



Mound at Abingdon Road Drayton Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for: RPS Consulting Ltd

CA Project: AN0507 CA Report: AN0507_2

June 2022



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	Document Control Grid											
Revision	Date	Authors	rs Checked by Status Reasons for		Reasons for	Approved						
					revision	by						
Α	10.05.2022	Majbritt Trim	Niomi	Internal	General Edits	Richard						
		Niomi Edwards	Edwards &	review		Greatorex						
		Tony Brown	Tony Brown									
В	08.06.2022	Tony Brown	Richard	External	Client comments	Richard						
		·	Greatorex	review		Greatorex						

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SUMMARY

Project name: Mound at Abingdon Road, Drayton

Location: Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire

NGR: 447747, 195107

Type: Evaluation

Date: 14-28 March 2022

Planning reference: P14/V2504/FUL

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service and the

Archaeology Data Service (ADS)

Accession Number: OXCMS:2022.29

Site Code: LARD22

In March 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of a previously noted 'mound' feature at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire. A total of four trenches were excavated.

The 'mound' only exists below ground level and no form can be identified on the surface. Roman material was recovered from the lower of its two build-up layers; its upper layer produced no artefacts at all. The archaeological significance, therefore, of these deposits is difficult to attribute confidently. Several ditches and pits, identified elsewhere within the site, also date to the Roman period, but may relate to agricultural activity, such as field systems, and/or be associated with a ring ditch enclosing the low mound. Two suspected burials were identified: one inhumation and one cremation. Their exact relationship to the truncated mound material and their significance, however, was not fully established during the evaluation. It should also be noted that an Early Bronze Age funerary urn was found close to this location during an earlier phase of investigation.

The nature of the deposits therefore cannot be concluded. It may represent a form of Roman funerary mound, located by design or by accident within the vicinity of prehistoric funerary activity or it may equally represent agricultural enclosure activity surrounding deposited domestic waste/midden/soil from the adjacent settlement, with the location of the burials coincidental.

Modern impacts were also identified, truncating and abutting the archaeological deposits.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In March 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of a mound feature (hereafter referred to as "the mound") situated within a parcel of land at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire (hereafter referred to as "the site"), centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 47747, 195107 (Figure 1). This evaluation was undertaken for RPS Consulting Ltd (hereafter referred to as "the client").
- 1.2. Vale of White Horse District Council has granted planning permission for the erection of 73 dwellings with associated access, parking, open space, sports pitches, new footpath connection to Corneville Road (full) and pavilion (outline elements all matters reserved) (planning ref: P14/V2504/FUL). Relevant archaeological conditions of the granted permission read as follows:
 - 14. Prior to any demolition and the commencement of the development a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the Local Planning Authority shall prepare an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating to the application site area, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - To safeguard the recording of archaeological matters within the site in accordance with the NPPF (2012).

15. Following the approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation referred to in condition 14, and prior to any demolition on the site and the commencement of the development (other than in accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation), a staged programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - To safeguard the identification, recording, analysis and archiving of heritage assets before they are lost and to advance understanding of the heritage assets in their wider context through publication and dissemination of the evidence in accordance with the NPPF (2012).

1.3. Since the granting of planning permission, the new dwellings, access roads and a play area have been constructed to the south, west and south-west of the current

site. It is understood that some degree of landscaping has been undertaken over the current site and its surroundings during recent construction, these areas being proposed for new sports pitches.

- 1.4. Although subjected to previous investigation, the character, origin and construction of the mound feature remains elusive (see Section 2). Furthermore, there is the possibility that the mound may have experienced impacts associated with the recent construction of dwellings nearby and/or landscaping, through the deposition of materials atop it and/or truncation. The key objectives of the evaluation were to gain a greater understanding of the character of the mound, to determine any inherent heritage significance and to ascertain the extent and character of any recent impacts.
- 1.5. The scope of this evaluation was agreed with Steven Weaver, the archaeological advisor to Vale of White Horse District Council (hereafter referred to as "the curator"), in email correspondence dating between 5 October 2021 and 16 February 2022. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by the curator.
- 1.6. The evaluation was also in line with Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation (Historic England 2015) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.7. The site is approximately 8ha in extent and comprises a single, disused field located on the north side of the village of Drayton, Oxfordshire. The site lies at an elevation of approximately 60-64m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The mound is situated within the northern part of the site, close to the north-west boundary (Figure 2).
- 1.8. The site is bounded by further arable fields to the north-east and north-west, with Abingdon Road (B4017) and recently constructed dwellings to the south, south-east and south-west.
- 1.9. The British Geological Survey has identified the superficial geology of the site as sand and gravel overlaying the solid geology of Ampthill Clay (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The proposed development is situated within a rich archaeological landscape, with a variety of recorded remains within the environs of the site. The earliest investigation of the site was undertaken in 1995/96 by the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society (Ainslie 1997). A detailed desk-based assessment has been produced (WYG 2014), together with three phases of geophysical survey (Ainslie 1997; ArchaeoPhysica Ltd 2014; Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics 2015). The results of these non-intrusive investigations led to the undertaking of an initial phase of archaeological evaluation (CA 2015), a subsequent excavation (CA 2016) and the publication of the cumulative results (Kennedy & Massey 2017).
- 2.2. The following section examines the results of these investigations, with a principal focus on the mound and surrounding evidence. The reports of previous investigations should be consulted for further detail regarding the wider archaeological resource.

The mound

- 2.3. The mound was no longer visible as an above ground feature during the most recent evaluation but appeared as a low earthwork feature, c. 35m in diameter, during the 2015 phase (CA 2015). It is labelled as a *tumulus* on Ordnance Survey mapping from the Second Edition (1912) onwards and is recorded as a possible barrow of prehistoric or Roman origins by English Heritage (ref. no: 233931) and the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (ref. no: MOX6767). The three phases of geophysical survey have confirmed the feature and identified an associated enclosing oval ditch, strengthening this provisional interpretation. The geophysical survey results also illustrated a consistent margin between the oval ditch and surrounding enclosure ditches.
- Archaeological and Historical Society (Ainslie 1997). Trenches A and B were situated slightly to the east and north of the mound, respectively, and Trench C was situated on the north facing slope of the mound, slightly below its crown. Trench A recovered only four flint articles and a sherd of modern chinaware. The upper strata of Trench B included a single fragment of late prehistoric or Saxon pottery, 25 sherds of Roman pottery, including Samian wares, 11 fragments of ceramic building material, 24 fragments of animal bone and four flint articles, including a leaf-shaped arrowhead. Trench B also encountered a possible Iron Age ditch, producing 16 sherds of Iron

Age pottery, two of Roman and one of modern date, and 11 pieces of bone, including a polished ovid/caprid metatarsal (suggestive of weaving activity). Trench C measured 2m by 1m and extended to a depth of 0.5m, encountering two distinct stratigraphic layers and not reaching natural geology. The upper layer (topsoil) produced a single sherd of possible Iron Age pottery, 12 Roman sherds, and a fragment each of ceramic building material, worked flint and bone. The lower layer (presumably subsoil) produced five bone and two flint fragments. The initial conclusions postulated a Saxon burial mound (*hlaew*) or medieval windmill mound, although the latter interpretation was doubted due to the absence of medieval pottery or documentary evidence.

- 2.5. The 2015 evaluation identified ditches within Trenches 11 & 12, correlating with the north-eastern (ditch 1120) and western (ditch 1209) elements of the mound's postulated ring ditch. These features varied in dimensions, with ditch 1120 measuring 1m in width and up to 0.2m deep and ditch 1209 measuring 0.55m wide and up to 0.14m deep. This is suggestive of the ditch having been truncated by past activity. A single sherd of Early Iron Age pottery and two sherds of Roman greyware were recovered from the single fill of ditch 1120, whilst no finds were recovered from ditch 1209.
- 2.6. Ditches 1103 and 1114 and pit 1106 are situated within the oval ditch, as suggested by the geophysical surveys. Pit 1106, situated *c*. 10m west of ditch 1120, was cut on its western edge by ditch 1103 and contained a complete Early Bronze Age miniature bipartite collared urn, typically encountered as an accessory vessel to cremation burials of the period. Due to poor levels of bone preservation, it could not be established whether the urn contained cremated human remains or was part of a votive offering including animal and organic remains. Nine fragments of burnt flint and a single worked flint chip were also recovered from the fill of the pit. It has thus far not been possible to speculate if the interred urn represents an isolated example or forms part of a larger group of funerary features and remains.
- 2.7. Evidence elsewhere in the region, most notably at Yarnton, suggests that individual pits containing cremation burials are likely to be distributed at various points within the near environs of settlement, or individually, in relation to land boundaries.
- 2.8. The lower fill 1104 of ditch 1103 contained a further fragment of burnt flint, a possibly Mesolithic or Early Neolithic flint blade and two sherds of Romano-British pottery.

- 2.9. The evaluation concluded that possible mound material sealed features 1103, 1106 and 1114, suggestive of a Roman *terminus post quem*, considering the recovered Romano-British pottery. It could therefore be an Early Saxon or Viking *hlaew*, or a later feature disassociated with funerary activity. Although reduced and truncated by ploughing, <0.75m in depth of mound material was found to remain.
- 2.10. The mound may alternatively relate to a post-medieval feature, such as a prospect mound, mill mound or rabbit warren (Historic England 2018). The most recent interpretation of the feature presents it simply as a dump of material of probable early modern date (Kennedy & Massey 2017).

The wider site

Early Prehistoric (up to c. 1,600 BC)

- 2.11. The sole confirmed Neolithic evidence within the site comprises the Neolithic leaf-shaped flint arrowhead, recovered during early investigation near to the mound. Potential Mesolithic or Early Neolithic evidence comprises five residual flint blades.
- 2.12. Evidence for Bronze Age activity within the site was identified during the evaluation by the discovery of the aforementioned urn in Trench 11 (see above). The overlaying mound, however, is believed to be of post-Roman date. Elements of a Middle to Late Bronze Age enclosure system were identified during the excavation, *c.* 60m to the south-west of the mound, interpreted as boundaries defining the gravel island (upon which sits the site) from the surrounding alluvial floodplain. Alternatively, these features may represent part of a water management system.

Later Prehistoric (c. 1,600 – 100 BC)

2.13. A small quantity of Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from ditches 1120 (of the evaluation) and 241 (of the excavation), although no direct continuity of settlement could be drawn from this phase to that of the Middle Iron Age. The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery from a single ditch within Trench 1, c. 90m to the south-west of the mound.

Late Iron Age & Roman periods (100 BC – AD 450)

2.14. The excavation identified a small, Late Iron Age/Early Roman, agricultural settlement, c. 60-120m to the south-west of the mound, including two probable roundhouses. Roundhouse 1 was unable to be fully investigated, as it continued beyond the limits of the excavation, and Roundhouse 2 was heavily truncated by later agricultural

activity. The settlement also comprised numerous pits and ditches, the full extent of occupation illustrated by the geophysical survey. It is feasible, however, that several the unexcavated features beyond the excavation area may relate to the Bronze Age enclosure system.

2.15. The greater part of the pottery assemblage recovered during the excavation indicated a date range of the mid-1st to mid-2nd centuries AD, whilst pottery recovered elsewhere within the site during the evaluation was suggestive of 1st to 4th and 2nd to 4th century activity. It has therefore been interpreted that a shift in the use and focus of site activity took place during the mid-2nd century AD.

Early medieval & medieval (450 - 1540)

- 2.16. In consideration of the anticipation of the post-Roman date of the mound feature, it is plausible that this represents an Early Saxon or Viking *hlaew*. Ovoid-form mounds have also been associated with ship burials, particularly in East Anglia, but may also be represented elsewhere, due to widespread raiding during this period. No early medieval remains have been encountered within the site and the possible Saxon pottery fragment recovered during early investigation near to the mound most likely dates to late prehistory, given the nearby weight of evidence relating to this period.
- 2.17. Medieval evidence identified within the site during the excavation is comprised of several north-west/south-east aligned furrows, running parallel to the modern field boundary at intervals of 10-12m. This width, being slightly greater than commonly associated with medieval agricultural practice, has led to the alternative suggestion that these features relate to post-medieval arable farming. A single field boundary encountered during the preceding evaluation was provisionally interpreted as medieval or post-medieval but remained unexcavated.
- 2.18. The historic core of Drayton retains several buildings of medieval origin, including the probable 15th century Manor House and the early 13th century Church of St. Peter. Despite the survival of a small number of medieval buildings in the historic centre of Drayton, many older village houses were reputedly destroyed by fire in 1780.

Post-medieval and modern (1540 - present)

2.19. Beyond surviving aspects of the built heritage resource there is little evidence for post-medieval activity within the environs of the site other than putative remains of agricultural activity and field division. The surrounding landscape is known to have been extensively cultivated during this period and many recorded medieval field boundaries survived throughout the post-medieval period and beyond.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the evaluation were:
 - to provide further information on the character, construction, date and state of preservation of the mound. The resultant information gained from this evaluation will be compared alongside the previously gathered data for the mound and cumulatively applied to determine the mound's origin, purpose and any inherent heritage significance;
 - to attempt to place the mound within the wider historical narrative of the site, alongside the results of the three phases of geophysical survey, previous evaluation phases and excavation; and
 - to investigate evidence of impacts experienced by the mound during recent nearby construction works and landscaping of the surroundings for the creation of sports pitches.
- 3.2. This information will enable Vale of White Horse District Council to identify and assess its archaeological significance, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019). A further objective of the project is to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive (see Section 7).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of four 30m x 1.8m trenches arranged in an 'X' over the mound (Figures. 2 & 3). The trench numbering ran from 1-4 in a clockwise direction from the north-west.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to investigate the extent of the enclosing oval ditch identified by geophysical survey and to further investigate the construction and character of this feature and the mound.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS.
 Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a

- toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. Deposits were assessed for their paleoenvironmental potential, and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Oxfordshire Museum Service (accession number: OXCMS:2022.29), for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Sections 6 and 7 and Appendices B and C. Details of the palaeoenvironmental evidence are given in Section 8 and Appendix D.
- 5.2. The underlying natural geology of the site compromised orange-brown silty gravel, recorded at depths ranging from 0.42m to 0.9m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural substrate was covered by a medium brown-grey, silty clay subsoil. The subsoil was in turn covered by dark brown-grey, silty clay topsoil, ranging in thickness from 0.1-0.13m. The subsoil was not consistent across the site and the topsoil was noted in several places to lie directly atop the natural substrate. The trench depths varied between 0.5-1m bpgl.

5.3. Modern truncations and evidence of ground levelling was present throughout the four trenches, and, where present, sealed or truncated the subsoil. Further descriptions of the modern deposits are to be found in Appendix A.

- 5.4. Trench 1 was excavated on a north-west/south-east alignment, to a depth of 0.5m bpgl. The south-east end of the trench joined with the other trenches. Trench 1 contained several archaeological features, comprising four ditches, three pits and the mound. The trench also contained modern features, comprising ditches 121 and 126, and deposit 125. These modern features are not discussed in detail within this section; further information can be found within Appendix A.
- 5.5. The mound in **Trench 1** was characterised by three composite elements: a shallow cut or depression **119** (grouped with associated activity in other trenches as **131**); basal deposit **120**; and later deposit **128** (Figure 4).
- 5.6. Deposit **120** consisted of a medium, greyish-brown silty clay with rare pebbles, measuring greater than 7.8m in length, greater than 1.8m in width and approximately 0.12m in thickness. The deposit extends into the other three trenches, cumulatively grouped as lower mound deposit **132**. The deposit is truncated by the modern ditch **126** on its north-west side, removing the interface with later deposits **128** and **129**.
- 5.7. Deposit **128** was comprised of medium, yellowish-brown, clayey silt with infrequent pebbles, measuring greater than 2.4m in length, greater than 1.8m in width and 0.26m in thickness. It sealed deposit **120** and was truncated by modern ditch **126** on its north-west side, removing any relationship with deposit **129**. The deposit extends into the other three trenches, cumulatively grouped as upper mound deposit **133**.
- 5.8. Deposit 129 was comprised of mid-brown, clayey silt with infrequent pebbles. It measured greater than 4.3m in length, greater than 1.8m in width and 0.28m in thickness. The deposit has been truncated by ditch 121 on the north-west side and ditch 126 on the south-east side, obscuring the relationship between subsoil 101 to the north-west and deposit 128 to the south-east. and the subsoil is lost. Deposit 129 is grouped as part of 133.
- 5.9. Ditch **103** (Figure 11) was in the northern end of **Trench 1**, on a north-west/south-east alignment. It had a wide, U-shaped profile with a flat base and moderately sloping sides, measuring greater than 8m in length, 0.93m in width and 0.29m in

depth. The ditch extended beyond the sides of the **Trench 1**, possibly reappearing as ditch **205** within **Trench 2**. Ditch **103** contained single fill **104**, comprising brownish-orange clay. It contained 15 sherds of Romano-British pottery and three fragments of animal bone.

- 5.10. Ditch 105 was in the north end of Trench 1 on a north-west/south alignment, curving further towards the west within the trench. The southern end of ditch 105 extended beyond the south-west side of the trench and the north-west end lay adjacent to ditch 103 and pit 111, appearing to be cut by the latter. The relationship between ditch 103 and ditch 105 was not investigated during this stage of works. Ditch 105 contained a single, orange/brown, clay fill 106. This ditch was not excavated, and no finds were recovered from the surface of the fill.
- 5.11. Ditch **107** was located towards the middle of **Trench 1** on a north-east/south-west alignment. The ditch extended beyond the sides of the trench and measured greater than 1.8m in length and 1.1m in width. Ditch **107** contained a single, brown/grey sand/clay fill **108**. The ditch was not excavated, although a sherd of Romano-British greyware was retrieved from the surface of **108**.
- 5.12. Pit **109** was in the north end of **Trench 1**, close to ditch **103**, appearing oval in plan and measuring 0.9m in length and 0.44m in width. Pit **109** contained a single, grey/brown, clay/silt fill, **110**. The pit was not excavated, and no finds were recovered.
- 5.13. Pit 111 was in the north end of Trench 1, near ditches 103 and 105 and possibly cutting the latter. The pit extended eastward from the south-west side of Trench 1, measuring greater than 0.9m in length and 0.44m in width. Pit 111 contained a single, orange/brown, silt/clay fill 112. The pit was not excavated, and no finds were recovered.
- 5.14. Small pit/posthole 113 (Figure 11) was in the middle of Trench 1, just south-east of ditch 107. Pit 113 was sub-circular in plan and had a U-shaped profile, measuring 0.3m in diameter and 0.17m deep. Pit 113 contained a single, dark grey/brown, sand/silt fill, 114. No finds were recovered from the feature.
- 5.15. Pit **115** was in the middle of **Trench 1**, close to ditch **107** and pit **113**. Only a small part of the pit was exposed extending from the south-west side of the trench, measuring greater than 0.2m in length and 0.44m in width. Pit **115** contained a single,

- dark black/brown, silt/clay fill, **116**, containing burnt stones and charcoal. The pit was not excavated.
- 5.16. Ditch terminus **117** (Figure 11), was in the middle of the trench on an east-west alignment. It had a wide, shallow, U-shaped profile, with a flat base and moderately sloping sides. The terminus measured greater than 1.4m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.07m in depth. Ditch **117** contained a single, dark grey/brown silt/sand fill, **118**. No finds were recovered from the feature.
- 5.17. Ditch terminus **123** was located on a north/south alignment, extending beyond the north-east side of **Trench 1**, measuring greater than 1.2m in length and 0.47m in width. It contained a single, brown/grey, silt/clay fill, **124**. The terminus was not excavated, and no finds were recovered.

- 5.18. **Trench 2** was excavated on a north-east/south-west alignment, to a depth of 0.5m bpgl. This trench intersected Trench 11 of the previous evaluation (CA 2015) and, although the footprint of the earlier trench was rediscovered, ditch 1114 from the previous investigation was not (Figure 3). **Trench 2** contained several archaeological features, comprising four ditches, three pits and the mound feature.
- 5.19. The mound in **Trench 2** was characterised by three composite elements: a shallow cut or depression **213** (grouped with associated activity in other trenches as **131**); basal deposit **214**; and later deposit **219** (Figure 8). The mound occupied the southwesternmost 5m of **Trench 2**.
- 5.20. Deposit 214 consisted of mid grey-brown silt and measured greater than 5m in length, greater than 1.8m in width and 0.19m in thickness. The deposit contained a Romano-British copper alloy brooch (Figure 16), five sherds of Romano-British pottery and one fragment of cattle bone. Further skeletal material was identified near to the north-east edge of the deposit and left *in situ*. Deposit 214 was sealed by deposit 219. Deposit 214 extended into the other three trenches, cumulatively grouped as lower mound deposit 132.
- 5.21. Deposit 219 measured greater than 5m in length, greater than 1.8m in width and 0.3m in thickness. It comprised of a medium grey/brown, silt/clay with infrequent pebbles. No finds were recovered. The deposit extended into the other three trenches, cumulatively grouped as upper mound deposit 133.

- 5.22. Ditch 203, located in the middle of Trench 2 on a north-west/south-east alignment, extends beyond the sides of the trench and potentially reappears in Trench 1 as ditch 103. It measured greater than 1.8m in length, 0.9m in width and greater than 0.1m in depth. Ditch 203 contained a single, grey/brown, silt fill, 204. The ditch was left unexcavated, although two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the surface of the fill.
- 5.23. Ditch 205 (Figure 12) was in the north-east end of Trench 2 on a north-west/south-east alignment. It was slightly curvilinear in plan, with a wide, U-shaped profile, moderately steep sides and a concave base. It extends beyond both sides of Trench 2, measuring 1.1m in width and 0.33m in depth. The ditch corresponded with the geophysical anomaly of a potential ring ditch. It contained a single, dark grey/brown, silt/sand fill 206, from which two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered.
- 5.24. Undated, unexcavated feature **217** was identified a north-west/south-east alignment adjacent to the south of ditch **205**. It measured greater than 1.8m in length and 1.1m in width. In plan, it appeared to intersect with ditch **205**, however no relationship was discernible in the excavated section (Figure 12). The feature **217** exhibited at least one fill, containing a skeletal assemblage of possible human origin. These remains were not disturbed further during the evaluation (Figure 12).
- 5.25. Unexcavated feature 207 was located on a north/south alignment in the north end of Trench 2. It continued beyond the north-west edge of the trench and measured greater than 1.2m in length and 0.9m in width. It contained at least one dark grey/brown, silt fill, 208, with fragments of burnt bone. The feature was not excavated due to the possible presence of human remains.
- 5.26. Undated, shallow linear feature 209 (Figure 12) was in the middle of the trench. It had a concave, irregular base and truncated sides, measuring greater than 2.1m in length,0.30m in width and 0.1m in depth. It contained a single, yellow/brown, silt/sand fill210, from which no finds were recovered.
- 5.27. Possible pit 211 was located on a north-east/south-west alignment in the southern end of Trench 2. It measured 2m in length and greater than 0.9m in width, continuing laterally out of the south-east edge of the trench. The feature contains at least one dark grey/brown, silt fill 212, containing burnt bone fragments. The feature was not

- excavated and no relationship with the mound was identifiable within the trench section (Figure 8).
- 5.28. Undated, unexcavated, possible, sub-circular pit **215** was located in the southern end of **Trench 2**, adjacent to pit **211**. It measured 0.5m in length and 0.4m in width. The feature contained at least one dark grey/brown, sand/clay, fill **216**, from the top of which was recovered a single sherd of Romano-British pottery.

- 5.29. Trench 3 was excavated on a north-west/south-east alignment, to a depth of 0.75m bpgl. Trench 3 exhibited clear signs of modern disturbance, comprising deposits 301, 302 and 317, and modern ditches 305, 307, 318, 320, and 322. These modern features are not discussed in detail within this section; further information can be found within Appendix A.
- 5.30. The mound in **Trench 3** was characterised by three composite elements: a shallow cut or depression **311** (grouped with associated activity in other trenches as **131**); basal deposit **312/324**; and later deposit **325** (Figure 4). The mound occupied the north-westernmost 7.8m of **Trench 3**.
- 5.31. Deposit 312 was in the north-west end of Trench 3, comprising of medium grey/brown, silt/clay with rare pebbles. It measured greater than 1.82m in length, greater than 1.8m in width and 0.15m in thickness. The deposit extended into the other three trenches, cumulatively grouped as lower mound deposit 133. Twelve sherds of Romano-British pottery and a single fragment of horse bone were recovered from deposit 312. The deposit is truncated by modern ditch 319 and reappears to the south-east of this feature as 324. Deposit 312 is covered by deposit 325, whereas deposit 324 is covered by subsoil 303.
- 5.32. Deposit **325** was in the northwest-end of **Trench 3**, comprising of medium grey/brown, silt/clay with infrequent pebbles. It measured greater than 1.74m in length, greater than 1.8m in width and 0.27m in thickness. The deposit extended into the other three trenches, cumulatively grouped as upper mound deposit **133**. The deposit is truncated by modern ditch **319** on the south-east side and any relationship with subsoil **303** is lost. The deposit is covered by topsoil **300**.
- 5.33. Ditch **309** (Figure 13) was in the middle of the trench on a north-east/south-west alignment. It had steep sides and a flat base, measuring greater than 1.8m in length,

1.03m in width and 0.32m in depth. The ditch contained single fill **310**, comprising of a medium brown/grey, silty clay, which produced a single Romano-British pottery sherd, a single early medieval sherd and six animal bone fragments. The feature was sealed by subsoil **303**.

5.34. An irregular area of bioturbation **313** was identified within the trench, from which a single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered.

- 5.35. Trench 4 was excavated on a north-east/south-west alignment, to a depth of 1m bpgl. Much of the trench is dominated by modern layers 402 and 413. Modern ditch 411 was identified in the central sections of the trench and an east/west aligned service was identified slightly further to the south-west.
- 5.36. The mound in **Trench 4** was characterised by three composite elements: a shallow cut or depression **409** (grouped with associated activity in other trenches as **131**); basal deposit **410**; and later deposit **401** (Figure 8). The mound occupied the north-easternmost 8.6m of **Trench 4**.
- 5.37. Deposit 410 consisted of medium grey/brown, silt/clay with rare pebbles. It measured greater than 8.6m in length, greater than 1.8m in width and 0.3m in thickness, sealed by later deposit 401 and modern deposit 402. Five sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered. The deposit extended into the other three trenches, cumulatively grouped as lower mound deposit 132.
- 5.38. Deposit 401 consisted of medium grey/brown, silt/clay with infrequent pebbles. It measured greater than 6.2m in length, greater than 1.8m in width and 0.26m in thickness. The deposit extended into the other three trenches, cumulatively grouped as upper mound deposit 133. The deposit is partly covered by modern deposit 402 and partly by topsoil 400.
- 5.39. Unexcavated ditch 405 was at the south-west end of the trench on a north-west/south-east alignment. It is slightly curvilinear in plan and corresponds with the possible ring ditch identified by the geophysical survey. It measured greater than 1.8m in length and 2.7m in width. The ditch contained at least one fill 406, from the top of which a single fragment of horse bone was recovered. The fill was sealed by buried subsoil 403, appearing at a depth of 0.9m bpgl. The buried subsoil was in turn sealed by modern deposits.

5.40. Shallow feature 407 was in the middle of Trench 4. It extended beyond the sides of the trench and had a flat base and gentle sloping sides, measuring greater than 1.8m in length, 3.6m in width and 0.28m in depth. The single fill 408 comprised of yellow/grey silt and produced three sherds of Romano-British pottery and two fragments of ceramic building material.

6. THE FINDS

By E. McSloy and A. Gutiérrez

6.1. Artefactual material was recovered by hand from 19 deposits. This material, predominantly comprising quantities of pottery of Roman date, is listed in Appendix B and summarized below. Recording has been direct to an Excel spreadsheet which forms part of the site archive.

Pottery

- 6.2. Pottery amounting to 63 sherds (736g) was recovered. With the exception of one sherd (5g) of early medieval type, all pottery dates to the Roman period. The assemblage has been recorded to the standard recommended for archaeological material (Barclay *et al.* 2018). The pottery was scanned by deposit group, sorted by fabric and quantified according to sherd count and weight. Vessel form and rim morphology were recorded as appropriate, as were any evidence for use or secondary adaptation. Fabric codes utilized for recording of Roman types match those in widespread use for material of this period (summarized in Booth and Simmonds 2018, 269–274).
- 6.3. Romano-British pottery was recovered from 17 deposits, mainly the fills of ditches (features 103, 107, 121, 203, 217, 309 and 407) and mound deposits (120, 214, 312 and 410). The recovered material is moderately well broken-up, although exhibiting generally low levels of abrasion/surface loss. Much of the assemblage is made up of reduced and oxidised coarsewares of relatively local manufacture. For the most part, the fabrics correspond to types associated with kilns concentrated to the south of Oxford and operating throughout the Roman period (Young 1977). Grog-tempered type E80, which was present in three deposits from **Trenches 1** and **3** (120, 312, 314) may also be of local origin. The origins of this type are in the Late Iron Age, although its use continues as late as the earlier 2nd century AD. Only the single sherd occurring in shell-tempered fabric C11 from deposit 310 (fill of ditch 309) is likely to have non-local origins, probably from the Bedfordshire/Northamptonshire area

- 6.4. A total of nine rim sherds were recorded from among the Romano-British group, seven of which are identifiable as coming from jar forms, probably for storage or cooking. Tableware classes are represented by bowl rims recorded in oxidized fabric O10 from deposit 104 (fill of ditch 103) and mound deposit 410. Both bowl forms correspond to vessels produced at the Oxfordshire kiln sites; that from deposit 104 of a form copying Samian form 31 (Young 1977; Type O41) and that from deposit **410** of segmented type (*ibid*.; Type 39). The dominance of local coarsewares and long-lived, mainly utilitarian, vessel classes limits the usefulness of the assemblage as dating evidence. Elements such as grog-tempered fabric E80 and the bowls described in oxidized fabric O10 are suggestive of earlier Roman dating, no later than the end of the 2nd century AD. An absence of wares common to the later 3rd and 4th centuries, such as Oxfordshire red slipped ware, is also likely to be significant. Only the (abraded) sherd of Roman shell tempered ware from ditch fill 310 is likely of Late Roman dating, this seemingly redeposited, in association with an early medieval sherd.
- 6.5. Pottery post-dating the Roman period was limited to an unfeatured body sherd (5g) in a handmade, organic-tempered fabric, which was recorded from deposit **310** (fill of ditch **309**). The fabric is characterised by burnt-out organic inclusion, probably chaff, visible as common voids in the fabric break and surfaces. Similar fabrics are a common element to early medieval pottery groups of the Thames Valley, with use spanning the later 5th to the 7th or 8th centuries.

Metalwork

6.6. The evaluation produced a single copper-alloy object. This is a brooch with an equal head and foot, and a frontal rectangular central panel which is missing the enamel decoration (Fig. 16). On the back of the brooch, the pin and part of the catch plate are also missing. It belongs to the Continental Plate series, according to Mackreth, who dates the group to the 2nd century (Mackreth 2011, 170, CONT PL 2.c). The type seems to be quite widely dispersed in Britain, but with a southern distribution. The brooch was recovered from mound deposit 214.

Other finds

6.7. Additional ceramic material of Roman type was recorded as small and abraded fragments of brick or tile (12g) from **Trench 4** deposit **408** (fill of ditch **407**). Two joining fragments of fired clay (23g) from the deposit **218** (fill of ditch **217**) probably

- represent part of a ceramic plate of the type common from Roman sites in the area and usually interpreted as oven furniture or lids.
- 6.8. Two different quartzite pebbles, each a half of the original stone, were retained from deposit **312** in **Trench 3**, which consisted of clay and pebbles. The smaller of the two retained stones has been split in half and has a flat surface (57x75mm), oval in shape, smooth but not worn. There are no obvious hammered marks or other working to suggest the split has been man-made, and usage marks are not visible either.
- 6.9. The second pebble also appears to have been split in half, with a similar smooth but not worn surface, but this is further broken at one end. As before, there are no obvious usage or tool marks that might explain the shape and condition of the pebble, which might be due to natural processes.
- 6.10. A single glass fragment from a green glass bottle was recovered from the subsoil **303**. It is part of a base, which is narrow (80mm diameter), with a 'kick up' base and vertical walls. It is likely to date to the later part of the 19th or early 20th centuries.

Summary

6.11. A small quantity of artefactual material was recorded during the evaluation. Most of the material dates to the Roman period, including a copper-alloy brooch of the 2nd century. Pottery was by far the most frequent material, which was found in the infilling of ditches and mound deposits. With the exception of a single Anglo-Saxon sherd (5th–8th centuries), the pottery (62 sherds) consists of Roman wares mainly from sources to the south of Oxford. Much of the Roman pottery is only broadly datable, however most indications of closer dating are in the earlier or middle Roman periods (mid-1st to 2nd or earlier 3rd centuries). Significantly, the pottery and other material relating to the previously poorly dated mound feature are consistently of the Roman period. Other finds are abraded fragments of brick, tile and fired clay. The only glass recovered is modern in date and it derives from the subsoil.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

By Andy Clarke

7.1. Animal bone amounting to 23 fragments (510g) was recovered from ten deposits. Artefactual material dating to the Romano-British and early medieval periods was also recovered (Appendix C). The material was highly fragmented but generally well preserved, making possible the identification of cattle (Bos taurus), sheep/goat (Ovis

aries/Capra hircus), horse (Equus caballus) and dog (Canis familiaris). Where damage was present and re-fitting was possible, those fragments were counted as a single bone.

Romano-British

7.2. A total of 16 fragments (243g) were recovered from eight deposits. Cattle, sheep/goat and horse were represented by three, two and two fragments respectively, with each identified from meat-poor skeletal elements. No damage indicative of butchery practice was observed. Dog was also identified from a partial pelvis, humerus and two metacarpals. Each of these bones were of a similar enough in size and maturity to suggest the partial remains of a single animal.

Early medieval

7.3. Six fragments (104g) were recovered from deposit **310** (fill of ditch **309**). Two were identifiable to species, as fragments of cattle horn core and sheep/goat molar.

Undated

7.4. A single fragment (163g) was recovered from deposit **406** (fill of ditch **405**). It was identifiable as a partial horse metacarpal.

Conclusions

7.5. The low recovery of animal remains severely limits what can be said in terms of site economy and animal husbandry. However, each of the species identified was a commonly exploited domestic animal and their inclusion in an assemblage of either period is to be expected.

8. PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

By Charlotte L. Molloy and Sarah F. Wyles

- 8.1. A single soil sample (16 litres) was taken from mound deposit **214** in **Trench 2** to evaluate the preservation and range of palaeoenvironmental remains at the site and with the intention of providing further information on the character, construction, date and state of preservation of the mound. It was also hoped that this sample would assist with the dating of this feature. This sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 8.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Appendix D, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as

provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals. Molluscs were also present in this sample. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

8.3. The flot was very small in size and contained a high proportion of roots. The preservation of charred plant remains in that flot was poor. The charcoal fragments in the flot were poor and comminuted and therefore not easily diagnostic. The preservation of the mollusc remains was good, albeit in small numbers.

Trench 2

A single bulk sample (sample 1) was taken from the lower mound material 214 in Trench 2. A very small number of charred plant remains were present, including a hulled wheat grain (emmer or spelt (Triticum dicoccum/spelta), and a fescue/rye grass seed (Festuca/Lolium sp.). An equally small amount of charcoal was present. These charred remains, given their concentration in relation to the volume of the soil sample, probably represent dispersed/windblown settlement waste and they do not suggest any settlement activity in the immediate vicinity of this trench. Given the percentage of rooting in the flot, which could indicate a degree of contamination, as well as their small concentration, the charred plant remains do not help with confirming the date of this feature. However, the two species of mollusc present in the flot (Vallonia costata and Vallonia excentrica) were terrestrial species. The presence of these species suggests that the area in the immediate vicinity of this trench was well-established, open countryside.

Summary

8.5. The paleoenvironmental evidence presented here does not provide much further information on the character, construction, date and state of preservation of the mound, although it does suggest that the feature was located away from an area of settlement activity. The mollusc remains suggest that, during the period of use or recent disuse of the feature, the surrounding area comprised well-established, open countryside.

9. DISCUSSION

9.1. The aims of this evaluation were to gain a better understanding of the character of the mound and determine the extent of any recent impacts the mound have experienced during the recent landscaping over the site.

Prehistoric

- 9.2. Earlier phases of evaluation near the recent evaluation have recovered small quantities of prehistoric evidence, principally comprising assemblages of worked flint articles and pottery sherds. More tangibly, an Early Bronze Age miniature bipartite collared urn, suspected to contain cremation remains, was recovered from a small pit slightly to the west of Trench 2.
- 9.3. Despite the previously noted prehistoric presence, no artefacts or features were recovered during the current phase of evaluation, which pre-date the Roman period.

Roman

- 9.4. Remnants of the 'mound' were identified within all four trenches of the evaluation. The lowest 'spatial' phase comprised a shallow scrape or depression in the natural geology, measuring 19.4m along its north-west/south-east axis, 12.8m along its north-east/south-west axis and a maximum of 0.1m deep. Each interpretation carries inherent flaws, namely: if an artificial scrape, why was this undertaken prior to the deposition of material? Or, if a natural depression formed under the weight of the overburden, could the density of such be sufficient to notably compact the natural substrate? Evidence for the latter is given by the gentle gradient of interface between the natural substrate and the lower mound material, absence of lipping at the upper edges and difficulty in reasoning for the former interpretation.
- 9.5. If accepting the gently dipping interface as the result of compression rather than an intentionally formed feature, the lower mound material presents the earliest chronological phase of the feature, measuring up to 0.38m in thickness. A total of 26 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from this deposit, across the four trenches, along with three animal bone fragments and the copper alloy brooch. From this assemblage, this phase of the mound is likely to date to the late 1st or 2nd century AD. This date range correlates with that of the Late Iron Age/Roman settlement identified to the south-west of the mound.
- 9.6. The upper mound deposit, measuring up to 0.3m in thickness, largely sealed the lower mound deposit, although modern interference has likely partly compromised the integrity of latter within **Trenches 1**, **3** and **4**. No artefacts were recovered from the upper mound deposit, although the datable material from the lower mound deposit provides a *terminus post quem*. The determination of the extent of the upper mound material on its north-west/south-east axis is complicated by two factors: 1) the

disturbance by modern ditches on the anticipated extremity interfaces between lower mound deposits 120 and 324, and upper mound deposits 129 and 325, respectively; and the similarity in composition and colour between upper mound deposits 129 and 325, and subsoils 101 and 303, respectively. Were it not for the clear interface exhibited between upper mound deposit 219 and subsoil 201 within Trench 2, and the colour differentiation between upper mound deposit 401 and subsoil 403 within Trench 4, the credibility of the upper mound deposit as a stratigraphic unit distinct from the subsoil might be drawn into question. The date of this deposit, however, remains uncertain and, in the presence of only a single, relatively confident interface, within Trench 2 (that within Trench 4 being disturbed by modern activity), it is not able to be defined with confidence as an archaeologically significant stratum.

- 9.7. It is worth noting that the previous evaluation phase concluded that the mound material overlay the westernmost two ditches of Trench 11 and measured up to 0.75m in thickness, with a topsoil thickness of up to 0.75m and a subsoil thickness of up to 0.55m. Furthermore, no deposit or layer pertaining to the mound material is included within the context table for this trench of the previous report.
- 9.8. The results of the geophysical survey suggested that an incomplete, sub-circular almost elliptical feature may have enclosed the mound. Ditches correlating with these results were identified at the north-eastern and south-western ends of **Trenches 2** and **4**, respectively. Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the single fill of the former, attributing a broadly similar date to the lower mound material. Ditches **107** and **309**, within **Trenches 1** and **3**, respectively, may feasibly relate to other sectors of the same ring ditch, although the geophysical survey results suggest a break in the circuit within this area of **Trench 1** and a linear form of disturbance, possibly a furrow, within this area of **Trench 3**. In support of the interpretation that these four ditch sections relate to the same feature is the recovery of one sherd of Romano-British pottery from the surface of ditch **107** and one sherd from the fill of ditch **309**.
- 9.9. Other features attributed to the Roman period through artefactual analysis comprise ditches **103** and **203**, pits **215** and **407**, and ditch or grave **217**.

Early medieval

9.10. The sole evidence for early medieval activity comprised a single, organic-tempered pottery sherd, broadly dated to Thames Valley pottery groups in use during the later

5th to 8th centuries. This sherd was recovered from ditch **309** along with a sherd of Romano-British pottery and is believed to be an intrusive artefact rather than evidence of an early medieval date for this feature.

9.11. A single, possible Saxon pottery sherd was recovered during the first phase of trenching near to the mound in 1995/96, although this may alternatively have dated to prehistory.

Undated

9.12. Several undated features were recorded, primarily clustered around the north-west end of Trench 1 and spaced throughout Trench 2. Due to the spread of these features and absence of relationships with dated features, it is not possible to confidently correlate dates through stratigraphic analysis. Many were not excavated during the evaluation and may feasibly correlate with the identified phase of Roman activity within the site.

Summary

- 9.13. No above ground evidence for the mound was identifiable at the commencement of the recent phase of evaluation. Deposits beneath the previously noted location of the mound were excavated and recorded at the conjunction of the four recent trenches. Evidence of modern truncation, abutting modern deposits, differences in extent and depth of mound material between the 2015 and most recent phases of investigation, and the absence of above ground earthworks cumulatively suggest that the feature has experienced impacts associated with recent groundworks. In the absence of complete records of the mound prior to this activity taking place, it is not possible to fully comprehend the extent of these impacts.
- 9.14. The nature and purpose of the mound remains equally as elusive. The lower mound material is most likely Roman in date, associated artefacts giving a date range from the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD. Similarly dated artefacts have been recovered from features correlating with elements of the postulated ring ditch and a small number of ditches and pits both within and very likely intersecting the 'ring ditch', which do not necessarily fit with the interpretation of a Romano-British burial mound. Although very rare, Romano-British burial mounds have been recorded in Britain, specifically in Oxfordshire (Booth et al. 2007).
- 9.15. The potential inhumation within **Trench 2** had five sherds of Romano-British pottery and two fragments of fired clay recovered from its upper surface, however, its

relationship with the abutting section of Roman 'ring ditch' is unclear and it is feasible that the artefacts are intrusive into an earlier grave.

- 9.16. The potential evidence for funerary activity, if excusing the mound and ring ditch, comprise the undated (but possibly Roman) inhumation, a possible cremation burial slightly to its south-west, and the earlier recovered Early Bronze Age cremation urn recovered slightly to its south. It is only possible, with the retrieved stratigraphic evidence, to conclude that the mound and these potential funerary features cumulatively pre-date the subsoil. No other stratigraphic relationship is possible to discern at this stage.
- 9.17. Previous investigations have tentatively suggested that the mound may represent the remains of a post-medieval feature, such as a prospect mound, mill mound or rabbit warren (Historic England 2018). Most recently prior to the discussed evaluation, conclusions focussed on interpretation simply as a dump of material of probably early modern date (Kennedy & Massey 2017). In consideration of the available evidence, it is therefore not possible to conclude that the mound represents a funerary monument or that it was associated with nearby funerary activity by design. It is alternatively conceivable that the mound represents a domestic waste dump or deposit associated linked with agricultural activity, with the surrounding ditches relating to a field system worked by the inhabitants of the rural settlement identified slightly to the south-west. Due to the ambiguity of the results, it was not possible to correlate these with the research objectives of the Solent-Thames Research Framework (Fulford 2014).

10. CA PROJECT TEAM

10.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Craig Jones, Steffan Klemenic, Agata Kowalska and Majbritt Trim, assisted by Annabel Searle, Becky Metcalfe, Martha Simms, Gabriella Amos, Charlie Sessions and Adam Nightingale. This report was written by Majbritt Trim, Niomi Edwards and Tony Brown. The finds report was written by Alejandra Gutierrez and Edward McSloy. The biological evidence report was written by Andy Clarke and the paleoenvironmental evidence report was written by Charlotte Molloy and Sarah Wyles. The report illustrations were prepared by Krissy Moore. The project archive has been compiled by Majbritt Trim and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Tony Brown.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretati on	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey-brown, friable, clayey silt, stones.	30	1.7	0.13
1	101	layer		Subsoil	Mid grey-brown, compact, clayey silt, stones.	22	1.7	0.29
1	102	layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown firm silty clay and gravel.	30	1.7	0.08
1	103	cut		Ditch	W/E aligned linear, gentle sloping sides concave towards flat base.	4.5	0.93	0.29
1	104	fill	103	Other Fill	Mid brown-orange, silty clay, compact, stones, minor rooting	4.5	0.93	0.29
1	105	cut		Ditch	Curvilinear, NW/S aligned. Unexcavated	3.3	0.3	
1	106	fill	105	Other Fill	Mid orange-brown firm silty clay and stones.	3.3	0.3	
1	107	cut		Ditch	NE/SW aligned linear, Unexcavated.	1.7	1.1	
1	108	fill	107	Other Fill	Mid brown-grey, compact sandy clay, stones.	1.7	1.1	
1	109	cut		Pit	Sub oval in plan. on a slight NW/SE alignment. Not excavated.	0.9	0.44	
1	110	fill	109	Other Fill	Medium grey brown, clay silt, compact. stones.	0.9	0.44	
1	111	cut		Pit	Sub circular in plan, Unexcavated.	0.97	0.68	
1	112	fill	111	Other Fill	Mid orange-brown, silty clay.	0.97	0.68	
1	113	cut		Posthole	Circular, steep/truncated sides, flat base	0.3	0.3	0.17
1	114	fill	113	Other Fill	Dark grey-brown silty sand, stones.	0.3	0.3	0.17
1	115	cut		Pit	Small pit. Partially covered by bulk. Unexcavated.	0.44	0.2	
1	116	fill	115	Other Fill	Cremated remains? Dark black sandy silt, contains large chunks of charcoal and burnt sandstone	0.44	0.2	
1	117	cut		Ditch	E/W aligned ditch terminus, linear with rounded corners at terminal, truncated sides U-shaped profile.	1.4	0.35	0.07
1	118	fill	117	Other Fill	Dark grey-brown silty sand, friable, occasional stones.	1.4	0.35	0.07
1	119	cut		Other Cut	Mound, subcircular, disturbed by modern truncation.	7.8	1.8	
1	120	fill	119	Other Fill	Bottom mound layer, mid grey-brown, silty clay, friable, rare stones.	7.8	1.8	0.12
1	121	cut		Ditch	Linear NE/SW aligned ditch. Unexcavated.	1.8	1.35	0.32

1	122	fill	121	Other Fill	Mid brown-grey, silty clay. Unexcavated.	1.8	1.35	0.32
1	123	cut		Ditch	N/S aligned ditch terminus. Unexcavated.	1.2	0.47	
1	124	layer	123	Other Layer	Mid brown-grey, silty clay, compact. Unexcavated.	1.2	0.47	
1	125	layer	125	Other Layer	Levelling layer dark grey brown compact clayey silt, occasional chert, rare degraded sandstone of various sizes.	2	1.86	0.36
1	126	cut		Modern	Ditch, NE/SW aligned. Straight sides, sharp break of slope, flat base.	1.54	0.8	
1	127	fill	126	Deliberate Backfill	Mixed loose, brown grey clayey silt, rare chert and rooting.	1.54	0.8	
1	128	layer	133	Other Layer	Subsoil/upper layer of mound. Mid brown- yellow, friable clayey silt, rooting, rare stones.	2.4	1.8	0.26
1	129	layer	133	Other Layer	Subsoil/upper layer of mound. Mid brown, friable clayey silt, rooting, occasional stones.	4.3	1.8	0.28
1	130	Feature		Mound	Mound feature comprising 131, 132, 133	19.4	12.8	0.44
1	131	group	130	Other Cut	Cut of pit/compression in the ground comprising 119, 213, 311, 409	19.4	12.8	0.1
1	132	group	130	Other Layer	Lower deposit of mound, comprising 120, 214, 312, 324, 410	19.4	13.2	0.38
1	133	group	130	Other Layer	Upper deposit of mound, comprising 128, 129, 219, 325, 401	15.4	13	0.30
2	200	layer		Topsoil	Mid to dark grey-brown, friable clayey silt, rooting, stones.	30	1.6	0.1
2	201	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey, friable, clayey silt, rooting, stones.	26.6	1.6	0.34
2	202	layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown, firm, silty clay, gravel	30	1.6	0.06
2	203	cut		Ditch	Linear, E/W aligned. Possibly same as 103. UNEXCAVATED	1.6	0.9	0.1
2	204	fill	203	Other Fill	Dark grey-brown, silty clay, compact, stones, unexcavated	1.6	0.9	0.1
2	205	cut		Ring Ditch	NW/SE aligned linear, moderately steep sides, rounded base.	1.6	1.1	0.33
2	206	fill	205	Other Fill	Dark grey-brown sandy silt, firm, occasional gravel.	1.6	1.1	0.33
2	207	cut		Other Cut	N/S aligned linear rounded terminal, unexcavated.	1.2	0.9	
2	208	fill	207	Other Fill	Dark grey-brown, silty clay, occasional stones, cremated bones.	1.2	0.9	

2	209	cut		Other Cut	Hedgerow, linear, diffuse and truncated.	2.1	0.3	0.1
2	210	fill	209	Other Fill	Mid yellow-brown with grey pocket, sandy silt, firm.	2.1	0.3	0.11
2	211	cut		Pit	Subcircular, unexcavated.	1	0.45	0.06
2	212	fill	211	Other Fill	Dark orange-brown, silty clay, unexcavated.	1	0.45	0.06
2	213	cut		Other Cut	Mound, subcircular, flat irregular base,	4.4	0.3	0.19
2	214	fill	213	Other Fill	Bottom mound layer, mid grey-brown, silty clay, rare stones. Contains bones.	4.4	0.3	0.19
2	215	cut		Pit	Sub circular. Unexcavated.	0.5	0.4	
2	216	fill	215	Other Fill	Dark grey-brown, sandy clay, common stones.	0.5	0.4	
2	217	cut		Ditch	NW/SE aligned, linear. Unexcavated	1.7	1.1	0.1
2	218	fill	217	Other Fill	Medium grey brown, silty clay, common stones, contains human remains.	1.7	1.1	0.1
2	219	layer	133	Other Layer	Upper mound layer/subsoil, mid brown friable clayey silt, rooting, infrequent stones.	5	1.8	0.3
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Mid-dark grey-brown, friable, clayey silt, rooting, stones.	30	1.74	0.12
3	301	layer		Other Layer	Made ground, mid browngrey, firm silty clay, stone.	20	1.74	0.22
3	302	layer		Buried topsoil	Levelling layer, dark greyish brown, compact clayey silt, common stones. Possibly compacted topsoil. 20m into Trench from se end. No finds	20	1.74	0.2
3	303	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-yellow, friable clayey silt, rooting, stones.	17.3	1.74	0.16
3	304	layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown, firm, silty clay, gravel.	30	1.74	0.05
3	305	cut		Modern	NE/SW aligned linear ditch, steep top break of slope with rounded base.	1.74	0.9	0.6
3	306	fill	305	Other Fill	Dark grey silty sand with pockets of brown-orange clay, friable, common gravel.	1.74	0.9	0.6
3	307	cut		Modern	NW/SE aligned, not excavated.	5.6	0.58	
3	308	fill	307	Other Fill	Mid brown-grey, silty clay, friable, infrequent stones.	5.6	0.58	
3	309	cut		Ring ditch	NE/SW aligned linear, concave sides, flat base.	1.8	1.03	0.32
3	310	fill	309	Other Fill	Mid brown-grey, silty clay, friable, infrequent stones.	1.8	1.03	0.32

3	311	cut		Other Cut	Mound, subcircular, flat uneven base.	7	1.8	0.15
3	312	fill	311	Other Fill	Bottom fill of mound, mid grey-brown, silty clay, friable, gravel.	7	1.8	0.15
3	313	cut		Natural Feature	Bioturbation. Irregular in plan, concave sides, irregular base. Tested.	1.57	0.69	0.1
3	314	fill	313	Other Fill	Mid orange-brown, silty clay, friable, stones.	1.57	0.69	0.1
3	315	cut		Natural Feature	Bioturbation. Subcircular in plan, sharp top break of slope with vertical sides, moderate bottom break of slope irregular flat base.	0.37	0.25	0.21
3	316	fill	315	Other Fill	Mid orange-brown, clayey sand, friable, rare stones.	0.37	0.25	0.21
3	317	layer	317	Other Layer	Modern levelling layer, light yellow-grey, silty clay, compact, common gravel.	6.64	1.8	0.32
3	318	cut		Modern	NE/SW aligned linear, steep, vertical sides, imperceptible base.	1.65	1.34	0.6
3	319	fill	318	Secondary Fill	Dark grey-brown, silty clay, friable, occasional stone inclusions.	1.65	1.34	0.6
3	320	cut		Modern	NE/SW aligned linear, steep, vertical sides flat base.	1.6	0.68	0.4
3	321	fill	320	Secondary Fill	Dark brown-grey, silty clay, patches of light yellow-brown sand, compact.	1.6	0.68	0.4
3	322	cut		Modern	NE/SW aligned ditch, linear, steep, vertical sides, flat base.	1.8	0.66	0.72
3	323	fill	322	Deliberate Backfill	Mid yellow grey, silty clay, friable, rare stones.	1.8	0.66	0.72
3	324	fill	311	Deliberate Backfill	Bottom layer of mound. Dark grey-brown clayey silt, friable rare stones.	5.14	1.8	0.12
3	325	layer	133	Other Layer	Upper mound layer/subsoil. Mid browngrey, friable clayey silt, rare stones.	1.76	1.8	0.12
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Mid dark grey-brown clay silt, rooting, stones.	28	1.8	0.12
4	401	layer	409	Other Layer	Upper mound layer/subsoil. Mid orange-grey sandy clay, rare stones.	6.2	1.8	0.26
4	402	layer	402	Other Layer	Levelling layer, dark grey-brown clayey silt, common stones. Possibly a compacted old topsoil.	25	1.8	0.18
4	403	layer		Subsoil	Mid brown-grey friable clayey silt, rooting, occasional stones.	15	1.8	0.06
4	404	layer		Natural	Mid orange-brown firm silty clayey gravel.	28	1.8	0.05

4	405	cut		Ditch	SE/NW aligned linear, gentle break of slope with gradual even sides, not excavated.	1.8	2.7	0.29
4	406	fill	405	Other Fill	Mid yellow-grey, clayey silt, rare stones.	1.8	2.7	0.29
4	407	cut		Ditch	SE/NW aligned linear, gentle break of slope with gradual even sides, flat base	2	3.6	0.28
4	408	fill	407	Other Fill	Mid yellow-grey, clayey silt, rare stones.	2	3.6	0.28
4	409	cut		Other Cut	Mound, subcircular, shallow, gentle sloping sides, flat base.	8.6	1.8	0.1
4	410	fill	409	Other Fill	Bottom mound layer, dark orange-brown, sandy clay, Friable, rare stones.	8.6	1.8	0.3
4	411	cut		Modern	Straight sides, flat base.	2	0.9	0.4
4	412	fill	411	Deliberate Backfill	Mixed pale clay and mid brown sandy clay.		0.9	0.4
4	413	layer	413	Other Layer	Levelling layer, pale yellow grey, clay with brick and rubble.	8	1.8	0.16

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Material	Fabric*	Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Spot-date
104	Roman pottery	R20	Coarse greyware; jar rim x 1	4	212	C2+
	Roman pottery	R10	Fine greyware; jar rim x 1	7	57	
ļ	Roman pottery	R	Micaceous greyware; base	1	31	
ļ	Roman pottery	W20	Coarse whiteware	1	9	
ļ	Roman pottery	Q10	Fine white-slipped ware	1	16	
	Roman pottery	O10	Fine oxidized ware; dish/bowl x 1	1	7	
101	Roman pottery	R20	Sandy greyware	1	5	RB
108	Roman pottery	R20	Sandy greyware	1	2	RB
120	Roman pottery	E80	Coarse grog (with quartz and flint)	1	23	RB
ļ	Roman pottery	R20	Sandy greyware	2	11	
	Roman pottery	O10	Fine oxidized ware; bowl base x 1	1	10	
122	Roman pottery	R10	Fine greyware	1	3	RB
200	Roman pottery	R20	Coarse greyware; jar rim x 1	1	7	RB
201	Roman pottery	R21	Sandy greyware (Oxfordshire); jar rim x	1	15	RB
204	Roman pottery	R21	Sandy greyware (Oxfordshire)	2	10	RB
206	Roman pottery	R20	Coarse greyware	2	21	RB
214	Roman pottery	R10	Fine greyware; abraded	2	5	RB
ļ	Roman pottery	R20	Sandy greyware	2	11	
ļ	Roman pottery	R50	Sandy, black-firing	1	3	
ļ	Metalwork		Brooch (Continental Plate type)	1	6	C2
216	Roman pottery	R20	Coarse greyware	1	14	RB
218	Roman pottery	R50	Sandy, black-firing; carinated jar/bowl x	2	9	LC1-C2
ļ	Roman pottery	R10	Fine greyware	3	9	
ļ	Fired clay	_	'Ceramic plate?'; pebbly fab	2	23	
303	Glass		Modern bottle fragment	1	67	
304	Roman pottery	O10	Fine oxidized ware	1	1	RB
310	Roman pottery	C11	Roman shelly (leached)	1	2	EMSAX
	EMed pottery	_	Chaff tempered	1	5	
312	Roman pottery	E80	Grog-tempered with quartz; jar rim x 1	4	81	LC1-eC2
ļ	Roman pottery	R20	Sandy greyware	5	47	
ļ	Roman pottery	R10	Fine greyware	3	9	
	Stone (pebbles)		Natural?	2	844	
314	Roman pottery	E80	Grog-tempered with quartz	1	22	C1-eC2
408	Roman pottery	R11	Fine greyware (Oxfordshire); dish rim x	1	12	mC2-C4
	Roman pottery	R11	Fine greyware (Oxfordshire); jar rim x 1	1	1	
ļ	Roman pottery	R11	Fine greyware (Oxfordshire); base	1	18	
ļ	CBM	2	Flakes, orange sandy fabric	2	12	
410	Roman pottery	R21	Sandy greyware (Oxfordshire); jar rim x	1	23	LC1-C2
ļ	Roman pottery	R10	Fine greyware	3	8	
Į.	Roman pottery	O10	Fine oxidized ware; bowl rim x 1	1	17	1

^{*}codes equate to types as described by Booth (Booth and Simmonds 2018, 269–274)

APPENDIX C: THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	EQ	Canis	LM	ММ	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
				Ro	mano-Br	itish				
103	104	2				1			3	42
107	108		1						1	2
119	120					1			1	36
	201							1	1	1
205	206		1				1		2	12
213	214	1							1	25
217	218			1	4	1			6	50
311	312			1					1	75
Subto	tal	3	2	2	4	3	1	1	16	243
					Saxon					
309	310	1	1			1	3		6	104
					Undated	i				
405	406			1					1	163
Total		4	3	3	4	4	4	1	23	
Weigh	t	109	15	264	10	99	12	1	510	

BOS = cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; EQ = horse; LM = large size mammal; MM = medium size mammal; Ind - indeterminate

APPENDIX D: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Assessment of the charred plant and mollusc remains

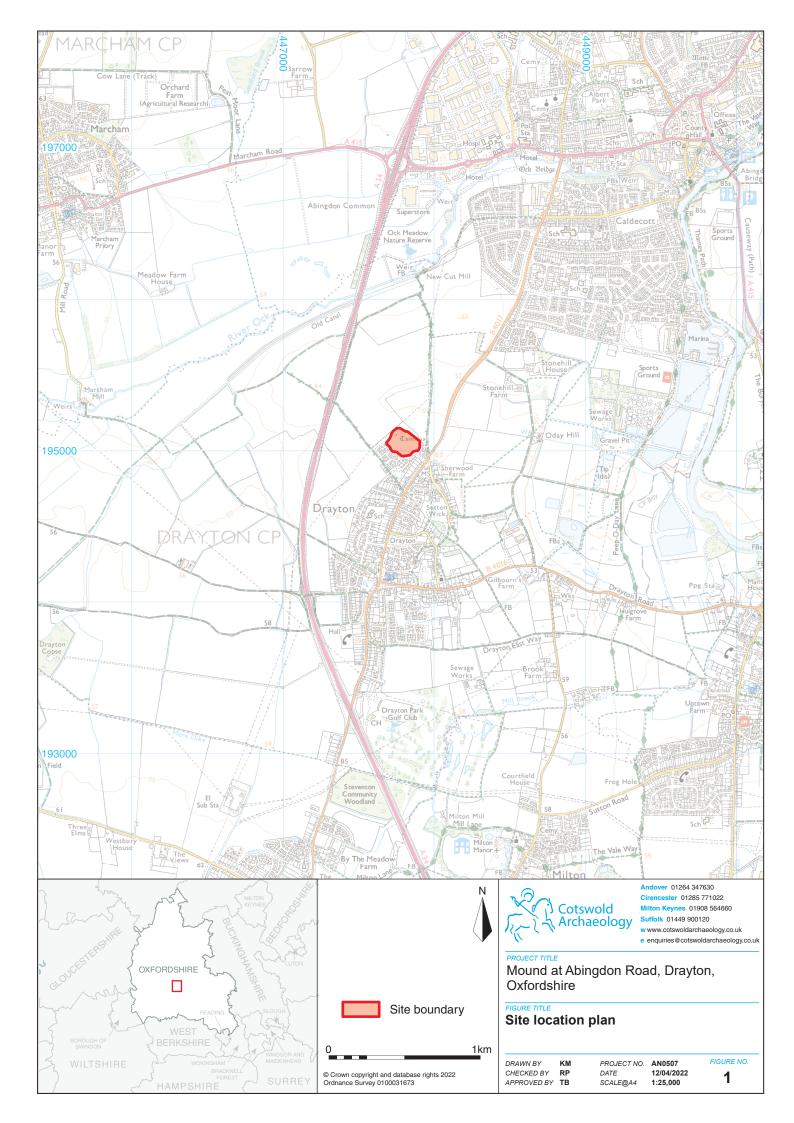
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Root s %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charre d Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoa I > 4/2mm	Molluscs	Mollusc notes
						Trench	2 ?Ror	man Mou	und				
													Vallonia
													costata,
								hulled					Vallonia
								wheat		Lolium/F		Moll- t	excentric
213	214	1	16	8	40	*	-	grain	*	estuca	*/**	(**)	а

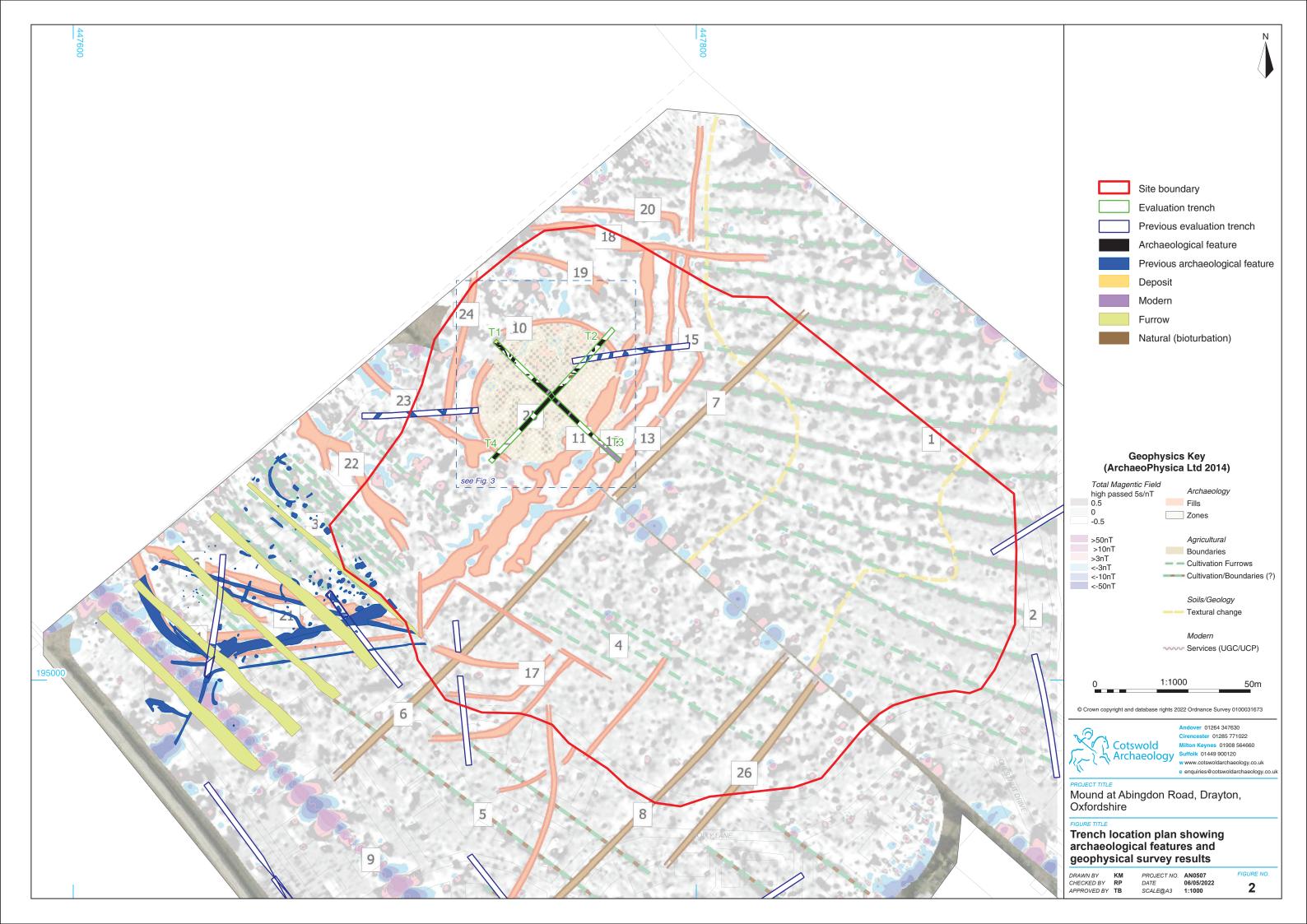
Key: * = 1-4 items; ** = 5-19 items; *** = 20-49 items; **** = 50-99 items; **** = >100 items,

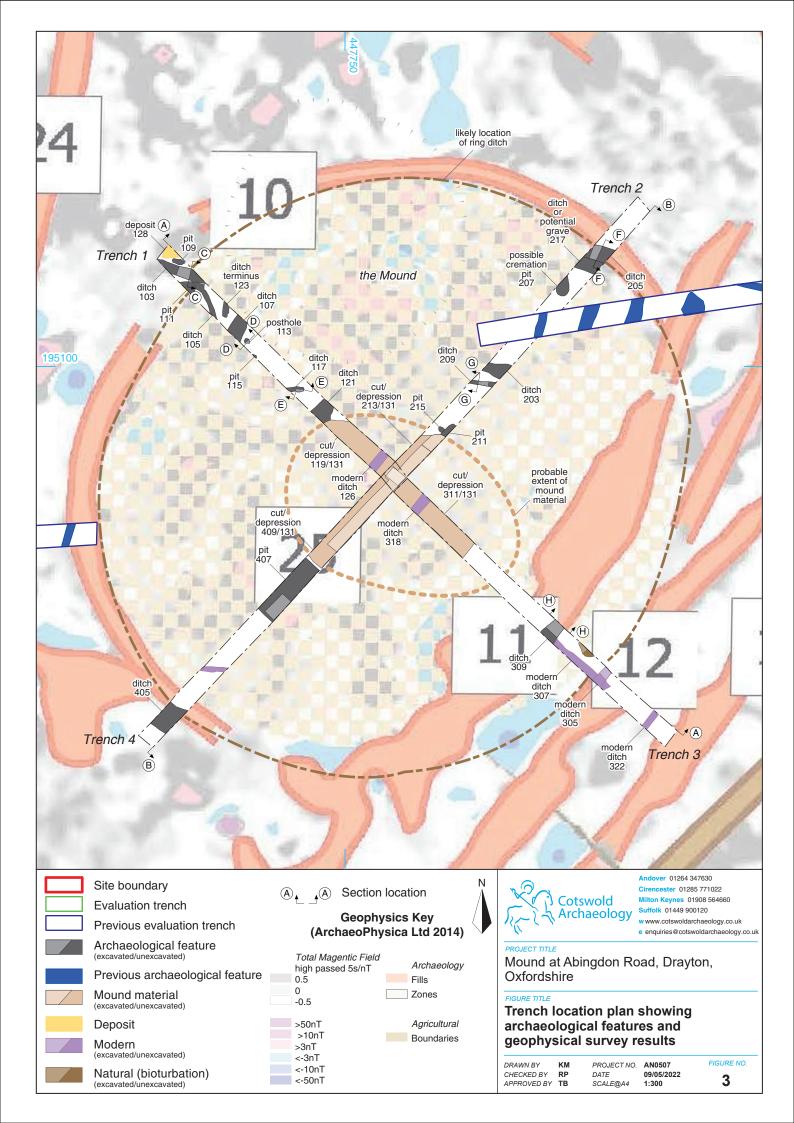
Moll-t = land snails

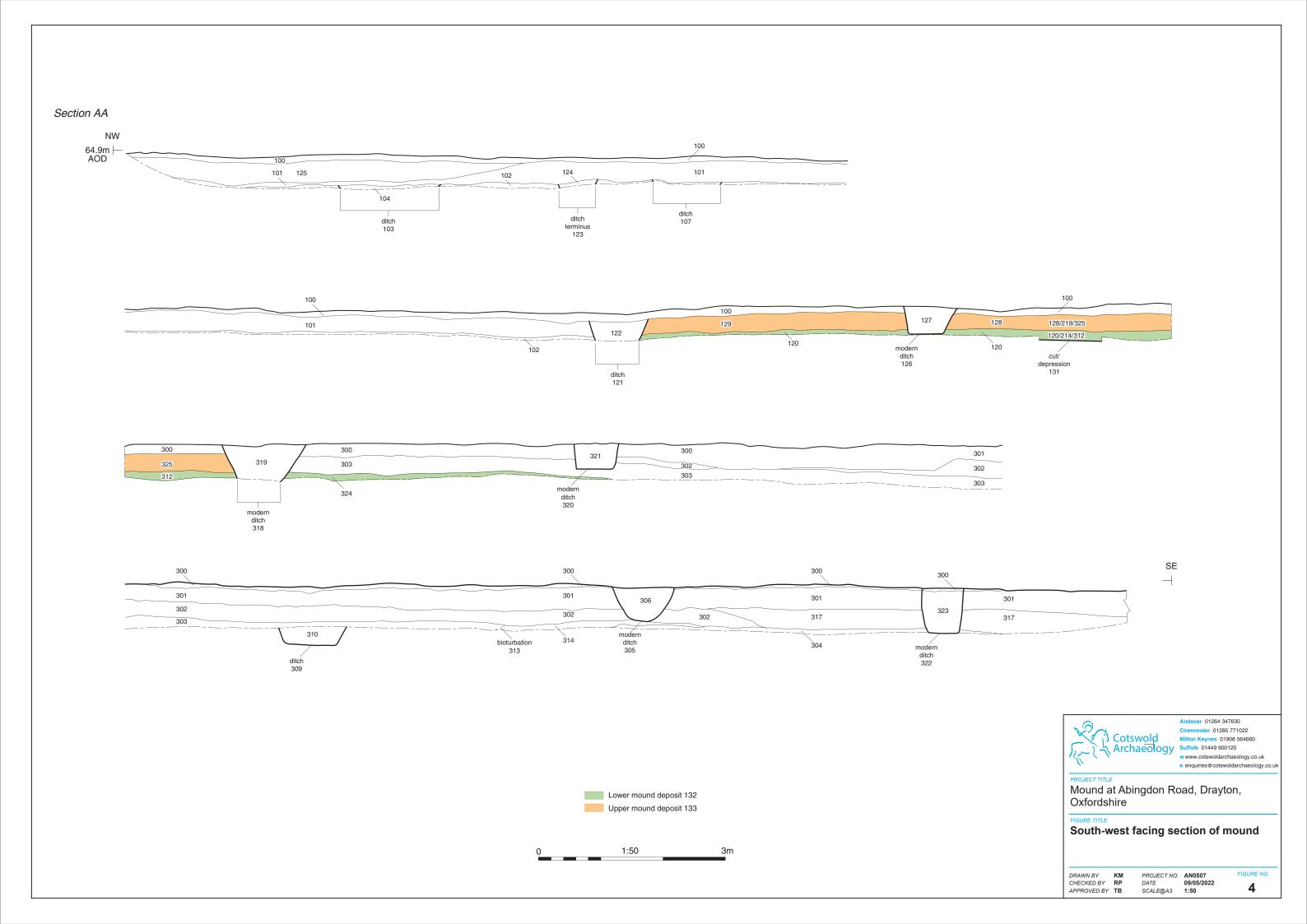
APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

and at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfoluation March 2022, Cotswold Archaeology cauation of a previously noted 'mound' yton, Oxfordshire. A total of four trenches 'mound' only exists below ground level he surface. Roman material was recoved by layers; its upper layer produce haeological significance, therefore, of the bute confidently. Several ditches and pit site, also date to the Roman period, by the surface of the word of	arried out an archaeological feature at Abingdon Road, swere excavated. and no form can be identified ered from the lower of its two dono artefacts at all. The these deposits is difficult to ts, identified elsewhere within out may relate to agricultural associated with a ring ditch burials were identified: one relationship to the truncated ever, was not fully established ed that an Early Bronze Age on during an earlier phase of the concluded. It may represent by design or by accident within or it may equally represent ading deposited domestic ment, with the location of the runcating and abutting the call & Historical Society aeoPhysica Ltd 2014;
March 2022, Cotswold Archaeology cauation of a previously noted 'mound' yton, Oxfordshire. A total of four trenches 'mound' only exists below ground level he surface. Roman material was recoved up layers; its upper layer produce taeological significance, therefore, of the total confidently. Several ditches and pit site, also date to the Roman period, but confidently. Several ditches and pit site, also date to the Roman period, but confidently. Several ditches and pit site, also date to the Roman period, but on the low mound. Two suspected mation and one cremation. Their exact and material and their significance, howeing the evaluation. It should also be not everary urn was found close to this location stigation. Inature of the deposits therefore cannot but of Roman funerary mound, located by vicinity of prehistoric funerary activity cultural enclosure activity surrount te/midden/soil from the adjacent settlentals coincidental. Idean impacts were also identified, the taeological deposits. 28 March 2022 d evaluation Illuation (Abingdon Area Archaeological evaluation Illuation (Abingdon Area Archaeological Geophysics 20 alluation (CA 2015) Eavation (CA 2016)	feature at Abingdon Roads were excavated. and no form can be identified ered from the lower of its two dono artefacts at all. The these deposits is difficult to ts, identified elsewhere within out may relate to agricultura associated with a ring ditch burials were identified: one relationship to the truncated ever, was not fully established at that an Early Bronze Age on during an earlier phase of the concluded. It may represently design or by accident within or it may equally represently design deposited domestic ment, with the location of the runcating and abutting the call & Historical Society aeoPhysica Ltd 2014;
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Trench 1, with ditch 121 in centre of frame, looking north-east (scale 2m)



Trench 1, with ditch 126 to right of centre frame, looking north-east (scale 2m)



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e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Mound at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: photographs

DRAWN BY KM
CHECKED BY RP
APPROVED BY TB

 PROJECT NO.
 AN0507

 DATE
 09/05/2022

 SCALE@A4
 NA

5 & 6



Trench 3, showing truncation by modern ditch 318, looking east (scale 2m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Mound at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3: photograph

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 PROJECT NO.
 AN0507

 DATE
 06/05/2022

 SCALE@A4
 NA

FIGURE NO.

Section BB NE trench collapse trench collapse 65.1m | AOD 200 – 201 201 206 modern disturbance 201 202 ditch 205 ditch or potential grave 217, left undisturbed relationship evaluation trench trench collapse 200 201 201 219/133 bioturbation 201 202 202 213/132 210 202 2 potential human remains, left undisturbed ditch 203 ditch 209 cut/ depression 131 400 400 modern ditch 411 412 401 402 402 410 408 cut/ depression 131 pit 407 SE 400 400 402 402 413 402 413 403 403 406 ditch 405 Andover 01264 347630 Cotswold Archaeology Suffolk 01249 900120 Www.cotswoldarchaeoloe e enquiries@cotswoldarch ster 01285 771022 Milton Keynes 01908 564660 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk Lower mound deposit 132 Upper mound deposit 133 Mound at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Monolith sample Oxfordshire ② Sample number North-west facing section of mound 1:50 DRAWN BY KM CHECKED BY RP APPROVED BY TB PROJECT NO. AN0507 DATE 06/05/2022 SCALE@A3 1:50 8



North-west facing section of mound (Trench 4), looking east (scale 2m)



North-west facing section of mound, north-eastern end (Trench 2), looking south-east (scale 2m)



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PROJECT TITLE

Mound at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

North-west facing section of mound: photographs

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 PROJECT NO.
 AN0507

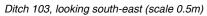
 DATE
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 SCALE@A4
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FIGURE NO.

9 & 10



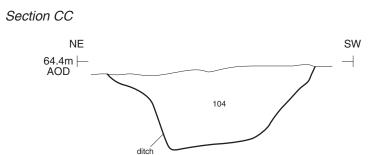


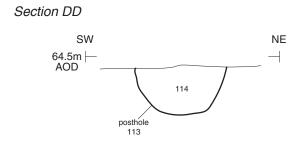


Posthole 113, looking north-west (scale 0.3m)

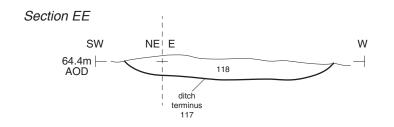


Ditch terminus 117, looking north (scale 0.4m)





1:20





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Mound at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire

Trench 1: photographs and sections

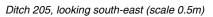
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 PROJECT NO.
 AN0507

 DATE
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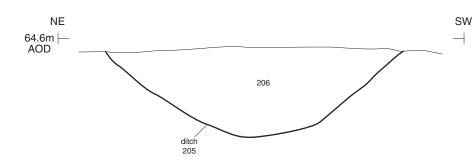
Ditch 209, looking north-west (scale 0.2m)

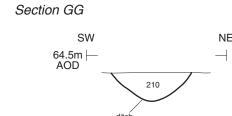
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Ditch 217, human remains, plan view (scale 0.2m)









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Mound at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire

Trench 2: photographs and sections

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 AN0507

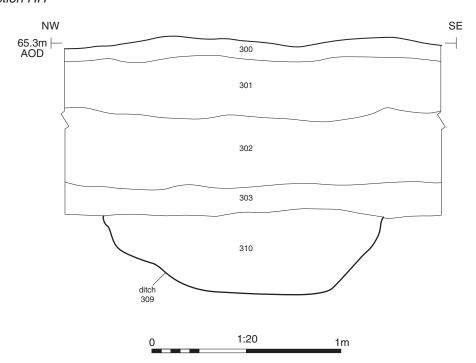
 DATE
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Ditch 309, looking north (scale 1m)

Section HH





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PROJECT TITLE

Mound at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire

Trench 3: Photograph and section

DRAWN BY KM
CHECKED BY RP
APPROVED BY TB

 PROJECT NO.
 AN0507

 DATE
 25/04/2022

 SCALE@A4
 NA

15



Ditch 405, below modern levelling deposits, looking south-east (scale 2m)



Pit 407, looking south-east (scale 2m)



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Trench 4: photographs

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 PROJECT NO.
 AN0507

 DATE
 25/04/2022

 SCALE@A4
 NA

14 & 15





0 1:1 50mm



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Mound at Abingdon Road, Drayton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Copper alloy Romano-British brooch from deposit 214, front view (above) and reverse (below)

DRAWN BY KM
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY TB DRAWN BY

PROJECT NO. AN0507

DATE 06/05/2022

SCALE@A4 NA DATE SCALE@A4

FIGURE NO.



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