

Land South of Horwood Lane Wickwar South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
Linden Homes Western

CA Project: CR0338
CA Report: CR0338_1

February 2021



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A	12 February 2021	Sara-Jayne Boughton	Steven Sheldon	Draft	–	Richard Young

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land South of Horwood Lane
Location:	Wickwar, South Gloucestershire
NGR:	372646 187428
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	3 - 11 August 2020
Planning reference:	SGC planning ref: PK17/4552/O
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives
Site Code:	SHLW 20

In August 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of 90 residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure on land south of Horwood Lane, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire.

Three intercutting ditches, two of which contained artefactual material of post-medieval/modern date, were recorded cutting the natural substrate in the western and southern parts of the stripped area. The exact function of these features remains unclear; however they are likely to relate to agricultural activity, drainage or division.

Two irregular pits, both containing artefactual material of post-medieval/modern date, were identified cutting the subsoil in the north-eastern part of the stripped area. The presence of limestone rubble and animal bone in the fills of these pits suggest that they may represent rubbish pits for the disposal of domestic waste or demolition material, possibly associated with a number of (now demolished) dwellings depicted to the south-east of the stripped area by historic mapping.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In August, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land south of Horwood Lane, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire (centred at NGR: 372646 187428; Fig. 1), at the request of Linden Homes Western. The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the erection of 90 residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure (SGC planning ref: PK17/4552/O, Condition 15).
- 1.2. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2020) and approved by Dr Driscoll. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020).

The site

- 1.3. The overall development area is approximately 5.8ha in extent and comprises two open fields, currently under pasture. It is bounded to the west by Sodbury Road, to the north by Horwood Lane, to the south by Pincots Lane and to the east by further agricultural land. The area subject to watching brief is located within the south-western corner of the overall development site (see Fig. 2 for location and extent) and lies at approximately 90m AOD
- 1.4. The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Langport and Wilmcote Member (undifferentiated) - Limestone and Mudstone of the Jurassic and Triassic Periods (BGS 2021). The natural substrate, comprising compact blue and orange clay with frequent outcrops of limestone bedrock, was revealed throughout the area of observed groundworks.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site, and a wider study area, measuring a 2km radius from the centre of the site, has been subject to archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA; AC 2017). The site itself has also been subject to geophysical survey (AS 2019) and archaeological trial-trench evaluation (CA 2019). The following represents a brief summary taken from these assessments along with any publically available information pertinent to the site.

-
- 2.2. No evidence of prehistoric activity has been recorded within the site itself or within the wider study area (AC 2017).
- 2.3. A Roman roadside settlement, covering an area of c.16ha, has been identified at Hall End, approximately 1.7km to the west of the current site (AAU 2009), and a villa and bathhouse of 2nd century AD date have been identified at Lower Woods, approximately 1.8km to the north-west of the site (AC 2017). The current site is therefore considered likely to have been part of the agricultural hinterland of these or other settlement sites during the Roman period (ibid.). A ditch (Ditch 303), containing three abraded sherds of pottery of Roman date, was identified within an archaeological evaluation trench (Trench 3) excavated in the south-western part of the site (CA 2019). The function of this ditch is unclear, however it is considered likely to relate to agricultural land management, drainage or division (ibid.).
- 2.4. A number of medieval buildings survive within the centre of Wickwar, and medieval settlement appears to have been focused around the 12th-century Church of the Holy Trinity, located approximately 700m to the north of the site. It is therefore likely that the current site lay in the agricultural hinterland of Wickwar during the medieval period (AC 2017). The B4060 (Sodbury Road), which forms the western boundary of the current site, follows a medieval salt route (saltway) linking the major production centre at Droitwich (Worcestershire) to the north with Old Sodbury and Pucklechurch (ibid.).
- 2.5. The 1838 Wickwar Tithe Map depicts a series of small, enclosed fields along the north side of Pincots Lane which may relate to small gardens with associated dwellings; these are no longer depicted on the 1886 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map. Historic mapping also shows the site divided into four smaller fields, with the north-western area of the site in use as an orchard until the mid-20th century.
- 2.6. A geophysical survey of the current site was undertaken in March 2019 (AS 2019). A number of linear and discrete anomalies, interpreted as ditches and pits, were identified in the western part of the site. Further anomalies, seemingly representing former field boundaries, land drains and ridge and furrow cultivation, were identified in the east of the site. A number of small rectilinear enclosures, correlating closely to those depicted on the 1838 Wickwar Tithe Map, were identified along the northern side of Pincots Lane.

2.7. The archaeological trial-trench evaluation (CA 2019) identified a small number of ditches and amorphous pits across the site. The majority of these features were securely dated to the post-medieval or modern periods. However; a single ditch, potentially dating to the Roman period was identified in the south-western part of the site (see *Paragraph 2.3*).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The objectives of the watching brief were:

- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2020). An archaeologist was present during soil stripping undertaken in the area requiring archaeological watching brief (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).

4.2. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.

4.4. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.5. CA will make arrangements with Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner, the artefact collection. The archive will be prepared and deposited in

accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020).

- 4.6. 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 watching brief 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, 40002, comprising compact blue and orange clay with frequent outcrops of limestone bedrock was recorded throughout the stripped area at an average depth of c. 0.45m below present ground level (bpgl). The majority of archaeological features revealed during the watching brief cut the natural substrate and were sealed by subsoil 40001, which measured up to 0.16m in thickness. However, the subsoil was cut by irregular pits 40007 and 40011, the fills of which were sealed by topsoil measuring up to 0.29m in thickness.
- 5.3. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 40003 (Fig. 3, Section AA), was identified in the western half of the stripped area and had previously been recorded within evaluation Trench 3 (CA 2019, ditch 303), where it was found to contain three abraded sherds of pottery of broad Roman date. It measured at least 89m in length, 1.2m in width and 0.51m in depth and contained a single fill, 40004, from which four sherds of mid 16th to 18th-century pottery, 10 fragments glass of post-medieval date and five fragments of animal bone were recovered. The fill of this ditch was cut by broadly east/west aligned ditch 40014.
- 5.4. Ditch 40014 measured 18m in length, 1.12m in width and 0.3m in depth and had previously been recorded within evaluation Trench 1 (CA 2019, ditch 103). It contained a single fill, 40015, from which a single sherd of late 18th to mid 19th-century pottery and a fragment of post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered. The fill of this ditch was cut by north-east/south-west aligned ditch 40005.
- 5.5. Ditch 40005 (Fig. 3, Section AA) measured at least 55m in length, 1.03m in width and 0.38m in depth and appears to represent a later re-cut of ditch 40003. It

contained a single undated dark clay fill, 40006, from which a single fragment of animal bone was recovered.

- 5.6. Irregular pits 40007 and 40011 (Fig. 4, Section BB) were identified cutting the subsoil in the north-eastern part of the stripped area. Pit 40007 measured 9.5m in length, 2.28m in width and 0.67m in depth and contained two rubbly fills, 40008 and 40009. Seven sherds of pottery of mid 16th to 18th-century date and two fragments of animal bone were recovered from the earliest fill of this feature, 40008; whilst three sherds of pottery of mid 16th to 19th-century date, a fragment of post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem, an iron nail and a fragment of animal bone were recovered from the latest fill of this feature, 40009. Pit 40011 measured 8.5m in length, 3m in width and 0.63m in depth and had previously been recorded within evaluation Trench 3 (CA 2019, pit 306). It contained two rubbly fills, 40012 and 40013. The earliest of these fills, 40012, contained a single sherd of pottery of mid 16th to 18th-century date, a fragment of brick of broad post-medieval date, three shards of post-medieval glass and a fragment of animal bone. The latest of these fills, 40013, contained two sherds of pottery of mid 16th to mid 19th-century date and three fragments of modern ceramic drainpipe.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material was hand-recovered from six deposits (ditch and pit fills). The recovered material dates to the post-medieval/modern periods. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes (in parenthesis in the text) are equated to the online Gloucester pottery type series (<http://glospot.potsherd.net/docs/intro>).

Pottery

- 6.2. A total of 22 sherds of pottery was recovered (278.9g). Most common in the recovered assemblage is unsourced glazed earthenware (TF50), dateable to the mid 16th to 18th centuries. Also represented are yellow slipware (TF72, late 17th to 18th century), pearlware (late 18th to mid 19th century) and transfer-printed refined whiteware (late 18th to 19th century).

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.3. Ceramic building material totals four fragments (297g) from pit 40011. These consist of a post-medieval brick fragment 2.5" in thickness from fill 40012 and three fragments of modern drainpipe from fill 40013.

Other finds

- 6.4. A total of 13 fragments of glass (113g) were recorded from fill 40004 of ditch 40003 and fill 40012 of pit 40011. All are dark green and derive from wine/spirits bottles of post-medieval date.
- 6.5. Fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem (total 3g), broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries, were recorded from fill 40009 of pit 40007 and fill 40015 of ditch 40014.
- 6.6. A fragmentary iron nail (20g) of uncertain date, with a rectangular cross-section, was retrieved from fill 40009 of pit 40007.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1. Ten fragments of animal bone (288g) were recovered from four post-medieval deposits (See Table 1, Appendix C). The recovered material was fragmentary but well preserved enough to identify the presence of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and dog (*Canis familiaris*). No cut marks or impact damage indicative of butchery waste were observed which, when coupled with the low recovery, limits what can be said about this assemblage in terms of site economy and animal husbandry. However, both are common domestic animals so their inclusion in an assemblage of this period is to be expected.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The watching brief identified a small number of archaeological features of post-medieval/modern date within the stripped area. Where archaeological features were identified, there was a good correlation between the results of the current works and the preceding geophysical survey (AS 2019) and archaeological evaluation (CA 2019).
- 8.2. Ditches 40003 and 40005, identified in the western part of the stripped area, both contained artefactual material of post-medieval/modern (mid 16th to 19th-century)

date. Ditch 40014, also identified in the western part of the stripped area, was observed cutting the fill of ditch 40003 and a small assemblage of post-medieval/modern artefactual material was recovered from the fill of this feature during the preceding evaluation (CA 2019). All three ditches correlate closely to linear anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey. Where investigated during the preceding evaluation, the fill of ditch 40003 was found to contain a small quantity of abraded Roman pottery; however the artefactual material recovered from the fill of this ditch during the current works confirm that it is of post-medieval/modern date and that the Roman pottery previously recovered is therefore residual. The function of these ditches remains unclear, although their alignment correlates closely with the general pattern of fields shown on the 1886 First Edition OS map and they are therefore likely to relate to agricultural land management, drainage or division.

- 8.3. Pits 40007 and 40011 were identified cutting the subsoil in the north-eastern part of the stripped area and contained artefactual material of post-medieval/modern (mid 16th to 19th-century) date. The original function of these pits remains unclear due to their isolated nature. However, the small quantity of animal bone recovered from these features, along with the rubbly nature of their fills, suggests that they most likely represent rubbish pits for the disposal of either domestic waste or demolition material. Given the date of these features it is possible, though by no means certain, that they are associated with a series of potential dwellings located to the north of Pincots Lane, as depicted by the 1838 Wickwar Tithe Map (see *archaeological background* above), c. 100m to the south-east of the stripped area.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Sara-Jayne Boughton. This report was written by Sara-Jayne Boughton. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The report illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The project archive has been compiled, and prepared for deposition, by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

10. REFERENCES

AAU (Avon Archaeological Unit Limited) 2009 A Roman Roadside Settlement at Hall End, South Gloucestershire: Survey & Trial Excavations 2001-2004

AC (Archaeology Collective) 2017 Land off Sodbury Road, Wickwar, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, AC Project ref.: **AC00493A**

AS (Archaeological Surveys) 2019 Land south of Horwood Lane, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire: Magnetometer Survey Report, AS report: **J778**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2020 Geology of Britain Viewer
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> Accessed 4 February 2021

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 Land South of Horwood Lane, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation, CA Report No. **CR0005_1**

CA 2020 Land South of Horwood Lane, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Online Gloucester pottery type series <http://glospot.potsherd.net/docs/intro> (viewed 1 October 2020)

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
40000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey-brown sand-clay	>94	>38	0.29	
40001	Layer		Subsoil	Dark brown-grey and yellow-brown silt clay	>94	>38	0.16	
40002	Layer		Natural substrate	Compact blue and orange clay with frequent outcrops of limestone bedrock	>94	>38	-	
40003	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned; steep sloping, stepped sides and flat base	>89	1.2	0.51	
40004	Fill	40003	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow-brown clay; compact with frequent large limestone inclusions	>1	1.2	0.51	MC16-C18
40005	Cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned; steep sloping, concave sides and concave base	>55	1.03	0.38	
40006	Fill	40005	Fill of ditch	Dark brown-grey silt-clay; compact with frequent small stones	>1	1.03	0.38	
40007	Cut		Pit	NE/SW aligned short-length linear; steep sloping, stepped sides and flat base; cut by field drains	9.5	2.28	0.67	
40008	Fill	40007	Fill of pit	1 st fill of pit 40007: Dark brown-grey clay; compact; frequent large sandstone inclusions	>1	1.15	0.51	MC16-C18
40009	Fill	40007	Fill of pit	2 nd fill of pit 40007: Mid yellow-brown silt-clay; compact	>1	2.27	0.2	LC18-C19
40010	Void		Void	Void	-	-	-	
40011	Cut		Pit	Sub-rectangular in plan with steep sloping sides and concave base	8.5	3	0.63	
40012	Fill	40011	Fill of pit	1 st fill of pit 40011: Light brown-blue clay; compact; <40% large sandstone fragments and frequent manganese flecks	>2	2.86	0.27	MC16-C18
40013	Fill	40011	Fill of pit	2 nd fill of pit 40011: Dark orange-brown silt-clay; compact with frequent sandstone inclusions	>2	2.89	0.39	LC18-MC19
40014	Cut		Ditch	E/W aligned; steep, concave sides and concave base; cut by field drain	18	1.12	0.3	
40015	Fill	40015	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow-grey clay; compact	>0.95	1.12	0.3	LC18-MC19

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
40004	Post-medieval pottery Post-medieval glass	Glazed earthenware Bottle	TF50	4 10	143 17	MC16-C18
40008	Post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	TF50	7	53	MC16-C18
40009	Post-medieval pottery Post-medieval/modern pottery Clay tobacco pipe Iron	Glazed earthenware Transfer-printed refined whiteware Stem Nail	TF50 TF71	1 2 1 1	8 5 1 20	LC18-C19
40012	Post-medieval pottery Post-medieval ceramic building material Post-medieval glass Glass waste Industrial waste	Glazed earthenware Brick Bottle	TF50	1 1 3 1 1	24 264 96 23 331	MC16-C18
40013	Post-medieval pottery Post-medieval/modern pottery Modern ceramic building material	Glazed earthenware Transfer-printed pearlware Drainpipe	TF50 TF71	1 1 3	9 0.9 33	LC18-MC19
40015	Post-medieval/modern pottery Clay tobacco pipe	Pearlware Stem	TF69	1 1	6 2	LC18-MC19

APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

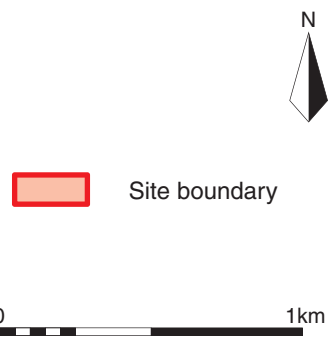
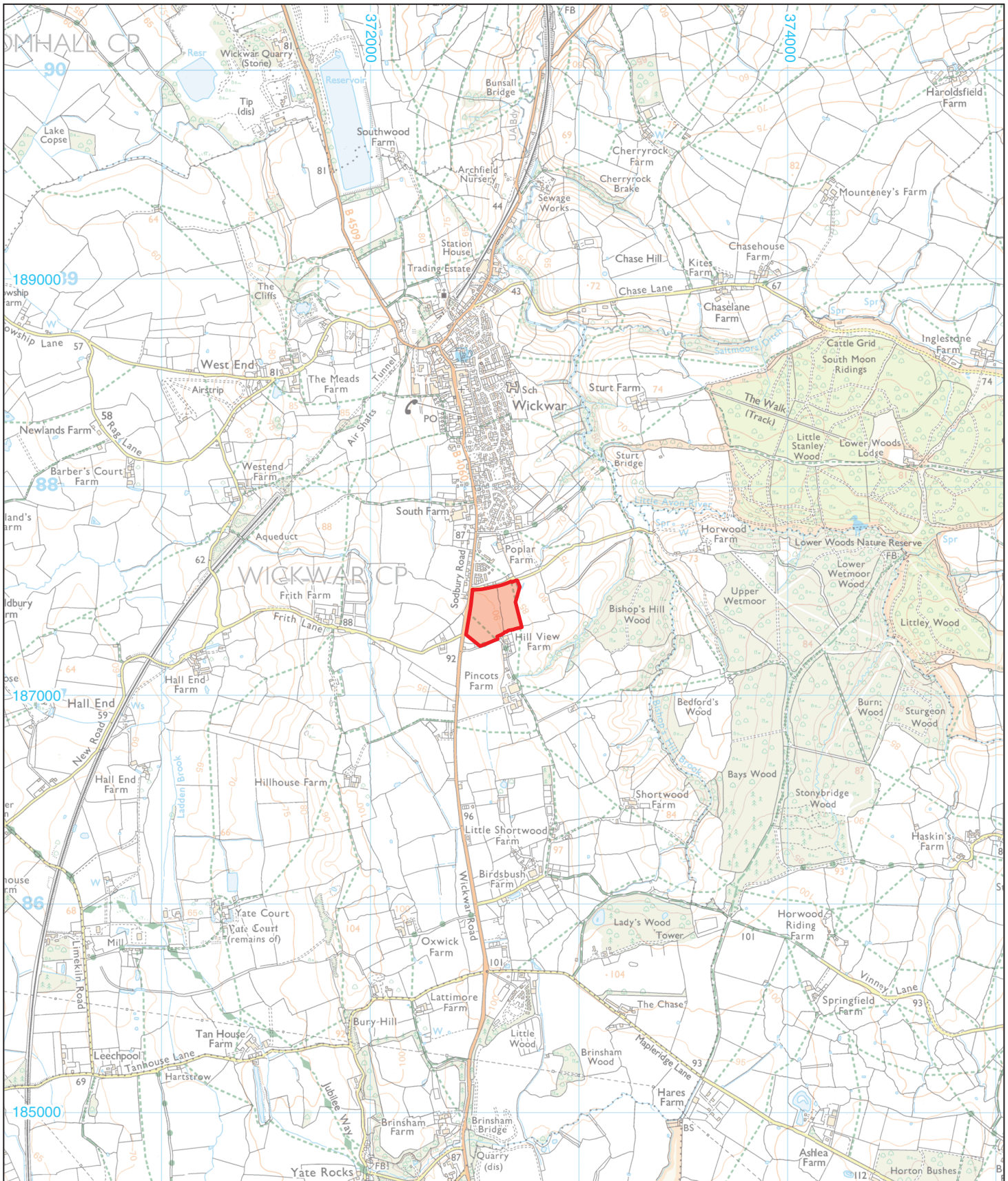
Table 1: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	Canis	LM	MM	Total	Weight (g)
40003	40004	1		1		3	5	156
40005	40006		1				1	3
40007	40008		1		1		2	56
40007	40009	1					1	44
40011	40012	1					1	29
Total		3	2	1	1	3	10	
Weight		213	32	10	27	6	288	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; Canis = dog; LM = cattle sized mammal; MM = sheep sized mammal

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land South of Horwood Lane, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire	
Short description	<p>In August 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of 90 residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure on land south of Horwood Lane, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire.</p> <p>Three intercutting ditches, two of which contained artefactual material of post-medieval/modern date, were recorded cutting the natural substrate in the western and southern parts of the stripped area. The exact function of these features remains unclear; however they are likely to relate to agricultural activity, drainage or division.</p> <p>Two irregular pits, both containing artefactual material of post-medieval/modern date, were identified cutting the subsoil in the north-eastern part of the stripped area. The presence of limestone rubble and animal bone in the fills of these pits suggest that they may represent rubbish pits for the disposal of domestic waste or demolition material, possibly associated with a number of (now demolished) dwellings depicted to the south-east of the stripped area by historic mapping.</p>	
Project dates	3-11 August 2020	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (AC 2017) Geophysical survey (AS 2019) Field evaluation (CA 2019)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land South of Horwood Lane, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	5.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	372646 187428	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Sara-Jayne Boughton	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive:	Content:
Physical	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives	Ceramics, glass, slag, clay tobacco pipe
Paper	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives	Context records, sections, plans, report
Digital	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives	Digital photos, report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 <i>Land South of Horwood Lane, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report CR0338_1		



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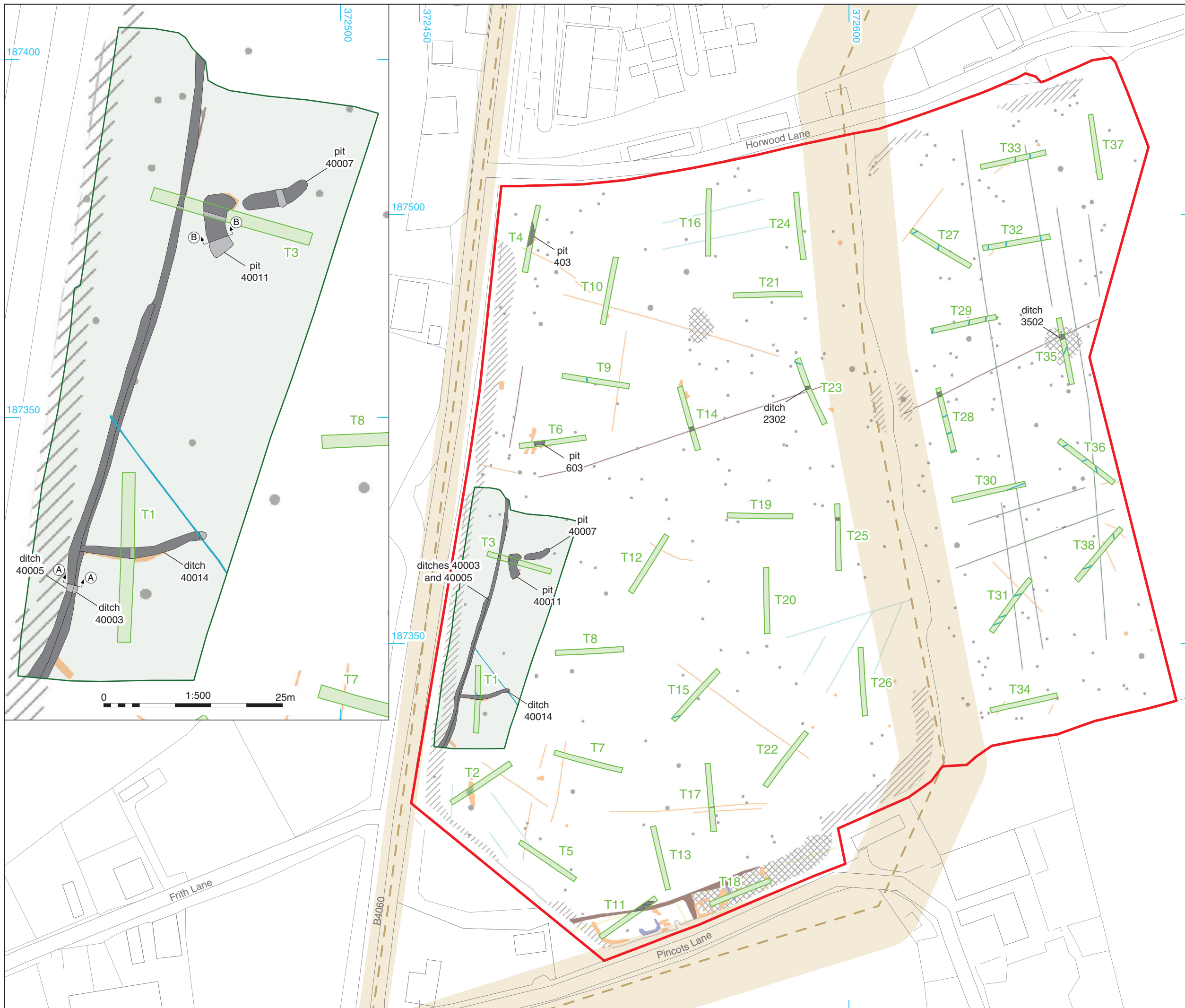


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PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Horwood Lane, Wickwar,
 South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	CR0338	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	29/09/20	1
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- Site boundary
- Area of observed groundworks
- Evaluation trench (CA, 2019)
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Deposit
- Modern
- Furrow
- Field drain
- Service and buffer
- Section location

- Geophysical survey**
(Archaeological Surveys Ltd. 2017)
- Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature/magnetic enhancement
 - Negative linear anomaly - material with low magnetic susceptibility
 - Linear anomaly - ridge and furrow
 - Weak multiple dipolar linear anomaly - land drain
 - Positive linear anomaly - former field boundary
 - Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature/magnetic enhancement
 - Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent/ferrous material
 - Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
 - Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object

0 1:1250 50m

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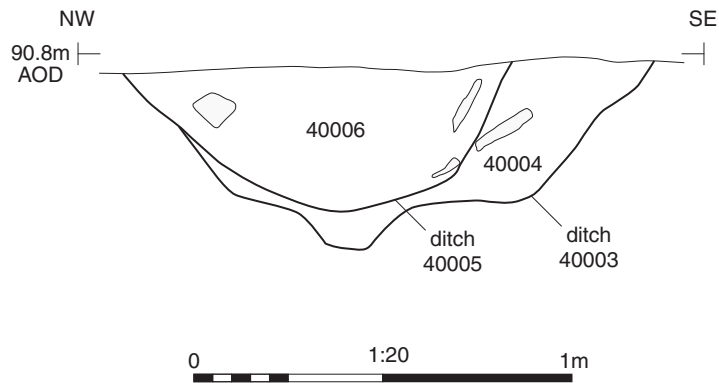
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PROJECT TITLE
Land South of Horwood Lane, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing observed groundworks, geophysical survey results, previous evaluation trenches and identified archaeological features (1:1250 and 1:500)

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	29.09.20	2
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Section AA



Ditches 40003 and 40005, looking north (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land South of Horwood Lane, Wickwar,
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FIGURE TITLE

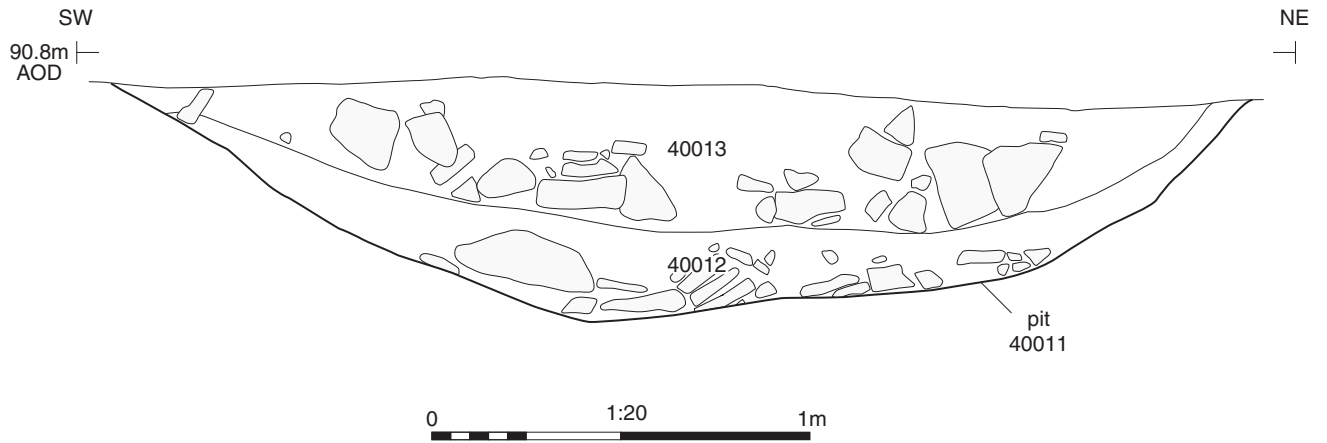
**Ditches 40003 and 40005:
 section and photograph**

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 CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **29.09.20**
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FIGURE NO.

3

Section BB



Pit 40011, looking north-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land South of Horwood Lane, Wickwar,
South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Pit 40011: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

4

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