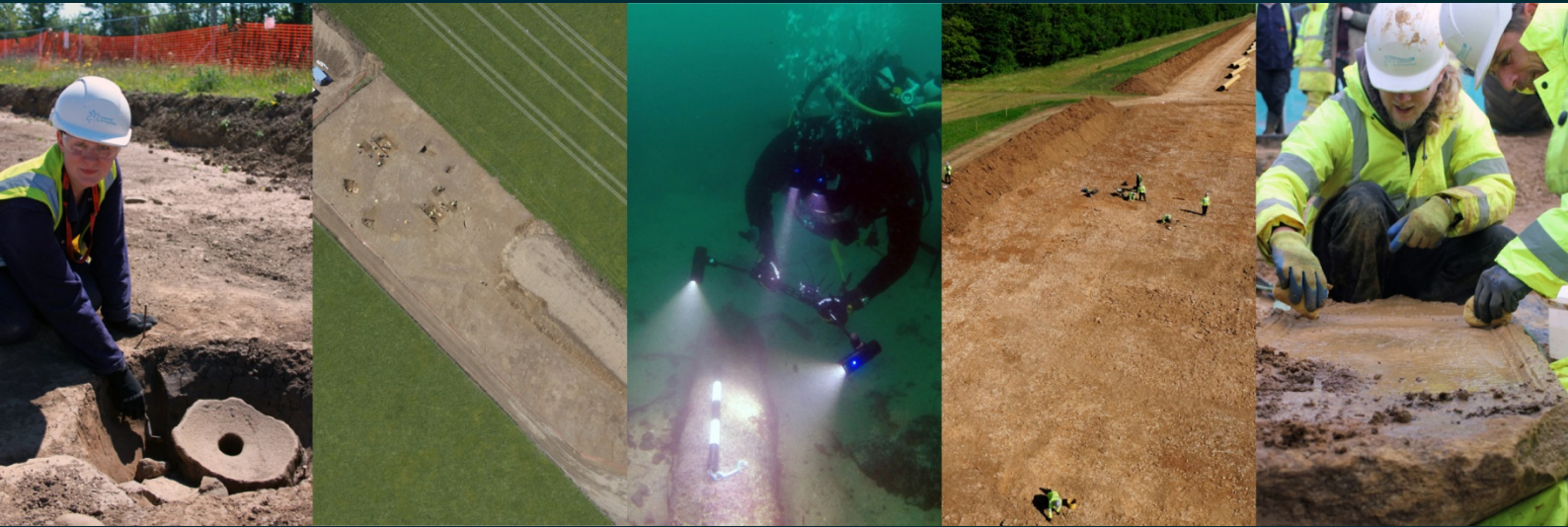


**Land off Chestnut Close
Lower Moor
Worcestershire**
Archaeological Evaluation



for
Millstrand Properties Ltd

CA Project: 6401
CA Report: 18066
WCC HER No: WSM70120

February 2018



Land off Chestnut Close Lower Moor Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

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CA Report: 18066
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A	13/02/2018	L. Brannlund	R. E. Young	Draft		C. M. Bateman
B	13/02/2018	L. Brannlund	R. E. Young	Final		C. M. Bateman

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land off Chestnut Close
Location: Lower Moor, Worcestershire
NGR: 397922 247044
Type: Evaluation
Date: 30-31 January 2018
Planning Reference: W/16/00845/OU
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code: CCLM 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2018 at land off Chestnut Close, Lower Moor, Worcestershire. Five trenches were excavated.

Three ditches containing abraded medieval pottery were recorded.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Millstrand Properties Ltd on land off Chestnut Close, Lower Moor, Worcestershire (centred at NGR: 397922 247044; Fig. 1). Planning permission for the construction of five residential dwellings has been granted by Wychavon District Council (WDC; ref. W/16/00854/OU) conditional (Condition 15) on a programme of archaeological works.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Aidan Smyth, the Archaeology and Planning Advisor to Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), and the *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire* (Worcestershire County Council 2016). It was monitored by Aidan Smyth, including a site visit on 30/01/18.

The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 0.52ha in extent. The site comprises rough grassland and scrub, with small allotments in the north-west and south-west corners. The site lies at approximately 25m to 30m AOD, and is generally flat. It is surrounded on the north, west and east by the gardens of houses, and on the south by a footpath and field.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone, Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 183 to 199 million years ago in the Jurassic Period, with superficial deposits of Wasperton Sand and Gravel Member - Sand and Gravel, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2018). During the evaluation sand and gravel substrate was observed in Trenches 1-4 at an average depth of 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl). Blue clay substrate was observed in Trench 5 at a depth of 1m bpgl.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is situated on the edge of the historic core of the village of Lower Moor. The surrounding landscape contains prehistoric and Romano-British remains, with several designated as Scheduled Monuments, including a Neolithic ceremonial monument, Bronze Age cemetery and extensive Iron Age/Romano-British settlements detailed below.
- 2.2 Three Early Bronze Age Beaker burials consisting of crouched inhumations and associated pottery are recorded on the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (WHER) as being discovered within a gravel pit 400m to the south-east of the site (WHER ref. WSM03255, Else 1933).
- 2.3 A settlement site north of Spring Hill (Scheduled Monument No. 1005352, WHER: WSM01392), was identified from aerial photographs 600m to the east of the site. The monument consists of ring ditches, sub-rectangular enclosures and substantial curvilinear enclosure ditches. The scheduling description includes the following details “This monument, which falls into two areas, includes the remains of a prehistoric and Roman settlement located on a moderate south facing slope overlooking the River Avon. The settlement is known from cropmarks visible on aerial photographs and survives as seven ring ditches, five sub rectangular enclosures, two rectangular enclosures and a long, narrow double ditched curvilinear enclosure with linear features. Romano-British artefacts have been found, within the monument”.
- 2.4 A further four prehistoric and Roman settlement sites and a prehistoric cursus identified from aerial photography are recorded as Scheduled Monuments all within 2km of the site area to the south and south-west (SM refs. 1005312, 1005310, 1005317, 1005318). As a result of this the Worcestershire HER characterises the area immediately south and east of the site as a ‘Prehistoric ritual and settlement landscape’ (WSM40864).
- 2.5 A Roman track and field system, dated to the 1st to 3rd century AD, was excavated 850m north of the site. Two inhumation burials of a Roman date were also recorded, along with other finds providing occupation evidence until the early 5th century (WSM34317, Vaughn 2005).

- 2.6 The village of Lower Moor is recorded as a medieval village on the Worcestershire HER (WSM22789; Page 1913, 357), and contains several Listed timber-framed buildings dated to the 17th century.
- 2.7 The Ordnance Survey mapping for Lower Moor from 1886 to 1955 depicts the site as being an orchard. By 1969 it is shown in its current configuration. All the mapping from 1886 onwards depicts the extant drainage channel that runs roughly east to west across the northern half of the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable WDC 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 five trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 3 were 30m in length; Trench 2 was 24m in length; Trench 4 was 15m in length and Trench 5 was 7m in length. All trenches were 1.8m in width. The locations of Trenches 2, 4, and 5 were adjusted due to services and extant hedges, with the approval of Aidan Smyth. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the 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* and 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 Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 5.2 Natural geological substrate, consisting of gravel and sand in Trenches 1-4 and blue clay in Trench 5, was revealed at an average depth of 0.7m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil averaging 0.5m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.2m of topsoil. Trenches 1 did not contain any archaeological features or deposits and in Trench 5 the subsoil was truncated by a cut containing by modern building rubble.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.3 Ditch 203 was exposed at the centre of the Trench 2. It was aligned north-north-west/south-south-east, had a U-shaped profile, and measured 0.85m in width and 0.15m in depth (Fig. 3). It contained a single undated fill, 202, consisting of clayey sand.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 5.4 Ditch 303 was identified towards the southern end of the trench. It was aligned north-east/south-west, had a U-shaped profile, and measured 1.5m in width and

0.15m in depth (Fig. 4). It contained a single fill, 304, consisting of sandy silt from which two abraded sherds of 12th to 14th-century pottery were recovered.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 5)

- 5.5 Ditch 403 was partially exposed at the southern end of trench 4. It was aligned north-south, had a V-shaped profile, and measured over 1.85m in width and 0.35m in depth (Fig. 5). It contained two clayey silt fills, 404 and 405, which contained a total of nine abraded sherds of 12th to 14th-century pottery and fragments of animal bone. Fill 404 also contained a residual worked flint flake. Ditch 4.3 started to fill with water immediately upon excavation.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from three ditch fills. The recovered material dates to the prehistoric and medieval periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric (Appendix B). Recording also included form/rim morphology and a note of any evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues. Pottery fabric codes are equated to the Worcestershire online ceramics database.

Pottery

- 6.2 The pottery, which is moderately abraded, is all medieval in date (10 sherds, 126g). An internal carbonised (burnt food) residue was recorded on two sherds from fill 404 of ditch 403 and an external 'sooty' residue on one sherd from fill 304 of ditch 303. Two ware types are represented – Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware (Fabric 55, late 11th to mid-14th centuries, all unfeathered bodysherds) and Malvernian unglazed ware (Fabric 56, late 12th to 14th centuries) (<http://www.worcestershireceramics.org>). Three rimsherds, from fills 404 and 405 of ditch 403 and apparently from the same vessel, were from a jar or bowl with an everted, inturned rim.

Lithics

- 6.3 A worked flint flake, of broad prehistoric date, was retrieved as a residual find in fill 404 of ditch 403.



7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Three ditches were identified during the evaluation, with two containing abraded pottery of 12th to 14th-century date. The abraded nature of the sherds may mean they are residual within the features and the ditches are actually of post-medieval or later date. The ditches don't appear to be aligned on the modern field boundaries. Ditch 403 filled with water immediately upon excavation and this, allied to the existence of an extant drainage ditch across the site (depicted on the historic mapping since at least 1886), may suggest these ditches are drainage features rather than boundaries.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund, assisted by Alison Roberts and Dani Adams. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

9. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 2 February 2018
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land off Chestnut Close Lower Moor, Worcestershire; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
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- Else, W.J. 1933 *Transactions of the Worcestershire Naturalists Club* 9 53-6, 97.
- Page, W. 1913 *A history of the County of Worcestershire* Vol III. Victoria County History
- Vaughan, T. 2005 'Archaeological Recording on Land off Evesham Road, Upper Moor, Pershore, Worcestershire'. Worcestershire Archaeology, Report No. **1309**.

Worcestershire County Council 2016 *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire*

Worcestershire online ceramics database: <http://www.worcestershireceramics.org> (accessed 5 February 2018).



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

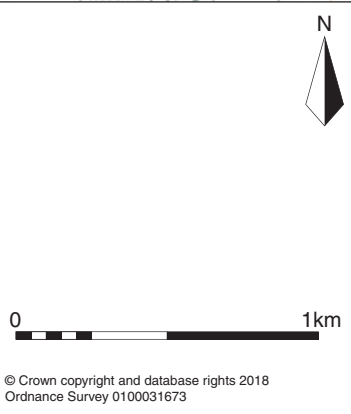
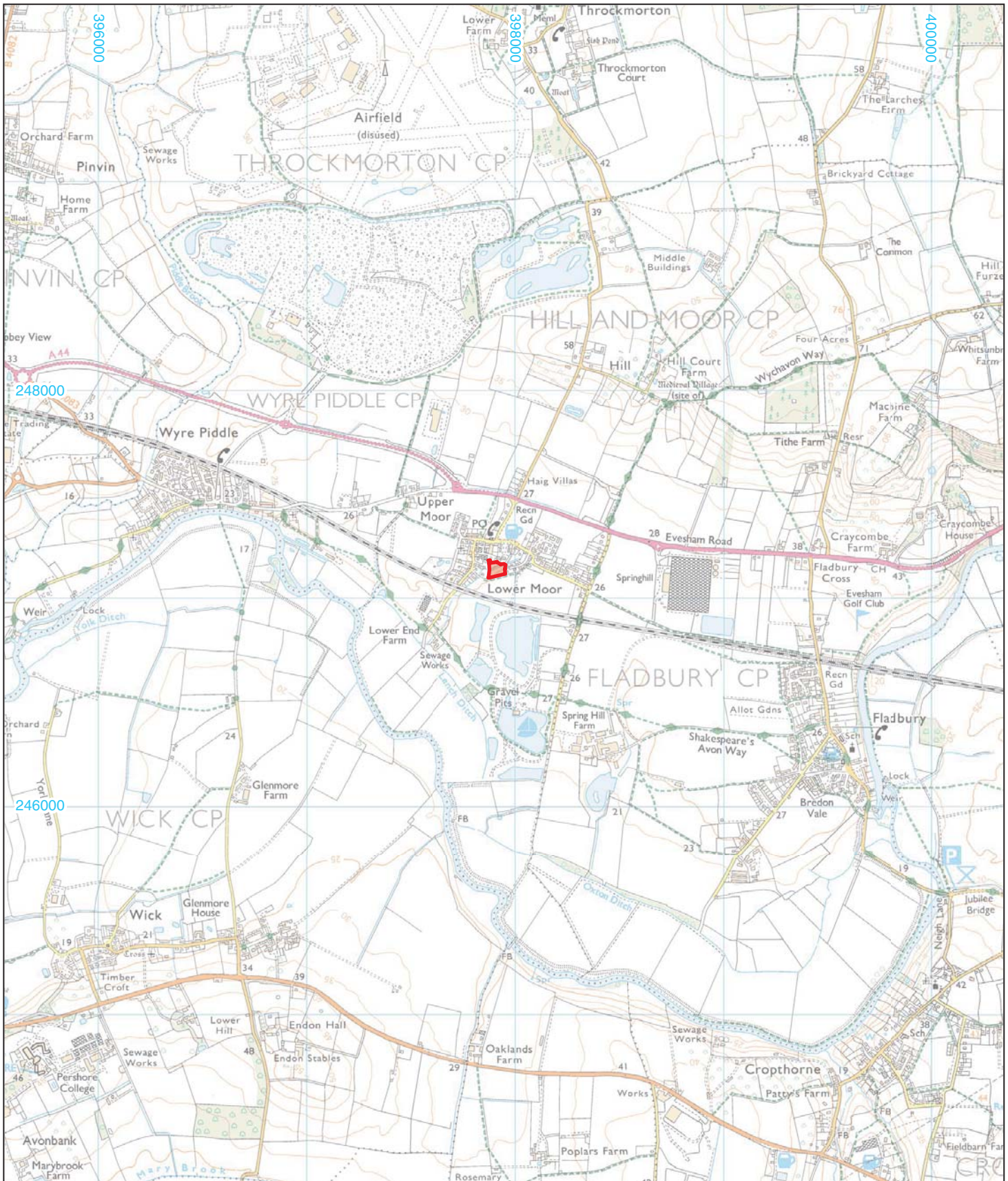
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sand-silt			0.2	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown sand-silt			0.5	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Yellow/Orange gravel and sand			n/a	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sand-silt			0.35	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown sand-silt			0.4	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Yellow/Orange gravel and sand			n/a	
2	203	Cut		Ditch	SE-NW aligned linear with a shallow U-shaped profile		0.85	0.15	
2	204	Fill	203	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow-brown clay-sand with gravel		0.85	0.15	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sand-silt			0.4	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown sand-silt			0.6	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Yellow/Orange gravel and sand			n/a	
3	303	Cut		Ditch	Ne-SW aligned linear in plan with shallow U-shaped profile		1.5	0.15	
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of ditch	Light grey-brown sand-silt with gravel		1.5	0.15	LC12-C14
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sand-silt			0.35	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown sand-silt			0.25	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Yellow/Orange gravel and sand			n/a	
4	403	Cut		Ditch	N-S aligned linear in plan with shallow U-shaped profile		1.85	0.35	
4	404	Fill	403	Fill of ditch	Light grey-brown clay-silt with gravel		0.95	0.2	LC12-C14
4	405	Fill	403	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow-brown clay-silt with gravel		1.85	0.15	LC12-C14
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sand-silt			0.15	
5	501	Layer		Made ground	Building rubble with concrete and bricks			0.5	Modern
5	502	Layer		Made ground	Mid grey-brown clay with modern brick, concrete rubble			0.35	Modern
5	503	Layer		Natural	Dark blue-grey clay			n/a	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
304	Medieval pottery	Malvernian unglazed ware	56	2	18	LC12-C14
404	Medieval pottery	Malvernian unglazed ware	56	4	58	LC12-C14
	Medieval pottery	Worcester-type sandy unglazed ware	55	3	34	
	Flint	Flake		1	5	
405	Medieval pottery	Malvernian unglazed ware	56	1	16	LC12-C14

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Chestnut Close, Lower Moor, Worcestershire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2018 at land off Chestnut Close Lower Moor, Worcestershire. Five trenches were excavated. Three ditches containing abraded medieval pottery were recorded.	
Project dates	30-31 January 2018	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Chestnut Close Lower Moor, Worcestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.52ha	
Site co-ordinates	397922 247044	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	n/a	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Luke Brannlund	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Pottery, Animal bone
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Trench sheets, context sheets, photo registers
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 <i>Land off Chestnut Close Lower Moor, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 18066		



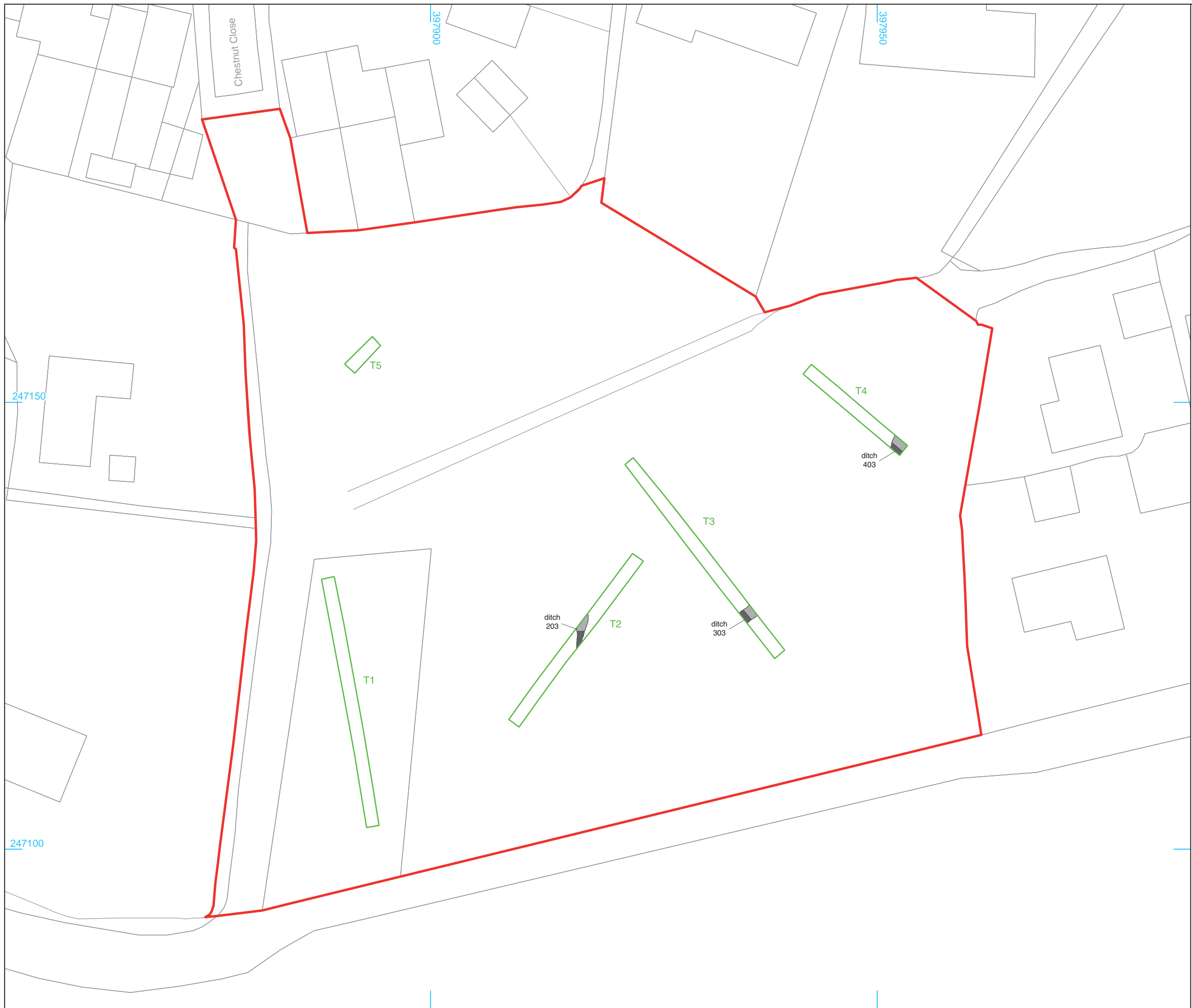
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Chestnut Close, Lower Moor, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY CP **PROJECT NO.** 6401 **FIGURE NO.**
CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 13/02/2018 **1**
APPROVED BY REY **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000

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 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)



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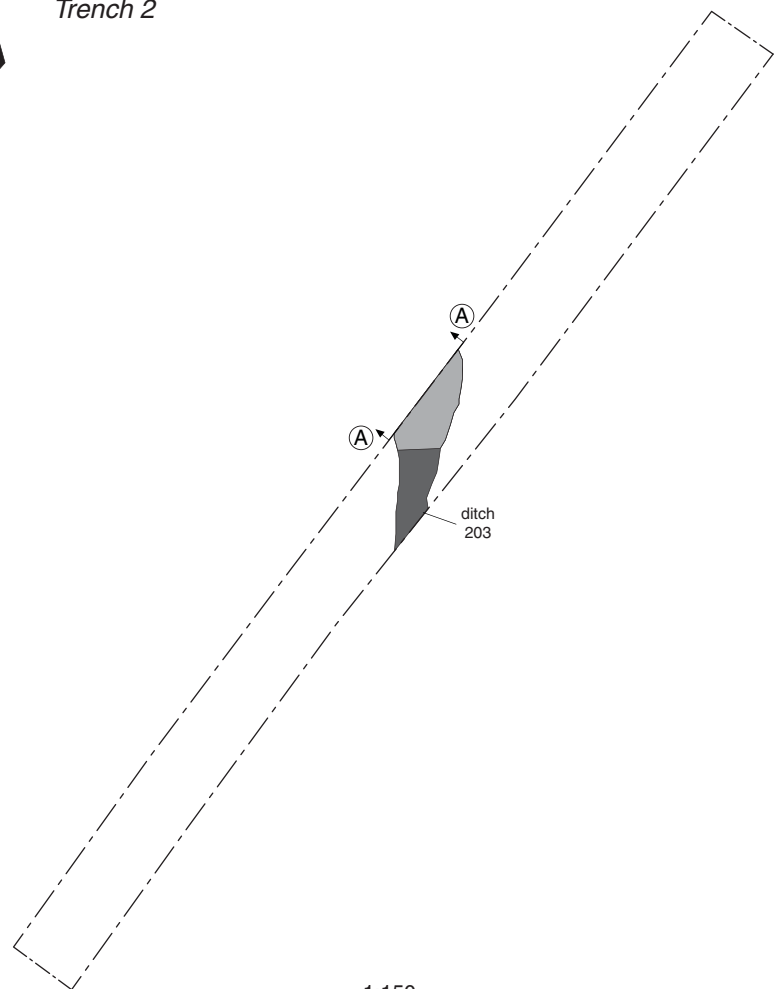
PROJECT TITLE
Land off Chestnut Close, Lower Moor, Worcestershire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features

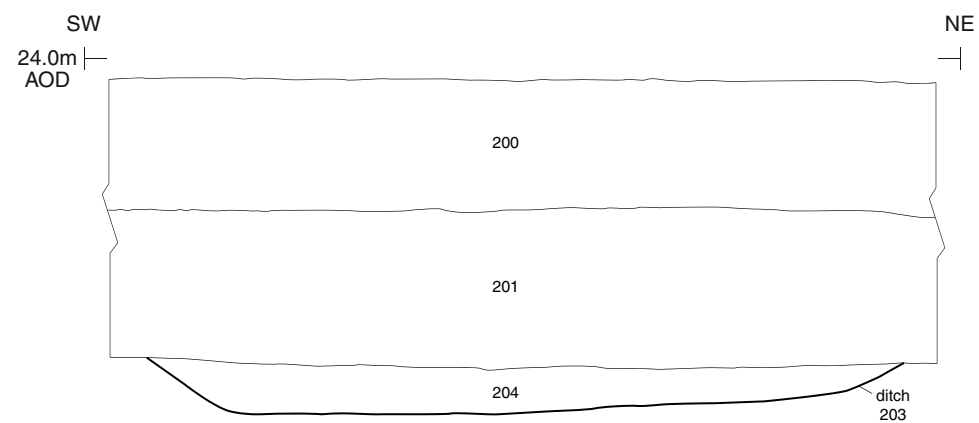
DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	6401	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/02/2018	2
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:400	






Trench 2



Section AA



-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
-  section location



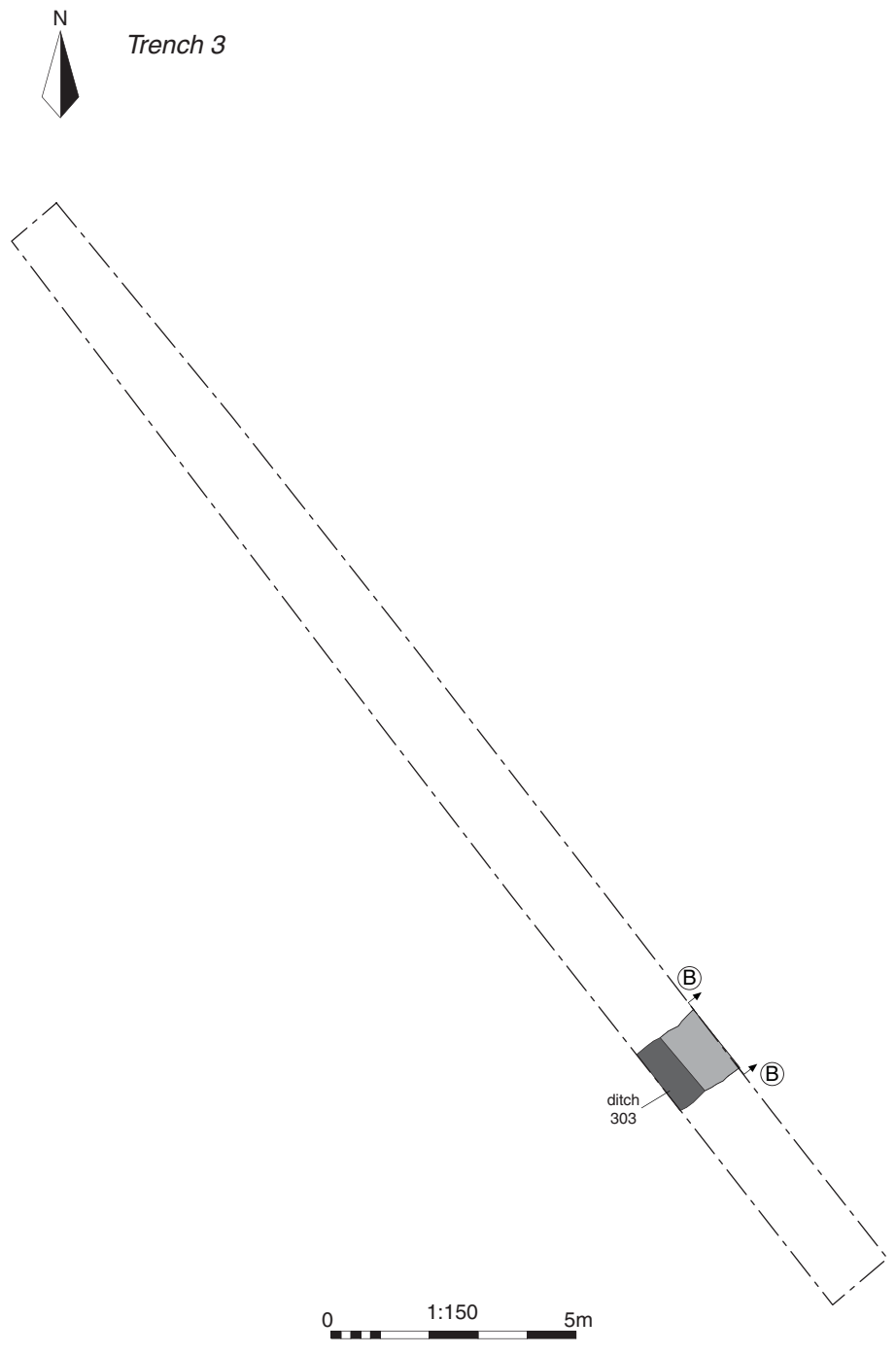
Ditch 203, looking north-west (scale 1m)


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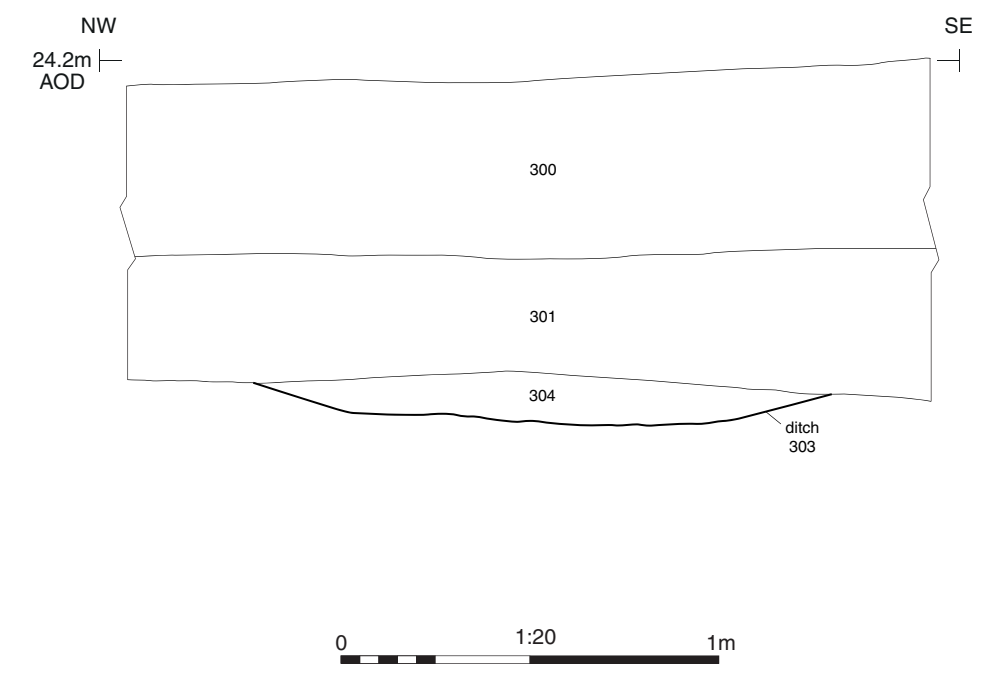
PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Chestnut Close, Lower Moor,
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2: plan, section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12/02/2018	3
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:150	



Section BB



-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
-  section location



Ditch 303, looking north-east (scale 1m)

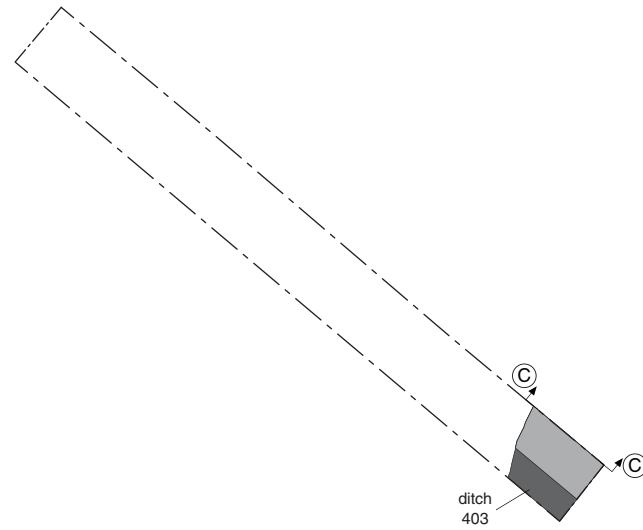

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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3: plan, section and photograph



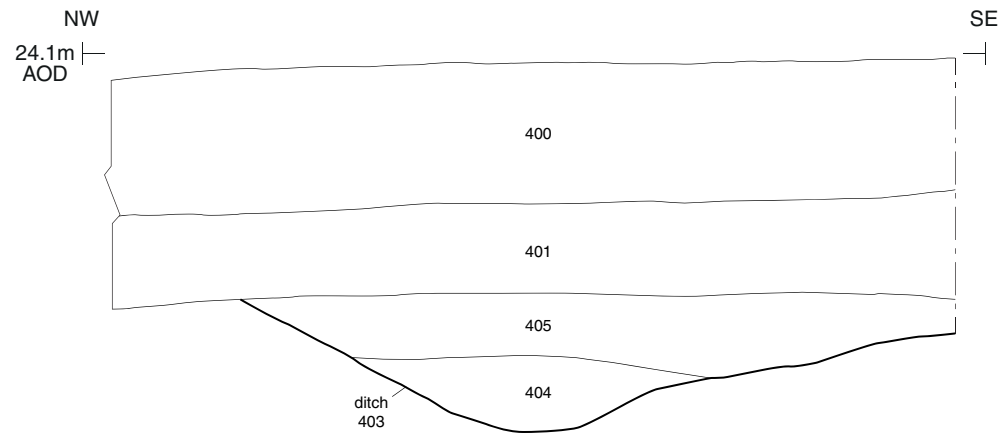
Trench 4



0 1:150 5m

-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
-  section location

Section CC



0 1:20 1m



Ditch 403, looking north-east (scale 1m)


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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 4: plan, section and photograph

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