

Land north of Church Lane, Spencers Wood, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
CgMs Consulting

on behalf of
Taylor Wimpey UK

CA Project: 770546
CA Report: 17157

April 2017



North of Church Lane,
Three Miles Cross,
Spencers Wood,
Berkshire

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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	26-4-16	Oliver Good/Adam Howard	Ray Kennedy	Internal Review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	7
4. METHODOLOGY	7
5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-17)	8
6. THE FINDS	9
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE.....	10
8. DISCUSSION	12
9. CA PROJECT TEAM	13
10. REFERENCES.....	14
appendix A: CONTEXT descriptions.....	17
appendix B: the FINDS	24
APPENDIX D: oaSIS REPORT FORM	26

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Area A trench location plan

Figure 3: **Trenches 6, 8, 9 and 10**

Figure 4: **Trenches 12 to 14 and Trenches 16 to 21**

Figure 5: Photographs of South East facing section through gully **1203**, North west facing section through pit **1205**, East facing section through ditch **1209** and east facing section through ditch **1903**

SUMMARY

Project Name: North of Church Lane, Three Miles Cross,
Location: Spencers Wood, Berkshire
NGR: 471740 168206
Type: Evaluation
Date: 20-31 March 2017
Planning Reference: 162829
Location of Archive: Cotswold Archaeology Andover Office
Site Code: CRSW17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2017 at Land North of Church Lane, Three Miles Cross, Spencers Wood, Berkshire. Seventeen of the planned twenty one trenches were excavated comprising a 4% sample of the development area.

The small assemblage of worked flint recovered indicates a generally low level of prehistoric activity within the wider environment. Considering the low number of prehistoric finds and the secondary ditch fills from which the majority of worked flint was recovered, it is likely that the lithics are largely residual.

The majority of dating evidence recovered from the site can be attributed to the medieval period and was recovered from a number of agricultural field boundaries. A single sherd broadly medieval pottery was recovered from a ditch within **Trench 12**. The ditch and a nearby undated posthole produced environmental evidence for dumps of domestic hearth waste indicating nearby settlement activity nearby. **Trenches 13** and **19** contained ditches producing pottery from the 16th to 19th century.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for at the request of CgMs Consulting on behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK at Land North of Church Lane, Three Miles Cross, Spencers Wood, Berkshire (centred on NGR: 471740 168206; Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a hybrid planning application (Ref: 162829) for the construction of up to 900 dwellings, a three form entry primary school, public open space, access and, spine road, suds ponds, drainage and associated landscaping following demolition of existing dwelling and ancillary buildings including greenhouses sheds stables and garage.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a previously approved mitigation WSI produced by CgMs (CgMs 2014) for archaeological evaluation agreed by Berkshire Archaeology (BA), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2017b). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Kathleen Leary, including site visits on the 22nd and 30th of March 2017.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately c.11.8ha. The areas of impact will be smaller than the proposed development area based on noted constraints. The Site is bound by Basingstoke Road to the west, to the north by the M4, to the south and west it is bound by Church Lane and agricultural fields respectively.
- 1.4 The north part of the site slopes northward from around 55m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to around 45m aOD just to the south of Church Lane. The ground remains largely flat northwards until the M4.
- 1.5 The solid geology of the site is London Clay Formation, which comprises Clay, Silt and Sand (British Geological Survey Sheet 268, 2000). Drift geology, consisting of River Terrace Deposits, is present across the south-eastern extent of the site, in a north-east to south-west orientation (Third Terrace).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of the known archaeological information prior to the evaluation taken from a DBA and WSI produced by CgMs (CgMs 2012, 2014).
- 2.2 The site has also been subject to archaeological field surveys comprising geophysical survey (Stratascan 1997a & 1997b) and trial trenching (TVAS 2012). Archaeological trial trenches have been excavated within several locations within the Assessment Site, targeted at land to the south of Croft Road and a number of locations within the proposed scheme that are considered 'fixed' design elements such as road access, the proposed school and attenuation ponds. The following summarises the findings of the assessment and the results of the field surveys

Undated

- 2.3 The Berkshire HER records three undated archaeological monuments and several sites outside of the Site but within the 250m radius of the study area. The majority of these entries relate to 'undated' cropmarks. However, their shape and the aerial photographic assessment has suggested that the majority of these are Iron Age and Romano-British in date. Geophysical survey revealed a number of linear features indicating possible manmade ditches forming multi-period enclosures, located some 400m beyond the western extent of Area B. HER records relate to undated pottery sherds identified during the Loddon Valley Field-walking Survey 360m to the east of area B (Ford 1997 & Ford et al. 2011b). These are likely to represent the spread of debris from the nearby settlement of Ryeish Green by ploughing and agricultural activity. The recent trial trenching (TVAS 2012) recorded a number of undated features in the north part of Area B, Area D and the north part of Area E. One of these was near to the locations of Iron Age, Roman and Saxon activity discussed below, and so could be contemporary with this activity.

Palaeolithic-Bronze Age

- 2.4 No Prehistoric heritage assets are recorded within the Site, but there are a number recorded in the surrounding area. These include, in chronological order, three late Palaeolithic hand axes identified in separate locations approximately 70m to the northeast of Area C, a possible Mesolithic Tranchet axe identified some 160m beyond the south-western extents of Area B. These find-spots are typical of

'background noise' associated with early Prehistoric activity across the landscape. Flint flakes were identified in 2003 during an archaeological evaluation at Grazeley Road (TVAS 2003), possibly dating from the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic, these flakes are situated over 500m beyond the western extent of Area B. A Neolithic flint axe is present 160m south of Area B. These find-spots represent further background levels of Mesolithic-Bronze Age activity within the landscape. A total of 11 HER records relate to prehistoric flint finds within the study area identified during the Loddon Valley Survey. They are concentrated west of the Site within an area of archaeological potential identified from the aerial photography (Gates 1975).

Iron Age-Roman

- 2.5 Prior to the recent trial trenching, evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British activity within the local landscape was represented by a number of cut features identified during previous evaluations beyond the Assessment Site. Iron Age and Romano-British activity has been identified at land off Grazeley Road, Iron Age pits and ditches were also revealed to the north of Grazeley Road during an archaeological evaluation (Ford et al 2011a). This activity is situated between 400-550m beyond the western extent of area B. Additional unknown or possible late Iron Age ditches were revealed during archaeological evaluation at MereOak Lane, over 600m west of the western study site limit. The settlement pattern and field patterns around Spencer's Wood and Three Mile Cross have been transformed by modern development and agriculture over the past 100 years. The recent trial trenching has recorded localised evidence of activity dating to both the Iron Age and Roman periods. *In situ* Iron Age and Roman material was recovered from separate features in the same trench in the northwest part of Area E (TVAS 2012). Residual finds from these periods were also recovered from adjacent trenches. The finds include Roman brick and tile indicating the remains of a building in the area. Recent investigations at Cutbush Lane, Shinfield by Cotswold Archaeology (2016b) revealed evidence of occupation during the LIA/RB transition and a separate phase of later Roman activity.

Saxon

- 2.6 The only activity identified for the Saxon period, prior to the trenching, other than the settlement at Shinfield was a Saxon spearhead found in a garden off Clares Green Road during the 1960s (MON120, MON135), situated beyond the south-western boundary of Area D. The recent trial trenching identified ditches containing early Saxon pottery and kiln furniture in the same area as the Iron Age and Roman activity (TVAS 2012). A fieldwalking survey in the Loddon Valley (Ford 1997; Ford et al.

2011b) only identified a very small number of Saxon sherds in the zone to the south of Reading. The Kennet Valley Survey to the west (Lobb and Rose 1996) did not identify any Saxon material at all and only one of the several extensive excavations in the area, at Wickham Fields (Crockett 1996) located a small number of Saxon deposits in the form of a pit group and two wells. All of this accentuates the scarcity of Saxon deposits in the environs of the site. No medieval activity other than ridge and furrow has been identified within the Site.

Post-Medieval and Modern

- 2.7 Post-Medieval and Modern features were recorded in the north part of Area B and the northeast part of Area E. Some potential exists close to Nullis Barn in Area C.

Previous work by CA

- 2.8 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2015 at Spencers Wood, Reading, Berkshire to the west of Area C & D. (CA 2015). Nineteen trenches were excavated. Of the nineteen trenches only Trenches 3 and 8 contained archaeological features the remaining trenches were blank. Trench 3 contained one wide undated northwest-southeast orientated ditch and Trench 8 contained a very shallow undated gully.
- 2.9 An archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February to August 2016 at Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood, Wokingham to the west of the current site (CA 2016b, 2017a). Three areas (1, 2 and 3) of excavation were opened, covering a total of 0.34ha (7.5%) of the development area. Areas 2 and 3 contained no further archaeology than that identified during the evaluation.
- 2.9 Excavation of Area 1 within the south of the development area identified two phases of activity. Features included ditches, a single posthole and a metalled surface. An enclosure ditch contained a large pottery dump from which dating indicated a relatively short-lived settlement, with most of the pottery dating to the 1st century AD. A single post-medieval drainage ditch was also present.
- 2.10 The activity within Area 1 forms the peripheral edge of a larger settlement within the immediate area. Archaeological investigations in the field immediately to the east of the site (Stevens 2005), revealed evidence for Iron Age, Romano-British and some later features which contained find assemblages suggesting domestic occupation of

the site. The pottery dump within the enclosure ditch would suggest a high level of occupation within the immediate area which was not identified within the current excavation (CA 2017).

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). This information will enable the Wokingham Borough Council 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 seventeen of the proposed twenty one trenches; all were 50m long and 1.8m wide in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). **Trenches 1 – 4** were abandoned due to flooding. These changes were made with the approval of Kathleen Leary, the Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology. 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, five contexts were 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 the appropriate museum, 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 - delete references to unused appendices as appropriate.
- 5.2 No archaeology was found within **Trenches 5 to 11, 14 to 16, 20, 21**.
- 5.3 The natural geology of the site was a silty sand and recorded at a depth of between 0.5m and 0.73m below the surface. **Trenches 7, 15, 20** (Area A) contained no subsoil. Within the other trenches the natural geology was sealed by subsoil and topsoil.

Trench 12 (Figure 5)

- 5.3 **Trench 12** contained a post hole **1205** two pits **1203**, and **1207**, a ditch **1209**, along with a modern gully **1212**, and soakaway **1214**. **1203** was a south-west/north-east orientated linear 0.75m in length, 0.51m wide and 0.23m deep, with convex moderate sides and a flat base. It was filled by **1204**, mid-grey, loose, silty sand. The fill contained a single sherd of medieval pottery. Post hole **1205** was circular in plan, 0.42m in diameter, and 0.07m deep, with moderate to gentle sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with **1206** mid-grey, loose, silt/sand from which burnt flint was recovered. Pit **1207** was unexcavated, it was 0.7m long and 0.55m wide and filled by **1208**, and contained ironworking slag. Ditch **1209** was orientated north east/south

west, 2m in length, 1.73m wide and 0.43m deep, with moderate to steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with **1210** mid-red/grey/brown friable silt/sand and contained a worked flint flake.

Trench 13

- 5.4 **Trench 13** contained a north-east/south-west orientated ditch **1303**, which was 2.85m wide and unexcavated. It contained a single secondary fill **1304**, from which industrial waste and post medieval pottery was recovered. It is most likely a post-medieval boundary or drainage ditch.

Trench 19 (Figure 5)

- 5.5 **Trench 19** contained an east-west orientated ditch **1903**, which was 1.9m in length, 3.23m wide and 0.62m in depth. It contained two fills. The lower fill **1904** was a dark grey loose silt/sand from which post-medieval to modern pottery, glass and CBM was recovered. **1905** was mid-yellow/red loose silt/sand from which post-medieval CBM was recovered. It is most likely a post-medieval boundary or drainage ditch, with final backfilling taking place in the modern period.

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 19 sherds (626g) of pottery were recorded from seven deposits. The group dates from the Roman to post-medieval and modern periods, with the majority belonging to the latter periods.
- 6.3 One sherds (8g) of greyware, recorded from topsoil **2000** broadly dateable to the Roman period.
- 6.4 One sherd of medieval pottery (12g), occurring in a quartz-rich fabric, were recorded from ditch **1203** (fill **1204**).

- 6.5 The remainder of the group is dominated by earthenwares, dateable to the late 16th to 18th centuries. Also recorded is refined whiteware (four sherds, 42g), dateable from the late 18th to 19th centuries.

Ceramic building material

- 6.6 A total of 15 fragments (1,339g) of ceramic building material (CBM) was recorded from 2 deposits. The tile fragments are of medieval or post-medieval date.

Other finds

- 6.7 A total of six iron finds was recorded from four deposits. A nail fragments was recorded from ditch **1903** (fill **1904**); but could not be closely dated.
- 6.8 Burnt flint, amounting to 5g, was recorded from one deposit. An additional two items of prehistoric worked flint were recorded from two deposits. All are flakes and as such cannot be closely dated.
- 6.9 One fragment of glass were recorded; one fragment of colourless window glass from ditch **1903** (fill **1904**) of probable 19th century or later date.
- 6.10 A single item of ironworking slag (51g) was recorded from pit **1207** (fill **1208**) and cannot be closely dated. Also similarly undateable is one fragment of unidentified industrial waste recorded from ditch **1303** (fill **1304**).

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1 A series of two environmental samples was taken from a range of ditches and a posthole within one trenches (**Trenches 12**) to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.2 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1 in Appendix C, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals. The flots were generally moderate in size with around 15-80% rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation.

- 7.3 The charred plant remains provide some indication of domestic settlement activities taking place in the area during the medieval and to a lesser extent the Roman period, particularly in the vicinity of **Trench 12**. This adds to the information from other work in the vicinity (CA 2015; 2016a; 2016b).

Animal Bone

- 7.4 Animal bone amounting to 166 fragments (518g) was recovered from deposit **1904**, the fill of post-medieval ditch **1903** and deposits **1210** and **1804** the fills of undated ditch **1209** and pit **1803**. The material was poorly preserved and highly fragmented. However, it was possible to identify the presence of cattle (*Bos taurus*) from a single, isolated molar tooth recovered from post-medieval ditch fill **1904**. Due to this low recovery it is not possible to make any useful inference beyond species identification. The undated deposits **1210** and **1804** revealed respectively, a dog femur (*Canis familiaris*) and 157 fragments (369g) identified as the partial remains of the skeleton of a calf, aged approximately six months to one year at the time of death.

Plant Macrofossils

Trench 12

- 7.5 The fill **1204** (sample 1) within medieval gully **1203** contained a moderately small quantity of charred plant remains, including free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and rye (*Secale cereale*) grain fragments. Other remains included seeds of celtic beans (*Vicia faba*), oats (*Avena* sp.), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), and a bud. There was only a high number of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm noted. These included mature and round wood fragments.
- 7.6 This assemblage is likely to represent the dumping of domestic hearth waste. The predominance of free-threshing wheat within the cereal remains, together with the presence of rye, in this assemblage is typical of assemblages of this date in Southern England (Greig 1991). Celtic bean is also a crop species during this period. The few weed seeds are generally species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. Stinking mayweed is a species characteristic of the cultivation of heavier clay soils (Green 1984) and appears to become more common in assemblages of the Saxon and medieval periods (Greig 1991). This assemblage

is comparable with that recovered from a medieval pit at Cutbush Lane, Shinfield (CA 2016b).

- 7.7 A moderately small charred plant assemblage was recovered from fill **1206** (sample 2) within undated posthole **1205**. This included seeds of oat/brome grass and hawk's bit (*Crepis* sp.), a capsule of runch (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) and a hawthorn/sloe type (*Crataegus monogyna*/*Prunus spinosa*) thorn. There were also a high number of charcoal fragments recovered. These included mature and round wood fragments. This assemblage may well be representative of dumped hearth debris and there is no indication of the likely date of the feature from the charred remains.

8. DISCUSSION

Undated

- 8.1 There is evidence across the site for undated features. Two undated worked flakes, one of which was recovered from a ditch fill (**1210**) the other flake was from top soil (**Trench 12**). This is consistent with the wider area (section 2.4), which indicates a general low level of Prehistoric activity within the wider environment. Considering the relatively small amount of Prehistoric finds and the secondary nature of the ditch fills it is likely that the material has come from elsewhere.

Late Medieval

- 8.4 The majority of dating evidence recovered from the site can be attributed to the medieval period and was recovered from a number of agricultural field boundaries. A single sherd broadly medieval pottery was recovered from ditch **1203** within **Trench 12**. This ditch and a nearby undated posthole produced environmental evidence for dumps of domestic hearth waste indicating nearby settlement activity nearby.

Modern

- 8.5 **Trenches 13** and **19** (Area A) contained ditches producing pottery from the 16th to 19th century.



9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Oliver Good, Joe Whelan, Jeremy Clutterbuck and Adam Howard assisted by Sam Wilson, Ed Grenier, Tim Street, Tim Sperring, Francesco Catanzaro, Steve Bush, Keighley Wasenczuk. The report was written by Oliver Good, Adam Howard and Ray Kennedy. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden and Sarah Wyles respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.



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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)
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Friable. Occasional sub angular flints and pebbles, ≤20mm. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.2
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish yellow silty sand. Rare sub rounded pebbles ≤20mm. Poor horizon.	50	1.8	0.25
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow silty sand with patches of light blueish grey clay. Patches of gravel and occasional sub rounded stones ≤50mm.	50	1.8	0.1+
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Friable. Occasional sub angular flints and pebbles, ≤20mm. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.2
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish yellow silty sand. Rare sub rounded pebbles ≤20mm. Poor horizon.	50	1.8	0.3
6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow silty sand with patches of light blueish grey clay. Patches of gravel and occasional sub rounded stones ≤50mm.	50	1.8	0.13+
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Friable. Occasional sub angular flints and pebbles, ≤20mm. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.35
7	701	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow silty sand with patches of light blueish grey clay. Patches of gravel and occasional sub rounded stones ≤50mm.	50	1.8	0.15+
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Friable. Occasional sub angular flints and pebbles, ≤20mm. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.16
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish yellow silty sand. Rare sub rounded pebbles ≤20mm. Poor horizon.	50	1.8	0.34
8	802	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow silty sand with patches of light blueish grey clay. Patches of gravel and occasional sub rounded stones ≤50mm.	50	1.8	0.1+

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Friable. Occasional sub angular flints and pebbles, $\leq 20\text{mm}$. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.1
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy silt. Rare sub rounded stones $\leq 25\text{mm}$. Friable. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.3
9	902	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow silty sand with patches of light blueish grey clay. Friable. Patches of gravel.	50	1.8	0.16+
9	903	Cut		Cut of ditch	Cut of modern ditch. Linear. Unexcavated.	<1.68	<4.25	N/A
9	904	Fill	903	Fill of ditch	Unexcavated	<1.68	<4.25	N/A
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Friable. Occasional sub angular flints and pebbles, $\leq 20\text{mm}$. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.18
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy silt. Rare sub rounded stones $\leq 25\text{mm}$. Friable. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.18
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow sandy silt. Moderate patches of light blueish grey clay. Friable.	50	1.8	0.2+
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Friable. Occasional sub angular flints and pebbles, $\leq 20\text{mm}$. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.15
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish yellow silty sand. Rare sub rounded pebbles $\leq 20\text{mm}$. Poor horizon.	50	1.8	0.35
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow sandy silt. Moderate patches of light blueish grey clay. Friable.	50	1.8	0.1+
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Friable. Occasional sub angular flints and pebbles, $\leq 20\text{mm}$. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.2
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Moderate sub angular stones $\leq 30\text{mm}$. Friable. Moderate horizon.	50	1.8	0.3
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow sandy silt. Frequent patches of light blueish grey clay. Rare patches of gravel. Rare sub angular stone and flint $\leq 30\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.2+

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
12	1203	Cut		Cut of ditch	SW/NE linear gully. Moderate sides with convex top. Flat base with concave break of slope. Only one side was excavated.	0.75	0.51	0.23
12	1204	Fill	1203	Fill of ditch	Mid grey silty sand. Loose. 1% sub angular stone $\leq 0.03\text{mm}$.	0.75	0.51	0.23
12	1205	Cut		Cut of post hole	Circular post hole. Moderate/gentle sides. Flat base with concave break of slope.	0.41	0.42	0.07
12	1206	Fill	1205	Fill of post hole	Mid grey silty sand. Loose. 1% sub angular stone $\leq 30\text{mm}$.	0.41	0.42	0.07
12	1207	Cut		Cut of pit	Circular pit. Unexcavated	<0.7	<0.55	N/A
12	1208	Fill	1207	Fill of pit	Unexcavated	<0.7	<0.55	N/A
12	1209	Cut		Cut of ditch	NE/SW boundary ditch. Linear. Moderate/steep sides. Flat base with concave break of slope.	>2	<1.73	0.43
12	1210	Fill	1209	Fill of ditch	Mid reddish greyish brown silty sand. Friable. Sub angular stone. 3% $\leq 50\text{mm}$	>2	<0.73	0.43
12	1211	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty sand. Sub angular gravel 5% $\leq 50\text{mm}$	50	1.8	N/A
12	1212	Cut		Cut of gully	Modern gully. Roughly square in plan. Unexcavated.	N/A	N/A	N/A
12	1213	Fill	1212	Fill of gully	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Modern glass, CBM. Sub angular stone. 15% $\leq 10\text{mm}$	N/A	N/A	N/A
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Friable. Rare sub rounded pebbles $\leq 30\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.15
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Moderate sub angular stones $\leq 30\text{mm}$. Friable. Moderate horizon.	50	1.8	0.1
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow silty sand. Friable. Frequent chalk/limestone gravel. Sub angular stones/flint $\leq 50\text{mm}$. Chalk stones $\leq 30\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.1+
13	1303	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear ditch. Unexcavated	2.24	2.85	N/A
13	1304	Fill	1303	Fill of ditch	Unexcavated	2.24	2.85	N/A
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Compact. Sub angular pebbles $\leq 20\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.2

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy silt. Rare sub rounded stones $\leq 30\text{mm}$. Friable. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.3
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow sandy silt. Occasional light blueish grey clay. Patches of gravel. Friable.	50	1.8	0.1+
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Friable. Occasional sub angular flint and pebbles $\leq 30\text{mm}$. Poor horizon.	50	1.8	0.4
15	1501	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow silty sand. Occasional patches of light blueish grey clay. Sub rounded pebbles $\leq 20\text{mm}$. Frequent patches of gravel.	50	1.8	0.1+
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Friable. Occasional sub angular flints and pebbles, $\leq 20\text{mm}$. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.21
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy silt. Friable. Rare sub rounded stones $\leq 30\text{mm}$. Clear horizon.	50	1.8	0.21
16	1602	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow sandy silt. Patches of light blueish grey clay. Occasional patches of gravel. Friable.	50	1.8	0.3+
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Friable. Rare sub rounded pebbles $\leq 30\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.2
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Moderate sub angular stones $\leq 30\text{mm}$. Friable. Moderate horizon.	50	1.8	0.1
17	1702	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow silty sand. Frequent chalk/limestone gravel. Frequent sub angular stones $\leq 50\text{mm}$. Rare chalk stones $\leq 30\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.1
17	1703	Cut		Cut of gully	Modern linear gully. Unexcavated.	1.8	0.46	N/A
17	1704	Fill	1703	Fill of gully	Unexcavated	1.8	0.46	N/A
17	1705	Cut		Cut of gully	Modern linear gully. Unexcavated.	1.8	0.66	N/A
17	1706	Fill	1705	Fill of gully	Unexcavated	1.8	0.66	N/A
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Friable. Rare sub rounded pebbles $\leq 30\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.17

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Patches of light blueish grey clay. Moderate sub angular stones $\leq 30\text{mm}$. Friable. Moderate horizon.	50	1.8	0.27
18	1802	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish yellow sandy silt. Frequent patches of light blueish grey clay. Rare patches of gravel. Rare sub angular stone and flint $\leq 30\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.13+
18	1803	Cut		Cut of pit	Sub angular shaped pit with steep sides. Flat base with concave break of slope.	0.56	0.38	0.12
18	1804	Fill	1803	Fill of pit	Mid grey silty sand. Loose. Sub angular gravel $\leq 30\text{mm}$.	0.56	0.38	0.12
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy loam. Friable. Rare sub rounded pebbles $\leq 30\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.15
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Moderate sub angular stones $\leq 30\text{mm}$. Friable. Moderate horizon.	50	1.8	0.35
19	1902	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish red silty sand. Chalk/limestone gravel. Frequent sub angular stone/flint $\leq 30\text{mm}$. Friable.	50	1.8	0.1+
19	1903	Cut		Cut of ditch	E/W boundary ditch. Linear. Truncated in the south. Moderate slope to the north, steep to the south. Rounded base with concave break of slope.	0.5	3.23	0.62
19	1904	Fill	1903	Fill of ditch	Dark grey silty sand. Loose. Sub angular stone 10% $\leq 10\text{mm}$.	0.5	3.23	0.62
19	1905	Fill	1903	Fill of ditch	Mid yellowish red silty sand. Loose.	0.5	1.38	0.14
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Compact. Occasional sub angular pebbles $\leq 10\%$ $\leq 20\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.2
20	2001	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish brown silty clay in the NE and silty sand in the SW. Occasional patches of gravel $\leq 10\%$	50	1.8	0.37+
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam. Compact. Occasional sub angular pebbles $\leq 10\%$ $\leq 20\text{mm}$.	50	1.8	0.3

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
21	2101	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Compact. Occasional flecks of manganese ≤5%	50	1.8	0.43+

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: finds concordance

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
904	CBM	Tile	4	564	Med-pmed
1200	Flint	Flake	1	13	
1204	Medieval pottery	Sandy fabric	1	12	med
1206	Burnt Flint		1	5	
1208	Slag	Ironworking	1	51	
1210	Flint	Flake	1	5	
1304	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	2	10	LC16-C18
	Industrial waste		1	3	
1904	Iron	2xstrips, 1xnail	3	76	LC18-C19
	Glass	Window	1	4	
	post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	9	428	
	post-medieval to modern pottery	Refined redware	1	52	
	post-med to modern pottery	Refined whiteware	3	41	
	post-medieval pottery	Salt-glazed earthenware	2	75	
	Shell	3x mussel shell, 3x oyster- 1xR + 2xL, all discarded	5	110	
	CBM	Tile	11	775	
2000	Roman pottery	Greyware	1	8	RB

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

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

Cut	Fill	BOS	Canid	LM	MM	Total	Weight (g)
Post-medieval							
1903	1904	1		3	4	8	142
Undated							
1209	1210		1			1	7
1803	1804	157				157	369
Subtotal							
Total		158	1	3	4	166	
Weight		405	7	88	18	518	

BOS = cow; Canid = dog; LM = cow size mammal; MM = sheep size mammal

Table 3 Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

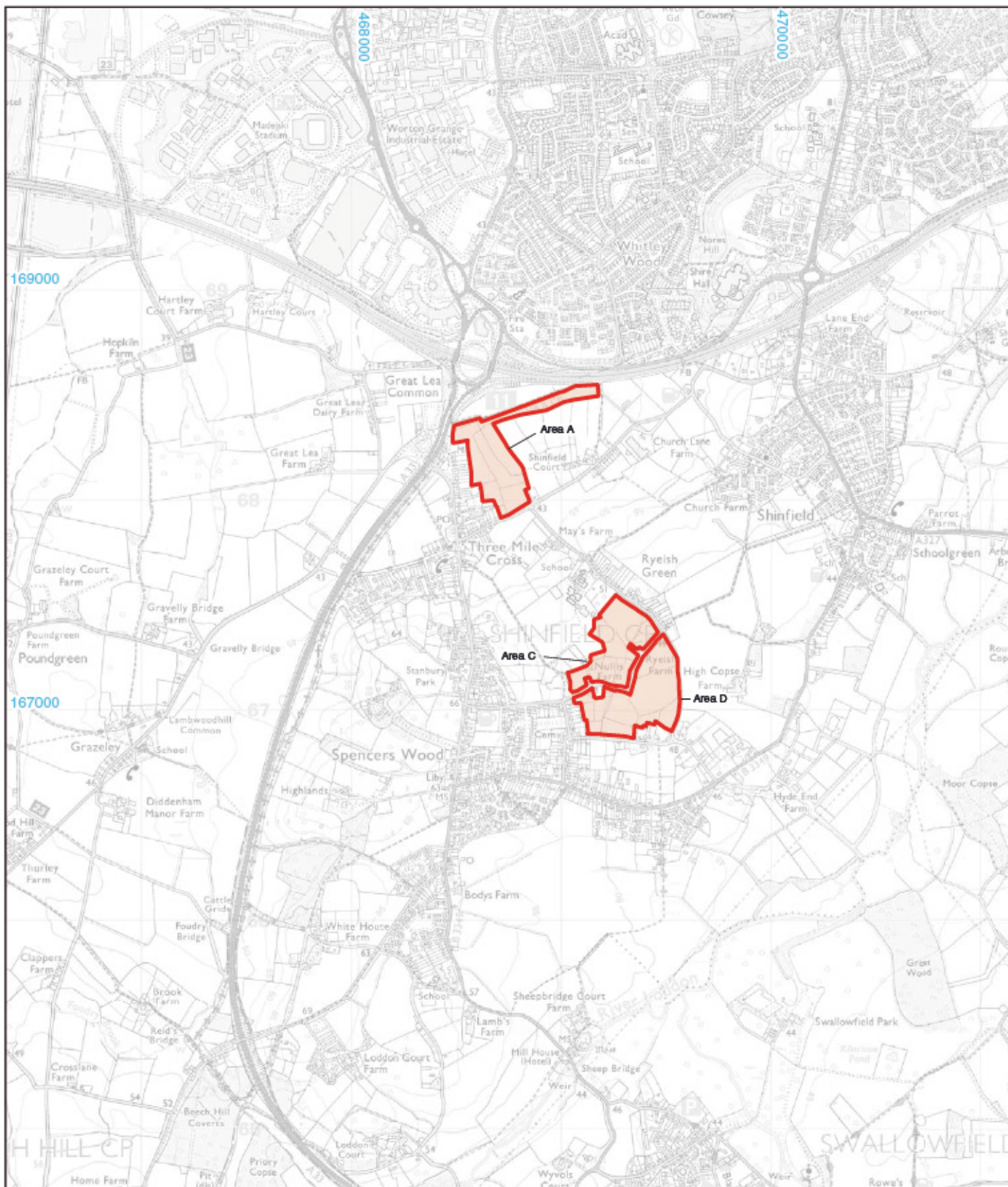
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 12 - Medieval Gully												
1203	1204	1	8	100	15	**	-	F-t wheat, barley + rye grain frags	**	<i>Vicia faba</i> , <i>Avena</i> , <i>Bromus</i> , <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , bud	****/*****	-
Trench 12 - Undated Posthole												
1205	1206	2	5	100	15	-	-	-	**	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Raphanus</i> , <i>Crepis</i> , <i>Prunus/Crataegus</i> thorn	****/*****	-

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

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land North of Church Lane, Spencers Wood, Spencers Wood, Berkshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2017 at Land North of Church Lane, Three Miles Cross, Spencers Wood, Berkshire. Seventeen of the planned twenty one trenches were excavated comprising a 4% sample of the development area.</p> <p>The small assemblage of worked flint recovered indicates a generally low level of prehistoric activity within the wider environment. Considering the low number of prehistoric finds and the secondary ditch fills from which the majority of worked flint was recovered, it is likely that the lithics are largely residual.</p> <p>The majority of dating evidence recovered from the site can be attributed to the medieval period and was recovered from a number of agricultural field boundaries. A single sherd broadly medieval pottery was recovered from a ditch within Trench 12. The ditch and a nearby undated posthole produced environmental evidence for dumps of domestic hearth waste indicating nearby settlement activity nearby. Trenches 13 and 19 contained ditches producing pottery from the 16th to 19th century.</p>	
Project dates	March 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land north of Croft Road and North of Church Lane, Spencers Wood, Spencers Wood, Berkshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	11.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	471740 168206	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Oliver Good	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Berkshire HER	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land North of Croft Road and North of Church Lane, Spencers Wood, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report 17157



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PROJECT TITLE

Land north of Croft Land and land north of
 Church Lane, Spencers Wood

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

0 1km

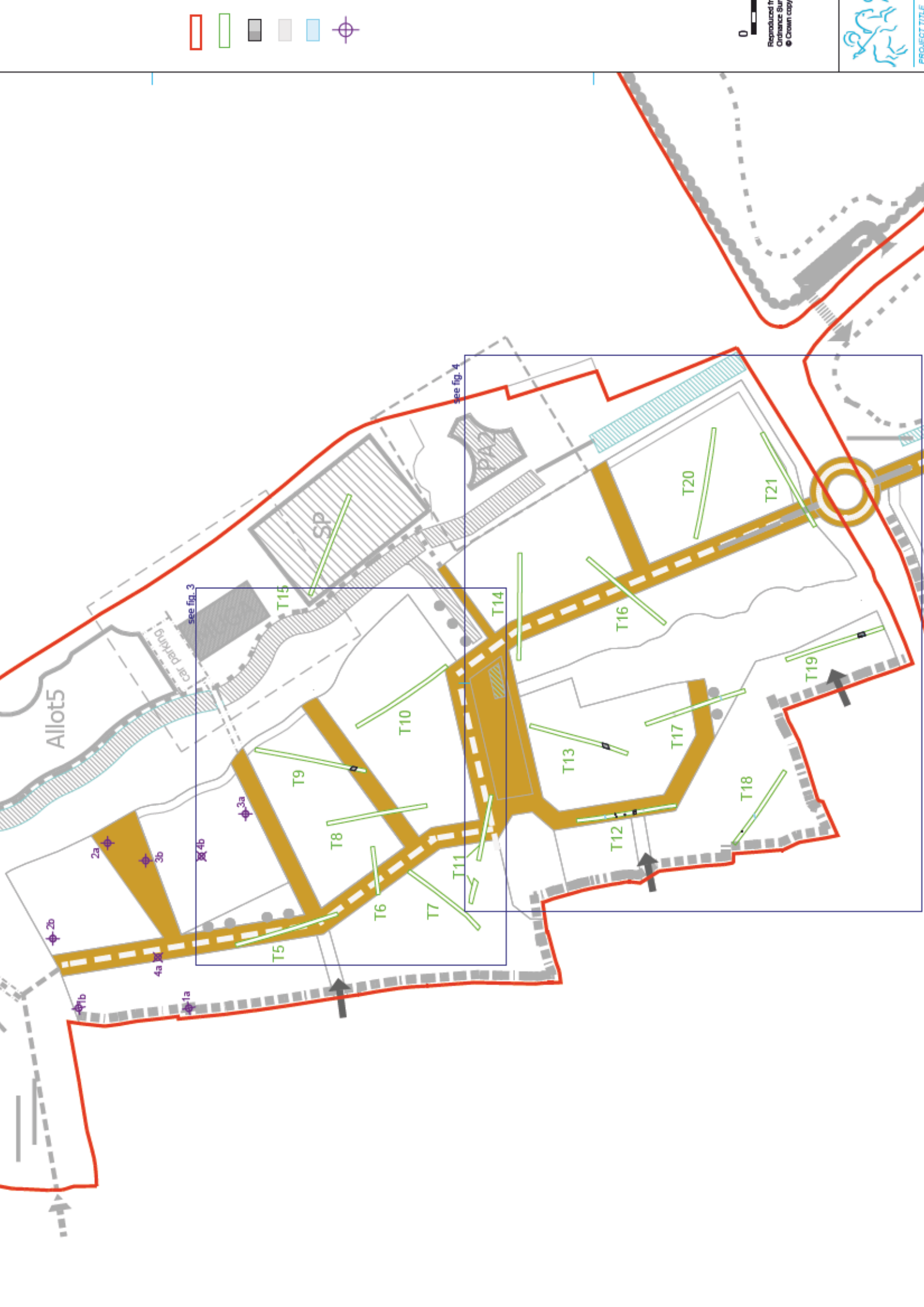
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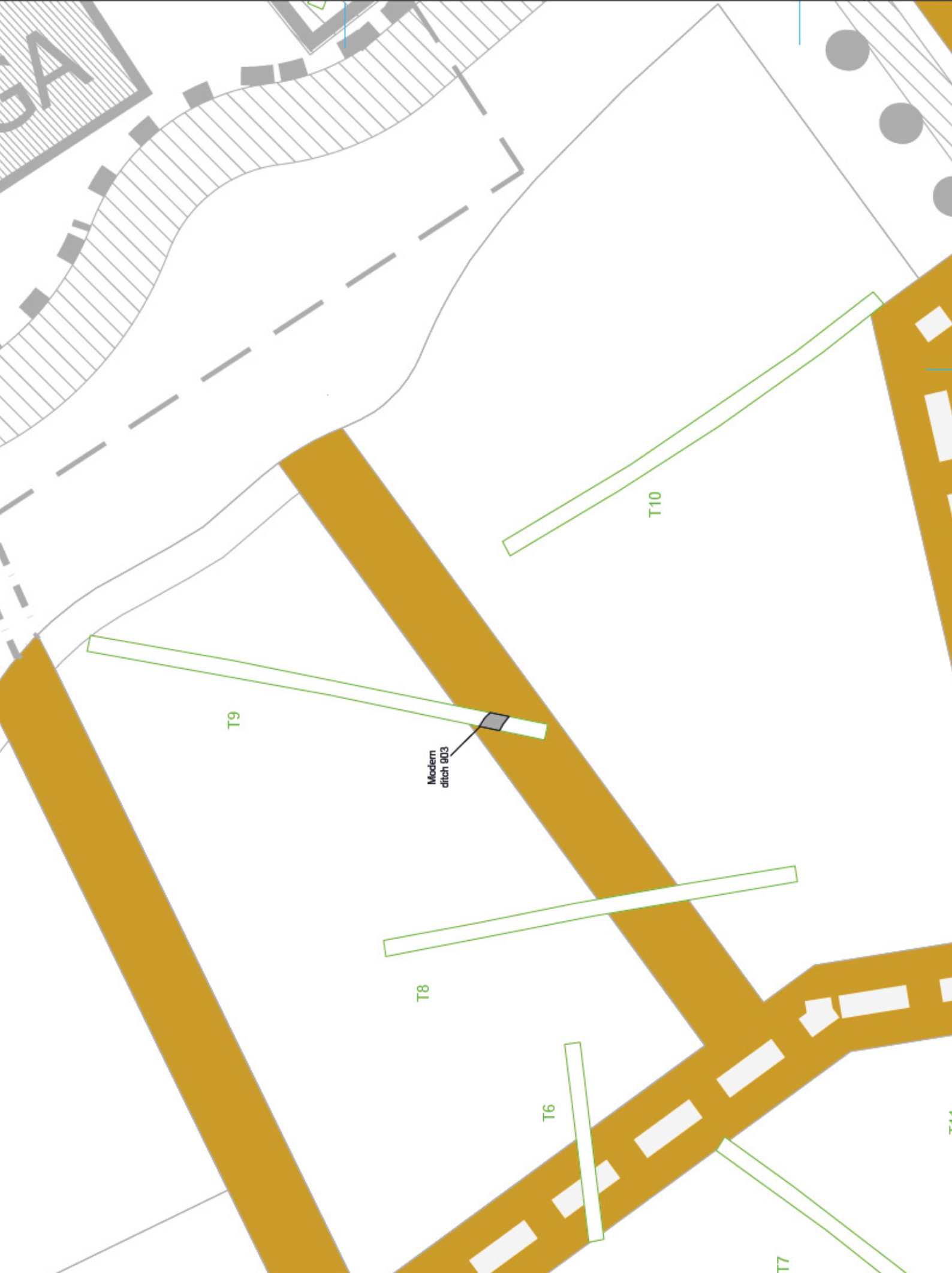
PROJECT NO. 770546
 DATE 26/04/2017
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FIGURE NO.

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GA

T9

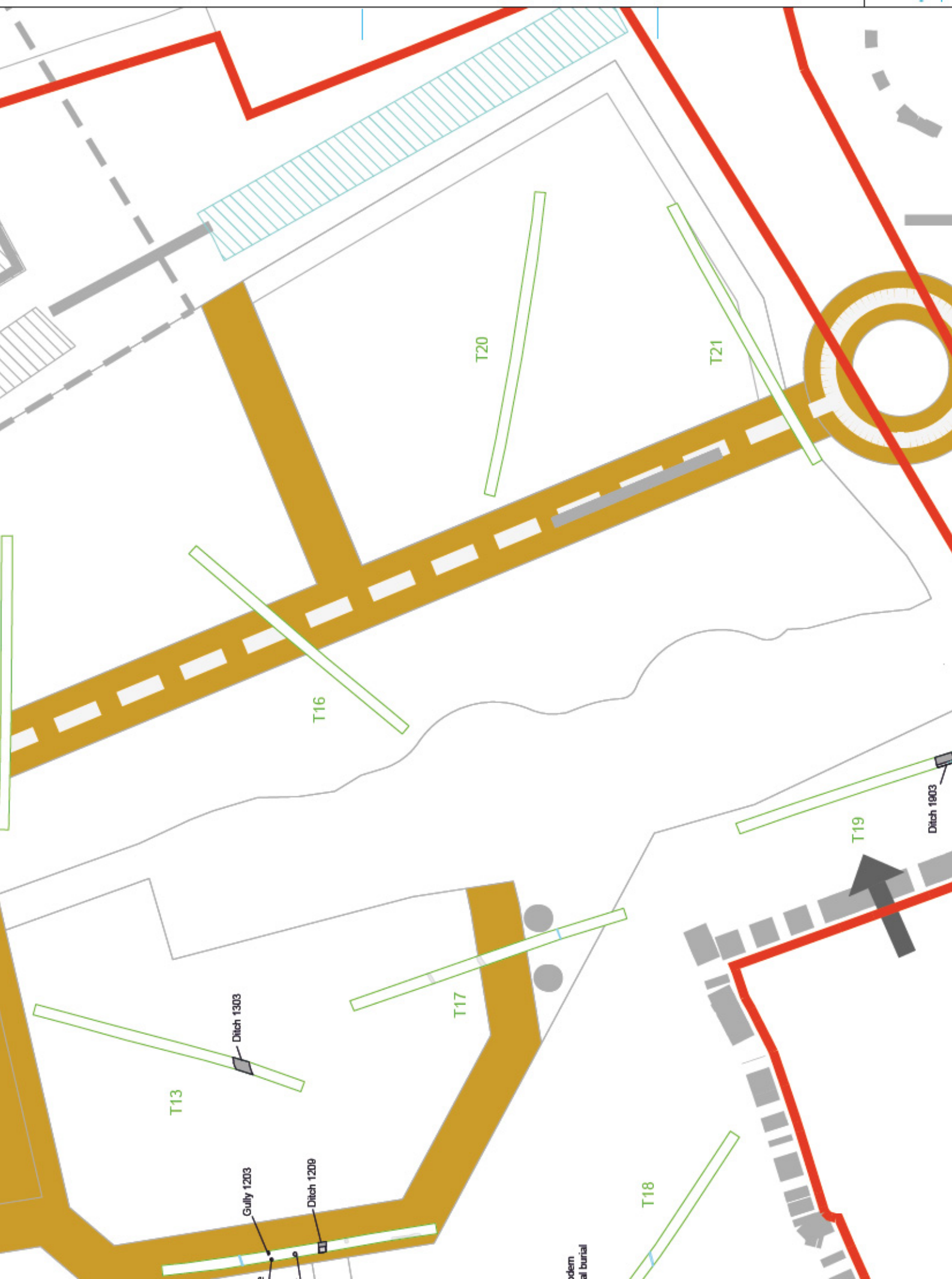
Modern
ditch 903

T8

T10

T6

T7





section (scale 0.5m)



Pit 1205, north-west facing section (scale 0.3m)

C



D



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