Cotswold Archaeology

Lower Woodshaw
Royal Wootton Basset
Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

for:
SLR Consulting

on behalf of:
Wainhomes Severn Valley

CA Project: AN0418
CA Report: AN0418_1

November 2021

Andover Cirencester Milton Keynes Suffolk

Lower Woodshaw
Royal Wootton Basset
Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Lower Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Basset
Location:	Royal Wootton Basset, Wiltshire
NGR:	407732 181813
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	11–15 October 2021
Planning reference:	20/11655/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession Number:	DZSWS:57-2021
Site Code:	BAST21

In October 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Lower Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Basset, Wiltshire. A total of 13 trenches were excavated within the site.

The evaluation demonstrated that the entire site has been overburden stripped in the recent past. This stripping has removed all trace of the original topsoil and subsoil layers, with the possible exception of a small patch of remnant topsoil in Trench 8. The depth of the strip is uncertain and it is unclear how heavily the natural substrate was truncated. It is likely, however, that the stripping process will have had a negative impact on the preservation of any archaeological remains at the site. Post-stripping, the ground level was made up with redeposited material containing frequent modern construction waste.

The evaluation recorded a ditch and a pit in the northern part of the site, both of which contained relatively large amounts of artefacts dating to the 1st–2nd century AD. These artefacts were indicative of domestic waste, suggesting that the ditch and pit represent outlying features associated with a nearby settlement. The location of this settlement is uncertain, but there is no evidence that it lay within the present evaluation site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In October 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Lower Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 407732 181813; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for SLR Consulting, who were acting on behalf of Wainhomes Severn Valley.

1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for residential development of the site, which has been made to Wiltshire Council (planning ref: 20/11655/FUL).

1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by Tim Havard (Wiltshire Council Assistant Archaeologist). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by SLR Consulting (SLR 2021) and approved by Tim Havard.

1.4. The evaluation was also 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 lies on the south-eastern edge of Royal Wootton Bassett. The site is approximately 3ha in extent and currently comprises open grassland within a country park. The site is bounded by recent residential development around Evening Star to the east, by the country park to the north and west, and by a railway embankment to the south. The site lies at approximately 109m AOD in the north, falling to *c*. 98m AOD to the south-east.

1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Kimmeridge Clay Formation, which formed in the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded at the site (BGS 2021).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The proposed development site has been the previous subject of a desk-based heritage assessment (SLR Consulting 2020) and a geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2021). The following text is summarised from these sources.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43) and Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

2.2. Previous archaeological works *c*. 450m north of the proposed development site recovered a small number of prehistoric pottery sherds and recorded a single ditch of potential Roman origin.

Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)

2.3. Wootton Bassett was first recorded in AD 681. During the early medieval period, the area of the proposed development site is believed to have been woodlands.

2.4. During the medieval period, the site is believed to have been within the agricultural hinterland of Lower Woodshaw, which is located *c*. 600m to the east. LIDAR data indicates the presence of furrows within the site.

Post-medieval (1539–1800) and modern (1800–present)

2.5. The site continued in agricultural use in the post-medieval and modern periods. A map from 1777 depicts the 'Brinder's Hill House' farmstead *c*. 250m north-west of the site. Cartographic sources from the 19th and 20th centuries document modern farm buildings within the north-western limit of the site, and a pond within the site's western limit.

Geophysical survey

2.6. The geophysical survey identified a series of linear geophysical anomalies of unknown origin.

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 2021).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 13no 30m x 1.8m trenches (Fig. 2). The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.

4.2. Tr13 was additional to the trenches specified in the WSI (SLR Consulting 2021). This trench was requested by Tim Havard in order to further investigate the line of a linear feature recorded in Tr1.

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

4.5. CA will make arrangements with the Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. The Wiltshire Museum has issued accession number DZSWS:57-2021. 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* (CIfA 2014; updated October 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 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.

General stratigraphy

5.2. It was evident that the entire site had been overburden stripped in the recent past, and then made up with redeposited material. The natural geological substrate comprised dark yellow-grey clay. It was exposed in all trenches at a depth of 0.37m–0.84m below the present ground level. Plant tracks and areas of modern disturbance were visible in the natural substrate throughout the site.

5.3. The natural substrate was sealed throughout the site by a modern made ground layer, comprising redeposited natural clay with frequent modern inclusions (e.g. plastic items, construction waste, etc.). The made ground was sealed in turn by 0.08m–0.23m of modern topsoil, which also contained frequent modern waste.

5.4. In only one instance was a potential remnant of the original topsoil layer present. Layer 810 was recorded towards the centre of Tr8, where it overlay the natural substrate and was covered in turn by haul road 801 (see below for further discussion of Tr8).

5.5. Trenches 1, 8 and 13 contained archaeological features and are discussed in more detail below.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

5.6. Pit 105 was 1.44m wide and 0.47m deep. It contained a single clayey fill (106), from which relatively large amounts of Roman artefacts were recovered.

5.7. Pit 105 was cut by north-east/south-west aligned ditch 103. This ditch was 1.79m wide and 0.37m deep. It had two clayey fills (104 and 107), the lower of which contained relatively large amounts of late Iron Age/Roman artefacts.

Trench 8 (Fig. 4)

5.8. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 804 was located in the eastern end of Tr8. This ditch was 0.4m wide and 0.11m deep. It had a single silty clay fill (805), which contained modern ceramic building material.

5.9. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 806 was located in the western end of Tr8. This ditch was 0.93m wide and 0.01m deep. It contained a single undated clayey fill (807).

5.10. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 808 was also located in the western end of Tr8. This ditch was 1.35m wide and 0.1m deep and terminated within the trench. It contained a single undated clayey fill (809).

5.11. A possible remnant of the original topsoil layer was present towards the centre of Tr8 (context 810). This material was sealed by a 0.19m-thick layer of sandy/gravelly silt with frequent modern waste inclusions (context 801), which apparently represented part of a modern haul road.

Trench 13

5.12. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 1303 was 1.35m wide. It was not excavated (by agreement with Tim Havard) as Tr13 was opened to plot the continuing alignment of ditch 103 (Tr1) only.

6. THE FINDS

6.1. Artefactual material was recovered from three deposits. The material is listed by context in Appendix B and is described further below. Recording was undertaken in accordance with the *CIfA Finds Toolkit* (CIfA 2021).

Pottery

6.2. An assemblage of 91 sherds (weighing a total of 1.2kg) was recovered. All of the pottery dates to the Late Iron Age/Roman periods. The pottery has been recorded by count and weight according to fabric and context (Appendix B). Fabrics have been cross-referenced to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) whenever possible.

6.3. All of the pottery consists of coarsewares. These are dominated by grog-tempered wares (74 sherds, 1kg). The grog-tempered wares were produced in the Savernake area (SAV GT), just 10km to the east of the evaluation site; they date to the late

Iron Age/early Roman period. The large of group of 63 grog-tempered sherds recovered from fill 106 of pit 105 (Tr1) represents a single jar with a bead rim and burnt exterior, suggesting its use in a domestic setting for heating or cooking.

6.4. The group of greywares includes three vessels in a fabric typical of North Wiltshire manufacture (fill 106 of pit 105; Tr1) and others in the tradition of the Savernake (SAV GT) workshops; these all date to the mid-1st–3rd centuries. A flaring everted rim from a small greyware jar was recovered from ditch 103 (Tr1).

6.5. Ditch 103 (Tr1) also contained Late Iron Age/early Roman sherds from a coarse flint-tempered (FT) vessel in a local Wiltshire tradition, as well as small single sherds of a fine oxidised fabric (OF) and a coarse black sandy ware (S).

Ceramic building material

6.6. Two sherds of ceramic building material were recovered. A very abraded sherd from a Roman box-flue tile was recovered from fill 106 (pit 105, Tr1). The outer surface of this sherd exhibits a small area of combed 'keying'. This type of tile is associated with heating systems such as those used in baths. Its presence would imply the existence of high-status accommodation nearby, although the sherd is very abraded and this may imply some travel from its original position.

6.7. A fragment of a machine-made brick of 20th-century date was recovered from fill 104 (ditch 103, Tr1). This artefact must represent an intrusion into the earlier ditch.

Other finds

6.8. Fill 104 (ditch 103, Tr1) yielded two very abraded and small fragments of fired clay. They are black with a cream or orange surface. They are not large enough to identify their form or function. They may be daub or wattle.

Summary

6.9. The artefactual material was recovered almost exclusively from the fills of ditch 103 (fill 104) and pit 105 (fill 106), both of which were in Tr1. This material dates to the Late Iron Age/Roman period. The presence of a Roman box-flue tile is of interest; although heavily abraded, it suggests the existence of heated, high status, domestic spaces in the area.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

7.1. A single environmental sample (20 litres of soil) was processed from fill 104 of Roman ditch 103 (Tr1). This was done to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains in the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.

7.2. The presence of mollusc shells has been recorded and noted in Appendix C. The mollusc identifications follow nomenclature defined to Anderson (2005); habitat preferences follow Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

7.3. Fill 104 (sample 1) from Roman ditch 103 contained minimal amounts of comminuted charcoal. A small number of terrestrial snail shells were observed in the assemblage; these included the open country species *Helicella itala* and the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus*.

7.4. There is no evidence from this assemblage for any settlement activity, domestic or industrial, in the immediate vicinity of Tr1.

Animal bone

7.5. Animal bone amounting to 11 fragments (166g) was recovered via hand excavation and the processing of bulk soil samples from deposits 104 (fill of ditch 103) and 106 (fill of pit 105). Sheep/goat (*Ovis aries*/*Capra hircus*) was identified from two loose teeth (a molar and an incisor) from deposit 104 and a fragment of mandible from deposit 106. Cattle (*Bos taurus*) was identified from an almost complete metacarpal recovered from deposit 106.

7.6. The low number of animal bones present limits interpretation in terms of site economy and animal husbandry. However, each species was a commonly exploited domestic animal and its inclusion in a late Iron Age/Roman assemblage is to be expected.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1. The evaluation demonstrated that the entire site has been overburden stripped in the recent past. This stripping has removed all trace of the original topsoil and

subsoil layers, with the possible exception of a small patch of remnant topsoil in Tr8. The depth of the strip is uncertain and it is unclear how heavily the natural substrate was truncated. It is likely, however, that the stripping process will have had a negative impact on the preservation of any archaeological remains at the site. Part of a haul road was recorded in Tr8; this was presumably established for plant to track on during the stripping process. Post-stripping, the ground level was made up with redeposited material containing frequent modern construction waste. It is likely that this stripping took place during the construction of the recent residential development around Evening Star, which lies to the immediate east of the evaluation site.

8.2. The evaluation recorded a small number of ditches and a pit, all of which were located in the northern part of the site. The earliest feature was pit 105 (Tr1), which contained relatively large amounts of Roman artefacts. These artefacts included 63 sherds from a single jar, the burnt exterior of which suggested use in a domestic setting for heating or cooking. A sherd from a Roman box-flue tile was also recovered from pit 105; this type of tile is associated with heating systems such as those used in baths. Its presence may suggest the existence of high-status accommodation nearby – although the abraded nature of the sherd might imply some travel from its original position. A mid-1st–2nd century AD date was assigned to pit 105 on the basis of these artefacts.

8.3. Pit 105 was cut by ditch 103, which also contained relatively large amounts of pottery dating from the mid-1st–2nd century AD. Ditch 1303 (Tr13; unexcavated) represented the continuation of ditch 103. Two undated, shallow ditches were present in the western end of Tr8 (806 and 808), and it is likely that one of these features represents the very truncated remnants of ditch 103/1303.

8.4. Tr13 also contained a modern ditch (804).

8.5. The Roman features recorded by the evaluation contained relatively large amounts of domestic waste and presumably represent outlying features associated with a nearby settlement. The location of this settlement is uncertain, but there is no evidence that it lay within the present evaluation site. The nearest known Roman remains were recorded during previous archaeological works *c*. 450m north of the proposed development site, when a small number of prehistoric pottery sherds were

recovered and a single ditch of potential Roman origin was noted (see *Archaeological background*, above).

8.6. The correspondence to the geophysical survey results (Magnitude Surveys 2021) was limited. Ditch 103/1303 was on the alignment of a linear geophysical anomaly, although it lay to the anomaly's south. None of the other geophysical anomalies were found to correspond to below-ground archaeological remains. It is likely that that these anomalies relate to sub-surface variation/disturbance caused by the recent stripping/made ground.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Bush, assisted by Chris Brown, Katherine Hebbrad and Ben Wooster. This report was written by Steven Bush. The finds reports was written by Alejandra Gutiérrez. The biological evidence report was written by Emma Aitken. The report illustrations were prepared by Krissy Moore. The project archive has been compiled by Richard Paxford, and prepared for deposition by Zoe Emery. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

10. 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 brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.23	
1	101	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.26	
1	102	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
1	103	cut		Ditch	Shallow concave sides to concave flat base. Running NE/SW	>2	1.79	0.37	
1	104	fill	103	Ditch fill	Mid brown-grey silty clay	>2	1.79	0.37	MC1-C2
1	105	cut		Pit	Pit cut	>0.5	1.44	0.47	
1	106	fill	105	Pit fill	Dark brown-grey silty clay	>0.5	1.44	0.47	MC1-C2
1	107	layer	107	Ditch fill	Mid brown-grey silty clay	>1.35	1.1	0.21	
2	200	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.15	
2	201	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.38	
2	202	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.22	
3	301	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.45	
3	302	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.2	
4	401	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.4	
4	402	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
5	500	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.1	
5	501	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.3	
5	502	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
6	600	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.18	
6	601	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.5	
6	602	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
7	700	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.1	
7	701	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.38	
7	702	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
8	800	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.12	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)	Spot-date
8	801	layer		Haul road	Sandy/gravelly silt with frequent modern waste inclusions		1.9	0.19	
8	802	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.27	
8	803	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
8	804	cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned	>5.5	0.4	0.11	
8	805	fill		Ditch fill	Dark grey-brown silty clay	>5.5	0.4	0.11	
8	806	cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned	>5.13	0.93	0.01	
8	807	fill	806	Ditch fill	Mid grey-brown silty clay	>5.13	0.93	0.01	
8	808	cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned	>2.55	1.35	0.1	
8	809	fill	808	Ditch fill	Mid brown-grey silty clay	>2.55	1.35	0.1	
8	810	Layer		Remnant topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay		6	0.27	
9	900	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.1	
9	901	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.31	
9	902	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
10	1000	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.08	
10	1001	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.25	
10	1002	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
11	1100	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.14	
11	1101	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.7	
11	1102	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
12	1200	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.11	
12	1201	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.4	
12	1202	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
13	1300	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown-grey silty clay; rare subangular stone inclusions			0.16	
13	1301	layer		Made ground	Redeposited natural clay and topsoil. Compact. Modern waste inclusions			0.46	
13	1302	layer		Natural	Dark yellow/blue-grey clay				
13	1303	cut		Ditch	NW/SW aligned (unexcavated)	>1.8	1.35		
13	1304	fill	1303	Ditch fill	Dark brown-grey silty clay	>1.8	1.35		

APPENDIX B: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Material	Fabric*	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
104	pottery	SAV GT	Savernake grog-tempered ware	2	51	MC1-C2
	pottery		Grog-tempered ware	8	90	
	pottery		North Wiltshire grey ware	3	11	
	pottery		Coarse black sandy ware (S)	1	6	
	pottery		Very fine grog-tempered ware	1	19	
	fired clay			2	13	
	CBM		Corner sliver from machine-made brick (modern intrusion)	1	17	
106	pottery	SAV GT	Savernake grog-tempered	5	40	MC1-C2
	pottery		Grog-tempered ware	65	982	
	pottery		Coarse burnt flint-tempered fabric (FT)	1	46	
	pottery		North Wiltshire grey ware	2	14	
	pottery		North Wiltshire oxidised, fine fabric (OF)	1	2	
	CBM		box-flue tile; very fine orange/cream fabric	1	20	
300	pottery		North Wiltshire grey ware	2	15	MC1-C3

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric code

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table C1: Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Charred Remains Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 1												
Ditch 103	104	1	20	20	35	98	-	-	-	-	*/*	moll-t*

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 4–20 items; *** = 21–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items
moll-t = terrestrial mollusc

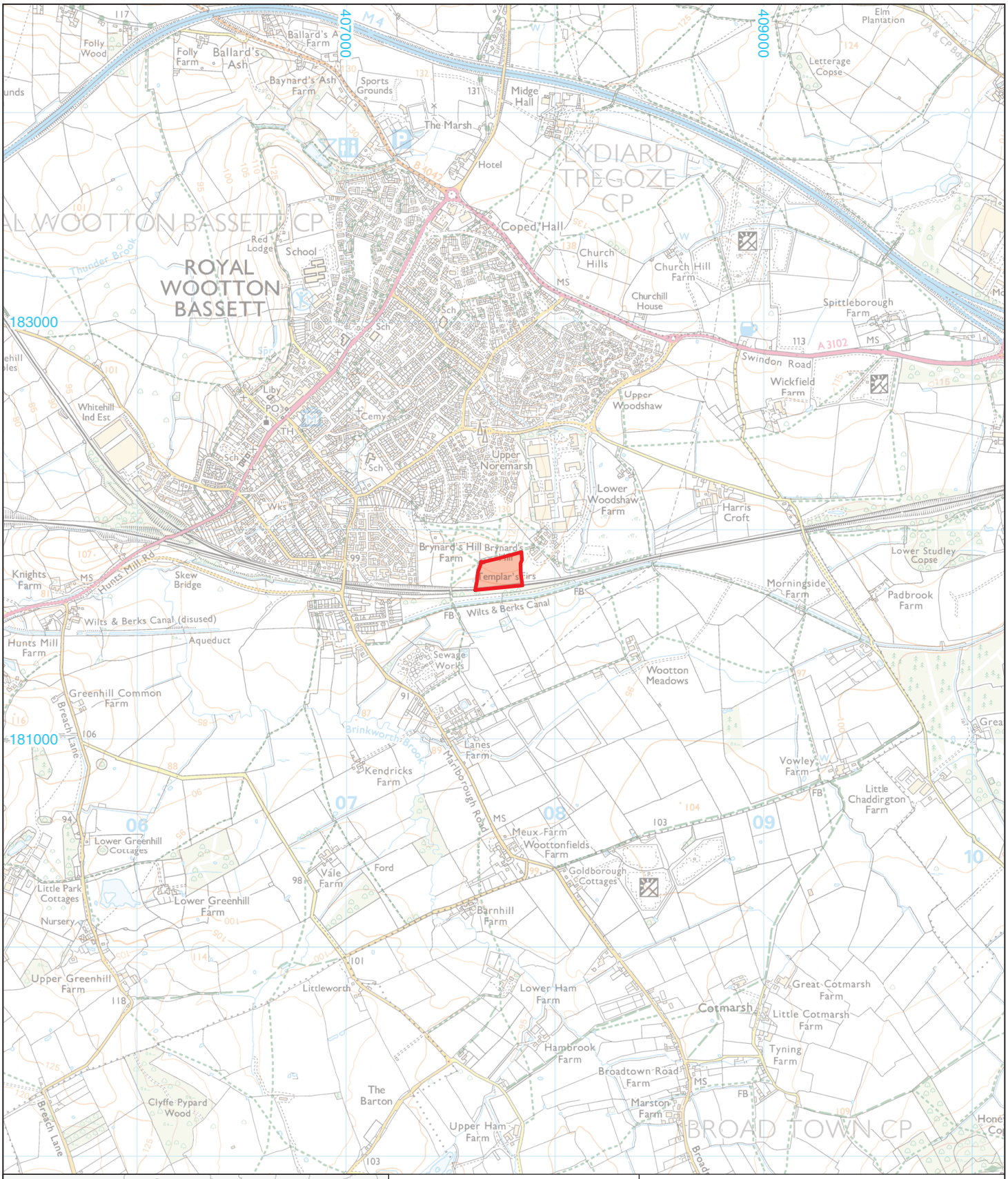
Table C2: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP), weight and context

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
103	104		2	1	2		5	30
105	106	1	1			4	6	136
Total		**1**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**4**	**11**	
Weight (g)		**118**	**8**	**24**	**2**	**14**	**166**	

BOS = cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; LM = large sized mammal; MM= medium sized mammal

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Lower Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Basset, Wiltshire	
Short description	In October 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Lower Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Basset, Wiltshire. A total of 13 trenches were excavated within the site. The evaluation demonstrated that the entire site has been overburden stripped in the recent past. This stripping has removed all trace of the original topsoil and subsoil layers, with the possible exception of a small patch of remnant topsoil in Trench 8. The depth of the strip is uncertain, and it is unclear how heavily the natural substrate was truncated. It is likely, however, that the stripping process will have had a negative impact on the preservation of any archaeological remains at the site. Post-stripping, the ground level was made up with redeposited material containing frequent modern construction waste. The evaluation recorded a ditch and a pit in the northern part of the site, both of which contained relatively large amounts of artefacts dating to the 1st–2nd century AD. These artefacts were indicative of domestic waste, suggesting that the ditch and pit represent outlying features associated with a nearby settlement. The location of this settlement is uncertain, but there is no evidence that it lay within the present evaluation site.	
Project dates	11–15 October 2021	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment (SLR 2020) Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2021)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Lower Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Basset, Wiltshire	
Study area (m^2/ha)	*c*.3ha	
Site co-ordinates	407732 181813	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	SLR Consulting	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Steven Bush	
MONUMENT TYPE	Roman ditch; Roman pit	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	**Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)**	**Content**
Physical	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes (DZSWS:57-2021)	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	Wiltshire Museum, Devizes (DZSWS:57-2021)	Site recording forms and drawings
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Database, digital photos, digital site data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2021 *Lower Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Basset, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation* CA typescript report **AN0418_1**		



Site boundary

0 1km

N

Cotswold Archaeology

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

PROJECT TITLE

Lower Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

				FIGURE NO.
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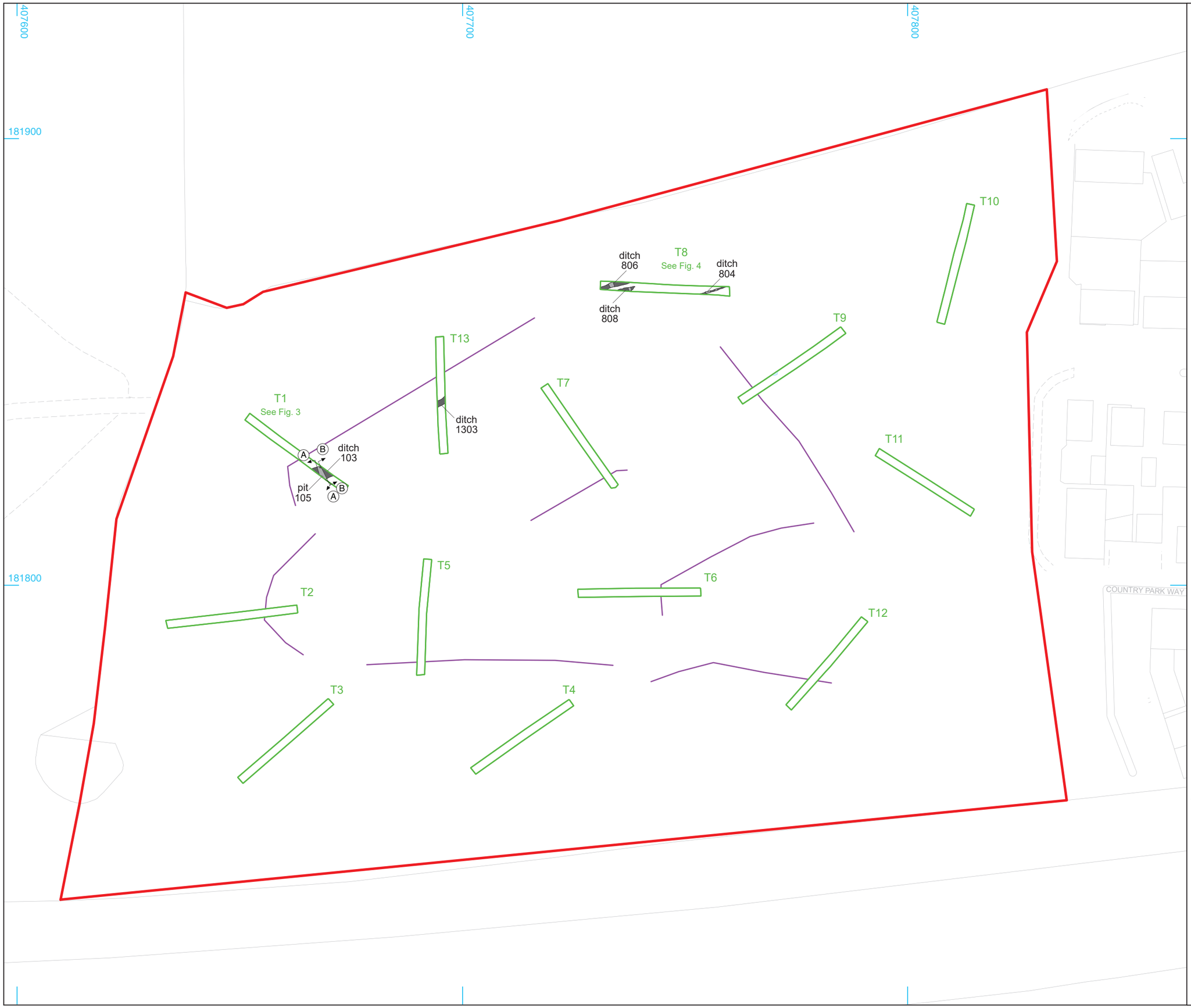
CHECKED BY	**RP**	*DATE*	**21/10/2021**	
APPROVED BY	**SB**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	



N

Site boundary

Evaluation trench

Archaeological feature
(excavated/unexcavated)

Geophysical anomaly

Section location

0 1:800 40m

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

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Lower Woodshaw, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench plan, showing geophysical anomalies and recorded archaeological features

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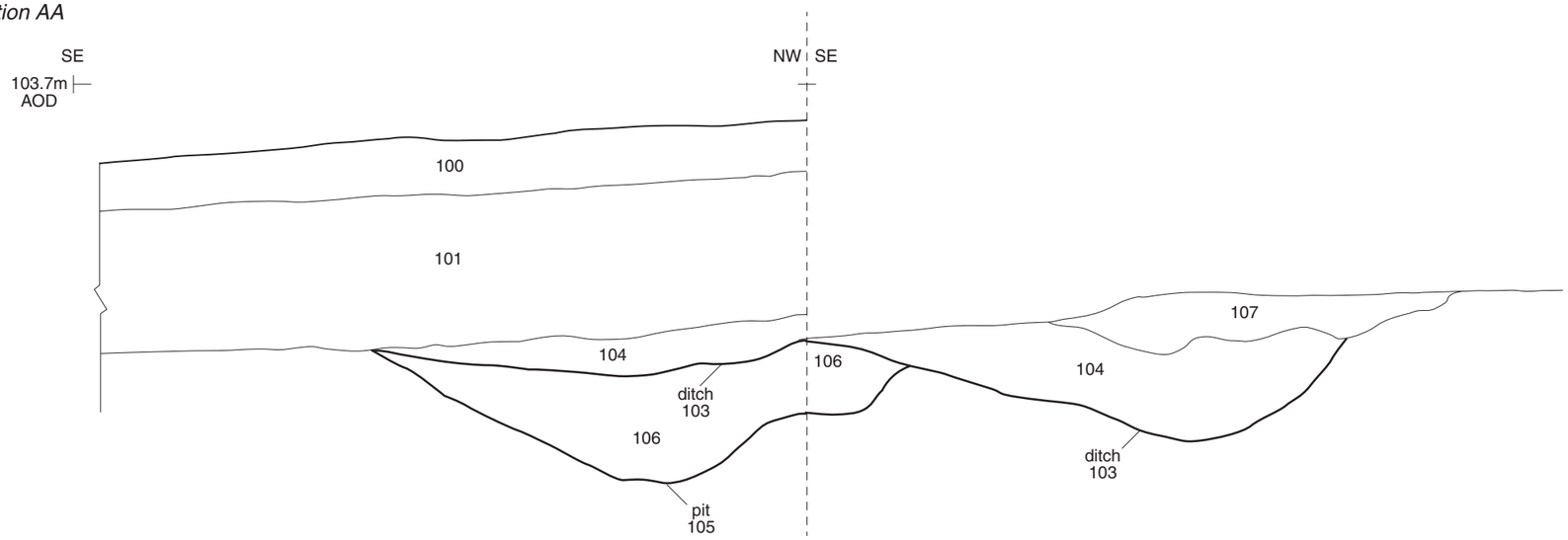
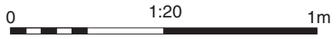
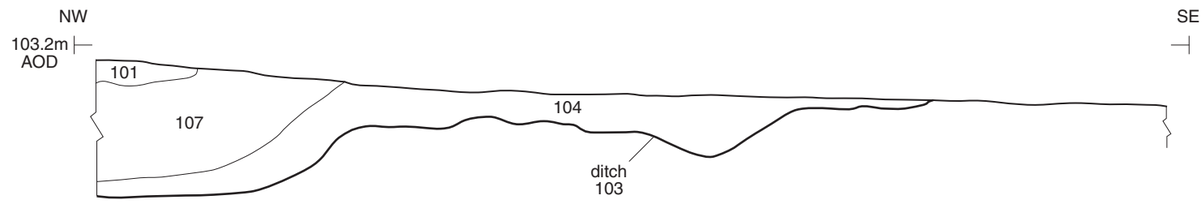
APPROVED BY	**SB**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:800**	

Section AA





Section BB



Trench 1 (pre-excavation), looking north-west (scales 1m)

Pit 105 and ditch 103, looking south-west (scale 2m)

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

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Trench 1: sections and photographs

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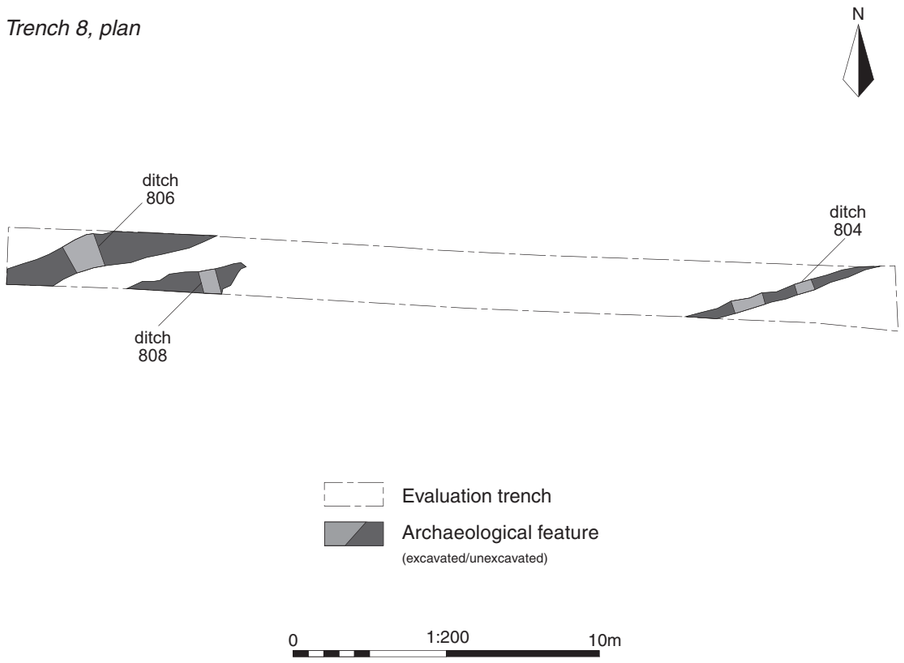
Trench 8, plan



Trench 8, looking west (scales 1m)

Ditch 806, looking south-west (scale 1m)

Ditch 808, looking south-west (scale 0.3m)

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

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Trench 8: plan and photographs

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Cotswold Archaeology

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Cotswold Business Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

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