

Robert Hitchins Limited

Bodiam Avenue, Gloucester

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR SO 8155 1476



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT


October 1998

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Bodiam Avenue, Gloucester

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a 31 trench field evaluation, of an 11.3 hectare site at Bodiam Avenue, Gloucester, on behalf of Robert Hitchens Limited. The evaluation identified a substantial Romano-British boundary ditch situated adjacent to the A38, which is probably associated with the Olympus Park villa complex, excavated immediately to the north-west in 1994. A series of linear earthwork features identified during an initial walkover, throughout the evaluation area, produced little dating evidence. However, the geophysical survey results indicates that some of the earthwork ditches are filled with recent debris, which suggests that most, if not all, are post-medieval in date.

Bodiam Avenue, Gloucester

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work (Fig.1)

In September 1998 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation at Bodiam Avenue, Gloucester on behalf of Robert Hitchins Limited. The work was carried out in accordance with a Brief prepared by the Gloucester City Archaeologist (GCC 1998), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the OAU (OAU 1998). The development site lies in the parish of Quedgeley, immediately to the north of the former RAF Quedgeley Main Site. The proposed development area (Fig. 1) is divided into two adjacent areas (A and B). The evaluation was conducted in respect of three concurrent planning applications to construct residential housing on the site (Area A - 98/00212/OUT, Area B - 91/1160/OUT and 91/1161/OUT). The total site area is *c* 11.3 ha in extent, of which Area A is 9.1 ha, and Area B is 2.2 ha

The planning application for Area A includes proposals for a corridor of Public Open Space, to be retained at the eastern edge of the site alongside Daniels Brook (an ecologically sensitive area), and noise mitigation measures to be located along the western edge of the site (adjacent to the A38). The evaluation trenches were excluded from these areas, since any archaeological deposits present are expected to be preserved *in situ*. No trenches were excavated in Area B, which remains in the ownership of the Ministry of Defence.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies at *c* 15m above OD on the Lower Lias clay, overlain in places by the River Severn gravels. The drift geology includes permeable calcareous and non-calcareous clays and silts. The site is situated to the east of the River Severn and has most recently been used as pasture.

1.2.2 An archaeological watching brief carried out during geotechnical test pitting on the site indicated that the general sequence of soils consists of topsoil, over silty or sandy clay alluvium, over Lias clay. Localised patches of terrace gravel are present in some parts of the site.

1.2.3 Area B is partly covered with made ground deposits (to the south-west). The apparent ground disturbance in this area may have adversely affected archaeological survival.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 2)

1.3.1 Introduction

A desk-top assessment of the site has been carried out. The results are presented below. The study comprised consultation of primary and secondary sources relating to the development area, including the tithe and inclosure maps, the Ordnance Survey

maps, and the Victoria County History for Gloucestershire (VCH 1974, vol. X). Searches of the Gloucester City and Gloucester County Sites and Monuments Record were also carried out. There are a number of finds and sites within the study area (a 1 km radius from the development area), from which it may be possible to gauge the archaeological potential of the site. The finds and sites are listed below by period. A gazetteer of sites and find spots within a radius of 1 km from the development area is included as Appendix 1 (Fig. 5), and illustrated on Figure 2.

1.3.2 *Early Pre-Historic*

A late Neolithic flint mace head has been recovered within the study area at OAU 21. Some flints were also recovered at OAU 16.

1.3.3 *Later Pre-History*

An Iron Age harness ring was discovered near to the site at OAU 13.

1.3.4 *Roman*

Gloucester, the Roman town of *Glevum*, lies *c* 3 miles to the north of the proposed development area. Considerable Roman activity is recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. A Roman site was discovered during road construction work in 1976, at OAU 1. Four parallel 'U' shaped ditches were discovered associated with stony metallised surfaces. Stone packed post sockets and narrow slots within the metallised areas suggest three possible timber buildings. Several sherds of Oxfordshire colour-coat and shell-tempered pottery were recovered from the metallised surface. This activity is probably associated with the Olympus Park villa complex (OAU 1) found immediately to the north in 1994. The complex included buildings, a hypocaust, pits, ditches and a burial (Wessex Archaeology 1998). It is possible that the earthwork features marked on Figure 3 as A and C are related to the villa site. Roman coins have also been found in the vicinity (OAU 3, 4, 5, 6, 13 & 17). Margary's Roman Road 541 passes through the study area close to the site, almost adjacent to the A38 (OAU 9). A Roman field boundary associated with 2nd to 4th century pottery, a coin hoard and a brooch has also been discovered very close to the site (OAU 13). Two small sherds of Roman pottery were found in geotechnical test pits close to the western site boundary (see 1.2.2 above).

1.3.5 *Saxon*

There are no Saxon finds to date from the study area.

1.3.6 *Medieval*

Quedgeley does not appear by name in the Domesday book, which has led to the suggestion that it was formed from an agglomeration of neighbouring parishes (VCH, vol.x, 216). Some of the field names adjacent to neighbouring parishes would seem to support this: For example, *Westfield* lay to the east of Quedgeley. Another theory is that Quedgeley is represented by three hides of Gloucester Abbey's Standish estate, which were held by Durand the Sheriff in 1086. Whatever its origins, it would seem that a church or chapel had been established in Quedgeley by 1095.

The parish of Quedgeley was divided between co-heiresses of the Earl of Hereford in 1165 and by the early thirteenth century was held by the priory of Llanthony Secunda. The Priory held the Manor until the dissolution.

The open fields and the common meadows and pastures were small and numerous, with open fields recorded from the 13th century onwards. The priory is said to have inclosed arable land in favour of pasture within the parish during the early 16th century (VCH, vol. x, 220). The assessment identified several undated earthwork remains on the site which were investigated by the evaluation. The earthworks on the site shown in Figure 3 may date from these inclosures. The area called *Long* or *Great Mead* on the tithe map on the eastern side of the site was common meadow in 1547 and 1605, and the area known as the *Acre* from 1605.

The medieval period is well represented within the study area in terms of find spots. A gilt brooch, a seal, a lyre buckle and horse trappings have been found (OAU 16), together with pottery from the 12th century onwards. There are numerous examples of medieval moated sites in the area (OAU 2, 7, 8 and 12). The nearest of these is at Quedgeley Manor, c 700 m south of the development area (OAU 8). This was probably originally constructed in the 13th century, and is a scheduled ancient monument. A possible ford over Daniel's Brook, which may date to this period, lies just to the north of the site (OAU 20). Field name evidence from the Hardwicke tithe, suggests the presence of a rabbit warren (OAU 11), and a pigeon house (OAU 10).

1.3.7 *Post Medieval*

The Gloucester and Sharpness Canal (OAU 14), and the Bristol and Gloucester Railway (OAU 15), both run through the study area.

The site falls within the parish of Quedgeley, to the south of Gloucester, and near to the historic Gloucester to Bristol road (known as *The King's Way* in the Middle Ages). The settlement of Quedgeley is likely to have originated as a roadside settlement. The meaning of the place name is not clear, although the element 'el' probably relates to the Old English word for dirt, and the 'ley' element probably derives from *leah* (field).

After the dissolution until the present century the manor passed through the hands of various smaller landholders, and the land was largely sold off. The area to the south of the site (RAF Quedgeley Main Site) was purchased by the Air Ministry in 1939. It has been the subject of an archaeological desktop assessment (Wessex Archaeology 1998).

1.4 **Walkover survey**

A walkover survey was conducted to inform the desk-top and the trenching exercise. Area A contains a complex of earthwork remains (Fig. 3 and Appendix 2). The earthworks in the northern part of the site respect the alignment of late medieval/ post-medieval ridge and furrow, detected by the geophysical survey. The earthworks probably represent an enclosure system of post-medieval date.

Area B appears to have been heavily disturbed by modern activity associated with use of the site as an RAF base. This is likely to have adversely affected the survival of archaeological deposits.

1.5 Geophysical survey

A geophysical survey was conducted by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy (Bartlett 1998), in the week prior to the evaluation. The survey consisted of a rapid magnetic susceptibility scan, followed by a detailed magnetometer survey. The survey detected anomalies associated with post-medieval/ modern disturbance, including several modern services pipes, and an area of former ridge and furrow cultivation in the north western part of the site. However, the survey produced no evidence for archaeological deposits, and no trenches were specifically located targeted on any anomalies.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1 The aims of the investigation are as follows:
- 2.2 To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed redevelopment.
- 2.3 To clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 2.4 To establish the presence/absence of Romano-British settlement or burial activity associated with the Roman villa complex at Olympus Park, in particular the eastern extent of the settlement and associated field system.
- 2.5 To recover dating evidence for the earthworks present on the site.
- 2.6 To determine the local, regional, national and international significance of such archaeological deposits as are revealed, and the potential for further archaeological fieldwork to fulfil local, regional and national research objectives.
- 2.7 To make the results of the investigation available.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Sample size and scope of fieldwork

The evaluation was based upon a 2% sample of the development area (Area A), and consisted of 28 trenches measuring 30 m long, one trench measuring 26 m long, and two trenches each measuring 10 m long (Fig. 2). All trenches were 1.8 m wide. The overburden was removed by a JCB mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket under close archaeological supervision.

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 and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and, where excavated, their sections were drawn at 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* (Wilkinson 1992).

3.3 Finds

Hand sorting was employed to recover any finds. Spoil heaps were carefully monitored for finds during and after mechanical removal of the overburden.

3.4 Environmental data

Bulk samples of 40 litres were taken from two fill deposits of a Roman ditch. The samples were taken for flotation for carbonised plant remains. No other samples were taken.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

The general soil type was Lower Lias clay and was calcareous, with poor preservation of bone. Ground conditions were dry.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

A substantial Romano-British boundary ditch, aligned from east to west, was identified in Trenches 9, 10, and 29. The results of the evaluation suggests that archaeological deposits of limited significance are present in the western part of the proposed development site, an area in close proximity to the Olympus Park villa complex. No features were identified cutting the subsoil in the eastern part of the site

Slight linear earthworks, probably of post-medieval date, were present over the whole site. No other significant archaeological deposits were recorded during the evaluation.

4.3 Presentation of results

The archaeological deposits found are described by trench. The significance of the results of the excavation are discussed. The context inventory is presented in Appendix 5. Detailed reports on the pottery and environmental evidence are presented in Appendices 3 and 4 respectively.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits (Fig. 3)

5.1.1 Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

These five trenches were excavated in the northern part of the site to investigate three earthworks (Fig. 2, A, B and C). The overburden, consisting of topsoil and an earlier ploughsoil, was removed to the level of the natural clay. No archaeological features were observed in any of the trenches. The level of the clay varied from 13.6 to 14.2 m OD.

Trenches 2, 3 and 5 were excavated through Earthwork A, a bank and ditch. The bank, which survived to height of *c* 0.4 m, was indicated by an increase in the thickness of the earlier ploughsoil (3001). There was no trace of a ditch, other than a depression in the ploughsoil layer. The ditch, if ever present, may have been removed by later ploughing.

Trenches 4 and 6 were cut across Earthworks B and C. Feature B was described in the desk-top assessment as a rectangular or square bank with a level internal area. Earthwork C, which gave the impression of being a trackway or boundary ditch, cuts across the southern bank of Earthwork B. Earthwork B consisted of a slightly raised bank consisting only of the earlier ploughsoil (3001). Feature C was a linear depression in the earlier ploughsoil (3001), showing no indication that it had been a ditch.

5.1.2 Trenches 8 & 12

Trenches 8 and 12 were cut across Earthworks E and F. Earthwork E is a substantial linear bank. Earthwork F is a broad bank with a double ditch.

The trenches revealed no significant archaeological deposits. The overburden was removed to the surface of the natural clay (3002) which was exposed at a level of *c* 14.0 m OD. The earthworks were barely visible within the trenches and appeared as a thickening of the earlier ploughsoil (3001), creating a raised bank. There was no evidence to suggest the presence of a former ditch in either trench and no finds were retrieved from the fills of the trenches.

5.1.3 Trenches 14, 15, 21, 24, 25 & 26

These six trenches, in the eastern part of the site, were cut across Earthworks H and J. No archaeological features were revealed cutting the natural clay, which was exposed at a level varying from 14.23 m OD in Trench 14 to 15.20 m OD in Trench 26.

Trenches 14 and 15 were cut across Earthwork I. The earthwork is a clearly defined bank with a southerly ditch. Evaluation of the earthwork showed the bank to consist of the earlier ploughsoil (3001), which appears to have been re-deposited to create a raised bank. No evidence of a ditch was observed within the trench, other than a depression in the earlier ploughsoil.

Earthwork H, a long shallow ditch connecting features at J to those at I was barely visible at ground level. Trenches 24 and 25 were cut across the feature, but again it appeared only as a linear depression in the earlier ploughsoil (3001).

Trench 26 was cut across the junction of Earthworks I and J. Earthwork J is a bank which survives to a height of 0.40 m. The evaluation trench revealed no archaeological features and was excavated to the surface of the natural clay. The bank was seen to consist of the earlier ploughsoil (3001).

5.1.4 *Trenches 30 & 31*

Trenches 30 and 31, each 10 m long, were positioned to investigate two linear earthworks. In the absence of any significant archaeological features, the overburden was removed to expose the surface of the natural clay at a level of *c* 14.95 m OD.

Trench 30 was cut across a slightly raised bank aligned from north-west to south-east. Trench 31 was cut across a less pronounced and narrower bank aligned from north-east to south-west. Together, the features appeared to form a rectangular or squared enclosure. In Trench 30, the earthwork was found to be the remains of a bank with an associated, parallel ditch (3005), on the southern side. The ditch was cut from immediately below the topsoil, and the finds from its fill (3004) were of post-medieval date. In Trench 31 the earthwork or bank was formed by an accumulation of the earlier ploughsoil (3001). No significant archaeological features were identified in either trench and the earthwork features were interpreted as part of a post-medieval system of enclosures.

5.1.5 *Trenches 18 & 19*

Trenches 18 and 19 were cut across two parallel earthworks barely visible at ground level. No significant archaeological features were identified. The natural clay was encountered at a level of *c* 16 m OD in Trench 19 and *c* 18 m OD in Trench 18. The earthworks were visible within the trench as a thickening of the earlier ploughsoil to form a linear bank. No finds were retrieved from the trench.

5.1.6 *Trenches 9, 10, 16 & 29 (Figs. 4 & 5)*

Trench 16 was divided into two 15 m long trenches in order to avoid disturbance to an existing hedge line and trees. Trenches 9, 10, 16b and 29 were located within a group of earthworks (Group D), consisting of two substantial banks, which may be the continuation of Earthworks E and F. The earthworks were visible in the trenches only as a thickening of the earlier ploughsoil.

A large, east-west aligned Roman ditch (1006) was identified in Trenches 9, 10 and 29, cut into the natural clay. In Trench 10 the ditch was 3.30 m wide, and reached a maximum depth of 1.42 m. The sides of the ditch were fairly steep and irregular, with a profile that was stepped on either side. It contained four distinguishable fills (1002, 1003, 1004, 1005), from which animal bone and Roman pottery were retrieved. The same ditch was observed in Trenches 9 and 29. In Trench 9 the ditch (902) was 4.50 m wide, with a broadly similar profile to that that seen in Trench 10. In this trench two fills were identified in the ditch (901, 900), from which Roman pottery was retrieved.

Overlying and sealing the ditch was the earlier ploughsoil (3001), which was c 0.26 m thick. This was in turn overlain by the modern topsoil. The ditch was exposed but not excavated in Trench 29.

In Trench 10, the level of the natural clay is c 16.50 m OD. In Trench 9 it is c 15.35 m OD.

5.1.7 *Trenches 1, 7, 13, 22, 23, 27, 16a, 17, 20 & 28*

Ten trenches were located in areas where no earthworks were visible. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

5.2 **Finds**

No finds were retrieved from the 19 trenches in the eastern part of the site. The few artefacts recovered (see Appendix 5), which were mainly of Roman date but included a single worked flint and a few post-medieval finds, were retrieved from trenches on the western side of the site.

5.2.1 *Worked flint*

A single flint flake was recovered from context (3000). The flint was retouched to create an awl.

5.2.2 *Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (see Appendix 3)*

The evaluation produced 70 sherds (290g) of Roman pottery, which was in poor condition. The vast majority of the assemblage was recovered from a single ditch, recorded in Trenches 9, 10 and 29. The remainder was residual in the ploughsoil. Very few of the fabrics are particularly diagnostic of source or date, though the majority of material was assignable to the Severn Valley ware industry. Overall, the range of pottery suggests activity in the area perhaps from the later 1st century AD onwards, with slight indications that this extended at least to the later 3rd century.

5.2.3 *Post-medieval pottery*

A single sherd of modern (20th century) pottery was retrieved from context (1000).

5.2.4 *Other finds*

Some contexts produced small quantities of burnt stone. The stone was weighed by context and the information included in the context inventory (Appendix 5).

5.3 **Environmental data (see Appendix 4)**

5.3.1 *Carbonized plant remains and charcoal*

Two samples from contexts 1002 and 1003, the fills of a Roman ditch, were taken during the evaluation for the assessment of environmental indicators. The samples were processed by mechanical flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains. Charred

remains were present, although preservation was poor and the density of remains was very low. Charcoal was the dominant content and was generally too small for identification, although a few identifiable fragments were present in context 1002.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The very small quantity of finds and features recorded is unexpected, given the proximity of the development area to the Olympus Park villa site, and the presence of earthworks across large parts of the site. In view of the low density of finds and features uncovered during the evaluation, it seems unlikely that there are substantial Romano-British remains within the development area. As there is no evidence to suggest that Area A has been subject to unusual levels of disturbance, it seems probable that the site lies outside the Roman settlement, in an area of purely agricultural activity. Even so, the scarcity of Roman material is surprising.
- 6.1.2 Of the earthwork features, only one ditch produced evidence for a post-medieval date. However, circumstantial evidence suggests that a post-medieval date is most likely for the whole complex. In particular, all of the earthworks showed up in section only as a thickening of the earlier (post-Roman) ploughsoil layer, which suggests that they are all likely to be of a similar date. In addition, features in the northern part of the site follow the same alignment as ridge and furrow cultivation marks, detected by the geophysical survey.

6.2 Overall interpretation

6.2.1 *Summary of Results*

A single Romano-British ditch was recorded during the evaluation. The ditch was aligned from east to west and situated close to the western boundary of the site. The ditch, which is of limited archaeological significance, was the only archaeological feature to be discovered during the evaluation. The proximity of the ditch to the area of the Olympus Park villa site, suggests that the ditch is a contemporary field or enclosure boundary, located at the eastern extremity of the villa complex.

A complex of linear earthworks, which are present throughout Area A, are most likely to be enclosure boundaries of post-medieval date.

6.2.2 *Significance*

The significance of the evaluation lies mainly in negative evidence, in that the scarcity of Romano-British features and finds indicates the eastern limit of the Olympus Park villa settlement site.

6.2.3 *Impact of development*

The impact on any archaeological deposits will be determined by the final development plan. The outline development proposals incorporate plans for noise mitigation measures along the western edge of the site, the only area where archaeological features were identified.

As the post-medieval earthworks present over most of the site consist almost entirely of positive features, they would be largely destroyed by groundworks associated with the

development. However, as the earthworks are likely to be of post-medieval date, and do not appear to correspond to buried archaeological features, further excavation is unlikely to produce significant results.

In conclusion, if the noise mitigation measures along the western site boundary are retained in the final development proposal, the development of Area A is unlikely to have a significant archaeological impact.

Given the disturbed nature of the ground in Area B, and in the light of the largely negative evaluation results from Area A, it seems unlikely that the development of Area B would have a significant archaeological impact.

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- Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (OAU, August 1992)

APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES AND FINDS (Fig. 2)

OAU No.	SMR No.	Description.
1	1359	Roman site. Observations were undertaken during the earth scraping operation for the 37m wide link road which cut across Homefield. Four parallel 'U' shaped ditches were discovered associated with stony metalled surfaces. Stone packed post sockets and narrow slots within the metalled areas suggest possible evidence for three timber buildings. Several sherds of Oxfordshire colour – coat and shell tempered pottery were extracted from the metalled surface. Gloucester Excavation Unit site no. 28 / 76. Also, adjacent to this to the north, a villa complex was discovered in 1994, on the site of the Olympus Park development, including buildings, a hypocaust, pits, ditches and trackways. Site 48/94
2	332	A moat of which only one side remains 42m long and 12m wide, waterfilled. Unknown depth, next to Shakespeare Avenue.
3	343	Roman coins. Greek Imperials of Domitian AD 81-96.
4	331	Roman coin. AD 330-335.
5	330	Roman coin. Constantine I, Londinium 307.
6	1358	Roman coin. AD 270-3..
7	693	Moated site W of St. James's Church. Scheduled Ancient Monument 480
8	3841	Manor Farmhouse. Grade II listed. Moat. Scheduled Ancient Monument 13805.
9	7365	Course of Roman Road. Margary's 541
10	7367	Probable site of Pigeon house. Tithe field name "Pigeon House Ground"
11	7368	Probable Rabbit Warren Site. Tithe field Name "Coneygres".
12	9757	Part of a quadrilateral farmyard c18th. Probable moat.
13	11130	Roman field boundary. Light scatter of 2 nd -4 th century pottery. Metal detector survey found an iron Age harness ring, and a Roman coin hoard and brooch.
14	11157	The Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. Begun 1794, completed 1827. The canal is 16 miles long and 90ft wide.
15	11269	The Bristol and Gloucester Railway. Opened in 1844.
16	11904	Medieval Finds. Finds included a gilt annular brooch, a seal, a lyre buckle, horse trappings and pottery from 12 th c to post med. Some prehistoric flints were also recovered.
17	16946	A Roman Coin of Tetricus I. 270-273 AD.
18	17245	Negative evidence.
19	19837	National shell filling factory.
20	9745	A ford or metalled alignment later cut by meandering watercourse.
21	15687	A late Neolithic flint macehead.

APPENDIX 2: EARTHWORK FEATURES (Fig. 3)

By Daniel Bashford

- A- The northerly part of this group of earthworks is a bank with a ditch to the south. The bank is *c* 0.4m high, and the ditch *c* 0.2m deep. This bank and ditch is marked as a field boundary on all the historic maps, as the common boundary of Long Mead / Great Mead and Mill Meadow. The other features in this group are much shallower ditched features with no discernible bank, these do not appear to feature on the historic maps.
- B- This feature has been truncated by the link road, but appears to have been a rectangular or square shape. The internal area appears to be level, with the remaining banks standing relatively high above the surrounding ground. The site is located near to the grid reference given for the Roman site OAU 1, and could be associated with it, although the evaluation has discovered no evidence that this is the case.
- C- This ditched feature runs beneath the southern bank of feature B, and gives the impression of being a trackway, although it could represent a broad and relatively shallow ditch. This feature possibly connects to the south western corner of the group of features at A.
- D- Two substantial banks (probably the continuations of E and F) meet at this point, in a pointed junction.
- E- A substantial bank with a southerly ditch, possibly cut by the central boundary cutting through the site, and continuing on to D. This would mean that the feature pre-dated the inclosure map of 1839, and possibly the surveys of 1605 and 1547, which refer to Long Meadow.
- F- Broad, double ditched bank, with the appearance of a raised trackway, although this could be due to levelling by ploughing. This feature probably continued eastwards to D.
- G- A pond marked on the first edition OS map of 1884. It is now dry, but clearly discernible. It is probably wet in winter. It has a clearly defined enclosing bank, and on the southern side a slope, metalled with chalk blocks, leads into the pond.
- H- Long shallow ditch connecting features at J to those at I.
- I- Clearly defined bank and ditch (southerly ditch), not marked on the historic maps. The ditch connects with the pond at G, and to the shallow ditch H.
- J- This bank survives to a height of *c* 0.40m. It has been damaged by a pathway running over the top of it.
- K- Area of preserved Ridge and Furrow. Does not continue into fenced off MOD area.
- L- Area of overburden, probably from the levelling of MOD land to the south, or demolition waste from former MOD buildings.
- M- Low bank with a very slight ditch on the south side.

APPENDIX 3: ASSESSMENT OF THE POTTERY AND TILE

By Paul Booth

Pottery

The evaluation produced 70 sherds (290 g) of Roman pottery, two medieval sherds (6 g) in a sandy oxidised fabric and three post-medieval sherds (99 g). The Roman and medieval material was in poor condition, the sherds being very small (average weight only just over 4 g) and in a number of cases very abraded. The pottery was scanned briefly, by context, and recorded using the standard codes employed in the OAU system for recording Iron Age and Roman pottery. Because of the poor condition of the material, fabrics were generally only defined at a medium level of precision. Quantification was by sherd count and weight, with numbers of vessels indicated by rim count.

The Roman fabrics present were:

- S. Samian ware, sources uncertain. 4 sherds, 7 g.
- S30. ?Central Gaulish samian ware. 1 sherd, 10 g.
- F50. Uncertain oxidised fine ware with grey-brown colour coat. 1 sherd, 1 g.
- O. General oxidised coarse wares. 10 sherds, 7 g.
- O10. Fine, slightly sandy oxidised coarse wares. 3 sherds, 17 g.
- O30. Fine abundantly sandy oxidised wares, probably North Wiltshire. 1 sherd, 8 g.
- O40. Severn Valley wares, undifferentiated. 25 sherds, 144 g.
- O41. Organic-tempered Severn Valley ware. 3 sherds, 29 g.
- R10. Fine reduced wares. 1 sherd, 1 g.
- R20. Coarse sandy reduced wares. 1 sherd, 1 g.
- R30. Moderately fine sandy reduced wares. 8 sherds, 32 g.
- R35. Moderately fine abundantly sandy reduced wares, probably North Wiltshire. 1 sherd, 1 g.
- R90. Coarse tempered reduced wares. 1 sherd, 60 g.
- B10. Black-burnished type wares. 3 sherds, 14 g.
- B11. Dorset black-burnished ware (BB1). 6 sherds, 11 g.
- C. General calcareous-tempered wares. 1 sherd, 1 g.

Very few of these fabrics are particularly diagnostic of source or date, although the majority of the material was assignable to the Severn Valley ware industry. It is impossible to say if the tiny sherds of ware group 'O' were also from this industry. Apart from this, the main identifiable source of pottery was the black-burnished ware industry.

Only four vessels were represented by (very small) rim sherds. These were probable tankards in Severn Valley ware (from contexts 900 and 1003) and a cooking pot and a bowl or dish in black-burnished ware (from contexts 1004 and 1002 respectively). Again none of these was closely datable.

Overall the range of pottery suggests activity in the area perhaps from the later 1st century AD onwards, with slight indications that this extended at least to the later 3rd century, suggested *inter alia* by one small black-burnished ware body sherd with obtuse angle lattice decoration. The material does not indicate intensive Roman settlement, and in itself is insufficient to provide any clues as to the nature and status of the site from which it derived.

Tile and fired clay

Only small quantities of these materials were recovered. Nineteen fragments of tile (930 g) were tentatively assigned to the Roman period, principally on fabric grounds, since only two or three pieces were potentially of diagnostic forms. These were an unusually thick box flue fragment (from context 1000) with a band of combing on the exterior, and two probable pieces of tegula (from 1000 and 1004), neither having a flange, however. The remaining possible Roman fragments were in fairly fine, largely sand free fabrics, similar to those of the more certain Roman pieces. Six fragments of post-medieval or modern date were also recorded, together with a further piece of uncertain (possibly modern) date from context 400.

Tiny fragments of fired clay, or possibly of abraded pottery and/or tile, were recovered from five contexts. The 25 pieces in question totalled 36 grammes in weight and were thus quite undiagnostic of date or function.

Table 1. Quantification of pottery by sherd count and weight per context

Context	Romano-British		Medieval		Post-Medieval		Date
	Sherd count	weight (g)	Sherd count	Weight (g)			
400	4	40					? C.2 nd +
900	17	63	1	1			? C.2 nd +
901	10	44					? C.2 nd +
1000	3	24	1	5	2	33	C.19-20 th
1002	7	12					C.2 nd
1003	5	12					C.2 nd
1004	17	61					C.2 nd
1005	7	34					C.3 rd
2900					1	66	C.18 th
Total	70	290	2	6	3	99	

APPENDIX 4: ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

By Dana Challinor

Methods

Two soil samples (contexts 1002 and 1003) from a Roman ditch were taken during the evaluation, for the assessment of environmental indicators. Volumes of 20 litres were processed by mechanical flotation in a modified Siraf machine for the recovery of charred plant remains. The samples were held on a 500µm mesh and the flots collected on a 250µm mesh. The remaining residues were then washed through 10, 4 and 2 mm sieves and sorted for bone and artefacts. The flots were scanned under a microscope at x10 magnification.

Results

The flots were small in size and dominated by modern roots. Charred remains were present although preservation was poor and the density of remains was very low. Charcoal was the dominant content and was generally too small for identification, although a few identifiable fragments were present in context 1002. Small quantities of coal were visible in context 1003. A single unidentifiable fragment of charred cereal grain and a few weed seeds were observed in context 1003. Chaff was absent in both flots. No molluscs or bone were recovered.

Discussion

Charred plant remains are preserved at the site, and any further work on the site should include charred remains recovery as a component. The low density and content of the flots would be anticipated from randomly selected deposits on a habitation site of the period. Given the paucity and poor quality of the charred remains, further analysis on these samples would not be productive.

APPENDIX 5: ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Findings	Wt /No.	Date
001								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
002								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
003								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
004								
	400	layer		0.25	old plough soil	burnt stone	1150g	
						pottery	40g/ 4	Roman
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
005								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
006								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
007								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
008								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Wt /No.	Date
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
009								
	900	fill		0.24	Secondary fill of ditch 902	pottery	63g/ 17	Roman
						pottery	1g/ 1	medieval
	901	fill		0.43	primary fill of ditch 902	burnt stone,	400g	
						pottery	44g/ 10	Roman
						nails	2	
	902	cut	3.5	0.67	ditch aligned roughly E/W			Roman
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			Post-med.
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
010								
	1000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil	pottery	24g/ 3	Roman
						pottery	5g/ 1	medieval
						pottery	33g/ 2	modern
	1001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	1002	fill		0.38	latest fill of ditch 1006	Stone	350g	
						pottery	12g/ 7	Roman
	1003	fill		0.60	tertiary (main) fill of ditch 1006	pottery	12g/ 5	Roman
	1004	fill		0.56	primary fill (with 1005) of ditch 1006: tip-line at northern edge	Stone	550g	
						pottery	61g/ 17	Roman
	1005	fill		0.54	primary fill (with 1004) of ditch 1006: tip-line at southern edge	Stone	1840 g	
						pottery	34g/ 7	Roman

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Wt /No.	Date
	1006	cut		0.98	ditch aligned roughly E/W			Roman
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
011								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
012								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
013								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
014								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
015								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
016								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
017								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
018								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Wt /No.	Date
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
019								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
020								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
021								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
022								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
023								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
024								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
025								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
026								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Wt /No.	Date
027								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
028								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
029								
	2900	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil	pottery	66g/ 1	modern
	2901	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	2902	fill		-	ditch fill (unexcavated)			
	2903	fill		-	ditch fill (unexcavated)			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
030								
	3000	layer		0.30	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			
	3003	layer			ploughed-out bank			
	3004	fill		0.50	fill of ditch 3005			
	3005	ditch		0.50	ditch aligned roughly E-W			
031								
	3000	layer		0.3	modern ploughsoil			
	3001	layer		0.25	old plough soil			
	3002	layer		-	natural clay			

APPENDIX 6: GLOUCESTER CITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

- 1 **Type of recording** **Excavation**
 Watching brief
 Other (specify) **Evaluation**
- 2 **Address:** Bodiam Avenue, Gloucester
 Site Name: Land at Bodiam Avenue
 Site Code: GLRCM 1998/40
 National Grid Refs: **centre of site:** SO 8155 1476
 Limits of site (a) (b)
 (c) (d)
- 3 **Directed/Supervised by:** Sean Cook
 Address: Oxford Archaeological Unit, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2
 OES
 For (organisation/department): Oxford Archaeological Unit
 Funded by: Robert Hitchins Limited
- 4 **Date fieldwork started** 7/9/98 **Date finished** 16/9/98
 Fieldwork previously notified **Yes/No**
 Fieldwork will continue: **Yes/No**
- 5 **Periods represented:**
 Palaeolithic **Roman**
 Mesolithic **Saxon**
 Neolithic **medieval**
 Bronze Age **post-medieval**
 Iron Age **unknown**

6 Period summaries

A single Romano-British ditch was observed orientated east to west through trenches 9, 10 and 29

7 Natural Lower Lias clay

Height above Ordnance Datum 14.20 to 16.50 m OD

8 Type (specify): Evaluation

Location of Archive: OAU

(a) All records will be deposited with the Gloucester City Museum.

(b) Approx. year of transfer: 1998

(c) Location of any copies: None

(d) Has a security copy of the archive been made ? Yes/No

7 Location of finds:

(a) All finds will be deposited with the museum: Gloucester City

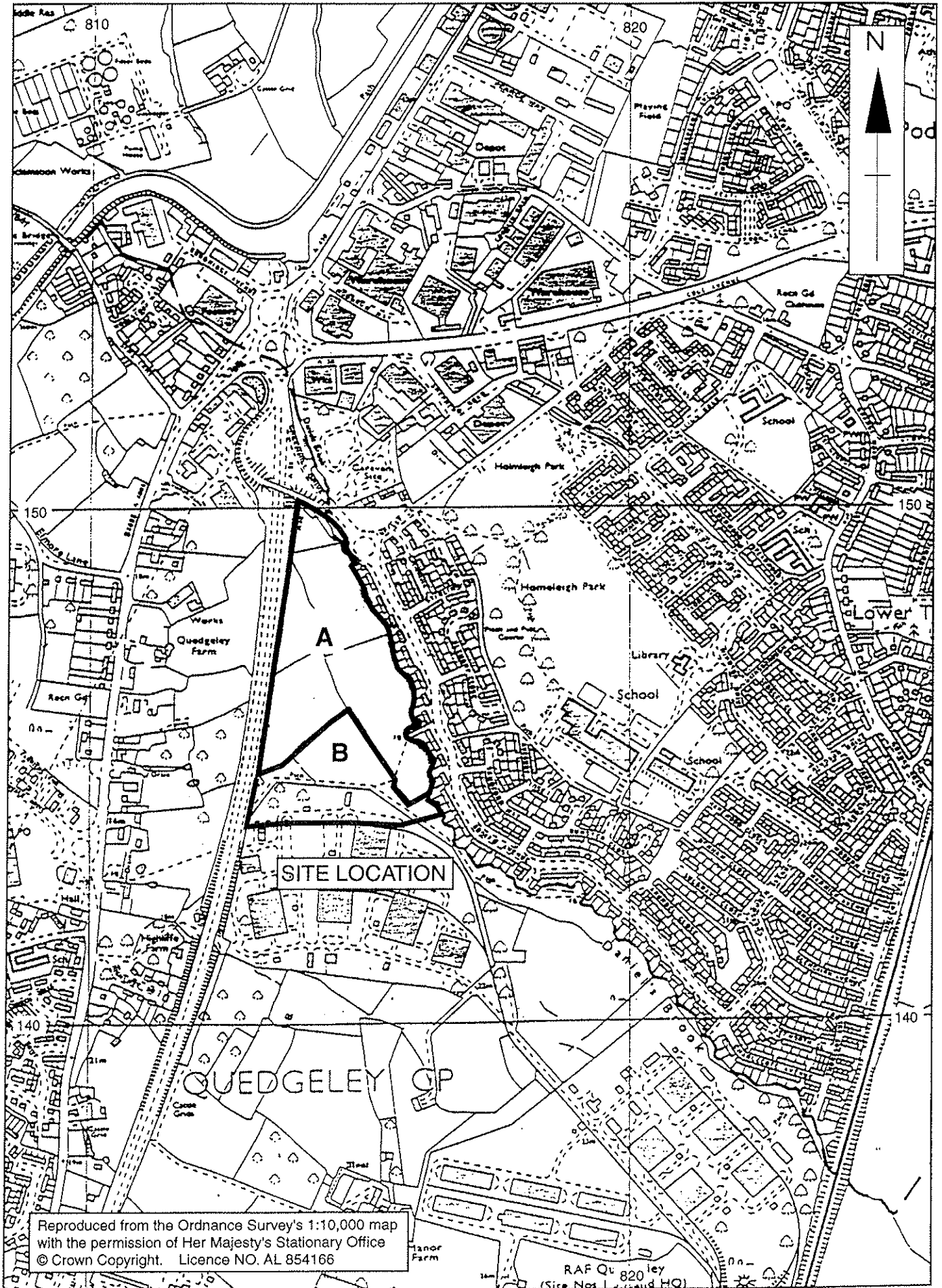
(b) Approx. year of transfer: 1998

8 Bibliography

Bartlett, A	1998	<i>Bodiam Avenue, Gloucester: Report on Archaeogeophysical Survey</i> (Bartlett and Clarke Consultancy)
GCC	1998	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation: Land at Bodiam Avenue, Gloucester</i> (GCC brief)
Margary, IV	1954	<i>Roman Roads in Britain</i> (Oxford)
OAU	1998	<i>Bodiam Avenue, Gloucester: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</i> (OAU Client Report)
Wessex Archaeology	1998	<i>RAF Quedgeley Main Site, Gloucester: Revised</i>
Wilkinson, D (ed)	1992	<i>Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual</i> , (OAU internal document, August 1992)

Signature.....

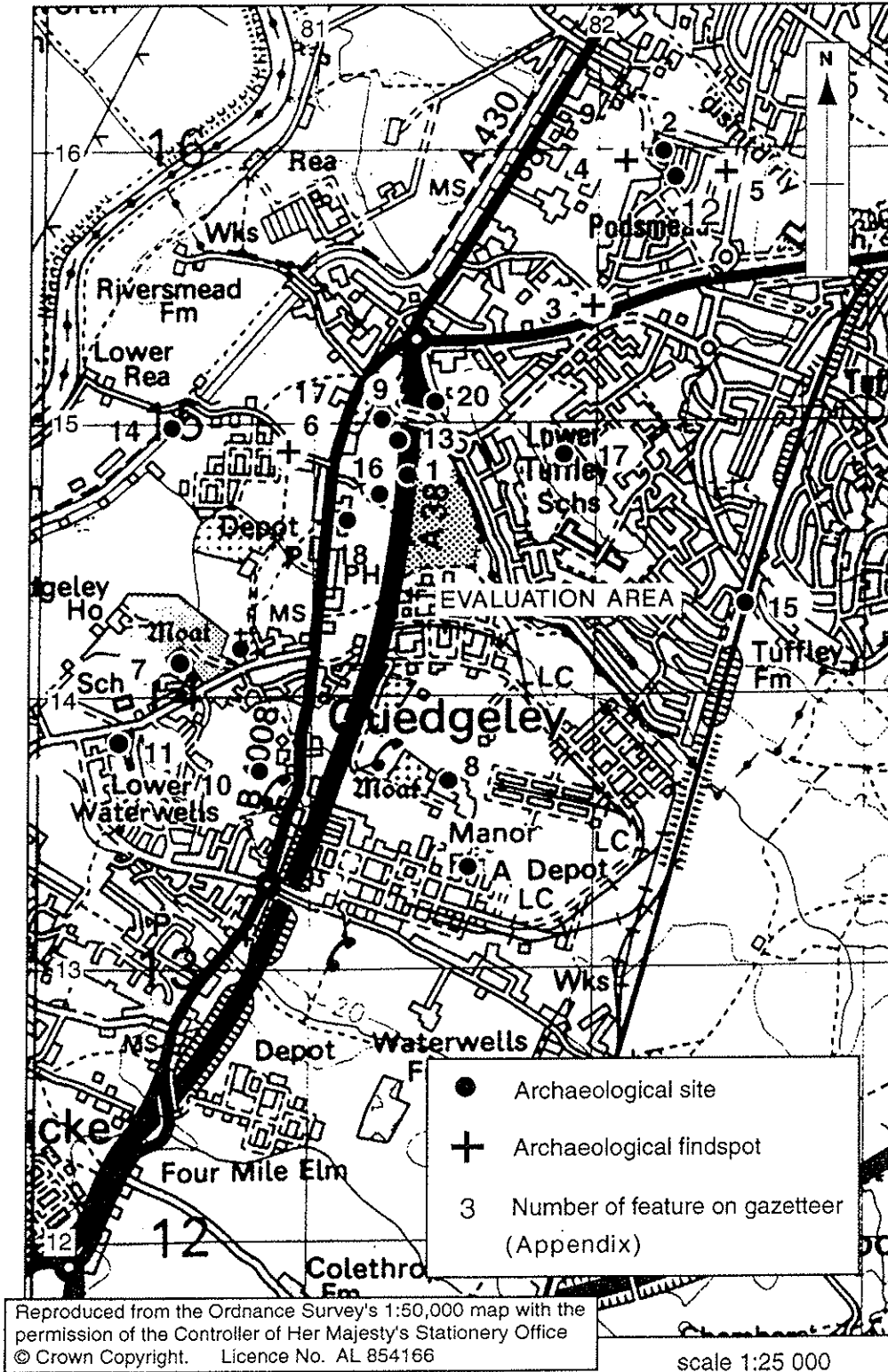
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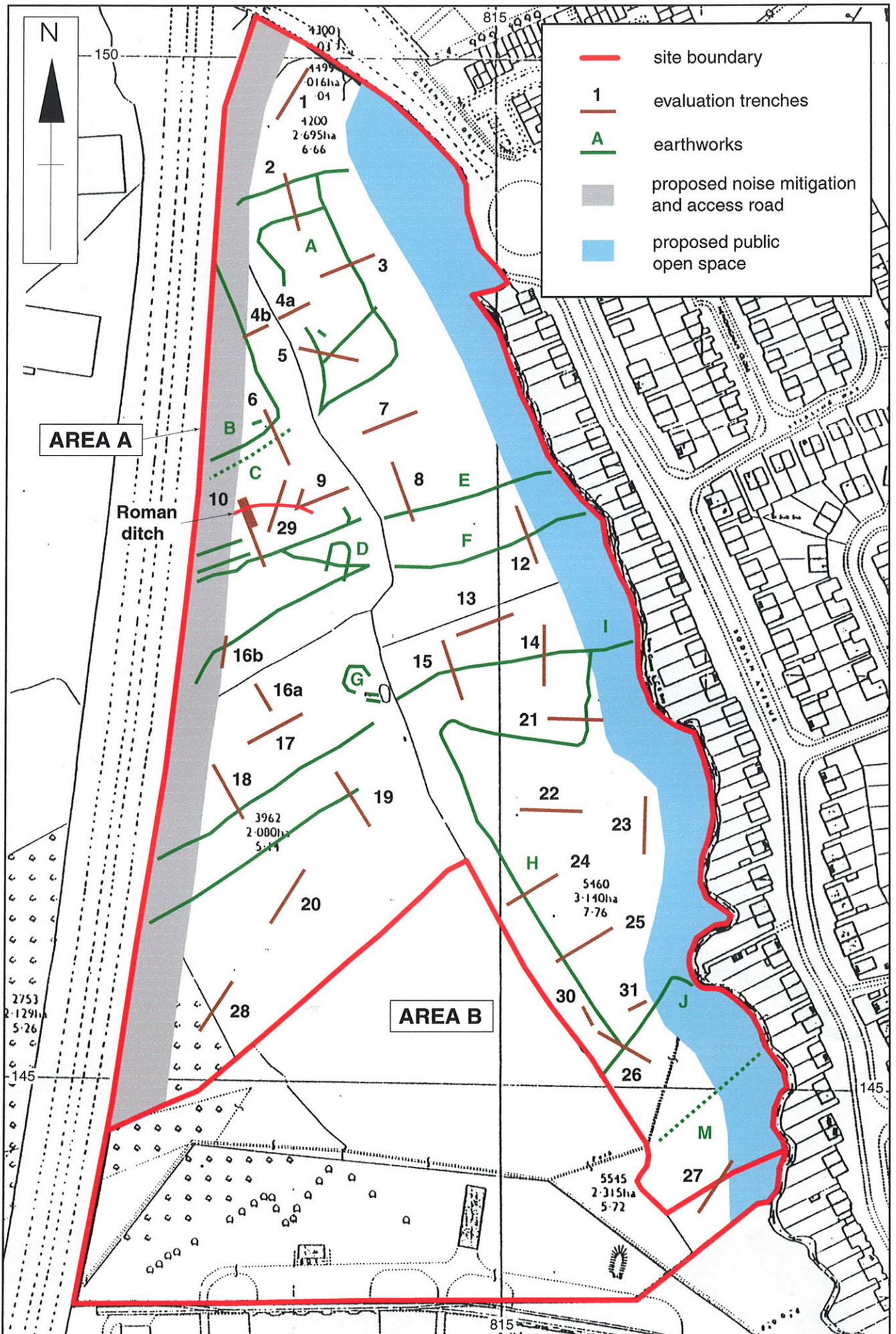
Location of site

Figure 1



Location of archaeological sites, monuments and findspots

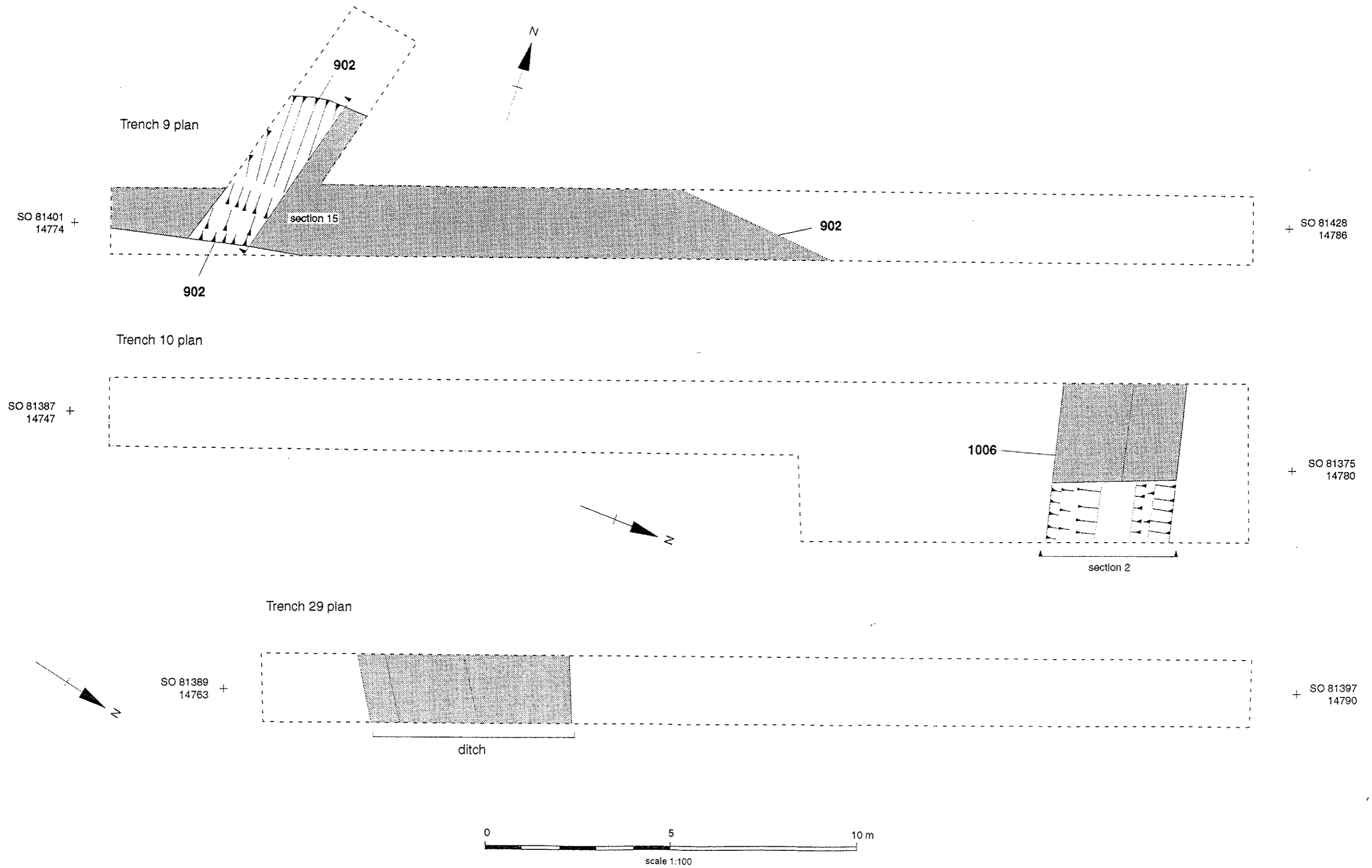
Figure 2



scale 1:2500

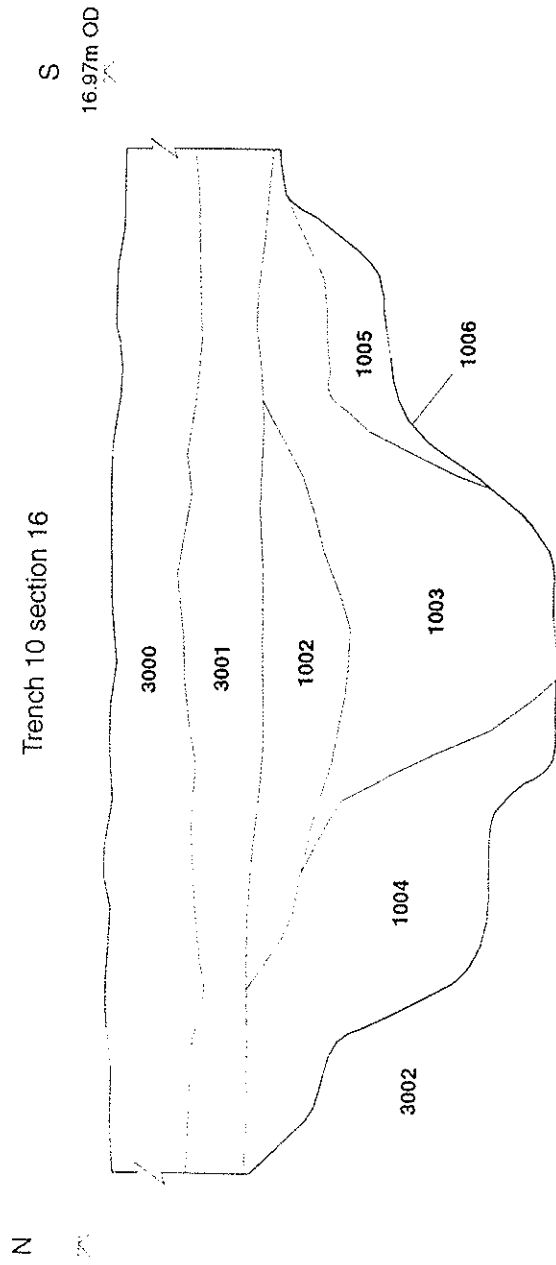
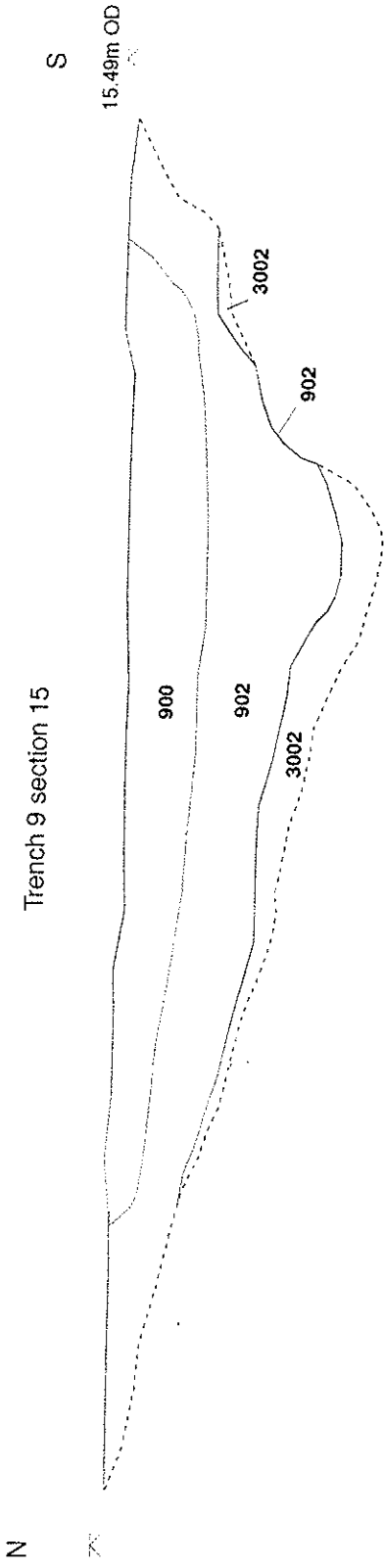
Location of trenches and approximate location of earthwork features

Figure 3



Trenches 9, 10 and 29

Figure 4



Trenches 9 and 10 sections



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