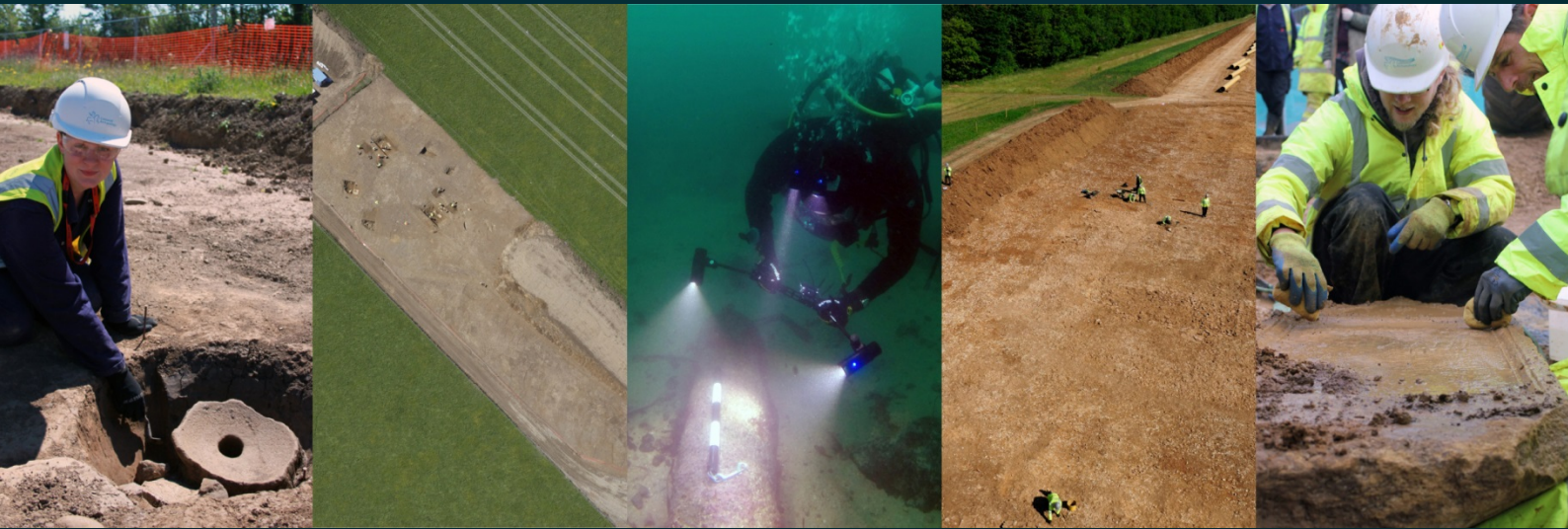


Land South of Old Warden Park Old Warden, Biggleswade Bedfordshire

*Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation and
Archaeological Monitoring*



For:
The Shuttleworth Trust

CA Project: 661262
CA Report: 661262_1
Site Code: OWP19
Accession Number: BEDFM 2018.14

September 2019



Land South of Old Warden Park
 Old Warden, Biggleswade
 Bedfordshire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation
 and Archaeological Monitoring

CA Project: 661262
 CA Report: 661262_1



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	15/08/19	BHH/ RB	APS	Internal review	-	APS

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land South of Old Warden Park, Old Warden
Location:	Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
NGR:	515476 243346
Type:	Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Investigation and Archaeological Monitoring
Date:	25 June - 5 August 2019
Planning Reference:	CB/18/01268/FULL
Location of Archive:	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum
Accession Number:	BEDFM 2018.14
Site Code:	OWP 19

An archaeological strip, map and sample investigation and archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between June and August 2019 for The Shuttleworth Trust in connection with the construction of a new access track on land at the Old Warden Aerodrome, Old Warden Park, Biggleswade.

The strip, map and sample investigation aimed to investigate cropmarks identified on aerial photographs of the area crossed by the north east part of route. The archaeological investigation here exposed an infilled post-medieval boundary ditch that can be identified on historic Ordnance Survey maps, correlating with the northern-most of the cropmarks. A second infilled ditch also corresponding with the line of an historic field boundary, and still demarcated by a modern post and wire fence was also partially exposed. No other archaeological features were identified during the strip, map and sample exercise.

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during excavation for the installation of three culverts. Groundworks for two of these did not penetrate below the base of the topsoil while the third involved more extensive excavations in the base of an existing boundary ditch. Monitoring here revealed alluvial and fluvial deposits, likely derived from an older stream flowing through the base of the shallow valley through which the ditch ran. An early/mid 20th bridge was also recorded, which was demolished during the excavations.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between June and August 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample investigation and archaeological monitoring for The Shuttleworth Trust on Land South of Old Warden Park, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire (centred at NGR: 515476 243346; Fig. 1). The work was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for the *construction of a new tarmac access driveway, together with construction of culvert/ditch crossings and associated fences, gates, drainage ditch, hedges, landscaping and mitigation works to Old Warden Park and removal of the old tarmac driveway crossing the Old Warden airfield runway* (Condition 2 of ref: CB/18/01268/FULL).

1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and approved by Central Bedfordshire Council (the Local Planning Authority) acting on the advice of the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist, Hannah Firth (CBCA). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014) and was monitored by the CBCA, including site visits on 26 June and 8 July 2019 (see also section 4.1 below).

The site

1.3 The new access route is located to the east of Old Warden Park, and runs in a south westerly direction from the current access off Hill Road, passing along the edge of a grass runway forming part of the Old Warden Aerodrome and turning to run in a south easterly direction to join the B658 Hitchin Road. The route crosses a mixture of grassland, woodland and arable farmland, in some sections following existing dirt tracks and field boundaries.

1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Stewartby Member and Weymouth Member mudstone, formed approximately 157 to 166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period, overlain by superficial deposits of Diamicton of the Oadby Member (BGS 2019). During the investigation the observed natural substrate largely comprised mid brown-yellow clay silt.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following section draws upon the results of an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (CA 2017) undertaken in support of the scheme and a field evaluation by trial trenching (CA 2018) along part of the route. Further detail regarding the landscape, historical and archaeological background to the area through which the route passes can be found in these reports.

Prehistoric

2.2 Whilst there is limited recorded evidence of prehistoric activity within the Study Area, large-scale excavations to the east within the Broom Quarry have recovered evidence of the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods. In the western areas of the quarry, nearest to the proposed access road, archaeological investigations recorded an extensive middle to late Bronze Age field system, ephemeral later Bronze Age settlement and clusters of middle to late Bronze Age pits. Further north and east, Neolithic pits and a collection of Neolithic to early Bronze Age funerary monuments were identified, as well as two concentrations of later Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement.

2.3 Aerial photographs have identified a large area of potential archaeology either side of the B658. Whilst these cropmarks in places resemble geological features, the discovery of a flint arrowhead from within this area, and the excavation of similar looking cropmarks within the Broom Quarry site suggest that there is a good potential that some of the cropmarks do represent archaeological features. The far eastern extent of the access road passes the western group of cropmarks, with a number of linears, crop circles and possible enclosure ditches visible (HER EBD649). Limited archaeological evaluation along this section of the route in 2018 did not identify any finds or features of archaeological interest.

Romano-British

2.4 The Site is located within an area with limited known Roman activity. Whilst the works within the Broom Quarry site did record late Iron Age to Roman settlement activity (HER EBD836), this was mainly situated closer to the River Ivel, c.1.7km to the east of the road eastern terminal.



Saxon

- 2.5 There have been no recorded archaeological remains of the Anglo-Saxon period recorded along the access road or within the Study Area used for the Desk-based Assessment prepared in support of the scheme (CA 2017). However, an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was excavated within the northern areas of the Broom Quarry excavations (HER EBD836). This was located to the north east of Broom and there is no evidence associated activity extends westwards towards the route.

Medieval

- 2.6 Old Warden Manor is mentioned in Domesday, forming part of the barony of Warden, an estate established before the conquest, and remaining in private family hands until being granted to Warden Abbey in the 12th century. The location of the original manor is unknown.
- 2.7 The access road crosses the parish boundary between Old Warden Parish in the north and Southill Parish in the south. Despite the parish boundary, Old Warden estate expanded to cross the boundary, due in part to the exchange of parcels of land between Old Warden manor and Southill manor during the medieval period.

Post-medieval and Modern

- 2.8 Following the Dissolution, Old Warden Manor was passed into the hands of the Crown, and in 1550 was granted to the Princess Elizabeth for life. The Ongley family bought the estate in the late 17th century and it is believed that around this time a new house was constructed on the site of an earlier house. Where these houses were located is uncertain. They may have been located on the site of the current Grade II* Listed house (NHLE 1222169, HER DBD344), but this has not been possible to conclusively establish. A group of cropmarks (HER MBD16743) identified on an aerial photograph from the 1990s appear to show possible ornamental garden features the style and layout of which are reminiscent of 16th century formal garden design. If they are indeed representative of a now removed garden, it would be expected that the house to which they belonged will be located close by. A possible moated enclosure to the north of the route may be a possible location of a previous focus of the settlement (CA 2017). These raise the potential for the original house(s) being located further east than the current house.
- 2.9 Robert, second Lord Ongley, inherited the estate in 1785 and it is thought that he was responsible for initially laying out the park (NHLE 1000474) in c1800-5, during

which time there was some alteration to the road layout, (Historic England Listing description) making the historic routes obsolete. It is from this period that the earliest detailed map of the area was produced. The c.1800 Inclosure Map of Southill includes a large section of Old Warden Parish, although only those fields within Southill parish are labelled. This map shows the proposed route to mostly cross undeveloped agricultural land. Despite the absence of the east-west access road from the manor to the B658, elements of the layout of the fields and landscape are clearly recognisable to that seen today.

- 2.10 The production of the Inclosure Map at the start of the 19th century suggests that prior to this date the area was unenclosed land. The presence of Ridge and Furrow earthworks (CA 2017) to the west of the proposed access road, and the previous field boundaries also points to the area having been reorganised.
- 2.11 The estate was sold by the Ongley family to Joseph Shuttleworth, who added features to the Swiss Garden and to the wider estate (NHLE 1000474). The house was rebuilt in 1875-80, and a large area of agricultural land to the east sold off. This includes much of the land the proposed access road crosses.
- 2.12 During the 1930s there was a period of rapid aerodrome construction, with a number of wealthy private individuals following the trend of the era and investing in aircraft. In 1932 Richard Shuttleworth opened his own airfield at Old Warden (MBD14518). Following the outbreak of the Second World War, an air Navigation Restriction Order was issued on the 31st August 1939, which forbade all civil flying without a special permit. The Air Ministry quickly closed and requisitioned all small aerodromes, Old Warden being used for the repair of service aircraft.
- 2.13 In 1986 Old Warden park was designated as a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden (NHLE 1000474). The northern, western and southern boundaries of the designated area are defined by clear markers, such as roads or property boundaries. The eastern boundary is more ephemeral, and the proposed access road crosses into the designated area close to Lowsiebush Covert where no formal defined boundary exists. (CA 2018).



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic unit encountered;
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential for structural and industrial remains;
- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains.

3.2 The specific aims of the work was to:

- record any evidence for a continuation of the possible “garden features” identified by cropmark evidence to the east of the route (see figure 2);
- record any evidence for a continuation of the possible field system indicated by cropmark evidence to the east of the route (see figure 2);
- record any evidence for the establishment and early development of the airfield/aerodrome;
- record any other evidence for settlement and land use in the areas subject to archaeological mitigation works;
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past activity that may be identified;
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy.

3.3 In the event that significant archaeological remains had been identified reference would have been made to *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott, 2011) and Bedfordshire Archaeology. Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy (Oake et al, 2007) in order to place the results in their local and regional context. However, the limited results mean that the work will not contribute to any research framework themes or objectives.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out in the WSI (CA 2019). The strip, map and sample (SMS) investigation commenced at the southern end of the SMS

area, working northwards. Following completion of the strip across the first two land parcels with no significant remains having been identified a review meeting was held with the CBCA. Two 15m long areas, extending across the width of the track, were then subsequently identified for targeted SMS, tightly focused on the plotted location of crop marks observed on aerial photographs. Due to these two areas producing no significant results then with the agreement of the CBCA no further SMS areas were required. Continuous archaeological attendance was maintained during all intrusive groundworks in the watching brief areas.

- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, drawn and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive for the Site is currently held by CA at their office in Milton Keynes. The site archive will be deposited at The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum under accession code BEDFM 2018.14. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

Strip, Map and Sample

- 5.1 The stratigraphy throughout the areas subject to SMS investigation was broadly similar consisting of a mid brown yellow clay silt natural substrate, encountered at between 0.22m and 0.4m below the present ground level (bpgl), which was sealed by topsoil comprising a mid grey brown clay silt (Fig. 4).
- 5.2 Ditch 103 was exposed running on a northeast/southwest alignment through the centre of the northern SMS area. This correlated well with the cropmark identified in this position on aerial photographs (Fig. 2 – cropmark 1 and Fig. 4). It measured 1.7m wide and contained a single fill as seen (104) comprising mid brown orange sandy clay with frequent clinker and CBM. In agreement with the CBCA ditch 103 was not excavated due to sufficient surface finds and historic maps sources providing sufficient dating evidence to confirm a late post-medieval or modern origin for the feature.

5.3 The two other cropmarks (2 and 3 respectively) to the south, likely relating to the same field system, were not conclusively identified within the SMS area, although the line of an historic field boundary corresponding with cropmark 2 was noted to still be demarcated by a modern post and wire fence running along a probable infilled ditch (105) that was only partially exposed and noted to contain brick and clinker in the surface of the backfill material (Fig. 4).

5.4 An area of crushed modern brick and clinker was noted at the northern end of the route, adjacent to Hill Lane, and other isolated patches of modern crushed brick and clinker were noted at the southern end of the SMS area, impacted into the surface of the natural substrate. Where investigated, this material did not relate to any underlying features and appears to have been compacted into the substrate surface, possibly when the grass airstrip was created and to consolidate the roadside verge off Hill Lane. A number of modern water pipes were also observed.

Watching Brief (Fig 2)

5.5 No archaeological remains were observed during monitoring of the northeastern and western culvert installations (culverts 1 and 3 respectively – Fig. 2) as groundworks were limited to the removal of vegetation and works within the existing topsoil horizon.

5.6 Works for culvert 2 involved the excavation of a 16m length section in the base of the existing ditch. The current base of the ditch was approximately 1.5m below existing ground level, with excavation to 0.8m below this depth. These excavations encountered a substrate of alluvial material (202) at a depth of 0.22m below the current base of the ditch, comprising mid brown grey clay silt. This was overlain by a 0.22m thick layer of fluvial gravels (201) comprising mid grey yellow sand and small stones. Some of the overlying topsoil (200) along the edges of the ditch was scraped off to a depth of 0.25m without revealing any underlying deposits (Fig. 5).

5.7 Excavations for culvert 2 also involved the demolition of a bridge carrying the old trackway over the ditch. This measured approximately 4m by 7m and comprised concrete walls with a brick facade in stretcher bond over a brick-built arch with a mid orange brown sandy silt and rubble core. While the bricks used for the facade were a light yellow pink and unfrogged, the bricks from the rubble core were frogged and were stamped with 'Marston Bespres'. The bridge was likely constructed in the

early-mid 20th century as the original Marston Valley Brick Company, manufacturers of the 'Marston Bepres' brick was formed in 1929.

- 5.8 No finds were recovered during the monitoring works and no deposits were identified that warranted the collection environmental samples.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The aim of the SMS investigation was primarily to identify and record any evidence for a continuation of the possible field system or garden earthworks indicated by cropmark evidence to the east of the development area and a number of linear cropmark features extending across the route of the new track. (see sections 2 and 3 above). The SMS investigation exposed only one of these ditches, ditch 103, in the northern limits of the site. Both the ditch and the cropmark correspond with a tree lined boundary depicted on a 1872 estate map of the Old Warden Estate and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1885 (CA 2018), partitioning land within Old Warden Park.
- 6.2 The two other cropmarks (2 and 3 respectively) to the south, potentially relating to the same field system depicted on the 1872 estate map, were not conclusively identified within the SMS area, although the line of the central boundary was noted to still be demarcated by a modern post and wire fence running along a probable infilled ditch (Fig 4). The 1885 OS map shows that by that time all that remained of the central boundary was a row of trees, while the southern field boundary had been removed but was still marked on the map by a dotted line and the abbreviation 'def'. It is likely that these boundaries and any associated trees were removed and infilled when the landing strip was established.
- 6.3 Another aim of the archaeological works was to record any evidence for a continuation of the possible "garden features" identified by cropmark evidence to the east of the route. This investigation found no evidence for the continuation of these features into the area of the new trackway.
- 6.4 Archaeological monitoring of the culvert installation works also produced limited results, principally due to the limited depth of excavation required for the installation of culverts 1 and 3. Culvert 2 was located within the base of a shallow valley and

excavations here identified alluvial and fluvial deposits up to 2.3m below the present ground level. These probably derive from an older stream present before the water course was managed through the excavation of the ditch. The excavations also involved the demolition of an early twentieth century bridge carrying a trackway across the stream.

- 6.5 Despite the archaeological potential for the Study Area, no other archaeological features were observed during the archaeological investigation.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Whelan, Bethany Hardcastle, Ralph Brown and Harriet Farr. The report was written by Bethany Hardcastle. Illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Adrian Scruby. The assistance of Hannah Firth, CBCA, during the project is gratefully acknowledged.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 Geology of Britain Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 15 July 2019

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS*Strip map and Sample*

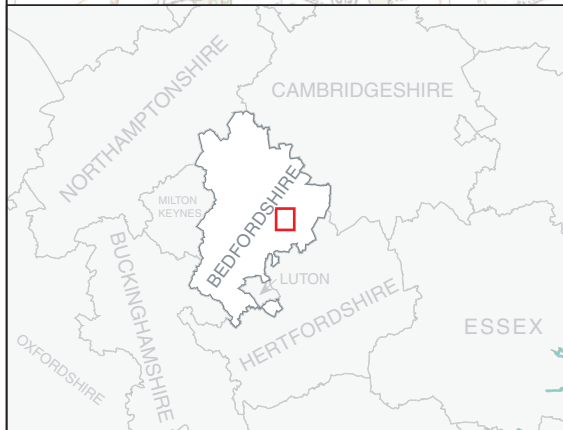
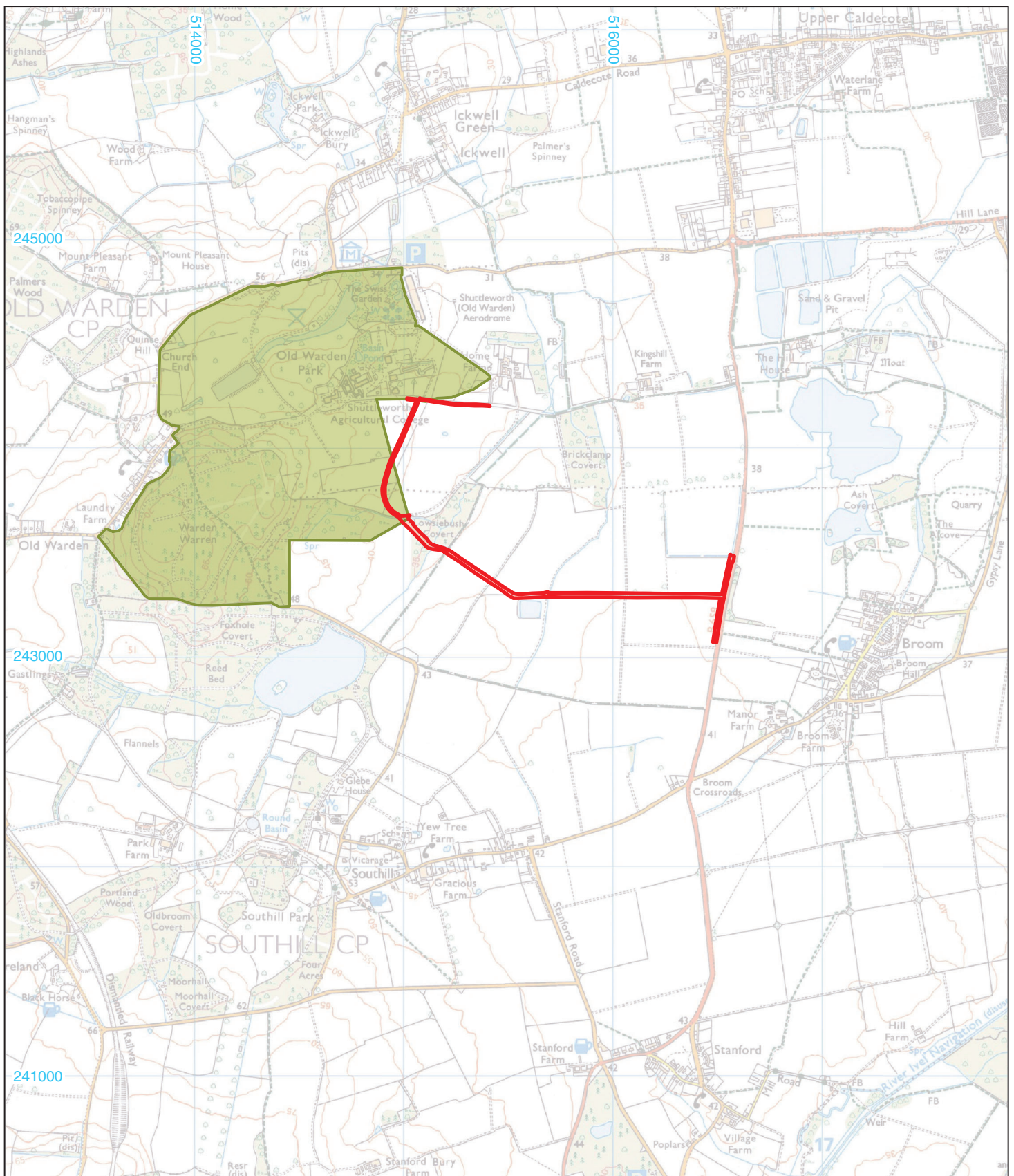
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown clayey silt	>330	>7.0	0.22 – 0.4
101	Layer		Natural	Mid brown yellow clayey silt with frequent small sub-rounded stone inclusions	>330	>7.0	-
102	Deposit		Modern deposit	Mid red brown silty clay with frequent CBM inclusions	>7.0	2.0	-
103	Cut		Cut of modern ditch	North-east/south-west orientating Ditch	>11.0	1.7	-
104	Fill	103	Fill of modern ditch	Mid brown orange sandy clay with ashy clinker and CBM inclusions	>11.0	1.7	-
105	Cut		Modern ditch	North-east/south-west orientating Ditch – only partially exposed	-	>7.0	-

Watching Brief

Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
200	Layer	Topsoil	Friable mid orange brown silt loam with occasional stone inclusions 0.01-0.05m. Only lines the sides of the ditch.	>16	>1.3	0.25
201	Layer	Fluvium	Loose mid grey yellow sand and gravels with sub angular stones 0.01-0.04m	>16	>3.5	0.22
202	Layer	Aluvium	Soft mid brown grey clay silt	>16	>3.5	>0.58
203	Structure	Bridge	Concrete walls with brick façade of light yellow pink unfrogged bricks in a stretcher bonding and cement mortar. Arch and floor of similar bricks with an inner core of mid orange brown sandy silt and rubble with orange frogged brick stamped with 'Marston Bepres'. Corrugated metal lines the inner walls.	7	4	1.7

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land South of Old Warden Park, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological strip, map and sample investigation and archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between June and August 2019 for The Shuttleworth Trust in connection with the construction of a new access track on land at the Old Warden Aerodrome, Old Warden Park, Biggleswade.</p> <p>The strip, map and sample investigation aimed to investigate cropmarks identified on aerial photographs of the area crossed by the north east part of route. The archaeological investigation here exposed an infilled post-medieval boundary ditch that can be identified on historic Ordnance Survey maps, correlating with the northern-most of the cropmarks. A second infilled ditch also corresponding with the line of an historic field boundary, and still demarcated by a modern post and wire fence was also partially exposed. No other archaeological features were identified during the strip, map and sample exercise.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during excavation for the installation of three culverts. Groundworks for two of these did not penetrate below the base of the topsoil while the third involved more extensive excavations in the base of an existing boundary ditch. Monitoring here revealed alluvial and fluvial deposits, likely derived from an older stream flowing through the base of the shallow valley through which the ditch ran. An early/mid 20th bridge was also recorded, which was demolished during the excavations.</p>	
Project dates	25/06/19 - 05/08/19	
Project type	Strip, Map and Sample and Watching Brief	
Previous work	Archaeological Desk Based Assessment CA 2017 Archaeological Evaluation CA 2018	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Old Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	515476 243346	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA 2018	
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby	
Project Supervisor	Andrew Whelan, Bethany Hardcastle, Ralph Brown and Harriet Farr	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum	None
Paper	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum	Recording sheets, photo registers
Digital	The Higgins Art Gallery and Museum	Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Land South of Old Warden Park, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample and Archaeological Monitoring</i> CA typescript report 662162_1		



- Site boundary
- Registered Park and Garden

0 1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



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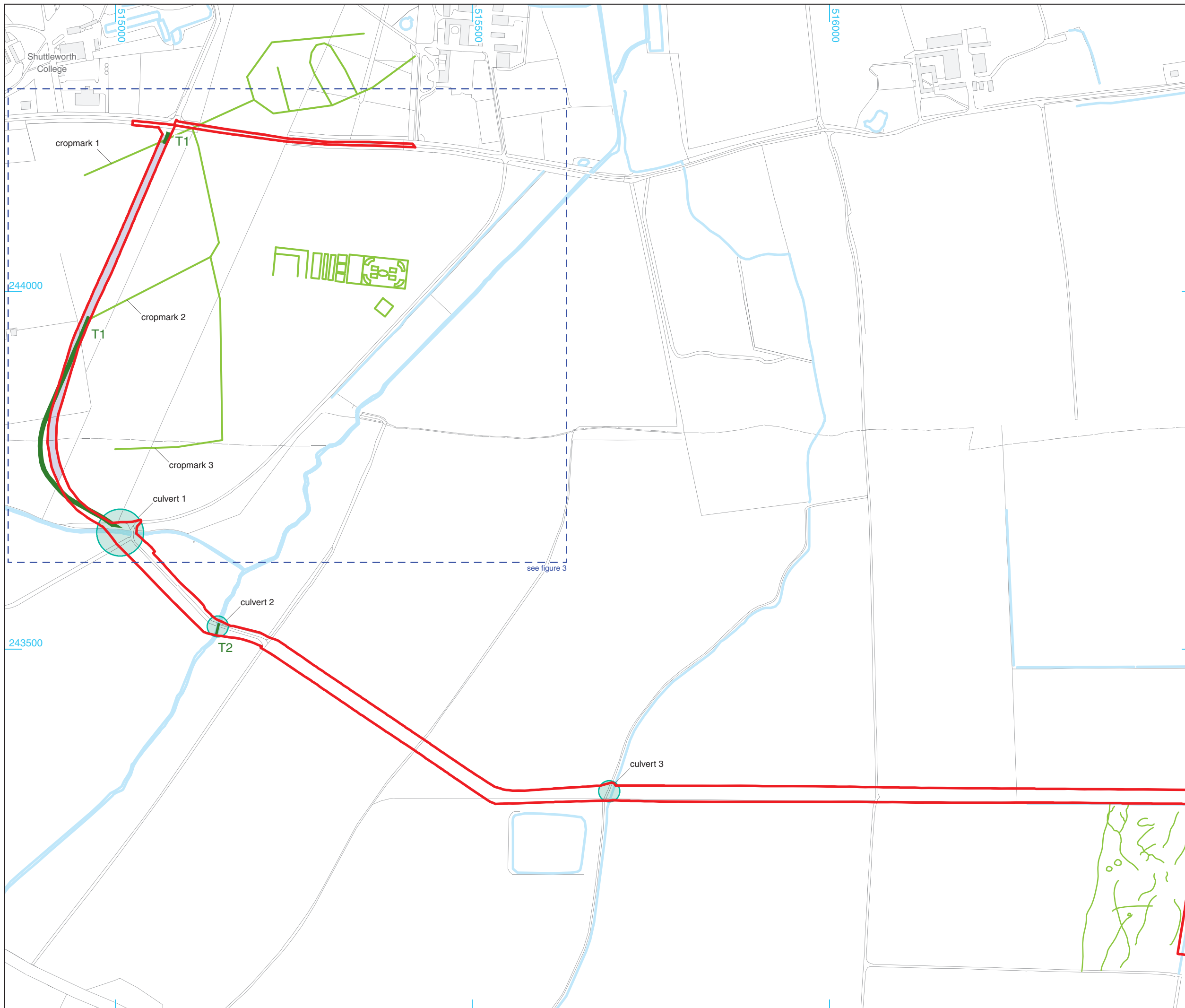
PROJECT TITLE
Land South of Old Warden Park, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY **AW** PROJECT NO. **661262**
CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **30.09.19**
APPROVED BY **AS** SCALE@A4 **1:25,000**

FIGURE NO.

1



- Site boundary
- Strip, map and sample area as surveyed
- Predicted strip, map and sample area
- Watching brief area
- Cropmark
- Watercourse



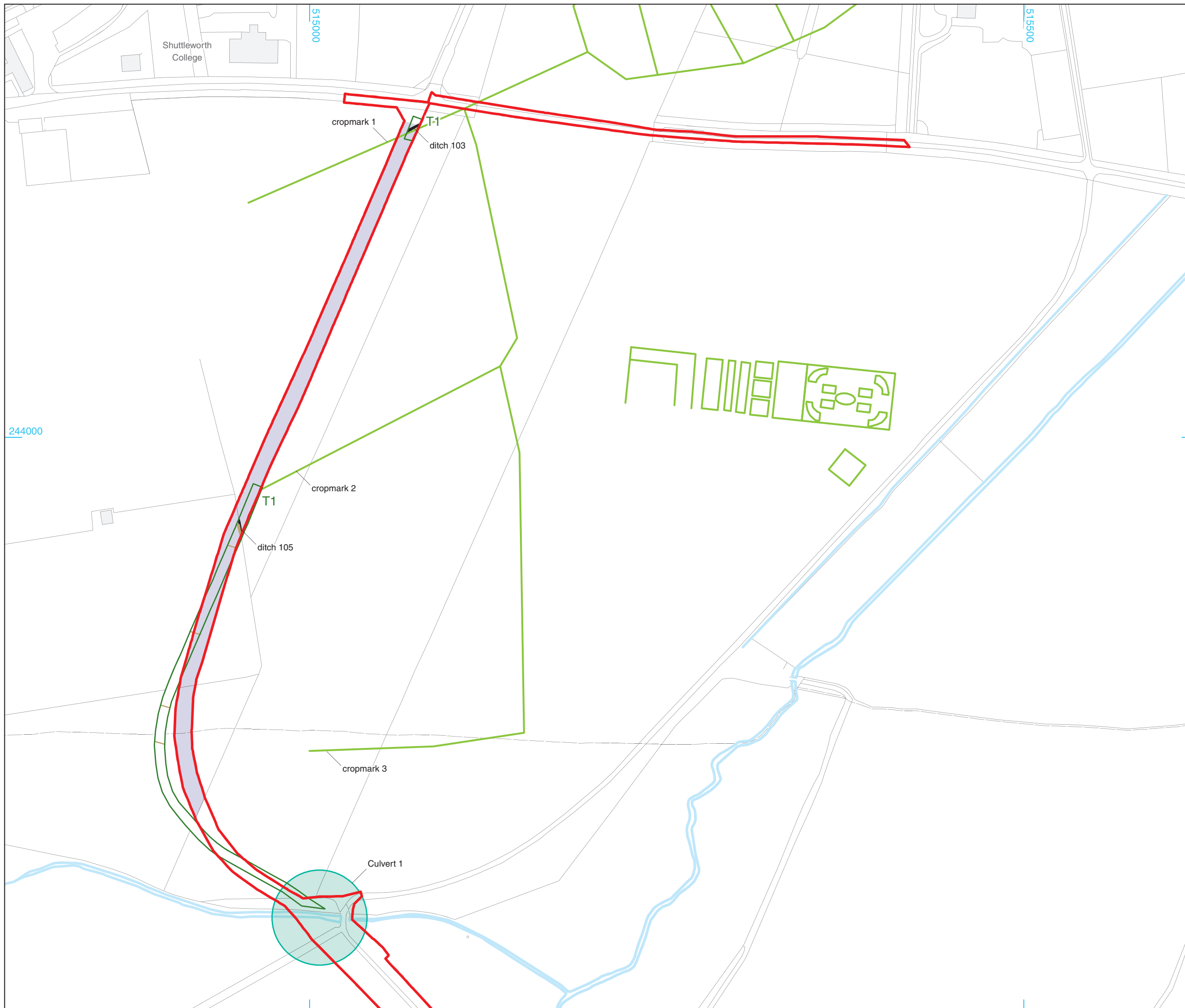
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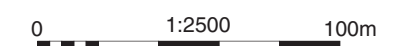
PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Old Warden Park, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Area of strip, map and sample and archaeological monitoring

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	661262	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30.09.19	2
APPROVED BY	AS	SCALE@A3	1:5,000	



- Site boundary
- Strip, map and sample area as surveyed
- Predicted strip, map and sample area
- Feature
- Modern
- Culvert watching brief area
- Cropmark
- Watercourse



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Old Warden Park, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Area of strip, map and sample and archaeological monitoring

<small>DRAWN BY</small> AW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 661262	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 30.09.19	3
<small>APPROVED BY</small> AS	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:2,500	



General view of strip, map and sample area, looking south-west



Cropmark 1 ditch 103, looking north-east



General view of strip, map and sample area, looking south-east



Cropmark 2 modern ditch 105, looking south (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Old Warden Park, Old
 Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Strip, map and sample photographs

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	661262	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	30.09.19	4
APPROVED BY	AS	SCALE	@A3	NA



Culvert ditch pre-excavation, looking north-east



Culvert 2 under excavation, showing existing 20th century bridge



Culvert 2 post-excavation, looking south

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