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Hill Farm Little Wittenham Oxfordshire



Archaeological Investigation Report



Oxford Archaeology

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Northmoor Trust

Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHARACTERISATION TEST PIT REPORT

NGR SU 5635 9255

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out the excavation of a series of eleven test pits at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham on behalf of the Northmoor Trust. The work was carried out to reveal the extant building foundations in relation to the surrounding deposits, and to record any archaeological deposits encountered. The underlying geology in all of the pits was a weathered greensand. Cut into this within the garden south of the farm was a possible Saxon ditch. The ditch and the greensand were overlain by a layer of clay some 0.25 m deep, interpreted as a medieval or later ploughsoil. The building foundations were not very substantial, bottoming on the surface of the greensand at a maximum depth of 0.5 m. Within the farm courtyard the possible ploughsoil was overlain by courtyard surfaces, and these were followed by farmyard deposits below the modern hardcore and concrete.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Little Wittenham is located at NGR SU 5635 9255 (Fig. 1) with Hill Farm situated at the south end of the village, on the south-western slopes of Round Hill. The farm itself stands at approximately 99.50 m OD.
- 1.1.2 The Northmoor Trust is seeking planning permission for the refurbishment and redevelopment of the redundant farm buildings at Hill Farm from South Oxfordshire District Council. An initial planning application has been revised, and has now been re-submitted (Ref: P02/W0538). The redevelopment comprises conversion of some of the existing buildings for educational purposes and minor extensions to others with associated car parking, landscaping and other facilities.
- 1.1.3 The site lies in an area of known archaeological potential and therefore, on the recommendation of the County Archaeological Services, the planning authority has stated that 'no development shall be undertaken until a scheme of archaeological works has been agreed with the planning authority'. This is in line with PPG16 and local planning policy.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Hill Farm lies at the south end of the village of Little Wittenham on a minor road that connects Long Wittenham via Little Wittenham with Brightwell. The area of the farm buildings and proposed car park is irregular in shape and occupies an area of c. 7500 m².
- 1.2.2 The site sits on Upper Greensand, and lies at the west end of a plateau of high ground below the Glauconitic Marl and Lower Chalk outcrops of Round Hill and Castle Hill. From Hill Farm the ground drops to the north-west onto the Gault Clay some 350 m distant, beyond which are the flat gravel terraces of the Thames. To the south and east the land drops more gradually, and the greensand continues for nearly 1 km. Further south the land was formerly poorly-drained marshland overlying an ancient

channel of the Thames. (Sheet 255, Institute of Geological Sciences, 3rd Ed., 1979). The site lies at approximately 99.50 m OD.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background of this area prior to the current HLF-funded archaeological investigations was described in recent desktop study carried out for the Northmoor Trust (OA 2002, Wider Landscape Project, The Wittenhams, Oxfordshire). The results of this are summarised below.
- 1.3.2 Hill Farm lies in an area of known archaeological potential. Some 500 m to the north-east, Castle Hill is an Iron Age hillfort designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement was discovered when the car park was constructed south of Castle Hill (Hingley 1980). Excavations carried out 250 m east of the farm in the mid-20th century revealed the remains of a Roman building, an Early Iron Age platform and a Beaker land surface (Rhodes 1948). Cropmarks have been recorded within 100 m of Hill Farm to the south and south-west, and both Roman and Saxon finds are recorded in the Oxfordshire Sites and Monuments Record in the field to the west (OA 2002).
- 1.3.3 A map regression has been carried out for the parish of Little Wittenham, and the historic maps show that Hill Farm was constructed in the later 19th century. A detailed record of the barns and other buildings at Hill Farm has been carried out by the Oxfordshire Buildings Record, confirming the 19th century date of the barns. Further documentary research on the village of Little Wittenham and Hill Farm is currently in progress.
- 1.3.4 More recent investigations carried out on behalf of the Northmoor Trust have included excavation, fieldwalking and geophysical survey. Following a geophysical magnetometer survey of the hillfort interior in 2002, excavations led by Oxford Archaeology on the hillfort confirmed a Late Bronze Age hilltop enclosure within the later Iron Age hillfort, and reoccupation both in the Late Roman period and in the 12th/13th centuries (OA 2003 unpublished).
- 1.3.5 Geophysical survey and limited trenching by Time Team on Round Hill and the area between this and the road revealed an extensive Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pit settlement stretching westwards from below the hillfort almost to Hill Farm, plus a rectangular enclosure surrounding the Roman building first identified by Rhodes (Wessex Archaeology 2004). North of Hill Farm part of another rectangular enclosure was revealed crossed by ridge-and-furrow cultivation, suggesting that the enclosure is earlier, possibly of Saxon or Roman date.
- 1.3.6 South of the road, geophysical survey has confirmed the presence of a further settlement consisting of pits and small circular and polygonal enclosures stretching south-east from Hill Farm. The morphology of the enclosures, and pottery recovered from fieldwalking, suggests a predominantly Middle Iron Age date. There is also a trackway leading north-east towards the Roman enclosure containing the building, and a second larger enclosure north of this that extends into the area of Hill Farm. A concentration of Roman pottery and building material in this area suggests that this

may be a second Roman enclosure (OA website 2004). South-west of Hill Farm is another, square enclosure with faint indications of a track leading south, possibly a third Roman enclosure.

- 1.3.7 A vertical aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946 shows that the fields south, west and east of Hill Farm were formerly covered with ridge-and-furrow cultivation. Together with the ridge-and-furrow revealed by geophysical survey north of the road, this indicates that the area south of Round Hill and Castle Hill was part of the arable fields of Little Wittenham, and that the site now occupied by Hill Farm was cultivated in the late medieval/early post-medieval period.

Acknowledgements

- 1.3.8 Thanks are extended to all at Hill Farm and the Northmoor Trust, and in particular to Rob Dingle, who helped make the work run smoothly.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the depth of existing building foundations, and where these lie in relation to the surface of geological deposits.
- 2.1.2 To establish the depth and complexity of Holocene soils above the solid geology. To look for archaeological evidence, and where present, to categorise this in terms of date, preservation, survival and character.
- 2.1.3 To look for archaeological evidence, and where present, to categorise this in terms of date, preservation, survival and character, including information upon past environments.
- 2.1.4 The investigation will seek to interpret the various exposures in terms of soil processes, truncation and archaeological potential, including environmental remains.
- 2.1.5 To make available the results of the investigation

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 Due to the limited level of impact expected from the proposed development a full trench evaluation was considered unnecessary.
- 3.1.2 The archaeological works comprised eleven test pits each measuring approximately 1 x 1 m. These were placed at various points adjacent to the existing buildings at Hill Farm (Fig 3) to examine the foundations of all of the main buildings, and to provide a suitable coverage of the proposed impact area to characterise the general soil sequence. The test pits were excavated to the depth of the natural geology. Any archaeological features exposed within the trial pits were excavated.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 Most of the area was covered by concrete, which was broken up by a breaker attached to a JCB. The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

3.2.2 The test pits were cleaned by hand and any revealed features within the test pits were excavated to determine their extent and character (as far as was possible), and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. Excavated spoil was searched for any artefacts. All archaeological features were planned and excavated, and their sections were drawn at a scale 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).

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and generally bagged by context. Finds of special interest, if located, were to be given a unique small find number.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 No deposits with the potential for environmental sampling were encountered during the excavation of the test pits at Hill Farm.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 The results of the investigation are presented by test pit according to topographical location across Hill Farm (Figs. 3 and 4). The depositional sequence encountered within each trench will be described below. Where no archaeological deposits were located within a trench then this will be described in brief. All sections are reproduced as an appendix, with individual plans shown when necessary.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The site is located on Hill Farm, Little Whittenham. This farm, although working comprises several disused buildings with a farm cottage and garden at the southern part of the property. Most of the ground surface of the proposed development area is concrete, with two trenches (10 and 11) located within the rear garden and Trench 1 located on the north roadside frontage of the northern east-west barn. This was located over topsoil. The soil located was reasonably free-draining and the conditions were dry and bright.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 Archaeological deposits pre-dating the initial development of the farm were sparse being located within Trenches 10 and 2 in the form of two ditches. Trenches 9 and 4 revealed two pits although the chronology of the feature in Trench 9 is not well defined. All features were truncated with the main area of identified archaeology being in the southern part of the impact area (see Fig. 3).

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits (see Figure 4 for plans and sections of the test pits)

Test pit 1

- 5.1.1 Test pit 1 measured 1 x 1 m and was located against the northern roadside face of barn Building 4 (Fig 3). This was close to a septic tank but avoided any truncation associated with it. The natural (1003) was greensand with grey clay and calcareous inclusions, probably a weathered deposit overlying the greensand. This was encountered at a depth of 0.55 m (98.52 m OD), and over this was a fragmented chalk / greensand foundation raft (1002) that extended 1 m beyond the wall of the barn. The foundation platform was c 0.2 m thick and was bonded with naturally derived clay. Deposit 1001 was a dark grey brown clayey silt which abutted the platform. This deposit was similar to the undisturbed clay found in other trenches over the greensand, but was more mixed, and may have been the infill of a foundation cut whose edge lay just beyond the excavated test pit limits. The building footings (1004) were constructed of 2 uneven courses of rectangular undressed stone blocks with occasional brick, and were c 0.20 m deep. The wall showed evidence of rebuilding and blocking, with more modern brickwork noticeable on the NW corner of the building. A concrete blocking was visible c 1.2 m to the west of the test pit, which was presumably associated with the construction of the septic tank and the external drainage from the farm building.

Test pit 4

- 5.1.2 Test pit 4 was located against the southern wall of Building 4 within the courtyard of the farm, and on the opposite side of the building to Trench 1. It measured 1.2 x 1.2 m and was excavated to a depth of c 0.55 m (98.57 m OD) where a whitish-yellow clayey sand, probably again a weathered deposit over the greensand, was located. The fragmented foundation raft found within Test pit 1 was also located within Test pit 4 (4008). This sat directly upon the natural greensand, was again 0.2 m deep, and extended c 0.60 m beyond the wall of Building 4 (Fig. 4). Beyond the foundation a small feature (pit 4003) was cut into the natural. This appeared to be oval in plan, but was not fully exposed as only half of the feature lay within the test pit. It measured 0.8 x 0.22 m (minimum) and was 0.15 m deep. The single fill (4004) was a bluish silt with charcoal flecking. This was overlain, and possibly truncated, by a thin clay horizon (4006) which acted as a bedding layer for the overlying cobbled surface 4000. The cobbled surface (98.80 m OD at it's highest point) was made of stones averaging as 0.20 x 0.15 m and was c 0.15 m thick. This surface incorporated a contemporary fired clay open channel (4007) that ran E-W, draining towards the east. This channel was c 0.15 m wide and approximately 0.06 m deep. A layer of dumped building debris (4002) such as broken bricks, gravel and mortar sealed this, c 0.20 m thick, which was overlain by a levelling layer (4009) for the concrete yard surface (4010).

Test pit 7

- 5.1.3 This test pit was located against the west face of Building 3 just north of the western access into the farm courtyard. The natural, a greyish-green silty clay with abundant calcareous inclusions, was encountered at a depth of 0.62 m (99.16 m OD). Overlying this was a 0.10 m thick deposit of sterile compact grey clay (7001) interpreted as the undisturbed subsoil that had built up on the greensand. It was

overlain by a similar compact grey silty clay (7002), 0.22 m thick, but containing occasional charcoal flecks. This silty clay is interpreted as reworked subsoil, possibly a ploughsoil. The foundation trench (7003) for the building footings (7004) cut soil 7002, and bottomed directly on the natural greensand. The footings comprised three courses of stone, the bottom course being 0.20 m high, those above 0.10 m high. A concreted road leading past the farm was situated along the western edge of Test pit 7, the make-up of which comprised two concrete slabs (7006, 7007) with a combined thickness of 0.34 m. A general infill layer overlay this, abutting wall 7004 and the road 7008. This was 0.44 m thick and contained mixed building rubble and sand.

Test pit 3

- 5.1.4 Test pit 3 was located in the internal courtyard at the corner between Buildings 3 and 4. The test pit measured 1 x 1.4 m and was excavated to the natural overlying the greensand, a greyish-green clayey sand, at a depth of *c* 0.5 m (99.00 m OD). The greensand was overlain by a friable grey clayey silt (303), interpreted as a reworked subsoil, through which two service trenches (305, 311), both now redundant, had been cut. Over these was another dumped infill layer (302) that provided a bedding for a layer of stone slabs (301), possibly the original floor or raft foundation of Building 3. This stone layer incorporated re-used blocks including a fragment of quern. The stone floor was overlain by a modern concrete foundation raft (300) that doubled as the raised internal floor of Building 3. This concrete had a manhole set into it, probably part of the drains leading to the septic tank next to test pit 1. Another more recent service trench, now disused, was cut through the concrete floor 300.

Test pit 5

- 5.1.5 Test pit 5 was located on the southern side of the open fronted Building 5, between the second and third bays, and measured 1.10 x 1.15 m. It was excavated to natural fractured clay with calcareous inclusions at a depth of 0.86 m (98.58 m OD). This was overlain by a layer of compact clayey silt (5001) interpreted as reworked subsoil, and this in turn was overlain by a bluish-grey clay silt (5002) containing flecks of charcoal, interpreted as possibly a water-borne silt. This contained intrusive contamination of organic material from 5003 above. A 0.18 m thick layer of organic grey-black clay or slurry (5003) overlay the clay silt 5002, which in turn was sealed by a 0.22 m thick deposit of rubble infill (5004). A levelling layer for the modern concrete yard surface (5005, 5006) capped this sequence.

Test pit 6

- 5.1.6 Test pit 6 was located on the southern side of the courtyard next to the doorway of Building 2. This trench measured 1.14 x 1.20 m and was excavated to natural fractured clay with calcareous inclusions at a depth of *c* 0.60 m (99.23 m OD). The natural was overlain by a compact grey silty clay (6001) 0.16 m thick, interpreted as undisturbed subsoil. A thin brown clay deposit (6020) also overlay the natural, and this was capped by a cobbled surface 6006. This surface had been badly truncated and was only clearly identified within the north-east corner of the trench (Fig. 4). The plough soil 6001 was cut by the foundation trench for Building 2, 6014, which also cut slightly into the natural greensand below. The foundation consisted of 5 courses of brick in a header bond (6015). An undated stakehole (6021) was cut into

the plough soil and this contained a single fill of clay silt. A possible pit (6002) also cut plough soil 6001, and was c 0.90 m wide and 0.30 m deep. This contained two fills; 6019 a blue clay silt overlain by 6003, a loose infill deposit of mixed silts, mortar, brick rubble and charcoal which contained no finds. Pit 6002 was truncated by 6004, a possible modern pit that also removed part of cobbled surface 6006, and 6004 was itself cut by the foundation cut (6007) for a concrete block footing (6008). Structure 6017 was a stepped footing of brick, off-set from the main wall 6015. This was overlain by a further concrete step (6018) and abutted by a general levelling deposit for the yard surface (6011).

Test pit 9

- 5.1.7 Test pit 9 was located upon a raised concrete platform in the south-east corner of the courtyard. The test pit measured 1.4 x 1.2 m and was excavated to natural dark grey clay at a depth of 0.70 m. (99.73 m OD). Here part of a small, square pit (905) was encountered. This was 0.58 m wide and at least 0.26 m long with a depth of 0.30 m. The pit was filled with a sterile mixed grey and dark brown clay (904), suggestive of deliberate infilling with redeposited natural soil. The pit and the surrounding natural clay were overlain by two similar dark clayey deposits derived from topsoil material (902, 903), which contained brick fragments sand mortar and charcoal debris. Layer 902 was capped by a gravel and sand levelling layer (901) and the 0.15 m thick concrete platform (900).

Test pit 2

- 5.1.8 Test pit 2 was located within the south-east external alcove of Building 2 and measured 1 x 1.5 m with an excavated depth of 0.90 m. Natural greensand was encountered at 99.37 m OD. Cut through the natural on an E-W alignment was a shallow ditch (2010). This was 0.25 m deep with a width of 0.6 m and a single fill (2009) of dark brown silty clay. A clay silt deposit 0.6 m thick (2006 / 2007), possibly a plough soil, sealed the ditch. This deposit had some silt loam mixing within, possibly disturbance from construction of farm buildings or activity beyond the test pit limits. A sherd of probable Saxon pottery was recovered from this thick deposit. The foundation of Building 2 (2008) was cut through layer 2006/2007 and bottomed on the natural greensand. The wall footings (2011), which were offset from the brick wall above by 0.1 m, almost filled the construction cut, leaving only a 0.12 m wide fill brown silt clay (Fig 4, Trench 2). This was overlain by 2002, a mid grey compact silt clay with occasional charcoal and modern building material. Over this deposit was 2001, a levelling deposit of sand and grit ballast for the overlying concrete surface 2000.

Test pit 8

- 5.1.9 Test pit 8 was located on the southern side of Building 2, next to the rear doorway. It measured 1 x 1.10 m and was excavated to natural whitish-yellow clayey greensand at a depth of 0.70 m (99.53 m OD). This was overlain by 8003, a dark grey silty clay 0.50 m thick, interpreted as a ploughsoil. This was cut by the building foundation 8006 which contained the off-set footings 8005. These comprised three courses of roughly shaped limestone blocks and were 0.34 m deep, so did not reach the natural

greensand (Fig. 4). The wall was abutted by the make-up deposits for concrete surface 8000.

Test pit 10

5.1.10 Test pit 10 was originally to have been dug at the north-west corner of the garden quadrangle in the angle of Building 1. Due to a very large shrub this was repositioned in front of the rear doorway of Building 1. The trench measured 1 x 1 m and was excavated to natural yellowish clayey greensand at a depth of 0.65 m (99.74 m OD). The terminus of an E-W ditch (10007) was found cut into the natural and appeared to incorporate a post-setting (10005). The ditch was 0.65 m wide and 0.15 m deep; the post-setting, whose profile can be seen in section (Fig. 4), was 0.68 m wide and 0.30 m deep. Both features had a single homogeneous fill (10004, 10006) of tenacious grey brown silty clay. This fill was derived from a contemporary land surface with no indication of deposition from an associated positive feature. Because of their similarity these fills are therefore believed to have been contemporary. A single sherd of probable Saxon pottery was recovered from the post fill deposit 10004. These deposits were sealed by a layer of grey silty clay (10003) c 0.10 m thick, possibly a ploughsoil. A recent garden soil (10002) overlay this and was sealed by a mortar make-up level (100001) for the extant stone slab paving around the lawn area. No relationships with, or depths of extant building footings were observed in this test pit.

Test pit 11

5.1.11 Test pit 11 was located in the NE corner of the garden quadrangle (Fig. 3). This measured 1 x 1 m and was excavated to the natural yellowish clayey greensand at a depth of 0.23 m (100.08 m OD). The natural greensand was overlain by garden soil (11000), which was overlain in section by the stone paving of the garden path.

5.2 Finds

Pottery

5.2.1 A total of two sherds of pottery were recovered from this investigation at Hill Farm. Both sherds are plain abraded body sherds weighing 5 g each. The first sherd came from Test pit 2 and was recovered from the disturbed ploughsoil horizon 2006 which overlay E-W ditch 2010. The sherd contained a large quantity of calcareous shelly material as temper in the naturally micaceous clay fabric. The fabric is dark grey with a slightly reddish hue to the external surface. The second sherd came from the fill of post-setting 10005 in Test pit 10. This sherd from deposit 10004 has voids indicating organic tempering in a fine micaceous clay. The internal face of the sherd is heavily oxidised and blackened, while the outer face has an orangey sandy hue.

5.2.2 Both sherds are probably Saxon in date, although an Iron Age date cannot be ruled out.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 All trenches located within the farm courtyard (Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9) lacked a subsoil deposit except for Trench 6, and none of them contained a ploughsoil remnant as seen within the trenches around the outer face of the buildings. This may suggest some truncation of the deposits overlying the natural, probably associated with the construction of the farm itself during the 19th century.
- 6.1.2 Natural greensand was found at a fairly consistent level across the site, with a fall of 1.56 m from Test pit 1 in the north to Test pit 11 in the south. This appears to reflect the general surrounding topography, which rises towards Round Hill to the north and east, is level to the south and falls to the west.

6.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

- 6.2.1 The two ditches that were identified during the investigation were both on E-W alignments. The ditch in Test pit 10 contained a probable Saxon sherd, the ditch / gully in Test pit 2 did not produce any finds, but the recovery of a sherd of possible Saxon date from the overlying ploughsoil suggests the proximity of Saxon features. Fieldwalking south and east of Hill Farm has produced only one Saxon sherd, but Saxon pottery was found west of the farm, and the excavated evidence adds weight to the possibility that the focus of Saxon activity lies beneath and to the west of the farm.
- 6.2.2 The ditch terminus that was located within Test pit 10, and the apparent post-setting within it, suggests the entrance to an enclosure. As can be seen from Figure 2, Hill Farm is flanked on all sides by enclosures and other features. Due to the small size of the investigation, however, it is not possible to associate the excavated ditch with any of the features visible on the geophysical plot.
- 6.2.3 Test pits 4 and 9 also contained discrete features cut into the natural greensand and truncated by overlying deposits. No artefacts were recovered from either of these features although the rectangular pit located in Test Pit 9, and its mixed fill suggest a recent date.
- 6.2.4 Test pits 2, 7, 8 and 10 all contained a deposit of grey silt clay over the greensand that was interpreted as a remnant ploughsoil; it was from this deposit that the probably Saxon sherd came in Test pit 2. This deposit does not appear within the farm courtyard, perhaps indicating that this soil was removed when the farm was constructed to create a flatter stepped plateau to the north and east where the natural rises. This may explain why only the trenches located externally to the extant buildings contained sub-soil and / or ploughsoil.
- 6.2.5 Test pits 4 and 6 in the courtyard area of the farm revealed a cobbled surface that incorporated a fired clay east-west open drainage gully. This is probably related to the sequence in Test pit 5, where a sequence of infilling overlay a slurry fill, suggesting that Test pit 5 has located a slurry pit associated with the former cow sheds adjacent.

6.2.6 The farm buildings recorded within the various trenches have also undergone structural changes. Test pit 1 shows Building 4 to have been subject to brick additions associated with the addition of Building 5. Test pit 3 recorded the concrete plinth overlying an earlier limestone surface, both of which were overlain by the retaining wall of Building 3. This suggests that this structure, like Building 5 across the yard, was originally open-fronted. This was why the foundations were so shallow, and the modern concrete supported the outer wall fabric. It appears that originally, the eastern and northern flanking buildings of the farm courtyard were sheds with open-fronted bays, while Building 2 to the south had solid walls. This hypothesis is supported by the deeper and more substantial footings for Building 3 recorded in Test pit 7 located on the building's western face.

Significance

6.2.7 The results of this very limited investigation confirm that archaeological deposits survive below Hill Farm. The discovery of at least three archaeological features in this very small sample suggests that the dense archaeological features indicated by geophysical survey south and east of the farm continue beneath it. There does not, however, appear to be a significant build-up of soils in this area, and the evidence suggests that any archaeology has been truncated to some degree by ploughing, probably in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The construction of the farm buildings during the 19th century does not appear to have caused substantial additional disturbance, except for localised areas in the courtyard. Here there is some survival of earlier farmyard surfaces beneath the existing concrete.

Impact of the Development

- 6.2.8 In the area of the farm buildings the impact of the development upon Saxon or earlier archaeology is likely to be limited to areas where excavation into the greensand is required, in other words, foundation trenches for new building, services and outfall ponds.
- 6.2.9 Removal of existing floors within the buildings may however reveal earlier surfaces associated with the 19th century farm, as may removal of the concrete surrounding the farm buildings.
- 6.2.10 The depth of soils over the natural greensand was shallowest away from the farm buildings in the garden to the south. The area of open ground west of the farm buildings, where a car park is to be constructed, was not investigated, and it is possible that the soil is similarly shallow in this area. If so, excavation and levelling for the car park may expose or even truncate buried archaeological features.

APPENDICES

7 APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Context No.	Type	Thickness (m)	Comment	Finds	No	Date
1	1000	layer	0.4	topsoil			modern
1	1001	layer	0.2	subsoil?			
1	1002	structure	0.2	chalk foundation raft			19th C
1	1003	layer		natural			
1	1004	structure		barn wall			19th C
2	2000	layer	0.1	concrete			modern
2	2001	layer	0.1	gravel levelling			modern
2	2002	layer	0.2	make-up layer			modern
2	2003	fill	0.35	redeposited natural fill of 2013			
2	2004	fill	0.3	rubble fill of 2013			modern
2	2005	service	0.1	ceramic drain within 2013			modern
2	2006	layer	0.7	mixed plough soil?	pottery	1	Saxon / IA ?
2	2007	layer	0.7	same as 2006			
2	2008	cut	0.5	foundation cut			
2	2009	fill	0.2	fill of 2010			
2	2010	cut	0.2	truncated gully			
2	2011	structure		stone wall foundation			19th C
2	2012	fill	0.5	fill of 2008			
2	2013	cut	0.7	service cut			modern
3	300	layer	0.1	concrete floor/raft			modern
3	301	layer	0.1	stone floor/raft			modern
3	302	layer	0.15	levelling layer			modern
3	303	layer	0.2	dump			modern
3	304	fill	0.38	fill of 305			modern
3	305	cut	0.38	disused/removed service cut			modern
3	306	service	0.22	glazed drain fill of 312			modern

Trench	Context No.	Type	Thickness (m)	Comment	Finds	No	Date
3	307	service		fill of 311			modern
3	308	layer	0.03	tile capping of drain, fill of 311			modern
3	309	structure		eastern wall of barn			modern
3	310	fill	0.2	fill of 311			modern
3	311	cut	0.3	service trench			modern
3	312	cut	0.4	service trench			modern
3	313	layer		natural			
4	4000	layer	0.15	cobbled surface			19th C
4	4001	structure	0.5	south face of barn foundation			20th C
4	4002	layer	0.2	general dump			modern
4	4003	cut	0.15	truncated pit			
4	4004	fill	0.15	fill of 4003			
4	4005	layer		natural			
4	4006	layer	0.06	clay bedding for 4000/4007			19th C
4	4007	structure		open fired clay drain			19th C
4	4008	layer	0.25	chalk foundation raft			19th C
4	4009	layer	0.1	levelling layer			modern
4	4010	layer	0.15	concrete surface			modern
5	5000	layer		natural			
5	5001	layer	0.15	silt clay disturbed subsoil			
5	5002	layer	0.12	clay silt run-off deposit			
5	5003	layer	0.2	organic slurry fill			
5	5004	layer	0.22	rubble dump			modern
5	5005	layer	0.1	levelling layer			modern
5	5006	layer	0.12	concrete surface			modern
6	6000	layer		natural			
6	6001	layer	0.12	residual plough soil?			
6	6002	cut	0.3	pit?			

Trench	Context No.	Type	Thickness (m)	Comment	Finds	No	Date
6	6003	fill	0.28	dump fill of 6002			modern
6	6004	cut		pit?			modern
6	6005	fill		dump fill of 6004			modern
6	6006	layer	0.15	cobbled surface			19th C
6	6007	cut	0.3	cut for concrete block 6008			modern
6	6008	structure	0.4	concrete slab			modern
6	6009	fill	0.3	fill of 6007			modern
6	6010	layer	0.06	make-up layer for concrete surface 6011			modern
6	6011	layer	0.1	concrete surface			modern
6	6012	cut		cut for disused water pipe			modern
6	6013	fill		fill of 6012			
6	6014	cut	0.5	foundation trench for north wall of barn			19th /20th C
6	6015	structure	< 0.5	brick wall foundation			
6	6016	fill	0.5	fill of 6014			
6	6017	structure	0.3	brick foundation off-set for barn			19th/20th C
6	6018	structure	0.2	concrete step			modern
6	6019	fill	0.05	fill of 6002			
6	6020	layer	0.04	clay seating for cobbles			19th C
6	6021	cut	0.15	stakehole			19th/20th C
6	6022	fill		fill of 6021			19th/20th C
7	7000	layer		natural			
7	7001	layer	0.1	subsoil?			
7	7002	layer	0.22	plough soil			
7	7003	cut	0.4	foundation cut for wall 7004			19th C
7	7004	structure		foundation wall			19th C
7	7005	fill	0.4	fill of 7003			19th C

Trench	Context No.	Type	Thickness (m)	Comment	Finds	No	Date
7	7006	layer	0.2	concrete slab			modern
7	7007	layer	0.18	concrete footing for road 7008			modern
7	7008	layer	0.1	tarmac road			modern
7	7009	layer	0.4	infill / dump			modern
8	8000	layer	0.15	concrete surface			modern
8	8001	layer	0.1	levelling layer			modern
8	8002	layer	0.2	dump / infill			modern
8	8003	layer	0.5	plough soil			
8	8004	layer		natural			
8	8005	structure		stone foundation wall			19th/20th C
8	8006	cut	0.3	foundation cut			19th/20th C
9	900	layer	0.12	concrete surface			modern
9	901	layer	0.08	levelling layer			modern
9	902	layer	0.24	dumped soil			modern
9	903	layer	0.1	dump			
9	904	cut	0.32	square cut pit			
9	905	fill	0.32	fill of 904			
10	10000	layer	0.06	stone paving			modern
10	10001	layer	0.06	levelling layer			modern
10	10002	layer	0.18	former garden soil			modern
10	10003	layer	0.1	plough soil			
10	10004	fill	0.28	fill of 10005	pottery	1	Saxon ?
10	10005	cut	0.28	post-setting in ditch 10007			Saxon ?
10	10006	fill	0.18	fill of 10007 - same as 10004			Saxon ?
10	10007	cut	0.18	E-W ditch			Saxon?
11	11000	layer	0.12	topsoil/garden soil			
11	11001	layer		natural			

8 APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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9 APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Hill Farm, Little Whittenham

Site code: LWHF 04

Grid reference: SU 5635 9255

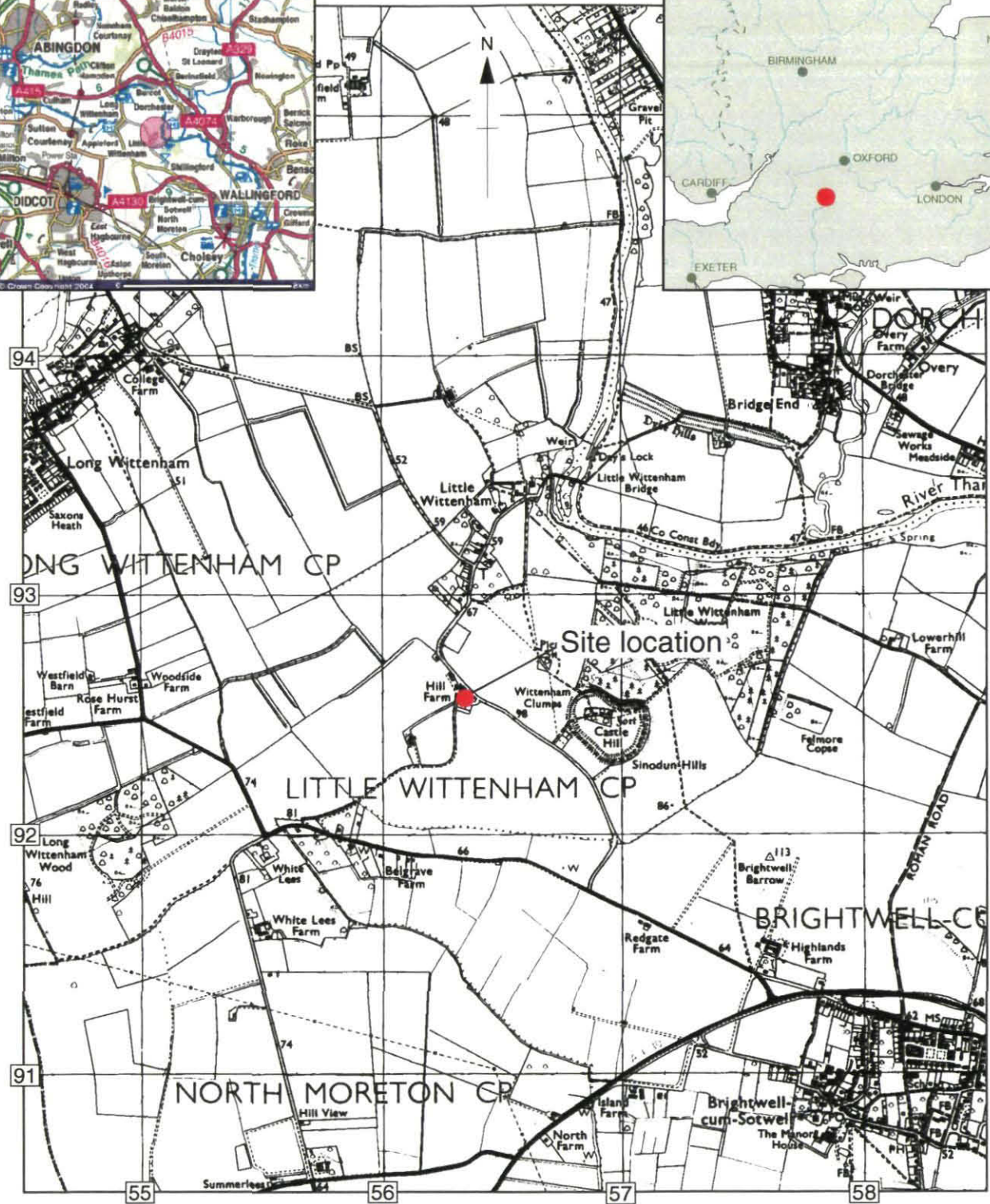
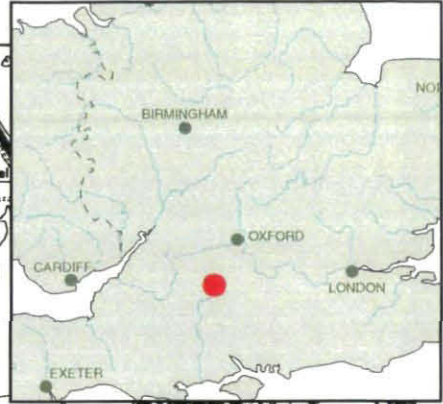
Type of evaluation: Eleven Trial pits measuring 1 x 1 m

Date and duration of project: 3 days, from 8th to 10th March 2004

Area of site: 7500m²

Summary of results:

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number:



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

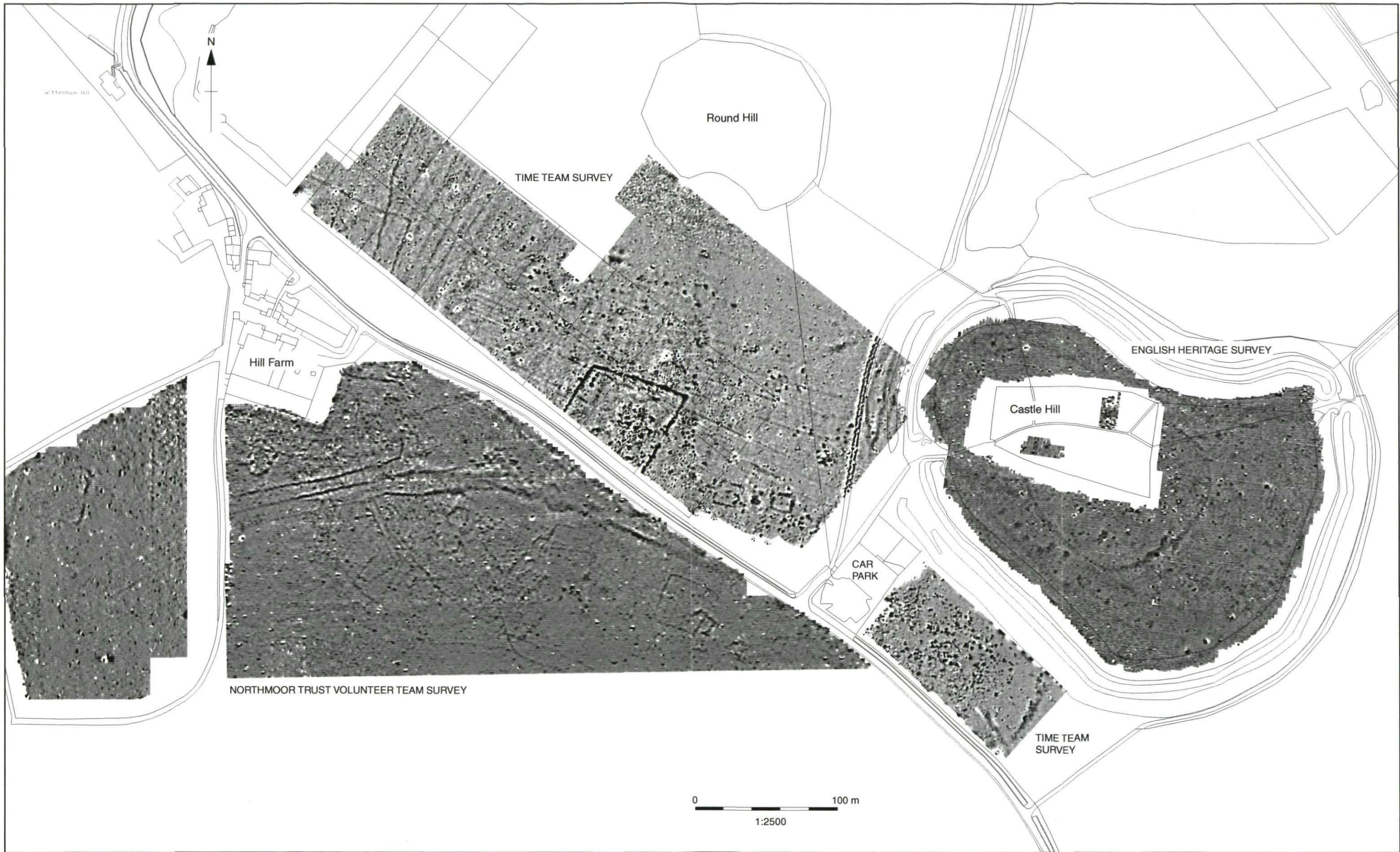


Figure 2: Geophysical Survey Information of Hill Farm Environs

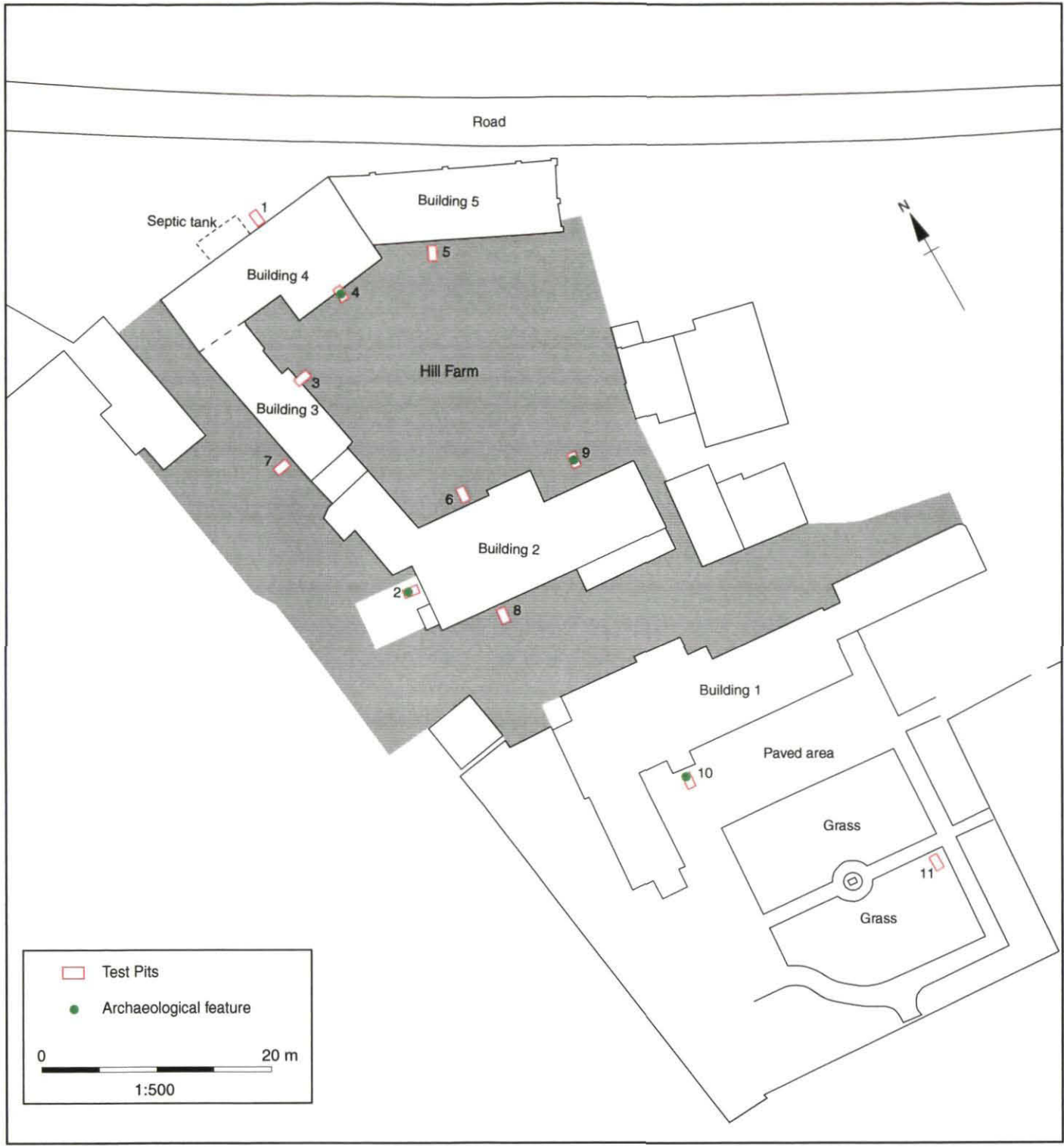


Figure 3: Trench locations

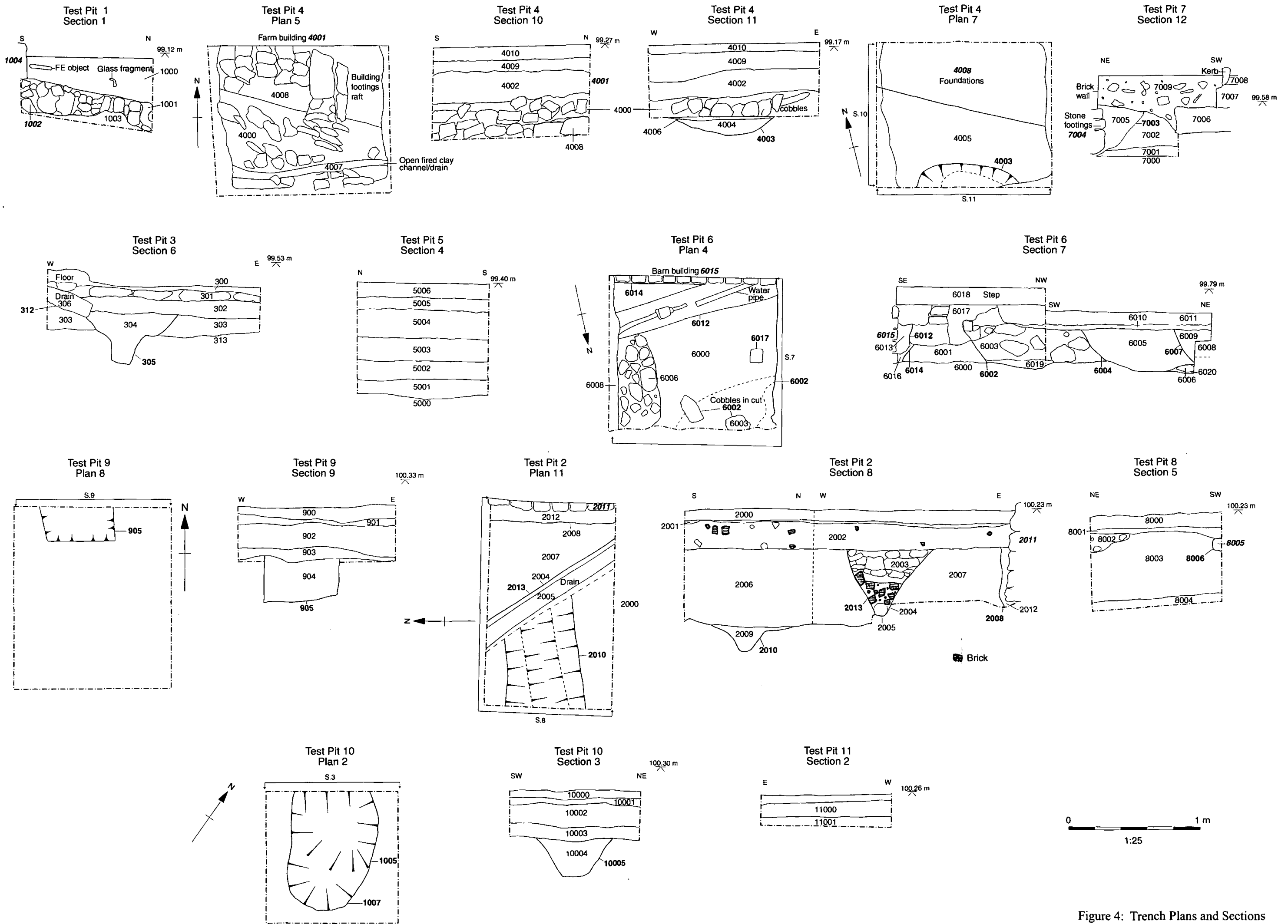


Figure 4: Trench Plans and Sections



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