

**Brislington Meadows
Brislington
Bristol**

Archaeological Evaluation

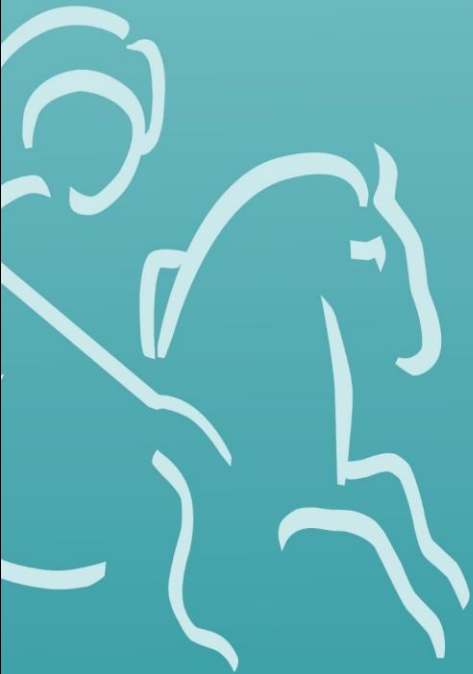


for:
CampbellReith

on behalf of:
Homes England

CA Project: CR0810
CA Report: CR0810_1
BMGA Accession No.: BRSMG: 2021.29
OASIS ID: cotswold2-428967

February 2022



Brislington Meadows Brislington Bristol

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Brislington Meadows
Location:	Brislington, Bristol
NGR:	362639 171085
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	15–26 November 2021
OASIS ID:	cotswold2-428967
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession Number:	BRSMG: 2021.29
Site Code:	BRIZ 21

In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol. A total of 26 trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified a system of Roman enclosure ditches in the south-western part of the site, broadly dateable to the 2nd to 4th centuries. The presence of industrial waste, including a crucible fragment, and an assemblage of glass beads and glass waste may indicate small-scale industrial activity on the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol (centred at NGR: 362639 171085; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for CampbellReith, who were acting on behalf of Homes England.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for residential development of the site, which will be made to Bristol City Council (BCC).
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined through consultation between The Environment Partnership (TEP) and Peter Insole, Principal Historic Environment Officer, BCC. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2021) and approved by Peter Insole.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also undertaken in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 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

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 8.5ha in extent. The site currently comprises five pastoral fields divided by mature hedgerows. It is bounded to the north by the grounds of Broomhill Junior School and the residential gardens off Belroyal Avenue, to the south-east by Bonville Road, to the west by allotment gardens and School Road beyond, and to the south by the parkland of Victory Park. The site lies at approximately 70m AOD in the north-east, with the ground sloping downwards to c. 55m AOD in the south-west.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as sandstone of the Farrington and Barren Red Members, which formed in the Carboniferous Period (BGS 2021). Mixed deposits of plated sandstone bedrock, sandstone marl and red clay silt were identified as the natural geological substrate during the evaluation.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site has previously been the subject of a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (DBA; TEP 2020) and geophysical survey (WA 2020). The following is a summary of these reports.
- 2.2. Limited finds of prehistoric date have been recorded within the vicinity of the site (TEP 2020, 16). These include find spots of Lower Palaeolithic stone tools at St Anne's Park Estate, c. 1.1km to the north-west, a Neolithic greenstone axe, and a flint assemblage recovered c. 1.1km to the north-west (ibid.).
- 2.3. Roman activity in the vicinity of the site is more widely attested, with settlement activity recorded around Keynsham, Durley Hill and Somerdale, 1km to the east (TEP 2020). The remains of a Roman villa were recorded in the Brislington area, c. 900m to the west of the current site (see Fig. 1), during 1899, and further Roman findspots are also recorded in the area (ibid.).
- 2.4. The settlement at Brislington likely originates from the medieval period, forming part of the manor of Keynsham (TEP 2020), and the settlement core was located c. 500m to the south-west. It is likely that the site lay within the agricultural hinterland of Brislington and its satellite settlements at West Town and Rock (ibid.).
- 2.5. The site remained within the agricultural hinterland of Brislington into the post-medieval period, with much of the land to the north of the current site forming part of Brislington Common and parts of the site being used for allotment gardens (TEP 2020). The area around the site was developed extensively in the 19th and 20th-centuries, with both residential and industrial development on all sides.

Geophysical survey

- 2.6. A geophysical survey undertaken within the site (WA 2020) identified a network of interconnected linear and rectilinear anomalies in the south-western portion of the site, likely representing an area of settlement activity of possible Iron Age or Roman date. Further discrete and linear anomalies, of possible archaeological origin, were also identified across the site, as was evidence for the location of former allotment gardens and field drainage (ibid.).

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 BCC 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 2021).
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate the potential archaeological anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (WA 2020)

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 26 trenches, shown in the locations on the attached plan (Fig. 2). These trenches included:
- 18no 30m x 1.8m trenches;
 - 6no 20m x 1.8 trenches; and
 - 2no 10m x 1.8m trenches.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site. During the course of the fieldwork Trench 20 was shortened to a length of 15m, with the approval of Peter Insole, due to the presence of nesting bees at the proposed northern end of the trench.
- 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*.

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- 4.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential, and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 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 Bristol's Museums and Galleries for the deposition of the project archive (under accession no.: BRSMG: 2021.29) and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) 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).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, 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. Details of the environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.
- 5.2. The natural geological substrate, comprising mixed deposits of bedded sandstone, sandstone marl and orange silt, was identified in all of the trenches at an average depth of 0.47m below present ground level (bpgl). In the majority of trenches the natural was covered by subsoil, which was in turn sealed by topsoil. In Trenches 5, 23, 24 and 26 no subsoil was identified and the natural was directly overlain by topsoil.
- 5.3. The results of the evaluation showed good correlation with anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey. A linear anomaly targeted by Trenches 19 and 20 was revealed to be a broadly linear band of more silty natural. The targeted anomalies of uncertain origin (such as in Trenches 14-16) were also generally found to relate to variations in the natural substrate. Archaeological features were

recorded in Trenches 1-8, 12, 13, 17 and 19. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the other trenches.

Trenches 1 and 8 (Figs 3 and 4)

- 5.4. Ditch 103 (Fig. 3, Section AA) was located at the north-western end of Trench 1 and corresponded to a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as the northern limit of an enclosure. The ditch measured 1.8m in width, 0.34m in depth and contained two fills, 104 and 105, from which six sherds of pottery dateable to the 2nd to 4th centuries was recovered, alongside fragments of industrial waste, and an assemblage of charred seeds and charcoal, indicative of a small dump of hearth waste, was identified following palaeoenvironmental analysis of fill 105 (Sample 101).
- 5.5. Ditch 108 (Fig. 3, Section BB) was located within the central part of Trench 1, and along the western edge of Trench 8, where it ran on a north-east/south-west alignment and correlated to an area of 'possible archaeology' recorded by the preceding geophysical survey. The ditch measured 4.4m in width, 1m in depth contained three undated fills, 109, 110 and 111. Following palaeoenvironmental analysis of fill 110 (Sample 102), no charred plant remains and only a small amount of charcoal were identified, likely indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.
- 5.6. Ditch 108 continued along the length of the western edge of Trench 8. Two north-east/south-west aligned ditches, 803 and 805, were identified, although their relationships with ditch 108 were not investigated during the evaluation and no clear relationships could be seen in plan. The alignments of these ditches broadly correlated with a linear geophysical anomaly.
- 5.7. Ditch 805 (Fig. 3, Section DD) measured 1.2m in width, 0.48m in depth contained two fills, 806 and 807, from which two sherds of 1st to 2nd-century pottery was recovered, along with a fragment of industrial waste. Recorded to the south of ditch 805, Ditch 803 measured 0.21m in width, 0.11m in depth and contained undated fill 804.
- 5.8. Pit 106 (Fig. 3, Section CC) was located 2.8m to the south-east of ditch 103. The pit was circular in plan, measured 0.84m in diameter, 0.41m in depth and contained undated fill 107.

Trench 2 (Figs 5 and 6)

- 5.9. Three ditches on parallel north-west/south-east alignments were identified in Trench 2, corresponding to linear geophysical anomalies showing divisions within the probable enclosure system.
- 5.10. Ditch 203 (Fig. 5, Section EE) was located at the south-western end of the trench and measured 1.16m in width, 0.66m in depth and contained undated fill 204.
- 5.11. Ditch 205 (Fig. 5, Section FF) was recorded towards the north-eastern end of the trench and measured 0.67m in width, 0.22m in depth and contained undated fill 206. Following palaeoenvironmental analysis of fill 206 (Sample 201) only a small amount of charcoal was identified, likely indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.
- 5.12. Ditch 207 (Fig. 5, Section GG) was identified in the centre of the trench and measured 1.1m in width, 0.45m in depth and contained two undated fills, 209 and 208.

Trench 3 (Fig. 7)

- 5.13. Pit 303 (Fig. 7, Section HH) was recorded at the southern end of Trench 7. It was circular in plan and measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.08m in depth. It contained fill 304, from which a fragment of possible stone roofing material and an indeterminate fragment of fired clay were recovered.
- 5.14. Ditch 305 (Fig. 7, Section II) was located immediately to the north of pit 303, where it correlated to a geophysical anomaly suggestive of a north-east/south-west aligned return of ditch 207 recorded to the north-west. The ditch measured 1.5m in width, 0.51m in depth and contained two fills, 306 and 307. A total of 14 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from fill 307, along with four fragments of fired clay.

Trench 4 (Fig. 8)

- 5.15. Trench 4 contained two ditches that correlated with geophysics anomalies, and both remained unexcavated. Ditch 403 was aligned broadly north-east/south-west and likely represents a continuation of ditch 203 recorded to the south-east. Ditch 404 was aligned north-east/south-west and potentially relate to the convergence of ditches 103 and 108 recorded in Trench 1 to the south-west.

Trench 5 (Fig. 9)

- 5.16. Ditch 502 (Fig. 9, Section JJ) was identified within the centre of Trench 5, where it did not correspond to any identified geophysical anomaly. It was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 0.52m in width, 0.32m in depth and contained undated fill 503.
- 5.17. At the south-western end of the trench, unexcavated feature 504 correlates to the probable junction of two ditches highlighted by the geophysical survey and identified in the trenches to the south-east and south-west; the exposed feature likely represents this convergence.

Trench 6 (Fig. 10)

- 5.18. Ditch 603 (Fig. 10, Section KK) was recorded at the southern end of Trench 6. It was east/west aligned, measured 0.92m in width, 0.19m in depth and contained fill 604, from which nine sherds of 3rd to 4th-pottery, a crucible fragment, industrial waste and fired clay fragments were recovered. Ditch 603 correlated to a linear geophysical anomaly suggested as a continuation of that represented by ditch 103/404 seen in the trenches to the south-west; however, the differentiation between the profiles of these ditches and composition of their fills makes this unlikely.
- 5.19. Posthole 605 (Fig. 10, Section LL) was located 2m to the north of ditch 603 and measured 0.29m in diameter and 0.05m in depth. A large, flat stone present within its undated fill (606) may represent packing for a post.

Trench 7 (Figs 11 and 12)

- 5.20. Trench 7 was targeted on geophysical anomalies representing two perpendicular ditches that had their junction immediately to the west of the trench.
- 5.21. Ditch 705 (Fig. 11, Section NN) was north-west/south-east aligned, measured 1m in width, 0.34m in depth and contained fills 707 and 706, from which a total of 13 sherds of Roman pottery was recovered. Following processing of a sample from fill 706 (Sample 702) a small dump of hearth waste material was also identified.
- 5.22. Posthole 703 (Fig. 11, Section MM) was identified cutting into the upper fill of ditch 705. It measured 0.42m in diameter, 0.2m in depth and contained fill 704. which contained one sherd of pottery of 3rd to 4th-century date, four iron nails, an assemblage of glass waste and a total of 72 glass beads (Fig. 17), which date to

the 4th century or later. These beads and associated glass and industrial waste fragments were recovered following processing of an environmental sample from fill 704 (Sample 701), along with a moderately small quantity of charcoal fragments, suggestive of a small dump of industrial waste material.

- 5.23. Ditch 708 (Fig. 11, Section OO) was north-east/south-west aligned, measured 1.2m in width, 0.52m in depth and contained an undated fill 709. It is probable that this ditch relates to the north-east/south-west aligned continuation of an enclosure represented by ditch 203 to the north-east.

Trenches 12 and 13 (Figs 13 and 14)

- 5.24. Ditch terminus 1205 (Fig. 13, Section PP) was recorded towards the south-eastern end of Trench 12. It was broadly north-east/south-west aligned, measured 1.41m in width, 0.2m in depth and contained undated fill 1206. The ditch was recut on the same alignment on its eastern edge by ditch 1207, which measured 0.65m in width, 0.1m in depth and contained undated fill 1208. The ditches did not clearly correlate to any identified geophysical anomaly.

- 5.25. Identified towards the north-western end of the trench, north-east/south-west aligned ditch 1203 measured 0.7m in width, 0.3m in depth and contained fill 1204 with a high concentration of manganese inclusions; it is possible that this feature represents an area of natural variation.

- 5.26. Ditch 1305 (Fig. 11, Section RR) was identified within the south-central part of Trench 13 and correlates closely to a linear geophysical anomaly. It measured 1.1m in width, 0.33m in depth and contained undated fill 1306. Unexcavated ditch 1209 recorded in Trench 12 to the south-west correlated to the same geophysical anomaly and is likely a continuation of ditch 1305.

- 5.27. Pit 1303 (Fig. 11, Section QQ) was identified to the south of ditch 1305. It was sub-ovoid in plan, measured 1.08m in length, 0.88m in width, 0.14m in depth and contained undated fill 1304.

Trench 17 (Fig. 15)

- 5.28. Pit 1703 (Fig. 15, Section SS) was recorded at the south-western end of Trench 17. It measured 0.6m in diameter, 0.04m in depth and contained undated fill 1704.

Trench 19 (Fig. 16)

- 5.29. Possible ditch terminus 1903 (Fig. 16, Section TT) was identified in the centre of Trench 19. It likely represents the eastern terminus of north-east/south-west aligned ditch not highlighted by the geophysical survey. The ditch measured 0.45m in width, 0.09m in depth and contained undated fill 1904.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material was recovered via the hand-excavation of eight deposits and the bulk soil sampling of one (fills of ditches, a pit and a posthole). The recovered material dates to the Roman period. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric (Appendix B) and recording also included form/rim morphology. Pottery fabric codes have been devised for the purpose of this report, although where possible National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes are given (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Pottery

- 6.2. A total of 45 sherds (623g) was recorded from seven deposits. The most common fabric is Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1, 18 sherds) which dates to the 2nd to 4th century when found outside the manufacturing zone (Davies *et al.* 1994, 107). Two sherds in a fabric in imitation of Black-burnished ware (BBIM), from fill 604 of ditch 603, include a rimsherd from a conical flanged dish/bowl, which can be dated to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 234–5). Of Early Roman date (1st to 2nd centuries AD) are 10 unfeathered bodysherds in grog-and-quartz tempered fabrics (GRQZ), from fills 706 and 707 of ditch 705 and two unfeathered bodysherds presenting in a charcoal-tempered variant of Severn Valley (reduced) ware (SVWCH) from fill 806 of ditch 805. The remaining pottery is represented by oxidised coarsewares (OXF, OXS), of broad Roman-British date, and micaceous greyware (GWM) which dates to the late 2nd to 4th centuries. There is one continental import - presenting as a moderately abraded bodysherd from a decorated vessel form in central Gaulish samian (LEZ SA2), a type datable to the 2nd century (Webster 1996, 2–3).

Other finds

- 6.3. A fragment of worked sandstone (58g), from fill 304 of pit 303 may represent roofing material.

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- 6.4. Four iron nails (66g) were recorded from fill 704 of posthole 703. They are too heavily corroded for further classification but were recovered in association with Roman pottery and glass, so similar dating is likely to apply.
- 6.5. Soil sampling of fill 704 of posthole 703 produced 11 fragments of glass (1g) and 72 beads (2g), many of which are fragmentary (Fig. 17). It was unclear whether the beads represent a single bead string (necklace or similar), although this is possible. Their association with vessel glass fragments and glass waste is noteworthy, possibly suggesting either the manufacturing of such items or their caching ahead of 'recycling'. Included were fragments of vessels in natural (pale green) and cobalt blue glass, along with very small fragments and glass waste. There are three types of beads, all of which are small (no more than 8mm in length). The 48 blue beads are square sectioned – a type which was most commonly used in the 3rd and 4th centuries (Guido 1978, 96). The fourteen 'appearing' black beads are segmented and dating no earlier than the later 4th century is probable (*ibid.*, 15, 92). There are ten green beads, which are varied in type and include cylinder, biconical and oblong types. Cylinder beads were in use throughout the Roman period and biconical types date to the 4th to 5th centuries (*ibid.*, 97–9).
- 6.6. A total of eight fragments (142g) of industrial waste was retrieved from three deposits. One, from fill 104 of ditch 103, is identifiable as deriving from an indeterminate ironworking process and one from ditch fill 603 is part of a crucible.

Discussion

- 6.7. This modestly sized finds assemblage is indicative of domestic and industrial activity dating to the Roman period. Evidence of industrial activity includes both ironworking and non-ferrous metal casting. Additionally there is some evidence for glassworking in the form of small fragments of glass waste and beads and fragmented vessel glass possibly intended for reworking. The bead forms and colours represented are suggestive of dating no earlier than the 4th century. Similar glass beads, including long segmented blue beads, were also recovered from Brislington Roman Villa, which is approximately 900m west of the site (BMGA 2021; Fig. 1).

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1. Five environmental samples (90 litres of soil) were processed from Trenches 1, 2 and 7, with the aim of evaluating the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains in the area and with the intention of recovering evidence of any industrial or domestic activity on the site. It was also hoped that the environmental material may aid in the dating of the undated features from Trenches 1 and 2. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants.
- 7.3. The flots were small to large in size with high numbers of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation. Much of the charcoal was comminuted and encrusted in silt residue which inhibited further wood species identification of the charcoal observed in the samples.
- 7.4. Any dates discussed within this report have been obtained through the spot dating of finds.

Trench 1

- 7.5. Fill 105 (Sample 101) of undated ditch 103 contained a single charred sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) seed alongside a moderate number of charcoal fragments. This assemblage is likely to be indicative of a small dump of hearth waste material.
- 7.6. Undated ditch 108 (Sample 102) contained no charred plant remains and only a small amount of charcoal. This assemblage is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.

Trench 2

- 7.7. Sample 201 of undated ditch 205 contained no charred plant remains and only a small number of charcoal fragments. This assemblage is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.

Trench 7

- 7.8. Fill 704 (Sample 701) of Roman posthole 703 contained no charred plant remains and only a moderately small number of charcoal fragments. A moderately small amount of industrial waste was also noted which corresponds with the glass residue

hand recovered from the feature. This assemblage is likely to be indicative of a small dump of industrial waste material.

- 7.9. Sample 702 of Roman ditch 705 contained a single charred clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.) seed and no other charred plant remains. A moderately small number of charcoal fragments were noted. This assemblage is likely to be a small dump of hearth waste material.

Summary

- 7.10. Trenches 1 and 7 are close to each other and the environmental evidence suggests that some form of settlement activities were taking place in this area of the site. There is an indication from the remains from Trench 7 that these activities included industrial type activity, possibly associated with glass making during the Roman period. There is no evidence for any crop processing, food preparation or other domestic activities taking place in this area of the site during this period. Unfortunately, due to the sparsity of charred plant remains, it is not possible to suggest a potential date for undated ditches 103, 108, and 205 from Trenches 1 and 2.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The evaluation identified ditches associated with a system of Roman enclosures, and the results of the evaluation correlated well with those of the preceding geophysical survey, which depicted a concentration of archaeological features in the south-western part of the site, focused on a small area of interconnected linear and rectilinear features. The majority of the identified features that were not highlighted by the geophysical survey consisted of small and/or shallow ditches, pits and postholes.
- 8.2. The recorded ditches were relatively uniform in size and profile, and this apparent uniformity may suggest that the ditches were contemporary and formed a planned and coherent system of enclosure of 2nd to 4th-century date. Whilst the function of the enclosure system is currently undetermined, the presence of industrial debris, including possible glass working residues, may indicate small-scale industrial processes were being undertaken.
- 8.3. The recovered assemblage of 4th-century glass beads demonstrates potential links between the current site and a Roman villa located c. 900m to the west (see Fig. 1).

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Noel Boothroyd, Sara Jayne Boughton, Beth Frangleton, Laura Hemsley, Merrin Kemp, Christopher Leonard, Megan Reid and Liam Wilson. This report was written by Christopher Leonard. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Emma Aitken, respectively. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1	100	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clay silt			0.43	
1	101	layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay silt			0.23	
1	102	layer		Natural	Grey sandstone marl with patches of orange clay silt				
1	103	cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Moderately steep sides and flat base	>1.8	1.8	0.34	
1	104	fill	103	Ditch Fill	Lower fill: mid grey red silt clay	>1.8	1.02	0.08	C2-C4
1	105	fill	103	Ditch Fill	Upper fill: mid yellow brown clay silt	>1.8	1.8	0.28	
1	106	cut		Pit	Circular in plan. Steep sides and rounded base	0.84	0.51	0.41	
1	107	fill	106	Pit Fill	Mid orange brown silt clay	0.84	0.51	0.41	
1	108	cut		Ditch	NE-SW aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>11.3	4.4	1	
1	109	fill	108	Ditch Fill	Lower fill: dark pinkish brown sandy silt	>11.3	1.8	0.32	
1	110	fill	108	Ditch Fill	Second fill: mid orange brown sandy silt	>11.3	2.7	0.34	
1	111	fill	108	Ditch Fill	Upper fill: mid yellow brown sandy silt	>11.3	4.4	0.45	
2	200	layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.27	
2	201	layer		Subsoil	Same as 101			0.25	
2	202	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
2	203	cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	1.16	0.66	
2	204	fill	203	Ditch Fill	Mid yellow brown clay silt. Common stones	>1.8	1.16	0.66	
2	205	cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Moderately steep sides and flat base	>1.8	0.67	0.22	
2	206	fill	205	Ditch Fill	Mid red brown silty clay	>1.8	0.67	0.22	
2	207	cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	1.1	0.45	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2	208	fill	207	Ditch Fill	Dark red brown clay silt. Frequent angular gravel	>1.8	1.1	0.35	
2	209	fill	207	Ditch Fill	Dark grey brown silt clay. Frequent rounded pebbles and angular gravel	>1.8	0.52	0.23	
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.4	
3	301	layer		Subsoil	Same as 101			0.6	
3	302	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
3	303	cut		Pit	Sub circular in plan. Irregular sides and base		0.4	0.08	
3	304	fill	303	Pit Fill	Dark red brown sandy silt		0.4	0.08	C2-C4
3	305	cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Steep sides and rounded base		1.67	0.51	
3	306	fill	305	Ditch Fill	Mid reddish orange silty clay	>1.8	1.67	0.51	
3	307	fill	305	Ditch Fill	Dark blackish red silty clay	>1.8	1.67	0.51	Roman
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.34	
4	401	layer		Subsoil	Same as 101			0.23	
4	402	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
4	403	unexcavated feature		Ditch	Continuation of 203	>1.8	1.24		
4	404	unexcavated feature		Ditch	Continuations of 103 and 108	>1.8	2.7		
5	500	layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.27	
5	501	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
5	502	cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.52	0.35	
5	503	fill	502	Ditch Fill	Mid yellow brown sandy silt	>1.8	0.52	0.35	
5	504	unexcavated feature		Ditch	Continuations of ditches 103 and 205	>3	>1.8		
6	600	layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.24	
6	601	layer		Subsoil	Same as 101			0.31	
6	602	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
6	603	cut		Ditch	E/W aligned. Gently sloping sides, uneven base	>1.8	0.92	0.17	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
6	604	fill	603	Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sand	>1.8	0.92	0.17	MC3-C4
6	605	cut		Posthole	Circular in plan. Shallow sides and flat base	0.29	0.29	0.05	
6	606	fill	605	Posthole Fill	Dark greyish brown silty sand	0.29	0.29	0.05	
7	700	layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.3	
7	701	layer		Subsoil	Same as 101			0.15	
7	702	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
7	703	cut		Posthole	Circular in plan. Steep sides, concave base	0.43	0.42	0.2	
7	704	fill	703	Other Fill	Dark grey brown clay silt. Occasional angular pebbles	0.43	0.42	0.2	C3-C4
7	705	cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>2.8	1	0.34	
7	706	fill	705	Ditch Fill	Upper fill: mid red brown clay silt. Frequent angular gravel	>2.8	1	0.2	C2+
7	707	fill	705	Ditch Fill	Lower fill: dark red brown clay silt. Common angular gravel	>2.8	0.8	0.18	Roman
7	708	cut		Ditch	NE-SW aligned. Steep sides and rounded base	>2.3	1.2	0.52	
7	709	fill	708	Ditch Fill	Mid red brown clayey silt. Common angular gravel	>2.3	1.2	0.52	
8	800	layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.2	
8	801	layer		Subsoil	Same as 101			0.2	
8	802	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
8	803	cut		Gully	NW/SE aligned. Steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	0.21	0.11	
8	804	fill	803	Gully Fill	Mid reddish grey sandy silt	>1.8	0.21	0.11	
8	805	cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	1.2	0.48	
8	806	fill	805	Ditch Fill	Lower fill: light yellow grey silt sand	>1.8	0.7	0.27	MC1-C2
8	807	fill	805	Ditch Fill	Upper fill: mid red brown sand silt	>1.8	1.2	0.25	
9	900	layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.23	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
9	901	layer		Subsoil	Same as 101			0.32	
9	902	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
10	1000	layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.35	
10	1001	layer		Subsoil	Same as 101			0.15	
10	1002	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
11	1100	layer		Topsoil	Same as 100			0.23	
11	1101	layer		Subsoil	Same as 101			0.34	
11	1102	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
12	1200	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt			0.3	
12	1201	layer		Subsoil	Mid red brown clay silt			0.1	
12	1202	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
12	1203	cut		Ditch	NE-SW aligned. Irregular sides and base	>1.8	0.7	0.3	
12	1204	fill	1203	Ditch Fill	Light brown orange clay silt, manganese flecks and gravel	>1.8	0.7	0.3	
12	1205	cut		Ditch Terminus	N/S aligned. Gently sloping sides and flat base	>1.68	1.41	0.2	
12	1206	fill	1205	Ditch Fill	Mid red brown silty clay	>1.68	1.41	0.2	
12	1207	cut		Ditch Recut	Recut of 1205. Gently sloping sides and flat base	>1.24	0.65	0.1	
12	1208	fill	1207	Ditch Fill	Mid yellow brown silty clay	>1.24	0.65	0.1	
12	1209	unexcavated feature		Ditch	Continuation of 1305	>1.8	0.9		
13	1300	layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.2	
13	1301	layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201			0.28	
13	1302	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
13	1303	cut		Pit	Oval in plan. Shallow sides and flat base	1.08	0.88	0.14	
13	1304	fill	1303	Pit Fill	Mid orange brown silty sand	1.08	0.88	0.14	
13	1305	cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned. Moderately steep sides and rounded base	>1.8	1.1	0.33	
13	1306	fill	1305	Ditch Fill	Mid yellow brown sandy silt	>1.8	1.1	0.33	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
14	1400	layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.3	
14	1401	layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201			0.15	
14	1402	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
15	1500	layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.3	
15	1501	layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201			0.15	
15	1502	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
16	1600	layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.2	
16	1601	layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201			0.2	
16	1602	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
17	1700	layer		Topsoil	Same as 1200			0.28	
17	1701	layer		Subsoil	Same as 1201			0.17	
17	1702	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
17	1703	cut		Pit	Circular in plan. Shallow sides and uneven base	0.6	0.64	0.04	
17	1704	fill	1703	Pit Fill	Dark greyish red sandy silt	0.6	0.64	0.04	
18	1800	layer		Topsoil	Dark reddish brown sandy silt			0.2	
18	1801	layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish red sandy silt			0.17	
18	1802	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
19	1900	layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.3	
19	1901	layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.1	
19	1902	layer		Natural	Same as 2002				
19	1903	cut		Ditch Terminus	E/W aligned. Shallow sides and flat base	>1.1	0.45	0.09	
19	1904	fill	1903	Other Fill	Mid reddish brown sandy silt	>1.1	0.45	0.09	
20	2000	layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.29	
20	2001	layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.28	
20	2002	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
21	2100	layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.31	
21	2101	layer	2101	Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.13	
21	2102	layer		Natural	Same as 102				

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
22	2200	layer		Topsoil	Same as 1800			0.35	
22	2201	layer		Subsoil	Same as 1801			0.2	
22	2202	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
23	2300	layer		Topsoil	Dark red brown sandy silt			0.3	
23	2301	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
24	2400	layer		Topsoil	Same as 2300			0.44	
24	2401	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
25	2500	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, sandy silt			0.24	
25	2501	layer		Subsoil	Dark red brown silty clay			0.13	
25	2502	layer		Natural	Same as 102				
26	2600	layer		Topsoil	Same as 2500			0.25	
26	2601	layer		Natural	Same as 102			0.05	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/ NRFRC*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
104	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	4	31	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	Fine sandy oxidised fabric	OXF	2	18	
	Industrial waste	Iron-working and indeterminate		2	42	
304	Worked stone	Roofing?		1	58	C2-C4
	Fired Clay			1	1	
307	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	8	29	Roman
	Roman pottery	Coarse sandy oxidised fabric	OXC	5	126	
	Roman pottery	Central Gaulish samian	LEZ SA2	1	14	
	Fired clay			4	18	
604	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	4	85	MC3-C4
	Roman pottery	Imitation Black-burnished ware	BBIM	2	50	
	Roman pottery	Micaceous greyware	GWM	2	36	
	Roman pottery	Fine sandy oxidised fabric	OXF	1	3	
	Industrial waste	Crucible fragment and indeterminate		5	90	
	Fired clay			3	17	
704 <701> <701>	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	1	9	C3-C4
	Iron	Nail		4	66	
	Glass	Vessel, fragments, waste		11	1	
	Glass	Beads		72	2	
706	Roman pottery	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	DOR BB1	1	3	C2+
	Roman pottery	Grog-and-quartz tempered fabric	GRQZ	9	171	
707	Roman pottery	Fine sandy oxidised fabric	OXF	2	12	Roman
	Roman pottery	Grog-and-quartz tempered fabric	GRQZ	1	24	
806	Roman pottery	Severn Valley (reduced) ware - charcoal-tempered variant	SVWCH	2	12	MC1-C2
	Industrial Waste	Indeterminate		1	10	

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection codes in bold

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

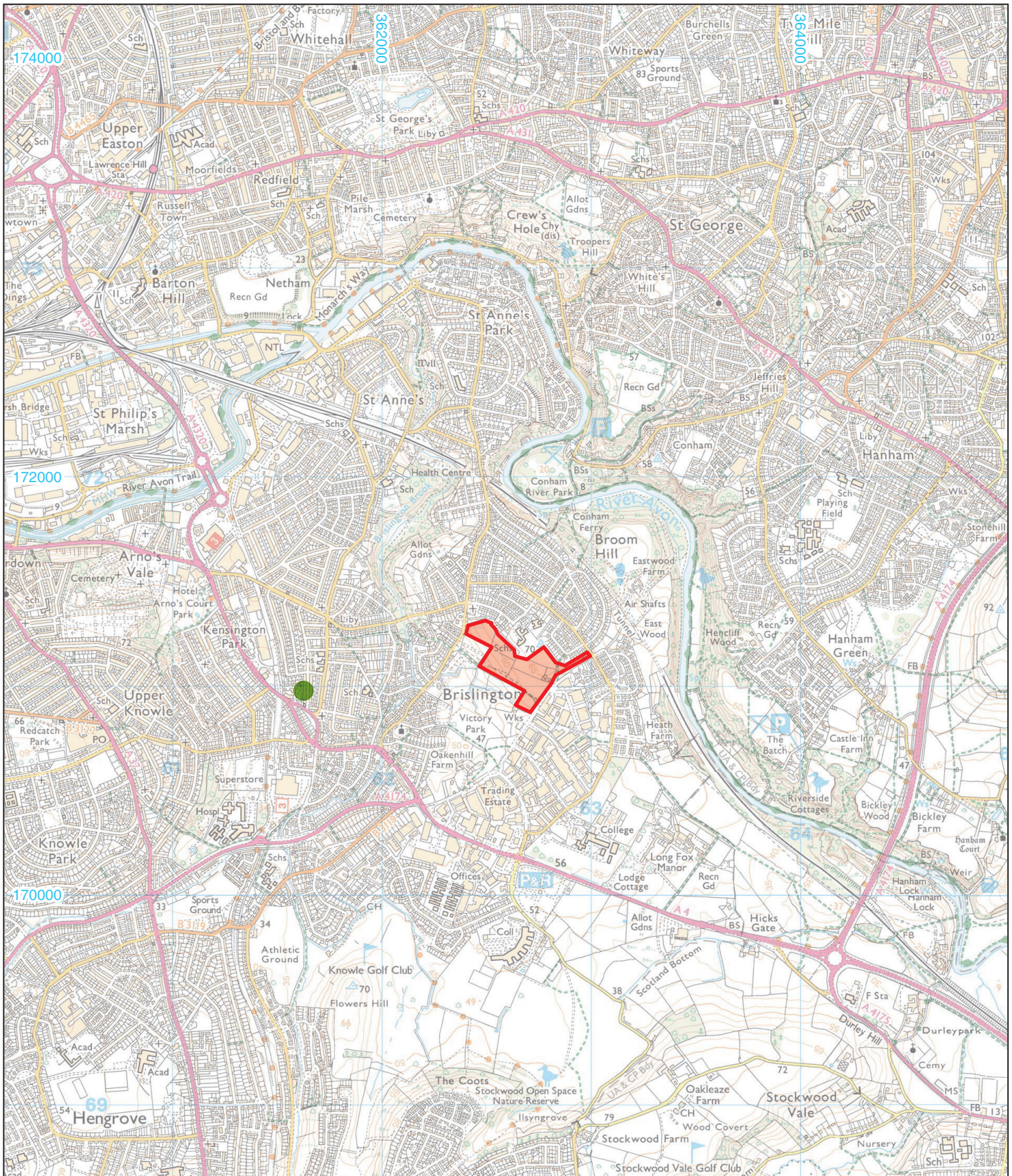
Table 1 Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Charred Remains Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 1											
Ditch 103	105	101	20	150	98	-	-	*	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	***/*	-
Ditch 108	110	102	20	15	90	-	-	-	-	*/**	-
Trench 2											
Ditch 205	206	201	20	75	98	-	-	-	-	**/**	-
Trench 7											
Posthole 703	704	701	10	90	98	-	-	-	-	**/*	ind wste***
Ditch 705	706	702	20	80	98	-	-	*	<i>Trifolium/Medicago</i>	***/**	-

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 4–20 items; *** = 21–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items
ind wste = industrial waste

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol	
Short description	<p>In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol. A total of 26 trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The evaluation identified a system of Roman enclosure ditches in the south-western part of the site, broadly dateable to the 2nd to 4th centuries. The presence of industrial waste, including a crucible fragment, and an assemblage of glass beads and glass waste may indicate small-scale industrial activity on the site.</p>	
Project dates	15–26 November 2021	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (The Environmental Partnership 2020) Geophysical Survey (Wessex Archaeology 2020)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol	
Study area (m ² /ha)	8.5ha	
Site co-ordinates	362639 171085	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives: BRSMG: 2021.29	Ceramics etc
Paper	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives: BRSMG: 2021.29	Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives: BRSMG: 2021.29; and Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2021 <i>Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR0810_1		



N

Site boundary

● Location of Brislington Roman Villa

0 1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673

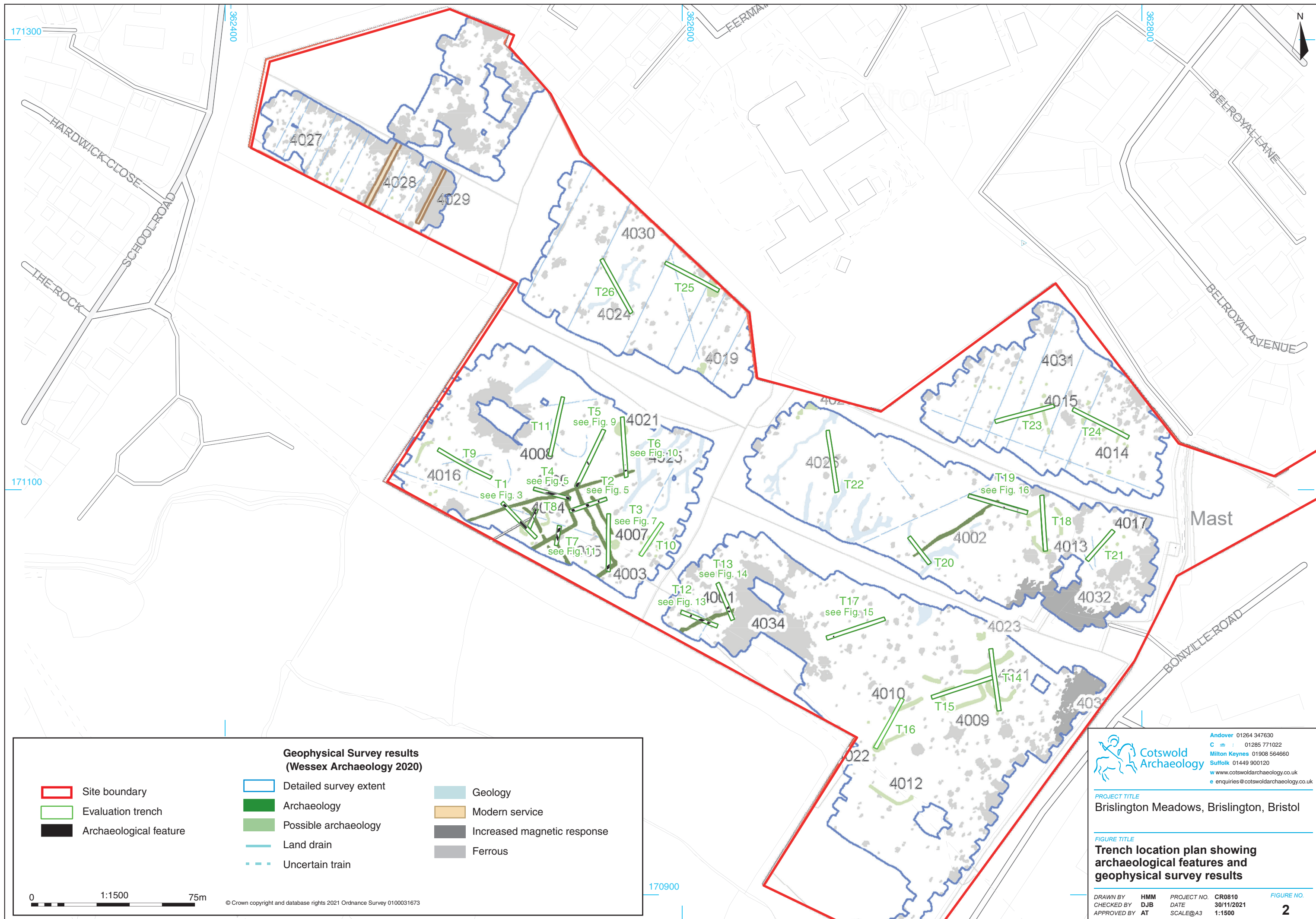
Cotswold Archaeology

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PROJECT TITLE
Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR0810	FIGURE NO.	1
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/11/2021		
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A4	1:25,000		



Geophysical Survey results (Wessex Archaeology 2020)

Site boundary	Detailed survey extent	Geology
Evaluation trench	Archaeology	Modern service
Archaeological feature	Possible archaeology	Increased magnetic response
	Land drain	Ferrous
	Uncertain train	

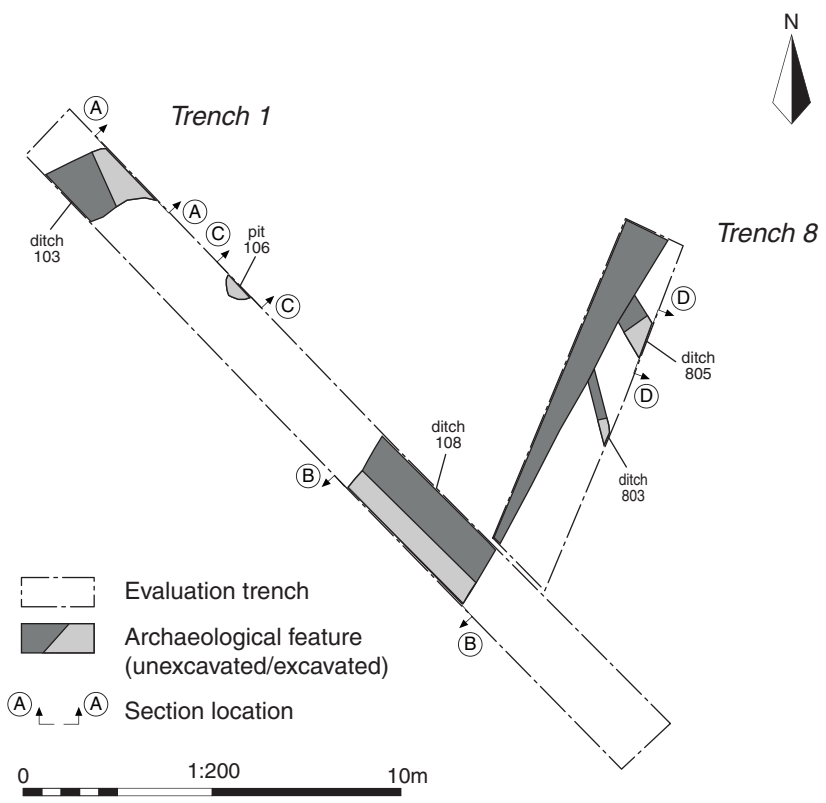
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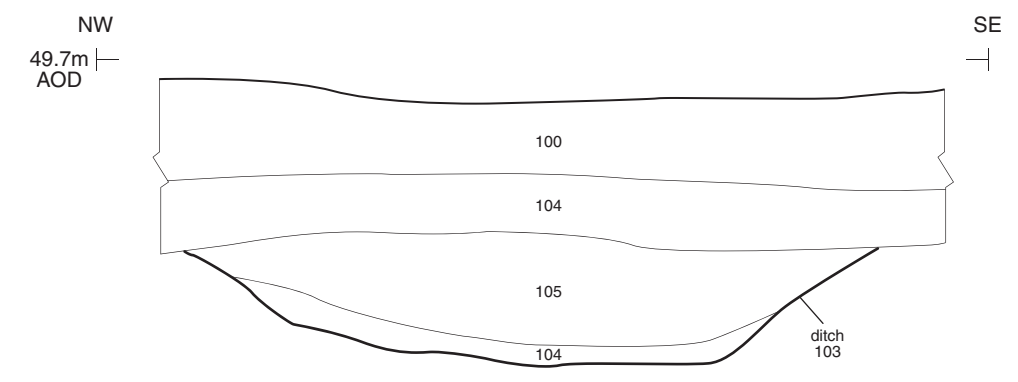
PROJECT TITLE
 Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

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

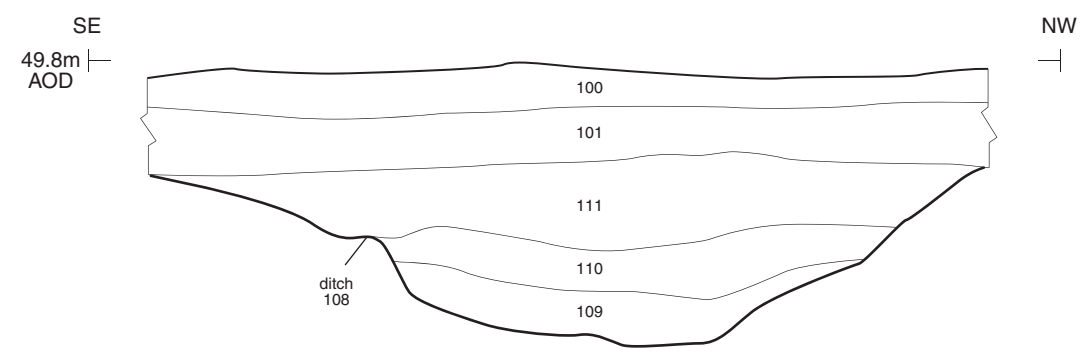
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CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 30/11/2021	
APPROVED BY AT	SCALE @A3	



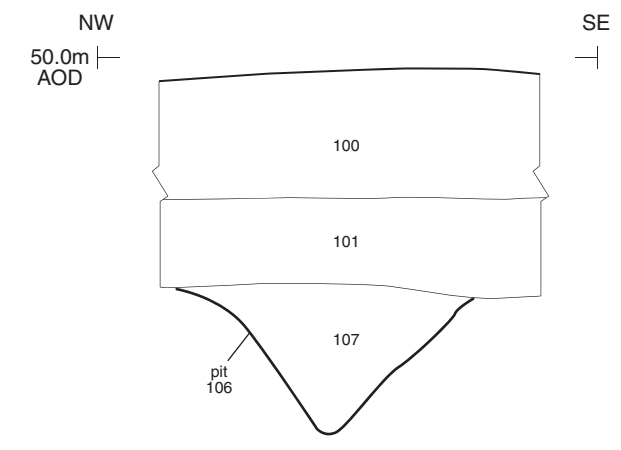
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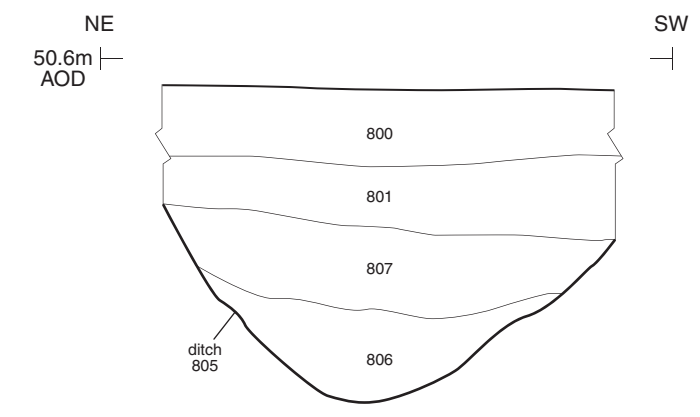
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Section CC



Section DD



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PROJECT TITLE
 Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
 Trenches 1 and 8: plan and sections

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR0810	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/11/2021	3
APPROVED BY	CL	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



Ditch 103, looking north-east (1m scale)



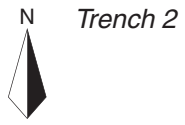
Pit 106, looking north-east (1m scale)



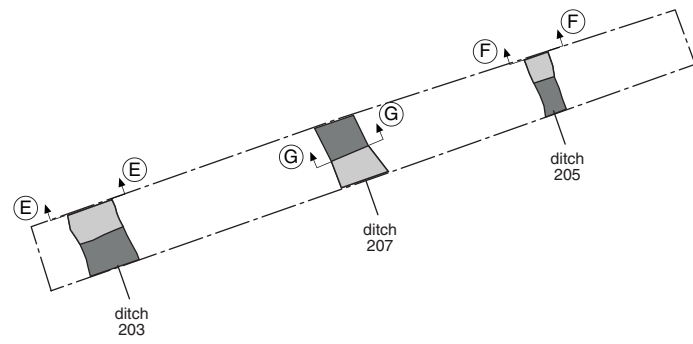
Ditch 108, looking south-west (2m scale)



Ditch 805, looking south-east (0.5m scale)



Trench 2

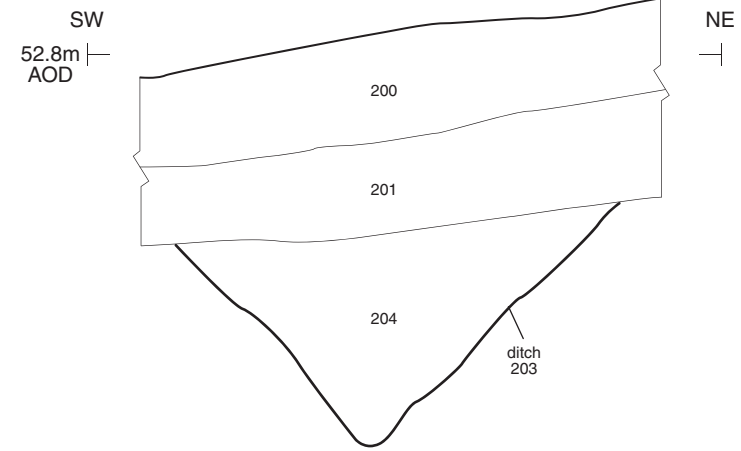


- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (unexcavated/excavated)

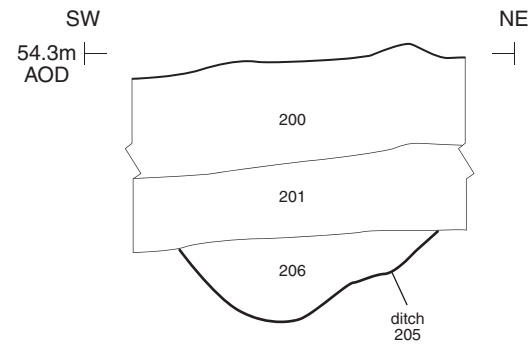
Section location



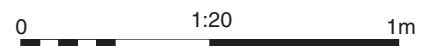
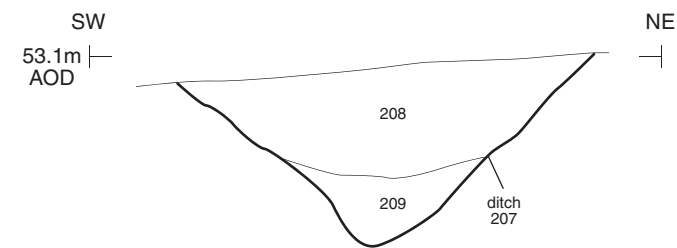
Section EE



Section FF



Section GG



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PROJECT TITLE
 Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 2: plan and sections

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/11/2021	5
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



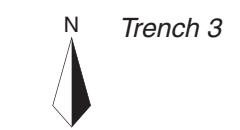
Ditch 203, looking north-west (1m scale)



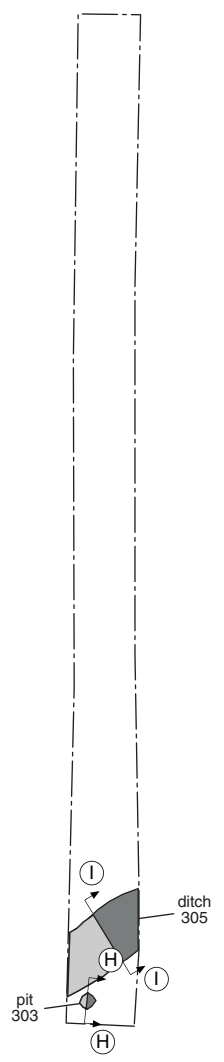
Ditch 205, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



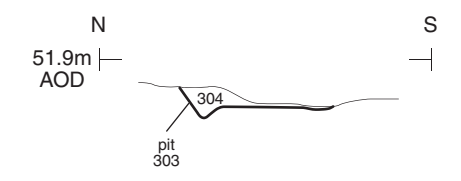
Ditch 207, looking north-west (1m scale)



- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (unexcavated/excavated)
- Section location



Section HH



Section II



Pit 303, looking east (0.3m scale)



Ditch 305, looking north-east (1m scale)

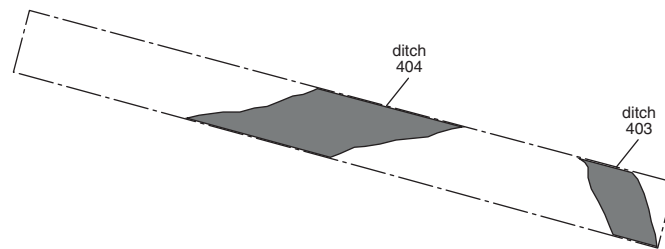
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PROJECT TITLE
Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3: plan, sections and photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/11/2021	7
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	

Trench 4



-  Evaluation trench
-  Archaeological feature

0 1:200 10m



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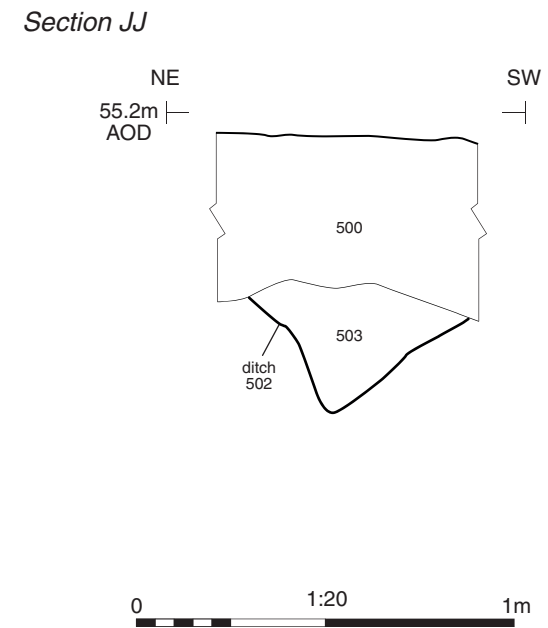
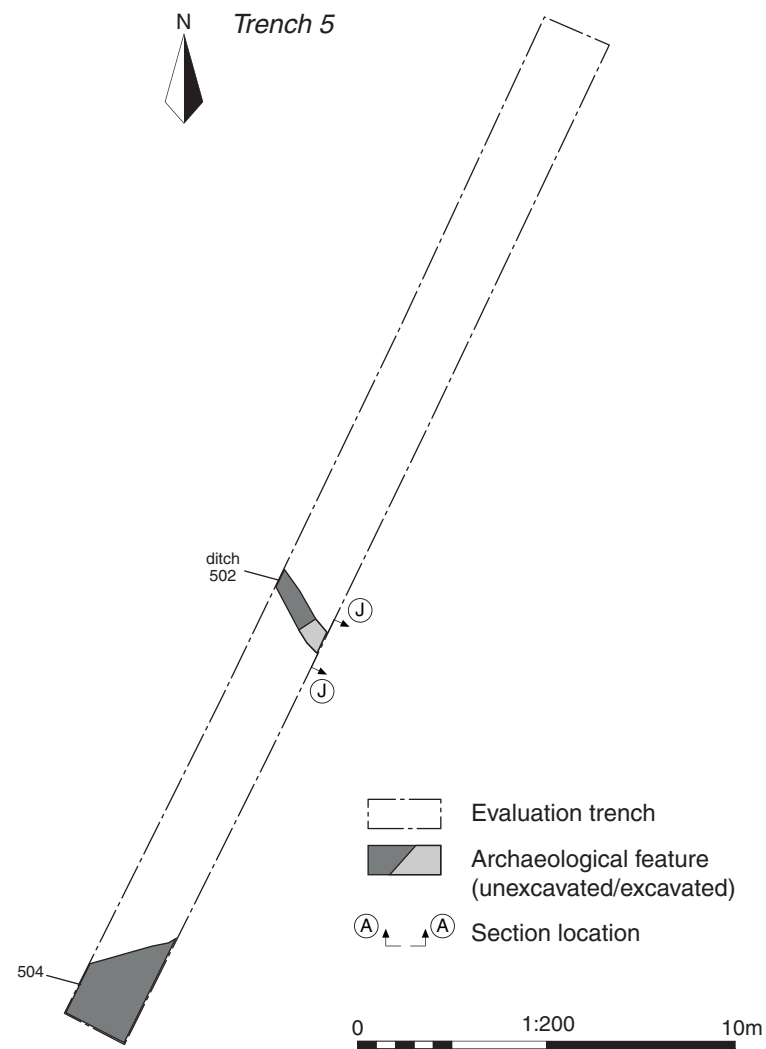
PROJECT TITLE

Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 4: plan and photograph

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/11/2021	8
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A4	1:200	



Ditch 502, looking south-east (0.5m scale)



Unexcavated feature 504, looking north-east (1m scale)

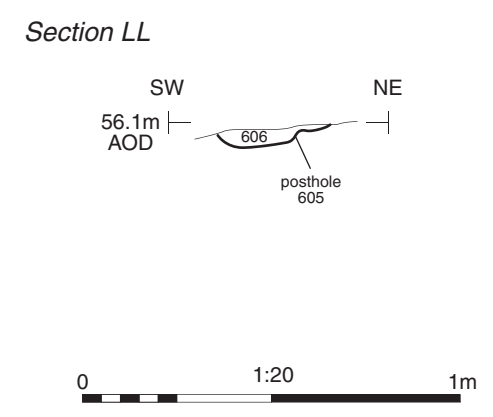
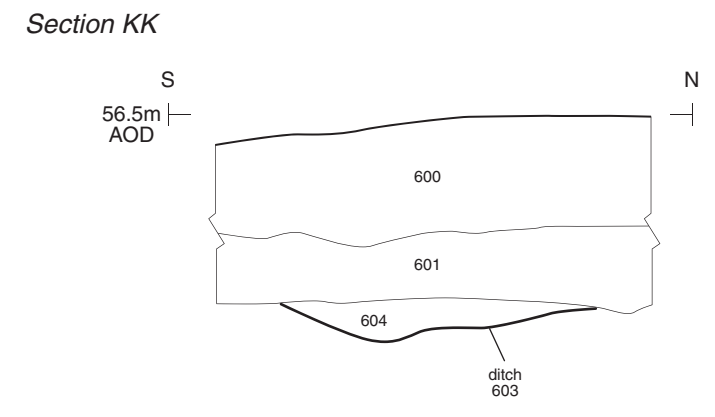
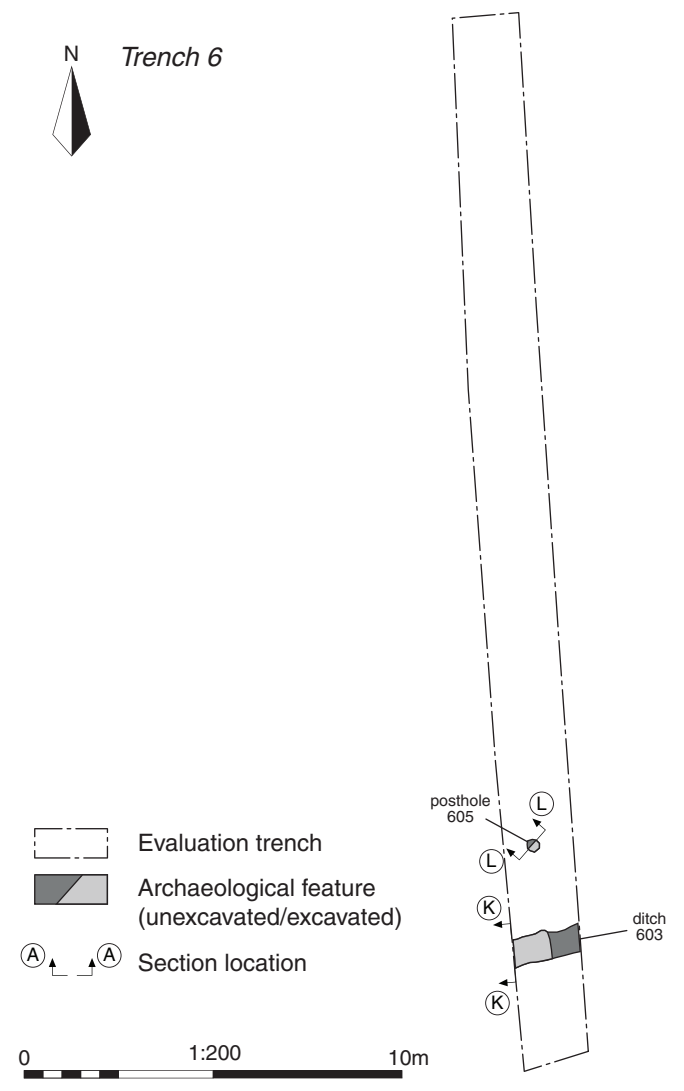
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PROJECT TITLE
 Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 5: plan, section and photographs

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR0810	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/11/2021	9
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



Ditch 603, looking west (1m scale)



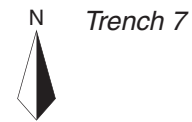
Posthole 605, looking north-west (0.2m scale)

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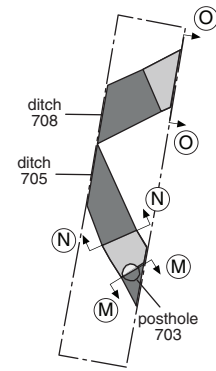
PROJECT TITLE
 Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 6: plan, sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR0810	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/11/2021	10
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



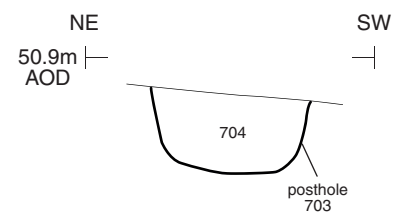
Trench 7



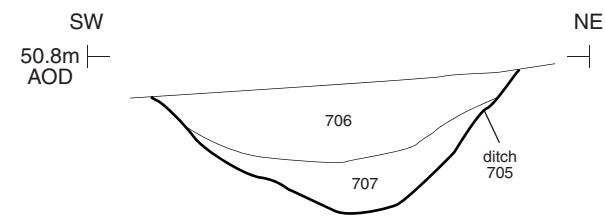
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (unexcavated/excavated)
- Section location



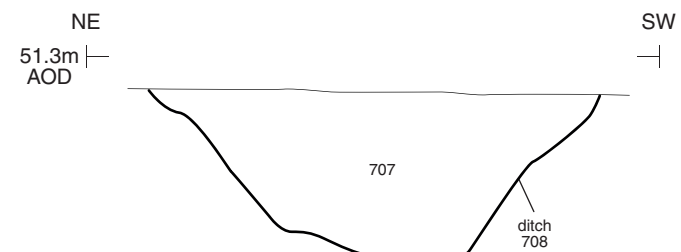
Section MM



Section NN



Section OO



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 7: plan and sections

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/11/2021	11
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



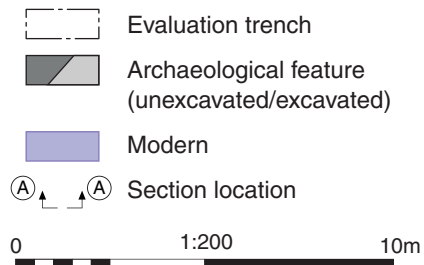
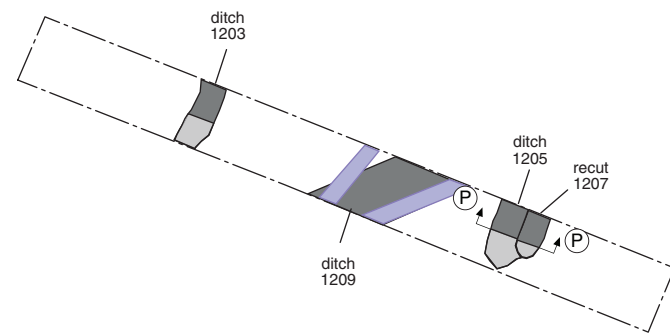
Posthole 703, looking south-east (0.3m scale)



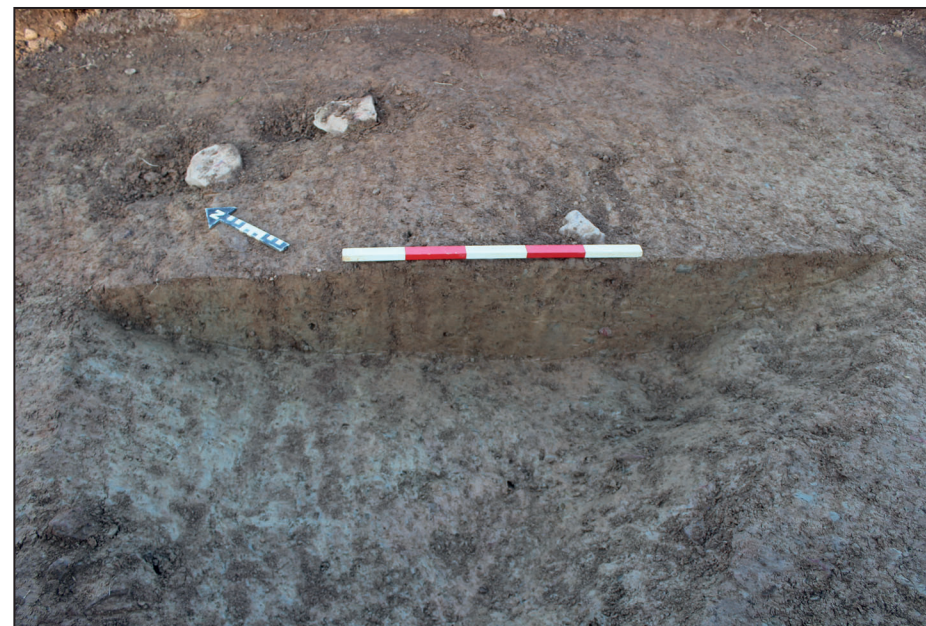
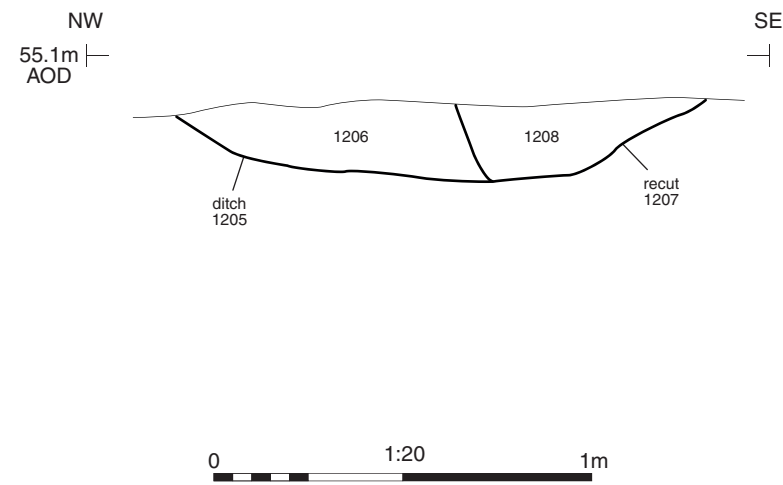
Ditch 705, looking north-west (1m scale)



Ditch 708, looking south-west (1m scale)



Section PP



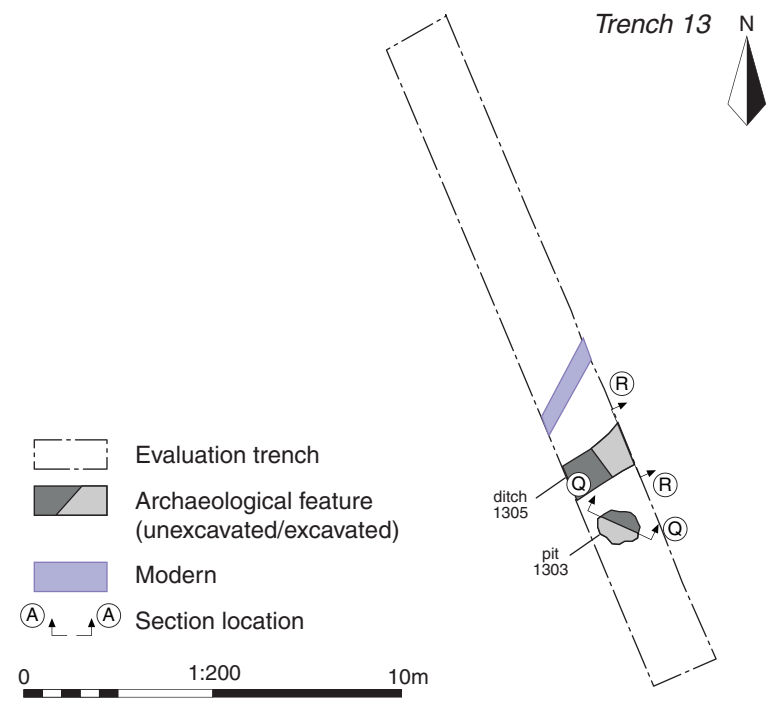
Ditch 1205 and recut 1207, looking north-east (0.5m scale)


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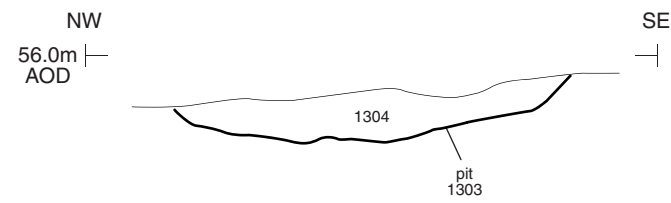
PROJECT TITLE
 Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 12: plan, section and photograph

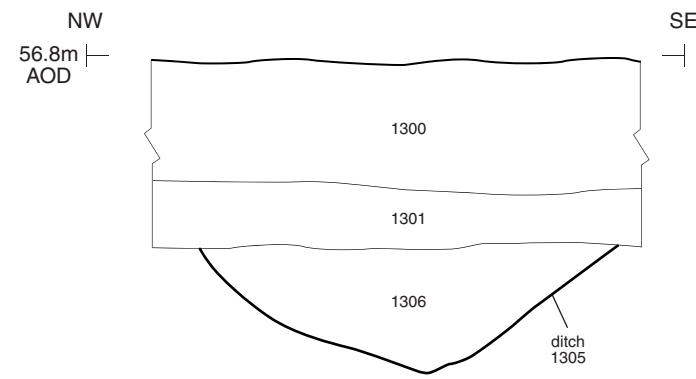
DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR0810	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/11/2021	13
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



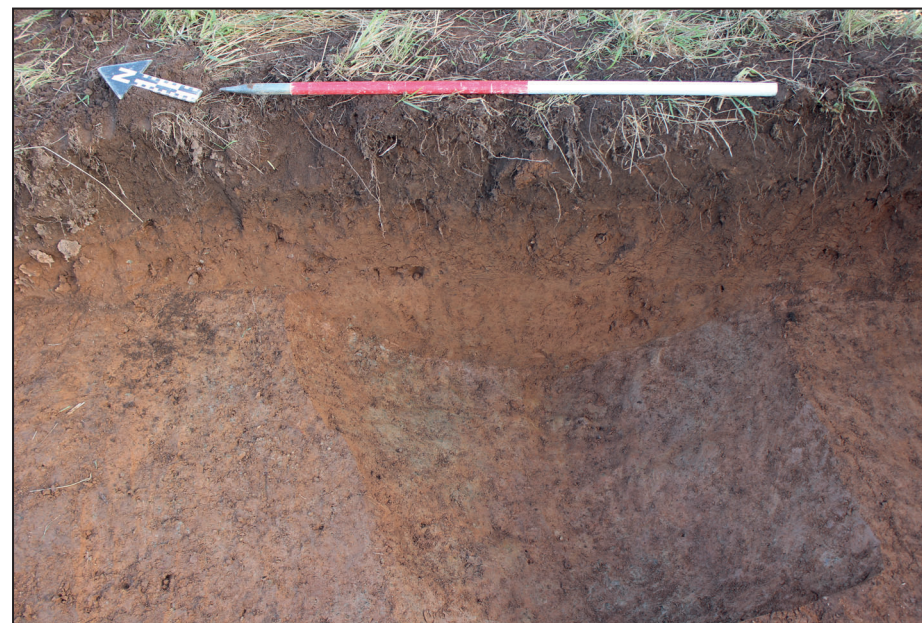
Section QQ



Section RR



Pit 1303, looking north-east (1m scale)



Ditch 1305, looking north-east (1m scale)

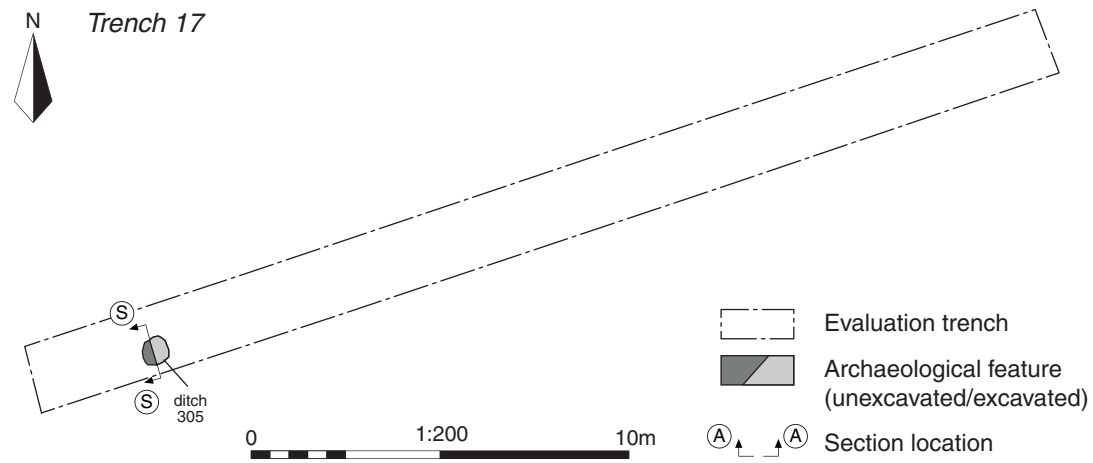
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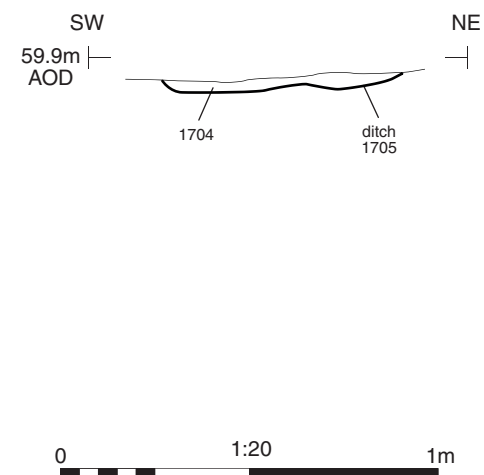
PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 13: plan, sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR0810	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30/11/2021	14
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	



Section SS



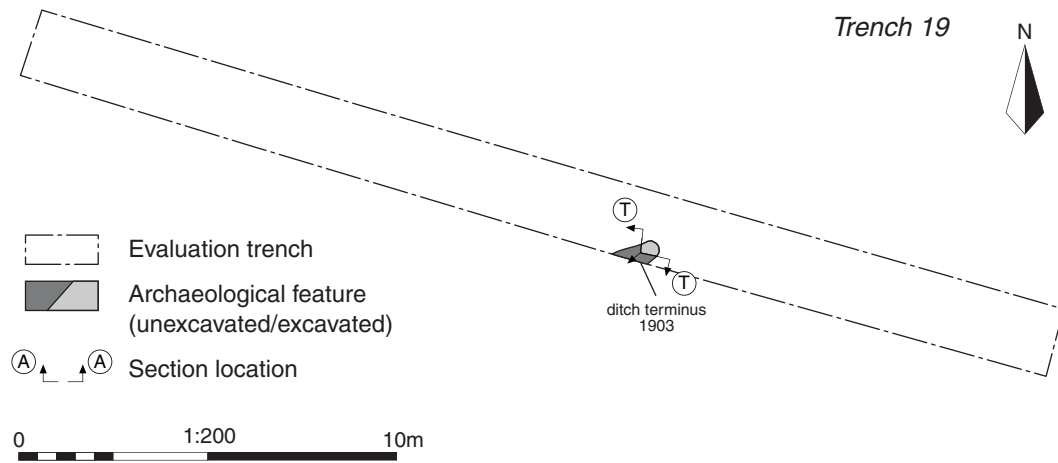
Pit 1703, looking west (0.5m scale)

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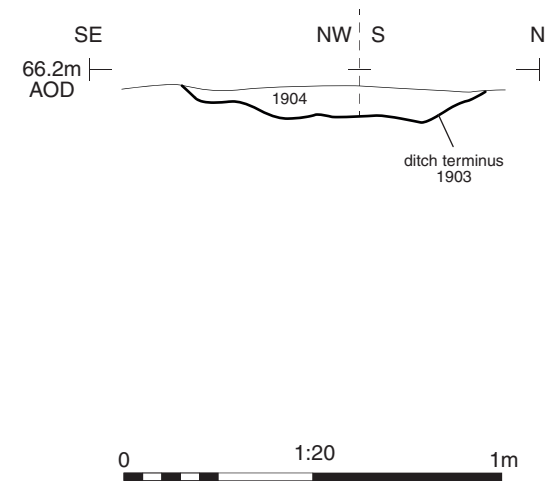
PROJECT TITLE
 Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 17: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	PROJECT NO. CR0810	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY	SCALE@A3 1:20 & 1:200	



Section TT



Ditch terminus 1903, looking north-west (0.2m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 19: plan, section and photograph

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0 20mm

Bead assemblage recovered from posthole 703



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PROJECT TITLE

Brislington Meadows, Brislington, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 7: Photograph of bead assemblage

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APPROVED BY AT SCALE@A4 Not to scale

FIGURE NO.

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