Cotswold Archaeology

A40 Smart Corridor
Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

for:
Balfour Beatty

On behalf of:
Oxfordshire County Council

CA Project: MK0537

Site Code: SMOX21

CA Report: MK0537_2

Accession Number: OXMCS:2021.84

January 2021

Andover Cirencester Milton Keynes Suffolk

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project name:	A40 Smart Corridor
Location:	Eynsham, Oxfordshire
NGR:	between NGR: 438555 210050 and NGR: 448999 210675
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	01–26 November 2021
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with County Museum Resource Centre (Oxfordshire Museums) and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession Number:	OXMCS:2021.84
Site Code:	SMOX21

In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land alongside the A40 trunk road, Oxfordshire, at the request of Balfour Beatty acting on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, in connection with proposals for dualling of the existing single carriageway and other associated highway improvements.

The evaluation area comprised a series of land parcels alongside the existing A40 carriageway between the Hill Farm junction at Witney, at the western end of the scheme, and the A34 - A40 flyover at the eastern end. Although it was originally intended to excavate a total of 170 trenches a subsequent decision to remove all flood compensation areas from the scheme coupled with localised access constraints meant a total of 69 trenches were excavated.

Significant archaeological remains were encountered only in Areas 11 and 24. In Area 11 activity was centred around a kiln or corn dryer, in trench 79, with a number of postholes and small pits surrounding the structure potentially suggesting a post-built superstructure. A series of small ditches may represent a visual demarcation of the immediate working area surrounding the kiln/corn dryer, with outlying features in the adjacent trenches likely relating to peripheral agricultural activity. Pottery suggests a 2nd to 4th century date for these features.

In trench 63, Area 24, two large pits and a number of ditches produced a relatively large assemblage of pottery, although no evidence of domestic waste was recovered via bulk environmental soil sampling. This activity appears broadly contemporary with the features in Area 11, although a small quantity of pottery in the Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age or Early Roman transitional period style recovered from later features indicates a presence in the immediate vicinity of this period.

Very poorly preserved remains of medieval/ post-medieval ridge and furrow were encountered in Area 12, while a scatter of relatively poorly preserved features was also encountered at the western end of the proposed scheme, across trenches in Areas 2, 5, 7, and 8. These comprised a number of small, shallow north-east/south-west aligned ditches most likely related to attempts to improve drainage in lower-lying areas in each field. A number of small, isolated and undated pits could not be interpreted in any meaningful way.

The remaining land parcels seemingly contained either no archaeological remains or features exclusively related to land management and agriculture. Evidence for modern agricultural activity was visible in many of the trenches in the form of plough scars and wheel ruts.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land alongside the A40 trunk road, Oxfordshire, at the request of Balfour Beatty acting on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, in connection with proposals for dualling of the existing single carriageway and other associated highway improvements between the Hill Farm junction at Witney, at the western end of the scheme, and the A34 - A40 flyover at the eastern end (NGR: 438555 210050 to NGR: 448999 210675; Fig. 1).

1.2. Proposals have been submitted for a suite of six schemes relating to road improvements along the A40 between Witney and Oxford, which will deliver a new park and ride site, an extension of the dual carriageway around Witney, new bus lanes and junction improvements. The Site has previously been the subject of two historic environment desk-based assessments (AECOM 2020 & 2021) and a geophysical survey (AOC 2021), which identified the potential for heritage assets of archaeological significance to be present. Consequently, a requirement for evaluation trenching was identified by the Oxfordshire County Council County Archaeology Service (hereafter OCCAS). The results of this evaluation will inform the requirement for and design of any future archaeological mitigation and/or in situ preservation strategy.

1.3. The scope of the evaluation was defined in a brief issued by Richard Oram, the Lead Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Service (OCCAS 2021). In accordance with the outline framework set out in the brief, an Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by AECOM (2021), supported by a Supplementary Method Statement produced by CA (2021). Both documents were reviewed and approved by OCCAS.

1.4. The evaluation was also conducted in line with the *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 fieldwork was monitored by OCCAS based on written summaries and photographs of trenches and excavated archaeological features as the works

progressed, supplemented by a site visit undertaken by Steven Weaver of OCCAS on 16 November 2021.

The site

1.5. The evaluation area consists of three sections, the A40 Dualling section, at the west end of the scheme, JBL, at the centre, and Duke's Cut, in the east part of scheme.

1.6. The A40 Dualling section slopes gradually from west to east, with the western end located at approximately 82m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the eastern end at approximately 70m aOD. The underlying bedrock geology of this portion of the scheme is recorded as primarily comprising Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone of the Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay Formation (BGS 2021). No superficial geological deposits are recorded for the area. The local soils comprise slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Cranfield Soilscapes 2021).

1.7. The A40 JBL section lies in a gently undulating landscape, with an overall gradual decline from approximately 72m aOD at the west end to approximately 60m aOD at the east end of the Site along the length of the A40 single carriageway. The underlying geology for this part of the scheme is recorded as sedimentary mudstone belonging to the Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation (BGS 2021). The soils at the west end of the A40 JBL are recorded as loamy and clayey soils. The soils around Eynsham are recorded as freely draining lime-rich loamy soils. Bands of naturally wet loamy soils with high groundwater, loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage and naturally wet loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater are recorded along the rest of this part of the scheme (Cranfield Soilscapes 2021).

1.8. The A40 Duke's Cut section rises slightly from west to east, with the western end located at approximately 62m aOD and the eastern end located at approximately 68m aOD. The bedrock geology for this portion of the scheme is mapped as Mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation and West Walton Formation (BGS 2021). No superficial geological deposits are recorded, although sand and gravel deposits of the Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member are recorded in the wider area to the south, and Wolvercote Sand and Gravel Member deposits are mapped to the north. The local soils comprise loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater across much of the area, with an area of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly

acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils to the north-east (Cranfield Soilscapes 2021).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The site has previously been the subject of two historic environment desk-based assessments (AECOM 2020 & 2021) as well as a programme of geophysical survey (AOC 2021), and a summary of this information was presented as part of the overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (AECOM 2021). The following text has been summarised from these sources.

A40 Dualling site

2.2. The earliest recorded activity in the area surrounding the A40 Dualling site comprise Neolithic (3500-2000BC) settlement remains (MOX8193) identified during geophysical survey, including ditches and pits, while six post-holes were recorded during subsequent soil stripping within the same site. A findspot of a Neolithic flint artefact has also been also recorded (MOX3004). A crouched Bronze Age (2000-700 BC) inhumation was discovered at Twelve Acre Farm (MOX2795) and a series of Iron Age (700 BC-AD 43) ditches and shallow pits were also recorded in the wider area (MOX23427). Roman (AD43-410) remains within a 1km radius around the A40 Dualling site are confined to a single sherd of pottery (MOX2919).

2.3. There are no known remains of early medieval (AD410-1066) date with the A40 Dualling site are. Records of medieval (AD1066-1540) features included a possible moated farmstead (MOX3010) recorded during evaluation works towards the eastern extent of the site. Approximately 1km to the north of the A40 Dualling site is Cogges Wood (MOX2598), a possible medieval ancient woodland. Within these woods, medieval earthworks comprising a bank and ditch have also been recorded, possibly representing the boundary of a medieval hunting park (MOX2535).

2.4. Two non-designated post-medieval milestones (MOX2569; MOX2989) are located along the A40, as well as a parish boundary stone (MOX2574), also located along the A40, to the west of the A40 Dualling site. There are also former sites of post-medieval features within the wider area, including former clay pits and brick kilns (MOX2709; MOX2899), and a former sawmill (MOX1766). A modern (1900-present) former Methodist chapel is recorded at Barnard Gate (MOX2946). The building was constructed in 1906 and while it is still extant, is now in use as a workshop.

2.5. Several features of unclear date are also recorded in the area. These comprise linear features and enclosures (MOX2878), as well as possible linear features (MOX27427). There is also a possible square enclosure defined by a bank and ditch with a possible north-facing entrance (MOX2854).

A40 JBL

2.6. The earliest evidence in this area comprises palaeolithic (Up to 10,000BC) finds including a Middle Acheulian handaxe (MOX10628) and a large Acheulian cleaver (MOX11195). An undated mammoth tusk (MOX3951) was also retrieved from a pit excavated in the gravels of the Flood Plain at Upper Wolvercote. Prehistoric settlement sites have been identified, including an approximately 3ha Neolithic to Late Bronze Age domestic area (MOX3905) which was excavated on a gravel island of the Thames floodplain, and Neolithic activity has also been recorded at a multi-period complex at Yarnton (MOX11186), approximately 260m north of the site, also within the area now occupied by Cresswell Lake. The Cassington Ring Settlement and Funerary Complex (MOX10621), approximately 40m south of the site, included cropmark features (MOX10655), dating to the Early Neolithic, through to the Iron Age (c.700BC-AD43) and Roman periods.

2.7. Other Roman sites within the wider area include a Roman settlement (MOX2859) comprising ditches with some animal bone and pottery, uncovered during construction of the eastern A449 Eynsham bypass in 1982 (EOX2066); and a field system complex (MOX11177; MOX11178) consisting of intersecting enclosure and linear ditches, as well as a possible corn drying oven/kiln, was investigated during three separate evaluation schemes (EOX728; EOX736; EOX733). Two villa sites have also been recorded, one (MOX3956) is suspected to lie to the north-west of this area but has not been successfully identified, while another (MOX3979) is indicated by field name evidence and possible remains of tessellated pavement. Roman field boundaries and ditches (MOX11192) have also been identified within the area that is now Cresswell Lake.

2.8. The settlement of Eynsham is first documented during the 6th century AD and remains of early medieval date in the area includes activity at Cassington (MOX10663), and an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery (MOX2720) was found at Eynsham, as well as Anglo-Saxon burial sites (MOX3895; MOX3900) to the north-east of Cassington. Medieval evidence within the study area includes the sites of deserted medieval settlements at Warton (MOX11194) as well as at Somerford

(MOX8667). Further indications of deserted medieval settlements include a house platform at Rectory Farmhouse in Cassington (MOX3949) and earthworks to the east of Yarnton Church (MOX3966). Other medieval features include several ditches (MOX23429) identified near the A40 Cassington junction, partially within the site boundary. To the east, three medieval fishponds (MOX3893) remain as dry earthworks on the south side of a medieval moated site at Reynold's Farm (MOX3915).

2.9. Non-designated post-medieval remains comprise buildings such as a former Primitive Methodist Chapel (MOX3886) in Cassington, as well as former buildings such as mills (MOX2916) and features associated with the Oxford Canal (MOX3887; MOX2715).

2.10. Several undated features have been recorded within the study area, including penannular enclosures (MOX3981), enclosures and pits (MOX2966), linear features (MOX3997; MOX2965; MOX2878; MOX8906), and a further undated linear system (MOX3998) identified on aerial photographs.

A40 Duke's Cut

2.11. Known activity within the area includes a findspot of several Palaeolithic implements including handaxes and flakes (MOX3902) within the area of the scheduled monument at Port Meadow (NHLE 1010717) to the south of the site.

2.12. The site of a late Iron Age settlement (MOX26687) is located within the site boundary at the eastern end of the site. This settlement was also in use throughout the Roman period and the recorded features attest to the presence of a non-intensive, low-status, rural Roman farmstead. A findspot of Roman pottery (MOX3933) is recorded nearby, to the south of this settlement, within the site boundary.

2.13. The Duke's Cut (MOX3961), a private canal completed in 1789 and traveling a quarter of a mile from Wolvercote to a side channel from the Thames, passes through the site. An associated lock (MOX3984) and a milestone (MOX3939) are also recorded.

2.14. Other non-designated assets of post-medieval date within the study area comprise industrial sites including a brickworks (MOX3881) and an old brick pit (MOX3941), transportation-related assets comprising a railway crossing house (MOX3889) and a

signal box and weigh bridge (MOX3890), and the site of brick foundations and a well (MOX3882).

2.15. The site encompasses currently undeveloped areas adjacent to Duke's Cut Lock described by the Oxfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as 'Piecemeal Enclosure'.

Geophysical survey and other previous works

2.16. A geophysical gradiometer survey was undertaken by AOC Archaeology in May 2021 (AOC 2021). Approximately 45 hectares of the land within the red line boundary was available and suitable for survey. The survey area was spread across 42 fields/areas most of which consists of pasture, arable and scrub ground. Areas 12, 17, 18, 19 ,20, 25, 27, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 42 could not be surveyed due to the presence of livestock, the density of the vegetation, the presence of machinery, or access restrictions. Areas 23 and 24 were also omitted as they have previously been subject to archaeological evaluation.

2.17. No definitive archaeological remains were identified as part of the survey, although a number of linear and curvilinear as well as discrete features of possible archaeological origan were recorded. The origin of these features is unknown, but many were interpreted as agricultural, geological or modern in nature. In some areas, particularly 1, 22, 28 and 40, the shape and extent of the features recorded possibly indicated an archaeological origin. It was suggested that these could relate to several periods including Bronze Age funerary monuments, Iron Age and Romano-British settlement or potential medieval remains. Development in agricultural ploughing methods were also identified across the surveyed areas, although these features were more tentative in nature. Additionally, geological trends were identified across many parts of the scheme, including paleochannels as well as geological stratigraphic changes.

2.18. Other previous investigations include:

- B4449 Eynsham Bypass – Oxford Archaeological Unit and Ancient Monuments Laboratory 1981–1982
- A40 Witney to Cassington Dualling – Oxford Archaeology 1991–1992
- Yarnton Cassington Project – Oxford Archaeology 1989–1998

- A40 Park & Ride – SUMO Geophysics and Oxford Archaeology 2018–2019

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The aim of the evaluation was to identify and evaluate the extent and character of archaeological features present within the Site, in order to provide sufficient information to enable an informed planning decision to be made over the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains. This information will be used to inform the design of any archaeological mitigation strategy that is required, in line with the framework set out in the *A40 Smart Corridor: Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (OCCAS 2021). This process is in line with policies contained in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

3.2. The general objectives of the archaeological trial trench evaluation were to:

- establish the presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation, quality and significance of surviving archaeological deposits or features at the Site, including features of probable archaeological origin identified within the geophysical survey results;
- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- evaluate the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;
- evaluate the potential for palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;
- assess the impact of the Proposed Development on surviving archaeological deposits or features at the Site;
- inform the requirement for and design of any future archaeological mitigation and/or in-situ preservation strategy.

3.3. The specific objectives of the evaluation were to:

- 'test' the reliability of the results of the geophysical survey against trenches in potentially blank areas across the Site and trenches targeted in areas where anomalies of uncertain or predicted archaeological origin were recorded;

- provide further information on the extent of modern disturbance.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The evaluation was originally intended to comprise the excavation of 170no. trenches, each measuring 30m long by 2m wide, as per the agreed WSI (AECOM 2021) and Supplementary Method Statement (CA 2021). However, after the commencement of fieldwork a decision was taken to remove all flood compensation areas listed in the WSI from the scheme (see AECOM 2021 section 4.12), leaving a total of 70no. trenches to be excavated. As this was finalised after trenching had already progressed beyond land parcel 13, the trenches in that parcel were retained in the overall numbering sequence for the remaining trenches although they remained unexcavated. Further changes in the trenching requirements over the course of the fieldwork meant that trench 79 in area 11 should have been renumbered to 75 but as the trench had been fully investigated and recorded at the point at which the numbering sequence was changed then the number 79 was retained in order to maintain coherence within the primary archive. Due to land access not being granted then trench 68, in area 27, was also subsequently omitted from the scheme with the result that 69no. trenches were excavated in total, as listed in the table below and shown on the attached plans (see Figures 2-7).

Land parcel / Area	Trenches
1	1, 2
2	3
3	4
5	5, 6
7	7-13
8	14-17
9	18-22
10	23
11	24-37; 79
12	38-41
13	*42-46 [unexcavated]*
14	47-53
15	54, 55
17	56-58

20	59, 60
24	63, 64
25	65
26	66, 67
27	*68 [unexcavated]*
29	69, 70
31	71-73
37	74

4.2. The trench locations were chosen to target anomalies identified by a previous programme of geophysical survey (AOC 2021), as well as to test apparently blank areas in the survey and as a means of prospection for remains of a type or period that may not typically respond to geophysical survey, as specified in the brief (OCCAS 2021) and detailed in the agreed WSI (AECOM 2021) and Supplementary Method Statement (CA 2021). In general, the correlation between geophysical anomalies and the features identified in the trenches was poor, with most features predicted by the geophysical survey not encountered and, conversely, investigated features in many cases not matching the geophysical survey results.

4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using survey grade Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Leica GPS equipment and scanned for underground services by appropriately trained members of staff using Radiodetection Cable Avoidance Tool and Signal Generator equipment. 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* and the requirements set out in the brief (OCCAS 2021), WSI (AECOM 2021) and Supplementary Method Statement (CA 2021) documents.

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 County Museum Resource Centre (Oxfordshire Museums) for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection, under accession code OXCMS: 2021.84. The contents of the project archive are presented in tabulated form in Appendix E. 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 the Oxfordshire Museums guidelines and the *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 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 trenches were excavated across a range of arable fields, paddocks, and larger pasture fields. Each trench measured 30m long by 2m wide, and for the most part revealed a natural substrate of silty clay and gravels directly overlain by topsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed in a total of 55 of the trenches (trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10-11, 13-15, 17, 18-22, 24, 25, 27-30, 34-40, 47-62, 64-67, and 69-74). These will not be discussed in any further detail although descriptions of the geological layers encountered can be found in Appendix A and a selection of blank trench and representative section photographs can be found in Figures 8-13. In trench 23, a short and narrow linear feature was investigated but was considered likely to be the result of modern wheel rutting.

5.3. Two key areas of archaeological activity were revealed during the course of the fieldwork. In Area 11 (trenches 26, 31-33 and 79), activity appeared to centre around trench 79, where the structural remains of a kiln or corn dryer and associated deposits

were revealed, surrounded by a number of possible postholes and other features. In Area 24, trench 63 contained seven ditches, as well as two large pits, which collectively produced a relatively large assemblages of pottery, fired clay and ceramic building material, as well as animal bone.

5.4. In addition, a small scatter of relatively poorly preserved features was encountered at the western end of the proposed scheme, in trenches 3, 6, 8-9, 12, and 16. These comprised a scatter of small, isolated pits, and shallow north-east/south-west aligned ditches which may be representative of former field boundaries or efforts to improve drainage.

Area 2, Trench 3 (Fig. 2 & 14)

5.5. At the western end of trench 3, roughly east-west aligned ditch 305 was investigated, measuring 0.6m wide and 0.12m deep, with concave sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single sterile fill (306) of light grey brown silty clay.

5.6. The remains of an irregular tree throw (303) were encountered near the centre of the trenchl; the single fill (304) produced a small fragment of ceramic building material.

Area 5, Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

5.7. A single north-east/south-west aligned ditch (602) crossed the western end of trench 6, measuring 1.22m wide and 0.22m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill (603) of mid orange brown silty clay which produced no dating evidence.

Area 6, Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

5.8. Trench 8 revealed a single north-east/south-west aligned ditch (803) that broadly matched a linear geophysical anomaly. The feature measured 1.05m wide and 0.08m deep, with moderately steep sides and a slightly concave base. A single fill (804) of mid orange brown silty clay produced a range of post-medieval/ modern artefacts including fragments of transfer printed and refined red earthenwares, blue-green bottle glass, as well as slate and fired clay.

Area 6, Trench 9 (Fig. 2 & 15)

5.9. Ditch terminus 902 was observed extending into the trench from the southern limit of excavation, running on a north-east/south-west alignment. The feature measured 0.45m wide and 0.23m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill (903) of mid yellow brown silty clay with frequent burnt clay and charcoal

inclusions. A small fragment of prehistoric pottery and one sherd of post-medieval/modern transfer printed ware were recovered from the fill. A bulk soil sample (sample no. 1) taken from the fill also contained a small number of tuber and hazelnut shell fragments and several terrestrial and intermediate snail shells, together with a large quantity of charcoal. The charred remains are interpreted as likely being indicative of a dump of hearth waste material, the material originating from hedgerow/woodland management (see section 7 below).

5.10. Just to the west, pit 904 measured 0.84m long, 0.61m wide and 0.07m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. A single fill (905) of mid orange grey silty clay produced no finds.

Area 6, Trench 12 (Fig. 2 & 16)

5.11. A single north-east/south-west aligned ditch (1202) crossed the north-western half of trench 12, just to the south of a linear geophysical anomaly. The ditch measured 1.03m wide and 0.25m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a single sterile deposit (1203) of mid grey brown silty clay.

Area 8, Trench 16 (Fig. 2 & 17)

5.12. The remains of a pit (1602) were revealed at the south-western end of trench 16, measuring 0.88m in diameter and 0.12m deep, with gently sloped sides and a flat base. A single fill (1603) of mid brown grey silty clay contained no finds, but a bulk sample (sample no. 2) contained a large quantity of charcoal including fragments of oak.

Area 10, Trench 23 (Fig. 3 & 18)

5.13. A tree throw (2302) was partially exposed at the western edge of trench 23; this was tested but is not discussed further.

5.14. In the northern half of the trench, a short and narrow linear feature (2304) was investigated but was considered likely to be the result of modern wheel rutting. The likely wheel rut was aligned north/south, measuring 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep with near-vertical sides and a concave base, and filled by a single deposit (2305) which contained no finds. While it is possible that the feature may represent a ditch segment rather than modern disturbance, the cut shape does not appear to match other small ditches encountered in Area 11 to the north (see below). Very soft ground conditions were noted within the area during the fieldwork and the likely wheel rut was seen to align with the modern agricultural tramlines.

Area 11, Trench 26 (Fig. 3 & 19)

5.15. Trench 26 contained a single pit (2602), measuring 1.09m long, 0.91m wide and 0.28m deep, with steep sides and a largely flat base. The feature contained a total of four fills which likely represent separate instances of deliberate backfilling. The earliest (2603) comprised a dark grey loose silty clay and a bulk sample (sample no. 3) produced a very small number of curled dock seeds, as well as a large charcoal assemblage including oak and undiagnostic twig wood. This fill was overlain by a deposit (2604) of mixed mid red brown and grey brown clay with occasional charcoal fragments, which in turn was sealed by another deposit (2605) of mid grey brown clay with infrequent charcoal inclusions. An upper fill (2606) of dark grey silty clay was sampled (sample no. 4) and produced a small number of tuber fragments as well as a large quantity of charcoal. No finds were recovered from any of the fills.

Area 11, Trench 31 (Fig. 3 & 20)

5.16. The shallow remains of a pit (3104) were investigated near the south-eastern end of trench 31. The feature measured 1m long, 0.7m wide, and 0.08m deep, with shallow sides and a flat base. A single fill (3105) comprised of mid grey yellow silty clay produced no finds.

5.17. A tree throw (3102) was also tested near the centre of the trench.

Area 11, Trench 32 (Fig. 3 & 21-22)

5.18. An isolated poorly preserved pit (3202) was revealed at the north-western end of trench 32. The feature measured 0.7m in diameter and 0.09m deep, with gently sloped sides and a slightly uneven base, and was filled by a single sterile deposit (3203) of mid yellow grey silty clay.

5.19. East/west aligned ditch 3204 crossed the south-eastern end of the trench, measuring 0.59m wide and 0.13m deep with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. The feature contained a sterile lower fill (3205) of mid grey yellow silty clay which was overlain by an upper deposit (3206) of light brown grey silty clay. The upper fill produced ceramic building material and Romano-British pottery including one sherd of South East Dorset black burnished ware dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries.

5.20. Immediately to the south of ditch 3204, a cluster of four postholes (3207, 3209, 3211, 3213) was also investigated. The postholes measured around 0.3m in diameter and between 0.03m and 0.08m deep, with steep sides and slightly irregular bases (see Fig. 21-22 for detailed illustrations of posthole 3211). Each feature contained a single

fill (3208, 3210, 3212, 3214 respectively), which in all cases comprised sterile deposits of dark grey silty clay.

Area 11, Trench 33 (Fig. 3 & 23)

5.21. At the southern end of the trench two intercutting east-west aligned ditches (3302 and 3304) were investigated. Possible remnant ditch 3302, the earlier of the two features, survived with a width of 0.3m and depth of 0.05m, with moderately sloped sides and a flat base. A single fill (3303) of mid grey brown silty clay produced no finds. The feature was truncated on its northern side by later ditch 3304, measuring 0.93m wide and 0.11m deep with moderately sloped sides and a flat base. A sterile lower fill (3305) of mid grey yellow silty clay was sealed by an upper deposit (3306) of mid grey brown silty clay which also produced no finds.

5.22. Further to the north, near the centre of the trench, two remnant postholes (3307 and 3309) were revealed. The southernmost of the two features (3307) measured 0.27m in diameter and 0.11m deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill (3308) of dark grey brown silty clay which contained no finds.

5.23. Posthole 3309 measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.04m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a flat base. The feature was filled by a single deposit (3310) of dark grey brown silty clay which produced no finds.

Area 11, Trench 79 (Fig. 3 & 24-26)

5.24. Trench 79 revealed the most complex remains encountered during the course of the fieldwork, in the form of structural remains of a kiln or corn dryer and associated deposits surrounded by a number of possible postholes and other features. During on-site discussions with Steven Weaver of OCCAS it was decided that the kiln/corn dryer and immediately associated features should remain unexcavated at this stage and be recorded in plan only. However, a number of the more peripheral features within the trench were subject to hand excavation as detailed below.

5.25. The kiln/corn dryer (7902) was only partially exposed within the trench and comprised a course of roughly dressed stones forming a rough rectangular shape. The interior area of the structure was filled by deposits of heat-affected silty clay with large proportions of fragmented ceramic building material. A halo of reddened heat-affected clay was also visible around the exterior of the stone structure. Along the western side of the feature a dark, charcoal rich silt deposit (7908) was observed (see photographs shown in Figure 25).

5.26. The structure and directly associated deposits appeared in plan to truncate two linear features (7911 and 7913), aligned east/west and north-west/south-east respectively. A number of small pits and postholes were also recorded in plan in the immediate area around the kiln/corn dryer, possibly suggesting the presence of other structural remains.

5.27. It was noted that a scatter of ceramic building material and pottery fragments was visible within the ploughed topsoil, extending roughly 10m to the east and west of the trench in the area of the kiln/corn dryer. Although the features revealed in the trench appeared relatively well preserved the scatter of unstratified topsoil finds suggests an element of modern plough truncation. A selection of this material was recovered for analysis (see Section 6 and Appendix B).

5.28. A roughly east/west aligned ditch (7919) was investigated at the north-east end of the trench, measuring 0.95m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately sloped sides and a slightly undulating base. The feature contained a single fill (7920) of light grey brown silty clay which contained no finds. A slightly more plough-truncated parallel ditch (7923) was observed at the south-west end of the trench, measuring 0.73m wide and 0.15m deep with steep sides and a flat base. This feature contained a single fill (7924) of mid brown grey silty clay which produced no finds. It is possible that these ditches represent part of a boundary surrounding the kiln/corn dryer and immediately surrounding working area.

5.29. Near the centre of the trench, just to the north-east of the kiln/corn dryer, a small slightly curvilinear ditch (7917) was investigated, measuring 0.55m wide and 0.22m deep, with steep edges and a concave base. A single fill (7918) of mid brown grey silty clay produced fragments of Roman pottery and ceramic building material. The feature appeared to align roughly with a curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

5.30. To the south of possible ring ditch 7917, a pit (7921) extended partially into the trench from the south-east with a visible length of 0.81m, width of 0.5m and depth of 0.1m. The feature contained a single fill (7922) of light brown grey silty clay which produced no finds.

5.31. Two postholes were also investigated in the area surrounding the kiln/corn dryer, in order to assess preservation levels. Just to the south of the kiln/corn dryer and

adjacent to the south-east edge of the trench, posthole 7925 measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.1m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. The single fill (7926) of mid grey brown silty clay contained no finds.

5.32. To the north of the structure, at the north-western edge of the trench, posthole 7931 measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.16m deep, with steep edges and a concave base. A single fill (7932) of mid brown grey silty clay produced no finds.

Area 12, Trench 41 (Fig. 3 & 27-28)

5.33. At the eastern end of trench 41, a north-east/south-west aligned ditch (4104) was investigated, measuring 0.62m wide and 0.17m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The single fill (4105) of mid grey brown clayey silt contained no finds.

5.34. The poorly preserved remains of a ridge and furrow were also observed within the trench in the form of three parallel, evenly spaced remnant furrows running on a north/south alignment. Two of the furrows were hand-excavated (4106 and 4108), with furrow 4106 illustrated in more detail as the best-preserved example (see Fig. 27-28). The furrows measured around 0.7m wide and a maximum of 0.04m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a flat base.

5.35. No furrows were recorded in the other trenches in Area 12, most likely due to relatively recent levelling associated with the preparation of the field for horse paddocks and a small stable/shed building. It was noted however that some barely perceptible undulations of the former ridge and furrow system do survive within the hedgerow surrounding the field.

Area 24, Trench 63 (Fig. 5 & 29-30)

5.36. A total of seven ditches and two large pits were revealed in trench 63. With the exception of a central ditch, all features were subject to hand excavation.

5.37. At the eastern end of the trench, intercutting ditches 6302 and 6304 were seen to run on a north-east/south-west alignment. The earlier of the two features (6302) measured 0.88m wide and 0.41m deep, with steep sides and a narrow, flat base. A single fill (6303) comprising mid brown grey silty clay contained a varied assemblage of Late Iron Age to Roman (2nd to 3rd century) pottery, as well as a single likely intrusive sherd dating to the 12th to 14th century. The ditch was truncated on the north-western side by a later, smaller ditch (6304) measuring 0.41m wide and 0.24m deep, with steep sides and a concave base, which appeared to terminate within the

excavated slot. This contained a single fill (6305) of dark brown grey silty clay that produced a range of 3rd to 4th century pottery and fired clay.

5.38. Immediately to the west, north-east/south-west aligned ditch 6306 measured 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep, with steep sides and a slightly undulating base. The feature was filled by a single deposit (6307) of mid grey brown silty clay which produced Roman pottery as well as fired clay and animal bone. On the south-east side the ditch was cut by modern feature 6316.

5.39. Near the centre of the trench, large pit 6312 was partially exposed extending from the northern limit of excavation with a visible length of 2.45m and width of 0.85m; hand-excavation ceased at a depth of just over 1m below present ground level due to safety constraints. The pit contained three visible fills, with the lowest (6313) comprised of mid brown grey silty clay containing a range of Roman pottery, ceramic building material, and animal bone. This was overlain by a middle fill (6314) of dark brown grey silty clay which produced similar quantities of Roman pottery, ceramic building material, and animal bone. A bulk sample taken from this deposit (sample no. 5) contained a small number of indeterminate cereal grains, wheat grains, vetch/wild pea seeds and charcoal fragments. The middle fill was sealed in turn by a thin upper deposit (6315) of mid yellow brown silty clay, which produced similar artefactual material to the other fills, as well as a single iron nail.

5.40. A north-west/south-east aligned ditch (6318) crossing the centre of the trench immediately to the west of pit 6312 was not investigated, but several fragments of Roman pottery including two sherds of imported samian ware were collected from the top of the feature.

5.41. Further to the west, north-west/south-east aligned intercutting ditches 6319 and 6321 were investigated. The earlier of the two features (6321) measured 1.38m wide and 0.31m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill (6322) of dark yellow brown silty clay which produced fragments of Roman pottery and animal bone. A bulk sample recovered from the deposit also included a single charred indeterminate cereal grain and a very small number of charcoal fragments. The feature was truncated on its north-eastern side by later ditch 6319, measuring 0.82m wide and 0.19m deep with steep sides and a flat base. This ditch was filled by a single deposit (6320) of dark brown grey silty clay which contained a small assemblage of Roman pottery, ceramic building material, and animal bone. A bulk

sample taken from the fill (sample no. 7) was found to contain no charred plant remains or charcoal.

5.42. Near the western end of the trench, north-east/south-west aligned gully 6308 was investigated, measuring 0.4m wide and 0.13m deep, with moderately sloped sides and a slightly undulating base. The feature was filled by a single deposit (6309) of mid grey brown silty clay and contained no finds.

5.43. A large pit (6310) was partially revealed at the western end of the trench with a visible length of 1.57m, width of 1.27m, and depth of 0.27m with steep sides and a flat base. The single fill (6311) comprised mid grey brown silty clay which produced fragments of later prehistoric and Roman pottery as well as fired clay.

6. THE FINDS

6.1. The artefactual material was recorded from 22 deposits: the fills of ditches, pits, furrows, construction cuts, layers and the topsoil (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand and from bulk soil samples and recorded in accordance with the CIfA finds Toolkit (CIfA 2021).

Pottery by Peter Banks

6.2. The pottery from the evaluation has been recorded direct to an Excel spreadsheet from which Appendix B (Table 1) is derived. This forms part of the project archive. The assemblage was examined by context, using a x10 binocular microscope and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in summary in Appendix B (Table 2) in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (Barclay *et al*. 2016) and cross-referenced where appropriate the National Roman Fabrics Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). A concordance with the Oxfordshire fabric series has been provided where possible (Booth *unpublished*) and the post-Roman fabric codes are derived from Sue Anderson's (unpublished) post-Roman fabric series.

6.3. The assemblage comprises 140 sherds, weighing 1793g. The group is in a moderate condition; fractures and surfaces exhibit only minor signs of wear. The mean sherd weight is moderately high for a largely Roman assemblage at 12.8g.

Late Iron Age/Roman

6.4. The majority of the assemblage (136 sherds, 1772g) consists of pottery dating to the Late Iron Age or Roman period. Two small sherds (6g) of handmade grog-tempered pottery (fabric GR/GRC), from ditch 902 (trench 9) and pit 6310 (trench 63), are most likely of Late Iron Age date, although neither exhibited any diagnostic features. Five sherds (36g) of wheelthrown grog-tempered (UNS GR) or shelly grog-tempered wares (UNS SHGR), recovered from ditch 6302 and pits 6310 and 6312, all in trench 63, can be dated to the Late Iron Age or Early Roman transitional period. A small sherd (2g) made in a sandy fabric with calcareous inclusions (UNS QC) is also considered to belong to this period, although diagnostic features are absent. Roman oxidised (UNS OX) and reduced (UNS BSW) sandy wares are relatively uncommon (Table 2) and generally lacking diagnostic features. Reduced and oxidised Roman grog-tempered wares (UNS GTG/UNS GR) are also present in small quantities. The origin of these fabrics is uncertain, but they are most likely of local production. Due to the scarcity of diagnostic sherds these fabrics can only be broadly dated to the Roman period. Sandy reduced wares, most likely made locally in the Oxford region (OXF RE3), make up the largest fabric group, although again diagnostic sherds are rare. Three straight sided bowls/dishes with out-turned rims (Young 2000, R43, R45 or R46) were recorded from ditches 6302 and 6306 (Trench 63). All are likely to date to between the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD (Young 2000, 220). A bowl/dish with a beaded rim (R52), from pit 6312, is likely to date to the same period (ibid. 222). A lid (R76), recovered from ditch 6321, can only be broadly dated to the Roman period (ibid. 226). Other Oxford products were also recorded in smaller quantities. Diagnostic sherds made in Oxford oxidised wares (OXF OX) were largely absent and sherds made in this fabric can be assigned a broad Roman date. A M18 mortaria rim (**OXF WH**) dating to the mid to late 3rd century AD (ibid. 72) was recovered from pit 6312. Two body sherds of Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (**OXF RS**), from ditch 6304, again in trench 63, date to the mid-3rd to 4th centuries AD.

6.5. Regional wares are uncommon. The most frequently recorded are South East Dorset Black-burnished ware (**DOR BB1**) dating between the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. A dropped flange bowl (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, Type 25) and a jar with a flared rim (Type 1 or 2) were recovered from the topsoil of trench 79. The dropped flange bowl is a Late Roman form and can be dated to the mid-3rd to 4th centuries AD (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, 234, fig.124, no. TYPE25/Holbrook and Bidwell 1990). Six unfeatured body sherds (34g) of shell-tempered wares (**HAR SH**) are of

Roman date. These are most likely products of the kilns near Harrold, Bedfordshire. Sample 5, taken from ditch 6312, produced a single sherd of pink grog-tempered ware (**PNK GT**) dating to between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD.

6.6. Six sherds (141g) of Central Gaulish samian ware (**LEZ SA2**) are the only recorded continental imports. These broadly date to the 2nd century AD, although the rim from a Drag.18/31 dish, recovered from the surface of unexcavated ditch fill 6318, dates to between AD120–AD150 (Webster 1996, 35).

Medieval

6.7. Ditch 6302, in trench 63, produced one sherd (2g) of Brill/Boarstall-type ware (BRIL). This dates to the late 12th to 14th centuries (Mellor 1994, 111) and is most likely intrusive in a feature that otherwise contains Roman pottery.

Post-medieval

6.8. Two sherds (16g) of transfer printed white earthenware (TPE) and one sherd (3g) of refined red earthenware (REFR) were recovered from ditches 803 and 902. Both fabrics date to between the late 18th and 20th centuries.

Summary

6.9. The pottery is predominantly of Late Iron Age/Roman date; diagnostic sherds date between the mid-1st and 4th centuries AD. The assemblage is utilitarian in nature; where present vessel types consist entirely of jars and bowls/dishes. The small quantities of wares from South East Dorset, Buckingham, Harrold and Central Gaul suggest limited access to both regional and imported markets. The post-Roman assemblage provides limited evidence for activity in the vicinity of the site during the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods This material is in poor condition and most likely results from agricultural activity or casual discard.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Peter Banks

6.10. A total of 115 fragments (7905g) of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered, mostly made in oxidised fine (fs) or coarse (cs) sandy fabrics, some with clay pellet (cp) or calcareous (c) inclusions. The majority (75 fragments, 5422g) were recovered from layer 7903, and include one imbrex (curved roof tile), one tegula (flanged roof tile) and 31 fragments of brick or tile. These may be associated with structure 7902 in trench 79. Three imbrex fragments were also recorded from pit 6312 and four fragments of tile came from ditch 6319 and the topsoil of trench 79. Based on their form, fabric and conditions of firing this CBM most likely dates to the Roman period.

A small fragment of CBM from treethrow 303 did not exhibit any diagnostic features and could not be closely dated.

Fired clay by Peter Banks

6.11. A small fired clay assemblage consisting of 13 fragments (95g) was recovered. The assemblage is made in oxidised fine (fs) and coarse sandy fabrics (cs), some with calcareous (c), clay pellet (cp), ferrous (fe), grog (g) or shell (sh) inclusions. The fired clay did not exhibit diagnostic features and it is not possible to provide further meaningful commentary.

Glass by Peter Banks

6.12. Seven fragments (100g) of blue green bottle glass were recovered from ditch 803. The fragments did not exhibit diagnostic features but are most likely of post-medieval or modern date.

Industrial waste by Peter Banks

6.13. The topsoil of trench 79 produced a large fragment (272g) of industrial waste. One surface was slightly convex and the fragment may be derived from a hearth associated with iron smithing, of uncertain date.

Mortar by Peter Banks

6.14. One fragment (62g) of lime mortar containing inclusions of oxidised fired clay derives from the topsoil of trench 79. The fragment is probably associated with structure 7902 within the trench.

Stone by Peter Banks

6.15. Ditch 6321 produced a fragment of stone weighing 61g. The fragment is incomplete but is roughly rectangular in section and highly polished/smooth on all exterior surfaces. Due to its poor condition it is not possible to determine its function. Two fragments (28g) of dark grey slate, from ditch 803, are most likely of Welsh origin and probably date to the 19th century when this slate was commonly used as construction material.

Metalwork by Peter Banks

6.16. Three iron nails (72g) were recovered from furrow 4106, pit 6312 and layer 7903. All are square shafted and most likely handmade.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal bone by Andy Clarke

7.1. Animal bone amounting to 21 fragments (358.1g) was recovered from the fills of eight ditch, pit, and furrow features (see Table 3, Appendix C). Artefactual material dating to the Romano-British and medieval periods was also recovered from these features (listed in Table 1, Appendix B). The material was fragmentary but well preserved, making possible the identification of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and pig (*Sus scrofa sp*.).

Romano-British

7.2. A total of 15 fragments (191.1g) were recovered from the fills of ditches 6306, 6319, 6321 and pit 6312, all in trench 63. The presence of cattle was identified from a partial scapula and a molar, sheep/goat from fragments of scapula, radius and metapodial and pig from a partial mandible, none of which displayed any damage indicative of an origin in butchery waste. The low recovery of animal remains severely limits what can be said in terms of site economy and animal husbandry. However, each species was a commonly exploited domestic animal so their inclusion in an assemblage of this period is to be expected.

7.3. The only identifiable fragment in the remainder of the assemblage was a cattle molar recovered from deposit 7907, which formed part of Roman kiln/corn dryer 7902.

Medieval(?)

7.4. Three fragments (153g) were recovered from ditch fill 6303 which produced both Roman and Medieval pottery but is considered on balance to be more likely Roman in date, the medieval sherd being intrusive. These were identifiable as partial cattle radius and a sheep/goat radius shaft and first phalanx. Once again, no evidence of butchery was observed.

Plant macrofossils by Emma Aitken

7.5. A series of seven environmental samples (132 litres of soil) were recovered from deposits encountered in evaluation trenches 9, 15, 26 and 63, in order 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. It was also hoped that the environmental matter may aid in the dating of undated pits 1602 and 2602, in trenches 16 and 26 respectively. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA 2012, Technical Manual No. 2).

7.6. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 4, Appendix C, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature as provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded, following nomenclature according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

7.7. The flots were small to large in size with low to high numbers of rooty material and uncharred seeds. The charred material comprised varying levels of preservation. Due to the poor to moderate preservation levels, it was difficult to identify many of the charred cereal grains to species, but where possible this was achieved. Much of the charcoal was comminuted and encrusted in iron or silt residue, inhibiting further wood species identification.

7.8. Any dates discussed within this report have been obtained through the dating of finds (see Banks, this report).

Trench 9

7.9. Fill 903 (sample 1) of likely post medieval/modern ditch 902 contained a very small number of tuber fragments, hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments and a possible cherry (*Prunus sp*.) stone fragment together with a large quantity of charcoal. A few terrestrial snail shells including those of the open country species *Vallonia sp*. and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* were noted. The charred remains are likely to be indicative of a dump of hearth waste material, possibly derived from hedgerow/woodland management.

Trench 16

7.10. Fill 1603 of undated pit 1602 (sample 2) contained no charred plant remains. A large quantity of charcoal was observed within the assemblage, including fragments of oak (*Quercus sp*.) wood. The environmental remains from sample 2 are likely to be representative of a dump of hearth waste material.

Trench 26

7.11. Two samples (samples 3 and 4) were taken from the basal fill and upper fill (2603 and 2606 respectively) of undated pit 2602. A very small number of curled dock (*Rumex crispus*) seeds were noted in sample 3, along with a small amount of tuber fragments observed in sample 4. Both assemblages contained a large quantity of charcoal fragments, including those of oak and twig wood and are likely to represent

a dump of hearth waste material, the fuel material possibly derived from hedgerow/woodland management.

Trench 63

7.12. Fill 6314 (sample 5) of Roman pit 6312 contained a small number of indeterminate cereal grains, wheat (*Triticum sp*.) grains, vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus sp*.) seeds and charcoal fragments. This assemblage is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.

7.13. Fill 6320 (sample 6) from Roman ditch 6319 contained a single charred indeterminate cereal grain and a very small number of charcoal fragments. This assemblage is again also likely to be representative of wind-blown/dispersed waste material.

7.14. Sample 7 of fill 6322 of Roman ditch 6321 contained no charred plant remains or charcoal.

Summary

7.15. There is some evidence of human activity taking place in the vicinity of trenches 9, 16 and 26, all of which are located in the western half of the overall evaluation area. It is possible that some of the charred plant remains from these samples originated from the exploitation of hedgerow/woodland species rather than domestic food preparation. Due to the lack of charred plant remains from undated pits 1602 and 2602 it is not possible to determine a potential date for these features. There is no evidence of industrial activities, such as metal working practices, taking place in the area. The environmental evidence from trench 63 is poor given the number of features investigated and the pottery assemblage from this trench, which in turn would suggest a degree of proximity to a settlement area, and this is most likely a reflection of a deposition environment not conducive to the preservation of such remains.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1. With the exception of the remains identified in area 11 and 24, the fieldwork revealed very low levels of past activity. The correlation between geophysical anomalies and the features identified in the trenches was also generally poor, with most features predicted by the geophysical survey not encountered in the trenches and, conversely, investigated features in many cases not matching the geophysical anomalies. This is possibly due in part to the high levels of modern plough truncation observed during

the fieldwork, many features being small and shallow, with fills that appeared to have limited contrast with the surrounding geology, but is also likely to be a reflection of the geology itself, which was quite varied in nature and, on the mudstone and clay, not conducive to consistently reliable results.

8.2. Significant archaeological remains were encountered only in areas 11, centred around the kiln/corn dryer in trench 79, and 24 (trench 63). The remaining land parcels either contained no archaeological remains or features related to land management and agriculture. Although evidence for modern agricultural activity was visible in many of the trenches in the form of plough scars and wheel ruts, the survival of shallower, typically more-ephemeral features such as postholes, which generally tend to be more vulnerable to plough truncation, in areas 11 and 24 would suggest that the scarcity of archaeological evidence in other areas is not due to conservation bias but may rather be a reflection of a genuine absence of significant remains. Plough truncation of features in arable areas was nonetheless noted, particularly in area 11, where CBM and pottery deriving from the underlying Roman features was noted in the ploughsoil in a zone extending 10 – 15m to either side of the corn dryer encountered in trench 79.

Late prehistoric and Roman

8.3. In Area 11, a focus of activity was identified in trench 79, in the form of a kiln/corn dryer which, despite not being investigated by hand-excavation, produced large quantities of ceramic building material both from the top of deposits associated with the feature itself, and from the surrounding topsoil, in the form of plough disturbed artefact scatters to either side of the trench. A number of small pits and postholes immediately surrounding the kiln/corn dryer suggest that other structures may have been present in the immediate vicinity, which was potentially demarcated by a series of small ditches possibly defining a “working area”. No evidence was recovered in Area 11 for the presence of domestic activity, although it is reasonable to assume that a settlement of some kind must have existed within the relative vicinity, while the pottery evidence suggests a 2nd – 4th century date range, with diagnostic material of mid-3rd to 4th centuries AD recovered from the topsoil in trench 79.

8.4. The activity encountered in Area 24, in the form of a number of ditches and large pits, appears broadly contemporary with the features in Area 11, with activity seemingly established by the 2nd century and continuing into the mid-3rd to 4th centuries. However, a small quantity (6 sherds) of pottery in the Late Iron Age and Late Iron

Age or Early Roman transitional period style recovered from ditch 6302 and pits 6310 and 6312 indicate a presence in the immediate vicinity of this period. Trenching undertaken in 2019, approximately 500m to the west of area 24, on land to the west of Cuckoo Lane, revealed the likely remains of a roundhouse and evidence for an associated oven structure, suggesting a domestic settlement focus in this location during the later Iron Age in particular (OA 2019). It is possible therefore that some of the activity revealed in Area 24 may relate to an associated landscape of settlement and agricultural activity.

8.5. On the whole, the pottery assemblage recovered during the fieldwork was observed to be markedly utilitarian in nature; where present, vessel types consisted entirely of jars and bowls/dishes. The small quantities of wares from South-East Dorset, Buckingham, Harrold (Bedfordshire) and Central Gaul suggest limited access to regional and imported markets.

Medieval, post-medieval and undated features

8.6. The very poorly preserved remnants of agricultural furrows in Area 12 could not be securely assigned to either the medieval or post-medieval period but are typical of ridge and furrow cultivation. While it was noted that the ridge and furrow system could be observed in the form of barely perceptible undulations at the edges of the field, at the base of the mature hedgerows demarcating the plot, the main part of the field had been extensively levelled relatively recently to facilitate the construction of a small stable/storage building and associated horse paddocks.

8.7. The small ditches encountered in Areas 2, 5 and 7 in particular are considered to be related to attempts to improve the drainage of relatively wet, low-lying parts of the landscape for agricultural purposes. The feature alignments were noted during the fieldwork to run towards the lowest points within each field, where larger drainage ditches were located or areas of standing water were noted.

8.8. The post-Roman pottery assemblage further supports the suggestion that the investigated parts of the scheme area were largely under arable or pastural farming regimes, the recovered material from these periods having been recovered primarily from boundary ditches and furrows, and noted to be in poor condition, most likely having become incorporated in the feature fills through agricultural manuring practices and/ or casual discard.

Research frameworks and potential

8.9. The limited exposure of significant archaeological remains constrains the extent to which, at this stage, the trenching results can contribute to research aims identified in the *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment. Resource Assessments and Research Agendas* (Hey, G & Hind, J. 2014). However, possible themes to be considered in the event of further investigative works could include the origins and changing nature of field systems over time; changes in the relationship between fields and settlements (all periods); the form taken by boundaries above ground and how long they lasted. In particular, further investigation of the kiln/corn dryer has the potential to contribute directly to research questions around landscape and land use during the Roman period, with corn dryers identified as a key area of research (Hey and Hind 2014, section 12.4). The research aims relating to crafts, trades, and industries (Hey and Hind 2014, section 12.11) may also be relevant in this context.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Anna Wolf, assisted by Eilidh Barr, Rachel Alexander, Dominic Allen, Mia Long, Cadan Hoare, Charlotte Nicholson, and Georgina Matthews. This report was written by Anna Wolf; and the finds and biological evidence reports were produced by Peter Banks, Andy Clarke, and Emma Aitken, respectively. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Molly Agnew-Henshaw. The project was managed for CA by Adrian Scruby.

9.2. CA would like to thank Balfour Beatty for commissioning the fieldwork and for the assistance of the project team in facilitating land access during the fieldwork. Thanks are also extended to Richard Oram and Steven Weaver at OCCAS, for their advice and guidance in monitoring the fieldwork and facilitating sign-off of the trenches.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	100	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay	>30	>2	0.24
1	101	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange grey silty clay	>30	>2	0.21
1	102	layer		Natural	Mottled mid orange brown and mid greyish blue, clay with silty atches	>30	>2	
2	200	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.15
2	201	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown grey, silty clay, firm	>30	>2	0.19
2	202	layer		Natural	Light brown yellow, silty clay, compact with grey clay patches	>30	>2	
2	203	cut		Tree Throw	Irregular in plan, fairly steep edges with irregular base. No section	0.7	0.7	0.05
2	204	fill	203	Fill of tree throw	Dark brown grey, silty clay, firm, occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stones	0.7	0.7	0.05
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.23
3	301	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown grey, silty clay, firm	>30	>2	0.19
3	302	layer		Natural	Light brown yellow, silty clay, compact with grey patches	>30	>2	
3	303	cut		Tree Throw	Irregular shapped tree bole	0.37	0.3	0.08
3	304	fill	303	Fill of tree throw	Mid grey brown silty clay friable	0.37	0.3	0.08
3	305	cut		Ditch	NE-SE running, concave sides and base	5.2	0.6	0.12
3	306	fill	305	Fill of ditch	Light grey brown silty clay, friable	5.2	0.6	0.12
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Medium greyish brown, silty clay, no inclusions firm	>30	>2	0.12

4	401	layer		Subsoil	Medium yellowish brown, clay, no inclusions, compact	>30	>2	0.15
4	402	layer		Natural	Medium brownish yellow, clay, stone inclusions, compact	>30	>2	
5	500	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown. Silty clay.	>30	>2	0.4
5	501	layer		Natural	Light blueish orange. Silty clay	>30	>2	
6	600	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown. Silty clay.	>30	>2	0.35
6	601	layer		Natural	Light blueish orange. Silty clay.	>30	>2	
6	602	cut		Ditch	Linear NE-SW, steep sides, concave base	3	1.22	0.22
6	603	fill	602	Fill of ditch	Mid orangey brown. Silty clay.	3	1.22	0.22
7	700	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.19
7	701	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown grey, silty clay, firm	>30	>2	0.2
7	702	layer		Natural	Light brown yellow, silty clay, compact with grey patches	>30	>2	
8	800	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.15
8	801	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.19
8	802	layer		Natural	Light brown yellow, silty clay, compact	>30	>2	
8	803	cut		Ditch	NW-SE aligned linear ditch, moderately steep sides, slightly concave base	>2	1.05	0.08
8	804	fill	803	Fill of ditch	Mid orange brown, silty clay, compact	>2	1.05	0.08
9	900	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.27
9	901	layer		Natural	Light brown yellow, silty clay, compact	>30	>2	
9	902	cut		Ditch	Linear NE-SW, terminating towards the NE. Steep edges with a concave base	1.34	0.45	0.23
9	903	fill	902	Fill of ditch	Mid yellow brown, silty clay, compact patches of natural and a	1.34	0.45	0.23

					charcoal lens at the bottom			
9	904	cut		Pit	Circular in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base	0.84	0.61	0.07
9	905	fill	904	Fill of pit	Mid orange grey silty clay, compact, frequent charcoal	0.84	0.61	0.07
10	1000	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.22
10	1001	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.17
10	1002	layer		Natural	Light brown yellow, silty clay, compact	>30	>2	
10	1003	cut		Tree Throw	Irregular in plan, steep edges with an irregular base. No section drawn	0.32	1.36	0.08
10	1004	fill	1003	Fill of tree throw	Light grey brown, silty clay, firm, occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stones	0.32	1.36	0.08
11	1100	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.26
11	1101	layer		Natural	Light brown yellow, silty clay, compact with grey patches	>30	>2	
12	1200	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.3
12	1201	layer		Natural	Mid yellow orange with grey blue patches, clay	>30	>2	
12	1202	cut		Ditch	Linear E-W. Fairly steep edges with a flat base	>1.8	1.03	0.25
12	1203	fill	1202	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown, silty clay, firm, occasional small rounded stones	>1.8	1.03	0.25
13	1300	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay. Friable	>30	>2	0.3
13	1301	layer		Natural	Mid yellowish orange, clay friable	>30	>2	
14	1400	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.3
14	1401	layer		Natural	Mid brown orange with yellow and grey patches, silty clay, compact	>30	>2	

15	1500	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.27
15	1501	layer		Natural	Mid brown orange with yellow and grey patches, silty clay, compact	>30	>2	
16	1600	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.25
16	1601	layer		Natural	Mid brown orange with yellow patches, silty clay, compact	>30	>2	
16	1602	cut		Pit	Circular in plan. Fairly gentle edges with a flat base	0.88	0.82	0.12
16	1603	fill	1602	Fill of pit	Mid brown grey, silty clay, firm, charcoal lens at the base, occasional small rounded stone inclusions	0.88	0.82	0.12
17	1700	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.26
17	1701	layer		Natural	Mid brown orange with yellow patches, silty clay, compact	>30	>2	
18	1800	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.29
18	1801	layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional medium rounded stones.	>30	>2	
19	1900	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.32
19	1901	layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional medium rounded stones	>30	>2	
20	2000	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.33
20	2001	layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional medium rounded stones	>30	>2	
21	2100	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.38
21	2101	layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow, silty clay, compact, grey clay patches	>30	>2	

					throughout, occasional medium rounded stone inclusions			
22	2200	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable.	>30	>2	0.31
22	2201	layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional medium rounded stones	>30	>2	
23	2300	layer		Topsoil	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.36
23	2301	layer		Natural	Mid brown orange, silty clay, compact	>30	>2	
23	2302	cut		Tree Throw	Irregular outline, shallow sides with flat base, gentle BOS.	0.85	0.6	0.06
23	2303	fill	2302	Fill of tree throw	Mid grey-yellow silty clay, friable	0.85	0.6	0.06
23	2304	cut		Modern	Wheel Rut N-S. Terminates towards the North. Steep edges with a concave base	2	0.5	0.25
23	2305	fill	2304	Fill of modern feature	Mid orange brown, silty clay, firm, occasional small to medium rounded stones	2	0.5	0.25
23	2306	void						
24	2400	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.18
24	2401	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional small rounded stones and plough scars	>30	>2	
24	2402	cut		Plough Furrow	Linear running E-W, gentle sides with gentle break, flat base with gentle breaks	>4	1.08	0.06
24	2403	fill	2402	Fill of furrow	Mid grey-brown silty clay with yellow mottling, compact	>4	1.08	0.06
25	2500	layer		Topsoil	Medium grey brown, silty clay, no inclusions, compact	>30	>2	0.27

25	2501	layer		Natural	Medium brownish yellow, clay, frequent stone inclusions, firm	>30	>2	
26	2600	layer		Topsoil	Medium grey brown, silty clay, frequent stone inclusions, compact	>30	>2	0.28
26	2601	layer		Natural	Medium yellowish brown, clay, stone inclusions, compact	>30	>2	
26	2602	cut		Pit	Circular pit, moderate sloped sides with a rounded base	0.91	1.09	0.28
26	2603	fill	2602	Fill of pit	Dark grey, silty loose clay. Very frequent charcoal inclusions. Clear horizon clarity, low contamination. Probable in situ burning.	0.43	0.65	0.08
26	2604	fill	2602	Fill of pit	Mid reddish brown clay and medium greyish brown compact clay with with occasional charcoal flecks	0.39	0.17	0.11
26	2605	fill	2602	Fill of pit	Medium greyish brown compact clay, infrequent charcoal inclusions (~5%), clear horizon and low contamination	0.91	1.09	0.19
26	2606	fill	2602	Fill of pit	Dark grey silty clay with very frequent charcoal inclusions (~90%)	0.57	0.58	0.11
27	2700	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.29
27	2701	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional medium rounded stones	>30	>2	
28	2800	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.32
28	2801	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional patches of gravel	>30	>2	

29	2900	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.31
29	2901	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional small rounded stones	>30	>2	
29	2902	cut		Tree Throw	Irregular in plan. Uneven edges with an irregular base. No section	1	1.57	0.09
29	2903	fill	2902	Fill of tree throw	Mid brown grey, silty clay, firm, occasional small rounded stones	1	1.57	0.09
30	3000	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.32
30	3001	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional small rounded stones.	>30	>2	
31	3100	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.32
31	3101	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional gravel patches	>30	>2	
31	3102	cut		Tree Throw	Irregular, steep almost vertical sides, sharp breaks, pointed concave base, sharp breaks	0.8	0.55	0.35
31	3103	fill	3102	Fill of tree throw	Mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of charcoal, compact	0.8	0.55	0.35
31	3104	cut		Pit	Circular, gentle sides with gentle breaks, flat base with gentle breaks	0.7	1	0.08
31	3105	fill	3104	Fill of pit	Mid grey-yellow silty clay, compact	0.7	1	0.08
32	3200	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.35
32	3201	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional gravel patches	>30	>2	
32	3202	cut		Pit	Irregular, gentle sides with gentle breaks,	0.7	0.69	0.09

					undulating base with gentle breaks			
32	3203	fill	3202	Fill of pit	Light yellow-grey silty clay with red clay mottling, compact	0.7	0.69	0.09
32	3204	cut		Ditch	Linear running E-W, moderate sides with moderate breaks, concave base with moderate breaks	>5	0.59	0.13
32	3205	fill	3204	Fill of ditch	Mid grey-yellow silty clay with patches of oxidation, compact	>5	0.51	0.08
32	3206	fill	3204	Fill of ditch	Light brown-grey silty clay with patches of oxidation, friable	>5	0.59	0.05
32	3207	cut		Posthole	Sub-circular, moderate slopes, moderate breaks. Concave base, gentle breaks	0.2	0.24	0.08
32	3208	fill	3207	Fill of posthole	Dark grey-brown silty clay, compact	0.2	0.24	0.08
32	3209	cut		Posthole	Sub-circular, steep side at NE with sharp break, moderate at SW with moderate break. Concave base, moderate break at NE, gentle at SW	0.31	0.18	0.07
32	3210	fill	3209	Fill of posthole	Dark grey-brown silty clay, compact	0.31	0.18	0.03
32	3211	cut		Posthole	Sub-circular, gentle side with gentle break at NE, moderate with moderate break at SW. Concave base with gentle breaks	0.3	0.35	0.03
32	3212	fill	3211	Fill of posthole	Dark grey-brown silty clay with yellow mottling, compact	0.3	0.35	0.09
32	3213	cut		Posthole	Circular, gentle sides with gentle breaks, wide concave base with gentle breaks	0.25	0.3	0.07
32	3214	fill	3213	Fill of posthole	Light grey-yellow sandy clay, compact	0.25	0.3	0.07
33	3300	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.33

33	3301	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional gravel patches	>30	>2	
33	3302	cut		Ditch	E-W aligned possible remnant ditch	>2	>0.3	0.05
33	3303	fill	3302	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay, compact, some small stones	>2	>0.3	0.05
33	3304	cut		Ditch	E-W aligned ditch	>2	0.93	0.11
33	3305	fill	3304	Fill of ditch	Mid grey yellow with orange and grey mottling, silty clay, compact, infrequent small stones	>2	0.93	0.11
33	3306	fill	3304	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay, compact, infrequent small stones	>2	0.93	0.04
33	3307	cut		Posthole	Circular, steep sides with sharp breaks, flat base with sharp breaks	0.27	0.27	0.11
33	3308	fill	3307	Fill of posthole	Dark grey-brown silty clay, compact	0.27	0.27	0.11
33	3309	cut		Posthole	Circular, gentle to moderate sides with gentle breaks, flat base with gentle breaks	0.3	0.3	0.04
33	3310	fill	3309	Fill of posthole	Dark grey-brown silty clay with yellow mottling, compact	0.3	0.3	0.04
34	3400	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.23
34	3401	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, frequent plough scars and occasional small rounded stones.	>30	>2	
34	3402	cut		Ditch	Linear running N-S, steep side with sharp break at E, moderate side with moderate break at W, concave base with gentle breaks	>2	0.43	0.09

34	3403	fill	3402	Fill of ditch	Dark grey-brown silty clay, compact	>2	0.43	0.09
34	3404	layer	3404	Spread deposit	Mid grey-yellow clay, compact	5	>1.8	0.13
34	3405	cut		Natural Feature	Irregular in plan with irregular edges & base. Tree throw.	>2	1.03	0.18
34	3406	fill	3405	Fill of natural feature	Light orangey grey, compact clay, infrequent stone inclusions.	>2	1.03	0.18
35	3500	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.39
35	3501	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional small rounded stones	>30	>2	
36	3600	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.34
36	3601	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional small rounded stones	>30	>2	
37	3700	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.4
37	3701	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional small rounded stones	>30	>2	
38	3800	layer		Topsoil	Medium greyish brown, silty clay, compact, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.42
38	3801	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional small rounded stones	>30	>2	
39	3900	layer		Topsoil	Medium greyish brown, silty clay, compact, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.32
39	3901	layer		Natural	Medium yellowish brown, clay, compact, stone inclusions	>30	>2	
40	4000	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown firm clayey silt	>30	>2	0.34
40	4001	layer		Natural	Dark brownish yellow compact silty clay with frequent gravel and	>30	>2	

					small rounded stone inclusions			
41	4100	layer		Topsoil	Medium greyish brown, silty clay, no inclusions, firm	>30	>2	0.31
41	4101	layer		Natural	Medium brownish yellow, clay, frequent stone inclusions, compact	>30	>2	
41	4102	cut		Tree Throw	Irregular shape in plan and section	0.63	0.4	0.09
41	4103	fill	4102	Fill of tree throw	Mid grey brown. Silty clay. Abundance of rooting.	0.63	0.4	0.09
41	4104	cut		Gully	N-S aligned linear ditch, steep sides, flat base	>2	0.62	0.17
41	4105	fill	4104	Fill of gully	Mid grey brown clayey silt, compact, some small stones	>2	0.62	0.17
41	4106	cut		Plough Furrow	N-S aligned linear remnant furrow	>2	0.76	0.04
41	4107	fill	4106	Fill of furrow	Mid grey brown silty clay, friable	>2	0.76	0.04
41	4108	cut		Plough Furrow	N-S aligned linear remnant furrow	>2	0.94	0.02
41	4109	fill	4108	Fill of furrow	Mid grey brown silty clay, friable	>2	0.94	0.02
47	4700	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.3
47	4701	layer		Subsoil	Lightish grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.1
48	4800	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay, firm, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.26
48	4801	layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay, firm, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.06
48	4802	layer		Natural	Light brown yellow clay, firm, no inclusions	>30	>2	
49	4900	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay, firm, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.26
49	4901	layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown silty clay, firm, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.04

49	4902	layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow/blue grey clay, firm no inclusions	>30	>2	
50	5000	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay, firm, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.27
50	5001	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown yellow silty clay, firm, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.05
50	5002	layer		Natural	Light yellow brown/blue grey clay, firm, no inclusions	>30	>2	
51	5100	layer		Topsoil	Medium greyish brown, silty clay, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.15
51	5101	layer		Subsoil	Medium yellowish brown, silty clay, no inclusions, firm	>30	>2	0.12
51	5102	layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown with bluish grey patches, clay, compact, no inclusions	>30	>2	
52	5200	layer		Topsoil	Medium greyish brown, silty clay, firm no inclusions	>30	>2	0.22
52	5201	layer		Subsoil	Medium yellowish brown, silty clay, firm no inclusions	>30	>2	0.11
52	5202	layer		Natural	Medium brownish yellow with blue/grey patches clay, no inclusions firm	>30	>2	
53	5300	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, firm	>30	>2	0.21
53	5301	layer		Subsoil	Mottled mid yellowish brown and mid blueish grey, clay	>30	>2	0.11
53	5302	layer		Natural	Mid yellowish orange and mid greyish blue, clay	>30	>2	
54	5400	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.23
54	5401	layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow/blue grey clay, no inclusions	>30	>2	
55	5500	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, friable with grass rooting inclusions	>30	>2	0.1

55	5501	layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow grey silty clay, firm	>30	>2	0.19
55	5502	layer		Natural	Light yellowish grey clay, firm	>30	>2	
58	5800	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.1
58	5801	layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish yellow, silty clay, occasional sub angular stone incl	>30	>2	0.15
58	5802	layer		Natural	Light greyish yellow with light greyish blue. Clay	>30	>2	
59	5900	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown clayey silt.	>30	>2	0.24
59	5901	layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown silty clay with common manganese staining.	>30	>2	0.18
59	5902	layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown compact silty clay with frequent manganese staining.	>30	>2	
60	6000	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable clayey silt.	>30	>2	0.15
60	6001	layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown firm silty clay with common manganese staining.	>30	>2	0.18
60	6002	layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown compact silty clay with frequent manganese staining.	>30	>2	
61	6100	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown firm clayey silt.	>30	>2	0.27
61	6101	layer		Natural	Mid blue brown with orange flecks, compact silty clay.	>30	>2	
62	6200	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown compact silty clay.	>30	>2	0.34
62	6201	layer		Natural	Mid red brown very compact silty clay	>30	>2	
62	6202	void						
62	6203	layer	6203	Spread deposit	Modern levelling, dark brown grey firm silty clay with frequent charcoal inclusions and moderate CBM.	>20	>2	0.26
63	6300	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown friable clayey silt with frequent small	>30	>2	0.49

					subangular and rounded stones.			
63	6301	layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown compact silty clay with common gravel and rounded stone inclusions.	>30	>2	
63	6302	cut		Ditch	Linear NE-SW.	>3	0.88	0.41
63	6303	fill	6302	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey, silty clay, firm, frequent rounded stones	>3	0.88	0.41
63	6304	cut		Ditch	Terminus of gully. Linear NE-SW	>2.6	0.41	0.24
63	6305	fill	6304	Fill of ditch	Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable, frequent rounded stones	>2.6	0.41	0.24
63	6306	cut		Ditch	NE-SW aligned linear ditch, steep sides, slightly concave base	>3	0.7	0.18
63	6307	fill	6306	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown firm silty clay with frequent pebble inclusions.	>3	0.7	0.18
63	6308	cut		Ditch	NE-SW aligned linear ditch, moderately steep sides, slightly concave base	>2.1	0.4	0.13
63	6309	fill	6308	Fill of ditch	Mid grey brown silty clay, firm, frequently pebbles	>2.1	0.4	0.13
63	6310	cut		Pit	Pit or poss. ditch terminus, partially exposed at W end of trench	>1.5	1.27	0.27
63	6311	fill	6310	Fill of pit	Mid grey brown silty clay, firm, frequent pebbles	>1.5	1.27	0.27
63	6312	cut		Pit	Circular, partially exposed pit, near-vertical sides, flat base	>1	2.2	0.75
63	6313	fill		Fill of pit	Mid brown grey silty clay, compact, some small stones	0.59	0.91	0.19
63	6314	fill		Fill of pit	Dark brown grey sity clay, compact, medium sized stones	>1	1.14	0.47
63	6315	fill		Fill of pit	Mid yellow brown silty clay, firm, infrequent small stones	>1	1.14	0.12

63	6316	cut		Modern	NE-SW aligned modern feature	>2	0.52	0.4
63	6317	fill	6316	Fill of modern feature	Mid yellow brown firm silty clay with frequent pebbles and modern debris.	>2	0.52	0.4
63	6318	unexcavated feature	6318	Ditch	Dating evidence found near surface: Roman	>2	1	
63	6319	cut		Ditch	NW-SE aligned linear ditch, steep sides, flat base	>2	0.82	0.19
63	6320	fill	6319	Fill of ditch	Dark brown grey compact silty clay with frequent rounded stone inclusions.	>2	0.82	0.19
63	6321	cut		Ditch	NW-SE aligned linear ditch, steep sides, concave base	>2	1.38	0.31
63	6322	fill	6321	Fill of ditch	Dark yellow brown compact silty clay with frequent rounded stone inclusions.	>2	1.38	0.31
64	6400	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown friable clayey silt with frequent small subangular stone inclusions.	>30	>2	0.29
64	6401	layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown compact clayey silt with frequent gravel and rounded stone inclusions.	>30	>2	
65	6500	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.25
65	6501	layer		Subsoil	Mid grey orange, silty clay	>30	>2	0.15
65	6502	layer		Natural	Mid brownish orange , silty clay	>30	>2	
66	6600	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay, firm, some small stones	>30	>2	0.32
66	6601	layer		Subsoil	Mid grey yellow brown silty clay, firm, no inclusions	>30	>2	0.2
66	6602	layer		Natural	Mid red brown and light yellow brown silty clay, firm, frequent gravel	>30	>2	

67	6700	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay, firm, infrequent small stones	>30	>2	0.37
67	6701	layer		Natural	Light yellow brown silty sand, and mid red brown silty clay with frequent gravel, firm, no other inclusions	>30	>2	
69	6900	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay.	>30	>2	0.32
69	6901	layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown friable silty clay	>30	>2	0.05
69	6902	layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow compact silty clay	>30	>2	
70	7000	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown friable silty clay.	>30	>2	0.25
70	7001	layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown friable silty clay.	>30	>2	0.05
70	7002	layer		Natural	Mid brownish yellow compact silty clay.	>30	>2	
71	7100	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay	>30	>2	0.32
71	7101	layer		Natural	Light yellowish grey silty clay, firm	>30	>2	
72	7200	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty clay, compact	>30	>2	0.27
72	7201	layer		Natural	Light yellowish grey silty clay, firm	>30	>2	
73	7300	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay	>30	>2	0.3
73	7301	layer		Topsoil	Light yellowish grey, silty cay	>30	>2	
73	7302	layer		Natural	Light grey brown silty clay, firm	>30	>2	
73	7303	cut		Natural Feature	Sub-circular, gentle sides, flat base	0.7	0.4	0.04
73	7304	fill	7303	Fill of natural feature	Mixed grey, blue and red clay, firm	0.7	0.4	0.04
79	7900	layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown, silty clay, friable	>30	>2	0.29
79	7901	layer		Natural	Mid orange yellow, silty clay, compact, occasional gravel patches	>30	>2	
79	7902	structure		Kiln	Stone kiln or corn dryer. Full extent not seen. Recorded in plan. Rectangular shape with roughly squared finish/coursing	>2.1	0.9	
79	7903	layer	7903	Possible Surface	CBM surface of the kiln. Mid brown grey, silty clay, firm, frequent CBM bricks	>1.4	0.6	
79	7904	fill	7910	Placed Deposit	Fill laid above the surface. Dark grey brown, silty clay, firm.	>1.4	0.6	
79	7905	fill	7910	Placed Deposit	Packing fill for the kiln structure. Mid red, silty sand, loose	>2.1	0.9	
79	7906	fill	7910	Placed Deposit	Extra packing support for the structure. Light red orange, silty clay, compact	1.96	0.1	

79	7907	fill	7910	Other Fill	Burnt fill of the structure. Dark black, silty clay, firm, frequent charcoal flecks	1.28	0.49	
79	7908	fill	7910	Other Fill	Fill of the structure. Dark brown grey, silty clay, friable, small rounded stones and charcoal flecks	1.99	0.18	
79	7909	fill	7910	Other Fill	Fill of the structure. Mid red brown, silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones	0.34	0.31	
79	7910	cut		Construction Cut	Construction cut for the structure 7902. Full extent in plan is unknown	>2	1.9	
79	7911	cut		Ditch	Linear E-W. Unexcavated.	1.07	0.82	
79	7912	fill	7911	Fill of ditch	Light brown grey, silty clay, friable, occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stones	1.07	0.82	
79	7913	cut		Ditch	Linear NW-SE. Unexcavated.	0.5	0.35	
79	7914	fill	7913	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey, silty clay, friable, occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stones	0.5	0.35	
79	7915	cut		Pit	Circular in plan. Unexcavated.	0.37	0.33	
79	7916	fill	7915	Fill of pit	Light brown grey, silty clay, friable, occasional charcoal flecks.	0.37	0.33	
79	7917	cut		Ditch	Linear NW-SE. Steep edges with a v-shaped base	>2	0.55	0.22
79	7918	fill	7917	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey, silty clay, firm, occasional small rounded stones	>2	0.55	0.22
79	7919	cut		Ditch	Linear gully, no corners, moderate sides and a rounded base. Runs E/W Photos 1017625,7626	>2	0.95	0.2
79	7920	fill	7919	Fill of ditch	Light grey fill mottled with red patching. Silty clay with frequent stone inclusions, compact	>2	0.95	0.2
79	7921	cut		Pit	Circular in plan. Fairly steep edges with a concave base	0.5	0.81	0.1
79	7922	fill	7921	Fill of pit	Light brown grey, silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones	0.5	0.81	0.1
79	7923	cut		Ditch	Linear E-W. Plough scars truncate both edges. Fairly steep edges with flat base	>1	0.73	0.15
79	7924	fill	7923	Fill of ditch	Mid brown grey, silty clay, friable, frequent small rounded stones	>1	0.73	0.15
79	7925	cut		Posthole	Circular in plan. Steep edges with a concave base	>0.3	0.3	0.1

79	7926	fill	7925	Fill of posthole	Mid grey brown, silty clay, firm, occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stones	>0.3	0.3	0.1
79	7927	cut		Natural Feature	Irregular in plan with irregular sides and undulating base. Tree throw	0.71	0.74	0.07
79	7928	fill	7927	Fill of natural feature	Light grey with medium orange/brown mottling. Silty clay, compact, irregular rounded & subangular stones	0.71	0.74	0.07
79	7929	cut		Modern	Linear feature with vertical/undercutting sides, no corners. Base is rounded, running NE/SW	1.6	0.1	0.13
79	7930	fill	7929	Fill of modern feature	Medium greyish brown, compact silty clay, no inclusions, clear horizon and low contamination	1.6	0.1	0.13
79	7931	cut		Posthole	Circular in plan. Fairly steep edges with concave base	0.25	0.25	0.16
79	7932	fill	7931	Fill of posthole	Mid brown grey, silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones	0.25	0.25	0.16
79	7933	unexcavated feature	7933	Ditch	Terminus running NW-SE. Fill is light grey, silty clay, friable(occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stones	>0.5	0.45	
79	7934	unexcavated feature	7934	Pit	Circular in plan. Fill is a light grey, silty clay, friable, occasional charcoal flecks	>0.5	0.55	
79	7935	unexcavated feature	7935	Posthole	Circular in plan. Next to the kiln. Fill is a dark brown grey, silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones	0.3	0.3	
79	7936	unexcavated feature	7936	Pit	Circular in plan. Fill is a dark brown grey, silty clay, friable, occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stones	0.42	0.42	
79	7937	unexcavated feature	7937	Pit	Circular in plan. Fill is a mid brown grey, silty clay, friable, occasional Small rounded stones	0.7	0.7	
79	7938	unexcavated feature	7938	Pit	Circular in plan. Fill is a light grey, silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones	0.65	0.65	
79	7939	unexcavated feature	7939	Pit	Circular in plan. Fill is a light grey, silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones	0.95	0.95	
79	7940	unexcavated feature	7940	Posthole	Circular in plan. Fill is dark brown grey, silty clay, firm, rare small rounded stones	0.25	0.25	
79	7941	unexcavated feature	7941	Pit	Circular in plan. Fill is mid brown grey, silty clay, friable,	0.35	0.35	

					occasional small rounded stones			
79	7942	unexcavated feature	7942	Pit	Circular in plan. Fill is mid brown grey, silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks	1.2	1.2	
79	7943	unexcavated feature	7943	Ditch	Terminus running NW-SE. Fill is light grey, silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones and charcoal flecks	>1	0.45	
79	7944	unexcavated feature	7944	Pit	Circular in plan. Cut by a field drain. Fill is mid brown grey, silty clay, friable, occasional small rounded stones	>1	1	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance.

Context	Class	Sample No.	Description	Fabric Code*	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
304	CBM			fscp	1	5	
804	Post-medieval/modern pottery		Transfer printed earthenware	TPE	1	15	LC18-C20
	Post-medieval/modern pottery		Refined red earthenware	REFR	1	3	
	Glass		Blue-green bottle glass		7	100	
	Worked stone		Slate		2	28	C19
	Fired clay			csfec	1	4	
903	Post-medieval/modern pottery		Transfer printed earthenware	TPE	1	1	LC18-C20
	Late prehistoric pottery		Grog-tempered fabric	GR	1	1	
3206	Roman pottery		South East Dorset Black-burnished ware	**DOR BB1**	2	4	C2-C4
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire oxidised ware	OXF OX	1	22	
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	5	38	
	CBM			fscp	1	18	
4107	Iron		Nail		1	26	
6303	Roman pottery		Lezoux Central Gaulish samian ware	**LEZ SA2**	3	24	C2-C3
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire oxidised ware	OXF OX	2	15	
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	20	258	
	Roman pottery		Unsourced black fired sandy ware	UNS BSW	9	34	
	Roman pottery		Unsourced grog-tempered grey ware	UNS GTG	1	31	
	Roman pottery		Harrold shell-tempered ware	**HAR SH**	3	24	
	LIA/Roman pottery		Unsourced grog-tempered ware	UNS GR	3	28	
	LIA/Roman pottery		Unsourced sandy calcareous ware	UNS QC	1	2	
	Medieval Pottery		Brill/Boarstall-type ware	BRIL	1	2	
6305	Roman pottery		Unsourced grog-tempered grey ware	UNS GTG	1	115	C3-C4
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	2	18	
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire red-slipped ware	**OXF RS**	2	21	
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire oxidised ware	OXF OX	1	7	
	Roman pottery		Harrold shell-tempered ware	**HAR SH**	1	2	
	Fired clay			fscp	5	41	
6307	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	9	42	C2-C3
	Roman pottery		Unsourced black fired sandy ware	UNS BSW	1	11	
	Fired clay			fsgsh	2	8	
6311	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	5	75	RB
	Roman pottery		Unsourced black fired sandy ware	UNS BSW	2	56	
	Roman pottery		Unsourced oxidised ware	UNS OX	2	6	
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire oxidised ware	OXF OX	1	19	
	Roman pottery		Harrold shell-tempered ware	**HAR SH**	1	2	
	LIA/Roman pottery		Unsourced shelly grog-tempered fabric	UNS SHGR	1	4	
	Late prehistoric pottery		Calcareous grog-tempered fabric	GRC	1	5	
	Fired clay			fscp	5	42	
6313	Roman pottery		South East Dorset Black-burnished ware	**DOR BB1**	1	13	MC3-C4
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	3	30	
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire white ware	**OXF WH**	1	70	
	CBM		Imbrex x 1	fscp	4	123	
6314	Roman pottery		South East Dorset Black-burnished ware	**DOR BB1**	3	13	C2-C4

	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	1	130	
	CBM		Imbrex x 1	fscp	5	384	
	Roman pottery	5	Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	1	3	
	LIA/Roman pottery	5	Unsourced grog-tempered ware	UNS GR	1	4	
	Roman pottery	5	Harrold shell-tempered ware	**HAR SH**	1	6	
	Roman pottery	5	Pink grog ware	**PNK GT**	1	9	
	Roman pottery	5	South East Dorset Black-burnished ware	**DOR BB1**	1	3	
6315	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	6	102	RB
	CBM		Imbrex x 1	fscp	2	567	
	Iron		Nail		1	4	
6318	Roman pottery		South East Dorset Black-burnished ware	**DOR BB1**	1	18	AD120-AD150
	Roman pottery		Lezoux Central Gaulish samian ware	**LEZ SA2**	2	86	
6320	Roman pottery		Unsourced grog-tempered grey ware	UNS GTG	1	27	RB
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	2	5	
	Roman pottery		Unsourced black fired sandy ware	UNS BSW	1	3	
	CBM		Tile x 1	fscp	1	245	
	Roman pottery	6	Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	1	4	
6322	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	3	60	RB
	Roman pottery		Unsourced black fired sandy ware	UNS BSW	2	22	
	Roman pottery		Unsourced grog-tempered ware	UNS GR	1	22	
	Roman pottery	7	Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	1	2	
	Stone	7			1	41	
7900	Roman pottery		South East Dorset Black-burnished ware	**DOR BB1**	3	34	
	Roman pottery		Lezoux Central Gaulish samian ware	**LEZ SA2**	1	31	
	Roman pottery		Unsourced grog-tempered ware	UNS GR	2	29	
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire oxidised ware	OXF OX	1	3	
	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	11	121	
	CBM		Tile x 3	fs/fscp/fsc	21	950	
	Industrial waste				1	272	
	Mortar				1	62	
7903	Iron		Nail		1	42	
	CBM		Imbrex x 1, Tegula x 1, Tile x 28, Brick x 3	fscp/cs/cscpc	75	5422	
7904	CBM			fs	1	40	
7905	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	1	42	RB
7907	CBM			fscp	1	8	
7918	Roman pottery		Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	1	16	RB
	CBM			fs/fscp	3	143	

*National Roman Fabric Reference Collection in bold (Tomber and Dore 1998)

Table 2: Summary of pottery by fabric.

Period	Fabric Description	Fabric Codes*	Oxford Fabric Series**	Count	Weight (g)
Late Prehistoric Pottery	Grog-tempered fabric	GR	G2	1	1
	Calcareous grog-tempered fabric	GRC	GC3	1	5
LIA/Roman Pottery	Unsourced grog-tempered ware	UNS GR	E80	7	83
	Unsourced sandy calcareous ware	UNS QC		1	2
	Unsourced shelly grog-tempered fabric	UNS SHGR	E820	1	4
	Oxfordshire oxidised ware	OXF OX	O21	6	66
	Oxfordshire reduced ware	OXF RE3	R30	72	946
	Unsourced black fired sandy ware	UNS BSW	R27	15	126
	Unsourced grog-tempered grey ware	UNS GTG	R91	3	173
	Unsourced oxidised ware	UNS OX	O20	2	6
	South East Dorset Black-burnished ware	**DOR BB1**	B11	11	85
	Harrold shell-tempered ware	**HAR SH**	C11	6	34
	Oxfordshire red-slipped ware	**OXF RS**	F51	2	21
	Oxfordshire white ware	**OXF WH**	M22	1	70
	Pink grog-tempered ware	**PNK GT**	O81	1	9
	Lezoux Central Gaulish samian ware	**LEZ SA2**	S30	6	141
Medieval Pottery	Brill/Boarstall-type ware	BRIL		1	2
Post-medieval/modern Pottery	Refined red earthenware	REFR		1	3
	Transfer printed earthenware	TPE		2	16
Grand Total				**140**	**1793**

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection in bold (Tomber and Dore 1998)

**Oxford Archaeology fabric series (Booth unpublished)

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 3: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	MM	Ind	BB SS	Total	Weight (g)
Romano-British									
6306	6307		1					1	9
6312	6313	1						1	122
6312	6314	1	3					4	34
6312	6315				2			2	15
6319	6320			1			4	5	1.1
6321	6322				2			2	10
Subtotal		**1**	**4**	**1**	**4**		**4**	**15**	**191.1**
Medieval									
6302	6303	1	2					3	153
Post-medieval/modern									
902	903					1		1	1
Undated									
4106	4107					1		1	1
7910	7907	1						1	12
Subtotal		**1**				**1**		**2**	**13**
Total		**4**	**6**	**1**	**4**	**2**	**4**	**21**	
Weight		**278**	**52**	**1**	**25**	**2**	**0.1**	**358.1**	

BOS = cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; MM = medium size mammal; Ind = indeterminate; BB SS = burnt, unidentifiable fragments from bulk soil samples

Table 4: Assessment of the palaeoenvironmental remains.

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 9												
Ditch 902	903	1	33	1140	5	-	-	-	*	tuber; cf. *Prunus; Corylus avellana*	*****/*****	moll-t**
Trench 16												
Pit 1602	1603	2	16	550	10	-	-	-	-	-	*****/*****	-
Trench 26												
Pit 2602	2603	3	10	1000	5	-	-	-	*	*Rumex crispus*	*****/*****	-
	2606	4	8	300	<1	-	-	-	**	tuber	*****/*****	-
Trench 63												
Pit 6312	6314	5	29	60	98	**	-	indet grain; wheat grain	*	*Vicia/Lathyrus*	**/**	brnt bn*
Ditch 6319	6320	6	9	20	98	*	-	indet grain	-	-	-/*	-
Dtich 6321	6322	7	27	40	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire	
Short description	In November 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land alongside the A40 trunk road, Oxfordshire, at the request of Balfour Beatty acting on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, in connection with proposals for dualling of the existing single carriageway and other associated highway improvements. The evaluation area comprised a series of land parcels alongside the existing A40 carriageway between the Hill Farm junction at Witney, at the western end of the scheme, and the A34 - A40 flyover at the eastern end. Although it was originally intended to excavate a total of 170 trenches a subsequent decision to remove all flood compensation areas from the scheme coupled with localised access constraints meant a total of 69 trenches were excavated. Significant archaeological remains were encountered only in Areas 11 and 24. In Area 11 activity was centred around a kiln or corn dryer, in trench 79, with a number of postholes and small pits surrounding the structure potentially suggesting a post-built superstructure. A series of small ditches may represent a visual demarcation of the immediate working area surrounding the kiln/corn dryer, with outlying features in the adjacent trenches likely relating to peripheral agricultural activity. Pottery suggests a 2nd to 4th century date for these features. In trench 63, Area 24, two large pits and a number of ditches produced a relatively large assemblage of pottery, although no evidence of domestic waste was recovered via bulk environmental soil sampling. This activity appears broadly contemporary with the features in Area 11, although a small quantity of pottery in the Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age or Early Roman transitional period style recovered from later features indicates a presence in the immediate vicinity of this period. Very poorly preserved remains of medieval/ post-medieval ridge and furrow were encountered in Area 12, while a scatter of relatively poorly preserved features was also encountered at the western end of the proposed scheme, across trenches in Areas 2, 5, 7, and 8. These comprised a number of small, shallow north-east/south-west aligned ditches most likely related to attempts to improve drainage in lower-lying areas in each field. A number of small, isolated and undated pits could not be interpreted in any meaningful way. The remaining land parcels seemingly contained either no archaeological remains or features exclusively related to land management and agriculture. Evidence for modern agricultural activity was visible in many of the trenches in the form of plough scars and wheel ruts.	
Project dates	01–26 November 2021	
Project type	field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (AOC 2021)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	A40 west of Oxford	
Study area (m^2/ha)		
Site co-ordinates	between NGR: 438555 210050 and NGR: 448999 210675	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council	
Project design (WSI) originator	AECOM / Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby	
Project Supervisor	Anna Wolf	
MONUMENT TYPE	kiln/corn dryer; ditches; pits; postholes	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pottery (prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval); animal bone; iron nails; ceramic building material (Roman; post-medieval); glass (most-medieval)	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	**Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)**	**Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)**
Physical	County Museum Resource Centre (Oxfordshire Museums)	Pottery, ceramic building material, fired clay, animal bone, iron

		nails, glass, environmental remains
Paper	County Museum Resource Centre (Oxfordshire Museums)	Context sheets, section drawings, photographic registers
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Digital photographs, digital trench + context records
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2021 *A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation* CA typescript report **MK0537**_2		

APPENDIX E: PROJECT ARCHIVE QUANTIFICATION SUMMARY

Primary Archive Quantification

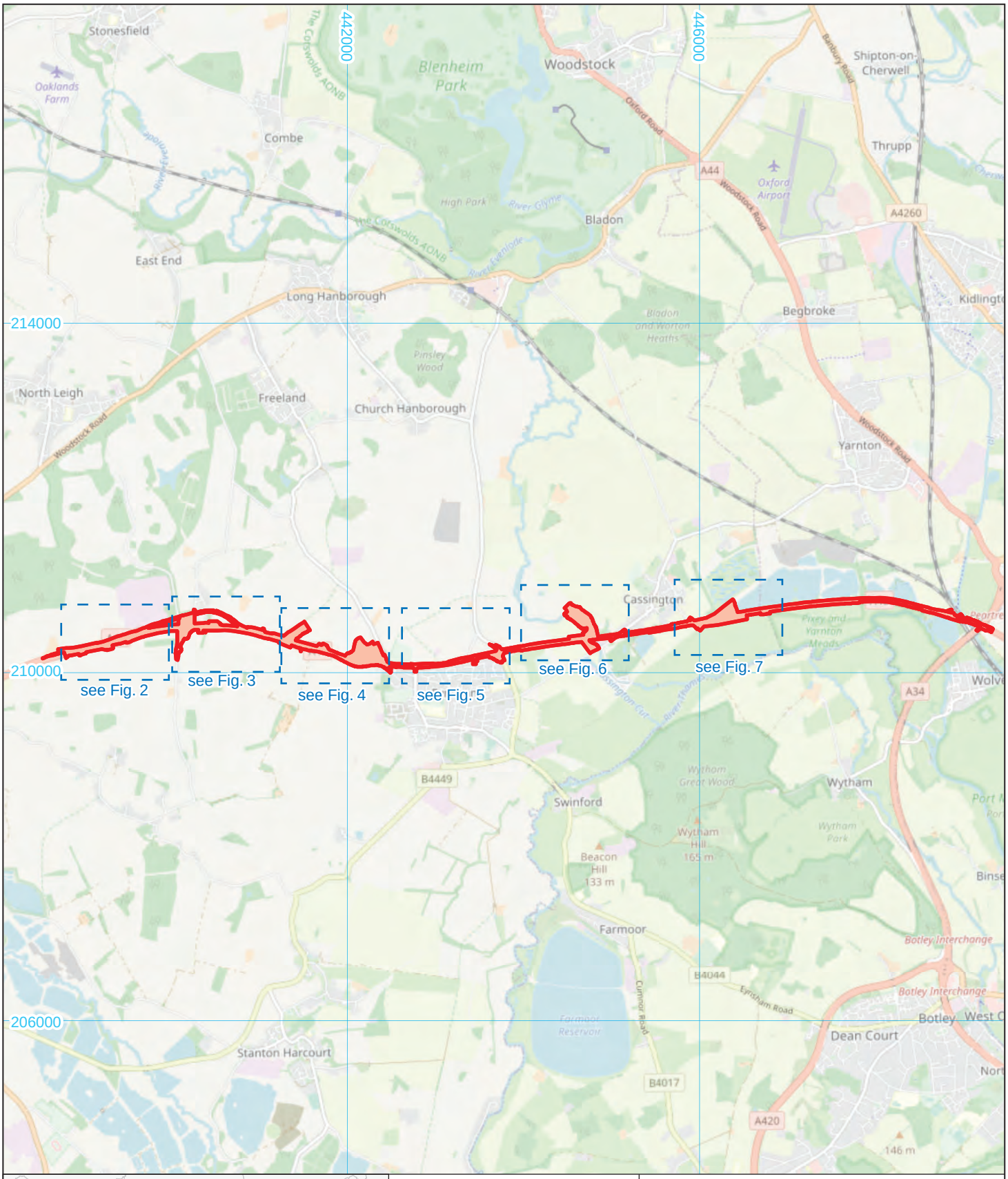
Type	*Count*
Context sheets	106
Sections (1:10, 1:20)	26
Sample sheets	7
Photography registers	11
Digital photographs	361

Finds Quantification

Type	*Category*	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Pottery	All	140	1,797
Fired Clay	All	12	171
CBM	All	116	8,240
Glass	Fragments	7	100
Metals	Iron (nails)	3	72
Stone	All	2	28

Environmental Material Quantification

Type	*Count*	*Weight (g)*
Bulk environmental samples	7	-
Animal Bone	38	357



N

Site boundary

0 3km

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
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	MK0537	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/12/2021	1
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE@A4	1:60,000	

439000

439500

N

210500

Pond

Tank

South Lodge

Lay-by

82.9m

A 40

Salutation

Salutation Farmhouse

Whitehouse Farm

Lay-by

84.8m

Whitehouse Farm Cottages

83.8m

RH

Und

A 40

1.22m RH

1.22m RH

T1

T2

T3 see Fig. 14

T4

T5

T6

T7

T8

T9 see Fig. 15

T10

T11

T12 see Fig. 16

T13

T14

T15

T16 see Fig. 17

T17

T18

T19

T20

T21

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

210000

Geophysical Survey results

AECOM Limited

- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- 0 Area
- Possible Archaeology
- Trend (Unclear Origin)
- Linear Trend (Modern Serrvice)
- Possible Archaeology (Area)
- Area of Disturbance (Unclear Origin)
- Ferrous/Iron Spike
- Geology/Natural
- Area of Disturbance (Modern)

0 1:3000 150m

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Areas 1-9: trench location plan, showing geophysical survey results, and archaeological features

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	MK0537	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	15/12/2021	2
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE@A3	1:3000	

440000
440500
441000
210500
210000
N
A40
T41
see Fig. 27
T39
T40
T38
T42
T43
T44
T45
T46
T33
see Fig. 23
T36
T34
T35
T37
T29
T30
T26
T31
see Fig. 20
T27
T28
T32
see Fig. 21
T26
see Fig. 19
T79
see Fig. 24
T25
T24
T23
see Fig. 18
T47
T49
T48
T50
T51
T52
T53
T55
T54
T56
T57
T58
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
Site boundary
Evaluation trench
Proposed evaluation trench
Archaeological feature
Area
Proposed area
0
1:3000
150m
Geophysical Survey results
AECOM Limited
Possible Archaeology
Trend (Unclear Origin)
Possible Archaeology (Area)
Area of Disturbance (Unclear Origin)
Ferrous/Iron Spike
Geology/Natural
Area of Disturbance (Modern)

Cotswold Archaeology
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PROJECT TITLE
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire
FIGURE TITLE
Areas 10-17: trench location plan, showing geophysical survey results, and archaeological features
DRAWN BY HMM
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY AW
PROJECT NO. MK0537
DATE 15/12/2021
SCALE@A3 1:3000
FIGURE NO. 3

441500
442000
210500
210000
N
Path
Acre Hill Farm
81m
Mast
FREELAND ROAD
ESS
77m
Ponds
Pond
T59
T60
T61
T62
18
20
22
21
23
19
Farm
68m
67.6m
A40
Lay-by
Track
Path (um)
67m
67.2m
Evenlode Farm
Derrymerrye
Path
Path (um)

Geophysical Survey results

AECOM Limited

- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- 0 Area
- 0 Proposed area
- Possible Archaeology
- Trend (Unclear Origin)
- Linear Trend (Ploughing)
- Possible Archaeology (Area)
- Area of Disturbance (Unclear Origin)
- Ferrous/Iron Spike
- Area of Disturbance (Modern)

0 1:3000 150m

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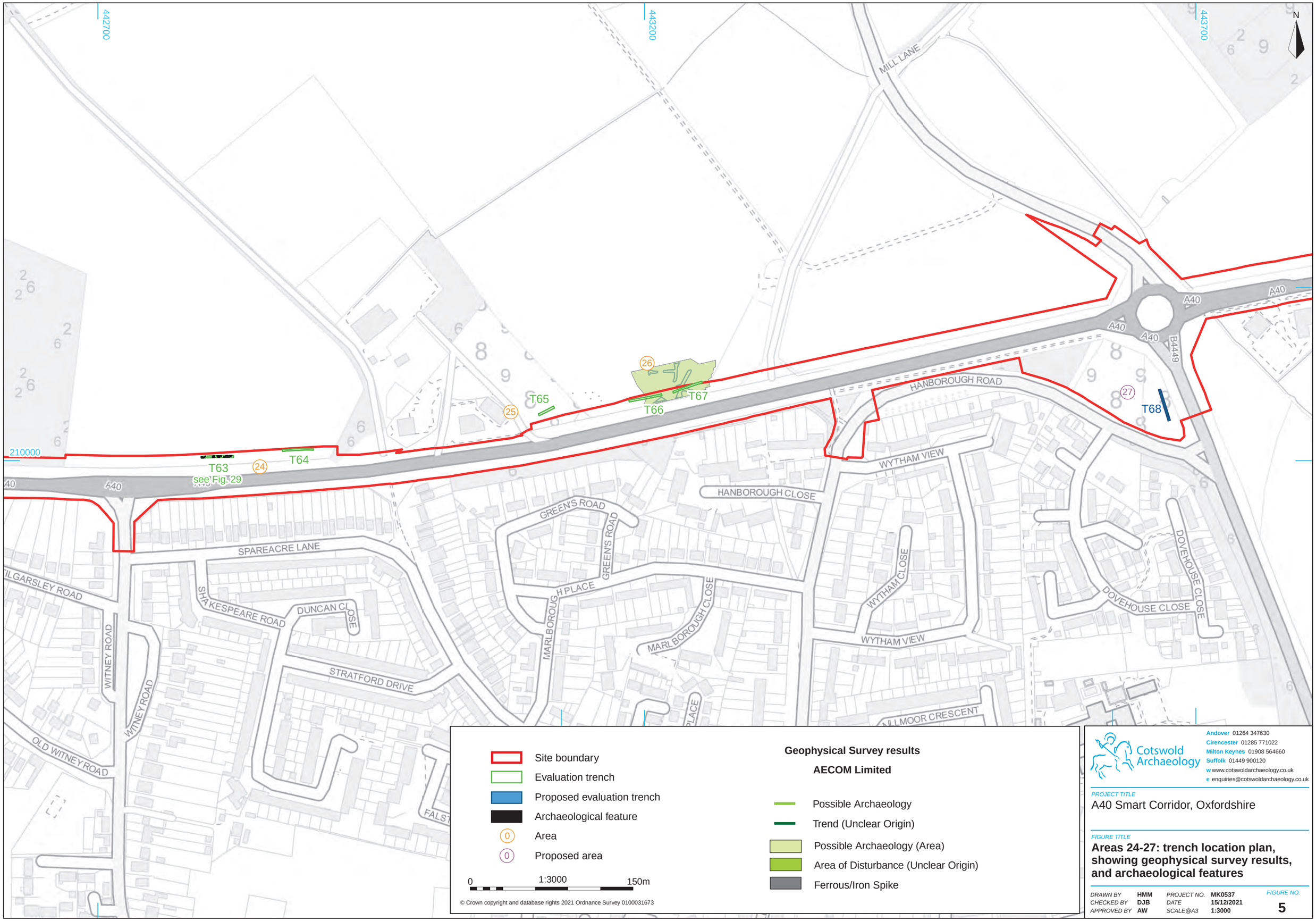
PROJECT TITLE
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Areas 18-23: trench location plan, showing geophysical survey results, and archaeological features

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**15/12/2021**	**4**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:3000**	



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PROJECT TITLE
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Areas 24-27: trench location plan, showing geophysical survey results, and archaeological features

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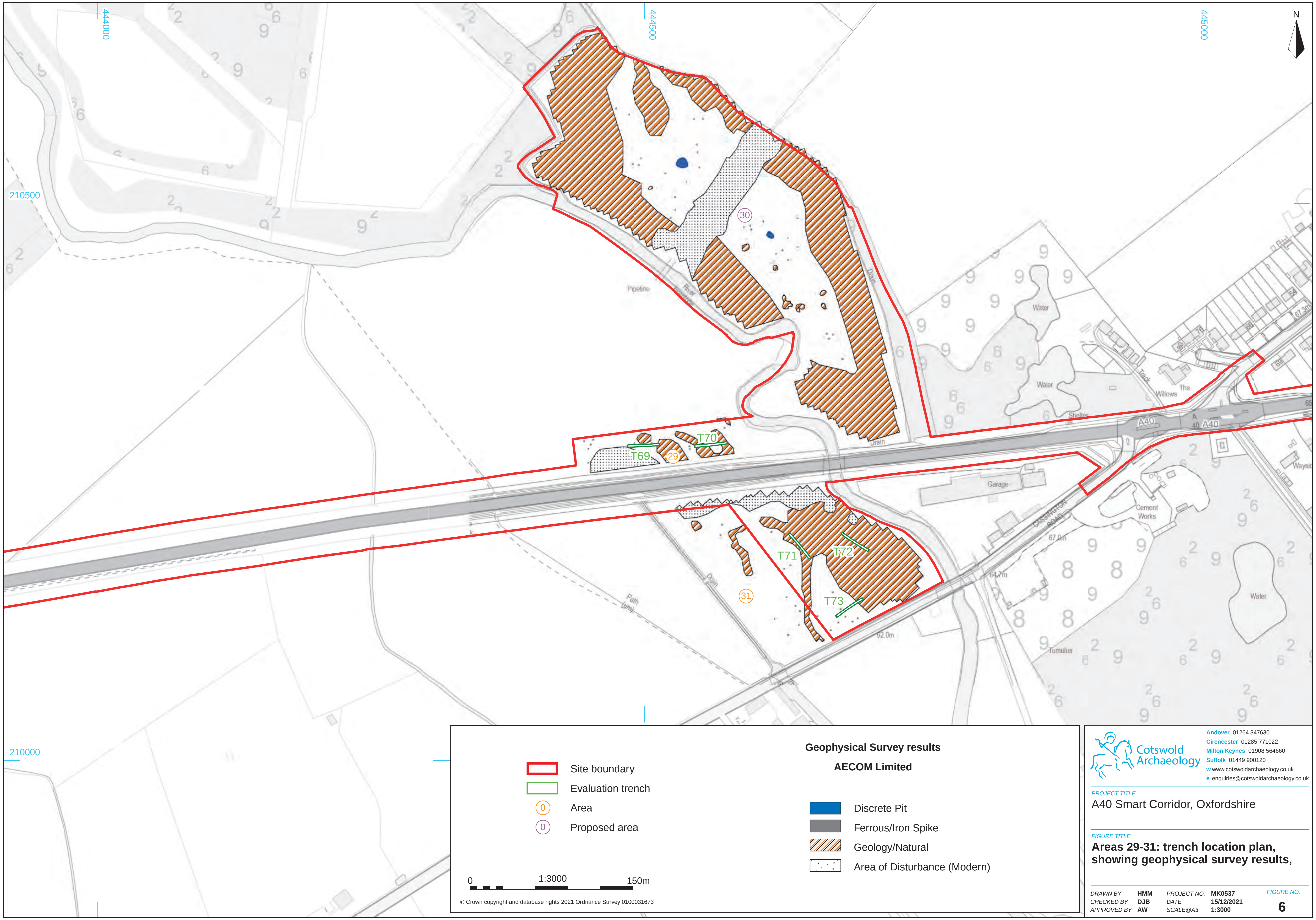
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**15/12/2021**	**5**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:3000**	



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PROJECT TITLE
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Areas 29-31: trench location plan, showing geophysical survey results,

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	15/12/2021
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE@A3	1:3000

FIGURE NO.
6

445700
446200
446700
210000
N
LYNTON LANE
HORSEMERE LANE
A40
Pond
Drain
Def
Lake
39
38
37
T74
Cycle Way
60.8m
60.9m
60.5m
Lay-by
CP & ED Bdy
ETL
SS

Site boundary
Evaluation trench
0 Area
0 Proposed area

Geophysical Survey results

AECOM Limited

Geology/Natural
Area of Disturbance (Modern)

0 1:3000 150m

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PROJECT TITLE
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Areas 37-39: trench location plan, showing geophysical survey results

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**15/12/2021**	**7**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:3000**	

Trench 1, looking south-west (1m scales)

Trench 1, representative section, looking north (1m scale)

Trench 11, looking north-east (1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Selection of blank trenches: photographs

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**8**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

Trench 15, looking north-east (1m scales)

Trench 15, representative section, looking north-west (1m scale)

Trench 21, looking south-west (1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Selection of blank trenches: photographs

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**9**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

Trench 39, looking south (1m scales)

Trench 39, representative section, looking east (1m scale)

Trench 49, looking west (1m scales)

Trench 54, looking west (1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Selection of blank trenches: photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**10**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

Trench 57, looking north-east (1m scales)

Trench 57, representative section, looking south-west (1m scale)

Trench 60, looking north-east (1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Selection of blank trenches: photographs

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**11**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

Trench 62, looking east (1m scales)

Trench 62, representative section, looking north (1m scale)

Trench 65, looking north-east (1m scale)

Trench 67, looking south-west (1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE

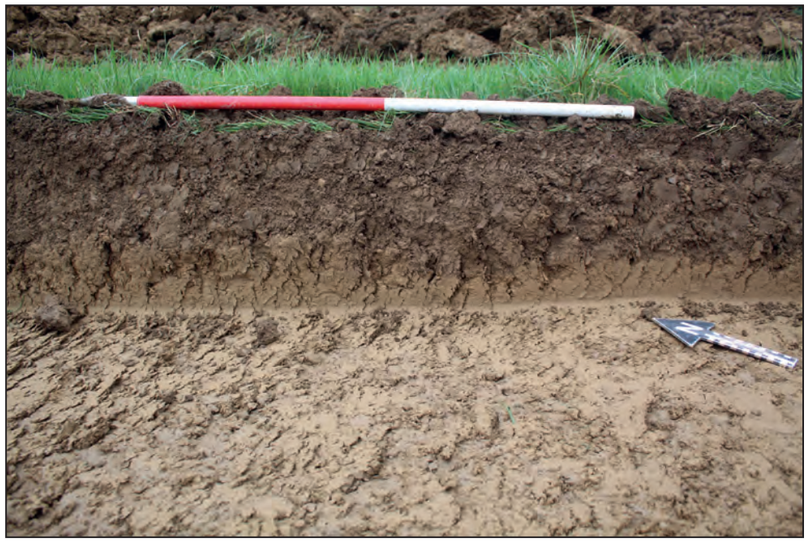
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Selection of blank trenches: photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**12**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

Trench 71, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 71, looking north-east (1m scale)

Trench 74, looking south-west (1m scales)

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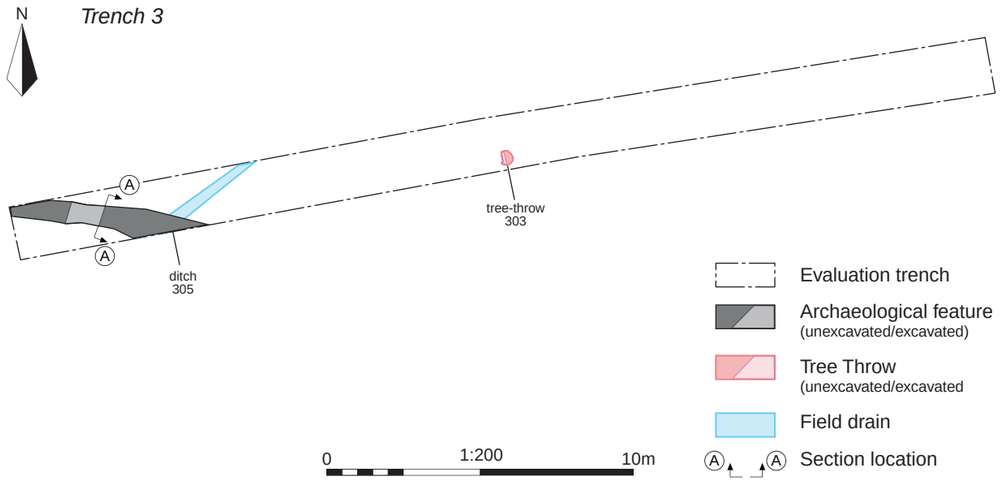
PROJECT TITLE

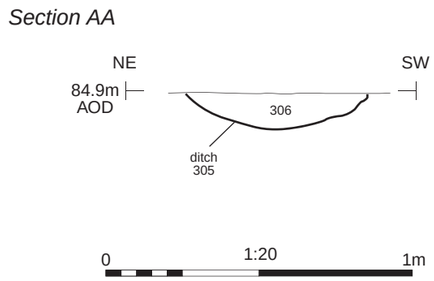
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

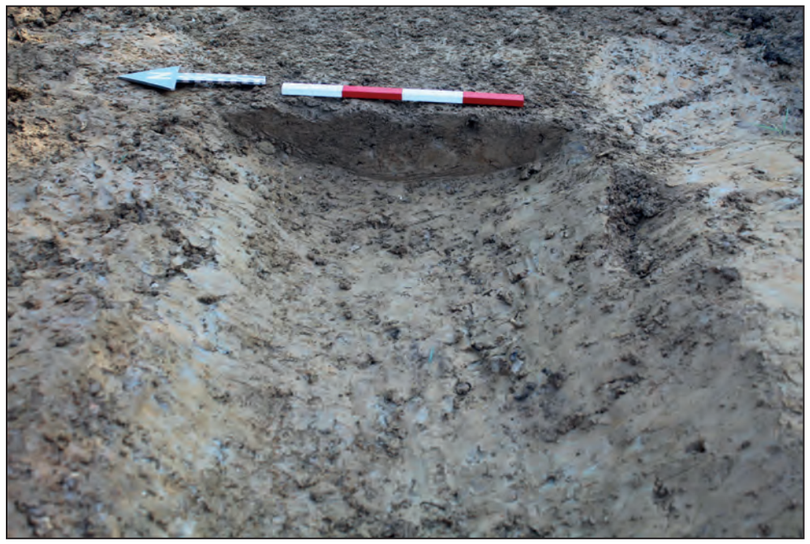
Selection of blank trenches: photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**13**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	





Trench 3, looking south-west (1m scales)



Ditch 305, looking east (0.4m scale)

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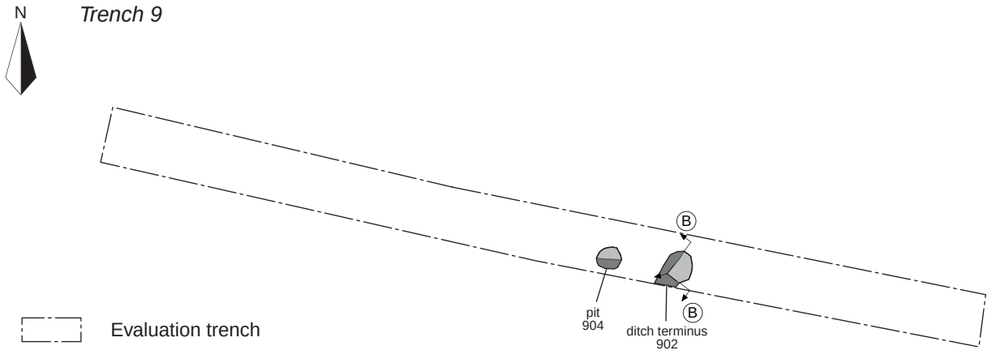
PROJECT TITLE

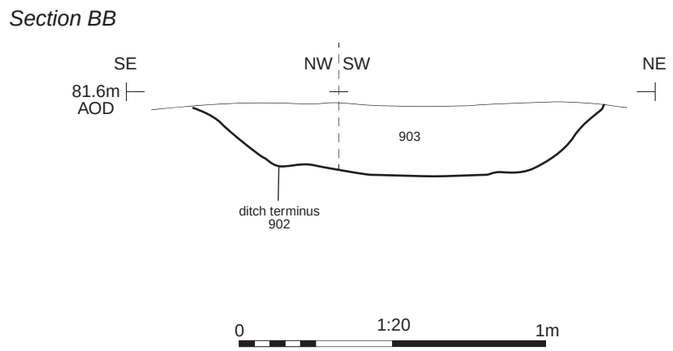
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

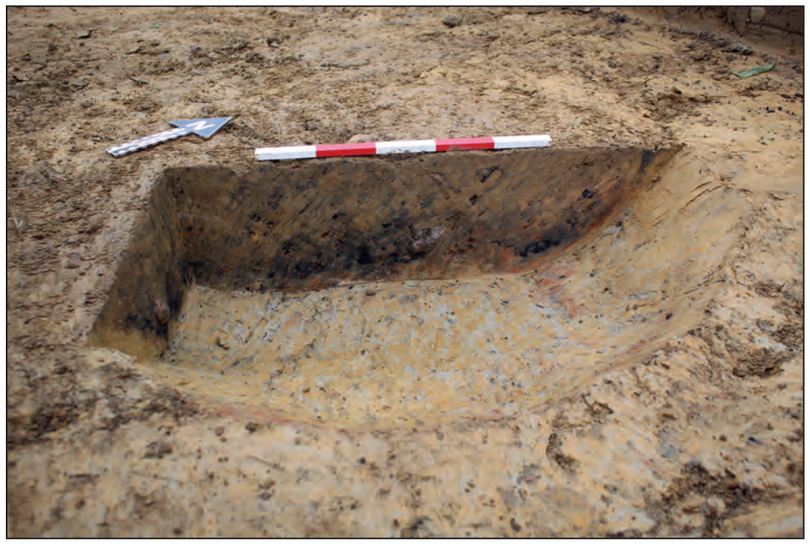
Area 2, trench 3: plan, section and photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**14**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	





Trench 9, looking south-east (1m scales)



Ditch terminus 902, looking north-west (0.5m scale)

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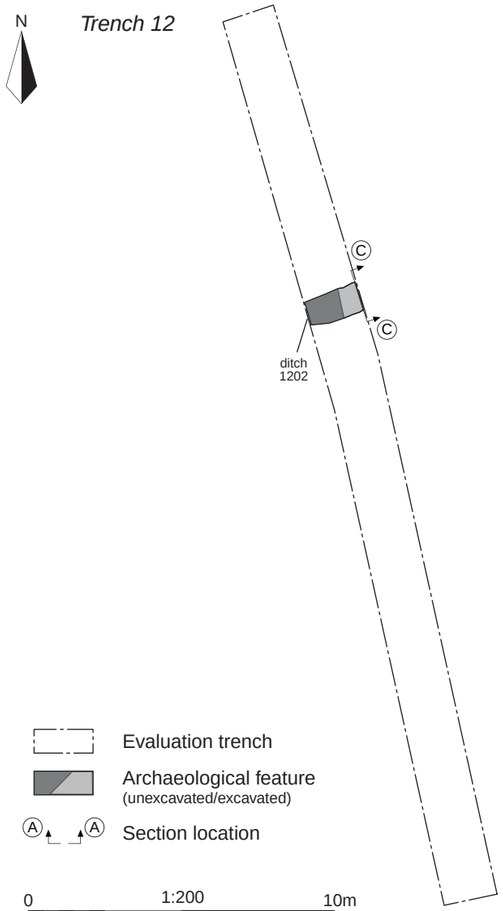
PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

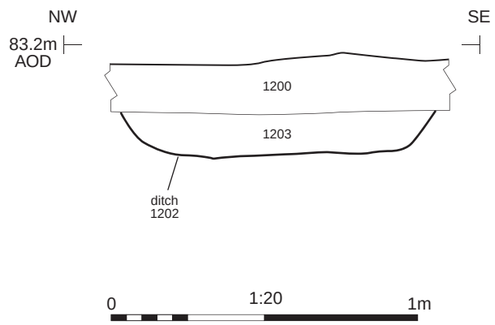
Area 7, trench 9: plan, section and photographs

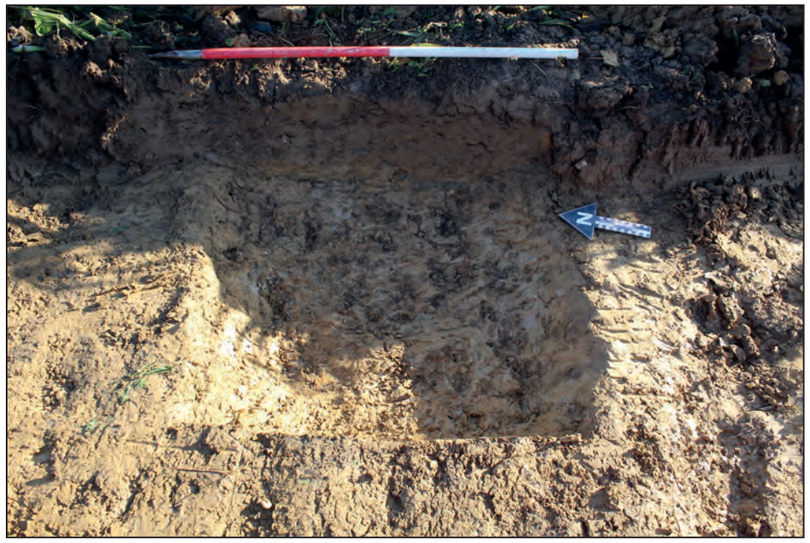
DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**15**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	



Trench 12, looking south-east (1m scales)

Section CC





Ditch 1202, looking north-east (1m scale)

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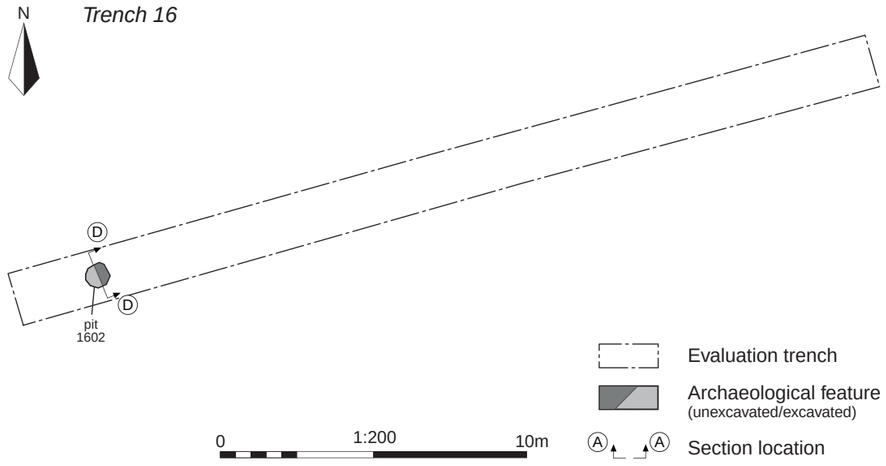
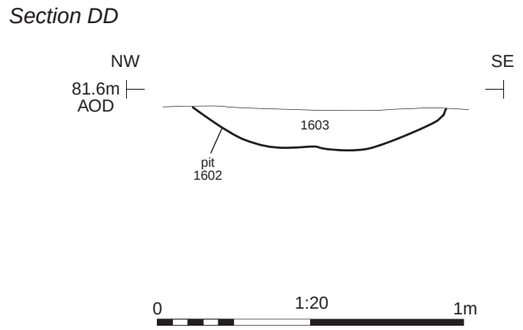
PROJECT TITLE
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Area 7, trench 12: plan, section and photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**16**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	





Trench 16, looking north-east (1m scales)

Pit 1602, looking north-east (0.5m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Area 8, trench 16: plan, section and photographs

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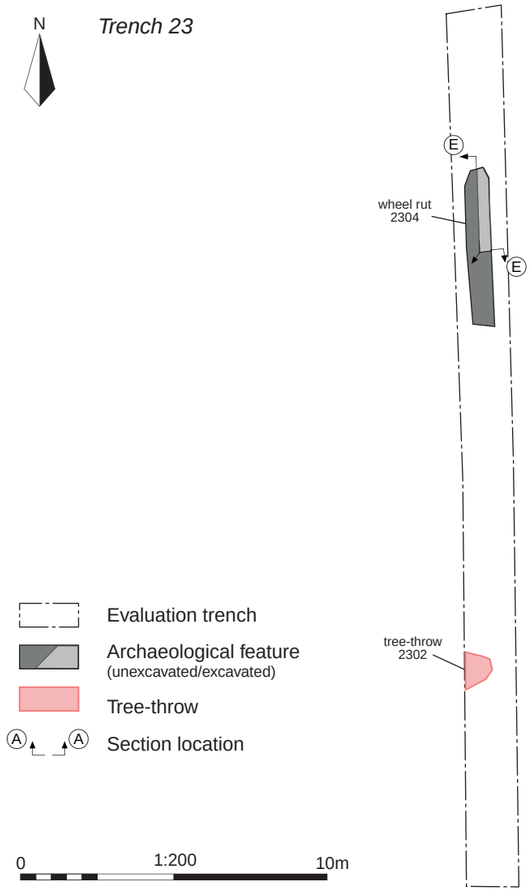
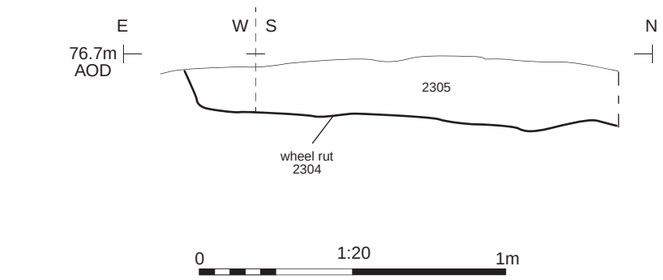
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**17**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	



Trench 23, looking north (1m scales)



Possible whell rut 2304, looking west (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

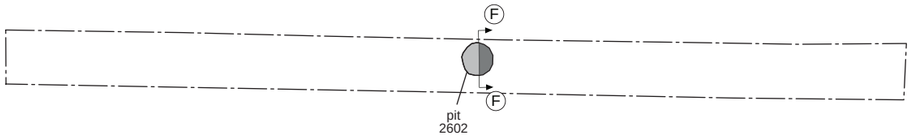
FIGURE TITLE

Area 10, trench 23: plan, section and photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**18**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	

N

Trench 26



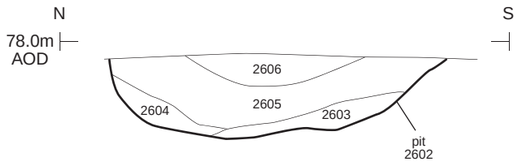
Evaluation trench

Archaeological feature
(unexcavated/excavated)

Section location

0 1:200 10m

Section FF



0 1:20 1m

Trench 26, looking east (1m scales)

Pit 2602, looking east (0.5m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Area 11, trench 26: plan, section and photographs

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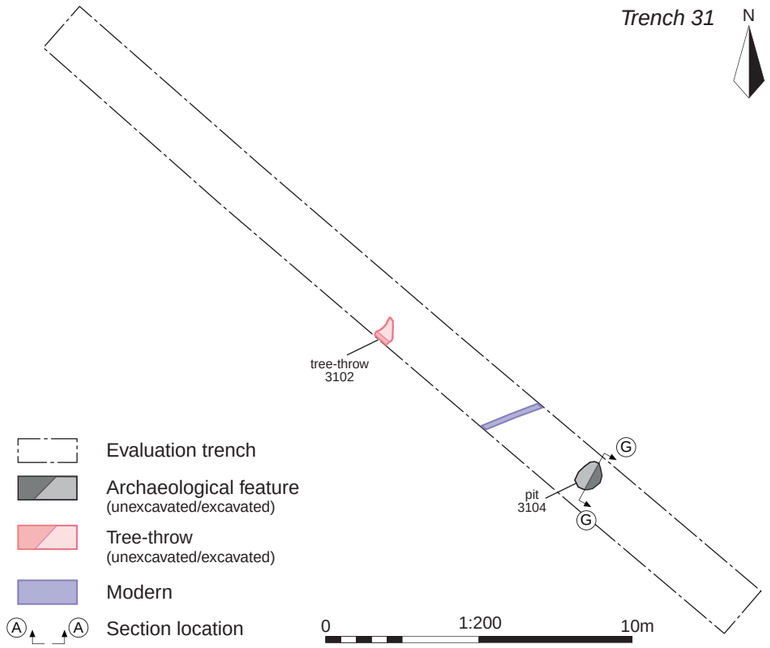
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**19**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	



Trench 31, looking north-west (1m scales)

Pit 3104, looking south-east (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Area 11, trench 31: plan, section and photographs

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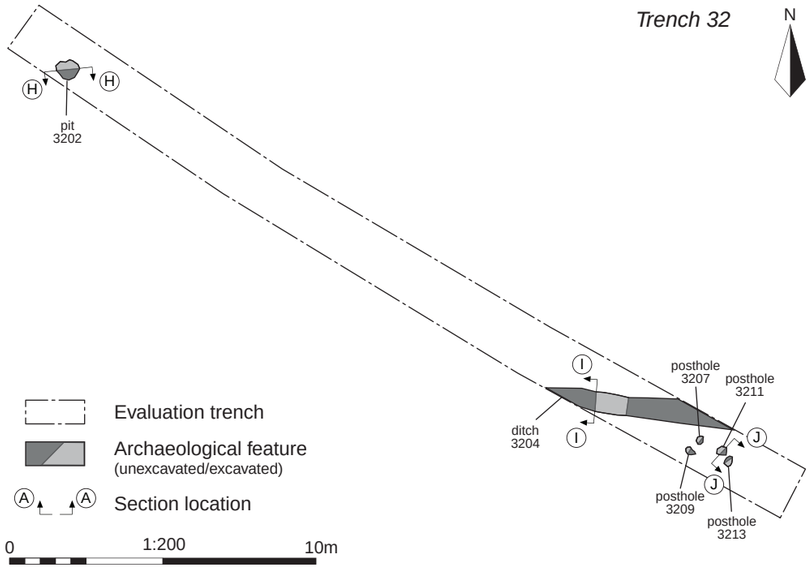
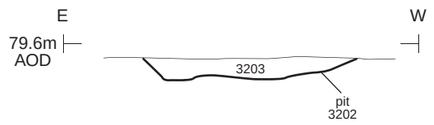
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**20**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	

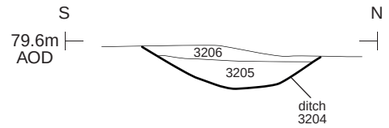
Trench 32



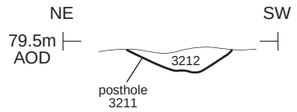
Section HH



Section II



Section JJ



0 1:20 1m

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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

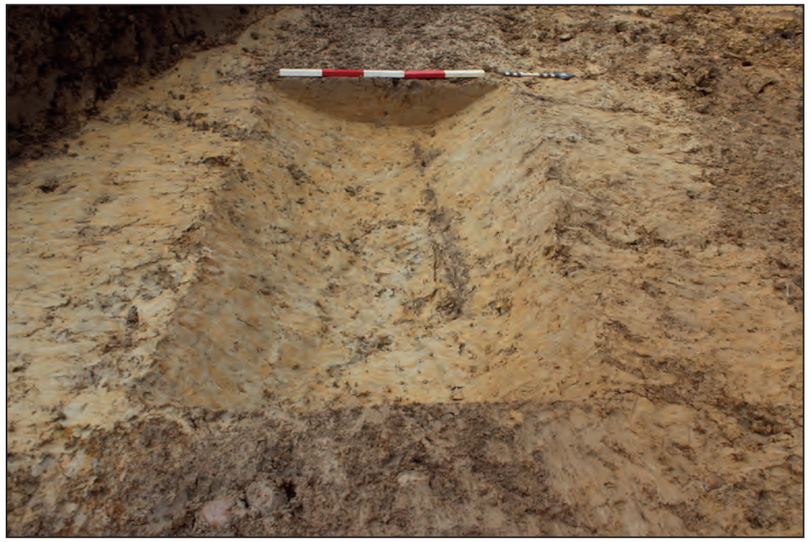
FIGURE TITLE

Area 11, trench 32: plan and sections

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**21**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	

Trench 32, looking north-west (1m scales)

Pit 3202, looking south (0.5m scale)



Ditch 3204, looking west (0.5m scale)

Posthole 3211, looking south-east (0.2m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

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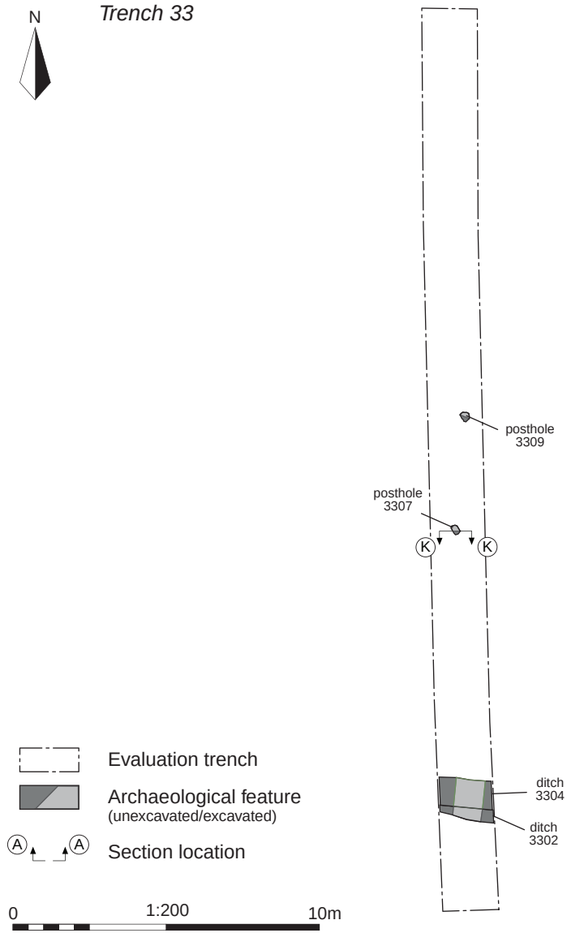
FIGURE TITLE

Area 11, trench 32: photographs

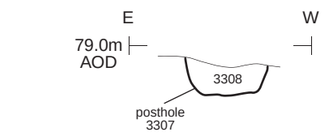
DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**22**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

Trench 33



Trench 33, looking north (1m scales)

Section KK



Posthole 3307, looking south (0.2m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

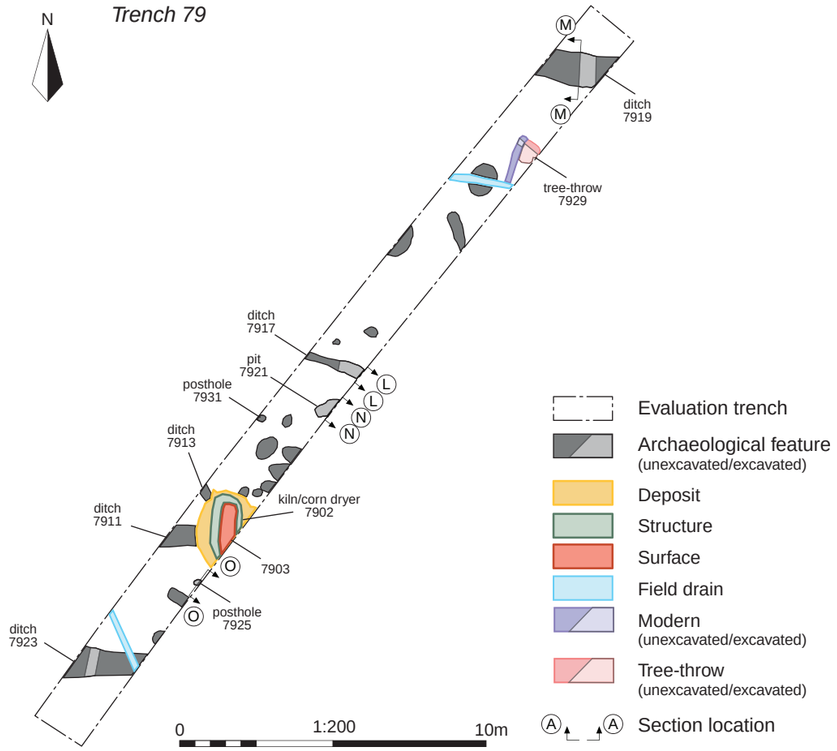
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Area 11, trench 33: plan, section and photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**23**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	

Trench 79



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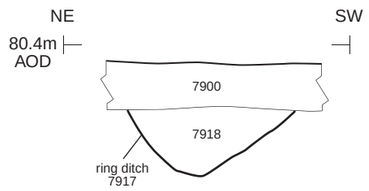
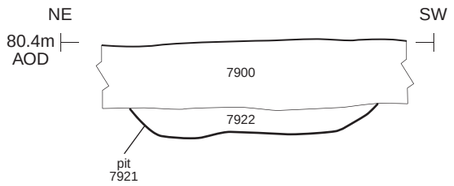
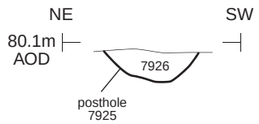


Section MM

Section NN



Section OO



0 1:20 1m

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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Area 11, trench 79: plan and sections

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	MK0537	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	14/12/2021	24
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	

Kiln/Corn dryer 7902 and associated deposits, looking north (0.5m scale)

Kiln/Corn dryer 7902 and associated deposits, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

Kiln/Corn dryer 7902 and associated deposits, looking south-east (0.5m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 79, kiln/corn dryer 7902: photographs

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**25**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

Possible ditch 7917, looking south-east (0.3m scale)

Ditch 7919, looking east (0.5m scale)

Pit 7921, looking south-east (0.5m scale)

Posthole 7925, looking south-east (0.2m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

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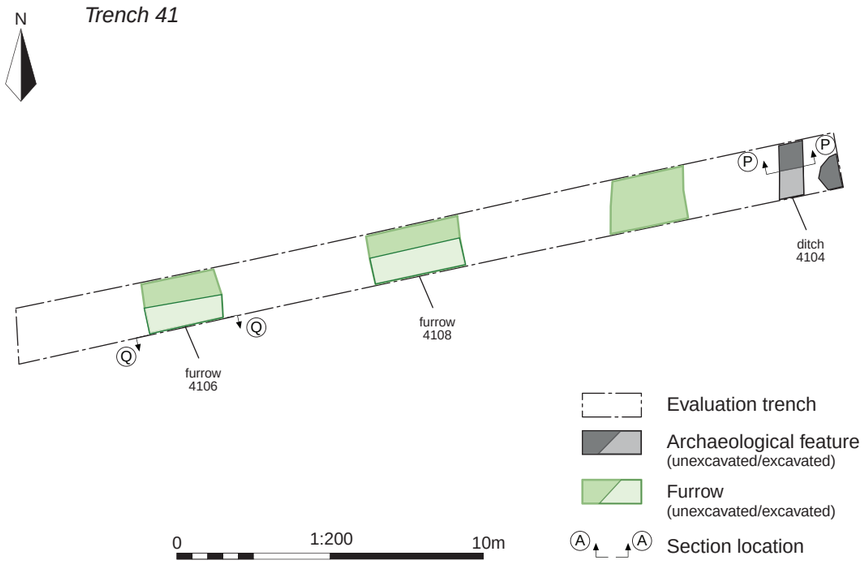
FIGURE TITLE

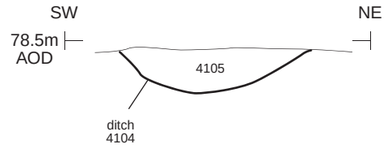
Area 11, trench 79: photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**15/12/2021**	**26**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

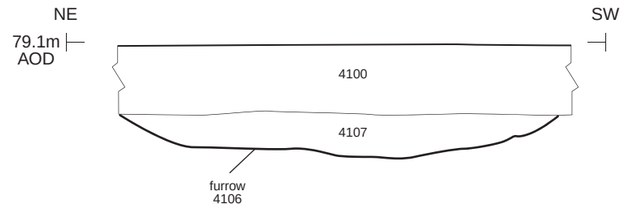
Trench 41



Section PP



Section QQ



Trench 41, north-east (1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Area 13, trench 41: plan, sections and photograph

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**14/12/2021**	**27**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20 & 1:200**	

Ditch 4105, looking north-east (0.3m scale)

Furrow 4106, looking south-east (0.4m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

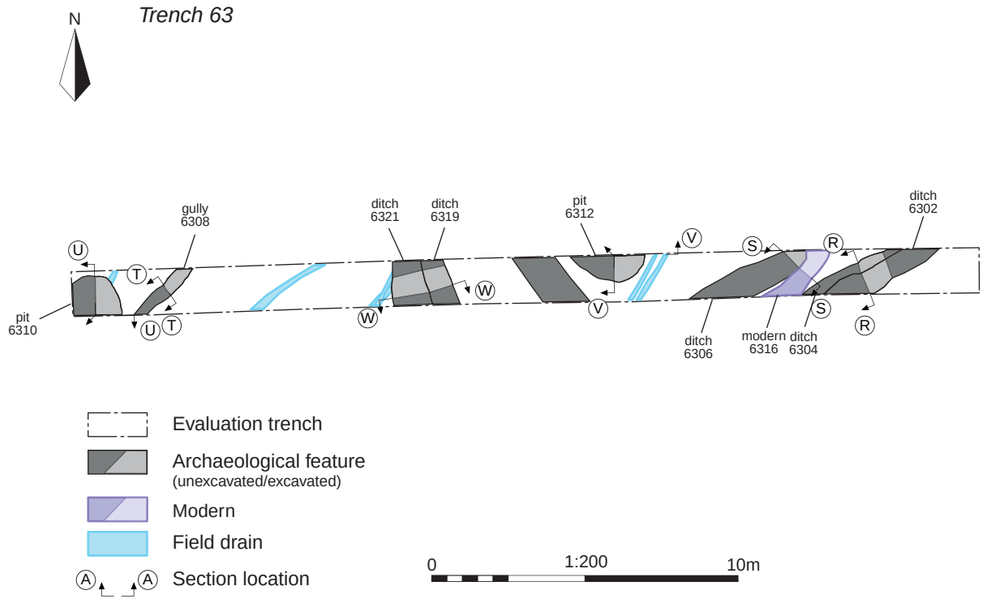
Area 13, trench 41: photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**15/12/2021**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A4*	**NA**

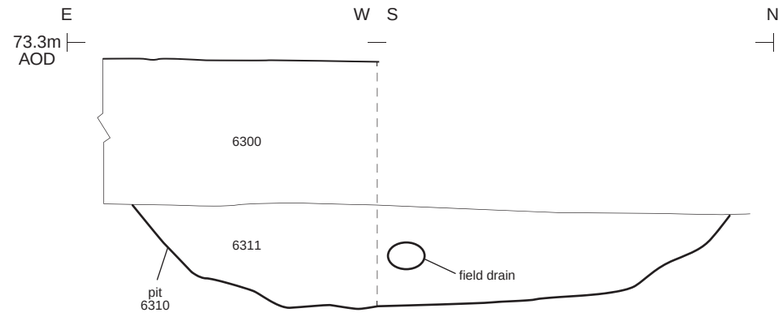
FIGURE NO.

28

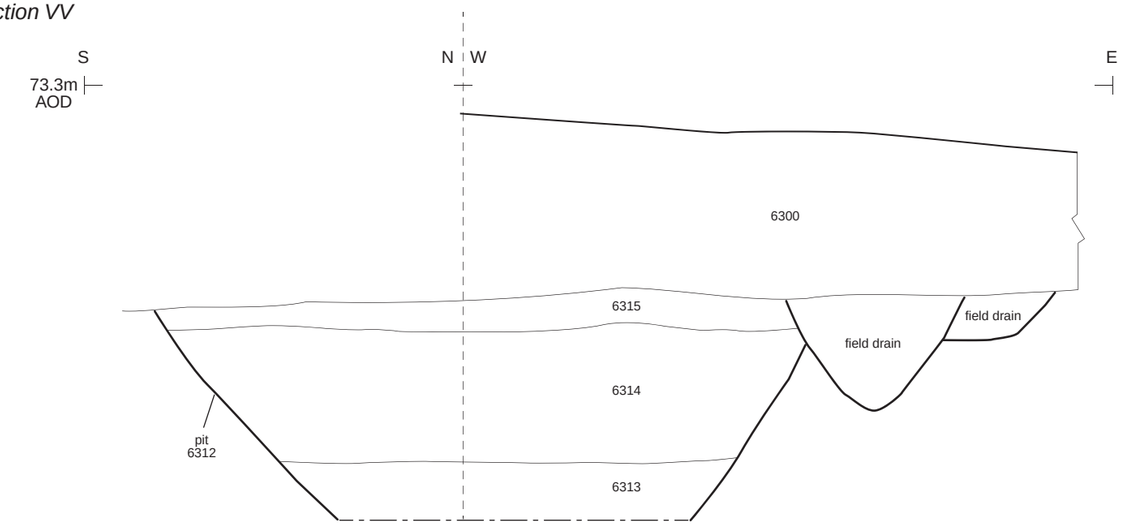
Trench 63



Section UU



Section VV



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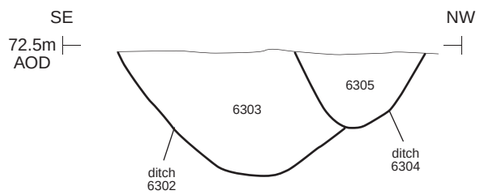
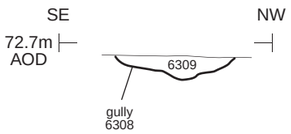
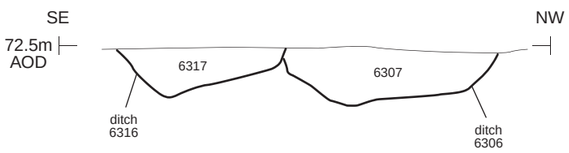


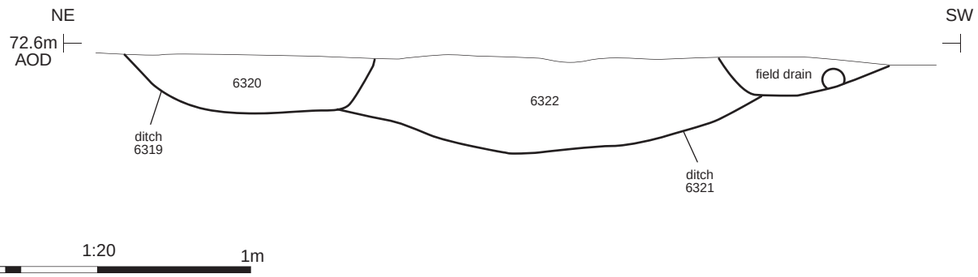
Section TT



Section SS



Section WW



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PROJECT TITLE

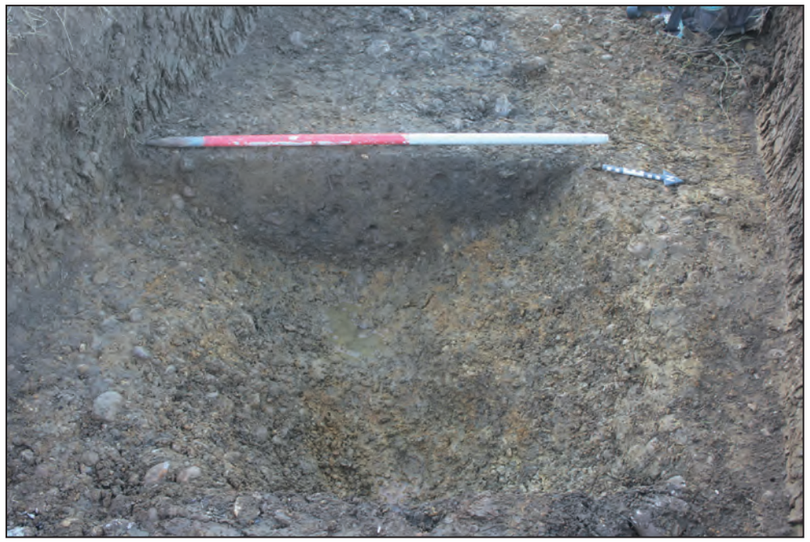
A40 Smart Corridor, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Area 24, trench 63: plan and sections

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	MK0537	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	15/12/2021	29
APPROVED BY	AW	SCALE@A3	1:20 & 1:200	

Trench 63, looking west (1m scales)



Ditches 6302 and 6304, looking south-west (1m scale)

Ditches 6306 and 6316, looking south-west (1m scale)

Gully 6308, looking south-west (0.3m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Area 24, trench 63: photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**15/12/2021**	**30**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

Pit 6310, looking west (0.5m scale)

Pit 6312, looking north (1m scale)

Ditches 6319 and 6321, looking south-east (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Area 24, trench 63: photographs

DRAWN BY	**HMM**	*PROJECT NO.*	**MK0537**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**15/12/2021**	**31**
APPROVED BY	**AW**	*SCALE@A3*	**NA**	

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