

**EASTERN RELIEF ROAD
SHINFIELD
WOKINGHAM BOROUGH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

CgMs CONSULTING

CA PROJECT: 2808
CA REPORT: 09047

MARCH 2009




**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**

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WOKINGHAM BOROUGH

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CA PROJECT: 2808
CA REPORT: 09047

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date	2 March 2009
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date	19 March 2009
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signed	
date	24 March 2009
issue	02

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-6)	5
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM	7
5. REFERENCES	7
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	8
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS	10
APPENDIX C: OASIS FORM.....	11

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
Fig. 2 Trench location plan (1:2500)
Fig. 3 Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 and 10 showing archaeological features (1:750)
Fig. 4 Trenches 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9 showing archaeological features (1:750)
Fig. 5 Photograph of ditch 203, looking south-west
Fig. 6 Photograph of trench 4 showing ditch 402/406, looking east

SUMMARY

Project Name: Land east of Shinfield, Wokingham Borough
Location: Shinfield, Wokingham Borough
NGR: SU 7383 6823
Type: Evaluation
Date: 20-25 February 2009
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Reading Museum Services
Site Code: SWB 09

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2009 at the request of CgMs Consulting consulting on land to the east of Shinfield, Wokingham Borough. Ten trenches were excavated.

An undated ditch, representative of the corner of an undated enclosure, and an undated field boundary were identified in addition to a modern drainage ditch and field drains.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs Consulting on land to the east of Shinfield, Wokingham Borough (centred on NGR: SU 7383 6823; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to an application for the construction of a proposed new relief road and proposed flood compensation areas.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation (CgMs Consulting) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009) with prior discussions with Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological advisors to Wokingham Borough Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Fiona McDonald (Berkshire Archaeology), including a site visit on 24 February 2009.

The site

1.3 The site is bounded by the A327 to the south, agricultural land to the east and west and Reading University's horticultural station and nursery to the north (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 41m AOD, rising slightly to the north.

1.4 The proposed development covers an area of approximately 30.4 hectares and under both arable and pasture regimes.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the London Clay Formation of the Palaeogene era (BGS 1981). The natural substrate encountered on site consisted of clays interspersed with gravels.

Archaeological background

1.6 Part of the route of the relief road has been subject to a geophysical survey which indicated very limited archaeological activity confined to the very southern end of

the flood compensation areas. However, previous air-photo assessments have identified a number of cropmarks, which led to the northern part of the site (including the location of the north Flood Compensation Area) being designated an area of high archaeological potential in the Wokingham District Local Plan.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 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 Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological advisors to Wokingham Borough Council, the LPA, in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 10 trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). All trenches measured 30 in length and 1.8m wide except trench 2 which measured 15m in length and trench 10 that measured 12.5m in length. Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were targeted on cropmarks, trenches 7, 8 and 9 within a blank area. Trench 10 was excavated at the request of Fiona McDonald to investigate the possible continuation of ditches revealed in trench 4.
- 1.9 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).
- 1.10 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).

- 1.11 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 Reading Museum Services 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 2-6)

- 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 respectively.
- 2.2 Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were devoid of archaeological features. Trenches 6, 7, 8 and 9 showed a similar stratigraphic sequence consisting of natural clays and gravels sealed by silty clay and sandy clay subsoils and subsequently by clayey silt and sandy silt topsoil. Trench 5 was devoid of subsoil. Modern field drains were revealed in trenches 6, 8 and 9. A modern drainage ditch was revealed in trenches 1 and 3. Undated ditches were also revealed in trenches 2, 4 and 10.

Trenches 1 and 3 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.3 A south-east/north-west orientated ditch was recorded within trenches 1 and 3 (ditches 104 and 303 respectively). Visible as a cropmark, it contained a large diameter ceramic drain at its base and was filled by sandy clay 103/304. The ditch cut subsoil 101/301 and its fill was overlain by topsoil 100/300. Post-medieval clay pipe and ceramic building material were recovered from fill 304. A number of modern field drains were also encountered within the trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 4)

- 2.4 Ditch 203 was orientated north-east/south-west and is likely to represent the cropmark anomaly previously recorded immediately to the north (see Fig. 4) It contained primary fill 202 and a secondary 204. Cutting the subsoil 201, ditch 203 was subsequently sealed by topsoil 200. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

Trenches 4 and 10 (Figs 2 & 3)

- 2.5 Trench 4 revealed the corner of field boundary ditches 402/404 containing single fills of sandy clay 403/405. Trench 10 was positioned to intercept any continuation of these ditches to the south. Both ditches are likely to represent the cropmark anomaly previously recorded immediately to the north (see Fig. 4) The north-east/south-west orientated ditch 404 continued into trench 10 as ditch 1002, whereas a continuation of the north-west/south-east ditch 402 was not revealed suggesting it terminated somewhere between the two trenches. No dateable artefacts were recovered from these ditches. No subsoil was recorded in either trench, ditch 402/404/1002 cut the natural substrate 401/1001 and was sealed by topsoil 400/1000. A number of modern field drains were also encountered.

The Finds

- 2.6 Quantities of ceramic building material, pottery, clay tobacco pipe and metalwork were recovered from three deposits. Two sherds (13g) of post-medieval glazed ware were present from plough scrape 603, typically dating between the 16th to 18th century. An unmarked clay tobacco pipe stem was recovered from ditch fill 304 and is consistent with 17th century or later dating.
- 2.7 Five fragments of ceramic building material, all broadly datable to the post-medieval or later periods, were also recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 4.1 A substantial drainage ditch was identified in trenches 1 and 3 and contained a 100mm diameter ceramic drainage pipe at its base. Residual post-medieval ceramic building material and a clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from the fill of this ditch. A cropmark was visible on the same alignment, plotted just to the north of the ditch, and probably represented the same feature. Modern field drains were also recorded in trenches 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10. A modern plough scar (not illustrated) within trench 6 contained residual post-medieval pottery and roof tile. No artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was observed within the topsoil and subsoil during machine excavation of the trenches.

- 4.2 Undated ditches 402, 404 and 1002 recorded in trenches 4 and 10 form the corner of a probable enclosure visible as cropmarks to the north. The low lying nature of the land and waterlogging encountered during the archaeological works would suggest that these ditches (and those identified elsewhere on site) probably functioned as drainage channels. An undated ditch 203 in trench 2 broadly coincides with the east/west orientated cropmark visible from aerial photographs and it probably functioned as a land boundary and/or drainage ditch.
- 4.3 A number of other cropmarks had been identified within the site but these did not coincide with any observable archaeological features or deposits where intersected by the evaluation trenches. This would suggest they either have been destroyed by recent agricultural activity or represent anomalies within the natural substrate.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt, assisted by Darran Muddiman and Hazel O'Neil. The report was written by Ray Holt. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw and the finds report prepared by Teresa Gilmore. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1981 *Geological Survey of Britain (England and Wales) Solid and Drift, Sheet 268: Reading*
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Land east of Shinfield, Wokingham Borough: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
101	Layer	Subsoil			0.13	
102	Layer	Natural sandy clay and gravel substrate				
103	Fill	Fill of 104		2.75	0.74	Modern
104	Cut	Drain		2.75	0.74	Modern

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
201	Layer	Natural silty clay and gravel substrate				
202	Layer	Fill of 203		1.55	0.2	
203	Cut	Ditch		1.55	0.63	
204	Fill	Fill of 203		1.55	0.43	

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.38	
301	Layer	subsoil			0.25	
302	Layer	Natural silty sand and gravel substrate				
303	Cut	Drain			0.75	Modern
304	Fill	Fill of 303			0.75	Modern

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
401	Layer	Natural sandy clay and gravel substrate				
402	Cut	Ditch		1.0	0.3	
403	Fill	Fill of 402		1.0	0.3	
404	Cut	Ditch		0.8	0.46	
405	Fill	Fill of 402		0.8	0.46	
406	Cut	Field drain		0.45	0.22	Modern
407	Fill	Fill of 406		0.45	0.22	Modern

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
501	Layer	Natural sandy clay and gravel substrate				

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
601	Layer	subsoil			0.12	
602	Layer	Natural silty sand and gravel substrate				
603	Fill	Fill of 604		0.19	0.26	Modern
604	Cut	Field drain		0.19	0.26	Modern
605	Fill	Fill of 606		0.88	0.07	Modern
606	Cut	Plough scrape		0.88	0.07	Modern
607	Fill	Fill of 608		0.56	0.08	Modern
608	Cut	Plough scrape		0.56	0.07	Modern

Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil			0.26	
701	Layer	Subsoil			0.09	
702	Layer	Natural silty clay and gravel substrate				

Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil			0.3	
801	Layer	Subsoil			0.14	
802	Layer	Natural silty clay and gravel substrate				

Trench 9

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil			0.26	
901	Layer	Subsoil			0.15	
902	Layer	Natural silty clay and gravel substrate				

Trench 10

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
1001	Layer	Natural silty clay and gravel substrate				
1002	Cut	Ditch		0.8	0.35	
1003	Fill	Fill of 1002		0.8	0.35	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
103	Post-medieval brick	3	473	PMED
304	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	3	PMED
	Post-medieval ceramic building material: misc	2	4	
	Iron object	1	490	
603	Post-medieval pottery: miscellaneous glazed ware	2	13	C16-C18
	Post-medieval roof tile	1	31	

APPENDIX C: OASIS FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land east of Shinfield, Wokingham Borough	
Short description	An undated ditch, representative of the corner of an undated enclosure, and an undated field boundary were identified in addition to a modern drainage ditch and field drains.	
Project dates	20 February to 25 February 2009	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysics survey	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
	30.4ha	
Site Location	Land east of Shinfield, Wokingham Borough	
Study area (M ² /ha)	30.4ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 7383 6823	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Reading Museum Services	Ceramic building material, pottery, clay pipe
Paper	Reading Museum Services	Trench sheets, context sheets, photo register, permatrace drawings
Digital	Reading Museum Services	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Land east of Shinfield, Wokingham Borough: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA Typescript report 09047		

Reproduced from the 1998 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
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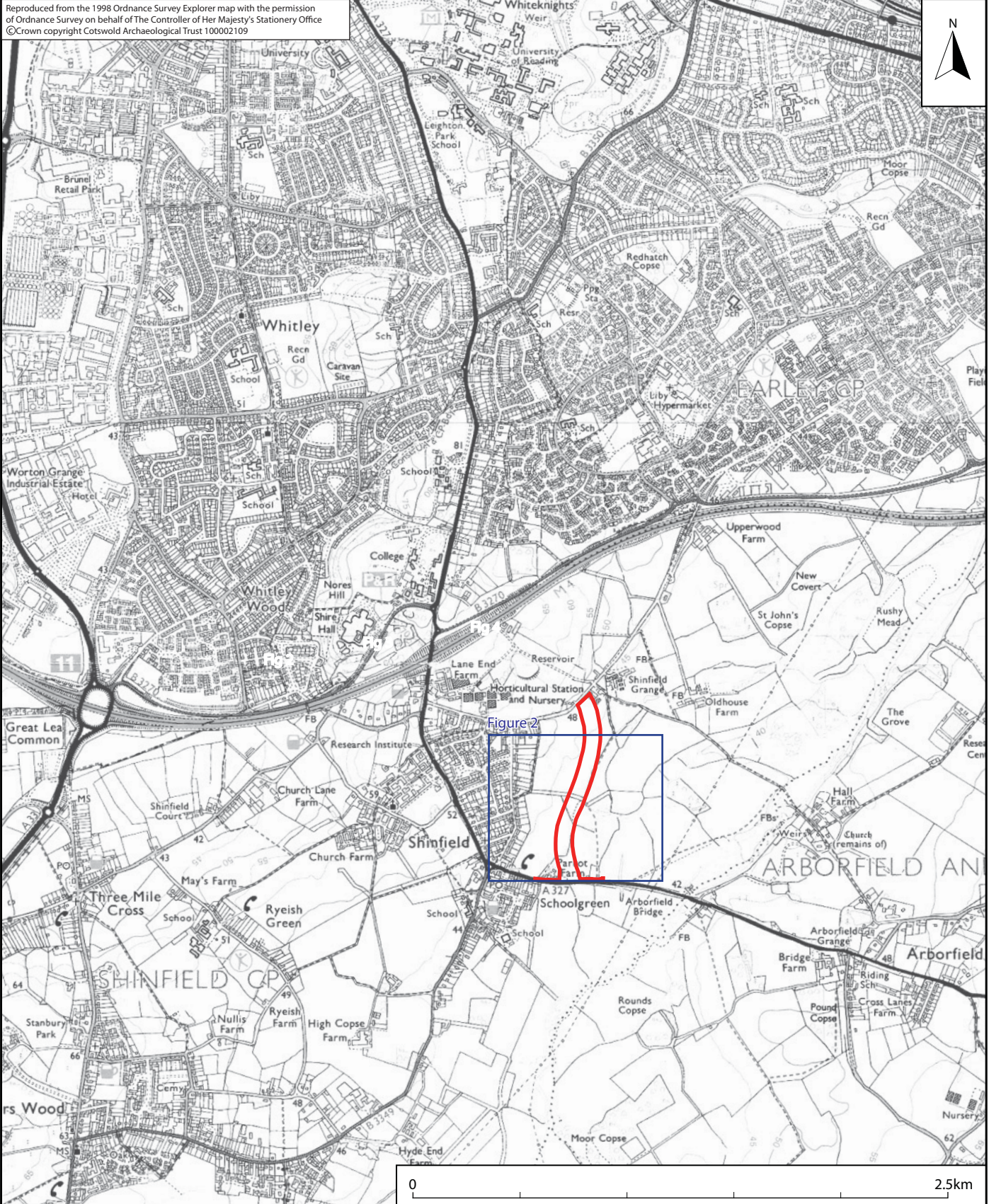
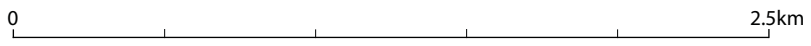

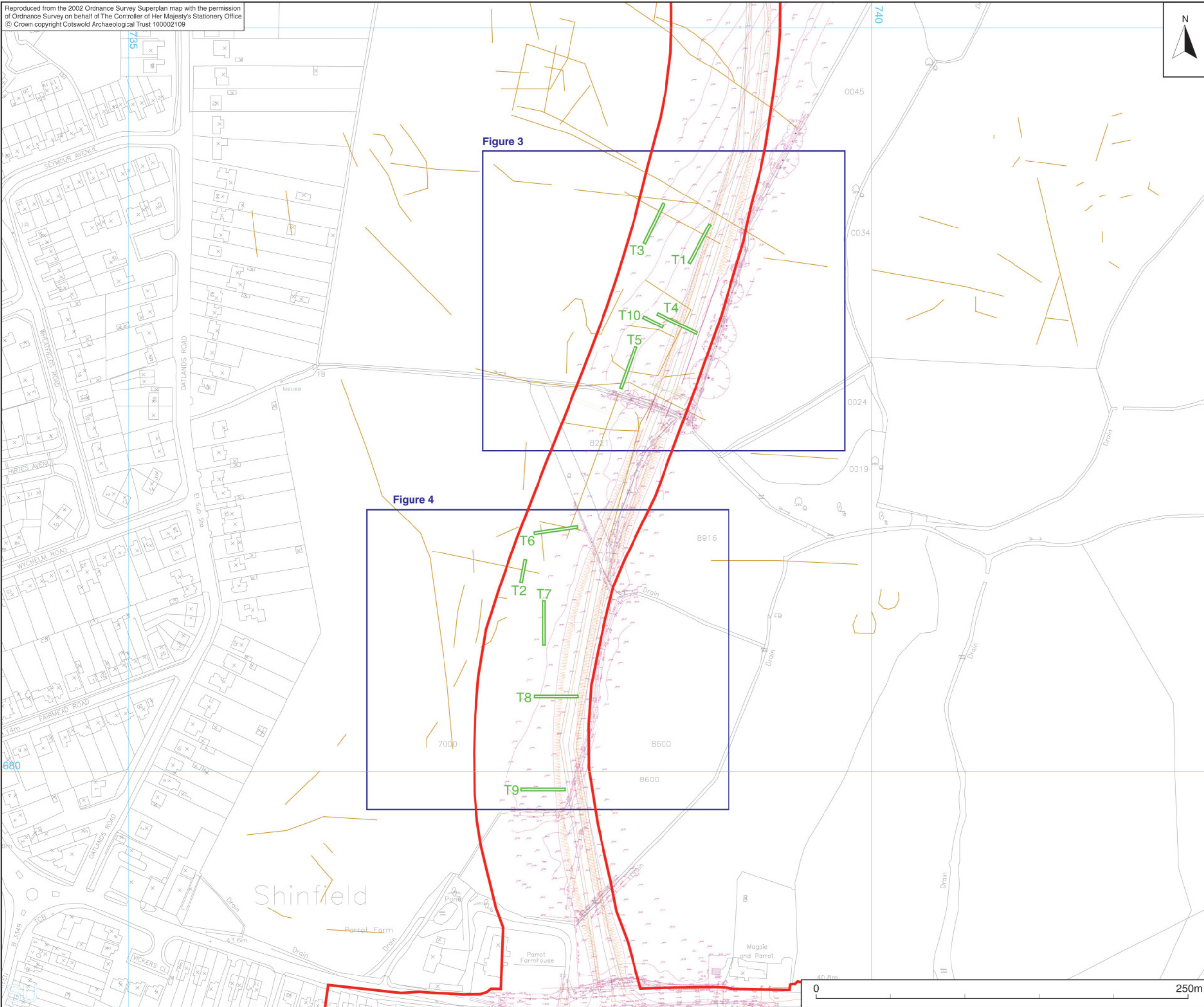


Figure 2



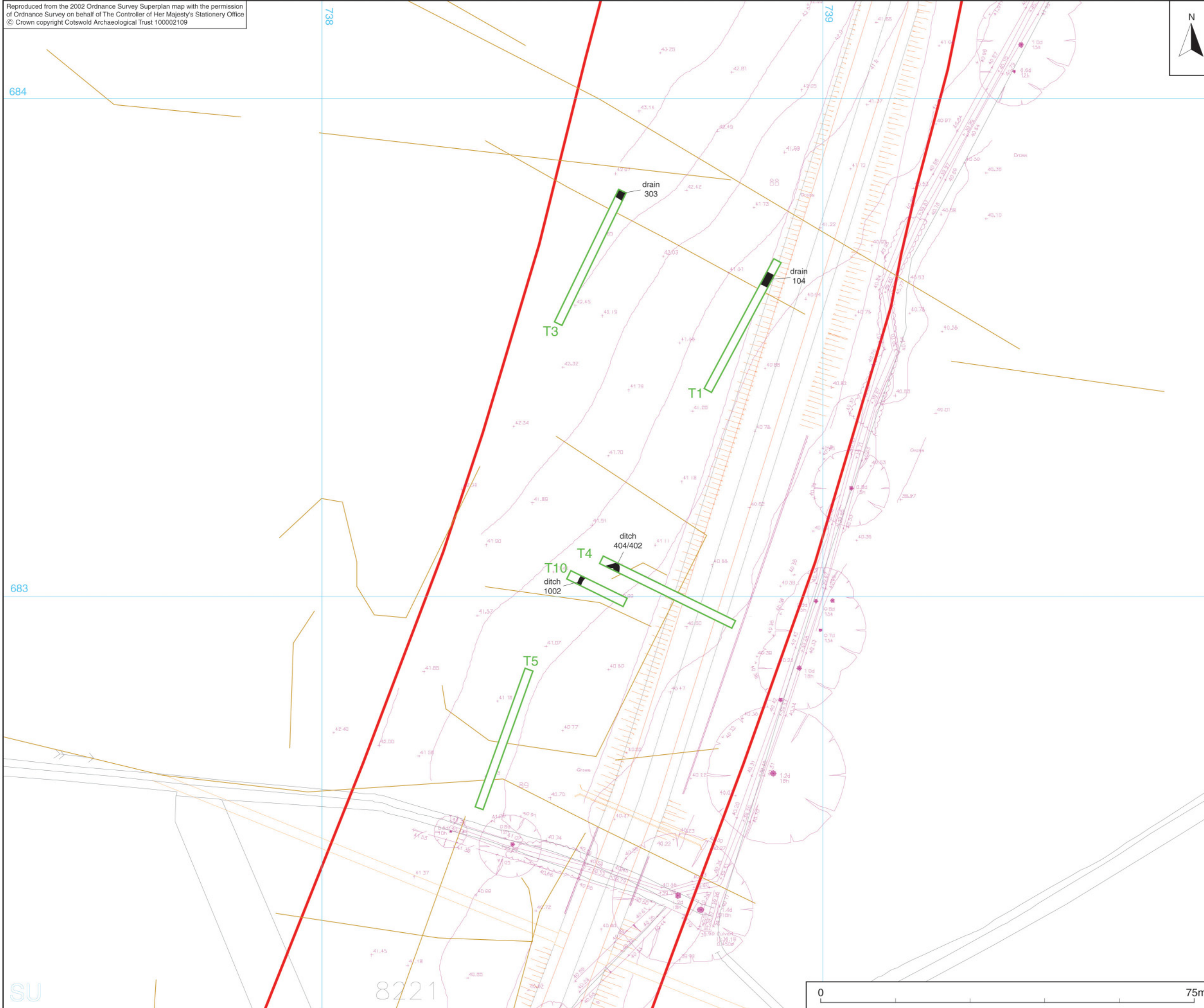
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FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
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- ▭ site
- ▭ evaluation trench
- ▭ cropmarks

Figure 3

Figure 4



-  site
-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological features
-  cropmarks



8916

681

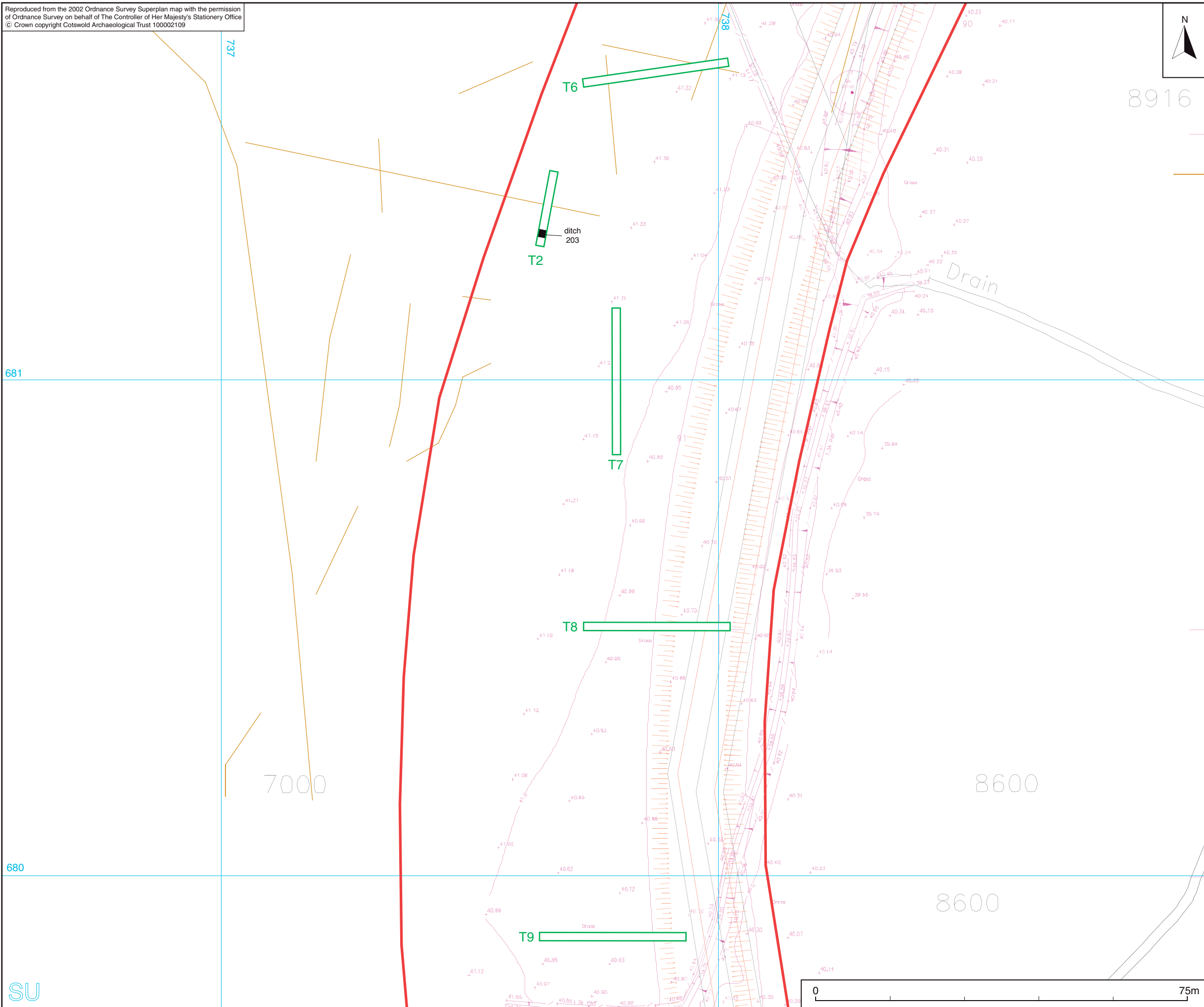
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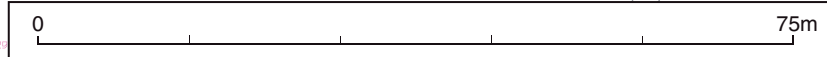
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-  evaluation trench
-  archaeological features
-  cropmarks

 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Land East of Shinfield, Wokingham Borough

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 2,6,7,8 and 9 showing archaeological features

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RK	1:750@A3	2808	4





5



6

5 Photograph of ditch 203, looking south-west

6 Photograph of trench 4 showing ditch 402/406, looking east



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PROJECT TITLE

Land East of Shinfield, Wokingham Borough

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY

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n/a

PROJECT NO.

2808

FIGURE NO.

5 & 6