



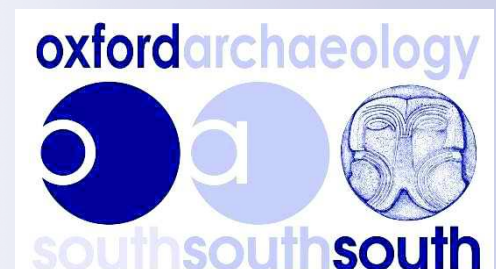
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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land off Hastings Hill, Churchill, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by H Willis Ltd, via Savills (UK) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed housing development, comprising a geophysical survey, followed by trial trenching on Land off Hastings Hill, Churchill, Oxfordshire. The site is located at the northern edge of the village at grid reference SP 2810 2440. The work took place between 12th and 16th January 2017. A total of four trenches were excavated across the site. These aimed to investigate both the results of the geophysical survey and features visible on LiDAR high resolution topographical mapping.

No prehistoric evidence was found in the trenches, and only a single sherd of residual Roman pottery was found. No evidence was found in the present evaluation for Anglo-Saxon settlement, in contrast to a previous investigation which found an early Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building on the south side of the present village (HER 16758).

The application site lies 100m east of a shrunken portion of the medieval village (HER 4182) to the west and south of the old church, comprising earthworks of house plots, ridge-and-furrow and a fish pond. The medieval village was largely abandoned and rebuilt to the south-east, following a major fire in 1684. The best-preserved elements of the shrunken village are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 1006317) and includes clear building platforms, holloways and a prominent boundary bank.

The evaluation has demonstrated that there are features of medieval to post-medieval date throughout the application site. Each of the four trenches contained multiple features or deposits of this broad date. The most complex and potentially important remains were found in the higher south-eastern part of the site (Trenches 3 and 4). These include faced stone walls and stoney layers that may be part of medieval/ post-medieval house plots and/or cultivation terraces. The cut features investigated during the evaluation indicate that some were infilled between c 1050-1250, although the pottery groups recovered from individual contexts are very small and have a wide date range. The earliest deposits associated with the structural remains in Trenches 3 and 4 are dated by small pottery groups to the medieval period, while the latest finds suggest that the putative terraces may have continued in use as late as the 18th century.

The evaluation has shown that the site contains potentially important archaeology of medieval and post-medieval date, a continuation of the scheduled shrunken medieval village to the south-west, including masonry structures and associated artefacts and environmental remains. Initial consultation with the Principal Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), suggests that the archaeology discovered is not sufficiently important to prevent development of the site, but that a suitable programme of mitigation would be required as a condition attached to any planning permission.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank H Willis Ltd, and Dawn Brodie of Savills (UK) Ltd, for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Hugh Coddington, Oxfordshire County Council's Senior Archaeological Officer, who monitored the work, for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stuart Foreman MCIfA. The fieldwork was directed by Vix Hughes ACIfA, who was supported by Anne Lauren Bollen, Caroline Souday and Mike McLean. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Vix Hughes and Conan Parsons. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen and Geraldine Crann. Sharon Cook processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and the archive was prepared under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by H Willis Limited, via Savills (UK) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed housing development, comprising a geophysical survey, followed by trial trenching of the site.
- 1.1.2 The work is being undertaken to inform the Planning Authority, West Oxfordshire District Council, in relation to planning application 17/00393/FUL, for the erection of nine residential dwellings with associated works on land off Hastings Hill, Churchill, Oxfordshire. Discussions between Hugh Coddington, the Archaeological Team Leader for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), Oxford Archaeology (OA) and Savills (UK) Ltd established the scope of work required. This document follows on from an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and outlines how OA implemented those requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located at the northern edge of Churchill, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1) at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 2810 2440.
- 1.2.2 Churchill is located 4km south-west of Chipping Norton, on a ridge whose top lies at 160m OD. The ridge is flanked by the Sars Brook to the south-east and the Cornwell Brook to the north-west, both of which drain into the River Evenlode, 2km south-west of Churchill. The village lies at a junction on the road from Chipping Norton to Bledington (the B4450), which follows the ridge top. The application site lies in a field called Badger's Bank, on the north-west facing slope of the ridge near the top, and the ground slopes quite steeply down from 157m OD at the south-east end of the field, to 143m OD at the north-west end.
- 1.2.3 The site currently consists of pasture, with a single outbuilding present in the north-western corner. It is bounded to the south and west by houses that lie on the north side of Hastings Hill. The Dovecote, Grange Farm, lies to the east, and ploughed fields form the northern boundary (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.4 The solid geology of the site is Whitby Mudstone Formation. This is overlain in part by Quarternary period Head deposits (formed up to c 3 million years ago) consisting of clay, silt, sand and gravel. These rocks were formed from material accumulated by down slope movements including landslide, debris flow, solifluction, soil creep and hill wash (BGS nd).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 There are no find spots or features dating from the prehistoric or Roman period in the immediate vicinity of the application site. A number of scheduled Bronze Age barrows lie in the general vicinity of the village, including the Mount Bell Barrow (HER 3180), located 700m south of the site, near Mount Farm, and the Besbury Lane Bowl Barrow (c 1.4km north-east of the site).

- 1.3.2 Romano-British tile, wall plaster and pottery, found to the south-east of Churchill Grounds Farm (HER 13035), c 900m north of the application site, has been identified as the possible site of a minor Roman villa. The same location has produced a Neolithic stone axe and Saxon loomweight. Roman coins have found in a field adjoining, on the north side of Sars Brook.
- 1.3.3 Finds from within the core of the historic village include an early medieval (Saxon) sunken-featured building (SFB) with associated postholes and stakeholes, which were recorded at Churchill Farm, 300m south-east of the application site (HER 16758). Animal bone, a pin, Saxon pot sherds and a weft beater, were recovered during the excavation of this feature.
- 1.3.4 Churchill's placename in the past has been written as Cercelle, Churchell, and Chercell, evolving to Churchill by 1537. The origin of the name is uncertain, though it may come from the Old English *cyrce*, meaning a hill, burial ground, or barrow.
- 1.3.5 The present All Saint's Church, located in the south-east of the village, was dedicated in 1826. It replaced the former medieval parish church, the remains of which are located 100m west of the application site (Old Church, Churchill, HER 25543). Of the medieval building only the 14th-century chancel survives, the remainder having been demolished in 1825. The chancel was latterly used as a mortuary chapel, and is now a museum. The medieval/post-medieval burial ground extends to within 60m of the application site, although separated from it by Hastings Hill.
- 1.3.6 A shrunken portion of the medieval village (HER 4182) is situated to the west and south of the old church, comprising earthworks of house plots, ridge-and-furrow and a fish pond. The Deserted Medieval Village Research Group (1952) distinguishes 'shrunken' from 'deserted' medieval villages, defining them as communities with more than three houses occupied. The medieval village was largely abandoned and rebuilt to the south-east, following a major fire on 30th July 1684. The best-preserved elements of the shrunken village are protected as a Scheduled Monument (SAM 1006317) and includes clear building platforms, holloways and a prominent boundary bank. Finds have included a large medieval pot, pot sherds and coins.
- 1.3.7 Environment Agency LiDAR data shows that possible earthwork features extend beyond the scheduled area (Fig.2). A bank running through the application site on a NW-SE alignment could be the northern boundary of the medieval settlement.
- 1.3.8 Previous medieval archaeological discoveries in Churchill include a scatter of 115 medieval floor tiles recovered from beneath the stairs of the Corner House in Churchill (HER 12795). The Corner House is an 18th-century House which upon examination of the cellar revealed a 14th-century window which could have been part of an earlier building (HER 25521).
- 1.3.9 A limestone ashlar moulded Tudor arch (HER 25541) is situated near to the development area, and is said to have led to the former vicarage.
- 1.3.10 Other historic buildings near to the site include Hastings Hill House and Warren Hastings House (HER 3364), which date from the end of the 17th Century, c 1690.

1.4 Geophysical survey

- 1.4.1 A geophysical survey carried out by Stratascan (November 2016) comprised a detailed gradiometry survey over all available parts of the development site. A number of probable archaeological anomalies, including various earthworks, possible pits and ditches were identified (Fig. 7). Given the close proximity of Anglo-Saxon remains and the shrunken medieval village, the features were thought most likely to be related to those periods. The remaining features include an area of magnetic debris and disturbance from nearby ferrous metal objects. The latter are particularly extensive at the western end of the site.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered;
- ii. To inform formulation of further measures to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- iii. To consider the site within its local, regional, and national context as appropriate, with reference to the Solent-Thames Regional Research Framework (Hey and Hind 2014);
- iv. To deposit the site archive with an appropriate museum, if appropriate;
- v. To provide information for the local HER to ensure the long-term survival of the excavated data.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The four trenches were located using a Leica GPS system with sub-50mm accuracy. The excavated trenches, context limits, interventions and levels were also recorded and mapped using the Leica GPS.

2.2.2 Trenches were excavated by machine under close archaeological supervision, in even spits to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, which was usually encountered before the level of the natural geology.

2.2.3 A sample of revealed archaeological features was cleaned and excavated by hand. Records were made of the contexts and features revealed, as per the WSI.

2.2.4 In discussion with Hugh Coddington (OCC) during a site inspection visit (13th January 2017) it was agreed that, due to the relative complexity of the remains, only a selection of deposits would be excavated, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation. Most of the archaeological deposits were thus investigated briefly to recover dating evidence, and recorded in plan, but otherwise left *in situ*.

2.2.5 Finds recovered were bagged by context and recorded using standard OA recording systems, as detailed in Appendix C. A single deposit with the potential to contain environmental remains was sampled and wet-sieved for charred plant remains, as detailed in Appendix D.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A. Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated eg pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.
- 3.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence is detailed in Appendix B. The sequence as described is based on limited excavation work and is likely to require revision if the site is subject to more extensive investigation. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix C. All dates are in calendar years AD unless otherwise stated.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between the trenches varied slightly. The bedrock (weathered mudstone, contexts 318 and 401) was only exposed in Trenches 3 and 4 at the higher (south-east) end of the field. The uppermost natural deposits elsewhere on the site comprised a range of Quaternary head deposits. Towards the middle and bottom (north-west) end of the field these consisted of greyish orange clays (101 and 203). The trenches at the top of the slope (Trenches 3 and 4) came down on to sandy silty clays. Trench 2, located part way up the slope, had a relatively colluvial layer overlying the bedrock and beneath the topsoil, which contained small amounts of medieval pottery and animal bone.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were poor, with persistent poor weather, and the trenches were subject to rain, snow and frost, which affected visibility to some extent. It was possible to investigate and record the archaeological deposits under these conditions, but the relative complexity of the deposits made interpretation difficult, especially given the limited extents of the trenches.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all of the trenches. Many of the contexts were only partly revealed within the trenches or were only recorded in plan, having been identified as fragile and left *in situ*. Artefacts recovered are noted by context in the following text, where present.

3.4 Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Plates 1-6)

- 3.4.3 This trench was positioned on the north-west side of an extant agricultural building shown on the 19th-century OS maps and is the closest trench to the scheduled shrunken medieval village, lying 70m due east of the old churchyard. The geophysical survey in this part of the site is characterized by heavy magnetic disturbance that obscures any archaeologically significant features, probably reflecting former surfaces and/or ground disturbance in the vicinity of the building.
- 3.4.4 The earliest deposit seen in Trench 1 was a small area of orange brown natural clay head deposit at the northern end of the trench (101). This was cut by a shallow linear feature (103). The edges of this were diffuse and it contained a single fill (102)

disturbed by roots. One sherd of 19th century pottery was recovered, along with another sherd of 16-17th century date. The feature is interpreted as a probable hedgeline (Plates 2 and 3). A thin layer of clay had accumulated over the top (104).

- 3.4.5 At the southern end of the trench the earliest visible deposit was a mottled mid orange grey clay (115) which may have been a natural head deposit, but was only visible at the base of an intervention and could not be confirmed as such. Above this was a grey clay deposit (110) which contained three sherds of pottery dated to the period 1050-1250.
- 3.4.6 Overlying 110 was a thin layer of stony material (109) which appeared to have been tipped downslope from east to west. Overlying this was another grey clay deposit (108) which contained three sherds of pottery dated to 1050-1250. This deposit may have been a continuation of deposit 118, seen in plan to the north-west.
- 3.4.7 Above deposit 118 was a layer (114) which was marginally more orange hued but may have been a variation within 118. At the southern end of the trench was a similar grey clay (111), which contained a single sherd of pottery dated to 1050-1300.
- 3.4.8 An expansive layer of stony grey clay (107=117) overlay deposits 108, 114 and 111.
- 3.4.9 This layer was cut by a linear feature (105, Plate 4) at the southern end of the trench. The feature was aligned NE-SW and filled with a stony grey clay (106). The fill (106) contained eight sherds of pottery dating from 1225-1500. The dense concentration of stones in a band initially gave the impression of a wall foundation, but following investigation the feature was interpreted as a ditch infilled with stone rubble.
- 3.4.10 In the central part of the trench was an apparent large cut feature (119) filled with two distinct stony layers (Plate 6). The lower deposit (116) contained medium sub-angular stones while the overlying deposit (112) had smaller more rounded stones. This was below a dark grey silt (113) which graded into the overlying topsoil (100).

3.5 Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Plates 7-8)

- 3.5.3 This trench was placed to investigate a linear feature on the geophysical survey plot that lies parallel to the extant northern field boundary. The trench also investigated a possible curvilinear feature and a possible pit on the geophysics plot, neither of which were identified in the trench.
- 3.5.4 The earliest deposit seen in Trench 2 was an orange brown natural clay head deposit (203). In the southern part of the trench was a layer of grey clay colluvium (211) which directly overlay the natural. This deposit contained a single sherd of pottery dated to 1050-1250. The trench ran along the contour of the field and layer 211 could clearly be seen dipping down-slope from east to west.
- 3.5.5 At the northern end of the trench was a linear ditch 204, aligned NW-SE (Plate 8). The ditch contained at least six fills at the north end and was over 0.4m deep; the base was not reached at a depth of 1m below ground level (ground conditions prevented further excavation). The six fills (205, 206, 207, 208, 209 and 210) alternated between sterile redeposited orange clays and grey organic clays which contained artefacts material. The upper ditch fill contained a deposit rich in charred remains, probably cooking waste from a nearby domestic hearth dumped as rubbish in the ditch (See sample 1,

Appendix D.1). Ditch fill 108 contained two sherds of pottery dated to 1050-1250 and fill 210, which was higher in the sequence, contained a single sherd of pottery dated to 1150-1250.

- 3.5.6 Overlying the uppermost ditch fill (210) and the colluvium (211) was a layer of subsoil (202), which was sealed by the present topsoil (201). A single sherd of pottery dated to 1050-1250 was residual in the topsoil.

3.6 Trench 3 (Fig. 5, Plates 9-13)

- 3.6.3 This trench was placed to investigate a series of ridges or terraces on the LiDAR plot, and various possible linear features and a large discrete magnetic anomaly on the geophysical survey plot. At the northern end of the trench was a large very shallow pit or depression (317) which contained a dark fill similar to the surrounding topsoil (316) and is likely to have been infilled in relatively recent times. This closely matched the large discrete anomaly on the survey plot.
- 3.6.4 The earliest deposit in Trench 3 was a head deposit of mid greyish yellow silt with frequent sub-angular stones, which was only exposed in a small area at the northern end of the trench (318).
- 3.6.5 The trench revealed two fairly substantial stone wall foundations, one of which (306; Plate 10) coincided with a linear feature on the geophysics plot. A similar stone foundation (314; Plate 11) to the north was on a perpendicular NE-SW alignment and included a line of five *in situ* squared stones, used to face the north-western side of the wall (Plate 11). The latter wall did not show up on the geophysics plot.
- 3.6.6 At the southern end of the trench were several stony deposits (302, 304, 305 and 309) whose stratigraphic relationships and processes of deposition could not be interpreted with any confidence within the confines of the trench, but which produced medieval pottery in small quantities. They may be terrace infill or demolition deposits similar to those recorded in Trench 4. Deposit 302 contained a sherd of pottery dated to 1050-1250 and deposit 304 contained a sherd dated to 1075-1300, both recovered as surface finds during cleaning. These two deposits were cut through by a pit (307). The relationship of the probable medieval deposit (304) to adjacent wall foundation 306 could not be determined within the limits of excavation. The fill of the pit (307) contained a single sherd of pottery, dated to 1225-1500, which was recovered from the surface of the feature during cleaning. The single sherds from these contexts cannot be considered reliable dating evidence as they could easily be residual in a later context.
- 3.6.7 Deposit 310, was a dense spread of medium sub-angular stones that appeared to post-date wall 314. Deposit 303 was a darker hued but otherwise similar stony deposit that appeared to post-date wall foundation 306 to the north. These could also be rubble spreads derived from demolition of the walls or terrace infill layers. No finds were recovered from them.
- 3.6.8 In the central part of the trench were further stone-rich deposits interpreted in the field as remnant yard or floor surfaces, but which could also be terrace infill layers. These include layer 315, which consisted of a mid-yellowish grey gravelly silt and formed a possible surface (Plate 12). This seems to have been overlain by a soil (313)

comprising stony mid-yellowish grey silt, which produced a single sherd of pottery dated to 1650-1900.

- 3.6.9 Deposit 309 was cut by a small rubbish pit (311) which contained fragments of glass, pottery and ceramic building material dated to 1820-1900 (Plate 13).
- 3.6.10 Overlying the uppermost fills and deposits across the trench was a layer of subsoil (301), which was sealed by the present topsoil (300), which produced three sherds of pottery dated to 1780-1840.

3.7 Trench 4 (Fig. 6, Plates 14-22)

- 3.7.1 The LiDAR plot (Fig. 8) shows a series of broad, shallow terraces or ridges in the eastern part of the site, which this trench was placed to investigate. The geophysical survey (Fig. 7) suggested the presence of a T-shaped junction of two linear features at the west end of the trench.
- 3.7.2 The earliest deposit seen in Trench 4 comprised patches of the underlying natural (401), a mid-greyish yellow silt head deposit with frequent sub-angular stones, which was exposed at both ends of the trench.
- 3.7.3 Two wall foundations were found within the trench, on parallel SW-NE alignments, and perpendicular to the extant field boundary to the north of the trench. Based in part on comparison with the LiDAR plot these are provisionally interpreted as retaining walls for cultivation terraces (Plate 22, see Discussion). The terraces would have mitigated the slope of the ground, which is quite steep, falling from east to west.
- 3.7.4 Wall 411 (Plate 20), at the west end of the trench, was found in the area of the T-shaped junction suggested by the geophysics, although the match is not perfect. It was overlain by a stony deposit (414) to the west (downslope) and by a dark grey silt (412) to the east (upslope). The latter is interpreted as a cultivation deposit or infill layer behind the terrace retaining wall.
- 3.7.5 Wall 416 (Plates 16 and 22) was found 9.5m east of wall 411, in the middle part of the trench, and did not obviously match any features in the geophysical data. The area between the two walls contained a pair of very shallow, parallel gullies on a perpendicular alignment to the walls, probably drainage or cultivation features associated with the terrace.
- 3.7.6 At the eastern end of the trench was a linear feature (403) with a single fill (404). The fill was very similar to that of the adjacent feature 405 and the overlying topsoil, making an exact relationship between 403 and 405 difficult to determine. Ditch 403 (Plate 17) was aligned NW-SE, almost parallel to the adjacent extant field boundary, and is likely to have been a drainage or cultivation feature within the eastern of the two terraces investigated in Trench 4. Feature 405 (Plate 18) contained a dark grey single fill (406) which did not produce any datable finds.
- 3.7.7 At the western end of the trench were two parallel linear features (407 and 409) on a WNW-ESE alignment. As with ditch 403 these were probably drainage or cultivation features within the terraces. They were shallow in profile and each had a single fill, 408 and 410 respectively from which no artefacts were recovered. Overlying layer 412 and associated feature fills (410 and 408) was a similar grey silt layer (413).

- 3.7.8 There was a clear change on either side of wall 416 (Plate 22). The deposits to the east of the wall included a complex sequence of stony layers, which could be structural, infill or demolition deposits, apparently associated with the wall, or used to form the terrace. Deposit 417 (Plate 16) was overlain by 419, which was overlain by 424. A further stony deposit (415) was overlain by the wall foundation (416). Other stony deposits in the same area (deposits 418, 425 and 426; Plate 15) could also be demolition or terrace infill layers. The only artefacts recovered from these was a single sherd of Roman pottery from deposit 419. A single sherd cannot be relied upon as dating evidence and the layout and alignment of the terraces suggests that they are much more likely to be of medieval or post-medieval date. Medieval and post-medieval finds have been recovered in greater quantity from the cultivation soils infilling the terrace.
- 3.7.9 A series of extensive soil deposits, located between feature 405 and the stony deposits described above, were generally darker grey organic silts with varying densities of sub-angular stones (420, 421, 422 and 423; Plate 19). Deposit 420 contained a single sherd of pottery dated to 1120-1500, while a stratigraphically equivalent deposit (422) contained a fragment of 17th-century clay pipe and six fragments of pottery dated to 1760-1830. These soil layers appear to be deliberate deposits containing small amounts of domestic refuse. They were probably cultivation soils infilling the terraces. The later of the soils in this sequence were clearly still in cultivation in the late 18th or early 19th century.
- 3.7.10 Overlying deposits in the middle section of the trench, to the east of wall 416 (418, 424, 420 and 422) was a layer of pale yellowish grey clayey silt (402) which had sparse gravel inclusions. Overlying the uppermost fills and deposits was the present topsoil (400). A single sherd of pottery dated to 1050-1250 was residual in the topsoil.

3.8 Finds summary

- 3.8.1 The small artefact assemblage included pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), fired clay, clay pipe, glass and animal bone.
- 3.8.2 The pottery included a single small sherd of Roman greyware which is almost certainly residual in a medieval or post-medieval context. A total of 42 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 579g was recovered from 19 contexts. In terms of dating there is a fairly strong presence of early medieval and medieval pottery dating from the 11th or 12th century to the 14th and possibly the 15th century. A small number of post-medieval sherds date from the 17th century to the 19th-century.
- 3.8.3 There are probably at least three main medieval pottery fabrics present including Cotswold-type, Minety from north-west Wiltshire and Wychwood from Ascott under Wychwood. All are oolitic limestone tempered. The Minety (or Wychwood) vessel forms present include cooking pots, a wide shallow bowl or pan, and a jug with a thumbled base. In addition, there is an unusual Cotswold-type bowl. The assemblage is domestic in nature and attests to the close proximity of settlement activity.
- 3.8.4 Fired clay was recovered from two contexts, but none of the material is diagnostic of function or date, though most likely to relate to domestic ovens or hearths.

3.8.5 A single sherd of 19th century vessel glass was recovered from a small rubbish pit in Trench 3.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trenching results in combination with the preceding desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and LiDAR analysis provide a robust evaluation of the archaeological potential of the site. However, it should be noted that the trenches were excavated during consistently poor weather conditions, which had a significant adverse effect on the visibility of features and deposits.
- 4.1.2 The archaeology was widespread and relatively complex, including stone walls, and extensive soil and rubble spreads. Interpretation of such deposits is difficult within the confines of 2m wide trenches. The extensive nature of the deposits also limited the amount of hand excavation that was possible within the scope of the evaluation. Most of the archaeological deposits were thus cleaned, recorded and investigated briefly to recover dating evidence, but otherwise left *in situ*.
- 4.1.3 There was generally good correspondence between geophysical anomalies and buried archaeological features, although considerably more archaeology was found in the trenches than was suggested by the geophysics. The most substantial and most recent features, including stone wall footings, large ditches and a recently infilled large pit, showed up preferentially in the survey plots. The survey was unsuccessful in the north-western part of the field where modern magnetic disturbance obscured medieval and post-medieval archaeological features.
- 4.1.4 The trenching has successfully characterized a series of earthworks visible on the LiDAR plot of the site. These appear to be a series of walled settlement enclosures and cultivation terraces, focused mainly in the eastern side of the site.

4.2 Interpretation

Roman

- 4.2.1 A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from deposit 419. While no conclusions can be based on a single sherd, it is clearly residual in a medieval or post-medieval deposit. There is currently no substantive evidence for Roman settlement underlying the present village. Roman artefacts have been found at Grounds Farm c. 900m north of the site, which has been identified as the possible site of a minor Roman villa, and this could be the source of the pottery.

Medieval and post-medieval period

- 4.2.2 No evidence was found in the present evaluation for Anglo-Saxon settlement, in contrast to a previous investigation which found an early Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building on the south side of the present village (HER 16758).
- 4.2.3 The evaluation has demonstrated that there are features of medieval to post-medieval date throughout the site. Each of the four trenches contained multiple features or deposits of this broad date. The most complex and potentially important remains were found in the south-eastern part of the site (Trenches 3 and 4). The remains in Trench

- 3, which include faced stone walls that may be part of a medieval/ post-medieval house plot, are of particular interest. The largest assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from Trench 1 (17 sherds) which is the closest to the old church and the shrunken medieval village. The cut features investigated during the evaluation indicate that some were infilled between c 1050-1250, although the pottery groups recovered from individual contexts are very small and have a wide date range. The earliest deposits associated with the structural remains in trenches 3 and 4 are dated by small pottery groups to the medieval period, while the latest finds suggest that the putative terraces may have continued in use as late as the 18th century.
- 4.2.4 The sloping topography of the field has clearly had a major influence on the distribution and character of the settlement and cultivation in this period. Towards the top of the field, where Trenches 3 and 4 were positioned, the remains included the traces of at least four stone walls and numerous stony deposits, which are mostly interpreted as demolition debris and/or terrace infill deposits.
- 4.2.5 There is a reasonably high potential for domestic structures and activity to be present in the higher eastern part of the field, although the character of the structural remains in Trench 3 appears significantly different from those in Trench 4. The remains in Trench 3 suggest that the southern end of the Trench lay within a terrace, yard or building platform enclosed on at least two sides by neatly faced stone walls. Their proximity to deposits containing medieval and post-medieval pottery suggests that they could relate to domestic activity. These wall foundations were located in the southern corner of the site, close to the rear boundaries of the properties fronting on to Hastings Hill. It is perhaps most likely that the walls in Trench 3 represent former outbuildings or house plot boundaries.
- 4.2.6 The two walls in Trench 4 appear not as well constructed as those in Trench 3 as no dressed stone was found (although this may be a matter of preservation if the walls have been extensively robbed). The walls in this trench are interpreted as cultivation terraces as they were associated with what appear to be drainage and cultivation features, and the walls were clearly located at significant breaks in slope. The walls were parallel to each other and perpendicular to the field boundary to the north of Trench 4. The scarcity of artefacts from Trench 4 also suggests that these were probably not domestic plots. The only possible hint of domestic activity is a single burnt deposit, which could have been discarded as refuse (424). The LiDAR data suggest that the north-eastern corner of the site, in the vicinity of Trench 4, contained a series of perhaps four terraces. These might have been used for garden cultivation in crofts to the rear of house plots lined along Hastings Hill.
- 4.2.7 The date of construction of the walls is not entirely clear in either trench as no artefacts were found in direct association. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered in relatively small quantities from deposits in close proximity to the walls, mostly from Trench 3, but their stratigraphic relationship was far from clear.
- 4.2.8 Reddish hued clayey deposits in trenches 3 and 4 (304 and 418) were distinctly different from the natural geology and both could be terrace infill or clay floor deposits. The stratigraphically later ditch 105, which contained pottery dated to 1225-

1500, contained fragments of cooking pots among the assemblage. Another possible pit (307) was seen at the top of the field in Trench 3.

- 4.2.9 The strong geophysical anomaly at the northern end of Trench 2 clearly corresponded with a ditch found there. The ditch produced a small assemblage of pottery that suggests that it was probably infilled in the period 1050-1250. It may have formed a significant boundary, as it seems to mark the northern extent of the medieval/post-medieval village. The upper ditch fill contained a deposit rich in charred remains, probably cooking waste from a nearby domestic hearth dumped as rubbish in the ditch. The combination of oats, wheat and legumes suggests a mixed arable farming regime, probably using the open field crop rotation system. This ditch was parallel to, and southwest of, the broad bank that runs through the site on a NW-SE alignment, as seen on the LiDAR survey. No artefactual dating evidence for the latter was recovered but it is most likely to belong to the medieval and post-medieval period.

Post-medieval features

- 4.2.10 The colluvium recorded in Trench 2 indicates that there has been a gradual process of slope erosion during and after the medieval period, with material moving downslope from east to west.
- 4.2.11 A small number of features are tentatively attributed to the post-medieval period because they contained 16th-18th century artefacts, including the hedgeline in Trench 1 (103), the small rubbish pit in Trench 3 (311) and the possible quarry or deposit accumulation in Trench 4 (422). However, the stone walls and possible terraces may have been in continuous use throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.

4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The results from the trenches complement and inform the previous geophysical and LiDAR surveys. Evidence was found for a range of domestic and agricultural activity of medieval and post-medieval date. The results suggest that the archaeological remains on the site are relatively complex, including masonry walls and stratified rubble layers. The remains clearly form part of the wider landscape of the scheduled shrunken medieval village located less than 100m to the south-west.
- 4.3.2 The remains discovered have the potential to contribute to the medieval archaeological research objectives detailed in the Solent-Thames Regional Research Framework (Hey and Hind 2014); deserted and shrunken medieval villages have been an important focus of archaeological research since the late 1940s, and are regarded as an archaeological resource of the highest importance. The Medieval Settlement Research Group presently states that, "Medieval rural settlements have been the subject of systematic research in Britain since the late 1940s, and have been located and investigated in every part of Europe. They must be regarded as sites of the greatest importance. Most medieval people lived in the countryside, and here we can investigate the material culture of the whole range of society, including those who have left the scantiest written evidence. Survey work and excavation can reveal much about the housing, possessions, and environment of peasants, together with evidence for production, consumption and technology. The changes affecting rural settlement

demonstrate the dynamic forces at work across the period, not just the general expansion and contraction of population and agriculture, but many developments in lordship, politics, community organization, commerce and household life (MSRG, nd)".

- 4.3.3 Open area excavation within the application site would shed light on the early origins and development of Churchill, including aspects such as domestic architecture, land-use and cultivation practices. The results can be integrated with past and future excavations to examine the chronology, development and character of village settlements in general, and the unique characteristics of Cotswold villages in particular. Churchill lies in the hinterland of Chipping Norton, an important centre of the medieval wool trade in one of the wealthiest regions of England, which should be reflected in the archaeological record of the area.
- 4.3.4 It will also be appropriate to consider the data in relation to village shrinkage and abandonment. The 'shrunken' village is a phenomenon full of historical and archaeological interest, and greatly exceeds the number of deserted sites (Beresford and Hurst 1971). Many European villages were reduced in size or abandoned in the 14th century, a change which has been related to a downturn in climatic conditions (the Little Ice Age), pressure on the fertility of land, and repeated disease epidemics amongst both the human and animal populations (Rowley and Wood 2000, 14). Churchill is unusual in that the scheduled earthworks appear to reflect post-medieval settlement shift rather than medieval shrinkage, as the village was largely destroyed by fire in 1684 and subsequently rebuilt at a new location on top of the ridge. The application site offers the potential for a continuous and moderately well-preserved medieval and post-medieval settlement sequence.

4.4 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.4.1 The evaluation has shown that the site contains potentially important archaeology of medieval and post-medieval date, a continuation of the scheduled shrunken medieval village to the south-west, including masonry structures, and associated artefactual and environmental remains.
- 4.4.2 Sufficient information has been gathered to inform the current planning application. Initial consultation with Hugh Coddington (OCC) suggests that the archaeology discovered is not sufficiently important to prevent development of the site, but that a suitable programme of mitigation would be required as a condition attached to any planning permission. The mitigation would comprise open area excavation to record the significant remains before they are lost, which would shed valuable light on the adjacent scheduled monument. The work would also shed light on medieval/post-medieval rural settlement patterns in the wider region, as a contribution to the archaeological objectives of the Solent-Thames Regional Research Framework (Hey and Hind 2014).
- 4.4.3 Sufficient information has also been gathered to inform development of a WSI detailing the proposed mitigation methods.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|---|---------|-----------|-----------|--|----------------|-----------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NW-SE |
| The trench contained archaeology. This consisted of a hedgeline feature 103; a possible large cut feature with stony fills 119; a linear feature 105 with a stony fill; and a number of underlying layers. Consists of topsoil overlying the archaeological features and the natural geology was only seen at the northern end of the trench. | | | | | Length (m) | 19.75 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.6 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.45 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 100 | Deposit | 1.6 | 0.16-0.32 | Topsoil: dark brown clayey sily, roots | - | - |
| 101 | Deposit | 1.6 | - | Natural: mid orangey brown, N end only | - | - |
| 102 | Fill | 2.5 | 0.42 | Hedgeline: mid brownish grey silty clay, fill of 103 | Pottery | 16th-1900 |
| 103 | Cut | 2.5 | 0.42 | Hedgeline: NE-SW aligned, shallow U-shaped profile, filled by 102 | | |
| 104 | Deposit | 7.5 | 0.09 | Layer: pale greyish brown, clayey silt, N end only | | |
| 105 | Cut | 1.4 | 0.57 | Linear Feature: NE-SW aligned, U-shaped profile, filled by 106 | | |
| 106 | Fill | 1.4 | 0.57 | Linear feature: mid grey silty clay, 80% medium (0.1m diam) sub-angular stones | Pottery | 1225-1500 |
| 107 | Deposit | 2.45 | 0.48 | Layer: mid grey silty clay, 40% small to (0.1m diam) sub-angular stones | | |
| 108 | Deposit | >0.5 | 0.18 | Layer: mid brown clay, possibly same as 118 | Pottery | 1050-1250 |
| 109 | Deposit | >0.4 | 0.1 | Layer: stone band, sub-angular stones (0.1m diam) | | |
| 110 | Deposit | 0.8 | 0.2 | Layer: mid greyish brown clay | Pottery | 1050-1250 |
| 111 | Deposit | >1 | 0.34 | Layer: mid grey clay | Pottery | 1075-1250 |
| 112 | Deposit | 2.5 | >0.05 | Layer: dark grey clayey silt, 75% small rounded stones | | |
| 113 | Deposit | 3.2 | 0.45 | Layer: dark grey clayey silt | | |
| 114 | Deposit | 2.7 | 0.25 | Layer: mid orangey grey clay, possibly same as 118 | | |
| 115 | Deposit | >0.3 | >0.05 | Layer: mid grey clay, orange siltier patches | | |
| 116 | Deposit | 2.5 | >0.05 | Layer: dark grey clayey silt, 60% medium-large sub-angular stones | | |

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|------|-------|--|--|--|
| 117 | Deposit | 0.75 | >0.05 | Layer: dark grey silty clay, 40% small (0.1m diam) sub-angular stones, possibly part of 107? | | |
| 118 | Deposit | 2.5 | >0.05 | Layer: mid brown clay, possibly same as 108 | | |
| 119 | Cut | 4 | >0.45 | Feature: possible cut feature, filled by 113, 112, 116? | | |

| Trench 2 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NNE-SSW |
| The trench contained archaeology. This consisted of a ditch 204 at the north end and a layer of colluvium 211 overlying the natural. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying the archaeological feature. | | | | | Length (m) | 30 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.6 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.45 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 201 | Deposit | 1.6 | 0.3 | Topsoil: dark greyish brown silt | Pottery | 1150-1250 |
| 202 | Deposit | 1.6 | 0.13 | Subsoil: mid greyish yellow clay | - | - |
| 203 | Deposit | 1.6 | - | Natural: pale brownish yellow clay | - | - |
| 204 | Cut | 1.5 | 0.44 | Ditch: NW-SE aligned, filled by 205-210, extended beyond N end of trench | | |
| 205 | Fill | 0.25 | >0.08 | Ditch fill: fill of 204, mid greyish brown silty clay, rare charcoal | | |
| 206 | Fill | >0.6 | >0.24 | Ditch fill: fill of 204, mid reddish brown clay | | |
| 207 | Fill | 1.1 | >0.12 | Ditch fill: fill of 204, mid greyish orange clay | | |
| 208 | Fill | 1.06 | 0.32 | Ditch fill: fill of 204, mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional charcoal | Pottery | 1050-1250 |
| 209 | Fill | 1.1 | 0.08 | Ditch fill: fill of 204, mid greyish orange clay | | |
| 210 | Fill | >0.58 | 0.2 | Ditch fill: fill of 204, dark brownish grey silty clay, occasional charcoal | Pottery | 1150-1250 |
| 211 | Deposit | >10 | 0.09 | Layer: mid brownish grey silty clay, colluvium | Pottery | 1050-1250 |

| Trench 3 | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| General description | Orientation | NNE-SSW |

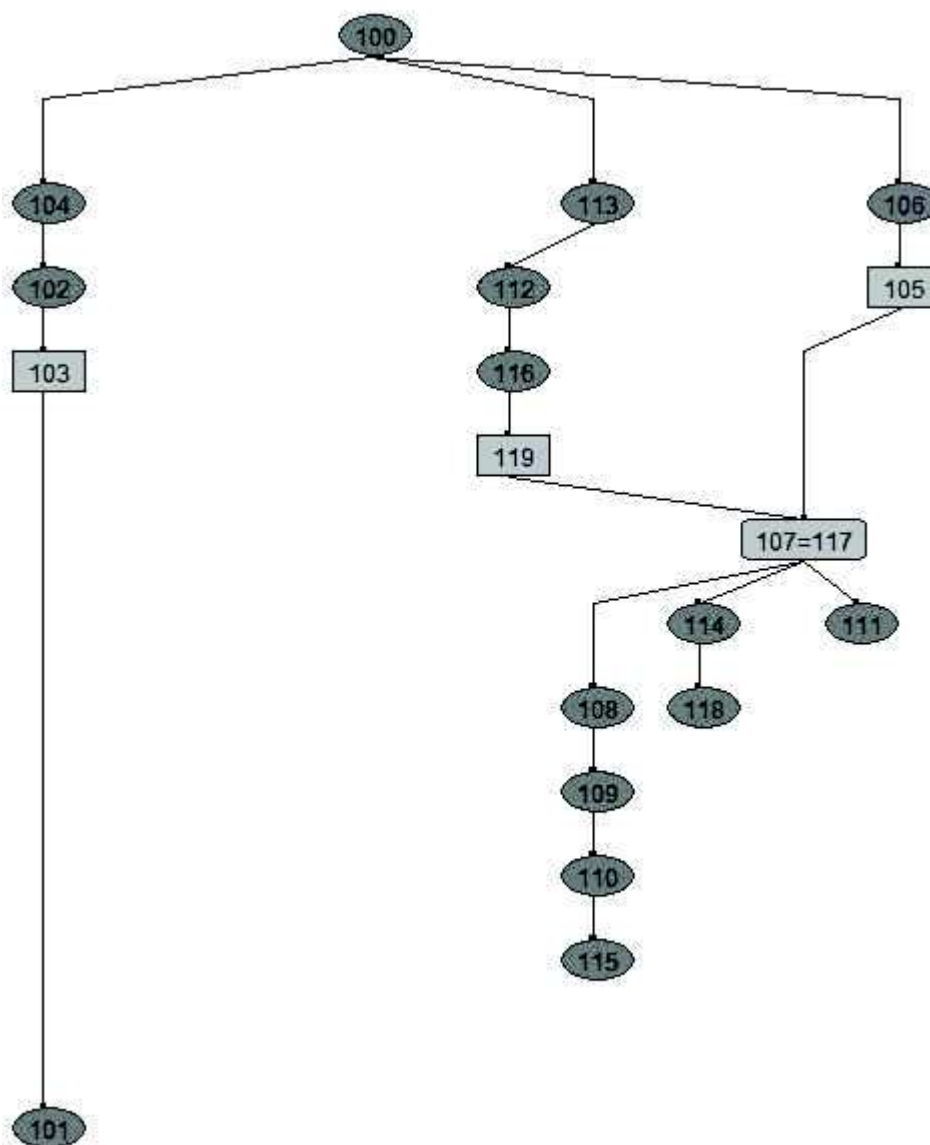
| Trench 3 | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|----------|-----------|
| The trench contained archaeology. This consisted of: two walls 306 and 314; three pits 307, 311 and 317; and a number of layers. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying the archaeological features and the natural geology was only seen in parts of the trench. | | | | Length (m) | 30.5 | |
| | | | | Width (m) | 1.6 | |
| | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.2-0.55 | |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 300 | Deposit | 1.6 | 0.4 | Topsoil: dark brown sandy silt | Pottery | 1780-1840 |
| 301 | Deposit | 1.6 | 0.15 | Subsoil: dark greyish brown sandy silt, frequent small sub-angular stones | - | - |
| 302 | Deposit | 2.7 | unex | Layer: mid grey silt, moderately 40% small - medium sub-angular stones | Pottery | 1150-1300 |
| 303 | Deposit | 1.82 | unex | Layer: dark grey silt, 60% medium sub-angular stones | | |
| 304 | Deposit | 2.36 | unex | Layer: mid reddish brown silty sand | Pottery | 1075-1300 |
| 305 | Deposit | 2.8 | unex | Layer: mid grey silt, moderately 30% small - medium sub-angular stones | | |
| 306 | Structure | 0.18 | unex | Wall: NW-SE aligned, | | |
| 307 | Cut | 1.36 | unex | Pit: filled by 308, rounded, extended to the east | | |
| 308 | Fill | 1.36 | unex | Pit fill: fill of 307, mid greyish brown sandy silt | Pottery | 1225-1500 |
| 309 | Deposit | 2.85 | unex | Layer: mid reddish yellow silt, 30% medium sub-angular stones | | |
| 310 | Deposit | 2.4 | unex | Layer: pale yellow silt, 80% medium sub-angular stones | | |
| 311 | Cut | 1.06 | unex | Pit: filled by 312, rounded, extended to the west | | |
| 312 | Fill | 1.06 | unex | Pit fill: fill of 311, mid grey sandy silt | Pottery | 1820-1900 |
| 313 | Deposit | 5.2 | 0.16 | Layer: mid yellowish grey silt, 50% small -medium sub-angular stones | Pottery | 1650-1900 |
| 314 | Structure | 0.22 | unex | Wall: NE-SW aligned, | | |
| 315 | Deposit | 4.95 | unex | Layer: mid yellowish grey gravelly silt, possible surface | | |
| 316 | Fill | 5.1 | unex | Pit fill: dark grey silt | | |

| Trench 3 | | | | | | |
|----------|---------|-------|------|---|---|---|
| 317 | Cut | 5.1 | unex | Pit: filled by 316, rounded, extended to the west | | |
| 318 | Deposit | >4.35 | unex | Natural ? Layer: mid greyish yellow silt, 30% medium sub-angular stones | - | - |

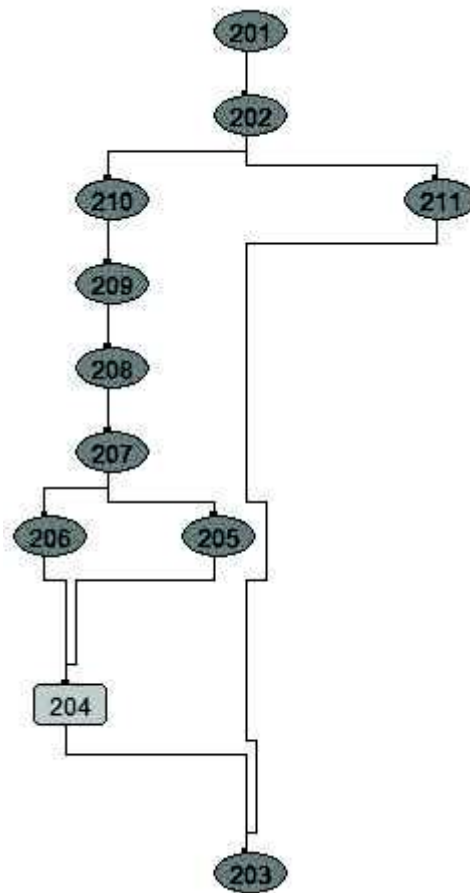
| Trench 4 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | WNW-ESE |
| <p>The trench contained archaeology. This consisted of a wall 411 at the NW end, three linear features, 403, 407 and 409: a larger cut feature 405; a number of possible larger deposits towards the SE end 420, 421, 422 and 423; and some possible demolition material in the central part of the trench 415, 416, 417, 419; as well as other deposits of uncertain function.</p> <p>Consists of topsoil overlying the archaeological features and the natural geology was only partly seen in the trench.</p> | | | | | Length (m) | 39.6 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.6 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.35-0.55 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Findings | Date |
| 400 | Deposit | 1.6 | 0.2 | Topsoil: dark brown sandy silt | Pottery | 1050-1250 |
| 401 | Deposit | 1.6 | - | Natural: mid greyish yellow silt, 30% medium sub-angular stones | | |
| 402 | Deposit | 5.8 | 0.18 | Layer: pale yellowish grey clayey silt, 20% small sub-angular stones | | |
| 403 | Cut | 0.87 | 0.14 | Linear Feature: NW-SE aligned, filled by 404 | | |
| 404 | Fill | 0.87 | 0.14 | Linear Feature fill: fill of 403, dark grey sandy silt, 2% stones | | |
| 405 | Cut | 3.3 | 0.22 | Feature: uncertain, N-S trend, filled by 406 | | |
| 406 | Fill | 3.3 | 0.22 | Feature fill: fill of 405, dark brownish grey sandy silt | | |
| 407 | Cut | 0.56 | 0.09 | Linear Feature: WNW-ESE aligned, filled by 408 | | |
| 408 | Fill | 0.56 | 0.09 | Linear Feature fill: fill of 407, dark grey sandy silt, 2% stones | | |
| 409 | Cut | 0.2 | 0.09 | Linear Feature: WNW-ESE aligned, filled by 410 | | |
| 410 | Fill | 0.2 | 0.09 | Linear Feature fill: fill of 409, dark grey sandy silt, 2% stones | | |

| Trench 4 | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------|------|--|---------|-----------|
| 411 | Structure | 0.9 | 0.32 | Wall: dense concentration of sub-angular stones in a N-S trend, sizes varied | | |
| 412 | Deposit | 1.7 | unex | Layer: dark grey sandy silt | | |
| 413 | Deposit | 8.9 | 0.22 | Layer: mid-dark grey sandy silt | | |
| 414 | Deposit | 2.35 | 0.3 | Layer: mid grey silt, 40% small-medium sub-angular stones | | |
| 415 | Deposit | 0.48 | unex | Layer: dark grey silt | | |
| 416 | Deposit | 1.45 | unex | Truncated wall foundation: pale yellow silt, 15% medium sub-angular stones, mortar flecks frequent | | |
| 417 | Deposit | 1.4 | unex | Layer: mid-dark grey silt, 20% medium sub-angular stones | | |
| 418 | Deposit | 0.7 | unex | Layer: mid reddish brown clayey silt | | |
| 419 | Deposit | 0.44 | unex | Layer: mid greyish brown clayey silt | Pottery | Roman |
| 420 | Deposit | 2.7 | unex | Layer: mid-dark grey sandy silt | Pottery | 1120-1500 |
| 421 | Deposit | 2.1 | unex | Layer: dark grey silt, 30% small-medium sub-angular stones | | |
| 422 | Deposit | 3.2 | unex | Layer: mid-dark grey sandy silt | Pottery | 1760-1830 |
| 423 | Deposit | 3 | unex | Layer: dark grey silt, 30% small-medium sub-angular stones | | |
| 424 | Deposit | 0.54 | 0.06 | Layer: mid red silty clay, occasional charcoal and ash flecks | | |
| 425 | Deposit | 0.72 | unex | Layer: mid-dark grey sandy silt | | |
| 426 | Deposit | 0.37 | unex | Layer: mid-dark grey sandy silt | | |

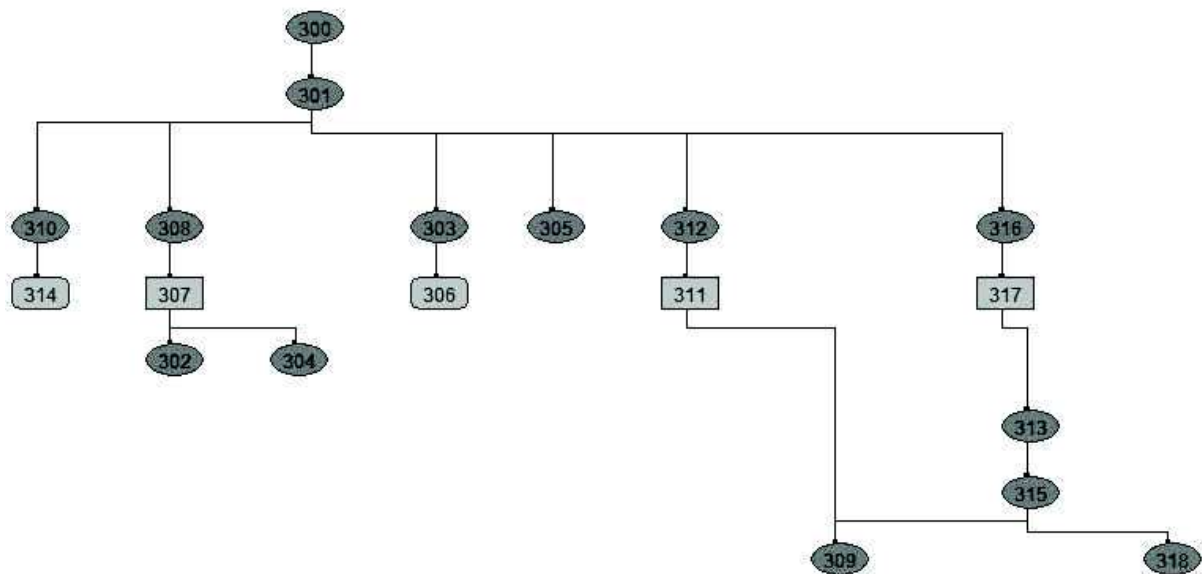
APPENDIX B STRATIGRAPHY



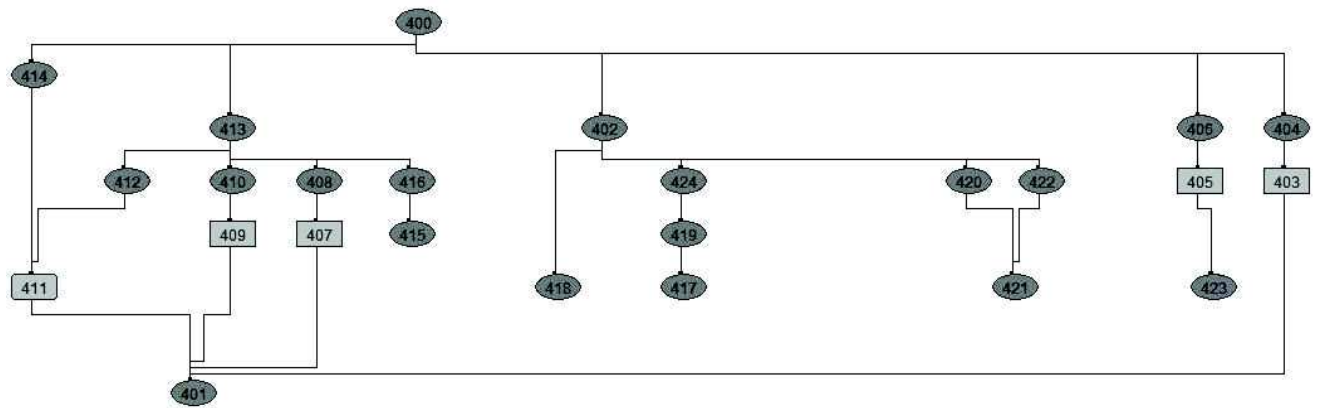
Trench 1 stratigraphy



Trench 2 stratigraphy



Trench 3 stratigraphy



Trench 4 stratigraphy

APPENDIX C FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

C.1.1 A total of 42 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 579g was recovered from 19 contexts. A range of 11th- or 12th-century to post-medieval pottery is present. There is also a single residual sherd of Roman pottery. The pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994) whereas post-medieval pottery fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MOLA 2014). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet and therefore only summarised below.

Date and nature of the assemblage

- C.1.2 The assemblage is mostly in a very fragmentary condition with no complete profiles present. However, some of the medieval and post-medieval sherds are fairly fresh and occasionally fairly large. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented and all typical of the wares commonly found in north-west Oxfordshire.
- C.1.3 A single small sherd of Roman greyware was identified from context 419 but is probably residual. In terms of dating there is a fairly strong presence of early medieval and medieval pottery dating from the 11th or 12th century to the 14th and possibly the 15th century. A small number of post-medieval sherds date from the 17th century to the 19th century.
- C.1.4 Precise fabric identification (to individual ware-types or production centres) is slightly complicated for the medieval pottery as two or possibly three types of pottery present have with oolitic limestone (typical of the Cotswolds area) as their main tempering agent and these can easily be confused if the sherds are small and undiagnostic. This has some effect on the suggested dates here but probably not a major one. The main oolitic limestone-tempered fabric present is Cotswold-type ware (OXAC, normally dating c 1050-1250 in Oxford, but can be as early as c 875). A few sherds of sand-tempered medieval Oxford ware (OXY, c 1075-1300) reinforce the evidence for early medieval activity here (later 11th-13th century). These fabrics occur in the form of cooking pots and possibly bowls.
- C.1.5 Minety-type ware (OXBB, c 1120-1550) is a regional import from north-west Wiltshire and is relatively common in north-west Oxfordshire but it can easily be confused with Wychwood-type ware (OXCX, c 1175-1500) - a lower quality product made at Ascott under Wychwood and possibly other locations in the Wychwood area (Mellor 1994,

106-111). Both pottery types contain abundant oolitic limestone inclusions and possibly represent a later development of the Cotswold-type ware tradition (OXAC). The major technological advance was that both Minety and Wychwood produced wheel-thrown vessels, from around the middle of the 13th century, and these were sometimes glazed. Rim and vessel forms also show some typological development. Small amounts of both are known from the city of Oxford but Minety is much commoner there than Wychwood. As smallish sherds, however, the differences between these last two are sometimes impossible to determine with the naked eye. Although most of the wheel-thrown and/or glazed oolitic sherds from Hastings Hill have been identified as Minety ware (OXBB), the fact that the site lies only 6km north of Ascott under Wychwood makes it highly likely that some products of the Wychwood industry are present. Further research on these related oolitic limestone-tempered wares is needed, but this lies outside of the scope of the report here.

C.1.6 Minety (or Wychwood) vessel forms present here include cooking pots, a wide shallow bowl or pan (context 302) and a jug with a thumbed base (308). An unusual Cotswold-type bowl from context (210), with an inward-leaning wall and a sub-squared rim, is identical in form to a group of vessels from Rushey Weir, near Bampton in west Oxfordshire, and there identified as possible ‘West Country’ dishes dating to the late 12th or early 13th century (Cotter 2016, Fig. 8.1-4). Apart from a denser and somewhat browner fabric, there is nothing to identify the rim here as anything other than a Cotswold-type (OXAC) product. However, the Wychwood industry also produced almost identical rims identified there as coming from straight-sided cooking vessels/storage jars (Mellor 1994, fig. 45.11 and 14).

C.1.7 A possible sherd of 16th-early 17th-century Combe type ware (CO), residual in context (102), is the only piece of this date. Thereafter the sequence continues in the late 17th or 18th century with a sherd of tin-glazed earthenware (context 422) and a few sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (PMR). A few sherds of commonplace late 18th- to 19th- century Staffordshire-type tablewares complete the sequence. No further work on the assemblage is recommended.

| Context | Spot-date | No. | Weight (g) | Comments |
|---------|------------|-----|------------|--|
| 102 | c1820-1900 | 2 | 3 | Refined whiteware (REFW). 1x body sherd (bo, 2g) fine brown ware with grey surfaces - possibly 16/E17C Combe ware (Fabric CO) (less likely a Roman greyware) |
| 106 | c1225-1500 | 8 | 114 | 2x large fresh joining body sherds (bos) wheel-turned Minety ware (OXBB) - large thin-walled cooking pot. 4x worn bos Cotswold-type ware (OXAC). 1x worn sagging base grey sandyware - probably early Brill (OXAW) or Medieval Oxford ware (OXY) |
| 108 | c1050-1250 | 3 | 22 | OXAC incl cooking pot (cpot) rim. Worn |
| 110 | c1050-1250 | 3 | 31 | OXAC incl rim from large cspot & sag base. Worn |
| 111 | c1075-1300 | 1 | 12 | Grey sandy (scorched) sagging cspot base, OXY-type |

| Context | Spot-date | No. | Weight (g) | Comments |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|---|
| 201 | c1150-1250? | 1 | 17 | Fresh cspot rim large sub-triangular or flattened beaded form. OXAC or possibly Wychwood ware (OXCX c1175+)? Sooted ext |
| 208 | c1050-1250 | 2 | 13 | OXAC cspot bos. 2 vess. |
| 210 | c1150-1250? | 1 | 60 | Large fresh rim from ?cspot with straight inward-leaning wall and a large thickened flat-topped (TFT) or short horizontal sub-squared rim. Possibly a 'West Country' dish c1150-1250?. Form identical to those from Rushey Weir, nr Buckland (Oxoniensia 2016). Denser fabric than the OXAC from Oxford and with a smoother matrix (possibly Wychwood?). Weakly oxidised brownish-orange internally, grey-brown ext |
| 211 | c1050-1250 | 1 | 34 | Now 5 sherds (fresh breaks, counted here as 1). Sagging base from OXAC cspot. Worn |
| 300 | c1780-1840 | 3 | 20 | Pearlware dish with blue-feathered edge (PEAR). Creamware with polychrome joggled slip dec (CREA). Post-med red eathenware (PMR) |
| 302 | c1150-1300? | 1 | 16 | Minety (OXBB) or possibly Wychwood ware (OXCX)? Dense grey fabric. Wide shallow bowl/pan with flaring wall and TFT rim, glaze splashes on lower wall internally. Heavily sooted ext. Fresh |
| 304 | c1075-1300 | 1 | 12 | OXY-type. V hard coarse grey sandy ware. Flat base from cspot or bowl. Heavily sooted int & ext. Scratch-marked underside - possibly accidentally during manufacture? |
| 308 | c1225-1500 | 1 | 26 | Minety ware (OXBB). Fresh base from a wheel-turned jug with spaced thumbing around the base. Thumbing = long teardrop-shaped impressions. Hard light brown fabric. A few tiny specks of glaze visible ext. Slightly sooted ext |
| 312 | c1820-1900 | 4 | 29 | Bos. 1x Yellow ware (YELL). CREA. Staffs-type black-glazed coarseware (STBL). 1x OXAC or OXBB? |
| 313 | c1650-1900 | 1 | 57 | Fresh PMR jar rim with int brown glaze |
| 400 | c1050-1250 | 1 | 8 | Cspot bo. Dense OXAC or OXBB? |
| 419 | Roman | 1 | 6 | Bo hard fine grey sandy ware. Roman. Jar? |
| 420 | c1120-1500 | 1 | 16 | Bo. Probably Minety ware (OXBB). Coarse with patches of decayed glaze int. Poss 12-13C? |
| 422 | c1760-1830 | 6 | 83 | Bo CREA. 2x PMR incl pad base from jar/jug in late fabric (Leaffield kilns?). 1x 18C black-glazed redware (PMBL) mug/cup bo. 1x bo from tin-glazed ware dish/bowl with traces of blue internal painted decoration - probably 18C. [Also in context = 1x 17C clay pipe stem 3g] |
| Total | | 42 | 579 | |

C.2 Clay tobacco pipe

By John Cotter

- C.2.1 A single piece of clay pipe was recovered from context 422. Spot-dated to the 17th century was a single stem fragment, fairly worn and with a wide stem bore diameter of c 3mm.

C.1 Ceramic building material

By Cynthia Poole

- C.1.1 A total of three objects were recovered from two contexts (312 and 400). These comprised two bricks and a drainage brick or whelm, which are all of 19th-century date.
- C.1.2 The brick and the whelm from context 312 (pit 311) were both made in the same hard pinkish red clay containing coarse inclusions of angular unwedged clay up to 15mm, maroon-red subangular-subrounded iron oxide or ironstone grits 2-8mm and tabular dark grey angular rock grits, possibly shale or mudstone, up to 15mm. The brick from context 400 was made in a hard, dense fine sandy red clay fabric with rare siltstone/mudstone inclusions up to 10mm size.
- C.1.3 The bricks from context 312 and topsoil layer 400 were similar in character. Both were unfroged and had been handmade in a metal or metal shod mould resulting in fairly even surfaces, angular arrises and a rougher sanded base. The upper and lower surfaces of the brick from 400 were striated where surplus clay had been smoothed off with a strike. The brick from context 312, representing about half the object weighed 750g, measured 65mm thick by 115mm wide. That from 400 consisted of 6 refitting fragments (652g) and represented the broken end of the brick. It measured 68mm thick by 107mm wide and had either been overfired on one side or been subsequently burnt.
- C.1.4 The drainage brick from context 312 was complete (broken in two) and weighed 7.25kg. It was rectangular in form measuring 347mm long, 208-212mm wide and 105mm thick. It had a concave channel measuring 146mm wide by 62mm deep running longitudinally along it. The base surface was rough with longitudinal striations, whilst the top sides and ends were smoother and more regular. Calcareous residue on the base of the channel bears testimony to water having flowed through it. These could be used either singly or in pairs to create a covered channel.

C.2 Fired clay

By Cynthia Poole

- C.2.1 Insert all artefact reports here. Where appropriate these should be cross-references to the main body of the report, both in terms of results (ie what was found in the features) and how the artefacts help with interpretation (eg with dating evidence).

- C.2.2 Fired clay was recovered from two contexts. None of the material is diagnostic, though most likely to relate to domestic ovens or hearths, nor can any be dated. All were made in a very sandy micaceous clay well fired to red, reddish brown or grey.
- C.2.3 Two pieces (54g) were recovered by hand excavation from context 404, which had a roughly moulded outer surface and what appears to be a bonded face on the back, which would have adhered to some other structural element. They measure 14 and 24mm thick. The general character of the pieces is consistent with oven wall.
- C.2.4 Six small fragments (7g) measuring 10-18mm in size and 5-10mm thick were recovered from sieved samples from context 210. Their function cannot be determined, but they most probably derived from domestic oven or hearth structures. Most of these were amorphous, but two had a flat moulded surface surviving. These were associated with pottery dated to AD1150-1250.

C.3 Glass

By Ian R Scott

- C.3.1 There is a single sherd of vessel glass from context 312. This was from a cylindrical bottle and the large sherd was from the rounded shoulder of a bottle. It was made in a three-piece Ricketts-type mould. The glass is pale green and has a distinct horizontal mould line immediately below the rounded shoulder. The bottle dates from the mid to late 19th-century. Bottle diameter c 85mm.

APPENDIX D ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

D.1 Environmental samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

D.1.1 A single sample was taken during the evaluation of Land off Hastings Hill, Churchill in Jan 2017. Sample 1 (210) was 20 litres in volume and was taken from the upper fill of ditch 204 in trench 2. The ditch which has been dated to 1150-1250AD, was adjacent to a bank and together they appear to form part of the outer boundary of the shrunken medieval settlement.

Method

D.1.2 The sample was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style machine. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts. The dried flot was 100ml in volume and 50% was scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x 10 magnification.

Results

D.1.3 The flot was extremely rich in charred grain fragments, with over one hundred unidentifiable grain fragments present. Fifty grains are well preserved enough to identify as wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) and a few very well preserved grains contain morphological characteristics that would seem to indicate that they are free threshing wheat, most probably *Triticum aestivum* although a lack of diagnostic rachises means this cannot be confirmed. A smaller quantity of oat (*Avena sativa*) fragments were noted in relatively poor condition although as with the wheat this is a result of burning damage rather than due to preservation issues.

D.1.4 Charcoal is present in relatively small quantities although in good condition with some fragments large enough to potentially be identifiable to species if required. Occasional legumes are present with fragments of four <2mm (*Vicia/Lathyrus* spp.) noted and four halves of legumes >4mm which may be cultivated peas (*Pisum sativum*). A single fragment of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) and a Caryophyllaceae seed were also noted.

Discussion and conclusion

D.1.5 The combination of oats, wheat and legumes suggests a mixed arable farming regime, probably using the open field, crop rotation system. This system of cultivation would agree with the date of the feature and its position with regard to the settlement. The lack of wild plant remains would seem to indicate that this is cleaned material which has been dropped into a hearth or cooking fire with the majority of the damage to the material caused by this burning. It is not possible to further interpret on the basis of a single sample.

D.2 Animal bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

- D.2.1 A total of 60 animal bones were recovered from the site, mostly associated with contexts dated to the medieval period, with a smaller proportion dated to the post-medieval (Table D.1). Two thirds of the material was hand-collected, the rest being recovered through sieving of environmental samples (Table D.2).
- D.2.2 The specimens were generally in moderate condition although it varied greatly. The most common species represented were domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) followed by caprines (sheep – *Ovis aries* and goats – *Capra hircus*), with horse (*Equus caballus*) also being present in the medieval period and pig (*Sus ferus domesticus*) in the post-medieval. As such, all of the principal domesticated animals were present on the site. Six of the post-cranial elements recovered from all species were fused epiphysially, providing limited opportunity for ascertaining age at death (Table D.3). Six of the specimens showed signs of having been gnawed by canids, so it is probable that dogs were also present on the site.

Table D.1: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period from the site.

| | | c.AD1050 -1250 | c.AD1150 -1250 | c.AD1120 -1500 | c.AD1225- 1500 | c.AD1650 -1900 | c.AD1760 -1830 | c.1820- 1900 | Undat ed |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| micro mammal* | | | 5 | | | | | | |
| small mammal* | | | | | | | | | |
| medium mammal* | | 8 | 6 | | | | | | |
| large mammal* | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | 4 |
| house mouse | <i>Mus musculus</i> | | 2 | | | | | | |
| horse | <i>Equus caballus</i> | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| pig | <i>Sus scrofa domesticus</i> | | | | | | 1 | | |
| domestic cattle | <i>Bos taurus taurus</i> | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | | 4 |
| caprine | <i>Ovis aries/Capra hircus</i> | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | |
| Total Mammal | | 14 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| Total NISP | | 14 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| Total NSP | | 16 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 15 |

Table D.2: Specimen condition per period.

| | Sieved | Unsieved |
|-------------------|--------|----------|
| Micro Mammal | 7 | 0 |
| Medium Mammal | 7 | 14 |
| Large Mammal | 0 | 17 |
| indet. | 6 | 9 |
| Total NISP | 14 | 31 |
| Total NSP | 20 | 40 |

Table D.3: Non-species data recorded for specimens from the site..

| | | Butchery marks | Gnawed | Burnt | Ageing data | Biometric data |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------|-------|-------------|----------------|
| large mammal* | large mammal* | 1 | 1 | | | |
| house mouse | <i>Mus musculus</i> | | | | 1 | |
| horse | <i>Equus caballus</i> | | 1 | | 1 | |
| pig | <i>Sus scrofa domesticus</i> | | | | 1 | |
| domestic cattle | <i>Bos taurus taurus</i> | | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| caprine | <i>Ovis aries/Capra hircus</i> | | 3 | | 1 | 1 |
| Total Mammal | | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| indet. | | | | 1 | | |
| Total | | 2 | 12 | 3 | 12 | 2 |

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APPENDIX F SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

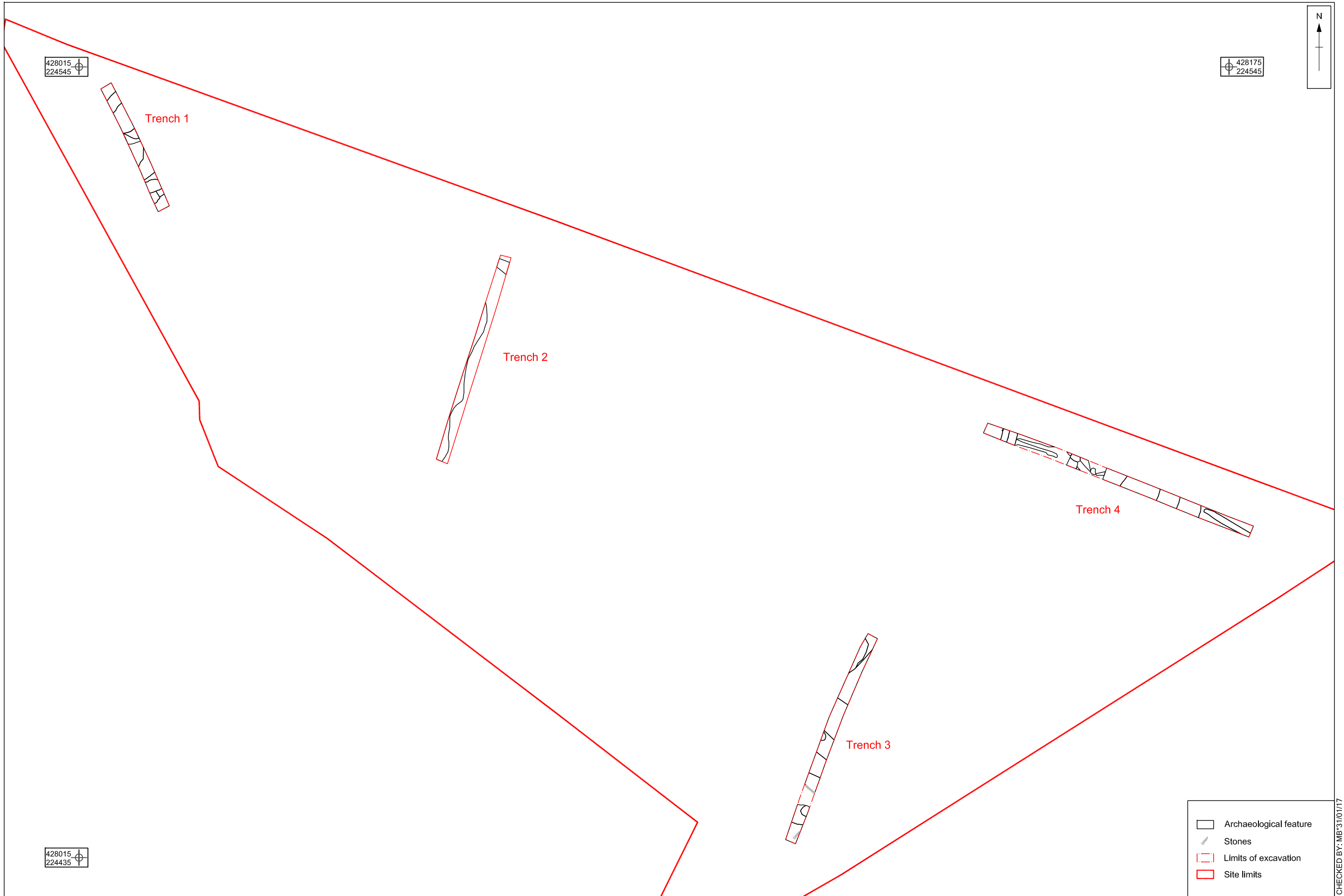
| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Site name: | Land off Hastings Hill, Churchill, Oxfordshire |
| Site code: | CHBAD 16 |
| Grid Reference | SP 2810 2440 |
| Type: | Evaluation |
| Date and duration: | 12 th -16th January 2017 |
| Summary of Results: | <p>Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by H Willis Limited, via Savills (UK) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed housing development, comprising a geophysical survey, followed by trial trenching on Land off Hastings Hill, Churchill, Oxfordshire. These aimed to investigate both the results of the geophysical survey and features visible on LiDAR high resolution topographical mapping.</p> <p>No prehistoric evidence was found in the trenches, and only a single sherd of residual Roman pottery was found. No evidence was found in the present evaluation for Anglo-Saxon settlement, in contrast to a previous investigation which found an early Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building on the south side of the present village (HER 16758). The application site lies 100m east of a shrunken portion of the medieval village (HER 4182), which was largely abandoned and rebuilt to the south-east, following a major fire in 1684. The best-preserved elements of the shrunken village are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 1006317).</p> <p>The evaluation has demonstrated that there are features of medieval to post-medieval date throughout the application site. Each of the four trenches contained multiple features or deposits of this broad date. The most complex and potentially important remains were found in the higher south-eastern part of the site (Trenches 3 and 4). These include faced stone walls and stoney layers that may be part of medieval/ post-medieval house plots and/or cultivation terraces. The cut features investigated during the evaluation indicate that some were infilled between c 1050-1250, although the pottery groups recovered from individual contexts are very small and have a wide date range. The earliest deposits associated with the structural remains in Trenches 3 and 4 are dated by small pottery groups to the medieval period, while the latest finds suggest that the putative terraces may have continued in use as late as the 18th century.</p> |
| Area of Site | 192m ² |
| Location of archive: | The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2016.193. |



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Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2016
 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,

Figure 1: Site location



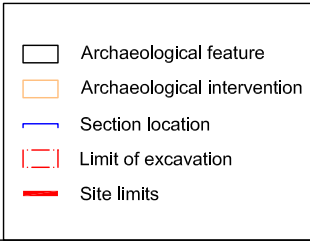
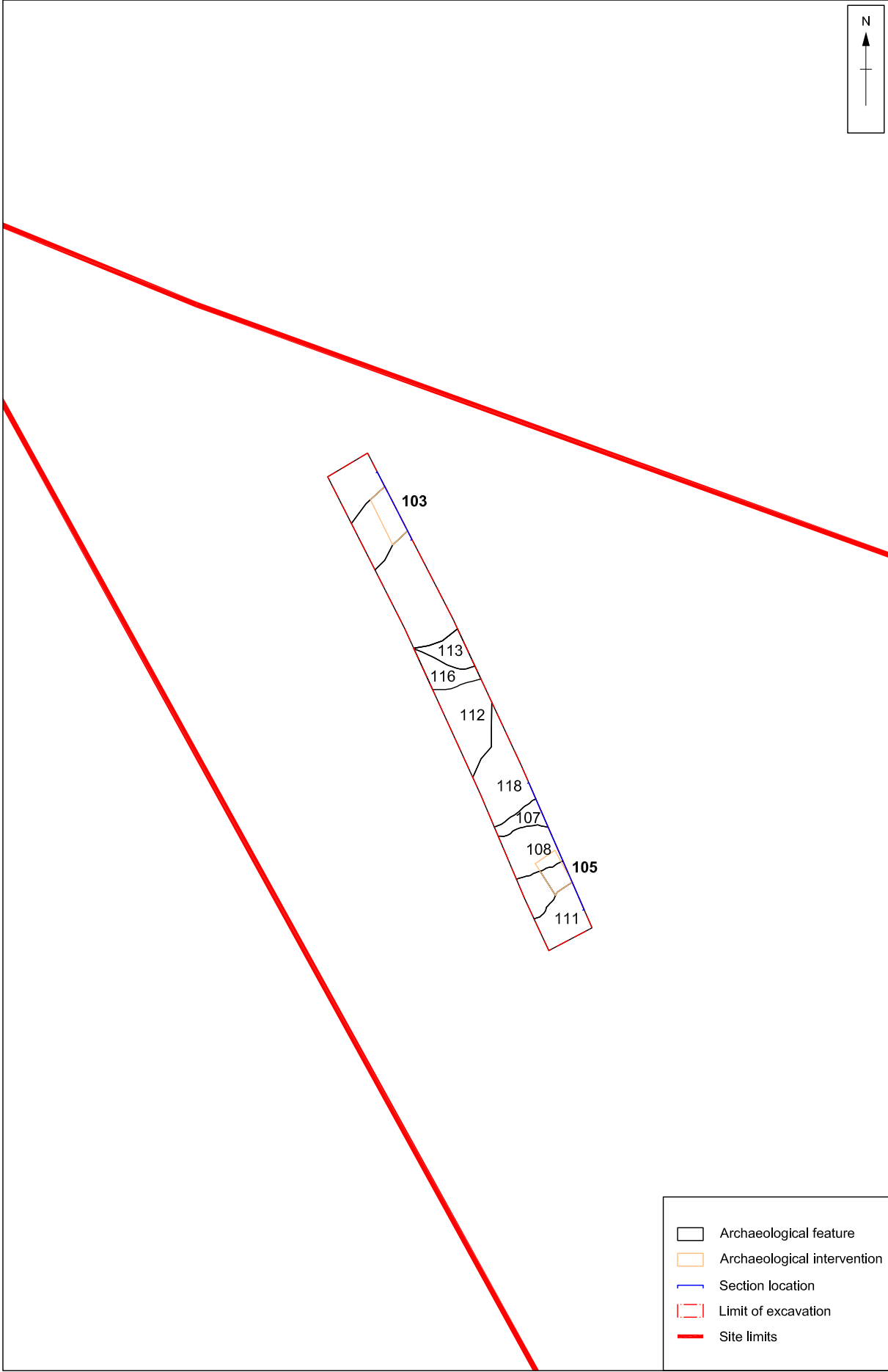
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- Archaeological feature
- Stones
- Limits of excavation
- Site limits

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Figure 2: Trenches and features

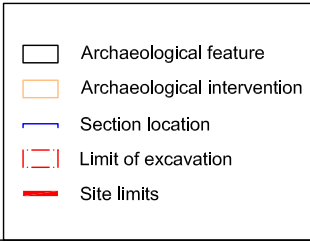
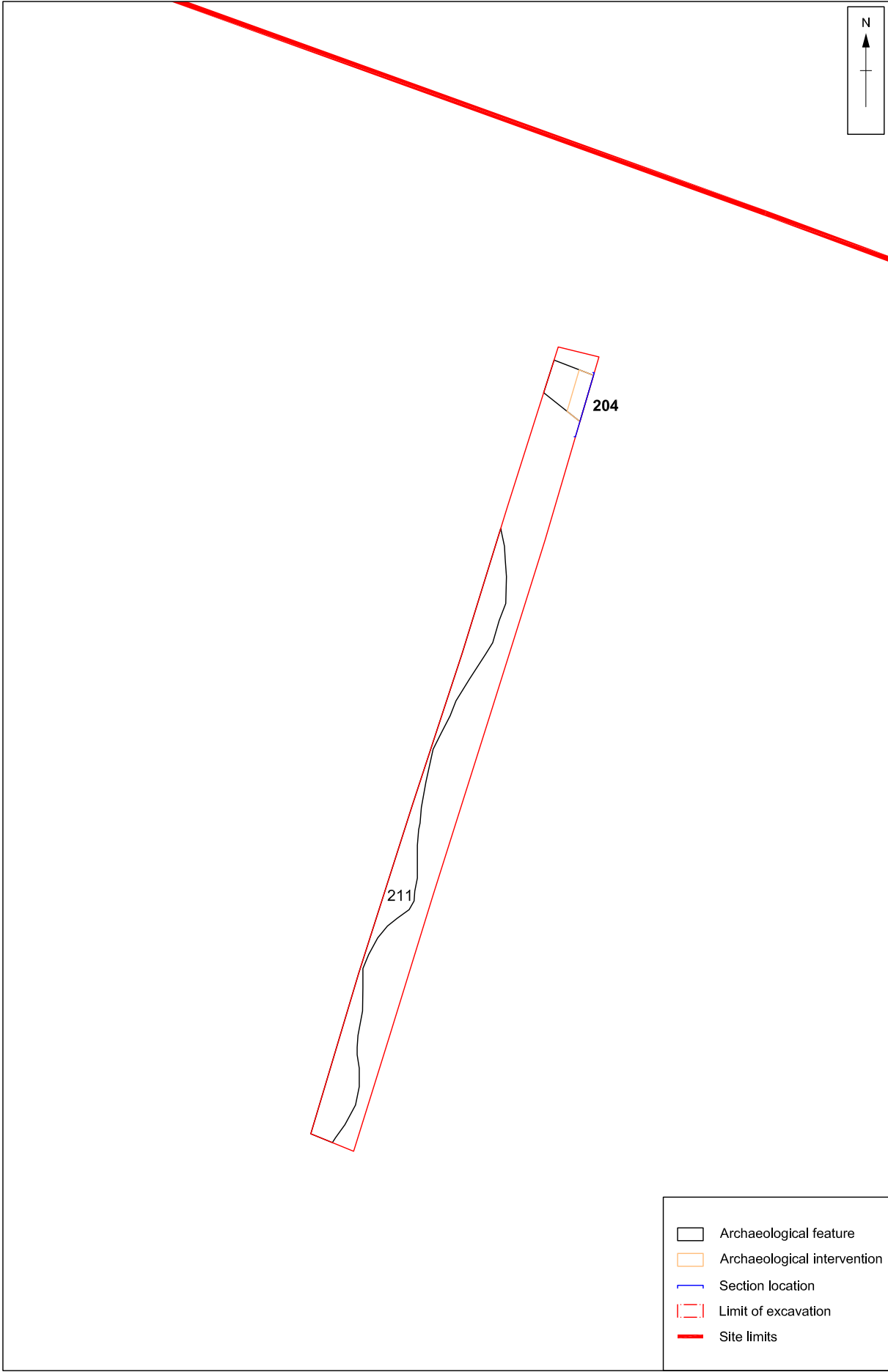
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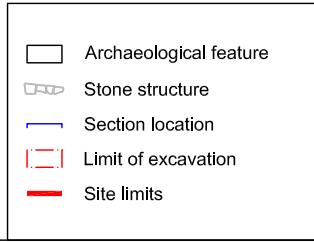
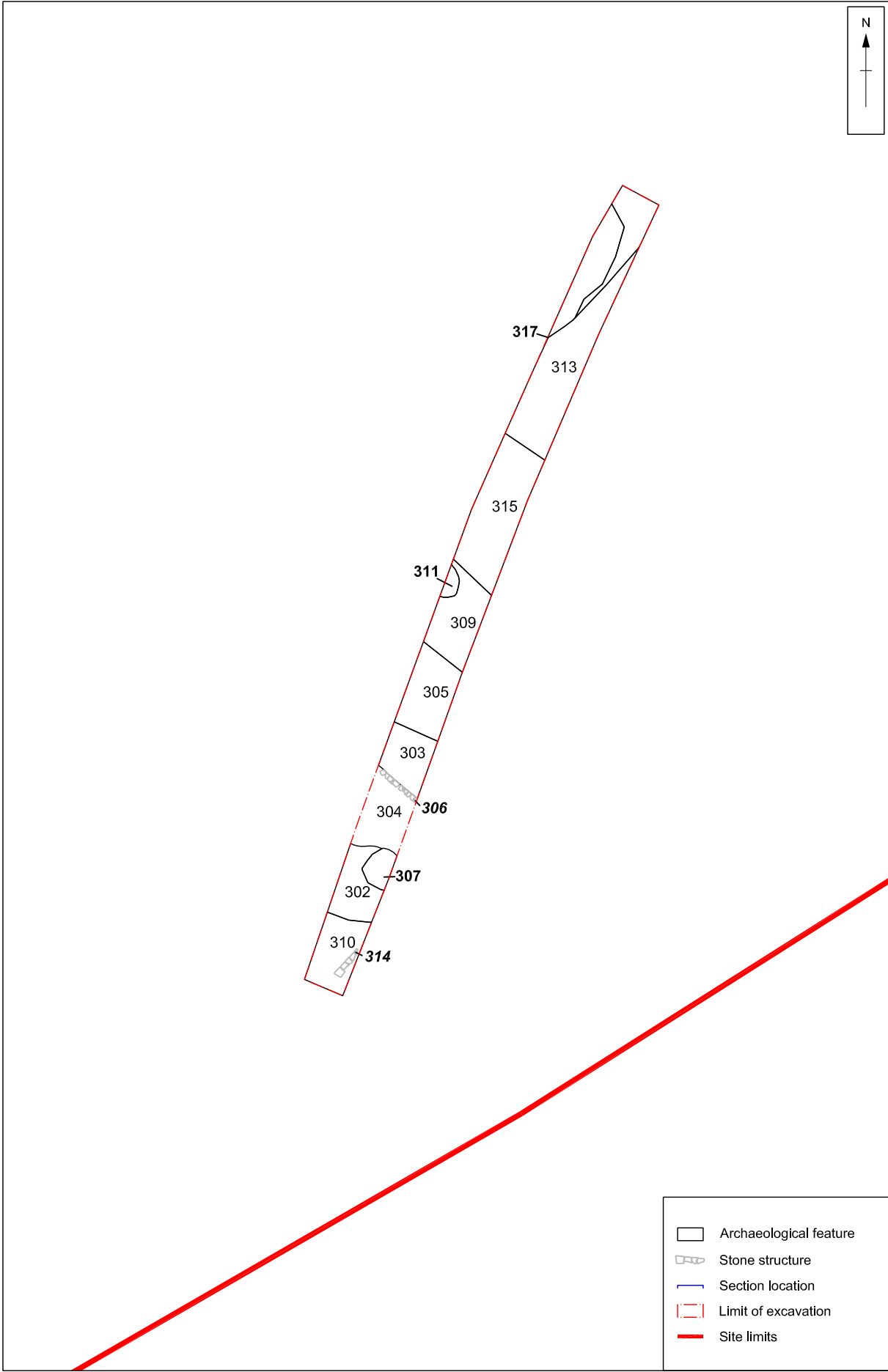
Figure 3: Trench 1 plan



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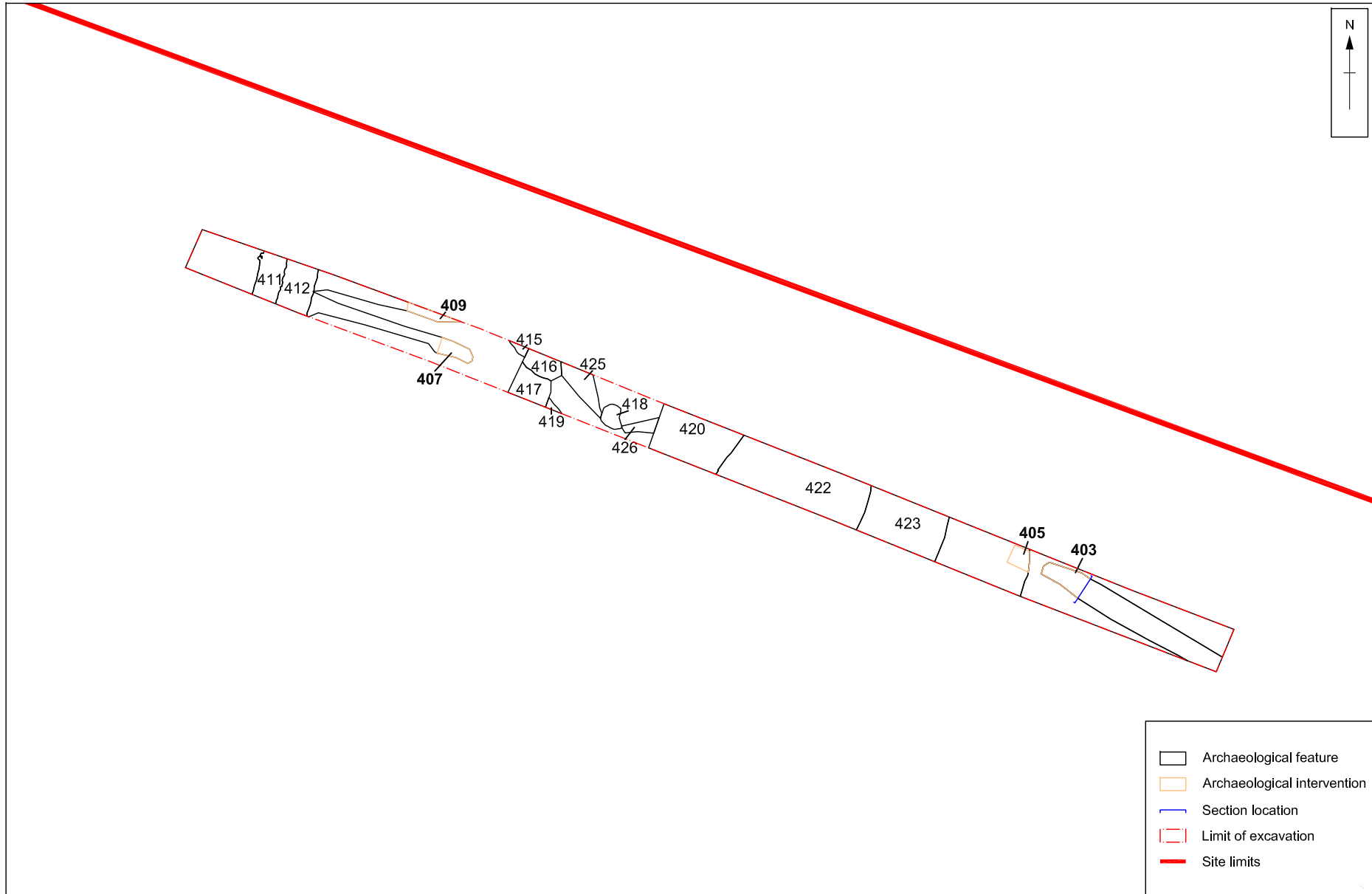
Figure 4: Trench 2 plan



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Figure 5: Trench 3 plan



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Figure 6: Trench 4 plan

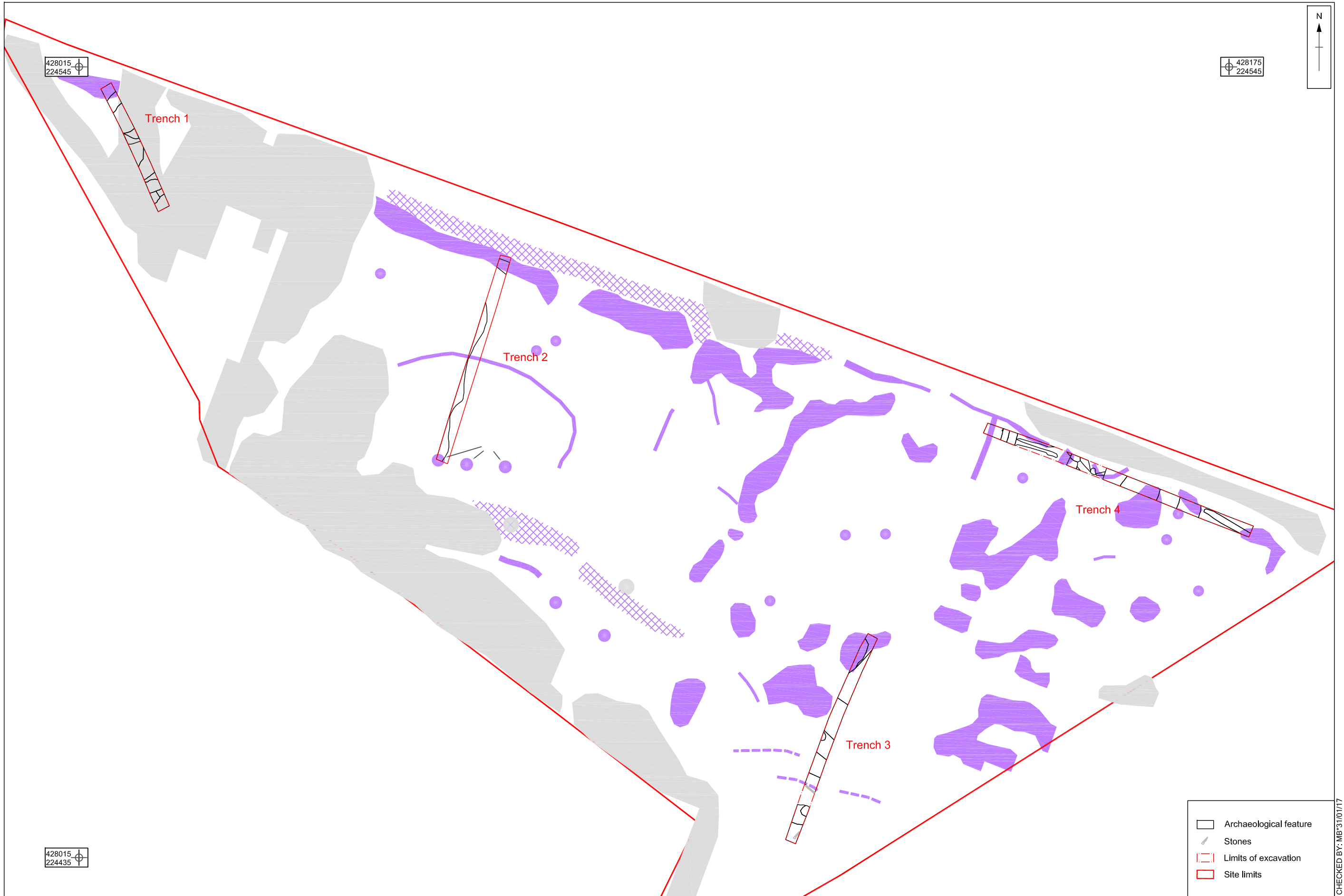


Figure 7: Trenches and archaeological features overlain on to the geophysics results

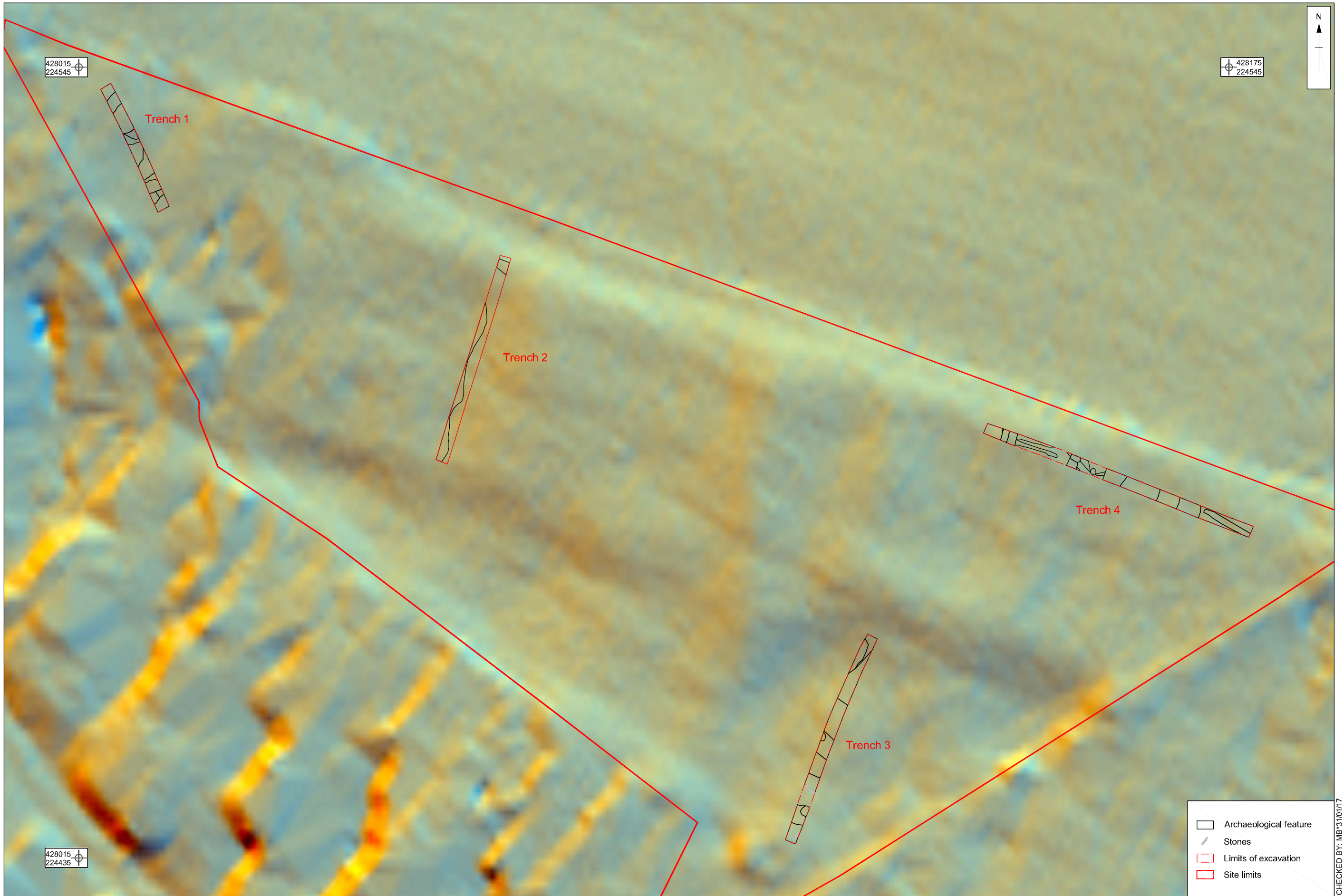


Figure 8: Trenches and archaeological features overlain on to the LiDAR results



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking south-east



Plate 2: Trench 1 hedgeline 103, looking north-east



Plate 3: Trench 1 hedgeline 103,
looking north-west



Plate 4: Trench 1 feature 105, looking north-east



Plate 5: Trench 1 general view looking north-west



Plate 6: Trench 1 deposits 112 and 116, looking south-west



Plate 7: Trench 2 looking south



Plate 8: Trench 2 ditch 204, looking east



Plate 9: Trench 3 looking north



Plate 10: Trench 3 stone feature 306, looking north



Plate 11: Trench 3 stone feature 314, looking south-west



Plate 12: Trench 3 deposit 315 (possible surface), looking east



Plate 13: Trench 3 pit 311, looking west



Plate 14: Trench 4 looking west



Plate 15: Trench 4 deposits in section near 418, looking south-west



Plate 16: Trench 4 deposits 416 and 417, looking south



Plate 17: Trench 4 features 403 and 405, looking north-east



Plate 18: Trench 4 feature 405, looking north



Plate 19: Trench 4 deposits 420, 422 and 423, looking south-east



Plate 20: Trench 4 field boundary wall
411, looking north



Plate 21: Trench 4 features 407 and 409, looking west



Plate 22: Trench 4, Terrace profile, wall 416 in foreground, looking south-east



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