

Land at Challow Park East Challow, Wantage Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Narvo Asset Management

on behalf of
MacTaggart & Mickel Homes England Ltd

CA Project: 770542
CA Report: 17225

April 2017



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Challow Park
Location:	East Challow, Wantage, Oxfordshire
NGR:	SU 38410 88065
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	March 2017
Planning Reference:	VWHDC P16/V1714/O
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service
Accession Number:	OXCMS:2017.31
Site Code:	LCP 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2017 at Challow Park, East Challow, Wantage, Oxfordshire. Seven Trenches were excavated within two plots of land north of the A417 Challow Road.

The archaeology at Challow Park showed no continuation of the Late Iron Age/Romano-British features from the 2016 evaluation in the field immediately adjacent to the west and north (CA 2016) but did reveal further evidence of early-medieval (5th-6th century) activity at least in areas between the footprints of the now demolished Council Depot buildings.

The evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity took principally the form of a potential Saxon sunken-featured building (203) in Trench 2, which contained large and unabraded fragments of 5th-6th century pottery and well-preserved animal bone within the secondary fill (205). In Trench 7 a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in a probable ditch (709), located in a cluster of unfortunately undated postholes and a pit.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Narvo Asset Management on the behalf of MacTaggart and Mickel Homes England Ltd. on land at Challow Park, East Challow, Wantage Oxfordshire (centred on NGR: SU 38410 88065; Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning permission for a residential development of up to 38 dwellings with associated car parking and amenity space. Permission has been granted by Vale of White Horse District Council (henceforth VWHDC, ref: P16/V1714/O and P15/V2545/O), conditional on a programme of archaeological work:

Condition 13

The applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall be responsible for organising and implementing an archaeological investigation, to be undertaken prior to development commencing. The investigation shall be carried out by a professional archaeological organisation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has first been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Condition 14

Prior to the commencement of the development and following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation, a staged programme of archaeological investigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

Prior to evaluation the site was subject to a Heritage Statement (CA 2014) and a geophysical survey (AOC 2016).

- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Hugh Coddington (Oxford County Council Archaeological Service, henceforth OCCAS). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*

(MORPHE): *Project Planning Note 3* (English Heritage 2008), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Hugh Coddington on 29 March 2017.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 1.9ha, and comprises an irregular parcel of land, which is divided into two plots by a north-south-aligned public footpath. The western part, previously developed and occupied by a council depot including several flats, comprises a number of areas of former hard-standing, now overgrown with scrub. The eastern area is overgrown with vegetation, with the extant development limited to a tennis court to the north. The site is situated within a wider area of farmland. It is bordered to the south by the A417 and by residential properties to the west and east (Greenacre and Challow Park respectively) and by agricultural fields to the north. The boundaries of the site are demarcated by mature vegetation, especially pronounced along the northern, southern and eastern edges. The natural topography is generally level, lying at approximately 105m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4 The solid geology within the proposed development site comprises calcareous sandstone and siltstone of the Upper Greensand Formation, formed approximately 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2017). This was confirmed on site (cf. Section 5.2).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following section summarises the archaeological background outlined in the Heritage Statement prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2014).
- 2.2 There is little evidence of early prehistoric activity within the proposed development site or its immediate vicinity, with the only find spot comprising a Neolithic flint core found in Wantage. Bronze Age activity is also fairly limited with a single findspot of a spearhead found in East Challow, c. 330m to the west of the proposed development site.
- 2.3 The various tributaries of the River Ock and the low lying valleys of the Letcombe Brook in Wantage, are known to be the focus of settlement activity in the later Prehistoric period. In particular the National Mapping Programme has identified Iron

Age or Roman settlement activity comprising a complex of trackways, enclosures, pits and boundaries to the south of the proposed development site from aerial photographs. A number of Iron Age and Romano-British sites have been recorded on the higher ground surrounding Wantage, such as Crab Hill, located c. 2km to the north-east of the proposed development site.

- 2.4 During the Roman period the principal settlement was at Wantage and focused around the modern Mill Street, which is located approximately 1km to the east of the proposed development site. The Roman road linking Oxford with Wantage is located to the north-west of the settlement and it is likely that this road contributed to the shaping of the landscape through the growth of small road side settlements such as the villa and settlement at Denchworth Road, located c.1km to the north-east of the site. A recent evaluation (CA 2016) undertaken immediately to the west of the current site and north of the A417 as it runs into East Challow, identified intensive Romano-British occupation activity. It also recorded a small assemblage of pottery dating to between the 6th and 8th centuries which may suggest the continuation of some activity into the early medieval period. Cropmark evidence also suggests that further occupation and enclosure activity continues south of the A417. A second scheduled villa site is located c.630m to the east of the proposed development site overlooking the valley of the River Ock. This structure appears as a corridor villa situated within a rectangular enclosure and was identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs.
- 2.6 Evidence of early medieval activity is largely limited to features identified in Wantage, the most substantial of which are several ditches discovered along Mill Street, c.1km to the east of the proposed development site. However a recent evaluation of a site c. 200m to the west (and immediately north of the bend of the A417 as it runs into East Challow) identified features containing Anglo-Saxon pottery dating to the 6th-8th centuries. During the 9th century the town of Wantage developed as both an important regional centre and royal Manor. The town is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Wanetinz* and during the medieval period Wantage developed as a market town with a planned layout by the 12th century.
- 2.7 During the medieval period, East Challow was located within the ecclesiastical parish of Letcombe Regis, which is located c.1.3km to the south of the proposed development site. Letcombe Regis is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey as *Ledencumbe*, a large royal manor that encompassed an area including East Challow. The place-name 'Challow' is thought to have derived from the Old English

meaning 'Ceawa's Barrow'. Medieval settlements in East Challow are thought to have developed around the church of St Nicholas, which is situated c.280m to the west of the survey area and dates to the 12th or 13th centuries, with extensive 19th century restoration works. There are several heritage assets dating to the medieval period within the landscape surrounding the site including a trackway, water meadows, boundaries and a find spot of a medieval ampulla.

- 2.8 The settlement pattern appears to have remained consistent through the medieval and post-medieval periods and the proposed development site is likely to have continued to be used as agricultural land. The Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal was constructed in the late 18th century c.260m to the north of the site. The canal carried considerable traffic from 1810 until 1914, when its importance as a transport network had diminished and the canal was closed. A swing bridge associated with the canal is located within the 1km of the site, as well as a brick kiln, watercress beds, a toll house and a watermill. The earliest cartographic evidence documents the proposed development site as being located within two plots of land, one of which belonged to Exuperius Turnor Esq and the other fell within the paddock and pleasure grounds associated with Challow Park. Ordnance Survey mapping dating to the 20th century depicts little development within the western part of the site. Challow Park, a residential property and associated outbuildings and garden features are first shown towards the east of the proposed development site on the 1900 OS Map. During the second half of the 20th century the north-western part of the site housed council depot buildings that were accessed via a road leading from Challow Road (A417). Further buildings were constructed to the south of these later in the 20th century and the access point moved to its current position along the southern boundary of the western part of the site by 1982.
- 2.9 In 2016 a gradiometer survey was undertaken within the site (AOC 2016). The eastern field was deemed 'magnetically and archaeologically quiet'. However, areas to the north and west of the survey area contained high levels magnetic 'noise' caused by modern activities relating to the Challow Park renovations and demolished mid-20th-century Council Depot buildings. As a consequence the report indicated that it was difficult to determine the extent, if any, of possible archaeological remains to the north and west of the survey area, as the potential responses of buried features have largely been masked by modern sources of above ground magnetic disturbance.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). The specific aim of the evaluation was to verify the results of the geophysical survey and to determine the level of impact on any archaeological remains by the 20th-century structures and demolition events. This information will enable the local planning authority 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 7 trenches (30m long by 1.8m wide), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). **Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 7** were moved by a few metres from their positions proposed in the WSI, in order to avoid tree stumps, tarmac and two areas of extant services respectively. 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* and one context (**205**) was sampled and processed. 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 Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service under accession number OXCMS:2017.31 along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-5)

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.

Geology and Stratigraphy

5.2 Despite previous modern development and apparent terracing in the western field, the original topsoil (now buried below demolition debris and imported soil) was largely intact and was noticeably truncated only in the centre of the field within **Trench 6**. The natural geological substrate consisting of dark grey and light yellow calcareous siltstone and sandstone bedrock in **Trenches 1, 2 and 6**, and light greyish green calcareous sandy clay in **Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 7** was revealed at an average depth of 0.63m below present ground level (BPGL) where made ground was present in the western field and 0.29m BPGL in the eastern field. The natural geology was overlain by mid grey silty clay subsoil in **Trenches 5 and 6** (contexts **504** and **601**) averaging 0.23m thick. The natural geology and subsoil were in turn sealed by an average of 0.33m of dark grey sandy clay buried soil (contexts **402**, **503** and **701**) in the western field and an average of 0.29m of dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil in the eastern field. A further layer of made ground was revealed above the topsoil in the western field, averaging 0.25m thick (**401**, **502**, **600** and **700**), which was in turn overlain by imported soil averaging 0.15m thick (**400** and **501**).

5.3 Eight archaeological features were recorded in **Trenches 2, 5 and 7** and no archaeology was found in **Trenches 1, 3 and 6**. In **Trench 4**, a tree throw **406** produced one fragment of worked flint, which is not inconsistent with Mesolithic/Early Neolithic technology (cf. Section 6.4).

Trench 2 (Figures 2 and 3)

- 5.4 **Trench 2** contained a single 2.79m-wide and 0.41m deep feature (**203**). It was initially interpreted to be a ditch, however its wide and shallow profile, with flat base and relatively steep sides, would mean that its functionality as a boundary or drainage feature was somewhat impaired. It is not impossible that it may in fact represent a small sunken-featured building. It contained a secondary (**205**) and tertiary fill (**204**) both of which produced finds. Large sherds of early Saxon pottery were recovered from **205** and a single sherd from **204**; both fills produced well preserved animal bone. An environmental sample taken from fill **205** contained mineralised seeds which may have come with straw deposited in a cess-like environment (cf. Section 7.4).

Trench 5 (Figures 2 and 4)

- 5.5 **Trench 5** contained two small parallel gullies (**505** and **507**) found 10.5m apart. Both were cut below the subsoil and had shallow u-shaped profiles. They had an average width of 0.46m and depth of 0.12m. Both were undated and produced no finds.

Trench 7 (Figures 2 and 5)

- 5.6 **Trench 7** produced two postholes (**703** and **711**) measuring 0.34m and 0.23m in diameter (respectively) and c. 0.08m deep. Two features of similar size were recorded to the west of posthole **703**, however the excavation revealed that they were not of archaeological nature. Two shallow ditches (**707** and **709**) were recorded on a broadly north-south alignment. Both were heavily truncated by modern intrusion most likely associated with the demolition works of the Council Depot buildings, therefore their relationship could not be established. Secondary fill **710** of ditch **709** produced a single fragment of Anglo-Saxon pottery. An oval pit (**705**) measuring c. 1.35m in diameter and 0.22 deep was found to the west of the ditches. Except for ditch **709**, none of the features produced datable material.

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 nine sherds (353g) of pottery was recorded from four deposits. With the exception of a single sherd of post-medieval redware from buried soil **701**, the group is in organic/chaff-tempered fabrics, of Early to Middle Saxon date. Hamerow *et al.* (1994) note that chaff-tempered pottery was most commonly used during the 6th to 7th centuries AD, accounting for most of the pottery from sites in the Upper Thames basin by the 7th century.
- 6.3 The pottery is in good condition, with an average sherd weight of 39.2g. Four body sherds from the lower secondary fill (**205**) of feature **203** re-join. A rim sherd from the same context is slightly everted and probably comes from a vessel with sloping shoulder, similar to an example from Beech House Hotel, Dorchester-on-Thames (Rowley and Brown 1982, fig. 18, 1). Burnt residue on the interior of the rim may be sufficient to obtain a radiocarbon date. Although in the same fabric to the body sherds, the rim is likely to originate from a different vessel, as it is thinner-walled (6mm in comparison to 10mm). A body sherd in the same fabric, burnished on the exterior, was also recovered from ditch **709** (fill **710**). A single sherd in a different organic-tempered fabric was recovered from the upper fill (**204**) of feature **203**.

Other finds

- 6.4 A rectangular piece of ironstone, with U-shaped hollow, was recovered from the upper fill of feature **203** (fill **204**). Although of unusual shape, it shows no obvious signs of working. A single flint fragment was recovered from tree throw **404** (fill **405**). The item has blade-like proportions, with a length twice the width, typical of the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods. An abraded brick fragment from buried soil **402**.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 7.1 A single environmental sample (5 litres of soil) was taken from fill **205** of possible Saxon sunken featured building **203** in **Trench 2** to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains in the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

7.2 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1 (Appendix C), following nomenclature of Stace (1997). The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

7.3 The flot was of moderate size with moderate numbers of rooty material and modern seeds. The environmental assemblage included material preserved by charring and mineralisation.

Trench 2

7.4 A few charcoal fragments greater than 2mm but no charred plant remains were recovered from secondary fill **205** (sample 1) of possible sunken-featured building **203**. There was however a moderate number of mineralised remains recorded within the assemblage. These included mineralised seeds of brassica/vetch/wild pea (*Brassica/Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), knotgrass family (*Polygonaceae*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and mineralised nodules. This mineralised material is likely to be preserved by calcium phosphate mineral replacement, which is characteristically seen in some cesspit deposits and such like. The weed seeds are general species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments and may have come in with straw although no stem fragments were preserved. The single mollusc shell noted within the assemblage was that of the open country species *Vallonia costata*.

7.5 Although there is no indication of the date of the assemblage from the environmental remains, it is compatible with a Saxon date and would add to the evidence for Saxon activity in the area from this site and from previous work in the vicinity (CA 2016).

Animal bone

7.6 Animal bone comprising 41 fragments (521g) was recovered by hand excavation and the processing of bulk soil samples from five deposits. The material was only moderately well preserved and highly fragmented, preventing the identification of 90% of the bone. However, it was possible to confirm the presence of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and horse (*Equus caballus*).

Anglo-Saxon

7.7 A total of 35 fragments (406g) were recovered from deposits **204**, **205** and **710**, in association with artefacts dating to the Anglo-Saxon period. Cattle, sheep/goat and horse were identified, each from a single fragment. No cut and/or chop marks were

present to suggest an origin in butchery waste which, when combined with the low recovery, prevents any interpretative inference beyond species identification. However, each of these species were commonly exploited as domestic animals in this period and as such their presence on site is to be expected (Baker and Worley, 2014).

Undated

- 7.8 A further six fragments (118g) were recovered from deposits **706** and **708** which remain undated. Of these the only identifiable bone was a partial cattle tibia (from the hind limb) recovered from deposit **708**.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The archaeology at Challow Park showed no continuation of features from the 2016 evaluation in the field immediately adjacent to the west and north (CA 2016) but did reveal further evidence of early-medieval (5th-6th century) activity at least in areas between the footprints of the now demolished Council Depot buildings.
- 8.2 A single find of a possible Mesolithic/Early Neolithic blade found in a tree throw can indicate that the area may have been subject to occasional activity in these periods. However, given the solitary nature of this find, combined with just one known Neolithic findspot from Wantage, there is too little evidence to elucidate the nature of such activity.
- 8.3 The site produced evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity principally in the form of a potential Saxon sunken-featured building (**203**) in **Trench 2**, which contained large and unabraded fragments of 5th-6th century pottery and well-preserved animal bone within the secondary fill (**205**). The function of this possible building is unclear, however the palaeoenvironmental evidence in the form of mineralised plant remains indicative of straw and cess, may suggest that it have served as a byre, rather than a dwelling. Biological evidence suggests that the site was located in the Saxon period in open grassland, and the setting of the site towards the top of a north-facing slope would have allowed for a commanding view over the valley to the north-west, and potentially offered protection from the prevailing southerly winds. In **Trench 7** a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in a probable ditch (**709**), located in a cluster of unfortunately undated postholes and a pit. It is, therefore likely that

remains of early-medieval field systems and/or settlement survived within the site despite recent truncation.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Clutterbuck assisted by Tim Sperring and Francesco Catanzaro. The report was written by Jeremy Clutterbuck. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Grace Jones, Katie Marsden and Sarah F. Wyles respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Tilia Carmegh. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Zoe Emery. The project was managed for CA by Jacek Gruszczynski.

10. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	layer		topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Sandy Silt. Friable. Occasional sub rounded stones. Good to natural.	30	1.8	0.3
1	101	layer		natural	Light greyish green with yellowish mottling. Sandy clay. Friable. Very rare sub angular stones ≤50mm. (Northernmost part of trench). Dark grey with light yellowish mottling. Silty sand. Compact. ≤200mm patches of ironstone. (Southern part of trench).	30	1.8	>0.1
2	200	layer		topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Sandy Silt. Friable. Occasional sub rounded stones. Good to natural.	30	1.8	0.26
2	202	layer		natural	Light greyish green with yellowish mottling. Sandy clay. Friable. Very rare sub angular stones ≤50mm. (Northern half of trench). Dark grey with light yellowish mottling. Silty sand. Compact. ≤200mm patches of ironstone. (Southern half of trench).	30	1.8	0.14
2	203	cut		cut of possible SFB	Possible sunken floor building. Rounded moderate to steep sides. Flat base with some undulations. E-W alignment.	>1.8	2.79	0.41
2	204	fill	203	tertiary fill	Mid greenish grey. Silty clay. Compact. Sub angular siltstone ≤80mm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Good horizon. Moderate rooting.	>1.8	2.79	0.31
2	205	fill	203	secondary fill	Dark brownish grey. Silty clay. Compact. Sub angular siltstone ≤60mm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Good horizon. Moderate rooting.	>1.8	2.7	0.19
3	300	layer		topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Sandy Silt. Friable. Occasional sub rounded stones. Good to natural.	30	1.8	0.3
3	301	layer		natural	Light greyish green with yellowish mottling. Lens of greyish silty clay with patches of medium sand in middle of trench. Sandy clay. Friable. Very rare sub angular stones ≤50mm.	30	1.8	>0.1
4	400	layer		topsoil	Dark grey. Sandy loam. Friable. Frequent sub rounded stones ≤30mm. Good horizon.	30	1.8	0.25
4	401	layer		made ground	Hardcore made ground.	30	1.8	0.28
4	402	layer		buried soil	dark grey sandy clay compact small subangular stones	30	1.8	
4	403	layer		natural	Mid greenish grey. Sandy loam diffused chalk	30	1.8	
4	404	cut		tree throw	Irregular linear. Rounded moderate corners. The sides and the base are irregular and pitted. NW - SE alignment	1.9	0.85	0.23
4	405	fill	404	secondary fill	Dark grey brown. Silty clay. Compact. Occasional charcoal flecks and ≤30mm rounded siltstone/mudstone. Good horizon clarity with a low contamination risk. Excavation carry out with mattock and trowel in dry condition.	1.9	0.85	0.23

Trench No	Context	Type	fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
4	406	cut		tree throw	Circular linear. Rounded corners. Sides and bases are irregular and pitted.	1.9	1.12	0.29
4	407	fill	406	secondary fill	Dark greyish brown. Silty clay. Compact. Occasional calcareous inclusions and charcoal flecks. Good Horizon clarity. Substantial extant roots.	1.9	1.12	0.29
5	500	layer		tarmac	Located only across the NE end of the trench	30	1.85	0.76
5	501	layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam. Friable. Diffused small subrounded stones <10-25 mm. Rooting grass covered; same level of 500.	30	1.85	0 - 0.06
5	502	layer		made ground	Light yellow sand with calcareous stones (>350 mm). Probably a terracing layer. Loose. Sharp horizon.	30	1.85	0.06 - 0.36
5	503	layer		buried soil	Dark grey silt loam, diffused small sub-angular stones (<20-30 mm). Friable. Moderate horizon with 504.	30	1.85	0.36 - 0.54
5	504	layer		subsoil	Mid grey silt clay, compact. Diffused flakes of chalk, rare sub-angular chalk stone (<20mm). Moderate horizon with 503	30	1.85	0.54 - 0.70
5	505	layer		natural	dark grey sandy clay compact small subangular stones	30	1.85	>0.06 - 0.70
5	506	cut		gully	Linear. Steep u-shaped sides. Concave u-shaped base. NE-SW orientation	1	0.47	0.15
5	507	fill	506	secondary fill	Dark greyish brown. Clay silt. Soft. Good Horizon clarity. Occasional rooting. Medium contamination risk.	2	0.47	0.15
5	508	cut		gully	Linear. Corners N/A. Moderate steep sides with a concave base. NE/SW orientation.	1	0.44	0.09
5	509	fill	508	secondary fill	Mid greyish brown. Clay silt, soft. Rare small stones ≤ 10mm. Good horizon clarity. Medium contamination risk.	1	0.43	0.09
6	600	layer		made ground	Light yellowish brown, sandy clay with frequent small sub-rounded stone/sand stone <20-30 mm. Grass covered, friable. Rooting	30	1.8	0 - 0.15
6	601	layer		subsoil	Mid grey silty clay. Compact, with rare small sub-rounded stones < 20 - 50 mm. Sharp horizon with 600, poor with 602.	30	1.8	0.15 - 0.45
6	602	layer		natural	Dark grey silty sand, organized in a mottled pattern with light yellow patches. Compact. Diffused medium sand and iron stones < 200 mm organized in patches	30	1.8	> 0.1 - 0.45
7	700	layer		made ground	Dark greyish brown sandy silt, with diffused small sub-rounded stones <100/120 mm, occasional fragment of modern bricks, rooting grass and bramble covered. Friable	30	1.8	0 - 0.25
7	701	layer		buried subsoil	Dark grey sandy clay loam, rooting occasional small sub-rounded stones <50 mm; compact. Poor horizon with 700, sharp with 702.	30	1.8	0.25 - 0.60
7	702	layer		natural	Light greyish green, sandy clay loam with yellowish mottling patches; rooting, very rare small sub angular stones < 30 - 50 mm	30	1.8	>0.16 - 0.60
7	703	cut		post hole	Oval with moderate NE side and steep SW side with a sharp break of slope	0.34	0.31	0.09

Trench No	Context	Type	fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
7	704	fill	703	secondary fill	Dark greyish brown clayey silt; rare soft chalk nodules <20mm	0.34	0.31	0.09
7	705	cut		pit	Sub-oval possible pit extending into the baulk; moderately sloping sides and a concave base	>0.5	1.35	0.22
7	706	fill	705	secondary fill	Dark brownish grey clayey silt with rare subrounded soft chalk nodules <20mm and occasional charcoal flecks	>0.5	1.35	0.22
7	707	cut		ditch	Terminus of N-S aligned linear feature truncated to the E by modern disturbance. Moderate to steep sides with concave base. Parallel to 709	>2	>0.47	0.15
7	708	fill	707	secondary fill	Mid brownish grey clayey silt with rare small rounded stones <15mm and charcoal flecks	>2	>0.47	0.15
7	709	cut		ditch	N-S aligned linear feature truncated to the W by modern disturbance. Moderate to steep sides with concave base. Parallel to 707	>2	>0.42	0.17
7	710	fill	709	secondary fill	Dark brownish grey clayey silt with rare small rounded stones <25mm and charcoal flecks	>2	>0.42	0.17
7	711	cut		post hole	Oval with steep sides and concave base	0.23	0.23	0.08
7	712	fill	712	secondary fill	Dark grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	0.23	0.23	0.08



APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: finds concordance

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
204	Pottery		1	23	Anglo-Saxon
	Stone		1	1479	
205	Pottery		6	316	Anglo-Saxon
402	Ceramic building material	Brick	1	93	
405	Worked flint		1	11	
701	Pottery	Redware	1	5	MC16-C18
710	Pottery		1	9	Anglo-Saxon



APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 2 Saxon possible sunken featured building											
203	205	1	5	80	30	-	-	-	(mineralised seeds (**) including <i>Brassica/Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Polygonaceae</i> + <i>Sambucus</i> , mineralised nodules (**))	*/**	Sab (*), Moll-t (*)

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items, Sab = small animal bones, Moll-t = land snails

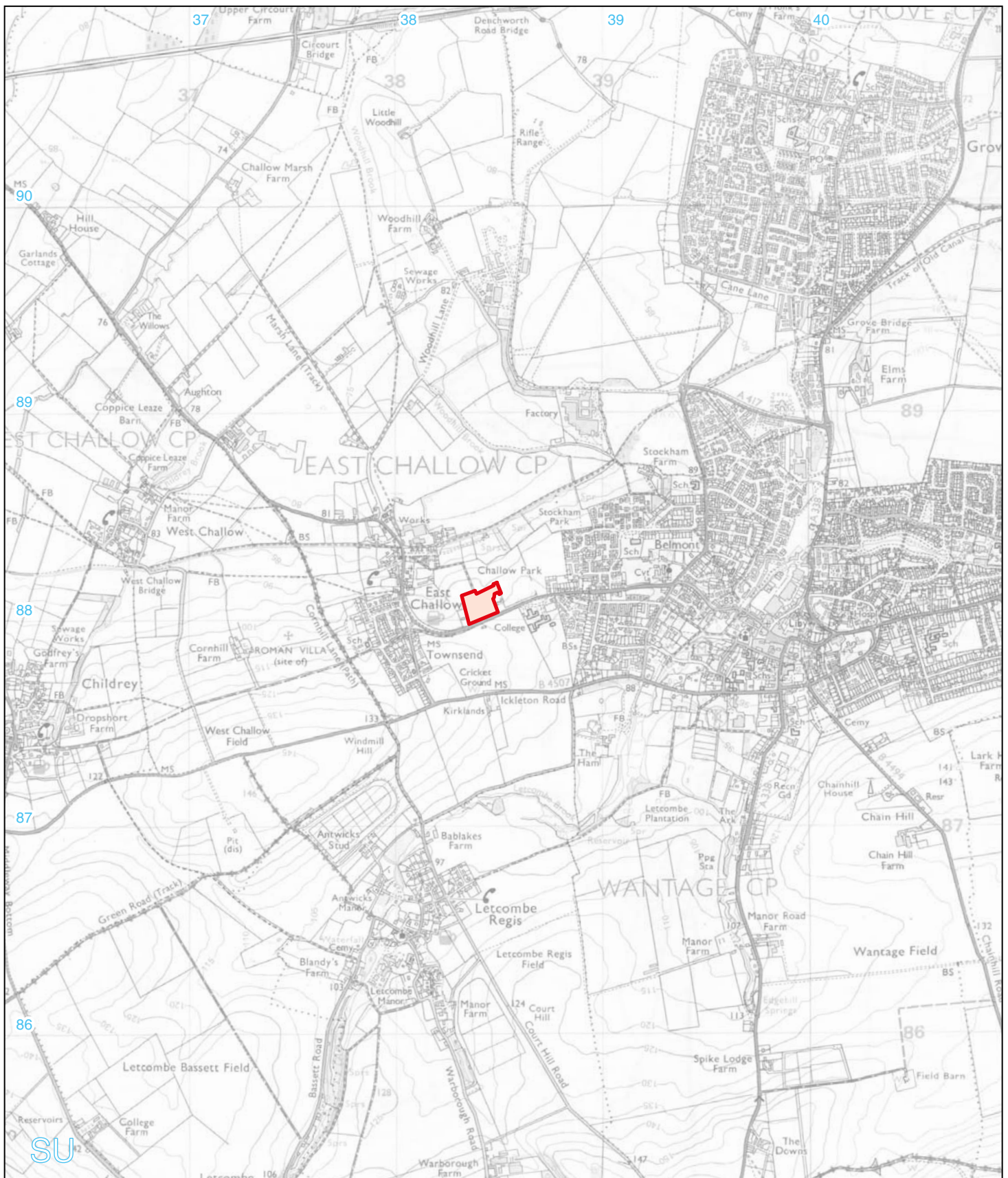
Table 2: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP), weight and context.

Context	BOS	O/C	EQ	LM	MM	Ind	un-id SS	Total	Weight (g)
Anglo-Saxon									
204				5	9			14	98
205		1	1	3			14	19	119
710		1				1		2	189
Subtotal	1	1	1	8	9	1	14	35	406
Undated									
706						5		5	10
708		1						1	105
Subtotal	1					5		6	115
Total	2	1	1	8	9	6	14	41	
Weight	293	5	59	102	43	11	8	521	

Bos = cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; EQ = horse; LM = cattle size fragments; MM = sheep size fragments; Ind – indeterminate; un-id SS = unidentifiable fragments from bulk soil samples

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Challow Park, East Challow, Wantage, Oxfordshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2017 at Challow Park, East Challow, Wantage, Oxfordshire. Seven Trenches were excavated within two plots of land north of the A417 Challow Road.</p> <p>The archaeology at Challow Park showed no continuation of features from the 2016 evaluation in the field immediately adjacent to the west and north (CA 2016) but did reveal further evidence of early-medieval (5th-6th century) activity at least in areas between the footprints of the now demolished Council Depot buildings.</p> <p>The evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity took principally the form of a potential Saxon sunken-featured building (203) in Trench 2, which contained large and unabraded fragments of 5th-6th century pottery and well-preserved animal bone within the secondary fill (205). In Trench 7 a single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in a probable ditch (709), located in a cluster of unfortunately undated postholes and a pit.</p>	
Project dates	2017	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	AOC 2016 Geophysics Project No. 51501	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Challow Park, East Challow, Wantage, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.9ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 38410 88065	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Jacek Gruszczynski	
Project Supervisor	Joe Whelan	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Recipient of each type of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box
Physical	Oxfordshire Museum Service OXCMS:2017.31	Ceramics, animal bone, flint etc.
Paper	Oxfordshire Museum Service OXCMS:2017.31	Context sheets, registers etc.
Digital	Oxfordshire Museum Service OXCMS:2017.31	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land at Challow Park, East Challow, Wantage, Oxfordshire Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA Report No. 17225		



 Site location

0  1km

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Challow Park
East Challow, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY TC **PROJECT NO.** 770542
CHECKED BY AO **DATE** 10/04/17
APPROVED BY JG **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- geological feature
- modern
- field drain
- treethrow
- bioturbation
- demolished building outline
- section location
- Gradiometer survey results (AOC 2016)
- possible archaeology
- linear trend (modern - utility/structural)
- disturbed area (modern)
- dipolar anomaly
- survey area



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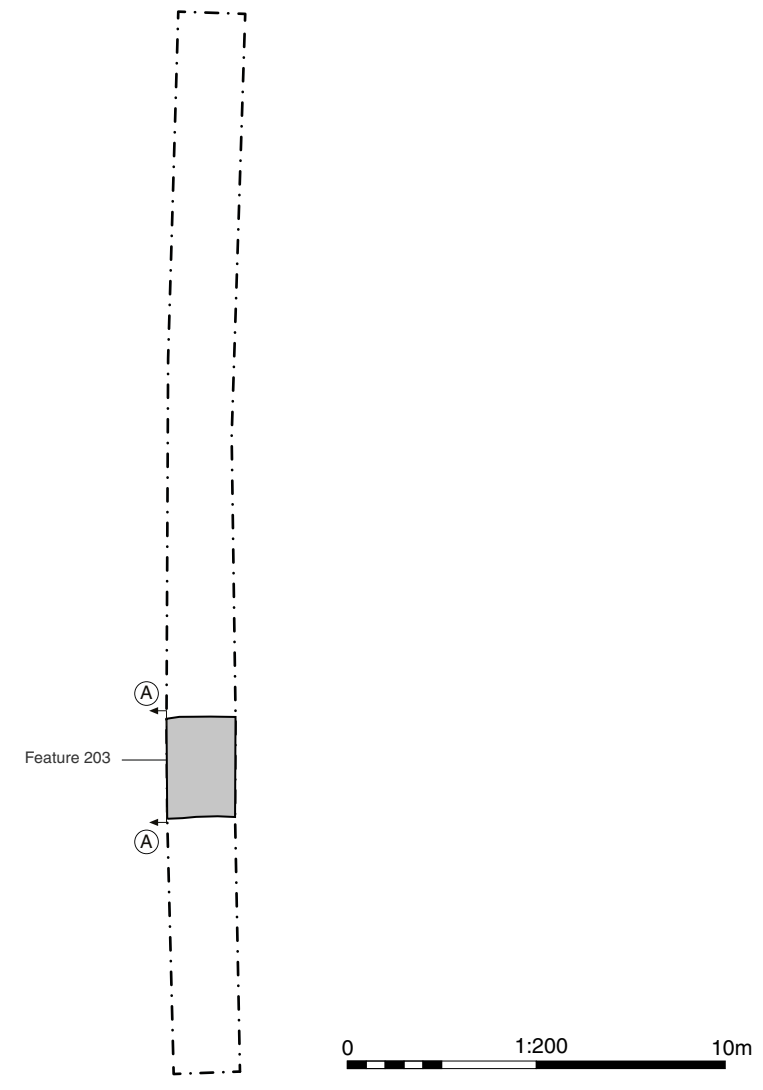
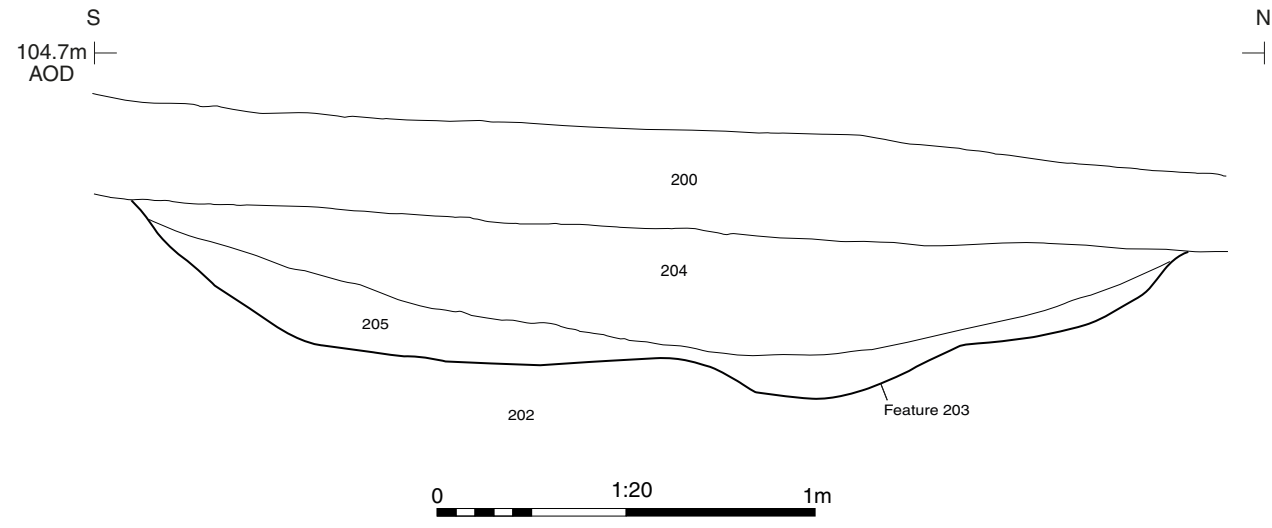
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Challop Park, East Challow, Wantage, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	770542	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	6/04/17	2
APPROVED BY	JG	SCALE@A3	1:750	

P:\770542 Land at Challop Park, Wantage, Oxon (EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\770542 Land at Challop Park, Wantage, Oxon Figure 2.dwg

Section AA



Archaeological feature

Section location



Pre-excavation view south across trench 2 (1m scale x2)



East facing baulk section of feature 203, looking north-west (1m scale)

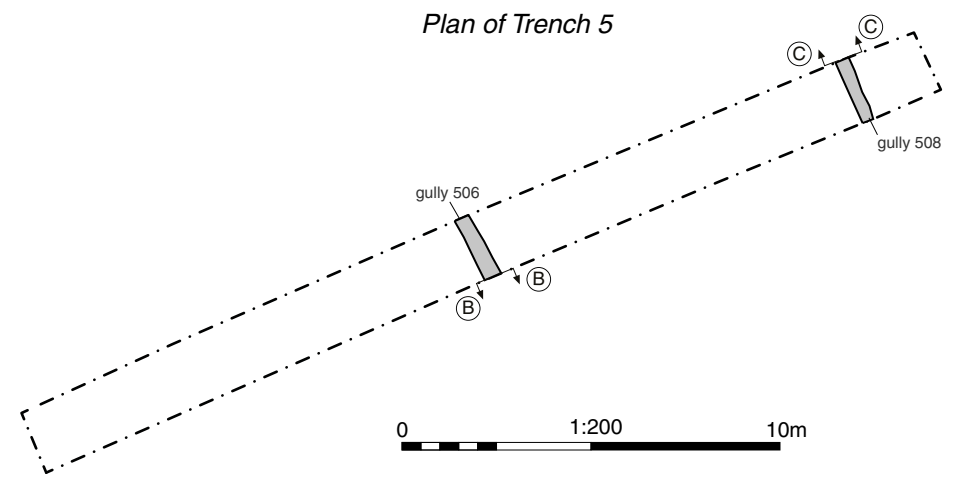
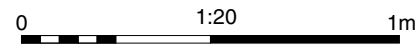
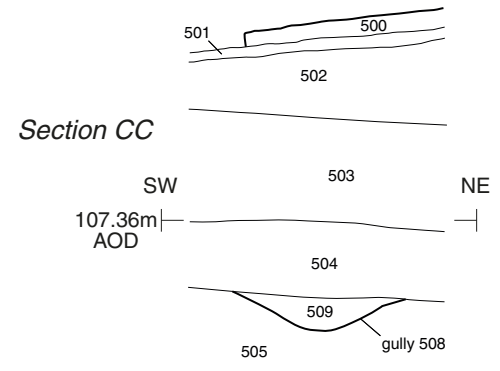
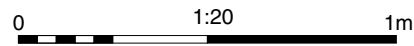
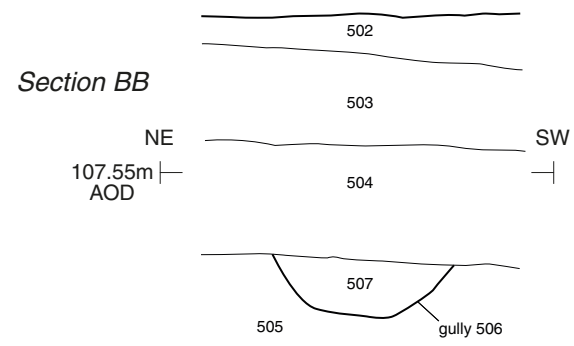
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Challow Park, East Challow,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 2: Plan, sections and
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	770542	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	6/04/17	3
APPROVED BY	JG	SCALE@A3	1:20 and 1:200	



 Archaeological feature
 Section location



Pre-excavation view south-west across trench 5 (1m scale)



North-west facing baulk section of gully 506 (1m scale)

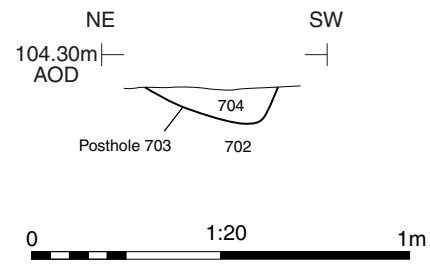

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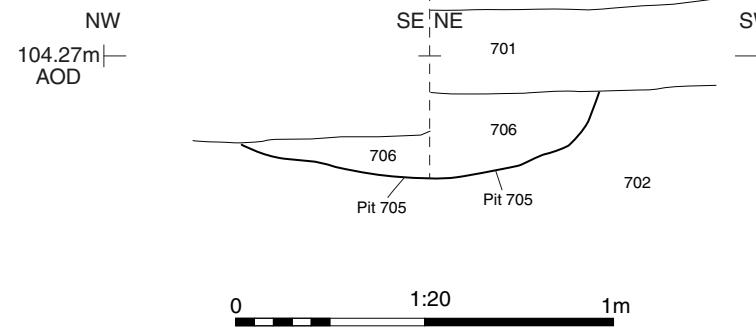
FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 5: Plan, sections and
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	770542	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	7/04/17	4
APPROVED BY	JG	SCALE@A3	1:20 and 1:200	

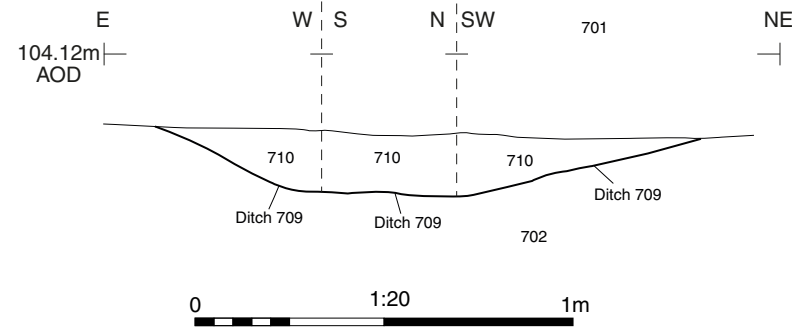
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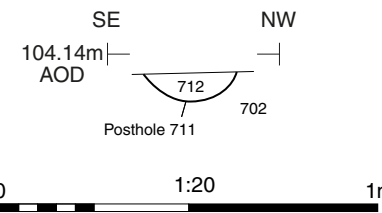
Section EE








Section FF

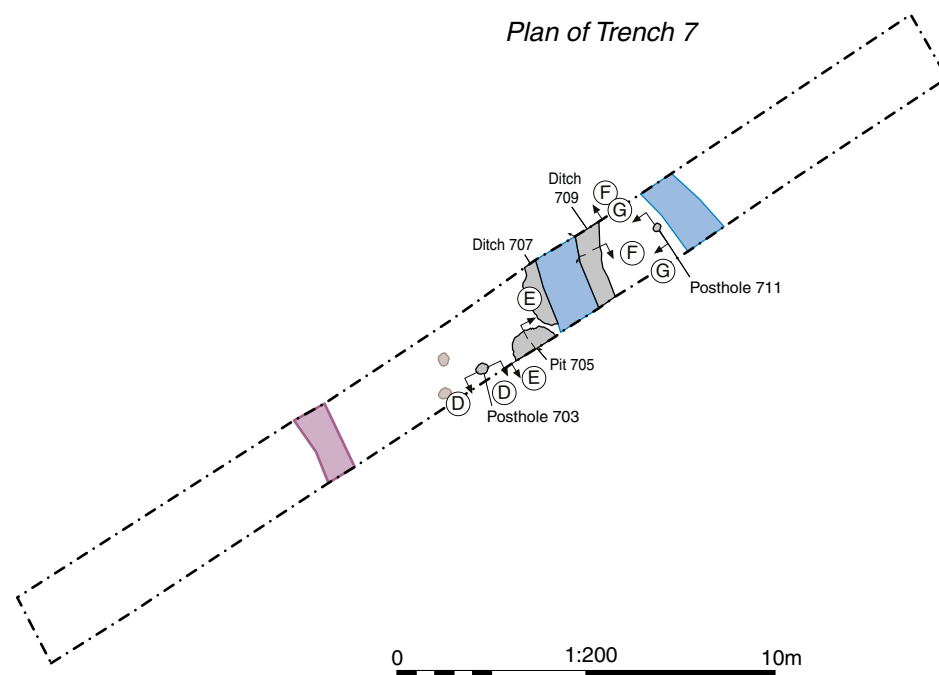


Section GG



-  Archaeological feature
-  Geology
-  Bioturbation
-  Modern disturbance
-  Section location

Plan of Trench 7




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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Challow Park, East Challow, Wantage, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 7: Plan and sections

DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	770542	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	7/04/17	5
APPROVED BY	JG	SCALE@A3	1:20 and 1:200	



Pre-excavation view north-east across trench 7 (1m scales)



North-west facing baulk section of potential pit 705, looking south-east (1m scale)



South-east facing baulk section of ditch 709, looking north-west (1m scale)

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