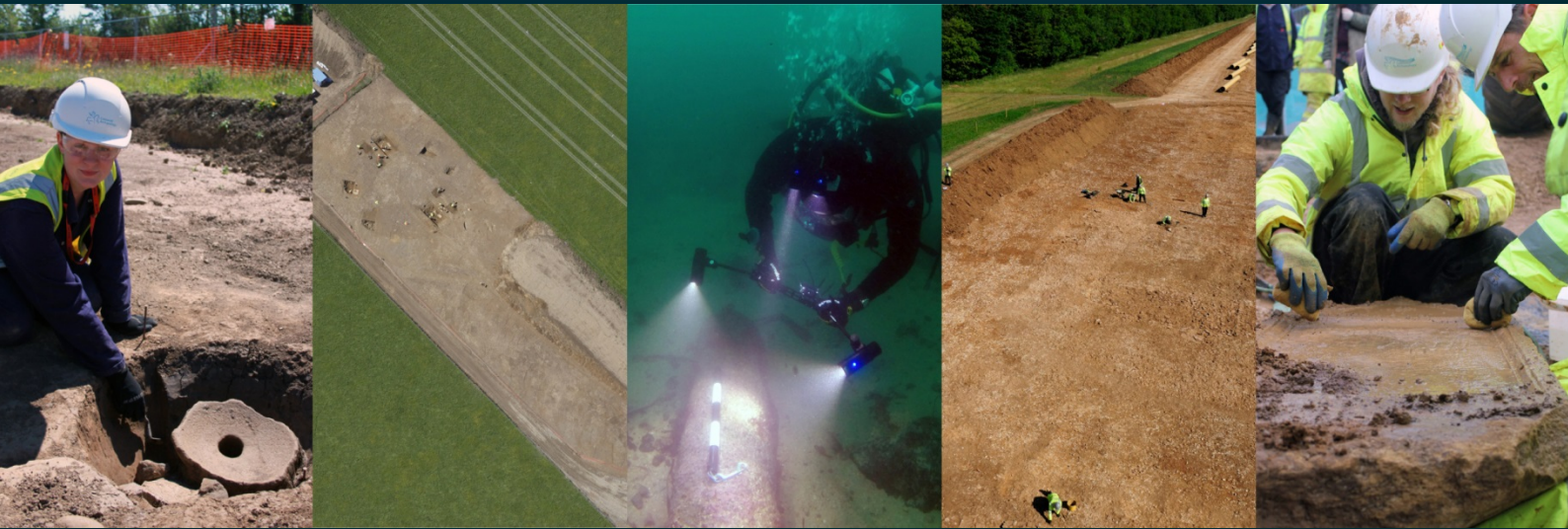


**Land off Ladbroke Road
Chalvey, Slough
Berkshire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
CgMs Heritage

on behalf of
Wates Construction Ltd

CA Project: AN0001
CA Report: AN0001_1

March 2019



Land off Ladbroke Road
Chalvey, Slough
Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: AN0001
CA Report: AN0001_1



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A	18/3/19	Sam Wilson	Oliver Good	Draft	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land off Ladbrooke Road
Location:	Chalvey, Slough, Berkshire
NGR:	496495 179472
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	11-13 March 2019
Planning Reference:	P/03968/012.
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with appropriate local Museum
Site Code:	LLRC19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2019 at Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey, Slough, Berkshire. Four trenches were excavated.

A curvilinear ditch of uncertain date was identified in Trenches 2 and 3. It produced no artefacts. Substantial made ground deposits were encountered in Trench 4, the result of landscaping during the original construction of the school, which currently occupies the Site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Heritage on behalf of Wates Construction Ltd at Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey, Slough, Berkshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 496495 179472 (see Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to a planning application for redevelopment of the Site (Ref: P/03968/012).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation prepared by Berkshire Archaeology the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority, Slough Borough Council (SBC) and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CgMs (2019) and approved by Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 2.1ha, and comprises largely developed areas of former school buildings, shops and associated landscaping. The most undeveloped area lies in the west of the Site and consists of a small pasture field bordered by minor hedges and metal fences. Beyond the borders of the Site, a playing field lies to the north-west, while the rest of the Site is surrounded by various residential developments, roads and infrastructure. The Site lies at approximately 20.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), although is likely to have been substantially levelled during previous developments.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Lambeth Group – clay silt and sand formed approximately 48 to 59 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period in an environment dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. Superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Shepperton Gravel Member formed approximately 2 million years ago in river valleys, are also recorded (BGS Online, 2019). This is consistent with the geological substrate encountered during the evaluation.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This section is a succinct summary of the archaeological background as outlined in the previous desk based assessment (CgMs 2018) and WSI (CgMs 2019).
- 2.2 Most of the Palaeolithic material recorded in this region comes from the Boyn Hill and Lynch Hill Terrace gravels. Predicting the presence of *in situ* material at an individual site can be extremely difficult. While the presence of heavily rolled Palaeoliths cannot be precluded, the potential for *in situ* material underlying the Site is considered to be nil as the geological deposits in which they are typically found are not present.
- 2.3 Cropmarks located 1km south of the Site may have a later prehistoric origin (Bronze Age or Iron Age) however no further archaeological research, other than the original aerial photographic interpretation, has been undertaken to prove conclusively that the features date to this period. The complex of crop marks, all very faint and possibly of geological origin, could comprise a possible Bronze Age/Iron Age ring ditch, a hut circle, ditches and enclosures. Another group of cropmarks are located further south-west from the Site (1.1km) and also represent possible ditches and enclosures.
- 2.4 The possible presence of a Roman Fort is recorded on the top of Chalvey Hill, c.650m north-west of the Site. Although earthworks are noted by nineteenth century writers no detailed archaeological survey has been undertaken on the site. Some Roman pottery has been found by antiquarians and they concluded that due to the early date and small site area that they were looking at an early Roman fort or fortlet rather than a settlement.
- 2.5 No manors are referenced in Domesday near to the Site. The closest manors and by association settlement are recorded at Eton (2km from the Site) and Upton (2.1km from the Site). The area of the Site is believed to have lain away from known areas of Saxon and medieval settlement and activity. Consequently the Site's archaeological potential for these periods can be categorised as generally low – evidence of agricultural activity and land division is most likely to be represented in the archaeological record. The dispersed rural pattern of the medieval settlement appears to continue into the Post-medieval period with few standing buildings listed from that period.

- 2.6 Historically, Slough was in the County of Buckinghamshire in the Parish of Upton within the Hundred of Stoke; the Site itself within the parish of Burnham. The town of Slough grew rapidly from a number of villages in the 19th century with the advent of the Great Western Railway, and in 1974 Slough was placed within the boundaries of Berkshire.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable SBC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 4 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the Site archive will be deposited with a relevant local museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-5)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts.
- 5.2 A total of four trenches were excavated. **Trenches 1 and 4** contained no archaeological features. Within **Trench 4**, natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.86m, although made ground deposits of a depth greater than 1.2m were present throughout much of the trench (Figure 5).

Trench 2 (Figures 2 & 3)

- 5.3 Within **Trench 2** the natural substrate of mid yellowish orange gravel **2002** was encountered at a depth of 0.52m. This was overlain by a mid-grey/brown sand/clay subsoil **2001** of 0.29m thickness which was in turn sealed below a dark grey/brown sand/clay topsoil **2000**.
- 5.4 Ditch **2003** was curvilinear in plan and cut **2002**. It measured 0.67m in width and was heavily truncated, with a total depth of 0.08m. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base, and contained a single dark orange coarse sand and gravel fill **2004**. No artefacts were recovered from **2004**.

Trench 3 (Figures 2 & 4)

- 5.5 **Trench 3** was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.62m, with the natural mid-yellow/orange gravel substrate **3002** encountered at 0.36m. This was sealed below a dark grey/brown sand/clay topsoil **3000** and a mid-grey/brown sand/clay subsoil **3001**.
- 5.6 Ditch **3003** was linear in plan, appearing to be a continuation of ditch **2003**. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.68m in width and 0.13m in

depth. It was filled by a single dark orange coarse sand and gravel fill **3004**, from which no dateable material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation identified the presence of a single ditch, spanning **Trenches 2 and 3**. It did not produce any artefactual material so it remains undated. The slightly sinuous nature of the ditch in plan as it turns towards the south-west perhaps tentatively suggests that it is at least not of immediately modern or post-medieval date, although any further supposition is not possible. There is no known archaeological evidence from the surrounding area to assist in ascribing it a provisional date.
- 6.2 The made ground deposits encountered in **Trench 4** are evidence of the heavy truncation and disturbance associated with the construction and landscaping of the school and its associated infrastructure in the latter half of the 20th century.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Wilson, assisted by Jeremy Clutterbuck, Pawel Jablonski and Georgina Johnston. The report was written by Sam Wilson. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Sam Wilson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Olly Good.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey (BGS) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 18 March 2019

CgMs Heritage (CgMs) 2019, *Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey, Slough, Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching*

CgMs Heritage (CgMs) 2018, *Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey, Slough, Berkshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*

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

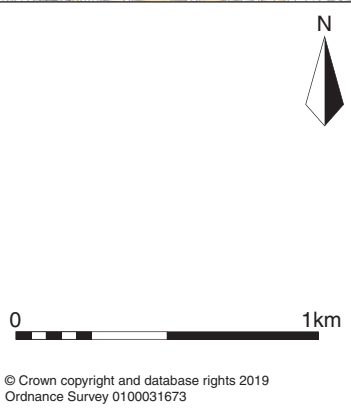
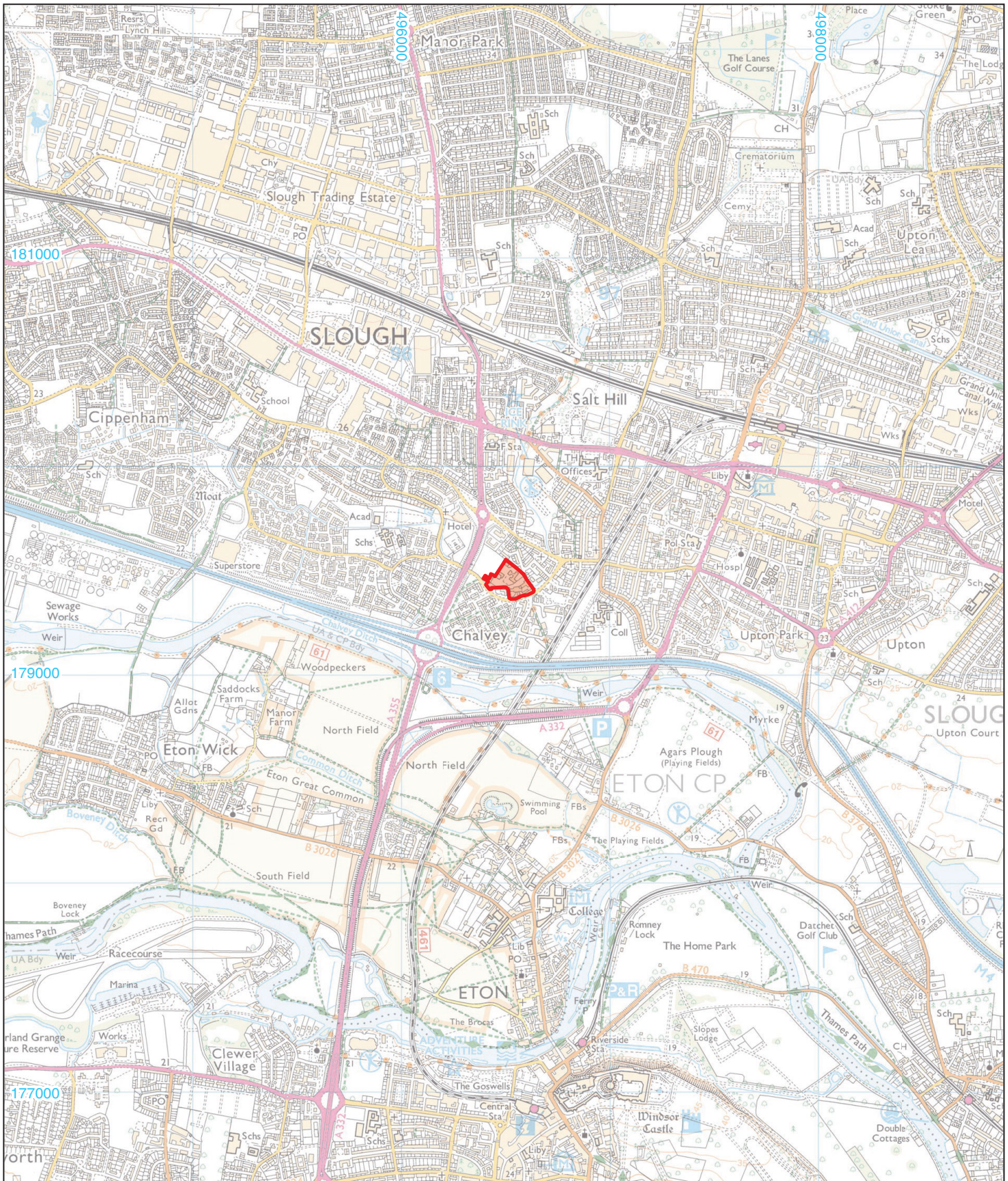


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy clay	18.5	1.6	0-0.2	
1	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish yellow clayey sand	18.5	1.6	0.2-0.56	
1	1002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish orange gravel and sandy clay	18.5	1.6	0.56-0.61+	
2	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy clay	19.3	1.6	0-0.23	
2	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	19.3	1.6	0.23-0.52	
2	2002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish orange gravel and sandy clay	19.3	1.6	0.52-0.6+	
2	2003	Cut		Ditch	Curvilinear in plan with moderately sloping sides and flat base	>2.26	0.67	0.08	Undated
2	2004	Fill	2003	Single ditch fill	Dark orange coarse sand and gravel	>2.26	0.67	0.08	Undated
3	3000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy clay	18.7	1.6	0-0.15	
3	3001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay	18.7	1.6	0.15-0.36	
3	3002	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish orange gravel and sandy clay	18.7	1.6	0.36-0.62+	
3	3003	Cut		Ditch	Linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and flat base	>1.2	0.68	0.13	Undated
3	3004	Fill	3003	Single ditch fill	Dark orange coarse sand and gravel	>1.2	0.68	0.13	Undated
4	4000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey clayey sand	15.5	1.6	0-0.2	
4	4001	Layer		Made ground	Mixed made ground layers	15.5	1.6	0.2-1.2+	Modern
4	4002	Layer		Natural	Mid greyish orange sandy clay	7	1.6	0.86-1.2+	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey, Slough, Berkshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2019 at Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey, Slough, Berkshire. Four trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A curvilinear ditch of uncertain date was identified in Trenches 2 and 3. It produced no artefactual material. Substantial made ground deposits were encountered in Trench 4, the result of landscaping during original construction of the school which currently occupies the Site.</p>	
Project dates	11-13 March 2019	
Project type	Trial trench evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment (CgMs 2018)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey, Slough, Berkshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.1ha	
Site co-ordinates	496495 179472	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Berkshire Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Heritage (2019)	
Project Manager	Olly Good	
Project Supervisor	Sam Wilson	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	TBC – no local collecting museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, registers
Digital	TBC – no local collecting museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology (CA) 2019 <i>Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey, Slough, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report AN0001_1		




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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey,
 Slough, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	AN0001	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	22/03/2019	
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Modern feature
- Projected line of ditch
- (A) ↑ (A) Section location
- Services buffer



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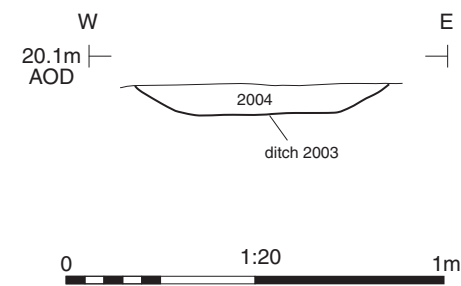
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey,
 Slough, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	AN0001	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	22/03/2019	2
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE@A3	1:750	

Section AA



Trench 2, pre-excavation view, looking north-east (1m scales)



Ditch 2003, looking north (0.5m scale)

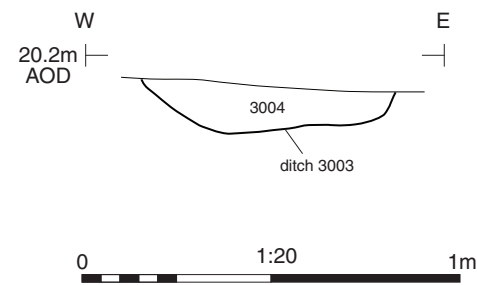

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey,
 Slough, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2, photographs and section

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	AN0001	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	22/03/2019	3
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE@A3	1:20	

Section BB



Trench 3, pre-excavation view, looking north-east (1m scales)



Ditch 3003, looking north-east (0.5m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Ladbroke Road, Chalvey,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 3, photographs and section

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	AN0001	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	22/03/2019	4
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE@A3	1:20	



Trench 1, general view, looking north-east (1m scales)



General view of Trench 4 location prior to excavation showing degree of modern landscaping



Trench 4, general view, looking north-west (1m scales)



Made ground layers within Trench 4, looking north-west (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	AN0001	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	22/03/2019	5
APPROVED BY	OG	SCALE	A3	

