

**Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road  
Pitstone  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire**  
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Archaeology Collective

on behalf of  
Nicholas King Developments PLC

CA Project: 660877  
CA Report: 15257

April 2017



Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road  
 Pitstone  
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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road, Pitstone
<b>Location:</b>	Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
<b>NGR:</b>	493509, 215464
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	28–31 March 2017
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	16/02142/PREAPP
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Buckinghamshire County Museum
<b>Accession Number:</b>	AYBCM: 2017.61
<b>Site Code:</b>	MARS17

In March 2017, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology of land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Archaeology Collective, acting on behalf of Nicholas King Developments PLC, was carried out to inform a planning application 16/02142/PREAPP for residential development. The evaluation comprised the excavation of fourteen trial trenches, eleven measuring 30m long x 1.8m wide, two measuring 15m long x 1.8 m wide and one measuring 10m long x 1.8m wide.

Two former Roman roads are recorded in close proximity to the north and east of the site. The Icknield Way passes immediately to the north of the site and the Viatores Roman Road 169a, thought to be a predecessor to Watling Street, passes 50m to the east of the site. The purpose of the evaluation was to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.

The site comprised two fields divided by existing field boundaries, the northern part of the site comprised an area of former allotments and the southern part of the site consisted of an area of open land to the south of Pitstone recreation ground and memorial hall. The five trenches positioned within the northern part of the site revealed deposits associated with the former allotments but no archaeological deposits or remains were revealed. The nine trenches positioned within the southern part of the site revealed a concentration of archaeological features, largely comprising ditches and gullies. Roman and medieval dated pottery was recovered from features in four (Trenches 11-14) of the nine trenches. Overall,

the site is generally characterised by occupation of an agricultural nature comprising field systems and boundaries of Roman and medieval date.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (centred on NGR: 493509, 215464; Fig. 1). The evaluation, which was commissioned by Archaeology Collective on behalf of Nicholas King Developments PLC, was carried out to support a planning application to Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) (planning ref. 16/02142/PREAPP) for the construction of 69 residential dwellings.
- 1.2 The scope of the evaluation was determined during discussions between Archaeology Collective and Phil Markham, Senior Archaeology Officer at Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS), the archaeological advisor to AVDC.
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Archaeology Collective (2017) and abided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and the Historic England procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide (EH 2006). The fieldwork was monitored by Phil Markham and Archaeology Collective, including a site visit on 30 March 2017.

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The proposed development site is approximately 3.4ha in extent, and comprises an irregular shape area of land that wraps around two sides of the Pitstone Recreation Ground. To the southwest and partly to the southeast, the site is bounded by a housing development constructed on the former Castle Cement site. The site has road frontages to Marsworth Road/Lower Icknield Way to the northwest and Vicarage Road to the east. The site currently comprises former allotment gardens at the north, a grassed field at the south, and a wooded area at the west (as shown on Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 115.17m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the southern boundary falling to 110.63m aOD at the northern boundary. A spotheight in the centre of the site records 112.80m aOD (AC 2017).

- 1.5 The British Geological Survey identifies the solid geology as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation and Zig Zag Chalk Formation; a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago, in the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2017).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in the WSI prepared by Archaeology Collective (2017) based on information held on the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The following summary has been taken from the WSI and has been superseded by the results of the evaluation.
- 2.2 Prehistoric finds have been collected by members of the public from the area of the former allotments at the north of the site. Although these items are not from a secure archaeological context, the number and date of these items indicates prehistoric activity in the wider area. They are mostly Neolithic, including; flints and a small fired ceramic perforated object containing animal hair, possibly not from this site (MBC14916); fragments of a polished Neolithic axe (MBC14917); a transverse Neolithic arrowhead (MBC14918) and further tools and arrowheads (MBC14919). Additionally Palaeolithic to Bronze Age flint flakes, blades and cores have been recovered (MBC14920). However, no artefacts of prehistoric date were recovered during the evaluation.
- 2.3 Two hundred metres to the north of the application site is a record for a chance find (MBC22581) of a polished flint axe found in what appeared to be an old river bed.
- 2.4 A fragment of an Iron Age saddle quern (MCB3790) was found on surface of a ploughed field 180m to the east of the site.
- 2.5 A former prehistoric route-way, the Icknield Way (the B489) passes immediately to the north of the site. The Icknield Way comprised two routes; the Upper and Lower Icknield Way. It is possible that the Icknield Way was reused during the Roman period and a Roman road was identified on this alignment at Aston Clinton further to the south-east of the site; however it has not been proved that the Icknield Way was utilised during the Roman period along its entire route-way. The Viatores Roman



Road 169a, thought to be a predecessor to Watling Street, passes 50m to the east of the site.

- 2.6 A Saxon settlement (MBC22585) was recorded 450m to the south-east of the site. Pits, sunken-featured buildings (SFB's) and environmental evidence indicates farming and weaving practices were taking place. Finds include pottery, daub, animal bone, pin beaters, loom weights, fishing weights, combs, a whetstone and a knife.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Archaeology Collective 2017) 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. This information will enable AVDC, as advised by BCAS 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 14 trenches, eleven measuring 30m long x 1.8m wide, two measuring 15m long x 1.8 m wide and one measuring 10m long x 1.8m wide, in the locations shown on Figure 2. The trenches were positioned to provide a generally even distribution across the site, allowing for overhead cables, underground services, areas of woodland (as shown on Fig. 2) and other obstructions. Trenches 8 and 9 were moved to allow for a concentration of thorn bushes. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (CA 2009).



- 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 Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007).
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003) and, no deposits were identified that were suitable for sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 2010).
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation, which are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes, will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum. A summary of information from this project, as 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 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 14 trenches in the locations shown on Figure 2. This section provides an overview of the results; comprising a summary of the general stratigraphy, followed by detailed trench descriptions where archaeological features were encountered. Detailed summaries of the features and deposits encountered, the finds recovered and palaeoenvironmental evidence are presented in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 Trenches 1 to 5 inclusive were positioned within the northern part of the site comprising former allotments. The trenches were machine-excavated to the surface of the geological substrate, which comprised sandy clays and gravels encountered at an average depth of 0.48m below ground level. This was overlain by on average 0.18m of subsoil and 0.3m of topsoil. A number of possible features were investigated across this area but no archaeological deposits or features were identified and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden. Areas of modern disturbance and dense root disturbance, most likely associated with its former use

as allotments were noted across the northern part of the site and several features of a geological origin were also investigated (Fig 2).

- 5.3 Nine trenches (Trenches 6 to 14) were positioned within the southern part of the site comprising an area of open land to the south of Pitstone recreation ground and memorial hall. The trenches were machine excavated to the surface of the geological substrate, which comprised chalk marl with bands of natural gravels in the west with more significant deposits of subsidiary geological deposits of sands and gravels to the west.

#### ***Trench 10 (Fig 2)***

- 5.4 Trench 10 revealed evidence for root disturbance and one feature (not excavated) of archaeological origin, which was only partially exposed along the northwest trench edge. This was considered likely to represent the continuation of ditch 803 excavated in Trench 8.

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

- 5.5 The north-western half of the trench revealed root disturbance which on identification was not further investigated. At the southeast end of the trench there was a single north-east to south-west orientated u-shaped ditch, 603, measuring 1.43m wide by 0.53m deep, this contained slumping deposit 604 on its northwest edge overlain by fill 605. No finds were recovered and this ditch was not identified in any other trench.

#### ***Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 5.6 Trench 7 predominantly revealed evidence for bioturbation, most likely relating to its positioning close to the wooded area at the west of the site. A single shallow v-shaped ditch 703 was identified with a broadly east to west orientation measuring 1.1m wide by 0.25m deep and containing a single fill producing no finds. It possibly shared a similar alignment with ditch 1107, recorded in Trench 11.

#### ***Trench 8 (Figs 2, 3 & 5)***

- 5.7 Four ditches were identified in Trench 8, two of which were investigated. The two ditches that were not excavated in Trench 8 (Fig 3) were considered likely to represent the continuation of ditches recorded and investigated in Trenches 9 and 11. Two broadly north-east to south-west aligned ditches 803 and 805 were

investigated within Trench 8. Ditch 803 measuring 1.35m wide by 0.16m deep had a shallow flat based profile. It contained a single fill producing no finds. It is possible this ditch continue northeast into Trench 10, where it was only partially seen in the northwest edge of the trench (not excavated). Further to the northwest of 803, ditch 805 ran on a north-east to south-west orientation measuring 0.9m wide by 0.22m deep with a rounded profile. It contained a single fill with no finds.

### **Trench 9 (Figs 2, 3 & 6)**

- 5.8 Two features comprising possible pit 913 (unexcavated) and a north-east to south-west aligned ditch 915 (unexcavated) were only partially exposed at the western end of Trench 9.
- 5.9 A north-east to south-west orientated ditch 907 was located at the eastern end of the trench, measuring 1.1m wide by 0.15m deep with a curved profile. It contained a single fill producing one undated piece of CBM. Directly west on the same alignment is a narrower ditch 905, measuring 0.56m wide by 0.17m deep with a curved profile. It contained a single fill. Neither of these two ditches were identified in any other trenches. The terminus of a large ditch, or possible spread 903 measuring at least 1.06m wide by 0.19m deep with a flat base was revealed towards the western end of Trench 9.

### **Trench 11 (Figs 2, 3, 7 & 8)**

- 5.10 Four broadly north-east to south-west aligned ditches within Trench 11 were not excavated as the likely continuation of these ditches or ditches on a shared alignment were identified and investigated in other trenches.
- 5.11 In the south-east half of the trench, north-east to south-west aligned ditch 1109 measuring 1.85m wide by 0.44m deep had a flat based profile. It contained a single fill producing horse bone. The likely continuation of this ditch was also seen in Trench 8 (not excavated). In the centre of the Trench 11 a north-east to south-west shallow curved gully 1107 was revealed. It measured 0.57m wide by 0.08m deep and it contained a single fill. It ran on broadly on the same alignment as ditch 703 in Trench 7.
- 5.12 Between gully 1107 and ditch 1109 three postholes 1103, 1111 and 1113 were identified. Posthole 1111 measured 0.28m in diameter by 0.35m deep and produced a single piece of undated window glass. Posthole 1113 measured 0.21m in diameter

by 0.07m deep and it produced three pieces of undated CBM. Posthole 1103 measured 0.26m in diameter by 0.33m deep and contained no finds in its single fill.

### **Trench 12 (Figs 2- 3 and 9)**

- 5.13 North-east to south-west aligned gully 1203 measuring 0.28m wide by 0.14m deep. It contained medieval sandy ware pottery dated to the mid twelfth to late fourteenth century within its single fill. To the immediate northwest edge of gully 1203 was ditch 1205. It measured 0.67m wide at the trench section and was investigated to a depth of 0.28m; it was not bottomed as the full extent was not exposed within the trench and Roman dated pottery was recovered. There was no discernible relationship between gully 1203 and ditch 1205 in plan and it was not fully perceptible in section but it is likely that ditch 1205 cut ditch 1203 (Fig. 9).

### **Trench 13 (Figs 2, 3 & 10)**

- 5.14 A possible pit or terminus was revealed within Trench 13 (not excavated), however it was only partially revealed within the trench and was not investigated. Further to its southeast, a large broadly north to south aligned ditch 1307 was revealed. It measured 0.69m wide by 0.39m deep and contained a single fill producing undated sheep/goat bone and bone of indeterminate species. Ditch 1307 was re-cut on the same alignment by ditch 1305 which measured 1.52m wide by 0.43m deep. It contained a single fill which producing cattle bone, pottery, CBM, and iron all of mid twelfth to late fourteenth century date. Ditch 1305 was recut by ditch 1303 measuring 2.57m wide by 0.31m deep. Its single fill contained cattle bone, pottery, CBM and iron all of mid-twelfth to late-fourteenth century date as well as residual Romano-British pottery. On the eastern edge of ditch 1303, a possible ditch 1309 measuring 0.2m wide by 0.16m depth was revealed. It contained a single fill producing no finds. There was no determinable relationship between ditches 1303 and 1309 (Fig. 10).

### **Trench 14 (Figs 2 & 3)**

- 5.15 Trench 14 contained some large areas of bioturbation and variations in the natural geology. A possible north to south aligned ditch (unexcavated) was revealed at the southwest of the trench. Further northeast of this was a broadly north to south aligned ditch 1403, measuring 0.98m wide by 0.23m deep. It contained a single fill producing a large quantity of pottery dated between the mid twelfth to late fourteenth century along with animal bone. This was cut by the terminus of a broadly north-east

to south-west ditch 1411 which measured 0.75m wide by 0.58m deep containing no finds.

- 5.16 At the northeast extent of Trench 14 two small broadly north-west to south-east orientated ditches 1406 and 1409 were revealed. Ditch 1406 measured 0.29m wide by 0.2m deep and contained pottery dated to the mid twelfth to late fourteenth century within its single fill. Ditch 1409 measured 0.57m wide by 0.42m deep and contained two separate events of silting the upper fill of which contained a large quantity of undated animal bone.



## 6. THE FINDS

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

### Pottery

- 6.2 A total of 37 sherds (384g) of pottery was recorded from seven deposits and is of Roman and medieval date. The pottery is in moderate condition, with an average sherd weight of 10.4g.
- 6.3 Roman dated pottery came from five deposits. A jar with internally-ledged rim, in a sandy greyware fabric, of mid to late 2nd century date, was residual in ditch 1403 (Trench 14) (cf Wilson 1984, fig. 96, 2310). A similar grooved rim came from ditch 1105 (Trench 11); both were broken at the neck/shoulder join. Plain body sherds were recorded from gully 1203 (Trench 12) and ditches 1109, 1205, 1209 and 1303 (Trenches 11-13).
- 6.4 Medieval pottery, of mid-12th to late 14th century date, was recovered from four deposits. A straight-sided bowl or dish with flat, flanged rim, decorated with a wavy line on the rim top, in a black-surfaced sandy ware, was recovered from ditch 1305 (Trench 13), and is of probable 12th to 13th century date. A necked jar in a sandy greyware fabric with sparse fine flint and calcareous inclusions was recovered from ditch 1403 (Trench 14). A jar rim fragment, with possible thumb-edged, was also recovered from this feature, but was very fragmentary. Plain body sherds and one base fragment were recorded from gully 1203 (Trench 12) and ditches 1403 and 1406 (Trench 14).

### Other finds

- 6.5 A small quantity of other finds were recovered, this comprised eight fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), of post-medieval date (from ditches 907, 1303, 1305 and 1403, and posthole 1113 (in Trenches 9, 13, 14 and 11 respectively); one featureless fragment of fired clay (ditch 1205 in Trench 12); a piece of post-medieval window glass (posthole 1111 in Trench 11); two iron nails (ditch 1303 in Trench 13) and an unidentified iron object (ditch 1305 in Trench 13).



## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### **Animal Bone**

- 7.1 Animal bone numbering 53 fragments (581g) was recovered from four deposits dating to the Roman period and two deposits that remain undated. The material was moderately well preserved but highly fragmented, with both modern and historical damage rendering 73% of the assemblage unidentifiable to species. However, it was possible to confirm the presence of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), horse (*Equus caballus*) and domestic fowl (*Gallus gallus*).

### **Roman**

- 7.2 A single fragment (51g) was recovered from deposit 1110, the fill of ditch 1109 (Trench 11). It was identifiable as an isolated molar tooth of a horse.

### **Medieval**

- 7.3 A total of 22 fragments (417g) were recovered from deposits 1306 and 1404 the fills of ditches 1305 and 1403 (Trenches 13 and 14 respectively). The greater part of this bone was unidentifiable, but it was possible to confirm the presence of cattle and sheep/goat in each deposit where they were identified mainly from meat-poor skeletal elements such as bones of the skull or lower limbs.
- 7.4 No cut and/or chop marks were present in the assemblages attributed to either the Roman or medieval period, so an origin in butchery waste cannot be assumed, a fact when combined with the low recovery of each species prevents any further inference beyond species identification.

### **Undated**

- 7.5 A further 30 fragments (113g) were recovered from deposits 1304, 1308 and 1408, the fills of ditches 1303, 1307 and 1406 (Trenches 13 and 14 respectively). Cattle, sheep/goat and domestic fowl were identified from fragments of meat-poor skeletal elements but were recovered in numbers too low to provide any useful interpretative information.





## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Trenches 1 to 5 inclusive were positioned within the northern part of the site comprising an area of former allotments. A number of possible features were investigated across this area but no archaeological deposits or features were identified and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden. The trenches within this part of the site revealed evidence for modern disturbance and dense root disturbance, most likely attributed to its former use as an allotment gardens. After testing of possible features in the northern part of the site it was determined that these possible features were either of natural origin or related to areas of root disturbance.
- 8.2 The nine trenches (Trenches 6 to 14) positioned within the southern part of the site comprising an area of open land to the south of Pitstone recreation ground and memorial hall revealed a concentration of archaeological features, largely comprising ditches and gullies. Although Roman and medieval dated pottery was recovered from features in four (Trenches 11-14) of the nine trenches several features produced mixed assemblages (as detailed in Appendix B) complicating detailed phasing of the features. However, the dating evidence suggests that there was activity on the site in both the Roman and medieval periods.
- 8.3 Ditches 1105, 1109 and 1205 have been dated to the Roman period based on the pottery recovered. Ditches 1203, 1303, 1305, 1403 and 1406 have been dated to the medieval period based on the pottery recovered; however ditches 1303, 1305 and 1403 also contained post-medieval ceramic building material. Quantities of animal bone were recovered from features dated to the Roman and medieval periods and undated features (as detailed in Appendix C). However, there were no cut or chop marks present in assemblages recovered from Roman or medieval features, accordingly an origin in butchery waste cannot be assumed, preventing any further inference beyond species identification.

### ***Roman***

- 8.4 Four ditches contained Roman-dated pottery, however only one of which, 1109 (Trench 11), can confidently be dated to the Roman period as all the other ditches containing Roman finds also contained material dated to the medieval period. Ditch 1109 appears to continue into Trench 8 (not excavated).

- 8.5 A greater quantity of Roman dated pottery was found within ditch 1403 and it is possible that the medieval pottery collected from this ditch could have been deposited when ditch 1403 was truncated by ditch 1411. This indicates the possibility that the ditches represent a Roman dated field system, some of which were later removed by the superimposition of the medieval features outlined below.

### ***Medieval***

- 8.6 Many of the features containing Roman material also contained material dated to the medieval period. The medieval dated ditches share broadly the same orientation as the Roman dated ditches with the exception of ditch 1406 which has a north-west to south-east orientation compared to the predominantly north-east to south-west ditches recorded across the site. The medieval dated features comprised ditches indicative of a field system, ditch 1307 in Trench 13 which was re-cut on the same alignment suggests that this field system was maintained over a fairly long period of time.

### ***Undated***

- 8.7 A number of features contained no datable finds or finds of an un-datable nature. Ditch 603, 905 and 907 share no immediately apparent relationship or alignment with any dated ditches in other trenches but are considered likely to relate to the Roman or medieval field systems.
- 8.8 The three postholes excavated within Trench 11 did not appear to have a structural relationship with each of the ditches either side of them. One of the postholes produced modern glass and it is possible that it relates to later activity; however it is also possible that the glass was intrusive resulting from root disturbance. Two postholes 1103 and 1111 share similar dimensions and profiles it is possible that they were contemporary, representing the remains of a fence-line.
- 8.9 A number of the linear features revealed during the evaluation possibly run parallel to the B489 (Icknield Way). It is possible that these linear features relate to the Icknield Way comprising associated linear boundaries or it is possible that they represent earlier/later routeways or boundaries running on broadly the same alignment. The results of the evaluation and any further fieldwork at the site could possibly allow for consideration of the layout and role of linear boundaries (as further detailed below).

- 8.10 The location and layout of Roman fields and field systems and the role of linear boundaries has been highlighted as area for further research in the Solent-Thames area (Fulford 2014, 166). The results of the evaluation and any further fieldwork at the site could possibly allow for consideration of the layout of field systems and the role of linear boundaries, if greater quantities of dating and environmental evidence are recovered during any further fieldwork.
- 8.11 It has been suggested that rural settlement in Buckinghamshire in the later medieval period was 'likely to a fluid one of shifting extent and focus (Munby 2014, 240).' The results of the evaluation and any further fieldwork at the site could possibly allow for consideration of the exploitation of field systems, if greater quantities of dating and environmental evidence are recovered during any further fieldwork.
- 8.12 The evaluation did not identify any definitive evidence for settlement activity within the site and there was no evidence for any activity pre-dating the Roman period. Overall, the site is generally characterised by occupation of an agricultural nature comprising field systems and boundaries of Roman and medieval date.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Whelan, assisted by Kim Devereux-West, Emma Aitken, Peter Banks, and Emily Evans. The report was written by Andrew Whelan. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Grace Jones and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Ešthér Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Jessica Cook. The project was managed for CA by Michelle Collings.



## 10. REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft ,clay silts			0.38	
	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, silty clay			0.15	
	102	Layer		Natural	Light greyish yellow, soft, sandy clay with flinty gravels				
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft ,clay silts			0.29	
	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, silty clay			0.22	
	202	Layer		Natural	Light greyish yellow, soft, sandy clay with flinty gravels				
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft ,clay silts			0.2	
	301	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, silty clay			0.32	
	302	Layer		Natural	Light greyish yellow, soft, sandy clay with flinty gravels				
	303	Cut		Ditch	N-S linear, curved sides to uneven base	>1.8	2.22	0.2	
	304	Fill		Fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey, soft, silty clay with	>1.8	2.22	0.2	
4	401	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft ,clay silts			0.2	
	402	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, silty clay			0.32	
	403	Layer		Natural	Light greyish yellow, soft, sandy clay with flinty gravels				
	404	Cut		Modern	Modern Tested				
	405	Fill		Modern	Dark reddish brown				
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft ,clay silts			0.2	
	501	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, silty clay			0.32	
	502	Layer		Natural	Light greyish yellow, soft, sandy clay with flinty gravels				
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft, clayish silts. Turfed			0.2	
	601	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, clayish silts			0.32	
	602	Layer		Natural	Light greyish white, clay marl with gravel bands				
	603	Cut		Ditch	Linear NE – SW, gradual to steep sides, flat base.	>1.8	1.43	0.53	
	604	Fill	603	Lower fill of ditch	Mix of mottled brownish orange and orangish brown, soft, silty clay	>1.8	0.64	0.53	
	605	Fill	603	Upper fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, soft	>1.8	1.43	0.53	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft, clayish silts. Turfed			0.24	
	701	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, clayish silts			0.34	
	702	Layer		Natural	Light greyish white, clay marl with gravel bands				
	703	Cut		Ditch	Linear E – W, gradual break of slope with curved base.	>2	1.1	0.25	

	704	Fill	703	Fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey, soft, silty clay	>2	1.1	0.25	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft, clayish silts. Turfed			0.24	
	801	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, clayish silts			0.34	
	802	Layer		Natural	Light greyish white, clay marl with gravel bands				
	803	Cut		Ditch	Linear NE – SW, gradual break of slope with flat base.	>1.8	1.35	0.16	
	804	Fill	803	Fill of ditch	Light brownish grey, soft, silty clay	>1.8	1.35	0.16	
	805	Cut		Ditch	Linear NE – SW, gradual break of slope to convex sides and base.	>1.8	0.9	0.22	
	806	Fill	806	Fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey, soft, silty clay	>1.8	0.9	0.22	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft, clayish silts. Turfed			0.3	
	901	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, clayish silts			0.23	
	902	Layer		Natural	Light greyish white, clay marl with gravel bands				
	903	Cut		Ditch terminus	Linear NW-SE, concave sides with flat base	>2.85	1.06	0.19	
	904	Fill	903	Fill of ditch	Mid whitish grey, silty clay, compact	>1	>1.06	0.19	
	905	Cut		Ditch	Linear NE-SW, concave sides and base	>5	0.56	0.17	
	906	Fill	905	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey, silty clay, compact	>1	0.56	0.17	
	907	Cut		Ditch	Linear NE – SW, straight sides with concave base	>4.5	>1.15	0.15	
	908	Fill	907	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown, silty clay, compact	>1m	>1.15	0.15	
	909	Cut		Plough scar	NE-SW aligned	1.5	0.38		
	910	Fill	909	Fill of p/s	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, compact.	1.5	0.38		
	911	Cut		Plough scar	NE-SW aligned	>2.70	0.14		
	912	Fill	911	Fill of p/s	Mid brownish grey, silty clay, compact.	>2.70	0.14		
	913	Cut		Pit	Not fully visible in trench	1.70	>0.25		
	914	Fill	913	Fill of pit	Mid greyish brown, silty clay, compact.	1.70	>0.25		
	915	Cut		Ditch	Not fully visible in trench, NE – SW aligned	>2	>0.85		
	916	Fill	915	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown, silty clay, compact.	>2	>0.85		
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft, clayish silts. Turfed			0.28	
	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, clayish silts			0.2	
	1002	Layer		Natural	Light greyish white, clay marl with gravel bands				
	1003	Cut		Ditch	Linear NE – SW				
	1004	Fill	1003	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown, clay with frequent flint inclusions				
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft, clayish silts. Turfed			0.37	
	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, clayish silts			0.21	
	1102	Layer		Natural	Light greyish white, clay marl with gravel bands				

	1103	Cut		Posthole	Circular in plan with vertical sides and concave base		0.26	0.33	
	1104	Fill		Fill of posthole	Dark yellowish grey, silty clay, compact		0.26	0.33	
	1105	Cut		Ditch	Unexcavated				
	1106	Fill	1105	Fill of ditch					RB (C2)
	1107	Cut		Gully	Rectilinear, shallow curved sides, concave base	1.03	0.57	0.08	
	1108	Fill	1107	Fill of gully	Mid Greyish brown, silty clay, compact	1.03	0.57	0.08	
	1109	Cut		Ditch	Rectilinear, steep sides with flat base	0.92	1.85	0.44	
	1110	Fill	1109	Fill of ditch	Mid yellowish grey, silty clay, compact	0.92	1.85	0.44	RB
	1111	Cut		Posthole	Circular in plan, vertical sides with concave base		0.28	0.35	
	1112	Fill	1111	Fill of Posthole	Dark yellowish grey, silty clay, compact		0.28	0.35	
	1113	Cut		Posthole	Circular in plan, shallow sides with concave base		0.21	0.07	
	1114	Fill	1113	Fill of Posthole	Mid Greyish brown, silty clay, compact		0.21	0.07	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft, clayish silts. Turfed			0.24	
	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, clayish silts			0.2	
	1202	Layer		Natural	Light greyish white, clay marl with gravel bands				
	1203	Cut		Gully	Rectilinear, shallow sides with concave base	1.07	0.28	0.14	
	1204	Fill	1203	Fill of gully	Mid yellowish grey, silty clay, compact	1.07	0.28	0.14	Medieval (MC12-LC14)
	1205	Cut		Ditch	Rectilinear, steep sides with flat base	1.07	0.67	0.28	
	1206	Fill	1205		Dark greyish brown, silty clay, compact	1.07	0.67	0.28	RB
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft, clayish silts. Turfed			0.32	
	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, clayish silts			0.23	
	1302	Layer		Natural	Light greyish white, clay marl with gravel bands				
	1303	Cut		Ditch	Rectilinear, shallow sides with concave base	1.35	2.57	0.31	
	1304	Fill	1303	Fill of ditch	Dark greyish brown, silty clay, compact	1.35	2.57	0.31	Medieval (MC12-LC14))
	1305	Cut		Ditch	Rectilinear, moderate sides with concave base	0.85	1.52	0.43	
	1306	Fill	1305	Fill of ditch	Mid yellowish grey, silty clay, compact	0.85	1.52	0.43	Medieval (MC12-LC14)
	1307	Cut		Ditch	Rectilinear, steep sides with concave base	0.64	0.69	0.39	
	1308	Fill	1307	Fill of ditch	Mid yellowish grey, silty clay, compact	0.64	0.69	0.39	
	1309	Cut		Ditch	Rectilinear, moderate sides with concave base	0.25	0.2	0.16	
	1310	Fill		Fill of ditch	Dark greyish brown, silty clay, compact	0.25	0.2	0.16	



14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, soft, clayish silts. Turfed			0.25	
	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Light brownish grey, soft, clayish silts			0.12	
	1402	Layer		Natural	Light greyish white, clay marl with gravel bands				
	1403	Cut		Ditch	Rectilinear, steep sides with concave base	1.03	0.98	0.23	
	1404	Fill	1403	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey, silty clay, compact	1.03	0.98	0.23	Medieval (MC12-LC14)
	1405	Fill	1411	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey, silty clay, compact	1.03	0.75	0.58	
	1406	Cut		Ditch	Triangular, steep sides with concave base	1.31	0.29	0.2	
	1407	Fill	1406	Fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey, sandy clay, compact	1.31	0.29	0.2	Medieval (MC12-LC14)
	1408	Fill	1406	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey, silty clay, compact	1.31	0.57	0.25	
	1409	Cut		Ditch	Triangular, steep sides with concave base	1.31	0.57	0.42	
	1410	Fill	1409	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey, silty clay, compact	1.31	0.35	0.21	
	1411	Cut		Cut of ditch terminus	Rectilinear, steep sides with concave base	1.03	0.75	0.58	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
908	CBM		1	12	
1106	Roman pottery	Roman greyware, necked jar	3	47	RB (C2)
1110	Roman pottery	Sandy ware	1	1	RB
1112	Glass	Window fragment	1	1	
1114	CBM	Plain, flat fragments	3	73	
1204	Medieval pottery	Sandy ware	1	15	Medieval (MC12-LC14)
1206	Roman pottery	Greyware	4	27	RB
	Fired clay	Featureless fragment	1	11	
1304	Roman pottery	Greyware	1	14	Medieval (MC12-LC14))
	Medieval pottery	Sandy ware	1	16	
	CBM		1	1	
	Iron	Nail	2	15	
1306	Medieval pottery	Sandy ware, flat-rimmed bowl/dish	1	22	Medieval (MC12-LC14)
	CBM		2	18	
	Iron		1	4	
1404	Roman pottery	Sandy ware	4	32	Medieval (MC12-LC14)
	Roman pottery	Greyware, including jar with grooved rim	8	56	
	Roman pottery	Shelly ware	1	10	
	Medieval pottery	Greyware with flint and calcareous inclusions; necked jar	8	104	
	Medieval pottery	Grey, sandy ware; jar rim	3	31	
	CBM	fragment	1	3	
1407	Medieval pottery	Greyware	1	8	Medieval (MC12-LC14)

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

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

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	EQ	GAL	LM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
<b>Roman</b>									
1109	1110			1				1	51
<b>Medieval</b>									
1303	1304	1						1	5
1305	1306	4	1				13	18	185
1403	1404	1	1			1		3	227
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>417</b>
<b>Undated</b>									
1307	1308		1				1	2	9
1409	1408	1			3		24	28	104
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>53</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>432</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>581</b>	

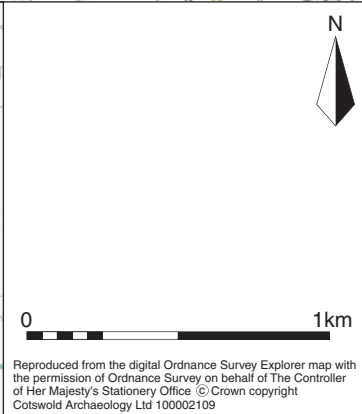
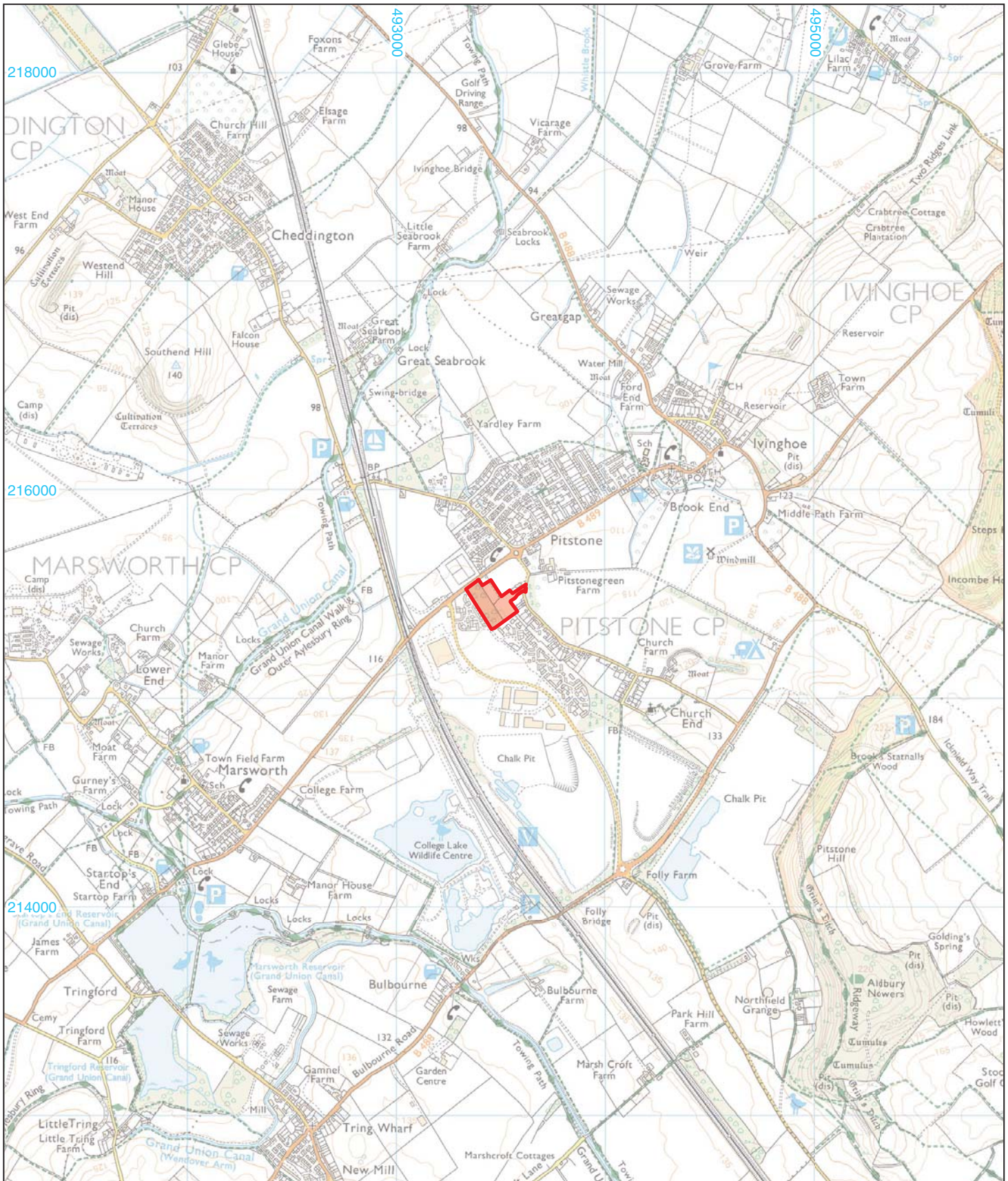
BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; EQ = horse; GAL = domestic fowl; LM= large sized mammal; Ind = indeterminate

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>				
Project Name	Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation			
Short description	<p>In March 2017, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology of land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Archaeology Collective, acting on behalf of Nicholas King Developments PLC, was carried out to inform a planning application 16/02142/PREAPP for residential development. The evaluation comprised the excavation of fourteen trial trenches, eleven measuring 30m long x 1.8m wide, one measuring 15m long x 1.8 m wide and one measuring 10m long x 1.8m wide.</p> <p>Two former Roman roads are recorded in close proximity to the north and east of the site. The Icknield Way passes immediately to the north of the site and the Viatores Road 169a, thought to be a predecessor to Watling Street, passes 50m to the east of the site. The purpose of the evaluation was to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.</p> <p>The site comprised two fields divided by existing field boundaries, the northern part of the site comprised an area of former allotments and the southern part of the site consisted of an area of open land to the south of Pitstone recreation ground and memorial hall. The five trenches positioned within the northern part of the site revealed deposits associated with the former allotments but no archaeological deposits or remains were revealed. The nine trenches positioned within the southern part of the site revealed a concentration of archaeological features, largely comprising ditches and gullies. Romano-British and medieval pottery was recovered from features in four (Trenches 11-14) of the nine trenches. Overall, the site is generally characterised by occupation of an agricultural nature comprising field systems and boundaries of Roman and medieval date.</p>			
Project dates	28–31 March 2017			
Project type	Evaluation			
Previous work	Not Known			
Future work	Unknown			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>				
Site Location	Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Aylesbury, LU7 9EY			
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	3.4ha			
Site co-ordinates	493509, 215464			
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>				
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology			
Project Brief originator	Phil Markham Aylesbury Vale District Council			
Project Design (WSI) originator	Archaeology Collective			
Project Manager	Michelle Collings			
Project Supervisor	Andrew Whelan			
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None			
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None			
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)</td> <td rowspan="2">Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recipient of each type of archive</td> </tr> </table>	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box	Recipient of each type of archive
Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box			
Recipient of each type of archive				
Physical	To be deposited with museum	Ceramics, animal bone,		

		glass, iron, CBM
Paper	To be deposited with museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, drawings, day sheets
Digital	To be deposited with museum	Database, digital photos digital plans
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation. CA typescript report <b>17257</b>		






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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road,  
 Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Site location plan**

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	EE	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	660877	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	03/05/2017	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	MC	<b>SCALE</b>	@A4 1:25,000	

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- ▭ Site boundary
- ▭ Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Geological feature
- Modern
- Bioturbation
- Feature/deposit related to former allotment gardens



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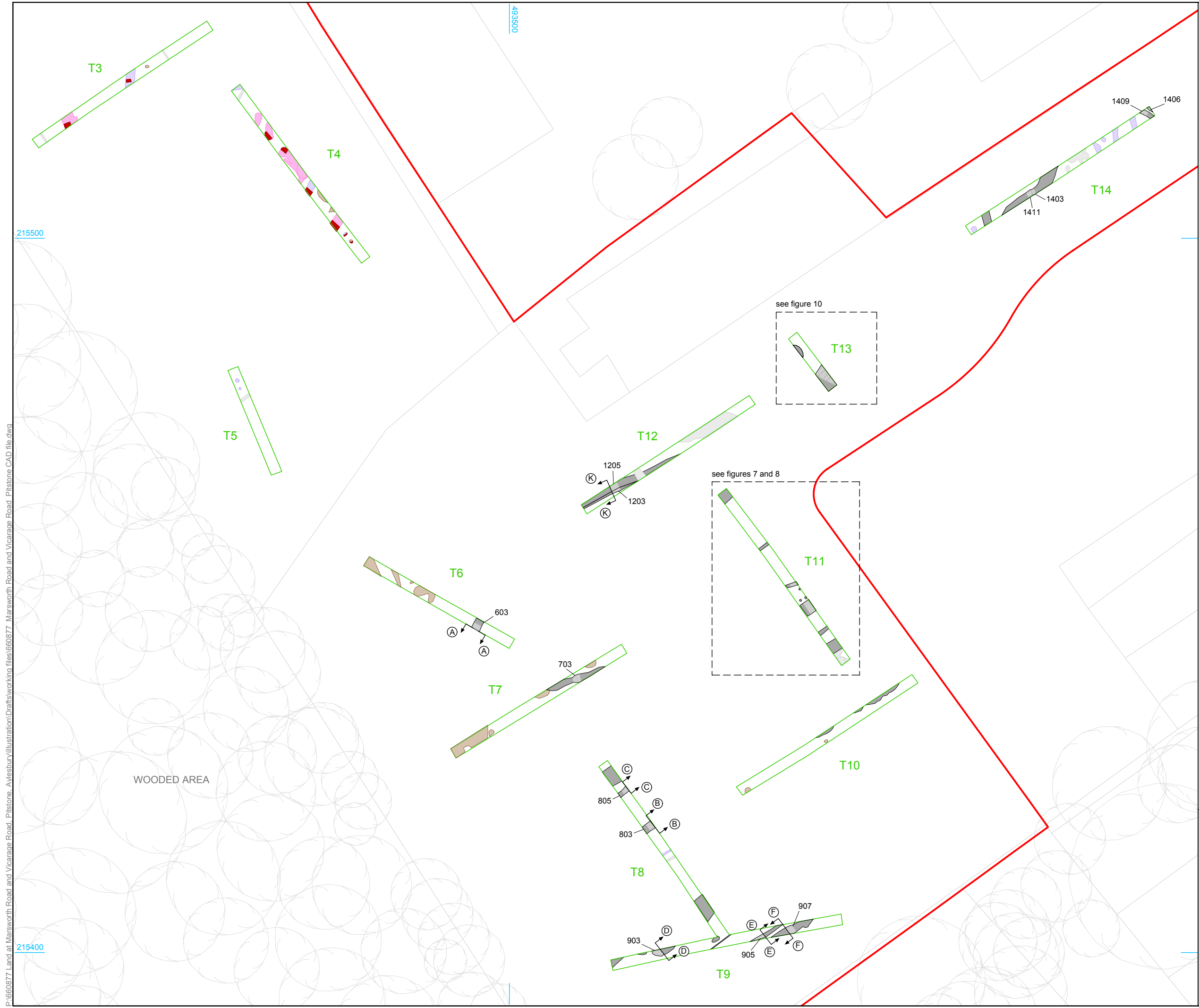
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing archaeological features

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660877	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03/05/2017	
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:1000	<b>2</b>

P:\660877 Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Aylesbury\Illustration\Drafts\working files\660877 Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road Pitstone CAD file.dwg





- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Geological feature
- Modern
- Bioturbation
- Feature/deposit related to former allotment gardens
- ♦ Investigated slot
- ⓑ Section location



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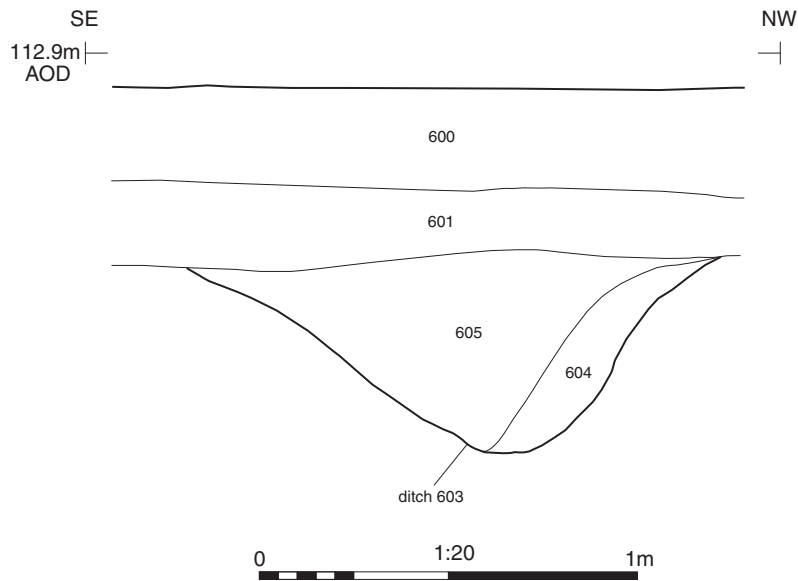
**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road, Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trench location plan showing archaeological features, interventions and section locations

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660877	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03/05/2017	<b>3</b>
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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Section AA



Ditch 603, looking south-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road,  
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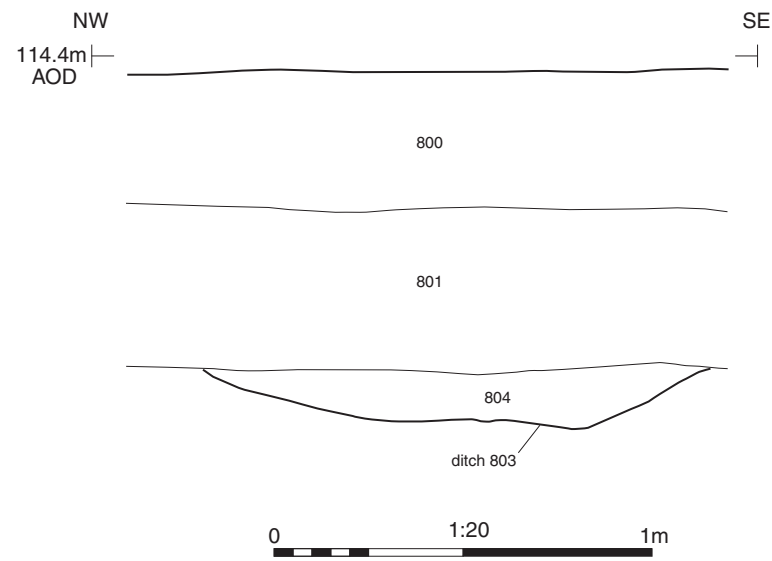
FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 6: section and photograph**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03/05/2017	
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A4	1:20	<b>4</b>

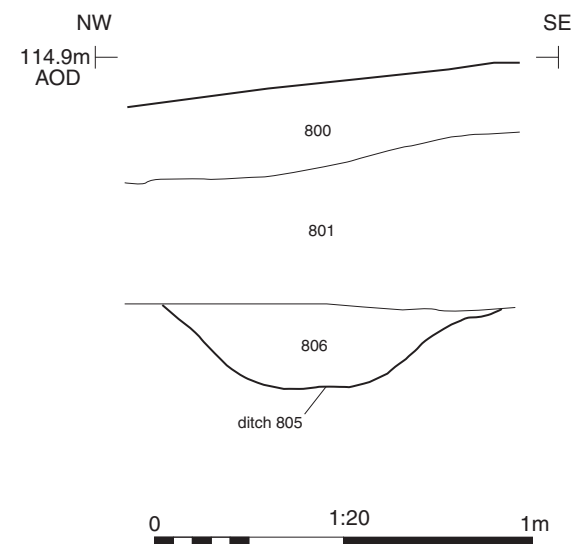


Section BB



Ditch 803, looking north-east (1m scale)

Section CC



Ditch 805, looking north-east (1m scale)


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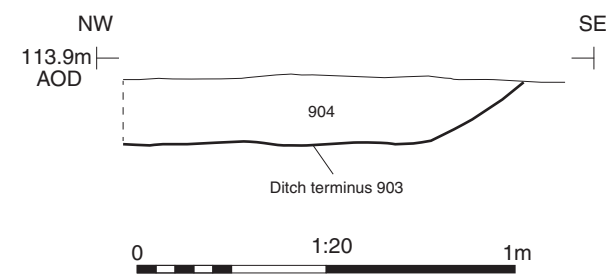
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 Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road,  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 8: sections and photographs**

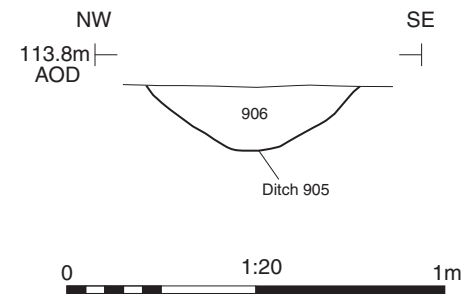
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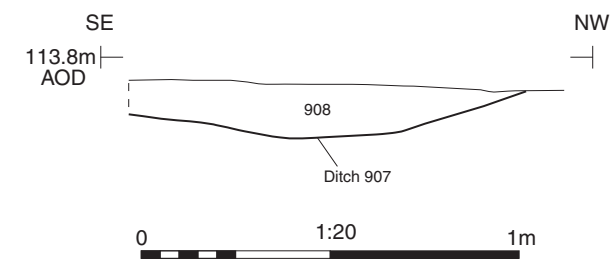
Section DD



Section EE



Section FF



Ditch terminus 903, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

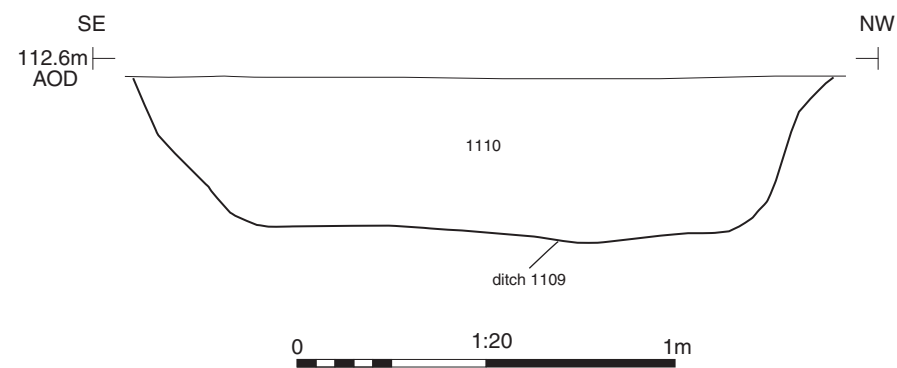


Ditch 905, looking north-east (0.2m scale)

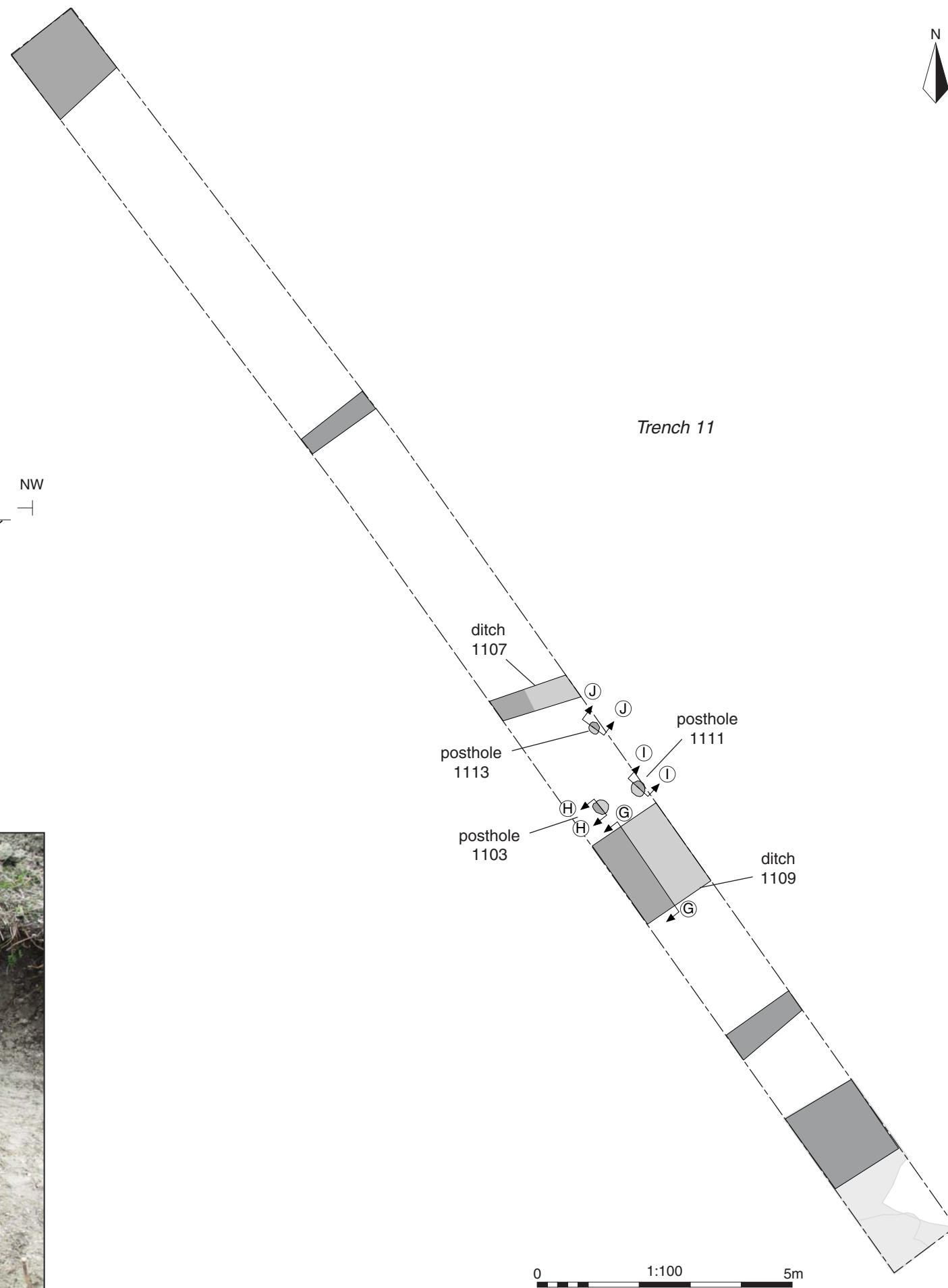


Ditch 907, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

Section GG



Ditch 1109, looking south-west (1m and 0.2m scales)



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Modern
- Section location


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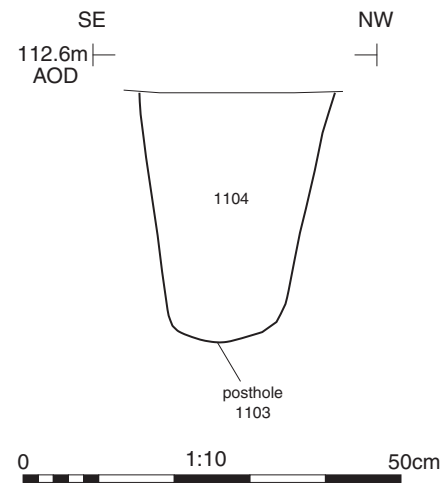
PROJECT TITLE  
 Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road,  
 Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 11: plan, section and  
 photograph**

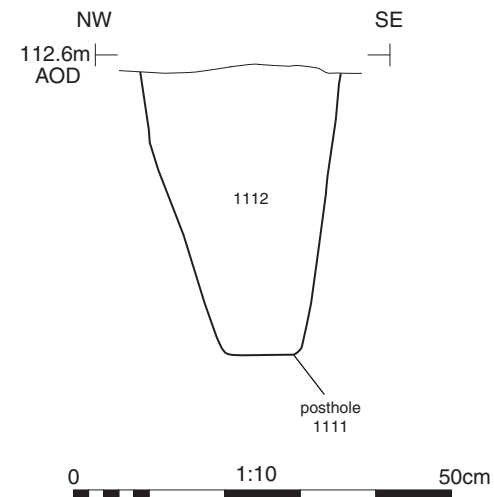
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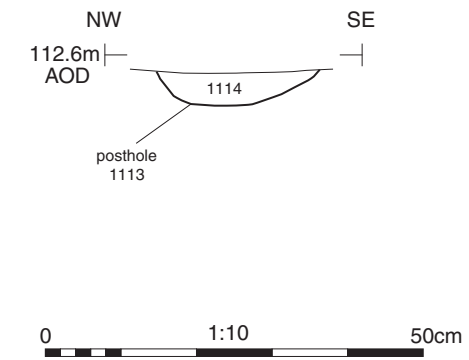
Section HH



Section II



Section JJ



Posthole 1103, looking south-west (0.2m scale)

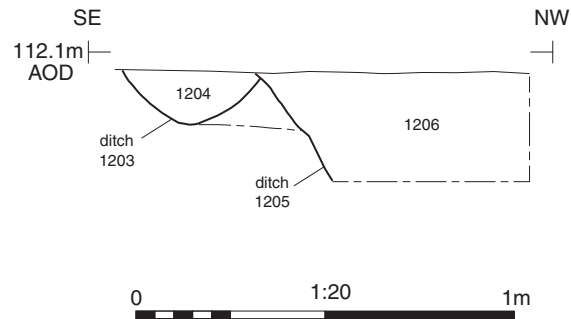


Posthole 1111, looking north-east (0.2m scale)



Posthole 1113, looking north-east (0.2m scale)

Section KK



Ditches 1203 and 1205, looking south-west (1m and 0.2 scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road,  
Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

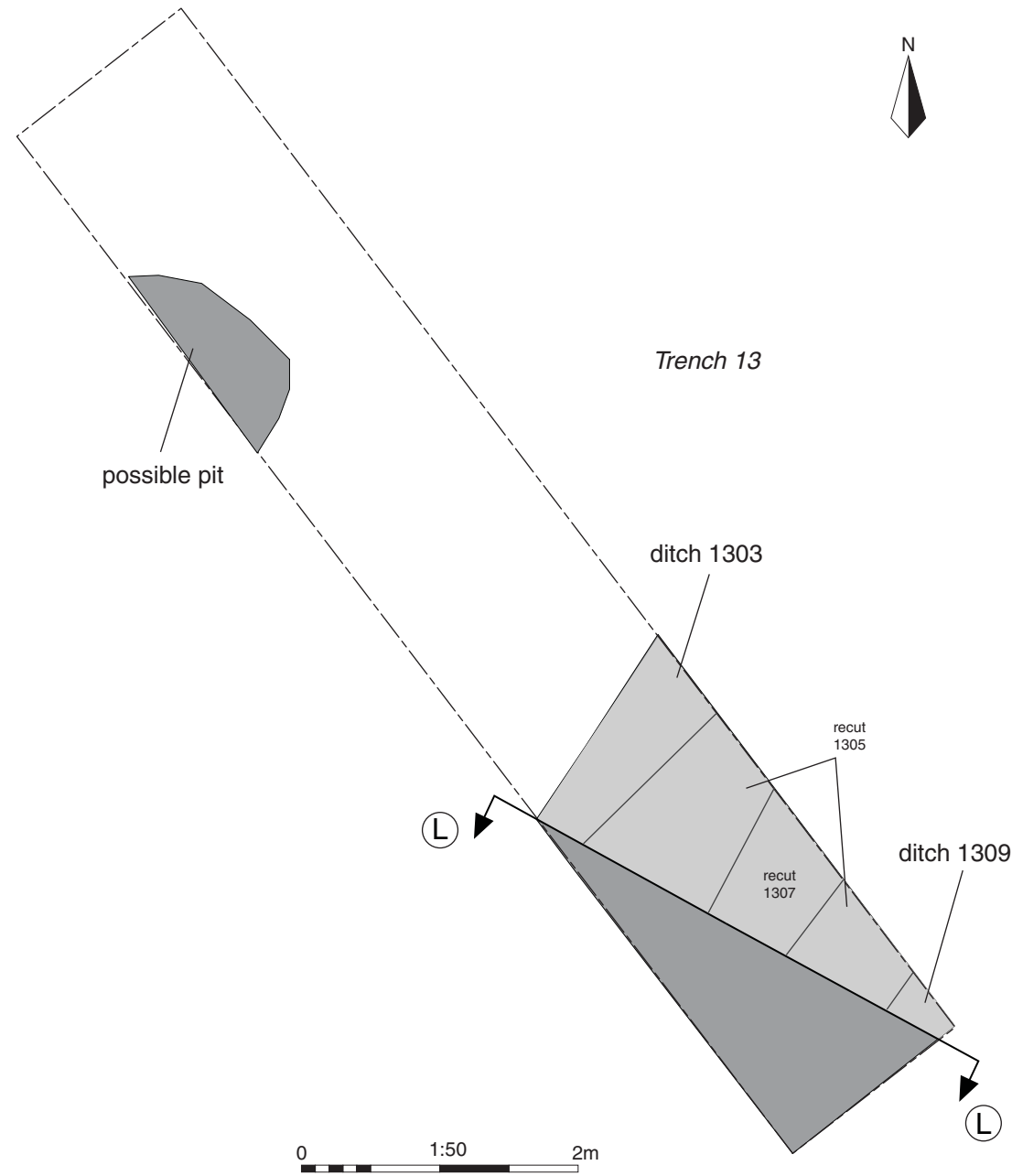
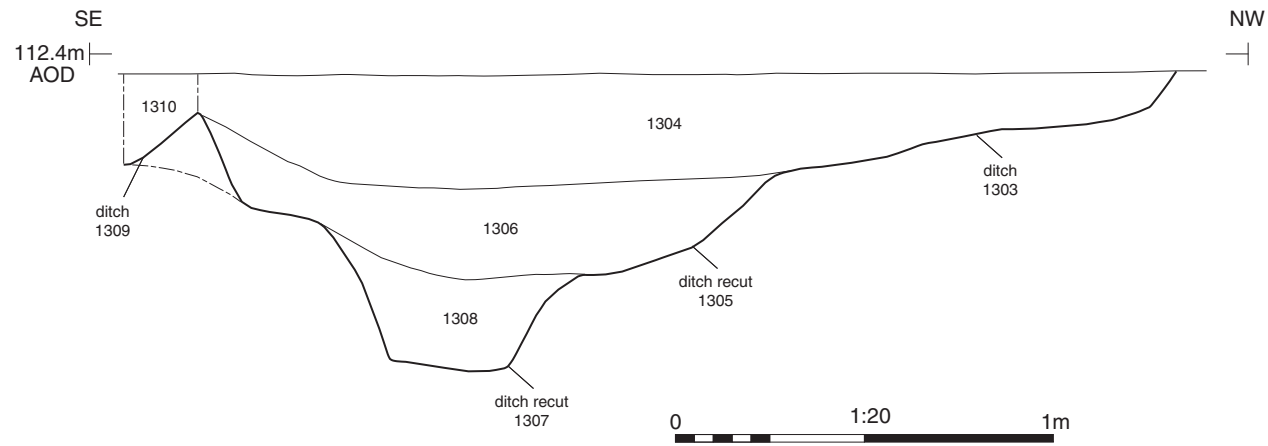
FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 12: section and photograph**

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660877	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03/05/2017	
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A4	1:20	<b>9</b>



Section LL



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Section location



Ditch 1303, with recuts 1305 and 1307, and ditch 1309, looking south (2m and 0.5m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE  
 Land at Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road,  
 Pitstone, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 13: plan, section and photograph**

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660877	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03/05/2017	10
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE @A3	1:50 / 1:20	



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