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Yeovil
Somerset



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In April 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a programme of field evaluation at Brimsmore, Yeovil, Somerset (NGR ST 534 178, centred). The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to provide information in support of a planning application and Environmental Statement submitted to South Somerset District Council. A trenching strategy targeted on the results of a geophysical survey of the site produced evidence for a late Roman landscape comprising a farming settlement located on the upper part of Vagg Hill, with a ditched field system on the south-facing slope of the hill. A series of earthworks visible in the south-eastern part of the site were demonstrated to be spoilheaps and quarry hollows associated with 18th century stone extraction.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In April 2005 OA carried out a programme of field evaluation at Brimsmore, Yeovil, Somerset (NGR ST 534 178, centred. Fig. 1). The site is located on the north-western edge of Yeovil and to the east of the village of Thorne Coffin and is approximately 50 hectares in extent. The study site is bounded by Tintinhull Road to the east and north-east and Vagg Farm to the north, Thorne Lane to the south and fields backing on to Thorne Coffin village to the west and is divided into two portions by Larkhill Road.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to provide information in support of a planning application and Environmental Statement submitted to South Somerset District Council planning authority on 7th March 2005. The proposed development will comprise the construction of housing on land currently occupied by a number of grass fields.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a specification set by CgMs Consulting and agreed with Steve Membury of Somerset County Council Archaeological Service (CgMs 2005).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the study site comprises Pennard Sands in the north-western part, Junction Beds in the western central and eastern parts and Yeovil Sands in the south central part (British Geological Survey, Sheet 312). The Junction Beds comprise Argillaceous (clay) Limestone. This deposit has been subject to quarrying in several parts of the site, particularly in the south-eastern fields.
- 1.2.2 The site lies on the south-facing slope of Vagg Hill, over-looking the north-western outskirts of Yeovil. The ground falls from 105 m OD in the vicinity of Vagg Farm, at the northern boundary of the site, to 90 m OD where the site meets Thorne Lane, rising slightly toward the south-eastern corner of the site.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study (CgMs 2004), the results of which are presented/ summarised below. A geophysical survey has also been carried out on the site, comprising a scan of the entire site complimented by a targeted detailed magnetometer survey of 20% of the total area.
- 1.3.2 There are no records of remains dating to the prehistoric period on the site or in its immediate vicinity.
- 1.3.3 Larkhill Road, which runs north-south through the middle of the site, is Roman in origin, lying on the route from Ilchester to Dorchester. Settlement activity of this period has been recorded along the route of the road to the south of the site, particularly at Westland Road in Yeovil and at the former Larkhill Quarry, which has since been in-filled and developed for residential use. Excavations were carried out in 1946-52 and 1960-3 on a Roman villa at Lufton, 1.5 km west of the site. A second Roman road extended from this villa on an alignment that would pass to the north of the site of the current evaluation. The geophysical survey of the site identified a number of features of possible Roman date including a field system in the north of the site, a rectilinear enclosure also in the north, and a curvilinear feature in the east.
- 1.3.4 There are no records of remains dating to the Saxon period either within or in the vicinity of the site.
- 1.3.5 Traces of ridge and furrow cultivation recorded on aerial photographs and visible in some places on the ground indicate agricultural use of the site during the Medieval period. Aerial photographs also indicate the presence of a rectangular feature, possibly representing a building platform, possibly associated with quarry works, in the centre of the easternmost field.
- 1.3.6 Cartographic evidence from the 19th century onwards suggests that the site was part of an agricultural landscape, with some localised stone extraction resulting in the apparent spoilheaps. An initial assessment of hedgerows on the site suggests that they date to the early 1800s and form part of an extensive Enclosure Act landscape. A number of hedgerows have been removed during the second half of the 20th century.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as laid out in the specification (CgMs 2005), were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and depth of any archaeological remains surviving on the site. More specifically, the evaluation aimed to test the model of archaeological potential constructed in the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2004). Particularly it sought to clarify the nature of various anomalies identified by a recent geophysical survey of the site and to assess the archaeological potential for parts of the site where the earliest phases of development are proposed.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of twenty two machine-excavated evaluation trenches (Fig. 2). Each trench measured 30 m by 1.50 m except for Trench 8, which was shortened to 26 m to avoid impinging on the existing hedge-line defining the northern boundary of the site.

3.1.2 In order to fulfil the stated aims of testing the model of archaeological potential constructed in the desk-based assessment and the results of the geophysical survey the trenches were targeted at specific features rather than being located to give an overall sample of the site. This includes targeting areas which the geophysical survey indicated were generally devoid of archaeological features in order to test these negative results, particularly where these areas lie on the line of a link road which will form part of the initial phase of the proposed construction.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless bucket. Excavation proceeded to the first archaeological horizon or to undisturbed natural geology, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were then cleaned by hand and any revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All features and deposits encountered were issued a unique context number. A plan was drawn of each trench at a scale of 1:50, and each excavated feature was recorded in section at 1:20. Colour transparency and black-and-white photographs were taken of each feature, as well as more general shots of each trench. All recording was conducted in accordance with the practices detailed in the OA Fieldwork Manual (OAU 1992).

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 Soil samples were taken from the fills of a number of ditches and from fill 1009 of pit 1010. This material was processed and assessed for the preservation of environmental indicators.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below with separate sections devoted to the stratigraphic, artefactual and palaeo-environmental aspects. In the stratigraphic section each trench is described individually. Following these descriptive accounts,

these three strands of evidence are brought together in an overall discussion and interpretation.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 Most of the site is located on free-draining sands and silts, but limestone was encountered in the northern and south-eastern areas. This seam of limestone creates a spring-line around Vagg Hill from which a watercourse, Balls Water, flows to the west of the site, and also resulted in some standing water in Trenches 8 and 9.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trenches 1 to 5 (Fig. 3)

- 5.1.1 Trenches 1 to 5 formed a group located in the south-western part of the site, near Thorne Lane. They were situated at the foot of Vagg Hill, lying at between 87 m OD and 92 m OD. Trenches 1, 2 and 4 were targeted on areas in which no archaeological features were identified by the geophysical survey in order to test these negative results, the former two additionally being located on the line of the proposed link road and mini-roundabout. Trenches 3 and 5 were targeted on features recorded in the geophysical survey. Trench 3, which was located on the line of the proposed link road, was targeted on a possible east-west aligned ditch and Trench 5 was targeted on a possible ditch or trackway aligned north-south.
- 5.1.2 Trench 1 was excavated to the surface of the natural geology, an orange sandy silt (102) encountered at 86.80 m OD, at a depth of 0.3 m below the current ground level. This was overlain by a layer of a light greyish brown sandy silt 0.26 m thick with occasional charcoal flecking interpreted as a former ploughsoil (101), which was in turn overlain by the modern turf-line (100). No archaeological remains were observed in this trench.
- 5.1.3 In Trench 2 (fig. 3) the natural geology, again comprising an orange sandy silt (205), lay at 91.74 m OD, 0.35 m below ground level. A small ditch or gully (204) was cut into this deposit. The ditch extended into the eastern end of the trench for 6.0 m on an ENE-WSW alignment before terminating. It was 0.6 m wide and 0.1 m deep with a rounded profile. It contained a single fill of reddish brown sandy silt (203) which contained no artefactual material. The ditch was sealed by a former ploughsoil layer (201) 0.3 m thick composed of light greyish brown sandy silt, which was overlain by a modern turf-line (200).
- 5.1.4 The natural orange silty sand (302) was encountered in Trench 3 at 91.20 m OD, 0.3 m below ground level (fig. 3). A ditch 1.15 m wide extended across the middle of the trench on an E-W orientation (304), corresponding with the possible ditch identified

by the geophysical survey. The ditch was 0.35 m deep with steep sides and a flat base, and was filled by a single deposit of reddish brown silty sand (303). Hand-excavation of this feature failed to retrieve any finds. The ditch was sealed by a layer of light greyish brown silty sand 0.3 - 0.35 m thick (301) interpreted as a former ploughsoil, which was overlain by the modern turf-line (300).

5.1.5 In Trench 4 the natural geology, comprising orange silty sand (402) was encountered at 90.38 m OD, at a depth of 0.3 m below the current ground surface. It was overlain by a layer of light greyish brown silty sand 0.2 - 0.25 m thick (401) interpreted as a former ploughsoil, which was in turn overlain by the modern turf-line (400). No archaeological remains were observed in this trench.

5.1.6 In Trench 5 the natural geology, again comprising orange silty sand (502) was encountered at 90.12 m OD, at a depth of 0.32 m below the current ground surface. It was overlain by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt 0.2 - 0.25 m thick (501) interpreted as a former ploughsoil, above which lay the modern turf-line (500). No archaeological remains were identified in this trench.

Trenches 6 to 13 (Figs 4, 5, 6, and 7)

5.1.7 Trenches 6 to 13 were located within a single field in the northern part of the site, where the geophysical survey had identified the densest concentration of features, apparently representing a ditched field system. These trenches were all targeted on specific features identified in this survey, and Trenches 6, 7 and 8 were additionally located on the line of the proposed link road.

5.1.8 Trench 6 (fig. 4) was aligned north-south, with the slope of the hill. The natural geology, comprising an orange sandy silt (602) sloped downward from 101.28 m OD at the northern end of the trench to 100.38 m OD at the southern end, at a depth of 0.3 - 0.4 m below ground level. Two ditches were exposed, lying on NW-SE alignments. Ditch 606 was located near the middle of the trench and was 1.15 m wide and 0.60 m deep. It had steep sides and a flat base, in which limestone was exposed underlying the natural silt. Its earliest fill, comprising a brown silt 0.2 m thick (605), contained a single sherd of Romano-British pottery. This was overlain by a layer of brownish orange sandy silt (604) which produced no finds which was in turn overlain by a final fill of greyish brown sandy silt (603) containing three further sherds of pottery. Ditch 608 was located 5 m south of this feature and lay on a slightly different orientation. It too was steep-sided with a flat base, and was 0.70 m wide and 0.30 m deep. It contained one fill, a deposit of brown sandy silt (607) which yielded a single piece of animal bone. Both ditches were sealed by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt 0.3 m thick (601) interpreted as a former ploughsoil, which was overlain by the modern turf-line (600).

5.1.9 Trench 7 was located near the northern boundary of the site. The natural geology was encountered at 103.75 m OD, at a depth of 0.35 m below ground level. This comprised a yellow sandy silt (703) with a band of limestone (704) running through the middle part of the trench. A subsoil layer of dark greyish brown silt (702) was identified, sealed by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt 0.2 - 0.4 m thick

interpreted as a former ploughsoil (701). This was in turn overlain by the modern turf-line (700). No archaeological remains were encountered in this trench.

- 5.1.10 Trench 8, which was aligned north-south, and Trench 9, aligned east-west, were conjoined to form a single L-shaped trench targeted on two arms of a possible enclosure ditch identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 5). The natural geology, comprising orange sandy silt with out-crops of limestone (813, 902) was encountered at 104.63 m OD at the north end of Trench 8, sloping down to 102.97 in Trench 9.
- 5.1.11 The northern arm of the enclosure ditch was identified in the trench as ditch 817, which extended across the northern part of Trench 8 on an east-west orientation. It was 2.75 m wide and 0.68 m deep with moderately steep sides and contained three fills. A primary fill of light grey silt (818) was overlain by a layer of dark grey material with charcoal flecking (819) that contained Romano-British pottery and animal bone. This may be a dump of domestic refuse. Above this was a final fill of dark greyish brown sandy silty (810). Ditch 813 was located 2 m north of ditch 817, on a similar east-west alignment. It was 0.9 m wide and 0.23 m deep, and contained a single fill of light greyish brown silt (814) which contained a fragment of Roman roof-tile. Ditch 815 was aligned NE-SW and extended across the northern end of the trench. It was steep-sided with a flat base and measured 1.2 m wide with a depth of 0.5 m. It was filled by a deposit of light greyish brown silt (816) similar to 814.
- 5.1.12 Gully 809 extended across Trench 8 on an east-west alignment. It was 0.3 m wide and 0.1 m deep and was filled by a dark greyish brown sandy silt (810). It was cut by ditch 805/807. Ditch 805/807 was aligned north-south and extended for 12 m from the southern end of Trench 8 before curving eastward and continuing beyond the limits of the trench. It was 0.8 m wide and 0.25 m deep with a V-shaped profile and was filled by a deposit of dark greyish brown sandy silt containing pieces of limestone (806, 808) which yielded a single sherd of Romano-British pottery. Ditch 805/807 was cut by ditch 811, which was aligned NW-SE and extended obliquely across the trench, and was also recorded in Trench 9 as ditch 904. It was 0.85 m wide and 0.2 m deep with a shallow, concave profile and contained a single fill of light brown silt (812).
- 5.1.13 The enclosure ditch recorded in Trench 8 as ditch 817 returned southward and was identified in Trench 9 as ditch 906. At this point the ditch measured 1.22 m in width with a depth of 0.52 m and contained a single dark grey fill (905). It was steep-sided with a flat base and its fill contained Romano-British pottery and pieces of animal bone.
- 5.1.14 Feature 910 was located to the east of ditch 906. It measured 8.3 m east-west and was 0.88 m deep, with gently sloping sides. It did not appear to be a deliberately cut feature and may be a pond or erosion channel. Its earliest fill (909) was a dump of domestic refuse including charred material, Romano-British pottery, animal bone and an oyster shell. This was overlain by two fills of light grey silty clay (907, 908) which would be consistent the gradual accumulation of silt in a water-filled feature.

- 5.1.15 The features in Trenches 8 and 9 were sealed by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt interpreted as a former ploughsoil (802, 901) and the modern turf-line (801, 900)
- 5.1.16 Trench 10 (fig. 6) was located in the middle of the field, and was oriented east-west across the gradient of the hill. Natural limestone (1015) was encountered at 100.25 m OD, at a depth of 0.4 m below ground surface. A ditch aligned north-south (1006) was exposed at the eastern end of the trench. The ditch was 0.75 m wide and 0.27 m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit of gravely silt (1005). The ditch had a re-cut (1004) which was off-set slightly to the west of the original ditch. The re-cut was 1.0 m wide and 0.26 m deep, and its fill, a was filled by a reddish brown sandy silt (1003). At the western end of the trench a gully extended along the south edge of the trench for 5 m before passing beyond the limits of the trench
- 5.1.17 A gully (1012) lying on an east-west alignment extended along the southern edge of the trench for 5 m near its western end, before passing beyond the limits of the trench. The gully was 0.3 m wide and 0.2 m deep, and contained a single fill of greyish brown silty sand (1011). The gully was cut by a ditch which crossed the trench on a north-south alignment. This ditch (1014) was 1.25 m wide and 0.5 m deep, with a V-shaped profile and a rounded base. It contained a single fill of reddish brown sandy silt (1013) which yielded eight sherds of Romano-British pottery. Two circular pits (1008, 1010) were located a short distance from the western end of the trench. Pit 1010 measured 1.75 m diameter and was 0.21 m deep, filled by a single deposit of dark reddish brown gravely silt (1009). This was cut by pit 1008, which was also vertical-sided and was 1.8 m in diameter and 0.24 m deep. It contained a similar fill (1007). Neither pit contained any artefactual material.
- 5.1.18 A quarry pit (1017) was located in the eastern part of the trench. The measured 7.8 m east-west and was filled by deposit of dark reddish brown silty sand with frequent limestone gravel (1016).
- 5.1.19 All of the features in this trench were sealed by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt 0.25 - 0.3 m thick interpreted as a former ploughsoil (1001), which was overlain by the modern turf-line (1000).
- 5.1.20 The natural geology in Trench 11 (fig. 6) consisted of limestone (1105) and was encountered at 101.24 m OD at the northern end of the trench, sloping down to 99.55 m OD at the southern end, at an average depth of 0.4 m below ground level. It was cut by a ditch (1103) aligned NW-SE. Ditch 1103 was 0.96 m wide and only 0.1 m deep, and contained a fill of brownish grey sandy silt (1102) which produced no finds. Much of the southern half of the trench had been truncated by an irregularly-shaped quarry pit (1106) measuring 13 m north-south and 0.4 m deep, which was back-filled with a dark reddish brown gravely silt (1104). These features were sealed by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt 0.24 - 0.32 m thick interpreted as a former ploughsoil (1101) and the modern turf-line (1100).
- 5.1.21 Trench 12 (fig. 7) was located in the southern part of the field and was oriented east-west across the gradient of the hill-side. The natural geology, comprising an orange

sandy silt (1207), was encountered at 98.80 m OD, at a depth of 0.4 m below ground level. This was cut by two ditches lying on north-south alignments. Ditch 1206 was located near the eastern end of the trench. It was 1.0 m wide and 0.24 m deep with a V-shaped profile and contained a single fill of reddish brown sandy silt (1205). Ditch 1204, located in the middle of the trench, was also 1.0 m wide but was only 0.12 m deep. Its fill was a similar reddish brown sandy silt and contained a single sherd of Romano-British pottery. Both features were sealed by a subsoil layer up to 0.18 m thick composed of brown silty clay (1202), above which was a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt 0.27 m thick interpreted as a former ploughsoil (1201). This was in turn overlain by the modern turf-line (1200).

5.1.22 Trench 13 (fig. 7) was located to the east of Trench 12, lying on the same east-west orientation. The ends of two possible graves were identified within the trench, and so two short spurs were excavated on the southern side of the trench in order to fully expose these features. The natural geology was an orange sandy silt (1316) and was encountered at 98.5 m OD, at a depth of 0.4 - 0.5 m below ground level. A number of features were recorded in the trench including four ditches and at least one grave.

5.1.23 Ditch 1315 was located near the eastern end of the trench. It was oriented NNE-SSW and was 1.55 m wide and 0.34 m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of reddish brown sandy silt (1314). Ditch 1311 was located near the middle of the trench. It was 0.62 m wide and 0.23 m deep with a V-shaped profile and a rounded base, and was oriented NNE-SSW. It was filled by a reddish brown sandy silt (1310). This ditch was subsequently re-cut as ditch 1309. This later phase was more substantial, with a width of 0.9 m and a depth of 0.38 m, and had steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of reddish brown sandy silt (1308). Ditch 1307 was oriented north-south and was 1.15 m wide and 0.4 m deep. It was steep-sided with a slightly irregular base and contained a single fill composed of reddish brown sandy silt (1306).

5.1.24 Grave 1305 lay between ditches 1307 and 1309, and appeared to share the alignment of the former. It was sub-rectangular in shape and measured 1.88 m x 0.6 m, and survived to a depth of 0.25 m. The grave contained the skeleton of an adult (1304) lying prone with the head to the north. The right arm was flexed with the hand lying toward the chin and the left arm lay across the pelvis. The condition of the bone was generally good although the smaller bones of the hands and feet were largely absent and the skull was partly truncated away. Eight coffin nails were retrieved, as well as a group of three hobnails. The provision of hobnailed footwear with inhumations was a common practice on rural settlements during the Roman period, particularly during the third and fourth centuries (Philpott 1991, 167) The grave was sealed by a single back-filling deposit of reddish brown sandy silt (1303).

5.1.25 Feature 1313 was located at the eastern end of the trench. It was aligned north-south and was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 1.95 m x 0.45 m. It was 0.2 m deep and had vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of reddish brown sandy silt (1312) which contained no finds. The shape and dimensions of this feature would be consistent with a grave, particularly given its proximity to grave 1305, but it lacked

any evidence for skeletal remains. This absence of skeletal material is unlikely to be due to the soil conditions as skeleton 1304, a short distance away and cut into the same natural geology, survives in good condition. The feature may therefore be a cenotaph, a grave dug as a memorial to a person whose remains were not available for burial. The existence of such features has been recognised on sites dating to the Roman period elsewhere in Britain (Cool 2004).

- 5.1.26 All the features in this trench were sealed by a subsoil 0.15 - 0.2 m thick (1302), overlain by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt 0.2 - 0.3 m thick interpreted as a former ploughsoil (1301) and the modern turf-line (1300).

Trenches 14 and 15 (fig. 8)

- 5.1.27 Trenches 14 and 15 were located in a field in the northern part of the site, immediately to the east of Larkhill Road. Trench 14 was targeted on the southern corner of a rectilinear enclosure identified by the geophysical survey at the top of the south-facing slope of Vagg Hill. This corner of the enclosure lies within the line of the proposed link road. Trench 15 was located further down the slope of the hill and was targeted on a large, irregularly shaped feature which is one of a cluster of amorphous features identified in this area by the geophysical survey.
- 5.1.28 Natural limestone (1404) was encountered in Trench 14 at 107.10 m OD at the northern end of the trench, sloping down to 105.35 m OD at the southern end (fig. 8). It lay 0.3 - 0.4 m below the current ground level. A large ditch (1403) 3.5 m wide, filled by a gravely mid greyish brown sandy silt (1402) extended across the northern end of the trench on a NE-SW orientation. After consultation with Steve Membury of Somerset County Council Archaeological Service it was agreed that further excavation of this ditch was unnecessary as the line of the proposed link road only partially impacted on it, and it was considered that identifying the ditch in plan sufficiently confirmed its interpretation by the geophysical survey. The ditch was sealed by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt 0.25 m thick (1401) interpreted as a former ploughsoil, which was overlain by the modern turf-line (1400).
- 5.1.29 Trench 15 (fig. 8) lay across the slope of the hillside. The natural limestone (1505) was encountered at 100.50 m OD, at a depth of 0.38 m below ground level. Part of a steep-sided feature 0.45 m deep, interpreted as a quarry pit, was exposed at the western end of the trench (1504). The full dimensions of the feature could not be established as its western limit lay beyond the end of the trench. Within the trench it measured 4.5 m east-west. This feature corresponds to a large, irregular anomaly identified by the geophysical survey and is likely to be a quarry pit. The quarry pit was sealed by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt (1501) interpreted as a former ploughsoil, which was overlain by the modern turf-line (1500).

Trenches 16, 17 and 18 (fig. 9)

- 5.1.30 Trenches 16, 17 and 18 were located in a field at the north-eastern edge of the site, adjacent to Tintinhull Road. Trenches 16 and 18 were targeted on a curvilinear feature identified by the geophysical survey, with Trench 16 positioned so that its

western end additionally targeted a group of more amorphous feature also detected in the survey. Trench 17 was located at the point at which the projected line of the curvilinear feature should intersect the proposed link road. The northern end of Trench 17 extended across part of a hollow-way which ran along the northern edge of the field, and which appears to continue the alignment of a straight section of Tintinhull Road further to the east. The features in these trenches were recorded in plan. However, due to time constraints and the unexpected presence of livestock, further investigations were not practicable.

- 5.1.31 In Trench 16 (fig. 9) the natural geology (1602) was encountered at 100.14 m OD, at a depth of 0.30 - 0.40 m below ground level. This consisted of a reddish silty sand, with outcrops of limestone toward the western end of the trench and was cut by a ditch (1603) extending across the trench on a NNE-SSW orientation. The ditch was 2.8 m wide and contained a fill of mid brown silty sand (1604).
- 5.1.32 In Trench 17 the natural silty sand (1702) was encountered at 97.28 m OD, at a depth of 0.3 - 0.4 m below ground level. Within the hollow-way at the northern end of the trench this sloped down to 96.66 m OD. Throughout the trench the natural was overlain by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt 0.2 - 0.3 m thick (1701) interpreted as a former ploughsoil, above which lay the modern turf-line (1700). There was no indication of any form of surfacing associated with the hollow-way.
- 5.1.33 The natural geology, consisting of orange silty sand (1802), was encountered at 98.4 m OD in Trench 18 (fig. 9), at a depth of 0.3 - 0.4 m below ground level. Two ditches crossed the trench on similar north-south alignments. The larger of these was ditch 1803, which was 2.25 m wide, while ditch 1805, located 2 m to its east was 1.2 m wide. Both ditches were filled by deposits of brown silty sand (1804, 1806).

Trenches 19 to 22 (fig. 10)

- 5.1.34 Trenches 19 to 22 were located at the eastern end of the site, near the junction of Tintinhull Road and Thorne Lane. Trench 19 was targeted on the proposed location for a roundabout on the link road to test the results of the geophysical survey, which indicated that this area was generally devoid of archaeological features. Trenches 20, 21 and 22 were located in a field containing a series of irregular earthworks believed to be spoilheaps resulting from quarrying. The trenches were targeted on potential features that the geophysical survey indicated may have survived this quarrying.
- 5.1.35 Trench 19 was 0.25 - 0.32 m deep, the natural geology, an orange sandy silt (1902), being encountered at 91.05 m OD. This was overlain by a layer of light greyish brown sandy silt 0.17 - 0.22 m thick (1901) interpreted as a former ploughsoil, which was overlain by the modern turf-line (1900). No archaeological remains were encountered in this trench.
- 5.1.36 In Trench 20 the natural geology was encountered at 93.35 m OD, at a depth of 0.35 m below ground level, and comprised an orange sandy silt (2002). A number of irregular patches of dark red silt containing dense manganese oxide flecking were interpreted as tree-throw holes. This was overlain by a layer of light greyish brown

silty sand 0.30 m thick (2001), above which lay the modern turf-line (2000). No archaeological remains were encountered in this trench.

5.1.37 Trench 21 (fig. 10) was excavated across a large, shallow hollow measuring 24 m east-west and 14 m north-south. Natural limestone was encountered at 93.72m OD at the north end of the trench, sloping down to 92.1 m at the south end., at an average depth of 0.25 m below ground level. This was cut by a quarry hole 0.45 m deep (2104), which was the cause of the hollow observed on the ground surface. This was the thickness of the seam of limestone at this point, which had been completely removed exposing the underlying yellow silty sand. South of this quarry a former ploughsoil comprising a layer of brown sandy silt 0.35 m thick (2105) was overlain by a bank 0.45 m high (2103) which probably results from up-cast from the quarry hole. The quarry hole had begun to silt up, with washed-in material forming a deposit of reddish brown silty sand within its northern edge (2101), while a corresponding but more gravelly deposit at its southern end (2102) has probably eroded from the adjacent bank. These deposits were sealed by a layer of topsoil 0.15 - 0.25 m thick (2100). No artefacts were retrieved from the quarry.

5.1.38 Trench 22 (fig. 10) was located almost entirely within a hollow measuring 36 m east-west x 12 m north-south. Natural limestone (2203) was encountered at the western end of the trench at 90.32 m OD, at a depth of 0.3 m below ground level. Throughout the rest of the trench the limestone had been removed by a quarry hole 0.65 m deep (2202), exposing the underlying silty sand. The quarry had been partially back-filled with a series of discrete dumps of reddish brown silty sand and yellowish sand and gravel (2201). This probably represents waste material from subsequent episodes of stone extraction. A layer of modern topsoil (2200) sealed the back-filled quarry. No artefacts were retrieved from the quarry.

5.2 Finds

Pottery

5.2.1 A total of 100 sherds of pottery, weighing 918 g, was recovered during the course of the evaluation. All of this material dates from the Roman period, with the bulk of the assemblage dateable to the fourth century. The assemblage is dominated by black-burnished ware, with a small number of types from further afield including material from Oxfordshire and the New Forest, as well as a single sherd of amphora from southern Spain.

Lithics

5.2.2 A single fragment of flint (SF 9) recovered from context 1303. Damage to the edges of the piece suggest that it is residual in this context.

Animal Bone

5.2.3 A total of 33 bones (771 g) were recovered from this site, the majority of which have survived in fair/poor condition. Fourteen bones were identifiable to species, comprising sheep/goat, cattle, pig and dog. A single bone exhibited signs of butchery

and carnivore gnawing was similarly present on a single example. There were no pieces with evidence of pathologies, burning or working.

Metal Finds

- 5.2.4 Eight coffin nails and a group of three hobnails were retrieved from context 1303, the back-fill of grave 1305.

Other finds

- 5.2.5 A fragment of Roman roof-tile weighing 130g was retrieved from context 814, the fill of ditch 815.
- 5.2.6 A single oyster shell was recovered from context 909.

5.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 5.3.1 The carbonised material included grain and chaff, but was relatively lacking in charcoal, probably resulting from crop processing activities, rather than food debris or a cache of stored domestic grain. The range of taxa present is consistent with Roman crop processing techniques. What charcoal was present was well preserved.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 6.1.1 The targeted trenching strategy has confirmed and enhanced the model of archaeological potential constructed in the desk-based assessment and the interpretation of the results of the geophysical survey. The geophysical survey has also, therefore, been confirmed as a reliable predictive tool for the presence of archaeology across the site.
- 6.1.2 As predicted, the greatest density of archaeological remains was located in the northern part of the site, toward the top of Vagg Hill. The features identified here by the geophysical survey were confirmed, and a number of additional ditches were identified in Trench 8. On the upper part of the slope, in trenches 8 and 9, the L-shaped enclosure ditch contained material that may be domestic refuse, as did the pond/erosion channel 910. The evidence from the environmental samples from this area also indicated that crop processing had been carried out nearby. This evidence and the presence of at least one grave in Trench 13 suggests that a late Roman farming settlement lies at the top of the slope. A sparser distribution of ditches was recorded further down the slope to the south and west, again confirming the results of the geophysical survey. The ditches in this area contained relatively sterile fills with a distinctive reddish brown signature. Although the finds assemblages from these features are small, the pottery is consistently dateable to the later part of the Roman period. The overall picture is of a late Roman landscape comprising a farming settlement located on the upper part of the hill, with a ditched field system occupying the south-facing slope.

- 6.1.3 The identification of the curvilinear feature in the eastern part of the site by the geophysical feature was confirmed, but hand excavation was not possible here due to the presence of livestock in the field and so no dating evidence was retrieved to enhance its interpretation.
- 6.1.4 Trenches 1, 4, 17 and 19 were all targeted on areas which the geophysical survey had indicated were generally devoid of archaeological features and the absence of features in these trenches corroborated this negative result.
- 6.1.5 A seam of limestone running around Vagg Hill was encountered in Trenches 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16, sandwiched between layers of sandy and silt, and this variation in the geology would explain the more amorphous signals detected by the geophysical survey in this area. Quarrying of this deposit was also identified in Trenches 11 and 15, and although undated may be of some antiquity as it was sealed by the medieval ploughsoil.
- 6.1.6 Trenches 21 and 22, located in the south-eastern part of the site, confirmed that the earthworks visible in this field, and the rectilinear feature present on aerial photographs, are spoilheaps and hollows resulting from quarrying. The most likely context for this extraction is the late 18th century, when Brimsmore House, a Grade II listed building located to the immediate east of the site was constructed. The house is built from local stone and this field formed part of the Brimsmore House estate at this time. No evidence was found in this area for the survival of earlier features.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	100	Layer		0.07	Modern topsoil		
	101	Layer		0.26	Former ploughsoil		
	102	Layer		0.14	Subsoil		
	103	Layer			Natural		
2	200	Layer		0.07	Modern topsoil		
	201	Layer		0.30	Former ploughsoil		
	202	Void					
	203	Fill		0.10	Fill of ditch 204		
	204	Cut	0.60	0.10	Ditch		
	205	Layer			Natural		
3	300	Layer		0.05-0.10	Modern topsoil		
	301	Layer		0.30-0.35	Former ploughsoil		
	302	Layer			Natural		
	303	Fill		0.35	Fill of ditch 304		
	304	Cut	1.15	0.35	Ditch		
4	400	Layer		0.10	Modern topsoil		
	401	Layer		0.20-0.25	Former ploughsoil		
	402	Layer			Natural		
5	500	Layer		0.10	Modern topsoil		
	501	Layer		0.20-0.25	Former ploughsoil		
	502	Layer			Natural		
6	600	Layer		0.05	Modern topsoil		
	601	Layer		0.30	Former ploughsoil		
	602	Layer			Natural		
	603	Fill		0.15	Fill of ditch 606	Pot	RB
	604	Fill		0.25	Fill of ditch 606		
	605	Fill		0.20	Fill of ditch 606	Pot	RB
	606	Cut	1.15	0.60	Ditch		
	607	Fill		0.30	Fill of ditch 608	Bone	
7	700	Layer		0.12	Modern topsoil		
	701	Layer		0.20 - 0.40	Former ploughsoil		
	702	Layer		0.30	Subsoil	Pot Bone	RB
	703	Layer			Natural silt		
	704	Layer			Natural limestone		
8	801	Layer		0.10	Modern topsoil		

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick (m)	Comments	Find	Date
	802	Layer		0.30	Former ploughsoil		
	803	Layer			Natural silt		
	804	Layer			Natural limestone		
	805	Cut	0.80	0.25	Ditch		
	806	Fill		0.25	Fill of ditch 805	Pot Bone	RB
	807	Cut	0.70	0.20	Ditch		
	808	Fill		0.20	Fill of ditch 807		
	809	Cut	0.30		Gully		
	810	Fill			Fill of gully 809		
	811	Cut	0.85	0.20	Ditch/ furrow		
	812	Fill		0.20	Fill of ditch/ furrow 811	Pot	RB
	813	Cut	0.90	0.23	Ditch		
	814	Fill		0.23	Fill of ditch 811	Bone CBM	
	815	Cut	1.20	0.30	Ditch		
	816	Fill		0.30	Fill of ditch 815		
	817	Cut	2.20	0.80	Ditch		
	818	Fill		0.25	Fill of ditch 817		
	819	Fill		0.30	Fill of ditch 817	Pot Bone	RB
	820	Fill		0.40	Fill of ditch 817	Bone	
9	900	Layer		0.08	Modern topsoil		
	901	Layer		0.20- 0.25	Former ploughsoil		
	902	Layer			Natural		
	903	Fill		0.10	Fill of plough furrow 904		
	904	Cut	1.30	0.10	Plough furrow		
	905	Fill		0.52	Fill of ditch 906	Pot Bone	RB
	906	Cut	1.20	0.52	Ditch		
	907	Fill		0.60			
	908	Fill		0.22			
	909	Fill		0.25		Pot Bone Shell	RB
	910	Cut	8.30	0.88	Pond/ erosion channel		
10	1000	Layer		0.12	Modern topsoil		
	1001	Layer		0.27	Former ploughsoil		
	1002	Void					
	1003	Fill		0.26	Fill of ditch 1004		
	1004	Cut	0.98	0.26	Ditch		
	1005	Fill		0.27	Fill of 1006		
	1006	Cut	0.60	0.27	Ditch		
	1007	Fill		0.24	Fill of pit 1008		

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick (m)	Comments	Find	Date
	1008	Cut	1.80	0.24	Pit		
	1009	Fill		0.20	Fill of pit 1009		
	1010	Cut	1.75	0.20	Pit		
	1011	Fill		0.20	Fill of gully 1012		
	1012	Cut	0.45	0.20	Gully		
	1013	Fill		0.50	Fill of ditch 1014	Pot Bone	RB
	1014	Cut	1.25	0.50	Ditch		
	1015	Layer			Natural		
	1016	Fill			Fill of quarry pit 1017		
	1017	Cut	7.80		Quarry pit		
11	1100	Layer		0.12-0.22	Modern topsoil		
	1101	Layer		0.24-0.32	Former ploughsoil		
	1102	Fill		0.11	Fill of ditch 1103		
	1103	Cut	0.96	0.11	Ditch		
	1104	Fill		0.31			
	1105	Layer			Natural		
12	1200	Layer		0.10-0.13	Modern topsoil		
	1201	Layer		0.27	Former ploughsoil		
	1202	Layer		0.18	Subsoil		
	1203	Fill		0.12	Fill of Ditch 1204	Pot	RB
	1204	Cut	0.98	0.12	Ditch		
	1205	Fill		0.24	Fill of ditch 1206		
	1206	Cut	1.00	0.24	Ditch		
	1207	Layer			Natural		
13	1300	Layer		0.12	Modern topsoil		
	1301	Layer		0.20-0.30	Former ploughsoil		
	1302	Layer		0.20-0.40	Subsoil		
	1303	Fill		0.25	Grave fill	8 x coffin nails 3 x hobnails	
	1304	Skel.			Skeleton		
	1305	Cut	1.88 x 0.60	0.25	Grave		
	1306	Fill		0.40	Fill of ditch 1307		
	1307	Cut	1.15	0.40	Ditch		
	1308	Fill		0.38	Fill of ditch 1309		
	1309	Cut	0.90	0.38	Ditch		
	1310	Fill		0.23	Fill of ditch 1311		
	1311	Cut	0.62	0.23	Ditch		
	1312	Fill		0.20	Fill of grave 1313		

Trench	Ctxt no.	Type	Width (m)	Thick (m)	Comments	Finds	Date
	1313	Cut	1.94 x 0.45	0.20	Grave?		
	1314	Fill		0.20	Fill of ditch 1315		
	1315	Cut	1.55	0.23	Ditch		
	1316	Layer			Natural		
14	1400	Layer		0.15	Modern topsoil		
	1401	Layer		0.10-0.25	Former ploughsoil		
	1402	Fill			Fill of ditch 1403		
	1403	Cut	3.50		Ditch		
	1404	Layer			Natural		
15	1500	Layer		0.25	Modern topsoil		
	1501	Layer		0.30	Former ploughsoil		
	1502	Fill		0.30	Fill of quarry pit 1504		
	1503	Fill		0.10	Fill of quarry pit 1504		
	1504	Cut		0.40	Quarry pit		
	1505	Layer			Natural		
16	1600	Layer		0.10	Modern topsoil		
	1601	Layer		0.20-0.30	Former ploughsoil		
	1602	Layer			Natural		
	1603	Cut	2.80		Ditch		
	1604	Fill			Fill of ditch 1603		
17	1700	Layer		0.05-0.10	Modern topsoil		
	1701	Layer		0.20-0.30	Former ploughsoil		
	1702	Layer			Natural		
18	1800	Layer		0.05-0.10	Modern topsoil		
	1801	Layer		0.20-0.30	Former ploughsoil		
	1802	Layer			Natural		
	1803	Cut	2.25		Ditch		
	1804	Fill			Fill of ditch 1803		
	1805	Cut	1.20		Ditch		
	1806	Fill			Fill of ditch 1805		
19	1900	Layer		0.05-0.10	Modern topsoil		
	1901	Layer		0.17-0.22	Former topsoil		
	1902	Layer			Natural		
20	2000	Layer		0.05-0.10	Modern topsoil		
	2001	Layer		0.30	Former ploughsoil		
	2002	Layer			Natural		

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt no.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
21	2100	Layer		0.15-0.25	Modern topsoil		
	2101	Fill		0.45	Fill of quarry 2104		
	2102	Fill		0.45	Fill of quarry 2104		
	2103	Layer		0.45	Up-cast from quarry 2104		
	2104	Cut	24.0 x 14.0	0.45	Quarry hollow		
	2105	Layer		0.35	Former ploughsoil		
	2106	Layer			Natural		
22	2200	Layer			Modern topsoil		
	2201	Fill			Fill of quarry pit 2202		
	2202	Cut			Quarry pit		
	2203	Layer			Natural		

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING

By Paul Booth

Introduction and methodology

A total of 100 sherds, weighing 918 g, was recovered during the evaluation. This material was rapidly scanned to determine context dates and to assess the character of the pottery. No detailed examination of the pottery was undertaken. A note was made of the most diagnostic Roman pottery using OA's later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system (Booth 2004).

Condition

With an average sherd weight of 9 g the condition of the assemblage is moderate. Surfaces are generally well preserved, with the exception of some of the black-burnished ware, which is fairly abraded. Residuality is difficult to assess without full recording. However, a single sherd of south Spanish (Baetican) amphora was noted in a context that must date to the fourth century.

Description

Pottery from the evaluation largely comprises black-burnished ware (B), although it is not clear at this stage whether this material belongs the Dorset tradition or the south-western tradition. Vessel forms in this fabric comprise cooking jars, flanged-bowls, plain-rimmed dishes and a single bead-rimmed dish. An everted rim jar in sandy grey ware (R20) and some grog-tempered ware (R90) is also present. Regional and continental imports include a necked bowl with rouletted decoration (Young type C78) in Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (F51), New Forest colour-coated ware (F53) and a single sherd of south Spanish (Baetican) amphora (A11). The presence of the Oxfordshire oxidised ware bowl and the flanged and plain rimmed dishes among the black-burnished ware indicates that the bulk of the assemblage

should be considered fourth century in date. Although the assemblage is not large the presence of this material suggests a later Roman presence of some kind, with wide ranging contacts. The sherd of amphora may indicate some sort of earlier Roman presence, although it may have remained in circulation into the fourth century and have been brought to the site during this period.

Potential

The pottery assemblage is small and offers little potential for further study, although it has a restricted date range and includes a significant component of regional imports. The small size and infrequency of groups with well preserved datable, diagnostic material means that little can be inferred about pottery supply, or the status of the site. However, a larger assemblage from this site may enable us to refine our understanding of these issues and develop our knowledge of regional typology and chronology.

Table 1: Pottery identification and spot-dates

<i>Ctx</i>	<i>Sh no.</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>Fabric/Form</i>	<i>Spot Date</i>
909	70	534	A11 South Spanish Baetican amphora, R20 sandy grey ware, B black-burnished ware (1 cooking jar, 3 flanged-bowls, 1 plain-rimmed dish), O11 Oxfordshire oxidised ware (1 necked bowl), F53 New Forest colour-coated ware	M4-L4
1013	8	172	R90 grog-tempered ware, B black-burnished ware	E2-L4
806	1	24	B black-burnished ware	E2-L4
819	4	47	R20 sandy grey ware, B black-burnished ware (1 cooking jar, 1 plain-rimmed dish)	E2-L4
702	3	46	R20 sandy grey ware (1 everted-rimmed jar), B black-burnished ware	E2-L4
905	7	45	R20 sandy grey ware, B black-burnished ware (1 cooking jar, 1 plain rimmed dish)	4th cent
812	1	16	B black-burnished ware	E2-L4
603	3	22	B black-burnished ware	E2-L4
814	1	1	B black-burnished ware	E2-L4
605	1	6	B black-burnished ware	E2-L4
1203	1	5	B black-burnished ware (1 bead rim dish)	4th cent

APPENDIX 3 ANIMAL BONES

A total of 33 bones (771 g) were recovered from this site, the majority of which have survived in fair/poor condition with approximately half of the bone showing a high degree of surface attrition. Of the 33 bones recovered, 14 were identifiable to species, as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Total number of bones identified to species

<i>Context</i>	<i>Sheep/goat</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Pig</i>	<i>Dog</i>	<i>Unidentified</i>	<i>Total</i>
607		1				1
702					1	1
806	1					1
814	1	1				2
819	1	1		3	1	6
820		1			3	4
905	2				6	8
909			1		5	6
1013	1				3	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>33</i>

Unfortunately the condition of the bone and the small sample size limits the amount of information that can be gained from the animal remains at this site. Only one bone could be measured and two mandibles aged, a sheep/goat mandible giving an age at death of 3 - 10 months and a cattle mandible aged as adult. Butchery marks were noted on a single sheep/goat tibia, which has been chopped through the shaft, probably for marrow extraction. Carnivore gnawing was only apparent on a single sheep/goat radius, and pathologies, evidence of burning or working, and articulating bones were absent.

APPENDIX 4 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

By Seren Griffiths and Dana Challinor

Methodology

Five samples of 40 litres were taken during excavation for the purpose of recovering charred plant material from the site of Brimsmore. A range of features, all of which appeared to be Roman were sampled, including a pit, what appeared to be an enclosure ditch, a field boundary ditch, and a more amorphous feature which appeared not to have been cut and could possibly be a pit, pond, or drain. These samples were processed using a modified Siraf-type machine and flots were collected on a 250 micron mesh. After air-drying the flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at up to x20 magnification.

Results

The results from the assessment are presented in table 3. The flots were rather small (50-100ml) and the preservation reasonable. The flots all contained significant quantities of modern root material; flots 5 (context 1009), 2 (806) and 6 (1205) were particularly rich in modern root containing approximately 90% by volume, while flots 4 (909) and 3 (819) contained approximately 50% by volume modern root material.

Wood charcoal was present in samples 4 (909), 3 (819) and 2 (806) - but not in significant quantities (under 5 items present).

All the samples contained charred grain, though to varying degrees. Samples 3 (819) and 5 (1009) were richest in carbonised grain. The grain from samples 2 (806) and 3 (819) were identified as *Triticum spelta/dicoccum* (spelt/emmer wheat). *Hordeum* (barley) grain and chaff in sample 3 (819) and grain in sample 2 (806). *T. spelta/dicoccum* frequently occurred in sample 4 (909) and present in sample 5 (1009).

Chaff was present in relatively high quantities in samples 2 (806), 3 (819), and 4 (909). This included glume bases indicative of *T. spelta*, while there was relatively limited quantities of chaff in samples 5 (1009) and 6 (1205). There were limited occurrences of weed seeds in samples 2 (806), 3 (819), and 4 (909), including leguminosea, *Rumex*, *Bromus* (brome grass) and other grass species.

Molluscs were frequent in samples 4(909) and 5 (1009), and present in sample 2 (806). The molluscs in sample 4 (909) represented a range of species.

Implications and potential

Grain and chaff

The carbonised material included grain and chaff, but was relatively lacking in charcoal, probably resulting from crop processing activities, rather than food debris or a cache of stored domestic grain. The range of taxa present is consistent with Roman crop processing techniques.

The material was recovered from a variety of contexts including ditches and pits. It is therefore recommended that a range of features be sampled in any future work, including ditches that may not look particularly encouraging for carbonised plant remains. The volume of charred material in the flots is not prolific and therefore any future work should consist of samples of 40 litres.

Charcoal

What charcoal there was was well preserved. The good preservation of the other carbonised material suggests that this absence of charcoal is as a result of ancient interaction with the

material rather than the preservation conditions of the site. It is therefore recommended that any future work include identification and assessment of the charcoal.

Molluscs

There was good preservation of molluscs, and potential for future analysis utilising excavation in spits for snail samples.

Table 3: Summary of palaeoenvironmental assessment

<i>Sample No</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Charcoal</i>	<i>Grain</i>	<i>Chaff</i>	<i>Weeds</i>	<i>Molluscs</i>	<i>Notes</i>
5	1009		+			+++	
4	909	+	++ T.spelta/dicocum	+++	+	+++ Range of Species	Glume bases indic. T. spleta Small leguminosea
3	819	+	+++ T.spelta/dicocum	+++	++		Bromus and other grasses T.spelta glume Hordeum chaff and grain
2	806	+	+++	++	+	+	T.spelta/dicocum Hordeum grain Leguminosea
6	1205		+		+		cf Rumex

APPENDIX 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Brimsmore, Yeovil, Somerset

Site code: 80/ 2005

Grid reference: ST 534 178 (centred)

Type of evaluation: Twenty two 30m trenches

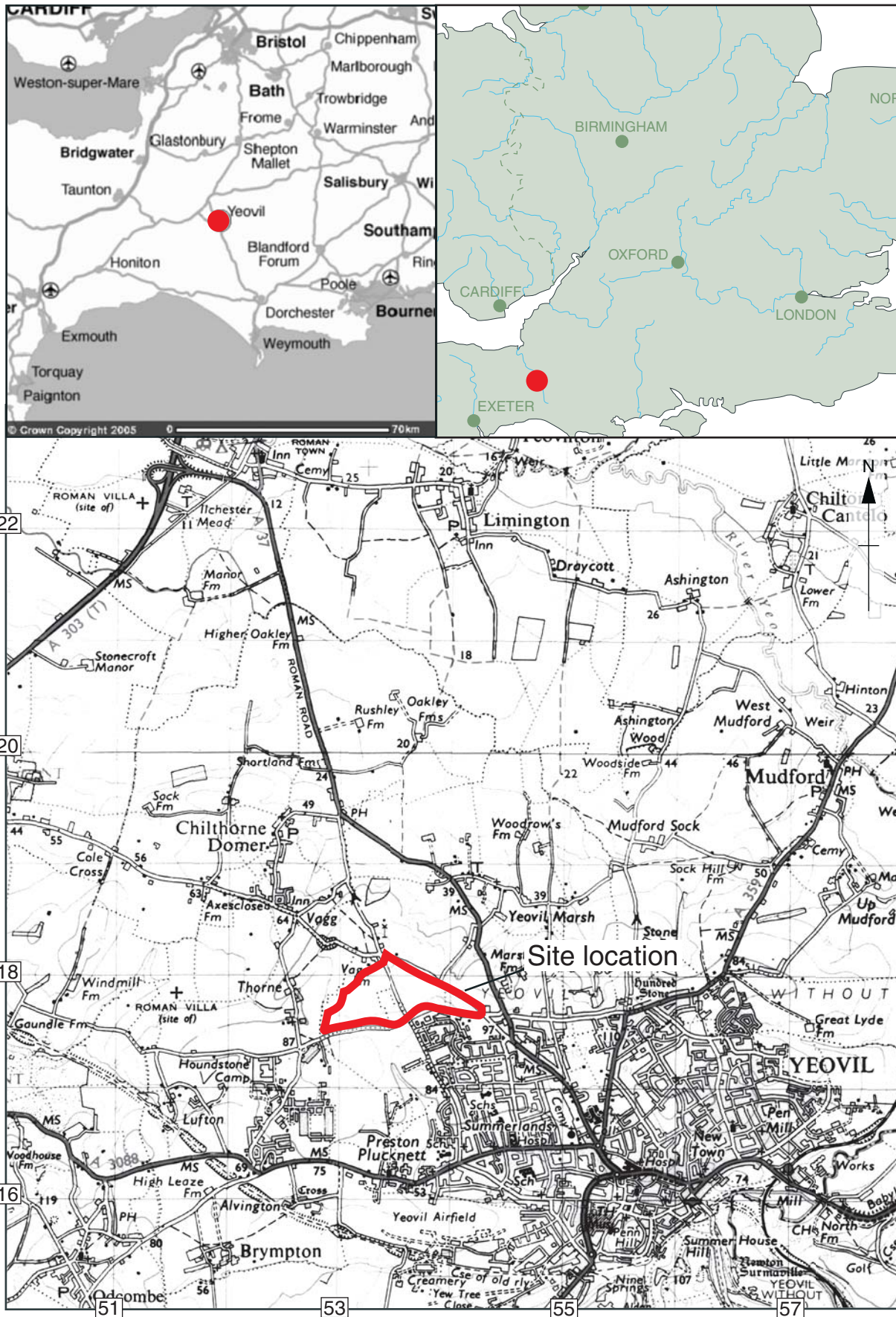
Date and duration of project: 18/4/2005 - 26/4/2005

Area of site: 50 hectares

Summary of results: Evidence was uncovered for a late Roman farming settlement located on the upper part of Vagg Hill, in the form of ditches, pits and at least one grave, with a ditched field system on the lower slopes. A series of earthworks in the south-eastern part of

the site were confirmed as being spoilheaps and hollows associated with 18th century quarrying.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Somerset County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: 80/2005



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Figure 1: Site location

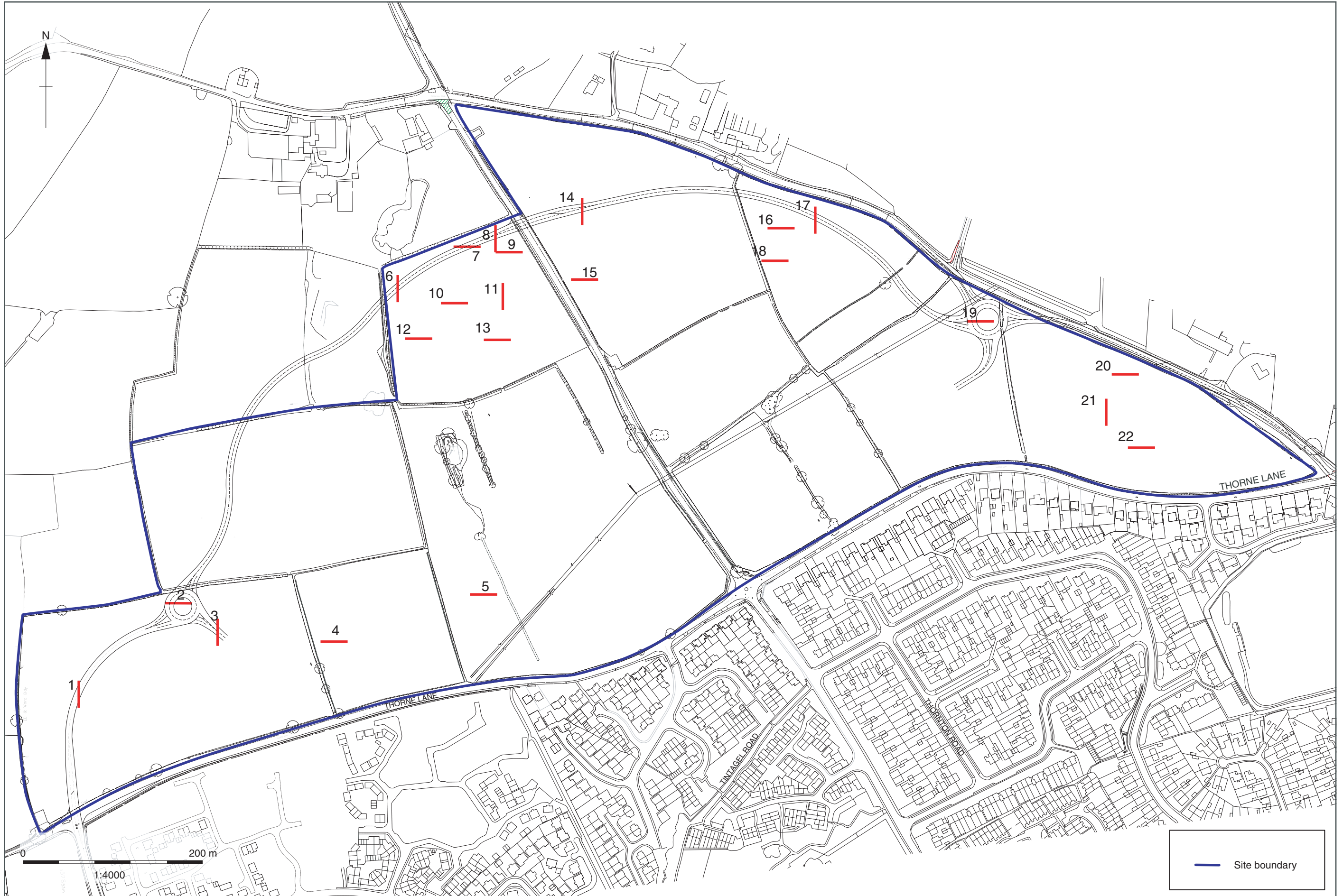
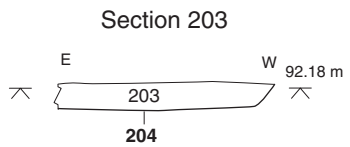
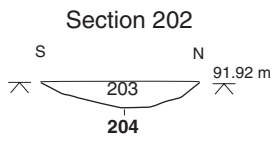
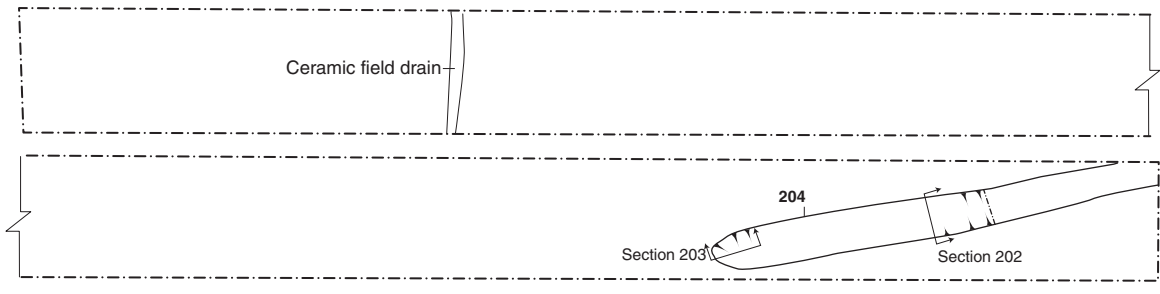


Figure 2: Trench location plan



Trench 2



Trench 3

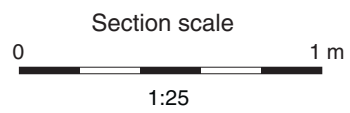
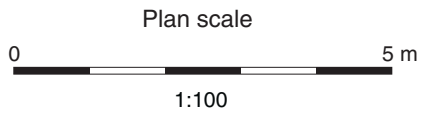
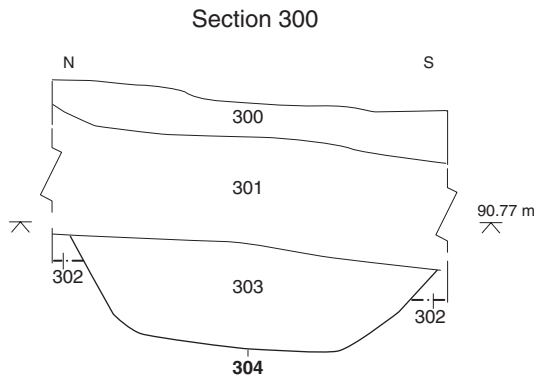
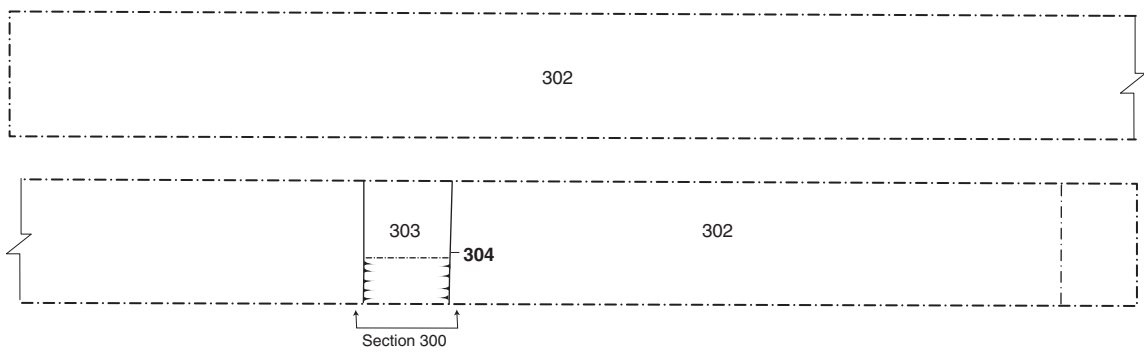
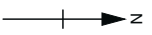
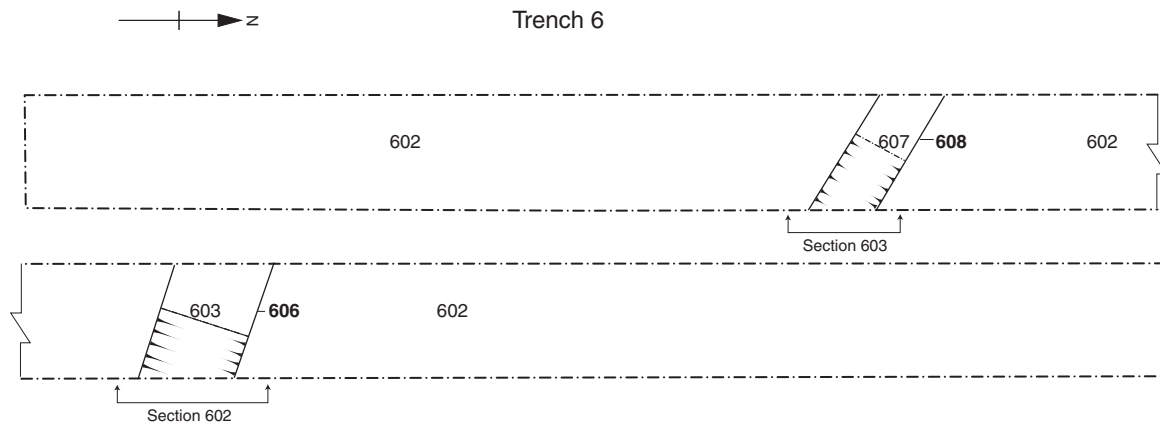
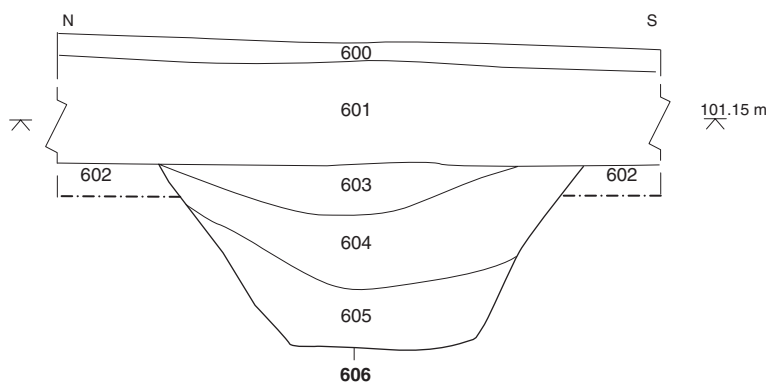


Figure 3: Trenches 2 and 3, plans and sections



Section 602



Section 603

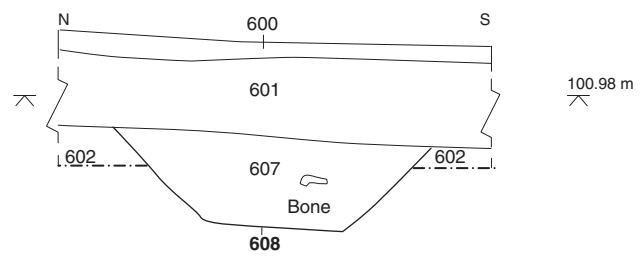


Figure 4: Trench 6, plan and sections

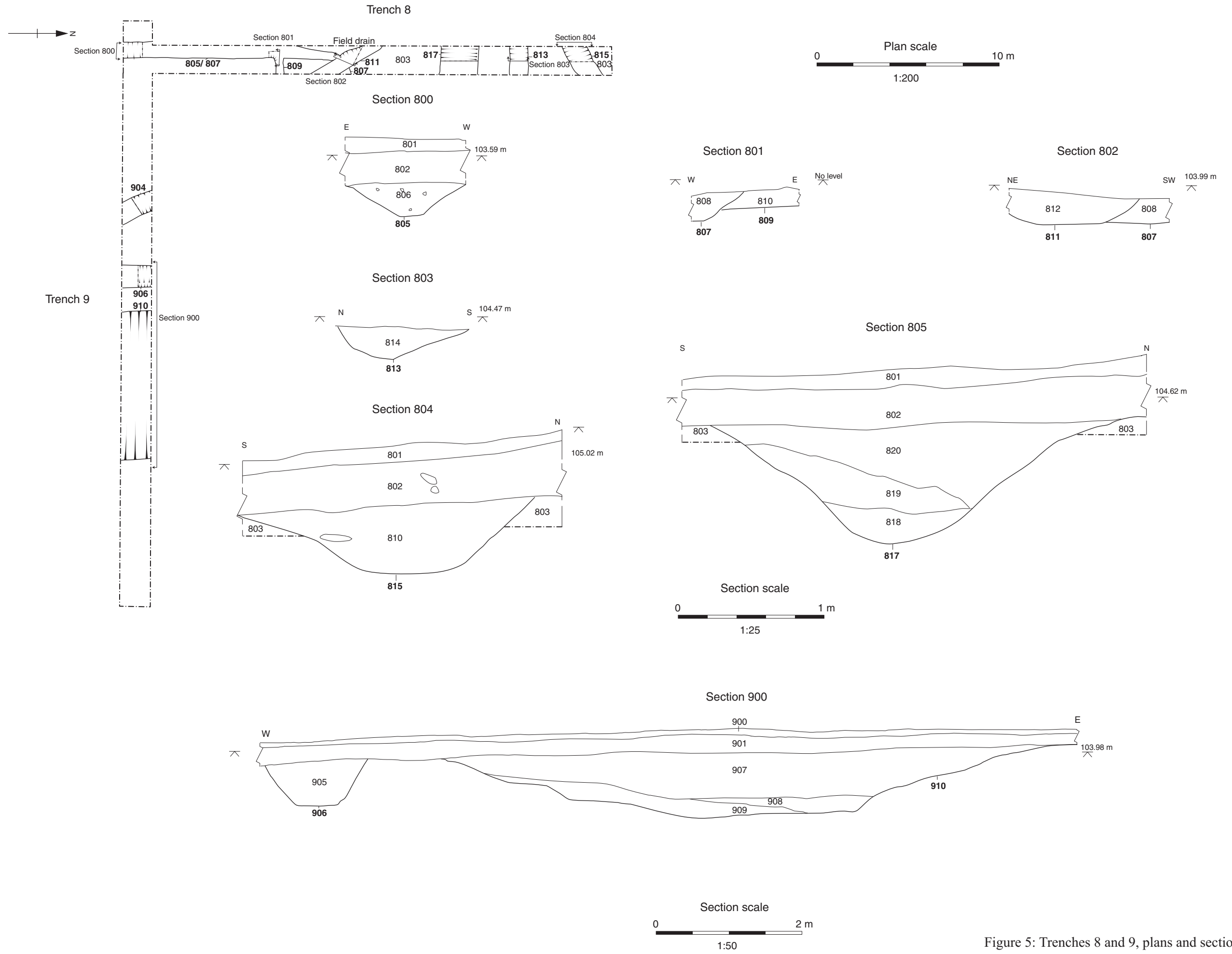


Figure 5: Trenches 8 and 9, plans and sections

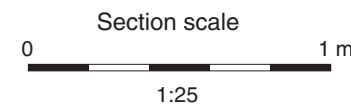
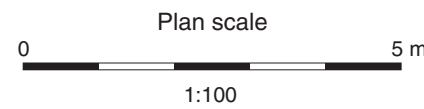
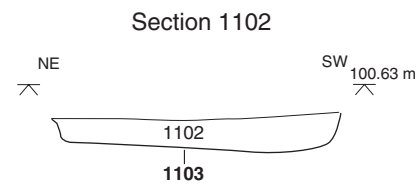
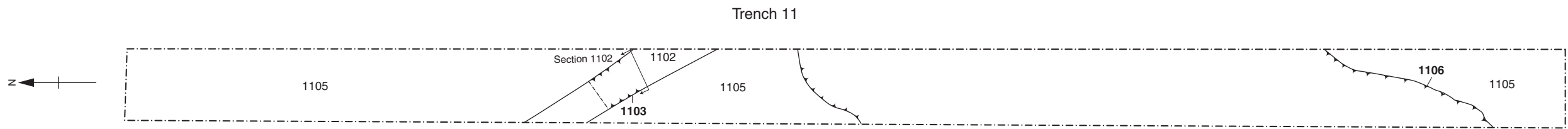
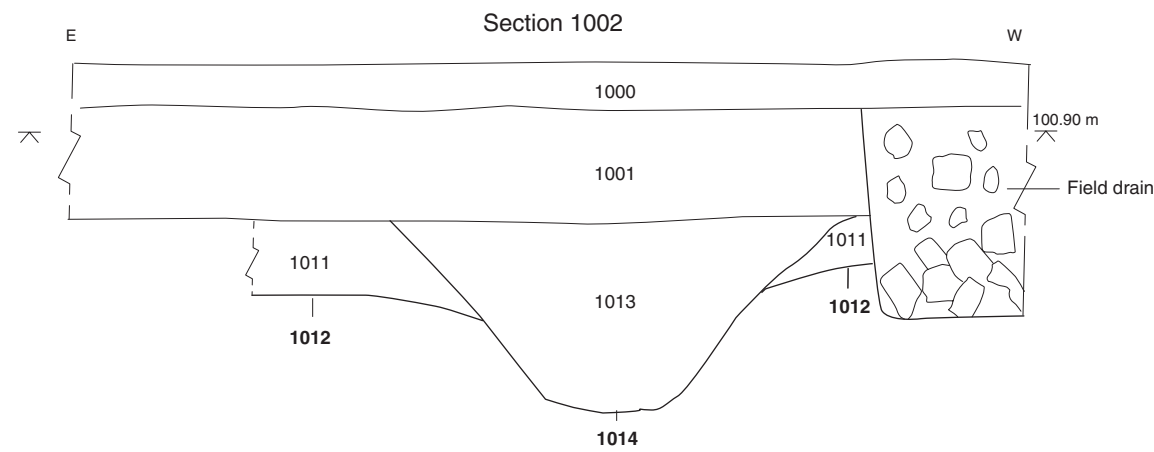
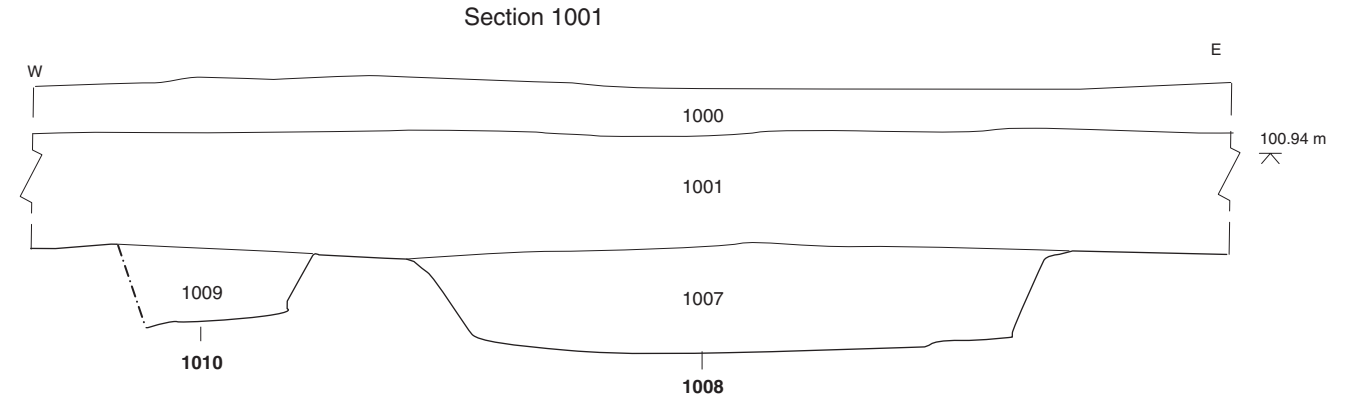
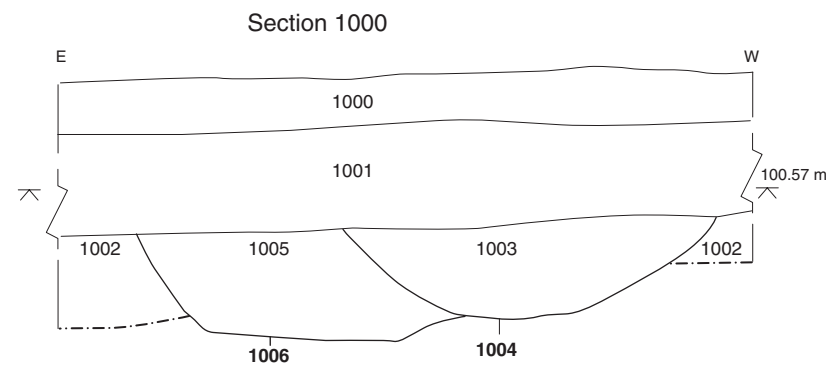
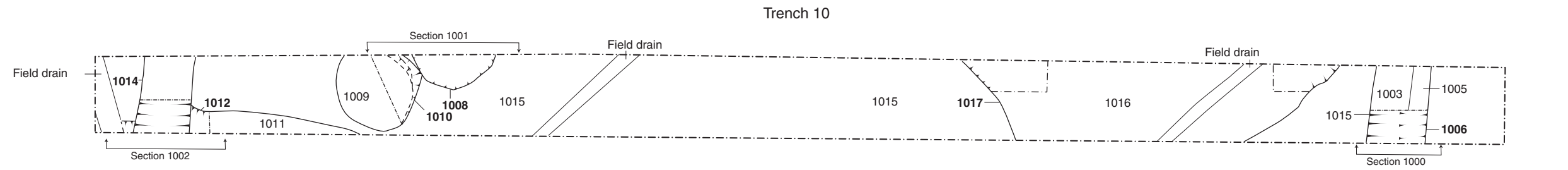


Figure 6: Trenches 10 and 11, plan and sections

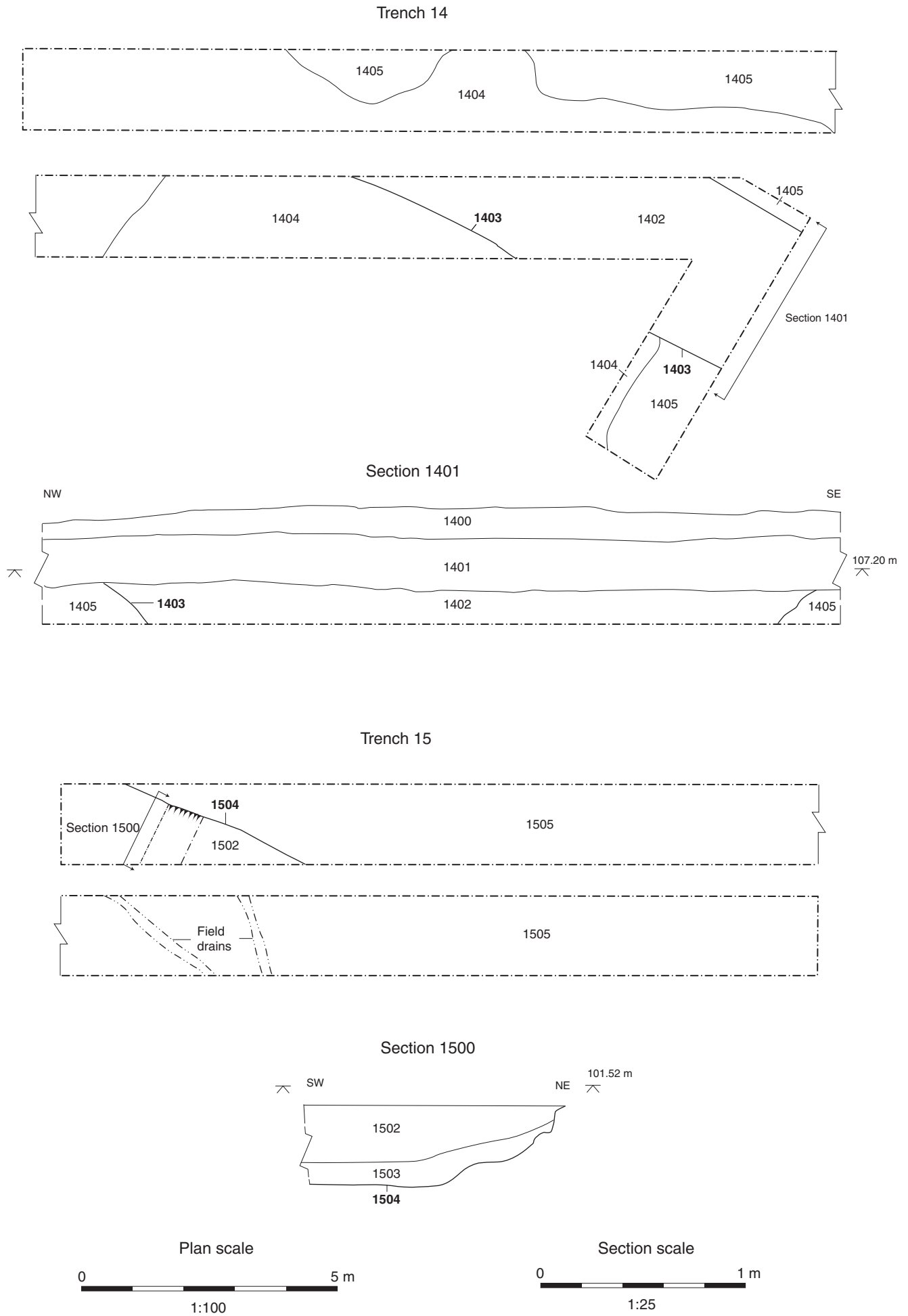


Figure 8: Trenches 14 and 15, plans and sections

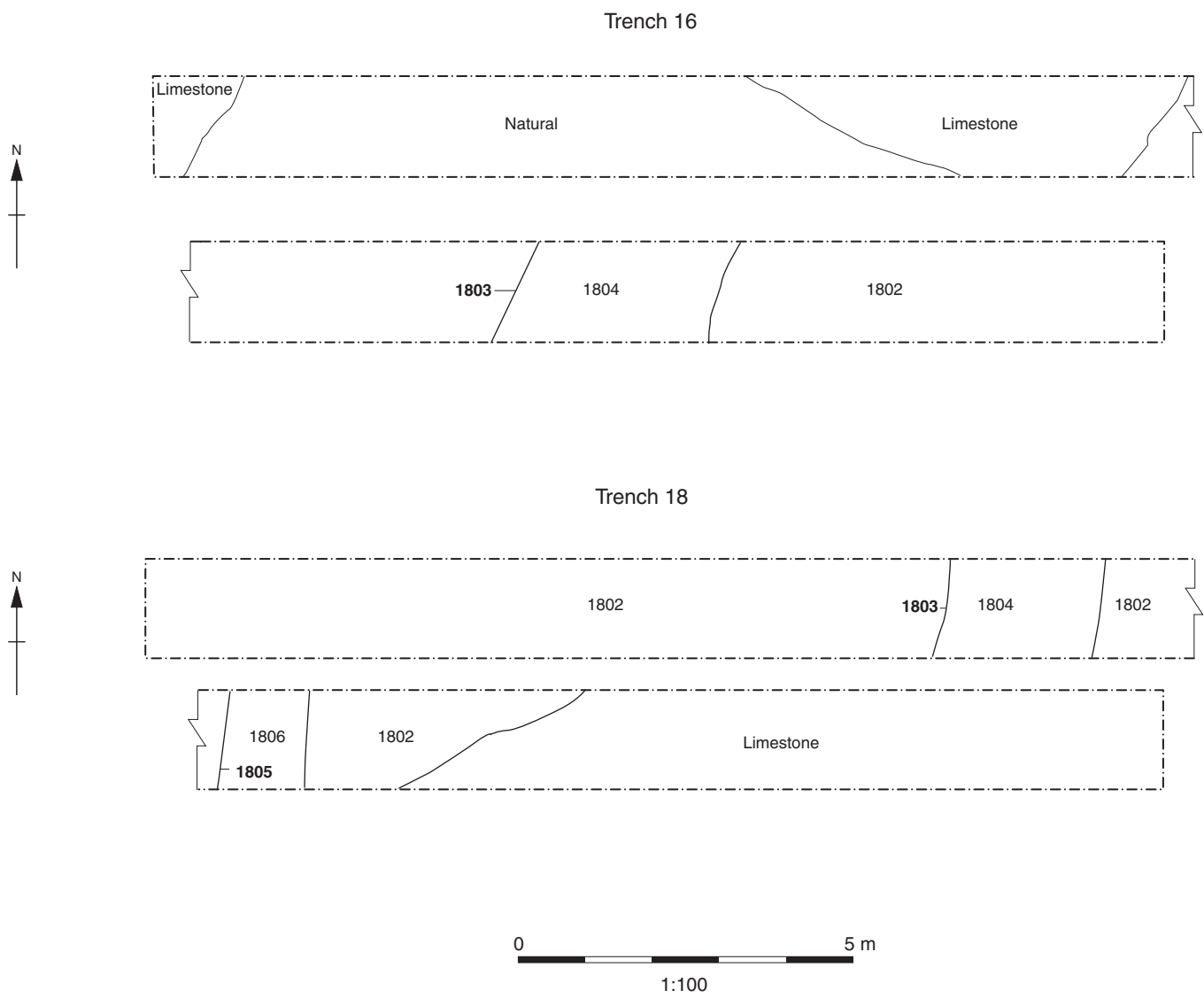


Figure 9: Plans of Trenches 16 and 18

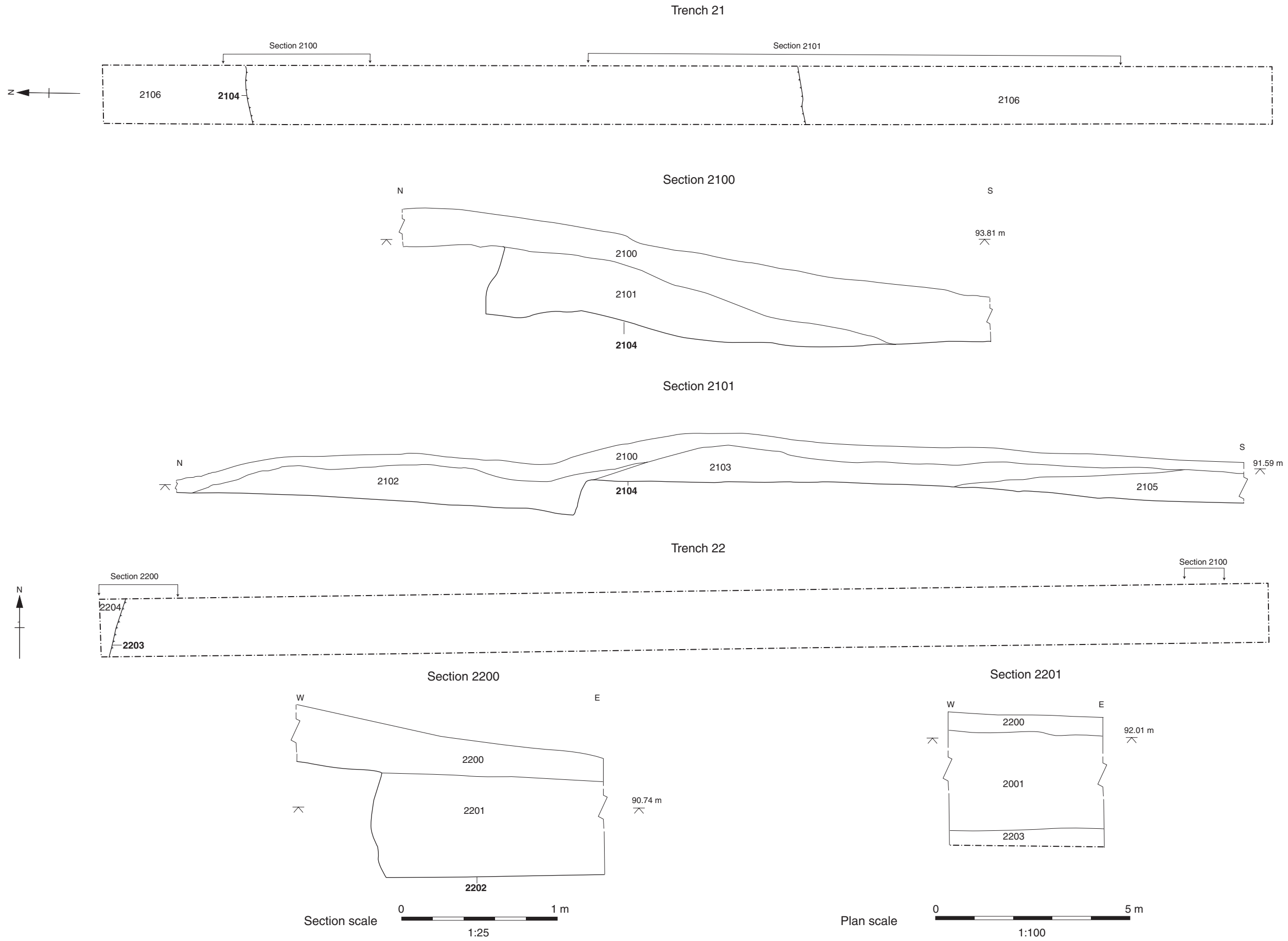


Figure 10: Trenches 21 and 22, plans and sections