

Land South of Banbury Road Chipping Norton Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
EDP

CA Project: CR1424
CA Site Code: BRCN23
CA report: CR1424_2
Accession Number: OXCMS: 2023.48

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land South of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire
Location:	Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire
NGR:	432514 227925
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	23 – 30 June 2023
Planning reference:	23/00536/OUT
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with County Museums Service (Oxfordshire Museums) and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession Number:	OXCMS: 2023.48
Site Code:	BRCN23

In June 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on Land south of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. A total of 20 trenches were excavated across the 5ha site, representing a 2% sample of the proposed development area.

The evaluation results partially confirmed those of a preceding geophysical survey, with the strongest anomalies being identified in the form of ditches and a quarry pit. Weaker anomalies were either not identified as sub-surface features or shown to correspond with localised natural variations in the underlying geology.

Archaeological remains were concentrated in the western parts of the site in trenches 2, 15-17 and 20, although a possible boundary ditch was also encountered in trench 8, near the eastern site boundary.

One broadly north/south aligned field boundary ditch was investigated in trenches 2, 16 and 20, and dated to the medieval period, or later, by the presence of two worn and abraded sherds of 12th – 14th century pottery. An undated north-east/south-west aligned gully in trench 17 appeared to run towards this larger ditch although no clear evidence was recovered to determine whether the two features were in fact contemporary.

A north-west/south-east aligned ditch encountered in trench 8 did not contain any finds, although the feature may be contemporary with the ditch seen running across trenches 2, 16, and 20, possibly forming part of a larger field system.

A large quarry pit was encountered in trench 15, from which a large assemblage of post-medieval/modern finds including pottery, iron nails, and a variety of glass fragments were recovered, dating the backfill deposits to the late 18th to 20th centuries.

The lack of any other features suggests that the site has over time primarily been utilised for agricultural purposes and, more recently, localised stone/ mineral extraction.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In June 2023, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on Land south of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire (centred at NGR: 432514 227925; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for EDP.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for *up to 90 residential dwellings, including up to 40% affordable housing, creation of new vehicular access off Banbury Road and provision of public open space with associated landscape planting with associated infrastructure, drainage measures, earthworks and all other associated works*, which has been made to West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC; planning ref. 23/00536/OUT). Comments provided by Richard Oram, Lead Archaeologist at the Oxfordshire County Archaeology Service (hereafter OCAS), acting as the archaeological advisor to WODC, highlighted the location of the site within an area of considerable archaeological potential (see *Archaeological Background*, below). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Brief produced by OCAS (OCAS 2023), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2023) and approved by OCAS.
- 1.3. The evaluation was also undertaken in line with the *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

- 1.4. The proposed development site is approximately 5ha in extent, and is located on the southern side of Banbury Road, c.1km to the east of the centre of the settlement of Chipping Norton. The site currently comprises an arable field and adjacent shelter belt/area of paddocks along its northern edge. It is bounded to the north by Banbury Road, to the west by the grounds of the Chipping Norton Cricket Club, and to the south and east by agricultural land. The northern portion of the site lies at approximately 230m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), sloping gently downwards to 227m aOD in the south.
- 1.5. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as ooidal limestone of the Chipping Norton Limestone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed between

168.3 and 166.1 million years ago during the Jurassic period (BGS 2023). No superficial deposits are recorded for the area.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The archaeological background of the site has been previously presented in detail as part of a desk-based Archaeology and Heritage Assessment (EDP 2023). A geophysical survey has also been carried out within the site (Sumo 2023). The following text is summarised from these sources.

Prehistoric

2.2. The Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (OHER) includes no records from the prehistoric period within the site. Evidence for the period is however relatively well represented across the wider area, including several records of Bronze Age barrows.

2.3. The most notable is the Scheduled Over Norton bowl barrow 150m north-west of the intersection between the A361 and the A34(T) (NHLE ref. 1009431) located c.220m to the east of the site. The HE listing describes the monument as: *“a Bronze Age bowl barrow situated 150m north west of the intersection between the A361 and the A34(T). The barrow mound measures 22m in diameter and stands up to 1.2m high. It was constructed of dry stone rubble and earth. Surrounding the mound, but no longer visible at ground level, is a quarry ditch from which material was obtained during its construction. This will survive as a buried feature c.2.5m wide. The barrow was, until the 1960's, within the open parkland of Over Norton Park. The barrow had been incorporated as a feature within the landscaping of the park and was known as ‘Druid's Barrow’ in the 19th century”*. A disk barrow/tumulus (MOX3327) has been recorded c.350m to the north-west of the site near a place called Chapel-on-the Heath. The monument was ditched with a small tump in the centre and the OHER records it as having been destroyed. A possible barrow, with surface trace and possibly associated stonework is recorded c.530m to the north of the site (MOX3266). This monument has not been investigated as yet. Two further possible barrows (MOX3348) are located c.570m to the north-east of the site and noted on aerial photographs, but with only one being visible as a ring ditch. This monument has not been investigated to date.

Roman

2.4. The route of a Roman road, running from Over Norton to Warmington, is recorded c.40m to the north of the site (MOX280; MOX28029). The feature was recorded by

Historic England and the OHER does not provide further details on this. It is not known if excavations along this route have been undertaken to confirm its dating.

- 2.5. An extensive collection of finds, uncovered over a 25-year period of fieldwalking c.880m to the south of the site (MOX23833; MOX24031), is believed to be related to a Roman settlement site, shrine or villa. The finds predominantly consist of Roman material (i.e., coins, pottery and a brooch) spanning 1st to 4th century. The British Museum has interpreted these finds as coming from a probable Roman shrine, recorded approximately 900m south of the development site. A Roman carved stone head has also been found in this area.
- 2.6. Recent geophysical survey and trenched evaluation recorded that a substantial Roman settlement survives 1km to the south-west of the proposed development. The settlement site covers an area of c.20ha and consists of a nucleated settlement with metalled roads, stone-built buildings, and boundary walls. A cemetery was identified from the evaluation and a larger cemetery is indicated by the geophysical survey. Artefacts identified at the site indicate that the people were of high status and one building has been identified as a probable temple.
- 2.7. The main roughly north/south aligned road through the settlement can be seen on the geophysical survey to continue towards this proposed development. If this Roman road continues it is likely to pass through or very close to this proposed development. A 2009 aerial photograph does show two linear features on a similar alignment to this roadway close to the projected line 300m north of the proposed development and a slight earthwork can be seen within them on Lidar. If this does relate to this roadway, then this would suggest that it passes immediately west of the development site.

Early medieval, medieval, and post-medieval

- 2.8. There are no known remains relating to the early medieval and medieval periods documented within the site. The OHER does record a known post-medieval feature recorded within the site, which is discussed below.
- 2.9. The evidence for these periods within the wider area is substantial and mostly relates to agricultural activities since the area remained mostly rural throughout these periods, with most of the settlement activity being focused around Chipping Norton to the north or in scattered farmsteads.

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- 2.10. The resource for the early medieval period is very scant and comprises solely the findspot of an Anglo-Saxon iron spearhead, picked after ploughing, is recorded c.930m to the southwest of the site (MOX3329).
- 2.11. Chipping Norton derives its name from the Old English “market north town”, with Chipping (from Old English *cēping*) meaning "market". The settlement was recorded in the Domesday Book with a recorded population of 53 households. The town flourished due to the wool trade and, was presumably established before c.1210 when the name Chipping (or ‘market’) Norton is documented. Modern writers have suggested William Fitzalan (d. 1210) as founder, either c.1204 when he obtained the right to hold an annual fair there, or at an earlier date in the mid to late 12th century.
- 2.12. The site of the medieval St John’s priory and fishpond is recorded c.920m to the east of the site (MOX3295). The priory of Cold Norton was founded by Avelina the daughter of Ernulf de Hesding, lord of the manor of Norton in 1086 in the days of Robert bishop of Lincoln (VCH 19398; GCC 2012). The priory was surrendered into the King’s ownership in 1507 when the prior and sole inmate passed. The associated Cold Norton medieval settlement has been recorded c.750m to the east of the site (MOX3299), however, no trace of earthworks for the DMV (deserted medieval village) are now visible (Beresford 1954; VCH 1907).
- 2.13. A field boundary, visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs has been tentatively dated as medieval and is recorded c.200m east of the site (MOX24648). The field boundary is defined by an L-shaped bank (GCC 2012).
- 2.14. Several blocks of almost continuous medieval and or post-medieval ridge and furrow, visible on aerial photographs of 1946/7 (GCC 2012), are recorded c.510m to the north-west of the site (MOX27724) and continue towards the north-west/west. These have been levelled off more recently and are not visible on current satellite imagery.
- 2.15. Possible medieval to post-medieval bank and ditch, and likely associated with Norton Park, were recorded c.810m to the north-west of the site (MOX3355). The feature was revealed in a service trench and no other information is available.
- 2.16. The town continued to prosper in the 18th century when many of the buildings surrounding the marketplace were rebuilt in a classical Georgian style.

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- 2.17. A moderate quantity of late 19th early/mid-20th century glass bottles (MOX26923), many of which were produced for local beverage companies, was recovered from topsoil deposits within a watching brief area (EOX6057) which revealed no archaeological features. These finds are derived from the adjacent quarry's use as a refuse dump prior to the 1950s (WA 2016).
- 2.18. A 19th century milestone is recorded within the site (MOX3325). The OHER references a plate with an inscription. This was not located during the site visit, but the vegetation of the boundary of the site may have obscured its actual location. Other milestones are recorded c.450m to the south (MOX3322).
- 2.19. The site was located within the agricultural hinterland of the medieval and later town of Chipping Norton and formed part of the associated landholdings of a number of former farmsteads. LiDAR analysis (EDP 2023) show substantial modern ploughing activity on all of the site as well as some faint remains of since removed field boundaries.
- 2.20. Post-medieval settlement activity within the vicinity of the site was focused on known farmsteads (which either survive today or are recorded on cartographic sources) and on the settlements of Chipping Norton and Over Norton, and the potential for hitherto unrecorded medieval to post-medieval settlement (or other non-agricultural activity) within the site is considered to be low. The extensive modern ploughing of the site, with the undeniable possibility of substantial disturbance of the higher archaeological horizons means that any previously unrecorded archaeological remains may have been affected or even truncated.

Modern

- 2.21. The OHER records no known remains relating to the modern period within the site. Evidence for the modern period within the surrounding area comprises features which are associated with World War II, including the sites of Second World War ammunition or bomb storages c.350m to the south (MOX24645), c.320m (MOX24644) and c.600m (MOX24642) to the east of the site. The ammunition storages would have been associated with an Ordnance Depot, probably that based at nearby Kingham (GCC 2012). The site of a Second World War military camp was recorded c.460m to the north of the site (MOX24767, within Over Norton Park, now the site of Over Norton Piggery).

Geophysical survey

- 2.22. A magnetometer survey carried out within the site (Sumo 2023) recorded several responses that were interpreted as being of archaeological interest. Two discrete ditch-like responses, linear trends and a large amorphous pit-like anomaly were detected by the survey and interpreted as possibly archaeological in origin. The pit-like anomaly was noted to correspond with a depression that is visible on the LiDAR data plot.
- 2.23. Numerous smaller pit-like anomalies, linear trends, and zones of increased response of unclear origin were identified across the site. The possible pits appeared to be concentrated in the west, perhaps bounded by one of the ditches, suggesting a possible archaeological origin. However, given the limestone geology, the recorded anomalies were thought to more likely be a result of localised natural magnetic variations.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable WODC, as advised by the OCAS, to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, 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. This process is in line with policies contained in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021). A further objective of the project was to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive (see Section 7).
- 3.2. The results of the evaluation have been assessed with reference to the *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas* (Hey & Hind 2014), however no meaningful contributions can be made to any research objectives due to the low levels of archaeological features encountered.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 20no. 30m by 1.8m trenches in the locations shown on Figure 2, representing a 2% sample of the site area. The

trenches were located to investigate anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, to test the blank areas in the survey results and as a means of prospection for remains of a type or period that may not respond to geophysical survey. A contingency for an additional 2% site sample was held in reserve, but in discussion with the OCAS a decision was made on the basis of the initial trenching results not to open any additional trenches.

- 4.2. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS and scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and genny equipment, in accordance with the *CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.
- 4.3. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeo-environmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling, as features were either dated to the post-medieval period through finds, or contained only fills resulting from abandonment. Such fills are not considered sufficiently stratigraphically secure, as charred inclusions are likely to be residual from nearby older activity whose source may not be verifiable.
- 4.6. CA will make arrangements with County Museum Resource Centre (Oxfordshire Museums) for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. CA is currently preparing a transfer of title document for this purpose, which will be signed by the landowner and submitted to the museum together with the site archive. 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* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), and the relevant Oxfordshire Museums guidance (County Museums Service 1995). The Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record will be provided with details of archive deposition.

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- 4.7. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, 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, and details of the artefactual material recovered from the site can be found in Section 6 and Appendix B.

- 5.2. Of the 20 excavated trenches, only five contained archaeological features and these are discussed below. No features of any type or period were encountered in trenches 1, 3, 5 - 7, 9 - 14 and 18 – 20 and these will not be discussed in any further detail as part of this report. A selection of photographs of blank trenches and representative trench sections are presented in Figures 3 and 4.

- 5.3. The natural substrate across the site comprised light grey brown and red brown sandy clay with frequent bands of limestone. This was overlain by subsoil deposits of mid red brown sandy clay, measuring around 0.2m thick. All trenches were sealed by a layer of topsoil measuring around 0.25m thick, comprising dark brown sandy clay.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, 5)

- 5.4. A north/south aligned ditch (203) was investigated in the western part of the trench, measuring 1.20m wide and 0.19m deep, with moderately sloped concave sides and a flat base. The feature contained a single fill (204) of mid-greyish brown sandy clay which produced a sherd of glazed Brill/Boarstall-type pottery dating to the late 12th to 14th centuries. This feature corresponded with a geophysical anomaly and was observed to continue to the south in trenches 16 and 20.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2, 6)

- 5.5. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 803 was investigated in the central part of trench, matching a linear geophysical anomaly, and measured 2.15m wide and 0.5 deep, with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single fill (804) of mid orange brown sandy clay which contained no finds.

Trench 15 (Fig. 2, 7-8)

- 5.6. One large quarry pit 1503/1506 matching a discrete geophysical anomaly was investigated in the central portion of the trench, measuring 8.58m wide, and in excess of 1.2m deep with moderately steep sides; the base of the feature was not exposed

due to safety considerations. The feature contained a sterile lower deposit 1504 of mid grey brown sandy clay possibly formed through deliberate deposition of backfill material or erosion due to disuse. This was overlain by an upper deposit 1505/1507 of mid grey brown sandy clay which produced three sherds of post-medieval pottery dating to the mid-18th to 20th centuries, as well as brick/tile fragments, a copper-alloy shoe buckle, iron nails and industrial waste, and variety of glass fragments derived from bottles and window panes. This deposit likely represents deliberate backfill material.

Trench 16 (Fig. 2, 9)

- 5.7. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 1603 was investigated in the western part of trench, matching a linear geophysical anomaly and representing the continuation of ditch 203 in trench 2 and ditch 2003 in trench 20. The ditch measured 1.4m wide and 0.33m deep, with moderately sloped concave sides and a flat base, and contained a single fill 1604 of mid grey brown sandy clay which produced a sherd of glazed Brill/Boarstall-type pottery dating to the late 12th to early 14th centuries.

Trench 17 (Fig. 2, 10)

- 5.8. A north-east/ south-west aligned gully, 1703, was encountered near the south-western end of trench 17, measuring 0.44m wide and 0.1m deep, with gently sloped concave sides and a concave base. The feature contained a single sterile fill, 1704, of mid red brown sandy clay. This feature was not identified during the preceding geophysical survey but may be contemporary with the north/south aligned ditch recorded across trenches 1, 16 and 20, possibly representing a drainage channel or smaller scale field division boundary connecting to the larger boundary ditch to the east.

Trench 20 (Fig. 2, 11)

- 5.9. A north/south aligned ditch 2003 was investigated in the western part of the trench, matching a geophysical anomaly and representing a continuation of ditches 203 in trench 2 and 1603 in trench 16. The feature measured 0.85 wide and 0.23 deep, with steep sides and a flat base, and contained a lower deposit 2004 of mid orange brown sandy clay. This was overlain by an upper deposit 2005 comprising mid grey brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered from the feature.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. The artefactual material was recorded from five deposits: the fills of two ditches, two pits, the subsoil of trench nine, and as an unstratified find (Appendix B). The material was recovered by hand and was recorded in accordance with the ClfA finds Toolkit (ClfA 2023).

Pottery by Laura Pearson

- 6.2. The pottery from the evaluation has been recorded direct to an Excel spreadsheet from which Appendix B (Table 1) is derived. This forms part of the project archive. The assemblage was examined by context, using a x10 stereo microscope and quantified according to sherd count and weight per fabric type. The fabrics are described in summary (Table 2) in accordance with national guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016). A concordance with the Oxfordshire medieval and post-medieval fabric series has been provided where possible (Cotter *unpublished*).
- 6.3. The assemblage comprises five sherds, weighing 11g. The condition of the material is poor; the fractures and surfaces are heavily abraded. The mean sherd weight of 2.2g is low for a medieval/post-medieval assemblage.

Medieval

- 6.4. Two sherds (5g) of glazed Brill/Boarstall-type wares (BRIL) were recorded from ditches 203 and 1603. They were likely manufactured at kiln sites in the region of the Buckinghamshire villages of Brill and Boarstall, 36km south-east of Chipping Norton, and date to the late 12th to 14th centuries (Mellor 1994).

Post-medieval/modern

- 6.5. Two sherds (4g) of post-medieval Creamware (CRW) were recorded from pit 1503. Creamware was produced in Staffordshire between c. 1730-1760. A small rim sherd (1g) of transfer-printed earthenware (TPE), from pit 1503, dates to the late 18th to 20th centuries.

Summary

- 6.6. Based on the limited evidence available it is reasonable to conclude that there was activity in vicinity of the site during the medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. Due to the small size of the assemblage and scarcity of diagnostic sherds it is not possible to provide further meaningful commentary.

Ceramic building material by Laura Pearson

- 6.7. A single fragment (20g) of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from pit 1503. It is a fragment of tile or brick in a hard fired oxidised fine sandy fabric with clay pellets and calcareous inclusions (fscpc). A post-medieval/modern date is most likely, based on its fabric, characteristics of firing and thickness ($\geq 16\text{mm}$).

Glass by Laura Pearson

- 6.8. One fragment (7g) of green bottle glass was recovered from pit 1503. The glass fragment is in poor condition and lacks diagnostic features. Pit 1503 also contained two fragments (3g) of colourless window glass and a fragment (3g) of blue-green glass. They are most likely post-medieval or modern in date.

Metalwork by Laura Pearson

- 6.9. Four copper alloy objects (21g) and five fragments of iron (21g) were recorded. The earliest object is a copper alloy oval double-loop buckle from pit 1503. The frame (30mm by 20mm) is misshapen and fractured; the pin measures 22mm. Similar examples from the Isle of Wight and Gloucestershire are dated to the mid-14th to mid-17th centuries (PAS 2023a, PAS 2023b). A rectangular buckle frame with a central bar was recovered as an unstratified find. It is likely a shoe buckle, measuring 32mm by 20mm, although the pin is missing. A similar buckle, dating to c. 1660-1720, was recovered from East Sussex (PAS 2023b). A copper alloy coin and button were found in the subsoil of trench 9. The former is a highly abraded halfpenny (22mm diam., 4g), which is broadly dated to the 18th or earlier 19th centuries and is possibly an issue of George III (1760–1820). The decorated copper alloy button (6g) measures 23mm in diameter. Its shank is damaged and there are traces of silvering or tinning on the outer surface. It is engraved with a flower design and similar buttons are illustrated by Bailey (2016, 41, Fig. 9.7). Occasionally referred to as “dandy” or “tombac” buttons because of the large size and high zinc content, this civilian dress button most likely dates to the 18th century. Five fragments (21g) of iron were recovered from pits 1503 and 1506. The fragments are small, square shafted iron nails which were most likely handmade and pre-date the industrial era. The nails are heavily encrusted and corroded.

Industrial Waste by Laura Pearson

- 6.10. Four fragments of industrial waste (50g) were recovered from ditch 203 and pit 1503. They do not exhibit any non-diagnostic features but are most likely the result of ironworking.

Further work and selection strategy by Laura Pearson

- 6.11. The finds have been recorded in sufficient detail at this stage and no further work is required. The artefactual material has the potential for further analysis, as part of a larger assemblage resulting from any additional archaeological works at this location, and the pottery and copper alloy objects are recommended for long-term curation. The iron nails should be retained in the short-term and a decision made on their retention considering any further works that may be carried out at the site. The remainder of the material (CBM, glass and industrial waste) is not recommended for long-term curation.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. The evaluation results partially confirmed those of the preceding geophysical survey, with the strongest linear and a large, strong discrete anomaly being identified as the remains of ditches and a quarry pit. The weaker anomalies were either not identified as sub-surface features or shown to correspond with localised natural variations.
- 7.2. Archaeological remains were concentrated in the western area of the site in trenches 2, 15- 17 and 20, although one large ditch, probably formerly demarcating a field boundary, was also encountered in trench 8. The feature is not depicted on historic maps of the area.
- 7.3. One broadly north/south aligned medieval or later field boundary ditch was investigated in trenches 2, 16 and 20. The feature produced two sherds of Brill/Boarstall-type ware (BRIL), manufactured at kiln sites in the region of the Buckinghamshire villages of Brill and Boarstall between the late 12th to early 14th centuries. The feature does not appear as a field boundary on any historic mapping of the area, although it is possible that it may represent an earlier iteration of the current parish boundary which runs parallel to it c.30m to the east. An undated north-east/south-west aligned gully in trench 17 to the west appeared to run towards the larger ditch, although no clear evidence was recovered to determine whether the two features were in fact contemporary.

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- 7.4. The north-west/south-east aligned ditch encountered in trench 8 did not contain any dating evidence although it is possible that the feature may be contemporary with the ditch seen across trenches 2, 16, and 20, possibly forming part of a larger-scale field system complex.
- 7.5. A large quarry pit was investigated in trench 15, and a large assemblage of post-medieval/modern finds including pottery, iron nails, and a variety of glass fragments were recovered, dating the backfill deposits to the late 18th to 20th centuries.
- 7.6. No other features were encountered, suggesting that the site was exclusively utilised for agricultural purposes and localised extraction of stone/ mineral resources.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Joao Heitor, assisted by Jack Jones, Sam Cross, Rory Bateman and Trudy Craig. This report was written by Joao Heitor. The finds reports were written by Laura Pearson. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Molly Agnew-Henshaw. The project was managed for CA by Anna Wolf and Adrian Scruby.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench #	Context	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.26	
1	101	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.18	
1	102	layer		Natural	Compact light grey, brown sandy and gravel		1.8		
1	103	cut		Natural Feature	Tural with oval and vertical	2.39	2.3	0.6	
1	104	fill	103	Other Fill	Compact mid brown silty clay 25% limestone brash inclusions	1.8	2.3	0.6	
2	200	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.2	
2	201	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.1	
2	202	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
2	203	cut		Ditch	Linear N-S with moderate concaved-sides and flat base	1	1.2	0.19	
2	204	fill	203	Secondary Fill	Compact brown sand clay 10% ironstone brash inclusions good horizon clarity	1	1.2	0.19	LC12-EC14
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.25	
3	301	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.15	
3	302	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.25	
4	401	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.17	
4	402	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
5	500	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.25	
5	501	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.13	
5	502	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
6	600	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.25	
6	601	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.35	
6	602	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
7	700	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.25	
7	701	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.25	

7	702	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
8	800	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.26	
8	801	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.23	
8	802	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
8	803	cut		Ditch	Running NE-SE linear with gently sloping sides and concave base	1	2.15	0.5	
8	804	fill	803	Primary Fill	Friable light-mid orange, brown sandy clay 5% angular limestone inclusions 10-50mm	1	2.15	0.5	
9	900	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.2	
9	901	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.22	
9	902	layer		Natural	Compact light grey, brown sandy and gravel		1.8		
10	1000	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.25	
10	1001	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.2	
10	1002	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
11	1100	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.22	
11	1101	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.2	
11	1102	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
12	1200	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.25	
12	1201	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.12	
12	1202	layer		Natural	Compact light grey, brown sandy and gravel		1.8		
13	1300	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.25	
13	1301	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.13	
13	1302	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
14	1400	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.25	
14	1401	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.1	
14	1402	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
15	1500	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.4	
15	1501	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.15	

15	1502	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
15	1503	cut		Pit	With and oval		2.4	1.09	
15	1504	fill	1503	Secondary Fill	Compact mid brown silty clay		1.99	0.37	
15	1505	fill	1503	Secondary Fill	Compact mid brown silty clay		2.4	0.57	C18-C20
15	1506	cut		Pit	With and oval		2.42	0.56	
15	1507	fill	1506	Secondary Fill	Compact mid brown silty clay		2.42	0.56	
16	1600	layer		Topsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.25	
16	1601	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.05	
16	1602	layer		Natural	Compact light grey, brown sandy and gravel		1.8		
16	1603	cut		Ditch	N-S Linear with moderate concave sides and concaved base	0.5	1.4	0.33	
16	1604	fill	1603	Secondary Fill	Compact mid brown sandy clay 25% limestone brash inclusions	0.5	1.4	0.33	LC12-EC14
17	1700	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.17	
17	1701	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.1	
17	1702	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
17	1703	cut		Ditch	NE-NW linear with concave side and concave base	3	0.44	0.1	
17	1704	fill	1703	Secondary Fill	Compact Mid red brown sandy clay frequent sub angular limestone varying of sizes	1	0.44	0.1	
18	1800	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.2	
18	1801	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.1	
18	1802	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
18	1803	cut		Natural Feature	Irregular moderate concave sides uneven base		1.2	0.42	
18	1804	fill		Other Fill	Compact mid brown silty clay		1.2	0.42	
19	1900	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.2	
19	1901	layer		Subsoil	Compact mid reddish brown sandy clay frequent limestone	30	1.8	0.2	
19	1902	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		
20	2000	layer		Topsoil	Loose dark brown sandy clay occasional small limestone	30	1.8	0.2	
20	2001	layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay friable occasional limestone	30	1.8	0.1	
20	2002	layer		Natural	Compact, light grey, brown sandy and gravel frequent limestone		1.8		

20	2003	cut		Ditch	N-S linear with steep irregular sides and flat base	1	0.85	0.23	
20	2004	fill	2003	Secondary Fill	Friable mid orange, brown sandy clay 5% small angular limestone inclusions (10-20mm)	1	0.48	0.23	
20	2005	fill	2003	Secondary Fill	Compact mid grey, brown sandy clay 90% angular & flat limestone inclusions (10-90mm)	1	0.65	0.23	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1. Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
204	Medieval pottery	Brill/Boarstall Ware	BRIL	1	2	LC12-EC14
	Industrial waste	Slag		3	39	
901	Copper Alloy	Button		1	6	
	Copper Alloy	Coin		1	4	
1505	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed earthenware	TPE	1	2	LC18-C20
	Post-medieval pottery	Creamware	CRW	2	4	
	Iron	Nail		4	15	
	Industrial waste	Slag		1	11	
	Glass	Bottle glass		1	7	
	Glass	Vessel glass		1	3	
	Glass	Window glass		2	3	
	Copper Alloy	Buckle		1	4	
CBM	Brick/Tile	fscpc	1	20		
1507	Iron	Nail		1	6	
1604	Medieval pottery	Brill/Boarstall Ware	BRIL	1	3	LC12-EC14
U/S	Copper Alloy	Shoe Buckle		1	7	

Table 2: Summary fabric descriptions and concordance

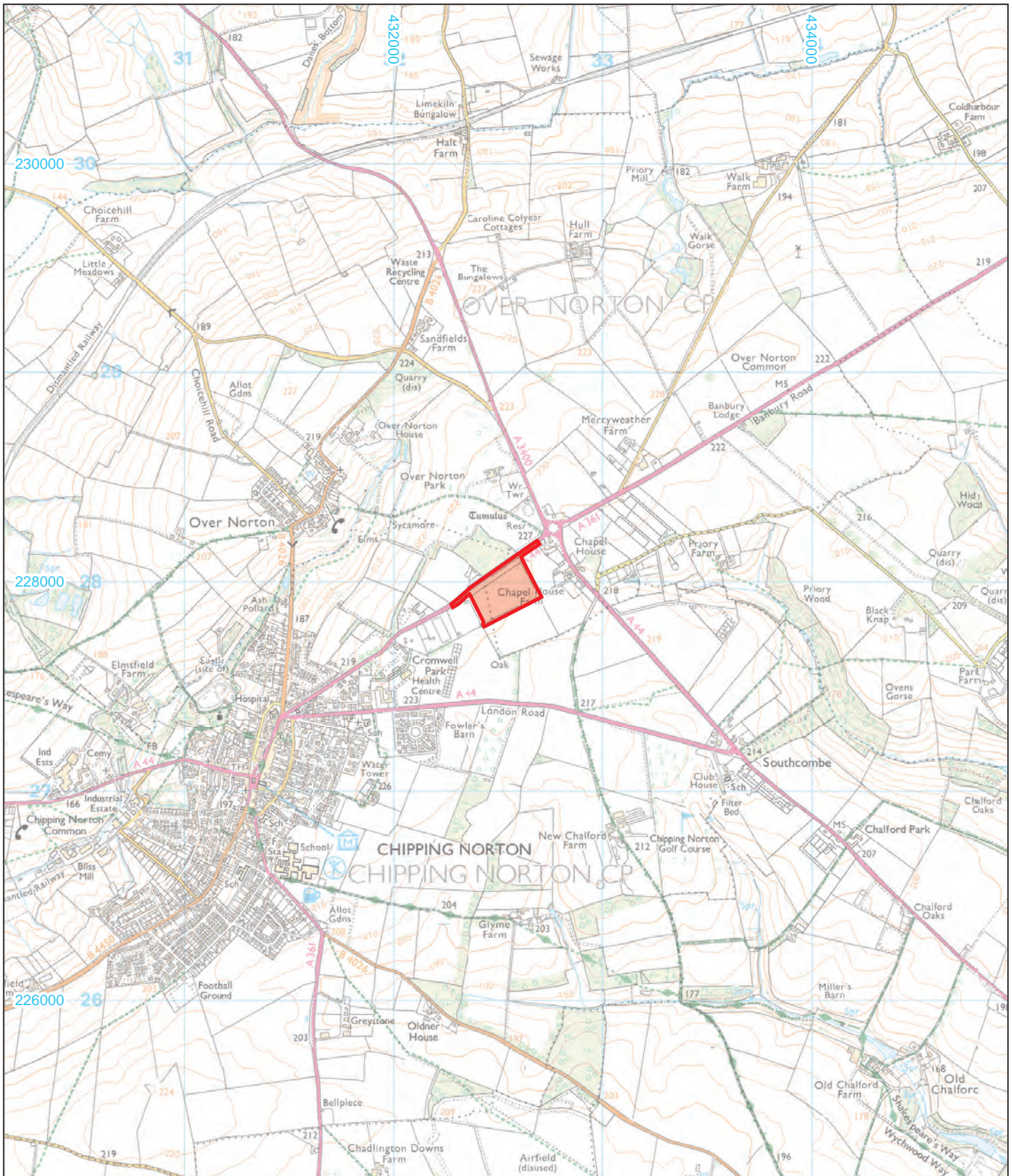
Class	Description	Fabric Code	Oxfordshire Fabric Code*	Count	Weight (g)
Medieval pottery	Brill/Boarstall Ware	BRIL	OXAW/OXAM	2	5
Post-medieval/modern pottery	Creamware	CRW	CREA	2	4
	Transfer-printed earthenware	TPE	TPW	1	2
Grand Total				5	11

* Oxfordshire pottery fabric series (Cotter *unpublished*)

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land South of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire	
Short description	<p>In June 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on Land south of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. A total of 20 trenches were excavated across the 5ha site, representing a 2% sample of the proposed development area.</p> <p>The evaluation results partially confirmed those of a preceding geophysical survey, with the strongest anomalies being identified in the form of ditches and a quarry pit. Weaker anomalies were either not identified as sub-surface features or shown to correspond with localised natural variations in the underlying geology.</p> <p>Archaeological remains were concentrated in the western parts of the site in trenches 2, 15- 17 and 20, although a possible boundary ditch was also encountered in trench 8, near the eastern site boundary.</p> <p>One broadly north/south aligned field boundary ditch was investigated in trenches 2, 16 and 20, and dated to the medieval period, or later, by the presence of two worn and abraded sherds of 12th – 14th century pottery. An undated north-east/south-west aligned gully in trench 17 appeared to run towards this larger ditch although no clear evidence was recovered to determine whether the two features were in fact contemporary.</p> <p>A north-west/south-east aligned ditch encountered in trench 8 did not contain any finds, although the feature may be contemporary with the ditch seen running across trenches 2, 16, and 20, possibly forming part of a larger field system.</p> <p>A large quarry pit was encountered in trench 15, from which a large assemblage of post-medieval/modern finds including pottery, iron nails, and a variety of glass fragments were recovered, dating the backfill deposits to the late 18th to 20th centuries.</p> <p>The lack of any other features suggests that the site has over time primarily been utilised for agricultural purposes and, more recently, localised stone/ mineral extraction.</p>	
Project dates	23 – 30 June 2023	
Project type	Archaeological evaluation	
Previous work	magnetometer survey (Sumo 2023)	
Future work	unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	5ha	
Site co-ordinates	432514 227925	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Oxfordshire County Council	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby	
Project Supervisor	Joao Heitor	
MONUMENT TYPE	Ditches	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Pottery, glass, iron nails, ceramic building material, copper alloy objects	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	County Museum Resource Centre (Oxfordshire Museums)/ OXCMS: 2023.48	Pottery, glass, iron nails, ceramic building

		material, copper alloy objects
Paper	County Museum Resource Centre (Oxfordshire Museums)/ OXCMS: 2023.48	Drawings, report
Digital	Archaeology Data Service	Report, survey, digital registers, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2023 <i>Land South of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR1424_2		



 Site boundary



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR1424	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/07/2023	1
APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE	@A4 1:25,000	



- Site boundary
 - Evaluation trench
 - Contingency trench - not required
 - Archaeological feature
- Geophysical survey results
SUMO (2023)*
- Probable archaeology
 - Possible archaeology
 - Ferrous



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

DRAWN BY HMM	PROJECT NO. CR1424	FIGURE NO. 2
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 13/07/2023	
APPROVED BY JH	SCALE@A3 1:1250	



Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 7, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 12, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 14, looking south (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
Selection of blank trench photographs

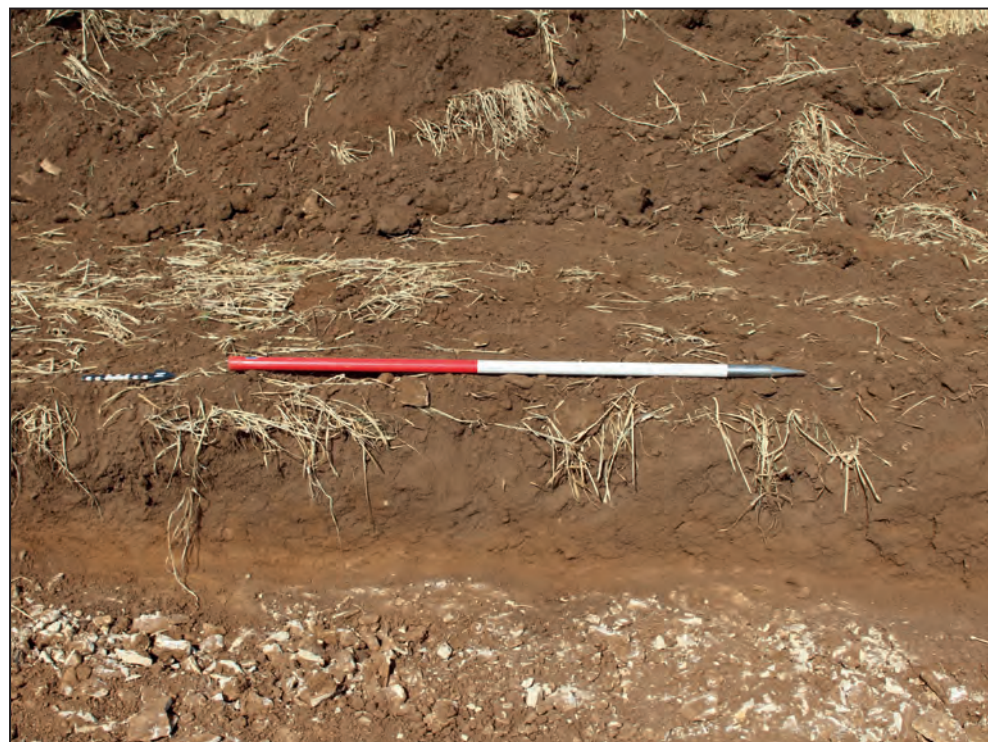
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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/07/2023	3
APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE	@A3 NA	



Trench 3, representative section, looking south-west (1m scale)



Trench 4, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 4, representative section, looking west (1m scale)



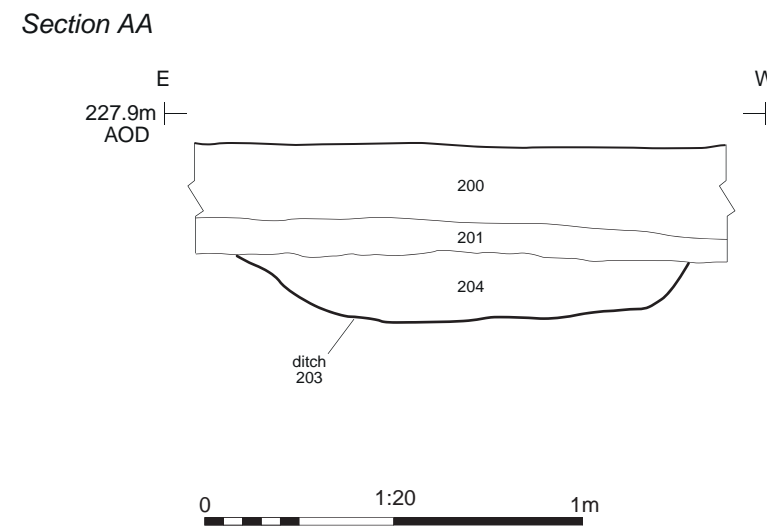
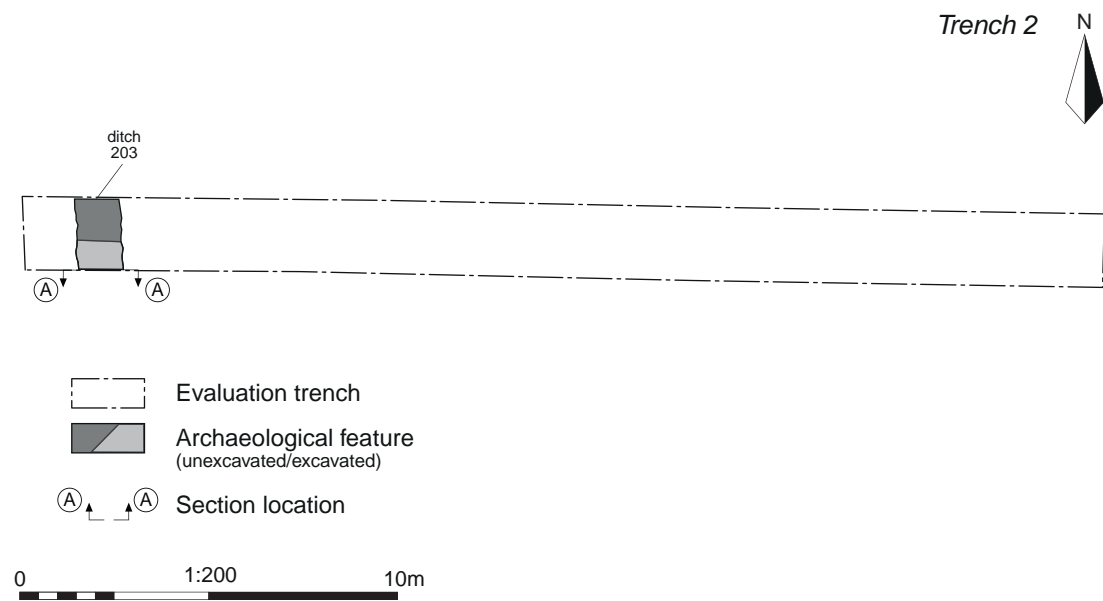
Trench 18, looking north-east (1m scales)


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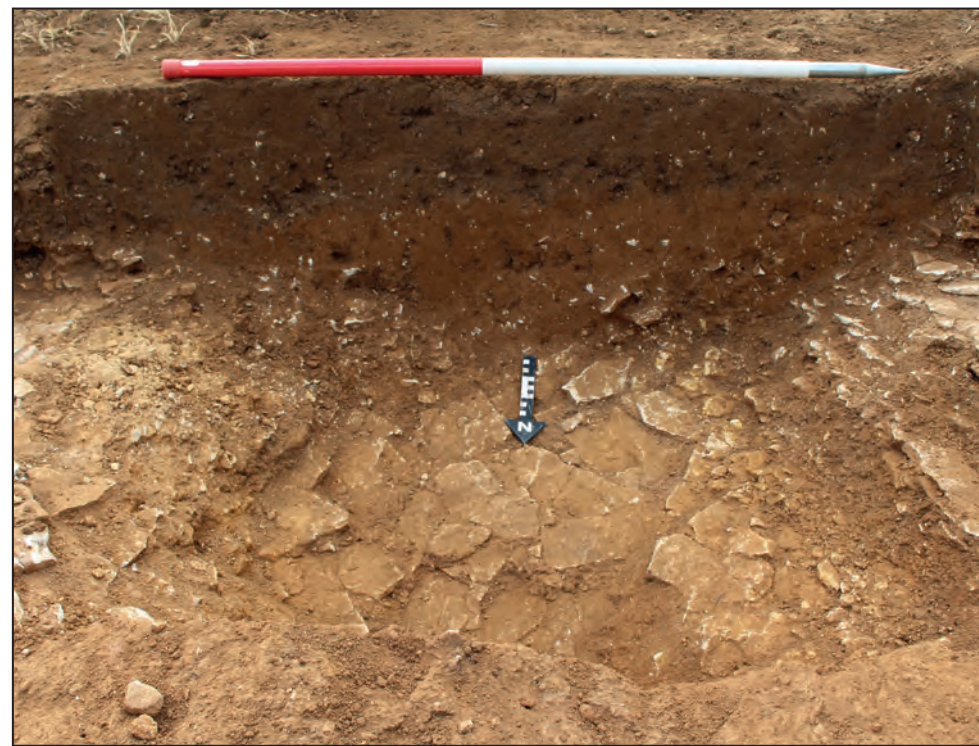
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 Land South of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
Selection of blank trenches and representative sections

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	13/07/2023	4
APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE	@A3 NA	



Trench 2, looking east (1m scales)



Ditch 203, looking south (1m scale)

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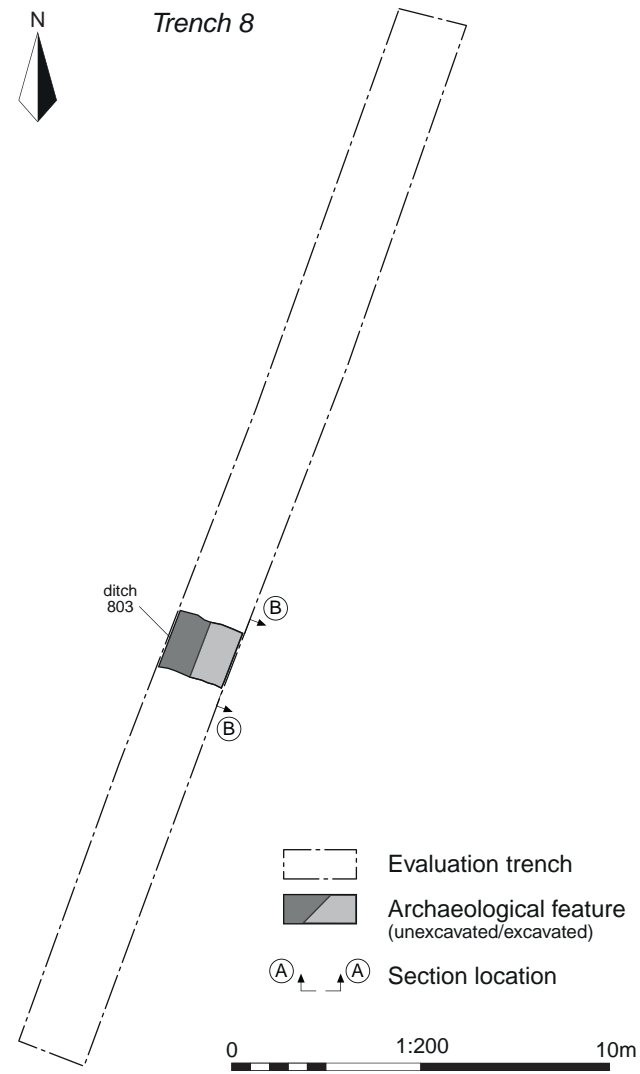
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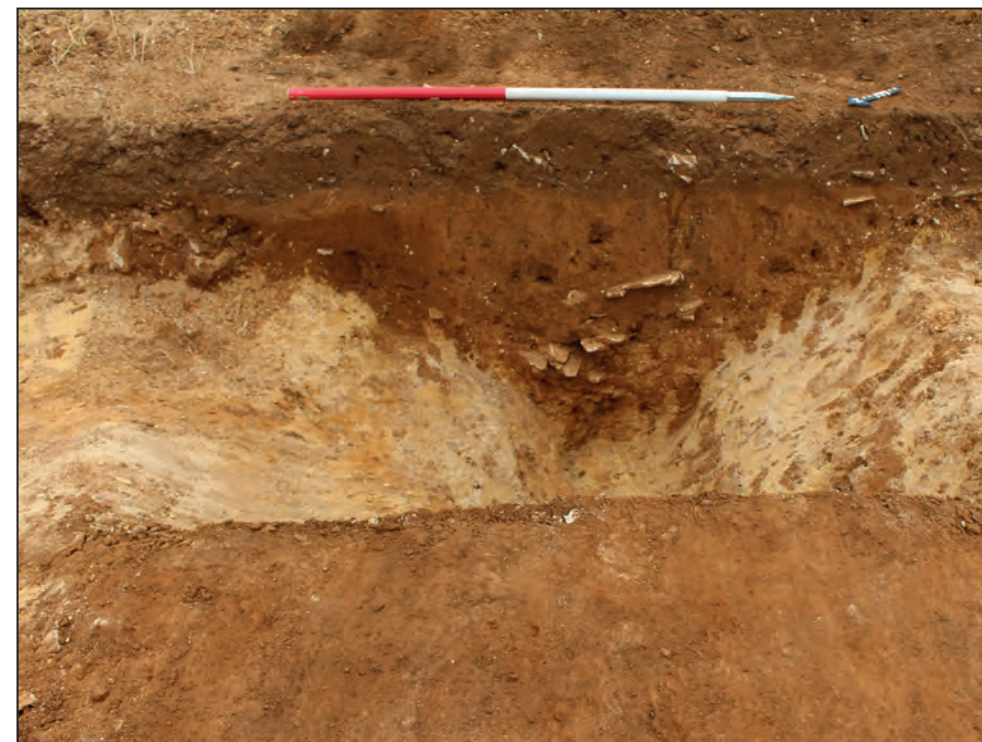
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 Land South of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 2: plan, section and photographs

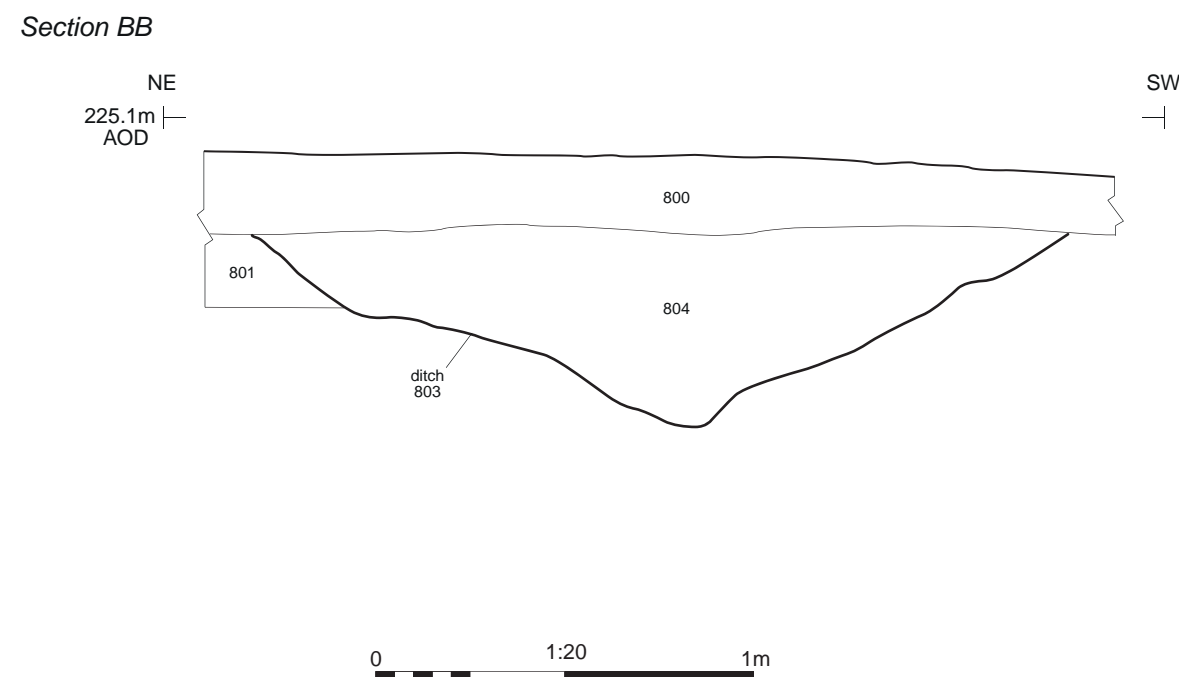
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Trench 8, looking north-east (1m scales)



Ditch 803, looking south-east (1m scale)



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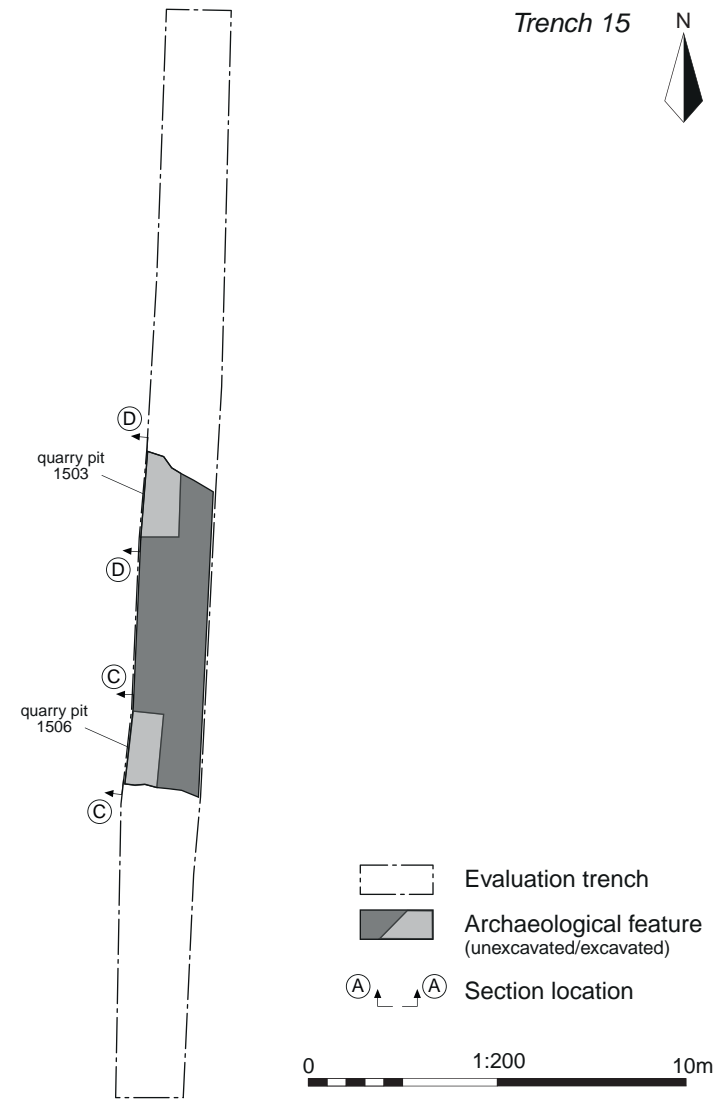
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 8: plan, section and photographs

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Trench 15, looking north (1m scales)



Quarry pits 1503 and 1506, looking north-west (2m scale)



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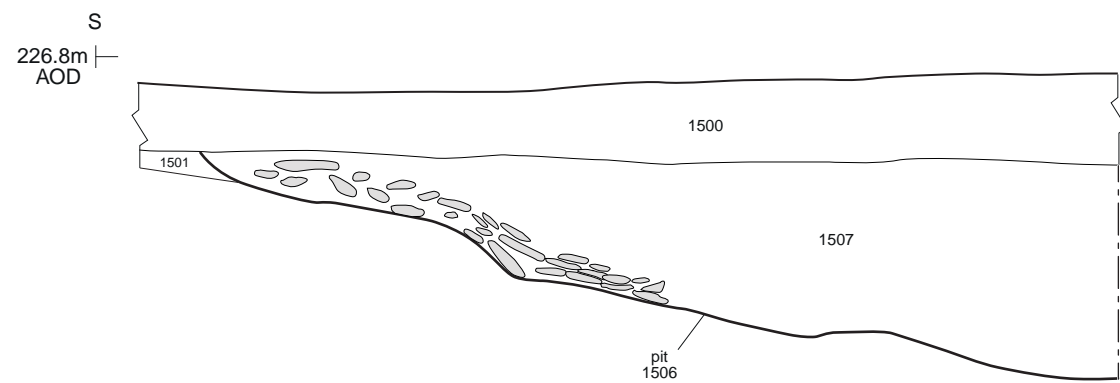
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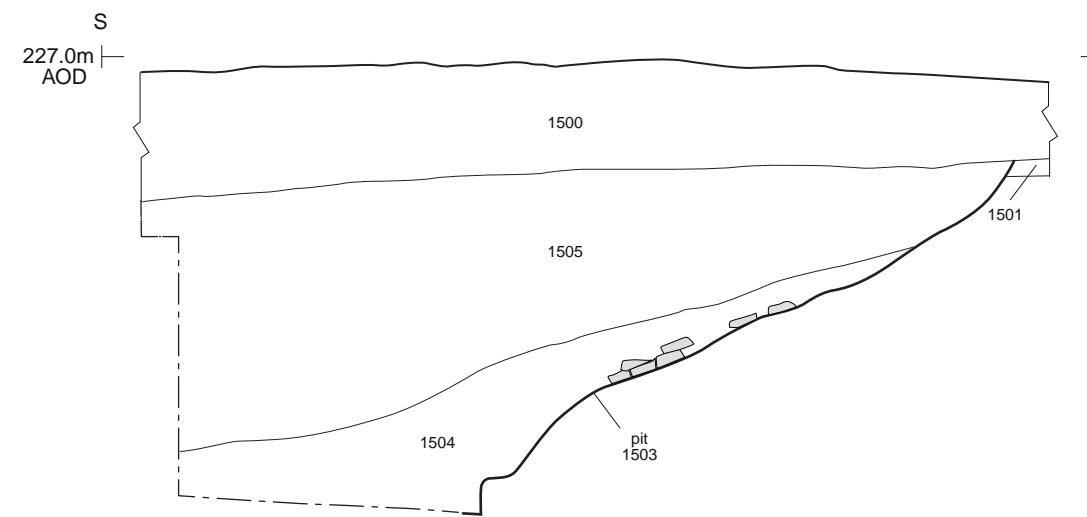
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 Trench 15: plan and photographs

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APPROVED BY	JH	SCALE@A3	1:200	

Section CC



Section DD



Stone



Quarry pit 1506, looking west (2m scale)



Quarry pit 1503, looking west (2m scale)

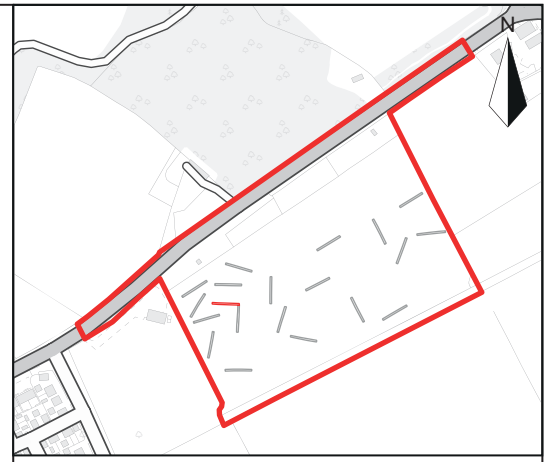
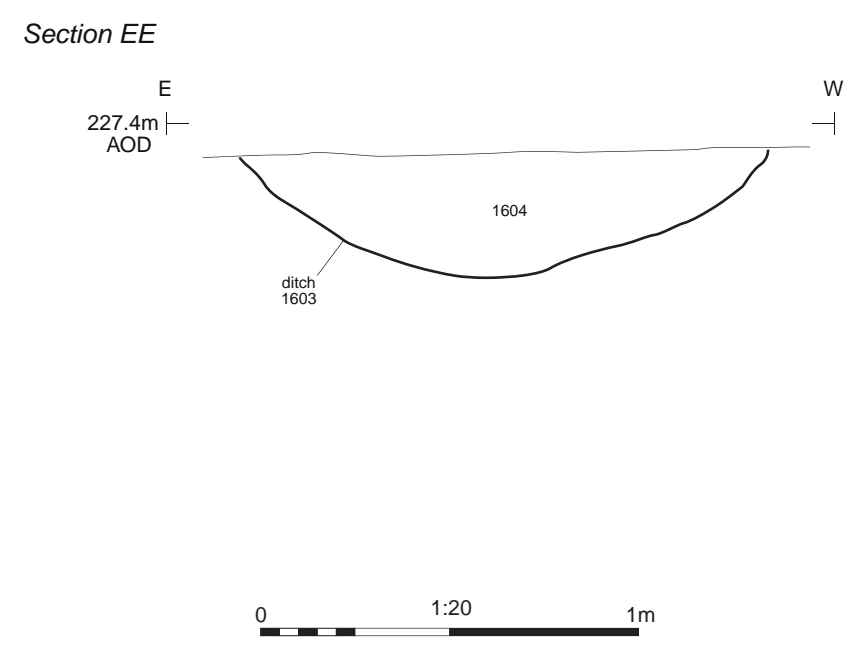
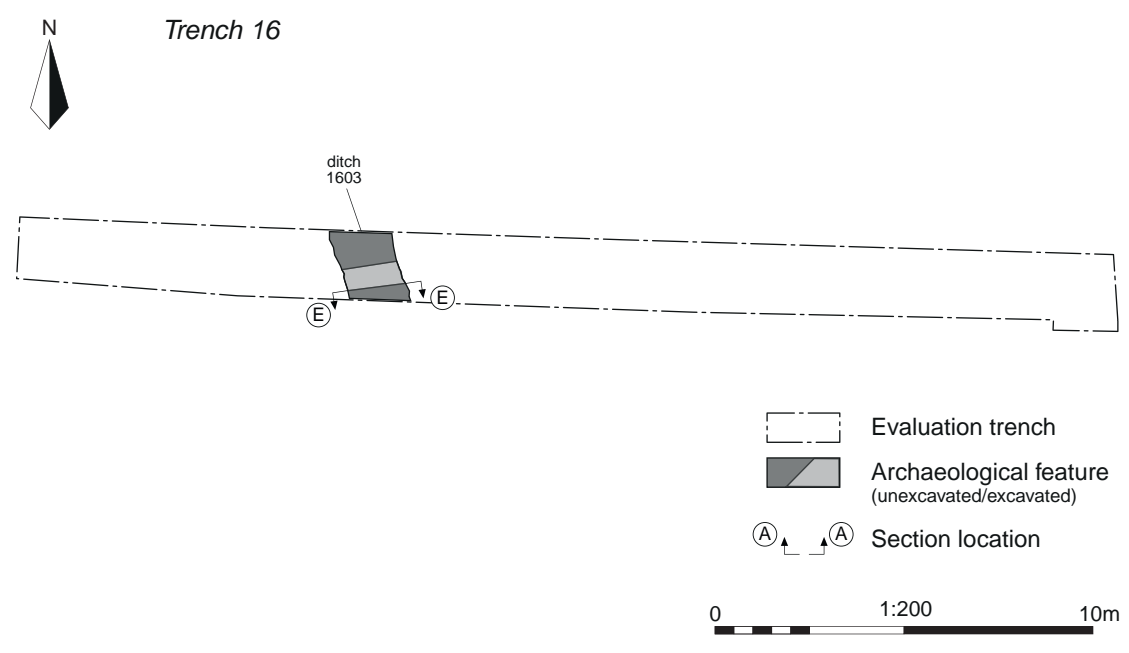
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 15: sections and photographs

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Trench 16, looking east (1m scales)



Ditch 1603, looking south, (1m scale)

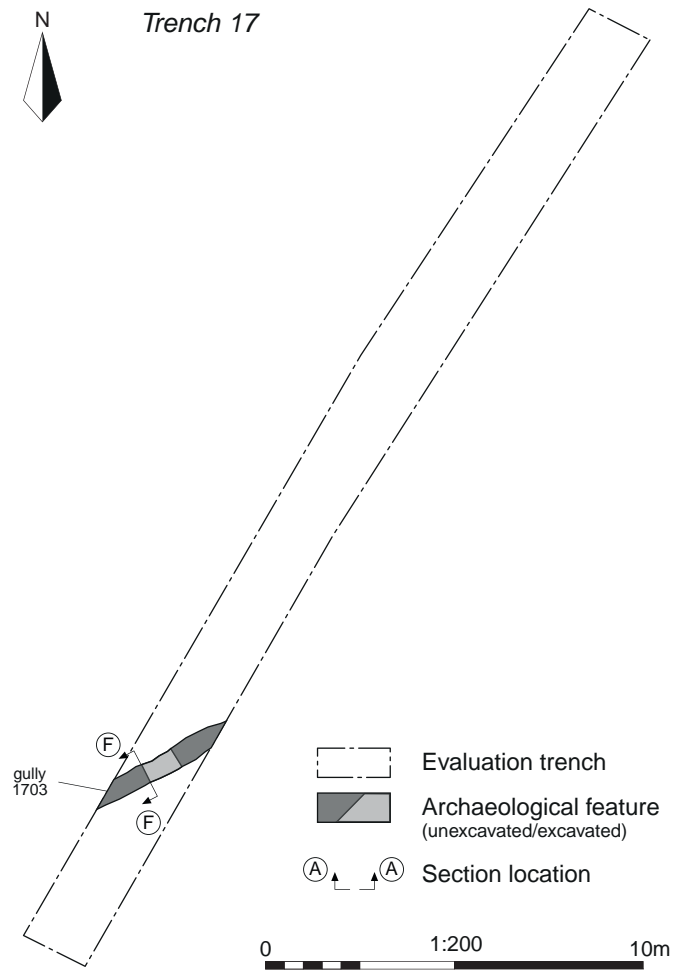
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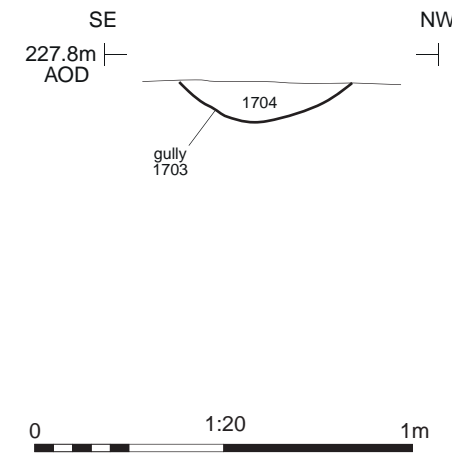
PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 16: plan, section and photographs

<small>DRAWN BY</small> HMM	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR1424	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 13/07/2023	9
<small>APPROVED BY</small> JH	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:20 & 1:200	



Section FF



Trench 17, looking north-east (1m scales)



Gully 1703, looking south-west (0.3m scale)

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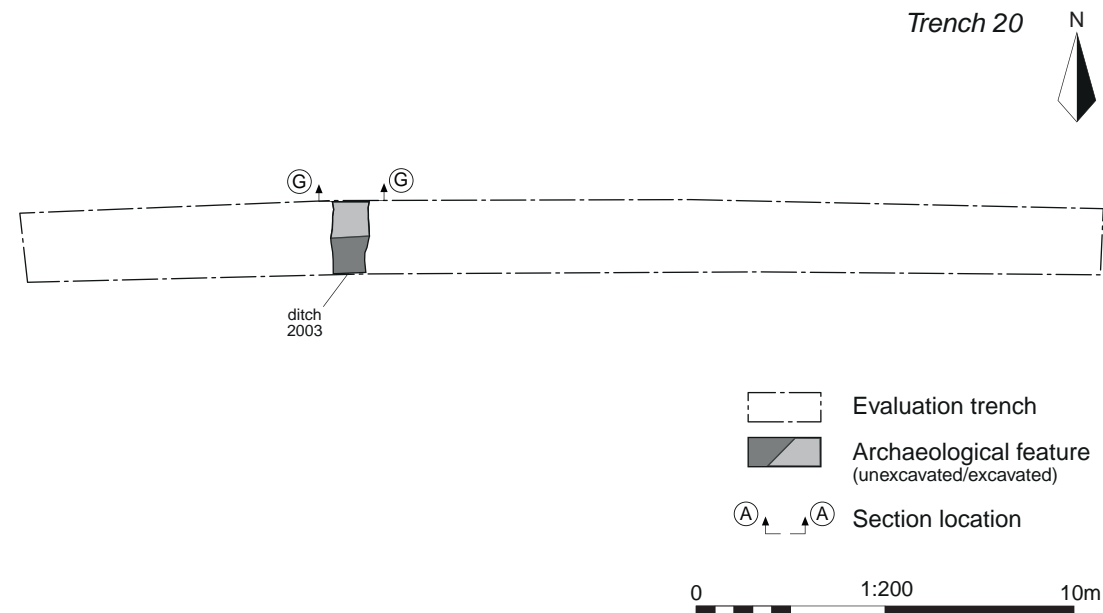
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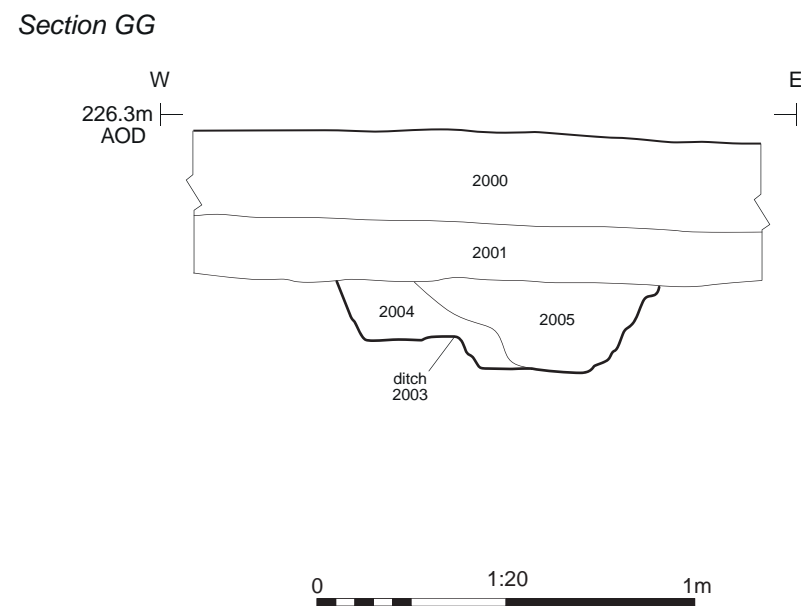
PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 17: plan, section and photographs

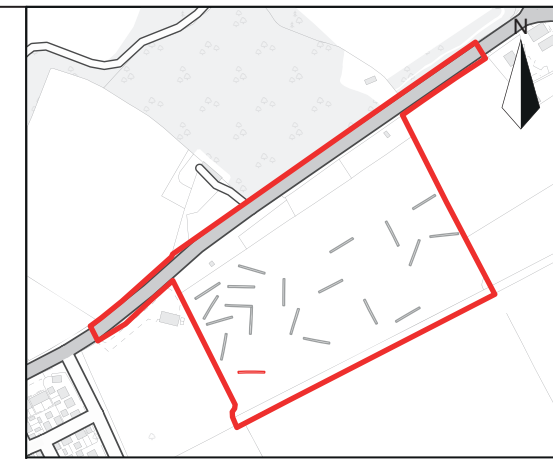
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Trench 20, looking west (1m scales)



Ditch 2003, looking south (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land South of Banbury Road, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 20: plan, section and photographs

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