

**STUDHAM HALL FARM
STUDHAM
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

For

MR MARK HORTON


CA PROJECT: 3105
CA REPORT: 10087

JUNE 2010

STUDHAM HALL FARM
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BEDFORDSHIRE

SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

CA PROJECT: 3105
CA REPORT: 10087

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date	18 June 2010
issue	01

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	7
5. REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	8
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	9
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks and features (1:500).
- Fig. 3 Section (1:20)
- Fig. 4 Ditch 105, looking north-east

SUMMARY

Project Name: Studham Hall Farm
Location: Studham, Bedfordshire
NGR: TL 0135 1532
Type: Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management
Date: 19 to 21 April 2010
Planning Reference: CB/09/06490
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Luton Museum
Accession Number: LUTNM:2010.30
Site Code: SHF 10

A Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the formation of a pond at Studham Hall Farm, Studham, Bedfordshire.

A north-east/south-west orientated ditch, from which 12th to 13th-century pottery was recovered from the primary fill, was identified during the works. This linear feature appears to represent the continuation of an undated north-east/south-west orientated depression, which forms part of an earthwork to the west of the area of groundworks.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management for Mr Mark Horton at Studley Hall Farm, Studley, Bedfordshire (centred on NGR: TL 0135 1532; Fig. 1). The archaeological works were undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the formation of a new pond (Planning ref: CB/09/06490). The objectives were to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management was carried out in accordance with a brief for *A Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management at Studham Hall Farm, Studham, Bedfordshire* (Oake 2010) prepared by Mr Martin Oake, archaeological advisor to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Mr Oake. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008), the *Regional Standard for Field Archaeology* (Gurney 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 area of proposed development is approximately 800m² and is wholly contained within the former parkland associated with Studham Hall Farm. It is confined by an existing, but recently constructed, driveway to the north-west, north and north-east and existing woodland to the south-east and south (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 185m AOD, on relatively flat land.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous period overlain by Clay with Flints of the Pleistocene epoch (BGS 1990). The natural clay substrate was observed across the site.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 An undated earthwork lies to the west of the consented pond. This comprises a linear depression running approximately north-east/south-west, 32m in length, with a short return section, 8m in length running north-west from the north-eastern end of the main linear. The depression is approximately 3m wide. This may represent the remains of a rectilinear enclosure (see fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 1.6 No other earthwork features were observed in the vicinity during a site visit by a member of CA staff on 28th September 2009. However, a sketch of earthworks held by the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environments Record dated 1981 suggests that others may have been present in the vicinity. These were not easily transcribed onto modern mapping, as the plot of the extant earthwork did not fit well with that surveyed onto the base mapping. All others have been transcribed with reference to boundaries and buildings.. In the immediate vicinity of the development the earthworks shown on the sketch comprise a linear depression running north-west/south-east; a break of slope zig-zagging to the south-west of the extant earthwork; and a wide linear depression to the west of the extant earthwork (see fig. 2 for location and extent). A linear depression forming a possible third side of the previously described extant earthwork, to its north-west, was also recorded.
- 1.7 These earthworks may have been associated with the recorded site of a medieval manor house (MDB10928), the record for which mentions earthworks around Studham Hall Farm. This manor belonged to Dunstable Priory in the medieval period. Studham Hall Farmhouse contains elements thought to date to the 16th century or possibly earlier, and is Grade II Listed.
- 1.8 Studham Common medieval settlement is recorded further to the south, beyond Common Road (MDB 16956). Settlement at Studham is recorded in the Domesday Book, suggesting it dates to at least the Saxon period. Studham village lies 500m to the north-east of the site, although the church lies in a now relatively isolated position 700m to the north-north-east.
- 1.9 The recorded archaeological resource in the vicinity suggests that there may be potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains of medieval date within the site. If present, these may comprise evidence of settlement and of field systems.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2010). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the stripping of topsoil and subsoil to the natural geological substrate (Fig. 2).
- 1.11 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.12 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 Luton Museum under accession number LUTNM: 2010.30, 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 Natural clay substrate 104 was revealed throughout across the area of observed groundworks at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level. It was overlain by clay silt subsoil 103, averaging 0.15m in thickness.
- 2.2 Within the south-west corner of the new pond, subsoil 103 was cut by ditch 105, which measured 1.1m in width and 0.6m in depth. Seven sherds of 12th to 13th-century pottery were retrieved from primary fill 106, with a further broadly contemporary sherd being recovered from secondary fill 107, in association with post-medieval tobacco pipe and ceramic tile. A spread of building rubble, 101, within a silty clay matrix infilled the ditch and surrounding area (see fig.2 for extent).
- 2.3 In the south-western part of the site dumped deposit 101, consisting of stone, brick and tile in a silty clay matrix was revealed, which throughout the majority of the development area was sealed by 0.2m of clay silt topsoil (100).

The Finds

- 2.4 Small quantities of medieval pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe and glass were recovered from three deposits (Appendix B).
- 2.5 Eight fragments of medieval pottery, dateable to the 12th to 13th centuries were recovered from two separate deposits. Seven small bodysherds in a coarse sandy cooking pot-type fabric were recovered from primary ditch fill 106 and one sherd in a coarse sandy cooking pot-type fabric, identifiable as a jar with everted rim was recovered from secondary fill 107. Tobacco pipe and ceramic tile, dateable to the 17th to 19th century were also recovered from fill 107.
- 2.6 From deposit 101 five pieces of ceramic building material identifiable as brick and tile were recovered. The bricks sizes and form are appropriate for a date in the 15th to 16th centuries (see Appendix B). From the same deposit a small featureless fragment of 'Forest' glass dateable to the late medieval to the early 17th century was also recovered.
- 2.7 The only animal bone recovered was from deposit 101. This was identifiable as a weathered horse tibia.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Ditch 105 correlates closely with and is interpreted as a continuation of a previously undated north-east/south-west orientated depression that forms part of an earthwork to the west of the current groundworks. The recovery of 12th to 13th century pottery from the primary fill of the ditch adds credence to the documentary records that mention earthworks around Studham Hall Farm (see 1.7 above). The secondary fill, 107, of the ditch contained post-medieval artefacts.
- 3.2 A modern spread of material partially sealing ditch fill 107, also overlies the subsoil noted within the south-western extent of the observed groundworks, contained 15th to 17th-century building material and pottery.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett and the finds report was written by Ed McSloy and Angela Aggujaro. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by Jonathan Hart. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1990 *1:50,000 sheet 238: Aylesbury*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Studham Hall Farm, Studham, Bedfordshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for a Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management*

Gurney 2003 *Regional Standards for Field Archaeology*

Oake, M. 2010 *Brief for A Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management at Studham Hall Farm, Studham, Bedfordshire*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 Current ground level 185m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil. Orange-brown clay silt			0.2	
101	Deposit	Dumped layer. Rubble, brick and tile in a silty matrix			0.28	C15-C17
102	Layer	Topsoil. Orange-brown clay silt			0.1	
103	Layer	Subsoil. Yellow-brown silty clay			0.18	
104	Layer	Natural. Yellow-brown clay			-	
105	Cut	North-east/south-west orientated ditch		1.1	0.58	
106	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch 105		0.7	0.25	C12-C13
107	Deposit	Secondary fill of ditch 105		1.1	0.37	C17-C19

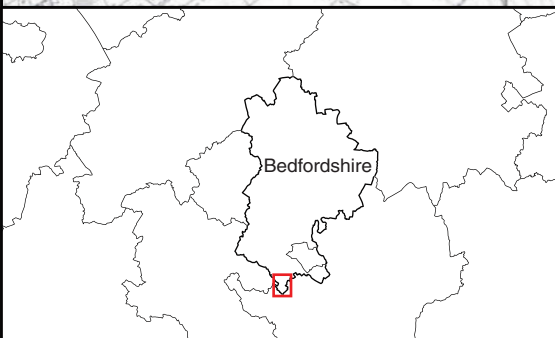
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS


Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
101	Animal bone: horse	4	226	C15-C17
	Forest glass	1	8	
	Ceramic building material: brick (14x9x4.5cm; 11.5x10.5x4cm) , tile	5	2070	
106	Medieval pottery: sandy coarse cooking pot-type	7	10	C12-C13
	Fe nail	1	4	
107	Medieval pottery: sandy coarse cooking pot-type	1	7	C17-C19
	Clay pipe	2	9	
	CBM: peg tile	3	218	

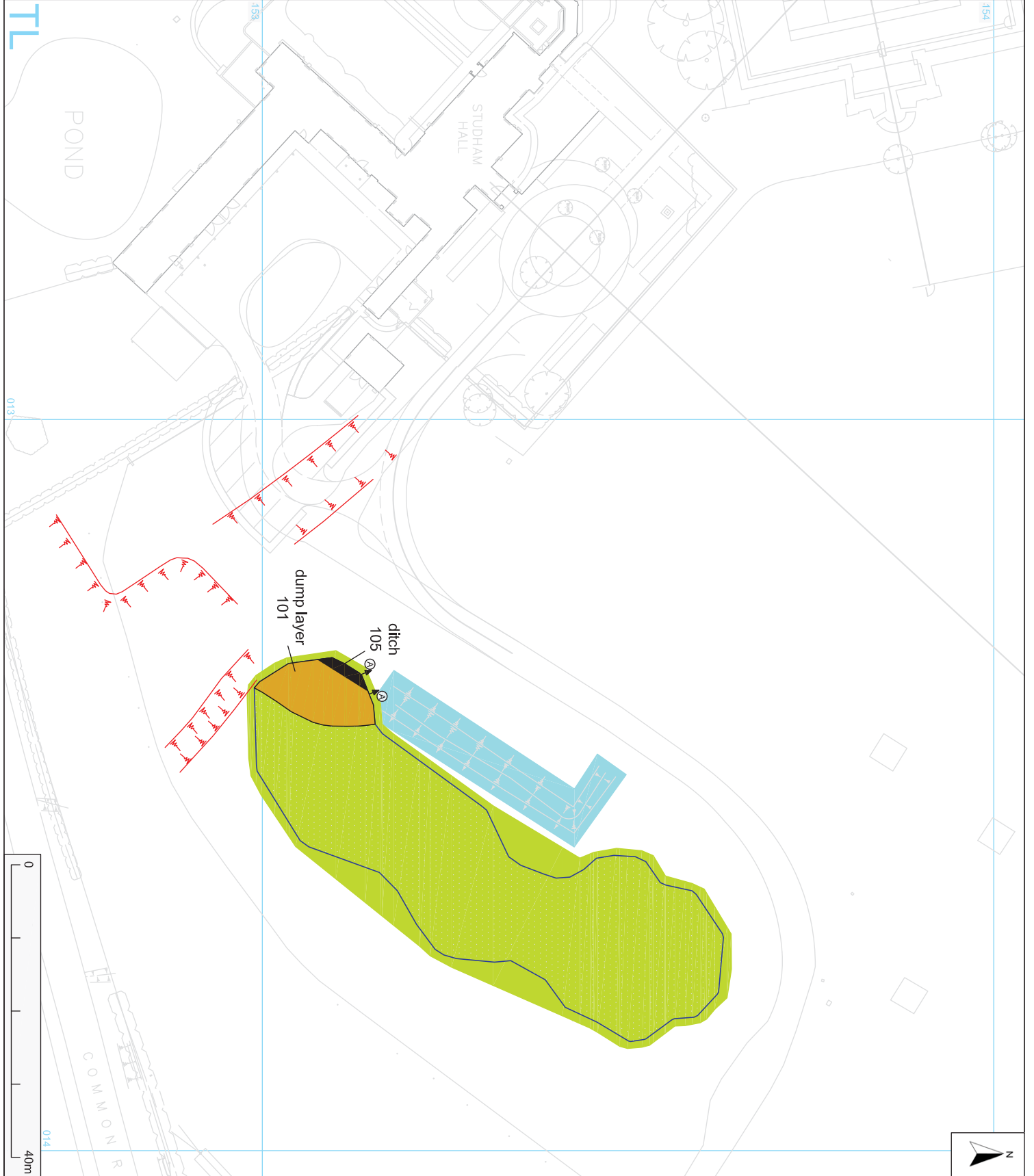
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM




PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Studham Hall Farm, Studham, Bedfordshire	
Short description	A north-east/south-west orientated ditch containing pottery of 12th to 13th-century date within the primary fill was identified. This linear feature appears to represent the continuation of an undated north-east/south-west orientated depression, which forms part of an earthwork to the west of the area of groundworks.	
Project dates	19 to 21 April 2010	
Project type	Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Studham Hall Farm, Studham, Berkshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	820m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	TL 0135 1532	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Central Bedfordshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Luton Museum	Animal bone, Ceramic building material: brick, peg tile, pottery Clay pipe
Paper	Luton Museum	WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and photographs
Digital	Luton Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA 2010 Studham Hall Farm, Studham, Berkshire: <i>Scheme of Archaeological Resource Management</i> . CA report No. 10087		


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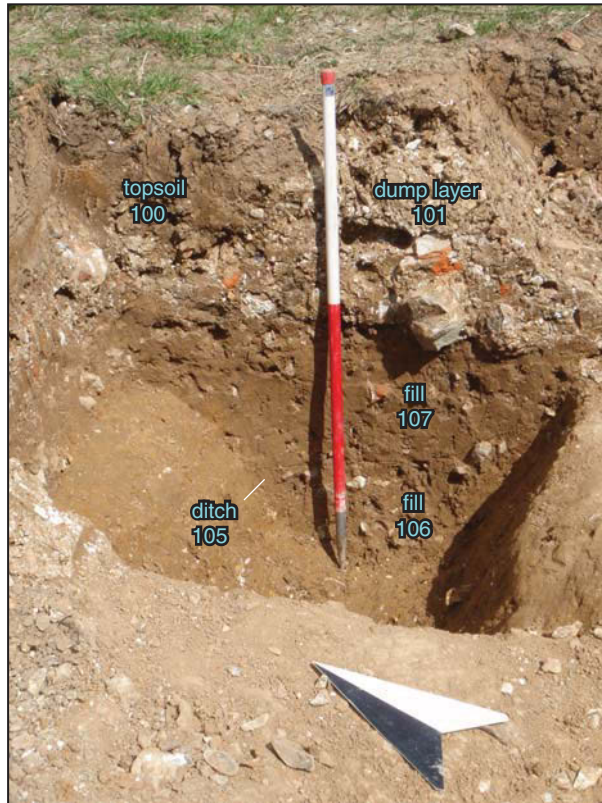
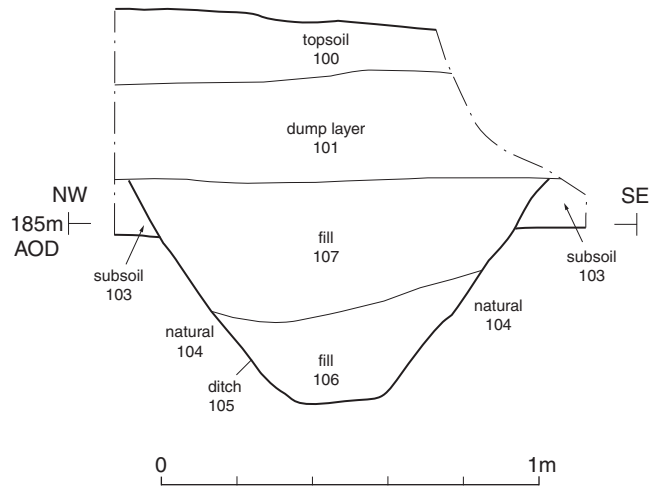
 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Studham Hall Farm, Studham Bedfordshire			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JB	1:25,000@A4	3105	1



-  area of extant earthwork
-  area of observed groundworks showing archaeological feature
-  earthworks noted on 1981 sketch plan

 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY	
<small>PROJECT TITLE</small> Studham Hall Farm, Studham, Bedfordshire	
<small>FIGURE TITLE</small> The site, showing location of groundworks and features	
<small>DRAWN BY</small> JB	<small>SCALE</small> 1:500@A3
<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 3105	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 2

Section AA



Ditch 105, looking north-east (scale 1m)



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Studham Hall Farm, Studham
Bedfordshire

FIGURE TITLE

Section and photograph

DRAWN BY

JB

SCALE

1:20@A4

PROJECT NO.

3105

FIGURE NO.

3