



# **Land at Ricardo Court Bramley** Surrey Archaeological Evaluation



for **Martin Grant Homes** 

CA Project: 770456 CA Report: 17537

September 2017



# Land at Ricardo Court Bramley Surrey

# Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770456 CA Report: 17537













Document Control Grid								
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А	07/09/2017	SJB	Nick Garland	Internal Review	General Edit	Ray Kennedy		
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# **CONTENTS**

APPEN	IDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM	.12
APPEN	IDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	.10
8.	REFERENCES	.8
7.	CA PROJECT TEAM	.8
6.	DISCUSSION	.8
5.	RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)	.7
4.	METHODOLOGY	.6
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	.5
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	.4
1.	INTRODUCTION	.3
SUMMA	ARY	.2

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site location plan (1:25,000)
Figure 2	Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:500)
Figure 3	Trench 3: photograph, plan and section of Ditch 306
Figure 4	Trench 7: photograph, plan and section of Ditch 705
Figure 5	Photographs of modern disturbance across site

# **SUMMARY**

Project Name: Land at Ricardo Court

**Location:** Bramley, Surrey **NGR:** 500961 144458

**Type:** Evaluation

Date: 21-24 August 2017
Planning Reference: WA/2014/0249

**Location of Archive:** Museum of Farnham

Site Code: BRAM17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2017 at Ricardo Court, Bramley, Surrey. Seven trenches were excavated, of which 2 contained features of archaeological interest. **Trenches 1** and **4** were not fully excavated due to modern contamination, made ground with possible contamination having been previously identified within the site. **Trench 4** also contained a geo-technical bore hole.

Undated ditches, were identified In **Trenches 3** and **7** to the north and east of the site respectively. Modern contamination was uncovered within **Trenches 1**, **3**, **4**, **5** and **6**.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Martin Grant Homes at Ricardo Court, Bramley, Surrey (centred at NGR: 500961 144458; Fig. 1), hereafter referred to as the 'site'.
- 1.2 Planning permission for the development of 24 dwellings and associated works was granted by Waverley Borough Council (ref: WA/2014/0249), conditional on a programme of archaeological work.

#### Condition 2:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Statement of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority

1.3 The archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Surrey Heritage Conservation Team (SHCT), the archaeological advisor to Waverly Borough Council (WBC), prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The fieldwork followed the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014).

# The site

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 0.8ha, and comprises agricultural pasture bounded to the north, south and east by modern housing development and to the west by agricultural land. The site lies at between approximately 40m and 50m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with the land sloping towards the housing development to the north.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Hythe Formation, sandstone with superficial deposits of head deposits comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2017).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of the information from an evaluation undertaken by TVAS (2005) 220m from the site, and from a search of the Surrey Historic Environmental Record (SHER) by the CA consultancy team.

# Prehistoric (pre-43 AD)

- 2.2 There is no known prehistoric activity within the site. The site is located 480m west of a tributary of the River Wey, and 220m south-east of a tributary running from the River Wey in the north-east to a series of mill ponds in the south-west. The earliest evidence for human activity within the environs of the River Wey is from the Mesolithic period onwards, when the landscape comprised of a wooded river valley (CA 2015).
- 2.3 Within the area surrounding the site an assemblage of Palaeolithic tools were recorded *c*. 480m north-east of the site, near a stream in Wonersh. Two further Mesolithic scatters were located *c*. 310m south-east and *c*. 950m to the south-west, in close proximity to the mill ponds, as well as a tranchet axe *c*. 460m north-east of the site.
- 2.4 Limited Neolithic activity within the vicinity comprised a lozenge shaped Neolithic arrowhead and flakes uncovered near Snowdenham (Hall) Farm, c. 720m southwest of the site, as well as a Neolithic chipped flint axe was recorded near a tributary of the River Wey, at Nurscombe Farm, c. 950m to the south-west.
- 2.5 There is no recorded evidence of later prehistoric activity within the study area.

#### Romano-British (AD 43 – AD 410)

2.6 The land management of the River Wey valley was thought to have intensified during the Romano-British period, with the valley bottom probably being utilised as pastures for livestock (CA 2015). Approximately 160m north is the probable line of the Roman Road from Farley Heath to Bagshot, although it is not known where the

road joins the Devils Highway. There is no evidence of Roman activity within the site.

# Early medieval and medieval (AD 410 – AD 1539)

- 2.7 The site is located within the Hundred of Blackheath in the ancient parish of Bramley. Bramley is believed to be a settlement of early-medieval origin and is suggested to refer to 'clearing broom' (Waverley Borough Council 2005). Early medieval activity in the area comprises a single find spot of a coin dating to the reign of Offa (757-796AD), recorded on the SHER, c. 580m south-west of the site.
- 2.8 At the time of the Domesday Survey, a manor much larger than the present parish was located in Bramley, which encompassed most of the western half of the Blackheath Hundred, extending to the Sussex border and including Shalford, Woners Hascombe and West Cranleigh (Waverley Borough Council 2005).
- 2.9 Within the immediate environs of the site, there is no evidence of settlement; however archaeological investigations undertaken within the historic core of Bramley on land directly to the north of the site have identified an of high archaeological potential (Waverley Borough Council 2005).

## Post-medieval and modern (AD 1540 – present)

2.10 Based on historic mapping of the area it does not appear that the site has been developed in the post-medieval or modern period, and appears to have remained agricultural pasture.

## 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 (CIfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable SHCT the archaeological advisor to Waverley

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 seven trenches, each 30m long by 1.8m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). **Trench 1**, **4**, **5**, **6** and **7** were repositioned due to site boundary constraints, proximity to overhead cables or the position of the current site cabin with the approval of Nick Truckle, the Archaeological Officer for SHCT. 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.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Andover and will be deposited with the Museum of Farnham. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, 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 and archaeology.
- 5.2 Seven trenches were excavated. Archaeological remains were uncovered within 2 of the trenches, while the 5 remaining trenches were archaeologically sterile (Figures 2-5). Trenches 1 and 4 were not fully excavated due to modern contamination with suspected asbestos present in both trenches. Made ground with possible contamination has been previously identified within the site (Southern Testing, 2016). In Trench 4 a geo-technical bore hole was identified so the trench was split in two and a 1m buffer zone left around the suspected borehole. See Appendix A for detailed information of the contexts.

# Geology

- 5.3 The trenches were varied in their geological makeup, with all being covered in a layer of topsoil *c*. 0.2 0.4m in thickness. The topsoil in **Trenches 2**, **4**, **6** and **7** overlay a subsoil horizon, *c*. 0.23 0.27m in thickness, whilst **Trenches 1**, **3** and **5** had various phases of made ground covering relic top soil and or subsoils.
- 5.4 The natural geology comprised mainly clayey sands with sandstone inclusions which is typical of the head deposits above Hythe Formation.

# Trench 3 (Figures 2 & 3)

5.5 **Trench 3** was located to the north of the site and contained a single archaeological feature. Ditch **306** was located to the northeast end of the trench, orientated on a northwest-southeast alignment and measured 0.65m wide and 0.13m deep. The ditch had a gently sloping concave profile and contained a single fill (**307**).

## Trench 7 (Figure 2 & 4)

5.6 **Trench 7** was located to the east of the site and contained a single archaeological feature. Ditch **705** was located to the northwest end of the trench, orientated on a west-east alignment and measured 0.9m wide and 0.42m deep. The ditch had steep sides with a flat base and contained a single fill (**706**).

# Modern (Figures 3 and 5)

5.7 Modern disturbance was encountered in five trenches, located across the site.

Trench 1 had the remains of a hard standing, running across the north-western aspect of the trench, on a north-south alignment. Trench 3 and 6 had modern disturbance running on a northwest-southeast alignment. This modern disturbance broadly corresponds to the current site entrance and probably represents the original site access. Trench 4 contained a dump of modern construction materials and cables towards the centre of the trench, whilst Trench 5 contained a compacted level of various construction materials for an unknown function.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The archaeological investigation met the aims and objectives, providing information about archaeological resource present in the site. The limited expectations of archaeology present throughout the site, as set out in the archaeological background (section 2), were well founded with only two undated ditches discovered during the works, probably relating to field boundaries.
- 6.2 Modern disturbance, including hardstanding and asbestos contamination located in **Trench 1** and **4**, increases the risk of further hazardous materials being discovered across the site.

# 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Bush and Adam Howard, assisted by Emily Stynes, Tim Street and Sophie Carver. The report was written by Steven Bush. 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.

#### 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 Geology of Britain Viewer

<a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologviewer\_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologviewer\_google/googleviewer.html</a>
Accessed 8

September 2017

- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015, *Papercourt, Ripley, Surrey: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment.* CA Report no: 15333
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016, Land at Ricardo Court, Bramley, Surrey: Written scheme of investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 Land at Ricardo Court, Bramley, Surrey: Heritage Statement. CA Report no: 17294
- ClfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2014 Archaeological Field Evaluation.
- DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 National Planning Policy
  Framework
- Southern Testing, 2016, Land to the North of Ricardo Court, Bramley, Desk Study, Site Investigation and Risk Assessment report, ref: J12782
- Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS), 2005, 6 *High Street, Bramley, Surrey: Archaeological Evaluation*
- Waverley Borough Council, 2005, *Bramley Conservation Area Appraisal* http://www.waverley.gov.uk/info/514/conservation\_areas\_and\_listed\_buildings/1322/bramley\_conservation\_area Accessed 22 September 2016

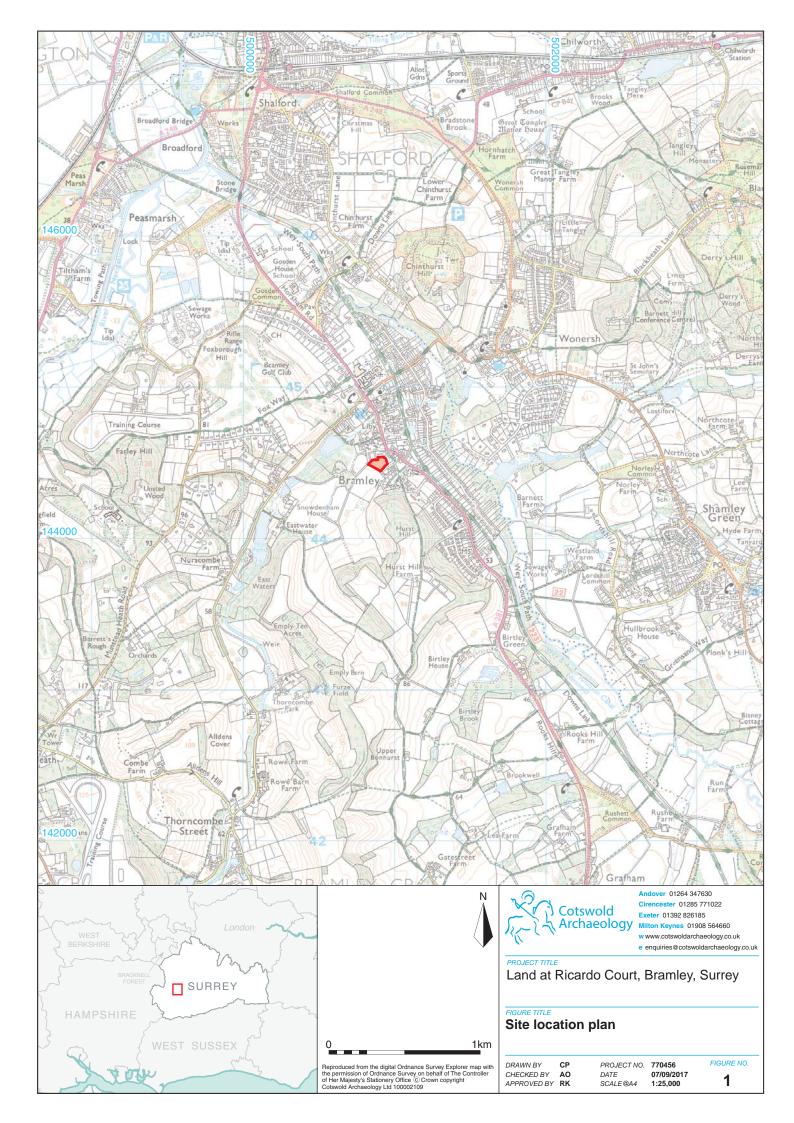
# **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

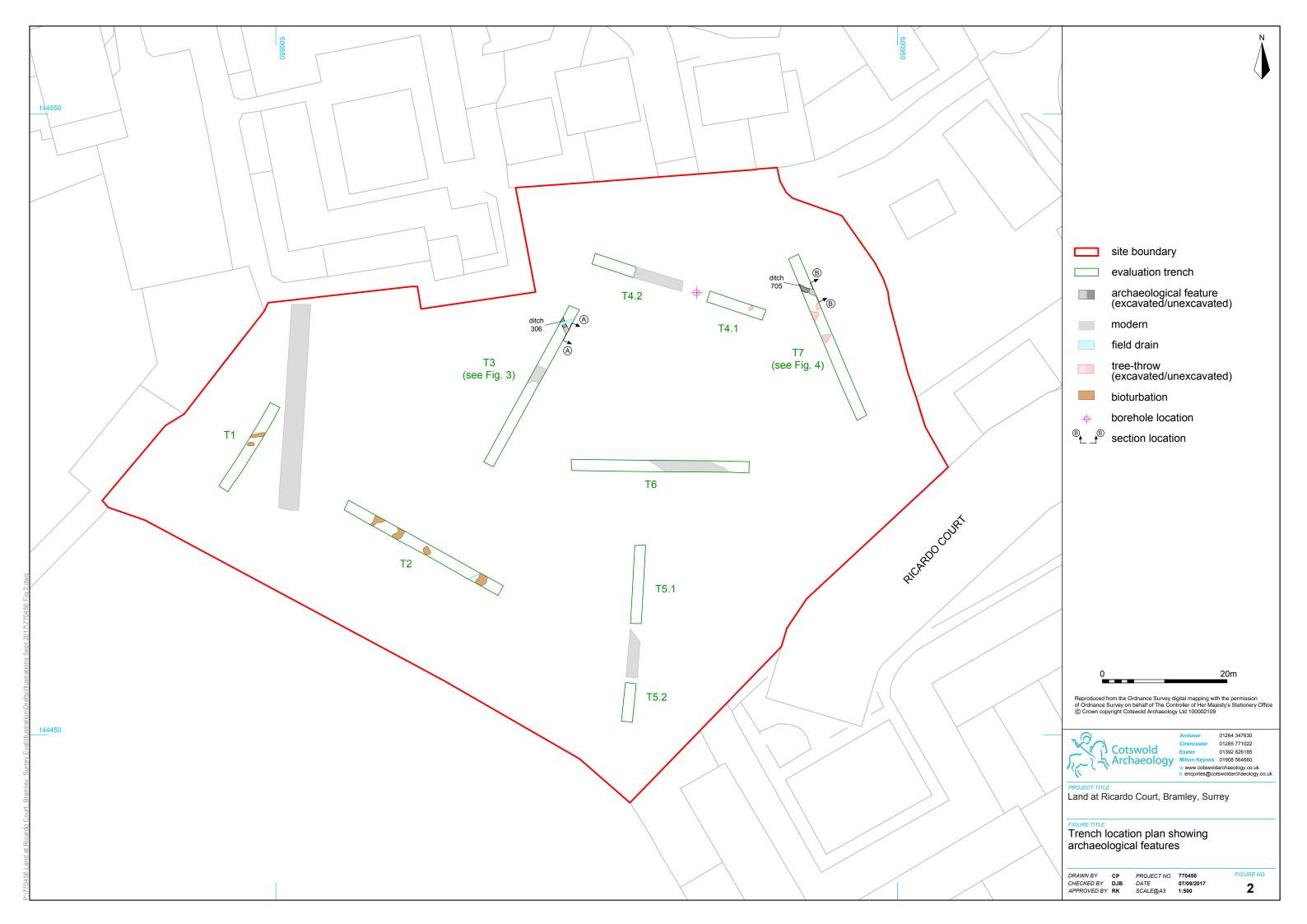
Site code	Trench No.	Context	Туре	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth / thickness (m)
BRAM17	1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark Grey-Brown. Clayey sandy silt. No Inclusions Friable	30	1.9	0.2
BRAM17	1	101	Layer		Made Ground	Mid Yellowish Brown. Clayey Sand. Friable. Rare charcoal flecks <10mm	30	1.9	0.24
BRAM17	1	102	Layer		Relic subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Rare flecks CBM	30	1.9	0.12
BRAM17	1	1.03	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish brown. Clayey sand. Friable. Rare sub angular sandstone <40mm	30	1.9	1>
BRAM17	2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Very rare sub angular sandstone <30mm	30	1.9	0.4
BRAM17	2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Very sub angular sandstone <30mm	30	1.9	0.23
BRAM17	2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow. Clayey sand. Friable. Occasional sub angular sandstone <50mm	30	1.9	1>
BRAM17	3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. No visible inclusions	30	1.9	0.22
BRAM17	3	301	Layer		Made Ground	Mid greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Patches of yellowish brown sand. No visible inclusions	30	1.9	0.2
BRAM17	3	302	Layer		Relic topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. No visible inclusions	30	1.9	0.11
BRAM17	3	303	Layer		Made Ground	Mid greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Patches of yellowish brown sand. Glass, CBM and coke inclusions	30	1.9	0.57
BRAM17	3	304	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. No visible inclusions	30	1.9	0.36
BRAM17	3	305	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow. Clayey sand. Friable. Occasional sub angular sandstone	30	1.9	1>
BRAM17	3	306	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear. Steep concave NE side. Moderate concave SW side. Flat base. NW/SE	1.02	0.65	0.13
BRAM17	3	307	Fill	306	Fill of Ditch	Light whitish grey. Silty sand. Firm. Occasional falt sub angular stone 0.1-0.15m	1.02	0.65	0.13
BRAM17	4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Very rare sub angular sandstone <40mm	30	1.9	0.37
BRAM17	4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Very sub angular sandstone <40mm	30	1.9	0.26
BRAM17	4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow. Clayey sand. Friable. Common sub angular sandstone <50mm	30	0.9	1>
BRAM17	4	403	Layer		Modern	Modern disturbance. Topsoil with cabling, natural, CBM.	30	1.9	0.37
BRAM17	5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Very rare sub angular sandstone <40mm	30	1.9	0.25
BRAM17	5	501	Layer		Made Ground	White chalk	30	0.9	0.7

Site code	Trench No.	Context	Туре	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth / thickness (m)
BRAM17	5	502	Layer		Relic topsoil	Dark reddish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Very rare sub angular sandstone <40mm	30	1.9	0.22
BRAM17	5	503	Layer		Relic subsoil	Mid reddish brown. Clayey sand. Friable. Occasional sub angular flint <60mm	30	0.9	0.26
BRAM17	5	504	Layer		Modern	Modern disturbance.	7.5	1.9	?
BRAM17	5	505	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow. Clayey sand. Friable. Occasional sub angular flint <80mm	30	1.9	1>
BRAM17	6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Very rare sub angular sandstone <30mm	30	1.9	0.35
BRAM17	6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Very rare sub angular sandstone <30mm	30	0.9	0.27
BRAM17	6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow. Clayey sand. Friable. Occasional sub angular sand stone <50mm	30	0.9	1>
BRAM17	6	603	Layer		Modern	Modern disturbance Same as 403	9.5	1.9	?
BRAM17	7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Very rare sub angular sandstone <40mm	30	1.9	0.29
BRAM17	7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown. Clayey sandy silt. Friable. Very rare sub angular sandstone <40mm	30	1.9	0.26
BRAM17	7	702	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow. Clayey sand. Friable. Occasional sub angular sandstone <50mm	30	1.9	1>
BRAM17	7	703	VOID		VOID	VOID			
BRAM17	7	704	VOID		VOID	VOID			
BRAM17	7	705	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Sub rectangular, Steep-moderate slope. Uneven base. SE/NW	>2.7	0.9	0.42
BRAM17	7	706	Fill	Fill of 705		Light blueish grey. Silty sand. Loose. Rare pebbles	>2.7	0.9	0.42

# APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

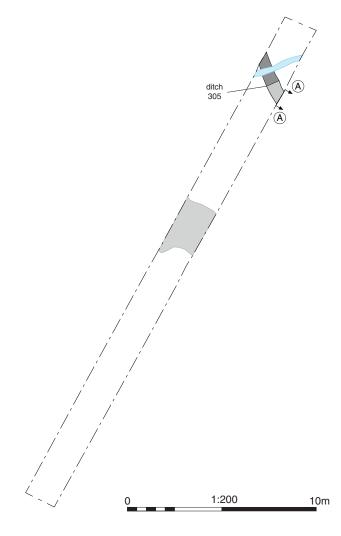
Project Name	Land at Ricardo Court, Bramley: Archae	eological Evaluation				
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was und	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in				
Cherr decempation	August 2017 at Ricardo Court, Bran	,				
		•				
	excavated, of which 2 contained archa	=				
	were not fully excavated due to model	rn contamination, with Trench 4 also				
	containing a geo-technical bore hole.					
	Features of archaeological interest, two	o undated ditches, were identified to				
	the north and east of the site, whilst	Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 contained				
	modern contamination.					
	modern contamination.					
Project dates	August 2017					
Project type	Field Evaluation					
Previous work	Heritage Assessment (2017)					
Future work	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Land at Ricardo Court, Bramley					
Study area (M²/ha)	0.8 Ha	0.8 Ha				
Site co-ordinates	TQ 0096 4445					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy					
Project Supervisor	Steven Bush and Adam Howard					
MONUMENT TYPE	Ditch undated					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content				
Physical	None	None				
Paper	Museum of Farnham	Context sheets				
Digital	Archaeology Data Service	Database, digital survey, digital photos				
BIBLIOGRAPHY						
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 La typescript report 17537	and at Ricardo Court Bramley, Surrey:	Archaeological Evaluation. CA				







Trench 3, plan



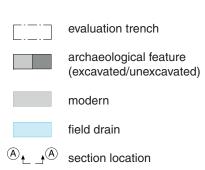
Section AA NE 43.6m | AOD 304



1:20

1m

Ditch 306, looking south-west (scales 1m)





Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022

Land at Ricardo Court, Bramley, Surrey

Trench 3: photograph, plan and section of ditch 306

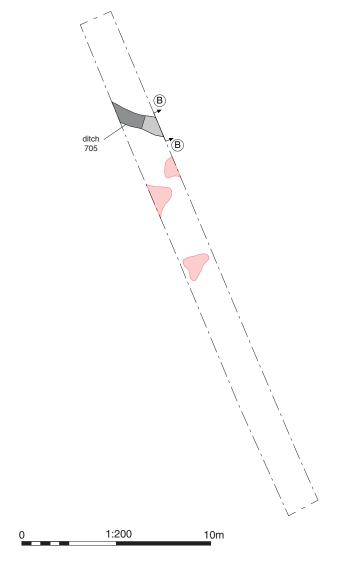
DRAWN BY CP
CHECKED BY AO
APPROVED BY RK

PROJECT NO. 770456
DATE 07/09/2017
SCALE@A3 1:200 & 1:20

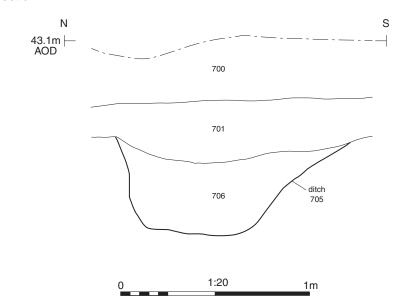
3



Trench 7, plan

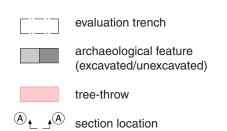


# Section BB





Working shot of Ditch 705





Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022

Land at Ricardo Court, Bramley, Surrey

Trench 7: photograph, plan and section of ditch 705

DRAWN BY CP
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY RK

PROJECT NO. 770456
DATE 07/09/2017
SCALE@A3 1:200 & 1:20



Trench 4 showing modern disturbance



Trench 6 showing modern disturbance, looking west (scales 1m)



Trench 7 showing modern distrubance



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Land at Ricardo Court, Bramley, Surrey

Photographs of modern disturbance across site

DRAWN BY CP
CHECKED BY AO
APPROVED BY RK

PROJECT NO. 770456
DATE 07/09/2017
SCALE@A3 NA

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