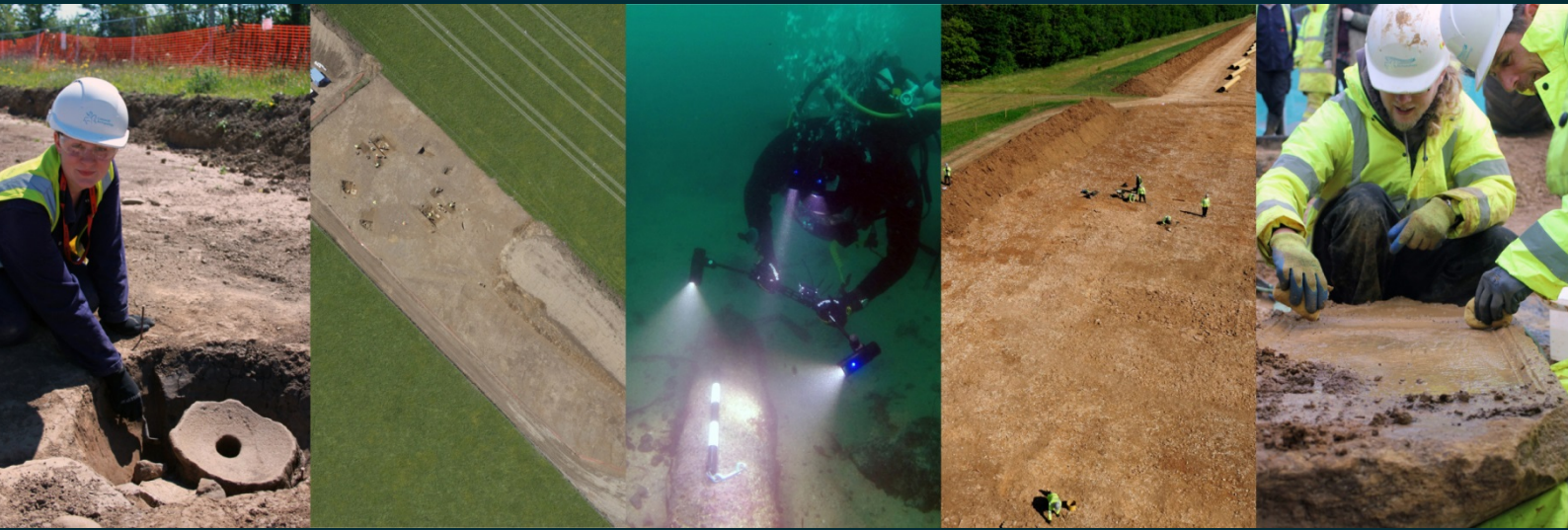


# Land south of Little Horwood Road Great Horwood Buckinghamshire

*Archaeological Excavation*



for  
CgMs Heritage

CA Project: 661167  
CA Report: 18475

September 2018



# Land south of Little Horwood Road Great Horwood Buckinghamshire

## Archaeological Excavation

CA Project: 661167  
CA Report: 18475



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| B                     | 24/09/2018 |        | RS         | External Review | Consultant Review           | SRJ         |
| C                     | 13/11/2018 |        | LL         | External Review | County Archaeologist Review | SRJ         |
|                       |            |        |            |                 |                             |             |

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Plate 2 Site, looking south-west



## SUMMARY

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Project Name:</b>        | Land south of Little Horwood Road                   |
| <b>Location:</b>            | Great Horwood, Buckinghamshire                      |
| <b>NGR:</b>                 | 477743 231125                                       |
| <b>Type:</b>                | Excavation  |
| <b>Date:</b>                | 13 August to 15 August 2018                         |
| <b>Planning Reference:</b>  | Aylesbury Vale District Council 16/03538/AOP        |
| <b>Location of Archive:</b> | To be deposited with Buckinghamshire Museum Service |
| <b>Accession Number:</b>    | AYBCM : 2018.95                                     |
| <b>Site Code:</b>           | LSLH 18   |

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2018 at land south of Little Horwood Road, Great Horwood, Buckinghamshire. The excavation area was located in the south-western part of the development, targeting an east/west orientated ditch identified during previous evaluation of the site.

The excavation, which covered an area of approximately 0.06ha, identified two phases of activity. The first phase of activity was represented by a curvilinear ditch containing pottery of Early to Middle Saxon date (AD 450 to AD 850). This ditch may form part of a field system or small enclosure.

The second phase of activity was represented by plough furrows of probable medieval to post-medieval date (1539 to 1800). These medieval to post-medieval plough furrows represent the remains of the open field system that once surrounded the village of Great Horwood and were encountered across the entire excavation area.

An undated pit was also recorded within the central part of the site.

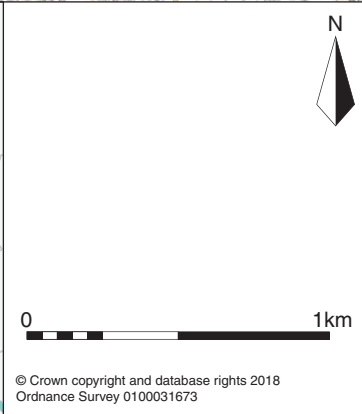
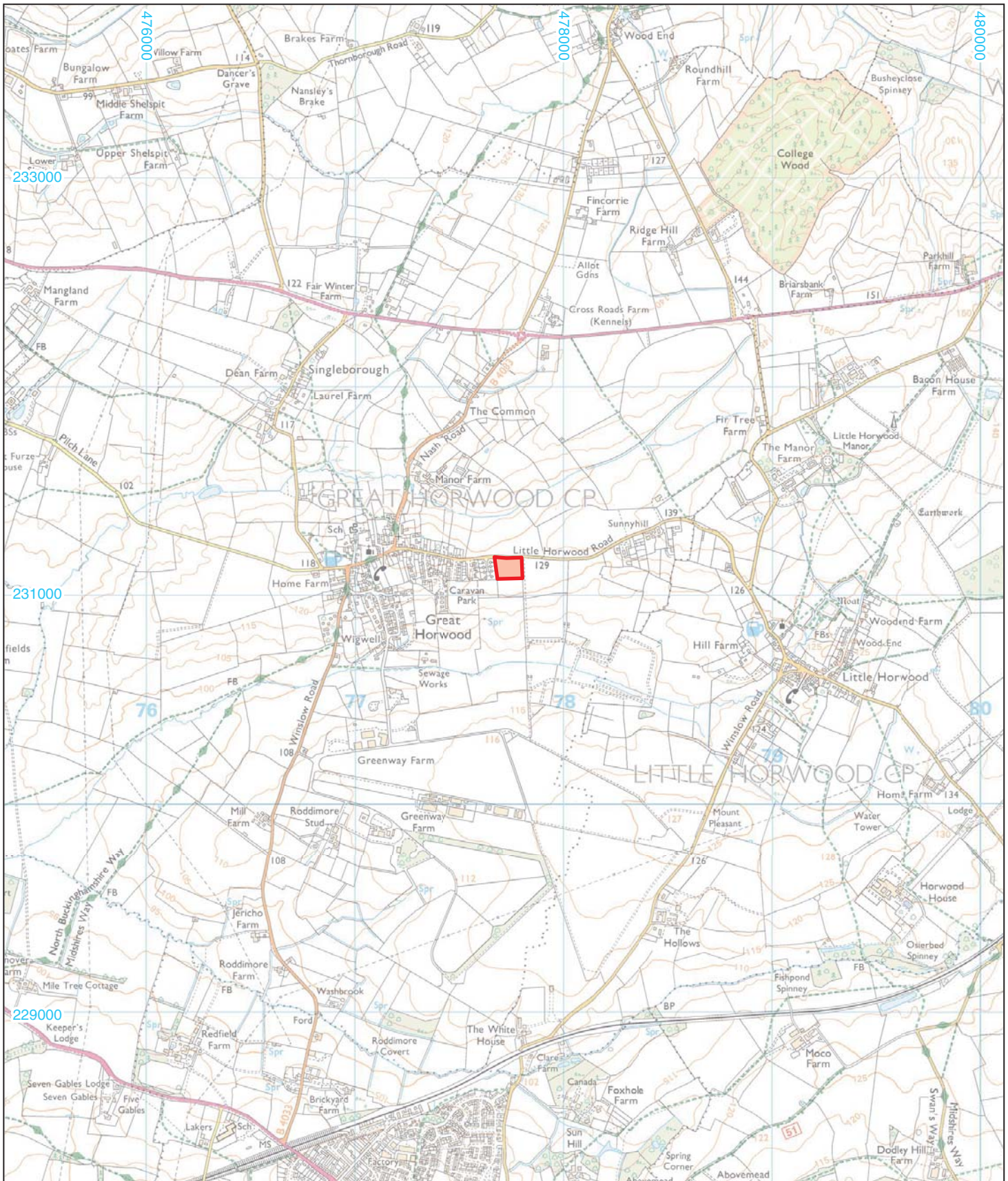



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological investigation of land south of Little Horwood Road, Great Horwood, Buckinghamshire (centred at NGR: 477743 231125; Fig. 1). The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Heritage.
- 1.2 Planning permission for a residential development was granted by Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC; the local planning authority), conditional on a programme of archaeological work (ref: 16/03538/AOP).
- 1.3 The scope of the archaeological work, which comprised the excavation of an area of c. 0.06ha, was defined during discussions between Richard Smalley, CgMs Heritage and Phil Markham, Senior Archaeologist for Buckinghamshire County Council (SABCC; the archaeological advisors to AVDC).
- 1.4 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by (CA 2018a) and approved by Phil Markham (SABCC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (ClfA 2014); Buckinghamshire County Council's *Generic Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief / Small-Scale Investigation (BCAS)*, the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* and accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015). It was monitored by Phil Markham, SABCC, including a site visit on 15 August 2018.

### **The site**

- 1.5 The proposed development site is approximately 1.3ha in area, situated on the eastern edge of the village of Great Horwood (Fig. 1). The site comprises a single field, formerly under arable cultivation (Fig. 2). It is bounded to the north by Little Horwood Road with arable fields beyond, to the east and south by further agricultural fields and to the west by the residential properties and associated gardens of Townsend Cottages. The site lies on relatively flat ground at approximately 126m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.6 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Weymouth Member mudstone of the Jurassic period overlain by superficial Quaternary deposits of sand




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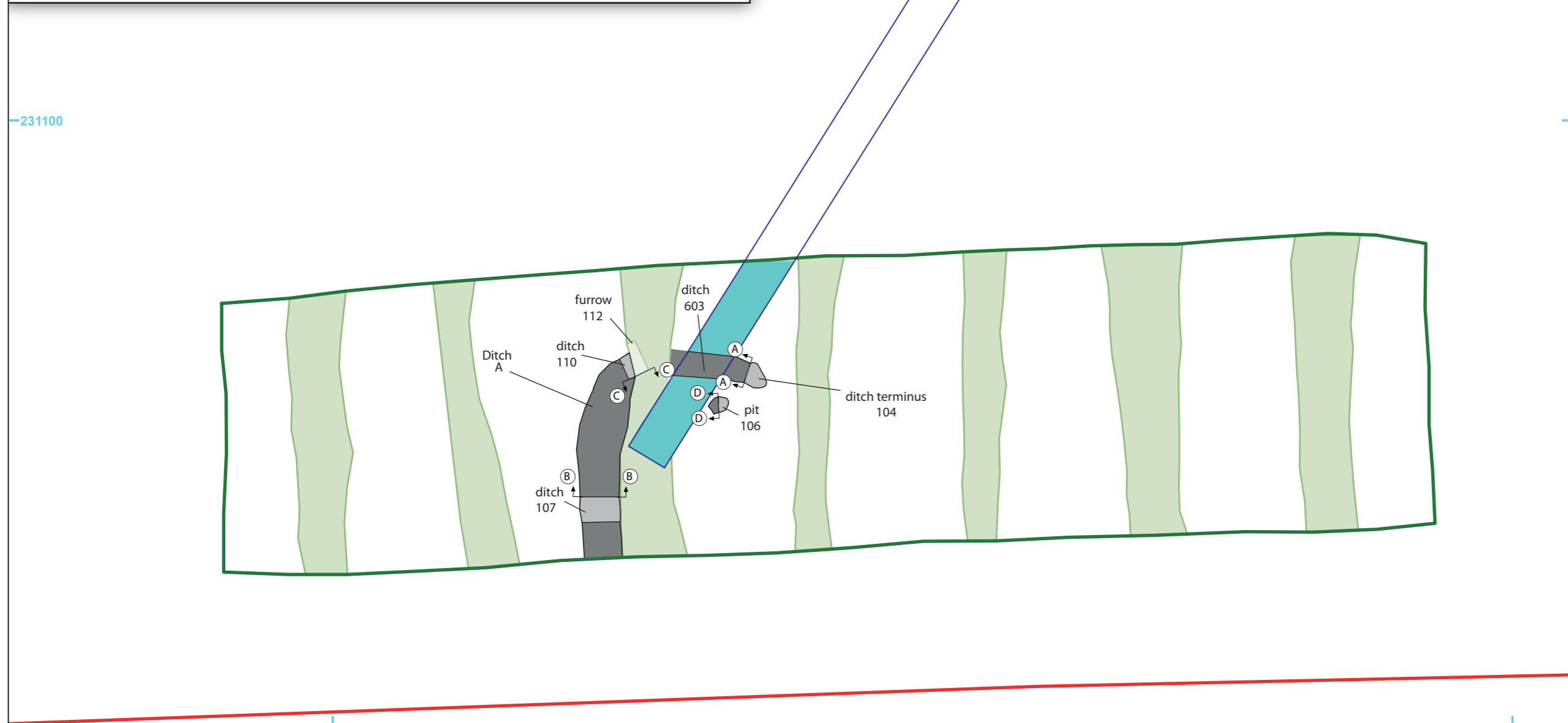
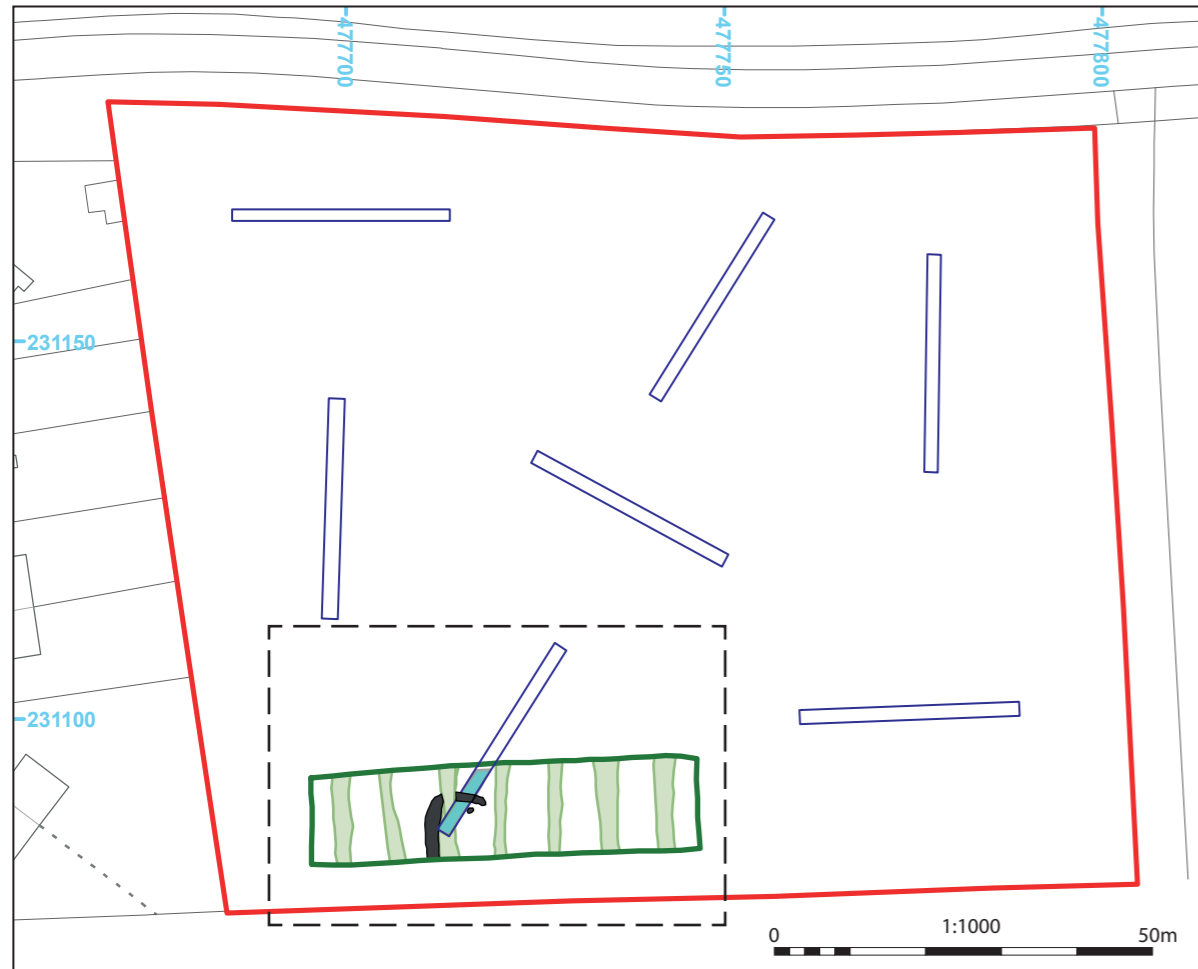
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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|                    |     |                    |            |                   |   |
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- Site boundary
- Excavation area
- Previous evaluation trench (CA 2018)
  
- Archeological feature (excavated/unexcavated)
- Furrow (excavated/unexcavated)
- Trench backfill
- ⓐ Section location



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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing the excavation area

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and gravel (BGS 2018). This is in turn overlain by lime-rich loamy and clayey soils (Cranfield University Soilscales online 2018). Mixed sands and gravels were identified during the evaluation.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been summarised in a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) produced by CgMs Heritage (2016) and further enhanced by an archaeological evaluation (CA 2018b). The following section is summarised from these sources. Buckinghamshire HER numbers are given in parenthesis.

### ***Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)***

2.2 There is no evidence for prehistoric activity recorded within the site. Within the wider environs of the site a pit containing Iron Age pottery was identified during an evaluation c. 100m to the south-west. An associated pit did not yield any datable evidence (Michaels 2014).

### ***Roman (AD 43–AD 410)***

2.3 Ploughing in the late 19th century, c. 350m east of the site, revealed a hoard of late Roman silverware (002240000/1/2/3/4/5). Finds spots of Roman pottery have been recovered from fields c. 380m to the east (0227500000) and c. 920m to the north (HER 0197300000) of the site respectively.

2.4 Geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation has identified a small Roman settlement c. 1km to the south-west of the site at Winslow Green (HER EBC17213, EBC17518). This comprised a D-shaped enclosure dating to the 2nd to 4th century AD. A number of large pits, interpreted as relating to Roman quarrying, were also recorded in close proximity to this site (Carlyle 2008).

### ***Early medieval (AD 410–1066)***

2.5 Horwood is first recorded in a charter of 792 AD (Carticarium Saxonicum) when a wood called 'Horwudu' was gifted to the Abbey of St Albans by King Offa (BCC 2012, Bailey 2014). There is no evidence for any settlement within the Great Horwood area at this time. By the time the Domesday Book was compiled (1086),

Great Horwood and Little Horwood are recorded as a medium sized settlement of 20 households held by Walter Giffard (Williams and Martin 1992).

- 2.6 A Saxon boundary, recorded in the charter of 792 AD, survives in places as a bank and ditch feature (HER 0658300000) between Great Horwood and Little Horwood c. 700m to the east of the site.
- 2.7 Previous evaluation of the site identified early medieval remains (CA 2018b). Located in the southern part of the site, an east/west orientated ditch, contained two relatively large sherds (84g) of un-abraded pottery dated from the 5th to 8th-century. Further circumstantial evidence for possible nearby settlement, in the form of charcoal fragments and a single cereal grain was recovered from an environmental sample of the ditch. This indicates the presence of deliberately deposited material, possibly suggesting middening or, more likely, manuring of the fields. This may be suggestive of the presence of early medieval settlement in the vicinity, although no further evidence for this was uncovered within the site itself by the evaluation. The alignment of the ditch does not correlate with the known Saxon boundary (HER 0658300000) or any modern boundary.

### ***Medieval (1066–1539)***

- 2.8 Great Horwood represents a typical medieval south Midlands manor, with the centrally located village surrounded by three open fields with areas of meadow along the two streams to the north and south (Tompkins 2006). North of the village was Whaddon Chase (0434700000), a royal hunting forest that remained in private ownership until the 19th century. The southern limit of the chase is recorded c. 590m to the north-east of the site.
- 2.9 The site is located c. 150m to the east of the medieval settlement core of Great Horwood (BCC 2012). The majority of the medieval buildings within the village are noted to have been destroyed in the fire of 1781 (BCC 2012). The three remaining medieval buildings within Great Horwood are 17-19 Little Horwood Road (1002500000), St James Church (0400500000) and the Old Farmhouse (1004300000).
- 2.10 Evidence for medieval and later ridge and furrow cultivation includes extant earthworks to the north, south and west of the site and the truncated remains of furrows identified during the archaeological investigations c. 100m to the south-west

(Harrison 2014, Michaels 2014) and c. 150m to the east (Bartlett 2008, Carlyle 2008).

- 2.11 Relatively uniform furrows running on a broadly north/south alignment were recorded in Trenches 1 to 3 and 5 of the CA evaluation (CA 2018b). The wide spacing, at generally c. 5m to 6m apart, is suggestive of a medieval date; although no finds were recovered from the silted and backfilled fills of the furrows. Standing ridge and furrow earthworks are evident in the fields to the north and south. The spacing of the selions (individual strips) and the reversed S-shaped curve evident in the alignment of the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks further indicates a medieval date (Taylor 1975, 82; Rackham 1986, 167-9).

### ***Post-medieval and modern (1540 to present)***

- 2.12 The earliest cartographic depiction of the site is the 1599 Map of the Estate of Sir John Fortescus in Salden. This records the site as an area of agricultural land situated to the east of Great Horwood.
- 2.13 The 1842 Great Horwood Inclosure Map shows the site as comprising part of an agricultural field containing a smaller enclosure in the north-eastern part, with a trackway in the west. The 1880, 1900 and 1925 Ordnance Survey Maps continue to show the site as part of an agricultural field.
- 2.14 The 1978 Ordnance Survey Map shows residential development to the immediate west of the site. Historic aerial photographs show these dwellings to have been built by the mid-1940s.

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:
- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
  - assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains
  - assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains

### 3.2 The specific aims of the work were to:

- investigate the vicinity of early medieval remains identified during the evaluation within the southern part of the site;
- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use associated with these remains;
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified;
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy.

### 3.3 Throughout the course of the project, the results have been assessed against the relevant regional research objectives for the medieval period: in the *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas* (Dodd and Crawford 2014). Research objectives (references in parenthesis) include:

- Better definition and dating of pottery sequences in the region (14.3.3);
- The identification of mid and late Saxon settlement (14.3.4);
- Better understanding of the process of agricultural intensification in the mid to late Saxon period and the origins of the open fields system (14.4.3); and,
- A review of the rural field systems to promote their preservation, particularly in the light of modern agricultural practice (14.4.7).

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018a). The location of the excavation area was agreed with Phil Markham, SABCC informed by the results of the archaeological evaluation (CA 2018b). An excavation area totalling c. 0.06ha in area was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (Plate 1). The excavation area was scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the *CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.



Plate 1 Site, looking west

- 4.2 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the excavation area by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.
- 4.3 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.4 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and two features considered to have potential for characterising the earlier phases of activity were sampled in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 4.5 All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

## 5. RESULTS

5.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

5.2 The excavation area was located within the south-western part of the development site. The earliest features encountered during the excavation comprised a ditch containing Early to Middle Saxon pottery. This was cut by north/south orientated furrows. An undated pit was also identified.

### ***Stratigraphy***

5.3 A uniform stratigraphic sequence was identified across the excavation area. The natural geological substrate (102), comprising mid brown orange sand and gravels with patches of mid light brown yellow clay and chalk, was identified at approximately 0.47m below present ground level (bpgl). All the identified archaeological features cut the natural. Overlying these, or directly overlying the natural where no archaeological features were present, was mid yellow brown sandy silt subsoil (101). This measured on average 0.17m thick and was in turn sealed by mid brown grey sandy loam ploughsoil 100, averaging 0.3m thick.

5.4 Two periods of activity were identified through stratigraphic and spatial relationships, morphology, and analysis of the dating evidence recovered from the archaeological features.

- Phase 1: Early to Middle Saxon (AD 450 to AD 850)
- Phase 2: Medieval to post-medieval (1066 to 1800)

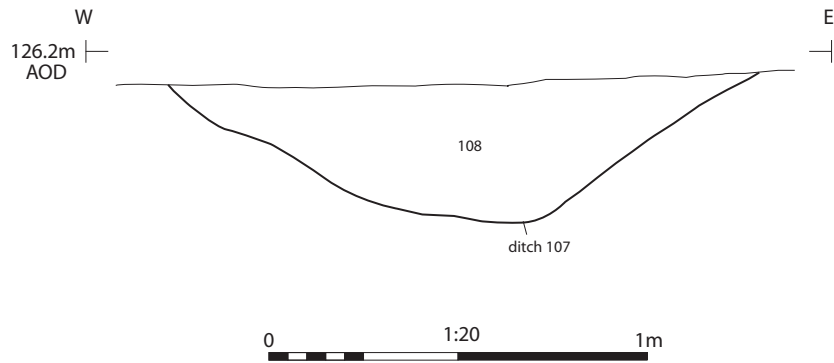
5.5 A single pit which could not be definitively ascribed to either of the identified periods based on stratigraphy or spot dating evidence remained un-phased.

### ***Phase 1: Early to Middle Saxon (Figs 3 to 5)***

5.6 The earliest phase of archaeological activity on site comprised a curvilinear ditch.

5.7 Ditch A (107/110/603/104) emanated from the southern baulk of the excavation area and was recorded for a length of 8m, before turning to the east and continuing for a length of 6.7m before terminating centrally within the excavation area (Fig. 3; section

Section AA



Ditch 107, looking north-west (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 107, section and photograph

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AA & Plate 2). It was curvilinear in plan with rounded corners and a rounded terminus. It was exposed for a total length of 14.7m and measured 1.55m wide and was on average 0.35m deep. It had moderately sloping, concave sides, with a rounded base, becoming slightly irregular in plan and profile at the eastern end towards the terminus (Fig. 4, section BB). It contained a single mid-greyish brown silty clay fill (103/108) from which 32 sherds of 5th to 8th-century pottery, one fragment of fired clay, one worked flint, 13 heat-altered flints and 30 animal bone fragments were recovered. Bulk soil samples (Samples 1 and 2, taken from fills 103 and 108 respectively), recovered small quantities of charred plant remains and wood charcoal fragments.



Plate 2 Site, looking south-west (1m scales)

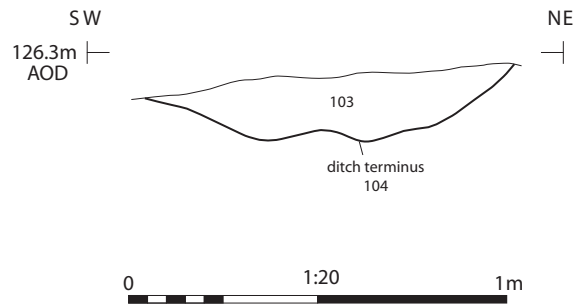
***Phase 2: medieval to post-medieval (Fig. 5)***

- 5.8 Regularly spaced furrows, the remains of an open field system, were recorded across the excavation area. The furrows typically measured between 1.3m and 3.5m wide. Their wide spacing, at c. 4m to 6m apart, is suggestive of a medieval date for their initial construction. Furrow 112 cut the fill 109 of ditch 110 (Fig. 5; section CC).

***Undated (Fig. 6)***

- 5.9 Located to the immediate south of the east/west orientated section of Ditch A was pit 106 (Fig. 6; section DD). It was sub-oval in plan with moderate to shallow sloping straight sides and a tapered base. No finds were retrieved from its single mid grey brown clayey silt fill (105).

Section BB



Ditch terminus 104, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



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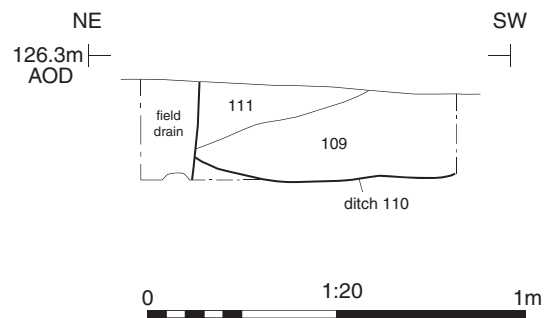
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FIGURE TITLE

**Ditch terminus 104, section and  
photograph**

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Section CC



Ditch 110, looking south-east (0.5m scale)



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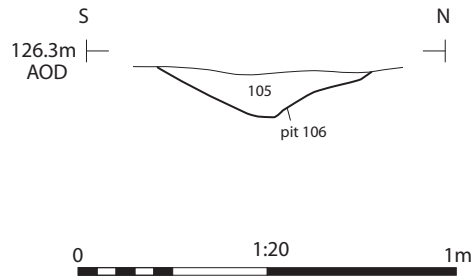
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FIGURE TITLE

Ditch 110, section and photograph

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Section DD



Pit 106, looking west (0.5m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

**Pit 106, section and photograph**

|             |     |             |            |            |
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## 6. THE FINDS

### ***Introduction***

- 6.1 The excavation produced 32 sherds of pottery weighing 295g (Appendix B). The material derived from one ditch, interventions 104 and 107, and dates primarily to the Middle Saxon period. The pottery consists of medium-sized fragments in fair condition, although some sherds come from low-fired vessels and are small due to fragmentation.

### ***Methodology***

- 6.2 The pottery was recorded directly on an Access database following the guidelines set by Historic England for prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery (Barclay *et al.* 2016). Due to the nature of the material, the pottery was recorded based on broader fabric groups and a fabric reference was included when necessary. The pottery catalogue, which forms the archive, includes the following: context information with feature types and descriptions; broader chronological periods; fabric groups; generic and specific vessel forms; manufacture methods (handmade or wheel-finished); decoration and surface modifications; sherd types; sherd counts; sherd weights in grams, mean weights per sherd, per context; mean sherd thicknesses; estimated numbers of vessels (ENVs); estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs); rim diameters in mm when available; condition of sherds, cross-fitting; suggested illustrations if applicable; general comments; suggested fabric dates; suggested pottery dates when identification was possible; and finally, residues information (soot, burnt food residues, lime of other) when available. Due to the limited number of rim sherds, the recording included minimum numbers of vessels (MNVs) based on distinct fabrics per context.

### ***Fabrics and chronology***

- 6.3 The pottery can be divided in three broader fabric groups, sandy, gritty and organic-tempered, which are presented in Table 1. The most common fabric is coarse and sandy with moderate fine to medium organic tempers, including a variant with large quartzite particles and red sand, noted in two small sherds from intervention 107. Gritty fabrics are rare and noted in four sherds recovered from both ditch fills, which most likely derived from the same vessel. Both sandy and gritty fabrics associated with the Middle Saxon period. This can be confirmed by the presence of a baggy jar from ditch intervention 107, bearing typological similarities with contemporary Northamptonshire forms (Pearson 1997, 154, fig.6.1, no.10), and from another

vessel with oxidised interior from the same ditch, which appears to have been finished on a slow wheel or turntable, following techniques noted in the production of Middle Saxon Ipswich Wares (Cotter 2000, 26). Finally, the organic-tempered group, which is noted in five sherds from both ditch fills, is likely to be earlier in date compared to the sandy and gritty fabrics. An Early to Middle Saxon date is possible based on the nature of the fabric, which is heavily tempered with coarse and large organic particles. Such vegetable-tempered fabrics are noted in East Anglian 5th-6th century AD pottery production and are characterised as 'brickearth' fabrics (Cotter 2000, 23-24). In the current assemblage such dates need to be treated with caution as no sherds with distinct features or decoration survive in this specific fabric.

### ***Discussion***

- 6.4 The recovered pottery dates from the Early to Middle Saxon period and based on their MNVs, the assemblage relates to a minimum of twelve vessels. Two fabrics from ditch fill 108 match the same fabrics from ditch terminus fill 103 and probably associate with the same vessels. With the exception of a few sherds tempered with coarse organic inclusions, which could date between the Early and Middle Saxon period, the remaining pottery dates to the Middle Saxon period.
- 6.5 A baggy jar with everted rim, 110mm in diameter (0.35 EVE), recovered from ditch 107, bears typological similarities with Early Saxon forms from Colchester (Cotter 2000, 23, fig.6, no.2), which precede the standard Ipswich Ware baggy jars dating between AD 650 and AD 850 (e.g. West 1963, 250, fig.42, no.4). This specific form from ditch 107 is encountered in various areas in the South (e.g. Cunliffe 1976) and East England (Tyler 2015). As with the Colchester example (Cotter 2000, 23, fig.6, no.2), a similar type of baggy jar from Heybridge, Essex, (Tyler 2015 fig.357, no.22), which bears soot on its exterior rim and is likely to have been used as a cooking pot, dates to the Early Saxon period. Still, the closest parallel to the vessel discussed in this report comes from Furnells, Northamptonshire (Pearson 1997, 154, fig.6.1, no.10) and dates between the Early and Middle Saxon periods.
- 6.6 The fabric of the currently excavated baggy jar seems to be an intermediate type, standing between Early and Middle Saxon fabrication. It is sandier and tempered with significantly less and finer organic inclusions compared to the 'brickearth' fabrics of East Anglia (Cotter 2000, 23-24) but it is not as dense and homogeneously grey-fired as the standard Ipswich Ware (SIPS) of the Middle Saxon period (Blinkhorn 2012). It is interesting that similar fabrics, tempered with sand and fine

organic inclusions are noted at Southampton for the production of Late Saxon handmade pottery (e.g. Brown 1994, 131, Fabric 907); however, such fabrics could have also been used significantly earlier. In this specific assemblage, a Middle Saxon date is more likely for the sandy fabrics also in relation to a second vessel found in the same context, made in the same sandy fabric as the previously mentioned baggy jar. More specifically, five sherds recovered from ditch fill 108 come from the lower part of a wheel-finished vessel, which is relatively thin walled (8mm) and likely to have been smoothed on a turntable or slow wheel. The interior surface of the pot is oxidised and suggests some sort of firing control. The pot shows some affiliation with typical Middle Saxon Ipswich Wares that were wheel-finished and kiln-fired (Cotter 2000, 26).

- 6.7 The pottery recovered during the excavation of the site is consistent with the pottery recovered during the evaluation, which derived entirely from ditch fill 606 in Trench 6. The two sherds recovered during the evaluation were identified as two sandy variants dating between the 5th and 8th centuries AD (CA 2018b, 9 and 15). This date complies with the Early-Middle Saxon period suggested by the latest excavated pottery.

#### ***Fired clay***

- 6.8 A single fragment of fired clay (4g) derived from Sample 1, taken from ditch terminus fill 103. The piece is medium sandy with one flat and slightly curved surface. Its fabric is medium sandy with crushed quartzite particles, resembling a sandy Middle Saxon pottery variant recovered from ditch fill 108. Again, this piece of fired clay is soft and missing its interior surface; therefore, it cannot be positively identified as pottery.

#### ***Flint***

- 6.9 Ditch fill 108 produced a single flake (3g) struck from a brown grey flint with no patination. The flake is heavily edge damaged with a splintered and partly broken bulb. It cannot be closely dated and is residual in a feature that produced Saxon pottery.
- 6.10 Sample 1 from ditch fill 103 produced eleven small fragments (46g) of moderately heat-altered flint and Sample 2 from ditch fill 108 produced another two fragments (5g) of the same material. All fragments show different degrees of heat-alteration

and have most likely been exposed to an open fire by accident. None of the flint from the site confirms important prehistoric activities.

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### *Animal Bone*

- 7.1 A small amount of animal bone totalling 30 fragments (1g) was recovered from deposit 103, the fill of ditch terminus 104, via bulk soil samples 1 (Appendix C; Table 3). Artefacts dating from the Early to Middle Saxon period were also recovered from this deposit. The bone was fragmentary, poorly preserved and in the main, displayed the blue/black to bright white colouration and the calcined appearance indicative of burning at high temperatures (Lyman 1994). The combination of these factors has rendered the assemblage entirely unidentifiable to element and species.

### *Palaeoenvironmental evidence*

- 7.2 A total of two bulk soil samples were taken from two sections of Ditch A: from ditch terminus 104 and ditch 107. The full results are presented in Appendix D, Table 4.

### *Methodology*

- 7.3 These samples were processed following standard flotation methods, using a 250µm sieve for the recovery of the flot and a 1mm sieve for the collection of the residue. The samples were examined under a x 10-40 stereo-binocular Leica M50 microscope and all identifiable charred plant remains were identified following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary et al (2012) for cereals.

### *Discussion*

- 7.4 Small quantities of charred plant remains and wood charcoal fragments were recovered from these samples. The few identifiable cereal remains were those of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and the seed of garden pea (*Pisum sativum*) and a fragment of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell may also be crop/food remains. The low number of weed seeds included those of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), meadow grass/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.) and persicaria (*Persicaria* sp.). These are all species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. These assemblages may be representative of dispersed domestic

waste material and there is no indication from these assemblages of settlement activity in the immediate vicinity.

- 7.5 These assemblages are too small to provide any more detailed information on the site or comparisons with other assemblages of a similar date from sites in the wider area.

## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The excavation has identified a limited number of archaeological features within the site. Previous evaluation of the site had identified a ditch containing 5th to 8th-century pottery, located towards the south-western corner of the site (CA 2018b). The excavation identified a curvilinear ditch, containing Early to Middle Saxon Pottery, which formed the continuation of the ditch identified during the evaluation. In addition, medieval to post-medieval ridge and furrow and an undated pit were also recorded.

### ***Prehistoric (pre- AD 43)***

- 8.2 The evaluation has identified limited evidence of prehistoric activity within the site. Prehistoric activity is represented by residual lithic material recovered from Ditch A. The artefacts are not closely dateable beyond broad prehistoric dating.
- 8.3 No other finds of prehistoric date were identified during the excavation, which has identified no clear areas of prehistoric settlement. The limited identified activity during this period, suggests that activity during this period is likely to have been transient in nature and has left no evidence in the form of archaeological features.

### ***Early to Middle Saxon (AD 450 to 850)***

- 8.4 The earliest feature identified during the excavation comprised a ditch of Early to Middle Saxon date. Ditch A was located within the south-western part of the site and centrally within the excavation area. Three interventions were excavated through this feature during the excavation with an earlier intervention dug during the evaluation.
- 8.5 Due to the ditch's limited exposure definitive interpretation of its function is not possible. However, based on its morphology, which was curvilinear in plan with a

moderately concave and shallow profile, it may form part of a field system or small enclosure; the eastern side possibly having been removed by a furrow (Fig. 2). No definitive structural elements were recorded, and it is possible that the putative enclosure may have acted as a small paddock for domestic stock rather than the focus of habitation.

- 8.6 Although the palaeoenvironmental could not provide confirmation of settlement activity in the immediate vicinity, it is representative of dispersed domestic waste material.
- 8.7 The artefactual evidence recovered from site is not closely dateable and indicates that settlement would have occurred broadly during the Early to Middle Saxon period. Where closer dating is possible, a date in the Middle Saxon period is indicated, suggesting a middle Saxon date for the activity on site. The moderately good condition of the Early to Middle Saxon pottery recovered from ditch A and its relatively large sherd weight suggests the finds were located within a primary context or possibly suggesting redeposited midden material, which had not moved far from its original position. This may be suggestive of the presence of early medieval settlement in the vicinity, although no further evidence for this was uncovered within the site itself by the excavation.
- 8.8 An indication of the possible domestic nature of the pottery assemblage comes from a sherd of pottery from a baggy jar form which has soot surviving on its exterior rim, suggesting its likely to have been used as a cooking pot. This baggy jar form from Ditch A had typological similarities with contemporary Anglo-Saxon Northamptonshire forms, such as those recorded at Raunds, Furnells, approximately 40 miles away (Pearson 1997).
- 8.9 A total of 30 fragments of animal bone were recovered from the site. The presence of animal bones in association with ceramics and charcoal is consistent with domestic refuse (O'Connor 2003, p 88) and the overall assemblage would not be untypical of occupation of a small-scale domestic rural settlement. The animal bone itself has been burned, further suggesting nearby settlement. Bone burned under relatively low temperature is black, with those exposed to greater temperatures becoming white or light blue. The varied nature of the burning displayed on the recovered bone could indicate roasting or disposal in a fire pit (Reitz and Wing 2008).

- 8.10 Ditch A is parallel with Little Horwood Road, but has a variant orientation with the north-east/south-west orientated Anglo-Saxon bank and ditch (Buckinghamshire HER 06583000000) located c. 700m to the east between Great Horwood and Little Horwood.
- 8.11 Further Early medieval activity within the area is recorded within a charter of 792 AD (Cartularium Saxonicum), suggesting that the area was settled by at least the 8th century and adding weight to the inference that activity within site is of Middle Saxon date. The inclusion of Great Horwood and Little Horwood within the Domesday Book further indicates that settlement was present within the villages prior to 1086.
- 8.12 A brief survey of records of Buckinghamshire and local historic maps revealed no evidence for activity of similar a date within the clay vales and hills immediately to the south of the Great Ouse valley to the west of Milton Keynes or to the east of Buckingham; however, further to the east, in the Ouzel Valley, Early and Middle Saxon settlement has been excavated in Milton Keynes at Pennylands and Hartigans (Williams 1993), Broughton-Brooklands (Atkins 2014), and Caldecotte (Zeevat, Roberts and King 1994).
- 8.13 The results further contribute to an understanding of the Early medieval landscape and in particular the identification of Middle and Late Saxon settlement; research objective 14.3.4 in the Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas (Dodd and Crawford 2014).

#### ***Medieval to post-medieval (1539 to 1800)***

- 8.14 The evaluation and excavation identified a series of furrows on a north/south alignment. The fields located immediately north and south of the site and within nearby fields to the east and west also demonstrated standing ridge and furrow earthworks. The ridge and furrow represent the remains of the former open field system and suggest that the area was used as arable land during the medieval and post-medieval periods. Although no direct dating evidence was recovered from the furrows a medieval date for their initial construction is suggested by the spacing of the selions (individual strips) and the reversed S-shaped curve evident in the alignment of the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks located in the immediate vicinity (Taylor 1975, 82; Rackham 1986, 167-9).

### **Undated**

- 8.15 A single undated pit (106) was located within the area partially enclosed by Ditch A. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature, which could not be definitively ascribed to either of the identified periods of activity within the site. It remains possible that it may be associated with the established Early medieval activity.

## **9. CA PROJECT TEAM**

- 9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by James Coyne, assisted by John Parker. The report was written by Emily Evans. The pottery and worked flint reports were written by Ioannis Smyrnaiois, with the faunal remains report written by Andy Clarke and the plant microfossils and charcoal reports by Sarah Wyles. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Joyce.

## **10. STORAGE AND CURATION**

- 10.1 The archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum (accession number AYBCM : 2018.95), which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Context Number | Context Type | Fill of | Context Description   | Feature Label          | Date            |
|----------------|--------------|---------|---|------------------------|-----------------|
| 100            | Layer        |         | Topsoil. Mid greyish brown sandy silt.  |                        |                 |
| 101            | Layer        |         | Subsoil. Mid greyish brown sandy silt.  |                        |                 |
| 102            | Layer        |         | Natural. Mid orange brown sandy silt.   |                        |                 |
| 103            | Fill         | 104     | Ditch terminus fill. Mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent flint.  | A                      | E-M Saxon       |
| 104            | Cut          |         | Ditch terminus. Concave sided, irregular base, E/W aligned.   | A                      |                 |
| 105            | Fill         | 106     | Pit fill. Mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent flint.  | B                      |                 |
| 106            | Cut          |         | Pit. Sub-oval in plan, straight sided, E/W aligned.   | B                      |                 |
| 107            | Cut          |         | Ditch. Convex sided, rounded base, N/S aligned.   | A                      |                 |
| 108            | Fill         | 107     | Ditch fill. Mid greyish brown sandy silt.   | A                      | E-M Saxon       |
| 109            | Fill         | 110     | Ditch fill. Dark greyish brown sandy silt.  | A                      |                 |
| 110            | Cut          |         | Ditch. Flat base, NE/SW aligned.  | A                      |                 |
| 111            | Fill         | 112     | Furrow fill. Mid greyish brown sandy silt.  | C                      |                 |
| 112            | Cut          |         | Furrow. Straight sided, N/S aligned.  | C                      |                 |
| 603            | Cut          |         | Ditch E-W Linear with straight moderate sides and flat base.  | A – Evaluation context | 5th-8th Century |
| 604            | Fill         | 603     | Secondary Silting Soft dark brown grey sandy silt with 5% stone inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal. | A – Evaluation context | 5th-8th Century |

**APPENDIX B: FINDS**

Table 1 Recovered finds

| Type               | Category              | Count | Weight (g) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|------------|
| Pottery            | Early to Middle Saxon | 32    | 295        |
| Fired clay         |                       | 1     | 4          |
| Worked flint       |                       | 1     | 2          |
| Heat-altered flint |                       | 13    | 51         |

Table 2 Pottery quantification by fabric group

| Fabric group | Fabric date | Count     | Count %      | Weight (g) | Weight %     |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Gritty       | MSax        | 4         | 12.5         | 52         | 17.6         |
| Organic      | E-MSax      | 5         | 15.6         | 12         | 4.1          |
| Sandy        | MSax        | 23        | 71.9         | 231        | 78.3         |
| <b>Total</b> |             | <b>32</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>295</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

**APPENDIX C: ANIMAL BONE**

Table 3: Biological evidence

| <b>Type</b> | <b>Category</b>                     | <b>Count</b> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Animal bone | Burnt Fragments<br>(unidentifiable) | 30           |
| Samples     | Environmental                       | 2            |

## APPENDIX D: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 4: Sample Data

| Feature                          | Context | Sample | Processed vol (L) | Unprocessed vol (L) | Flot size (ml) | Roots % | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes                 | Charred Other | Notes for Table   | Charcoal > 4/2mm | Other |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------|-------|-------|------------------------------|---------------|---|------------------|-------|
| Phase 1 Early Medieval - Ditch A |         |        |                   |                     |                |         |       |       |                              |               |   |                  |       |
| 104                              | 103     | 1      | 20                | 20                  | 15             | 50      | *     | -     | Barley x 1, indet. grain x 1 | **            | <i>Pisum</i> x 1,<br><i>Corylus avellana</i> shell x 1,<br><i>Chenopodium</i> x 1, <i>Rumex</i> x 1,<br><i>Poa/Phleum</i> x 6 | **/**            | -     |
| 107                              | 108     | 2      | 20                | 20                  | 10             | 15      | *     | -     | Indet. grain x 1             | *             | <i>Rumex</i> x 1,<br><i>Persicaria</i> x 1  | **/**            | -     |

Key: \* = 1–4 items; \*\* = 5–19 items; \*\*\* = 20–49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50–99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items,

## APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Project Name   | Land south of Little Horwood Road, Great Horwood  |  |
| Short description  | <p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2018 at land south of Little Horwood Road, Great Horwood, Buckinghamshire. The excavation area was located in the south-western part of the development, targeting an east/west orientated ditch identified during previous evaluation of the site.</p> <p>The excavation, which covered an area of approximately 1.3ha, identified two phases of activity. The first phase of activity was represented by a curvilinear ditch containing pottery of Early to Middle Saxon date (AD 450 to AD 850). This ditch may form part of a field system or small enclosure.</p> <p>The second phase of activity was represented by plough furrows of probable medieval to post-medieval date (1539 to 1800). These medieval to post-medieval plough furrows represent the remains of the open field system that once surrounded the village of Great Horwood and were encountered across the entire excavation area.</p> <p>An undated pit was also recorded within the central part of the site.</p> |  |
| Project dates  | August 2018   |  |
| Project type   | Excavation  |  |
| Previous work  | Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2016)<br>Field evaluation (CA 2018)   |  |
| Future work  | Unknown   |  |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>  |   |  |
| Site Location  | Little Horwood Road, Great Horwood, Buckinghamshire   |  |
| Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)  |   |  |
| Site co-ordinates  | 477743 231125   |  |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>  |   |  |
| Name of organisation   | Cotswold Archaeology  |  |
| Project Brief originator   |   |  |
| Project Design (WSI) originator  | Cotswold Archaeology  |  |
| Project Manager  | Stuart Joyce  |  |
| Project Supervisor   | James Coyne   |  |
| <b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>   | Anglo Saxon ditch   |  |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>   | Early to Middle Anglo Saxon pottery   |  |
| <b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>  |   |  |
|  | Intended final location of archive  | Content  |
| Physical   | Buckingham Museum Service/ AYBCM : 2018.95  | Pottery, Fired clay, Flint, Environmental material |
| Paper  | Buckingham Museum Service/ AYBCM : 2018.95  | Pro-forma registers, recording sheets, WSI         |
| Digital  | Buckingham Museum Service/ AYBCM : 2018.95  | Database, digital photos                           |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>  |   |  |
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