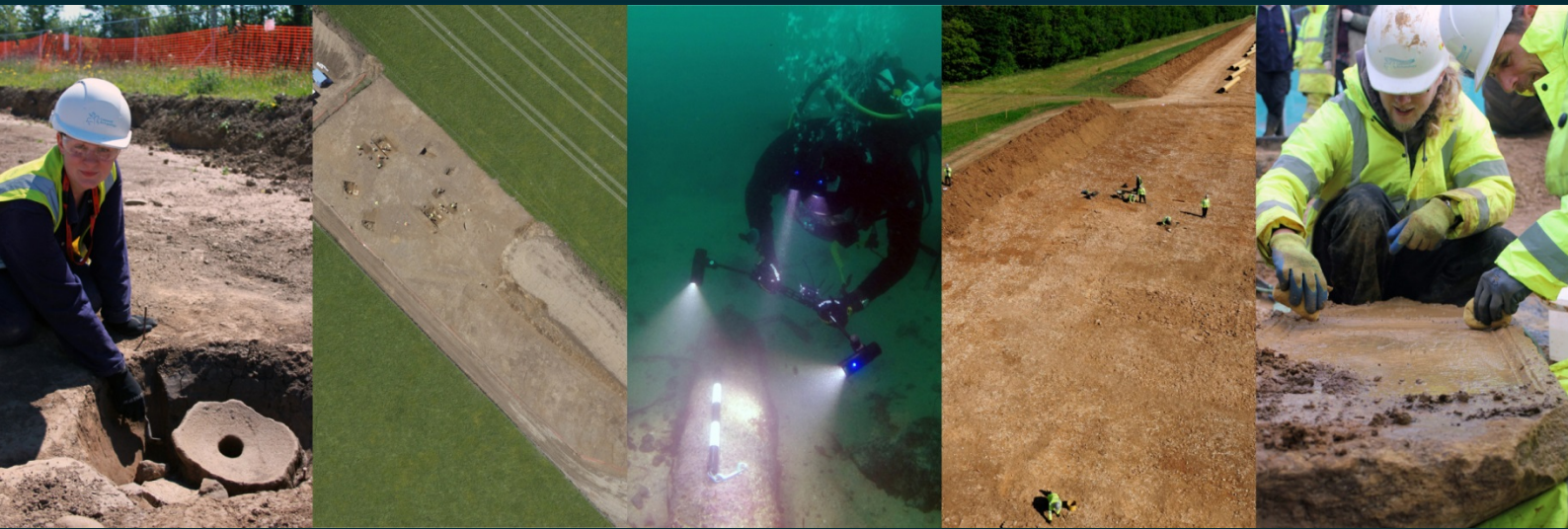


Project Swift
Culham
Oxfordshire
Archaeological Evaluation



for
RPS Planning and Development

CA Project: 6703
CA Report: 18413

August 2018



Project Swift Culham Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Project Swift
Location:	Culham, Oxfordshire
NGR:	450862 195739
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	25 July– 7 August 2018
Planning Reference:	P17/S4416/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service
Site Code:	PSAR 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July and August 2018 at Project Swift, Culham, Oxfordshire. Thirty nine trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified a penannular ring ditch from which Early Neolithic pottery was recovered. Although it may represent an early round barrow, it is more probable that the recovered artefacts are residual in a Bronze Age barrow. A Neolithic to Bronze Age boundary ditch and an Early to Middle Iron Age enclosed settlement were also identified. There was also evidence for medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity.

In general the results of the evaluation correlated well with those of the preceding cropmark and geophysical surveys, with all of the predicted features being identified within the trenches. A small number of features not identified during the non-intrusive surveys were also revealed during the evaluation trenching.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July and August 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation on land near Culham, Oxfordshire (alternatively known as Project Swift) at the request of RPS Planning and Development. The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC; planning ref: P17/S4416/FUL) for the development of a farm park, wildlife and outdoor activity centre, associated buildings and outdoor play structures, mountain bike trail, lake, ponds and wetland area and an area for glamping tents.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI; RPS 2018) and a subsequent detailed *Method Statement* (MS) produced by CA (2018) that were both approved by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council, the archaeological advisor to SODC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Richard Oram, including a site visit on 26 July 2018.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development site comprises approximately 93ha of farmland and mature woodland centred at NGR: 385130 182920 (Fig 1). It is bounded to the south by the A415 Abingdon Road and to the south-east by Thame Lane. The boundary to the north is formed by Swift Ditch, a cut-off channel linking to the River Thames at each end. On all other sides the boundary comprises farmland or woodland.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Gault Formation – Mudstone of the Cretaceous Period at the north of the site and Lower Greensand Group- Sandstone at the south of the site (BGS 2018). Overlying superficial deposits of Hanborough Gravel Member – Sand and Gravel are mapped at the north of the site. The natural substrate was identified as variable sand, silt, clay and gravel in the evaluation trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A detailed appraisal of the archaeological and historical background of the proposal site and the immediate vicinity is presented within a Heritage Statement (RPS 2017).

In addition, geophysical survey has been undertaken across four separate blocks of land associated with Project Swift (Headland 2018). The results of these works are summarised below.

- 2.2 The assessment noted that the proposal site is located within an area of considerable archaeological activity. Within the northern part of the site is the recorded findspot of two flint artefacts of Lower Palaeolithic date (c. 500,000–150,000 BP). Elsewhere within the site, flint artefacts and waste material of probable Neolithic and/or Bronze Age date have been found during surface collection. A Neolithic ground stone axe was recovered from a location adjacent to the River Thames to the south of the site, and a collection of Neolithic flints has been retrieved through surface collection in the same location. Just across the river a Bronze Age barrow cemetery was subject to archaeological investigation ahead of gravel extraction (RPS 2017).
- 2.3 Later prehistoric activity, including settlement, is evidenced by numerous cropmarks visible on aerial images. Within the proposal site these cropmarks are particularly prevalent in the southwestern area where they appear to represent a later prehistoric or Roman enclosed settlement with outlying feature groups. Recent archaeological trial trenches here identified a cremation burial of Roman date and the pit-type features seen as cropmarks may represent further similar burials (ibid.). A second area of features recorded as cropmarks is present on the plateau of Culham Hill at the north of the site. This appears to represent a square enclosure with internal and external linear features (ibid.). Other areas of cropmark activity are known at locations to the north and to the south of the proposal site, whilst to the east a programme of archaeological investigation, including a review of aerial photographs, LiDAR analysis and geophysical survey, has identified further areas of archaeological activity (ibid.).
- 2.4 Two artefacts of early medieval date have been found within or directly adjacent to the proposal site. One was an iron spearhead of 8th or 9th century AD date found in the vicinity of Culham Weir. In the southern part of the proposal site, adjacent to Abingdon Road, a detectorist has found a gilt-bronze mount or fitting of 8th century AD date along with other material of medieval date (ibid.).
- 2.5 Documentary sources record that during the Civil War an encampment was established on Culham Hill by Royalist troops (ibid.). This was short-lived and

abandoned in June 1643 when the troops were withdrawn to Oxford, but the sources note that trenches were excavated resulting in damage to crops. The exact location of this encampment remains unknown. A small amount of medieval pottery has been recorded at the top of the escarpment but was not more closely dated (ibid.).

- 2.6 The preceding geophysical survey identified a series of anomalies of possible archaeological origin. In the northern part of the site it confirmed the presence of the enclosure predicted by cropmarks. The enclosure appears to contain at least one penannular ditched feature, possibly a round-house. This part of the site also contained agricultural furrows and a number of buried pipes leading to/from a covered reservoir. Most of the southern part of the site was dominated by responses caused by the spreading of 'green waste'; however the survey did record a very clear penannular feature, with potential archaeological features within and adjacent to it (ibid.).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The general 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) and to prepare an appropriate archive, ensuring preservation by record of all archaeological remains revealed during the course of the evaluation. This information will enable SODC 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 methodology proposed trial trenching at selected locations with specific targets being the anomalies recorded by the 2018 geophysical survey. Up to a total of 58 trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width, was proposed in the locations shown on the attached plan representing a 2% (by area) sample of each area subject to trenching. The agreed trenching methodology proposed that in areas where the geophysical survey indicated an absence of

archaeological features, half of the trenches would be excavated as an initial phase, i.e. 1% of the area. Should archaeological features be identified within these trenches, the remaining trenches would then be excavated to complete the 2% by area sample. In addition, contingency of up to 60 linear metres of additional trenching was available in the event that one or more of the trenches needed extending.

- 4.2 The current fieldwork solely comprised the initial excavation of 38 trenches (Trenches 1 to 38 inclusive), each measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 11 was shortened due to proximity to overhead power lines and was 20m long. Trench 14 was moved approximately 10m to the west in order to avoid blocking a farm access and work area. All amendments to the trench layouts were undertaken with the approval of Richard Oram. In order to better understand the features identified in Trench 17, a contingency trench (Trench 39) was excavated following consultation with Richard Oram. 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*.
- 4.3 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*.
- 4.4 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*; no deposits were identified that required sampling at this stage. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.5 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2–9)

- 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, comprising sand, silt, clay and gravel, was identified throughout the site at depths between 0.29m and 0.78m below present ground level (bpgl). Generally the trenches were deeper in the southern extent of the site and shallower on the top of Culham Hill at the north of the site. The natural substrate was overlain by subsoil in all trenches, except Trenches 6, 9 and 16 where this layer was absent or indistinguishable from the topsoil. The subsoil was in turn sealed by an agricultural ploughsoil in all of the trenches. An area of modern truncation containing plastics and modern building rubble, possibly infilling a former but unmapped pond, was observed in Trench 37 cutting through the subsoil into the underlying natural substrate.
- 5.3 In general the results of the evaluation correlated well with those of the preceding cropmark and geophysical surveys, with all of the predicted features being identified within the trenches. A small number of features not identified by the non-intrusive surveys was identified during the current evaluation. Although the geophysical survey identified agricultural furrows across much of the site, such features were only observed in a small number of evaluation trenches predominantly on Culham Hill (Trenches 18 to 22 inclusive and Trench 26).
- 5.4 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified in Trenches 1, 5, 8, 10 to 15 inclusive, 18 to 28 inclusive and 34 to 38 inclusive. Trench 3 contained the course of a palaeochannel visible as a cropmark in the National Mapping Programme.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.5 Ditch 203 was aligned east/west, corresponding to a linear feature identified as a cropmark (Fig. 5; section AA). It was 0.63m in width, 0.1m in depth and contained a single silt fill, 204, which had charcoal inclusions within but from which no further dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.6 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 404 was 0.68m deep with steep sides and a rounded base (Fig. 5; section BB). It contained two fills; clay lower fill 405 and silty upper fill 403, from which two sherds of pottery broadly dated from the Neolithic to the Middle Bronze Age were recovered. The ditch did not correspond to any geophysical anomalies or cropmarks.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

- 5.7 Ditch 602 was located near the eastern end of the trench on a north/south alignment. The ditch was very shallow, with only the base surviving. A sherd of 11th–13th-century pottery and a fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from its only fill, 603.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2)

- 5.8 Ditch/furrow 704, aligned north-west/south-east, was located near the eastern extent of the trench. Two sherds of East Wiltshire or Kennet Valley ware pottery dating to the 12th–15th centuries were recovered from its fill 703.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

- 5.9 Two parallel north-east/south-west aligned ditches were identified 10m apart within the trench. Ditch 902 was 0.93m wide and 0.04m deep, while ditch 904 was 1.11m wide and 0.2m deep. No finds were recovered from either of the ditches.

Trench 16 (Figs 2 and 3)

- 5.10 Two parallel north-west/south-east aligned ditches, 1602 and 1604, were located 0.3m apart near the south-western end of the trench. The ditches measured 0.56m and 0.46m wide respectively, and were less than 0.05m deep. No finds were recovered from either ditch. Given the proximity of the ditches to each other it is possible that they represent recuts of the same boundary ditch, or that they represent the shallow, truncated remains of the base of a single feature.

Trench 17 (Figs 2, 3 & 6)

- 5.11 A penannular ring ditch identified during the geophysical survey was observed within the trench. Ditch 1707 formed the western side of the ring ditch and was 1.96m wide, 0.98m deep with a steep v-shaped profile (Fig. 6; section CC). The ditch contained three fills (1708, 1709 and 1710) all of which contained a small quantity of Early Neolithic pottery. A leaf-shaped arrowhead, also of Early Neolithic date, was

recovered from fill 1710. The western side of the ring ditch was recorded in plan as ditch 1725, but remained unexcavated. The ring ditch enclosed an internal area with a diameter of 12.25m.

- 5.12 Several features were observed within the area enclosed by the ring ditch (ditches 1713, 1719 and 1723, pit 1715 and postholes 1717 and 1721). As the majority of these features were only partially revealed within the trench it was agreed with Richard Oram (OCC) that they should not be excavated at this stage.
- 5.13 Also revealed within the interior of the ring ditch were ditches 1703 and 1705. Curvilinear ditch 1703 was 0.57m wide, 0.23m deep with moderately steep sides and a rounded base (Fig. 6; section DD). An animal tooth was recovered from associated ditch fill 1704, but no further dating evidence was present. It was cut by ditch 1705, which appeared to also be curvilinear in plan although on a broadly north-east/south-west alignment. Iron Age or Roman pottery was recovered from fill 1706.
- 5.14 At the western end of the trench, modern ditch 1711 was orientated broadly perpendicular to the extant southern field boundary. A shard of modern glass and fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from its single fill, 1712.

Trench 29 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.15 Two ditches were revealed at either end of the trench, both corresponding to geophysical anomalies. At the western end of the trench ditch 2903 was a continuation of ditch 3110 within Trench 31. Ditch 2905 at the eastern end of the trench was a continuation of ditch 3010 within Trench 30. As both ditches were excavated in the other trenches they were only recorded in plan in Trench 29.

Trench 30 (Figs 2, 4 & 7)

- 5.16 North-east/south-west aligned ditch 3010 was 2.88m wide, 1.08m deep with steep sides, a rounded base and contained five fills (Fig. 7; section GG). The earliest fill, 3011, was a blue clay, most probably derived from waterbourne sediments that was overlain by two successive silting fills, 3012 and 3013. Fill 3014 was concentrated against the north-western side of the ditch. It contained a large number of stones and represented either a slump of the ditch side, or the slipping into the ditch of part of an adjacent bank. Upper fill 3015 contained large amounts of gravel and sand similar to that of the surrounding natural substrate and was probably derived from

backfilling the ditch using nearby bank material. Early to Middle Iron Age pottery, animal bone and shell were recovered from all but fill 3014.

- 5.17 At the north-eastern end of the trench ditch 3006 broadly corresponded to the line of a feature interpreted as agricultural in the geophysical survey. The ditch was 1.59m wide and 0.44m deep. Pottery dated to the 15th–17th century and animal bone was recovered from associated ditch fill 3007.
- 5.18 Two further, undated, ditches were identified within the trench, neither of which corresponded to geophysical anomalies. Ditch 3003 was located to the north-east of ditch 3010, on a broadly parallel alignment. It was 1.9m wide, 0.41m deep and contained two silt fills, 3004 and 3005 (Fig. 7; section FF). Ditch 3008 was located near the south-western extent of the trench and was aligned north-west/south-east with its north-western terminus within the trench. It measured 0.63m wide, 0.16m deep and its single fill, 3009, was notably darker than the other nearby features, although there was no charcoal present.

Trench 31 (Figs 2, 4 & 8)

- 5.19 Ditch 3103 was located at the north-east end of the trench on a north/south alignment and corresponded to a broadly circular, if discontinuous, geophysical anomaly. The ditch was 1.24m wide, 0.41m deep with steep sides and a rounded base (Fig. 8; section II). It contained two fills, 3104 and 3105, both of which contained Early to Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone. A possible return of this ditch near the centre of the trench, recorded in plan as ditch 3120, was not excavated.
- 5.20 Shallow sinuous ditch 3106 was aligned broadly north-east/south-west and had its north-eastern terminus immediately to the east of ditch 3103, possibly indicating that they were contemporary. No finds were recovered from its fill 3107.
- 5.21 Ditch 3110 was located near the centre of the trench and represented a continuation of ditch 2903 revealed in Trench 29 and corresponded to a linear geophysical anomaly. It was 4.6m wide, 1.34m deep with steep sides and a rounded base (Fig. 8; section HH). The earliest fill, 3111, was a waterbourne sedimentary deposit containing animal bone. This was partially covered by deposit 3112, interpreted as a slump of material from the north-eastern ditch side. This was in turn covered by successive silt fills 3113 and 3114, and upper fill, 3115. The latter contained a large

amount of stone and was probably dumped bank material. Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from fills 3114 and 3115.

- 5.22 Small pit 3108 was partially revealed at the south-western extent of the trench. It was oval in plan, 0.76m long and 0.25m deep. The date and function of the pit remained unclear.
- 5.23 To the north-east of pit 3108, ditch 3116 and pit 3118 were recorded in plan but were not excavated.

Trench 32 (Figs 2, 4 & 9)

- 5.24 Ditch 3203 was located toward the south-eastern end of the trench and corresponded to the north-western side of a probable small square enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. The ditch was 0.97m wide, 0.33m deep and contained two fills, 3204 and 3205, both of which contained Middle Iron Age pottery (Fig. 9; section KK). Animal bone and a presumably residual worked flint were recovered from upper fill 3205.
- 5.25 Ditch 3206 was located near the north-western end of the trench and corresponded to a north-east/south-west aligned linear anomaly identified as possible archaeology during the geophysical survey. The ditch was 4.3m wide and 1.47m deep (Fig. 9; section LL). It contained an initial clay fill, 3207, that was partially overlain by fill 3208 suggestive of slumping against the south-eastern side of the ditch. These two fills were covered by silting fill 3209, which was in turn covered by stony fills 3210 and 3211, the latter two deposits most probably represent the deliberate slighting of an associated bank. Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from all but fill 3211, and a broadly contemporary stone spindle whorl was retrieved from fill 3210.
- 5.26 In the centre of the trench ditch 3212 was 8.5m wide and corresponded to a north-east/south-west aligned geophysical anomaly. The ditch was not excavated during the evaluation, but surface cleaning noted the presence of two fills, a darker central fill 3214 and outer light brown fill 3213. No finds were recovered from the surface of this feature



Trench 33 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.27 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 3303 was located at the eastern end of the trench. The ditch was undated, but its fill was notably different in colour and composition to those of the features in the surrounding trenches.

Trench 39 (Figs 2, 3 & 6)

- 5.28 Curvilinear ditch 3907 was located at the south-eastern extent of the trench. It measured 0.66m in width, 0.47m in depth and contained a single undated fill, 3908 (Fig. 6; section EE).
- 5.29 At the centre of the trench two possible intercutting pits or ditches, 3903 and 3905, corresponded to an amorphous geophysical anomaly on a north-east/south-west alignment. Pit/ditch 3903 was 2.68m wide and 0.36m deep. It was cut on its north-west side by pit/ditch 3905 which was 2.5m wide and 0.4m deep. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from 25 deposits (fills of ditches and one furrow). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval/ modern periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Codes for prehistoric fabrics, in parenthesis in the text, have been devised for this report. Medieval fabric codes correspond to the Oxfordshire medieval pottery type series codes as defined by Mellor (1994).

Pottery: Early Neolithic

- 6.2 A total of 20 sherds (135g) was recovered from fills 1708, 1709 and 1710 within ring ditch 1707. Several handmade fabrics were represented – flint-tempered (FL), quartz-and-flint tempered vesicular (QFV), quartz-tempered vesicular (QZV) and quartzite-tempered (QZT). The single featured sherd present occurs in fabric QFV and is a rimsherd from a bowl with an angular, out-turned rim and an imperforate lug. The surface of the small portion of the rim is poorly preserved, however, it features decoration in the form of fine, oblique-angled scoring. This vessel is dateable to the Early Neolithic period and is almost certainly attributable to a 'post-inception' decorative style common to the middle of the 4th millennium BC. It most likely corresponds to the regionally distinct Abingdon ware (Avery 1982, 26–30, Fig.

14). This tradition was defined based on material associated with the inner ditch of the causewayed enclosure at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, which occurred in a mix of leached shell and finely-crushed flint-tempered fabrics.

Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age

- 6.3 Two unfeathered bodysherds (23g) in a coarse flint-tempered fabric (FLC) from fill 403 of ditch 404 are broadly dateable to the Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age on the basis of fabric and firing characteristics.

Iron Age

- 6.4 The majority of pottery recovered from the site (83 sherds, 725g) is identified as dating to the Early to Middle Iron Age. The handmade fabrics have mostly been tempered with quartz (QZ, QZF), limestone (LS, LSF), shell (SH) or a combination of these (QZLS, LSQZ, SHQZ, FSHQ). Identifiable forms include a vessel with an externally expanded, flattened rim in fabric FSHQ from fill 3011 of ditch 3010 and a slack-shouldered vessel with a simple upright rim in fabric LS from fill 3105 of ditch 3103. Similar forms were common amongst the Period 1 (Early to Early Middle Iron Age) pottery from excavations at Ashville Trading Estate, Abingdon, Oxfordshire (DeRoche 1978, 71), approximately 6km north-west of the current site. Some of the pottery can be more narrowly dated to the Middle Iron Age, including a globular vessel with an upright, slightly flattened rim in fabric LSF from fill 3114 within ditch 3110 and a vessel with an upright neck and a proto-bead rim in fabric FSHQ from fill 3115, also within ditch 3110. At Ashville Trading Estate the globular jars were most common in Period 2 (Middle Iron Age) deposits (*ibid.*).

Medieval

- 6.5 The small medieval assemblage totals three sherds (21g). An unfeathered bodysherd of Wallingford ware (WA38), from fill 603 of ditch 602, is dateable to the early 11th to mid 13th centuries (Mellor 1994, 63). Fill 703 of ditch/furrow 704 produced two rimsherds from a jar with a thickened, everted rim in Kennet Valley ware (East Wiltshire ware), of late 11th to 15th century date (*ibid.*, 106).

Lithics

- 6.6 Two worked flints (9g) were recorded. A flake was recovered as a residual find in fill 3205 of ditch 3203, which was dated to the Middle Iron Age by associated pottery. A broken tool from fill 1710 within ring ditch 1707 appears to be the lower portion of a leaf-shaped arrowhead, which is a diagnostic Early Neolithic type. It most closely

resembles Green's Type 2Ce (Green 1980, 71, Fig. 28) and displays very shallow retouch around the edges of the ventral face, and shallow, invasive retouch across most of the dorsal face.

Ceramic building material

- 6.7 An unclassifiable fragment of ceramic building material (2g) from fill 602 of ditch 603 is probably of post-medieval date.

Other finds

- 6.8 A spindlewhorl (9g), made from sedimentary rock and broken into three pieces, was recovered from fill 3210 of ditch 3206 in association with Middle Iron Age pottery.
- 6.9 Fill 1712 within ditch 1711 produced a fragment of clay pipe stem (6g), broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries. Also from ditch fill 1712 is a fragment of pale green vessel glass (0.7g) of post-medieval or modern date.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 Animal bones amounting to 141 fragments (1611g) were recovered from six ditch features revealed in Trenches 30, 31 and 32 in the north-west of the site. Artefacts dating to the Early to Middle Iron Age and later medieval/post-medieval periods were also recovered from these features. The condition of the material was variable, but on the whole the assemblage was poorly preserved and highly fragmented. However, it has been possible to identify the remains of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa sp.*), horse (*Equus caballus*), and red deer (*Cervus elaphus*).

Early to Middle Iron Age

- 7.2 A total of 140 (1602g) fragments were recovered from the fills of ditch features 3010, 3103, 3110, 3203 and 3206. Cattle were most common with 10 fragments (449g) recovered. The majority of the recovered bone were from meat-poor skeletal elements but the occasional meat-rich bone, such as a partial pelvis from fill 3013 within ditch 3010, was also recovered. The amount of information that can be gained from such a small amount of bone is very limited. However, a single cut mark present on an astragalus from fill 3105 within ditch 3103 does suggest a possible origin in butchery waste. Sheep/goat, pig and red deer were also identified but were

recovered in numbers too low to provide any information beyond species identification.

- 7.3 Of note among the prehistoric assemblage are the horse remains, specifically those recovered from fill 3113 within ditch 3110. A total of 76 (484g) fragments were recovered which represent the partial remains of a well preserved but highly fragmented skull and both mandibles of a single individual. Some of these fragments, especially the molar teeth, display a very high degree of polishing, which in some cases, has created an almost mirror-like surface. It has not been possible to ascertain the cause of this alteration and it may well be a result of natural erosion due to a particular depositional environment, however the possibility of curation cannot be ruled out.

Later medieval/post-medieval

- 7.4 A single bone fragment (9g) was recovered from fill 3007 within ditch 3006. It was not identifiable to species.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The evaluation identified features dating to the Early Neolithic, Bronze Age, Early to Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age periods. There is also evidence for medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity.
- 8.2 In general the results of the evaluation correlated well with those of the preceding cropmark and geophysical surveys, with all of the predicted features being identified within the trenches. A small number of features that were not identified by the non-intrusive surveys were also revealed during the evaluation trenching. These were mostly in areas already containing archaeological features, such as within the enclosures at the top of Culham Hill (Trenches 29–33) and in the south-eastern part of the site (Trench 17) and it is possible that the geophysical survey was not able to distinguish these features from nearby anomalies.

Early Neolithic to Bronze Age

- 8.3 Ring ditch 1707/1723 was 12.25m in diameter and corresponded to a penannular geophysical anomaly, open on its north-eastern side. The ditch, where excavated, was 1.96m wide, 0.98m deep with a steep v-shaped profile, suggestive of the encircling ditch of a round barrow rather than being associated with a roundhouse or

domestic enclosure, although the pennanular shape of the ditch may suggest that the latter is a possibility.

- 8.4 The Early Neolithic date for the pottery recovered from the ring ditch, as well as the retrieval of a contemporary leaf-shaped arrowhead, is intriguing and does raise the possibility that the ring ditch represents an early round barrow or possibly a hengiform monument. Certainly there is growing corpus of evidence that suggests that round barrows have been present from the Early Neolithic rather than the later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period (see Woodward 2000 and Kinnes 1979). However, the probability that the retrieved artefacts are residual in a later barrow/ring ditch should not be ignored, particularly given that the site lies within an area in which Bronze Age barrows are known to have been constructed on both banks of the Thames. The current site is located 1.6km east of a barrow cemetery at Caldecott (see Archaeological Background, above) and 2.5km south of another barrow cemetery at Radley (Woodward 2000). In addition, the preceding cropmark and geophysical surveys suggests that further ring ditches lie 700m to the west, although it must be noted that none of these features have been subject to archaeological excavation and therefore remain undated.
- 8.5 There was no evidence for a mound surviving within the ditch circuit and it is likely that any mound that may have been constructed will have now have been slighted by post-medieval and modern agricultural activity. However, it worth noting that pottery recovered from ditch 1705 within the interior of the ring ditch contained Iron Age/Roman pottery perhaps suggesting that the barrow/ring ditch never had an extensive mound.
- 8.6 Several features were identified within the area enclosed by the ring ditch. The majority of these were not excavated being preserved currently *in situ*. Some of the identified features, notably ditch 1719, may have been caused by more recent animal burrowing rather than being associated with the barrow. Ditches 1703 and 1705 were excavated and, as noted above, ditch 1705 contained later, Iron Age/Roman, pottery. The identification of curvilinear ditch 3907 in Trench 39 immediately outwith the ring ditch is also noteworthy and may suggest further activity that was undetected by the geophysical survey is centred on the earlier ring ditch. It remains undetermined at this juncture whether such activity is contemporary with the construction of the ring ditch or with later prehistoric/Roman ditches 1703 and 1705.

- 8.7 Ditch 404, revealed 400m west of the ring ditch 1707/1725 contained pottery broadly dated to the Neolithic through to the Middle Bronze Age period. The ditch was located in an area where the results of the geophysical survey were poor due to green waste in the topsoil and consequently no anomalies were identified. It is possible that the ditch pertains to a prehistoric field system, and may represent an extension of the enclosures revealed by the geophysical and cropmark surveys 300m further to the west (see Fig. 2).

Early to Middle Iron Age (700–100 BC)

- 8.8 An enclosed settlement on the plateau of Culham Hill was identified by the preceding cropmark and geophysical surveys. The geophysical survey indicated the presence of three sides of a sub-rectangular or D-shaped enclosure that included ditches 2905/3010 and 2903/3110, with possible entrances near the south-west corner, enclosing an area approximately 60m by 40m. The excavated interventions in Trenches 30 and 31 revealed the enclosure ditch to be 2.8m wide in Trench 30 and 4.5m wide in Trench 31 and typically in excess of 1m in depth with steep sides. There was indirect evidence for an internal bank, presumably constructed using material excavated from the ditch, which had partially slumped into the ditches while the latter were in use. The enclosure ditches all showed evidence that the associated bank material formed the final infilling although it remains undetermined whether this resulted from natural erosional processes or whether it represents the deliberate slighting of the banks. Ditch 3212 seemingly continues the northern alignment of the D-shaped enclosure further to the west. The area enclosed by this also contained internal features, such as sub-square ditch 3203, that most probably forms an internal division within the enclosure.
- 8.9 Circular ditch 3103 was located within the north-western part of the D-shaped enclosure. The ditch was 13m in diameter, with possible entrances at the south-east and/or south-west, although these interruptions may represent later truncation and/or interference within the geophysical survey. Pottery recovered from this ditch suggests that it was contemporary with the outer enclosure. It remains undetermined whether it represents a roundhouse or an internal sub-division/enclosure, although given its dimensions (1.2m in width and 0.4m in depth) the latter may seem the most likely.
- 8.10 North-east/south-west aligned ditch 3206 was interpreted as ‘possible archaeology’ during the geophysical survey. It is aligned parallel to, and 10m north-west of, the

northern extent of the D-shaped enclosure and upon excavation was found to be comparable in form and date to the other enclosure ditches, with evidence for a bank on its south-eastern edge. Such evidence suggests that ditch 3206 either formed a part of a larger enclosure than was detected by the geophysical survey, and that ditches 3110 and 3212 represent internal division within a larger enclosure, or that it forms the north-western side of a contiguous enclosure.

Medieval and post-medieval

- 8.11 Although the geophysical survey identified agricultural furrows across much of the site, such features were only observed in a small number of evaluation trenches (Trenches 18 to 22 inclusive and Trench 26). This group of trenches coincided with the southern downslope of Culham Hill and also correlated with a change in the natural geology from gravel to clay. It is possible that the field was ploughed deeper in this area as there was less risk of dragging up large amounts of stone, resulting in the furrows cutting the natural. The wide shallow ditches in Trenches 6, 7 and 9, which contained finds dating throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, may represent furrows or agricultural field divisions.
- 8.12 Ditches that were likely to have been field boundary ditches were identified in Trenches 17 (ditch 1711), 30 (ditch 3006) and 33 (ditch 3303). However, none of these ditches are depicted on historic mapping and probably pre-date the later 19th century.

Undated

- 8.13 A single undated ditch in Trench 2 (ditch 203) corresponded to a linear cropmark identified during the National Mapping Project, which appeared to be orientated towards an area of denser cropmarks in the south-western part of the site. The ditch was undated and there was no clear indication of its function.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard and Alison Roberts, assisted by Gary Baddeley, Matthew Coman and Chris Watts. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke respectively. 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 grey brown sandy silt. Occasional stones			0.3	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand			0.3	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel				
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.25	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 101			0.37	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Yellow sand and gravel				
2	203	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Gently sloping sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.63	0.1	
2	204	Fill	203	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown silty sand. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>1.8	0.63	0.1	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.38	
3	301			Subsoil	Same as 101			0.2	
3	302			Natural	Brown sand and rounded pebbles				
3	303	Cut		Palaeochannel	Irregular in plan. Moderately steep sides and rounded base			1.2	
3	304	Fill		Palaeochannel fill	Light yellow brown clay sand. Occasional small stones			1.2	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt. Occasional stones			0.42	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid Orange brown silty sand. Common small stones			0.24	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel. Patches of grey clay				
4	403	Fill	404	Upper ditch fill	Mid yellow brown silty sand. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>1.8	0.86	0.58	Neo to MBA
4	404	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.86	0.68	
4	405	Fill	404	Lower ditch fill	Dark low grey silty clay	>1.8	0.32	0.1	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 400			0.38	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 401			0.4	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Orange and yellow sand. Patches of gravel				
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 400			0.39	
6	601	Layer		Natural	Grey and brown clays				
6	602	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned. Shallow sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.84	0.11	
6	603	Fill	602	Ditch fill	Light yellow brown silty clay. Occasional manganese and stones	>1.8	0.84	0.11	Post-medieval
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 400			0.25	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 401			0.3	
7	702	Layer		Natural	Brown and blue clay				
7	703	Fill	704	Furrow fill	Mid grey brown sandy clay. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>2	0.81	0.12	C12-C15
7	704	Cut		Furrow	NW/SE aligned. Irregular sides and base	>2	0.81	0.12	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 400			0.3	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 401			0.25	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Orange-brown clay				
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 401			0.38	
9	901	Layer		Natural	Orange and grey clay				
9	902	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Shallow sides and rounded base	>2	0.93	0.04	
9	903	Fill	902	Ditch fill	Light yellow brown silty clay. Occasional manganese and small stones	>2	0.93	0.04	
9	904	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Shallow sides and rounded base	>2	1.11	0.2	
9	905	Fill	904	Lower ditch fill	Light orange brown sandy clay. Occasional small stones	>2	0.94	0.12	
9	906	Fill	904	Upper ditch fill	Dark yellow brown silty sand. Occasional small stones	>2	1.11	0.08	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 400			0.31	

Tr	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 401			0.09	
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Orange and grey clay				
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 400			0.29	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 401			0.15	
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Orange and grey clay				
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay. Occasional stones			0.3	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellow brown silty clay. Common stones			0.15	
12	1200	Layer		Natural	Orange and blue clay				
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.32	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201			0.15	
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel. Patches of grey clay				
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.27	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201			0.15	
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Yellow clay				
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.33	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201			0.25	
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel				
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.36	
16	1601	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel				
16	1602	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Shallow sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.56	0.05	
16	1603	Fill	1602	Ditch fill	Light orange grey sandy clay. Occasional stones	>1.8	0.56	0.05	
16	1604	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Shallow sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.46	0.04	
16	1605	Fill	1604	Ditch fill	Light orange grey sandy clay. Occasional stones	>1.8	0.46	0.04	
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.3	
17	1701			Subsoil	Same as 1201			0.2	
17	1702			Natural	Orange sand. Patches of gravel				
17	1703	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear in plan. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.57	0.23	
17	1704	Fill	1703	Ditch fill	Mid yellow brown silty sand. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>1.8	0.57	0.23	
17	1705	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>3	0.95	0.21	
17	1706	Fill	1705	Ditch fill	Mid brown orange sandy silt. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>3	0.95	0.21	IA-RB
17	1707	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear in plan. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	1.96	0.98	
17	1708	Fill	1707	Lower ditch fill	Light orange brown clay sand. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>1.8	1.16	0.29	E Neo
17	1709	Fill	1707	Ditch fill	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>1.8	1.63	0.32	E Neo
17	1710	Fill	1707	Upper ditch fill	Mid brown orange sandy silt. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>1.8	1.96	0.37	E Neo
17	1711	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Shallow sides and rounded base	>2.2	1.49	0.23	
17	1712	Fill	1711	Ditch fill	Mid orange brown sandy clay. Occasional stones	>2.2	1.49	0.23	Post – medieval to modern
17	1713	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Unexcavated	>1.57	0.54		
17	1714	Fill	1713	Ditch fill	Light grey brown silty sand	>1.57	0.54		
17	1715	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Unexcavated	1.34	>0.48		
17	1716	Fill	1715	Pit fill	Mid orange brown silty sand. Common gravel	1.34	>0.48		
17	1717	Cut		Posthole	Oval in plan. Unexcavated	0.34	0.21		
17	1718	Fill	1717	Posthole fill	Mid brown orange sandy silt. Occasional small stones	0.34	0.21		
17	1719	Cut		Ditch	Narrow curvilinear ditch. Unexcavated	>2.2	0.3		

Tr	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
17	1720	Fill	1719	Ditch fill	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Occasional small stones	>2.2	0.3		
17	1721	Cut		Posthole	Oval in plan. Unexcavated	0.36	0.23		
17	1722	Fill	1721	Posthole fill	Light orange brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal and small stones	0.36	0.23		
17	1723	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned. Unexcavated	>0.93	0.84		
17	1724	Fill	1723	Ditch fill	Mid brown orange silty sand. Occasional small stones	>0.93	0.84		
17	1725	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear in plan. Unexcavated	>1.8	1.9		
17	1726	Fill	1725	Ditch fill	Mid brown orange sandy silt. Common small stones	>1.8	1.9		
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty sand. Occasional stones			0.24	
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay. Occasional stones			0.21	
18	1802	Layer		Natural	Yellow clay. Patches of orange sand and gravel				
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.29	
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.23	
19	1902	Layer		Natural	Orange and blue clay				
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.18	
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.13	
20	2002	Layer		Natural	Orange silt				
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.31	
21	2101	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.21	
21	2102	Layer		Natural	Orange and blue clay. Patches of orange sand and gravel				
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.25	
22	2201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.2	
22	2202	Layer		Natural	Orange clay				
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.24	
23	2301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.18	
23	2302	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel. Patches of yellow clay				
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.26	
24	2401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand. Frequent small stones			0.16	
24	2402	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel. Patches of grey clay				
25	2500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.28	
25	2501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2401			0.13	
25	2502	Layer		Natural	Brown sand and gravel				
26	2600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.25	
26	2601	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.21	
26	2602	Layer		Natural	Orange and yellow sand and gravel				
27	2700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.34	
27	2701	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2401			0.12	
27	2702	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel				
28	2800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty sand. Occasional small stones			0.2	
28	2801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand. Frequent small stones			0.18	
28	2802	Layer		Natural	Orange brown sand and gravel				
29	2900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.28	
29	2901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2401			0.09	
29	2902	Layer		Natural	Fine yellow sand and gravel. Patches of orange silt				
29	2903	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Unexcavated. Same as 3110	>1.8	>5.15		
29	2904	Fill	2903	Ditch fill	Mid brown grey sandy silt. Frequent small stones	>1.8	>5.15		
29	2905	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear in plan. Unexcavated. Same as 3010	>1.8	>3.4		
29	2906	Fill	2905	Ditch fill	Mid grey brown silty clay. Frequent stones	>1.8	>3.4		
30	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.3	
30	3001			Subsoil	Same as 2401			0.15	

Tr	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
30	3002			Natural	Fine yellow sand and gravel. Patches of orange silt				
30	3003	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned. Moderately steep sides, shallower on west side, and rounded base	>2	1.9	0.4	
30	3004	Fill	3003	Lower ditch fill	Light orange brown sandy clay. Frequent small stones	>2	1.68	0.3	
30	3005	Fill	3003	Upper ditch fill	Mid grey brown sandy clay. Frequent stones	>2	1.9	0.1	
30	3006	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>2	1.59	0.44	
30	3007	Fill	3006	Ditch fill	Dark orange brown clay sand. Frequent stones, occasional charcoal	>2	1.59	0.44	C15-C17
30	3008	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Steep sides and rounded base	>1.7	0.63	0.16	
30	3009	Fill	3008	Ditch fill	Dark grey brown silty sand. Frequent stones	>1.7	0.63	0.16	
30	3010	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned. Steep sides and rounded base. Same as 2905	>1.8	2.88	1.08	
30	3011	Fill	3010	Lower ditch fill	Mid grey blue silty clay. Occasional small stones	>1.8	0.47	0.07	EIA-MIA
30	3012	Fill	3010	Ditch fill	Mid green brown sandy clay. Common stones	>1.8	1.09	0.11	EIA-MIA
30	3013	Fill	3010	Ditch fill	Dark green brown silty clay. Occasional small stones	>1.8	1.25	0.3	Late prehistoric
30	3014	Fill	3010	Ditch fill	Mid yellow brown clay sand. Frequent small stones	>1.8	1.14	0.24	
30	3015	Fill	3010	Upper ditch fill	Mid grey brown silty clay. Frequent stones	>1.8	2.64	0.61	EIA-MIA
31	3100	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.4	
31	3101	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2401			0.15	
31	3102	Layer		Natural	Fine yellow sand and gravel. Patches of orange silt				
31	3103	Cut		Ditch	N/S aligned. Steep sides and rounded base	>2	1.24	0.41	
31	3104	Fill	3103	Lower ditch fill	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Frequent stones, occasional charcoal	>2	1.17	0.41	EIA-MIA
31	3105	Fill	3103	Upper ditch fill	Mid brown grey sandy silt. Common stones, occasional charcoal	>2	0.94	0.14	EIA-MIA
31	3106	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Shallow sides and rounded base	>10	0.86	0.16	
31	3107	Fill	3106	Ditch fill	Light orange brown silty sand. Common gravel, occasional charcoal	>10	0.86	0.16	
31	3108	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	0.76	>0.59	0.25	
31	3109	Fill	3108	Pit fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt. Frequent stones	0.76	>0.59	0.25	
31	3110	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base. Same as 2903	>1.8	4.58	1.34	
31	3111	Fill	3110	Lower ditch fill	Mid blue grey clay. Occasional stones and charcoal	>1.8	>0.7	0.24	
31	3112	Fill	3110	Ditch fill	Light grey brown sandy gravel. Occasional charcoal	>1.8	>0.9	0.27	
31	3113	Fill	3110	Ditch fill	Light grey brown silty clay. Occasional charcoal and stones	>1.8	>0.73	0.26	
31	3114	Fill	3110	Ditch fill	Mid orange brown sandy clay. Occasional charcoal and stones	>1.8	>1.19	0.26	MIA
31	3115	Fill	3110	Upper ditch fill	Mid brown grey sandy silt. Frequent stones	>1.8	4.58	0.59	MIA
31	3116	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Unexcavated	>1.8	0.87		
31	3117	Fill	3116	Ditch fill	Light orange brown silty sand. Frequent stones	>1.8	0.87		
31	3118	Cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Unexcavated	0.74	>0.65		
31	3119	Fill	3118	Pit fill	Mid grey brown silty sand. Frequent stones	0.74	>0.65		
31	3120	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Unexcavated	>1.8	0.92		

Tr	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
31	3121	Fill	3120	Ditch fill	Light brown grey silty sand. Frequent stones	>1.8	0.92		
32	3200	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.3	
32	3201	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2401			0.08	
32	3202	Layer		Natural	Fine yellow sand and gravel. Patches of orange silt				
32	3203	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.97	0.33	
32	3204	Fill	3203	Lower ditch fill	Light yellow brown sandy silt. Frequent stones	>1.8	0.66	0.1	MIA
32	3205	Fill	3203	Upper ditch fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt. Frequent stones	>1.8	0.97	0.23	MIA
32	3206	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	3.8	1.47	
32	3207	Fill	3206	Lower ditch fill	Mid blue grey silty clay. Occasional stones	>1.8	0.38	0.08	MIA
32	3208	Fill	3206	Ditch fill	Mid yellow brown sandy silt. Frequent stones	>1.8	0.3	0.14	MIA
32	3209	Fill	3206	Ditch fill	Mid orange brown sandy silt. Occasional stones	>1.8	>2.85	0.43	MIA
32	3210	Fill	3206	Ditch fill	Mid yellow grey sandy silt. Frequent stones	>1.8	>2.85	0.34	MIA
32	3211	Fill	3206	Upper ditch fill	Light brown grey sandy silt. Frequent stones and gravel	>1.8	>2.6	0.32	
32	3212	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Unexcavated	>1.8	8.8		
32	3213	Fill	3212	Ditch fill	Mid orange brown silty sand. Frequent stone	>1.8	8.8		
32	3214	Fill	3212	Ditch fill	Dark brown grey silty sand. Frequent stone	>1.8	4.3		
33	3300	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.21	
33	3301	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2401			0.13	
33	3302	Layer		Natural	Yellow and orange sand and gravel. Patches of grey clay				
33	3303	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>8	0.82	0.2	
33	3304	Fill	3303	Ditch fill	Mid yellow brown clay sand. Common stones	>8	0.82	0.2	
34	3400	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.24	
34	3401	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2401			0.08	
34	3402	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel				
35	3500	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.26	
35	3501	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.11	
35	3502	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel. Patches of yellow gravel				
36	3600	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.32	
36	3601	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 2401			0.74	
36	3602	Layer		Natural	Orange and yellow sand and gravel				
37	3700	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.29	
37	3701	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.12	
37	3702	Cut		Pond	Unexcavated	>17	>1.8		
37	3703	Fill	3702	Pond fill	Mid orange brown sandy silt and gravel.	>17	>1.8		
37	3704	Fill	3702	Pond fill	Dark brown grey sandy clay. Frequent stones. Modern CBM, Fe objects and plastic noted	8.5	>1.8		
37	3705	Layer		Natural	Orange and yellow sand and gravel				
38	3800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey silty sand. Common stone			0.22	
38	3801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown grey silty sand. Frequent stones			0.07	
38	3802	Layer		Natural	Orange sand and gravel				
39	3900	Layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.3	
39	3901	Layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201			0.2	
39	3902	Layer		Natural	Orange sand				
39	3903	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Gently sloping sides and rounded base	>2	2.68	0.36	
39	3904	Fill	3903	Ditch fill	Dark yellow brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>2	2.68	0.36	

Tr	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
39	3905	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Gently sloping sides and rounded base	>2	2.5	0.4	
39	3906	Fill	3905	Ditch fill	Dark yellow brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal and small stones	>2	2.5	0.4	
39	3907	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear in plan. Steep sides and rounded base	>1.5	0.66	0.47	
39	3908	Fill	3907	Ditch fill	Dark orange brown sandy silt. Occasional charcoal and stones	>1.5	0.66	0.47	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
403	Prehistoric pottery	Coarse flint-tempered fabric	FLC	2	23	Neolithic to MBA
603	Medieval pottery Post-medieval ceramic building material	Wallingford ware Fragment	WA38	1 1	1 2	Post-medieval
703	Medieval pottery	Kennet Valley ware (East Wiltshire ware)	OXAQ	2	20	C12-C15
1706	Late prehistoric/ Roman pottery	Quartz-and-flint tempered vesicular fabric	QZFL	1	3	IA-RB
1708	Early prehistoric pottery Early prehistoric pottery Fired clay	Quartzite-tempered fabric Quartz-and-flint tempered vesicular fabric	QZT QFV	1 4 1	34 45 3	Early Neolithic
1709	Early prehistoric pottery Early prehistoric pottery	Quartz-tempered vesicular fabric Quartzite-tempered fabric	QZV QZT	4 5	36 15	Early Neolithic
1710	Early prehistoric pottery Early prehistoric pottery Worked flint	Flint-tempered fabric Quartz-tempered vesicular fabric Leaf-shaped arrowhead	FL QZV	1 1 1	3 2 2	Early Neolithic
1712	Clay tobacco pipe Post-medieval/ modern glass	Stem Vessel		1 1	6 0.7	Post-medieval/ modern
3007	Post-medieval pottery	Surrey/Hampshire border ware		1	3	C15-C17
3011	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine shell-and-quartz tempered fabric	FSHQ	9	56	EIA-MIA
3012	Late prehistoric pottery	Sparse shell-and-grog tempered fabric	SHGR	1	4	EIA-MIA
3013	Late prehistoric pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	SH	1	78	Late prehistoric
3015	Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery	Shell-tempered fabric Fine shell-and-quartz tempered fabric	SH FSHQ	2 5	77 10	EIA-MIA
3104	Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery	Shell-tempered fabric Fine shell-and-quartz tempered fabric	SH FSHQ	2 2	9 7	EIA-MIA
3105	Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery	Quartz-tempered fabric Limestone-tempered fabric Fine shell-and-quartz tempered fabric Fossiliferous limestone-and-quartz tempered fabric	QZ LS FSHQ LSQZ	7 4 3 1	65 52 31 17	EIA-MIA
3114	Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery	Fossiliferous limestone-tempered fabric Quartz-and-limestone tempered fabric Quartz and sparse flint-tempered fabric	LSF QZLS QZFL	6 1 6	94 4 35	MIA
3115	Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery Late prehistoric pottery	Fine shell-and-quartz tempered fabric Shell-and-flint tempered fabric Shell-tempered fabric Quartz-and-limestone tempered fabric Fossiliferous limestone-tempered fabric	FSHQ SHFL SH QZLS LSF	1 1 1 2 1	5 7 46 4 12	MIA

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
3204	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine shell-and-quartz tempered fabric	FSHQ	3	10	MIA
3205	Late prehistoric pottery	Fossiliferous limestone-and-quartz tempered fabric	LSQZ	6	10	MIA
	Late prehistoric pottery	Shell-and-quartz tempered fabric	SHQZ	2	10	
	Late prehistoric pottery	Quartz-and-organic tempered fabric	QZOR	10	27	
	Worked flint	Flake		1	7	
3207	Late prehistoric pottery	Fossiliferous limestone-tempered fabric	LSF	1	9	MIA
	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine quartz-tempered fabric	QZF	2	23	
3208	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine shell-and-quartz tempered fabric	FSHQ	1	14	MIA
3209	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine shell-and-quartz tempered fabric	FSHQ	1	3	MIA
3210	Late prehistoric pottery	Fine quartz-tempered fabric	QZF	1	6	MIA
	Worked stone	Spindle whorl		1	9	

APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

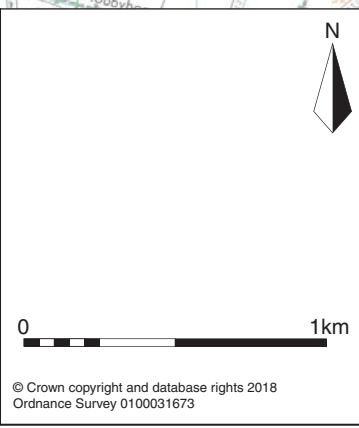
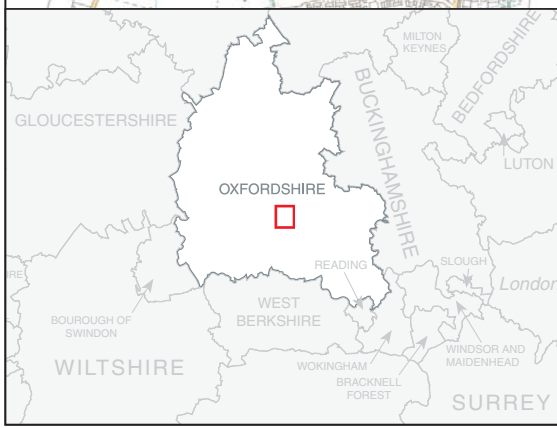
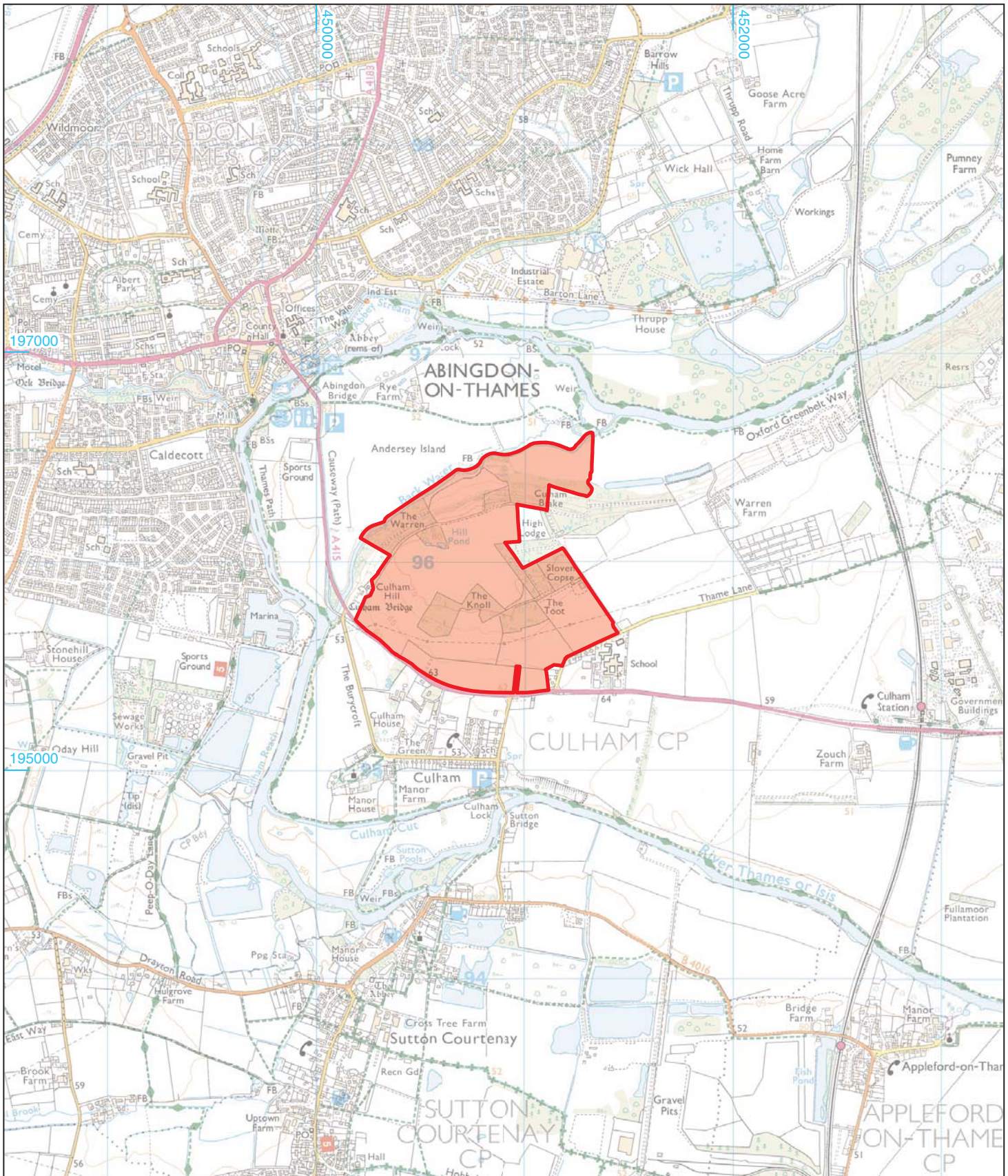
Table 1: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.


Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	EQ	Cervus	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
Early to Middle Iron Age											
3010	3011				3					3	354
3010	3012	1								1	38
3010	3013	2		1						3	157
3103	3105	3		3			3	4	9	22	275
3103	3104								4	4	9
3110	3115	2			1	4	8			15	148
3110	3113				76					76	484
3203	3205	1	2				4			7	83
3206	3207	1								1	42
3206	3209		1							1	3
3206	3210								7	7	9
Subtotal		10	3	4	80	4	15	4	20	140	1602
Later medieval/post-medieval											
3006	3007								1	1	9
Total		10	3	4	80	4	15	4	21	141	
Weight		449	17	96	861	34	90	14	50	1611	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat, SUS = pig; EQ = horse; Cervus = Red deer; LM= large sized mammal; MM = medium sized mammal; Ind = indeterminate;

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Project Swift, Culham, Oxfordshire	
Short description	<p>The evaluation identified a penannular ring ditch from which Early Neolithic pottery was recovered. Although it may represent an early round barrow, it is more probable that the recovered artefacts are residual in a Bronze Age barrow. A Neolithic to Bronze Age boundary ditch and an Early to Middle Iron Age enclosed settlement were also identified. There was also evidence for medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity.</p> <p>In general the results of the evaluation correlated well with those of the preceding cropmark and geophysical surveys, with all of the predicted features being identified within the trenches. A small number of features not identified during the non-intrusive surveys were also revealed during the evaluation trenching.</p>	
Project dates	25 July–7 August 2018	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Headland 2018)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Culham, Oxfordshire	
Study area	93ha	
Site co-ordinates	450862 195739	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	RPS Planning Ltd	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE	Round barrow, Enclosed settlement	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Oxfordshire Museum Service	Ceramics, animal bone, struck flint
Paper	Oxfordshire Museum Service	Context sheets
Digital	Oxfordshire Museum Service	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Project Swift, Culham, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 18413		



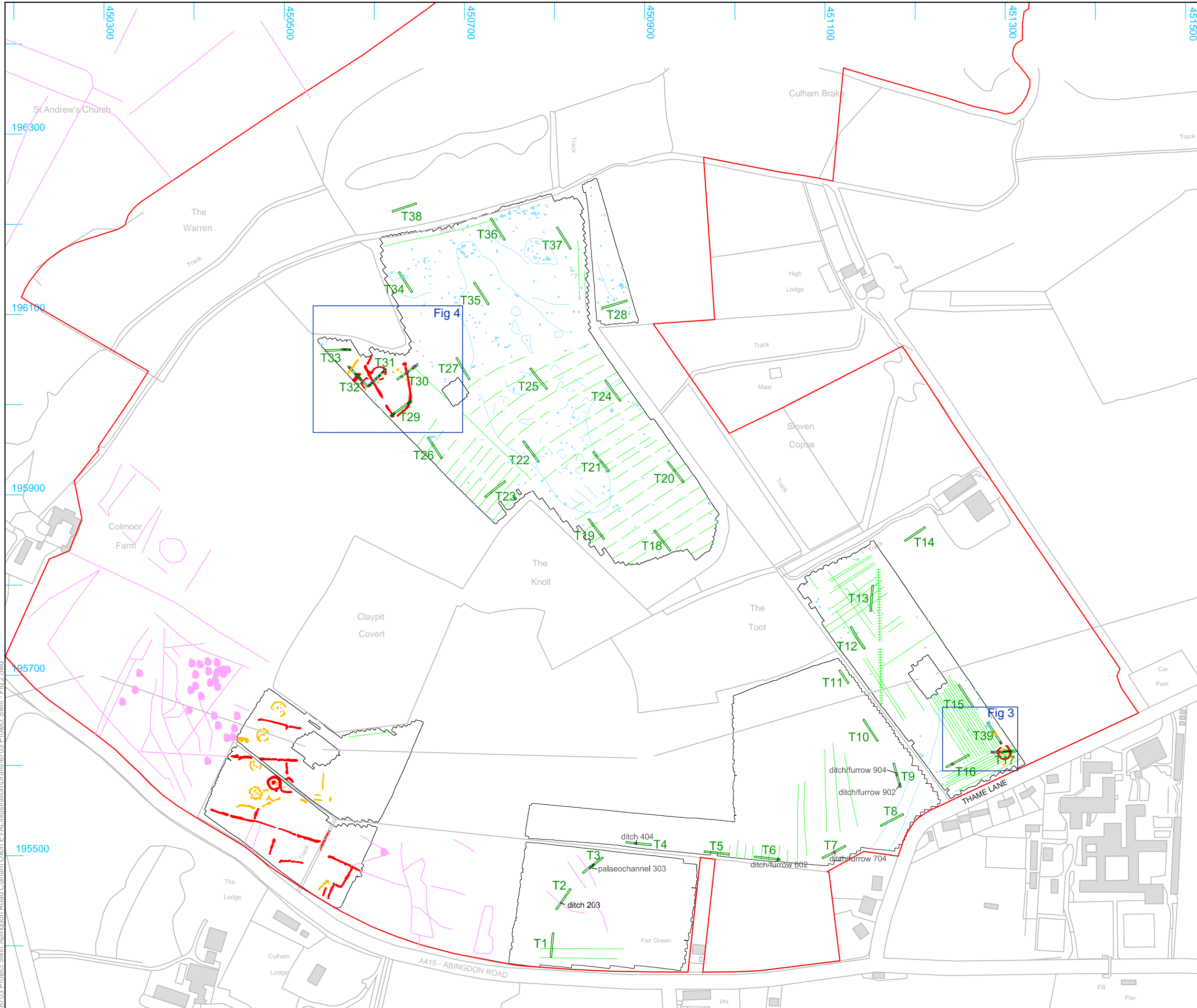

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PROJECT TITLE
 Project Swift, Culham, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	6703	FIGURE NO.	1
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13.08.18		
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000		

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- excavated intervention
- cut feature
- field drain
- furrow
- natural (incl. topsoil/subsoil/ geological/bioturbation)
- cropmarks outwith the geophysical survey areas

Geophysics Key (Headland Archaeology)

- Probable Archaeology**
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Possible Archaeology**
- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Other Anomalies**
- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing



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Cotswold Archaeology

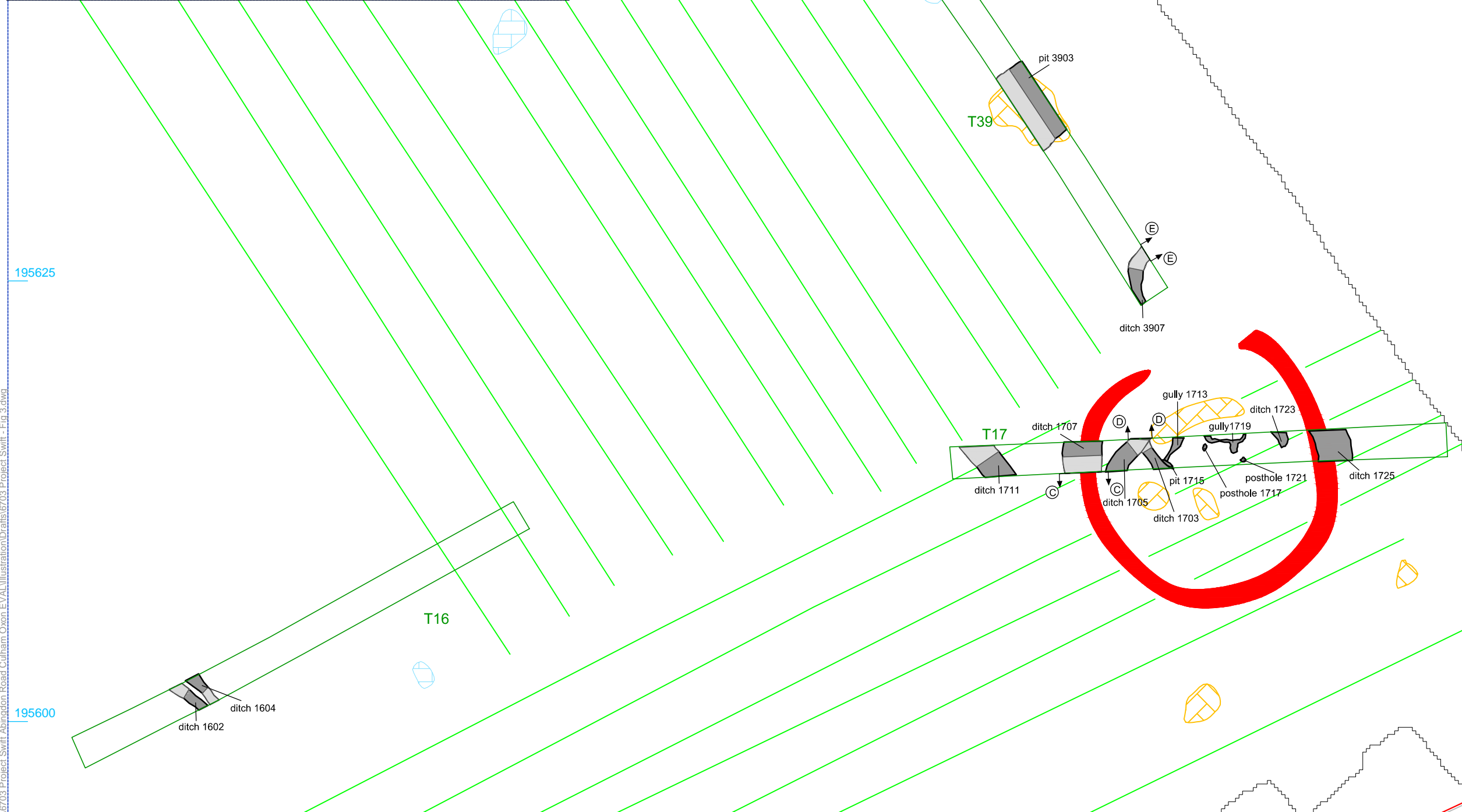
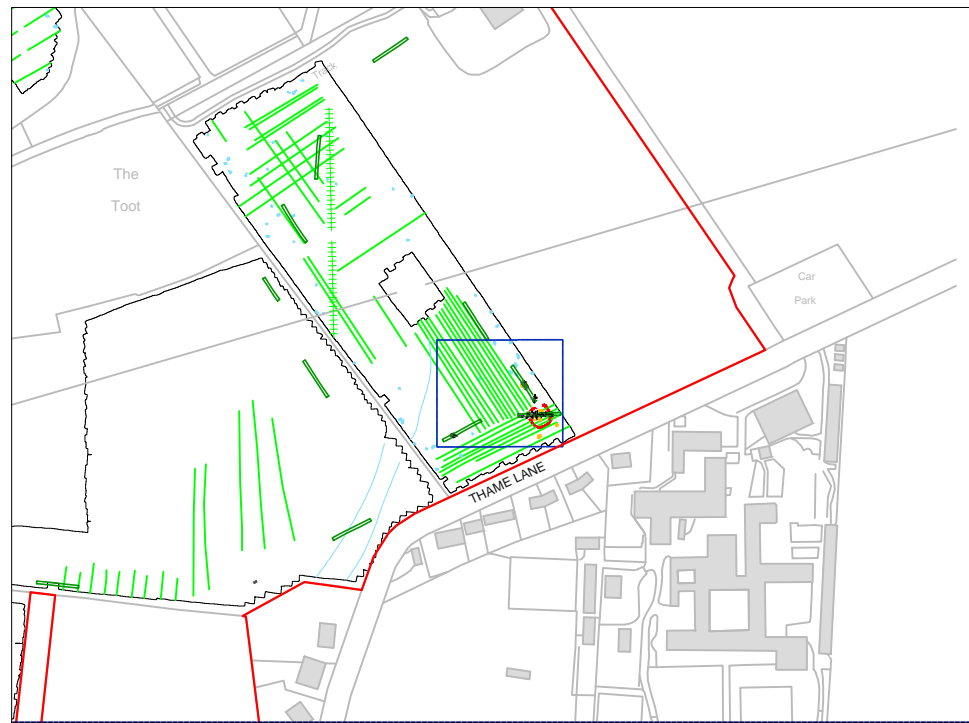
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PROJECT TITLE
Project Swift, Culham, Oxfordshire

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

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench/excavation area
- excavated intervention
- cut feature

Geophysics Key (Headland Archaeology)

- Probable Archaeology**
 - Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Possible Archaeology**
 - Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
 - Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
- Other Anomalies**
 - Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing



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PROJECT TITLE
Project Swift, Culham, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Plan of trenches 16, 17 & 39

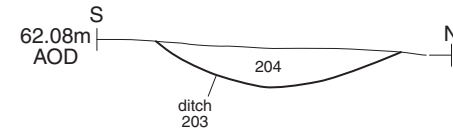
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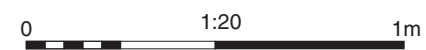
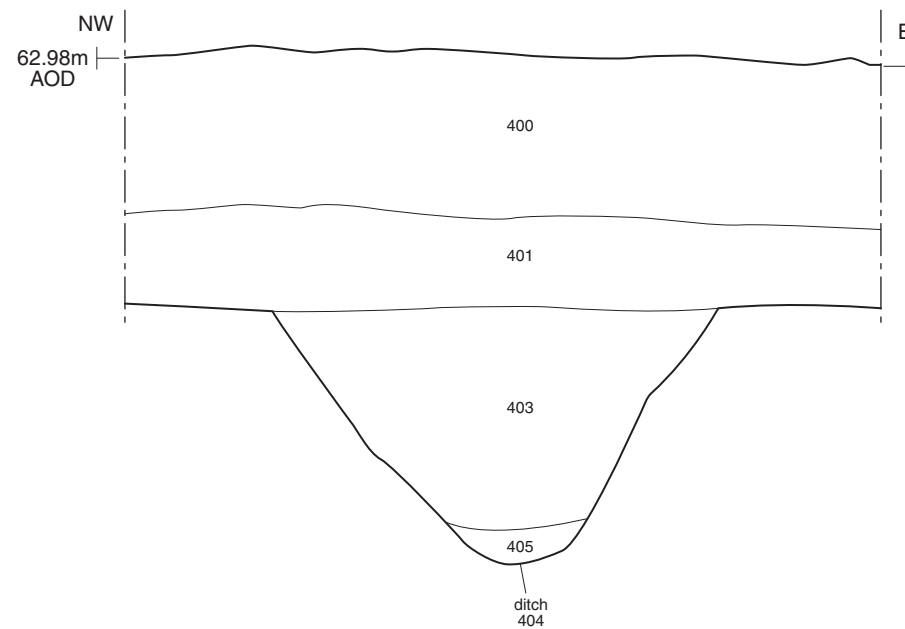
Ditch 203, looking west (0.5m scale)

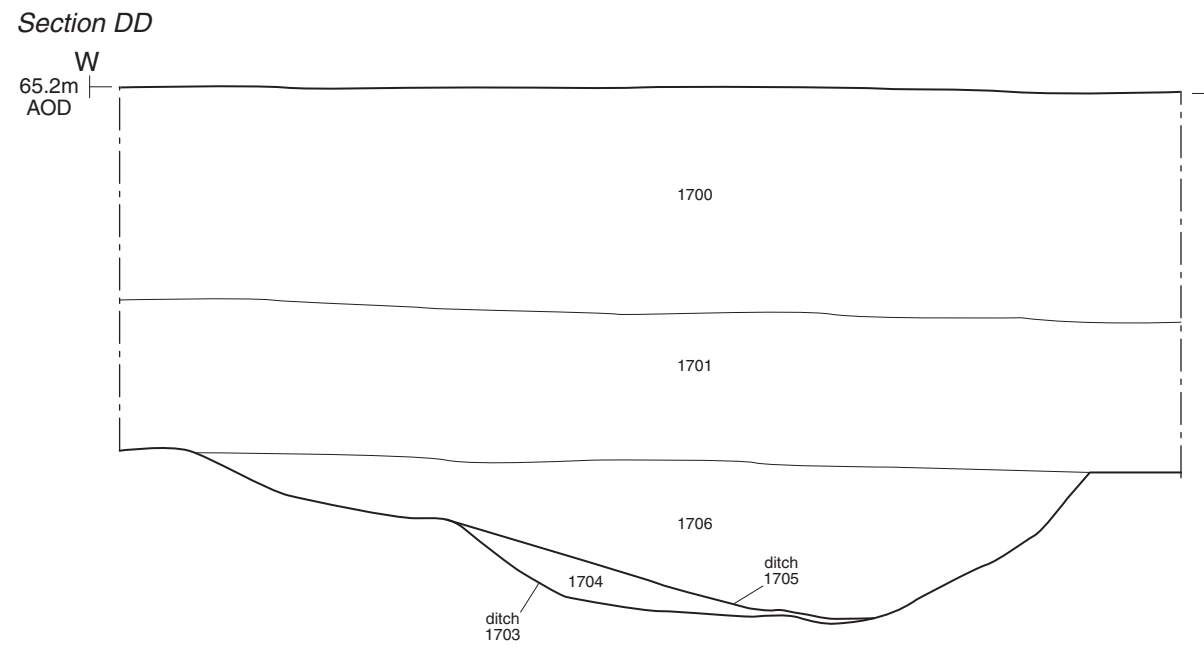
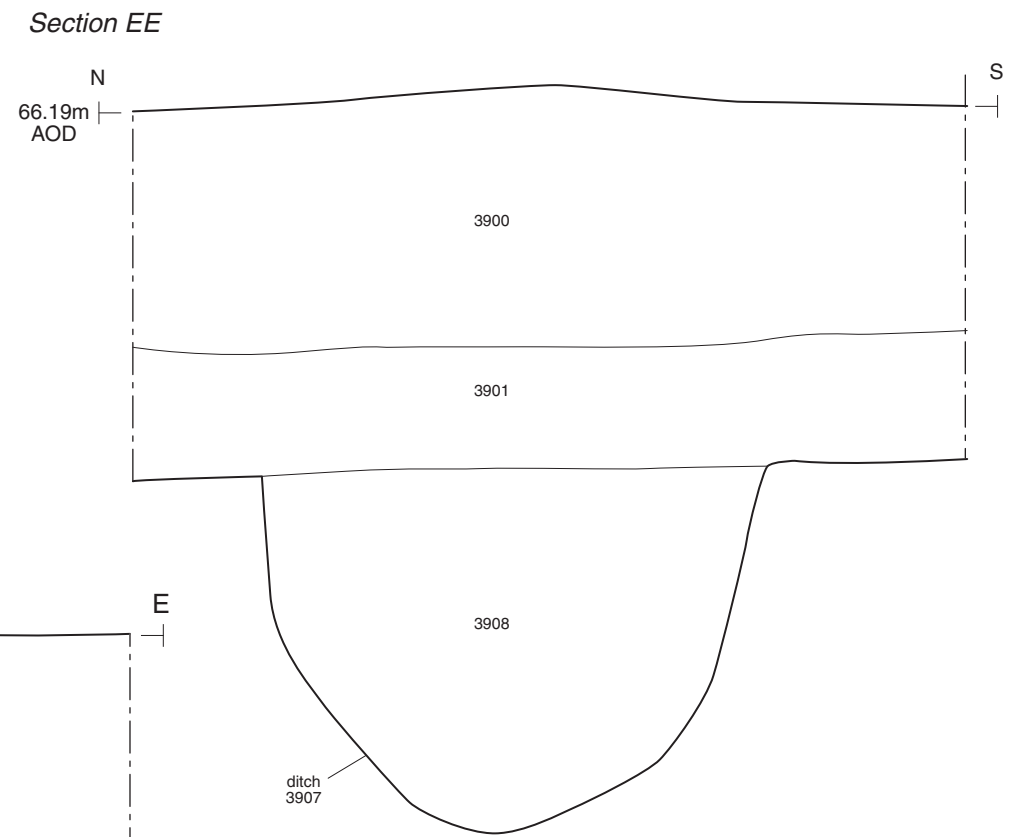
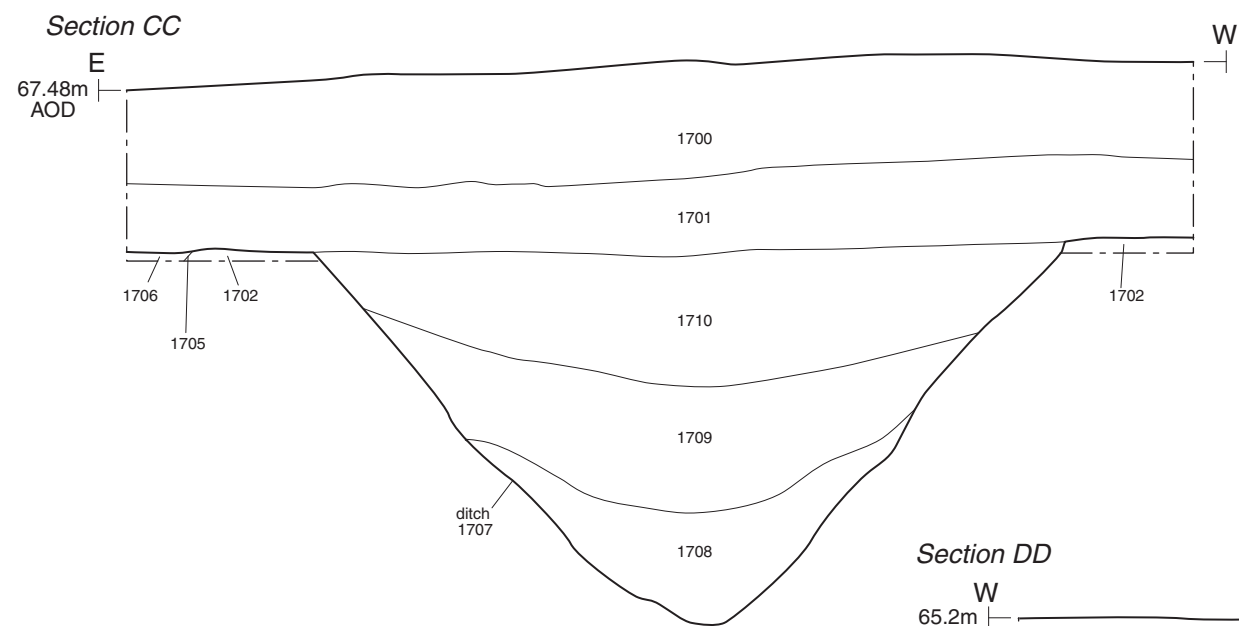
Section AA



Ditch 404, looking north-west (0.5m scale)

Section BB

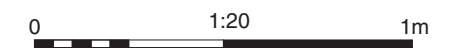




Ring ditch 1707, looking south (1m scale)



Ditch 3907, looking east (1m scale)




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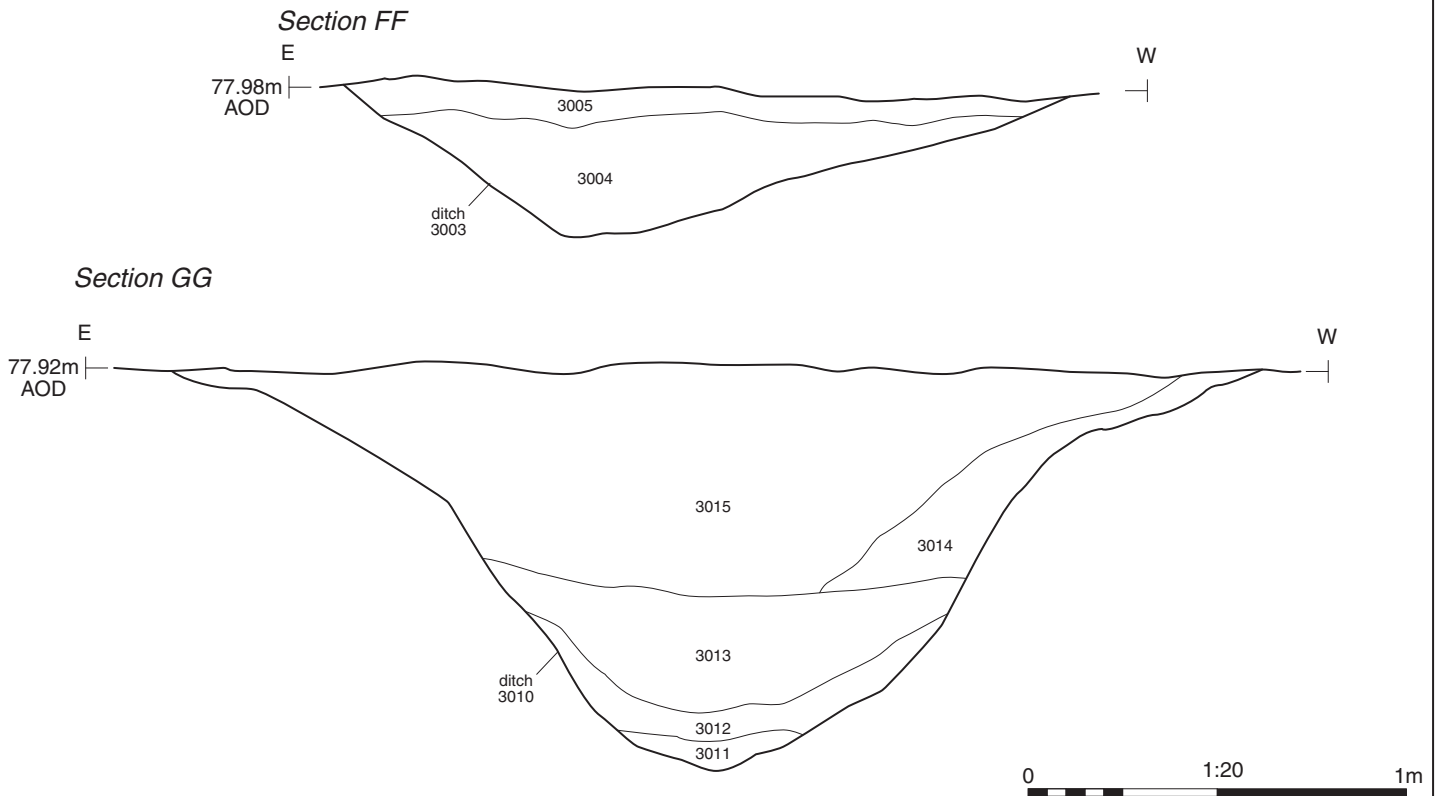
PROJECT TITLE
 Project Swift, Culham, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trenches 17 and 39 sections and photographs

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Ditch 3010, looking south (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 30 sections and photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13.08.18	
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A4	1:20	7



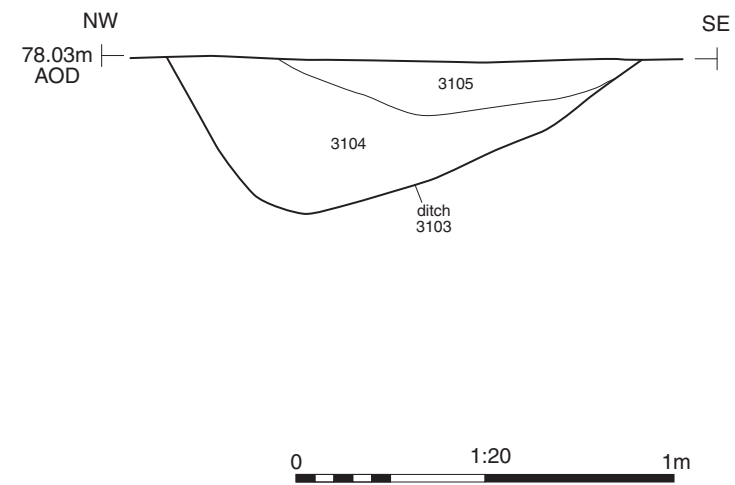
Ditch 3110, looking north-west (1m scale)

Section HH



Ditch 3103, looking north-west (1m scale)

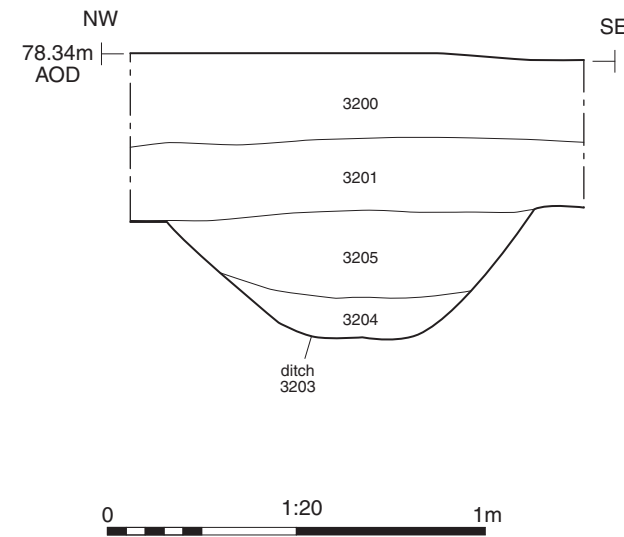
Section II





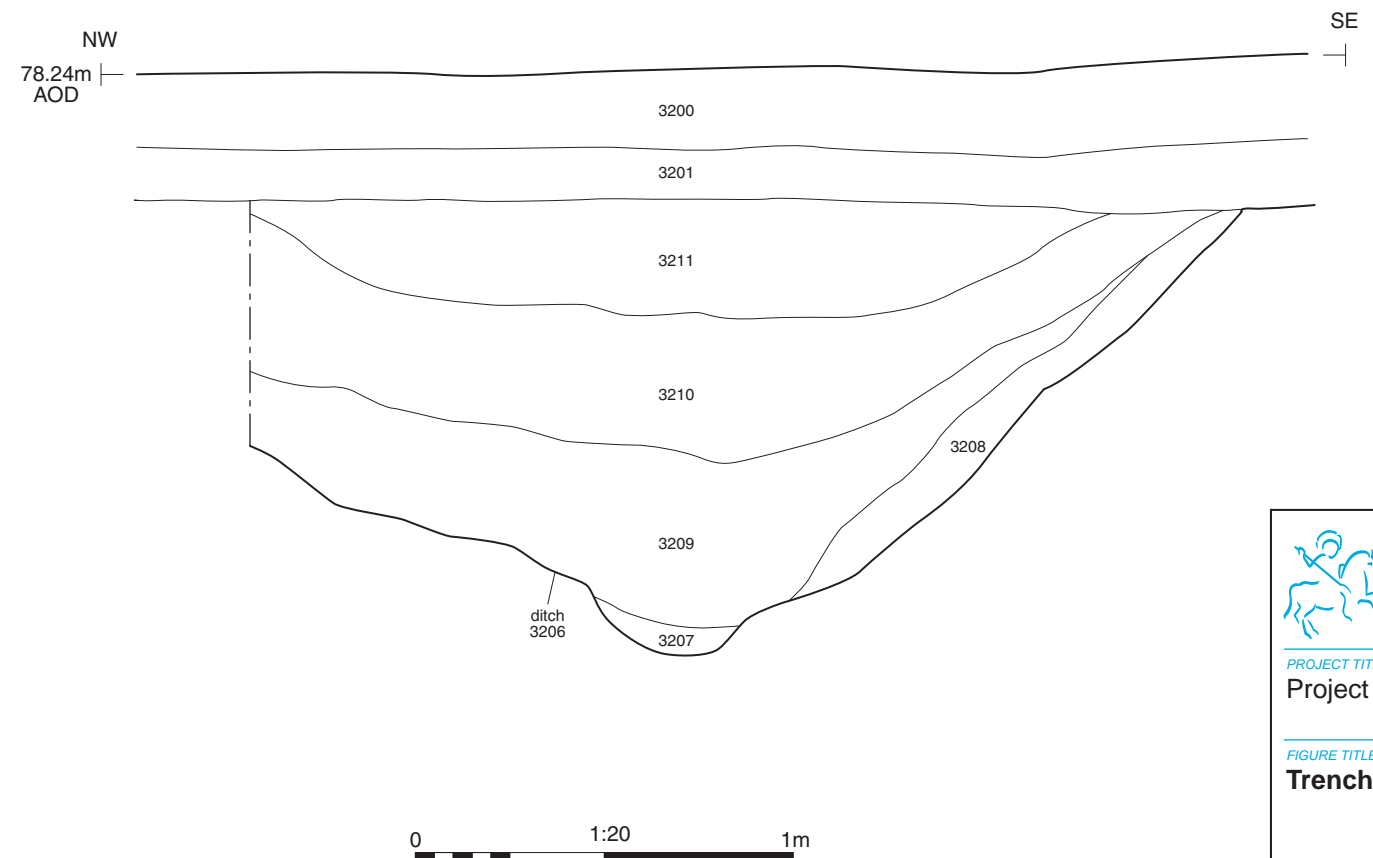
Ditch 3203, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

Section KK



Ditch 3206, looking north (2m scale)

Section LL




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PROJECT TITLE
 Project Swift, Culham, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 32 sections and photographs

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