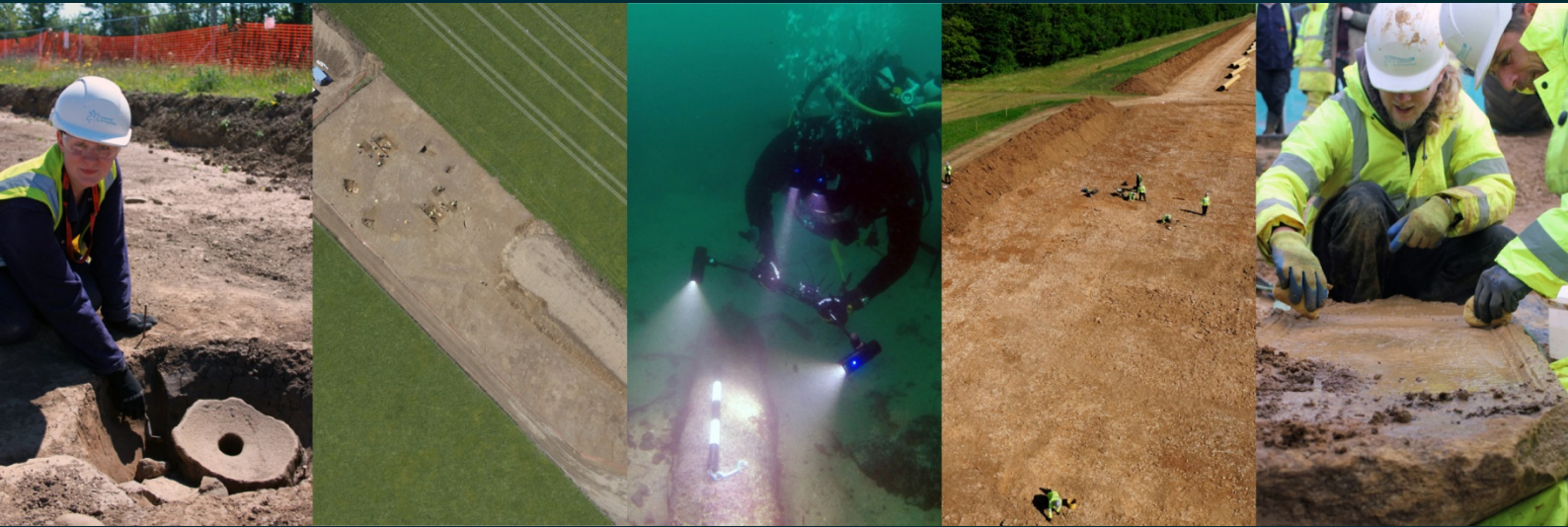


Land west of New Road  
Clifton  
Central Bedfordshire  
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Savills

on behalf of  
Gladman Developments Ltd

CA Project: 661205  
CA Report: 18543

November 2018



Land west of New Road  
Clifton  
Central Bedfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 661205  
CA Report: 18543



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## CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| SUMMARY .....                                     | 3  |
| 1. INTRODUCTION.....                              | 5  |
| 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....                 | 7  |
| 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....                       | 8  |
| 4. METHODOLOGY .....                              | 9  |
| 5. RESULTS (FIGS 3-18).....                       | 11 |
| 6. THE FINDS .....                                | 26 |
| 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE .....                  | 28 |
| 8. DISCUSSION.....                                | 30 |
| 9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....                           | 36 |
| 10. REFERENCES.....                               | 36 |
| APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....            | 38 |
| APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....                        | 41 |
| APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE..... | 42 |
| APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM .....               | 43 |



## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Site, looking west (photograph)
- Fig. 3 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results (1:1500)
- Fig. 4 Soil profile (1m scale)
- Fig. 5 Ditch 105, looking west (photograph)
- Fig. 6 Ditch 103: section (1:20)
- Fig. 7 Ditch 103, looking south-west (photograph)
- Fig. 8 Joseph Cole Map of 1745; Estate of Viscount Torrington
- Fig. 9 Ditch 803, looking east (1m scale)
- Fig. 10 Anthony Jackson (1832) Plan of the parish of Clifton in the County of Bedfordshire
- Fig. 11 Palaeochannel 1003 (1:20)
- Fig. 12 Ditches 1103 and 1113, looking west (photograph)
- Fig. 13 Ditch 1105: section (1:20)
- Fig. 14 Ditch 1110, looking south (photograph)
- Fig. 15 Ditch 1203: section (1:20)
- Fig. 16 Ditch 1303: section (1:20)
- Fig. 17 Ditch/pit terminus 1405, looking north-east (photograph)
- Fig. 18 Ditch 1903, looking north (photograph)
- Fig. 19 The Ordnance Survey First Edition Map 1883 (25 inches to one-mile)

## SUMMARY

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Project Name:</b>        | Land west of New Road, Clifton                          |
| <b>Location:</b>            | Central Bedfordshire                                    |
| <b>NGR:</b>                 | 516209 238499   |
| <b>Type:</b>                | Evaluation  |
| <b>Date:</b>                | 15 – 23 October 2018                                    |
| <b>Planning Reference:</b>  | Central Bedfordshire Council CB/18/02820/OUT            |
| <b>Location of Archive:</b> | To be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum |
| <b>Accession Number:</b>    | BEDFM 2018.76   |
| <b>Site Code:</b>           | LWNR 18   |

In October 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land west of New Road, Clifton, Central Bedfordshire. The evaluation was undertaken to inform an outline planning application for the residential development of the site. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of nineteen trenches.

Archaeological interest in the site is derived from its location to the south of the village of Clifton, which has its origins in the Saxon period and its proximity to recorded prehistoric and Roman activity. A previous geophysical survey of the site identified a number of anomalies indicative of prehistoric settlement features.

The evaluation identified a concentration of archaeological remains within the south-western part of the site, with a lower density of archaeological remains across the remainder of the site. Where archaeological features were encountered during the current trenching there was a good correlation with the results of the geophysical survey.

An extensive linear feature, recorded as an anomaly running the length of the site by the geophysical survey, has been interpreted as a silted palaeochannel. Early prehistoric activity is represented by residual worked flint recovered from the surface of the topsoil.

The earliest identified features comprised ditches forming elements of two enclosures containing pottery of broadly Iron Age date. The evidence suggests a dispersed domestic settlement within the Iron Age, concentrated in the south-western part of the site.

A further undated, possible enclosure was identified in the northern central part of site, along with elements of an undated, but possibly contemporary field system.

Medieval plough furrows, the remains of the open field system that once surrounded the village of Clifton, were encountered across the majority of the site. In addition, the evaluation identified ditches and further agricultural features across the site. The ditches are likely to represent boundary and/or drainage features. No dateable material was recovered from the features, which based on the cartographic evidence and morphological characteristics have their origins within the medieval period, with subsequent post-medieval and modern additions and remodelling.

A pit and four ditches could not be attributed to any of the identified periods and remained undated.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at land west of New Road, Clifton, Central Bedfordshire (centred at NGR: 516209 238499; Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Savills on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd.

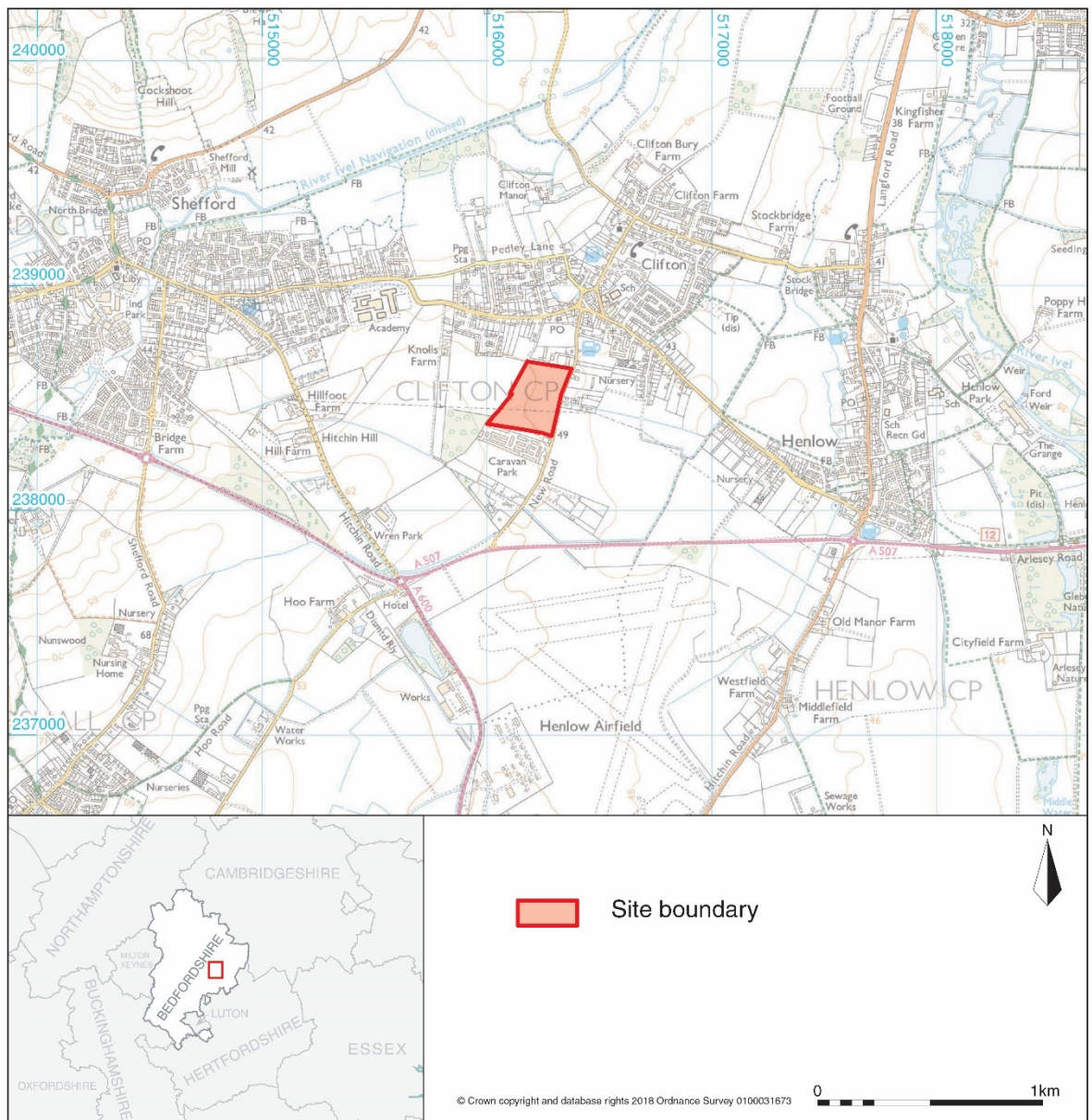


Fig. 1 Site location plan

- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to inform an outline planning application (ref no. CB/18/02820/OUT) to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC; the local planning authority) for the residential development of the site.

- 1.3 The scope of the evaluation, which comprised the excavation of 19 trial trenches, was defined during discussions between Nikki Cook, Principal Heritage and Archaeology Consultant, Savills and Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council's Archaeology Officer (CBCAO; the archaeological advisor to CBC).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Martin Oake. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). The fieldwork was monitored by Martin Oake, including site visits.

### **The site**

- 1.5 The proposed development site is approximately 6.93ha in area, situated to the immediate south of Clifton, and approximately 7km to the north-west of Letchworth. The site comprises part of a single arable field bounded to the north by housing and gardens, to the east by New Road, to the south by a strip of woodland with Clifton Park housing estate beyond and to the west by agricultural land (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 56m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the west, sloping gently downward to c. 49m aOD in the east.



Fig. 2 Site, looking west



- 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Gault Formation mudstone in the west and Woburn Sand Formation sandstone in the east, both of which belong to the Cretaceous Period. These are overlain by quaternary deposits of Lowestoft Formation diamicton (BGS 2018).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background of the site has been detailed within an *Archaeological Appraisal* (WYG 2017), which included the results of a geophysical survey carried out by AOC (AOC 2017) and which was further supplemented by Archaeological Advice from CBCAO (Oake 2018). The following section is summarised from these sources.

### ***Prehistoric (Pre AD 43)***

- 2.2 Several barrows have been identified to the east of Clifton, which were excavated in the 19th century. An Early Bronze Age beaker vessel (HER 394) was recovered from one of the barrows. In addition, crop marks of several ring ditches, located to the north of Clifton, are visible on historic aerial photographs (HER 1664).
- 2.3 Recent archaeological investigations directly to the north of the site identified several ditches, one of which is tentatively dated to the Iron Age on the basis of recovered abraded pottery (HER 19954). Iron Age settlement has been identified to the west of Shefford (HER 379 and 11766) and to the east at Henlow (HER 19889), as well as further undated, but potentially prehistoric cropmarks identified within the surrounding environs (HER 1888, 15095 and 15096).
- 2.4 Geophysical survey indicates a small sub-circular enclosure, with internal pits, in the south-western portion of the site with a potential outer boundary ditch to the east. Within the area enclosed by the potential boundary ditch discreet pits and ditches are also recorded. In the north of the site a second potential enclosure was identified by the geophysical survey associated with two potential boundary ditches to the north and east. Further anomalies in the centre of the site possibly relate to pits.

### ***Roman (AD 43 to 410)***

- 2.5 Evidence for Roman settlement has been found to the west at Shefford (HER 379 and 11766) and to the east at Henlow (Her 19889), as well as further undated, but

potentially Roman cropmarks within the wider environs of the site (HER 1888, 15095 and 15096). The postulated route of two possible Roman roads run close to the site (HER 5342 and 10480).

### ***Early medieval (410 to 1066) and medieval (1066 to 1539)***

- 2.6 The historic core of Clifton (HER 17110) is listed in the Domesday Book, indicating it was founded prior to the Norman Conquest of 1066. Manorial sites were present in the 14th and 17th centuries to the north, east and south of the village. Evidence for medieval occupation has been recorded at Pedley Farm (EBD 1538), Grange Street (EBD 1596) and Elm Farm Close (EBD 1599). An Anglo-Saxon settlement is known to the north-east of Shefford (HER 19879) and Saxon pottery has been recovered to the north-west of Shefford (HER 19879) and the north-west of Henlow (HER 1987).

### ***Post-medieval and modern (1540 to present)***

- 2.7 Post-medieval mapping provides a wealth of evidence for agricultural land use around the site during the post-medieval period continuing to the present. Ridge and furrow agricultural practice has been identified by geophysical survey directly to the north of the site (HER 19956).
- 2.8 The geophysical survey identified the remains of agricultural ridge and furrow practice within the site. In the southern and central portion the furrows are aligned north/south changing to an east/west alignment in the north potentially indicating the site comprised parts of two open fields during the medieval period.
- 2.9 Anomalies interpreted as field boundaries by the geophysical survey are located towards the western boundary of the site and centrally within the site. These correspond with boundaries depicted on historic mapping.

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as detailed within the WSI (CA 2018), were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will

enable CBC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2018).

3.2 The specific objectives of the evaluation were as follows:

- Trenches 1-3 targeted a possible enclosure and associated ditches with the specific aim of establishing their date, function and occupation span;
- Trenches 4, 5 and 9 targeted former field boundaries depicted on historical mapping, with the specific aim of establishing a date for the medieval agricultural activity and changing land management;
- Trenches 9 and 16 targeted isolated pits and ditches with the aim of establishing if they are of archaeological origin and if so their date, form and function;
- Trenches 7, 8 and 10 to 15 targeted enclosure and boundary ditches located in the south-western part of the site, with the aim of establishing their date, function and chronology.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 19 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 3). Trenches 1 to 12 and 15 to 19 measured 50m long and 1.8m wide; Trenches 13 and 14 were 25m long and 1.8m wide. With the approval of Martin Oake, the locations of Trenches 8, 9 and 14 were altered from those depicted in the WSI (CA 2018). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*.

4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- cut feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- field drain
- furrow (excavated/unexcavated)
- modern
- A section location

**Geophysics Interpretation (AOC Archaeology, 2017)**

- Discrete Trend (Archaeology?)
- Discrete Pit (Archaeology?)
- Trend (Unclear Origin)
- Old Field Boundary
- Linear Trend (Ploughing)
- Geology/Natural
- Area of Disturbance (Modern)
- Ferrous/Iron Spikes



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Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land west of New Road, Clifton, Central Bedfordshire

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

|             |     |             |          |            |
|-------------|-----|-------------|----------|------------|
| DRAWN BY    | TB  | PROJECT NO. | 61205    | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY  | DJB | DATE        | 31.10.18 | <b>3</b>   |
| APPROVED BY | SJ  | SCALE@A3    | 1:1500   |            |

C:\Users\slurart\l\ovca\Desktop\661205 New Road Clifton Flr 2.dwg

- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *CA 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 Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum under accession number BEDFM 2018.76 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 3-18)

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

### ***General stratigraphy***

- 5.2 A similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within each of the trenches. The natural geological substrate, which comprised mid brown orange compact silty clay, was revealed at an average depth of between 0.42m and 0.53m below present ground level (bpgl), although the trench depth was greater in Trenches 10, 14, 15 and 19 (see Appendix A). This was overlain by mid orange brown friable silty clay subsoil, measuring on average between c. 0.13m and 0.24m thick, although this layer measured up to 0.56m thick in Trenches 10, 14, 15 and 19. This was in turn sealed by topsoil averaging between 0.19m and 0.41m in thickness. All the identified archaeological features cut the natural substrate, except where re-cutting of earlier features occurred (Fig. 4).





Fig. 4 Soil profile (1m scale)

- 5.3 The results of this archaeological evaluation correlate well with the preceding geophysical survey, which identified rectangular and circular enclosures, field-system ditches and possible trackway ditches, as well as cultivation marks interpreted as the remains of medieval and modern ploughing (Fig. 3).
- 5.4 No archaeological features or deposits were identified within Trenches 3, 16 and 17. Furrows were located within Trenches 2, 7, 10, 15 and 16, with modern ploughing identified within Trenches 4 and 5.

***Trench 1 (Figs 3 & 5 to 7)***

- 5.5 Located at the north-western end of the trench was broadly east/west orientated ditch 107. It measured 1.3m wide, but was not further investigated during the evaluation. No finds were recovered from its uppermost exposed fill 108, which comprised mid brown silty clay.
- 5.6 Ditch 107 broadly correlates with an east/west orientated anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey.

- 5.7 Located approximately 7m to the south-east were intercutting ditches 105 and 103. Ditch 105 was orientated east/west (Fig. 5). It measured 0.43m wide and 0.16m deep, with moderately steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. A total of three fragments of post-medieval tile were recovered from its mid-grey brown compact silty clay fill (106).



Fig. 5 Ditch 105, looking west (0.2m scale)

- 5.8 North-east/south-west orientated ditch 103 measured 1.7m wide and 0.37m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 6 & 7; section AA). Its single mid-orange brown, friable, silty clay fill (104), contained one fragment of cattle bone. A bulk soil sample (Sample 3) taken from deposit 104 contained small quantities of charred plant remains and charcoal. The relationship between ditches 105 and 103 was not investigated.

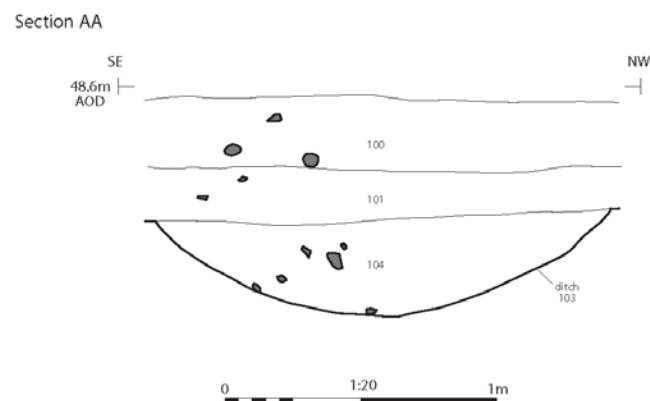


Fig. 6 Ditch 103: section (1:20)



Fig. 7 Ditch 103, looking south-west (1m scale)

- 5.9 Ditch 103 broadly correlates with a curvilinear anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey and interpreted as a possible enclosure.

**Trench 2 (Fig. 3)**

- 5.10 Located towards the north-western end of the trench was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 203. It measured 0.9m wide, but was not further investigated during the evaluation. No finds were recovered from its uppermost exposed fill 204, which comprised light brown silty sand.
- 5.11 Ditch 203 broadly correlates with a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a possible field-system ditch.

**Trench 4 (Figs 3 & 8)**

- 5.12 Located towards the north-western end of the trench was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 403. It measured 0.69m wide and 0.1m deep, with a symmetrical shallow, concave profile. No finds were recovered from its mid-yellow brown, compact silty clay fill (404).
- 5.13 Ditch 403 correlates with an anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey, which appears to form the continuation of a field boundary first depicted on the 1745 Joseph Cole Map the Estate of Viscount Torrington (Fig. 8).



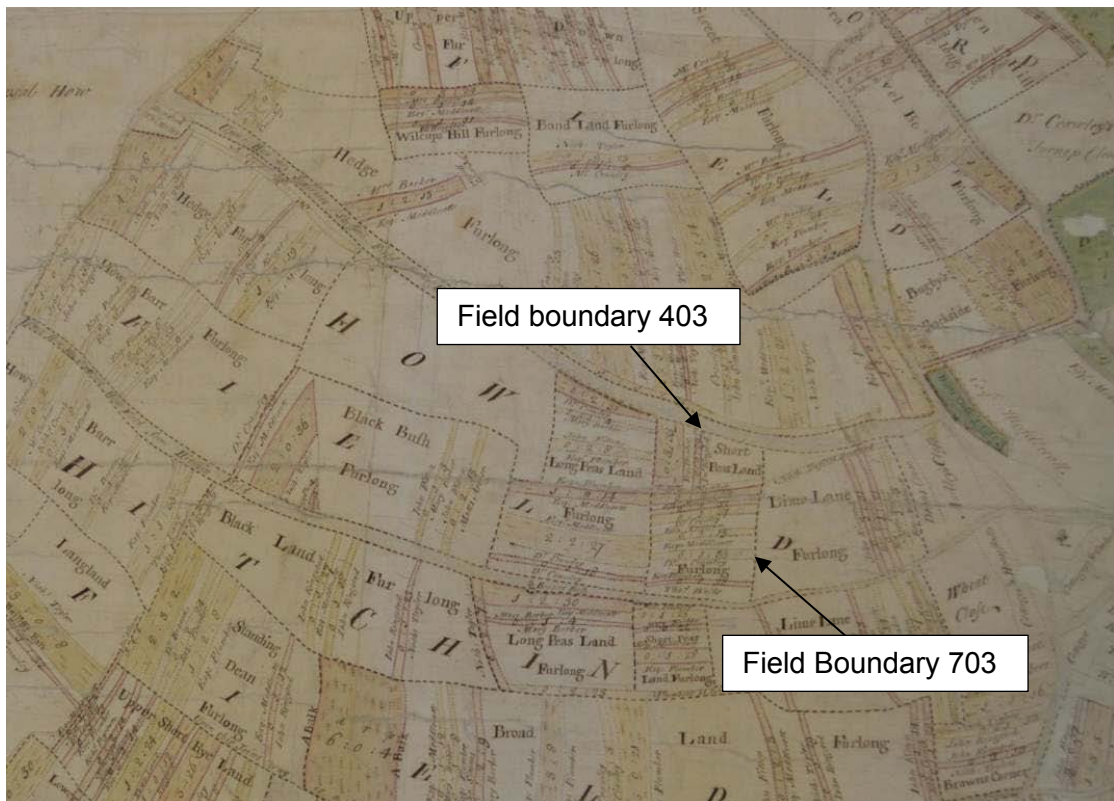


Fig. 8 Joseph Cole Map of 1745; Estate of Viscount Torrington (Bedfordshire Archives Ref. X1/58)

- 5.14 Located towards the centre of the trench was east/west orientated ditch 405. It measured 3.5m wide, but was not further investigated during the evaluation. No finds were recovered from its uppermost exposed fill 406, which comprised light brown silty sand.
- 5.15 Ditch 405 broadly corresponds with a broadly east/west orientated linear anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey and interpreted as a possible field boundary ditch. The continuation of this feature was recorded within Trench 5 as ditch 503/505.

### **Trench 5 (Fig. 3)**

- 5.16 A series of north-west/south-east orientated linear features were identified within Trench 5, measuring between 1m and 1.5m wide. The uppermost fills of which comprised of mid-yellow brown, compact silty clay, from which no finds were recovered. The three northernmost features appear to represent modern ploughing. The southernmost two features (ditches 503 and 505) may represent flanking ditches either side of a field boundary, or further plough marks.

- 5.17 Ditches 503 and 505 correlate with an anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey. The continuation of ditch 505 was recorded within Trench 4 as ditch 405.

**Trench 6 (Fig. 3)**

- 5.18 East/west orientated furrow 603 was identified towards the north-western end of the trench. It measured 1.42m wide and 0.28m deep, with a shallow, convex profile and irregular base. No finds were recovered from its single mid-yellow brown, silty clay fill (604).
- 5.19 Furrow 603 corresponds with an anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey.
- 5.20 Located towards the south-eastern end of the trench was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 605. It measured 1.9m wide, with an uppermost fill (606) of brown grey silty clay from which no finds were recovered.
- 5.21 Ditch 605, possibly forms the continuation of ditch 203, recorded within Trench 2, c. 100m to the north-east.

**Trench 7 (Fig. 3 & 8)**

- 5.22 Broadly east/west orientated ditch 703 was located centrally within the trench. It measured 0.9m wide, with an uppermost fill (704) of brown silty clay from which no finds were recovered.
- 5.23 Ditch 703 corresponds with an anomaly identified from the geophysical survey and with a boundary first depicted on the 1745 Joseph Cole Map the Estate of Viscount Torrington (Fig. 8).

**Trench 8 (Figs 3, 9 & 10)**

- 5.24 Located at the northern end of the trench was east/west orientated ditch 803 (Fig. 9). It measured 1m wide and 0.31m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It contained a single mid-yellow brown, compact silty clay fill (804) from which no finds were recovered.





Fig. 9 Ditch 803, looking east (1m scale)

- 5.25 Ditch 803 corresponds with a broadly east/west orientated anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey and with a boundary depicted on the 1832 Anthony Jackson Plan of the parish of Clifton (Fig. 10). The continuation of ditch 803 was recorded within Trenches 9 and 18 as ditches 903 and 1803 respectively.

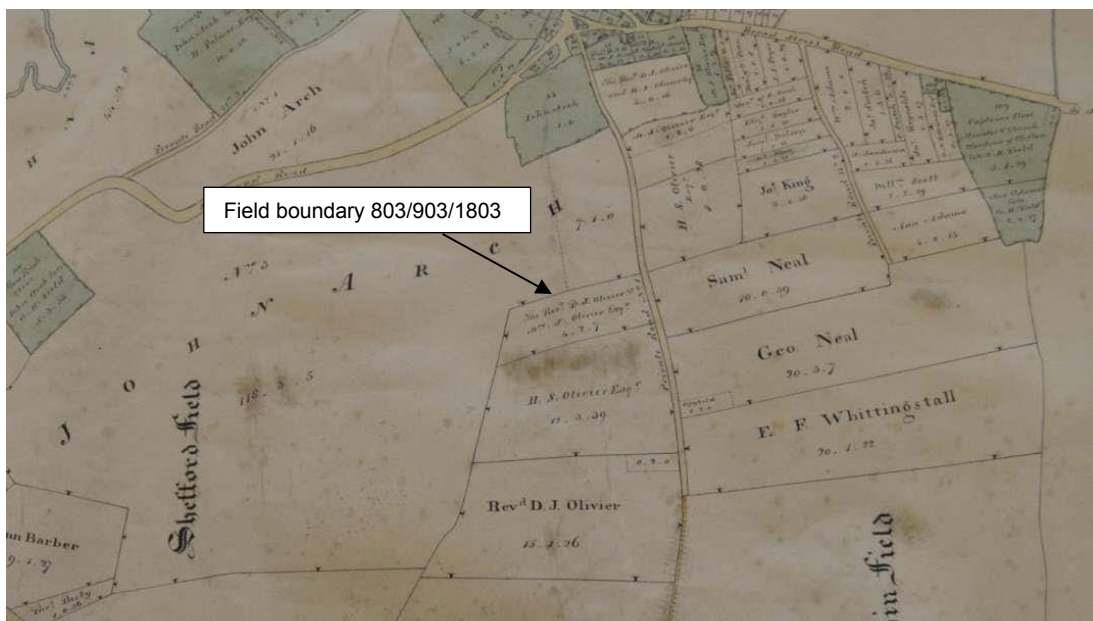


Fig. 10 Anthony Jackson (1832) Plan of the parish of Clifton in the County of Bedfordshire (Bedfordshire Archives Ref. MA59)

### **Trench 9 (Fig. 3 & 10)**

- 5.26 Located towards the northern end of the trench was broadly east/west orientated ditch 903. It measured 1.2m wide and 0.24m deep, with a shallow profile and concave base. It contained a dark grey brown sandy silt fill with occasional charcoal flecks (904), from which no finds were recovered.
- 5.27 Ditch 903 corresponds with a broadly east/west orientated anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey and with a boundary depicted on the 1832 plan of the Parish of Clifton (Fig. 10). The continuation of ditch 903 was recorded within Trenches 8 and 18 as ditches 803 and 1803 respectively.
- 5.28 A series of east/west orientated features were distributed throughout the trench, which follow the alignment of the current field system and most likely relate to post-medieval/modern ploughing.
- 5.29 Among these, ditches 905 and 907, measuring 0.5m and 1.3m respectively broadly correlate with north-east/south-west orientated anomalies depicted on the geophysical survey. These anomalies are tentatively interpreted as forming flanking ditches defining a possible drove way or trackway.

### **Trench 10 (Figs 3 & 11)**

- 5.30 North-east/south-west orientated paleochannel 1003 was partially revealed extending from the western baulk of the trench (Fig. 11; section BB). The length of the trench was subsequently extended to encompass the full width of the ditch, which measured 3.1m wide and was 0.4m deep. No finds were recovered from its mid brown yellow compact clay fill (1004), which contained occasional chalk flecks.

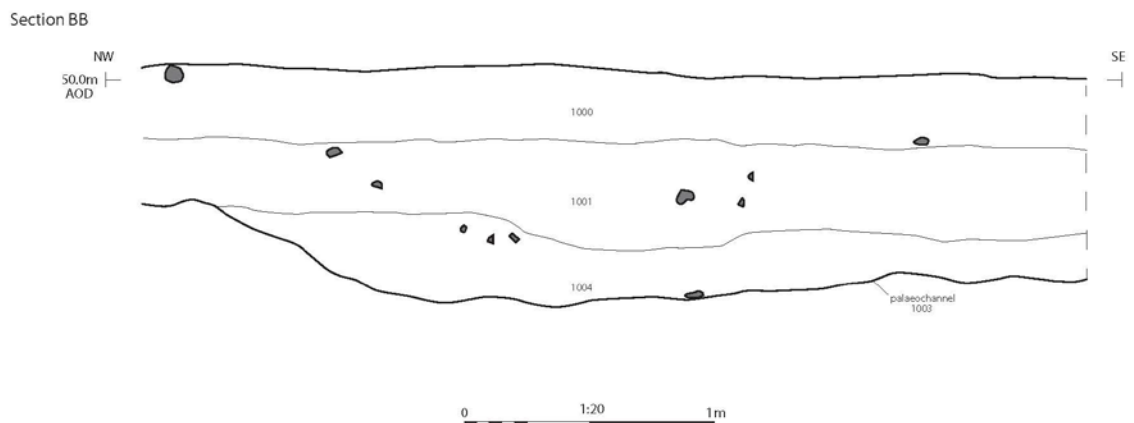


Fig. 11 Palaeochannel 1003 (scale 1:20)

- 5.31 Feature 1003 corresponded to an anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey which appeared to represent the remains of an extensive palaeochannel, cut into the underlying clay natural substrate.
- 5.32 North/south orientated ditch 1005 was partially revealed emanating from the eastern end of the trench. It measured in excess of 2.8m wide, but was not further investigated. No finds were recovered from its uppermost fill (1006), which comprised brown silty clay.
- 5.33 Ditch 1005 corresponded with a curvilinear anomaly identified on the geophysical survey, representing a probable enclosure.

#### **Trench 11 (Figs 3 & 12 to 14)**

- 5.34 Located at the south-western end of the trench was east/west orientated ditch 1103. The ditch had gradually sloping stepped sides and a flat base. It measured 1.24m wide and 0.13m deep. The mid-yellow brown compact silty clay (1104) contained five pieces of late-medieval to post-medieval tile and one fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem.
- 5.35 Cutting the fill 1104 of ditch 1103, was east/west orientated ditch 1113 (Fig. 12). It measured 0.46m wide and 0.4m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its silty clay fill (1114).



Fig. 12 Ditches 1103 and 1113, looking west (1m scale)

- 5.36 Located approximately 1m to the north, was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 1105 (Fig. 13; section CC). It measured 1.13m wide and 0.34m deep, with moderately steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. Two fragments of animal bone were recovered from its mid-yellow brown, compact silty clay fill (1106), which contained very occasional charcoal flecks.

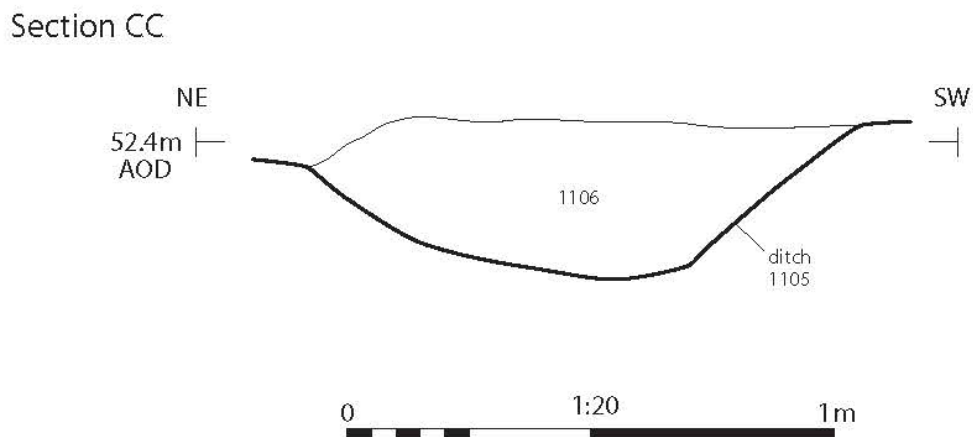


Fig.13 Ditch 1105: section (1:20)

- 5.37 Ditch 1105 corresponds with an anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey which is interpreted as a rectilinear enclosure measuring c. 153m in length and 90m in width.
- 5.38 Located centrally, at the apex of Trench 11, was north-west/south-east orientated ditch 1110/1107. It was revealed for a presumed length of 5m. Ditch terminus 1107 measured 0.78m wide and 0.39m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. Basal fill 1108 comprised mid-yellow brown, compact silty clay, which measured 0.06m thick, deposited by natural silting and erosion of the ditch. It contained 13 sherds of late-prehistoric pottery, two fragments of burnt clay and one fragment of cattle bone. Overlying this was fill 1109, which measured 0.34m thick, comprising dark grey brown, compact silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill 1109 contained three sherds of late prehistoric pottery along with 23 fragments of animal bone. An environmental soil sample (Sample 2) taken from fill 1109 recovered moderate quantities of charred plant remains and charcoal fragments.
- 5.39 Ditch 1110 measured 0.67m wide and 0.23m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base (Fig. 14). Its basal fill (1111) comprised mid-yellow brown

compact silty clay measuring 0.67m wide and 0.05m thick, from which no finds were recovered. Overlying this was fill 1112, which measured 0.18m thick and comprised dark grey brown, compact silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. A total of six sherds of late-prehistoric pottery, one fragment of fired clay and one piece of cattle bone were recovered from fill 1112, which was formed by natural silting.

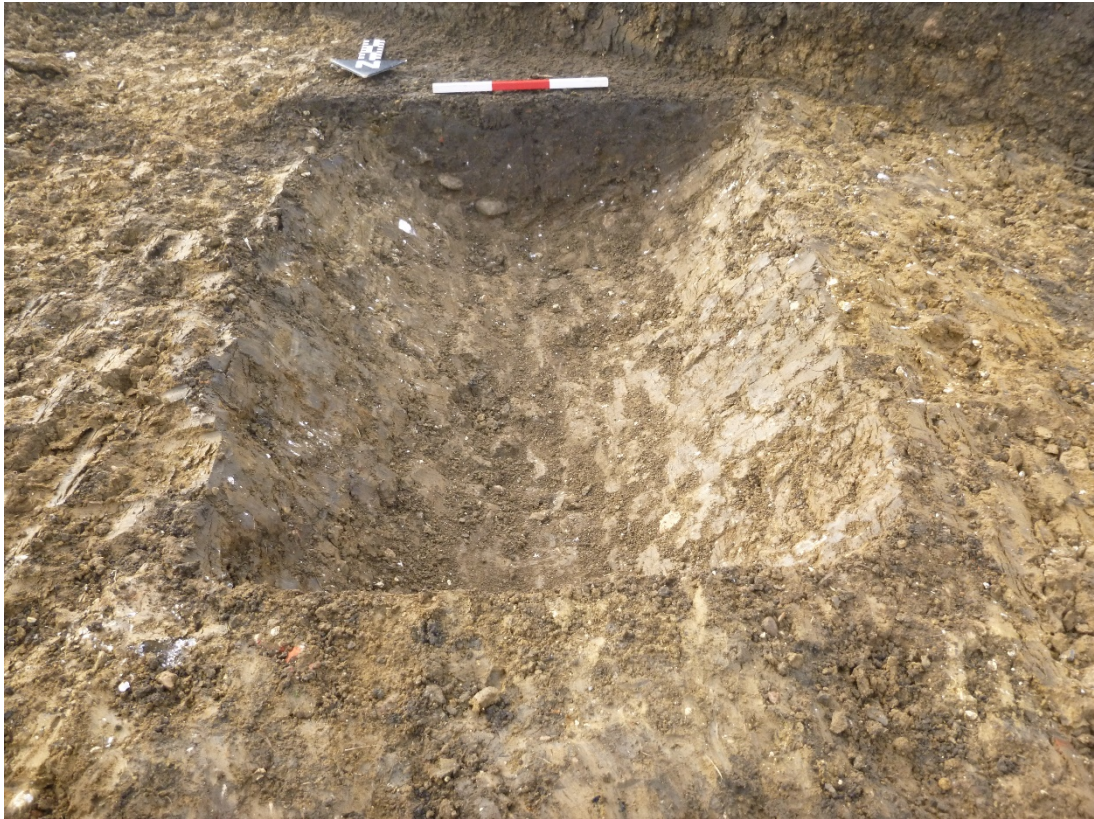


Fig. 14 Ditch 1110, looking south (0.3m scale)

- 5.40 Ditch 1107/1110 corresponded with a linear anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey, which appears to represent either part of an enclosure or an internal division within a larger enclosure.

#### **Trench 12 (Figs 3 & 15)**

- 5.41 Located towards the eastern end of the trench was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 1203 (Fig. 15; section DD). It measured 0.67m wide and 0.3m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The earliest fill (1205), comprising mid-grey brown, compact silty clay and measuring 0.1m thick, contained five sherds of late-prehistoric pottery, one fragment of fired clay and two pieces of animal bone. This was overlain by fill 1204, which comprised mid-grey brown silty clay, with significant charcoal inclusions, from which two sherds of late prehistoric pottery and 13

fragments of animal bone were recovered. An environmental sample (Sample 1) taken from fill 1204, identified small quantities of charred plant remains, moderate quantities of charcoal fragments and mollusc shells.

### Section DD

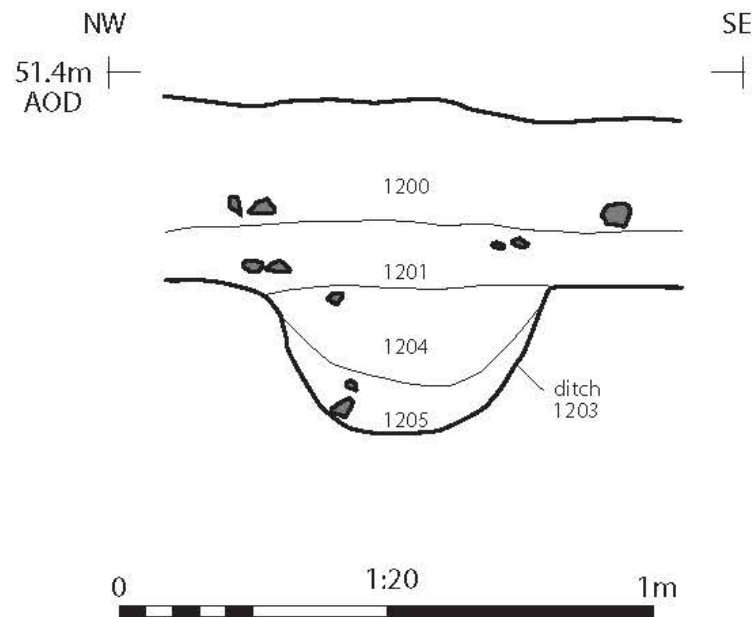


Fig. 15 Ditch 1203: section (scale 1:20)

- 5.42 Located towards the south-western end of the trench was north-east/south-west orientated ditch 1206. It measured approximately 1.25m wide, but was not further investigated. No finds were recovered from the surface of its brown silty clay fill (1207).
- 5.43 Ditches 1203 and 1206 correspond with a curvilinear anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey which define elements of a broadly circular enclosure with a projected internal diameter of approximately 45m.
- 5.44 Located 2.15m to the south of ditch 1206 was north-east/south-west orientated ditch terminus 1208. It measured approximately 1.8m wide, but was not further investigated. No finds were recovered from the surface of its brown silty clay fill (1209).



- 5.45 Ditch 1209 broadly correlates with a curvilinear anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey, but may equally represent the continuation of a linear geophysical anomaly identified approximately 6m to the east.

### **Trench 13 (Figs 3 & 16)**

- 5.46 Located centrally within the trench was east/west orientated ditch 1303 (Fig. 16; section EE). It measured approximately 1m wide and 0.41m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. It contained a single mid-yellow brown, compact silty clay fill (1304) with occasional charcoal inclusions, from which no finds were recovered.

#### Section EE

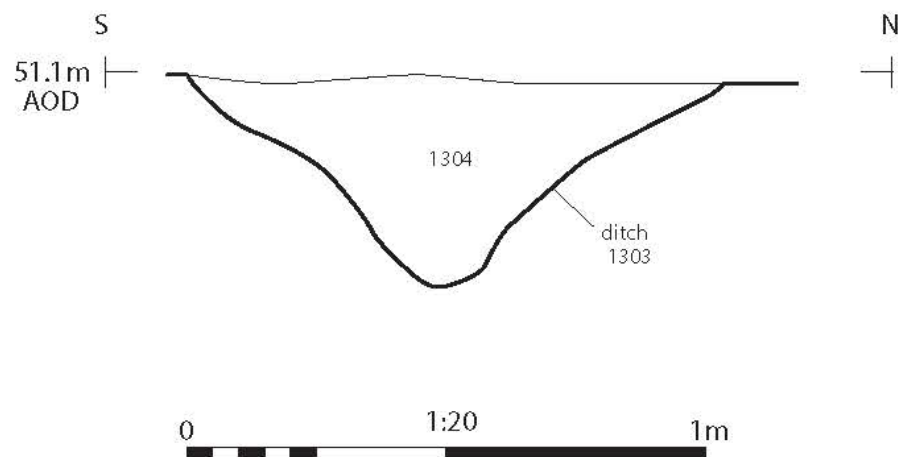


Fig. 16 Ditch 1303: section (1:20)

- 5.47 Ditch 1303 corresponded with a short linear geophysical anomaly, which may form part of an internal division within a larger enclosure.
- 5.48 Located towards the southern end of Trench 13 were parallel ditches 1305 and 1307. They measured 1.75m and 1m wide respectively, but were not further investigated. No finds were recovered from their respective silty clay fills (1306 and 1308). The continuation of these ditches was recorded within Trench 14 as ditch 1403.

- 5.49 Ditches 1305 and 1307 correspond with a linear geophysical anomaly, interpreted as forming part of a large enclosure measuring c. 153m in length and 90m in width. The continuation of these ditches was recorded within Trench 14 as ditch 1403.

**Trench 14 (Figs 3 & 17)**

- 5.50 Located at the south-western end of the trench was ditch terminus/pit 1405 (Fig. 17). It was sub-oval-shaped in plan and measured in excess of 1.5m long, 1.3m wide and 0.21m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave to flat base. Its earliest fill (1406) comprised mid-grey brown compact silty clay, measuring 0.17m thick, from which no finds were recovered. This was overlain by dark grey brown compact silty clay fill 1407, likely formed by natural silting processes during its disuse phase.

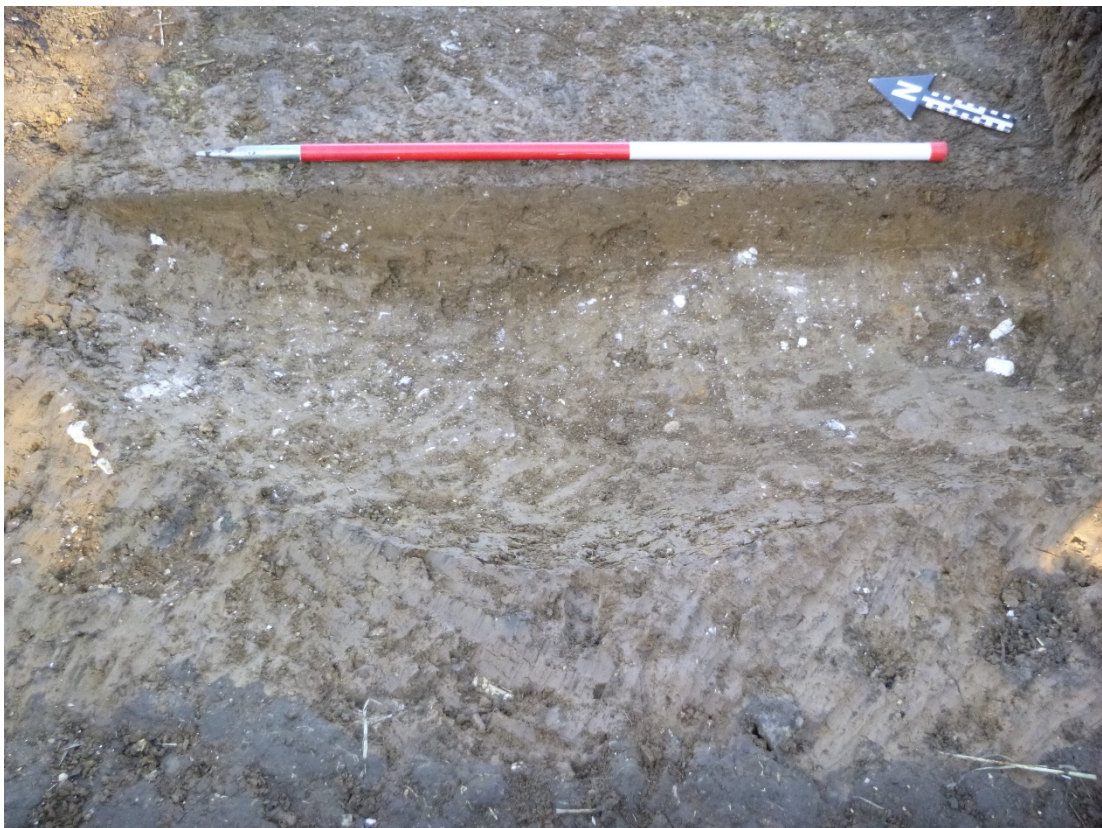


Fig. 17 Ditch/pit terminus 1405, looking north-east (1m scale)

- 5.51 Located to the immediate north was north-west/south-east orientated ditch 1403. It measured 1.31m wide and 0.28m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single mid-grey brown compact silty clay fill (1404).

- 5.52 Ditch1403 corresponds with a linear geophysical anomaly, interpreted as forming part of a large enclosure measuring c. 153m in length and 90m in width. The continuation of this ditch was recorded within Trench 13 as ditches 1305 and 1307.

**Trench 15 (Fig. 3)**

- 5.53 Located centrally within the trench was north-west/south-east orientated ditch 1503. It measured 3.5m wide, but was not further investigated. No finds were recovered from its uppermost fill (1504), which comprised brown silty clay.
- 5.54 Ditch 1503 corresponded with a curvilinear anomaly identified on the geophysical survey, representing a probable enclosure.

**Trench 18 (Fig. 3)**

- 5.55 Located towards the south-western end of the trench was east/west orientated ditch 1803. It measured 1.15m, but was not further investigated. No finds were recovered from its mid-yellow brown, compact silty clay fill (1804).
- 5.56 Ditch 1803 corresponds with a broadly east/west orientated linear anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey and with a boundary depicted on the 1832 plan of the Parish of Clifton (Fig. 10). The continuation of ditch 1803 was recorded within Trenches 8 and 9 as ditches 803 and 903 respectively.

**Trench 19 (Figs 3 & 18)**

- 5.57 Located towards the north-western end of the trench was north-west/south-east orientated ditch 1903 (Fig. 18). It measured 0.4m wide and 0.24m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its mid-yellow brown sandy silt fill (1904), which contained occasional charcoal inclusions.



Fig. 18 Ditch 1903, looking north (0.3m scale)

- 5.58 Ditch 1903 corresponds with a curvilinear anomaly depicted on the geophysical survey which defines a broadly circular enclosure with a projected internal diameter of approximately 45m.

### ***Medieval ridge and furrow***

- 5.59 Regularly spaced furrows, the remains of an open field system, were recorded in Trenches 6, 7, 10, 15 and 16, and were found to correspond with the alignment of the furrows shown on the geophysical survey plot (Fig. 3; AOC 2017). The furrows typically measured between 1.2m and 1.4m wide and, where excavated, were up to 0.28m deep. Their wide spacing, at c. 3.5m to 5.5m apart, and the slight curve in their alignments, as shown on the geophysical survey, suggests that they are likely to be medieval in origin.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 The artefactual material is recorded from eight deposits, the fills of ditches, with flint recovered from the surface of the site (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand and from samples.

### ***Pottery***

- 6.2 The pottery recovered from the evaluation is recorded in Appendix B and discussed below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this now forms the basis of Appendix B (Table 1). The pottery was examined by context, using a x40 hand lens and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016) and the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Guidelines (PCRG 2010). A concordance with the Bedfordshire type series has been provided with reference to Slowikowski (2000).
- 6.3 The assemblage comprises 29 sherds (138g) of pottery recorded from five deposits. All of the pottery was recovered from the fills of ditches. The condition of the assemblage is moderately poor; the majority of sherds are small and heavily abraded. The mean sherd weight is low even for a late prehistoric assemblage (4.8g).

**Late-prehistoric pottery**

- 6.4 A total of 29 sherds (138g) of handmade pottery can be attributed to the late prehistoric period. All the pottery recorded is made in sandy fabric Q1. The pottery is recorded from ditch fills 1108, 1109, 1112 and 1205. There are no distinguishing forms or decorations. Due to the lack of forms this material can only be dated broadly to the Iron Age period. Due to the poor condition of the assemblage it is not possible to provide a more detailed discussion of the material. Two small sherds (9g) are recorded from sample 1, taken from ditch fill 1204.

**Ceramic building material**

- 6.5 Eight fragments (137g) of ceramic building material are recorded from two deposits. Three tile fragments (64g) made in a fine sandy fabric with iron ore inclusions (fsfe) are recorded from ditch fill 106. Based on their thickness and firing these fragments can be dated to the post medieval period. Five tile fragments (73g) made in a fine sandy fabric (fs) with some fragments containing shelly voids (fssh), are recorded from ditch fill 1104. Based on their thickness and firing these fragments can be dated to the late medieval or post-medieval period.

**Fired clay**

- 6.6 Four fragments (31g) of fired clay are recorded from three deposits. The fired clay fragments are made in a coarse sandy fabric with iron ore inclusions (csfe) and a fine sandy fabric with calcareous (perhaps chalk) and flint inclusions (fsch/fschf). One small fragment, from ditch fill 1108 has a flat surface.

**Flint**

- 6.7 Two flint flakes (6g) are recorded from an unstratified deposit. One is a primary flake with 50% cortex, flake removal scars on the dorsal surface and significant damage to the proximal and lateral edges. The second flake is fractured at the distal end, with damage to all edges and damage to the bulb of percussion. Both appear to have been damaged post deposition most likely as a result of agricultural activity.

**Clay tobacco pipe**

- 6.8 A 60mm long stem of clay tobacco pipe (5g) is recorded from furrow fill 1104.

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### ***Animal Bone***

- 7.1 Animal bone amounting to forty-three fragments (425.5g) was recovered via hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from five ditches revealed in Trenches 1, 11 and 12. Artefactual material dating to the Late Prehistoric period was also recovered (See Table 3, Appendix C). The material was fragmentary but well enough preserved to make possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa*) and horse (*Equus caballus*).

### ***Late Prehistoric***

- 7.2 Trenches 11 and 12 revealed the only datable animal bone with 40 fragments (264.5g) recovered from the fills of ditches 1107, 1110 and 1203, of which only nine were identifiable to species. The majority of the hand excavated material was recovered from deposit 1204, a fill of ditch 1203. Cattle, sheep/goat and pig were all identified from bones both rich and poor in meat yield, as well as isolated teeth, none of which showed any chop or cut marks relating to butchery practice. The recovery of identifiable remains was too low to make any inference beyond species identification. However, these were commonly exploited domestic animals in this period, so their presence in a Late Prehistoric assemblage is to be expected.

### ***Undated***

- 7.3 The remaining three fragments (161g) were recovered from deposits 104 and 1106 which remain undated. Cattle/goat and horse were identified but the recovery was too low to provide any information beyond species identification.

### **Palaeoenvironmental Evidence**

- 7.4 A series of three environmental samples (120 litres of soil) were taken from two late prehistoric ditches from Trenches 12 and 11 and one undated ditch in Trench 1. This was done with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site and it was hoped that the environmental remains might provide some indication of date of the ditch in Trench 1. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No.2).
- 7.5 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 4, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also

been recorded, nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

- 7.6 The flots are similar in size with moderate to high numbers of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material comprised of poor to moderate levels of preservation. Due to the poor to moderate preservation levels it is hard to firmly identify any of the charred cereal grains to species and to also carry out further wood species identification on the charcoal. Much of the charcoal was poorly preserved and also impregnated with silt which inhibits wood species identification.
- 7.7 The dates mentioned within this report have been extracted from the pottery spot dates that can be found within the finds report.

### **Late Prehistoric**

#### **Trench 12**

- 7.8 Small quantities of charred plant remains were recorded from within fill 1204 (Sample 1, ditch 1203). These charred plant remains included a single indeterminate grain fragment, a single charred nut fragment, which is too poorly preserved to identify further, several seeds of meadow grass/cat's tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.) and oraches (*Atriplex* sp.) seeds. Moderate quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recorded during assessment. Moderate quantities of mollusc shells were noted as belonging to the open county species *Vallonia* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius* and *Carychium* sp. This assemblage is likely to be representative of dispersed domestic hearth material.

#### **Trench 11**

- 7.9 Moderate quantities of charred plant remains were recorded from within fill 1109 (Sample 2, ditch 1107). These charred plant remains included indeterminate grain fragments, a single tuber belonging to the species of false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.), water-pepper (*Persicaria* sp.) and oraches seeds. Moderate quantities of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were noted. No mollusc shells were recovered from within this sample. This assemblage is likely to be representative of dispersed domestic hearth material.

## **Undated**

### **Trench 1**

- 7.10 Small quantities of charred plant remains were recovered from within fill 104 (Sample 3, ditch 103). These remains included water-pepper seeds and black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) seeds. A small quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recovered. Moderate quantities of terrestrial mollusc shells were recorded during assessment as belonging to the open country species *Vallonia* sp. and the shade loving species *Oxychilus cellarius*, *Discus rotundatus* and *Carychium* sp. No other remains were recovered from within this sample to aid in the dating of the feature.

### **Summary**

- 7.11 The assemblages from the late prehistoric ditches appear to be representative of dispersed domestic waste and may indicate that some settlement activity was taking place in the wider vicinity of these features.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 The evaluation identified archaeological remains across the site, with a higher concentration of findings within the south-western part of the site. Although the majority of these features were undated artefactually, they can, for the most part, be attributed to one of two broad periods; the Iron Age or medieval to modern, based on cartographic sources, morphology and spatial relationships.
- 8.2 The results of the evaluation correlated well with the preceding geophysical survey, which identified a number of anomalies representing potential archaeological features; which comprised curvilinear, linear and discrete anomalies, indicative of settlement activity, along with further linear anomalies indicative of medieval and modern ploughing, as well as an extensive palaeochannel.
- 8.3 Probably the earliest activity identified on site comprised two flint flakes, although these objects are not closely dateable.
- 8.4 The artefactual evidence suggests that permanent settlement occurred within the south-western area of the site during the Iron Age. The Iron Age evidence comprised enclosures ditches and ditches possibly forming internal divisions.



Features associated with medieval and post-medieval agricultural land use were also recorded.

- 8.5 No archaeological features or deposits were identified within Trenches 3, 16 and 17. Furrows were located within Trenches 2, 7, 10, 15 and 16, with modern ploughing identified within Trenches 4 and 5.

### ***Natural Features***

- 8.6 An extensive, sinuous, but broadly linear feature, on a broadly north/south alignment, was recorded as an anomaly during the geophysical survey of the site and subsequently exposed during the evaluation. The feature was interpreted as a probable palaeochannel based on its morphology and fill characteristics. It was recorded in Trench 10 as feature 1003, measuring 3.1m wide and 0.4m deep. No finds were recovered from this feature and no stratigraphic relationships with dateable features was evident.

### ***Prehistoric (pre- AD 43)***

- 8.7 The evaluation has identified limited evidence of earlier prehistoric activity within the site, which is represented by unstratified residual flint flakes recovered from the surface of the topsoil. The artefacts are not closely dateable beyond broad prehistoric dating.
- 8.8 No other finds of earlier prehistoric date were identified during the evaluation, which has identified no clear areas of earlier prehistoric settlement. The limited identified activity during this period, suggests that activity during this period is likely to have been transient in nature and has left no evidence in the form of archaeological features.

### ***Iron Age (700 BC–AD 43)***

- 8.9 The evaluation has identified clear evidence for activity during the Iron Age. The evidence for settlement at this time was concentrated within the south-western part of the site, with undated, but possible Iron Age activity continuing to a lesser degree in the eastern-central and north-western parts of the site.
- 8.10 The pattern of ditches, as revealed by the geophysical survey, reveals the presence of a small enclosed settlement with a possible associated field system and a trackway tentatively interpreted from the results of the geophysical survey.

- 8.11 The artefactual evidence recovered from site is not closely dateable and indicates only that permanent settlement within the current evaluation area occurred broadly during Iron Age. The quantity and range of material culture across the site was small and no items of personal use and dress, or domestic/agricultural technology as are commonly found on rural sites in lowland England were recovered.
- 8.12 In the south-western part of the site there is good evidence from the geophysical survey for at least one large enclosure (Enclosure A), and a small sub-enclosure (Enclosure B). These features were investigated through the excavation of Trenches 7, 10 to 15 and 19 (Fig. 3).
- 8.13 The settlement, certainly within the central area of the site, was enclosed. This fits with the established pattern for the Middle to Late Iron Age in the region, which tends to indicate increasing numbers of enclosed settlements during the Iron Age. The large enclosure was identified within Trenches 10 to 15 (ditches 1005, 1103, 1105, 1113, 1206, 1208, 1305, 1307, 1403 and 1503. Enclosure A measured 153m in length and 90m in width.
- 8.14 Contained within Enclosure A, Enclosure B was identified within Trenches 12 and 19. It was broadly circular in plan and measured approximately 45m in diameter. Ditches 1203 and 1110, representing the eastern and western sides of the enclosure respectively, contained pottery dating broadly to the Iron Age. The recovered pottery suggests the enclosure is likely to have related to settlement. Further elements of the enclosure were recorded as ditches 1206 and 1903.
- 8.15 Trench 1 targeted a further possible enclosure (Enclosure C), which measured 18m by 12m. Evaluation confirmed the presence of a ditch (103) which broadly corresponded to the westernmost side of the enclosure; however, the easternmost side of the enclosure was not identified during the evaluation, possibly due to localised truncation by medieval furrows. No pottery was recovered from the identified ditch, which may represent a continuation of the settlement activity identified within the south-western part of the site or may form an associated paddock for stock management.
- 8.16 The evaluation confirmed the presence of Enclosures A and B, which contained pottery dating Broadly from the Iron Age. Enclosure C was tentatively identified.

Further ditches, possibly relating to an associated field system were located to the north and targeted by Trenches 2, 3 and 6.

- 8.17 Enclosure A contained few internal features; however, possible sub-divisions were recorded within Trenches 11 (ditch 1107/1110) and 13 (ditch 1303). The smaller identified enclosures (Enclosures B and C) did not contain any identifiable internal features, however, several of the enclosure ditches contained material suggestive of settlement.
- 8.18 A moderate assemblage of botanical remains was recovered from two environmental samples, with the presence of grain seeds within both samples. Some of the mollusc shells recorded within Sample 1 belong to species indicative of an open environment. Taken together the assemblage is representative of dispersed domestic waste within a locally open landscape, which further implies settlement activity taking place in the wider vicinity of these features.
- 8.19 A small collection of bones of domestic animals was recovered. Where the species could be determined, cattle, sheep/goat and pig were all identified from bones both rich and poor in meat yield, as well as isolated teeth, none of which showed any chop or cut marks relating to butchery practice. The recovery of identifiable remains was too low to make any inference beyond species identification. However, these were commonly exploited domestic animals in this period, so their presence in a Late Prehistoric assemblage is to be expected. The presence of animal bones in association with ceramics and charcoal is consistent with domestic refuse (O'Connor 2003, p 88) and the overall assemblage is not untypical of occupation of a small-scale domestic rural settlement.
- 8.20 A number of similar Iron Age settlements have been identified in the vicinity including to the west of Shefford (HER 379 and 11766) and to the east at Henlow (HER 19889). Archaeological investigation directly to the north of the site identified several ditches, one of which is tentatively dated to the Iron Age on the basis of recovered pottery (HER 19954). Cropmarks identified within the surrounding environs may represent further Iron Age activity (HER 1888, 15095 and 15096).

### **Medieval (1066 to 1539)**

#### **Ridge and furrow**

- 8.21 The evaluation identified a series of furrows orientated north/south in the southern part of the site and east/west in the northern part. These represent partial elements of the former open field system and indicate that the area was used as arable land during the medieval period.
- 8.22 Although no dateable material was recovered from these features, a medieval date for the initial construction of the earthworks is suggested, based on their morphology, as depicted on the geophysical survey, which shows a reversed S-shaped curve evident in their alignment and the spacing of the selions (individual strips) (Taylor 1975, 82; Rackham 1986, 167-9). The variation in the alignments of the furrows and the evidence from the geophysical survey is taken to indicate that the site covers parts of two or more former open fields. The identified field alignments appear to respect one another and form parts of a contemporaneous field system. The presence of furrows across the site indicates that the site formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Clifton during the medieval period.

#### **Field Systems**

- 8.23 The evaluation also identified field-system ditches and further agricultural features across the site. The alignments of the ditches form parts of at least two co-axial field systems.

### **Post-medieval/modern (1540 to present)**

- 8.24 Ditches 803, 903 and 1803 correspond with a geophysical anomaly and with a boundary first depicted on the Joseph Cole (1745) Map of the Estate of Viscount Torrington (Fig. 8).
- 8.25 Evidence of modern agricultural practices, most likely representing ploughing were identified within Trenches 4 and 5.
- 8.26 Ditches 405, 503 and 505, along with the evidence of ploughing identified within Trenches 4 and 5 fit within the general alignment of the surrounding field systems as depicted on historic and current Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig. 19). Based on morphological characteristics and cartographic sources, these surrounding field systems predominantly relate to Parliamentary Enclosures of the post-medieval

period. Ditches 403 and 703 also fit within this general pattern and appears to represent a boundaries depicted on historic mapping (Fig. 8).



Fig. 19 The Ordnance Survey First Edition map (scale twenty-five inches to one-mile), surveyed 1881, published 1883 (Bedfordshire XXII.12)

### **Undated**

- 8.27 Parallel linear geophysical anomalies identified within Trench 9, may represent the possible flanking ditches of a putative trackway. This putative trackway, broadly leads to the northern side of Enclosure A, with which it may be contemporary.
- 8.28 Undated north-east/south-west orientated ditches 203 and 605 and 703 during the evaluation may comprise partial elements of a field system. Based on the analysis of alignments, morphology and characteristics it is considered possible that this putative field system originates in the pre-medieval period and might even be contemporary with the Iron Age enclosure identified within the south-western part of the site.
- 8.29 Undated pit 1405, recorded within Trench 14 and undated ditches 105 and 107, located within Trench 1 could not be assigned to any of the identified periods of activity.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Eilidh Barr and James Coyne, assisted by Barbara Grahame, Laura Pearson, Esther Ortega and Eduardo Cabrera. The report was written by Stuart Joyce and Bethany Hardcastle. The finds report was written by Pete Banks, with the biological evidence reports written by Andy Clarke (Animal Bone) and Emma Aitkin (Palaeoenvironmental). The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Joyce.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type  | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description   | L (m) | W (m) | D (m) |
|------------|-------------|-------|---------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 1          | 100         | Layer |         | Topsoil                | Mid grey brown silty clay   | 50    | 1.8   | 0.28  |
| 1          | 101         | Layer |         | Subsoil                | Mid orange brown silty clay   | 50    | 1.8   | 0.16  |
| 1          | 102         | Layer |         | Natural                | Mottled mid –light brown orange clay                                    | 50    | 1.8   |       |
| 1          | 103         | Cut   |         | Cut of ditch           | Linear, gentle sloping sides, concave base, SW-SE orientated            | >1.8  | 1.7   | 0.37  |
| 1          | 104         | Fill  | 103     | Fill of ditch          | Mid orange brown silty clay, occasional chalk flecks                    | >1.8  | 1.7   | 0.37  |
| 1          | 105         | Cut   |         | Cut of gully           | Linear, rounded base, moderate sloping sides                            | >1    | 0.43  | 0.16  |
| 1          | 106         | Fill  | 105     | Fill of gully          | Mid yellow brown compact silty clay                                     | >1    | 0.43  | 0.16  |
| 1          | 107         | Cut   |         | Ditch                  | East/west orientated ditch – unexcavated                                |       | 1.3   |       |
| 1          | 108         | Fill  | 107     | Fill of ditch          | Uppermost fill of ditch   |       | 1.3   |       |
| 2          | 200         | Layer |         | Topsoil                | Mid grey brown soft silty clay  | 50    | 1.8   | 0.37  |
| 2          | 201         | Layer |         | Subsoil                | Mid orange brown friable silty clay                                     | 50    | 1.8   | 0.16  |
| 2          | 202         | Layer |         | Natural                | Mottled mid-light orange clay with gravel patches                       | 50    | 1.8   |       |
| 2          | 203         | Cut   |         | Ditch                  | North-east/south-west orientated ditch – unexcavated                    |       | 0.9   |       |
| 2          | 204         | Fill  | 203     | Fill of ditch          | Uppermost fill of ditch   |       | 0.9   |       |
| 3          | 300         | Layer |         | Topsoil                | Mid grey brown soft silty clay  | 50    | 1.8   | 0.27  |
| 3          | 301         | Layer |         | Subsoil                | Mid brown orange friable silty clay                                     | 50    | 1.8   | 0.15  |
| 3          | 302         | Layer |         | Natural                | Mottled dark and mid orange clay with gravel patches                    | 50    | 1.8   |       |
| 4          | 400         | Layer |         | Topsoil                | Mid grey brown soft silty clay  | 50    | 1.8   | 0.32  |
| 4          | 401         | Layer |         | Subsoil                | Mid brown orange silty clay   | 50    | 1.8   | 0.23  |
| 4          | 402         | Layer |         | Natural                | Mid brown orange clay with gravel patches                               | 50    | 1.8   |       |
| 4          | 403         | Cut   |         | Cut                    | Linear, shallow concave sides, rounded base, E-W orientated             | >1    | 0.69  | 0.1   |
| 4          | 404         | Fill  | 403     | Fill                   | Mid yellow brown compact silty clay                                     | >1    | 0.69  | 0.1   |
| 4          | 405         | Cut   |         | Ditch                  | North-west/south-east orientated ditch – unexcavated                    |       | 3.5   |       |
| 4          | 406         | Fill  | 405     | Fill of ditch          | Uppermost fill of ditch   |       | 3.5   |       |
| 5          | 500         | Layer |         | Topsoil                | Mid grey brown soft silty clay  | 50    | 1.8   | 0.3   |
| 5          | 501         | Layer |         | Subsoil                | Mid brown orange friable silty clay                                     | 50    | 1.8   | 0.18  |
| 5          | 502         | Layer |         | Natural                | Mottled mid orange and light yellow clay with gravel patches            | 50    | 1.8   |       |
| 5          | 503         | Cut   |         | Ditch                  | North-west/south-east orientated ditch – unexcavated                    |       | 1.53  |       |
| 5          | 504         | Fill  | 503     | Fill of ditch          | Uppermost fill of ditch   |       | 1.53  |       |
| 5          | 505         | Cut   |         | Ditch                  | North-west/south-east orientated ditch – unexcavated                    |       | 0.75  |       |
| 5          | 506         | Fill  | 505     | Fill of ditch          | Uppermost fill of ditch   |       | 0.75  |       |
| 6          | 600         | Layer |         | Topsoil                | Mid grey orange/brown loose silty clay                                  | 50    | 1.8   | 0.24  |
| 6          | 601         | Layer |         | Subsoil                | Mid brown orange friable silty clay                                     | 50    | 1.8   | 0.24  |
| 6          | 602         | Layer |         | Natural                | Mottled orange brown and white grey silty clay with some gravel patches | 50    | 1.8   |       |
| 6          | 603         | Cut   |         | Cut of furrow          | Linear, shallow, convex sides, irregular base, E-W orientation          | >1    | 1.42  | 0.28  |
| 6          | 604         | Fill  | 603     | Fill of furrow         | Mid yellow brown compact silty clay                                     | >1    | 1.42  | 0.28  |
| 6          | 605         | Cut   |         | Ditch                  | North-east/south-west orientated ditch – unexcavated                    |       | 1.9   |       |
| 6          | 606         | Fill  | 605     | Fill of ditch          | Uppermost fill of ditch   |       | 1.9   |       |



|    |      |       |      |                |   |     |      |      |
|----|------|-------|------|----------------|---|-----|------|------|
| 7  | 700  | Layer |      | Topsoil        | Mid grey brown soft silty clay                                      | 50  | 1.8  | 0.26 |
| 7  | 701  | Layer |      | Subsoil        | Mid orange brown silty clay with mid white grey patches             | 50  | 1.8  | 0.13 |
| 7  | 702  | Layer |      | Natural        | Mid yellow brown silty clay   | 50  | 1.8  |      |
| 7  | 703  | Cut   |      | Ditch          | North-west/south-east orientated ditch – unexcavated                |     |      |      |
| 7  | 704  | Fill  | 605  | Fill of ditch  | Uppermost fill of ditch   |     |      |      |
| 8  | 800  | Layer |      | Topsoil        | Mid orange brown friable silty clay                                 | 50  | 1.8  | 0.19 |
| 8  | 801  | Layer |      | Subsoil        | Mid brown orange compact silty clay                                 | 50  | 1.8  | 0.19 |
| 8  | 802  | Layer |      | Natural        | Mottled brown orange silty clay with gravel patches                 | 50  | 1.8  |      |
| 8  | 803  | Cut   |      | Cut of ditch   | Linear, moderate steep sloping sides, rounded base                  | >1  | 1.04 | 0.31 |
| 8  | 804  | Fill  | 803  | Fill of ditch  | Mid yellow brown compact silty clay                                 | >1  | 1.04 | 0.31 |
| 9  | 900  | Layer |      | Topsoil        | Mid greyish orange brown, friable silty clay                        | 50  | 1.8  | 0.23 |
| 9  | 901  | Layer |      | Subsoil        | Mid orange brown silty clay   | 50  | 1.8  | 0.23 |
| 9  | 902  | Layer |      | Natural        | Mottled orange brown silty clay with gravel inclusions              | 50  | 1.8  |      |
| 9  | 903  | Cut   |      | Cut of ditch   | Irregular, concave sides, rounded base, NE-SW orientation           | 0.6 | 0.6  | 0.1  |
| 9  | 904  | Fill  | 903  | Fill of ditch  | Dark grey brown silty sand, infrequent charcoal inclusions          | 0.6 | 0.6  | 0.1  |
| 9  | 905  | Cut   |      | Ditch          | North-east/south-west orientated ditch – unexcavated                |     | 0.5  |      |
| 9  | 906  | Fill  | 905  | Fill of ditch  | Uppermost fill of ditch   |     | 0.5  |      |
| 9  | 907  | Cut   |      | Ditch          | North-east/south-west orientated ditch – unexcavated                |     | 1.3  |      |
| 9  | 908  | Fill  | 907  | Fill of ditch  | Uppermost fill of ditch   |     | 1.3  |      |
| 10 | 1000 | Layer |      | Topsoil        | Mid grey brown loose silty clay                                     | 50  | 1.8  | 0.41 |
| 10 | 1001 | Layer |      | Subsoil        | Mid orange brown soft silty clay                                    | 50  | 1.8  | 0.56 |
| 10 | 1002 | Layer |      | Natural        | Mid yellow brown silty clay   | 50  | 1.8  |      |
| 10 | 1003 | Cut   |      | Paleochannel   | Linear, NE-SW orientated, shallow, irregular base                   | >10 | 3.1  | 0.4  |
| 10 | 1004 | Fill  | 1003 | Palaeochannel  | Mid brown yellow compact clay with occasional chalk flecks          | >10 | 3.1  | 0.4  |
| 10 | 1005 | Cut   |      | Ditch          | North/south orientated ditch – unexcavated                          |     | 2.8  |      |
| 10 | 1006 | Fill  | 1005 | Fill of ditch  | Uppermost fill of ditch   |     | 2.8  |      |
| 11 | 1100 | Layer |      | Topsoil        | Dark grey brown compact silty clay                                  | 50  | 1.8  |      |
| 11 | 1101 | Layer |      | Subsoil        | Mid grey brown compact silty clay                                   | 50  | 1.8  |      |
| 11 | 1102 | Layer |      | Natural        | Light yellow brown compact silty clay                               | 50  | 1.8  |      |
| 11 | 1103 | Cut   |      | Cut of furrow  | Linear, E-W orientation, stepped sides with sharp break of slope    | >1  | 1.24 | 0.13 |
| 11 | 1104 | Fill  | 1103 | Fill of furrow | Mid yellow brown compact silty clay                                 | >1  | 1.24 | 0.13 |
| 11 | 1105 | Cut   |      | Cut of ditch   | Linear, moderate steep sloping sides, rounded base, E-W orientation | >1  | 1.13 | 0.34 |
| 11 | 1106 | Fill  | 1105 | Fill of ditch  | Mid yellow brown compact silty clay                                 | >1  | 1.13 | 0.34 |
| 11 | 1107 | Cut   |      | Cut of ditch   | Linear, steep sloping sides, rounded base, NW-SE orientation        | >1  | 0.78 | 0.37 |
| 11 | 1108 | Fill  | 1107 | Fill of ditch  | Mid yellow brown compact silty clay                                 | >1  | 0.57 | 0.06 |
| 11 | 1109 | Fill  | 1107 | Fill of ditch  | Dark grey brown compact silty clay                                  | >1  | 0.72 | 0.34 |
| 11 | 1110 | Cut   |      | Cut of ditch   | Linear, moderate sloping sides, rounded base, NE-SE orientation     | >1  | 0.67 | 0.23 |
| 11 | 1111 | Fill  | 1110 | Fill of ditch  | Mid yellow brown compact silty clay                                 | >1  | 0.65 | 0.05 |
| 11 | 1112 | Fill  | 1110 | Fill of ditch  | Dark grey brown compact silty clay                                  | >1  | 0.67 | 0.19 |
| 12 | 1200 | Layer |      | Topsoil        | Dark grey brown friable silty clay                                  | 50  | 1.8  | 0.3  |
| 12 | 1201 | Layer |      | Subsoil        | Mid orange brown friable silty clay                                 | 50  | 1.8  | 0.14 |
| 12 | 1202 | Layer |      | Natural        | Light yellowish brown, friable silty clay                           | 50  | 1.8  |      |

|    |      |       |      |                   |   |      |      |      |
|----|------|-------|------|-------------------|---|------|------|------|
| 12 | 1203 | Cut   |      | Cut of ditch      | Linear, steep sloping sides, flat base, NE-SW orientation                                 | >1   | 0.67 | 0.3  |
| 12 | 1204 | Fill  | 1203 | Fill of ditch     | Mid grey brown firm silty clay  | >1   | 0.67 | 0.2  |
| 12 | 1205 | Fill  | 1203 | Fill of ditch     | Mid orange brown compact silty clay   | >1   | 0.54 | 0.1  |
| 12 | 1206 | Cut   |      | Ditch             | North-east/south-west orientated ditch – unexcavated                                      |      | 1.25 |      |
| 12 | 1207 | Fill  | 206  | Fill of ditch     | Uppermost fill of ditch   |      | 1.25 |      |
| 12 | 1208 | Cut   |      | Ditch terminus    | North-east/south-west orientated ditch – unexcavated                                      |      | 1.8  |      |
| 12 | 1209 | Fill  | 1208 | Fill of ditch     | Uppermost fill of ditch   |      | 1.8  |      |
| 13 | 1300 | Layer |      | Topsoil           | Dark grey brown friable silty clay  | 50   | 1.8  | 0.34 |
| 13 | 1301 | Layer |      | Subsoil           | Mid orange brown friable silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  | 0.19 |
| 13 | 1302 | Layer |      | Natural           | Light orange brown friable silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  |      |
| 13 | 1303 | Cut   |      | Cut of ditch      | Linear, moderate sloping sides, rounded base with gradual break of slope, E-W orientation | >1   | 1.02 | 0.41 |
| 13 | 1304 | Fill  | 1303 | Fill of ditch     | Mid yellow brown compact silty clay   | >1   | 1.02 | 0.41 |
| 13 | 1305 | Cut   |      | Ditch             | North-east/south-west orientated ditch – unexcavated                                      |      | 1.75 |      |
| 13 | 1306 | Fill  | 1305 | Fill of ditch     | Uppermost fill of ditch   |      | 1.75 |      |
| 13 | 1307 | Cut   |      | Ditch             | North-east/south-west orientated ditch – unexcavated                                      |      | 1    |      |
| 13 | 1308 | Fill  | 1307 | Fill of ditch     | Uppermost fill of ditch   |      | 1    |      |
| 14 | 1400 | Layer |      | Topsoil           | Dark grey brown friable silty clay  | 50   | 1.8  | 0.34 |
| 14 | 1401 | Layer |      | Subsoil           | Mid orange brown friable silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  | 0.38 |
| 14 | 1402 | Layer |      | Natural           | Light orange brown friable silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  |      |
| 14 | 1403 | Cut   |      | Cut of ditch      | Linear, moderate sloping sides, concave base, NE-SW orientation                           | >1.8 | 1.31 | 0.28 |
| 14 | 1404 | Fill  | 1403 | Fill of ditch     | Mid grey brown compact silty clay   | >1.8 | 1.31 | 0.28 |
| 14 | 1405 | Cut   |      | Cut of treethrow  | Sub-oval, gentle sloping sides, concave-flat base   | 1.48 | 1.3  | 0.21 |
| 14 | 1406 | Fill  | 1405 | Fill of treethrow | Mid grey brown compact silty clay   | 1.48 | 1.3  | 0.17 |
| 14 | 1407 | Fill  | 1405 | Fill of treethrow | Dark grey brown compact silty clay  | 1.48 | 1.3  | 0.1  |
| 15 | 1500 | Layer |      | Topsoil           | Dark grey brown friable silty clay  | 50   | 1.8  | 0.24 |
| 15 | 1501 | Layer |      | Subsoil           | Mid orange brown friable silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  | 0.44 |
| 15 | 1502 | Layer |      | Natural           | Mid orange brown compact silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  |      |
| 15 | 1503 | Cut   |      | Ditch             | North-west/south-east orientated ditch – unexcavated                                      |      | 3.5  |      |
| 15 | 1504 | Fill  | 1503 | Fill of ditch     | Uppermost silty clay fill of ditch  |      | 3.5  |      |
| 16 | 1600 | Layer |      | Topsoil           | Mid greyish brown friable silty clay  | 50   | 1.8  | 0.2  |
| 16 | 1601 | Layer |      | Subsoil           | Mid orange brown silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  | 0.16 |
| 16 | 1602 | Layer |      | Natural           | Mid orange brown silty clay with frequent gravel patches                                  | 50   | 1.8  |      |
| 17 | 1700 | Layer |      | Topsoil           | Mid grey brown soft silty clay  | 50   | 1.8  | 0.21 |
| 17 | 1701 | Layer |      | Subsoil           | Mid brown orange friable silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  | 0.22 |
| 17 | 1702 | Layer |      | Natural           | Light-mid orange brown silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  |      |
| 18 | 1800 | Layer |      | Topsoil           | Mid grey brown soft silty clay  | 50   | 1.8  | 0.29 |
| 18 | 1801 | Layer |      | Subsoil           | Mid orange brown friable silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  | 0.2  |
| 18 | 1802 | Layer |      | Natural           | Mid brown orange compact silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  |      |
| 18 | 1803 | Cut   |      | Ditch             | East/west orientated ditch  |      | 1.15 |      |
| 18 | 1804 | Fill  | 1803 | Fill of ditch     | Uppermost silty clay fill of ditch  |      | 1.15 |      |
| 19 | 1900 | Layer |      | Topsoil           | Dark grey brown friable silty clay  | 50   | 1.8  | 0.24 |
| 19 | 1901 | Layer |      | Subsoil           | Mid orange brown friable silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  | 0.48 |
| 19 | 1902 | Layer |      | Natural           | Light orange brown friable silty clay   | 50   | 1.8  |      |
| 19 | 1903 | Cut   |      | Cut of ditch      | Linear, irregular sides, flat base, NW-SW orientation                                     | >1   | 0.4  | 0.24 |
| 19 | 1904 | Fill  | 1903 | Fill of ditch     | Mid yellow brown, sandy silt, occasional charcoal   | >1   | 0.4  | 0.24 |

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

| Context | Sample | Class                    | Description      | Fabric Code | Count | Weight | Spot-date     |
|---------|--------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| 106     |        | CBM                      | Tiles x 3        | fsfe        | 3     | 64     | POST MED      |
| 1104    |        | Clay tobacco pipe        | Stem             |             | 1     | 5      | LMED-POST MED |
|         |        | CBM                      | Tiles x 5        | fs/fssh     | 5     | 73     |               |
| 1108    |        | Fired/burnt clay         | Flat surface x 1 | fsch/fschf  | 2     | 22     | LATE PREH     |
|         |        | Late prehistoric pottery | Sandy fabric     | Q1          | 9     | 42     |               |
|         |        | Late prehistoric pottery | Sandy fabric     | Q1          | 4     | 15     |               |
| 1109    |        | Late prehistoric pottery | Sandy fabric     | Q1          | 3     | 5      | LATE PREH     |
| 1112    |        | Late prehistoric pottery | Sandy fabric     | Q1          | 6     | 58     | LATE PREH     |
|         |        | Fired/burnt clay         |                  | csfe        | 1     | 6      |               |
| 1204    | 1      | Late prehistoric pottery | Sandy fabric     | Q1          | 2     | 9      | LATE PREH     |
| 1205    |        | Late prehistoric pottery | Sandy fabric     | Q1          | 5     | 9      | LATE PREH     |
|         |        | Fired/burnt clay         |                  | fsch        | 1     | 3      |               |
| u/s     |        | Flint                    | Flakes x 2       |             | 2     | 6      |               |

Table 2: Fabric Description

| Date                     | Description  | Fabric | Beds Types* | Count     | Weight (g) |
|--------------------------|--|--------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Late Prehistoric Pottery | Common moderately sorted rounded medium sand $\leq 3\text{mm}$ | Q      | F11         | 27        | 129        |
| <b>Total</b>             |  |        |             | <b>27</b> | <b>129</b> |

\* Bedfordshire Type codes (Slowikowski 2000)

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

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

| Cut                     | Fill | BOS        | O/C       | SUS      | EQ | MM        | BB SS     | Total      | Weight (g)   |
|-------------------------|------|------------|-----------|----------|----|-----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| <b>Late Prehistoric</b> |      |            |           |          |    |           |           |            |              |
| 1107                    | 1109 |            | 1         |          |    | 1         | 21        | 23         | 23           |
| 1107                    | 1108 | 1          |           |          |    |           |           | 1          | 18           |
| 1110                    | 1112 | 1          |           |          |    |           |           | 1          | 8            |
| 1203                    | 1204 | 2          | 3         | 1        |    | 3         | 4         | 13         | 213.5        |
| 1203                    | 1205 |            |           |          |    |           | 2         | 2          | 2            |
| <b>Subtotal</b>         |      | <b>4</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>1</b> |    | <b>6</b>  | <b>25</b> | <b>40</b>  | <b>264.5</b> |
| <b>Undated</b>          |      |            |           |          |    |           |           |            |              |
| 105                     | 104  | 1          |           |          |    |           |           | 1          | 36           |
| 1105                    | 1106 | 1          |           |          |    | 1         |           | 2          | 125          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>         |      | <b>2</b>   |           |          |    | <b>1</b>  |           | <b>3</b>   | <b>161</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>            |      | <b>6</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>1</b> |    | <b>1</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>43</b>    |
| <b>Weight</b>           |      | <b>314</b> | <b>57</b> | <b>1</b> |    | <b>40</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>1.5</b> | <b>425.5</b> |

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; EQ = horse; MM = sheep size mammal; BB SS = unidentifiable burnt fragments from bulk soil samples

**Table 4:** Assessment of Environmental Remains

| Feature                 | Context | Sample | Processed vol (L) | Unprocessed vol (L) | Flot size (ml) | Roots % | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes | Charred Other | Notes for Table   | Ch > 4 |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------|-------|-------|--------------|---------------|---|--------|
| <b>Late Prehistoric</b> |         |        |                   |                     |                |         |       |       |              |               |   |        |
| Ditch 1204              | 1204    | 1      | 20                | 20                  | 20             | 40      | *     | -     | indet grain  | **            | nut fragment (unknown), <i>Poa/Phleum</i> sp., <i>Atriplex</i> sp.  | **/    |
| Ditch 1107              | 1109    | 2      | 20                | 20                  | 20             | 90      | **    | -     | indet grain  | **            | tuber (incl. <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> var. <i>bulbosum</i> ), <i>Galium</i> sp., <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Rumex</i> sp., <i>Persicaria</i> sp., <i>Atriplex</i> sp., vitrified seed | **/    |
| <b>Undated</b>          |         |        |                   |                     |                |         |       |       |              |               |   |        |
| Ditch 103               | 104     | 3      | 20                | 20                  | 15             | 90      | -     | -     | -            | *             | <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> , <i>Persicaria</i> sp.   | **/    |

Key: \* = 1–4 items; \*\* = 4–20 items; \*\*\* = 21–49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50–99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items  
moll-t = terrestrial mollusc, sab = small animal bone, brnt bn = burnt bone, slag = industrial waste

## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>  |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Project Name  | Land west of New Road, Clifton, Central Bedfordshire  |   |
| Short description   | <p>In October 2018, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land west of New Road, Clifton, Central Bedfordshire. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of nineteen trenches.</p> <p>The evaluation identified a concentration of archaeological remains within the south-western part of the site, with a lower density of archaeological remains across the remainder of the site. Where archaeological features were encountered during the current trenching there was a good correlation with the results of the geophysical survey.</p> <p>Natural features included a silted palaeochannel. Early prehistoric activity is represented by residual worked flint recovered from the surface of the topsoil.</p> <p>The earliest identified features comprised ditches forming elements of two enclosures containing pottery of broadly Iron Age date. The evidence suggests a dispersed domestic settlement within the Iron Age, concentrated in the south-western part of the site.</p> <p>A further undated, possible enclosure was identified in the northern central part of site, along with elements of an undated, but possibly contemporary field system.</p> <p>Medieval plough furrows, the remains of the open field system that once surrounded the village of Clifton, were encountered across the majority of the site. In addition, the evaluation identified ditches and further agricultural features across the site. The ditches are likely to represent boundary and/or drainage features. No dateable material was recovered from the features, which based on the cartographic evidence and morphological characteristics have their origins within the post-medieval period, with subsequent modern additions and remodelling.</p> <p>A pit and four ditches could not be attributed to any of the identified periods and remained undated.</p> |   |
| Project dates   | 15 – 23 October 2018  |   |
| Project type  | Field Evaluation  |   |
| Previous work   | AOC (AOC Archaeology Group) 2017 Land off New Road, Clifton, Bedfordshire: Archaeological geophysical Survey  |   |
| Future work   | Unknown   |   |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>   |   |   |
| Site Location   | Land west of New Road, Clifton, Central Bedfordshire  |   |
| Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)   | 6.93ha  |   |
| Site co-ordinates   | 516209 238499   |   |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>   |   |   |
| Name of organisation  | Cotswold Archaeology  |   |
| Project Brief originator  | Central Bedfordshire  |   |
| Project Design (WSI) originator   | Cotswold Archaeology  |   |
| Project Manager   | Stuart Joyce (CA); Nikki Cook (Savills)   |   |
| Project Supervisor  | Eilidh Barr   |   |
| <b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>  | Iron Age enclosure ditches, medieval furrows, undated field-system ditches  |   |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>  | Iron Age pottery  |   |
| <b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>   |   |   |
|   | Intended final location of archive  | Content (   |
| Physical  | The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum<br>BEDFM 2018.76   | Pottery, CBM, burnt clay, flint, , animal bone, clay pipe |
| Paper   | The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum  | WSI, pro forma recording sheets, registers                |
| Digital   | BEDFM 2018.76   | Database, digital photos, digital survey data             |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>   |   |   |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land west of New Road, Clifton, Central Bedfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>18543</b> |   |   |

### **Andover Office**

Stanley House  
Walworth Road  
Andover  
Hampshire  
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

### **Cirencester Office**

Building 11  
Kemble Enterprise Park  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire  
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

### **Exeter Office**

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

t: 01392 826185

### **Milton Keynes Office**

Unit 8 - The IO Centre  
Fingle Drive  
Stonebridge  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire  
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

e: [enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

