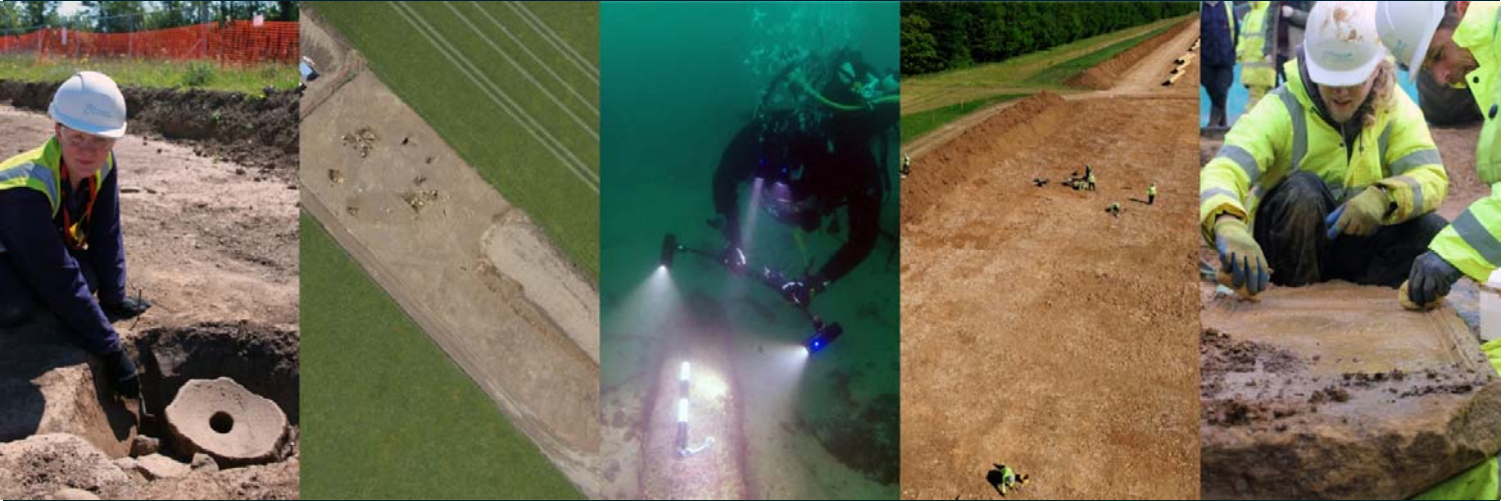


# Land East of South Lawn Swinbrook Oxfordshire

*Archaeological Excavation*



*for*  
Savills UK Ltd

*on behalf of*  
THHK Ltd

CA Project: CR0340  
CA Report: CR0340\_1

March 2020



Land East of South Lawn  
Swinbrook  
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Excavation

CA Project: CR0340  
CA Report: CR0340\_1



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	3 March 2020	Marino Cardelli	Alex Thomson	Final		Laurent Coleman

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Land East of South Lawn  
**Location:** Swinbrook, Oxfordshire  
**NGR:** 428797 214785  
**Type:** Excavation  
**Date:** 26-28 February 2020  
**Planning Reference:** West Oxfordshire District Council ref: 19/01310/FUL  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service  
**Site Code:** SLAS20

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2020 on land to the east of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire.

A ditch, identified by a preceding evaluation, was identified in the centre of the excavated area and was found to contain artefactual material of early 17th-century to 19th-century date. This ditch probably represents a post-medieval field boundary and correlates closely to a cropmark visible on aerial imagery, although is not depicted on any available historic cartographic sources.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation at the request of Savills UK Ltd on behalf of THHK Ltd, on land to the east of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: 428797 214785; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Planning permission for the provision of a facility for rural pursuits, comprising stables, forage/machinery stores, hound kennels, and key staff accommodation was granted by West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC; ref: 19/01310/FUL), conditional on a programme of archaeological work (Condition 14). Following an archaeological evaluation on the site (CA 2020a), an archaeological excavation has been recommended by Hugh Coddington, Archaeology Team Lead, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), the archaeological advisor to WODC.
- 1.3 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2020b) and approved by Hugh Coddington. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (ClfA 2014); the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* and accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015). It was monitored by Hugh Coddington, including a site visit on 27 February 2020.

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 0.75ha, and comprises the southern part of a large agricultural field, with extant agricultural building. The site is bounded to the west by Cox Rise Road, to the south by pasture surrounding South Lawn Farm and on all other sides by agricultural land. The site lies at approximately 165m AOD, and slopes gently downward to the south-west. The development proposals are shown in Fig. 5 of this report.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as limestone of the White Formation, formed during the Jurassic Period (BGS 2020). The natural substrate identified during the course of the excavation comprised limestone brash in an orange brown sandy clay matrix.



## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has previously been the subject of an archaeological evaluation (CA 2020a). The following is a summary of this assessment and information available for nearby sites and archaeological assets, as recorded by the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (OHER).
- 2.2 Prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site is evidenced by a number of burial mounds, some of which are Scheduled Monuments, such as Shipton Barrow (HE List entry: 1008493), c. 2km to the north-west of the site, a long barrow in South Lawn Plain Woods (HE List entry: 1008494) and a pair of bowl barrows near Roustage Woods (HE List entry: 1008416), both c. 1km to the south-east, and a ploughed out round barrow to the north of South Lawn Cottages (OHER ref: 4047), c. 300m to the north-west of the site.
- 2.3 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in 2009 during the construction of a ménage, c. 140m to the south of the site (OHER ref: 26331; JMHS 2009). This revealed a series ditches, pits and post holes, appearing to form a series of enclosures. The recovered pottery dated to the 1st century AD.
- 2.4 Roman pottery was collected from the vicinity of the proposed development during field walking by Wychwoods Local History Society (OHER ref: 16556). The assemblage contained pottery dating to the 3rd to 4th centuries, with some Roman building material also recovered, suggesting the presence of a settlement or farmstead in the vicinity. The dating suggests a later settlement to that indicated by the watching brief to the south (*ibid.*).
- 2.5 The location of a possible former Saxon parish or estate boundary, visible as a linear crop mark, is recorded following the line of a valley c. 400m to the south-west of the site (OHER ref: 13072). Medieval activity in the area is known from the Scheduled site of Langley Palace royal hunting lodge (HE List entry: 1008495), c. 1km to the north-east of the site, which lay within the medieval Wychwood Forest deer park which was active from at least the 15th century. A deserted medieval hamlet or grange is located c. 650m to the south-west of the site (OHER ref: 11151).
- 2.6 A series of undated, although probably post-medieval, cropmarks are visible within the vicinity of the site, including a trackway near Hen's Grove (OHER ref: 15011), c.

1km to the east of site, and an undated, north-west/south-east aligned linear cropmark is visible extending into the excavation area (see Fig. 2). These cropmarks are not depicted on available historic mapping and therefore likely pre-date the 19th century.

- 2.7 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2020 (CA 2020a). A late post-medieval/modern pit/ditch was identified in the western part of the site and an undated (although potentially prehistoric/Roman) curvilinear ditch was identified in the centre of the site, in Trench 2, which lies outside of the development footprint (see Fig. 5). An undated linear ditch was recorded in Trench 5, over which the current excavation area is targeted.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains

- 3.2 The specific aims of the work were to:

- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use related to the ditch previously identified in Trench 5 of the evaluation
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy



## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2020b). The location of the excavation area was agreed with Hugh Coddington (OCC), informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation (CA 2020a) and defined by the impact of the proposed development. An excavation area measuring 450m<sup>2</sup> in area was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*. The excavation area was scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the CA *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.
- 4.2 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the excavation area by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision.
- 4.3 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4 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*, but no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.5 All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results; detailed summaries of the contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate 1002 was identified across the entirety of the excavation area at a typical depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by silty-clay subsoil 1001, measuring up to 0.2m in thickness, which in turn was sealed by 0.2m of silty-clay plough soil 1000.





- 5.3 Ditch A, (containing excavated slots 501, 1003, 1005 and 1010) was identified within the central part of the excavated area, correlating closely to a cropmark. It was north-west/south-east aligned and measured at least 21m in length, 1.25m in width and up to 0.4m in depth, containing undated silty clay fill 502/1004/1006/1011. Iron nails and a fragment of clay tobacco pipe and were recovered from fills 1004 and 1011 respectively, and these artefacts are broadly dateable to the early 17th to mid-19th centuries. The ditch was cut by east-west-aligned furrow 1008, which contained silty clay fill 1009, from which a post-medieval horseshoe and iron nails were recovered.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from three deposits (ditch and furrow fills). The recovered material dates to the post-medieval/modern period, and quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The finds have been discarded with the agreement of Oxfordshire Museum Service

### *Clay tobacco pipe*

- 6.2 A fragment from the stem of a spurred clay tobacco pipe (6g) was recorded from fill 1011 of ditch 1010. Spurred pipes were in use from the early 17th to mid-19th centuries (Oswald 1975, 40–1).

### *Metal*

- 6.3 Four iron objects (215g) were retrieved from the fills of ditch 1003 and furrow 1008. The shanks of the three nails are square in cross-section – such types were in use from the Roman to the post-medieval periods. The fragmentary horseshoe from fill 1009 of furrow/plough scar 1008 probably dates to the post-medieval period.

## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The investigation has identified only limited archaeological remains within the stripped area. The excavation results correlate very closely to the results of the preceding evaluation (CA 2020a) and to a cropmark visible on aerial imagery.
- 8.2 Despite the potential for archaeological features associated with prehistoric and Roman activity within the vicinity of the excavation area (see Archaeological

Background above), no such archaeological remains were identified during the excavation and the potential prehistoric/Roman activity identified in Trench 2 during the evaluation does not appear to extend as far as the current excavation area.

- 8.3 The excavation has confirmed that a feature previously recorded in Trench 5 of the evaluation represents the presence of a north-west/south-east aligned ditch, which correlates with the location and alignment of a linear cropmark visible on aerial imagery (see Fig. 2), although not depicted on available cartographic sources. The recovered artefactual assemblage is of early 17th- to mid 19th-century date, suggesting that the ditch may pre-date 19th-century mapping, and went out of use prior to the drafting of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885.

## **9. CA PROJECT TEAM**

- 9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Marino Cardelli assisted by Gary Baddeley and Annabel Johns. The report was written by Marino Cardelli. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Gemma Bowen. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Marino Cardelli. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

## **10. STORAGE AND CURATION**

- 10.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices in Kemble whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project. 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.



## 11. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 3 March 2020

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020a *Land East of South Lawn Swinbrook Oxfordshire, Archaeological Evaluation*, CA typescript report **CR0280\_1**

CA 2020b *Land East of South Lawn Swinbrook Oxfordshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation*

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2009 *South Lawn Farm, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*, JMHS Project No: **2122**

Oswald. A. 1975 *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*. Oxford. British Archaeological Reports, British Series, **14**



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

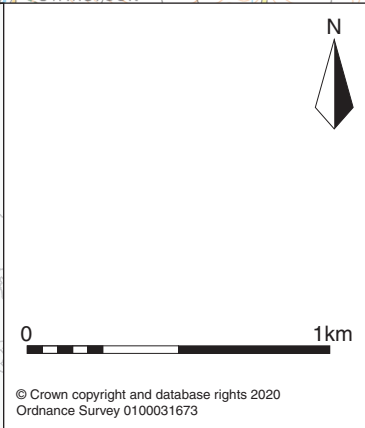
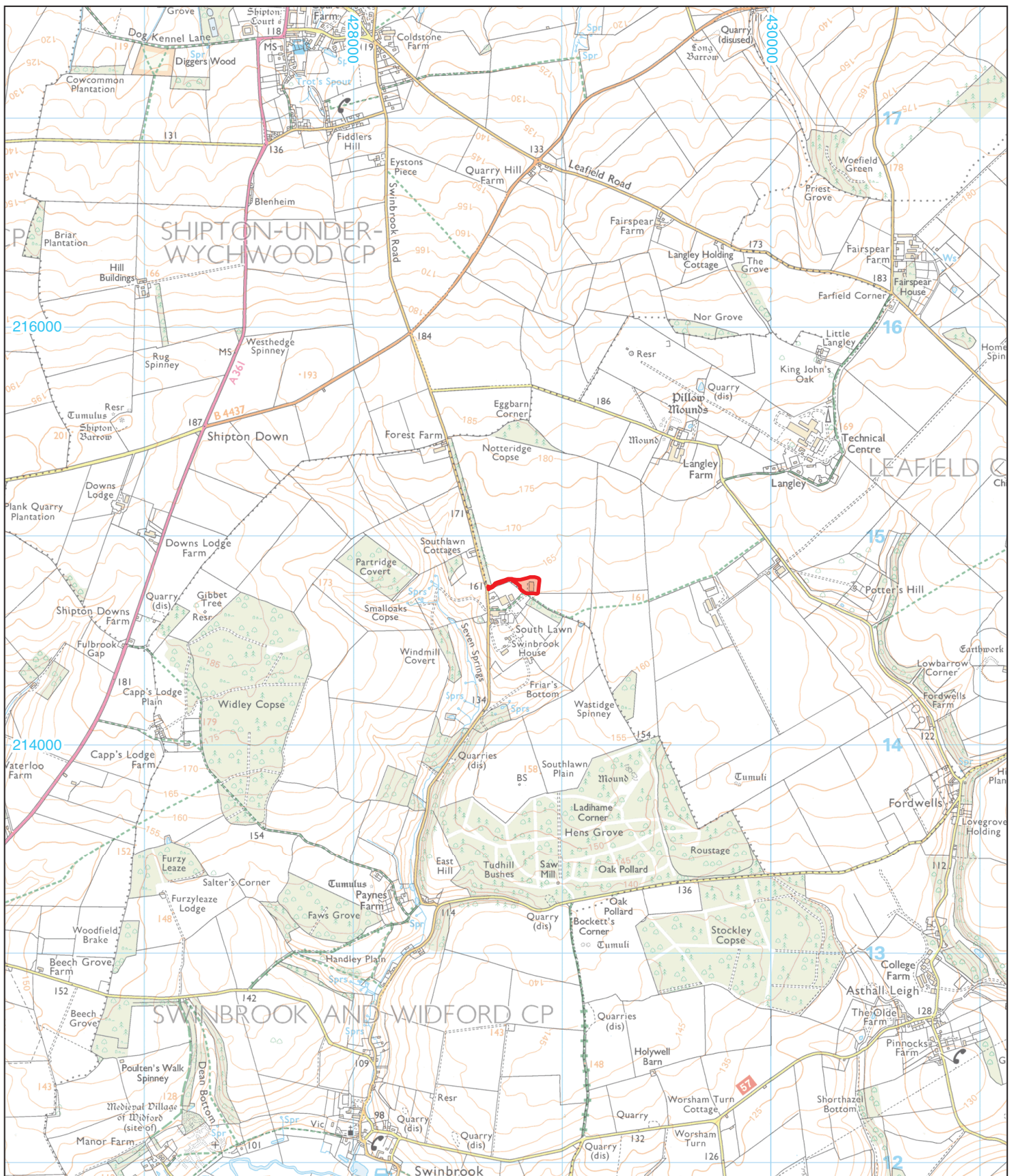
Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
1000	layer		Topsoil. Mid brownish silty clay with small sub-angular stone as inclusions		
1001	Layer		Subsoil. Mid reddish-brown silty clay with frequent limestone cobbles		
1002	Layer		Natural Substrate. Orange-brown sandy clay with limestone brash inclusions		
1003	Cut		Linear ditch running N-S. Moderately steep sides, relatively flat base	Ditch A	
1004	Fill	1003	Single fill of ditch. Mid-orange brown silty clay and gravel as inclusions	Ditch A	
1005	Cut		Linear ditch running N-S. Moderately steep sides, relatively flat base	Ditch A	
1006	Fill	1005	Lower fill of ditch. Light-mid orange brown silty clay and sub-angular as enclosure	Ditch A	
1007	Fill	1005	Uppermost fill of ditch. Mid-grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone as inclusions	Ditch A	
1008	Cut		E-W running furrow cutting ditch 1010	Furrow 1008	
1009	Fill	1008	Fill of furrow. Mid-grey brown silty clay	Furrow 1008	
1010	Cut		Linear ditch running N-S. Moderately steep sides, relatively flat base	Ditch A	
1011	Fill	1010	Single fill of ditch. Mid-brownish brown silty clay with occasional limestone as inclusions	Ditch A	EC16-C19
1012	Cut		E-W running furrow	Furrow 1008	
1013	Fill	1012	Single natural fill of furrow. Mid-grey brown silty clay	Furrow 1008	


## APPENDIX B: FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1004	Iron	Nail	1	4	-
1009	Iron	Nails, horseshoe	3	211	-
1011	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem	1	6	LC16-LC19
	Shell	Oyster	1	14	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land East of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2020 on land to the east of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire.</p> <p>A ditch, identified by a preceding evaluation, was identified in the centre of the excavated area and was found to contain artefactual material of early 17th-century to 19th-century date. This ditch probably represents a post-medieval field boundary and correlates closely to a cropmark visible on aerial imagery, although is not depicted on any available historic cartographic sources.</p>	
Project dates	26-28 February 2020	
Project type	Archaeological Excavation	
Previous work	Archaeological Evaluation (CA 2020b)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	To the east of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire	
Study area	450m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates	428797 214785	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Marino Cardelli	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	none	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		
Paper	Oxfordshire Museum Service	Field recording sheets
Digital	Archaeology Data Service	Digital photos, etc.
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2020 <i>Land East of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire, Archaeological Excavation</i>. CA typescript report <b>CR0340_1</b></p>		





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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land East of South Lawn, Swinbrook,  
 Oxfordshire

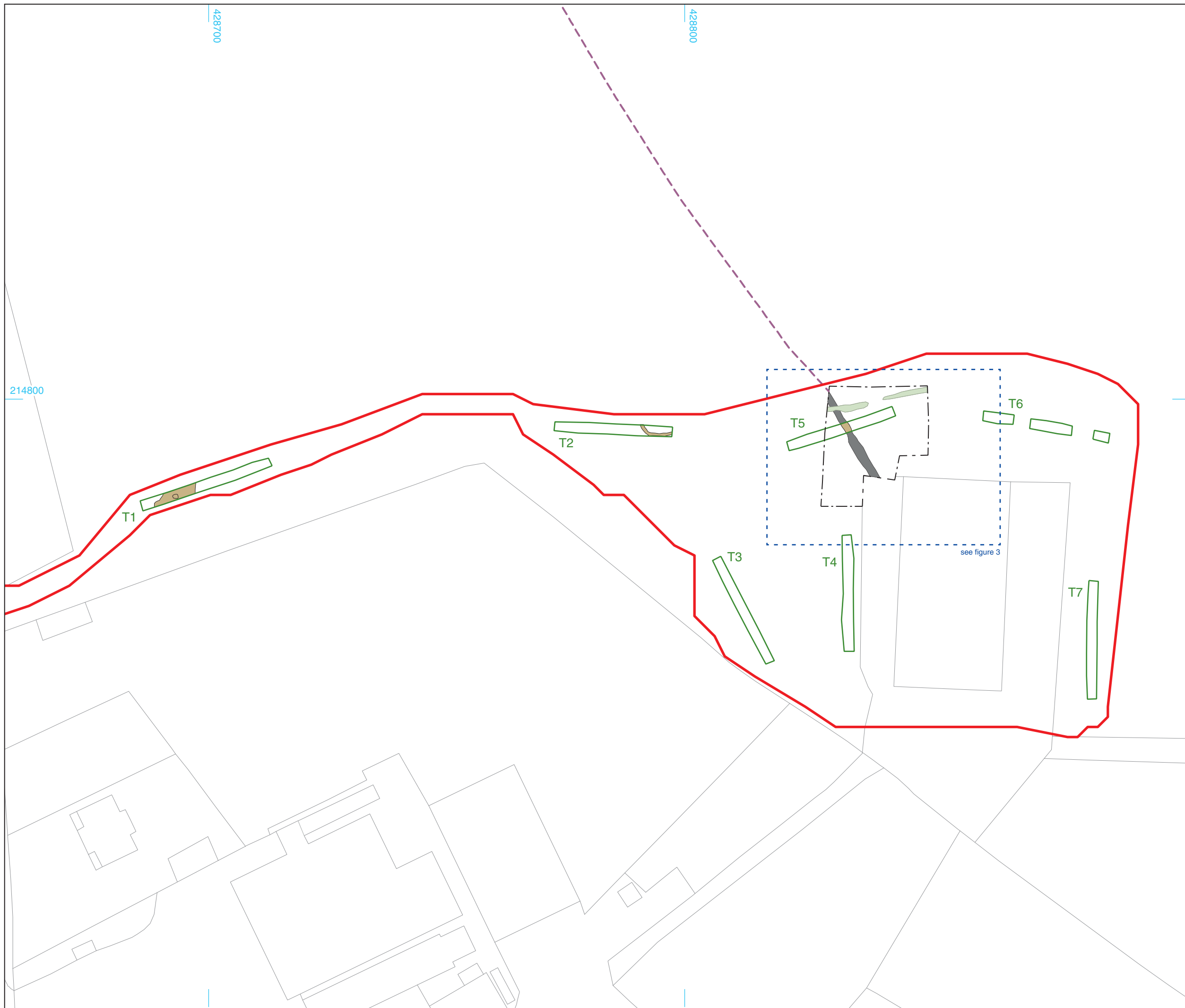
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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DRAWN BY GB	PROJECT NO. CR0340	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 03/03/2020	
APPROVED BY MC	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	<b>1</b>





- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Archaeological feature
- Furrow
- Previous evaluation trench (CA 2020a)
- Previous archaeological feature (CA 2020a)
- Cropmarks transcribed from aerial imagery



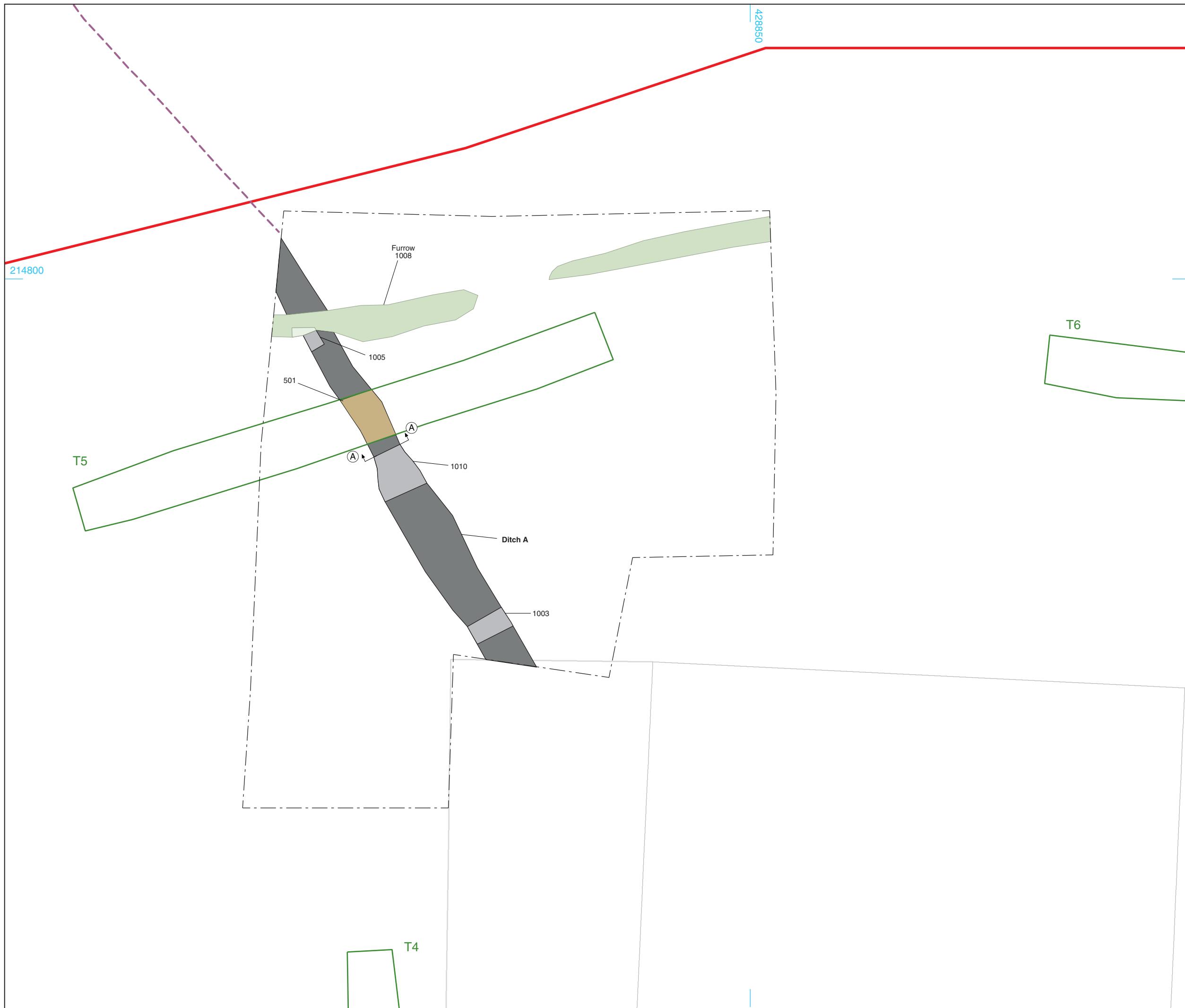
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land East of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing the current excavation area, previous evaluation trenches and cropmarks

<small>DRAWN BY</small> <b>AW</b>	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> <b>CR0340</b>	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> <b>2</b>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> <b>DJB</b>	<small>DATE</small> <b>03/03/2020</b>	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> <b>MC</b>	<small>SCALE@A3</small> <b>1:750</b>	



- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)
- Furrow (excavated / unexcavated)
- Previous evaluation trench (CA 2020a)
- Previous archaeological feature (CA 2020a)
- Cropmarks transcribed from aerial imagery
- A A Location of section



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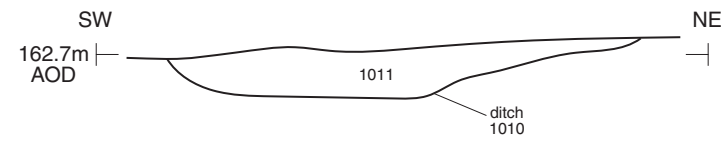
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land East of South Lawn, Swinbrook, Oxfordshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The excavation area, showing identified archaeological features

<small>DRAWN BY</small> GA, AW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR0340	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 3
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 03/03/2020	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> MC	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:150	



Section AA



Ditch 1010, looking north-west (1m scale)



The excavation area, looking east (1m scales)

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FIGURE TITLE  
Section and photographs

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