OXMSSEV2

Barracks Lane
Morris Motors Sports and Social Club
Phase II

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Oxford Archaeology
October 2005

Client: H N Edwards and Partners Ltd

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 2796
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Position:	Supervisor
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Checked by:	Valerie Diez
Position:	Project Manager
Date:	10th October 2005
Approved by:	John Hiller
Position:	Senior Project Manager
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Illustrated by	Julia Moxham

Signed.....JRHiller.....pp N. SHEPHERD OA HEAD OF FIELDWORK.

Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Morris Motors Sports and Social Club, Barracks Lane, Oxford, Oxfordshire (Phase 2)

NGR SP 547 048

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In September 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a second phase of field evaluation at the Morris Motors Sports and Social Club, Barracks Lane, Oxford (NGR SP 547 048) on behalf of H. N. Edwards and Partners Ltd. Four trenches were excavated and revealed evidence of Iron Age and early medieval quarrying activity at the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In September 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the Morris Motors Sports and Social Club, Barracks Lane, Oxford (NGR SP 547 048) on behalf of H. N. Edwards and Partners Ltd. The second phase of evaluation took place to the west of phase 1, at the location of a proposed housing area, comprising a block of flats and 6 houses with associated access road (Planning ref: 98/1742/NO). The site location is shown on Figure 1.

1.1.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential and therefore Brian Durham of Oxford City Council (OCC) requested a programme of trial trenching for this work. A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by OA detailing how it would meet the requirements of the City Archaeologist with regard to the proposed development (OA 2005).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The proposed development site is located on the frontage of Barracks Lane, approximately 100 m east of the Barracks Lane/Hollow Way junction. The site is situated opposite Southfield Golf Course and to the rear of the current Morris Motors bowling green (NGR SP 547 048). This area is currently occupied by a tennis court (which was previously part of a swimming pool complex) and a car park. The land lies at approximately 85 m OD and the geology is Upper Jurassic Oxfordian, Temple Cowley Member comprising sandstones and siltstones with overlying deposits of Oxford Clay (Institute of British Geological Sciences). The Phase 2 site is approximately 0.39 hectares in area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Roman occupation and activity is known in the vicinity of Barracks Lane with burials, pottery and a spiked mace head being recorded from 1898 quarrying at Cowely Barracks Quarry (SMR no. PRN 3818 & 9932). Romano-British Kilns and occupation at Temple Cowley (SMR 3817) and a kiln site at the Boys School (SMR 3630). It is possible that the alignment of Barracks Lane from Hollow Way may be based over an earlier Roman route. As there is reasonable evidence in the area for pottery and ceramic production, it would seem probable that associated settlement

would be close by. However, as burials were encountered during quarrying at the Cowley Barracks Quarry it would seem unlikely that settlement contemporary with these exists on site due to cemeteries normally being located away from inhabitation areas.

1.3.2 The place name Cowley is derived from the Anglo-Saxon meaning Cufa's wood or clearing. The main focus of medieval activity in this area was based around Temple Cowley and the associated church. It would seem that during this period (post-Roman to medieval) that much of this area was agricultural land moving away from the wooded and marsh areas to the west. St Bartholemew's Chapel and hospital were founded in 1126 by Henry I for the physical and spiritual care of lepers. The site of the hospital was located approximately 1 km to the west of the Barracks Lane site and it was initially known as the Bartlemas. In 1329, Edward III transferred ownership to Oriel College, who remain the landlords today. During the Civil War, the hospital was burnt to the ground and was rebuilt by Oriel in 1649. The associated chapel is thought to date from the 14th century.

1.3.3 The main route into Oxford Town has always been the Cowley Road, part of which was known as Berrye Lane in 1605. This crossed the marsh as a causeway, past St Bartholemew's and on to Magdalen Bridge. By 1763, this causeway route had mostly fallen out of use and the course more commonly taken was across Headington Fields and along Mud Lane, now known as Barracks Lane.

1.3.4 The settlements of the Cowleys and the other peripheral villages to Oxford Town such as Littlemore, were agricultural based settlements. The open fields of Cowley were finally enclosed in 1856 with many of the freeholds being shared out between various Oxford colleges. This enclosure award set aside three one acre plots for quarries for the surveyor of highways, and although the quarries within the immediate area are considered to be post-medieval, there is a possibility for these to be of earlier origin.

1.4 Acknowledgements

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal 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 Four trenches were excavated to a width of 2 m, but their lengths varied. Trench 3 measured 20 m in length, Trenches 4 and 5 were 15 m and Trench 6 was 10 m. The area excavated represented an approximate 3% sample of the proposed development site evaluated in this phase (Fig. 2).

3.1.2 The trenches were located to obtain a representative sample of the site, and were agreed with Brian Durham (OCC) prior to the start of the evaluation.

3.1.3 A project supervisor and an archaeologist, under the supervision of a project manager undertook the fieldwork.

3.1.4 Monitoring of the evaluation was undertaken by Mr Brian Durham.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Trenches were excavated to the top of the 'natural' or to the top of any significant archaeological level, whichever was higher.

3.2.2 Spoil heaps were monitored to allow analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.

3.2.3 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 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) and in the IFA guidance for archaeological evaluations (IFA 1999).

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 Bulk samples were taken from suitable deposits to assess the preservation of environmental materials at the site.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 Section 4 comprises a description of the archaeological observations of the evaluation. Trenches that were heavily truncated and contained only modern features (see Fig. 2,

Trenches 3 and 6) are described first. Where appropriate, individual context descriptions are given. Where deposits within a feature are numerous, and of a similar nature, they are not described individually but as a group. General archaeological information are summarised in the context inventory table (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The natural geology of the site comprised sandstones and siltstones with underlying deposits of sands and course gravels. These were overlain by modern imported material and new topsoil laid down during the construction of the sports field now occupying part of the site.

4.1.2 Natural geology was not seen within Trenches 3 and 6, which had been considerably truncated during the construction of a large rectangular sunken structure, possibly a swimming pool, and backfilled with deposits of sand and demolition rubble. Deeper excavation, in the form of test pits within these trenches, was required to ascertain the level of truncation.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 Archaeological features were only seen in Trenches 4 and 5 (Fig. 2), and were associated with quarrying activity. This activity was confined to two periods, the first during the Iron Age, and the second phase during the early medieval period.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 3

5.1.1 Trench 3 was 20 m in length and 2 m wide, and was aligned NW-SE (Fig. 3). The Trench contained only modern features. A test pit was excavated at the north-west end of the trench to ascertain the level of truncation. A concrete floor (303) was encountered at a depth of 1.9 m (83.71 m OD). A concrete wall (304), 0.5 m wide, to the north-east of floor 303 and aligned on a NW-SE axis, was probably part of the same structure. A brick built wall (302), also 0.5 m wide, located at the south-east end of the trench and aligned on the same axis as 304, may also be a part of this structure. These features could have been related to similar features seen in Trench 6 (Fig. 3), and probably indicate that a swimming pool, or associated structure, may have been constructed in this area. The existence of this structure was unknown prior to the excavation of these trenches.

5.1.2 The made ground of sand and demolition rubble, which overlaid these structures (300), was similar to that seen in Trench 6. This layer was overlain by the tarmac surface of the present car parking area.

Trench 6

5.1.3 Trench 6 was 10 m in length and 2 m in width, and was aligned NE-SW (Fig. 3). The Trench contained only modern features, and had been heavily truncated during the construction of a swimming pool and tennis court on the site. A test pit was excavated at the north-east end of the trench to ascertain the level of this truncation. Natural geology was not visible at a depth of 2.0 m (83.04 m OD). Excavation beyond this depth was not possible due to the unstable nature of the material used to backfill the site. However it is likely that any archaeological deposits would have been truncated in their entirety.

5.1.4 The earliest feature recorded was a wall (601), which seemed to have been constructed from concrete. The wall was aligned NW-SE, and was 0.6 m in width. A similar wall (304) was seen in Trench 3 and may indicate that the swimming pool complex extended further to the south-west than was previously thought.

5.1.5 Abutting 601 was a second wall, aligned NE-SW, and of brick construction (602). This wall was probably part of the same complex as 601, perhaps an extension or annex connected to the northern part of the structure.

5.1.6 Sand and demolition rubble (600) was used to backfill the site following its demolition. This modern levelling layer was overlain by the tarmac surface of the present car parking area.

Trench 4

5.1.7 Trench 4 was 15 m in length and 2 m wide (Fig. 4). It was aligned NE-SW, and had an average depth to the natural geology of 1.2 m. The trench contained evidence for extensive quarrying activity during the Iron Age, and a single undated posthole. The quarry cut occupied most of the base of the trench, with only isolated areas of the natural limestone layer remaining *in situ*. This limestone layer, that had formed over the sands and gravels, appeared to have been targeted by the quarrying. Quarry cut 401 was irregular in plan, but seemed to have been excavated in a linear, or ditch-like fashion, rather than as individual pits. The cut was, in certain areas, deeper than would have been needed to remove the limestone, up to 1.2 m. It was suggested that the deeper areas were due to the natural erosion of the sands at the base and sides of the cuts, a probable result of the quarry being left open and not backfilled after being excavated. Running water most likely caused the gullies and deeper undulations at the base of the cut. The fills of this feature, which were interpreted as having formed naturally, also supported the theory that the quarry had remained open.

5.1.8 The fills were broadly similar, and were interpreted in stratagraphic sequence as basal fill 404 and secondary fills 403 and 402. They were characterised as being largely deposited via the natural erosion of the feature sides and upcast, which may have been dumped near the quarry. They comprised silty sand layers, with slight variations in colour. Deposits 403 and 402 were mid brown and overlay a lighter yellowish primary fill (404). The deposits contained occasional large fragments of

limestone, which were most prolific within the latest deposit (402). All the deposits contained a total of 46 fragment (434 g) of animal bone and 30 sherds (203 g) of pottery dated to the Iron Age. This material was probably deliberately deposited within the quarry as it was silting, which suggested that the quarry had been used for the deposition of domestic refuse, though not in large quantities. This also suggested that a settlement site might have existed somewhere in the vicinity of the quarry.

5.1.9 A single undated posthole was also recorded at the south-west end of the trench (405). It was 0.22 m in diameter and 0.1 m deep, and filled by a mid-brown silty sand (406). This posthole may have been contemporary with the quarrying activity, or relate to earlier features removed by the quarrying activity.

5.1.10 A layer of modern levelling (408) overlay these features. It was 0.54 m thick, and probably laid down during the construction of the sports field now occupying the site. This layer suggests that some truncation had taken place, perhaps relating to some levelling of the ground surface in the area. This deposit was in turn overlain by modern topsoil 409.

Trench 5

5.1.11 Trench 5 was 18 m in length and 2 m wide (Fig. 5). It was aligned NE-SW, and was extended 3 m towards the east at its north-east end. The average depth to the natural geology was 1 m. Like Trench 4, evidence for extensive quarrying activity was also found, though here it was dated to the 11th and 12 centuries AD.

5.1.12 Four quarry cuts were identified, and covered most of the base of the trench, with only an area to the south-east of the trench remaining undisturbed. Again the limestone appeared to have been targeted by this activity. These quarries appeared to have been excavated and backfilled in a different manner to the Iron Age quarries recorded in Trench 4. Only one of the quarry cuts was almost fully exposed in plan, and this was a pit-like feature (502). The deposits within the cuts also suggested a pit-like form to the quarries. They seemed to have been backfilled after excavation, rather than being left open, as was suggested for the Iron Age Activity seen in Trench 4. This backfilling may have occurred as the excavation was progressing, and radiated out from a central starting point.

5.1.13 The earliest cuts identified were 501 and 503. Cut 501 was located at the south-west extent of the quarries. Only a small segment was visible, having been truncated by later quarrying. It appeared to be semi-circular in plan, with steep sides and a concave base, deepening to the north-east. Its basal fill was a water-lain brown silty sand (504). This in turn was overlain by a brown silty sand (505) with 40 % small to medium sized angular limestone fragments, probably deposited as a deliberate backfill. There were no datable finds from this feature, though finds from other quarry pits in this trench were dated to the medieval period.

5.1.14 Quarry pit 503 occupied the central area, and was cut by later pits to the north-east and south-west. Its base was relatively flat and had a depth of approximately 1.1 m.

The outer edge of the cut was not seen because of truncation by later quarrying. The deposits within this cut suggested it was circular, as they appeared to radiate out from a central point somewhere to the north, and formed rings when viewed in plan. These fills formed a sequence comprising three main types of deposit (see figure 5, section 500). The first was a mid-brown sandy silt that contained few stone inclusions. It was interpreted as being the result of topsoil removal. A single sherd (22 g) of pottery from deposit 529, the latest in the sequence of these redeposited topsoils, was dated to the 11th century AD. Two sherds (29 g) of residual Roman pottery were also recovered from this fill. The second deposit type was a brownish orange sandy silt with up to 80% small to medium sized angular limestone fragments. These fills were probably deposited as waste material following the removal of the limestone. The third type of deposit was a mid-orange silty sand, probably redeposited natural sands, and again the result of material excavated after the removal of the limestone.

5.1.15 The pattern exhibited in the deposition of the fills, which was relatively regular and sequential, was most likely to have occurred if the people undertaking the quarrying deposited spoil behind them whilst radiating outwards from a central point, thus forming a circular pit.

5.1.16 The latest cuts in the sequence, 530 and 502, were located on either side of 503. Cut 530 seemed to be a continuation of the north-east extent of cut 503, perhaps undertaken after a short break in the quarrying activity, and only partially recut the earlier quarry pit. The depositional events within the cut were also sequentially deposited and of the same type as those described within 503. Deposit 533, a redeposited topsoil, contained a pottery sherd (5 g) of mid 11th century date.

5.1.17 Cut 502 truncated cuts 501 and 503. It was oval in plan, with a vertical side to the south becoming moderate to the north, and had a concave base. It was 3.5 m at its widest and attained a depth of approximately 1 m. It contained similar depositional sequences to cuts 503 and 530. The basal fill (506) was probably derived from the re-deposition of topsoil. This was overlain by sandy silt deposits 507 and 508, which contained high concentrations of angular limestone fragments (approximately 80% of the deposits). These deposits were probably backfilled following the removal of the useable stone. In turn these deposits were overlain by 509, which was a topsoil derived deposit. It contained a single sherd (4 g) of pottery dated to the 11th century AD.

5.1.18 This sequence of quarry pits was sealed by 542, which was a sandy layer of made ground. This was laid down during the construction of the sports field and was overlain by a new topsoil layer, 543.

5.2 Finds

Pottery

5.2.1 An assemblage of 36 sherds (279 g) was recovered from Trenches 4 and 5 (Appendix 2).

5.2.2 Trench 4 contained 30 sherds (203 g) of Iron Age material, all from quarrying feature 401. From the finds this activity can be firmly dated to the Iron Age period.

5.2.3 Only six sherds (76 g) were recovered from Trench 5. This lower quantity of finds, when compared to Trench 4, was probably due to the features within this trench being deliberately backfilled soon after they were excavated. Two sherds (29 g) of Romano-British pottery, and four (47 g) dating to the 11th century AD were recovered from the features. As the backfilling of these features was rapid, and the layers well stratified, it is probable that this activity dates no earlier than the date of the latest pottery type. The medieval material, although found in small quantity, was all closely dated to the 11th century and no later material was found alongside it suggesting that the cutting of these quarry pits dated to this period.

Lithics

5.2.4 One piece of struck flint was recovered from context 529. It has a clear cone of percussion, however, the striking platform and dorsal surfaces are very irregular which suggests that it may have been naturally, as opposed to humanly struck. A small piece of burnt unworked flint was also recovered from context 529.

5.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

5.3.1 Two bulk samples were taken from suitable deposits in Trenches 4 and 5 to assess the preservation of environmental materials at the site (Appendix 4).

Carbonized plant remains and charcoal

5.3.2 Within Trench 4, Iron Age deposit 403 produced limited charred plant material. Charcoal was present, as was cereal chaff, and a possible charred oak (*Quercus* sp.) bud. This would indicate that some crop processing activity was taking place in the area.

5.3.3 In Trench 5, deposit 529, dated to the medieval period, produced three items of indeterminate cereal grain, and charcoal of potentially identifiable size. Given the nature of these deposits, representing deliberate backfilling of pits, it is probable that this material was re-deposited.

Snails

5.3.4 The snail assemblage was well preserved in both samples (contexts 403 and 529). A range of taxa was identified, including *C. acicula*, a burrowing species, and likely to be intrusive and therefore not indicative of the contemporary environment.

5.4 Bone

5.4.1 The Iron Age deposits (402-4, Appendix 3), excavated within the quarry found in Trench 4, contained 46 bone fragments. Those that were identifiable were from cattle, horse and pig, with a number that were only identifiable as medium to large mammals. There was some evidence for butchery and the extraction of marrow. The assemblage was interpreted as the disposal of domestic refuse. A single middle-sized mammal vertebra was also found during the processing of bulk soil sample1 (context 403).

5.4.2 Three fragments of a large mammal mandible were found in deposit 533. This quarry fill was dated to the early medieval period, and has been interpreted as the disposal of domestic refuse.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

6.2 Overall interpretation

6.2.1 The evaluation found that the northern end of the present car parking area (Trenches 3 and 6) had been heavily truncated during the construction of a modern building in that area. This structure may have been part of the swimming pool complex, associated with the reused swimming pool/tennis courts still visible to the north of phase 2 area. Given the depth of the truncation in this area, which was in excess of 2 m, it was thought unlikely that significant archaeological features would be preserved beneath the concrete floor of this structure. However, potentially the bases of very deep features may survive. The base of the deepest feature seen in Trench 4 was 83.6 m OD, and the top of the concrete floor in Trench 3 was 83.7 m OD. It is, however, probable that the potential of any such features surviving at this depth would be negligible.

6.2.2 Better preservation was seen within Trenches 4 and 5, located to the east of the car park on an area of grass surrounding the sports field. Some truncation is likely to have taken place during the construction of the sports field, but this did not seem to have had a detrimental effect on the archaeology, which comprised quarrying activity dated to the Iron Age and early medieval period, primarily the 11th century AD. This activity seemed to have been undertaken to exploit a layer of limestone that overlay the sands and gravels approximately 1 m below the present ground surface. This activity seemed to have been undertaken very differently within the two periods.

6.2.3 The Iron Age quarry (Trench 4) was originally less systematically excavated. It was irregular in plan and was probably excavated in a ditch-like manner. Following the removal of the limestone, the quarry was left open to the elements, and natural erosion then affected the edges and base of the quarry cut. The quarry was left to silt up gradually and was used sporadically for the deposition of domestic waste, but not

in any great quantities. The environmental evidence, though limited, indicated the presence of crop processing activity in the area. This evidence and the deposition of domestic waste suggested the possible presence of an occupation site in the vicinity.

6.2.4 The early medieval (11th century) quarries were excavated as pits. The manner in which most of the fills of the quarry had been deposited and appeared in plan as concentric circles, suggested that the cut had started from a central point and was excavated in a systematic way, with the spoil probably being deposited behind the excavators as the pit expanded.

Summary of results

6.2.5 Iron Age activity was not expected on the site. Although no features related to settlement activity were found during the evaluation, the presence of animal bone and pottery may suggest the presence of an occupation area in the vicinity.

6.2.6 Conversely it was noted that a possible Roman route, a kiln site and burials dating to the Roman period had been found, or were assumed to exist in the area. Apart from two sherds of residual Romano-British pottery, no evidence was found from this period to suggest the presence of any settlement that may have been associated with these features.

6.2.7 During the early medieval period it was assumed that much of this area was agricultural land moving away from wooded and marsh areas to the west. It was also suggested that the 1856 enclosures set aside three one acre plots for quarries for the surveyor of highways, and although the quarries within the immediate area were considered to be post-medieval, there was a possibility for these to be of an earlier origin. The evidence of quarrying located during the evaluation does add credence to them being of an earlier date.

6.2.8 The evaluation found that the modern truncation of the site was more extensive than was earlier thought, and that the swimming pool complex may have extended further to the south.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	*Ctxt No*	*Type*	*Width (m)*	*Thick. (m)*	*Comment*	*Finds*	*Date*
003	300	Layer		1.9	Made ground		
	301	Layer		1.1	Made ground		
	302	Structure	0.5		Brick wall		
	303	Structure	0.5		Concrete wall		
	304	Structure			Concrete floor		
004	400	Layer			Natural geology		
	401	Cut		1.21 max	Quarry filled by 402-4		Iron Age
	402	Deposit		0.37	Fill of Quarry 401	Pot, bone	Iron Age
	403	Deposit		0.59	Fill of Quarry 401	Pot, bone	Iron Age
	404	Deposit		0.12	Fill of Quarry 401	Pot, bone	Iron Age
	405	Cut	0.22	0.1	Posthole		
	406	Deposit		0.1	Fill of 405		
	407	Layer		0.53	Made ground		
	408	Layer		0.56	Made ground		
	409	Layer		0.1	Topsoil		
005	500	Layer			Natural geology		
	501	Cut			Quarry filled by 504-5		
	502	Cut			Quarry filled by506-9		Medieval
	503	Cut			Quarry filled by 511-29		Medieval
	504	Cut		0.26	Fill of 501		
	505	Deposit		0.4	Fill of 501		
	506	Deposit		0.42	Fill of 502		
	507	Deposit		0.5	Fill of 502		
	508	Deposit		0.34	Fill of 502		
	509	Deposit		0.6	Fill of 502	Pot	Medieval
	510	Deposit		0.2	Fill of 503		
	511	Deposit		0.12	Fill of 503		
	512	Deposit		0.44	Fill of 503		
	513	Deposit		0.2	Fill of 503		
	514	Deposit		0.18	Fill of 503		

	515	Deposit		0.1	Fill of 503		
	516	Deposit		0.16	Fill of 503		
	517	Deposit		0.22	Fill of 503		
	518	Deposit		0.22	Fill of 503		
	519	Deposit		0.36	Fill of 503		
	520	Deposit		0.12	Fill of 503		
	521	Deposit		0.28	Fill of 503		
	522	Deposit		0.18	Fill of 503		
	523	Deposit		0.6	Fill of 503		
	524	Deposit		0.08	Fill of 503		
	525	Deposit		0.08	Fill of 503		
	526	Deposit		0.24	Fill of 503		
	527	Deposit		0.18	Fill of 503		
	528	Deposit		0.16	Fill of 503		
	529	Deposit		0.26	Fill of 503	Pot, flint	Medieval
	530	Cut			Quarry filled by 531-41		
	531	Deposit		0.04	Fill of 503		
	532	Deposit		0.1	Fill of 530		
	533	Deposit		0.22	Fill of 530	Pot	Medieval
	534	Deposit		0.22	Fill of 530		
	535	Deposit		0.1	Fill of 530		
	536	Deposit		0.34	Fill of 530		
	537	Deposit		0.12	Fill of 530		
	538	Deposit		0.18	Fill of 530		
	539	Deposit		0.18	Fill of 530		
	540	Deposit		0.16	Fill of 530		
	541	Deposit		0.16	Fill of 530		
	542	Layer		0.6	Made ground		
	543	Layer		0.3	Topsoil		

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 36 sherds with a total weight of 279g. The bulk of the material (30 sherds, 203 g) consisted of apparently stratified Iron Age wares, along with two sherds (29 g) of redeposited Romano-British material and four sherds (47 g) of early medieval types. The early medieval wares indicate that there was activity at the site during the 11th and 12th centuries. Brill/Boarstall ware (Oxford fabric OXAM), which was extremely common during the 13th – 16th century in Oxford, was entirely absent, making it very unlikely that there was any sort of activity at the site during that time.

The post-Roman pottery was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:
OXAC: Cotswold-type ware, AD975-1350. 2 sherds, 26 g.
OXBF: North-East Wiltshire Ware, AD1050 – 1400. 1 sherd, 5 g.
OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075 – 1350. 1 sherd, 16 g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

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

	IA		RB		OXAC		OXBF		OXY		
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
402	9	48									IA
403	20	150									IA
404	1	5									IA
Tr5 U/S									1	16	U/S
509					1	4					11thC
529			2	29	1	22					11thC
533							1	5			M11thC
Total	30	203	2	29	2	26	1	5	1	16	

APPENDIX 3 ANIMAL BONE

by Fay Worley

Introduction

The animal bone assemblage was hand collected. The assemblage had been washed and marked prior to analysis and is stored grouped by context in one large resealable bag.

Methodology

Faunal material was identified by comparison with textual sources (Hillson 1986; 1992; Lavocat 1966; Schmid 1972) and the OA faunal reference collection. Specimens were identified as specifically as possible to element and taxon with siding information included where appropriate. Species classes of large mammal (horse, cattle and red deer sized), medium mammal (sheep/goat, pig, roe deer, large dog sized), small mammal (rabbit sized) and microfauna (vole, mouse, frog sized) were utilised where identification to more specific taxon was not possible.

Indicators of age-at-death such as bone fusion (following Silver 1969) and general observations on size and bone porosity were noted.

Evidence for post-mortem variation (butchery marks, gnawing and burning) was noted and described when present.

Fragmentation was recorded using bone zones suggested by Serjeantson (1996). Preservation was recorded using a six point graded scale based on Lyman (1996, 355).

The weight of each specimen was recorded; the weight of any specimens less than 1 g was recorded as "0 g". Fragment counts in this report refer to refitted fragment counts.

Results

A total of 47 fragments of animal bone (440 g) was recovered. The animal bone was all identified as mammal with cattle, horse and pig represented but further fragments identifiable only as large mammal (horse/cattle sized), medium/large mammal cattle/pig sized) and medium mammal (pig/sheep sized including one fragment probably of sheep or goat). The faunal assemblage was divided between four contexts as presented in Table 2. Contexts 402, 403 and 404 are all fills of quarry pit 401. Context 533 is the fill of quarry pit 530. Contexts 402-4 probably date to the Iron Age, and 533 to the medieval period.

The condition of the bone was generally fair with rounded crack edges and a chalky, fragile texture (see Table 3). 3% of fragments from context 402 were in good condition with angular crack edges. No fragments were burnt. All fragments from 404 and 533, and 77 % fragments from 402 exhibited fresh breaks indicating post-depositional mechanical damage (see Table 4). Evidence of butchery was only noted on two fragments, both found in context 404 (see Table 4). The butchery marks are discussed below.

No pathological lesions were identified on any fragments. No information regarding the sex of the animals was available and no bones were in a suitable condition to be measured. The only age-at-death information was retrieved from epiphyseal fusion and tooth eruption and is discussed by context below.

Context 402

31 fragments of animal bone were recovered from context 402 including fragments identified as cattle, large mammal, medium/large mammal, pig and medium mammal. Cattle elements comprised a single maxillary molar in slight wear. The only identified pig element was a left maxilla, aged at just over 7-13 months old at death from the presence of a newly erupted second molar. 27 large and medium/large mammal indeterminates and a fragment of medium mammal sized long bone were also identified. The proximal diaphysis of a medium mammal sized left tibia found in this context was probably sheep/goat.

Context 403

12 fragments of animal bone were recovered from 403 including large mammal, medium mammal and cattle bone. Large mammal bone included 4 rib blade fragments and 5 fragments of indeterminate cortical bone. Cattle bone included a complete third phalanx which although was not measured, was small in size. Two long bone diaphysis fragments were identified as medium mammal sized.

Context 404

This context contained the majority of a horse left femur which could be aged from the fused distal epiphysis to over 3 - 3.5 years old at death. The femur had fragmented into two adjoining pieces. Two adjoining fragments of cattle left scapula blade were also identified. The scapula had two heavy chop marks on its medial edge. The final fragment of bone from

404 was a large mammal long bone fragment, not from the horse femur. This element had been broken when fresh, possibly during processing of the bone marrow.

Context 533

The three adjoining fragments of large mammal mandible in 533 are from the region caudal of the tooth row.

This assemblage is interpreted as the disposal of domestic refuse.

Table 2: Quantification of the assemblage grouped by species, feature and context. Quantification measured in number of fragments and weight (g)

Species	Quarry pit 401 contexts				Quarry pit 530 contexts	Total
	402	403	404	Feature total	533	
Cattle	1 (19g)	1 (9g)	1 (33g)	3 (61g)	-	3 (61g)
Horse	-	-	1 (281g)	1 (281g)	-	1 (281g)
Large mammal	5 (30g)	9 (27g)	1 (6g)	15 (63g)	1 (6g)	16 (69g)
Medium/large mammal	23 (13g)	-	-	23 (13g)	-	23 (13g)
Pig	1 (7g)	-	-	1 (7g)	-	1 (7g)
Medium mammal	1 (6g)	2 (3g)	-	3 (9g)	-	3 (9g)
Total	31 (75g)	12 (39g)	3 (320g)	46 (434g)	1 (6g)	47 (440g)

Table 3: Condition of bone

Condition	Context			
	402	403	404	533
Good	3%	0%	0%	0%
Fair	97%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4: Post-mortem modification

Modification	Context			
	402	403	404	533
Fresh Break	77%	0%	100%	100%
Butchery	0%	0%	67%	0%

APPENDIX 4 ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC DATA

By Seren Griffiths and Rebecca Nicholson

Methodology

Two samples were taken as part of the evaluation. Sample volumes were of 10 (see Table 5). The samples were processed by flotation using a modified Siraf-type machine, the flot being collected onto a 250 micron mesh. The samples were air-dried and the flots scanned under a binocular microscope at Oxford Archaeology. Samples were taken to assess the preservation of charred plant remains and for the recovery of small bones and artefacts.

Results

Charred Plant Remains

Samples 1 (context 403) and 2 (context 529) both produced limited flots of between 20-30 ml. Limited charred plant material was present in both flots. Sample 2 (context 529) contained 3 items of indeterminate cereal grain, and charcoal of potentially identifiable size

(ie >2 mm) was present in the flot. Charcoal was present in sample 1 (context 403) as was cereal chaff. A possible charred oak (*Quercus* sp.) bud was present in sample 1 (context 403). Molluscs from a range of taxa were by far the most prevalent ecofactual material in both these flots and were well preserved. Identified taxa included the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula*. Modern weed seeds and insect fragments were also present in this flot. The only finds from these samples were a middle-sized mammal vertebra from the >4 mm fraction of sample 2 (context 529).

Discussion

The charred material in samples from Oxford Morris Motors Club was limited. Evidence of archaeological crop processing activity was present in the flots, but the low frequency of this material limits its usefulness in assessing ancient subsistence and economic practices. The snail remains are potentially far more useful in addressing issues concerning the contemporaneous environments, however *C. acicula*, a burrowing species, is likely to be intrusive and therefore not indicative of the contemporary environment.

In the case of both samples the inclusions are of limited archaeological value, since sample 2 (context 529) appears to have been redeposited, and sample 1 (context 403) was from the fill of a quarry pit, probably of Iron Age date. Given the presence of charred remains in the samples it would appear that the samples are not entirely comprised of redeposited natural. Both contexts contained mammal bones as well as the charred plant remains, and may represent refuse deposits. The presence of charred grain and chaff, albeit in low concentrations suggests that there was probably some ancient crop processing activity in the area. This is useful information for future work, as previous evaluations at the site (Phase 1) had not revealed any ancient activity.

Table A3.1- a summary of the charred plant remains

Sample No	Context No	Flot vol (ml)	Type of context	Charcoal	Grain	Chaff	Other charred	Molluscs	Volume floated (litres)	Notes
1	403	20	?redeposited fill of quarry pit	+		+	+ ?oak bud	++	20	
2	529	30	Secondary fill of one of the deeper quarry pits	+	+ indet.			++	20	Modern seeds, insect fragments. + *C. acicula*

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100

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APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Morris Motors Sports and Social Club, Barracks Lane
Site code: OXMMSS05
Grid reference: NGR SP 547 048
Type of evaluation: One 10 m trench, two 15 m trenches and one 20 m trench
Date and duration of project: 30/08/05 to 08/09/05
Area of site: 0.39 hectares
Summary of results: Iron Age and medieval quarries
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: OXCMS2005.40.

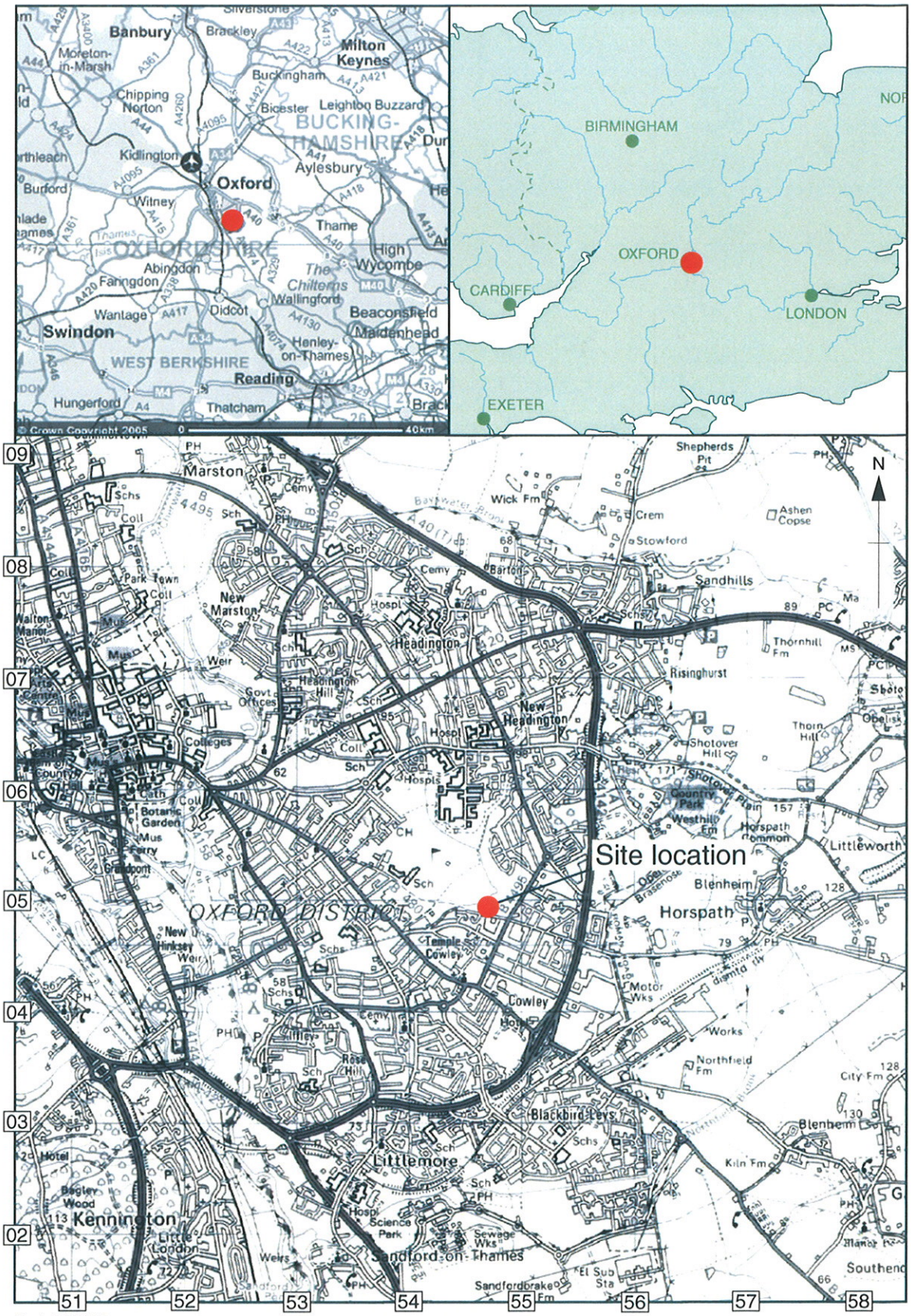
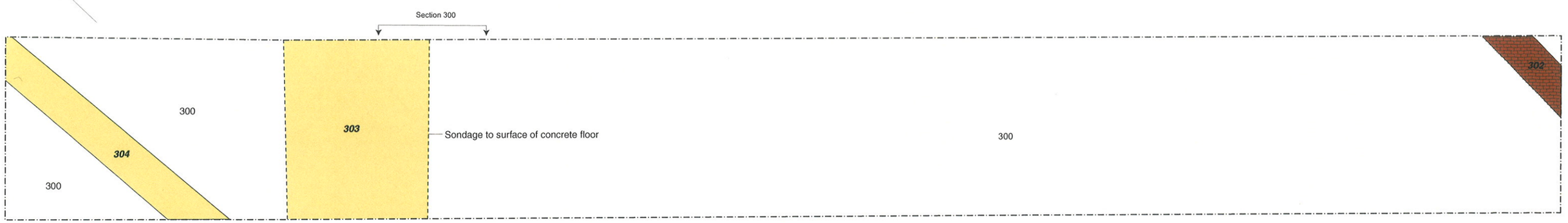


Figure 1: Site location

Survey Data supplied by Chesside Homes Ltd

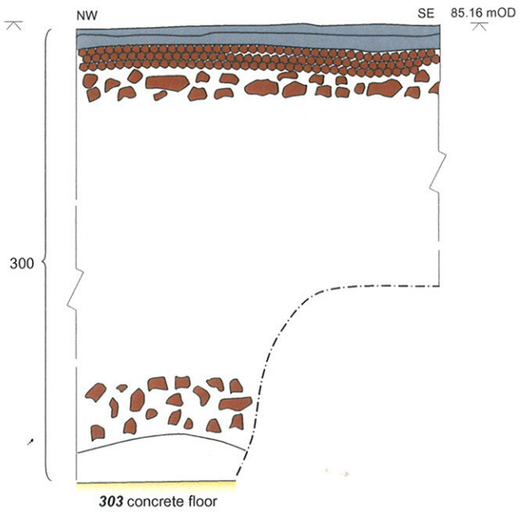
Figure 2: Trench location plan

Trench 3



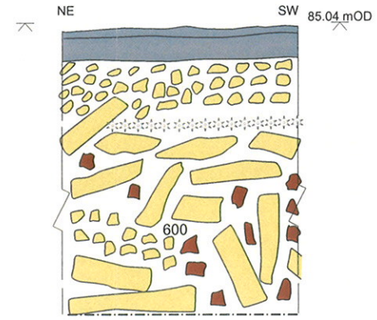
0 2 m
1:50

Section 300

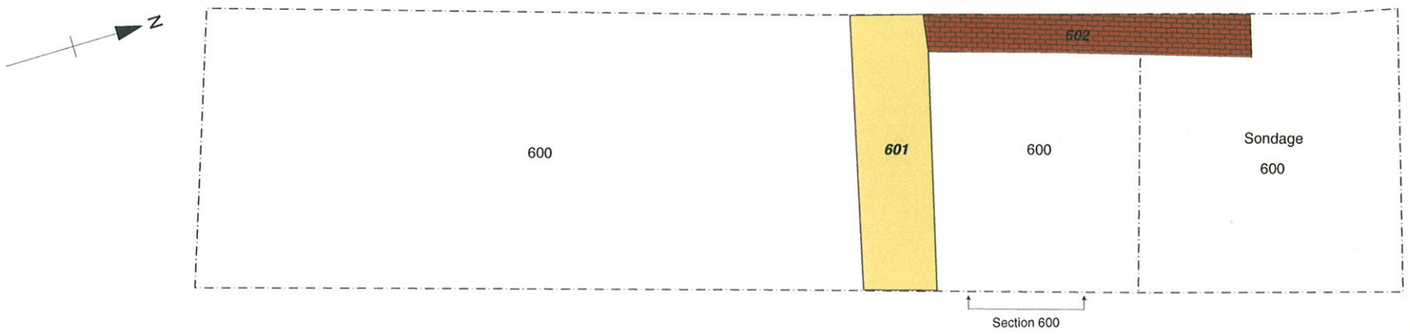


0 1 m
1:25

Section 600



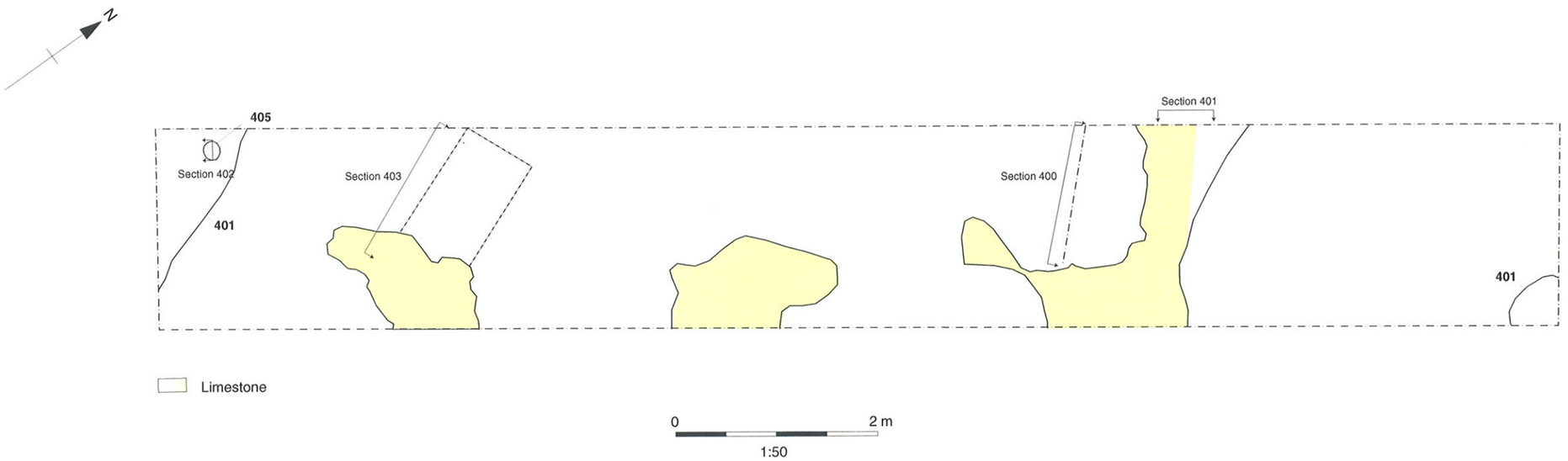
Trench 6

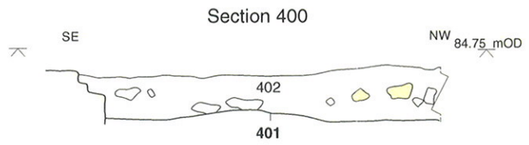


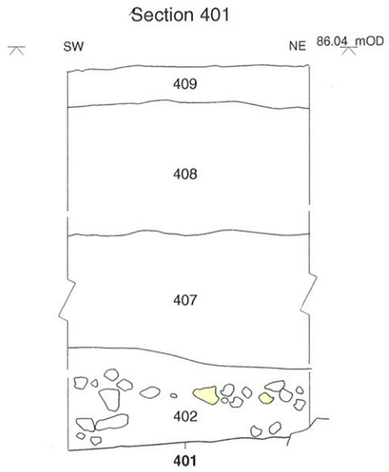
0 2 m
1:50

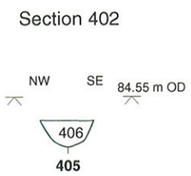
Brick
Concrete
Wire fence
Tarmac

Figure 3: Trenches 3 and 6, plans and sections









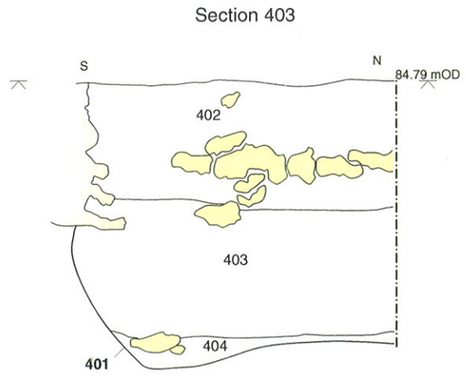
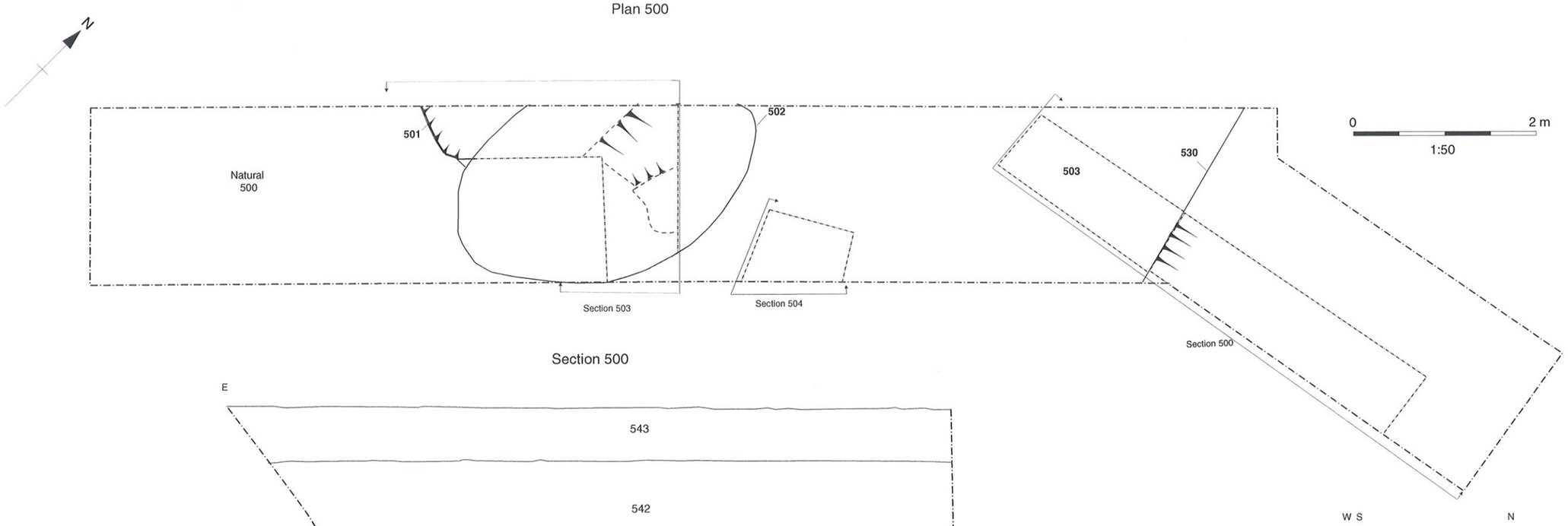
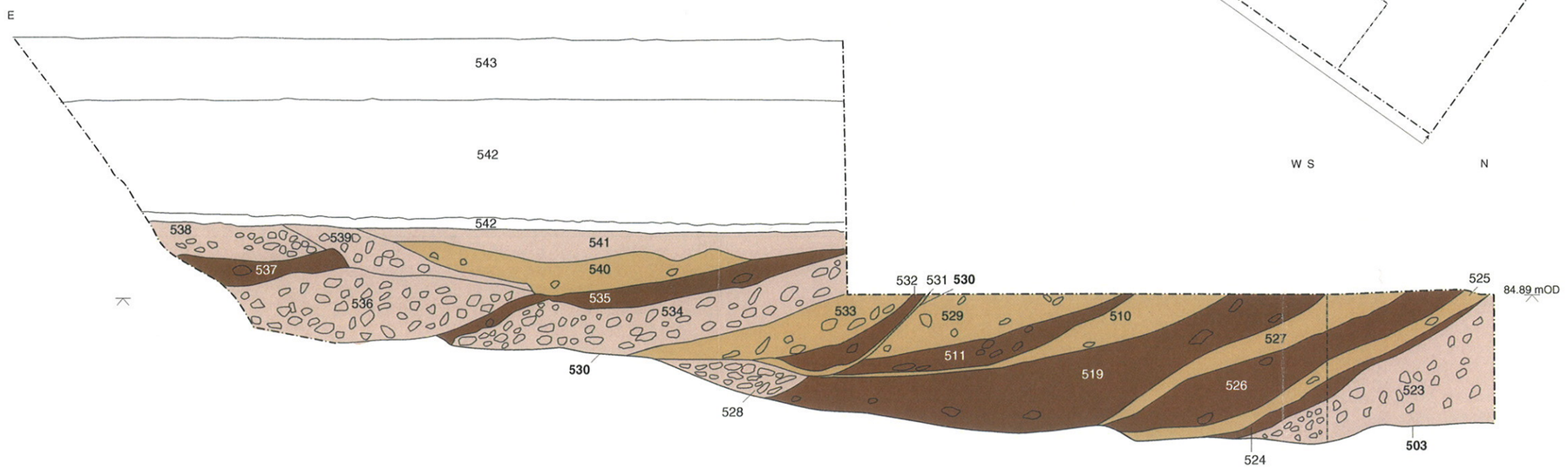


Figure 4: Trench 4, plan and sections

Plan 500



Section 500



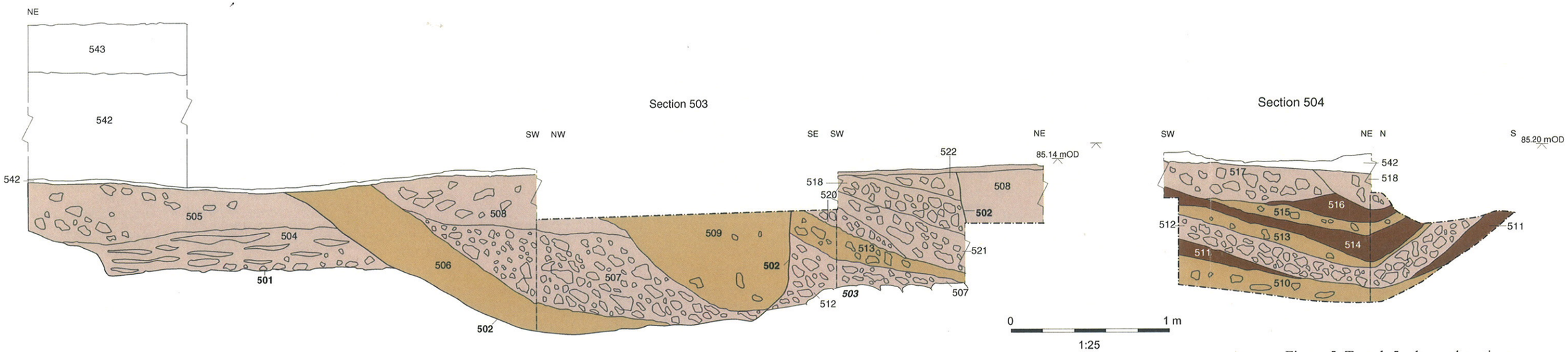


Figure 5: Trench 5, plan and sections

Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w:www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w:www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES