.34	0.15	
104	10404	Fill	10403	Ditch fill	Light grey brown sandy clay. Occasional stones	>1.8	1.34	0.15	C18
104	10405	Cut		Ditch	Linear in plan. Moderately steep sides, rounded base	>1.8	1.8	0.15	
104	10406	Fill	10405	Ditch fill	Mid yellow grey sandy clay. Occasional stones	>1.8	1.8	0.15	
105	10500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.25	
105	10501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 10101			0.1	
105	10502	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
106	10600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.38	
106	10601	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
107	10700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.27	
107	10701	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 10101			0.12	
107	10702	Layer		Natural	Orange yellow sand				
108	10800	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.3	
108	10801	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 10101			0.16	
108	10802	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
109	10900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.38	
109	10901	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
109	10902	Cut		Pit	Ovoid in plan. Steep sides, flat base	1.2	>0.65	0.12	
109	10903	Fill	10902	Pit fill	Mid grey brown silty clay with orange mottling	1.2	>0.65	0.12	

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
110	11000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.2	
110	11001	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 10101			0.3	
110	11002	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
110	11003	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned terminus. Linear in plan. Moderately steep sides and flat base	>2.8	0.52	0.06	
110	11004	Fill	11003	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown sandy clay. Occasional stones	>2.8	0.52	0.06	
110	11005	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Linear in plan. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.77	0.16	
110	11006	Fill	11005	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown sandy clay. Occasional stones	>1.8	0.77	0.16	
110	11007	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Linear in plan. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.56	0.09	
110	11008	Fill	11007	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown sandy clay. Occasional stones	>1.8	0.56	0.09	
111	11100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.4	
111	11101	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
111	11102	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Linear in plan. Gently sloping sides and flat base	>1.8	0.98	0.17	
111	11103	Fill	11102	Ditch fill	Dark grey brown silty clay. Occasional stones	>1.8	0.98	0.17	
111	11104	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 10101			0.28	
111	11105	Cut		Pit	Circular in plan. Steep sides and flat base		>0.69	0.17	
111	11106	Fill	11105	Pit fill	Dark grey brown silty clay with orange mottling. Occasional stones and charcoal		>0.69	0.17	
111	11107	Cut		Pit	Ovoid in plan. Moderately steep sides and flat base	1.5	>0.85	0.19	
111	11108	Fill	11107	Pit fill	Dark yellow brown silty clay. Occasional stones and charcoal	1.5	>0.85	0.19	Lpre
111	11109	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan. Gently sloping sides and flat base	>0.4	>0.4	0.09	
111	11110	Fill	11109	Pit fill	Dark yellow brown silty clay. Occasional stones and charcoal	>0.4	>0.4	0.09	
111	11111	Cut		Construction cut	Construction cut for modern wall 11112	>0.5	0.4	0.3	
111	11112	Masonry		Wall	Red brick wall on concrete footings	>0.5	0.4	0.3	
111	11113	Fill	11111	Fill	Backfill of construction cut	>0.5	0.4	0.3	
111	11114				Context void				
111	11115	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan. Unexcavated	0.65	0.7		
111	11116	Fill	11115	Pit fill	Dark grey brown silty clay with orange mottling	0.65	0.7		
111	11117	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan. Unexcavated	0.5	0.55		
111	11118	Fill	11117	Pit fill	Dark grey brown silty clay with orange mottling	0.5	0.55		
111	11119	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan. Unexcavated	>0.85	2		
111	11120	Fill	11119	Pit fill	Dark grey brown silty clay with orange mottling	>0.85	2		
111	11121	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular in plan. Unexcavated	0.8	0.7		
111	11122	Fill	11121	Pit fill	Dark grey brown silty clay with orange mottling	0.8	0.7		
112	11200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.38	
112	11201	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
113	11300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.27	
113	11301	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
114	11400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.3	
114	11401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 10101			0.16	
114	11402	Layer		Natural	Same as 10702				
115	11500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.27	
115	11501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 10101			0.14	
115	11502	Layer		Natural	Same as 10702				
115	11503	Cut		Cremation pit	Circular in plan. Vertical sides and rounded base	0.54	0.48	0.09	

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
115	11504	Fill	11503	Cremation fill	W quadrant spit 1 (0.00-0.05m). Dark yellow grey sandy silt. Frequent charcoal			0.05	
115	11505	Fill	11503	Cremation fill	N quadrant spit 1 (0.00-0.05m). Same as 11504			0.05	
115	11506	Fill	11503	Cremation fill	E quadrant spit 1 (0.00-0.05m). Same as 11504			0.05	
115	11507	Fill	11503	Cremation fill	S quadrant spit 1 (0.00-0.05m). Same as 11504			0.05	
115	11508	Fill	11503	Cremation fill	W quadrant spit 2 (0.05-0.1m). Same as 11504			0.05	
115	11509	Fill	11503	Cremation fill	N quadrant spit 2 (0.05-0.1m). Same as 11504			0.05	
115	11510	Fill	11503	Cremation fill	E quadrant spit 2 (0.05-0.01m). Same as 11504			0.05	
115	11511	Fill	11503	Cremation fill	S quadrant spit 2 (0.05-0.01m). Same as 11504			0.05	
115	11512	Cut		Pit	Modern pit with corrugated iron lining. Unexcavated				
115	11513	Fill	11512	Pit fill	Backfill of modern pit				
124	12400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.2	
124	12401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 10101			0.1	
124	12402	Layer		Natural	Same as 10102				
125	12500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 10100			0.27	
125	12501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 10101			0.12	
125	12502	Layer		Natural	Same as 10702				

Rowborough Farm trenches

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
118	11800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt			0.24	
118	11801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown orange sandy silt			0.14	
118	11802	Layer		Buried soil	Dark brown red sandy silt			0.12	
118	11803	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Linear in plan. Steep sides and rounded base	>2	1.13	0.53	
118	11804	Fill	11803	Ditch fill	Lower fill. Mid brown yellow sandy silt. Occasional small stones	>2	1.13	0.14	
118	11805	Fill	11803	Ditch fill	Upper fill. Mid yellow brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones	>2	1.13	0.39	
118	11806	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear in plan. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>2	1.16	0.39	
118	11807	Fill	11806	Ditch fill	Lower fill. Mid brown yellow sandy silt. Occasional small stones	>2	1.16	0.1	
118	11808	Fill	11806	Ditch fill	Upper fill. Mid yellow brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones and charcoal	>2	1.16	0.29	
118	11809	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Linear terminus. Steep sides and rounded base	>2	0.75	0.32	
118	11810	Fill	11809	Ditch fill	Mid yellow brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones	>2	0.75	0.32	
118	11811	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Linear in plan. Gently sloping sides and rounded base	>2	1.3	0.2	
118	11812	Fill	11811	Ditch fill	Mid yellow orange silty sand. Occasional small stones	>2	1.3	0.2	
118	11813	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Gently sloping sides and rounded base	0.89	0.66	0.14	
118	11814	Fill	11813	Pit fill	Mid red orange silty sand. Occasional stones	0.89	0.66	0.14	
118	11815	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Linear terminus. Vertical south side; moderately steep east side and rounded base	>1.72	1.02	0.59	
118	11816	Fill	11815	Ditch fill	Lower fill. Mid brown yellow sandy silt. Occasional stones	>1.72	1.02	0.09	
118	11817	Fill	11815	Ditch fill	Upper fill. Mid red brown silty sand. Occasional stones	>1.72	1.02	0.5	
118	11818	Cut		Ditch	Part of 11809	>2	0.7	0.36	

Trench	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
118	11819	Fill	11818	Ditch fill	Same as 11810	>2	0.7	0.36	MBA
118	11820	Layer		Natural	Yellow sand				
119	11900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 11800			0.22	
119	11901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 11801			0.37	
119	11902	Layer		Natural	Same as 11820				
120	12000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 11800			0.2	L Pre
120	12001	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 11801			0.43	
120	12002	Layer		Natural	Same as 11820				
120	12003	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>2	1.47	0.26	
120	12004	Fill	12003	Ditch fill	Mid yellow brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones and manganese	>2	1.47	0.26	
121	12100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 11800			0.32	
121	12101	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 11801			0.28	
121	12102	Layer		Natural	Same as 11820				
121	12103	Cut		Tree throw	Irregular in plan	0.7	0.65	0.1	
121	12104	Fill	12103	Tree throw fill		0.7	0.65	0.1	
122	12200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 11800			0.21	
122	12201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 11801			0.36	
122	12202	Layer		Natural	Same as 11820				
122	12203	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base. Terminates within the trench	>2.5	1.1	0.39	
122	12204	Fill	12203	Ditch fill	Mid red-brown sandy silt. Secondary fill.	>2.5	1.1	0.39	
122	12205	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned ditch. Not excavated	>2	1.97		
122	12206	Fill	12205	Ditch fill	Mid red-brown sandy silt	>2	1.97		
122	12207	Cut		Gully	NW/SE aligned shallow gully. Terminates within the trench	0.9	0.3	0.15	
122	12208	Fill	12207	Gully fill	Mid red-brown sandy silt	0.9	0.3	0.15	
122	12209	Cut		Ditch	Southern-most E/W aligned trackway ditch. Moderately steep sides and flat base. Same as 12217	>2	1.63	0.39	
122	12210	Fill	12209	Ditch fill	Mid red-brown sandy silt	>2	1.63	0.39	
122	12211	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole	0.27	0.27	0.1	
122	12212	Fill	12211	Posthole fill	Mid red-brown sandy silt	0.27	0.27	0.1	
122	12213	Cut		Pit/posthole	Ovoid in plan	0.75	0.25	0.15	
122	12214	Fill	12213	Pit/posthole fill	Mid red-brown sandy silt	0.75	0.25	0.15	
122	12215	Cut		Ditch	Northern-most E/W aligned trackway ditch. Shallow, with irregular base	>2	1.03	0.23	
122	12216	Fill	12215	Ditch fill	Mid red-brown sandy silt	>2	1.03	0.23	
122	12217	Cut		Ditch	Southern-most E/W aligned trackway ditch. Moderately steep sides and flat base. Same as 12209	>2	1.63	0.39	
122	12218	Fill	12217	Ditch fill	Mid red-brown sandy silt	>2	1.63	0.39	
122	12219	Fill	12203	Ditch fill	Mid red-brown sandy silt. Primary fill	>2.5	1.2	0.07	
123	12300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 11800			0.33	
123	12301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 11801			0.46	
123	12302	Layer		Natural	Same as 11820				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

finds concordance

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
10101	post-medieval pottery	yellow slipware	1	2	LC17-C18
	flint	flake	5	53	
10106	flint	flake	1	13	
10108	flint	flake	2	18	
	flint	blade	1	40	
10116	flint	flake	4	30	
10118	flint	flake	2	3	
10404	post-medieval pottery	white stoneware	1	24	C18
	post-medieval pottery	GEW	2	14	
11103	flint	?blade	1	5	
11106	fired clay		4	3	
11108	pottery	fine Fl	1	2	L Pre
	flint	flake	3	17	
	flint	scraper	1	31	
11812	flint	flake	1	1	
11819	pottery	Fl	1	60	MBA
	pottery	Gt	1	3	
12000	pottery	fine qz	1	3	L Pre
	flint	flake	1	3	
12004	flint	bladelet	1	1	
	flint	flake	1	2	
12200	flint	B&T arrowhead	1	2	
12201	flint	broken blade	1	2	BA
12210	flint	flake	2	4	BA

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Context	Details	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Undated Cremation Related Deposits											
11504	W quad spit 1	1	2	20	50	-	-	-	stem frags	**/**	-
11505	N quad spit 1	2	2	20	35	-	-	-	-	**/*	-
11506	E quad spit 1	3	2	10	35	-	-	-	-	*/*	-
11507	S quad spit 1	4	2	5	20	-	-	-	-	*/*	-
11508	W quad spit 2	5	2	5	25	-	-	-	stem frags	*/**	-
11509	N quad spit 2	6	2	5	30	-	-	-	-	*/*	-
11510	E quad spit 2	7	2	10	50	-	-	-	-	*/**	-
11511	S quad spit 2	8	2	10	30	-	-	-	-	*/*	-

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items

APPENDIX D: THE CREMATED BONE*cremated bone total weight per spit and by fraction size*

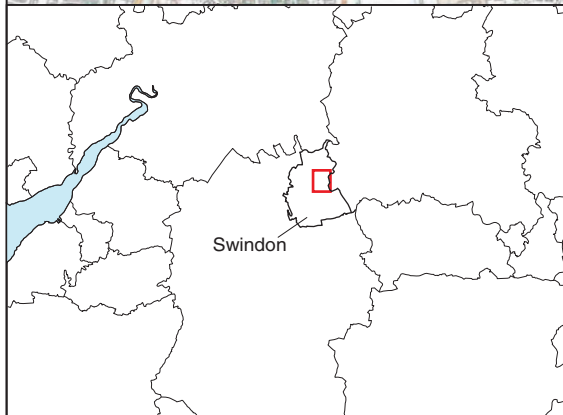
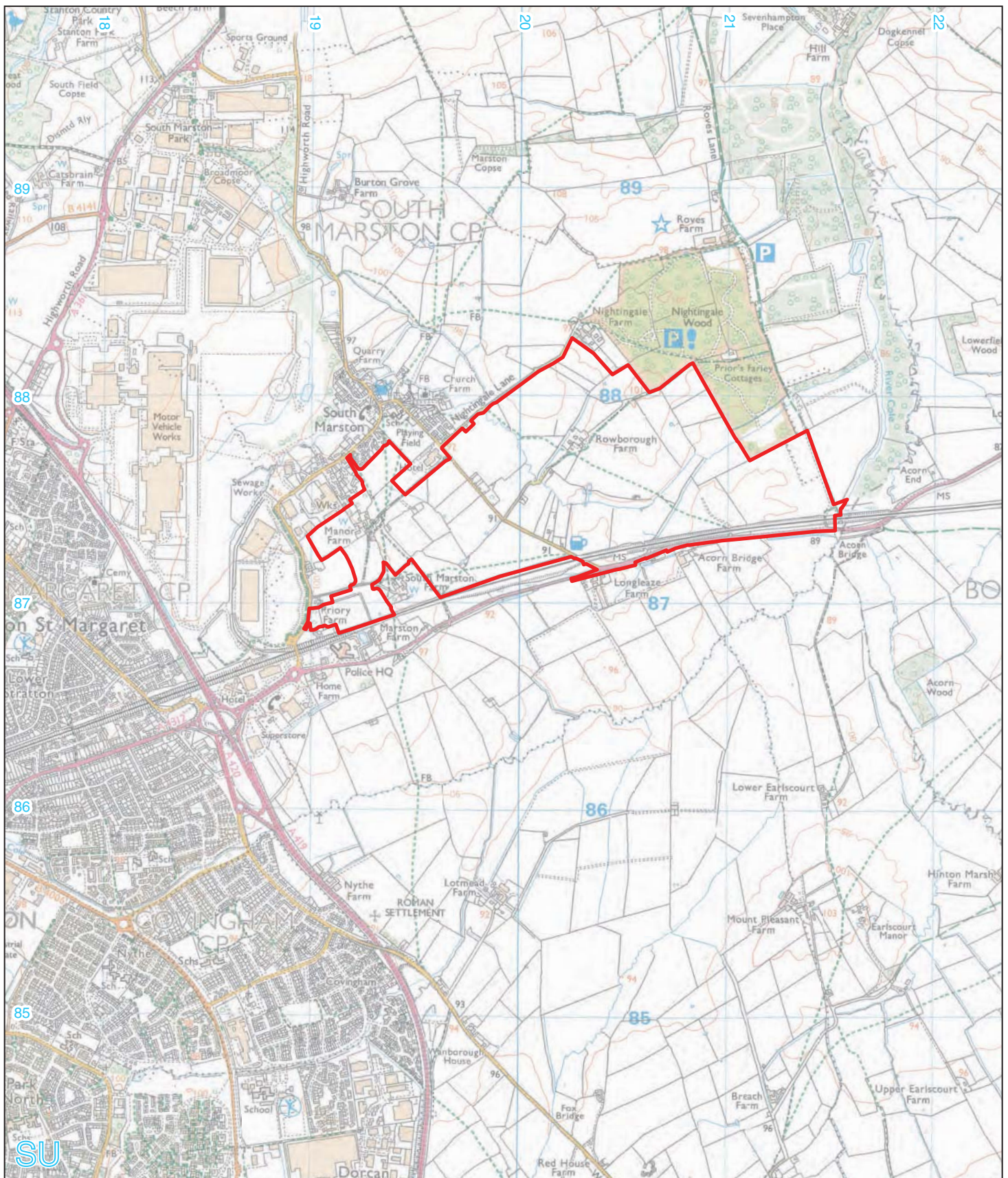
Context	Sample number	Details	Weight of cremated bone (g)	<10mm (g)	10-5mm (g)	5-2mm (g)
11504	1	W quad spit 1	37	15.9	10.1	11
11505	2	N quad spit 1	28	8.7	11.3	8
11506	3	E quad spit 1	3	1	1	1
11507	4	S quad spit 1	4	1	1.5	1.5
11508	5	W quad spit 2	7	3	2	2
11509	6	N quad spit 2	33	16	9	8
11510	7	E quad spit 2	4	1	1.5	1.5
11511	8	S quad spit 2	4	0	2	2

Identified cremated bone by area

Area	Skull (g)	Axial (g)	Upper Limb (g)	Lower Limb (g)	Unidentified Limb (g)	Unidentified (g)
Sample 1	7.5	0.9	5	7		16.6
Sample 2	1	1.2	1	4		20.8
Sample 3						3
Sample 4	0.5	0.5				2
Sample 5	0.5				2	4.5
Sample 6	4	3	7			19
Sample 7		1				3
Sample 8						4
Total	13.5	6.6	13	11	2	72.9

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Rowborough Farm, South Marston, Swindon	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2016 on land at Rowborough Farm, South Marston, Swindon. Twenty three trenches were excavated across land at Rowborough Farm and the adjacent Roves Farm.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed evidence of prehistoric settlement activity in both areas, including clusters of pits and a cremation burial at Roves Farm and Bronze Age enclosures and a later prehistoric trackway at Rowborough Farm. Post-medieval and modern features comprising a boundary ditch, a refuse pit and building foundations were also identified at Roves Farm.</p>	
Project dates		
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Field Evaluation (CA 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	South Marston, Swindon	
Study area		
Site co-ordinates	SU 1981 8752	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Ceramics, worked flint, human bone
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Context sheets, site drawings
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>land at Rowborough Farm, South Marston, Swindon: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16634		



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at South Marston, Swindon
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

0 1km

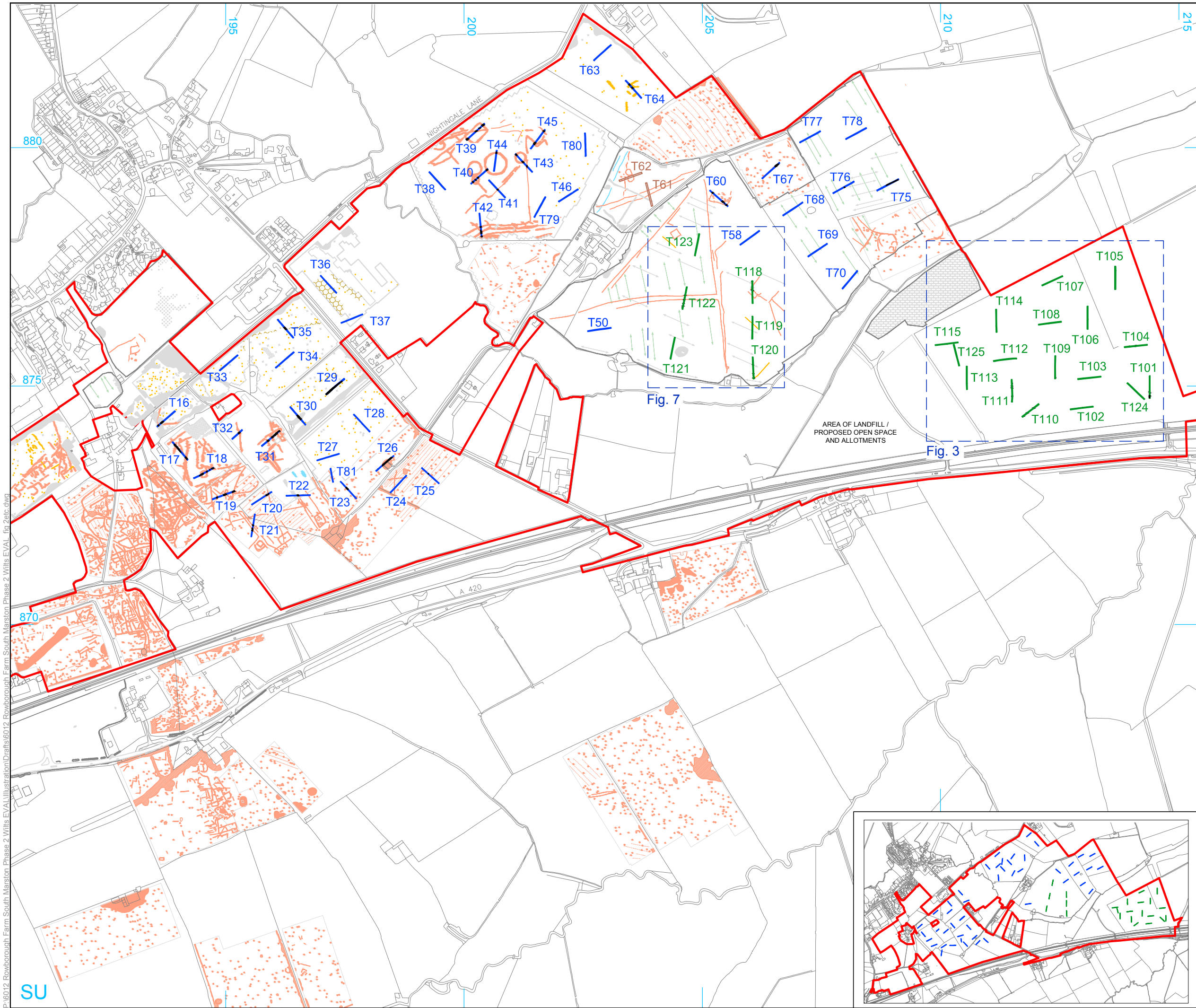
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 CHECKED BY DJB
 APPROVED BY CMB

PROJECT NO. 6012
 DATE 09/11/2016
 SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



site boundary

evaluation trench

previous evaluation trench (CA 2015)

2014 evaluation trench (Foundations Archaeology)

archaeological feature

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin

Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin

Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin

OTHER ANOMALIES

Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing

Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain

Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary

Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground

Scattered magnetic debris

Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin

Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

0200m

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at South Marston, Swindon
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench location plan, showing
geophysical anomalies and previous
trenches

DRAWN BY

AO

CHECKED BY

JB

APPROVED BY

CMB

PROJECT NO.

5564

DATE

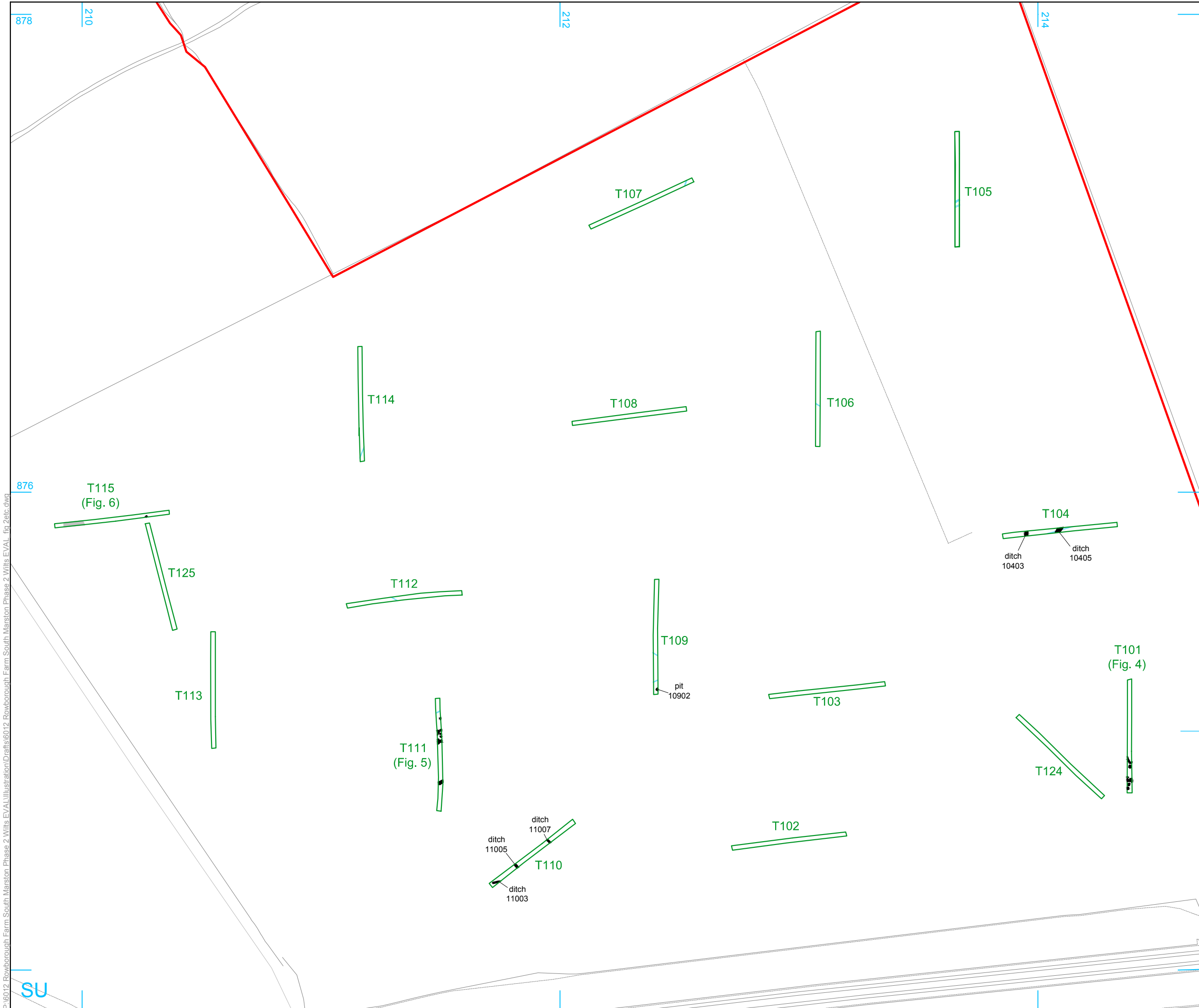
08/06/2015

SCALE

A3
1:5000

FIGURE NO.

2



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- previous evaluation trench (CA 2015)
- archaeological feature
- modern
- field drain



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at South Marston, Swindon
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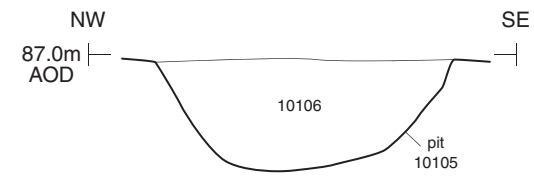
FIGURE TITLE
**Roves Farm: trench location plan,
showing archaeological features**

DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	6012	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/11/2016	3
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A3	1:1500	

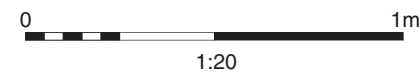
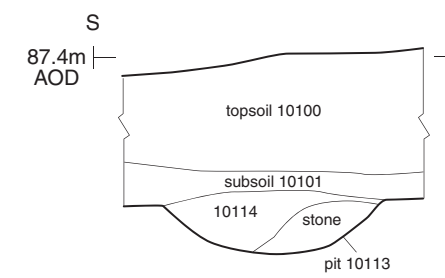
Trench 101, plan



Section AA



Section BB



- archaeological feature
- archaeological intervention

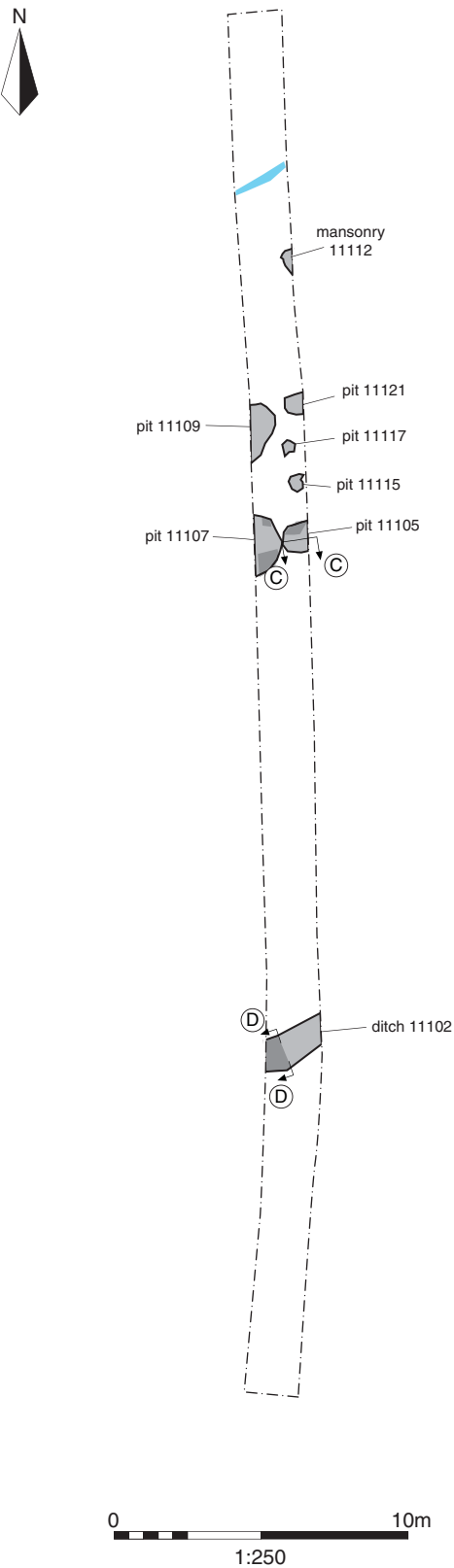


Pit 10105, looking north-west (0.5m scale)

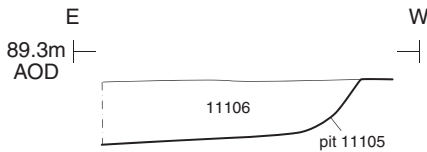


Ditch 10117, looking south-east (1m scale)

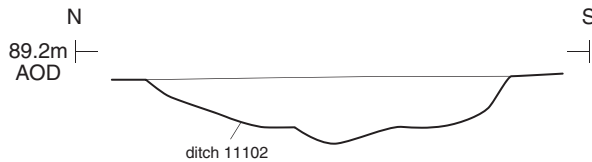
Trench 111, plan



Section CC



Section DD



- archaeological feature
- archaeological intervention
- field drain



Pit 11105, looking south (0.5m scale)



Ditch 11102, looking east (0.5m scale)

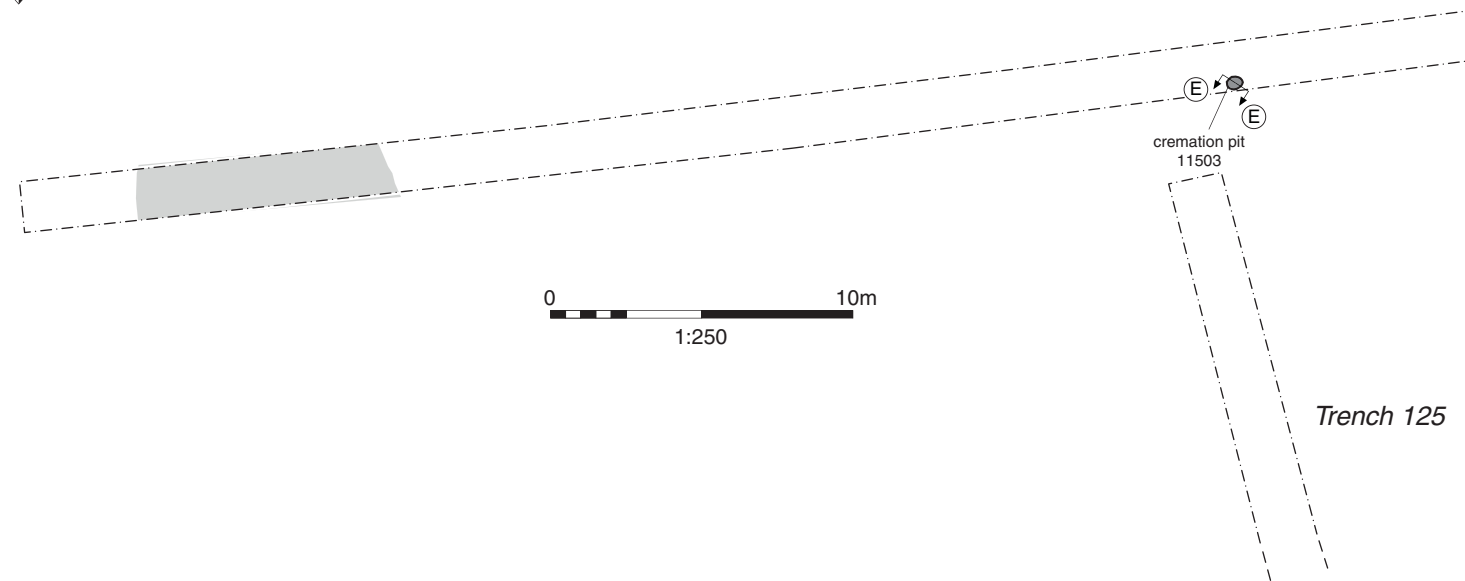
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PROJECT TITLE
Land at South Marston, Swindon
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 111: plan, sections and
photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/11/2016	5
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A3	1:250 and 1:20	



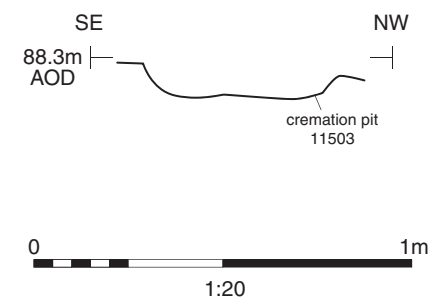
Trench 115, plan



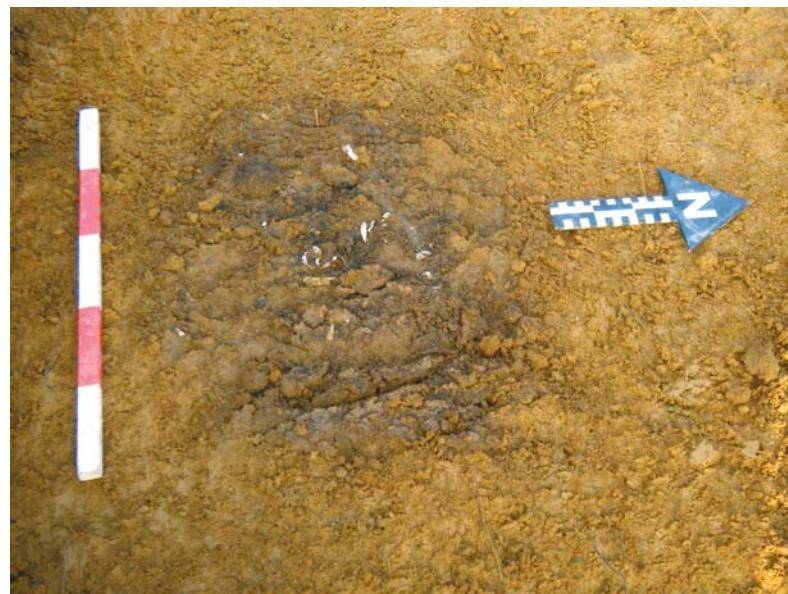
0 10m
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Trench 125

Profile EE



archaeological feature
modern



Cremation 11503, pre-excitation (0.5m scale)



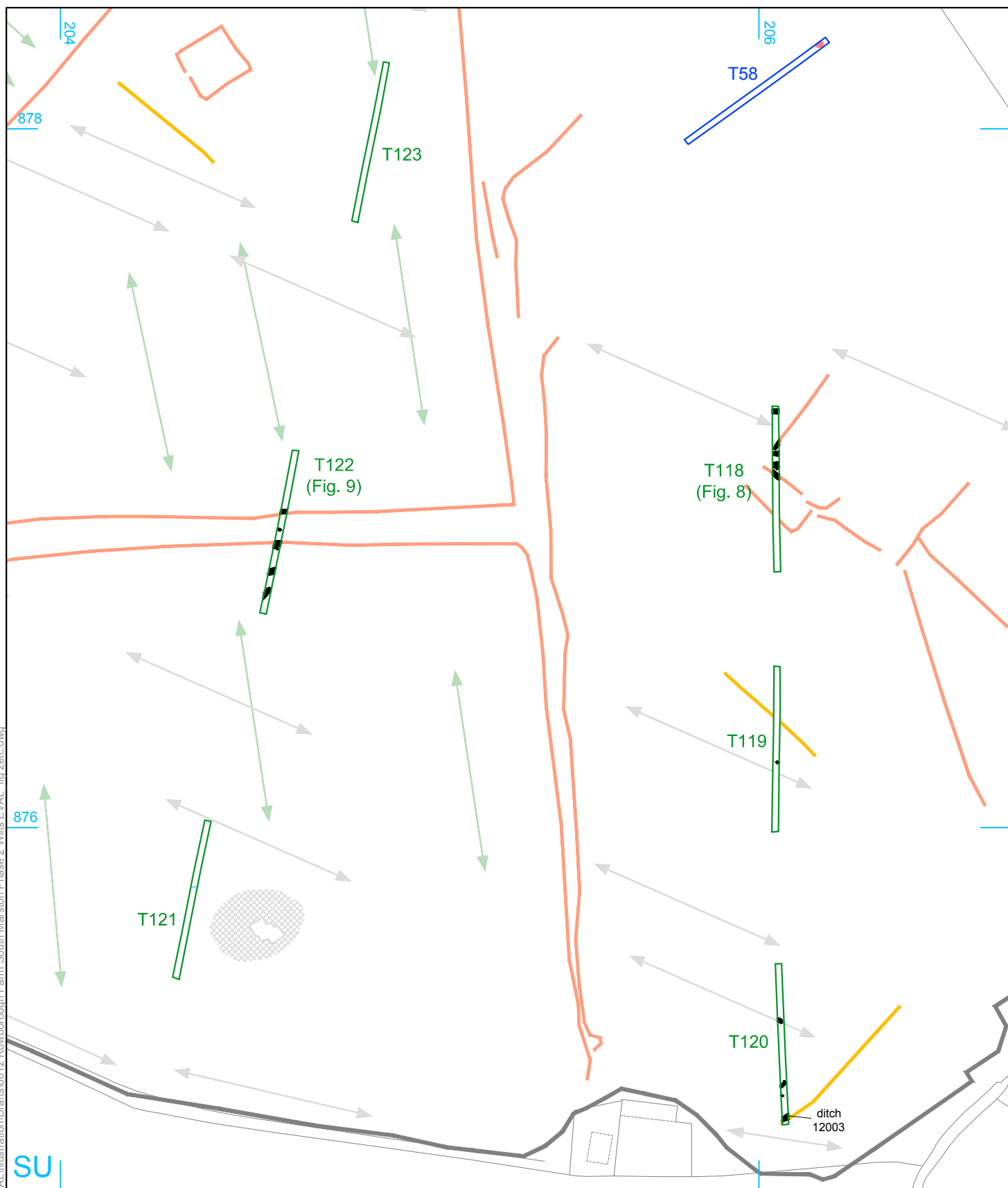
Cremation 11503, post-excitation (0.5m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at South Marston, Swindon
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 115: plan, profile and
photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/11/2016	6
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A3	1:250 and 1:20	



- ▬ site boundary
- ▬ evaluation trench
- ▬ previous evaluation trench (CA 2015)
- archaeological feature
- ▬ field drain

0 50m

Geophysics Key (Stratascan)

- ▬ Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- ▬ Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow
- ▬ Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- ▬ Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Rowborough Farm: trench location
 plan, showing archaeological features

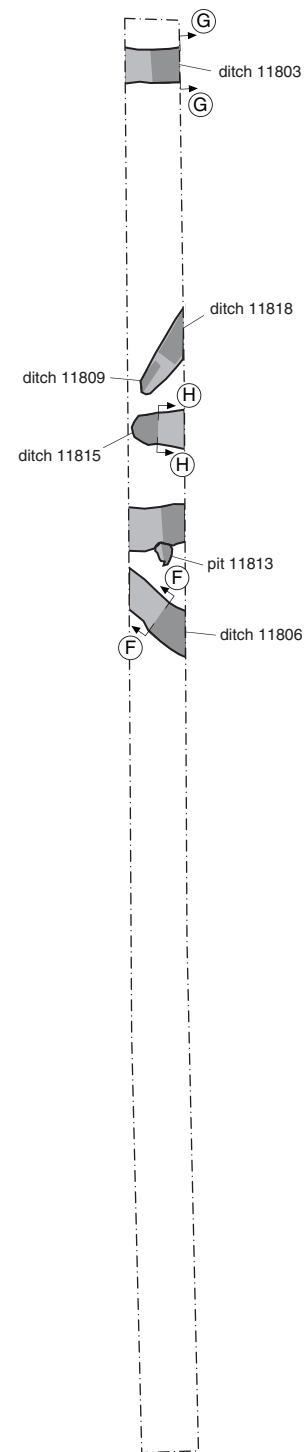
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FIGURE NO.

7

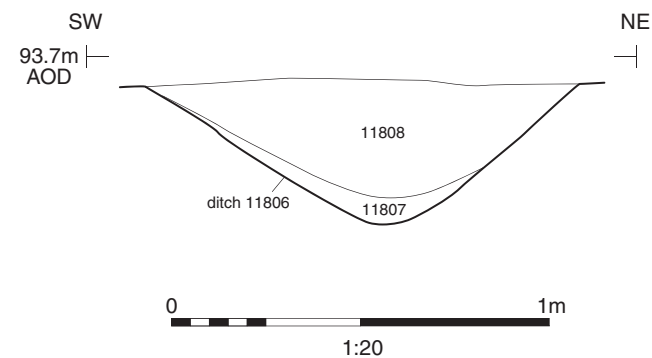


Trench 118, plan



0 10m
1:250

Section FF

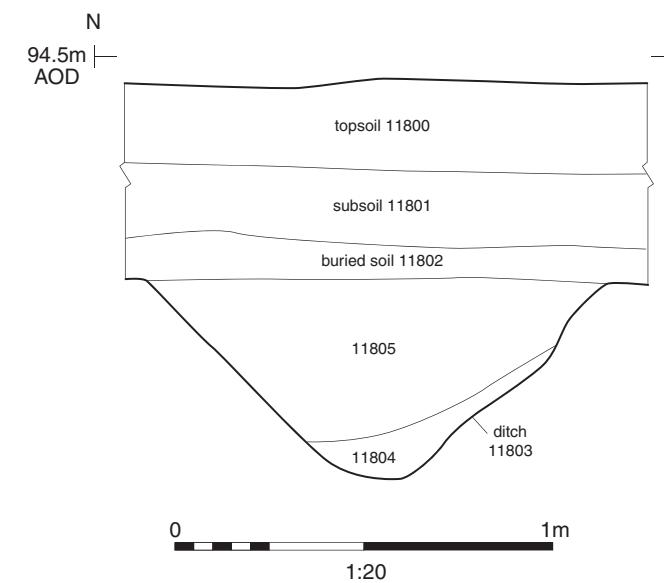


Ditch 11806, looking east (1m scale)



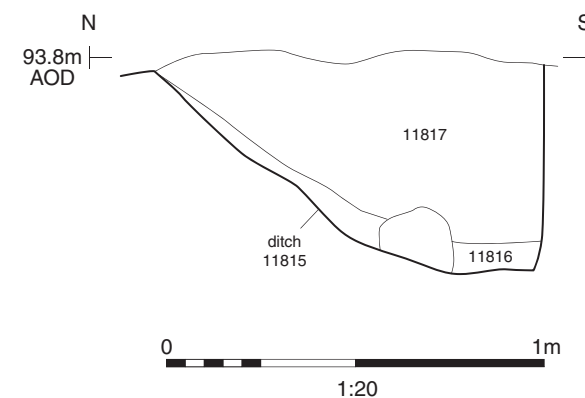
Trench 118, looking south (1m scales)

Section GG



Ditch 11803, looking east (1m scale)

Section HH



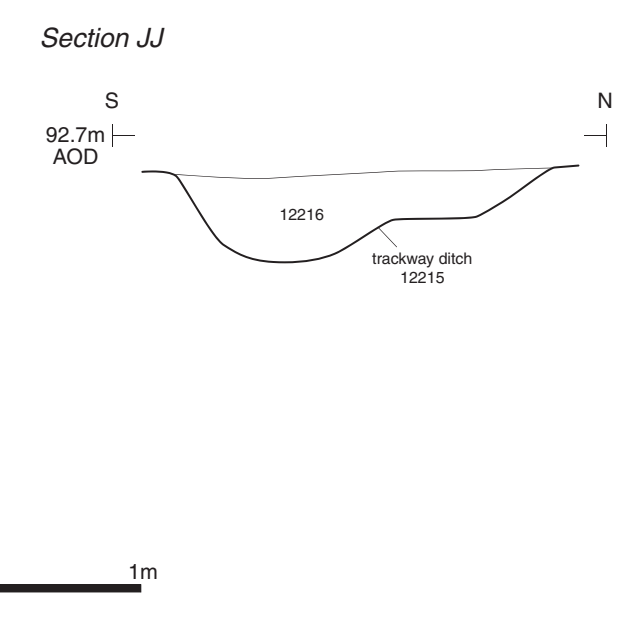
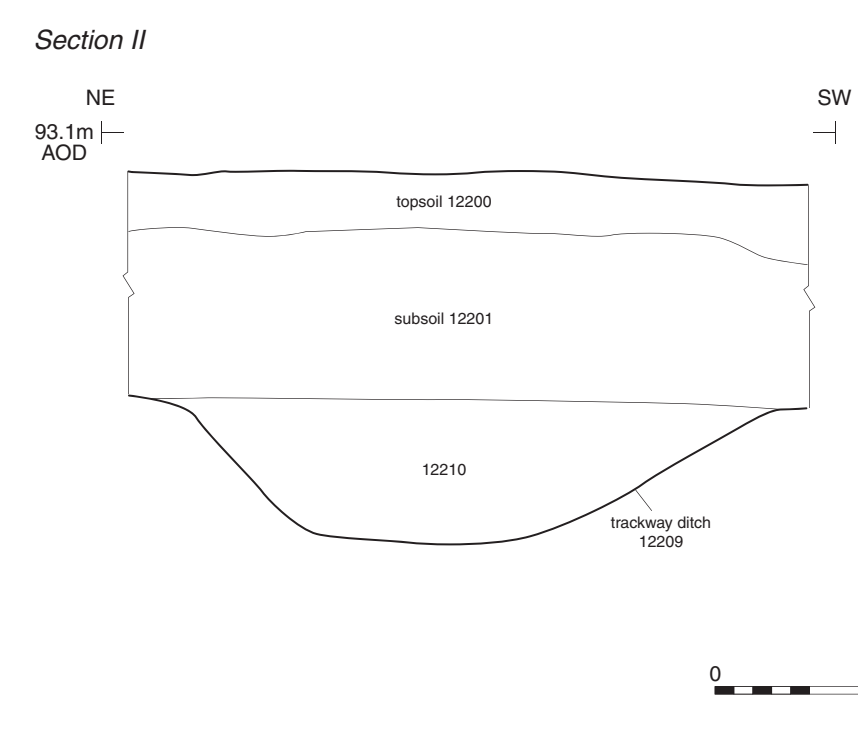
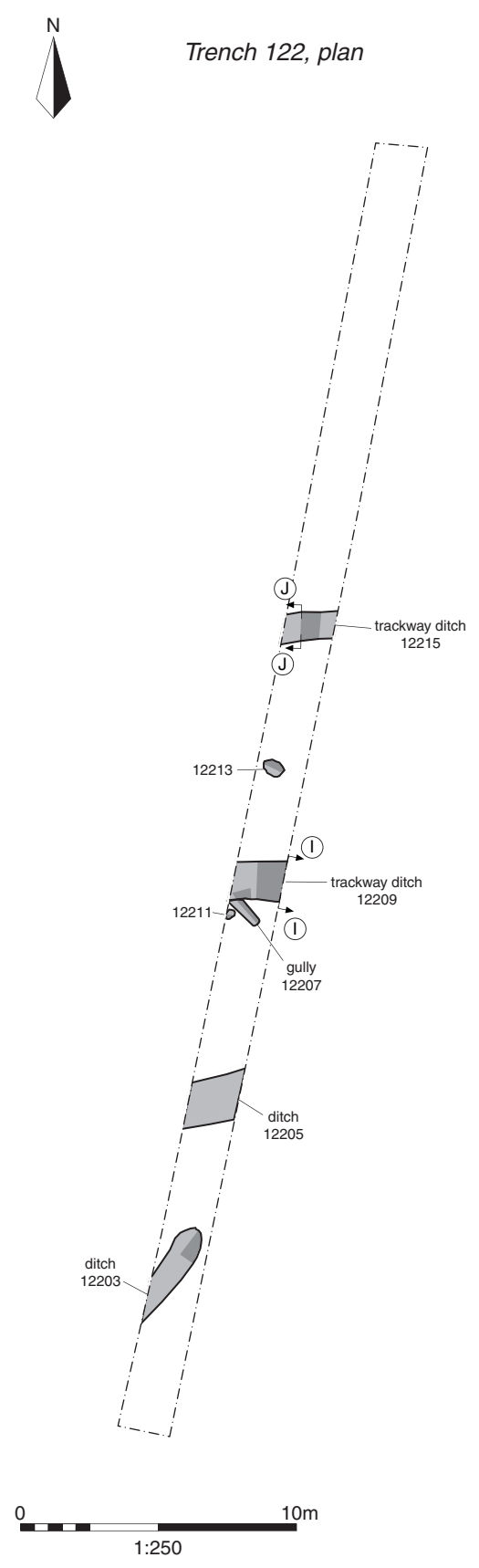
- archaeological feature
- archaeological intervention

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 118: plan, sections and
photographs

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archaeological feature
archaeological intervention



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PROJECT TITLE
Land at South Marston, Swindon
Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 122: plan, sections and
photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/11/2016	9
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A3	1:250 and 1:20	

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