

Rushey Weir Bampton Oxfordshire



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Rushey Weir, Bampton, Oxfordshire

Evaluation report

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Summary

In April 2013 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Rushey Weir, Bampton, Oxfordshire on behalf of the Environment Agency who are proposing to construct a fish pass at the site. The evaluation comprised four 8 m long trenches equally spaced along the route of the proposed fish pass that is situated on land, immediately south of the River Thames, and between two early Neolithic Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Three of the four trenches were targeted on the locations of known cropmarks while the fourth represented a control trench.

Archaeological features were found in all four trenches. Trench 1 located over a large discrete cropmark revealed a large tree-throw containing late Mesolithic or early Neolithic flints, and a small pit that contained a single sherd of late Bronze Age pottery. Trench 2 was located over a very similar cropmark and revealed a large pit of Medieval date with pottery and animal bone, cut by a shallow N-S orientated ditch. Trench 4 revealed one of the two ditches that were present as cropmark evidence. This feature was fairly substantial and contained medieval pottery sherds. It was cut by a large pit containing more medieval pottery but this feature appeared to cut the subsoil and the sherds may be residual. Despite its size, the pit was not visible as a cropmark. Trench 3 was the control trench and revealed a possible pit and a posthole, with no finds and part of a feature that has been interpreted as a treethrow or paleochannel which contained a small number of struck flint.

The results of the evaluation indicate that archaeological remains survive at the site, and date to the late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic, Bronze Age and Medieval periods. Some of this activity is probably contemporary with the adjacent SAMs, but there is a possibility that some predates them; the medieval remains attest to previously unacknowledged occupation from this period and perhaps attest to the historical longevity of the weir.

The positions of the excavated features broadly corresponded with the known cropmarks, other features were not visible as cropmarks, and some cropmarks did not appear to have corresponding features.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by the Environment Agency (EA) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Rushey Weir, Oxfordshire to inform their proposal for the construction of a new fish pass at the site. This report details the results of that field evaluation.
- 1.1.2 Although no formal brief had been prepared, OA compiled a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), (OA, 2013), for the works in conjunction with Stephen Kemp, Archaeologist for the Environment Agency.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation, which equated to c. 6% of the proposed development area, comprised four 8 m long by 1.9 m wide trenches equally spaced, along the route of the proposed fish pass, immediately south of the River Thames, and between two early Neolithic Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Three of the four trenches were targeted on the locations of known cropmarks while the fourth represented a control trench.
- 1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with the standards and methodology established in the WSI as well as local and national planning policies (NPPF).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site measures 1,059 m² in size and is situated on the southern banks of the River Thames at Rushey Weir, which is located 8 miles south of Witney and approximately 2 miles south-west of Bampton (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The site lies at c. 66.5 m above OD, and is situated on the Holocene alluvium (clays and silts) which overlie sands and gravels deposited during the Pleistocene period. The underlying solid geology is of the Oxford Clay Formation Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 154 to 164 million years ago in the Jurassic Period.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 In 2012 OA conducted a Strip, Map and Sample Excavation (SMS) immediately to the north of the site of the current evaluation area (OA, 2012). This work revealed that the NE part of the excavation area had been previously disturbed probably during the original construction of the weir. However, to the SW two curvilinear ditches, and a pit were revealed. One ditch was part of a 'D' shaped field boundary, still partially in use today, whilst the other was probably part of an enclosure adjacent to the river. Both ditches yielded post-medieval finds, and the pit cut one of the ditches and so was also post-medieval.
- 1.3.2 The following archaeological and historical background has been modified from the report on those works (*ibid.* 3 - 5).

Paleolithic and Mesolithic

- 1.3.3 The river terrace gravels are the principal sources of Palaeolithic artefacts in the Oxfordshire region. There are however, some hints of activity on the higher ground in the Oxfordshire region, such as the Corallian Ridge to the south-west. There are no recorded sites or finds of Palaeolithic origin in close proximity to the site. Case (1986) has suggested that the higher ground above the Thames may have been used for Early Mesolithic settlement or exploitation and the location of the weir is relatively low lying.



Neolithic

- 1.3.4 The site lies between a complex of crop marks recently discovered from aerial photos as part of the National Mapping Program. The crop marks demonstrate the presence of archaeological remains, including a Neolithic 'causewayed enclosure', and a Neolithic 'mortuary enclosure', as well as several features such as pits, ring ditches and a ditched trackway, which probably represent activity from other periods. The significance of these remains has been acknowledged and they are now offered statutory protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM's).
- 1.3.5 The causewayed enclosure, (SAM No. 1021368) lies to the northwest and west of the site. It measures approximately 225 m across at its widest point, and forms a D-shape, or rough semi-circle, truncated by the southern bank of the Thames. It consists of segments of ditch about 4 m wide, varying in length between 7 m and 26 m and separated by causeways measuring 1 m to 7 m wide. The north west end of the enclosure is hidden beneath rough pasture, and its extent here can only be surmised. A section of the boundary ditches to the south and about half the interior are also partially concealed by a large amorphous crop mark. The area of the interior beyond this is dotted with pits which may be contemporary with the enclosure or possibly natural features.
- 1.3.6 This crop mark also masks a section of two small sub-circular single ditched features, one just outside the enclosure to the south, the other within the eastern sector of the interior. Both measure between 15m and 20m in diameter; but the larger circle, attached to the southern edge of the enclosure, has the wider ditch, measuring about 3 m to 4 m across.
- 1.3.7 The remains of a long mortuary enclosure, (SAM No. 1021369) is situated to the south of the site as a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure on aerial photographs. The enclosure is broadly orientated east-west and measures c. 90 m by 34 m. There appear to be several breaks in the boundary ditch but the entrance is thought to lie on the northern side, facing the causewayed enclosure to the north west. There may be another entrance at the eastern end. A small rectangular feature is visible at the centre of the enclosure, along with a scatter of smaller features, interpreted as pits, across the whole of the interior.

Later prehistoric

- 1.3.8 The pattern for earlier Bronze Age archaeology shows a focus of settlement activity on the alluvium close to the River Thames, with ritual sites located on the higher ground of the valley slopes. Later in the Bronze Age settlement and farming activity also extended up onto the higher ground. Iron Age activity over this region appears to primarily consist of pastoral exploitation of the valley floodplains, with more intensive arable farming again tending to be located on the higher ground. There is some evidence that arable cultivation may have spread out over previously pastoral landscapes of the valley floodplains by about the 4th century BC, when enclosed settlements become more common.

Roman

- 1.3.9 The use of the landscape in the Roman period would have been very similar to that of the later Iron Age, consisting of small farmsteads set in enclosures with mixed field systems and trackways. This pattern of land use is likely to have been spread over both the floodplain and the higher ground.



- 1.3.10 It has been suggested that the chief east-west route through Bampton formed part of an inferred minor Roman road which crossed the river Windrush at Gill Mill and entered Bampton from the north-east. This route possibly following the later Kingsway Lane, and passing just south of the later market place.
- 1.3.11 Immediately to the south of the 'causewayed enclosure' crop marks show what is probably the intersection of two ditched trackways running broadly east- west and north – south. This junction is included within SAM No. 1021368. The route southwards can be seen crossing the next field, and its ditches appear again as a cropmark three fields, or about 400 m further south. The form of these tracks suggests a Roman date.

Medieval

- 1.3.12 The road from Brize Norton, and a pre-enclosure road from Witney and Lew which formerly intersected it north of the town, were probably also ancient, and like the inferred Roman road seem to have been diverted to funnel into the market place perhaps in the 13th century. Barcote Way, south of the town, a small lane in 1789, originated possibly as a southwards continuation of those roads, crossing the Thames at or near Rushey Weir and continuing to Barcote in Berkshire (Crossley and Currie eds. 1996).
- 1.3.13 Early records from 1425 refer to the use of land near Rushey Weir for the grazing of 'horses or ploughbeasts' Rushey Weir, suggest the land was used as part of grazing land associated with nearby Bampton.

Post-medieval

- 1.3.14 There had been a flash lock further upstream known as Old Nan's Weir, which had been deemed unsuitable for a pound lock in 1790, and eventually removed in mid 19th century. In 1871 Rushey weir was in a bad state of repair and was subsequently repaired. A new lock keepers cottages was built in 1894 and the lock was later rebuilt in 1898 (Fred 1920).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The fieldwork was managed for OA by Ben Ford, Dan Poore and Granville Laws and conducted by Mike Donnelly, Lee Sparks and Conan Parsons. OA would like to thank Gary Whooten and Craig Eyles of Jacksons construction Ltd for their kind assistance during the fieldwork. Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General and Specific Aims

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in detail in the WSI (OA, 2013) were as follows;.
- 2.1.2 The general aims of the evaluation were to:
- (i) establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area;
 - (ii) determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation under full area excavation;
 - (iii) determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise;
 - (iv) characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon younger (overlying) deposits where possible;



- (v) determine the palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits; and
- (vi) make available the results of the investigation to inform any further mitigation strategy.

2.1.3 The specific aims of the evaluation were to:

- (vii) establish the character and extent of any Neolithic activity, noting the potential for Neolithic settlement and burials in this location.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The trial trenching adhered to the methodology established in the WSI (OA 2013).

2.2.2 Four trenches measuring 8 m long by 1.8 m wide were investigated. All were laid out by a surveyor using a Leica RX1250XC Global Positioning System tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum level.

2.2.3 All mechanical excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the close supervision of an archaeologist.

2.2.4 Any archaeological features exposed was sufficiently sample excavated to achieve the aims. Archaeological finds were recovered by context. Modern finds of glass, china and plastic were recorded but not retained.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 Four evaluation trenches were opened to the level of the natural deposits. Three of the four trenches had been sited over known cropmarks while the fourth (Trench 3) located over an area free of cropmarks as a control trench. All three of the cropmark sited trenches revealed remains that corresponded to those cropmarks. However, in each instance, an additional feature was present that did not show up as a cropmark. Additionally, one of the two ditches that trench 4 was located over failed to materialise.

3.1.2 Full trench description can be found below, supported by figures and plates and context inventories in Appendix 1. The finds reports follow the trench descriptions after which is a discussion and interpretation.

3.2 Trench Descriptions

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 1)

3.2.1 Trench 1 contained two features, one of which corresponded closely to the cropmark evidence. Another smaller feature was located close by. Both features extended beyond the trench edge so their exact extents are unknown.

3.2.2 Large treethrow (105) measured at least 3.5m by 1.1m by 0.5m in depth with an irregular profile and contained two fills, both of which contained struck flint. Upper fill 107 was a reddish brown sandy clay while the lower fill (106) was a yellowish brown sandy silt. Struck flint was far more common in the upper fill. This feature was carefully excavated by trowel with the locations of each flint recorded in relation to its section.

3.2.3 The second feature (103) was far smaller and might represent a pit but may also be natural in origin. It was filled with 104, a similar deposit to 107 in tree-throw 105, however, struck flints were not present and the sole find was a sherd of probable late Bronze Age pottery.



Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 2)

- 3.2.4 Trench 2 was also located over a large pit-like cropmark and revealed a large pit (204) directly beneath the cropmark. It also contained a fairly shallow ditch (208) that ran across the trench from north to south and cut the pit. Both the pit and the ditch contained significant amounts of visible snail shells something that was noticeably absent in the much earlier features identified in Trench 1.
- 3.2.5 Large pit (204) measured at least 2.2 m by 0.78 m by 0.46 m in depth with an open bowl-shaped profile. It contained two fills, the lower of which (206) was a grey fine sandy clay that may have been a lining or simply the residue of an organic-based fill such as domestic rubbish. The upper fill (205) was far more sandy and a dark yellowish brown colour. It contained the majority of the finds with Medieval pottery dating to c. 1250-1350, residual struck flint and animal bone present.
- 3.2.6 Ditch 208, which cut the fills of pit 204, had a shallow open profile with a single reddish brown sandy clay fill (203=207) which contained pottery dating to c. 900-1250, animal bone and residual flint.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 4; Plates 3 and 4)

- 3.2.7 Trench 3 was located over an area free of cropmarks. Three potential features were identified all containing the same dark grey sandy clay fills that suggest these may be very old and might be even represent natural events such as root action, tree-throws or a putative paleochannel.
- 3.2.8 Feature (309) in the southwest corner of the trench was close to feature (306) in the northwest corner, the former had irregularly sloped sides, whereas the later had a more regular profile, however both could have been part of the same feature, possibly defining an undulating edge of a paleochannel or a crescentic treethrow.
- 3.2.9 Both features 306 and 309 contained a browner upper fill (305 & 307), while lower fill 308 from paleochannel/treethrow 309 contained two struck flints including a burnt probable microburin of Mesolithic date.
- 3.2.10 One possible posthole was also present (304) containing the same very sterile mid grey fine sandy clay fill (303).

Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 4; Plate 5)

- 3.2.11 Trench 4 was located over a meeting point of two cropmarks believed to be ditches. The trench had to be moved slightly due to a fuel leak and the very confined nature of the working area. One of the two ditches was present in the trench (406=410). A second ditch (404=408) that did not match the expected second cropmark was hinted at along the western edge although it may have simply been a bend in ditch 406. A large pit (414) was also present that cut ditch 410. This feature did not show up as a cropmark.
- 3.2.12 Ditch 406 had a wide open profile at the top before dipping steeply downwards with a double concave/convex break of slope. Its flattish base was met in slot 410 but only the lower step was encountered in slot 406. It measured at least 1.1m in width and 0.62m in depth. Its three fills consisted of a primary mid grey silty clay with frequent small stone inclusions (413), a secondary (409=412) dark brownish grey pebbly/sandy clay and an upper (405=411) dark yellow brown pebbly/sandy/clay. The only finds recovered from here was some animal bone from fill 409.



- 3.2.13 Ditch 404 was encountered along the western edge of the trench and had an exposed width of no more than 0.25m with a very shallow profile. It was believed to represent the same feature as 406 but investigation of that ditch showed it to be very deep. A third intervention was put into the trench where the bend between 404 and 406 lay. Here the relationship between the two was unclear but seemed to indicate that 406 cut 404. Ditch 404's profile did match the uppermost flaring portion of ditch 406 and the possibility remains that we simply identified a sharp bend in a single ditched feature. Ditch 404 had one fill (405) bereft of finds.
- 3.2.14 Pit 414 was oval in plan and would be fairly massive if fully defined its circumference with the trench. The excavated portion measured 2.5m in width and 0.56m in depth with a rounded 'U' shaped profile and four distinct fills (414-418). Finds were concentrated in middle fill 416, a mid reddish brown fine pebbly, sandy clay. Basal fill 418 was a dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent fine pebble inclusions while upper fill 415 consisted of a pale yellow deposit of sandy pebble redeposited natural. This feature appeared to cut the subsoil but it is also possible that any organic fill may have slumped leading to the impression this impression. The feature clearly did not contain modern finds with medieval pottery dating to 1150-1350AD and some animal bone representing the only discoveries.

3.3 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.3.1 In general, the topsoil that sealed the site was quite thick (0.35 m average depth) overlying a subsoil measuring on average 0.25 m thick. One large pit in Trench 4 appeared to cut the subsoil but all other features were sealed by it.
- 3.3.2 The underlying ground conditions were dry and there were no major issues with groundwater during the period of works although the water table was reached in the base of Tree-throw 105 and Pits 204 and 414.

3.4 Finds Reports

Pottery by John Cotter and Paul Booth

Context	Spot date	No.	Weight	Comments
104	LBA	1	2	Body sherd (bo). Coarse angular quartz/chert inclusions (ident. P Booth)
203	c900-1250	1	5	Worn bo Cotswolds-type ware (OXAC)
205	c1250-1350	4	53	1x small worn bo green-glazed Brill/Boarstall ware highly decorated jug with applied red strip with lozenge rouletting. 2x worn sherds Kennet Valley/Newbury B ware (OXAQ) including sagging base. 1x worn bo OXAC
207	c900-1250	1	9	Worn bo Cotswolds-type ware (OXAC)
416	c1150-1300	3	19	1x worn bo OXAQ. 2x Medieval Oxfordshire ware (OXY) including hammerhead cooking pot rim and worn green-glazed jug sherd
Total		10	88	



- 3.4.1 A total of ten sherds of pottery weighing 88g. were recovered from five contexts. The pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Most of the pottery comprises smallish worn body sherds.
- 3.4.2 A single small sherd of quartz/chert-tempered pottery from Context (104) has been identified as probably of Late Bronze Age date.
- 3.4.3 The remaining nine sherds are all of medieval date and comprise fabric types common throughout north and west Oxfordshire (see catalogue for details). These include worn sherds of Cotswolds-type ware (OXAC, c 900-1250) which are potentially of Late Saxon date but are more likely in this case to be of 11th- to early 13th-century date. The latest pieces in the assemblage - including a small decorated jug sherd in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM) are likely to date to c 1250-1350.

Flint by Mike Donnelly

CATEGORY TYPE	Treethrow 105/ fill 106	Treethrow 105/ fill 107	Other	Total
Flake	7	14	4	25
Blade		1		1
Bladelet	2	5	1	8
Blade-like	1	1		2
Irregular waste		3		3
Chip		2		2
Sieved chip 10-4mm		2		2
Sieved chip 4-2mm		1		1
Rejuvenation flake core face/edge		1		1
Crested blade		1		1
Single platform blade core		1		1
Burin		1		1
Piercer		1		1
Microdenticulate		1		1
Misc retouch			1	2
Retouched flake		1		1
Grand Total	10	37	6	53

Burnt unworked flint No./g		8/6g		8/6g
No. burnt (exc. chips) (%)	1 (10%)	5 (14.71%)		6 (12%)
No. broken (exc. chips) (%)	4 (40%)	10 (29.41%)	4 (66.67%)	18 (36%)
No. retouched (exc. chips) (%)		5 (14.71%)	1 (16.67%)	6 (12.77%)

- 3.4.4 A small assemblage of 53 pieces was recovered from a limited evaluation of four small trenches at Rushey Weir, Bampton, Oxfordshire. The vast bulk of the assemblage originated in a large tree-throw feature in Trench 1 while sparse flints were recovered as residual material in medieval features in Trench 2. Two pieces were also recovered from a probable paleochannel or treethrow partially revealed in Trench 3. Much of the flint appear to date from the late Mesolithic or early neolithic period. This would include all of the assemblage from tree-throw 105 and some of the stray finds including a fine bladelet from medieval pit fill 205.



- 3.4.5 The main assemblage from tree-throw 105 was found largely in its main fill 107 with lesser amounts in lower fill 106. All the retouched forms and the core were from the upper, darker fill and a sample of that material has yet to be processed. The blanks produced display parallel negative scars struck largely from single platform cores and include many narrow bladelets. The core is typical of late Mesolithic knapping and is pyramidal in form with a single platform. The tools consist of a piercer or heavily resharpened angled scraper, a probable burin on an intentional snap, a serrated flake, a retouched flak and a miscellaneous retouched form similar to an awl or reamer. Sample <1> taken from fill 107 yielded a small assemblage of just six struck and eight burnt unworked flint. This material displays moderate to low edge damage and is heavily corticated. It is not likely to be in situ but may have been dumped into the treethrow form surface midden collections. Two pieces appeared to originate from the same core but there was no direct refit.
- 3.4.6 The other retouched piece from paleochannel fill 307 is almost certainly a microburin but is heavily burnt and also displays an atypical heavily faceted platform.
- 3.4.7 The assemblage indicates activity here during early prehistory and may all date to the late Mesolithic, however, for much of the assemblage including the tree-throw collection, an early neolithic date may be equally likely.

Animal Bone by Lena Strid

Context	Description
104	Indeterminate fragment
107	Indeterminate fragment
203	Cattle right mandible fragment
206	Pig mandible, male
305	Indeterminate fragment
409	Medium mammal rib fragment
416	Sheep skull right maxilla; sheep/goat left radius, fused distally; sheep/goat occipital parietal fragments; sheep/goat tooth; medium mammal long bone fragments; wild bird humerus.

Stone by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
104	Fossil fragment

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The ground conditions during the evaluation were very conducive towards reliable results, there were no issues with groundwater, poor light, etc. The evaluation revealed archaeological remains in every trench and clearly showed a direct match between cropmark evidence and the surviving remains. One linear cropmark that did not reveal



itself may have been missed as there is some potential for a northwards shift in the cropmarks location in relation to the excavated features. The evaluation also indicated that other archaeological features exist that are not present as cropmarks.

4.2 Interpretation

- 4.2.1 The microburin from Trench 3 is a clear indicator of a Mesolithic phase of activity here, and suggests human activity prior to the construction of the neighbouring monuments and indicates exploitation of the riverside environment.
- 4.2.2 The finds recovered from the tree-throw in Trench 1 indicate activity here in the Mesolithic or early Neolithic period. This is supported by residual flints in Trench 2 and 3. The assemblage is clearly blade-based and would either indicate activity pre-dating the causewayed camp or contemporary with it. This may suggest some degree of site preparation, or clearance prior to the construction of the 'causewayed camp', but could equally indicate expedient use of an existing natural feature as a rubbish pit associated with the 'normal' exploitation of a riverside environment.
- 4.2.3 The late Bronze Age pot sherd from Trench 1 indicates a degree of site use into the later prehistoric period, perhaps indicating that these monuments continued to act as a focus or reference for later activity.
- 4.2.4 The remaining archaeological features all date to the Medieval period or later. All the medieval features displayed good preservation of snail shells, which was entirely absent from features that contained struck flint.
- 4.2.5 The medieval features were unexpected, as although a single medieval sherd had been recovered from a borehole at the site (OA, 2009) the previous SMS excavation immediately to the north (OA, 2012), had only revealed post-Medieval activity (OA, 2012). The medieval remains appear domestic in nature with broken pottery and butchered animal bone. It is possible that these may relate to occupation associated with a mill which are usually found in association with weirs – and perhaps suggest a historical depth to this site that has not previously been acknowledged.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
This trench was positioned over a large pit-like crop-mark. A large tree-throw was identified that corresponded closely to the cropmark. This feature contained late Mesolithic-early Neolithic flintwork. A small pit beside the treethrow contained a single sherd of late Bronze Age pottery					Avg depth (m)	0.56
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	8
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
100	layer	-	0.26	Topsoil, dark grey brown clayey loam, frequent roots and small pebbles.	-	modern
101	layer	-	0.3	Subsoil, dark yellowish brown sandy clay, frequent small pebbles.	-	-
102	natural	-	-	Natural 'C' horizon, pale yellowish to purplish brown sandy pebbles	-	-
103	fill	-	0.15	Fill of pit 104, mid reddish brown clayey sand.	pottery	Late Bronze Age
104	cut	1.2	0.15	Cut of small pit/treethrow, open, bowl-shaped profile.	-	Late Bronze Age
105	cut	3.45	0.5	Cut of large treethrow, sub-square in plan, steep profile to south, shallow to north	-	Early prehistoric
106	fill	-	0.16	Lower fill of treethrow 105, dark yellowish brown sandy silt	flint	Early prehistoric
107	fill	-	0.34	Upper fill of treethrow 105, mid reddish brown sandy clay, frequent small pebbles	flint	Early prehistoric

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
This trench was also located over a large pit-like cropmark. A pit of medieval date was found to perfectly match the location of the cropmark. A ditch that cut that pit was also present although this feature was not present as a cropmark.					Avg depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	8
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
200	layer	-	0.26	Topsoil, dark grey brown clayey loam, frequent roots and small pebbles.	-	modern
201	layer	-	0.3	Subsoil, dark yellowish brown sandy clay, frequent small pebbles.	-	-



202	natural	-	-	Natural 'C' horizon, pale yellowish to purplish brown sandy pebbles	-	-
203	fill	-	0.12	Fill of ditch 208, dark reddish brown sandy clay, equals 207	pottery and animal bone	c. 900-1250
204	cut	2.2	0.44	Cut of pit, steep-sided 'U' shaped profile	-	Medieval
205	fill	-	0.34	Upper fill of pit 204, dark yellow brown sandy clay, frequent snail shells	pottery, animal bone and flint	c. 1250-1350
206	fill	-	0.1	Lower fill of pit 204, grey fine sandy clay, frequent snail shells	animal bone	Medieval
207	fill	-	0.15	Fill of ditch 208, reddish brown sandy clay, equals 203	pottery and flint	c. 900-1250
208	cut	0.95	0.15	Cut of ditch, shallow open dished profile, runs over pit 204	-	Medieval

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
This trench was chosen as a control trench and was not associated with any known cropmarks. Three possible features were identified at the wet end of the trench, one contained early prehistoric flintwork.					Avg depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	8
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
300	layer	-	0.32	Topsoil, dark grey brown clayey loam, frequent roots and small pebbles.	-	modern
301	layer	-	0.23	Subsoil, dark yellowish brown sandy clay, frequent small pebbles.	-	-
302	natural	-	-	Natural 'C' horizon, pale yellowish to purplish brown sandy pebbles	-	-
303	fill	-	0.17	Fill of posthole 304, light grey brown fine sandy clay	-	-
304	cut	0.4	0.17	Cut of possible posthole, steep 'U' shaped profile to south but less steep to north, pulled out?	-	-
305	fill	-	0.22	Upper fill of pit/treethrow 306, mid brownish grey sandy clay	animal bone	-
306	cut	0.6	0.35	Cut of pit/treethrow, steep sided and flat bottomed, possibly an extension to 309	-	-
307	fill	-	0.25	Upper fill of paleochannel/treethrow 309, mid brownish grey sandy clay	flint	Early prehistoric
308	fill	-	0.1	Lower fill of paleochannel/treethrow 309, mid grey fine sandy clay	-	Early prehistoric



309	cut	0.85	0.35	Cut of paleochannel/treethrow, stepped profile, irregular in plan	-	Early prehistoric
310	fill	-	0.15	Lower fill of pit/treethrow 306, mid grey fine sandy clay	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE	
This trench was located over the meeting point of two ditch-like cropmarks. One of the two was present as was a smaller ditch on a different alignment and a large pit. These features contained Medieval pottery.				Avg depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	8	
Contexts						
Context number	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
400	layer	-	0.26	Topsoil, dark grey brown clayey loam, frequent roots and small pebbles.	-	modern
401	layer	-	0.24	Subsoil, dark yellowish brown sandy clay, frequent small pebbles.	-	-
402	natural	-	-	Natural 'C' horizon, pale yellowish to purplish brown sandy pebbles	-	-
403	fill	-	0.13	Fill of ditch 404, mid brownish grey clayey sand	-	-
404	cut	0.25	0.13	Cut of ditch, only partially revealed in trench, equals 408	-	-
405	fill	-	0.12	Upper fill of ditch 406, dark yellowish brown pebbly sandy clay, frequent snail shells	-	-
406	cut	0.7	0.4	Cut of ditch, steep and stepped profile, equals 410	-	-
407	fill	-	0.12	Fill of ditch 408, mid brownish grey clayey sand	-	-
408	cut	0.25	0.12	Cut of ditch, only partially revealed in trench, equals 404	-	-
409	fill	-	0.35	Lower fill of ditch 406, dark brownish grey pebbly sandy clay, frequent snail shells	animal bone	-
410	cut	1.1	0.6	Cut of ditch, steep and stepped profile, flattish base, cut by pit 414, equals 406	-	-
411	fill	-	0.18	Upper fill of ditch 410, yellowish brown pebbly sandy clay, frequent snail shells	-	-
412	fill	-	0.42	Middle fill of ditch 410, brownish grey sandy clay, frequent snail shells	-	-
413	fill	-	0.08	Lower fill of 410, mid grey pebbly sandy clay	-	-



Rushey Weir, Bampton, Oxfordshire

414	cut	2.5	0.56	Cut of large pit, open bowl-shaped profile, probably cuts the subsoil but may have slumped considerably	-	Medieval
415	fill	-	0.26	4 th fill of pit 414, redeposited natural, pale yellowish brown sandy pebbles	-	Medieval
416	fill	-	0.18	3 rd fill of pit 414, dark brown pebbly sandy clay	pottery and animal bone	Medieval
417	fill	-	0.14	2 nd fill of pit 414, mid brown silty clay, charcoal flecking	-	Medieval
418	fill	-	0.2	Lower fill of pit 414, soft brownish grey pebbly silty clay	-	Medieval
419	fill	-	0.12	Upper fill of pit 414, mid reddish brown sandy clay	-	Medieval



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Rushey Weir, Bampton, Oxfordshire
Site code:	BURF13
Grid reference:	NGR SP 3227 0003
Type:	Archaeological Evaluation
Date and duration:	2 nd to 8 th April 2013
Area of site:	0.11 ha

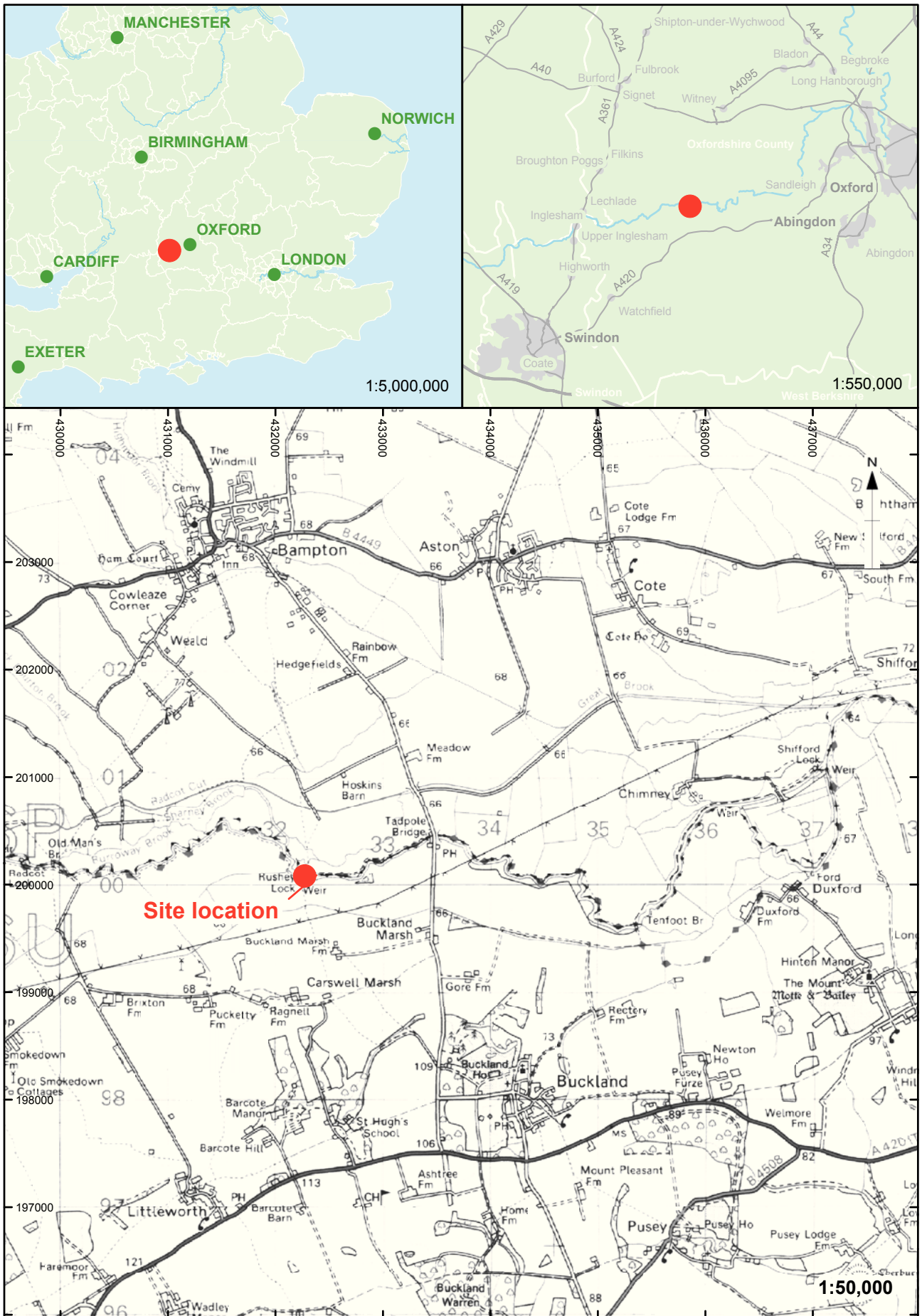
Summary of results: In April 2013 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Rushey Weir, Bampton, Oxfordshire on behalf of the Environment Agency who are proposing to construct a fish pass at the site. The evaluation comprised four 8 m long trenches equally spaced along the route of the proposed fish pass that is situated on land, immediately south of the River Thames, and between two early Neolithic Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Three of the four trenches were targeted on the locations of known cropmarks while the fourth represented a control trench.

Archaeological features were found in all four trenches. Trench 1 located over a large discrete cropmark revealed a large tree-throw containing late Mesolithic or early Neolithic flints, and a small pit that contained a single sherd of late Bronze Age pottery. Trench 2 was located over a very similar cropmark and revealed a large pit of Medieval date with pottery and animal bone, cut by a shallow N-S orientated ditch. Trench 4 revealed one of the two ditches that were present as cropmark evidence. This feature was fairly substantial and contained medieval pottery sherds. It was cut by a large pit containing more medieval pottery but this feature appeared to cut the subsoil and the sherds may be residual. Despite its size, the pit was not visible as a cropmark. Trench 3 was the control trench and revealed a possible pit and a posthole, with no finds and part of a feature that has been interpreted as a treethrow or paleochannel which contained a small number of struck flint.

The results of the evaluation indicate that archaeological remains survive at the site, and date to the late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic, Bronze Age and Medieval periods. Some of this activity is probably contemporary with the adjacent SAMs, but there is a possibility that some predates them; the medieval remains attest to previously unacknowledged occupation from this period and perhaps attest to the historical longevity of the weir.

The positions of the excavated features broadly corresponded with the known cropmarks, other features were not visible as cropmarks, and some cropmarks did not appear to have corresponding features.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.



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Figure 1: Site location

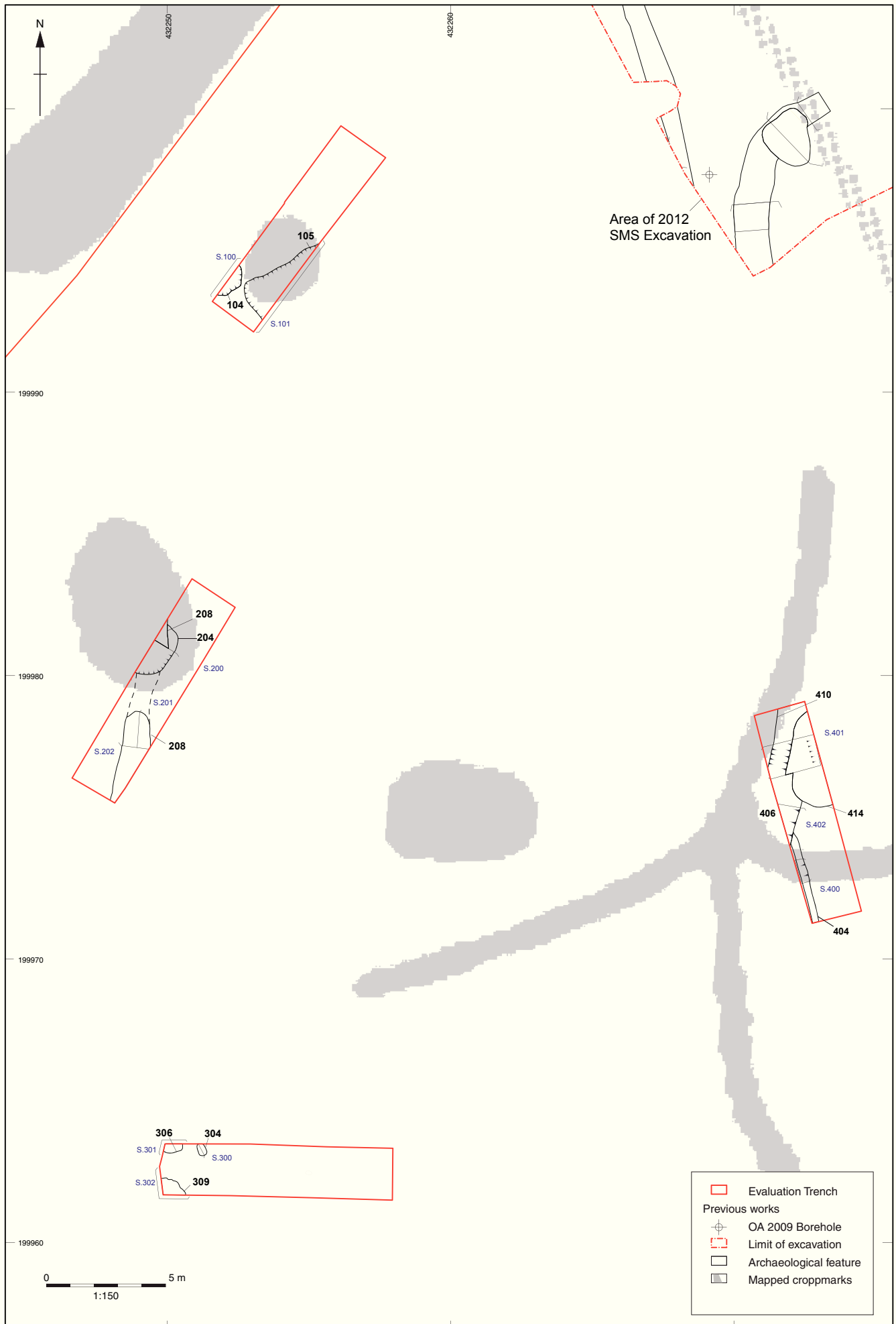


Figure 2: Trench layout with archaeological features and croppmarks

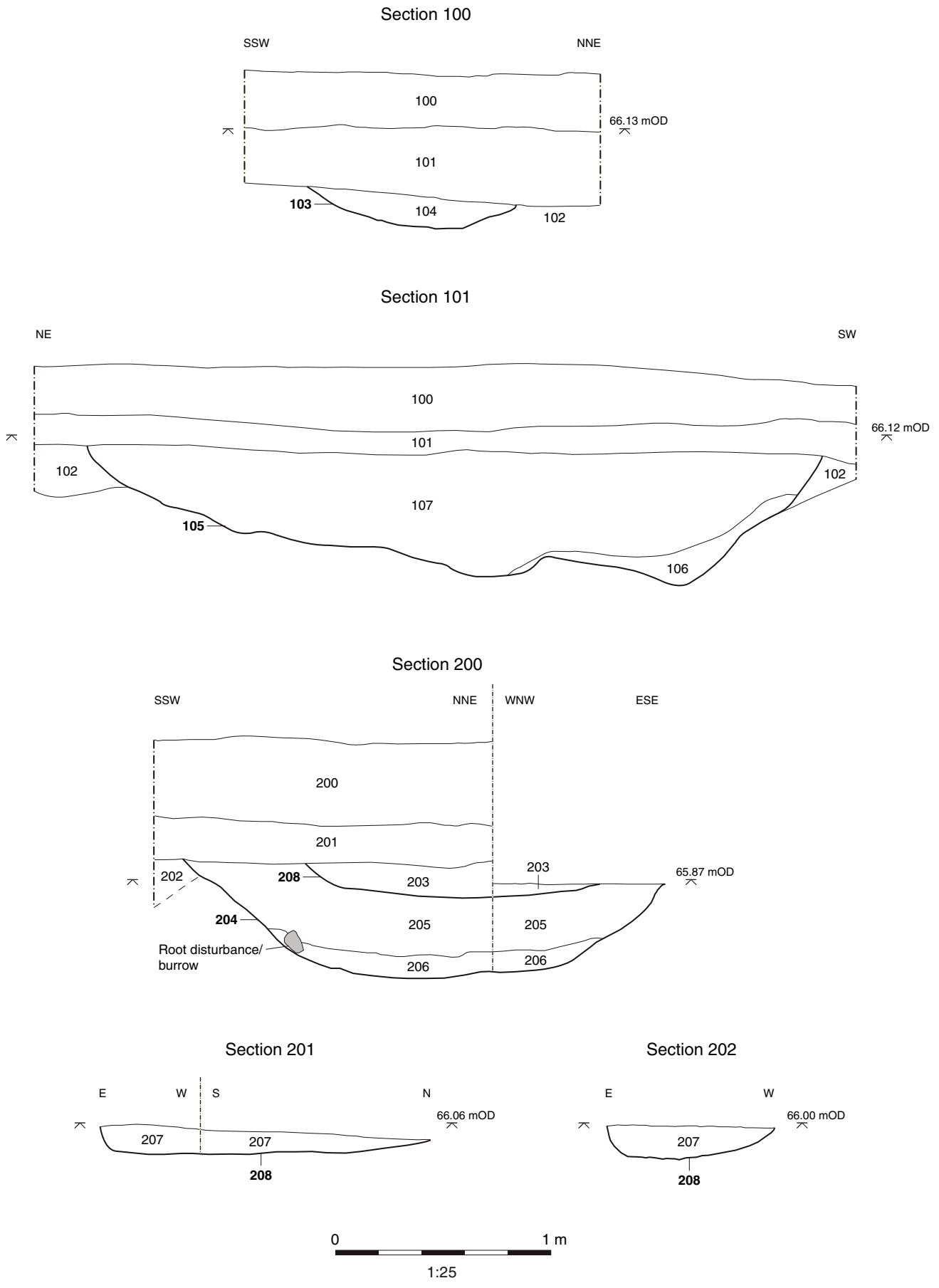


Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2, sections

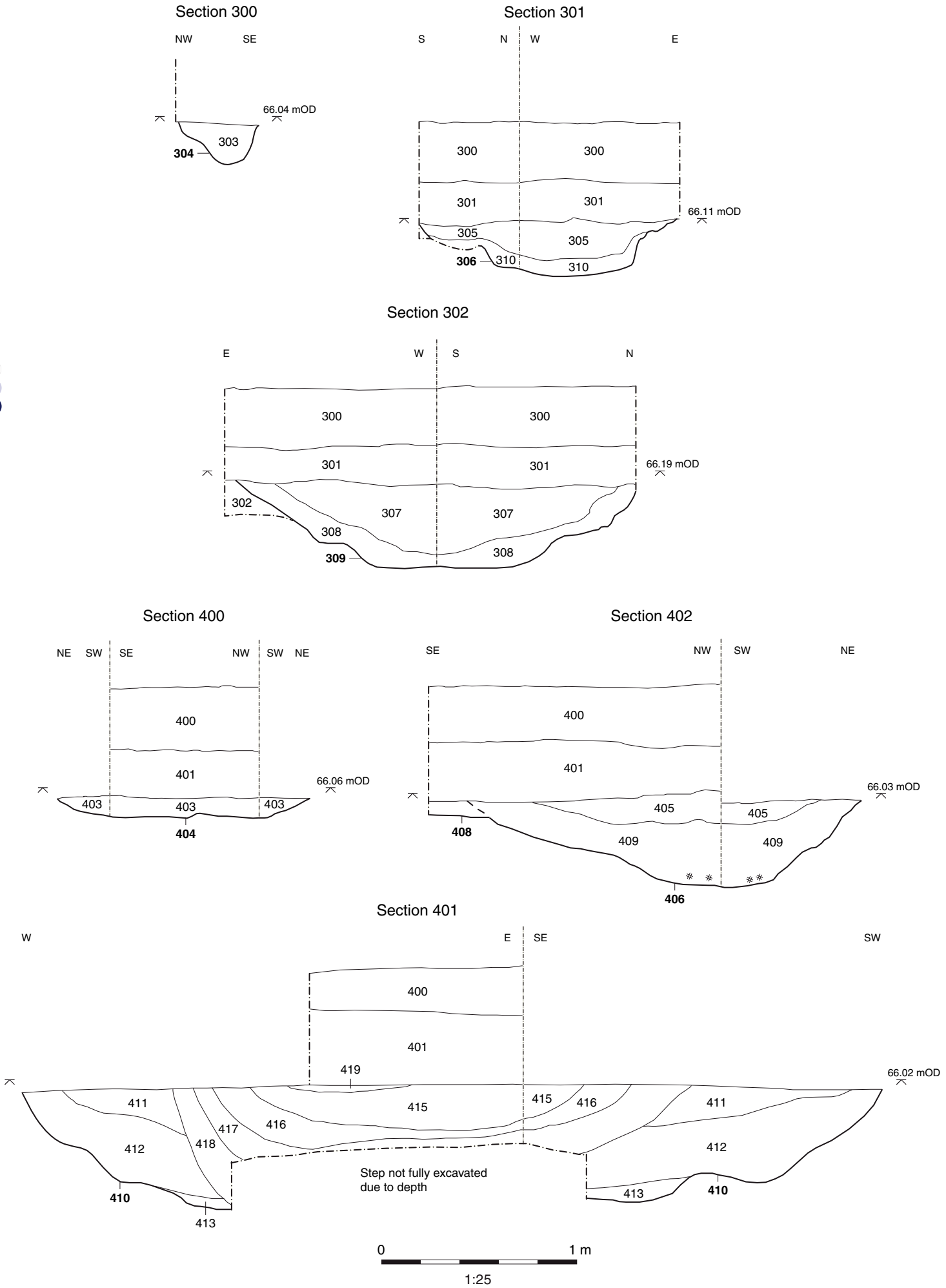


Figure 4: Trenches 3 and 4, sections



Plate 1: Trench 1; Treethrow 105, looking SE



Plate 2: Trench 2; Ditch 208 cutting pit 204, looking NW



Plate 5: Trench 4; Pit 414 cutting ditch 410, looking NNW



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