

Plot 300, Suffolk Business Park, Rougham, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
RPS

CA Project: SU0126
CA Report: SU0126_1
OASIS ID: cotswold2-387258
HER Ref: RGH 128

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Plot 300, Suffolk Business Park
Location:	Rougham, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
NGR:	589855 264255
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	3/5th June 2020
Planning reference:	DC/19/1599/FUL
OASIS ID:	cotswold2-387258
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Site Code:	RGH 128

In June 2020, Cotswold Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation at Plot 300, Suffolk Business Park, Rougham. Of the seven trenches excavated, only two were completely blank of archaeological features. A small number of Roman period ditches were encountered across the northern part of the site. An oval pit near the north end of the site and a small hearth towards the south were the only discrete features observed. Both contained small quantities of Roman pottery and, like the ditches, also produced residual Late Iron Age sherds, (suggesting a 1st to 2nd century date). The modest quantities of finds recovered plus the abraded nature of the pottery suggests that the ditches and pits were likely to be peripheral to the main activity areas of the Roman and earlier periods. Other results include a large artefactually undated ditch (on a different alignment to the Roman ditches) the location of which suggests that it represented a boundary extant on an early 19th century Ordnance Survey map, along with residual struck flint in later features and unstratified post-medieval pottery.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. On the 3rd and 4th June 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a trial trenched archaeological evaluation at Plot 300, Suffolk Business Park in advance of development of this site (centred at NGR: 589855 264255; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Myk Flitcroft of RPS consultants on behalf of Hopkins Homes Ltd and Churchmanor Ltd.
- 1.2. West Suffolk District Council has granted planning permission (planning ref: DC/19/1599/FUL). A condition of this planning permission required that a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by a Brief issued by Dr Abby Antrobus Baker, county curator for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, the archaeological advisor to West Suffolk District Council. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a WSI prepared by Stuart Boulter (2020) and approved by Dr Antrobus.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with Standard and Guidance: archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014), the SCC Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (SCCAS 2019), the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Planning Note 3 (English Heritage 2008) and the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.5. The site comprises two main areas: the location of Plot 300 itself and the route of the proposed access running from the south; the two areas correspond to c.1.44 and c.0.5 hectares respectively. The site lies at approximately 62m AOD (Fig. 1).
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Chalk Formation with surface geology of Lowestoft Formation sand, gravel and clay (BGS 2020).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. A trenched evaluation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2017 sampled some of the site and the immediate area. This revealed a sparse system of linear features. Mainly undated, at least one of these contained pottery of Romano-British date (CA report ref 17258).
- 2.2. The excavation in advance of a water main revealed a significant multi-period deposits to the north but the adjacent area to Plot 300 only revealed sparse, undated features (Oxford Archaeology East report ref 1899).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The objective of the evaluation was to provide information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information would enable Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2019).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches of between 30m and 60m in length (Fig. 2) positioned across Plot 300 and the access road corridor to the south.
- 4.2. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a 14-tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision, while topsoil and subsoil layers were removed to the top of the natural sand and clay substrate.
- 4.3. The excavated trenches were photographed and recorded, specimen sections of the trench sides were cleaned, drawn and photographed, deposits encountered were assessed and described, spoil was checked visually for finds and a metal detector search was conducted of spoil heaps and the base of the trenches.
- 4.4. Features were hand excavated with 1m wide slots cut across ditches and 50% of pits dug (one pit was 100% excavated after instruction from the county curator). Feature sections were cleaned, photographed and drawn on permatrace at a scale of 1:10. Feature records were made on proforma sheets.
- 4.5. A GPS survey was conducted to get position and levels of trenches, sections and features.
- 4.6. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix 2, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. The trench layout is shown in Figure 2 and a full list of context descriptions appears in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 2-4)

- 5.2. This was a trench of 30m length, aligned north to south, and was positioned at the north end of Plot 300. A small east/west T-shaped extension was made at the northern end of the trench to fully reveal pit 0105. The ground height at the surface of this trench was c.62.0m AOD.
- 5.3. The mid grey brown, sandy loam ploughsoil (layer 0101) was the top deposit of c.0.4m thickness. Under the ploughsoil was a thin, dark brown layer (0102) of 0.15m thickness, which might represent a dumped spread. Under this was a subsoil layer (0103), which was mid to dark brown sandy silt with occasional flints of 0.27m thickness
- 5.4. At the base of the soils sequence was the undisturbed geological 'natural' (deposit 0104) consisting of orange brown clay silt and pale brown sand.

Pit 0105 (Fig. 3)

- 5.5. At the north end of Trench 1, was an elliptical shaped pit orientated north-west to south-east; it was 1.75m long and 0.5m deep below the base of the trench. Fill 0106 was dark brown sandy silt with occasional small flints and charcoal flecks.
- 5.6. Finds from this features include a Roman pot sherd and six fragments of prehistoric pottery. Two struck flints came from the fill, as did nine pieces of heat altered flint and stone.
- 5.7. An examination of the flots from the soil sample provided evidence for hulled wheat, spelt and oats. There was also evidence of weed species associated with arable cultivation.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 5-7)

- 5.8. This east to west trench was the longest at 60m and was positioned near the western edge of Plot 300. Ground height level was c.62.1m AOD. Three linear features were recognised in this trench; a number of other silty patches were investigated as potential features but these were discounted as of probable natural origin.

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- 5.9. Ploughsoil 0201 was of 0.34m depth, subsoil 0202 was c.0.2m thickness and this lay over the natural (deposit 0203).

Ditch 0204 (Fig. 5)

- 5.10. A north-east to south-west running ditch at the west end of the trench. It had gently sloping irregular sides to a narrow, rounded base; with a width of 1m and a depth of 0.4m. It had a thin upper fill 0205 which was mid brown sandy silt and the main, lower fill (deposit 0210) was mid brown grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.

- 5.11. Finds from this ditch comprised three sherds of Roman pottery, one Iron Age sherd and a struck flint of late Neolithic to Bronze Age date.

Ditch 0206 (Fig. 6)

- 5.12. Running parallel to and to the east of ditch 0204, this ditch was partly sampled to reveal it had a double shallow concave profile (suggesting a recut) and had a width of >1.3m and a depth of c.0.2m. The fill 0207 was mid grey brown sandy silt.

- 5.13. Roman pottery sherds and a piece of struck flint came from the fill of this ditch.

Ditch 0208 (Fig. 7)

- 5.14. Further to the east, along Trench 2, was the north-west to south-east running ditch 0208. This small, shallow feature had an open, concave profile with a width of 0.6m and a depth of 0.22m. The single fill 0209 was mid grey brown clay silt.

- 5.15. Finds from this ditch include Roman and Late Iron Age pottery sherds and pieces of heat-altered stone.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 8)

- 5.16. To the south of Trench 2, this was an east to west running trench of 30m length and was archaeologically blank. Ground height level was 62.2 AOD.

- 5.17. Ploughsoil (layer 0301) was 0.35m thick and was directly over natural 0302: orange sandy clay with sandy patches.

- 5.18. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed or identified.

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 9-10)

- 5.19. To the east of Trench 3 and along the southern edge of Plot 300, this was an east to west running trench of 30m length. Ground height was 62.0m AOD. A single linear feature was recorded at the western end of the trench; a number of silty patches were investigated as potential features but these were discounted as of probable natural origin.
- 5.20. Ploughsoil 0401 was c.0.3m thick and subsoil 0402 was also 0.3m thick. The natural 0403 was mid yellow firm silty clay with patches of silty sand.

Ditch 0404 (Fig. 9)

- 5.21. Further to the east, along Trench 2, was the north-west to south-east running ditch 0208. This small, shallow feature had an open, concave profile with a width of 0.6m and a depth 0.22m. The single fill 0209 was mid grey brown clay silt.
- 5.22. No finds were recovered from this feature

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 11)

- 5.23. To the south of Trench 3, this was the most northerly of the three trenches along the route of the access road. Orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, it was 30m in length. Ground height level was c.62.3 AOD. This trench was archaeologically sterile.
- 5.24. Ploughsoil (layer 0501) was c.0.3m thick and was over subsoil 0502 of c.0.15m thickness. The natural 0503 was orange clay with chalk flecks.
- 5.25. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed or identified.
- 5.26. A single unstratified sherd of English stoneware, dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries was recovered from the spoil of this trench.

Trench 6 (Figs 2, 12)

- 5.27. To the south of Trench 5, this was a trench of 30m length and orientated north-west to south-east. Ground height level was c.62.5m AOD. A large ditch was encountered in this trench.
- 5.28. The ploughsoil 0601 was of 0.3m thickness and lay directly over clay natural 0604.

Ditch 0602 (Fig. 12)

5.29. A fairly large east to west running ditch with steep, slightly convex sides to narrow rounded base. It had a width of 1.6m and a depth (under topsoil) of 0.75m. Fill 0603 was mid brown sandy silt clay with occasional flints and charcoal flecks.

5.30. No finds were recovered from this feature

Trench 7 (Figs 2, 13-14)

5.31. Towards the southern end of the site, this trench was 30m long and orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, Ground height level was 62.2m AOD. A single small pit 0704 was revealed at the southern end.

5.32. The ploughsoil 0701 was 0.3m thick and subsoil 0702 was 0.1m in depth. Natural 0703 was orange clay with sand and gravel.

Pit 0704 (Fig. 13)

5.33. A small, circular feature with steep shallow sides to a flat base. It had a diameter of 0.6m and a depth of 0.2m. The lower fill 0705 was very dark grey to black clay silt with frequent charcoal flecks. The upper fill 0706 was mid brown sandy clay with moderate small charcoal flecks and occasional small flints. There were obvious scorch marks and reddening of the natural around the perimeter of the feature indicating *in-situ* burning. This feature was 100% excavated to check for finds and to take soil samples.

5.34. Finds from this pit include a single sherd of probably Roman (or possibly medieval) pottery from the top fill 0706 and five prehistoric pottery fragments recovered from the soil sample from the basal fill 0705. Twenty pieces of heat-altered flint and stone were also retrieved from the lower fill.

5.35. Carbonised material from the soil sample was predominantly wood charcoal, some of it oak, and likely represents hearth debris.

6. THE FINDS

Stephen Benfield

Introduction

- 6.1. A modest quantity of finds primarily consisting of pottery, struck flints and heat-altered stones was recovered during the evaluation. The finds are listed by find type and context in Table 1 (Appendix 2) and are described by find type (below).
- 6.2. The few struck flint flakes recovered suggest a general later prehistoric date, possibly Bronze Age, while a few small and abraded sherds of prehistoric pottery are possibly Iron Age, or Late Bronze Age and Iron Age. The pieces of heat-altered stone (flint and sandstone/quartzite) share some distribution with the prehistoric pottery sherds suggesting they are also likely to be of prehistoric date. However, most of this small quantity of prehistoric finds appears to be residual, coming from features which also produced sherds of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery; although just a single, small sherd dated as Roman came from pit 0105 in Trench 1, which otherwise contained several prehistoric sherds and two flints.
- 6.3. The finds of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery come mostly from ditches located in Trench 2. One sherd from a pit in Trench 7 might be Roman, or just possibly medieval although a Roman date is much preferred. Dating the Roman pottery is difficult but one piece may be of Early Roman date so that this may chronologically form part of one assemblage with the grog-tempered sherds of Late Iron Age type.
- 6.4. The latest dated find collected from the site after the Roman period is a single sherd of English stoneware, dating to the 17th-19th century, which is an unstratified find from the topsoil of Trench 5.
- 6.5. Overall the finds indicate activity here during the later prehistoric (Bronze Age-Iron Age) and Roman period. The site appears to be peripheral to the core of the Roman settlement itself, the nature and limited number of the finds suggesting an area of possible of agricultural or marginal land at that time. There is little or nothing among the finds assemblage relating to any significant activity here after the Roman period.

Pottery

Introduction

- 6.6. In total twenty-five sherds and small pieces of pottery were recovered with a combined weight of 59g. Among the assemblage are small quantities of pottery that can be dated to the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval period. All of the pottery is listed and described by context and fabric in Table 2 (Appendix B).

Prehistoric

- 6.7. Eleven sherds weighing 15g can be dated as prehistoric and are possibly Iron Age. They were recovered during processing two bulk soil samples, Sample 1 and Sample 2 taken from pit 0105 (0106) and pit 0704 (0705) respectively. The sherds are very small and abraded, many better described as fragments of pottery, with an average sherd weight of just 1.3g and are very likely to be residual. All appear to be hand-made. One sherd has relatively fine flint-temper (HMF), the others are sand-tempered (HMS). While not closely dated an Iron Age date appears most likely, broadly from the 7th century BC until the Roman period but given the sandy sherds probably most dating from c.4th century BC-late 1st century BC/early 1st century AD. However, given the small size and number of sherds an earlier date, possibly Bronze Age, would also seem possible.

Late Iron Age and Roman

- 6.8. Pottery that can be dated to the Late Iron Age (LIA) and Roman period totals thirteen sherds together weighing 35g. There is a single Roman sherd from one pit, 0105 (0106), otherwise almost all of this pottery comes from ditches located in Trench 2. There are three Roman sherds from ditch 0206 (0207) and four sherds of LIA and Roman pottery from each of two ditches, 0204 (0205) and 0208 (0209). There is also one sherd from pit 0704 (0706) which appears probably to be Roman but it is difficult to entirely exclude the possibility of a later (medieval) date. The sherd size is quite low with an average of just 2.7g.
- 6.9. The LIA pottery is represented by sherds of Grog-tempered ware (GMG), with small, dark, relatively fine grog which appears typical of the LIA, but probably remains current on some rural sites into the Early Roman period of the third quarter of the 1st century AD.
- 6.10. The Roman pottery includes two sherds of coarseware in grey fabric, one (0205) a rim from a bowl or wide mouthed jar (GX) and another (0106) that is micaceous and

probably a product of the Wattisfield area potteries (GMG) (Moore 1988, 60). The remaining sherds identified as Roman are mostly buff/orange-buff in colour with light grey fabric cores, the fabric being sandy and micaceous with some clay pellets. Some at least are wheel made (0207). These appear to be abraded sherds that are likely to originate in the Wattisfield potteries, probably of Fabric GMB (Grey micaceous black surfaced wares). It can be noted that some late medieval transitional wares from the Rickinghall/Wattisfield area potteries are described in a similar fabric (post-Roman Fabric LMTM), but the nature of the sherds here and the general context are considered to strongly indicate a Roman date.

6.11. In addition there is a single relatively hard, sandy, oxidised (orange-buff) sherd with a pale grey fabric core (4g) which comes from pit 0704 (0706). This sherd appears probably to be Roman rather than medieval although it is hard to entirely exclude a medieval date. It has been classified as Fabric GX, a broad Roman coarseware category.

6.12. In terms of the date of the LIA and Roman pottery, the LIA sherds can be dated to the 1st half of the 1st century AD or slightly later and the single Roman rim sherd also suggests a 1st or early 2nd century date. Given the nature of the prehistoric pottery (above) speculatively, the indication might be of an Iron Age site extending into the Early Roman period. However, the pottery is all quite broken-up and abraded so that the area would appear probably to be peripheral to the settlement itself.

Post-medieval

6.13. A sherd of English stoneware (Fabric ESW) was collected as an unstratified find from Trench 5 (0500). This pottery can be dated to the period of the 17th-19th century.

Struck flint

Introduction

6.14. Four struck flints (total weight 16g) were recovered from three features: pit 0105 and ditches 0204 and 0206. All are listed and described by context in Table 3 (Appendix 2).

6.15. A small, hard struck primary flake and another, slightly unusual, tertiary piece came from the fill (0106) of pit 0105. Of itself, the small flake could have been produced by a deliberate or incidental strike on a flint stone and it is hard to be certain of both the nature and date of the piece; however the context suggests it is of some age. The other piece appears to have been snapped and has an odd, raised, slightly curving,

smooth area on one face. However, this smooth area appears to be natural or part of a former surface on a struck piece rather than a deliberate polish such as would be found on a polished flint tool. The unusual shape possibly indicates a shatter or large spall like piece rather than a snapped flake. Again it appears to be difficult to be certain of both the nature and date of the piece, but the context suggests it is of some age.

- 6.16. A single flake from the fill (0205) of ditch 0204 is a hard hammer flake with a notch in one edge which appears possibly to have steep retouch/secondary working running around it. This could be of Late Neolithic-Bronze Age and a Bronze Age date may be likely.
- 6.17. The remaining piece, from the fill (0207) of ditch 0206 is a secondary flake which is probably a hard hammer struck piece.

Discussion

- 6.18. Although probably of some age, two flints recovered from a pit are difficult to date. However, at least two of the flints recovered, both from ditch fill, are likely to be prehistoric struck pieces and one of these, a hard hammer struck flake, has a reworked notch in one edge. While only a few flints, the use of hard hammer working in three pieces in conjunction with the notched piece suggest a later prehistoric (Bronze Age-Iron Age) date for these flints and a Bronze Age date is most likely for the notched piece at least.

Heat-altered flint and stone

- 6.19. There are thirty-one pieces of heat-altered stones together weighing 658g. Of this twenty-one (128g) are flint, the remainder being pieces of sandstone/quartzite. Apart from one large piece of sandstone/quartzite from context (0209), most of the heat-altered stone is quite broken-up, much being relatively small pieces recovered during processing bulk soil samples (Sample 1 and Sample 2). All of the heat-altered stone is listed and described by context and stone type in Table 4 (Appendix 2).
- 6.20. The heat-altered stones come from the fill of two pits, 0105 (0106) and 0704 (0706) and ditch 0208 (0209). These features are associated with small quantities of abraded pottery dated as prehistoric, possibly Iron Age, from context (0705) and Late Iron Age and Roman from contexts (0106) and (0209). While flint is slightly more common pieces of flints and sandstone/quartzite appear in both of the pits.

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- 6.21. Apart from the single large piece from (0209) in ditch 0208, most of the pieces are small. All are likely to have had a previous depositional history and therefore probably residual in later features.
- 6.22. While quantities of heat altered stones are most often associated with the prehistoric period where they were commonly used to indirectly heat water, of themselves they are not inherently datable and could have been created/altered by either deliberate or incidental exposure to heat at any time in the past. That in general the flint is not heavily burnt suggests these stones were not directly exposed to strong heating, such as being placed into a fire, but were probably incidental heated by close proximity to a fire setting. However, the presence of a number of pieces of sandstone/quartzite could suggest deliberate heating as this has better thermal properties than flint, but is much less common among the East Anglian gravels suggesting purposeful selection. In relation to the other finds from the site, this might indicate that some at least are residual from prehistoric occupation (possibly Late Bronze Age or Iron Age) rather than incidental heated stones relating to hearth settings, ovens or simple surface fires in the Roman period or later.

Other bulk finds

- 6.23. There are two other single bulk finds which are briefly described below:
- 6.24. A small piece of abraded fired clay (2g) came from the fill (0705) of pit 0704. This is in an orange coloured medium-coarse sand fabric (mcs). It is associated with a few small sherds of prehistoric pottery dated as possibly Iron Age and a single sherd dated as Roman.
- 6.25. A single piece of ironstone (87g) was recovered from a bulk soil sample (Sample 2) taken from the fill (0106) of pit 0105 and is associated with a few small sherds of prehistoric pottery, dated as possibly Iron Age and a single sherd dated as Roman

7. BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Sarah Wyles

Introduction

- 7.1. Two environmental bulk samples (80 litres of soil) were processed from two pits, located in Trenches 1 and 7, to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of domestic or industrial activity on the site. It was hoped that the environmental assemblages might also assist in confirming the date of these pits. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2)
- 7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils, noted in Table 5 in Appendix 2, follow the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals.
- 7.3. The flot varied in size with low to moderately high numbers of rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation.

Results

Trench 1

- 7.4. A moderately small assemblage of charred plant remains and charcoal fragments (greater than 2mm) was recovered from fill 106 (Sample 2) of pit 104. Fill (106) contained a small amount of pottery of Roman date. The charred material included hulled wheat (emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*)) grain fragments, a spelt wheat spikelet fork, oat (*Avena* sp.) awn fragment, seeds of rib-wort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and meadow grass/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.), and round wood charcoal. These weed seeds are of species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. This assemblage may be representative of dispersed waste material. It may suggest that this feature could be on the fringe of the area of settlement activity.

Trench 7

- 7.5. A very large amount of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm and a few stem fragments were recovered from fill (705) (Sample 1) of pit 704. The charcoal included mature wood fragments of oak. This assemblage may represent the remains of hearth material. This assemblage provides no indication of any clear domestic activity taking place in the vicinity.

Summary

- 7.6. The assemblage from pit 104 appears to be representative of dispersed waste material, while that from pit 704 may represent hearth material. There is no indication of the date of pit 704 from the charred remains. Similar charcoal rich pits from previous evaluations at Suffolk Business Park were dated by radiocarbon dating to the Saxon period (CA 2016), and to the Iron Age and Saxon period (CA 2017).

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. A small assemblage of flints were mainly undiagnostic, but one possibly dating from the late Neolithic to the Bronze Age, might indicate some background activity within the prehistoric era. All were residual in later, Roman features. Heat-altered flint and stone might also be an indication of a prehistoric presence, particularly those of sandstone and quartzite that could have been specially selected for their good thermal properties.
- 8.2. The most prominent aspect of the results was a field boundary system of likely Roman date, although the presence of Late Iron Age pottery in many of the ditches might indicate that there was 1st to 2nd century activity somewhere in the surrounding area. Two pits of Roman date were also identified, one to the extreme north (Trench 1) and one to the extreme south (Trench 7) of the trenched area. Such sparse distribution of discrete features (and the small and abraded nature of the pottery) probably suggests that settlement and/or any intense activity of Roman date was most likely to be beyond the limits of the excavation area.
- 8.3. The pit from the southern end of Trench 7 appeared to be a hearth of Roman (or possibly medieval) date. Similar hearth-like features identified from nearby evaluations (CA 2016, 2017) have however been radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age and Saxon periods.
- 8.4. While the Roman period ditches appeared to be on a fairly strict grid of north-west/south-east and north-east/south-west running features, the large undated ditch in Trench 6 was on an east to west alignment and could be post-medieval, probably equating to a boundary ditch extant on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1837.

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- 8.5. Surprisingly little evidence has come from the post-Roman era with only a single piece of unstratified pottery being dated to the post-medieval period.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork and recording was undertaken by Rui Oliveira and Jezz Meredith. The survey data was processed by Marta Perlinska. Ryan Wilson prepared the figures. The finds and samples were processed and quantified by Clare Wooton. The worked flints were examined by Mike Green with all other bulk finds analysed by Steve Benfield, who completed the finds report. Sarah Wyles examined the soil sample flots and prepared the biological evidence report. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Boulter who also edited an earlier draft of this report.

10. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	0100	Finds	Unstrat finds	Unstrat finds Tr 1 (none collected)		
1	0101	Layer	Topsoil	Loam ploughsoil	0.40m	
1	0102	Layer	Spread	Spread/dump: dark brown grey sandy silt	0.15m	
1	0103	Layer	Subsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with occ flints	0.27m	
1	0104	Deposit	Natural	Orange brown silt clay with sandy patches		
1	0105	Cut	Pit	Elliptical pit aligned NW/SE, steep sides, flat base, length 1.75m	0.5m	Roman
1	0106	Fill	Pit	Single fill: dark grey brown sandy silt w occ flints & charc flecks	0.5m	Roman
2	0200	Finds	Unstrat finds	Unstrat finds Tr 2 (none collected)		
2	0201	Layer	Topsoil	Loam ploughsoil	0.34m	
2	0202	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 0103	0.2m	
2	0203	Deposit	Natural	Orange silty clay with patches of sandy silt		
2	0204	Cut	Ditch	NE/SW running ditch, width 0.95m	0.4m	Roman
2	0205	Fill	Ditch	Upper fill: Mid brown silty sand w occ flints	0.08m	Roman
2	0206	Cut	Ditch	NE/SW running, wide, shallow ditch, c.1.3m wide	0.2m	Roman
2	0207	Fill	Ditch	Single fill: mid grey brown sandy silt w occ flints	0.2m	Roman
2	0208	Cut	Ditch	NW/SE running small, shallow ditch, width 0.55m	0.12m	Roman
2	0209	Fill	Ditch	Single fill: mid grey brown clay silt	0.12m	Roman
2	0210	Fill	Ditch	Lower fill of 0204: mid brown grey sandy silt	0.32	Roman
3	0300	Finds	Unstrat finds	Unstrat finds Tr 3 (none collected)		
3	0301	Layer	Topsoil	Loam ploughsoil	0.3m	
3	0302	Deposit	Natural	Orange sandy clay with sandy patches		
4	0400	Finds	Unstrat finds	Unstrat finds Tr 4 (none collected)		
4	0401	Layer	Topsoil	Loam ploughsoil	0.31m	
4	0402	Layer	Subsoil	Same as 0103	0.3m	
4	0403	Deposit	Natural	Yellow silty clay with patches of silty sand		
4	0404	Cut	Ditch	NW/SE running, wide, shallow ditch, width 0.95m	0.18m	
4	0405	Fill	Ditch	Mid brown grey sandy silt	0.18m	
5	0500	Finds	Unstrat finds	Unstrat finds Tr 5 (glazed potsherd)		P-med
5	0501	Layer	Topsoil	Loam ploughsoil	0.3m	
5	0502	Layer	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay sand	0.15m	
5	0503	Deposit	Natural	Orange clay with chalk flecks		

6	0600	Finds	Unstrat finds	Unstrat finds Tr 6 (none collected)		
6	0601	Layer	Topsoil	Loam ploughsoil	0.3m	
6	0602	Cut	Ditch	Large E/W running ditch, width 1.6m	0.75m	?
6	0603	Fill	Ditch	Single fill: mid brown sandy silt clay with occ flints & charc flecks	0.75m	?
6	0604	Deposit	Natural	Orange clay with silty sand patches		
7	0700	Finds	Unstrat finds	Unstrat finds Tr 7 (none collected)		
7	0701	Layer	Topsoil	Loam ploughsoil	0.3m	
7	0702	Layer	Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay sand	0.1m	
7	0702	Deposit	Natural	Orange clay with gravel and sand		
7	0704	Cut	Pit	Small circular pit with steep shallow sides to flat base, diam 0.6m. Scorching around edges, reddening of clay nat, in-situ burning. 100% exc.	0.2m	Roman
7	0705	Fill	Pit	Lower fill: v dark grey/black clay silt with freq charc flecks	0.08m	Roman
7	0706	Fill	Pit	Upper fill: mid brown sandy clay with moderate small charc flecks	0.12m	Roman

APPENDIX 2: FINDS LISTS

Table 1. Bulk finds: quantity by context (initial processing)

Context	Pottery		Fired Clay		Worked Flint		Heat-altered Stone		Finds spotdate	Notes
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
										Includes one flint from Sample 2
0106	7	10	1	2	2	4			Rom	Includes pot from Sample 2
0205	4	10			1	9			Rom	
0207	3	7			1	3			Rom	
0209	4	13					2	429	Rom	
0500	1	9							Post-med	
0705	5	6							Preh	Small pottery sherds/fragments from Sample 1
0706	1	4							Rom?	
Total	25	59	1	2	4	16	2	429		

Table 2. Pottery catalogue

Area and Ctxt no.	Tr. no.	Area and Feature/ layer no.	F/L type	Find type	Period	Fabric	Form	No.	Wt/g	EVE	Abr	Description/ comments	Date or (associated dating)	Noted poss to illustrate?
0106	1	0105	pit	pot	Rom	GMG		1	1		**	Greyware, abraded sherd, common mica,	Rom	
0106 <2>	1	0105	pit	pot	Preh	HMF		1	1		**	Fine flint-temper From Sample 2	LBA/IA	
0106 <2>	1	0105	pit	pot	Preh?	HMS		5	8		**	One sandy sherd, oxidised surface, dark-grey fabric; other pieces sandy fragments – all appear to be pottery From Sample 2	M-LIA	
0205	2	0204	ditch	pot	Rom	GX	Jar/ bowl	1	5	0.06	*	Necked jar, greyware, abraded sherd, some mica, possibly Fabric GMG (Wattisfield)	Rom c. M1-M2C?	

Area and Ctxt no.	Tr. no.	Area and Feature/ layer no.	F/L type	Find type	Period	Fabric	Form	No.	Wt/g	EVE	Abr	Description/ comments	Date or (associated dating)	Noted poss to illustrate?
0205	2	0204	ditch	pot	Rom	GX		2	4		**	Quite abraded, probably Early Roman	Rom c.1-2C	
0205	2	0204	ditch	pot	LIA	GROG		1	1		*	Sandy with fine grog giving soapy feel	LIA	
0207	2	0206	ditch	pot	Rom	GMB?		3	7		**	Very abraded - Grey micaceous (Wattisfield) Buff sandy with pale grey core, clay pellets, wheel made, common mica <i>(see also Rickingham/ Wattisfield area micaceous LMT wares, c. 15-16C)</i>	Rom	
0209	2	0208	ditch	pot	LIA	GROG		1	10			Thick sherd	LIA c. 1C AD	
0209	2	0208	ditch	pot	Rom	GMB?		3	3		**	Same as GMB pottery from 0207		
0500	5		US	pot	P-med	ESW		1	9				17-19C	
0705 <1>	7	0704	pit	pot	Preh	HMS		5	6		**	Sandy pieces, one surface, smooth curving and appear to be pottery rather than fired clay	IA?	
0706	7	0704	pit	pot	Rom	GX?		1	4		*	Hard orange-buff sherd, quite sandy with pale grey core; appears more likely Rom than med (but not entirely clear)	Rom?	

Table 3. Struck flint

Ctxt	Tr	Part of Feature/ layer	F/L type	Stone type	No	Wt/g	Type	Description/ comments	Date	Associated context finds dating
0106	1	0105	pit	flint	1	2	flake	Tertiary flake, slightly unusual in shape/form as raised, smooth, central area on one face, some edge damage/wear – possibly a shatter piece rather than a snapped flake	Prehistoric?	Prehistoric and Roman pot
0106 <2>	1	0105	pit	flint	1	2	flake	Small primary flake, cortex covering dorsal face, brad striking platform, plunge fracture at distal end, struck flake but with a dull ventral surface	Prehistoric?	Prehistoric and Roman pot
0205	2	0204	ditch	flint	1	9	flake	Secondary flake with previous flake removals, hard hammer strike, steep retouched(?) notched on lower part of one edge.	Prehistoric late Neolithic- Bronze Age/ Bronze Age	Roman pot
0207	2	0206	ditch	flint	1	3	flake	Secondary flake, cortex on striking platform, small bulk but most probably a hard hammer strike	prehistoric	Roman pot

Table 4. Heat-altered stones

HAF=Heat-altered flints; HAS=heat altered other stone types (sandstone/quartzite)

Ctxt	Tr	Part of Feature/ layer	F/L type	Find type	No	Wt/g	Burnt/ calcined flint	Heat discoloured/ damaged flint	Description/ comments	Associated finds dating
0106 <2>	1	0105	pit	HAF	6	12		*	Small pieces, probably heat affected From Sample 2	Pot: IA? and Rom
				HAS	3	25			Small pieces, probably heat affected From Sample 2	
0209	2	0208	ditch	HAS	2	429			One large piece and smaller piece, quite clearly heat-affected/burnt	Pot: LIA and Rom
0705 <1>	7	0704	pit	HAF	15	116	*	*	Small stones mix of mostly heat discoloured pieces with some crazed and calcined From Sample 1	Pot: preh- IA?
				HAS	5	76			Small broken pieces From Sample 1	

Table 5. Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Key: * = 1-4 items; ** = 5-19 items; *** = 20-49 items; **** = 50-99 items; ***** = >100 items

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 1 - Pit												
105	106	2	40	20	40	*	*	Hulled wheat grain frags, spelt wheat spikelet fork, oat awn.	*	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Poa/Phleum</i>	**/**	-
Trench 7 - Pit												
704	705	1	40	900	2	-	-	-	*	stem frag	*****/*****	-

APPENDIX 3: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: **cotswold2-387258**

Project details

Project name	Suffolk Business Park, Plot 300, Rougham
Short description of the project	In June 2020, Cotswold Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation at Plot 300, Suffolk Business Park, Rougham. Of the seven trenches excavated, only two were blank of archaeological features. A small number of Roman period ditches were encountered across the northern part of the site. An oval pit near the north end of the site and a small hearth towards the south were the only discrete features observed. Both contained small quantities of Roman pottery and, like the ditches, also produced residual Late Iron Age sherds, (suggesting a 1st to 2nd century date). The modest quantities of finds recovered plus the abraded nature of the pottery suggests that the ditches and pits were likely to be peripheral to the main activity areas of the Roman and earlier periods. Other results include a large undated ditch (on a different alignment to the Roman ditches), residual struck flint in later features and unstratified post-medieval pottery.
Project dates	Start: 03-06-2020 End: 04-06-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	RGH 128 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/19/1599/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY RUSHBROOKE WITH ROUGHAM Suffolk Business Park, Plot 300
Study area	1.94 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 89855 64255 52.24321184741 0.781168444 52 14 35 N 000 46 52 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	Cotswold Archaeology (Suffolk)
Project director/manager	Stuart Boulter
Project supervisor	Jezz Meredith
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

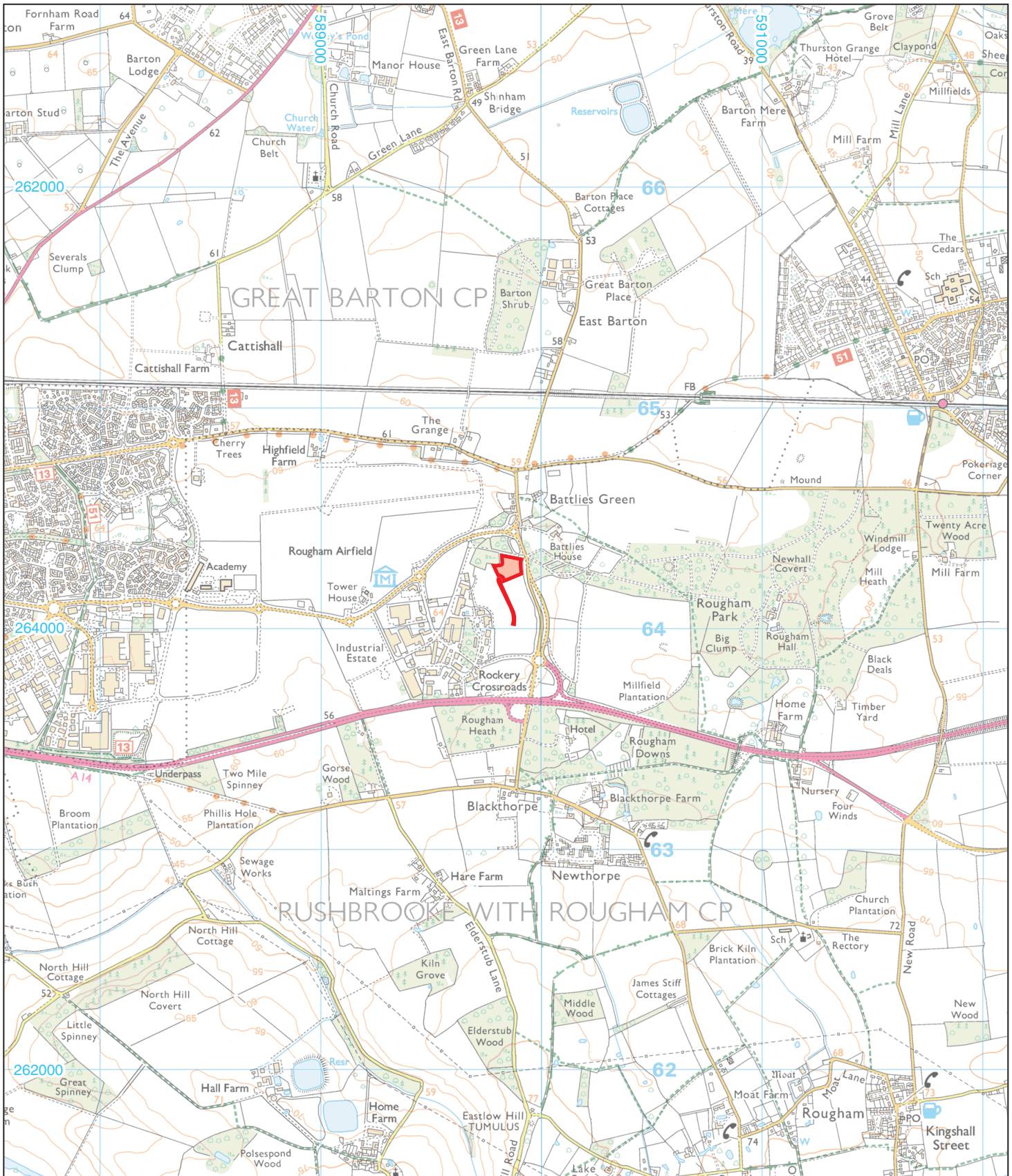
Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Section"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Plot 300, Suffolk Business Park, Rougham, Suffolk: archaeological evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Meredith, J.
Other bibliographic details	SU0144_126
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Cotswold Archaeology (Suffolk)
Place of issue or publication	Needham Market
Description	A little suffolk gem: A4 book

Entered by	Jezz Meredith (jezz.meredith@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	8 July 2020



N

Site boundary

0 1km

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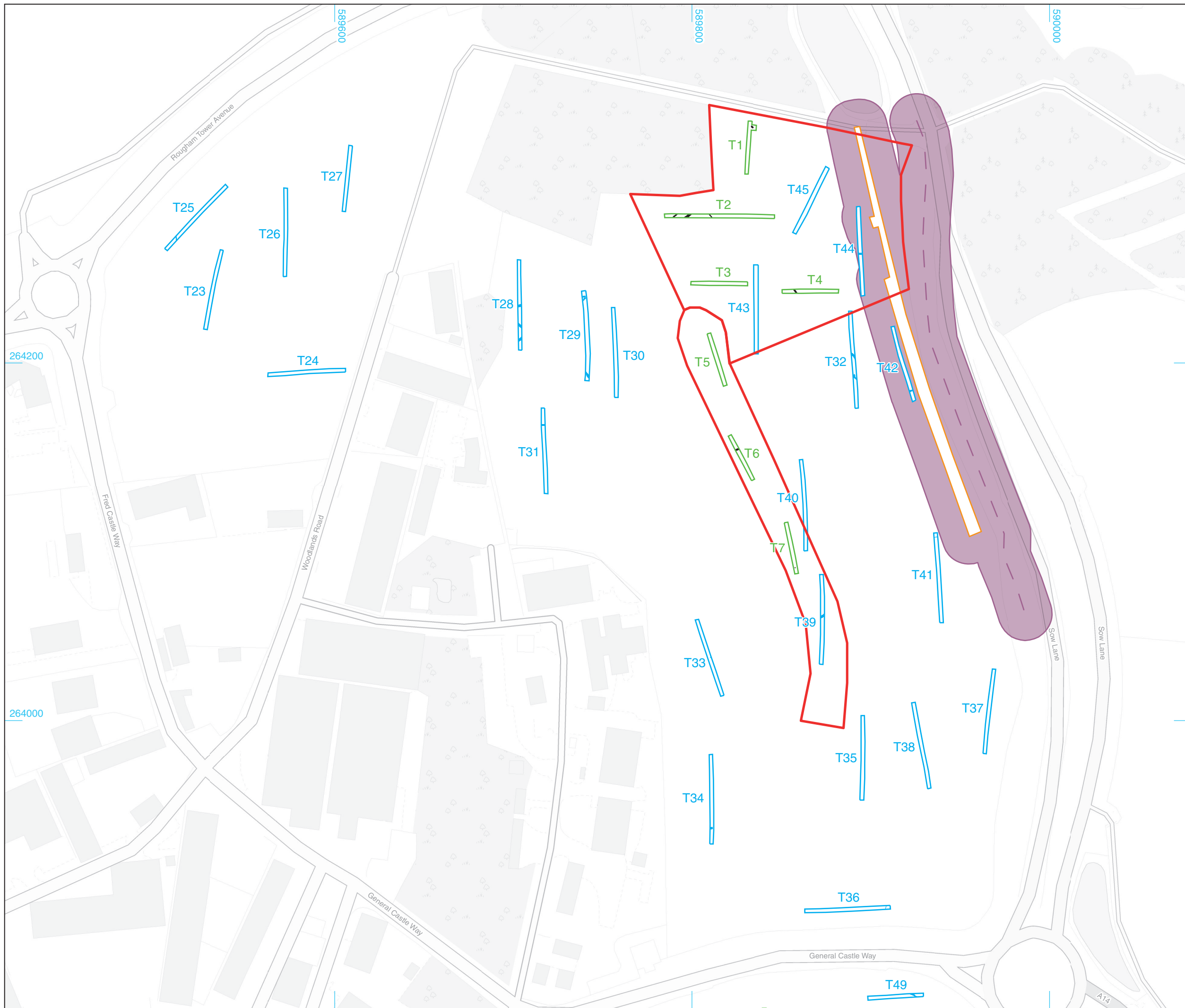
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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	SU0125	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2020	
APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE	@A4 1:25,000	1



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench (CA 2020)
- Archaeological feature (CA 2020)
- Evaluation trench (CA 2018)
- Archaeological feature (CA 2018)
- Previous excavation (pipeline)
- Constraint (and buffer)

0 1:2000 100m

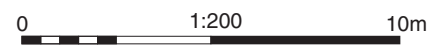
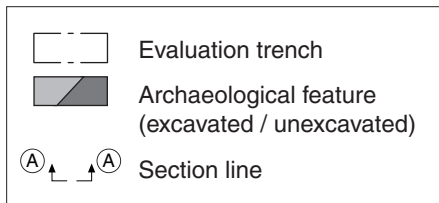
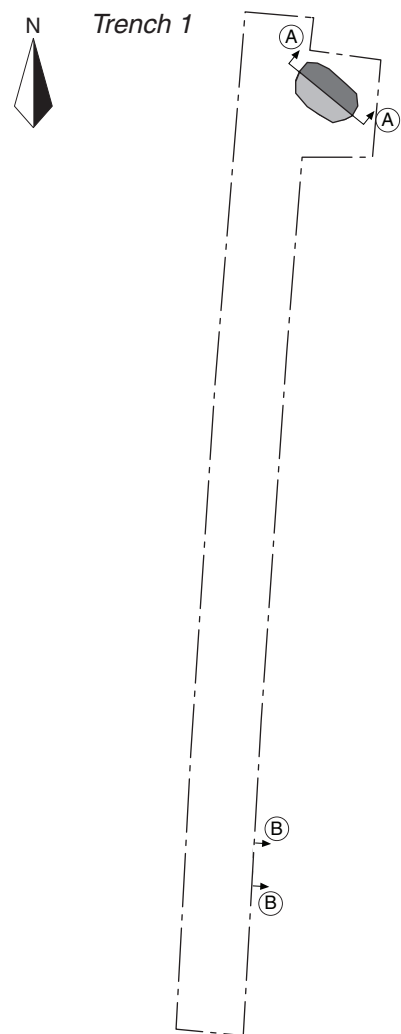
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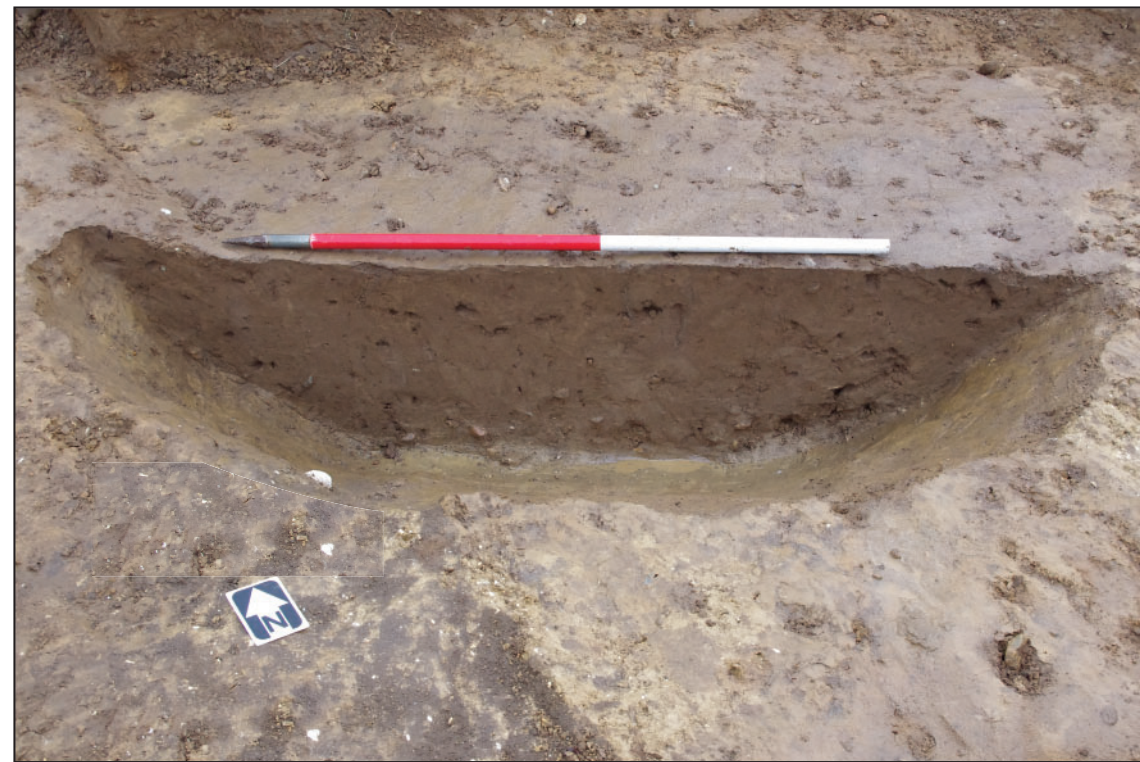
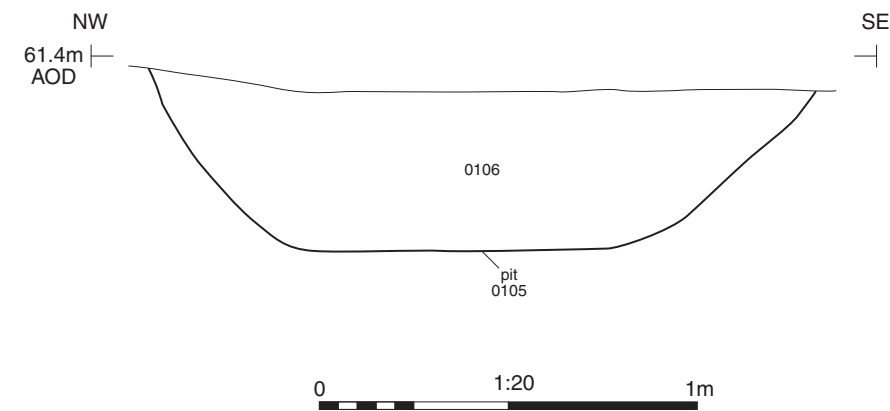
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Trench location plan

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CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 10/06/2020	
APPROVED BY JM	SCALE@A3 1:2000	



Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scale)

Section AA



Pit 0105, looking north-east (1m scale)

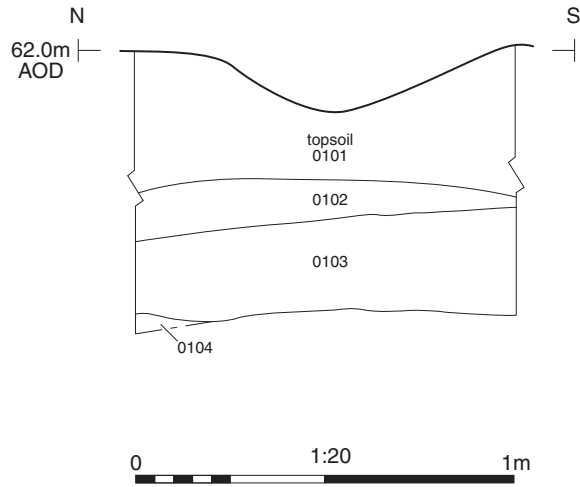

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 1: plan, section and
 photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2020	3
APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	

Section BB



Trench 1 representative section, looking east (0.5m and 1m scale)



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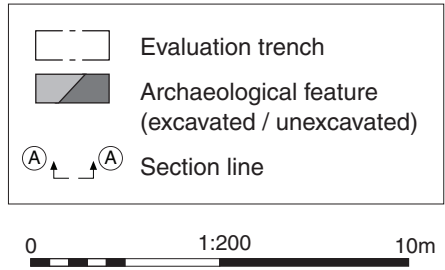
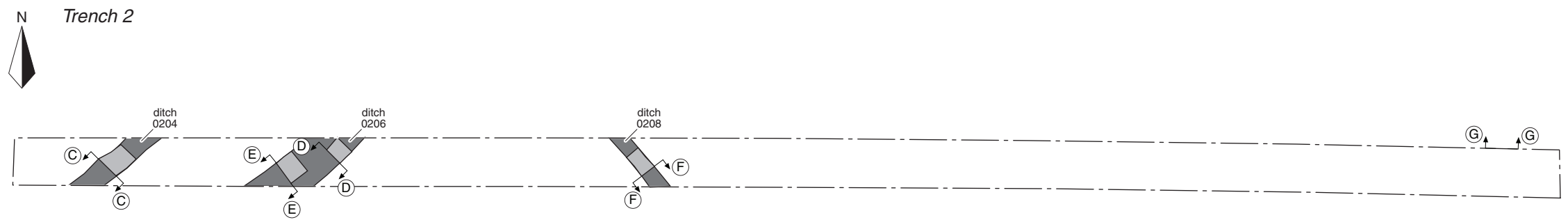
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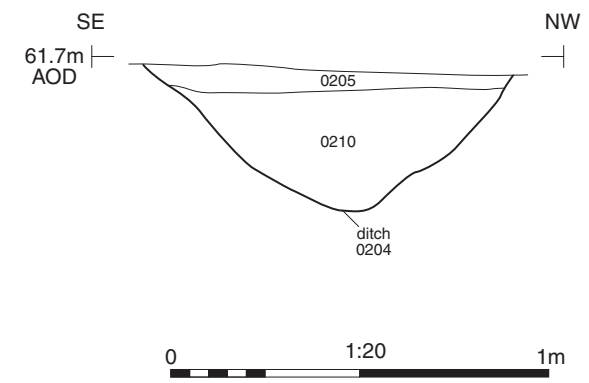
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Trench 1: section and photograph

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Section CC



Trench 2, looking west (1m scale)



Ditch 0204, looking south-west (1m scale)

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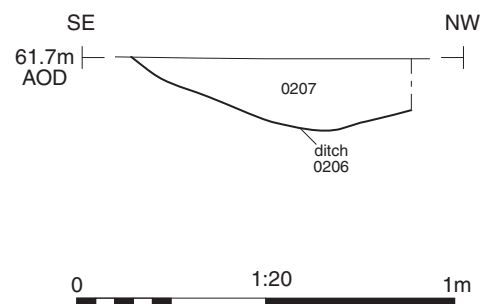
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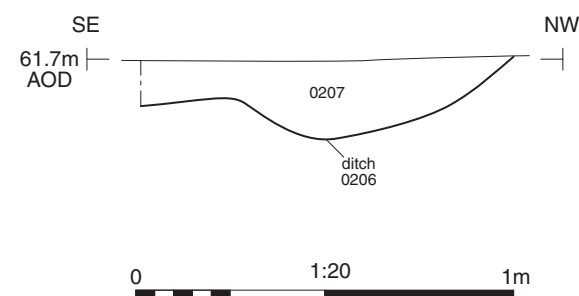
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 Trench 2: plan, section and
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APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	

Section DD



Section EE



Ditch 0206, looking south-west (0.5m scale)



Ditch 0206, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

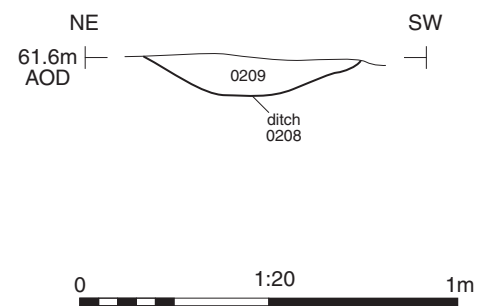
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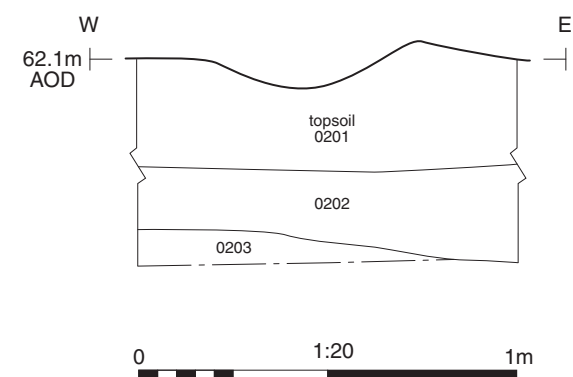
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 2: sections and photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2020	6
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Section FF



Section GG



Ditch 0208, looking south-east (0.5m scale)



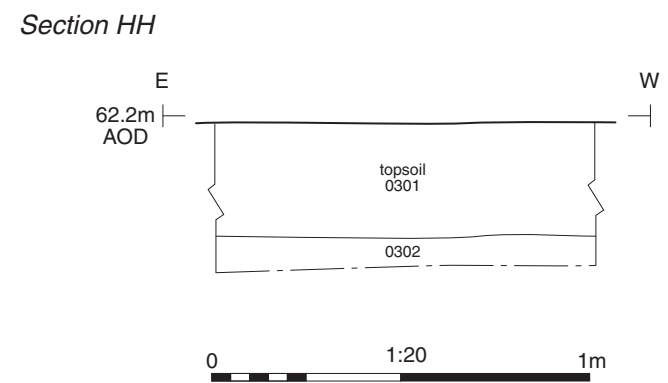
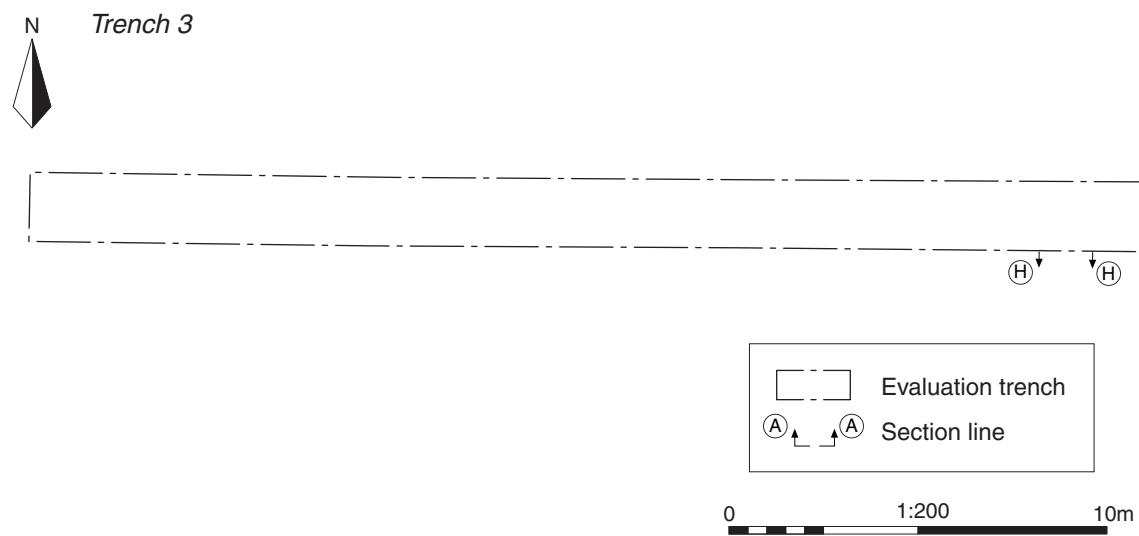
Trench 2 representative section, looking south (0.5m and 1m scale)


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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 2: sections and photographs

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APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A3	1:20	



Trench 3, looking east (1m scale)



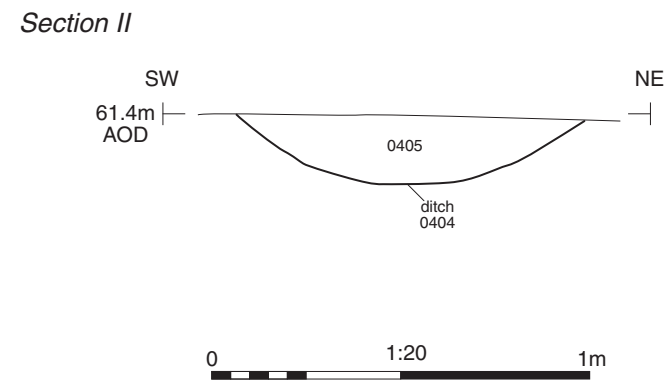
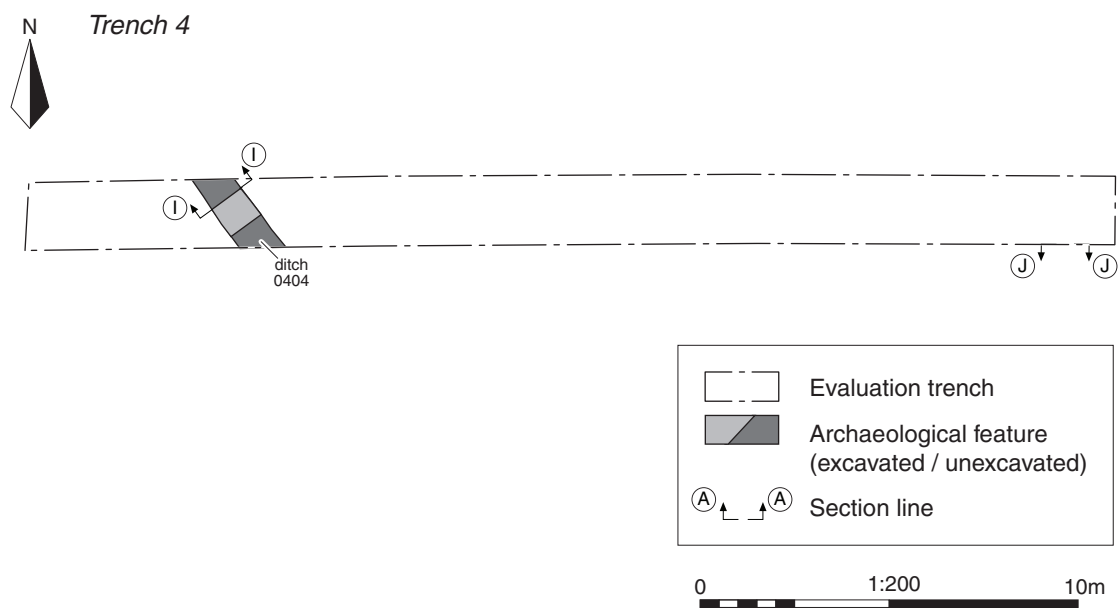
Trench 3 representative section, looking south (0.4m and 1m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 3: plan, section and
 photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2020	8
APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A3	1:20	



Trench 4, looking east (1m scale)



Ditch 404, looking north-west (1m scale)

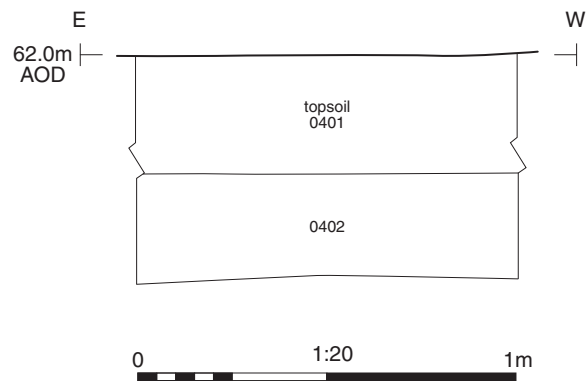

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PROJECT TITLE
 Plot 300, Suffolk Business Park,
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 4: plan, section and
 photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2020	9
APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A3	1:20	

Section JJ



Trench 4 representative section, looking south (0.5m and 1m scale)



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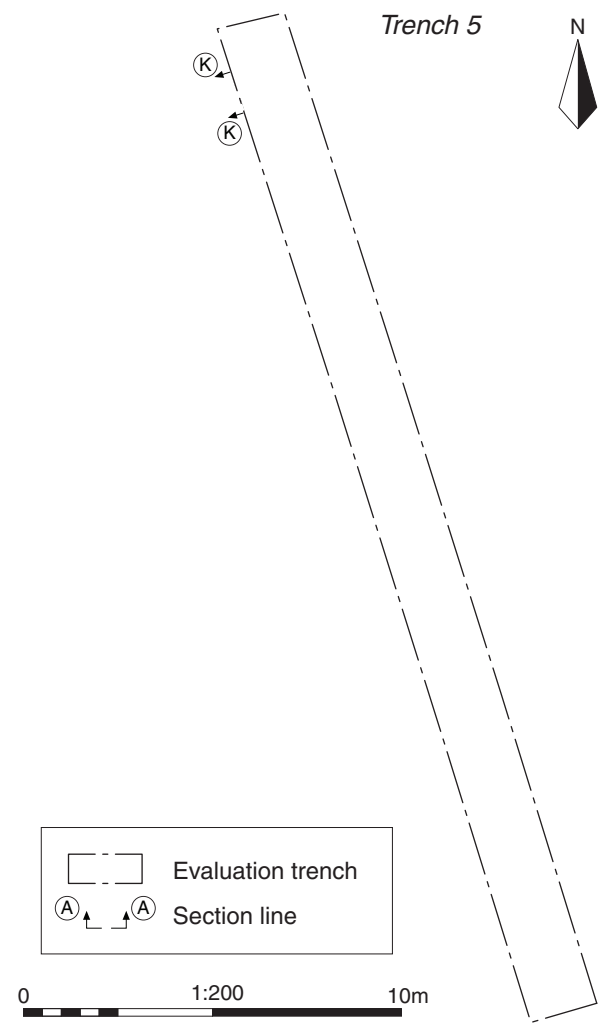
PROJECT TITLE

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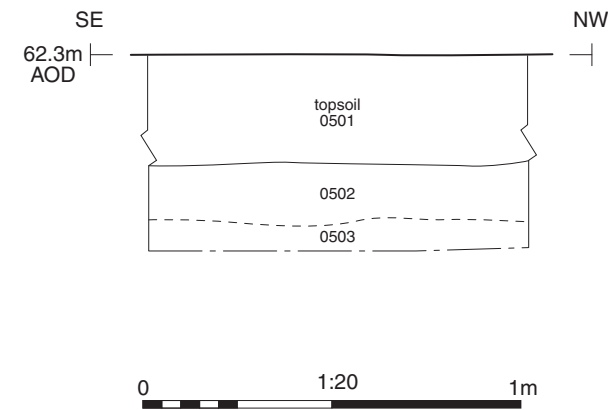
FIGURE TITLE

Trench 4: section and photograph

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	SU0126	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2020	
APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A4	1:20	10



Section KK



Trench 5, looking south-east (1m scale)



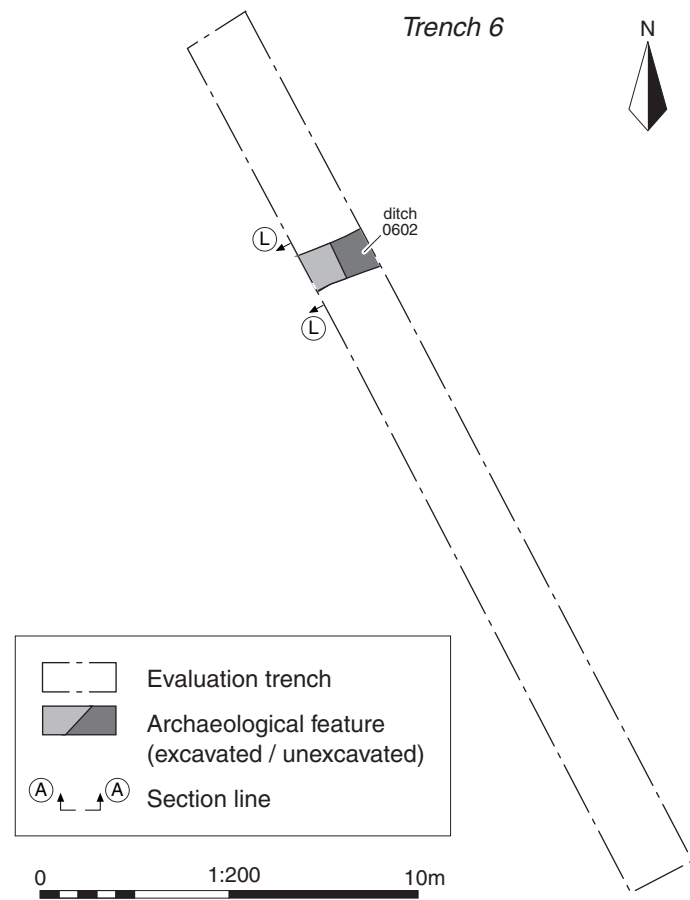
Trench 5 representative section, looking south-west (0.5m and 1m scale)

Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
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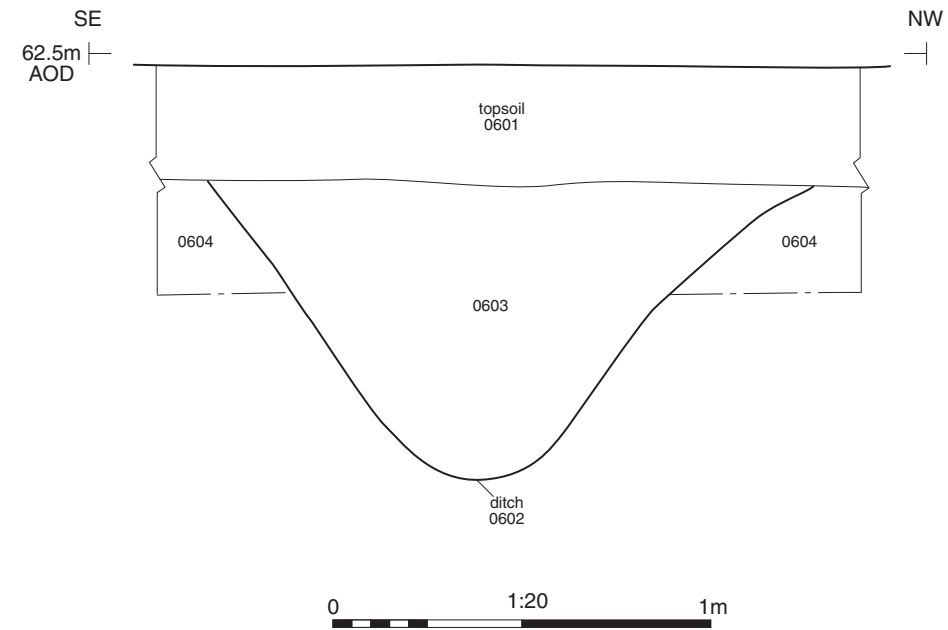
PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 5: plan, section and
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	SU0126	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2020	
APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	11



Section LL



Trench 6, looking south-east (1m scale)



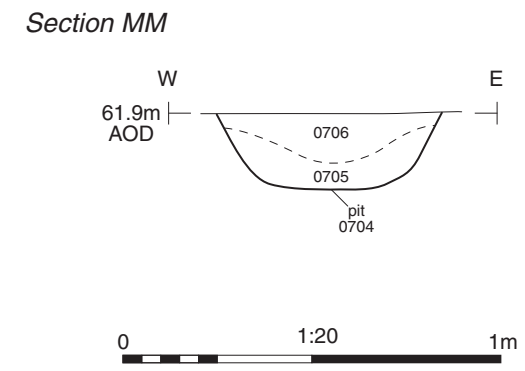
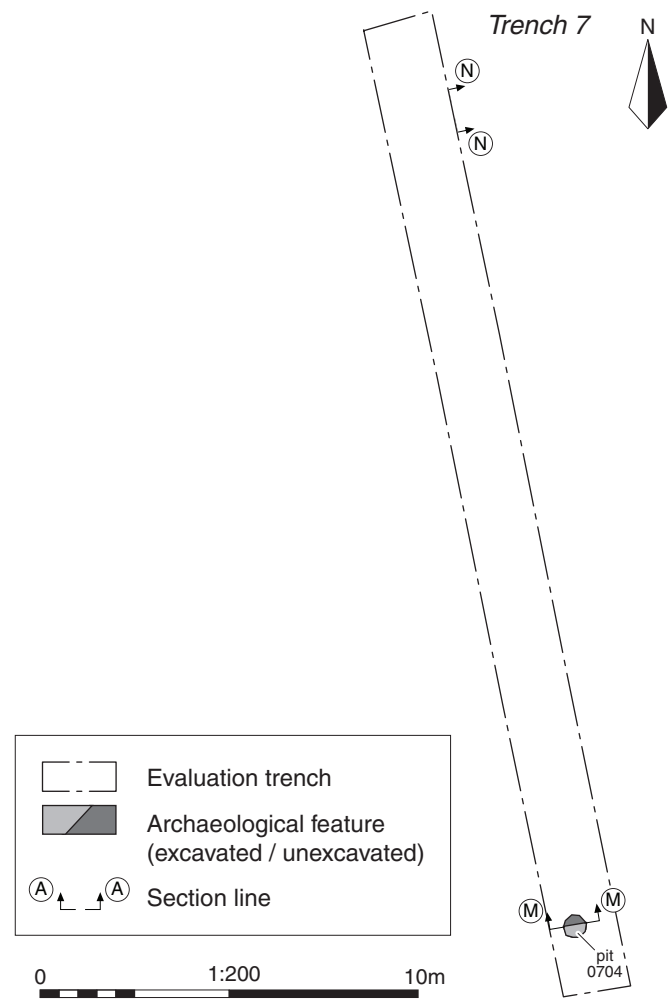
Ditch 602, looking south-west (1m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 6: plan, section and
 photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2020	12
APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



Trench 6, looking south-east (1m scale)



Ditch 0704, looking south-west (1m scale)

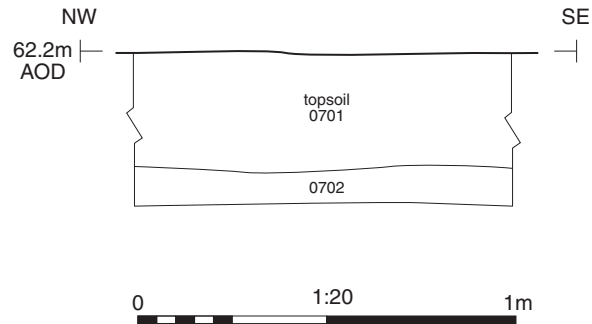

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 7: plan, section and
 photographs**

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	SU0126	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2020	13
APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	

Section NN



Trench 7 representative section, looking north-east (0.4m and 1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 7: section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/06/2020	
APPROVED BY	JM	SCALE@A4	1:20	14

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