Cotswold Archaeology

The Old Kennels
Cirencester Park
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

for
LPC (Trull) Ltd

on behalf of
The Bathurst Estate

CA Project: 6728
CA Report: 18504

October 2018

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY 2

1. INTRODUCTION 3

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND 3

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 4

4. METHODOLOGY 4

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2–5) 5

6. THE FINDS 8

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE 9

8. DISCUSSION 11

9. CA PROJECT TEAM 14

10. REFERENCES 14

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS 16

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS 18

APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE 19

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM 20

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:500)

Fig. 3 Trench 1: photographs

Fig. 4 Trench 3: sections (1:20) and photographs

Fig. 5 Trench 5: sections (1:20) and photographs

SUMMARY

Project Name:	The Old Kennels
Location:	Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire
NGR:	401380 201440
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	2–4 October 2018
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code:	TOK 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2018 at The Old Kennels, Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire. Six trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified at least two, and most probably three, Roman graves as well as four ditches, four pits and a wall, concentrated in the central and southern areas of the site. While some features can be assigned to the Roman period, the majority of features remained undated.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for LPC (Trull) Ltd, on behalf of The Bathurst Estate, at The Old Kennels, Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 401380 201440; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany any future planning applications which may be made to Cotswold District Council (CDC) for development at the site. The scope of the archaeological works was recommended by Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to CDC.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014).

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.8ha in extent and comprises a pasture field divided by temporary fencing. The site is bounded to the south-east by the A429 Tetbury to Cirencester road, to the north-east by further agricultural land, and to the west and east by access trackways beyond which are the grounds of Cirencester College and The Old Kennels respectively. The site lies at approximately 131m AOD, rising slightly towards the north.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Forest Marble Formation – Mudstone of the Jurassic Period within no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2018). In Trench 4, at the northern extent of the site, the natural substrate comprised limestone brash whilst in the remainder of the trenches it was formed of weathered grey-white limestone with occasional patches of clays and degraded limestone.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Although no known designated archaeological remains are located within the proposed development area the site is located in an area of archaeological potential. In particular it lies adjacent to the projected alignment of a Roman road, the Fosse Way, on its final approach to the Roman town at Cirencester. The line of the Roman

road is believed to be preserved by the course of modern A429 Tetbury Road. The road margins close to the Roman town were utilised as cemeteries during the Roman period, with the closest evidence for burials previously identified 300m to the north-east of the current site within the grounds of Cirencester Hospital.

2.2 Cartographic evidence indicates that the current site formed part of Cirencester Park, and in particular part of the associated rifle range, until the compilation of the 1902 Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping when a series of enclosed fields to the west of The Old Kennels had been created. The site has remained unchanged, excepting further sub-division by temporary fencing, since the early 20th century.

2.3 An archaeological evaluation, following a geophysical survey, undertaken 200m south-west of the current site identified evidence for Roman quarrying adjacent to the Fosse Way as well as a possible roadside ditch (CAT 2001). It also revealed evidence for a series of ditches of possible prehistoric origin (ibid.). Evaluation at the former football ground 125m to the south of the current site did not identify any archaeological features (CAT 1999).

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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable CDC 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 *Revised National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of six trenches (Trenches 1 and 3–6 were 30m long and Trench 2 was 15m long; all were 2m wide). 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 natural substrate. 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*. Two environmental samples were taken: from fills 104 and 106 of pits 103 and 105 respectively. 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 Corinium Museum, 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 2–5)

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

5.2 The natural geological substrate was typically encountered at a depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). It is probable that all of the identified archaeological features were sealed by the overlying subsoil although some features, especially ditch 507, contained fills that were very similar in composition to the subsoil and consequently the stratigraphic relationship could not be fully determined. Stone-lined drains were recorded cutting the subsoil in Trenches 1 and 3 (see Fig. 2). The subsoil was sealed by up to 0.25m of topsoil.

5.3 No archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trenches 2, 4 and 6, although a sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from subsoil 601 within Trench 6 during machine excavation.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.4 Pit 103 was located at the eastern end of the trench. It was broadly square in plan, measuring 0.55m long, 0.45m wide and 0.1m deep, with shallow, gently sloping sides and a flat, if uneven, base. The bases of five *in situ* pottery vessels (Registered Artefacts (RA) 1–5), all dateable to the 1st to early 2nd century AD, were identified placed on the base of the pit, the upper parts of the vessels having subsequently been truncated (see Fig. 3 photograph). The largest of the recovered vessels, RA1, was located centrally within the pit with the other four vessels surrounding it on its northern, western and southern sides. The eastern side of the pit did not contain any vessels. A remnant fill, 104, comprising yellow-brown silty clay comparable to the subsoil, was observed in the gaps between the vessels and overlying the vessel bases. No charred plant remains, nor evidence of human remains, were recorded from sample <1> recovered from fill 104.

5.5 Pit 105 was located 2m to the north-west of pit 103 and partially extended beyond the limit of the trench. It was sub-rectangular in plan, at least 0.75m long, 0.55m wide and 0.15m deep with steep sides and a flat base. An *in situ* single-handled Roman flagon dating to the 1st to early 2nd century AD was located against the south-eastern edge of the pit. The pit was backfilled with silty clay 106, which contained further sherds of Roman pottery and small pieces of animal bone. Two concentrations of iron nails were noted within the south-western and north-eastern corners of the pit. In addition, a near complete 1st to early 2nd-century pottery bowl, RA8, was located against the trench side near the north-eastern end of the pit. The bowl had been positioned on top of a thin backfill deposit 106, indicating that the pit was already partially backfilled before the vessel was placed in it (see Fig. 3 photographs). Small quantities of human remains, predominantly deciduous teeth from a neonate, were recovered during the processing of an environmental sample, <2>, taken from fill 106 (see section 7.1 and 7.2 below for details), suggesting the pit had previously contained an inhumation.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 4)

5.6 Ditch 313 (Fig 4, section AA) was located 6m from the south-eastern extent of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment. It was 0.77m wide, 0.38m deep with steep sides and flat base. It contained silty clay fill 314 from which a single sherd of 1st to 2nd-century Roman pottery was recovered.

5.7 Grave cut 305 was identified close to the south-eastern end of the trench. It was orientated north-west/south-east and measured 0.75m long, 0.45m wide and at least 0.17m deep. It was backfilled with artefactually sterile redeposited natural limestone and clay, 307, which was comparable to the surrounding natural substrate. Excavation of the grave confirmed the inhumated remains of infant skeleton 306, at which point excavation ceased and the grave was preserved *in situ*. The burial was in an extended supine position with its head at the south-eastern end of the grave cut. The grave was truncated to the south-east by pit 303 that had partially removed the skull and the upper right torso of the inhumation.

5.8 Pit 303 was one of four pits (including 308, 315, 317) identified in the south-eastern half of the trench. All contained similar undated orange-brown silty clay fills and none had any clear indication of their function. Pit 303 was ovoid in plan, 0.84m long and 0.35m wide, with very irregular sides and base and was most likely a tree-throw pit. Pit 308 was partially exposed against the south-western trench side and was at least 2.6m long, 0.59m wide and 0.25m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base. A fragment of modern glass was recovered from the surface of its fill, 304, although this may have been intrusive. The pit was cut by foundation trench 310 for wall 311 (see section 5.9 below). Pit 315 was circular in plan, 0.65m in diameter and 0.08m deep with steep sides and flat base. Pit 317 was oval in shape, 0.7m long, 0.52m wide and 0.17m deep with a moderately steep side on the north-east and a steep side on the south-west.

5.9 Construction cut 310 for wall 311 (Fig. 4, section BB) was located 1.2m south-east of, and parallel to, ditch 313. The wall was trench-built and comprised large roughly dressed limestone blocks bonded with brown clay. No dating evidence was recovered from the wall.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 5)

5.10 North-east/south-west-aligned ditch 503 and north-west/south-east-aligned ditch 505 appeared to form two sides of a rectilinear enclosure. The ditches were 0.36m and 0.41m wide respectively, less than 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides and concave bases (Fig. 5, photograph). The ditches contained similar orange-brown silty clay fills that remained undated.

5.11 East/west-aligned ditch 507 (Fig. 5, section CC and photograph) was 1.15m wide, 0.28m deep with a steep southern side and a gently sloping northern side. Its fill,

508, was lighter in colour than that revealed in the other ditches in the trench. No finds were recovered from this ditch.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was recorded from five deposits; with the vast majority being recovered from the fills of two pit-like features (103 and 105) now interpreted as burials. Quantities of recovered material are set out in Appendix B, Table 1. Fabric codes used for recording are defined in Appendix B, Table 2, and a concordance is provided to the Cirencester pottery type series (Rigby 1982, Ireland 1997) and where applicable to codes of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery

6.2 Pottery of Roman date accounts for the bulk of the artefactual material recovered. A total of 540 sherds (2029g) was recovered, which includes 125 sherds (32g) retrieved following processing of bulk soil samples. Almost all was recovered from features 103 and 105 which are interpreted as burials. Although representing only a small number of vessels, the pottery is highly fragmented. Surface preservation is poor, almost certainly the result of the burial environment. This has resulted in the almost total loss of the white surface slip on vessels RAs 3-4 and RA 6/7.

6.3 Pottery from pit 103 represents sherds from five vessels corresponding to RAs 1-5. The base portions of the vessels were identified *in situ* and upright on the bottom of this feature. Further pottery sherds recovered from associated fill 104 could be related to the individual vessels. Two vessels (RAs 3 and 4) are identifiable as small, single-handled flagons, both in the same white slipped fabric (LOC WS). The more complete vessel, RA 3, is ring-necked type and as such dateable late 1st to earlier 2nd centuries range. Smaller and very fragmentary vessels in reduced fabric BSf (RA 2) and oxidised type LOC OX (RA 5) might be small bowls or beakers. The central vessel of the group, RA 1, in a sandy grog-tempered fabric (GRqz), is also the largest and almost certainly a jar. Although human remains were not recovered from pit 103 it almost certainly represents a truncated burial deposit.

6.4 Pit 105, from which neonate teeth and other infant remains were recovered, was less severely truncated and the two pottery vessels recovered are substantially

complete (though heavily fragmented) and seemingly *in situ*. One vessel, a single-handled flagon, was initially thought to represent portions of two vessels (RAs 6 and 7). It also occurs in fabric LOC WS and is of ring-necked form, again suggesting dating in the late 1st to earlier 2nd century range. Vessel RA 8 occurred in reduced fabric LOC BS and is identifiable as a shouldered bowl and likely to be of similar date to that suggested for RA 6/7. Abraded sherds of Savernake (SAV GT) and another grog-tempered fabric (GR) were also recorded from the fill of this feature and may be accidental inclusions, though of consistent dating with the other recorded material.

6.5 Roman-dated pottery other than that recorded from pits 103 and 105 is limited to a body sherd in a reduced grogged sandy fabric (GRqz) from the fill of ditch 313 (deposit 314). It probably dates to the earlier Roman period, *c*. mid 1st to 2nd century. In addition, a single abraded medieval body sherd in Minety ware (MINE) was recorded from subsoil deposit 601 within Trench 6.

Other finds

6.6 Artefactual material other than the pottery vessels from features 103 and 105 is limited to iron nails and a small fragment of mineralised wood from pit 105. Most of the nails (totalling 15, including fragments), and the mineralised wood fragment are from the general fill of pit 105. The nails are flat-headed forms and small, with shaft lengths measuring 40-56mm. They most likely indicate the presence of a coffin or box/casket containing or accompanying the burial deposit.

6.7 A single base fragment from a green-coloured glass wine/spirits bottle of post-medieval type was recorded from pit 303 (fill 304). Dating in the mid 17th to earlier 19th century range is suggested.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Human Remains

7.1 Small quantities of neonate remains were recovered during the processing of sample <2> from fill 106 within burial pit 105. The human skeletal remains comprised:

- ?left petrous portion incomplete (inner ear part)

- Left and right maxillary first incisors (stage - crown complete)
- Maxillary right second incisor (stage - crown complete)
- Maxillary Canine (stage - crown coalescence)
- Maxillary first deciduous molar (stage - crown coalescence)
- Maxillary second deciduous molar (stage - crown coalescence)
- Mandibular left first incisor (stage - crown complete)

7.2 All of the teeth were un-erupted at death and would have been contained within the alveolar of the mandible and maxilla. An age estimate for the time of death ranges from 0-4 months (Moorees, Fanning and Hunt 1968) with 0-1 month being most probable. There was no indication of the recovered material being heat-affected, consequently it is assumed to represent an inhumation burial of which the majority has not survived the burial environment.

Animal Bone

7.3 Animal bone amounting to four fragments (73.8g) was recovered via hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from fills 106 and 314, the fills of burial 105 and ditch 313 respectively. Artefactual material dating to the Roman period was also recovered within these features (see Appendix C, Table 3). The material was fragmentary but was well enough preserved to make possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*).

7.4 Three fragments (36.8g) were recovered from the fill of burial feature 105, a small piece of cattle pelvis, a partial sheep/goat tibia shaft and a minute fragment of burnt bone which was unidentifiable to element and species. The deliberate deposition of animal bone with human remains was very common in this period. The most frequent take the form of complete or near complete major meat-bearing bones thought to represent a food offering, i.e. a joint of meat placed in the grave. The fragments recovered from deposit 106 display no signs of butchery and are too small to be considered in this manner. It is much more likely that they were mixed with the other material used to backfill the grave and their presence is purely accidental.

7.5 One further fragment (37g) was recovered; a partial cattle tibia shaft from fill 314 within ditch 313.

Plant Macrofossils

7.6 A series of two environmental samples (31 litres of soil) were processed from pits 103 and 105, both of Roman date, to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of funerary, domestic or industrial activity on the site. A particular question was whether there was any environmental evidence that these pits were associated with funerary activities, as eight pottery vessels were recovered from these features. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2). The assessment results are noted in Table 4 in Appendix C.

7.7 The flots were small with *c.* 60% rooty material and modern seeds. Only a few charcoal fragments, including round/twig wood fragments greater than 2mm, were recovered, with the charred material being poorly preserved. No charred plant remains were recorded in these samples. A few mollusc shells were noted and these included those of the open country species *Vallonia* sp. and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*. These assemblages are likely to be representative of dispersed material and, notwithstanding the recovery of the neonate remains from pit 105, do not provide any direct indication of any funerary, domestic or industrial activities taking place in the immediate vicinity.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation identified two inhumation burials, as well as one further suspected burial, four ditches, four pits and a wall, all concentrated in the central and southern areas of the site. While some features can be reasonably assigned to the Roman period, the majority of features remained undated.

8.2 Although heavily truncated the two presumed burial pits, 103 and 105, identified in Trench 1 are of significance. They, coupled with inhumation burial 305 within Trench 3, provide evidence for Roman burials in close proximity to the presumed alignment of the Roman Fosse Way. The main focus of Roman Cirencester's western cemetery is located approximately 650m to the north-east of the current site, immediately outwith the Roman town, although Roman burials associated with the cemetery are also known from archaeological works along Old Tetbury Road and within the grounds of the modern hospital, 350m north-east of the site (Holbrook *et al.* 2017). It currently remains undetermined whether the burials identified during the

current works form part of a continuous cemetery along the roadside approach to the town's Bath Gate or whether the burials within Trenches 1 and 3 represent a discrete and separate cluster distinct from the main cemetery.

8.3 The human remains recovered from pit 105 indicate the burial of a neonate, whilst those observed in grave 305 appear to be that of an infant. It is presumed that pit 103 is also likely to have previously contained a neonate burial despite the absence of recovered human remains. It is noteworthy that only two neonates were recovered during excavations within Cirencester's western Roman cemetery excavation (Holbrook *et al.* 2017), and in general infant and neonate burials are seemingly under-represented in Roman cemeteries and are more frequently identified in and around buildings and domestic areas (Philpott 1991). Occasionally areas in urban cemeteries appear to have a cluster of infant burials, and such activity has previously been identified at Bath Gate, Cirencester (*ibid*).

8.4 A notable feature of burial pits 103 and 105 is the inclusion of multiple pottery vessels, with pit 103 probably being furnished with at least five separate vessels. Although relatively common from sites in eastern Britain, this burial practice is rare in western Britain, with the majority of burials from Cirencester's western cemetery being typically accompanied by only one, or rarely two, vessels (Holbrook *et al.* 2017, 129-30). Inclusion of flagons is also unusual among the known Cirencester burials, with inhumation B1160 at the western cemetery being a notable exception (*ibid*, 21). Closer comparisons can be made with burials (both cremation and inhumation) recorded from Gloucester's London Road cemetery (Simmonds *et al*. 2008) where there were a number of examples containing two or three pottery vessels, including ring-neck flagon forms. Incorporation of multiple vessels (including flagons) may be tradition at least partly related to chronology, the collared and ring-necked (flagon) forms being an indication that the practice may date to no later than *c*. AD 130/150.

8.5 The lack of depth to pits 103 and 105 indicates a high degree of truncation to the upper parts of the pits, resulting in the removal of the upper parts of the pottery vessels in pit 103. Such truncation is usually ascribed to deep ploughing, however the site is known to have formed part of Cirencester Park through much of the post-medieval and modern period and as such is not likely to have been intensively ploughed. It is possible that tree rooting from the wooded parkland caused the

truncation, or alternatively that the area was landscaped either as part of the park landscape, or during the 20th century when the site was no longer part of the park.

8.6 Ditch 313 was the only other feature that contained secure dating evidence; a single sherd of pottery dating to the Roman period, the fabric of which was similar to that of a ceramic vessel, RA 1, recovered from burial pit 103. The ditch was aligned parallel to the projected course of the Fosse Way, which may further support a Roman date. However, if Tetbury Road was constructed along the former line of the Fosse Way then it is reasonable to suppose that there has been a road on that alignment for much of the last two millennia and consequently any identified features respecting that orientation are not necessarily of Roman date. The ditch was not present in Trenches 1 or 6, suggesting that it may represent a small enclosure. The possibility that this ditch, and also possibly similarly aligned undated limestone wall 311, is associated with, and perhaps enclose, inhumation 305 cannot be ignored.

8.7 Pits 303, 308, 315 and 317 were located close together at the south-eastern end of Trench 3 and shared similar fills, suggesting that they might have been contemporary with each other. Pits 303, 308 and 317 were irregularly shaped and had uneven sides and bases and were initially thought to be tree-throw pits; maps from the early 20th century show the site as being part of Cirencester Park and covered by trees. However, pit 315 was circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base and appeared to have been of deliberate construct raising the possibility that all of these features were actually pits. The rectilinear enclosure formed by shallow ditches 503 and 505 had comparable fills to the pits in Trench 3 and may be of a similar date, possibly forming a small enclosure within the former park.

8.8 If the darker-filled features are of a later post-medieval or modern date, then wall 311, which cut pit 308, would similarly date to within the last hundred years. However, the wall does not appear on any historic mapping and the possibility of it being earlier (see section 8.6 above) cannot be dismissed.

8.9 Ditch 507 was the only ditch identified during the current evaluation that was not orientated on the same axis as the former Fosse Way and modern Tetbury Road. It was aligned broadly east/west and therefore comparable with similarly undated ditches identified to the south of the current site during evaluation trenching at the (then) Royal Agricultural College (CAT 2001, Trenches 8, 10, 11 and 24).

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard and Jack Harrison. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The finds report was written by Ed McCloy and Jacky Sommervile, the human and animal bone reports by Sharon Clough and Andy Clarke respectively, and the report on the plant macrofossils by Sarah Wyles. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Tr	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
1	100	layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silt clay. Occasional small, rounded stones	30	2	0.21	
1	101	layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silt clay. Occasional charcoal and small, rounded stones	30	2	0.29	
1	102	layer		Natural	Light greyish white limestone with occasional yellow grey silt patches				
1	103	Cut		Pit	Sub-square in plan. Shallow, gently sloping sides and flattish, uneven base	0.55	0.45	0.1	
1	104	Fill	103	Pit fill	Mid yellowish brown silty clay. Occasional small stones	0.55	0.45	0.1	LC1-eC2
1	105	Cut		Pit	NE/SW aligned. Sub rectangular in plan. Steep, shallow sides and flat base	0.75	0.55	0.15	
1	106	Fill	105	Pit fill	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>0.75	0.55	0.15	LC1-eC2
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	15	2	0.21	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	15	2	0.3	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Same as 102	15	2		
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	30	2	0.2	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	30	2	0.26	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Same as 102	30	2		
3	303	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Irregular sides and base	0.84	0.35	0.17	
3	304	Fill	303	Pit fill	Dark orange brown silty clay. Occasional small stones	0.84	0.35	0.17	C17-C18
3	305	Cut		Grave	NW/SE aligned. Sub rectangular in plan. Unexcavated	>0.75	0.45	>0.1	
3	306	Skeleton	305	Skeleton	Infant inhumation with skull at SE end of grave cut. Truncated by 303	>0.75	0.35		
3	307	Fill	305	Grave fill	Light greyish yellow silty clay. Occasional small stone inclusions	>0.75	0.45	>0.1	
3	308	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Moderately steep sides and a concave base.	0.59	0.25	0.25	
3	309	Fill	308	Pit fill	Dark orange brown silty clay. Occasional small stones and charcoal	0.59	0.25	0.25	
3	310	Cut		Construction cut	NE/SW aligned. Linear in plan. Vertical sides and flat base	>2	0.52	0.43	
3	311	Masonry	310	Wall	NE/SW aligned. Large limestone blocks bonded with brown clay	>2	0.5	0.45	
3	312	Fill	310	Construction cut fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>2	0.52	0.43	
3	313	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Linear in plan. Steep sides and flat base	>2	0.77	0.38	
3	314	Fill	313	Ditch fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Common small stones and occasional charcoal	>2	0.77	0.38	C1-C2

3	315	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan with moderately steep sides and flat base	0.65	0.32	0.08	
3	316	Fill	315	Pit fill	Dark orange brown silty clay with a friable compaction. Containing rare flecks of charcoal and moderate amount of small stones.	0.65	0.32	0.08	
3	317	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan with moderately steep sides, stepped on the SW side, and concave base	0.7	0.52	0.17	
3	318	Fill	317	Pit fill	Dark orange brown silty clay. Occasional small stones and charcoal	0.7	0.52	0.17	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	30	2	0.22	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	30	2	0.1	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Limestone brash	30	2		
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	30	2	0.2	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	30	2	0.25	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Same as 102	30	2		
5	503	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Linear in plan. Gently sloping sides and concave base	>2.4	0.36	0.09	
5	504	Fill	503	Ditch fill	Dark orange brown silty clay. Common stone and charcoal	>2.4	0.36	0.09	
5	505	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Linear in plan. Gently sloping sides and concave base	>3.4	0.41	0.08	
5	506	Fill	505	Ditch fill	Dark orange brown silty clay. Occasional small stones and charcoal	>3.4	0.41	0.08	
5	507	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Linear in plan. Steep side on S and gently sloping on N. Concave base	>2	1.15	0.28	
5	508	Fill	507	Ditch fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Occasional small stones and charcoal	>2	1.15	0.28	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100	30	2	0.21	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101	30	2	0.29	C12-C15
6	602	Layer		Natural	Same as 102	30	2		

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
104	Roman Pottery	Ra. 1 (base only)	GRqz	11	510	LC1-eC2
	Roman Pottery	Ra. 2 (base only)	BSf	59	236	
	Roman Pottery	Ra. 3 (flagon)	LOC WS	60	180	
	Roman Pottery	Ra. 4 (base only)	LOC WS	30	102	
	Roman Pottery	Ra. 5 (base only)	LOC OX	60	70	
	Iron	nails		2	4	
104 <1>	Roman Pottery	Sherds	(mixed)	84	17	
106	Roman Pottery	Ra. 6/7 (flagon)	LOC WS	128	647	LC1-eC2
	Roman Pottery	Ra. 8 (bowl)	LOC BS	61	210	
	Roman Pottery	sherds	SAV GT	3	29	
	Roman Pottery	sherd	GT	1	1	
	Iron	nails		15	29	
	mineralised wood	fragment		1	1	
106 <2>	Roman Pottery	Sherds	(mixed)	41	15	
	Human remains			8	1.7	
	Burnt bone			1	0.8	
304	Pied glass	wine/spirits bottle base		1	14	C17-C18
314	Roman Pottery	sherd	GRqz	1	7	C1-C2
601	medieval pottery	sherd	MINE	1	5	C12-C15

Table 2: Pottery fabrics codes definition and quantification (hand-recovered only)

Period	Fabric*	Description	Ciren. TF†	Ct.	Wt.(g)
Roman	GRqz	Reduced-firing coarse sandy with grog (local?)	-	12	517
	BSf	Black-firing fine sandy with red margins (local?)	-	59	236
	LOC BS	Black-firing sandy (local/North Wilts)	5	61	210
	LOC WS	Local/north Wilts fine oxidised and white slip	95	218	929
	SAV GT	Savernake ware (local/north Wilts)	6	3	29
	GT	Grog-tempered (local)	3/24	1	1
	LOC OX	Fine oxidised (local/North Wilts)	9/98	60	70
Medieval	MINE	Minety ware		1	5
Total				**415**	**1997**

* Fabric in bold corresponds to NRFRC codes (Tomber and Dore 1998)

APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Table 3: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	BB SS	Total	Weight (g)
105	106	1	1	1	3	36.8
313	314	1			1	37
Total		**2**	**1**	**1**	**4**	
Weight		**66**	**7**	**0.8**	**73.8**	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; BBSS = unidentifiable burnt fragments from bulk soil samples

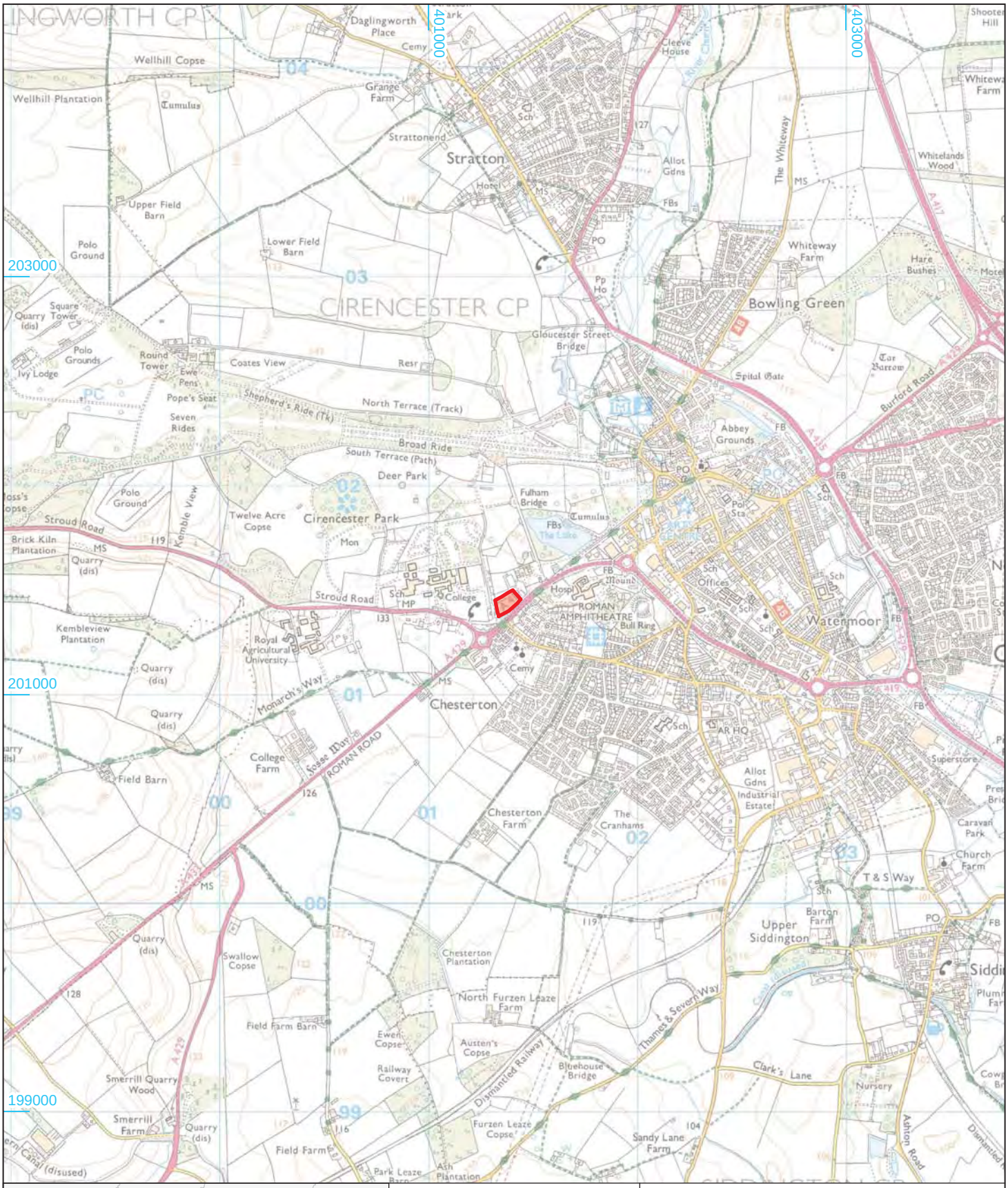
Table 4 Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 1 - Roman pits										
103	104	1	4	10	60	-	-	-	*/*	Moll-t (*)
105	106	2	27	20	60	-	-	-	*/**	Moll-t (**)

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

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	The Old Kennels	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2018 at The Old Kennels, Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire. Six trenches were excavated. The evaluation identified four ditches, six pits, a grave and a wall, concentrated in the central and southern areas of the site. While some features can be reasonably assigned to the Roman period, the majority of features remained undated. The evaluation identified a grave containing an infant burial. The location of the grave adjacent to the projected course of the Fosse Way suggests a Roman date and a possible western expansion of known funerary activity of this period flanking the road. Two nearby pits contained eight in situ Roman vessels between them, however there was no evidence of cremated or articulated human remains associated with either pit. A ditch aligned parallel to the Roman road and containing a sherd of Roman pottery was also identified. A group of four pits at the south of the site and a rectilinear enclosure in the centre of the site had distinctive dark fills and may have been contemporary, although no finds were recovered from any of these features. One of the pits was cut by the construction of a stone wall, which although parallel with the Roman ditch and the Fosse Way, was likely to have been later in date.	
Project dates	2–4 October 2018	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire	
Study area	0.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	401380 201440 SP 01380 01440	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	Ceramics, animal bone, metal objects
Paper	Corinium Museum	Trench sheets, context sheets, site drawings
Digital	Corinium Museum	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 *The Old Kennels, Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report **18504**		



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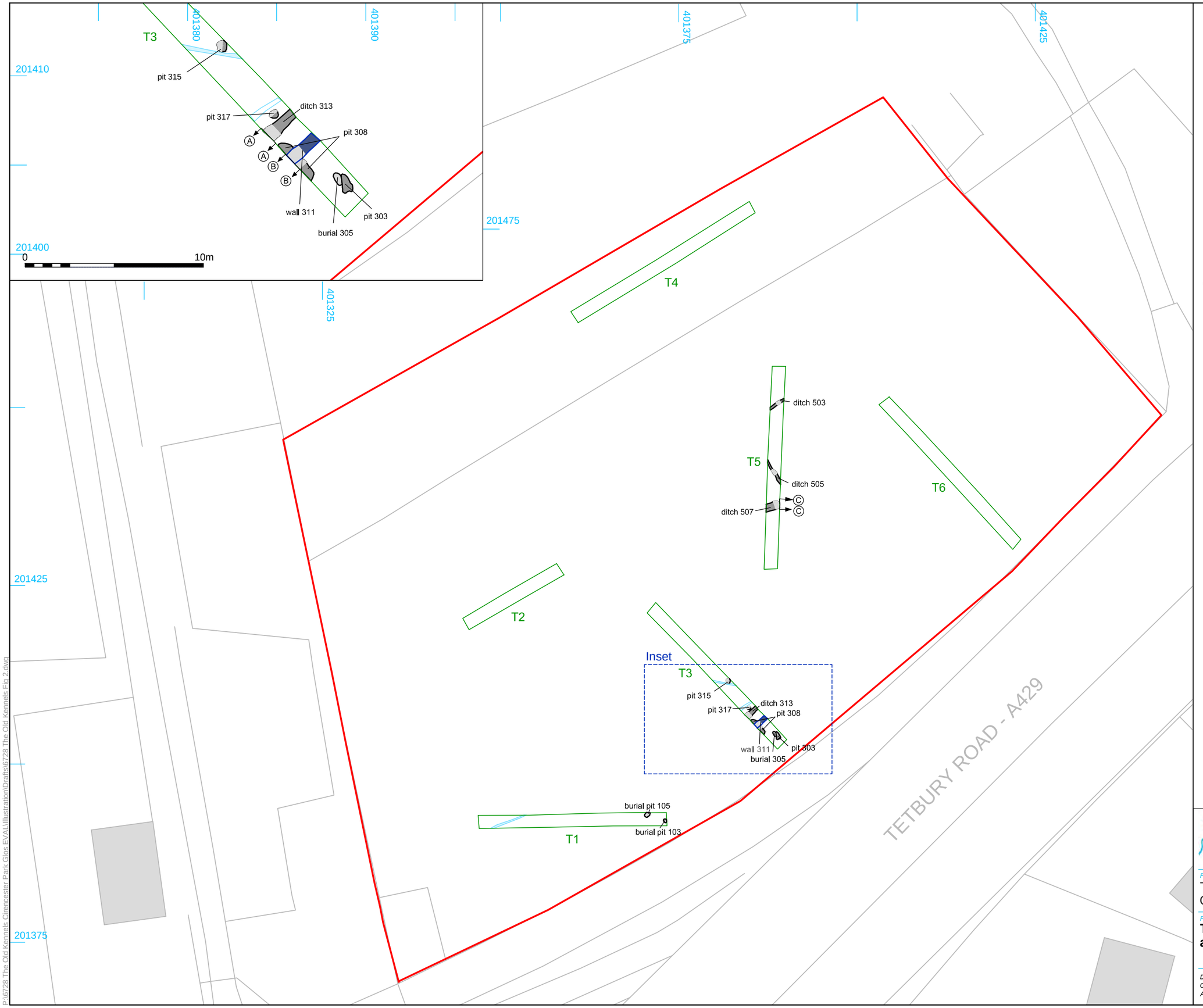
PROJECT TITLE

The Old Kennels, Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	**TB**	*PROJECT NO.*	**6728**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**10.10.18**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**CMB**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	



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PROJECT TITLE
The Old Kennels, Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	6728	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10.10.18	2
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A3	1:500 & 1:200	

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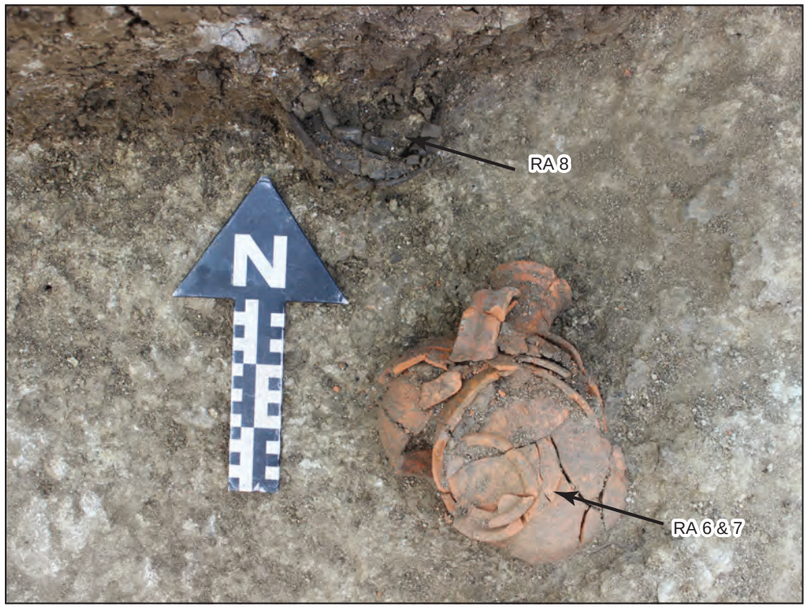
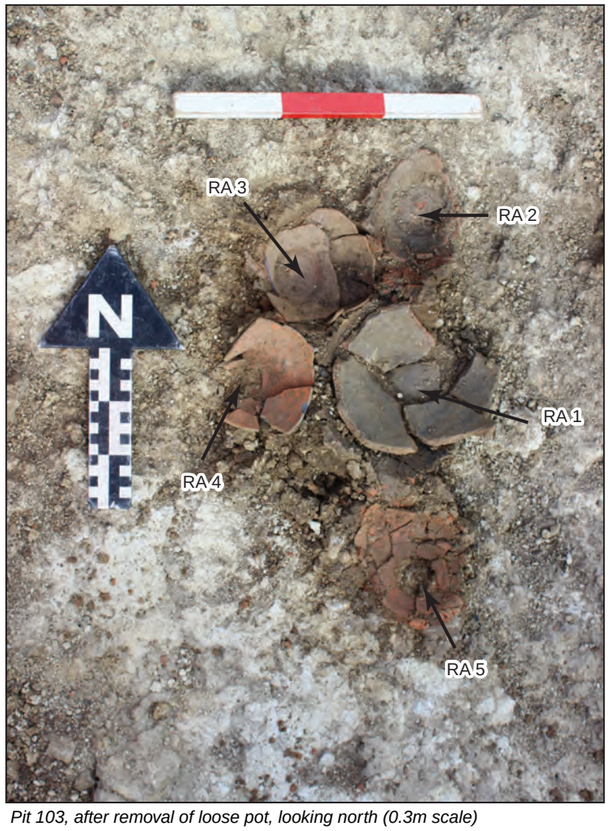


Pit 105, RAs 6, 7 & 8, looking north



Pit 103, after removal of loose pot, looking north (0.3m scale)

Pit 105, showing RAs 6, 7 & 8, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

The Old Kennels, Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

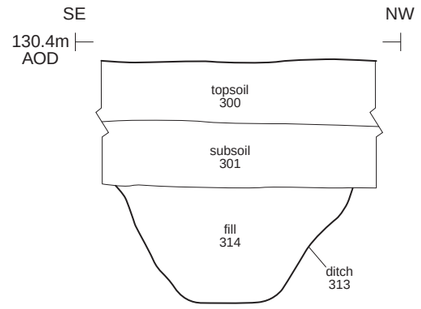
Trench 1: Photographs

DRAWN BY	**TB**	*PROJECT NO.*	**6728**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**10.10.18**	**3**
APPROVED BY	**CMB**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

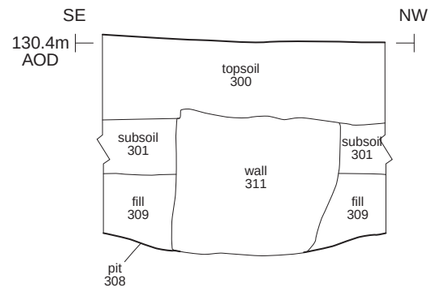
Grave 305 and pit 303, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

Ditch 313, looking south-west (1m scale)

Section AA



Section BB



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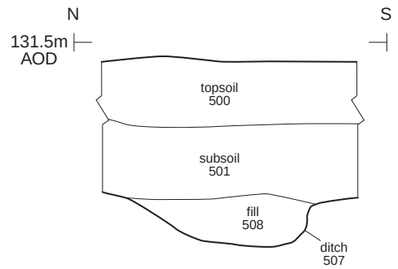
PROJECT TITLE
The Old Kennels, Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3: Sections & photographs

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	6728	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	22.10.18	4
APPROVED BY	CMB	SCALE@A3	1:20	

General view of site, looking south-west

Section CC



Ditch 505, looking south-east (0.3m scale)

Ditch 507, looking west (0.5m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 5: Section & photographs

DRAWN BY	**TB**	*PROJECT NO.*	**6728**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**10.10.18**	**5**
APPROVED BY	**CMB**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

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