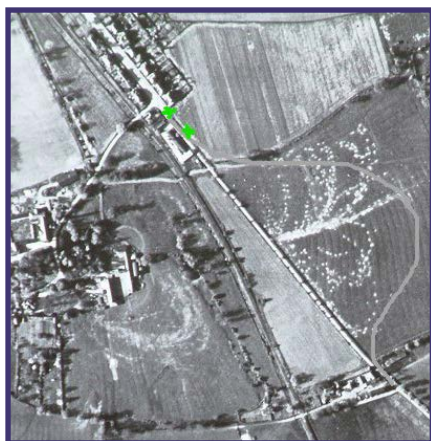


# Broome Manor Golf Complex, Swindon, Wiltshire



## Evaluation Report



February 2016

**Client: Broome Manor Golf Course**


Issue No: 1

OA Job No:

NGR: centred on SU 16398 82204



Client Name: Broome Manor Golf Course  
Client Ref No: N/A  
Document Title: Broome Manor Golf Complex, Swindon, Wiltshire  
Document Type: Evaluation Report  
Issue/Version Number: Version 1  
Grid Reference: centred on SU 16398 82204  
Planning Reference: S/15/1855  
Site Code: CHBG16  
Invoice Code: CHBGEV  
Receiving Museum: The Swindon Museum and Art Gallery  
Museum Accession No: N/A

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
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Document File Location Projects on Server1:\s\\Samba-1\projects\s\Swindon Broome Eval  
temp\Report  
Graphics File Location \\Server8\invoice codes r thru z\Samba-1\invoice codes a thru  
h\C\_invoice codes\CHBGEV  
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## **Broome Manor Golf Complex, Swindon, Wiltshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Robin Bashford*

*with contributions from Ian Scott*

*and illustrated by Charles Rousseaux*

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## **Summary**

*In February 2016, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a two trench field evaluation at Broome Manor Golf Complex, Swindon, Wiltshire (centred on SU 16398 82204). The evaluation revealed the top of the natural clay which appeared to be overlain by a buried soil horizon in the northernmost of the trenches. The buried soil and natural geology were truncated by two ditches which are likely to correspond to field boundaries depicted on OS mapping from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The fills of these features were overlain by a series of landscaping deposits which are almost certainly associated with the creation of the golf course in the latter part of the 20th century.*

*There was some evidence for truncation of the natural geology and the levelling out of the higher ground in the southernmost trench, possibly carried out during the construction of the former putting green (no longer extant).*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Broome Manor Golf Course to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Broome Manor Golf Complex, 6 The Fairway, Broome Manor, Swindon, Wiltshire. The results of the work will inform the determination for proposals in regard to a new development to the existing complex.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development (ref S/15/1855) will include a 50 bedroom hotel, new pro golf shop, new green keepers compound, car parking, conversion of outbuildings to dwelling, new fencing, provision of adventure golf area with high ropes aerial area above and associated works.
- 1.1.3 Discussions with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire established the scope of work required to inform determination, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced which outlined how OA would implement those requirements.
- 1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (IFA revised 2008) and local and national planning policies.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The Site is located west of Broome Manor and the suburban housing around Leverton Gate, which is south of Swindon itself. To the north lies Wakefield House, to the west is Marlborough Lane and Pipers Way and the M4 is to the south. The current land use of the area is as a recreational golf course. The site lies at approximately 126m aOD towards the north-east and slopes down to 106m aOD in the south-west. The site is centred on SU 16398 82204 (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the Site is mapped by the British Geological Society as being West Walton Formation, Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation. These are mudstone, siltstone and sandstones formed approximately 151 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. To the immediate east there is a small outcrop of Lower Greensand Group (sandstone and mudstones) formed approximately 100 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been derived from the desk-based assessment done for a site immediately to the east and the subsequent evaluation and watching brief (OA 2007 & OA2013) and is updated and summarised below. Full references can be found in those documents.

#### ***Prehistoric (c. 500,000BP – AD43)***

- 1.3.2 There are no recorded sites or finds of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic origin within the development proposal area. There are no recorded artefacts or features of the Neolithic period within the development proposal area. Evidence for Neolithic activity within the surrounding area is given by the discovery of a scatter of Neolithic flint implements c 700m to the north west of the proposal area and the site of a standing stone (Wiltshire Historic Environment Record WHER MWI 16154) .
- 1.3.3 There are no recorded artefacts or features of the Bronze Age period within the proposal area. Evidence for Bronze Age activity is given by the discovery of a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead found on the Burmah Oil site to the north.



- 1.3.4 Two standing stones have been recorded in 19th century sources (c 650m to the south of the proposal area and c 400m to the north east), but are now lost. A double ring ditch, which may have represented the site of a ceremonial enclosure (henge) with a row of stones leading away from it was destroyed during the construction of the M4. A concentric circle at Fir Clump which was destroyed during the construction of the M4 Motorway. The outer ring was fragmentary but enough remained of the inner ring to see that it was flattened to the north and measured 86.5m x 73.7m. About 125m to the west of the circle was a single row of stones aligned NNW-SSE. It was 102m long. It is possible that one of the sites was part of the row of stones associated with the double ring ditch.
- 1.3.5 More recent excavations on a major housing development adjacent to the Great Western Hospital uncovered later prehistoric roundhouses, Bronze Age field systems and an early Bronze Age monumental ring-ditched enclosure. Finds include loom weights, Beaker pottery and a pygmy urn. The most notable find was an Iron Age sword-shaped currency bar. Used as trading currency in later prehistory, they can be found as single items or in hoards. They were commonly deposited as acts of ritual, either in hoards placed in the ramparts of hillforts or in boundary ditches around settlements. The Commonhead currency bar was found in a small ring-ditch (<http://www.headlandarchaeology.com/project/commonhead-swindon/>).
- 1.3.6 There are no recorded artefacts or features of the Iron Age period within the proposal area.
- 1.3.7 There are however a number of cropmarks and earthworks of undated, but probably later prehistoric date within the surrounding area. Archaeological investigations to the north of the proposal area (OA 2004-06, 50m north of the Site) revealed evidence of potential Late Iron Age/Roman field boundaries, which may continue into the proposal area.
- 1.3.8 The level of potential prehistoric remains recorded in the area and beyond, is characteristic of a sparsely populated but utilised landscape in the prehistoric period. Dependant on the depth and extent of truncation caused by modern landscaping, there is potential for prehistoric remains within the proposal area.

#### ***Roman (AD 43- AD 410)***

- 1.3.9 There is no recorded Roman activity within the proposal area, although a collection of artefacts found close to the site in the Downs View Road area, including possible walls and quantities of pottery and coins suggest a settlement focus (thought possibly to be a villa), as do excavations to the north-east of this area (39 Downs View Road) which recorded a Roman well, and further pottery and coins. Given the proximity of these finds to the extensive Roman field boundaries seen as a series of complex ditches found during previous archaeological investigations at Broome Manor Lane in 1973 and at Pipers Way (Poole and Hardy 2009, OA 2004) it seems likely that this area was the main focus of the Roman activity in this area. This would strongly suggest a continuation of these features within the proposal area.
- 1.3.10 Roman activity has also been identified during archaeological investigations in 1969 by the M4. At Nightingale Farm a possible Roman settlement identified at Nightingale Farm during motorway construction. The features included an alignment of three shallow pits and area of rough metalling associated with Roman pottery. The area of metalling was on the same alignment as the possible road. Roman tile and iron slag were also recovered. In addition there have been numerous artefacts found within the surrounding area, including pottery and coins. The nearest of which is c 200m to the north east of the Site where pottery including a base fragment with two coins of



Constans (AD 337-50) stuck to it, were found on the west side of Broom Lane, north of the railway cross. This may be the remains of a 4th century coin hoard. Also found were sherds of coarse grey ware and a single sherd of New Forest Ware (WHER MWI16215). There has also been the discovery of an extended E-W aligned inhumation found during building work on a house extension in August 1999 (c 400m to the north of the Site) but this is undated, and may be of a later date.

- 1.3.11 The proximity and relative density of features throughout the landscape indicates that the proposal area may have potential for Roman remains, subject to the depth and extent of modern truncation.

#### ***Early Medieval Period (AD 410 – AD 1066)***

- 1.3.12 There are no recorded archaeological features or finds of the early medieval period from within the proposal area. Within the surrounding area there are two recorded findspots of early medieval pottery. One was a Roman well containing pottery, quernstone, tile and five coins discovered in 1939 at 39 Downs View Road. Three of the coins were of Constantine 1st. A re-examination of the pottery identified several sherds of Early Medieval grass-tempered ware (c 300m to the north east of the Site) and during a golf course construction in 1973 a number of features contained fragments of grass-tempered Saxon sherds, possibly the last filling of Roman ditches were seen within the excavations done by Swindon Archaeological Society (WHER MWI16212).

#### ***Late Medieval Period (AD 1066 – 1550)***

- 1.3.13 Swindon is first mentioned by name in Domesday, and is listed as having five holdings (VCH IX, 1970, 119). The manor of Broome is not mentioned until Rotrou II, Count of Perche (died 1144) gave land in Broome to the priory of Marcigny in the reign of Henry I (1100-1135) (VCH 9, 1970, 122).
- 1.3.14 It is not clear where exactly the medieval manor of Broome was located. It is likely that the medieval settlement of Broome Manor was located where the present Broome Manor lies, and thus within the Site. The 1st Edition OS map of 1866 shows a small group of buildings labelled as Broom Manor, located immediately around and within the Site. The label is in Gothic font, used on the 1st Edition OS maps to represent antiquities, suggesting it was believed to be a historic settlement. Also shown on the 1st Edition OS map and all subsequent maps is a moated area immediately to the east of the Site. This could suggest the possible location for a medieval manor house, although it could simply be a fishpond.
- 1.3.15 Beresford and Hurst (1989, 206) mention a deserted medieval village to the east of the Site. This suggests that the settlement at Broome Manor originally consisted of more than just a manor house. A further, possibly connected medieval settlement (site of an 'ancient building' is marked on the Ordnance Survey County Series 25" maps), lies to the west of the Site. An aerial photograph study showed a number of earthworks in the immediate area of the 'house' comprising a number of platforms and linear features representing clear evidence of a deserted medieval village.
- 1.3.16 The economy and usage of the area during the later medieval period is suggested by a reference in the Victoria County History that the common at Broome was overstocked with 100 sheep in the early 14th century (p124), which would suggest pasture, but aerial photographs show the surrounding countryside to contain large areas of ridge and furrow, especially to the north east, which suggests arable land and which had vanished by the early 1970s..
- 1.3.17 The 2012 evaluation and watching brief of the site immediately east of the present site revealed some remains. The earliest dated features were a pair of shallow ditches of



medieval date. One ditch ran N-S and the other E-W. A number of other ditches although undated may also have belonged to this period. Pottery from the site dated it to between AD1150 and AD1380. The ditches were thought to be part of the wider landscape of Broome Manor rather than closely associated with the manor house itself.

### ***Post-medieval period (AD 1500 – present)***

- 1.3.18 In the 17th century large areas of Swindon parish were enclosed. Evidence is lacking but it seems likely that the enclosures went as far south as Broome Manor (VCH IX, 1970 125). There is no evidence to suggest the Site changed from being pasture after the enclosure of the land, and in 1841 the only other houses in this neighbourhood beside the farmhouse were three or four labourers' cottages and the house of the keeper of Coate reservoir.(VCH IX, 1970, 108). The descent of the manor can be traced from at least 1844 onwards through deeds held by Wiltshire Record Office (on line archive referenced, although due to closure, the records themselves were not available).
- 1.3.19 The earliest map of the Site to have been viewed is the Ordnance Survey First Series map of 1801. This shows a group of buildings labelled as Broom Farm. The buildings are located on either side of a road, which is later replaced by the railway line. The first stage opened from Red Post Junction to Grafton on May 1st 1882, connecting through to Swindon in 1883. It closed in 1961.
- 1.3.20 These buildings, and the pond are shown on Ordnance Survey maps up until the Provisional Edition of 1938, and up until the end of World War Two the farm was still in use, being used as a dairy farm (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/stories/41/a3370141.shtml#thread541607>). The farm and surrounding land was bought in 1973 by Wiltshire County Council, when the present golf course was established. The use of the Site and the buildings within it at this time is uncertain. By the 1987 OS map parts of the buildings shown on the 1938 map had been demolished, and by 2006 the majority of the original buildings within the Site appear to have been removed (Edwards and Lake 2014).

### ***Previous archaeological works***

- 1.3.21 There has been no previous archaeological work carried out within the Site. Within the locality there have been four recorded archaeological investigations, which comprise:
- Excavation carried out in 1939, which recorded a Roman well containing pottery, a quernstone and coins (c 250m to the north east of the Site);
  - Excavation carried out in 1973, which recorded a number of ditches containing Roman artefacts, building material and a well (c 100m to the east of the Site);
  - Watching Brief carried out in 1969 prior to the construction of the M4. A possible Roman settlement was recorded, and a double ring ditch, which was destroyed during the construction of the motorway (c 650m to the south west of the Site);
  - An evaluation and excavation was carried out between 2004 and 2006 to the north of the Site (OA 2004, Poole and Hardy 2009). In the southern area (nearest the Site) evidence of Late Iron Age/ Early Romano British field boundaries were discovered. Further Roman field boundaries were identified during the excavation, as well as medieval and post-medieval ditches (c 50m to the north of the Site);
  - An evaluation and watching brief was carried out to the immediate north of the site in 2012 (OA 2013). The earliest find was a single sherd of late Roman pottery. The

earliest dated features were a pair of shallow ditches of medieval date.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

#### *General*

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development;
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- To determine the potential of the Site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the Site;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Wiltshire HER.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in Appendix A of the WSI. Standard methodologies for geomatics and survey, environmental evidence, artefactual evidence and burials can also be found in the appendices to that document (Appendices B, C, D and E respectively).

2.2.2 Two trenches, each 10m by 1.6m were excavated across the Site (Fig. 2).

2.2.3 The evaluation trenches were positioned following discussions between the applicant and the archaeological planning advisor.



## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Presentation of Results

- 3.1.1 Detailed context descriptions are presented in the context inventory (Appendix B), and within the descriptive text in Section 4.2 below where they are integral to the interpretation of the deposit in question.
- 3.1.2 Finds reports are presented in Appendix C. A discussion and interpretation of the results can be found in Section 4.

### 3.2 Trench 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 was located on a grassed area within the existing car park (Figure 2). The trench measured 10m in length x 1.5m wide and was excavated on a north-west/south-east alignment to a maximum depth of 1.5m below ground level (bgl).
- 3.2.2 The natural geology (100) was encountered at approximately 0.95m bgl and comprised a predominantly mid orangey-brown, tenacious sandy clay with bluey-grey mottling throughout. The natural clay was overlain by a c 0.2m thick layer of mid orangey brown silty clay (108), which had been truncated by a curvilinear ditch (101). The ditch was approximately 1.6m wide and 0.65m deep. Where excavated, the northern edge of the ditch sloped at c40° to a flat base. The fill comprised a predominantly mid-blueish grey, tenacious silty clay with organic material throughout. Along the northern edge of the feature were a series of large sarsen stones up to 1m x 0.6m x 0.3m in size. Glass and pottery dating to the 19th-20th century were recovered from the fill. There was a suggestion of an east-west aligned ditch (103) at the north-western end of the trench, the fill of which (104) was very similar in composition to Deposit 102.
- 3.2.3 The ditch fills (102 and 104) and soil horizon (108) overlying the natural clay were overlain by a mid greyish brown, friable silty clay (105) which was approximately 0.2m thick at the south-eastern end of the trench and increased in thickness to 0.5m at the north-western end. Deposit 105 was overlain by a mixed layer (106), predominantly composed of re-deposited natural sandy clay with modern material throughout and a concentration of large sarsen stones at the south-eastern end of the trench. In contrast to Deposit 105, Deposit 106 increased in thickness from the north-western end of the trench (0.15m) to the south-eastern end (0.4m).
- 3.2.4 The deposit at the top of the stratigraphic sequence comprised the existing topsoil and turf of the grassed area within the car park (107).

### 3.3 Trench 2

- 3.3.1 Trench 2 was located on a grass verge immediately to the east of the petanque square to the north-east of the clubhouse (Figure 2). The trench was aligned north-south and measured 10.4m long x 1.5m wide x an average of 0.5m deep.
- 3.3.2 A predominantly mid orangey brown, tenacious sandy clay with bluey grey mottling throughout (200) was encountered at c0.4m bgl. Given the re-deposition of geological deposits noted in Trench 1, a sondage was excavated through Deposit 200 at the southern end of the trench and confirmed the geological origin of this layer. At the northern end of the trench, this deposit was considerably greyer in colour, although the sandy clay composition was consistent.
- 3.3.3 The natural geology had been truncated by a single north-west/south-east aligned linear feature (201), which was approximately 1.1m wide. The edges of the feature were vertical, although the base was not excavated due to the presence of asbestos tile



within the fill (202). Other modern finds, including a plastic collar for a 6" drainage pipe, were also observed but none were retained given the obviously modern origin of the fill.

- 3.3.4 The fill and the natural geology were directly overlain by a mixed layer of re-deposited sandy clay and mid brownish grey silty clay (203), which was in turn overlain by the existing c0.2m of topsoil and turf (204) forming the grass verge. At the northern end of the trench, the interface between Deposit 203 and the natural geology was marked by a concentration of flat limestone fragments.

## 4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The fact that the natural geology in Trench 1 appeared to be overlain by a buried soil horizon (108) would imply that little or no truncation has occurred in this area. The top of the buried soil also marked the point from which Ditch 101 (and possibly 103) had been cut, and probably represents the former ground surface pre-dating the development of the golf club in the 1970s.
- 4.1.2 The ditches are likely to represent former field boundaries, and roughly correspond to a number of features depicted on OS mapping from the late 19th and early 20th century (Figure 5 shows these features on the OS 1st edition map of 1866). The composition of the ditch fills was indicative of gradual silting rather than deliberate backfilling, and possibly suggests that the ditches silted up naturally prior to the deposition of the overlying deposits (105 and 106), which are highly likely to represent landscaping deposits associated with the creation of the golf course. It is possible that the large sarsen stones along the northern edge of the ditch may also have been associated with this boundary, and that they were deposited in the ditch once the boundary had become redundant.
- 4.1.3 The fact that the landscaping deposit(s) in Trench 2 (203) directly overlay the natural geology, may suggest that a degree of truncation has occurred in this area. This is consistent with anecdotal evidence from the ground-staff at the golf club, who suggested that this area was originally part of the putting green. It is possible that the significant depth of landscaping deposits in Trench 1 originated from the levelling of the area around Trench 2.



## APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth	Comment	Soil Description	Spot date
<b>Trench 1</b>					
100	Layer		Natural geology	Predominantly tenacious mid orange brown sandy clay with blueish grey mottling	
101	Cut		Curvilinear ditch		
102	Fill		Ditch fill	Predominantly tenacious mid blueish grey silty clay with organic material throughout (including roots) and sarsen stones up to 1m x 0.6m x 0.3m along the northern edge	Late 19 <sup>th</sup>
103	Cut		Possible east-west aligned ditch		
104	Fill		Ditch fill	Predominantly tenacious mid blueish grey silty clay	
105	Deposit	0.2-0.5	Landscaping	Mid greyish brown silty clay	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century
106	Deposit	0.15-0.4	Landscaping	Mixed but predominantly re-deposited natural – mid orangey brown sandy clay with large sarsen stones at the south-eastern end of the trench	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
107	Deposit	0.2	Topsoil and turf	Mid greyish brown silty clay	
108	Deposit		Buried soil horizon	Mid orangey grey brown silty clay	
<b>Trench 2</b>					
200	Layer		Natural geology	Predominantly tenacious mid orange brown sandy clay with blueish grey mottling	
201	Cut		Ditch cut		
202	Fill		Ditch fill	Mixed	
203	Deposit		Landscaping	Mixed re-deposited natural and mid brown silty clay	
204	Deposit		Topsoil and turf	Mid greyish brown silty clay	



## APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

### C.1 Pottery

*Identified by John Cotter*

Context	Description	Date
102	1 transfer printed ware (TPW) teacup sherd, 1 stoneware (ENF+GS BRST) preserve jar base sherd with hint of makers mark, 44g	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century 1870-1900
105	1 refined white ware (RFW) sanitary ware sherd from cylindrical stool pan or flagon, 139g	1850 - 1900+
106	1 worn base sherd medieval green-glazed ?Brill-Boarstall ware, 31g	14 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> century

### C.2 CBM

*Identified by John Cotter*

Context	Description	Date
105	1 fragment unglazed red quarry tile, 210g	19 <sup>th</sup> century
106	1 fragment machine made land drain, 1 flake floor tile in same fabric as that from 105, 73g	1880 – 1920+ 19 <sup>th</sup> century

### C.3 Glass

*Identified by Ian Scott*

Context	Description	Date
102	Screw thread jar made in three piece mould, Medicine bottle made in 2 piece mould with separate base plate with hand-finished rim on vertical neck, embossed 'tablespoon' measuring divisions on front. 303g	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century
105	Fragments of an ink bottle made in 3 piece mould with hand-finished rim, embossed '1oz' on base, Small pale blue medicine bottle made in 2 piece mould with separate base, hand-finished vertical neck and rim, embossed 'AB' and 'BISHOP'S VARALETTES'. 130g	Mid – late 19 <sup>th</sup> century Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century

### C.4 Iron

*Identified by Ian Scott*

Context	Description	Date
102	A single hand made nail, 18g	Not closely dateable

### C.5 Coal

*Identified by Geraldine Crann*

Context	Description
102	2 pieces coal, 64g



## APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Broome Manor Golf Complex, Swindon, Wiltshire

**Site code:** CHBG16

**Grid reference:** centred on SU 16398 82204

**Type:** Evaluation

**Date and duration:** 1 day

**Summary of results:** In February 2016, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a two trench field evaluation at Broome Manor Golf Complex, Swindon, Wiltshire (centred on SU 16398 82204). The evaluation revealed the top of the natural clay which appeared to be overlain by a buried soil horizon in the northernmost of the trenches. The buried soil and natural geology were truncated two ditches which are likely to correspond to field boundaries depicted on OS mapping from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The fills of these features were overlain by a series of landscaping deposits which are almost certainly associated with the creation of the golf course in the latter part of the 20th century.

In addition to the landscaping deposits in the northernmost of the two trenches, there was some evidence for truncation of the natural geology and the levelling out of the higher ground in the southernmost trench, possibly during the construction of the former putting green (no longer extant).

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





Scale 1:10,000

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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench locations

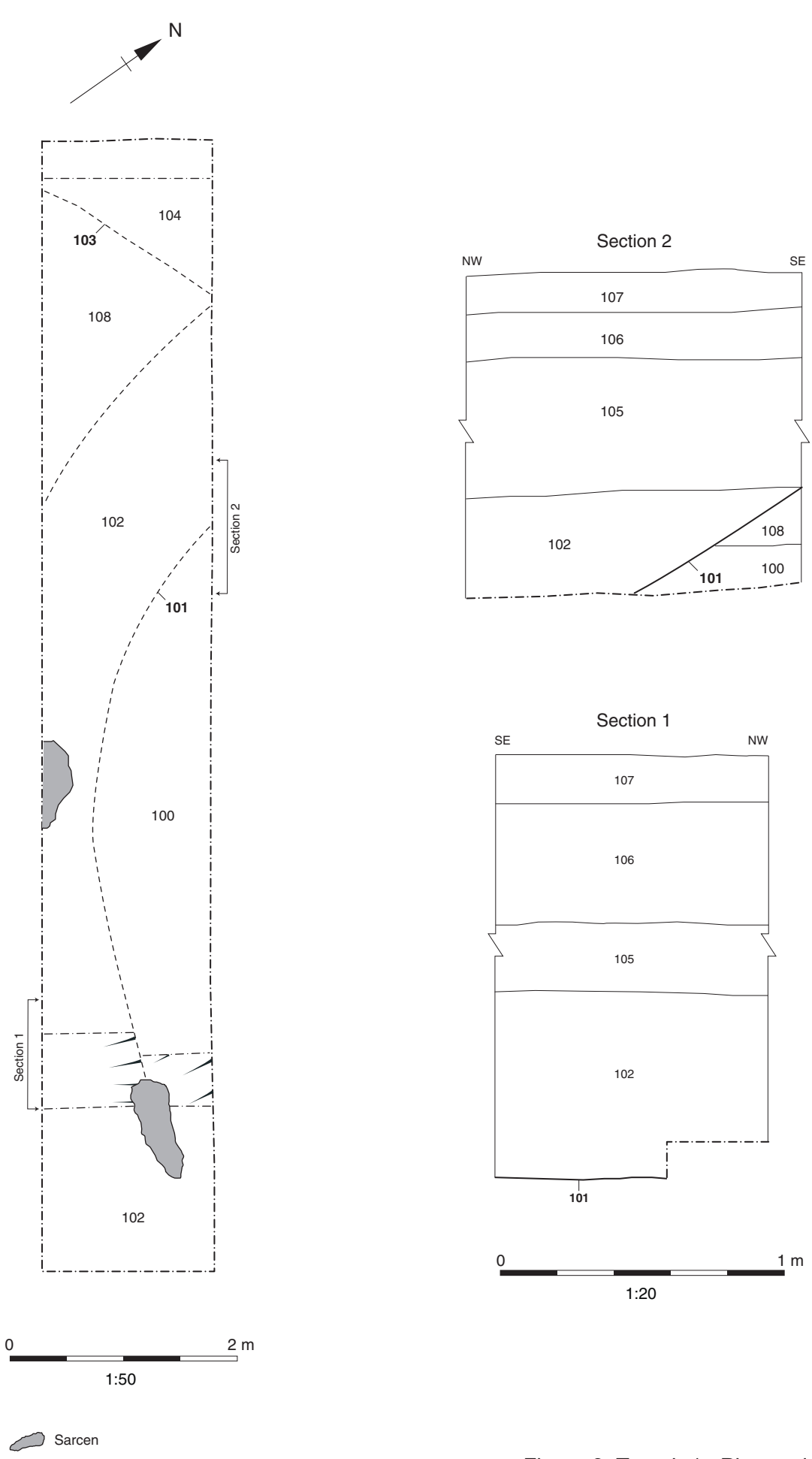


Figure 3: Trench 1 : Plan and Sections

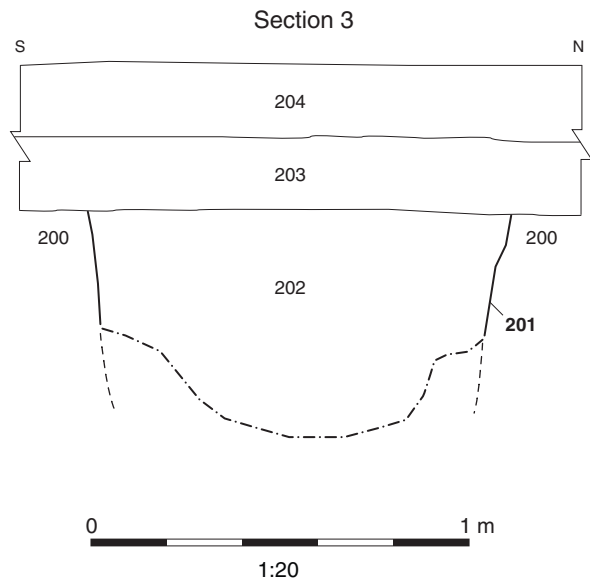
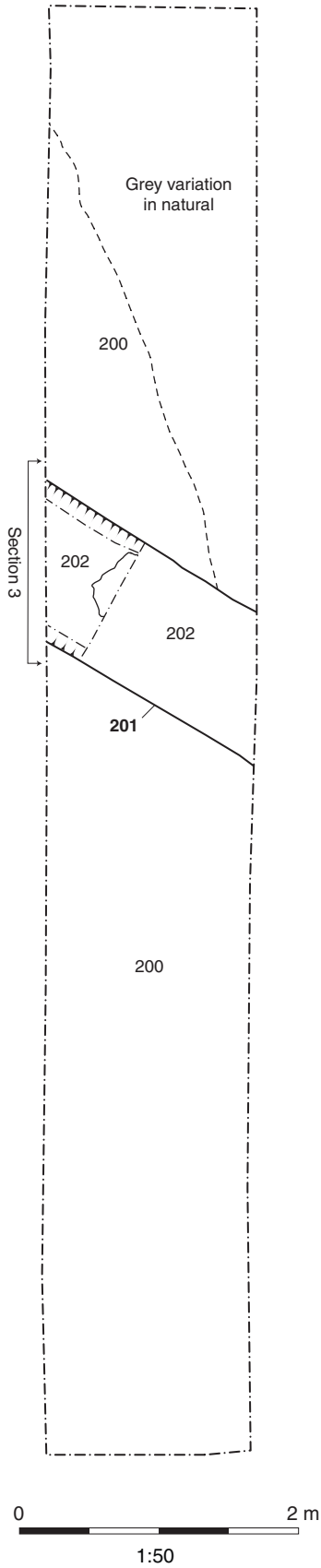


Figure 4: Trench 2 : Plan and Section

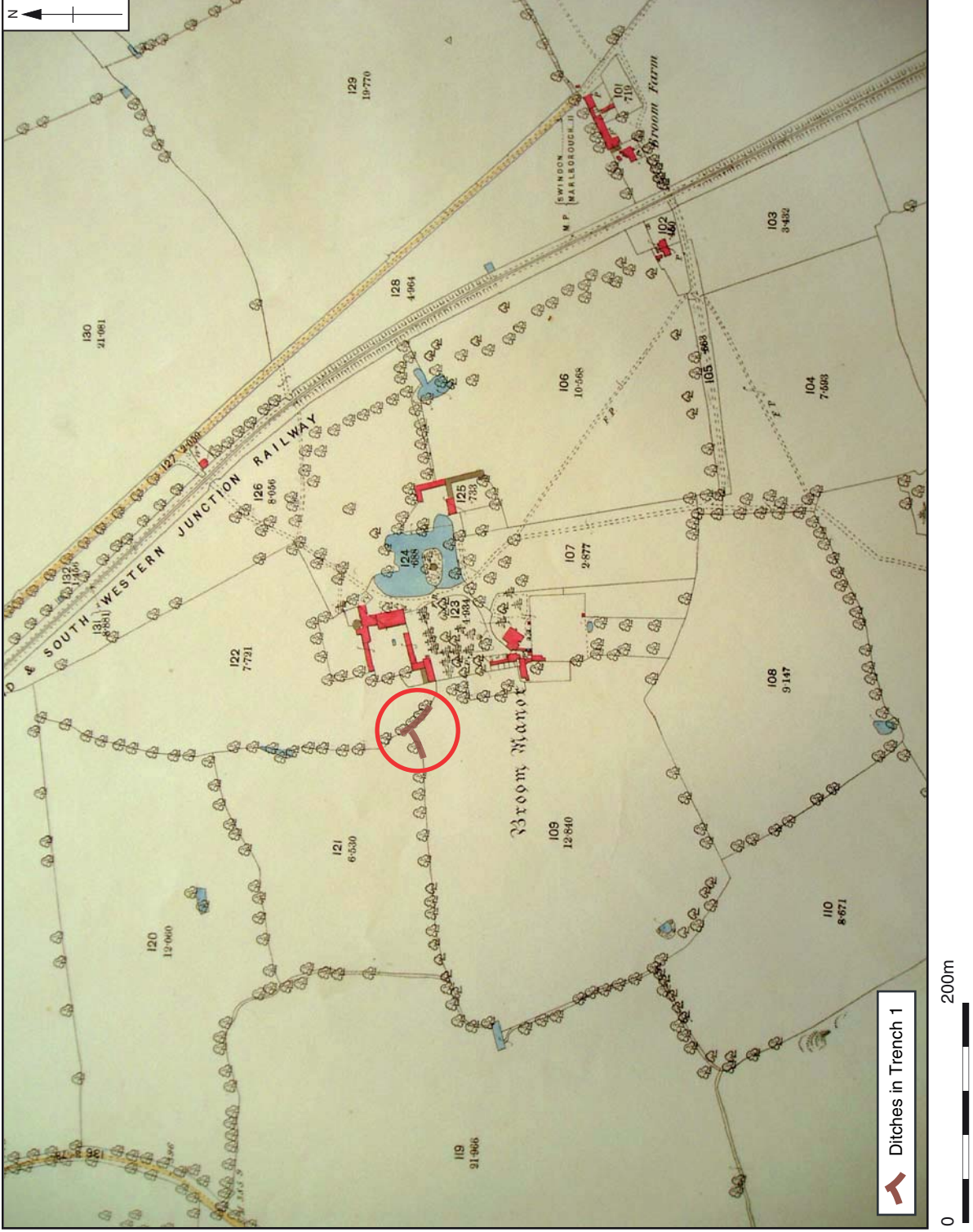


Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map of 1866