

Kingsland Business Park Basingstoke



Archaeological Evaluation Report



oxfordarchaeology

December 2005

Client: CgMs

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: RM/KB/6096

NGR: SU 6555 5415

Client Name: CgMs
Client Ref No: RM/KB/6096
Document Title: Kingsland Business Park, Basingstoke,

Document Type: Archaeological Investigation Report

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: SU 6555 5425
Planning Reference: BDB/51227

OA Job Number: 2995
Site Code: BASK05
Invoice Code: BASKEV
Receiving Museum: Hampshire Museum Service
Museum Accession No:

Prepared by: Bryan Matthews
Position: Supervisor
Date: 29th November 2005

Checked by: Ken Welsh
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 30th November 2005

Approved by: Ken Welsh
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 30th November 2005

Signed.....

Document File Location X:\Basingstoke_Kingsland\002Reports
Graphics File Location oapubs1:\a thru h\ BASKEV
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Oxford Archaeology
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Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

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Kingsland Business Park, Basingstoke, Hampshire.**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION****CONTENTS**

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SUMMARY

During November 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Kingsland Business Park, Basingstoke on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The evaluation revealed several shallow linear features within the eastern part of the site that are likely to be the result of modern ground disturbance. No other archaeological features or deposits were found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In November 2005, OA carried out a field evaluation at Kingsland Business Park, Wade Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire on behalf of CgMs Consulting. Outline planning permission has been granted for construction of buildings and associated car parking (Planning reference BDB/51227). The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2005) and a Project Design (OA 2005) agreed with the Local Planning Authority. The development site is situated to the north-east of Basingstoke and lies south of Great Binfields Road and west of Lutyens Close at NGR 6555 5415. The site is approximately 4 ha in area (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on Tertiary deposits comprising Reading Beds and London clay which cap the Chalk, which outcrops to the south. Locally, a thin deposit of plateau gravels overlays the clay.

1.2.2 The site lies on the crest and south-facing slope of a ridge which rises to 100 m OD in the eastern part of the site. Twentieth century clay extraction and subsequent development of the western part of the site has resulted in extensive modification of the natural topography.

1.2.3 It is understood that the grounds had been previously wooded and that this had been cleared within the past few years. A number of tree stumps were found and root disturbance was readily apparent. Several Geo-technical test-pits were also located. The ground was found to be uneven underfoot and seems likely to have been disturbed by machine tracking.

1.2.4 The present ground cover consisted of grasses, gorse and occasional low scrub, with stands of trees along the eastern and northern boundaries of the site, adjacent to Great Binfields Road and Lutyens Close.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk based assessment (Chadwick, 2005), the results of which are summarized below. The site itself has produced no archaeological evidence.
- 1.3.2 The desk-based assessment concludes that there is a low/no potential for material dating to the Palaeolithic or Mesolithic periods.
- 1.3.3 A Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery was found during salvage excavation some 70 m east of the site. No evidence of settlement was found.
- 1.3.4 Iron Age evidence is sparse locally although a small number of finds of Iron Age pottery have been made, generally on sites which continued into the Roman period.
- 1.3.5 During the Roman period, the study site lay 800 m west of the presumed alignment of the Roman road from Silchester to Chichester. Recent evaluation work at Popley Fields (2 km west of the study site) suggests that these areas of heavy clay soils were not avoided during the Roman period. Immediately to the east of the site, salvage excavations located a settlement enclosure and trackway of 1st-4th century date containing evidence of iron-working along with two cremation burials. The full extent of the settlement was not established and, as such, there is a high potential for settlement evidence of this date within the site.
- 1.3.6 The desk-based assessment identifies little or no potential for Saxon and early medieval remains and a low potential for medieval remains.
- 1.3.7 During the post-medieval period, the area was much-affected by clay extraction for brick manufacture and the western half of the site was dug for clay during the 20th century. There is no evidence to suggest that the eastern half of the site was affected.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI, were to establish, within the constraints of the sampling strategy, the presence/absence, location, extent, date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site. In particular, the evaluation set out clarify the impact of any 19th and 20th century clay extraction-related activity and so assess the degree of archaeological survival of any buried deposits.
- 2.1.2 The field evaluation was conducted within the general parameters defined by PPG16 'Archaeology and Planning', the Hampshire Structure Plan and the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan.
- 2.1.3 More specifically, the evaluation fieldwork aimed to prospect the site, aimed to establish the distribution of archaeological remains and to place these within our current understanding of landscape development on London Clay and Reading Beds.

2.1.4 In addition, the evaluation aimed to test the model of archaeological potential and landscape development on the basis of existing SMR evidence in the desk-based assessment. Particularly, it sought to clarify the character of any MBA burial evidence and later prehistoric/Romano-British settlement of associated land-use that might occur on the site.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 A total of ten 20m x 1.8 m trenches were excavated. Trench locations are as shown on Figure 2.

3.1.2 Trenches 1, 4 and 5 were moved from their proposed locations (OA 2005, Fig. 2) in order to avoid damage to mature trees on the perimeter of the site and are shown as excavated.

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 bucket. Trenches and spoil-tips were inspected for finds and scanned using a metal detector.

3.2.2 The underlying natural deposits were tested by the excavation of machine-excavated sondages within the open trenches.

3.2.3 The trenches were cleaned by hand as appropriate and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature and to retrieve finds. All trenches and features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and their sections drawn at a scale of 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).

3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.

3.4 Presentation of results

3.4.1 A description of the soils and ground conditions is given, which includes a description of the general stratigraphic sequence. This is followed by a description of the results and an interpretation and discussion

3.4.2 Empty trenches are identified but are not separately described beyond the description given within the general stratigraphic sequence. Details of all deposits can be found within the table of contexts in Appendix 1.

3.4.3 Trenches 1, 3 and 5 revealed possible features or made ground deposits and these trenches are described individually (Figs 3 and 4).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The underlying natural consists of orange to brownish orange clays with intermittent pale grey gravels. The clays were overlain by up to 0.15 m of 'dirty' gravel in a matrix of pinkish brown silty clay. The top of these gravels was found at a fairly shallow depth - typically 0.25m beneath the present ground level.

4.1.2 A thin greyish brown silty clay subsoil overlay the gravel within trenches to the east of the site (Trenches 7 and 10), but was absent elsewhere. These deposits were covered by up to 0.25 m of dark brown clay loam topsoil.

4.1.3 The ground was fairly soft and uneven underfoot. During the evaluation the weather was clear with overnight frosts, and the general ground conditions were good.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 Trenches 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 contained no archaeological features or deposits. The stratigraphy within these trenches is as described as above. Details of individual contexts are given with Appendix 1.

4.2.2 Trenches 1, 3 and 5 revealed possible features or made ground deposits and these trenches are described below.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Trench 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 was aligned NNW-SSE within the northern corner of the evaluated area, and was close to a large cutting occupied by factory units to the west. A partially backfilled geo-technical test-pit was located approximately half way along the trench and the ground around the northern end of the trench was very uneven, suggesting that the area had previously disturbed.

5.1.2 The underlying natural (102) consisted of a clean brownish orange clay with irregular bandings and lenses of gravel. The clay was overlain by up to 0.38 m of mixed grey-brown silty clay (101) which was seen to contain intermittent patches of re-deposited orange clay. This deposit was thickest to the north of the trench and is thought to be associated with either the adjacent cutting or possibly the excavation of the geo-technical pit. The mixed clay was overlain by 0.1 m of disturbed dark brown silt loam topsoil.

5.2 Trench 3

- 5.2.1 Trench 3 was aligned NW - SE within the north of the site, parallel to Great Binfields Road, and revealed a number of faintly-defined possible north-south aligned features.
- 5.2.2 The trench revealed a mixed orange clay with greyish-brown gravel (306) at a depth of 0.32 m beneath the present ground level. Three faintly defined possible linear features: cuts 302, 304 and 307, were seen running across the trench on a north-south alignment at this level.
- 5.2.3 Cut 302 measured 0.12 m deep by 1.1 m wide, with gently sloping sides and an irregular flatish base. Cut 304 measured 0.1 m deep by 0.6 m wide, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Cut 307 measured 0.85 m wide, was of irregular shape, and appeared to terminate within the trench; this feature was not excavated. All three cuts were filled by a orange brown 'dirty' gravel (301, 303, 308). These fills were overlain by a very similar orange brown loamy gravel (305) or 'dirty' gravel, which was up to 0.12 m thick and 0.2 m of dark brown silty loam topsoil (300).
- 5.2.4 A geo-technical test-pit, which partly truncated feature 304, was found within the middle of the trench.

5.3 Trench 5

- 5.3.1 Trench 5 was aligned east-west within the eastern corner of the site.
- 5.3.2 A brownish orange clay (502) with mixed irregular bandings or grey silty gravels was seen at a depth of 0.26 m beneath the present ground level. It was overlain by 0.16 m of 'dirty' gravel described as a greyish brown gravelly silty clay (501). This layer was overlain by 0.12 m of dark brown topsoil (500).
- 5.3.3 A group of north-south aligned linear features (503, 505, 507) were seen within the middle of the trench and appeared 'pushed in' to the top of the underlying clay (502) and filled by greyish brown silty clays (504, 506, 508) which were very similar to the overlying 'dirty' gravel (501).
- 5.3.4 This group of features consisted of many shallow, irregularly shaped linear 'undulations' (503 and 507) to either side of a larger cut (505).
- 5.3.5 Cuts 503 and 507 consisted of approximately nine linear features, individually measuring between 0.05 - 0.16 m deep and 0.12 to 0.7 m wide. Cut 505 had short irregular sides and a generally shallowly sloping base. It measured 0.26 m deep by 1.04 m wide. This combined group of features was approximately 5 m wide.
- 5.3.6 It was noted that the underlying clay around these undulations appeared to have been 'pushed up', which would seem to be typical of vehicle track marks on relatively soft ground.

5.4 Finds

5.4.1 No finds were recovered.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

6.1.1 During the evaluation conditions were generally good. The underlying natural was thoroughly tested by the excavation of machined sondages and appears to be a mixture of clean clays, overlain by plateau gravels as indicated in the geological record. The revealed features were carefully excavated and recorded but are likely to be the result of modern disturbance. No finds were recovered, indicating a general lack of archaeological activity on the site.

6.1.2 The results obtained during this evaluation are felt to be representative of the site as a whole.

6.2 Overall interpretation

6.2.1 The shallow features found within trenches 3 and 5 are somewhat ambiguous, given the general lack of finds from the site. The features were shallow, poorly defined, and often fairly irregular. Given their nature and the strong possibility of disturbance associated with modern machining of test-pits and scrub clearance it seems likely that they are the result of localised machine tracking on site.

6.2.2 In Trench 1, a thick deposit of silty clay containing patches of re-deposited clay overlay the natural, and appears to be up-cast associated with the adjacent former clay workings or with a geo-technical test-pit located in the trench.

6.2.3 No significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
100	Layer	Topsoil	0.1				Modern
101	Layer	Upcast layer					Modern
102	Layer	Natural clay					

Trench 2							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
200	Layer	Topsoil	0.1				Modern
201	Layer	Gravel in silty clay	0.08				
202	Layer	Natural clay					

Trench 3							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
300	Layer	Topsoil	0.24				
301	Fill	Gravelly fill of 302	0.24				Modern
302	Cut	Linear feature	0.24	1.63			Modern
303	Fill	Gravelly fill of 304	0.25				Modern
304	Cut	Linear feature	0.25	0.74			Modern
305	Layer	Clayey gravel	0.12				
306	Layer	Gravel/Clay natural					
307	Cut	Possible linear feature		0.85			Modern
308	Fill	Fill of 307					Modern

Trench 4							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
400	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				Modern
401	Layer	Subsoil	0.1				
402	Layer	Dirty gravel'	0.15				
403	Layer	Mixed clay and gravel					

Trench 5							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
500	Layer	Topsoil	0.12				Modern
501	Layer	Dirty gravel/ subsoil	0.14+				
502	Layer	Gravel/Clay natural					
503	Cut	Linear feature	0.16				Modern
504	Fill	Fill of 503	0.16				Modern
505	Cut	Linear feature	0.26	1.04			Modern
506	Fill	Fill of 505	0.26				Modern
507	Cut	Linear feature	0.16				Modern
508	Fill	Fill of 507	0.16				Modern

Trench 6							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
600	Layer	Topsoil	0.14				Modern
601	Layer	'Dirty gravel'	0.25				
602	Layer	Mixed clay and gravel					
603	Layer	Natural clay					

Trench 7							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
700	Layer	Topsoil	0.2				Modern
701	Layer	Subsoil	0.15				
702	Layer	'Dirty gravel'					
703	Layer	Mixed clay and gravel					
704	Layer	Natural clay					

Trench 8							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
800	Layer	Topsoil	0.2				Modern
801	Layer	'Dirty gravel'	0.1				
802	Layer	Natural clay					

Trench 9							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
900	Layer	Topsoil	0.25				Modern
901	Layer	'Dirty gravel'	0.15				
902	Layer	Natural clay	0.25+				

Trench 10							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				Modern
1001	Layer	Subsoil	0.1				
1002	Layer	'Dirty gravel'	0.1				
1003	Layer	Natural clay					

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- Chadwick, P. 2005 *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, Kingsland business Park, Wade Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire*
- CgMs 2005 *Kingsland business Park, Wade Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*
- OA 1992 *Fieldwork Manual (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992).*
- OA 2005 *Kingsland business Park, Wade Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Kingsland business Park, Basingstoke

Site code: BASK 05

Grid reference: NGR 6555 5415

Type of evaluation: 10 trenches

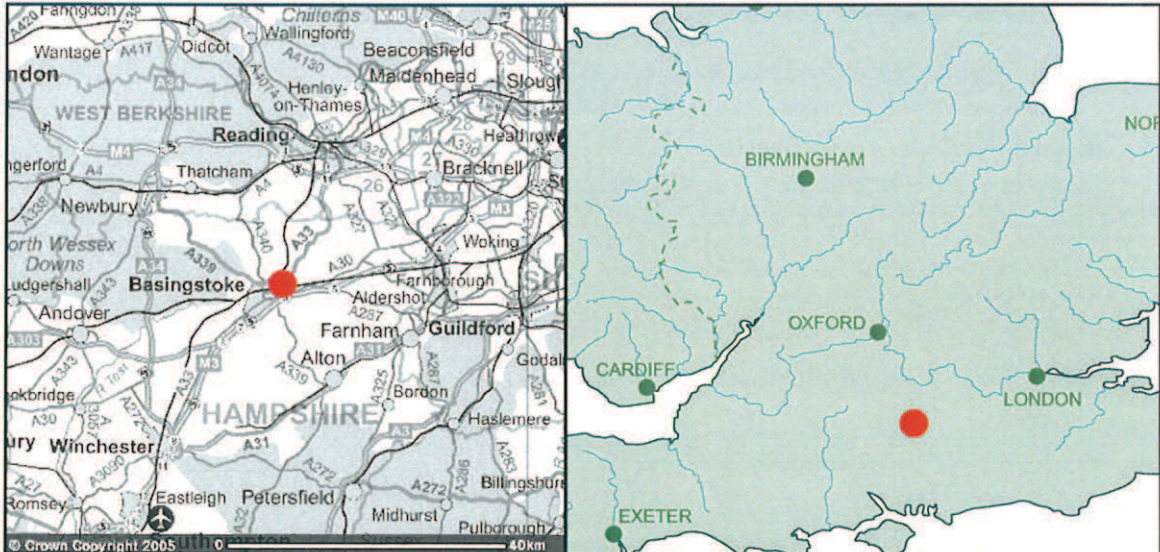
Date and duration of project: 4 Days, 14th – 17th November 2005

Area of site: Approximately 4 Hectares

Summary of results: Several shallow linears found within the east of the site, which are thought to have been caused by modern ground disturbance (i.e. machine tracking). No finds.

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

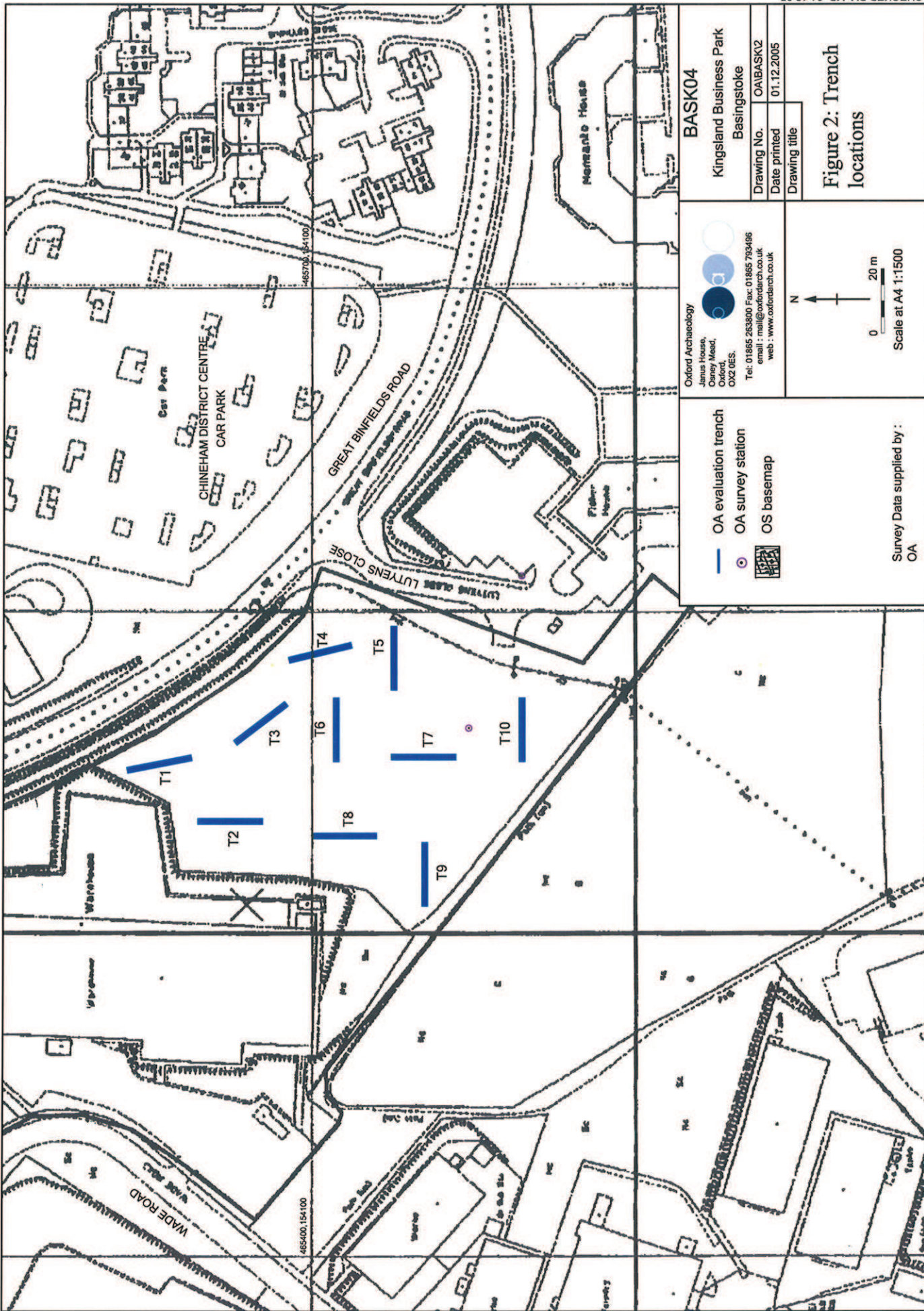
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Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location



<p>BASK04 Kingsland Business Park Basingstoke</p>	
<p>Drawing No. OAIBASK02</p>	<p>Date printed 01.12.2005</p>
<p>Drawing title</p>	
<p>Figure 2: Trench locations</p>	

Oxford Archaeology
Janus House,
Janus Mead,
Oxford,
OX2 0ES.

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496
email: mail@oxfordarch.co.uk
web: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

0 20 m
N
Scale at A4 1:1500

— OA evaluation trench
● OA survey station
OS basemap

Survey Data supplied by:
OA

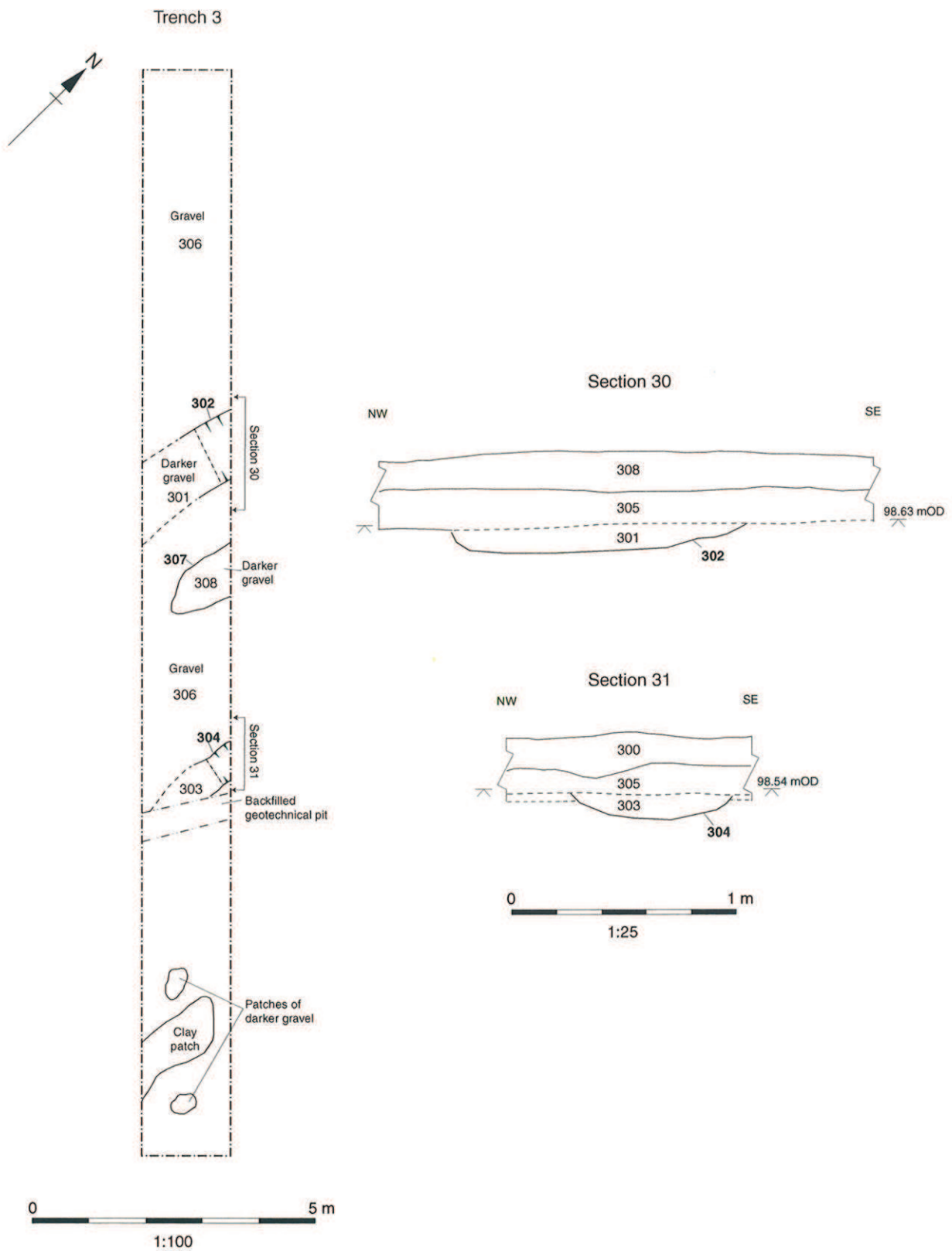


Figure 3 : Trench 3, plan and sections

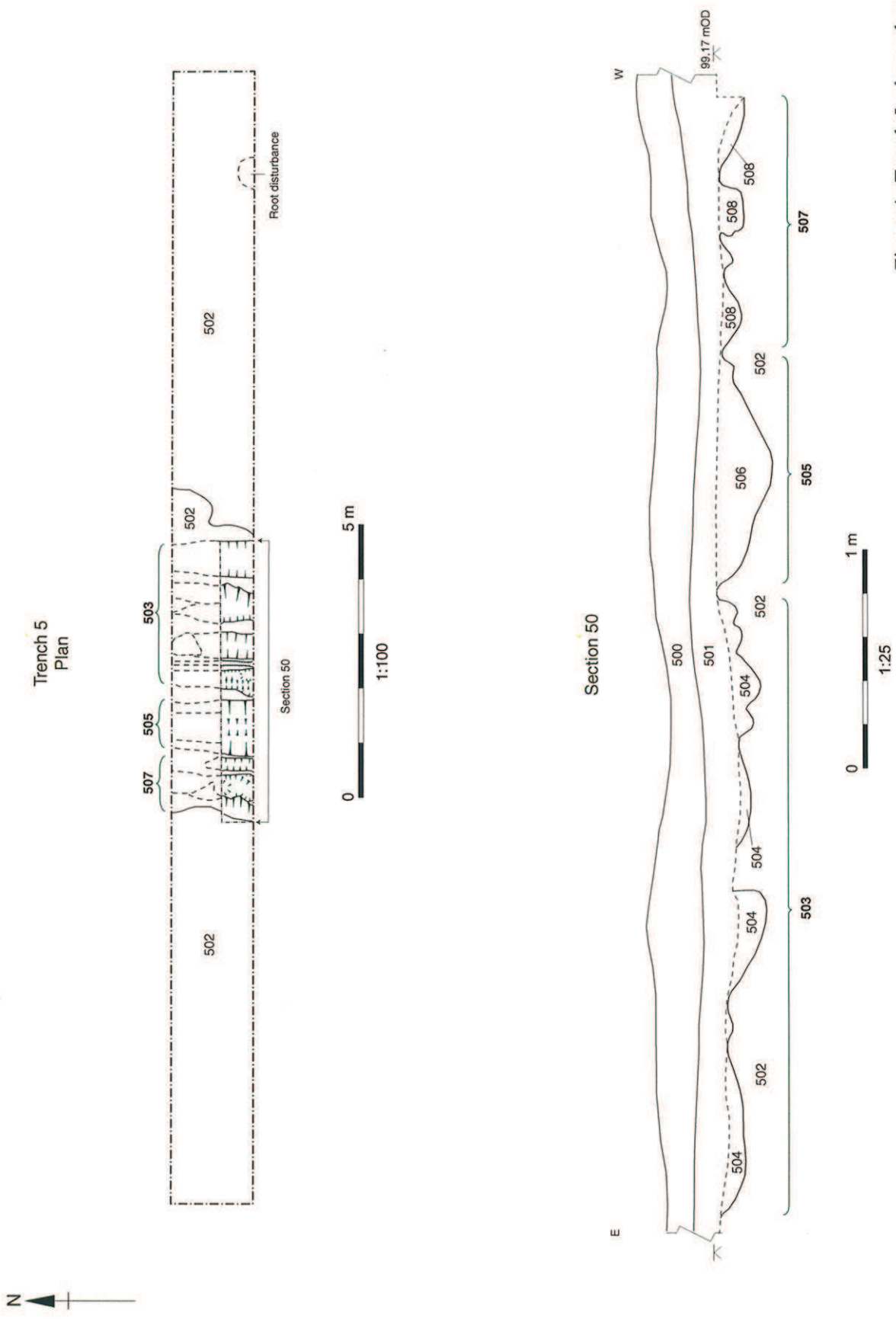


Figure 4 : Trench 5, plan and section



Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES