

Beech Hill Spencer's Wood, Wokingham Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Bellway Homes Ltd

CA Project: 770342
CA Report: 16108

March 2016



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 Spencer's Wood, Wokingham
 Berkshire

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SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Project Name: | Beech Hill |
| Location: | Spencer's Wood, Wokingham, Berkshire |
| NGR: | SU 71068 66033 |
| Type: | Evaluation |
| Date: | 15-19 February 2016 |
| Planning Reference: | O/2013/1221 |
| Location of Archive: | To be deposited with local museum |
| Site Code: | BHFW 16 |

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2016 at Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood, Wokingham, Berkshire. Twenty-two trenches were excavated.

A small ditch of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date was observed running between Trenches 3 and 19. The ditch contained a large assemblage of locally produced pottery as well as the fragments of a number of loom weights. This ditch was probably associated with an area of Iron Age/Romano-British settlement uncovered during archaeological investigation of the area immediately to the east of the site. Furthermore, a long curvilinear post-medieval drainage ditch was also uncovered extending across a number of trenches along the eastern and southern boundaries of the site. Two undated pits and a small section of ditch were also uncovered in the north-western corner of the site.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bellway Homes Ltd at land at Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood, Wokingham, Berkshire (centred on NGR: SU 71068 66033; Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken to satisfy an archaeological condition on a granted planning application (O/2013/1221) for the construction of 120 dwellings and associated infrastructure.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with consultation with Kathelen Leary of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) – Wokingham Borough Council, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Kathelen Leary. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Kathelen Leary, including a site visit on 27th February 2016.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development footprint is approximately 4.5ha in area, and comprises a single arable field, defined by tall hedgerows. The site is bounded to the east and south by Beech Hill Road and White House Lane respectively and to the north and south by further arable fields. Residential housing is located to the east of the site and the centre of the village of Spencer's Wood lies to the north-east. The River Loddon is located approximately 1km to the south-east of the site. The site is located on a gently sloping ground, falling from 63m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) along the northern boundary to 56m aOD at the southern boundary.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as the London Clay Formation, comprising clay, silt and sand and formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period (BGS 2016). No superficial deposits were recorded within the site boundary.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An archaeological desk based assessment of the site and an area to the west was undertaken by CgMs Consulting in 2013 (CgMs 2013). A brief summary of the findings of that report, as well as the results of prior fieldwork, are given below.
- 2.2 In the earlier prehistoric period the river systems in the area surrounding the site were subject to change, resulting in the deposition of fluvial gravels, from which some Palaeolithic implements have been recovered. While there is an absence of earlier prehistoric sites within the floodplain of the River Loddon (Hey 2014, 71), a Mesolithic tranchet axe and Neolithic polished axe have been recovered as unstratified finds within Spencer's Wood.
- 2.3 Archaeological investigations in the field immediately to the east of the site in 2005, revealed evidence for Iron Age, Romano-British and some later features (Stevens 2005). The evaluation revealed a number of probable Middle Iron Age to Early Roman enclosure ditches, which contained find assemblages suggesting domestic occupation of the site. Furthermore a number of later Roman, Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval features were also uncovered and were interpreted as indicative of a broad area of occupation during these periods (Stevens 2005, 27).
- 2.4 Evidence for early medieval settlement in Berkshire is somewhat sparse, despite surveys of the region, although emerging evidence does suggest that Reading, located to the north of the site, may have been represented a high status settlement during this period (Dodd 2014, 202). Later medieval occupation is also known from extensive excavations in Reading, however, Spencer's Wood was located with Royal Forest of Windsor during this period. Map regression analysis suggests that, based upon irregular field patterns, that the area surrounding Spencer's Wood was therefore probably densely forested during this period.
- 2.5 The site was part of common land until it was enclosed in the early 19th century, as illustrated by the Enclosure Map of 1865. This map shows a field boundary along the western part of the site that delimited the edge of a band of woodland. Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of this area from the late 19th century onwards illustrate the removal of this band of woodland and the use of the site as a single large agricultural field throughout this period.

- 2.6 A geophysical survey of the site was conducted in 2015 (Archaeological Surveys Ltd. 2015). The survey identified a number of fragmented positive linear anomalies that may relate to a curvilinear feature located in the south-eastern corner of the site. Furthermore, a group of weak positive linear anomalies were identified as extending along the eastern part of the site. These features were interpreted as possibly representing a former land boundary (Archaeological Surveys Ltd. 2015, 7). A number of other positive linear and discrete anomalies were also identified and may relate to buried ferrous objects.

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 the LPA - Wokingham Borough Council, 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).
- 3.2 A specific aim of the evaluation was to test the results of the geophysical survey by targeting the trenches on anomalies identified in the preceding geophysical survey. Furthermore the evaluation, aimed to assess whether any archaeological remains identified were associated with the remains of Late Iron Age early Romano British settlement and farming activity uncovered to the east of the site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 22 trenches, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). **Trenches 1-18** and **21** measured 30m x 2m, **Trench 19** measured 20m x 2m and **Trenches 20** and **22** measured 25m x 2m. The initial 17 trenches (**1-17**) were targeted on features identified in a geophysical survey of the site undertaken in 2015 (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2015). A further 5 additional trenches (**18-22**) were excavated at the request of by Kathelen Leary, Berkshire Archaeology, in order to test the distribution of features uncovered during the first

phase of trenching. 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* and were sampled and processed. 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 a local 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2-9)

- 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 The evaluation identified archaeological remains predominately along the eastern and southern boundaries of the site, discussed by trench below. No archaeological features were encountered within **Trenches 2, 4, 6, 7, 13-16** and **21**. The general stratigraphy of the area, as uncovered in the evaluation trenches, saw the natural horizon overlaid by a layer of topsoil. The natural horizon, generally comprising mid yellow/brown clay, was present in all trenches. The entire site was covered by a

layer of topsoil. Differences in geology were noted in some areas of the site and area detailed as detailed context descriptions in Appendix A.

Trench 1 (Figures 2 & 3)

- 5.3 A number of intercutting ditches terminus were uncovered in **Trench 1**. Two ditch cuts (**105** and **107**), each aligned north-west/south-east, had moderately steep sloping sides and were each filled by a single light grey/brown silt/clay fill, **106** and **108** respectively. These ditches, potentially representing the same feature, were truncated by a large ditch with moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. Filled by two backfills (**103** and **104**), the ditch contained a land drain, suggesting it may be of later post-medieval date.

Trench 3 (Figures 2 & 4)

- 5.4 A small ditch **302** aligned north-east/south-west was located within the southern end of the Trench **3**. The ditch had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Four fills were observed within the ditch cut including consecutively the primary fill (**303**), natural silting (**304**), a backfill deposit (**305**) and a final phase of natural silting (**306**). A large assemblage of locally sourced mid to late 1st century AD pottery was recovered from each of these fills, as well as number of fragments of loom weights and some burnt flint. Environmental sampling of fill **305** revealed this deposit contained a large quantity of charcoal that was likely the results of dumped material from nearby settlement activity (see section 7).
- 5.5 A second ditch, **308**, located in the centre of the trench, was also aligned north-east/south-west. The ditch remained unexcavated, but probable represented the continuation of the post-medieval ditch from the north-east and south-west.

Trench 5 (Figure 2)

- 5.6 A single ditch (**502**), aligned north-east/south-west, was uncovered within **Trench 5**. The ditch was unexcavated but probably represented the extension of the post-medieval drainage ditch uncovered in trenches both to the north-east (**Trench 8**) and south-west (**Trench 18**).

Trench 8 (Figure 2)

- 5.7 A single ditch (**802**), aligned north-east/south-west, was uncovered within **Trench 8**. The ditch was unexcavated but probably represented the extension of the post-medieval drainage ditch uncovered in trenches both to the north-east (**Trench 9**) and south-west (**Trench 5**).

Trench 9 (Figure 2)

- 5.8 A single ditch (**902**), aligned north-east/south-west, was uncovered within **Trench 9**. The ditch was unexcavated but probably represented the extension of the post-medieval drainage ditch uncovered in trenches both to the north-east (**Trench 10**) and south-west (**Trench 8**).

Trench 10 (Figure 2)

- 5.9 A single ditch (**1002**), aligned north-east/south-west, was uncovered within **Trench 10**. The ditch was unexcavated but probably represented the extension of the post-medieval drainage ditch uncovered in trenches both to the north-east (**Trench 11**) and south-west (**Trench 9**).

Trench 11 (Figures 2 & 5)

- 5.10 A single ditch (**1102**), aligned north/south, was uncovered within **Trench 11**. The ditch has irregular and moderately steep sides and a flat base. A single fill (**1103**), representing redeposited natural, was located within the ditch cut and contained three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), of a late medieval or post-medieval date. The ditch probable represents the continuation of the post-medieval drainage ditch uncovered in trenches both to the north (**Trench 20**) and to the south-west (**Trench 10**).

Trench 12 (Figures 2 & 6)

- 5.11 A single large pit **1202** was uncovered within the eastern end of **Trench 12**. The pit was circular in shape and had near vertical side and a flat base. A single fill (**1203**) containing a possible area of burning and a scattering of charcoal, was observed within the pit cut. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Trench 17 (Figures 2 & 7)

- 5.12 A single small pit **1702** was uncovered within the western end of **Trench 17**. The pit was a small oval feature, with shallow sloping sides and an irregular base. A single backfill (**1703**) was located within the pit. No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature.

Trench 18 (Figure 2)

- 5.13 A single ditch (**1802**), aligned north/south, was uncovered within **Trench 18**. The ditch was unexcavated but probably represents the continuation of the post-medieval drainage ditch uncovered in trenches both to the north-east (**Trench 5**) and to the south-west (**Trench 3**).

Trench 19 (Figs 2 & 8)

- 5.14 Two ditches were uncovered within **Trench 19**. Ditch **1902**, aligned north-east/south-west, was located in the northern part of the trench and probably represents the continuation of the post-medieval drainage ditch uncovered in trenches both to the north-east (**Trench 3**) and west (**Trench 1**). Ditch **1904**, located to the south of ditch **1902**, had moderately steeply sloping side and a flat base. A single naturally accumulated fill (**1905**) was observed within the ditch cut and contained charcoal flecks and locally sourced pottery of a 1st to 2nd century date, including mortaria. The ditch probably continued to the north-east and was observed within **Trench 3** as ditch **302**.

Trench 20 (Figure 2)

- 5.15 A single ditch (**2002**), aligned north/south, was uncovered within **Trench 20**. The ditch was unexcavated but probably represents the continuation of the post-medieval drainage ditch uncovered in trenches to the south (**Trench 11**).

Trench 22 (Figures 2 & 9)

- 5.16 A single ditch (**2202**), aligned north-west/south-east, was uncovered within **Trench 22**. A single fill (**2203**) accumulated naturally over time within the ditch cut. No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature to provide a definitive date. Despite the

excavation of a ditch to the east (**Trench 15**) the continuation of this feature was not present.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below.

Pottery

6.2 A total of 220 sherds (3837g) of pottery, all dateable to the Iron Age or early Roman periods was recovered by hand collection from five deposits (Appendix B). A further 25 sherds (56g) of similar date were recovered from ditch fill **305** (of **302**) by bulk soil sampling.

Late Iron Age and Roman

6.3 The pottery appears to be mainly locally-sourced; the flint tempered, reduced sandy and grog-tempered fabrics typical of late Iron Age / early Roman groups from this area, including Silchester (Timby 2000). A coarse flint-tempered fabric makes up the bulk of the assemblage including 34 sherds from Ra. 1 (weighing 319g) recovered from ditch fill **1905** (of **1904**). A further 103 coarse flint tempered sherds (weighing 2085g) were recovered by hand collection and bulk soil sample from three deposits; ditch fills **305**, **1103** and **1905**. Ditch fill **305** (of **302**) also produced a total of 17 sherds in a related flint and quartz-tempered fabric (weighing 158g). Identifiable vessel forms in the flint-tempered fabrics consist of large jars with simple everted rims, which were recorded from deposits **305** and **1905**. Fabrics and forms compare to Silchester Wares identified from Silchester, Hants and dateable across the 1st centuries BC/AD (Timby 2000).

6.4 Ditch fill **305** (of **302**) produced 28 sherds, likely belonging to the same vessel, in a wheel thrown, black-firing sandy fabric. The vessel is a jar of high-shouldered form with a bead-like rim. Sherds of black-firing sandy fabric were also recovered from ditch fill **306** (of **302**); 1 sherd, 9g and from ditch fill **1905** (of **1904**); 13 sherds, 74g. Three sherds in a sandy greyware fabric were recovered from ditch fill **1905** (of **1904**) and one sherd of a grog tempered fabric was recovered from ditch fill **306** (of **302**).

- 6.5 A total of four sherds (125g) of regionally-sourced Verulamium-region whiteware mortaria was recorded from ditch fill **1905** (of **1904**). The sherds belong to the same vessel and are highly abraded. This pottery type was produced c. 50-200 AD.

Fired clay

- 6.6 A total of 17 fragments of fired clay, weighing 849g, were recovered from two ditch fills, **304** and **305** (of **302**). The fragments are from loom weights, either pyramidal or triangular in form, and as such are datable to the Iron Age or early Roman periods.

Other finds

- 6.7 Three fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 62g, were recovered from ditch fill **1103** (of **1102**). All consist of flat roof tile fragments of the kind typically produced in the late medieval to post-medieval periods.
- 6.8 Seven fragments of unworked, burnt flint, weighing 20g, were recovered by bulk soil sampling from ditch fill **305** (of **302**).

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1 Palaeoenvironmental material recovered from the evaluation is tabulated in Appendix C and discussed below.
- 7.2 A single sample (15 litres of soil) was taken from a charcoal rich deposit within **Trench 3** to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

Trench 3

- 7.3 The fill **305** (sample 1) within Late Iron Age-Early Romano-British ditch 302 contained a large quantity of charcoal fragments greater than 2mm. The well preserved charcoal assemblage included mature wood fragments and is likely to be representative of dumped material from settlement activity. No plant remains were recorded within this sample.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity, represented by a series of ditches, as well as a single post-medieval drainage ditch was uncovered during the archaeological evaluation. A small group of features could not be attributed to a specific period, due to a lack of finds or environmental evidence present within the fills of these features.
- 8.2 The results of the evaluation achieved its objectives in establishing the presence of archaeological features in certain parts of the site and, if possible, characterising the character and date of those features. The state of preservation was generally good and deposits and features appear to have been only partially disturbed by later agricultural activities. A number of the features uncovered during the evaluation corresponded with the results of the earlier geophysical survey. However, a number of features were also not identified during the survey and a number of geophysical anomalies did not appear as archaeological features within the excavated trenches.

Late Iron Age/ Early Roman

- 8.3 A Late Iron Age/ Early Roman ditch (**302, 1904**) was uncovered along the southern boundary of the site across two trenches (**3** and **19**). A large assemblage of locally produced mid to late 1st century AD pottery was recovered from the fills of this feature, as well as the fragments of a number of loom weights. The finds and environmental evidence indicates that, despite the limited number of dated features uncovered within the site, that the ditch lay close to an area of settlement in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period. Ditch **102**, uncovered within **Trench 1** and truncated by a post-medieval drainage ditch (see below), may represent the continuation of this feature to the west, however, no finds were recovered from the fill of this feature to provide a definitive date.
- 8.4 The evidence for dating to the Late Iron Age - Early Roman activity at Beeches Hill may be associated with the known settlement evidence uncovered in the area immediately to the east of the present site (section 2.3). Together this evidence indicates the presence of a substantial rural settlement in this area during this period, which lay within the environs of the Late Iron Age oppidum / Early Roman town at Silchester, approximately 6km to the south-west.

Post-medieval/modern

- 8.5 A single ditch of probable post-medieval date was uncovered across multiple trenches during the evaluation (**Trenches 1, 3, 5, 8-11 and 18-20**). The presence of a ceramic field drain at the base of the ditch suggests that it was constructed as and used for a drainage ditch across the field during this period. Although the ditch remained unexcavated in a number of trenches (**Trenches 5, 8-10, 18, 20**) the general alignment and position of the features suggest that each form part of the same single ditch running across the site (Figure 2). Furthermore, the position of the ditches also corresponded with the results of the geophysical survey, which illustrated a discontinuous feature along the eastern boundary of the site.

Undated

- 8.6 Three undated features were uncovered in the north-western corner of the site. Two pits (**1202** and **1702**) and a small ditch (**2202**). Pit **1202** broadly corresponded with the results of the geophysical survey. These features may relate to the known Iron Age and Romano-British occupation uncovered in the field immediately to the west, however, further evidence is required to substantiate this hypothesis. No further evidence is available to provide a more definitive interpretation of the function of these features.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Whelan, assisted by Adam Howard, Steven Bush, Natasha Djukic and Katherine Hebbard. The report was written by Nicky Garland. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden and Sarah Wyles respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Joe Whelan, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greatorex.

10. REFERENCES

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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 grey brown loamy clay | - | - | 0 – 0.27 | |
| 1 | 101 | Layer | - | natural | Mid grey brown silty clay | - | - | 0.27+ | |
| 1 | 102 | Cut | - | Ditch | Linear in plan e/w alignment moderate sloping sides rounded base | - | 1.88 | 0.84 | |
| 1 | 103 | Fill | 102 | Backfill | Dark grey sandy clay friable | - | 0.73 | 0.26 | |
| 1 | 104 | Fill | 102 | Backfill | Mid grey brown sandy clay friable | - | 1.88 | 0.59 | |
| 1 | 105 | Cut | - | Ditch | Linear in plan e/w alignment moderate straight sides | - | 1.05 | 0.19 | |
| 1 | 106 | Fill | 106 | Secondary fill | Light grey brown silty clay friable | - | 1.05 | 0.19 | |
| 1 | 107 | Cut | - | Ditch | Linear in plan e/w alignment moderate straight sides | - | 0.55 | 0.15 | |
| 1 | 108 | Fill | 107 | Secondary fill | Light grey brown silty clay friable | - | 0.55 | 0.15 | |
| 2 | 200 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown silt loose | - | - | 0 - 0.45 | |
| 2 | 201 | Layer | - | Natural | Mid yellowy orangey brown silty clay friable | - | - | 0.45 – 0.61 | |
| 3 | 300 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Dark grey loamy clay compact | - | - | 0 - 0.24 | |
| 3 | 301 | Layer | - | Natural | Mid greyish brown compact silty clay | - | - | 0.46+ | |
| 3 | 302 | Cut | - | Ditch | Linear in plan e/w alignment steep straight sides rounded base | - | 1.37 | 1.03 | |
| 3 | 303 | Fill | 302 | Primary fill | Mid brown silty clay friable | - | 0.39 | 0.16 | |
| 3 | 304 | Fill | 302 | Secondary fill | Mid reddish brown silty clay friable | - | 0.76 | 0.38 | IA-RB |
| 3 | 305 | Fill | 302 | Backfill | Mid grey silty clay friable | - | 0.96 | 0.2 | M-LC1 |
| 3 | 306 | Fill | 302 | Secondary fill | Light grey silty clay friable | - | 1.37 | 0.28 | M-LC1 |
| 3 | 307 | Layer | - | Subsoil | Mid greyish brown silty clay compact | - | - | 0.24 – 0.46 | |
| 3 | 308 | Cut | - | Ditch | Linear in plan unexcavated e/w alignment | unexc | | | |
| 3 | 309 | Fill | 308 | Backfill? | Mid grey brown sandy clay friable | unexc | | | |
| 4 | 400 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Dark black silty clay compact | - | - | 0 - 0.28 | |
| 4 | 400 | Layer | - | Natural | Mid greyish brown silty clay compact | - | - | 0.28 – 0.35+ | |
| 5 | 500 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid dark brown silt loose | - | - | 0 - 0.42 | |
| 5 | 501 | Layer | - | Natural | Light yellowy orangey brown friable clay | - | - | 0.42 – 0.57+ | |
| 6 | 600 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown silt loose | - | - | 0 – 0.42 | |
| 6 | 601 | Layer | - | Natural | Mid yellowy/orangey brown silty clay | - | - | 0.42 – 0.13 | |
| 7 | 700 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown silt loose | - | - | 0 – 0.44 | |
| 7 | 701 | Layer | - | Natural | Mid yellowy orange brown silty clay friable | - | - | 0.44 – 0.57+ | |
| 8 | 800 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown silt loose | - | - | 0 - 0.43 | |
| 8 | 801 | Layer | - | Natural | Light yellowy orangey brown clay friable | - | - | 0.43 – 0.65 | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------|-------|------|----------------|---|-------|------|--------------|--------------|
| 9 | 900 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown silt loose | - | - | 0 – 0.32 | |
| 9 | 901 | Layer | - | Natural | Light yellowy orangey brown clay friable | - | - | 0.32 – 0.59+ | |
| 9 | 902 | Cut | - | Field drain | Not excavated | unexc | | | |
| 9 | 903 | Fill | - | Field drain | Not excavated | unexc | | | |
| 10 | 1000 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown silt loose | - | - | 0 – 0.2 | |
| 10 | 1001 | Layer | - | Natural | Light yellowy orangey brown clay friable | - | - | 0.2 - 0.6+ | |
| 10 | 1002 | Cut | - | Field drain | Not excavated | unexc | | | |
| 10 | 1003 | Fill | - | Field drain | Not excavated | unexc | | | |
| 11 | 1100 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brownish grey clayey silt friable | - | - | 0 – 0.38 | |
| 11 | 1101 | Layer | - | Natural | Mid yellowish brown clay compact | - | - | 0.38 – 0.44+ | |
| 11 | 1102 | Cut | - | Ditch | Linear in plan se/nw alignment moderate concave sides flat base | - | 2.62 | 0.57 | |
| 11 | 1103 | Fill | 1102 | Secondary fill | Mid yellowish brown clay friable | - | 2.62 | 0.57 | L Med - Pmed |
| 12 | 1200 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brownish grey clayey silt friable | - | - | 0 – 0.26 | |
| 12 | 1201 | Layer | - | Natural | Mid yellowish brown clay compact | - | - | 0.26 – 0.57+ | |
| 12 | 1202 | Cut | - | Pit | Circular inplan near vertical sides flat base | 1.47 | 1.42 | 0.3 | |
| 12 | 1203 | Fill | 1202 | Backfill | Dark brown reddish brown mottling silty clay loose | 1.47 | 1.42 | 0.3 | |
| 13 | 1300 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown silt loose | - | - | 0 – 0.4 | |
| 13 | 1301 | Layer | - | Natural | Light - Mid yellowy orangey brown silty clay compact | - | - | 0.4 – 0.54+ | |
| 14 | 1400 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown silt loose | - | - | 0 – 0.41 | |
| 14 | 1401 | Layer | - | Natural | Light - Mid yellowy orangey brown silty clay compact | - | - | 0.41 – 0.6+ | |
| 14 | 1402 | Layer | - | Geological | Light whitish brown gravelly clay friable | - | - | - | |
| 15 | 1500 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brownish silt loose | - | - | 0 – 0.38 | |
| 15 | 1501 | Layer | - | Natural | Light - Mid yellowy orangey brown silty clay compact | - | - | 0.38 – 0.58+ | |
| 15 | 1502 | Layer | - | Geological | Light whitish brown gravelly clay friable | - | - | - | |
| 16 | 1600 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown silt loose | - | - | 0 – 0.36 | |
| 16 | 1601 | Layer | - | Natural | Light - Mid yellowy orangey brown silty clay compact | - | - | 0.36 – 0.57+ | |
| 17 | 1700 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid/dark greyish brown clayey silt friable | - | - | 0 – 0.24 | |
| 17 | 1701 | Layer | - | Natural | Mid brownish yellow compact | - | - | 0.24 – 0.33+ | |
| 17 | 1702 | Cut | - | Pit | Irregular oval in plan gentle concave sides irregular pitted base | 0.71 | 0.62 | 0.1 | |
| 17 | 1703 | Fill | 1702 | Dump/backfill | Mid greyish brown clayey silt friable | 0.71 | 0.62 | 0.1 | |
| 18 | 1800 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown grey loamy clay friable | - | - | 0 – 0.25 | |
| 18 | 1801 | Layer | - | Natural | Mid greyish brown compact silty clay | - | - | 0.25 – 0.25+ | |
| 18 | 1802 | Cut | - | Ditch | Linear in plan e/w alignment unexcavated | unexc | | | |
| 18 | 1803 | Fill | 1802 | Backfill | Mid grey/brown sandy clay friable | unexc | | | |
| 19 | 1900 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Yellowish brown clayey silt | - | - | 0 – 0.28 | |
| 19 | 1901 | Layer | - | Natural | Yellowy brown clay compact | - | - | 0.28+ | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------|-------|------|----------------|--|-------|------|-------------|-------|
| 19 | 1902 | Cut | - | Ditch | 19 th century ditch | unexc | | | |
| 19 | 1903 | Fill | 1902 | | 19 th century ditch | unexc | | | |
| 19 | 1904 | Cut | - | Ditch | Linear in plan sw/ne alignment gradual concave sides flat base | 1.2 | 0.93 | 0.41 | |
| 19 | 1905 | Fill | 1904 | Secondary fill | Pale grey silty clay compact | 1.2 | 0.93 | 0.41 | M-LC1 |
| 20 | 2000 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Yellowy brown clayey silt | - | - | 0 – 0.26 | |
| 20 | 2001 | Layer | - | Natural | Yellowy brown clay with patches of flint gravel | - | - | 0.26+ | |
| 20 | 2002 | Cut | - | Ditch/drain | 19 th century ditch/drain | unexc | | | |
| 20 | 2003 | Fill | 2002 | backfill | 19 th century ditch/drain | unexc | | | |
| 21 | 2100 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Yellowy brown clayey silt | - | - | 0 – 0.27 | |
| 21 | 2100 | Layer | - | Natural | Pale yellowy brown silty clay with patches of flint gravel | - | - | 0.27+ | |
| 22 | 2200 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Mid brown silt loose | - | - | 0 – 0.2 | |
| 22 | 2201 | Layer | - | Natural | Light to mid yellowy orangey brown friable | - | - | 0.2 – 0.38+ | |
| 22 | 2202 | Cut | - | Ditch | Linear in plan e/w alignment step concave sides flat uneven base | | 0.82 | 0.32 | |
| 22 | 2203 | Fill | 2202 | Secondary fill | Light to mid greyish brown silty | | 0.82 | 0.32 | |

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

| Context | Class | Description | Ct. | Wt.(g) | Spot-date |
|---------|---|-----------------------|-----|--------|-------------|
| 304 | Fired clay | Loomweight | 6 | 503 | IA - Roman |
| 305 | Fired Clay IA-Roman pottery Roman pottery | Loomweight | 11 | 346 | IA - Roman |
| | | Flint-tempered | 65 | 1715 | M-L C1 |
| | | Black sandy | 28 | 136 | |
| | | Flint / quartz | 17 | 158 | |
| | | Grog-tempered | 1 | 5 | |
| 305 <1> | Roman Pottery | Black sandy | 19 | 32 | M-L C1 |
| | | Flint-tempered | 5 | 24 | |
| | | Burnt flint | 7 | 20 | |
| 306 | Roman pottery | Black sandy fabric | 1 | 9 | M-L C1 |
| | | Grog-tempered | 1 | 33 | |
| 1103 | CBM | Tile | 3 | 62 | L Med-P Med |
| | IA-Roman pottery | Coarse flint-tempered | 2 | 12 | |
| 1905 | Roman pottery | Verulamium mortaria | 4 | 125 | M-L C1 |
| | | Black sandy | 13 | 74 | |
| | | Sandy greyware | 3 | 6 | |
| | | Flint-tempered | 31 | 334 | |
| | | Flint tempered; RA. 1 | 34 | 319 | |

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1 Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

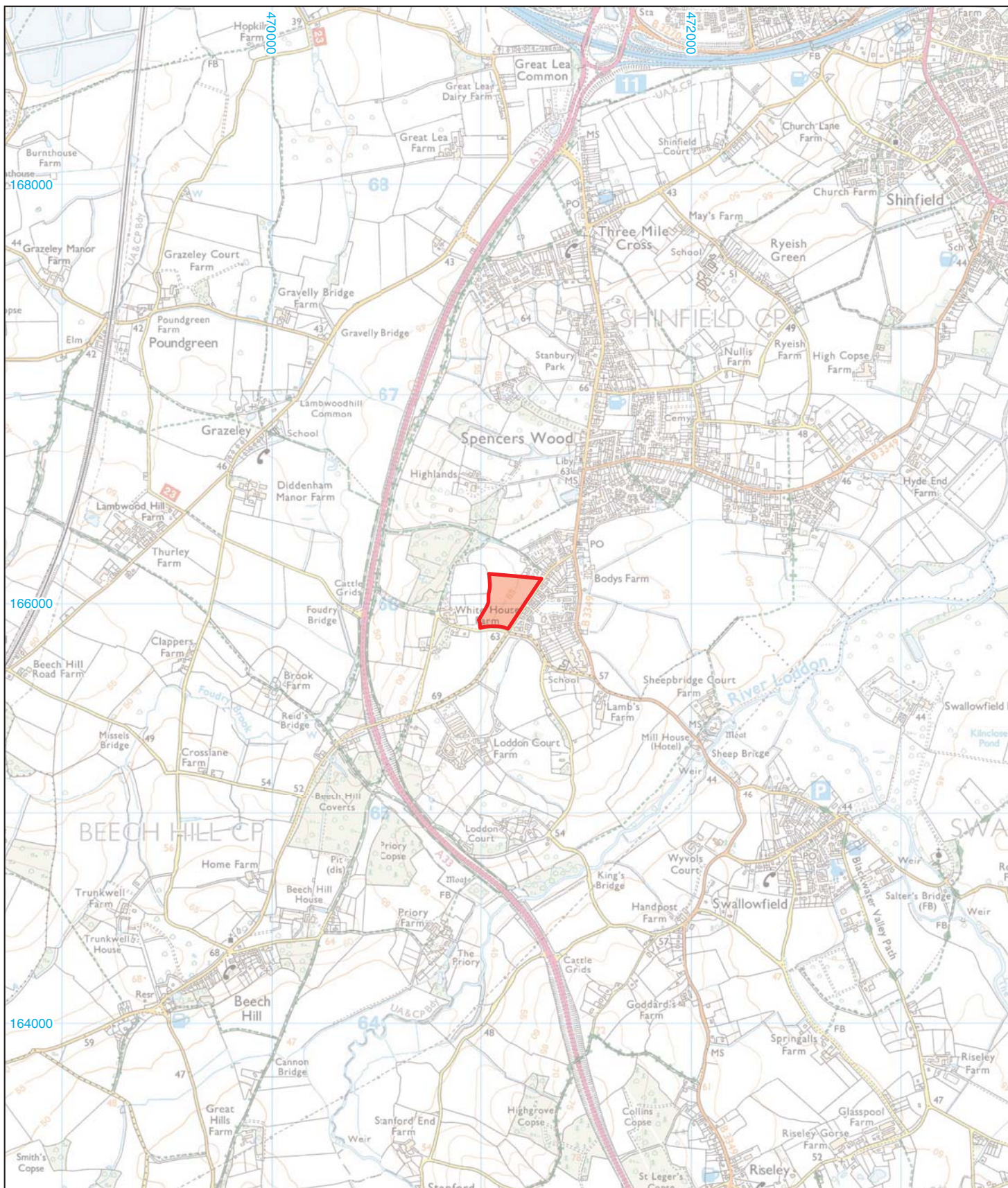
| Feature | Context | Sample | Processed vol (L) | Unprocessed vol (L) | Flot size (ml) | Roots % | Grain | Chaff | Charred Other | Charcoal | Other |
|---|---------|--------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------|-------|------------------|----------|-------|
| Trench 3 Late Iron Age-Early Romano-British Ditch | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 302 | 305 | 1 | 15 | 20 | 30 | 10 | - | - | - | ++++ | - |

Key

+ = 1–4 items; ++ = 4–20 items; +++ = 21–49 items; ++++ = 50–99 items; +++++ = >100 items

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|---|---|--|
| Project Name | Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood, Wokingham, Berkshire | |
| Short description | <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2016 at Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood, Wokingham, Berkshire. Twenty-two trenches were excavated.</p> <p>A small ditch of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date was observed running between Trenches 3 and 19. The ditch contained a large assemblage of locally produced pottery as well as the fragments of a number of loom weights. This ditch was probably associated with an area of Iron Age/Romano-British settlement uncovered during archaeological investigation of the area immediately to the east of the site. Furthermore, a long curvilinear post-medieval drainage ditch was also uncovered across a number of trenches along the eastern and southern boundaries of the site. Two undated pits and a small section of ditch were also uncovered in the north-western corner of the site.</p> | |
| Project dates | 15-19 February 2016 | |
| Project type | Field Evaluation | |
| Previous work | Geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2015) Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2013) | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Spencer's Wood, Wokingham, Berkshire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 4.5 ha | |
| Site co-ordinates | SU 71068 66033 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Richard Greateorex | |
| Project Supervisor | Joe Whelan | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | | |
| | Ditch (prehistoric) Ditch (post-medieval) | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | | |
| | None | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) |
| Physical | Unknown | Pottery, CBM |
| Paper | Unknown | Context sheets, matrices, drawings, trench record sheets |
| Digital | Unknown | Database, digital photos, survey |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood, Wokingham, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16108 | | |



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PROJECT TITLE
 Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood
 Wokingham, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

0 1km

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 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 10/03/16
 APPROVED BY REG SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- ▬ site boundary
 - ▬ evaluation trench
 - archaeological feature
 - geological feature
 - field drain
 - possible line of ditch
- Geophysical Survey results**
(Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2015)
- ▬ Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
 - ▬ Weakly multiple dipolar linear anomaly - possible ceramic land drain
 - ▬ Negative linear anomaly - material of low magnetic susceptibility
 - Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
 - Positive anomaly - magnetically enhanced material
 - Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent/ferrous material
 - Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
 - ▬ Strong multiple dipolar linear anomaly - pipeline / cable / service
 - Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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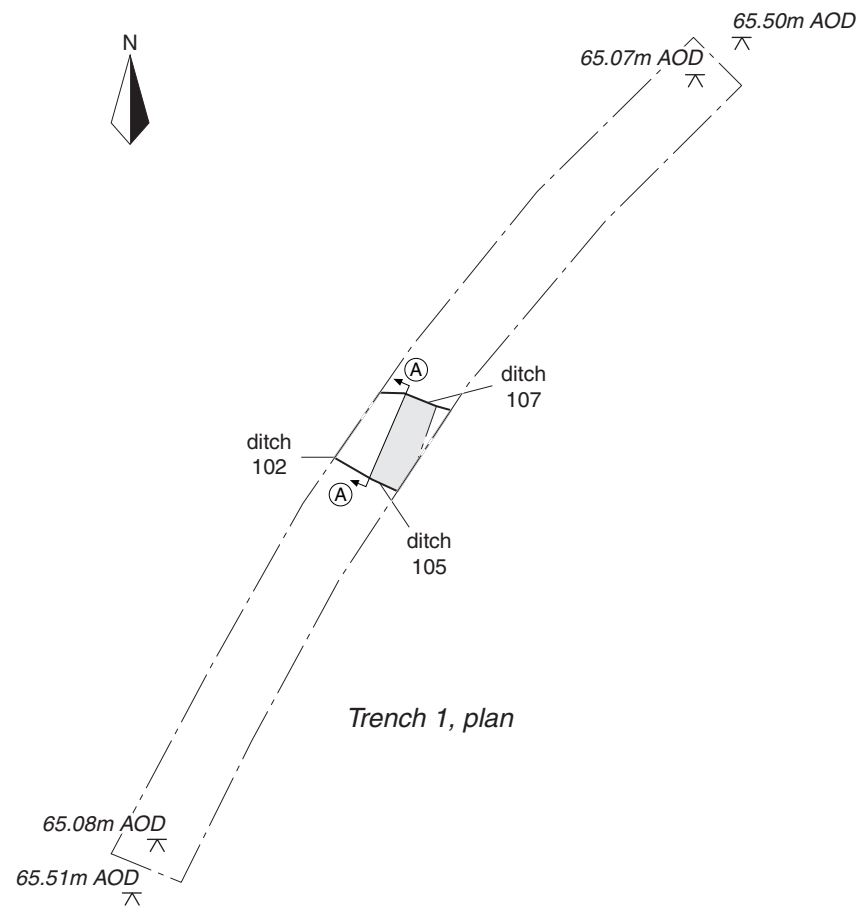
PROJECT TITLE
 Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood
 Wokingham, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of trenches
 and geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY L J H PROJECT NO. 770342 FIGURE NO.
 CHECKED BY D J B DATE 10/03/2016 2
 APPROVED BY REG SCALE@A3 1:1000

P:\770342 Beeches Hill, Spencer's Wood, Wokingham, Berkshire\Illustration\Drawings\770342 Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood, Fig2.dwg

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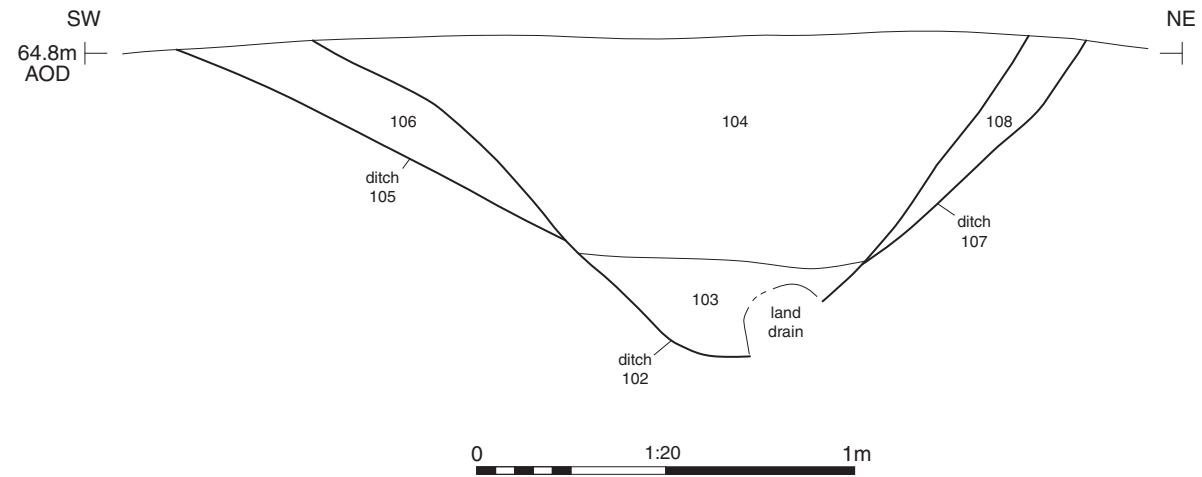


Trench 1, plan

- archaeological feature
- archaeological intervention



Section AA



Ditches 102, 105 and 107, facing south-east (2m scale)

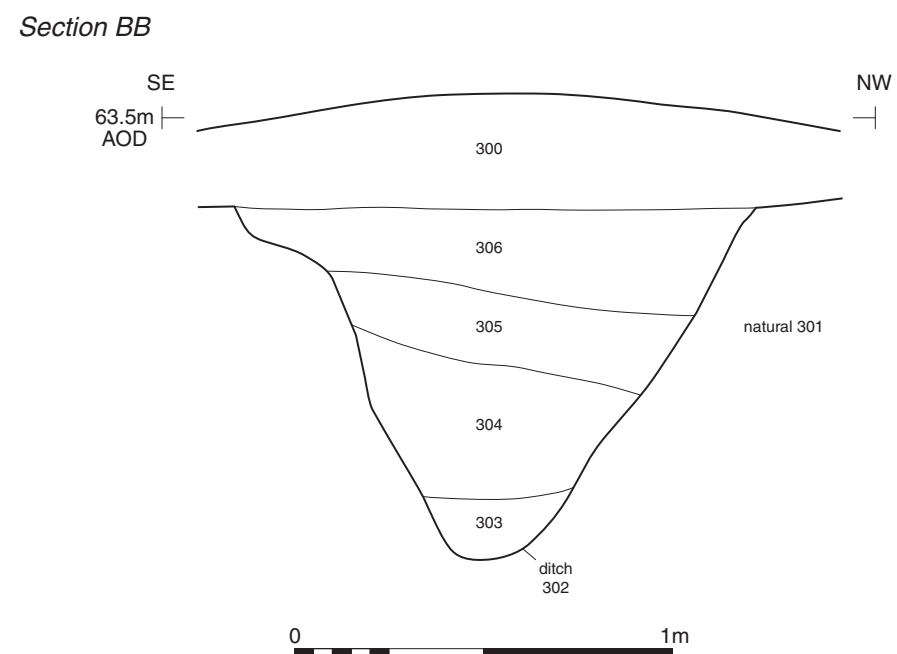
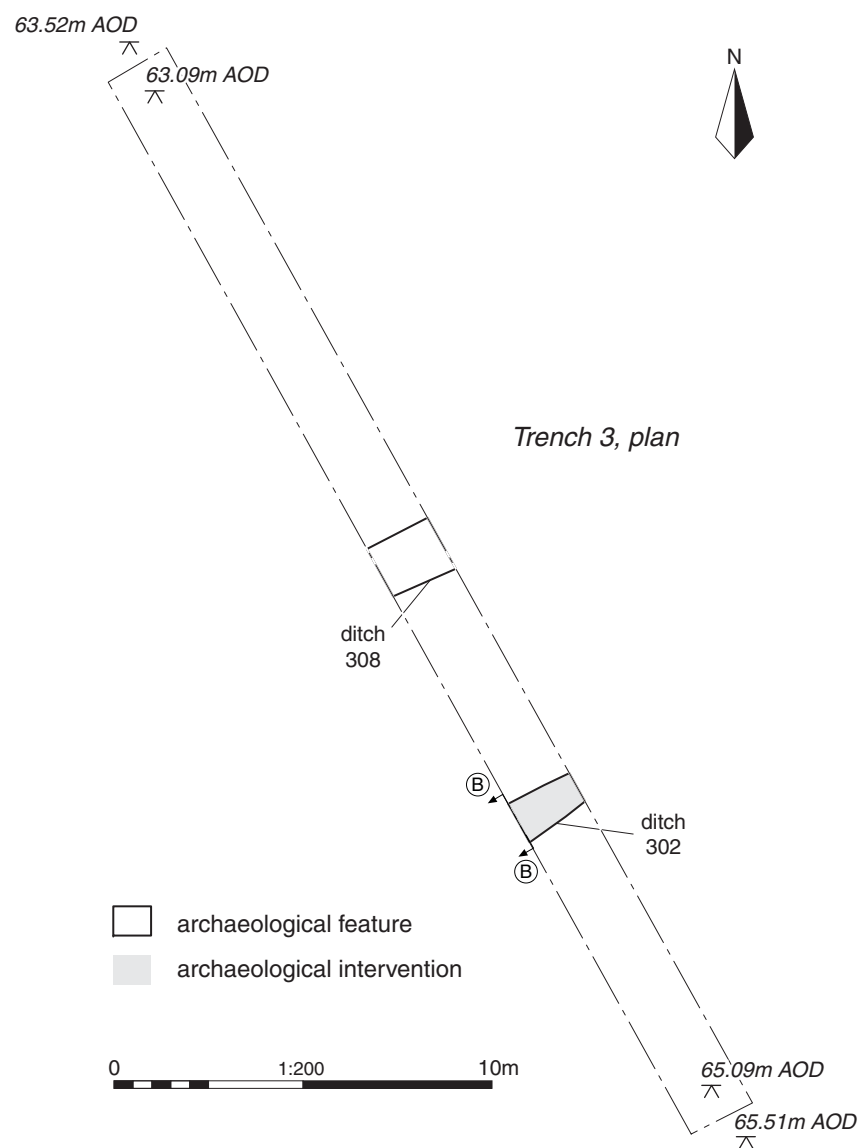


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PROJECT TITLE
**Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood
 Wokingham, Berkshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 1, plan, section and photograph

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|--------------|------------|
| DRAWN BY | LJH | PROJECT NO. | 770342 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 10/03/16 | 3 |
| APPROVED BY | REG | SCALE@A3 | 1:200 & 1:20 | |

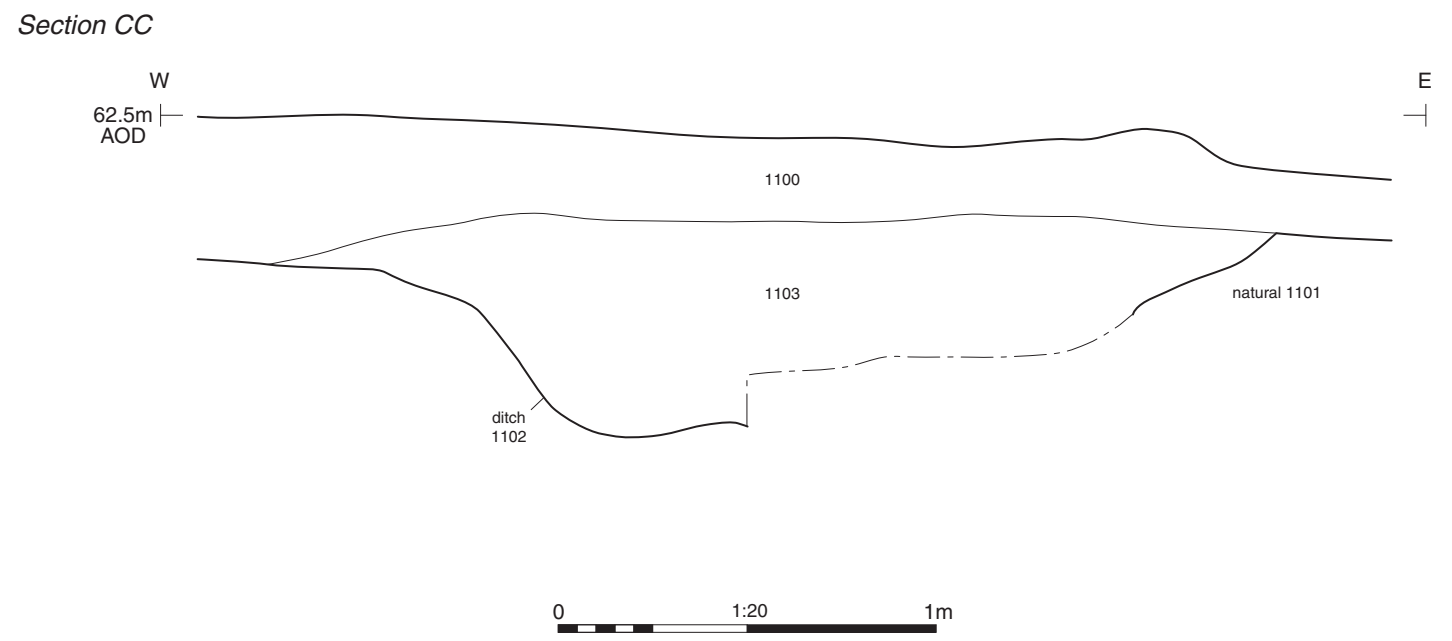
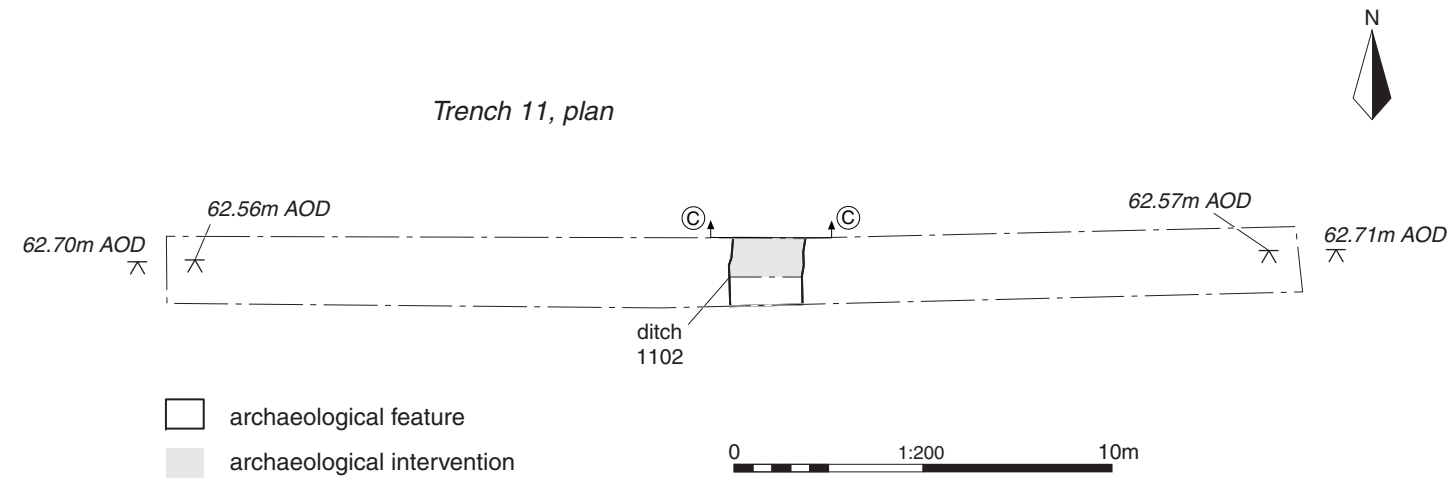


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PROJECT TITLE
**Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood
 Wokingham, Berkshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 3, plan, section and photograph

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 CHECKED BY D J B DATE 09/03/16
 APPROVED BY R E G SCALE @A3 1:200 & 1:20 **4**



Ditch 1102, facing south (1m scale)

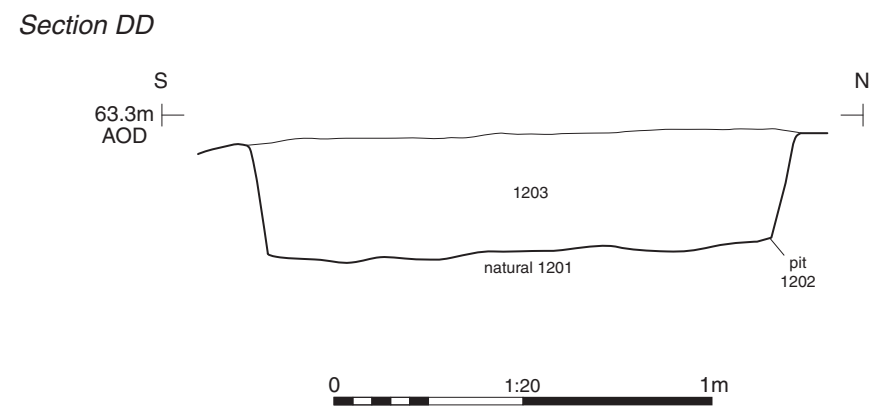
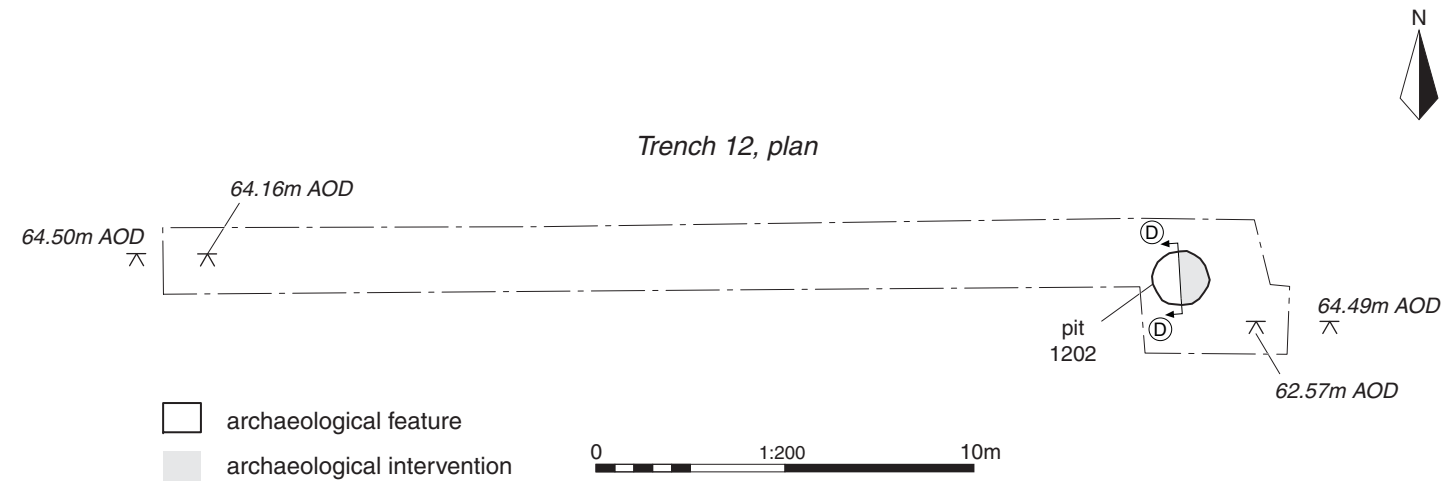
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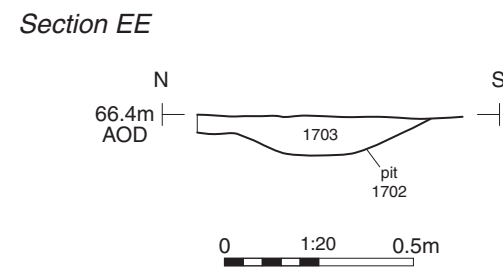
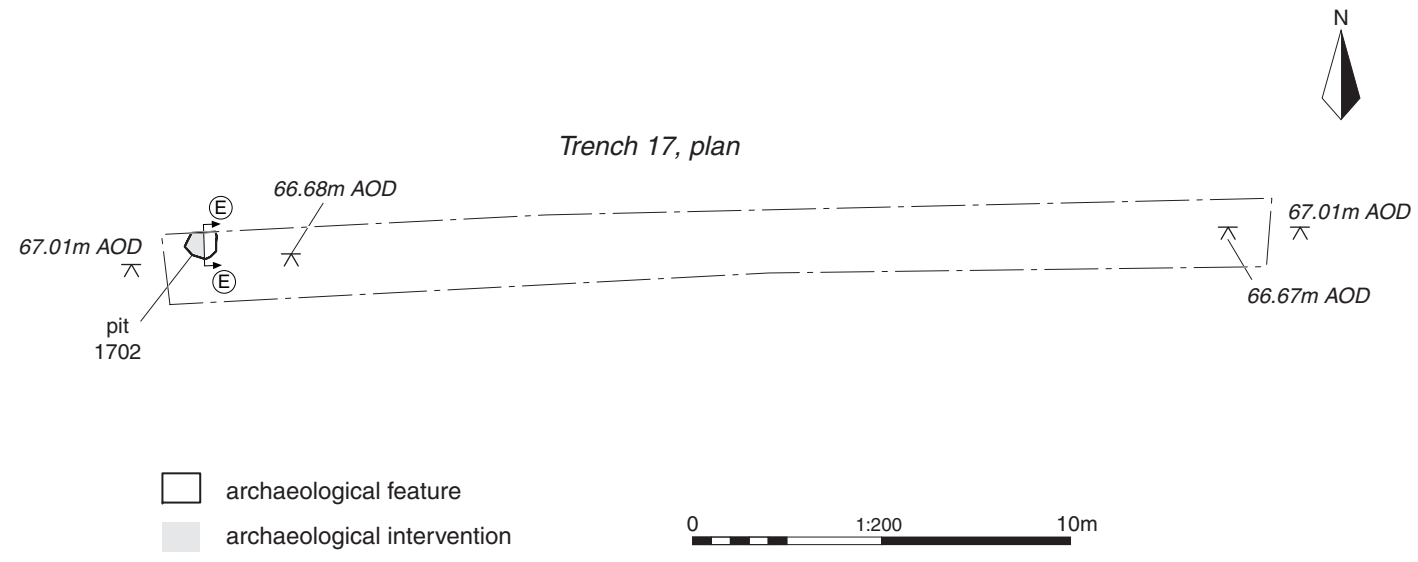
PROJECT TITLE
 Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood
 Wokingham, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 11, plan, section and photograph

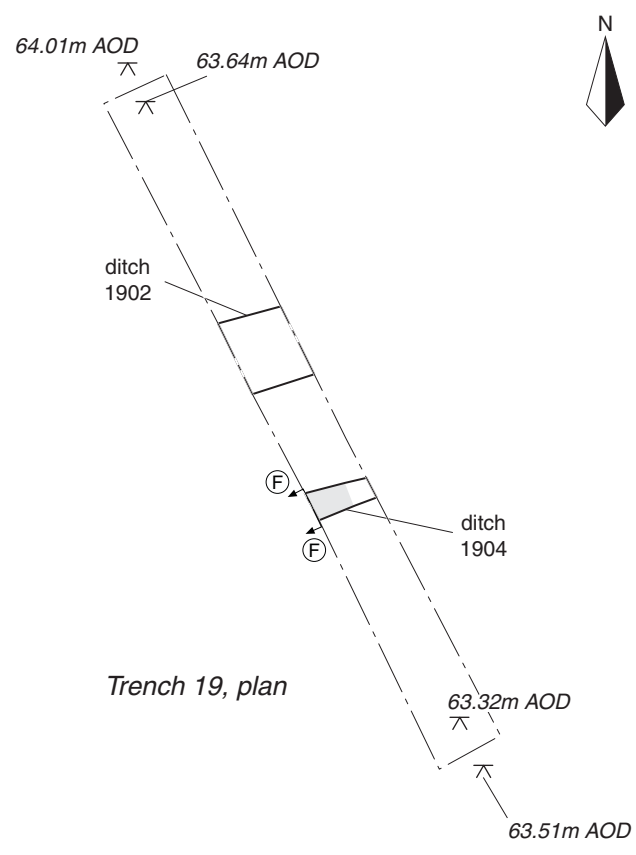
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| DRAWN BY | LJH | PROJECT NO. | 770342 | FIGURE NO. |
| CHECKED BY | DJB | DATE | 09/03/16 | |
| APPROVED BY | REG | SCALE@A3 | 1:200 & 1:20 | 5 |



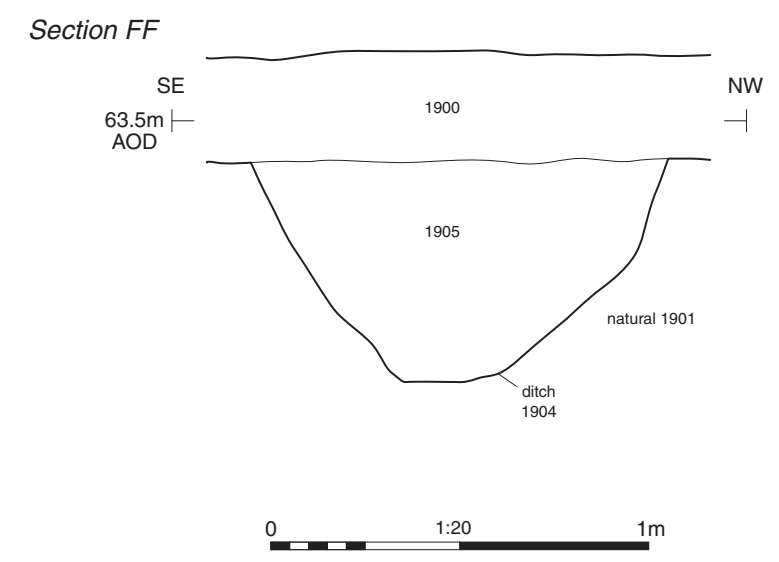
Pit 1202, facing south-west (1m scale)



Pit 1702, facing east (0.3m scale)



□ archaeological feature
■ archaeological intervention



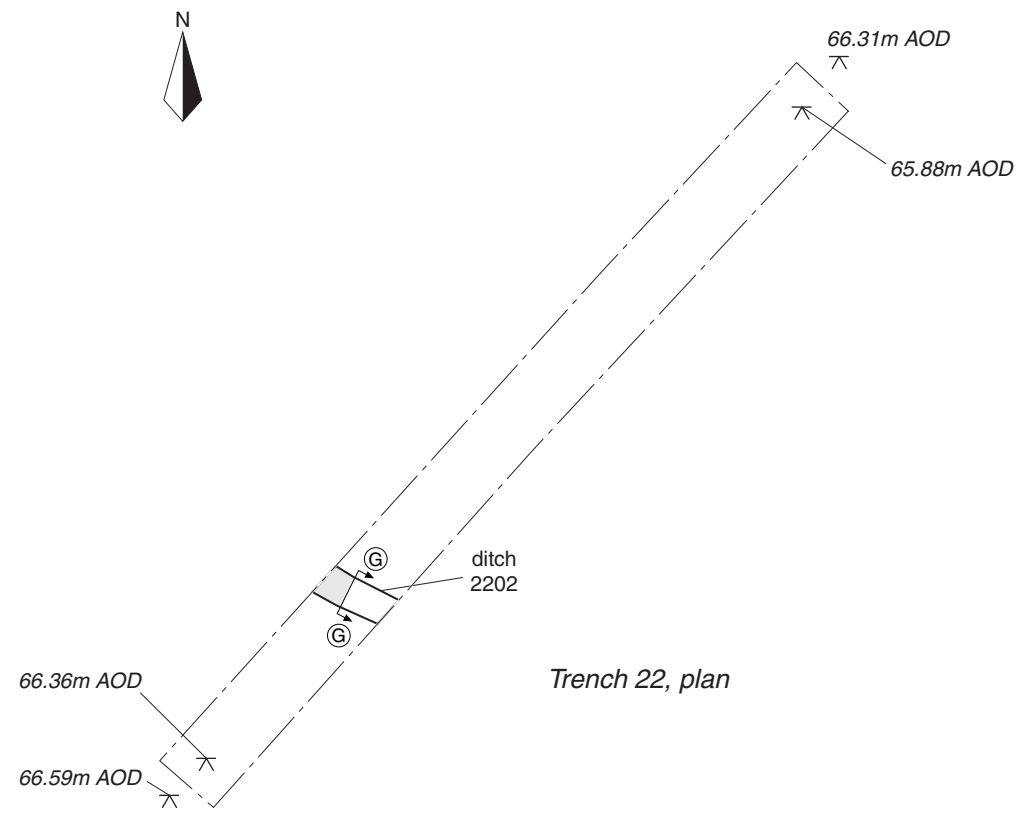
Ditch 1904, facing north-east (0.3m scale)

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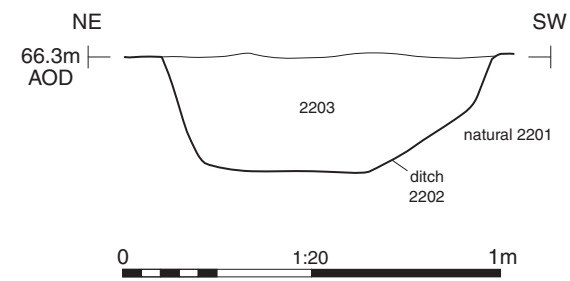
PROJECT TITLE
 Beech Hill, Spencer's Wood
 Wokingham, Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 19, plan, section and photograph

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|--------------|------------|
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Section GG



Ditch 2202, facing north-west (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 22, plan, section and photograph

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|--------------|------------|
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