

# St Richards Hospital Chichester West Sussex



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2006

**Client: Scott Wilson**

Issue N<sup>o</sup>: 1  
OA Job N<sup>o</sup>: 3400  
Planning Ref N<sup>o</sup>: 03/03440/OUT  
NGR: SU 8697 0571

**Client Name:** Scott Wilson

**Client Ref No:**

**Document Title:** St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, West Sussex

**Document Type:** Evaluation

**Issue Number:** 1

National Grid Reference: SU 8697 0571  
Planning Reference: 03/03440/OUT

OA Job Number: 3400  
Site Code: 7902  
Invoice Code: CHSRH06  
Receiving Museum: Chichester District Museum  
Museum Accession No: 7902

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Document File Location X:\Chichester St Richard's Hospital\ev rep\Eval rep.doc  
Graphics File Location servergo/A-H/7902/CHSRHEV/St Richard's Hospital,  
Chichester/jm/\*03.09.06  
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## SUMMARY

*In September 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on behalf of Scott Wilson and Bellway Homes (Wessex) at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, West Sussex (NGR SU 8697 0571). The evaluation revealed a single post-medieval chalk spread and a possibly associated trample layer. The deposit probably represented material associated with the construction of nearby houses. No other archaeological features were encountered.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In September 2006 OA carried out a field evaluation at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, West Sussex (NGR SU 8697 0571) on behalf of Scott Wilson and Bellway Homes (Wessex). The work was undertaken in respect of a planning application for housing (Planning Application 03/03440/OUT). Following discussions with the District Planning Authority, Scott Wilson produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (Scott Wilson 2006a) outlining the archaeological requirements of the work. OA produced a method statement (OA 2006) detailing how the evaluation would be carried out.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The evaluation was located on a vacant 1.8 ha. green field site to the east of the present St Richard's Hospital (Fig. 1), The underlying geology of the area comprises Woolwich and Reading beds consisting of both clays and gravels. The topography of the surrounding landscape is gently undulating and lies at c 20 m OD.

#### 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The following section is summarised from the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Scott Wilson (2006a).

##### *Prehistoric*

1.3.2 There is no evidence for early prehistoric activity on the site and evidence from the immediate surroundings is scarce. The only known find is a Palaeolithic bi-facially worked flint axe found in a natural feature approximately 50 m north of the site.

1.3.3 No evidence for Bronze Age activity is recorded within the boundary of the site. However, such activity has been found in the surrounding area suggesting that the site may lie within part of an established Bronze Age landscape.

1.3.4 To the north of the site at Graylingwell Hospital, a number of pits and postholes were recorded during an archaeological evaluation, some of which contained Bronze Age potsherds and fired flints (Scott Wilson 2006b). To the west, at St. Richard's Hospital, a small quantity of Bronze Age finds were discovered during field-walking.

Six Middle Bronze Age cremations were also found approximately 250 m to the north-west of the site during open area excavation in 1998.

- 1.3.5 The site lies within a complex of Iron Age earthwork entrenchments extending over an area of approximately 20 square kilometres. Sections of the entrenchments that are still extant are scheduled. The nearest of these lies 550 m to the north-west of the site.

### ***Roman***

- 1.3.6 The site lies outside the Roman walls of the town in the angle between two Roman roads that head towards Chichester. To the south-east is the Chichester to London road that follows a north-easterly alignment and to the west is the Chichester to Silchester road, which heads in a northerly direction.
- 1.3.7 A quantity of Roman *tesserae* was noted in spoil during geotechnical investigations at Graylingwell Hospital to the north of the site. A set of parallel ditches running approximately north–south were also recorded to the north of Graylingwell Hospital Chapel. These contained a quantity of Roman pottery and burnt flint. Further artefacts were found during construction activities at the hospital. These consisted of a bronze ring and bronze Venus figurine attributed to the Roman period. Further finds of Roman pottery and abraded tile were found during field-walking undertaken to the west and immediately adjacent to the site. It has been suggested that the Roman material found may infer the presence of a Roman villa or other settlement in the area.

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

- 1.3.8 The site lay in the manor of Graylingwell, just outside a medieval deer park known as the Broile. The Broile was separated from outlying manors by a series of earthworks, which may have re-used the aforementioned Iron Age earthworks.
- 1.3.9 No finds of medieval date have been found within the site. Field-walking undertaken immediately to the west of the site recovered medieval pottery thought to relate to the manuring of fields in this period.
- 1.3.10 Historic maps demonstrate that the sites have undergone no significant changes since 1875. No finds of post-medieval date have been recorded within the confines of the site.

## **2 EVALUATION AIMS**

- 2.1.1 To establish the importance, nature and character of the archaeological resource.
- 2.1.2 To determine the location, nature, extent, date, condition, preservation, significance and stratigraphic complexity of any archaeological deposits and if present, determine the general distribution of prehistoric and Roman evidence within the proposed development.

- 2.1.3 To determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the evaluation.

### **3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Scope of fieldwork, methods and recording**

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of 9 trenches measuring 30 m x 2 m. A number of the Trenches were relocated during the course of the evaluation to avoid obstructions such as building supplies for a nearby development.
- 3.1.2 During the course of the evaluation it was established that the highest natural horizon was orange red brickearth that overlay sandy gravel. Trenches 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 were machined to the top of the brickearth, with a machine-excavated sondage placed at one end to evaluate the depth of the gravel deposit. Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 9 were machined to the top of the gravel; no archaeological features were noted in the overlying brickearth deposit.
- 3.1.3 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

#### **3.2 Finds**

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

#### **3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence**

- 3.3.1 No deposits of environmental significance were encountered during the evaluation.

### **4 RESULTS: GENERAL**

#### **4.1 Soils and ground conditions**

- 4.1.1 Soils consisted of a silty loam topsoil between 0.26 m and 0.42 m deep over a sandy silt cultivation soil between 0.1 m and 0.22 m deep.
- 4.1.2 Ground conditions were favourable with no waterlogging, services or modern disturbance encountered.

#### **4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits**

- 4.2.1 Section 5 comprises a detailed description of the archaeological deposits within each trench, including individual context descriptions, with archaeological features described from earliest to latest. General context information is summarised in the inventory (Appendix 1).
- 4.2.2 The evaluation revealed a very low density of archaeological features and deposits. Trench 1 contained a chalky spread and trample layer of apparent post-medieval origin, perhaps related to agricultural processes. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered in subsequent trenches. Several areas of bioturbation were investigated but not recorded.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Trench descriptions

#### *General*

- 5.1.1 A probable ploughsoil or cultivation soil, overlain by topsoil was revealed in each trench. The deposits are not generally described within the individual trench descriptions. Generally topsoil was numbered as 100 in Trench 1, as 200 in Trench 2 and so on. In Trench 1 the cultivation soil was numbered as 101 in Trench 2, as 201 and so on.

#### *Trench 1*

- 5.1.2 In this Trench (Figs. 2 and 3) the natural gravel (106) was encountered at a depth of 18.8 m OD. It was overlain by a red-brown silt brickearth (105) that was reached at a depth of 19.49 m OD. Overlying 105 was a lighter deposit of brickearth (104) that was encountered at a depth of 20.25 m OD.
- 5.1.3 A spread of chalk (103) was revealed at the eastern end of Trench 1. This deposit measured 6 m wide and was 0.02 m thick. No dateable material was recovered from this layer but it is likely to be associated with overlying trample layer (102 - see below).
- 5.1.4 Overlying chalk spread 103 was a clay silt layer (102). This deposit measured 6 m wide and 0.06 m thick. It appeared to have derived from trampling and contained ceramic building material (hereafter CBM) of post-Roman date and prehistoric flint.

#### *Trench 2*

- 5.1.5 In Trench 2 (Fig. 2) the natural gravel (203) was encountered at a depth of 18.39 m. This was overlain by natural brickearth (204) that was reached at a depth of 19.61 m OD. This trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. The overlying cultivation soil contained 11th-century pottery, prehistoric flint and CBM.

#### *Trench 3*

- 5.1.6 In Trench 3 (Fig. 2) the natural gravel (304) was reached at a depth of 18.57 m OD. It was overlain by natural brickearth (303) that was encountered at 19.4 m OD. This

trench contained no archaeology. The overlying cultivation soil contained 13th-century pottery, CBM and flint.

#### ***Trench 4***

- 5.1.7 In Trench 4 (Figs. 2 and 3) natural gravel (403) was reached at a depth of 18.49 m OD. It was cut by shallow sided feature (405), measuring 4.9 m wide and 0.4 m deep. Cut 405 contained a single silty fill (404) from which no finds were recovered. This feature was sealed by brickearth layer (402), suggesting it was a natural geological feature.
- 5.1.8 The natural brickearth (402) was reached at a depth of 18.79 m. No archaeological features cut this deposit.

#### ***Trench 5***

- 5.1.9 In Trench 5 (Fig. 2) natural gravel (504) was encountered at 18.36 m OD. It was overlain by brickearth (503) that was reached at a depth of 18.76 m OD. This trench contained no archaeology.

#### ***Trench 6***

- 5.1.10 In Trench 6 (Fig. 2, Fig. 3), natural gravel (603) was reached a depth of 18.10 m OD. It was overlain by brickearth deposit (602) that was encountered at a depth of 18.21 m OD. No archaeology was revealed within this trench. The topsoil contained flint, CBM and modern glass.

#### ***Trench 7***

- 5.1.11 In Trench 7 (Fig. 2), natural gravel (704) was encountered at a depth of 18.11 m OD. It was overlain by red-brown silt brickearth deposit (703) that was reached at 18.68 m OD.
- 5.1.12 Overlying brickearth (703), was an upper layer of lighter brickearth (702). This was reached at a depth of 19.15 m OD. No archaeological features cut this deposit.

#### ***Trench 8***

- 5.1.13 In Trench 8 (Fig. 2) natural gravel (803) was reached at a depth of 18.42 m OD. It was overlain by brickearth natural (802) that was encountered at a depth of 18.97 m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were present in this trench.

#### ***Trench 9***

- 5.1.14 In Trench 9 (Fig. 2) natural gravel (904) was encountered at a depth of 18.28m OD. This was overlain by brickearth deposit (903) that was reached at 18.67 m OD. No archaeology was revealed within this trench.

## **5.2 Finds**



### ***Pottery***

- 5.2.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 9 sherds with a total weight of 39 g. It was all Saxo-Norman or early medieval in date and recovered from the topsoil or cultivation soil.

### ***Worked flint***

- 5.2.2 A total of four pieces of worked flint and 10 fragments (151 g) of burnt unworked flint were recovered from the topsoil and cultivation soil during the evaluation.
- 5.2.3 A clear point and cone of percussion is present on one of the flakes. This characteristic is usually associated with the hard hammer percussion industries of later prehistory, however, due to the small size of the assemblage, the flint cannot be reliably dated on typological or technological grounds.

### ***Ceramic building material (CBM)***

- 5.2.4 A total of 14 fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from 4 contexts (topsoil, cultivation soil and a trampled layer- see Appendix 1). The fragments were very abraded and were from post-Roman roof tiles.

### ***Glass***

- 5.2.5 Two fragments of modern bottle glass were recovered from topsoil 601.

## **6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

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

- 6.1.1 The results of the evaluation appeared to be reliable, the site was relatively undisturbed and the lack of archaeological features did not appear to be the result of truncation. The site was vacant green field land previously under agriculture. Rooting and bioturbation in all of the trenches had affected the cultivation soil and upper level of brickearth.

### **6.2 Overall interpretation**

- 6.2.1 The archaeological features, deposits and artefacts revealed in the nine trenches excavated suggested possible nearby activity within the prehistoric and medieval periods, and evidence of post-medieval activity at the northern end of the area.
- 6.2.2 Despite the evidence for prehistoric and medieval activity in the locality, no features related to settlement or landscape use dating to these periods were revealed. The pottery, CBM and flint were recovered from the cultivation soil, topsoil and a trample layer in Trenches 1-3 and 6. This suggests that associated activity is likely to lie beyond the northern or southern limits of the site.
- 6.2.3 Evidence for post-medieval activity to the north of the site was revealed within Trench 1. A silty spread and chalk layer were revealed. The origin of the deposits was unclear, but they may derive from construction or demolition within the locality.

## 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>
1								
	100	Layer	2	0.4	Topsoil			
	101	Layer	2	0.16	Cultivation soil	flint	2	
	102	Layer	1.4	0.6	Spread	Flint/CB M	2/2	
	103	Layer	1.4	0.2	Spread			
	104	Layer	2	0.4	Natural			
	105	Layer	2	0.64	Natural			
	106	Layer	2	0.12	Natural			
2								
	200	Layer	2	0.27	Topsoil			
	201	Layer	2	0.3	Cultivation soil	Pot/flint/ CBM	3/1/9	11th
	202	Layer	2	0.6	Natural			
	203	Layer	2		Natural			
	204	Layer	2	0.55	Natural			
3								
	301	Layer	2	0.34	Modern n ploughsoil			
	302	Layer	2	0.18	Cultivation soil	Pot/flint/ CBM	6/5/2	13th
	303	Layer	2	0.82	Natural			
	304	Layer	2	0.1	Natural			
4								
	400	Layer	2	0.3	Topsoil			
	401	Layer	2	0.26	Cultivation soil			
	402	Layer	2	0.55	Natural			
	403	Layer	2	-	Natural			
	404	Layer	1.1	0.4	Fill of natural feature			
	405	Layer	1.1	0.4	Natural feature			
5								
	501	Layer	2	0.37	Topsoil			
	502	Layer	2	0.08	Cultivation soil			

<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>
	503	Layer	2	0.38	Natural			
	504	Layer	2	-	Natural			
6								
	600	Layer	2	0.4	Topsoil			
	601	Layer	2	0.25	Cultivation soil	Flint/CB M/Glass	4/1/2	
	602	Layer	2	0.15	Cultivation soil			
	603	Layer	2	-	Natural			
7								
	700	Layer	2	0.26	Topsoil			
	701	Layer	2	0.25	Cultivation soil			
	702	Layer	2	0.43	Natural			
	703	Layer	2	0.54	Natural			
	704	Layer	2	-	Natural			
8								
	800	Layer	2	0.3	Topsoil			
	801	Layer	2	0.23	Cultivation soil			
	802	Layer	2	0.68	Natural			
	803	Layer	2	-	Natural			
9								
	901	Layer	2	0.24	Topsoil			
	902	Layer	2	0.1	Cultivation soil			
	903	Layer	2	0.3	Natural			
	904	Layer	2	-	Natural			

## APPENDIX 2 POTTERY

*By Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 9 sherds with a total weight of 39 g. It was all Saxo-Norman or early medieval. The following fabrics were noted:

*Chichester Group 3 Ware:* Soft, hand-made, black fabric with reddish-brown outer surfaces. Heavy temper of coarse flint and some chalk up to 3mm. 11<sup>th</sup> – early 12<sup>th</sup> century (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 186). 8 sherds, 23 g.

*West Sussex-type Ware:* A number of medieval pottery production centres are known from West Sussex, such as Binstead, Chichester, Graffham, and Heyshott (Barton 1979) : Dark

grey sandy fabric, sparse angular white flint temper. Sherd from this site has a dull, olive-green internal glaze. 13<sup>th</sup> century. 1 sherd, 16 g.

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

**Table A2.1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type**

Context	Group 3 Ware		West Sussex ware		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	
201	3	6			11thC
302	5	17	1	16	13thC
Total	8	23	1	16	

### APPENDIX 3 WORKED FLINT

*By Rebecca Devaney*

A total of four pieces of worked flint and 10 fragments (151 g) of burnt unworked flint were recovered from the topsoil and cultivation soil during the evaluation.

A clear point and cone of percussion is present on one of the flakes. This characteristic is usually associated with the hard hammer percussion industries of later prehistory, however, due to the small size of the assemblage, the flint cannot be reliably dated on typological or technological grounds. As such, the value of the assemblage lies in its representivity of prehistoric activity in the area.

**Table A3.1. Summary of flint by context**

Flint Category	Context					
	101	102	201	302	601	Total
Flake			1		2	<b>3</b>
Multiplatform flake core	1					<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Burnt unworked by count	1	2		5	2	10
Burnt unworked by weight	14	7		99	31	151

**APPENDIX 4 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Barton, KJ, 1979 *Medieval Sussex Pottery* Phillimore
- OA 1992, *OA Fieldwork Manual (1st Edition, ed. D Wilkinson)*
- OA 2006, Method Statement For an Archaeological Evaluation, St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, West Sussex
- McCarthy, MR and Brooks, CM, 1988 *Medieval Pottery in Britain AD900-1600* Leicester University Press
- Scott Wilson, 2006a, St Richard's Hospital, Chichester: Sites B and C  
Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching
- Scott Wilson, 2006b, Graylingwell Hospital Chichester: An Archaeological Appraisal  
unpublished client report

**APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** St Richards Hospital, Chichester, West Sussex.

**Site code:** 7902

**Grid reference:** NGR SU 8697 0571

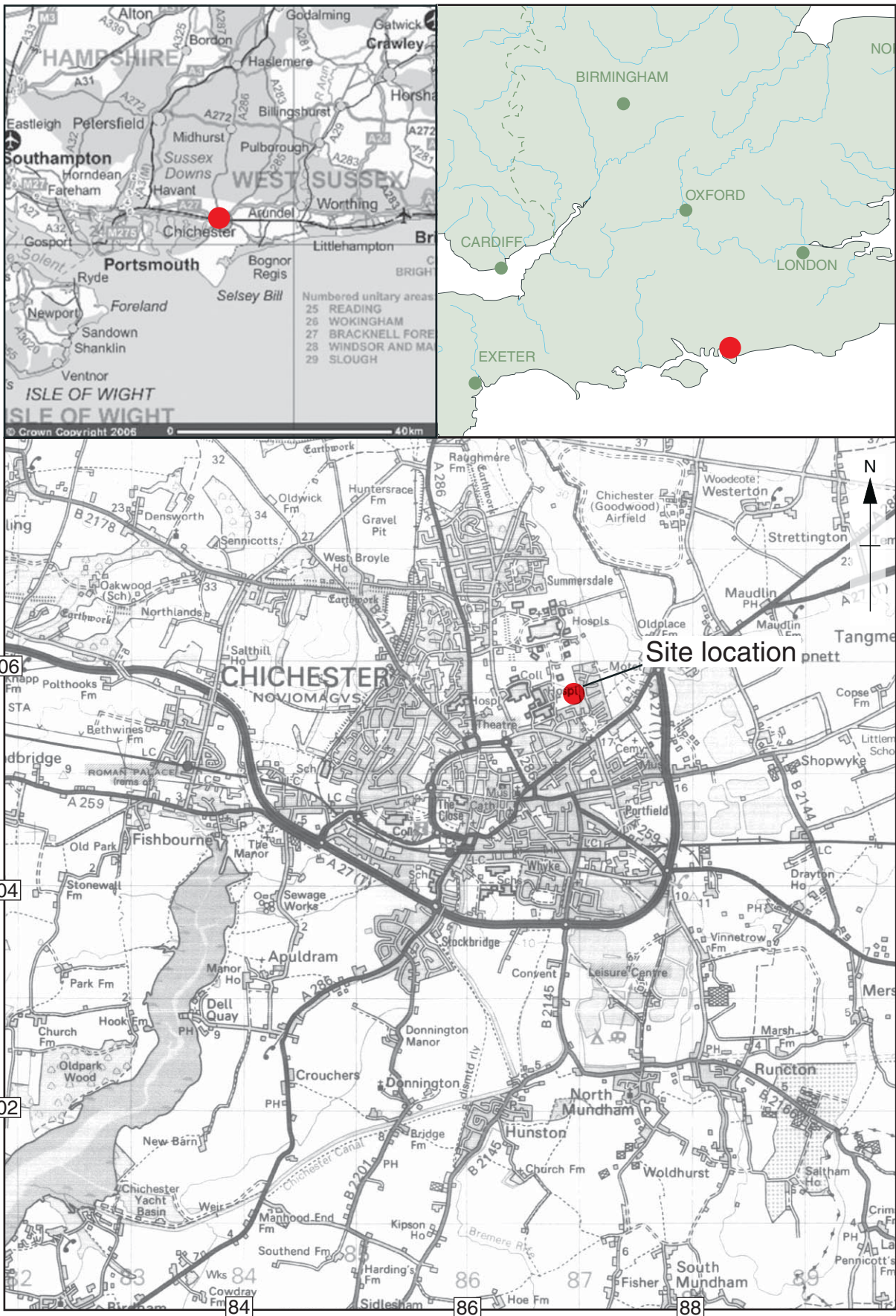
**Type of evaluation:** 17 x 30 m trenches

**Date and duration of project:** 25th - 29th September 2006

**Area of site:** 1.8 ha.

**Summary of results:** A chalky spread and associated trample layer of apparent post medieval origin was encountered. No other archaeological deposits or features were revealed.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Chichester District Museum in due course, under the following accession number: 7902



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Figure 1: Site location

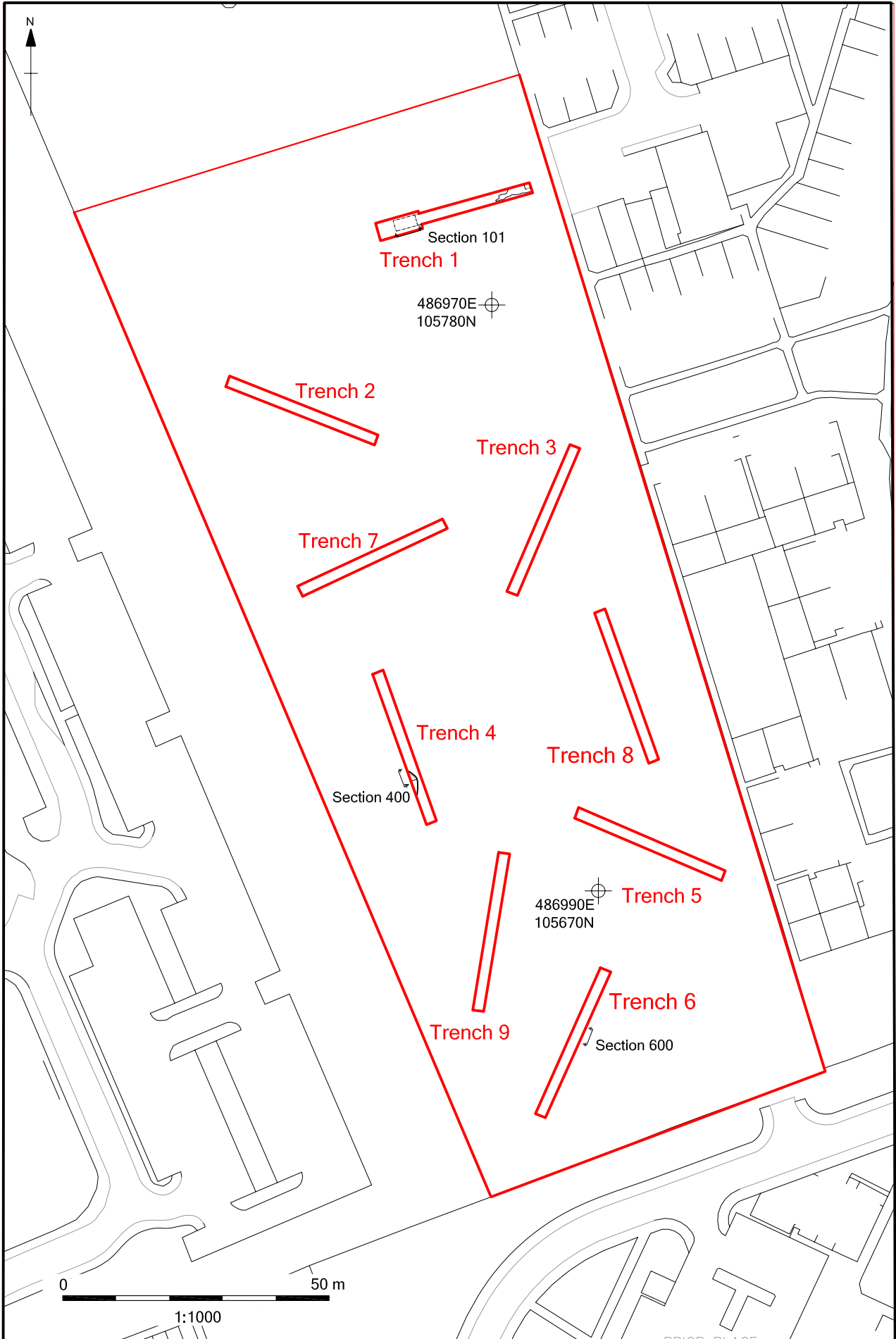


Figure 2: Trench location

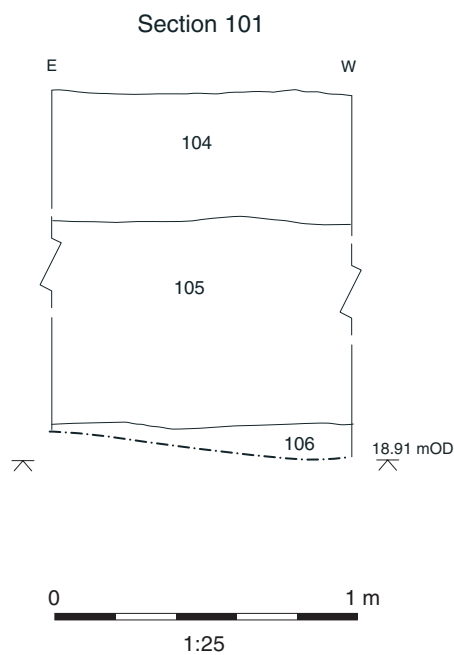
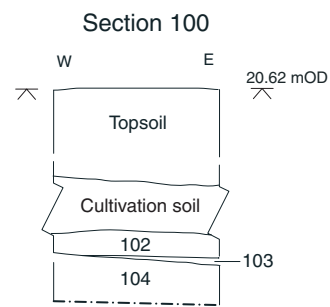
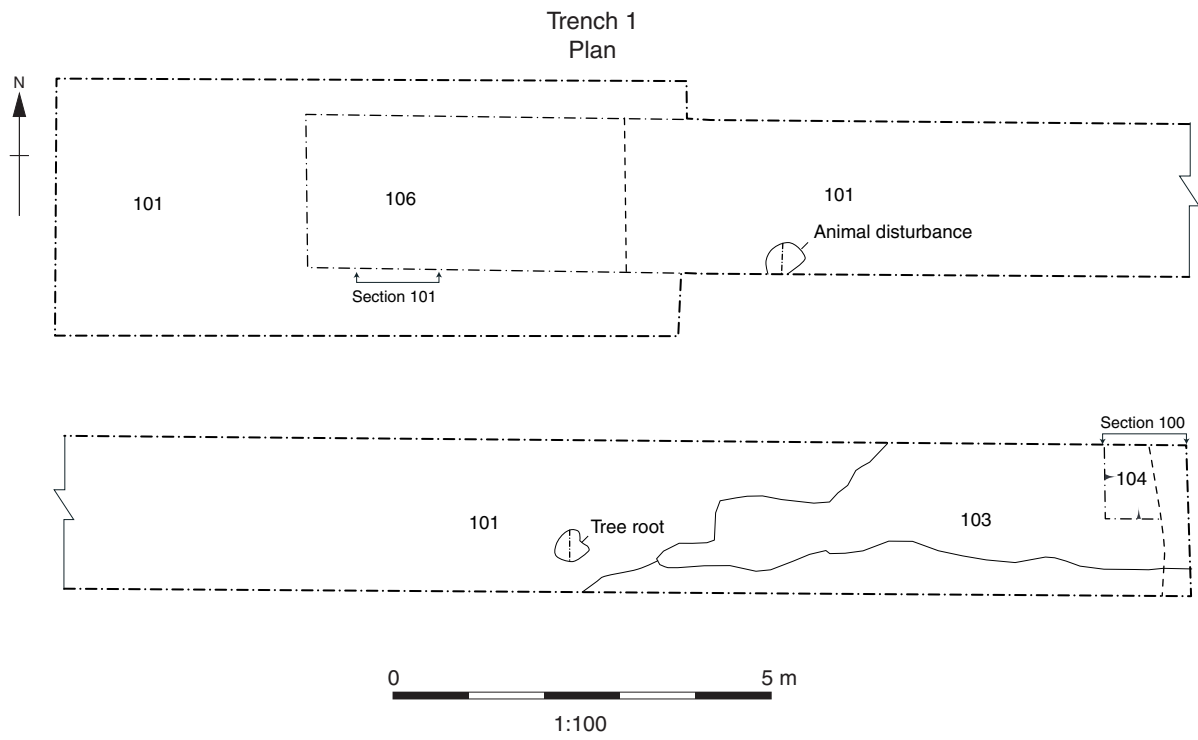
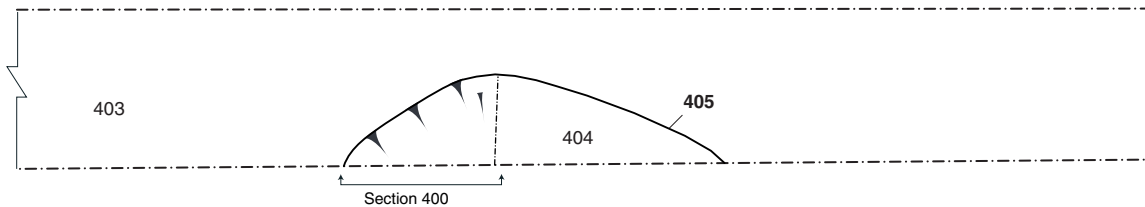


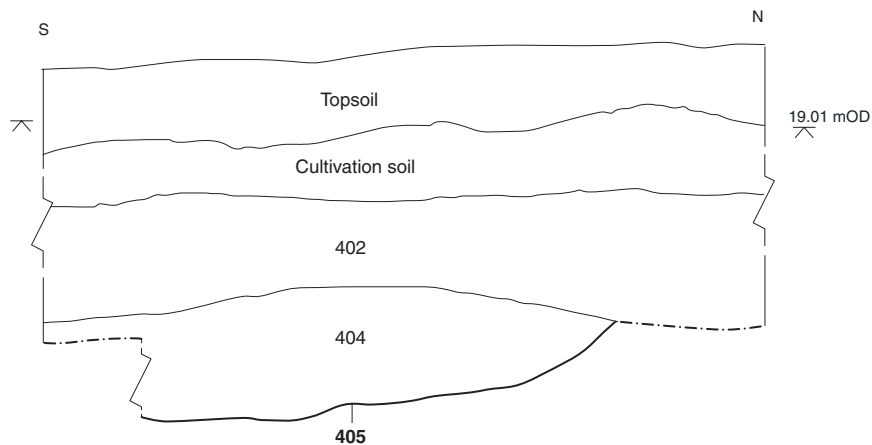
Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections



### Trench 4 Plan



### Section 400



### Trench 6 Section 600

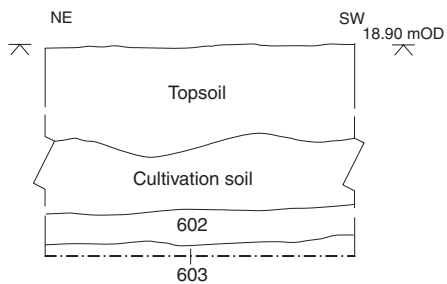


Figure 4: Trench 4, plan and section and Trench 6 section