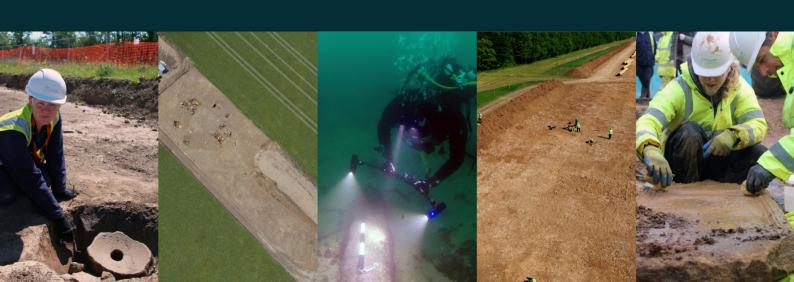




# Sonning Golf Club Duffield Road Woodley Wokingham Berkshire Archaeological Evaluation



for RPS Consulting Services Ltd

CA Project: AN0141 CA Report: AN0141\_1

March 2020



# Sonning Golf Club Duffield Road Woodley Wokingham Berkshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: AN0141 CA Report: AN0141\_1















Document Control Grid								
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by		
А	6/3/20	Sam Wilson	Ray Kennedy	Internal Review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex		

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### **SUMMARY**

Project Name: Sonning Golf Club

**Location:** Duffield Road, Woodley, Wokingham

**NGR:** 476383 174685

**Type:** Evaluation

**Date:** 2-4 March 2020

Planning Reference: APP/X0360/W/17/3167142

**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with appropriate Museum

Site Code: SON20

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2020 at Sonning Golf Club. Six trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified several archaeological features, concentrated in the vicinity of Trenches 2 and 6 which are likely to represent former field system boundary ditches. The majority of features were undated. Two ditches were firmly dated to the post-medieval period by the presence of post-medieval CBM within their fills. A single flake of prehistoric struck flint was identified in ditch 212 (fill 213), although it is possible that the flake represented a residual find as the ditch appeared to be on the same linear alignment as a firmly dated Post Medieval ditch.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for RPS Consulting Services Ltd at Sonning Golf Club, Duffield Road, Woodley Road, Wokingham (centred at NGR: 476383 174685; Figure 1). The development comprises the erection of 13 dwellings with associated highway works, public open space and landscaping (ref: APP/X0360/W/17/3167142). Planning permission was granted on appeal conditional on a programme of archaeological work:

### Condition 12

No development shall commence until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2020) and approved by Roland Smith (Archaeological Officer, Berkshire Archaeology). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), and the Berkshire Archaeology Standards for the Historic Environment.

### The site

- 1.3 The site is approximately 0.76ha, and comprises the south-west corner of the former Sonning Golf Club Green, though now separated off as a disused plot of land accessed from the golf club car park. To the north-east and clockwise round to the southeast of site is the Sonning Golf Club open landscape, apart from the Golf Club buildings and associated car park immediately adjacent to the south-east border of site. Anticlockwise from the north-west of site to the south-west is generally urban detached dwellings. The site lies at approximately 55m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as clay, silt and sand of the Lambeth Group, sedimentary bedrock formed 48 to 59 million years ago in an environment dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. Superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits 4 sand and gravel are also recorded. These were formed

up to 3 million years ago in a local environment dominated by rivers (BGS 2020). This is consistent with the geology encountered on site.

### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological background is a succinct summary of a Desk-Based Assessment associated with Bishops Close 1km to the north-west of site (TVAS 2007)

### Prehistoric (4000 BC - AD43)

- 2.2 A group of seven 'Scheduled Ancient Monuments' (SAM), consisting of crop mark complexes indicating the presence of ditched enclosures, ring ditches and possible monumental landscape features is located to the north-east of site. Worked flint tools have also been recovered during field walking from this same area indicative of Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age activity (TVAS 2012). An unpatinated Palaeolithic hand axe was found in a garden 156m to the north-west of the site and the closest SAM is less than 500m from the site with another just under 1km to the north-east within the golf course (Leary 2016).
- 2.3 A Neolithic settlement was recorded at East Park Farm, Charvil 1.4km to the northeast of site but, more immediately, the periphery of a Bronze Age settlement was recorded at Duffield House 302m to the south-east (Hardy 1999, Leary 2016).

### Roman (AD43 – AD 410)

2.4 A Roman Boundary ditch containing a substantial quantity of pottery, suggesting close proximity to occupation was found at Mustard Lane 100m to the south-west of site (TVAS 2007, Leary 2016).

### Saxon (AD 410 - 1066)

2.5 Excavation at St Andrew's vicarage 1.14km north-west of the site, revealed occupation from the 10th to the14th century, possibly related to the Bishop's Palace, in the form of pits and other features. There was evidence for some high status material from within these features. Finds from the River Thames include a brooch and several iron spearheads. Excavations by Foundations Archaeology in 2001

revealed late Saxon and early medieval remains including 28 Saxon inhumations. Also recorded, were a Saxon ditch and a chalk surface.

### Medieval (1066 - 1539)

2.6 Sonning is mentioned within the Domesday Book in 1086 as *Soninges*. St Andrew's church has medieval origins, and retains some elements of its Norman plan in the Early English style (13th century), but is mainly a 19th century restoration.

### Post-medieval and Modern (1540 - Present)

2.8 There are a number of listed buildings within the vicinity of Sonning. These include The Deanery, listed Grade I, along with its Grade II\* listed garden, an 18th-century brick icehouse, a grade II 16th-century wall on the south of St Andrew's graveyard and North Lodge, which stands at the entrance to Bishop's Close, formerly the northern approach to Holme Park.

### 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 Wokingham Borough Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2019).

### 4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 6 trenches (30m x 1.8m), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). The positions of **Trenches 1**, **2** and 5 were modified slightly from those in the WSI (CA 2020) due to on-site obstructions, with the approval of the County Archaeologist. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.

- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with appropriate Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

### 5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-5)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 contained no features of archaeological interest. Trenches1, 3, 4 and 6 contained modern disturbance associated with the landscaping of the golf course.

### Trench 2 (Figures 2 & 3)

5.3 Within **Trench 2**, the natural substrate consisted of light yellowish brown silty sand and gravels **203** and was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.61m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by made ground deposits **201** and **202**, associated with modern golf course landscaping, which were in turn sealed below mid-yellow/brown silt/sand topsoil **200**. Five archaeological features were identified, all of which cut the natural sand and gravel **203**.

- 5.4 Ditch 204 was aligned approximately east-west, with a possible terminal present at the western end, partially under the trench baulk. It had gently sloping, concave sides and a slightly concave base, surviving to a depth of 0.19m and width of 0.78m. It contained a single mid-brown/grey silt/sand fill 205 from which there were no artefacts recovered.
- 5.5 Ditch **206** was aligned north east-south west and survived to a depth of 0.14m and width of 0.93m. It had slightly concave and gently sloping sides and a flat base, with a single mid-brown silt/sand fill **207** and was undated. It was noted in the oblique baulk sections to truncate both ditches **204** and **208**.
- 5.6 Ditch **208** was aligned parallel to ditch **204**. It was 0.12m deep, 0.74m wide and had gently sloping, concave sides and a concave base with a single mid-brown/grey silt/sand fill, **209**. No dateable artefacts were recovered.
- 5.7 Ditch **210** measured 1.61m in width and only 0.2m in depth. It had moderately sloping irregular sides and a slightly irregular but largely flat base. It contained a single fill **211**, which consisted of dark brown/grey silty sand and from which post-medieval CBM fragments were recovered.
- 5.8 Notably better defined than other features in **Trench 2**, ditch **212** survived to a depth of 0.45m and 1.46m in width. It had moderately sloping, flat sides and a narrow concave base. It contained a single secondary fill **213** which consisted of dark brown/grey silt/sand from which a single worked flint flake of broad Prehistoric date was recovered.

### Trench 6 (Figures 2 & 4)

- 5.9 **Trench 6** contained dark brown sand/silt topsoil **600** which sealed mid-yellowish brown silty sand subsoil **601**, which in turn overlay the mid-yellow/brown sand/gravel natural substrate **602**. Modern disturbance associated with golf course landscaping was noted throughout and three features of archaeological origin were identified. Due to water ingress, the features could not be excavated.
- 5.10 Ditch **603** was curvilinear in plan and truncated ditch **605**. It measured up to 1.6m in width and the upper fill consisted of mid-brown sand/silt **604** from which post-medieval CBM was recovered.

- 5.11 Undated ditch **605** was linear in plan and measured 0.4m in width. It contained midbrown/yellow silt/sand upper fill **606**, **607** and was truncated by ditch **603**.
- 5.12 Ditch **608** measured 1.27m in width and contained an upper fill of mid-yellow/brown sand/silt **609** from which no dateable artefacts were recovered. It was truncated by a modern pipe.

### 6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from three ditch fills. The recovered material dates to the prehistoric and post-medieval periods, and quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B.

Lithics

6.2 A worked flint flake (17g) of broad prehistoric date was recorded from fill **213** of ditch **212**.

Ceramic building material

A total of three fragments (537g) of ceramic building material of late medieval/post-medieval date were retrieved from fill **211** of ditch **210** and fill **604** of ditch **603**. These derive from two flat roof tiles and one overfired brick.

### 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation identified several archaeological features, concentrated in the vicinity of **Trenches 2** and **6** and likely to represent a system of former field ditches, with the lack of dateable artefacts suggesting that they were located some distance from settlement. Evidence of modern landscaping associated with the previous use of the site as part of the adjacent golf course was noted in all trenches except **Trench 5**.
- 7.2 The majority of features were undated, although a single flake of struck flint from ditch 212 (fill 213) suggests that this feature may be of prehistoric date. Ditch 212 was parallel to ditch 210 although had a notably different profile, and CBM recovered from ditch 210 (fill 211), firmly dates it to the post-medieval period. It is therefore possible that either the flint flake within ditch 212 is intrusive in a later

feature or that the apparent relationship between **210** and **212** suggested by their parallel nature is coincidental. CBM was also recovered from curvilinear ditch **603** (fill **604**), indicating that this feature is likely to be of post-medieval date.

7.3 Although all were undated, two phases of activity could be noted within the north-western end of **Trench 2**, where parallel ditches **204** and **208** were both cut by later ditch **206**.

### 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Clutterbuck, assisted by Tim Street and Sam Wilson. The report was written by Sam Wilson. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville and the illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Sam Wilson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

### 9. REFERENCES

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- Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd (TVAS), 2012, Straighthanger Field, Sonning, Berkshire: Geophysical Survey (Magnetic)

### **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No	Context	Туре	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown silty fine sand	>29.9	>1.9	0-0.2
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish brown silty fine sand	>29.9	>1.9	0.2-0.3
1	102	Layer		Natural	Sub-rounded flint gravel within a light greyish brown silty sand matrix	>29.9	>1.9	0.3+
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with sub rounded flint	>30	>1.8	0-0.14
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Mixed dark brownish grey and brownish yellow silty sand	>30	>1.8	0.14-0.39
2	202	Layer		Made ground	Mid brown silty sand with sub rounded/angular flint	>30	>1.8	0.39-0.61
2	203	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown silty sand with sub rounded and angular flint	>30	>1.8	0.61+
2	204	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear, with concave gently sloping sides and slight concave base. E-W	>1	0.78	0.19
2	205	Fill	204	Fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey silty sand with sub angular and rounded flint	>1	0.78	0.19
2	206	Cut`		Cut of ditch	Linear, slight concave gently sloping, flat base. SW-NE	>1	0.93	0.14
2	207	Fill	206	Fill of ditch	Mid brown silty sand friable with sub rounded and angular flint	>1	0.93	0.14
2	208	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear, concave gently sloping and concave U-shaped base. E- W	>1	0.74	0.12
2	209	Fill	208	Fill of ditch	Mid brownish grey silty sand with sub angular and rounded flint	>1	0.74	0.12
2	210	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear, moderately sloping and slightly irregular base. NE-SW	>1	1.61	0.2
2	211	Fill	210	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish grey silty sand friable with sub rounded and angular flint	>1	1.61	0.2
2	212	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear, rounded straight moderate angle sides and concave base. NE-SW	1.85	1.46	0.45
2	213	Fill	212	Fill of ditch	Dark brownish silty sand friable with sub rounded and angular flint	1.85	1.46	0.45
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand with sub rounded flint	>30.2	>1.8	0-0.28
3	301	Layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow coarse sand with abundant sub rounded and angular flint	>30.2	>1.8	0.28-0.32+
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey silty fine sand	>30.3	>1.9	0-0.1
4	401	Layer		Made ground	Light brownish yellow sand	>30.3	>1.9	0.1-0.17
4	402	Layer		Made ground	Light greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub rounded flint	>30.3	>1.9	0.17-0.33
4	403	Layer		Made ground	Light brownish yellow sand	>30.3	>1.9	0.33-0.38
4	404	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish silty sand with occasional sub rounded flint	>30.3	>1.9	0.38-0.53
4	405	Layer		Natural	Sub rounded flint gravel in matrix of iron mottled light grey and orange brown silty sand	>30.3	>1.9	0.53-0.61+
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	>30	>1.8	0-0.13
5	501	Layer	1	Subsoil	Alluvium mid yellow brown sandy	>30	>1.8	0.13-0.50

5	503	Layer		Natural	Mid brown silty gravel	>30	>1.8	>0.5
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt	>30	>1.8	0-0.2
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty sand with occasional sub rounded flint	>30	>1.8	0.2-0.4
6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown sandy gravel with sub rounded and angular flint	>30	>1.8	0.4+
6	603	Cut		Cut of ditch	Curvilinear in plan (unexcavated)	4	1.6	-
6	604	Fill	603	Fill of ditch	Mid brown sandy silt with rare flint	4	1.6	-
6	605	Cut		Cut of gully	Linear in plan (unexcavated)	3.3	0.4	-
6	606	Fill	605	Fill of S side of gully	Mid yellow brown sandy silt	0.7	0.4	-
6	607	Fill	605	Fill of N side of gully	Mid yellow brown sandy silt	0.9	0.4	=
6	608	Cut		Cut of ditch	Linear in plan (unexcavated)	2	1.27	-
6	609	Fill	608	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow brown sandy silt	2	1.27	-

### APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

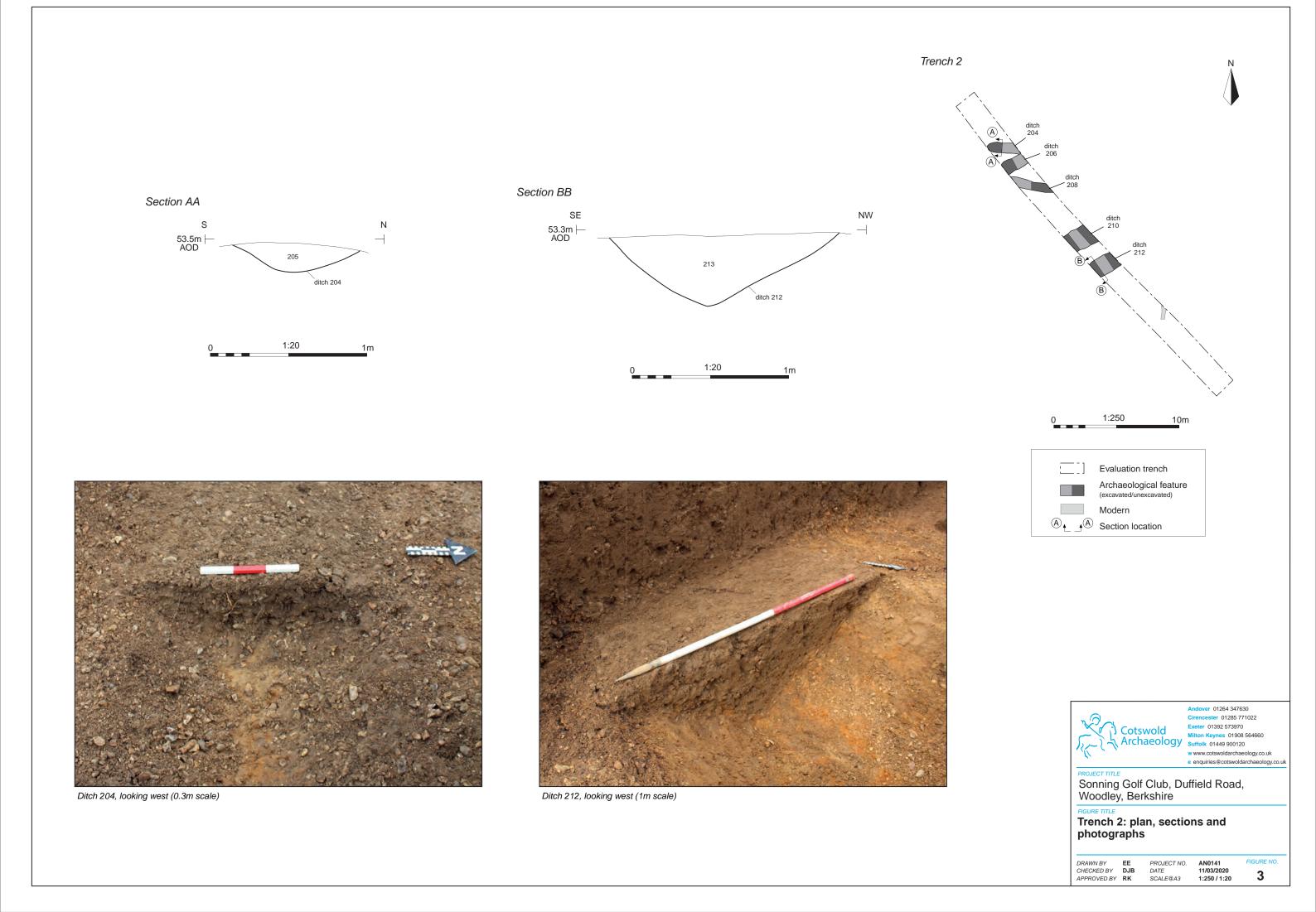
Context	Category	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
211	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Flat roof tile, brick	2	299	Late medieval/ post-medieval
213	Flint	Flake	1	17	Prehistoric
604	Post-medieval ceramic building material	Flat roof tile	1	238	Late medieval/ post-medieval

### APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Name	Sonning Golf Club, Duffield Road, Wood	Sonning Golf Club, Duffield Road, Woodley, Berkshire				
Short description		An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in March 2020 at Sonning Golf Club. Six trenches were excavated.				
	The evaluation identified several concentrated in the vicinity of Trenches represent former field system ditches. were undated, although a single flake of (fill 213) suggests that this feature may although the flake may also be residu ditches were firmly dated to the pospresence of post-medieval CBM within the	2 and 6 which are likely to The majority of features f struck flint from ditch 212 ay be of prehistoric date, al in a later feature. Two t-medieval period by the				
Project dates	2-4 March 2020					
Project type	Trial trench evaluation					
Previous work	None					
Future work	Unknown	Unknown				
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site Location						
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.76ha					
Site co-ordinates	476383 174685					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Brief originator	Berkshire Archaeology					
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy					
Project Supervisor	Jeremy Clutterbuck					
MONUMENT TYPE		None				
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Ditch					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery animal bone etc)				
Physical		Ceramics, etc				
Paper		Context sheets, trench sheets, registers etc				
Digital		Digital photos etc				
BIBLIOGRAPHY						
Cataviald Araba alami (CA) 2020	Sonning Golf Club, Duffield Road, Woodley,	Porkshira: Archanologica				

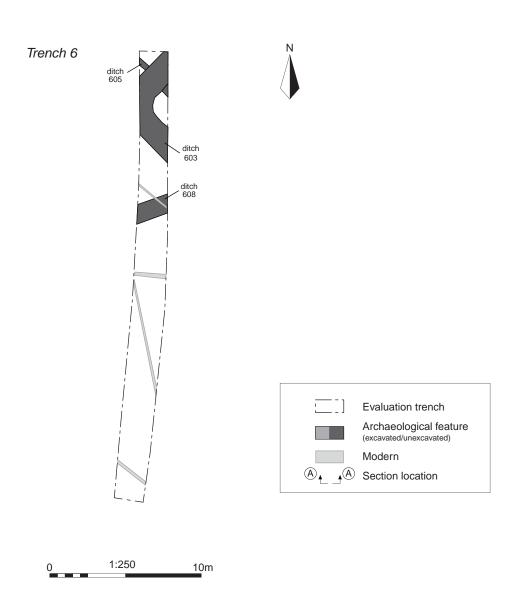








Trench 6, ditch 603, looking north-east (1m scales)





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Sonning Golf Club, Duffield Road, Woodley, Berkshire

Trench 6: plan and photograph

DRAWN BY EE
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY RK

 PROJECT NO.
 AN0141

 DATE
 11/03/2020

 SCALE@A3
 1:250



Trench 1, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 2, post-excavation, looking south-east (1m scales)



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



Trench 4, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 5, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 6, looking south (1m scales)



Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 573970

Sonning Golf Club, Duffield Road, Woodley, Berkshire

# Photographs

DRAWN BY EE CHECKED BY DJB APPROVED BY RK PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE@A3 5



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