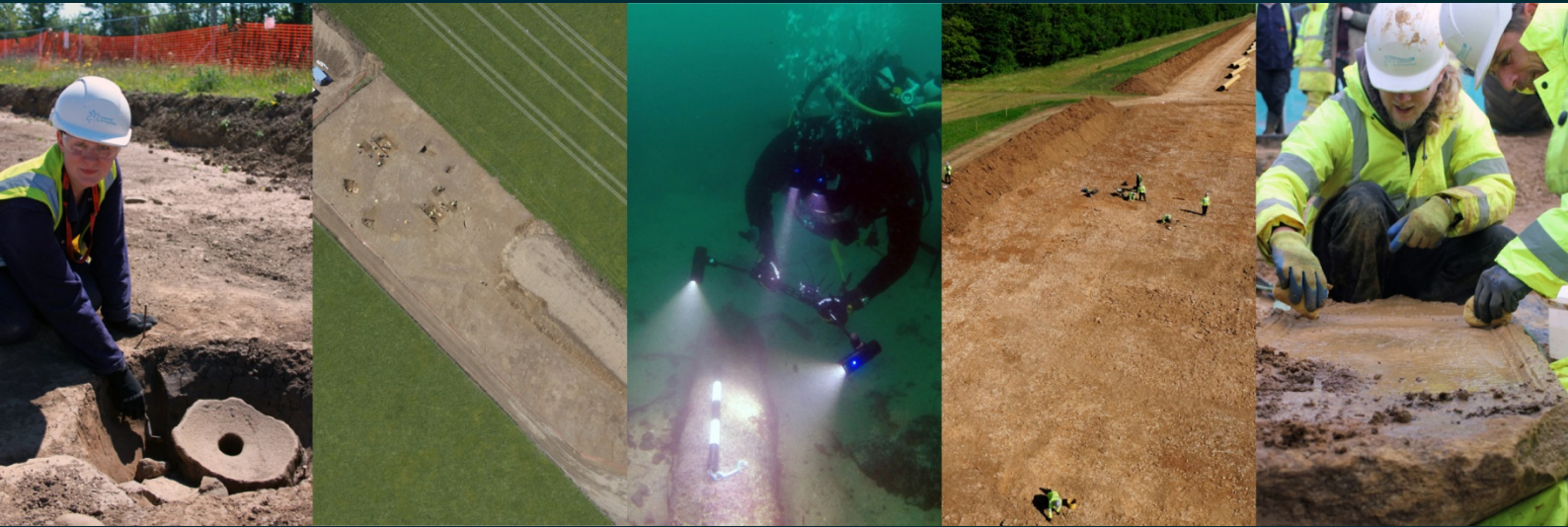


**Showell Nurseries  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire**  
*Archaeological Evaluation*



for  
CgMs Ltd

CA Project: 6473  
CA Report: 17756

February 2017



# SHOWELL NURSERIES CHIPPENHAM WILTSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 6473  
CA Report: 17756



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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Showell Nurseries
<b>Location:</b>	Chippenham, Wiltshire
<b>NGR:</b>	391097 171126
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	18-21 December 2017
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Wiltshire Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	SHOW 17

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2017 at Showell Nurseries, Chippenham, Wiltshire. Eight trenches were excavated.

The evaluation identified a number of archaeological features which generally correlated well with a preceding geophysical survey. Archaeologically features encountered included two ring ditches and a posthole. Worked flint was recovered from the ditch fills of the larger ring ditch. An undated ditch was also revealed, as was evidence for medieval ridge and furrow agriculture. Modern plough scars, postholes, foundation trenches and service trenches, relating to recent agricultural and nursery activity, were also identified.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Ltd at Showell Nurseries, Chippenham, Wiltshire (centred at NGR: 391097 171126; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application being made to Wiltshire Council (WC) for development of the site. Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, WC, the archaeological advisor to WC, recommended that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken prior to determination of the proposed planning application.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), and the *Statement of Standards and Practices for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (Wiltshire County Council 1995). It was monitored by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, including a site visit on 20 December 2017.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 4.3ha in extent and currently comprises glass houses, other ancillary buildings associated with the nursery and a central area of open grassland. The site is bounded by residential properties and their gardens to the north, west and south, and agricultural fields to the east. The north-western part of the site lies at approximately 50m AOD, dropping away to 48m AOD to the south-east.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone of the Kellaways Formation. Superficial River Terrace Deposits (Terrace 1) of Sand and Gravel are also recorded in the eastern part of the site (BGS 2017). A clayey silt substrate was encountered in the western half of the site, whilst sand and gravel was encountered in the eastern half.



## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The known archaeological resource within the site and its surrounding area are detailed in a desk-based assessment prepared in November 2016 (CgMs 2016). This showed that the site lies in an area containing archaeological remains from all periods from the prehistoric to the post-medieval. There are no designated heritage assets recorded in the site, however in a wider 1km study area, a scheduled medieval moated site is recorded at Rowden Manor (NHLE 1013876, HER MWI5239) c. 1km to the north-east.
- 2.2 An archaeological evaluation (HER EWI6543, HEA 1049794) at Milbourne Farm and Showell Nurseries, to the north and east of the current site comprised the excavation of 55 trenches. The trenching identified evidence of prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval activity in Field G (HER MWI5224, 5234, 74352), c. 200m to the north-east of the site (Trenches 38-43), and evidence of prehistoric activity in the south of Field H (Trench 53), immediately to the east of Trench 8 of the current evaluation (Oxford Archaeology (OA) 1991).
- 2.3 A second programme of archaeological evaluation (HER EWI7730, 7873) at Rowden Park comprised a geophysical survey and the excavation of a further 148 trenches. In Field 11, which adjoins the current site to the north and east, the trenching identified evidence of prehistoric to post-medieval activity. The majority of the recorded remains related to enclosures and drove-ways of Late Iron Age/Roman date. The results of the subsequent geophysical survey did not indicate intensive or widespread settlement in Field 11. All of the identified features were relatively shallow and had been subject to a high level of truncation (CgMs 2014).
- 2.4 A programme of archaeological investigation at Showell Farm to the west of the current site (HER EWI3570, 3571, 3573, 6182, HEA 1237245, 1340984) recorded multi-period remains dating from the Mesolithic to medieval periods (HER MWI3656, 3663, 5219, 5221, 5228, 5272, 74085). The majority of the identified evidence was recorded during an excavation conducted c. 250m to the north-west of the current site (Young and Hancocks 2006).
- 2.5 An archaeological evaluation conducted in advance of the Chippenham Bypass (HER EWI3562), c.500m to the west, recorded scatters of prehistoric and Roman artefacts, seven ditches, one posthole and three shallow hollows (Dyer 1991).

Excavation works in advance of, and watching brief during, the construction of the bypass identified more evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity (CAT 1998).

- 2.6 An archaeological evaluation of land at Hunters Moon (HER EW17192), c. 520m to the north-west, recorded limited archaeological evidence within the 75 trenches excavated. This comprising dispersed small clusters of pits, postholes and boundary ditches, the majority of which were undated, and unstratified prehistoric artefacts (Wessex Archaeology 2012).
- 2.7 A geophysical survey of the current site was undertaken in 2017 (Archaeological Surveys forthcoming). The survey identified two circular anomalies in the south-western corner of the site and linear anomalies in the south-eastern parts of the site. No interpretation is currently available.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable WC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 measured 30m in length and 2m in width, Trench 7 measured 24m in length and 2m in width), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches 3 and 5 targeted circular anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey, the remaining trenches were randomly located. Trench 7 was shortened due to the presence of overhead electricity cables, with the approval of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.



- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. Two deposits were sampled and processed (see Section 7.2-7.7 and Appendix C). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Wiltshire Museums along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.
- 5.2 A varying sequence of deposits was encountered across the site. Within Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 the natural substrate consisted of mottled clayey silt (102, 202, 303 and 402 respectively). The natural substrate was in turn overlain in these trenches by a clayey silt layer containing occasional to rare charcoal flecks (103, 203, 302 and 404) and measuring 0.3m to 0.45m in thickness, this was in turn overlain by a 0.15m thick clayey silt subsoil (101, 201, 301 and 401) and subsequent clayey silt topsoil (100, 200, 300 and 400). Layer 302 in Trench 3 contained a single, abraded sherd of Roman pottery which was likely to be redeposited.



- 5.3 The natural substrate in Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8 consisted of sand and gravel (502, 602, 701 and 802). This was overlain in by 0.18m to 0.25m of clayey silt subsoil (no subsoil was encountered in Trench 7) and sealed by topsoil.
- 5.4 Archaeological features were encountered in Trenches 3, 5, 7 and 8. These consisted of curvilinear ditches (Trenches 3 and 5), postholes (Trenches 5 and 7), a linear ditch, medieval furrows and modern features associated with a former glasshouse (Trench 8). The curvilinear ditches in Trenches 3 and 5, and the modern features in Trench 8, corresponded with geophysical anomalies.
- 5.5 Consistent with the results of the geophysical survey, no archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 6.

### ***Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 3)***

- 5.6 In the southern half of Trench 3, curvilinear ditch 306 corresponded with the northern side of a circular geophysical anomaly measuring approximately 30m in diameter (Fig. 2).
- 5.7 Ditch 306 measured 4.06m in width, was excavated to a depth of 0.68m (its full depth was not ascertained due to health and safety concerns within the limited confines of the trench), and had moderately sloping stepped sides.
- 5.8 A sequence of fills 310, 309 and 308 were identified within the ditch. The ditch cut exhibited a band of weathered natural clayey silt on its edges (305/307), suggesting the feature was exposed to the elements for an extended period.
- 5.9 The lowest observed ditch fill, 308, consisted of compact clayey silt containing occasional charcoal flecks from which no datable artefacts were recovered. Environmental sample <4> contained hulled wheat, emmer or spelt and a small hazelnut shell fragment. This may be representative of dispersed settlement material and would be compatible with a prehistoric date for this feature.
- 5.10 The middle ditch fill, 309, contained flecks of charcoal, burnt animal bone and worked flint that could only be broadly dated to the prehistoric period

- 5.11 The uppermost ditch fill 310 consisted of compact clay silt and contained occasional charcoal flecks and two fragments of worked flint. One fragment of flint is most likely of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, but has some edge damage so could be redeposited. Fill 310 was sealed by extensive clayey silt layer 302, visible throughout the northern and western parts of the site, that was in turn overlain by subsoil and topsoil.

#### ***Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 4)***

- 5.12 At the south-western end of Trench 5, curvilinear ditch 504 corresponded with the eastern side of a smaller circular geophysical anomaly that was approximately 6m in diameter (Fig. 2). Ditch 504 measured 0.68m in width, 0.28m in depth and had a rounded base. Its single silty sand fill, 503, contained no datable artefacts (Fig. 4, section and photograph). Environmental sample <1> from this ditch fill contained a few fragments of charcoal, but no charred plant remains.
- 5.13 To the north-east of ditch 504, posthole 506 measured 0.4m in diameter, 0.33m in depth with steep to vertical sides and had an uneven base. The clayey sand fill 505, of the posthole was artefactually sterile.
- 5.14 Both ditch 504 and posthole 506 cut the natural substrate 502, and were sealed by subsoil 501, which was in turn overlain by topsoil 500.

#### ***Trench 7 (Fig. 2)***

- 5.15 Seven postholes, 703, 705, 707, 709, 710, 712 and 714, were revealed throughout Trench 7; all cut the sandy gravel natural substrate 701 and were sealed by clayey sand topsoil 700. Measuring between 0.25m and 0.52m in diameter all had similar clay silt fills. Modern artefacts including window glass and iron objects were recovered from fills 702, 704, 706 and 708 of postholes 703, 705, 707 and 709 respectively. Modern material was noted in the fills of the remaining postholes but not recovered.

#### ***Trench 8 (Fig. 2)***

- 5.16 Trench 8 revealed a north-east/south-west orientated ditch 804, four medieval furrows on a broad east/west alignment (805, 807, 809 and 811), modern foundation trench for a glasshouse (813) and an associated water pipe trench (815).

- 5.17 Ditch 804 measured 0.51m in width, 0.2m in depth with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base. The ditch cut the substrate and was sealed by subsoil. The single sandy clay fill 803 was artefactually sterile and the ditch therefore remains undated.

## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material from evaluation was hand-recovered from seven deposits (ditch and posthole fills, subsoil and gravel substrate). The recovered material dates to the prehistoric, Roman and modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes, in parenthesis in the text, have been devised for the purpose of this report.

### *Pottery: Roman*

- 6.2 An abraded, unfeatured bodysherd (3g) in a black-firing, sand tempered fabric (BS) was retrieved from layer 302. This redeposited sherd is of broad Romano-British date.

### *Lithics*

- 6.3 A total of six worked flints (61g) was recovered from three deposits. The lithics consist of two flakes, two cores, a retouched flake and a microdenticulate (the latter two items are broken). The cores, recovered from the upper surface of gravel substrate 701, were both used for the production of flakes. The two broken, retouched items are from fill 310 of ring ditch 306. The retouched flake features steep, regular retouch along one edge. The microdenticulate has been made on a probable blade blank and very fine denticulations have been created along the left dorsal edge. The latter is most likely of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, however, it exhibits some edge damage so it is not clear whether or not it was stratified. The remaining flints can only be broadly dated to the prehistoric period.

### *Other finds*

- 6.4 A fragment of clear window glass, of modern date, was recorded from fill 708 of posthole 709.



- 6.5 The two iron objects recovered from the site (45g) comprise a nail of uncertain date from fill 706 of posthole 707 and a modern bolt from fill 704 of posthole 705.

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### ***Animal Bone***

- 7.1 Three fragments of animal bone (1.13g) were recovered via a combination of hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from deposits 308 and 309, successive fills of ring ditch 306. The bone was not identifiable to species, nor was it recovered in association with any dateable artefacts. This severely limits the amount of useful interpretative data that can be obtained. However, the bone displays the calcined state and bright white colour associated with prolonged burning at temperatures that exceed those normally associated with cooking.

### ***Plant Macrofossils***

- 7.2 Two environmental samples (40 litres of soil) were processed from ring ditches 306 and 504 in Trenches 3 and 5 to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains across the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.3 Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 2 in 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 in Table 3 in Appendix C, Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).
- 7.4 The flots varied in size with around 60 -75% rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material was poorly preserved.

### ***Trench 3***

- 7.5 A hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) grain fragment, a small hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragment and a few charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were recorded from fill 308 (sample 4) of ditch 306. This may be

representative of dispersed settlement material and would be compatible with a prehistoric date for this feature.

#### *Trench 5*

- 7.6 A few fragments of charcoal greater than 2mm but no charred plant remains were recovered from fill 503 (sample 1) of curvilinear ditch 504. There is no indication of date of this feature from the environmental remains.
- 7.7 The moderate mollusc assemblage included shells of the open country species *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vertigo pygmaeum*, the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*, *Cochlicopa lubrica*, *Cochlicopa lubricella* and *Cepaea* spp., and shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus*, *Acanthinula aculeata*, *Clausilia bidentata*, *Cochlodina laminata*, *Oxychilus cellarius* and *Aegopinella nitidula*. *Acanthinula aculeata* is a species which favours scrub, woodland or hedgerow environments. The land snail assemblage appears to be indicative of a well-established open landscape with perhaps some longer grass and scrub/woodland edge/hedgerows in the vicinity.

#### *Summary*

- 7.8 The low levels of charred remains recovered in these samples provide no indication of specific domestic settlement activities taking place in the immediate vicinity and no clear indication of the likely date of these features.
- 7.9 The mollusc assemblage appears to be indicative of a well-established open landscape with perhaps some longer grass and scrub/woodland edge/hedgerows in the vicinity.

## **8. DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 The results of the evaluation broadly corresponded with the findings of the preceding geophysical survey.

#### ***Prehistoric***

- 8.2 Evidence for prehistoric activity comprised worked flint recovered from two fills of a ditch in Trench 3. Ditch 306 represents the northern side of a circular ditch visible on the geophysical survey and measuring approximately 30m in diameter. Charred plant material recovered from the lowest fill, 308, of the ditch may be representative

of dispersed settlement material and would be compatible with a prehistoric date for this feature. A single sherd of redeposited Roman pottery was recovered from deposit 302 which sealed ditch 306.

8.3 Although artefactually undated, a smaller circular ditch 504, revealed in Trench 5, was also visible on the geophysical survey. It measured approximately 6m in diameter and is probably broadly contemporary. Seemingly isolated posthole 506 to the east of the ditch could also potentially be contemporary and represent part of a post-built structure.

8.4 The evidence recovered during the evaluation and the results of the geophysical survey would suggest these two ring ditches are prehistoric. The size of the larger ring ditch, and the low level of charred plant remains resulting from domestic processes in either ring ditch, would support their interpretation as funerary or ritual monuments, rather than the remains of roundhouses. Such funerary monuments have been found locally; the excavations at Showell Farm to the west revealed the poorly-preserved remains of a round barrow and a possible henge (Young and Hancocks 2006, 45). In addition, the location of the ring ditches on a promontory overlooking a tributary of the River Avon is comparable to that of other well-documented barrows (Powesland 2004, 82).

### ***Medieval***

8.5 Four east/west aligned medieval furrows that were not identified by the geophysical survey were revealed in Trench 8. Preceding archaeological works in the surrounding area revealed similar evidence for medieval agriculture.

### ***Modern***

8.6 Features including postholes, foundation trenches and services relating to the former use of the site as a nursery were revealed in Trenches 7 and 8. Plough scars relating to recent agricultural activity were also identified in Trenches 5 and 6.

### ***Undated***

8.7 An undated ditch was revealed in Trench 8. Ditches on a similar broadly north-east/south-west alignment are visible on aerial photographs to the east of the site and were identified during previous evaluation. They have been tentatively dated as Romano-British in origin and representing fields and trackways (OA 1991). The fact

the ditch in trench 8 was sealed by the subsoil could indicate it is contemporary with these features to the east of the site.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Jessica Stevens and Kinga Werner. The report was written by Ray Holt. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Sarah Wyles respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Aleks Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clayey silt	30	2	0.25	
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish brown clayey silt	30	2	0.15	
1	102	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mottled yellowish brown and light brown clayey silt	30	2	n/a	
1	103	Layer		Layer	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	30	2	0.45	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clayey silt	30	2	0.3	
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish brown clayey silt	30	2	0.15	
2	202	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mottled yellowish brown and light brown clayey silt	30	2	n/a	
2	203	Layer		Deposit	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	30	2	0.35	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silt	30	2	0.3	
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown clayey silt	30	2	0.15	
3	302	Layer		Deposit	Mid reddish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	30	2	0.3	
3	303	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mottled reddish orange brown clayey silt overlying mid grey silty gravel	30	2	n/a	
3	305	Fill	306	Weathered natural on northern edge of cut 306	Light yellowish grey silty clay	n/a	1.1	0.16	
3	306	Cut		Ring ditch	East/west orientated curvilinear ditch forming the northern side of a circular enclosure measuring 30m in diameter	>2	4.06	>0.68	
3	307	Fill	306	Weathered natural on the southern edge of cut 306	Mid grey brown silty clay	n/a	1.1	0.06	
3	308	Fill	306	Lower fill of ditch	Light yellowish brown clayey silt containing occasional flecks of charcoal	n/a	2.86	0.32	
3	309	Fill	306	Middle fill of ditch	Light greyish brown clayey silt containing occasional flecks of charcoal	n/a	3.6	0.16	
3	310	Fill	306	Upper fill of ditch	Light yellowish orange-brown clayey silt containing occasional flecks of charcoal	n/a	4.06	0.36	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clayey silt	30	2	0.3	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish brown clayey silt	30	2	0.1	
4	402	Deposit		Upper portion of Natural substrate	Mottled yellowish brown and light brown clayey silt. Probably alluvially derived	30	2	0.2	
4	403	Deposit		Lower portion of Natural substrate	Yellowish brown gravel with amorphous patches of reddish brown silt	30	2	n/a	
4	404	Layer		Deposit	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks	30	2	0.3	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand	30	2	0.45	
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown sandy silt with gravel inclusions	30	2	Up to 0.18	
5	502	Deposit		Natural substrate	Light brownish orange silty, sandy gravel	30	2	n/a	
5	503	Fill	504	Fill of ditch	Mid reddish brown silty sand	>2	0.68	0.28	
5	504	Cut		Ring ditch	North/south orientated curvilinear ditch forming the eastern side of a circular	>2	0.68	0.28	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
					enclosure measuring 6m in diameter				
5	505	Fill	506	Fill of posthole	Mid orangey reddish brown clayey sand	0.4	0.36	0.33	
5	506	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole with steep to vertical sides and uneven base	0.4	0.36	0.33	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown clayey silt	30	2	0.4	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown clayey silt containing rare charcoal flecks. Only visible in northern end of trench	20	2	0.25	
6	602	Deposit		Natural substrate	Yellowish brown gravel with amorphous patches of reddish brown silt	30	2	n/a	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown clayey sand with gravel inclusions	24	2	0.28	
7	701	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mixed orangey yellow and brownish grey silty sandy gravel	24	2	n/a	
7	702	Fill	703	Fill of posthole	Orangey brown silty clay	0.42	0.36	0.24	Modern
7	703	Cut		Posthole	Oval posthole with steep sloping sides to a flat base	0.42	0.36	0.24	
7	704	Fill	705	Fill of posthole	Greyish brown clayey silt	0.4	0.36	0.22	Modern
7	705	Cut		Posthole	Sub circular posthole with steep to moderate sloping sides and a rounded base	0.4	0.36	0.22	
7	706	Fill	707	Fill of posthole	Greyish brown clayey silt	0.4	0.39	0.32	Modern
7	707	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole with steep sloping sides to a flat base	0.4	0.39	0.32	
7	708	Fill	709	Fill of posthole	Greyish brown clayey silt	0.52	0.52	0.2	Modern
7	709	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole with steep sloping sides to a rounded base	0.52	0.52	0.2	
7	710	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole with steep sloping sides to a rounded base	0.32	0.32	0.25	
7	711	Fill	710	Fill of posthole	Greyish brown clayey silt	0.32	0.32	0.25	Modern
7	712	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole with steep sloping sides to a rounded base	0.25	0.25	0.25	
7	713	Fill	712	Fill of posthole	Greyish brown clayey silt	0.25	0.25	0.25	Modern
7	714	Cut		Posthole	Circular posthole with steep sloping sides to a rounded base	0.52	0.52	0.32	
7	715	Fill	714	Fill of posthole	Greyish brown clayey silt	0.52	0.52	0.32	Modern
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Greyish brown clayey sand with gravel inclusions	30	2	0.29	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Brownish yellow silty clay with gravel inclusions	30	2	0.18	
8	802	Deposit		Natural substrate	Mottled orangey yellow and brownish grey silty sandy gravel	30	2	n/a	
8	803	Fill	804	Fill of ditch	Mid brownish orange sandy clay with gravel inclusions	>5	0.51	0.2	
8	804	Cut		Ditch	North-east/south-west orientated ditch with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base	>5	0.51	0.2	
8	805	Cut		Furrow	East/west orientated furrow	>2	1	n/a	
8	806	Fill	805	Fill of furrow	Mid brownish orange sandy clay with gravel inclusions	>2	1	n/a	
8	807	Cut		Furrow	East/west orientated furrow	>2	1.2	n/a	
8	808	Fill	805	Fill of furrow	Mid brownish orange sandy clay with gravel inclusions	>2	1.2	n/a	

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
8	809	Cut		Furrow	East/west orientated furrow	>2	1.2	n/a	
8	810	Fill	805	Fill of furrow	Mid brownish orange sandy clay with gravel inclusions	>2	1.2	n/a	
8	811	Cut		Furrow	East/west orientated furrow	>2	1.2	n/a	
8	812	Fill	805	Fill of furrow	Mid brownish orange sandy clay with gravel inclusions	>2	1.2	n/a	
8	813	Cut		Foundation	East/west aligned foundation cut for modern glass house	>2	1	n/a	
8	814	Fill	805	Fill of foundation	Mid brownish orange sandy clay with gravel inclusions and concrete footings	>2	1	n/a	Modern
8	815	Cut		Service cut	Service trench containing iron pipe	>2	0.65	n/a	
8	816	Fill	805	Fill of service cut	Mid brownish orange sandy clay with gravel inclusions and iron pipe	>2	0.65	n/a	Modern

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
302	Roman pottery	Black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	BS	1	3	-
309	Flint	Flake		1	2	-
310	Flint	Flake, retouched flake, microdenticulate		3	13	-
701	Flint	Core		2	46	Modern
704	Iron	Bolt		1	17	-
706	Iron	Nail		1	28	-
708	Modern glass	Window		1	5	Modern

## APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

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

Cut	Fill	MM	BB SS	Total	Weight (g)
306	308		2	2	0.13
306	309	1		1	1
Total		1	2	3	
Weight		1	0.13	1.13	

MM = sheep size fragments; Ind – indeterminate; BB SS = burnt, unidentifiable fragments from bulk soil samples

**Table 2:** Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Proce ssed vol (L)	Unproc essed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roos ts %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 3 - Curvilinear ditch													
306	308	4	20	0	15	60	*	-	Hulled wheat grain frag	*	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	*/*	-
Trench 5 - Curvilinear ditch													
504	503	1	20	10	12 5	75	-	-	-	-	-	-/*	moll-t (****)

Key: \* = 1–4 items; \*\* = 5–19 items; \*\*\* = 20–49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50–99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items, Moll-t = land snails,

**Table 3:** Assessment table of the molluscan remains

Area	Tr 3	Tr 5
Feature Type	curvilinear ditch	curvilinear ditch
Feature	306	504
Context	308	503
Sample	4	1
Vol (L)	20	20
Flot size (ml)	15	125
Roots %	60	75
<b>Open country species</b>		
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	-	X
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	-	X
<i>Helicella itala</i>	-	X
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	-	X
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	-	X
<b>Intermediate species</b>		
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	-	X
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	-	X
<i>Cochlicopa lubricella</i>	-	X
<i>Cepaea</i> spp	-	X
<b>Shade-loving species</b>		
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	-	X
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	-	X
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	-	X
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>	-	X
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	-	X
<i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	-	X
<b>Approx totals</b>	0	50-100

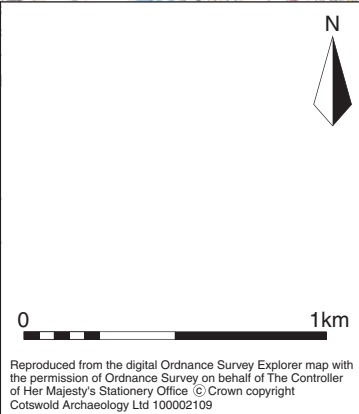
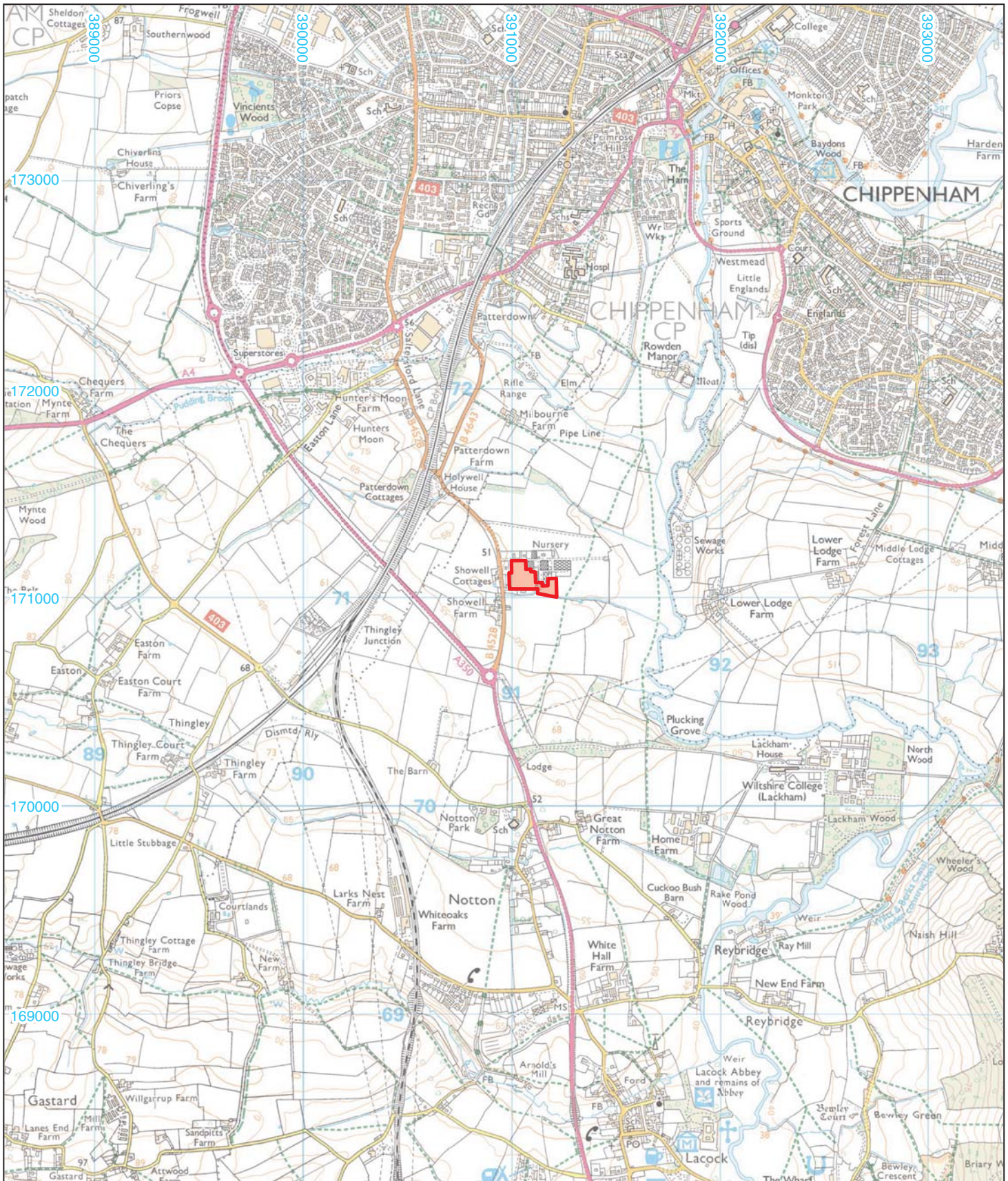
Key: X = present



## APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Showell Nurseries, Chippenham, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2017 at Showell Nurseries, Chippenham, Wiltshire. Eight trenches were excavated. The evaluation identified a number of archaeological features which generally correlated well with a preceding geophysical survey. Archaeologically features encountered included two ring ditches and a posthole. Worked flint was recovered from the ditch fills of the larger ring ditch. An undated ditch was also revealed, as was evidence for medieval ridge and furrow agriculture. Modern plough scars, postholes, foundation trenches and service trenches, relating to recent agricultural and nursery activity, were also identified.	
Project dates	18 – 21 December 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based Assessment: CgMs Ltd 2016 Geophysics: Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2017	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Showell Nurseries, Chippenham, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	4.3ha	
Site co-ordinates	NGR 391097 171126	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Ring ditch	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Wiltshire Museums	ceramics, animal bone, flint
Paper	Wiltshire Museums	Context sheets, trench sheets, permatrace drawings, photo registers
Digital	Wiltshire Museums	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Showell Nurseries, Chippenham, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>17756</b>		






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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Showell Nurseries, Chippenham, Wiltshire  


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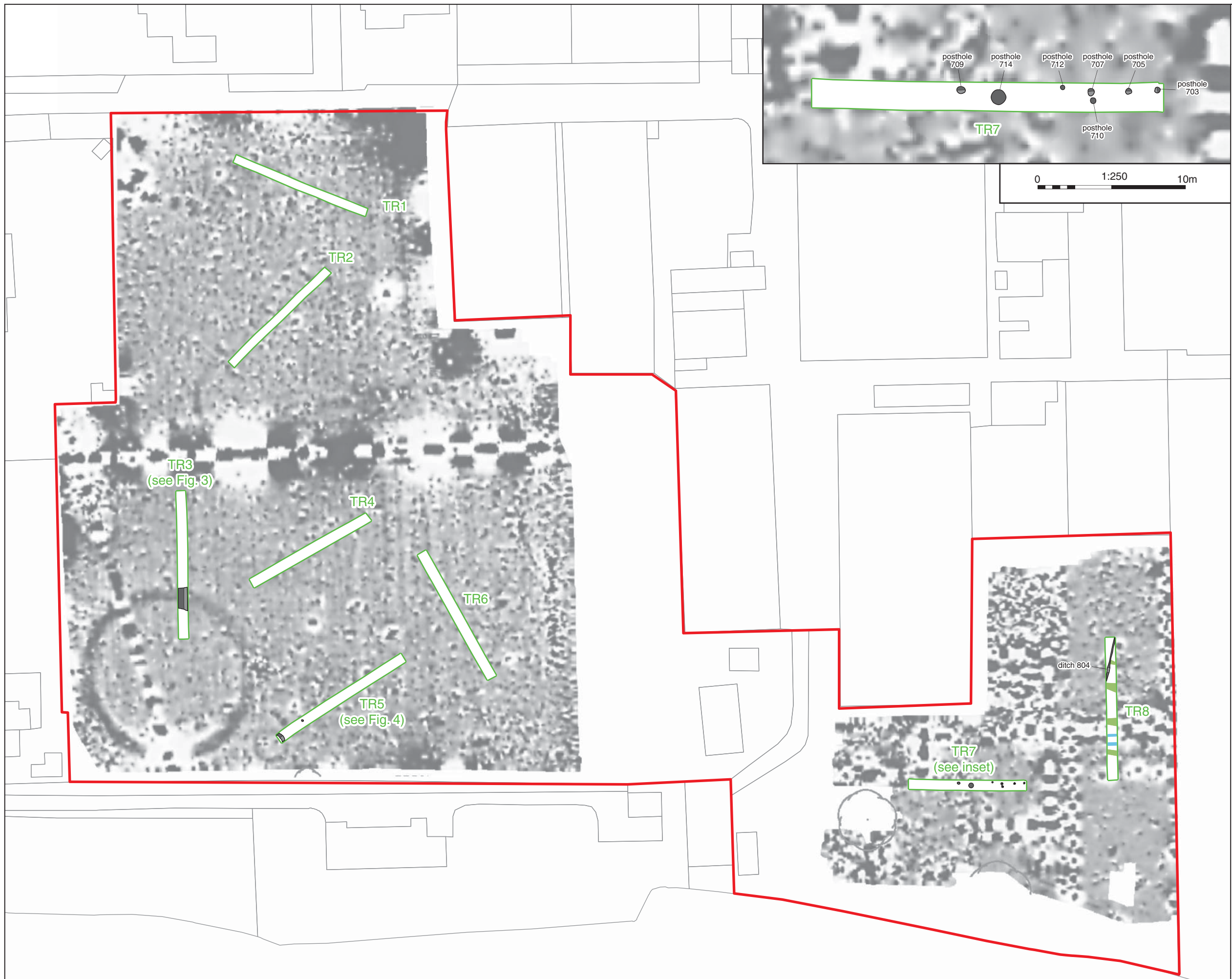
**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan  


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<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>DJB</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>03/01/2018</b>	
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>REY</b>	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	<b>1:25,000</b>	<b>1</b>

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Furrow
- Modern

0 1:750 25m

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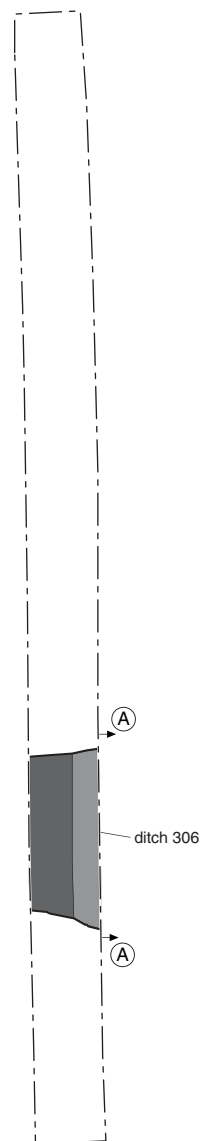
PROJECT TITLE  
**Showell Nurseries, Chippenham, Wiltshire**

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

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	03/01/2017	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A3	1:750 & 1:250	

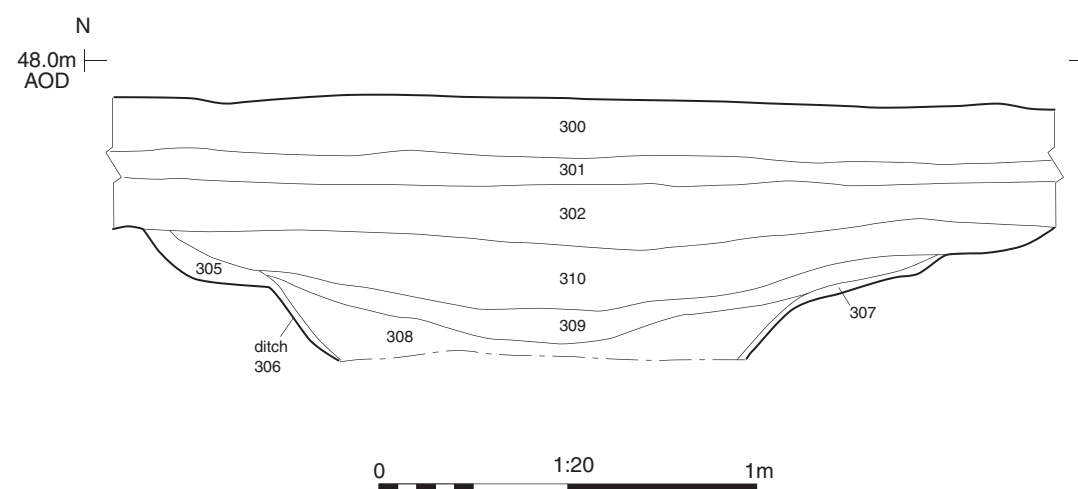


Trench 3, plan



0 1:200 10m

Section AA



Archaeological feature  
(excavated/unexcavated)



Ditch 306, looking east (1m scales)

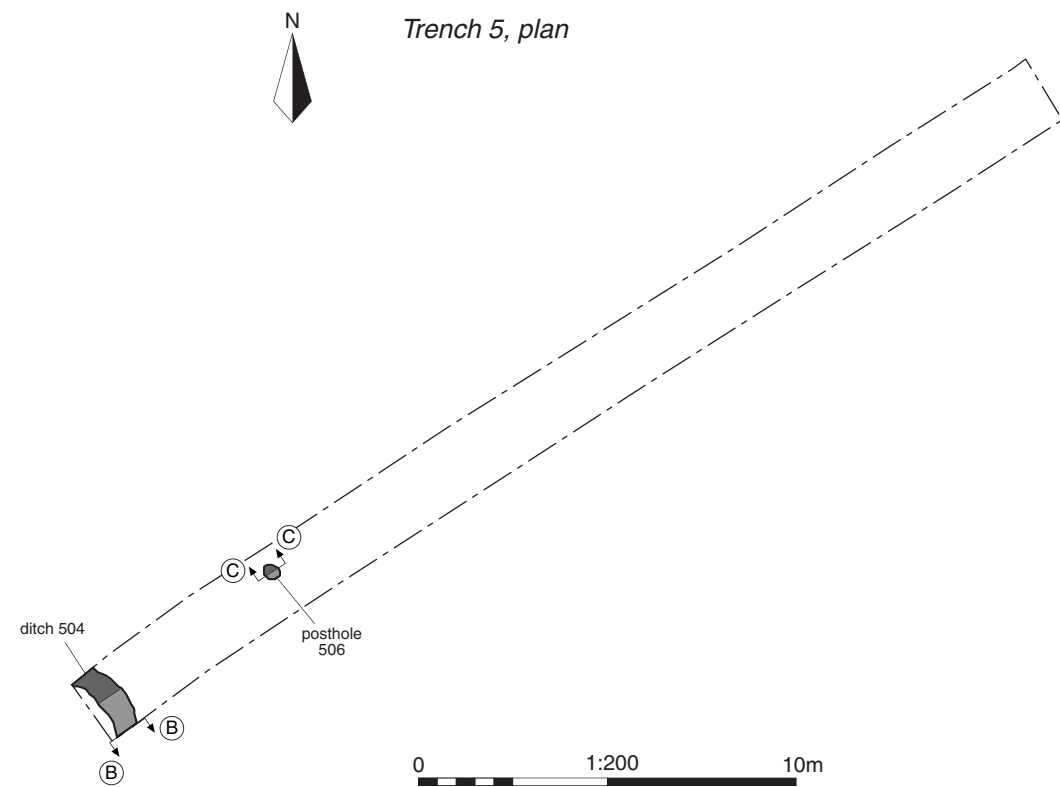
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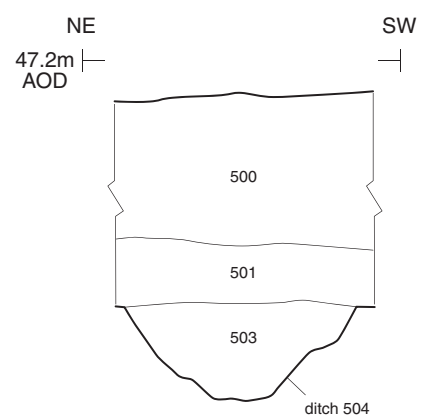
FIGURE TITLE  
Trench 3: plan, section and photograph

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CHECKED BY DJB DATE 03/01/2018  
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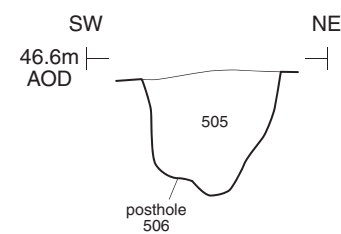




**Section BB**



**Section CC**



Ditch 504, looking south-east (1m scale)



Posthole 506, looking north-west (0.4m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE  
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 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE  
 Trench 5: plan, sections and  
 photographs

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