

HEALEY AND BAKER

Land at Cherwell Street/George Street, Banbury

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

SP 4585 4050

planning ref: Cherwell 98/00533/OUT

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

December 1998

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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## Land at Cherwell Street/George Street, Banbury

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

#### *SUMMARY*

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at a site to the rear of the Cherwell Centre on land adjacent to George Street and Cherwell Street on behalf of Healey and Baker. The evaluation consisted of six machine dug trenches each approximately 15 m long and 1.60 m wide. Two of the trenches were located in the car park whilst the remaining four trenches were positioned in the grassed area to the east. The only potentially significant archaeological deposits lie in the area of Trench 2, where two possible features were overlain by dump layers of probable medieval date. The remains of large brick and concrete structures were observed in the grassed area (Trenches 3-6) and these appear to represent the below ground remains of the former brewery buildings and terraced houses. The remaining unaffected deposits in this area appear to be alluvial in origin, but are undated.*

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Reason for work (Figs 1 and 2)**

Planning Application 98/00533 seeks to develop an area of 1.1 hectares north of George Street and west of Cherwell Street, Banbury. The site is currently a surface level car park and grassed area. The proposed development is for a leisure complex comprising a 7-screen multiplex cinema, restaurants, bars/café and associated multi-storey car park, servicing areas and ancillary plant and equipment. An archaeological evaluation was requested by the County Archaeologist prior to the determination of the application.

## **1.2 Geology and topography**

The site lies immediately to the north of George Street, and is bounded to the east by Cherwell Street and to the west by Christchurch Court. The underlying geology is Lower Jurassic Middle Lias, ferruginous limestone overlying micaceous sandy (and sometimes ferruginous) clays (Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 201, 1982). The limestone is overlain by stiff silty clay. The site lies at around 100m O.D. and the present ground level slopes down gently towards the River Cherwell 200 m to the east.

## **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

Banbury lies on the Jurassic Way on the west side of a ford over the River Cherwell, and its name suggests an Early Saxon origin, although Saxon finds from the town are few (Rodwell 1975, 53). The church of St. Mary is believed to have been a Late Saxon minster, administering a very large parish, and before the Norman Conquest Banbury was also the centre of a large estate belonging first to the Bishops of Dorchester and then to the Bishops of Lincoln. Bishop Alexander (AD 1123-48) built a castle north-east of the church, and appears also to have laid out a 'new town' south of the castle between the church and the river (Fasham 1973, 314-5). The town was further extended by the creation of a new suburb, Newland, in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century, either side of Broad Street (Rodwell 1975, 53).

The proposed redevelopment area lies just south of the 'new town' and just east of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Newland extension (Rodwell 1975, 58 Map 2). No trace of medieval burgage plots, such as survive further west, is evident in the immediate area, nor are there any buildings of significant antiquity (Rodwell 1975, 59 Map 3). Since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the site has been the Hunt Edmunds Brewery with low-status terraced houses around the brewery buildings.

## **1.4 Scope of work**

The Oxford archaeological Unit was commissioned by Healey and Baker to undertake an impact assessment on potential archaeology in the proposed development area. As the area of the proposed development lies in the historic town centre, the potential for survival of archaeological deposits had been recognised. The assessment was concerned with the possible impact of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century developments on the site, in order to determine the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits. The assessment consisted of primarily a map regression exercise using all readily available maps held by the Oxfordshire Local Studies Library and the Oxfordshire Archives (OAU June 1998).

The map regression suggested that the site was not developed until the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As a result of the map regression, certain areas within the proposed

development were identified which had not been built on in the previous 150 years, and therefore have the potential to contain surviving archaeological deposits. The substantial buildings associated with the Hunt Edmunds Brewery (the western and central areas of the site) are likely to have had cellars. These cellars will have had a severe impact on potential archaeology. The terraced houses that once occupied the eastern area of the site were low status and are likely not to have had basements. The map regression suggests that there is still a potential for some surviving archaeological deposits in these areas.

Following the map regression exercise a field evaluation by trenching was carried out in November 1998 by the Oxford Archaeological Unit. The position of the trenches was determined by the results of the map regression exercise, which identified areas, where potential archaeological deposits were likely to survive. Areas where archaeological deposits were likely to have been disturbed or removed by later developments within the previous 150 years, such as the substantial buildings associated with the brewery, were not trenched.

## **2 EVALUATION AIMS**

- 2.1 To establish whether archaeological remains are present within the area of proposed development where the map regression identified areas of potential archaeological importance.
- 2.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.4 To highlight any relevant research priorities in advance of any further possible investigation.
- 2.5 To make available the results of the investigation.

## **3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Sample size and scope of fieldwork (Fig. 2)**

The evaluation constituted a 2-3% sample of the area of likely survival of archaeological deposits, and consisted of 6 trenches measuring approximately 15 m long and 1.6 m wide (Fig. 2). A mechanical excavator (JCB) removed the overburden under close archaeological supervision. Two of the evaluation trenches were positioned within the area of the car park. The remaining four trenches were positioned within the grassed area adjacent to the east side of the car park.

### **3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording**

The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20 and 1:50. All features were photographed using colour

slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson, 1992).

## **4 RESULTS: GENERAL**

### **4.1 Soils and ground conditions**

The underlying soil type consisted of layers of stiff silty-clay. Ground conditions were dry during the evaluation.

### **4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits**

Structural deposits likely to represent the remains of the former brewery and terraced houses or associated features were observed in all of the trenches located in the grassed area to the east of the car park. The earliest deposits were found in these eastern trenches, and appear to represent layers of alluvium. Significant recent disturbance was also found in Trench 1. Only Trench 2 in the south part of the car park produced evidence of archaeological deposits within the proposed development area.

### **4.3 Presentation of Results**

The results of the evaluation are described trench by trench, from the earliest to the latest deposits. The context inventory is contained in Appendix 2. The descriptions of the deposits refer to the individual trenches.

## **5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS**

### **5.1 Description of deposits**

#### **5.1.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)**

Trench 1 was positioned in the north-west area of the car park and was orientated east to west. The trench measured 11.70 m long and was 1.60 m wide. The length of this trench was limited by an electric service duct at the east end and the need to maintain vehicular access to the car park at the west end.

The natural subsoil (105) was a blue/grey clay with orange mottling exposed in the base of the trench 0.92 m below the surface of the existing tarmac (91.97 m O.D.). This was cut in the south-west corner of the trench by feature 110. Only the edge of this feature lay within the trench, and ran north-east to south-west. The cut was steeply sloping, although excavated to a depth of 0.65 m it was not bottomed. Three fills were seen. Against the west side was 112, a brownish-orange sand 0.1 m thick, and against this was 111, a greyish-blue clay mottled orangey-yellow 0.40 m thick. Both these fills were overlain by 114, a greyish-orange sand 0.34 m thick. No finds were retrieved from the fill of this feature, but the sand fills suggest that it is relatively recent. Feature 110 and the natural clay (105) were overlain in the east part of the trench by layer 104, a deposit of mixed gravel 0.54 m thick containing substantial amounts of clay and sand.

Overlying deposit 104 was layer 102, an orangey-brown gravel 0.36 m thick containing lenses of compacted yellow clay. The west end of deposit 102 was truncated by a construction cut 101 and filled with 103, a large concrete raft 0.20 m thick. This

concrete continued west and north beyond the limit of the trench. The southern limit of 103 was observed in part of the south-west area of the trench.

Overlying the concrete was layer 117, a dark brown silty-gravel 0.22 m thick. This was in turn overlain by layer 113, a brownish orange sandy-gravel 0.32 m thick. At the east end of the trench, layer 113 was cut by a linear slot 106, orientated north-west to south-east. This slot, although not fully bottomed had near vertical sides and was 1.10 m wide. Filling the trench was a thick layer of unexcavated concrete which presumably obscured a service pipe. The upper layer within the trench (100) represented the stone base and tarmac for the existing car park.

#### *5.1.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3)*

Trench 2 was positioned in the south-west end of the car park and was orientated north to south. The trench measured 12.80 m long and was 1.60 m wide. The length was restricted on the north by an electric service duct.

The natural subsoil (200) was a light yellowish-brown clay with frequent blue/grey mottling, and at the north end of the trench was exposed c.0.90 m below the surface of the existing car park (91.89 m O.D.). The surface of the natural was level along most of the trench, but towards the south end it dipped away, and continued beyond the excavated bottom of the trench. At the north end it was replaced by an orangey-red clayey-gravel (201). These two deposits (200 and 201) were separated by a linear ditch-like feature (203) running east-west across the trench, filled by reddish brown clayey-gravel (202). The top of the feature was 1.60 m wide, but below a shallow shelf on the south the sides were sloping. The feature was dug to a depth of 0.40 m, but was not bottomed, and no finds were retrieved from fill 202.

The natural clay was cut by a further feature 205. This feature, which resembled a small pit, was partially exposed during machining in the base of the trench and in section. It was 1.10 m wide at the top and was at least 0.48 m deep, but was not bottomed. The pit was filled by 204, a reddish brown clayey-gravel very similar to 202, the fill of feature 203. No finds were retrieved from the fill.

Overlying both features and the natural clay was layer 206, a stiff dark grey clay with frequent reddish-orange mottling at the top. This layer was a maximum of 0.42 m thick at the centre, and tapered off towards the north and south.

Two layers (212 and 207) abutted layer 206 to the north and south respectively. Layer 212 was a dark reddish-brown silty-gravel 0.18 m thick, and was cut by 215, an almost vertical-sided foundation cut exposed to a depth of 0.2 m at the very end of the trench. This foundation cut was filled initially by 217, the remains of a brick and concrete structure, before being finally back filled with 216, a mixture of reddish-brown silt sand and gravel.

Abutting the south side of 206 was layer 207, a greyish-brown silty-clay which sloped down southwards following the dipping natural beyond the base of the trench. South of 207 again, and overlying it, was 210, a yellowish-greyish brown clayey-silt 0.58 m thick. A handful of medieval pottery sherds and animal bones were retrieved from this deposit.

All of these deposits were overlain by a single layer 211 which covered most of the trench. This deposit was a stiff light greyish-brown clay up to 0.52 m thick. It was cut



by three modern features. At the south end of the trench was 209, the north edge of a large feature with an almost vertical side. This large cut was filled by 208, a silty-clay containing frequent amounts of re-deposited blue/grey lias clay and inclusions of modern brick and fragments of stone. The presence of re-deposited clay may indicate that cut 209 penetrated the natural clay.

At the north end of the trench layer 211 was cut by foundation trench 214. The slope of the cut was initially gradual following which it fell vertically before levelling out and continuing horizontally to the end of the trench. The cut was filled by 213, a small brick and stone structure abutting the earlier concrete and brick structure 217. Modern ceramic pipe fragments were removed during machining, showing that this was a drainage pipe. Overlying 213 the cut was backfilled with a greyish-brown clayey-silt 0.22 m thick, numbered 218.

The third intrusion within layer 211 was an east-west cut 220 containing sand and mixed soil. An associated brick surface abutted its north side. Sealing these three modern features and layer 211 was 219, the crushed stone and tarmac of the existing car park.

### *5.1.3 Trench 3 (Figure 3)*

Trench 3 was located at the south end of the grassed area and was orientated east to west parallel to the southern boundary of the site. The trench measured 15 m long and 1.60 m wide.

The natural subsoil was a light yellowish-orange sandy-clay (317), which was located in a machine-excavated sondage at the west end of the trench at a depth of 1.70 m below the existing ground level (90.26 m O.D.). This was overlain by two successive layers of dark yellowish-brown clay (316 and then 315), both 0.35 m thick. Overlying deposit 315 was a lighter yellowish-brown clay (313), 0.36 m thick. Layers 315 and 313 were very similar although the former was more compacted. Above 313 was layer 305, a light greyish-brown silty-clay containing stone fragments. Deposit 305 was truncated at the west end by cut 304, a shallow but extensive intrusion removing 305 at the west end of the trench. The subsequent void was filled by deposits 303 and 302 containing large inclusions of gravel, stone and red brick.

The east end of the trench was only excavated to a depth of 0.35 m, because it revealed a complex of substantial walls of modern brick. Two of these walls, (306 and 310), were orientated east to west and were only partially exposed. The north west corner of a building was found half way along the trench, of which wall 306 formed the north side, and was seen running east, though partly obscured by layer 301. Parallel to 306 and only 0.7 m to the north was 310, the south wall of a second building. At the west end this appeared to turn northwards into the edge of the trench, though partly obscured by layer 301; it was traced east for about 5 m but layer 301 was not cleared any further. Two later walls (314 and 312) were planned abutting 310 and running north at right angles to it. Between walls 306 and 310 and abutting both was wall 311. This was constructed in foundation trench 318, and along the east side of the wall this trench was filled with layer 308.

Although the foundation trenches for walls 306 and 310 were not identified during the excavation of the trench they appeared to be cut from the surface of layer 305. These walls are probably foundations of a building similar to the terraced houses which formerly stood immediately to the east. The walls in Trench 3 probably belonged to a house fronting onto George Street, and separated from the terraced houses to the east by

the former road named Cherwell Terrace which ran north across what is now the grassed area (1<sup>st</sup> edn Ordnance Survey 25" map, 1882). Demolition material, possibly derived from the building, was found within layer 301 which overlay the walls. This layer was in turn overlain by 300, modern topsoil.

#### *5.1.4 Trench 4 (Figure 4)*

Trench 4 was located in the north-west side of the grassed area. It was orientated north to south and was 15 m long and 1.60 m wide.

Considerable modern disturbance had occurred in the area of Trench 4. The surface of the natural clay 401, a yellowish-brown colour with blue/grey mottles, was found c.0.85 m below the existing ground level (91.0 m O.D.). Situated at intervals along the base of the trench were the remains of four brick pillars. One of these was exposed in plan and was 0.80 m square; the others were not fully cleared. Four large concrete blocks were also partially exposed and were situated in the intervals between the brick structures. One of these blocks measured 1.50 m long and 1.30 m wide. Two of the concrete blocks were displaced and most of the brick pillars had been disturbed prior to the excavation of the trench. Overlying the natural clay and the brick and concrete structures throughout the trench was layer 400, a mixed dark yellowish brown silty-clay containing frequent fragments of brick and demolition debris.

The brick and concrete structures are presumably foundations connected with the former brewery, and are aligned north-south roughly in line with its east side (Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale Map 1968).

#### *5.1.5 Trench 5 (Figure 4)*

Trench 5 was located in the west side of the grassed area between Trenches 3 and 4. The trench was orientated east to west and was 15 m long and 1.60 m wide.

A light greyish-brown clay (515), interpreted as the natural subsoil, was found at a depth of 1.10 m below the existing ground level (90.68 m O.D.). The natural was overlain by layers 507 and 514, which were separated by a later wall (512) crossing the trench. Both were dark brown silty-clays between 0.5 m and 0.6 m deep, and were clearly the same deposit, though 507 was yellower than 514 to the west.

Overlying 507 was layer 505, a brown silty-clay up to 0.40 m thick. This deposit represents the horizon at which major construction appears to have taken place. A foundation trench (510) for a large brick wall (512) on concrete footings was cut into layer 505, and was backfilled against the wall with deposit 511. The wall was orientated north to south and the surviving brick was 0.70 m wide and 0.80 m deep. The concrete foundations were only partially exposed and the base of the cut was not reached. The position of this wall (512) in Trench 5 appears to align with the east side of the brewery building. Alternatively wall 512 may represent a substantial wall surrounding the brewery identified on the Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edn 25" Map of 1900. West of the wall layer 514 was overlain by layer 513, a dark brown silty-clay 0.36 m thick containing fragments of stone and red brick, which abutted wall 512. This side of the wall was probably the basement of the brewery, and layer 513 perhaps represents layer 505 dug out for the construction of the building and redeposited afterwards during levelling up. West of wall 512 there was also a large concrete block like those seen in Trench 4.

In the east end of the trench layer 505 was cut by a further foundation trench (517) during the construction of another large brick wall (518) orientated north-west to south-east. The south-west face of the wall was exposed to a depth of 0.54 m where it was supported by a concrete foundation partially exposed at the base of the trench. The north-east side of the wall was butted by a brick surface (520) which continued beyond the limit of the trench. Walls 512, 518 and surface 520 were left *in situ* during the evaluation. The brick wall and surface (518 and 520) was probably associated with buildings immediately to the east of the brewery.

Layer 505 was overlain in the centre of the trench by 504, a large lens of reddish-brown silty-clay 0.15 m thick, and at the east end of the trench by 506, a dark yellowish-brown clay 0.20 m thick. Deposit 504 was cut by 508, a construction trench containing a large modern drain and back filled with deposit 509.

The drain and layers 504 and 506 were all overlain by 503, a dark greyish-brown silty-clay containing inclusions of brick, slate and glass. This deposit tapered off towards wall 512. Covering the whole trench including wall 512 and layer 503 was layer 502, a mixed deposit of sandy-silt, 0.18 m thick, and this was overlain by modern topsoil 500.

#### 5.1.6 Trench 6 (Figure 4)

Trench 6 was located on the east side of the grassed area. The trench was orientated north to south and was 15 m long and 1.60 m wide.

The natural subsoil (605) was a light greyish-yellow clay found c.1.30 m below the existing ground level (90.08 m O.D.). Overlying the natural clay was layer 604, a dark yellowish-brown silty-clay 0.50 m thick which covered the whole trench, except where cut through close to the south end.

Deposit 604 was overlain by 603, a layer of brown silty-clay up to 0.44 m thick. This layer was cut by a circular or ovoid pit 618, which was partially exposed in the base of the trench. This feature, possibly representing a former soakaway, was filled by 619, a deposit of red sandstone rubble. A brick lined well (623), was also discovered. It was back filled with 626, a brown silty-clay with a large rubble component. The level from which the well and soakaway were constructed cannot be established for certain, since the upper part of the soakaway and the well and its associated cut were truncated by later cut 612. These features at the south end of Trench 6 are likely to belong with the former terraced houses situated along the east side of the evaluation area.

Three separate deposits (602, 615 and 620), all between 0.25 m and 0.3 m thick, overlay layer 603. Layer 602 was a compact dark yellow clay, layers 615 and 620 brown and yellow-brown silty clays respectively. All these deposits were truncated by later development. Layer 602 was cut by modern service trenches 606 and 608 filled by 607 and 609 respectively. These two features were sealed by 601, a greyish-brown silty-clay 0.34 m thick.

Deposits 620 and 615 were cut by 612, the cut for a brick culvert and service pipe, which was backfilled with deposits 613 and 622. The upper part of the soakaway 618 and the well 623 were truncated by this event. Overlying deposit 620 and the back fill to the brick culvert and service trench was layer 621. Layer 601 was in turn cut by 610, a further modern cut associated with a service pipe intersection and back filled with 611. Modern topsoil 600 sealed layers 621 and 601 and fills 613 and 611.

## **5.2 Finds**

Very few finds were retrieved during the evaluation and these were limited to a handful of pottery sherds and bone fragments from a single deposit (210) in Trench 2. The pottery is reported upon below; the bone fragments were all too small to be identified.

### **5.2.1 Medieval pottery**

Five sherds of medieval pottery comprising three different fabrics were recovered from context (210). The assemblage is clearly medieval, and probably dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century (see also Appendix 1).

## **5.3 Environmental data**

No waterlogged or charred deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

# **6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

## **6.1 Reliability of field investigation**

All of the trenches excavated during the evaluation revealed some evidence of modern intrusion associated with development in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Trench 1 revealed layers of re-deposited sand clay and gravel overlying the natural clay. Most of this material was overlain by a very large concrete slab (103) obscuring the underlying deposits. The area of trench available for investigation to the east of the concrete slab was restricted. In this area there was further disturbance caused by a probable service pipe capped by a layer of concrete at the base of the trench.

Trench 2 showed least evidence of disturbance, although the intrusive effects of later development were observed at both ends of the trench. The most significant disturbance occurred at the south end of the trench, where a large modern cut continued below the base of the excavated trench. At the north end of the trench were the remains of a concrete and brick structure cut into the natural clay. The presence of unaffected archaeological deposits in the central part of the trench however indicates the likely preservation of further archaeological deposits to the east and west of the trench.

The east half of Trench 3 was largely taken up with the remains of a substantial building consisting of a number of brick walls. Concrete foundations cut into the natural clay, were revealed where the sides of the walls were fully exposed. It is likely that considerable disturbance has occurred as a result of the construction of these major walls and that the area within the footprint of the former building will be considerably affected, particularly where there are associated basements. Apart from cut 304 and the subsequent infilling, the west half of the trench appeared mostly unaffected.

Trench 4 revealed considerable disturbance. This disturbance was so great that only a single thick mixed deposit was observed. Partially exposed within the base of the trench were large blocks of concrete and the remains of large square brick structures. Some of these concrete and brick structures had been displaced during demolition, causing further disturbance to adjacent deposits. These structures appear to represent the remains of foundations associated with the former brewery.

Disturbance to underlying deposits in Trench 5 covered much of the trench, though the central part was less affected. At the western end were two deep intrusions consisting of a pipe trench (508) and wall 512 cut into the natural clay. The possible remains of a basement area may have existed to the west of the wall. In the north-east part of the trench was the wall of another building (518) with a brick floor (520). The floor was not removed.

Disturbance to the underlying deposits in Trench 6 was considerable. Deposits associated with 19th or 20th century activity in the south end of the trench had resulted in the almost complete removal of archaeological deposits. Ground penetration from modern drains in the north end of the trench has resulted in the truncation of the upper deposits.

## **6.2 Overall interpretation**

### *6.2.1 Summary of Results*

The natural sterile clay was closer to the surface in the western part of the site (Trenches 1 and 2) than further east (Trenches 3-6), where a sequence of horizontal silty-clay deposits appear to represent successive alluvial layers. These layers were undated, but show that alluviation extended further westward than indicated on the Geological Solid and Drift map for Banbury (Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 201, 1982). In the western trenches a single undated feature (probably recent) was found at the east end of Trench 1, and two possible features predating the medieval period in Trench 2. Neither of these produced any finds, but the linear feature, which ran parallel to the natural dip observed at the south end of this trench, may have been a ditch. These features were overlain by medieval dumping (layers 206, 207 and 210), possibly connected to the extension of the town in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. All of the trenches revealed walls, foundations or other structures associated with the former 19th century brewery and terraced houses.

### *6.2.2 Significance*

No significant archaeological deposits were encountered in the grassed area to the east of the car park. Below the post-medieval buildings the sequence of possibly alluvial layers was sterile, and of no obvious environmental potential. In the car park Trench 1 appeared to contain only evidence of recent activity, but Trench 2 was less disturbed, and preserved a possible sequence of activity, comprising two possible features sealed by a series of dump layers of probable 13<sup>th</sup> century date, which may be linked to the planned expansion of the town at this time. The area around Trench 2 appears to have the highest potential for archaeology on the site.

### *6.2.3 Impact of development*

The impact of the proposed development will be determined by the nature of the development design. The proposed development consisting of a multiplex cinema, shops and a multi-storey car park is likely to involve substantial building work and associated services resulting in significant ground intrusion over a large area.

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## Appendix 1 The Post-Roman Pottery

By Paul Blinkhorn

The medieval pottery assemblage from Banbury Cherwell Centre comprised 5 sherds with a total weight of 55 g. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Where appropriate, the coding system of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1994) has been used, as follows:

*OXY: Medieval Oxford ware*, AD1075 – 1350. 2 sherds, 19 g.

*OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware*, AD1200 – 1600. 2 sherds, 17 g.

The other ware present was

*F330: Shelly coarseware*, AD1100-1400. Shelly limestone wares, produced at numerous sites along the Jurassic spine in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire (cf Denham 1985). 1 sherd, 19 g.

*Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

Fabric Type	F330		OXY		OXAM		
Context	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	No.	Wt	Date
210	1	19	2	19	2	17	13 <sup>th</sup> C

All the pottery from context 210, apart from one of the OXAM sherds, is unabraded, and appears to be well-stratified. The overlapping ranges for the fabric types would suggest a 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century date, but 14<sup>th</sup> century deposits at sites in north Oxfordshire tend to produce pottery assemblages with a high proportion of Potterspury ware, whereas it is extremely rare in assemblages dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century (cf Mellor 1994). This assemblage lacks Potterspury products, and may therefore date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, though the assemblage is too small to be certain.

## Appendix 2 Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds (no.)		Date
						pot	bone	
001								
	100	Layer		0.10	Modern tarmac surface			
	101	Layer		0.18	Build up layer			
	102	Cut		0.15	Modern trench			
	103	Layer		0.20	Concrete surface			
	104	Layer		0.58	Build up deposit			
	105	Layer			Natural clay			
	106	Cut		0.90	Modern trench			
	107	Fill		0.05	Fill of 106			
	108	Fill		0.60	Fill of 106			
	109	Fill		0.12	Fill of 106			
	110	Cut		0.80	Unclear			
	111	Fill		0.40	Fill of 110			
	112	Fill		0.10	Fill of 110			
	113	Layer		0.26	Build up deposit			
	114	Layer		0.34	Fill of 110 ?			
	115	Layer		0.15	Fill of 116			
	116	Cut			Modern trench ?			
002								
	200	Layer			Natural clay			
	201	Layer			Natural clay gravel ?			
	202	fill			Fill of 203			
	203	Cut	1.60		Unclear			
	204	Fill			Fill of 205			
	205	Cut			Unclear			
	206	Layer			Dump deposit			
	207	Layer			Dump deposit			
	208	Fill			Fill of 209			
	209	Cut			Modern trench			
	210	Layer			Dump deposit	5	5	
	211	Layer		0.52	Build up			
	212	Layer		0.18	Build up			
	213	Structure			Addition to 217			
	214	Cut			Modern trench			



## Appendix 2 Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Cxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds (no.)		Date
						pot	bone	
002								
	215	Cut			Foundation trench			
	216	Fill		0.20	Fill of trench			
	217	Structure			Brick and concrete			
	218	Fill		0.22	Fill of 214			
	219	Layer			Modern car park			
	220	Structure	1.60	0.30	Drain and brick surface			
003								
	300	Layer			Topsoil			Topsoil
	301	Layer			Demolition layer			
	302	Layer			Fill of 304			
	303	Layer			Fill of 304			
	304	Cut			Modern trench			
	305	Layer			Re-deposited ?			
	306	Structure			Wall			
	307	Structure			Foundation trench			
	308	Fill			Fill of 318			
	309	Layer			Alluvium ?			
	310	Structure			Wall			
	311	Structure			Wall			
	312	Structure			Wall			
	313	Layer			Alluvium ?			
	314	Structure			Wall			
	315	Layer			Alluvium ?			
	316	Layer			Alluvium ?			
	317	Layer			Natural clay			
	318	Cut			Foundation trench			
	319	Cut			Foundation trench			
004								
	400	Layer			Natural clay			
	401	Layer			Re-deposited material			modern

## Appendix 2 Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds (no.)		Date
						pot	bone	
005								
	500	Layer		0.20	Topsoil			
	501	Layer		0.04	Demolition debris			
	502	Layer		0.18	Demolition material			
	503	Layer		0.15	Re-deposited material			
	504	Layer		0.15	Construction debris			
	505	Layer		0.20	Post-med soil horizon ?			
	506	Layer			Build up deposit			
	507	Layer			Build up deposit			
	508	Cut			Pipe trench			
	509	Fill			Fill of 508			
	510	Cut		0.50	Foundation trench			
	511	Fill			Fill of 510			
	512	Structure			Brick wall			
	513	Layer			Build up			
	514	Layer			Build up			
	515	Layer			Natural clay			
	516	Structure			Concrete base			
	517	Cut			Foundation trench			
	518	Structure			Brick wall			
	519	Fill			Fill of 517			
	520	Layer			Surface			
	521	Cut			Post-hole ?			
	522	Fill			Fill of 521			
006								
	600	Layer			Topsoil			
	601	Layer			Build up			
	602	Layer			Build up			
	603	Layer			Re-deposited ?			
	604	Layer			Alluvium ?			
	605	Layer			Natural clay			
	606	Cut			Pipe trench			
	607	Fill			Fill of 606			
	608	Cut			Pipe trench			
	609	Fill			Fill of 608			

## Appendix 2 Archaeological Context Inventory

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds		Date
						pot	bone	
006								
	610	Cut			Pipe trench			
	611	Fill			Fill of 610			
	612	Cut			Modern pipe trench			
	613	Fill			Fill of 612			
	614	Fill			Brick culvert			
	615	Layer			Alluvium ?			
	616	Fill			Fill of 612			
	617	Fill			Fill of 612			
	618	Cut			Foundation for drain			
	619	Fill			Fill of 618			
	620	Layer			Re-deposited material ?			
	621	Layer			Demolition material ?			
	622	Fill			Demolition material ?			
	623	Structure			Brick well			
	624	Cut			Trench for well			
	625	Fill			Fill of 624			
	626	Fill			Backfill to 623			
	627	Cut			Modern trench			
	628	Fill			Fill of 627			
	629	Cut			Modern trench			
	630	Fill			Fill of 629			



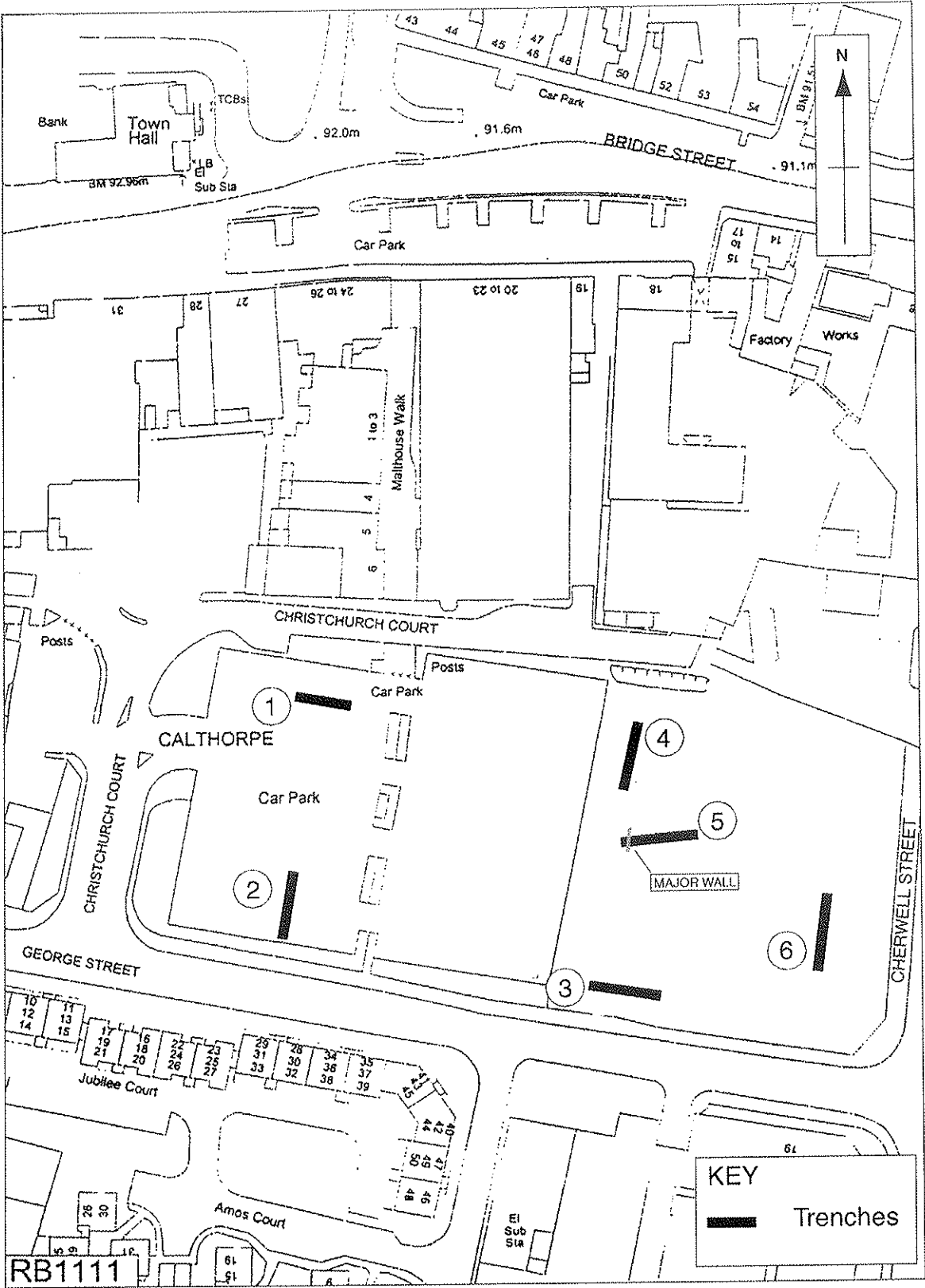


scale 1:25,000

Location of site

Figure 1

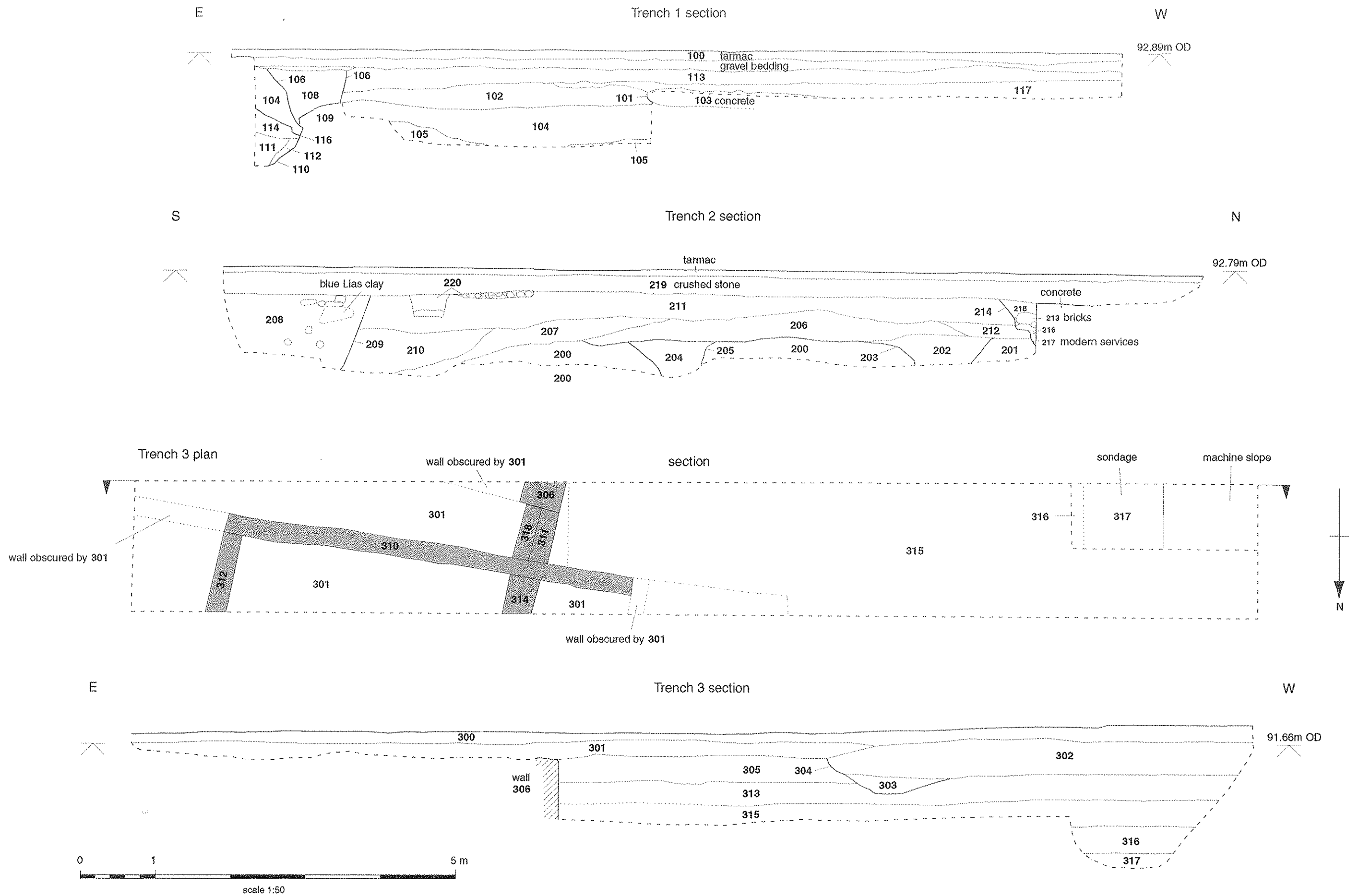




Scale 1:1250

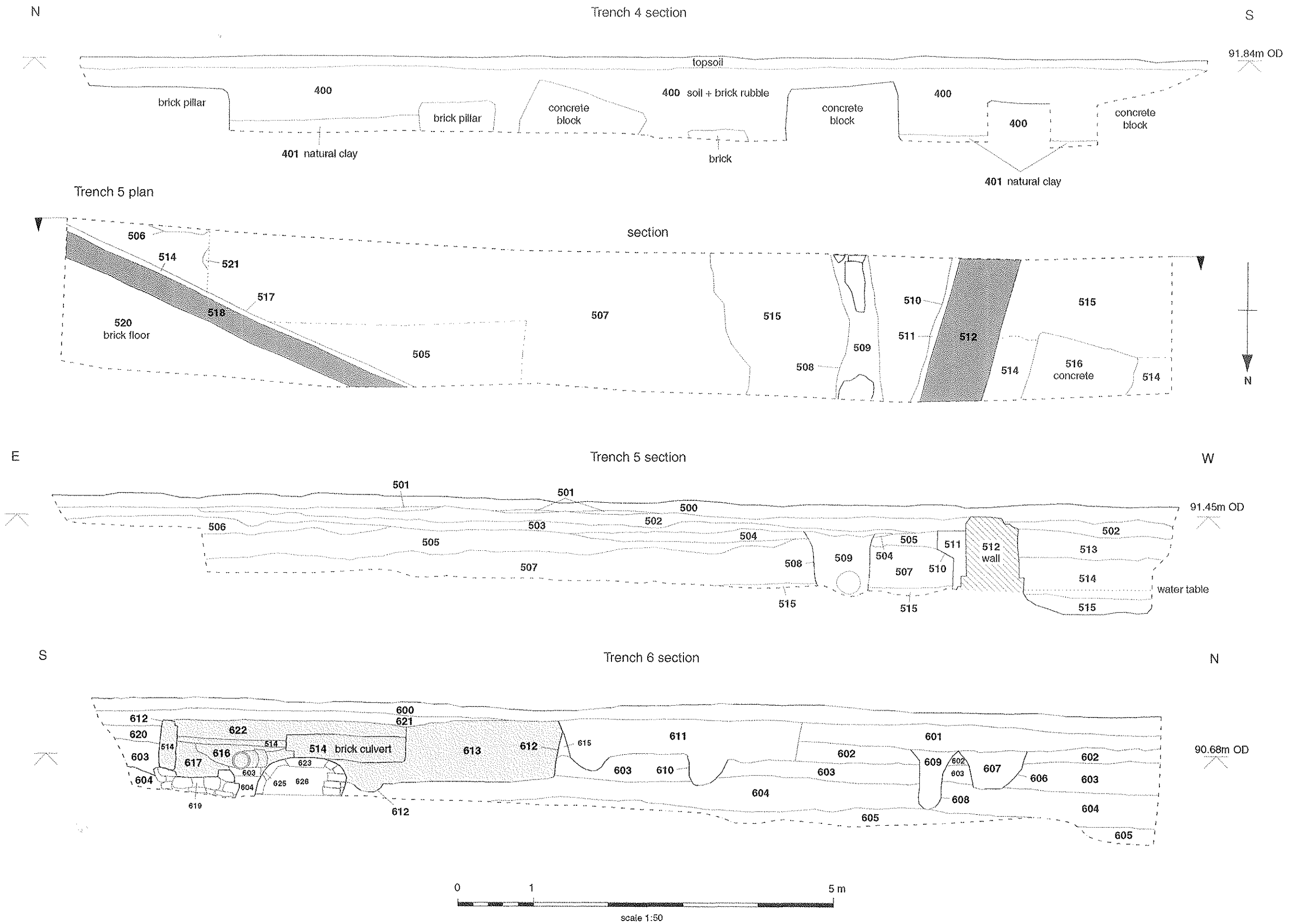
Location of trenches

Figure 2



Trenches 1 and 2 sections; Trench 3 plan and section

Figure 3



Trench 5 plan and section; Trenches 4 and 6 sections

Figure 4



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