Burnehyll Community Woodland
Bicester
Oxfordshire
Archaeological Evaluation Report

December 2020

Client: Cherwell District Council

Issue No: V1
OA Reference No: 7696
NGR: SP 562 219

oxfordarchaeology

Client Name:	Cherwell District Council
Document Title:	Burnehyll Community Woodland, Bicester
Document Type:	Archaeological Evaluation Report
Grid Reference:	NGR: SP 562 219
Planning Reference:	19/01351/CDC
Site Code:	BIBCW20
Invoice Code:	BIBCWEV
Receiving Body:	Oxfordshire County Museum Service
Accession No.:	OXCMS: 2020.37

OA Document File Location: X:\o\Oxfordshire_Burnehyll_Community_Woodland_Bicester_EV\002Reports

OA Graphics File Location: X:\o\Oxfordshire_Burnehyll_Community_Woodland_Bicester_EV\002Geomatics

Issue No:	V1
Date:	08/12/20
Prepared by:	Lee Sparks (Project Officer)
Checked by:	Carl Champness (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by:	Martyn Allen (Senior Project Manager)
Approved for Issue by:	David Score (Head of Fieldwork OAS)
Signature:	DavidScore ……

OA South
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East
15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SQ

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North
Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD
t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com
Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627

Director and Chief Executive
Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA
Private Limited Company, No: 1618597
Registered Charity, No: 285627
Registered Office: Oxford Archaeology Ltd
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

Burnehyll Community Woodland, Bicester

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Lee Sparks

With contributions from Alex Davies, Sharon Cook and Edward Biddulph

and illustrations by Matt Bradley and Charles Rousseaux

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION 9
1.1 Scope of work 9
1.2 Location, topography and geology 9
1.3 Archaeological and historical background 9
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY 11
2.1 Aims 11
2.2 Methodology 11
3 RESULTS 13
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results 13
3.2 General soils and ground conditions 13
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits 13
3.4 Trench 12 (Figures 4 and 5, and Plates 4–6) 13
3.5 Trench 15 13
3.6 Finds summary 14
3.7 Environmental summary 14
4 DISCUSSION 15
4.1 Reliability of field investigation 15
4.2 Interpretation 15
4.3 Significance 15
APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY 17
APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS 22
B.1 Roman pottery 22
B.2 Prehistoric pottery 22
B.3 Worked flint 22

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS 24
C.1 Environmental Samples 24
APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY 25
APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS 26

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Burnehyll geophysical survey results
Fig. 3 Trench layout Area 5
Fig. 4 Plan of trenches 12 and 13
Fig. 5 Trench 12 sections

List of Plates

Plate 1 Trench 9 looking south-east (1 x 2m and 1 x 1m scales)
Plate 2 Trench 10 looking south-west (1 x 2m and 1 x 1m scales)
Plate 3 Trench 11 looking north-west (1 x 2m and 1 x 1m scales)
Plate 4 Trench 12 looking south-east (1 x 2m and 1 x 1m scales)
Plate 5 North-facing section of Ditch 1203 (1 x 1m scale)
Plate 6 South-facing section of Ditch 1205 (1 x 1m scale)

Summary

In August 2020, Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by Cherwell District Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed community woodland project. A programme of 15 trenches was undertaken across the site to ground-truth a previous geophysical survey and to assess the archaeological potential of site. The trenches were targeted on two geophysical features, but were otherwise arranged in a standard grid representing a 2% sample of the proposed area.

The evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological remains in the area identified on the geophysical survey. The remains of a late Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch and a second, undated ditch was identified within Trench 12. Small sherds of Roman and Iron Age pottery were also recovered from the topsoil in the adjacent Trench 15, suggestive of nearby activity. Other features identified in the geophysical survey were found to be of natural geological or modern agricultural origin. No other archaeological features or finds were recovered during the evaluation. A potential Roman trackway identified in the geophysical survey within the surrounding fields was found not to extend across the site as its trajectory would suggest.

The trenching confirmed that the geophysical survey provides a good indication of the archaeological features present on the site. Based on the results of the evaluation, the site forms part of the agricultural hinterland of Roman Alchester, with only limited prehistoric activity identified in the south-east corner of the site.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Tim Screen and Gillian Munday for commissioning this project on behalf of Cherwell District Council. Thanks are also extended to Richard Oram who monitored the work on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Lee Sparks, who was supported Tom Lawrence and Phil Terry. Survey and digitising was carried out by a team under the guidance of Matt Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Cherwell District Council to undertake a trial-trench evaluation at the site of a proposed community woodland project with informal recreation and public access near Bicester, Oxfordshire. The evaluation forms part of a wider investigation that involves evaluation and a community excavation.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. (19/01351/CDC). A brief was produced outlining requirements for the first phase of archaeological evaluation (CDC 2020) and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines the results of phase one of the evaluation works undertaken within Area 5.

1.1.3 A later report on phase two of the evaluation in relation to the community investigation in Area 2 is planned for the Summer 2021, where the findings of both reports will be integrated.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the south-west of Bicester, to the north of Bicester Park-and-Ride and adjacent to Vendee Drive (Fig. 1). The area of proposed development consists of six fields (Areas 1 to 6) divided by hedgerows on the south-western side of Vendee Drive (Fig. 2).

1.2.2 The geology of the area is mapped as by the British Geological Association as limestone of the Cornbrash Formation in the north-west of the site and the Kellaways Clay Member Mudstone in the south-east (BGS 2020).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site is located in an area of considerable archaeological interest, immediately north of the Roman town of Alchester, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM OX 18). The settlement area of the Roman town extends beyond the area protected by the SAM and evidence of this has been recorded during the widening of the A41 in the 1990s (Booth *et al*. 2002). The site is also located to the north of the crossroads of two Roman Roads.

1.3.2 A number of archaeological features relating to the extra-mural settlement of the Roman town and the earlier Iron Age settlement, were recorded along the line of the road *c* 500m north-east of Area 5 (PRN 16215) (SP 5735 2129). This area included a series of late Iron Age and Roman enclosure ditches and probable house gullies along with a number of pits (ibid., 27–34 [Area D]). The complexity of the features, recorded in a small area, suggests that occupation in this area was fairly intensive.

1.3.3 Two larger areas of archaeological features associated with the Iron Age and Roman settlement north of the Roman town were excavated to the south-east of the site, within the area of the current road junction between Chesterton Lane and the A41 (see ibid., 37–210 [Areas B and C]). This included part of a Roman cemetery associated with the town as well as extensive settlement evidence dating from the middle Iron

Age through to the late Roman period (PRN 14292; SP 5708 2101). Settlement features included various stone footings and yard surfaces as well as a series of enclosure ditches, which also dated to the late Iron Age and Roman periods.

1.3.4 Further archaeological features were recorded during a staged programme of investigation carried out by Wessex Archaeology in advance of the South-West Bicester development to the north-east of the site (Martin 2011). A beaker burial was discovered, which may be associated with prehistoric round barrows identified from aerial photographs of the site. Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement evidence was also recorded along with evidence for quarrying (PRN 26347; SP 5733 2211).

1.3.5 In 2013, OA carried out an evaluation at the Bicester Park-and-Ride site immediately east of the development area. Various undated pits and postholes were identified, along with two possible hearths, one cremated human-bone deposit of probable Roman date containing hobnails and tacks (probably from a box), and ditches and gullies. The lack of dating evidence from the linear features suggests that this area lay predominantly within an area of agricultural activity since at least the Roman period.

1.3.6 Cherwell District Council has recently commissioned a geophysical survey of the development site. The results demonstrate the presence of numerous, linear, ditch-like anomalies suggestive of an Iron Age/Romano-British trackway and field system within Area 5. Truncated linear anomalies identified within the trackway feature are suggestive of possible historic development and expansion.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To complete a 1% trial-trench evaluation of Area 5.
ii. To carry out targeted and select trenching within Area 2, undertaken with involvement from the local community.
iii. To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the area.
iv. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains by means of artefactual or other evidence.
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 or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
viii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental remains.
ix. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to the economy, status, utility and social activity of or at the site.
x. To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Oxfordshire HER.
xi. Production of an evaluation report detailing the findings within Areas 5 and 2 to inform the local planning authority about the archaeological potential within Area 2 to enable a decision regarding further mitigation, if required, and to inform the client in regard to producing tree planting and landscaping plans.
xii. Provide an exciting and engaging community involvement programme within Area 5 that also provides quality data which will form part of the 2% trenching programme in this area.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A programme of 13 trenches, each measuring up to 30m by 1.80m, were targeted on the archaeological areas identified in the previous geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019). Two potential areas of archaeology were targeted during the evaluation, with the remaining trenches making up the 2% sample area. A further 13 contingency trenches were planned in the event of substantial archaeological remains being uncovered. In the event, two more trenches were excavated (Trenches 14 and 15) as part of the work, with the aim of investigating the potential route of the linear feature identified in Area 6.

2.2.2 The trenches were excavated using a tracked machine fitted with a flat, toothless bucket. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or to the first archaeological horizon (Plates 1–4). Once archaeological deposits had been exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand.

2.2.3 A sample of each feature was excavated in each trench as outlined within the project WSI (OA 2020). Sufficient excavation was undertaken in each trench to resolve the principle aims of the evaluation.

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 that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated (eg ditch 1204 is a feature withing trench 12).

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform and consisted of a homogenous clayey topsoil. The natural geology was mixed across the site, ranging from a clayey silt with gravels to a silty clay on the lower parts of site. There was an undulating layer of subsoil across the site which varied in depth, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Of the 13 trenches originally planned, two were targeted on geophysical anomalies (Magnitude Surveys 2019), and the distribution of archaeological features identified was as predicted (Fig. 3). In the event of substantial archaeological remains being uncovered, a further 13 trenches were planned, of which two (Trenches 14 and 15) were excavated to investigate the line of the potential Roman trackway seen in the geophysical survey in Area 6.

3.3.2 Whilst some of the more-promising features were confirmed as archaeological, other less well-defined features proved to be natural geological variation. Only two trenches exposed archaeological features or finds, and these are described below.

3.4 Trench 12 (Figures 4 and 5, and Plates 4–6)

3.4.1 Trench 12 contained two archaeological features, one of which was identified on the geophysics (Fig. 4). Ditch 1203 was aligned NNW–SSE and measured 1.22m wide by 0.20m deep (Fig. 5, section 1200). It was filled with a soft, grey-brown silty clay (1204) which two sherds of late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery, one sherd of Roman pottery and residual worked flint (Plate 5).

3.4.2 Ditch 1205 was aligned NNE–SSW and measured 1.28m wide by 0.24m deep (Fig. 5, section 1201). It contained a single, brown-grey, silty clay fill (1206) that produced no dating evidence (Plate 6).

3.5 Trench 15

3.5.1 No archaeological features were identified within Trench 15, but two small sherds of abraded pottery were recovered from the topsoil, dating to the LBA/EIA and Roman periods respectively, suggestive of background activity within the wider area.

3.6 Finds summary

3.6.1 Two prehistoric pottery sherds were found in context 1204, spot-dated to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age. A single prehistoric sherd weighing 12g was also found in the topsoil (context 1500), spot-dated to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age.

3.6.2 Ditch 1203 also produced a small assemblage of worked flints. This comprised a large blade form as well as two probable bladelet segments and a core or axe/adze trimming flake. Whilst not strictly diagnostic, the presence of so many blade forms in a single context does indicate an early prehistoric date.

3.6.3 Two fragments of Roman pottery were recovered, one from ditch fill 1204 within Trench 12 and from the topsoil deposit 1500 in Trench 15. Neither could be closely dated within the period *c* AD 43–410.

3.7 Environmental summary

3.7.1 A sample was taken from the only dated feature of the evaluation, fill 1204 of ditch 1203, to evaluate the presence and condition of palaeo-environmental remains at the site.

3.7.2 The sample contained one small fragment of pottery and a small assemblage of worked flints. It produced a small flot comprising fine, uncharred roots with modern plant and insect remains. Small fragments of charcoal <2mm are present. However, these are not suitable for further work due to their small size.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches provided good coverage of the site area and were located to maximise the potential for exposing archaeological remains. The ground and site conditions were generally good throughout the course of the works and the machining was carried out cleanly, providing good visibility of features and deposits in the trenches.

4.1.2 The evaluation confirmed the reliability of the geophysical survey and the presence of archaeological remains associated with prehistoric activity on site. Features interpreted as being of potential geological or agricultural origin were confirmed through the trenching as having no archaeological potential. As such, the results of the evaluation are considered to be a true reflection of the archaeological potential of Area 5.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 The evaluation trenching correlated well with the features predicted by the geophysical survey. Evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity identified in Trench 12 appears to form part of a wider system of ditches and enclosures, potentially of either period. Problems concerning residual or intrusive material may be resolved with further excavation.

4.2.2 No trace of any archaeological features was identified within Trench 13, even though the results of the geophysics suggested the presence of a potential ditch. Sherds of LBA/IA and Roman pottery were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 15, suggestive of activity close by.

4.2.3 No archaeological features were uncovered from the remaining trenches and features identified in the geophysical survey were confirmed to be of geological or modern agricultural origin.

4.2.4 Evidence of a possible east–west trackway mapped in geophysics as extending across Areas 1 and 2, and potentially into Area 6, was not found within Area 5. The absence of the trackway here may suggest that it followed a more sinuous course than its trajectory would suggest, perhaps leading southwards, closer to the modern road. It is also not clear if the linear features identified in Area 6 are, in fact, a continuation of the trackway from Areas 1 and 2, which may explain why it was not identified within the trial trenches.

4.2.5 The results indicate the site is on the edge of Iron Age and Roman activity mapped and previously investigated in Area 6. Excavation of the Bicester Park-and-Ride revealed a collection of various undated pits and postholes, along with two possible hearth pits, one cremated human-bone deposit and ditches and gullies. The lack of dating evidence from this site suggests that it was away from the main settlement focus and formed part of the wider hinterland of Alchester.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The site lies on the north-western periphery of the extra-mural settlement of Alchester Roman town, just north of Akeman Street. The scarcity of artefacts and features would

indicate that the site forms part of the wider agricultural hinterland and was not a focus of settlement.

4.3.2 The evaluation has proven that only limited activity was identified within the south-eastern corner of the site, associated with two ditches. No other archaeological features or deposits were identified during the trenching, suggesting that the vast majority of the site area has a low archaeological potential.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench consists of topsoil overlying subsoil which overlies natural.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.35
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer			0.22	Topsoil. Dark brown-grey silty clay		
101	Layer			0.13	Subsoil. Grey brown silty clay		
102	Layer				Natural. Yellow-orange silty clay		
Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Dark brown-grey silty clay		
201	Layer				Natural. Yellow-orange clay		
Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Dark brown-grey silty clay		
301	Layer				Natural. Light grey-blue clay with orange-yellow clay		
Trench 4							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.34

Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer			0.34	Topsoil. Dark brown-grey silty clay		
401	Layer				Natural- Light grey-blue clay with yellow-orange clayey silts		

Trench 5

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench consists of topsoil overlying subsoil which overlies natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.28

Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer			0.18	Topsoil. Dark brown-grey silty clay		
501	Layer			0.1	Subsoil. Grey-brown silty clay		
502	Layer				Natural. Light grey-blue clay with yellow-orange clays		

Trench 6

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying subsoil which overlies natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.27

Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer			0.19	Topsoil. Dark brown grey silty clay		
601	Layer			0.11	Subsoil. Grey-brown silty clay		
602	Layer				Natural. Light grey-blue clay with yellow-orange clays		

Trench 7

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.32

Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer			0.32	Topsoil		

Trench 8							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Grey brown silty clay		
801	Layer				Natural. Yellow-orange silty clay with patches of light blue clay		

Trench 9							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench consists of topsoil overlying subsoil which overlies natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.34
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Dark grey brown silty clay		
901	Layer			0.14	Subsoil. Grey brown silty clay		
902	Layer				Natural. Light yellow orange clayey silts with light blue clays		

Trench 10							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.32
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer			0.3	Topsoil. Dark grey brown silty clay		
1001	Layer				Natural. Light yellow orange clayey silts with light grey-blue clay		

Trench 11							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.35

Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer			0.35	Topsoil. Dark brown-grey silty clay		
1101	Layer				Natural. Light yellow orange clayey silts		

Trench 12

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench consists of topsoil overlying subsoil which overlies natural. 2x ditches in trench, BA pottery recovered	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer			0.28	Topsoil		
1201	Layer			0.2	Subsoil		
1202	Layer				Natural		
1203	Cut		1.2	0.2	Ditch		
1204	Fill	1203	1.2	0.2	Secondary Fill	Pot & flint	LBA/IA & RB
1205	Cut		1.3	0.26	Ditch		
1206	Fill	1205	1.3	0.26	Secondary Fill		

Trench 13

General description	Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.44

Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer			0.32	Topsoil. Dark brown-grey silty clay		
1301	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Light brown grey silty clay		
1302	Layer				Natural. Light yellow brown clays		

Trench 14

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.38

Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

1400	Layer			0.38	Topsoil. Dark brown-grey silty clay		
1401	Layer				Natural. Light yellow brown silty clay with blue grey clay patches		
Trench 15							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench consists of topsoil overlying natural					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.34
Context	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer			0.34	Topsoil. Dark brown-grey silty clay	Pot	LBA/ EIA & RB
1501	Layer				Natural. Light yellow orange clayey silts with light blue grey clay patches		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

B.1.1 Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered (Table 1). Neither could be closely dated within the period c AD 43-410. The fabrics could not be identified to source, although it is not impossible that both were products of the Oxford-region industry (Young 1977). No forms were recognised.

Context	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot-date
1204	1	1	Body sherd, fabric O10 (fine oxidised ware)	AD 43-410
1500	1	1	Sample 1. Body sherd, fabric R30 (medium sandy reduced ware)	AD 43-410

Table 1: Roman pottery

B.2 Prehistoric pottery

By Alex Davies

B.2.1 Two contexts produced prehistoric pottery, both probably of the same date and both containing quartzite in their fabric. A single sherd weighing 12g was found in context 1500, spot-dated to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age. Two sherds weighing 2g were found in context 1204, spot-dated to the late Bronze Age or Iron Age.

B.3 Worked flint

By Mike Donnelly

Introduction

B.3.1 This evaluation yielded four struck flints, all recovered from a sample taken from the fill of ditch 1204 (Table 2). This comprised a large blade form as well as two probable bladelet segments and a core or axe/adze trimming flake. Whilst not strictly diagnostic, the presence of so many blade forms in a single context indicates an early date. The flints were recorded and catalogued according to OA South's standard system of artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999).

B.3.2 The blade and one of the two bladelets retained their proximal ends and both showed evidence of edge abrasion, firstly on a simple, plain platform for the blade (soft-hammer struck) and on a punctiform or isolated platform for the bladelet (of indeterminate hammer mode). The remaining two pieces were both small and thin with a bladelet segment and another flake that undercut its own left edge on its dorsal surface which is strongly indicative of axe/adze working or some form of platform trimming/core rejuvenation.

B.3.3 All four pieces could be regarded as early with a date-range spanning the late Upper Palaeolithic through to the middle Neolithic, but a date between the early Mesolithic and early Neolithic is most probable. Despite being from the same context, the flints

are in varied condition, which most likely indicates that they are residual and may relate to different periods of knapping activity on site.

B.3.4 Any further work in this part of the evaluation area should take into account the possibility of encountering flint-rich deposits here.

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
1204	Blade	Inner	Large blade with iron staining but localised edge damage, soft hammer struck with platform edge abrasion	EPH
1204	Bladelet	Inner	Snapped bladelet with abraded isolated platform	EPH
1204	Bladelet	Inner	Probable mesial bladelet segment	?EPH
1204	Flake	Inner	Possible core trimming or adze/axe working flake	?EPH

Table 2: Worked flint

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook

C.1.1 A sample was taken from fill 1204 of ditch 1203 in Trench 12 to evaluate the presence and condition of palaeo-environmental remains and to establish whether any artefacts were present.

C.1.2 The sample was 36 litres in volume and comprised a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) clay loam with moderate to rare, rounded stones.

C.1.3 The sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraf system) for the recovery of plant remains and any bones or artefacts that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.25mm nylon mesh and the residue was sieved to 0.5mm. The flot and residues were allowed to air dry in a heated room. Any bones and artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds.

C.1.4 The dried flot was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 to x20.

C.1.5 The sample contained one small fragment of pottery and a small number of possibly worked flints, and produced a flot of 20ml. The flot comprised fine uncharred roots with modern plant remains. Small fragments of charcoal <2mm are present. However, these are not suitable for further work due to their small size. Insect remains are present, but all appear to be modern.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2020, British Geological Survey online viewer, accessed on 10/03/2020

Booth P, Evans J and Hiller J 2002 Excavations in the Extramural Settlement of Roman Alchester, Oxfordshire, 1991. Oxford Archaeology Monograph 1

Magnitude Surveys, 2019 Geophysical Survey Report of Burnehyll Community Woodland Cherwell, Oxfordshire. Ref: MSSP431

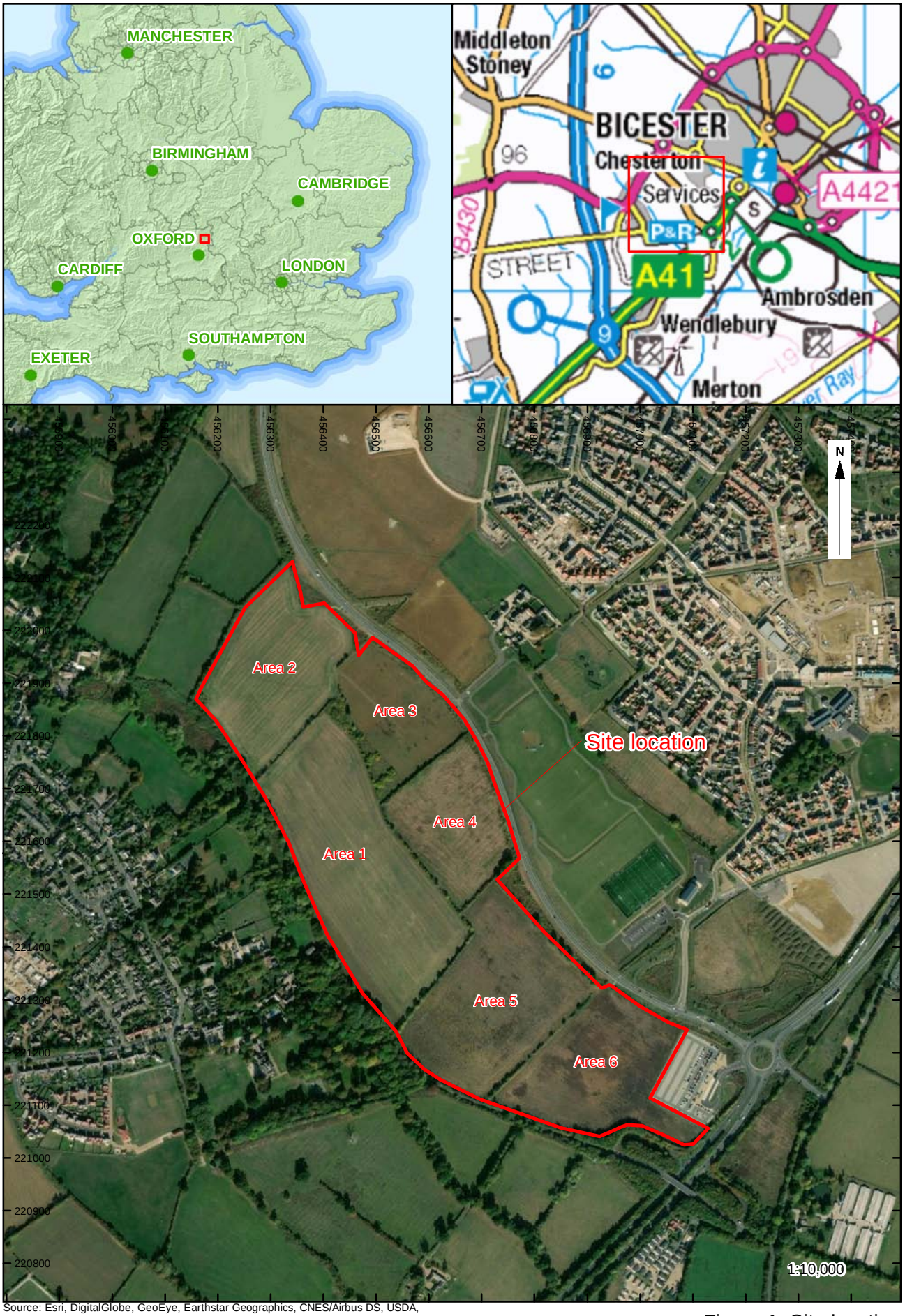
Martin, J, 2011 Prehistoric, Romano-British and Saxon activity at Whitelands Farm, Bicester, *Oxoniensia* **76**, 173–240

OA, 2013 Construction of Park and Ride Facility Land to the North-West of the A41 Bicester Oxfordshire: Archaeological evaluation report (unpublished client report)

OA, 2020 Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation, Burnehyll Community Woodland Cherwell, Oxfordshire.

APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

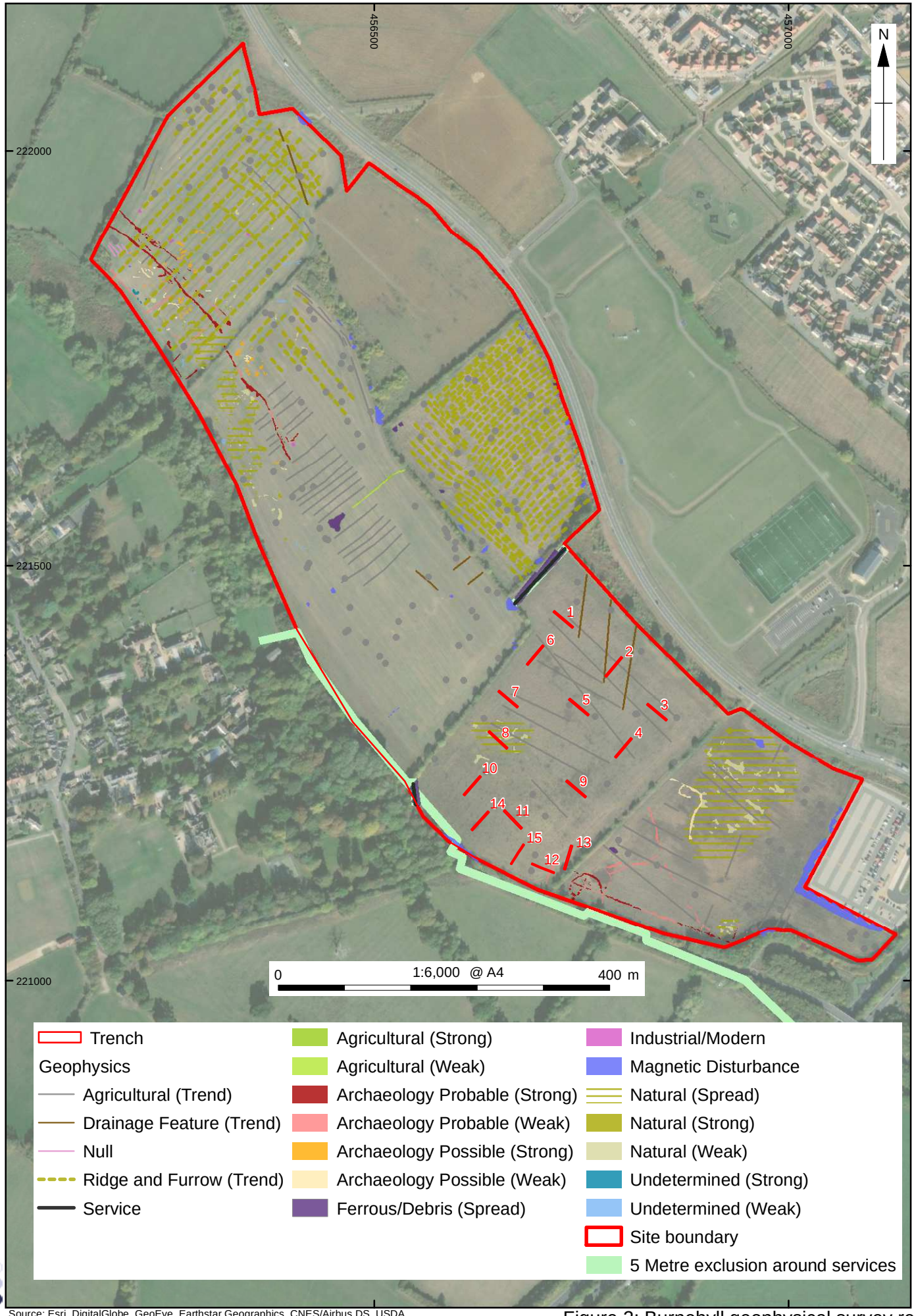
Site name:	Burnehyll Community Woodland
Site code:	BIBCW20
Grid Reference	SP 562 219
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	August 2020
Area of Site	8 ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2020.37.
Summary of Results:	The evaluation trenching has shown one area of archaeological activity in Area 5. Trench 12 contained a prehistoric or Roman ditch and a second undated ditch. The archaeology is consistent with the results produced by the geophysical survey and historical mapping.



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location

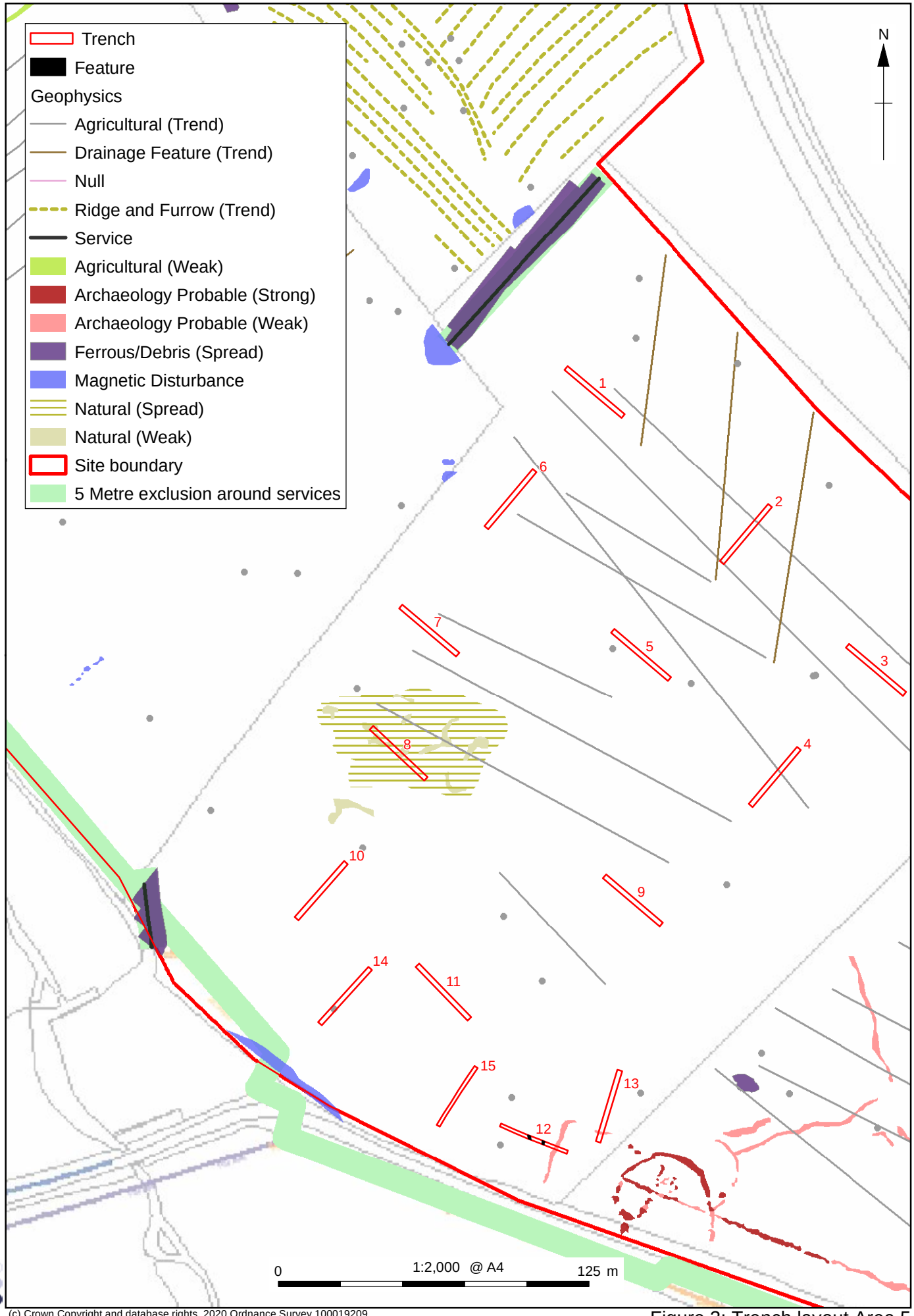
X:\o\Oxfordshire_Burnehyll_Community_Woodland_Bicester_EV\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\BIBCWEV_Burnehyll WSI_figure1_2020-06-03.mxd*matt.bradley*06/03/2020



\\10.0.10.86\projects\o\Oxfordshire_Burnehyll_Community_Woodland_Bicester_EV\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects - DRM_v2\Figures\BIBCWEV_Burnehyll_figure2_2020-11-23.mxd*aidan.farnan*23/11/2020

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 2: Burnehyll geophysical survey results



X:\o\Oxfordshire_Burnehyll_Community_Woodland_Bicester_EV\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects - DRM_v2\Figures\BIBCWEV_Burnehyll_figure3_2020-11-23.mxd*aidan.farnan*23/11/2020

Figure 3: Trench layout Area 5

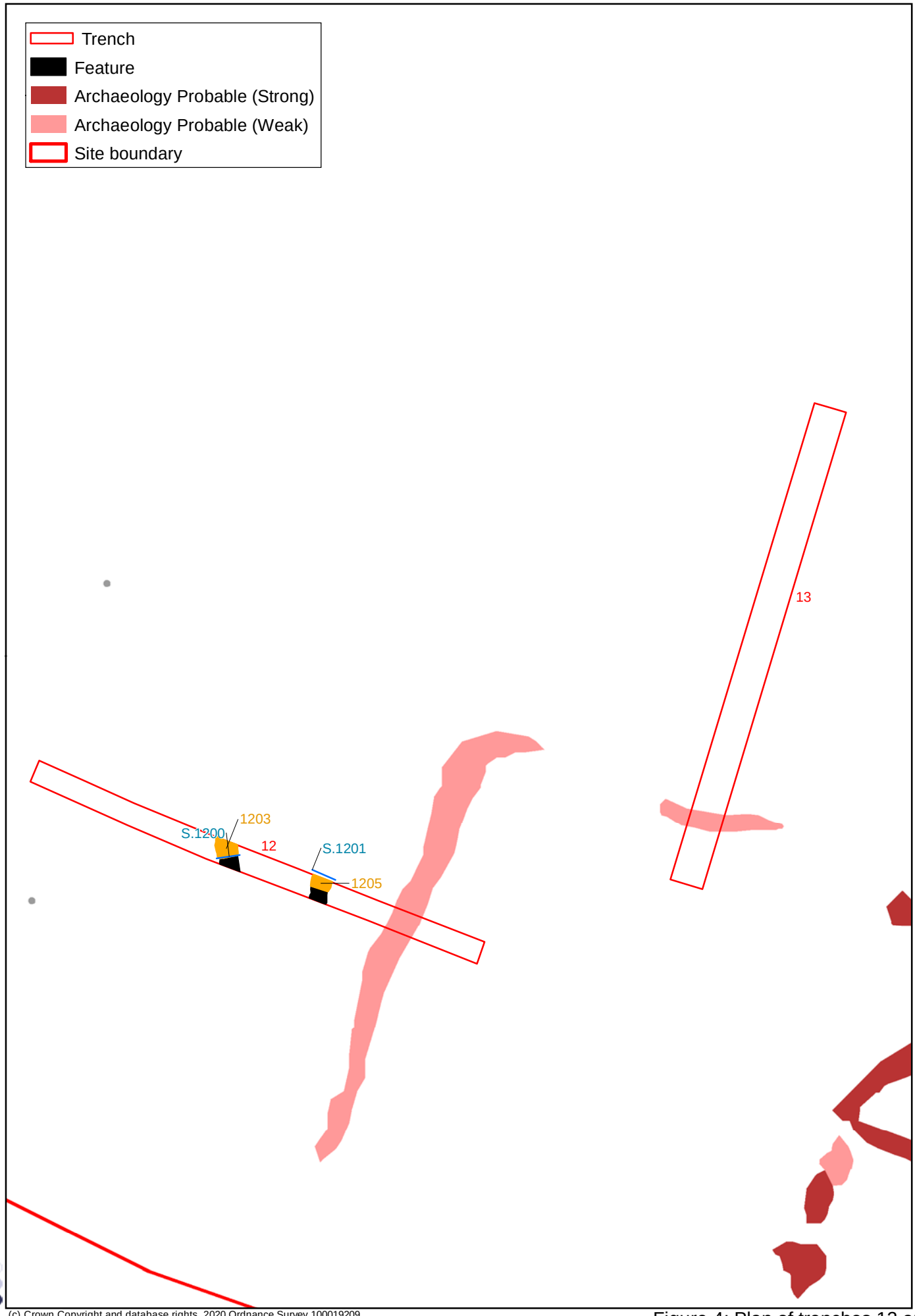


Figure 4: Plan of trenches 12 and 13

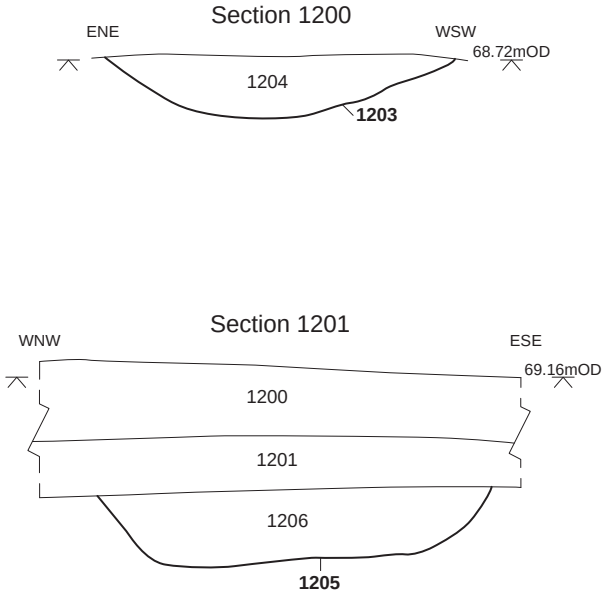


Figure 5: Trench 12 sections

Plate 1: Trench 9 looking south-east (1x2m and 1x1m scales)

Plate 2: Trench 10 looking south-west (1x2m and 1x1m scales)

Plate 3: Trench 11 looking north-west (1x2m and 1x1m scales)

Plate 4: Trench 12 looking South-east (1x2m and 1x1m scales)

Plate 5: North facing section of Ditch 1203 (1x1m scale)

Plate 6: South facing section of Ditch 1205 (1x1m scale)

oxfordarchaeology

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
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com