

Amen Corner Bracknell Berkshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report

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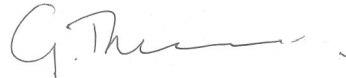
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Amen Corner, Bracknell, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited (North London) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed mixed use development comprising housing, a primary school, SANG (Suitable Alternative Green Space) and associated facilities centred on SU 83777 69324. The work was undertaken in February 2016. A total of 43 trenches were excavated across the site, of which 38 measured 50m by 2m and five measured 30m by 2m. The trenches were laid out in a grid formation to insure maximum coverage of the area under investigation, provide a good general coverage of the site and to target geophysical and LiDAR anomalies.

Two linear features consistent with boundary and/or drainage ditches were identified along the southern extent of the site and were indicative of some degree of land division. Both were dated to the early-mid Iron Age. A third boundary and/or drainage ditch, dating from the late Iron Age to early Roman period, was also identified and most likely represents a later phase and continuation of activity on site.

Land division in the post-medieval period was also evidenced by three boundary and/or drainage ditches, identified through a combination of recovered artefactual materials and cartographic sources. An additional four ditches were identified, although no dating evidence was recovered from these. It can be assumed that these represented further land division and drainage. Further evidence was also found for agricultural activity of late post-medieval date across the site in the form of field drainage. The late 19th century OS mapping for the area shows that the south-western area was used for gravel quarrying and elements of this were identified.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited (North London) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed mixed use development comprising housing, a primary school, SANG (Suitable Alternative Green Space) and associated facilities (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 14/00315/OUT). A specification for the evaluation was agreed between CgMs and Berkshire Archaeology; this document outlines how OA implemented the requirements outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2016).
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation'* (2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference SU 83777 69324, and is sited between the western urban extent of Bracknell, and the eastern extent of Wokingham. The site is bounded to the west by the A329(M) and to the south by the B3408 (London Road).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of an area of pasture, meadow and woodland, and occupies a plateau, with the ground gently falling from c 90m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) within the central southern area, to the west (c 85m aOD), the north (c 75m aOD), and the east (c 80m aOD) (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is recorded as superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel within the centre and south of the site, overlying sand of the Bagshot Formation (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in a desk based assessment (CgMs 2013), the results of which are summarised below.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 There was considered to be low potential for remains of Palaeolithic date, which if present are likely to be represented by residual artefacts only.
- 1.3.3 There was considered to be a moderate potential for remains of Mesolithic date, but this is likely to be represented by residual artefacts in the topsoil only.
- 1.3.4 There was thought to be low potential for remains of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age dates within the site.

Roman/Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.5 The area of the site is thought to occupy a peripheral location to any settlement of Roman or Anglo-Saxon date, which comprised an area of heathland or woodland during these periods. As such a low potential for remains of these periods was ascribed.

Medieval

- 1.3.6 All or part of the site appeared to have lain within the Royal Forest of Windsor during the medieval period. The eastern boundary of the Royal Forest may be represented within the site by a bank and associated cropmark. Small quantities of medieval pottery recovered during a previous fieldwalking exercise are likely to represent residual finds



indicative of general activity within the area at this time. The potential for remains of medieval date were deemed to be high to the west of the site in the area of the bank, and low within the remainder of the site.

- 1.3.7 Weak geophysical anomalies interpreted as the remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture were identified within the southern part of the site (Stratascan 2014).

Post-medieval and modern

- 1.3.8 Historic map evidence indicates that the majority of the site remained as enclosed heath, woodland or agricultural land throughout the post-medieval period to the present day.

- 1.3.9 By the late 19th century gravel quarrying works were established on the central southern part of the site, which expanded within this area until their closure in the 1930s/1940s (Fig. 2). A low potential was therefore indicated for remains of these dates.

Geophysical survey

- 1.3.10 A detailed gradiometry survey was undertaken within two areas of the site, totalling around 3.8ha (Stratascan 2014). The survey identified weak evidence of ridge and furrow within the southern area. A single broadly west-east aligned linear feature could represent a ditch of archaeological origin, or a modern feature, such as a service. Scattered magnetic debris was also recorded.
- 1.3.11 In the northern area general anomalies are likely to represent geological variation, and a single linear feature is interpreted as a post-medieval land drain.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology were appointed to undertake the evaluation by Steve Weaver of CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited (North London), who funded the project. Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology monitored the work. The fieldwork was conducted by Peter Vellet and latterly Jim Mumford assisted by Camille Guezenec, Caroline Souday, Rowan Kendrick, Neil Holbrook and Gareth Hatt. The report was written by Vix Hughes and Peter Vellet. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI, were:

- (i) To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains
- (iii) To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- (viii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (ix) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artifactual evidence present.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- (x) To investigate the geophysical anomalies, especially those relating to possible linear features.

2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 A total of 43 trenches were excavated across the site, of which 38 measured 50m by 2.0m and five measured 30m by 2.0m (Fig. 2). The trenches were laid out to provide an even coverage of the area under investigation and to target geophysical anomalies.
- 2.3.2 All trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand and the appropriate use of machine.
- 2.3.3 A number of the trenches were found to encounter deep deposits of recent date, and these were machine investigated as best as possible with regard to health and safety.
- 2.3.4 A sample of each feature was excavated and recorded. Sufficient excavation was undertaken to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation.
- 2.3.5 Digital photos and colour and black-and-white negative photographs were taken of any archaeological features, deposits, trenches and evaluation work in general.
- 2.3.6 Plans were drawn at an appropriate scale, (1:50) with larger scale plans(1:20) of features as necessary. Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plans. The absolute height (mOD) of all principal strata and features, and the section datum lines was calculated



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with the dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated within Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 A total of 16 of the 43 trenches contained features of archaeological origin (Fig. 2). The archaeological remains were cut from immediately beneath the subsoil (buried ploughsoil), unless otherwise stated.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence consisted of either topsoil or plough soil, the latter represented in trenches 25–43, overlying an agriculturally derived subsoil, which was only present within some of the trenches. The underlying geology was a mixture of river terrace sands and gravels.
- 3.2.2 While a marked variation in trench depth was observed, this primarily and directly corresponded to undulations within the immediate landscape of each trench. The average thickness of the overlying plough soil or topsoil and subsoil was 0.46m.
- 3.2.3 Ground conditions during the evaluation were generally good. The area of site in which trenches 5 – 11 were excavated was very wet and these did inundate with ground water, and required pumping.

3.3 Trench Summary

Trench Number	Archaeology Present	Brief description	Date
1	No	-	-
2	No	-	-
3	No	-	-
4	No	-	-
5	No	-	-
6	No	-	-
7	No	-	-
8	No	-	-
9	No	-	-
10	No	-	-
11	No	-	-
12	No	-	-
13	Yes	1 ditch	Late Iron Age to early Roman
14	No	-	-
15	No	-	-
16	No	-	-



Trench Number	Archaeology Present	Brief description	Date
17	Yes	1 ditch	19th century
18	No	-	-
19	Yes	1 ditch	Undated/modern
20	Yes	1 ditch, 1 pit	Undated
21	Yes	1 ditch, 2 pits	One pit was 19th century, other undated
22	Yes	1 ditch	Early to mid Iron age
23	No	-	-
24	Yes	1 ditch	Post-medieval, possibly equates to Tr 21 ditch
25	Yes	1 ditch	Undated, possibly equates to Tr 26 ditch
26	Yes	1 ditch, 1 post hole	Early to mid Iron age (ditch), post hole undated
27	No	-	-
28	Yes	1 ditch terminus, 1 pit	Undated
29	Yes	1 ditch terminus, 1 pit	Undated
30	Yes	1 quarry pit	Post-medieval
31	No	-	-
32	Yes	1 ditch	Undated
33	No	-	-
34	Yes	1 quarry pit	Post-medieval?
35	No	-	-
36	No	-	-
37	No	-	-
38	Yes	1 ditch terminus	Undated
39	No	-	-
40	No	-	-
41	No	-	-
42	No	-	-
43	Yes	1 quarry pit	Post-medieval

3.4 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.4.1 The trenching revealed sparsely distributed archaeological remains. These were represented by a series of ditches, occasional discrete features and three large pits most likely associated with documented quarrying within the site boundary.



3.4.2 Numerous naturally occurring features, namely tree throws, were observed in the many of the trenches, as were land drains, particularly in the eastern half of site. A percentage of these were excavated and recorded to characterise these feature types.

3.5 Trenches with no significant archaeological features or deposits

3.5.1 Trenches 1 – 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 23, 27, 31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41 and 42 revealed no archaeological deposits or features.

3.6 Trenches with struck flint finds

3.6.1 Several struck flints were recovered from topsoil or subsoil, or observed in topsoil by staff moving between trenches (see Appendix B. 5). In the latter instance the flints were recorded as being from the topsoil of the nearest trench to their find spot. The single struck flint recovered from an archaeological fill (ditch fill 2605, Trench 26) proved to be residual. It is worth noting that all of the flint was recovered from the western half of the site.

3.7 Trench 13

3.7.1 A single north-south aligned ditch, 1303, with steep sides and a concave base was observed (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 1). The ditch contained two fills, 1304 and 1305, both of which were consistent with natural infilling derived from silting and the re-deposition of natural geology. Six sherds of pottery dating from the late Iron Age to the early Roman period were recovered from the upper fill (1304).

3.8 Trench 17

3.8.1 The trench contained a single ditch, 1702, aligned NNW-SSE with a steep sided, concave based profile (Figs 2 and 3). A single fill, 1703, was consistent with natural infilling of silts and sand and contained a single sherd of 19th century pottery, one fragment of brick dating to the 16th-19th centuries and 3 fragments of undated iron sheet.

3.8.2 Two other features were also excavated and characterised as tree throws. Neither of these produced any artefactual remains.

3.9 Trench 19

3.9.1 Trench 19 was aligned ENE- WSW and situated to target two geophysical anomalies; a probable furrow and a linear anomaly of unknown origin. Neither of these were identified within the trench.

3.9.2 A single NNW-SSE aligned ditch, 1903, had shallow sides and a concave base (Fig. 2). Ditch 1903 clearly cut the subsoil, and the only fill, 1904, contained a small fragment of plastic. Five fragments of iron sheet were recovered, although these could not be closely dated. This ditch is most likely a continuation of the ditch observed in Trenches 21 and 24 (2103 and 2403, respectively).

3.9.3 Seven features, all amorphous and most likely the result of tree rooting, and a single land drain were also observed but not excavated.

3.10 Trench 20

3.10.1 Ditch 2005 was aligned north-south with steep sides and a concave base (Figs 2 and 3). It contained two fills, 2006 and 2007, both of which were consistent with natural infilling derived from silting and the re-deposition of natural geology. No artefactual remains were recovered from either fill.



- 3.10.2 Pit 2008 was observed to cut ditch 2005 and contained a single fill, (2009), consistent with water-borne silting (Figs 2 and 3). No artefactual material was recovered.
- 3.10.3 Land drain 2010 was excavated in part to assist in characterising this feature type and also due to its truncation of pit 2008. It contained a single fill, 2011, with a ceramic land drain at its base. A clay pipe fragment was recovered from fill 2011 dated to the mid 19th century. A single iron nail was also recovered, although this could not be closely dated. In addition, two fragments of Roman or post-Roman ceramic building material were also recovered, although these are likely to be residual.
- 3.10.4 Four tree throws and a second land drain were also observed. Of these, one tree throw, 2003, was excavated and recorded.

3.11 Trench 21

- 3.11.1 Trench 21 was aligned north-east to south-west and sited to target a clear linear anomaly represented on the LiDAR survey.
- 3.11.2 Three archaeological features were identified; pits 2108 and 2105 and ditch 2103. A tree throw, 2112, was also observed adjacent to pit 2108. All features were observed to cut the subsoil 2101, and are thus interpreted as being of recent date.
- 3.11.3 Identified as having an irregular shape in both plan and profile, pit 2108 contained a charcoal and ash rich basal fill of deliberately deposited material, 2109 (Figs 2 and 4). An upper fill, 2110, of deliberately deposited silts and sand was also identified. No artefactual material was recovered. Pit 2108 was observed to cut a tree throw 2112.
- 3.11.4 Pit 2105 contained two fills, 2106 and 2111, both of which were consistent with natural deposition of silts (Figs 2 and 4). Fill 2111 contained three sherds of pottery, one from the early-mid 19th century and two possible Roman fine ware fabrics, which were residual. Pit 2105 was observed to cut ditch 2103.
- 3.11.5 Ditch 2103 was aligned north-south and had moderate sides and a concave base (Figs 2 and 4). It contained two fills, 2104 and 2107, both consistent with natural deposition of silts and sand. No artefactual material was recovered. This ditch is most likely a continuation of the ditch observed in Trenches 19 and 24 (1903 and 2403 respectively).
- 3.11.6 Four additional tree throws were also observed and were not further investigated.

3.12 Trench 22

- 3.12.1 A single ditch, 2203, was aligned north-south (Figs 2 and 4; Plate 2). The full profile could not be established due to inundation of ground water, The ditch had moderate to steep sides and contained at least five fills, 2204-2208, all of which were consistent with water borne natural silting and re-deposition of natural geology. Seven sherds of early-middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from the upper fill, (2204).
- 3.12.2 Several natural features were identified within the trench, of which a single tree throw, 2209, was excavated and recorded. The NNW extent of Trench 22 was shortened by 7m as the trench would have otherwise impeded access along a farm track.

3.13 Trench 24

- 3.13.1 Trench 24 was aligned ENE-WSW and situated to target a clear linear anomaly represented on the LiDAR survey provided in preceding documentation.
- 3.13.2 A single ditch, 2403, was observed cutting the subsoil (Figs 2 and 4). Aligned N-S, ditch 2403 had moderate sides and a concave based profile and contained three fills, (2404), (2405) and (2408). All three fills were consistent with natural silting, none of which contained artefactual material. This linear is most likely a continuation of the ditch observed in trench 19 and 21 (1903 and 2103, respectively).



3.13.3 Ditch 2403 was observed to cut a tree throw, 2401 (Figs 2 and 4). A further seven natural features were noted, all of which were interpreted as tree throws. A further linear feature proved to be a land drain.

3.14 Trench 25

3.14.1 A single ditch, 2503, was observed on a WNW-ESE alignment (Fig. 2). As this was determined to be a continuation of ditch 2603 in trench 26, its position was recorded, but it was not further investigated. Due to the presence of services, trench 25 was intermittently excavated to avoid exposing or damaging these.

3.15 Trench 26

3.15.1 Observed as a continuation of ditch 2503 in trench 25, ditch 2603 had a steep sided profile and measuring 1.9m in width (Figs 2 and 5: Plate 3). The ditch contained two fills, 2604 and 2605, consistent with the re-deposition of natural geology and natural silting, respectively. Five sherds of early–middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from fill (2605).

3.15.2 A post hole, 2606, had moderately steep sides and a concave based profile. It contained two fills; post pipe infill 2608 and post packing material 2607. No artefactual material was recovered from either fill.

3.15.3 Three further sub-circular feature were also identified in addition to post hole 2606, however, upon investigation these were all determined to be of natural origin. A single tree throw, 2609, was cut by ditch 2603 and was excavated and recorded (Fig. 5).

3.15.4 The NNE extent of trench 26 was shortened by 7.4m as the trench would have otherwise impeded access along a farm track.

3.16 Trench 28

3.16.1 Ditch terminus 2802 was aligned north-east to south-west and had a 'U-shaped' profile with moderate sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill, 2803, consistent with natural silting. No artefactual material was recovered.

3.16.2 Feature 2806 was small, circular pit which contained a single fill, 2807, consistent with natural silting, within which no artefactual material was recovered.

3.16.3 A single tree throw, 2804, was also identified, excavated and recorded. A cable was exposed resulting in 3.3m of the SE extent remaining unexcavated.

3.17 Trench 29

3.17.1 Ditch terminus 2902 was aligned North-west to south-east and had a 'U-shaped' profile (Figs 2 and 5). It contained a single fill, 2903, which was consistent with natural infilling of silts and sand. No artefactual material was recovered.

3.17.2 Circular pit 2904 had a steep sided and concave based profile (Figs 2 and 4). It contained a single fill consistent with natural infilling of silts and sand. No artefactual material was recovered.

3.17.3 Four natural features interpreted as tree throws were also observed within trench 29.

3.18 Trench 30

3.18.1 A single large feature, 3003, was identified, into which two interventions were excavated (Fig 2). Two fills, 3004 and 3005, were observed. The lower fill, 3004, represented a



series of alternating deliberate and natural depositions of material within which a fragment of ceramic building material dating to the 17th-18th centuries was recovered. The upper fill, (3005), was consistent with natural silting.

3.18.2 The trench was split into two halves so as to not impede access along a farm track intersecting its transect.

3.19 Trench 32

3.19.1 A single ditch, 3203, was identified on a north-south alignment (Figs 2 and 5). It had shallow sides and a concave based profile and contained a single fill, 3204, consistent with natural silting. No artefactual material was recovered.

3.20 Trench 34

3.20.1 A single large feature, 3405, was identified (Fig. 2). Due to reasons of health and safety this feature was not excavated, however, two distinct fills, (3403) and (3404), were observed within the trench baulk. No artefactual material was recovered from this feature.

3.21 Trench 38

3.21.1 A single ditch terminus, 3802, was identified on a west-east alignment (Figs 2 and 5). It had a 'U-shaped' profile with shallow to steep sides and a concave base and contained a single fill, 3801, consistent with natural silting. No artefactual material was recovered from the fill 3801.

3.22 Trench 43

3.22.1 A single large feature, 4303, was identified cutting the subsoil and had a steep sided and irregular based profile and contained four fills, 4304–4307 (Fig. 2). The fills represented a series of deliberate and natural infilling episodes, suggesting feature 4303 was primarily deliberately backfilled. One sherd of pottery from the 18th-19th centuries and one fragment of clay pipe stem from the 19th century were recovered from the basal infill, 4304. In addition, one sherd of 19th-20th century pottery and two fragments of ceramic building material dating to the 18th-19th centuries were recovered from the upper most deliberate infill, (4307).

3.22.2 A tree throw and land drain were also observed, however, these were not further investigated.

3.23 Finds summary

3.23.1 A very small quantity of artefactual material was recovered from the features recorded in the evaluation. The range of material included pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), metal, clay pipe and Bakelite. A fuller description of the finds can be found in Appendix B.

3.23.2 The pottery assemblage consisted of 12 sherds (113g) of early to middle Iron Age; 8 sherds (16g) of late Iron Age to early Roman; and 6 sherds (168g) of post-medieval date. In addition there were two fragments of clay pipe (10g) found.

3.23.3 There were 7 pieces of ceramic building material (brick and tile) (237g) recovered. Two fragments were undated and the remainder were of post-medieval date.

3.23.4 Three fragments of iron were found (127g) and a single fragment (7g) of Bakelite.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trenches were excavated in reasonable weather, and despite intermittent inundation from ground water, conditions were sufficiently good in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features. It is therefore felt that the recorded density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate representation of the evaluation area as a whole.
- 4.1.2 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive, including the extent, date and condition of these. Further more, the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present was to be determined.
- 4.1.3 Features of archaeological origin were identified on the site, however, these were sparse, with the only discernible concentration being the early to middle Iron Age and late Iron Age to Roman ditches observed in trenches 13, 22, 25 and 26.
- 4.1.4 Small to medium sized boundary and/or drainage ditches represented the predominant archaeological feature on site, being observed in thirteen of the sixteen trenches with archaeological features present. The majority of these were datable either through artefactual or documentary evidence to the post-medieval period.
- 4.1.5 Six discreet features, interpreted as pits and also a single post hole, were identified in trenches 20, 21, 26, 28 and 29. Unfortunately, only one, pit 2111, produced any datable material, this dating from the early-mid 19th century, as well as two sherds of residual Roman pottery. No artefactual material was recovered from the other discreet features and only the post hole in trench 26 could be afforded a distinct function.
- 4.1.6 The eastern extent of the site, represented by trenches 1-11, produced no discernible archaeological features. Certainly a lack of post-medieval features can be explained with the documentary evidence available, where the present field boundaries have been extant since at least the early 19th century.

4.2 Interpretation

Prehistoric (flint)

- 4.2.1 Struck flint of probable Upper Palaeolithic to early Bronze Age dates were recovered as surface finds from several locations within the western part of the site. These probably relate to 'background' material, as almost none was recovered from any of the features investigated.

Iron Age and Roman

- 4.2.2 Evidence for some degree of land division in the early-middle Iron Age was represented by the two ditches identified in trenches 22, 25 and 26. These were consistent with medium sized field boundary ditches. Farmstead settlement with associated field systems have been identified 1.2 km to the south-east of the site.
- 4.2.3 The ditch identified in trench 13 was also consistent with a boundary and/or drainage ditch, albeit much less substantial. While this dated to the late Iron Age to early Roman period and thus represented a later phase of activity on site, a similar continuation of land use from the Iron Age into the Roman period was observed at the aforementioned farmstead settlement.



Post-medieval and undated features

- 4.2.4 Land division in the post-medieval period was evidenced by boundary and/or drainage ditches identified in Trenches 17, 19, 20, 21 and 24. The boundary ditch in Trenches 19, 21 and 24 was observed cutting the subsoil in all three interventions. Although no artefactual material was recovered from this ditch, a pit, 2105, containing pottery dating to the early-mid 19th century was observed truncating the ditch and thus provided a *terminus ante quem*. In addition, the ditch is clearly represented on cartographic sources, first appearing on the 1842 Wokingham Tithe map and then no longer present on a 1901 Ordnance Survey map.
- 4.2.5 Boundary ditch 1703 contained artefactual material, dating its infilling to 1830-1900. This ditch is potentially represented on cartographic sources, also first appearing on the 1842 Wokingham Tithe map, although not clearly defined.
- 4.2.6 No artefactual material was recovered from the fill of ditch 2005. The ditch is, however, truncated by a land drain dated to the mid 19th century.
- 4.2.7 Four additional boundary and/or drainage ditches were identified in trenches 28, 29, 32 and 38, although no dating evidence was recovered from these. It can be assumed that these represented either further land division and/or drainage.
- 4.2.8 Further evidence was found for agricultural activity of post-medieval date across the site, particularly the eastern half, in the form of field drainage. While only one land drain was excavated, firm dating evidence from the mid 19th century was recovered and it can be assumed that the remainder of the field drainage observed across site was of a similar date.
- 4.2.9 The three large features observed in trenches 30, 34 and 43 were interpreted as potential quarry pits, two of which were dated to between the 17th and 20th centuries. This interpretation was evidence by their size, irregularity and deliberate infilling, as well as their proximity to the known gravel extraction pit opened between 1883 and 1901 and in-filled by 1960.
- 4.2.10 The numerous amorphous patches seen within trenches were the result of tree throws and tree rooting. While no cartographic sources indicate woodland outside Blackman's Copse to the north of the site, the site lay within the Royal Forest of Windsor during the medieval period.

4.3 Conclusions

- 4.3.1 On the basis of the preceding geophysical survey and trenching results there is a high degree of confidence that the site does not contain intensive or extensive settlement archaeology of any period. While a distinct, albeit limited, concentration of early to middle Iron Age boundary ditches was present within trenches 22, 25 and 26, as well as by the late Iron Age-Roman ditch in trench 13, overall the evaluation trenching identified limited archaeological remains. The trenching has broadly confirmed the conclusions of the Heritage Statement and the geophysical survey report, both of which considered that the site contains sparsely distributed archaeological deposits, with little complexity (CgMs 2013).



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 100, overlying subsoil 101, which overlay natural 102.				Avg. depth (m)		0.34
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
100	Layer	2	0.22	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
101	Layer	2	0.12	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
102	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish orangey grey silty clay	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 200, overlying subsoil 201, which overlay natural 202.				Avg. depth (m)		0.34
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
200	Layer	2	0.18	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
201	Layer	2	0.16	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
202	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish orangey grey silty clay	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Two field drains were seen and a modern feature (probable animal burial). Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 300, overlying subsoil 301, which overlay natural 302.				Avg. depth (m)		0.3
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
300	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
301	Layer	2	0.1	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
302	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orangey grey silty clay	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		W-E



Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 400, overlying subsoil 401, which overlay natural 402.	Avg. depth (m)	0.3				
	Width (m)	2				
	Length (m)	30				
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
400	Layer	2	0.22	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt		
401	Layer	2	0.08	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt		
402	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orangey grey silty clay		

Trench 5						
General description		Orientation	NE-SW			
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A single open field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 500, overlying subsoil 501, which overlay natural 502.	Avg. depth (m)		0.28			
	Width (m)		2			
	Length (m)		27			
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
500	Layer	2	0.18	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt		
501	Layer	2	0.1	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt		
502	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orangey grey silty clay		

Trench 6						
General description		Orientation	NW-SE			
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Trench flooded through groundwater shortly after excavation. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 600, overlying subsoil 601, which overlay natural 602.	Avg. depth (m)					
	Width (m)		2			
	Length (m)		50			
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
600	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt		
601	Layer	2	0.1	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt		
602	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orangey grey silty clay		

Trench 7						
General description		Orientation	NE-SW			
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 700, overlying subsoil 701, which overlay natural 702.	Avg. depth (m)		0.5			
	Width (m)		2			
	Length (m)		50			
Contexts						
Context	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date



no.		(m)	(m)			
700	Layer	2	0.25	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
701	Layer	2	0.25	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
702	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orangey grey silty clay	-	-

Trench 8

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Two field drains were seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 800, overlying subsoil 801, which overlay natural 802.	Avg. depth (m)	0.46
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
800	Layer	2	0.26	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
801	Layer	2	0.2	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
802	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid greyish orange silty clay	-	-

Trench 9

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Seven field drains were seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 900, overlying subsoil 901, which overlay natural 902.	Avg. depth (m)	0.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
900	Layer	2	0.12	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
901	Layer	2	0.18	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
902	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid greyish orange silty clay	-	-

Trench 10

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1000, overlying subsoil 1001, which overlay natural 1002.	Avg. depth (m)	0.38
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
1001	Layer	2	0.18	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
1002	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-



Trench 11						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1100, overlying subsoil 1101, which overlay natural 1102.				Avg. depth (m)		0.58
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	2	0.28	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
1001	Layer	2	0.3	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
1002	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid greyish orange silty clay	-	-

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1100, overlying subsoil 1101, which overlay natural 1102.				Avg. depth (m)		0.59
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	2	0.25	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
1201	Layer	2	0.34	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
1202	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orangey brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contained a single ditch 1303. The ditch was sealed by 1301 and cut 1302. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1300, which overlay subsoil 1301, which overlay natural 1302.				Avg. depth (m)		0.56
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	2	0.26	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
1301	Layer	2	0.3	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
1302	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid yellowish orange silty sand	-	-
1303	Cut	1	0.44	Ditch: filled by 1304 and 1305, N-S aligned	-	-
1304	Fill	1	0.28	Ditch: fill of 1303, mid pinkish grey sandy silt, above 1305	Pottery	Late Iron Age to early Roman
1305	Fill	0.6	0.2	Ditch: fill of 1303, mid greyish orange silty sand, below 1304	-	-

Trench 14



General description				Orientation			
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1400, overlying subsoil 1401, which overlay natural 1402.				NW-SE			
				Avg. depth (m)		0.5	
				Width (m)		2	
				Length (m)		50	
Contexts							
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
1400	Layer	2	0.25	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	
1401	Layer	2	0.25	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-	
1402	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid greyish orange silty clay	-	-	

Trench 15							
General description				Orientation			
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1500, overlying subsoil 1501, which overlay natural 1502.				NE-SW			
				Avg. depth (m)		0.5-0.9	
				Width (m)		2	
				Length (m)		50	
Contexts							
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
1500	Layer	2	0.3	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	
1501	Layer	2	0.25-0.6	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	CBM	17-19th century	
1502	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid greyish yellow silty sand	-	-	

Trench 16							
General description				Orientation			
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1600, overlying subsoil 1601, which overlay natural 1602.				NW-SE			
				Avg. depth (m)		0.58	
				Width (m)		2	
				Length (m)		50	
Contexts							
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
1600	Layer	2	0.3	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	
1601	Layer	2	0.28	Subsoil: mid orangey brown clayey silt	-	-	
1602	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish orange silty sand	-	-	

Trench 17							
General description				Orientation			
Trench contained a single ditch 1702. Two tree throws were investigated 1704 and 1706. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1700, overlying subsoil 1701, which overlay natural 1702.				NE-SW			
				Avg. depth (m)		0.4	
				Width (m)		2	
				Length (m)		50	
Contexts							



Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1700	Layer	2	0.25	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
1701	Layer	2	0.15	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
1702	Cut	1.2	0.4	Ditch: filled by 1703, NNW-SSE aligned	-	-
1703	Fill	1.2	0.4	Ditch: fill of 1702, dark greyish brown sandy silt	Pottery CBM Iron	AD1830-1900 16-19th century
1704	Cut	0.7	0.12	Tree Throw: filled by 1705	-	-
1705	Fill	0.7	0.12	Tree Throw: fill of 1704, pale greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
1706	Cut	0.6	0.3	Tree Throw: filled by 1705	-	-
1707	Fill	0.6	0.3	Tree Throw: fill of 1704, mid brownish greyish orange sandy silt	-	-
1708	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish orange silty clay	-	-

Trench 18						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A tree throw was investigated 1802. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1800, overlying subsoil 1801, which overlay natural 1802.				Avg. depth (m)		0.6
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1800	Layer	2	0.24	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
1801	Layer	2	0.36	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
1802	Cut	1.8	0.86	Tree Throw: filled by 1803	-	-
1803	Fill	1.8	0.86	Tree Throw: fill of 1802, dark brown silty sand	-	-
1804	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: soft pale orangey brown silty sand	-	-

Trench 19						
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench contained a single ditch 1903, of modern date which cut the subsoil. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1900, overlying subsoil 1901, which overlay natural 1902.				Avg. depth (m)		0.7
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1900	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
1901	Layer	2	0.5	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
1902	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
1903	Cut	1.2	0.54	Ditch: filled by 1904, NNW-SSE aligned	Plastic	-
1904	Fill	1.2	0.54	Ditch: fill of 1903, dark greyish	Iron	-



				brown sandy silt		
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Trench 20

General description Trench contained a ditch 2005 and pit 2008, cut by drain 2010. A tree throw feature was excavated as a sample 2003 Two field drains were seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 2000, overlying subsoil 2001, which overlay natural 2002.	Orientation	NW-SE
	Avg. depth (m)	0.38
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2000	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2001	Layer	2	0.18	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
2002	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
2003	Cut	0.44	0.12	Tree Throw: filled by 2004	-	-
2004	Fill	0.44	0.12	Tree Throw: fill of 2003, pale greyish brown silty sand	-	-
2005	Cut	1.3	0.44	Ditch: filled by 2006 and 2007, NNW-SSE aligned	-	-
2006	Fill	0.8	0.14	Ditch: fill of 2005, mid orangey grey sandy silt, below 2007	-	-
2007	Fill	1.3	0.28	Ditch: fill of 2005, pale greyish brown sandy silt, above 2006	-	-
2008	Cut	1.52	0.42	Pit: filled by 2009,	-	-
2009	Fill	1.52	0.42	Pit: fill of 2008, pale brownish grey silt	-	-
2010	Cut	0.38	1.44	Field drain: filled by 2011, NE-SW aligned	-	-
2011	Fill	0.38	1.44	Field drain: fill of 2010, mid grey sandy silt	Clay pipe CBM	AD 1830-60

Trench 21

General description Trench contained a ditch 2103, two pits 2105 and 2108. A tree throw feature 2112 was investigated. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 2100, overlying subsoil 2101, which overlay natural 2102.	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2100	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2101	Layer	2	0.2	Subsoil: pale greyish brown clayey silt	-	-
2102	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orange clayey silt	-	-
2103	Cut	1.4	0.46	Ditch: filled by 2104 and 2107, N-S aligned	-	-
2104	Fill	0.45	0.06	Ditch: fill of 2103, pale brown silty sand, below 2107	-	-
2105	Cut	2.7	0.42	Pit: filled by 2106 and 2111	-	-
2106	Fill	0.5	0.02	Pit: fill of 2105, mid reddish orange silty clay, below 2011	-	-
2107	Fill	1.4	0.46	Ditch: fill of 2103, mid brown	-	-



2108	Cut	1.65	0.32	sandy silt, above 2104 Pit: filled by 2109 and 2110	-	-
2109	Fill	0.6	0.2	Pit: fill of 2108, dark greyish black silty sand, charcoal and ash/soot 80%, burnt stones, below 2110	-	-
2110	Fill	1.65	0.32	Pit: fill of 2108, pale greyish brown sandy silt, charcoal, above 2109	-	-
2111	Fill	2.7	0.42	Pit: fill of 2105, mid brown sandy silt, above 2104	Pottery	Roman and 19th century
2112	Cut	1.25	0.2	Tree Throw: filled by 2113	-	-
2113	Fill	1.25	0.2	Tree Throw: fill of 2112, pale greyish brown silty sand	-	-

Trench 22						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench contained a ditch 2203 and several natural features of which one was excavated 2209.				Avg. depth (m)		0.48
Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 2200, overlying subsoil 2201, which overlay natural 2202.				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2200	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2201	Layer	2	0.28	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
2202	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid greyish orange clay	-	-
2203	Cut	1.8	0.7	Ditch: filled by 2204-2208, N-S aligned	-	-
2204	Fill	1.5	0.24	Ditch: fill of 2203, pale greyish brown sandy silt, above 2208	Pottery	Early to mid Iron Age
2205	Fill	1.2	0.4	Ditch: fill of 2203, pale blueish grey clay, above 2207	-	-
2206	Fill	1.1	0.18	Ditch: fill of 2203, mid brown sandy silt, above 2104	-	-
2207	Fill	1.1	0.14	Ditch: fill of 2203, mid brownish orange silty clay, above 2203	-	-
2208	Fill	0.22	0.25	Ditch: fill of 2203, mid greyish orangey brown sandy silt, above 2205	-	-
2209	Cut	0.85	0.3	Tree Throw: filled by 2210	-	-
2210	Fill	0.85	0.3	Tree Throw: fill of 2209, pale brownish grey sandy silt	-	-

Trench 23						
General description				Orientation		SE-NW
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5-0.84
Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 2300, overlying subsoil 2301, which overlay natural 2302.				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2300	Layer	2	0.28-0.36	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2301	Layer	2	0.18-0.48	Subsoil: mid brownish grey	-	-



2302	Layer	2	-	clayey silt Natural Geology: firm mid orangey brown sandy silt	-	-
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Trench 24

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a number of tree throws of which one was tested 2401 and a ditch 2403. Ditch cut the subsoil. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 2400, overlying subsoil 2406, which overlay natural 2407.	Avg. depth (m)	0.34
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2400	Layer	2	0.15	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2401	Cut	2.2	0.48	Tree Throw: filled by 2402	-	-
2402	Fill	2.2	0.48	Tree Throw: fill of 2401, pale brownish grey sandy silt, below 2406	-	-
2403	Cut	1.2	0.66	Ditch: filled by 2404-2405 and 2408, N-S aligned	-	-
2404	Fill	1.1	0.5	Ditch: fill of 2403, mid brown sandy silt, below 2405	-	-
2405	Fill	1.2	0.16	Ditch: fill of 2403, mid brownish orange clay, below 2408	-	-
2406	Layer	2	0.19	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt, below 2403	-	-
2407	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
2408	Fill	2	0.25	Ditch: fill of 2403, mid brown sandy silt, below 2400	-	-

Trench 25

General description	Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a single ditch 2503 which was a continuation of the one seen in Trench 26. A modern service trench was seen halfway through the trench. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 2500, overlying subsoil 2501, which overlay natural 2502.	Avg. depth (m)	0.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2500	Layer	2	0.2-0.31	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2501	Layer	2	0.09-0.29	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
2502	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
2503	Cut	1.15	-	Ditch: filled by 2504, N-S aligned	-	-
2504	Fill	1.15	-	Ditch: fill of 2503, mid grey sandy silt, below 2405	-	-

Trench 26

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a single ditch 2603 which was a continuation of the one seen in Trench 25; a posthole 2606 and a tree throw 2609 was excavated as a sample.	Avg. depth (m)	0.55
	Width (m)	2



Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 2600, overlying subsoil 2601, which overlay natural 2602.				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2600	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2601	Layer	2	0.18	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
2602	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
2603	Cut	1.9	0.8	Ditch: filled by 2604-2605, N-S aligned	-	-
2604	Fill	1.6	0.22	Ditch: fill of 2603, pale greenish grey sandy clay, below 2605	-	-
2605	Fill	1.9	0.8	Ditch: fill of 2603, pale yellowish brown silty sand	Pottery	Early to mid Iron Age
2606	Cut	0.28	0.16	Posthole: filled by 2607 and 2608	-	-
2607	Fill	0.15	0.16	Posthole: fill of 2606, pale brown silty sand	-	-
2608	Fill	0.13	0.16	Posthole: fill of 2606, postpipe, dark grey clayey sand	-	-
2609	Cut	0.6	0.2	Tree Throw: filled by 2610	-	-
2610	Fill	0.6	0.2	Tree Throw: fill of 2609, pale greyish yellow silty sand	-	-

Trench 27						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 2700, overlying subsoil 2701, which overlay natural 2702.				Avg. depth (m)	0.3-0.6	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2700	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2701	Layer	2	0.1-0.4	Subsoil: mid brownish grey sandy silt	-	-
2702	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orange silty sand	-	-

Trench 28						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained a possible ditch terminus 2802, a possible pit 2806 and a tree throw was excavated 2804. A cable trench was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 2800, overlying subsoil 2801, which overlay natural 2808.				Avg. depth (m)	0.38	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2800	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2801	Layer	2	0.18	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
2802	Cut	1.9	0.3	Ditch terminus: filled by 2803	-	-



				NE-SW aligned		
2803	Fill	1.9	0.3	Ditch terminus: fill of 2802, pale greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2804	Cut	0.9	0.3	Tree Throw: filled by 2805	-	-
2805	Fill	0.9	0.3	Tree Throw: fill of 2804, mid brown sandy silt	-	-
2806	Cut	0.4	0.1	Pit: filled by 2807	-	-
2807	Fill	0.4	0.1	Pit: fill of 2806, pale brown silty sand	-	-
2808	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orangey brown silty sand	-	-

Trench 29

General description	Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contained a possible ditch terminus 2902, a possible pit 2904. A modern service trench was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 2900, overlying subsoil 2901, which overlay natural 2906.	Avg. depth (m)	0.45
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2900	Layer	2	0.28	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
2901	Layer	2	0.2	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
2902	Cut	0.7	0.18	Ditch terminus: filled by 2903 NW-SE aligned	-	-
2903	Fill	0.7	0.18	Ditch terminus: fill of 2902, mid brown sandy silt	-	-
2904	Cut	0.4	0.14	Pit: filled by 2905	-	-
2905	Fill	0.4	0.14	Pit: fill of 2904, pale greyish brown silty sand	-	-
2906	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orangey brown silty sand	-	-

Trench 30

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a quarry pit 3003. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 3000, overlying subsoil 3001, which overlay natural 3002.	Avg. depth (m)	0.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	60

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	2	0.22	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
3001	Layer	2	0.18	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
3002	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm yellowish orange sands and gravel	-	-
3003	Cut	>4.9	>1	Quarry Pit: filled by 3004 and 3005	-	-
3004	Fill	>4.9	0.8	Quarry Pit: fill of 3003, mid brown silty sand, below 3005	CBM	17-18th century
3005	Fill	>4.9	0.2	Quarry Pit: fill of 3003, mid brown silty sand, below 3005	-	-



Trench 31						
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 3100, overlying subsoil 3101, which overlay natural 3102.				Avg. depth (m)		0.53
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3100	Layer	2	0.28	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
3101	Layer	2	0.25	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
3102	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm yellowish orange sands and gravel	-	-

Trench 32						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained a single linear feature 3203. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 3201, overlying subsoil 3202, which overlay natural 3200.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3200	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-
3201	Layer	2	0.3	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
3202	Layer	2	0.15	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
3203	Cut	0.3	0.08	Ditch: filled by 3204 N-S aligned	-	-
3204	Fill	0.3	0.08	Ditch: fill of 3203, mid reddish brown silt y sand	-	-

Trench 33						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A service trench was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 3300, overlying subsoil 3301, which overlay natural 3302.				Avg. depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3300	Layer	2	0.25	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
3301	Layer	2	0.1	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
3302	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orange clayey sand	-	-

Trench 34						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW



Trench contained a probable quarry pit 3405. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 3400, overlying subsoil 3401, which overlay natural 3402.	Avg. depth (m)	0.42
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3400	Layer	2	0.22	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	Bakelite	Post AD 1907
3401	Layer	2	0.2	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
3402	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orange clayey sand	-	-
3403	Fill	4	0.22	Quarry Pit: fill of 3405, mid yellowish pink silty sand	-	-
3404	Fill	4	-	Quarry Pit: fill of 3003, mid orange clayey sand, below 3403	-	-
3405	Cut	4	>0.22	Quarry Pit: filled by 3403 and 3404	-	-

Trench 35

General description	Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 3500, overlying subsoil 3501, which overlay natural 3502.	Avg. depth (m)	0.6
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3500	Layer	2	0.28	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
3501	Layer	2	0.32	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
3502	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orange clayey sand	-	-

Trench 36

General description	Orientation	NW_SE
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 3600, overlying subsoil 3601, which overlay natural 3602.	Avg. depth (m)	0.34
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3600	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
3601	Layer	2	0.14	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
3602	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orange sands and gravels	-	-

Trench 37

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
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Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 3700, overlying subsoil 3701, which overlay natural 3702.		Avg. depth (m)	0.31			
		Width (m)	2			
		Length (m)	67			
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3700	Layer	2	0.15	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
3701	Layer	2	0.16	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
3702	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish orange silty sands and gravels	-	-

Trench 38						
General description				Orientation	NNE-SSW	
Trench contained a ditch 3802. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 3803, overlying subsoil 3804, which overlay natural 3805.				Avg. depth (m)	0.65	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3801	Fill	1	0.42	Ditch terminus: fill of 3802, mid greyish brown silt y sand	-	-
3802	Cut	1	0.42	Ditch terminus: filled by 3801	-	-
3803	Layer	2	0.38	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
3804	Layer	2	0.24	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
3805	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-

Trench 39						
General description				Orientation	ENE-SWS	
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 3900, overlying subsoil 3901, which overlay natural 3902.				Avg. depth (m)	0.33	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
3900	Layer	2	0.23	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
3901	Layer	2	0.1	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
3902	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orange clayey sand	-	-

Trench 40						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 4000, overlying subsoil 4001,				Avg. depth (m)	0.44	
				Width (m)	2	



which overlay natural 4002.					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4000	Layer	2	0.3	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
4001	Layer	2	0.14	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
4002	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orange sands and gravels	-	-

Trench 41						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Two tree throw features were excavated. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 4100, overlying subsoil 4101, which overlay natural 4108.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4100	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
4101	Layer	2	0.3	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	Pottery	18-19th century
4102	Cut	1.3	0.24	Tree Throw: filled by 4103	-	-
4103	Fill	1.3	0.24	Tree Throw: fill of 4102, mid brown sandy silt	-	-
4104	Cut	0.75	0.26	Tree Throw: filled by 4105	-	-
4105	Fill	0.75	0.26	Tree Throw: fill of 4104, mid brown sandy silt	-	-
4106	Cut	-	-	Tree Throw: filled by 4107	-	-
4107	Fill	-	-	Tree Throw: fill of 4106, mid brown sandy silt	-	-
4108	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orange sandy clay and gravel	-	-

Trench 42						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 4200, overlying subsoil 4201, which overlay natural 4202.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
4000	Layer	2	0.2	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
4201	Layer	2	0.2	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
4202	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid brownish orange sands and gravels	-	-

Trench 43						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE



Trench contained a quarry pit 4303. A single field drain was seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 4300, overlying subsoil 4301, which overlay natural 4302.	Avg. depth (m)	0.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Findings	Date
4300	Layer	2	0.16	Topsoil: soft dark greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
4301	Layer	2	0.34	Subsoil: mid brownish grey clayey silt	-	-
4302	Layer	2	-	Natural Geology: firm mid orange sands and gravels	-	-
4303	Cut	6	0.68	Quarry Pit: filled by 4304-4307	-	-
4304	Fill	5	0.25	Quarry Pit: fill of 4303, mid greyish brown sandy silt, below 4305	Pottery Clay pipe	18-19th century 19th century
4305	Fill	6	0.06	Quarry Pit: fill of 4303, mid reddish yellow sand, below 4306	-	-
4306	Fill	6	0.18	Quarry Pit: fill of 4303, mid greyish brown sandy silt, below 4307	-	-
4307	Fill	6	0.44	Quarry Pit: fill of 4303, mid greyish brown sandy silt	Pottery CBM	19-20th century 18-19th century



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

Identified by John Cotter and Ed Biddulph

Context	Description	Date
1304	6 small grog tempered sherds, probably from same vessel, 9g	Late Iron Age- early Roman
1703	1 sherd yellow ware (YELL), 11g	1830 – 1900
2111	1 sherd transfer printed pearl ware (PEAR TR), 2 scraps in fine fabric, 5g	1820 – 1840 ?Roman
2204	7 sherds from 1 or 2 vessels, in sandy fabric with organics voids, 76g	Early – middle Iron Age
2605	5 sherds, all probably from same vessel, 37g	Early – middle Iron Age
4000	1 sherd yellow ware (YELL) mixing bowl fragment, 27g	1880 - 1950
4101	1 rim sherd post medieval red ware (PMR) from large bowl, 54g	Late 18th – 19th century
4304	1 sherd post medieval red ware (PMR), 5g	18th – 19th century
4307	1 flower pot base sherd in post medieval red ware (PMR), 71g	19th – 20th century

Discussion and recommendations.

B.1.1 The pottery assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work at this stage. It should be included in any further analysis arising from any future work undertaken on the site.

B.2 Ceramic building material

Identified by John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
1501	1 sherd peg tile, 28g	17th – 19th century
1703	1 shapeless fragment soft red brick, 18g	16th – 19th century
2011	2 shapeless scraps, 6g	Roman/post-Roman
3004	1 edge fragment from red post medieval peg tile, 133g	17th – 18th century
4307	2 scraps post medieval red brick, 52g	18th – 19th century

Discussion and recommendations.

B.2.1 The ceramic building material assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.3 Clay pipe

Identified by John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
2011	1 fluted bowl fragment – profile of back of bowl with spur and makers mark – WW, 5g	1830 - 1860
4304	1 pipe stem in fresh condition, 5g	19th century

**Discussion and recommendations.**

B.3.1 The clay pipe assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work. It should be included in any further analysis arising from any future work undertaken on the site.

B.4 Iron

Identified by Ian Scott

Context	Description	Date
1703	3 fragments of iron sheet, 107g	Not closely dateable
1904	5 fragments of iron sheet, 11g	Not closely dateable
2011	1 small nail, 9g	Not closely dateable

Discussion and recommendations.

B.4.1 The iron assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.5 Flint

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description	Date
2605	Irregular thick flint flake, thermally fractured, 27g	-
2700	Thin flint flake, step termination, broken in antiquity, 4g	-
2800	Flint end scraper, hard hammer struck flake, ventral surface edge damage consistent with usewear, dorsal cortex 15% and 2 dorsal removals with hinge terminations, 11g	-
3100	Flint core rejuvenation flake probably struck to remove battered platform edge from bipolar blade core, 14g	Mesolithic – early Neolithic.
3101	Flint flake, hard hammer struck, edge damage, 6g	-
3200	Thick irregular, heavily rolled flint flake, 31g	-
3400	Thick flint flake, distal end terminates in rough point, retouch/usewear along left distal margin, edge damage, 21g	-
3400	Flint flake, hard hammer struck, 5g	-
3400	Flint flake, platform preparation, 5g	-
3400	Irregular thick flake, rolled/edge damage, 22g	-
3400	Flint flake, 3g	-
3501	Flint flake, retouched left ventral margin and distal end, very fresh condition, 6g	-
3600	Flint flake, heavily rolled, edge damage, 6g	-
3700	Single platform flint blade/bladelet core, rolled condition, 29g	Mesolithic
3803	Large denticulate on thick flake, faceted platform, rolled condition, edge damage, 52g	Middle – late Paleolithic
3803	Flint flake, hard hammer struck, heavily rolled, edge damage, 8g	-



4000	Irregular flint flake, heavily rolled, 6g	-
4000	Flint thumbnail scraper, dorsal surface 75% cortex, semi-abrupt rough scalar retouch, 9g	Later Neolithic - early Bronze age
4000	Flint flake, edge damage, snapped in antiquity, 3g	-
4000	Flint flake, hard hammer struck, edge damage, heavily rolled, 7g	-
4000	Flint blade, short area of bruising right distal margin, seven parallel dorsal blade scars, usewear/edge damage and small area of polish, 25g	Final Palaeolithic Upper
4200	Flint flake, broken in antiquity, 15g	-
4200	Flint debitage, edge damage, 3g	-

Discussion and recommendations.

- B.5.1 A total of 23 pieces of struck flint and 7 fragments of burnt unworked flint was recovered from the evaluation. All the worked flint recovered during the evaluation is either residual in later contexts (ditch fill 2605) or from topsoil and subsoil contexts. The flint is in heavily rolled condition, consistent with its location in the plough soil. Most of the flint assemblage retains no technologically diagnostic features that would enable it to be assigned to a specific period.
- B.5.2 The small retouched element of the assemblage consists of two scrapers, a point, a retouched flake, a large denticulate and a bruised blade.
- B.5.3 The end scraper recovered from topsoil in trench 28 has no technologically dateable features. The rough point from trench 34 retains an area of retouch or usewear along a distal margin, but the piece is heavily edge damaged precluding any closer dating. The retouched flake from trench 35 is in relatively fresh condition but with no closely dateable features. The thumbnail scraper from trench 40 is later Neolithic to early Bronze age. The large denticulate from trench 38 is made on a thick flake with a faceted platform and could date from the middle to late Palaeolithic. The bruised blade, with its characteristic usewear/edge damage, is consistent with a Final Upper Paleolithic date. The blade/bladelet core and blade core trimming piece recovered from trenches 31 and 37 are Mesolithic in date.
- B.5.4 The small size of the struck flint assemblage and the fact that it derives largely from plough soil, with a single piece residual in a later context, limits interpretation of the material. It confirms the expectations of the desk based study, which considered there to be low to moderate potential for residual artefacts of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date.
- B.5.5 The assemblage requires no further work at this stage, although illustration of the bruised blade and denticulate should be considered. The worked flints from the evaluation should be integrated into any further analysis arising from future archaeological work on the site. Any future work on the site should also take account of the potential to locate in-situ flint working evidence, the possible sources of the material recovered during the evaluation phase



B.6 Bakelite

Identified by Ian Scott

Context	Description	Date
3400	1 decorated fragment of Bakelite, 7g	1907 to date

Discussion and recommendations.

B.6.1 The Bakelite is of low potential and requires no further work.



APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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CgMs 2013, Land at Amen Corner, Bracknell, Berkshire. Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment

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SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Amen Corner, Bracknell, Berkshire
Site code:	BRAM 16
Grid reference:	SU 83777, 69324
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	8th-19th February 2016
Area of site:	34.25 hectares

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited (North London) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed mixed use development comprising housing, a primary school, SANG (Suitable Alternative Green Space) and associated facilities centred on SU 83777 69324. The work was undertaken between 8th and 19th February 2016. A total of 43 trenches were excavated across the site, of which 38 measured 50m by 2.0m and five measured 30m by 2.0m. The trenches were laid out in a grid formation to insure maximum coverage of the area under investigation, provide a good general coverage of the site and to target geophysical and LiDAR anomalies.

Two linear features consistent with boundary and/or drainage ditches were identified along the southern extent of the site and were indicative of some degree of land division. Both were dated to the early-mid Iron Age. A third boundary and/or drainage ditch, dating from the late Iron Age to early Roman period, was also identified and most likely represents a later phase and continuation of activity on site.

Land division in the post-medieval period was also evidenced by three boundary and/or drainage ditches, identified through a combination of recovered artefactual materials and cartographic sources. An additional four ditches were identified, although no dating evidence was recovered from these. It can be assumed that these represented further land division and drainage. Further evidence was also found for agricultural activity of late post-medieval date across the site in the form of field drainage. The late 19th century OS mapping for the area shows that the south-western area was used for gravel quarrying and elements of this were identified.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the appropriate museum in due course, under the following accession number: TBC



 Site location	 <p>London Cheltenham Kettering Newark Birmingham www.cgms.co.uk</p> <p><i>Planning & Development Archaeology & Historic Buildings</i></p>	<p>Project title: Land at Amen Corner, Bracknell</p> <p>Not to scale Illustrative only</p> <p>Date printed: July 2013</p> <p>Drawn by: RAJS Checked by: SW</p>
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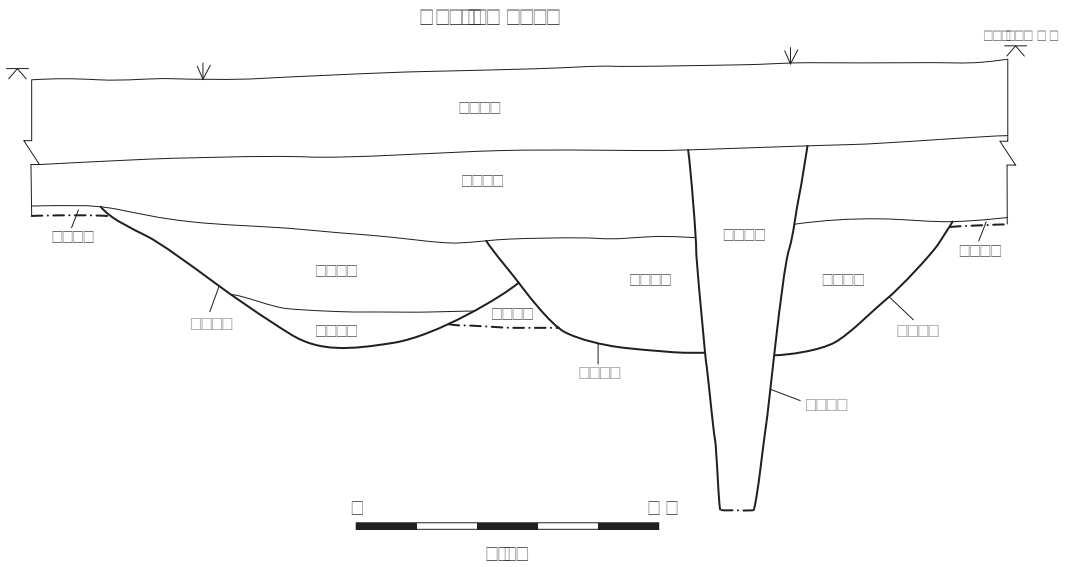
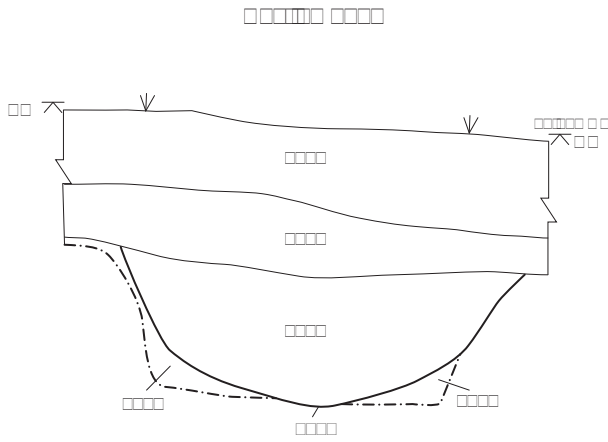
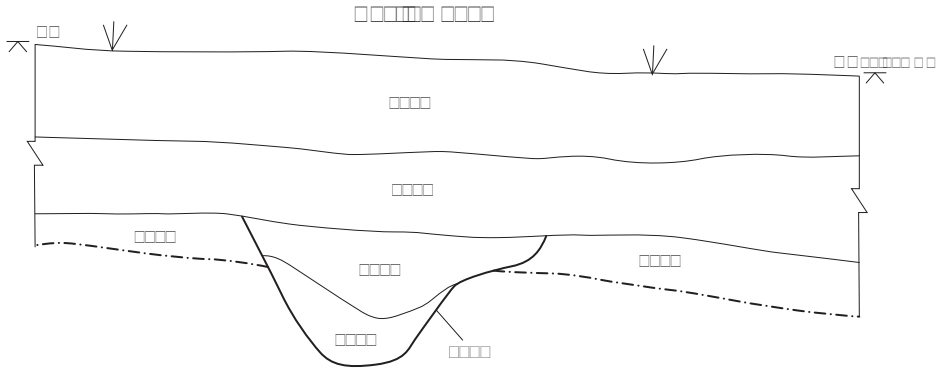
Figure 1: Site Location



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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User

Figure 2: Trench plan showing location of trenches and archaeological features



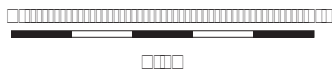
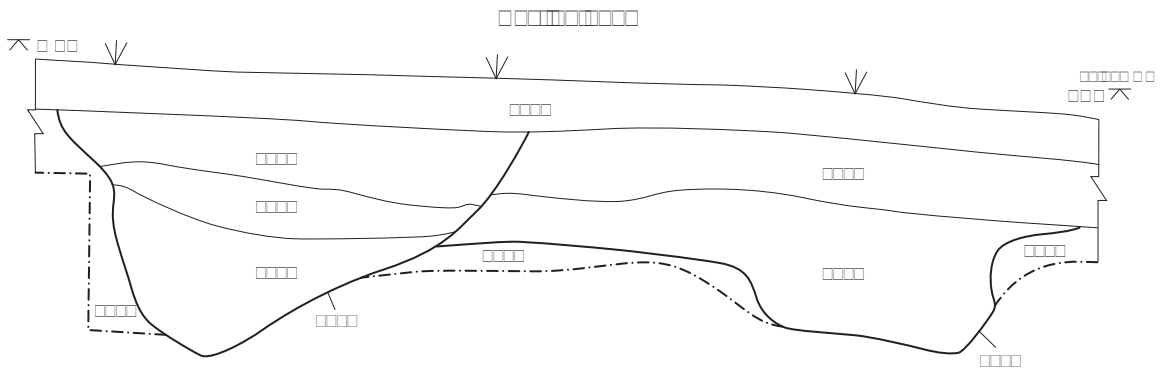
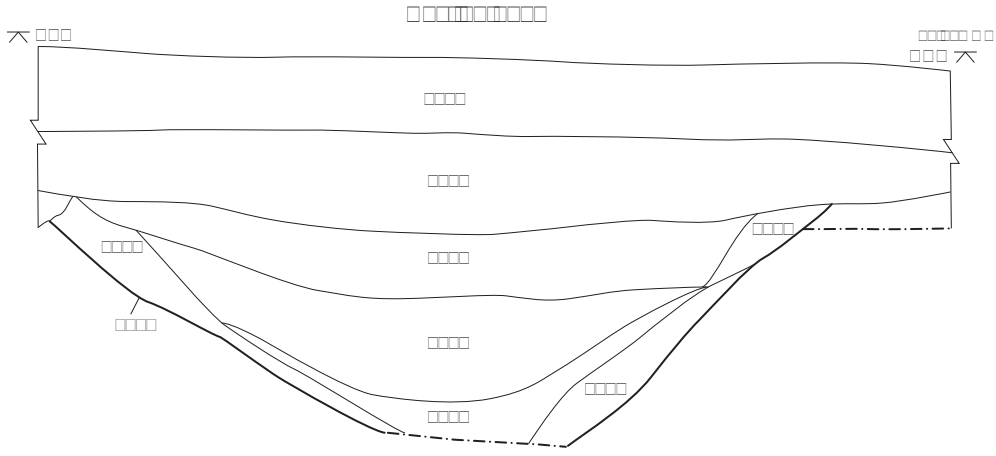
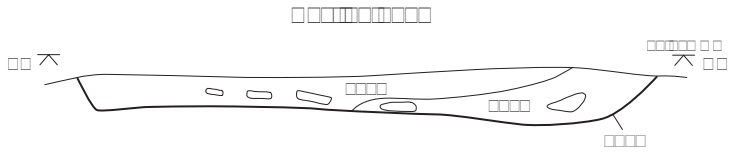
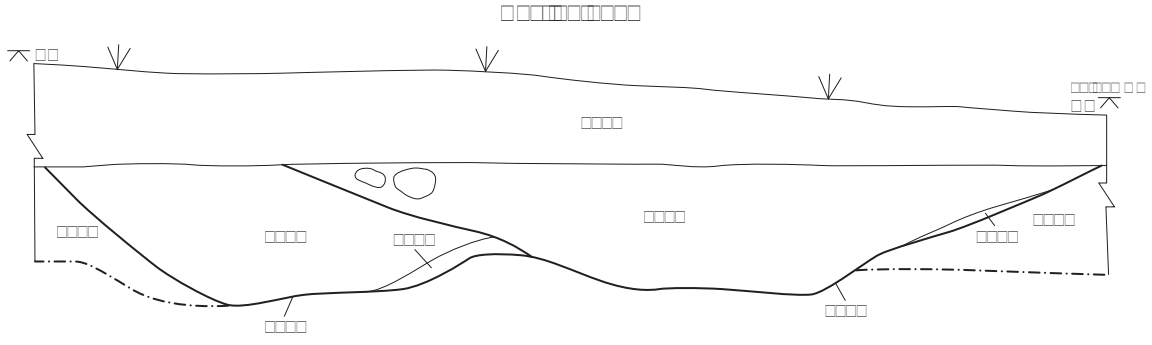




Plate 1: Ditch 1303



Plate 2: Ditch 2203



Plate 3: Trench 26, Ditch 2603



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