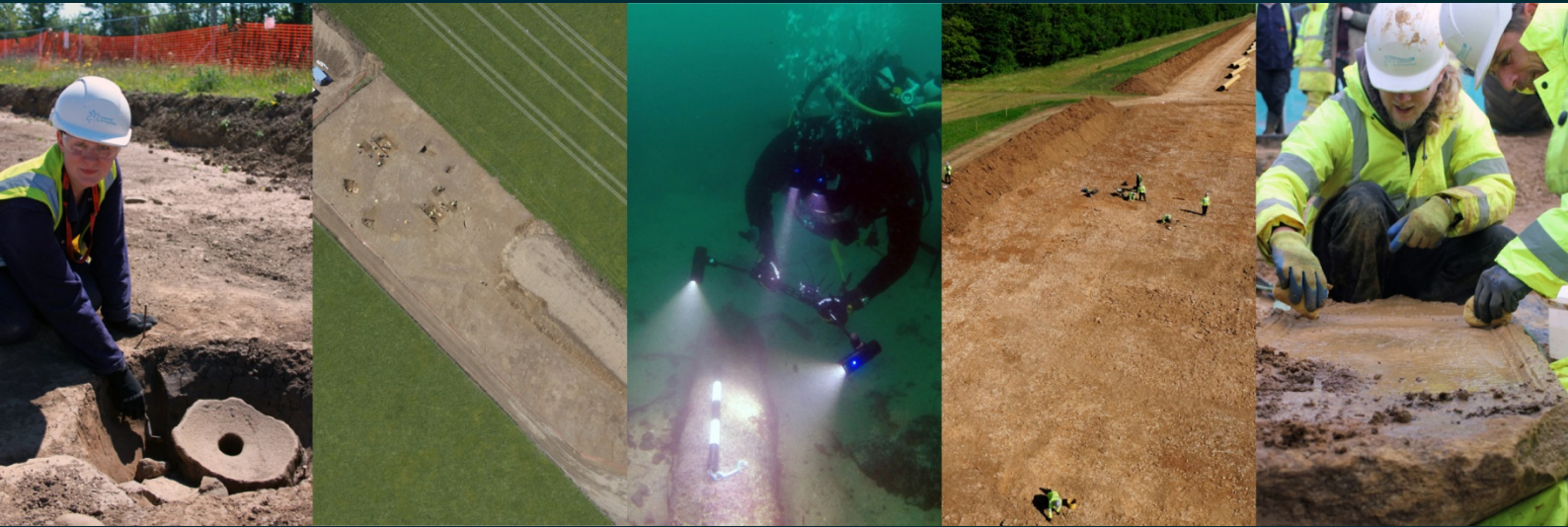


Land East of St Hugh's Rise
Didcot
Oxfordshire
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Persimmon Homes

CA Project: 770578
CA Report: 17337

June 2017



Project Name
 Town/Parish/District
 County

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770578
 CA Report: 17337



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	13 June 2017	Ray Holt	Ray Kennedy	Internal Review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-6).....	5
6. THE FINDS	10
7. DISCUSSION.....	11
8. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	12
9. REFERENCES.....	13
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	14
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	18
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	19

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site location plan (1:25,000)
Figure 2	Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:1000)
Figure 3	Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 showing archaeological features
Figure 4	Trenches 11, 12, 13 and 17 showing archaeological features
Figure 5	Trench 3, sections and photograph
Figure 6	Trench 5, sections
Figure 7	Trenches 11 and 12, sections and photographs
Figure 8	Trench 13, sections
Figure 9	Trench 17, section and photograph



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land east of St High's Rise, Didcot
Location:	Didcot, Oxfordshire
NGR:	453698 189247
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	5-12 June 2017
Planning Reference:	P15/S4179/PEJ
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service
Site Code:	HRO 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2017 on land east of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot, Oxfordshire. Twenty trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified a number of ditches forming prehistoric and Roman boundaries, enclosures and field system, corroborating the results of an earlier archaeological evaluation immediately to the south-west of the site. In addition a pit of Roman date was identified and although no structural remains associated directly with domestic occupation were identified, the nature of the finds indicate Roman settlement within the vicinity.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Persimmon Homes on land east of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: 453698 189247; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a future planning application to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) for the erection of up to 84 homes. The pre-application consultation (ref. P15/S4179/PEJ) confirmed that the proposed development had the potential to disturb below-ground archaeological features. An archaeological field evaluation was recommended.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation (OCCAS 2014) prepared by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services (OCCAS), and archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) - South Oxfordshire District Council and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Mr Richard Oram. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Mr Oram, including site visits on 7 June 2017.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 2.48ha, and comprises one triangular agricultural field. The site is bounded to the north-west by residential development at the south-eastern outskirts of Didcot, and to the east and south by agricultural fields. The site lies at approximately 57m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), on a gentle slope rising from 54.8m aOD in the north to 60.5m aOD in the south.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as siltstone and sandstone of Upper Greensand Formation of the formed in shallow seas with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel in the Cretaceous period. No superficial geology is recorded on the site (BGS 2017).



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The information presented below is summarised from the design brief issued by Richard Oram (OCCAS), information in the pre-application consultation (ref. P15/S4179/PEJ) and information from the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record.
- 2.2 The site is located in an area of archaeological potential. Bronze Age settlement evidence has been recorded 500m to the north and north-east of the site. Bronze Age metalwork has also been found to the south of the site by metal detecting although the actual location has not been provided and therefore there is very little information recorded about the site itself.
- 2.3 Archaeological fieldwork undertaken immediately to the south-west of the proposal area revealed Middle Iron Age settlement features, Roman enclosures and field system, comprising ditches, gullies, pits and postholes (TVAS 2016). It was deemed possible that the archaeological deposits relating to this later prehistoric through to Roman settlement could survive within the proposed area and could be disturbed by any development.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable the LPA - 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 fieldwork comprised the excavation of 20 trenches measuring 30m in length and 2m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). 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 no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-9)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 5.2 No archaeological features were identified in **Trenches 2, 7, 9, 18 and 19**. A similar sequence of deposits was identified in all 20 trenches; grey clay natural substrate was overlain by silty clay subsoil measuring up to 0.4m in thickness, in turn sealed by silt/clay topsoil measuring an average of 0.25m in thickness. All the archaeological features identified cut the natural substrate and were in turn sealed

by the subsoil with the exception of pit **304** in Trench 3 which was cut through the subsoil.

Trench 1 (Figure 2)

- 5.3 A shallow ditch **104** was identified in the southern half of **Trench 1**, terminating towards the southern end of the trench and contained a single fill **103** from which no finds were retrieved. This feature was interpreted as an enclosure or field boundary given its similarity in alignment to other ditches.

Trench 3 (Figures 2, 3, 5)

- 5.4 A circular pit **304** and north-east/south-west aligned ditch **306** were identified in the western half of **Trench 3**.
- 5.5 Ditch **306** measured 2.01m in width, 0.49m in depth with moderate sloping concave sides to an uneven but predominantly flat base. The silty clay fill **305** contained four sherds of Romano-British pottery (Figure 5, section BB). Interpreted as a boundary, ditch **306** continued to the west of **Trench 3** on a north-east/south-west alignment, revealed as ditches **506**, **606**, **1406**, **1604** and **1704** in **Trenches 5, 6, 14, 16** and **17** respectively.
- 5.6 Cut through subsoil **301**, pit **304** measured 2m in diameter, 0.29m in depth and contained a lower light grey silty clay fill **307**. The upper dark grey silty clay fill **303** contained forty two sherds of Romano-British pottery and was distinctly different from all other features fills identified during the evaluation (Figure 5, section AA). Although the pit appeared to cut subsoil deposit **301**, the upper fill bore a striking similarity to the overlying topsoil **300** suggesting it represents a later intrusion into the top of pit **304**, the pottery recovered being derived from the earlier pit.

Trench 4 (Figures 2 & 3)

- 5.6 Two ditches **404** and **408**, and a ditch terminus **406** were revealed in the western half of **Trench 4**.
- 5.7 Ditch **404** was aligned north/south and ditch terminuses **406** aligned east/west and potentially form the west and south sides of an enclosure. Measuring 1.15 and 0.9m

in width respectively, ditches **404** and **406** contained similar light grey silty clay fills, a fragment of ceramic building material being recovered from fill **403** of ditch **404**.

- 5.8 Ditch **408** was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 0.6m in width and contained clay silt fill **407**. Interpreted as a probable field boundary, ditch **408** continued to the south-east as ditch **508** in **Trench 5**.

Trench 5 (Figures 2, 3 & 5)

- 5.9 In the northern half of **Trench 5** ditches **506** and **508** represent continuations of boundary ditches **306** and **408** discussed above, the silty clay fill **507** of ditch **508** containing a sherd of Romano-British pottery (Figure 6, section DD). In the southern part of the trench three additional ditches **504**, **510** and **512** were revealed.

- 5.10 Ditch **504** was aligned north-east/south-west, measured 0.39m in width, 0.25m in depth with steep sloping sides to a rounded base (Figure 6, section CC). Interpreted as a boundary or enclosure, ditch **504** represents a continuation of ditch **604** revealed in **Trench 6** to the west.

- 5.11 Ditch **512** was also aligned north-east/south-west, contained a light greyish brown silty clay fill **511** and was cut along its western edge by ditch **510** (Figure 6, section CC). Measuring 1.92m in width and 0.38m in depth, ditch **510** contained a silty clay fill, **509**, from which was recovered Romano-British pottery.

Trench 6 (Figures 2 & 3)

- 5.12 Two ditches, **604** and **606** were revealed in the western half of **Trench 6**. Both contained similar silty clay fills and represent continuations of ditches **504** and **306/506** respectively.

Trench 8 (Figure 2)

- 5.13 Ditch **804** was revealed in the centre of **Trench 8**. Aligned north/south, ditch **804** had moderate sloping sides to a rounded base and contained silty clay fill **803** from which was recovered two worked flint flakes.

Trench 10 (Figure 2)

- 5.14 Ditch **1003** was revealed at the eastern end of **Trench 10**. Aligned north-east/south-west, ditch **1003** was slightly curvilinear in plan, had moderate sloping sides to a rounded base and contained an artefact sterile silty clay fill **1004**.

Trench 11 (Figures 2, 4 & 7)

- 5.15 Three ditches were identified in **Trench 11**, ditches **1104** and **1106** at the western end and ditch **1110** in the centre of the trench and have been interpreted as boundary or enclosure ditches.
- 5.16 North/south aligned ditch **1104** measured 2.4m in width, 0.46m in depth with moderate sloping sides to a flat base. The western edge of ditch **1104** was cut by north-west/south-east aligned ditch **1106** which measured 1.2m in width and 0.4m in depth. Both ditches had similar silty clay fills, deposits **1103** and **1105** respectively from which was recovered a flint flake and a CBM fragment from the fill of the earlier ditch **1104** (Figure 7, section EE and Figure 6 photograph).
- 5.17 Ditch **1110** had a similar north-west/south-east alignment to ditch **1106**, measured 1.3m in width, 0.44m in depth with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base and contained artefact sterile silty clay fill **1109**.

Trench 12 (Figures 2, 4 & 7)

- 5.18 Ditch **1203** was revealed at the eastern end of **Trench 12**. Aligned north/south, ditch **1203** had moderate sloping sides to a rounded base and contained an artefact sterile silty clay fill **1204** (Figure 7, section FF). Interpreted as a boundary, ditch **1203** potentially represents a continuation of ditch **1503** revealed in **Trench 15** to the north.

Trench 13 (Figures 2, 4 & 8)

- 5.19 Three undated ditches were identified in **Trench 13**, ditches **1304**, **1306** and **1308**, and have been interpreted as boundary or enclosure ditches.
- 5.20 Aligned north-east/south-west ditch **1304** had moderate sloping sides to a rounded base, measured 1.9m in width and 0.2m in depth, contained silty clay fill **1303** and

has been construed as a continuation of ditch **1404** in **Trench 14** to the east (Figure 8, section HH).

- 5.21 Ditch **1306** was revealed in the centre of the trench, measured 0.48m in width, 0.12m in depth, was aligned north-east/south-west ditch, had moderate sloping sides to a rounded base and represents a continuation of ditch **1712** to the west.
- 5.22 North/south aligned ditch **1308** was revealed in the southern half of the trench. Measuring 0.6m in width and 0.12m in depth with steep sloping sides to an uneven rounded base, ditch **1308** contained a silty clay fill **1307** from which was recovered a flint flake.

Trench 14 (Figures 2 & 4)

- 5.23 Ditch **1404** was revealed at the southern end of the trench and has been interpreted as a continuation of boundary ditch **1306** to the west (Figure 4).
- 5.24 Ditch **1406** was revealed at the northern end of **Trench 14** and represents a continuation of boundary ditch **306/506/606** discussed above.

Trench 15 (Fig. 2)

- 5.25 Revealed at the western end of **Trench 15**, ditch **1503** was only partly exposed within the trench and has been interpreted as a potential continuation of ditch **1203** to the south. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the upper portion of silty clay fill **1504** and is thought to be intrusive and derived from recent agricultural activity.

Trench 16 (Figures 2 & 4)

- 5.26 North-east/south-west aligned ditch **1604** was identified at the southern end of **Trench 16**, measured 1.85m in width, contained silty clay fill **1603** and represents a continuation of boundary ditch **306/506/606/1406**.

Trench 17 (Figures 2, 4 & 9)

- 5.27 Four ditches, **1704**, **1706**, **1710** and **1712** were revealed in **Trench 17** and interpreted as representing boundaries or enclosures.

- 5.28 A pair of parallel, north-east/south-west aligned ditches **1704** and **1706** were identified at the northern end of the trench each measuring approximately 1.7m wide, 0.36m deep and contained similar silty clay fills. Both ditches had moderate sloping sides to rounded bases (Figure 9, section). Ditch **1704** was shown to be a continuation of boundary ditch **306/506/606/1406/1604** to the east, however a continuation of ditch **1706** was not revealed in adjacent trenches.
- 5.29 At the southern end of **Trench 17**, ditches **1710** and **1712** had similar north-east/south-west alignments, and measured between 0.68 and 0.84m in wide respectively with moderate sloping sides to rounded bases and contained similar artefact sterile silty clay fills. Ditch **1712** has been interpreted as a continuation of ditch **1306** to the east.

Trench 20 (Figure 2)

- 5.30 Ditch **2003** was revealed at the western end of **Trench 12**. Aligned north-west/south-east, ditch **2003** had moderate sloping sides to a rounded base and contained silty clay fill **2004** from which was recovered a flint core.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefacts were hand-recovered from 11 deposits (ditch fills, a pit fill and topsoil). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Recording also included form/rim morphology and any evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues, although none was apparent. Where possible Roman pottery fabrics have been equated to the Oxfordshire type series (unpublished).

Pottery: Roman (including Late Iron Age/Early Roman transition)

- 6.2 The pottery assemblage, all of Roman or transitional date, totals 57 sherds (667g). The average sherd weight is on the low side, at 12g, suggesting a moderate degree of fragmentation has taken place. Condition was recorded as moderate to good, in terms of edge abrasion and surface preservation. All of the pottery presented as coarseware fabrics of broad Romano-British date and probably relatively local manufacture. Most common were reduced (R20, R30, BS), oxidised (O10, O20) and

whiteware (W20, W30) fabrics. Necked jars were noted in fabrics R20, R30 and BS. A flat rim dish with groove, in fabric R20, was recovered from fill **303** of pit **304**. This is in imitation of a Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware form and is, therefore, dateable to the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries. Fill **305** of ditch **306** produced three sherds in a sandy oxidised fabric (O20), which included a rimsherd with an attached tubular handle. The handle is parallel to the rim, which is most suggestive of a skillet, however, it is very unusual for such a handle to be hollow. Nine sherds in a grog-and-quartz tempered fabric, from fill **303** of pit **304** and fill **509** of ditch **510**, belong to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman transitional period and are likely to date to the 1st century AD.

Lithics

- 6.3 Four worked flints (59g) were retrieved, one of which was residual in a deposit containing Roman pottery. Three flakes (one broken) and one core were recorded. The core is a discoidal type, with centripetal (towards the centre) flake scars on both faces. This type is most common during the Late Neolithic (Edmonds 1995, 82). The flakes cannot be closely dated.

Ceramic building material

- 6.4 A total of four fragments of ceramic building material (29g) was recovered. Included was one fragment of flat roof tile, of post-medieval date, from fill **1504** of ditch **1503**. The remainder were too fragmentary for dating or classification.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation has corroborated the findings of the previous archaeological fieldwork undertaken to the south-west of the site which revealed Middle Iron Age features, Roman enclosures and field system, comprising ditches, gullies, pits and postholes (TVAS 2016).
- 7.2 Within the current site the vast majority of the features identified comprised ditches indicating a continuation of the prehistoric and Roman field enclosures, field system and boundaries, but with little evidence for settlement features.

Iron Age / Prehistoric

- 7.3 Although no pottery of prehistoric date was recovered during the evaluation, four worked flint flakes and a core were recovered from a number of ditches in trenches **5, 11, 13 and 20**.
- 7.4 With the exception of ditch **2003**, all the ditches containing prehistoric material were of broad north/south alignment. This alignment differs markedly from the Roman features discussed below and can therefore be tentatively be used to allocate a prehistoric date to a number of other artefact sterile ditches in **Trenches 4, 12 and 15**.

Roman

- 7.5 Artefact evidence for Roman activity was limited to a number of ditches and a pit in **Trenches 3 and 5** in the northern part of the site. Correlation between these artefact dated ditches and others on the same broad north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east alignments clearly indicate boundaries, enclosures and a field system of broad Roman date extending across the investigation area.
- 7.6 Subtle variations within the general north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east alignments of these ditches may indicate further as yet unidentified sub phases to the Roman activity; however the paucity of datable artefacts means it's not possible at this stage to corroborate this hypothesis.

Post-medieval/modern

- 7.7 Evidence for post-medieval activity was limited to a single sherd of post-medieval pottery recovered from ditch **1503** in **Trench 15** and interpreted as intrusive.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Richard Scurr, Alex Stevens, Franco Vartuca, Matt Coman and Nathan Chinchin. The report was written by Ray Holt. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

9. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 17 May 2017
- Booth, P., *Oxford Archaeological Unit Roman Pottery Recording System: An Introduction*. Unpublished
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2017, *Land east of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot, Oxon: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government), 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*
- Edmonds, M., 1995, *Stone Tools and Society, Working Stone in Neolithic and Bronze Age Britain*, B T Batsford Ltd
- OCCAS, (Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services), 2014, *Land east of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot: Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- Thames Valley Archaeological Services, (TVAS) 2016, *Land at New Road, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation* (Digital archive). SOX5668.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.24	
1	101	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.4	
1	102	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	
1	103	Fill	104	fill of ditch	Light grey clay	>12	0.6	0.11	
1	104	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch, moderate sloping concave sides to a rounded base	>12	0.6	0.11	
2	100	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.28	
2	101	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.3	
2	102	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay with orange grey patches	30	2	n/a	
3	300	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.21	
3	301	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.31	
3	302	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	
3	303	Fill	304	Upper fill of pit	Dark grey silty clay	>2	>2	0.24	RB
3	304	Cut		Pit	Circular pit with moderate sloping sides to a flat base	>2	>2	0.29	
3	305	Fill	306	fill of ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay	>2	2.01	0.49	RB
3	306	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch, moderate sloping concave sides to a uneven flat base. Continuation of ditch 506, 606,1406,1604 and 1704	>2	2.01	0.49	
3	307	Fill	304	Lower fill of pit	Light yellowish white silty clay	>2	1.6	0.05	
4	400	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.2	
4	401	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.2	
4	402	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	
4	403	Fill	404	fill of ditch	Light grey clay silt	>2	1.15	0.14	
4	404	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned ditch, moderate sloping concave sides to a flat base	>2	1.15	0.14	
4	405	Fill	406	fill of ditch	Light grey clay silt	2	0.9	0.14	
4	406	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned ditch and terminus, moderate sloping concave sides to a flat base	2	0.9	0.14	
4	407	Fill	408	fill of ditch	Light grey clay silt	>2	0.6	n/a	
4	408	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch. Continuation of ditch 508	>2	0.6	n/a	
5	500	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.26	RB
5	501	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.27	
5	502	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	
5	503	Fill	504	fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>2	0.39	0.25	
5	504	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch, steep sloping sides to a rounded base. Continuation of ditch 604	>2	0.39	0.25	
5	505	Fill	506	fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>2	0.9	0.24	
5	506	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch, moderate sloping sides to a rounded base. Continuation of ditch 306, 606,1406,1604 and 1704	>2	0.9	0.24	
5	507	Fill	508	fill of ditch	Light greyish brown silty clay	>10	0.61	0.13	RB
5	508	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch, moderate sloping sides to a rounded base. Continuation of ditch 408	>10	0.61	0.13	
5	509	Fill	510	fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>2	1.92	0.38	LC1-C2

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
5	510	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch, moderate sloping sides to a rounded base	>2	1.92	0.38	
5	511	Fill	512	fill of ditch	Light greyish brown silty clay	>1.5	0.54	0.1	
5	512	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch, moderate sloping sides to a rounded base	>1.5	0.54	0.1	
6	600	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.26	
6	601	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.19	
6	602	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	
6	603	Fill	604	fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey clayey silt	>2	0.8	n/a	
6	604	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch. Continuation of ditch 504	>2	0.8	n/a	
6	605	Fill	606	fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey clayey silt	>2	1.15	n/a	
6	606	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch. Continuation of ditch 306, 506,1406,1604 and 1704	>2	1.15	n/a	
7	700	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.25	
7	701	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.28	
7	702	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	
8	800	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.33	
8	801	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.13	
8	802	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	
8	803	Fill	804	fill of ditch	Light greyish brown silty clay	>2	1.39	0.26	
8	804	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base	>2	1.39	0.26	
9	900	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.22	
9	901	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.17	
9	902	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	
10	1000	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.25	
10	1001	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.25	
10	1002	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	
10	1003	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned curvilinear ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base	>2	0.65	0.16	
10	1004	Fill	1003	fill of ditch	Light greyish brown silty clay	>2	0.65	0.16	
11	1100	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.3	
11	1101	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.11	
11	1102	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	
11	1103	Fill	1104	fill of ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay	>2	2.4	0.46	
11	1104	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a flat base	>2	2.4	0.46	
11	1105	Fill	1106	fill of ditch	Dark brown silty clay	>2	1.2	0.4	
11	1106	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base	>2	1.2	0.4	
11	1109	Fill	1110	Lower fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey silty clay	>2	0.58	0.14	
11	1110	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base	>2	1.3	0.44	
11	1111	Fill	1110	Upper fill of ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay	>2	1.3	0.3	
12	1200	Layer		topsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.26	
12	1201	Layer		subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.19	
12	1202	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light yellow grey clay	30	2	n/a	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
12	1203	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base. Potentially a continuation of ditch 1503	>2	0.78	0.19	
12	1204	Fill	1203	fill of ditch	Orangey grey brown silty clay	>2	0.78	0.19	
13	1300	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.26	
13	1301	Layer		subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	30	2	0.19	
13	1302	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mid yellowish brown clay	30	2	n/a	
13	1303	Fill	1304	Fill of ditch	Light grey silty clay	>2	1.9	0.2	
13	1304	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base. Continuation of ditch 1404	>2	1.9	0.2	
13	1305	Fill	1306	Fill of ditch	Light grey silty clay	>2	0.48	0.14	
13	1306	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base. Continuation of ditch 1712	>2	0.48	0.14	
13	1307	Fill	1308	Fill of ditch	Light brownish grey silty clay	>12	0.6	0.14	
13	1308	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned ditch with steep sloping sides to an uneven rounded base	>12	0.6	0.14	
14	1400	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.28	
14	1401	Layer		subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	30	2	0.20	
14	1402	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mid yellowish brown clay	30	2	n/a	
14	1403	Fill	1404	Fill of ditch	Mid brown silty clay	>2	1.4	0.2	
14	1404	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch. Continuation of ditch 1304	>2	1.4	0.2	
14	1405	Fill	1406	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>2	1	0.2	
14	1406	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch. Continuation of ditch 306, 506,606,1604 and 1704	>2	1	0.2	
15	1500	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.28	
15	1501	Layer		subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	30	2	0.35	
15	1502	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mid yellowish brown clay	30	2	n/a	
15	1503	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a flat base. Potentially a continuation of ditch 1203	>2.4	>0.9	0.11	
15	1504	Fill	1503	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>2.4	>0.9	0.11	Post-medieval
16	1600	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.25	
16	1601	Layer		subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	30	2	0.15	
16	1602	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mid yellowish brown clay	30	2	n/a	
16	1603	Fill	1604	Fill of ditch	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>2.3	1.85	n/a	
16	1604	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch. Continuation of ditch 306, 506,606,1406 and 1704	>2.3	1.85	n/a	
17	1700	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.28	
17	1701	Layer		subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	30	2	0.42	
17	1702	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mid yellowish brown clay	30	2	n/a	
17	1703	Fill	1704	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey silty clay	>2	1.72	0.36	
17	1704	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base. Continuation of ditch 306, 506,606,1406 and 1604	>2	1.72	0.36	
17	1705	Fill	1706	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey silty clay	>2	1.7	0.36	
17	1706	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to an irregular rounded base	>2	1.7	0.36	
17	1709	Fill	1710	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey silty clay	>2	0.84	0.17	

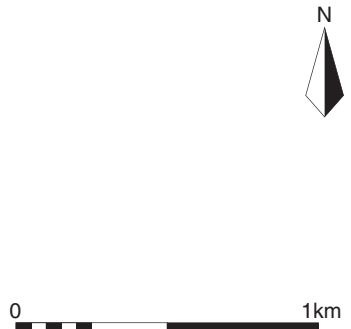
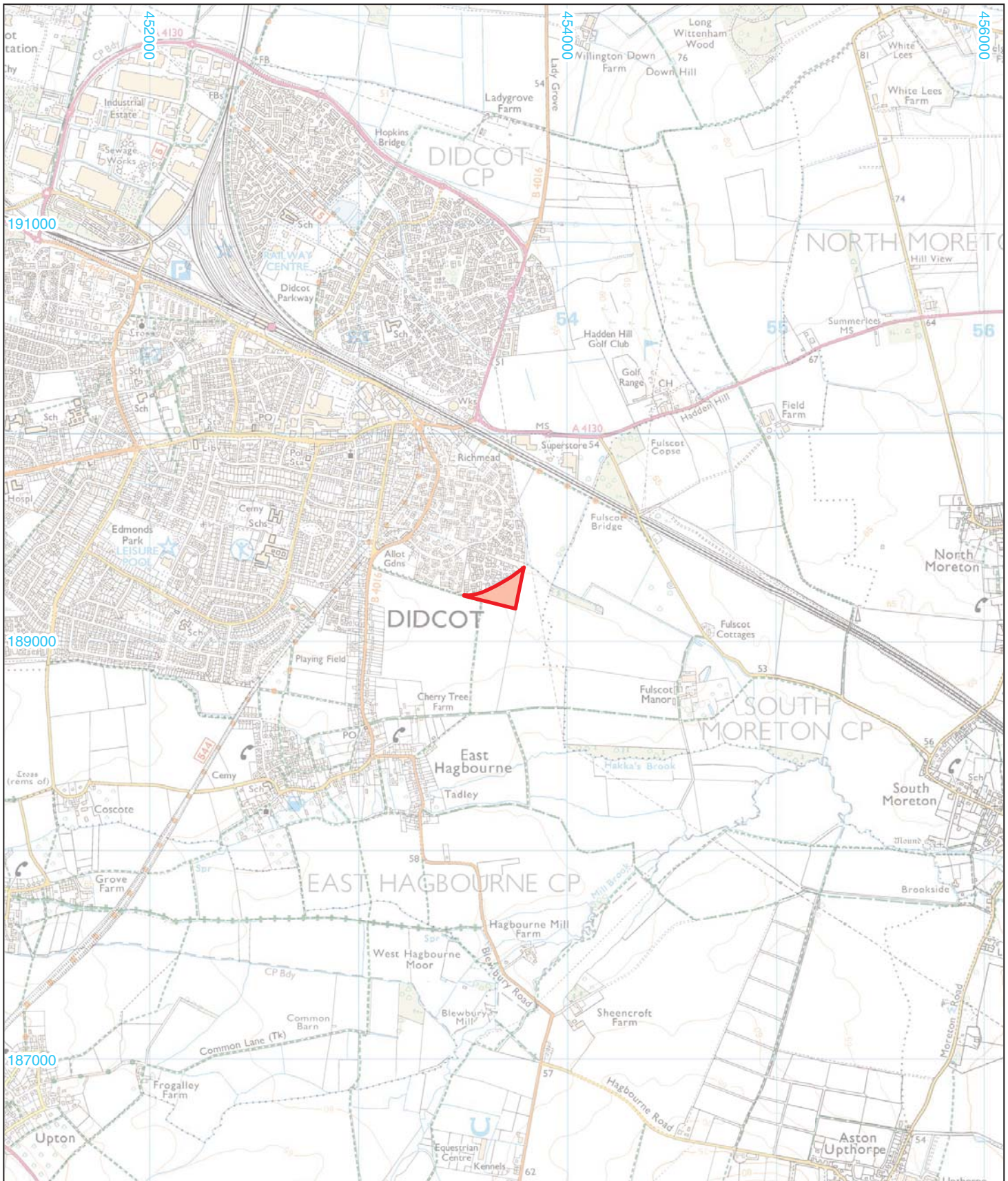
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
17	1710	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base	>2	0.84	0.17	
17	1711	Fill	1712	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey silty clay	>2	0.68	0.21	
17	1712	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base. Continuation of ditch 1306	>2	0.68	0.21	
18	1800	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt	30	2	0.3	
18	1801	Layer		subsoil	Greenish yellow clayey silt	30	2	0.25	
18	1802	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mid yellowish grey clay	30	2	n/a	
19	1900	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt	30	2	0.3	
19	1901	Layer		subsoil	Greenish yellow clayey silt	30	2	0.2	
19	1902	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mid yellowish grey clay	30	2	n/a	
20	2000	Layer		topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	30	2	0.28	
20	2001	Layer		subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	30	2	0.25	
20	2002	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mid yellowish brown clay	30	2	n/a	
20	2003	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned curvilinear ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base	>2.4	0.55	0.19	
20	2004	Fill	2003	Fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey silty clay	>2.4	0.55	0.19	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
303	Roman pottery	Sandy greyware	R20	14	88	RB
	Roman pottery	Fine greyware	R30	9	104	
	Roman pottery	Sandy oxidised fabric	O20	4	24	
	Roman pottery	Fine oxidised fabric	O10	3	18	
	Roman pottery	Sandy whiteware	W20	7	31	
	Roman pottery	Fine whiteware	W30	2	18	
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	1	14	
	Roman pottery	Grog-and-quartz tempered fabric	E80	2	49	
305	Roman pottery	Sandy oxidised fabric	O20	3	94	RB
	Worked flint	Flake		1	10	
403	Ceramic building material	Fragment		1	4	-
500	Roman pottery	Sandy greyware	R20	1	69	RB
507	Roman pottery	Fine greyware	R30	1	14	RB
509	Roman pottery	Sandy greyware	R20	1	9	RB
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	2	21	
	Roman pottery	Grog-and-quartz tempered fabric	E80	7	114	
803	Worked flint	Flake		1	5	Prehistoric
1103	Ceramic building material	Fragment		1	<1	-
1307	Worked flint	Flake		1	2	-
1504	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Flat roof tile, fragment		2	25	Post-medieval
2004	Worked flint	Core		1	42	-

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land east of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot, Oxfordshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2017 on land east of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot, Oxfordshire. Twenty trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation identified a number of ditches forming prehistoric and Roman boundaries, enclosures and field system, corroborating the results of an earlier archaeological evaluation immediately to the south-west of the site. In addition a pit of Roman date was identified and although no structural remains associated directly with domestic occupation were identified, the nature of the finds indicate Roman settlement within the vicinity.</p>	
Project dates		
Project type	field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land east of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.48ha	
Site co-ordinates	453698 189247	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Oxfordshire Museum Service	Ceramics, CBM, flint
Paper	Oxfordshire Museum Service	Context sheets, trench recording sheets, photographic registers, permatrace drawings
Digital	Oxfordshire Museum Service	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 Land east of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot, Oxfordshire: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>. CA typescript report 17337</p>		



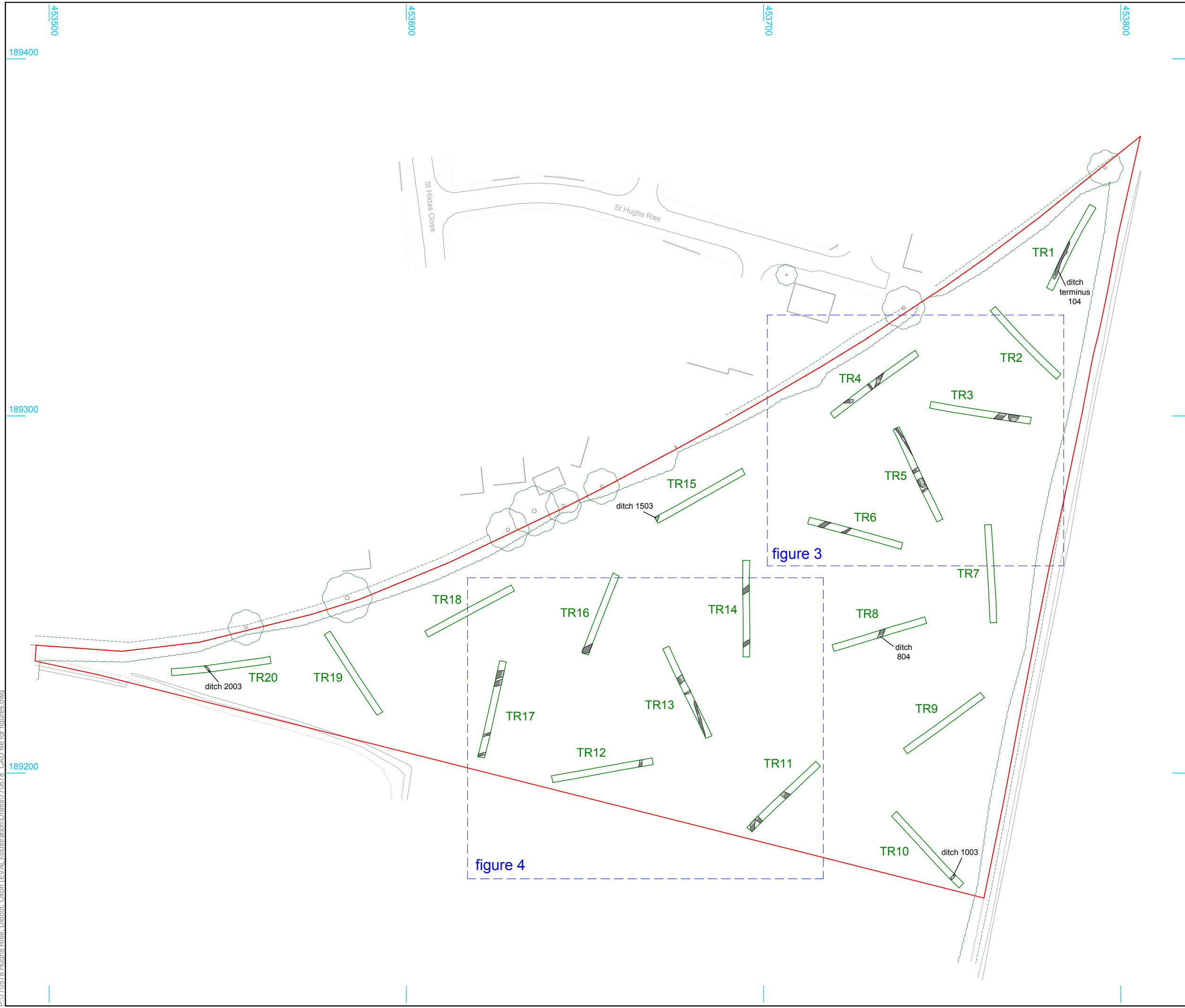
Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land East of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot,
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

Reproduced from the digital Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109

DRAWN BY EE	PROJECT NO. 770578	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 19/06/2017	
APPROVED BY RK	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1



- ▭ Site boundary
- ▭ Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey digital mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109.

Cotswold Archaeology

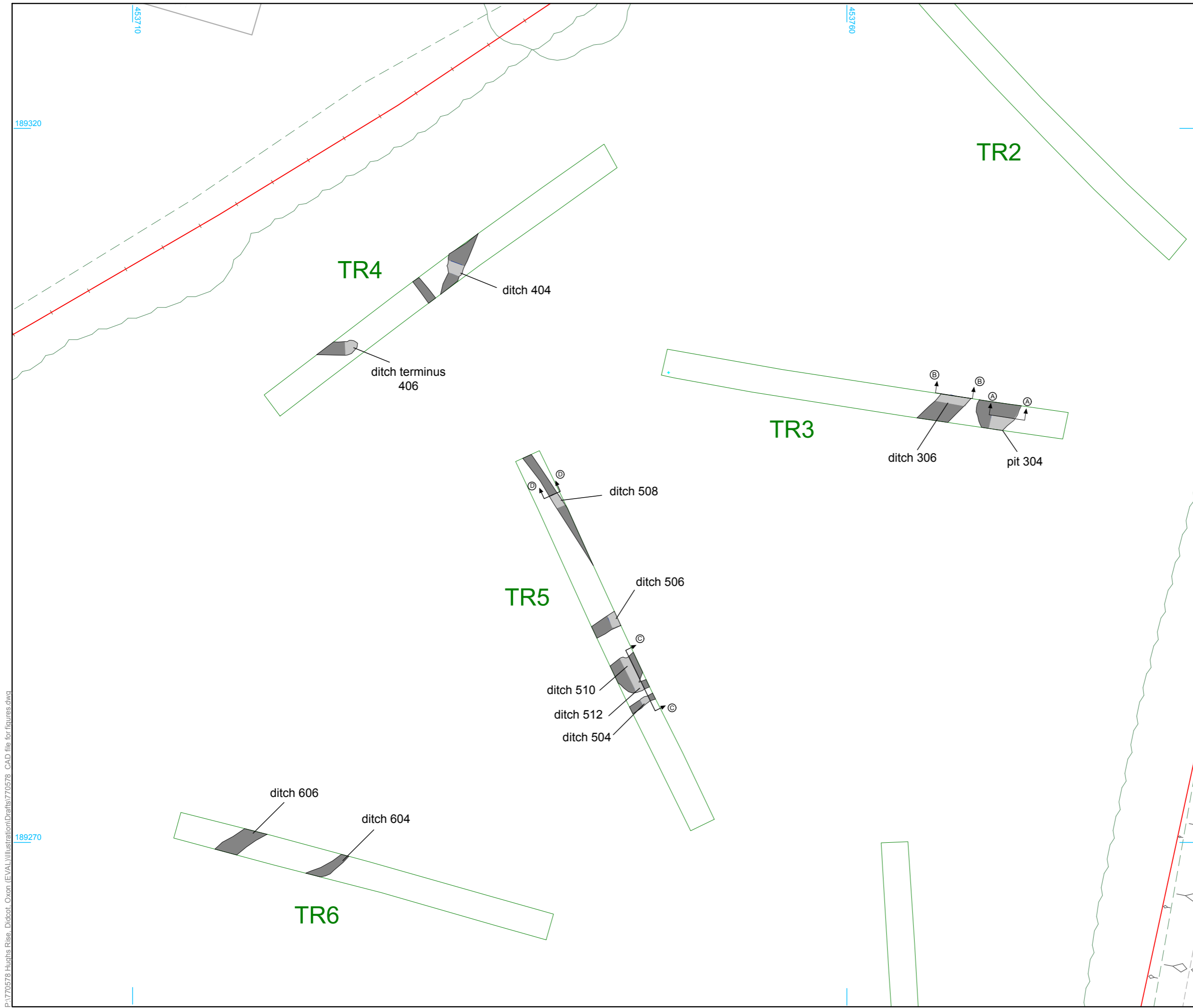
Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	

PROJECT TITLE
Land East of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	770578	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	19/06/2017	
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A3	1:1,000	2

P:\770578 Hughs Rise_Didcot_Oxon\EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\770578_CAD file for figures.dwg



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- ⊕ ⊕ Section location



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey digital mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109.

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660

www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land East of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 showing archaeological features

DRAWN BY EE	PROJECT NO. 770578	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 19/06/2017	3
APPROVED BY RK	SCALE@A3 1:250	

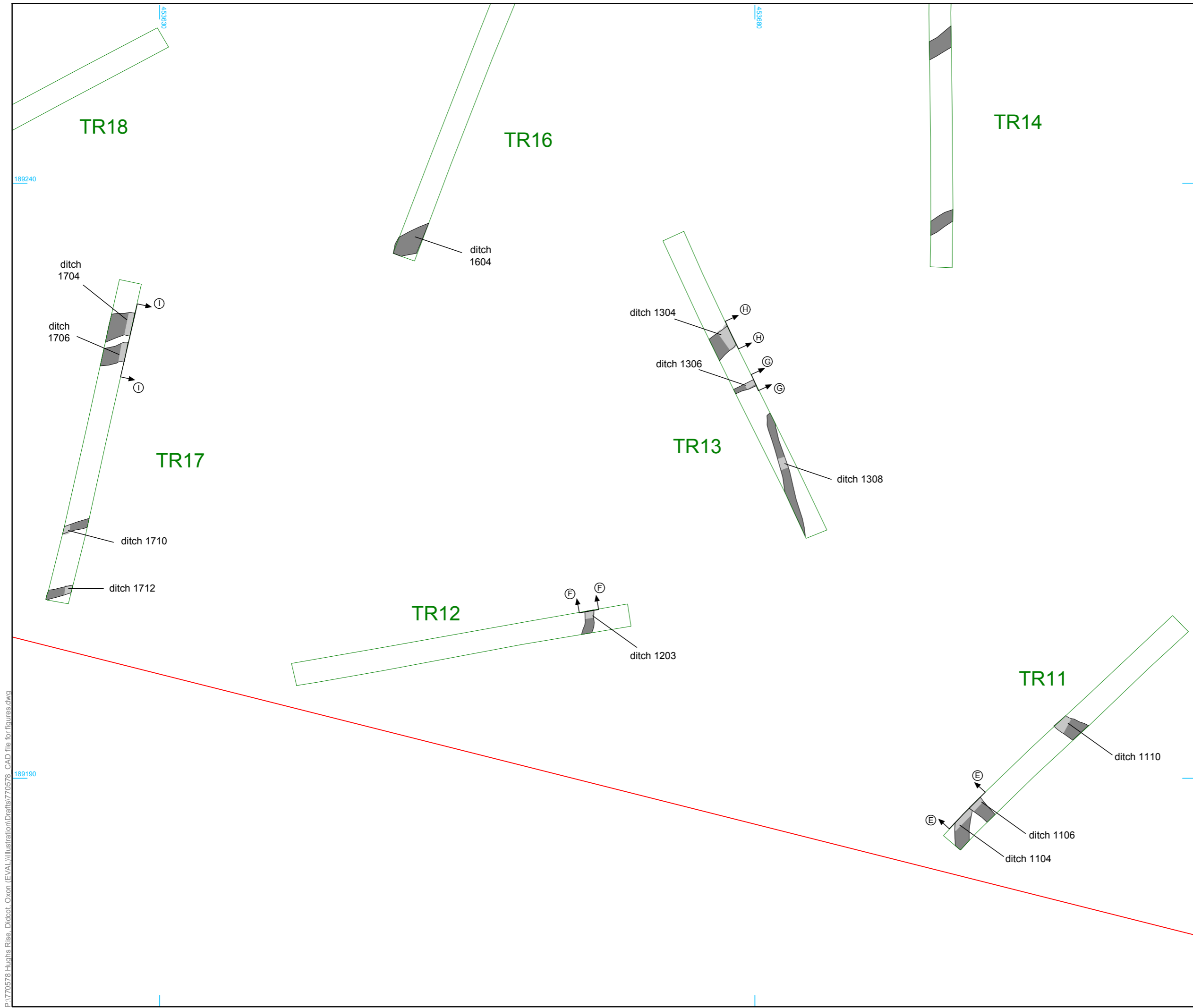
P:\770578 Hughes Rise, Didcot, Oxon (EVAL)\Illustration\Drafts\770578 CAD file for figures.dwg

189320

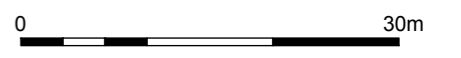
189270

453710

453760



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- ⓔ Section location



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey digital mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109.

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	

PROJECT TITLE
Land East of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 11, 12, 13 and 17 showing archaeological features

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	770578	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	19/06/2017	4
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A3	1:300	

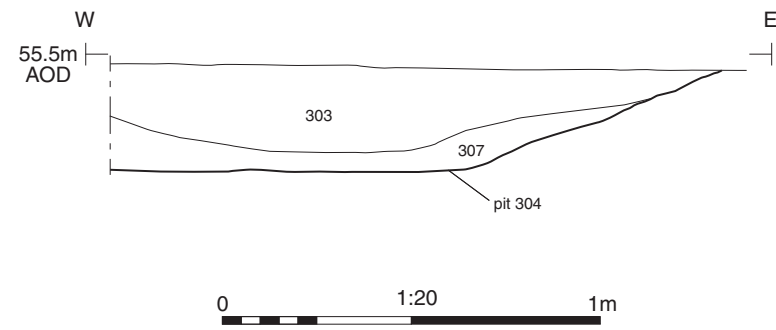
P:\770578 Hughes Rise, Didcot, Oxon (EVAL)\Illustration\Drafts\770578_CAD file for figures.dwg

189240

189190

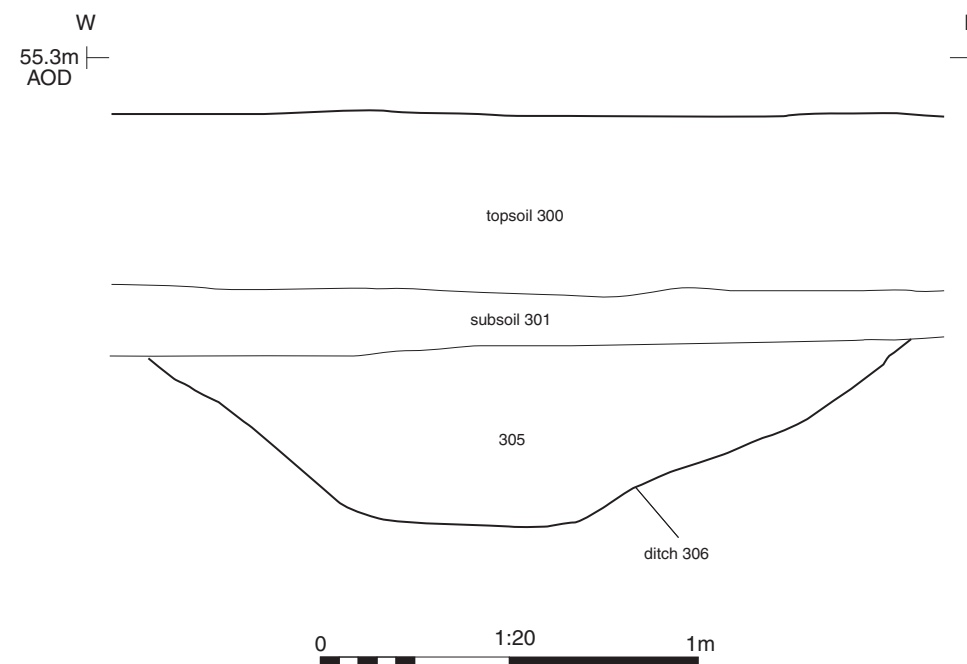


Section AA



Pit 304, looking north-west (1m scale)

Section BB



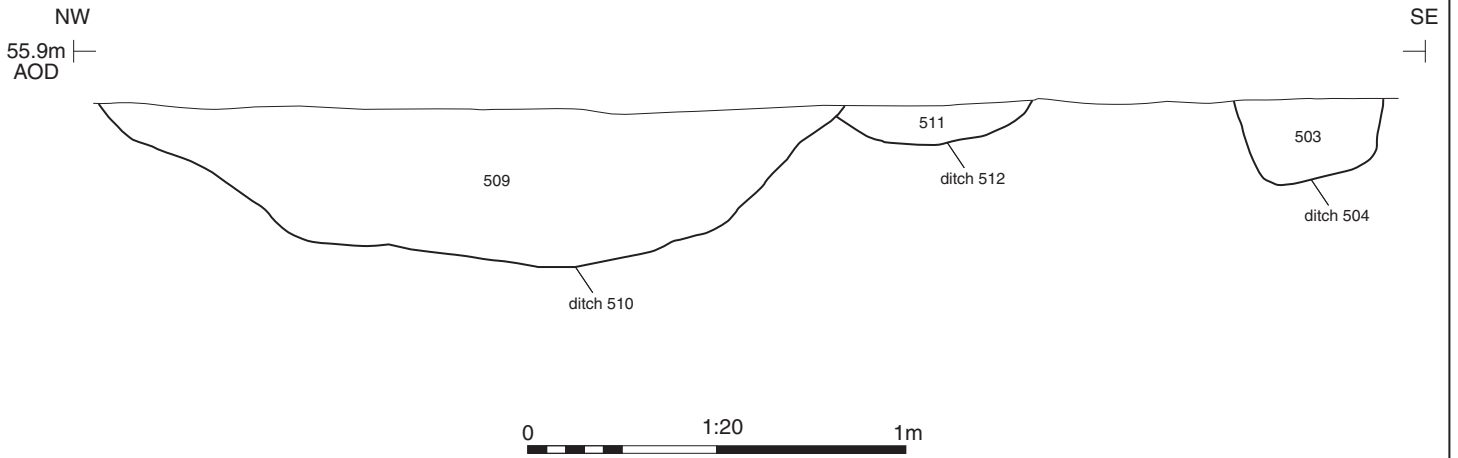

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land East of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot,
 Oxfordshire

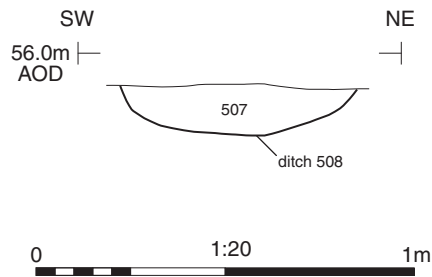
FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3, sections and photograph

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	770578	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	19/06/2017	5
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE	@A3 1:20	

Section CC



Section DD



Cotswold
Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land East of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot,
Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

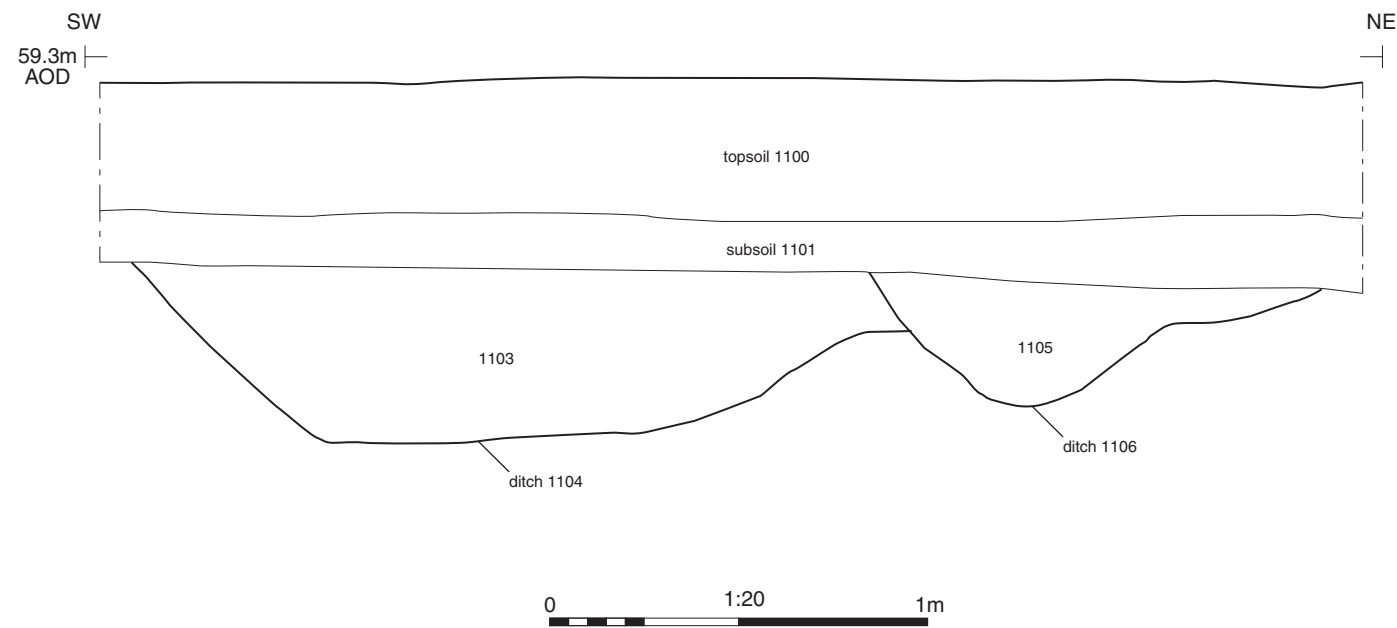
Trench 5, sections

DRAWN BY EE PROJECT NO. 770578
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 19/06/2017
APPROVED BY RK SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

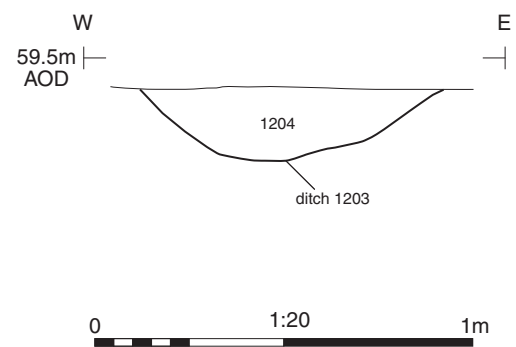
6

Section EE



Ditches 1104 and 1106, looking north (1m scale)

Section FF



Ditch 1203, looking north-west (0.4m scale)

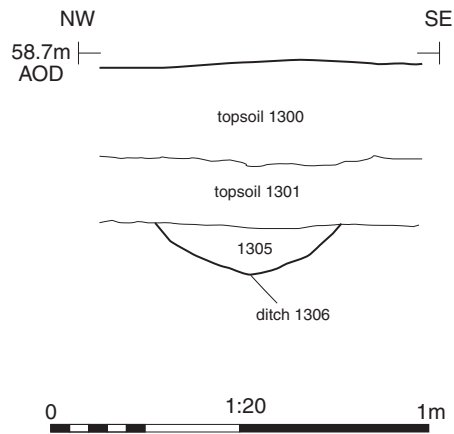

 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land East of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot,
 Oxfordshire

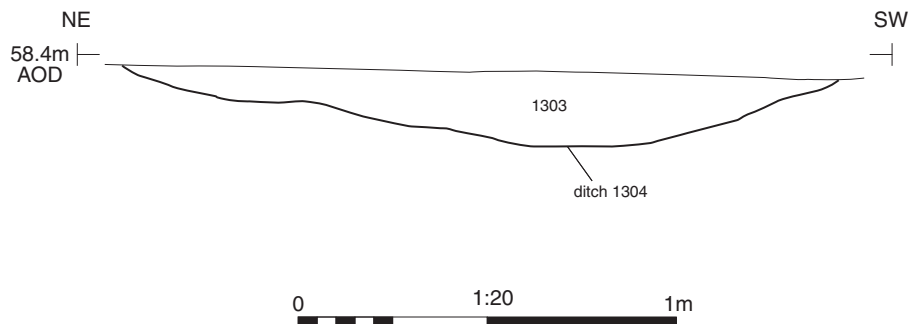
FIGURE TITLE
 Trenches 11 and 12, sections and
 photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	770578	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	19/06/2017	
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE	@A3 1:20	7

Section GG



Section HH



Cotswold
Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land East of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot,
Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

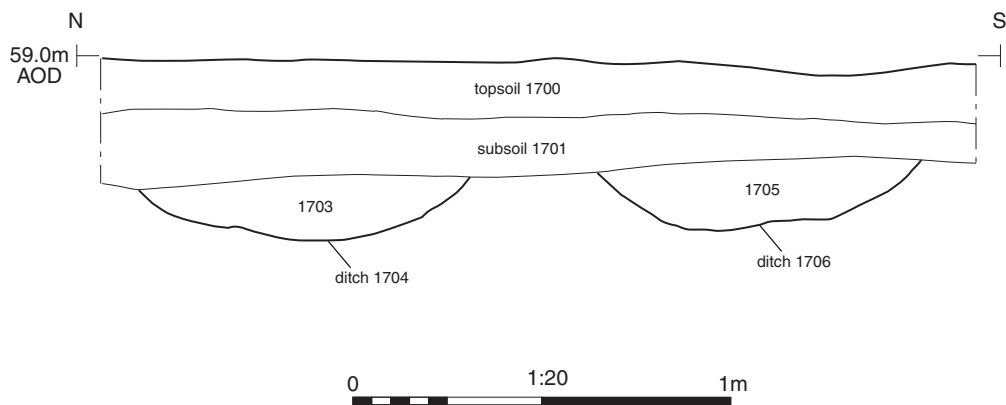
Trench 13, sections

DRAWN BY EE PROJECT NO. 770578
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 19/06/2017
APPROVED BY RK SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

8

Section 11



Ditches 1704 and 1706, looking east (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land East of St Hugh's Rise, Didcot,
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 17, section and photograph

DRAWN BY EE PROJECT NO. 770578
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 19/06/2017
 APPROVED BY RK SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

9

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660