

**WOLVERCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL, FIRST TURN, WOLVERCOTE,
OXFORD****ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ADDENDUM REPORT****SUMMARY**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an archaeological watching brief at Wolvercote Primary School, Wolvercote, Oxfordshire, during the excavation of a service trench and excavations for a chamber. The excavations identified a possible ditch which was undated. It was possible that the feature had been created due to bioturbation connected to the large conifers that were in close proximity to the western area of the excavation, however the feature possibly aligned with an undated ditch found during an earlier evaluation on the site and may have been continuous with that ditch.

1 INTRODUCTION**1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The site is located in the school playing fields to the south of Wolvercote Primary School, First Turn, Wolvercote, Oxford on the west side of the railway line (NGR SP49750977). The area lies at approximately 66m OD and the geology is alluvium with sand and gravel overlying mudstone.

1.2 Planning Background

The current design of the drainage for this scheme is incorrect and has to be addressed in the short-term. An archaeological watching brief was required during ground works. This work has been carried out to an addendum (JMHS 2020) to the consented Written Scheme of Investigation (JMHS 2015).

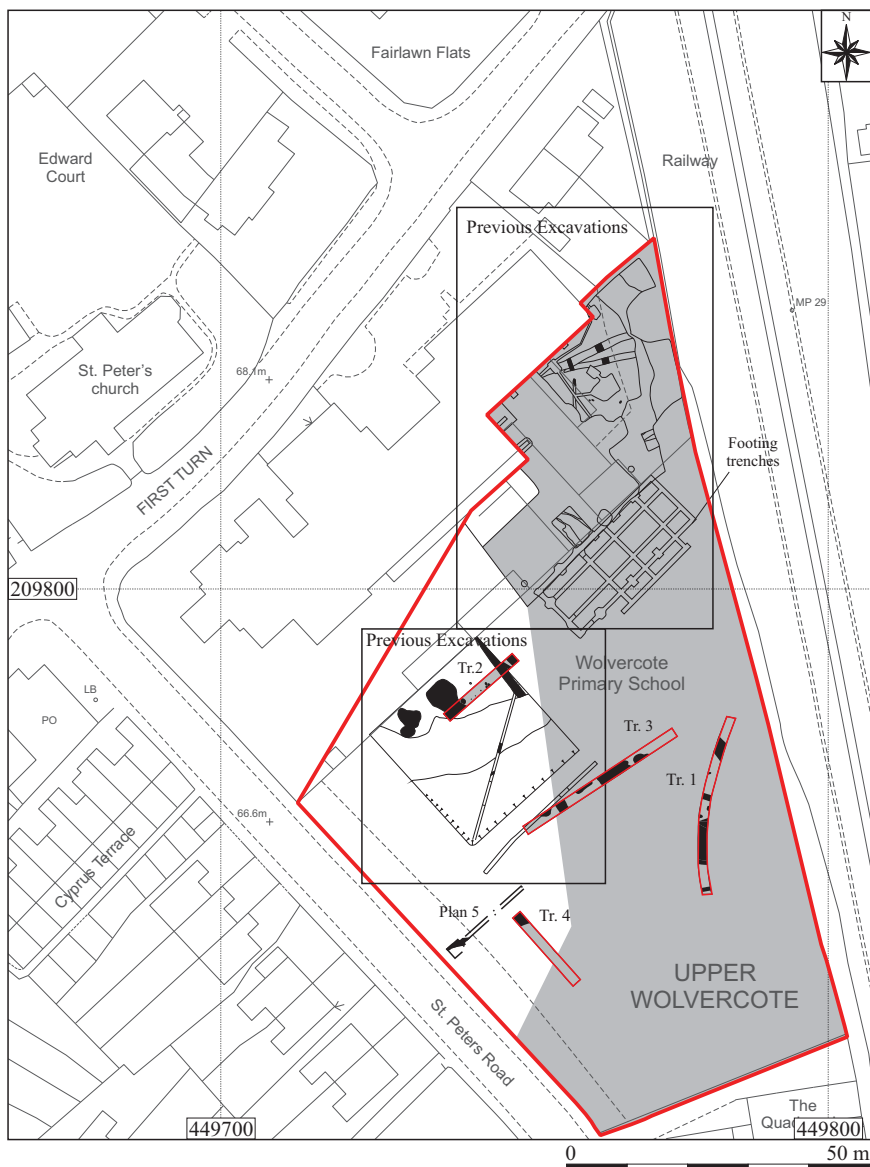
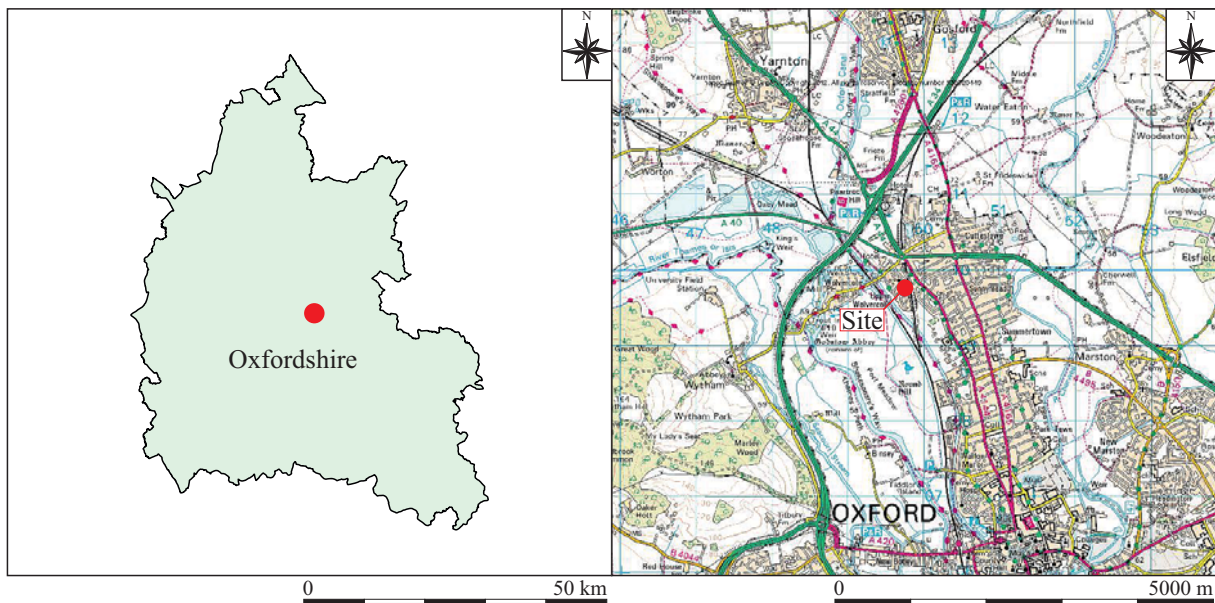
1.3 Archaeological Background

The Archaeological and historical background to the site can be found in the main archaeological report (JMHS 2016).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To Make a record of any archaeological remains that are encountered during the groundworks
- To add to the results of earlier work which encountered prehistoric (Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age) and early Roman remains.



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|-----|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Key | Site boundary | Previously Monitored area | Archaeological features | Evaluation trenches |
|-----|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|

Figure 1: Site location

3 STRATEGY

Work was carried out in line with the WSI addendum (JMHS 2020).

An archaeological project officer was on site following the excavation of part the service trench prior to the pipe and gravel being laid and for the remaining excavations of the service trench and chamber.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

Partial excavation of the service trench and the trench for the chamber, Test Pit 5 (TP5) had already taken place prior to the arrival of the archaeologist. It was however possible to ascertain the potential for archaeological survival in the areas excavated although discreet features could have been removed.

The lowest deposit encountered was a deposit of orange and yellow sand and gravel which was identified as the superficial natural substratum (203). This deposit lay at a depth between 0.75m and 0.9m down from the current ground level and overlay the natural grey clay. A possible linear ditch 205 may have been cut into (203), although the nature of the feature was not clear (Fig. 2, Section 7). The feature was observed in TP5 and was orientated north-east to south-west. The continuation of the feature beyond the north-east extent of TP5 was not clear and was obscured by heavy rooting in south-west extent of the service trench which had pulled subsoil deposits down into the natural substratum. The Ditch was greater than 1.25m wide and greater than 3m in length continuing beyond the limits of excavation toward the west. It had a depth of 0.4m. The fill of the possible ditch was a dark greyish brown sandy silt loam (204). The upper horizon of this deposit had an unclear boundary with the overlying subsoil and the deposit was not apparent in the sections of the service trench and it was not seen continuing in plan along the length of the service trench. This would suggest that the ditch turned towards the east shortly after leaving the area of TP5 or that it had been truncated in plan by the excavation of the service trench. The latter would be unlikely as the excavations became shallower towards the north-east. It is also possible that the feature was an anomaly caused by bioturbation from the proximity of conifers to the western area of the excavation. Overlying the possible ditch 205 was a firm mid to light greyish brown sandy loam subsoil (202). The deposit was between 0.3m and 0.5m thick and was darker towards the base of the deposit where the horizon between this layer and deposit (204) was unclear. Deposited above was a 0.2m to 0.35m thick, mid to light grey sandy loam (201) which was identified as a buried topsoil. The deposit had rooting from the nearby conifers. The uppermost deposit was a friable mid-grey brown sandy loam topsoil. The deposit was between 0.15m and 0.25m thick. It contained inclusions of brick and limestone rubble and was heavily rooted from the nearby conifers.

5 FINDS

No finds were recovered from the excavations.

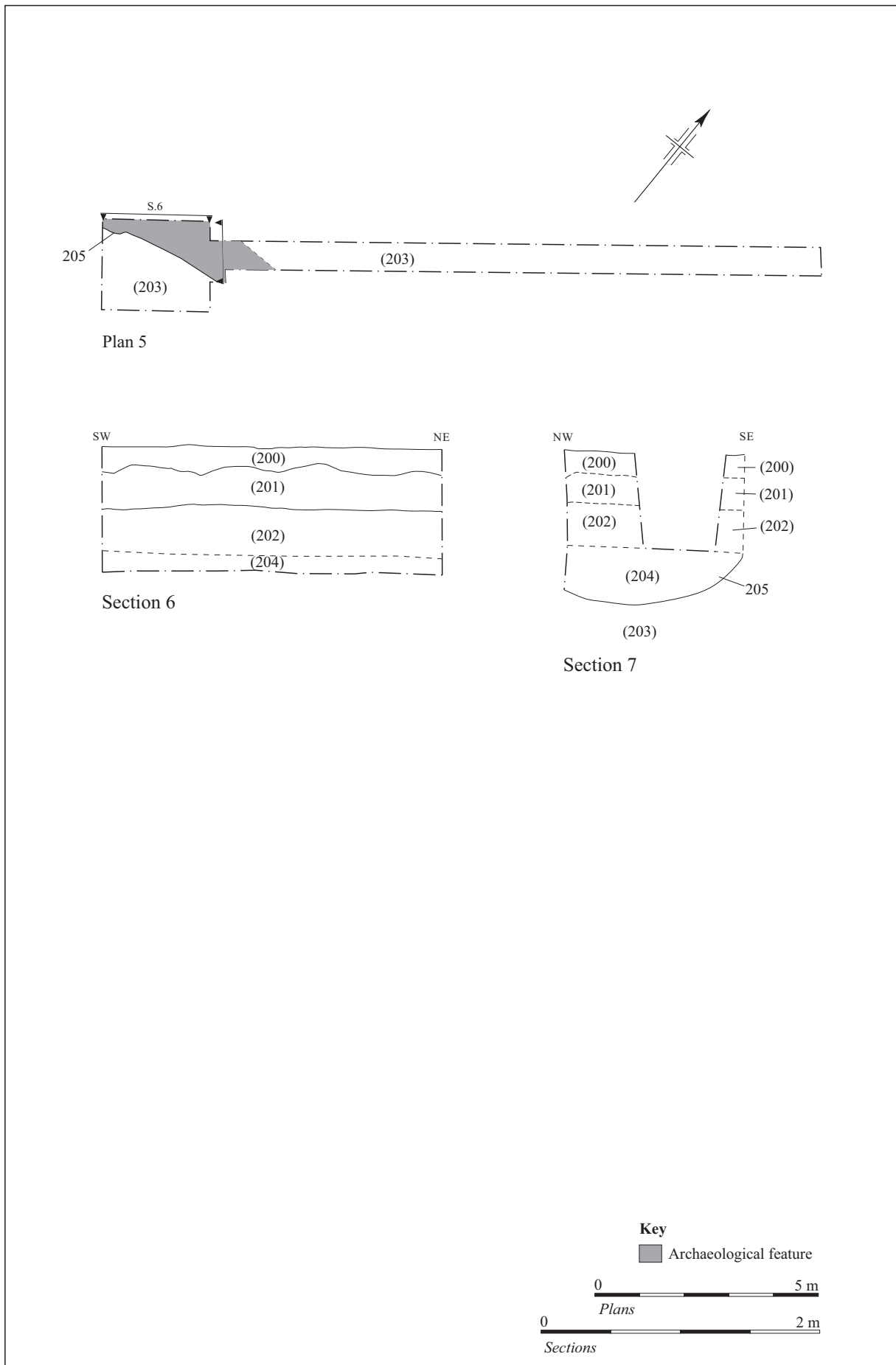


Figure 2: Plan 5 and Section 6 and 7

6 DISCUSSION

Previous excavations on the site have revealed features dated to the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods and also a number of undated features. During these latest excavations only a single undated linear feature was identified which was possibly a ditch. It is possible that the feature was the result of bioturbation related to the nearby conifers at the western end of the excavation area. However, the deposit associated with the ditch was not heavily rooted compared to other deposits identified. Also the ditch was possibly on the same alignment as an undated ditch found during the previous evaluation (Fig. 1).

7 ARCHIVE

A Digital Archive is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services (ID 4313) and will be made available upon request (to admin@jmheritageservices.co.uk). Digitised copies of all the primary records will be made publicly available as appendix to the Final Report submitted to OASIS (ID johnmoor1-401630).

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

John Moore Heritage Services 2013. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Wolvercote Primary School, First Turn, Wolvercote, Oxfordshire.*

John Moore Heritage Services 2015. R3.0053/14 *Wolvercote Primary School, First Turn, Wolvercote, Oxfordshire. Archaeological Strip, Map and Record and Archaeological Watching Brief. Written Scheme of Investigation.*

John Moore Heritage Services 2016 *Archaeological Watching Brief at Wolvercote Primary School, First Turn, Wolvercote, Oxford.*

Grid Squares	Area/Trench T81	Context Type Deposit	Site Code OXFT 20	Context 200
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Plan No. on Drawing Sheet No.	Section No. S-6 S-7 on Drawing Sheet No. 1	Add. Sheet
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<p>DEPOSIT</p> <p>1 Compaction 2 Colour 3 Composition 4 Inclusions 5 Horizon clarity 6 Comments 7 Method & Conditions</p>	<p>Description ① friable, crumbly structure ② mid greyish brown. ③ Sandy loam ④ rare small stone, brick and limestone ⑤ diffuse ⑥ frequent rooting from nearby conifers ⑦ Sun, machine</p>
<p>CUT</p> <p>1 Shape in plan 2 Corners 3 Break of slope-top 4 Sides 5 Break of slope-base 6 Base 7 Orientation 8 Inclination of axis 9 Truncation 10 Fill Nos. 11 Other comments</p>	
<p>Dimensions</p> <p>Length: > 2.45m Thickness/Depth: 0.15m - 0.25m Width: > 2m</p>	

Stratigraphic matrix	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">This context is:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">200</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">201</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This context is:		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	201	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>BELOW</p> <p>Under: Filled by: Cut by:</p> <hr/> <p>CONTEMPORARY</p> <p>Group No.: Same as:</p> <hr/> <p>ABOVE</p> <p>Over: 201 Fill of: Cuts:</p>	Physical Relationship
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	This context is:		200	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>													
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	201	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>														

Interpretation & Discussion: Internal External Structural Other (specify)

Modern tessell containing fragments of brick, located in school playing field

<p>Environmental Samples Nos:</p>	<p>FINDS none pot CBM fauna flora flint glass metal burntmat.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other finds (specify): Not retained</p>
<p>Small Finds:</p>	

Provisional Date:	Checked by (on site):	Date:
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Completed by:	Date:	Checked by (office):	Date:
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Grid Squares	Area/Trench TP1	Context Type Deposit	Site Code OXFT 20	Context 202 201
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Plan No. on Drawing Sheet No.	Section No. S.6 S.7 on Drawing Sheet No. 1	Add. Sheet
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DEPOSIT 1 Compaction 2 Colour 3 Composition 4 Inclusions 5 Horizon clarity 6 Comments 7 Method & Conditions	Description ① Firm ② mid-light grey ③ Sandy loam ④ Small stone ⑤ diffuse ⑥ Depleted of organic matter rooting from nearby conifers ⑦ Sun, machine
CUT 1 Shape in plan 2 Corners 3 Break of slope-top 4 Sides 5 Break of slope-base 6 Base 7 Orientation 8 Inclination of axis 9 Truncation 10 Fill Nos. 11 Other comments	
Dimensions	Length: >2.45m Thickness/Depth: 0.2 - 0.35m Width: >2m

Stratigraphic matrix	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 200 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BELOW	Physical Relationship
	This context is: <input type="checkbox"/> 201	Under: 200 Filled by: Cut by: CONTEMPORARY Group No.: Same as:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 202 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	ABOVE Over: 202 Fill of: Cuts:	

Interpretation & Discussion: Internal External Structural Other (specify)

Buried topsoil under modern topsoil

Environmental Samples Nos:	FINDS none pot CBM fauna flora flint glass metal burntmat. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Small Finds:	Other finds (specify):

Provisional Date:	<i>Checked by (on site):</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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Completed by:	Date:	<i>Checked by (office):</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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Grid Squares	Area/Trench TP1	Context Type Deposit	Site Code OXFT20	Context 202
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Plan No. on Drawing Sheet No.	Section No. S.6 S.7 on Drawing Sheet No.	Add. Sheet
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DEPOSIT 1 Compaction 2 Colour 3 Composition 4 Inclusions 5 Horizon clarity 6 Comments 7 Method & Conditions	Description ① fine soft-firm ② mid to light greyish yellow brown ③ sandy brown ④ very small flecks of white stone ⑤ Diffuse ⑥ ⑦ Machine Sun
CUT 1 Shape in plan 2 Corners 3 Break of slope-top 4 Sides 5 Break of slope-base 6 Base 7 Orientation 8 Inclination of axis 9 Truncation 10 Fill Nos. 11 Other comments	
Dimensions Length: > 2.45m Thickness/Depth: c. 0.3m - 0.5m Width: > 2m	

Stratigraphic matrix	This context is:	201 202 204	203 204	205 206	207 208	Physical Relationship
			BELOW Under: 201 Filled by: Cut by:			
			CONTEMPORARY Group No.: Same as:			
			ABOVE Over: 203 204 Fill of: Cuts:			

Interpretation & Discussion:	Internal	External	Structural	Other (specify)
Subsoil deposit in area of school playing field. Overlies a possible ditch 205				

Environmental Samples Nos:	FINDS none pot CBM fauna flora flint glass metal burntmat. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Small Finds:	Other finds (specify):

Provisional Date:	Checked by (on site):	Date:
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Completed by:	Checked by (office):	Date:
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Grid Squares	Area/Trench TPI	Context Type Deposit	Site Code OXFT20	Context 203
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Plan No. P. 5 on Drawing Sheet No.	Section No. S. 7 on Drawing Sheet No. 1	Add. Sheet
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<p>DEPOSIT</p> <p>1 Compaction 2 Colour 3 Composition 4 Inclusions 5 Horizon clarity 6 Comments 7 Method & Conditions</p>	<p>Description ① compact ② mid yellow and orange ③ sand and gravel ④ gravel dominated ⑤ clear ⑥ over mid grey clay ⑦ Machine Sun</p>
<p>CUT</p> <p>1 Shape in plan 2 Corners 3 Break of slope-top 4 Sides 5 Break of slope-base 6 Base 7 Orientation 8 Inclination of axis 9 Truncation 10 Fill Nos. 11 Other comments</p>	
<p>Dimensions</p> <p>Length: > 2-4.5m Thickness/Depth: c. 0.6m Width: > 2m</p>	

Stratigraphic matrix	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>205</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">This context is:</td> <td>203</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	205	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This context is:		203	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>BELOW</p> <p>Under: 202 Filled by: Cut by: 205 204</p> <p>CONTEMPORARY</p> <p>Group No.: Same as:</p> <p>ABOVE</p> <p>Over: Fill of: Cuts:</p>	Physical Relationship
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	This context is:		203	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>													
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>														

Interpretation & Discussion:	Internal External Structural Other (specify)
<p>Natural superficial deposits above clay</p>	

<p>Environmental Samples</p> <p>Nos:</p>	<p>FINDS</p> <p>none pot CBM fauna flora flint glass metal burntmat.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other finds (specify):</p>
<p>Small Finds:</p>	

Provisional Date:	Checked by (on site):	Date:
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Completed by:	Checked by (office):	Date:
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Grid Squares	Area/Trench TP1	Context Type Deposit	Site Code OFT 20	Context 204
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Plan No. P. 5 on Drawing Sheet No. 1	Section No. S.6 S.7 on Drawing Sheet No. 1	Add. Sheet
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DEPOSIT 1 Compaction 2 Colour 3 Composition 4 Inclusions 5 Horizon clarity 6 Comments 7 Method & Conditions	Description ① Soft - very soft ② Dark greyish brown ③ Sandy loam - Sandy silt loam ④ rare small stone ⑤ clear ⑥ unclear continuity towards NE ⑦ Rain cloud, machine
CUT 1 Shape in plan 2 Corners 3 Break of slope-top 4 Sides 5 Break of slope-base 6 Base 7 Orientation 8 Inclination of axis 9 Truncation 10 Fill Nos. 11 Other comments	
Dimensions Length: > 2.45m Thickness/Depth: 0.3m - 0.4m Width: > 0.25m to > 1.25m	

Stratigraphic matrix	This context is:	202 ↓ 204 ↓ 205				
					BELOW Under: 202 Filled by: Cut by:	Physical Relationship
					CONTEMPORARY Group No.: Same as:	
				ABOVE Over: 203 / 205 Fill of: 205 Cuts:		

Interpretation & Discussion: Internal External Structural Other (specify)

Fill of a possible ditch but may be caused by rooting of ~~tree~~ from nearby conifer trees within less than 3m of Test pit

Environmental Samples Nos:	FINDS none pot CBM fauna flora flint glass metal burntmat. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Small Finds:	Other finds (specify):

Provisional Date:	Checked by (on site): Date:
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Completed by: Date:	Checked by (office): Date:
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Grid Squares	Area/Trench TP 1	Context Type Cut	Site Code OXFT20	Context 205
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Plan No. P.5 on Drawing Sheet No. 1	Section No. S.6 on Drawing Sheet No. 1	Add. Sheet
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DEPOSIT

1 Compaction	2 Colour
3 Composition	4 Inclusions
5 Horizon clarity	6 Comments
7 Method & Conditions	

CUT

1 Shape in plan	2 Corners
3 Break of slope-top	4 Sides
5 Break of slope-base	6 Base
7 Orientation	8 Inclination of axis
9 Truncation	10 Fill Nos.
11 Other comments	

Description ① linear / curvilinear ③ Sharp?
 ④ Concave ⑤ N.P. ⑥ Slightly rounded
 ⑦ NE/E - SW ⑧ None ⑩ 204
 ⑪ continuity towards NE was unclear due to heavy rooting but was not apparent further along service trench. May have been removed further along as excavation took place unmonitored. Fill was not clear in sections of service trench. Possible caused by rooting of nearby conifers within 3m of Test pit

Dimensions

Length:
Thickness/Depth:
Width:

Stratigraphic matrix	<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>204</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">This context is:</td> <td>205</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>203</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			204			This context is:		205					203			<p>BELOW</p> <p>Under: 204 Filled by: 204 Cut by:</p> <p>CONTEMPORARY</p> <p>Group No.: Same as:</p> <p>ABOVE</p> <p>Over: 203 Fill of: Cuts: 203</p>	Physical Relationship
			204															
	This context is:		205															
		203																

Interpretation & Discussion: Internal External Structural Other (specify)

Possible Ditch - may be curvilinear - continuation towards the NE and East is not clear. May be caused by rooting of nearby conifer pulling organic matter down into the C-horizon. Possibly truncated - removed further NE during excavation of service trench but depth of this does not seem deep enough and no fill was clear in section. Cut and fill were not clear in NE facing section (see photo)

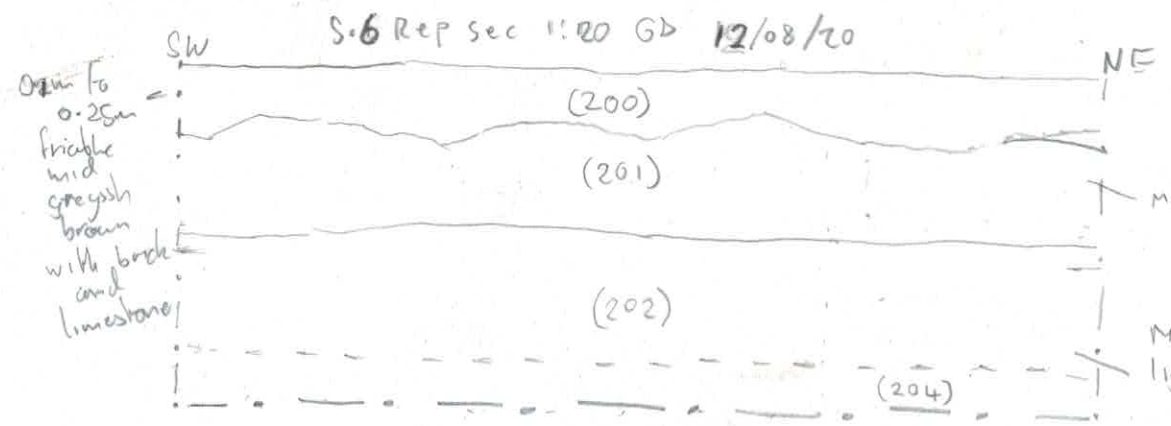
<p>Environmental Samples</p> <p>Nos:</p>	<p>FINDS</p> <p>none pot CBM fauna flora flint glass metal burntmat.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other finds (specify):</p>
<p>Small Finds:</p>	

<p>Provisional Date:</p>	<p>Checked by (on site):</p>	<p>Date:</p>
<p>Completed by:</p>	<p>Date:</p>	<p>Checked by (office):</p>
		<p>Date:</p>



P.5 1:100 GD 12/08/20

Gates
 c 34M
 To corner of site



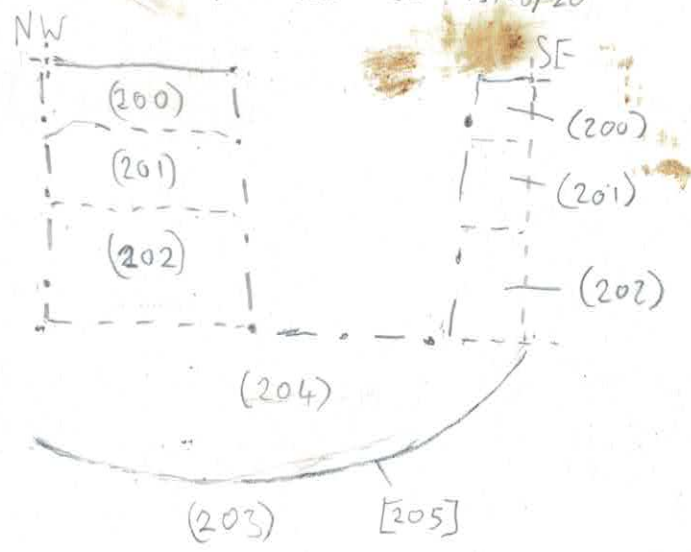
S.6 Rep sec 1:20 GD 12/08/20

Open to
 0.25m
 friable
 mid
 greyish
 brown
 with brack
 and
 limestone!

mid-tight grey
 rare small stone

Mid
 light greyish yellow brown
 moderate very small stone
 flodes

S.7 1:20 GD 13/08/20



NW

SE

(200)

(201)

(202)

(204)

(203)

[205]

(200)

(201)

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