Former Bartlemas Nursery School Oxford

Revised Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Client:
Marcus Beale Architects Ltd on behalf of Oriel College, Oxford

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Former Bartlemas Nursery School, off Cowley Road, Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Robin Bashford and Steve Leech

illustrated by Georgina Slater and Leo Heatley

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Summary

In June, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the former Bartlemas Nursey School, off Cowley Raod, Oxford (SP 524 055). The work was commissioned by Marcus Beale Architects Ltd (MBA) on behalf of Oriel College, and was intended to inform a planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the site. The evaluation revealed natural geology comprising Upper Oxford Clay, which was overlain by a colluvial soil which may represent a buried ploughsoil.

Two north-south aligned linear features produced post-medieval artefactual evidence, and are likely to represent a precursor to the system of ceramic field drains on the same alignment, which was also evident in a number of the trenches.

Evidence for 20th century landscaping of the natural topography of the site, associated with the construction of the existing school buildings in the 1950s, was also observed.

The evidence recovered probably reflects the agricultural use of the site prior to the construction of the school, possibly on marginal land on the periphery of Cowley Marsh, as indicated on a number of cartographic sources.

No evidence for features or deposits pre-dating the 18th century was revealed within the trenches.

In February 2010, Oxford Archaeology (OA) returned to the site, with the aim to extend Trench 1 over the present day draining ditch, bounding the Eastern extent of the site, and to retrieve if possible, any datable material.

The western extent of a ditch, and re-cut was found, and both contained 20th century material.

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of work

A redevelopment has been proposed in an area of gardens, playground and derelict school buildings formerly known as the Bartlemas Nursery School, off Cowley Road, Oxford. Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by James Donlon of Marcus Beale Architects Ltd (MBA) - who are acting on behalf of Oriel College - to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the impact areas to inform the planning application. Brian Durham, Archaeologist at Oxford City Council prepared a Brief for the evaluation (OCC 21st May 2008) which formed the basis of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by OA. The WSI detailed how OA would implement the requirements of the Brief and is partially reproduced below.

The background information presented here is derived from the Desk Based Assessment (DBA) undertaken by OA, which should be consulted for further detail where required (OA 2008).

Geology and topography

The site is located next to the Cowley Road in Oxford. The southern boundary of the site rests on Cowley Road, the eastern boundary on the enclosure associated with the buildings of St Bartholomew's Chapel, the northern boundary on the boundary with the Oriel College sports ground and the western boundary on the rear of properties that front on to Southfield Road. The site is occupied by the now derelict buildings of the former Bartlemas Nursery School. The ground slopes gently from the north to south at NGR SP 524 055.

The underlying geology of the site comprises the Oxford Clay of Upper Jurassic date. The ground rises to the north towards Headington Hill and the northern boundary of the St Bartholomew's enclosure rests on the junction between the Upper Oxford Clay and the overlying Temple Cowley member which comprises fine grained sandstones and siltstones, also of Upper Jurassic date. Above this is the Beckley Sand Member. Both the Temple Cowley Member and Beckley Sand form part of the Corallian formation (BGS 1994).

This geological sequence is particularly relevant to the possible location of any Holy Well/Spring which may be associated with Bartlemas, as the junction between the relatively permeable sands and siltstones of the Temple Cowley and Beckley Members with the impermeable Upper Oxford Clay forms a natural spring line. This junction of geology passes approximately along the northern boundary of the Bartlemas enclosure c 300 m to the north of the Bartlemas School Site.

The area underlain by the Oxford Clay to the south and east of Bartlemas, was in historic times called Cowley Marsh.

Archaeological and historical background

The following is a summary of the results of the DBA. References to OA numbers in this text should be cross-referenced to the DBA (OA 2008). A more detailed account of the history and development of the site can also be found in the Bartlemas Conservation Area Appraisal on the Oxford County Council website (OCC, 2007).

No Prehistoric activity or findspots are recorded from within 500 m of Bartlemas Nursery School site and the potential for activity of this date being present on the site is, therefore, rated as being very low.

A Romano-British kiln site has been identified (OA 4) only c 500 m to the south-east of Bartlemas Nursery School and finds of Romano-British material were also made during investigations on the adjacent Oxford Brookes accommodation site (OA 2). Although these finds are believed to have been residual or re-deposited by manuring they still indicate that some Romano-British activity is present in the vicinity.

During the medieval and post-medieval periods the Bartlemas Nursery School site lay just outside the western boundary of the extra-parochial enclosure associated with the charitable hospital of St Bartholomew. The estimated area of this enclosure during the medieval period is in broad accordance with the mapped area (13 acres 1 rood and 32 perches) that appears on historic maps from the 1802 Inclosure map onwards (OA 1997, 8). The old causeway road lay just to the south of Bartlemas Nursery School. This route was probably established by the medieval period and continued to be the main route eastward until Cowley Road became established during the 19th century.

It has been suggested that the water-course that defines the boundary between Bartlemas School and the St Bartholomew's extra-parochial enclosure may have provided a water supply for the hospital. It is possible that this is the case, although another water feature has been identified from historic maps within the extra parochial enclosure. This second feature lies in close proximity to the surviving hospital chapel and is aligned on an area in which other medieval hospital buildings probably stood. This second feature may originally have been a boundary and/or fish-pond demarcating an internal division within the medieval hospital. It is possible that this feature may have been fed with water through a conduit taken off the watercourse that forms the boundary with the site of the former Nursery School. If this was the case then a conduit running between the watercourse on the boundary and this second water feature may have supplied water for the hospital.

It is probable that the Bartlemas School site lay in a cultivated or waste ground area, outside the extra-parochial enclosure and just within the north west boundary of the Parish of Cowley and that no hospital buildings extended over the watercourse that forms the boundary with Bartlemas. It is also highly probable that the site of the Holy Well of St Bartholomew lies somewhere on a natural springline within the northern half of the extra-parochial enclosure associated with St Bartholomew's.

EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

Aims

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.

To determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation under full area excavation.

To determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise.

To investigate the extent of any significant remains outside initial trenched sample through agreement with the client and City Archaeologist.

To characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon significant younger (overlying) deposits where possible.

To determine the palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits.

To make available the results of the investigation to inform the planning application and the potential for any further mitigation strategy.

Site specific aims

To confirm that there is no structure or deposit of the medieval leper hospital or its farm within the impact of the proposed development.

To investigate the degree of terracing and made ground within development area resulting from the construction of the former school.

Methodology

Five trenches, numbered 1 - 5 inclusive, were positioned within the development area, avoiding extant former school buildings and, where possible, live services (Fig. 2). These were targeted evenly on the area of impact of the proposed buildings and landscaping (as shown on MBA drawing No. 334.2/010F as supplied by James Donlon). Trenches orientated broadly E-W were aligned perpendicular to the alignment of an historic stream running down the eastern side of the site. The eastern end of Trenches 3 and 4 were excavated as close as possible to the western bank of the stream to evaluate the potential for timber or stone revetment, or associated structures.

Where hard standing was present, this was broken out using a hydraulic breaker attached to a JCB-type machine excavator. A toothless ditching/grading bucket was then fitted and used to excavate the five trenches. Machine excavation proceeded in spits no greater that 0.20m thick to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology (whichever was encountered first) under close archaeological supervision. Where truncation from the construction of the school had not occurred, the first potentially significant horizon comprised a colluvial soil. The top of this deposit was exposed and, where no archaeological features were apparent, the deposit then removed to the top of the underlying natural geology.

In February 2010 Oxford Archaeology returned to the site and extended trench 1, 6.30m to the south-east. This involved excavating through the historic stream running down the eastern side of the site, to evaluate the potential for timber or stone revetment, or associated features. The depth of the ditches was determined by three auger holes located on the base of the trench.

RESULTS

Introduction and presentation of results

The deposits and features encountered during the evaluation are described below in Section 3, (a context inventory can be found in Appendix 1). Each trench is described objectively from the earliest to the latest deposits. The descriptive text in Section 3 is followed by a discussion and interpretation of the evidence in Section 4.

General soils and ground conditions

Trench 2 was located on hard standing at the entrance to the school; Trenches 3 and 4 were located on the concrete yard to the east of the school buildings, and Trenches 1 and 5 were located on overgrown grassy areas to the south and north of the school respectively. Light conditions were predominately good throughout the works.

Limited ingress of water, from breaching the water-table, was apparent in the majority of the trenches, however this did not affect the recording of the deposits encountered. Subsequently, heavy rain caused the majority of the trenches to flood, although this did not compromise the evaluation as the deposits within each of the flooded trenches had already been characterised and recorded.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated NW-SE, measured 10 m x 2 m and was excavated to the south of the existing school buildings (Fig. 2). Natural geology was encountered at 49.80 m OD and comprised a mid-pale greyish brown clay with localised bluey grey variations in colour and concentrations of orangey brown sand (101) – this deposit was consistent within all the trenches and will hereafter be referred to as Upper Oxford Clay. This was overlain by a *c* 0.30 m thick layer of mid grey brown silty clay (102) which is likely to be colluvial in origin. The colluvial deposit and underlying clay was cut by a roughly north-south aligned linear feature approximately 0.40 m wide and 0.30 m deep (107). The fill of this feature comprised a light greyish brown silty clay (108), which was similar in colour and composition to the colluvial deposit and produced a sherd of ?18th-19th century pottery and a fragment of clay pipe stem.

The fill of the linear feature and the colluvial deposit were overlain by a 0.20 m thick deposit of dark brownish grey silty clay (103) which may represent a buried topsoil as it was overlain by existing topsoil and turf (104 and 106 respectively) to the east of the trench and by a deposit of hardcore to the west (the interface between the topsoil and the hardcore was marked by a line of kerb stones as indicated on Figure 2).

The extension to trench 1, was orientated NW-SE, measured 10m x 2m, continuing in a south-easterly direction. The trench showed the same sequence of deposits described above, except for an additional layer (109), that overlay the existing topsoil (104) and buried topsoil (104). Layer (109) comprised of a 0.10m thick deposit of dark grey brown silty clay, that may represent recent up-cast from the ditch.

In the south-eastern extent of the trench, under-lying the present day historic stream, were linear ditch 110, and ditch re-cut 112, both orientated roughly north-south, cutting colluvial layer (102).

Ditch 110, was +3.4m wide (the eastern extent of the ditch was not present within the trench) and 1m deep. The ditch was filled with (111) a yellowish brown silty sand with frequent amounts of tabular limestone inclusions, containing late 19th - 20th century brick and tile.

Cutting through fills (111) and (114) was ditch re-cut 112, it was 2.2m wide and 1.50m deep, and contained a single fill (113) of dark grey brown silty clay, and produced a piece of animal bone and a single tile of 20th century date.

Fill (114), a 0.40m wide, 0.36m deep, brown grey silty clay containing no finds, provenance is not clear, due to truncation by ditch re-cut 112. Deposit (114) could be a fill of ditch 110, however it could be a fill of an earlier ditch pre-dating these later ditches.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated roughly north-south, measured 5 m x 2 m and was excavated to the south of the existing school buildings (Fig. 2). Upper Oxford Clay (203) was encountered at 49.80 m OD and was overlain by a colluvial deposit (204) similar in composition to that encountered within Trench 1, and approximately 0.20 m thick. The colluvium and underlying clay were cut by a roughly north-south aligned field drain (206).

The colluvium and fill of the field drain (207) were directly overlain by a series of made ground deposits (205, 208 and 209), collectively these deposits recorded an average thickness of 0.50 m. They were cut by a trench (210) for an east-west aligned collared ceramic pipe, which may represent a foul water drain from the school buildings. The fill (211) of the pipe trench and the uppermost of the made ground deposits (208) were overlain by a 0.20 m thick layer of reinforced concrete a 0.02 m thick tarmac surface.

The possible buried topsoil seen in Trench 1 appears to have been truncated within Trench 2. In places, the colluvium had also been truncated and the made ground deposits directly overlay the natural clay.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated NW-SE, measured 8 m x 2.5-3m and was excavated at the edge of the concrete slab to the east of the school buildings (Fig. 2). The dimensions of the trench were dictated by the constricted access in this area of the site.

Upper Oxford Clay (402) was encountered at 50.28 m OD. Where the trench corresponded to the edge of the slab, the natural clay was directly overlain by a hardcore levelling layer for the concrete slab (302). However, to the south of the trench, beyond the edge of the slab, the clay was overlain by a *c* 0.10 m thick layer of mid grey brown silty clay (301) which, whilst quite disturbed, may represent the trampled remnants of the colluvial deposit surviving to the south. This deposit was overlain by 0.20 m of modern topsoil (300).

A hand-augered borehole was undertaken at the eastern end of the trench, to establish the presence, or otherwise, of any revetment or structural remains along the bank of the stream marking the eastern edge of the site. The borehole was augered horizontally from the top of the truncated natural clay, and penetrated *c* 0.50 m east of the edge of the trench. The material from the borehole comprised a humic, mid grey clay silt – not dissimilar to the buried topsoil encountered elsewhere, although possibly originating from root disturbance from the trees along the bank of the stream. No evidence for structural remains was encountered within the borehole.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated NW-SE, measured 5 m x 2 m and was excavated to the east of the school buildings, adjacent to the paddling pool (Fig.2).

Upper Oxford Clay (402) was encountered at 50.25 m OD and was directly overlain by a layer of construction trample (403) and topsoil (400) *c* 0.30 m thick.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was an L-shaped trench at the top of, and across, the bank to the north of the site (Fig. 2). Both the east-west and north-south sections of the trench measured 10 m x 2 m .

Upper Oxford Clay (505) was encountered at between 50.48 m OD (at the base of the bank) and 50.80 m OD (at the top). At the top of the bank, this was overlain by *c* 0.20 m of colluvium (504),

which was in turn overlain by a *c* 0.25 m thick layer of possible buried soil (503) which was similar in composition to that revealed within Trench 1.

Two irregular spreads of dark-mid brown silty clay, similar in composition to the colluvial deposit, were revealed in the base of the trench (506 and 508). These proved to be quite ephemeral, with a diffuse interface between the fills (507 and 509 respectively) and the natural clay, and are likely to be the result of bioturbation.

A roughly north-south aligned linear feature was recorded at the western end of the trench (510). Although no finds were recovered, it is possible that this is associated with the north-south aligned feature recorded in Trench 1 given the similarity of the fills; the relationship with the colluvial deposit (which appeared to be cut by both these features); and also the relationship with the buried soil (which appeared to overlie the fills of both the features).

Both the colluvial deposit and the buried soil, together with the underlying clay, had been truncated by a terrace cut into the natural slope (512). Where the colluvium and buried soil survived at the top of the slope, they were overlain by a 0.10-0.20 m thick layer of re-deposited clay (502), presumably originating from the truncation of the clay to the south. The re-deposited material to the north of the trench, and the truncated clay to the south were directly overlain by a deposit of topsoil (501) between 0.20 and 0.30 m thick.

Finds summary

A fragment of 18th-19thC pottery, possibly the base of a flower pot (John Cotter, pers. comm.), was recovered from the fill of the linear feature in Trench 1. A clay pipe stem was also recovered from the same deposit.

Two fragments of tile and one frogged brick were recovered from the fill of ditch 110, and a piece of animal bone and a tile were recovered from the fill of ditch re-cut 112, all dated to the late 19th - 20th century (John Cotter pers. comm.).

DISCUSSION

Evaluation objectives and results

The following section details how the evaluation has addressed the aims outlined in Section 2.

No significant archaeological features were revealed within the trenches. No artefactual evidence was retrieved from the colluvial deposit, which remains undated. However, this appeared to be cut by the post-medieval drainage systems, and potentially represents the latest archaeological horizon.

No deposits or structural remains associated with the medieval leper hospital were revealed within the trenches. No evidence for stone revetment or structural remains along the bank of the stream marking the eastern edge of the site was revealed. Additionally, the current owner of Bartlemas Farmhouse, who is responsible for the maintenance of the stream where it passes through his property, has not encountered any evidence for structural remains.

The trenches revealed a degree of landscaping associated with the construction of the school in the 1950s. This comprised the levelling of the natural slope which had truncated the buried soil, colluvial deposit and natural clay from the southern end of Trench 5 to the edge of the concrete slab in Trench 3. The buried soil and colluvial deposit were also truncated in Trench 2, but survived in the south east corner of the site, in the vicinity of Trench 1. These deposits had been overlain by re-deposited material to the north of the site (the majority of Trench 5) which also formed part of the mid-20th century landscaping, enhancing the bank created by the levelling of the natural slope.

The extension to trench 1, also showed that the colluvial layer and buried soil layer present, and largely unaffected by mid 20th century landscaping. Where the trench was placed over the historic stream, it showed that two 19th - 20th century ditch cuts had removed any evidence of any medieval features. Deposit (114) that is cut by later ditch 112, produced no dating evidence, and thus is of questionable date.

Interpretation

The results of the evaluation appear to reflect the use of this area as agricultural land from at least the 18th century until the construction of the school in the 1950s, possibly marginal land on the periphery of Cowley Marsh, at the boundary between the parishes of Cowley and Headington.

No evidence for pre-Medieval activity was encountered, and no remains associated with the leper hospital were revealed. This may suggest that the supposition presented in the DBA is correct, and that the stream to the east of the site forms the western boundary of the extra parochial enclosure of St Bartholemew's Hospital.

The characterisation of the origin or function of this watercourse was not possible within trench 1 extension, due to truncation by later ditches.

With regard to the location of the Holy Well traditionally associated with the site, the following is from the DBA (OA, 2008), references quoted here are detailed in the bibliography to that document:

> *It is also possible that the water supply to St Bartholomew's was associated with a Holy Well known variously as St Bartholomew's Well, Strowell or Hickwell (Rattue, 1991, 173). This well was first recorded by Wood in his survey of the Antiquities of Oxford (Wood 1661-66, 514-517) although it may have originally been associated with the cult of St Bartholomew that was licensed at the hospital of St Bartholomew in 1336 (ibid). Although the cult of St Bartholomew was suppressed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, Wood*

recorded that garlanding of the well and a perambulation continued to occur on May Day and Holy Thursday at the time that he was writing (ibid).

There is also a record (Rannie, 1900, 24) that it became a custom amongst the Scholars and Choir of New College, Oxford to process to St Bartholomew's on the mornings of Ascension Day and May Day where they said prayers and sang Hymns. "They then sought a well hard by, known as Strowell or Stockwell, around which, after a recitation of the Epistle and other religious observances, they relapsed into mere woodland merriment of a semi-pagan kind....."(ibid)

The description given by Rannie (Rannie 1900) strongly suggests that the well actually lay within the St Bartholomew's enclosure as it is recorded as being hard by and called Strowell or Stockwell. Strowell being recorded as having belonged to the parcel of land given to St Bartholomew's by Henry II. Furthermore, in the geological background it was noted that the northern section of the St Bartholomew's enclosure lies over the junction of the impermeable Oxford Clay with the overlying (and more permeable) sandstone of the Temple Cowley member and, therefore, on a natural springline.

The following two paragraphs are from the Bartlemas Conservation Area Appraisal (OCC, 2007):

....only for the buildings to suffer greatly during the Civil War. The parliamentary troops stopped the well and destroyed the hospital building....

The house today is a single dwelling....The garden to the east of the house contains a well, a feature which has been historically associated with the site.....

The perambulation mentioned by Wood is a well known tradition associated with Ascension Day (Holy Thursday), and originated in England in the mid 8th century (Roud, 2006). Also known as Rogationtide and Beating the Bounds, the tradition involves *"a procession around the parish, led by the clergy, carrying crosses and banners, giving thanks to God, and blessing the fields, crops, and animals." (ibid.)* and is still carried out in Oxford on Ascension Day, in the adjoining parishes of St Michael in the Northgate and St Mary the Virgin. The tradition of well-dressing (garlanding) is also associated with both Ascension Day and May Day, and is often incorporated into the Rogationtide procession, as seems to have been the case at St Bartholomews.

The existing well lies to the east of Bartlemas House, north of the pond dug in the 1980's. The fact that the well is mentioned by Wood in 1661, following the restoration in 1660, would suggest that it had survived the damage caused to it by the Parliamentary troops. The reference in 1900 would also suggest a well was extant in the 19th century. However, any correlation between the existing well and that mentioned in the earlier accounts should be qualified by the fact that no well is shown on the OS mapping. It is also unclear whether Rannie is describing an existing practise, and it may be that he was referring to the tradition described by Wood.

Additionally, by the 19th century, no services were being held at the chapel, and it was being used as an ancillary farm building (OCC, 2007, p7). This would suggest that the tradition associated with the well is unlikely to have been extant at the time that Rannie was writing. The decline of the chapel as a place of worship, with the corresponding is may also account for the absence of a well from the OS mapping.

ıdix A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1					
General description				**Orientation**	E-W
Upper Oxford Clay overlain by colluvium which appears to be cut by a roughly north-south aligned, post-medieval, linear feature. Fills of linear feature and colluvium overlain by buried topsoil/ploughsoil which is in turn overlain by modern landscaping and/or topsoil				**Avg. depth (m)**	0.75
				Width (m)	2.00
				Length (m)	10.00
Contexts					
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**soil descrpition**
101	layer	-	-	Upper Oxford Clay	tenacious, mid yellow brown clay with localised bluey grey variations in colour and patches of orange brown sand
102	deposit	-	0.40	colluvium	tenacious mid grey brown silty clay
103	deposit	-	0.25	buried topsoil / ploughsoil	friable, dark brownish grey silty clay with c5% small stones
104	deposit	-	0.15	1950s landscaping	tenacious, mid grey brown silty clay with c5% stone inclusions
105	deposit		0.15	surface	hardcore
106	deposit		0.15	turf	turf
107	cut	0.40	0.40	north-south aligned gully	
108	fill		0.40	fill of north-south aligned gully	light grey brown silty clay
109	layer	-	0.1	ditch up-cast	dark grey brown silty clay
110	cut	3.4	1	ditch	
111	fill	2.70	0.6	ditch fill	yellowish brown silty sand with 80% tabular limestone inclusions
112	cut	2.2	1.5	ditch re-cut	
113	fill	3.5	1.5	ditch fill	dark grey silty clay with c5% stone inclusions
114	fill	0.4	0.36	ditch fill	brown grey silty clay with no inclusions

Trench 2		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Upper Oxford Clay overlain by colluvium which has been truncated by a north-south aligned field drain. Further truncation from east-west aligned ceramic pipe and disturbance associated with the construction of the school in the 1950s.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.75
	Width (m)	2.00
	Length (m)	5.00
Contexts		

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	soil descrpition
201	layer	-	-	Upper Oxford Clay	tenacious, mid yellow brown clay with localised bluey grey variations in colour and patches of orange brown sand
202	deposit		0.10	patch of orange brown sand in natural clay	orangey brown sand
203	deposit		0.20	patch of yellowish brown sandy gravel in natural clay	yellowish brown sandy gravel
204	deposit		0.23	truncated colluvium	tenacious mid brownish grey silty clay
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**soil descrpition**
206	cut			cut of n-s aligned field drain	
207	fill			fill of n-s aligned field drain	
208	deposit		0.28	1950s landscaping	soft dark grey silty clay including fe objects and occasional brick rubble
209	deposit		0.40	?1950s landscaping	tenacious mid brownish grey silty clay
210	cut			cut of modern service trench aligned e-w	
211	fill			fill of modern service trench	
212	deposit			concrete surface	re-enforced concrete
213	deposit			tarmac surface	

Trench 3

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Upper Oxford Clay directly overlain by hardcore for concrete slab. Thin layer of heavily truncated alluvium to south of slab.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.35
	Width (m)	2.00
	Length (m)	8.50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	soil descrpition
300	deposit	-	0.20	topsoil	topsoil
301	deposit		0.08	colluvial deposit	tenacious mid brownish grey silty clay
302	deposit			hardcore and concrete	
303	layer			Upper Oxford Clay	tenacious, mid yellow brown clay with localised bluey grey variations in colour and patches of orange brown sand

Trench 4					
General description				**Orientation**	E-W
Upper Oxford Clay directly overlain by hardcore for concrete slab/paving.				**Avg. depth (m)**	0.30
				Width (m)	2.00
				Length (m)	5.00
Contexts					
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**soil descrpition**
400	deposit	-	0.20	topsoil	topsoil
401	deposit			hardcore and concrete	
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**soil descrpition**
403	deposit			1950s construction trample	disturbed clay

Trench 5					
General description				**Orientation**	L-shaped
Upper Oxford Clay overlain by colluvial deposit, overlain by buried topsoil, overlain by 1950s landscaping deposits or truncated by levelling associated with construction of school.				**Avg. depth (m)**	0.60
				Width (m)	2.00
				Length (m)	20.00
Contexts					
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**soil descrpition**
501	deposit	-	0.18	topsoil	topsoil
502	deposit		0.20	1950s landscaping	re-deposited clay
503	deposit		0.25	buried topsoil/ploughsoil	soft, dark brown grey silty clay
504	deposit		0.24	colluvial deposit	light brownish grey silty clay
505	layer			Upper Oxford Clay	tenacious, mid yellow brown clay with localised bluey grey variations in colour and patches of orange brown sand
506	cut			bioturbation	
507	fill			fill of 506	mid brownish grey clay
508	cut			bioturbation	
509	fill			fill of 508	mid brownish grey silty clay
510	cut			cut of north-south aligned gully	
511	fill			fill of north-south aligned	

				gully	
512	cut			1950s truncation	

ıdix B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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ıdix C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Former Bartlemas Nursery School, off Cowley Road, Oxford

Site code: OXFBNS08 and OXFBNS10

Grid reference: SP 524 055

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 2nd-6th June 2008 and 8th February 2010

Summary of results: In June, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at the former Bartlemas Nursey School, off Cowley Raod, Oxford (SP 524 055). The work was commissioned by Marcus Beale Architects Ltd (MBA) on behalf of Oriel College, and was intended to inform a planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the site. The evaluation revealed natural geology comprising Upper Oxford Clay, which was overlain by a colluvial soil which may represent a buried ploughsoil.

Two north-south aligned linear features produced post-medieval artefactual evidence, and are likely to represent a precursor to the system of ceramic field drains on the same alignment, which was also evident in a number of the trenches.

Evidence for 20th century landscaping of the natural topography of the site, associated with the construction of the existing school buildings in the 1950s, was also observed.

The evidence recovered probably reflects the agricultural use of the site prior to the construction of the school, possibly on marginal land on the periphery of Cowley Marsh, as indicated on a number of cartographic sources.

No evidence for features or deposits pre-dating the 18th century was revealed within the trenches.

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

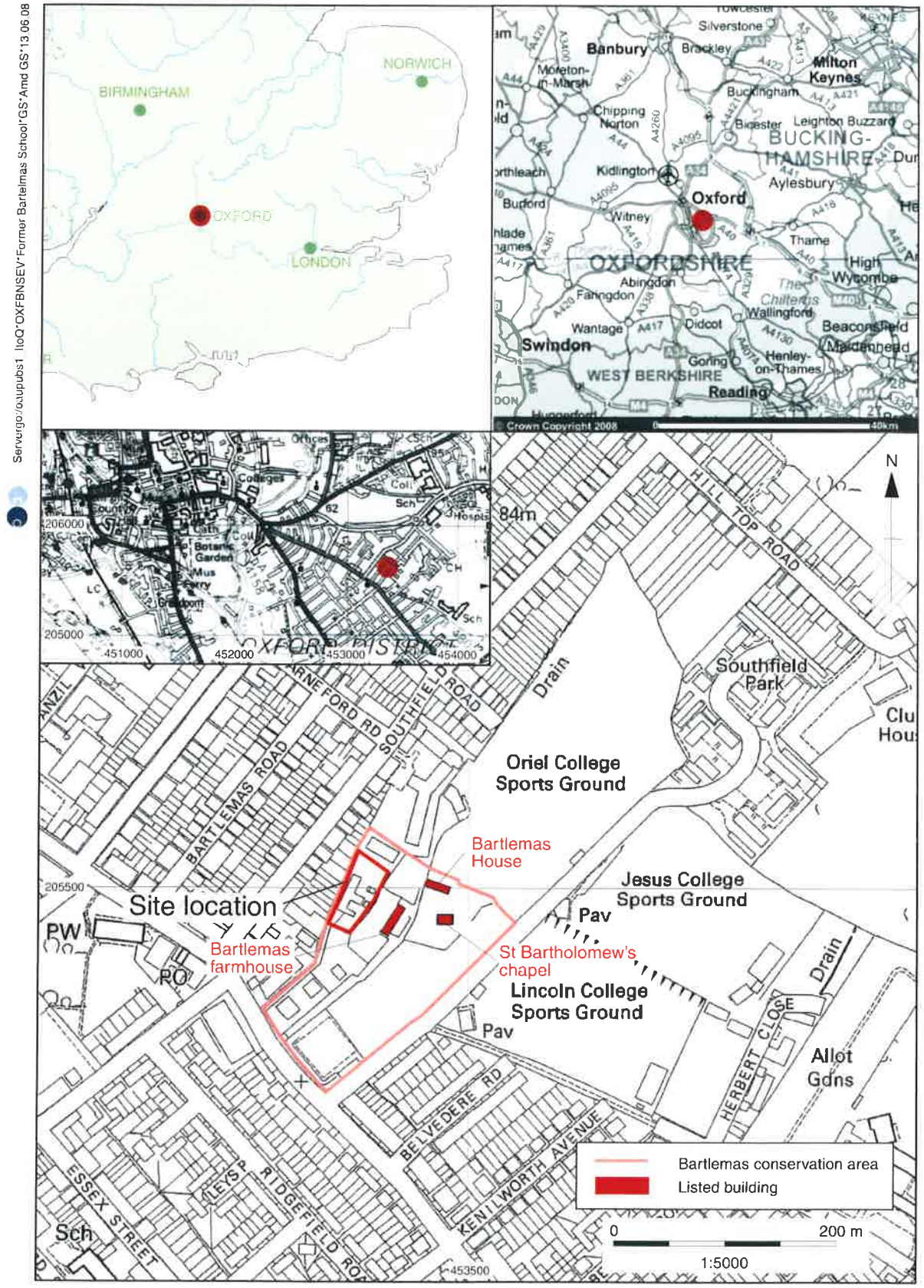

Figure 1: Site location

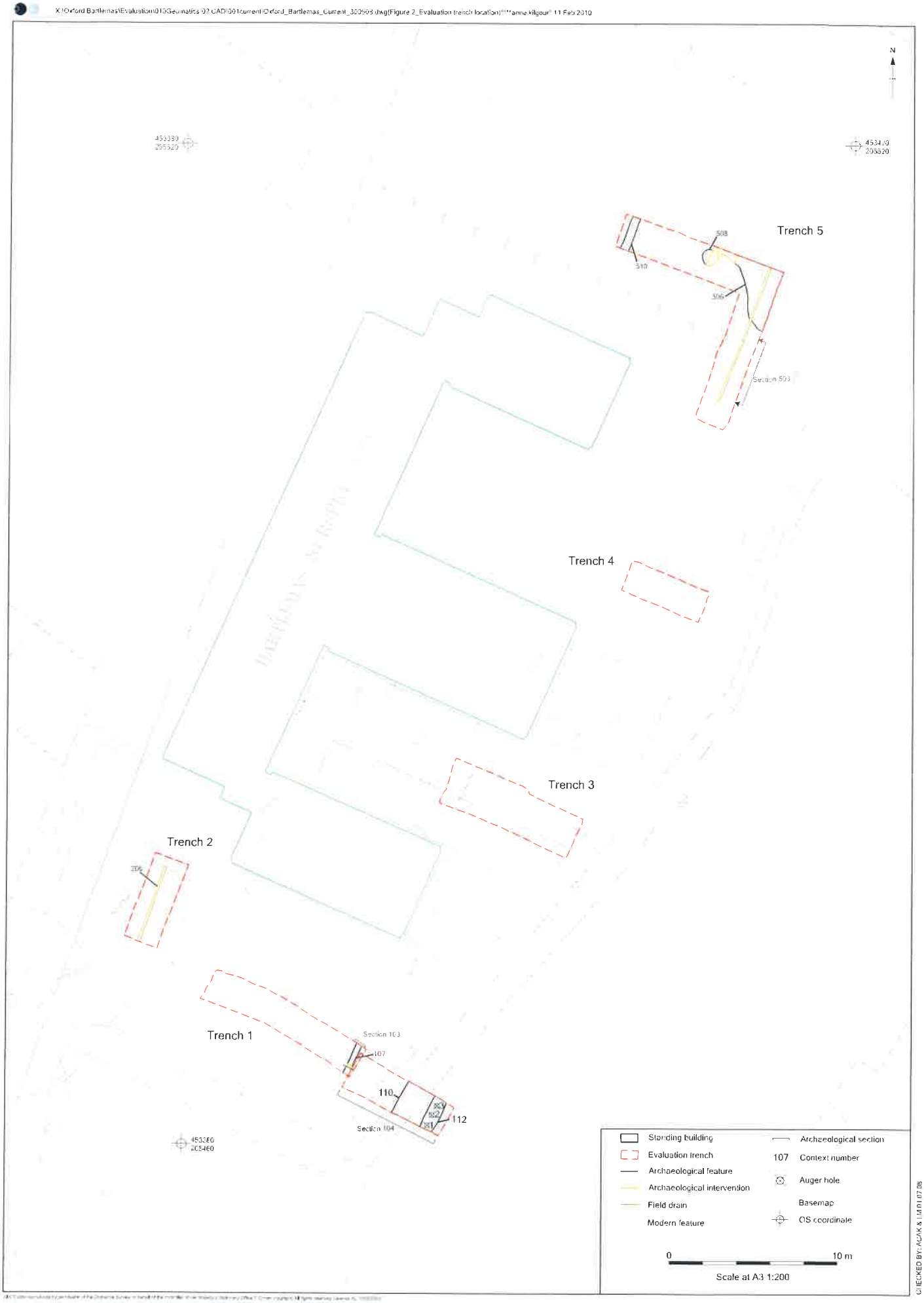

Figure 2: Evaluation trench location

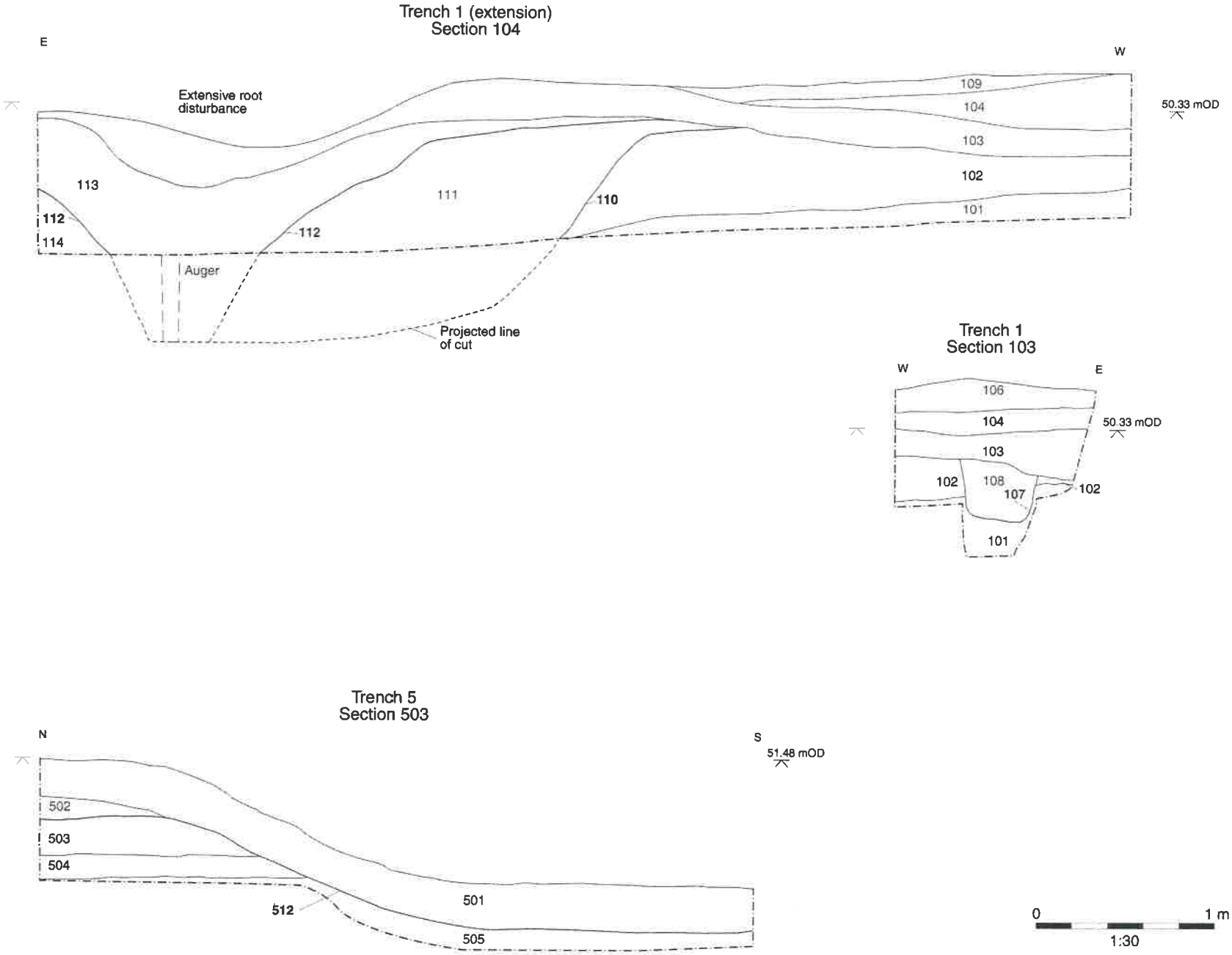

Figure 3: Sections 103, 104 and 503