

**Land off Lower Icknield Way
Chinnor
Oxfordshire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
CgMs Ltd

CA Project: 770569
CA Report: 17306

June 2017



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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land off Lower Icknield Way
Location: Chinnor, Oxon
NGR: 476010 201860
Type: Evaluation
Date: 8 - 12 May 2017
Planning Reference: P15/S2293/O
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service
Accession Number: OXCMS: 2017.74
Site Code: LIW17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2017 on land off Lower Icknield Way, Chinnor, Oxfordshire. Fifteen trenches were excavated of which archaeological remains were encountered in Trenches **4** and **10**.

A large Late Iron Age ditch, measuring in excess of 2m deep, was uncovered on the eastern side of the site within Trench 4 and corresponded with the geophysical survey of the site. The ditch lay perpendicular to the line of the Icknield Way, a prehistoric trackway that was located immediately to the south of the site, and may represent part of an enclosure that lay against the road or partially beyond the confines of the site. A possible small Romano-British gully was also uncovered along the western edge of the site in Trench **10**. Two worked flints were also recovered from the fill of a palaeochannel in Trench **14**.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Ltd on land off the Lower Icknield Way (centred at NGR: 476010 201860; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken as a result of an application (ref: P15/S2293/O) made to South Oxfordshire District Council, the Local Planning Authority, (LPA) for development of up to 89 residential dwellings (including up to 40% affordable housing), introduction of structural planting and landscaping, informal public open space and children's play area, surface water flood mitigation and attenuation, vehicular access point from Lower Icknield Way and associated ancillary works.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxford County Council, the archaeological advisors to South Oxfordshire District Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance for Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 4.1ha and comprises an irregularly shaped agricultural field, bounded to the south-east by Lower Icknield Way, to the south-west by residential properties and to the north-west by agricultural fields. A small stream and a farm yard flanked the site to the north-east. The site lies at approximately 108m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the south, sloping gently down to 100m aOD along the northern boundary.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as mostly siltstone and sandstone of the Upper Greensand Formation, which formed during the Cretaceous period, 94 to 112 million years ago. Mudstone of the Gault Formation, which also formed during the Cretaceous period, was present in the north-eastern corner of the site. No superficial geology is mapped within the site (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background of the site was examined in detail in an Archaeological and Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) produced by CgMs Consulting Ltd (2015). The DBA followed a geophysical survey of the site undertaken in the previous year (WYAS 2014). A summary of the findings of the geophysical survey and the DBA is presented below.
- 2.2 There is no evidence for prehistoric activity within the boundary of the site and very limited evidence in the surrounding area. The route of the Icknield Way, the line of a prehistoric trackway, is located immediately to the south of the site. A number of scheduled Bronze Age barrow burials are also located 1.3km to the south of the site on Chinnor Hill.
- 2.3 While there are no records of any Roman sites or artefacts that have been discovered within the boundary of the site, a Roman road was positioned along Lower Icknield Way, which follows the line of the current B4009. Although uncertain, the projected line of a second Roman road (orientated north-south) intersects with the Lower Icknield Way, 380m to the east of the site. The Historic Environment Record (HER) has recorded some tentative evidence for a Roman building, possibly a villa, located 730m to the east. An archaeological evaluation and watching brief undertaken at 8 Church Road, located 1km to the south-west of the site, identified a Roman boundary ditch and a number of gullies.
- 2.4 Chinnor is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as having been in existence prior to the Norman Conquest of Britain in 1066. The name Chinnor appears to be formed from a personal name, *Ceonna*, although it should be noted that alternative interpretations have been proposed, with a second element possibly meaning 'slope'. No archaeological evidence for the early medieval period is recorded within the site, however, the HER records the presence of a number of Saxon inhumations 1km to the south-west. The exact number of remains and their precise location is unknown as they were discovered in the early 20th century.
- 2.5 No archaeological evidence of medieval activity is recorded within the boundary of the site and there is limited evidence recorded within the surrounding area. The medieval borough of Chinnor is mentioned in relation to conveyance of burgages in 1338. Archaeological evidence of possible ridge and furrow has been uncovered in a

field 800m to the south-west of the site, suggesting some agricultural activity in this area during the medieval period. Known medieval settlements are located to the south-west of the site at Chinnor, to the south at Hempton Wainhill and to the north-east at Henton. The location of the site between these settlements suggests that was used as agricultural land at this time.

- 2.6 The geophysical survey (WYAS 2014) of the site concluded that anomalies indicative of post-medieval agriculture and modern activity were been identified by the magnetometer survey. A single linear anomaly of uncertain origin was identified in close proximity to the line of the former Roman road. Whilst the ditch may have represented post-medieval or modern agriculture, an archaeological origin cannot be dismissed due to the proximity of the road. No other anomalies of obvious archaeological origin were identified by the survey.

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 with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable South Oxfordshire District 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 evaluation comprised the excavation of 15 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 4 was positioned to investigate the nature of the linear anomaly of possible Roman origin, whilst the remainder of trenches were spread randomly across the site but positioned to avoid known and potential services. All trenches measured 30m long and 1.8m wide. Trenches were be set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS, and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 Survey Manual. Trenches were scanned

for live services by trained staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the CA *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.

- 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. A ditch in trench 4 was initially excavated by hand to a depth of 1m. Following consultation with, and the approval of, Richard Oram the ditch was mechanically excavated to its base under archaeological supervision.
- 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 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 Oxfordshire Museum Service under accession number OXCMS: 2017.74, 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 (FIGS 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.
- 5.2 The natural substrate, a brown grey silty clay with common siltstone / mudstone inclusions, was consistent across the site. The natural was overlaid by a brown grey silty clay subsoil 0.3m deep and, in turn, a grey brown clayey silt topsoil, measuring 0.25m deep. With the exception of Trenches **4, 7, 10** and **14**, no archaeological

features or deposits were uncovered in the remaining trenches. The stratigraphic sequence in these trenches are summarised in Appendix A.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.3 A large steep sided ditch (**403**) crossed Trench 4 on a north-west/south-east orientation. The v-shaped ditch, which corresponded to a linear anomaly visible on the geophysical survey, measured 3.05m in width and 2.2m in depth. The initial fill (**408**) was a light grey brown silty clay up to 1.40m in depth, sealed by a grey brown silty clay (**407**) with charcoal inclusions. The uppermost fill (**404**) consisted of a compact dark grey brown silty clay with common siltstone inclusions. A total of 111 sherds of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from each of the three fills, as well as small quantities of fired clay, worked flint and burnt stone. Environmental samples taken from this feature revealed some small quantities dispersed hearth material. The remains of possibly butchered cattle and sheep/goat were also recovered from deposits **407** and **408**, suggesting the dumping of waste from nearby settlement.

Trench 7 (Figs 2)

- 5.4 Two small north/south aligned ditches (703; 705) were present within Trench 7. Ditch 703 measured 1.3m wide and 0.15m deep. No artefacts were recovered from the fill of this ditch and it was deemed to represent a naturally occurring channel. Ditch 705 was not excavated.

Trench 10 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.5 Trench 10 contained a north-west/south-east ditch **1003**, which terminated within the trench. The u-shaped ditch measured 0.69m in width and 0.22m in depth. The single fill (**1004**) was a brown grey silty clay with charcoal inclusions. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the fill of this feature, as well as small quantities of fired clay and flint.

Trench 14 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.6 A palaeochannel **1403** was recorded crossing the northern end of Trench **14**. Neither edge of the feature was identified during the evaluation. A hand excavated slot across the revealed the channel to contain three fills (**1404**; **1405**; **1406**) and measured up to 0.70m in depth. Five pieces of worked flint, including two multi-platform cores, were collected from fill **1404** and **1405**. Free-threshing wheat was

recovered from the fill of the pit. This material became the predominant wheat species within assemblages from the Saxon period onwards in Southern England (Greig 1991) and it is likely that this represents intrusive material within the deposit. A north-east/south-west orientated anomaly observed in the geophysical as crossing through trench was identified as a chalk rubble filled land drain.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 The artefactual assemblage recorded from this site is summarised in Appendix B and discussed below. It includes pottery, fired clay, worked lithics and burnt flint and other stone.

Pottery

- 6.2 A total of 113 sherds (1880g) of pottery were recovered during hand excavation of the evaluation trenches. The vast majority derived from ditch **403** and is of Late Iron Age date. The other material comprises a highly abraded sherd in a prehistoric flint-tempered fabric from the subsoil (context **101**, 8g), a Roman greyware sherd from gully **1003** (context **1004**, 5g) and one sherd in a Roman oxidised fabric from the subsoil (context **703**, 7g). The assemblage has been fully recorded according to the Guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010) and the data is held in an Excel spreadsheet. Full fabric descriptions and quantification are presented in Appendix B.
- 6.3 The Iron Age pottery is dominated by grog-tempered wares; most have a soapy texture (G1, 92 sherds, 1582g) but some are more sandy (G2, 14 sherds, 109g). Three sandy wares were also identified (Q1, Q2, Q3; 4 sherds, 153g) and one leached calcareous fabric (V1; 1 sherd, 24g). Many of the grog-tempered G1 sherds derive from a single jar with everted rim and shaped neck. The vessel has a rim diameter of 180mm, but all rim sherds are broken at the neck/shoulder join and it was not possible to reconstruct the profile. The surfaces are scored with curved, horizontal and vertical lines, typical of the East Midlands Scored Ware tradition. This has been interpreted as decoration (Elsdon 1992, 84) or a surface treatment, to improve grip and handling of the vessel (May 1976, 138). It is a style that is centred on the Nene and Trent Valleys (Elsdon 1992, 87) but extended westwards to Milton Keynes and examples have been recorded from a number of sites in Oxfordshire, including Finmere, north-east Oxfordshire (McSloy 2010), Glympton Park,

Woodstock (Booth 1997) and South Parks Road, Oxford (Booth 1996, 53). The Oxfordshire examples may represent local imitations of this ceramic tradition (Booth 1997, 107); the curved lines on this vessel may be an attempt to incorporate decorative elements present on La Tène pottery styles, ultimately derived from metalwork. Scored Ware was current from the earlier part of the Middle Iron Age through to the 1st century AD (Knight 2002, 134), although the fabric of the vessel from this site is typical of the Late Iron Age 'Belgic' wares. Other forms in this fabric include an ovoid-profile jar with rounded rim.

- 6.4 A jar with squared rim and deep lid-seating, a grooved rim top, and shaping below the rim on the exterior, was decorated with diagonal tooled lines, and was also recovered from ditch 403. It had been made from a calcareous fabric, now completely leached (V1). Although of uncommon form, it is presumably of Middle to Late Iron Age date. The sandy wares include a flat base with pinched foot, with two irregular incised lines on the exterior.

Lithics

- 6.5 A total of 12 items (427g) of flint was recorded from five deposits. The majority of the group are items of debitage, including nine flakes and two multiplatform cores, which cannot be closely dated. The cores both display multiple removals from each face and evidence of platform preparation. A single tool, a scraper, was recorded from ditch **403** (fill **407**). One piece of burnt flint was recovered during hand excavation of ditch **403** (deposit **408**) and three fragments were present in the soil samples (ditch **403**, deposits **404** and **407**).

Fired clay

- 6.6 A total of 19 fragments (77g) of fired clay was recovered, predominantly from ditch **403**, with two fragments (3g) from gully **1003**. Most were amorphous, featureless fragments in buff or orange firing clays. One piece is the corner from a slab or block. Four fragments (11g) have one surface remaining and traces of a white residue, suggestive of briquetage, but this could not be confirmed.

7. BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 7.1 A series of five environmental samples (78 litres of soil) were processed from ditch **403** and palaeochannel **1403**, within Trenches 4 and 14 respectively, 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 Appendix C, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The flots varied in size with moderate to high numbers of rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation.

Trench 4

- 7.3 A moderately small charred assemblage was recovered from fill 407 (sample 5) of ditch 403. This included seeds of bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) and fragments of charcoal greater than 2mm. No charred remains were recorded from fill **404** (sample 4) and only a few small charcoal fragments from fill **408** (sample 6) of ditch **403**. A few small animal bones were noted in all three samples. These assemblages may be reflective of dispersed hearth material.

Trench 14

- 7.4 The samples from palaeochannel **1403** produced small assemblages, with that from fill **1404** (sample 2) including charcoal fragments and that from fill **1405** (sample 3) including a grain of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum*) and a shell of the open country snail *Vallonia* sp. Free-threshing wheat became the predominant wheat species within assemblages from the Saxon period onwards in Southern England (Greig 1991) and it is likely that this is intrusive material within the deposit. There was no material preserved by waterlogging within these assemblages.

Summary

- 7.5 The small quantity of charred remains recovered in these samples may be indicative of these features being away from the main areas of domestic settlement activities, such as crop processing, during these periods.

Animal Bone

- 7.6 Animal bone amounting to 108 fragments (712g) was recovered via hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from undated subsoil layer **401** and deposits **404**, **407** and **408**, fills of Late Iron Age ditch **403**. The bone was moderately well preserved but had been subject to both historical and modern damage rendering 82% of the assemblage unidentifiable to species. It was however possible to identify the remains of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*).

Late Iron Age

- 7.7 The remains of cattle were recovered from deposit **407**, represented in the main by bones poor in meat such as the mandible and the bones of the lower legs and feet; including a radius fragment and an astragalus (a bone of the ankle) that displayed chop marks indicative of primary butchery, the dismemberment of a carcass into individual cuts of meat. Sheep/goat was present in deposit **407** and **408**, identified once again by meat-poor skeletal elements. No cut or chop marks were present however, deposit **408** contained the articulating bones of a hind foot, suggesting that it was whole upon deposition i.e. the foot, which holds no meat, was cut from a carcass during primary butchery and then discarded.

Undated

- 7.8 A single bone was recovered from subsoil layer **401** which was identifiable as a fragment of cattle radius.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The results of the evaluation achieved its objectives in establishing the presence/absence of archaeological features across the site and, characterising and dating those features identified. Archaeological features were limited in number but, where identified, were concentrated to the east of the site with Trench **4** and to the west within Trench **10**. Several probable natural features were uncovered during the evaluation including a palaeochannel in Trench **14** and two small channels in Trench **7**. While the palaeochannel did contain a number of worked flints, of uncertain date, evidence for free threshing wheat (of a Saxon or later date) was found within environmental samples. This material is likely to be intrusive. The state of preservation of features across the site was generally good and the features appear to have been only partially disturbed by post-medieval/modern agricultural activities.

Late Iron Age

- 8.2 A large v-shaped ditch (**403**), measuring in excess of 2m in depth, was recorded in Trench **4**. The ditch was dated by a moderate assemblage of Late Iron Age pottery, which along with the evidence for animal bone and dispersed hearth material, suggests that there was some contemporary occupation in the surrounding area. The size of the ditch suggests that it may represent part of a larger enclosure, which based on the absence for any corresponding features within the evaluation site, may have lay beyond the boundary of the site to the east. The large ditch corresponded with a feature identified during the geophysical survey and appears to extend to the south and lay perpendicular to Icknield Way, a prehistoric trackway. While there is limited evidence for later prehistoric activity in the surrounding area (section 2.2) to provide context to this discovery, this ditch may represent part of some sort of enclosure that lay adjacent to the trackway.

Romano-British?

- 8.3 Some scant evidence for Roman activity is represented by a single small ditch/gully, which terminated within Trench **10**. The orientation of the feature suggests that it extended beyond the trench to the south-east, however, there no trenches were excavated in this area to indicate whether the feature extends in this direction. The dating of this feature is speculative at best, with only a single sherd of broadly Romano-British pottery recovered from the shallow (0.22m deep) gully. It may be that the pottery was intrusive within the feature and it may represent a later drainage ditch relating to a farmstead in the surrounding area.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Whelan, assisted by Chris Brown and Tim Sperring. The report was written by Joe Whelan. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden, Grace Jones and Sarah Wyles. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Andrew Donald. The project was managed for CA Jacek Gruszczynski.



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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.03m. Good horizon.	>30.4	>1.8	0-0.26 (0.26)
1	101	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid greenish grey silty clay, soft. Occasional pebbles same as or less than 0.03m. Moderate horizon.	>30.4	>1.8	0.26-0.58 (0.32)
1	102	Layer	-	Natural	Mid brownish grey silty clay, soft. Rare sandstone same as or less than 0.04m.	>30.4	>1.8	>0.58
2	200	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.04m. Moderate horizon.	>30	>1.8	0-0.29 (0.29)
2	201	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid greenish grey silty clay, soft. Rare mudstone same as or less than 0.06m. Moderate horizon.	>30	>1.8	0.29-0.67 (0.38)
2	202	Layer	-	Natural	Light brownish grey silty clay, soft. Rare sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.07m.	>30	>1.8	>0.67
3	300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Occasional angular flint same as or less than 0.035m. Moderate horizon.	>30	>1.8	0-0.31 (0.31)
3	301	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay, soft. Rare mud/sandstone same as or less than 0.05m.	>30	>1.8	0.31-0.57 (0.26)
3	302	Layer	-	Natural	Light brownish grey silty clay with occasional reddish grey patches, soft. Rare sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.07m. Common sand/mudstone to S/East same as or less than 0.09m.	>30	>1.8	>0.57
4	400	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.05m. Good horizon.	>30	>1.8	0-0.35 (0.35)
4	401	Layer	-	Subsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Rare mud/sandstone same as or less than 0.06m. Moderate horizon.	>30	>1.8	0.35-0.68 (0.33)
4	402	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellowish grey silty clay, compact. Common sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.1m.	>30	>1.8	>0.68
4	403	Cut	-	Cut of ditch	Defensive/boundary ditch on a NE/SW alignment.	>2	3.05	2.1
4	404	Fill	403	Upper most fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown silty clay, compact. Common sub angular flint same as or less than 0.06m. Moderate horizon.	>2	1.4	0.6
4	405	Cut	-	Cut of field drain	Filed drain on a NE/SW alignment.	>3.1	0.6	-
4	406	Fill	405	Deliberate back fill of field drain	Modern disturbance.	>3.1	0.6	-
4	407	Fill	403	Middle fill of field drain	Light greyish brown silty clay, friable. Inclusions of charcoal and pottery. Moderate horizon.	>2	>3	0.8
4	408	Fill	403	Lower fill of field drain	Light greyish brown silty clay, friable. Rare	>2	>3	>1.85

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
					sand/mudstone same as or less than 60mm. Good horizon.			
5	500	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.05m.	>30	>1.8	0-0.3 (0.3)
5	501	Layer	-	Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay, soft.	>30	>1.8	0.3-0.57 (0.27)
5	502	Layer	-	Natural	Mid brownish grey silty clay, compact. Occasional sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.07m.	>30	>1.8	>0.57
6	600	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.03m.	>30	>1.8	0-0.29 (0.29)
6	601	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid greenish grey silty clay, soft.	>30	>1.8	0.29-0.44 (0.15)
6	602	Layer	-	Natural	Mid brownish grey silty clay. Rare sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.04m.	>30	>1.8	>0.44
7	700	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Rare flint same as or less than 0.03m.	>30.5	>1.8	0-0.25 (0.25)
7	701	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay, soft.	>30.5	>1.8	0.25-0.59 (0.34)
7	702	Layer	-	Natural	Light greyish brown silty clay, soft. Rare brownish red coloured clay patches same as or less than 0.07m.	>30.5	>1.8	>0.59
7	703	Cut	-	Cut of natural feature	Possible water channel	>2	1.3	0.11
7	704	Fill	703	Single fill of natural feature	Mid greyish brown silty clay, friable. Moderate horizon.	>2	1.3	0.11
7	705	Cut	-	Cut of natural feature	Possible water channel	>2	1.3	-
7	706	Fill	705	Single fill of natural feature	Mid greyish brown silty clay, friable. Moderate horizon.	>2	1.3	-
8	800	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Occasional angular flint same as or less than 0.06m.	>30	>1.8	0-0.37 (0.37)
8	801	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid greenish brown silty clay, soft.	>30	>1.8	0.37-0.68 (0.31)
8	802	Layer	-	Natural	Light whitish brown silty clay, soft. Occasional sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.04m.	>30	>1.8	>0.68
9	900	Layer	-	Topsoil	Light greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.04m.	>30	>1.8	0-0.28 (0.28)
9	901	Layer	-	Subsoil	Light greenish brown silty clay, soft.	>30	>1.8	0.28-0.58 (0.3)
9	902	Layer	-	Natural	Light brownish grey silty clay, soft.	>30	>1.8	>0.58
10	1000	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.03m.	>30	>1.8	0-0.28 (0.28)
10	1001	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid greenish brown silty clay, soft.	>30	>1.8	0.28-0.66 (0.36)
10	1002	Layer	-	Natural	Light greyish brown silty clay, firm. Rare sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.03m.	>30	>1.8	>0.66
10	1003	Cut	-	Cut of gully	Linear gully on a NW/SE alignment.	>1.75	0.69	0.22
10	1004	Fill	1003	Single fill of gully	Dark brownish grey silty clay, firm. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.02m. Common charcoal same as or less than 0.01m. Moderate horizon.	>1.75	0.69	0.22

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
11	1100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.06m.	>30	>1.8	0-0.27 (0.27)
11	1101	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay, firm. Rare sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.07m.	>30	>1.8	0.27-0.57 (0.3)
11	1102	Layer	-	Natural	Mid reddish brown silty clay, firm. Common sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.07m.	>30	>1.8	>0.57
12	1200	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silty, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.03m.	>30	>1.8	0-0.24 (0.24)
12	1201	Layer	-	Natural	Light yellowish grey silty clay, compact. Abundant sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.15m	>30	>1.8	>0.24
13	1300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silty, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.04m.	>30	>1.8	0-0.32 (0.32)
13	1301	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid greenish grey silty clay, firm. Rare sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.06m.	>30	>1.8	0.32-0.65 (0.33)
13	1302	Layer	-	Natural	Light brownish grey silty clay, soft. Common sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.02m.	>30	>1.8	>0.65
14	1400	Layer	-	Topsoil	Mid brownish grey clayey silt, friable. Occasional angular flint and rounded pebbles same as or less than 0.04m.	>30	>1.8	0-0.31 (0.31)
14	1401	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid greenish grey silty clay, soft. Rare sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.04m.	>30	>1.8	0.31-0.56 (0.25)
14	1402	Layer	-	Natural	Mid brownish grey silty clay, firm. Common sand/mudstone 0.01m. Rare angular chalk same as or less than 0.13m.	>30	>1.8	>0.56
14	1403	Cut	-	Cut of paleo-channel	Paleo-channel on an East-West alignment.	>2	>2.7	0.62
14	1404	Fill	1403	Upper fill palaeochannel	Black humic silty clay.	>2	>2.7	0.13
14	1405	Fill	1403	Middle fill of palaeochannel	Yellowish brown silty clay.	>2	>2.5	0.33
14	1406	Fill	1403	Lower fill of palaeochannel	Dark brown silty clay.	>2	>2.5	0.17
14	1407	Cut	-	Cut of field drain	Modern plastic filed drain.	>2	0.3	0.6
14	1408	Fill	1407	Single fill of field drain	Brown silty clay plus plastic pipe.	>2	0.3	0.6
15	1500	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silty, friable. Rare angular flint same as or less than 0.07m.	>30	>1.8	0-0.28 (0.28)
15	1501	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay, soft.	>30	>1.8	0.28-0.58 (0.3)
15	1502	Layer	-	Natural	Light brownish grey silty clay, soft. Occasional sand/mudstone same as or less than 0.1m.	>30	>1.8	>0.58

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Quantification of finds, by context and type

Context	Material	Description	Number	Weight (g)	Spot-date
101	Pottery		2	16	Prehistoric
404	Pottery		59	1405	LIA
	Fired clay		5	45	
407	Pottery		45	339	LIA
	Fired clay		12	29	
	Flint	1 x scraper, 4 x flakes	5	70	
	Burnt stone		2	14	
408	Pottery		7	124	LIA
	Burnt flint		1	166	
	Burnt stone		2	68	
702	Pottery		1	7	RB
	Flint	Flake	1	1	
1004	Pottery		1	5	RB
	Fired clay		2	3	
	Flint	Flake	1	9	
1404	Flint	2 x multi-platform cores, 2 x flakes	4	336	
1405	Flint	Flake	1	11	

Pottery fabrics

The pottery fabrics identified amongst the assemblage are described below and quantified in Table 2.

F1: A soft, rough fabric containing a moderate amount (15%) of calcined flint, up to 3mm, angular, poorly sorted, and sparse (5%) voids from a leached inclusion, up to 2mm, irregular shape.

G1. A soft, soapy fabric containing a common amount of grog (20%), up to 2mm, light and dark in colour, sub-angular to angular, moderately sorted; sparse (5%) quartz, medium to coarse-grained, sub-rounded to sub-angular, in a poorly wedged matrix. LIA.

G2: A soft, sandy fabric containing a common amount (20%) of grog, 0.5-2mm, sub-angular to angular, poorly sorted; common (20%) quartz, medium to coarse-grained, sub-rounded, moderately sorted; rare (1%) iron oxides, up to 2mm, rounded. LIA.

Q1: A hard, sandy fabric containing abundant (40%) quartz sand, medium-grained, sub-angular, very well sorted. IA.

Q2: A hard, sandy fabric containing a common amount (20%) of quartz, mostly medium-grained, sub-angular to angular, with occasional very coarse rounded grains, moderately sorted; sparse (5%) argillaceous inclusions, 1mm, rounded; rare (1%) flint, 1mm, angular. IA.

Q3: A soft, sandy fabric containing a common amount (20%) of quartz, medium to very coarse-grained, rounded, poorly sorted; sparse (3%) ferruginous inclusions, up to 3mm, sub-rounded. IA.

V1: A soft, soapy fabric containing a very common amount (30%) of voids from leached calcareous inclusions, plate-like or irregular in shape, probably limestone and/or shell. IA.

Table 2. Quantification of pottery fabrics

Fabric	Number	Weight (g)
F1	1	8
G1	92	1582
G2	14	109
Q1	2	44
Q2	1	96
Q3	1	13
RB GRY	1	5
RB OX	1	7
V1	1	24
Total	114	1888

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1 Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 4 Late Iron Age ditch													
403	404	4	8	0	15	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sab (*)
	407	5	21	20	80	40	-	-	-	**	<i>Galium</i>	**/**	Sab (*)
	408	6	12	0	10	50	-	-	-	-	-	-/*	Sab (*)
Trench 14 ?Prehistoric palaeochannel													
1403	1404	2	18	10	60	80	-	-	-	-	-	-/*	-
	1405	3	19	10	40	75	*	-	F-t wheat grain	-	-	-	Moll-t (*)

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

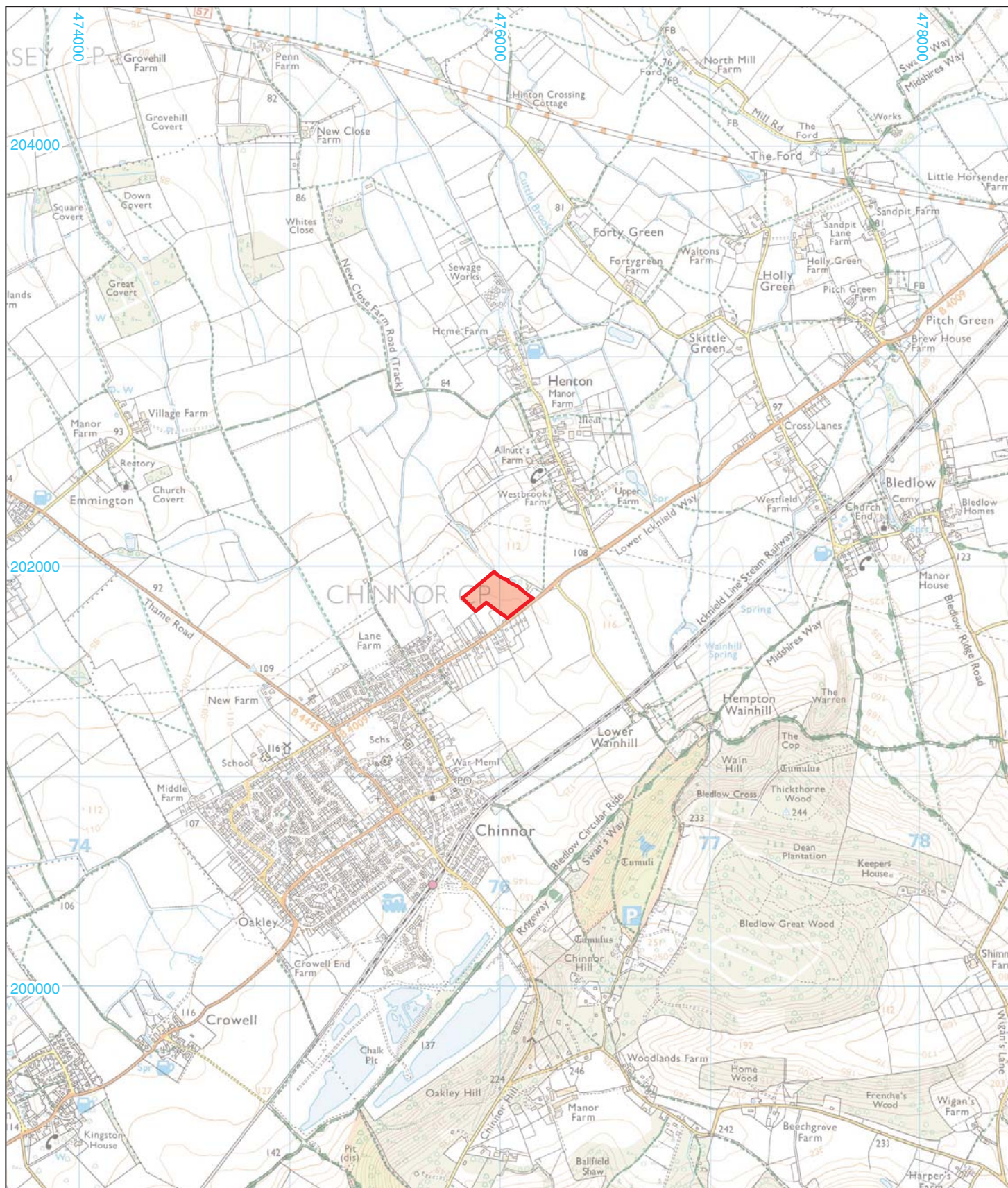
Table 2: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	LM	MM	Ind	un-id SS	Total	Weight (g)
Late Iron Age									
403	404					1	10	11	4
403	407	6	2	23	6	48		85	688
403	408		10				1	11	11
Subtotal		6	12	23	6	49	11	107	703
Undated									
	401	1						1	9
Total		7	12	23	6	49	11	108	
Weight		417	28	207	10	46	4	712	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; LM= cattle sized mammal; MM = sheep sized mammal; Ind = indeterminate; un-id SS = unidentifiable fragments from bulk soil samples

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Lower Icknield Way, Chinnor, Oxfordshire.	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2017 on land off Lower Icknield Way, Chinnor, Oxfordshire. Fifteen trenches were excavated of which archaeological remains were encountered in Trenches 4 and 10.</p> <p>A large Late Iron Age ditch, measuring in excess of 2m deep, was uncovered on the eastern side of the site within Trench 4 and corresponded with the geophysical survey of the site. The ditch lay perpendicular to the line of the Icknield Way, a prehistoric trackway that was located immediately to the south of the site, and may represent part of an enclosure that lay against the road or partially beyond the confines of the site. A possible small Romano-British gully was also uncovered along the western edge of the site in Trench 10. Two worked flints were also recovered from the fill of a palaeochannel in Trench 14.</p>	
Project dates	8 - 12 May 2017	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (WYAS 2014) Archaeological and Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land off Lower Icknield Way, Chinnor, Oxfordshire.	
Study area (M ² /ha)	4.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	476010 201860	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	CgMs Ltd	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Jacek Gruszczynski	
Project Supervisor	Joe Whelan	
MONUMENT TYPE	Ditch (Iron Age) Gully (Roman) Palaeochannel (Undated)	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Archive location	Content
Physical	Oxfordshire Museum Service accession number OXCMS:2017.74	Pottery, flint, fired clay, burnt stone
Paper	Oxfordshire Museum Service accession number OXCMS:2017.74	Context sheets, section drawings, phot registers, sample register
Digital	Archaeology Data Service	Survey data, photographs, digital copy of report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land off Lower Icknield Way, Chinnor, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17306		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Icknield Way, Chinnor,
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

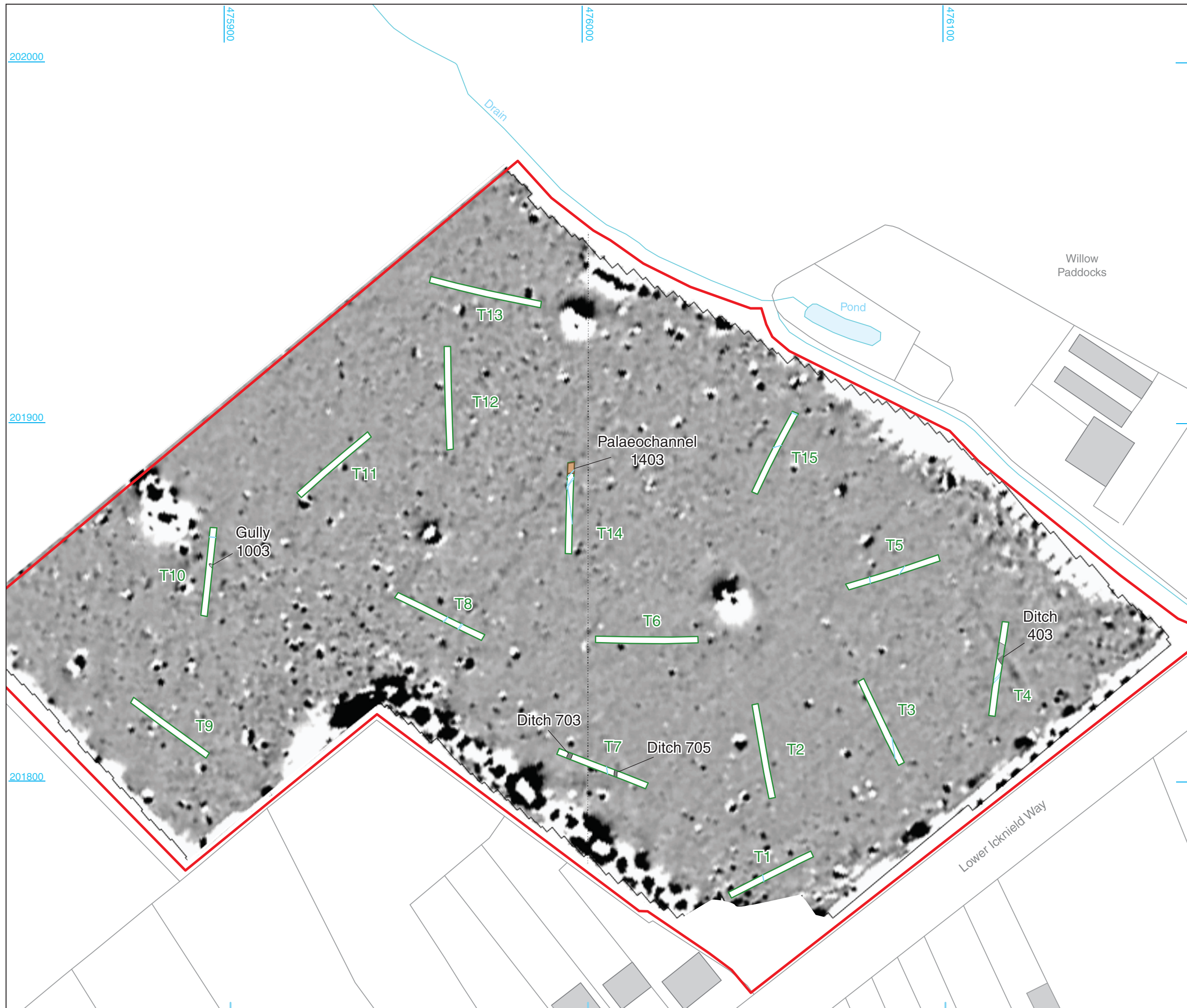
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 CHECKED BY DJB
 APPROVED BY JG
 PROJECT NO. 770569
 DATE 16/05/2017
 SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Palaeochannel
- Land drain

Geophysical survey results (WYAS 2014)



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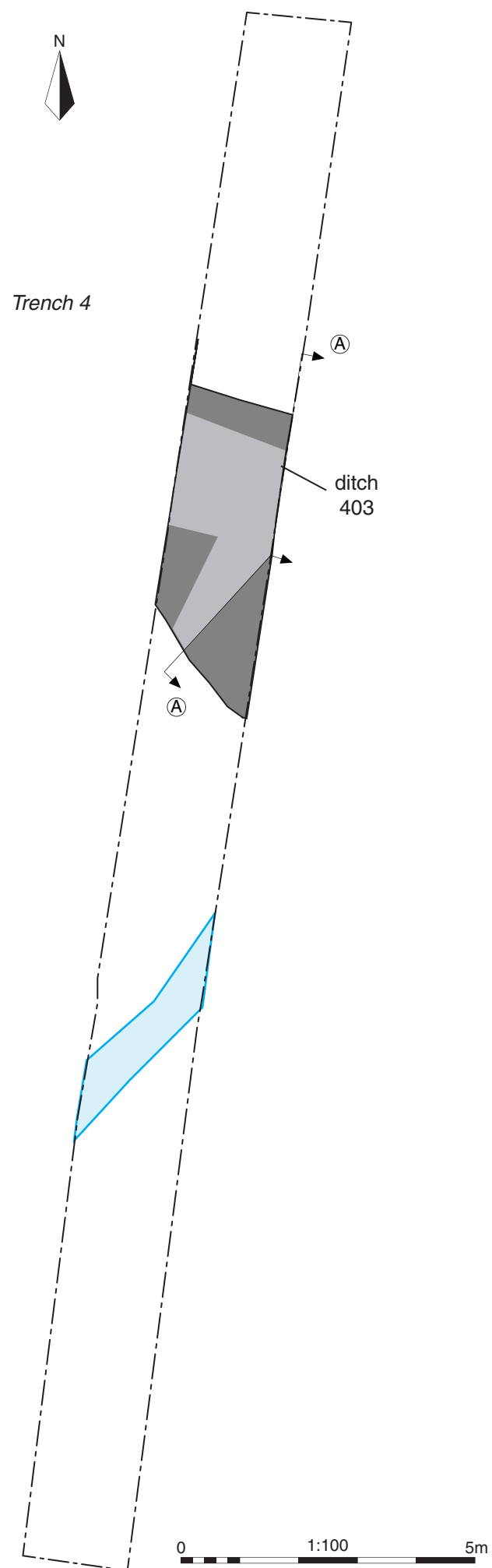


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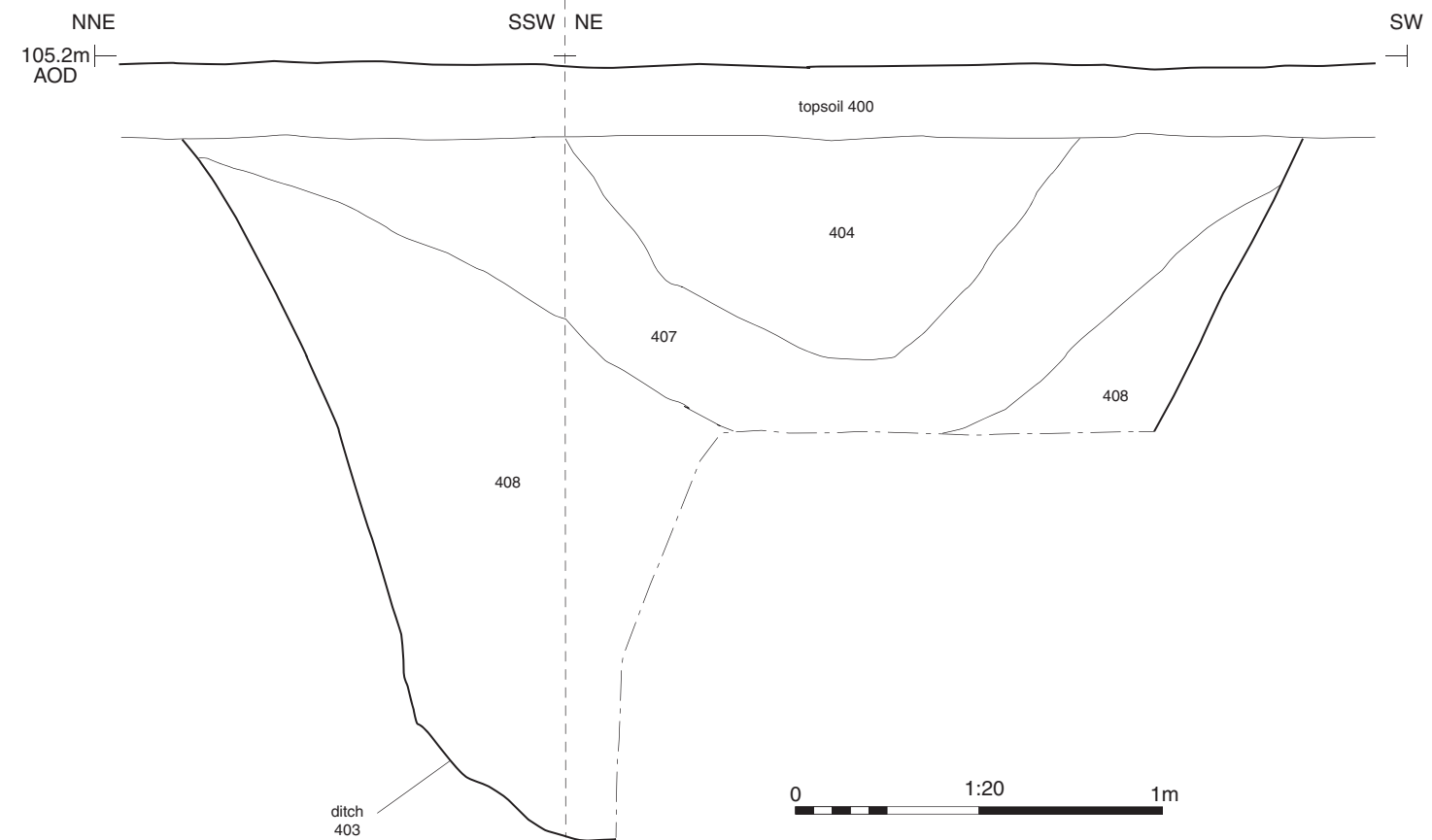
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PROJECT TITLE
Land off Icknield Way, Chinnor,
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan



Section AA



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)
- Land drain
- Section location



Ditch 403, hand-excavated slot, looking south-east (1m scale)

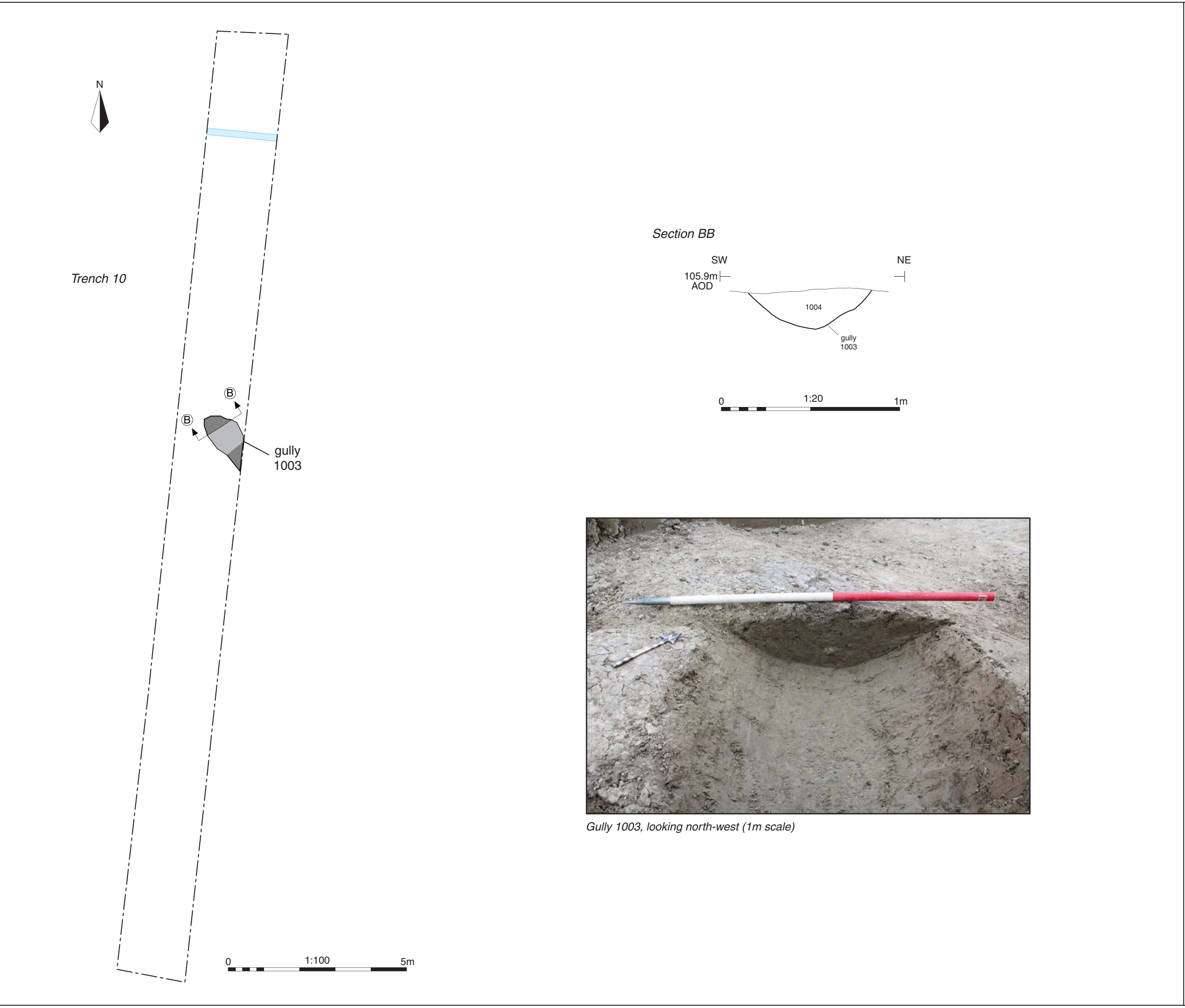
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off, Icknield Way, Chinnor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 4: plan, section and photograph

<small>DRAWN BY</small> EE	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 770569	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 16/05/2017	3
<small>APPROVED BY</small> JG	<small>SCALE @A3</small> 1:100 / 1:20	



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)
- Land drain
- Section location

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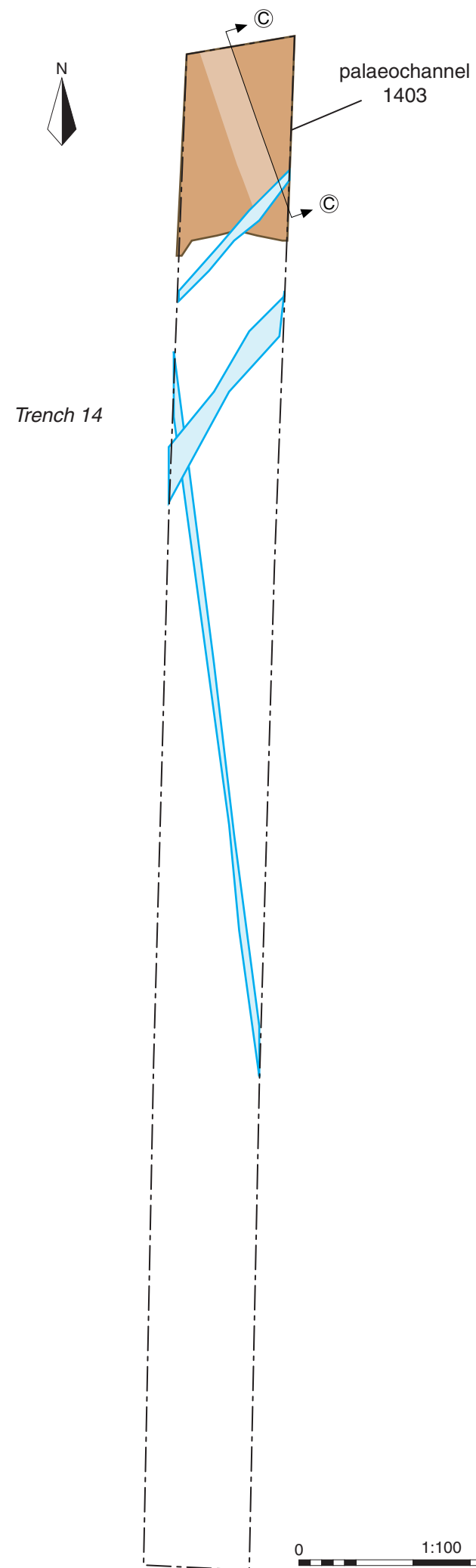


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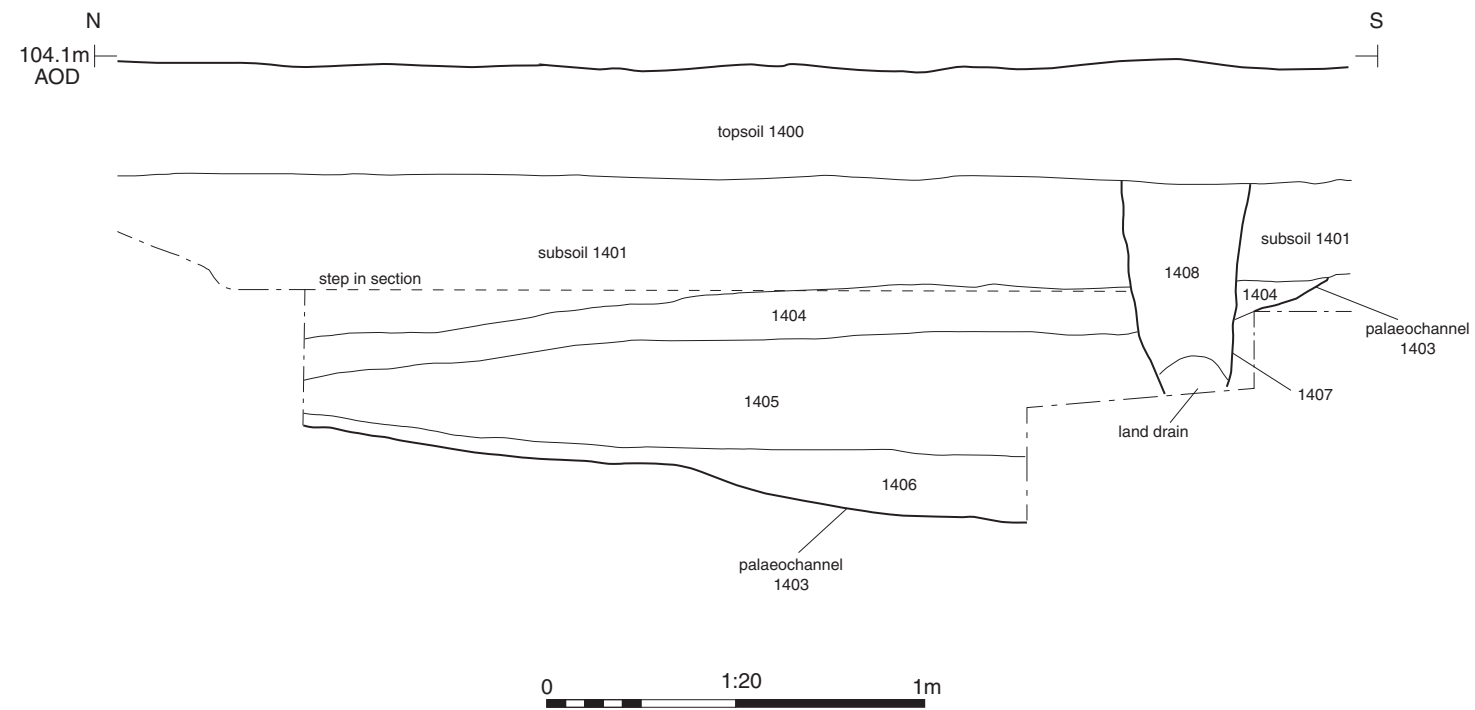
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PROJECT TITLE
Land off, Icknield Way, Chinnor,
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 10: plan, section and photograph



Section CC



Palaeochannel 1403, looking north (1m scale)

- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)
- Land drain
- Section location

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off, Icknield Way, Chinnor,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 14: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY	EE DJB JG	PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE @A3	770569 16/05/2017 1:20	FIGURE NO. 5
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