

Land off Burford Road Witney Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
CgMs Consulting

on behalf of
Barratt Homes

CA Project: 6451
CA Report: 17696

December 2017



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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	11 December 2017	Alex Thomson	Laurent Coleman	Draft		Clifford Bateman
B	13 December 2017	Alex Thomson	Laurent Coleman	Final	To address comments from Philip Bethell, CgMs	Clifford Bateman

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Summary

Project Name:	Land off Burford Road
Location:	Witney, Oxfordshire
NGR:	434655 210507
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	13-21 November 2017
Planning Reference:	WODC ref: 14/1215/P/OP
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service
Site Code:	BRDW 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2017 on land off Burford Road, Witney, Oxfordshire. Twenty-five trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified an Early Neolithic pit, Iron Age pit and ditch, and an Early to Middle Saxon sunken-featured building. Undated features were also recorded.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Barratt Homes, on land off Burford Road, Witney, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: 434655 210507; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken as a condition of planning permission granted (on appeal) by West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) for the erection of 270 dwellings including access, public open spaces and associated works (planning ref: 14/1215/P/OP, Condition 6).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with requirements for geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation made by Hugh Coddington, Principal Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council, archaeological advisor to WODC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI; CgMs Heritage 2017) and a *Method Statement* (CA 2017) that were approved by Hugh Coddington. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Hugh Coddington, including a site visit on 17 November 2017.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 11.17ha and comprises a single field currently under arable cultivation. The site is bounded to the south by Burford Road, The Windrush Public House and residential properties fronting Burford Road; to the east by residential development, to the north by agricultural land; and to the west by an unclassified road leading to Apley Works and Apley Barn. The site lies at approximately 88m AOD, with the ground level dropping downwards to the north.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as White Limestone Formation in the north-western part of site, Forest Marble Formation in the central part of site and Cornbrash Formation in the south-eastern part of site, all of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2017). The natural geological substrate was identified within all evaluation trenches and comprised sandy gravels, clays and limestone brash.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A desk-based assessment has been prepared for the site (CgMs Consulting 2013) and a geophysical survey has also been completed (Magnitude Surveys 2017).
- 2.2 The desk-based assessment identified a low/moderate potential for prehistoric activity and low/nil potential for all other periods within the site. It was noted that the site was likely to have remained woodland until cleared for agricultural purposes in either the medieval or post-medieval periods (CgMs Consulting 2013, 3).
- 2.3 The geophysical survey identified natural trends, a linear anomaly of undetermined character in the northern part of the site (although probably associated with the existing field boundary to the north) and a service running south-west/north-east through the centre of the site (Magnitude Surveys 2017).

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 WODC 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 25 trenches, each measuring 50m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Two small extensions were made to Trenches 19 and 22 to further characterise features identified within the initial extent of the trenches. The 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 three 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 D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate was revealed in each of the excavated evaluation trenches. In the northern and north-western areas of site it was identified as yellow sandy gravels and was recorded at an average depth of 0.32m below present ground level (bpgl). Throughout the central, southern and south-eastern areas of site, it consisted of grey-brown clays and limestone brash, at an average depth of 0.77m bpgl. Within Trenches 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18-25 a silty clay colluvial deposit, c. 0.57m thick, was identified sealing the natural substrate. The deposit appeared to have accumulated at the base of the shallow slope located in the southern and eastern parts of the site (see Fig. 2 for location). The colluvial deposits and the natural substrate in all of the other trenches were overlain by approximately 0.1m of subsoil and 0.25m of topsoil.

- 5.3 Overall, there was limited correlation between the location of the archaeological features identified and the results of the geophysical survey; the pit and ditch identified in Trench 16 (see below) were the only features shown to correspond to geophysical anomalies. Archaeological features whose presence had not been suggested by the preceding survey were identified in Trenches 2, 3, 6-8, 12, 15, 19 and 22, whilst all other trenches were devoid of archaeological remains. Two treethrow pits were identified in Trench 19. These features were not archaeologically significant, and are not discussed further.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.3 Possible sunken-feature building (SFB) pit 202 (Fig. 3, Section AA) was identified at the eastern end of Trench 2. Aligned north-west/south-east, this pit was sub-rectangular in plan and extended beyond the limits of excavation, measuring at least 2.55m in length, 1.98m in width and 0.14m in depth. It contained a clay silt fill, 203, from which 22 sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered. Environmental sample <1> was recovered from this deposit and contained free-threshing wheat and barley grain fragments, seeds of oat and hazelnut fragments. There was also a moderate quantity of charcoal.
- 5.4 To the west of SFB pit 202, sub oval posthole 204 was identified (see Fig. 3). Measuring 0.37m in length, 0.33m in width and 0.11m in depth, the posthole contained a single clay silt fill, 205, from which no artefactual material was recovered. However, due to its location adjacent to SFB pit 202, it is likely to be associated with this structure.
- 5.5 Pit/tree throw 206 measured 0.9m in length, 0.74m in width and 0.16m in depth and had moderately sloping sides and concave base and was broadly sub oval in shape. It contained single clay silt fill 207 from which no artefactual material was recovered.

Trench 3 (Fig 2)

- 5.6 Posthole 303 was recorded at the western end of Trench 3, measuring 0.46m in diameter and 0.17m in depth. Approximately 0.4m to the east of this, circular posthole 305 was also identified, also measuring 0.46m in diameter and 0.18m in depth. Both postholes had moderately sloping sides and concave bases and contained silty clay fills, 304 and 306, respectively. No dateable material was recovered from either feature.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.7 Circular pit 603 (Fig. 4, Section BB) was partially exposed in plan and measured 1.76m in diameter and 1.14m in depth. It had very steep/vertical sides and a flat base and contained a series of fills, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612 and 613. Notably, silty clay fill 604, identified at the upper extent of the pit, may represent decayed remnants of a lining, probably made of organic material, which would have been used to support the loose gravel natural around the top of the feature. No dating evidence was recovered from the fills of the pit.
- 5.8 Sub-circular pit 614 was partially identified at the northern end of Trench 6 and measured 3.1m in length, at least 1.11m in width and 0.52m in depth, with irregular sides and concave base. It contained a series of clay-silt, silty-sand and gravel fills, 615, 616 and 617, from which no artefactual material was recovered.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.9 Circular pit 704 (Fig. 5, Section CC) was partially revealed in plan and measured 0.65m in length, at least 0.18m in width and 0.25m in depth. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base and contained a clay silt fill, 703, from which one sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered.

Trench 8 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.10 Circular posthole 803 measured 0.55m in diameter, 0.18m in depth and had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Approximately 2.7m to the east of this, posthole 805 (Fig. 5, Section DD) measured 0.41m in diameter, 0.2m in depth and also had steeply sloping sides and concave base. Both postholes contained clay silt fills, 804 and 806 respectively, and no artefactual material was recovered from either feature.

Trench 12 (Fig 2)

- 5.11 Sub oval pit 1203 was identified cutting colluvium 1202 in the centre of Trench 12. It measured 0.44m in length, 0.32m in width and 0.2m in depth, with moderate sides and a concave base. It contained a silty clay fill, 1204, from which no artefactual material was recovered.

Trench 15 (Figs 2)

- 5.12 Pit 1503 was recorded cutting colluvium 1502 in the centre of Trench 15. It was sub oval in shape, measured 0.8m in length, 0.65m in width and 0.17m in depth and had

moderate sides and an irregular base. It contained a clay silt fill, 1504, but no dateable material.

Trench 16 (Figs 2, 6 & 7)

- 5.13 Correlating to a linear geophysical anomaly, ditch 1604 (Fig. 6, Section EE and Fig. 7) was identified running beyond the limits of excavation on a north-west/south-east alignment. It measured at least 2.7m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.25m in depth, with steep sides and a concave base. It contained two silty clay fills, 1605 and 1606. A sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from primary fill 1606, together with fired clay.
- 5.14 Corresponding to a geophysical anomaly, sub-rectangular pit 1607 (Fig. 6, Section FF and Fig. 7) was identified cutting colluvium 1602 and extended beyond the limits of excavation. It measuring at least 4.04m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.42m in depth, had very steep sides and a flat base and contained a single clay silt fill, 1608, from which no artefactual material was recovered. Environmental sample <2>, recovered from fill 1608, contained a small charcoal assemblage including barley grain fragments, a glume of emmer wheat and round/twig wood charcoal. Emmer is the predominant wheat during the earlier prehistoric period but is also recovered from Anglo-Saxon deposits.

Trench 22 (Figs 2 & 8)

- 5.15 Circular pit 2204 (Fig. 8, Section GG) was identified cutting colluvium 2202 in Trench 22. Measuring 0.7m in diameter and 0.28m in depth, it contained two charcoal rich clay silt fills, 2205 and 2206. Primary fill 2205 contained ten pieces of worked flint which included flakes, a bladelet, microdenticulates and retouched/backed flakes, consistent with a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date. Environmental sample <3>, recovered from fill 2205, contained a high number of apple/pear type pip and fruit fragments, hazelnut shell fragments and hulled wheat, emmer or spelt grain fragments. There was also a large quantity of charcoal.
- 5.16 Sub oval posthole 2207 was recorded at the northern end of Trench 22, cutting colluvium 2202. It measured 0.4m in length, 0.31m in width and 0.16m in depth. Located 1.9m to the north of this feature and also cutting the colluvium, sub oval posthole 2209 measured 0.33m in length, 0.27m in width and 0.08m in depth. Both postholes contained clay-silt fills, 2208 and 2210 respectively, from which no dateable material was recovered.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from four deposits (fills of pits, a ditch and a sunken-featured building (SFB)) and retrieved from bulk soil sampling of two deposits. The recovered material dates to the prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. 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. Fabric codes have been created for the purpose of this report.

Pottery: Late prehistoric

- 6.2 Only two sherds (20g) were recovered from this date range, which spans the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age. From fill 1606 of ditch 1604 was a thick-walled (14mm), unfeathered bodysherd in a handmade fabric tempered with shell and limestone (SHLS). An Iron Age date has been assigned on the basis of fabric and firing characteristics. Fill 703 of pit 704 produced a rimsherd in a grog-tempered fabric (GT) from a vessel with a flattened rim. Scored decoration below the rim consists of two parallel diagonal lines with a horizontal line below. Dating in the Middle Iron Age is considered most likely for this pottery.

Anglo-Saxon

- 6.3 A total of 22 sherds (242g) of Anglo-Saxon pottery was retrieved from fill 203 of SFB 202. Six handmade fabrics were present, featuring inclusions of limestone (LS), quartz (QZ), both (LSQZ), or also with shell (LSSH) or organic material (QZOR). Most sherds were slightly abraded and internal carbonised (burnt food) residue was noted on two sherds in fabric QZ. Rimsherds were present from four vessels, featuring slightly thickened, internally bevelled or upright rims. One vessel in fabric LSSH, represented by three joining rimsherds, was identifiable as a globular jar with a simple upright rim. Decoration, in the form of three scored horizontal lines, was observed on one small bodysherd, also in fabric LSSH. This is a long-lived decorative style, from the 5th to 7th centuries, and it can feature in conjunction with other motifs such as line-and-dot or stamped decoration (Myres 1969, 40–1).
- 6.4 Sherds featuring similar decoration were recorded from SFB 7 from Radley Barrow Hills, Oxfordshire, which was assigned a 5th century *terminus post quem* (*tpq*) (Chambers and McAdam 2007, 107, Fig. 3.27) and from SFB 19, with a *tpq* of the 6th century (*ibid.*, 134, Fig. 3.52). Fabrics, however, were not comparable; at Radley

the majority were tempered with organic material and/or quartz (Blinkhorn 2007, 230–1). Radley is c. 21km south-east of Witney. At Eynsham Abbey, Oxon, c. 8km east of Witney, however, limestone-tempered fabrics comprised 44.7% (by weight) of the Anglo-Saxon pottery, which was dated to the 6th century (Blinkhorn 2003).

Lithics

- 6.5 A total of ten worked flints (27g) and three pieces of burnt, unworked flint (8g) was recovered from fill 2205 of pit 2204. The worked flints comprise five flakes, one bladelet, two microdenticulates and two retouched/backed flakes. The lithics are in a rather mixed condition; half are broken, two are burnt, two are moderately recorticated and one is heavily recorticated; although most display only slight edge damage. The five flakes are only broadly dateable to the prehistoric period but the bladelet is typically a type of Mesolithic debitage. Microdenticulates are most common during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods (Richards 1990, 18). One of these examples has been made on a bladelet blank and the other is on a flake which was struck using a soft hammer; these features are also consistent with Mesolithic/Early Neolithic dating. A flake with a lateral break features very fine, nibbled retouch which blunts the left dorsal edge. It appears to represent a backed flake/knife, however the opposing edge is broken so this is not certain. Backed knives, flakes and blades were also in use during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods (Butler 2005, 112, 129).

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1 A series of three environmental samples (60 litres of soil) was taken from SFB 202, pit 1607 and pit 2204 (Trenches 2, 16 and 22 respectively) to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.2 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1 in Appendix C, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded and nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

- 7.3 The flots varied in size with low to high numbers of rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation.

Trench 2; SFB 202

- 7.4 A small charred plant assemblage was recorded from fill 203 (sample <1>) of Saxon SFB 202. These included Free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain fragments, seeds of oat (*Avena* sp.) and hazelnut shell fragments. There was also a moderate quantity of charcoal noted, which included round and mature wood fragments. The assemblage is indicative of crop processing and food waste, and is therefore reflective of domestic settlement activity and is compatible with the date of the feature as free-threshing wheat became the predominant wheat in Southern Britain from the Saxon period (Greig 1991).

- 7.5 The moderate number of mollusc shells included those of the open country species *Vallonia excentrica*, *Vallonia costata*, *Helicella itala*, *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Pupilla muscorum*. The assemblage is reflective of a well-established open landscape in the vicinity.

Trench 16; pit 1607

- 7.6 Fill 1608 (sample <2>) of undated pit 1607 produced a small charred assemblage. This included barley grain fragments, a glume of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) and round/twig wood charcoal. This assemblage may be representative of dispersed settlement waste, probably wind-blown material originating from the wider locality. There is no clear indication of the date of this feature from the charred remains. Although emmer wheat is the predominant wheat during the earlier prehistoric period in Southern Britain (Greig 1991), it is also occasionally recovered from Early Saxon deposits (Pelling and Robinson 2000).

- 7.7 The few mollusc shells noted included those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp. and the shade-loving species *Vitrea* sp.

Trench 22; pit 2204

- 7.8 A high number of apple/pear type (*Malus sylvestris/Pyrus* sp.) pip and fruit fragments and a few crab apple fruits (*Malus sylvestris*) (see photograph in Appendix C), hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments and hulled wheat, emmer

or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) grain fragments were recovered from fill 2205 (sample <3>) of pit 2204. There was also a large quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm. The assemblage is likely to be a dump of domestic hearth waste, typical of cooking food and discarded within the pit. Presence of the grain fragments is indicative of a possible Early Neolithic date for the deposit. This is compatible with the suggested date for the flint assemblage from the deposit. The predominance of wild food remains within the assemblage has been recorded from other Neolithic deposits in Southern Britain and this may be indicative of the exploitation and general reliance on wild food resources during this period (Moffett et al 1989; Stevens 2007; Robinson 2000).

Summary

- 7.9 The charred plant remains provide some indication of domestic settlement activities taking place in the area during the Early Neolithic and Saxon periods.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation showed that, whilst there was some correlation between geophysical anomalies and the archaeological features identified during the course of the evaluation, numerous archaeological features survive on site that were not identified by the preceding geophysical survey. Features identified during the evaluation ranged in date from the prehistoric to the Saxon period.

Prehistoric

- 8.2 Pit 2204 identified in Trench 22 contained ten fragments of worked flint, apple/pear type pip and fruit fragments, hazelnut shell fragments and hulled wheat, emmer or spelt grain fragments in addition to a large quantity of charcoal. This is suggestive of dumping of hearth waste from food cooking into a small refuse pit. The lithics and the environmental sample suggest an Early Neolithic date and may indicate isolated domestic activity in the area. The identification of seemingly isolated pits of Early prehistoric date is not uncommon: Archaeological works on the Wormington to Sapperton Gas Pipeline identified two Early Neolithic pits and relatively large quantities of worked flint artefacts and relatively rich environmental assemblages were recovered from both (CA 2016, 16-8).

- 8.3 Notably, pit 2204 cut the colluvial deposits which were identified within the central and north-eastern areas of site, suggesting that this deposit pre-dates the Neolithic period.
- 8.4 Two Iron Age features were identified by the evaluation. Pit 704 was recorded in Trench 7 and contained a single sherd of Iron Age grog-tempered pottery. Ditch 1604 in Trench 16 contained a single sherd of Middle Iron Age pottery and fired clay, and corresponded with an irregular linear geophysical anomaly, and potentially functioned as a drainage or enclosure ditch.
- 8.5 Pit 603, identified within Trench 6, remains undated through artefactual means. However, the form and size of the pit suggest it may have functioned as a storage pit and could potentially also be of Iron Age date.
- 8.6 The preceding desk-based assessment suggested a moderate possibility for prehistoric archaeology within the site, with sites dating from the prehistoric period known from elsewhere in Witney (CgMs 2013, 10).

Saxon

- 8.7 A rectangular pit 202 and an adjacent posthole 204 were identified in Trench 2. Saxon pottery of Late 5th to Early 7th Century AD was recovered from the lower fill of the pit, indicating an Early to Middle Saxon date for the feature. The small charred plant assemblage from the fill of the pit contained free-threshing wheat and barley grain fragments, seeds of oat and hazelnut shell fragments along with a moderate quantity of charcoal and is indicative of crop processing and food waste, and is therefore suggestive of nearby domestic settlement activity.
- 8.8 The rectangular cut and adjacent posthole is suggestive of a sunken-featured building (SFB) representing an example of the most common type of SFB construction and are generally viewed as 'typical' (Type 'A' in the West Stow typology: West 1985). The two posts at either end are assumed to support a ridge-pole and the construction of this type of building has been extensively discussed elsewhere. The supporting posts are most often positioned within the sunken area, and the location of posthole beyond the cut edge may be ascribed to truncation, given the shallow depth of the north-west end of the cut. However the incidence of ridge-posts beyond the sunken area has been recorded elsewhere and has been

recognised as a variation in construction technique. There is no evidence for roofing material within the environmental sample which may have been of thatch or reeds.

- 8.9 A similar, slightly larger, SFB has recently been excavated at Oxford Academy (Mudd *et al* 2013). This contained Anglo-Saxon and Roman pottery and it appeared that the fills of that feature had accumulated post-abandonment. Larger groups of SFBs are also known, 10 were identified at Oxford Science Park (Moore 2001) and 45 were identified at Radley Barrow Hills, together with contemporary post-built structures and other features (Chambers and McAdam 2007).
- 8.10 Within Trench 16 a further sub-rectangular pit, 1607, was identified. Although undated it is possible that pit 1607 represents the corner of another SFB, although the lack of dating evidence, and the small part of the feature, means that this cannot be stated definitively. If the feature in Trench 16 does represent the remains of a SFB it is possible that two separate zones of settlement activity may be located in the western part of the site, or that the zones are contemporary and represent a single area of dispersed settlement.
- 8.11 The Saxon settlement evidence from the wider Witney area is limited, although the town is recorded in a 10th-century Saxon charter (CgMs 2013, 11). It had been suggested that the site would have occupied a wooded area around the central Saxon settlement (*ibid.*), although the results of the evaluation suggest some form of Early to Middle Saxon domestic activity within the area.

Undated

- 8.12 A number of pit and posthole features in Trenches 2, 3, 8, 12, 15 and 19 remain undated due to a lack of dateable artefactual material. It is possible that some of these features relate to prehistoric and/or Saxon activity within the site, although it is also possible that they relate to activity from outside of these periods.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alex Thomson, assisted by Andy Hurst, Gary Baddeley, Noel Boothroyd, Sam Bateman and Ray Holt. The report was written by Alex Thomson. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Sarah Wyles respectively. The illustrations were prepared by

Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Alex Thomson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Laurie Coleman.



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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.25	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.05	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.3	
2	201	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
2	202	Cut		SFB	NW/SE aligned rectangular cut with rounded corners and shallow sides	>2.55	>1.98	0.14	
2	203	Fill	202	Fill of SFB	Grey-brown clay-silt	>2.55	>1.98	0.14	LC5-EC7
2	204	Cut		Posthole	Sub oval cut with moderate sides and concave base	0.37	0.33	0.11	
2	205	Fill	204	Fill of posthole	Grey-brown clay-silt	0.37	0.33	0.11	
2	206	Cut		Pit/posthole	Sub oval cut with moderate sides and flat base	0.9	0.74	0.16	
2	207	Fill	206	Fill of pit/posthole	Orange-brown clay-silt	0.9	0.74	0.16	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.24	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.12	
3	302	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
3	303	Cut		Pit/posthole	Sub-circular cut with moderate sides and concave base	0.44	0.46	0.17	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of pit/posthole	Light grey-brown silty-clay	0.44	0.46	0.17	
3	305	Cut		Pit/posthole	Sub-circular cut with moderate sides and concave base	0.43	0.46	0.18	
3	306	Fill	305	Fill of pit/posthole	Light grey-brown silty-clay	0.43	0.46	0.18	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.25	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.05	
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.22	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.06	
5	502	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.29	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.1	
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
6	603	Cut		Pit	Circular cut with very steep sides and flat base	1.76	>1.32	1.14	
6	604	Fill	603	Fill of pit	Dark grey-brown silty-clay	1.76	>1.32	0.4	
6	606	Fill	603	Fill of pit	Grey-brown clay-silt	>0.99	>0.47	0.16	
6	607	Fill	603	Fill of pit	Light brown-yellow silty-sand and gravel	0.47	0.4	0.2	
6	608	Fill	603	Fill of pit	Light brown-yellow silty-sand and gravel	0.6	0.51	0.22	
6	609	Fill	603	Fill of pit	Grey-brown clay-silt	>0.92	>0.29	0.11	
6	610	Fill	603	Fill of pit	Light brown-yellow silty-sand and gravel	0.8	0.55	0.48	
6	611	Fill	603	Fill of pit	Light brown-yellow silty-sand and gravel	0.8	0.57	0.38	
6	612	Fill	603	Fill of pit	Light grey-brown silty-clay	>0.95	>0.28	0.38	
6	613	Fill	603	Fill of pit	Grey-brown clay-silt	>1.13	>0.75	0.55	
6	614	Cut		Pit	Sub-circular cut with irregular sides and concave base	3.1	>1.11	0.52	

Trench No.	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
6	615	Fill	614	Fill of pit	Yellow-brown silty-sand and gravel	1.8	0.89	0.15	
6	616	Fill	614	Fill of pit	Yellow-brown silty-sand and gravel	0.7	0.5	0.1	
6	617	Fill	614	Fill of pit	Grey-brown clay-silt	2.85	>0.88	0.52	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.25	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.07	
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
7	703	Fill	704	Fill of pit	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	0.65	>0.18	0.25	MIA
7	704	Cut		Pit	Circular cut with very steep sides and concave base	0.65	>0.18	0.25	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.25	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.1	
8	802	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
8	803	Cut		Posthole	Circular cut with steep sides and concave base		0.55	0.18	
8	804	Fill	803	Fill of posthole	Red-brown clay-silt		0.55	0.18	
8	805	Cut		Posthole	Circular cut with steep sides and concave base		0.41	0.2	
8	806	Fill	805	Fill of posthole	Red-brown clay-silt		0.41	0.2	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.2	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.15	
9	902	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>24	>1.8	0.4	
9	903	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow-brown clay and limestone fragments and grey-brown clay	>50	>1.8		
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.2	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.12	
10	1002	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.56	
10	1003	Layer		Natural substrate	Light grey-brown clay and gravel	>50	>1.8		
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.27	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Yellow-brown silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.1	
11	1102	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.2	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.1	
12	1202	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>32	>1.8	0.7	
12	1203	Cut		Pit	Sub oval cut with moderate sides and concave base	0.44	0.32	0.2	
12	1204	Fill	120	Fill of pit	Dark red-brown silty-clay	0.44	0.32	0.2	
12	1205	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.22	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.08	
13	1302	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.5	
13	1303	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.25	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.05	
14	1402	Layer		Natural substrate	Brown-grey clay-silt and gravel	>50	>1.8		
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.2	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.05	
15	1502	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.35	

Trench No.	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
15	1503	Cut		Pit	Sub oval cut with moderate sides and concave base	0.8	0.65	0.17	
15	1504	Fill	150	Fill of pit	Dark brown-grey clay-silt	0.8	0.65	0.17	
15	1505	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.3	
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.14	
16	1602	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>24	>1.8	0.4	
16	1603	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed grey clay, light yellow sandy-gravel and brown-red clay-silt patches	>50	>1.8		
16	1604	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned linear with steep sides and concave base	>2.7	0.55	0.25	
16	1605	Fill	160	Fill of ditch	Grey-brown clay-silt	>1	0.52	0.12	
16	1606	Fill	160	Fill of ditch	Grey-brown clay-silt	>2.7	0.51	0.17	IA
16	1607	Cut		Pit	Roughly E/W aligned sub-rectangular cut with steep sides and flat base	>4.04	>0.6	0.42	
16	1608	Fill	160	Fill of pit	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	>4.04	>0.6	0.42	
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.23	
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.05	
17	1702	Layer		Natural substrate	Yellow-brown brash and sandy-gravel with grey clay patches	>50	>1.8		
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.2	
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.12	
18	1802	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>26	>1.8	0.7	
18	1803	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed grey clay, light yellow sandy-gravel and brown-red clay-silt patches	>50	>1.8		
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.25	
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.19	
19	1902	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.53	
19	1903	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed grey clay, light yellow sandy-gravel and brown-red clay-silt patches	>50	>1.8		
19	1904	Cut		Treethrow	Irregular cut with irregular sides and base	1.27	0.93	0.39	
19	1905	Fill	190	Fill of treethrow	Light yellow-brown sandy-gravel	0.36	0.31	0.26	
19	1906	Fill	190	Fill of treethrow	Orange-brown clay-silt	0.93	0.64	0.1	
19	1907	Fill	190	Fill of treethrow	Dark grey-brown silty-clay	1.16	0.8	0.18	
19	1908	Fill	190	Fill of treethrow	Brown-grey silty-clay	1.11	0.66	0.1	
19	1909	Cut		Treethrow	Sub oval cut with steep sides	0.83	0.77	0.5	
19	1910	Fill	190	Fill of treethrow	Orange-brown clay-silt	0.83	0.77	0.5	
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.2	
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.1	
20	2002	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.45	
20	2003	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed grey clay, light yellow sandy-gravel and brown-red clay-silt patches	>50	>1.8		
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.2	
21	2101	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.15	
21	2102	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>50	>1.8	0.65	

Trench No.	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
21	2103	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed grey clay, light yellow sandy-gravel and brown-red clay-silt patches	>50	>1.8		
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.29	
22	2201	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.16	
22	2202	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>44	>1.8	0.6	
22	2203	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed grey clay, light yellow sandy-gravel and brown-red clay-silt patches	>50	>1.8		
22	2204	Cut		Pit	Circular pit with steep sides and concave base		0.7	0.28	
22	2205	Fill	220	Fill of pit	Dark grey silty-clay	0.67	0.5	0.16	Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic
22	2206	Fill	220	Fill of pit	Dark brown-grey clay-silt	0.7	0.6	0.13	
22	2207	Cut		Posthole	Sub oval cut with moderate sides and concave base	0.4	0.31	0.16	
22	2208	Fill	220	Fill of posthole	Brown-grey silty-clay	0.4	0.31	0.16	
22	2209	Cut		Posthole	Sub oval cut with moderate sides and concave base	0.33	0.27	0.08	
22	2210	Fill	220	Fill of posthole	Orange-brown clay-silt	0.33	0.27	0.08	
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.26	
23	2301	Layer		Subsoil	Red-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.23	
23	2302	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>31	>1.8	0.52	
23	2303	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed grey clay, light yellow sandy-gravel and brown-red clay-silt patches	>50	>1.8		
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.27	
24	2401	Layer		Natural substrate	Light yellow sandy gravel and light brown silty-clay patches	>50	>1.8		
25	2500	Layer		Topsoil	Grey-brown clay-silt	>50	>1.8	0.31	
25	2501	Layer		Colluvium	Red-brown sandy-silty-clay	>20	>1.8	0.2	
25	2502	Layer		Natural substrate	Mixed grey clay, light yellow sandy-gravel and brown-red clay-silt patches	>50	>1.8		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
203	Anglo-Saxon pottery	Limestone-tempered fabric	LS	1	11	LC5-EC7
	Anglo-Saxon pottery	Limestone-and-shell tempered fabric	LSSH	13	142	
	Anglo-Saxon pottery	Limestone-and-quartz tempered fabric	LSQZ	1	11	
	Anglo-Saxon pottery	Quartz-tempered pottery	QZ	3	28	
	Anglo-Saxon pottery	Quartz-and-organic tempered pottery	QZOR	1	30	
<1>	Anglo-Saxon pottery	Limestone-tempered fabric	LS	3	20	
703	Late prehistoric pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	GT	1	9	MIA
1606	Late prehistoric pottery	Shell-and-limestone tempered fabric	SHLS	1	11	IA
	Fired clay			2	11	
2205	Worked flint	Flakes, bladelet, microdenticulate, retouched/backed flake		5	7	Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic
	Burnt flint			3	8	
	<3> Worked flint	Flakes, retouched/ backed flake, microdenticulate		5	20	

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1 Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 22 - Early Neolithic Pit													
2204	2205	3	20	20	350	15	*	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	*****	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags (*), <i>Malus/Pyru</i> s pips + fruit frags (*****), <i>Malus</i> fruits	***/*	-
Trench 2 - Saxon SFB													
202	203	1	20	20	120	60	**		F-t wheat + barley grain frags	*	<i>Avena</i> , <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	***/*	Moll-t (***)
Trench 16 - Undated Pit													
1607	1608	2	20	0	40	75	*	*	Barley, emmer glume	-	-	**/*	Moll-t (*)

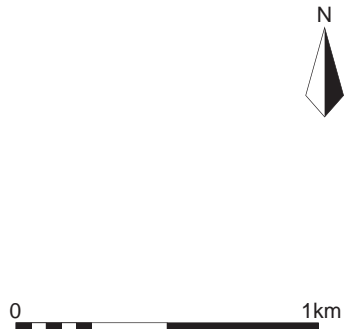
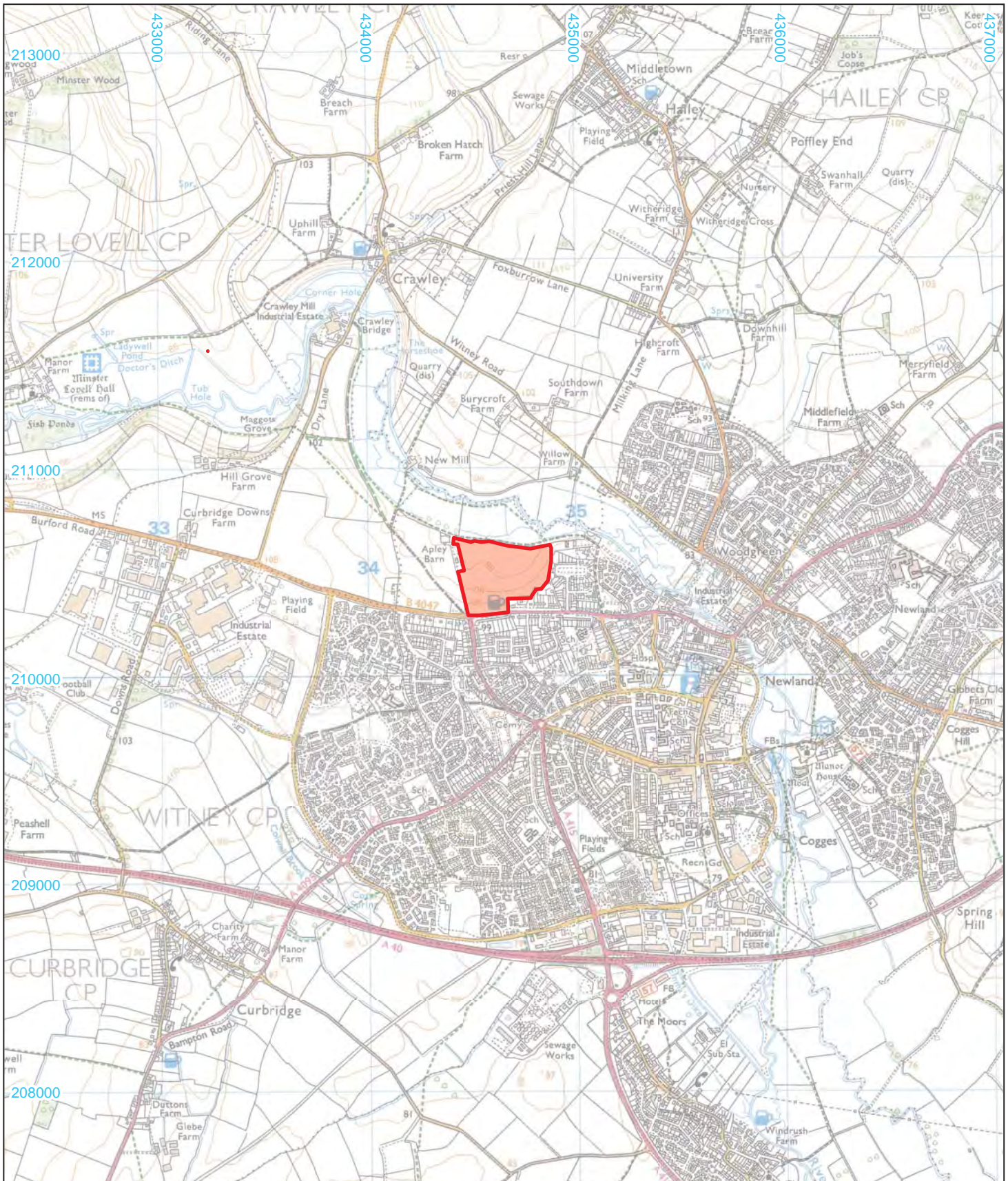
Key * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items, Moll-t = land snails

Photograph of Crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*) remains



APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Burford Road, Witney, Oxfordshire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2017 on land off Burford Road, Witney, Oxfordshire. Twenty five trenches were excavated. The evaluation identified an Early Neolithic pit, Iron Age pit and ditch, and an Early to Middle Saxon sunken-featured building. A number of undated features were also recorded.	
Project dates	13-21 November 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous wor	Desk-based assessment (CgMs 2013) Geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys forthcoming)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Burford Road, Witney, Oxfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	11.17ha	
Site co-ordinates	434655 210507	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs	
Project Manager	Laurie Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Alex Thomson	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Oxfordshire Museums Service	Pottery, animal bone, flint
Paper	Oxfordshire Museums Service	Field recording forms, permatrace drawings
Digital	Oxfordshire Museums Service	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 Land off Burford Road, Witney, Oxfordshire: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17696		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Burford Road, Witney,
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY AO	PROJECT NO. 6451	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 23/11/2017	1
APPROVED BY LECC	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Colluvium
- Colluvium extent

Geophysical anomalies (Magnitude Surveys forthcoming)

- Natural (Trend)
- Service
- Ferrous (Dipolar)
- Ferrous (Spread)
- Natural (Spread)
- Natural (Strong)
- Natural (Weak)
- Undetermined (Strong)
- Undetermined (Weak)



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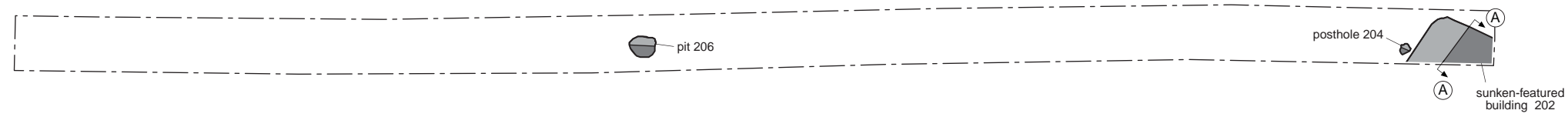
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Burford Road, Witney, Oxfordshire

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

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	23/11/2017	2
APPROVED BY	LECC	SCALE @A3	1:1500	

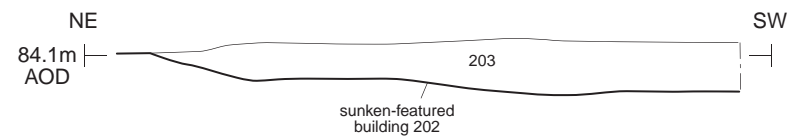


Trench 2, plan



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
(excavated/unexcavated)

Section AA



Sunken-featured building 202 and posthole 204, looking south-east (1m scale)

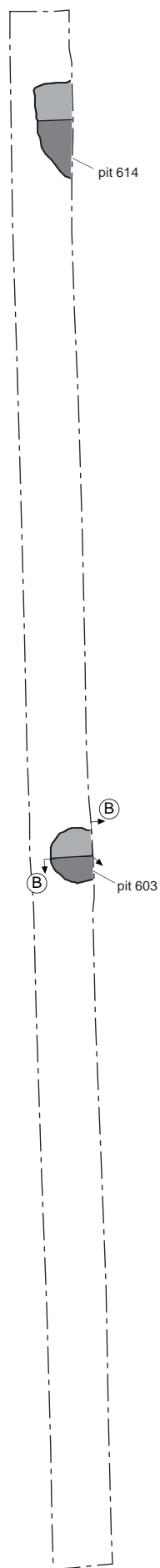
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Burford Road, Witney,
 Oxfordshire

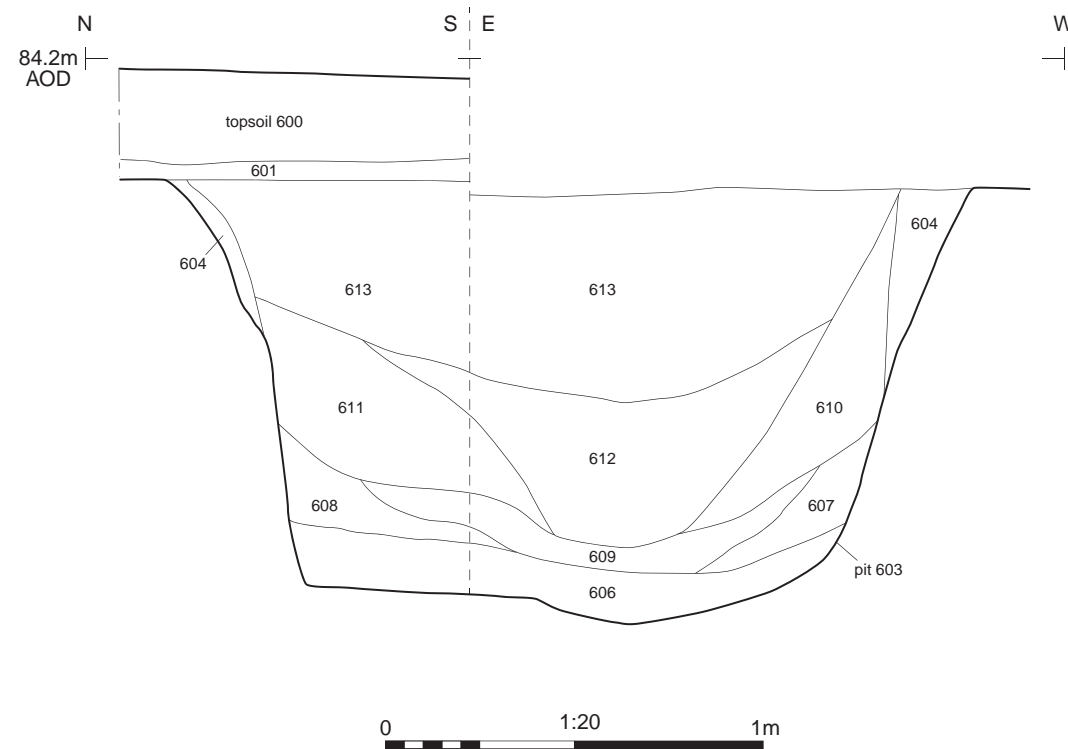
FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2: plan, section and photograph



DRAWN BY	AO	PROJECT NO.	6451	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	23/11/2017	3
APPROVED BY	LECC	SCALE@A3	1:200 & 1:20	

Trench 6, plan



Section BB



-  Evaluation trench
-  Archaeological feature
(excavated/unexcavated)



Pit 603, looking south (1m scale)

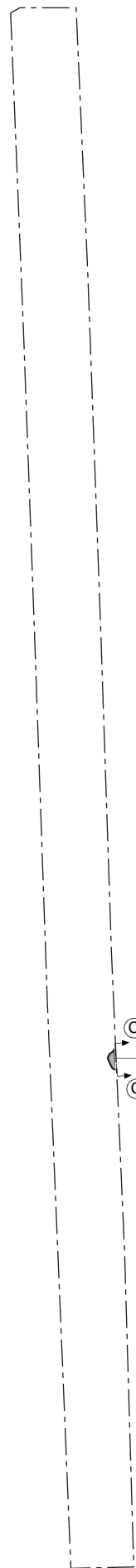

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Burford Road, Witney,
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 6: plan, section and photograph

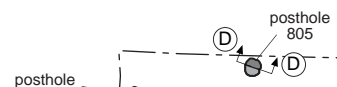
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	23/11/2017	4
APPROVED BY	LECC	SCALE@A3	1:200 & 1:20	

Trench 7



0 1:200 10m

Trench 8

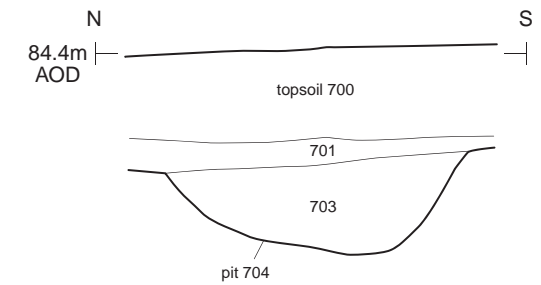


Pit 704, looking east (1m scale)

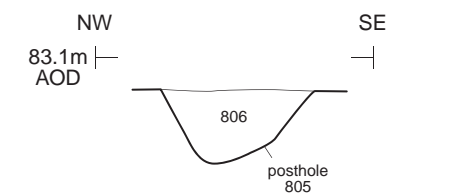


Posthole 805, looking north (0.3m scale)

Section CC



Section DD



0 1:20 1m

- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)

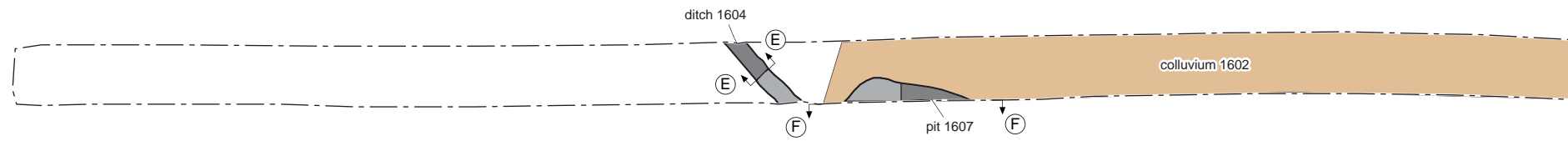
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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Burford Road, Witney,
Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trenches 7 & 8: plan, sections and
photographs**

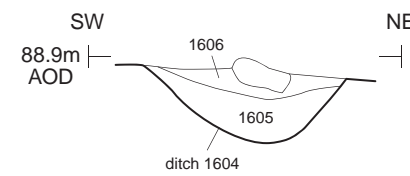
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	23/11/2017		
APPROVED BY	LECC	SCALE@A3	1:200 & 1:20		5

Trench 16, plan

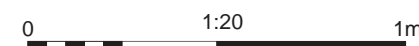
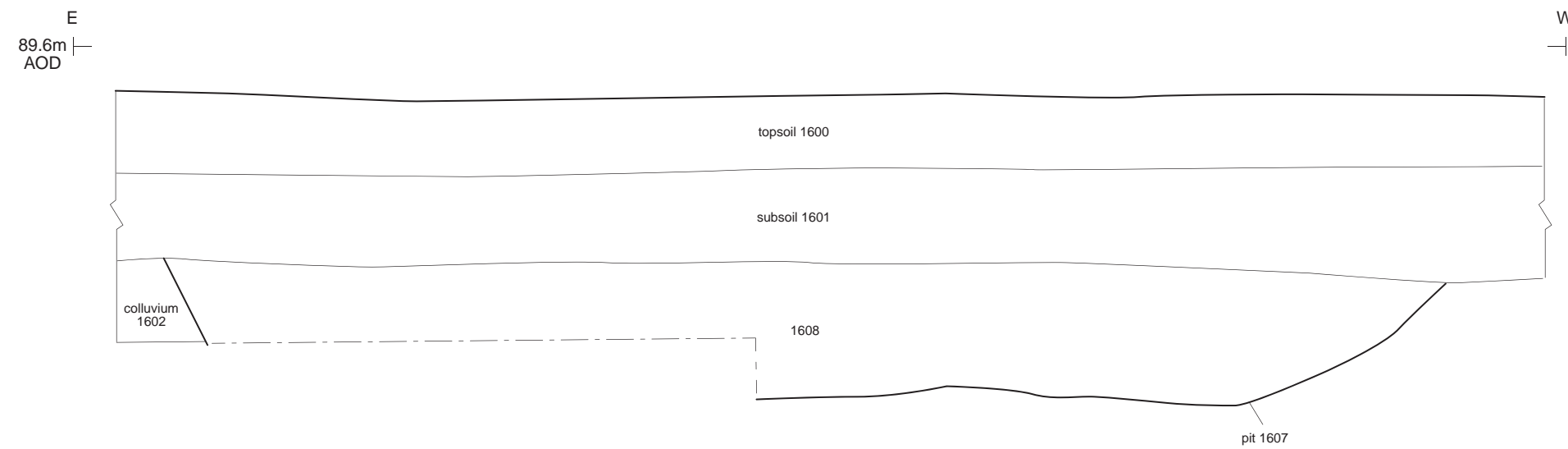


- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Colluvium

Section EE



Section FF



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PROJECT TITLE
**Land at Burford Road, Witney,
 Oxfordshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 16: plan and sections

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Ditch 1604, looking north-west (0.4m scale)



Pit 1607, looking south (2m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Burford Road, Witney,
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 16: photographs

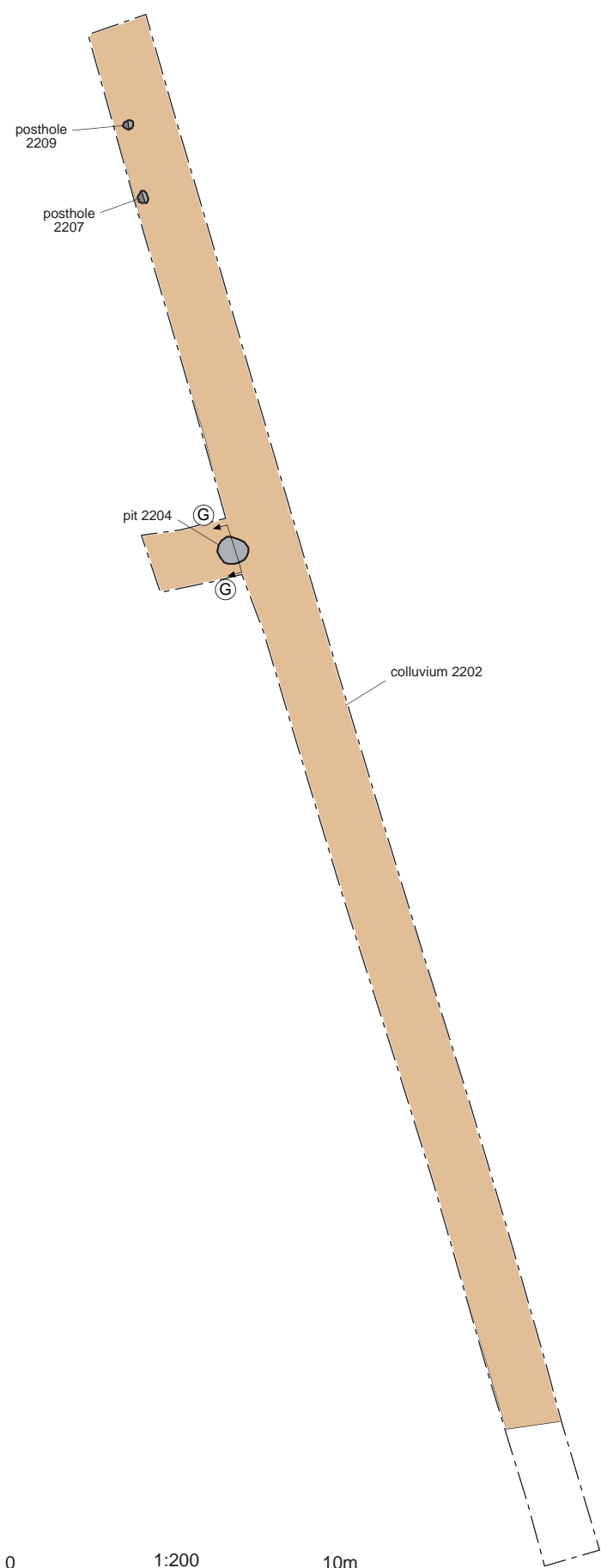
DRAWN BY AO PROJECT NO. 6451
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 23/11/2017
 APPROVED BY LECC SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

7



Trench 22, plan

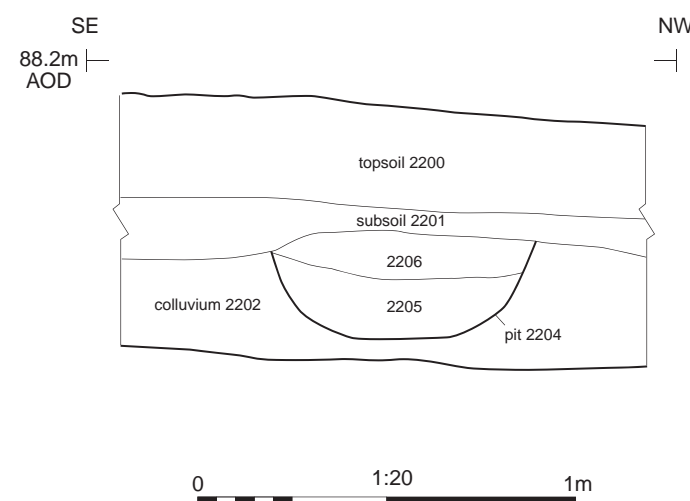


0 1:200 10m



Pit 2204, looking south-west (1m scale)

Section GG



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Colluvium

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Burford Road, Witney,
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 22: plan, sections and
 photograph**

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APPROVED BY	LECC	SCALE@A3	1:200 & 1:20	

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