


Land South of High Street Drayton Oxfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report

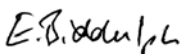
oxfordarchaeology

southsouthsouth
January 2015

Client: Bloor Homes

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 7053
NGR: SU 477 940



Client Name: Bloor Homes
Client Ref No: N/A
Document Title: Land South of High Street, Drayton, Oxfordshire
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Issue/Version Number: 2
Grid Reference: SU 477 940
Planning Reference:
Site Code: DRHS14
Invoice Code: DRHSEV
Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire County Museum
Museum Accession No: OXCMS:2014.219

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Rebecca Peacock/ Peter Vellett	Stuart Foreman (Senior Project Manager)	Ed Biddulph (Senior Project Manager)	

Document File Location X:\d\Drayton_Land_off_High_St_Oxon\002Reports
Graphics File Location X:\d\Drayton_Land_off_High_St_Oxon\010Geomatics\01 PDFs and
\\Samba-1\invoice codes a thru h\D_invoice codes\DRHSEV\PDF
Illustrated by Markus Dylewski and Anne Kilgour-Cooper

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

© Oxford Archaeology Ltd 2015

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627



Land South of High Street, Drayton, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Peter Vellet and Rebecca Peacock

with contributions from John Cotter, Geraldine Crann, Lena Strid and illustrated by Gary Jones, Markus Dylewski and Anne Kilgour-Cooper

Table of Contents

Summary.....	4
1 Introduction.....	5
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	5
1.2 Geology and topography.....	5
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	6
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	10
2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology.....	11
2.1 Aims.....	11
2.2 Methodology.....	11
3 Results.....	12
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results.....	12
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	12
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	12
3.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 3).....	12
3.5 Trench 7 (Fig. 6 and 9).....	13
3.6 Trench 8 (Fig. 6).....	13
3.7 Trench 9 (Fig. 7 and 9).....	13
3.8 Trench 11 (Fig. 8-10).....	14
3.9 Trench 12 (Fig. 7 and 10).....	14
3.10 Trench 13 (Fig. 8; Plate 8).....	14
3.11 Trench 14 (Fig. 2).....	15
3.12 Trench 16 (Fig. 5).....	15
3.13 Trench 18 (Fig. 5).....	15
3.14 Trench 20 (Fig. 3).....	15



3.15 Trench 21 (Fig. 3).....	15
3.16 Trench 23 (Fig. 4).....	16
3.17 Trench 24 (Fig. 3).....	16
3.18 Trench 26 (Fig. 4).....	16
3.19 Trench 28 (Fig. 6 and 10, Plates 13 and 14).....	16
3.20 Trench 29 (Fig. 6).....	17
3.21 Finds summary.....	17
3.22 Environmental summary.....	18
4 Discussion.....	19
4.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	19
4.2 Evaluation objectives and results.....	19
4.3 Impact assessment and proposed mitigation.....	21
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	23
Appendix B. Finds Reports.....	40
B.1 Pottery.....	40
B.2 Ceramic building material (CBM).....	42
B.3 Fired clay.....	43
B.4 Flint.....	43
B.5 Animal bone.....	44
Appendix C. Environmental Reports.....	47
C.1 Environmental samples.....	47
Appendix D. Bibliography and References.....	49
Appendix E. Summary of Site Details.....	50



List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location map
Fig. 2	Trench locations
Fig. 3	Trenches 3, 20, 21 and 24
Fig. 4	Trenches 22, 23, 25 and 26
Fig. 5	Trenches 15, 16, 18 and 19
Fig. 6	Trenches 7, 8 and 28
Fig. 7	Trenches 9, 12 and 13
Fig. 8	Trenches 10, 11 and 13
Fig. 9	Sections 701, 705, 900 and 1100
Fig. 10	Sections 1102, 1200, 1201 and 2800
Fig. 11	Trench locations overlaid on geophysical survey plot
Fig. 12	Proposed archaeological mitigation - Land South of High Street, Drayton
Fig.13	Proposed archaeological mitigation - Bishop Farm, Drayton

Plates

Plate 1	Feature 305, section 302, view to the east
Plate 2	Trench 7, view to the west
Plate 3	Posthole 713, section 704, view to the south-west.
Plate 4	Ditch 902, section 900, view to the north
Plate 5	Ditches 905 and 909, section 901, view to the north
Plate 6	Animal burial in fill 907, view to the east.
Plate 7	Ditches 1203, 1205 and 1207, section 1201, view to the south.
Plate 8	Trench 13, view to the south-west
Plate 9	Tree throw 1304, section 1302, view to the east
Plate 10	Trench 19, view to the north
Plate 11	Ditch 2103, section 2101, view to the east
Plate 12	Trench 26, view to the east
Plate 13	Trench 28, medieval and post-medieval deposit sequence
Plate 14	Trench 28, 18th century cobbled surface and wall foundation

Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Bloor Homes to undertake evaluation trenching on the site of a proposed residential development at land south of High Street, Drayton, Oxfordshire. Twenty-two trenches were excavated, 16 of which contained archaeological features. No features or finds of prehistoric or Roman date were recorded. All of the identified features date from the medieval and post-medieval periods, although a few sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered as residual finds from medieval contexts.

Signs of medieval domestic occupation include a pit in Trench 8, the fill of which contained several fragments of oven furniture from a single structure. The associated pottery dates from c 1150-1250. Occupation evidence of slightly later date includes a midden deposit from Trench 28, within the historic curtilage of No. 24 High Street, (known as Whitehorn's Farm in the 19th century). The pottery from the midden dates from c 1250-1400, and was found underlying a sequence of 18th–19th century yard surfaces and building foundations associated with a demolished ancillary building. Possible medieval postholes and boundary ditches were also found in Trench 8. The features investigated in the fields to the south all appear to be agricultural boundaries, trackways and other features of low archaeological significance.

The proposed development is covered by two planning consents:

1) Land to the South of High Street, Drayton. The trenches in this area contained no significant archaeology that would warrant mitigation. Archaeological features of probable medieval / post-medieval date are commonplace but comprise cultivation features, field boundaries and trackways of low significance. The small paddocks along the western side of the site were not accessible for either geophysical survey or trenching, which leaves a significant gap in the spatial coverage of the evaluation. It is proposed that a watching brief be undertaken during construction groundworks in these areas.

2) Barns and Land to the Rear of 24 High Street, Drayton, (P10/V2089/LB). The scope of development within this plot is constrained by its location within Drayton conservation area. Planning consent has previously been granted for barn conversions and a new build dwelling. Bloor Homes now wish to amend the approved plans as the combined development of the two plots will require construction of an improved access from High Street. The surviving medieval features within the former Whitehorn's Farm complex are not sufficiently important to act as a constraint on this development, but would justify investigation and recording before they are lost. It is therefore proposed that selected sections of the proposed access road be subject to archaeological excavation prior to construction.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Bloor Homes to undertake a programme of evaluation trenching on the site of a proposed residential development at land south of High Street, Drayton, Oxfordshire. The site is situated to the south of Drayton High Street, centred at NGR SU 4770 9400 (Fig. 1). The northern plot, alongside High Street, lies within the Drayton conservation area.
- 1.1.2 As the site lies in an area of archaeological potential Vale of White Horse District Council, the local planning authority (LPA) requested a field evaluation prior to determination of the planning decision. As the evaluation precedes a planning application no formal brief was issued by the LPA. Hugh Coddington (Archaeological Services, Oxfordshire County Council Archaeological Services) was consulted regarding the scope of the investigation.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by OA, which detailed how the investigation would be implemented (OA 2014). The evaluation comprised 22 trenches (out of 29 proposed in the WSI), the majority 30m x 2m in plan. Trenches in the small plots adjacent to the High Street were shorter at 15m x 2m to fit within the available areas. The trenches were intended to provide even coverage of the site at a 2% sample and to investigate the results of a previous geophysical survey undertaken by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy (Bartlett-Clark Consultancy July 2014). However seven trenches planned in the small paddocks on the western side of the site were abandoned as there was no suitable access for the excavator. The fieldwork was completed in the period 13th - 24th October 2014.
- 1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with the NPPF, Local Plan policies, and relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidelines, in particular the 'Standards and Guidance for Evaluation' (CIfA, revised October 2008).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 British Geological Survey mapping indicates varied geology within the site, comprising three different types of bedrock, overlain by superficial alluvial deposits (BGS online [<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>]).
- 1.2.2 The bedrock includes:
- Gault Formation Mudstone in the southern part of the site: a pale to dark grey or blue-grey mudstone, glauconitic in part, with a sandy base.
 - Lower Greensand group sandstone in a band through the centre: Mainly sands and sandstones (varying from well-sorted fine-grained to poorly sorted medium-to coarse-grained) with silts and clays in some intervals.
 - Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation (Undifferentiated) comprising mudstone in the north of the site.
- 1.2.3 Superficial deposits as shown on the 1:50,000 scale map are as follows:
- Alluvium comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel: Normally soft to firm consolidated, compressible silty clay, but can contain layers of silt, sand, peat and basal gravel.
 - Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member sands and gravel: Predominantly cold phase sands and gravel that underlie the Summertown-Radley or Second

Terrace. Dominated by clasts of Middle Jurassic limestone, but also containing "Bunter" quartz/quartzite and a proportion of flint.

- 1.2.4 The site is generally flat, with a mean elevation of 60m above Ordnance Datum (OD). Slight undulations are evident along the lines of former field boundaries and the site is currently under pastoral use/meadow. The fields along the western side are not currently grazed and are consequently overgrown. Woodland occupies part of the boundary. To the north the site is bounded by High Street, along which numerous historic buildings are located, the rears of which overlook the site. The area to the west is housing. To the east and the south of the site lie open arable fields (RSK 2014).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A 'Desk-based Assessment' (DBA) of archaeological potential was produced by RSK Environmental (RSK January 2014, Project Reference No. 660405), from which the following background information is derived (with additions and amendments). The site lies in area with high potential for archaeological remains of all periods.

Prehistoric Period

- 1.3.2 Palaeolithic finds from the area include a Lower Palaeolithic handaxe discovered in Radley, and a pointed handaxe from Drayton. Other Palaeolithic artefacts have been recovered from Drayton and Thrupp Farms, and Curtis Gravel Pit within Drayton.
- 1.3.3 Scatters of Mesolithic period flint implements and debris include a Mesolithic pick from Culham, Mesolithic flint implements from Didcot and Abingdon and a microlith and flint flakes discovered in Frilford. Just outside the DBA study area in Drayton, a surface collection of Early Mesolithic to Late Bronze age artefacts included 100 flakes amongst many other tools. In Radley over 1700 Mesolithic and Neolithic flints and some bone were recovered during the digging of a pond on Pumney Farm. This material was interpreted as evidence of flint working and settlement on the site during these periods. Where alluvium is present there is the possibility of encountering *in situ* early prehistoric sites.
- 1.3.4 The Thames Valley in the vicinity of Drayton and Abingdon was an important focus for monument building during the Neolithic. In Abingdon, several long barrows, a double ditched oval barrow, three early flat graves and linear features have been identified. A long mortuary enclosure has been found in Culham whilst a long mound was located at Sutton Courtenay. Several Neolithic cursus monuments are located in the area, including examples in Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon and in Drayton (RSK ID 2). The Drayton Cursus forms part of a complex of scheduled monuments located c 500m to the SE of the site, near the parish boundary between Drayton and Sutton Courtenay. Various ring ditches and enclosures may also be of Neolithic date, and a trackway of this date has been identified within Radley. Numerous pits and pit clusters, containing Neolithic material such as arrow heads, flints, axes and animal bones are located in the wider area, predominantly in Abingdon.
- 1.3.5 Numerous round barrows (most commonly of early Bronze Age date) are present in the vicinity. Many are known only as cropmarks, although upstanding examples do occur, including those forming the Barrow Hills Round Barrow Cemetery in Radley, c 600m east of the development site (in the same area as the Drayton Cursus). This consists of an extensive linear group of barrows, many containing inhumation and cremation burials. Within the DBA study area there are several probable Bronze Age round barrows (RSK IDs 13, 14, 36) although none are recorded within the development site itself. Artefact find-spots dating from the Bronze Age are common across Oxfordshire. A

Bronze Age presence is indicated near to the site in the form of artefacts including a Bronze Age food vessel from Drayton. As is often the case for this period, settlement remains are difficult to identify.

- 1.3.6 There are numerous Iron Age settlements in the vicinity of the site, including examples at Garford, Marcham, Abingdon, East Hanney, Radley and Frilford. In Radley Iron age pits, ditches and enclosures have been found.

Roman Period

- 1.3.7 The area continued to be intensively settled in the Roman period. Several villas are found close to the study site including one at Sutton Courtenay, with finds including the remains of tessellated floors, building materials, pottery and coins. In Marcham there is a fourth century occupation site, the site of a Roman temple and the remains of a Roman amphitheatre. Roman settlements and occupation sites in the area have also been identified north of Board Street in Abingdon, in East Hanney and a Roman enclosed settlement and fields system was discovered in Drayton.

Anglo-Saxon Period

- 1.3.8 The area surrounding Drayton was extensively settled in the Anglo-Saxon period and includes various nationally important sites. Early Anglo-Saxon settlements have been identified at Abingdon and Sutton Courtenay (the latter located c 1km south-east of the development site on the parish boundary with Drayton). Further characteristic early Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings (SFBs) have been identified in fairly close proximity to the development site (RSK ID 23 & 69). Saxon cemeteries are also common in the region such as those found in Milton, Sutton Courtenay, Frilford and Abingdon.
- 1.3.9 The most substantial evidence is from the Sutton Courtenay/ Drayton parish boundary, where excavations by E.T. Leeds in the 1920s uncovered a settlement incorporating timber halls and at least 33 SFBs. Extensive cropmark complexes later identified a cluster of very large halls, the largest comparable in size with the Anglo-Saxon *villa regia* at Yeavering in Northumberland. Recent investigations by Oxford University/ Oxford Archaeology (2003) have confirmed the importance of the site while an excavation by Time Team (2009) demonstrated that the largest hall is c 30m long. The recent evidence has resulted in the site being re-interpreted as a regional meeting place and high status residence (*villa regia*) associated with the emergent kingdom of the West Saxons, located to take advantage of trade and communications via the River Thames. As is commonly the case with important Anglo-Saxon sites, it seems to have been deliberately located in close proximity to the major prehistoric monument complex described above (Hamerow 2010).
- 1.3.10 The chronology and extent of Saxon settlement in the village of Drayton is of considerable interest for placing the Sutton Courtenay site in its wider landscape context. The closest previous investigation to the development site was a small (40m x 40m) excavation near the centre of the village by Oxford Archaeology at Manor Farm, Drayton in 2000, located c 60m north of the High Street, at the junction of Abingdon Road and Gravel Lane (Challinor *et al* 2003). This revealed a multi-period complex of archaeological features, with artefacts of all periods from the Neolithic to the post-medieval. The small assemblage of prehistoric pottery was mostly of Bronze Age date but included late Neolithic (carinated bowl) and Iron Age sherds. A small amount of Roman material was also present. However, the majority of features and artefacts from this excavation dated from the late Saxon period (9th or 10th century through to the late 11th or early 12th century), and are thus later in date than the Sutton Courtenay site. The presence of chaff and sand-tempered hand-made sherds may indicate some early or middle Saxon activity (although these sherds could be contemporary with the late

Saxon activity). Among the metalwork assemblage (most of which was of late Saxon date) was a zoomorphic strap-end of the 9th century. Lava querns from the site are also likely to be of late Saxon date. The animal bone and charred plant remains were predominantly from late Saxon contexts and indicate a typical mixed farming economy and a site of moderate status. Early medieval gravel pits in Drayton (RSK ID 24, 26, 29) indicate quarrying in the area during this period.

- 1.3.11 The late Saxon history of Drayton is detailed by the Victoria County History of Berkshire (VCH 1928) as follows: *'According to the chronicles of Abingdon, King Eadred (955) granted 10 hides of land in Drayton to a thegn named Eadwold; King Eadwi in 958 and Edgar in 960 confirmed the grant, and Eadwold settled the remainder of the lands at his death on Abingdon Abbey. Ethelred II, however, seems to have had the whole of Drayton in his own hands, for in 983 he gave a half, i.e. 3 hides, to Wulfgar, and in 1000 gave the same with a mill in fee to Abingdon Abbey 'as Wulfgar my butler held them.'* No mention of the fee of the abbey here is found in Domesday Book which sets out that before the Norman conquest Drayton was divided into two parts, one being held by Ednod of Harold, the other by Godwin of King Edward. The former developed into the manor of West Drayton. The lands of this division were assessed at 2 hides before the Norman conquest, at nothing afterwards, although their value remained at 50s. Ednod (Elnod, Alnod) was constable to the Edward the Confessor and was also known as the 'staller' or dapifer. His lands were given at the Conquest to Hugh Earl of Chester, and this manor was afterwards held of the honour of Chester (VCH Berkshire 1924).

Medieval Period

- 1.3.12 Following the Norman conquest the Manor known as 'East Drayton' or 'Drayton', which probably included the development site, passed from Godwin to Hasculf; Prior to the conquest it had been assessed at 3½ hides and was worth 60 shillings, but in 1086 was only assessed at one hide and was worth only 20 shillings. Abingdon Abbey recovered its rights over this estate at some point soon after the conquest and thereafter held the manor until the dissolution of the monasteries (VCH Berkshire 1924).
- 1.3.13 The village of Drayton lies at the junction of three roads of ancient origin. Roads from Abingdon and Newbury road join at the western end of the village at the village green, while the High Street leads west from Sutton Courtenay towards the main road from Wantage to Oxford. Medieval buildings within Drayton include St Peters Church (RSK ID 4) which was probably originally built c 1200AD and Drayton Manor House (RSK ID 12). The manor house lies on the south side of High Street to the east of the development. The present building incorporates Elizabethan and 18th century portions but the extant building probably originated as a late 15th century hall house.
- 1.3.14 The northern part of the development site includes the backplots of tenements fronting onto High Street, the property boundaries of which are very likely to date from the medieval period. The majority of the site, to the south, was historically covered with ridge-and-furrow, the distinctive traces of long-term medieval open field agriculture. Slight earthwork ridges survive in some areas and the geophysical survey plot provides a more complete map of the former extent of ridge-and-furrow within the site. The field system as it survives today is characterised by long narrow fields which appear to preserve the outlines of individual strips within the former open fields, rather than whole furlongs (cropping units). This is even more apparent on the Tithe Award Map of 1811.

Post-medieval Period

- 1.3.15 After the dissolution of the monasteries the manor which had belonged to the Abbott and Convent of Abingdon was granted in 1546 by Henry VIII to Sir Anthony St.Leger

(king's councillor) whose family sold it to John Southcote (sergeant-at-law) in 1561. The land was inherited from the Southcote family by Sir William Jerningham (6th Baronet of Cossey) in 1758 (VCH Berkshire 1924).

- 1.3.16 The Tithe Award map of 1811 is the earliest detailed map consulted. It shows the site divided into 15 fields belonging to Sir George Jerningham (7th Baronet of Cossey). It was bound to the north by High Street and to the south by a trackway (East Way). The key annotation on the map indicates that these field enclosures are not 'old enclosures', but a result of the 'Inclosure Act'. All of the fields are very long and thin, especially the easternmost two, which measures an average of 390m long by 20m wide, and some of the boundaries have a reverse S-shaped curve, which may indicate that they represent individual strips within the former 'open field' (more commonly whole cropping units were enclosed after rationalisation of the individual strips).
- 1.3.17 Three recorded large houses in the village date from the late 17th century, comprising the parsonage (no longer in existence) and two farmhouses. There were also six small farm-houses, and a number of cottages. The Roebuck Inn probably dates from the same period.
- 1.3.18 An inquiry of 1517 showed that recent enclosure of arable land in Drayton had rendered sixteen labourers and their families idle (VCH Berkshire 1924). In spite of this early evidence for enclosure Drayton remained at least partly an open-field parish until the early 19th century. The earliest description of the layout of the fields occurs in 17th century terriers. In 1607 two yardlands of glebe (land assigned to support the parish priest) lay mostly consolidated in blocks of 12, 19, and 20 'lands' in Withycombe, the Close, and the water-furrows. The glebe also included a meadow called 'Parsons Ham' near the mill brook where there were common rights. An Inclosure Act for the parish was passed in 1810–11, by which time only 198 acres were unenclosed.
- 1.3.19 The sites of eight historic buildings are located within the site boundary in the northern part of the site, generally arranged fronting High Street with ancillary buildings to the rear. Three of these buildings remain extant (RSK IDS 49, 51 and 101). The former Whitehorn's Farm complex (named as such on the 1875 OS map) comprises a southern curtilage wall, within which are the listed main farmhouse (listed building 1368070, No. 24 High Street, RSK ID 101) and associated outbuildings (RSK IDs 49 & 51). Beyond the cluster of buildings fronting High Street, there are (sites of) two outbuildings, both of which are visible as scars on recent aerial photographs of the site (RSK IDs 118 & 119).
- 1.3.20 A ditch/watercourse runs east - west through the middle of the eastern half of the site. Although not utilised as a field boundary on the Inclosure Award, it was later used as a land division, and is still evident on the site today.

Previous work

- 1.3.21 A magnetometer survey was undertaken prior to the evaluation (Bartlett-Clark Consultancy July 2014). This detected extensive magnetic disturbance, particularly in the northern part of the site, which reflects modern ground disturbance, the presence of buried yard surfaces and metallic objects in the soil to a large extent. A strong linear magnetic anomaly on a north-south alignment proved on investigation to be a brick surfaced former field track. Other features also appear to be elements of the medieval/post-medieval agricultural landscape. No certain significant archaeological features were identified although the amount of magnetic disturbance present, particularly in the northern and western parts of the site, meant that the results could not be relied upon.



1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The evaluation was carried out on behalf of Bloor Homes, through the agency of Savills. Thanks to James Stewart-Ervine (Savills) for arranging access, and to the landowners and tenants who kindly facilitated access.
- 1.4.2 The project was monitored by Hugh Coddington (OCC Environment & Economy - Archaeological Services) on behalf of the local planning authority.
- 1.4.3 The work was carried out by Peter Vellet, assisted by Mike McLean, Christof Heistermann, Nick Swift, Maria Angeles Tena and Javier Martinez Jimenez (all of OA). Paul Sands was the machine driver (Beecroft Plant, Bicester). The report was compiled by Peter Vellet and Vix Hughes. Stuart Foreman managed the project for OA and edited the report.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims, as detailed in the WSI, were to:

- (i) investigate the presence/ absence, extent, conditions, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains encountered.
- (ii) present a digest of information on the character and significance of the deposits under review and this report will form the basis of any proposals for appropriate further action.
- (iii) define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.
- (iv) outline any mitigation required which would seek to limit the damage to significant archaeological deposits.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The evaluation comprised 22 trenches, the majority c 30m x 2m in plan, as shown on Figure 2. Trenches in the small plots adjacent to the High Street were shorter (c 15m x 2m) to fit within the available areas. The trial trenches were intended to provide an even coverage of the site at a 2% sample and to investigate the results of a previous geophysical survey undertaken by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy (Bartlett-Clark Consultancy July 2014). The trench layout and method were agreed with Richard Oram (OCC Archaeological Services) prior to commencement. Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 27, located along the western side of the site (Fig. 2) were abandoned owing to the unsuitability of the entrance for the excavator and access restrictions owing to the presence of horses.

2.2.2 Plough-disturbed soil horizons were removed by mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket to expose archaeologically significant horizons or the surface of the solid geology, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were excavated to a typical depth of between 0.28m and 0.78m. The surface of any exposed archaeological horizon was cleaned for the purpose of clarifying the remains. Archaeological features were generally only sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.

2.2.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the WSI and published archaeological guidelines. Trench plans and section drawings were drawn at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the features to be recorded (usually 1:20 or 1:50 for trench plans and 1:20 for sections).

2.2.4 A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of 11 geotechnical test pits, which took place concurrently with the archaeological trenching. As these were not part of the evaluation scope, the test pits were observed and photographed on an opportunistic basis but not recorded in detail. The small size of the trial pits provided very limited archaeological visibility and they did not encounter any significant remains.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, which comprises a stratigraphic description of the 16 trenches which contained archaeological features. Full details of all trenches, including the dimensions and depths of deposits, are detailed in the context inventory (Appendix A).

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The topsoil in the fields in the southern part of the site was a mid-brown sandy clay, typically 0.09m – 0.43m thick. The subsoil, which was typically 0.15m – 0.50m thick, was predominantly a dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. The soil sequence in the house plots to the south of High Street (Trenches 7 and 29) was generally very shallow, with modern farmyard surface overlaid directly on natural sand and gravel (Summertown-Radley Member). Any subsoil that may have been present in these trenches had been removed by modern surfacing and levelling.
- 3.2.2 Trench 28, which was excavated in between the extant buildings of the former Whitehorn's Farm, contained evidence for stratified medieval occupation deposits underlying a sequence of post-medieval and modern yard surfaces and wall footings.
- 3.2.3 The superficial geology in the fields to the south varied considerably, being typically a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles. A natural band of mid grey sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles was recorded in Trenches 14, 15, 18, 22, 23 and 25. A patch of sandy gravel was found in Trench 13. These varied deposits probably represent alluvium associated with the minor watercourse that drains through the site from west to east towards the Thames.
- 3.2.4 A comparatively high density of archaeological artefacts was observed in the topsoil and subsoil throughout site, including ceramic building material (CBM), pottery, animal bone and struck flint. High densities of artefacts within the ploughsoil is often an indicator of long-term agricultural manuring using household waste, but in this case probably also reflects proximity of the fields to a long-established settlement.
- 3.2.5 Ground conditions were good and the trenches mostly well-drained, except for Trenches 18, 22 and 25. These were cut through soils more clay-rich than the other trenches, and thus retained rainwater. There was little evidence for erosion/ disturbance caused by modern mechanised ploughing or systematic land drainage.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 A total of 16 trenches contained features of probable archaeological origin (Trenches 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 28, coloured red).
- 3.3.2 Trenches 5, 10, 15, 17, 19, 22, 25 and 29 contained no discernible archaeological features and are therefore not described in detail (Fig.2, coloured green). Various possible features investigated in these trenches were interpreted as tree throw holes, variations in geology or naturally occurring drainage features.

3.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

- 3.4.1 This trench contained two ditches (303 and 307) a single plough furrow and four tree throws/natural features including 305 (Plate 1).
- 3.4.2 Ditch 303 was aligned east-west and had a straight-sided, flat-based profile. The single fill (304) contained no artefacts.

- 3.4.3 Ditch 307 was aligned north-south and had a steep 'U-shaped' profile. No finds were recovered from the single fill (308).

3.5 Trench 7 (Fig. 6 and 9)

- 3.5.1 Trench 7 was located in the farmyard to the rear of Whitehorn's Farm, to the south of Drayton High Street (Plate 2). This location was considered to have high archaeological potential due to its proximity to High Street and location within a farmyard close to the historic village centre.
- 3.5.2 The trench contained three ditches (705, 707 and 711), one modern land drain (715), two post holes (709 and 713), and a tree throw/natural feature (703).
- 3.5.3 Ditch 705 was large, shallow and aligned north-south. It had a single fill (717) from which one sherd of medieval pottery (date range 1150-1350) was recovered, insufficient to be considered reliable dating evidence (Fig. 9, section 701). The ditch corresponds with a linear anomaly on the geophysical survey and may be a medieval or post-medieval property boundary or drain.
- 3.5.4 Ditch 707 was a much smaller linear feature located immediately to the east of 705. The sole fill (708) produced no finds. The fills of both 705 and 707 were capped by a deposit of sandy clay of uncertain origin (layer 706)(Fig. 9, section 701).
- 3.5.5 Postholes 709 and 713 (Plate 3) each contained a single fill (710 and 714 respectively). No post-packing or pipes were visible. A single fragment of CBM dating from the 13th-16th century was recovered from 710, and a single sherd of pottery dating from c 1150-1350 was recovered from 714. There was no discernible association between the two postholes.
- 3.5.6 Ditch terminal 711 had a shallow rounded profile and contained a single fill (712) from which no finds were recovered.
- 3.5.7 All features in this trench were covered by a layer of disturbed soil (718), which in turn was covered by a layer of hard-standing (719) forming the modern yard surface.

3.6 Trench 8 (Fig. 6)

- 3.6.1 This trench contained three ditches (806, 810 and 816), one possible ditch or pit (804) a pit (814) and a probable natural feature (818).
- 3.6.2 Ditch 806 was aligned east-west, had a broad 'U-shaped' profile and contained a sequence of three fills, fill 809 at the base, overlain in sequence by 808 and 807. The two upper fills contained no datable artefacts but some animal bone. The uppermost fill (807) was truncated by a later feature (804). Feature 804 was a pit of uncertain date, sub-square in plan with a single fill which contained animal bone.
- 3.6.3 A pair of parallel north-south aligned ditches (810 and 816) together correspond with a linear anomaly on the geophysical survey plot which may represent a medieval property boundary. Ditch 810 had a broad U-shaped profile and contained three fills, 813 at the base, overlain by 812/820, and 811 at the top. Pottery from fill 820 dates from the period 1150-1250. Ditch 816 was smaller, with a single undated fill (817).
- 3.6.4 To the east of Ditch 816 was a possible pit (814) with a stepped, rounded profile and a single fill 815, which produced animal bone but no datable artefacts.

3.7 Trench 9 (Fig. 7 and 9)

- 3.7.1 This trench was cut across across a broad shallow north-south aligned earthwork, which was clearly apparent on the geophysical survey plot. It contained a sequence of three north-south aligned ditches (902, 905 and 909), cut at various levels through a plough-formed shallow subsoil ridge (901). Ditch 902, a narrow gully on the west side of

the earthwork was the earliest feature (Plate 4) and appears to be a medieval boundary/ drainage ditch with two fills (904 overlain by 903). Fill 903 contained a small number of pottery fragments dating from the period 1150-1350. The ditch was sealed by the subsoil layer (901) which extended throughout the trench but produced no artefacts (Fig. 9, section 900). Ditch 905 was a substantial broad, U-shaped ditch, cut through the subsoil layer (Plate 5). It contained a sequence of three fills (906, 907, 908 from bottom to top) of which 907 contained part of an articulated sheep/goat skeleton (Plate 6) and late 19-20th century pottery. The upper fill of this ditch was cut in turn by a shallow, flat-bottomed, 4m wide ditch or sunken track (909), the fill of which also contained late 19-20th century pottery.

3.8 Trench 11 (Fig. 8-10)

- 3.8.1 This trench was cut across a 12m wide, shallow north-south aligned earthwork in the north-eastern corner of the site which was also apparent on the geophysical survey plot. The trench contained four ditches (1103, 1105, 1107 and 1109) all of which follow broadly similar alignments to the earthwork. A modern ditch on the same alignment was noted in section but not investigated in detail.
- 3.8.2 Ditch 1107 contained a single fill (1108) which produced two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery with a broad potential date range (c AD 400-800) (Fig. 10, section 1102).
- 3.8.3 A pair of ditches (1103 and 1115), spaced 3m apart on the eastern side of the earthwork, may represent a medieval track or double-ditched embankment. Ditch 1103 contained a single fill (1104) which produced pottery dating from the period 1150-1350. Ditch 1105 contained a single fill (1106) with medieval pottery of similar date. Both ditches contained fragments of animal bone. Fill 1106 overlay an undated earlier ditch (1109) aligned along the middle of the earthwork.

3.9 Trench 12 (Fig. 7 and 10)

- 3.9.1 This trench contained contained a pair of north-south aligned ditches (1203, 1205) and pair of parallel east-west aligned ditches (1207, 1209), which do not appear to correspond very closely to the geophysical anomalies crossing this trench. The associated artefacts suggest that they represent periodically recut drainage/ boundary ditches dating from the post-medieval period.
- 3.9.2 Ditch 1207 had a regular U-shaped profile (Plate 7) and contained two fills (1208 overlain by 1214) neither of which contained any artefacts. It was truncated by a probable ditch recut (1205) which was of uncertain extent as only partly within the trench. Feature 1205 contained two fills (1206 overlain by 1215), neither of which produced any dateable artefacts. The western side of ditch recut 205 was itself recut by a smaller, later ditch (1203) with a U-shaped profile, the single fill of which (1204) contained fragments of late 18-19th century pottery and animal bone (Fig.10, section 1201).
- 3.9.3 Ditch 1209 contained two fills (1211 overlain by 1210), the lower of which (1211) contained pottery dating from the late 17th-18th century while the upper fill (1210) contained later 18-19th century sherds (Fig. 10, section 1200).

3.10 Trench 13 (Fig. 8; Plate 8)

- 3.10.1 This trench contained three ditches (1302, 1306, 1308) all on nearly parallel southeast-northwest alignments, and two irregular features that were interpreted as tree throws/natural features following excavation (1304, 1311). None of the features in Trench 13 produced dateable artefacts and none of the features was clearly evident on the geophysical survey plot. An unexcavated east-west ditch at the northern end of the

trench crosses the predicted line of an east-west property boundary. These parallel ditches to the south of the boundary could represent an associated former field track. Of these Ditch 1302 had a V-shaped profile and contained a single fill (1303); Ditch 1306 had a broad U-shaped profile with a single fill (1307); Ditch 1308 had a shallow, asymmetrical U-shaped profile and contained a single fill (1309).

3.11 Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

- 3.11.1 The only feature identified in this trench was a north-south aligned field track (1401) consisting of a compacted hardcore surface made from crushed brick and stone in a dark brown silty clay matrix, covered with turf. Thirteen sherds of pottery dating from the period c 1830-1880 were recovered from the hardcore. The track aligns with a gate through the extant field boundaries to the north and south of Trench 14. On the geophysical survey the track appears as a very pronounced north-south aligned magnetic anomaly running between High Street and East Way, parallel to the adjacent extant field boundary to the west.

3.12 Trench 16 (Fig. 5)

- 3.12.1 This trench was placed to investigate the same northwest-southeast aligned earthwork seen in Trench 11. Three ditches of various alignments were investigated (1602, 1605 and 1607), and a further boundary ditch and a plough furrow were recorded in plan but not excavated.
- 3.12.2 Ditch 1602 was northwest-southeast aligned and (along with the unexcavated ditch) were associated with the earthwork feature. The ditch had a broad flat-based profile and contained two fills (1604 overlain by 1603) from which no finds were recovered.
- 3.12.3 Ditch 1607 was cut across 1602 on an east-west alignment. The lower fill (1609) was overlain by fill 1608, which produced a single sherd of medieval pottery (date range 1150-1350).
- 3.12.4 Ditch 1605 was aligned northwest-southeast and had a shallow U-shaped profile. The single fill (1606) contained no finds.

3.13 Trench 18 (Fig. 5)

- 3.13.1 Trench 18 revealed a north-south aligned ditch (1802) with straight, moderately sloped sides and a flat base. It contained two fills (1803 overlain by 1804). Animal bone was recovered from 1803, but no dateable finds were recovered from either fill.
- 3.13.2 An extant modern ditch and a plough furrow on the same alignment were drawn on the trench plan but not excavated.

3.14 Trench 20 (Fig. 3)

- 3.14.1 One ditch (2003) was investigated in this trench and a further two (2005, 2007) were recorded in plan but not excavated. Ditches 2003 and 2005 appear to continue the line of an extant east-west aligned post-and-wire fenced boundary in the field to the west. The same feature was also recorded in Trench 21 (as Ditch 2103). Ditch 2003 had a U-shaped profile and contained a single fill (2004) which did not produce any artefacts. None of these features are apparent on the geophysical survey plot.

3.15 Trench 21 (Fig. 3)

- 3.15.1 There were five east aligned linear features in Trench 21, two of which were excavated (2103 and 2105). None of these features produced artefacts.

3.15.2 Ditches 2103 and 2105 both had a regular appearance in plan but when excavated had very faint feature edges and poorly defined profiles, difficult to distinguish from the natural into which they were cut (Plate 11). Ditch 2103 appears to continue the line of an extant east-west aligned, post-and-wire fenced boundary in the field to the west. The same boundary was also investigated in Trench 20 (Ditches 2003 and 2005). These east-west boundaries are not shown on 19th century historic maps of the site, but may reflect short-lived 20th-century subdivisions of the southern enclosures into smaller paddocks.

3.16 Trench 23 (Fig. 4)

3.16.1 This trench contained two east-west aligned linear features (2305, 2307) which were not excavated. They are thought to be continuations of the similar boundary ditches recorded in Trenches 20 and 21.

3.17 Trench 24 (Fig. 3)

3.17.1 Trench 24 contained two linear features (2403, 2407). Feature 2403 was north-south aligned with a very shallow U-shaped profile. It was interpreted as a possible ditch but could equally have been a plough furrow. The single fill (2404) was difficult to distinguish in section from the overlying subsoil and it contained no artefacts.

3.17.2 Ditch 2407 was aligned northeast-southwest, differing from the prevailing alignment of the post-medieval field system. It had a broad U-shaped profile and a single fill (2408) which produced no artefacts.

3.17.3 A small irregular pit (2405) in the middle of the trench was interpreted as a possible tree throw hole. A north-south aligned plough furrow towards the east end of the trench was noted on the plan but not excavated.

3.18 Trench 26 (Fig. 4)

3.18.1 This contained a single east-west aligned ditch (2604) and an irregular pit interpreted as a possible tree throw hole (2606, Plate 12). Three north-south aligned plough furrows were noted, confirming the presence of ridge-and-furrow earthworks at this location. The ridge-and-furrow is also clearly apparent on the geophysical survey plot. The more pronounced survival of ridge-and-furrow earthworks along the eastern edge of the development area seems to reflect the presence of a former field track or driveway.

3.18.2 Ditch 2604 was aligned east-west, running the full length of the trench, on a perpendicular alignment to the prevailing alignment of the ridge-and-furrow. It had a shallow U-shaped profile and contained a single fill (2605) from which animal bone and medieval pottery (date range 1150-1300) were recovered.

3.19 Trench 28 (Fig. 6 and 10, Plates 13 and 14)

3.19.1 This trench was located 30m south of High Street within the former Whitehorn's Farm complex and revealed a stratified sequence of medieval, post-medieval and modern deposits and structures.

3.19.2 The earliest deposit investigated was a medieval cess or midden deposit (2808) which directly overlay natural sandy gravel and may have infilled a shallow channel (Fig. 10, section 2800). Dating evidence comprised a group of nine sherds of medieval pottery (date range mainly c 1250-1400, with one residual late Saxon sherd). A single 40L bulk sample was taken from this organic-rich deposit, which is described as a dark yellowish brown silty clay (10YR 4/4) with fine sand and charcoal inclusions and lenses of yellowish brown silt. The sample flot contained a relatively poorly preserved but diverse

assemblage of charred and uncharred plant remains, animal and fish bone. It also included iron-rich concretions, some of which appear vesicular and typical of deposits containing degraded human or animal faeces. This medieval organic deposit was overlain by two layers of made ground (2807 overlaid by 2806), both consisting of compacted dark yellowish brown silty clay with flint cobble inclusions. Context 2806 produced a single sherd of medieval pottery (date range c 1250-1400).

- 3.19.3 The later deposits in the sequence consist of post-medieval yard surfaces and a building platform associated with the former Whitehorn's Farm complex. No artefactual dating evidence was recovered from the building foundation layers. Foundation deposit 2805 was a coarse gravel layer, overlain by context 2804, a thin, compacted gravel mixed with clay loam. This was cut by a wall foundation trench (2809) containing stone foundations, supporting a brick wall (structure 2809). A surviving stub of the wall protrudes from the extant farmyard wall to the north. Context 2803 was a regular cobbled surface associated with the former building, which must have been laid after construction of the wall. The surface was constructed with large cobbles of uniform size, laid in panels which extended on either side of the wall footing, presumably serving both as the floor of the building interior and of a walkway to the west. While no artefactual dating evidence was recovered, the cobbled surface and wall foundation clearly formed part of a former north-south aligned ancillary building range shown on the 1875 OS map. On the map this building has the appearance of a stable block and the remains in Trench 28 are consistent with that. On architectural grounds the rear ranges of the farm complex were probably built in the 18th century, although the Grade 2 listed house (No. 24 High Street) has an early 19th century front range.
- 3.19.4 Outside the former building to the west was a modern hard-standing (2801), the former yard surface, which was in turn overlain by a layer of turf (2800).

3.20 Trench 29 (Fig. 6)

- 3.20.1 This trench was located in a grass verge beside a driveway giving access to the site from High Street. The length had to be shortened to 5m to avoid blocking the access. It is the second closest trench to High Street and was considered to have high potential for archaeological discoveries. However, any archaeology that may have been present appears to have been truncated during construction and / or maintenance of the drive. The trench was excavated through thin topsoil to a depth of 0.30m and came down directly onto natural sandy gravel.

3.21 Finds summary

- 3.21.1 A relatively small quantity of artefacts was recovered during the evaluation. The range of material included of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), fired clay, flint and animal bone. A detailed description of the finds can be found in Appendices B and C.
- 3.21.2 The evaluation produced a total of 82 sherds of pottery weighing 876g, from 26 contexts. This is mainly of medieval date with some post-medieval sherds also present. (19th-20th century material from topsoil contexts was not routinely collected). The date range of the recovered pottery extends from the early Saxon period to the early 20th century. The few Saxon sherds however are all residual in medieval or later contexts. The period best represented is the medieval period, in particular the 12th to 14th centuries (perhaps mainly focussed in the 12th to 13th centuries). The sherds were sparsely distributed, generally in quantities too small to be considered reliable dating evidence for their respective contexts. The commonest medieval pottery type present is flint- and limestone-tempered East Wiltshire/Kennet Valley B ware. This mainly

comprises cooking pots and possibly jugs (including two of sherds with combed decoration). This type is very common in the Abingdon area and in Oxford.

- 3.21.3 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to 16 fragments (1.366kg) was recovered from six contexts. All except one fragment was of post-medieval date. A single sherd from 710 was from a 13th -16th century pegtile.
- 3.21.4 A small assemblage of fired clay amounting to 18 fragments (145g) was recovered from a single context (819). All of the pieces (some joining) come from the same structure or object which is interpreted as part of the base of an oven or hearth. Pottery from the same context dates from the period 1150-1350.
- 3.21.5 A total of 12 flints came from nine contexts. All of the pieces were either residual in later contexts or unstratified in the ploughsoil.

3.22 Environmental summary

- 3.22.1 A total of 236 animal bone fragments were recovered, including 44 fragments (18.6%) from a sieved soil sample. The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, dog, cat and domestic fowl. These domestic taxa are commonly found in medieval and post-medieval assemblages, to which the contexts were dated. The sieved sample in addition yielded fragments of bird and mouse/vole/shrew remains from a medieval midden deposit.
- 3.22.2 A single bulk sample was taken from Deposit 2808 in Trench 28, which is possibly a midden deposit. Although the deposit is of uncertain date, late medieval pottery was found in Trench 28. The range and of charred plant remains is fairly similar to that found from late Saxon/medieval deposits at Manor Farm, Drayton (Challinor *et al.* 2003) and the presence of free-threshing wheat is typical of medieval and later sites. The greenish colour and vesicular nature of the deposit is suggestive of a faecal component, possibly animal dung, while the mixed assemblage of charred seeds and bone suggests the deposition of some domestic waste. The charring of seeds from sedge and rush may, tentatively, indicate the burning and incorporation of flooring material. Stinking chamomile is usually considered to be an agricultural weed of crops grown on heavy, clay-rich soils and the seeds are likely to have been accidentally harvested.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation trenching, in conjunction with previous DBA and geophysical survey, has successfully determined the extent, date, character, condition and quality of archaeological remains within the site. The scope of the surveys was sufficient to reliably detect complex and extensive archaeological sites of all periods, but isolated or ephemeral features are more difficult to detect using these methods and could have been missed.
- 4.1.2 The small paddocks along the western side of the site were not accessible for evaluation trenching owing to access restrictions. This leaves a significant gap in the spatial coverage of the trenches.
- 4.1.3 The trenches were excavated in reasonable weather, and ground conditions were generally conducive to archaeological visibility.
- 4.1.4 Animal and human bone survive in good condition in the soil conditions prevalent on the site. A single soil sample, taken from a medieval midden deposit in Trench 28, suggests that charred plant remains also survive in reasonable condition.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation results have generally confirmed and elaborated on the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. A total of 16 trenches contained features of probable archaeological origin (Trenches 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 28). Several medieval occupation features were identified in the northern part of the site, becoming denser in proximity to High Street. However, the vast majority of the features encountered can be interpreted as medieval and post-medieval agricultural boundaries and drains.
- 4.2.2 The trenching has produced a small assemblage of artefacts which helps to characterise and date the medieval and post-medieval landscape between High Street and East Way.
- 4.2.3 Palaeoenvironmental evidence was very limited, the only suitable context for sampling being the medieval midden deposit in Trench 28.

Prehistoric and Roman evidence

- 4.2.4 Hardly any trace of prehistoric or Roman activity was recorded during the evaluation. A handful of prehistoric worked flints are the only prehistoric artefacts recovered and these were clearly residual finds in medieval and later contexts. In comparison the 2003 Manor Farm excavations, located 60m to the north of the site, produced a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery which was mostly of Bronze Age date but included late Neolithic (carinated bowl) and Iron Age sherds. A small amount of Roman material was also present (Challinor *et al.* 2003).

Anglo-Saxon evidence

- 4.2.5 No archaeological contexts were dated to the Anglo-Saxon period but small quantities of pottery suggest activity in the vicinity during this period. The earliest pottery recovered during the evaluation comprised two early-middle Anglo-Saxon sherds, found in a trackway ditch in Trench 11. These sherds have a broad potential date range and could date from as late as the 8th century. Other ditches associated with the same trackway produced 12th-14th century pottery. A midden deposit in Trench 28 contained late Anglo-Saxon sherds, but these were also clearly residual in a medieval context.

The quantities of Anglo-Saxon pottery are too small to be confident of the dating in either case, but they help to corroborate the results from the 2003 Manor Farm excavation, which produced substantial evidence for a late Saxon settlement underlying the historic core of Drayton. The Manor Farm site revealed features and artefacts dating from the 9th or 10th century through to the late 11th or early 12th century (Challinor *et al.* 2003). It is possible that permanent settlement on the site of the present village first developed in the late Saxon period following abandonment of the well-known high status early-middle Saxon settlement on the Drayton / Sutton Courtenay parish boundary (Hamerow 2010).

Medieval evidence

- 4.2.6 Medieval finds and features were relatively common, and focussed overwhelmingly in the northern half of the site (Trenches 7, 8, 11, 26 and 28). Signs of medieval occupation include a pit in Trench 8, just to the south of Whitehorn's Farm, the fill of which contained several fragments of oven furniture from a single structure. The associated pottery dates from c 1150-1250. Occupation evidence of slightly later date includes a midden deposit within the historic curtilage of No.24 High Street. The pottery from the midden dates from c 1250-1400, and was found underlying a sequence of 18th -19th century yard surfaces and building foundations associated with the rear ranges of the former Whitehorn's Farm complex.
- 4.2.7 A thin scatter of medieval pottery from ditches and plough furrows in the former open field in the southern part of the site supports a medieval floruit for this field system. The relative scarcity of post-medieval artefacts probably reflects the enclosure of the fields and their conversion to predominantly pastoral landuse between the 16th and early 19th century. Artefacts are more likely to find their way into the ploughsoil when the land is under arable cultivation, as a result of manuring the fields with midden material.
- 4.2.8 On the basis of pottery finds the extant earthwork investigated in Trench 11 seems to represent a medieval track/ droveway, possibly with Anglo-Saxon origins. While there was no post-medieval material in this feature, the presence of a modern ditch on the same alignment indicates that the earthwork probably continued in use as a field boundary/ drain throughout the post-medieval period.

Post-medieval evidence

- 4.2.9 Trench 28 revealed post-medieval yard surfaces and a building platform associated with the former Whitehorn's Farm complex. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the building foundation layers, but it is clear from the historic map evidence that the cobbled surface and wall foundation formed part of a former north-south aligned ancillary building range shown on the 1875 OS map. On the map this building has the appearance of a stable block and the remains in Trench 28 are consistent with that. On architectural grounds the rear ranges of the farm complex were probably built in the 18th century, although the Grade 2 listed house (No.24 High Street) has an early 19th century front range.

Undated Features

- 4.2.10 A series of east-west aligned features seen in Trenches 20, 21 and 23 were found at a perpendicular angle to the predominant alignment of the ridge-and-furrow. These features were not apparent on the geophysical survey or 19th century historic maps of the site, but may reflect short-lived 20th century subdivisions of the southern enclosures into smaller paddocks.

- 4.2.11 Features in Trenches 3, 8, 9, 12, 16 and 24 produced no datable material and although they are highly likely to have been part of the medieval / post-medieval landscape, their date of origin is uncertain.

4.3 Impact assessment and proposed mitigation

- 4.3.1 The proposed development is covered by two planning consents, which involve different circumstances and therefore require different approaches to mitigation, as detailed below:

Land South of High Street (Figure 12)

- 4.3.2 The proposed development on Land to the South of High Street comprises c 140 dwellings, associated access roads, parking, services and drainage, including balancing ponds. This part of the site lies outside the Drayton conservation area.
- 4.3.3 The development as a whole will extensively disturb or remove any archaeological deposits that may be present in areas of ground disturbance, such as house footings, balancing ponds, access roads and service trenches. However the trenches in this plot contained no significant archaeology that would warrant mitigation. There is no evidence at all for prehistoric or Roman activity within the site boundary. The results generally confirm the geophysical survey and documentary evidence which suggest that these fields formed part of the open field system of Drayton Manor from at least the late Saxon period and throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. Archaeological features of probable medieval / post-medieval date are commonplace but comprise cultivation features, field boundaries and trackways of low significance.
- 4.3.4 The small paddocks along the western side of the site were not accessible for trenching due to access restrictions, which leaves a significant gap in the spatial coverage of the evaluation (Fig.12). The historic map evidence indicates that these paddocks also formed part of the open field system of Drayton and therefore have similar archaeological potential to the fields to the east. As the more overgrown paddocks in this area were not subject to either geophysical survey or trenching it is proposed that a watching brief be undertaken during construction groundworks in this area. The strip of land along the western boundary of the site will be developed as a footpath and natural play areas which are expected to have a minimal archaeological impact. The eastern strip will include house plots and an access road. The watching brief in practice will be targeted on substantive groundworks such as preliminary topsoil stripping along the roads.

Barns and Land to the Rear of 24 High Street, Drayton, P10/V2089/LB (Figure 13)

- 4.3.5 The scope of development within this plot is constrained by its location within Drayton conservation area. Planning consent has previously been granted for the conversion of an existing barn to a residential unit (Fig.13), the extension and conversion of a second barn to a residential unit (Fig.13, Plot 2) and the erection of one new residential dwelling (Fig.13, Plot 1) along with associated access and amenity space (planning reference P10/V2089/LB). This proposal has previously been approved with no archaeological mitigation requirements.
- 4.3.6 Bloor Homes now wish to amend the approved plans in light of recently granted outline consent to develop the fields to the south (Land South of High Street, Drayton). The combined development of these two plots requires improved access arrangements from High Street, comprising a widened and re-aligned access road with associated footpaths. Under this proposal Plot 1 would need to be redesigned to accommodate the new access road (Fig.13).

- 4.3.7 The surviving medieval features within the former Whitehorn's Farm complex are not sufficiently important to act as a constraint on the development, but would justify investigation and recording before they are lost ('preservation by record'), in areas where they will be disturbed by the development. Within this plot medieval archaeology seems to be preserved in patches in areas not disturbed by later yard surfaces and building foundations. The density of medieval remains is likely to increase with proximity to High Street (as illustrated by the archaeology in Trench 28). The presence of medieval occupation deposits in the vicinity of High Street is not surprising given its location within the historic core of Drayton. The chronology of Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement within the village is of considerable archaeological interest, as detailed in Section 1.3 above.
- 4.3.8 As construction of the new access road would remove any surviving archaeology it is proposed that selected sections of the new access road be subject to archaeological 'strip, map and sample' (SMS) excavation as shown on Figure 13. The excavation would include a section of the existing grass verge next to High Street, which may be expected to contain intact medieval archaeology. The areas shown may be modified as needed to avoid buried services, maintain pedestrian access along the public footpath and maintain access to the development site. The middle section of the new road would not be excavated as the adjacent Trench 29 contained no surviving archaeological features. The southern section of the road would be excavated as Trenches 7 and 8 both contained medieval features.
- 4.3.9 The medieval midden deposit identified in Trench 28 lies just outside the development boundary. While the deposits in question may well extend into the site boundary, the impact from the development in that area will be minimal.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Due to access restrictions in the western paddocks, trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 27 were not excavated.

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 3 contained two ditches, one plough furrow and three tree throws/natural features. The furrow and two of the three natural features were not excavated. Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
300	Topsoil	-	0.22	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-
301	Subsoil	-	0.38	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
302	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-
303	Ditch	1.42	0.34	Linear, flat base, moderate straight sides. Orientated E-W.	-	-
304	Fill of 303	1.42	0.34	Light grey mottled with yellowish brown, silty clay, frequent sub rounded cobbles.	-	-
305	Tree throw	0.7	0.21	Irregular/oval, irregular base, shallow-steep irregular sides.	-	-
306	Fill of 305	0.7	0.21	Light grey mottled with yellowish brown, silty clay.	-	-
307	Ditch	0.8	0.29	Linear, rounded narrow base, steep straight sides. Orientated N-S.	-	-
308	Fill of 307	0.8	0.29	Light grey mottled with yellowish brown, sandy clay, frequent sub rounded pebbles	-	-

Trench 7			
General description		Orientation	E-W



Trench 7 contained three ditches, including a ditch terminal, one modern land drain, two post holes and a tree throw/natural feature. All features in this trench were covered by a layer of disturbed subsoil or topsoil (718) in turn overlain by a layer of hard-standing (719), forming the former farmyard surface. A layer of turf covered the surface. Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
700	Topsoil	-	0.24	Mid brownish sandy clay	Pottery	AD c1150-1350
702	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-
703	Tree throw	3.3	0.14	Irregular, sub-circular, irregular base and sides.	-	-
704	Fill of 703	3.3	0.14	Dark grey, sandy clay.	Animal bone	-
705	Ditch	1.8	0.28	Linear, flat irregular base, orientated N-S.	-	-
706	Layer	2.55	0.13	Dark brown, sandy clay, frequent small flint pebbles.	Pottery, animal bone	c1225-1350
707	Ditch	0.35	0.12	Linear, rounded base, moderately sloped sides. Orientated N-S.	-	-
708	Fill of 707	0.35	0.12	Mid greyish brown, sandy clay, occasional small flint.	-	-
709	Post hole	0.4	0.07	Shallow, sub-circular post hole, rounded base, gently sloped sides.	-	-
710	Fill of 709	0.4	0.07	Dark grey, sandy clay, occasional small flint pebbles.	CBM	13 th -16 th Century
711	Ditch	0.8	0.08	Linear terminus, rounded base, gently sloped sides, oriented NE-SW.	-	-
712	Fill of 711	0.8	0.08	Dark grey, sandy clay, occasional flint pebbles and cobbles.	-	-
713	Post hole	0.4	0.28	Sub-circular, rounded base, steep sides.	-	-
714	Fill of 713	0.4	0.28	Dark grey, sandy clay, common flint cobbles and pebbles.	Pottery	c1150-1350



715	Land drain		1.15	0.33	Linear, flat base, sloped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-
716	Fill of land drain		1.15	0.33	Dark grey with lenses of light brown, sandy clay, frequent cobbles and pebbles.	-	-
717	Fill of 705		1.8	0.28	Dark greenish grey, sandy clay, frequent cobbles and pebbles.	Pottery	c1150-1350
718	Layer		-	0.2	Hard-standing deposit	-	-
719	Layer		-	0.25	Disturbed/stripped topsoil or subsoil	Flint	Mesolithic or early Neolithic

Trench 8

General description

Trench 8 contained three ditches, one possible ditch or pit and two pits most likely to be natural features. Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.

Orientation

N-S

Avg. depth (m)

0.48

Width (m)

2

Length (m)

30

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
801	Topsoil	-	0.26	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-
802	Subsoil	-	0.22	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
803	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-
804	Ditch/Pit?	0.5	0.28	Linear, rounded base, moderately sloping sides, oriented N-S.	-	-
805	Fill of 804	0.5	0.28	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, infrequent stones.	Animal bone	-
806	Ditch	1.4	0.72	Linear, rounded base, moderate-steep sides, oriented NW-SE.	-	-
807	Fill of 806	1.4	0.18	Dark greyish brown, clayey sand, very infrequent stones.	Animal bone	-
808	Fill of 806	>0.55	0.3	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, very infrequent stones.	Animal bone	-
809	Fill of 806	>0.32	0.22	Dark greyish brown, clayey sand, infrequent flint stones.	-	-



810	Ditch	1.38	0.5	Linear, flat base, moderate sides, oriented NE-SW.	-	-
811	Fill of 810	1.38	0.2	Dark grey, clayey sand, infrequent flint pebbles and cobbles.	-	-
812	Fill of 810	>0.8	0.1	Dark olive, clayey sand, very infrequent flint pebbles and cobbles.	-	-
813	Fill of 810	>0.6	0.07	Dark olive, clayey sand, abundant flint pebbles.	-	-
814	Pit	<0.2	0.34	Sub-circular, uneven base, steep sides.	-	-
815	Fill of 814	<0.2	0.34	Dark brownish grey, clayey sand, very infrequent stones.	Animal bone	-
816	Ditch	1	0.2	Linear, rounded base, shallow sloped sides, oriented NE-SW.	-	-
817	Fill of 816	1	0.2	Dark olive brown, sandy clay, infrequent pebbles.	-	-
818	Pit	0.8	0.22	Irregular/sub-circular, rounded base, shallow sloped sides.	-	-
819	Fill of 818	0.8	0.22	Dark grey/black, clayey sand, occasional pebbles.	Animal bone; fired clay	-
820	Fill of 810	1.1	0.5	Olive brown, sandy clay, occasional flint cobbles.	Pottery, animal bone	c1150-1250?

Trench 9

General description

Trench 9 contained three linear features.

Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.

Orientation

E-W

Avg. depth (m)

0.78

Width (m)

2

Length (m)

29

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
900	Topsoil	-	0.09	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-
901	Subsoil	-	0.5	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
902	Ditch	0.83	0.29	Linear, flat base, moderate-steep sloped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-
903	Fill of 902	0.83	0.19	Dark brownish grey, sandy silt, infrequent	Pottery, animal bone	c1150-1350



				pebbles.		
904	Fill of 902	0.71	0.1	Dark brownish grey, sandy clay silt, infrequent pebbles.	-	-
905	Ditch	>4.3	1.23	Linear, flat base, steep slopped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-
906	Fill of 905	2.22	0.5	Dark grey, clayey silt, infrequent pebbles.	Animal bone	-
907	Fill of 905	3.68	0.36	Mid grey, silty clay, common pebbles.	CBM, animal bone	Late 19 th -20 th Century
908	Fill of 905	2.88	0.58	Mid grey with light greyish brown mottles, clayey silt, common pebbles.	-	-
909	Ditch	3.98	0.28	Linear, flat base, shallow slopped sides, oriented N-S	-	-
910	Fill of 909	3.98	0.28	Dark grey, clayey silt, infrequent pebbles	Pottery	c1890-1940
911	Alluvium		0.18	Mid yellowish brown, sandy silty clay, infrequent pebbles	Animal bone	-
912	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-

Trench 10

General description

Trench 10 contained no archaeological features, only a single tree throw.

The soil sequence consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.

Orientation

N-S

Avg. depth (m)

0.72

Width (m)

2

Length (m)

30

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1000	Topsoil	-	0.43	Mid brownish sandy clay	Flint	-
1001	Subsoil	-	0.29	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
1002	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-
1003	Tree throw	1.1	0.26	Sub-circular, uneven base, moderately slopped sides.	-	-
1004	Fill of	1.1	0.26	Dark grey/black with	Pottery,	c1150-1350



	1003			lenses of mid orangey brown, clayey sand.	animal bone	
--	------	--	--	---	-------------	--

Trench 11

General description

Trench 11 contained 4 ditches. A selen ditch was also observed but not excavated within this trench.

Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.

Orientation

E-W

Avg. depth (m)

0.48

Width (m)

2

Length (m)

29.5

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1100	Topsoil	-	0.28	Mid brownish sandy clay	Flint	-
1101	Subsoil	-	0.22	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
1102	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-
1103	Ditch	1.44	0.3	Linear, irregular base, gently slopped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-
1104	Fill of 1103	1.44	0.3	Dark greyish brown, sandy clay, infrequent flint pebbles.	Pottery, animal bone	c1150-1350
1105	Ditch	1.45	0.35	Linear, round base, moderately slopped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-
1106	Fill of ditch 1105 and 1109	>2.30	0.35	Mid greyish brown, sandy clay, occasional flint cobbles and pebbles.	Pottery, animal bone	c1150-1350
1107	Ditch	0.7	0.28	Linear, round base, moderately slopped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-
1108	Fill of 1107	0.7	0.28	Dark greenish/greyish brown, silty clayey sand, occasional flint pebbles.	Pottery	AD c400-800
1109	Ditch	0.85	0.42	Linear, 'V-shaped' base, steep slopped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-
1110	Fill of 1109	0.85	0.42	Dark greenish/greyish brown, silty clayey sand, infrequent flint pebbles	-	-

Trench 12

General description

Orientation

NW-SE



Trench 12 contained four ditches. Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
1200	Topsoil	-	0.3	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-	
1201	Subsoil	-	-	Mid yellowish grey, silty clay, infrequent pebbles. Lens within subsoil.	-	-	
1202	Subsoil	-	0.15	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	Pottery, animal bone	c1150-1350	
1203	Ditch	0.8	0.5	Linear, rounded base, steep sloped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-	
1204	Fill of 1203	0.8	0.5	Mid reddish grey, silty clay, very infrequent pebbles.	CBM, animal bone	Late Century	18 th -19 th
1205	Ditch	0.5	0.3	Linear, rounded base, moderately slopped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-	
1206	Fill of 1205	0.5	0.3	Light yellowish grey, silty clay, infrequent pebbles.	-	-	
1207	Ditch	>0.57	0.58	Linear, uneven base, shallow slopping sides, oriented E-W.	-	-	
1208	Fill of 1207	>0.24	0.4	Dark bluish grey, silty clay.	-	-	
1209	Ditch	>4	0.55	Linear, uneven sloping base, moderately sloping sides, oriented E-W.	-	-	
1210	Fill of 1209	c2.1	0.23	Black, silty sand, infrequent gravel and stones.	CBM, animal bone, flint	18 th -19 th Century? Mesolithic? - flint	
1211	Fill of 1209	>4	0.36	Dark brown, clayey sand, frequent stones and gravel.	Pottery, animal bone	c1675-1750	
1214	Fill of 1207	>0.57	0.26	Light greenish grey, silty clay.	-	-	
1215	Fill of 1205	>0.48	0.17	Mid blueish grey, silty clay.	-	-	
1216	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-	

Trench 13



General description					Orientation	N-S
<p>Trench 13 contained three ditches and two tree throws/natural features. A selion ditch was also observed but not excavated within this trench.</p> <p>Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.</p>					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1300	Topsoil	-	0.3	Mid brownish sandy clay	Flint	-
1301	Subsoil	-	0.35	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
1302	Ditch	0.7	0.38	Linear, flat sloping base, moderate-steep sloped sides, oriented E-W	-	-
1303	Fill of 1302	0.7	0.38	Light greyish brown, silty sand, frequent stones.	-	-
1304	Tree throw	1.2	0.25	Irregular, rounded base, shallow sloped sides.	-	-
1305	Fill of 1304	1.2	0.25	Light grey with light orange mottles, clayey silt, infrequent stones and gravel.	-	-
1306	Ditch	1.2	0.3	Linear, flat base, moderate sloped sides, oriented E-W.	-	-
1307	Fill of 1307	1.2	0.3	Light greyish brown, silty clay, infrequent stones.	-	-
1308	Ditch	1	0.15	Linear, flat base, shallow sloped sides, oriented E-W.	-	-
1309	Fill of 1308	1	0.15	Light brownish grey, silty sand.	-	-
1310	Fill of 1311	c2	0.5	Mixed white grey clay/mid orange brown sand/ dark brown silt.	-	-
1311	Tree throw	c2	0.5	Irregular, shallow sloped sides. Base not established as feature determined to be a tree throw.	-	-
1312	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-

Trench 14

General description	Orientation	E-W
---------------------	-------------	-----



Trench 14 contained a Victorian road / track-way. A spread of subsoil was also observed and investigated. Natural geology comprised a mid grey sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Avg. depth (m)		0.28
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
1400	Topsoil	-	0.16	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-	
1401	Road / trackway	2	-	Dark brown, silty clay matrix with broken CBM and stone inclusions.	Pottery	c1830-1880	
1402	Layer	2.3	0.05	Mid greyish brown, silty clay. Charcoal and broken CBM observed – not retained. Remanent subsoil.	-	-	
1403	Natural	-	-	Mid grey, sandy clay, occasional flint pebbles	-	-	
1404	Subsoil	-	0.12	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-	

Trench 15						
General description Trench 15 contained no archaeological finds or features. A plough furrow was observed but not excavated. The soil sequence consists of topsoil and a subsoil overlying a varying natural geology of light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles and mid grey sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.				Orientation		NE-SW
				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1500	Topsoil	-	0.25	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-
1501	Subsoil	-	0.15	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
1502	Natural	-	-	Varying - Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles and mid grey, sandy clay, occasional flint pebbles	-	-

Trench 16						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench 16 contained 3 ditches. A plough furrow and possible selion ditch were also observed but not excavated.				Avg. depth (m)	0.58	
				Width (m)	2	



Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1600	Topsoil	-	0.16	Mid brownish sandy clay	Flint, pottery	c1150-1350
1601	Subsoil	-	0.42	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
1602	Ditch	1.5	0.29	Linear, flat base, moderately straight sides, oriented N-S.	-	-
1603	Fill of 1602	1.5	0.13	Mid grey with yellowish brown mottles, silty clay, infrequent pebbles. Charcoal observed.	-	-
1604	Fill of 1602	>0.32	0.16	Dark grey with mid yellowish brown mottles, silty clay, infrequent pebbles. Charcoal observed.	-	-
1605	Ditch	0.5	0.1	Linear, rounded base, shallow straight sides, oriented NW-SE.	-	-
1606	Fill of 1605	0.5	0.1	Mid grey, silty clay, common pebbles. Charcoal observed.	-	-
1607	Ditch	>0.7	0.21	Linear, flat base, steep straight sides, oriented E-W.	-	-
1608	Fill of 1607	>0.7	0.12	Mid grey, silty clay, infrequent pebbles.	-	-
1609	Fill of 1607	>0.2	0.09	Light grey with brownish orange mottles, silty sandy clay, infrequent pebbles.	-	-
1610	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-

Trench 17

General description					Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench 17 contained no archaeological finds or features. Soil sequence consists of topsoil and a subsoil overlying a natural geology comprising light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Avg. depth (m)		0.32
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
Context	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	Finds	Date	



no		(m)	(m)			
1700	Topsoil	-	0.09	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-
1701	Subsoil	-	0.23	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
1702	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-

Trench 18

General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench 18 contained a single ditch. An extant modern ditch was also observed on the same alignment, but not excavated. Natural geology was varied and comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles and a mid grey sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Avg. depth (m)		0.52
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
1800	Topsoil	-	0.3	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-	
1801	Natural	-	-	Varying - Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles and mid grey, sandy clay, occasional flint pebbles	-	-	
1802	Ditch	1	0.33	Linear, uneven base, steeply slopped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-	
1803	Fill of 1801	0.54	0.26	Dark bluish grey , silt clay, very infrequent stones.	Animal bone	-	
1804	Fill of 1801	1	0.07	Mid reddish brown, sandy clay, common gravel	-	-	
1805	Subsoil	-	0.22	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-	

Trench 19

General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench 19 contained no archaeological finds or features, but encountered a shallow east-west aligned erosion gully, perhaps associated with the adjacent watercourse. Natural geology otherwise comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Avg. depth (m)		0.35
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
1900	Topsoil	-	0.22	Mid brownish sandy clay.	-	-	



1901	Subsoil	-	0.13	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
1902	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-

Trench 20

General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench 20 contained two ditches, of which only one was excavated. A plough furrow was observed but not excavated. Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		29.65
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
2000	Topsoil	-	0.2	Mid brownish sandy clay.	-	-	
2001	Subsoil	-	0.3	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-	
2002	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-	
2003	Ditch	0.4	0.2	Linear, rounded base, shallow slopped sides, oriented E-W.	-	-	
2004	Fill of 2003	0.4	0.2	Mid greenish brown, clay, infrequent flint pebbles.	-	-	
2005	Linear	c1.15	-	Not excavated	-	-	
2006	Fill of 2006	c1.15	-	Light greenish brown, sandy clay, common flint pebbles. Not excavated.	-	-	
2007	Linear	c1	-	Not excavated	-	-	
2008	Fill of 2007	c1	-	Light greenish brown, sandy clay, common flint pebbles. Not excavated.	-	-	

Trench 21

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench 21 contained five linear features, of which only two were excavated. A tree throw/natural feature was also observed but not excavated. Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date



2100	Topsoil	-	0.25	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-
2101	Subsoil	-	0.35	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
2102	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-
2103	Linear feature	2.6	0.39	Linear, uneven base, shallow straight/undetermined sides, oriented E-W.	-	-
2104	Fill of 2103	0.9	0.16	Light bluish grey, silty clay, common gravel.	-	-
2105	Linear feature	c1.9	0.39	Linear, uneven base, moderate sloped/undetermined sides, oriented E-W.	-	-
2106	Fill of 2105	1.16	0.3	Mid greyish brown, silty clay, infrequent stones.	-	-
2107	Fill of 2103	1.94	0.26	Dark brownish grey, silty clay, infrequent stones.	-	-
2108	Fill of 2103	>1.07	0.17	Light brownish grey with mid orange mottles, sandy clay, common gravel.	-	-
2109	Fill of 2105	>1.54	0.3	Light brownish grey with mid orange mottles, sandy clay, abundant gravel.	-	-

Trench 22

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 22 contained no significant archaeology. A single, small pit interpreted as deriving from the removal of a stone and is most likely a natural feature. Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.					Avg. depth (m)	0.52
					Width (m)	30
					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2200	Topsoil	-	0.22	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-
2201	Subsoil	-	0.3	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
2202	Natural	-	-	Mid greyish brown, sandy clay, infrequent gravel	-	-
2203	Pit	0.4	0.27	Ovoid, 'V-shaped' base, steep sloped sides.	-	-
2204	Fill of	0.4	0.27	Dark greyish brown, silty	-	-



	2203			clay.		
--	------	--	--	-------	--	--

Trench 23

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench 23 contained two linear features interpreted as similar features to those observed in Trenches 20 and 21 and were therefore not excavated. A tree throw/natural feature was also observed but not excavated. Natural geology comprised a mid grey sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles	Avg. depth (m)	0.47
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2300	Topsoil	-	0.26	Mid brownish sandy clay	Pottery	c1150-1350
2301	Subsoil	-	0.21	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
2302	Natural	-	-	Mid grey, sandy clay, occasional flint pebbles	-	-
2303	Tree throw	c1.30	-	Irregular in plan. Not excavated.	-	-
2304	Fill of 2303	c1.30	-	Dark grey, sandy clay.	-	-
2305	Ditch	c2	-	Linear, oriented E-W. Not excavated.	-	-
2306	Fill of 2305	c2	-	Dark grey, sandy clay.	-	-
2307	Ditch	c0.6	-	Linear, oriented E-W. Not excavated.	-	-
2308	Fill of 2307	c0.6	-	Dark grey, sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 24

General description	Orientation	E-W
Trench 24 contained a ditch. A plough furrow was observed but not excavated. In addition there were both linear and discrete features of natural origin. Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	Avg. depth (m)	0.56
	Width (m)	2.0
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2400	Topsoil	-	0.24	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-
2401	Subsoil	-	0.32	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional	-	-



				small stones.		
2402	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-
2403	Gulley	1	0.15	Linear, rounded base, shallow slopped sides, oriented N-S.	-	-
2404	Fill of 2403	1	0.15	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt.	-	-
2405	Tree throw	0.92	0.1	Irregular, uneven base, shallow slopped sides.	-	-
2406	Fill of 2405	0.92	0.1	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt.	-	-
2407	Ditch	0.93	0.26	Linear, flat base, steep slopped sides, oriented NE-SW.	-	-
2408	Fill of 2407	0.93	0.26	Mid greyish brown, sandy clay, very infrequent limestone inclusions.	-	-

Trench 25

General description

Trench 25 contained no archaeological finds or features. Consists of topsoil and a subsoil overlying a natural geology of mid grey sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.

Orientation	N-S
Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Width (m)	2
Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2500	Topsoil	-	0.25	Mid brownish sandy clay	-	-
2501	Subsoil	-	0.20	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
2502	Natural	-	-	Mid grey, sandy clay, occasional flint pebbles.	-	-

Trench 26

General description

Trench 26 contained one ditch. A tree throw and three plough furrows were also observed but not excavated. Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.

Orientation	E-W
Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Width (m)	2
Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2600	Topsoil	-	0.22	Mid brownish sandy clay	Flint, pottery	c1780-1840



2601	Subsoil	-	0.28	Dark greyish brown, clayey silt, occasional small stones.	-	-
2602	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-
2604	Ditch	0.74	0.21	Linear, rounded base, moderately sloped sides, oriented E-W.	-	-
2605	Fill of 2604	0.74	0.21	Mid greyish brown, sandy clay.	Pottery, animal bone	C1150-1300?
2606	Tree throw	1.4	-	Irregular in plan. Not excavated.	-	-
2607	Fill of 2606	1.4	-	Dark grey, sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 28

General description

Trench 28 contained a cobbled floor surface, a wall foundation and five layers of made ground and hard-standing. An organic layer (2808) was observed and sampled at the maximum depth of excavation (1.2m). Overlying this was a sequence of medieval and post-medieval made ground deposits. Natural geology comprised a light brownish orange sandy clay with flint pebbles.

Orientation

E-W

Avg. depth (m)

c0.7

Width (m)

2

Length (m)

15

Contexts

Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
2800	Topsoil	-	0.17	Mid brownish sandy clay	Flint	-
2801	Layer	-	0.07	Hard-standing	-	-
2802	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy clay with occasional flint pebbles.	-	-
2803	Layer	-	0.17	Cobbled floor surface	-	-
2804	Layer	-	0.26	Makeup layer / hard-standing	-	-
2805	Layer	-	0.28	Makeup layer / hard-standing	-	-
2806	Layer	-	0.25	Makeup layer / hard-standing	Pottery	c1250-1450?
2807	Layer	-	0.17	Makeup layer / hard-standing	-	-
2808	Layer/ possible fill?	-	>0.21	Dark greyish brown, silty clay, infrequent stones. Charcoal and cess observed and sampled.	Pottery	c1250-1450?
2809	Wall	0.61	0.67	Linear, rounded base,	-	-



	footing cut			vertical sides, oriented N-S.		
2810	Fill of 2809	0.61	0.67	Mid brown matrix with rubble and cobble inclusions.	-	-

Trench 29

General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench 29 contained no archaeological finds or features. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural geology of light brownish orange sandy gravel.					Avg. depth (m)		0.33
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
2900	Topsoil	-	0.33	Mid brownish sandy clay	CBM, pottery	18 th -19 th Century – CBM c1780-1830 pottery	
2901	Natural	-	-	Light brownish orange sandy gravel.	-	-	

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 A total of 82 sherds of pottery weighing 876g was recovered from 26 contexts. This is mainly of medieval date with some post-medieval sherds also present. All of the pottery recovered was examined and spot-dated. 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). Medieval pottery fabrics codes used in the spreadsheet are those of the Oxfordshire County type series (Mellor 1994). Post-medieval codes used are those of the Museum of London (LAARC 2007) which can be applied to most post-medieval types in south-east England. The pottery types present are summarised below and detailed in the spreadsheet.

Date and nature of the assemblage

- B.1.2 The pottery assemblage is generally in a poor and fragmentary condition although individual sherds are quite fresh, particularly the few post-medieval sherds. A range of pottery from the early Saxon period to the early 20th century is present. The few Saxon sherds however are all residual in medieval contexts. The period best represented is the medieval period and particularly the 12th to 14th centuries and mainly perhaps the 12th to 13th centuries. The commonest medieval pottery type present is flint- and limestone-tempered East Wiltshire/Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ, c 1150-1350). This mainly comprises cooking pots and possibly jugs (including a couple of sherds with combed decoration). This type is very common in the Abingdon area and in Oxford.
- B.1.3 The earliest post-Roman type is a sherd of Anglo-Saxon organic-tempered ware, which occurs on its own in context (1108) but is probably residual. This type has a very broad dating in southern England of c 400-800 but was commonest in the 6th and 7th centuries.
- B.1.4 A few fabric types - all residual - span the Saxo-Norman (or late Saxon-early medieval) period. These include a sherd of Thetford-type ware (THET, c 850-1100) - a wheel-thrown greyware from East Anglia (ctx 1106) and a very small sherd of St Neot's-type ware (OXR, c 850-1100), a wheel-thrown shelly ware from the south-east Midlands (2808). Thetford-type ware is very rare in Oxfordshire but a few sherds are known from Oxford. St Neot's-type ware is fairly common at Oxford particularly during the period 950-1075. It is quite possible that these two sherds, at least, may be of late Saxon date. Similarly there are a couple of sherds of Cotswold-type ware (or Early Medieval Oxford ware, OXAC) including a cooking pot rim from (820). This has a broad dating in Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds area of c 875-1250 but in Oxford is more typical of the period c 1050-1250. A few sherds of Ashampstead-type ware (OXAG) and Medieval Oxford ware (OXY) could be as early as the late 11th century but are more likely to be 12th-century. OXAG also occurs as a few sherds from glazed decorated jugs and plain cooking pots of 13th-14th century date. A few jug sherds in Brill/Boarstall ware also appear to be of this date. Less common high medieval types include a jug rim in Kingston-type ware (KING, c 1250-1400). There is also a sherd of glazed wheel-thrown



Minety ware (OXBB, c 1250-1500) - a type that continued in production into the early 16th century - but the piece here need not be as late as this and could well be earlier.

- B.1.5 There is a small and unremarkable collection of post-medieval sherds - mainly common 'Victorian' tablewares - and a stoneware ginger beer bottle of c 1890-1940 which is the latest piece here. No further work on the assemblage is recommended.

Context	Spot-date	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
100	c1780-1900	1	171	Post-med red earthenware (PMR). Flat base from very late-style wide bowl/pancheon. Sooted ext. From geotech pit 1
700	c1150-1350	1	40	Fresh cspot body sherd (bo) East Wilts/Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ), mainly coarse angular flint. Sooted
706	c1225-1350	4	51	Squared jug rim dark green-glazed Brill (OXAM), fresh. 1x bo Ashampstead-type ware (OXAG) cspot, sooted. 2x OXAQ incl worn clubbed cspot rim
714	c1150-1350	3	9	Worn bos OXAQ
717	c1150-1350	6	13	Scrappy bos. 4x OXAQ. 2x grey sandy Med Oxford ware (OXY)? Or ?OXAG cspot bos
805	c1700-1900?	1	8	Bo PMR - prob later?
819	c1150-1350	2	10	Bos OXAQ. 1 with combed chevron decoration
820	c1150-1250?	2	28	1x fresh OXAQ cspot neck & trace of rim. 1x slightly worn plain everted cspot rim in Cotswold-type ware (OXAC, c 1050-1250)
903	c1150-1350	3	20	2x OXAQ incl thickened flat-topped (TFT) cspot rim. 1x small prob OXAG cspot bo
910	c1890-1940	4	58	1 vess. Cylindrical ginger beer-type bottle in cream stoneware with Bristol glaze (ENGs BRST) & brown-dipped shoulder. Trace of black underglaze transfer-printed trade mark
1000	c1075-1250?	3	24	1x cspot shoulder bo fine sandy prob OXY. 1x bo orange sandy OXAG cspot. 1x small bo flint-tempered Kennet Valley A (OXBF)
1004	c1150-1350	1	6	Bo from neck/damaged rim OXAQ cspot - surfaces leached white by soil conditions?
1100	c1150-1300?	4	61	1x OXAG hammerhead rim cspot (like OXY rims). 3x fresh & worn OXAQ incl larger fresh cspot/jar sherd with applied thumbled strip
1101	c1150-1350	4	25	3x fresh joining bos (1 vess, fresh breaks) OXAQ with v coarse flint & leached off-white surfaces. 1x v worn bo ?OXAG cspot with ironstone & sparse fine shell inclusions
1104	c1250-1400	6	23	1x fresh unglazed flat-topped jug rim in Kingston ware (KING). 2x OXAG incl worn bo from strip jug with red strips under clear glaze (or poss OXAM?). 3x worn bos OXAQ
1106	c1150-1350	2	19	1x small bo OXAQ. 1x bo (15g) from shoulder/neck of jar/pitcher in thick-walled wheel-turned fine grey sandy ware - v probably Thetford-type ware (THET, c850-1100). Trace of ?vertical applied strip ext & int fingerprint in same position - otherwise poss N French import?

Context	Spot-date	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
1108	c400-800	2	19	Joining sherds (fresh breaks) very ext worn bo of Anglo-Saxon organic-tempered ware. Unusually hard-fired fine dark grey fabric with v clear coarse organic inclusions/impressions. Browner weathered ext surface containing abundant fine black glauconite (shown to Paul Booth - says similar v hard Saxon pot at Dorchester)
1202	c1150-1350	1	19	Bo thick-walled OXAQ vess. V coarse flint inclusions
1211	c1675-1750	1	23	Fresh pad base from Westerwald stoneware (WEST) jug with traces of applied dec on body & blue & purple glaze
1401	c1830-1880	13	71	5x transfer-printed ware (TPW) incl plate rims & lavender-coloured. 3x Pearlware (PEAR) = 1 feather-edge plate. 1x Creamware (CREA) prob mug sherd with marbled coloured slip dec c1790-1840. 3x bone china (BONE)
1600	c1150-1350	1	13	Bo OXAQ cspot, sooted
2300	c1150-1350	1	13	Worn bo OXAQ jar or jug with traces of incised wavy line decoration
2600	c1780-1840	3	78	Fresh sherd from footring base of Pearlware (PEAR) jug with blue painted dec & trace of handle. Worn pad base black-glazed red earthenware (PMBL) drinking vessel 17/18C. 1x worn rim from flaring-walled OXAG bowl with TFT rim with thumbled decoration on top
2605	c1150-1300?	1	4	Worn bo pale brown OXAG prob from a jug body with a line of painted red decoration under traces of decayed glaze
2806	c1250-1450?	1	22	Fresh bo wheel-thrown Minety ware (OXBB) globular jar or jug with frosty decayed greenish glaze allover ext
2808	c1250-1450?	8	32	Sieved Sample <1>. 2x scrappy bos OXAQ. 5x OXAG incl sagging cspot base & scrappy bos. 1x v small (1g) worn bo dark grey St Neots-type ware (OXR, c900-1100) with Jurassic limestone inclusions
2900	c1780-1830	3	16	Footring base Creamware ?jug with blue & grey slip banded dec. Bo plain Creamware dish (CREA DEV). Bo prob from large tankard in Staffs white stoneware (SWSG, c 1720-1780)
Total		82	876	

Table 1: Catalogue of Pottery

B.2 Ceramic building material (CBM)

by John Cotter

- B.2.1 A total of 16 pieces of CBM weighing 1366g were recovered. These came from six contexts. This was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage in a similar way to the pottery (see above) and the data recorded on an Excel spreadsheet. As usual, the dating of broken fragments of ceramic building material is an imprecise art and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad and should therefore be regarded with caution. The assemblage, which is mostly very fragmentary and worn, is described in more detail in the spreadsheet and summarised only briefly here as there

is little of much note. A small piece of peg tile from (710) is the only probable medieval item in the assemblage but cannot be dated any closer than the 13th-16th century. The remaining CBM is all very late and includes small pieces of 18th-19th century roof tile and a few larger pieces of domestic brick dating to the 19th century. Three pieces of curved machine-made land drain from (907) date to the late 19th or 20th century. No further work is recommended.

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
710	13-16C	1	20	Pegtile frag with trace of circular nail hole. Coarse sandy hard fabric - probably medieval
907	L19-20C	1	874	Brick end. Worn. Prob 19C. 58mm thick. Unfroged. Reddish fabric. Spot-date based on land drain below
907	L19-20C	3	191	Fresh frags machine-made curved land drain (min 2 drains). Hard red fabric
1202	17-19C?	1	29	Fresh frag flat roof/peg tile. Hard smooth red fabric
1204	L18-19C?	2	82	Fresh frag red brick with sharp arrises/edges. Fresh edge frag smooth red roof/peg tile
1210	18-19C?	6	120	2x worn frags smooth red brick - prob quite late? 4x scraps post-med red roof/peg tile
2900	18-19C?	2	50	Corner frag/flake late-looking smooth red brick. Scrap pmed red roof/peg tile
Total		16	1366	

Table 2: Catalogue of CBM

B.3 Fired clay

by John Cotter

- B.3.1 A total of 18 pieces of fired clay weighing 145g were recovered from context (819) which also produced pottery of c 1150-1350. All the pieces (some joining) come from the same structure or object which is interpreted as the part of the base of an oven or hearth (Cynthia Poole, pers. Comm.). The pieces are flattish with the largest piece measuring 65mm across and with a maximum thickness of 22mm. The item is in a soft greyish-brown clay containing chalk inclusions. The upper surface, which is fresh and roughly wiped, is scorched dark grey. The underside is rough and has chalk adhering - probably representing the natural ground surface. There is a possible withy impression on the underside of the largest piece. Like the pottery the date is probably medieval. No further work is recommended.

B.4 Flint

by Geraldine Crann

- B.4.1 All the worked flint recovered during the evaluation is either residual in later contexts or from the topsoil or subsoil stripped from various trenches. A single blade from the subsoil of Trench 7 and a snapped flake with retouched notch from ditch fill 1210 have technological features that indicate an early prehistoric date. The rest of the flint assemblage retains no technologically diagnostic features that would enable it to be assigned to a specific period. The unworked flint recovered from the environmental sample may be discarded.
- B.4.2 The size and nature of the assemblage limits interpretation of the material, beyond attesting to a human presence in the area during the prehistoric period. The worked

flints from the evaluation should be integrated into any further analysis arising from future archaeological work on the site.

Context	Description	Date
719	Small snapped irregular flake with small winged butt, platform preparation, hard hammer struck, fresh condition, 3g	-
719	Small plunging blade, platform preparation, four sub-parallel dorsal scars, hard-hammer struck, 6g	Mesolithic or early Neolithic
802	Small abraded flake, snapped in antiquity with dorsal end missing, more recent edge damage, 2g	-
1000	Small flake, hinge termination, 2g	-
1100	Thick heavily abraded flake with retouch to distal end – possibly originally an end scraper, with much recent damage, 11g	-
1210	Proximal end of small snapped flake with deliberate retouched notch on right lateral margin, edge damage on opposing left lateral margin is possible hafting damage. Possibly the snapped proximal end of obliquely blunted point or similar, 3g	?Mesolithic
1300	Sub-square end scraper on distal end of snapped flake, semi-abrupt retouch, abraded, 11g	-
1600	Small flake, platform preparation, distal left margin snapped off, 3g	-
2600	Thick, irregular flake, edge damaged, 6g	-
2808	<1> 3 unworked flints from environmental sample, 4g	-

Table 3: Catalogue of flint

B.5 Animal bone

by Lena Strid

- B.5.1 A total of 236 animal bone fragments were recovered from features preliminarily dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods (Table 4). The majority of the assemblage was hand-collected, only deposit 2808 was sieved for extraction of bones and charred plant remains. This deposit yielded 44 fragments (18.6%), which included the only bird and mouse/vole/shrew remains in the medieval assemblage.
- B.5.2 The bone condition was generally good to fair, the post-medieval assemblage being better preserved than the medieval assemblage. A small number of bones had traces of gnawing by carnivores, probably dogs. Only two bones were burnt (Table 5).
- B.5.3 The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, dog, cat and domestic fowl. These domestic taxa are commonly found in medieval and post-medieval assemblages, although due to the small sample size it is not possible to extrapolate on the frequency of cattle, sheep/goat and pig and their contribution to the economy and diet.
- B.5.4 A small number of bones could be attributed to minimum age at death (Table 6-7). Most were from sub-adult or adult animals. Two juvenile large mammal long bones, one from the medieval and one from the unphased assemblage, suggest that veal may have been consumed.

- B.5.5 Butchery marks were noted on two bones: one medieval sheep/goat humerus with cut marks on the lower part of the shaft, probably deriving from disarticulation or from filleting, and one unphased large mammal rib with a cut mark from filleting.
- B.5.6 A post-medieval ditch (905) contained parts of an articulated sheep skeleton. The remains comprised thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, ribs and pelvis. Two segments of a medium mammal sacrum found in the same context may also have belonged to this animal. The end plates of the vertebrae were fusing or unfused, suggesting an age-at-death of 4-5 years (Habermehl 1975, 121). Butchery marks were absent, suggesting that the burial may represent an animal that had been diseased or died of natural causes and whose flesh was not considered suitable for consumption.
- B.5.7 No further information can be gained from such small sample of bones. However, if further excavations take place on the site, the bones should be included in the full excavation report.

Species	Medieval	Post-medieval	Undated
Cattle	7	2	5
Sheep/goat	6	92*	1
Pig	6	1	-
Horse	2	1	-
Dog	-	-	1
Cat	-	1	1
Domestic fowl	1	-	-
Indet. bird	4	-	-
Mouse/vole/shrew	3	-	-
Medium mammal	11	3	3
Large mammal	12	9	5
Indeterminate	43	7	9
Total	95	116	25
Weight (g)	771	1183	459

Table 4: Bone Assemblage *: including 89 fragments from an articulated sheep/goat skeleton

	N	0	1	2	3	4	5	Burnt	Gnawed
Medieval	95	4.2%	23.2%	65.3%	6.3%	1.1%		2	7
Post-medieval	116		81.9%	16.4%	1.7%				3
Undated	25	8.0%	16.0%	56.0%	8.0%				3

Table 5: Bone preservation

Species	Phase	dp4	M1	M2	M3	MWS	Estimated age
Sheep/goat	Post-medieval	h	e	C		19	6-12months

Table 6: Tooth wear and estimated age of sheep/goat, following Grant (1982) and Payne (1973)

Medieval		Unfused	Fusing	Fused
Sheep/goat	Early fusion			1
	Mid fusion			
	Late fusion			
Pig	Early fusion			2
	Mid fusion			
	Late fusion			
Post-medieval		Unfused	Fusing	Fused
Cattle	Early fusion			1
	Mid fusion			
	Late fusion			
Sheep/goat	Early fusion			2
	Mid fusion			
	Late fusion			
Horse	Early fusion			1
	Mid fusion			
	Late fusion			
Unphased		Unfused	Fusing	Fused
Cattle	Early fusion			2
	Mid fusion			
	Late fusion			

Table 7: Epiphyseal fusion of cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse in all phases from the Drayton assemblage, following Habermehl (1975), Fusion stages follows Serjeantson (1996)

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

- C.1.1 A single bulk sample, of 40L volume, was taken from a possible medieval midden deposit underlying the Whitehorn's Farm complex (context 2808) to evaluate the survival and diversity of environmental remains (seeds, snails etc) and the recovery of any small bones and artefacts. The sample was composed of a dark yellowish brown silty clay (10YR 4/4) with fine sand and charcoal inclusions as well as lenses of yellowish brown silt. The deposit also includes iron-rich concretions, some of which appear vesicular and typical of deposits containing degraded human or animal faeces. Occasional rounded and sub-angular stones, including sandstone, flint, chert and limestone. A belemnite fragment was also present.

Methodology

- C.1.2 The sample was processed in its entirety by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine, with the flot collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm. Both flot and residue were dried in a heated room, after which the residue was sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flot was scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification. Seed identifications were checked by Sheila Boardman.

Results

- C.1.3 The sample proved extremely difficult to disaggregate, with the resulting residue composed in part of iron-rich concretions and faecal-like concretions. Finds from the residues are limited to small quantity of pottery, a moderate amount of generally poorly preserved animal bone, a small fragment of a fish basioccipital (possibly from brown trout, *Salmo trutta*), an unidentified fish cranial fragment and a ray (Rajidae) tooth, the last possibly a fossil given the distance of the site from the sea. A fragment of bird bone (tarsometatarsus) and a small mammal femur were also extracted. Despite the faecal nature of the deposit, and the iron concretions, no mineralised seeds were observed and a routine scan of the residues with a magnet did not produce any material indicative of metalworking (ie hammerscale).
- C.1.4 The flot (40mls) includes a large quantity of uncharred elder (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds together with uncharred *Ranunculus* subgen, *Batrachium* and raspberry/blackberry (*Rubus* sp.). Charred seeds are also common including a range of cereals including wheat (*Triticum* sp., much of it free-threshing *T. aestivum*-type), together with a smaller quantity of oats (*Avena* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) including a single hulled grain. Several grains of wild grasses (Poaceae including *Bromus* sp.) as well as legumes including a possible bean (cf *Vicia faba*), a pea or bean (*Pisum/Vicia* sp.) and a possible example of lentil (cf. *Lens culinaris*). Charred weed seeds included dock (*Rumex* sp.), sedge (Cyperaceae including *Eleocharis* sp.), reed (*Juncus* sp.), stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), parsley family (Apiaceae) and daisy family (Asteraceae).
- C.1.5 It is possible that the uncharred seeds are modern contaminants although these relatively robust seeds could have survived in partially waterlogged conditions.

Discussion and Conclusions

- C.1.6 The range and of charred plant remains is fairly similar to that found from late Saxon/medieval deposits at Manor Farm, Drayton (Challinor *et al.* 2003) and the



presence of free-threshing wheat is typical of medieval and later sites. The greenish colour and vesicular nature of the deposit is suggestive of a faecal component, possibly animal dung, while the mixed assemblage of charred seeds and bone suggests the deposition of some domestic waste. The charring of seeds from sedge and rush may, tentatively, indicate the burning and incorporation of flooring material. Stinking chamomile is usually considered to be an agricultural weed of crops grown on heavy, clay-rich soils and the seeds are likely to have been accidentally harvested.

- C.1.7 With only a single sample, further investigation of environment and economy at the site is not possible, but any future excavation should incorporate standard sampling following best practice (eg English Heritage 2011).



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Bartlett-Clark Consultancy July 2014 Geophysical Report

NPPF 2012 Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2012, National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

RSK January 2014, Drayton, Oxfordshire, Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment, Report 660405

Challinor, D, Petts, D, Poore, D and Score, D 2003 Excavations at Manor Farm, Drayton, Oxfordshire, *Oxoniensia* 68 (2003), 280-311

English Heritage, 2011 *Environmental Archaeology, A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2nd edition), Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

Grant, A, 1982 The use of toothwear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates, in Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites (eds B Wilson, C Grigson and S Payne), BAR Brit. Ser. 109, 91-108, Oxford

Habermehl, K-H, 1975 Die Altersbestimmung bei Haus- und Labortieren, Berlin, Hamburg

Hamerow, H, 2010 An early Anglo-Saxon *villa regia* in the upper Thames Valley: New discoveries, in *The Oxford Historian*, Issue 8, 2010

LAARC, 2007 Post 1992 Museum of London code expansions: Post-Roman pottery.
http://www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F0118AAF-EF24-4228-A07A-39F89E6F092E/0/post92mol_post_roman.pdf

Mellor, M, 1994 'Oxfordshire Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region' *Oxoniensia* 59, 17-217

Needham, S, and Spence, T, 1996 Refuse and disposal at Area 16 east Runnymede. Runnymede Bridge research excavations, Volume 2, London

OA 2014 Land South of High Street, Drayton, Oxfordshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation, Oxford Archaeology, October 2014

Payne, S, 1973 Kill-off patterns in sheep and goat: the mandibles from Aşwan Kale, Anatolian studies 23, 281-303

Serjeantson, D, 1996 The animal bones, in Needham and Spence 1996, 194-253



APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land South of High Street, Drayton, Oxfordshire

Site code: DHRS 14

Grid reference: SU 4770 9400

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 13-24 October 2014

Area of site: 20Ha

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Bloor Homes to undertake evaluation trenching on the site of a proposed residential development at land south of High Street, Drayton, Oxfordshire. Twenty-two trenches were excavated, 16 of which contained archaeological features. No features or finds of prehistoric or Roman date were recorded. All of the identified features date from the medieval and post-medieval periods, although a few sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered as residual finds from medieval contexts.

Signs of medieval domestic occupation include a pit in Trench 8, the fill of which contained several fragments of oven furniture from a single structure. The associated pottery dates from c1150-1250. Occupation evidence of slightly later date includes a midden deposit from Trench 28, within the historic curtilage of No. 24 High Street, (known as Whitehorn's Farm in the 19th century). The pottery from the midden dates from c1250-1400, and was found underlying a sequence of 18th–19th century yard surfaces and building foundations associated with a demolished ancillary building. Possible medieval postholes and boundary ditches were also found in Trench 8. The features investigated in the fields to the south all appear to be agricultural boundaries, trackways and other features of low archaeological significance.

The proposed development is covered by two planning consents:

1) Land to the South of High Street, Drayton. The trenches in this area contained no significant archaeology that would warrant mitigation. Archaeological features of probable medieval / post-medieval date are commonplace but comprise cultivation features, field boundaries and trackways of low significance. The small paddocks along the western side of the site were not accessible for either geophysical survey or trenching, which leaves a significant gap in the spatial coverage of the evaluation. It is proposed that a watching brief be undertaken during construction groundworks in these areas.

2) Barns and Land to the Rear of 24 High Street, Drayton, (P10/V2089/LB). The scope of development within this plot is constrained by its location within Drayton conservation area. Planning consent has previously been granted for barn conversions and a new build dwelling. Bloor Homes now wish to amend the approved plans as the combined development of the two plots will require construction of an improved access from High Street. The surviving medieval features within the former Whitehorn's Farm complex are not sufficiently important to act as a constraint on this development, but would justify investigation and recording before they are lost. It is therefore proposed that selected sections of the proposed access road be subject to archaeological excavation prior to construction.

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



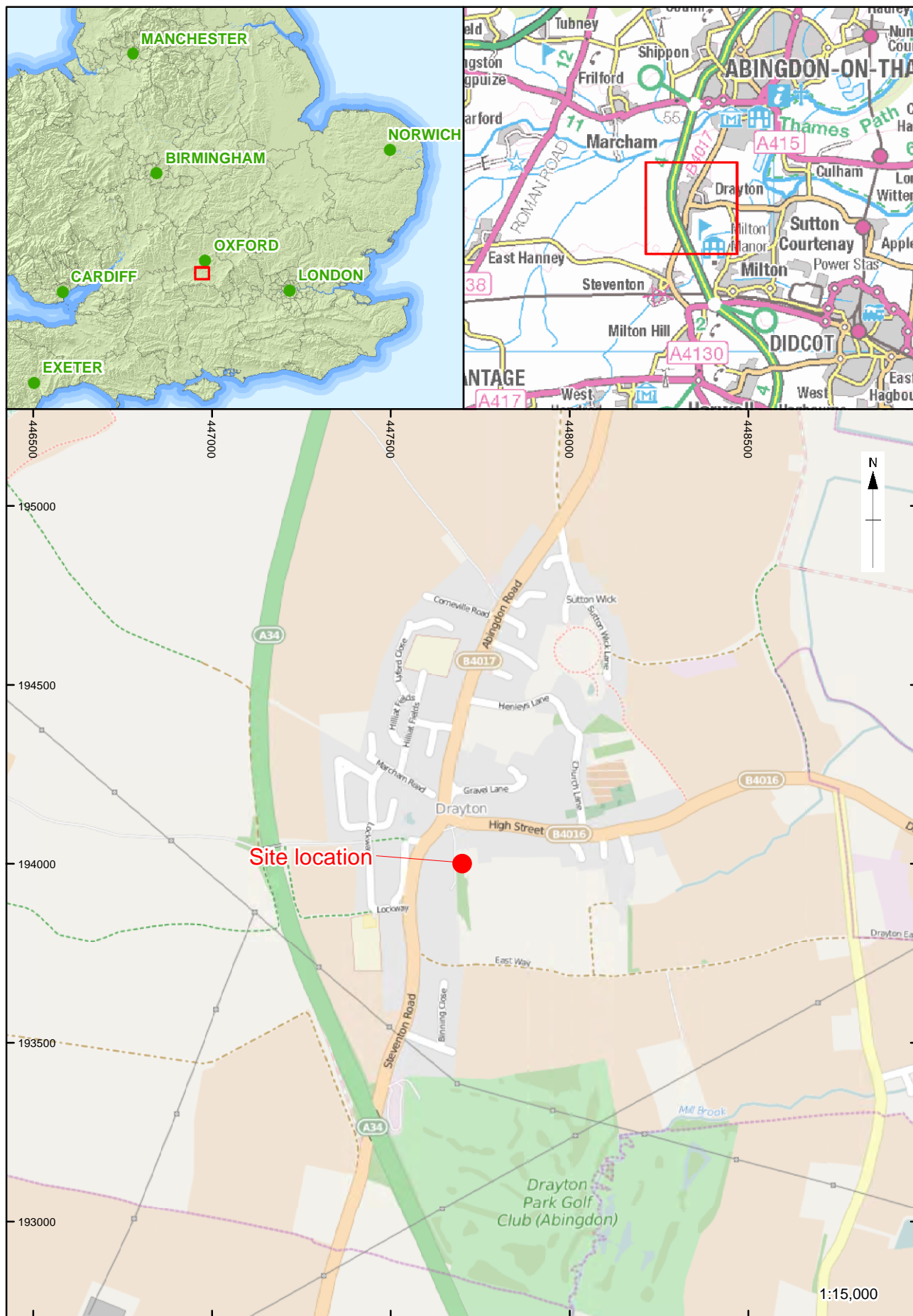


Figure 1: Site location

X:\d\Drayton_Land_off_High_St_Oxon\010\Geomatics\02 CAD\DHRS\14_2014-11-08.dwg (Figure 2 A4 Portrait)*code*code*SUBJECT*Vix.Hughes* 04 Dec 2014



CHECKED BY:

0 100 m
Scale at A4 1:2000

Figure 2: Trench locations

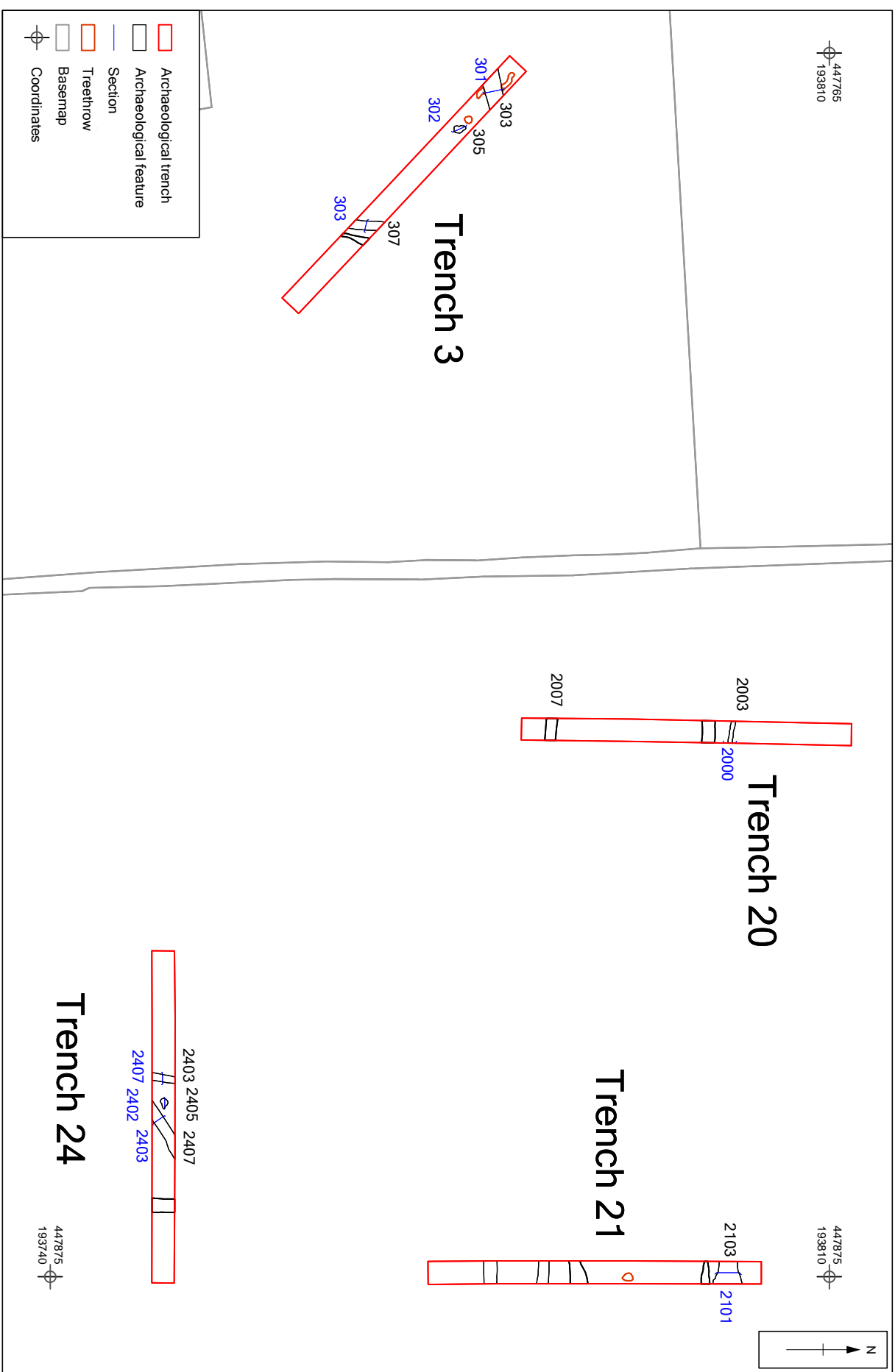
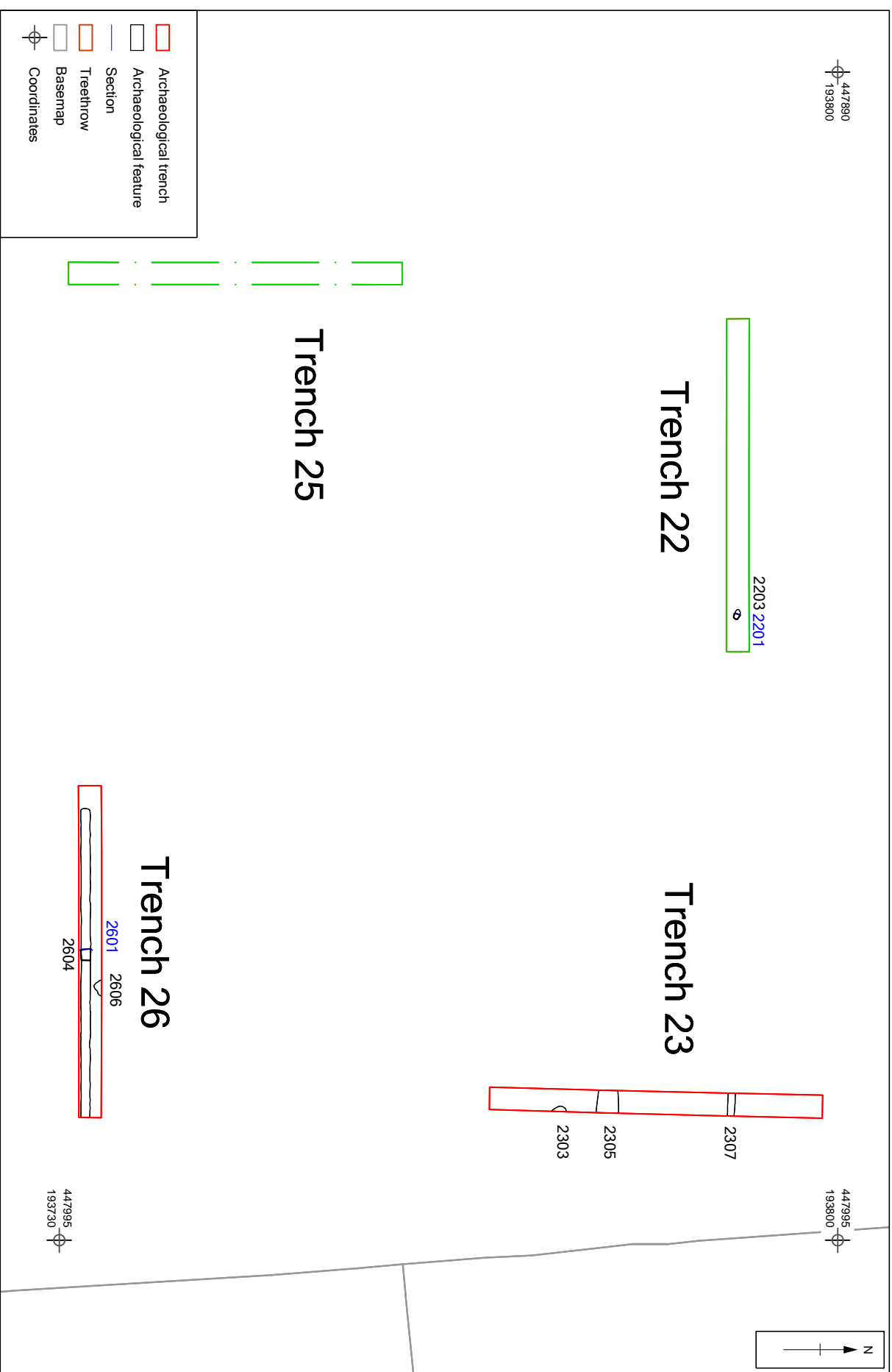
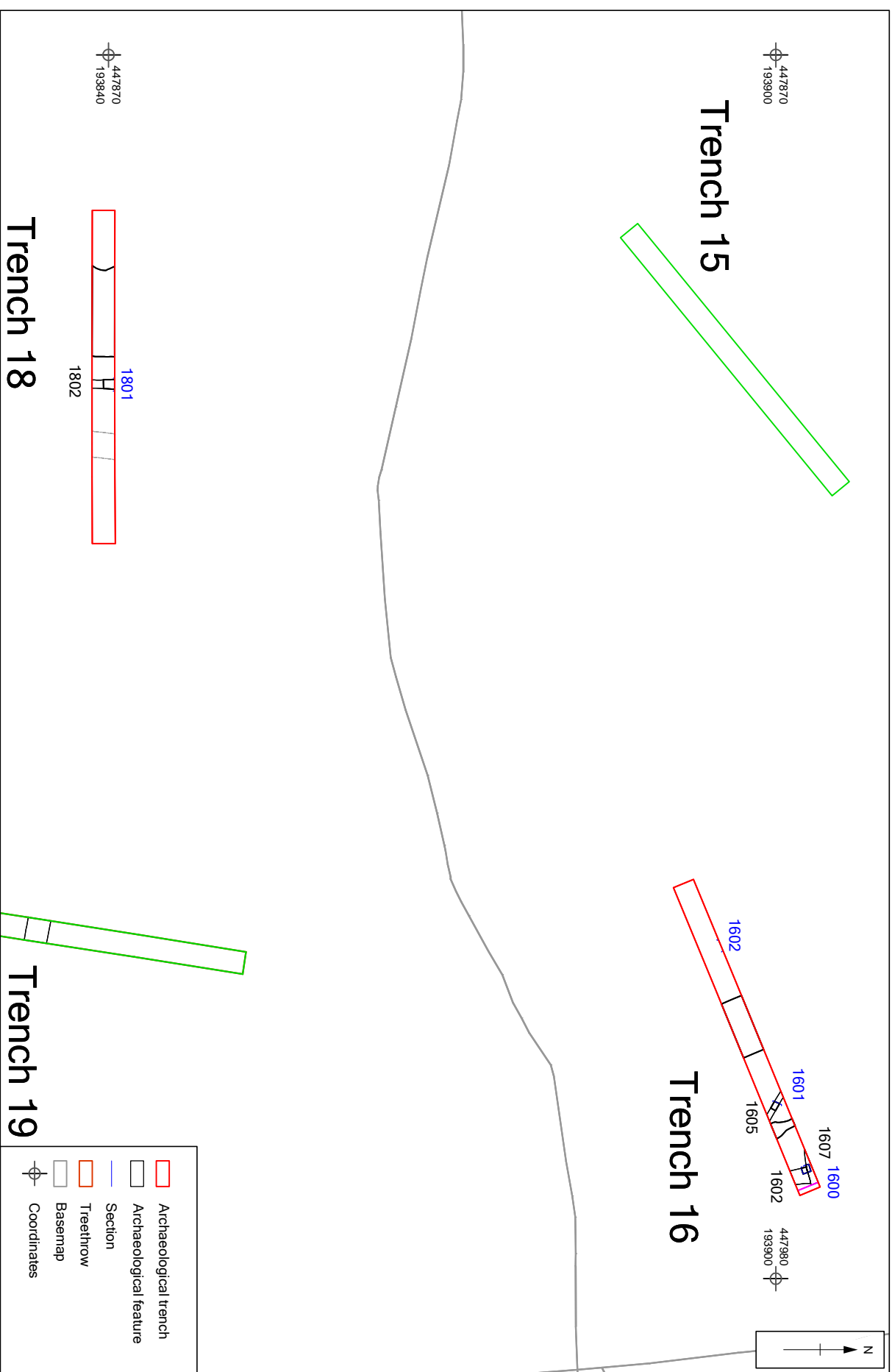


Figure 3: Trenches 3, 20, 21 and 24



CHECKED BY:

Figure 4: Trenches 22, 23, 25 and 26

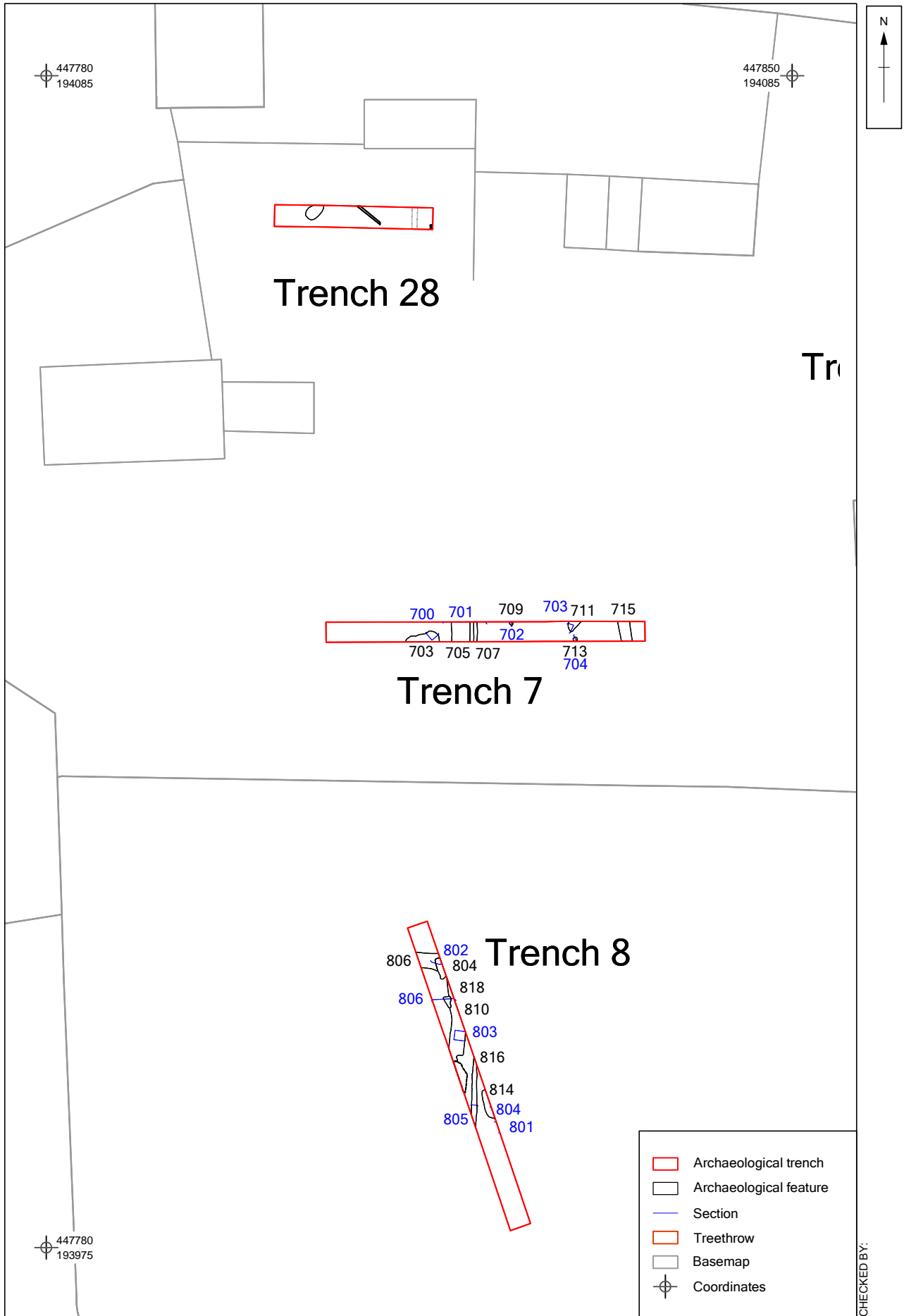


CHECKED BY:

Figure 5: Trenches 15, 16, 18 and 19

0 20 m
Scale at A4 1:500

X:\d\Drayton_Land_off_High_St_Oxon\010\Geomatics\02 CAD\DHRS14_2014-11-08.dwg (Figure 6 A4 portrait) *code*code*SUBJECT*gary.jones* 03 Dec 2014



0 20 m Figure 6: Trenches 7, 8 and 28
Scale at A4 1:500

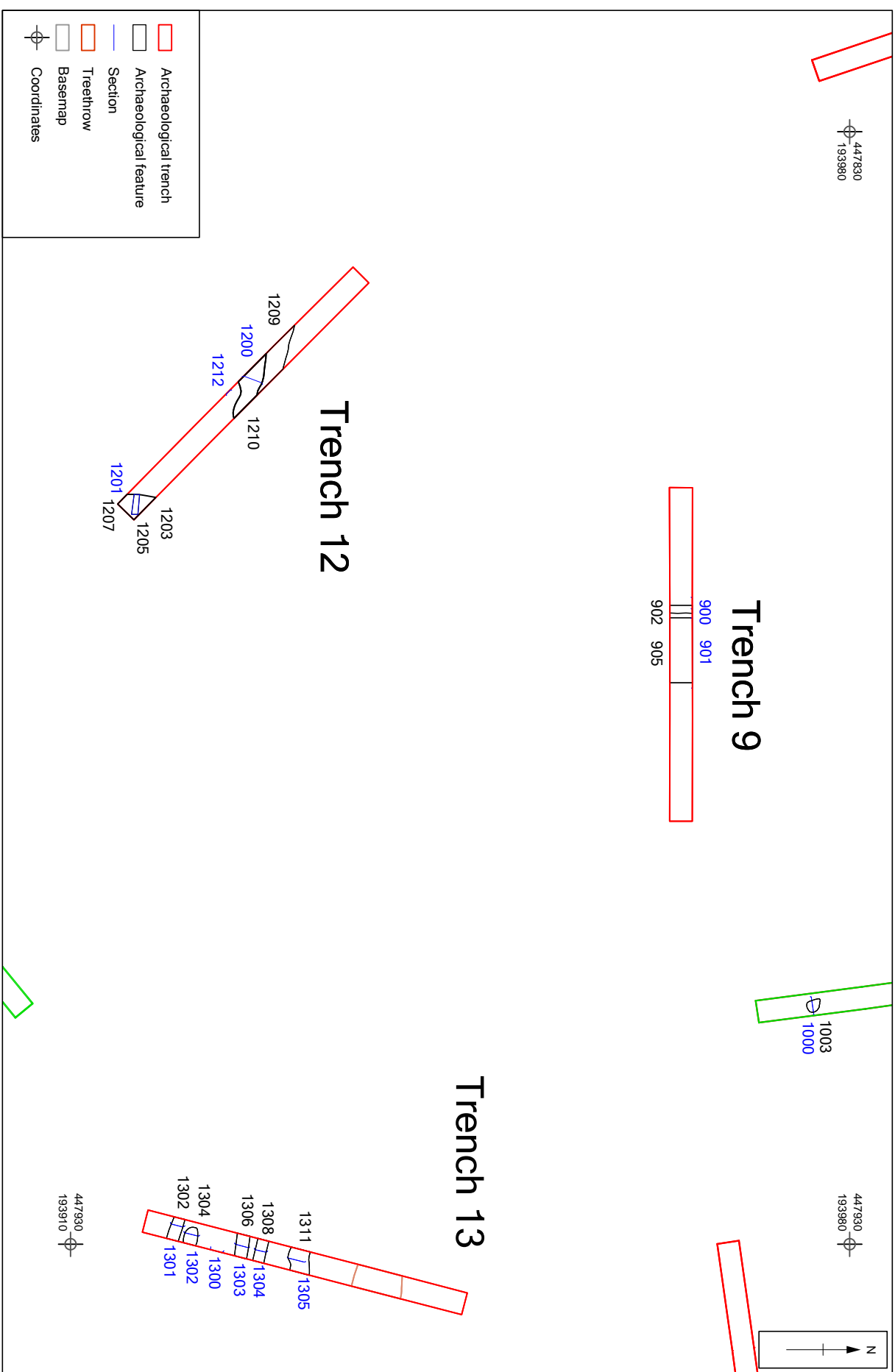


Figure 7: Trenches 9, 12 and 13

CHECKED BY:

X:\d\Drayton_Land_off_High_St_Oxon\010\Geomatics\02 CAD\DHRS14_2014-11-08.dwg(Figure 8 A4 portrait)*code*code*SUBJECT*gary.jones* 03 Dec 2014

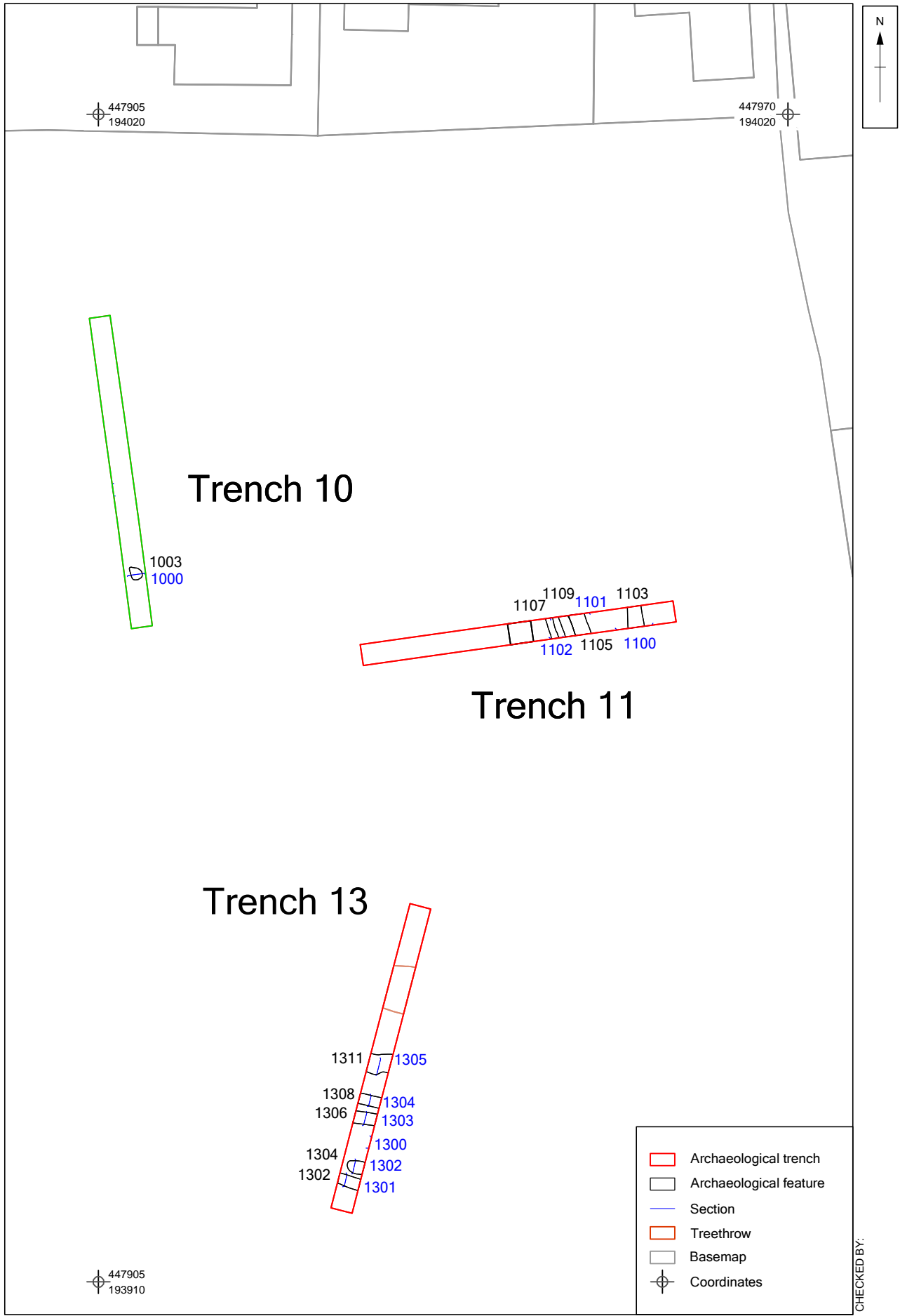


Figure 8: Trenches 10, 11 and 13

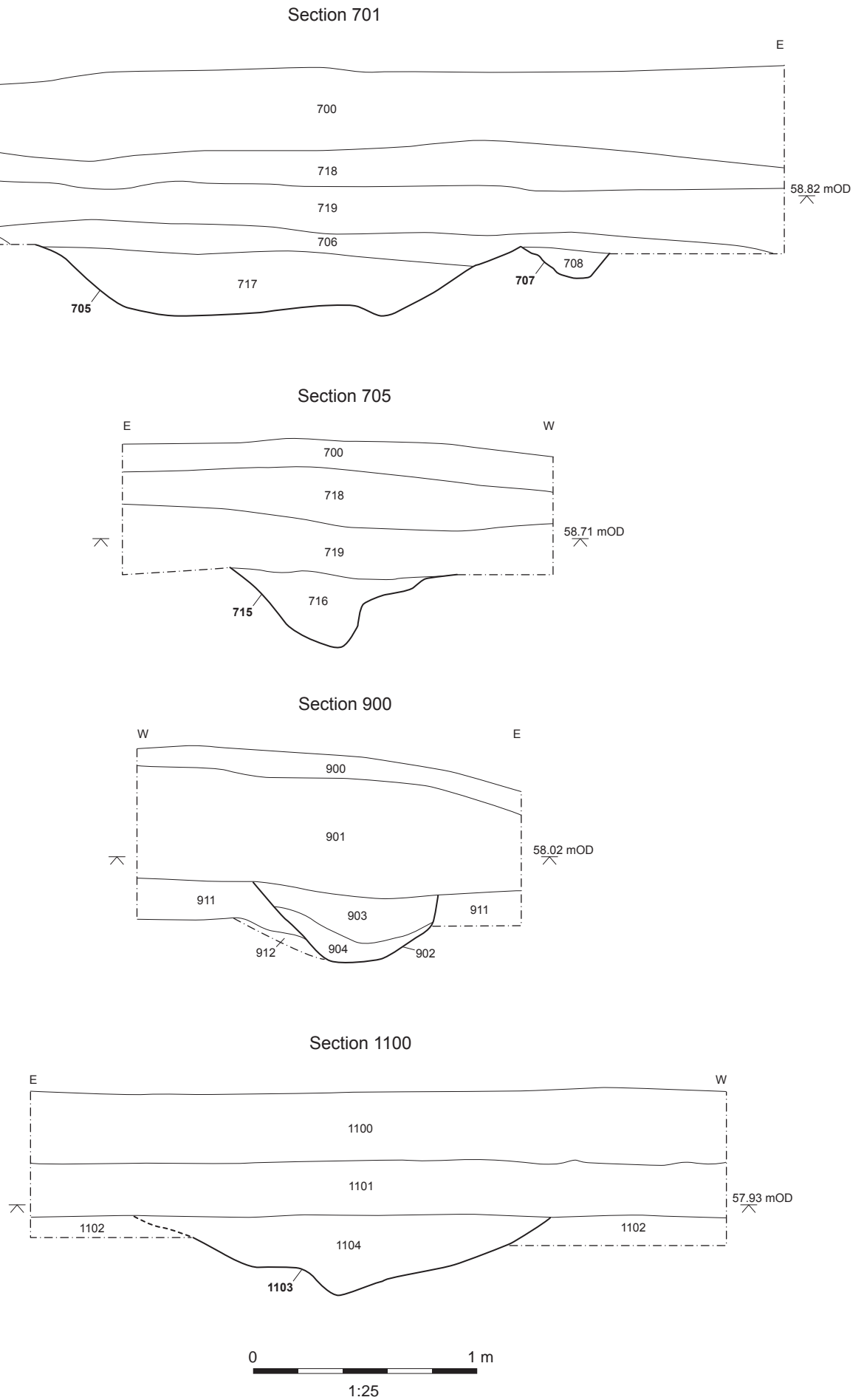


Figure 9: Sections 701, 705, 900 and 1100

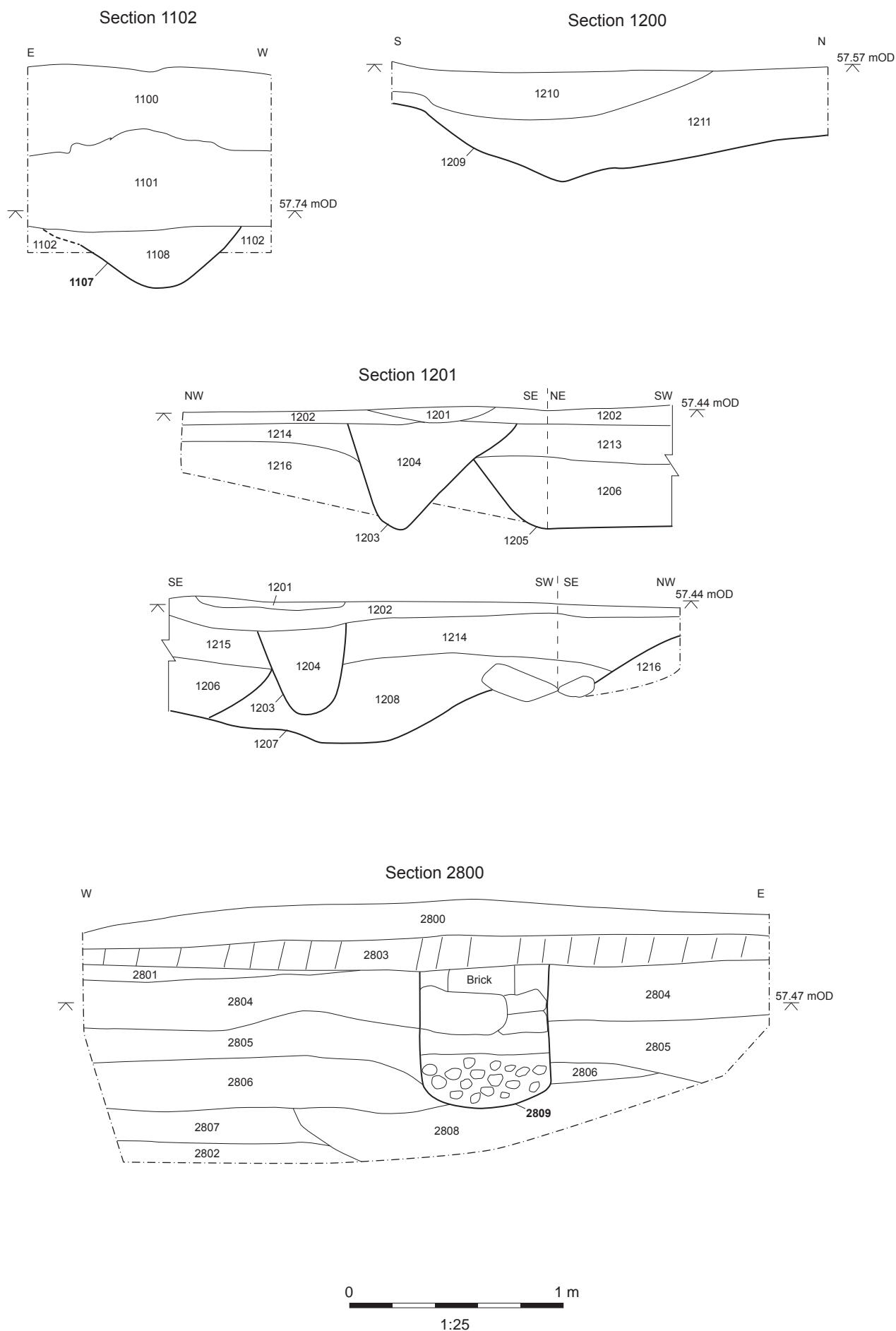


Figure 10: Sections 1102, 1200, 1201 and 2800

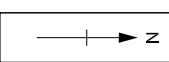
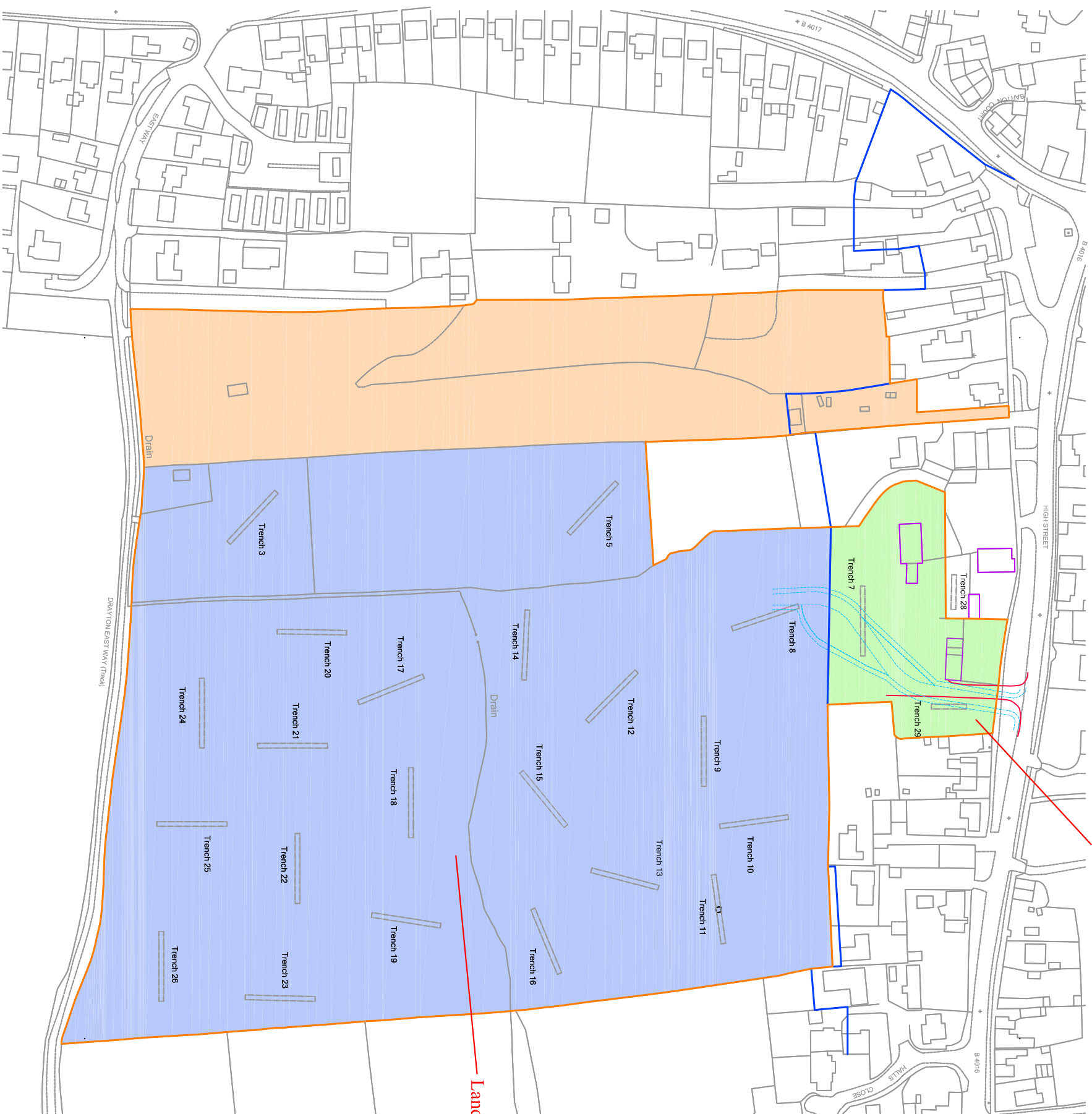
X:\tdraylon_Land_of_High_St_Oxon_1010Geomatics\02 CAD\DHRS14_2014-11-08.dwg(Figure 11 A4 Portrait)\code\code\SUBJECT\matt.bradley 19 Dec 2014



0 100 m
Scale at A4 1:2000

Figure 11: Trench locations overlaid on geophysical survey plot

CHECKED BY:



Bishop Farm, Drayton

Land south of High Street, Drayton

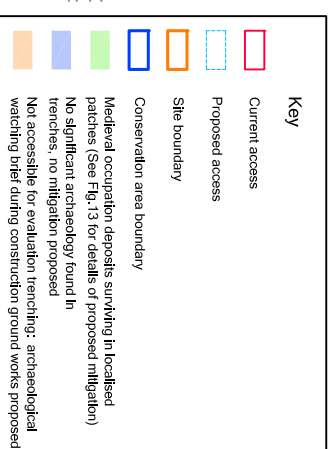


Figure 12 Proposed archaeological mitigation - Land South of High Street, Drayton

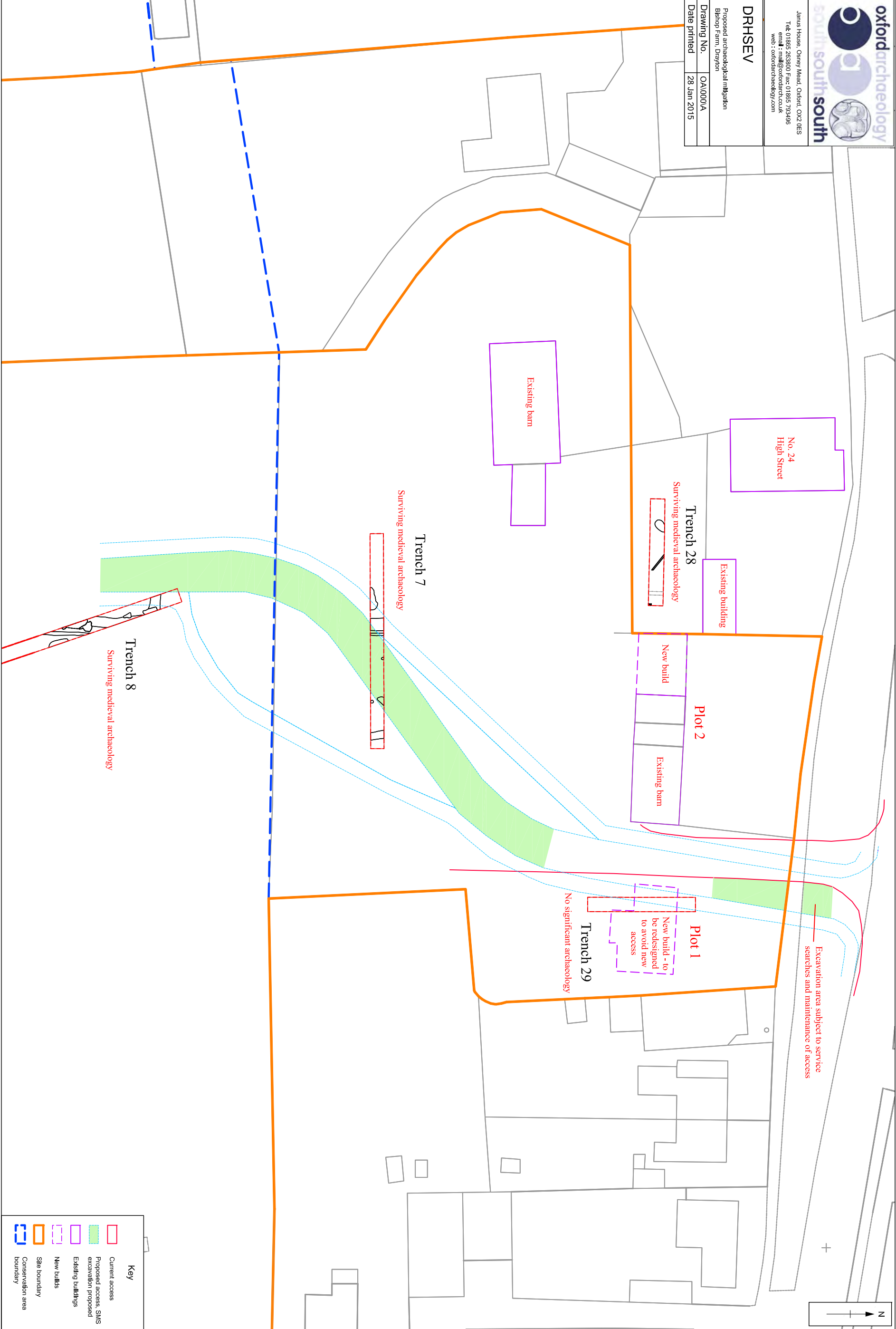


Figure 13 Proposed archaeological mitigation
Bishop Farm, Drayton



Plate 1: Ditch 305, section 302, view to the east



Plate 2: Trench 7, view to the west



Plate 3: Ditch 713, section 704, view to the south-west



Plate 4: Ditch 902, section 900, view to the north



Plate 5: Ditches 905 and 907, section 901, view to the north



Plate 6: Animal burial in fill 907, view to the east



Plate 7: Ditches 1203, 1205 and 1207, section 1201, view to the south



Plate 8: Trench 13, view to the south-west



Plate 9: Ditch 1304, section 1302, view to the east



Plate 10: Trench 19, view to the north

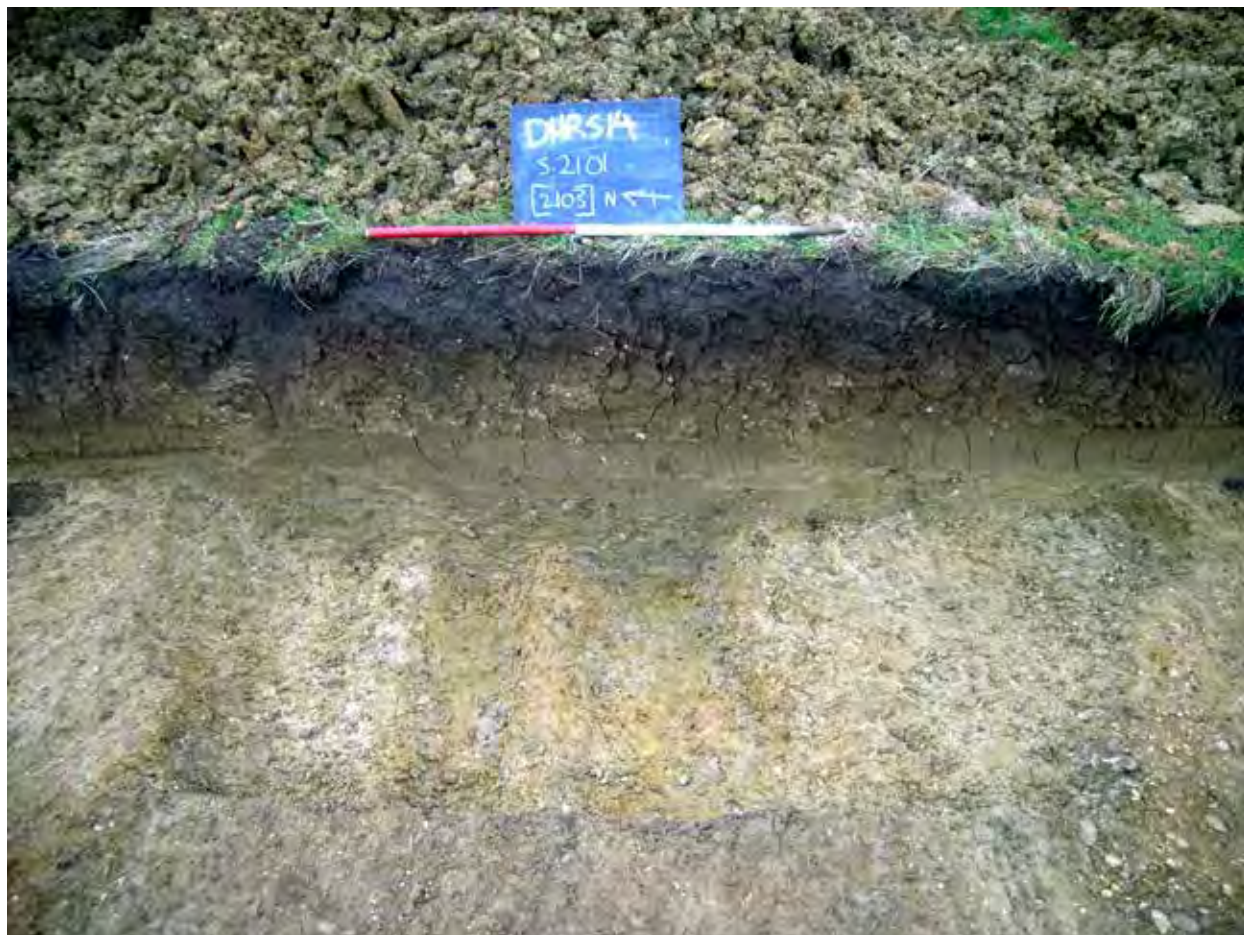


Plate 11: Ditch 2103, section 2101, view to the east



Plate 12: Trench 26, view to the east



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MIFA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*