

# Cotswold Archaeology

# Land at Dowles Barn Close **Barkham Road Phase 2** Wokingham Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for CALA Homes (Thames) Ltd

> CA Project: 770653 CA Report: 17650 Site Code: BARK17 Accession No: TBC



Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

Land at Dowles Barn Close Barkham Road Phase 2 Wokingham Berkshire

# Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770653 CA Report: 17650 Site Code: BARK17 Accession No: TBC



	Document Control Grid							
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	tus Reasons for Approv revision by			
A	18/10/17	STB	MPH	Draft	For client comment	MPH		

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

© Cotswold Archaeology

# CONTENTS

APPEN	APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM12				
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS					
10.	REFERENCES	.9			
9.	CA PROJECT TEAM	.8			
6.	DISCUSSION	.8			
5.	RESULTS (FIGS 2-7)	.6			
4.	METHODOLOGY	.5			
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	.5			
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	.3			
1.	INTRODUCTION	.3			
SUMMA	ARY	2			

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:500; 1:250)
- Fig. 3 Trench 2: post-excavation, looking south-west (scale 1m); demolition rubble layer 201, looking south-east (scale 1m)
- Fig. 4 Trench 2: archaeology and photograph: section AA and photograph of south-east facing section of posthole 204 (scale 0.5m)
- Fig. 5 Trench 2: archaeology and photograph: section BB and photograph of north-west facing section of gully 206 (scale 0.5m)
- Fig. 6 Trench 5: post-excavation, looking north-west (scale 1m)
- Fig. 7 Trench 5: archaeology and photograph: section CC and photograph of south-west facing section of gully (scale 0.5m)

#### SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Barkham Road Phase 2			
Location:	Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire			
NGR:	479020 167383			
Туре:	Evaluation			
Date:	16-17th October 2017			
Planning Reference:	16/0732 (Appeal Ref: APP/X0360/W/16/3155455)			
Location of Archive:	ТВС			
Accession Number:	ТВС			
Site Code:	BARK17			

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2017 on land at Dowles Barn Close, Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire. Five 20m long by 1.8m wide trenches were excavated.

Two undated gullies of which probably served as land drainage features, were excavated in Trench 5, while one undated gully and two undated postholes were excavated in Trench 2. Extensive modern disturbance in the form of demolition rubble was uncovered in Trenches 2, 3 and 4.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Ltd on behalf of CALA Homes (Thames) Ltd on land at Dowles Barn Close, Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire (centred at NGR: 479020 167383; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to determine the presence, date, condition, character and significance of potential buried archaeological remains within the site. The results accompany a planning application (16/0732 (Appeal Ref: APP/X0360/W/16/3155455; planning condition 13) for the construction of residential dwellings.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CgMs Ltd (2017) and approved by Ellie Leary, the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) – Wokingham Borough Council. The evaluation also adhered to the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA 2014), and the Berkshire Archaeology General Standards for Fieldwork Projects (see CgMs Ltd 2017). It was monitored by Ellie Leary.

#### The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.75ha, and comprises an irregular field bounded by residential properties and gardens to the north and west and by trees to the south and east. It lies to the south-east of Barkham itself, behind residential properties off Barkham Road. The site lies at approximately 70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with the prevailing ground level falling slightly to the southwest.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Bagshot Sand of the Palaeogene Period (BGS 2017). No superficial deposits are recorded by the BGS (2015).

# 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared for the site and provides the detailed archaeological background to the site. The following provides a summary from that source (CgMs Ltd 2015).

#### Prehistoric period

- 2.2 A single hand axe of Palaeolithic date (MWK8097), identified at a brick kiln in Barkham to the north-east of the site, comprises the only evidence of early prehistoric origin within a 1.5km radius. Similarly, a single artefact of Mesolithic date is recorded (MWK1122). This comprised Mesolithic flintwork including blades, a core rejuvenator and a scraper, found at Folly Thatch Cottage, Barkham, again to the north-east of the site.
- 2.3 Later prehistoric activity in the form of undated ditches and gullies, with residual Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork (MRM16527, ERM1164), has been identified at Rooks Farm to the south of the site. A further phase of undated ditches, gullies and a scoop at the same site may be evidence of the remains of a Bronze Age to Iron Age field system (MRM16528), and of boundary ditches (MRM16529). However, this does not appear to be representative of intensive prehistoric settlement or agricultural activity. Rather more, activity within the hinterland of settlement perhaps, in a more dispersed agricultural or rough grassland environment. Elsewhere a burnt mound was excavated at Barkham Square (MWK7238, EWK205) and a Bronze Age palstave axe was found at Church Farm to the south of the site (MRM16377).

#### Roman period

2.4 Undated postholes and ditches found south of the site are considered likely to be evidence of Roman period settlement activity (MRM16533). Other Roman period evidence within the wider area principally comprises sherds of pottery. This derives from fieldwalking associated with the Barkham Survey in the 1990s (MWK15486, MWK15488, MWK15489 and MWK15490). Evidence to date does not appear to indicate intensive settlement activity, and, as with the potential for remains of the later prehistoric period, hints more at activity within the hinterland of settlement, in a more dispersed agricultural or rough grassland environment.

# Early medieval and medieval period

2.5 The village of Barkham, situated to the south-west of the site, was first referenced in AD 952 as *Beorchamme / Beorcham* and is recorded in Domesday (MWK1315 and MWK1316). The settlement of Barkham subsequently was known as *Berkham* by 1220 and *Bergham* by 1248 (MWK1317). Two early medieval pottery sherds were recovered at Barkham Ride to the south-west of the site during fieldwalking for the Barkham Survey (MWK15487). In addition, pottery of the 12th to 14th century was

recovered in a circular pit at the Well House, Barkham to the south-west of the site (MRM16651).

2.6 A moated site with an associated enclosure is located adjacent to St James' Church in Barkham, and is the sole Scheduled Monument within the wider area. Traces of probable medieval ridge and furrow agricultural activity lie to the south of the site and it is likely that the site remained a part of the wider agricultural hinterland of Barkham throughout the period (MRM16534).

# Post-medieval and modern periods

2.7 The Wokingham Enclosure map (1817) is the first detailed map to include the site. It is depicted as arable land or meadow and the site has remains as open agricultural land throughout, though is now surrounded by the 20th century expansion of Barkham.

# 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and the *Berkshire Archaeology General Standards for Fieldwork Projects,* as set out in the WSI (CgMs Ltd 2017). This information will enable Wokingham Borough Council Archaeological Advisor 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 five trenches of 20m length and 1.8m width in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 5 was relocated 3m to the south-west of its original position to avoid existing heras fencing that had been erected around the boundary of the site. Part of the north-west end of Trench 3 was left unexcavated to avoid a disused plastic manhole and pipe (Fig. 2). All

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. No artefacts were recovered.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with the local museum under accession number (TBC). 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 (FIGS 2-7)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results and a detailed summary of the recorded contexts (Appendix A). No finds or palaeoenvironmental evidence were identified.
- 5.2 The stratigraphic sequence of the site varied depending on the extent of modern disturbance. The natural substrate was encountered between 0.32-0.50m below present ground-level (bpgl). Where no modern disturbance was present (trenches 1 and 5), topsoil lay between 0.25-0.32m thick. A thin layer of topsoil only 0.08m thick was evident in trenches 2 and 3 where modern disturbance was recorded. In Trench 4 topsoil measured up to 0.22m thick and although there was evidence of modern disturbance it appeared to have no impact on the prevailing stratigraphy. In Trenches 2 and 3 a layer of modern demolition rubble, of 0.16-0.18m thick, was present above the subsoil. Aside from Trench 1, where no subsoil was present, subsoil in Trenches 2 to 5 varied in thickness between 0.15-0.26m.

5.3 Two north / south aligned, undated gullies of unknown function were excavated in Trench 5. One north / south aligned, undated gully and two undated postholes, also of unknown function, were excavated in Trench 2. Trench 4 contained a series of four modern postholes, with wood and concrete in situ in each example. Trench 3 contained a modern, plastic manhole and plastic piping. Extensive modern disturbance in the form of demolition rubble was uncovered in Trenches 2, 3 and 4. Trench 1 contained no archaeological evidence at all.

#### Trench 1

5.4 No modern disturbance and no deposits of archaeological significance were discovered in Trench 1.

#### Trench 2

- 5.5 Two postholes (204 and 208) and a shallow gully (206) were recorded in Trench 2. Postholes 204 and 206 both had broadly similar profiles with steep, convex sides and concave bases, averaging 0.32m diameter and 0.22m depth. Gully 206 was 0.05m in depth and 0.24m wide with very shallow sloping sides and a concave base. No dating evidence was recovered from these though they were clearly of recent origin and are contemporary with the postholes in Trench 4. Gully 206 may well be contemporary with gullies 503 and 505 in Trench 5.
- 5.6 Modern disturbance in Trench 2 comprised a layer of demolition rubble averaging0.18m thick but extending deeper in the central portion of the trench where it was left unexcavated.

#### Trench 3

- 5.7 No deposits of archaeological significance were discovered in Trench 3.
- 5.8 Modern disturbance in Trench 3 comprised a layer of demolition rubble averaging 0.16m thick extending along the length of the trench. In addition a disused plastic manhole and piping was uncovered just below the surface to the north-west and a plastic field drain was uncovered at a depth of 0.45m to the south-east.

# Trench 4

5.9 No deposits of archaeological significance were discovered in Trench 4.

5.10 Four modern postholes containing wood and concrete were recorded at the northeast end of Trench 4 at a depth of 0.30m.

#### Trench 5

5.11 Two north / south aligned, shallow gullies (503 and 505) were recorded at the north-west end of Trench 5. Gully 503 was 0.20m deep and 0.22m wide, whilst gully 505 was 0.17m wide and 0.18m deep. Both had steep, straight sides with concave bases. It seems likely they are contemporary with Gully 206. Both were naturally silted with a single fill during disuse (504 and 506 respectively).

#### 6. **DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 The evaluation identified features in two of the five trenches and modern disturbance in three of the five trenches. The archaeological features specifically comprised three north / south aligned, undated gullies and two undated postholes. Modern disturbance comprised four postholes in Trench 4, plastic piping in Trench 3 and a layer of demolition rubble extending across much of the west and south-west area of the site.
- 6.2 The three north / south aligned, undated gullies (206, 503 and 505) are likely to have served as drainage channels and probably are contemporary. The two undated postholes in Trench 2 (204 and 208) are similar in form and also likely contemporary. These may well relate to the modern postholes in Trench 4, part of a recent, fenced subdivision of the field.
- 6.3 Although there is no evident relationship between postholes 204 and 208 and gully 206 they are unlikely to be contemporary given their variant alignments. If postholes 204 and 208 are modern as those in Trench 4 are then gullies 206, 503 and 505 may relate to an earlier system of land drainage within the field.

# 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Bithell, assisted by Sam Burns. The report was written by Sam Bithell. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Mark Hewson.

#### 10. **REFERENCES**

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <u>http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology viewer\_google/googleviewer.html</u> Accessed 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- CgMs Heritage 2015 Land at Barkham Road, Phase 2, Wokingham, Berkshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
- CgMs Heritage 2017 Land at Barkham Road, Phase 2, Wokingham, Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.
- DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 National Planning Policy Framework

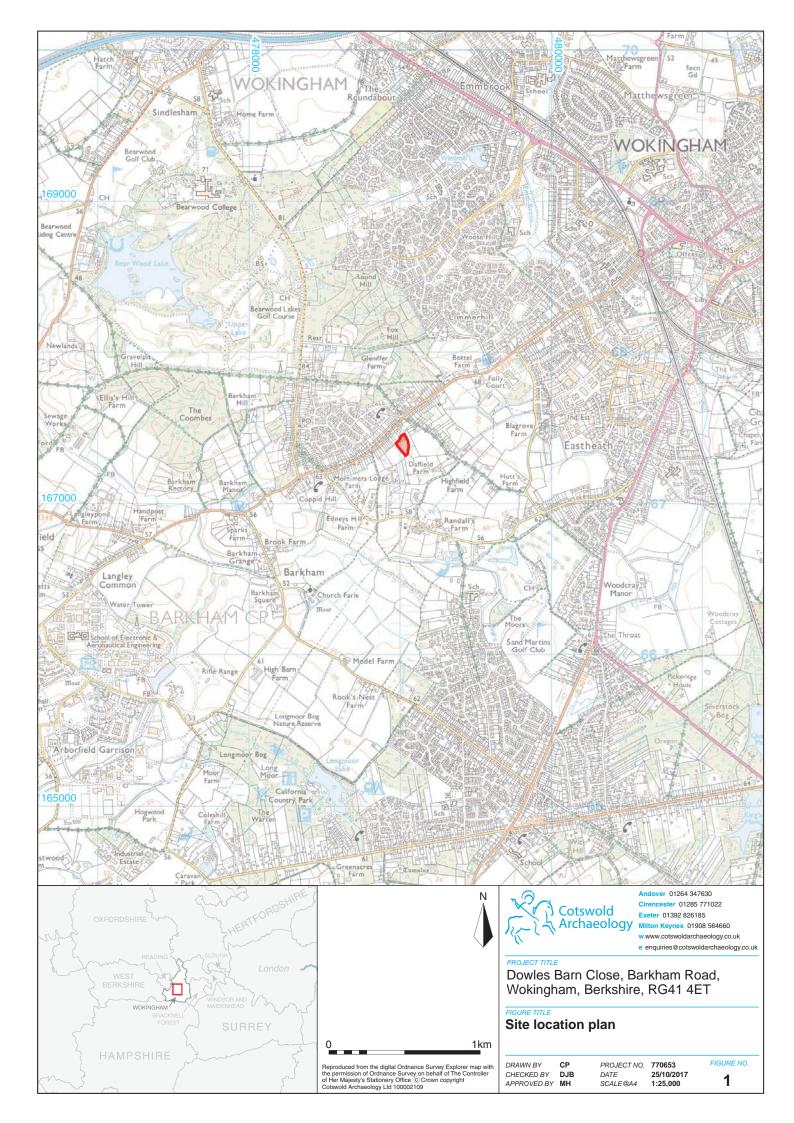
#### APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

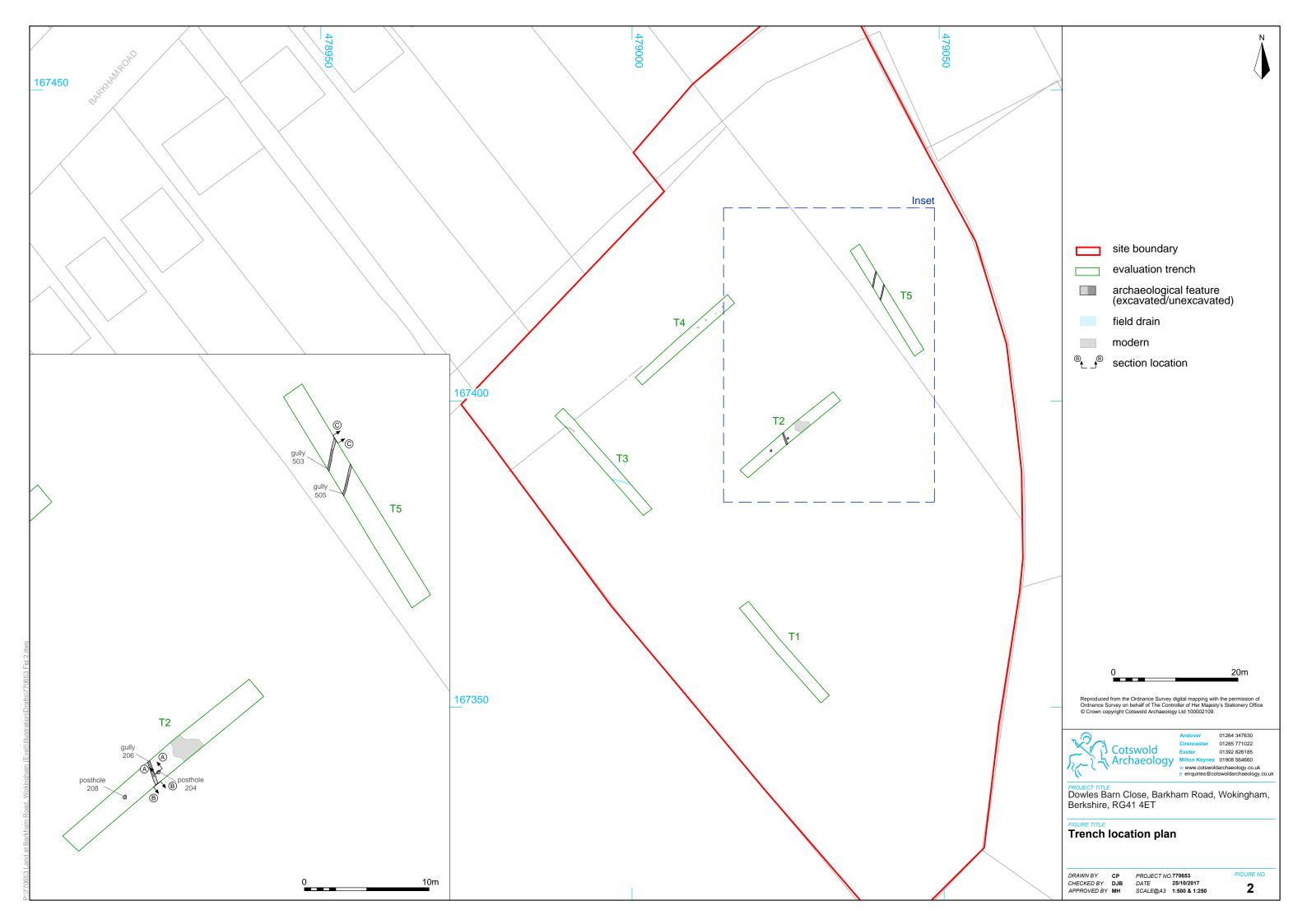
Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot- date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey sandy silt	20	1.8	0.32	
1	101	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow-brown clayey sand. Frequent, small, rounded flints	20	1.8	Unexcav.	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt	20	1.8	0.08	
2	201	Layer		Rubble	Modern demolition rubble	20	1.8	>0.18	
2	202	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy silt. Frequent, small, rounded flints	20	1.8	0.22	
2	203	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow-brown clayey sand. Frequent, small, rounded flints	20	1.8	Unexcav.	
2	204	Cut		Posthole	Circular, steep, convex sides, concave base	0.32	0.29	0.22	
2	205	Fill	204	Fill of 204	Mid grey-brown silty sand. Occasional small stones	0.32	.029	.022	
2	206	Cut		Gully	Shallow, concave sides, concave base	>2	0.24	0.05	
2	207	Fill	206	Fill of 206	Mid grey-brown sandy silt.	>2	0.24	0.05	
2	208	Cut		Posthole	Circular, steep, convex sides, concave base	0.31	0.30	0.21	
2	209	Fill	208	Fill of 208	Mid grey-brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones. One large, sub- angular flint.	0.31	0.30	0.21	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt.	20	1.8	0.08	
3	301	Layer		Rubble	Modern demolition rubble	20	1.8	0.16	
3	302	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy silt. Frequent, small, rounded flints.	20	1.8	0.26	
3	303	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow-brown clayey sand. Frequent, small, rounded flints	20	1.8	Unexcav.	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt. Frequent, small, rounded flints	20	1.8	0.22	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy silt. Frequent, small rounded flints	20	1.8	0.15	
4	402	Layer		Natural		20	1.8	Unexcav.	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sandy silt	20	1.8	0.25	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	20	1.8	0.15	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow-brown clayey sand. Frequent, small, rounded flints	20	1.8	Unexcav.	
5	503	Cut		Gully	Steep, straight sides, concave base	>2	0.22	0.20	
5	504	Fill	503	Fill of 503	Mid brown-yellow silty sand and occasional, small rounded stones	>2	0.22	0.20	
5	505	Cut		Gully	Steep, straight sides, concave base	>2	0.17	0.18	
5	506	Fill	505	Fill of 505	Mid brown-yellow silty sand	>2	0.17	0.18	

© Cotswold Archaeology

#### APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Name	Land at Dowles Barn Close, Barkham Road Phase 2			
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2017 at Dowles Barn Close, Barkham Road, Wokingham. Five 20m long by 1.8m wide trenches were excavated. Two undated gullies of which probably served as land drainage features, were excavated in Trench 5, while one undated gully and two undated postholes were excavated in Trench 2. Extensive modern disturbance in the form of demolition rubble was uncovered in Trenches 2, 3 and 4.			
Project dates	16/10/17-17/10/17			
Project type	Evaluation			
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment			
Future work	None			
PROJECT LOCATION				
Site Location	Dowles Barn Close, Barkham Road, Wo 4ET	Dowles Barn Close, Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 4FT		
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)				
Site co-ordinates	SU 7901 6740	SU 7901 6740		
PROJECT CREATORS				
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology			
Project Brief originator	Berkshire Archaeology			
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Heritage			
Project Manager	Mark Hewson			
Project Supervisor	Sam Bithell			
MONUMENT TYPE	None			
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None			
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) To be held at CA office in Milton Keynes until a museum can act as recipient. until such time as a suitable repository is available.	Content (e.g. pottery animal bone etc)		
Physical		None		
Paper		Context sheets, trench forms, photo registers		
Digital		digital photos, survey data		
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 L Evaluation. CA typescript report	and at Dowles Barn Close, Barkham Road	Phase 2: Archaeologica		





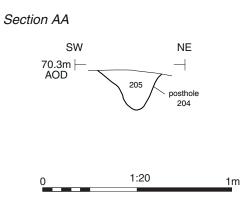


Trench 2, post-excavation, looking south-west (scales 1m)



Demolition rubble layer 201, looking south-east (scales 1m)

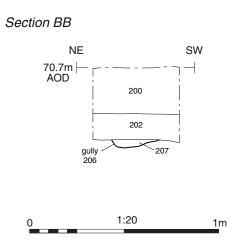
Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 826185 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
PROJECT TITLE Dowles Barn Close, Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 4ET
FIGURE TITLE Trench 2: photographs
DRAWN BY CP PROJECT NO. 770653 FIGURE NO. CHECKED BY DJB DATE 24/10/2017 APPROVED BY MH SCALE@A4 N/A 3





South-east facing section of posthole 204 (scale 0.5m)

Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 826185 Milton Keynes 01390 564660 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 4ET
FIGURE TITLE Trench 2 archaeology: section and photograph DRAWN BY CP PROJECT NO. 770653 FIGURE NO. CHECKED BY DJB DATE 24/10/2017





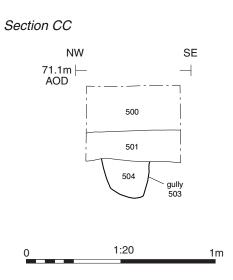
North-west facing section of gully 206 (scale 0.5m)

Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 826185 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
PROJECT TITLE Dowles Barn Close, Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 4ET
FIGURE TITLE Trench 2 archaeology: section and photograph
DRAWN BY CP PROJECT NO. 770653 FIGURE NO.   CHECKED BY DJB DATE 24/10/2017 5   APPROVED BY MH SCALE@A4 1:20 5



Trench 5, post-excavation, looking north-west (scales 1m)

	R.C.	Cots Arch	wold aeology	Andover 01264 3 Cirencester 0128 Exeter 01392 826 Milton Keynes 01 w www.cotswoldarr e enquiries@cotsw	5 771022 185 1908 564660
	PROJECT TITLE		Close B	arkham R	oad
				e, RG41 4	
	FIGURE TITLE Trench	5: ph	otograp	า	
	DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY	CP DJB MH	PROJECT NO DATE SCALE @A4	770653 24/10/2017 N/A	FIGURE NO.





South-west facing section of gully 503 (scale 0.5m)

Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 826185 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
PROJECT TITLE
Dowles Barn Close, Barkham Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 4ET
FIGURE TITLE Trench 5 archaeology: section and photograph
DRAWN BY CP PROJECT NO. 770653 FIGURE NO. CHECKED BY DJB DATE 24/10/2017 APPROVED BY MH SCALE @A4 1:20 7



# **Andover Office**

Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

#### **Cirencester Office**

Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

#### **Exeter Office**

Unit 53 Basepoint Business Centre Yeoford Way Marsh Barton Trading Estate Exeter EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

# Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South Kiln Farm Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660

