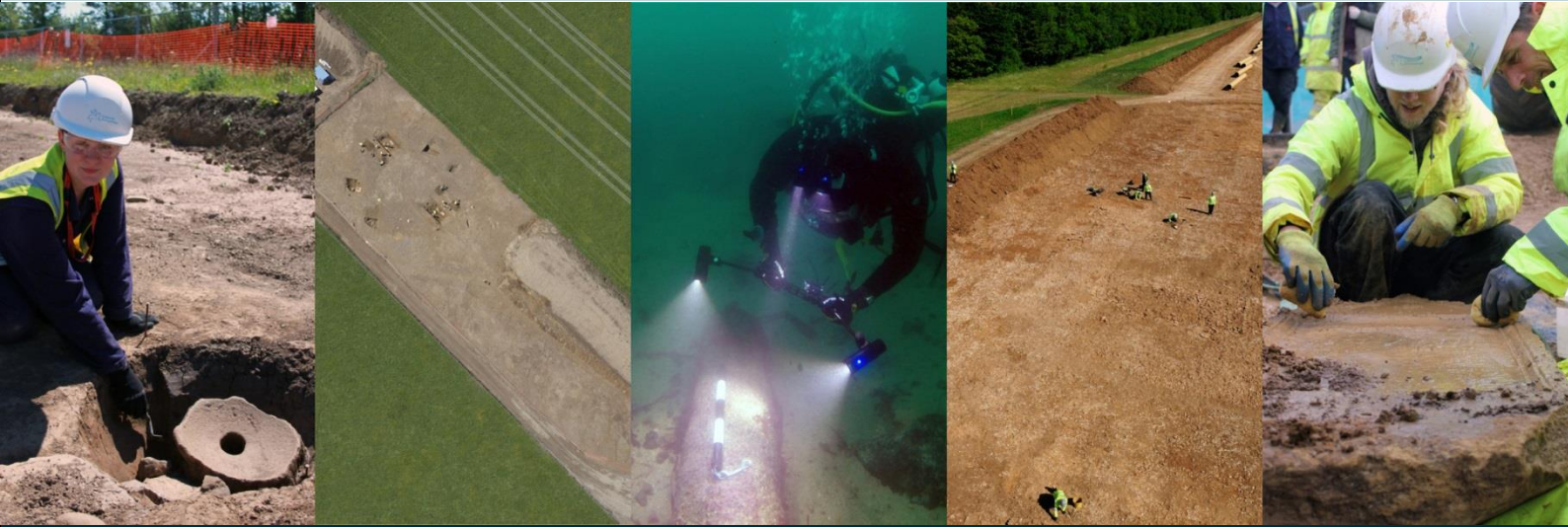


Land at Upper Stanbridge Farm Sherston Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Acorn Property Group

CA Project: CR0466
CA Report: CR0466_1

December 2020



Land at Upper Stanbridge Farm Sherston Wiltshire

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Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771 022	Milton Keynes Unit 8, The IO Centre Fingle Drive Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT t. 01908 564 660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347 630	Exeter Unit 1, Clyst Units Cofton Road Marsh Barton Exeter EX2 8QW t. 01392 573 970	Suffolk Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ t. 01449 900 120
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk				

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land at Upper Stanbridge Farm
Location:	Sherston, Wiltshire
NGR:	384957 186224
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	26 – 30 October 2020
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum
Site Code:	USFS20

In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Upper Stanbridge Farm, Sherston, Wiltshire. A total of 12 trenches were excavated.

Two flint flakes of broad prehistoric date were recovered from the fills of two large ditches identified in the central-western part of the site. Two further large, albeit undated ditches, were also identified in this part of the site. Based on the currently available evidence it would appear likely that these ditches form parts of a pair of ditch-like features, which may form part of a substantial land boundary or similar.

Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural activity, comprising the ploughed-out remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, was identified in the north-western half of the site.

Two sherds of pottery of late 18th to 19th-century date were recovered from the fill of a construction cut for a stone lined drain/culvert identified in the south-eastern part of the site.

Two undated ditches were identified in trenches excavated within the central-northern and central-western parts of the site. The precise function of these features remains unclear but the absence of artefactual and faunal material from the fills of these features suggests that they lay at an appreciable distance from any areas of former settlement and are therefore most likely to have been associated with agricultural activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Upper Stanbridge Farm, Sherston, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 384957 186224; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Acorn Property Group.
- 1.2. The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a forthcoming planning application for residential and associated development of the site, which will be made to Wiltshire Council (WC).
- 1.3. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2020) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, WC. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4. The proposed development is approximately 3.5ha in extent and comprises a single agricultural field. The site is located on the north-western edge of the village of Sherston. It is bounded to the south-east by a school playing field and tennis courts, associated with Sherston Primary School, to the south by Green Lane, to the east by modern residential development fronting on to Knockdown Lane and Saxon Close and to the north and west by further agricultural land.
- 1.5. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped and observed as limestone of the Forest Marble Formation, formed during the Jurassic period (BGS 2020). The natural substrate, comprising compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash, was identified in all the excavated trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The proposed development area has been subject to Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2018) and geophysical survey (Substrata 2020), the results of these assessments are summarised below.

Prehistoric and Roman

- 2.2. The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) of Sherston was produced in 2004 (McMahon 2004), at which time there was very little known of activity in the area pre-dating the medieval period. However, some tentative evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity was recorded from aerial photographs within the study area by 2010. This includes two potential Bronze Age round barrows located c. 360m south-west and c. 690m west of the site respectively. A suggested settlement c. 900m north-west of the site is associated with possible cropmarks of a former field system, which likely dates to between the middle Bronze Age and the Roman period, based on the form of the cropmarks recorded. A trackway, also observed as a cropmark on aerial photographs, of possible prehistoric date has also been identified c. 440m to the north-east of the site.
- 2.3. A Roman burial and villa site have been recorded c. 630m to the north-east of the site. The burial was that of a child in a stone sarcophagus, containing a sheet lead box, with further material associated with the burial found during field walking and ploughing (CA 2018). The adjacent villa site was excavated in the late 1980s, and recorded as a late Roman villa with at least five phases of occupation. Evidence of post-villa occupation and industrial activity were also recorded. However, there is no definitive evidence of extensive activity or settlement in the area dating to the prehistoric or Roman periods, with the route of the nearest Roman roads through this area of Wiltshire is thought to be over 3km to the east of the site.

Medieval

- 2.4. A Scheduled medieval earthen bank and ditch, which has been interpreted as a defensive earthwork, is located just to the south of the site (ibid.). Former earthworks, shown on the First Edition OS Map to the west of the parish church are also believed to have been associated with this feature, although they have since been levelled. The HER tentatively links this feature to a battle posited to have been fought in the area in 1016. Alternative suggestions for the origin of this feature include the position of a former Norman castle, or the remnants of the earlier medieval village (McMahon 2004). However, the form and location of the surviving earthwork appears to be more indicative of a Norman castle/ringwork; perhaps associated with a period of unrest in the reign of King Stephen in the mid-12th century (CA 2018).
- 2.5. The first written record of Sherston is from 896, when it was referred to as 'Scorranston' (ibid.). It was later named 'Sorstain' representing Sherston Magna in

the Domesday survey of 1086, which lists a church and two mills within the village (one is recorded at Upper Stanbridge Farm, c. 400m to the west of the Site), potentially focussed on a manor.

- 2.6. A number of sources suggest that Sherston was the site of a battle in 1016, between the local Saxon warrior Rattlebone who fought for King Edmund Ironside, and the Danish King Cnut (*ibid.*). Local folklore suggests that Rattlebone was heavily wounded, but continued to fight with a stone tile held over his abdomen. The possible site of this battle is postulated to have taken place c. 740m to the south-east of the current site, although it has also been suggested that it took place in Hampshire; close to the border with Wiltshire (*ibid.*).
- 2.7. The present parish church (Holy Cross Church, c. 350 south-east of the site) originated in the 12th century, although there have been numerous additions and alterations since then, and the present church may have been constructed on the site of the earlier church mentioned in the Domesday survey. This appears to have been located at the northern edge of the early medieval and later, the medieval settlement, which encompassed much of the south-western extent of the present village. The settlement grew to have borough status and a weekly market, until a fire caused widespread damage in the village in 1511. The village recovered after several years of rebuilding on the former burgage plots, but the market ceased (Macmahon 2004). Further, isolated evidence of medieval settlement has also been recorded beyond the medieval core of Sherston, including possible crofts, c. 970m east and c. 530m east of the current site, and a deserted medieval settlement c. 750m to the east of the site.
- 2.8. Evidence of possible medieval (or later) ploughing has been recorded in the northern half of the site comprising earthworks of ridge and furrow visible in historic aerial photographs. However, these earthworks were noted to have largely been levelled by 1999, and were not visible during visit to the site.

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.9. Beyond the gradual expansion of the village and the reconstruction of buildings following the fire, there was little notable change during the post-medieval period in Sherston. The Historic Landscape Characterisation of the area undertaken by Hoyle (1998) identifies that much of the rural landscape around the village was enclosed from the mid-16th century onwards.

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- 2.10. The land use of the site and the surrounding area is given in the Tithe map of Sherston Magna (the former parish name), dated to 1839. At this time, the village still focussed largely on the medieval roads through its centre, and the current site is under arable along with many of the adjacent fields. The Site was a component of a larger field, with the northern, west, and part of the southern field boundaries shown in their present form.
- 2.11. There is no change to the site until the construction of Sherston Primary School following the most recent historic OS map available (1983) adjacent to the eastern boundary of the current site, and modern residential development to the east of Knockdown Lane, resulting in the present location of field boundaries.
- 2.12. Based on the record of plough marks within the site, and the available historic mapping, it is reasonable to suggest that the site has lain within the agricultural hinterland of Sherston since at least the medieval period.

Geophysical survey

- 2.13. A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken in 2020 (Substrata 2020). Eleven geophysical anomalies were detected, with ten of these characterised as representing possible archaeology.
- 2.14. A consistent pattern of parallel linears across the geophysical plot have been interpreted as representing the remains of ridge and furrow agriculture. Other linear and localised anomalies encountered by the survey may be of archaeological potential, but on balance most are probably more prosaic remnants of modern agricultural practice and natural geological response (Substrata 2020).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Wiltshire Council 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* (MHCLG 2019). A further objective of the project is to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive (see Section 7).

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- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation is to determine if any remains associated with the medieval period enter into the proposed development site boundary. Specifically noting the Scheduled earthen bank and ditch, Sherston medieval village and possible 1016 battle location, all of which are located to the south of the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 12 trenches, each measuring 50m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 3 was moved slightly from its original position, as set out within the WSI, due to the presence of overhead services with the approval of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. 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.
- 4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Wiltshire Heritage Museum for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection, under accession number DZSWS:28-2020. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).

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- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.
- 5.2. The natural substrate, comprising compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash, was encountered in all of the excavated trenches. In Trenches 10, 11, and 12 the natural substrate was overlain by a sterile silty clay deposit (1003, 1103 and 1203 respectively), averaging 0.6m in thickness, that appeared to represent an episode of colluviation. This deposit, and the natural substrate in the remaining trenches, was overlain by between 0.1m and 0.34m thickness of subsoil. In Trenches 2, 6, 9 and 10 the subsoil was cut by a series of north-west/south-east-aligned plough furrows, all of which correlate closely to linear anomalies depicted by the geophysical survey (Substrata 2020). The fills of the furrows were subsequently sealed by an average of 0.25m thickness of topsoil.
- 5.3. Archaeological features (excluding those relating to ridge and furrow cultivation) were identified in a total of six trenches.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 & 5)

- 5.4. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 208/210 was identified in the western half of the trench (Fig. 5, section DD). It measured 1.01m in width and 0.34m in depth, had an open 'U'-shaped profile and contained a single undated fill 207/209.
- 5.5. North/south aligned ditch 206 (Fig. 3, section AA) was identified towards the western end of the trench. It measured more than 1.8m in length, 4.37m in width and 1m in depth, had an irregular flat-based profile and contained a series of four fills, 212, 205, 203 and 204. A single flint flake of broad prehistoric date was recovered from the 2nd fill of this ditch, 205. Ditch 206 was not identified by the preceding geophysical survey, although it would appear to be a continuation of ditches 503, 611 and 802, identified in Trenches 5, 6 and 8 respectively.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

- 5.6. North/south aligned ditch 503 was identified towards the south-western end of the trench and remained unexcavated. It correlates closely to a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey and appears to be a continuation of ditches 206, 611 and 802, identified in Trenches 2, 6 and 8 respectively.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 5.7. Broadly north/south aligned ditch 611 (Fig. 3, section BB) was identified towards the north-western end of the trench. It measured more than 1.8m in length, 4m in width and 1.35m in depth, had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base and contained a series of six fills, 612, 613, 615, 614, 616 and 617. A single flint flake of broad prehistoric date was recovered from the latest fill of this ditch, 617. Ditch 611 correlates closely to a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey and appears to be a continuation of ditches 206, 503 and 802, identified in Trenches 2, 5 and 8 respectively.

Trench 7 (Figs. 2 & 4)

- 5.8. Broadly east/west aligned construction cut 703 for stone-lined drain/culvert 704 was identified towards the centre of the trench (Fig. 4). Two sherds of pottery of late 18th to 19th-century date, an iron nail and a fragment of post-medieval glass were recovered the fill of this construction cut, 707. Drain/culvert correlates closely with part of a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey, which corresponds with a field boundary depicted on the First Edition 1886 Ordnance Survey (OS) map.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

- 5.9. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 802 was identified towards the centre of the trench and remained unexcavated. It correlates to a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey and appears to be a continuation of ditches 206, 503 and 611, identified in Trenches 2, 5 and 8 respectively.

Trench 10 (Fig. 4)

- 5.10. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 1004 was identified towards the centre of the trench (Fig. 4, section CC). It measured more than 2m in width, 0.9m in width and 0.35m in depth, had a shallow 'U'-shaped profile and contained a single undated fill, 1005.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material was hand-recovered from six deposits (ditch and furrow fills, and the fill of a construction cut for a stone-lined drain/culvert). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric and post-medieval/modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric and fabric codes given in the text in parenthesis, and in Appendix B, have been devised for the purpose of this report.

Pottery: Post-medieval/modern

- 6.2. A total of eight sherds (73.7g) was retrieved. Post-medieval ware types are glazed earthenware (GRE) from fill 707 of truncation 708, dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries, and Creamware (CRM, mid to late 18th century) from fill 606 of furrow 605. Also present are porcelain (POR, mid 18th to 19th century) from furrow fill 606 and refined whiteware (TRP, RWH, late 18th to 19th century) from fill 604 of furrow 603 and construction cut fill 707.

Lithics

- 6.3. Two broken flint flakes (3g) were recorded – a distal fragment from fill 205 of ditch 206 and a proximal fragment from fill 617 of ditch 611. These are only broadly dateable to the prehistoric period.

Other finds

- 6.4. The base of a hexagonal bottle (18g) in pale blue glass, from fill 707 of construction cut 703 is likely to be post-medieval in date.
- 6.5. Fill 707 also produced an iron nail (48g) with a square cross-section, which cannot be closely dated.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. The evaluation has identified a small number of archaeological features within the proposed development area; the majority of which were identified in Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 8, located in the central-western part of the site.
- 7.2. Where linear features were encountered there was a good correlation with the results of the geophysical survey (Substrata 2020). However, a number of ditches (e.g. 206, 208/210 and 1004) observed within Trenches 2 and 10 were not identified by the geophysical survey. The targeting of a linear anomaly, probably representing a former

field boundary identified by the geophysical survey, in Trenches 6 and 8 equally did not reveal a corresponding feature, although evidence of root disturbance observed within the subsoil in these trenches may indicate the presence of a former hedgeline and explain this anomaly.

- 7.3. Despite the close proximity of known medieval settlement, earthworks and the site of a postulated battle of 1016AD, no evidence of medieval activity, excepting the ploughed-out remains of ridge and furrow agriculture, was exposed by the current evaluation. Overall the results of the evaluation suggest that the proposed development site was in agricultural usage from the medieval period onwards.

?Prehistoric

- 7.4. Two flint flakes of broad prehistoric date were recovered from the fills of ditches 206 and 611, identified in Trenches 2 and 6 respectively. Ditches 503 and 802, identified in Trenches 5 and 8 respectively, appear to form part of the same feature on current evidence, by virtue of their similar widths and alignments. The function of these ditches is difficult to interpret due primarily to the absence of further prehistoric activity either within the site or its immediate environs (see *archaeological background* above). However, the size of the ditches suggests that they may form part of a substantial land boundary or similar feature.

Post-medieval/modern

- 7.5. Two sherds of pottery of late 18th to 19th-century date, an iron nail and a fragment of post-medieval glass were recovered the fill of this construction cut, 707, for stone lined drain/culvert 704. This drain/culvert correlates closely with part of a linear anomaly depicted by the preceding geophysical survey which is coincident with a field boundary depicted on the First Edition 1886 Ordnance Survey (OS) map.

Undated

- 7.6. Ditches 208/210 and 1004, identified in Trenches 2 and 10 respectively, remained undated but are likely to pre-date the modern period as neither ditch appears to correlate to any field boundary depicted by available historic mapping. The precise function of these features remains unclear; however the absence of artefactual and faunal material within the fills of these features suggests that they lie at an appreciable distance from areas of settlement and are therefore most likely represent the remains of field boundaries or were associated with other small-scale agricultural activities.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon and Liam Wilson, assisted by Chris Brown and Majbritt Bengtson. This report was written by Liam Wilson. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The report illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The project archive has been compiled by Liam Wilson, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson and Steven Sheldon.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
2	203	Fill	206	Fill	1st fill of ditch 206. Mid brown red silty clay.	>1.8	4.37	0.44	
2	204	Fill	206	Fill	2nd fill of ditch. Mid grey brown silty clay	>1.8	2.75	0.42	
2	205	Fill	206	Fill	3rd fill of ditch. Dark brown grey silty clay, occasional stone fragments	>1.8	1.9	0.26	
2	206	Cut		Cut	N/S aligned ditch	>1.8	4.37	1	
2	207	Fill	207	Fill	Single fill of ditch 207. Mid grey limestone in Mid yellow brown clay silt	>1.8	1.01	0.34	
2	208	Cut		Cut of ditch	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch	>1.8	1.01	0.34	
2	209	Fill	209	Fill	Single fill of ditch 209. Mid grey limestone in Mid yellow brown clay silt	>0.8 1	0.41	0.26	
2	210	Cut		Cut	Terminal of NE/SW aligned ditch	>0.8 1	0.41	0.26	
2	211	Void		Void	Void	-	-	-	
2	212	Fill	206	Fill	4th fill of ditch 206. Light yellow blue silty clay	>2	0.6	0.1	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
3	301	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
4	402	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
5	502	Fill	503	Ditch fill	Reddish brown silty clay	>2m	2m	N.A	
5	503	Cut		ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch	>2m	2m	N.A	
5	504	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
6	602	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
6	603	Cut		Cut	N/S furrow	>1.8	2	>0.01	
6	604	Fill	603	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay	>1.8	2	>0.01	LC18-C19
6	605	Cut		Cut	N/S furrow	>1.8	2	>0.01	
6	606	Fill	605	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay	>1.8	2	>0.01	LC18-C19
6	607	Cut		Cut	N/S furrow	>1.8	2	>0.01	
6	608	Fill	607	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay	>1.8	2	>0.01	
6	609	Cut		Cut	N/S furrow	>1.8	2	>0.01	
6	610	Fill	609	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay	>1.8	2	>0.01	
6	611	Cut		Cut	N/S aligned Ditch	>1.8	4	1.35	

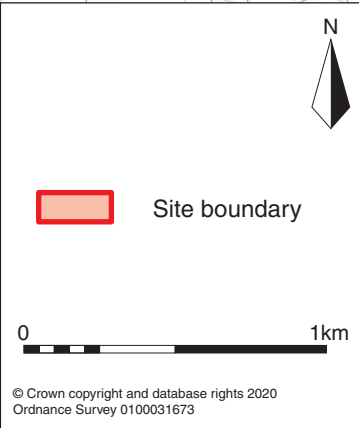
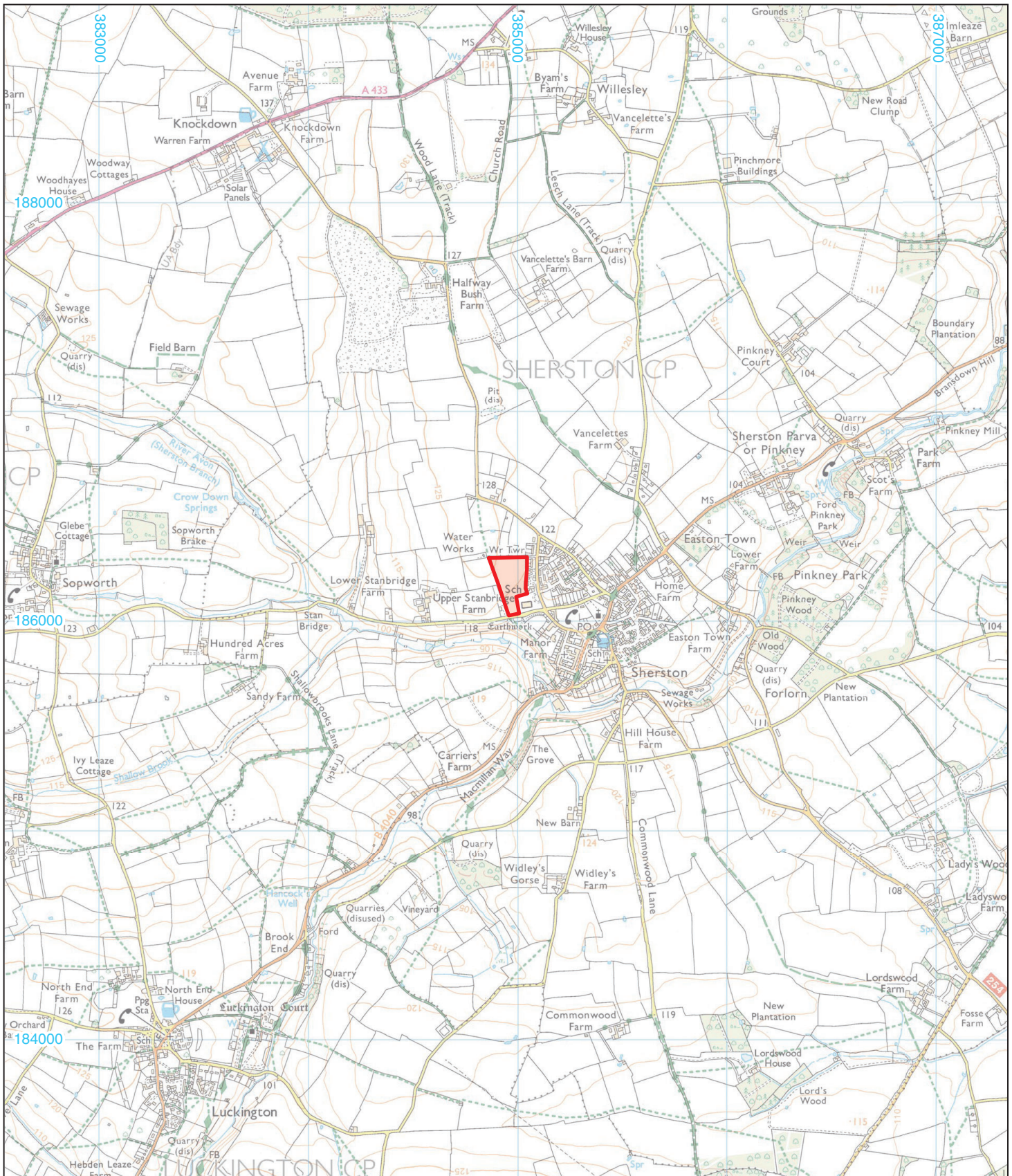
6	612	Fill	611		1 st fill of ditch 611. Mid grey brown silty clay	>1.8	0.91	0.47	
6	613	Fill	611	Fill of ditch	2 nd fill of ditch 611. Limestone brash in Light yellow silty clay matrix	>1.8	1.95	0.54	
6	614	Fill	611	Fill of ditch	4 th fill of ditch 611. Light blue grey silty clay	>1.8	1.31	0.43	
6	615	Fill	611	Fill of ditch	3 rd fill of ditch 611. Mid grey brown silty clay	>1.8	0.97	0.17	
6	616	Fill	611	Fill of ditch	5 th fill of ditch 611. Limestone brash in mid brown silty clay matrix	>1.8	4.1	0.66	
6	617	Fill	611	Fill of ditch	6 th fill of ditch 611. Mid brown silty clay	>1.8	3.6	0.32	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
7	702	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
7	703	Cut		Cut	Construction cut for drain/culvert 704. Vertical sides, flat base	>1.8	0.53	0.65	
7	704	Drain	703	Stone drain/culvert	E/W aligned limestone drain/culvert	>1.8	0.53	0.29	
7	705	Fill	704	Fill of culvert	Mid grey brown silty clay	>1.8	0.25	0.19	
7	706	Fill	704	Fill of culvert cut	Dark brown grey clayey silt	>1.8	0.53	0.29	
7	707	Fill	703	Fill	Dark grey brown clayey silt	>1.8	2.18	0.31	LC18-C19
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
8	802	Cut		Ditch	NE-SW aligned ditch	>2m	3.5m	N/A	
8	803	Fill	802	Fill	Single exposed fill of ditch 802. Mid grey brown silty clay.	>2m	3.5m	N/A	
8	804	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
9	902	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
10	1002	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
10	1003	Layer		?colluvium	Sterile mid brownish red silty clay	>12.3	>1.8	0.8	
10	1004	Cut		Cut	NW/SE aligned ditch, concave base	>2m	0.9	0.35	
10	1005	Fill	1004	Fill	Single fill of ditch 1004. Yellow grey silty clay	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
11	1102	Layer		?colluvium	Sterile mid brownish red silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.8	
12	1103	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.25	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	mid yellow brown silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.15	
12	1202	Layer		?colluvium	Sterile mid brownish red silty clay	>50	>1.8	0.8	
12	1203	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact yellow-grey clay with frequent patches and bands of limestone brash	>50	>1.8	>0.01	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
205	Flint	Flake		1	1	-
604	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	TRP	4	2	LC18-C19
606	Post-medieval pottery	Creamware	CRM	1	0.7	MC18-C19
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Porcelain	POR	1	2	
617	Flint	Flake		1	2	-
707	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GRE	1	68	LC18-C19
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Refined whiteware	RWH	1	1	
	Post-medieval glass	Bottle		1	18	
	Iron	Nail		1	48	
	Industrial waste			1	5	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

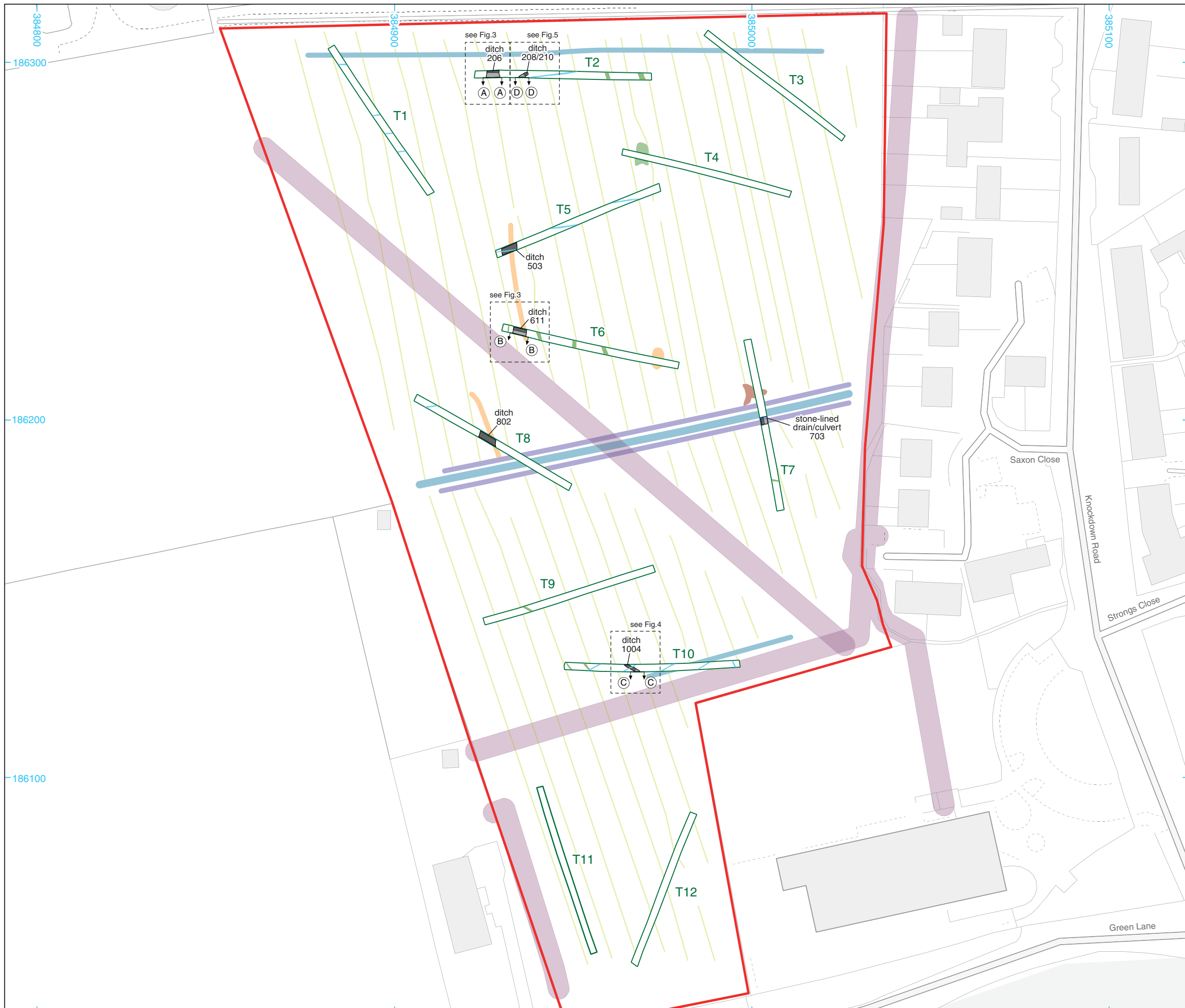
PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at Upper Stanbridge Farm	
Short description	<p>In October 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Upper Stanbridge Farm, Sherston, Wiltshire. A total of 12 trenches were excavated. Two flint flakes of broad prehistoric date were recovered from the fills of two large ditches identified in the central-western part of the site. Two further large, albeit undated ditches, were also identified in this part of the site. Based on the currently available evidence it would appear likely that these ditches form parts of a pair of ditch-like features, which may form part of a substantial land boundary or similar.</p> <p>Evidence of medieval and/or post-medieval agricultural activity, comprising the ploughed-out remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, was identified in the north-western half of the site. Two sherds of pottery of late 18th to 19th-century date were recovered from the fill of a construction cut for a stone lined drain/culvert identified in the south-eastern part of the site. Two undated ditches were identified in trenches excavated within the central-northern and central-western parts of the site. The precise function of these features remains unclear but the absence of artefactual and faunal material from the fills of these features suggests that they lay at an appreciable distance from any areas of former settlement and are therefore most likely to have been associated with agricultural activities.</p>	
Project dates	26-30 October 2020	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2018) Geophysical survey (Substrata 2020)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land at Upper Stanbridge Farm, Sherston, Wiltshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	3.5ha	
Site co-ordinates	384957 186224	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson/Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Liam Wilson	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content:
Physical	Wiltshire Heritage Museum/ DZSWS:28-2020	Pottery, worked flint, CBM, fe nail and glass
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum/ DZSWS:28-2020	Context sheets, trench recording forms, photographic registers and permatrace drawings
Digital	Wiltshire Heritage Museum/ DZSWS:28-2020	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 <i>Land at Upper Stanbridge Farm, Sherston, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR0466_1		




Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

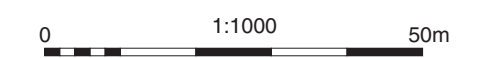
PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Upper Stanbridge Farm,
 Sherston, Wiltshire
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan
DRAWN BY EE **PROJECT NO.** CR0466 **FIGURE NO.**
CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 04/11/2020
APPROVED BY SS **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000 **1**

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Structure (excavated/unexcavated)
- Furrow
- Field drain
- LV overhead 3m buffer
- Section location

- Geophysical Survey Results**
Substrata Survey (2020)
- Potential archaeology**
- Likely positive
 - Possible negative
 - Possible positive
 - Possible dipolar
 - Possible, positive spread
- Potential cultivation**
- Cultivation / plough



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[Andover 01264 347630](tel:01264347630)
[Cirencester 01285 771022](tel:01285771022)
[Exeter 01392 573970](tel:01392573970)
[Milton Keynes 01908 564660](tel:01908564660)
[Suffolk 01449 900120](tel:01449900120)
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Upper Stanbridge Farm, Sherston, Wiltshire

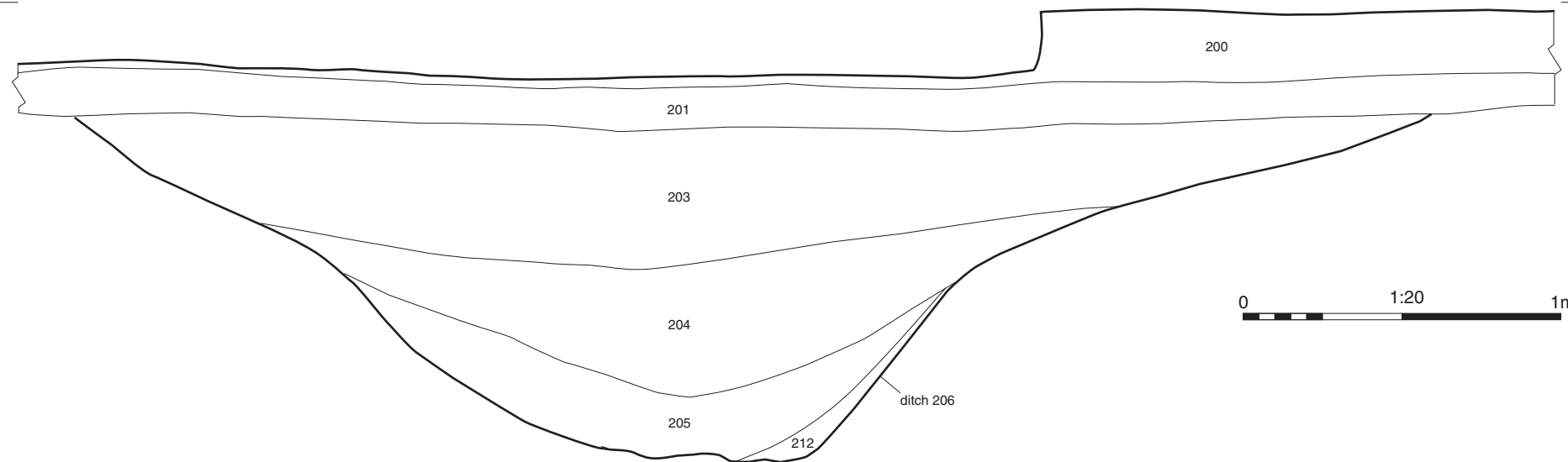
FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	CR0466	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/11/2020	
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:1,000	2

Section AA

E
123.6m
AOD

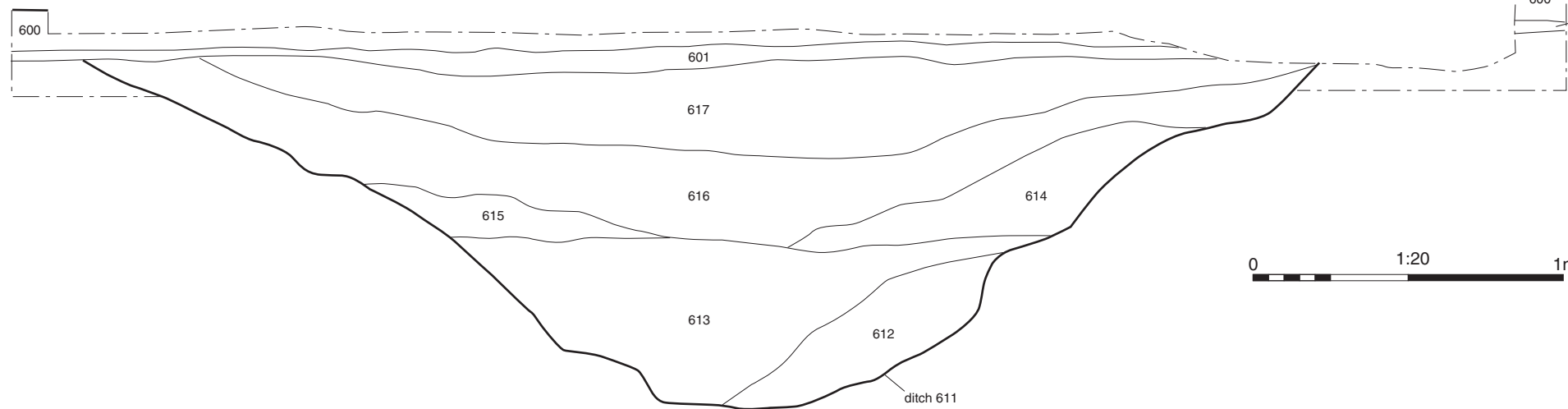
W



Section BB

SE
122.7m
AOD

NW



Ditch 206, looking south-west (1m scale)



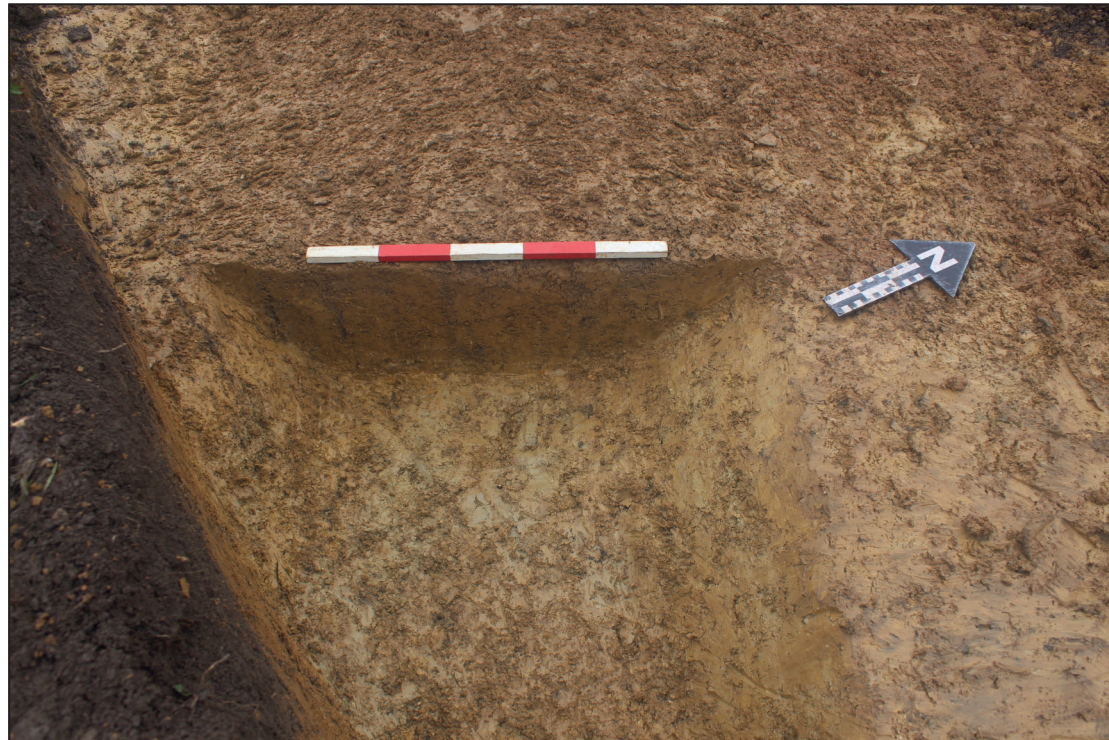
Ditch 611, looking south-west (1m scale)

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Upper Stanbridge Farm,
 Sherston, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trenches 2 and 6, sections and
 photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	CR0466	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/11/2020	3
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:20	

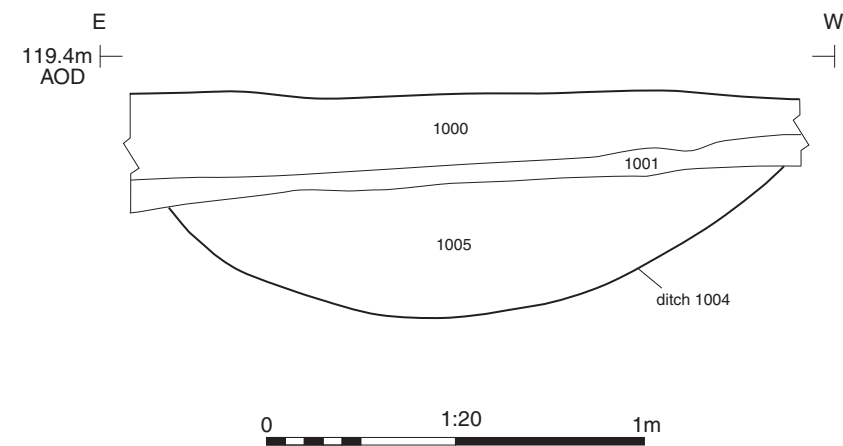


Ditch 1004, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



Stone-lined drain/culvert 704, looking north-east (1m scale)

Section CC



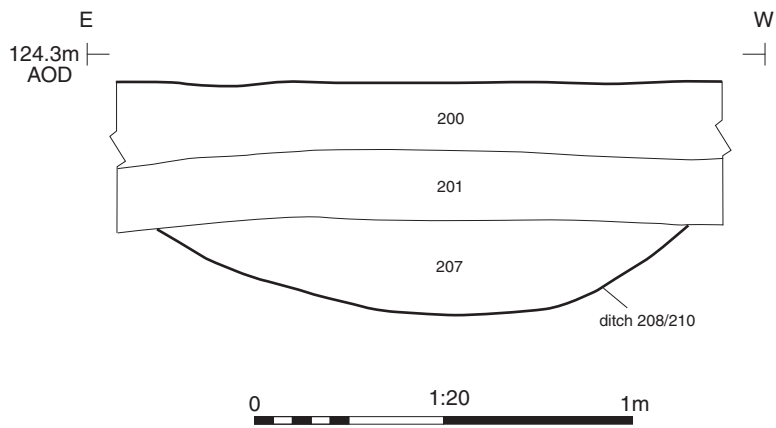

Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
**Trenches 7 and 10, section and
 photographs**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	04/11/2020	4
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A3	1:20	

Section DD



Ditch 208/210, looking south-west (0.5m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 573970
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land at Upper Stanbridge Farm,
 Sherston, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2, section and photograph

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APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A4	1:20	

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 1, Clyst Units
Cofton Road
Marsh Barton
Exeter
EX2 8QW

t: 01392 573970

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

