

Land off Glebe Close Frampton-on-Severn Gloucestershire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

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**Land off Glebe Close
Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire**

NGR: SO 7461 0685

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**CONTENTS**

Summary.....	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Location and scope of work	1
1.2 Geology and topography	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	1
1.4 Acknowledgements	2
2 Evaluation Aims	2
3 Evaluation Methodology	2
3.1 Scope of fieldwork	2
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording	2
3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence.....	2
3.4 Presentation of results	3
4 Results: General.....	3
4.1 Soils and ground conditions	3
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits.....	3
5 Results: Descriptions	3
5.1 Description of deposits	3
5.2 Finds	4
6 Discussion and Interpretation.....	4
6.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	4
6.2 Summary of results.....	4
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	5
Appendix 2 References	6
Appendix 3 Summary of Site Details.....	6

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location
 Fig. 2 Trench location
 Fig. 3 Trench 1, plan and sections
 Fig. 4 Trench 2, plan and sections

SUMMARY

In July 2004, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at land off Glebe Close, Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 7461 0685) for CgMs Consulting on behalf of GS Development Services. The evaluation revealed 19th-20th century pits and brick structural debris of a former modern piggery and farm buildings.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between the 5th and 6th July 2004, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at land off Glebe Close, Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire (NGR: SO 7461 0685) for CgMs Consulting on behalf of GS Development Services. The proposed development concerns the construction of three dwellings and associated access (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 A brief was set by Charles Parry, the Gloucestershire County Archaeologist and a specification for the fieldwork prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2004) and agreed with Mr Parry. OA operated in accordance with both these documents.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on former marshland at approximately 10 m above OD. The site is situated on alluvium and river terrace gravel over Lower Lias clays of the Lower Jurassic (Sheet 234, Institute of Geological Science, 1979). The development site is situated south of the village.

1.2.2 The site comprises an area of approximately 2,080 m² (Fig. 2). To the north and west are residential properties. Otherwise, it is surrounded by agricultural land. The Gloucestershire and Sharpness Canal is some 330 m to the west of the site, with the River Severn some 850 m to the west. The site is currently over grown.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The County Sites and Monuments Record has no features or sites within 100 m of the proposed development site. The nearest recorded SMR features to the site are agricultural buildings dating to the late 16th or early 17th century (SMR Nos. 12220-1222 and 12224). An early 16th century building thought to be part of a former manor house or priest's house lies to the north-west of the site (SMR no. 12225).

1.3.2 The development site lies *c* 300 m to the east of the church of St Mary's, and as the name of the modern day Close suggests, this area was a constituent part of the glebe lands of the parish. The Church of St Mary's was consecrated in AD 1315 and has been subjected to various additions and structural changes during the subsequent centuries. Possibly the most substantial addition was the construction of two chapels on the east end of both aisles during the 15th century.

1.3.3 The village green is situated immediately to the north-west of the site. This is reputed to be one of the largest surviving greens in the county.

1.3.4 Romano-British pottery dating to the 1st century AD was recovered from the gravel pits some 200 m to the north of the site (SMR No 7006). Coins dating to 3rd century AD were recovered from the garden of Yew Tree Cottage (SMR No 7007), also to the north of the site. Further evidence of the late Roman and Iron Age settlement has been recorded in the fields to the east of Townfield farm, some 850 m to the north-east of the site. The fields to the east of the site also contain cropmarks identified from aerial photographs (SMR No. 4642 and 4315). These are likely to date to the late prehistoric period (CgMs 2004).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank CgMs Consulting, Charles Parry, Senior Archaeologist for Gloucestershire County Council and GS Development Services for their support and advice.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1.1 To clarify the presence or absence and extent of archaeological deposits within the site.

2.1.2 To identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition, significance, quality and depth of any surviving remains within the site.

2.1.3 To assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of two trenches, each measuring 25 m (east-west) and 1.8 m wide (Fig. 2). This represented a 4% sample of the area and provided a good representation of the archaeological potential of the site.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The evaluation trenches were excavated to the top of the geological or archaeological horizon, whichever came first, and then hand cleaned.

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

3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

3.4 Presentation of results

- 3.4.1 Section 5 describes the sequence of deposits and archaeological remains in each trench. The plans of all trenches and accompanying sections from each trench are illustrated. Context details are given in the Context Inventory (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The general soil type was a light grey brown silt topsoil, which overlaid a friable mid-brown silt sand with inclusions of gravel subsoil in Trenches 1 and 2.
- 4.1.2 Only in Trench 2 was a friable yellowish brown silt and sandy gravel, a possible post glacial water borne deposit, identified. The underlying natural gravel geology was reached in both trenches.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 Archaeological features and deposits were revealed within Trenches 1 and 2, a higher percentage towards the west of the development site. Tree-throw holes and disturbance were identified in both trenches. The subsoil located in both trenches is probably an undated plough soil.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1 (Fig. 2 and 3)

- 5.1.1 This trench was located close to Ambertey and Tulip cottages (Fig. 2), to the west of the site and was aligned east-west. The underlying geology was a yellowish white sand and gravel (102), located at a depth of 0.64 m to the west below the present ground surface and at 0.50 m to the east below the present ground surface. This was overlain by a layer of friable mid-brown silty sand with gravel inclusions (123), which was located at the very eastern end of the trench and was probably a plough soil of unknown date.
- 5.1.2 Cutting the subsoil layer was a pit (122), which contained a friable dark grey brown fill (121) and contained 19th-20th century pottery (Fig. 3, section 1).
- 5.1.3 A further series of rectangular to oval pits (106 - Fig. 3, Section 3; 114, 116, 118 and 120), of which almost all were investigated, revealed similar fills and pottery of similar date as that recovered from pit (122).
- 5.1.4 Linear features 108 and 110, filled with friable dark brown sandy silt (107 and 109), cut the natural geology and represent possible foundation trenches associated with a farm building or piggery known on the site.
- 5.1.5 Several tree-throw holes were located (104 and 112), but only 104 was investigated and revealed a small quantity of 19th century pottery, which was most likely residual (Fig 3, section 2).

- 5.1.6 Sealing all these features was a loose light grey brown silt topsoil (101). A few pottery sherds were retrieved from the topsoil layer. Embedded in this layer was part of a brick wall and debris (124), probably the remains of the piggery (Fig. 3, section 3).

Trench 2 (Fig. 2 and 4)

- 5.1.7 This trench was located to the east of the development site and was aligned east-west. The underlying geology was a yellowish white sand and gravel (204), which was reached at a depth of 0.50 m to the west and at 0.80 m to the east below present ground surface. The natural was directly overlain by a yellowish brown silt and sandy gravel layer (203), probably a post-glacial water-borne deposit (Fig. 4, sections 4 and 5). Overlying this layer was a friable, mid-brown silty sand with gravel inclusions (202) subsoil, an undated plough soil.
- 5.1.8 At the western end of the trench a rectangular pit (206) (Fig. 4, section 6), measuring 3 m long by 1.2 m wide was excavated but not bottomed for health and safety reasons. This was seen to cut the subsoil (202). This pit contained a single fill of dark grey brown silty loam (205), which had an organic appearance and contained 19th century pottery and glass vessel. Directly sealing this feature and the subsoil was a loose light grey brown silt topsoil (201).

5.2 Finds

- 5.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.
- 5.2.2 The full data for the pottery and bone is included in Appendix 1. All the pottery is late post-medieval, 19th 20th century in date.
- 5.2.3 Other finds retrieved included a single unidentified metal object, glass (window and vessel), ceramic building material (brick and tile), and clay tobacco pipes, all from late post-medieval contexts.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The trenches were positioned to investigate a good overall coverage of the proposed development area.
- 6.1.2 Within the area examined the results from the two trenches clearly demonstrated the presence of late post-medieval 19th - 20th century activity but also a complete absence of any significant archaeological features or deposits of any earlier period.

6.2 Summary of results

- 6.2.1 No significant archaeological remains were revealed in the two evaluation trenches. However evidence of recent, 19th and 20th century activity relating to pig farming and the use of the land for tree planting was discovered.
- 6.2.2 A soil layer of unknown date was also recorded suggesting agricultural activity, possibly within the medieval period.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctx</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	101	Layer		0.65	Topsoil	Pottery	C19-20th
	102	Layer			Natural gravel	-	
	103	Fill	1.3	0.30	Fill of TTH 104	Pottery	C19-20th
	104	Cut	2 x 1.3	0.30	Tree-throw hole	-	
	105	Fill		0.80	Fill of pit 106	-	
	106	Cut	1.6 dia	0.80	Pit	-	
	107	Fill		0.12	Fill of 108	Pottery CBM	C19-20th
	108	Cut	2 x 0.6	0.12	Linear foundation	-	
	109	Fill		0.10	Fill of 110	Pottery	C19-20th
	110	Cut	1.8 x 0.36	0.10	Linear foundation	-	
	111	Fill		0.35	Fill of tree- hole	-	
	112	Cut	4 x 1.5	0.35	Tree-throw hole	-	
	113	Fill			Fill of pit 114	CBM, bone	C19-20th
	114	Cut	1.5 x 1.15		Pit	-	
	115	Fill		0.40	Fill of pit 116	Pottery, glass, bone pipe, metal	C19-20th
	116	Cut	1.6 x 1.7	0.40	Pit	-	
	117	Fill		0.50	Fill of pit 118	Pottery CBM	C19-20th
	118	Cut	1.5 x 0.8	0.50	Pit	-	
	119	Fill		0.30	Fill of pit 120	Potty, bone,	C19-20th
	120	Cut	1.3 x 1.2	0.30	Pit	-	
	121	Fill		0.80	Fill of pit 122	Pottery, glass	C20th
	122	Cut	1.2 x 0.7	0.80	Pit	-	
	123	Layer		0.12	plough soil	-	
	124	Wall	1.7 x 0.8	0.80	north-south wall	-	
2	201	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	-	
	202	Layer		0.30	plough soil	-	
	203	Layer		0.18	p. glacial deposit	-	
	204	Layer			Natural gravel	-	
	205	Fill		0.65	Fill of pit 206	Pottery, pipe glass	C20th
	206	Cut	3 x 1.2	0.65	Pit	Yes	

APPENDIX 2 REFERENCES

OAU, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson)

CgMs, 2004 *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation. Land off Glebe Close, Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Glebe Close, Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire

Site code: FRSGC 04

Grid reference: SO 74605 06845

Type of evaluation: Two-trench evaluation

Date and duration of project: 5th-6th July 2004

Area of site: 0.2 of a hectare

Summary of results: No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified. 19th-20th century structures were recorded, probably relating to pig farming.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with suitable museum in due course.

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Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

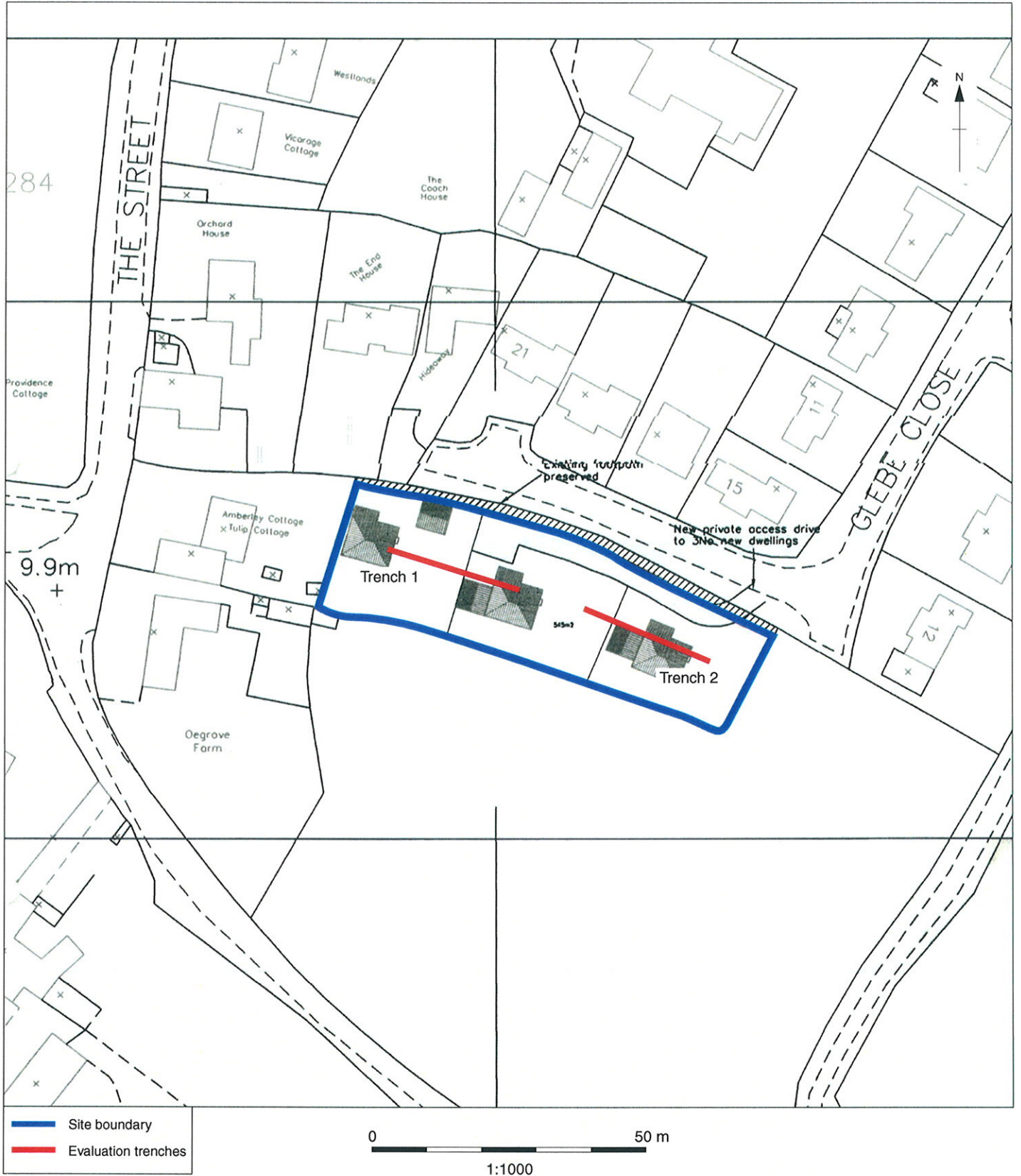


Figure 2: Trench location

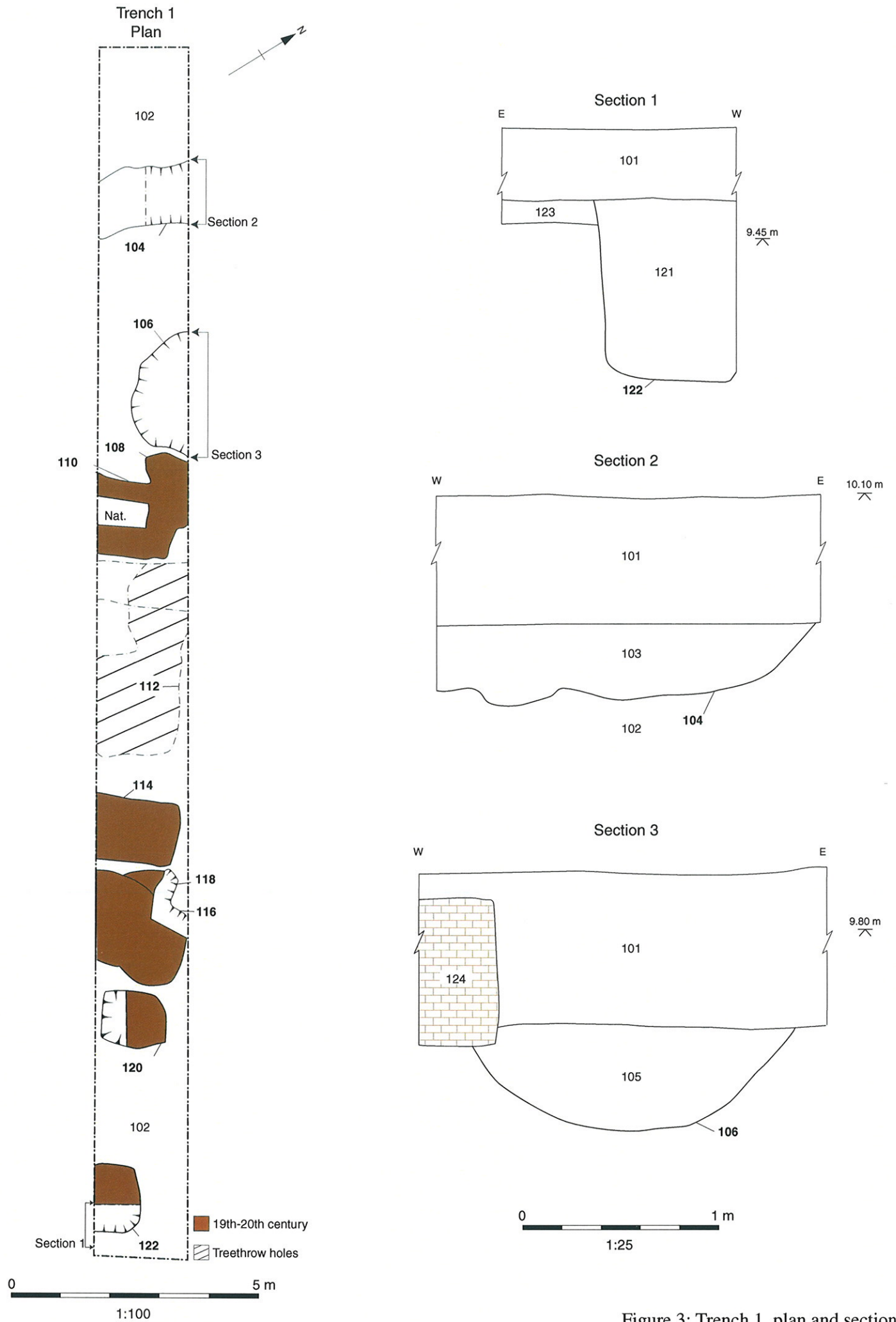


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections

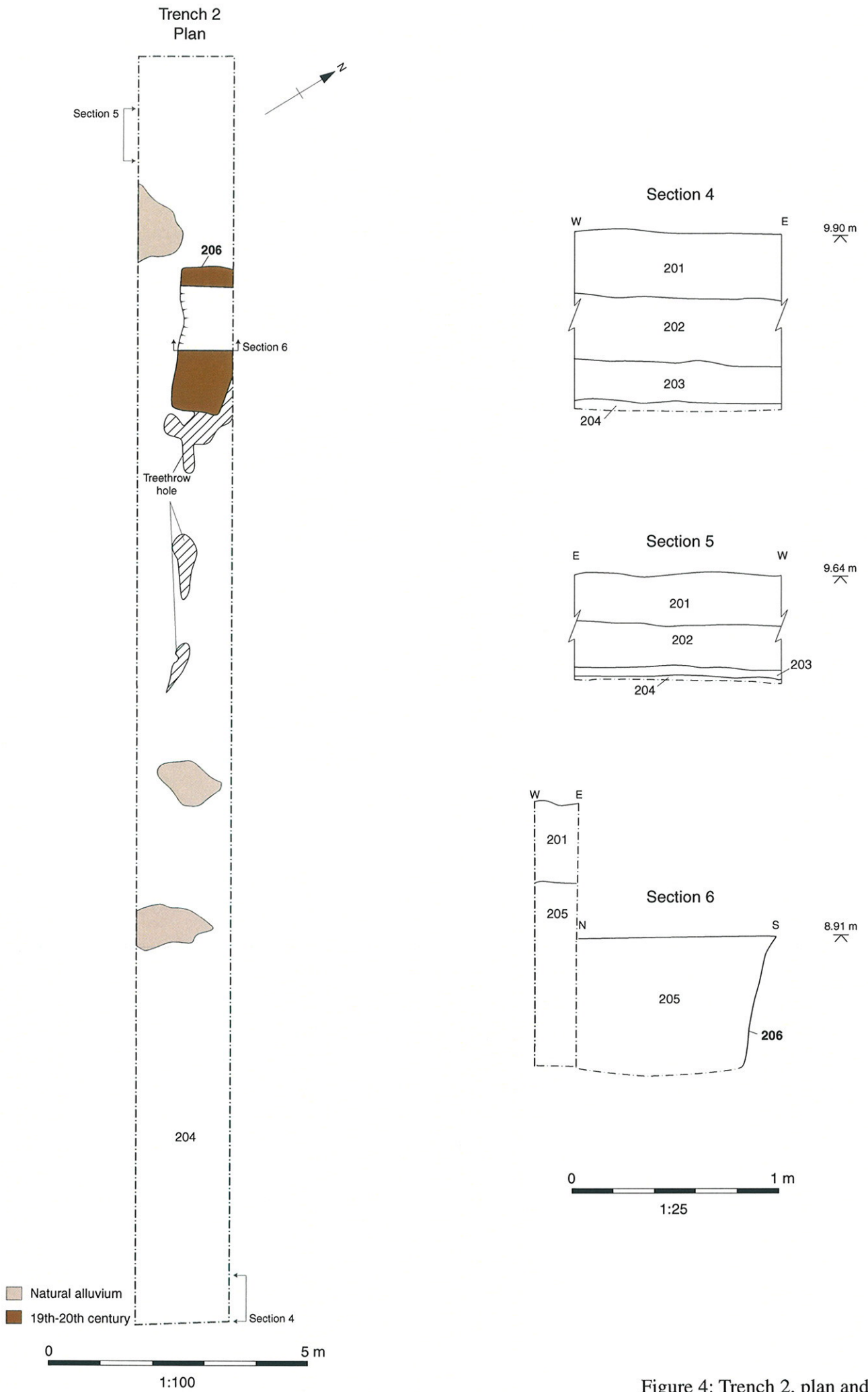


Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and section



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