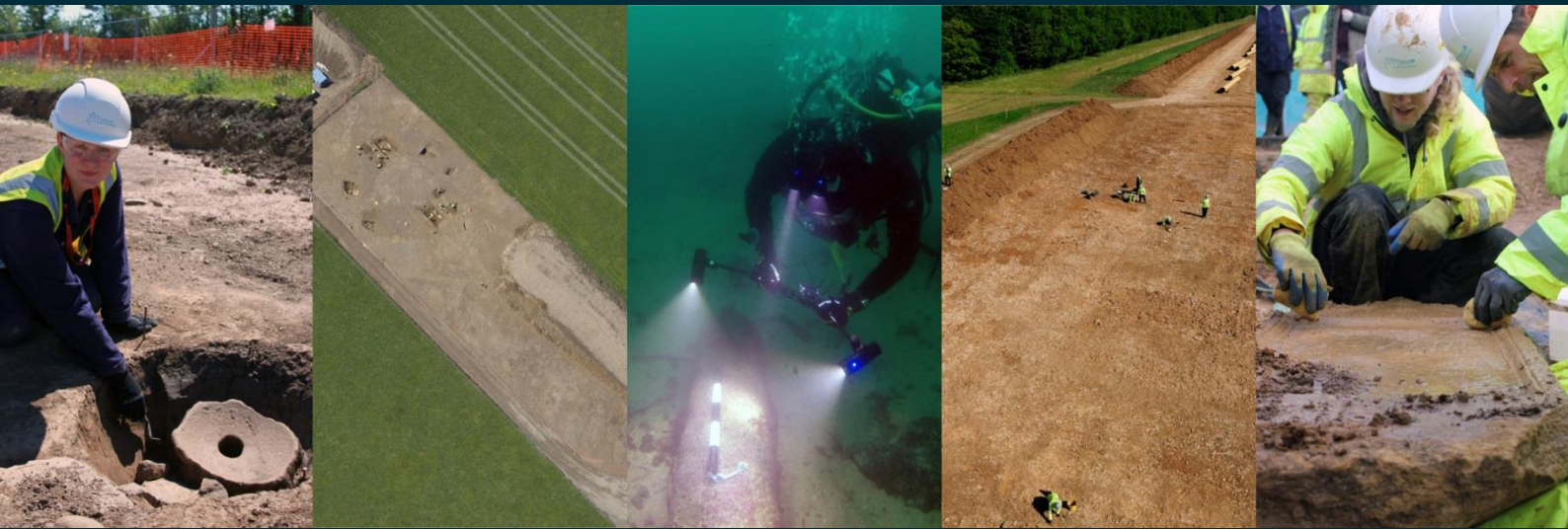


# Land North of Shipton Road Woodstock Oxfordshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
Terence O'Rourke Ltd

on behalf of  
Blenheim Palace Estates

CA Project: CR0066  
CA Report: CR0066\_1

August 2019



Land North of Shipton Road  
Woodstock  
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land North of Shipton Road
<b>Location:</b>	Woodstock, Oxfordshire
<b>NGR:</b>	445761 216722
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	5-12 August 2019
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	To inform Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Services
<b>Accession Number:</b>	OXCMS:2019.105
<b>Site Code:</b>	SRDW19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2019 on land to the north of Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire. Ten trenches were excavated.

A number of ditches and pits were identified in the east of the site, dating to the later prehistoric and/or Roman periods. Coupled with the findings of a preceding geophysical survey, it is likely that the remains identified during the current works represent agricultural or domestic activity centred on a rectilinear enclosure. The identification of a possible well and a cremation burial within the confines of the enclosure, along with the recovery of 60 sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery, further suggest a possible settlement focus.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Terence O'Rourke Ltd on behalf of Blenheim Palace Estates at land to the north of Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: 445761 216722; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to provide evidence of the archaeological resource of the site, to support the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031. This approach has been recommended by Richard Oram, County Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council, the archaeological advisor to Cherwell District Council (CDC).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) and approved by Richard Oram. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Richard Oram, including a site visit on 7 August 2019.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 3ha in extent and comprises a single field. It is bounded to the south and west by Shipton Road and agricultural fields beyond and to the north and east by further agricultural fields. The site lies at approximately 90m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as limestone of the Forest Marble Formation and Cornbrash formation, formed during the Jurassic period (BGS 2019). The natural geological substrate identified during the course of the evaluation consisted of limestone brash in a silty-clay matrix.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has previously been the subject of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA, WYG 2018) and geophysical survey (AOC 2018). Desk-Based Assessment (DBA, TVAS 2014a), geophysical survey (TVAS 2014b), archaeological evaluation (TVAS 2014c) and subsequent Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) excavation (CA forthcoming) have been undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the current site. The below is a summary of these assessments.

- 2.2 Prehistoric evidence is sparse in the area surrounding Woodstock, with only some barrows noted and the West Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch to the north. The current site is close to the confluence of the Evenlode and Glyme, tributaries of the river Thames, and to the river Cherwell, and therefore has been identified as a potentially attractive site for prehistoric settlement. Three flint scatters have been recovered, two during the evaluation of the Woodstock Bypass road and a third near Sansom's Lane to the southeast of the current site. These are thought to be indicative of general activity rather than settlement evidence (WYG 2018).
- 2.3 In the Roman period, Akeman Street ran between Alchester and Cirencester and passed just to the north of the site and attracted activity to the area; Romano-British settlement activity is well represented within the wider area, with the Scheduled Monument of Blenheim Villa located in a field directly to the south. The area surrounding the villa was revealed to contain other foci of Roman occupation, including a rectangular arrangement of field systems and a crouched burial located in the outspreading agricultural enclosures to the north of the villa (*ibid.*).
- 2.4 Woodstock was described in the Domesday Book as a royal forest and is located on the Witney Branch of the Ridgeway. Woodstock Palace stood on the site of the current Blenheim Palace within a large deer park having itself replaced a hunting lodge built by Henry I in 1129. A market within the town was established in 1179 by Royal charter and likely increased activity in the surrounding area (*ibid.*).
- 2.5 Based on historic mapping, it is anticipated that the site and immediate landscape would have been characterised by open agricultural land for much of the post-medieval period. Additionally, historic mapping indicates that by the later part of the 19th century, the site was characterised by an enclosed field (*ibid.*).
- 2.6 A geophysical survey and subsequent trial trench evaluation of the area directly to the south-west of the current site were undertaken in 2014 (TVAS 2014b & c). A series of north/south orientated parallel linear anomalies were recorded at regular intervals and indicated evidence of ploughing. A larger number of anomalies were identified in the north of site, forming two groups; one was suggested to be three possible sub-rectangular enclosures and a number of ditch features; and the other a three-sided enclosure with a possible pit. Evidence of ploughing and two former field boundaries were highlighted by linear anomalies (TVAS 2014b).

- 2.7 A subsequent archaeological evaluation (TVAS 2014c) identified gullies with medieval and post medieval pottery and a gully containing Iron Age and Roman pottery (*ibid.*). Further features, including possible pits and further gullies, were thought to be associated with settlement during the late Iron Age and Roman period. The archaeological investigations to the east of the current site found that settlement features associated with the use of Blenheim Villa extended to the north and east of the villa site, with no evidence of expansion or use located to its west (*ibid.*)
- 2.8 An SMS excavation undertaken immediately to the south of the current site in 2018 by Cotswold Archaeology (CA forthcoming) identified three shallow ring ditches, dating to the late Iron Age, with internal post-holes. Notably, a Bronze Age copper alloy shield was recovered from a pit.
- 2.9 A geophysical survey (AOC 2018) of the current site identified a rectilinear feature in the centre of the site which appears to be an enclosure of an archaeological origin; the feature appears to be aligned with linear trends which could represent a former field system. Possible pit-like or fired features have been identified within the possible enclosure, along with a number of amorphous trends that are thought to be related. Other, more tentative, unclear trends are visible across the site and either relate to weak archaeological trends, or trends of an agricultural or natural origin. Conventional ploughing is seen to run across the entire site in a uniform orientation.

### 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* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable the Cherwell District Council, under the advice of Richard Oram, to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of any future proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).



## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 10 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, and 10 measured 50m in length; Trench 3, arranged in a “T” shape, and Trench 5, in an “L” shaped arrangement, each measured 50m in total length; Trench 6 and 7 measured 25m in length. All trenches measured 1.8m in width. 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 The 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 two samples were recovered from a pit in Trench 6, which contained cremated human bone (Samples 1 and 2; see Appendix C). 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 Oxfordshire Museum Service under accession number OXCMS:2019.105, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-7)

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



- 5.2 The natural geological substrate was similar throughout each trench and consisted of limestone brash in an orange-yellow silty-clay matrix, which was typically revealed at a depth of 0.35m below present ground level (bpgl). All archaeological features were sealed by silty-clay subsoil, measuring c. 0.12m in thickness, which was in turn covered by c. 0.23m of silty-clay topsoil.
- 5.3 Overall, there was very good correlation between the locations of the archaeological features identified during the current works and the results of the preceding geophysical survey within the area of the possible enclosure, with deviated outside of this area. Archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 2-7, 9 and 10. No archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 1 and 8.

#### ***Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 3)***

- 5.4 Pit 205 was identified within the centre of Trench 2 (Fig. 3, Section AA). It was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.72m in length, 0.5m width and 0.4m in depth. It contained a single silty-clay fill, 204, from which three sherds of limestone tempered pottery, dating to the late prehistoric period, were recovered.

#### ***Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 4)***

- 5.5 Ditch 303 was identified within the south-eastern extent of Trench 3, running on a north-west/south-east alignment, extending beyond the limits of the excavated trench. It measured 0.77m in width, 0.33 in depth and contained silty-clay fill 303, from which a sherd of mid 16th to 18th-century glazed earthenware was recovered.

#### ***Trench 4 (Fig. 2)***

- 5.6 Within the north-eastern extent of Trench 4, north-west/south-east aligned ditch 406 was identified, extending beyond the limits of the excavated trench. It measured 0.61m in width, 0.08m in depth and contained limestone and sandy-silt fill 405, which did not contain any artefacts.

#### ***Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 5.7 Ditch 505 (Fig. 3, Section BB), was recorded in the western extent of Trench 5, correlating closely to a linear geophysical anomaly. It was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 1.2m width, 0.48m in depth and it extended beyond the limits of the excavated trench. It contained two silty-clay fills, 504 and 503. A single sherd of greyware pottery, broadly dateable to the Roman period, was recovered from lower fill 504.

- 5.8 Ditch 507 was identified in the eastern extent of Trench 5, also correlating well to a further linear geophysical anomaly. It was aligned south-west/north-east, measured 0.74m width, 0.27m in depth and extended beyond the limits of the excavated trench. It contained undated silty-clay fill 506.

#### **Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 5)**

- 5.8 Ditch 604 was identified within the centre of Trench 6 and was aligned north-west/south-east, extended beyond the limits of the excavated trench and correlated closely to a linear geophysical anomaly. It measured 1m in width, 0.4m in depth and contained silty-clay fill 603, from which a total of 24 sherds of pottery dating broadly to the Roman period and a single sherd of late prehistoric pottery were recovered.
- 5.9 Pit 609 (Fig. 3, Section CC) was also identified in the centre of Trench 6. The pit was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.42m in length, 0.37m in width and 0.1m in depth. It contained two silty-clay, charcoal rich fills, 608 and 607. Both fills of the pit were fully sampled (Samples 1 and 2; see Section 7 and Appendix C) and a number of cremated human bone fragments were retrieved (24.2g), along with small quantities of oak derived charcoal.

#### **Trench 7 (Figs. 2 & 3)**

- 5.10 Ditch 704, identified within the north-eastern end of the Trench 7, was aligned north-west/south-east, extending beyond the limits of the trench. It measured 0.72m width, 0.12m in depth and contained a single silty-clay fill 703, from which one fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered.
- 5.11 Pit 705 was identified within the centre of Trench 7, correlating to an amorphous geophysical anomaly (Fig. 3, Section DD). It measured at least 2.8m in length and 1.5m in width and, due to on-site safety constraints, was only excavated to a depth of 1.15m. It contained three silty-clay fills, 708, 707 and 706, from which a total of 25 sherds of pottery were recovered, dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD (including three sherds of central Gaulish samian), alongside a total of ten fragments of animal bone, including a poorly-preserved horse incisor.
- 5.12 Ditch 710, recorded within the south-western end of Trench 7, extending beyond the limits of excavation. It was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 0.58m in width,

0.14m in depth and contained silty-clay fill 709, which contained a single sherd of greyware pottery, broadly dateable to the Roman period.

### ***Trench 9 (Fig. 2)***

- 5.13 Within the centre of Trench 7, north-west/south-east aligned ditch 905 was recorded, extending beyond the limits of the trench. The ditch measured 0.45m in width, 0.13m in depth and contained undated silty-clay fill 904.

### ***Trench 10 (Fig. 2)***

- 5.14 Ditch 1004 was identified within the northern end of Trench 10. It was aligned north-west/south-east and extended beyond the limits of excavation, measuring 0.42m in width and 0.44m in depth. It contained an undated silty-clay fill 1005. It is likely that ditches 1004 and 905 are representative of the same feature, with an orientation parallel to the enclosure seen to the north.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from seven deposits (pit and ditch fills). The recovered material dates to the late prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval/modern periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and prehistoric fabric codes have been devised for the purpose of this report (Appendix B). Roman and post-medieval fabric codes are equated to the Oxfordshire pottery type series (summarised in Booth 2011, 366–7). National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are also given in Appendix B, where applicable (Tomber and Dore 1998).

### *Pottery: Late prehistoric*

- 6.2 A total of four unfeathered bodysherds (53g) were present in a fabric tempered with fossiliferous limestone (FLS) from fill 204 of pit 205 and fill 603 of ditch 604. In the absence of decoration, or indicators of form, late prehistoric dating (Late Bronze Age to Iron Age) is considered most likely on the basis of fabric and firing characteristics.

### *Roman*

- 6.3 Most of the recovered pottery is of Roman date – a total of 56 sherds (396g). The average sherd weight of 7g is low for a Roman assemblage and most sherds are

moderately to heavily abraded. Reduced and oxidised coarsewares (R10, R20, O10) dominate – these are most likely products of the Oxfordshire potteries and are of broad Roman date. Two sherds of Oxford whiteware were retrieved – a base sherd from a mortarium (M41) of 2nd to 4th century date (Young 1977, 61–8) from fill 706 of pit 705 and a rimsherd (W22), possibly derived from a Young Type W44 bowl, from fill 708 of the same pit. This form was in production during the 2nd to mid 3rd centuries (*ibid.*, 106). Four sherds in a relatively coarse shell-tempered fabric (C10) include rimsherds from a vessel with a triangular rim from fill 603 of ditch 604 and rimsherds from a globular vessel with a simple upright rim from fill 708 of pit 705. Four sherds of Gaulish samian are present. These consist of three sherds from central Gaul (S30) including a base sherd from a dish or bowl, with a pedestal base from fill 706 and a rimsherd from fill 708 (both from pit 705), probably from a Dr. 18/31R plate/bowl. Samian from the central Gaulish potteries was exported to Britain during the 2nd century AD (Webster 1996, 2–3).

#### *Post-medieval*

- 6.4 An unfeathered bodysherd of glazed earthenware (20g) was retrieved from fill 303 of ditch 304. This ware type is dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries.

#### *Other finds*

- 6.5 Fill 703 of ditch 704 produced a fragment from the stem of a clay tobacco pipe. Such items were in use from the late 16th to late 19th centuries.

## **7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

### ***Animal Bone***

- 7.1 Animal bone amounting to 11 fragments (42g) was recovered from fill 603 of ditch 604 and fills 706 and 708, both from pit 705 (See Table 2, Appendix C). Artefactual material dating to the Roman period was also recovered from these deposits. The bone was fragmentary and poorly preserved, however, it was possible to identify the presence of horse (*Equus caballus*) from a single incisor recovered from fill 708.

### ***Human Remains***

- 7.2 A single cremation burial was recovered during the evaluation from pit 609 in Trench 6. The shallow depth of the feature may suggest that vertical truncation had occurred and therefore loss of cremated bone is highly likely. All skeletal material

was examined and recorded in accordance with national guidelines (Brickley and McKinley 2004 and Mays et al. 2018).

- 7.3 The total weight of bone recovered was 24.2g (see Table 3, Appendix C); this is significantly less than a full adult (1500-2000g, McKinley 1997) and also a child (c. 500g). Most cremation burials are a 'token' amount, but this is well below the average (c. 500g; *ibid*). It is possible that the original quantity deposited would have been greater and that most of the deposit has been lost.
- 7.4 Two fills within the cut were identified, the upper fill, 607, contained the majority of the cremated bone (19.6g) and was 0.09m deep, whilst the base of the grave 0.01m fill 608 contained 4.6g of cremated bone.
- 7.5 Nearly all the bone was white in colour; only one fragment in the 10mm fraction was slightly blackened on one end. White indicates a high temperature of the pyre, over 600°C, and demonstrates good pyre technology. The bone was soft and abraded indicating soil degradation and the high fragmentation of the bones may indicate post-depositional action which increased the fragmentation along the fissure lines. The only identifiable elements were cranial fragments (these are the most easily identified parts); since there was little material to identify and it was small in size this is not significant.
- 7.6 The cranial fragments were thin and the other unidentified elements were small and thin. These possibly indicate an older child, adolescent or small adult. If this is the case, then there would be less cremated bone available after the pyre and therefore less to deposit in the ground and may go some way to explain the lack of bone and identifiable elements.
- 7.7 It is not possible to determine from the cremated bone or burial practice which period this feature is from and there was no dating evidence from the grave, but features in close vicinity have been dated to the Roman period. Cremation burial was practiced throughout the prehistoric period, Roman and post-Roman periods.
- 7.8 Isolated and small groups of burials are often found in association with boundary ditches or on the periphery of the settlement, particularly in the Roman period (Smith et al. 2018). So the location of this burial close to a ditch and away from the main settlement is typical and not particularly unusual.

- 7.9 A radiocarbon date may confirm the Roman period date, however due to the low quantity of cremated bone available, destructive sampling would not be advised in this instance.

### ***Palaeoenvironmental Remains***

- 7.10 Two environmental bulk samples (5 litres of soil; see Appendix C, Table 4) were processed from pit 609. This was done with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on site. It was also hoped that the two samples would aid in the dating of the site and the pit. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA technical Manual No.2).
- 7.11 The presence of mollusc shells has been recorded, following nomenclature according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).
- 7.12 The flots were similar in size with a moderate number of rooty material and uncharred seeds. A small amount of burnt bone was recovered from within the flots of Sample 1 (607). The charcoal from both samples comprised poor preservation levels. Much of the charcoal was poorly preserved and also impregnated with silt and iron residue which also inhibits wood species identification, but where possible species identification was made.

### ***Trench 6 – Cremation Pit 609***

- 7.13 Fill 607 (Sample 1) and fill 608 (Sample 2) contained no charred cereal grains or plant remains. Small quantities of charcoal fragments were recovered from both samples, with Sample 1 (607) containing fragments of oak (*Quercus*) wood. The charcoal assemblage is indicative of a cremation/large scale burning event taking place; oak wood is commonly used in cremations due to its strong burning properties.
- 7.14 A small number of terrestrial snail shells were recovered from Samples 1 and 2, which include the open country species *Vallonia* sp., with Sample 2 also containing a single *Discus rotundatus* snail shell which is a shade-loving species. The mollusc assemblages are indicative of an open landscape, with possibly areas of longer unkempt grass.

- 7.15 Due to the lack of environmental evidence it is not possible to aid in the dating of this feature or the site.

## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation successfully demonstrated that there was good correlation between the identified geophysical anomalies and the archaeological features that were subsequently revealed during the current trenching, especially in the area of the possible enclosure in the east of the site; only a small number of features were identified that were not highlighted during the geophysical survey, whilst some were found to be geological in origin (such as in Trenches 4 and 8). Whilst some of the features remained undated individually, it is likely that they date to the later prehistoric and Roman periods.
- 8.2 The identification of agricultural and/or domestic activity is attested by a series of well-preserved ditches, a large pit and a pit containing cremated human bone, as revealed within Trenches 5, 6 and 7. The geophysical and excavated evidence is principally indicative of a square, agricultural or domestic enclosure, measuring 35m in length and width. Whilst no direct evidence for dwellings was identified during the course of the evaluation, the abundance of late prehistoric and Roman artefactual material (57 sherds) recovered from Trenches 5-7 indicates that domestic activities may have been undertaken nearby or within the probable enclosure. This is further supported by the identification of pit 705, which, due to its size and form, may represent a rock-cut well, which would likely have been located in the vicinity of dwellings, that was then backfilled with domestic waste following its disuse.
- 8.3 Features identified within Trenches 4, 9 and 10 remained undated, and pit 205 (in Trench 2) contained three sherds of late prehistoric pottery. It is possible that these features, which did not correlate to any identified geophysical anomalies, may indicate wider agricultural activity either predating or related to the enclosure in the area of Trenches 5-7.
- 8.4 Ditches 303 and 704, identified in Trenches 3 and 7, contained post-medieval dating evidence and likely relate to agricultural drainage.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins and Sara-Jayne Boughton, assisted by Susan Walker, Richard Scurr, Mathew Coman and Noel Boothroyd. The report was written by Monica Fombellida and Alex Thomson. The finds, biological, human bone environmental evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville, Andy Clarke, Sharon Clough and Emma Aitken respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Dan Sausins and Sara-Jayne Boughton, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes and Alex Thomson.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot Date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; friable; humic	>50	>2	0.2	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange-brown silt-clay; loose; occ charcoal flecks	>50	>2	0.15	
1	102	Layer		Natural soil/strata	Limestone brash bedrock with orange yellow silty clay patches; compact	>50	>2		
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; friable; humic	>50	>2	0.19	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Limestone brash in matrix of mid yellow-brown silt-clay; compact	>50	>2	0.12	
2	202	Layer		Natural soil/strata	Limestone brash bedrock with orange yellow silty clay patches; compact	>50	>2		
2	203	Deposit		Natural soil/strata	Small natural geological depression filled with subsoil			0.04	
2	204	Fill	205	Fill of pit	Dark orange-brown silt-clay	0.72	0.5	0.4	Late pre.
2	205	Cut		Pit	Oval pit with vertically sloping sides and flat base	0.72	0.5	0.4	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; friable; humic	>50	>2	0.25	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silt-clay; compact; frequent small limestone fragments	>50	>2	0.2	
3	302	Layer		Natural soil/strata	Limestone brash bedrock with orange yellow silty clay patches; compact	>50	>2		
3	303	Fill	304	Fill of ditch	Mid red-brown silt-clay; durable; occ charcoal flecks	>1.8	0.77	0.33	MC16-C18
3	304	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch with steep sloping sides and irregular base	>1.8	0.77	0.33	
3	305	Deposit		Natural soil/strata	Small natural geological depression filled with topsoil			0.02	
3	306	Deposit		Natural soil/strata	Small natural geological depression filled with subsoil			0.1	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; friable; humic	>50	>2	0.25	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange-brown silt-clay; compact; frequent small limestone fragments	>50	>2	0.05	
4	402	Layer		Natural soil/strata	Limestone brash bedrock with orange yellow silty clay	>50	>2		

					patches; compact				
4	403	Deposit		Natural soil/strata	Small natural geological depression filled with subsoil				
4	405	Fill	406	Fill of ditch	Limestone brash in mid grey-brown sand-silt matrix; loose	>1.8	0.61	0.08	
4	406	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch with gently sloping sides and irregular base	>1.8	0.61	0.08	
4	407	Fill		Natural soil/strata	Small natural geological depression filled with subsoil				
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; friable; humic	>50	>2	0.12	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Limestone brash in matrix of mid yellow-brown silt-clay; compact	>50	>2	0.16	
5	502	Layer		Natural soil/strata	Limestone brash bedrock with orange yellow silty clay patches; compact	>50	>2		
5	503	Fill	505	Fill of ditch	Light orange-brown silt-clay; loose; occ charcoal flecks	>2	1.26	0.14	
5	504	Fill	505	Fill of ditch	Mid orange-brown silt-clay; compact; frequent limestone brash and occ charcoal flecks	>2	0.98	0.34	Roman
5	505	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch with steep sloping, stepped sides and flat base	>2	1.26	0.48	
5	506	Fill	507	Fill of ditch	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; compact; frequent limestone brash and occ charcoal flecks	>2	0.74	0.27	
5	507	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch with steep sloping sides and flat base	>2	0.74	0.27	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; friable; humic	>50	>2	0.28	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Limestone brash in matrix of mid yellow-brown silt-clay; compact	>50	>2	0.08	
6	602	Layer		Natural soil/strata	Limestone brash bedrock with orange yellow silty clay patches; compact	>50	>2		
6	603	Fill	604	Fill of ditch	Mid orange-brown silt-clay; compact; frequent limestone fragments	>1.8	1	0.4	Roman
6	604	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch with moderately steep sloping concave sides and concave base	>1.8	1	0.4	
6	605	Deposit		Natural soil/strata	Small natural geological depression				

					filled with subsoil				
6	607	Fill	609	Fill	Dark orange-yellow silt-clay; loose; frequent charcoal and burnt bone inclusions	0.37	0.42	0.08	
6	608	Fill	609	Fill	Light orange-brown silt-clay; loose; occ heat affected stones and charcoal flecks	0.67	0.42	0.09	
6	609	Cut		Pit (cut)	Sub circular cremation pit with moderately sloping concave sides and concave base	0.67	0.42	0.10	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; friable; humic	>50	>2	0.27	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Limestone brash in matrix of mid yellow-brown silt-clay; compact	>50	>2	0.09	
7	702	Layer		Natural soil/strata	Limestone brash bedrock with orange yellow silty clay patches; compact	>50	>2		
7	703	Fill	704	Fill of ditch	Mid orange-brown silt-clay; durable; frequent large limestone fragments	>1.8	0.72	0.20	LC16-LC19
7	704	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch with steep sloping straight sides and concave base	>1.8	0.72	0.20	
7	705	Cut		Pit	Circular pit, possibly well, with vertical edges, not excavated to base	2.8	>1.5	>1.15	
7	706	Fill	705	Fill of pit	Mid-dark orange brown silty clay, loose, frequent limestone and infrequent charcoal inc	2.8	>1.5	0.49	C2-C4
7	707	Fill	705	Fill of pit	Dark brown silty clay, fairly compact, infrequent limestone brash and charcoal inc	2.8	>1.5	0.28	
7	708	Fill	705	Fill of pit	Dark brown silty clay, compact, 80-90% limestone brash inc	1.16	1.15	>0.4	C2-C4
7	709	Fill	710	Fill of ditch	Mid orange-brown; silt-clay; loose; frequent limestone fragments and occ charcoal flecks	>2	0.58	0.14	Roman
7	710	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned ditch with steep sloping sides and flat base	>2	0.58	0.14	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; friable; humic; frequent small limestone fragments	>50	>2	0.26	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silt-clay; compact; freq	>50	>2	0.1	

					small limestone fragments				
8	802	Layer		Natural soil/strata	Limestone brash bedrock with orange yellow silty clay patches; compact	>50	>2		
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; friable; humic; frequent small limestone fragments	>50	>2	0.32	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silt-clay; compact; freq small limestone fragments	>50	>2	0.15	
9	902	Layer		Natural soil/strata	Limestone brash bedrock with orange yellow silty clay patches; compact	>50	>2		
9	903	Deposit		Natural soil/strata	Small natural geological depression filled with subsoil				
9	904	Fill	905	Fill	Dark orange-brown silt-clay; loose; occ charcoal flecks	>2	0.45	0.13	
9	905	Cut		Gully(for drainage)	NW/SE aligned linear with moderately sloping sides and concave base	>2	0.45	0.13	
9	906	Deposit		Natural soil/strata	Small natural geological depression filled with subsoil				
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay; friable; humic; frequent small limestone fragments	>50	>2	0.2	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown silt-clay; compact; freq small limestone fragments	>50	>2	0.16	
10	1002	Layer		Natural soil/strata	Limestone brash bedrock with orange yellow silty clay patches; compact	>50	>2		
10	1003	Fill	1004	Fill of ditch	Light yellow-brown silt-clay; loose; frequent limestone fragments; occ charcoal flecks	>2	0.42	0.44	
10	1004	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned ditch with steep sloping sides and flat base	>2	0.42	0.44	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
204	Late prehistoric pottery	Fossiliferous limestone-tempered fabric	FLS	3	51	Late prehistoric
303	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	Z30	1	20	MC16-C18
504	Roman pottery	Fine sandy greyware	R10	1	3	RB
603	Late prehistoric pottery	Fossiliferous limestone-tempered fabric	FLS	1	2	RB
	Roman pottery	Fine sandy greyware	R10	20	173	
	Roman pottery	Fine sandy oxidised fabric	O10	2	7	
	Roman pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	C10/ <b>ROB SH</b>	2	14	
703	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		1	2	LC16-LC19
706	Roman pottery	Fine sandy greyware	R10	6	21	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	Oxford whiteware	M41/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1	19	
	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	S30/ <b>LEZ SA2</b>	3	23	
708	Roman pottery	Fine sandy greyware	R10	7	18	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	Sandy greyware	R20	3	24	
	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	R20	1	2	
	Roman pottery	Shell-tempered fabric	C10/ <b>ROB SH</b>	2	16	
	Roman pottery	Oxford whiteware	W22/ <b>OXF WH</b>	1	9	
	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	S30/ <b>LEZ SA2</b>	1	18	
710	Roman pottery	Fine sandy greyware	R10	6	49	RB

\* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

**Table 2:** Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	EQ	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
604	603			1	1	3
705	706			6	6	23
705	708		1		3	4
<b>Total</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Weight</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>42</b>

EQ = horse; MM = sheep size mammal; Ind = indeterminate

**Table 3:** Identified human bone fragments, by sample, size and weight.

Sample No.	Context	Fragment Size: >10mm	5-10mm	2-5mm	Total weight
1	607	4.1 (1.7)	12.1 (1.7)	3.4	19.6 (3.4)
2	608	0	0	4.6	4.6
<b>Total Weight</b>		<b>4.1 (1.7)</b>	<b>12.1 (1.7)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>24.2 (3.4)</b>

Weight in grams; cranial bone identified in (parentheses)

**Table 4:** Assessment of Environmental Evidence

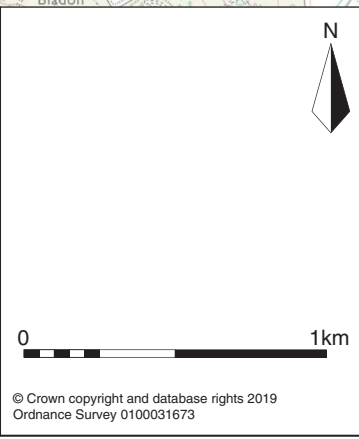
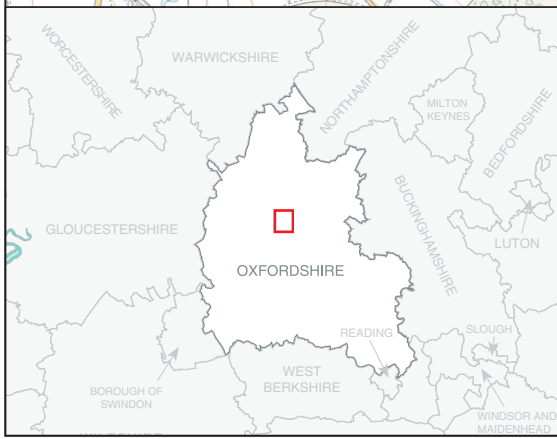
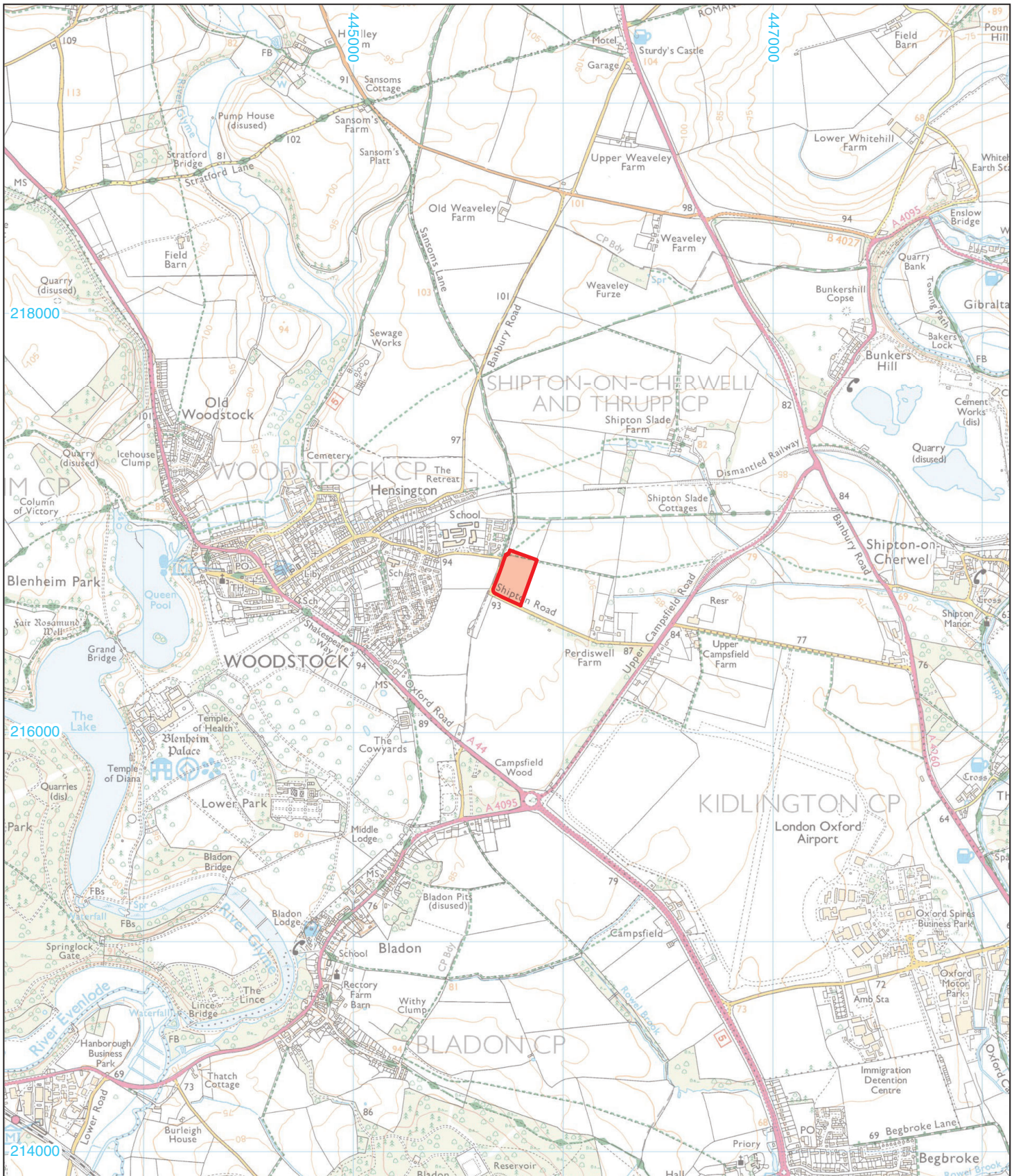
Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 6: Cremation Pit (609)											
607	1	3	30	10	-	-	-	-	-	**/**	brnt bn*; moll-t*
608	2	2	20	30	-	-	-	-	-	**/**	moll-t*

Key: \* = 1-4 items; \*\* = 4-20 items; \*\*\* = 21-49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50-99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items  
brnt bn = burnt bone, moll-t = terrestrial mollusc shells

**APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land North of Shipton Road	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2019 on land to the north of Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire. Ten trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A number of ditches and pits were identified in the east of the site, dating to the later prehistoric and/or Roman periods. Coupled with the findings of a preceding geophysical survey, it is likely that the remains identified during the current works represent agricultural or domestic activity centred on a rectilinear enclosure. The identification of a possible well and a cremation burial within the confines of the enclosure, along with the recovery of 60 sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery, further suggest a possible settlement focus.</p>	
Project dates	5-12 August 2019	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA, WYG 2018) Geophysical survey (AOC 2018)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Woodstock, Oxfordshire	
Study area	3ha	
Site co-ordinates	445761 216722	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes & Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Dan Sausins & Sara-Jayne Boughton	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Enclosure	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
Physical	Oxfordshire Museum Services OXCMS:2019.105	Pottery, animal bone
Paper	Oxfordshire Museum Services OXCMS:2019.105	Trench record sheets, context sheets, drawings
Digital	Oxfordshire Museum Services OXCMS:2019.105	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Land at North of Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>CR0066_1</b>		





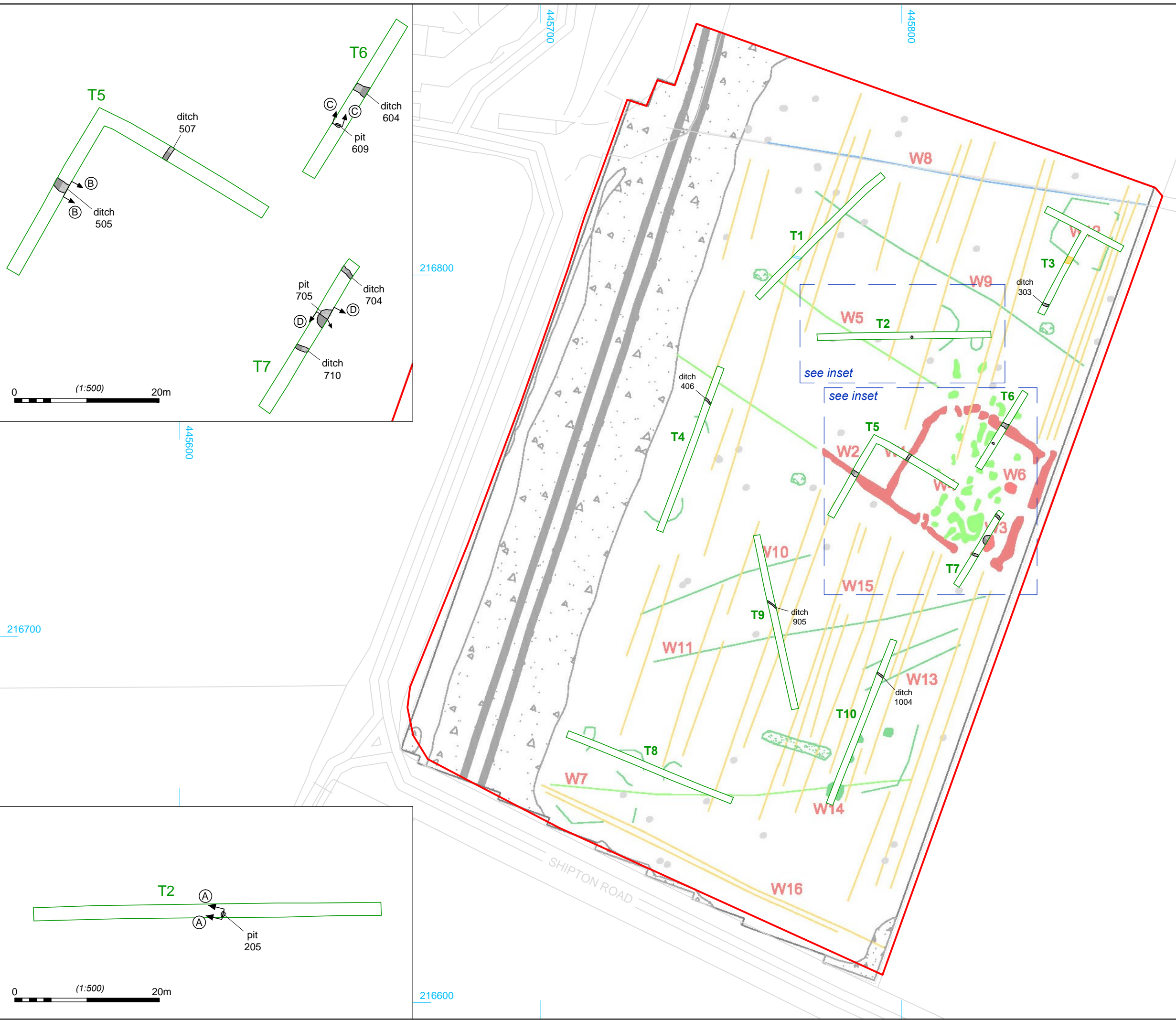

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land North of Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	RP	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	CR0066	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	21.08.19	<b>1</b>
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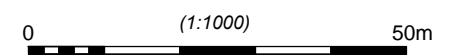
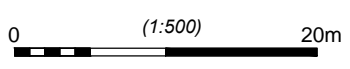
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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Cut feature
- Excavated intervention
- Deposit
- Field drain
- Section location

**Geophysical Survey**  
(AOC Archaeology Group, 2018)

- Trend (archaeology)
- Pit (archaeology)
- Discrete trend (archaeology)
- Trend (unclear origin)
- Area of disturbance (unclear origin)
- Old field boundary
- Linear trend (ploughing)
- Liner trend (modern service)
- Area of disturbance (modern)
- Ferrous/iron spikes



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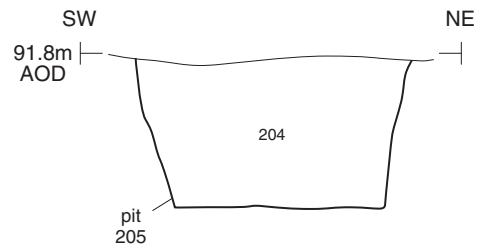
**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land North of Shipton Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire

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

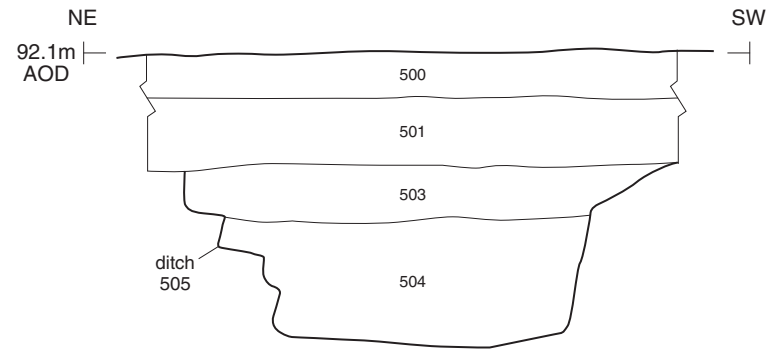
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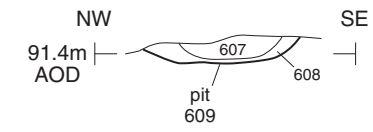
Section AA



Section BB



Section CC



Pit 205, looking west (0.3m scale)

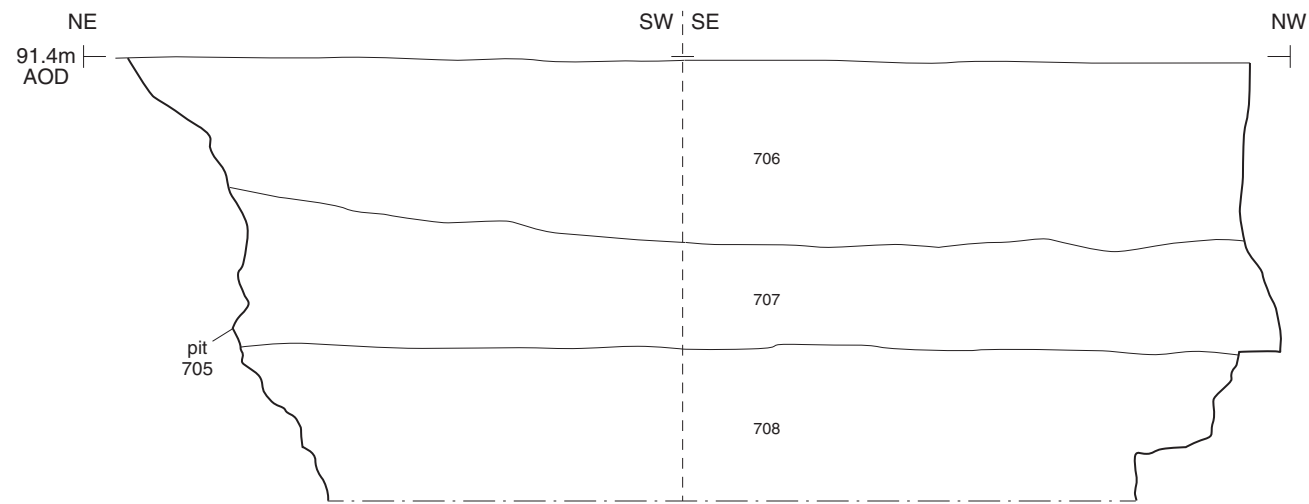


Ditch 505, looking south-east (1m scale)

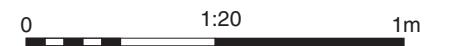


Pit 609, looking north-west (0.3m scale)

Section DD



Pit 705, looking east (1m scale)




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PROJECT TITLE  
 Land North of Shipton Road, Woodstock,  
 Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 7, sections and  
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	CR0066	FIGURE NO.
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Trench 3, looking north-east (1m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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4



Trench 10, looking north-east (1m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE

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FIGURE NO.

5

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