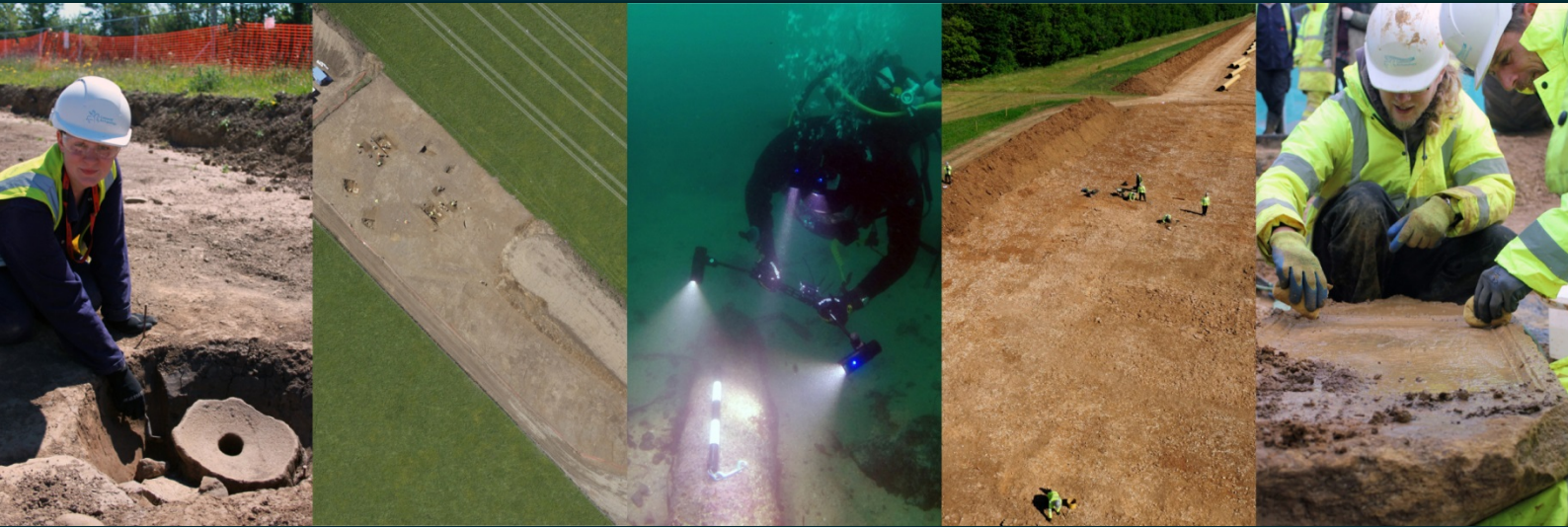


**Land off Crane Furlong  
Highworth,  
Swindon  
Wiltshire**  
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
EDP

CA Project: CR0159  
CA Report: CR0159\_01

September 2019



Land off Crane Furlong  
Highworth,  
Swindon  
Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: CR0159  
CA Report: CR0159\_01



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	13/9/19	Sam Wilson	Ray Kennedy	Internal Review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land off Crane Furlong
<b>Location:</b>	Highworth, Swindon
<b>NGR:</b>	419969 193352
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	9-12 September 2019
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
<b>Site Code:</b>	CRFH19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2019 at Land off Crane Furlong, Highworth, Swindon. Twelve trenches were excavated.

Despite the archaeological potential of the wider environs of the site, only single, undated, and apparently isolated pit, and a possible palaeochannel, from which medieval pottery was recovered, was recorded during the course of the evaluation.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for EDP at Land off Crane Furlong centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 419969 193352 (see Figure 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council, the archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council. The fieldwork also followed Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014).

### *The site*

- 1.3 The proposed development area is 2.3ha in extent, and comprises agricultural land currently used for grazing horses. It lies on the northern edge of the town of Highworth. It is bounded by the Blackworth Industrial Estate to the north, the Highworth Waste Water Treatment works to the west, Crane Furlong Recreation Ground to the east, and housing along Pentylands Lane and Crane Furlong to the south and south-east. The site lies at approximately 90m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), sloping down to 86m aOD at the north-western end.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone: Sedimentary of the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2019). This is consistent with the geology encountered during the evaluation.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Prior to the evaluation being undertaken, no archaeological assets were known to be present within the site, although several sites had been identified within the vicinity and recorded in the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record.
- 2.2 Mesolithic flints were recovered approximately 500m to the east of the site and a Bronze Age arrowhead 300m to the south-east.

- 2.3 Roman pottery was recovered during excavation 100m to the north on the Blackworth Industrial estate in 1999, but no identifiable features were located. Settlement of this date is recorded 300m to the east and 1.1km to the south, with further settlement identified by geophysical survey 400m to the north.
- 2.4 Highworth is recorded as a manor in Domesday Book. The land surrounding Highworth was enclosed between 1778 and 1783. Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries the town grew slowly, which resulted in the preservation of the medieval lay out of the centre of the town, which now forms the Conservation Area. A small number of the town's medieval buildings still survive, although many of the houses within the Conservation Area were re-fronted during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Ridge and furrow remains extant in fields to the west and north.
- 2.5 The site was subject to geophysical survey. This identified medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation (aligned north-east to south-west). A probable land drain and anomalies associated with current field divisions were also recorded (WA 2019).

### **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 Swindon 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 2012).

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 12 trenches (30 x 1.85m), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). The position of Trench 1 was modified due to flooding on site with the approval of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.



- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery. 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 (FIGURES 2-3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeo-environmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 **Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12** contained no features of archaeological interest. They typically contained a dark grey/brown clay/silt topsoil of approximately 0.25m in thickness, overlying a mid-grey/brown silt/clay subsoil of approximately 0.3m thickness. This in turn sealed a mid-brown/grey silt/clay geological substrate, encountered at an average depth of approximately 0.5m below present ground level. A treethrow was noted in **Trench 4**, but was unexcavated.

### ***Trench 3 (Figures 2 & 3)***

- 5.3 Natural geology **302** consisting of mid-brown/grey silt/clay was encountered at a depth of 0.5m, sealed below a mid-grey/brown silt/clay subsoil **301** up to 0.27m thick



which was in turn sealed below a dark grey/brown clay/silt topsoil **300** of 0.23m thickness.

- 5.4 Pit **303** was sub-oval in plan with moderate to steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single, charcoal rich mid-yellow/grey and brown/grey silt/clay fill but no dateable material.

#### ***Trench 12 (Figure 2 & 4)***

- 5.4 **Trench 12** contained evidence of a possible palaeochannel **1203** up to 4.8m wide and 0.46m deep which contained a single fill **1204** of firm mid-yellow/brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks.

## **6. THE FINDS**

- 6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below. All finds have been recorded directly to an MS Excel spreadsheet.

### **Pottery**

- 6.2 A small assemblage, comprising five sherds (weighing 90g), was recovered from four deposits. The earliest material comprises three sherds from subsoil deposit 101 and palaeochannel 1203 (fill 1204), comprising East Wiltshire (Kennet Valley) ware of late 11th to 15th century date. The remaining two sherds are of glazed earthenwares dateable from the late 16th to 18th centuries, recovered from topsoil deposit 100 and subsoil deposit 801.

### ***Other Finds***

- 6.3 Two fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from two deposits. Both are tile fragments, probably of medieval or later date.

## **7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

- 7.1 A single bulk environmental sample (20 litres of soil) was processed from undated pit **303** in **Trench 3** to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. It was also hoped that the environmental results might assist with



the dating of this feature. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

### **Trench 3**

- 7.2 The flot from sample 1 from context **304** from pit **303** was moderately large with c. 65% rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material was poorly preserved. No charred plant remains and only a moderate quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm was recovered from this sample. The charcoal included round and mature wood fragments. A few shells of the open country species *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica* and *Helicella itala* were recorded and may be indicative of a well-established open landscape.
- 7.3 There is no clear indication of the likely date of this pit from this assemblage, and no finds were recovered from the sample. There is no evidence for any specific domestic settlement activities or industrial processes having taken place in the immediate vicinity.



## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 A single, undated and apparently isolated pit, was identified during the course of the evaluation. In the absence of any dateable finds, it is not possible to draw any firm conclusions as to its date or function
- 8.3 Medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil of a number of trenches, and from within the fill of the palaeochannel. This is an indication of dispersed medieval activity within the wider environs of the site.

## **9. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jeremy Clutterbuck, assisted by Steve Bush, Craig Jones, and Tim Street. The report was written by Sam Wilson. The biological evidence and finds report were written by Sarah Wyles and Katie Marsden respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Jeremy Clutterbuck, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.



## 10. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey (BGS) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 25  
September 2019

Cotswold Archaeology (CA) 2019 *Land off Crane Furlong, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire:  
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019 National Planning Policy  
Framework (NPPF); published February 2019



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	30.70	1.85	0.00-0.25
1	101	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks. Poor horizon clarity to natural	30.70	1.85	0.25-0.40 (0.15)
1	102	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	30.70	1.85	0.40-0.70+ (0.30)
2	200	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	30.00	1.85	0.00-0.25
2	201	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks. Poor horizon clarity to natural. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	30.00	1.85	0.25-0.35 (0.10)
2	202	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	30.00	1.85	0.35-0.53+ (0.18)
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	29.90	1.85	0.00-0.23
3	301	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	29.90	1.85	0.23-0.50 (0.27)
3	302	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	29.90	1.85	0.50-0.60+ (0.10)
3	303	cut		Cut of pit	Sub-oval pit with steep straight sides on east side and moderate straight sides on west side. Concave base.	0.82	0.47	0.21
3	304	fill	303	Fill of pit	Firm mid yellow grey with mid brown grey lenses silty clay. Common charcoal flecks and pieces. Good horizon clarity to natural.	0.82	0.47	0.21
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	29.70	1.85	0.00-0.25
4	401	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks. Poor to natural. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	29.70	1.85	0.25-0.48 (0.23)
4	402	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	29.70	1.85	0.48-0.55+ (0.07)
4	403	Cut		Treethrow	Cut treethrow, unexcavated			
5	500	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	30.00	1.85	0.00-0.27
5	501	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks. Poor to natural. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	30.00	1.85	0.27-0.42 (0.15)
5	502	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	30.00	1.85	0.42-0.60+ (0.18)
6	600	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	29.50	1.85	0.00-0.29
6	601	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	29.50	1.85	0.29-0.39 (0.10)
6	602	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	29.50	1.85	0.39-0.64+ (0.25)
7	700	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	28.90	1.85	0.00-0.28
7	701	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	28.90	1.85	0.28-0.48 (0.20)
7	702	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	28.90	1.85	0.48-0.73+ (0.25)
8	800	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with	29.80	1.85	0.00-

					rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.			0.24
8	801	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	29.80	1.85	0.24-0.51 (0.27)
8	802	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay and patches of orange clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	29.80	1.85	0.51-0.68+ (0.17)
9	900	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	29.50	1.85	0.00-0.27
9	901	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	29.50	1.85	0.27-0.52 (0.25)
9	902	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay and patches of dark grey clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	29.50	1.85	0.52-0.80+ (0.28)
10	1000	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	29.40	1.85	0.00-0.33
10	1001	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	29.40	1.85	0.33-0.64 (0.31)
10	1002	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay and patches of dark grey clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	29.40	1.85	0.64-0.86+ (0.22)
11	1100	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	30.06	1.85	0.00-0.30
11	1101	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	30.06	1.85	0.30-0.45 (0.15)
11	1102	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay and patches of dark grey clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	30.06	1.85	0.45-0.65+ (0.20)
12	1200	layer		Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with rare chalk/calcareous flecks. Good horizon clarity to subsoil.	30.00	1.85	0.00-0.30
12	1201	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk/calcareous flecks. Poor horizon clarity to natural.	30.00	1.85	0.30-0.44
12	1202	layer		Natural	Hard mid brown grey silty clay with common chalk/calcareous flecks and fossils.	30.00	1.85	0.90+
12	1203	cut		Cut of possible palaeochannel	North south orientated possible palaeochannel. Gradual irregular sides with flatish base.	>1.85	4.80	0.46
12	1204	fill		Fill of possible palaeochannel	Firm mid yellow brown clay with rare charcoal flecks.	>1.85	4.80	0.44-0.90 (0.46)

**APPENDIX B: FINDS CONCORDANCE**

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
100	post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware; rim ?Bowl. Green glaze	GEW	1	20	MC16-C18
101	medieval pottery	Kennet Valley; body	Ewilts	1	11	LC11-C15
101	medieval pottery	Kennet Valley; body	Ewilts	1	5	
101	CBM	tile; ?traces of glaze		1	26	
200	CBM	tile frags		1	5	
801	post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware. Red glaze	GEW	1	37	MC16-C18
1204	medieval pottery	Kennet Valley ware; rim thickened	Ewilts	1	17	LC11-C15

**APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

Table 1 Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

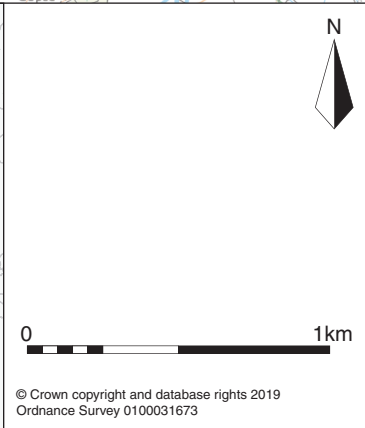
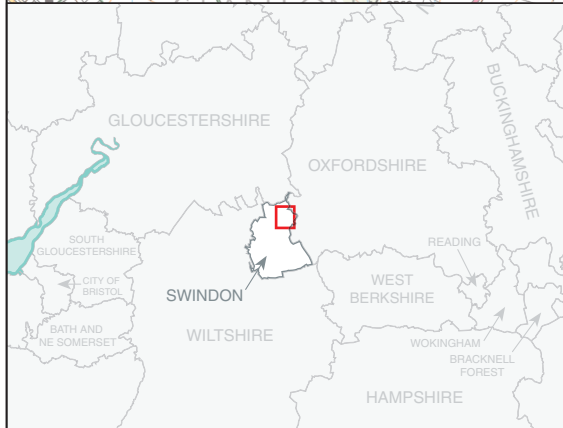
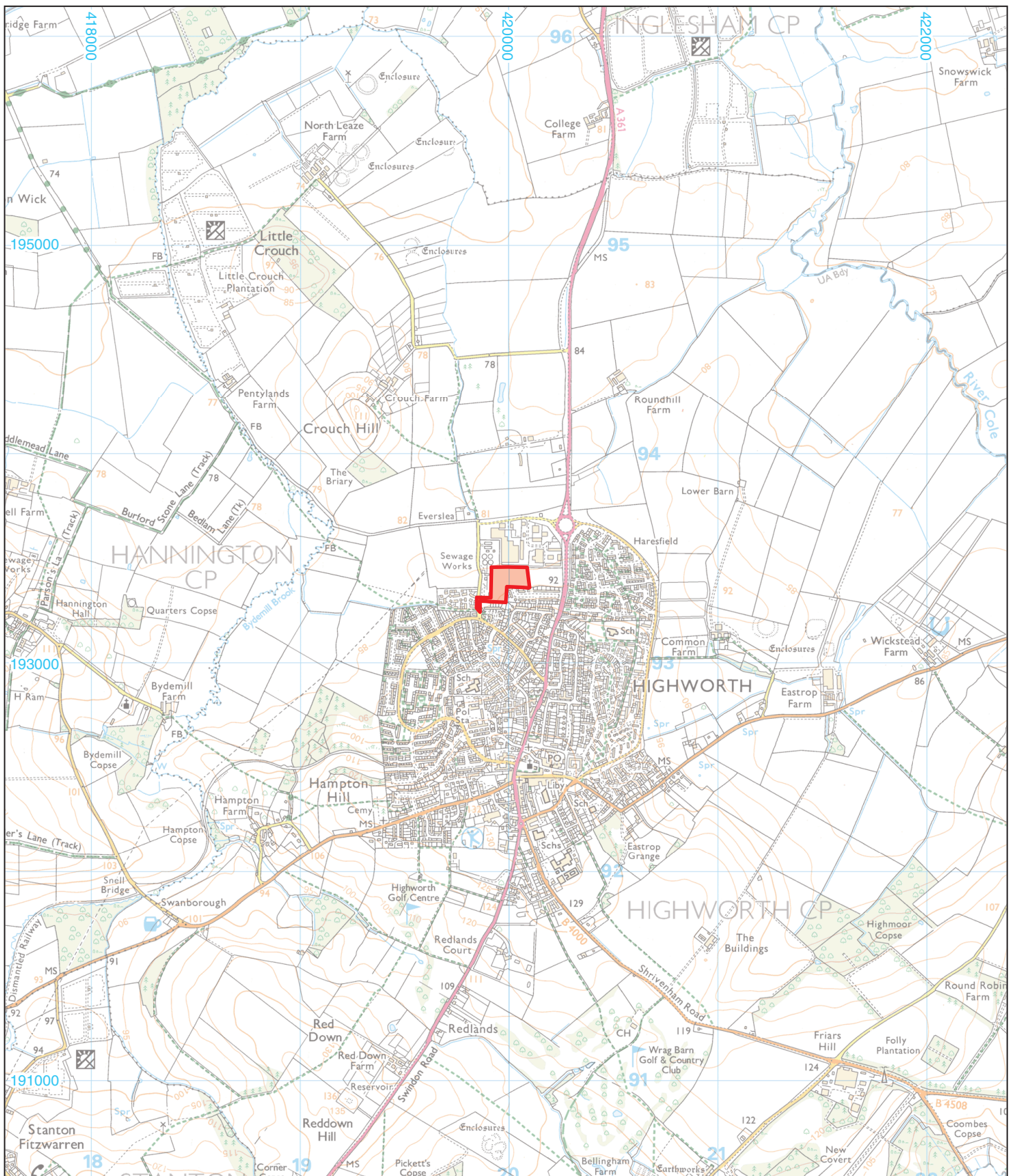
Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 3 - Undated Pit											
303	304	1	20	10	75	65	-	-	-	**/**	Moll-t (**)

Key: \* = 1–4 items; \*\* = 5–19 items; \*\*\* = 20–49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50–99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs

## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land off Crane Furlong, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2019 at Land off Crane Furlong, Highworth, Swindon. Twelve trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Despite the archaeological potential of the wider environs of the site, only single, undated, and apparently isolated pit, and a possible palaeochannel, from which medieval pottery was recovered, was recorded during the course of the evaluation.</p>	
Project dates	9-12 September 2019	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Land off Crane Furlong, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	2.3ha	
Site co-ordinates	419969 193352	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Wiltshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Jeremy Clutterbuck	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Ceramics
Paper	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Trench sheets, Context sheets, section drawings etc
Digital	Swindon Museum and Art Gallery	Digital photos etc
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Cotswold Archaeology, 2019, <i>Land off Crane Furlong, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>CR0159_01</b>		





**Andover** 01264 347630  
**Cirencester** 01285 771022  
**Exeter** 01392 573970  
**Milton Keynes** 01908 564660  
**Suffolk** 01449 900120  
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[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)


**Cotswold Archaeology**

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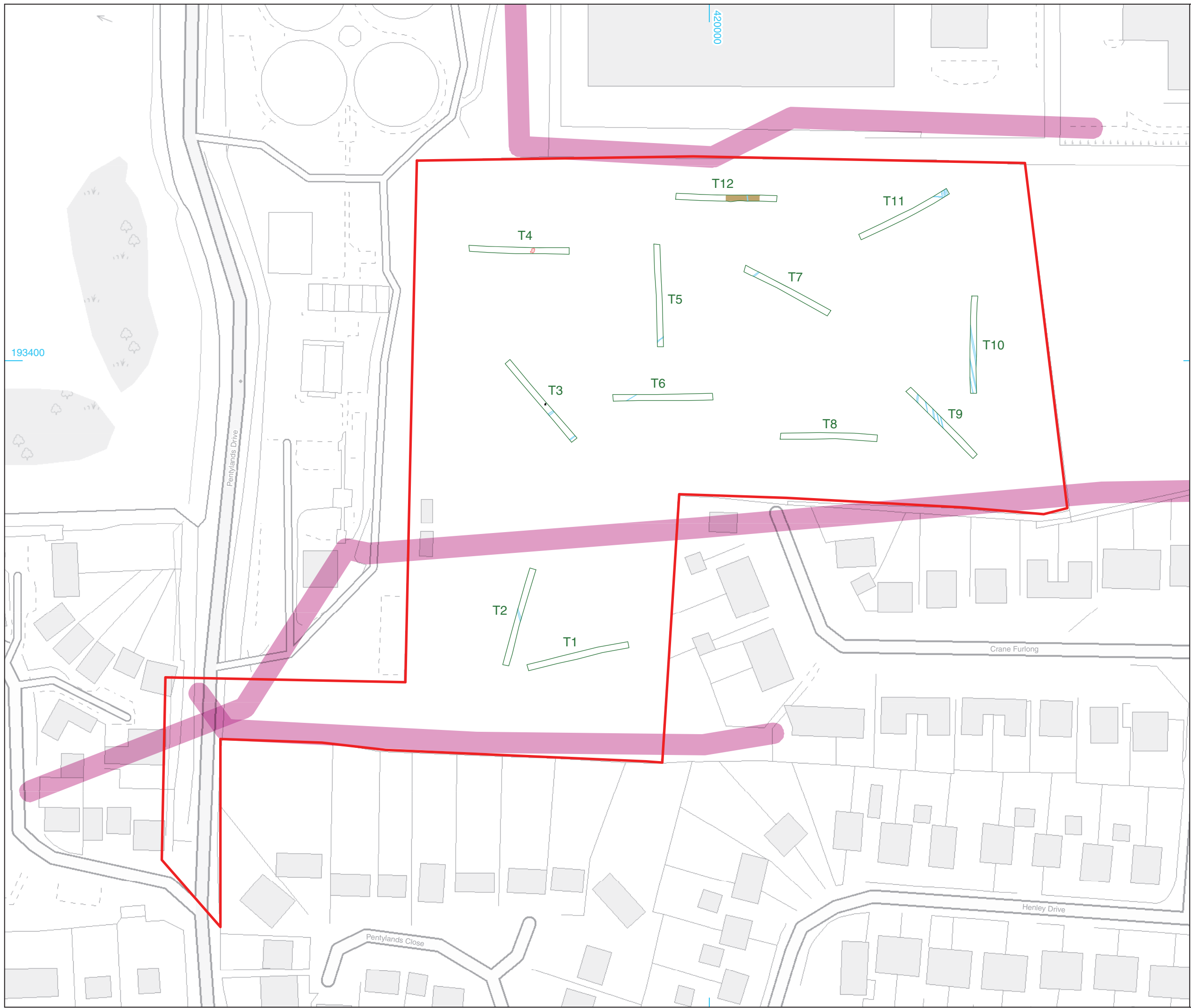
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 Land off Crane Furlong, Highworth,  
 Swindon, Wiltshire

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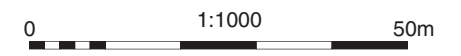
**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Site location plan**

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<b>DRAWN BY</b> DJB	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> CR0159	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> RP	<b>DATE</b> 19-09-2019	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> JC	<b>SCALE@A4</b> 1:25,000	



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Palaeochannel
- Modern
- Tree-throw
- Sewage pipe buffer



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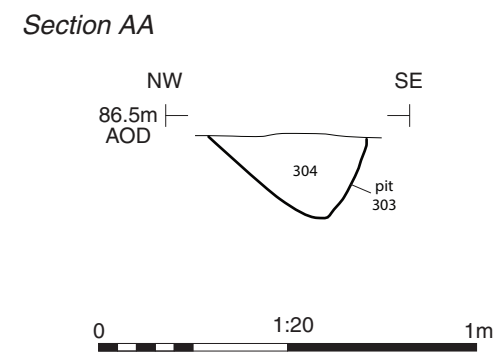
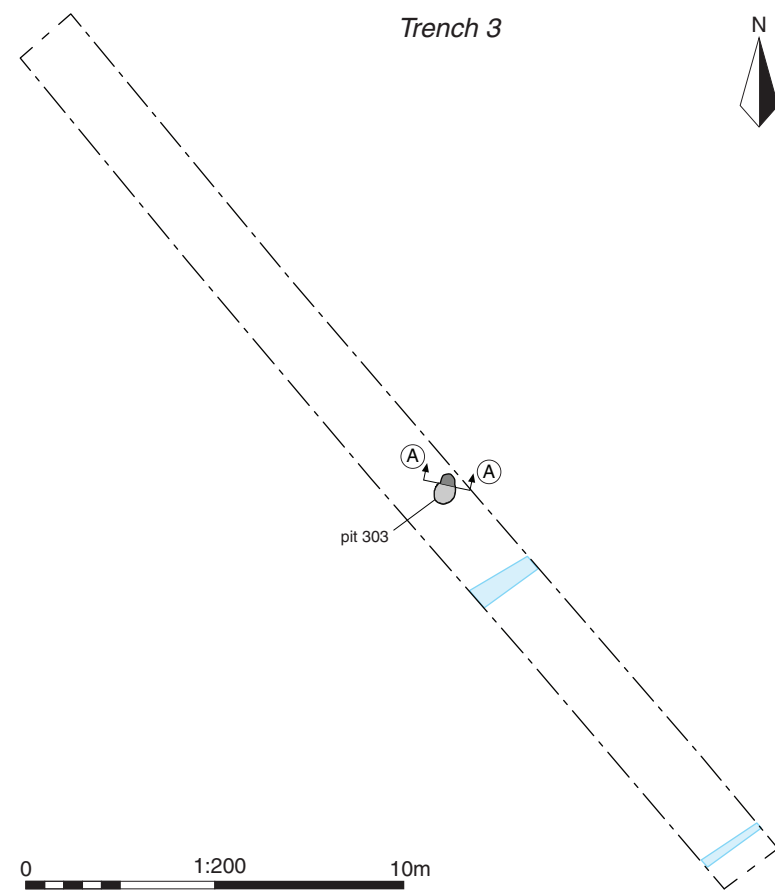
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
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land off Crane Furlong, Highworth,  
 Swindon, Wiltshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing  
 archaeological features

<small>DRAWN BY</small> DJB	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR0159	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 2
<small>CHECKED BY</small> RP	<small>DATE</small> 18-09-2019	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> JC	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:1000	





-  Evaluation trench
-  Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
-  Modern



Pit 303, looking north-west (scale 0.3m)

Andover 01264 347630  
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 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 Suffolk 01449 900120  
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 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE  
 Land off Crane Furlong, Highworth,  
 Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 3: plan, section, photograph**

DRAWN BY	DJB	PROJECT NO.	CR0159	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	18-09-2019	<b>3</b>
APPROVED BY	JC	SCALE@A3	1:200 1:20	



Representative section of Trench 12 showing palaeochannel, looking south (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630  
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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Crane Furlong, Highworth,  
 Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 12: photograph**

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	CR0159	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03.10.19	
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