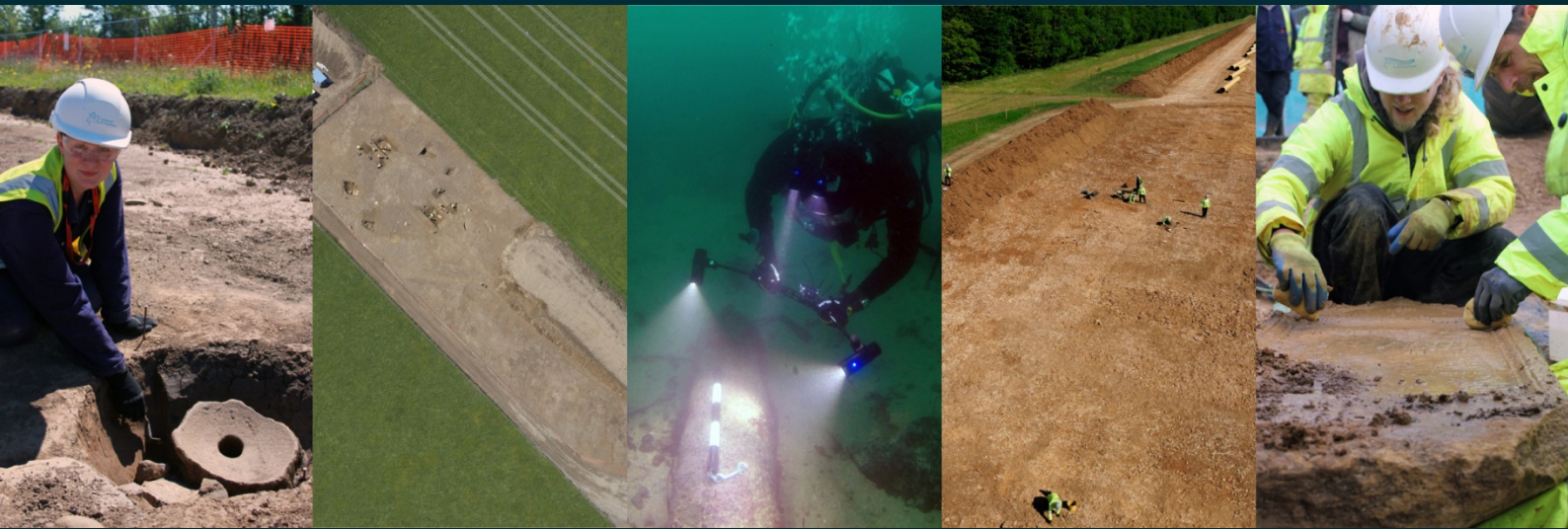


Coton House (Optional Land) Rugby Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
CALA Homes (Midlands) Ltd

CA Project: 660845

CA Report: 17066

Site Code: CHOL17

March 2017



Coton House (Optional Land)
Rugby
Warwickshire

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. SITE BACKGROUND.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	6
4. METHODOLOGY	7
5. EVALUATION RESULTS	7
6. FINDS	12
7. THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	13
8. DISCUSSION.....	14
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	17
10. REFERENCES.....	18
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	20
APPENDIX B: FINDS.....	26
APPENDIX C: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	27
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM	28

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan, 1:25,000
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing geophysical results and archaeological features, 1:1500
- Fig. 3 Ditch 2420: section and photograph
- Fig. 4 Ditch 2306: section and photograph
- Fig. 5 Ditch 2403: section and photograph
- Fig. 6 Ditch 3003: section and photograph
- Fig. 7 Pit 2903: section and photograph
- Fig. 8 Trench 22: section and photograph
- Fig. 9 Detail from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1905
- Fig. 10 Aerial photograph of Coton House, 1945

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Coton House, Rugby, Warwickshire
NGR:	SP 5160 7961
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	6th-16th February 2017
Planning Reference:	Rugby Borough Council R12/1353
Location of Archive:	Warwickshire Museum
Site Code:	CHOL17

In February 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Coton House, Rugby, Warwickshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by CALA Homes (Midlands) Ltd, was carried out in support of a forthcoming outline planning application to Rugby District Council for the residential development of land within the grounds of Coton House.

Geophysical survey had indicated the potential for remains of prehistoric activity to be located in the western part of the site. This had focused on a possible ring ditch in the south-central part of the western field, and on two other roughly circular anomalies nearby. The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of prehistoric archaeology in this area, with the probable ring ditch confirmed as being of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date, the date established on a small assemblage of pottery recovered from its fills. Two other circular anomalies nearby were shown to be associated with modern features, ground disturbance or variations in the geological substrate.

Further activity of possible prehistoric date, comprising several intercutting ditches that were not detected by the geophysical survey, was identified c. 50m to the east of the probable ring ditch. Similarly, two pits in the western part of the western field contained large quantities of burnt and fire-cracked pebbles, a type of feature generally characteristic of prehistoric sites.

The remaining features highlighted as being of interest by the geophysical survey were post-medieval or modern field boundaries, two of which are shown on early Ordnance Survey maps or aerial photographs.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Coton House, Rugby, Warwickshire (site centred on NGR: SP 5160 7961; Fig. 1). The evaluation, which was commissioned by CALA Homes (Midlands) Ltd, was carried out in support of a forthcoming outline planning application to Rugby District Council for the residential development of land within the grounds of Coton House. The development will comprise the erection of one hundred houses and associated infrastructure including public open space and SUDS¹ attenuation strategy.
- 1.2 The trial trenching forms part of a programme of archaeological evaluation, the scope of which was agreed following discussions between CA and Anna Stocks, Warwickshire County Council's Planning Archaeologist (WCCPA). The trenching strategy was informed by the results of a geophysical survey of the site (Stratascan 2016) and evaluation of adjacent areas undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA 2014) and CA (CA 2015a, 2016).
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with an approved *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by CA (2017) and abided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and the Historic England (formerly English Heritage) procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).

2. SITE BACKGROUND

Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1 The application site is located within the grounds of Coton House, off the A426 Rugby to Lutterworth road, approximately 4.5km to the north-north-east of Rugby town centre. It comprises a block of farmland and parkland, covering an area of c. 10.3ha, to the north and west of the refurbished 18th-century house that, along with the associated stable block, forms the centrepiece of a new residential development. The ground is generally flat and lies at c. 129m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

¹ SUDS Sustainable Drainage System

- 2.2 The solid geology of the site comprises Jurassic mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2017). The bedrock is overlain by extensive superficial deposits of the Oadby Member, comprising unstratified and poorly-sorted deposits of glacial till (diamicton).

Archaeological background

- 2.3 The site has been the subject of a desk-based assessment carried out by PJO Archaeology (2009), from which the following summary has been taken.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 410)

- 2.4 The earliest known site in the vicinity is a possible Bronze Age barrow, located c. 300m to the south-west of the site (MWA2780). It is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map as a *tumulus*, although the HER suggests that alternatively it may be the remains of a medieval windmill mound (WSP 2009). A Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery and pits have been investigated nearby, approximately 400m to the south-east of the supposed barrow, prior to the construction of industrial units on the south side of the M6 Motorway (MWA7953 and MWA 10312; NA 2001). The remains of a Late Iron Age settlement were investigated at the same site (MWA 10314).

Roman (AD 43 to AD 410)

- 2.5 There are no known Roman settlement sites in the vicinity, although finds dating to the Roman period have been found in the general area, suggesting that there is some potential for Roman remains to be present. The route of Watling Street, the Roman road from London to Wroxeter (*Viriconium*), passes within 700m of the site's eastern boundary.

Medieval (AD 410 to 1485)

- 2.6 The origins of the medieval hamlet of Coton or Cotes, the site of which lies immediately to the south of the M6 Motorway, dates to the late Saxon period (mid-10th century). At this time it comprised a complex of rectangular and square enclosures, possibly focussing on a sub-circular mound located in the south-eastern part of the site. The date of the mound is uncertain, but it was used in the post-medieval period as a windmill tump.

2.7 The hamlet, which derived its name from the Middle English word for ‘cottages’ (low-status dwellings), was part of the parish of Churchover and is first mentioned in a charter of 1206 (NA 2000). Following an initial gift of parish land to Combe Abbey in the late 12th century by Robert de Wavre, the abbey gained further land within the parish and by the end of the 13th century Coton was the largest of the abbey’s granges outside the three home farms. It is likely that the grange buildings were located on or near the site of Coton House. Excavation at the site indicates that the hamlet was abandoned at the end of the 13th century (NA 2001) and the land was eventually turned over to park land.

Post-medieval and modern (1485 to present)

2.8 In 1551, following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the estate was purchased by William Dixwell, who built a moated manor house at Coton, either on the site of or incorporating elements of the former grange buildings. In 1757, on the death of Sir William Dixwell, the estate passed to his nephew William Dixwell Grimes, whose son Abraham Grimes demolished the early manor house and built the current Coton House. This was built in 1787 to designs by the architect Samuel Wyatt and it remained in private hands until 1948, when it became an apprentice hostel and then a management training centre. The house, a Grade II* Listed building, was severely damaged in a fire in 2010 and is currently being renovated.

2.9 The stable block, a Grade II Listed building, is broadly contemporary with the main house; with the exception of the house it is the only building within the site to date from the late 18th century (CA 2015b). It comprises three two-storey ranges arranged around a courtyard, with the principal range facing to the north-west.

2.10 The geophysical survey (NA 2013) and evaluation (MOLA 2014) of the site undertaken by MOLA (formerly NA) identified the remains of a walled garden and located the south-eastern section of the moat, which was c. 6m wide and over 1.2m deep. A brick revetment against the outer face of the moat was dated to the 18th century, suggesting that the moat was refurbished when Coton House was built in the late 1780s; this section of the moat had probably silted up by the late 19th/early 20th century and was eventually backfilled. The water-filled north-western section and northern corner of the moat are still extant.

2.11 The evaluation of Area C1, carried out by CA in December 2014, revealed the foundations of glasshouses and ancillary buildings to the south-west of the main

house (CA 2015a). These foundations included a large conduit or flue topped by substantial limestone slabs, which may be the remains of an underfloor heating system associated with the glasshouses.

2.12 The evaluation of areas C2 to C6 in March 2016 (CA 2016) revealed no significant archaeological remains. Extensive modern disturbance associated with the demolition of the 20th-century buildings was encountered within the former building footprints which, until recently, occupied the central area of the development. The areas between the buildings, however, were not truncated and it was considered that the potential for preservation of archaeological remains was high.

2.13 A detailed magnetic survey was carried out over the current site, which comprises c. 10.3ha of grassland (Stratascan 2016). A slightly irregular ring ditch anomaly was identified and interpreted as a probable parkland feature, although the possibility that it could be the remains of a barrow was suggested. A couple of old field boundaries were also identified, with one possibly being associated with a culvert; both are visible on old mapping. A network of land drains dominated the southern half of the survey area.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (CA 2017), were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable RBC, as advised by WCCPA, 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 thirty-two trenches (1.8m wide and 50m in length, totalling 1600 linear metres) in the locations shown in Figure 2. The location of Trench 4 was moved from its intended location to avoid damage to the roots of protected trees. The trench plan was designed to target potential features recorded by the geophysical survey, as well as sampling areas devoid of geophysical anomalies.
- 4.2 Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2014). The trenches were excavated using a 360-degree mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the geological substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007).
- 4.3 Four bulk soil samples were taken from a range of features, in accordance with *Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003) and *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (EH 2011). All finds were cleaned and processed for assessment and analysis, in accordance with *Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (CA 1995).
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes and will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum on completion of the project. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. EVALUATION RESULTS

- 5.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of thirty-two 50m trenches (1600 linear metres) in the locations shown in Figure 2. Evidence for prehistoric activity, including a ring ditch of probable Middle Iron Age date, was encountered in the western field (Field 1); in the eastern field (Field 2) the remains were largely

associated with post-medieval and modern field boundaries. No archaeological deposits or features were identified in Trenches 1, 5, 6, 9, 11-14, 16-18, 20-21, 25-28 and 32. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.

- 5.2 The results of the evaluation broadly correspond with the preceding geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016), with the interpretation of land drains and ditch alignments proving accurate in the vast majority of the trenches (Fig. 2). However, several features were not detected by the geophysical survey, including stone-filled pits in Trench 29 and shallow ditches of possible prehistoric date in Trench 22. Anomalies identified in Trenches 1 and 25 are probably associated with variations in the geological substrate.

General stratigraphy

- 5.3 The geological substrate, typically occurring as mid greyish orange clay, was exposed at depths of between 0.35m and 0.45m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by the subsoil, which was on average 0.18m thick, and topsoil of a similar thickness.

Late Bronze Age to Iron Age (1100 BC to AD 43)

Trenches 23 and 24

- 5.4 Targeting a roughly circular anomaly identified by the geophysical survey, the excavation of Trenches 23 and 24 confirmed the presence of the partial remains of a ring ditch of probable late prehistoric date (Figs 2 to 4). The ring ditch (2306, 2310 and 2420), which had a diameter of c. 12m, measured between 0.8m and 1.2m wide by 0.3m and 0.5m deep and had a steep-sided, U-shaped profile, becoming broader and shallower on its south-western side. There was considerable variation in the colour of the fills, given the short distances between the slots. Sherds of pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age, found in association with fired clay and burnt stone, was recovered from the excavated sections.
- 5.5 In addition to the late prehistoric pottery, a heavily abraded residual sherd from the collar of a grog-tempered Collared Urn was retrieved in fill 2312 of ditch 2310. The sherd was too fragmentary to allow the form to be identified more closely but it broadly dates to the Early Bronze Age, c. 2200–1500 BC.

- 5.6 Environmental samples taken from the fill of ditches 2306 and 2310 contained charred cereal grain fragments, a small quantity of charcoal and some fragments of hazelnut shell. The assemblage probably derives from sweepings from a domestic hearth.
- 5.7 Within the perimeter of the ring ditch was pit 2308, which was slightly off-centre and extended beyond the limits of the trench to the north-west. It measured over 1.25m long by 0.88m wide by 0.5m deep and was filled with a sterile deposit (2309) formed by gradual silting. Although the feature is undated, its location within the ring ditch and the sterile nature of its fill suggests that it is an associated feature.

Possible late prehistoric (1100 BC to AD 43)

Trench 22

- 5.8 Five ditches (2202, 2204, 2206, 2208 and 2211) were encountered in the central part of the trench (Fig. 8). Although undated, their proximity to the ring ditch in Trenches 23 and 24 and the nature of their fills suggests that they may be prehistoric and possibly relate to the dated archaeology in Trenches 23 and 24 from this period.
- 5.9 The ditches varied between 0.53m and 0.80m wide and between 0.12m and 0.31m deep. Ditch 2202, the largest of the ditches, appeared to be aligned north-west to south-east whereas the other four ditches were slightly smaller and curvilinear in plan. It is possible that the outermost ditches form part of a small ring ditch, possibly the remains of a livestock pen. All of the ditches were filled with dark greyish brown silty clay and the environmental sample taken from fill 2209 of ditch 2208 contained charcoal fragments.
- 5.10 Modern pottery sherds from fill 2205 of ditch 2204 are intrusive, introduced when a modern field drain, which cut ditch 2204, was installed.

Trench 29

- 5.11 At the north-western end of the trench were two stone-filled pits, 2903 and 2905; it is possible that they form part of a larger, sub-square feature measuring c. 4m long by over 1.1 m wide (Fig. 7). Both were filled with a large quantity of pebbles, burnt and charred by heating to a black, red or pink colour, set in a dark brownish grey silty clay matrix. The pit had vertical sides, in places undercut, and a flat base; there was no evidence of any *in situ* burning. No dating evidence was recovered from the pits

but the character of the fills, densely packed with burnt pebbles, is suggestive of prehistoric activity. The pits, which were not identified by the geophysical survey, were truncated by two land drains. The environmental sample from fill 2904 contained a large number of charcoal fragments.

Post-medieval (AD 1540 to 1800)

Trenches 7 and 10

- 5.12 Located at the south-eastern end of both trenches, ditch 703/1003 was aligned north-east to south-west and corresponds with an anomaly interpreted as a land drain on the geophysical survey. The ditch measured up to 1.5m wide by up to 0.73m deep, its steep, concave profile truncated by a land drain in both slots. Pottery dated to the late 17th to 18th centuries was recovered from fill 705 of ditch 703.

Trench 23

- 5.13 At the south-western end of the trench and extending beyond its limits was a large feature, probably a pit (2303). Measuring over 5m wide by up to 1.0m deep, it had near vertical sides and had been backfilled with multiple deposits of relatively sterile soil. Sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery were recovered from fill 2304.

Trench 24

- 5.14 Located at the south-eastern end of Trench 24 was a large feature, potentially a pit (2403). Measuring approximately 5.2m wide by 1.45m deep, it was filled with multiple deposits of backfilled material, including a dump of brick and tile (Fig. 5). A brick rubble land drain had been inserted through the half-backfilled feature before the final backfilling event. The feature appears on the geophysical survey to form part of a roughly circular anomaly, but excavation suggests that it is probably a discrete pit in an area of relatively modern activity. The finds recovered from deposits 2404 and 2411 date to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Trenches 30 and 31

- 5.15 Passing through Trenches 30 and 31 on a north-west to south-east alignment, ditch 3003/3105 corresponds with a linear anomaly shown on the geophysical survey. The ditch was excavated in Trench 30 and was shown to measure approximately 2.0m wide by 0.7m deep and have moderately sloping sides and a flattish base (Fig. 6). After an initial slumping deposit (3004) the ditch had been backfilled (3005). Subsequently, a brick-built conduit (3007), presumably to convey water, had been

constructed in a narrow trench cut onto the backfilled ditch. Fill 3008, the backfill of the brick-built conduit, contained finds dated to the post-medieval period.

- 5.16 Located centrally in Trench 31, ditch 3103 had a shallow concave profile and measured 0.51m wide by 0.19m deep. Its fill (3104) contained sherds of late 18th and 19th-century pottery and fragments of brick/tile.

Modern

Trenches 2, 3 and 4

- 5.17 Aligned north-west to south-east, a shallow depression in the ground surface indicated the location of a former field boundary. This was shown by the evaluation to be approximately 3.5m wide and to have been backfilled in modern times.

Trench 13

- 5.18 Located centrally in the trench was a 6m wide band of modern disturbance, the fill of which contained pieces of metal fencing.

Trench 29

- 5.19 Located at the eastern end of the trench were the shallow remains of a modern pit (2907), which cut the subsoil and was backfilled with topsoil.

Undated

Trench 15

- 5.20 Located at the north-eastern end of the trench, ditch 1503 was aligned north-east to south-west, measured 0.59m wide by 0.13m deep and was filled with sterile clayey sand.

Trench 19

- 5.21 Towards the south-western end of the trench were the truncated remains of three features. Pits 1903 and 1905, which were partly revealed in the trench, were c. 1.4m wide and no more than 0.2m deep; a small quantity of fired clay was recovered from fill 1906 of pit 1905. Posthole 1907 had a diameter of c. 0.4m and depth of 0.08m.



6. FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material from the evaluation was hand-recovered from eight deposits and retrieved from bulk soil sampling of four (fills of ditches, pits and a drain). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric and post-medieval/modern periods (Appendix B, Table 1). The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Recording also included a note of any evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues, although none was apparent. Codings for post-medieval/modern fabrics given in the text in parenthesis correspond, where possible, to the codes as defined in the type series for Warwickshire by Soden and Ratkai (1998).

Pottery

Early prehistoric

6.2 A sherd (29g) from the collar of a grog-tempered (GT) Collared Urn was retrieved, in a heavily abraded condition, as a residual find in fill 2312 of ditch 2310. It featured short, impressed, diagonal lines along the base of the collar. The sherd was too fragmentary to allow the form to be identified more closely: the Collared Urn tradition has been identified across most of Britain, dating to the Early Bronze Age, c. 2200–1500 BC (Gibson and Woods 1997, 126).

Late prehistoric

6.3 Pottery from this date range (which spans the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age) totalled ten unfeatured bodysherds (63g). Represented fabrics were quartz-tempered (QZ) and a vesicular type (VES) characterised by small, rounded voids. Several sherds in fabric QZ, from ditch 2306 (fill 2307), displayed wiped, or possibly lightly scored, external surfaces suggestive of Middle Iron Age dating. The quartz-tempered sherd from ditch fill 2312 was only broadly dateable to the late prehistoric period and was recovered with the Collared Urn sherd detailed above.

Post-medieval/modern

6.4 A total of 10 sherds (52g) of post-medieval/modern pottery was recorded. The average sherd weight (5g) is very low for this date range, indicating that the pottery has been well broken-up. The most common ware type was Staffordshire Black-glazed ware (MB02), dateable to the 17th to 19th centuries (Soden and Ratkai 1998, 188). Also represented were Tin-glazed earthenware (TGE), of 17th to 18th-century date and Creamware (CRW), dating to the mid to late 18th century. Modern

pottery comprised transfer-printed refined whiteware (MGW, late 18th to 19th centuries) and 'Late' English stoneware (STE, mid 19th to mid 20th centuries) (*ibid.*, 175–209).

Ceramic building material

- 6.5 Ceramic building material of post-medieval date totalled 24 fragments (2.772kg) in a moderately to heavily abraded condition. Those which could be further classified were: flat roof tile from ditch 2306 (fill 2307) and brick from ditch 2403 (fill 2404). One of the brick fragments measured 2.5" in thickness.

Other finds

- 6.6 Ditch 2204 (fill 2205) produced a fragment from a modern bottle in green-coloured glass.
- 6.7 Two copper alloy items were recovered. The object from ditch 2204 (modern-dated fill 2205) was a ring of uncertain date. It had an external diameter of 14mm and was 1.5 to 2.5mm thick. From fill 3008 of drain cut 3006 was an umbonate (bossed) fitting. At least three copper alloy rivets were visible on the upper surface and the underside featured an iron attachment. This item may be of Roman date although a later (post-medieval) date is more probable.

7. THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1 Four environmental samples (80 litres of soil) were taken from a range of ditches and a pit within three trenches 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, Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants and traditional nomenclature as provided by Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals.
- 7.3 The flots varied in size with low to high quantities of rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation.

Prehistoric

Trench 23

- 7.4 The fills 2307 (sample 3) within section 2306 and 2312 (sample 4) within section 2310 of a prehistoric ring ditch contained a few barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and possible hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) grain fragments and a small quantity of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments. There was a large quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm retrieved from these fills. The charcoal included mature and possible round wood fragments. These assemblages may be representative of dumped domestic hearth material and are compatible with a prehistoric date.

Undated

Trench 22

- 7.5 No charred plant remains other than a few monocotyledon stem fragments and only a small number of charcoal fragments were recorded from fill 2209 (sample 5) from undated enclosure ditch 2208. There is no indication of the likely date of this feature from the environmental remains.

Trench 29

- 7.6 A large number of charcoal fragments, including mature and possible round wood pieces, were recovered from fill 2904 (sample 2) of undated pit 2903. No charred plant remains were observed within the sample. The composition of this environmental assemblage provides no clear indication of either the function or likely date of this feature.

Summary

- 7.7 The charred plant remains provide some small indication of domestic settlement activities taking place in the vicinity in the prehistoric period.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The results of the geophysical survey of the site (Stratascan 2016) had indicated the potential for remains of prehistoric activity to be located in the western field (Field 1). This had focused on a possible ring ditch in the south-central part of the field, and on two other roughly circular anomalies nearby. The evaluation has demonstrated the

presence of prehistoric archaeology in this area, with the probable ring ditch confirmed as being of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date, the date established on a small assemblage of pottery recovered from its fills. Two other circular anomalies nearby were shown to be associated with modern features, ground disturbance or variations in the geological substrate.

- 8.2 Further activity of possible prehistoric date, comprising several intercutting ditches that were not detected by the geophysical survey, was identified c. 50m to the east of the probable ring ditch. Similarly, two pits in the western part of the field contained large quantities of burnt and fire-cracked pebbles, a type of feature generally characteristic of prehistoric sites.
- 8.3 The remaining features highlighted as being of interest by the geophysical survey in Field 1 and all of those in Field 2 (the eastern field) were post-medieval or modern field boundaries, two of which are shown on early Ordnance Survey maps or aerial photographs. Other anomalies were associated with areas of modern disturbance or variations in the geological substrate.

Early Bronze Age (2400 BC to 1500 BC)

- 8.4 A heavily abraded sherd from the collar of a grog-tempered Collared Urn was recovered as a residual find in the fill of the ring ditch in Trench 23; the Collared Urn tradition dates to the Early Bronze Age (Gibson and Woods 1997, 126). Although no features were identified by the evaluation that date to this period, Early Bronze Age activity in the vicinity is indicated by the site of a possible Bronze Age barrow, located c. 300m to the south-west of the ring ditch, at the edge of the Coton House grounds. It is shown on Ordnance Survey maps as a *tumulus* (Fig. 9), although the Warwickshire HER suggests that alternatively it may be the remains of a medieval windmill mound (WSP 2009). A Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery and pits have been investigated nearby, approximately 300m to the south of the site, prior to the construction of industrial units on the south side of the M6 Motorway.

Late Bronze Age to Iron Age (1100 BC to AD 43)

Ring ditch and associated features

- 8.5 The probable ring ditch identified by the geophysical survey in Trenches 23 and 24 had a diameter of c. 12m, consistent with it being the eaves drip gully of a roundhouse. This interpretation is supported by the apparent gap in the ring ditch on its south-eastern side (as shown on the geophysical survey), which was the location

most-favoured for a doorway in dwellings of this type in the prehistoric period. The three excavated sections through the ring ditch had slightly varying dimensions and profiles, with the eastern side of the ring ditch having more of a steep-sided, U-shaped profile, compared to the broader, shallower profile on its south-western side. This variability could suggest that the ring ditch is formed from several lengths of ditch and may be a small enclosure rather than a roundhouse, but there was a high correlation between the excavated remains and the geophysical survey results, indicating that the ring ditch is probably a continuous (albeit possibly recut or altered) feature.

- 8.6 A small assemblage of pottery recovered from the ring ditch, comprising eleven sherds, has been broadly dated to the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age periods. Several of the quartz-tempered sherds displayed wiped or lightly scored surfaces, characteristic of Middle Iron Age pottery, suggesting that the ring ditch probably dates to c. 400BC–100BC.
- 8.7 Charcoal and fragments of charred hazelnut shell and cereal grain, predominately barley but also including possible hulled wheat, emmer or spelt, was recovered from soil samples taken from the ring ditch. This material is indicative of domestic activity, probably the sweepings from a hearth, and supports the interpretation of the ring ditch as the remains of a roundhouse.
- 8.8 The five small ditches to the east of the ring ditch remain undated but their proximity to this dated feature and their general character suggests that they may be contemporary features. The two outermost ditches were curvilinear and may form a small enclosure, possibly a livestock pen. It is probable that together with the roundhouse they form the remains of a small rural farmstead dating to the Middle Iron Age.

Stone-filled pits

- 8.9 In Trench 29 there were two adjacent pits that formed part of a larger, sub-square feature that measured c. 4m long by over 1.1 m wide and extended to the south-west of the trench. The pits had vertical sides and flat bases and they were filled with a large quantity of pebbles, burnt and charred by heating to a black, red or pink colour. Although the pit fill contained large quantities of charcoal, there was no evidence of any *in situ* burning.

- 8.10 Although undated, stone-filled pits of this type are often found on prehistoric sites, the stones having been heated on a fire and immersed in water to heat it, probably for cooking purposes.

Post-medieval to modern (1485 to present)

- 8.11 Previous archaeological investigations of the wider development area (NA 2013; MOLA 2014; CA 2015a) had found no evidence for any remains associated with Coton Abbey's medieval grange or for any medieval activity within the site. The area where such remains are most likely to be have been located, beneath or close to Coton House, were not accessible for trenching or lay beyond the boundary of the development area in the previous works undertaken. Similarly, no evidence was encountered within the current site for any activity associated with the medieval grange.
- 8.12 Geophysical survey had identified three linear anomalies, which were interpreted as former field boundary ditches (Stratascan 2016). The evaluation confirmed this interpretation, with one of the ditches in the eastern field still being visible on the surface as a shallow linear depression in the surface of the parkland. The former boundary ditch in the western field, which was found to contain a well-built brick water conduit (Fig. 6), is shown on an aerial photograph of the site, taken in 1945.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Julian Newman, assisted by Mathieu Ferron, Mike Hughes, Rebecca Pritchard, Callum Ruse, Dan Riley and Susanna Tarvainen. The report was written by Julian Newman, with contributions from Jacky Sommerville (finds report) and Sarah Wyles (palaeoenvironmental report), and the illustrations were prepared by Tilia Cammegh. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Jessica Cook. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.



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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Finds abbreviations: P pottery; F flint; CBM ceramic building material (i.e. brick/tile); Cu copper alloy object; fc fired clay

Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description and Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot date
Trench 1								
100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.19	
101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.16	
102	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 2								
200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.17	
202	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
203	Fill	204	Fill	Dark grey brown clayey silt, backfilled/levelling	>1.8	3.5	n. e.	
204	Cut		Boundary ditch	NW-SE aligned linear, not excavated	-	-	n. e.	Modern
Trench 3								
300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.16	
301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.17	
302	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
303	Fill	304	Fill	Dark grey brown clayey silt, backfilled/levelling	>1.8	3.25	n. e.	
304	Cut		Boundary ditch	NW-SE aligned linear, not excavated	-	-	n. e.	Modern
Trench 4								
400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.16	
402	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
403	Fill	404	Fill	Mid grey brown clayey silt, backfilled/levelling	>1.8	>3.5	n. e.	
404	Cut		Boundary ditch	NW-SE aligned linear, not excavated	-	-	n. e.	Modern
Trench 5								
500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.25	
501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.15	
502	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 6								
600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.25	
601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.15	
602	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 7								
700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
702	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
703	Cut		Boundary ditch	NE-SW linear slightly convex, moderate slopes, concave base	>1	1.5	0.64	Post-med/modern
704	Fill	703	Fill	Mid bluish grey silty clay	-	0.91	0.22	
705	Fill	703	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay	-	1.5	0.42	LC17-C18

Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description and Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot date
				P, fc				
Trench 8								
800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.18	
802	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 9								
900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.28	
901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
902	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 10								
1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
1002	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
1003	Cut		Boundary ditch	NE-SW linear, straight sided with moderate slopes, concave base	>1	1.31	0.73	Post-med/ modern
1004	Fill	1003	Fill	Light bluish grey silty clay	-	0.85	0.31	
1005	Fill	1003	Fill	Mid bluish grey silty clay	-	1.31	0.54	
1006	Fill	1003	Fill	Light yellowish orange silty clay	-	1.28	0.42	
Trench 11								
1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.18	
1102	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 12								
1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.25	
1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.13	
1202	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 13								
1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.23	
1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.18	
1302	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 14								
1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.21	
1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.21	
1402	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 15								
1500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.21	
1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.16	
1502	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
1503	Cut		Boundary ditch	E-W linear, shallow, concave moderate slopes, flat base	>1	0.59	0.13	Undated
1504	Fill	1503	Fill	Mid orangey brown clayey sand	-	-	-	
Trench 16								
1600	Layer		Fill	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.2	

Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description and Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot date
1601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.16	
1602	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 17								
1700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.16	
1701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.18	
1702	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 18								
1800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
1801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.18	
1802	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 19								
1900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.32	
1901	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.14	
1902	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
1903	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular, shallow, moderate slopes, flat/irregular base	>0.7	1.36	0.17	Undated
1904	Fill	1903	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	-	-	-	
1905	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular, shallow, gentle slopes, concave/irregular base	>0.65	1.42	0.19	Undated
1906	Fill	1905	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay fc	-	-	-	
1907	Cut		Posthole	Sub-circular, shallow, concave moderate slopes	0.36	0.43	0.08	Undated
1908	Fill	1907	Fill	Dark orangey grey silty clay	-	0.38	0.04	
1909	Fill	1907	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	-	0.4	0.04	
Trench 20								
2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.28	
2001	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.12	
2002	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 21								
2100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.33	
2101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.12	
2102	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 22								
2200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.22	
2201	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
2202	Cut		Ditch	E-W linear straight sided with moderate slopes, flat base	>1.8	0.8	0.31	Undated
2203	Fill	2002	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-	-	
2204	Cut		Ditch	E-W curvilinear, concave moderate slope, flat base	>1.8	>0.65	0.27	Undated
2205	Fill	2204	Fill	Dark brownish grey silty clay P, G, Cu object (intrusive from land drain)	-	-	-	
2206	Cut		Ditch	E-W linear, concave steep slopes, concave base	>1	0.49	0.2	Undated
2207	Fill	2206	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-	-	
2208	Cut		Ditch	E-W curvilinear, concave moderate slopes, concave	>1.8	0.69	0.23	Undated

Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description and Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot date
				base				
2209	Fill	2208	Fill	Dark brownish grey silty clay F	-	-	-	
2210	Fill	2211	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>1.8	0.33	0.12	
2211	Cut		Ditch	NW-SE curvilinear , concave moderate slopes, concave base	-	-	-	Undated
2212	Cut		Ditch terminus	NW-SE linear, concave steep slopes, concave base	>0.29	>0.2	0.15	Undated
2213	Fill	2212	Fill	Mid greyish brown clayey sand	-	-	-	
2214	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey sandy silt	-	-	0.1	
Trench 23								
2300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	0.21	
2301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish grey sandy silt	-	-	0.19	
2302	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
2303	Cut		Pit	Not fully exposed in plan, steep concave slopes, base unexcavated	>1.8	>1.4	>0.9	
2304	Fill	2303	Fill	Mid brownish grey sandy silt P	-	-	0.32	C18-C19
2305	Fill	2303	Fill	Mid orangey brown sandy silt	-	>1.2	0.3	
2306	Cut		Ring ditch	N-S linear, steep straight sides, flat base	>1.8	0.88	0.5	LBA-IA
2307	Fill	2306	Fill	Light bluish grey silty sand P, CBM, fc	>1.8	0.88	0.5	
2308	Cut		Pit	Ovoid, concave moderate slopes, concave base	>0.88	1.25	0.24	Undated
2309	Fill	2308	Fill	Light orangey brown silty sand	-	-	-	
2310	Cut		Ring ditch	SE-NW linear, steep concave slopes, concave base	>1.8	0.82	0.31	LBA-IA
2311	Fill	2310	Fill	Light brownish orange silty sand	>1.8	0.62	0.14	
2312	Fill	2310	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty sand P, fc	>1.8	0.82	0.19	LBA-IA
Trench 24								
2400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.24	
2401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay	-	-	0.5	
2402	Layer		Geology	Yellow clay with sandy patches	-	-	-	
2403	Cut		Boundary ditch	NE-SW linear, steep straight sided, concave/irregular base	>1.8	5.2	1.12	C18-C19
2404	Fill	2403	Fill	Light yellowish brown silty clay, backfill CBM	-	2.83	0.44	
2405	Fill	2403	Fill	Mid yellowish brown/blue grey patches clayey silt	-	1.05	0.62	
2406	Fill	2403	Fill	Light yellowish brown clayey silt	-	2.25	0.78	
2407	Fill	2403	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, backfilled	-	3.27	0.61	
2408	Fill	2403	Fill	Light bluish grey silty clay	-	1.25	0.46	
2409	Fill	2403	Fill	Light greyish brown silty clay	-	2.2	0.59	
2410	Fill	2403	Fill	Same as 2409	-	1.14	0.3	

Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description and Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot date
2411	Fill	2403	Fill	Dark grey/black silty clay, charcoal-rich, backfilled P, CBM	-	1.56	0.29	
2412	Fill	2403	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, backfilled	-	1.9	0.32	
2413	Fill	2403	Fill	Light yellowish brown fine clay, backfilled	-	0.84	0.18	
2414	Fill	2403	Fill	Same as 2412	-	0.77	0.14	
2415	Cut	2403	Pit	Concave/irregular moderate sides, concave base	-	1.4	0.34	
2416	Fill	2415	Fill	Dark grey/black silty clay, charcoal-rich, backfilled	-	-	-	
2417	Fill	2403	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	-	4.04	0.13	
2418	Cut		Land drain	Linear, steep straight sided, flat base	>1.8	0.46	0.2	Modern
2419	Fill	2418	Land drain	Dark greyish brown silty clay, backfilled	-	-	-	
2420	Cut		Ring ditch	E-W linear, straight gentle N slope, concave moderate S slope, concave base	>1.8	1.2	0.28	LBA-IA
2421	Fill	2420	Fill	Light bluish grey sandy silt	-	1.05	0.26	
2422	Fill	2420	Fill	Light orangey brown sandy silt	-	0.77	0.09	
Trench 25								
2500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.29	
2501	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.09	
2502	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 26								
2600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.28	
2601	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.17	
2602	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 27								
2700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.26	
2701	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.24	
2702	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 28								
2800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.25	
2801	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.16	
2802	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
Trench 29								
2900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
2901	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.23	
2902	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
2903	Cut		Pit	Sub-squared, vertical/undercutting sides, flat base	< 3	>1.1	0.33	Undated
2904	Fill	2903	Fill	Dark brownish grey silty clay, backfilled containing burnt stone and clay	-	-	-	
2905	Cut		Pit	Sub-squared, straight vertical sides, flat base, same pit as 2903	< 3	>0.55	0.33	Undated
2906	Fill	2905	Fill	Same as 2904	-	-	-	
2907	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular, concave gently sloping sides, flat	3.09	>0.78	0.14	Modern

Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description and Finds	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)	Spot date
				base				
2908	Fill	2907	Fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay, backfilled	-	-	-	
Trench 30								
3000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.25	
3001	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.18	
3002	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
3003	Cut		Boundary ditch	NW-SE linear, straight moderately sloping sides, flat/irregular base	>1.8	2	0.7	Post-medieval
3004	Fill	3003	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay	-	>0.93	0.27	
3005	Fill	3003	Fill	Mid reddish brown silty clay	-	2	0.59	
3006	Cut		Construction cut	NW-SE linear, steep straight sided, unexcavated base	>1.8	1.07	0.67	C19
3007	Masonry	3006	Drain	NW-SE unbonded brick drain	-	0.46	0.31	
3008	Fill	3006	Construction cut	Mid greyish black silty clay, backfilled containing CBM/fired clay and charcoal CBM, Cu alloy object	-	-	-	Post-medieval
Trench 31								
3100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.28	
3101	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.18	
3102	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	
3103	Cut		Boundary ditch	N-S linear, concave moderately sloped sides, concave base	>1.8	0.51	0.19	LC18-C19
3104	Fill	3103	Fill	Mid brownish grey silty clay P, CBM	-	-	-	
3105	Cut		Boundary ditch	NW-SE linear, same as 3003	>1.8	3.9	n. e.	
3106	Fill	3105	Fill	Same as 3005, not excavated	-	-	n. e.	
Trench 32								
3200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.2	
3201	Layer		Subsoil	Dark reddish brown clayey silt	-	-	0.15	
3202	Layer		Geology	Mid greyish orange clay	-	-	-	

APPENDIX B: FINDS

Table 1: Quantification of finds by context

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
705	Post-medieval pottery Fired clay	Tin-glazed earthenware	TGE	1 1	2 22	LC17-C18
1906	Fired clay Industrial waste			1 1	0.5 0.3	-
2209 <5>	Burnt flint			2	22	-
2205	Post-medieval pottery Modern pottery Modern glass Copper alloy	Creamware 'Late' English stoneware Bottle (green) Ring	CRW STE	1 1 1 1	4 51 4 1	MC19-MC20
2304	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Staffordshire black-glazed earthenware	MB02	1	33	C18-C19
2307 <3> <3> <3>	Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery Post-medieval ceramic building material Fired clay	Quartz-tempered fabric Quartz-tempered fabric Fine, vesicular fabric Flat roof tile (intrusive)	QZ QZ VES	4 3 2 1 1	34 11 11 20 0.2	Late prehistoric
2312 <4> <4> <4>	Early prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery Fired clay Burnt stone	Grog-tempered fabric Quartz-tempered fabric	GT QZ	1 1 5 1	29 7 3 3	Late prehistoric
2404	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Brick		13	2467	Post-medieval
2411	Post-medieval/modern pottery Post-medieval ceramic building material	Staffordshire black-glazed earthenware Fragment	MB02	1 5	8 210	C18-C19
2904 <2> <2> <2>	Industrial waste Burnt flint Burnt stone Burnt stone			3 8 1 13	9 126 39 285	-
3008	Post-medieval ceramic building material Copper alloy	Fragment Mount		1 1	4 38	Post-medieval
3104	Post-medieval/modern pottery Post-medieval/modern pottery Post-medieval ceramic building material	Staffordshire black-glazed earthenware Transfer-printed refined whiteware Fragment	MB02 MGW	1 2 4	2 3 71	LC18-C19

APPENDIX C: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

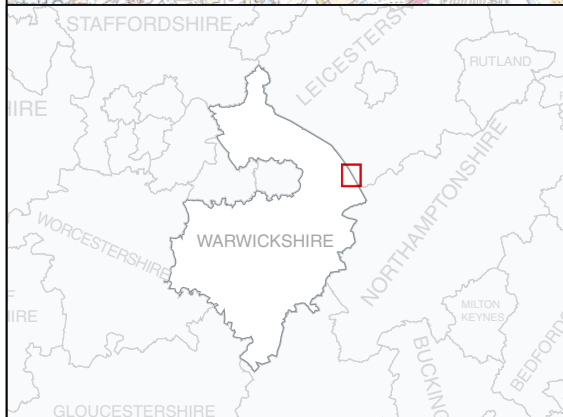
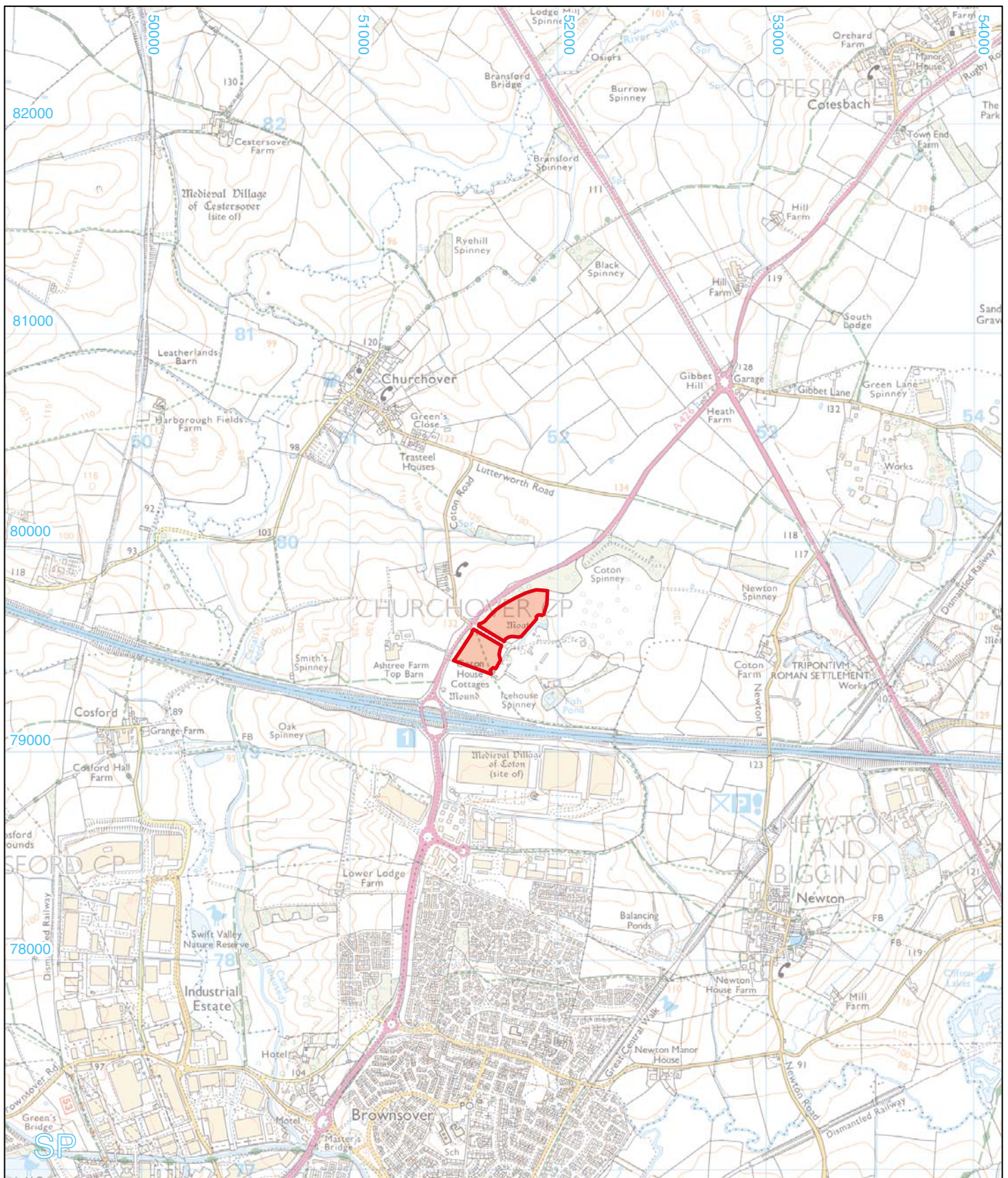
Table 1: Quantification of the palaeoenvironmental remains

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 23 Prehistoric ring ditch													
2306	2307	3	20	20	250	20	*	-	Barley grains	*	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell	*****/****	-
2310	2312	4	20	20	100	20	*	-	Barley + ?hulled wheat grains	-	-	*****/****	-
Trench 22 Undated enclosure ditch													
2208	2209	5	20	20	40	70	-	-	-	-	stem frag	-/**	-
Trench 29 Undated pit													
2903	2904	2	20	20	500	10	-	-	-	-	-	*****/****	-

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

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Coton House (Optional Land), Rugby, Warwickshire	
Short description	Geophysical survey had indicated the potential for remains of prehistoric activity to be located in the western part of the site. This had focused on a possible ring ditch in the south-central part of the western field, and on two other roughly circular anomalies nearby. The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of prehistoric archaeology in this area, with the probable ring ditch confirmed as being of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date, the date established on a small assemblage of pottery recovered from its fills. Two other circular anomalies nearby were shown to be associated with modern features, ground disturbance or variations in the geological substrate. Further activity of possible prehistoric date, comprising several intercutting ditches that were not detected by the geophysical survey, was identified c. 50m to the east of the probable ring ditch. Similarly, two pits in the western part of the western field contained large quantities of burnt and fire-cracked pebbles, a type of feature generally characteristic of prehistoric sites. The remaining features highlighted as being of interest by the geophysical survey were post-medieval or modern field boundaries, two of which are shown on early Ordnance Survey maps or aerial photographs.	
Project dates	6th-16th February 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (PJO 2009); geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type	Possible Middle Iron Age farmstead, post-medieval fields/parkland	
Significant finds	LBA/IA pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Coton House, Rugby, Warwickshire	
Study area	c. 10.3 ha	
Site co-ordinates	45160 27961	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA)	
Project Supervisor	Julian Newman (CA)	
PROJECT ARCHIVE		
		Content
Physical	Warwickshire Museum	Pottery
Paper		Site records
Digital	Warwickshire HER	Report, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Coton House (Optional Land), Rugby, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17066		



 Site location

0  1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Coton House (Optional Land), Rugby, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE

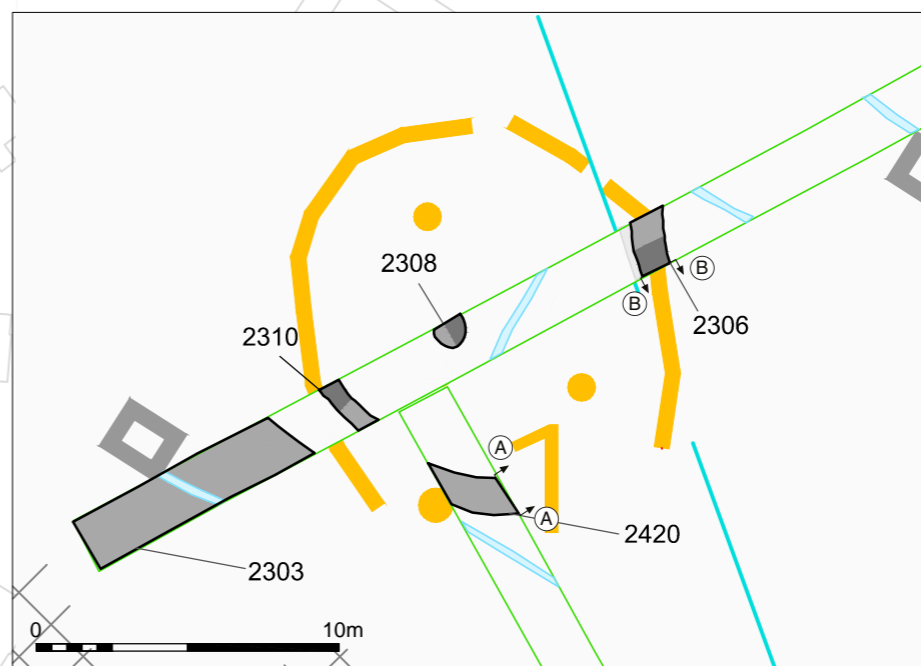
Site location plan

DRAWN BY TC
CHECKED BY DB
APPROVED BY SC

PROJECT NO. 660845
DATE 23/02/17
SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- ▭ site boundary
- ▭ evaluation trench
- ▭ archaeological feature
- ▭ modern feature
- ▭ field drain
- ▭ Anglian Water 5" main
- ⊙ section location

ABSTRACTION AND INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER ANOMALIES - OVERVIEW

- ⊙ Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- ⊙ Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- ⊙ Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- ⊙ Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin

MEDIEVAL/POST-MEDIEVAL AGRICULTURE

- ▭ Linear anomaly - related to a former field boundary present on available mapping
- ▭ Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
- ▭ Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
- ▭ Linear anomaly - possible former parkland division
- ▭ Linear anomaly - uncertain origin
- ▭ Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
- ▭ Magnetic disturbance - unknown origin, likely to be modern
- + Scattered magnetic debris
- ⊙ Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
- ⊙ Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

0 50m
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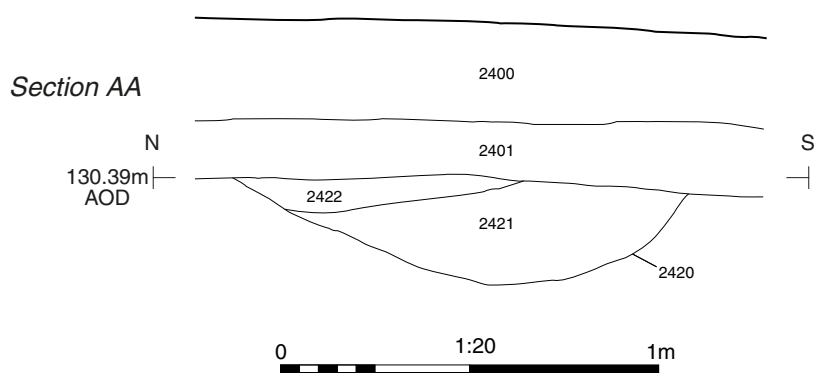
PROJECT TITLE
Coton House (Optional Land), Rugby, Warwickshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing geophysical survey results and archaeological features

DRAWN BY TC PROJECT NO. 660845 FIGURE NO.
 CHECKED BY DB DATE 24/02/17
 APPROVED BY SC SCALE@A3 1:1500 **2**

P:\660845 Coton House (Optional Land)_Rugby_EVA\Illustration\Drafts\660845_2D\Master_170210.dwg

SP



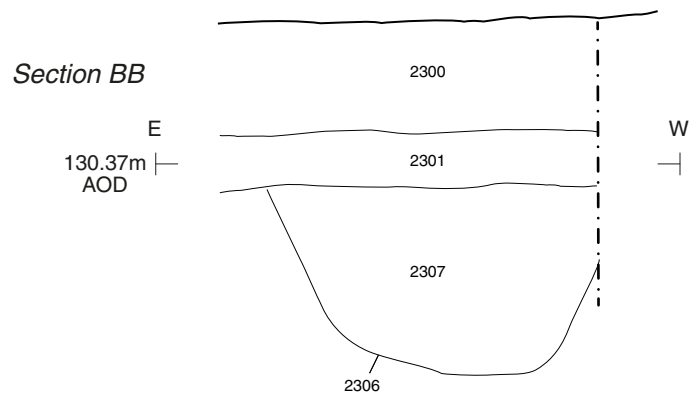
Ditch 2420, looking east (1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE
Ditch 2420: section and photograph

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Ditch 2306, looking south (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 2306: section and photograph

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 APPROVED BY SC SCALE@A4 1:20

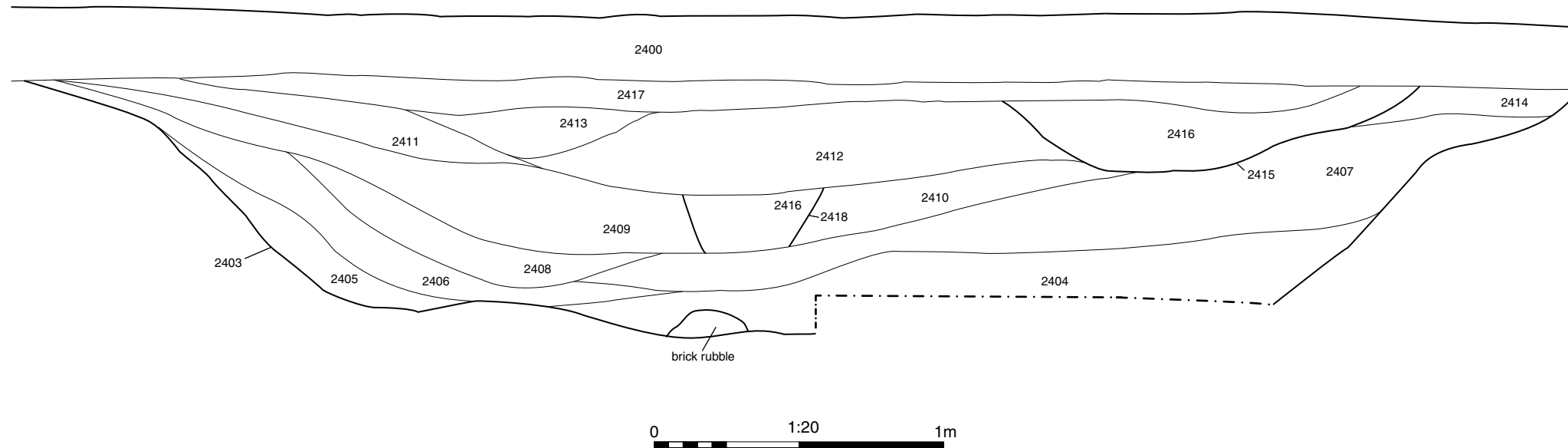
FIGURE NO.

4

Section CC

NW
130.24m
AOD

N



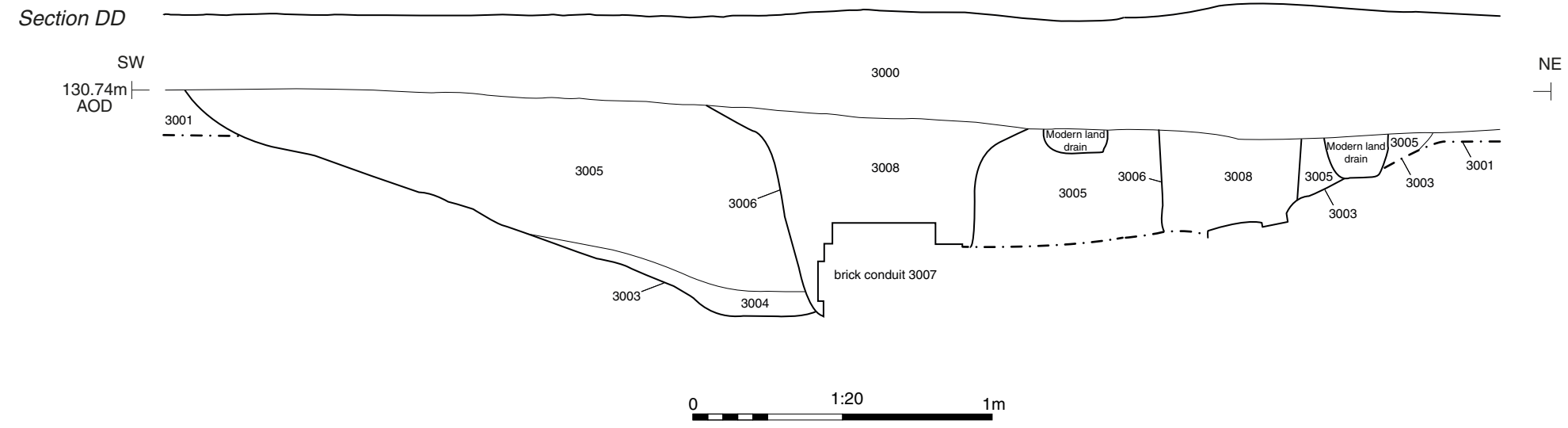
Ditch 2403, looking north-east (1m scale x2)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Ditch 2403: section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	24/02/17	5
APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A3	1:20	



Ditch 3003, looking north-west (1m scale x2)

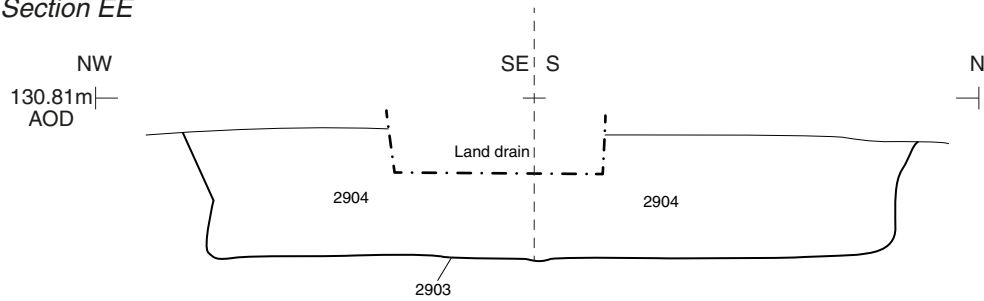

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PROJECT TITLE
 Coton House (Optional Land), Rubgy,
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FIGURE TITLE
Ditch 3003: section and photograph

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Section EE



Pit 2903, looking south-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Coton House (Optional Land), Rugby, Warwickshire

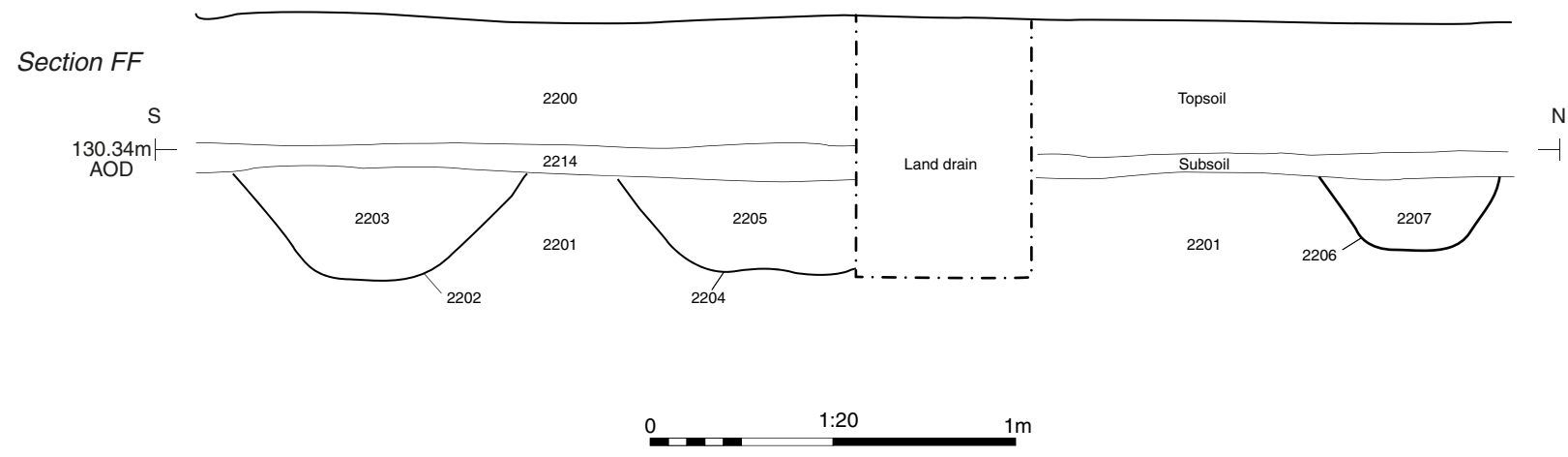
FIGURE TITLE

Pit 2903: section and photograph

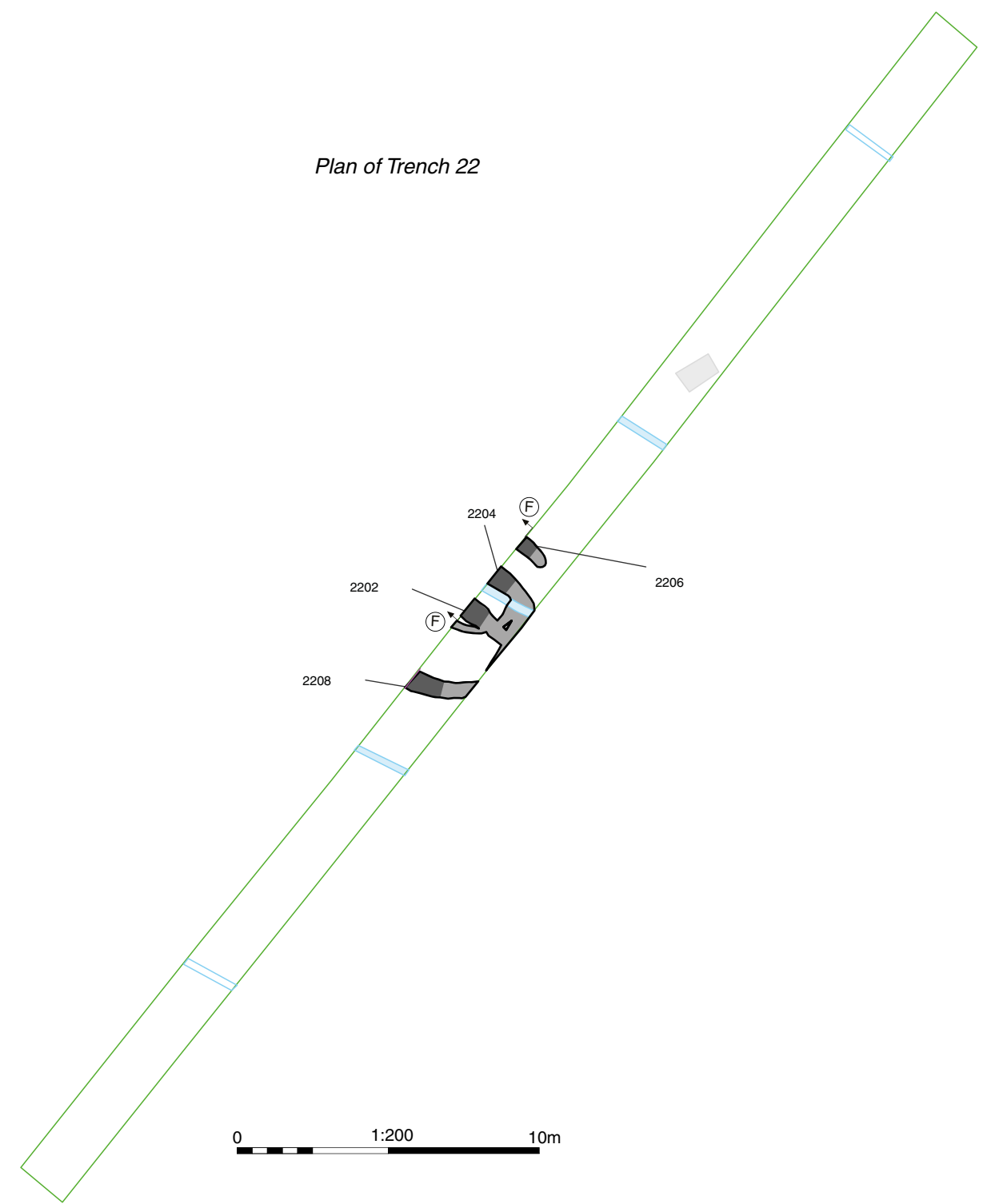
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FIGURE NO.

7



Plan of Trench 22



- Archaeological feature: unexcavaed/excavated
- Modern
- Field drain
- A A Section location



Ditches 2202, 2204, 2206, 2208 and 2211, looking north-east (1m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 22: section and photograph

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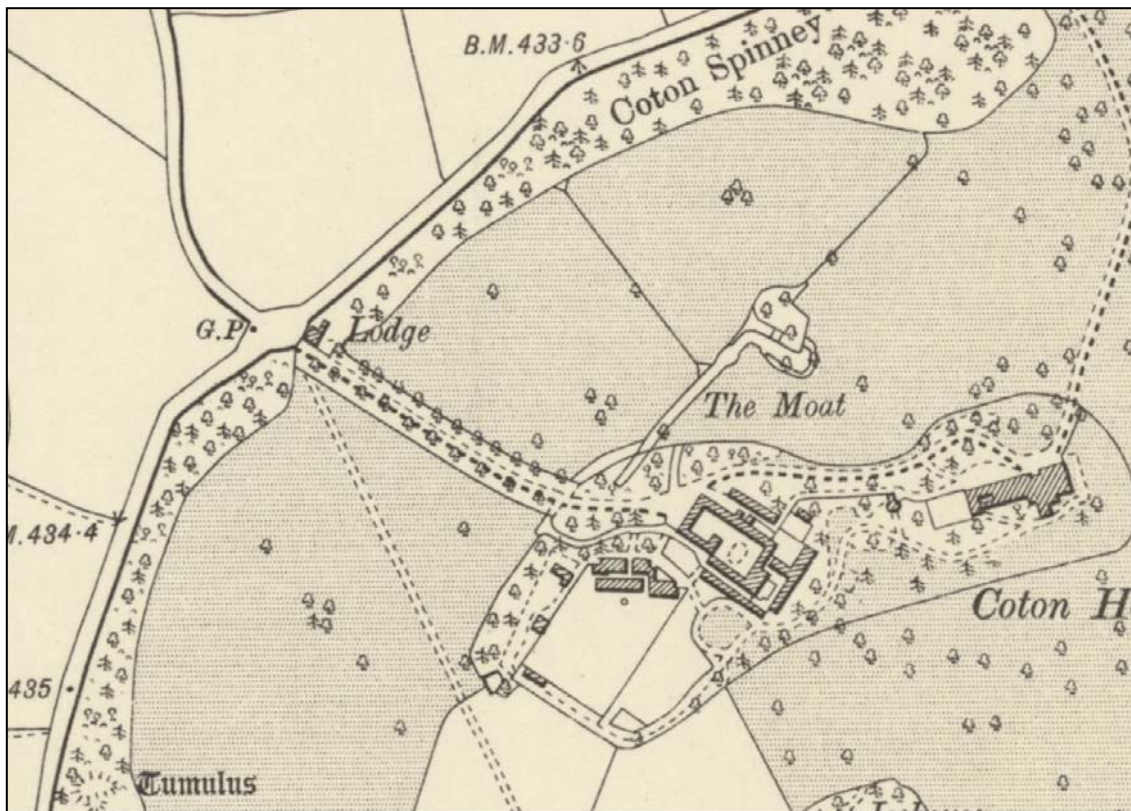


Fig 9. Detail from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1905



Fig 10. Aerial photograph of Coton House, 1945



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FIGURE TITLE

Historic map and photograph

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**Coton House (Optional Land), Rugby,
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FIGURE TITLE

1945 Google Earth Imagery

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<i>APPROVED BY</i>	SC	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	N/A	

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