

Land at Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Bargate Homes Limited

CA Project: 770641
CA Report: 17615

November 2017



Land at Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Sapley Lane
Location:	Overton, Hampshire
NGR:	451323 148803
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	16-19 October 2017
Planning Reference:	16/03057/OUT
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Hampshire County Council Arts & Museums Service
Site Code:	OVER17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2017 on Land at Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire. Twenty trenches were excavated.

The site was largely devoid of archaeological features with the exception of a post-medieval field boundary running through **Trenches 12, 13, 14 and 15**. This ditch correlates with a field boundary shown on the 1872 Ordnance Survey map and may possibly form part of an earlier strip field system. A small number of residual worked flint flakes were also recovered from topsoil deposits and single sherd of Prehistoric pottery from a ditch fill, indicative of a low level of Prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bargate Homes Limited at Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire (centred at NGR: 451323 148803; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Outline planning permission for the erection of a residential development up to 55 dwellings, with associated open space, landscaping and access was granted by Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council (BDBC) (DBC: 16/03057/OUT), conditional on a programme of archaeological work etc.

Condition 13

No development shall commence until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written statement of investigation which has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority.

REASON: To assess the extent, nature and date of any archaeological deposits that might be present and the impact of the development upon these heritage assets together with any mitigation required and to ensure that information regarding these heritage assets is preserved by record for future generations in accordance with Policy EM11 of the Basingstoke and Dean Local Plan 2011-2029. Details are required prior to the commencement of works in the absence of being provided to accompany the planning submission and given the early stage at which archaeological mitigation will be required.

- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by curator David Hopkins the archaeological advisor to BDBC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), and Hampshire County Council's *Archaeology and Planning: Guidance for Contractors* (HCC 2013).



The site

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 3ha, and comprises arable fields bordered to the north by housing, to the south and west by agricultural fields and to the east by Sapley Lane playing field. The site lies at approximately 120m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), and is generally flat.
- 1.5 The British Geological Survey shows the bedrock geology of the site to be exclusively Seaford Chalk Formation, formed of firm white chalk with flint nodules. This is overlain with superficial Head deposits of gravel, silt and clay (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of the archaeological background contained within an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment by L.P. Archaeology (LP 2016).

Prehistoric

- 2.2 There is no evidence of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity in the vicinity of the site, and evidence for the Palaeolithic period appears restricted to isolated finds within the gravel deposits of the valley, with few lithics from these periods having been recovered from the surrounding chalk downs. Mesolithic activity is focussed on the Greensand geology, and within waterlogged deposits in the valleys.
- 2.3 There is little Neolithic evidence within the surrounding vicinity of the site, with finds restricted to a hand axe found to the northeast along Winchester Street in Overton, and a small assemblage of Peterborough Ware from north of the site at Turrill House on the banks of the River Test.
- 2.4 There are two possible Bronze Age ring ditches, one to the west of the site and one south of the site at Jackson's Copse. A small cluster of linear and curvilinear features in open fields, directly east of the site, have also been described as possibly Bronze Age in origin. The evidence for this period is more abundant within the Test Valley and the chalk downs north of the site.

Iron Age

- 2.5 An evaluation by TVAS north of London road found Late Iron Age ditches and pits.

Roman

- 2.6 Roman pottery has been found at Turrill House to the north of the site, and a Roman cremation with associated artefacts was found northeast of the site in the centre of Overton. These finds indicate that the focus of Roman activity within Overton is to the north of the site, close to the Portway Roman road. The evaluation by TVAS revealed evidence of continuous occupation from the Iron Age into the Roman Period, while assemblages of Roman coins, pottery, brick, and tile found just northwest of the site, suggest Roman occupation throughout this portion of the Test Valley.

Medieval

- 2.7 Overton is documented as early as the 10th century when it was granted to the Bishop of Winchester by King Edward the Elder in 909 AD, with the Bishopric continuing to hold the manor until 1869. The only evidence of early medieval activity within the vicinity is pottery found at Turrill House to the north of the site, and which is believed to date to the 9th and 10th century.
- 2.8 An isolated find of a Lead Seal denoting 'Peter of Langham' was found within a field to the north of the site and dated to the 13th and 14th centuries. Medieval field boundaries are known to the west and southwest of the site, while the medieval settlement of Southington is northwest of the site, with Sopley Farm House to the south of the site.
- 2.9 Overton is mentioned in the Domesday as having two churches and 94 villagers and by the 13th century it had been made a borough. The site itself is likely to have been agricultural land throughout the period.

Post-Medieval

- 2.10 Brick kiln Farm, brickworks and farm of post-medieval date is located to the northwest of the site. The brickworks and the clay extraction associated with it do not appear to have extended into the site. In the post-medieval period the site appears to have been agricultural fields.



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable the BDBC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 20 trenches (30m long and 1.8 wide) in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Hampshire county Council Arts & Museums Service along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-7)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

5.2 **Trenches 1 and 2** contained clay/silt topsoil directly overlying natural of clay/silt, flint and gravel at a depth of approximately 0.33m. In **Trenches 3 to 20** a clay/silt subsoil of varying thickness was also present. The topsoil was between 0.15 and 0.34m thick and the subsoil, when present, was between 0.08 and 0.46m thick. No archaeology was found within **Trenches 1 to 11**, and **16 to 20**. **Trenches 12 to 15** contained a continuous ditch which was sealed by the subsoil and cut the natural geology.

Trench 12 (Figures 2-4)

5.3 Ditch **1203** was located at the northern end of **Trench 12**. It was 0.64m wide and 0.17m deep, linear in plan with rounded convex sides and a rounded concave base and was on a south-west/north-east alignment. The single fill, **1204**, was mid-grey/brown compact clay/silt, and contained single sherd of late prehistoric pottery.

Trench 13 (Figures 2, 3 & 5)

5.4 Ditch **1303** was located at the north eastern end of **Trench 13**. It was 0.85m wide and 0.18m deep, linear in plan, with rounded convex sides and a rounded concave base and was on an east-west alignment. The single fill, **1304**, comprised mid-orange/brown compact clay/silt. A tree throw was also identified within the trench.

Trench 14 (Figures 2, 3 & 6)

5.5 Ditch **1405** was 1.1m wide and 0.24m deep, linear in plan with moderately sloping straight sides and a flat base on a south-west/north-east alignment. The single fill, **1406**, comprised mid-red/brown compact clay/silt. Two tree-throws were also identified within the trench.

Trench 15 (Figures 2, 3 & 7)

- 5.6 At the north-east end of **Trench 15** was ditch **1503**. It was 1.13m wide and 0.28m deep, linear in plan with a concave side on the south and a convex side on the north and had a tapered base. The single fill, **1504**, comprised dark grey/brown friable clay/silt.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B, Table 1, and discussed further below.

Pottery

- 6.2 A single sherd of pottery (3g), an abraded flint-tempered bodysherd, was recovered from ditch **1203** (fill **1204**). It is of late prehistoric date, but cannot be more closely dated.

Other Finds

- 6.3 Six prehistoric flint items (119g) were recorded from six deposits. All are flakes, which cannot be closely dated. An additional 23 items (454g) of unworked, burnt flint were recovered from seven deposits. The burnt flint will not be retained.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The ditch identified within **Trenches 12 to 15** appears to be continuous and appears correlate with a post medieval field boundary shown on the 1872 Ordnance Survey mapping (**Figure 3**).
- 7.2 The OS mapping shows that the boundary runs parallel to a number of other closely spaced boundaries to the north and south and it is possible this represents a remnant of an earlier, medieval strip field system.
- 7.3 Finds of prehistoric date, including the burnt flint within fills **1204**, **1304** and **1406** and the abraded late prehistoric pottery sherd within fill **1204**, are all assumed to be residual and indicative of low level prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Wilson, assisted by Hilde van de Heul and Pawel Jablonski. The report was written by Adam Howard. The finds report was written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Sam Wilson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 2 November 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2017, *Land at Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government), 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*

Hampshire County Council, 2013, *Archaeology and Planning: Guidance for Contractors*

L.P. Archaeology, 2016, *Sapley lane, Overton. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment.*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	layer	topsoil	dark reddish brown clayey silt	29.5	1.8	0 - 0.34
1	101	layer	natural	mid brown red clay silt	29.5	1.8	0.34+
2	200	layer	topsoil	dark reddish brown clayey silt	30.2	1.8	0 - 0.32
2	201	layer	natural	mid brown red clay silt	30.2	1.8	0.32+
3	300	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt friable	30.2	1.8	0 - 0.16
3	301	layer	subsoil	mid reddish brown clayey silt friable	30	2	0.16 - 0.31
3	302	layer	natural	mid brownish red compact silty clay	30	2	0.31 - 0.33+
4	400	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt friable	29.8	2	0 - 0.17
4	401	layer	subsoil	dark greyish brown firm clayey silt	29.8	2	0.17 - 0.33+
4	402	layer	natural	mid yellow reddish brown silty clay compact	29.8	2	0.33 - 0.36+
5	500	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt friable	29.3	2	0 - 0.18
5	501	layer	subsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt compact	29.3	2	0.18 - 0.33
5	502	layer	natural	mid brownish reddish yellow silty clay compact	29.3	2	0.33 - 0.38+
6	600	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt friable	29	2	0 - 0.18
6	601	layer	subsoil	dark reddish brown clayey silt compact	29	2	0.18 - 0.26
6	602	layer	natural	mid brownish red compact silty clay	29	2	0.26 - 0.34+
7	700	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt friable	29.8	2	0 - 0.19
7	701	layer	subsoil	mid greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.8	2	0.19 - 0.33
7	702	layer	natural	mid brownish red compact silty clay	29.8	2	0.33 - 0.44+
8	800	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt friable	29.1	2	0 - 0.15
8	801	layer	subsoil	mid greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.1	2	0.15 - 0.27
8	802	layer	natural	mid brown red clay silt compact	29.1	2	0.27 - 0.39+
9	900	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt friable	29.9	2	0 - 0.17
9	901	layer	subsoil	dark greyish brown firm clayey silt	29.9	2	0.17 - 0.33
9	902	layer	natural	mid brownish red compact silty clay	29.9	2	0.33 - 0.34+
10	1000	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.3	2	0 - 0.17
10	1001	layer	subsoil	dark greyish brown compact clayey silt	29.3	2	0.17 - 0.33
10	1002	layer	natural	mid brown red orange silty clay compact	29.3	2	0.33 - 0.34+
11	1100	layer	topsoil	dark grey brown friable clayey silt	29.6	2	0 - 0.28
11	1101	layer	subsoil	mid greyish brown compact clayey silt	29.6	2	0.28 - 0.44
11	1102	layer	natural	mid reddish brown compact silty clay	29.6	2	0.44 - 0.52
12	1200	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.2	2	0 - 0.28
12	1201	layer	subsoil	mid greyish brown compact clayey silt	29.2	2	0.28 - 0.40
12	1202	layer	natural	mid brownish red compact silty clay	29.2	2	0.4 - 0.44+
12	1203	cut	ditch	linear in plan rounded convex sides rounded concave base	0.97	0.64	0.17
12	1204	fill	secondary fill	mid greyish brown clayey silt compact	0.97	0.64	0.17
13	1300	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.4	2	0 - 0.29
13	1301	layer	subsoil	mid greyish brown compact clayey silt	29.4	2	0.29 - 0.41
13	1302	layer	natural	mid brownish orange silty clay	29.4	2	0.41 - 0.49+
13	1303	cut	ditch	linear in plan rounded convex sides rounded concave base	0.85	0.85	0.18
13	1304	fill	secondary fill	mid orangey brown clayey silt compact	0.85	0.85	0.18
14	1400	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown clayey silt	30	2	0 - 0.16
14	1401	layer	subsoil	mid greyish brown firm clayey silt	30	2	0.16 - 0.28
14	1402	layer	natural	mid greyish brown firm clayey silt	30	2	0.28 - 0.45+
14	1403	cut	tree throw	irregular in plan rounded convex irregular sides irregular base	1.12	1.3	0.38
14	1404	fill	tree throw	mid reddish brown clayey silt compact	0.11	1.3	0.38
14	1405	cut	ditch	linear in plan moderate irregular straight sides flat base	1	1.1	0.24

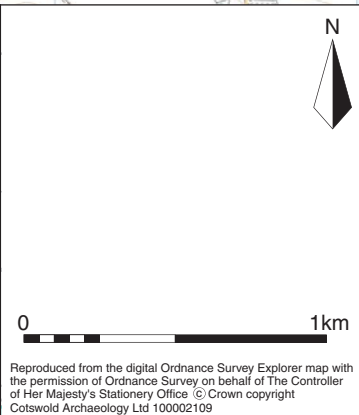
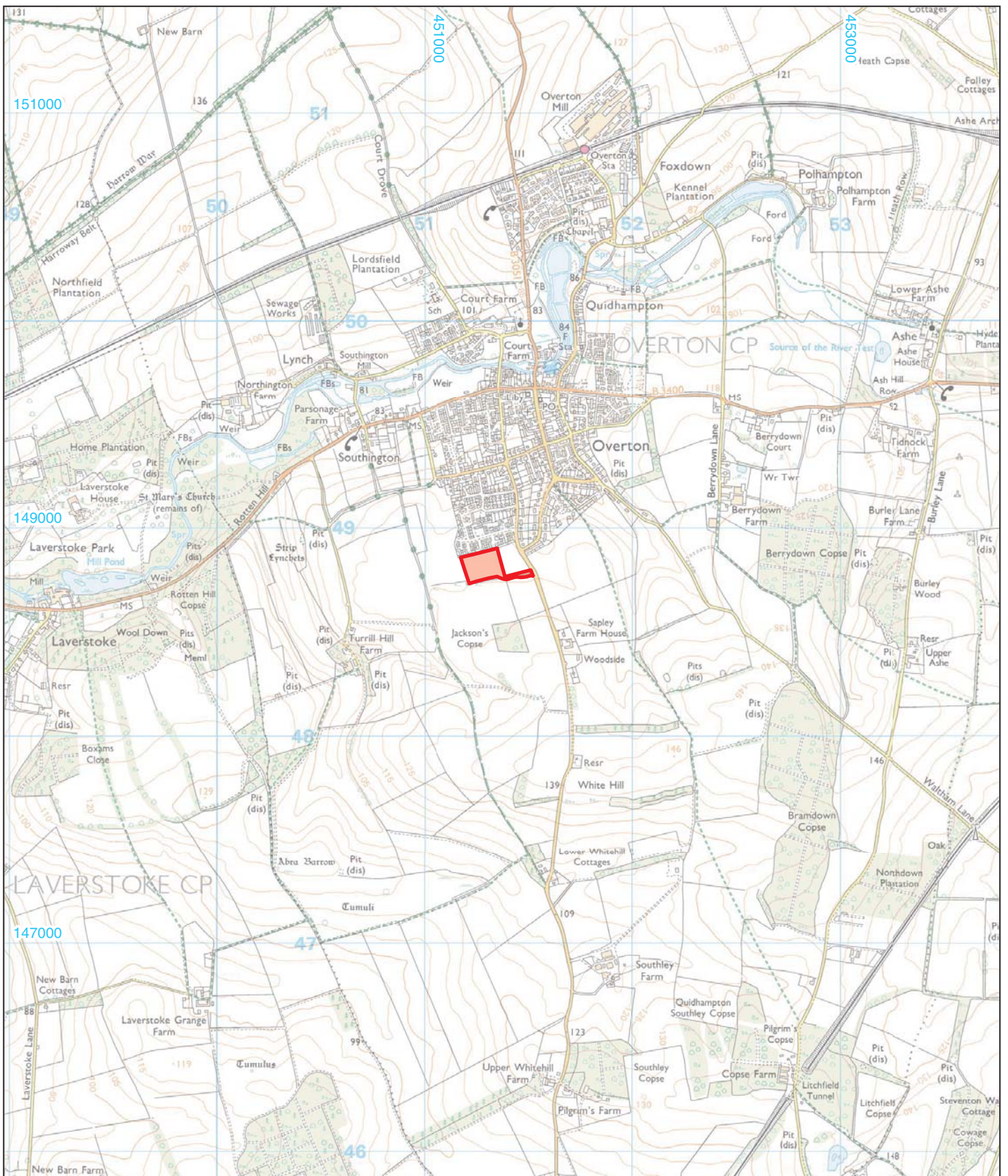
14	1406	fill	ditch	mid reddish brown clayey silt compact	1	1.1	0.24
15	1500	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.5	2	0 - 0.16
15	1501	layer	subsoil	mid greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.5	2	0.16 - 0.38
15	1502	layer	natural	mid brownish red compact silty clay	29.5	2	0.38 - 0.52+
15	1503	cut	ditch	linear in plan concave south side convex north side tapered base	3.26	1.13	0.28
15	1504	fill	secondary fill	dark greyish brown clayey silt friable	3.26	1.13	0.28
16	1600	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.5	2	0 - 0.15
16	1601	layer	subsoil	mid greyish reddish brown friable clayey silt	29.5	2	0.15 - 0.26
16	1602	layer	natural	mid brownish red compact silty clay	29.5	2	0.26 - 0.3+
17	1700	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.7	2	0 - 0.28
17	1701	layer	subsoil	mid reddish brown friable clayey silt	29.7	2	0.28 - 0.74
17	1702	layer	natural	mid brownish red compact silty clay	29.7	2	0.74 - 0.89+
18	1800	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.8	2	0 - 0.29
18	1801	layer	subsoil	dark reddish brown compact silty clay	29.8	2	0.29 - 0.48
18	1802	layer	natural	dark brownish orange compact silty clay	29.8	2	0.48 - 0.53+
19	1900	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.4	2	0 - 0.33
19	1901	layer	subsoil	dark reddish brown friable clayey silt	29.4	2	0.33 - 0.55
19	1902	layer	natural	mid brownish orange compact silty clay	29.4	2	0.55 - 0.61
20	2000	layer	topsoil	dark greyish brown friable clayey silt	29.3	2	0 - 0.21
20	2001	layer	subsoil	mid reddish brown firm clayey silt	29.3	2	0.21 - 0.35
20	2002	layer	natural	mid brownish red compact silty clay	29.3	2	0.35 - 0.44

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
100	flint	flake	1	13	
200	flint		1	18	
	burnt flint		1	63	
800	flint	flake	1	36	
801	flint	flake	1	42	
1100	flint	flake	1	4	
	burnt flint		3	106	
1200	burnt flint		5	134	
1204	pottery	flint-tempered	1	3	Lpre
	burnt flint		5	35	
1300	flint	flake	1	4	
	burnt flint		3	72	
1304	burnt flint		2	20	
1406	burnt flint		4	24	
1800	flint	flake	1	20	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2017 on Land at Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire. Twenty trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The site was largely devoid of archaeological features with the exception of a post medieval field boundary running through Trenches 12, 13, 14 and 15. This ditch correlates with a field boundary shown on the 1872 Ordnance Survey map and possibly forms part of an earlier strip field system. A small number of residual worked flint flakes were also recovered from topsoil deposits and single sherd of Prehistoric pottery from a ditch fill, indicative of low level Prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site.</p>	
Project dates	16-19 March 2017	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	LP 2016 Desk Based Assessment	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Sapley Lane	
Study area (M ² /ha)	3ha	
Site co-ordinates	451323 148803	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Sam Wilson	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
Burnt flint, worked flint, pottery		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Hampshire county Council Arts & Museums Service	Flint pottery
Paper	Hampshire county Council Arts & Museums Service	Context sheets, Trench Sheets Drawings Photo register
Digital	Hampshire county Council Arts & Museums Service	Filed Survey Data, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land at Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17615		



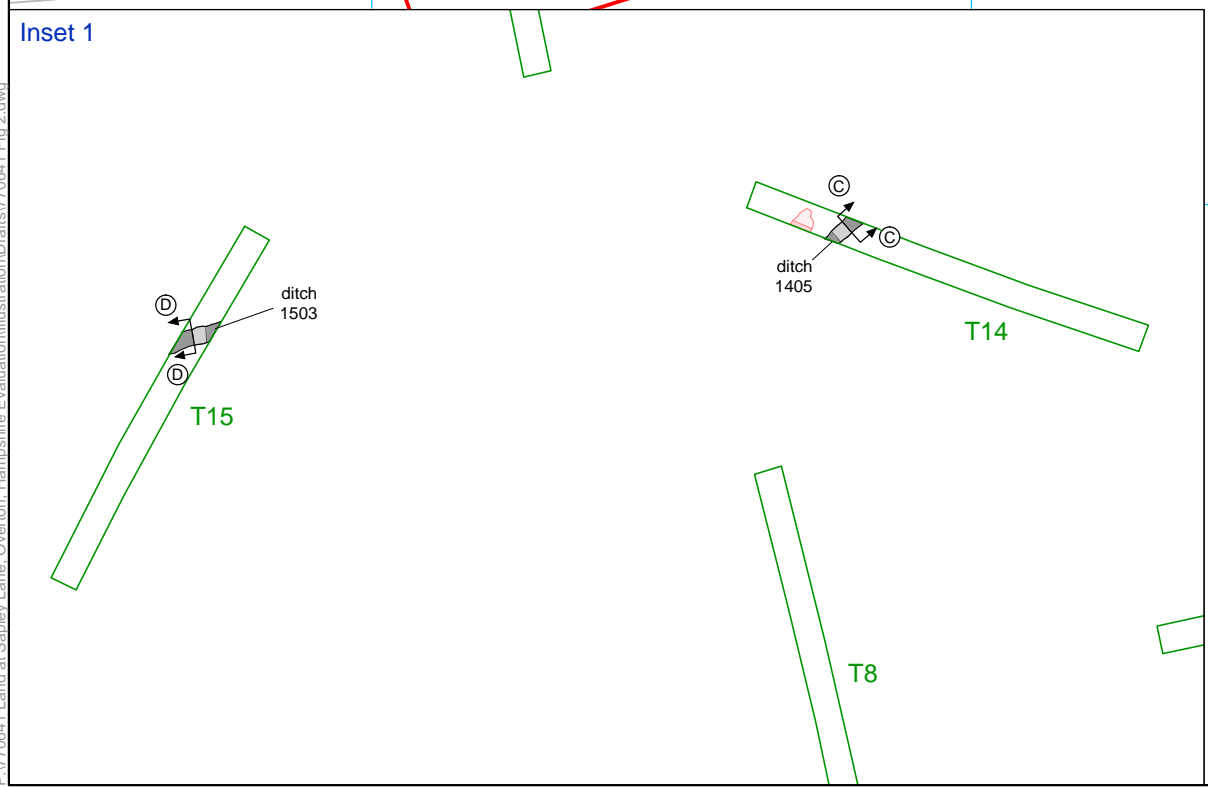
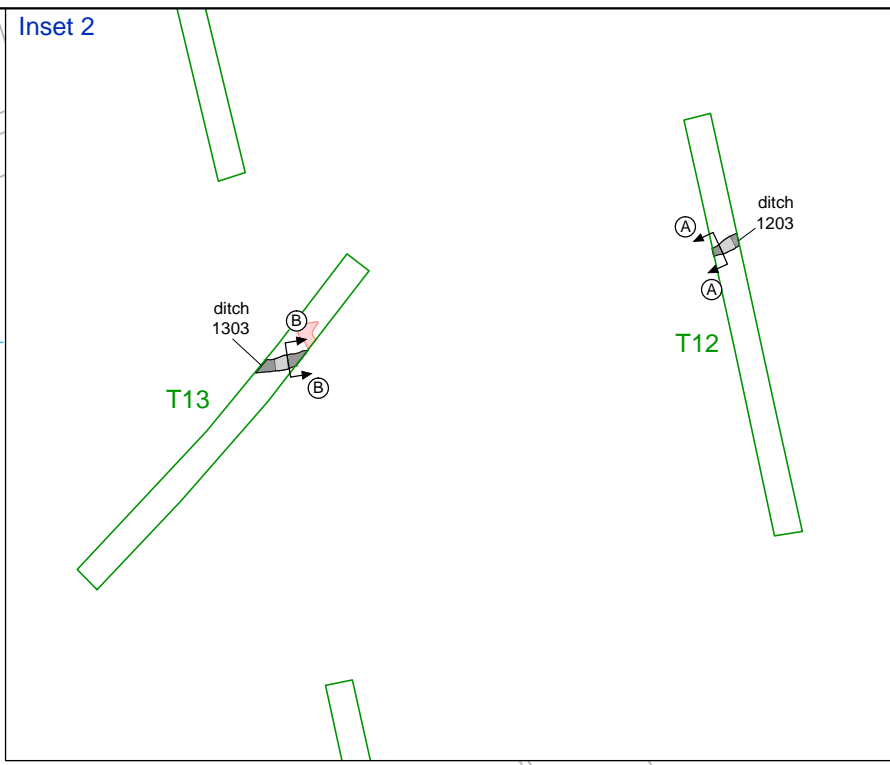
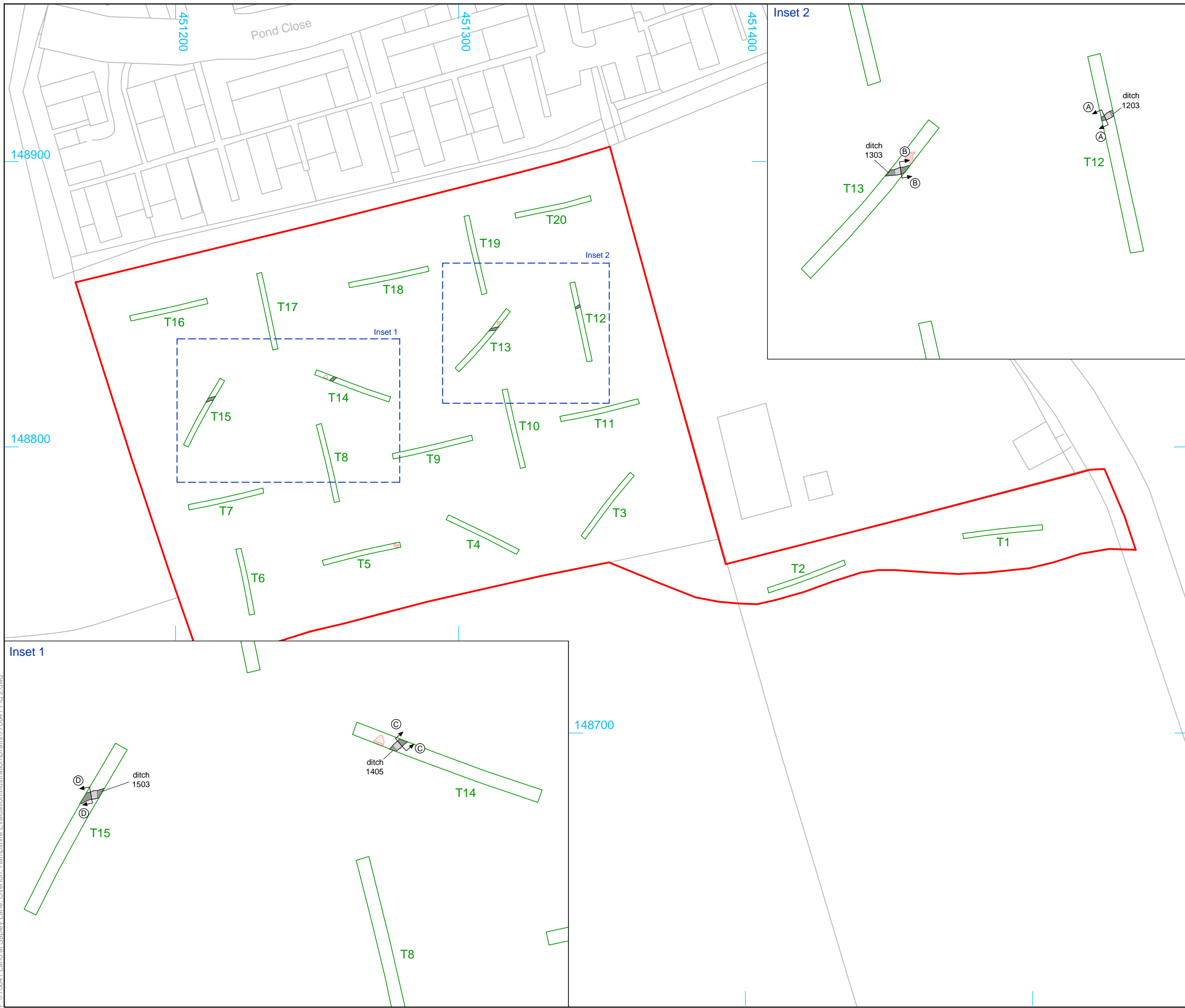

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PROJECT TITLE
Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	770641	FIGURE NO.	1
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	09/11/2017		
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE	@A4 1:25,000		

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- excavated/unexcavated
- archaeological feature
- treethrow
- section location



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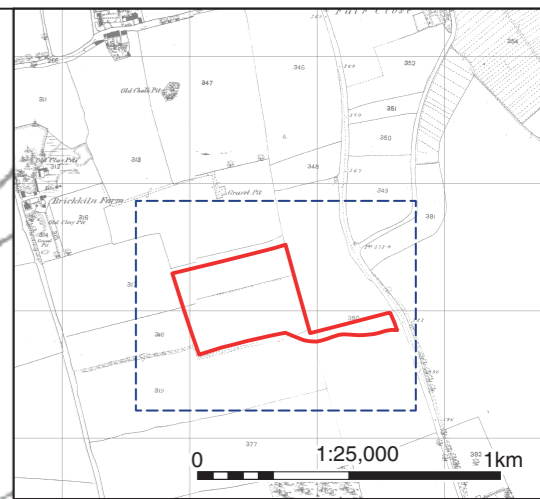
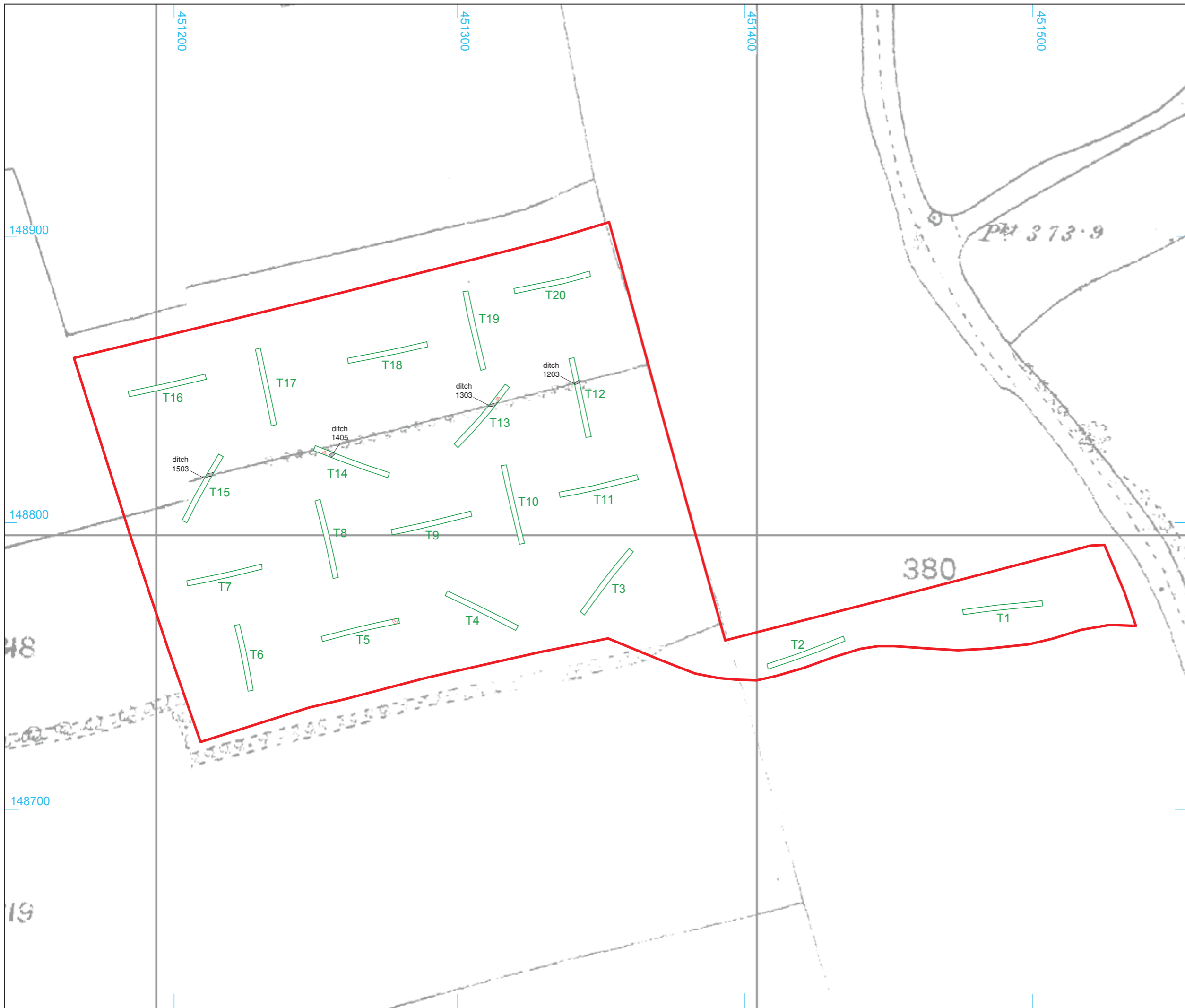
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Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	

PROJECT TITLE
Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	770641	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	09/11/2017	2
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A3	1:1250	

P:\770641 Land at Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire Evaluation\Illustration\Drafts\770641 Fig 2.dwg



0 1km

1:25,000

N

- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- treethrow



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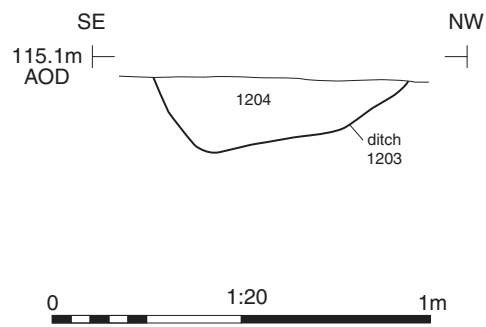
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 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Sapley lane, Overton, Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan overlaid on 1872 OS mapping

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	770641	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	09/11/2017	3
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A3	1:1,250 (approx.)	

Section AA



Ditch 1203, looking south-west (scale 0.5m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE

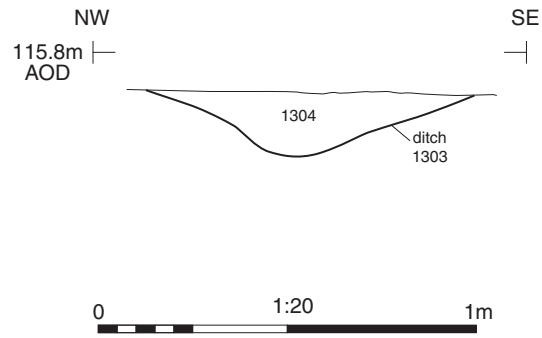
Trench 12: sectin and photograph

DRAWN BY CP PROJECT NO. 770641
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APPROVED BY RK SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

4

Section BB



Ditch 1303, looking north-east (scale 0.5m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE

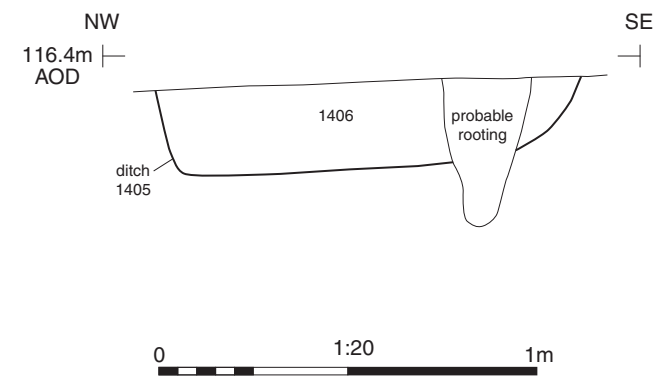
Trench 13: section and photograph

DRAWN BY CP PROJECT NO. 770641
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 09/11/2017
APPROVED BY RK SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

5

Section CC



Ditch 1405, looking north-east (scale 1m)



Treethrow 1403, looking south (scale 1m)

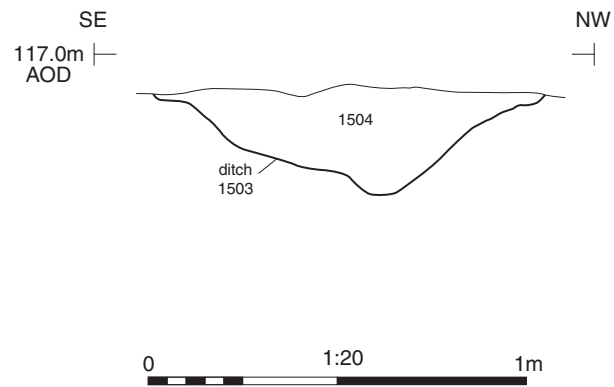

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PROJECT TITLE
 Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 14: section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	09/11/2017	6
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE	@A3 1:20	

Section DD



Ditch 1503, looking south-east (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Sapley Lane, Overton, Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 15: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

7

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