



Andover Tennis Club Brackenbury Andover Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for Perbury Group Ltd

CA Project: 770388 CA Report: 16600

April 2017



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SUMMARY

Project Name: Andover Tennis Club
Location: Andover, Hampshire

NGR: SU 3558 4589

Type: Watching Brief

Date: 12-18 August 2016
Planning Reference: 12/02768/OUTN

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service

Accession Number: A2016.18
Site Code: ATC16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated with the development of 14 dwellings and associated works at Andover Tennis Club, Brackenbury, Andover, Hampshire.

The watching brief has confirmed the low level of possible later prehistoric/Romano-British activity in the north-western corner of the site. A parallel ditch and possible hollow way were uncovered during the groundwork, which each corresponded to features uncovered during the trial trench evaluation of the site. The hollow way appears to follow the same alignment of the Portway, a Roman road that joins Old Sarum to Silchester. No artefacts were recovered from the fills of these features and consequently it is not possible to date either feature definitively to the later prehistoric and/or Roman period, however, they may represent features associated with the road or an earlier precursor to it. For example the ancient Neolithic trackway, known as the Harroway crossed the prehistoric landscape a few hundred metres to the north of the site and it is known that that the current A303 follows the alignment of part this prehistoric route and a subsequent route that stretched as far as Wales known as the Gold road. These ancient routes aided trade across tribal boundaries in the later prehistoric periods.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for The Perbury Group Ltd at the Andover Lawn Tennis Club, Brackenbury, Andover (centred on NGR: SU 34613 46101; Figure 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition attached to outline planning permission granted by Test Valley Borough Council for the development of 14 dwellings and associated works (12/02768/OUTN).

Condition 6

No development shall take place (including site clearance within the application site/area indicated red, until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written brief and specification for a scheme of investigation and mitigation, which has been submitted by the developer and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: The site is potentially of archaeological significance in accordance with the Test Valley Borough Local Plan 2006 policy ENV11.

1.2 The watching brief followed an archaeological evaluation of the site (CA 2016), which uncovered archaeological features associated with a possible Roman road and/or earlier track way. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016a) and approved by the Test Valley Borough Council, acting on the advice of David Hopkins, the County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council (HCC). The fieldwork also followed Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014) and the HCC's Archaeology and Planning: Guidance for Contractors (HCC 2013).

The site

1.3 The development is located within the grounds of the Andover Tennis Club and comprises the tennis club courts and associated buildings. The site measured approximately 0.5ha in area and is bounded by residential housing along Blendon Drive to the west, Eardley Avenue to the south and Brackenbury to the north and east. The site is terraced into the natural slope, which falls from 90m aOD (above

ordnance datum) at the southern end to 80m aOD at the northern boundary. There are two levels to the site, each of which is cut 1m into the chalk bedrock; the upper level where three tennis courts are laid out and a second lower level, where two further tennis courts are located.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Seaford Chalk formation on the northern half of the site and Newhaven Chalk formation on the southern half of the site (BGS 2017). Each of these deposits represent sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 76-89 million years ago in the Cretaceous period. No superficial deposits are recorded for this area.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 This following archaeological background has been compiled from a Heritage Assessment produced for the site by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2012). A brief summary of the findings of this assessment are given below, along with the results of subsequent archaeological investigations (CA 2016), both within and surrounding the site.

Prehistoric (500,000 BC - AD 43)

- 2.2 The Harrow Way, an important prehistoric trackway with possible Neolithic origins, crossed the northern half of the town and is believed to have passed through the Portway industrial estate, located approximately 150m to the north-east of the site (Hopkins 1999, 2). This east/west route followed a ridge of high ground through southern England and crossed the River Anton to the north of the site.
- 2.3 Excavations at the Portway Industrial Estate, located immediately to the west of the site, have revealed the presence of a large amount number of Bronze Age barrow monuments. During excavation a curving ditch was also uncovered, extending from the barrow group to the south. Pottery of a Neolithic and Bronze Age date was recovered from the ditch, suggesting it represented an earlier or contemporary feature (WA 2012, 4).
- 2.4 Iron Age activity in the Andover area is represented by the presence of Bury Hill, a Middle to Late Iron age hillfort located to the south-west of the town, and an Iron Age farmstead, uncovered to the north-east of the site at East Anton (Hopkins 1999, 2).

Some small scale Iron Age activity, represented by a small number of pottery sherds, have been uncovered during excavations at Blendon Drive and Summerhouse Land, each located 50-100m to the north of the site (WA 2012, 4).

Roman (AD 43-410)

- 2.5 Excavations across Andover over the last 15 years have revealed extensive evidence for settlement and agricultural activities in the Roman period, with a focus of activity at East Anton, located 1.5-2km to the north-east of the site (Hopkins 1999, 2). The Portway, a road that ran between the settlements of Old Sarum, to the south-west, and Silchester, to the north-east, crossed the town during the Roman period (Margary 1955, 89). Although the exact course of the Portway remains speculative, it appears that the line of the road ran across the northern part of the site in a north-east/south-west orientation (WA 2012, 4).
- In the area immediately surrounding the site, archaeological excavations to the north of have revealed some evidence for a possible Roman building, while a boundary ditch has also been uncovered to the west in the Portway Industrial Estate (WA 2012). At the John Hanson Playing Fields, located 200m to the south-east of the site, a large circular cropmark and a linear cropmark were identified in 1995. Subsequent trial trench evaluation of this area uncovered a Romano-British (or earlier) ditch and some later activities.

Anglo/Saxon to medieval (AD 410 – 1539)

- 2.7 Anglo-Saxon activity within the wider area is represented by a small settlement site consisting of six sunken features buildings uncovered at Old Down Farm, 400m to the north of the site near the village of Charlton (Hopkins 1999, 3). Several large Saxon cemeteries have also been uncovered in this area including the inhumation and cremation cemetery excavated ahead of the development of the Portway Industrial estate, located 200m to the west of the site. Recent excavation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology ahead of the development of an Aldi supermarket, located 400m to the south-west, have also uncovered a densely packed execution cemetery (CA forthcoming) beginning with late Saxon burials and continuing right up until the 13th century.
- 2.8 The Domesday Survey (1086) records a moderate population for the royal manor of Andover, including one hundred villagers, smallholders and freedmen, and six slaves (Hopkins 1999). In the medieval period the settlement at Andover was

centred on the eastern side of River Anton, with centres located both within the historic core of Andover and at the village of Charlton to the north.

Post-medieval / modern (1539 onwards)

- 2.9 Historic mapping of this area suggests that during the post-medieval and early modern periods the site was located beyond the extent of known settlement and within areas of extensive arable fields. The fields within and surrounding the site has been recorded as 'Harroway' in the tithe apportionment of 1850, possibly reflecting their position close to the known prehistoric track (WA 2012, 5). Although Andover as extensively developed in the early to mid-20th century, the site itself remained largely undeveloped until the 1960s, when residential housing was constructed in the surrounding area.
- 2.10 The Andover Lawn Tennis Club, originally known as the Folly Tennis Club, moved to its current location in 1945 and, although moved away during the 1950s/60s, returned here in 1976 (WA 2012, 5). The tennis courts in the southern half of the site are depicted on the 1970-1975 Ordnance Survey (OS) map of this area.

Evaluation Results

- 2.11 A trial trench evaluation of the site was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2015 (CA 2015). Archaeological features were recorded in two of the five excavated trenches. Trench 5 was located to record the projected north-east/south-west alignment of the Portway Roman road. Whilst no obvious road surface was recorded, a possible hollow way (507), following the same orientation as the Portway, was recorded crossing the trench. No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature.
- 2.12 Trench 6 contained three shallow undated ditches (607, 610, 612), each following the same orientation as the Portway Roman road. Of these undated features ditch 607, contained burnt flint of a probable prehistoric date. A pit (605) was also recorded extending out of the eastern end of the trench. A degraded sherd of late prehistoric pottery and a burnt worked flint core was recovered from the fill (606) of the pit and is indicative of prehistoric activity on the site.
- 2.13 The evaluation confirmed a low level of late prehistoric/and possibly Romano-British activity confined to the north-western corner of the site. The site is terraced into the natural slope, including two levelled areas onto which several tennis courts were

constructed (Section 1.3). The evaluation concluded that, based on the presence of this modern terracing, it was likely that any archaeological deposits or features were restricted to the northern edge of the site, surrounding the position of Trench 6.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works, as detailed in the WSI (CA 2016a), were as follows:
 - to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of foundations and service trenches associated with two buildings. The groundworks focused on the northern part of the site surrounding the archaeological features identified within Trench 6 during the trial trench evaluation (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner site archive will be deposited with Hampshire Museum Service under accession number A2016.18. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-5)

- Two Areas (1 and 2) were monitored during the watching brief, associated with the excavation of foundations and service trenches of two buildings. The natural substrate in both areas consisted of chalk containing patches of light brown clay/silt (103, 204), observed at a depth of between 0.5-0.71m below ground level. The natural substrate was overlain across the site by a mid-red/brown clay/silt subsoil (102, 203), measuring a maximum of 0.31m in thickness. While a thin layer of buried topsoil was uncovered in Area 1 (101), the entire site was overlain with several layers of modern gravel, ceramic building material (CBM), tarmac and redeposited chalk (100, 201, 202). These modern deposits varied in thickness from 0.05-0.3m.
- During the watching brief a possible hollow way was uncovered across **Area 1** and **2** (**104**, **207**). Only small parts of the features were uncovered within the excavated foundation trenches and consequently it was not possible to reconstruct an accurate profile through the feature. Based on a plan of the hollow way it appears to have a north-east/south-west orientation and extended for approximately 20.5m in length and measured 6.12m in width (Figure 3). A single deposit of mid-red/brown clay/silt filled the shallow feature (**105**, **208**), from which no finds were recovered. It is probable that this feature corresponds with the linear feature (507) uncovered in Trench 5, located approximately 20m to the south-west (Figure 2), and possibly the pit (605) observed in Trench 6, immediately to the north. The hollow way lies on the projected line of the Portway Roman road that runs across the site along a north-east/south-west alignment (section 2.5).
- 5.3 Ditch **205** was uncovered in the north-western corner of **Area 2** (Figures 3-4). The ditch was u-shaped in profile and measured 1.2m in width, 0.56m in depth and 0.31 in depth. The ditch was filled by a single deposit of light brown clay/silt (**206**), from which no finds were recovered. It is likely that, based on a similarity in form and orientation, that this this feature corresponds to a ditch uncovered during the course of the trial trench evaluation (CA 2016b, 8-9 ditch 612). No finds were recovered from either feature to determine its date or function.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 The watching brief has confirmed low levels of probable late prehistoric/ Romano-British activity confined to the north-west corner of the site. A possible hollow way and ditch were identified during the course of the watching brief, however no artefact or environmental evidence was recovered to provide further information as to the date or function of these features. It appears that, in both instances, the features from the watching brief correspond to features uncovered during the archaeological evaluation of the site, however, as only very small quantities of prehistoric pottery and bunt flint were recovered from the earlier phase of investigation it is difficult to determine whether these features are of a late prehistoric and/or Romano-British date.

Whilst no obvious road surface was recorded, the undated hollow way was uncovered along the same orientation as the Portway (north-east/south-west orientation) Roman road and may represent either an earlier version of this route or the remains of the road itself. Moreover, the presence of a flanking ditch (205), along a similar alignment to the hollow way, may suggest that this feature represents a road side drainage ditch, however, there is little other evidence to support this interpretation. Future investigation of the line of the road in the areas to the northeast or south-west of the site may provide further interpretative information.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Bush and Ray Kennedy. The report was written by Ray Kennedy. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Andrew Donald, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

8. REFERENCES

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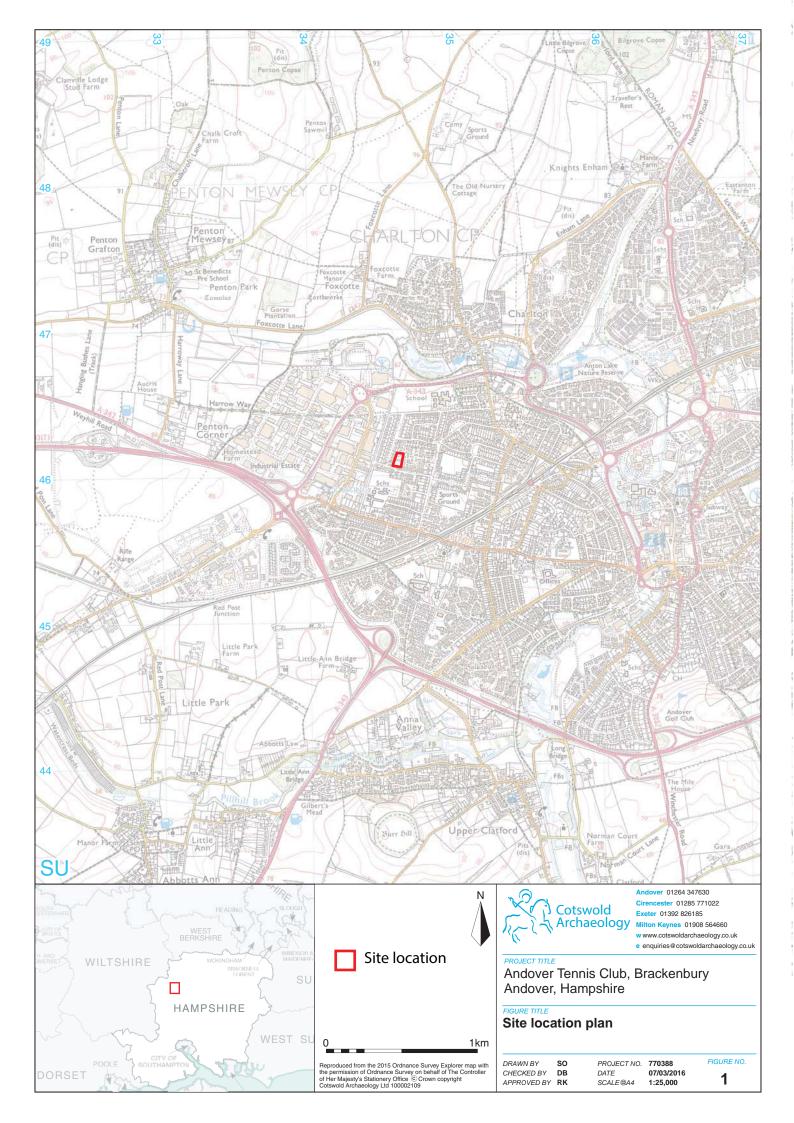
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

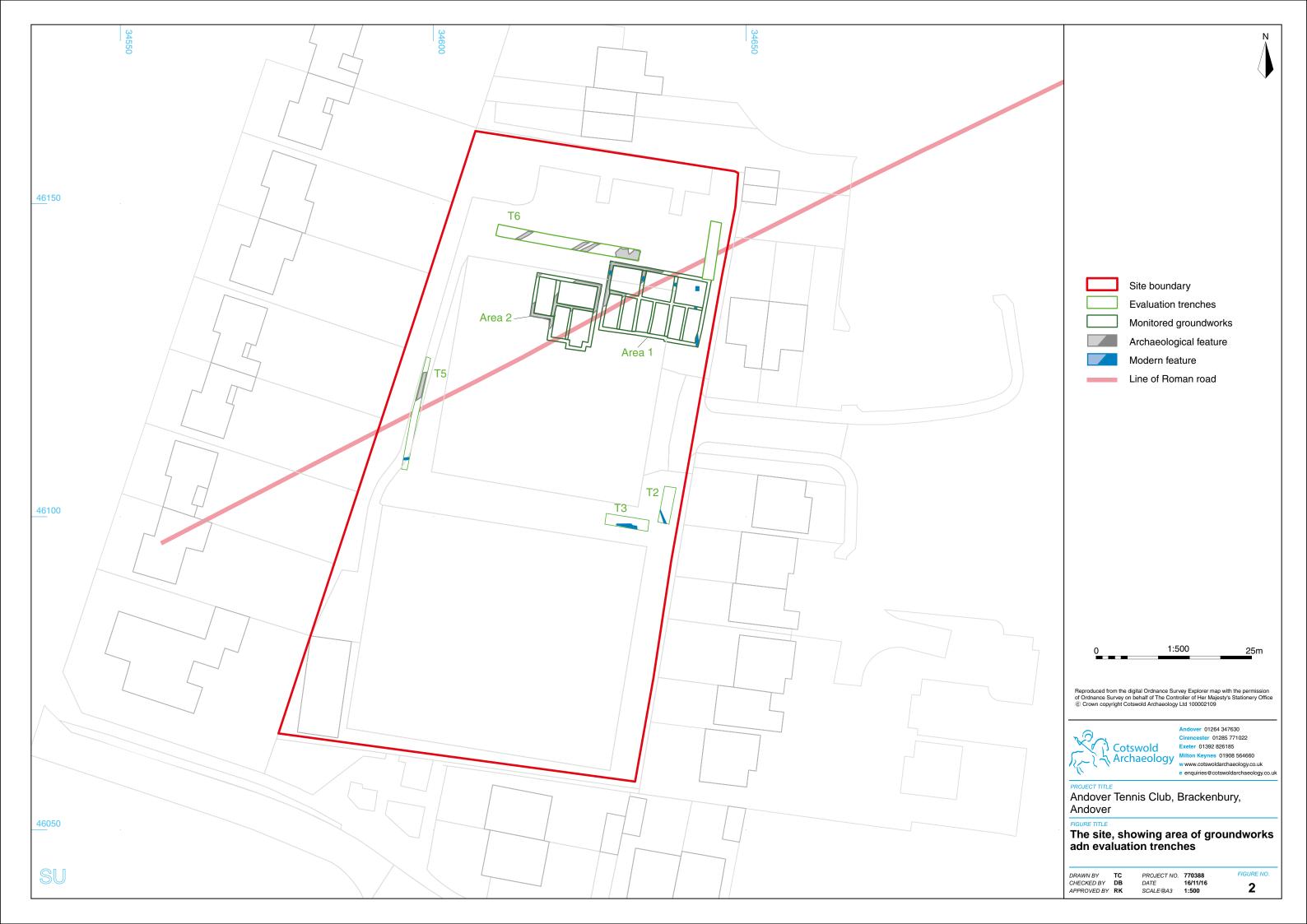
Area No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		Made Ground	Gravel and Tarmac, made ground	15	10	0-0.18
1	101	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown loose clayey silt	15	10	0.18-0.40
1	102	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	15	10	0.4-0.71
1	103	Layer		Natural	White chalk	15	10	0.71+
1	104	Cut		Cut	Cut of a hollow way. Linear in plan with gently sloping concave sides and a flat base	12.67	5	0.26
1	105	Fill	105	Fill	Mid reddish brown friable clayey silt	12.67	5	0.26
1	106	Layer		Made Ground	Mid brown clayey silt made ground	10	10	0-0.3
2	200	Layer		Made Ground	Compressed Chalk, made ground	10	10	0-0.05
2	201	Layer		Made Ground	Mid brown clayey silt made ground	10	10	0.05-0.30
2	202	Layer		Made Ground	Gravel	10	10	0.30-0.35
2	203	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	10	10	0.3-0.5
2	204	Layer		Natural	Chalk	10	10	0.5+
2	205	Cut		Cut	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a flat base	1.2	0.56	0.31
2	206	Fill	205	Fill	Light brown loose clayey silt	1.2	0.56	0.31
2	207	Cut		Cut	Cut of a hollow way. Linear in plan with gently sloping concave sides and a flat base	11.66	5	0.3
2	208	Fill	207	Fill	Mid reddish brown friable clayey silt	11.66	5	0.3
2	209	Layer		Made Ground	Gravel	10	10	0-0.1

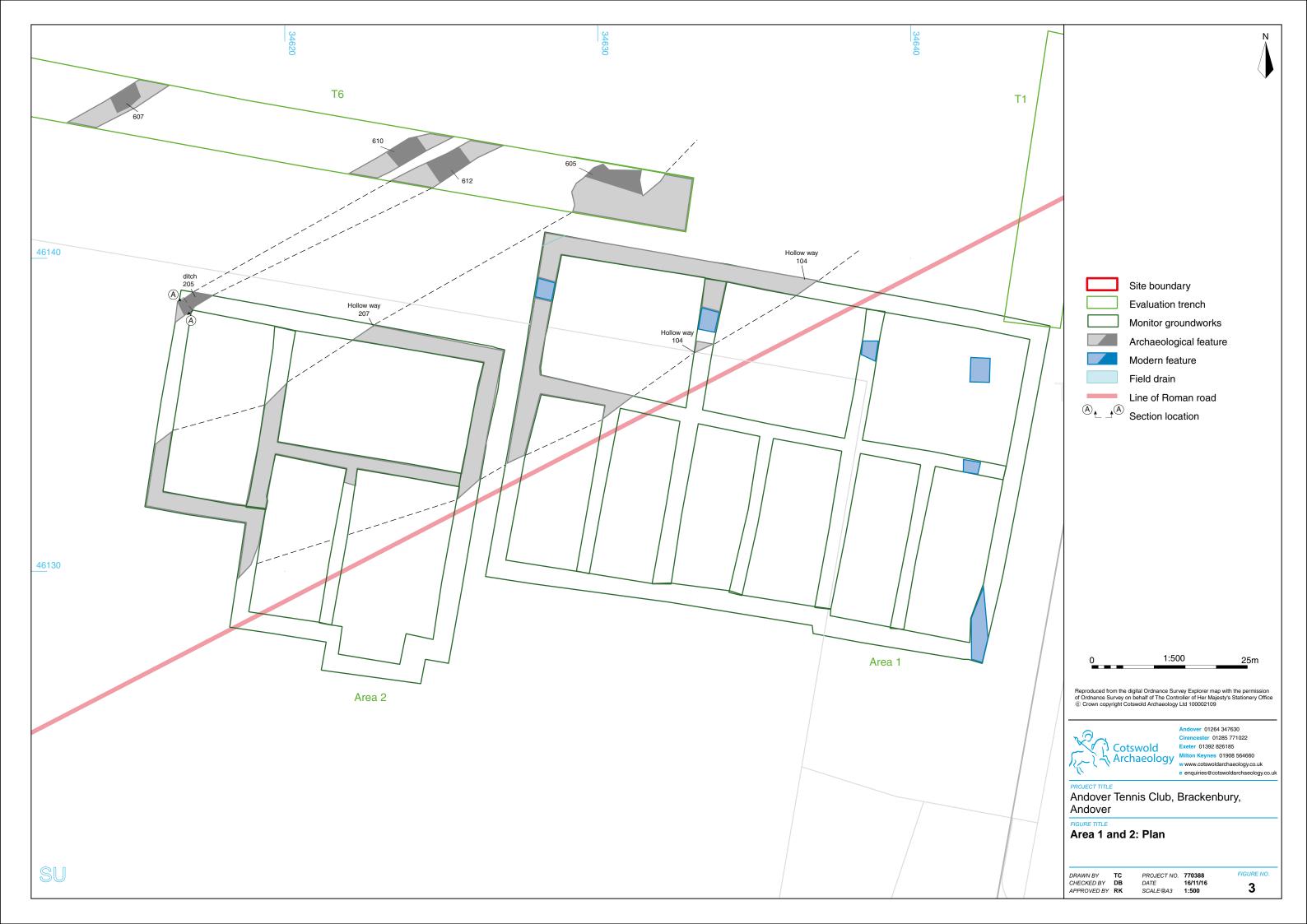
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Name	Andover Tennis Club Watching Brief	Andover Tennis Club Watching Brief				
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of 14 dwellings and associated works at Andover Tennis Club, Brackenbury, Andover, Hampshire.					
	The watching brief has confirmed the low level of possible later prehistoric/Romano-British activity in the north-western corner of the site. A parallel ditch and possible hollow way were uncovered during the groundworks, which each corresponded to features uncovered during a previous evaluation of the site. The hollow way appears to follow the course and alignment of the Portway, a Roman road that joins Old Sarum to Silchester. No artefacts were recovered from the fills of these features and consequently it is not possible to date either feature definitively to the later prehistoric and/or Roman period, however, they may represent features associated with road or an earlier version of this route.					
Project dates	12-18 August 2016	12-18 August 2016				
Project type	Watching Brief					
Previous work	Field evaluation (CA 2015)					
Future work	None					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location	Andover Tennis Club, Brackenbury, Andover, Hampshire					
Study area (M²/ha)	0.5ha					
Site co-ordinates	SU 34613 46101					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	Hampshire County Council					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	Cotswold Archaeology				
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex					
Project Supervisor	Steve Bush					
MONUMENT TYPE	None					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content				
Physical	N/A	N/A				
Paper	Hampshire Museum Service A2016.18	Context sheets, sections drawings				
Digital	Hampshire Museum Service A2016.18	Database, digital survey, photographs				
BIBLIOGRAPHY		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				

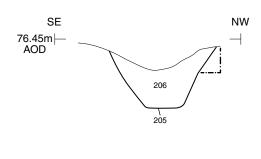
Watching Brief, CA Report: 16600







Section AA







Ditch 205, looking south-west (0.2m scale)



Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 826185

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Andover Tennis Club, Brackenbury, Andover

FIGURE TITL

Ditch 205: section and photograph

DRAWN BY TC
CHECKED BY DB
APPROVED BY RK

PROJECT NO. 770388

DATE 18/11/16

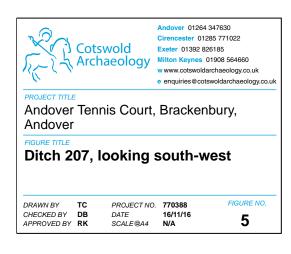
SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.





Ditch 207, looking south-west (2m scale)





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