

Allington Lane (Phase 3), Fair Oak, Hampshire

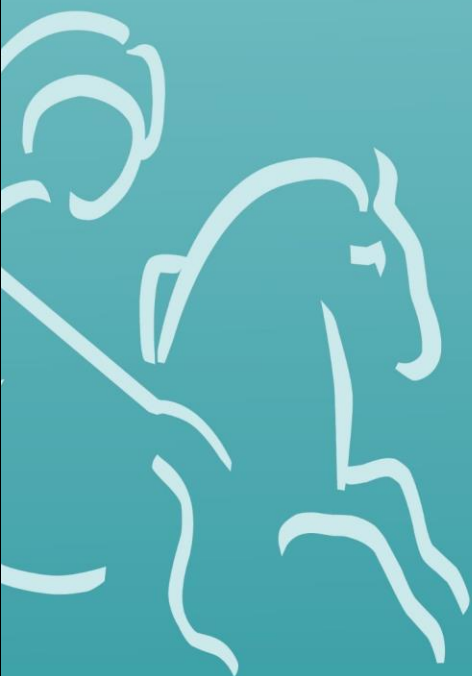
Archaeological Evaluation



for:
RPS

CA Project: AN0685
CA Report: AN0685_1

September 2023



Allington Lane (Phase 3), Fair Oak, Hampshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	7
4. METHODOLOGY	7
5. RESULTS.....	8
6. THE FINDS	9
7. DISCUSSION.....	10
8. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	10
9. REFERENCES.....	11
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	13
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	15
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM	16

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1. Site location plan (1:25,000)

Figure 2. Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1,250)

Figure 3. Trenches 4 and 8: photographs

Figure 4. Trench 5: plan, section and photograph

Figure 5. Trench 7: plan, section and photograph

SUMMARY

Project name:	Allington Lane (Phase 3)
Location:	Fair Oak, Hampshire
NGR:	448777, 117990
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	11-13 September 2023
Planning reference:	F/21/91132
OASIS ID:	TBC
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust and the Archaeology Data Service
Accession Number:	TBC
Site Code:	FOAK23

In September 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Allington Lane (Phase 3) Fair Oak, Hampshire, (formerly 'Treetops Nursery'). A total of nine trenches were excavated.

Out of the nine trenches excavated in this phase, two had archaeological features. Trench 5 had a ditch dating to the Iron Age. Trench 7 had one piece of worked flint recovered from the topsoil and a undated shallow gully which had 1 piece of burnt flint suggesting prehistoric in date.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In September 2023, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation Allington Lane (Phase 3) Fair Oak, Hampshire, (formerly 'Treetops Nursery') hereafter 'the site' (centred at NGR: 448777, 117990; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for RPS.

1.1. Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) has granted planning permission for the demolition of all existing buildings on site and the development of 35 dwellings with vehicular access from Allington Lane along with associated infrastructure hard and soft landscaping open space and drainage (planning ref: F/21/91132). Conditions 29 and 30 of this planning permission requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved WSI:

29. No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation of impact, based on the results of the trial trenching and archaeological methodology as set out within the submitted Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation (RPS, JAC27250, May 2021).

Reason: To mitigate the effect of the works associated with the development upon any heritage assets and to ensure that information regarding these heritage assets is preserved by record for future generations.

30. Within 3 months of the completion of archaeological fieldwork a report shall be produced in accordance with an approved programme submitted by the developer and approved in writing by the local planning authority setting out and securing appropriate post-excavation assessment, specialist analysis and reports, publication and public engagement

Reason: To contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past by ensuring that opportunities are taken to capture evidence from the historic environment and to make this publicly available.

-
- 1.2. The scope of this evaluation was defined the Hampshire County Council Archaeology Planning Officer, (hereafter referred to as ‘the curator’), the archaeological advisor to EBC. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2019) and approved by the curator.
- 1.3. The evaluation was also in line with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4. The proposed development site is approximately 1.03ha in extent. It lies on the south-east side of Arlington Lane, on the southern outskirts of Fair Oak. The site currently comprises current residential housing and open green space. The site lies at approximately 27m aOD at Arlington Road and rises to 29m to the south-eastern edge of the site.
- 1.5. According to the latest available data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology at the site comprises Wittering Formation Sand, Silt and Clay. Superficial deposits are not mapped at the site, although there is alluvium associated with a local watercourse to the south (BGS 2021).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The following text is paraphrased from the desk-based assessment (DBA) for the adjacent site with due acknowledgement (CgMs 2019). The results of the evaluation of that site (ASE 2021) and a nearby evaluation at Oak Lodge (LP Archaeology 2019) are also presented.
- 2.2. Archaeology dating to the earlier prehistoric period is limited to a small number of findspots of flint tools in the wider vicinity of the site.
- 2.3. The Portable Antiquities Scheme records the findspot of eight silver Iron Age coins and one gold coin is recorded c. 150m east from the study site. It is not recorded if these artefacts were found as a hoard or scattered throughout a larger area. Furthermore, a Late Iron Age or Early Roman copper alloy harness fitting was encountered c. 540m south-east from the study site.

-
- 2.4. Two single-ditch rectilinear enclosures, c. 1.4km north from the site between Crowdhill Copse and Hardings Lane, may be of Iron Age or Roman provenance.
- 2.5. Three sherds of Roman pottery, held in the Draper Collection, are recorded as found c.850m west from the site. A coin hoard findspot c.1.3km south-west contained one gold coin and 47 silver coins, ranging in date from the reign of Julian (AD 355-363) to that of Honorius (AD 395-423), held within a pottery vessel.
- 2.6. The earlier medieval period is represented by the findspot of a lead-copper alloy stamp, dated to c. AD 900-1066, found c.710m south-west from the site.
- 2.7. A recent evaluation at Fair Oak Lodge to the south of the current site comprised eleven 30m x 2m trenches; no archaeology was recorded (LP Archaeology 2019). However, archaeological deposits were encountered at the adjacent site and were summarised thus (ASE 2021):

‘Initially, four evaluation trenches (1-4) were excavated in the northern western part of the site. Whilst modern horizontal truncation has occurred across this area, archaeological features (3 ditches) were recorded in Trenches 1 and 3, though Trenches 2 and 4 were archaeologically negative. Although the dates of two of the ditches are unknown, one is probably Roman. The features probably represent a remnant field system, although it cannot be verified whether all of the features are contemporary to one another. The presence of Bronze Age worked flint and fire cracked flint may also suggest that there is the potential for prehistoric remains to survive in proximity to the northern part of the site. The ditches and the archaeological horizon (i.e. the surface of the natural clay) survive at between 0.20 and 0.50m below present ground level.

Latterly, a fifth evaluation trench was excavated and a watching brief on knotweed extraction pits (TP 6 – 12) undertaken. These interventions were all shown to be archaeologically negative and it is clear that the south-eastern part of the site has been heavily truncated into the natural clay during the modern era.’

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Eastleigh Borough Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021). A further objective of the project is to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive (see Section 7).
- 3.2. The evaluation will be initially focused on the undeveloped green land portion of the site. The results of this initial phase will determine if the developed portion of the site needs to be evaluated. If the initial results are negative or of low potential, then the developed section may not need further work.
- 3.3. As significant archaeological remains have been identified, this evaluation report will make reference to the Solent-Thames Research Framework so that the remains can, if possible, be placed within their local and regional contexts.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 9 trenches (Fig. 2) which comprises a 4% sample of the Phase 3 area:
- 3no 25m x 1.8m trenches;
 - 1no 15m x 1.8 trenches; and
 - 5no 30m x 1.8m trench.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site. There was variation on the layout and number of trenches from those agreed in the WSI due to various constraints including; overhead and buried services, bushes, trees, demolition waste and building material piles, fencing and barriers with the approval of the curator.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological

supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.

- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Hampshire Cultural Trust or the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.
- 5.2. The natural substrate comprised of a mid yellow silty clay exposed in trenches 1 and 3-9 and changed to a mid grey silty clay at the SW end of trench 4. It was exposed at a depth of 0.35m–0.58m below present ground level. It was sealed by 0.20m–0.51m of clayey silt subsoil, which was covered in turn by 0.05m-0.29m of modern clayey silt topsoil.

In trenches 2 and 9 a mid yellow/grey silty clay made ground layer was present between 0.3m-1.08m thick created from the construction and/or demolition of the now removed buildings.

5.3. Archaeological features were present in **Trenches 5** and **7**. These trenches are discussed in more detail below.

5.4. No archaeological features were found in **Trenches 1-4, 6** and **8-9**.

Trench 5 (Figure 4)

5.5. **Trench 5** contained one ditch **503** which was aligned north/south and was 0.78m wide and 0.47m deep. Ditch **503** contained a single clayey silt secondary fill in which a few small fragments of Iron Age pottery and a piece of burnt flint was discovered. The profile of the ditch and few finds suggests a rural field boundary or enclosure to keep animals.

Trench 7 (Figure 5)

5.6. A single gully, **703**, aligned north-east/south-west was discovered in this trench. Gully **703** was 0.49m in width and 0.13m in depth, contained one clayey silt secondary fill and had one small piece of burnt flint indicating recovered possible prehistoric activity but no dateable artefacts. Gully **703** however could be linked to Iron Age ditch 503 which was in proximity, although different in form. One further piece of evidence of prehistoric activity was a piece of worked flint found in the topsoil, **700**.

6. THE FINDS

6.1. Artefacts, comprising pottery and flint, was recovered by hand from three deposits. The material has been recorded to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet by deposit and count, weight, material, type and morphological characteristics. The recording undertaken is in accordance with the ClfA finds Toolkit (ClfA 2023, Level 2). A summary quantification is provided in Table 1 and an overview of the assemblage by context is included in Appendix B.

Table 1. Quantification of finds

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Prehistoric	4	4
Flint	Worked	1	56
	Burnt, unworked	2	22
Total		7	67

Pottery

6.2. Four sherds belonging to a single vessel and weighing 9g were recovered from fill **504** of ditch **503** (Appendix B). They have a black core with brown surfaces,

containing abundant, well sorted quartz <0.5mm. They are all body sherds and are likely to date to the Early-Middle Iron Age on the basis of their fabric, with sandy fabrics dominant in the assemblages of this period recovered in the area (e.g., Davies 1981; Keevill et al. 1995; Weaver 2002).

Lithics

- 6.3. One worked flint flake was recovered from the subsoil **700**. The flake is not chronologically diagnostic, so only broad prehistoric dating is possible.
- 6.4. Two pieces of burnt unworked flint were also recovered from the fills (**504** and **704**) of ditches **503** and **703** respectively. Although this type of material is usually associated with prehistoric activity, quantities from the current site are too small to infer date or function.

Further work and selection strategy

- 6.5. The finds have been recorded to the appropriate standard and no further work is required. The burnt, unworked flint has been discarded following recording. The rest of the material is recommended for long-term curation and should further fieldwork be undertaken at the site this material should be integrated into any additional analysis and reporting.

7. DISCUSSION

Iron Age (700 BC–AD 43)

- 7.1. The linear features found in **Trenches 5** and **7** at the south-east end of the site indicate some level of prehistoric activity, most likely rural agricultural, and Iron Age in date. This corresponds with findspots recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme of eight silver Iron Age coins and one gold coin recorded c. 150m east of the site. A Late Iron Age or Early Roman copper alloy harness fitting was also encountered c. 540m south-east of the study site. Considering both the study site and these find spots, it suggests the south-east of site is the edge of rural agricultural activity with possible Iron Age settlement activity within 1km distance further south or east.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Street, assisted by Phoebe Burrows and Jayme Lewis. This report was written by Tim Street. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Alejandra Gutierrez. The report illustrations were prepared by

Helena Munoz-Mojado The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Gemma Wheelan. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greator.

9. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty sand, loose, <1% <10mm sub angular stone	24.5	2.4	0.29	
1	101	layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, clayey sand, friable, <1% <50mm sub angular stone and <1% <10mm charcoal flecks	24.5	2	0.2	
1	102	layer		Natural	Mid orange grey, silty sand, compact with no visible inclusions	24.5	2	0.17	
2	200	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, clayey silt, friable <5% <50mm sub angular stone and <2% CBM	15	2.1	0.05	
2	201	layer		Other Layer	Mid yellow grey with black patches, silty clay, friable, <5% CBM, 1% concrete and <10% organic matter	15	2.1	1.08	
2	202	layer		Natural	Mid yellow with light grey mottling, silty clay, compact with no visible inclusions	15	2.1	0.05	
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, clayey sand, loose <1% <20mm sub angular stone and sub angular <1% <30mm flint	31	1.85	0.2	
3	301	layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, clayey silt, friable <1% <40mm sub rounded stone	31	1.85	0.2	
3	302	layer		Natural	Mid grey orange, silty clay, compact <1% <40mm sub angular stone	31	1.85	0.3	
4	400	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, clayey silt, loose <2% <10mm CBM	30	2	0.2	
4	401	layer		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown, silty clay, compact <1% CBM	30	1.85	0.2	
4	402	layer		Natural	Mid yellow with light grey mottling, silty clay, compact with no visible inclusions	20.4	1.85	0.51	
4	403	layer		Natural	Light grey with yellow mottling, silty clay, compact with no visible inclusions	9.6	1.85	0.2	
5	500	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty sand, loose with no visible inclusions	23.3	2.1	0.25	
5	501	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown, clayey sand, friable<1% <20mm sub angular stone	23.3	2.1	0.33	
5	502	layer		Natural	Mid grey orange, silty clay, compact with no visible inclusions	23.3	2.1	0.28	
5	503	cut		Ditch	N-S aligned V shaped linear with sharp slightly convex steep angle W side and sharp straight steep angle E side and rounded concave base.	5.13	0.78	0.47	Iron Age
5	504	fill	503	Secondary Fill	Mid orange brown, clayey sand, friable <1% <10mm sub angular stone and <1% <10mm charcoal flecks	5.13	0.78	0.47	Iron Age
6	600	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, sandy silt, friable 1% <40mm sub flint pebbles and <1% <10mm manganese flecks	30.7	1.85	0.15	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
6	601	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown, clayey silt, friable <1% <30mm sub rounded flint pebbles	30.7	1.85	0.2	
6	602	layer		Natural	Mid yellow orange, silty clay, compact <5% <40mm sub rounded flint pebbles	30.7	1.85	0.2	
7	700	layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown, silty sand, loose <1% <10mm sub angular stone	29.3	1.85	0.1	
7	701	layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown, silty clay, friable<1% <40mm sub angular stone	29.3	1.85	0.37	
7	702	layer		Natural	Mid orange brown, silty clay, compact <1% <40mm sub angular stone	29.3	1.85	0.25	
7	703	cut	703	Ditch	NE-SW linear with rounded concave moderate angle sides and rounded concave base.	1.95	0.49	0.13	Prehistoric
7	704	fill		Secondary Fill	Mid grey brown, clayey silt, friable <1% <50mm sub rounded flint pebbles	1.95	0.49	0.13	Prehistoric
8	800	layer		Topsoil	Mid orange brown, silty sand, loose <1% <10mm sub angular stones	31.6	1.95	0.09	
8	801	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown, clayey sand, friable <1% <20mm sub angular stone and <1% <10mm charcoal flecks	31.6	1.95	0.27	
8	802	layer		Natural	Mid grey orange, silty clay, compact with no visible inclusions	31.6	1.95	0.17	
9	900	layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown, silty sand, loose <5% <40mm sub angular stone	21.5	2	0.2	
9	901	layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown, clayey sand, friable <1% <20mm sub angular stone and <1% <10mm charcoal flecks	21.5	2	0.35	
9	902	layer		Natural	Mid grey orange, silty clay, compact with no visible inclusions	21.5	2	0.11	
9	903	layer		Other Layer	Mid brown grey, silty clay, friable<5% <50mm angular CBM	12.4	2	0.3	

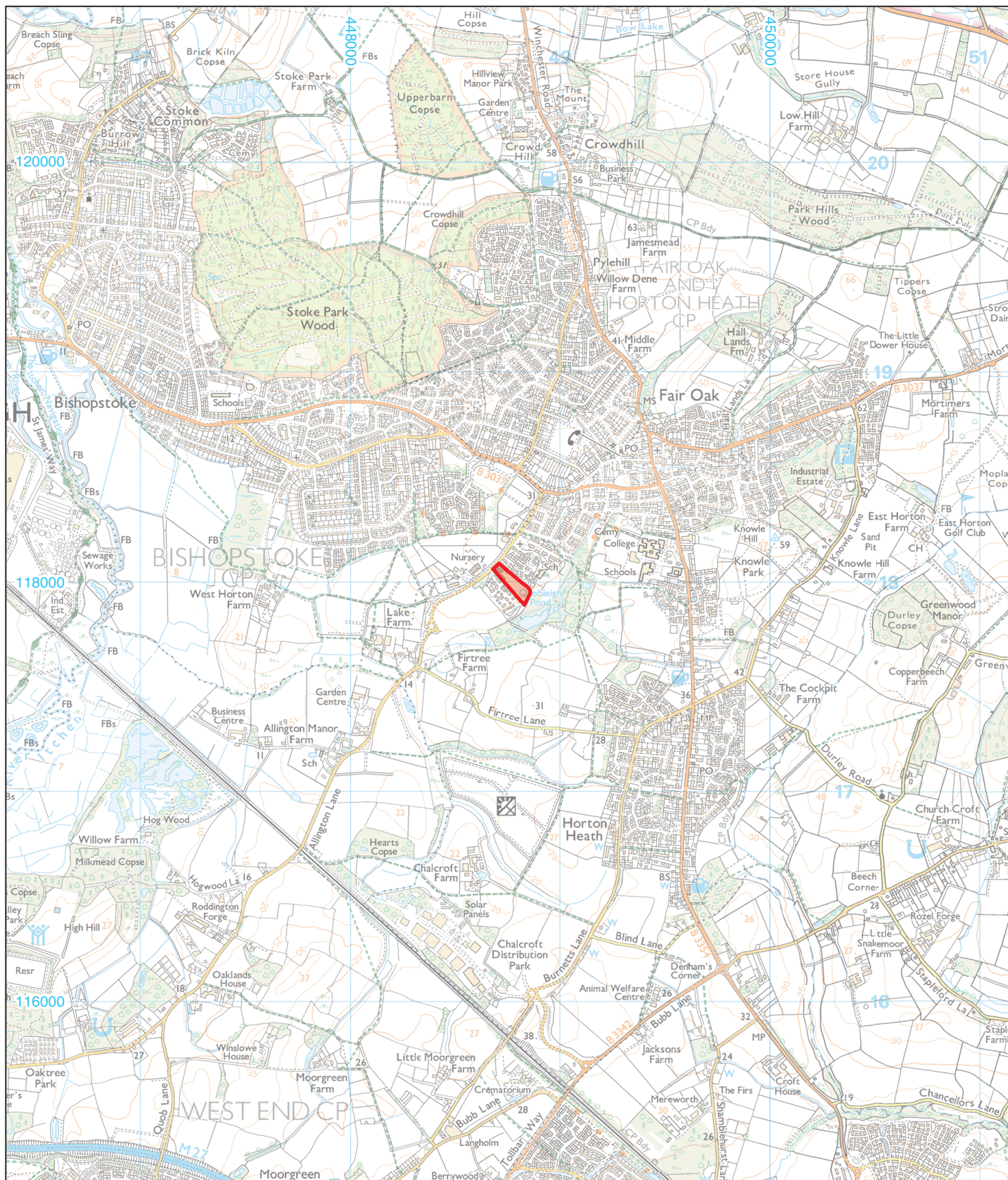
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds concordance.

Context	Context description	Class	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
504	Fill of ditch 503	Pottery		4	4	Iron Age
		Burnt flint		1	21	
700	Subsoil	Flint	Flake	1	56	-
704	Fill of ditch 703	Burnt flint		1	1	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Allington Lane (Phase 3), Fair Oak, Hampshire	
Short description	In September 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Allington Lane (Phase 3) Fair Oak, Hampshire, (formerly 'Treetops Nursery'). A total of nine trenches were excavated. Out of the nine trenches excavated in this phase, two had archaeological features. Trench 5 had a ditch dating to the Iron Age. Trench 7 had one piece of worked flint recovered from the topsoil and a undated shallow gully which had 1 piece of burnt flint suggesting prehistoric in date.	
Project dates	11-13 September 2023	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Allington Lane, Fair Oak, Hampshire	
Study area (m ² /ha)	1.03 ha	
Site co-ordinates	448777, 117990	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	RPS	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Tim Street	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		For example ceramics, animal bone etc
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2023, <i>Allington Lane (Phase 3), Fair Oak, Hampshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> , AN0685_1		



 Site boundary

0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Allington Lane (Phase 3), Fair Oak,
Hampshire

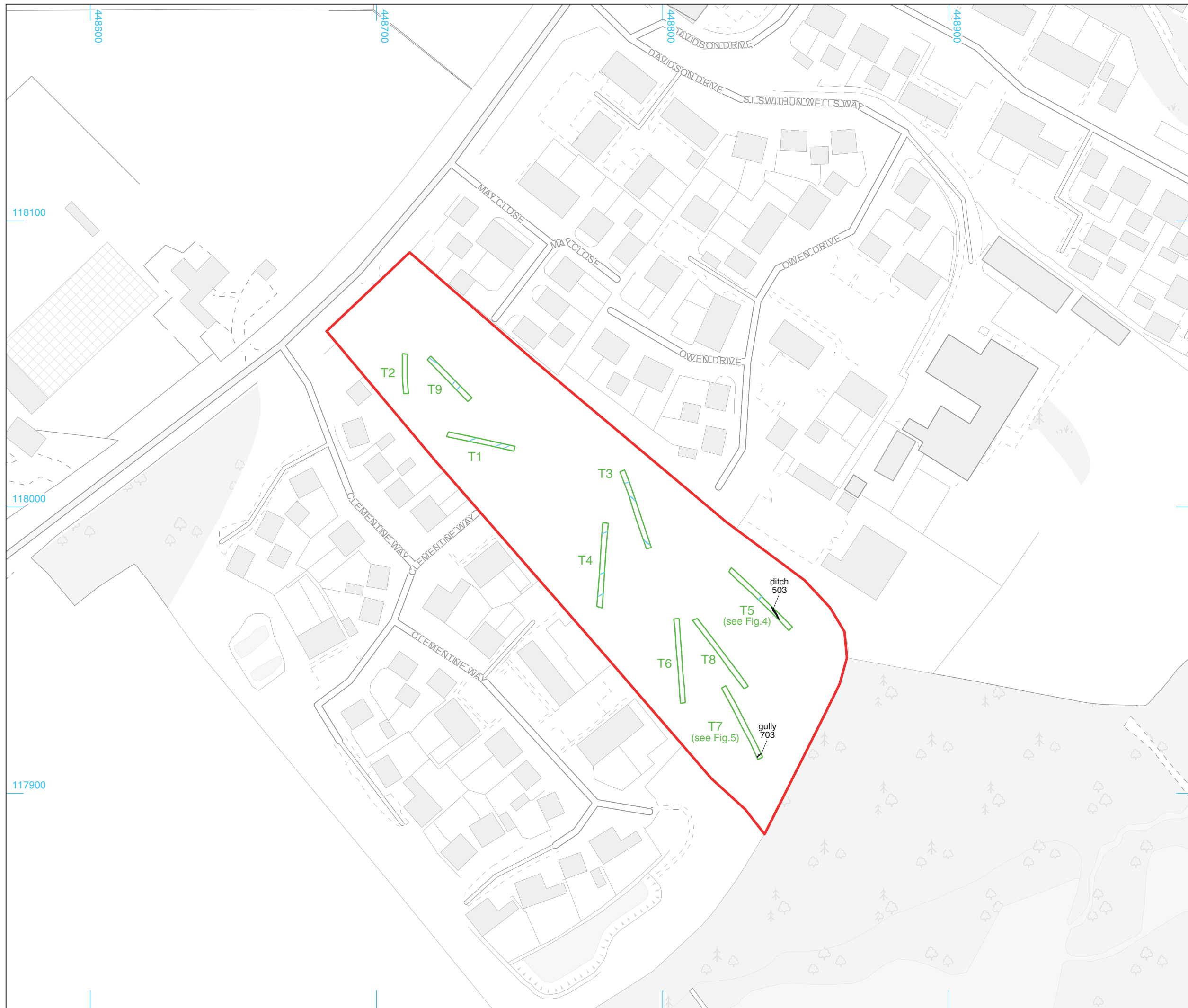
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY HMM
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY TS
PROJECT NO. AN0685
DATE 03/10/2023
SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Land drain

0 1:1250 50m

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Cotswold Archaeology

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PROJECT TITLE
Allington Lane (Phase 3), Fair Oak,
Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing
archaeological features

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Trench 4, showing natural geology change from yellow silty clay (foreground) to grey silty clay (background), looking south (1m scales)



Trench 8, showing yellow silty clay, looking south-east (1m scales)



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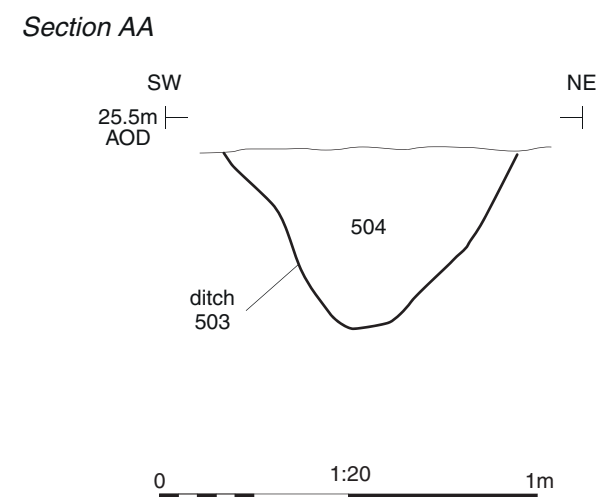
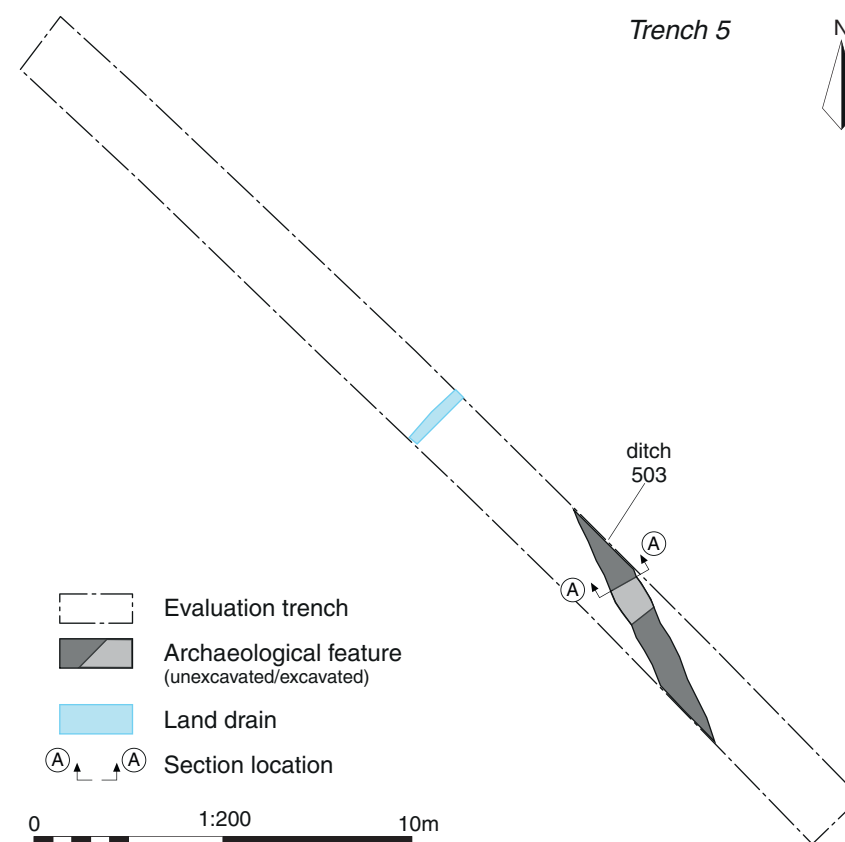
FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 4 and 8: photographs

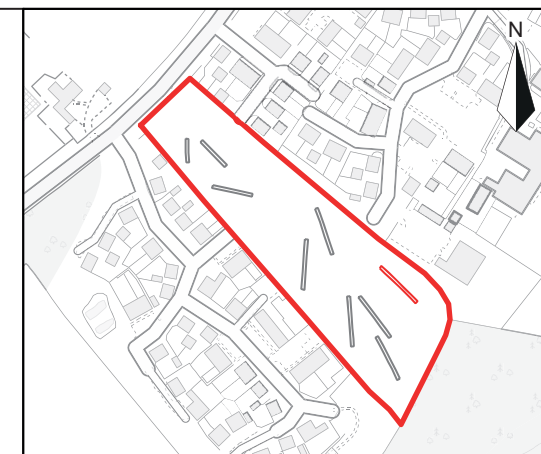
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FIGURE NO.

3



Ditch 503, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



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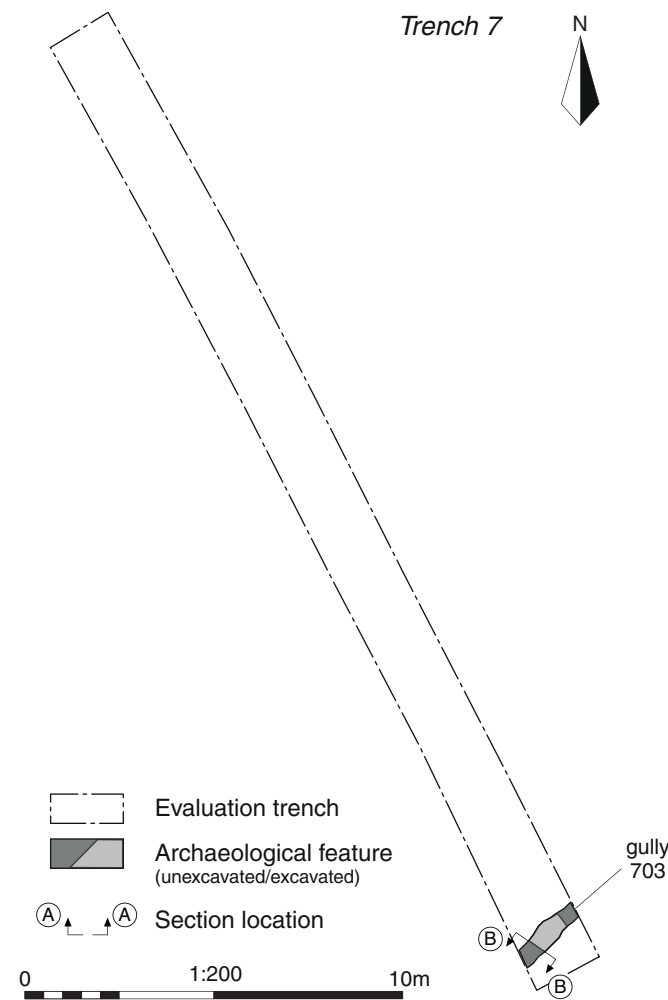
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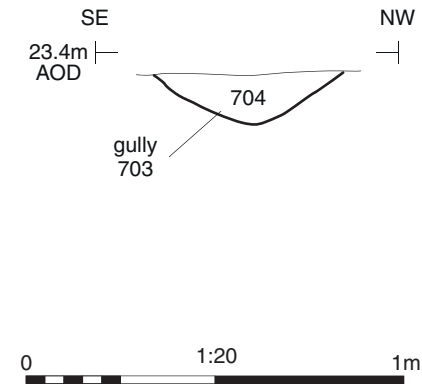
PROJECT TITLE
 Allington Lane (Phase 3), Fair Oak,
 Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 5: plan, section and photograph

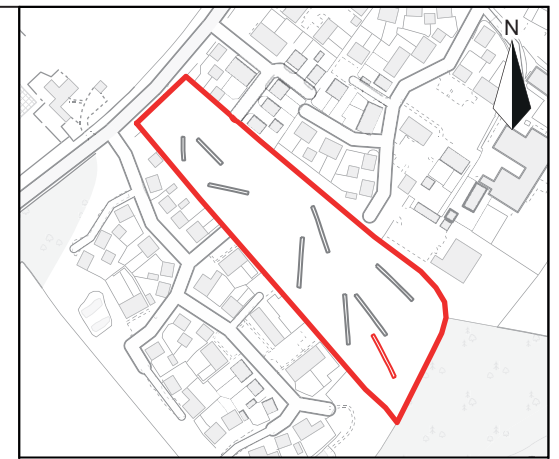
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Section BB



Gully 703, looking south-west (0.3m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench 7: plan, section and photograph

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