

Land off Windmill Place
East Challow
Oxfordshire



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**

oxfordarchaeology

southsouthsouth
June 2014

Client: Bovis Homes

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 5890
NGR: SU 37935 87673



Client Name: Bovis Homes Ltd
Document Title: Land off Windmill Close, East Challow, Oxfordshire
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: SU 37935 87673
Planning Reference: P14/V0298/FUL
OA Job Number: 5890
Site Code: ECWP14
Invoice Code: ECWPEV
Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire Museum Service

| Issue | Prepared by | Checked by | Approved by | Signature |
|-------|--|------------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Gerry Thacker Senior Project Manager | | Gerry Thacker Senior Project Manager | |

Document File Location X:\e\East Challow Geo and eval\Report
Graphics File Location X:\e\East Challow Geo and eval\010Geomatics\01 PDFs\2014-05-20
Illustrated by Hannah Kennedy

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

© Oxford Archaeology Ltd 2014

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



Land off Windmill Close, East Challow, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Gerry Thacker and Dan Sykes

*with contributions from Paul Booth, John Cotter, Geraldine Crann, Ian Scott and
illustrated by Hannah Kennedy*

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Summary | 4 |
| 1 Introduction | 5 |
| 1.1 Location and scope of work..... | 5 |
| 1.2 Geology and topography..... | 5 |
| 1.3 Archaeological and historical background..... | 5 |
| 1.4 Acknowledgements..... | 5 |
| 2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology | 6 |
| 2.1 Aims..... | 6 |
| 2.2 Specific aims and objectives..... | 6 |
| 2.3 Methodology..... | 6 |
| 3 Results | 7 |
| 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results..... | 7 |
| 3.2 General soils and ground conditions..... | 7 |
| 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits..... | 7 |
| 3.4 Trench 3..... | 7 |
| 3.5 Trench 5..... | 7 |
| 3.6 Trench 7..... | 7 |
| 3.7 Trench 10..... | 7 |
| 3.8 Trench 12..... | 8 |
| 3.9 Trench 13..... | 8 |
| 3.10 Trench 15..... | 8 |
| 3.11 Trench 16..... | 8 |
| 3.12 Trench 17..... | 8 |
| 3.13 Trench 20..... | 8 |
| 3.14 Finds and environmental summary..... | 8 |
| 4 Discussion | 9 |
| 4.1 Reliability of field investigation..... | 9 |
| 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results..... | 9 |



| | |
|---|-----------|
| 4.3 Interpretation..... | 9 |
| 4.4 Significance..... | 9 |
| Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory..... | 10 |
| Appendix B. Finds Reports..... | 17 |
| B.1 Pottery..... | 17 |
| B.2 Flint..... | 17 |
| B.3 Iron..... | 17 |
| B.4 Shell..... | 18 |
| B.5 Slag..... | 18 |
| Appendix C. Bibliography and References..... | 20 |
| Appendix D. Summary of Site Details..... | 21 |



List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Trench location and archaeology
- Fig. 3 Sections of Trenches 3, 5, 7, 10, 12 and 13
- Fig. 4 Sections of Trenches 15, 16, 17 and 20



Summary

During June 2014 Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation on land off Windmill Close, East Challow Oxfordshire on behalf of Bovis Homes. The evaluation comprised 20 trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.5m arrayed across the site.

The evaluation uncovered several shallow linear ditches some of which contained a small assemblage of abraded prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery, and a single struck flint of prehistoric origin. The nature of the finds by no means provided firm dating evidence for any of the features. Most of the features were aligned broadly north-west to south-east, mirroring both the orientation of the present field boundaries and the field plots shown on historic maps of 1753 and 1780. Roman pottery retrieved from two of these features may hint at a Roman origin for these remnant field systems, given the proximity of the known Roman villa to the north, but given the abraded nature of the sherds and small size of the assemblage, may equally be residual.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 During May 2014 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a trial trench evaluation on land off Windmill Close, East Challow, Oxfordshire, centred on NGR SU 37935 87673 (Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2014) agreed by Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Council.

1.1.2 The evaluation comprised 20 trenches each measuring 30m by 1.5m, laid out across the area on a standard grid array (Fig. 2)

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The geology of the site is the West Melbury Chalk Formation which manifested as a chalk rich pale sandy clay with occasional bands of green sands.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site was subject to a desk based assessment (OA 2013), and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014). The archaeological and historical background will not be repeated here, but it is of note that a Roman villa is located to the north-east of the site and is a Scheduled Monument.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 OA would like to acknowledge Victoria Trotman of Bovis Homes Ltd who commissioned the evaluation, and Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Council who monitored the work. The project was undertaken for OA by Dan Sykes with the assistance of Mike McLean and Christof Heistermann. The project was managed for OA by Gerry Thacker.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- (i) To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive and, in the event of remains being found, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard.
- (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 artefactual evidence present.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- (x) To test the results of the geophysical survey.
- (xi) To determine the presence or absence of deposits or features relating to the Scheduled Roman villa.

2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 The trenches were laid out using a GPS system with a sub 50mm accuracy.
- 2.3.2 The trenches were opened by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision.
- 2.3.3 Revealed features were hand excavated, and scale plans and sections drawn.
- 2.3.4 All contexts were recorded on *pro forma* trench sheets or context record sheets as appropriate.
- 2.3.5 Finds were recovered, labelled and bagged in a manner that related them to the specific context from which they originated.
- 2.3.6 A full black and white film and digital photographic record was maintained.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 Soils and ground conditions and the general distribution of features are outlined in sections 3.2 and 3.3 respectively. Trenches that contained archaeological features are described in section 3.4. A table including dimensions of all deposits and features and the related finds forms the contents of Appendix A. Finds data are present in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Topsoil with an average thickness of 0.25m was present within all trenches. A remnant subsoil (buried ploughsoil) was present within the majority of trenches, especially those towards the north, and was generally very shallow (around 0.1m thick). All of the archaeological features identified were sealed by the subsoil (where present).

3.2.2 Ground conditions were dry throughout the course of the evaluation, and archaeological features relatively easy to identify.

3.2.3 The natural geology was generally a sandy clay with varying degrees of chalk and limestone fragment inclusions. The colour of the natural varied considerably across the site, from very light greyish brown to dark brown, and bands of green sands were present.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 All of the features encountered were ditches (Fig. 2), and these were present within Trenches 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 and 20. The ditches were all generally shallow, presumably indicative of being truncated by former ploughing.

3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 The single ditch (304) within Trench 3 was located towards the eastern end of the trench, and had a flat, slightly irregular based profile, and gently sloping sides (Fig. 3, Section 300). No datable material was recovered from the grey sandy clay fill.

3.5 Trench 5

3.5.1 Ditch 503 was located towards the eastern end of Trench 5, with a flat base (Fig. 3, Section 500), and a single sherd of pottery dating from the later medieval period was recovered from the dark grey sandy clay fill (504).

3.6 Trench 7

3.6.1 Ditch 703 was located towards the western end of Trench 7, and had a concave profile, with a slight dip within the centre (Fig. 3, Section 701). The single fill (704) was a light olive grey calcareous silt which contained a single fragment of bone which was too decayed for further analysis and not retained.

3.7 Trench 10

3.7.1 Trench 10 contained two ditches (1004 and 1006), both of which were orientated in a broadly north-west to south-east direction. Ditch 1004 was considerably wider with a shallow concave profile, and contained a single light greenish grey silty fill (1005) containing occasional chalk fragments and a single struck flint of prehistoric date (Fig. 3, Section 1001). Ditch 1006 to the north had a 'U' shaped profile and contained a fill similar to 1005 (1007), from which an iron nail and pot sherd of Roman date were



recovered (Fig. 3, Section 1002). A small abraded sherd of prehistoric pottery was also recovered from the fill.

3.8 Trench 12

3.8.1 Trench 12 contained a single ditch located towards the western centre of the trench (1204). The ditch was very shallow (0.04m) and had a flat base and single light grey sandy clay fill (1205), from which no finds were recovered (Fig. 3, Section 1200).

3.9 Trench 13

3.9.1 Trench 13 contained three inter-cutting ditches which are likely to have been related (Fig. 3, Sections 1300 and 1301). Ditch 1305 ran parallel to the eastern limit of the trench and continued beneath the eastern limit of excavation. The ditch had a flat base and a single light greenish grey clay silt fill which contained occasional sub-angular flint pebbles. Running in a south-westerly direction and at right angles to ditch 1305 were two further ditches (1303 and 1307). Ditch 1303 had a concave base and a single firm dark brown clay silt fill (1304) which contained occasional charcoal flecks and a single sherd of pottery of Roman date. A few metres to the south ditch 1307 also had a concave base and the single fill (1308) was similar to 1304, but contained no finds. Ditch 1305 appeared to post-date the other two ditches, but this may be a function of it having been cleaned out at a later date.

3.10 Trench 15

3.10.1 Ditch 1503 was located towards the northern end of the trench. The ditch had moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 4, Section 1501). The single fill (1504) was a firm greenish brown clay containing occasional chalk flecks. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

3.11 Trench 16

3.11.1 A single ditch (1601) was located within the north-east corner of the trench. The ditch had gently sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 4, Section 1601). The single fill (1602) was a light green chalk rich silt which contained no finds.

3.12 Trench 17

3.12.1 Ditch 1703 was located within the northern part of the trench and had a slightly irregular concave profile (Fig. 4, Section 1700). The single fill (1704) was a dark brown sandy clay containing occasional flecks of a light grey sandy clay and no finds.

3.13 Trench 20

3.13.1 Ditch 2003 was located within the eastern part of the trench and had a shallow concave profile (Fig. 4, Section 2003). The single fill (2004) was a grey sandy clay. No finds were recovered from the fill.

3.14 Finds and environmental summary

3.14.1 Finds were recovered from contexts 504 (Trench 5) 1002, 1005 and 1007 (Trench 10), and 1304 (Trench 13). These comprised in total four sherds of pottery, one iron nail, a struck flint and a fragment of oyster shell.

3.14.2 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the evaluation.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in fine, dry conditions which were unlikely to adversely affect the objectives and results of the exercise. The finds assemblage from the evaluation was small, both as a result of topography and later agricultural activity which is likely to have truncated the extant archaeological features.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation was undertaken to establish the extent and character of any archaeological remains, specifically those relating to the known Roman villa to the north of the site and to also test the results of the geophysical survey previously carried out on the site. The field systems encountered could neither be specifically attributed to the Roman period, due to a paucity of finds, nor matched with the sparse results of the geophysics plot.

4.2.2 The extent of archaeological activity was sparse across the site, particularly in the north, nearest to the known centre of Roman activity, and took the form of shallow boundary ditches which were likely to have been truncated by later ploughing which had resulted in the formation of a thin subsoil which sealed many of the features.

4.2.3 The orientation of the majority of the features appears to relate to both the current field boundary and to those featured on historic maps of the post-medieval period, particularly Northcroft's map of 1743 and Smith's map of 1753 (see OA 2013), but could potentially have earlier medieval or Roman origins.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Excepting the trenches in the immediate vicinity of the known Roman villa which were devoid of archaeology, truncated and poorly dated former land divisions in the form of ditches were found across the site, several of which are likely to relate to boundaries shown on post medieval maps of the village. Earlier origins for these land divisions can be postulated but not demonstrated. The ditches were not identified by the geophysical survey.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The archaeology encountered is considered to be of low significance being fairly truncated, poorly dated, sparse in nature and at the periphery of known settlement activity.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NE-SW | |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay with bands of green sand. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.3 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 100 | Layer | - | 0.23 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 101 | Layer | - | 0.07 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 102 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 2 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NW-SE | |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay with frequent chalk flecks. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.45 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 200 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 201 | Layer | - | 0.15 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 202 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 3 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|--------------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NE-SW | |
| Trench contained a single linear ditch overlain by topsoil and subsoil and cutting a natural of sandy clay. The clay was light brown to the east of the trench, becoming darker to the west. A single small fragment of bone was recovered from NW-SE orientated ditch 304, but was too degraded for analysis and not retained. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.35 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 300 | Layer | - | 0.23 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 301 | Layer | - | 0.15 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 302 | Layer | - | - | Natural light brown clay | - | - |
| 303 | Layer | - | - | Natural dark brown clay | - | - |
| 304 | Cut | 1.8 | 0.08 | Cut of ditch | Bone | Not retained |



| | | | | | | |
|-----|------|-----|------|-------------|---|---|
| 305 | Fill | 1.8 | 0.08 | Fill of 304 | - | - |
|-----|------|-----|------|-------------|---|---|

| Trench 4 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | | NW-SE |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | | 0.35 |
| | | | | Width (m) | | 1.5 |
| | | | | Length (m) | | 30 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 400 | Layer | - | 0.25 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 401 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 402 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 5 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---------|-----------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | | E-W |
| Trench contained a single linear ditch overlain by topsoil and subsoil and cutting a natural of sandy clay, which varied in shade. The ditch, 503, was orientated NW-SE. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | | 0.3 |
| | | | | Width (m) | | 1.5 |
| | | | | Length (m) | | 30 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 500 | Layer | - | 0.24 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 501 | Layer | - | 0.08 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 502 | Layer | - | - | Natural light grey | - | - |
| 503 | Cut | 0.9 | 0.08 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 504 | Fill | 0.9 | 0.08 | Fill of 503 | Pottery | 1250-1550 |
| 505 | Layer | - | - | Natural dark grey | - | - |

| Trench 6 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | | NW-SE |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | | 0.35 |
| | | | | Width (m) | | 1.5 |
| | | | | Length (m) | | 30 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 600 | Layer | - | 0.25 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 601 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 602 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |



| Trench 7 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NE-SW |
| Trench contained a single ditch overlain by topsoil and cutting a natural of sandy clay. A single small fragment of bone was recovered from NW-SE orientated ditch 703, but was too degraded for analysis and not retained. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.28 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 30 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 701 | Layer | - | 0.28 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 702 | Layer | - | 0.28 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 703 | Cut | 2.5 | 0.3 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 704 | Fill | 2.5 | 0.3 | Fill of 703 | Bone | Not retained |

| Trench 8 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|-------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NW-SE |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.37 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 30 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 800 | Layer | - | 0.24 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 801 | Layer | - | 0.13 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 802 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 9 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|-------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NE-SW |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay with chalk and limestone fragments. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.25 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 30 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 900 | Layer | - | 0.15 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 901 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 902 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 10 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--------------------|-----|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | N-S |



| Trench contained two linear ditches overlain by topsoil and subsoil and cutting a natural of sandy clay. Ditches 1004 and 1006 were both orientated NW-SE. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.52 | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1001 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 1002 | Layer | - | 0.26 | Subsoil | Pottery | 2nd C AD |
| 1003 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 1004 | Cut | 3.05 | 0.22 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 1005 | Fill | 3.05 | 0.22 | Fill of 1004 | Flint | Prehistoric |
| 1006 | Cut | 0.86 | 0.26 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 1007 | Fill | 0.86 | 0.26 | Fill of 1006 | Pottery, iron nail | 2nd – 4th C AD |

| Trench 11 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NW-SE | |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.27 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1101 | Layer | - | 0.17 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 1102 | Layer | - | 0.10 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 1103 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 12 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NE-SW | |
| Trench contained a single linear ditch overlain by soil and subsoil and cutting a natural of sandy clay. The ditch was orientated NW-SE. The centre of the trench had been subject to modern disturbance. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.35 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1201 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 1202 | Layer | - | 0.05 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 1203 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 1204 | Cut | 0.49 | 0.04 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 1205 | Fill | 0.49 | 0.04 | Fill of 1204 | - | - |



| Trench 13 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|---------|----------------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NW-SE | |
| Trench contained three linear ditches overlain by topsoil and cutting a natural of sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments. Ditches 1303 and 1307 were aligned W-E, and ditch 1305 was aligned NW-SE. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.38 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1301 | Layer | - | 0.38 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 1302 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 1303 | Cut | 0.35 | 0.13 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 1304 | Fill | 0.35 | 0.13 | Fill of 1303 | Pottery | 2nd – 4th C AD |
| 1305 | Cut | 0.45 | 0.13 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 1306 | Fill | 0.45 | 0.13 | Fill of 1305 | - | - |
| 1307 | Cut | 0.6 | 0.14 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 1308 | Fill | 0.6 | 0.14 | Fill of 1307 | - | - |

| Trench 14 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NE-SW | |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.3 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1401 | Layer | - | 0.19 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 1402 | Layer | - | 0.11 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 1403 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 15 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | N-S | |
| Trench contained a single linear ditch overlain by topsoil and subsoil and cutting a natural of sandy clay with frequent chalk fragments. The ditch was orientated NE-SW. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.28 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1501 | Layer | - | 0.28 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 1502 | Fill | 1.15 | 0.1 | Fill of 1503 | - | - |
| 1503 | Cut | 1.15 | 0.1 | Cut of ditch | - | - |



| | | | | | | |
|------|-------|---|---|---------|---|---|
| 1504 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
|------|-------|---|---|---------|---|---|

| Trench 16 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NW-SE | |
| Trench contained a single linear ditch overlain by topsoil and cutting a natural of sandy clay. Ditch was orientated NW-SE. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.3 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1600 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 1601 | Cut | 1.3 | 0.2 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 1602 | Fill | 1.3 | 0.2 | Fill of 1601 | - | - |
| 1603 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 17 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NW-SE | |
| Trench contained a single NE-SW aligned linear ditch overlain by topsoil and cutting a natural of sandy clay. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.3 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1701 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 1702 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 1703 | Cut | 0.62 | 0.18 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 1704 | Fill | 0.62 | 0.18 | Fill of 1703 | - | - |

| Trench 18 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NE-SW | |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.3 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1801 | Layer | - | 0.18 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 1802 | Layer | - | 0.12 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 1803 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |



| Trench 19 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NW-SE | |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.25 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 1901 | Layer | - | 0.25 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 1902 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 20 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | Orientation | NE-SW | |
| Trench contained a single NW-SE aligned ditch overlain by topsoil and cutting a natural of sandy clay. | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.3 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.5 | |
| | | | | Length (m) | 30 | |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 2001 | Layer | - | 0.18 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 2002 | Cut | 0.9 | 0.15 | Cut of ditch | - | - |
| 2003 | Fill | 0.9 | 0.15 | Fill of 2002 | - | - |
| 2004 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

Identified by Paul Booth and John Cotter

| Context | Description | Date |
|---------|---|---|
| 504 | 1 jug base sherd limestone tempered Minety ware (OXBB). 9g | 1250 - 1550 |
| 1002 | 1 dish sherd Central Gaulish Samian. 3g | 2 nd c |
| 1007 | 1 very abraded flint tempered sherd. 1 sherd R30 medium sandy greyware. 5g | LBA to LIA 2 nd – 4 th c |
| 1304 | 1 sherd R30 medium sandy greyware. 2g | 2 nd – 4 th c |

Discussion and recommendations.

The assemblage of small abraded sherds is of low potential and no further work is required.

B.2 Flint

By Geraldine Crann

| Context | Description |
|---------|---|
| 1005 | Single irregular, hard-hammer struck flake, hinge termination, rolled and battered, edge damaged, 12g |

Discussion and recommendations.

The single struck flint is not closely datable; the assemblage is of low potential and no further work is required.

B.3 Iron

Identified by Ian Scott

| Context | Description |
|---------|--|
| 1007 | Single fragment square sectioned nail stem, 5g |

**Discussion and recommendations.**

The single nail is not closely datable; the assemblage is of low potential and no further work is required.

B.4 Shell

By Geraldine Crann

| Context | Description |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 1002 | Single right valve oyster shell, 16g |

Discussion and recommendations.

The assemblage is of low potential and no further work is required.

B.5 Slag

By Geraldine Crann

| Context | Description |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 1304 | Single piece metal working slag, 7g |

Discussion and recommendations.

The assemblage is of low potential and no further work is required.





APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- OA, 2013. East Challow, Wantage, Oxfordshire. Desk Based Assessment. Oxford Archaeology.
- OA, 2014. Land off Windmill Place, east Challow, Oxfordshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. Oxford Archaeology.
- Stratascan 2014. East Challow, Oxfordshire. Geophysical Survey Report.



APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land off Windmill Close, East Challow

Site code: ECWP 14

Grid reference: NGR: SU 37935 87673

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 11-16.5.2014.

Area of site: c.4.6 Hectares

Summary of results: During June 2014 Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation at land off Windmill Close, East Challow Oxfordshire on behalf of Bovis Homes. The evaluation comprised 20 trenches each measuring 30m by 1.5m arrayed across the site.

The evaluation uncovered several shallow linear ditches some of which contained a small assemblage of abraded prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery, and a single struck flint of prehistoric origin. The nature of the finds by no means provided firm dating evidence for any of the features. Most of the features were aligned broadly north-west to south-east, mirroring both the orientation of the present field boundaries and the field plots shown on historic maps of 1753 and 1780. Roman pottery retrieved from two of these features may hint at a Roman origin for these remnant field systems, given the proximity of the known Roman villa to the north, but given the abraded nature of the sherds and small size of the assemblage, may equally be residual.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.



Reproduced from the Explorer 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright 1999. All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 100005569

Figure 1: Site location



Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432

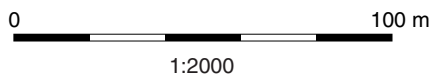
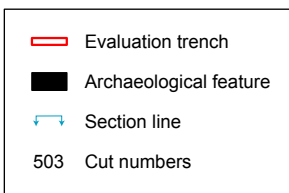


Figure 2: Trench location and archaeology

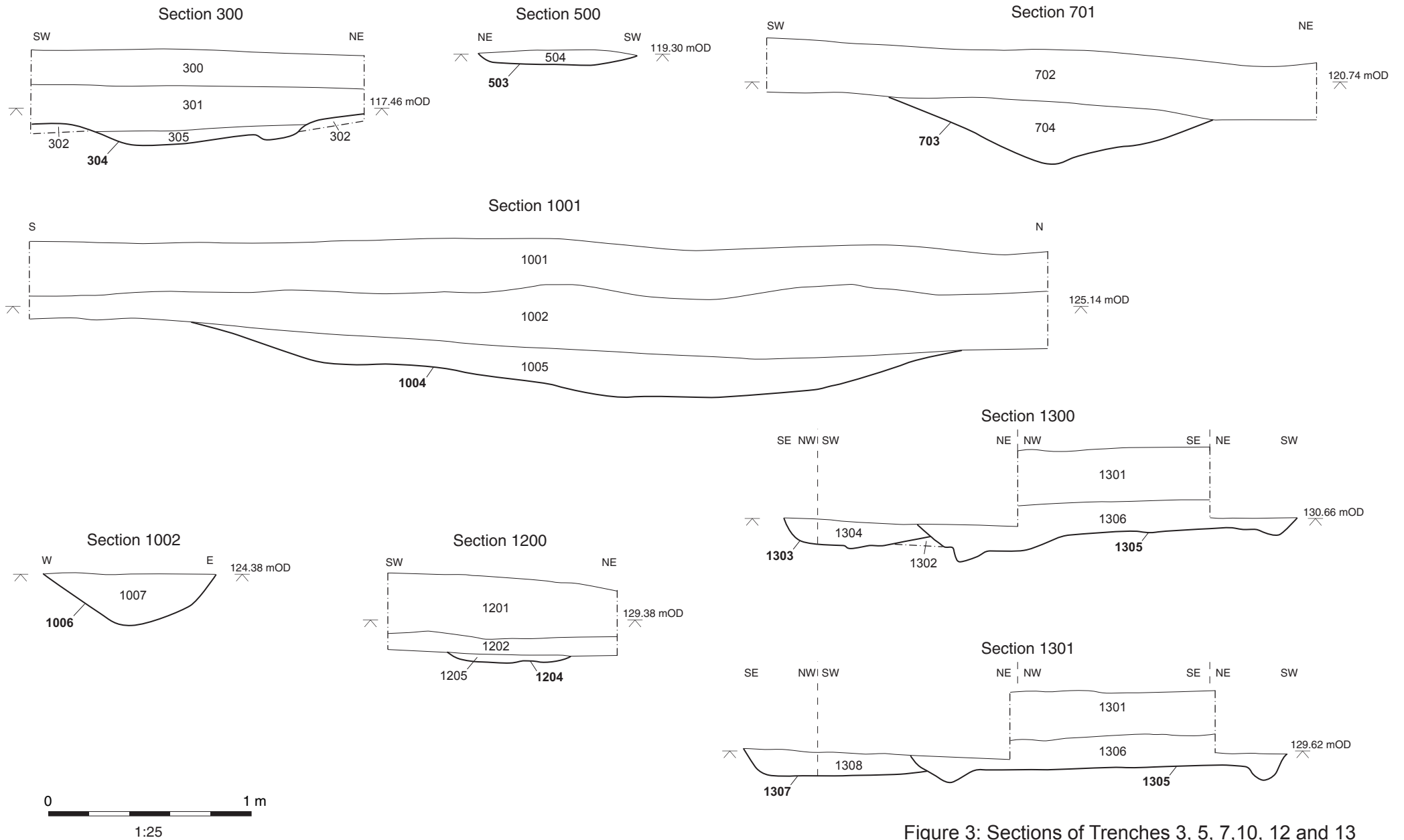


Figure 3: Sections of Trenches 3, 5, 7, 10, 12 and 13

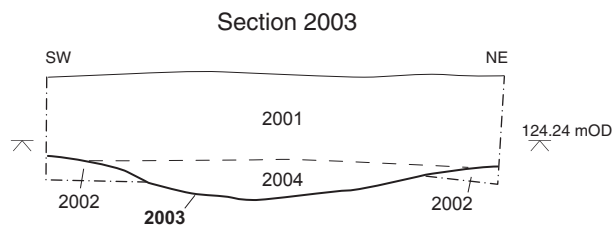
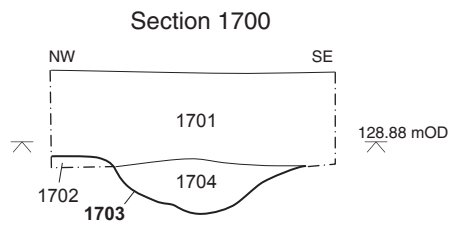
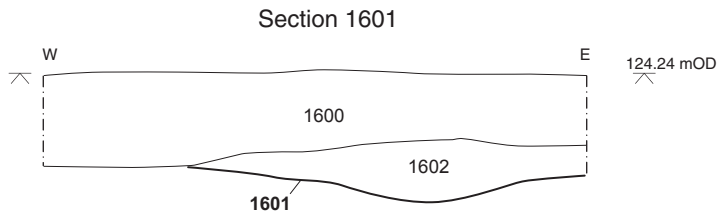
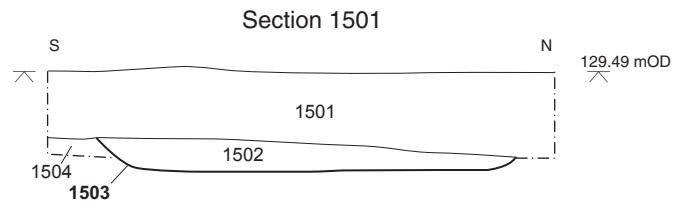


Figure 4: Sections of Trenches 15, 16, 17 and 20



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*