

OXCHEM

The University Surveyor

New Chemistry and Molecular Science Laboratory,  
2-4 South Parks Road, Oxford

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

NGR SP 5170 0692

Planning Ref. No. 98/1961/NO

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July 2000

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Prepared by: Andy Simmons Date: July 2000
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Approved by: R. Hulhan. Date: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 25/7/2000

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**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.....	3
2 Evaluation Aims .....	3
3 Evaluation Methodology .....	3
3.1 Scope of fieldwork.....	3
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording .....	3
3.3 Finds .....	4
3.4 Presentation of results.....	4
4 Results: General.....	4
4.1 Soils and ground conditions .....	4
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits .....	4
5 Results: Descriptions .....	5
5.1 Description of deposits .....	5
5.2 Finds .....	6
5.3 Palaeo-environmental remains.....	7
6 Discussion and Interpretation .....	7
6.1 Reliability of field investigation .....	7
6.2 Overall interpretation.....	7
7 Impact of the development .....	9
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory.....	10
appendix 2 Pottery.....	11
Appendix 3 Animal bones .....	13
Appendix 4 Bibliography and references .....	14
Appendix 5 Summary of Site Details.....	15

**LIST OF FIGURES**

- Fig. 1 Site location map  
 Fig. 2 Trench location plan  
 Fig. 3 Trench One; plan and sections  
 Fig. 4 Trench Two; plan and sections



## SUMMARY

*The Oxford Archaeological Unit carried out a field evaluation on the site of a proposed new chemistry and molecular science laboratory at 2-4 South Parks Road, Oxford on behalf of the University Surveyor's Office, in line with PPG16 and Policy EN 40 of the Oxford Local Plan. The evaluation, consisting of two 15 m trenches, revealed evidence for Roman occupation in the form of a number of ditches along with postholes and a rubbish pit. This indicates that the settlement previously excavated at the adjacent Institute of American Studies site extends into the area of the proposed development.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In July 2000 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation at 2-4 South Parks Road, Oxford on behalf of the University Surveyor's Office in respect of a planning application for the construction of the proposed new chemistry and molecular science laboratory (Planning Application No. 98/1961/NO) and a brief set by and a WSI agreed with the Oxford Archaeological Advisory Service.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies near the edge of the second (Summertown-Radley) gravel terrace a short distance west of the first (flood plain type) terrace, overlying Oxford clay and Kellaway beds (Geology map sheet 236), between the rivers Cherwell and Thames. The site is relatively flat and lies at approximately 61-62m OD.

#### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk-based assessment (OAU 1999a), the results of which are summarized below. The site itself had previously produced no significant archaeological evidence, although there are several known sites with archaeological remains both immediately adjacent to and in the vicinity of the development site.
- 1.3.2 The development site is located on the north edge of the historic core of Oxford, and in the vicinity of Oxford's Civil War defences. The site is bounded to the north by South Parks Road, to the east by Mansfield Road, to

the south by Mansfield College and to the west by the Institute of Experimental Psychology (Fig. 1).

- 1.3.3 There is evidence for extensive prehistoric activity in the area to the north of the site. Aerial photographs of the University Parks show a range of features from the ring-ditches of six Bronze Age barrows to a Roman field system. Excavations at the Rex Richards Building in the University Science Area uncovered two concentric ring-ditches of a Bronze Age barrow and also revealed Iron Age activity (Parkinson et al 1997).
- 1.3.4 Excavations in 1998 and 1999 in advance of the construction of a new building for the Institute of American Studies, immediately south-west of the current site, revealed evidence for Roman settlement. This included parts of two enclosures which extended eastwards out of the excavated area into the proposed development area (Booth and Hayden forthcoming).
- 1.3.5 There is little archaeological evidence for the Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods in the vicinity of the site, and this fits with the historical information, which suggests that this area was still farmland beyond the city boundaries at this time.
- 1.3.6 An evaluation on the south side of Mansfield College, to the south-west of the development site, revealed a 7 m wide, east-west aligned Civil War defensive ditch which links to the north-south standing earthwork forming the western boundary of Mansfield College along the line of Love Lane (OAU 1992b).
- 1.3.7 The defensive ditches of the medieval town and castle were re-dug in preparation for the Civil War siege of 1646, in order to bolster the outer artillery fortifications. The nature of the Civil War defences has been the subject of much discussion and it has become clear, primarily through archaeological monitoring of various development projects, that far greater refurbishment of the medieval defensive works took place than previously was thought. Defensive works, in the form of a wide ditch, were recently identified during archaeological monitoring of the construction of new student accommodation at St Cross Road a short distance to the south-east of the development site (OAU 1999b).
- 1.3.8 Loggan's map of 1675 shows the site as gardens and grazing land, sitting between two lines of the Civil War defences. The defensive ditch along the western edge of Mansfield College would have been the quarry and counterscarp of the inner of the two main artillery defences of the 1640s.
- 1.3.9 The fortifications on the north side of Oxford were the first to be constructed in 1642, but were destroyed when Oxford fell into Parliamentary hands. Works



were recommenced when the city was retaken by Charles I on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1642

- 1.3.10 There appear to be no significant post-medieval buildings in the vicinity of the development site until the construction of the residences and University buildings in the nineteenth century. Land use on the site is currently as a car park. Previously it was the location of two large houses fronting onto South Parks Road.
- 1.3.11 A recent watching brief on a number of small test pits across the site failed to find any archaeological features. However, the watching brief report states that “the test pits were relatively small keyholes into the archaeology of the site, and the absence of archaeological deposits from the majority if them is not thought especially to be of significance” (OAU 1999c)

#### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The project was managed by Paul Booth, the field-work being supervised by Dave Score assisted by Robin Bashford. The specialist reports were prepared by Paul Booth (pottery) and Bethan Charles (animal bones). The help of Neil Eaton and Colin George of the University Surveyor's Office is gratefully acknowledged. The site work was monitored for the Oxford Archaeological Advisory Service by Brian Durham.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 2.1.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.1.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

## 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of two trenches, each 15m x 1.6m, located as indicated on Fig. 2.

### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The overburden was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon under close archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket. The sides of both trenches were stepped for health and safety reasons due to their depth. The trenches were then 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 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* (OAU 1992a).

### 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 were given a unique small find number.

### 3.4 Presentation of results

3.4.1 The two evaluation trenches are described individually, the deposits encountered being discussed in stratigraphic order beginning with the earliest contexts. This section is complemented by the context inventory in Appendix 1. This is followed by a summary of the finds retrieved, which are dealt with chronologically and by material. The full specialist reports may be found in Appendices 2 and 3. The findings are then discussed in terms of the nature, dating and state of preservation of the archaeology and the potential impact of the proposed development.

## 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The site is located on flint gravel, with good preservation of bone. The ground conditions were dry due to the good drainage qualities of the natural geology, resulting in an absence of waterlogged preservation.

### 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 A number of linear features and post-holes dating to the Roman period were discovered in Trench 2, sealed by a medieval plough-soil. This plough-soil was also seen in Trench 1, where it was cut by a later ditch. No Roman deposits were present in Trench 1.



## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Description of deposits

#### *Trench 1* (Fig. 3)

- 5.1.1 Natural gravel (1000) was encountered at a depth of 1.25 m below the current ground level. This was overlain by a layer of plough-soil (1001). No dating evidence was retrieved from this layer, but it is likely to have been medieval in origin, fitting with the historical evidence for the cultivation of this area in that period. This deposit was cut by a shallow ditch [1007], running on an east-west alignment. This was probably a post-medieval boundary ditch. The fill of the ditch, a reddish brown clay silt (1008) was sealed by buried subsoil (1002), which was in turn overlain by buried topsoil (1003), perhaps representing the ground surface in the nineteenth century, prior to the construction of St. Peter's Vicarage. At the south-west end of the trench layer (1002) was cut by a large, vertical-sided feature (1005) of uncertain extent and function. The fills of this contained \*\*RAbove this was a layer of re-deposited gravel (1011), presumably a leveling layer associated with the construction of the modern car park surface (1004).

#### *Trench 2* (Fig. 4)

- 5.1.2 Natural gravel (2000), revealed at a depth of 1.90 m, was overlain by a layer of orange-brown silty sand (2006), a possible alluvium deposit, which extended into the trench for 4.60 m from the north-east end. These archaeologically sterile deposits were cut by a number of Roman features. Two ditches [2011] and [2013] ran parallel with each other on a north-east - south-west alignment. Both were shallow and ditch [2013] tapered to nothing just short of the east end of the trench. Each ditch had a single fill, of mid grey brown clay silt, (2012) in [2011] and (2014) in [2013].
- 5.1.3 Between these linear features were two postholes [2019] and [2018]. If these post-holes are associated with each other, then they would seem to share the same alignment as the ditches, possibly forming part of a fence-line, either as a separate phase of this boundary or running alongside one or other of the ditches.
- 5.1.4 Two short lengths of linear features [2105] and [2017], aligned north-west - south-east were located, crossing [2011] and [2013] at right angles. No relationship could be established between [2015] and either [2011] or [2013] due to the similarity of their fills, and it is possible that they were contemporary. That they are aligned at right angles certainly suggests that they may relate to the same scheme of land division. Ditch [2017] was on the same

north-west - south-east alignment as [2015] a short distance to its west, but its relationship with [2011] had been removed by a later pit [2001].

- 5.1.5 Pit [2001] was circular, 2.7 m in diameter and 0.72 m deep, cutting earlier ditches [2011] and [2017]. The high concentration of pottery and the presence of charcoal in its main fill (2004) suggest that it may have been a rubbish pit. These features were overlain by the same sequence of deposits as was seen in Trench 1; medieval ploughsoil (2007) being overlain by modern buried subsoil and topsoil (2008) and (2009), beneath the current car park surface (2010).
- 5.1.6 Roman pottery was recovered from the single fills of ditches 2011 and 2015, and from most of the fills of pit 2001. While individual sherds may have been earlier, all the groups are likely to have been of late 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century date.

## 5.2 Finds

### *Roman Pottery*

- 5.2.1 A total of 58 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered, making up the vast majority of the pottery assemblage from the site. All of the Roman material comes from Trench 2 and is derived from securely stratified Roman deposits with the exception of two sherds from cleaning. The material was in a good state of preservation and exhibited few signs of abrasion. The assemblage consists generally of locally produced wares, the only extra-regional pieces being two sherds of Dorset black-burnished ware. Overall the assemblage contains material which can be dated broadly from the 2nd century onwards, but the majority of the contexts are firmly dated after AD 270 by the presence of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware sherds.

### *Medieval and post-medieval pottery*

- 5.2.2 Two sherds of medieval green-glazed pottery dated to the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century were found, one from cleaning of Trench 2 and the other from buried ploughsoil (2007). Five post-medieval sherds were recovered. All are of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century date and derive from modern pit fill (1006) and sub-soil (1002).

### *Animal Bones*

- 5.2.3 A total of 17 fragments of bone was recovered from Roman feature fills. The material was in very good condition, ten elements being identifiable to species. This small a sample of bones is not able to provide much information regarding the economy of the site, but in view of the proximity of this site to the Institute of American Studies site the two assemblages are probably



related. As was the case at that site, cattle bones predominate, and the young age of the individual represented by the mandible from context (2005) is consistent with the consumption of largely young animals.

### ***Other artefacts***

- 5.2.4 These were scarce, consisting of an iron nail from context (2014), a flint flake also from context (2014), two flat stone fragments (?Forest Marble and a calcareous sandstone) which might have been roofing material, from context (2002) and three fired clay fragments (total weight 23 g), one from context (1008) and the others from context (2003).

### **5.3 Palaeo-environmental remains**

- 5.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were located during the evaluation.

## **6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

### **6.1 Reliability of field investigation**

- 6.1.1 Although the Roman features revealed in the evaluation were truncated by medieval ploughing, as evidenced by the presence of an *in situ* plough-soil, they are generally well-preserved. Later disturbance has been negligible, due to the use of this area for cultivation until recent times, and the archaeology has not been impacted upon by modern building work.
- 6.1.2 The artefactual material retrieved was securely stratified, producing reliable dating evidence for the features encountered. Although the bone assemblage was not particularly large, as is to be expected from a limited trenching exercise such as this, it was found to be in a good state of preservation. No waterlogged material was preserved due to the well-drained nature of the geology.

### **6.2 Overall interpretation**

#### ***Summary of results***

- 6.2.1 Trench 2 revealed a number of Roman features potentially ranging from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries in date, though no features were certainly assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The earliest Roman features were two north-east - south-west ditches [2011] and [2013], at right angles to which were two north-west - south-east aligned ditches [2015] and [2017]. These are likely to be enclosure or boundary ditches similar to those found on the adjacent Institute of American Studies site. Ditches [2011] and [2013] are only 0.5 m apart, which

- suggests that they may represent successive phases of a single boundary rather than being strictly contemporary. Where present, pottery evidence dates these features to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century or later, but the relatively large assemblage from ditch [2011] indicates that it was not filled before the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Ditch 2013 was not dated, however.
- 6.2.2 Postholes [2018] and [2019] may form part of a post-line associated with [2011] and/or [2013], but are undated. The later pit [2001] cut the linear features [2011] and [2017], indicating that these had passed out of use by this time. The pit fills are dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century by associated pottery.
- 6.2.3 The size of the Roman pottery assemblage and of its component sherds clearly indicates that there was domestic occupation of this date in the immediate vicinity.
- 6.2.4 The medieval period is represented only by a ploughsoil, (1001) and (2007), observed in both trenches, confirming the historical evidence for the use of this area as farmland during this period.
- 6.2.5 No evidence for Oxford's Civil War defences was encountered. This is consistent with the evidence from historic maps, which show the development site as lying in an area between these features.

### *Significance*

- 6.2.6 The evidence for Roman settlement is entirely consistent with the known presence of Roman occupation immediately south-west of the proposed development site on the Institute of American Studies site (Booth and Hayden forthcoming). It probably indicates a similar density of archaeological features, at least in the western part of the present site. The absence of Roman features in Trench 1 may indicate that its location, further east than Trench 2, is close to or beyond the limit of Roman occupation in this direction. However, it is also possible that this absence of features, like that in the previously excavated test-pits, is not particularly significant. Although both trenches were located in the south half of the development site, it is likely that archaeological deposits, if present, will be preserved in the north half, since the depth of overburden, between 1.25 and 1.9 m, may have been sufficient to have protected them from being impacted upon by the Victorian buildings known to have existed on the South Parks Road frontage.
- 6.2.7 Generally, archaeological features on the present site and in the adjacent Institute of American Studies site are encountered at the level of the top of the natural gravel subsoil and have been truncated by post-Roman (probably medieval) ploughing. The location of a possible alluvial layer (2006) at the



east end of Trench 2 is of interest as this deposit may be of pre-Roman date. This deposit apart, however, the character of the archaeological features pre-dating the medieval ploughing horizon is essentially two-dimensional - there is no indication of surviving Roman stratigraphy.

- 6.2.8 As expected from the desk-based assessment, no evidence was found for significant archaeological deposits of the medieval or later periods. The probable medieval (and perhaps post-medieval) ploughsoils have survived to a reasonable depth, however, being sealed beneath later deposits.

## **7 IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT**

- 7.1.1 The development proposal involves the construction of a large chemistry laboratory complex, with two levels of basements. The size of the building and the associated works are likely to result in some disturbance to the entire site, with extensive disturbance to the majority of the area. The basements, which extend over the whole area of the building, will be at a depth which will ensure the destruction of any archaeological deposits within the impacted part of the site.

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Context	Type	Width (m)	Thick (m)	Comments	Finds	No.	Date
1								
	1000	Layer			Natural			
	1001	Layer		0.4	Buried plough-soil			
	1002	Layer		0.24	Buried subsoil	Pot	2	C19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
	1003	Layer		0.10	Buried topsoil			
	1004	Layer		0.2-0.8	Tarmac			
	1005	Cut	>5.0x >1.7		Modern			
	1006	Fill		0.8	Fill of 1005	Pot	3	C19 <sup>th</sup>
	1007	Cut	1.0		E-W ditch			
	1008	Fill		0.3	Fill of 1007	Bone	1	
	1009	Void						
	1010	Void						
	1011	Layer		0.4	Leveling for 1004			
	1012	Fill		0.9	Fill of 1005			
	1013	Fill		0.7	Fill of 1005			
2								
	2000	Layer			Natural			
	2001	Cut	2.7		Pit			
	2002	Fill		0.2	Fill of 2001	Pot Bone	2 1	120AD+
	2003	Fill		0.15	Fill of 2001	Pot	4	C2 <sup>nd</sup>
	2004	Fill		0.45	Fill of 2001	Pot Bone	8 5	C4 <sup>th</sup>
	2005	Fill		0.4	Fill of 2001	Pot	7	270-400AD
	2006	Layer		0.2	Alluvium		4	
	2007	Layer		0.66	Buried plough-soil	Pot	1	Medieval
	2008	Layer		0.3	Buried subsoil			
	2009	Layer		0.5	Buried topsoil			
	2010	Layer		0.4	Tarmac			
	2011	Cut	0.76		NE-SW ditch			
	2012	Fill		0.58	Fill of 2011	Pot Bone	33 6	270-400AD
	2013	Cut	0.5		NE-SW ditch			
	2014	Fill		0.36	Fill of 2013			
	2015	Cut	0.46		NW-SE ditch			
	2016	Fill		0.18	Fill of 2015	Pot	2	C2 <sup>nd</sup>
	2017	Cut	0.4		NW-SE ditch			
	2018	Cut	0.4x0.2		Post-hole			
	2019	Cut	0.32		Post-hole			
	2020	Fill		0.07	Fill of 2019			
	2021	Finds ref.			Finds from cleaning	Pot	3	Medieval



## APPENDIX 2 POTTERY

by Paul Booth

### Introduction

Some 65 sherds of pottery weighing 1411 g were recovered from the evaluation. The majority was of Roman date (58 sherds, 1153 g) and came entirely from Trench 2, as did 2 sherds (41 g) of medieval date. The remaining 5 sherds (217 g) were of post-medieval (19th-20th century) date and came from Trench 1. The material was scanned and recorded in summary form using the established OAU system for Iron Age and Roman pottery. Sherds were examined by context and recorded by fabric, with details of form and decoration noted where these could be determined and other characteristics recorded as necessary. Quantification was by sherd count and weight, with quantification of vessels by rim count. The pottery was generally in reasonable condition – surfaces were fairly well preserved and only a few sherds were abraded.

### Fabrics, forms and chronology - Roman

The pottery was divided initially into major ware groups, defined on the basis of significant common characteristics (for a more detailed account of this aspect of the recording system see Booth et al. 1994, 135-6). Sherds were then assigned either to the principal subdivisions of the ware groups or to individual fabrics/wares. Identification of coarse wares to the level of individual fabrics was not generally considered appropriate. The wares present are defined as follows:

- F51. Oxford red brown colour-coated ware (Young 1977, 123). 4 sherds, 147 g.
- OF. Probable Oxford colour-coated ware with eroded surfaces. 1 sherd, 108 g.
- M22. Oxford white ware mortarium (ibid., 56). 1 sherd, 202 g.
- W10. Oxford fine white fabrics (ibid., 93 fabric 1). 3 sherds, 22 g.
- O10. Fine sandy oxidised 'coarse' wares (Young 1977, 185, fabric 1). 33 sherds, 394 g.
- R10. Fine sandy reduced 'coarse' wares (ibid., 202-3, fabric 3). 5 sherds, 169 g.
- R20. Sandy reduced wares coarse wares (Young 1977, 202, fabric 2). 1 sherd, 15 g.
- R30. Medium sandy reduced coarse wares (ibid., fabric 3). 5 sherds, 38 g.
- R37. Fairly fine abundantly sandy reduced coarse ware. 1 sherd, 9 g.
- R90. Very coarse (usually grog-) tempered reduced fabrics (ibid., fabric 1). 1 sherd, 9 g.
- B11. Black-burnished ware (BB1). 2 sherds, 10 g.
- C10. Shell-tempered coarse wares. 1 sherd, 4 g.

The wares are grouped in the sequence of 'fine and specialist (F, M and W) wares' followed by the principal coarse wares (here O, R, B and C ware groups). The range of fabrics is unremarkable and consists almost entirely of certain or probable local products. The great majority of the pottery is consistent with production in the Oxford industry. The only extra-regional fabric present is Dorset black-burnished ware (B11) and the only certain non-Oxford reduced ware was a single sherd of fabric R37, from an unknown source probably located north-west of Oxford.

Only eight vessels were represented by rim sherds. These included colour-coated ware types C18 and C68 and white ware mortarium type M17 (in Young's (1977)

typology). Further types were a wide mouthed jar/bowl in fabric R10 (Young type R38), unspecified jar types in fabrics W10 and R30, a typical small cooking-pot-type jar in fabric B11 and a straight sided dish in fabric R30. Not all of these vessels were chronologically diagnostic, but the Oxfordshire colour-coated forms are probably assignable to the 4th century, while the mortarium is dated AD 240-300. The reduced ware form R38 is quite varied and is dated 1st-4th century by Young, but this example, with a hooked rim, is much more likely to be datable to the 3rd-4th centuries than earlier.

Overall the assemblage contains material which can be dated broadly from the 2nd century onwards, though no context groups of more than two small sherds were assignable to the 2nd century rather than later and the largest (though still generally small) groups, 2004, 2005 and 2012, were all dated at least after AD 270 on the basis of colour-coated ware sherds in them.

### **Medieval and post-medieval**

The two medieval sherds recovered were both in fairly finely sand-tempered oxidised fabrics with green glaze, from contexts 2007 and 2021, dated 12th-14th century. The post-medieval sherds are all glazed red earthenwares or white glazed wares of 19th-20th century date.



**APPENDIX 3 ANIMAL BONES**

by Bethan Charles

**Introduction**

A total of 17 fragments of bone were recovered by hand from the (Table 1). From this number ten elements were identified to species.

**Condition**

The bones were in very good condition with little attritional damage although over 70% of the bones had fresh breaks. A sheep humerus from context 1008 and a pig ulna from context 2004 had butchery chop marks. No other marks were observed on the bones.

Table 1. Number of bones recovered by period and context.

Period	Context	Horse	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Unid	Total
	1008	0	1	0	0	0	1
120AD+	2002	0	0	1	0	0	1
C4th	2004	0	2	0	1	2	5
270-400AD	2005	1	3	0	0	0	4
270-400AD	2012	0	1	0	0	5	6
		1	7	1	1	7	17

**Methodology**

The calculation of the species recovered from the site was achieved by adding the number of identifiable fragments of bone of each species (NISP). All fragments of bone were counted including elements from the vertebral centrum, ribs and long bone shafts. The ageing of the cattle mandible was based on tooth eruption and wear using a combination of Grants (1982) and Halstead's (1985) tables for cattle.

**Result**

The small number of bones recovered does not give much information regarding the economy of the site. However, due to the close proximity of the present site to the site excavated at Mansfield College it is not unreasonable to presume that the assemblage is related.

Cattle bones are the most numerous elements retrieved from the site. The cattle mandibles found at Mansfield College (Charles, forthcoming) were mostly from young individuals. The single cattle mandible from context 2005 from the Chemistry building assemblage was aged between 8 to 18 months of age (Grant 1982, Halstead 1985), which again indicates that the inhabitants were eating young animals. Part of a horse maxillae was also found within this context. A small section of a sheep humerus was found in context 2002 and part of a pig ulna was found in context 2004.

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**APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** New Chemistry and Molecular Science Laboratory, 2-4 South Parks Road, Oxford

**Site code:** OXCHEM 00

**Grid reference:** NGR SP 5170 0692

**Type of evaluation:** Two 15m trenches

**Summary of results:** Evidence for Roman occupation was found, in the form of a number of enclosure/boundary ditches along with a pair of postholes and a rubbish pit. This is consistent with the settlement previously excavated at the adjacent Institute of American Studies site extending into this area. No evidence was found for significant archaeology of later periods.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OAU, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, in due course, under the following accession number: 1999.204



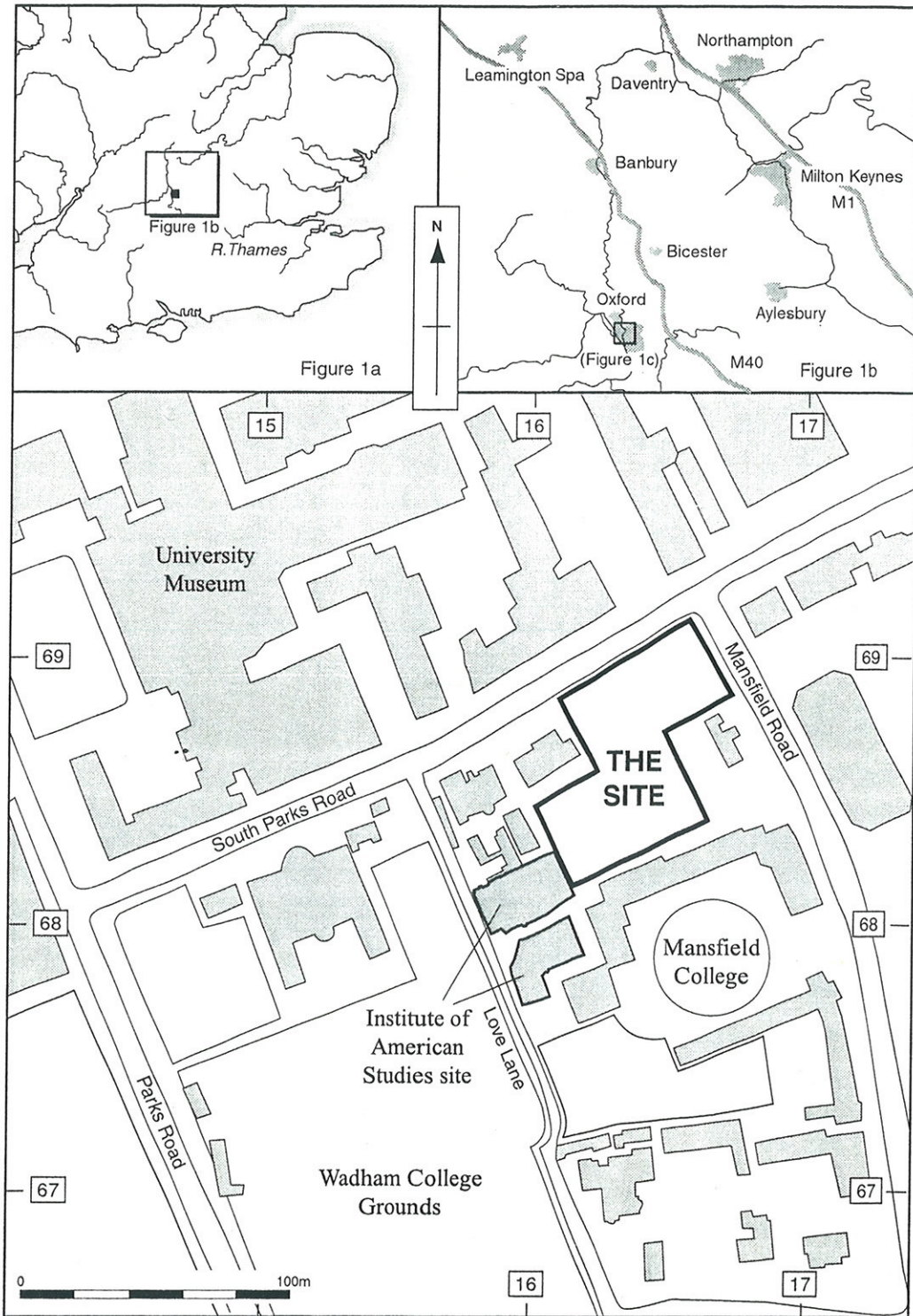


Figure 1 Site Location



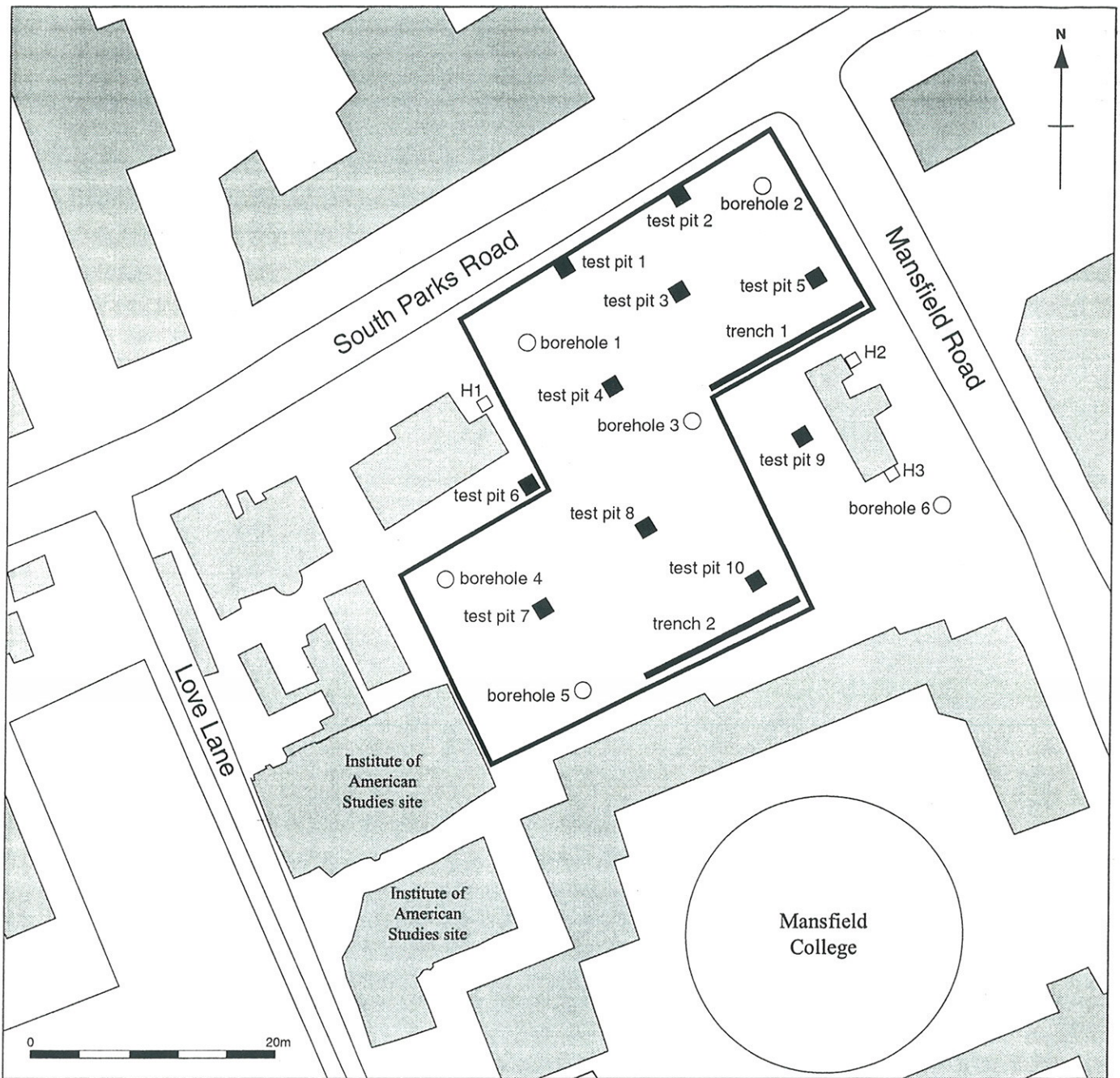


Figure 2 Plan of the site showing location of trenches and testpits from previous watching briefs

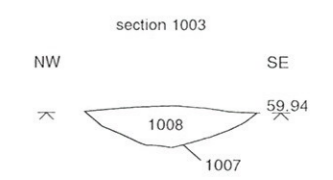
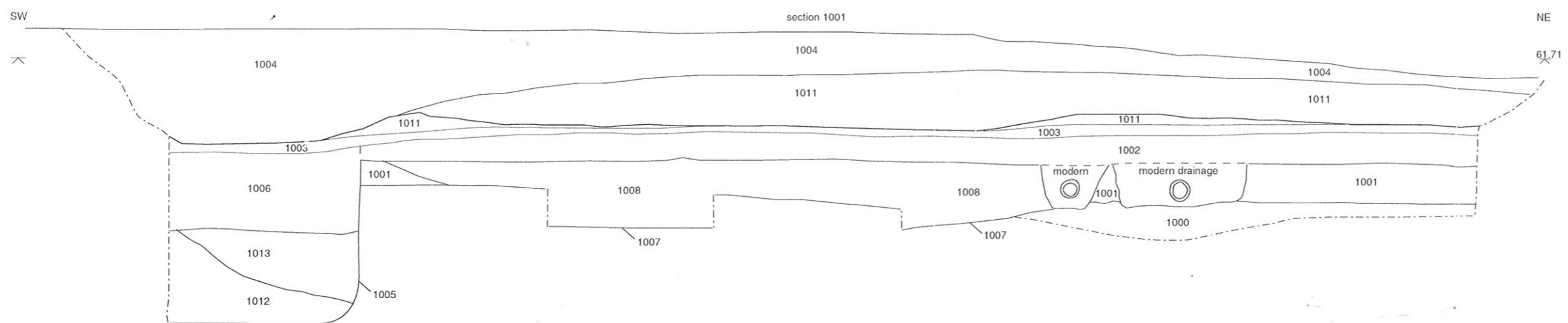
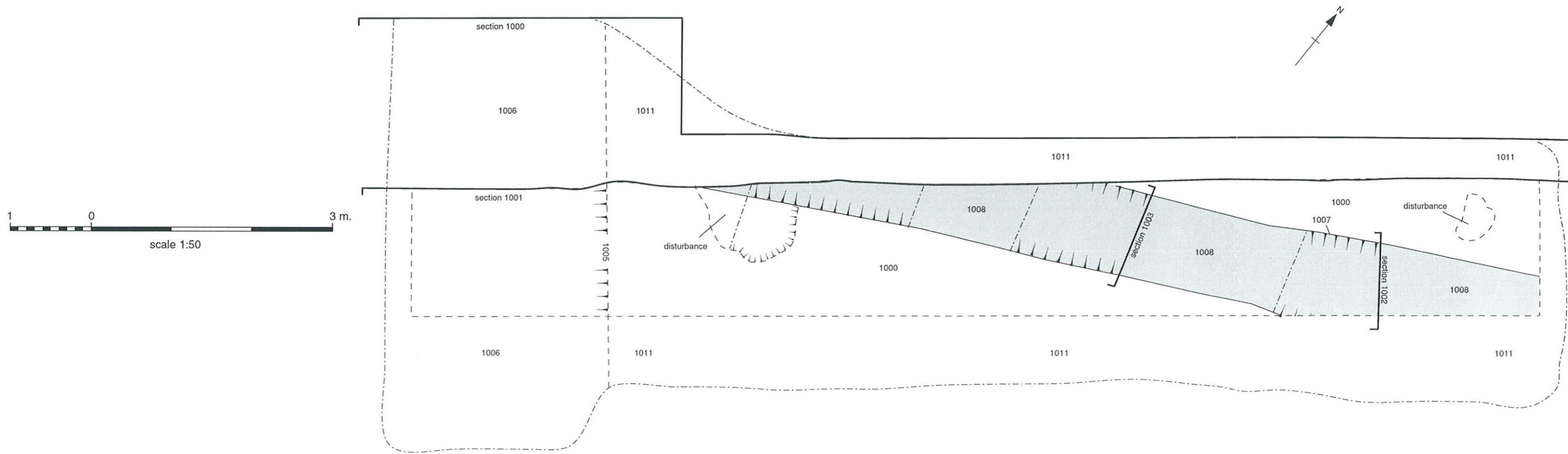


Figure 3 Trench 1 plan and sections

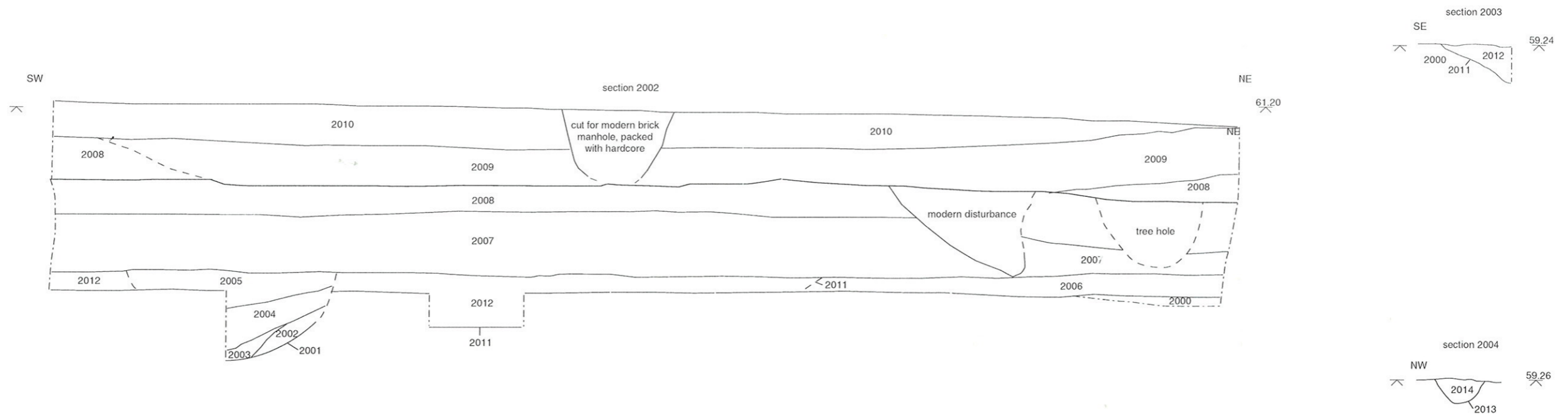
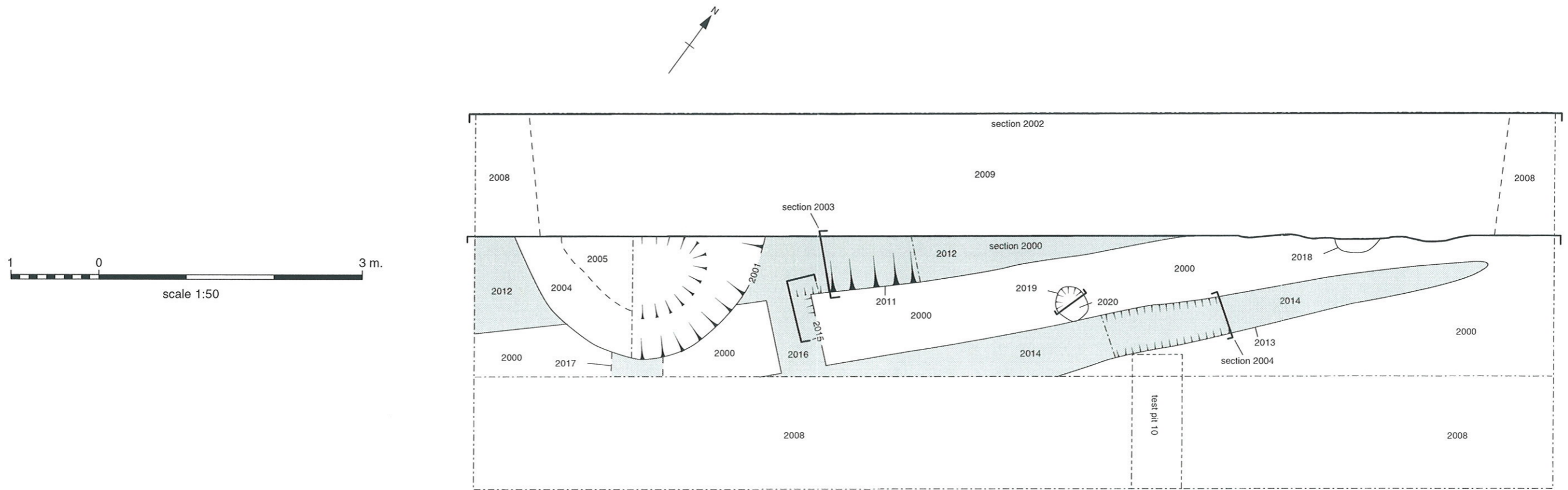


Figure 4 Trench 2 plan and sections



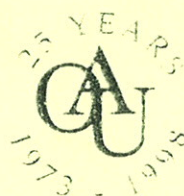


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