

# **UCKINGHALL WORCESTERSHIRE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*For*

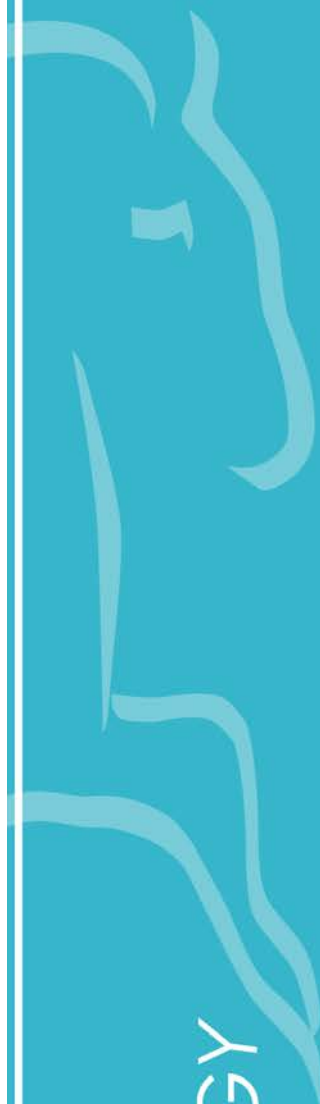
**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

CA PROJECT: 2879  
CA REPORT: 10083  
WCC REFERENCE: WSM 42429

JUNE 2010



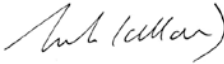
**COTSWOLD  
ARCHAEOLOGY**



# UCKINGHALL WORCESTERSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2879  
CA REPORT: 10083

prepared by	Alexandra Wilkinson, Project Supervisor
date	9 June 2010
checked by	Richard Young, Fieldwork Manager
date	10 June 2010
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	21 June 2010
issue	01

*This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.*

## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	7
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
5. REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	9
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	12
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM .....	13

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)  
Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1250)  
Fig. 3 Trenches 11 and 12; sections (1:20)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Uckinghall  
**Location:** Worcestershire  
**NGR:** SO 8680 3774  
**Type:** Evaluation  
**Date:** 24 – 28 May 2010  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum  
**Site Code:** UFW10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2010 on land at Uckinghall. Thirteen trenches were excavated.

In the northern part of the site a Roman ditch was identified along with two undated ditches and an undated pit. The orientation of the ditches suggests they form part of a coaxial field system.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for the Environment Agency (EA) on land at Uckinghall (centred on NGR: SO 8680 3774; Fig. 1). The evaluation was recommended by Mr Mike Glyde, Historic Environment Planning Advisor, Worcestershire Environment and Archaeology Services (WHEAS) in response to a proposal by the EA to construct a flood alleviation scheme, with associated works.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Mr Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Project in Worcestershire* (WHEAS 2003), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

1.3 The site lies south of the village of Uckinghall, between Ferry Lane to the north-west and Bank Farm to the east. The site covers an area of c. 2.5ha and lies at an elevation of between 10 and 15m AOD. The south-eastern part of the site was under crop, whilst the five trenches in the south-western corner were located in a small area of enclosed scrubland. The northern half of the site was under pasture.

1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Branscombe Mudstone overlain by alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) and Worcester Member sand and gravel (BGS 2010). The natural substrate was encountered across the site with principally gravel deposits and clays to the south and sand deposits to the north.

### ***Archaeological background***

1.5 Archaeological investigations by Worcestershire County Council in 2003 to the south of Uckinghall adjacent to the M50 revealed regionally significant evidence of a Neolithic to Late Bronze Age pit alignment, and a trackway probably associated with the Iron Age hill fort of Towbury Hill to the south of Ripple (Miller *et al* 2004:1-2).

- 1.6 Evidence was also found for Roman settlement in the area as considerable amounts of coins and metalwork, as well as some pottery sherds, were found in the fields immediately south-west of the current site (*ibid*).
- 1.7 A number of cropmarks were known from aerial photographs c.1km north of Uckinghall at Saxon's Lode. These were investigated by geophysical survey carried out by Stratascan in 1997 in advance of the extension of a sand and gravel quarry (Barker 1997). This survey was followed by trial trenching by Cotswold Archaeology in 1998 which revealed evidence of a Romano-British field system (Kenyon 1998a) and settlement (Kenyon 1998b). Further excavation, in 2001 and 2002, revealed Later Iron Age activity, an Early Roman-British settlement and an Early to Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement (Barber and Watts 2008).
- 1.8 Uckinghall was not mentioned in the Domesday Survey, when it formed part of the manor of Ripple. A settlement had developed at Uckinghall by the 15<sup>th</sup> century as there are the remains of a stone cross of this date in the centre of the village (now a Scheduled Monument).
- 1.9 A geophysical survey was carried out in advance of the flood alleviation scheme by EA archaeologists in the fields to the south of Uckinghall. Areas of magnetic enhancement, which may relate to archaeological features or to modern agricultural activity, were identified, as was a group of linear anomalies, possibly relating to previous field boundaries. A field boundary which survived as an earthwork is not shown on either the historic or current Ordnance Survey maps (EA 2009).

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Worcestershire County Council, in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 13 trenches. Trenches 1 to 9, 11 and 13 measured 30m by 1.5m, Trench 10 measured 15m by 1.5m and Trench 12 measured 50m by 1.5m. Trench 10 was shortened due to the presence of overhead powerlines.

- 1.11 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.12 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.13 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)**

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B.
- 2.2 Trenches 1 to 10 and 13 were all blank. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in all trenches. The natural substrate varied from river gravels and blue clays in the south of the site to sand in the north of the site and was encountered at an average depth of 1m below present ground level (bpgl) in the south and 0.7m bpgl in the north. In Trenches 1 to 8 this was covered by alluvial deposits with an average thickness of 0.5m. In Trenches 6, 7 and 8 the alluvium was sealed by subsoil and topsoil. There was no subsoil identified in Trenches 1 to 5, the alluvial deposits were sealed by topsoil. In Trenches 9, 10 and 13 the natural substrate was sealed by subsoil and topsoil.

**Trench 11 (Fig 2)**

- 2.3 In Trench 11 the natural substrate 1102 was revealed at a depth of 0.77m bpgl. It was cut by E/W ditch 1103 which had a v-shaped profile and a very sandy fill 1104 which contained no finds. This was sealed by subsoil 1101 and topsoil 1100. The ditch encountered in this trench was not identified in the geophysical survey.

**Trench 12 (Fig 2)**

- 2.4 Clay 1202 was revealed at a depth of approximately 1m bpgl. This was overlain by a layer of naturally deposited gravel 1210 in the eastern end of the trench. This was cut by large square pit 1205 identified at 0.8m bpgl. This pit had very steep sides and a flat base and contained a single fill 1206 which contained no finds. Gravel 1210 was also cut by N/S ditch 1211 which, like pit 1205, also had very steep sides and a flat base. It contained three fills, 1212, 1213 and 1214. Fill 1212 was identified at 0.75m bpgl and contained a single sherd of Roman pottery, whilst 1213 contained two sherds of Roman pottery and several fragments of animal bone. Towards the western end of the trench the natural 1202 was cut by N/S ditch 1203, which was encountered at 0.79 m bpgl and had a similar v-shaped profile to the ditch in trench 11. It was filled by orangey brown sand 1204. This feature was identified on the geophysical survey, however there were two other features identified on the geophysical survey which were not encountered within the trench, and conversely the other two features which were encountered in the trench were not identified in the geophysical survey. All features were sealed by subsoil 1207. At the eastern end of the trench the subsoil appeared to have been truncated as it was covered by modern deposits 1208 and 1209. The whole trench was sealed by topsoil 1200.

**The Finds**

- 2.5 Small quantities of artefactual material comprising Roman pottery and animal bone were recovered from two deposits (Appendix B).
- 2.6 Three fragments of Roman pottery were collected during the evaluation. One sherd, from deposit 1212, is an unfeatured bodysherd in Severn Valley ware fabric. Two fragments from deposit 1213 are identifiable as a storage jar in a Severn Valley ware and a bodysherd in a Severn Valley ware fabric with organic inclusions. This suggests dating for the deposit 1213 in the middle 1st to 2nd centuries AD.
- 2.7 Animal bone was recovered from deposit 1213; a total of 9 fragments, plus uncounted small chips. The assemblage is highly fragmented and is poorly



preserved. Species identified were cow and sheep the remainder being cow-sized fragments.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The evaluation trenches did not encounter any features in the area closest to the river where large amounts of alluvium were recorded. The archaeological features recorded were found in just two trenches located next to each other on an area of relatively high ground where the natural substrate was very sandy and free-draining. The E/W aligned ditch in Trench 11 has a similar v-shaped profile to a N/S aligned ditch in Trench 12. They both contained an orangey brown sandy fill. The ditches are roughly perpendicular and they may belong to the same system of ditches, possibly making up a small coaxial field system or enclosure. No pottery was retrieved however, meaning that they remain undated. The other ditch in Trench 12, which was on a similar N/S alignment, had a completely different profile and fill to these ditches. The pottery retrieved from this ditch suggests an early Roman date.
- 3.2 The pit recorded at the east end of trench 12 had a similar fill to this N/S ditch and had similarly steep sides but no finds were retrieved to confirm any link between them. There was evidence that there has been some modern landscaping at the eastern end of trench 12 as the subsoil was truncated and there were layers of modern material with inclusions of brick and glass. This could be levelling or consolidation of the ground close to access into the field. Where archaeological features were encountered there was a variable but generally good correlation with the results of the preceding geophysical survey. However, it should be noted that a number of features were encountered which had not been identified by the geophysical survey and conversely not all features depicted by the survey were identified.

### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alexandra Wilkinson, assisted by Andrew Donald. The report was written by Alexandra Wilkinson and the finds report compiled by Angela Aggujaro. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Alexandra Wilkinson, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 5. REFERENCES

- Barber, A and Watts, M (2008) *'Excavations at Saxon's Lode Farm, Ripple, 2001-2, Iron Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon rural settlement in the Severn Valley'*, *Trans. Worcestershire Archaeol. Soc* 3 ser. **21**, 1-90
- Barker, P. 1997 *A Report for Cotswold Archaeological Trust on a Geophysical Survey carried out at Saxon's Lode, Ripple, Worcestershire* Stratascan.
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2010 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Uckinghall, Worcestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*
- EA (Environment Agency) 2009 *Uckinghall, Worcestershire: Archaeological Geophysical Survey*
- Kenyon, D. 1998a *Ryall Quarry, Ripple, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1)*. Cotswold Archaeological Trust. CA typescript report **98858**
- Kenyon, D. 1998b *Ryall Quarry, Ripple, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)*. Cotswold Archaeological Trust. CA typescript report **98940**
- Miller, D., Pearson, E., Head, K. and Crawford, T. 2004 *Archaeological Evaluation (stage 3) at Ripple, Worcestershire*. Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench 1 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: 9.71 – 9.88mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil: mid to dark greyish brown silty clay,			0.3	
101	Layer	Alluvial Deposit: Mid orangey brown clay			0.5	
102	Deposit	Natural: Mid reddish brown silty clay and gravel				
103	Deposit	Natural: Light blueish grey clay				

Trench 2 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: 9.7 – 9.75mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay			0.3	
201	Layer	Alluvial Deposit: Mid orangey brown clay			0.6	
202	Deposit	Natural: Light blueish grey clay				

Trench 3 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: 9.74 – 9.81mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay			0.3	
301	Layer	Alluvial Deposit: Mid orangey brown silty clay			0.6	
302	Deposit	Natural: Light blueish grey clay				

Trench 4 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: 9.89 – 10.05mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay			0.3	
401	Layer	Alluvial Deposit: Mid orangey brown silty clay			0.5	
402	Layer	Alluvial Deposit: Mid greyish brown sandy silt			0.5	
403	Deposit	Natural: Mid reddish brown silt and gravel				
404	Deposit	Natural: Mid reddish brown sandy silt				

Trench 5 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: 9.61mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay			0.3	
501	Layer	Alluvial Deposit: Mid orangey brown silty clay			0.5	
502	Layer	Alluvial Deposit: Mixed orangey and grey clay			0.5	
503	Deposit	Natural: Light blueish grey clay				

Trench 6 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: c10.3mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown clayey silt			0.35	
601	Layer	Subsoil: light grey and mid brown clay			0.18	
602	Layer	Alluvial Deposit: Light orangey red clay			0.24	

603	Deposit	Natural: Light blueish grey clay				
-----	---------	----------------------------------	--	--	--	--

Trench 7 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: 10.3mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay			0.3	
701	Layer	Alluvial Deposit: Mid reddish brown silty clay with gravel			0.5	
702	Deposit	Natural: Lighter reddish brown silty clay with gravel				
703	Deposit	Natural: Light blueish grey clay				
704	Deposit	Natural: mottled blueish grey clay and reddish brown silty clay with gravel				
705	Deposit	Natural: Lighter reddish brown silty clay with gravel				
706	Deposit	Natural: Mid to dark reddish brown silty sand				

Trench 8 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: 10.42mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay			0.3	
801	Layer	Alluvial Deposit: Orangey grey clay			0.4	
802	Deposit	Natural: Mid blueish grey clay				
803	Deposit	Natural: Dark grey and dark reddish brown sandy silt with gravel				
804	Deposit	Natural: Dark reddish brown silty clay				

Trench 9 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: 10.24 – 11.03mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown sandy silt			0.22	
901	Layer	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown silty sand			0.5	
902	Deposit	Natural: Mid reddish brown sands and gravels				

Trench 10 (15m by 1.5m) Ground level: 12.4mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty sand			0.3	
901	Layer	Subsoil: Dark orangey brown silty sand, regular gravel			0.45	
902	Deposit	Natural: Mixed orange and brown sands				

Trench 11 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: 12.32 – 12.52mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1100	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty sand			0.3	
1101	Layer	Subsoil: Mid orangey brown silty sand, regular gravel			0.45	
1102	Deposit	Natural: Mid reddish brown sand				
1103	Cut	Cut of E/W ditch		0.9	0.53	
1104	Fill	Fill of 1103: Mid orangey brown silty sand		0.9	0.53	

## Trench 12 (50m by 1.5m) Ground level: 11.17 – 12.28mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1200	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty sand			0.21	
1202	Deposit	Natural: Mid reddish brown sand and reddish brown clay				
1203	Cut	Cut of N/S ditch		1	0.38	
1204	Fill	Fill of 1203: Mid orangey brown sand		1	0.38	
1205	Cut	Cut of pit	2	>0.94	0.43	
1206	Fill	Fill of 1205: Dark brownish grey silty sand	2	>0.94	0.43	
1207	Layer	Subsoil: Light grey sandy silt			0.51	
1208	Layer	Dark brownish grey sandy silt - levelling	5		0.14	
1209	Layer	Redeposited reddish brown clay with modern inclusions of brick and glass	5		0.32	
1210	Layer	Sub-angular gravel	25		0.10	
1211	Cut	Cut of N/S ditch	1.8		0.6	
1212	Fill	Fill of 1211: Mid greyish brown sandy silt	1.8		0.45	
1213	Fill	Fill of 1211: Mid orangey brown and Mid greyish brown clay			0.2	
1214	Fill	Fill of 1211: Mid greyish brown sandy silt			0.2	

## Trench 13 (30m by 1.5m) Ground level: 12.06 – 12.64mAOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1300	Layer	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty sand			0.3	
1301	Layer	Subsoil: Light orangey brown sandy silt			0.7	
1302	Deposit	Natural: Mixed orange and brown sands				

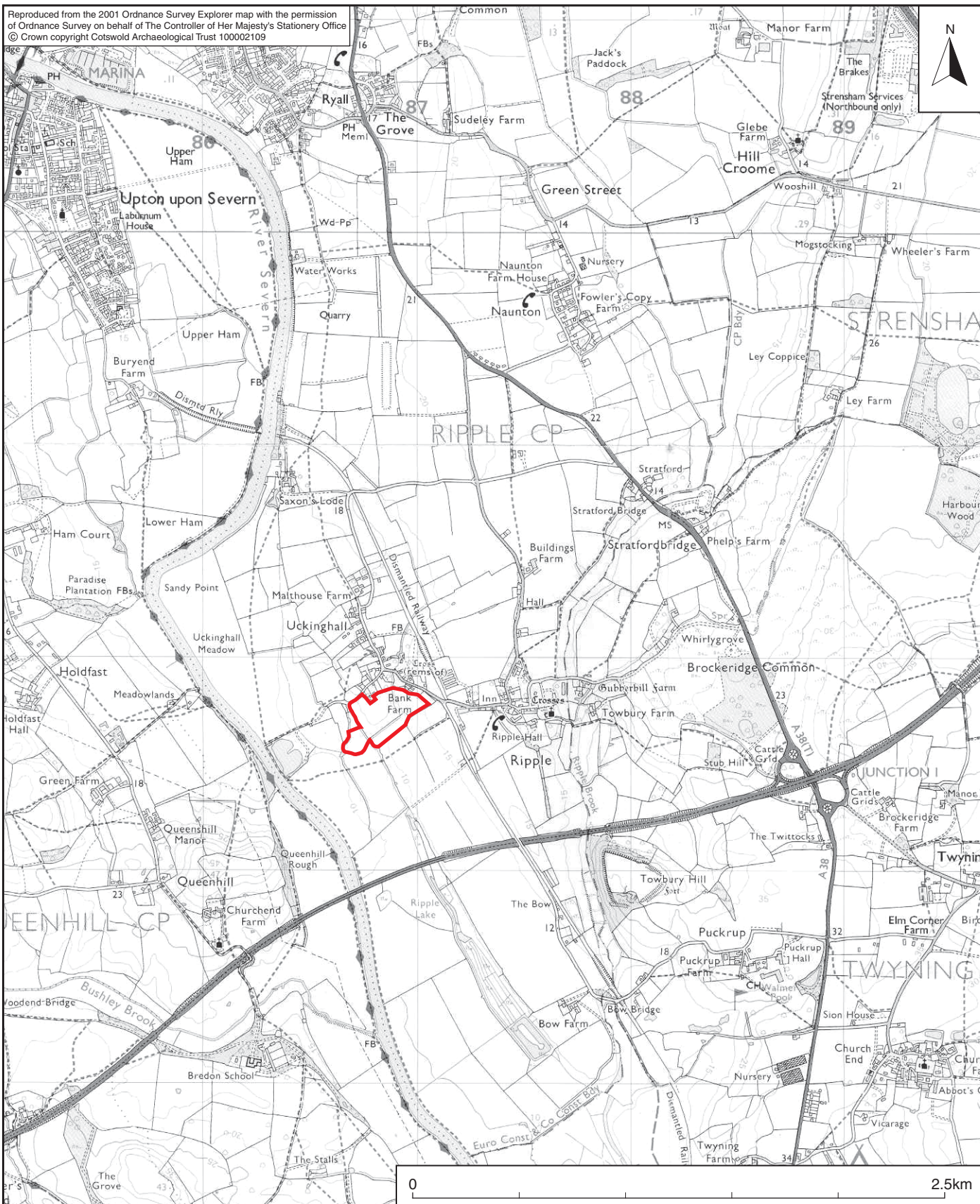
**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Artefact type</b>	<b>Ct.</b>	<b>Wt.(g)</b>	<b>Date</b>
1212	Roman pottery: Severn Valley ware.	1	5	RB
1213	Roman pottery: Severn Valley ware, Severn Valley ware organic. Animal bone: cow, sheep, cow-sized.	2 90+	29 160	MC1-C2

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Uckinghall, Worcestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May 2010 on land at Uckinghall. Thirteen trenches were excavated.</p> <p>In the northern part of the site a Roman ditch was identified along with two undated ditches and an undated pit. The orientation of the ditches suggests they form part of a coaxial field system.</p>	
Project dates	24 – 28 May 2010	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Field Evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Geophysical Survey 2009: Environment Agency	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Uckinghall, Worcestershire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	2.5ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SO 8680 3774	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Worcestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alexandra Wilkinson	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Worcestershire County Museum	Ceramics, animal bone
Paper	Worcestershire County Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, permatrace drawings, photographic registers.
Digital	Worcestershire County Museum	Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Uckinghall, Worcestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report: <b>10083</b>		





**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Uckinghall, Warwickshire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY

**LG**

SCALE

**1:25,000@A4**

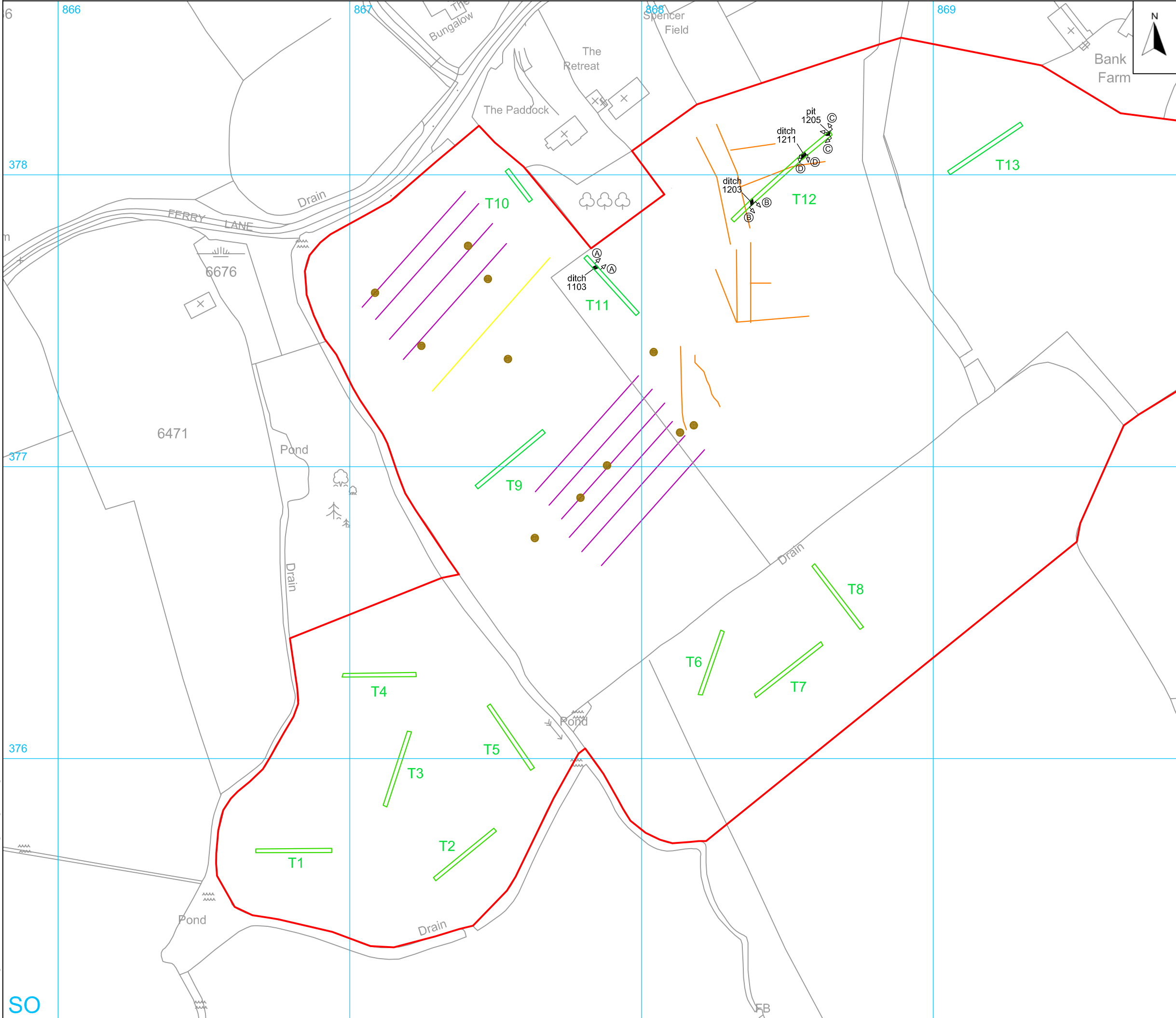
PROJECT NO.

**2879**

FIGURE NO.

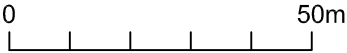
**1**





Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Digital mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office  
© Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeological Trust 100002109.

- site
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- geophysics results
  - iron spike
  - linear anomaly
  - field boundary/earthwork
  - ridge and furrow

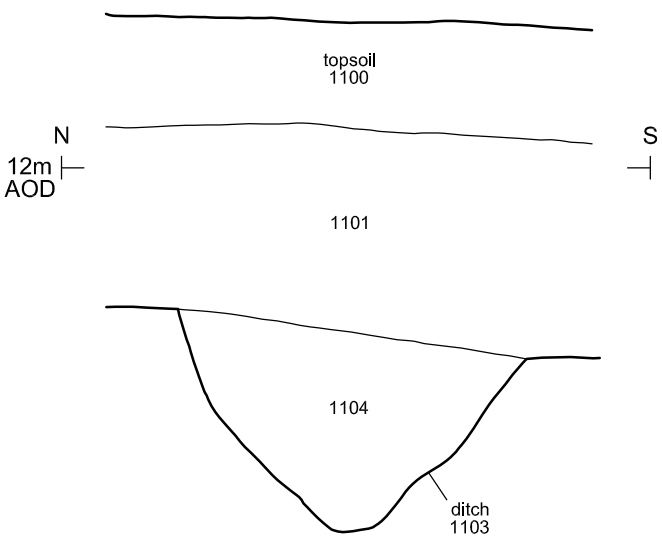


PROJECT TITLE  
Uckinghall, Worcestershire

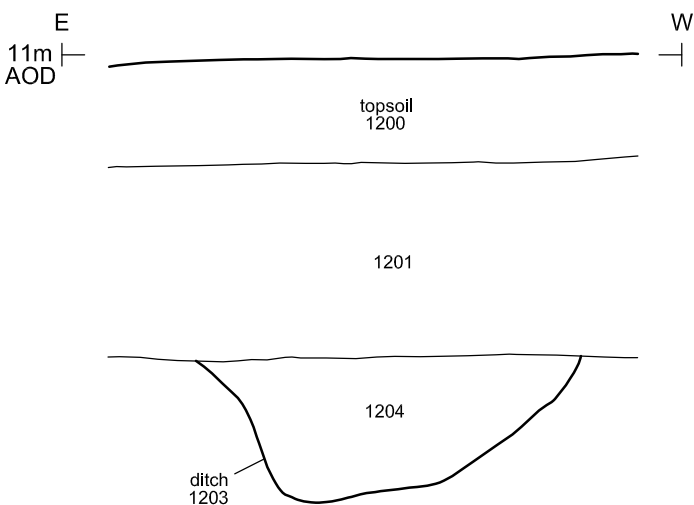
FIGURE TITLE  
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:1250@A3	2879	2

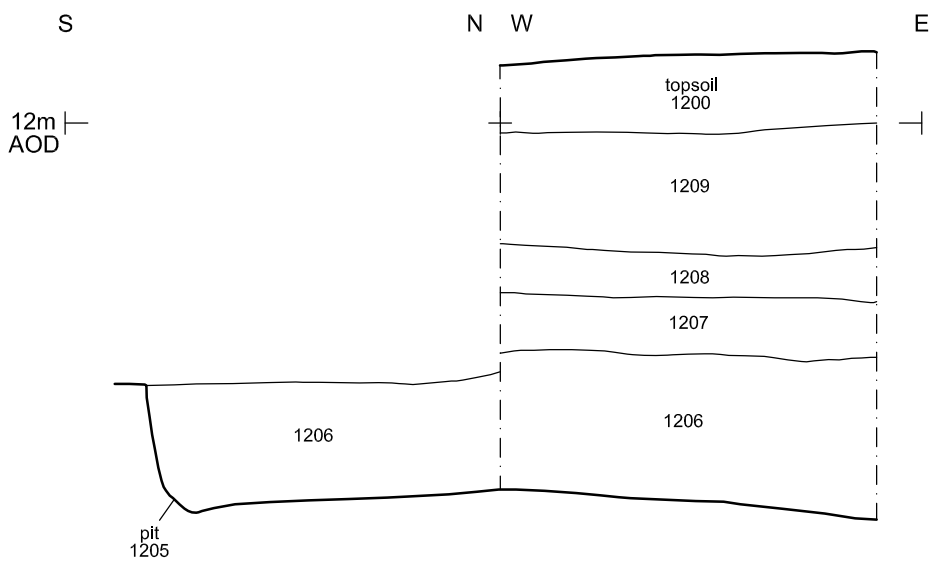
Trench 11; section AA



Trench 12; section BB



Trench 12; section CC



Trench 12; section DD

