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Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Prepared by: Neil Lambert
Position: Supervisor
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Checked by: Tim Haines
Position: Senior Project Manager
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Approved by: Edward Biddulph
Position: Senior Project Manager
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Oxford Archaeology
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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

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CgMs Consulting

**RAF CARDINGTON
BEDFORDSHIRE**

NGR: TL 0790 4720 (centred)

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SUMMARY

In January 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a second phase of intrusive archaeological evaluation at RAF Cardington (NGR: TL 0790 4720), commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes. RAF Cardington is situated to the south of Bedford overlooking the valley of the River Great Ouse. The proposed development site covers an area of approximately 46.75 hectares.

Evaluation trenching was targeted to examine those areas of the site that had not been evaluated, but would be impacted by the first phase of building development. On this basis, three areas were identified for examination. Further trenches were excavated in Area C, and areas E and H were evaluated.

The phase II evaluation proposal for 29 trenches was revised onsite to 26. A total of 7 trenches were excavated within Area C. No archaeological features were observed in Area C and the whole area was criss-crossed by service trenches, paths/service roads and the remains of demolished buildings.

A total of 15 trenches were excavated within Area E. These revealed high levels of modern disturbance. Archaeology was observed in three trenches, 62, 63 and 68. The features, all of which were truncated, included pits and ditches of late Iron-Age to medieval date.

A total of 4 trenches were excavated within Area H. A single truncated, undated ditch/gully was observed in trench 52. Other trenches revealed truncation caused by the construction and demolition of a former sewage works.

The evaluation has demonstrated that a low level archaeological activity survives within these areas of the development site. The overall emphasis of recorded features suggests they are linear in character, and the general lack of any associated artefactual material would suggest that they represent evidence of more peripheral activity, possibly the surviving remnants of field systems of uncertain age. These may be associated with sites of settlement, or cropmark and artefactual evidence, which is known/conjectured to exist immediately outside the development area, to the north, east and south west.

The recorded archaeological remains in general are poorly preserved, having been subjected to both truncation through agricultural practices and modern disturbance.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In January 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a second phase of archaeological evaluation at RAF Cardington (NGR: TL 0790 4720 (centred)), commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bellway Homes, in respect of a planning application for the development of residential housing.

1.1.2 RAF Cardington is situated to the south of Bedford overlooking the valley of the River Great Ouse (Fig. 1). The study area lies adjacent to the A600 with Shortstown housing development to the west and Cardington village to the east and Harrowden Lane to the north. The proposed development area covers an area of approximately 46.75 hectares.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is situated on slowly permeable calcareous clays of the Evesham 3 association, overlying Jurassic and Cretaceous clays on the higher ground. The lower parts of the site appear to have loamy soils overlying gravels associated with the local valleys. The site lies at approximately 35 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.2 Current land use is a mixture of former military buildings, areas of grass, hard standing and rubble associated with recent demolition works.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The development area has been the subject of a desk-based assessment by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants in 2004 (JSAC 2004), which provides a detailed description of the historical and archaeological background of the site and its immediate environs. The following is a summarised account of the results of this assessment and should be read in conjunction with it.

1.3.2 The area to the south of Bedford has seen human activity since early times. There are traces of Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains in the general vicinity. Present evidence indicates that up to the medieval period settlement and associated occupation activity was concentrated on the low lying gravel soils within the valleys rather than on the heavier clay soils of the higher ground over which much of the site is situated.

1.3.3 The existing settlements appear to date mainly from the Anglo-Saxon period. It is considered that the proposed development area itself was used as agricultural land during the medieval and early modern periods. Much of the proposed development area has since been built on and there has been previous ground disturbance in several of the currently grassed areas.

1.3.4 There is little evidence for earlier activity within the area of the proposed development site. Field-walking has revealed evidence of Roman occupation 150 m

to the south west of the site, and aerial photography has revealed cropmarks within the vicinity thought likely to relate to occupation and settlement activity dating to the Iron Age/Roman period.

1.4 Previous archaeological investigation

1.4.1 As part of evaluating the archaeological potential of the site, an initial non-invasive geophysical survey was undertaken within the development area by GSB Propection Ltd in April 2004, commissioned by JSAC on behalf of Bellway Homes (GSB 2004). A brief summary of the results of this investigation is presented below.

1.4.2 Detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken within five areas of the site considered suitable for survey. With the exception of Areas 4 and 5, all other areas examined by this survey formed the later focus for invasive trenching as reported in this document. Overall, the survey produced results indicating that nothing of archaeological significance was present within the five areas evaluated. Modern disturbance was shown to be present in all areas and a number of anomalies suggested to represent the former presence of roads within Area 3 (evaluation Area D), possibly associated with the aircraft hangers at the southern end of the site, were identified.

1.4.3 A first phase of intrusive archaeological evaluation was undertaken by OA in June 2004 (OA 2004). A brief summary of the results is presented below.

1.5 Area A

1.5.1 Area A demonstrated the presence of archaeological activity characterised by north to south and north-west to south-east orientated ditches. The absence of associated artefacts precluded dating or phasing of these features, which suggests that these features are peripheral to any potentially associated settlement activity.

1.5.2 The recovery, from the spoil of Trench 1, of a single residual flint blade of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date is indicative of activity of this period in the general environs of Area A.

1.6 Area C

1.6.1 With the exception of ditch 4304, features in this area reflect later modern disturbance. Ditch 4304 is undated but is considered to be associated with the ditches in Area A.

1.7 Area D

1.7.1 Features within this area (Trench 41) indicate the presence of occupation associated with the late Iron Age/Roman period, although this is likely to be peripheral. The paucity of associated finds precludes further understanding of activity within this area.

2 AIMS OF THE EVALUATION

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to:
- 2.1.2 determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the presence, location, extent, date, character, and condition of any archaeological features and deposits.
- 2.1.3 establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.1.4 make available the results of the investigation.

3 STRATEGY

- 3.1.1 The second phase of evaluation trenching was targeted to examine those areas of the site identified within the desk-based assessment as having been subject to moderate disturbance from its former use as a military air base, which are part of the Phase 1 development. On this basis, three areas were identified for examination, Areas C (continuation), E and H (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 Area C comprised a gently sloping piece of land, sloping south to north, situated within the eastern extent of the fenced former air base. This remained as an area of open grassland with some existing hard-standing infrastructure.
- 3.1.3 Area E was situated to the west of the development in the area of the former Shorts factory, within the western extent of the fenced former air base and comprised ground gently sloping north to south. In this area significant areas had been disturbed by the demolition of factory and air base buildings, with some areas of open grassland with some mature trees.
- 3.1.4 Area H was a separate fenced area to the north of Harrowden Lane, which had contained a sewage works, which had been demolished. This area was relatively flat and prior to evaluation was covered with undergrowth and mature trees.
- 3.1.5 Pre-excavation strategy proposals as detailed within a Brief issued by the Heritage and Environment Section of Bedfordshire County Council required the use of trenching (HES 2004). On this basis, initial trenching requirements within all three areas, using trenches measuring 50 m long by 1.8 m wide, were to be as detailed below:
- 3.1.6 Area C (continuation) - 7 trenches
- 3.1.7 Area E - 18 trenches
- 3.1.8 Area H - 4 trenches

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1.1 A final total of 26 trenches of the 29 originally intended were excavated across the site (Fig. 2). The presence of extensive areas of concrete and access routes resulted in trenches 70 and 73 not being excavated. In addition Trench 72 could not be excavated as it was within land currently owned by the RAF. Elsewhere, services, hardstandings

and ecological constraints (great crested newts, lizards and tree preservation orders (TPOs)) meant that trenches were re-orientated and their lengths altered to facilitate excavation (Fig. 2).

- 4.1.2 Except in Area H, the trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision by 360° tracked mechanical excavators equipped with toothless ditching/grading buckets; in area H a JCB was used. Trenches were excavated to the top of the first archaeological horizon, or where this was absent, to the top of the underlying natural geology. Spoil heaps were monitored for finds.
- 4.1.3 All trenches were CAT scanned for the presence of services. Where services were located both by pre-excavation scanning and during machine excavation these were treated as 'live' and left undisturbed within trenches.
- 4.1.4 Where appropriate trenches were cleaned by hand and features sample-excavated to determine their extent, nature, and to allow the retrieval of finds and environmental samples. Trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate. Trenches and sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the OA Fieldwork Manual (Wilkinson 1992).

5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context in accordance with the fieldwork manual.

6 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

- 6.1.1 A general description of the soils, ground conditions, stratigraphic sequence and distribution of archaeological deposits is given below. Trenches containing recorded archaeological features are described in detail in Section 6.6 below. Trenches that were recorded as containing no archaeological features or deposits are listed in Appendix 1 and are not otherwise described.
- 6.1.2 The trench descriptions are followed by a description of the finds and a summary and discussion of the results. A table detailing individual contexts is given in Appendix 1.

7 RESULTS: GENERAL

7.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 7.1.1 The site is situated on slowly permeable calcareous clays of the Evesham 3 association, overlying Jurassic and Cretaceous clays (JSAC 2004). Ground conditions were good, and despite intermittent rain, the site drained well.

7.2 The stratigraphic sequence

- 7.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence was fairly consistent across the site, although there was a slight variation in the natural geology between Area C and areas E and H. Invariably

the topsoil was a brown silty clay loam ranging in thickness from between 0.2 m to 0.4 m. The topsoil was found to overlie a sequence of successive subsoil deposits. The subsoil was a mixture of the natural geology and the overlying topsoil. These deposits were undoubtedly created as a result of plough action over previous centuries, in some instances, judging from the evidence of ridge and furrow activity, dating to the medieval period.

- 7.2.2 Area H occupied the lowest part of the site overlooking and adjacent to the River Great Ouse, where the underlying geology was predominately clayey gravel. The underlying geology elsewhere was a heavy clay except in the area of trenches 66, 67, 68 and 69, where the geology was sandy gravel with patches of clay, or clay with patches of gravel. This corresponded with the highest area of the Phase II evaluation.
- 7.2.3 Area C was shown to have been subject to modern disturbance, characterised by the presence of dumped deposits, service runs, land drains, rubbish pitting and structural foundations, as seen in the previous phase of evaluation.
- 7.2.4 In general, the preservation of recorded archaeological deposits was poor. Despite later modern disturbance, the shallow nature of surviving features would suggest that extensive truncation has occurred. This is likely to be attributable to agricultural practice (ploughing) on the site dating from medieval times.
- 7.2.5 In Trench 61 of Area E significant deposits of material have resulted in natural being 1.45 m below ground level.

7.3 **Distribution of archaeological deposits**

- 7.3.1 The majority of the evaluation trenches above-50-51, 53-61, 64-67, 69, 71, 74-78-were empty, and are not described beyond the stratigraphic sequence; as mentioned previously. Trenches 70, 72 and 73 were not excavated.
- 7.3.2 Features of potential archaeological origin were present in Trenches 52 (Area H), 62, 63, and 68 (Area E) and these are described in detail below (Figs. 3 to 7). No archaeological features were observed in Area C

7.4 **Description of deposits**

Area E

Trench 62 (Fig. 3)

- 7.4.1 Trench 62 was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 50 m long. The natural clay geology (6203) was observed at a depth of c 0.4 m (bgl). Layer 6203 was cut by a flat based, concave sided, north south orientated cut (6204). Ditch 6204 extended beyond the trench and was 0.8 m wide and 0.1 m deep. It contained a single grey silty clay deposit (6205) which was 0.1 m thick and contained stone inclusions. CBM was recovered from this deposit and is awaiting specialist reporting.
- 7.4.2 A second cut (6206), on the same alignment as 6204, cut the natural 6203 and had concave sides and base. Ditch 6206 extended beyond the trench and was 0.58 m wide

and 0.19 m deep. It contained a single silty clay fill, grey with orange mottling, 0.19 m thick. The fill (6207) contained CBM of modern date.

- 7.4.3 The ditches and the natural geology were sealed below a greyish brown clayey silt subsoil (6202), 0.35 m thick. The sequence was sealed by a dark brown sandy silt topsoil deposit up to 0.25 m thick (6201).
- 7.4.4 Observed cutting the subsoil, during machine stripping, were several sub-angular deposits. These were removed during machine excavation to reveal, laid flat into the surface of the underlying natural 6203, nine short lengths of wood c. 0.25 x 0.15 x 0.05 m thick, orientated north-south. The pads which were only observed in trench 62, appeared to be regularly spaced, parallel and placed at c.1.5 m intervals.
- 7.4.5 It can be suggested that these lengths of wood are post-pads for the construction of temporary buildings associated with the sites use as a former RAF air base. The regular 1.5 m spacing (c. six feet) would perhaps be the modular unit used in the construction of temporary buildings. Aerial photographs of the site might help to test this suggestion.

Trench 63 (Fig. 4)

- 7.4.6 Trench 63 was orientated north-south and measured 50 m long. The natural geology (6309) a yellowish grey clay was observed at 0.46 m bgl. The earliest feature to cut 6309 was (6310) a north-north-east to south-south-west orientated cut to southern end of the trench.
- 7.4.7 This cut which extended obliquely beyond the trench to the north-north-east was in excess of 2.25 m long, greater than 0.96 m wide and 0.58 m deep. The slightly concave base and concave sides were interrupted at the south-south-west limit of the cut by a shallow sub-circular depression c. 0.5 m diameter, which may represent the placing of a post. The feature contained a greyish brown silty clay primary fill (6314). The undated fill was overlain by a very dark grey silty clay secondary fill (6311), which contained bone and pottery of the late Iron-Age to early Roman period (AD 20/30-70).
- 7.4.8 A sub-circular cut (6312) truncated 6310 to the south. The pit 6312 was 1 m in diameter and 0.28 m deep. The sole fill of 6312 (6313), a light greyish brown silty clay contained, frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular flint fragments and pottery of late Iron-Age date.
- 7.4.9 To the north of features 6310 and 6312, a west-north-west to east-south-east orientated linear (6315) extended beyond the trench limits. This ditch was 2.5 m wide and 0.85 m deep, with a flat base and near vertical sides that gradually became concave. Primary fill 6316, a mid brown-orange sandy clay 0.12 m thick, was limited to the north side of the ditch. This slumping/silting fill contained no dating evidence. Fill 6317, a light brownish grey sandy clay, was restricted to the southern side of ditch 6315 and was up to 0.16 m thick. This silting fill contained pottery of indeterminate Roman or medieval date. Fills 6316 and 6317 were overlain by 6318, a

mid bluish grey sandy clay c. 0.25 m thick. Pottery of early Roman date, AD 20/30-70, was recovered from this silting fill. Fill 6319, a mid bluish grey sandy clay overlay 6318. It contained no finds but observed within it was a lens of dark grey, charcoal rich, clayey silt (6320).

- 7.4.10 An east west linear (6303) to the north of 6310 extended beyond the trench limits. The V-shaped round bottomed ditch was 0.55 m wide and 0.35 m deep. The ditch contained a single greyish brown silty clay (6304). This silting fill containing pottery of early Roman date (AD 43-120).
- 7.4.11 An oblong cut (6305) was 1.5 m long and 1 m wide and orientated north-east to south-west. The concave cut had irregular base and sides and contained a mid-brownish grey clayey silt (6306), overlain by (6307) a mid brown silty sand. This fill was in turn overlain by (6308) a mid greyish brown clay silt. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature, which is thought to be a pit rather than the result of tree growth.
- 7.4.12 All features were sealed by 6302, a light brown silty clay subsoil. Topsoil 6301, a mid-greyish brown silty clay, in turn overlay 6302. Elsewhere within the trench 4 east-west orientated service trenches were observed.

Trench 68 (Fig. 5)

- 7.4.13 Trench 68 was orientated north to south and measured 49.5 m long. The natural geology a mid brownish orange clayey sand/gravel (6803), was encountered at 0.7 m bgl. The natural was cut by a single oval feature (6805). This pit was 1.46 m long by 0.95 m wide, orientated north-south. The slightly concave bottomed and concave sided pit was 0.3 m deep. The pit of indeterminate function contained a single mid-greyish brown silty clay fill (6804) from which was recovered pottery of late Saxon to early medieval (10th-11th century) date.
- 7.4.14 Fill 6804 was overlain by a 0.45 m thick dark grey sandy clay subsoil (6802). This was in turn overlain by a very dark brown clayey silt topsoil (6801).

Area H

Trench 52 (Fig. 6)

- 7.4.15 Trench 52 was orientated east-west and measured 50 m in length. The natural geology (5203), a orange-yellow clay silt was observed at 0.27 m bgl.
- 7.4.16 The natural geology was cut by a modern service run and a single north-north-west to south-south-east linear feature (5204) of uncertain archaeological origin. This shallow concave ditch/gully was 0.4-0.5 m wide and 0.05 m deep and extended beyond the trench limits. The ditch/gully was filled by 5205, a brownish grey silty clay. No finds were recovered within this deposit.
- 7.4.17 The natural geology was sealed by a c 0.22 m deep buried soil horizon (3805), similar in composition to that described below in Trench 41. This deposit was impacted and sealed by an irregular area of modern concrete and rubble observed at the north end

of the trench which lay within a made ground deposit comprising mid yellowish brown clay with brick and rubble (3801) up to 0.45 m thick. This was in turn sealed by a 0.14 m depth of modern topsoil.

8 FINDS

Pottery by Edward Biddulph/Jon Cotter

A total of 36 sherds of pottery, weighing 315 g, was recovered from the second phase of evaluation. The material was sorted into fabrics – identified using the Bedfordshire type series based at Albion Archaeology (cf. Dawson 2004, 443-55) – within context groups and recorded by sherd count and fabric group weight. Contexts were assigned dates on the basis of the diagnostic material present.

Some 34 sherds belonged to the late Iron Age or early Roman period. These were characterised by grog-tempered wares, shelly ware, and sandy wares – black-surfaced and grey wares – that contained lesser amounts of grog. No rims were present, but some of the body and base sherds may be attributable to a bead-rimmed jar, pedestal jar, and storage jar. Grog-tempered pottery nominally carries a broad 50 BC – AD 70 date range, but in association with the sandy wares, it was probably deposited during the 1st century AD. Context 6304 included a fine grey ware fragment that is more likely to date after AD 43.

The late Saxon or early medieval period is represented by a carinated bowl in a St Neot's-type shelly ware. Three fragments of building material recovered from context 6107 were modern.

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Description (Bedfordshire fabric codes in parentheses)	Group date
6207	3	10	Ceramic building material	Modern
6304	7	12	Shelly ware body sherds (R13)	AD 43-120
	3	3	Unidentified sherds (F) - ?grog in fabric	
	1	1	Fine grey ware (R06C)	
6311	4	127	Coarse grog-tempered ware (F06C), storage-jar body sherds	AD20/30-70
	7	76	Grog-tempered ware body sherds (F06A), including shoulder of ?bead-rimmed jar.	
	2	11	Sandy black ware (R07B) body sherds	
6313	3	38	Grog-tempered ware (F06A), including base sherd from pedestal jar	LIA
6317	3	6	Sandy black ware (R07B) body sherds.	AD 20/30-70
	2	10	Sandy grey ware (R06B) body sherds	
6318	2	5	Sandy grey ware (R06B)	AD 20/30-70
6804	2	26	St Neot's-type ware (B01) carinated bowl	10th-11th cent.
TOTAL	39	325		

Animal bone by Rachel Scales

8.1.1 Twenty six bones were recovered from the dark grey silty clay fill (6311) of pit 6310. Of these twenty six bones, six were identifiable to species level. All the bones were recovered by hand during excavation. Bones were identified with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology bone reference collection and published texts. Sheep/ goat (*Ovis*

aries/ Capra hircus) was the only species identified. Fifteen medium mammal sized bone fragments and two large mammal sized bones were also recorded (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of bones recorded from context (6311).

Element	Sheep/Goat	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal	Indeterminate
Mandible	1		10	
Tooth	2			1
Scapula	2		1	
Rib			1	
Tibia	1			
Long bone		2	3	
Indeterminate				2
<i>Total</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>3</i>

8.1.2 Bone condition ranged from good to poor, suggesting differential taphonomic histories. Two of the bones were burnt. One bone had signs of carnivore gnawing on it. Butchery marks were observed on a sheep/ goat scapula and were likely to have been the result of the dismembering process. With so few mammal bones present it is not possible to investigate husbandry practices further beyond noting that the range of elements recorded and the assemblage as a whole appear to reflect domestic activity. However, this assemblage should be considered alongside material from further excavations at the site, should bone of similar date be retrieved.

Ceramic building material

8.1.3 A total of 8 sherds of ceramic building material, weighing a total of 288 g, was recovered from 3 contexts. Currently CBM is awaiting specialist reporting which will be included in the final report.

9 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

9.1 Reliability of field investigation

9.1.1 The field evaluation was carried out under controlled conditions and the results are considered reliable. Ground conditions were fair, and features, where present, were clearly visible. Surviving archaeological features appear to have been affected by later plough truncation and as such may not be complete in form in most cases.

9.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

Area C

9.2.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the absence of archaeological activity within those trenches excavated in the continuation of Area C. The high levels of modern activity, services, access paths/roads and the construction and subsequent demolition of buildings will have had a detrimental effect upon any archaeology that existed in this

area, although the less favoured heavy clay natural in this area is least likely to have seen archaeological activity until the later Roman/medieval periods.

Area E

- 9.2.2 The features recorded within this area predominantly reflect late Iron-Age, early Roman and early medieval activity. The archaeology is thought to reflect evidence of peripheral occupation activity, the precise character, date and significance of which remains uncertain.

Area H

- 9.2.3 The features recorded within this area (Trench 52) indicate activity of uncertain date. The presence of a sewage works will have had a detrimental effect upon any archaeology which may have existed in this area.
- 9.2.4 The possibility that potentially associated occupation/settlement evidence may lie further to the west, south or north of the evaluated area cannot be excluded. The relative paucity of artefactual material recovered from the excavated features does suggest, however, that the activity represented within Area E and H is likely to be peripheral to any main focus of occupation/settlement, such potential evidence being known to be present c 300 m to the south west of the site (JSAC 2004; SMR number 1181, Figure 6). The recorded ditches may possibly represent a partial remnant of associated field systems.
- 9.2.5 The recorded evidence, albeit slight, does lend further support to the suggestion that the heavier clay soils were beginning to be exploited in the Roman period.

Significance

- 9.2.6 The evaluation has demonstrated that low level archaeological activity is present within those areas of the development site evaluated in Phase II. The archaeological features are suggestive of activity dating to the late Iron Age/Roman period, although some medieval archaeology is also present.
- 9.2.7 Very little further detailed interpretation can be provided regarding the precise date, function and character of the surviving archaeological remains. The overall emphasis of recorded features to be linear in character, and the general lack of any associated artefactual material, suggests that they may represent evidence of more peripheral activity, possibly the surviving remnants of field systems. These are likely to have been associated with sites of direct settlement, cropmark and artefactual evidence, of which is known/conjectured to exist immediately outside of the development area both to its north, east and south west.
- 9.2.8 The recorded archaeological remains are generally poorly preserved, having been shown to have been subject to both truncation through agricultural practices and modern disturbance. Such disturbance is extensive over all three areas.

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>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
050 No Archaeology								
	5001	Layer		0.15	Topsoil			
	5002	Layer		0.39	Demolition layer			
	5003	Layer		0.18	Subsoil			
	5004	Layer		N/A	Natural clayey gravel			
051 No Archaeology								
	5101	Layer		0.29	Stone hardcore			
	5102	Layer		0.2	Demolition layer			
	5103	Layer		0.11	Colluvium			
	5104	Layer		N/A	Natural clayey gravel			
052								
	5201	Layer			Topsoil			
	5202	Layer		0.22	Subsoil/colluvium			
	5203	Layer		N/A	Natural clayey silt			
	5204	Cut	0.5 - 0.5	0.05	Gully			?
	5205	Fill	0.4 - 0.5	0.05	Gully fill			?
053 A No Archaeology								
	5301	Layer		0.17	Demolition layer			
	5302	Layer		0.15	Demolition layer			
	5303	Layer		0.22	Subsoil			
	5304	Fill		0.3	Natural clayey gravel			
	5305	Layer		0.20	Topsoil			
053 B No Archaeology								
	5306	Layer		0.22	Colluvium			
	5307	Layer		N/A	Natural clayey gravel			
054 No Archaeology								
	5401	Layer		0.1 - 0.15	Demolition layer			
	5402	Layer		0.43	Subsoil			
	5403	Layer		0.4	Subsoil			
	5404	Layer		N/A	Natural sandy clay			

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
055 No Archaeology								
	5501	Layer		0.15	Topsoil			
	5502	Layer		0.25-0.45	Subsoil			
	5503	Layer		N/A	Natural sandy clay			
056 No Archaeology								
	5601	Layer		0.15 - 0.20	Topsoil			
	5602	Layer		0 - 0.50	Subsoil			
	5603	Fill		< 0.5	Subsoil			
	5604	Cut		N/A	Natural clay			
057 No Archaeology								
	5701	Layer		0.1 - 0.3	Tarmac			
	5702	Layer		< 0.2	Subsoil			
	5703	Fill		0.22	Subsoil			
	5704	Cut		N/A	Natural			
058 No Archaeology								
	5801	Layer		0.45	Topsoil			
	5802	Layer		0.35	Subsoil			
	5803	Layer		N/A	Natural sandy clay			
059 No Archaeology								
	5901	Layer		0.15	Topsoil			
	5902	Layer		0.25	Subsoil			
	5903	Layer		0.2	Natural sandy clay			
060 No Archaeology								
	6001	Layer		0.3-0.4	Topsoil			
	9602	Layer		N/A	Natural clay			
061 No Archaeology								
	6101	Layer		0.25	Topsoil/rubble/tarmac			
	6102	Layer		0.65	Subsoil			
	6103	Layer		0.55	Subsoil			
	6104	Layer		N/A	Natural clay			
062								
	6201	Layer		0.25	Topsoil			
	6202	Layer		0.2	Subsoil			

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
	6203	Layer		N/A	Natural clay			
	6204	Cut	0.42	0.2	Ditch			
	6205	Fill	0.42	0.2	Ditch fill	CBM		RB/Med ?
	6206	Cut	0.58	0.19	Ditch cut			
	6207	Fill	0.58	0.19	Ditch fill	Pottery		Post-Med
063								
	6301	Layer		0.15	Topsoil			
	6302	Layer		0.3	Subsoil			
	6303	Cut	0.55	0.35	Ditch/gully cut			
	6304	Fill	0.55	0.35	Ditch/gully fill	Pottery		AD 43-120
	6305	Cut	1.5	0.32	Possible pit			
	6306	Fill	0.65 x 0.8	0.25	Pit fill			
	6307	Fill	1.25	0.2	Pit fill			
	6308	Fill	1.2 x 1.0	0.16	Pit fill			
	6309	Layer		N/A	Natural clay			
	6310	Cut	0.96	0.58	Pit			
	6311		0.96 x 2.25	0.5	Upper Pit fill	Pottery, bone		AD 20/30-AD70
	6312	Cut	0.4 x 1.0	0.28	Possible pit			
	6313	Fill	0.4 x 1.0	0.28	Possible pit fill	Pottery		LIA
	6314	Fill	0.65 x 0.75	0.08	Possible pit fill			
	6315	Cut	2.15	0.85	Ditch			
	6316	Fill	0.7	< 0.12	Ditch fill			
	6317	Fill	1.1	0.16	Ditch fill	Pottery		AD 20/30-AD70
	6318	Fill	>2.0	0.25	Ditch fill	Pottery		AD 20/30-AD70
	6319	Fill	2.3	0.6	Ditch fill			
	6320		0.23 x 0.35	0.04	Ditch fill			

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
064 No Archaeology								
	6401	Layer		0.25	Demolition layer			
	6402	Layer		0.2	Subsoil			
	6403	Layer	0.98	0.38	Natural clay			
065								
	6501	Layer		0.2	Topsoil/rubble			
	6502	Layer		0.25	Subsoil			
	6503	Fill	0.45	0.32	Fill of modern trench 6504			
	6504	Cut	0.45	0.32	Modern service trench			
	6505	Layer		N/A	Natural clay			
066 No Archaeology								
	6601	Layer		0.3	Topsoil			
	6602	Layer		0.48	Tarmac			
	6603	Layer		0.4	Subsoil			
	6604	Layer		N/A	Natural sandy gravel			
067 No Archaeology								
	6701	Layer		0.3	Topsoil			
	6702	Layer		0.14	Made ground			
	6703	Layer		N/A	Natural sandy gravel			
068								
	6801	Layer		0.2	Topsoil			
	6802	Layer		0.45	Subsoil			
	6803	Layer		0.1	Natural clayey sand			
	6804	Fill	1.46	0.3	Pit fill	Pottery, flint		LSAX-Emed 10th - 11th C
	6805	Cut	1.46 x 0.95	0.3	Oval pit			
069 No Archaeology								
	6901	Layer		0.4	Topsoil rubble mix			
	6902	Layer		N/A	Natural clay			
	6903	Layer		0.74	Topsoil			
070 Not Excavated								

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
071	No Archaeology							
	7101	Layer		0.1 - 0.4	Demolition rubble			
	7102	Layer		N/A	Natural clay			
072	Not Excavated							
073	Not Excavated							
074	No Archaeology							
	7401	Layer		0.3	Demolition layer			
	7402	Layer		0.25	Tarmac/rubble mix			
	7403	Layer	0.8	N/A	Natural clay			
075	No Archaeology							
	7501	Layer		0.35	Demolition layer			
	7502	Layer		N/A	Natural			
076	No Archaeology							
	7601	Layer		0.3 - 0.4	Topsoil rubble mix			
	7602	Layer		N/A	Natural clay			
077	No Archaeology							
	7701	Layer		<0.15	Demolition layer			
	7702	Layer		0.01 - 0.15	Demolition rubble			
	7703	Layer		0.12-0.15	Tarmac rubble			
	7704	Layer	0.6	0.22	Demolition rubble			
	7705	Layer		N/A	Natural clay			
078	No Archaeology							
	7801	Layer		0.55	Rubble/made ground layer			
	7802	Layer		.N/A	.Natural			
	7803	.Structure			.Modern brick wall			

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- Dawson, M, 2004 Archaeology in the Bedford region, BAR Brit. Ser. **373**/Bedfordshire Archaeol Monogr **4**, Oxford
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- HES 2004 *Brief for a programme of archaeological investigation of land at the former RAF Cardington, Bedfordshire,* Heritage and Environment Section, Culture and Environment Group, Bedfordshire County Council.
- JSAC 2004 *A desk-based archaeological assessment at the former RAF Cardington/ Shortstown, Bedford,* John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, March 2004, Client report.
- OA 2004 RAF Cardington Bedfordshire, Archaeological Evaluation Report
- Wilkinson D (ed.)1992 OAU Fieldwork Manual

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: RAF Cardington

Site code: RAFC A 08

Grid reference: TL 0790 4720

Type of evaluation: Trial trenching

Date and duration of project: 14-26th January 2008

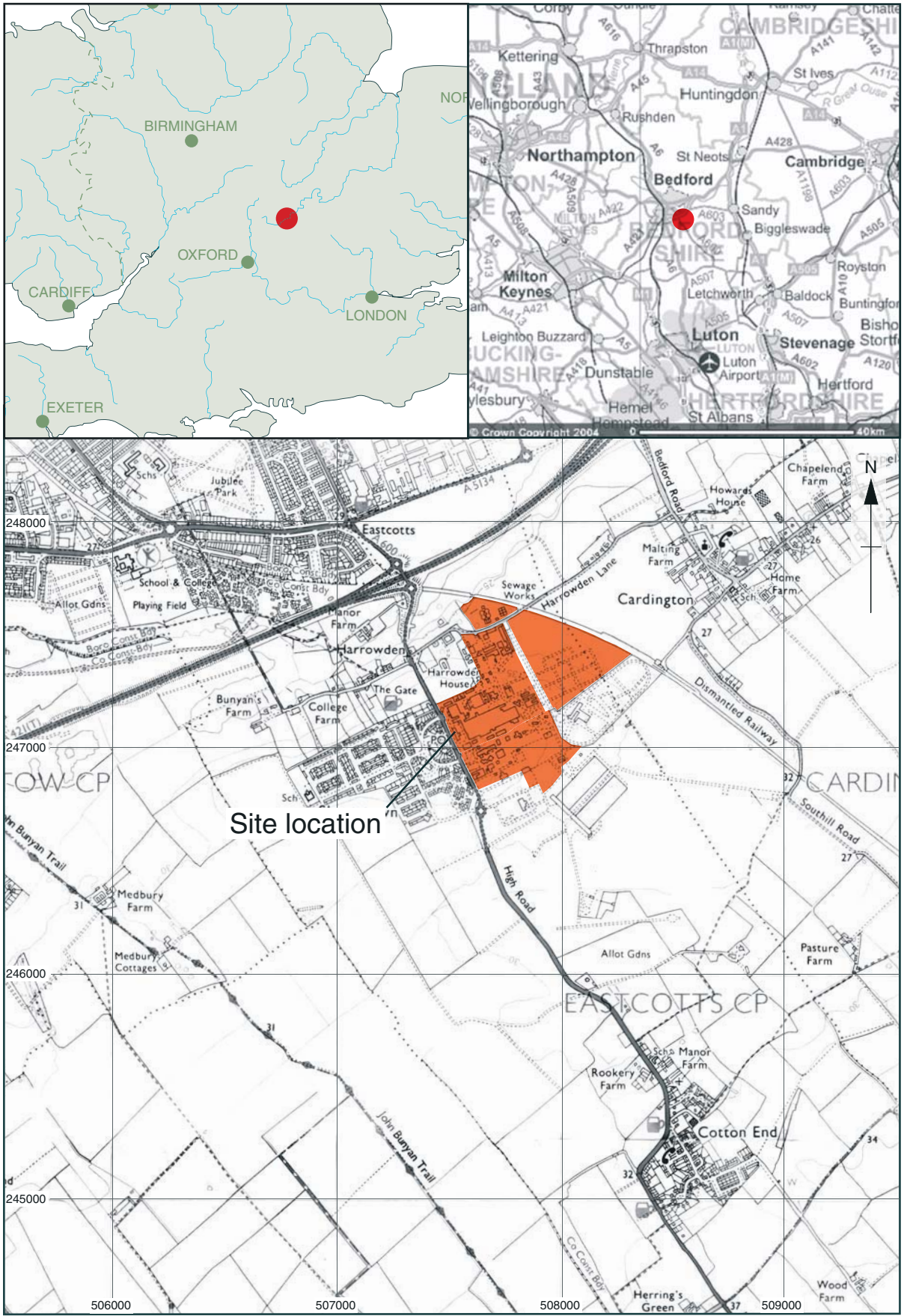
Area of site: 46.75 ha

Summary of results: Evaluation trenching was undertaken within Areas C, E and H. Archaeology was observed in 4 of the 26 trenches excavated. These revealed a limited number of archaeological features, predominantly characterised by surviving ditches considered likely to represent the remains of peripheral field systems. Archaeological features, apart from 1 truncated, undated, gully/ditch in trench 52 area H, were restricted to the highest area of the development and the gravels in area E. No archaeology was observed in Area C.

The evaluation has demonstrated that a low level of surviving below ground archaeological activity is present within those areas of the development evaluated. The overall emphasis of recorded features suggests they are linear in character, and the general lack of any associated artefactual material would suggest that they may represent evidence of more peripheral activity, possibly the surviving remnants of field systems of uncertain age. These may be associated with sites of direct occupation/settlement, cropmark and artefactual evidence for which is known/conjectured to exist immediately outside of the development area, both to its north, east and south west.

The recorded archaeological remains in general are poorly preserved, having been shown to have been subject to both truncation through agricultural practices and modern disturbance.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Bedford Museum in due course, under the following accession number: BEDFM 2004.118



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

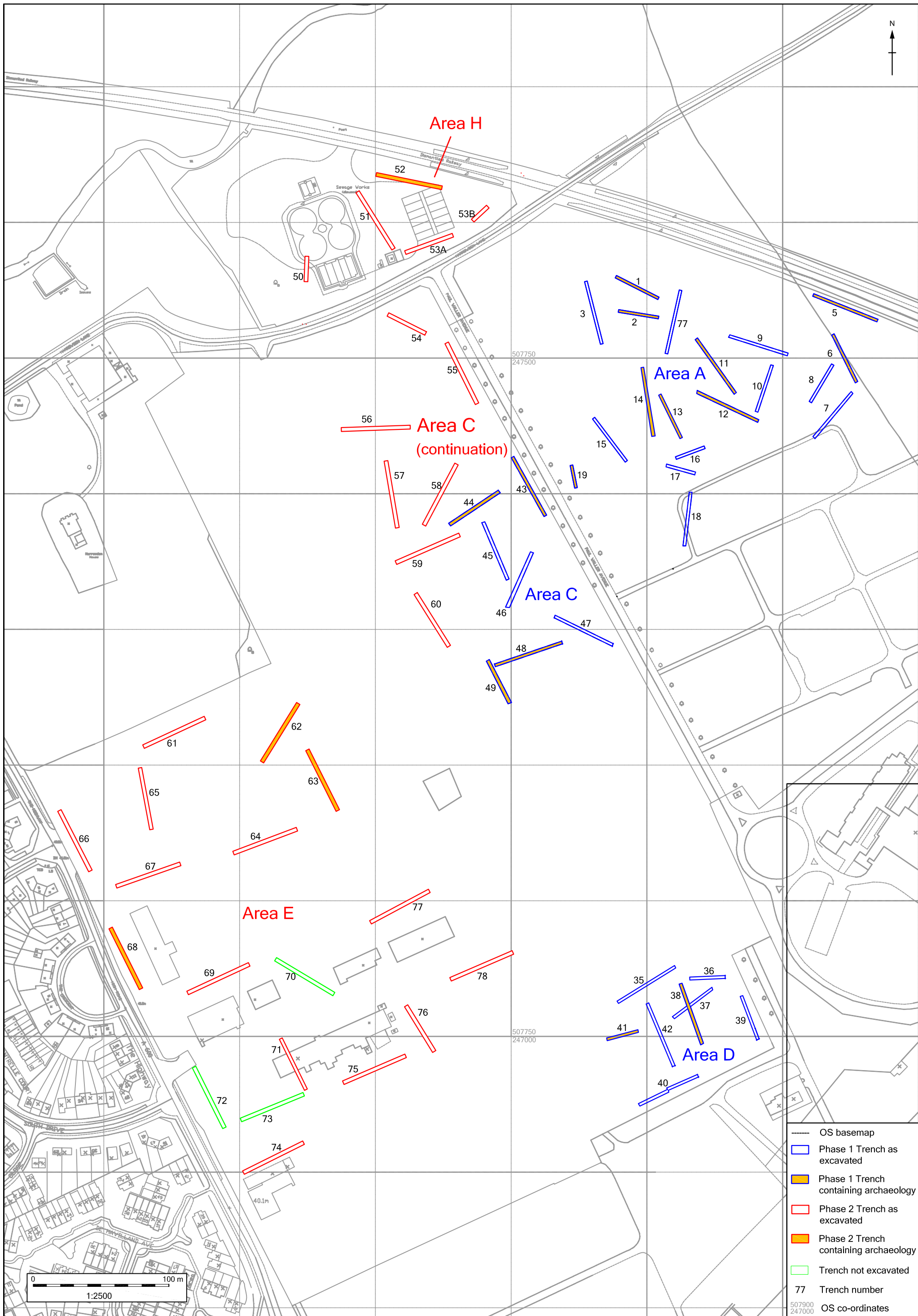


Figure 2: RAF Cardington, Trenches Phase 2

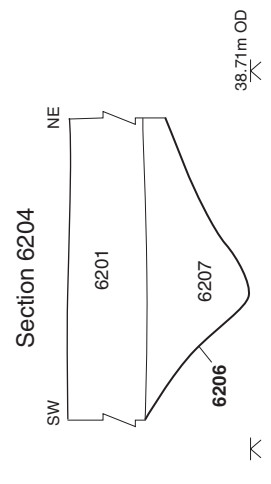
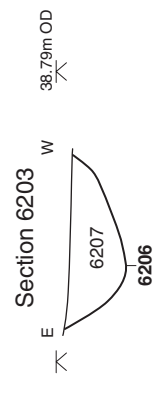
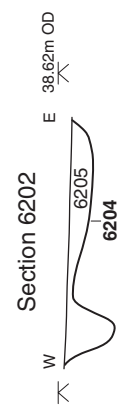
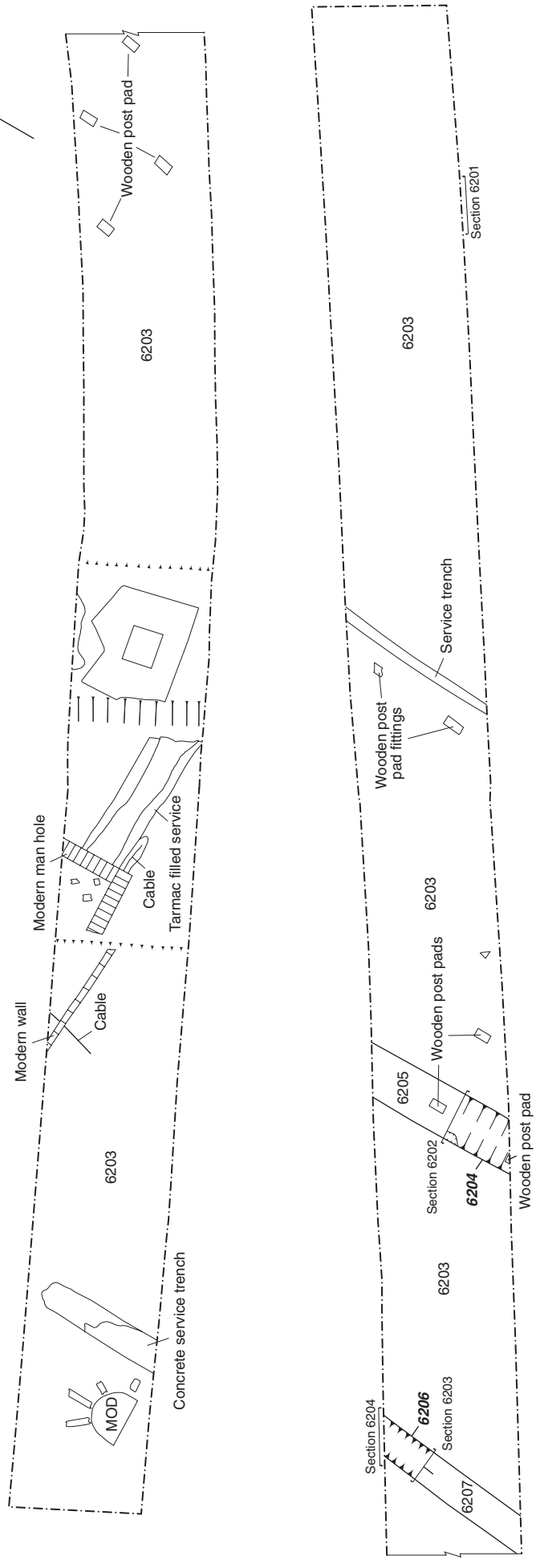
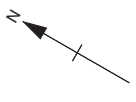


Figure 3: Trench 62 and sections 6202-4

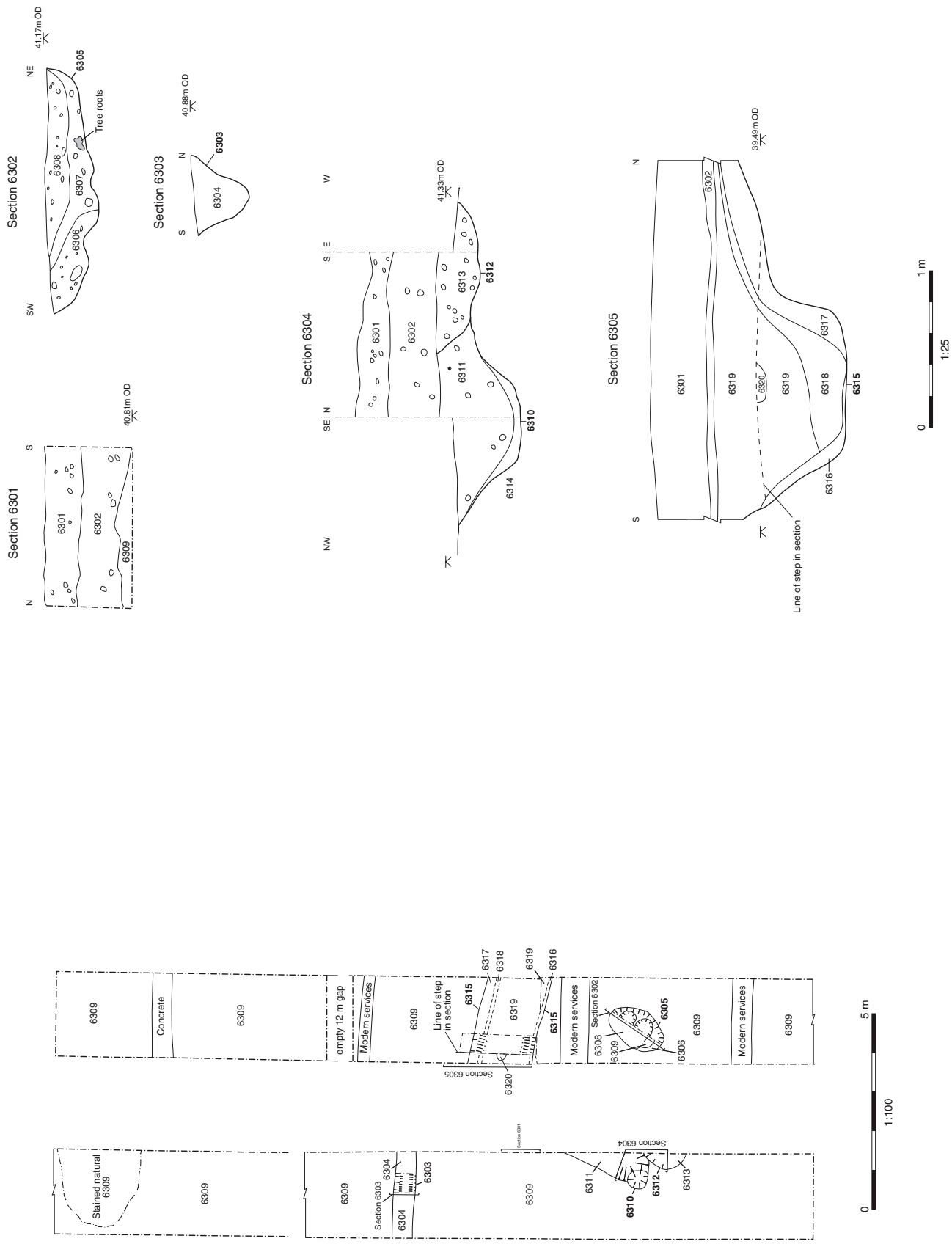


Figure 4: Trench 63 and sections 6301-5

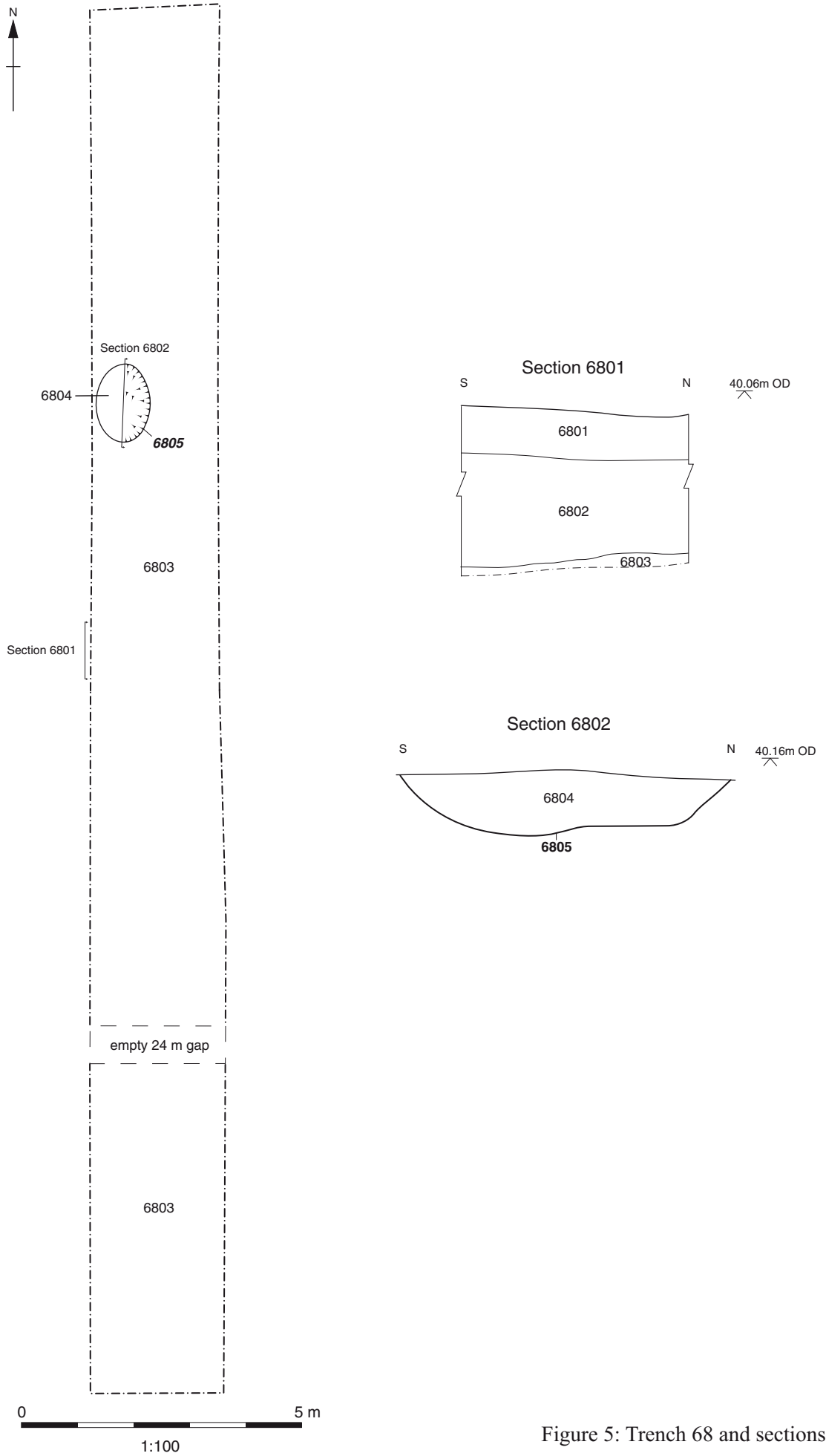


Figure 5: Trench 68 and sections 6801-2

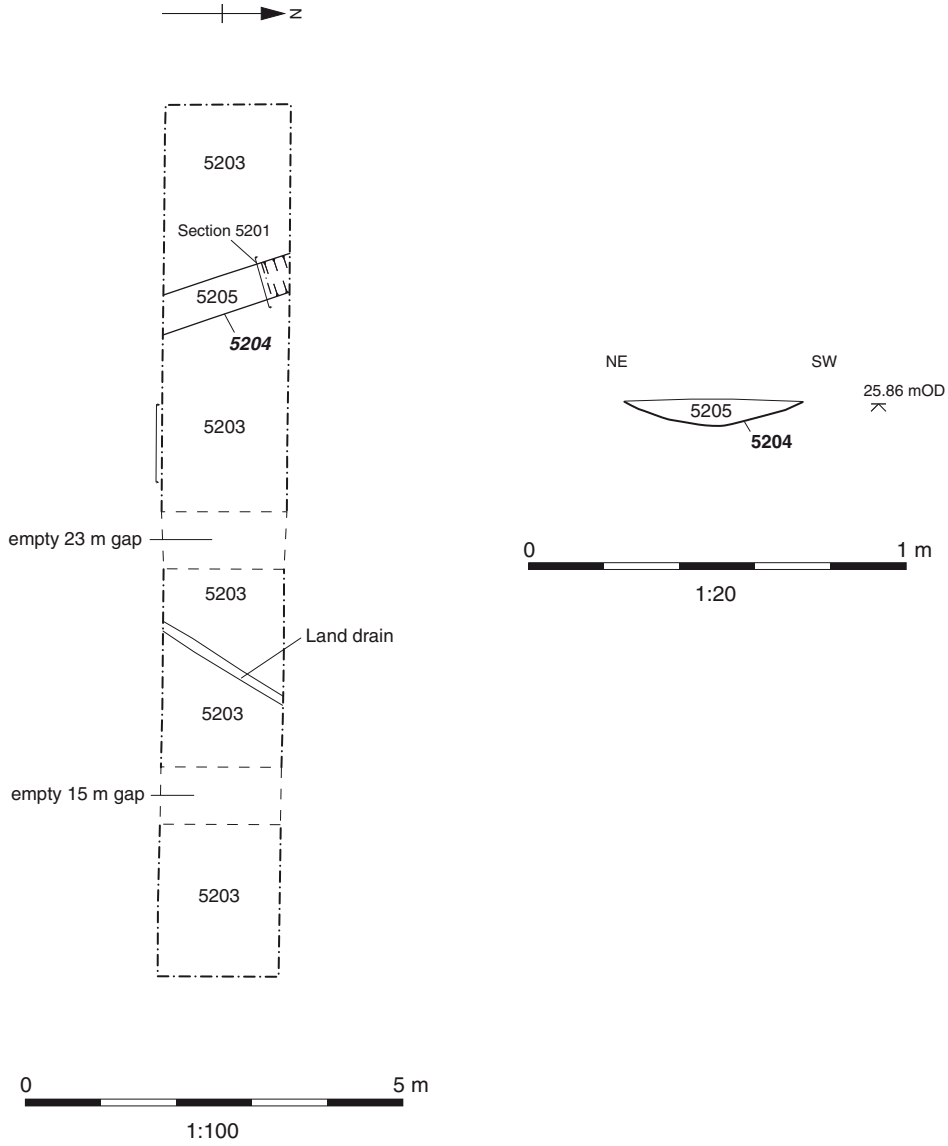


Figure 6: Trench 52 and sections 5204



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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