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Denchworth Road
Wantage
Oxfordshire



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Stockham House, Denchworth Road, Wantage, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In July and August 2012, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Stockham House, Denchworth Road, Wantage, Oxfordshire (centered on SU 39309 88882). The evaluation revealed a series of ditches and shallow pits likely to belong to middle Iron Age enclosures and fields, which the artefactual evidence would suggest may be associated with a nearby settlement. Single features containing pottery of the Bronze Age and of the Roman period were also found. Human bones belonging to part of a single juvenile individual were recovered from one of the ditches at the south-west end of the site.

The site was covered by ridge-and-furrow cultivation on a north-south alignment, whose northern limits were evident as a low broad bank close to the northern edge of the main field that was examined. A ditch following the same alignment was probably associated.

Evidence for 20th century landscaping, probably associated with the adjacent airfield, was recorded in a trench which was located over the proposed new route for the Wilts and Berks Canal at the north-west edge of the evaluated area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation at a field adjacent to Stockham House, Denchworth Road, Wantage, Oxfordshire in advance of a planning application for development. The area of proposed development is 8.9ha. Following a Desk-based Assessment (CGMS 2012), test-pitting (OA 2012a) and a geophysical survey (Bartlett 2012), a 2% evaluation sample of the proposed development area comprising 30 trenches 1.5m wide and 30m in length was indicated in a Design Brief issued by Oxfordshire Principal Archaeologist Hugh Coddington (Coddington 2012). A Written Scheme of Investigations was prepared by Oxford Archaeology in accordance with the provisions of the Design Brief, and was approved by Hugh Coddington (OA 2012b).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference 439178, 188839, and sits upon Upper Greensand on the south-east and mudstone of the Gault Formation to the north-west (BGS 1971, Sheet 253).

1.2.2 The site is currently part of a large field, which is bounded on the east by Denchworth Road, on the south by Stockham Farm and Fitzwaryn School, to the north by an access road and beyond this by Grove Airfield, and to the west by a factory. The site is bisected by the line of the former Wilts and Berks canal, which runs from north-east to south-west. The proposed development is largely confined south-east of the line of the canal, but also includes the construction of a nursery north of the canal in the north-east corner of the field, and the re-routing of the canal around the nursery, ie further



west than its current line. The land slopes down gently from south to north, from c. 89 m to 84m above Ordnance Datum. It is currently under pasture.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2012), and is briefly summarised below.
- 1.3.2 At the time of the DBA, no prehistoric archaeology had been found on the site. Excavations to the north at Grove Airfield (EOX 1964) and evaluation to the south-east (HER 16035) had revealed Iron Age features.
- 1.3.3 A programme of geological test-pitting was carried out on the site early in 2012, and revealed a single ditch containing a sherd of pottery of late Iron Age date.
- 1.3.4 A Roman coin is recorded as coming from the site (HER 11514), but little trace of other Roman activity has come from excavations nearby. The site appears to lie well beyond the Roman focus at Wantage. Part of a field system may have been revealed at Mably Way, some 200m east of the site, and further field ditches of Roman date might therefore be encountered.
- 1.3.5 No evidence of Saxon activity had been found relating to the site, and it appears to lie well outside the Saxon area of settlement at Wantage, as it does beyond the limits of the medieval town.
- 1.3.6 The site is likely to have been situated within the surrounding open field system agricultural landscape of Wantage. The NMR records the presence of ridge and furrow of Medieval or Post-Medieval origin across the central and southern areas of the site, and ridge and furrow was also noted across the western part of the site during a recent site visit.
- 1.3.7 Throughout the Post-Medieval and Modern period the site has remained in agricultural use. It was subject to initial piecemeal enclosure and later formal enclosure during the late 18th and early 19th century. The earliest map showing the site in any detail is a plan of the proposed route of the Wilts and Berks Canal, dated 1793. The Wilts and Berks Canal was constructed running across the centre of the site from north-east to south-west in 1810, and was decommissioned in 1914.
- 1.3.8 A magnetometer survey of the proposed development area was carried out by Bartlett-Clark consultancy in 2012. In the field south-east of the canal, this picked up the ridge-and-furrow cultivation furrows on a north-south alignment, but showed virtually no other archaeological features (Bartlett 2012, Figs 1 and 2). That part of the site north-west of the canal was largely covered by areas of strong metallic interference, except along parts of the north, west and south-east edges. This survey appeared to bear out the low archaeological potential indicated by the desk-based assessment and by the previous test-pitting.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.2 General

- To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains
- To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.3 Specific Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To establish the extent and character of the Iron Age or Roman occupation in the south-west corner of the site.
- To establish whether the extent of occupation is related to the underlying geology or not
- To establish whether the Roman coin was a stray loss, or relates to occupation of contemporary date on the site.
- If practicable, to determine the start date of the ridge-and-furrow cultivation.

2.4 Methodology

Scope of works

2.4.1 The area of proposed development is approximately 8.9 ha. A 2% sample evaluation was carried out, consisting of thirty trenches each measuring 30m by 1.6m, as specified by the brief issued by the County Archaeological Services and the approved WSI.

2.4.2 Twenty-eight of the trenches were positioned in the area of proposed housing. The other two trenches were designed to test the area of the proposed nursery and the proposed new route for the Wilts and Berks Canal.

Site specific methodology

2.4.3 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in Appendix A of the WSI. Standard methodologies for Geomatics and Survey, Environmental evidence, Artefactual evidence and Burials can also be found in that document (Appendices B, C, D and E respectively).



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The following section summarises the results from the earliest to the latest archaeological deposits encountered during the archaeological works. Detailed context descriptions are presented in the context inventory (Appendix A), and within the descriptive text where they are integral to the interpretation of the context in question.
- 3.1.2 All archaeological features are shown on Fig. 2, and a number of trenches are also illustrated separately (Figs 3-16). Where sections are not illustrated, the dimensions of the features concerned can also be found in the context inventory (Appendix A).
- 3.1.3 Prominent ridge and furrow was visible on the surface across much of the site, and was also evident within many of the trenches. The majority of the furrows also contained later field drains. Additionally, the thickness of the topsoil increased where it corresponded with the upstanding ridges. This is not mentioned again in the following trench descriptions (except where the furrows had truncated earlier features) □ but is discussed briefly in Section 4.
- 3.1.4 At the south end of the site topsoil directly overlay the weathered greensand, which appeared as a gravel deposit, and archaeological features were cut directly into this. North of this the topsoil overlay a clayey subsoil, which increased in depth towards the north, and overlay a light greyish-green or yellowish-green sandy clay, presumably weathered from the greensand. With the exception of a recent field boundary, all of the archaeological features were sealed by the subsoil, which presumably represents an earlier ploughsoil below the modern topsoil.

3.2 Trench Descriptions

Trench 31 (Fig. 3)

- 3.2.1 Natural geology (3102) sloped from 87.88m OD in the northern end of the trench to 86.89m OD in the southern end, and was cut by a 0.29m deep irregular feature (3105) which was likely to have been disturbance from tree roots. This was likely to have been of some antiquity as it was in turn cut by the eastern edge of a probable curvilinear feature [3107], the single fill of which produced middle Iron Age pottery (3108). It seems likely that this is the same feature revealed within Test Pit 5 of the earlier geotechnical works, although the Test Pit was not revealed within the trench and probably lay to the west. To the east of this feature was a 0.54m diameter post hole [3109], with a fill (3110) which was similar in composition to that of feature 3107 and also produced middle Iron Age pottery of a similar fabric. Pottery of a similar date was also recovered from an east-west aligned shallow ditch [3103] to the south of these features.
- 3.2.2 The fills of these features appeared to be overlain by a 0.15m thick layer of predominantly clay subsoil (3101), although the relationship between this deposit and feature [3103] was uncertain. Deposit 3101 was overlain by 0.3m of topsoil.

Trench 32 (Fig. 4)

- 3.2.3 The natural geology (3202) was relatively flat and was encountered at an average of 87.87m OD. It was cut by a roughly east-west aligned ditch [3205], the substantial nature of which □ at 1.58m wide x 0.56m deep □ was in contrast to what initially appeared to be a series of perpendicular linear features to the south [3203, 3207, 3209]



(see Fig. 3). The similarity in the depth of these features - and that of the composition of the fills (3204, 3208 and 3210 respectively) - indicated that they may have been contemporary. Additionally, the changes in alignment of these features appeared to be gradual rather than sharp, and it is possible that they represented a single sinuous linear feature. No pottery was recovered from the fills, although a quantity of human bone - predominantly skull and mandible fragments - was retrieved from fill 3208.

3.2.4 Although it appeared that ditch [3205] truncated the fill (3208) of the westernmost east-west section [3207] of the putative sinuous feature [3203, 3207, 3209], this relationship was far from certain and it is possible that this feature was also contemporary. However, the contrast in the depths and profiles, together with the sharp change in alignment between [3207] and [3205] would suggest that the latter is distinct from feature(s) [3203, 3207, 3209].

3.2.5 The fills and the natural geology were overlain by a 0.3m layer of clay rich subsoil (3201) which was in turn overlain by 0.25m of topsoil.

Trench 33 (Fig. 5)

3.2.6 Natural geology (3302) was encountered at approximately 88.15m OD and was cut by two relatively shallow perpendicular linear features [3303] and [3305] aligned north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west, which were respectively 0.3m and 0.22m deep. They each contained a single fill (3304 and 3306 respectively). The edges of these features did not appear parallel in plan, although this was due to truncation from a probable later furrow, the fill of which was removed during the mechanical excavation of the overlying deposits.

3.2.7 At the western end of the trench the natural geology was cut by a 0.32m deep square-cut pit [3307], approximately 2.2m wide, which had two fills (3308 and 3309) - neither of which produced any finds.

3.2.8 The fills were overlain by subsoil 3301, which was between 0.23m and 0.40m thick and was overlain by up to 0.42m of topsoil (3300).

Trench 34 (Fig. 6)

3.2.9 Natural geology (3408) was encountered at around 87.87m OD and was cut by three linear features. Two of these [3400] and [3404] were only 0.17m deep, although they were 2m and 2.6m wide respectively. Feature [3400] was aligned approximately north-east to south west, and ditch [3404] north-south. Whilst not perpendicular, the similarity in the dimensions of these features - and the that of the composition of the fills - may suggest that they are contemporary and potentially represent a single feature which changes alignment to the south-east of the trench. The fill (3401) of feature [3400] produced middle Iron Age pottery.

3.2.10 The third linear feature [3402] in the eastern end of the trench was on an identical alignment to feature [3400] and may have been associated with it, although no direct relationship could be ascertained.

3.2.11 A possible pit located between features [3400] and [3404] was recorded in plan but was not excavated. Three irregular spreads of darker grey clay material at the western end of the trench were thought likely to represent root disturbance or localised geological variations.

3.2.12 The fills of these features were overlain by 0.4m of clay rich subsoil (3407) which was in turn overlain by 0.4m of topsoil (3406).

Trench 35

3.2.13 Natural geology (3500) sloped from west to east and was encountered at between 88.09m and 87.78m OD. This was overlain by between 0.2m and 0.4m of clay rich



subsoil (3501) which increased in thickness to reflect the slope of the underlying layer. The subsoil was overlain by 0.2m of topsoil (3502). No significant archaeological deposits or features were present within the trench.

Trench 36 (Fig. 7; Plate 1)

- 3.2.14 Natural geology (3609) was relatively flat and was encountered at around 89.35m OD. It was cut by a number of features which are described below.
- 3.2.15 Pit [3600] was 1.04m in diameter x 0.32m deep, although was only partially exposed within the trench - no finds were recovered from the single fill (3610).
- 3.2.16 Two adjacent and parallel curvilinear gullies on a roughly north-south alignment [3601 and 3602] were excavated in the central part of the trench, and were cut through an irregular spread of silty material of probably natural origin. Neither fill (3611 and 3612 respectively) produced any datable artefactual evidence.
- 3.2.17 Three very ephemeral features were excavated c11m from the western end of the trench. These appeared to represent the base of a shallow pit [3604] cut by a possible curvilinear gully terminus [3603]. The possible terminus was in turn cut by the base of a second shallow pit [3605]. No finds were recovered from the fills of these features (3614, 3613 and 3615 respectively).
- 3.2.18 The most substantial feature within the trench was a pit toward the western end [3606]. The feature was originally half-sectioned, and the remaining fills were then sampled for finds and environmental remains (see Section 5 below). This showed that the feature lay almost entirely within the trench, with just the southernmost edge lying beyond the trench edge, so was probably an elongated pit. No dating evidence was recovered from the fills.
- 3.2.19 The fills of all these features were overlain by up to 0.18m of subsoil (3608) which was in turn overlain by c0.18m of topsoil (3607).

Trench 37

- 3.2.20 Natural geology (3700) sloped gradually from north-east to south-west and was encountered at between 88.62m and 88.17m OD. Towards the north-eastern end of the trench was a gully [3707] aligned north-west to south-east, which was 0.68m wide x 0.22m deep. No datable artefactual evidence was recovered from the single fill (3708).
- 3.2.21 A second possible gully [3703], also on a roughly north-west to south-east alignment, was excavated at the south-western end of the trench. This had been cut by a roughly linear but irregular feature [3705], which may have represented a ditch. The fill (3704) of [3703] did not produce any datable finds, but a sherd of campanulate cup (AD43-200) was recovered from the fill (3706) of feature [3705].
- 3.2.22 The fills were overlain by c0.20m of subsoil (3701) which was in turn overlain by up to 0.40m of topsoil (3702).

Trench 38

- 3.2.23 Natural geology (3802) was encountered at c89.60m OD and was cut by an east-west aligned ditch [3805], c10m from the northern end of the trench. The ditch was 1.80m wide x 0.36m deep and the single fill (3806) appeared to have been cut by a relatively large but irregular feature [3707] containing a spread of mixed, mid grey clay with up to 50% chalky inclusions (3808). It is possible that this was associated with the ridge and furrow, although it differed in character from the furrows seen elsewhere across the site. Alternatively, the irregular shape in plan and poorly defined edges of this feature may indicate that it was the result of root disturbance.
- 3.2.24 Two possible pits [3803] and [3809] were partially revealed along the eastern edge of the trench, one of which [3803] was excavated and proved to be at least 2m in diameter



x 0.22m deep. The single fill (3804) did not produce any finds and along with the fills of the features described above was overlain by up to 0.30m of subsoil (3801) which was in turn overlain by up to 0.30m of topsoil (3800).

Trench 39

- 3.2.25 Natural geology sloped from west to east and was encountered at between 89.61m and 88.95m OD. This varied in composition from a green clayey sand (3901) in the eastern half of the trench, to a chalky 'gravel' deposit (3904) in the west. This variation was reflected in the composition of the overlying subsoil which, whilst predominantly a mid greenish grey sandy clay, had significantly more chalk inclusions (up to 50%) where it overlay layer 3904 (3905) and was 0.15m thick. Where the subsoil overlay layer 3901 it was up to 0.25m thick and had approximately 35% chalk inclusions (3902). The subsoil was overlain by up to 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (3903). There were no archaeological features in this trench.

Trench 40 (Fig. 8)

- 3.2.26 Natural geology (4000) was encountered at an average of 88.25m OD. A number of silty spreads were apparent in the base of the trench, but with the exception of a possible shallow pit [4003] and a gully [4005] aligned roughly north-east to south-west, these proved to be very shallow and irregular and were likely to be the result of root disturbance (ie - 4007). Both of the archaeological features were undated and the fills were overlain by 0.25m of subsoil (4001), which was in turn overlain by 0.30m of topsoil (4002).

Trench 41

- 3.2.27 Natural geology (4100) sloped from north to south and was encountered at between 88.17m and 87.82m OD. As with Trench 40, a number of irregular and poorly defined silty spreads were observed, but where tested these proved to be very ephemeral and were likely to have also resulted from disturbance by tree roots. The natural geology was overlain by 0.2m of subsoil (4101) which was in turn overlain by 0.34m of topsoil (4102). No significant archaeological features or deposits were present within the trench.

Trench 42

- 3.2.28 Natural geology (4202) was encountered at an average of 88.70m OD and was cut by the base of a single post hole [4203]. This had a single fill (4204) of mid-dark grey silty clay, and was undated. The thin layer of overlying subsoil (4201) was subsequently overlain by 0.38m of topsoil (4200).

Trench 43 (Fig. 9)

- 3.2.29 Natural geology sloped from south to north and was encountered at between 89.91m and 89.64m OD. It was cut by a shallow pit [4305] and the base of a possible post hole [4308]. The fill of the pit (4304) produced a sherd of middle Bronze Age - early Iron Age pottery, but otherwise no finds were recovered. The overlying subsoil (4302) was 0.22m thick and was overlain by 0.3m of topsoil (4301).

Trench 44 (Fig. 10)

- 3.2.30 Natural geology sloped from north-east to south-west and was encountered at between 89.16m and 88.38m OD. It was cut by a single north-south aligned ditch [4403], which was 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep and produced no finds from the single fill. The overlying subsoil was 0.23m thick and was overlain by 0.32m of topsoil.



Trench 45 (Fig. 11)

- 3.2.31 Natural geology (4502) was encountered at approximately 87.90m OD and was cut by 3 linear features. Undated ditch [4505] was on a similar north-south alignment to ditch [4403] in Trench 44, and - although narrower at 0.6m - was of similar depth. A further ditch on a perpendicular alignment [4503] was present in the northern end of trench. This was also of similar depth, at 0.35m, but was 1.85m wide. An undated gully [4507] on a north-east to south-west alignment was present in the southern end of the trench.
- 3.2.32 No finds were recovered from the fills of these features, and they were overlain by a clay rich subsoil (4501) which was in turn overlain by 0.35m of topsoil (4500).

Trench 46 (Fig. 12; Plate 2)

- 3.2.33 Natural geology (4614) was encountered at an average of 86.60m OD and had been cut by at least three linear features.
- 3.2.34 A 0.80m wide ditch [4610] on a roughly west-south-west to east-north-east alignment was recorded towards the west end of the trench. It was 0.30m deep and the single fill (4611) produced two sherds of middle Bronze Age - early Iron Age pottery. It was cut by a more substantial ditch [4600], aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, which measured c1.50m wide x 0.6m deep,. Further pottery of similar date was recovered from one (4604) of the five fills of this feature (4601-4605).
- 3.2.35 A ditch [4606] on a perpendicular alignment to feature [4600] was recorded at the eastern end of the trench. No finds were recovered from the fills (4607-4609) but the similarity in the depth and profile of the feature may suggest that it was contemporary with ditch [4600]. Additionally, a vaguely linear spread of sandy clay material was present at the very western end of the trench (4615). This was not excavated, but could potentially have represented a further linear feature - although it was not as well defined as the other features within the trench and may have been geological in origin.
- 3.2.36 The upper fills of the features were overlain by a 0.12m thick layer of clay rich subsoil (4612) which was in turn overlain by 0.35m of topsoil (4613).

Trench 47 (Fig. 13; Plate 3)

- 3.2.37 Natural geology (4708) was encountered at 85.62m OD and had been cut by a possible post hole [4704] and a very shallow square cut pit-like feature [4702], although the latter was potentially the result of root disturbance. At the south-eastern end of the trench, the natural had been cut by a well-defined east-west aligned ditch [4700] which measured 0.70m wide x 0.28m deep. No finds were recovered from the fill (4701), although a sherd of middle Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the overlying clay rich subsoil (4707). The subsoil was overlain by 0.22m of topsoil.

Trench 48 (Fig. 14)

- 3.2.38 Natural geology (4802) sloped from 87.08m to 86.64m OD and fell from north-east to south-west. It had been cut by a series of features which are described below.
- 3.2.39 Six linear features were recorded within the trench. These were either aligned roughly north-south ([4803, 4805, 4807, 4816]), or roughly east-west ([4810, 4813]). They varied in depth and profile from 0.80m to 3m wide and between 0.2m to 0.65m in depth (Fig. 11 and Appendix A), but all had very similar sandy clay fills. The fills (4806, 4808 and 4815) of three of these (4805, 4807 and 4813 respectively) produced middle Iron Age pottery, but the remaining linear features were undated.
- 3.2.40 In addition to the linear features, two discrete features were recorded. Pit [4809] was only partly revealed within the trench, and measured 3m in diameter x 0.1m deep. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill (4810), but although fairly ephemeral, the



regularity of the feature in plan and the similarity of the composition of the fill to those of the linear features may suggest that it is the base of a genuine feature.

3.2.41 The northern end of the trench flooded following heavy rain and consequently the remaining discrete feature [4817] and one of the linear features [4816] were not excavated.

3.2.42 The fills of these features were overlain by a 0.2m thick layer of clay rich subsoil (4801) which was in turn overlain by up to 0.4m of topsoil (4800).

Trench 49

3.2.43 Natural geology (4900) was encountered at around 87m OD. It was overlain by 0.4m of clay rich subsoil (4901) which was in turn overlain by 0.2m of topsoil (4902). No archaeological features were recorded within the trench.

Trench 50

3.2.44 Natural geology (5000) was encountered at an average of 87.20m OD. It was overlain by 0.4m of clay rich subsoil (5001) which was in turn overlain by 0.2m of topsoil (5002). No archaeological features were recorded within the trench.

Trench 51

3.2.45 Natural geology was encountered at between 87.26m and 86.84m OD and sloped from south-west to north-east. At the south-western end of the trench, this had been cut by an ovate pit [5103] which was up to 1.50m wide and 0.44m deep. Two other less substantial discrete features were excavated further to the north-east. These were a possible shallow post hole [5107] and a shallow pit/post-hole [5105]. No finds were recovered from the fills of these features (5104, 5108 and 5106 respectively) which were overlain by 0.21m of clayey subsoil (5101) which was in turn overlain by 0.28m of topsoil (5100).

Trench 52 (Fig. 15)

3.2.46 Natural geology (5200) sloped from west to east and was encountered at between 86.48m and 85.92m OD. At the western end of the trench this had been cut by a shallow pit [5205], approximately 1.75m in diameter. No finds were recovered from the single fill (5206).

3.2.47 A possible linear feature [5203] was present in the central section of the trench. This was on a north-east to south-west alignment, was approximately 2m wide and at least 0.5m deep. The eastern end of the trench was subject to localised surface flooding after rain, and consequently the fills of the feature were removed by machine in order to establish the depth of the feature. A single sherd of middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill (5204) during this process.

3.2.48 The fills of features [5205] and [5203] were overlain by a 0.2m layer of clay rich subsoil (5201), which was in turn overlain by 0.22m of topsoil (5202).

Trench 53 (Fig. 16)

3.2.49 Natural geology (5300) was encountered at between 85.64m and 86.01m OD and sloped from south-west to north-east. At the north-eastern end of the trench, this had been cut by an undated gully [5303] measuring 0.5m wide x 0.14m deep. The gully was on a roughly north-south alignment, although there was some suggestion of a a curvature to the west.

3.2.50 At the western end of the trench, the natural geology was cut by an east-west aligned ditch [5305] which was 1m wide and 0.2m deep. Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the single fill (5306).



- 3.2.51 The fills of these features were overlain by 0.22m of clay rich subsoil (5301) which was in turn overlain by 0.24m of topsoil (5302).

Trench 54

- 3.2.52 Natural geology was encountered at 85.45m OD and had been truncated by a single 0.17m deep pit [5403] which measured 1.3m x 1m in plan. No finds were recovered from the single fill (5404) which was overlain by 0.3m of subsoil (5401) and 0.35m of topsoil (5402).

Trench 55

- 3.2.53 Natural geology (5500) was encountered at between 85.50m and 85.87m OD, sloping from west to east. It was overlain by 0.16m of clay rich subsoil (5401) which was in turn overlain by 0.24m of topsoil (5202). No archaeological features were recorded within the trench.

Trench 56

- 3.2.54 Natural geology (5600) was encountered at an average of 85.10m OD. It was overlain by 0.4m of clay rich subsoil (5001) which appeared to have been truncated by the cut for a roughly east-west aligned field boundary [5603] which was also visible on the ground. The fill was in turn overlain by 0.4m of topsoil (5002). No archaeological features were recorded within the trench. The fills of the ditch were removed by machine and the profile of the feature recorded within Trench 58 to the east (see below).

Trench 57

- 3.2.55 Natural geology (5702) was encountered at an average of 85.18m OD and had been cut by a linear feature [5703] on a roughly north-west to south-east alignment. No finds were recovered from the single fill (5704) which was overlain by 0.27m of subsoil (5701). The subsoil was overlain by 0.32m of topsoil (5700).

Trench 58

- 3.2.56 Natural geology was encountered at between 85.12m and 84.60m OD and sloped from north to south and was overlain by 0.3m of clay rich subsoil (5801). The subsoil had been truncated by the cut for a roughly east-west aligned ditch [5803] which was also visible on the surface and is the same field boundary as that revealed within Trench 56. The fills (5804 and 5805) were removed by machine and the ditch proved to be 0.65m deep and 2.8m wide, with the northern edge sloping at approximately 40° and the southern edge at 60° to a concave base.

- 3.2.57 The top fill (5805) and the subsoil were overlain by 0.4m of topsoil (5802).

Trench 59

- 3.2.58 Natural geology (5900) was encountered at between 84.50m and 84.00m OD, sloping from west to east. It comprised a firm yellowish brown clay with lenses of brownish grey clay and c1% chalky gravel inclusions and was overlain by 0.17m of clay rich subsoil (5901) which was in turn overlain by 0.36m of topsoil (5902). No archaeological features were recorded within the trench.

Trench 60 (Plate 4)

- 3.2.59 The trench was machined to a general depth of 1.2m through a series of mixed deposits, and sondages were excavated at either end of the trench to a maximum depth of 1.5m (c86.00m OD) below current ground level. The mixed deposits were of



modern origin, including fragments of brick, and were interpreted as "landscaping" deposits, which almost certainly originate from the adjacent airfield. Natural geology was possibly encountered in the base of the sondage at the northern end of the trench, although it is possible that this was re-deposited material within the landscaping deposits.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Interpretation

General

- 4.1.1 The natural geology appeared to generally slope from south to north from a high point in Trenches 38 and 39 (89.60m OD) to a low point in Trench 59 (84m OD). Across the southern half of the site, it also sloped from east to west, with a noticeable slope from north-east to south-west in the south western corner.
- 4.1.2 Many of the features encountered were relatively insubstantial and it seems likely that they would have originally been cut from higher up, possibly through the subsoil deposit encountered in the majority of the trenches. This was the case in the southern end of Trench 31, where feature 3103 almost certainly truncated this deposit (3101). Elsewhere there were indications in the composition of the subsoil deposit that the underlying features had originally been cut through it, but no obvious definition to these variations in composition. As such, it would appear that the subsoil deposit has been reworked, at least in part as a consequence of the ridge and furrow cultivation still visible on the ground.
- 4.1.3 Although prominent in places, the upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks were not present across the whole site. However, the fact that almost all the furrows had a later land drain in the base of the feature - and that these were present in the vast majority of the trenches - indicated that almost all of the site had north-south aligned ridge and furrow, with the land drains being consistently c11m apart. The geophysical survey also bears out this observation. The exception to this was the area to the north of the post-medieval field-boundary in Trenches 56 and 58 - where no ridge and furrow was apparent. Although this boundary is not present on the 1793 plan of the Wilts and Berks Canal (CgMs, 2012, Fig.2) it appears to be the southern boundary of a single field shown on the 1803 inclosure map as "Little England" (*ibid.* Fig 3), and on the 1844 Tithe map (*ibid.* Fig. 4; Field 207) and is clearly cut through by the canal. Consequently, it seems likely that this boundary pre-dates the canal, and may be medieval or early post-medieval in origin.

Phases

- 4.1.4 The features were focussed in the southern half of the site, although predominantly around the periphery of the field. Although many of the excavated features remain undated, the artefactual evidence would suggest that there are at least 3 phases of activity pre-dating the ridge and furrow as outlined below:
- Phase I: middle Bronze Age □ early Iron Age
 - Phase II: middle Iron Age
 - Phase III: 1st-2nd century AD Romano-British
- 4.1.5 The distribution of these features is shown on Figure 2, together with the location of the undated linear features. The sherds from Trenches 43 and 46 indicate activity of later Bronze Age or early Iron Age date on the east side of the site, and the few struck flints presumably also belong in this phase. Although the ditches in Trench 46 appear to suggest a right-angled corner and a possible further parallel ditch, the projected continuations of these ditches unfortunately do not pass through the adjacent trenches, and there are no other ditches in the other trenches on these same alignments to



indicate that that this belonged to a wider field or enclosure system. Although changes in orientation are often found in such systems, in the absence of dating evidence none of the other ditches can be assigned to this phase, and the parallel ditches in Trench 46 could belong to a trackway or a single hedge boundary. Alternatively the right-angled ditches could belong to a single discrete enclosure.

- 4.1.6 There are rather more features dated to the middle Iron Age, though almost all of these are ditches. At first sight these might appear to indicate a field system, but the orientations of the ditches are very varied, and do not continue into the adjacent trenches, suggesting rather that they belong to a number of separate enclosures. In narrow trenches even the ditches of curvilinear enclosures can appear to be straight. Clearer examples of curving enclosures are evident in Trenches 31 and 32. The combination of wide and narrow ditches in Trench 32 may indicate the corner of an enclosure divided off by a gully.
- 4.1.7 No storage pits were found, presumably because the site is relatively low-lying, but a number of large shallow features were exposed. Postholes were few, and this may also be a result of truncation, although examples were noted in Trenches 36, 38, 43, 51 and 52, ie across the southern and central parts of the site. The overall impression is that activity was of varying density, but was widely distributed, and may indicate spatial variation in the organisation of activities.
- 4.1.8 The finds assemblage from the evaluation was small, probably as a result of the truncation of the features by later agricultural activity. Nevertheless the average sherd weight of the pottery is fairly normal for middle Iron Age rural settlements, and may still represent settlement activity. Flecks of fired clay, crazed pebbles, charcoal and animal bones, albeit in very limited quantities, support this.
- 4.1.9 Part of a human skeleton was found in ditch 3207 in Trench 32. This comprised part of a single juvenile individual in good condition. The bones were not recognised as articulated during excavation, and may either have been a burial disturbed by the ditch, or possibly bones incorporated into the ditch after exposure to the elements (excarnation). Similar instances of human bones within ditches are known from a number of Iron Age sites in the Upper Thames valley, such as Watkins Farm, Northmoor (Allen 1990) and Horcott and Latton Lands, Gloucestershire (Lambrick with Robinson 2009, 309-310), and skeletons in purpose-dug graves are becoming more commonly known, though still rare (*ibid.*, 313-5). Further discussion of these practices is given in the human remains report (section 5.6 below).
- 4.1.10 The single sherd of 1st-2nd century pottery recovered from the possible linear feature in Trench 37 would strongly suggest a very low level of activity during the Roman period. If this belonged to a focus of Roman activity, it must have lain to the south of the site.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation was undertaken to establish the extent and character of the Iron Age or Roman activity at the west edge of the site. In the event, this activity proved to be of middle Iron Age date, and to extend across much of the southern half of the site. A variety of feature types and of finds was recovered, suggesting occupation associated with curvilinear and other enclosures.



- 4.2.2 The extent of archaeological activity was not confined to the greensand areas of the site, but extended onto the weathered clay to the north. Activity did appear to die out towards the north end of the site, ie in the lowest-lying area, and there may therefore have been environmental, rather than geological constraints, on the extent of occupation. The area north of the line of the canal consisted of modern backfill, supporting the conclusions of the geophysical survey in this area.
- 4.2.3 Only a single ditch was dated to the Romano-British period. Although a number of other features remain undated, the lack of other Roman finds suggests that the Roman coin found previously is likely to be a stray find, rather than associated with Romano-British occupation on any scale.
- 4.2.4 It was hoped that dating evidence for the ridge-and-furrow cultivation might be obtained within the evaluation trenches. Although fragments of recent pottery and tile were seen, these were related to land-drains or to the modern ploughsoil. No earlier artefactual evidence was found, and the date of the ridge-and-furrow cultivation was therefore not established.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 Archaeological activity of four phases was found by the evaluation: later Bronze Age (or early Iron Age), middle Iron Age, early Romano-British and medieval/early post-medieval. The first of these may have been confined to the east side of the site, while middle Iron Age occupation was more widespread. Romano-British activity was very limited, while the medieval activity consisted entirely of ridge-and-furrow cultivation.
- 4.3.2 Apart from one or two isolated possible features, the geophysical survey only detected the north-south furrows of the medieval cultivation (Bartlett 2012, Figs 1 and 2). The evaluation trenches in contrast revealed widespread evidence of archaeological activity. It must be concluded that the depth of topsoil and subsoil, combined with the clayey nature of the natural and the feature fills over most of the site, had prevented the detection of the earlier archaeological features through geophysical survey.



5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery *by Dan Stansbie*

Introduction

5.1.1 A total of 43 sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery weighing 467g were recovered during the course of the evaluation. Another 6 small sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing only 20g were also recovered. All of the material was rapidly scanned to determine context-group dates and to assess its character (see Table 1). Where necessary the pottery was examined under a binocular microscope at x20 magnification to aid in identification of the fabric. A note was made of the fabric and vessel types using the Oxford Archaeology later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system (Booth 2007).

Condition

5.1.2 The mean sherd weight of the prehistoric and Roman assemblage is 10.9g, representing moderate preservation of the assemblage as a whole. Some small and heavily abraded sherds are present within the assemblage but there are also several groups comprising large well preserved sherds. Surface condition is often poor, with several of the larger sherds displaying abraded surfaces, presumably due to the clayey nature of the natural substrate.

The assemblage

5.1.3 The assemblage is dominated by sandy fabrics (A2), including sherds from one slack-shouldered jar and one probable globular bowl of middle Iron Age date. This fabric is supplemented by very small quantities of material in shelly and sandy fabrics (SA2) and flint/sand fabrics (FA2), also belonging to the middle Iron Age. Also present are small numbers of body sherds in a coarse calcined flint-tempered fabric (F4) and a fine/moderate calcined flint-tempered fabric (F2) probably dating to the middle or late Bronze Age, although an early Iron Age date is also possible. A single rim-herd from a campanulate cup in sandy oxidised ware, dating to the 1st to 2nd centuries and a small amount of post-medieval material make up the rest of the assemblage.

Discussion

5.1.4 The assemblage, although small is dominated by material typical of a middle Iron Age domestic assemblage and probably indicates settlement of this date in the area. Calcined flint-tempered sherds are characteristic of the middle/late Bronze Age, and further north in Oxfordshire can be distinguished from early Iron Age material, where shell-tempered pottery is the norm. This far south, however, such distinctions are blurred, and an early Iron Age date is also possible. The presence of the early Roman campanulate cup indicates limited activity of this period.

Table 1: Pottery by context

Context	Sherds (N)	Weight(g)	Comments	Spot Date
3104	2	22	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric	MIA
3108	6	166	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric (1x slack-shouldered jar)	MIA



Context	Sherds (N)	Weight(g)	Comments	Spot Date
3110	8	16	SA2 fine/moderate shelly/sandy fabric	MIA
3401	6	12	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric, (1x beaker/jar)	MIA
3706	1	5	O20 sandy oxidised ware (1x FB campanulate cup)	AD43-200
4201	2	10	PMED, C10 shelly fabric	PMED
4304	1	30	F4 moderate/coarse-calcined flint-tempered fabrics	M-LBA
4604	2	46	F4 moderate/coarse calcined flint-tempered fabrics	M-LBA
4611	2	11	F2 fine/moderate calcined flint-tempered fabric; S2 fine/moderate shelly fabric	M-LBA
4706	1	20	FS2 fine/moderate flint and shell-tempered fabric	MIA
4806	3	46	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric	MIA
4808	1	11	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric	MIA
4815	1	21	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric	MIA
5202	4	10	PMED	PMED
5204	1	10	A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric	MIA
5306	6	51	F2 fine/moderate calcined flint-tempered fabric, A2 fine/moderate sandy fabric (1x probable globular bowl)	MIA
Total	49 (6 PM)	487 (20g PM)		

5.2 Metalwork

Ian Scott

5.2.1 There are 4 metal finds, all iron, from three contexts.

Context 3808:

5.2.2 (1) Hand-made nail with small square pyramidal head and square section stem, and chisel point. Bent. L 77mm:



Context 5202:

- 5.2.3 (2) Horseshoe narrow branches with squared heels and fullering. Each branch has five regularly spaced small rectangular nail holes in the fullering. L: 117mm; W: 142mm. Probably late 18th or 19th century in date.
- 5.2.4 (3) □ Hand made nail, with small square pyramidal head and square section stem tapering to a point. Almost complete. L: 88mm

Context: 5402:

- 5.2.5 (4) Fragment of binding or hinge strap with tapered and rounded end and 2 extant nail holes. L extant: 74mm; W: 30mm.
- 5.2.6 The metalwork probably all dates to the 19th-century.

5.3 Struck Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

- 5.3.1 A total of 8 pieces of struck flint were recovered from this evaluation, most of which came from trench 34. Three of the struck flints may not have been genuine. A range of natural pieces were also recovered, together with four pieces of burnt, unworked flint.
- 5.3.2 There were two flakes and two pieces of irregular waste, although the latter may simply be accidentally shattered natural fragments. There were four tools, two scrapers and two more problematic tool forms.
- 5.3.3 One scraper (from context 3401) was fashioned on a thermal flake. It was a large, domed scraper with careful, heavy, abrupt, convex retouch along its distal end. A well-executed end and side scraper was recovered from context 4701. This displays very parallel abrupt retouch scars and has almost a 'D' shaped form in plan.
- 5.3.4 Another possible scraper or denticulate (from context 3405), with irregular, heavy, stepped retouch along one edge, was formed on a thermal chunk. Rather than a tool, this may have simply been a failed attempt at opening a core.
- 5.3.5 The most problematic piece was another thermal chunk from context 3403, which had numerous pot-lid negative scars. A spur at one corner, however, appeared to have been modified by concave retouch along one edge to form a piercer. It is uncertain if this was recent and accidental or was a genuine expedient implement.
- 5.3.6 Overall, the assemblage is very small and of low potential. The scrapers represent domestic items and probably relate to late Neolithic to late Bronze Age activity in the area. One is well made, while the other is less so, but both could easily date to the same period and may simply reflect knapping skill rather than culturally distinct episodes. The other possible tool forms, if real, are almost certainly later prehistoric. The low-levels of flakes and knapping waste also reflect this view of quite limited domestic activity in the vicinity, probably dating to the later prehistoric periods.
- 5.3.7 The burnt and natural fragments have been adequately assessed and discarded. The genuine component of the assemblage should be retained.



5.4 Glass

Ian Scott

- 5.4.1 There are just 3 shards of glass, all from context 6002:
- 5.4.2 (1) □ Small shard of colourless modern window glass. Probably float glass. (Th: 3.7mm)
- 5.4.3 (2) - Thick shard of colourless glass, very slightly curved in long section, with one surviving squared edge. Probably frosted on both faces and extant edge. L extant: 112mm; W extant: 46mm; Th: 10.8mm. It is unclear what this glass was used for. Modern glass.
- 5.4.4 (3) □ Cast body shard with moulded decoration and clear vertical mould line. The decoration takes the form of parallel horizontal lines of zigzags or dogteeth. Possibly from the shoulder of a cylindrical bottle, but could be from a decorated tumbler. Colourless metal. Height extant: 47mm; Width of shard: 57mm. 19th- or 20th-century in date.
- 5.4.5 All three shards of glass probably date to 20th-century

5.5 Ceramic Building Material

Cynthia Poole

- 5.5.1 Building material totalling 14 fragments (1948g) was recovered from six trenches (42, 46, 47, 52, 58 and 60) and included ceramic building material, fired clay and asbestos (table 1). All the items from trench 60 were of 20th century date. The piece of fired clay from trench 46 may be a lump of burnt mudstone, rather than part of a fabricated clay structure. If fired clay it is not inherently datable and could derive from any period from prehistoric to medieval.
- 5.5.2 The ceramic building material comprises roof tile, including one piece with a peg hole, and brick. The forms, general character and finish of the material suggest it is of late medieval or early post-medieval date. The fabrics are all fairly similar with inclusions of quartz sand, cream silty clay pellets and red ferruginous clay pellets, suggesting these are all of relatively local or regional production centre supplying the area. One plain fragment from a thicker tile may be Roman though without any diagnostic features it is not possible to be certain.
- 5.5.3 The quantity of material is not indicative of structures in the immediate area, but is likely to result from agricultural activities relating to land improvement.

Table 2: Summary of key characteristics of the building material

Context	Nos	Wt (g)	Fabric	Form	Date of Obj
4201	1	146	Q	Roof: flat	Med/Pmed
4707	1	6	Q	Indet	Med/Pmed?
5202	1	62	P	Roof: peg	Med/Pmed
5202	1	25	QP1	Roof: flat	Pmed
5802	1	1228	QP2	Brick	Early PMed
5802	1	47	QP1	Flat tile	RB?
5804	1	171	QP2	Brick	Pmed
6002	1	38	MOD2	Drain Pipe	C20
6002	1	43	MOD1	Brick?	LC19-C20
6002	1	159	Asbestos	Wall cladding	C20
4604	1	23	C	Fired clay Indeterminate	U



5.6 Human Remains

Louise Loe

- 5.6.1 Human skeletal remains were recovered from the fill (3208) of Iron Age ditch 3207. The remains, which were not in articulation, were examined in the laboratory in accordance with the guidelines set out by the IFA and BABAO (2004).
- 5.6.2 The material was from one individual and comprised about 30% of a child's skeleton. It included fragments of skull, torso and arms, all incomplete. The bones had suffered numerous post-mortem breaks, but their surface condition was good: there was only patchy erosion, which is consistent with grade 1 (following McKinley 2004, 16).
- 5.6.3 The stage of eruption of the teeth (Alqahtani 2009; Moorees Fanning and Hunt 1963) suggested that the individual was between 9 and 14 years old when they died. It was not possible to estimate the sex of the individual because there are currently no accepted osteological methods available for this (Brickley and McKinley 2004).
- 5.6.4 Linear enamel hypoplasia was observed on the upper and lower permanent canine teeth. These were present as lines on the crowns of the teeth and represent episodes of disruption during the formation of the enamel. As they may be caused by numerous factors (for example, childhood illness and malnutrition), they are generally regarded as a non-specific indicator of childhood health stress (Roberts and Cox 2003).

Comment

- 5.6.5 The deposition of human remains □ articulated burials and bone fragments/partial skeletons - in ditches in and around settlements is a typically Iron Age practice that has been encountered throughout central southern England (Wait 1985; Gwilt and Haselgrove 1997; Whimster 1981).
- 5.6.6 Partial skeletons, such as that described here, possibly represent tokens of remembrance, brought back to the settlement from sites of excarnation located some distance away (Lambrick 2009). The present child bones do not show any signs of having been scavenged and/or weathered and/or cut with a sharp implement, as might be expected had they been excarnated by exposure. Carr and Knusel (1997) suggest that a lack of evidence for exposure does not necessarily mean that excarnation did not take place, because other methods may have been employed instead. However, it is equally possible that the present remains represent a once articulated primary burial that was disturbed by later activity and re-buried in the ditch.
- 5.6.7 No further analysis of the remains is required but it is recommended that they are sampled for radiocarbon dating.



5.7 Animal Bone

identified by Lena Strid

Table 3: Animal bone by context

Context	Description
3104	1 sheep radius fragment, 6g
3108	1 skull fragment species unidentifiable, 1 cattle tooth - 3 rd molar recently erupted, 1 cattle metacarpal fragment, 77g
3708	1 mammal phalanx fragment □ deer/pig? unidentifiable fragments, 6g
4604	1 large mammal rib fragment, 2 medium mammal long bone fragments, 1 cattle pelvis fragment, unidentifiable fragments, 30g
4611	1 medium mammal bone fragment, 1 large mammal long bone fragment, 8g
4806	Sheep tooth, 5g
4815	Cattle tooth, 34g
5306	1 fused cattle metatarsal fragment, 1 horse tooth and unidentifiable fragments, 121g
5802	1 sheep/goat metatarsal, 21g

- 5.7.1 Only a very small quantity of animal bone was recovered, and the condition of this material was poor, probably as a result of the clayey character of the soils. The identified bones belong to the main domesticated species, and are unexceptional for the Iron Age.

5.8 Evaluation of Environmental Samples

Julia Meen

Introduction

- 5.8.1 Three environmental samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains and artefacts during the evaluation at Stockham House, Wantage, in August 2012. All three samples were taken from separate fills of pit 3606. Sample <1> was taken from the uppermost fill (3616), and was an olive brown (2.5Y 4/4) clay loam, with abundant angular flint pebbles. Sample <2> was taken from the secondary fill (3617), and was an olive grey (5Y 4/2) clay loam with abundant angular flint pebbles. Sample <3> was taken from the primary fill (3618), and was a dark grey (2.5Y 4/1) clay loam with frequent angular flint pebbles.

Methodology

- 5.8.2 All three samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. Sample <1> and <3> were each 10L in volume, and sample <2> was 20L in volume. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues were sieved to 500µm and dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The dried flots were scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification and identifications made with reference to published guides and the comparative seed collection held at OAS. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

Results

Finds

- 5.8.3 All samples contained abundant flints. Of these, none appeared to be worked, although many were very abraded and cracked and some of the items from samples <1> and



<2> are possibly burnt. All samples contained very small quantities of very abraded, indeterminate bone. In addition, samples <1> and <3> each contained a small number of bones of microfauna, identified by Lena Strid. In sample <1> these included a small burnt rodent incisor, and in sample <3> the assemblage comprised the tooth of a bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*) and a tooth of a probable field vole (*Microtus agrestis*).

Charred Plant Remains

- 5.8.4 Sample <1> produced a flot of 5ml, of which 100% was scanned. The flot consisted mostly of modern roots, with modern insects present. One item of coal/clinker was noted, as well as one terrestrial snail.
- 5.8.5 Sample <2> produced a flot of 15ml, of which 100% was scanned. The flot was predominately modern root, with modern seeds present. A very small quantity of charcoal was present, although all was less than 2mm in size and hence is unlikely to be identifiable. A small number of terrestrial snails were also present.
- 5.8.6 Sample <3> produced a flot of 20ml, of which 100% was scanned. Abundant modern root was present, as well as modern insects and seeds. Charcoal was present, but was very fragmented, and only one item was greater than 2mm in size. Terrestrial snails were common, and one item of coal was noted.

Discussion and Recommendations

- 5.8.7 All three fills from the sampled pit were poor in charred plant remains. However, as the sampling was limited to one feature, it may be that other features contain charred plant assemblages of greater interpretive value, especially as the presence of charcoal in two of the three fills, although in very small quantity, demonstrates that charred remains do survive at this site. Conditions seem to be suitable for the preservation of snails, and there may be potential for the recovery of environmental information through this source if a suitable deposit (such as a deep ditch fill) was encountered during future excavations. In this case, specialist incremental samples should be taken after discussion with an environmental archaeologist.
- 5.8.8 If further excavations are carried out at the site, standard 40L bulk samples should be taken from a range of potentially datable features across the site and should be in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology, 2005 and English Heritage, 2011).



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	Soil Description	Date
Trench 31						
3100	deposit		0.3	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty loam	
3101	deposit		0.15	subsoil	dark brownish grey silty clay	
3102	layer			natural	mid brownish grey clay	
3103	cut	1.2	0.18	shallow ditch		
3104	fill	1.2	0.18	single fill of ditch 3103	firm dark greyish brown clay	MIA
3105	cut	0.84	0.29	root disturbance		
3106	fill	0.84	0.29	fill of tree throw 3105	firm mid greenish grey clay with 1% chalk fragments	
3107	cut	0.7	0.32	curvilinear ditch		
3108	fill	0.7	0.32	single fill of ditch 3107	firm dark brownish grey silty clay with 10-20% chalk fragments	MIA
3109	cut	0.54	0.14	post hole		
3110	fill	0.54	0.14	single fill of post hole 3110	firm dark brownish grey silty clay	MIA
Trench 32						
3200	deposit		0.25	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty loam	
3201	deposit		0.3	subsoil	mid brownish grey firm clay	
3202	layer			natural	light grey firm clay	
3203	cut	0.77	0.36	north-south aligned ditch		
3204	fill	0.77	0.36	fill of ditch 3203	firm mid brownish grey clay	
3205	cut	1.58	0.56	east-west aligned ditch		
3206	fill	1.58	0.56	fill of ditch 3205	firm dark brownish grey clay with 2-5% flint nodules	
3207	cut	0.98	0.3	north-south aligned ditch		
3208	fill	0.98	0.3	fill of ditch 3207	firm mid brownish grey clay with 2-5% flint nodules	
3209	cut	1.35	0.24	east-west aligned ditch		
3210	fill	1.35	0.24	fill of ditch 3209	firm mid brownish grey clay with 2-5% flint nodules	
Trench 33						
3300	deposit		0.42	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty loam	
3301	deposit		0.23	subsoil	mid brownish grey firm clay	
3302	layer			natural	light greenish grey clay with 10% chalk flecks	
3303	cut	0.71	0.22	north-south aligned ditch		



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	Soil Description	Date
3304	fill	0.71	0.22	fill of ditch 3303	firm mid greyish brown clay	
3305	cut	1.32	0.3	east-west aligned ditch		
3306	fill	1.32	0.3	fill of ditch 3305	firm dark greyish brown clay with 10% flint	
3307	cut	2.2	0.32	shallow pit		
3308	fill	2.2	0.2	primary fill of shallow pit 3307	mid brownish grey silty clay with orange brown mottling	
3309	fill	2.2	0.24	secondary fill of shallow pit 3307	mid-dark grey silty clay with 30% flint and stone	
Trench 34						
3400	cut	2	0.16	roughly east-west aligned ditch		
3401	fill	2	0.16	fill of ditch 3400	mid-dark grey silty clay	MIA
3402	cut	1	0.2	roughly east-west aligned ditch		
3403	fill	1	0.2	fill of ditch 3402	mid grey silty clay	
3404	cut	2.6	0.17	roughly north-south aligned ditch		
3405	fill	2.6	0.17	fill of ditch 3404	mid-dark grey silty clay	
3406	deposit		0.4	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty loam	
3407	deposit		0.4-0.5	subsoil	dark brownish grey silty clay	
3408	layer			natural	brownish grey clay	
Trench 35						
3500	layer			natural	blueish grey clay	
3501	deposit		0.4	subsoil	mid-dark grey clay with occasional flint at interface with topsoil	
3502	deposit		0.2	topsoil	mid-dark brownish grey clayey loam	
Trench 36						
3600	cut	1.04	0.32	pit		
3601	cut	0.46	0.11	shallow curvilinear gully		
3602	cut	0.8	0.2	shallow curvilinear gully		
3603	cut	0.7	0.11	shallow curvilinear gully		
3604	cut	0.7	0.08	shallow pit/post hole		
3605	cut	0.6	0.08	shallow pit/post hole		
3606	cut	1	0.38	pit		
3607	deposit		0.2	topsoil	dark grey brown silty clay	



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	Soil Description	Date
+3608	deposit		0.12	subsoil	firm mid grey brown silty clay	
3609	layer			natural	alternating layers of mid whitish grey clay and grey chalky gravel	
3610	fill	1.04	0.32	fill of pit 3600	friable light-mid grey brown silty clay - flint throughout	
3611	fill	0.46	0.11	fill of gully 3601	firm-friable mid grey brown silty clay with frequent flint	
3612	fill	0.8	0.2	fill of gully 3602	firm mid-dark grey brown silty clay - flint throughout	
3613	fill	0.7	0.11	fill of gully 3603	firm dark grey brown silty clay with flint throughout	
3614	fill	0.5	0.08	fill of pit 3604	firm mid grey brown silty clay - occasional flint	
3615	fill	0.6	0.08	fill of pit 3605	firm dark grey brown/black silty clay with occasional charcoal and flint	
3616	fill	0.55	0.18	fill of pit 3606	firm dark orangey brown silty clay with frequent flint	
3617	fill	0.44	0.3	fill of pit 3606	firm dark grey brown silty clay with frequent flint	
3618	fill	0.48	0.14	fill of pit 3606	firm dark brownish black silty clay with moderate charcoal and occasional flint	
Trench 37						
3700	layer			natural	mid bluey grey clay	
3701	deposit		0.2	subsoil	mid grey silty clay with occasional flint, predominantly at the interface with the overlying topsoil	
3702	deposit		0.4	topsoil	mid-dark grey clayey loam	
3703	cut	0.3	0.27	roughly north-west/south-east aligned gully		
3704	fill	0.3	0.27	fill of gully 3703	mid-dark grey silty clay with 5% flint nodules	
3705	cut	1.25	0.42	possible linear feature		
3706	fill	1.25	0.42	fill of possible feature 3705	mid-dark grey silty clay	AD43-200
3707	cut	0.6	0.22	north-west/south-east aligned gully		
3708	fill	0.6	0.22	fill of gully 3707	mid-dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional flint nodules	
Trench 38						
3800	deposit		0.26	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty loam	



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	Soil Description	Date
3801	deposit		0.3	subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	
3802	layer			natural	light grey clay with 80% chalk flecks	
3803	cut	1.95	0.22	shallow pit		
3804	fill	1.95	0.22	fill of pit 3803	firm dark greyish brown silty clay with 4% small stones	
3805	cut	1.65	0.38	east-west aligned ditch		
3806	fill	1.65	0.38	fill of ditch 3805	firm dark greyish brown silty clay	
3807	cut	7	0.24	root disturbance		
3808	fill	7	0.24	fill of 3807	firm mid grey clay with 50% chalk inclusions	
Trench 39						
3901	layer			natural	green clayey sand	
3902	deposit		0.3	subsoil	mid greenish grey sandy clay with 35% chalk fragments	
3903	deposit		0.2	topsoil	dark grey humic clay loam	
3904	layer			natural	chalky 'gravel'	
3905	deposit		0.2	subsoil	same as 3902 but with 50% chalk fragments where it overlies chalky natural 3904	
Trench 40						
4000	layer			natural	green clayey sand	
4001	deposit		0.24	subsoil	dark grey silty clay with occasional chalk and flint nodules	
4002	deposit		0.29	topsoil	mid dark grey clayey loam	
4003	cut	0.7	0.12	shallow pit		
4004	fill	0.7	0.12	fill of pit 4003	mid-dark brownish grey silty clay	
4005	cut	0.4	0.18	roughly east-west aligned gully		
4006	fill	0.4	0.18	fill of gully 4005	mid-pale bluey grey silty clay	
4007	cut	2.5	0.1 max	root disturbance		
4008	fill	2.5	0.1 max	fill of 4007	mid greenish brown silty clay	
Trench 41						
4100	layer			natural	green clayey sand	
4101	deposit		0.16	subsoil	mid-pale bluey grey clay with occasional chalky gravel	
4102	deposit		0.34	topsoil	mid grey silty loam	
Trench 42						
4200	deposit		0.38	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty loam	



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	Soil Description	Date
4201	deposit		0.07	subsoil	mid brownish grey silty clay	
4202	layer			natural	mid brownish grey clay with 10% chalk inclusions	
4203	cut	0.5	0.14	post hole		
4204	fill	0.5	0.14	fill of post hole 4203	mid-dark grey silty clay	
Trench 43						
4301	deposit		0.3	topsoil	dark brown silty loam	
4302	deposit		0.24	subsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay with 30% flints and stones	
4303	layer			natural	greensand	
4304	fill	1.2	0.24	fill of pit 4305	friable dark greyish brown silty clay with 10% burnt flint, 15% chalk fragments and c5% re-deposited greensand	MBA-EIA
4305	cut	1.2	0.24	shallow pit		
4306	fill	0.4	0.06	top fill of post hole	friable dark brownish grey clayey loam with 5% charcoal flecks	
4307	fill	0.4	0.05	primary fill of post hole	friable dark yellowish brown silty clay with 5% chalk and occasional patches of re-deposited greensand	
4308	cut	0.4	0.12	post hole		
Trench 44						
4400	deposit		0.32	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty loam	
4401	deposit		0.23	subsoil	mid bluish grey silty clay with 5% chalk inclusions	
4402	layer			natural	firm mid grey clay	
4403	cut	1.12	0.33	north-south aligned ditch		
4404	fill	1.12	0.33	fill of ditch 4403	firm mid brownish grey silty clay	
Trench 45						
4500	deposit		0.35	topsoil	dark greyish brown silty loam	
4501	deposit		0.23	subsoil	mid brownish grey silty clay	
4502	layer			natural	mixed chalk 'gravel' with clayey sand and pale grey clay patches	
4503	cut	1.88	0.37	east-west aligned ditch		
4504	fill	1.88	0.37	fill of ditch 4503	firm dark brownish grey silty clay with 2% small stones	
4505	cut	0.6	0.3	north-south aligned ditch		
4506	fill	0.6	0.3	fill of ditch 4505	mid brownish grey silty clay with 2-3% chalk fragments	



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	Soil Description	Date
4507	cut	0.3	0.2	north-west/south-east aligned gully		
4508	fill	0.2	0.07	fill of gully 4507	chalky gravel in a mid-pale grey clay matrix	
4509	fill	0.3	0.2	fill of gully 4507	mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional patches of orangey brown mottling	
Trench 46						
4600	cut	1.2	0.6	north-south aligned ditch		
4601	fill	0.35	0.06	primary fill of ditch 4600	mid greenish grey silty clay with 30% chalk fragments	
4602	fill	0.55	0.25	secondary fill of ditch 4600	mid-pale greenish grey silty clay with 10% chalk fragments	
4603	fill	0.7	0.08	tertiary fill of ditch 4600	mid-pale greenish grey silty clay with 2% chalk fragments and 2% flint nodules	
4604	fill	0.5	0.12	quaternary fill of ditch 4600	mid-dark grey silty clay with 10-15% charcoal flecks and 2% chalk fragments	MBA-EIA
4605	fill	1.2	0.12	top fill of ditch 4600	mid brownish grey silty clay with 2% chalk and flint fragments	
4606	cut	>0.9	0.6	east-west aligned ditch		
4607	fill	0.7	0.17	primary fill of ditch 4606	mid brownish grey silty clay with 5% chalk pebbles	
4608	fill	0.9	0.5	secondary and main fill of ditch 4606	mid grey silty clay with occasional chalk and flint fragments	
4609	fill	0.2	0.06	fill of ditch 4606	re-deposited/eroded material from edge of ditch	
4610	cut	0.8	0.3	roughly east-west aligned ditch		
4611	fill	0.8	0.3	fill of ditch 4610	mid brownish grey silty clay with 30% chalk fragments, predominantly at the base	MBA-EIA
4612	deposit		0.12	subsoil	mid pale grey clay with occasional chalk fragments predominantly at the interface with the overlying topsoil	
4613	deposit		0.32	topsoil	mid-dark grey clayey loam	
4614	layer			natural	chalky greensand	
Trench 47						
4700	cut	0.74	0.28	roughly east-west aligned ditch		



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	Soil Description	Date
4701	fill	0.74	0.28	single fill of ditch 4700	firm mid browny grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and poorly sorted angular flint fragments	
4702	cut	1.45	0.1	possible shallow pit		
4703	fill	1.45	0.1	fill of possible pit 4702	firm light browny grey silty clay with occasional flint fragments	
4704	cut	0.25	0.06	possible shallow post hole		
4705	fill	0.25	0.06	fill of possible shallow post hole	firm mid browny grey silty clay with occasional flint fragments	
4706	deposit		0.2	topsoil	soft dark grey brown silty clay	
4707	deposit		0.2	subsoil	firm mid grey brown silty clay	
4708	layer			natural	firm yellow grey clay with flint and chalk inclusions	
Trench 48						
4800	deposit		0.3	topsoil	dark brown sandy loam	
4801	deposit		0.2	subsoil	pale grey clay	
4802	layer			natural	pale yellow clay	
4803	cut	1.24	0.14	nw-se aligned shallow ditch		
4804	fill	1.24	0.14	fill of ditch 4803	mid greyish brown sandy clay with 3% sub-angular flint pebbles	
4805	cut	1.3	0.66	north-south aligned ditch		
4806	fill	1.3	0.66	fill of ditch 4805	mid brown grey sandy clay with 4% sub-angular flint pebbles and 1% chalk fragments	MIA
4807	cut	1.98	0.26	north-south aligned ditch		
4808	fill	1.98	0.26	fill of ditch 4807	mid grey brown sandy clay with 4% sub-angular flint pebbles and occasional chalk fragments	
4809	cut	2.9	0.08	shallow pit/root disturbance		
4810	fill	2.9	0.08	fill of possible pit 4809	mid grey brown sandy clay with 2% sub=angular flint pebbles	
4811	cut	2.25	0.2	nw-se aligned shallow ditch		
4812	fill	2.25	0.2	fill of ditch 4811	mid brown grey sandy clay with 2% sub-angular flint	
4813	cut	3.05	0.48	nw-se aligned ditch		
4814	fill	3.05	0.12	primary fill of ditch	pale grey sandy clay with	



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	Soil Description	Date
				4813	occasional chalk flecks	
4815	fill	3.05	0.48	secondary fill of ditch 4813	mid grey brown sandy clay with 2% sub-angular flint and 3% chalk flecks	MIA
4816	cut			unexcavated linear feature		
4817	cut			unexcavated discrete feature		
Trench 49						
4900	layer			natural	mid blue grey ?gault clay	
4901	deposit		0.4	subsoil	mid-dark bluey grey clay with occasional flint concentrated at interface with overlying topsoil	
4902	deposit		0.2	topsoil	mid-dark grey clay loam	
Trench 50						
5000	layer			natural	bluey grey ?gault clay	
5001	deposit		0.4	subsoil	mid-dark grey clay with 5% flint inclusions concentrated at interface with overlying topsoil	
5002	deposit		0.2	topsoil	dark brownish grey clayey loam	
Trench 51						
5100	deposit		0.28	topsoil	very dark greyish brown clay loam	
5101	deposit		0.21	subsoil	mid brownish grey firm clay	
5102	layer			natural	light brownish grey firm clay	
5103	cut	1.5	0.44	pit cut		
5104	fill	1.5	0.44	single fill of pit 5103	firm light brownish grey clay	
5105	cut	0.86	0.14	shallow pit		
5106	fill	0.86	0.14	single fill of pit 5105	firm mid greyish brown silty clay	
5107	cut	0.46	0.08	small shallow post-hole		
5108	fill	0.46	0.08	single fill of post-hole 5107	firm dark greyish brown silty clay	
Trench 52						
5200	layer			natural	light brownish grey firm clay	
5201	deposit		0.2	subsoil	mid-dark grey clay	
5202	deposit		0.2	topsoil	dark grey clayey loam	
5203	cut	2	0.5	roughly ne-sw aligned ditch		
5204	fill	2	0.5	fill of ditch 5203	mid grey brown silty clay	MIA
5205	cut	1.75	0.2	shallow pit		
5206	fill	1.75	0.2	fill of pit 5205	mid-dark grey silty clay with	



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	Soil Description	Date
					occasional flint fragments	
Trench 53						
5300	layer			natural	greenish grey ?gault clay/greensand	
5301	deposit		0.2-0.40	subsoil	mid grey silty clay with 5-10% flint predominantly at interface with overlying topsoil - increases in thickness where corresponding with ridges of ridge and furrow	
5302	deposit		0.24-0.35	topsoil	mid-dark grey clay loam - increasing in thickness where corresponding with ridges of ridge and furrow	
5303	cut	0.7	0.13	roughly north-south aligned gully		
5304	fill	0.7	0.13	fill of gully 5303	mid-dark grey silty clay	
5305	cut	1	0.2	roughly east-west aligned ditch		
5306	fill	1	0.2	fill of ditch 5305	mid-dark grey clay silt with occasional chalk fragments - composition more clay rich along ditch edges	MIA
Trench 54						
5400	layer			natural	predominantly clay with some sandy and chalky patches	
5401	deposit		0.3	subsoil	mid-dark grey clay with occasional flint at interface with topsoil	
5402	deposit		0.3	topsoil	mid-dark grey clay loam	
5403	cut	1.2	0.15	shallow pit		
5404	fill	1.2	0.15	fill of pit 5403	mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional flint and chalk fragments	
Trench 55						
5500	layer			natural	?gault clay	
5501	deposit		0.16	subsoil	mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional flint at interface with topsoil	
5502	deposit		0.24	topsoil	mid grey clayey loam	
Trench 56						
5600	layer			natural	blue grey clay and greenish grey sandy clay	
5601	deposit		0.15	subsoil	dark grey clay with occasional flint	



context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	Soil Description	Date
5602	deposit		0.4	topsoil	mid-dark grey clay loam	
5603	cut	4		cut for post med field boundary		
5604	fill	4		fill of ditch 5603	mid grey silty clay - not excavated	
Trench 57						
5700	deposit		0.32	topsoil	very dark greyish brown silt	
5701	deposit		0.27	subsoil	mid brownish grey clay	
5702	layer			natural	mid grey clay with some flint inclusions	
5703	cut	1.87	0.18	north-south aligned ditch		
5704	fill	1.87	0.18	fill of north-south aligned ditch 5703	firm mid greyish brown clay	
Trench 58						
5800	layer			natural	greenish grey sandy clay	
5801	deposit		0.3	subsoil	mid-dark grey silty clay with occasional flint and red brown mottling	
5802	deposit		0.4	topsoil	mid grey clay loam	
5803	cut	3.8	0.65	cut for post-med field boundary		
5804	fill	2.8	0.45	primary fill of ditch 5803	mid grey silty clay	
5805	fill	3.8	0.2	top fill of ditch 5803	mid-dark grey silty clay	
Trench 59						
5900	deposit		0.36	topsoil	very dark grey brown silt	
5901	deposit		0.17	subsoil	mid greyish brown silty clay	
5902	layer			natural	mid yellowish brown clay with bands of mid brownish grey clay - 1% chalk inclusions	
Trench 60						
6000	deposit		0.3	topsoil	very dark greyish brown silty loam	
6001	deposit		0.15	subsoil	dark brownish grey silty clay	
6002	deposit		>1.1	'landscaping'	mixed clay, sand, greensand - modern debris throughout	
6003	? deposit			possible natural	possibly greensand or re-deposited greensand within 6002	



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Stockham House, Denchworth Road, Wantage, Oxfordshire

Site code: WASTOK12

Grid reference: Centred on SU 39309 88882

Type: Evaluation

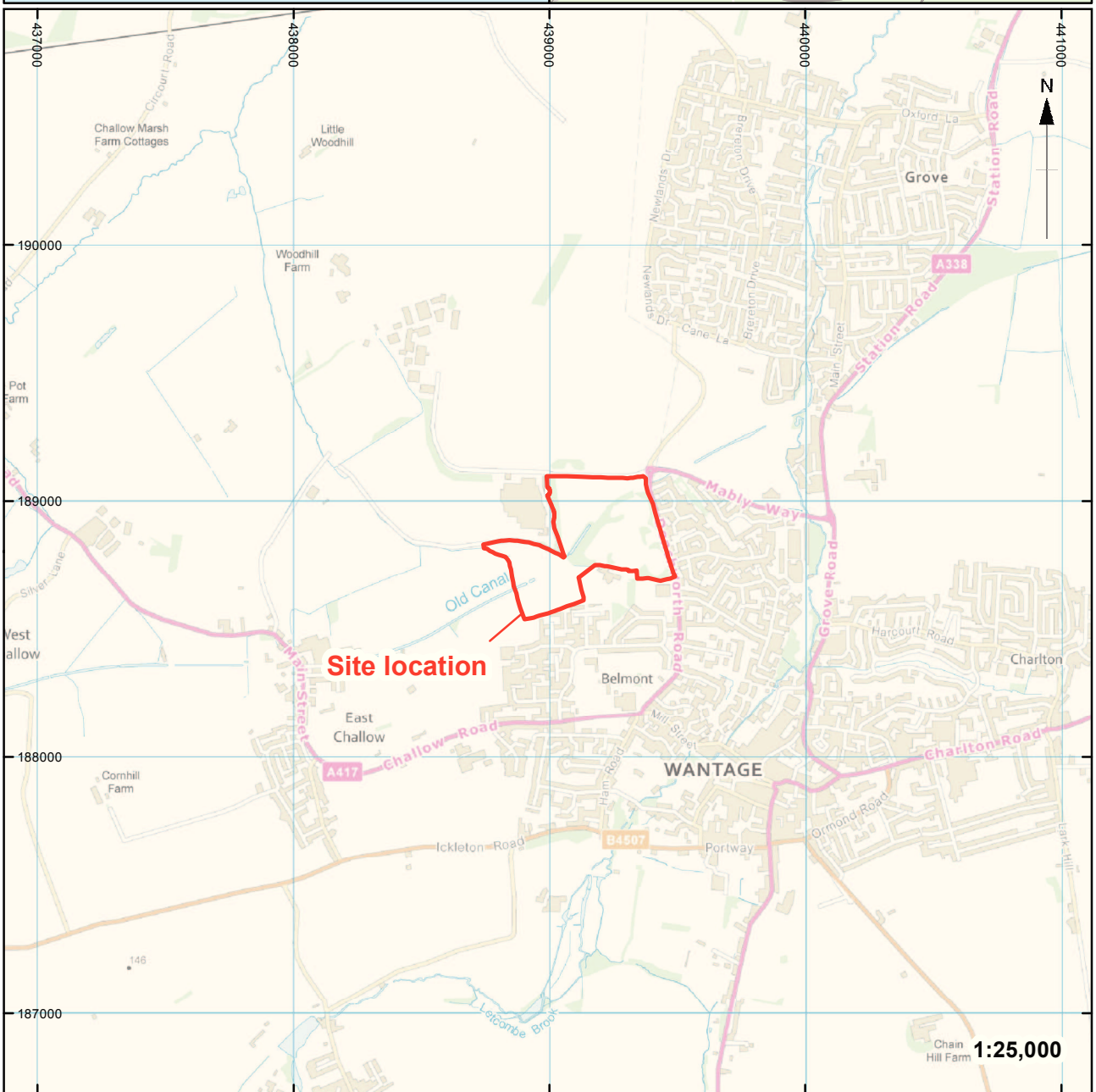
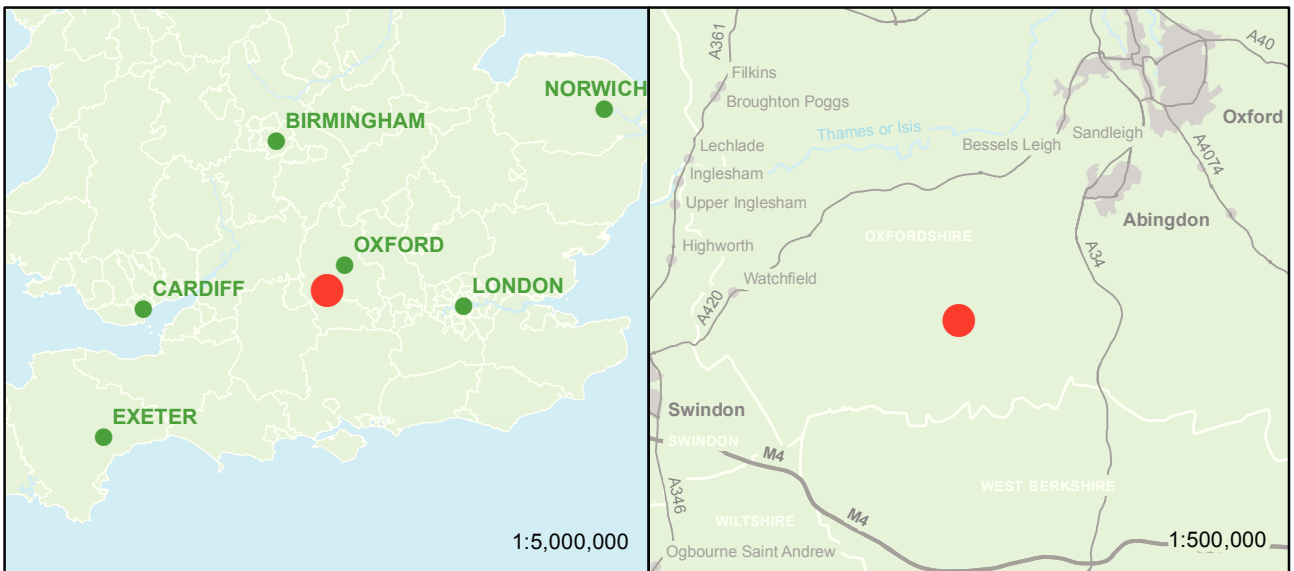
Date and duration: Fieldwork August 2012, 15 days

Summary of results: In July and August 2012, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Stockham House, Denchworth Road, Wantage, Oxfordshire (centered on SU 39309 88882). The evaluation revealed a series of ditches and shallow pits likely to belong to middle Iron Age enclosures and fields, which the artefactual evidence would suggest may be associated with settlement. Single features containing pottery of the Bronze Age and of the Roman period were also found. Human bones belonging to part of a single juvenile individual were recovered from one of the ditches at the south-west end of the site.

The site was covered by ridge-and-furrow cultivation on a north-south alignment, whose northern limits were evident as a low broad bank close to the northern edge of the main field that was examined. A ditch following the same alignment was probably associated.

Evidence for 20th century landscaping, probably associated with the adjacent airfield, was recorded in a trench which was located over the proposed new route for the Wilts and Berks Canal at the north-west edge of the evaluated area.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service, in due course, under the following accession number: TBC



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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench location and distribution of archaeological features

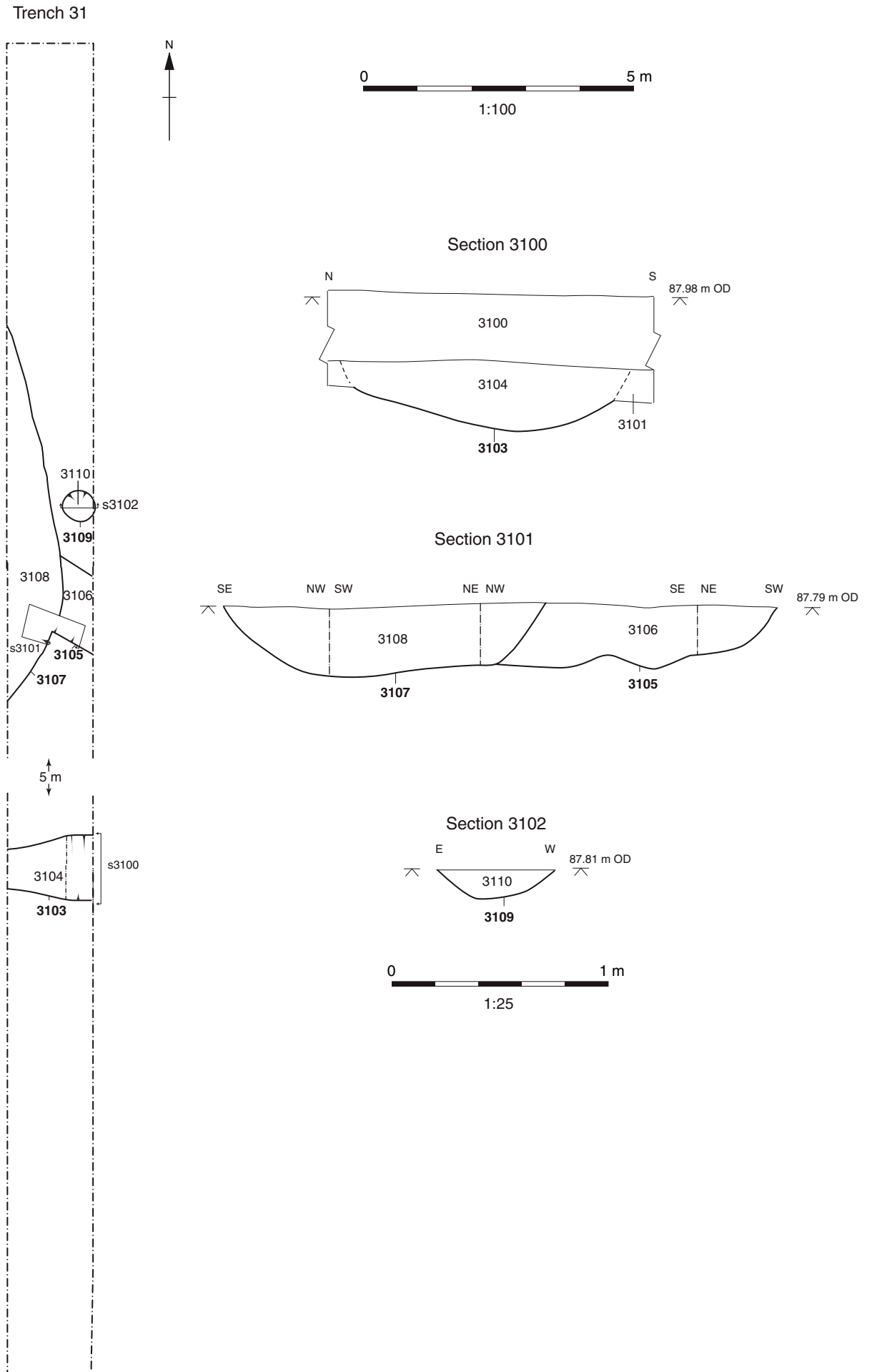


Figure 3: Trench 31, plan and sections 3100-3102

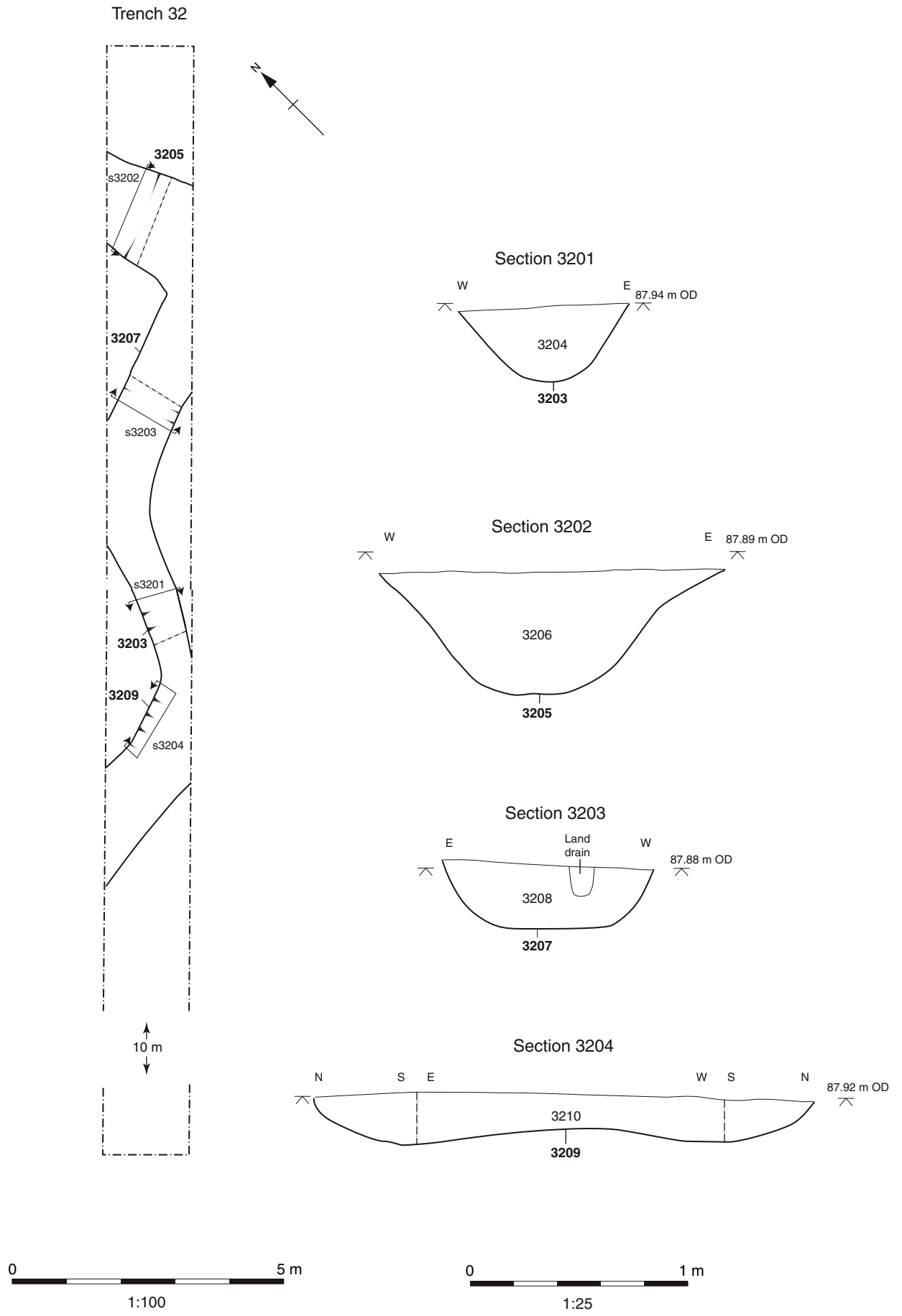


Figure 4: Trench 32, plan and sections 3201-3204

Trench 33

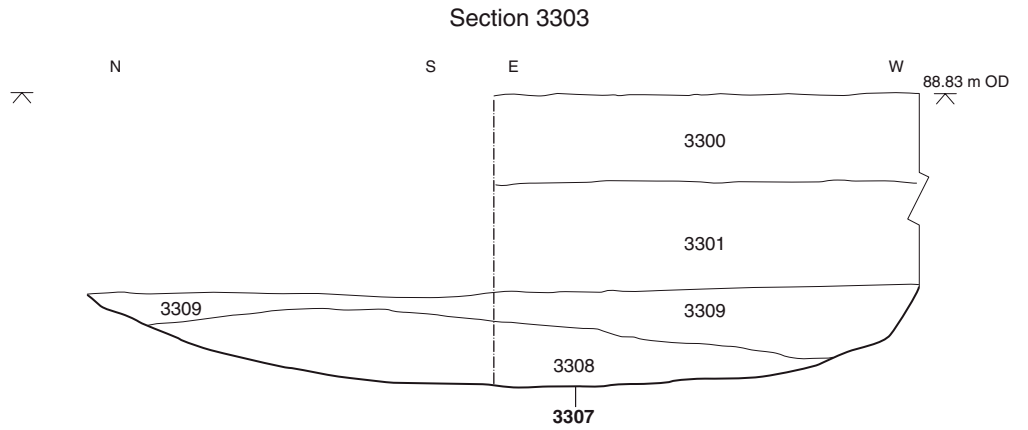
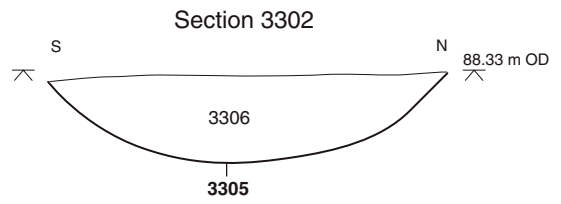
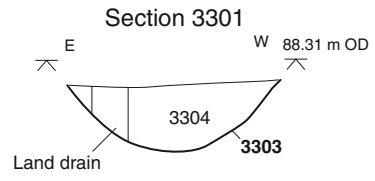
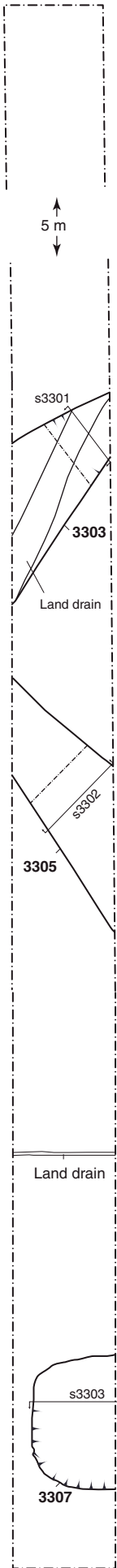


Figure 5: Trench 33, plan and section

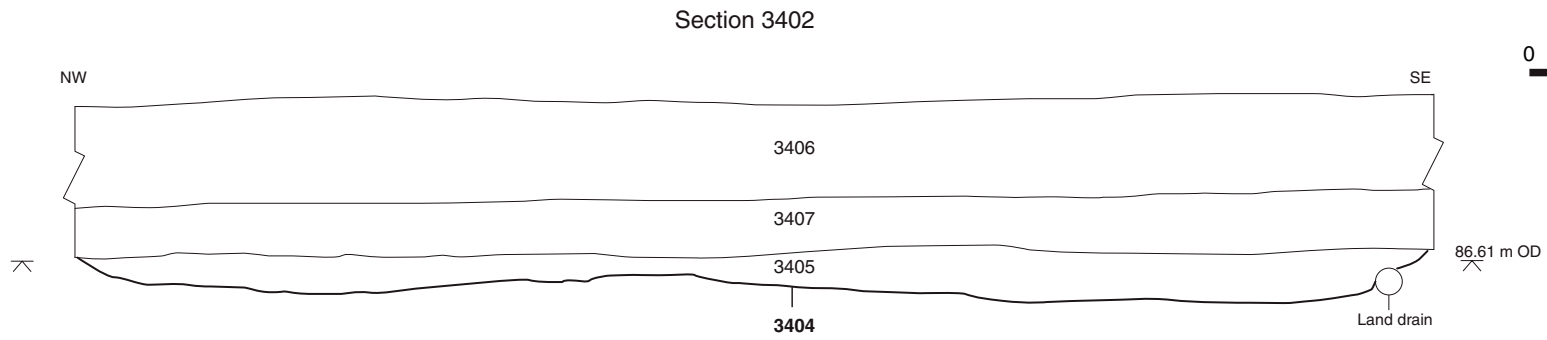
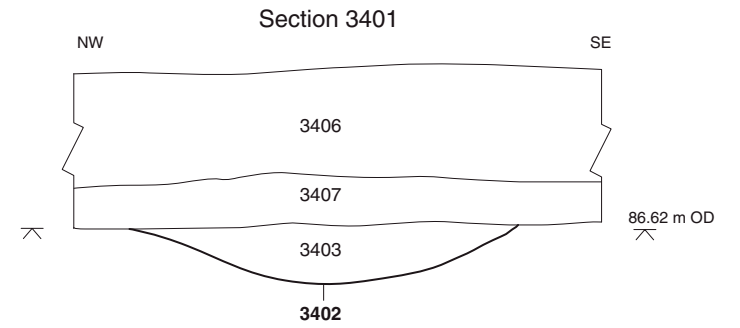
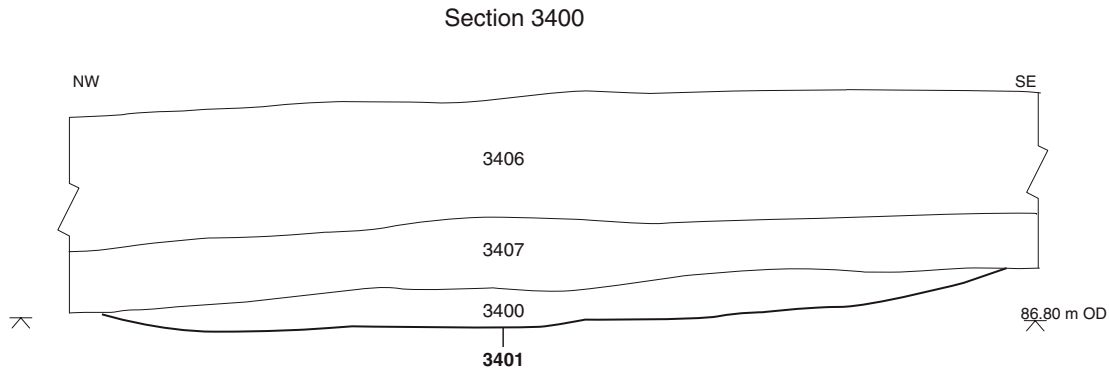
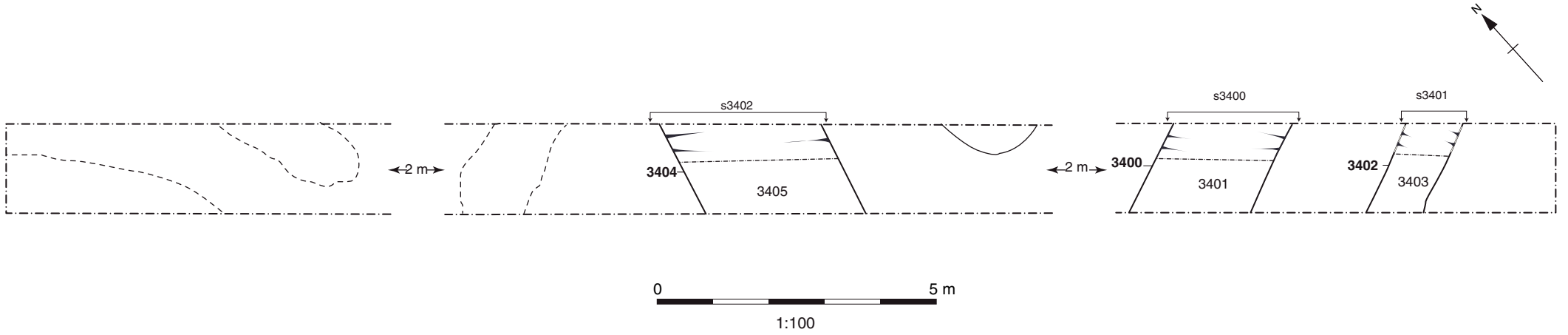
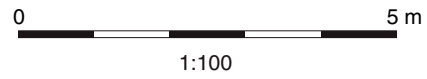
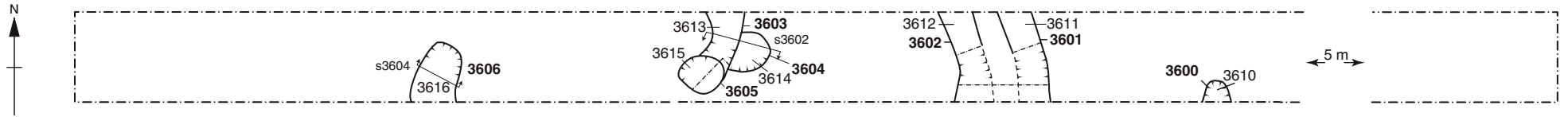
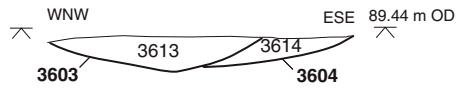


Figure 6: Trench 34 plan and sections

Trench 36



Section 3602



Section 3604

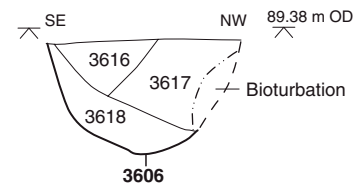


Figure 7: Trench 36, plan and section 3604

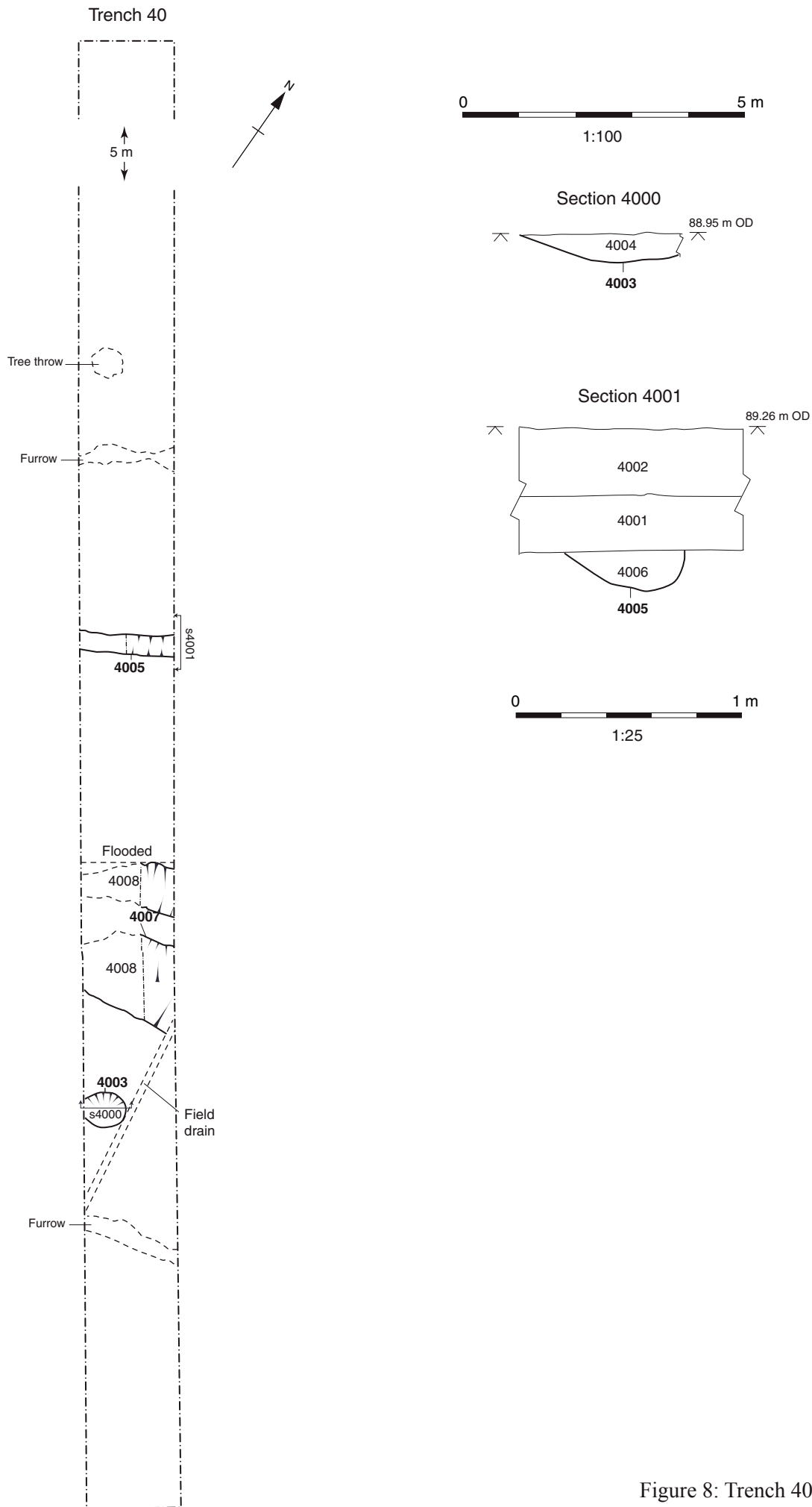


Figure 8: Trench 40 plan and sections

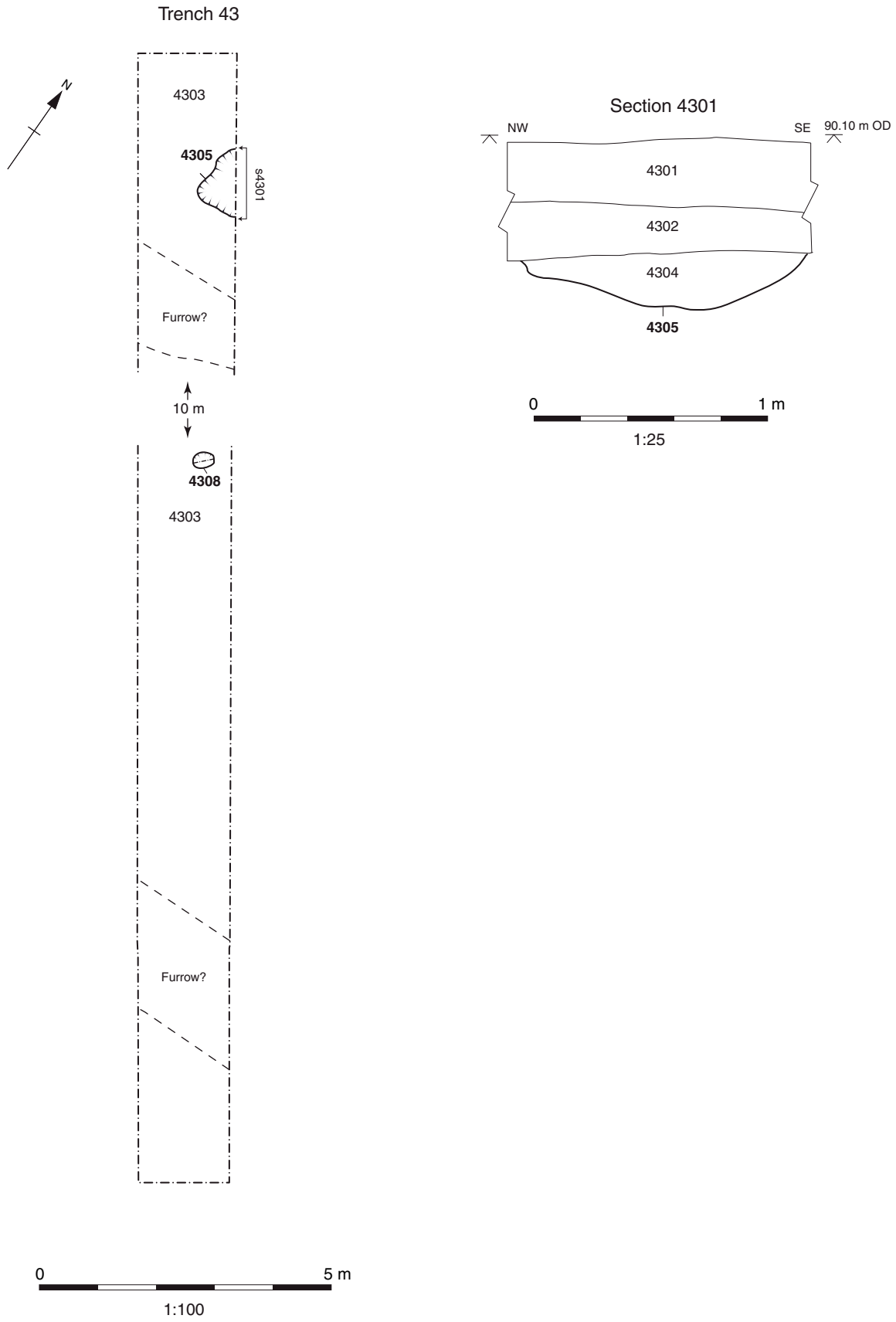


Figure 9: Trench 43, plan and section 4301

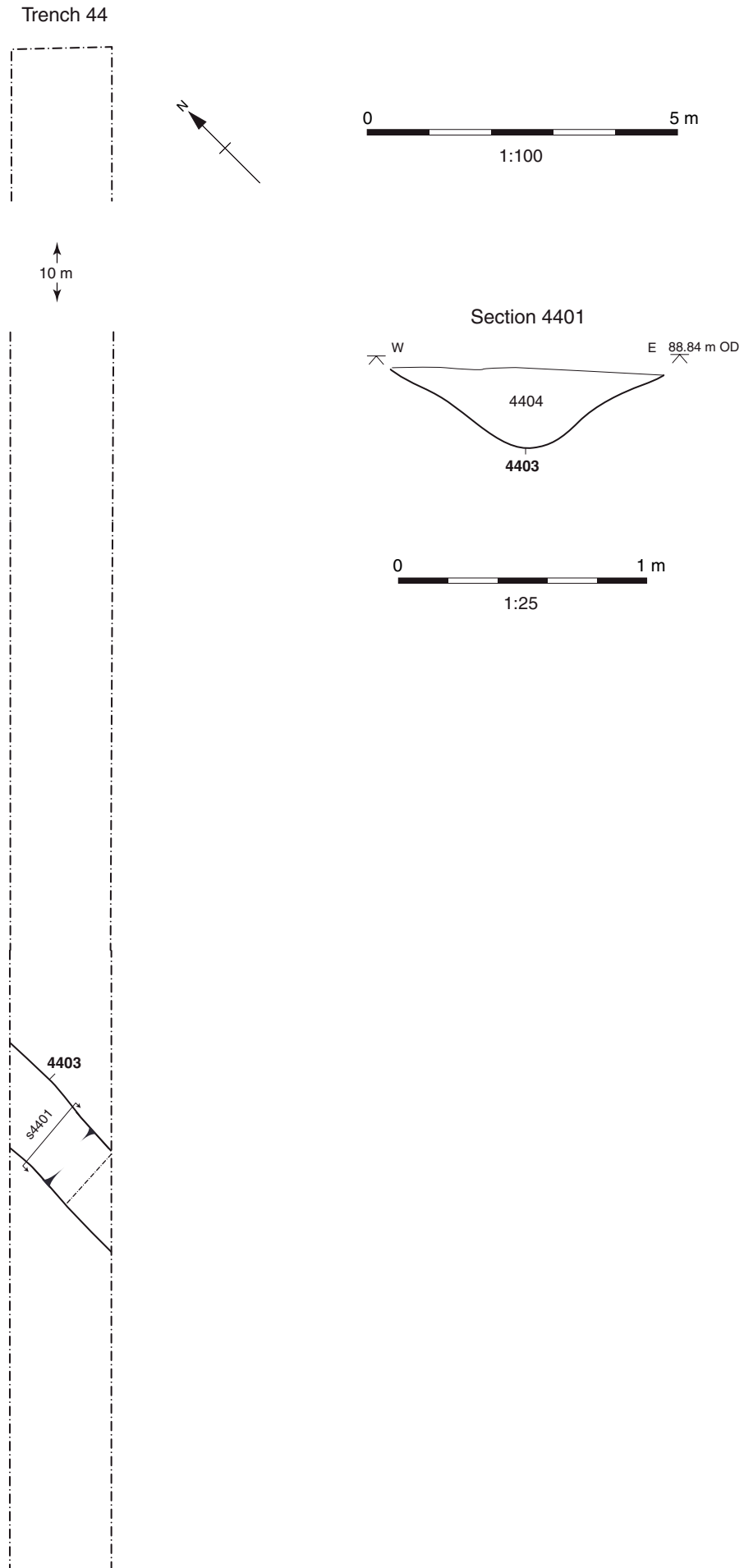


Figure 10: Trench 44, plan and section 4401

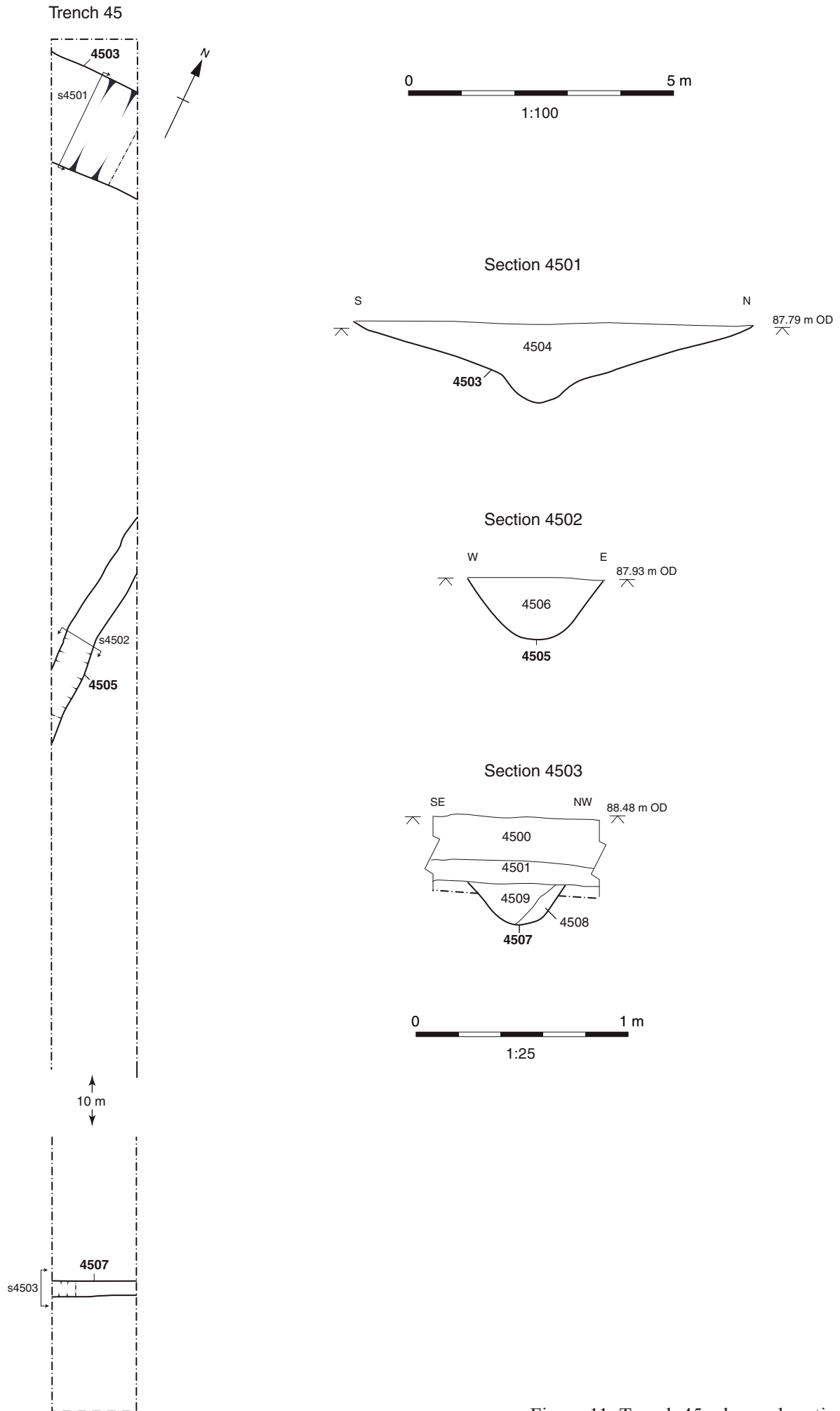


Figure 11: Trench 45, plan and sections

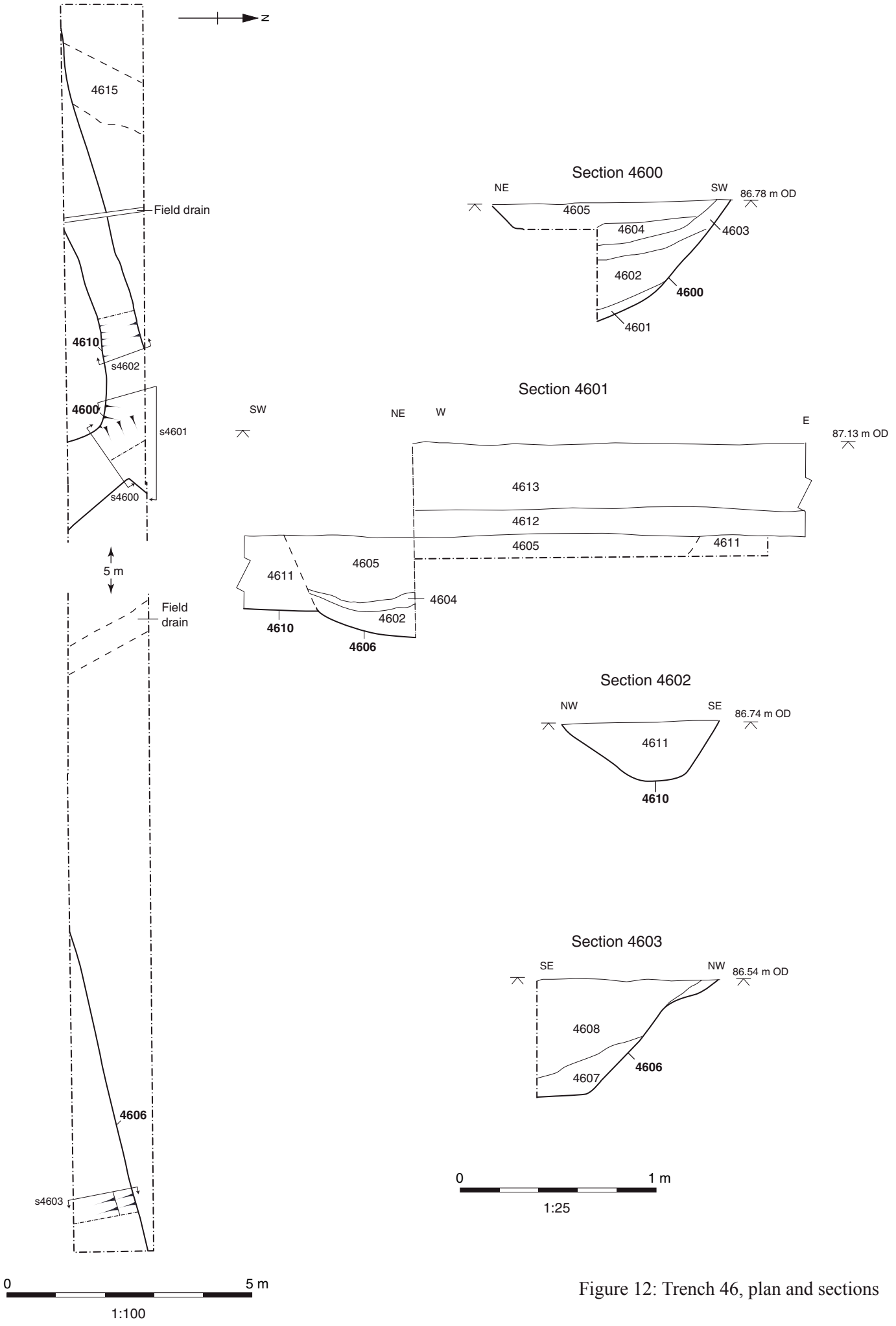
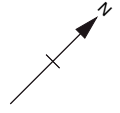


Figure 12: Trench 46, plan and sections

Trench 47



Section 4700

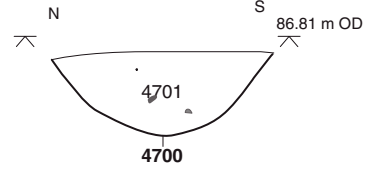


Figure 13: Trench 47, plan and section 4700

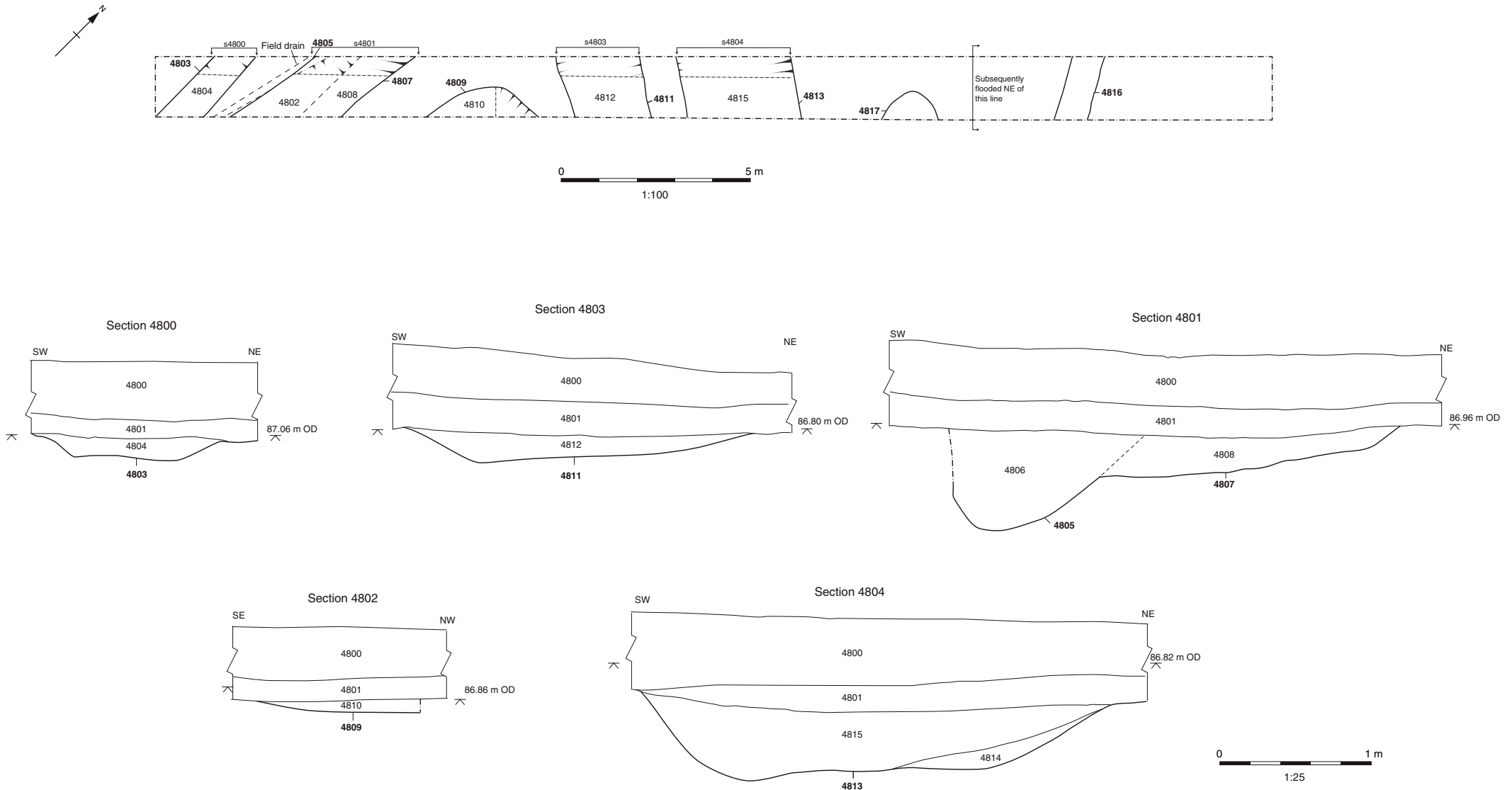


Figure 14: Trench 48, plan and section 4800-4804

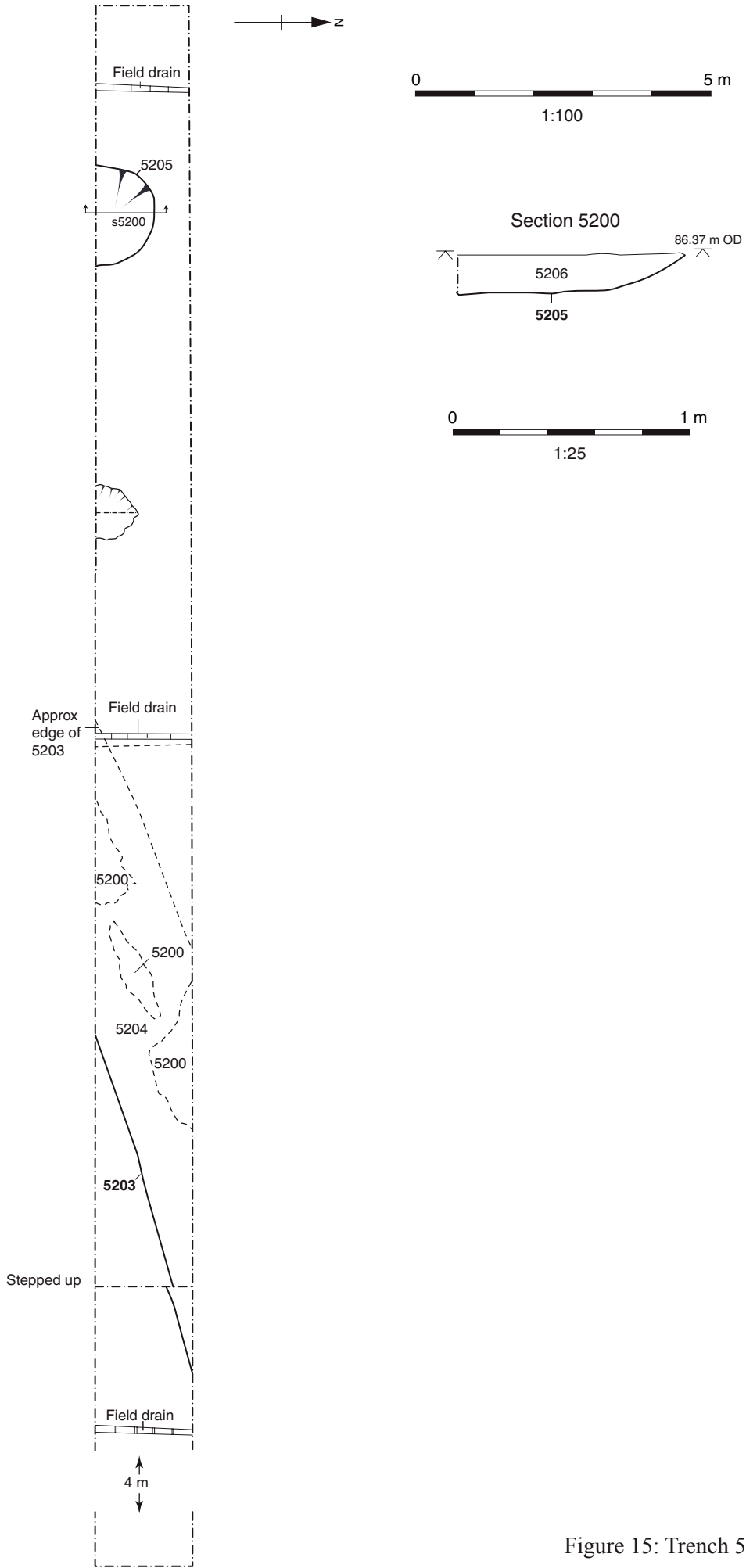


Figure 15: Trench 52, plan and section 5200

Trench 53

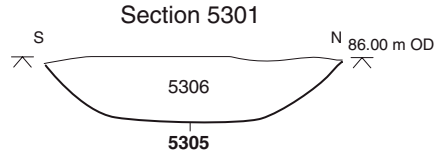
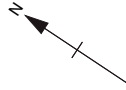
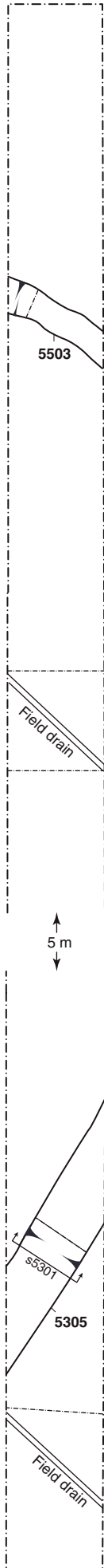


Figure 16: Trench 53, plan and section 5301

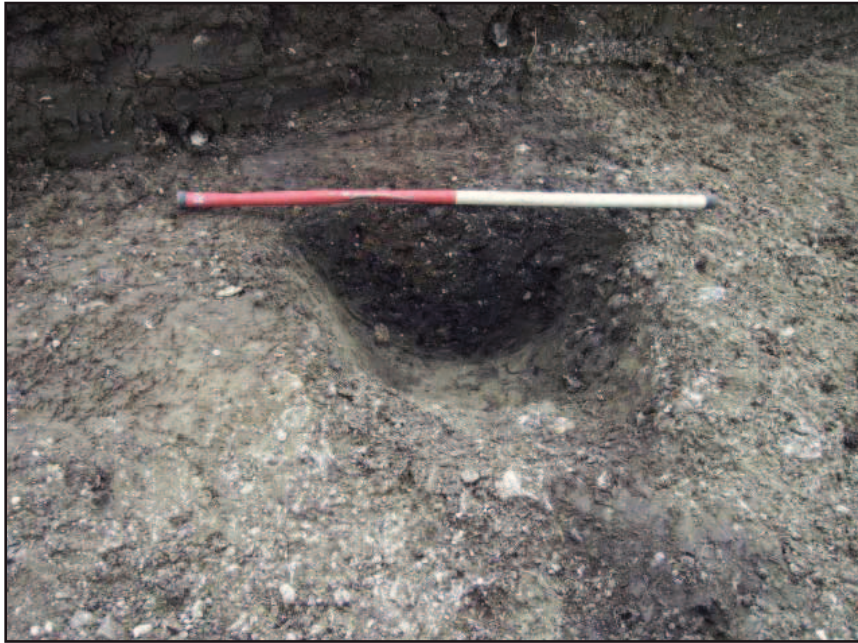


Plate 1: Trench 36: Pit 3606 looking SSE



Plate 2: Trench 46 looking west. Ditch 4606 in foreground



Plate 3: Trench 47 looking north-west. Ditch 4700 in foreground



Plate 4: Sondage in southern end of Trench 60 looking north-east



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