

Roundwood Park School Roundwood Park Harpenden Hertfordshire

*Archaeological Watching Brief
and Strip, Map and Sample Investigation*



for
Archaeology Collective

CA Project: 660994
CA Report: 18240

August 2018



Roundwood Park School
 Roundwood Park
 Harpenden
 Hertfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief
 and Strip, Map and Sample Investigation

CA Project: 660994
 CA Report: 18240



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	27/04/18	AKM	MPH	DRAFT	For Issue	AS
B	10/08/18	AKM	MPH	FINAL	Following client and SADCA review	AS

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

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	6
4. METHODOLOGY	7
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-14).....	8
6. THE FINDS	12
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE	16
8. DISCUSSION.....	22
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	24
10. REFERENCES.....	24
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	27
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	31
APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	35
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM	37
APPENDIX E: HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET 39	



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Site plan, showing archaeological features and registered artefact locations (1:150 / 1:5,000)
- Fig. 3 Ditch 1032 and postholes 1030 and 1028, sections and photographs
- Fig. 4 Posthole 1054, section and photograph
- Fig. 5 Enclosure ditches 1015 and 1003, sections and photograph
- Fig. 6 Pit 1037 and terminus 1035, section and photograph
- Fig. 7 Pit 1013 and ditch terminus 1005, section and photograph
- Fig. 8 Ditches 1049, 1051, ditch terminus 1066 and pit 1064, sections and photograph
- Fig. 9 Oval pits 1007 and 1027, sections and photographs
- Fig. 10 Hearth 1044/1045, section and photograph
- Fig. 11 Dumped deposit 1019, section and photograph
- Fig. 12 Possible structure, pre-excavation photograph
- Fig. 13 Possible structure defined by postholes 1068, 1070, 1072, and 1074, sections and photographs
- Fig. 14 Pottery illustrations
- Fig. 15 Details of *Prunus spinosa/domestica* type roundwood in sample 2 (Appendix C)

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Roundwood Park School
Location:	Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire
NGR:	512107 214685
Type:	Watching Brief and Strip, Map and Sample Investigation
Date:	07 December 2017 – 01 February 2018
Planning Reference:	5/2016/3228
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with St Albans Museum
Site Code:	RPS17

An archaeological watching brief and strip, map and sample investigation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of an artificial multi-purpose sports pitch with fencing, a storage container and associated works at Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

The fieldwork revealed evidence of Roman period settlement activity of the 1st to 4th centuries. Parts of a small enclosure, dated from the 1st to 2nd century, identified at the north-western edge of the investigation area may represent evidence of internal subdivision of a large-scale enclosure recorded during a previous watching brief adjacent to the current site (ASC 2010). A second phase of activity can be dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries, and includes a possible boundary ditch as well as a likely four post structure and associated dumped deposit, and a small hearth feature.

Secure dating of the features was achieved on the basis of a relatively large and well-preserved pottery assemblage, including vessels imported from continental Europe and a very rare fragment of a Roman costrel. A small assemblage of early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) and post-medieval pottery was also recovered, in addition to a number of iron nails and hobnails.

The environmental evidence particularly from features of the second phase of occupation indicates easy access to woodland and associated resources, and includes evidence for collection of fuel woods from open woodlands, hedgerows or scrub. While the animal bone recovered was badly preserved, it appears to indicate the presence of staple domesticated animals (cattle, sheep/goat, as well as small mammal or bird remains).

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between 7 December 2017 and 1 February 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for the Archaeology Collective at Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire (centred at NGR: 512107 214685; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil Condition 19 attached to a planning consent for an artificial multi-purpose sports pitch with fencing, a storage container and associated works (Planning ref: 5/2016/3228). The condition, attached in keeping with paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and on a recommendation from Simon West, St Albans City and District Council Archaeologist (SADCA), required that:

'No development-related works shall take place within the site until a written scheme of archaeological work has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This scheme shall include on-site work, and off-site work such as the analysis, publication, and archiving of the results, together with a timetable for completion of each element. All works shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the approved scheme, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This must be carried out by a professional archaeological/building recording consultant or organisation in accordance with the agreed written scheme of investigation.'

- 1.2 The scope of the watching brief was defined in discussions between the Archaeology Collective and Simon West, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Simon West. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). It was monitored by SADCA, including site visits on 9, 22, and 30 January.

The site

- 1.3 The site is c.2.8ha, comprising Roundwood Park School which lies to the west of Roundwood Park in Harpenden (Fig. 2). The proposed development area comprises land currently used by the school for grass sports pitches bounded to the north by land used as a recreation ground, to the east by school buildings, to the west by agricultural land and to the south by a public footpath. The site lies at c.110m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), on flat level land.

- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation of the Cretaceous Period. The chalk bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits of clay, silt and gravel weathered to form layers of accumulated material (BGS 2018).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Prior to the commencement of this programme of work no known archaeological remains had been recorded within the footprint of the proposed development. However, Roman pottery and tile has been recovered within the school grounds approximately 80m to the north-east of the proposed development (HER 9737). An archaeological evaluation (ASC 2008) carried out at Roundwood Park School revealed no significant archaeological remains in the single trench excavated. Subsequently, a watching brief carried out in 2010 revealed ditches and finds of Roman date (Wright 2016). Findspots and sites recorded within Harpenden infer that activity was focused in the eastern part of the present town, associated with and parallel to the River Lea.

Prehistoric (Pre-AD43)

- 2.2 Flint debitage, dating from as early as the Palaeolithic period, has been identified associated with the River Lea, to the east of Harpenden. The first terrace of the River Lea, which extends into eastern Harpenden, is considered to be a focus for prehistoric development in the wider area. To the south-east of Harpenden, at Aldwickbury Park Golf Club, evidence for activity from the Mesolithic to Roman periods was recorded. Within Harpenden a Late Iron Age chieftain burial was recorded during the construction of Harpenden East railway station.

Roman (AD43 – AD410)

- 2.3 Roman pottery and tile has been recovered within the grounds of Roundwood Park School, approximately 80m to the north-east of the proposed development (HER 9737). There has been previous archaeological fieldwork within the site comprising an evaluation carried out in 2008 (ASC 2008) and a watching brief carried out in 2010 (ASC 2010). The watching brief carried out in 2010 in advance of the construction of a sports hall revealed two ditches on the eastern side of the site that were interpreted as possible evidence for a farmstead enclosure. A coin and pottery

of Roman date were recovered along with animal bone. An isolated pit producing pottery of Roman date was also recorded (Wright 2016).

- 2.4 Within the eastern part of Harpenden fragments of Roman building material, including roof tiles, have been recovered. Off Coldharbour Lane at the east of Harpenden a Romano-British burial was found in the 1830s within a *tumulus*. The sarcophagus from this burial (now in the British Museum), contained grave goods dating to c.AD150.
- 2.5 To the south and west of Harpenden there is evidence for extensive Roman activity. At Rothamstead Estate Farm c.1km to the south of the site a possible Roman shrine has been identified and Roman finds have been collected from many of the fields on the estate. Further to the south-east, at Cross Farm a cemetery revealing 42 burials has been excavated and further to the west at Friar's Wash a Roman Villa and shrines been identified in close proximity to the River Ver.

Early medieval to modern

- 2.6 No notable archaeological remains are recorded in the area dating to the early medieval and medieval periods; although the investigation revealed some limited material culture evidence, but no securely dated features, dating to this period (see below).
- 2.7 The 1879 Ordnance Survey Map shows the site as open land to the south of New Farm Wood and to north of the railway line, to the north-west of the developed part of Harpenden. By 1898 the wood to the north of the site is identified as Round Wood. Harpenden had become well developed by 1925 and there had been development in the area to the east of the site by that date. Roundwood Park (road) is identified on the 1938 Ordnance Survey Map and 'Roundwood Park County Secondary and County Infant School' is shown on the 1965 Ordnance Survey Map.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;

- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising initially the removal of topsoil in the area of the proposed sports pitch (Fig. 2) by mechanical excavator. At this stage significant evidence of archaeological remains was encountered along the northernmost side of the development area; in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI and in consultation with the Archaeology Collective and SADCA the scope of works was extended to comprise a strip, map and sample (SMS) investigation of the area.
- 4.2 After completion of the SMS investigation, with the approval of SADCA, the watching brief was recommenced for the second phase of groundworks, comprising the levelling of the existing ground surface using a bulldozer to shift subsoil across the development area. The watching brief was deemed complete with the approval of SADCA upon the conclusion of these works.
- 4.3 All archaeological deposits were documented by written, graphic and photographic records in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* and the methodologies detailed in the WSI.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at its offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with St Albans Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain, including the upload of a digital (PDF) copy of the final report, which will appear on the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website once the OASIS record has been verified. In addition, a digital (PDF) copy of the final report will also be made available for public viewing via Cotswold Archaeology's *Archaeological Reports Online* web page, generally within 12 months of completion of the project (<http://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/>).

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-14)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate 1002, consisting of mixed friable mid yellowish brown and mid reddish orange silty sand and sandy clay with some gravel lenses and natural flint inclusions, was revealed at a maximum depth of 0.40m below the present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by a subsoil (1001) of friable mid greyish orange silty clay, with a maximum thickness of 0.18m, which was in turn sealed by 0.22m of topsoil (1000), consisting of firm dark greyish brown silty clay.
- 5.2 Archaeological remains were only encountered along the northernmost edge of the development area; a detailed list of contexts can be found in Appendix A. However, the scope of the watching brief did not require the stripping of the entire area down to the natural substrate, and hence to archaeological levels, resulting in remnant deposits of subsoil across much of the area. This hindered the identification of potential further archaeological remains; the decision was taken in discussion with the Archaeology Collective and SADCA not to undertake a subsoil strip across the entire area.

North/south linear ditch (Fig 2)

- 5.3 The westernmost extent of the area containing visible archaeological evidence was marked by a linear ditch (1011/1032) running on a roughly north/south alignment out of the northern baulk section. The full extent of this ditch could not be determined due to adverse site conditions. The ditch was 1.30m wide and 0.30m deep in excavated slot 1011 where it emerged from the baulk, and had moderately steep sides and a flat base. It became narrower further to the south (1032) having a width of 0.82m and a depth of 0.41m, with a steep-sided and flat-based profile. A selection of Roman pottery, dated mostly to the 3rd to 4th centuries, was recovered from primary fill 1033 of ditch cut 1032, which was described as firm mid orangey grey clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions and iron panning. The upper fill (1034), consisting of moderately firm mid greyish brown clayey sand, also contained a number of sherds dating to the same period, along with a clustered assemblage of 44 iron nails and hobnails in the top of the fill.

Westernmost posthole cluster (Figs 2 - 4)

- 5.4 It was found during hand-excavation that ditch 1011/1032 cut across a sub-square posthole (1030). This posthole was 0.32m wide by 0.40m, with a surviving depth of 0.07m and near-vertical sides and a flat base. A single iron nail was recovered from

its fill, which consisted of compact mid brownish grey clayey silt. It is possible that posthole 1030 might be related to postholes 1028 and 1054, located just to the south-east.

- 5.5 Posthole 1028 with a diameter of 0.45m and a depth of 0.12m was located just to the east of ditch 1011/1032. Its sides were described as moderately steep, onto a slightly concave base. No finds were recovered from the feature's firm mid orangey grey clayey silt fill.
- 5.6 To the south-east of posthole 1028, the investigation of a shallow charcoal-rich spread 1063 revealed two instances of bioturbation (1059, 1061) as well as posthole 1054. This posthole, with a diameter of 0.63m and depth of 0.21m, contained an intact post pipe 1057 and packing fills 1055 and 1056, which consisted of firm light brownish grey silty sand. No finds were recovered from the posthole; though fill 1062 of bioturbation event 1061 contained some fired clay fragments. The spread itself (1063) contained a large proportion of fired clay, several fragments of which exhibited possible wattle marks. In addition, deposit 1053 produced a sherd of 5th to 7th century early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) pottery.

Enclosure (Figs 2, 5-8)

- 5.7 Towards the north-east corner of the development site, part of a rectangular enclosure was identified during machining. The easternmost extent of this was defined by a north/south aligned ditch (1003/1017/1022). Slot 1003 had steep sides and a flat base with a depth of 0.52m and width of 1.42m. A moderate assemblage of Roman pottery, dated to the 1st century AD, was recovered from the friable mid greyish brown sandy silt fill (1004). The ditch continued southward for another c.6m before terminating (1017). Approximately 1.5m to the north of the terminus, a smaller, likely contemporary ditch (1005/1015/1024/1035/1049), emerges and continues in a south-west direction, forming the southernmost extent of the enclosure. Ditch slot 1015 measured 0.80m wide and 0.18m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The single fill, 1016, contained no finds. In contrast fills 1006, 1025 and 1036, of ditch slots 1005, 1024 and 1035 respectively, generally described as comprising a yellowish brown to orangey brown clay/sand mix, yielded pottery dating to the 1st to 2nd centuries, as well as some animal bone and a metal nail as well as an unidentified metal object. Fill 1050 of ditch slot 1049 produced only a very small quantity of animal bone.

- 5.8 The enclosure was truncated by two oval pits. Pit 1037 cut the probable terminus (1035) of the south-west/north-east aligned enclosure ditch. This pit, measuring 2.25m long, by c.1.5m wide, with a depth of 0.28m, had steep, very slightly concave sides and a flat base. Its single fill, consisting of firm mid greyish yellow sandy silt, contained no finds. Pit 1013, located c.8m to the east of pit 1037, whilst also oval in plan, displayed a much deeper profile, with a depth of 0.73m. It was also larger, with a width of 3.1m and length of over 3m. Its single fill, consisting of firm light yellowish grey clayey sand, contained some pottery fragments and one iron object, dating the feature to the Roman period.
- 5.9 Within the anticipated interior of the enclosure another small ditch 1051/1066 was encountered on a north-west/south-east alignment. Its southernmost extent is defined by section 1051, which was recorded with a width of 0.57m and depth of 0.16m, with steep sides and a flat base. It is truncated in slot 1051 by the larger enclosure ditch (1049). The ditch terminated c.4m to the north, where it was recorded as feature 1066, measuring 0.56m wide by 0.16m deep with steep sides and a flat base, cutting pit 1064.
- 5.10 Dated to the 1st – 2nd century by pottery recovered from its single fill, pit 1064 was oval in plan, with steep sides and a flat base in section. It was 1.1m in length, and over 0.64m wide, with a depth of 0.13m and contained a firm, mid greyish yellow sandy silt fill (1065).

Elongated pits (Figs 2, 9)

- 5.11 To the south of the enclosure, two elongated oval pits were encountered, orientated parallel to each other on a north-east/south-west alignment. The northernmost one (1007) was 2.08m long and 0.39m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.15m. The pit to the south (1026) was c.3m in length, 0.5m wide and 0.07m deep. The sides of both were very shallow and slightly concave, with roughly flat bases. The fill of pit 1007, a loose mid brownish red silty sand, contained an assemblage of 3rd to 4th century pottery; the fill of 1026, although similar, produced a pottery assemblage dated to the 1st to 2nd century, as well as two iron nails and a highly degraded copper alloy coin that could only be dated to between 330 and 337 AD (see below).

Hearth feature (Figs 2, 10)

- 5.12 Between the two elongated pits, closest to the southern end of pit 1026, a hearth feature was encountered. Its shape, particularly in plan, was irregular; however,

following excavation it appeared to have been constructed in three distinctive parts (possibly chambers with varying uses). The main “chamber” is represented by cut 1045; this consisted of a ledge c.0.22m wide at the north-western side of the feature, located at a depth of 0.23m, and a rectangular space with a roughly flat base at a depth of c.0.45m located at the centre of the feature. Cut 1045 was filled with a thin layer of compact mid orangey brown sandy clay (fills 1046 and 1047, likely representing one event), which in turn was sealed by a layer of charcoal (1048 and 1043 respectively, though again likely to represent one phase of feature use). An apparent disuse layer (1042), possibly representing a deliberate backfill event, of compact mid orangey brown sandy clay, sealed the charcoal deposits and main “chamber” of the hearth. This fill produced a single sherd of Roman pottery. The second, smaller chamber 1044, located at the south-east side of the feature, and enclosed by a hardened clay “wall”, contained only a single fill (1041), consisting of a compact mid orangey brown sandy clay with occasional fine gravel inclusions that produced two fragments of fired clay; this fill was also overlain by 1043. The whole feature was sealed by a final disuse deposit (1040) of friable mid greyish brown silty clay, from which a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered.

Dumped deposit (Figs 2, 11)

- 5.13 During machining a large, vaguely U-shaped spread 1019 was encountered just to the south of elongated pit 1026. Its shape in plan was very irregular, and hand investigation confirmed its length as 6.3m, with a width of 4.94m and thickness of just 0.1m. At its southern side, a deposit of compacted soil with a high proportion of small rounded pebbles was encountered. A large assemblage of Roman pottery dating from the 3rd to 4th century, as well as several iron artefacts, was recovered from the firm mid greyish brown clayey sand deposit (1019).

Four post structure (Figs, 2, 12, 13)

- 5.14 Immediately adjacent to the southernmost extent of the dumped deposit a feature was encountered consisting of four postholes (1068, 1070, 1072 and 1074) arranged in a north-east/south-west orientated rectangle. Along the longer sides the distance between the postholes was measured at 6.5m, with the shorter sides at just over 5m. With the exception of posthole 1072, which proved exceptionally shallow at 0.04m deep, the postholes proved broadly similar in size and shape, with diameters between 0.35m and 0.50m and depths between 0.12m and 0.15m. All postholes were recorded with fairly steep sides and flat to slightly concave bases. The fills of postholes 1068, 1070, and 1072 were also broadly similar, consisting of friable mid

greyish brown silty sand. Two out of the three produced finds, with Roman pottery recovered from fill 1071 of posthole 1070, and a fragment of fired clay recovered from fill 1073 of posthole 1072.

- 5.15 The northernmost posthole (1074) contained, within a fill of dark greyish brown silty sand, a dense concentration of large charcoal fragments, as well as two pieces of burnt bone. Although a burial licence (Licence number: 18-0003) was obtained after discussions with the Archaeology Collective and SADCA, subsequent analysis determined that the remains were not cremated and unlikely to be human, but rather, probably represented animal remains (see below). The burnt remains were mostly located towards the top of the fill, with the surrounding less charcoal-rich fill likely representing post-deposition backfilling events. No other finds were recovered from this posthole.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from 14 deposits (fills of ditches, spreads, gullies, postholes, hearths, pits and natural features such as subsoil and bioturbation). The recovered material dates to the Roman, early medieval (Anglo Saxon) and post-medieval periods. Illustrations of representative sherds may be found on Figure 14. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B.

Pottery by Pete Banks

- 6.2 The pottery recovered from the investigation is recorded in Appendix B and discussed below. Recording of the finds assemblage was direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this forms the basis of Appendix B (Table 1). The pottery was examined by context, using a x10 binocular microscope and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are defined in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (2016). The fabric codes used here for recording have, where possible, followed those codes used in an earlier watching brief report at the same site in 2010 (Fawcett 2010), where necessary new codes were created for use with this site. Where possible, fabric codes for regional and imported pottery have been taken from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes (Tomber and Dore 1998).

6.3 The assemblage comprises 280 sherds (8139g) of pottery recorded from 23 deposits. All of the pottery is recovered from the fills of ditches, gullies, postholes, hearths, pits, spreads and natural deposits such as subsoil and bioturbation. The large bulk of the assemblage dates to the Roman period and the condition of this material is moderate to good; the majority of sherds are not heavily abraded and the mean sherd weight is high at 17.71g. Pottery post-dating the Roman period includes a substantially complete (post-medieval) vessel which was recorded from subsoil deposit 1001.

Roman

6.4 A total of 278 sherds (4924g) of pottery are considered to be Roman in date. The majority of the sherds occur in reduced coarseware fabrics probably of local manufacture: greyware type GRS (112 sherds, 1603g) and black sandy type BSW (24 sherds, 366g). Identifiable vessel forms in these fabrics comprise mainly jars, together with plain-rimmed dishes, flanged bowls and beakers including poppyhead and indented types (see Fig 14 for examples). Twenty three sherds (378g) are recorded in an unsourced oxidized fabric (UNS OX). A plain rim dish (UNS OX) is recorded from fill 1077. More unusual is the upper portion of a costrel (see Illustration 2, Fig 14) from fill 1006, of ditch 1005. These are rare vessels which are believed to have been used to carry liquids. A number are known from special deposits including cremation burials, although this may be incidental to their usage. At Rudgeway Lane, Tewkesbury a costrel was recovered from a well dating no earlier than 3rd century AD (McSloy 2008, 35), whilst at Lankhills, Winchester costrel fragments were recorded in a Late Roman grave assemblage (Booth 2010, 261). Eleven sherds (127g) of pottery are recorded in a shell and grog-tempered fabric (UNS SHGR), probably of local manufacture. A curved and a square rim are recorded in this fabric. Ten sherds (150g) made in an unsourced grog-tempered fabric (UNS GR) are recorded, one is an everted rim sherd. Six sherds (43g) are also recorded in a shell-tempered fabric (UNS SH), one sherd is a curved rim. Six sherds (186g) in a sand and grog-tempered fabric (UNS SGR), two sherds (8g) in an unsourced fine grey ware (GRF), four sherds (29g) in an unsourced red slipped fabric (UNS RS), four sherds (33g) in an unsourced white ware and three sherds (39g) in an unsourced white slip fabric are all recorded, no recognisable forms are present in these fabrics. A total of 26 sherds (398g) of Verulamium Region White Wares (VER WH) are recorded. The only distinguishable form in this fabric is that of a reed rim bowl from fill 1033, the fill of ditch 1032.

- 6.5 Of the regional fabrics 13 sherds (273g) of pink grog ware (PNK GT), a type known to be produced in the Buckinghamshire area, are recorded although no recognisable forms are present. Ten sherds (374g) of Hadham oxidized ware (HAD OX) are recorded from deposits 1033 and 1034; both are the fill of ditch 1032. One sherd (32g) of Hadham reduced wares (HAD RE1) are recorded from deposits 1020 and 1021 the fill of spread 1019. One sherd, from fill 1021, is a rim sherd from a flange rim dish. Six sherds (82g) of Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated ware (LNV CC). One sherd (37g) of Nene Valley wall-sided mortarium is recorded from deposit 1001, the subsoil. The base of a beaker (as Howe 1980, forms 55-60) is recorded from fill 1006, of ditch 1005. One sherd (6g), from fill 1008, of bioturbation event 1007 is decorated with applied scales. Two sherds (116g) of Oxfordshire White Ware mortaria (OXF WH) are recorded from deposits 1020 and 1021 the fill of spread 1019. One sherd is identifiable as a form M6 flange (as Young 1977). Three sherds (81g) of Harrold shelly wares (HAR SH) are recorded and one sherd (2g) of Oxfordshire Red Slipped ware (OXF RS). Neither fabric exhibits any distinguishable forms.
- 6.6 Ten sherds (626g) are made in imported fabrics. Three sherds (591g) are made in Baetician Amphorae fabric 1 (BAT AM1). One sherd (BAT AM1) from fill 1004 is a rim from a Dressel 20 amphora. Seven sherds (35g) of samian are recorded from four contexts. Six sherds are in a Central Gaulish fabric (CEN SAM), one sherd from fill 1033 is a rim sherd from a Drag 37 decorated bowl; however, the decoration has been heavily abraded. This form dates from AD70 to late 2nd century AD (Webster 1996 47). The remaining sherd of samian is in an unidentifiable fabric.
- 6.7 The assemblage is largely later Roman in date although several deposits contain material from the 1st to 2nd centuries, suggesting activity at the site throughout the Roman period. The assemblage is domestic in nature, the recognisable vessel forms primarily utilitarian and not suggestive of high status. The discovery of the costrel is significant given their rarity, and their association with special deposits from other sites (see Booth 2010 and McSloy 2010). The bulk of the pottery probably comes from local sources, with some regional/imported types present among the fine and specialist wares.
- Early medieval (Anglo-Saxon)***
- 6.8 One sherd (9g) in a handmade sandy organic fabric (SAX SO), recovered from layer 1053 can be dated to the 5th -7th centuries AD.

Post-medieval

- 6.9 One sherd (3206g) RA4 of post-medieval pottery was recorded from the subsoil (1001) and can be dated from the mid-16th to 18th centuries. It is a near complete vessel, probably of jar proportions and in a glazed red earthenware fabric (GRE). The absence of the rim may indicate that the vessel had been deposited upright and the upper portion truncated perhaps by removal of the topsoil/subsoil.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Pete Banks

- 6.10 Sixty fragments (4222g) of CBM are recorded from ten deposits and can be dated to the Roman period. All material was well-fragmented, a factor making identification of 'class' difficult. Forty three fragments (most from fill 1021) were identifiable as brick, based on greater thickness (>30mm). One fragment of box flue tile with a combed keyed surface is recorded from fill 1021. Three fragments of imbrex (curved roofing tile) were recorded from fills 1021 and 1036. A single tegula (flanged roofing tile) fragment was recorded from fill 1020 and a further seven tile fragments in a sandy fabric may also be of this class. The potential importance of the site is supported by the large quantities of Roman ceramic building material which may indicate the former existence of Roman buildings in the vicinity.

Other Finds by Pete Banks

A total of 314 fragments (1830g) of fired/burnt clay are recorded from ten deposits. Eight fragments in a sandy fabric, from fill 1063, exhibit possible wattle marks as did one fragment from fill 1077 of bioturbation event 1076, which support identification as burnt daub. One fragment (3g) with organic inclusions is recorded with a flat surface on one side. No other distinguishable marks or surfaces are visible, however four fragments (137g) from fill 1062 of bioturbation event 1061 made in a sandy fabric also contained distinctive very coarse flint fragments.

Metalwork by Katie Marsden

- 6.12 A total of 62 items of metal, 61 of iron and one of copper alloy, were recovered from ten deposits. The majority (52 items) consist of hand-forged nails, of which 44 were recovered from ditch 1032 (fill 1034) comprising square shanks and rounded heads. Nails of this form were introduced in the Roman period and continued largely unchanged until industrialisation in the post-medieval period. As such, they cannot be closely dated. The remainder of the iron group comprises a fragment of a possible horseshoe recovered from subsoil 1001 and items that are too fragmentary to identify to their original form. The single copper alloy item, a coin, was recovered

from pit 1026 (fill 1027). The coin was issued by the House of Constantine and is a soldiers and standards issue. It is unclear whether the reverse has one or two standards and as such the coin can only be dated to between 330 and 337 AD.

Lithics by Jacky Sommerville

- 6.13 A total of 11 worked flints (1g) and 56 pieces of burnt, unworked flint (79g) was retrieved from the bulk soil sampling of five deposits (Appendix B). In two of these deposits associated pottery or iron objects indicate that the lithics are residual. However, hearth 1045 (fills 1043 and 1048) and posthole 1059 (fill 1063), contain no associated dateable finds. The worked lithics comprise two broken flakes, one bladelet fragment (4mm wide) and eight chips (debitage <10mm). Only the flake fragments from posthole 1059 are large enough to comment on their condition: one is in a fresh condition and the other displays moderate edge damage. The flakes cannot be closely dated; however, the bladelet is likely to represent Mesolithic debitage. Overall the lithics indicate prehistoric activity but cannot be used to date the features from which they derive.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone by Andy Clarke

- 7.1 Five fragments of animal bone (18g) were recovered from three deposits; 1006 and 1021, fills of ditch 1005 and spread 1019, dating to the Roman period and from 1050 the fill of ditch 1049, which remains undated. The material was highly fragmented and poorly preserved. However, it was possible to confirm the presence of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) with both species identified by fragmentary remains of molar teeth.
- 7.2 The low recovery and poor preservation severely limits the usefulness of the assemblage. Despite the fact that each fragment was identifiable, it has not been possible to draw any inference beyond species identification.

Burnt bone by Sharon Clough

- 7.3 The entire fill (1075) of posthole 1074 was sampled for recovery of burnt remains. There was a larger concentration of burnt bone in the upper fill of the feature. From the upper fill 2.5g of small (less than 10 mm) fragments were recovered (sample 17)



and a negligible amount, less than 0.1g (size of fragments less than 2mm), from the lower fill (sample 18).

- 7.4 The burnt bone was varied in colour from pure white to brown and black, indicating a variation in temperature to which it had been subjected (Lyman 1994). Where the bone could be identified there were fragments of long bone shafts from a small mammal or bird. None of the fragments could be confidently identified as human.
- 7.5 Posthole 1074 was part of an arrangement of postholes and not an isolated feature or part of a group of features containing burnt bone as would be expected if there was a funerary element to the feature. Therefore given the low quantity of bone, the lack of identifiable fragments and the context of the feature the burnt bone is more likely to animal in origin and possibly domestic in nature (disposal of food waste for instance).

The wood charcoal and charred plant remains by Sheila Boardman

- 7.6 Nine samples were investigated for wood charcoal and charred plant remains. These came from a range of features dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries; a detailed breakdown of these can be found in Appendix C, Table 1. These include a four post structure and small hearth, and a dumped deposit and another (tree hole/ bioturbation) feature close to boundary ditch 1011/1032. Nine samples produced identifiable charcoal and seven samples were investigated in detail. The main aims of the charcoal investigation were to identify the fuel woods available to the inhabitants of the site and nature of the local vegetation. Three samples produced small amounts of charred plant remains, including hazel nut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments and a few wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains. The charred plant remains were investigated in order to identify any crops present and whether any of the excavated features and areas were associated with crop processing or food preparation.

Methodology

- 7.7 The plant material was retrieved by flotation, with the flots collected on a 0.25 mm mesh and the heavy residues, on a 0.5 mm mesh. The sample residues were sorted for wood charcoal and charred plant remains at CA, and charcoal-rich residue fractions were also submitted for further sorting and scanning. Much of the wood charcoal examined came from the greater than 2 mm residues.

- 7.8 Between 60 and 113 charcoal fragments (per sample) were randomly extracted from the than 2 mm residue and flot fractions. Individual fragments were fractured by hand and sorted into groups based on features observed in transverse section, at magnifications of x10 - x40. The fragments were then fractured along their radial and tangential planes and examined at magnifications of up to x400 using a Biolam-Metam P1 metallurgical microscope. Identifications were made using keys in Hather (2000), Gale and Cutler (2000) and Schweingruber (1990), and by comparison with a modern reference material. All the greater than 0.25 mm flot fractions and, where available, greater than 0.5 mm residue fractions, were sorted in their entirety for charred plant remains (cereal grains, nut shell fragments, seeds and fruits of wild species). As noted above, there were very few remains. Plant nomenclature for all material types follows Stace (2010).

Results

Wood charcoal

- 7.9 Anatomical features observed on charcoal fragments from the site are consistent with the taxa groups listed below. Full results (as fragment counts per taxon) by sample can be found in Table 1 (Appendix C).

Rosaceae

Subfamily *Pomoideae* - includes *Crataegus* spp., hawthorn, *Malus* sp. apple, *Pyrus* sp., pear and *Sorbus* spp., rowan, whitebeam and/service. One or more of these anatomically similar taxa may be represented.

Subfamily *Prunoideae* – *Prunus spinosa/domestica* type, blackthorn/plum type; *Prunus* sp., cherry/blackthorn. Plum is a probable Roman introduction, the wood of which is indistinguishable from blackthorn (Hather 2000).

Fagaceae

Quercus spp., oak (either *Q. robur* L., *Q. petraea*, or their hybrids).

Betulaceae

Corylus avellana L., hazel, and *Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana*, alder/hazel.

Sapindaceae

Acer campestre L., field maple.

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior L., ash.

Aquifoliaceae

Ilex aquifolium L., holly.

Charred plant remains

- 7.10 The charred plant remains are listed in Table 2 of Appendix C. Samples 1 and 2 from hearth 1045 produced the few wheat grains/fragments. Based on grain shape, these are most likely to be from the glume wheats, spelt (*Triticum spelta*) or emmer (*T. dicoccum*), rather than from a free threshing species (e.g. breadwheat, *T. aestivum*). No cereal chaff fragments were present to confirm this tentative identification. The other remains in samples 1 and 2 were a few hazel nut shell fragments, a cleavers (*Galium aparine*) seed and two indeterminate leaf buds. Sample 16 from posthole 1072 fill (1073) associated with the four post structure, produced a moderate quantity of hazel nut shell fragments. This sample also included hazel wood charcoal (see Table 1).

Discussion

Wood charcoal

- 7.11 The preservation of the wood charcoal was very variable. The majority of fragments in all samples were less than 4 mm in size. Many oak fragments in samples 14 – 17, from the four post structure were silt/iron pan encrusted or heavily split radially, suggesting they may have been exposed to the elements before burial. Two samples (11 and 18) had 20 or fewer charcoal fragments so the remains are scored as either present (x) or dominant (X) in Table 1. The charcoal samples are discussed as a group and by feature group below.
- 7.12 Overall, oak was the dominant taxon. Oak fragments were the most numerous in four samples (1, 3, 11 and 14) of the nine samples examined. More equal proportions of oak fragments and those of one other taxon were present in three samples. The 'co-dominant' taxa here were blackthorn/plum type (sample 2), hawthorn group (sample 16) and hazel (sample 15). As noted above, hawthorn group charcoal may include one or more of the following taxa: hawthorn, apple, pear, pear and rowan, whitebeam or service species. These represent a mixture of woodland, woodland edge and scrub type habitats. Field maple fragments were most numerous in a further two samples (17 and 18), both from a context originally interpreted as a possible cremation deposit, but found to be the result of probable domestic cooking discard (see below). The other taxa, generally present as minor components in all the samples above, were ash, holly and alder/hazel.
- 7.13 Six samples (2, 3, 11, 14, 17 and 18) had between two and four different charcoal taxa. A further three samples (1, 15 and 16) were only slightly more mixed, with five

to six taxa. Overall, this indicates that the remains in individual samples probably represents debris from a few (or single) burning episodes, rather than many burning episodes which became mixed as refuse.

Hearth 1045

- 7.14 In terms of numbers of fragments, Sample 1 was dominated by oak and sample 2, by a mixture of oak and blackthorn/plum type charcoal. Oak fragments in both samples were a mixture of heartwood, sapwood and roundwood. Blackthorn/plum fragments in sample 2 were composed almost entirely of narrow roundwood. The numbers of growth rings and diameters (in mm.) were recorded for 29 more complete blackthorn/plum roundwood fragments (Fig. 15). Growth rings varied from 3 to 5, and roundwood diameters from 3.5 to 7 mm. A large number of small, immature roundwood fragments in sample 2 would therefore appear to point to the presence of predominantly shrubby blackthorn rather than plum. This material may have been collected from local scrub, hedgerows or woodland edges. In sample 1, narrow roundwood of blackthorn/cherry was absent, but this sample had several minor components not present in sample 2, including holly, hawthorn group, ash and alder/hazel charcoal. The different remains in samples 1 and 2 appear to point to debris from at least two different uses of hearth 1045.

Features adjacent to boundary ditch 1011/1032

- 7.15 Sample 3 was from a dumped layer (1059, deposit 1063) and sample 11, from an area of bioturbation or a tree bole (1061, fill 1062). The latter had very few fragments so this was rapidly assessed. Most fragments in sample 3 were identified as oak, and they included sapwood, roundwood, heartwood and outer growth rings/bark. The other taxa were blackthorn/cherry and hawthorn group. Sample 11 again had mostly oak, and hawthorn group charcoal was present. The material in sample 3 appears to be a discrete dump of fuel waste.

Four post structure

- 7.16 Here, five samples (nos. 14 – 18) represent at least four features (see Table 1). Samples 14, 15 and 16 were from three of the four postholes associated with the structure. Sample 14 (fill 1069 of posthole 1068) was dominated by oak (largely sapwood and roundwood), with small quantities of hazel, and single alder/hazel and ash fragments. Sample 15 (fill 1073 of posthole 1072) also had mostly oak (sapwood and heartwood), but there was proportionally more hazel than in sample 14, plus small quantities of field maple, hawthorn group and ash charcoal. Sample

16 had almost identical quantities of oak (mixed sapwood, heartwood and roundwood) and hawthorn group charcoal, and there were smaller quantities of hazel, field maple and ash charcoal.

- 7.17 Sample 17 and 18 are both from fill 1075 (posthole 1074). This was initially interpreted as a possible cremation deposit but proved to represent dumped domestic cooking discard. Two fragments of charred bone were seen in sample 17. Sample 18 had relatively few remains so this was not investigated in detail. The main taxon in both samples was field maple and there were small quantities of oak and indeterminate charcoal. Hawthorn group charcoal was also recorded in sample 18. The similarities in the remains in these samples indicate that they both probably come from a single deposit of material.

Charred plant remains

- 7.18 None of the excavated features had any obvious association with crop processing or food preparation on the basis of the plant remains recovered here. The almost complete absence of crop remains and related material (cereal grains, chaff and straw, weeds of cultivation) is unusual on sites of this age, but it is possible that crop processing and food preparation occurred elsewhere in the enclosure. The hazel nut remains most likely represent casual discard of refuse onto domestic fires, but the nut shells in sample 16 also may have arrived on site with hazel fuel wood.

Summary and conclusions

- 7.19 The presence of oak charcoal, including heartwood, and timber charcoal from other mixed deciduous woodland species (including hazel, ash and field maple), indicates that the inhabitants of the site had fairly easy access to woodland and associated resources in the 3rd to 4th centuries. These remains may represent surviving elements of the original woodland of the region (see Smith 2002). The presence of roundwood from a range of taxa in these samples, together with oak sapwood from fast grown trees, and scrubby species such as blackthorn and possible hawthorn, may also point to collection of fuel woods from open woodlands, hedgerows or scrub.



8. DISCUSSION

8.1 It is likely that the site formed part of a larger Roman farmstead or similar form of agricultural settlement. It is also likely that occupation of the site was more or less continuous for most of the Roman period, with the activity recorded during this investigation grouped roughly into two phases; the first covering the 1st and 2nd centuries, and the second phase extending across the 3rd and 4th centuries.

Phase 1 (1st - 2nd centuries)

8.2 The dating evidence provided by the comparatively large assemblage of pottery recovered from the features suggests that the enclosure revealed close to the northernmost extent of the excavation area can be broadly dated to the 1st to 2nd centuries. The north/south aligned portion of the enclosure ditch 1003/1017 shares a similar profile to two north-east/south-west aligned boundary ditches (005 and 017) recorded during a watching brief in 2010 (ASC 2010); the previous watching brief area was located adjacent to the south-east corner of the present development area. Finds from enclosure ditch 005/017 recovered on that occasion produced a similar date, and it was interpreted as enclosing an area around a Roman farmstead, with the gap between the two ditches forming an entrance (ASC 2010, 19). It is possible that the smaller scale enclosure ditches encountered during this investigation represent a sub-division within the wider farmstead boundary.

8.3 The density and variety of ceramics and metal objects recovered seem to support the theory that the enclosure consisting of ditch sections 1003/1017 and 1005/1015/1024/1035/1049 formed part of a smaller-scale subdivision of land closely related to a nearby farmstead or similar type of settlement where activity was varied as well as consistently intensive over time.

Phase 2 (3rd - 4th centuries)

8.4 The second phase of activity, dating to the 3rd to 4th centuries, appears to focus on the area just to the south of the phase 1 enclosure. It is possibly representative of a shift in the use of the space within the enclosure area, with two pits (1013 and 1037) indicating a more open space with less clearly delineated boundaries. The westernmost ditch (1011/1032) and associated postholes may form part of a different internal division of space related to the activity surrounding the hearth, four post structure and dumped deposit.

- 8.5 The ceramic building materials recovered from the fills of various features suggest the presence of permanent domestic structures in the vicinity, further supporting previous such evidence recovered within the grounds of Roundwood Park School (HER 9737).
- 8.6 Considering the quite sizable assemblage of generally large, well-preserved ceramics including a number of imported fabrics, as well as a very rare costrel fragment (see above), the domestic and, to an extent the agricultural, activity on site is well-documented. In addition, the evidence of ceramics imported from the continent, may indicate the site, or its wider surrounding settlement hierarchy maintained at least a modest level of interaction and exchange with other communities and/or passing outsiders.
- 8.7 The costrel fragment is slightly unusual in terms of its find location, with previous examples apparently recovered from well or funerary contexts (see above). However, due to the small number of costrels recovered it is difficult to assess whether the find location at Roundwood Park School represents a deviation from the putative standard.
- 8.8 While there is no direct evidence for activity within the four post structure, the large dumped deposit adjacent to its north-western side combined with the hearth located just beyond provide some indication of the scale of activities within the wider site. The environmental evidence recovered suggests that the farmstead may have been situated within easy reach of mixed woodlands and hedgerows suitable for fuel collection; while the very limited animal bone evidence can contribute little beyond confirming the domestic usage of cattle, sheep/goat and small mammals or birds within the site.
- 8.9 While the single sherd of 5th to 7th century pottery recovered from deposit 1053 does not in itself provide firm evidence of post-Roman activity within the site, its location may suggest a nearby small scale structure. Postholes 1054, and possibly 1028 and 1030, may be associated directly with the charcoal-rich deposit 1063 which also overlays deposit 1053 and contained a large assemblage of possible wattle and daub clay building material remains. This assemblage may be representative of a small scale structure of some kind, hinting at a re-use of the site during the early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) period.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Anna Moosbauer, assisted variously by Andrew Whelan, Ralph Brown, Rachel Jordan, Molly Day, Anne Jörgensen-Lindahl, and Abigail Breen. The report was written by Anna Moosbauer. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Pete Banks, Jacky Sommerville, Sharon Clough, Andy Clarke, and Sheila Boardman respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Michelle Collings.

10. REFERENCES

- ASC (Archaeological Services and Consultancy) 2008 *Roundwood Park School: Archaeological Evaluation Report 1017*
- ASC (Archaeological Services and Consultancy) 2010 *Watching Brief: Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire Report 1303/HRP/2*
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 22 February 2018
- Booth P., Boyle A., Simmonds A., Clough S., Cool H.E.M. and Poore D. 2010 *The Late Roman Cemetery at Lankhills, Winchester* Oxford, Oxford Archaeology Monograph **10**
- Brown, N. and Glazebook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties – 2 Research Agenda and Strategy East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Paper 8
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief* CA project number 660994
- CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2014 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

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

Gale, R. and Cutler, D. 2000 *Plants in Archaeology: Identification manual of vegetative plant materials used in Europe and the southern Mediterranean to c.1500* Westbury and Kew

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*

Hather, J. G. 2000 *The Identification of Northern European Woods: A Guide for Archaeologists and Conservators* London: Archetype Publications

HG (Heritage Gateway) 2017 <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/default.aspx>
[Accessed 20th September 2017](#)

Historic England 2016 *A standard for pottery studies in archaeology* Frome, Historic England

McSloy, E. 2008 in Holbrook N. (ed) 2008 *Iron Age and Romano British agriculture in the north Gloucestershire Severn Valley* Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Report 6, Cirencester, Cotswold Archaeological Trust Ltd

Howe, M. D., Perrin, J. R. and Mackreth, D. F. 1980 *Roman pottery from the Nene Valley: a guide* Peterborough, Peterborough City Museum and Art Gallery Occasional paper 2

Lyman, R.L. 1994 *Vertebrate taphonomy: Cambridge manuals in archaeology* Cambridge

Fawcett A. 2010 'Appendix 4: The Roman Pottery' in Osborn V. 2010 *Watching Brief: Roundwood Park School, Harpenden, Hertfordshire* Milton Keynes, Archaeological Services and Consultancy

Schweingruber, F. H. 1990 *Microscopic wood anatomy 3rd Edition* Birmensdorf: Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research

Smith, W. 2002 *A review of archaeological wood analyses in southern England* Centre of Archaeology Report 75/2002, English Heritage



Stace, C. 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles (3rd edition)* Cambridge, Cambridge University Press

Tomber R. and Dore J. (1998) *National Roman Fabric Reference Collection* London, Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph 2

UY (University of York) 2017 *Archaeology Data Service* <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>
Accessed 20th September 2017

Webster P. 1996 *Roman Samian pottery in Britain* York, Council for British Archaeology

Wright, A. 2016 *Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 3AE (5/2016/3228/MAL)*, Officers Report

Young, C. J. 1977 *The Roman pottery industry of the Oxford region* Oxford, British Archaeological Reports, **43**



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, silty clay, firm			0.22	
1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish orange, silty clay, friable, some small stones			0.18	
1002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown and reddish orange, silty sand and sandy clay, friable, some gravel lenses and natural flints				
1003	Cut		Ditch	steep, straight sides, mostly flat base with some irregularities	8.5m	1.42m	0.52m	
1004	Fill	1003	Fill	Mid greyish brown, sandy silt, friable, rare stone inclusions	8.5m	1.42m	0.52m	
1005	Cut		Ditch	Linear ditch - possible enclosure. Moderate sloping sides, rounded base	>2.7m	>0.38	0.19m	Roman
1006	Fill	1105	Primary fill	Light yellowish, brownish, grey clayey sand. Occasional sub-angular stones	>2.7m	>0.38	0.19m	Roman
1007	Cut		Bioturbation	Irregular, shallow	>2.0m	0.39m	0.15m	
1008	Fill	1007	Bioturbation	Mid brownish red, silty sand, loose compaction	>2.0m	0.39m	0.15m	
1011	Cut		Ditch	Linear, moderate sides with concaved base. N-S	>4.0m	1.30m	0.30m	
1012	Fill	1011	Primary fill	Mid brownish red, silty sand, loose compaction. Natural flint and small angular stone inclusions	>4,0m	1.30m	0/30m	
1013	Cut		Sub-circular pit	Gentle sloping sides, rounded base	3.1m	>3.0m	0.73m	Roman
1014	Fill	1013	Primary fill	Light yellowish grey with frequent orange patches. Clayey sand. Firm compaction	3.1m	>3.0m	0.73m	Roman
1015	Cut		Ditch	Linear, moderately steep sloping sides.	>1.0m	0.8m	0.18m	Roman
1016	Fill	1015	Primary fill	Light yellowish, brownish, grey clayey sand. Occasional sub-angular stones	>1.0m	0.8m	0.18m	Roman
1017	Cut		Ditch	Linear, irregularly sloping sides with rounded base	1.35m	0.70m	0.18m	Roman
1018	Fill	1017	Primary fill	Mid brown, Sandy clay, compact	1.35m	0.70m	0.18m	Roman
1019	Cut		Spread	Irregular, shallow	6.3m	4.94m	0.1m	Late Iron Age/Roman
1020	Fill	1019	Fill	Mid greyish brown, clayey sand. Firm compaction. Angular stone, flint and occasional charcoal inclusions	1.4m	0.87m	0.06m	Late Iron Age/Roman
1021	Fill	1019	Fill	Mid greyish brown clayey sand. Firm compaction. Occasional stones between 10mm-110mm and occasional charcoal	6.3m	4.94m	0.1m	Late Iron Age/Roman
1022	Cut		Ditch	Linear - West edge concaved, west steep and straight. Concaved base. Orientated N-S	0.65m	0.50m	0.10m	
1023	Primary fill	1022	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy clay, friable	0.65m	0.50m	0.10m	

1024	Cut		Ditch	Linear - Steep sloping sides. Concaved rounded base. E-W alignment.	0.45m	0.40m	0.10m	
1025	Primary fill	1024	Fill	Mid brown sandy clay, Friable. Occasional sub-angular stones less than 5% of the deposit	0.45m	0.40m	0.10m	
1026	Cut		Pit	Sub-Oval. Gradual concaved sloping sides. Largely flat base	1.55m	0.25m	0.07m	
1027	Primary fill	1026	Fill	Mid brown sandy clay, friable. Occasional sub-angular stone inclusion less than 5% of deposit	1.55m	0.25m	0.07m	
1028	Cut		Posthole	Circular, moderately steep sloping sides. Sharp rounded base	0.4m	0.45m	0.125m	
1029	Fill	1028	Fill	Mid orangish grey clayey silt. Firm compaction. Occasional rounded sub-angular stone inclusion >70mm	0.4m	0.45m	0.125m	
1030	Cut		Posthole	Sub-square, vertical/near vertical sides. Largely flat base.	>0.4m	0.32m	0.075m	Roman
1031	Fill	1030	Fill	Mid brownish grey clayey silt. Compact. Occasional sub-rounded stone less then 30mm	>0.4m	0.32m	0.075m	Roman
1032	Cut	1031	Ditch	Linear. Moderate sloping sides. Rounded base. NW-SE orientation.	>2.0m	0.82m	0.41m	Roman
1033	Fill	1032	Natural deposit	Mid orangish grey clayey silt. Firm compaction. Occasional rounded stone less than 170mm	>2,0m	0.49m	0.31m	Roman
1034	Fill	1032	Natural deposit	Mid greyish brown clayey sand. Moderately firm compaction. Occasional sub-rounded stones less than 70mm	>2.0m	0.82m	0.11m	
1035	Cut		Ditch	Linear. Steep straight sides with flat base. NE-SW alignment	0.86m	0.43m	0.25m	Roman
1036	Fill	1035	Primary fill	Mid greyish orange sandy silt. Firm compaction	0.86m	0.43m	0.25m	Roman
1037	Cut		Pit	Oval, steep slightly concaved sides with a flat sharp base.	2.25m	0.45m	0.28m	Roman
1038	Fill	1037	Fill	Mid greyish yellow sandy silt. Firm compaction. Frequent iron panning and charcoal inclusions	2.25m	0.45m	0.28m	Roman
1039	Cut		hearth	Sub-circular. NW edge convex moderate sloping side, SE edge irregular sloped side. Rounded concaved base	0.25m	0.64m	0.17m	
1040	Fill	1039	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay. Occasional stone inclusions less than 5% of the deposit. Friable	0.25m	0.64m	0.17m	
1041	Fill	1039	Fill	Mid orangish brown sandy clay. Compact. Occasional sub angular stones, less than 5% of the deposit	0.17m	0.16m	0.25m	
1042	Fill	1045	Fill	Mid orangish brown sandy clay. Occasional charcoal inclusions less than 5% of the deposit. Compact.	0.16m	0.56m	0.17m	
1043	Fill	1045	Fill	Black charcoal heavy, loose compaction	0.10m	0.15m	0.06m	
1044	Cut		Hearth	Sub-circular. SE side irregular, NW straight steep side. Rounded concaved base	0.17m	0.16m	0.25m	

1045	Cut		Hearth	Sub-circular. SE side irregular,. NW near vertical. Flat base	0.67m	0.49m	0.26m	
1046	Fill	1045	Fill	Mid orangish brown sandy clay, compact. Occasional charcoal inclusion, less than 5% of the deposit	0.16m	0.17m	0.08m	
1047	Fill	1045	Fill	Mid orangey brown sandy clay, compact.	0.10m	0.13m	0.04m	
1048	Fill	1045	Fill	Black charcoal heavy. Occasional burnt red clay inclusions.	0.16m	0.18m	0.08m	
1049	Cut		Ditch	Linear. Steep sides, flat sharp base. NE-SW orientation	0.85m	0.82m	0.18m	
1050	Fill	1049	Fill	Mid greyish orange sandy silt. Firm compaction	0.85m	0.82m	0.18m	
1051	Cut		Ditch	Linear, Steep straight sides, flat sharp base. NW-SE alignment	0.49m	0.57m	0.16m	Roman
1052	Fill	1051	Fill	Mid brownish grey sandy silt. Firm compaction. Some natural flint inclusion	0.49m	0.57m	0.16m	Roman
1053	Layer		Deposit	Light yellowish brownish grey sandy silt, Firm compaction. Occasional sub-rounded stones less than 10mm	>0.29m	>0.2m	0.07m	
1054	Cut		Posthole	Circular. Gentle sloping sides with gradual break of slope at top. Flat base		0.63m	0.21m	
1055	Fill	1054	Fill	Light brownish grey with yellowish orange patches, silty sand. Firm compaction with rare sub-angular stone less than 20mm		0.22m	0.18m	
1056	Fill	1054	Fill	Light brownish grey with yellowish orange patches, silty sand. Firm compaction with rare sub-angular stone less than 20mm		0.275m	0.14m	
1057	Cut		Post pipe	Visible only in section. Straight vertical sides, gentle break in slope at the top		0.26m	0.21m	
1058	Fill	1057	Fill	Dark blueish brown clayey sand. Moderately firm, rare manganese inclusion.		0.26m	0.21m	
1059	Cut		Posthole	Irregular - circular. N side steeply sloping side and irregular to the E side. Rounded, slightly sharp base,	1.04m		0.22m	
1060	Fill	1059	Fill	Light yellowish brownish grey sandy silt. Moderately firm compaction. Rare manganese inclusions		0.3m	0.6m	
1061	Cut		Bioturbation	Irregular, sub-circular. N edge steep/vertical. S edge moderate to sharp. Flat base with burrowing		0.325m	0.185m	
1062	Fill	1061	Fill	Mid yellowish greyish brown silty sand. Occasional sub-rounded stones less than 25mm		0.255m	0.135m	
1063	Fill	1059	Fill	Mid bluish brown clayey sand. Moderately compact. Occasional sub-angular stones less than 40mm. Frequent fired clay, rare charcoal and manganese inclusions	>1.18m	1.235m	0.18m	
1064	Cut		Pit	Oval, steep straight sides with flat sharp base	1.18m	0.64m	0.13m	

1065	Fill	1064	Fill	Mid greyish yellow sandy silt. Firm compaction with some iron panning.	1.18m	0.64m	0.13m	
1066	Cut		Ditch	Linear. Terminus. Steep straight sides with sharp break of slope. Flat base	0.96m	0.56m	0.16m	
1067	Fill	1066	Fill	Mid greyish orange sandy silt. Firm compaction. Occasional natural flint inclusions	0.96m	0.56m	0.16m	
1068	Cut		Posthole	Circular. Moderately steep sides with a rounded gently concaved base	0.45m	0.54m	0.11m	
1069	Fill	1068	Fill	Mid reddish brown silty sand. Friable. Occasional sub-angular stone less than 40mm. Occasional charcoal inclusions and a moderate amount of chalk. Occasional burnt stone	0.45m	0.54m	0.11m	
1070	Cut		Posthole	Circular. Moderately steep sloping sides with a moderate break of slope. Rounded concaved base	0.53m	0.42m	0.16m	Late Iron Age/Roman
1071	Fill	1070	Fill	Mid orangish grey silty sand, friable. Occasional charcoal inclusions	0.53m	0.42m	0.16m	Late Iron Age/Roman
1072	Cut		Posthole	Circular. Gentle sloping concaved sides with a gentle break of slope. Flat gently concaved base.	0.46m	0.58m	0.04m	
1073	Fill	1072	Fill	Mid greyish brown silty clay, friable. Moderate charcoal inclusions. Occasional pieces of burnt clay	0.46m	0.58m	0.04m	
1074	Cut		Cremation/posthole	Circular. Moderately steep concaved sides with a moderate break of slope. Concaved base.	0.34m	0.49m	0.12m	
1075	Fill	1074	Possible cremation	Dark greyish brown silty sand, friable, Large charcoal inclusion and occasional burnt bone fragments	0.34m	0.49m	0.12m	
1076	Cut		Bioturbation	Irregular, irregular sides and base	1.05m	0.74m	0.25m	
1077	Fill	1076	Fill	Mid greyish brown sandy silt, compact.	1.05m	0.74m	0.25m	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Sample	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC	Count	Weight (g)	Spot Date
1001		CBM		Sandy	1	96	MC16-C18
		Roman Pottery	Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware	LNV CC	1	37	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced grey ware	GRS	8	124	
		Roman Pottery	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware	BSW	2	15	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced Oxidised Ware	UNS OX	3	17	
		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	4	52	
		Roman Pottery	Baetican Amphorae	BAT AM 1	1	101	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced grog-tempered fabric	UNS GR	2	99	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced white slip ware	UNS WS	1	10	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced white ware	UNS WH	3	29	
		Post Med Pottery	Glazed red earthenware (RA 4)	GRE	1	3206	
		Iron	Nail		1	18	
Iron	Object		1	47			
1004		Roman Pottery	Baetican Amphorae	BAT AM 1	1	367	LC1
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced grey ware	GRS	2	91	
		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	1	42	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced sandy grog fabric	UNS SGR	5	157	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced white slip ware	UNS WS	2	29	
		Roman Pottery	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware	BSW	2	79	
		CBM		Sandy	1	12	
1006		Fe Object			1	3	C2-C4
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced Oxidised Ware	UNS OX	4	201	
		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	1	38	
		Roman Pottery	Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware	LNV CC	1	26	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced grey ware	GRS	7	65	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced red slip ware	UNS RS	1	3	
		CBM		Sandy	8	772	
1008		Roman Pottery	Unsourced shell-tempered fabric	UNS SH	3	19	C3-C4
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced grey ware	GRS	6	108	
		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	6	43	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced grey ware	GRS	6	46	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced fine grey ware	GRF	2	8	
		Roman Pottery	Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware	LNV CC	1	6	
1012		Industrial waste			1	3	C4
		Iron	Object		1	14	
		Roman Pottery	Harrold shell-tempered ware	HAR SH	2	29	
1014		Iron	Object		1	20	RB

		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grey ware	GRS	4	18	
1018		CBM		Sandy grog	2	265	LC1-C2
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grey ware	GRS	4	30	
		Roman Pottery	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware	BSW	1	10	
		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	2	9	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced sandy grog fabric	UNS SGR	1	29	
1020		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	7	82	C3-C4
		Roman Pottery	Baetican Amphorae	BAT AM1	2	330	
		Roman Pottery	Soft Pink Grog Ware	PNK GT	1	26	
		Roman Pottery	Oxfordshire White Ware	OXF WH	1	47	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grey ware	GRS	28	324	
		Roman Pottery	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware	BSW	2	32	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced shelly grog-tempered fabric	UNS SHGR	2	24	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grog-tempered fabric	UNS GR	6	29	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced shell-tempered fabric	UNS SH	3	24	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced red slip ware	UNS RS	1	18	
		Roman Pottery	Central Gaulish Samian	CEN SAM	1	3	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced oxidized ware	UNS OX	3	67	
		CBM		Sandy	3	194	
		CBM		Sandy	1	66	
		Fired clay			5	115	
		Iron	Object		1	105	
		Iron	Nail		1	21	
	1021		Roman Pottery	Soft Pink Grog Ware	PNK GT	10	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced oxidized ware	UNS OX	7	42	
		Roman Pottery	Oxfordshire White Ware	OXF WH	1	69	
		Roman Pottery	Central Gaulish Samian	CEN SAM	2	21	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grog-tempered ware	UNS GR	1	2	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced red slip ware	UNS RS	1	5	
		Roman Pottery	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware	BSW	1	12	
		Roman Pottery	Hadham Reduced Ware	HAD RE1	1	32	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced shelly grog-tempered fabric	UNS SHGR	7	83	
		Roman Pottery	Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware	LVN CC	1	7	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grey ware	GRS	19	385	
		CBM			35	2251	
		Fired clay		Sandy	4	76	
		Iron			6	393	
1025		Roman Pottery	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware	BSW	6	91	RB
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grey ware	GRS	7	53	
1027		Copper alloy	Coin; nummus of House of Constantine (RA 1)		1	2	C4
		Iron	Nail (RA 3)		2	20	

		Roman Pottery	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware	BSW	5	74	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grey ware	GRS	5	82	
		Roman Pottery	Soft Pink Grog Ware	PNK GT	2	25	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced oxidized ware	UNS OX	3	9	
		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	1	1	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced white ware	UNS WH	1	4	
		CBM		Sandy/Grog	1	86	
1031		Iron	Nail		1	39	
1033		CBM		Sandy	5	373	C3-C4
		Roman Pottery	Hadham Oxidised Ware	HAD OX	8	354	
		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	1	14	
		Roman Pottery	Oxfordshire Red Slip Ware	OXF RS	1	2	
		Roman Pottery	Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware	LNV CC	1	3	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced red slip ware	UNS RS	1	3	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grey ware	GRS	7	55	
		Roman Pottery	Central Gaulish Samian	CEN SAM	3	10	
1034		Iron	Nail (RA 2)		44	140	C3-C4
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grey ware	GRS	2	47	
		Roman Pottery	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware	BSW	1	4	
		Roman Pottery	Hadham Oxidised Ware	HAD OX	2	20	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced oxidized ware	UNS OX	1	15	
		Roman Pottery	Harrold shell-tempered ware	HAR SH	1	52	
1036		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grey ware	GRS	1	29	C3-C4
		Roman Pottery	Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware	LNV CC	1	3	
		CBM		Sandy	2	98	
1040		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	1	24	LC1-C2
1041		Fired clay		Sandy	2	158	
1042		Roman Pottery	Un sourced oxidized ware	UNS OX	1	1	RB
1043	2	Fired clay			1	193	
	2	Flint	Chip		2	0.2	
	2	Burnt Flint			2	3	
1048	1	Fired clay			1	217	
	1	Flint	Chip		3	0.1	
	1	Burnt Flint			2	2	
1050		Animal bone			4	5	
1052		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	1	22	LC1-C2
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grey ware	GRS	1	7	
		Roman Pottery	Un sourced grog-tempered fabric	UNS GR	1	20	
1053		Anglo Saxon Pottery	Sandy organic-tempered fabric	SAX SO	1	9	AS C5-C7
1062		Fired clay		Sand & flint	4	137	
1063		Fired clay		Sandy	75	731	
	3	Fired clay			2	171	
	3	Flint	Flakes, chips		4	1	

	3	Burnt Flint			49	73	
1065		Roman Pottery	Verulamium White Ware	VER WH	1	71	LC1-C2
1071		Roman Pottery	Unsourced shelly grog-tempered fabric	UNS SHGR	2	20	C3-C4
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced grey ware	GRS	1	13	
	15	Roman Pottery	Unsourced Samian	SAM	1	1	
	15	Roman Pottery	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware	BSW	3	4	
	15	Flint	Chip, bladelet		2	0.1	
1073		Fired clay		Organic	1	3	
1075	17	Fe Object			1	10	
	17	Burnt flint			3	1	
1077		Fired clay		Sandy	3	25	LC1-C2
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced grey ware	GRS	4	126	
		Roman Pottery	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware	BSW	1	45	
		Roman Pottery	Unsourced oxidized ware	UNS OX	1	26	
		CBM		Sandy	1	9	

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

Table 2: Fabric Description

Period	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Description
Roman	BAT AM 1	4	798	Baetican Amphorae
	BSW	24	366	Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware,
	CEN SAM	6	34	Central Gaulish Samian
	GRF	2	8	Unsourced fine grey ware
	GRS	112	1603	Unsourced grey ware
	HAD OX	10	374	Hadham oxidised ware
	HAD RE1	1	32	Hadham reduced ware
	HAR SH	3	81	Harrold shell-tempered ware
	LNV CC	6	82	Lower Nene Valley Colour Coated White Ware
	OXF RS	1	2	Oxford red slip ware
	OXF WH	2	116	Oxford white ware
	PNK GT	13	273	Pink Grog-tempered Ware
	SAM	1	1	Samian (unsourced)
	UNS GR	10	150	Unsourced grog-tempered fabric
	UNS OX	23	378	Unsourced oxidised ware
	UNS RS	4	29	Unsourced red slip ware
	UNS SGR	6	186	Unsourced sandy grog-tempered fabric
	UNS SH	6	43	Unsourced shell-tempered fabric
	UNS SHGR	11	127	Unsourced shelly grog-tempered fabric
	UNS WH	4	33	Unsourced white ware
UNS WS	3	39	Unsourced White Slipped Ware	
	VER WH	26	398	Verulamium White Ware
Anglo Saxon	SAX SO	1	9	Sandy organic-tempered fabric
Post Medieval	GRE	1	3206	Glazed red earthenware

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Wood Charcoal Identifications

Feature	1045		1059		1061	1068	1070	1072	1074	
Context	1048	1043	1063		1062	1069	1071	1073	1075	
Sample	1	2	3		11	14	15	16	17	18
Feature type	Hearth		Dumped layer		Bioturbation /tree bole		PH - four post struct ure	PH - four post struct ure	PH - four post struct ure	Posthole
Date	3rd - 4th century AD									
Sample vol. (litres)	20	20	20		2.5	20	30	20	20	10
Rosaceae										
<i>Prunus spinosa/domestica</i> type			blackthorn/plum type				35r			
cf. <i>Prunus spinosa/domestica</i> type			cf. blackthorn/plum type				14r			
<i>Prunus</i> sp.			blackthorn/cherry				4r		5	
cf. <i>Prunus</i> sp.			cf. blackthorn/cherry		1		1r			
Pomoideae (see Key)	5		hawthorn group		1		x		4 44r x	
cf. Pomoideae			cf. hawthorn group				1			
Fagaceae										
<i>Quercus</i>	82hr		52shr		78srhb		X 90srh		58sh 45shr 18s x	
			oak							
Betulaceae										
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.			hazel				10r		31r 11r	
<i>Alnus/Corylus</i>	3		alder/hazel				1			
Sapindaceae										
<i>Acer campestre</i>			field maple						6 3 37 X	
Oleaceae										
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> L.	4		ash				1		2 2	
Aquifoliaceae										
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	5r		holly							
cf. <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	1		cf. holly							
Indet. charcoal fragments	5		16b		x		11b		1 2b 5b x	
Total fragments	106	106	100		-	113	103	107	60	-
<p>KEY: Counts include: h - heartwood; s - sapwood; r - roundwood; b- bark. Assessed samples: x - taxon present; X - taxon dominant.</p> <p>Pomoideae may include: <i>Pyrus</i> (pear), <i>Malus</i> (apple), <i>Crataegus</i> (hawthorn) & <i>Sorbus</i> (rowan, service, whitebeam) species.</p>										

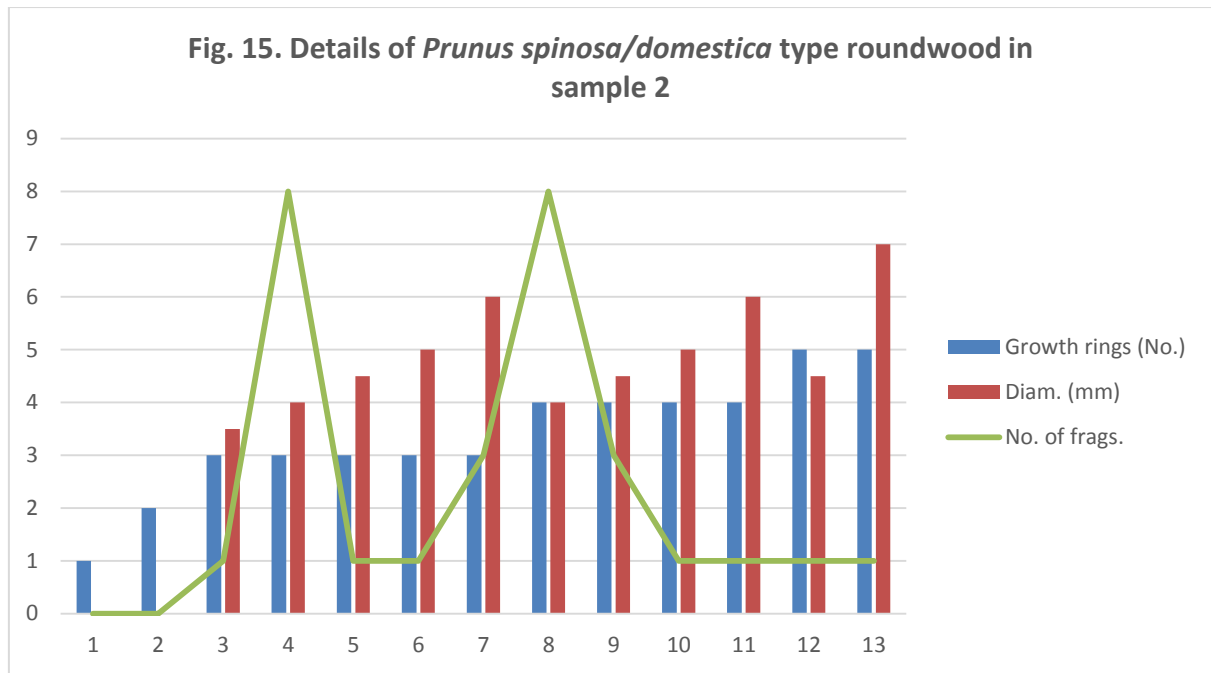


Table 2: Charred Plant Remains Identifications

Feature		1045	1072
Context		1048	1043
Sample		1	2
Feature type		Hearth	Posthole
Date		3rd - 4th century AD	
Sample	vol. (litres)	20	20
Sample	vol. (litres)	20	20
Cereal grain			
<i>Triticum</i> sp.	wheat	1.5	1
Other remains			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	hazelnut shell frags. (F)	2F	26F
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	cleavers		1
Indet. seed/friut			1
Indet. leaf bud			2
F - fragment(s).			

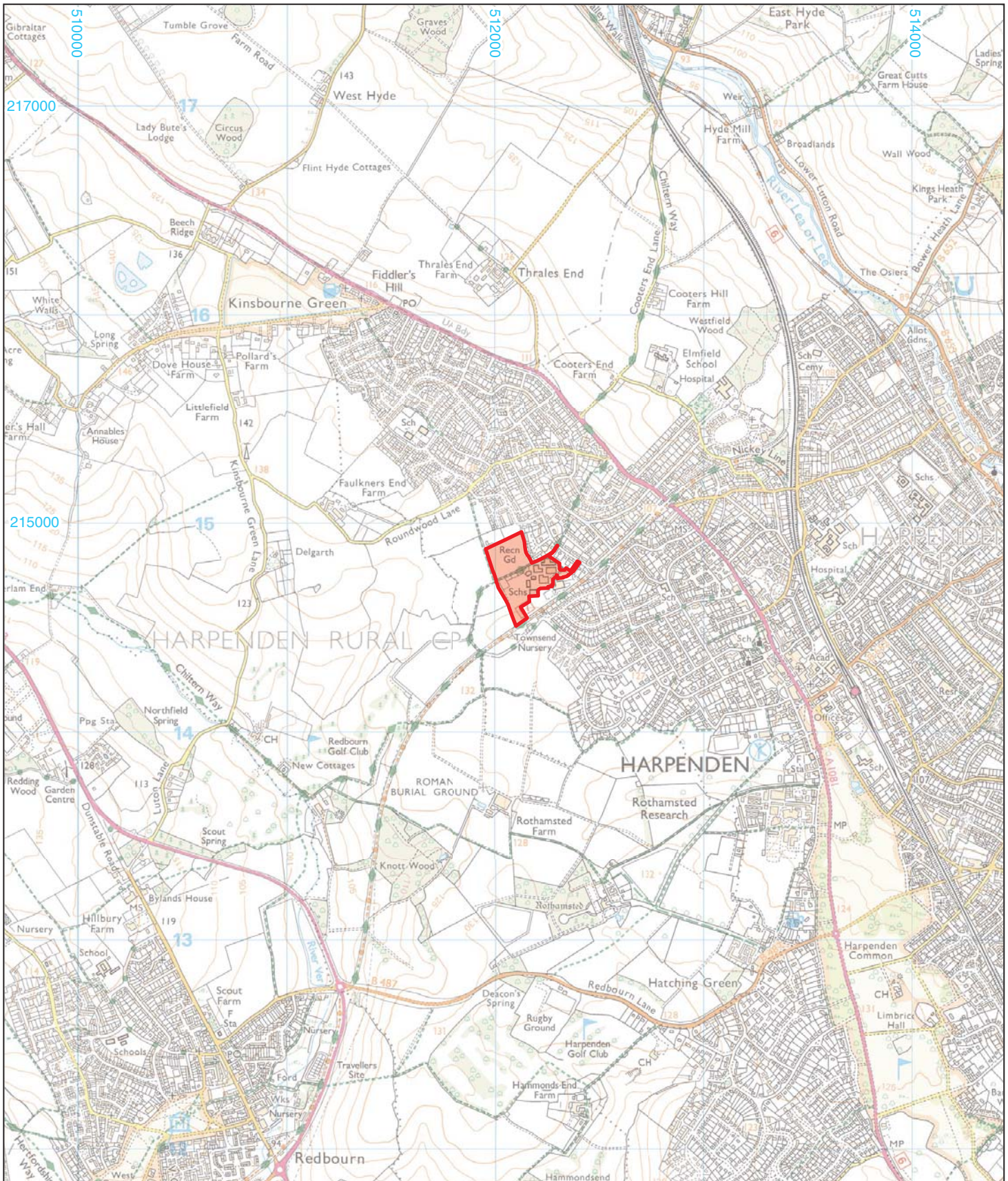
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief and strip, map and sample investigation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of an artificial multi-purpose sports pitch with fencing, a storage container and associated works at Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.</p> <p>The fieldwork revealed evidence of Roman period settlement activity of the 1st to 4th centuries. Parts of a small enclosure, dated from the 1st to 2nd centuries, identified at the north-western edge of the investigation area may represent evidence of internal subdivision of a large scale enclosure recorded during a previous watching brief adjacent to the current site (ASC 2010). A second phase of activity can be dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries, and includes a possible boundary ditch as well as a likely four post structure and associated dumped deposit and a small hearth feature.</p> <p>Secure dating of the features was achieved on the basis of a relatively large and well-preserved pottery assemblage, including vessels imported from continental Europe and a very rare fragment of a Roman costrel. A small assemblage of early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) and post-medieval pottery was also recovered, in addition to a number of iron nails and hobnails.</p> <p>The environmental evidence particularly from features of the second phase of occupation indicates easy access to woodland and associated resources, and includes evidence for collection of fuel woods from open woodlands, hedgerows or scrub. While the animal bone recovered was badly preserved, it appears to indicate the presence of staple domesticated animals (cattle, sheep/goat, as well as small mammal or bird remains).</p>	
Project dates	07 December 2017 – 01 February 2018	
Project type	Watching Brief/Strip, Map, Sample Investigation	
Previous work	Evaluation (ASC 2008) Watching Brief (ASC 2010)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	512107 214685	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	St Albans District Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Michelle Collings	
Project Supervisor	Anna Moosbauer	
MONUMENT TYPE		
Ditches, pits, hearth, cremation		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
Pottery (including part of a costrel), Roman coin some flint and animal bone		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	St Albans Museum	Ceramics, animal bone, metal artefacts
Paper	St Albans Museum	Context sheets, drawings

Digital	St Albans Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 18240		

APPENDIX E: HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: St Albans City	
Village/Town: Harpenden	Parish: Harpenden	
Planning application reference: 5/2016/3228		
HER Enquiry reference: N/A		
Funding source: Private		
Nature of application: Redevelopment / extension		
Present land use: School		
Size of application area: c.2.8ha	Size of area investigated: c.2.8ha	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): 512107, 214685		
Site code (if applicable): RPS17		
Site director/Organization: Cotswold Archaeology		
Type of work: Strip, Map and Sample Investigation and Watching Brief		
Date of work:	Start: 7 th December 2017	Finish: 1 st February 2018
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: St Albans Museum		
Related HER Nos: N/A	Periods represented: Roman	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: None		
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief and strip, map and sample investigation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of an artificial multi-purpose sports pitch with fencing, a storage container and associated works at Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.</p> <p>The fieldwork revealed evidence of Roman period settlement activity of the 1st to 4th centuries. Parts of a small enclosure, dated from the 1st to 2nd centuries, identified at the north-western edge of the investigation area may represent evidence of internal subdivision of a large scale enclosure recorded during a previous watching brief adjacent to the current site (ASC 2010). A second phase of activity can be dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries, and includes a possible boundary ditch as well as a likely four post structure and associated dumped deposit and a small hearth feature.</p> <p>Secure dating of the features was achieved on the basis of a relatively large and well-preserved pottery assemblage, including vessels imported from continental Europe and a very rare fragment of a Roman costrel. A small assemblage of early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) and post-medieval pottery was also recovered, in addition to a number of iron nails and hobnails.</p> <p>The environmental evidence particularly from features of the second phase of occupation indicates easy access to woodland and associated resources, and includes evidence for collection of fuel woods from open woodlands, hedgerows or scrub. While the animal bone recovered was badly preserved, it appears to indicate the presence of staple domesticated animals (cattle, sheep/goat, as well as small mammal or bird remains).</p>		
Author of summary: AKM	Date of summary: 10/08/18	



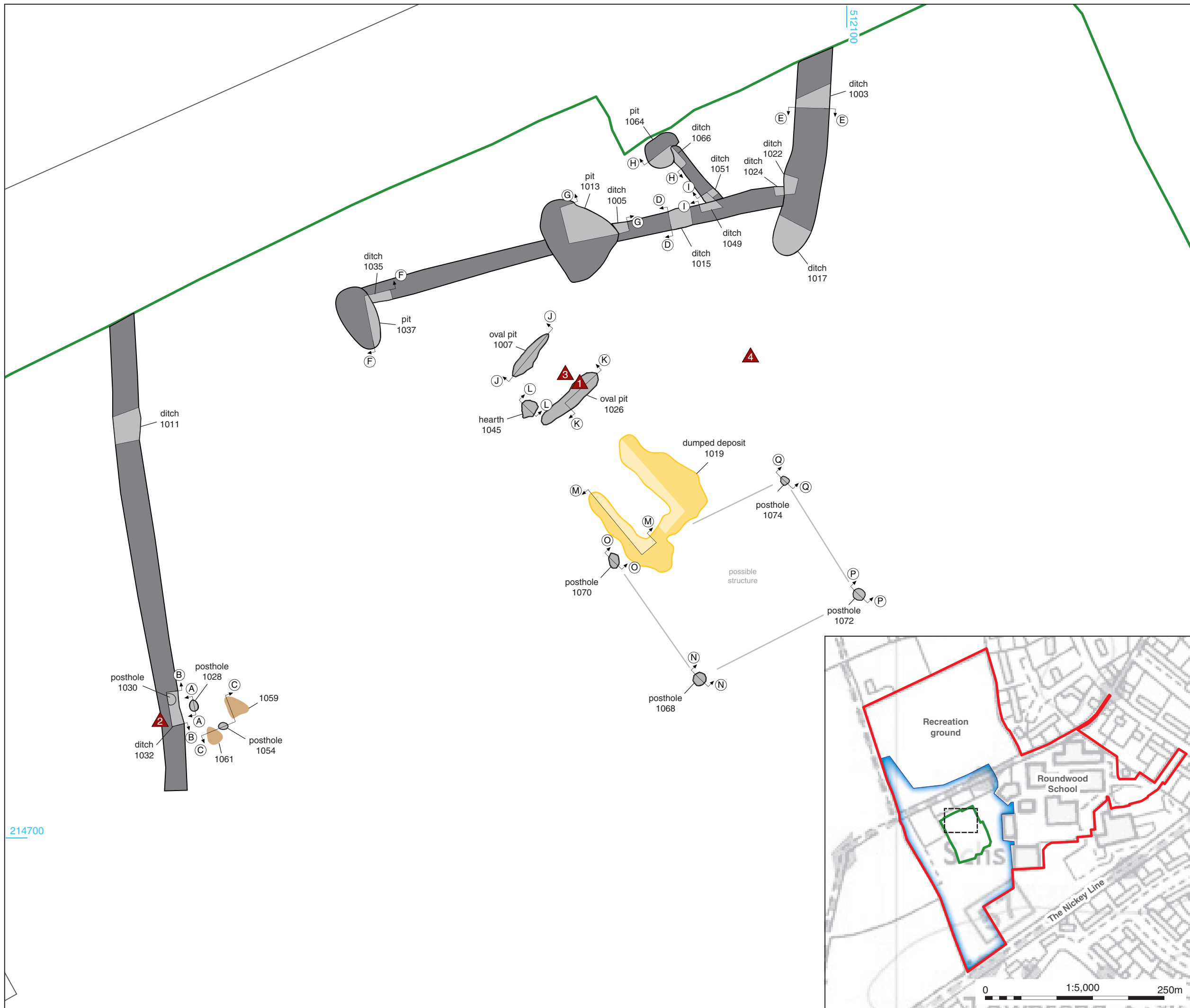
Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

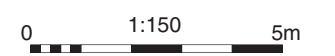
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

© Crown copyright and database rights 2018
 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

DRAWN BY EE **PROJECT NO.** 660994 **FIGURE NO.**
CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 26/02/2018
APPROVED BY MLC **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000 / 1:10,000 **1**



- Site boundary
- Watching brief area
- Excavated area
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Dumped deposit (excavated/unexcavated)
- Bioturbation
- ▲ Registered artefact
- A → A Section location



© Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

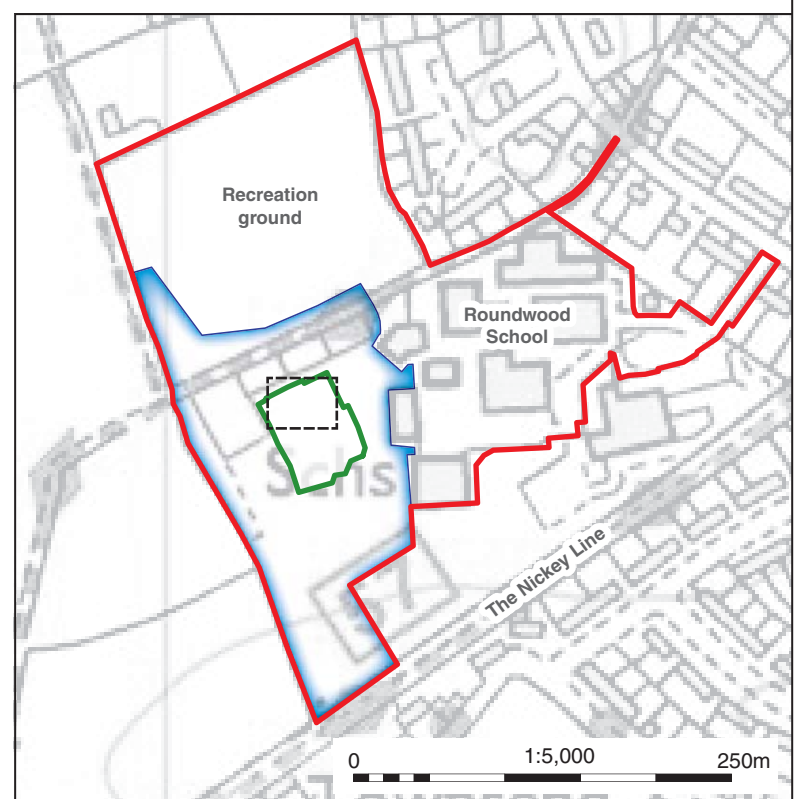
Cotswold Archaeology

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

PROJECT TITLE
 Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

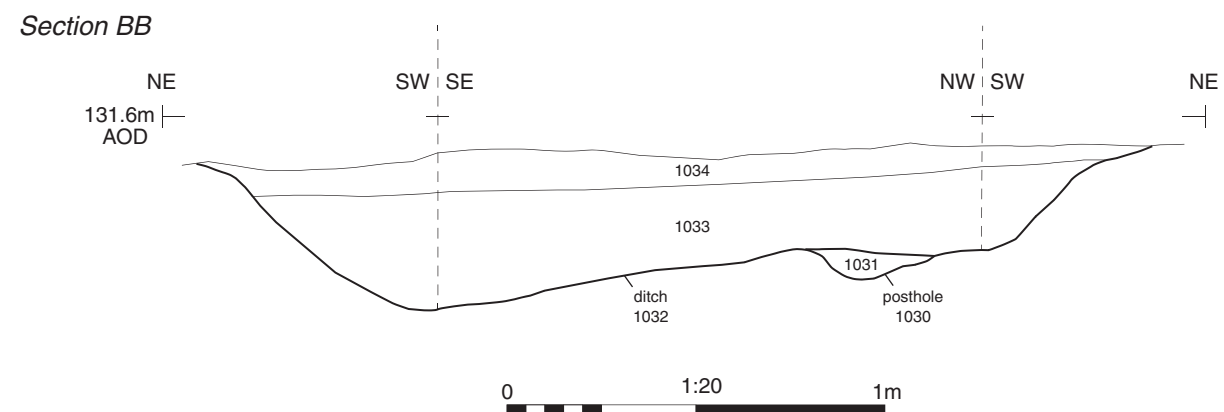
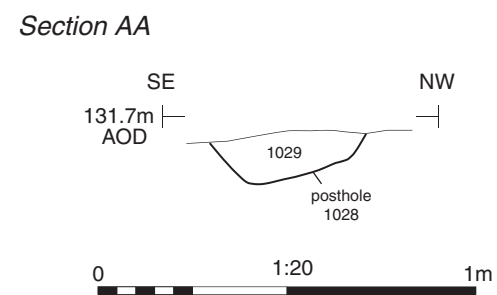
FIGURE TITLE
 Site plan, showing archaeological features and registered artefact locations

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660994	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/02/2018	2
APPROVED BY	MLC	SCALE	A3 1:150 / 1:5,000	



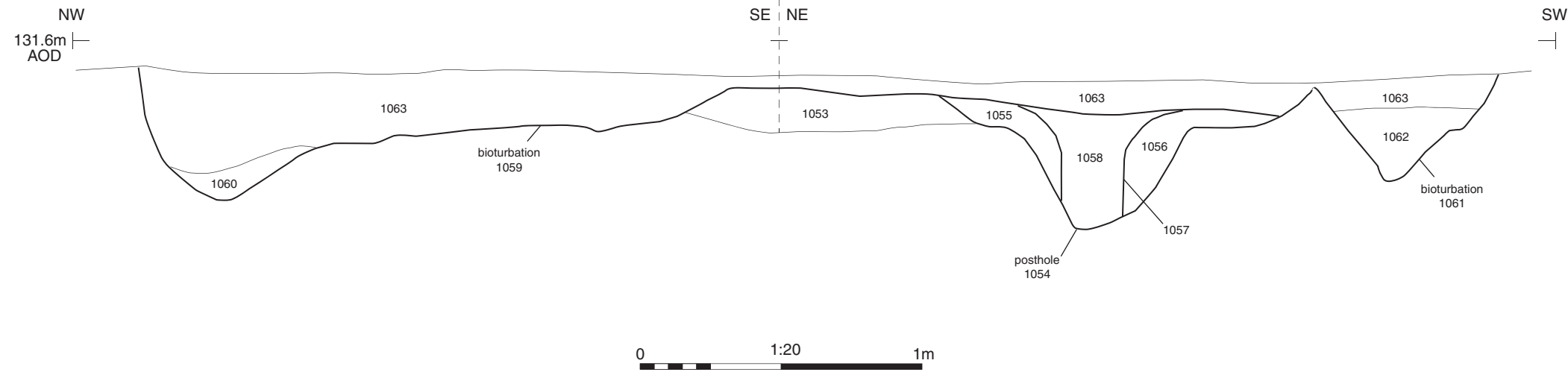
214700

512100



Postholes 1028 and 1030, ditch 1032, looking south-east (1m scale)

Section CC



Posthole 1054 between bioturbations 1059 and 1061, looking south-east (0.5m scale)

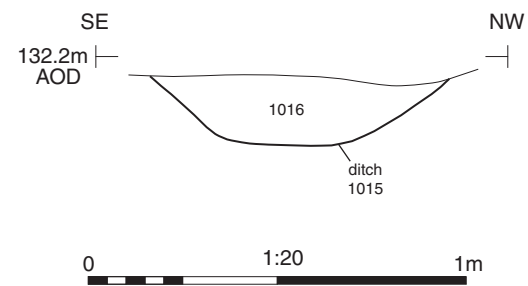

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Roundwood Park School, Roundwood
 Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

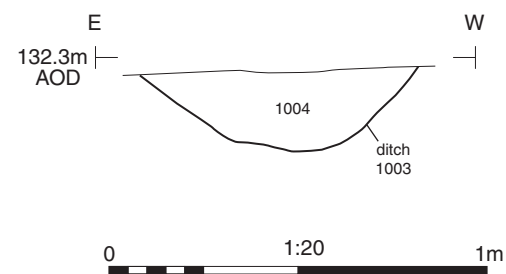
FIGURE TITLE
Posthole 1054, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660994	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/02/2018	
APPROVED BY	MLC	SCALE@A3	1:20	4

Section DD



Section EE



Enclosure ditch 1015 with pit 1013 in background, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

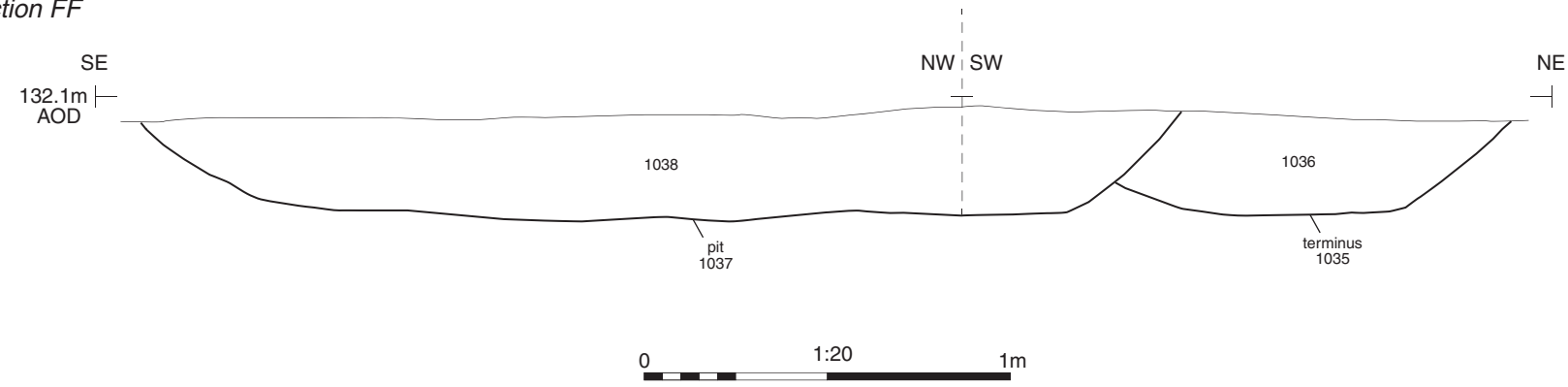
 Cotswold Archaeology
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Enclosure ditches 1015 and 1003, sections and photograph

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660994	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/02/2018	5
APPROVED BY	MLC	SCALE	@A3 1:20	

Section FF



Pit 1037 and terminus 1035, looking south-west (1m scale)

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

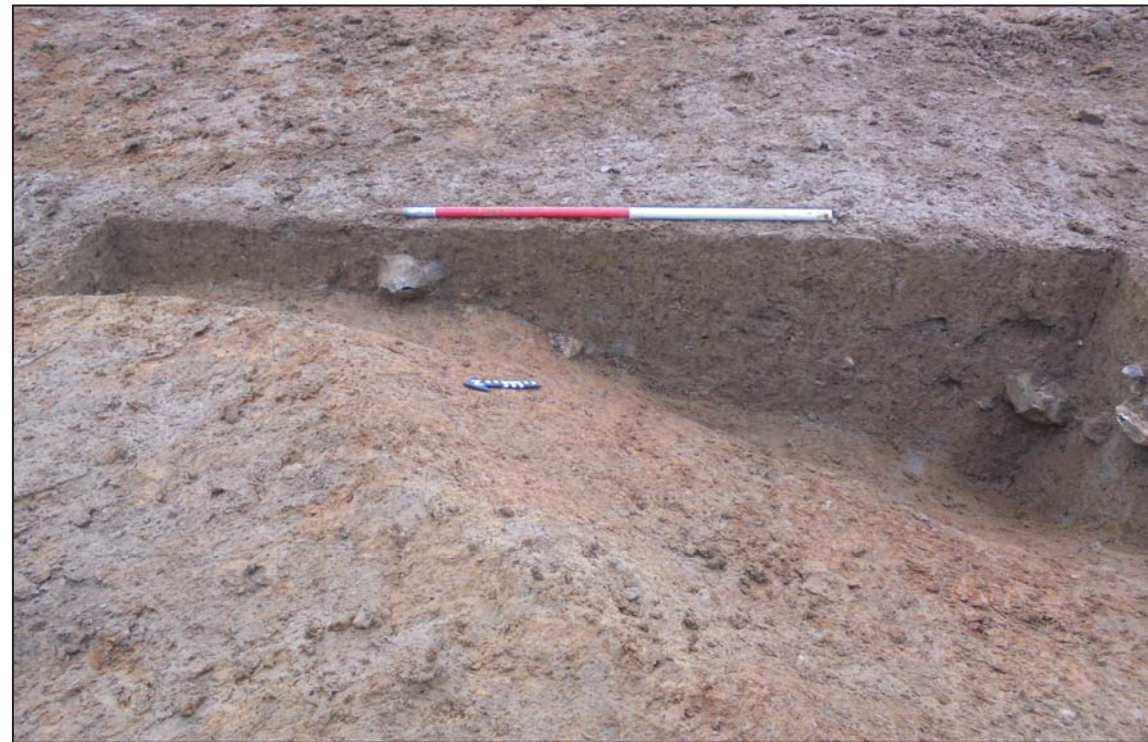
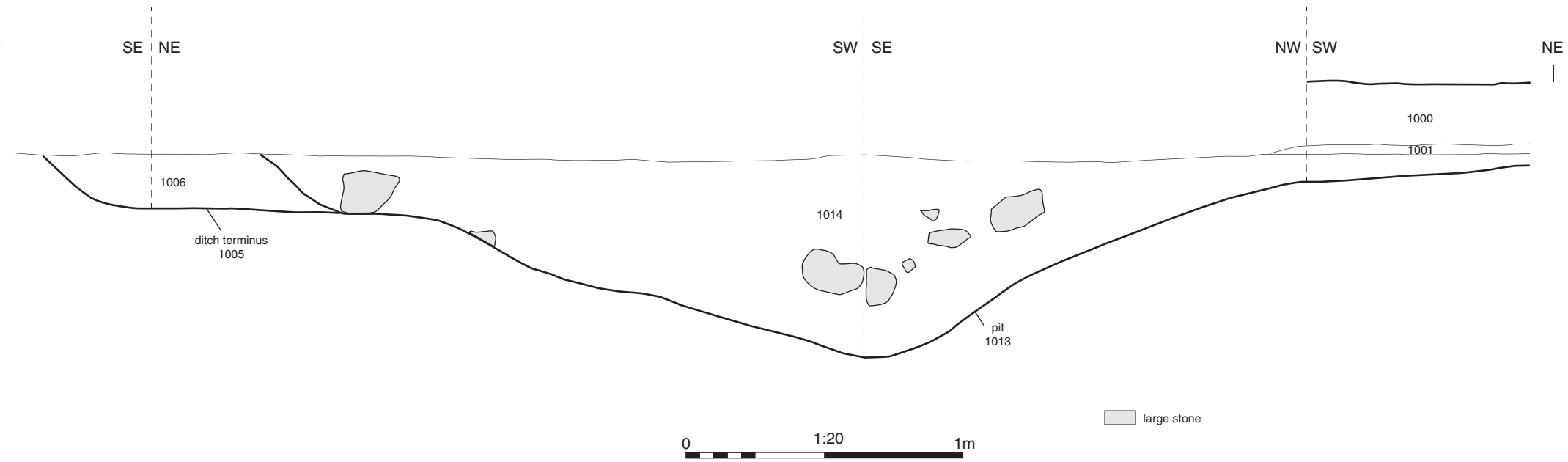
PROJECT TITLE
Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Pit 1037 and terminus 1035, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660994	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/02/2018	6
APPROVED BY	MLC	SCALE@A3	1:20	

Section GG

NW
132.8m
AOD



Pit 1013 and ditch terminus 1005, looking south-east (1m scale)

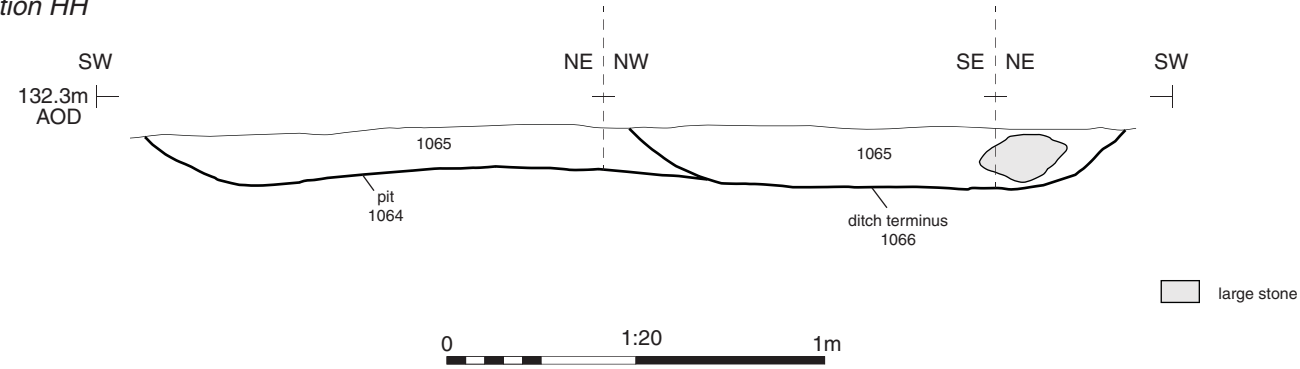

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Roundwood Park School, Roundwood
 Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

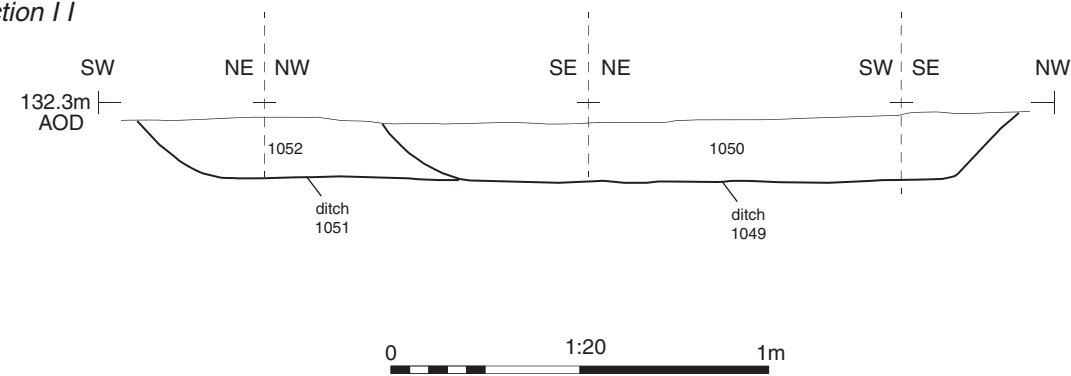
FIGURE TITLE
**Pit 1013 and ditch terminus 1005,
 section and photograph**

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660994	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/02/2018	
APPROVED BY	MLC	SCALE	@A3 1:20	7

Section HH

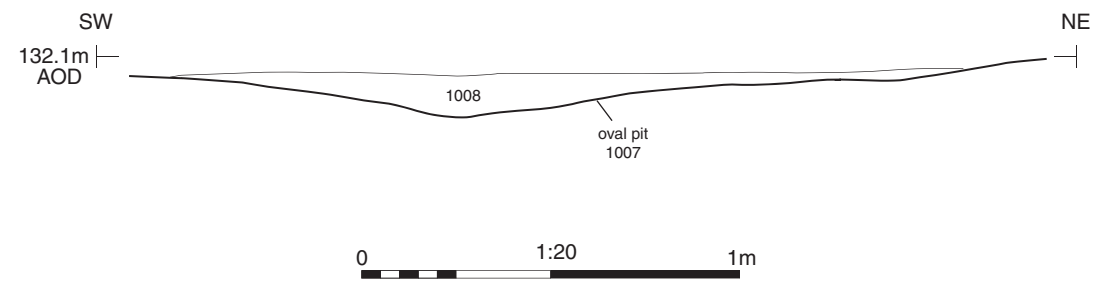


Section II



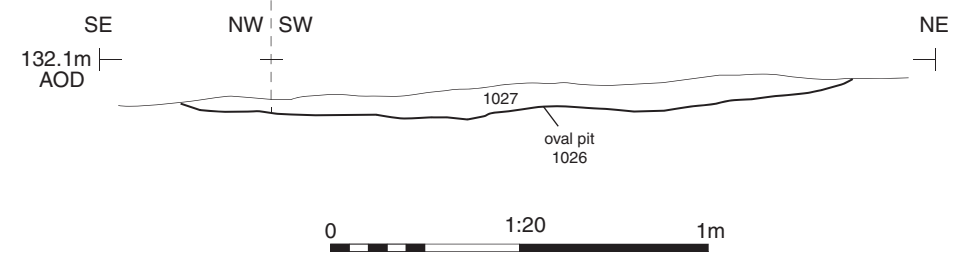
Ditches 1049 and 1051 with pit 1064 and ditch terminus 1066 in background, looking north-west (0.2m scale)

Section JJ



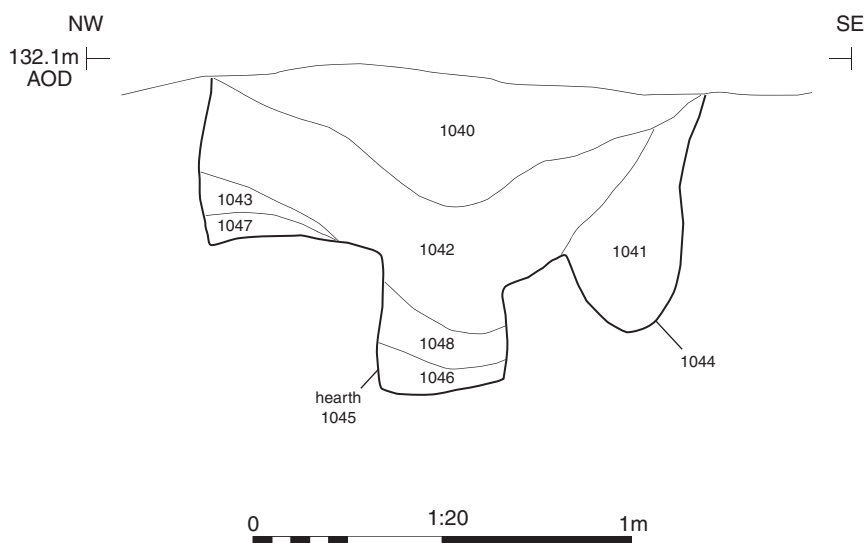
Oval pit 1007, looking north-east (1m scale)

Section KK



Oval pit 1026, looking north-west (1m scale)

Section LL



Hearth 1045, looking south-east (0.5m scale)



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

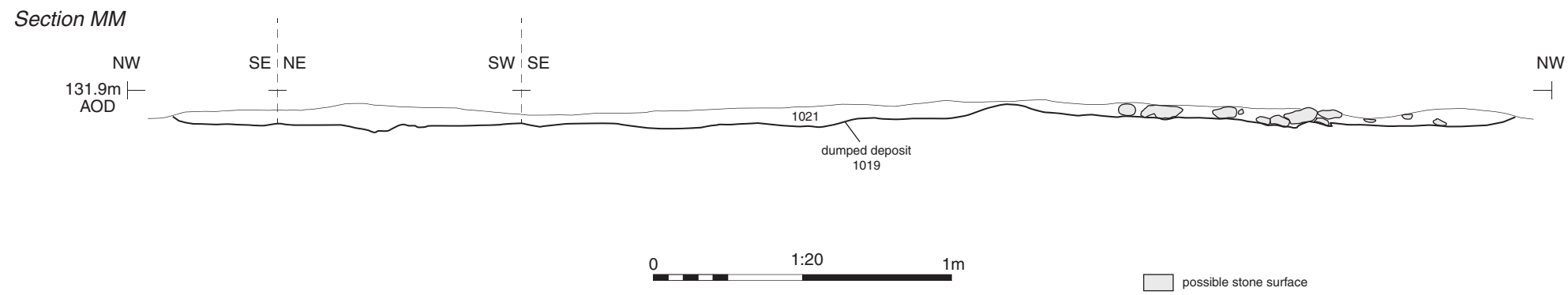
PROJECT TITLE

Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Hearth 1045 and 1044, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660994	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/02/2018	
APPROVED BY	MLC	SCALE@A4	1:20	10



Dumped deposit 1019, looking south-east (1m scales)



Pre-excavation photograph of area with possible structure, looking north-east (1m scales)



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

PROJECT TITLE

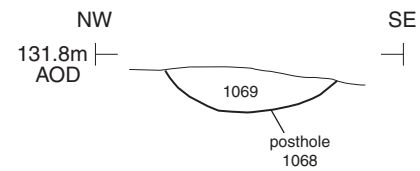
Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Possible structure, pre-excavation photograph

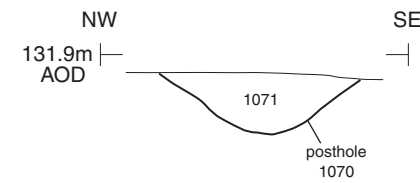
DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660994	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/02/2018	12
APPROVED BY	MLC	SCALE@A4	NA	

Section NN



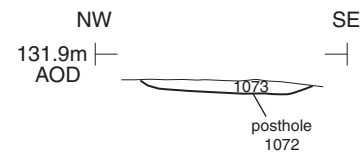
Posthole 1068, looking north-east (0.3m scale)

Section OO



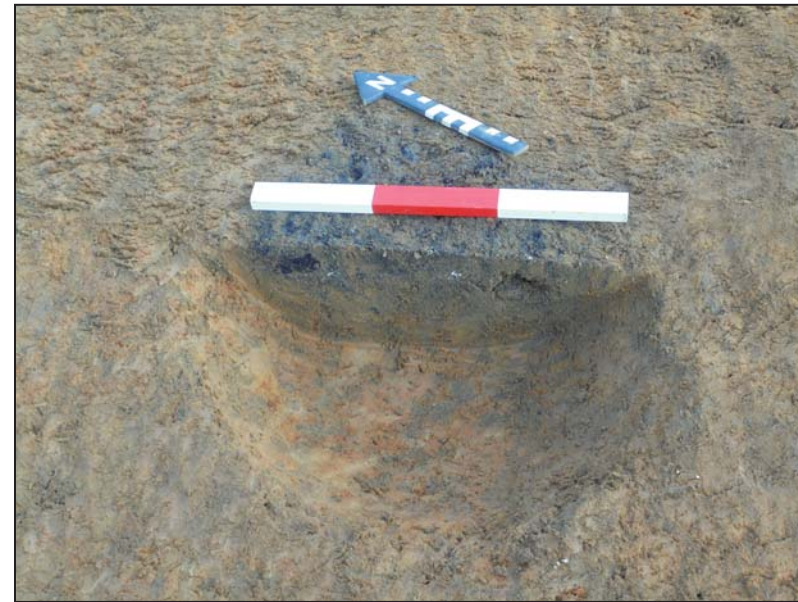
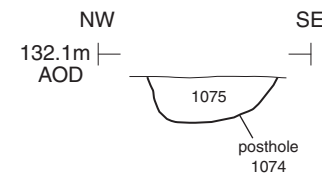
Posthole 1070, looking north-east (0.3m scale)

Section PP

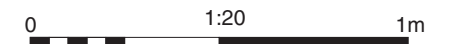


Posthole 1072, looking north-east (0.3m scale)

Section QQ



Posthole 1074, looking north-east (0.3m scale)

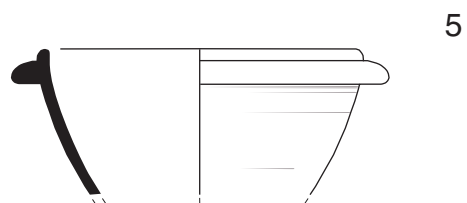
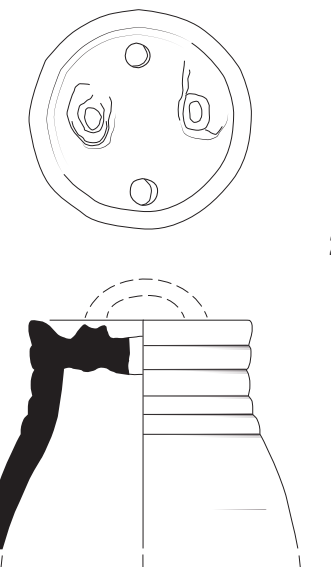
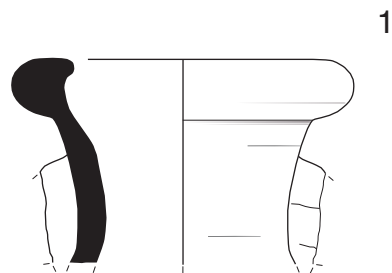


Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Possible structure defined by postholes 1068, 1070, 1072 and 1074, sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660994	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	26/02/2018	13
APPROVED BY	MLC	SCALE	@A3 1:20	



0 1:2 100mm

0 1:4 250mm

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

PROJECT TITLE
Roundwood Park School, Roundwood Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Pottery illustrations

DRAWN BY EE PROJECT NO. 660994 FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 23/ 04/2018 14
APPROVED BY MLC SCALE @A3 1:2 / 1:4

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

