

Land between  
32 & 36 High Street

# Dorchester-on-Thames Oxfordshire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



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# Land Between 32 and 36 High Street Dorchester-on-Thames Oxfordshire

## *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*In February 2007 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Land between 32 and 36 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (NGR SU 5779 9438) on behalf of Trident Property Holdings Ltd. The work formed part of a pre-planning phase for the construction of a new housing development. The evaluation revealed a possible Roman ditch and pit, and a large amount of residual pottery, indicating activity to the north of the Roman town ditch. Medieval and post-medieval pits were also revealed representing back yard activity associated with properties fronting the High Street. Activity associated with the recent use of the site was also revealed.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In February 2007 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at land between 32 and 36 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Trident Property Holdings Ltd, in respect of a planning application for a housing development (Planning Application No. P06/W0535). A brief (OCC 2006), outlining the archaeological requirements of the work, was set by Paul Smith Oxfordshire County Council Archaeologist, in accordance with PPG16 and the Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by OA (OA 2007), outlining how the requirements of the brief would be met, this WSI was agreed with Paul Smith (OCC) and Chris Welch of English Heritage. The development falls partly within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Roman town of Dorchester (SAM No. Oxon 116).

### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The proposed development area lies to the rear of 32 - 36 High Street in the centre of Dorchester-on-Thames (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the west by properties fronting the High Street, to the north and east by a bungalow (1 Crown Lane) fronting Crown Lane, to the east by the Village Hall and properties fronting Queen Street, and to the south the site is bounded by 32 High Street (Fig. 2). The proposed development site is flat at *c* 49 m OD and is underlain by the drift geology of the Thames Valley Gravels (BGS, 1972).

### 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study (OA 2005), the results of which are summarised below.

1.3.2 No archaeological features or deposits have been recorded from the area of the proposed new development. However, the site lies near the core of the medieval town and on the northern periphery of a Roman Small Town. The site lies entirely within

the Dorchester on Thames Conservation Area and much of the southern half of the site lies within part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Dorchester on Thames.

- 1.3.3 Extensive remains of later prehistoric to early Saxon date are known to exist in the wider area, and archaeological investigations within Dorchester on Thames have invariably encountered features and deposits of Roman to medieval date. This has included evidence for Roman activity at 11 Queen Street, immediately adjacent to the east of the proposed development site. The Queen Street excavations recorded a number of Roman features, including a ditch and post holes, that had been severely truncated by post-medieval activity.
- 1.3.4 The site lies outside, but within 20 m, of the conjectured northern line of the former Roman defences and adjacent to the probable line of the Roman road into Dorchester from the north.
- 1.3.5 The site was probably open land to the rear of properties on the High Street during the medieval period and remained open until the 19th century. The present buildings fronting the High Street are all grade II Listed Buildings dating to the 17th - 18th centuries. The existing buildings on the site are not listed but appear to date to at least the first half of the 19th century.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

### 2.1 General

- Establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the proposal area, and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains that may affect further need for mitigation during the construction process.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features and to make available the results of the investigation.

### 2.2 Specific

- To identify evidence for Roman extra-mural activity.
- To establish the nature of any medieval land-use or occupation.

### 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of three trenches; Trench 1 was dog-legged measuring 6 m north-south x 16 m east-west and 1.6 m wide; Trench 2 was 5.5 m long and 1.6 m wide; and Trench 3 was 'T'-shaped measuring 5 m north-south x 5.5 m east-west x 1.6 m wide (Fig. 2). The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket. Excavation ceased at the top of the highest archaeological horizon, or natural geology, whichever was reached sooner.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

#### 3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

#### 3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 Due to the intercutting nature of the archaeological remains, no deposits suitable for environmental sampling were revealed.

### 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

#### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The site is located on the Thames Valley gravels, which were overlain by a silty brickearth. The archaeological deposits were filled with a mixture of these deposits, they were also filled with material derived from imported cultivation/garden soils.

#### 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 All three trenches contained intercutting pits. Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval features were revealed in Trenches 1 and 2, medieval and post-medieval features were revealed in Trench 3.

## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Trench 1

- 5.1.1 The trench (Figs 3 and 4) was excavated to the top of a naturally formed reddish brown silty sand, with patches of gravel (100 and 126). The deposit was revealed at 48.62 m OD, 0.55 m below present ground level (BGL). In the east of the Trench it had been disturbed by an irregular natural feature or root hole (107), which measured 2 m x 1.6 m and was filled by a dark reddish brown silty sand (108). This had been cut by a NW-SE aligned ditch (103 and 136) measuring 3.1 m x 1.6 m x 0.7 m deep. Two sections were excavated across the ditch, which was seen to have stepped sloping sides, rounding to a shallow concave base (Section 4 and Section 11). The primary ditch fill was a mid-brown sandy-clay with orange brown patches (129 and 139), it contained pottery dating from the late 3rd century AD and bone. A sherd of post-medieval pottery was also recovered, though this may have been intrusive. Fill 139 was overlain by a deposit of orange brown silty sand (138), formed from re-deposited natural. The deposit contained Roman pottery. The upper fill of the ditch was a grey brown silty sand (104 and 137) that contained pottery dating from the 10th to 11th centuries.
- 5.1.2 To the west of the ditch four inter-cutting pits were exposed (Fig. 3, plan and Section 8). The earliest feature was a large circular pit (147) with under-cutting sides rounding sharply to a shallow concave base. It measured 0.34 m x 0.4 m x 0.6 m, and was filled with a dark grey brown silty sand (145) below a grey brown silty clay with orange brown patches (146). The fills were cut by by pit 143, which had very steep sloping sides rounding to a concave base and measured 0.6 m x 0.8 m x 0.44 m. It was filled by a yellowish brown sandy silt (144), below a mid orange grey-brown silty clay (142). Pit 147 was also cut by a large pit (149) with steep sloping sides and concave base. It measured 1 m x 0.8 m x 0.44 m and was filled by a mid grey brown silty clay (148). The fill contained Roman pottery and bone. A shallow irregular feature (141), with sloping sides and uneven base, cut the upper fill of pit 143. It measured 0.82 m x 0.06 m x 0.1 m and was filled by a black brown silty clay (140).
- 5.1.3 Three inter cutting pits (152, 153 and 154) covering an area of 1.8 m x 0.4 m x 0.24 m were revealed in the west of the trench. The pits had uneven sloping sides and concave bases, and were filled by a dark grey brown silty sand (151, 157 and 158) that contained Roman pottery and medieval peg-tiles. The pits were below a 0.32 m thick soil layer of dark grey brown silty clay (150), which contained Roman pottery and a fragment of medieval peg tile, the pottery was probably residual.
- 5.1.4 A pit (134) was partly exposed in the side of the northern part of the trench, but not excavated. It had near vertical sides, measured 2.1 m x 0.42 m x 0.31 m and was filled by a very dark grey brown silty sand that contained medieval tile (135 -Fig. 3, Section 9).

- 5.1.5 The pit had been cut by a 20th-century quarry pit (125) with near vertical sides and flat base. It measured 3.2 m x 3.9 m x 1.54 m (Fig. 4, section 10) and was backfilled by layers of dark grey and reddish brown silty sand (156, 155 and 120). The fills contained modern pottery and glass, and a fragment of marble that may have originated from a fireplace surround manufactured on the site.
- 5.1.6 Overlying the deposits was a 0.3 m thick layer of grey brown silty clay cultivated soil (130). This had been cut by a root hole (101) with irregular shape and profile. It measured 2.1 m x 1.6 m x 0.4 m and filled with a dark brown silty sand (102) that contained 17th or 18th century pottery (Fig. 4, Section 12). Two 19th to 20th century rubbish pits (109 - not illustrated and 115) were revealed in the centre of the trench. Both were only partly exposed and circular in shape, they were filled with a dark grey brown silty sand (110 and 116) that contained bricks, bottles, glass and slate, but were not excavated. These were overlain by a 0.4 m thick layer of very dark grey brown garden topsoil (131).
- 5.1.7 The topsoil had been cut by a water pipe trench (105), two rectangular soakaways (123 and 127) and a rectangular rubbish pit (121 and 122). The deposits were cut by was a construction cut (132) for a concrete base (133).

## 5.2 Trench 2

- 5.2.1 Natural yellowish brown sandy gravel (233) was revealed at 40 m OD (1 m BGL). It was cut by a pit (232), in the centre of the trench (Fig. 5), with steep sloping sides rounding to a flat base. The base of the feature measured 0.24 m x 0.23 m x 0.2 m, and it was filled with a grey-brown silty clay (231).
- 5.2.2 A large pit (219) was revealed in the south of the trench, which was heavily truncated through later pitting. Its dark yellowish-brown silty clay fill (218) covered an area measuring 2 m x 1.3 m. Pit 219 was cut by a circular rubbish pit (207) with vertical sides and flat base, measuring 1.1 m x 1 m x 0.25 m. It was filled by grey brown silty clay (206) that contained medieval tile fragments. Pit 219 was also cut by a large circular pit (228), which was 2 m x 0.5 m and filled by a grey brown silty clay (227).
- 5.2.3 Pit 207 was cut by a construction trench (222), which measured 1.2 m x 0.5 m with vertical sides. It was filled by the remains of a truncated wall (221) of limestone blocks and a clay bond. The trench was backfilled with a dark grey brown silty clay (238). The wall was overlain with a 0.2 m thick layer of very dark grey brown silty clay (220) demolition material that contained medieval tile fragments.
- 5.2.4 In the centre of the Trench six intercutting pits were observed (215, 217, 224, 226, 228 and 232). The pits ranged between 1 m and 2 m wide and up to 0.7 m deep. The pits were filled with silty sands (214, 216, 222, 223, 225, 231 and 239), no dating evidence was recovered, although a sherd of residual Roman pottery was recovered from fill 214. Pit 224 was truncated by a seventh pit (203 - fill 202).
- 5.2.5 Pit 228 was cut by a large pit (209) partly exposed in the side of the trench. It measured 1.7 m x 0.43 m and was filled by a grey brown silty clay (208). This had



been cut by another pit (205) also partly exposed in the side of trench. Only 1.3 m x 0.2 m was exposed and it was filled by a dark grey brown silty clay (204).

- 5.2.6 Pit 213 was revealed at the north end of the trench. It measured 1.5 m x 1.2 m x 0.3 m and contained a grey brown silty clay (212) backfill. This had been cut by two pits 201 and 211. Pit 201 was on the east side and circular in shape, measuring 3 m x 0.6 m with a fill of very dark grey brown silty clay (200) that contained a surface find of medieval tile. The pit was not excavated. Pit 211 was circular in shape, measuring 0.9 m x 0.8 m, filled with a yellowish brown silty sand (210) and was also not excavated.
- 5.2.7 A 0.25 m thick layer of grey brown silty clay garden soil (234) overlay the pits. This was below a 0.15 m thick re-deposited gravel (235) make-up layer and building rubble (236) for the present yard surface (237).

### 5.3 Trench 3

- 5.3.1 A compact yellowish brown silty sand natural (300) was revealed at 48.65 m OD (*c* 0.5 m BGL). It had been cut by an irregular root hole (301) with uneven sides and base, in the eastern corner of the trench (Fig. 6). The root hole measured 0.9 m x 0.85 m x 0.12 m and was filled by a very dark grey brown silty sand loam (302), with patches of yellowish sandy loam. In the centre of the trench a pit (309) with shallow sloping sides was partly exposed. It measured 0.6 m x 0.38 m x 0.12 m and was filled by a grey brown silty sand loam (310), which had been cut by a large root hole (305) to the east. The root hole measured 1.5 m x 1.1 m x 0.2 m, it was of irregular shape with uneven sides and base. It was filled by a series of disturbed dark grey brown silty sands (306, 307 and 308 - Fig. 6, Sections 2 and 3).
- 5.3.2 Along the west side of the trench was pit 303, which was partly exposed in section. It had steep sloping sides rounding to a concave base, measured 0.5 m x 0.75 m x 0.2 m and was filled by a dark reddish brown silty sand (304). This had been cut by a large rubbish pit (311) with steep sides and rounding to a concave base. It measured 1.5 m x 1.4 m x 1.1 m, and had a backfill of dark reddish brown silty sand loam (312) that contained 14th- to 16th-century pottery. The fill was cut by a rectangular pit (313) with vertical sides rounding to a flat base. It measured 1.7 m x 1 m x 0.3 m with a fill of very dark grey silty sand loam (314), which contained residual Roman pottery, post-medieval tile and clay pipe (Fig. 6, Section 1). Pit 317, measuring 1.35 m x 0.6 m and filled with a grey brown silty sand loam (318), was located to the south but not excavated.
- 5.3.3 Pits 313 and 317 had been cut by a large sub rectangular pit (315) with vertical sides and flat base, measuring 2.8 m x 1.1 m x 0.3 m, with a back fill of dark grey brown silty sand (316) that contained a residual sherd of Roman pottery. At the south end of the trench pit 315 was cut by a partly exposed pit (321) with a dark grey brown silty sand fill (322), but it was not excavated.
- 5.3.4 Overlying the pits was a 0.2 m thick cultivated soil horizon (324), of grey brown silty clay, overlain by a 0.3 m thick very dark grey brown garden topsoil (323). This had

been cut by a small rectangular post hole (319) for garden fence. It measured 0.3 m x 0.2 m x 0.5 m with a loose very dark grey brown silty sand (320) backfill.

#### 5.4 Finds

##### *Roman Pottery by Daniel Stansbie (OA)*

- 5.4.1 A total of 58 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 939 g, were recovered during the evaluation. Levels of residuality are high, with 25% of groups which include Roman pottery also including Saxon, medieval or post-medieval pottery. In addition, some groups which are dominated by late Roman pottery include residual early Roman sherds.
- 5.4.2 The assemblage comprises pottery with a date range of AD 70-400+, although there is a slight emphasis on later Roman material. Pottery of immediately post-conquest date is absent. The assemblage is dominated by a variety of necked and everted rimmed jars in sandy grey ware (R20), Oxfordshire sandy grey ware (R21) and Oxfordshire medium sandy grey ware (R30). Early Roman activity is represented by a globular beaker (Young R31) in fine grey ware and a body sherd of south Gaulish samian (S20).
- 5.4.3 The presence of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval sherds among the Roman material, and the mixing of early and late Roman pottery within context-groups, suggests that much of the pottery has been redeposited at some point in the post-medieval period.

##### *Post-Roman Pottery by John Cotter (OA)*

- 5.4.4 A total of 8 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 132g were recovered. Overall the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition, although some sherds are quite fresh and fairly large. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented, these include a worn sherd of late Saxon St Neots-type ware (mainly 10th-11th century). There are three late medieval sherds (pit fill 312) including local Chalgrove-type ware jugs and a sherd of Tudor green ware. The remainder comprises local and Staffordshire-type late post-medieval wares of no great interest.

##### *Post-Roman Ceramic Building Material by John Cotter (OA)*

- 5.4.5 A total of 47 pieces of ceramic building materials (CBM) weighing 3691g were recovered. Most of the material is apparently of medieval date with a few probably residual Roman pieces also present. The assemblage is in a fragmentary condition but consists of a mixture of fairly fresh and abraded pieces. The bulk of the assemblage comprises fragments of medieval flat roofing tile (peg tile) of typical rectangular shape and fairly crude manufacture with a pair of circular nail holes at one end.
- 5.4.6 The tiles appear to be of medieval date (roughly 13th to 16th century) but are not closely datable. Some early post-medieval examples (16th to 17th century) may be present, but if so the difference is not obvious.

5.4.7 The Roman assemblage is small, abraded and quite possibly residual. These include fragments from two imbrices (including a fairly large piece from context 129) and small pieces of flat tile - probably tegulae.

***Metal and glass finds by Ian R Scott (OA)***

5.4.8 The finds from the evaluation come mainly from context 120 (Table 1) and comprise predominantly glass and iron objects. The assemblage from this context includes material clearly of a late 19th- to mid 20th-century date, including a fragment of glass from the front of the tuner of a mid 20th-century radio, a plastic and non-ferrous alloy toy, and machine made bottles. The material from context 146 comprises a single nail, and the finds from 314 a sherd of window glass and from 315 a fragment of a probable horseshoe.

***Table 1: Summary quantification of finds by material***

Context	glass*	fe	carbon	non-fe alloy	plastic	plastic & non-fe alloy	Totals
120	6 (13)	18	1	2	1	1	29
146		1					1
314	1						1
315		1					1
Totals	7 (14)	20	1	2	1	1	32

\* Figures in brackets shown number of sherds.

***Clay tobacco pipe by Andrew Norton (OA)***

5.4.9 Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from the fill of a pit, context 314. The stems displayed no evidence of markings or stamps. Due to the small size of the assemblage no attempt at stem bore analysis was made.

***Flint by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark***

5.4.10 An undated flint flake was recovered from the fill of a medieval pit (312).

***Stone by Ruth Shaffrey (OA)***

5.4.11 Two pieces of worked stone were recovered from pit fill 120. One is a piece of machine cut slate suggesting it is modern (19th century or later) in date. Another item is a piece of shaped marble with one polished surface, probably from a fire surround constructed in the existing workshops.

***Animal bones by Lena Strid (OA)***

5.4.12 A total of 106 animal bones were recovered from this site. Most bones were in a fairly good condition. Burned bones were absent, and eight bones displayed gnaw marks. The bone assemblage seems to be household refuse, rather than industrial waste. Cattle and sheep/goat predominated the assemblage and is to be considered normal, regardless of time period. The presence of dogs is evidenced by gnaw marks on eight cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones. Judging by the epiphyseal fusion, the cattle and sheep/goat bones mainly derived from sub-adult and adult animals.

- 5.4.13 Butchering marks were found on four bones. Horizontal cutmarks were found proximally on a sheep/goat metacarpal, indicating skinning. A vertebra from a large mammal had been split axially, suggesting suspension of the carcass during the butchering process. The glenoid process on a cattle scapula had been chopped off, and a pig femur displayed three horizontal cutmarks supradistally. These latter butchering marks have likely been caused by dismembering and filleting respectively.
- 5.4.14 A sheep/goat metacarpal had a hole drilled into the middle of the medial part of the proximal joint surface. Similar bones have been found in York and have there been interpreted at socketed points (MacGregor et al 1999:1989-1990).

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Reliability

- 6.1.1 A large amount of intercutting features were revealed during the work and the dating evidence may not be reliable. Several pits contained sherds of Roman pottery and single sherds of medieval tile. Based on the stratigraphy of the features, and the abraded and mixed nature of the Roman pottery, it appears that for the most part the Roman pottery is residual rather than the tile intrusive. Due to the large number of pits, only a sample were excavated. It is possible that the unexcavated pits contain dating evidence that will better define the chronology of the site, however, the excavated pits appear to have reliably characterised the archaeology of the site.

### 6.2 Conclusion

- 6.2.1 The evaluation revealed a number of features dating from the Roman period to the present day. The earliest features (a pit and ditch) were located in Trench 1, the ditch was aligned NW-SE, in contrast to the W-E aligned Roman town ditch to the south. The ditch may have remained open for some time as the upper fill contained late Saxon pottery, of course it is possible that the Roman pottery from the basal fills was residual. The ditch may have formed a boundary ditch relating to land use outside the Roman town, one fill (138) possibly derived from a slumped bank, and the pit may have formed a rubbish pit. The large amount of residual Roman pottery in the later features, suggests that this area to the north of the Roman town was probably utilised for agricultural or pastoral use.
- 6.2.2 The late Saxon pottery indicates that following the decline of the Roman infrastructure in the 5th or 6th centuries, the ditch remained open until it was infilled in the 10th or 11th centuries.
- 6.2.3 The majority of the features in all three trenches were medieval or undated pits. These may have formed rubbish pits or soil/gravel extraction pits to the rear of tenements fronting onto the High Street. No evidence for any property boundaries was revealed, though it is possible that the foundation in Trench 2 formed part of a wall separating two properties.

- 6.2.4 Post-medieval pitting was also evident, indicating the continued use of the properties fronting the High Street. The rubbish pits and soakaways probably date from when the site was used for garages and as a garden. The 20th century gravel quarry pit in Trench 1 may be associated with the current workshops.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1							
	100	Natural			Natural of trench		
	101	Cut	1.6 m	0.4 m	Root hole		
	102	Fill			Fill of root hole	Pot./bone	L17th-18th
	103	Cut	1.6 m	0.6 m	Ditch section		
	104	Fill			Fill of ditch	Pot/bone	10th-11th
	105	Cut	0.15 m	0.18 m	Water pipe trench		
	106	Fill			Fill of trench		
	107	Cut	1.6 m		Natural feature		
	108	Fill			Fill of feature		
	109	Cut	1.5 m		Modern rubbish pit		
	110	Fill			Fill of pit		
	111	Cut			Post hole for fence		
	112	Fill			Fill of post hole		
	113	VOID					
	114	VOID					
	115	Cut	0.20 m	0.45 m	Modern rubbish pit		
	116	Fill			Fill of pit		
	117	VOID					
	118	VOID					
	119	VOID					
	120	Fill			Back fill of quarry pit	CBM/glass/fe/stone	20th
	121	Cut	0.6 m	0.4 m	Modern rubbish pit		
	122	Fill			Fill of pit		
	123	Cut	1.75 m	0.9 m	Modern soakaway		
	124	Fill			Fill of soakaway		
	125	Cut	3.9 m	1.5 m	19th C quarry pit		
	126	Natural			Natural		
	127	Cut	0.4 m	0.1 m	Modern soakaway		
	128	Fill			Fill of soakaway		
	129	Fill			Fill of ditch section	Pot/CBM/bone	AD270-400+
	130	Layer		0.30 m	Cultivated soil horizon		
	131	Layer		0.40 m	Garden topsoil		
	132	Cut		0.2 m	Cut for hard standing		
	133	Layer		0.2 m	Modern yard surface		
	134	Cut	0.42 m	0.31 m	Pit		
	135	Fill			Fill of pit 134	CBM/bone	1200-1550?
	136	Cut	1.6 m	0.7 m	Ditch section		
	137	Fill			Fill of ditch section	bone	
	138	Fill			Fill of ditch section	Pot/bone	AD43-400+
	139	Fill			Fill of ditch section	Pot/bone	17th-19th
	140	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	141	Cut	0.06 m	0.1 m	Shallow rubbish pit		

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	142	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	143	Cut	0.8 m	0.44 m	Truncated rubbish pit		
	144	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	145	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	146	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit	fe	
	147	Cut	0.4 m	0.6 m	Rubbish pit		
	148	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit	pot/bone	AD70-400+
	149	Cut	1 m	0.44 m	Rubbish pit		
	150	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit	pot/CBM/bone	med?
	151	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	152	Cut	0.3 m	0.2 m	Small pit		
	153	Cut	0.2 m	0.06 m	Small pit		
	154	Cut	0.3 m	0.12 m	Small pit		
	155	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	156	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	157	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit	pot/CBM/bone	med?
	158	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit	pot/CBM/bone	med?
	159	VOID					
	160	Cut	0.64 m	0.2 m	Rubbish pit		
2							
	200	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit	CBM/bone	1200-1550?
	201	Cut	3 m	0.6 m	Rubbish pit		
	202	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	203	Cut	1.1 m		Rubbish pit		
	204	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	205	Cut	0.8 m		Rubbish pit		
	206	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit	CBM	1200-1550?
	207	Cut	1.1 m	0.3 m	Rubbish pit		
	208	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	209	Cut	1.3 m		Rubbish pit		
	210	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	211	Cut	2 m		Rubbish pit		
	212	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	213	Cut	3 m		Rubbish pit		
	214	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	215	Cut	1.3 m	0.7 m	Rubbish pit		
	216	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit	bone	
	217	Cut	3 m	0.5 m	Rubbish pit		
	218	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	219	Cut	1.6 m		Rubbish pit		
	220	Fill			Backfill of robbed wall	CBM/bone	1200-1550?
	221	Wall	0.2 m	0.3 m	Stone wall		
	222	Cut	0.26 m	0.3 m	Construction cut		
	223	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	224	Cut	0.3 m	0.26 m	Rubbish pit		
	225	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	226	Cut	1.5 m	0.25 m	Rubbish pit		
	227	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	228	Cut	3 m		Rubbish pit		
	229	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	230	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	231	Fill			Fill of rubbish pit		
	232	Cut	0.37 m	0.4 m	Truncated pit		
	233	Natural			Natural gravel		
	234	Layer		0.25 m	Cultivated soil		
	235	Layer		0.15 m	Gravel make up		
	236	Layer		0.1 m	Modern make up		
	237	Layer		0.2 m	Present yard surface		
3							
	300	Natural			Natural of trench		
	301	Cut	0.85 m	0.12 m	Root hole		
	302	Fill			Fill of root hole		
	303	Cut	0.75 m	0.2 m	Pit/root hole		
	304	Fill			Fill of feature 303		
	305	Cut	1.1 m	0.2 m	Root hole		
	306	Fill			Fill of root hole 305		
	307	Fill			Fill of root hole 305		
	308	Fill			Fill of root hole 305		
	309	Cut	0.38 m	0.12 m	Pit/root hole		
	310	Fill			Fill of feature hole 309		
	311	Cut	1.4 m	1.1 m	Large rubbish pit		
	312	Fill			Fill of pit 311	pot/CBM /flint/bone	cAD1375- 1550
	313	Cut	1 m	0.3 m	Rubbish pit		
	314	Fill			Fill of pit 313	pot/CBM /clay pipe/glass	Post-med?
	315	Cut	1.1 m	0.3 m	Rubbish pit	fe	
	316	Fill			Fill of pit 315	pot	Post-med?
	317	Cut	0.6 m		Rubbish pit		
	318	Fill			Fill of pit 317		
	319	Cut	0.3 m	0.5 m	Modern fence post hole		
	320	Fill			Fill of hole 319		
	321	Cut	0.42 m		Rubbish pit		
	322	Fill			Fill of pit 321		
	323	Layer		0.2 m	Garden topsoil		

## APPENDIX 2 ROMAN POTTERY

By Daniel Stansbie

### *Introduction and Methodology*

A total of 58 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 939 g, were recovered during the evaluation. This material was rapidly scanned to determine context-group dates and to assess the



character of the pottery. 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 most diagnostic pottery using OA's later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system (Booth 2004). Reference was also made to Young's report on the Roman pottery industry of the Oxford region (Young 1977).

### ***Condition***

An average sherd weight of 16 g belies the condition of the assemblage, which is poor to moderate; with some sherds clearly having been damaged during the course of redeposition in medieval and post-medieval contexts. Levels of residuality are high, with 25% of groups which include Roman pottery also including Saxon, medieval or post-medieval pottery (see below). In addition, some groups which are dominated by late Roman pottery include residual early Roman sherds.

### ***Description ( Table: A2.1)***

The assemblage comprises pottery with a date range of AD70-400+, although there is a slight emphasis on later Roman material. Pottery of immediately post-conquest date is absent. The assemblage is dominated by a variety of necked and everted rimmed jars in sandy grey ware (R20), Oxfordshire sandy grey ware (R21) and Oxfordshire medium sandy grey ware (R30). These are supplemented by necked jars in shell-tempered fabrics (C10) and late Roman shell-tempered fabrics (C11), a storage jar in coarse tempered fabrics and a small number of Dorset black burnished ware body sherds (B11). In addition there are body sherds of sandy oxidised ware (O20), Oxfordshire sandy oxidised ware (O21) and sandy white ware (O20) and a necked jar (Young W33.6) in Oxfordshire sandy white ware. Early Roman activity is represented by a globular beaker (Young R31) in fine grey ware and a body sherd of south Gaulish samian (S20). Later Roman material includes body sherds and two dishes (Young C45) in Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (F51) and two Oxford white ware mortaria (M22, Young M22 and M17/18).

### ***Potential***

The pottery has little potential for further study. The presence of Saxon, medieval and post-medieval sherds among the Roman material, and the mixing of early and late Roman pottery within context-groups, suggests that much of the pottery has been redeposited at some point in the post-medieval period. The assemblage is small and cannot be relied upon to provide information on site status or function. The pottery seems, unsurprisingly, to have been supplied largely from the Oxfordshire industries, with only small contributions from other regional and continental sources.

**Table A2.1 : Roman and post-Roman pottery**

Context	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Fabric/Form	Spot date
102	1	6	R20 sandygrey ware, post-medieval	L17-18C
104	4	22	O20 sandy oxidised ware, R11 fine Oxfordshire grey ware, Saxon	10-11C
129	14	151	R90 coarse tempered reduced fabrics (1 storage jar), R21 coarse sandy Oxfordshire fabric, R11 fine Oxfordshire grey ware (1 beaker Young R31), C10 shell-tempered fabric, S20 South Gaulish samian ware, O11 fine Oxfordshire oxidised, F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware	270-400+
138	1	38	R90 reduced coarse-tempered ware	AD43-400+
139	5	23	R20 sandy grey ware (1 jar), O20 sandy oxidised ware, F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware ( 1 bowl Young C61), O11 fine Oxfordshire oxidised fabric, O21 Oxfordshire sandy oxidised ware (1 bowl Young type O39), post-medieval	17-19C
148	2	50	R11 fine Oxfordshire grey ware, C10 shell-tempered fabric (1 necked jar)	AD70-400+
150	3	31	R20 sandy grey ware, R30 Oxfordshire medium sandy grey ware (1 necked jar), W22 Oxfordshire sandy white ware ( 1 necked jar Young W33.6)	AD 50-400+
157	2	23	R30 medium sandy grey ware, R11 Oxfordshire fine grey ware	AD70-400+
158	2	4	R21 Oxfordshire sandy grey ware, R11 fine Oxfordshire grey ware, W20 sandy white ware ( 1 everted rim jar)	AD70-400+
214	1	18	R21 Oxfordshire sandy grey ware (1 jar)	AD70-400+
216	1	115	M22 Oxfordshire white ware mortaria (Young M22)	AD240-400+
312	15	360	R90, coarse tempered reduced fabrics (1 jar), R30 Oxfordshire medium sandy grey ware(1 jar), R21 coarse sandy Oxfordshire fabric, R11 fine Oxfordshire grey ware (1 beaker/jar), B11 Dorset black-burnished ware, O20 sandy oxidised ware, W10 sandy white ware (1 jar base), F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (1 dish-Young C45), C11 late Roman shell-tempered fabrics (2 everted rim jars), medieval	cAD1375-1550
314	6	87	R90 coarse-tempered fabric, R21 Oxfordshire sandy grey ware, F51 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (1 dish Young C45), M22 Oxfordshire white ware mortaria ( Young M17/18)	AD240-300
316	1	11	R30 medium sandy grey ware	AD43-400
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>939</b>		

### APPENDIX 3 POST-ROMAN POTTERY

By John Cotter

#### *Methodology*

A total of 8 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 132g were recovered. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet.

#### *Description*

Overall the pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary condition, although some sherds are quite fresh and fairly large. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. The types present are described in more detail in the table. These include a worn sherd of late Saxon St Neots-type ware (mainly 10th-11th century). There are three late medieval sherds (context 312) including local Chalgrove-type ware jugs and a sherd of Tudor green ware. The remainder comprises local and Staffordshire-type late post-medieval wares of no great interest (see Table A2.1 above).

#### *Potential*

None of these pottery types is new to the Dorchester area. In view of the small size and poor condition of the assemblage.

### APPENDIX 4 POST-ROMAN CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By John Cotter

#### *Introduction and Methodology*

A total of 47 pieces of ceramic building materials (CBM) weighing 3691g were recovered although this includes a single piece of modern asbestos (25g) and a piece of modern concrete tile (104g), both from context 120. Most of the material is apparently of medieval date with a few probably residual Roman pieces also present. The CBM was recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in a similar way to the pottery (see above) and approximate spot-dates assigned. Measurable dimensions were recorded for some of the more complete pieces.

#### *Date and Nature of the Assemblage*

The CBM assemblage is in a fragmentary condition but consists of a mixture of fairly fresh and abraded pieces. The bulk of the assemblage comprises fragments of medieval flat roofing tile (peg tile) of typical rectangular shape and fairly crude manufacture with a pair of circular nail holes at one end. None preserves its complete dimensions although the width of one tile can be estimated at around 160mm (context 312). Thicknesses are mostly in the 14-17mm range, which is fairly thick. The tiles appear to be of medieval date (roughly 13th to 16th century) but are not closely datable. Some early post-medieval examples (16th to 17th century) may be present, but if so the difference is not obvious. Most occur in an orange-red sandy fabric typical of medieval sites in and around Oxford although some are in a lighter orange-buff fabric with fine streaks or inclusions of white marl. This lighter fabric has more in common with medieval tile fabrics known from Chalgrove Manor and which are thought to originate from the kilns at nearby Nettlebed a few miles south-east of Dorchester. None of the tiles is definitely glazed although a few examples show accidental patches of greyish ash glazes along the edges. One roof tile corner is in a much finer later-looking brick-red fabric and is probably of 19th- or 20th-century date - a fact confirmed by its association with the

asbestos and concrete tile fragments mentioned above (context 120). Other than flat tiles, two joining pieces from the end of a plain curved ridge tile were also noted (context 312).

The assemblage includes six pieces (684g) of Roman CBM, most of it small, abraded and quite possibly residual. These include fragments from two imbrices (including a fairly large piece from context 129) and small pieces of flat tile - probably tegulae. All of these are in orange-red fabrics.

**Table A4.1 Ceramic Building Material**

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
120	20C	3	155	1x asbestos tile frag (25g). 1x pink-brown concrete-like tile (104g). 1x corner frag 19-20C brick-red pegtile - much cleaner smoother inclusion-free fabric than med tiles described below
129	Roman	2	319	1x red imbrex profile, fairly sub-angular cross-section. 1x scrap flat tile ?tegula
135	1200-1550?	1	21	Edge of pegtile 14mm thick. Orange-buff coarse sandy. Prob med?
150	1200-1550?	2	96	1x med pegtile frag max 15mm thick. 1x v abraded prob Roman tegula frag (62g)
157	1200-1550?	1	17	Worn pegtile edge 13mm thick
158	1200-1550?	2	44	Joining pegtile frags, 14mm thick. Streaky fabric (see 312)
200	1200-1550?	1	33	Pegtile or ?ridge tile corner frag w traces ash glaze or scorching. Dense fabric. 17mm thick
206	1200-1550?	6	417	Pegtile frags incl edges. 1 with thin prob accidental ash glaze on ext surf & edge. Thicknesses 14-15mm. 1 with marl-streaked fab
220	1200-1550?	3	180	Pegtile frags incl edges & corner frag in pale brown-buff fabric. 1 orange-buff w some marl streaks. Thicknesses 13-15mm. 1 overfired hard orange-brown with sandwich grey core & grey scorched/fired edge - poss a waster? Or at least a seconds. Latter with circ nailhole 15mm diam.
312	1200-1550?	25	2205	Mostly med pegtile and few edge frags of plain med ridge tile but some smaller flat bits could possibly be Roman? 3x fairly definite Roman pieces (303g) incl imbrex scrap & 2 tegula frags incl edge frag with knife cut trimming (these seen by Cynthia Poole). Roman denser orange-red fabric, 1 v abraded. Medieval is mostly pale orange to orange brown & grey-brown sandy pegtile frags incl fairly large corner frag (15mm thick) w complete circ nailhole 13mm across & trace of another (estimated complete tile width c160mm). Another smaller frag (14mm) w circ nailhole also 13mm diam. Thickness of others pegtiles = 14-17mm. Basically as Ox tile fabric IIIB but with more white marl streaks & pellets as Ox St Giles Classics Centre assemblage - poss Nettlebed area origin? No definite glaze but trace ash glaze on one. 2x joining plain ridge tile edge frags from near curved top, max 17mm thick, streaky fabric - easily confused with imbrex

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
314	1200-1550?	1	204	Fresh pegtile lower corner frag 14-15mm thick. Fairly irreg. Patchy ash glaze on lower edge & adjacent surfaces. Sub-circ dent or blemish on upper surface c17mm diam - poss caused by impression of perforating tool? Nettlebed/Chalgrove-type fabric with red iron-rich inclusions
TOTAL		47	3691	

## APPENDIX 5 ANIMAL BONES

*By Lena Strid*

A total of 106 animal bones were recovered from this site. Most bones were in a fairly good condition (see Lyman 1994:355 for definitions). Burned bones were absent, and eight bone displayed gnaw marks. The bone assemblage seems to be household refuse, rather than industrial waste.

The predominance of cattle and sheep/goat in the assemblage (see Table A5.1) is to be considered normal, regardless of time period. The presence of dogs is evidenced by gnaw marks on eight cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones.

Judging by the epiphyseal fusion, the cattle and sheep/goat bones mainly derived from sub-adult and adult animals.

Butchering marks were found on four bones. Horizontal cutmarks were found on proximally on a sheep/goat metacarpal, indicating skinning. A vertebra from a large mammal had been split axially, suggesting suspension of the carcass during the butchering process. The glenoid process on a cattle scapula had been chopped off, and a pig femur displayed three horizontal cutmarks supradistally. These latter butchering marks have likely been caused by dismembering and filleting respectively.

Bones with pathological conditions were absent in the assemblage.

A sheep/goat metacarpal had a hole drilled into the middle of the medial part of the proximal joint surface. Similar bones have been found in York and have there been interpreted at socketed points (MacGregor et al 1999:1989-1990).

No further information can be gained from such a small sample of bones.

**Table A5.1. Bone assemblage**

	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Bird	Small mammal	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Indet.
Skull	1		2					
Mandible	1	1	1					
Loose teeth	4							
Axis	1							
Vertebra							9	
Rib						3	15	
Scapula	2						2	
Humerus	1							
Radius	2	2	1					
Ulna	1	1	1	1				
Metacarpal		2						
Femur	1		1					
Tibia		3						
Astragalus	1							
Metatarsal	2	1						
Phalanx 1	2							
Indeterminate metapodial			1		1			
Longbone						11	9	
Indeterminate								19
TOTAL	19	10	7	1	1	14	35	19
Weight (g)	1443	110	133	0	0	26	933	133

**Table A5.2 Animal bones per context**

Context	Species	No. of bones (refitted)	Sum of weight (g)
102	Cattle	2	119
	Sheep/goat	1	
	Pig	1	
	Medium mammal	2	
	Large mammal	2	
	Indeterminate	3	
104	Medium mammal	2	11
	Indeterminate	3	
129	Medium mammal	2	79
	Large mammal	1	
135	Sheep/goat	1	3
	Indeterminate	1	
137	Sheep/goat	1	21
	Small mammal	1	
	Medium mammal	1	
138	Medium mammal	1	5
	Indeterminate	2	
139	Medium mammal	4	14
	Large mammal	1	
	Indeterminate	1	
148	Cattle	2	213
	Sheep/goat	2	
	Pig	1	
	Large mammal	3	
	Indeterminate	3	
150	Cattle	2	118
	Sheep/goat	2	
	Large mammal	1	
	Indeterminate	1	
157	Cattle	4	147
	Sheep/goat	2	
	Medium mammal	2	
	Large mammal	3	
	Indeterminate	1	
158	Large mammal	1	7
200	Large mammal	1	35
216	Large mammal	10	347
220	Large mammal	2	40
312	Cattle	7	1448
	Sheep/goat	1	
	Pig	4	
	Large mammal	6	
	Indeterminate	3	
314	Bird	1	8
	Large mammal	1	
316	Cattle	2	146
	Large mammal	3	

**APPENDIX 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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**APPENDIX 7 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** Land between 32 and 36 High Street, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

**Site code:** DOHIGH 07

**Grid reference:** NGR SU 5779 9438

**Type of evaluation:** Three trench evaluation on site of new housing development.

**Date and duration of project:** One week from the 12th February to 16th February 2007.

**Area of site:** Three trenches measuring 19.5 m x 1.6 m, 10.5 m x 1.6 m and 5.5 m x 1.6 m.

**Summary of results:** Roman ditch and pit revealed to the north of the Roman town ditch, medieval and post medieval pitting seen within the yards of properties fronting the High Street.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2007.6





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Figure 1: Site location

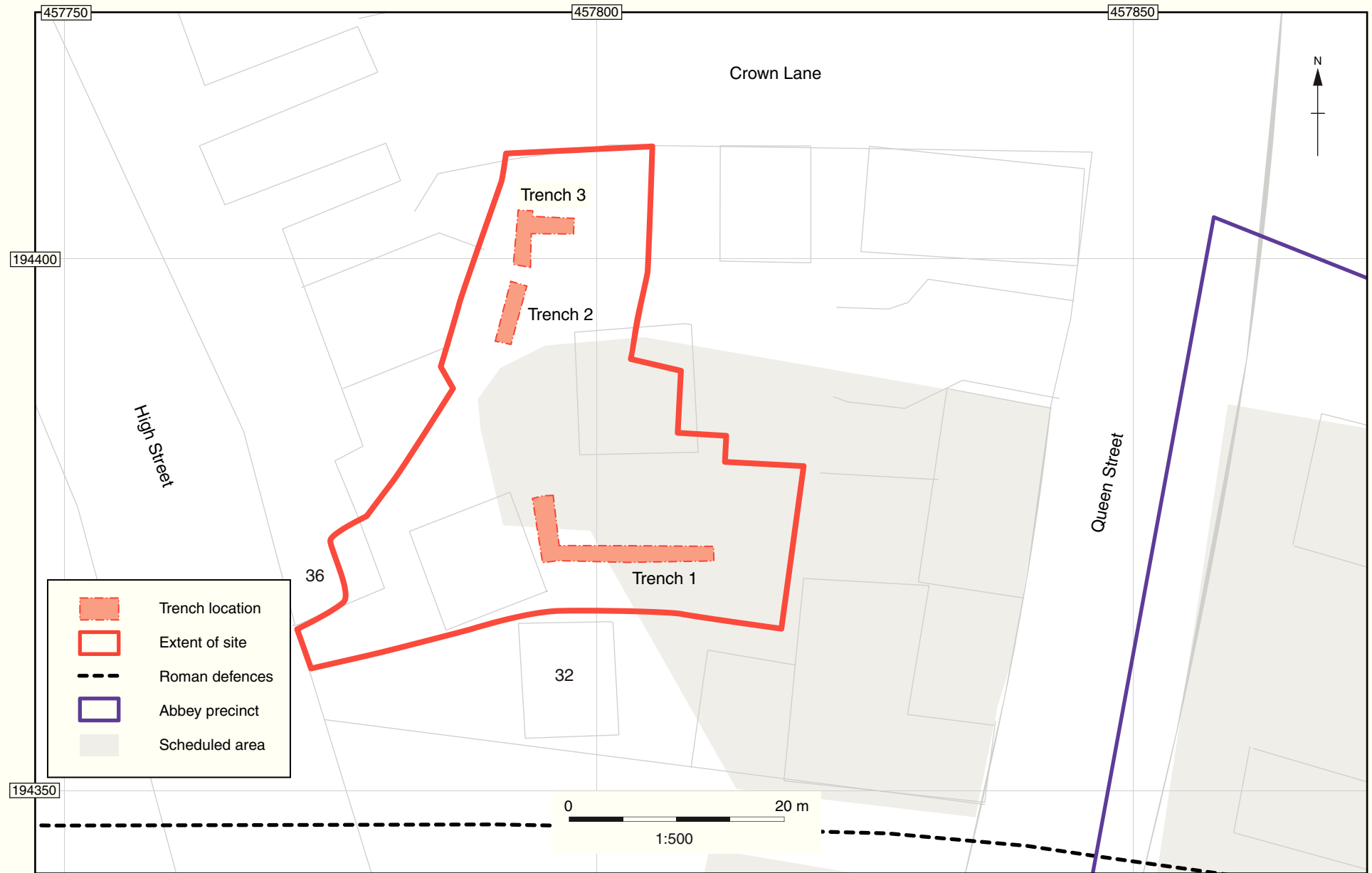


Figure 2: Trench location



### Trench 1 Plan

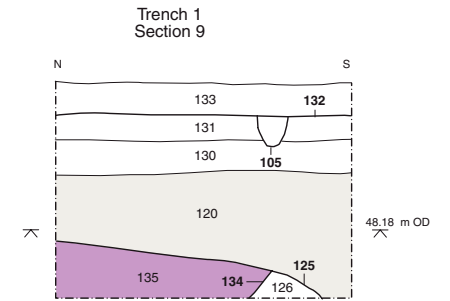
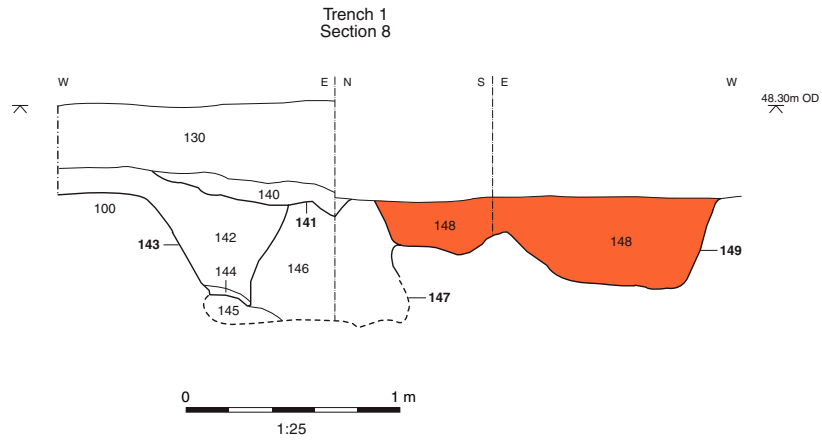
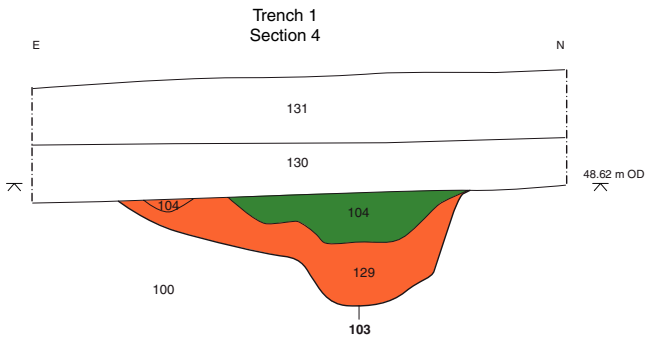
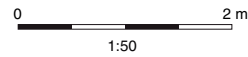
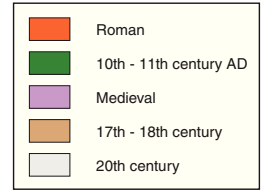
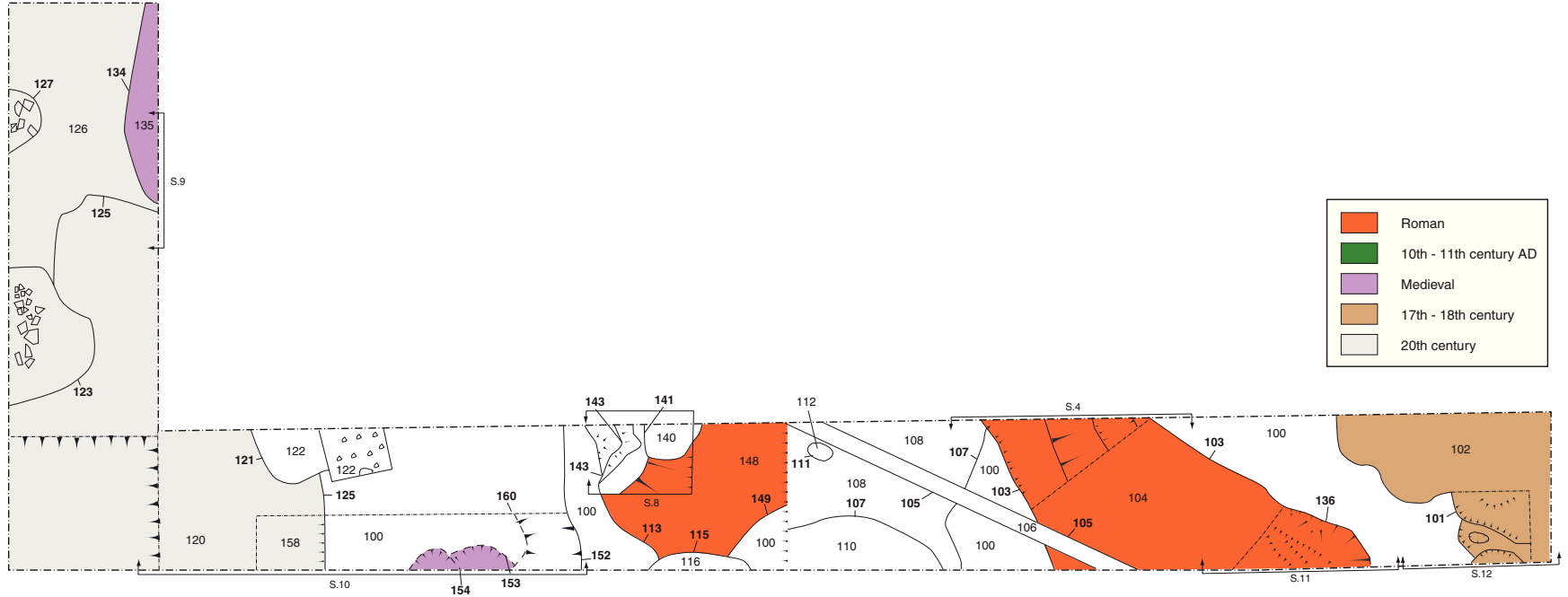


Figure 3 :Trench 1, plan and sections

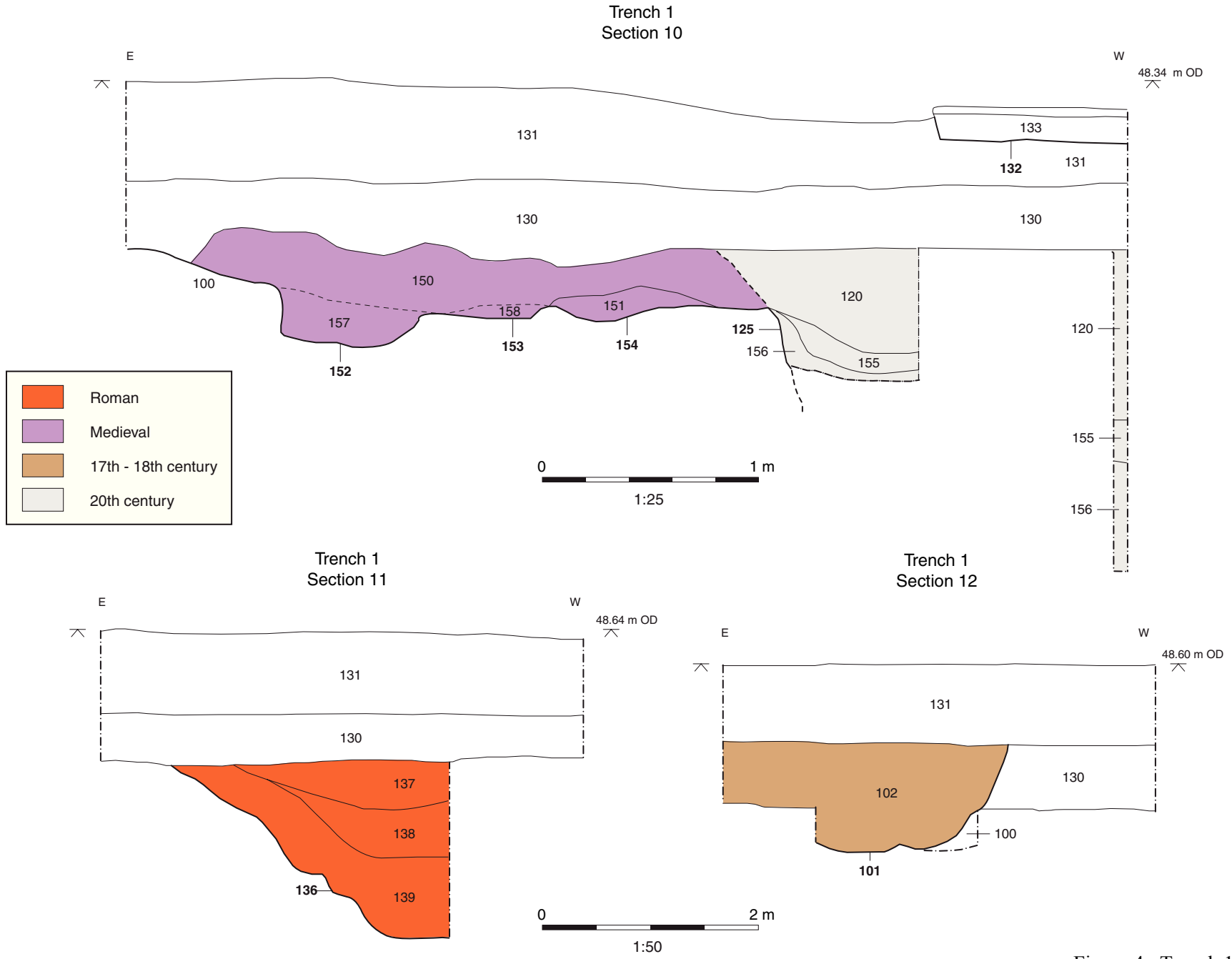
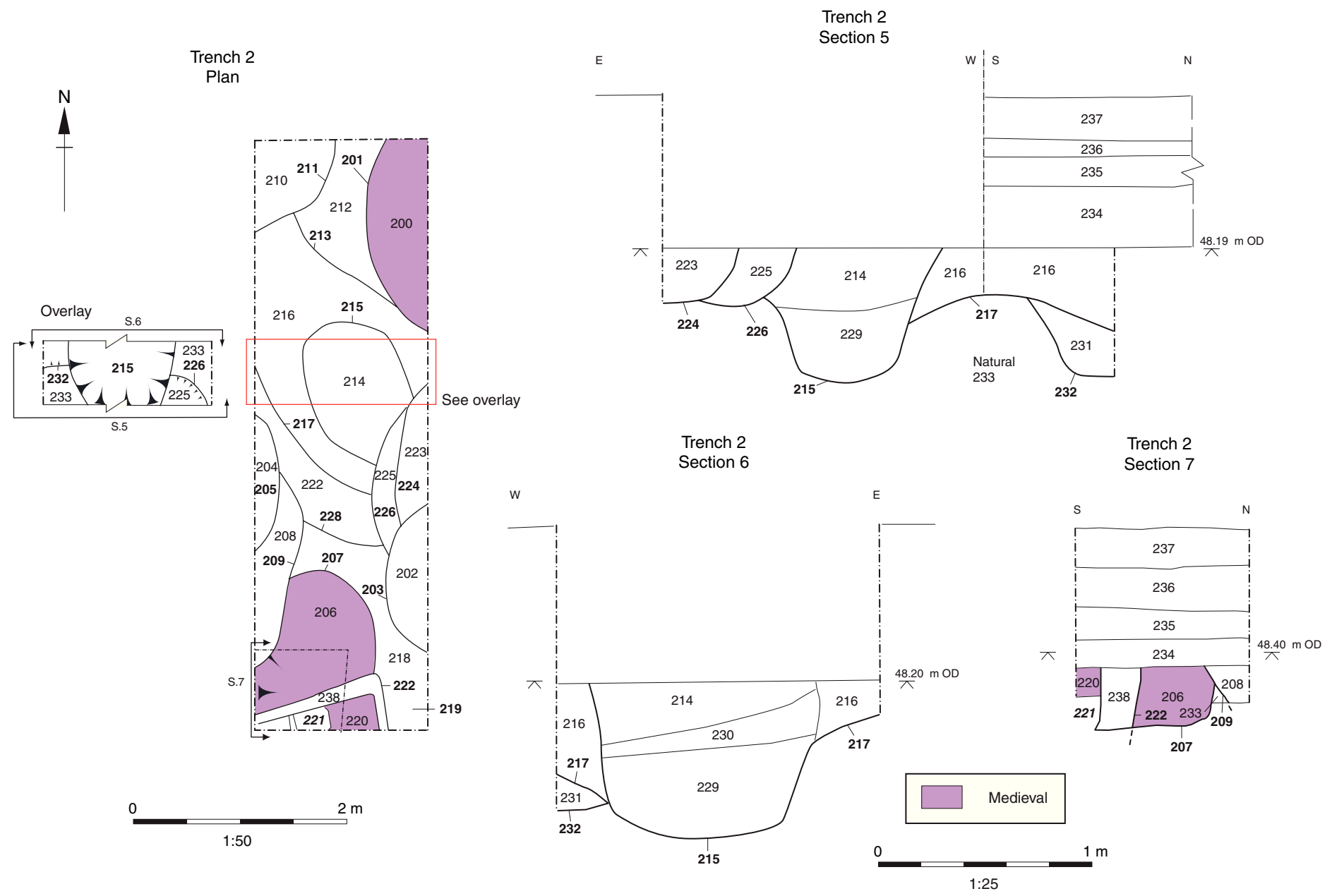


Figure 4 : Trench 1, sections



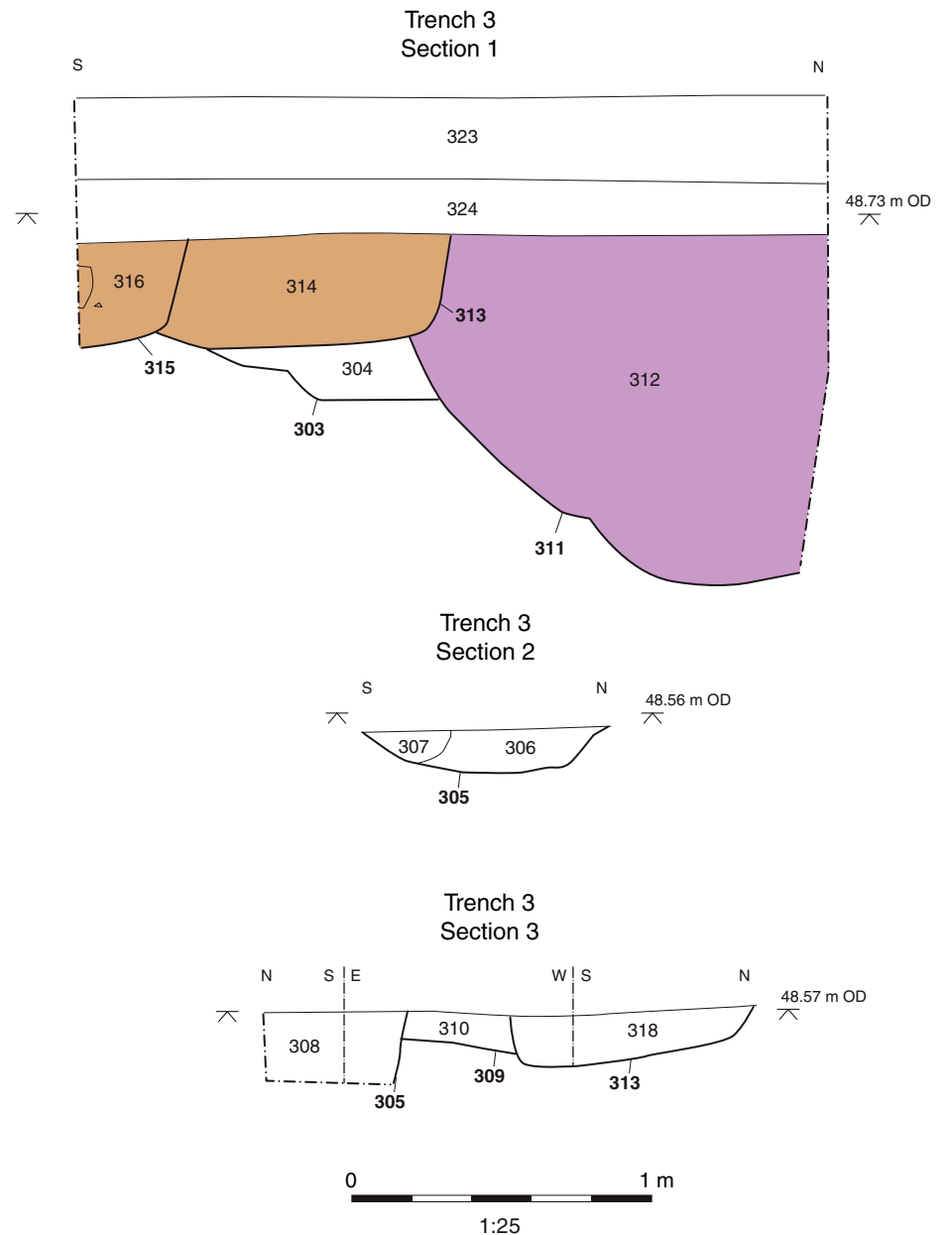
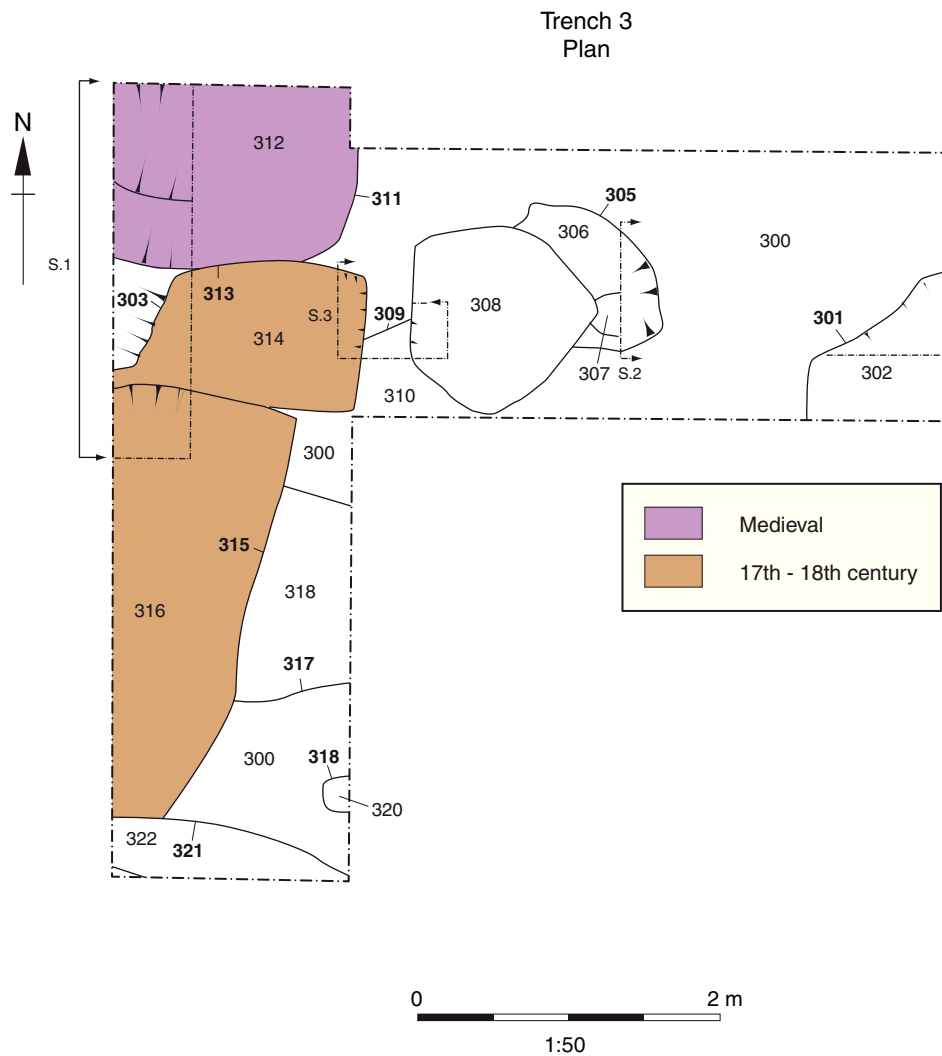






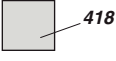








Figure 6: Trench 3, plan and sections

	Section line and number
	Section through feature not illustrated with section drawing
	Limit of excavation
	Sondage / Interior limit of excavation
	Fill line and number
	Cut line and number
	Structure number
	Unclear boundary
	Stones
	Hachures indicate inclination of slope inside excavated feature
	Levels
	Grid point
	Continuation line (trench edge continues)



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