


Land at Bassett Road, Northleach, Gloucestershire



Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land at Bassett Road, Northleach, Gloucestershire.

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Bassett Road, Northleach, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR SP 12106 14345). The work was performed in order to inform the planning authority in advance of submission of a planning application.

The work was undertaken between 13th-17th January 2014. A total of nine trenches were excavated across the site.

The evaluation uncovered evidence for the medieval and post-medieval land use of the site in the form of stone walls forming field boundaries. Pottery recovered from the fabric of one of the walls dated from the 12th-14th centuries. A pit was also uncovered that contained medieval pottery. Other features uncovered included an undated ditch and pits of 19th century date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Bassett Road, Northleach, Gloucestershire. The fieldwork was conducted between the 13th-17th January 2014.
- 1.1.2 The area of proposed development occupied an area of c 2.5 ha and was centred on SP 121 143 (Fig 1). The site was bounded to the west by Bassett Road and to the north by East End Road, and by the River Leach to the south.
- 1.1.3 The site consisted of two areas, both measuring c 2.5 ha, the western of which is the subject of this document. The eastern area may be subject to trial trench evaluation in the future (Fig 2).
- 1.1.4 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of the submission of a planning application. The work was carried out as specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (OAS 2013b).
- 1.1.5 The work involved the excavation of nine trial trenches with a total length of 255m, equating to a 2% sample of the site area (Fig. 2). The trenches were targeted on anomalies identified during a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013; Fig. 2).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the Forest Marble Formation limestone (BGS GeoIndex), with alluvium present in the southern part of the site, adjacent to the River Leach. The ground dropped down to the south-west, from c 212m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the north to c 203m aOD to the south adjacent to the river.
- 1.2.2 The site was divided between two fields, the northern field and the southern field (Fig 2), divided by a dry stone wall.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the area around the site were subject to a Desk Based Assessment (OAS 2013a), and the results are summarised below.

Prehistoric Period (500,000 BP – 43 AD)

- 1.3.2 No archaeological sites or finds dating from the prehistoric period were identified within the area of the proposed development.
- 1.3.3 There is evidence for human activity during the prehistoric period from within the Study Area. Norbury Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, lies c 1km north-east of the area of proposed development and in the south-west corner of the hillfort is a Neolithic long barrow. To the north of the area of the proposed development is a Bronze Age bowl barrow.
- 1.3.4 Most of the prehistoric features identified are in the form of crop marks, although flints were recovered during road improvements along the line of the Northleach bypass, the A40, which runs c 500m north-east of the area of the site.
- 1.3.5 Cropmarks thought to represent late prehistoric or Roman settlement have been identified in three locations, c 1km to the west, c 1.2km to the south-west, where there is an associated field system, and c 940m to the south.

Roman Period (43 AD – 410 AD)

- 1.3.6 A Roman road, the Fosse Way, is believed to have followed the line of the modern A429, which runs 400m north-west of the area of proposed development. The Portway, 200m to the south-east, is another old road which may have existed in the Roman period. An evaluation carried out on the site of the former Westwoods Grammar School, now the Bassett Road housing development, uncovered a single Roman pit. It is possible that some of the potential settlements identified from cropmarks (discussed above) date from or continued in use into this period. A possible villa site has been identified under Eastington Manor, c 600m south-east of the area.

Later Medieval Period (AD1066-1550)

- 1.3.7 Before the borough was established by Gloucester Abbey in c 1220, Northleach comprised a number of hamlets along the valley of the River Leach. The area to the east of the site contains a series of earthworks that have been identified as probable areas of deserted medieval settlement and are likely to represent the remains of one of these hamlets. It is suggested that this was called Cockthrop, and was deserted by the 18th century.

Post-Medieval Period (AD1550-1899)

- 1.3.8 Nineteenth century maps show the site as occupying all or part of several fields. The fields across the northern part of the area of proposed development were under arable cultivation and those to the south, adjacent to the river, were used for pasture.

Modern Period (AD1900 -)

- 1.3.9 During the middle of the 20th century Westwoods Grammar School was constructed adjacent to the site. The School grounds extended across the western of the two fields that comprise the development area. The school closed in 1988 and the buildings were severely damaged by fire and then demolished in the following year.

Geophysical Survey

- 1.3.10 Both areas of the site (c 5 ha in total) were subject to a detailed magnetometry survey prior to the evaluation (Stratascan 2013). The survey identified various positive and negative linear anomalies in addition to evidence of former ploughing and areas of magnetic (ferrous) disturbance (Fig. 2).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OAS would like to thank Alan Carr, the Senior Planning Coordinator for Gloucestershire County Council, who commissioned the evaluation, and Charles Parry the GCC Archaeologist who agreed the specification, and monitored the work. The evaluation was managed for OAS by Gerry Thacker and the fieldwork was undertaken by Becky Peacock with the assistance of Emily Glass, Alex Latham, Ben McAndrew and Charles Rousseaux.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development;
- To assess the vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To investigate and characterise various anomalies identified through geophysical survey that may represent archaeological features;
- To examine areas identified by the geophysical survey as being blank.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The trenches were located using a Global Positioning System with a sub 20mm accuracy.

2.3.2 All trenches were opened under close archaeological supervision by a JCB 3CX fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

2.3.3 Any revealed features and deposits were hand cleaned prior to excavation and recording.

2.3.4 OAS recording systems as outlined in the WSI (OAS 2013b) were followed at all times.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The distribution of archaeological deposits is described in Section 3.3 below. Trenches that contained archaeological features or deposits are described in Sections 3.4 (North Field) and 3.5 (South Field). The results are discussed in Section 4. Trench plans and sections are illustrated in Figs. 1-7. A full context inventory with depths and dimensions of all deposits and associated finds are tabulated in Appendix A. Finds identification, their quantification and discussion form Appendix B. Environmental data are discussed in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Topsoil was present in all trenches and varied in depth from 0.2m to 0.45m. The natural geology was consistent across the site and was a limestone brash, manifesting as a mid yellowish brown clay with frequent degraded limestone fragments.

3.2.2 Alluvial deposits were encountered in Trenches 8 and 9 representing episodes of flooding from the adjacent River Leach.

3.2.3 Several trenches contained colluvium, resulting from the movement of soils downhill to the south. It was clear that these deposits had been reworked and mixed due to successive episodes of ploughing. Trenches 8 and 9 also contained alluvial deposits.

3.2.4 Trenches 6 and 8 cut through a positive feature that formed a raised terrace along the northern edge of the southern field, and was sited at 205.85m aOD. The ground then sloped steeply down to the south.

3.2.5 The ground was very soft from high rainfall but the trenches were easily excavated and archaeological features and deposits were easy to identify.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 The northern field contained a large pit (Trench 3), a pit or ditch terminus and a small pit or posthole (Trench 4). Trench 4 also contained the remains of a sandpit dating from the previous use of the area as a school playing field.

3.3.2 The southern field contained a single ditch, two shallow pits and several limestone walls. Several of the trenches contained layers of colluvium.

3.4 Trenches in the North Field

Trench 3

3.4.1 Trench 3 contained a pit (302), measuring 2.7m wide and 0.5m deep, which cut the natural geology (310), and was sealed by topsoil 300 (Figs 3 and 5; Plate 1). The pit had regular, steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The single fill, 303, was a dark brown silty clay with a moderate quantity of limestone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. The fill contained pottery sherds dating from AD 850-1250 as well as from the 12th to 14th centuries and fragments of animal bone including sheep skull (Appendix B). An environmental sample from this deposit contained charred cereal grains and wood charcoal (see Appendix C).

Trench 4

- 3.4.2 The trench contained a small circular pit or posthole (404), which had steep, irregular sides and a slightly irregular concave base and cut the natural geology 406 (Figs. 3 and 5; Plate 3). The single fill, 405, was a mid-orange brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and pea-grit inclusions. No finds were recovered from the fill.
- 3.4.3 A second feature, 402, was ovoid in plan, and was interpreted as either a pit or the terminal end of a ditch that continued to the south-west beyond the trench edge (Figs 3 and 5; Plate 2). The feature had a flat base with shallow concave sides. It measured only 0.08m deep and was filled by a soft mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional pea-grit inclusions and charcoal flecks (403). No finds were recovered from the excavated segment.
- 3.4.4 A sandpit (408) dating from the former use of the site as a school playing field was also present within the trench (Fig. 3, Plate 4).

3.5 Trenches in the South Field

Trench 6

- 3.5.1 The natural at the base of Trench 6 (605) sloped down towards the south-west, and consequently the depth of deposits was greater within the east facing section than the west facing section.
- 3.5.2 The earliest features present within the trench were a ditch and a small length of wall. The ditch, 612, was situated towards the southern end of the trench, and was orientated north-east to south-west. The ditch had a shallow concave profile and cut the natural. The single fill, 613, was a mid to dark brown silty clay containing occasional small fragments of limestone. No finds were recovered from the fill.
- 3.5.3 The remains of a wall (610) was orientated SSW-NNE, and consisted of a single course of limestone in a dry wall construction (Figs. 4 and 6, Plate 8). The wall appeared to be constructed on a thin layer of dark brown silty clay (611) with frequent small limestone fragments, interpreted as a trample layer related to the construction of the wall, or perhaps a thin layer of buried ploughsoil.
- 3.5.4 Wall 610 and ditch 612 were sealed by a layer of buried ploughsoil which was given the context numbers 604, 608 and 609 within different areas of the trench. Although this deposit varied slightly in composition within the trench, it was generally a mid-dark brown silty clay.
- 3.5.5 Towards the centre of the trench a limestone wall (607) was orientated east-west. Only the lowest course of the wall remained, and this was of a dry stone construction, with flat-faced, larger stones forming the exterior faces and rubble within the core (Figs 4 and 6; Plates 5 and 7). A sherd of pottery recovered from within the rubble core of the wall dated from the 12th-14th centuries. The wall, for which no construction cut was identified, post-dated deposits 604 and 608. The position of the wall coincided with the southern edge of raised 'terrace' noted on the surface of the field.
- 3.5.6 Wall 607 was sealed by a buried plough soil (601), which contained large amounts of limestone fragments derived from the ploughing out of the wall. Layer 601 was sealed by topsoil 600.

**Trench 7**

- 3.5.7 At the extreme north-eastern end of the trench a limestone wall (701) of drystone construction was visible as an earthwork (Figs 4 and 7). The wall was orientated NNW-SSE, and was overlain by limestone rubble from its partial destruction, which was in turn sealed by a thin layer of topsoil (700). The wall was not further excavated, but was recorded in profile (Fig 7) and retained in situ.
- 3.5.8 Towards the south-western end of the trench, two shallow pits partially extended beyond the limits of the trench. The pits (703 and 705) were adjacent but did not quite intersect (Figs. 4 and 6). The fill of pit 703, (704), contained animal bone, several fragments of quernstone and an iron nail of 19th century date. Fill 706 (from pit 705) contained animal bone. The pits cut the natural geology (708), and were sealed by a layer of buried ploughsoil 702. Layer 702 was in turn overlain by a deposit 1.12m wide and 0.26m thick that contained a high percentage of limestone rubble (707). This deposit could represent a ploughed out wall, although higher in the stratigraphic sequence than those observed elsewhere. Deposit 707 was sealed by topsoil 700.

Trench 8

- 3.5.9 The natural geology within Trench 8 manifested as a brash rich yellow brown clay (807), which sloped down towards the south. At the southern end of the trench a thin layer of a clean mid orange brown clay, interpreted as alluvium (808) overlay the natural (Fig 7; Plate 11). A similar deposit, 804, was present within the northern and central parts of the trench (Fig 7). No finds were recovered from deposits 804 or 808.
- 3.5.10 At the northern end of the trench layer 804 was overlain by a layer of colluvium (803) which did not extend as far south as the centre of the trench. This deposit was also undated. Layer 803, and alluvial layers 804 and 808 were sealed by a further thicker layer of colluvium or buried ploughsoil (variously recorded as 805, 806 and 809 dependant on location) which contained numerous small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. Pottery recovered from layer 805 dated from the 12th-13th centuries, and two refitting sherds of early Roman Severn Valley ware were recovered from layer 806, and surely residual (See Appendix B).
- 3.5.11 Towards the central part of the trench the remains of a dry stone wall overlay layer 805 (Figs 4 and 7; Plate 6). This structure, 802, was orientated north-east to south-west, and had a similar remaining profile to wall 607 within Trench 6. Only the lowest course of the wall remained and this had been badly damaged by ploughing, with large quantities of limestone present in the overlying buried ploughsoil 801, which also contained three sherds of pottery dating from the 12th-14th centuries. The position of the wall coincided with the southern edge of raised 'terrace' noted on the surface of the field. The buried ploughsoil (801) was also present at the southern end of the trench where it was recorded as 811, and was overlain by a clean light grey brown silty clay (810) interpreted as alluvium (Fig. 7; Plate 11).
- 3.5.12 Alluvium 810 at the southern end of the trench, and buried ploughsoil 801 within the centre and northern end of the trench were sealed by topsoil 800.

Trench 9

- 3.5.13 Trench 9 contained no archaeological features, and the sequence comprised a lower buried ploughsoil (902), a mid brown sandy clay containing occasional sandstone fragments, and possibly a reworked mixture of both colluvial and alluvial deposits. This



was sealed by 901, an alluvial layer equivalent to 810 in Trench 8, which was in turn sealed by topsoil 900 (Fig. 7; Plate 12).

- 3.5.14 Pottery sherds recovered from the topsoil dated from both the 10th-13th centuries and the 18th-19th centuries.

3.6 Finds summary

Finds

- 3.6.1 Finds were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 6, 8 and 9, and comprised medieval pottery, post medieval pottery, animal bone, iron nails and the worked bone head of a 19th century toothbrush. Pottery from within wall 607 in Trench 6 dated from the twelfth to fourteenth centuries, and finds from a buried ploughsoil in Trench 8 dated to both the early Roman period and the 12th to 14th centuries. Fragments of non-diagnostic fired clay were found within layer 803 in Trench 8, as were quantities of animal bone. Finds from features comprised pottery dating from both 850-1250 and the 12th to 14th centuries and animal bone from pit 302, within Trench 3, and a 19th century iron nail, quern stone fragments and animal bone from pit 703, and animal bone from pit 705.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

Evaluation

- 4.1.1 Ground and weather conditions were generally good throughout the course of the evaluation, and none of the trenches were subject to flooding. Visibility was good throughout the evaluation and the fills of the features encountered were distinct from the natural geology.

Geophysics

- 4.1.2 The walls within Trenches 6 and 8 were identified as negative anomalies, but the wall within Trench 7 was not identified. The pit within Trench 3 was a good match with an anomaly representing a possible cut feature. The field boundaries identified as linear anomalies in the areas of Trenches 1, 4, and 5 were not present within the trenches.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation determined the location, character and date of the archaeological features and deposits within the footprint of the trenches. The paleoenvironmental evidence was assessed. The anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were investigated.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The remnants of walls uncovered within Trenches 6, 7 and 8 represent former field boundaries, possibly also intended to inhibit the downward erosion of soils, as evidenced by the presence of earlier colluvial deposits in the trenches, and the terraced area noted on the surface of the southern field. The dating of the walls is problematic partially due to the reworking of the associated soils through ploughing, although medieval pottery was recovered from the core of wall 607 (Trench 6), and also within the underlying deposit 805.
- 4.3.2 Further evidence for medieval activity on the site is represented by pit 302 (Trench 3) which also contained medieval pottery which dated from 850-1250 and the 12th-14th centuries. Ditch 612, although undated, may be a former field boundary and appears to pre-date the boundaries formed by the dry stone walls.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying colluvium overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds
100	Topsoil	-	0.28	Dark grey brown silty clay with few inclusions.	-	-
101	Colluvium	-	0.22	Orangey brown silty clay with small limestone inclusions.	-	-
102	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Mid brownish yellow clay with frequent limestone fragments.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds
200	Topsoil	-	0.36	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional limestone inclusions.	-	-
201	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Mid brownish yellow clay with frequent limestone fragments.	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained a single pit. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds



300	Topsoil	-	0.37	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments.	-	-
301	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Mid brownish yellow clay with frequent limestone fragments.	-	-
302	Cut	2.7	0.5	Pit.	-	-
303	Fill of 302	2.7	0.5	Dark greyish brown silty clay fill with moderate limestone inclusions and charcoal flecks.	Pottery, animal bone	850-1250 12th-14th century

Trench 4							
General description				Orientation		NE-SW	
Trench contained a pit or ditch terminal, and a small pit or posthole. A sandpit relating to the former school playing field was also present. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)		0.30	
				Width (m)		1.8	
				Length (m)		29.85m	
Contexts							
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds	
400	Topsoil	-	0.42	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	-	-	
401	Subsoil	-	0.20	Mid greyish brown silty clay with small limestone inclusions.	-	-	
402	Cut	0.95	0.08	Shallow pit or ditch terminus.	-	-	
403	Fill	0.95	0.08	Fill of 402	Animal bone	-	
404	Cut	0.55	0.16	Small pit or post hole.	-	-	
405	Fill	0.55	0.16	Fill of 404	-	-	
406	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Mid brownish yellow clay with frequent limestone fragments.	-	-	
407	Colluvium	-	0.24	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with moderate limestone inclusions.	-	-	
408	Cut	1.6	0.22	Modern sandpit cut	-	Modern	
409	Fill	1.6	0.22	Fill of 408. Friable mid yellowish brown coarse sand with few inclusions	-	Modern	

Trench 5



General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix, with areas of clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds
500	Topsoil	-	0.28	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	-	-
501	Subsoil	-	0.22	Mid orange brown clay with frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-
502	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Loose mid brownish yellow clay, frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-
503	Natural. Geological variation.	-	-	Light brown yellow gritty clay with very few inclusions.	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained two limestone walls, an area of rubble and a ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil sealing colluvial layers overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date of range finds
600	Topsoil	-	0.28	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	Pottery, animal bone, Fe nails, Fe buckle	1150-1350 Late 16th-18th century 19th Century
601	Rubble	2.5	0.40	Loose dark brown silty clay, frequent large and small limestone, mixed sub-rounded and sub-angular, in colluvial matrix.	-	-
602	Colluvium	-	0.46	Firm mid grey brown silty clay, no inclusions	-	-
603	Layer	-	0.08	Friable mid grey brown silty clay, frequent limestone,	-	-
604	Colluvium	-	0.60	Mid grey brown silty clay,	-	-



				no inclusions.		
605	Natural	-	-	Loose mid brownish yellow clay, frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-
607	Wall	0.80	0.10	Rough irregular limestone blocks, 0.30-0.40m. Single course surviving, no mortar. NE-SW aligned.	Pottery	12th-14th century
608	Colluvium	-	0.22	Mid orange brown silty clay with frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-
609	Colluvium	-	0.30	Mid brown silty clay, no inclusions.	-	-
610	Wall	0.3	0.06	Roughly rectangular limestone blocks, slightly heat effected, 0.16m by 0.20m. NW-SE aligned.	-	-
611	Trample	0.6	0.10	Mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions.	-	-
612	Ditch	0.5	0.20	Linear, NE-SW aligned. Concave base with moderately sloped sides.	-	-
613	Fill	0.5	0.20	Fill of 612. Mid orange brown silty clay, moderate limestone inclusions.	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained two limestone walls and a pit. Consists of soil and colluvium overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date of range finds
700	Topsoil	-	0.28	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	-	-
701	Wall	-	0.22	Remnants of limestone wall	-	-
702	Colluvium	-	0.6	Mid brown silty clay. No inclusions.	-	-
703	Pit	1.5	0.05	Cut of pit	-	19th century
704	Fill	1.5	0.05	Fill of 703	Animal bone, Fe	19th century



					nail, quern stone	
705	Pit	1.35	0.05	Cut of pit	-	-
706	Fill	1.35	0.05	Fill of 705	Animal bone	-
707	Wall	1.12	0.26	Limestone rubble	-	-
708	Natural	-	-	Loose mid brownish yellow clay, frequent limestone inclusions	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying layers of alluvium and colluvium overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	29.85m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	Date of range finds
800	Topsoil	-	0.28	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	Worked bone	19th century
801	Subsoil	-	0.22	Mid grey brown silty clay, frequent small limestone and charcoal flecks.	Pottery, animal bone	12th-14th century
802	Wall	0.82	0.1	Small to medium limestone, sub-angular to sub-rounded. Mixed with similar material to 801.	-	-
803	Colluvium	-	0.1	Mid orange brown silty clay with moderate charcoal and occasional limestone.	Fired Clay, animal bone	-
804	Alluvium	-	0.08	Mid orange brown silty clay with very few inclusions.	-	-
805	Colluvium	-	0.32	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone and charcoal inclusions.	Pottery	12th-13th century
806	Colluvium	-	0.32	Same as 805	Pottery	1st-2nd century
807	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Loose mid brownish yellow clay, frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-
808	Alluvium	-	0.08	Soft, mid orange brown clay, no inclusions.	-	-
809	Colluvium	-	0.12	Mid orange brown clay	-	-



				with frequent small to medium limestone fragments.		
810	Alluvium	-	0.32	Light grey brown silty clay with no inclusions.	-	-
811	Subsoil	-	0.26	Mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions.	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvium and a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)		0.30
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		29.85m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds
900	Topsoil	-	0.13	Loose mid brownish yellow clay, frequent limestone inclusions.	Pottery	10th-13th century 18th-19th century
901	Alluvium	-	0.11	Mid yellowish brown silty clay, very few inclusions	-	-
902	subsoil	-	0.13	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with small limestone inclusions.	-	-
903	Natural	-	-	Loose mid orange brown clay, frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

Identified by John Cotter and Edward Biddulph and compiled by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description	Date
303	1 sherd Minety ware (OXBB), cooking pot rim. 21g. 1 sieved sherd Cotswold limestone tempered ware (OXAC)<1>. 2g	12th – 14th century. 850 – 1250.
600	1 post medieval (PMR) handle. 1 residual medieval sherd (OXAQ). 17g	Late 16th – 18th c 1150-1350
607	1 body sherd Minety ware (OXBB). 14g.	12th – 14th century
805	1 Minety ware curfew handle with decoration and large perforation at base of handle. 1 sherd medieval sandy Malvernian ware, 2 cooking pot rim sherds Cotswold ware (OXAC). 104g.	12th – 13th century
806	2 refitting sherds Severn Valley oxidised ware. 14g.	1st – 2nd century
812	Minety ware (OXBB) - 2 rim sherds from cooking pot/jar, 1 body sherd. 29g	12th – 14th century
900	1 residual sherd limestone tempered ware Cotswold type (OXAC). 4 sherds post medieval ?flowerpot base in unglazed terracotta. 115g.	10th – 13th century 18th – 19th century

Discussion and recommendations.

- B.1.1 The assemblage is of low potential and no further work is recommended other than an illustration of the curfew handle (by photograph) as these are relatively uncommon (see Plate 15).

B.2 Fired clay

Identified by John Cotter and compiled by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description	Date
803	2 small shapeless scraps of fired clay, 10g (1 sieved <2>).	-

Discussion and recommendations.

- B.2.1 The scraps of undatable fired clay are of low potential and no further work is recommended.

B.3 Animal bone

Identified by Lena Strid.

Context	Description – all bones are fragments unless stated otherwise.
303	?Sheep skull. 4g. Sieved <1> 13 indeterminate fragments. 6g
403	Cattle mandible. 36g.
600	5 large mammal vertebrae, 1 complete large mammal vertebra, 1 horse axis, 1 complete horse hoof (phalanx 3), 2 cattle metatarsals, 1 cattle tibia, 1 pig mandible, 1 sheep pelvis. 383g.



604	1 cattle mandible. 58g.
704	1 cattle tibia, 1 sheep/goat metatarsal, 1 ? sheep skull, 1 sheep mandible, 1 large pig pelvis – either wild boar or post medieval domestic pig. 188g.
706	1 unidentifiable medium mammal bone. 3g.
803	1 cattle femur, 1 horse long bone, 1 large mammal vertebra, several medium mammal ribs, 1 cattle skull, 1 medium mammal long bone, 1 cattle mandible, sheep teeth, 1 pig skull, 1 unworn horse tooth. 324g. Sieved – fragments of juvenile medium mammal humerus, 2 pig teeth, 1 juvenile horse incisor, 1 bird phalanx, 1 microfauna. 32g
812	1 medium mammal rib, 1 small horse radius, 1 sheep tibia, 1 sheep metacarpal, large mammal scapula. 163g.

Discussion and recommendations.

B.3.1 The assemblage of fragmentary animal bone is of low potential and no further work is recommended.

B.4 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Introduction and methodology

B.4.1 Six fragments of lava were recovered from context 704. Five of these adjoin. All the fragments are worn and undiagnostic but were probably part of a rotary quern. Lava was used for querns during the Roman and medieval periods.

B.4.2 No further work is recommended.

B.5 Metal

By Ian Scott.

Context	Description	Date
600	3 handmade nails 2 with chisel tips, a single rectangular harness buckle. 118g	19th century
704	1 large handmade chisel-tipped nail. 23G	19th century
803	<2> 1 small fragment copper alloy. 1G	-

Discussion and recommendations.

B.5.1 The assemblage is of low potential and no further work is recommended.

B.6 Worked bone

By Ian Scott.

Context	Description	Date
800	A single worked bone toothbrush head. 9g.	19th century

Discussion and recommendations.

B.6.1 The assemblage is of low potential and no further work is recommended.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

By Julia Meen

C.1 Introduction

4.3.3 Two samples were taken for the recovery of environmental remains. Sample 1 was taken from context 303, the fill of a pit noted to contain pottery, bone and charcoal. The sediment was a brown (10YR 5/3) sandy clay loam with abundant inclusions of angular and subangular stone pebbles/cobbles which made up 30-40% of the volume. Sample 2 was taken from an colluvial layer, context 803, and was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) silty loam with occasional subangular stone pebbles. Both contexts were provisionally dated as medieval on the basis of associated pottery.

C.2 Methodology

4.3.4 The two samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. Sample 1 was 37l and sample 2 40l in volume, and in both cases the entire sample was processed. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues were sieved to 500µm and dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The dried flots were scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification and identifications made with reference to published guides and the comparative seed collection held at OAS. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

C.3 Results

Finds

C.3.1 Each sample produced a single sherd of pottery each and a small quantity of mammal and bird bone, with the greater quantity of bone recovered from sample 2. All material was passed to the appropriate specialists for further study and reporting.

Charred Plant Remains

C.3.2 Sample 1 produced a flot of 200ml. The majority of this volume was composed of modern roots. All charred material was separated out and this, as well as a representative subsample of the modern root, were scanned. The charred material was dominated by fragments of charcoal, most of which were too small in size to be identifiable (less than 4mm in diameter). However, the small number of items large enough to be examined were all provisionally identified as diffuse porous (non-oak) type, including a piece of roundwood extracted from the 10-4mm heavy residue. Charred cereal grains occurred fairly frequently in the sample, mostly showing poor preservation, but many could be identified as cf. *Triticum* sp (wheat), and two showed characteristics of *Triticum aestivum/turgidum* (free-threshing wheats). A single grain of *Avena/Bromus* sp. (oat/brome type), again poorly preserved, and one half of a legume of 3mm diameter were also noted. Terrestrial molluscs of several species were also present.

C.3.3 Sample 2 produced a flot of 80ml, of which approximately half was scanned. Charcoal was common in the sample, including many items of a size that would potentially allow identification. Examination of a small number of the larger charcoal items under low magnification (x10) revealed that both diffuse porous (non-oak) and ring porous wood types were represented, with a mixture of roundwood and non-roundwood present. A small number (fewer than 25 items) of charred cereal grain, in a similar poor state to



those recovered from sample 1, were present but were mostly unidentifiable, although occasional grains were of wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Terrestrial molluscs were also present in the sample, as well as frequent modern root.

C.4 Discussion

- C.4.1 Although sample 1 contained occasional items of charcoal, the number of potentially identifiable items in the sample is too few to allow a valid interpretation of their significance in a deposit of this type, and therefore further identification to species level is unlikely to be worthwhile. The presence of charcoal in both samples does, however, demonstrate that conditions at the site are suitable for the preservation of charred material. Sample 2 produced a charcoal assemblage with greater potential for further study, with frequent items which may be identifiable, and containing a mixture of small branches and trunkwood. However, if the context from which it was sampled is confirmed as having been formed by medieval colluviation on the slope, further analysis is less likely to provide information of value due to the high probability of in-mixing of material during transportation and its original provenance being unknown.
- C.4.2 There was a similarity between the two samples in regards to the remaining charred material, which in both samples contained a small number of poorly preserved cereal grains, including those of wheat. Few non-cultivated remains were present, with the few non-cereal seeds limited to those of a similar size to the cereal grains and thus most likely to have persisted after processing of the crop to remove impurities. It may be that both are derived from a similar source, and perhaps represent the waste product of processing of a cleaned crop for storage or consumption in a domestic setting, becoming incorporated into general household debris alongside scraps of bone and pottery.
- C.4.3 If further excavations are carried out at the site, standard 40l bulk samples should be taken from a range of potentially datable features across the site and all sampling should be in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology, 2005 and English Heritage, 2011). The soils at the site have proved to be suitable for the preservation of molluscs, and so if appropriate features are encountered then incremental samples for snails should be considered. In such a case an environmental specialist should be consulted.



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

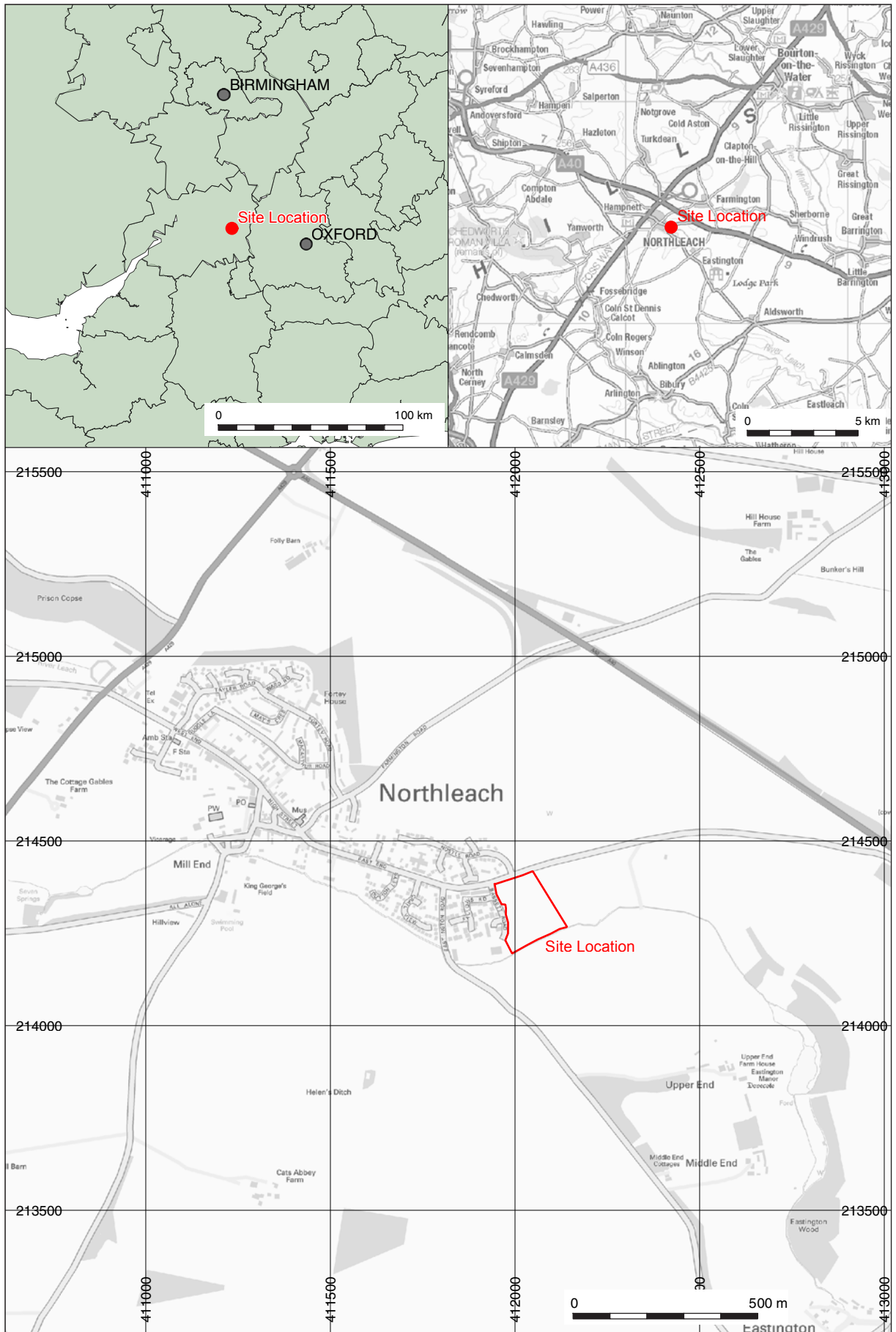
Site name:	OAS-eval
Site code:	NOBR13
Grid reference:	SP 121 143
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	7th – 10th January 2014
Area of site:	2.5 hectares

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Bassett Road, Northleach, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR SP 12106 14345). The work was performed in order to inform the planning authority in advance of submission of a planning application.

The work was undertaken between 13th-17th January 2014. A total of nine trenches were excavated across the site.

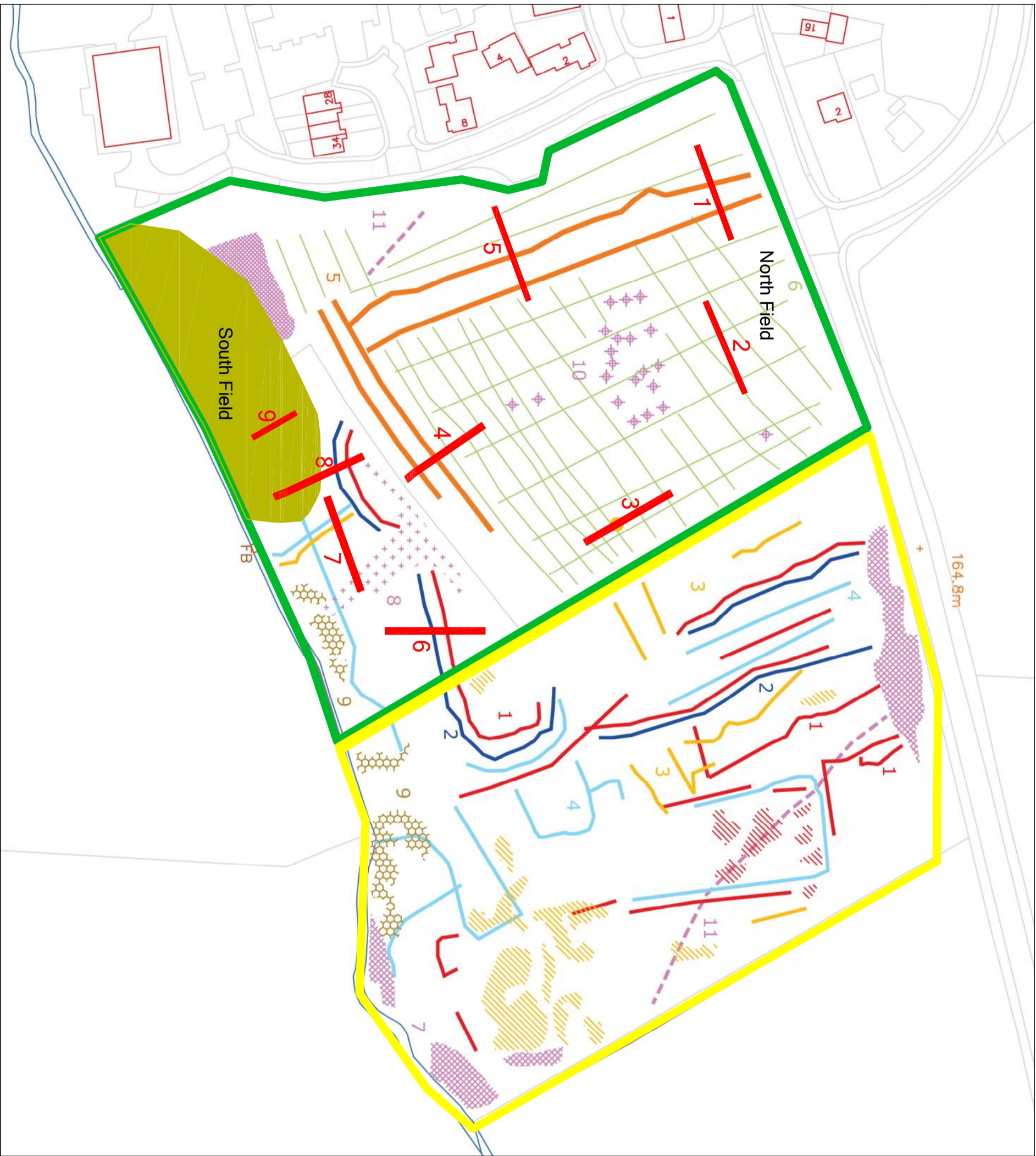
The evaluation uncovered evidence for the medieval and post-medieval land use of the site in the form of stone walls forming field boundaries. Pottery recovered from the fabric of one of the walls dated from the 12th-14th centuries. A pit was also uncovered that contained medieval pottery. Other features uncovered included an undated ditch and pits of 19th century date.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Corinium Museum in due course.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011

Figure 1: Site location



PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

	Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
	Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
	Moderate strength discrete anomaly - probable thermoremanent feature
	Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

	Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
	Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
	Linear anomaly related to historic field boundary or ditch
	Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

OTHER ANOMALIES

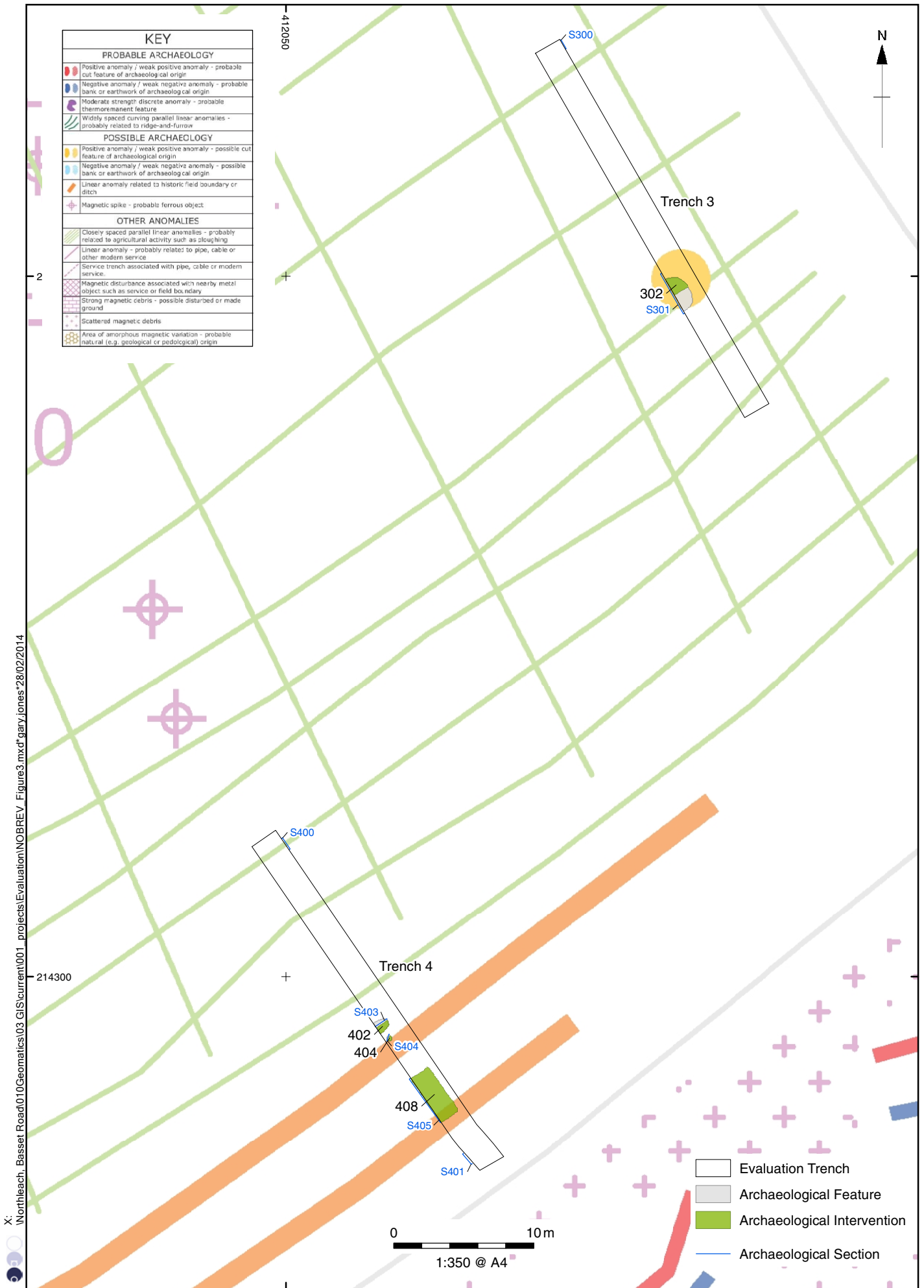
	Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
	Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
	Service trench associated with pipe, cable or modern service.
	Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
	Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
	Scattered magnetic debris
	Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin

- Trench location
- Western area
- Eastern area
- Possible extent of alluvium

0 50 m
Scale at A3 1:1250

Figure 2: Geophysical anomalies and Location of Trenches

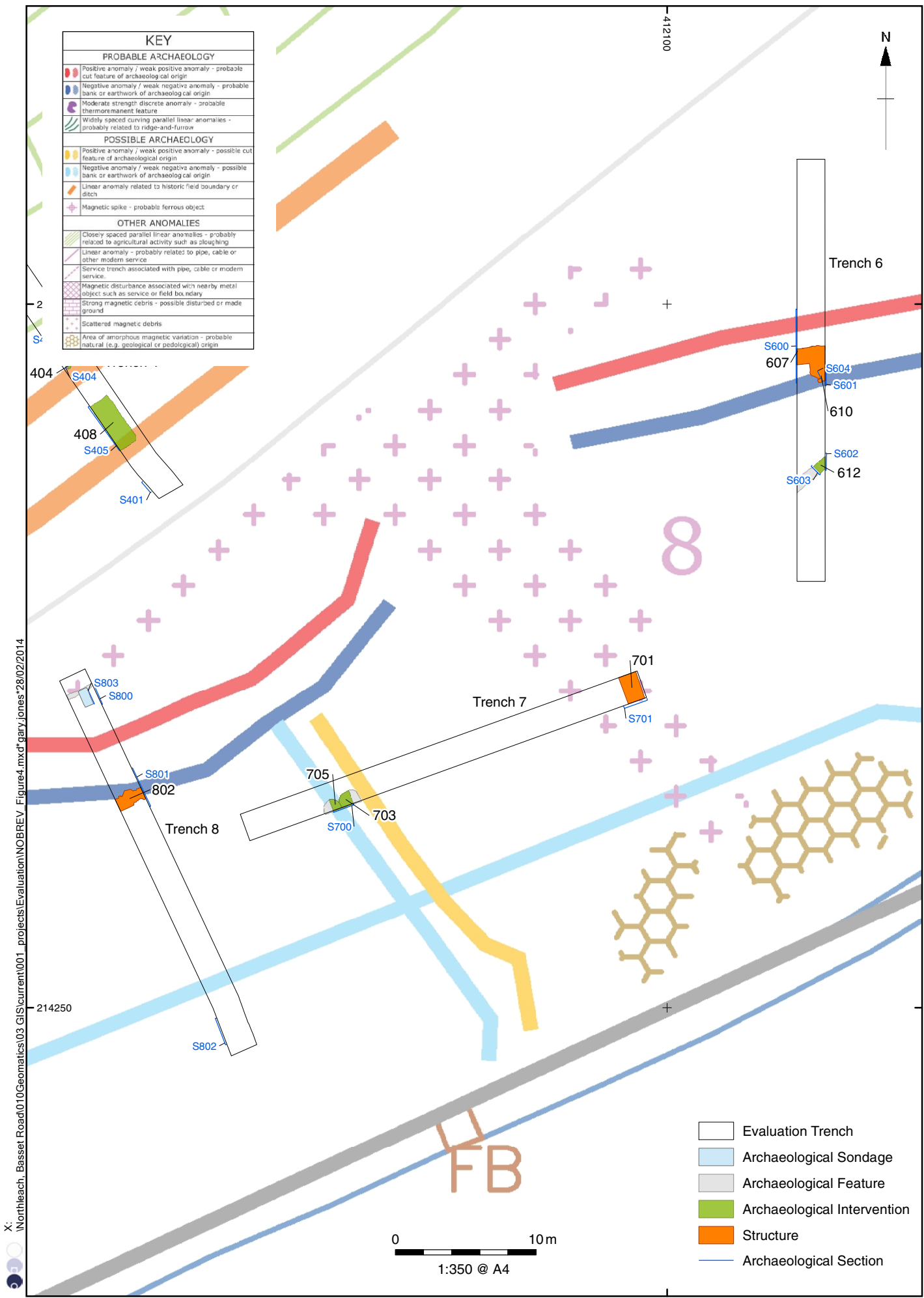
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Geophysics Survey Data supplied by: Stratascan

Figure 3: Trenches 3 and 4. Features and section locations with geophysical anomalies



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Geophysics Survey Data supplied by: Stratascan

Figure 4: Trenches 4, 6, 7 and 8. Features and section locations with geophysical anomalies

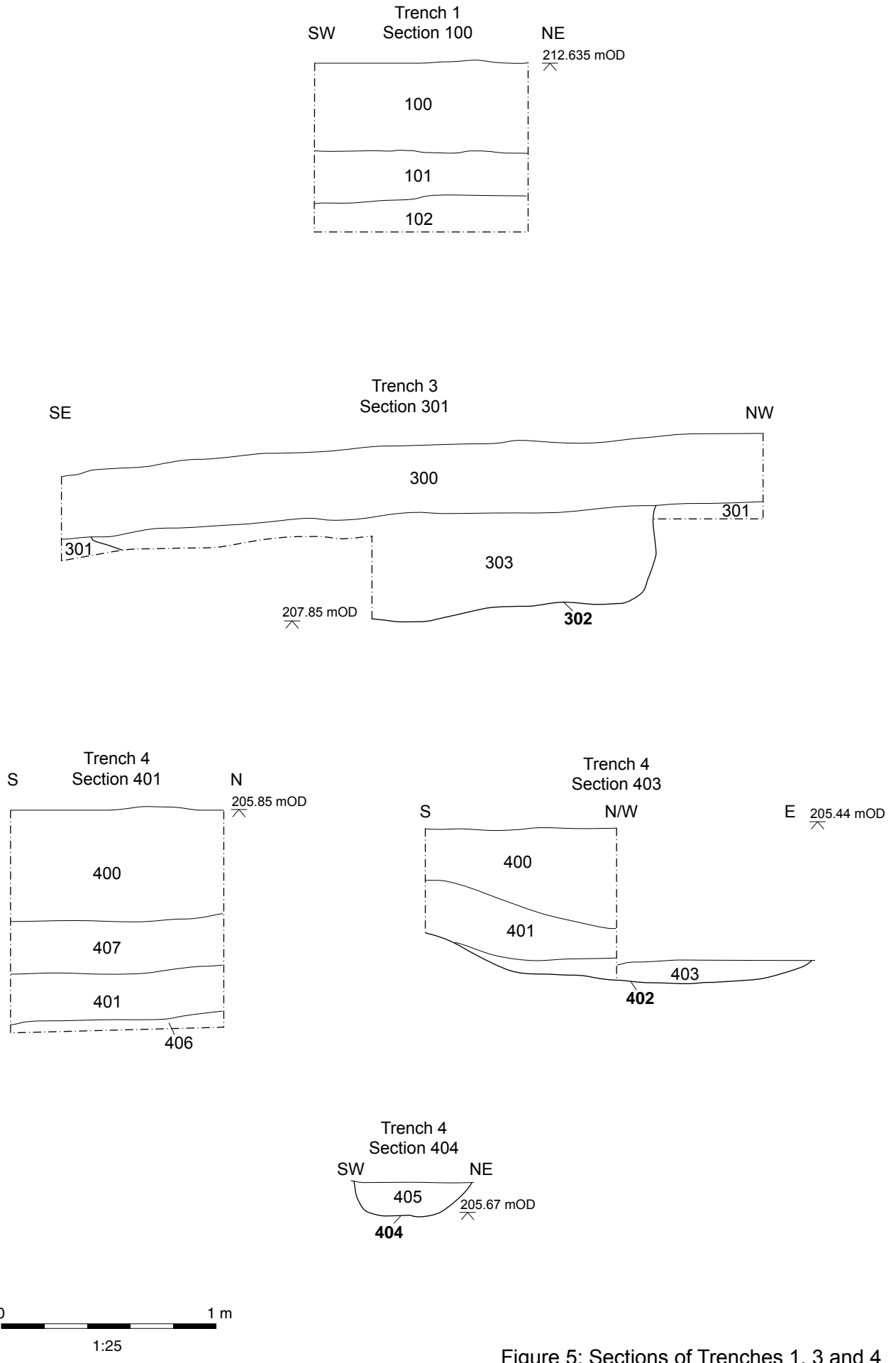


Figure 5: Sections of Trenches 1, 3 and 4

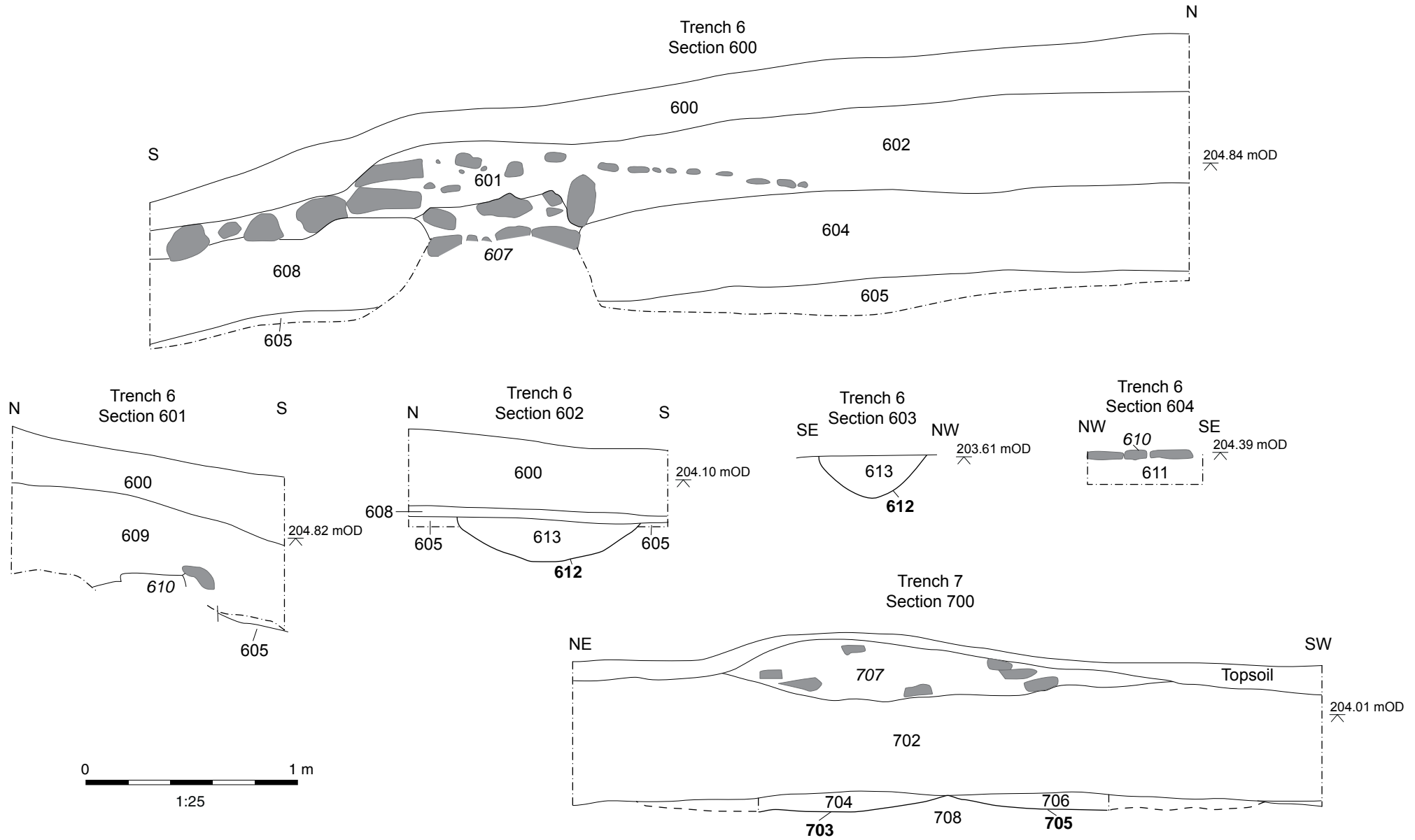


Figure 6: Sections of Trenches 6 and 7

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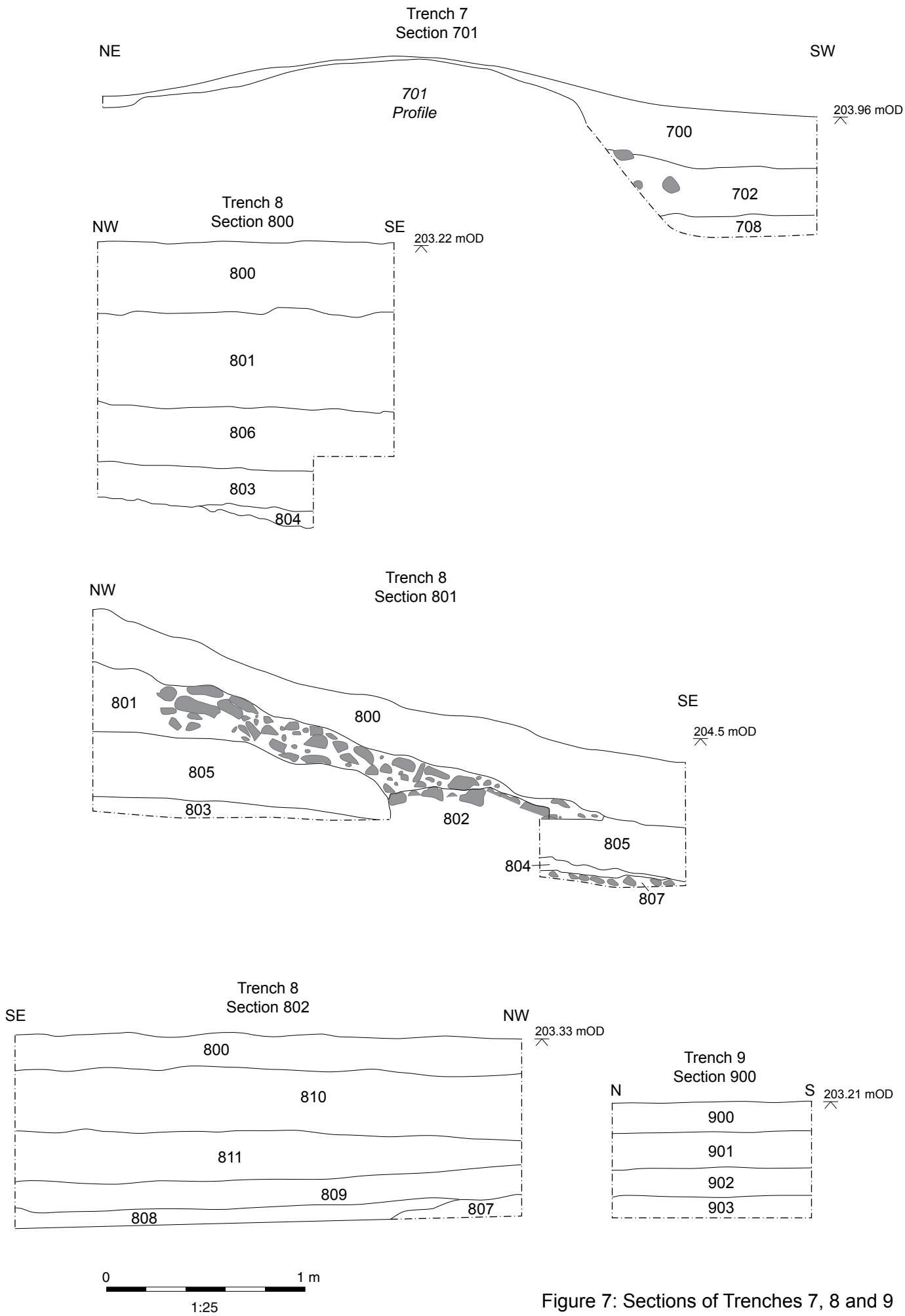


Figure 7: Sections of Trenches 7, 8 and 9



Plate 1: Pit 302



Plate 2: Section 403 of possible pit 402



Plate 3: Section 404 of small pit or posthole **404**



Plate 4: Section 402, showing sandpit **408**



Plate 7: Wall 607



Plate 8: Section 601, showing wall 610



Plate 9: Trench 8 view to north-west



Plate 10: Section 800, showing plough soils and colluvium



Plate 11: Section 802, showing alluvial deposit 810



Plate 12: Section 900, showing alluvial deposit 901



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Land at Bassett Road, Northleach, Gloucestershire.

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Rebecca Peacock and Gerry Thacker

with contributions from Edward Biddulph, John Cotter, Geraldine Crann, Julia Meen, Ian Scott, Ruth Shaffrey, Lena Strid and illustrated by Lucy Gane

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Fig. 6 Sections of Trenches 6 and 7

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Plate 12 Section 900, showing alluvial deposit 901

Plate 13 Minety ware curfew (fire guard) with slashed decoration. Late 12th or 13th century



Summary

Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Bassett Road, Northleach, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR SP 12106 14345). The work was performed in order to inform the planning authority in advance of submission of a planning application.

The work was undertaken between 13th-17th January 2014. A total of nine trenches were excavated across the site.

The evaluation uncovered evidence for the medieval and post-medieval land use of the site in the form of stone walls forming field boundaries. Pottery recovered from the fabric of one of the walls dated from the 12th-14th centuries. A pit was also uncovered that contained medieval pottery. Other features uncovered included an undated ditch and pits of 19th century date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Bassett Road, Northleach, Gloucestershire. The fieldwork was conducted between the 13th-17th January 2014.
- 1.1.2 The area of proposed development occupied an area of c 2.5 ha and was centred on SP 121 143 (Fig 1). The site was bounded to the west by Bassett Road and to the north by East End Road, and by the River Leach to the south.
- 1.1.3 The site consisted of two areas, both measuring c 2.5 ha, the western of which is the subject of this document. The eastern area may be subject to trial trench evaluation in the future (Fig 2).
- 1.1.4 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of the submission of a planning application. The work was carried out as specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (OAS 2013b).
- 1.1.5 The work involved the excavation of nine trial trenches with a total length of 255m, equating to a 2% sample of the site area (Fig. 2). The trenches were targeted on anomalies identified during a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013; Fig. 2).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the Forest Marble Formation limestone (BGS GeoIndex), with alluvium present in the southern part of the site, adjacent to the River Leach. The ground dropped down to the south-west, from c 212m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the north to c 203m aOD to the south adjacent to the river.
- 1.2.2 The site was divided between two fields, the northern field and the southern field (Fig 2), divided by a dry stone wall.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the area around the site were subject to a Desk Based Assessment (OAS 2013a), and the results are summarised below.

Prehistoric Period (500,000 BP – 43 AD)

- 1.3.2 No archaeological sites or finds dating from the prehistoric period were identified within the area of the proposed development.
- 1.3.3 There is evidence for human activity during the prehistoric period from within the Study Area. Norbury Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, lies c 1km north-east of the area of proposed development and in the south-west corner of the hillfort is a Neolithic long barrow. To the north of the area of the proposed development is a Bronze Age bowl barrow.
- 1.3.4 Most of the prehistoric features identified are in the form of crop marks, although flints were recovered during road improvements along the line of the Northleach bypass, the A40, which runs c 500m north-east of the area of the site.
- 1.3.5 Cropmarks thought to represent late prehistoric or Roman settlement have been identified in three locations, c 1km to the west, c 1.2km to the south-west, where there is an associated field system, and c 940m to the south.



Roman Period (43 AD – 410 AD)

- 1.3.6 A Roman road, the Fosse Way, is believed to have followed the line of the modern A429, which runs 400m north-west of the area of proposed development. The Portway, 200m to the south-east, is another old road which may have existed in the Roman period. An evaluation carried out on the site of the former Westwoods Grammar School, now the Bassett Road housing development, uncovered a single Roman pit. It is possible that some of the potential settlements identified from cropmarks (discussed above) date from or continued in use into this period. A possible villa site has been identified under Eastington Manor, c 600m south-east of the area.

Later Medieval Period (AD1066-1550)

- 1.3.7 Before the borough was established by Gloucester Abbey in c 1220, Northleach comprised a number of hamlets along the valley of the River Leach. The area to the east of the site contains a series of earthworks that have been identified as probable areas of deserted medieval settlement and are likely to represent the remains of one of these hamlets. It is suggested that this was called Cockthrop, and was deserted by the 18th century.

Post-Medieval Period (AD1550-1899)

- 1.3.8 Nineteenth century maps show the site as occupying all or part of several fields. The fields across the northern part of the area of proposed development were under arable cultivation and those to the south, adjacent to the river, were used for pasture.

Modern Period (AD1900 -)

- 1.3.9 During the middle of the 20th century Westwoods Grammar School was constructed adjacent to the site. The School grounds extended across the western of the two fields that comprise the development area. The school closed in 1988 and the buildings were severely damaged by fire and then demolished in the following year.

Geophysical Survey

- 1.3.10 Both areas of the site (c 5 ha in total) were subject to a detailed magnetometry survey prior to the evaluation (Stratascan 2013). The survey identified various positive and negative linear anomalies in addition to evidence of former ploughing and areas of magnetic (ferrous) disturbance (Fig. 2).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OAS would like to thank Alan Carr, the Senior Planning Coordinator for Gloucestershire County Council, who commissioned the evaluation, and Charles Parry the GCC Archaeologist who agreed the specification, and monitored the work. The evaluation was managed for OAS by Gerry Thacker and the fieldwork was undertaken by Becky Peacock with the assistance of Emily Glass, Alex Latham, Ben McAndrew and Charles Rousseaux.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development;
- To assess the vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To investigate and characterise various anomalies identified through geophysical survey that may represent archaeological features;
- To examine areas identified by the geophysical survey as being blank.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The trenches were located using a Global Positioning System with a sub 20mm accuracy.

2.3.2 All trenches were opened under close archaeological supervision by a JCB 3CX fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

2.3.3 Any revealed features and deposits were hand cleaned prior to excavation and recording.

2.3.4 OAS recording systems as outlined in the WSI (OAS 2013b) were followed at all times.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The distribution of archaeological deposits is described in Section 3.3 below. Trenches that contained archaeological features or deposits are described in Sections 3.4 (North Field) and 3.5 (South Field). The results are discussed in Section 4. Trench plans and sections are illustrated in Figs. 1-7. A full context inventory with depths and dimensions of all deposits and associated finds are tabulated in Appendix A. Finds identification, their quantification and discussion form Appendix B. Environmental data are discussed in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Topsoil was present in all trenches and varied in depth from 0.2m to 0.45m. The natural geology was consistent across the site and was a limestone brash, manifesting as a mid yellowish brown clay with frequent degraded limestone fragments.

3.2.2 Alluvial deposits were encountered in Trenches 8 and 9 representing episodes of flooding from the adjacent River Leach.

3.2.3 Several trenches contained colluvium, resulting from the movement of soils downhill to the south. It was clear that these deposits had been reworked and mixed due to successive episodes of ploughing. Trenches 8 and 9 also contained alluvial deposits.

3.2.4 Trenches 6 and 8 cut through a positive feature that formed a raised terrace along the northern edge of the southern field, and was sited at 205.85m aOD. The ground then sloped steeply down to the south.

3.2.5 The ground was very soft from high rainfall but the trenches were easily excavated and archaeological features and deposits were easy to identify.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 The northern field contained a large pit (Trench 3), a pit or ditch terminus and a small pit or posthole (Trench 4). Trench 4 also contained the remains of a sandpit dating from the previous use of the area as a school playing field.

3.3.2 The southern field contained a single ditch, two shallow pits and several limestone walls. Several of the trenches contained layers of colluvium.

3.4 Trenches in the North Field

Trench 3

3.4.1 Trench 3 contained a pit (302), measuring 2.7m wide and 0.5m deep, which cut the natural geology (310), and was sealed by topsoil 300 (Figs 3 and 5; Plate 1). The pit had regular, steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The single fill, 303, was a dark brown silty clay with a moderate quantity of limestone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. The fill contained pottery sherds dating from AD 850-1250 as well as from the 12th to 14th centuries and fragments of animal bone including sheep skull (Appendix B). An environmental sample from this deposit contained charred cereal grains and wood charcoal (see Appendix C).

Trench 4

- 3.4.2 The trench contained a small circular pit or posthole (404), which had steep, irregular sides and a slightly irregular concave base and cut the natural geology 406 (Figs. 3 and 5; Plate 3). The single fill, 405, was a mid-orange brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and pea-grit inclusions. No finds were recovered from the fill.
- 3.4.3 A second feature, 402, was ovoid in plan, and was interpreted as either a pit or the terminal end of a ditch that continued to the south-west beyond the trench edge (Figs 3 and 5; Plate 2). The feature had a flat base with shallow concave sides. It measured only 0.08m deep and was filled by a soft mid orange-brown silty clay with occasional pea-grit inclusions and charcoal flecks (403). No finds were recovered from the excavated segment.
- 3.4.4 A sandpit (408) dating from the former use of the site as a school playing field was also present within the trench (Fig. 3, Plate 4).

3.5 Trenches in the South Field

Trench 6

- 3.5.1 The natural at the base of Trench 6 (605) sloped down towards the south-west, and consequently the depth of deposits was greater within the east facing section than the west facing section.
- 3.5.2 The earliest features present within the trench were a ditch and a small length of wall. The ditch, 612, was situated towards the southern end of the trench, and was orientated north-east to south-west. The ditch had a shallow concave profile and cut the natural. The single fill, 613, was a mid to dark brown silty clay containing occasional small fragments of limestone. No finds were recovered from the fill.
- 3.5.3 The remains of a wall (610) was orientated SSW-NNE, and consisted of a single course of limestone in a dry wall construction (Figs. 4 and 6, Plate 8). The wall appeared to be constructed on a thin layer of dark brown silty clay (611) with frequent small limestone fragments, interpreted as a trample layer related to the construction of the wall, or perhaps a thin layer of buried ploughsoil.
- 3.5.4 Wall 610 and ditch 612 were sealed by a layer of buried ploughsoil which was given the context numbers 604, 608 and 609 within different areas of the trench. Although this deposit varied slightly in composition within the trench, it was generally a mid-dark brown silty clay.
- 3.5.5 Towards the centre of the trench a limestone wall (607) was orientated east-west. Only the lowest course of the wall remained, and this was of a dry stone construction, with flat-faced, larger stones forming the exterior faces and rubble within the core (Figs 4 and 6; Plates 5 and 7). A sherd of pottery recovered from within the rubble core of the wall dated from the 12th-14th centuries. The wall, for which no construction cut was identified, post-dated deposits 604 and 608. The position of the wall coincided with the southern edge of raised 'terrace' noted on the surface of the field.
- 3.5.6 Wall 607 was sealed by a buried plough soil (601), which contained large amounts of limestone fragments derived from the ploughing out of the wall. Layer 601 was sealed by topsoil 600.

Trench 7

- 3.5.7 At the extreme north-eastern end of the trench a limestone wall (701) of drystone construction was visible as an earthwork (Figs 4 and 7). The wall was orientated NNW-SSE, and was overlain by limestone rubble from its partial destruction, which was in turn sealed by a thin layer of topsoil (700). The wall was not further excavated, but was recorded in profile (Fig 7) and retained in situ.
- 3.5.8 Towards the south-western end of the trench, two shallow pits partially extended beyond the limits of the trench. The pits (703 and 705) were adjacent but did not quite intersect (Figs. 4 and 6). The fill of pit 703, (704), contained animal bone, several fragments of quernstone and an iron nail of 19th century date. Fill 706 (from pit 705) contained animal bone. The pits cut the natural geology (708), and were sealed by a layer of buried ploughsoil 702. Layer 702 was in turn overlain by a deposit 1.12m wide and 0.26m thick that contained a high percentage of limestone rubble (707). This deposit could represent a ploughed out wall, although higher in the stratigraphic sequence than those observed elsewhere. Deposit 707 was sealed by topsoil 700.

Trench 8

- 3.5.9 The natural geology within Trench 8 manifested as a brash rich yellow brown clay (807), which sloped down towards the south. At the southern end of the trench a thin layer of a clean mid orange brown clay, interpreted as alluvium (808) overlay the natural (Fig 7; Plate 11). A similar deposit, 804, was present within the northern and central parts of the trench (Fig 7). No finds were recovered from deposits 804 or 808.
- 3.5.10 At the northern end of the trench layer 804 was overlain by a layer of colluvium (803) which did not extend as far south as the centre of the trench. This deposit was also undated. Layer 803, and alluvial layers 804 and 808 were sealed by a further thicker layer of colluvium or buried ploughsoil (variously recorded as 805, 806 and 809 dependant on location) which contained numerous small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks. Pottery recovered from layer 805 dated from the 12th-13th centuries, and two refitting sherds of early Roman Severn Valley ware were recovered from layer 806, and surely residual (See Appendix B).
- 3.5.11 Towards the central part of the trench the remains of a dry stone wall overlay layer 805 (Figs 4 and 7; Plate 6). This structure, 802, was orientated north-east to south-west, and had a similar remaining profile to wall 607 within Trench 6. Only the lowest course of the wall remained and this had been badly damaged by ploughing, with large quantities of limestone present in the overlying buried ploughsoil 801, which also contained three sherds of pottery dating from the 12th-14th centuries. The position of the wall coincided with the southern edge of raised 'terrace' noted on the surface of the field. The buried ploughsoil (801) was also present at the southern end of the trench where it was recorded as 811, and was overlain by a clean light grey brown silty clay (810) interpreted as alluvium (Fig. 7; Plate 11).
- 3.5.12 Alluvium 810 at the southern end of the trench, and buried ploughsoil 801 within the centre and northern end of the trench were sealed by topsoil 800.

Trench 9

- 3.5.13 Trench 9 contained no archaeological features, and the sequence comprised a lower buried ploughsoil (902), a mid brown sandy clay containing occasional sandstone fragments, and possibly a reworked mixture of both colluvial and alluvial deposits. This

was sealed by 901, an alluvial layer equivalent to 810 in Trench 8, which was in turn sealed by topsoil 900 (Fig. 7; Plate 12).

- 3.5.14 Pottery sherds recovered from the topsoil dated from both the 10th-13th centuries and the 18th-19th centuries.

3.6 Finds summary

Finds

- 3.6.1 Finds were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 6, 8 and 9, and comprised medieval pottery, post medieval pottery, animal bone, iron nails and the worked bone head of a 19th century toothbrush. Pottery from within wall 607 in Trench 6 dated from the twelfth to fourteenth centuries, and finds from a buried ploughsoil in Trench 8 dated to both the early Roman period and the 12th to 14th centuries. Fragments of non-diagnostic fired clay were found within layer 803 in Trench 8, as were quantities of animal bone. Finds from features comprised pottery dating from both 850-1250 and the 12th to 14th centuries and animal bone from pit 302, within Trench 3, and a 19th century iron nail, quern stone fragments and animal bone from pit 703, and animal bone from pit 705.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

Evaluation

- 4.1.1 Ground and weather conditions were generally good throughout the course of the evaluation, and none of the trenches were subject to flooding. Visibility was good throughout the evaluation and the fills of the features encountered were distinct from the natural geology.

Geophysics

- 4.1.2 The walls within Trenches 6 and 8 were identified as negative anomalies, but the wall within Trench 7 was not identified. The pit within Trench 3 was a good match with an anomaly representing a possible cut feature. The field boundaries identified as linear anomalies in the areas of Trenches 1, 4, and 5 were not present within the trenches.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation determined the location, character and date of the archaeological features and deposits within the footprint of the trenches. The paleoenvironmental evidence was assessed. The anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were investigated.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The remnants of walls uncovered within Trenches 6, 7 and 8 represent former field boundaries, possibly also intended to inhibit the downward erosion of soils, as evidenced by the presence of earlier colluvial deposits in the trenches, and the terraced area noted on the surface of the southern field. The dating of the walls is problematic partially due to the reworking of the associated soils through ploughing, although medieval pottery was recovered from the core of wall 607 (Trench 6), and also within the underlying deposit 805.
- 4.3.2 Further evidence for medieval activity on the site is represented by pit 302 (Trench 3) which also contained medieval pottery which dated from 850-1250 and the 12th-14th centuries. Ditch 612, although undated, may be a former field boundary and appears to pre-date the boundaries formed by the dry stone walls.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying colluvium overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds
100	Topsoil	-	0.28	Dark grey brown silty clay with few inclusions.	-	-
101	Colluvium	-	0.22	Orangey brown silty clay with small limestone inclusions.	-	-
102	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Mid brownish yellow clay with frequent limestone fragments.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds
200	Topsoil	-	0.36	Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional limestone inclusions.	-	-
201	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Mid brownish yellow clay with frequent limestone fragments.	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained a single pit. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds



300	Topsoil	-	0.37	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone fragments.	-	-
301	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Mid brownish yellow clay with frequent limestone fragments.	-	-
302	Cut	2.7	0.5	Pit.	-	-
303	Fill of 302	2.7	0.5	Dark greyish brown silty clay fill with moderate limestone inclusions and charcoal flecks.	Pottery, animal bone	850-1250 12th-14th century

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contained a pit or ditch terminal, and a small pit or posthole. A sandpit relating to the former school playing field was also present. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)		0.30
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		29.85m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds
400	Topsoil	-	0.42	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	-	-
401	Subsoil	-	0.20	Mid greyish brown silty clay with small limestone inclusions.	-	-
402	Cut	0.95	0.08	Shallow pit or ditch terminus.	-	-
403	Fill	0.95	0.08	Fill of 402	Animal bone	-
404	Cut	0.55	0.16	Small pit or post hole.	-	-
405	Fill	0.55	0.16	Fill of 404	-	-
406	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Mid brownish yellow clay with frequent limestone fragments.	-	-
407	Colluvium	-	0.24	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with moderate limestone inclusions.	-	-
408	Cut	1.6	0.22	Modern sandpit cut	-	Modern
409	Fill	1.6	0.22	Fill of 408. Friable mid yellowish brown coarse sand with few inclusions	-	Modern

Trench 5



General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix, with areas of clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds
500	Topsoil	-	0.28	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	-	-
501	Subsoil	-	0.22	Mid orange brown clay with frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-
502	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Loose mid brownish yellow clay, frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-
503	Natural. Geological variation.	-	-	Light brown yellow gritty clay with very few inclusions.	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained two limestone walls, an area of rubble and a ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil sealing colluvial layers overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date of range finds
600	Topsoil	-	0.28	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	Pottery, animal bone, Fe nails, Fe buckle	1150-1350 Late 16th-18th century 19th Century
601	Rubble	2.5	0.40	Loose dark brown silty clay, frequent large and small limestone, mixed sub-rounded and sub-angular, in colluvial matrix.	-	-
602	Colluvium	-	0.46	Firm mid grey brown silty clay, no inclusions	-	-
603	Layer	-	0.08	Friable mid grey brown silty clay, frequent limestone,	-	-
604	Colluvium	-	0.60	Mid grey brown silty clay,	-	-



				no inclusions.		
605	Natural	-	-	Loose mid brownish yellow clay, frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-
607	Wall	0.80	0.10	Rough irregular limestone blocks, 0.30-0.40m. Single course surviving, no mortar. NE-SW aligned.	Pottery	12th-14th century
608	Colluvium	-	0.22	Mid orange brown silty clay with frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-
609	Colluvium	-	0.30	Mid brown silty clay, no inclusions.	-	-
610	Wall	0.3	0.06	Roughly rectangular limestone blocks, slightly heat effected, 0.16m by 0.20m. NW-SE aligned.	-	-
611	Trample	0.6	0.10	Mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions.	-	-
612	Ditch	0.5	0.20	Linear, NE-SW aligned. Concave base with moderately sloped sides.	-	-
613	Fill	0.5	0.20	Fill of 612. Mid orange brown silty clay, moderate limestone inclusions.	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained two limestone walls and a pit. Consists of soil and colluvium overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	29.85m	
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date of range finds
700	Topsoil	-	0.28	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	-	-
701	Wall	-	0.22	Remnants of limestone wall	-	-
702	Colluvium	-	0.6	Mid brown silty clay. No inclusions.	-	-
703	Pit	1.5	0.05	Cut of pit	-	19th century
704	Fill	1.5	0.05	Fill of 703	Animal bone, Fe	19th century



					nail, quern stone	
705	Pit	1.35	0.05	Cut of pit	-	-
706	Fill	1.35	0.05	Fill of 705	Animal bone	-
707	Wall	1.12	0.26	Limestone rubble	-	-
708	Natural	-	-	Loose mid brownish yellow clay, frequent limestone inclusions	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying layers of alluvium and colluvium overlying a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	29.85m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	Date of range finds
800	Topsoil	-	0.28	Dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	Worked bone	19th century
801	Subsoil	-	0.22	Mid grey brown silty clay, frequent small limestone and charcoal flecks.	Pottery, animal bone	12th-14th century
802	Wall	0.82	0.1	Small to medium limestone, sub-angular to sub-rounded. Mixed with similar material to 801.	-	-
803	Colluvium	-	0.1	Mid orange brown silty clay with moderate charcoal and occasional limestone.	Fired Clay, animal bone	-
804	Alluvium	-	0.08	Mid orange brown silty clay with very few inclusions.	-	-
805	Colluvium	-	0.32	Dark grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone and charcoal inclusions.	Pottery	12th-13th century
806	Colluvium	-	0.32	Same as 805	Pottery	1st-2nd century
807	Natural. Limestone brash.	-	-	Loose mid brownish yellow clay, frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-
808	Alluvium	-	0.08	Soft, mid orange brown clay, no inclusions.	-	-
809	Colluvium	-	0.12	Mid orange brown clay	-	-



				with frequent small to medium limestone fragments.		
810	Alluvium	-	0.32	Light grey brown silty clay with no inclusions.	-	-
811	Subsoil	-	0.26	Mid grey brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions.	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvium and a natural of limestone in a clay matrix.				Avg. depth (m)		0.30
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		29.85m
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date range of finds
900	Topsoil	-	0.13	Loose mid brownish yellow clay, frequent limestone inclusions.	Pottery	10th-13th century 18th-19th century
901	Alluvium	-	0.11	Mid yellowish brown silty clay, very few inclusions	-	-
902	subsoil	-	0.13	Mid yellowish brown sandy clay with small limestone inclusions.	-	-
903	Natural	-	-	Loose mid orange brown clay, frequent limestone inclusions.	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

Identified by John Cotter and Edward Biddulph and compiled by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description	Date
303	1 sherd Minety ware (OXBB), cooking pot rim. 21g. 1 sieved sherd Cotswold limestone tempered ware (OXAC)<1>. 2g	12th – 14th century. 850 – 1250.
600	1 post medieval (PMR) handle. 1 residual medieval sherd (OXAQ). 17g	Late 16th – 18th c 1150-1350
607	1 body sherd Minety ware (OXBB). 14g.	12th – 14th century
805	1 Minety ware curfew handle with decoration and large perforation at base of handle. 1 sherd medieval sandy Malvernian ware, 2 cooking pot rim sherds Cotswold ware (OXAC). 104g.	12th – 13th century
806	2 refitting sherds Severn Valley oxidised ware. 14g.	1st – 2nd century
812	Minety ware (OXBB) - 2 rim sherds from cooking pot/jar, 1 body sherd. 29g	12th – 14th century
900	1 residual sherd limestone tempered ware Cotswold type (OXAC). 4 sherds post medieval ?flowerpot base in unglazed terracotta. 115g.	10th – 13th century 18th – 19th century

Discussion and recommendations.

- B.1.1 The assemblage is of low potential and no further work is recommended other than an illustration of the curfew handle (by photograph) as these are relatively uncommon (see Plate 15).

B.2 Fired clay

Identified by John Cotter and compiled by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description	Date
803	2 small shapeless scraps of fired clay, 10g (1 sieved <2>).	-

Discussion and recommendations.

- B.2.1 The scraps of undatable fired clay are of low potential and no further work is recommended.

B.3 Animal bone

Identified by Lena Strid.

Context	Description – all bones are fragments unless stated otherwise.
303	?Sheep skull. 4g. Sieved <1> 13 indeterminate fragments. 6g
403	Cattle mandible. 36g.
600	5 large mammal vertebrae, 1 complete large mammal vertebra, 1 horse axis, 1 complete horse hoof (phalanx 3), 2 cattle metatarsals, 1 cattle tibia, 1 pig mandible, 1 sheep pelvis. 383g.



604	1 cattle mandible. 58g.
704	1 cattle tibia, 1 sheep/goat metatarsal, 1 ? sheep skull, 1 sheep mandible, 1 large pig pelvis – either wild boar or post medieval domestic pig. 188g.
706	1 unidentifiable medium mammal bone. 3g.
803	1 cattle femur, 1 horse long bone, 1 large mammal vertebra, several medium mammal ribs, 1 cattle skull, 1 medium mammal long bone, 1 cattle mandible, sheep teeth, 1 pig skull, 1 unworn horse tooth. 324g. Sieved – fragments of juvenile medium mammal humerus, 2 pig teeth, 1 juvenile horse incisor, 1 bird phalanx, 1 microfauna. 32g
812	1 medium mammal rib, 1 small horse radius, 1 sheep tibia, 1 sheep metacarpal, large mammal scapula. 163g.

Discussion and recommendations.

B.3.1 The assemblage of fragmentary animal bone is of low potential and no further work is recommended.

B.4 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Introduction and methodology

B.4.1 Six fragments of lava were recovered from context 704. Five of these adjoin. All the fragments are worn and undiagnostic but were probably part of a rotary quern. Lava was used for querns during the Roman and medieval periods.

B.4.2 No further work is recommended.

B.5 Metal

By Ian Scott.

Context	Description	Date
600	3 handmade nails 2 with chisel tips, a single rectangular harness buckle. 118g	19th century
704	1 large handmade chisel-tipped nail. 23G	19th century
803	<2> 1 small fragment copper alloy. 1G	-

Discussion and recommendations.

B.5.1 The assemblage is of low potential and no further work is recommended.

B.6 Worked bone

By Ian Scott.

Context	Description	Date
800	A single worked bone toothbrush head. 9g.	19th century

Discussion and recommendations.

B.6.1 The assemblage is of low potential and no further work is recommended.



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

By Julia Meen

C.1 Introduction

4.3.3 Two samples were taken for the recovery of environmental remains. Sample 1 was taken from context 303, the fill of a pit noted to contain pottery, bone and charcoal. The sediment was a brown (10YR 5/3) sandy clay loam with abundant inclusions of angular and subangular stone pebbles/cobbles which made up 30-40% of the volume. Sample 2 was taken from an colluvial layer, context 803, and was a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) silty loam with occasional subangular stone pebbles. Both contexts were provisionally dated as medieval on the basis of associated pottery.

C.2 Methodology

4.3.4 The two samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. Sample 1 was 37l and sample 2 40l in volume, and in both cases the entire sample was processed. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues were sieved to 500µm and dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The dried flots were scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification and identifications made with reference to published guides and the comparative seed collection held at OAS. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

C.3 Results

Finds

C.3.1 Each sample produced a single sherd of pottery each and a small quantity of mammal and bird bone, with the greater quantity of bone recovered from sample 2. All material was passed to the appropriate specialists for further study and reporting.

Charred Plant Remains

C.3.2 Sample 1 produced a flot of 200ml. The majority of this volume was composed of modern roots. All charred material was separated out and this, as well as a representative subsample of the modern root, were scanned. The charred material was dominated by fragments of charcoal, most of which were too small in size to be identifiable (less than 4mm in diameter). However, the small number of items large enough to be examined were all provisionally identified as diffuse porous (non-oak) type, including a piece of roundwood extracted from the 10-4mm heavy residue. Charred cereal grains occurred fairly frequently in the sample, mostly showing poor preservation, but many could be identified as cf. *Triticum* sp (wheat), and two showed characteristics of *Triticum aestivum/turgidum* (free-threshing wheats). A single grain of *Avena/Bromus* sp. (oat/brome type), again poorly preserved, and one half of a legume of 3mm diameter were also noted. Terrestrial molluscs of several species were also present.

C.3.3 Sample 2 produced a flot of 80ml, of which approximately half was scanned. Charcoal was common in the sample, including many items of a size that would potentially allow identification. Examination of a small number of the larger charcoal items under low magnification (x10) revealed that both diffuse porous (non-oak) and ring porous wood types were represented, with a mixture of roundwood and non-roundwood present. A small number (fewer than 25 items) of charred cereal grain, in a similar poor state to



those recovered from sample 1, were present but were mostly unidentifiable, although occasional grains were of wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Terrestrial molluscs were also present in the sample, as well as frequent modern root.

C.4 Discussion

- C.4.1 Although sample 1 contained occasional items of charcoal, the number of potentially identifiable items in the sample is too few to allow a valid interpretation of their significance in a deposit of this type, and therefore further identification to species level is unlikely to be worthwhile. The presence of charcoal in both samples does, however, demonstrate that conditions at the site are suitable for the preservation of charred material. Sample 2 produced a charcoal assemblage with greater potential for further study, with frequent items which may be identifiable, and containing a mixture of small branches and trunkwood. However, if the context from which it was sampled is confirmed as having been formed by medieval colluviation on the slope, further analysis is less likely to provide information of value due to the high probability of in-mixing of material during transportation and its original provenance being unknown.
- C.4.2 There was a similarity between the two samples in regards to the remaining charred material, which in both samples contained a small number of poorly preserved cereal grains, including those of wheat. Few non-cultivated remains were present, with the few non-cereal seeds limited to those of a similar size to the cereal grains and thus most likely to have persisted after processing of the crop to remove impurities. It may be that both are derived from a similar source, and perhaps represent the waste product of processing of a cleaned crop for storage or consumption in a domestic setting, becoming incorporated into general household debris alongside scraps of bone and pottery.
- C.4.3 If further excavations are carried out at the site, standard 40l bulk samples should be taken from a range of potentially datable features across the site and all sampling should be in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology, 2005 and English Heritage, 2011). The soils at the site have proved to be suitable for the preservation of molluscs, and so if appropriate features are encountered then incremental samples for snails should be considered. In such a case an environmental specialist should be consulted.



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

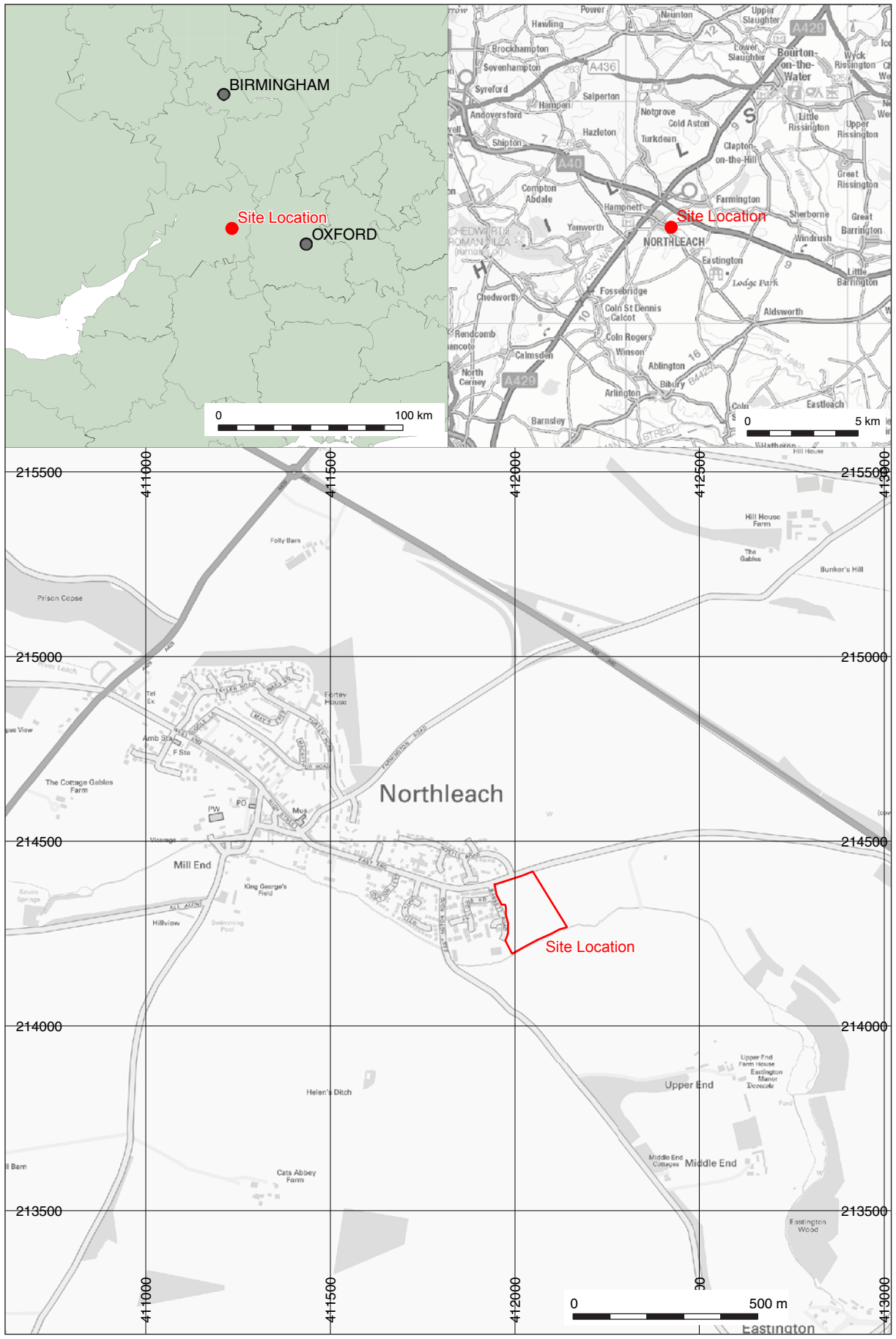
Site name:	OAS-eval
Site code:	NOBR13
Grid reference:	SP 121 143
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	7th – 10th January 2014
Area of site:	2.5 hectares

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Bassett Road, Northleach, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR SP 12106 14345). The work was performed in order to inform the planning authority in advance of submission of a planning application.

The work was undertaken between 13th-17th January 2014. A total of nine trenches were excavated across the site.

The evaluation uncovered evidence for the medieval and post-medieval land use of the site in the form of stone walls forming field boundaries. Pottery recovered from the fabric of one of the walls dated from the 12th-14th centuries. A pit was also uncovered that contained medieval pottery. Other features uncovered included an undated ditch and pits of 19th century date.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Corinium Museum in due course.



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Figure 1: Site location



Plate 1: Pit 302



Plate 2: Section 403 of possible pit 402



Plate 3: Section 404 of small pit or posthole **404**



Plate 4: Section 402, showing sandpit **408**



Plate 7: Wall 607



Plate 8: Section 601, showing wall 610



Plate 9: Trench 8 view to north-west



Plate 10: Section 800, showing plough soils and colluvium



Plate 11: Section 802, showing alluvial deposit 810



Plate 12: Section 900, showing alluvial deposit 901

