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**Collier and Catley Building Contractors**

**170 Bollo Bridge Road, Acton, London, W3**

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT***

**TQ 2000 7950**

**MOK/TPAP 08479/4**

**BLB 99**

**OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT**

**[February 1999]**

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Prepared by: <i>Adam Bressler</i> Date: 19/2/99
Checked by: <i>Graham Keevill</i> GRAHAM KEEVILL Date: 19/2/1999
Approved by: <i>D. Jeffries</i> D. JEFFRIES Date: 19/2/99

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LIST OF CONTENTS

	SUMMARY .....	1
1	INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1	Location and scope of work .....	1
1.2	Geology and topography .....	1
1.3	Archaeological and historical background .....	1
1.4	Acknowledgements .....	1
2	EVALUATION AIMS .....	2
3	EVALUATION METHODOLOGY .....	2
3.1	Sample size and scope of fieldwork .....	2
3.2	Fieldwork, methodology and recording .....	2
3.3	Finds .....	2
4	RESULTS: GENERAL .....	2
4.1	Soil and ground conditions .....	2
4.2	Distribution of archaeological deposits .....	3
4.3	Presentation of results .....	3
5	RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS .....	3
5.1	Description of the deposits .....	3
	5.1.1 Trench 1 .....	3
	5.1.2 Trench 2 .....	3
5.2	Finds .....	4
6	DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION .....	4
6.1	Reliability of field investigation .....	4
6.2	Overall interpretation .....	4
	6.2.1 Summary of results .....	4
	6.2.2 Significance .....	4
	BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES .....	4

*List of Appendices*

Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory

*List of Figures*

- Fig. 1 Site location map
- Fig. 2 Trench location map
- Fig. 3 Trench 1 plan and sections
- Fig. 4 Trench 2 plan and section

## SUMMARY

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at 170 Bollo Bridge Road, Acton, London, W3 on behalf of Collier and Catley Building Contractors. The evaluation revealed the presence of one possible archaeological feature of an uncertain date, and a struck flint, probably representing residual activity, which was recovered during machining.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

In February 1999 the Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation at 170 Bollo Bridge Road, Acton, London, W3 (Fig.1) on behalf of Collier and Catley Building Contractors in respect of a planning application for the development of a terrace of six dwellings (Planning Application No. MOK/TPAP 08479/4) and a brief set by and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) agreed with Robert Whytehead, Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, English Heritage. The development site lies on the north side of Bollo Bridge Road and is 800m<sup>2</sup> in area.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

The solid geology is London Clay overlain by Head deposits at 50.26 m above OD. The site had been occupied by the Harbour Lights public house and car park, which were demolished as part of the construction programme.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

A brief summary of the archaeological and historical background was included with the Written Scheme of Investigation (OAU January 1999). The site itself has produced a very minor amount of archaeological evidence. There are several sites with archaeological finds, both adjacent to the development site and in the Acton area:

- (i) Seven mid-late Bronze Age Deverel Rimbury burial urns were excavated 250 m north of the site during the development of Avenue Gardens in 1882 (Cotton 1993).
- (ii) A watching brief at 36 Avenue Gardens, during 1985 identified a further Deverel Rimbury burial urn (Cotton 1993, 1-3).
- (iii) Evidence for Romano-British occupation, in the form of pits and ditches, was noted during excavations at nos 45 and 49-51 Avenue Gardens in 1981 (Cotton 1993, 1).

#### 1.4 Acknowledgements

The evaluation was undertaken for Collier and Catley Building Contractors. Thanks are extended to the contractors and Rob Whytehead (English Heritage).

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

The aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI were as follows:

- 2.1 To establish the presence of archaeological remains within the development area, and determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, date, and depth below ground surface of any such remains.
  - 2.1.1 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits and features.
  - 2.1.2 If significant archaeological remains were discovered, to determine what further mitigation measures may be required, and to agree these with Ealing Family Housing Association, the local planning authority and English Heritage.
  - 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

## 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Sample size and scope of fieldwork

The evaluation was based upon a 5% sample of the development area (Fig. 2), and consisted of a trench measuring 10 m long and 3 m wide (Fig 3), and a test-pit measuring 3 m square (Fig 4) in the proposed building footprint.

### 3.2 Fieldwork, methodology and recording

The overburden was removed by a JCB mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trenches were stripped to the natural clay, and then hand cleaned. The revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992). The site code (BLB 99) was issued by the Museum of London.

### 3.3 Finds

A struck flint of uncertain date was recovered from the disturbed natural (11) in Trench 1.

## 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

One part of the area was covered in rubble from the demolition of the public house, and the remainder was tarmac. Ground conditions were dry with poor preservation.

## 4.2 Distribution of Archaeological Deposits

A possible posthole was identified in Trench 1. A further two negative features were identified, but were thought to be a result of root action.

## 4.3 Presentation of Results

The description of the trench and test-pit are presented below. A summary of the contexts is presented in the archaeological context inventory.

# 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

## 5.1 Description of deposits

A layer of disturbed natural (contexts 11 in Trench 1 (Fig. 3) and 13 in Trench 2 (Fig. 4) was noted in both trenches, and was up to 0.5 m in depth. This was a friable, light-brown with an orange tint and grey-white mottling, silty clay. The deposit contained less than 1% flint, which appeared to be predominantly rounded, and less than 1% manganese staining.

### 5.1.1 *Trench 1*: North-east – south-west 10 m long by 3 m wide (Fig. 3).

One archaeological feature and two negative features, thought to be a result of root action were found cutting into the disturbed natural (11). The possible posthole (9) measured 0.3 m in diameter and 0.1 m in depth. The pit had sides sloping at an angle of 60°, and a rounded base. The fill (10) was a friable, blue grey silty clay (with orange mottling), which contained 3% iron-pan staining. A further two negative features (5 and 7) were identified, but were thought to be a result of root action. Feature 5 was oval, orientated north-south, and measured 0.35 m in length, 0.16 m in width and 0.07 m in depth. The sides were irregular, and broke on to an undulating base. Fill 6 was a friable, blue grey silty clay, which contained 3% iron pan staining. Feature 7 was oval in plan, aligned north-south, measuring 0.5 m in length, 0.25 m in width and 0.18 m in depth. The sides were irregular, varying between 40-80°, which broke on to an undulating base. A modern service trench was noted at the south-western end of the trench. The disturbed natural layer was sealed by modern demolition material, which was used as make-up for the public house carpark (layers 1-3).

### 5.1.2 *Trench 2*: 3 m long by 3 m wide.

No archaeological features were identified in this test-pit. The level of truncation in this area was high, probably due to the construction during the Victorian and later periods. The layer of disturbed natural (14) was noted in this area. The disturbed natural was sealed by a layer of rubble (12), which was a result of the demolition, or construction, of late Victorian housing, as noted in the ground investigation report by Harrison and Co.

## 5.2 Finds

Only one piece of struck flint, which came from layer 11, was recovered during the evaluation. The struck flint was a core rejuvenation flake, which was hard hammer struck and displayed an attempt at platform preparation. The flint was identified by Pippa Bradley, who thought it was of an early prehistoric date.

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Reliability of field investigation

The level of truncation across the site appears to be extremely high, and consequently the limited results from the field evaluation are considered to be a reliable indication of the relative lack of activity across the specified area.

### 6.2 Overall interpretation

#### 6.2.1 *Summary of Results*

The only archaeological feature noted on the site did not contain any dating evidence. The presence of the struck flint suggests that early prehistoric activity was taking place in the area.

The disturbed natural was probably a result of water collecting on the upper horizon of the clay, before it permeated down. This would explain why the fills of the three negative features were mottled in colour.

#### 6.2.2 *Significance*

The results of the evaluation produced data of limited archaeological significance.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Cotton, J, 1993 Excavations and observations of a Bronze Age cemetery and Roman site in Avenue Gardens, Middlesex, 1882 and 1981-5. In *Trans. of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Soc.* **44**, 1-22.

OAU 1999 *Harbour Lights, 170 Bollo Bridge Road, Acton, London W3. Archaeological Evaluation. Written Scheme of Investigation. London Borough of Ealing Planning Reference: MOK/TPAP 08479/4*

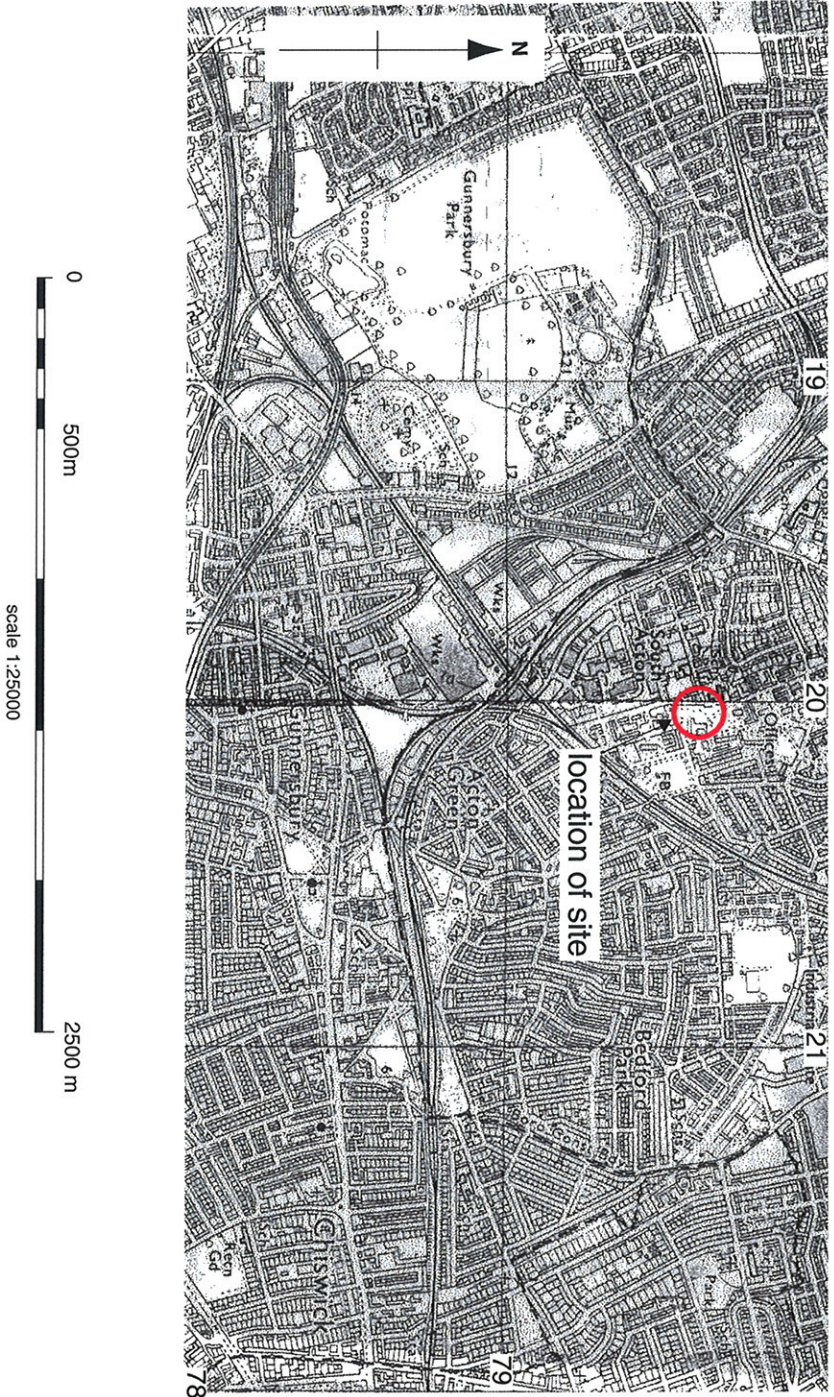
Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 *Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual*, (First edition, August 1992)

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Archaeological context inventory.

Trench	Ctxt	Type	width (m)	thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No.	Date
001								
	1	layer		0.08	Tarmac	-		Modern
	2	layer		0.40	Rubble make-up	-		Modern
	3	layer		0.20	Sand make-up	-		Modern
	4	layer		-	London Clay	-		-
	5	Cut	0.35 x 0.16	0.07	Shrub/root-hole	-		Uncertain
	6	Fill			Fill of (5)	-		Uncertain
	7	Cut	0.50 x 0.25	0.18	Shrub/root-hole	-		Uncertain
	8	Fill			Fill of (7)	-		Uncertain
	9	Cut	0.30	0.10	Possible posthole	-		Uncertain
	10	Fill			Fill of (9)			Uncertain
	11	layer		0.50	Disturbed-natural	1 struck flint		?Early prehistoric
002								
	12	layer		0.40	Demolition deposit			Modern
	13	layer		0.30	Disturbed natural			?Early prehistoric
	14	layer			London Clay			





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Figure 1: site location

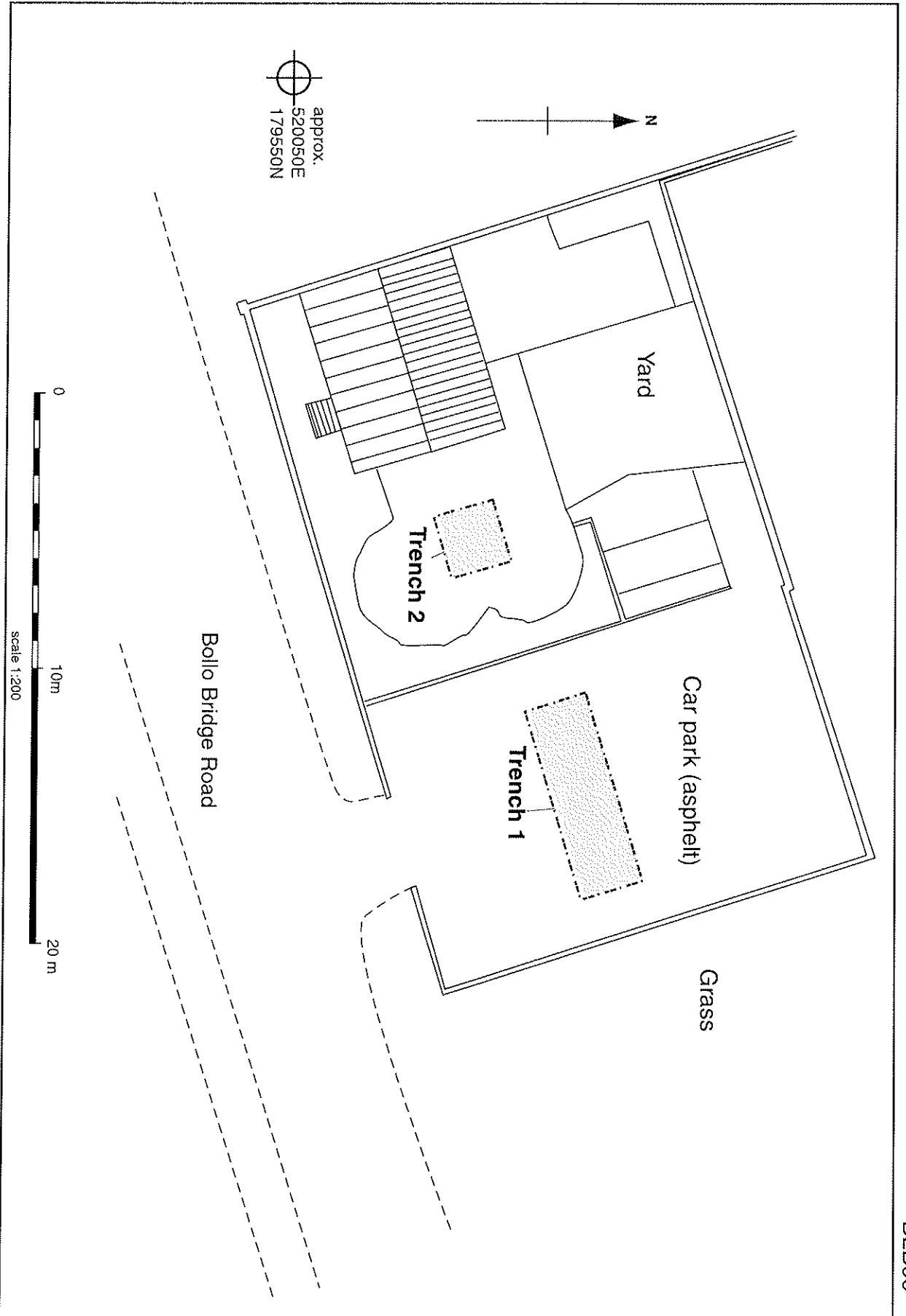
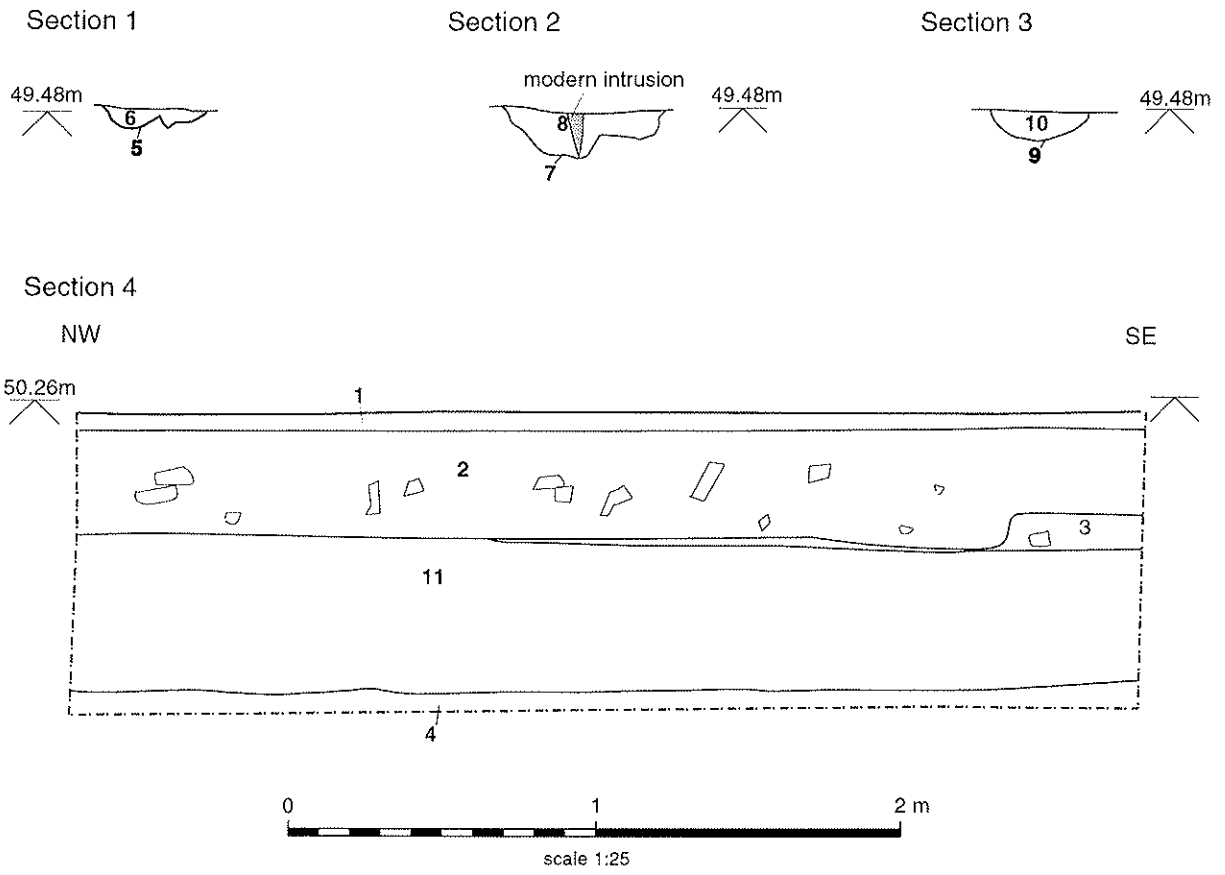


Figure 2 : Trench location



Plan of trench 1

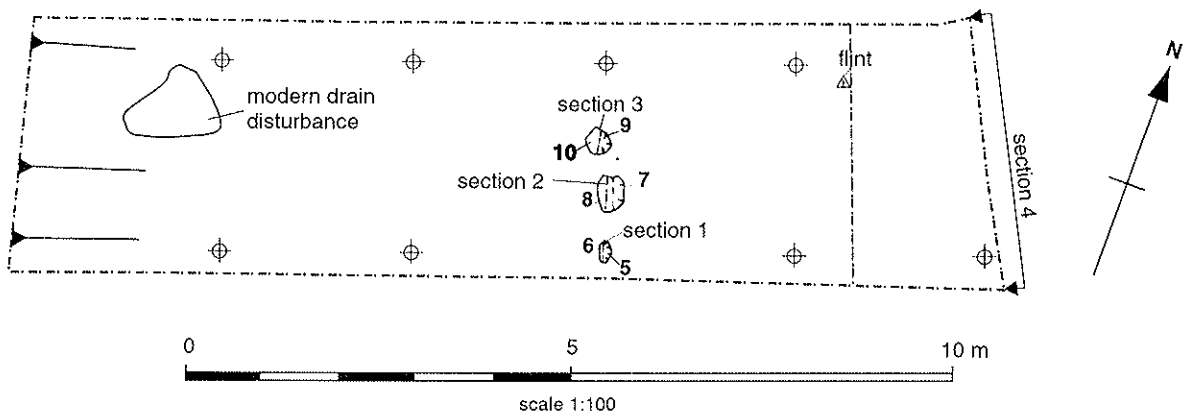
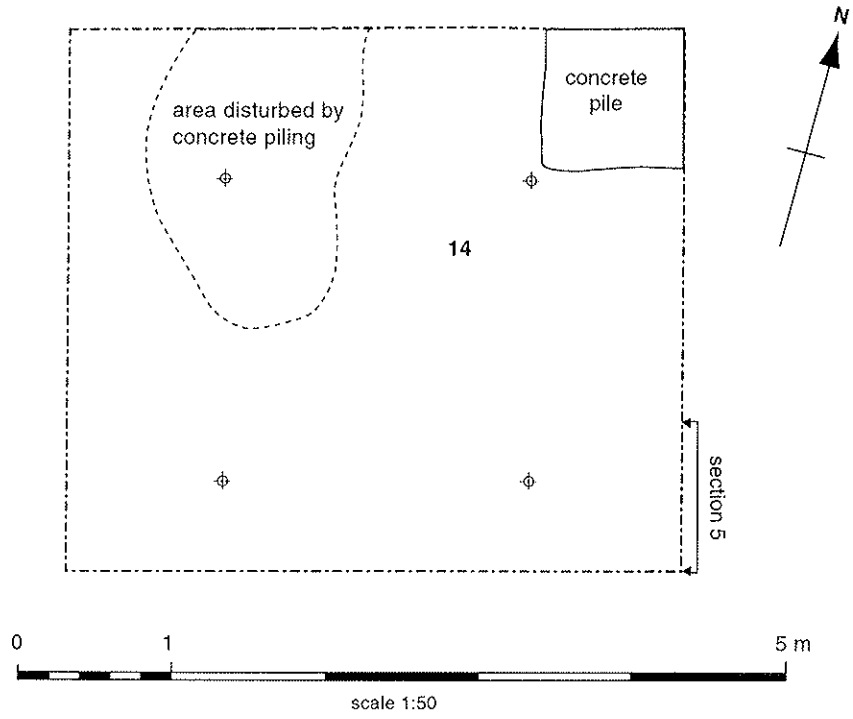


Figure 3 : Trench 1

Trench 2



Section 2

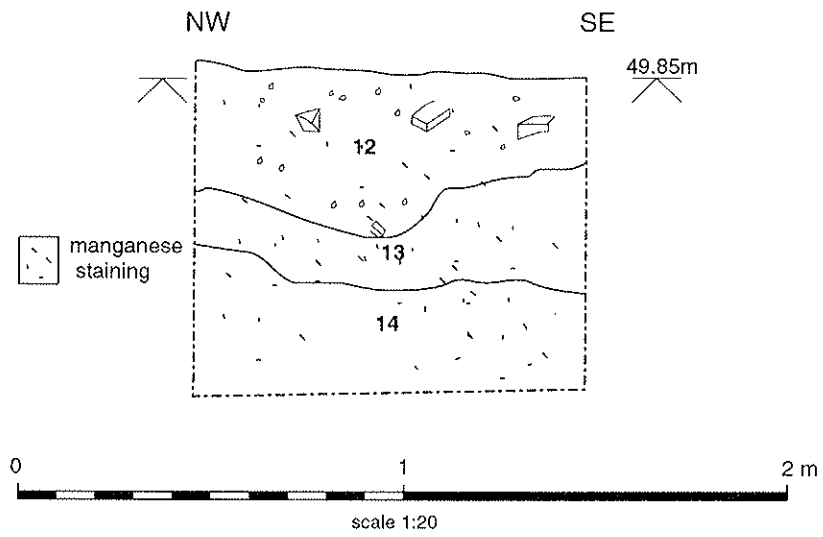


Figure 4 : Trench 2





## OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES

Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496  
email: [postmaster@oau-oxford.demon.co.uk](mailto:postmaster@oau-oxford.demon.co.uk)



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Director: David Miles B.A., F.S.A., M.I.F.A. Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited.  
Private Limited Company Number: 1618597 Registered Charity Number: 285627.  
Registered Office: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES