CHAPMAN WARREN

Wick Wick Farm, Emersons Green, Mangotsfield South Gloucestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

ST 661 785

Planning Application Nos: P98/4917 & P98/4918

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

February 1999

CHAPMAN WARREN

Wick Wick Farm, Emersons Green, Mangotsfield South Gloucestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

ST 661 785

Planning Application Nos: P98/4917 & P98/4918

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

February 1999

CHAPMAN WARREN

Wick Wick Farm, Emersons Green, Mangotsfield, South Gloucestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

ST 661 785

Planning Application Nos: P98/4917 & P98/4918

Prepared by:	S. A Cook
Date:	11/2/99
Checked by:	Paul Booth
Date:	12.2.1999
Approved by:	R. Williams HEAD OF FIELDWORK
Date:	12/2/1999

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

February 1999

Wick Wick Farm, Emersons Green, Mangotsfield, South Gloucestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LIST OF CONTENTS

List of Appendices

List of Figures

List of Tables

Wick Wick Farm, Emersons Green, Mangotsfield, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

SUMMARY

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at Wick Wick Farm, Emersons Green, South Gloucestershire on behalf of Chapman Warren, Town Planning and Development Consultants. The evaluation, preceded by a desk top study and geophysical survey, consisted of 11 trenches which revealed deposits, surfaces and walls probably associated with the earliest occupation of the existing, but now derelict 18th century farmhouse. A single linear ditch-like feature containing medieval pottery was located within the immediate area of the house and appears to indicate the presence of medieval occupation, perhaps in the footprint of the existing farm building. The majority of archaeological deposits and structures located mainly in the areas to the rear of the farm were generally undated, and appear to relate to post-medieval occupation and development of the farm.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work (Fig.1)

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation in January 1999 at Wick Wick Farm, Emersons Green, Mangotsfield, South Gloucestershire. The work was commissioned by Chapman Warren (Town Planning and Development Consultants) on behalf of Co-operative Retail Services Limited, Bass Taverns Limited and Oriel Leisure Limited. The evaluation was undertaken to provide information in relation to an outline planning application by all three groups and for a detailed planning application for the last two groups. The proposed outline application is for the erection of a restaurant (including retention of Wick Wick Farmhouse) and the erection of a 91-bedroom three-storey hotel, a petrol filling station, convenience store and associated access and parking (144 spaces). The detailed application is for the aforementioned restaurant and hotel with parking (132 spaces), landscaping, lighting and mechanical services provision.

The evaluation was preceded by a desk-based assessment of the archaeology of the site and its environs (OAU 1998) and a geophysical survey, carried out by the Bartlett-Clark Consultancy (Bartlett 1999). The latter revealed no significant features of potential archaeological importance but was useful in identifying areas of greater and lesser disturbance which helped inform the location of the evaluation trenches. The trench layout and scope of work for the evaluation were agreed with South Gloucestershire District Council.

1.2 Geology and topography

The site is located on flat ground at the north-eastern edge of Mangotsfield, within the parish of Mangotsfield (Rural). The site is situated on the south-west side of a roundabout road junction of the A432 and A4174 roads. These roads form the western and northern boundaries of the site respectively. The M4 Motorway runs from east to west *c.*100 m to the north. The nearest watercourse is the Folly Brook, *c.*250 m north-east of the site. The geology of the area of proposed development is Triassic Keuper Marl. The site is *c.*1 hectare and is currently occupied by derelict buildings, open ground and builders' compounds.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site has been the subject of a desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey (see above), the results of which are summarised below.

1.3.2 The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) search for the desk based assessment revealed one archaeological site within the area of proposed development; the site of medieval and post-medieval settlement based on place-name, documentary and cartographic evidence. The discovery of a small sherd of Roman pottery, in a molehill immediately to the south of the site, suggests the possibility of nearby Roman activity but its significance is uncertain. The SMR entry (SMR 7124) draws attention to the significance of the place-name evidence and documentary evidence for settlement at Wick Wick Farm and states that it is

'...potentially of very great archaeological significance. Any threat to develop or demolish should be subject to archaeological evaluation'.

1.3.3 The potential for deposits associated with the prehistoric and Roman periods is low. A flint scatter indicating possible prehistoric settlement was found *c.* 600m to the north-east and Bury Hill Camp (SAM 79), lies *c.* 900m to the north-east. However, an extensive evaluation by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services on the land to the east of the proposed development revealed an area almost devoid of archaeology. Aside from the previously mentioned sherd, Roman activity is scant in the immediate area of the development, though further afield there is evidence of general Roman activity. This is indicated by Roman tiles re-used in the construction of two farmhouses *c.* 850 m to the north-west and north-east, as well as evidence for Roman occupation of Bury Hill Camp.

1.3.4 The potential for Saxon archaeology is based primarily on place-name evidence; '*wick*' (*wic*) is a significant and common place-name indicating settlement, although it is a loose term that can mean anything from a single dwelling place to a hamlet, village or town.

1.3.5 The potential for medieval archaeology is based on documentary evidence. Wick Wick is first recorded in 1221, and the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1327 lists two inhabitants at 'Wykkewyk'. A forerunner of the present farmhouse is recorded on the site in 1545; in 1597 it was described as a 'capital messuage' (manor house).

1.3.6 The potential for post-medieval archaeology is based on documentary and cartographic evidence. This points to an earlier, 17th century building, on the site. Wick Wick is described as a new messuage (manor) with several buildings, gardens and two orchards in 1657. In 1712 it is described as a hamlet of six families; a map of the county of the same date shows a settlement marked as 'Wickwic'. It appears that the hamlet was short-lived; the earliest detailed map of the site, the Tithe Map of 1840 shows the farmhouse and several outbuildings and the Apportionment list one owner and one tenant. There is no other evidence for shrunken settlement either on air photographs or on the ground.

1.3.7 The air photographic search revealed no cropmarks within the area of proposed development. Two hitherto unrecorded cropmarks of former field boundaries, shown on the Tithe Map of Frampton Cotterell (1840), were noted in the field to the west of the site on the opposite side of the A432.

1.3.8 The geophysical survey produced only limited direct findings, but did indicate the extent of modern ground disturbance. A number of comparatively undisturbed areas were also identified. It was considered possible that some archaeological features could survive at depth beneath the paving and surfacing which covers part of the site.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

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

2.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.

2.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.

2.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The evaluation consisted of trial trenching. The position of the trenches was partially determined by the results of the geophysical survey carried out prior to the evaluation. Trench positions were aimed at giving coverage of the whole site while avoiding areas of potential modern disturbance revealed during the geophysical survey.

3.1 Sample size and scope of fieldwork

The evaluation was based upon a 3% sample of the development area, and consisted of 11 trenches varying in length from 5 m to 30 m and all measuring 1.60 m wide (Fig 2). The overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator (JCB) under close archaeological supervision down to the first significant archaeological horizon. Where there were no archaeological deposits trenches were excavated to the surface of the natural subsoil.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned at 1:50 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:50 and 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).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The underlying soil type consisted of layers of stiff silty-clay. Ground conditions were wet during the evaluation.

4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits

The results of the evaluation suggest that medieval deposits are located in the immediate vicinity of the existing farmhouse building. Although only a single medieval ditch-like feature was recorded, there is potential for the survival of further medieval remains within the evaluated area. Two undated ditches suggest the possibility that medieval

remains may extend to the area west of the farmhouse. Undated, but probable post-medieval structural remains and deposits were observed to the rear (east) of the farmhouse building. These potentially later features were reasonably evenly distributed in the eastern area of the site and some of the deposits may indicate activities associated with earlier metal working.

4.3 Presentation of Results

The results of the evaluation are described trench by trench, from the earliest to the latest deposits. The context inventory is contained in Appendix 1. The descriptions of the deposits refer to the individual trenches. All levels above ordnance datum were derived from the arbitrary datum of 10 m OD located as SC1) from the drawing no. 5040/3 surveyed and drawn by Malcolm Hughes Land Surveyors.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

5.1.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was positioned on the south-west side of the site. The trench was 10 m long and was orientated east to west. The trench was dug to a depth of *c.*1.50 m which consisted entirely of re-deposited soil associated with modern ground build up and the laying of modern services. The natural subsoil was not observed in the trench and no finds were recovered.

5.1.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located on the south side of the main farmhouse orientated north-east to south-west and measured 10 m long. The natural clay (202) consisting of a stiff orangey-brown clay was located at *c.*1.60 m below the existing ground level. Overlying this was layer 201, an orangey-brown silty-clay containing frequent large and small fragments of stone. The layer was 0.70 m thick and was in turn overlain by layer 203, a greyish green silty-clay deposit mottled with frequent flecks of re-deposited natural. The edge of this layer begins in a line half way along the trench orientated parallel to the farm building and appears to increase in thickness going south. Overlying 203 was deposit 200, a layer of greyish orangey-brown clayey-silt 0.70 m thick and also containing frequent fragments of stone and lenses of re-deposited topsoil. Sealing these layers at the top of the trench was the modern topsoil 0.20 m thick. A number of post-medieval pottery sherds were retrieved from the layer 201. Pottery from the deposit 201 suggests a 16th or 17th century for date for deposition of the layer. Deposits overlying this layer appear to represent modern ground build up.

5.1.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was positioned in the Taywood Homes temporary site compound in the position of the former store building. The Trench was 15 m long and was orientated north-west to south-east. The surface of the natural reddish-orange clay (309) was observed at a depth of 0.60 m below the existing ground level. Situated above this

clay was a linear stone surface (307) orientated north-east to south-west. The stone surface consisted of a single layer of flat stones about 0.07 m thick and about 0.50 m wide. The surface continued beyond the north and south edges of the trench. The surface was embedded within a layer of clay (308) that appeared to act as a bonding agent. Another clay layer (306) *c.*0.15 m thick, was also observed overlying the natural clay. This layer appeared very patchy and was only present in a small area to the north-west and south-east of the stone surface 307.

Overlying 306 and 307 was layer 305, a brown silty-clay 0.10 m thick with inclusions of grit and rubble. One sherd of pottery of 20th century date was recovered from this layer. Deposit 305 was overlain by layer 304, a firm reddish-brown clay 0.25 m thick with small stone inclusions. This layer was observed throughout the trench dipping slightly over the area of the underlying stone surface and appears to indicate the re-deposition of soil very similar to the natural clay. One probable post hole feature (311) was cut into layer 304. It measured 0.45 m in diameter and was filled by a dark greyish-brown clayey-silt containing modern finds. The hole may represent part of a former fence line or a gate post.

Overlying layer 304 were three successive layers (303, 302 and 301) of modern surfaces and build up.

5.1.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was positioned on the north side of the Taywood Homes temporary site compound. The Trench was orientated south-west to north-east and was 20 m long. The surface of the natural orangey-brown clay (406) was exposed at a depth of *c.*1.40 m below the existing ground level. No archaeological features were observed within this clay. Overlying the natural was layer 402, a thin layer of orangey-greyish brown silty clay 0.25 m thick. Cut into this layer, about half way along the trench was a linear gully (403) orientated north-east to south-west. The gully was 0.42 m deep and 0.50 m wide. It had a rounded bottom with steep sides and was filled by 404, consisting of pitched stones pressed against the inside of the gully to form a stone lined drain with a single layer of small capping stones across the top. The drain feature was back filled by a deposit very similar to the layer 401. This feature, although undated, represents part of an early drainage system and could possibly be of medieval origin.

Overlying 402 was the layer 401, a dark greyish-brown clayey-silt 0.42 m thick and containing fragments of brick, tile and stone. This layer appears to represent the latest worked soil prior to modern development. Finds within the layer suggest a date no earlier than the post-medieval period. Towards the west end of the trench the layer is truncated by the construction of a modern brick lined manhole removed by the machine. Continuing west beyond the manhole was layer 405, a dark greyish-brown clayey-silt containing rubble, brick, stone, gravel and bits of tarmac. Pottery of 20th century date was visible within the layer which represents the re-deposition of material associated with recent development of the site.

Cut into layer 401 were two modern linear pipe trenches. These were removed by the machine during the excavation of the trench. Sealing one of these pipe trenches and almost overlapping the other was layer of modern concrete which was 0.12 m thick and occupied the east half of the trench. Overlying the concrete was a layer of re-deposited

orangey-brown clay (400) about 0.50 m thick and containing frequent large and small fragments of stone. This layer, representing modern build up was in turn overlain by and probably associated with layers of modern surface deposits consisting of crushed limestone, tarmac and crushed stone 0.45 m thick.

5.1.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in the north-east area of the site, measured 20 m long and was orientated north-west to south-east. The natural orangey-brown clay (502) was observed at a depth of 0.50 m below the existing ground level. Cut into the natural clay at the north end of the trench was a shallow linear ditch-like feature (504) orientated north to south. The cut was aligned obliquely across the trench from the north east corner into the east facing section so that only the east edge of the cut was exposed. The cut was 0.30 m deep and was partially exposed to a width of about 1 m. It was filled by deposit 503, a greyish orangey-brown silty-clay very similar to the overlying subsoil, but containing frequent fragments of stone. No finds were retrieved from this fill deposit. The cut feature 504 may represent an earlier ditch and although unclear, it may have been truncated by later activities suggesting that the feature may have originally been cut from the level of the overlying subsoil (501). This overlying subsoil was 0.28 m thick, was observed throughout the trench and was overlain by the modern topsoil (500).

5.1.6 Trench 6

Trench 6, located on the east side of the site, was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 10 m long. The surface of the natural orangey-brown clay (602) was observed at a depth of 0.50 m below the existing ground level. Overlying this clay was the earlier plough soil or subsoil (601) a greyish orangey-brown silty-clay *c.*0.08 m thick and extending almost the entire length of the trench. Overlying 601 were the remains of a stone wall (607) and a stone surface (608). The wall, exposed in the north end of the trench was constructed from angular fragments of pennant stone and two courses survived to a depth of about 0.16 m. The exposed wall was initially orientated east to west, but appears to demonstrate a right-angled return continuing north beyond the end of the trench. The north edge of stone surface 608 butted the south edge of the wall 607 at 0.20 m thick. The majority of the surface was about 0.12 m thick and the southern extent of this surface was defined by an edge approximately half way along the trench. The area to the north of the wall in the north-west corner of the trench was defined by layer 609, a brownish-red clayey-silt 0.19 m thick immediately overlying the clay natural. This deposit contained some pieces of slag and large fragments of stone, possibly representing collapsed wall debris. A single sherd of Mid.13th to 15th century pottery was retrieved from 609. Two potentially later features 604 and 606 were observed cut through the surface 608. These features appear to represent gully like features. Excavation of fill 604 showed that the underlying cut (603) was about 0.35 m wide and 0.30 m in depth, the base of the cut slightly truncating the underlying natural clay. Overlying the surface, wall and layer 609 was the modern topsoil, 0.30 m thick.

5.1.7 Trench 7

Trench 7, located near the eastern boundary of the site, was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 10 m long. The surface of the natural subsoil (704), a dark reddish-brown clay was exposed at a depth of 0.50 m below the existing ground level. No features were observed within this clay natural. Overlying the natural clay was layer 701, a greyish reddish-brown silty clay about 0.32 m thick. This layer, which was observed along the length of the trench and is likely to represent the earliest worked soil or occupation horizon, was cut by a single linear feature. This cut feature (703), possibly the remains of a truncated ditch with sloping sides, was orientated south-east to north-west and measured 0.90 m wide and 0.40 m deep. It was filled by the single deposit 702, slightly darker, but similar in texture to the layer 701. Sealing this feature was the modern topsoil. No finds were retrieved from Trench 7.

5.1.8 Trench 8

Trench 8, positioned in the south-east side of the site, was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 30 m long. The natural orangey-brown clay 807 was exposed at a depth of *c.*0.65 m below the existing ground level. Overlying the natural clay was 806, a subsoil of reddish-brown silty-clay 0.33 m thick. Situated above 806 in the south end of the trench was deposit 803, a surface 0.08 m thick and consisting of angular flat stones. This surface which measured about 10 m in width may represent a former trackway or yard surface apparently orientated north-east to south-west continuing beyond the east and west edge of the trench. The surface was undated.

In the north end of the trench were the remains of a former structure (804). The remains of the structure may represent the foundations of a former wall possibly associated with an earlier building. Three courses of the wall survived to a depth of *c.*0.20 m. The walled remains, like surface 803, were constructed over layer 806. Layer 805, a thin deposit of dumped slag waste *c.*0.08 m thick also overlay layer 806 and was overlain by the north-east edge of the structural remains 804. It is unclear whether the slag deposit 805 represents the remains of industrial processes occurring on the site or is simply related to the re-deposition of waste material acting as some sort of hardcore base. This layer of slag continued north-west beyond the end of the trench. Overlying the stone structure 804 and the stone surface 803 was layer 802, a light brown sandy-silt 0.10 m thick. Situated above 802 was layer 801, consisting of re-deposited modern debris 0.34 m thick. Sealing this layer was the modern topsoil. The structural remains in the north-west end of the trench were also undated.

5.1.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was located in the vicinity of the east side of the existing farm house building. The trench was orientated north-east to south-west and was 20 m long. The natural orangey-brown clay 903 was observed at a depth of *c.* 0.65 m below the existing ground level. Overlying the topsoil was the earliest worked soil or subsoil 902, a greyish orangey-brown silty-clay 0.35 m thick. This layer was in turn overlain by a stone surface (906) consisting of fragmented angular flat stones.

The surface was initially exposed in the south end of the trench where it continued beyond the limit of the excavation. The northern edge of the surface was established

towards the north end of the trench where it was aligned obliquely across the width of the trench edge and was orientated north-east to south-west. The total length of exposed surface was *c.*17.50 m. It may represent a former yard area associated with the post-medieval farm building. Overlying the surface 906 was a similarly constructed surface 905 *c.*5 m wide, also aligned obliquely in the same direction. This later surface was situated approximately centrally above the underlying surface 906 and was contained within a soil matrix consisting of a greyish brown clayey-silt. Sealing this later surface was layer 904, a rubble deposit of greyish-brown silty-clay containing frequent loose fragments of stone and 0.30 m thick. The few sherds of pottery retrieved from the layer suggests a 17th century date for its deposition. Overlying 904 was the modern topsoil, 0.15 m thick.

5.1.10 Trench 10

Trench 10, located in the south end of the site, was orientated north-east to south-west and was 10 m long. The natural orangey-red clay (1004) was observed at a depth of 0.82 m below the existing ground level. This layer was overlain by 1003, a darker orangey-red silty clay representing the earliest soil horizon and measuring 0.16 m thick. Overlying layer 1003 was a thin deposit of angular stones (1002) laid flat to form a separate layer 0.10 m thick. This deposit appeared to indicate the presence of a former surface, possibly a yard surface perhaps associated with the post-medieval farmhouse. The surface continued beyond the extent of the trench in all directions and was overlain by a thick layer (1001) of re-deposited material 0.40 m thick and consisting of silt, gravel and modern building debris. Above this layer at the top of the trench was the modern topsoil. No finds were recovered from any of these contexts.

5.1.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 was positioned near the north-west corner of the existing farm house building. The Trench was 5 m long and was orientated east to west. The surface of the natural clay 1104 was observed at a depth of 0.90 m below the existing ground level. Cut into the natural clay was linear ditch like feature (1102) orientated north-west to south-east. The ditch cut measured *c.*1.40 m wide and 0.34 m deep and contained a single fill (1103) consisting of greyish-orangey-brown silty-clay with a frequent stone inclusion. Three sherds of Medieval pottery were retrieved from the fill of the ditch. Two of the sherds were dated 12th to 13th century, while the third has a wider 12th to 16th century date range. One sherd of 13th century pottery was produced from a layer 1101 overlying the fill of the ditch. This layer, greyish orangey-brown silty-clay that may represent the earliest cultivated soil, was 0.18 m thick. It is likely that ditch 1102 was originally cut through this layer, but was truncated at a later date. Overlying layer 1101 was an overburden of modern re-deposited layers including concrete and tarmac and a modern service pipe.

5.2 Finds

Small quantities of finds were recovered from excavated deposits and were labelled according to context and trench.

5.2.1 *Medieval pottery*

Seven medieval sherds were recovered, of which four, three from Trench 11 and one from Trench 6, were potentially stratified in medieval contexts. Despite being small in size, the medieval assemblage from Trench 11 comprises mainly large sherds, suggesting that they suffered little transportation after deposition, and are possibly the result of contemporary activity within the immediate vicinity of their find-spot. An assessment of the medieval pottery is given in Appendix 2.

5.2.2 *Post-medieval pottery*

Sixteen post-medieval sherds were retrieved during the evaluation, representing four main wares types. An assessment of the post-medieval pottery is given in Appendix 2.

5.2.3 *Other finds*

Fragments of slag were retrieved from four deposits. Where there was an abundance of slag a sample was retrieved for identification. An assessment of the slag is given in Appendix 3.

5.3 Environmental data

No waterlogged or charred deposits were encountered during the evaluation and none of the contexts examined was appropriate for sampling for environmental remains.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

Modern disturbance affecting the integrity of the stratigraphic evidence was confined mostly to the trenches positioned on the west side of the application area. In the eastern area of the site the evidence from the trenches indicates that, although there are some areas of modern build-up, the vertical stratigraphic sequence is quite shallow and there are very few areas of modern below ground disturbance.

The evidence from Trench 4 suggests that two layers (401 and 402) of possible archaeological potential were penetrated during the construction of modern services. These layers, which may represent early occupation horizons, appear to have survived relatively intact in some areas. Evidence from the west end of Trench 4 suggests that considerable modern disturbance had occurred within the extreme west edge of the site perhaps involving a major reduction in the ground level followed by the re-deposition of modern material. Generally though, and including the concrete base, there appears to have been a raising of the ground level as a result of modern build up to a depth of at least 1 m. This was further evidenced from the results in Trench 1 where made-up ground was at the very least 1.50 m thick and contained a number of modern services.

The results from Trench 3 showed that disturbance to potential archaeological deposits was minimal. Modern activity had resulted in the re-deposition of modern layers causing a raising of the ground level. This build-up appears to have protected the

earliest underlying deposits. Trench 11, positioned in close proximity to Trench 3 and the farmhouse building, showed a similar pattern of modern activity. Evidence of medieval occupation (ditch 1102) was observed in the base of the trench unaffected by modern disturbance and was overlain by a sequence of layers related to modern build up.

Trench 2 shows a level of build-up amounting to 1.60 m. The earliest context (201) consisted mostly of probable building debris, perhaps resulting from wall demolition Finds suggest a post-medieval date for the layer. A single roof tile was retrieved from the partial excavation of this deposit. The overlying layers 203 and 200 appears to represent the re-deposition of modern material resulting again in the raising of the ground level.

Very little modern disturbance or ground build-up appears to have occurred to the rear of the farm building in the eastern area of the site. Archaeological features and possible walled structures of probable post-medieval date were revealed directly below the modern topsoil in Trenches 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10. In Trench 7 a single undated linear ditch was also observed directly below the modern topsoil.

6.2 Overall interpretation

6.2.1 Summary of Results

A single medieval linear ditch was observed in Trench 11 in close proximity to the north-west corner of the existing farm building. Two further, but undated linear ditch features were observed within Trenches 5 and 7. Trench 7 produced some slag, but no dateable finds.

To the rear of the farm house in the eastern area of the site Trenches 6, 8, 9 and 10 revealed evidence suggesting extensive stone surfaces and walled remains probably indicating the presence of farmyard areas and outbuildings associated with the post-medieval farmhouse. The presence of slag deposits associated with some of these deposits (608, 609 and 805) suggests perhaps that metal working was occurring on the site within the area of the farm. The presence of a single medieval pottery sherd from the context 609, although inconclusive, does indicate the possibility that metal working may have occurred on the site during the medieval period and continued into the post-medieval period, though it is equally possible that the sherd was residual.

Apart from some destruction likely to have resulted from the construction of a number of service pipes the general build-up resulting from modern re-deposition will have possibly aided in protecting any underlying medieval deposits from more recent disturbance.

6.2.2 Significance

Evidence from Trench 11 in the west area of the site suggests that medieval deposits are present within the application area and that these are concentrated in the immediate vicinity of the farmhouse. This appears to confirm the documentary and place name evidence which suggests that the site saw medieval settlement prior to the

construction of the post-medieval farmhouse. The stone surface and structural features to the east of the farmhouse building were undated, so it is possible that some of these features were also related to medieval settlement, perhaps with associated industrial processes, since some of the features observed in the eastern area of the site were associated with fragments of slag, some of which was tap (smelting) slag. A post-medieval date is more likely for these features, however. The field name 'Synder Hill', located on the 1840 Tithe Award *c.*400 m south-east of the site, suggests that metalworking occurred there in the vicinity of the site. Wick Wick could have been linked with this activity, but an iron producing site so close would have been a useful source of hardcore material for farm yard surfaces etc so the slag recovered there may have been entirely redeposited, a suggestion which is supported by the fact that none of the deposits which produced slag also contained fuel material.

References

Barton, K J, 1963 The medieval pottery kiln at Ham Green, Bristol, *Trans Bristol Glos Archaeol Soc* **82**, 95-126

Bartlett, A D H, 1999 *Land at Wick Wick Farm,Emerson's Green, Bristol: Report on Archaeogeophysical Survey*

Dawson, D P, Jackson, R G and Ponsford M W, 1972 Medieval kiln wasters from St. Peter's Church, Bristol, *Trans Bristol Glos Archaeol Soc* **91**, 159-67

Gaimster, D, 1997 *German Stoneware*, British Museum Publications

Mellor, M, 1994 Oxford Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region, *Oxoniensia* **59**, 17-217

OAU 1998 *Wick Wick Farm, Emerson's Green: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*, Oxford Archaeological Unit client report, December 1998

Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, First edition, August 1992

Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
001								
	100	layer		0.3	modern topsoil			
	101	layer		0.25	Re-deposited soil			Modern
002								
	200	Layer		0.70	Re-deposited soil			Modern?
	201	Layer		0.70	Building debris	Pot	10	16th C+
	202	Layer			Natural clay			
	203	Layer		0.30	Re-deposited soil			Modern?
003								
	301	Layer		0.14	Topsoil			Modern
	302	Layer		0.20	Tarmac			Modern
	303	Layer		0.14	Modern rubble			
	304	Layer		0.26	Re-deposited natural clay			
	305	Layer		0.20	Re-deposited soil	Pot	1	20th C
	306	Layer		0.15				
	307	Surface		0.05	Path ?			Undated
	308	Layer		0.06	Unclear	Pot	1	Undated
	309	Layer			Natural clay			
	310	Cut			Post hole Filled by 311			Modern
	311	Fill			Fill of 310			
004								
	400	Layer		0.50	Re-deposited soil			Modern?
	401	Layer		0.40				
	402	Layer		0.22				
	403	Cut	0.50	0.45				
	404	Structure			Stone lined drain			Post-med?
	405			0.42				Modern?
	406				Natural clay			
005								
	500	Layer		0.30	Topsoil			
	501	Layer		0.28	Subsoil			
	502	Layer		0.18	Natural clay			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	503	Fill		0.28	Fill of 504			
	504	Cut		0.28	Ditch?			
006								
	600	Layer		0.30	Topsoil			Modern
	601	Layer		0.10	Earlier ploughsoil			
	602	Layer			Natural clay			
	603	Cut	0.40	0.30	Filled by 604			
	604	Fill			Fill of 603			Undated
	605	Cut	0.40		Filled by 606			
	606	Fill			Fill of 605			Undated
	607	Wall		0.15	Building?			Undated
	608	Surface		0.20	Yard?			Undated
	609	Layer			Unclear	Pot	1	13th C+
007								
	700	Layer		0.26	Topsoil			Modern
	701	Layer		0.32	Earlier ploughsoil			
	702	Fill		0.40	Fill of 703			Undated
	703	Cut	0.92	0.40	Ditch			Undated
	704	Layer			Natural clay			
008								
	800	Layer		0.16	Topsoil ?			Modern
	801	Layer		0.24				
	802	Layer		0.10				
	803	Surface		0.08	Yard / road ?			Undated
	804	Structure		0.20	Walled building ?			Undated
	805	Layer		0.06	Slag deposit			Undated
	806	Layer		0.20	Earlier plough soil			
	807	Layer			Natural clay			
	808	Layer			Re-deposited natural			
009								
	901	Layer		0.25	Top soil			Modern
	902	Layer		0.35	Earlier plough soil ?			
	903	Layer			Natural clay			
	904	Layer		0.40	Re-deposited soil	Pot	6	

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
	905	Surface		0.14	Yard area ?			Undated
	906	Surface		0.15	Yard area ?			Undated
010								
	1000				Topsoil			Modern
	1001			0.40	Re-deposited soil			
	1002	Surface		0.10	Yard surface?			
	1003	Layer		0.16				
	1004	Layer			Natural clay			
011								
	1101	Layer		0.35	Earlier plough soil?	Pot	1	Mid.13th C +
	1102	Cut	1.40	0.34	Ditch?-Filled by 1103			12th C?
	1103	Fill		0.34	Fill of 1102	Pot	4	12th C?
	1104	Layer			Natural clay			13th C+?

Appendix 2: Pottery assessment by Paul Blinkhorn

The post-Roman pottery assemblage comprised 23 sherds with a total weight of 1,114 g. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1.

Medieval Wares

All the pottery was post-medieval with the exception of three medieval wares, as follows:

F1: Minety-type Ware (cf Mellor 1994):

Dark grey, heavily leached fabric with pale surfaces Splashes of poor-quality, sage-green glaze. Moderate to dense oolitic shelly limestone up to 1 mm. Few other visible inclusions except for very sparse quartz up to 0.5 mm. Diagonally-slashed strap handle and rim from a large ?tripod pitcher of early type. Mid 12th – mid 16th century (Mellor 1994, 100). 2 sherds, 375 g.

F2: Ham Green Ware (cf Barton 1963):

Pale orange sandy fabric, thicker sherds have a grey core. Moderate to dense orange-pink, sub-rounded quartz up to 1 mm, although most is less than 0.5 mm. The single feature sherd is a jug rim with a large 'parrot-beak' spout and a dull variegated green glaze. 12th – mid 13th century (A Vince pers comm). 2 sherds, 103 g.

F3: Bristol Ware (cf Dawson et al 1972):

Very hard, grey fabric with lighter surfaces. Glossy, variegated green glaze. Moderate to dense clear, subrounded quartz up to 1 mm, although most is less than 0.5 mm. Mid 13th – 15th century (A Vince, pers comm). 3 sherds, 20g.

Post-medieval Wares

German Stonewares. *AD1480+. A range of hard, grey, salt-glazed fabrics produced at numerous sites in the Rhineland and beyond (cf Gaimster 1997). 1 sherd, 14 g.*

Red Earthenwares*: Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century. 11 sherds, 374 g.*

Midland Blackware*: Hard, sandy fabric, usually brick-red, but can be paler or browner. Vessels usually have an even coating of thick black glaze. Made in a range of utilitarian forms, particularly mugs. Late 16th/early 17th century, and continued in use until the 18th century. 1 sherd, 217 g.*

Tin-Glazed Earthenwares. c. AD1550-1700. Fine white earthenware, occasionally pinkish or yellowish core. Thick white tin glaze, with painted cobalt blue decoration, occasionally manganese purple and ochre. Rare inscriptions. Glaze tends to flake away from surface of body clay. Vessels usually ointment pots, albarellos and plates. 1 sherd, 2 g.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Ctxt	Minety-type		Ham Green		Bristol Ware		Red Earthenware		German Stoneware		Mid Black		TGE		Misc 19th/20thC		Context date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
201	1	166					8	361			1	217					16th C+
305															1	1	20th C
308															1	8	19th C
609					1	12											M13th C+
904					1	2	3	13	1	14			1	2			17th C?
1101					1	6											M13th C+
1103	1	209	2	103													12th C?
Total	2	375	2	103	3	20	11	374	1	14	1	217	1	2	2	9	

Comments

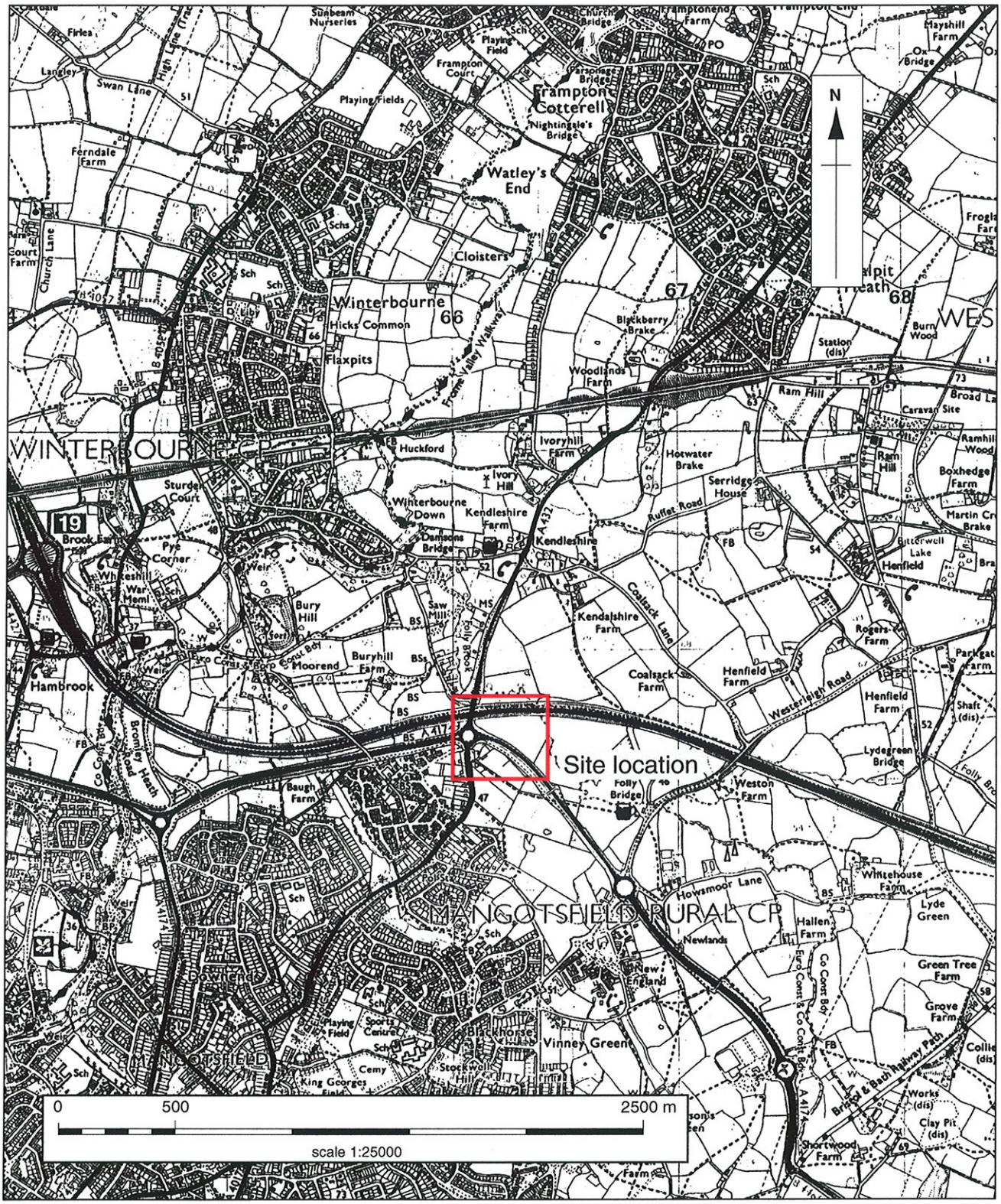
The medieval assemblage, despite being small in size, comprises mainly large sherds, suggesting that they suffered little transportation after deposition, and are the result of contemporary activity within the immediate vicinity of their find-spot.

Appendix 3: Assessment of the slag by Kayt Smith

A small sample of metal working debris (3.936 kg) was recovered from a total of four contexts within Trenches 6, 7 and 8. This material was briefly scanned to allow morphological identification and weighed by context. The only diagnostic slag residue is tap slag, the remainder of the material comprising amorphous lumps of slag. The tap slag was recovered from surface 608 and the upper fill of ditch 703. Amorphous fragments were recovered from layer 805 which may represent deliberate dumping as it appears to continue underneath wall 804, and layer 609, with a *terminus post quem* of the 13th-15th centuries, associated with wall 607. It is unclear at this stage whether this material was produced on the site, however within 1 km is a site known as 'Synder Hill' and there is, therefore, a high probability that metal working was carried out within the vicinity.

Table 2: Weight of slag per context by slag type

Context	Type	Weight (g)
608	Tap slag	1630
609	Amorphous	300
702	Tap Slag	1005
805	Amorphous	964



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 1997
with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationary Office
© Crown Copyright. Licence NO. AL 854166

Figure 1: Site location

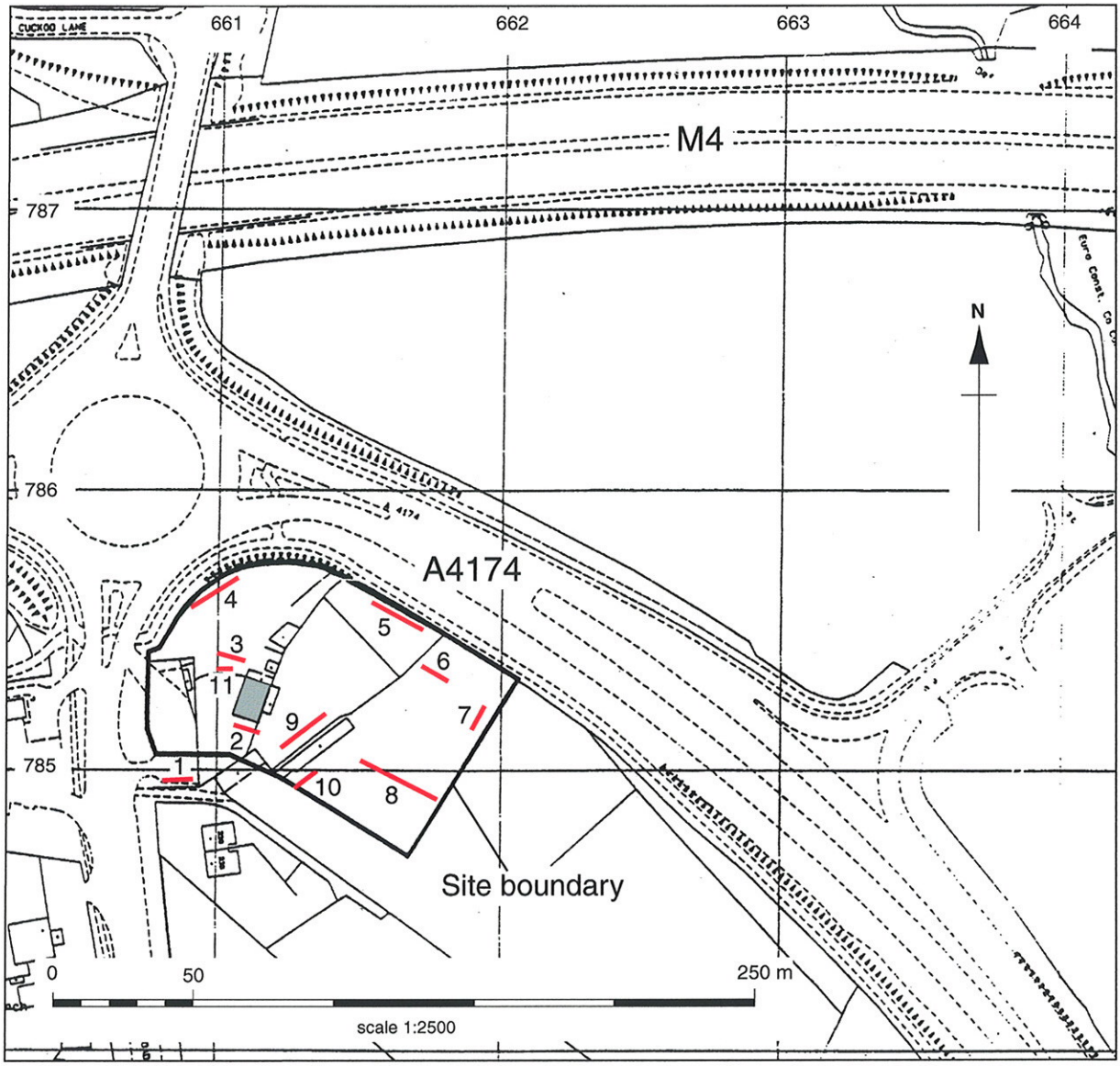
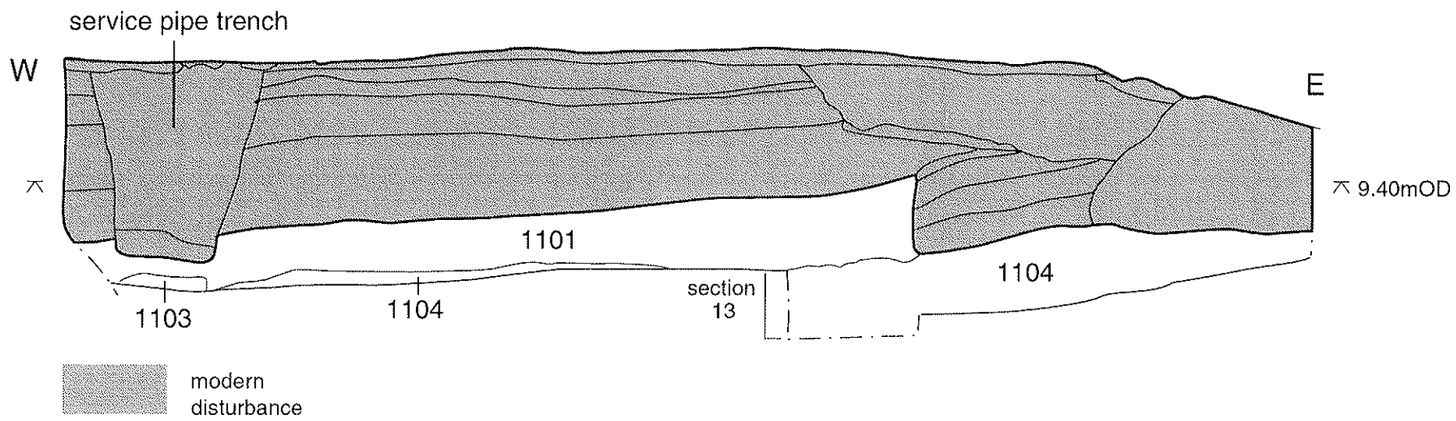


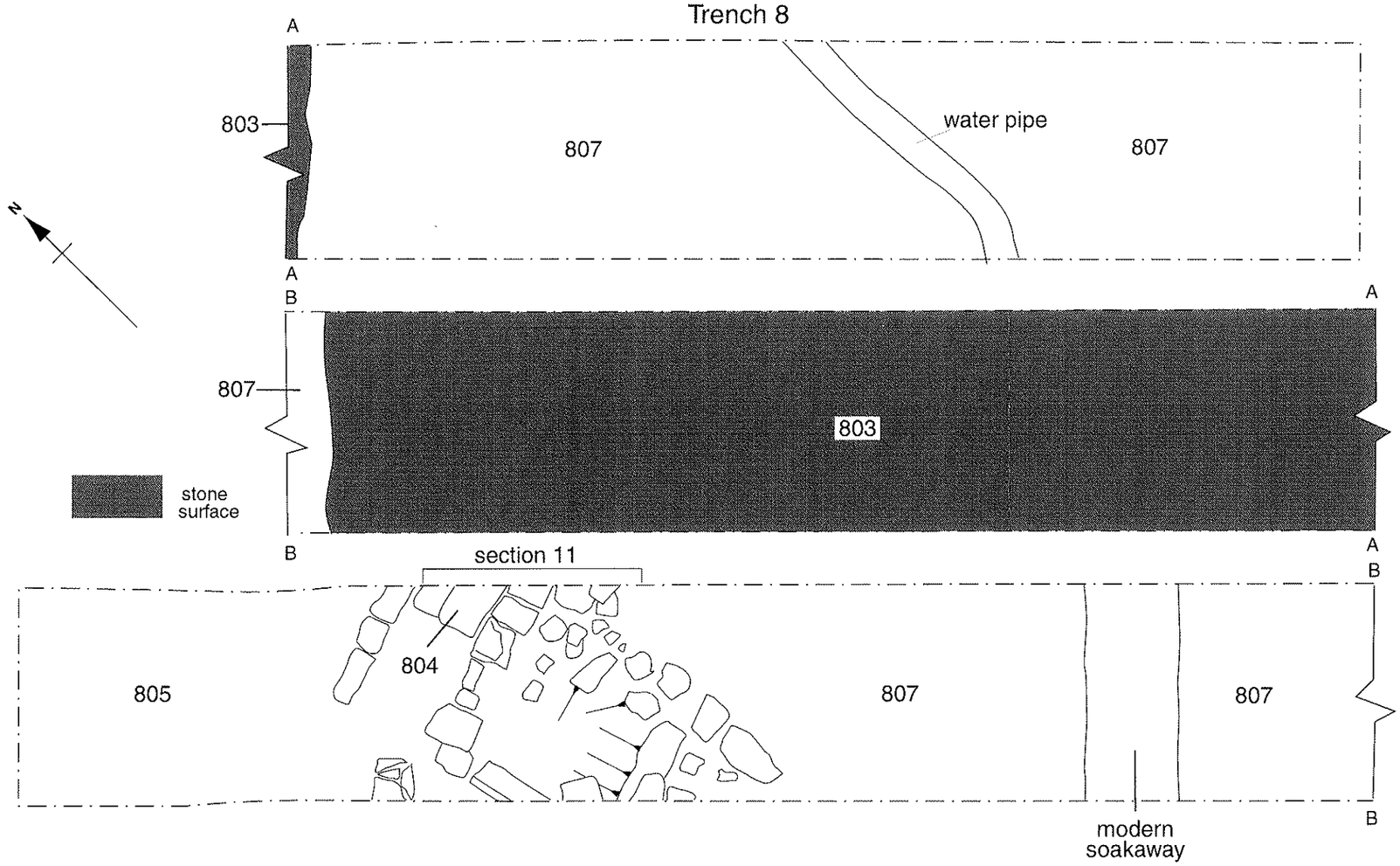
Fig.2: Trench location

Trench 11

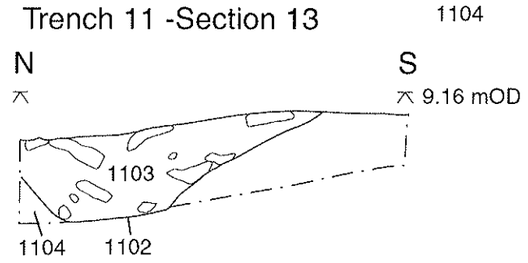
Trench 11 - Section 7



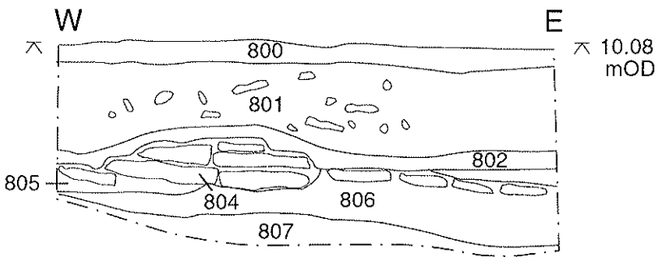
Trench 8



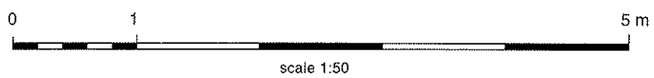
Trench 11 -Section 13



Trench 8 - Section 11

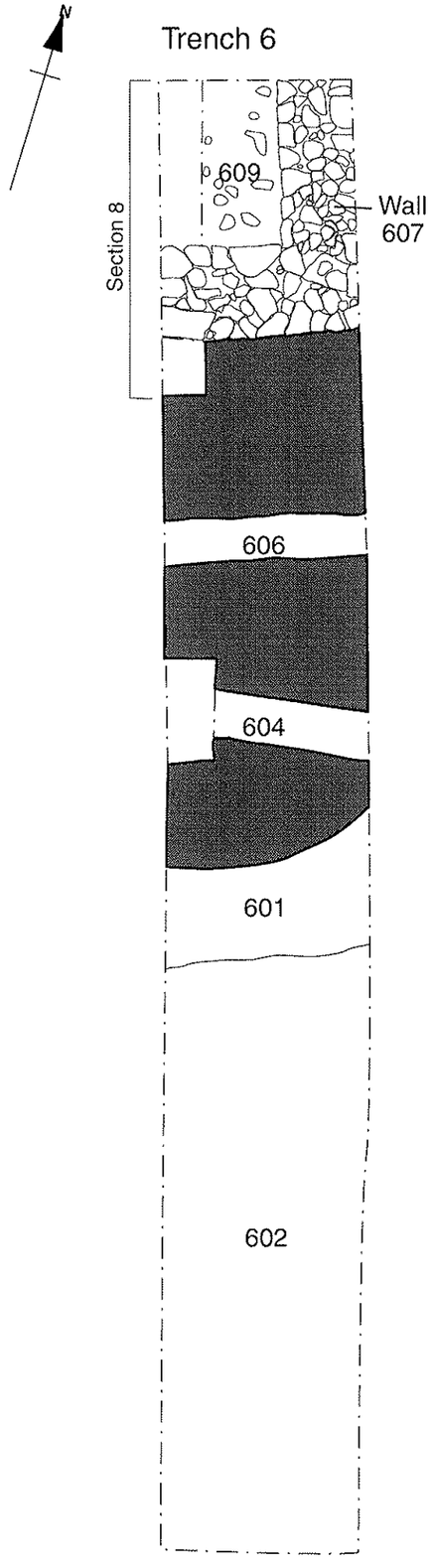


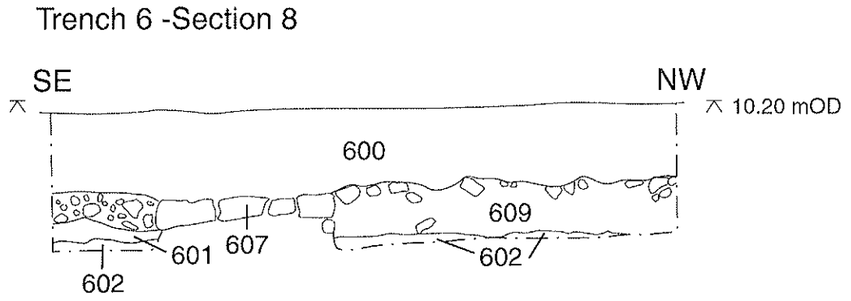
Plans

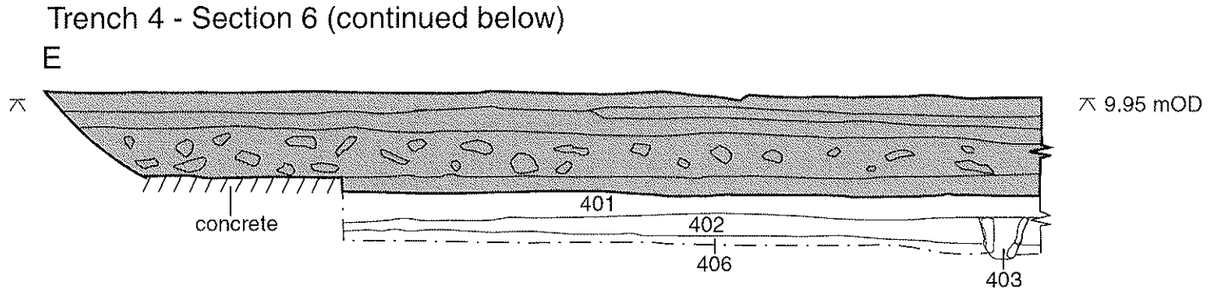


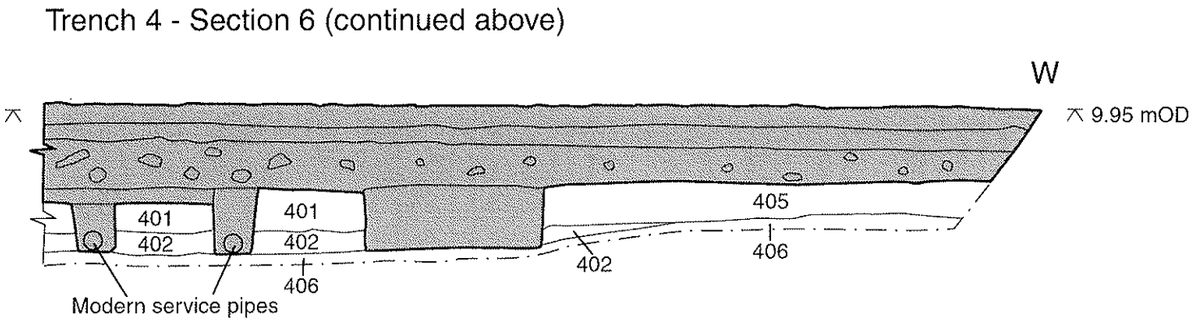
Sections

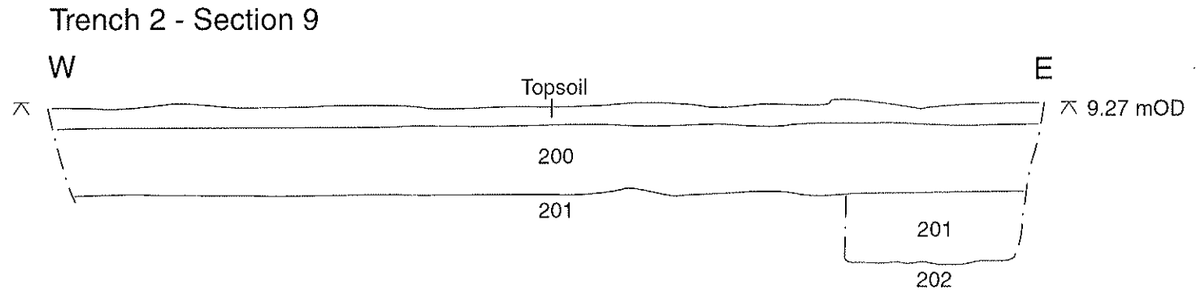
Figure 3: Trench plans and sections

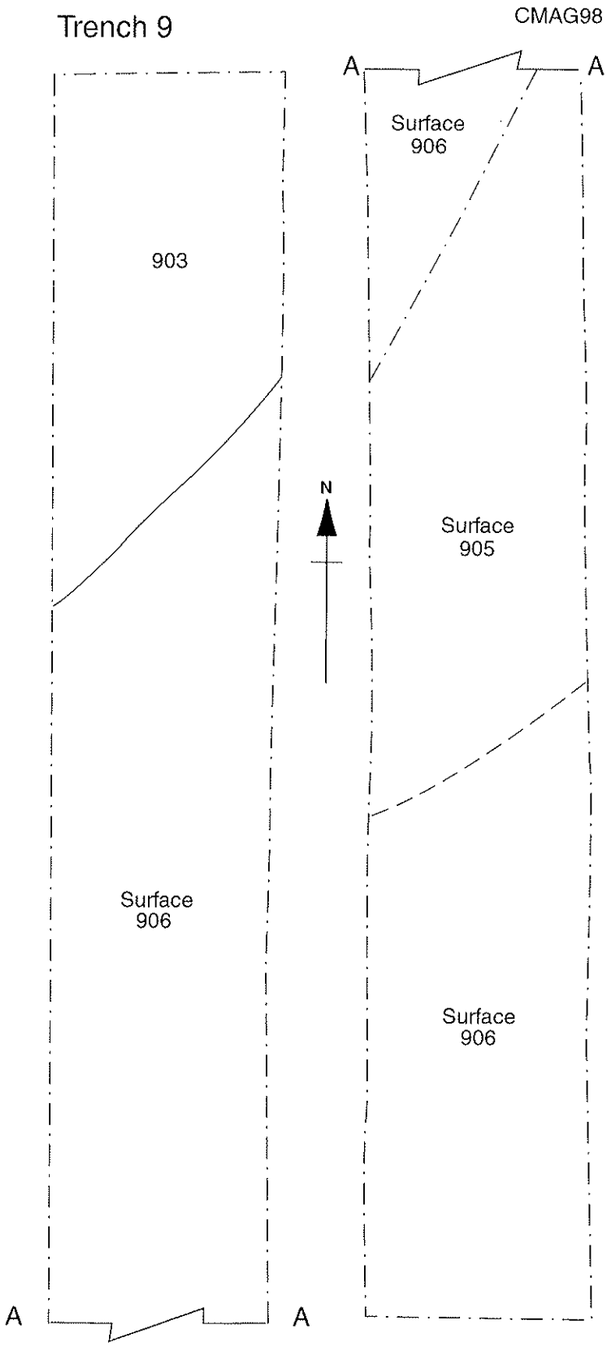












Plans

0 1 5 m

scale 1:50

Sections

0 1 2 m

scale 1:25

Figure 4: Trench plans and sections

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496

email: postmaster@oau-oxford.demon.co.uk

25 YEARS OAU 1973 - 1998

Director: David Miles B.A., F.S.A., M.I.F.A. Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited.
Private Limited Company Number: 1618597 Registered Charity Number: 285627.
Registered Office: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES