

Kingston Farm Bradford-on-Avon Wiltshire

Additional Archaeological Evaluation

Anthony Best Dynamics

CA Project: 4584 CA Report: 13601

October 2013

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CA Project: 4584 CA Report: 13601

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Kingston Farm

Location: Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

NGR: ST 8354 6084

Type: Evaluation

Date: 14-16 October 2013

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes

Site Code: NWC 13

An additional stage of archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2013 at Kingston Farm, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire. Nine trenches were excavated, supplemental to a preceding evaluation undertaken in March 2012.

The additional evaluation revealed three segments of ditch, and three pits, of late prehistoric, probably Late Bronze/Early Iron Age, date. The ditch segments correspond with linear anomalies identified within the geophysical survey which may represent the northern arm of a square enclosure, its alignment possibly modified slightly over time. The three pits lay within the eastern half of the putative enclosure. The results of this and the previous evaluation, together with the presence of two loom weights within one of the pits and a relatively large assemblage of late prehistoric pottery, suggest the presence of a late prehistoric agricultural settlement.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an additional archaeological evaluation for Anthony Best Dynamics at Kingston Farm, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 8354 6084; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to provide the client with additional information on the date, character and survival quality of a possible Iron Age enclosure, identified during archaeological evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology of a wider development site in 2012 (CA 2012). The additional information will be used in the formulation of a foundation design and archaeological mitigation strategy for a proposed new factory development.
- 1.2 The evaluation in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by Michael Heaton Heritage Consultants for the 2012 evaluation, and followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (EH 2006). It was monitored by Rachel Foster and Claire King, Assistant County Archaeologists for Wiltshire Council, on the 16 October.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.2ha, and comprises the north-western corner of a pastoral field to the south of the B3107. The site lies at approximately 58m AOD.
- 1.4 A full site description is set out within the preceding report (CA 2012).

Archaeological background

1.5 The archaeological and historical background to the site is set out in detail in the preceding evaluation report (CA 2012). The 2012 archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of twenty-nine trenches. It identified small quantities of unstratified Mesolithic flint, three potential ditched enclosures of later prehistoric (Iron Age) date, and evidence of field systems, trackways and agricultural land management of probable medieval or post-medieval date, together with two undated pits and an undated ditch.

Archaeological objectives

1.6 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 with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 2009). This information will enable the client's archaeological consultant to consider the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeology, and the formulation of a detailed foundation design and archaeological strategy in response.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of nine trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The trench and context numbering sequence continues that of the previous evaluation. Trenches 30 to 36 were 20m long and 1.6m wide, while Trenches 37 and 38 were 6.4m long and 5m wide. 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 (2012).
- 1.8 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 (2007).
- 1.9 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 (2003) and, on the instruction of the project's Archaeological Consultant, Michael Heaton, deposits from one pit were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation (1995).
- 1.10 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 Heritage Museum, 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.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2 AND 3)

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 A similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within all of the evaluation trenches. The natural geological substrate consisting of a light yellowish brown silty clay within limestone brash with patches of a light greyish yellow clay was revealed at an average depth of 0.28m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by a mid yellowish-brown clayey silt subsoil at an average thickness of 0.1m in the south-eastern area of the site (Trenches 32-35, 37 and 38) which was in turn sealed by a dark grey brown clayey silt topsoil an average thickness of 0.21m. All archaeological features were cut in to the natural substrate and covered by subsoil, where present or topsoil.
- 2.3 Trenches 31, 33 and 35-37 were all devoid of archaeological features. Trench 31 contained a modern spread towards the north-eastern end of the trench. The spread, 313, measured 0.06m thick and contained brick fragments, white china and bottle glass, none of which was retained.

Trench 30 (Fig. 2)

2.4 Within Trench 30 a north-west/south-east ditch, 303, was identified. The ditch was V-shaped in and contained two fills 304 and 305. Twenty-four sherds of pottery dating to the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age, and a single flint flake, were recovered from fill 305. The ditch corresponded with the position of a linear anomaly on the same alignment, depicted by the geophysical survey, and excavated in Trench 16 of the 2012 evaluation. This may represent the northern arm of a square enclosure.

Trench 32 (Figs 2 and 3)

2.5 Located centrally within Trench 32 two north-west/south-east ditches were observed. Ditch 324 was V-shaped in profile and contained one fill, 325, from which 28 sherds of late prehistoric pottery, worked flint and animal bone was recovered. Ditch 326 was very shallow, with a flat bottom, and contained one fill 327 from which Late Bronze/Early Iron Age pottery, worked flint and animal bone was recovered. Both of these ditches corresponded with the position of linear anomalies depicted on the geophysical survey. Ditch 326 corresponds with what appears to be the northern arm of the square enclosure, as suggested by the geophysical survey, whereas ditch 324 corresponds with a ditch running roughly parallel to the south of that ditch at the east end of the site. However the profile of ditch 324 is more like that of ditch 303, and ditches 1504 and 1605 within the previous evaluation, which correspond with the square enclosure on the geophysical survey.

Trench 34 (Fig. 2)

2.6 A possible pit, 345, was only partially observed against the eastern limit of excavation. The pit was approximately 1.17m in diameter and 0.17m deep and contained one fill from which two sherds of late prehistoric pottery were recovered.

Trench 38 (Fig. 2)

2.7 Within Trench 38 two pits were identified. Pit 384 was oval in shape measuring 0.81m long, 0.66m wide and 0.2m deep. The pit contained two fills, lower fill 385 and upper fill 386. Seventy-three sherds of late prehistoric pottery, worked flint and animal bone were recovered from the two fills, and two ceramic loom weights were recovered from the base of fill 386. Pit 387 was circular and very shallow in shape and profile measuring 0.8m in diameter and 0.09m deep. The pit contained one fill 388 from which fired clay, animal bone and flint was recovered.

The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence

2.8 Finds recovered from evaluation included pottery, ceramic objects and worked flint. The majority of finds were hand-recovered, with some additional material recorded from bulk soil samples (Appendix B, Table 1).

Late Prehistoric pottery

- 2.9 A total of 102 sherds of pottery of Late Prehistoric type was recovered from six contexts (Appendix B). The majority of the assemblage occurs as unfeatured bodysherds in handmade shell-tempered and other fabrics, types potentially dating across the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age. Ditch fills 305 and 325 each produced heavily abraded unfeatured bodysherds of in coarser grog-tempered pottery. The fabric is suggestive of an Early or Middle Bronze Age date and these sherds are considered to be residual.
- 2.10 The assemblage comprises mainly coarser shell-tempered, quartz sand and probable mudstone-tempered types. All material is thought likely to originate locally, and a similar suite of fabrics characterises the substantial assemblage from Budbury hillfort, Bradford on Avon (Wainwright 1970, 125–8). Limestone-tempered/calcitic fabrics (Group 3) are also present and are a feature of late prehistoric assemblages locally (Peacock 1969, 48). Where indications of chronology are present in the form of diagnostic vessel forms or decoration, these are suggestive of dating in the 'transitional' Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, the period spanning *c.* 800–600/500 BC. The use of fingernail and/or fingertip impressed decoration is a characteristic feature of such assemblages, as are strongly-shouldered, carinated and ovoid vessels, forms (Barrett 1980, 307–08).
- 2.11 Included amongst this assemblage are 23 sherds in a mudstone-tempered fabric recovered from ditch 303, fill 305, which included three joining rimsherds from a neck-less ovoid jar with a band of fingernail-impressed decoration below the rim. A total of 68 sherds of pottery in a shell-tempered fabric were recovered from ditch 324, fill 325, and pit 304 fills 385 and 386. Those from ditch 324 included two sherds with fingernail-impressed decoration, one of which was a rimsherd with the decoration immediately below the rim. Pit 345, fill 344, produced two sherds of pottery in a limestone-tempered (calcitic) fabric. Four sherds of pottery in a fine, quartz sand-tempered fabric were recovered from ditch 324, fill 325. One of these was a rimsherd from a furrowed bowl, which is a form common to the Wiltshire area and dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (Gibson and Woods 1997, 167) and present in the Budbury hillfort assemblage (Wainwright 1970, fig. 14, nos 74–9). Ditch 326, produced nine sherds of pottery in a mudstone- and shell-tempered fabric from its basal fill 327, one of which was a rimsherd featuring fine, diagonal fingernail impressions along the top of the rim.

2.12 Pottery from pit 384 (fills 385 and 386) comprised well-fragmented bodysherds in coarser shell-tempered fabrics. A Late Bronze Age date (c. 12th to 9th centuries BC) for this feature is suggested on the basis of the two fired clay loomweights (Ras. 1–2) described below.

Ceramic objects

2.13 Two ceramic objects (Ra.1 and Ra.2) were recovered from pit fill 386. Both are complete examples of single-perforated, pyramidal (four-sided) loomweights in a similar, well-fired sandy fabric. Pyramidal loomweights are typically regarded as a Late Bronze Age form, with examples occurring in association with Post Deverel-Rimbury plainware pottery including from Runnymede Bridge (Needham 1991, 156). The presence of two complete and undamaged examples from pit 386 raises the possibility of a 'structured' deposit.

Worked flint

2.14 A total of eight worked flint items were recovered from ditch fills 305, 325 and 327, and pit fills 386 and 388. These were mostly in fresh but moderately patinated condition and were all flakes (some broken), except for one item from pit fill 388. The latter was a burnt fragment of an object featuring semi-abrupt, regular retouch along the remaining edge of one face. It is too fragmentary to identify the artefact more precisely.

Stone

2.15 One tiny fragment of slate was recovered from ditch fill 325.

Coal

2.16 Ditch fill 325 produced one small piece of coal. Coal was not in use before the Romano-British period and this item is considered to be intrusive within this deposit.

Animal Bone

2.17 A collection of animal bones numbering 60 fragments (312g) was recovered (Appendix C, Table 3). The bones were in a poor state of preservation and highly fragmented. The assemblage was recovered from four deposits dating broadly to the late prehistoric period. It was possible to identify the presence of ovicaprids (Ovis aries/Capra hircus) and red deer (Cervus elaphus) from those more robust skeletal elements such as teeth and antler. With this latter point in mind, combined with the minimal species identification and heavy fragmentation, it is clear the bone

has suffered heavily with the passage of time and can provide no further interpretative data.

Environmental Samples

2.18 Fills 386 (sample 1) and 385 (sample 2) from pit 384 were sampled to assess their potential for evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating (see Appendix C for methodology, with quantifications in Table 2). The samples contained no plant macrofossil material, and only a small amount of unidentifiable highly fragmented charcoal. The paucity and highly fragmented nature of the charcoal suggests the ecofactual material from this feature accumulated from wind-blown hearth debris. There is no material suitable for radiocarbon dating.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation revealed three segments of ditch within Trenches 30 and 32, two of which may represent a continuation of the same enclosure ditch also identified in Trench 16 and the preceding geophysical survey, as well as three pits within Trenches 34 and 38 in the eastern half of the enclosure. The ditch segments may represent the northern arm of a square enclosure, the alignment of which may have been modified over time, as previously identified from geophysical survey and the two ditch segments, 1504 and 1605, previously revealed within Trenches 15 and 16.
- 3.2 The presence of a good quantity of pottery of broadly late prehistoric, probably Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, date from the pits and ditches enables the date of the putative enclosure to be refined from broadly Iron Age to a more likely Late Bronze/Early Iron Age date. This is broadly contemporary with a substantial assemblage from Budbury hillfort, 1km to the west of the site (Wainwright 1970, 125–8). The enclosure seems likely to have delineated an area of settlement containing one or more homesteads probably agricultural in nature given the quantities of material culture present along with pits containing hearth waste and loom weights. This material culture has the potential to widen our understanding of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age material culture, Research Aim 14 of the South West Regional Research Agenda (Webster 2008, 281).
- 3.3 The enclosure is important in a local and regional context. In terms of relationships between enclosed settlements and hillforts, such as that at nearby Budbury, little

detail is known in this region of the social hierarchy that presumably existed (Cunliffe 2005, 589). It is assumed the social elite occupied the strongly defended ridge-end settlement at Budbury, as represented by their elaborately made ceramics (ibid.). Therefore, this seemingly contemporary enclosure at Kingston Farm could provide a rare opportunity to examine the comparative social status of the less well-known undefended settlements of this region (compared to those more easily identified through extensive aerial photographic surveys on the chalklands of Wessex or the gravels of the Thames Valley), and their relationships to hillforts. It may also provide potential to improve our understanding of agricultural intensification and diversification in later prehistory under Research Aim 41 (Webster 2008, 290), although the lack of plant macrofossils from the sampled pit could suggest poor preservation conditions for suitable material to survive.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sian Reynish, assisted by Edward Dougherty and Franco Vartuca. The report was written by Sian Reynish. The illustrations were prepared by Lucy Martin. The archive has been compiled by Sian Reynish, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

5. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thick	Spot-date
								ness (m)	
30	301	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.25	
30	302	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish brown silty clay within limestone brash with patches of a light greyish yellow clay	20	1.6	>0.02	
30	303	Cut		ditch	V-shaped ditch, east/west orientated	>1.6	0.87	0.36	
30	304	Fill	303	2nd fill of ditch	mid reddish brown silty clay abundant limestone fragments	>1.6	0.87	0.1	
30	305	Fill	303	1st fill of ditch	mid reddish brown silty clay abundant limestone fragments	>1.6	0.83	0.26	
31	311	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.25	
31	312	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish brown silty clay within limestone brash with patches of a light greyish yellow clay	20	1.6	>0.05	
31	313	Layer		deposit	spread of dark greyish brown clayey silt with abundant modern waste	>1.6	1.77	0.06	
32	321	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.2	
32	322	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish brown silty clay within limestone brash with patches of a light greyish yellow clay	20	1.6	>0.03	
32	323	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.12	
32	324	Cut		ditch	V-shaped ditch, east/west orientated	>1.6	1.14	0.33	
32	325	Fill	324	fill of ditch	mid greyish brown silty clay abundant limestone fragments	>1.6	1.14	0.33	
32	326	Cut		ditch	shallow ditch with gradual sloping sides	>1.6	1.4	0.13	
32	327	Fill	326	fill of ditch	mid greyish brown silty clay	>1.6	1.4	0.13	
33	331	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.2	
33	332	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish brown silty clay within limestone brash with patches of a light greyish yellow clay	20	1.6	>0.02	
33	333	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.1	
34	341	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.2	
34	342	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish brown silty clay within limestone brash with patches of a light greyish yellow clay	20	1.6	>0.03	
34	343	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.1	
34	344	Fill	345	fill of pit	mid reddish brown silty clay	>0.64	1.17	0.17	
34	345	Cut		pit	irregular pit only partially observed	>0.64	1.17	0.17	
35	351	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.2	
35	352	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish brown silty clay within limestone brash with patches of a light greyish yellow clay	20	1.6	>0.05	
35	353	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.1	
36	361	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.25	
36	362	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish brown silty clay within limestone brash with patches of a light greyish yellow clay	20	1.6	>0.05	
37	372	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.19	
37	372	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish brown silty clay within limestone brash with patches of a light greyish yellow clay	20	1.6	>0.02	
37	373	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.09	
38	381	Layer		topsoil	dark grey brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.2	
38	382	Layer		natural substrate	light yellowish brown silty clay	20	1.6	>0.05	

					within limestone brash with patches of a light greyish yellow clay				
38	383	Layer		subsoil	mid yellowish brown clayey silt	20	1.6	0.1	
38	384	Cut		pit	steep sided oval pit	0.81	0.66	0.2	
38	385	Fill	384	1st fill of pit	mid yellowish brown clayey silt abundant stone inclusions	0.6	0.66	0.07	
38	386	Fill	384	2nd fill of pit	mid reddish brown clayey silt	0.81	0.66	0.13	
38	387	Cut		pit	shallow circular pit		0.8	0.09	
38	388	Fill	387	fill of pit	mid yellowish brown clayey silt		0.8	0.09	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
305	Bronze Age pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1	6	LBA-EIA
	Late Prehistoric pottery: mudstone-tempered fabric	23	98	
	Worked flint: flake	1	7	
325	Bronze Age pottery: grog-tempered fabric	1	8	Late Prehistoric
	Late Prehistoric pottery: fine sand-tempered fabric	4	156	
	Late Prehistoric pottery: shell-tempered fabric	23	156	
	Worked flint: flake	1	2	
	Coal	1	0	
	Stone	1	0	
327	Late Prehistoric pottery: mudstone-and-shell-tempered	9	28	LBA-EIA
	fabric			
	Worked flint: flake	1	<1	
344	Late Prehistoric pottery: limestone-tempered fabric	2	10	Late Prehistoric
385	Late Prehistoric pottery: coarse shell-tempered fabric	11	53	Late Prehistoric
	Late Prehistoric pottery: fine shell-tempered fabric	2		
385 <2>	Late Prehistoric pottery: shell-tempered	10	26	-
386	Late Prehistoric pottery: coarse shell-tempered	32	49	LBA
	Worked flint: flakes	3	9	
	Fired clay	1	<1	
	Ceramic loom weights (Ras. 1–2)	2	366	
386 <1>	Late Prehistoric pottery: shell-tempered	18	17	-
	Fired clay	1	<1	
388	Fired clay	3	1	-
	Worked flint: flake, retouched fragment	2	2	

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Two environmental samples (30 litres of soil) were retrieved from two deposits with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

Table 2 Sample Quantification

Context number	386	385
Feature number	384	384
Sample number (SS)	1	2
Feature type		
Flot volume (ml)	4	6
Sample volume processed (I)	20	10
Soil remaining (I)	0	0
Period	LBA	LBA
Charcoal quantity	+++ (s)	+++ (s)
Plant macrofossil quantity	Nil	Nil

Key

+ = 1-5 items; ++ = 6-20 items; +++ = 21-40 items; ++++ = >40 items

(s) = charcoal fragments generally too small to identify

Faunal Remains

A collection of animal bones numbering 60 fragments (312g) was recovered (Table 1). The bones were in a poor state of preservation and highly fragmented. For the purpose of this report, the bones were identified to species and skeletal element using an osteological reference collection (Cotswold Archaeology Ltd) as well as standard reference literature (Schmid 1972, Hillson 1996), and quantified by fragment count and weight. Where modern breakage was observed and re-fitting was possible, those fragments were recorded as a single bone.

The assemblage was recovered from four deposits dating broadly to the Iron Age period. It was possible to identify the presence of ovicaprids (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) from those more robust skeletal elements such as teeth and antler. With this latter point in mind, combined with the minimal species identification and heavy fragmentation, it is clear the bone has suffered heavily with the passage of time and can provide no further interpretative data.

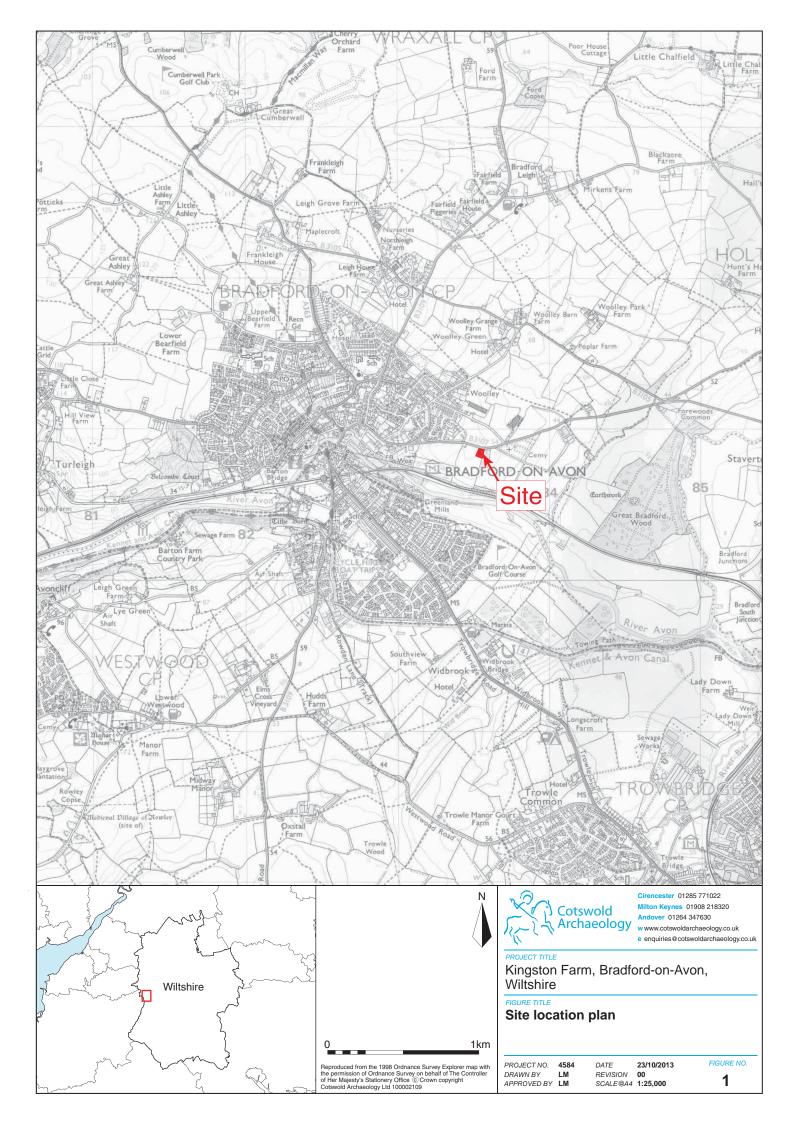
Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context. O/C = oviacaprid, CER = R.Deer; LM= large sized mammal; MM = medium sized mammal

Table 3 Animal Bone Quantification

Context	O/C	CER	LM	ММ	Total	Weight (g)
325	2			6	8	16
327	1	1	5	19	26	266
385			10		10	2
386			2	4	6	17
388				10	10	11
Total	3	1	17	39	60	312
Weight	36	157	69	50	312	

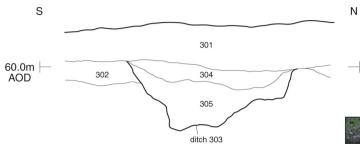
APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

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nire heritage Museum	Loom weights, pottery flint and animal bone
iire Heritage Museum	Trench recording forms, context sheets, sections and photographic register
ire Heritage Museum	Digital photographs and digital plan
<u></u>	n Cox Reynish ded final location of archive hire heritage Museum hire Heritage Museum





Section AA





East-facing section of ditch 303 (1m scale)





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PROJECT TITLE

Kingston Farm, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

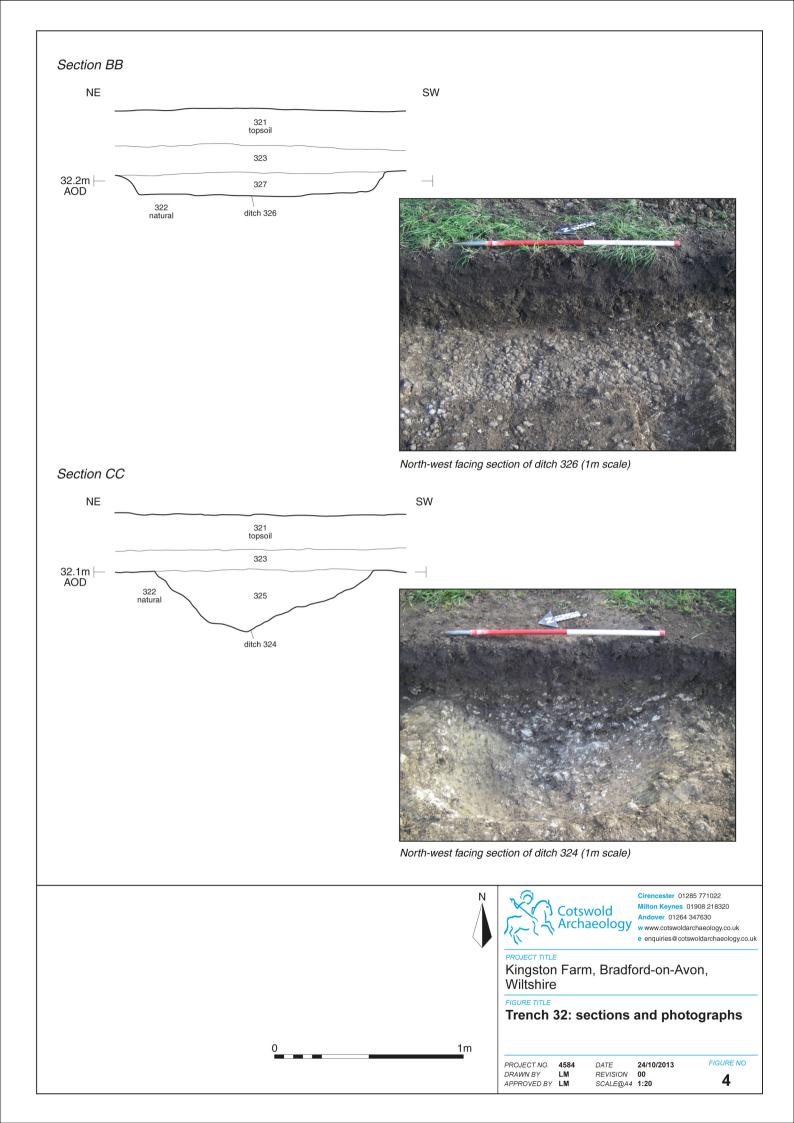
Trench 30: section and photograph

0 1m

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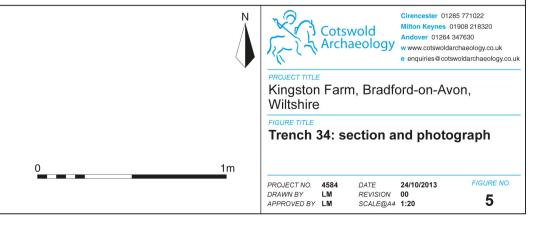
DATE 24/10/2013 REVISION 00 SCALE@A4 1:20 FIGURE NO.

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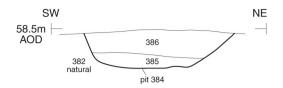


Section DD N S 58.0m AOD subsoil 341 pit 345

West-facing section of pit 345 (1m scale)



Section EE



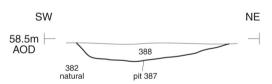


Loomweights from pit 384



South-east facing section of pit 384 (0.4m scale)

Section FF





South-east facing section of pit 387 (0.4m scale)



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FIGURE TITL

Trench 38: sections and photographs

1m

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