Collingridge Farm, Lambourn, Berkshire

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Collingridge Farm, Lambourn, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

On the 13th to the 15th of May 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising six trenches on land forming a proposed housing development at Collingridge Farm, Lambourn in Berkshire (NGR: SU 32886 78906).

Archaeological remains were uncovered in five out of the six trenches. Feature types such as postholes, pits and ditches were concentrated in the higher northern parts of the site. Occasional pits were however also detected in the central and southern area. Ditches, a pond and a former stream channel dominated the findings in the rest of the site.

The finds material primarily consists of pottery and animal bones. An iron nail, pieces of slag and flint fragments, a possible Roman coin and a fragment of a human bone were also collected.

The remains in the northern higher area are likely to represent parts of a multi-phased settlement, which according to the retrieved pottery existed in the Roman period (AD 150-250) and the Anglo-Saxon period to early Middle Ages (850-1200). The single find of a disarticulated human bone may indicate the presence of a burial ground in the immediate vicinity of the site during Roman times.

The archaeological remains that were uncovered in the lower central and southern areas of the site are dominated by water resource management constructions and a former stream channel that converged with the River Lambourn, seemingly to facilitate water supply to the pond. The precise date range of these has not been established, but they are likely to be of post-medieval origin. According to historical maps the ditches were backfilled sometime during the first half of the 19th century, and the pond sometime before 1936.

The site demonstrates a high potential for significant archaeological remains from the Roman period to the Middle Ages, which have high potential to contribute with new knowledge relating to the research objectives presented in the regional research frameworks.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Racing Welfare to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 0.68ha area proposed for residential development.

1.1.1 The work was undertaken to inform the planning process (planning ref: 18/00122/PREAPP). A brief was set by West Berkshire Archaeology Service detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (West Berkshire Council Archaeology Service 2018).

1.1.2 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (CIfA 2014).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located by the River Lambourn in the outskirts of the medieval market town, and comprises a 0.68ha broadly rectangular plot of land located to the east of the historic core of Lambourn, centred on SU 32886 78906 (Fig. 1). The site is bounded by the River Lambourn to the south-west, residential properties to the south-east and north-east and Collingridge Farm to the north-west. The site is currently largely given over to scrub and is used as pasture. The north-eastern parts of the site are located at approximately 126m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the south-western parts at *c* 124m aOD.

1.2.2 The underlying bedrock geology is recorded as New Pit Chalk Formation which was formed between 93 and 89 million years ago. Superficial alluvium deposits comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel are recorded overlying the natural bedrock across the entirety of the site (BGS 2019).

1.2.3 An excavation at Bourne House Stables immediately north of the site documented the presence of ancient plough soil (0.2m thick) and subsoil (probably corresponding to alluvium, 0.15m thick) between the 0.25m-thick modern topsoil and the natural chalk with patches of clayey gravel (encountered at *c* 126m OD).

1.2.4 The Lambourn enclosure map of 1806 depicts a small pond in the south-western corner of the site. It is not present on maps published after 1936. The location and extent of the pond has been identified by the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (OA 2019). This comprises a review of recorded archaeological remains, records in the West Berkshire Historic Environment Record, the Berkshire Record office for historic maps and other relevant sources and records within a 1km buffer of the development area. The following summary derives from the desk-based assessment and provides a context for the proposed works.

1.3.2 Altogether, 32 archaeological investigations and geophysical surveys have been undertaken within 1km of the site. The majority of these comprise watching briefs carried out during development within the historical centre of Lambourn. A handful of evaluations and excavations have been undertaken, the largest at Bourne House Stables directly to the north-east of the site.

1.3.3 The first evidence for human activity in the general area around the site can be dated to the Bronze Age. Ring ditches identified from aerial photographs formed part of a large barrow cemetery 550m north of the site.

1.3.4 The archaeological excavations directly to the north of the site, at Bourne House Stables, revealed Roman features including a well shaft, corn dryer, postholes and ditches dating to the 4th century and which are indicative of nearby settlement. A dozen stray and redeposited finds, mainly coins and pottery, from the Roman period have been recovered within 1km of the site.

1.3.5 The Old English name Lambourn is thought to mean 'stream where lambs are washed'. It is likely that the settlement from Anglo-Saxon times contained a royal estate. *Lambburnan* is first mentioned in *c* 888 when Queen Ealswith inherited the settlement from her husband King Alfred. The present church dates to the 12th century and is located at the southern side of an oval enclosure which is defined by Big Lane and Parsonage Lane on the western side of Oxford Street. The current 12th-century church is probably located on the site of an earlier Saxon church or minster, mentioned in a manuscript issued *c* 1030 and again in the Domesday Survey (1086). Anglo-Saxon earthworks have been detected within the oval enclosure north of the church. Similar features are mentioned in the 1030 document, which refers to Lambourn as a 'byrihaeme tune' meaning burh or fortified place. In the Domesday Survey of 1086, Lambourn was recorded as the site of a royal manor and the centre of a hundred with borough status. In the early 13th century 'Chipping' (Old English for market) Lambourn was granted an annual fair. Markets are again mentioned at Lambourn in 1361, 1446 and 1669, when in addition to a market two fairs were granted.

1.3.6 The excavations at Bourne House Stables to the north of the site also uncovered features from the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The Anglo-Saxon settlement remains date between the 6th and 9th centuries and included five sunken featured buildings with associated postholes, a corn dryer, a small industrial building, a gully, ditches and a curvilinear feature thought to be an enclosure. In addition, pits and a gully could be dated to the 12th to 14th centuries and three features to the 13th to 15th centuries. Other medieval finds within the historic core of Lambourn include pottery found to the north-east of Newbury Street.

1.3.7 During the post-medieval period the settlement extended north along Oxford Street and east along Newbury Street. John Rocque's Map of Berkshire in 1761 shows that the site was at the edge of the historic settlement of Lambourn and was situated to the rear of a group of buildings along Oxford Street, one of which is presumably Collingridge Farmhouse, the present buildings of which were erected during the 18th century.

1.3.8 According to the historical maps, the site lay within parts of three enclosed properties. Most of the site was located within a large field that continued further to the north-east. There is a boundary that roughly matches the northern limit of the site, and which probably demarcated the boundaries between the backyard of Collingridge Farmhouse and the field. The southern area of the site was part of field that mainly extended eastwards towards the predecessor of Millfield Road. The curved broadly north-south aligned boundary between the fields is marked as a tree-lined ditch on the historic maps. A shallow feature with sloping sides equivalent with this boundary is still visible on the ground today. The pond in the south-western part of the site is marked as within a separate property on the 1806 enclosure map, but had, according to later maps, merged with the large field immediately to the north.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General aims

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation were as follows:

i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence might survive.
viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The investigation has potential to contribute new knowledge about the historical development of Lambourn (West Berkshire Council Archaeology Service 2018):

i. Is there continuity of settlement from the Roman period to the current day?
ii. What was the date and location of the first early medieval (Saxon) settlement?
iii. Where was the location of the early medieval 'royal' establishment and can its character be established?
iv. Does the oval street pattern surrounding the church define the 'royal' enclosure?
v. How and when did the later medieval settlement expand away from the enclosure?
vi. What was the status of the later medieval settlement?
vii. Do the recent discoveries at Bourne House Stables represent the earliest phase of the modern settlement? What does this site tell us about the spread of Saxon influence in the years following the end of Roman rule?

2.2.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation are:

i. To enable further understanding of the previously identified archaeological remains at the Bourne House site, establish their spatial extension and significance.

ii. To establish if there are any Romano-British settlement activities at the site, and its nature and extension.

iii. To establish the date and extensions of the enclosures depicted on the historic maps.

iv. To make public the results of the investigation.

2.2.3 The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by 'The Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment' (Hey and Hind 2014) and 'The West Berkshire Historic Environment Action Plan' (Pick *et al*. 2011).

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The trenches were laid out as indicated in Figure 2 using a GPS with sub-50mm accuracy.

2.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, trench edges.

2.3.3 Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits had been exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand.

2.3.4 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual. Small finds and samples were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context.

2.3.5 Digital photos were taken of any archaeological features, deposits, trenches and evaluation work in general.

2.3.6 Plans were drawn at an appropriate scale with larger scale plans of features as necessary. Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plan. The absolute height (mOD) of all principal strata and features, and the section datum lines, were calculated and indicated on the drawings.

2.3.7 The trench and sample sections were located using either a GPS unit or total station. Co-ordinates relative to Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Datum were obtained for each sampling location.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated (e.g. pit 102 is a stratigraphical unit located in Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3). Trench 3B was numbered from 3000 to avoid confusion with Trench 3A, which was numbered from 300.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and Trenches 1, 3A and 5 remained dry throughout. However, Trenches 2, 3B and 4 impacted on the water table and rapidly flooded in places. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.2.2 Subsoil was present in all of the trenches. This is probably a buried agricultural soil, as it is unlikely that the area has been ploughed, at least in recent years.

3.2.3 Trenches 2, 3B and 5 contained a layer of made ground, up to 0.55m in depth. It appeared to consist of limestone or chalk rubble and was used to build up the land surface of the site in the areas of these trenches. It possibly came from the housing development dating to the 1980s on the north-eastern side of the site.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological deposits were uncovered in five out of the six trenches. Feature types such as postholes, pits and ditches were concentrated in Trench 1, situated within the higher northern part of the site. Occasional pits were however also detected in Trenches 2 and 3B. Ditches, a pond and a former stream channel dominated the findings in the rest of the site.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 was situated in the north-western part of the site and had an SSW-NNE orientation (Fig. 2). Five out of the ten observed archaeological features were excavated; finds were retrieved from four of the deposits (Fig. 3).

3.4.2 A cluster consisting of three ditches and a pit were uncovered in the northern part of the trench. The earliest 1.2m wide ditch (not excavated) had an almost east-west alignment (116). It was cut by an SSW-NNE orientated 1m-wide ditch (103) containing two layers (Fig. 5). The earliest 0.04m-thick fill covered the flat base of the cut (110). Its friable texture and limited depth suggest that it have been continuously deposited over a long time when the ditch been open. The ditch was later backfilled with a 0.3m-thick darker greyish layer containing fragments of animal bones (109).

The stratigraphically latest feature was a large pit (104: Fig. 5). It was considerably wider (1.7m) but had the same alignment as the underlying ditch (103). The cut had vertical sides and a curved base and contained two fills. The earliest was 0.44m thick and consisted of mid- to light grey silty clay, with inclusions of slag (112). This was covered by a 0.3m-thick layer consisting of brown-grey silty clay (111). Sherds of Roman (AD 150-250) and Saxo-Norman pottery (850-1200) were retrieved. The curved interface between the fills suggests that the earlier fill been compacted over time. Further, the alterations in composition and colour means that the fill derived from different sources, which subsequently occurred at separately occasions.

3.4.3 A third north-west to south-east orientated 1.7m-wide ditch was uncovered immediately south of the pit (117). The feature was not excavated. A posthole (105; Fig. 5) was situated 1m further south. It had a round form (0.35m diameter and 0.12m deep) with curved sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (113). No finds were recovered.

3.4.4 An oval east-west aligned pit measuring 1.6m by 0.54m was encountered in the southern part of the trench (106; not excavated). The fill was observed to be dark brown clay with inclusions of 0.2 to 0.3m diameter large stones (120). A round 1.25m in diameter large and 0.38m-deep feature with sloping sides and a flat base was situated further to the south (107; Fig. 5). The single fill (114) was identical with the one in the previously mentioned pit (106), but also contained a large amount of large stones (0.2-0.4m in diameter), animal bones and slag as well as prehistoric and Roman pottery (AD 150-250). One fragment of human bone was also retrieved from this deposit. Another oval south-west to north-east aligned pit was situated immediately south of the large posthole (108; Fig. 5). It was more than 1.2m long, 1m wide and 0.26m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered in the single fill (115).

3.5 Trenches 2 and 4

3.5.1 These trenches were situated in the central part of the site (Fig. 2). Trench 2 had a north-west to south-east alignment. Trench 4 was located further south-west and had a L-shape. The dominant features consisted of a cluster of almost east-west orientated ditches, whose western parts in Trench 4 were machine excavated. In addition, two pits were uncovered in the western part of Trench 2. A possible Roman coin was found in the topsoil when excavating Trench 2.

3.5.2 The cluster of ditches appeared as a single feature in Trench 2 and as four separate features in Trench 4. All the documented fills consisted of the same dark grey clayey silt. In the western end of Trench 4, where the features were machine excavated, the cuts had sloping sides and round bases (Fig. 8). The two largest ditches were aligned next to each other in the centre of the cluster (405 and 407). They measured 2.95-3.2m wide and 0.6-0.77m deep. The two flanking smaller channels (403 and 409) were 1.3-1.5m wide and 0.35-0.4m deep. Further east, in Trench 2, the remains of the ditch cluster appeared as a 10.8m wide continuous feature (205). Given their width and the expected eastward funnelling trajectory, also detected by the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019), it is likely that the four channels continued into the area of Trench 2. The identical composition of the layers also

suggests that the ditches were backfilled with the same type of material and presumably during the same time period.

3.5.3 The larger, 0.48m-deep pit in the western part of Trench 2 had steep concave sides and a flat base (203; Fig. 6). Only the southern edge (0.98m) of the pit was uncovered, suggesting a square or diamond shape in plan. The dark grey fill made up of silty clay revealed no finds (204). Parts of a smaller pit (0.5m in the trench) was found at the opposite southern side (207). The fill (208) had the same characteristics as the previously described features.

3.6 Trench 3B

3.6.1 Trench 3B had a north-west to south-east alignment and was situated in the eastern part of the site (Fig. 2). A 0.4m-thick layer of made ground covered the subsoil.

3.6.2 Discoloured gravelly subsoil was noted in the western area of the trench. A 0.2m-thick layer was noted above the subsoil in this end of the trench (3005). It consisted of dark grey silty clay, similar to the fills of the linear features in Trenches 2 and 4 (dark grey silty clay), which suggest it might have been the backfilled at the same material as the ditches noted in these trenches. No cuts were noted. This, put together, suggest that the underlying geology has been affected by running water, within a stream rather than a ditch.

3.6.3 A single pit measuring 1.15m by 1.01m was located towards the eastern end of the trench (3003; Fig. 4, 7). It had an ovoid shape, with steep, uneven sides and an irregular concave base. Its dark grey fill (3004) contained pieces of burnt and unburnt flint, animal bones, and Roman (Samian) and Saxo-Norman (850-1200) pottery.

3.7 Trench 5

3.7.1 The L-shaped Trench 5 was situated in the southern area of the site (Fig. 2). The modern backfill of a pond, depicted on historic ordnance maps from 1806 to 1936, was encountered in the eastern part of the trench.

3.8 Finds summary

3.8.1 The finds material was recovered from five out of the eleven excavated deposits, mainly concentrated in Trench 1. It primarily consists of pottery and animal bones. An iron nail, pieces of slag and flint fragments, a possible Roman coin and a fragment of a human bone (both redeposited) were also collected.

3.8.2 A total of 24 sherds of pottery with a total weight of 320g were retrieved from three deposits. The assemblage is dominated by Roman fabrics dating to the 1st and 2nd century AD. One fragment of Samian ware of Gallic provenance stood out from the otherwise local and regional pottery fabrics. The Saxo-Norman pottery consists of local wares that were produced during the period 850-1200 AD. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered, probably Bronze Age or early Iron Age.

3.8.3 Animal bones were retrieved from two deposits situated in Trench 1 and were probably of Roman date. The identifiable bones derive from cattle and are in a fair to poor preservation condition. The sieved fragments from a Saxo-Norman deposit in

Trench 3B derive from a range of domesticates including cattle, sheep or goat and pig as well as from local wildlife: common shrew, mouse or vole and frog.

3.8.4 A human bone fragment deriving from an adult was retrieved from the fill of a Roman pit in Trench 1 (114). It is unclear if the unusual breakage patterns were deliberately made or if they are results of taphonomic processes. The relatively large size of the fragment might indicate the presence of a nearby burial area, often encountered close to Roman settlements.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The distribution of trenches covered an appropriate sample of the area to be affected by impacts from the proposed development. In general, the features were relatively easy to identify against the underlying geology and the stratigraphic sequences were well understood.

4.1.2 The evaluation has shown that significant archaeological remains are preserved on the higher ground in the north-east, corresponding to the results of the archaeological excavation at Bourne House Stables immediately to the north-east of the site (Foundations Archaeology 2009).

4.1.3 A few scattered pits were noted in the southern lower area, which during the evaluation proved to be prone to flooding.

4.1.4 Remains of ditches, the former stream channel and the pond dominated the central and southern area of the site. The absence of artefactual material hindered secure dating of these features. Due to the extent of these truncations, older archaeological remains are unlikely to be preserved in this area.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 The results of the evaluation clearly show that settlement features such as pits, postholes and ditches are concentrated on the higher ground in the north and north-eastern parts of the site (Trenches 1 and 3B). It could however not be determined if the ditches denote gullies (i.e. house constructions) and/or enclosures. The stratigraphical sequences show repeated activities suggesting a multi-phased settlement that according to the retrieved pottery existed both in the Roman period (AD 150-250) and the Anglo-Saxon period/early Middle Ages (850-1200). Roman pottery redepoited in medieval features shows that the settlement activities were maintained in a defined space. The decreasing density of features combined with the downhill slope toward the south and west suggest that the northern parts of the site comprise the outskirts of the settlements.

4.2.2 Three features, of which one could be dated to the end of the Anglo-Saxon period - the Early Middle Ages, were uncovered in the lower and waterlogged area where the stream had a confluence with the River Lambourn (Trenches 2 and 3B). Although large parts of this area had been truncated by later ditches and the pond, the scarcity and location of the features suggest an occasional land use connected to the vicinity of the watercourses rather than a spatial continuation of the settlement further north.

4.2.3 The time of construction of the cluster of ditches and the pond in the central parts of the site has not been established. Their placement corresponds with depictions on historical maps, which at least provide evidence that these features existed in 1806 (Fig. 9). The identical deposits in the four ditches and the stream, suggest that they were backfilled at the same time. According to the maps, the ditches and probably also the former stream channel were backfilled sometime during the first half of the

19th century, and the pond before 1936 (OA 2018). Combining the trajectory depicted on the 1806 enclosure map and the results from the archaeological evaluation, reveals that they converged with the river at an upstream angle. This means that the ditches were channelling water from the River Lambourn, which in turn suggest that the pond was supplied with water both from the river as well as from the earlier mentioned stream.

4.3 Evaluation objectives and results

4.3.1 The results of the evaluation contribute to the general aims regarding the extent, date range, preservation and condition of the archaeological remains at the site. It also provides insights to some of the specific aims. In the following, the results will be evaluated in relation to the general aims and to the most significant specific objectives.

4.3.2 The settlement remains are confined to the northern part of the site. In this area, the well-preserved features suggest activity in the Roman period and between AD 850-1200. The stratigraphical sequences display uncomplicated inter-cuttings rather than continuous deposition of cultural layers. The remains in this area clearly relate to the findings at Bourne House Stables and the general development of the settlement in Lambourn, which will be discussed below.

4.3.3 Further south, in the lower wet areas, the conditions are different. The archaeological remains are dominated by water resource management constructions, seemingly to facilitate water supply to the pond and a former stream channel that converged with River Lambourn. The precise date of these has not been established, but they are likely to be of post-medieval origin. These features are well preserved, but may have truncated older features in this area.

4.3.4 *Further understanding of the archaeological remains that were uncovered at the Bourne House Stables site, to establish their spatial extension and significance*: The results from the evaluation clearly show that the settlement is confined to the higher ground in the northern parts of the site. The Collingridge Farm and Bourne House Stable sites most probably comprise the southern areas of settlements that focused on the higher grounds towards Oxford Street.

4.3.5 *Roman settlement activities, their nature and extension*: The site contains well preserved archaeological remains from the Roman period. The retrieved pottery assemblage belongs to the 2nd to 3rd centuries, in comparison to the 4th century focus at the adjacent Bourne House Stables site. A combined review of both sites suggests continuous occupation from the 2nd to the 4th century. The evaluation was too limited to firmly identify building structures, but such constructions may be indicated by mostly undated postholes and ditches. The single find of a probably redeposited but relatively large human bone fragment may indicate the presence of a burial ground in the immediate vicinity of the site.

4.3.6 *Date and location of the first early Medieval settlement*: At the Bourne House Stables site, the Roman settlement was superseded by Anglo-Saxon settlement with sunken featured buildings, a workshop and an enclosure ditch dating to the 5th to 8th/9th centuries. These findings do not immediately correspond with the results from the

evaluation. As mentioned earlier, the only evidence for building structures are circumstantial and mainly undated. The retrieved Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery derives from a later period (9th to the 13th century), and provides no new information relating to the early Saxon period.

4.3.7 *Status of the later medieval settlement*: The excavation at the Bourne House Stables concluded that the medieval features were restricted to the north-western part of the investigated area, nearby the present main building of Collingridge Farm. The uncovered 13th to 15th century boundary ditch could mark the northwest corner of the property and may even mark the extent of the medieval settlement of Lambourn. Accordingly, the evaluation provided no further evidence for a southern continuation of the late medieval settlement. This development most likely denotes a transition, whereby an earlier mostly agrarian large settlement unit was reorganised into a densely built and mercantile property with the main buildings situated toward the probably commercially important Oxford Road that connected to the market area.

4.3.8 *Date and extension of enclosures depicted on the historic maps*: The building of the present Collingridge Farm during the 18th century represents a decline in the mercantile character and a growing importance of agrarian production. This development seems to have started much earlier. Astill (1978) suggests that Lambourn appears to have lost borough status at some point already in the 15th century. Subsequently the enclosures and boundaries depicted on the historic maps have the potential to further date this development. The results of the evaluation however concluded that the boundary in the southern part of the site depicted on the 1806 enclosure map had a role in water management as well as probably functioning as a property boundary. Even if their date of construction could not be established, these ditches indicate investment in utilising water resources, perhaps relating to tannery works or a fishery.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The abundant findings and density of Roman to medieval settlement remains suggest a high potential that significant archaeological remains are preserved in the northern parts of the site. It is considered that further excavation in this area has a high potential to contribute with new knowledge relating to the Roman and medieval research aims stated in the *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (Hey and Hind 2014) as well as the *West Berkshire Historic Environment Action Plan* (Pick *et al*. 2011).

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained three ditches, three pits and one posthole (excluding fills). Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of degraded limestone/chalk and pockets of clay and flint.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.37	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Cut	1	0.32	Ditch	-	-
104	Cut	1.66	0.72	Pit	-	-
105	Cut	0.35	0.12	Post-hole	-	-
106	Cut	0.54	-	Pit. Unexcavated.	-	-
107	Cut	1.25	0.38	Pit	-	-
108	Cut	0.90	0.26	Pit	-	-
109	Fill	1	0.30	Fill of 103	Bone	-
110	Fill	0.60	0.04	Fill of 103	-	-
111	Fill	1.66	0.30	Fill of 104	Pottery	-
112	Fill	1.30	0.44	Fill of 104	Slag	-
113	Fill	0.35	0.12	Fill of 105	-	-
114	Fill	1.25	0.38	Fill of 107	Pottery, bone, slag	-
115	Fill	0.90	0.26	Fill of 108	-	-
116	Cut	1.25	-	Ditch. Unexcavated.	-	-
117	Cut	1.70	-	Ditch. Unexcavated.	-	-
118	Fill	1.25	-	Fill of 116	-	-
119	Fill	1.70	-	Fill of 117	-	-
120	Fill	0.54	-	Fill of 106. Unexcavated.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contains two pits and a ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of degraded limestone/chalk and pockets of clay and flint.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	Coin (Cu alloy)	-
201	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Cut	0.96	0.48	Ditch	-	-
204	Fill	0.96	0.48	Fill of 203	-	-
205	Cut	10.80	-	Ditch. Unexcavated.	-	-

206	Fill	10.80	-	Fill of 205	-	-
207	Cut	0.61	-	Pit. Unexcavated.	-	-
208	Fill	0.61	-	Fill of 207	-	-
209	Layer	-	0.55	Made ground	-	-

Trench 3A						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of degraded limestone/chalk and pockets of clay and flint.					**Length (m)**	15
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3B						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contains a single pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of degraded limestone/chalk and pockets of clay and flint.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3000	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil	-	-
3001	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
3002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
3003	Cut	1.01	0.39	Pit	-	-
3004	Fill	1.01	0.39	Fill of 3003	Pottery, bone, iron nail, flint fragments, burnt stone	-
3005	Layer	-	0.42	Made ground	-	-
3006	Layer	-	0.19	Buried soil	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW, SE-NW
Trench contains four ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of degraded limestone/chalk and pockets of clay and flint.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
403	Cut	1.33	0.35	Ditch	-	-
404	Fill	1.33	0.35	Fill of 403	-	-
405	Cut	3.76	0.78	Ditch	-	-

406	Fill	3.76	0.78	Fill of 405	-	-
407	Cut	2.92	0.63	Ditch	-	-
408	Fill	2.92	0.63	Fill of 407	-	-
409	Cut	1.45	0.44	Ditch	-	-
410	Fill	1.45	0.44	Fill of 409	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW, SE-NW
Trench contains a pond with modern backfill. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and made ground overlying natural geology of degraded limestone/chalk and pockets of clay and flint.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.83
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
503	Cut	2	-	Pond	-	-
504	Fill	2	-	Fill of 503	-	-
505	Layer	-	0.55	Made ground	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

B.1.1 Twenty-four sherds of pottery, weighing 320g, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, provide spot-dates, characterise the material, and make recommendations for the treatment of the pottery. The prehistoric and Roman pottery was assigned fabric codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2019), supplemented where possible by codes from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC; Tomber and Dore 1998). The post-Roman pottery was identified by John Cotter.

B.1.2 Each context-group was quantified by sherd count and weight (grammes), and any rims present were additionally quantified by estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), which measures the percentage of rim that survives (thus, 0.3 equals 30%). The total was 0.33 EVEs. Pottery data by context is provided in Table 1.

B.1.3 The following fabrics were noted (NRFRC codes in parentheses):

- FA3 Flint and sand-tempered fabric. Probably local, *c* 2400-400 BC
- B11 Black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1). Dorset, *c* AD 120-410
- Q20 White-slipped oxidised ware. Unknown source, *c* AD 43-410
- R30 Medium sandy reduced wares. Probably local, *c* AD 43-410
- R95 Savernake grog-tempered ware (SAV GT). Wiltshire, *c* AD 43-200
- S Indeterminate samian ware. Gaul, *c* AD 43-240
- MAV Chalk-tempered ware with some flint (cf. Holmes and Matthews forthcoming). Local, *c* AD 850-1200

Description

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Description	Spot-date
111	2	45	22.5	Fabrics R95, MAV	AD 850-1200
114	9	75	8.3	Curving-sided dish with flanged rim in fabric with dark grey surfaces (R30, 0.04 EVE); another dish of the same type in fabric with lighter grey surfaces (R30, 0.1 EVE); cooking-pot, burnt (B11, 0.04 EVE); medium-mouthed necked jar (R30, 0.05 EVE); body sherds in fabrics Q20, FA3	AD 150-250
3004	4	92	23	Cooking-pot (fabric MAV; 0.1 EVE)	AD 850-1200
3004	9	108	12	Sample 1. Fabrics S (footring from bowl), R30 (base), MAV	AD 850-1200

Total	*24*	*320*	*13.3*		

Table 1: Description of the pottery by context

B.1.4 The earliest pottery is a sherd of flint-tempered pottery from context 114, a fill of pit 107. The fragment is prehistoric, probably Bronze Age or early Iron Age, though was found with Roman pottery and is therefore residual. Sherds of Savernake ware of later 1st or 2nd century AD date (context 111) and samian and reduced ware of broader Roman date (context 3004) are also residual.

B.1.5 Pottery from context 114 included dishes with flanged rims, a cooking-pot in black-burnished ware and a medium-mouthed necked jar in sandy reduced ware, dating deposition to the second half of the 2nd century AD or first half of the 3rd century.

B.1.6 Post-Roman pottery was recovered from context 111, fill of pit 104, and 3004, fill of pit 3003. All sherds, including a rim from a cooking-pot, were in an identical fabric, a chalk-and-flint-tempered fabric probably of Saxo-Norman date. The fabric is similar to an early medieval fabric identified in Winchester, though was probably manufactured locally, the site being located on white chalk bedrock (BGS 2019).

B.1.7 Overall, the pottery is representative of prehistoric, Roman and late Saxon or early medieval activity in the vicinity of the site. The Roman pottery is reasonably coherent in terms of chronology; all the material could fit a later 2nd century date, though it is possible that the Savernake ware in context 111 is earlier. The pottery extends the duration of Roman activity in the area; features uncovered nearby at Bourne House Stables were dated by pottery largely to the 4th century AD (Timby 2009).

B.1.8 The condition of the assemblage is mixed. The mean sherd weight (MSW; weight divided by sherd count) of the assemblage is 13g, indicating the presence of large fragments. By context-group, however, the MSW is more varied; the MSW of context-group 114, for example, is noticeably lower than that of 3004. Rim-percentage values also indicate that the Roman pottery is more fragmented than the post-Roman pottery. Together, these values suggest that the Roman material has undergone a greater degree of disturbance, weathering and redeposition after initial discard compared with the Saxo-Norman pottery and that the pottery was found away from areas of use.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.1.9 The pottery reported on here has the potential to inform future research through re-analysis and thus it is recommended that all the pottery is retained. This follows the advice set out in the 'Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016).

B.2 Metals

By Ian R Scott

B.2.1 There are two metal objects and piece of slag. None of the finds is closely datable although the small coin might be identifiable after cleaning.

Context	Description
Context 114	Slag fragment, magnetic.
Context 200	Coin, small probably Cu alloy. No clear inscription or images. D: 12mm. Not closely datable.
Context 3004	Nail fragment, comprising narrow head and part of tapering rectangular section stem. L extant: 27mm. Fe. Sample <1>

B.1 Slag

Context	Sample number	Description
112	-	Two small fragments of slag, 39g

B.2 Burnt flint

Context	Sample number	Description
3004	1	16 fragments burnt unworked flint, 53g

B.3 Flint

Context	Sample number	Description
3004	1	23 small chips, including 1 broken distal trimming fragment and 1 side-trimming micro-bladelet, probably all flint working debitage, 5g

B.4 Stone

Context	Sample number	Description
3004	1	1 fragment burnt stone, 14g

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Human skeletal remains

By Lauren McIntyre

C.1.1 One fragment of human bone was recovered from context 114, a fill of pit 107. This context was provisionally dated to the Roman period. The fragment was found co-mingled with animal bone, and was therefore examined by both a human osteoarchaeologist and a zooarchaeologist in order to confirm species identification. The fragment is that of a unsided femoral midshaft.

C.1.2 Surface preservation was scored at Grade 1 (slight and patchy surface erosion: McKinley, 2004: 16). The size and robusticity of the bone was in keeping with that of an adult individual aged over 18 years (Scheuer and Black 2000). No specific age indicators were present. Sex estimation was not possible due to absence of the skull and pelvis. Stature estimation was not possible as the bone was incomplete. No evidence of non-metric traits or pathology was present.

C.1.3 The bone fragment exhibited slightly unusual breakage patterns, comprising longitudinal breakage of the shaft, and spiral shaped breakage at one end. Longitudinal breakages with helical fractures are more typically caused by deliberate breakage: in animal bone these may be found as a result of processes such as butchery and marrow extraction (Outram 1999, 108; 2002).

C.1.4 A cluster of transverse striations was observed on the cortical surface at one end of the bone fragment. It is unclear whether these were deliberately made by an implement or whether they are the accidental result of taphonomic processes, such as the fragment being scraped along stony substrate.

C.1.5 It should be noted that the observed breaks and marks described have also been subject to substantial subsequent taphonomic overprinting. As such, the precise cause of these cannot be ascertained without further microscopic analysis, such as examination under a high powered microscope.

C.1.6 Given that the observed breaks are likely post-mortem, and the edges of the breaks are taphonomically eroded, this bone is highly unlikely to have been found in its place of primary deposition. As such it is likely to be residual within the deposit.

C.1.7 The above human bone fragment was co-mingled with animal bones and only identified post-excavation – human remains were thus not identified on site and therefore no licence for the exhumation of human remains was obtained from the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice takes a pragmatic view where incidental findings of small quantities of human remains are identified post-excavation (as is the case here), and the legality of holding such remains is not affected (Mays and Payne 2006). It is, however, recommended that a Ministry of Justice exhumation licence is immediately obtained prior to the commencement of further archaeological works on the site.

C.2 Animal bone

By Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

C.2.1 The evaluation produced 41 fragments of animal bone weighing 304g, retrieved on site from three contexts: ditch fill 109, pit fill 114 and pit fill 3004. The bone is in fair – poor condition and includes a relatively large number of indeterminate mammal bone fragments from sieved sample 1, from pit fill 3004. Only six fragments, all of cattle or large mammal, were recovered by hand collection on site.

Methods

C.2.2 The assemblage was recorded at Oxford Archaeology South using the in-house skeletal reference collection to aid identification. An attempt was made to identify the bone fragments to species where possible, but fragments were otherwise classified by size: 'large mammal' representing cattle, horse and deer; and 'medium mammal' representing sheep/goat, pig and large dog. Specimens were recorded using the zones system of Serjeantson (1996). No measurements were taken

C.2.3 The condition of the bone was graded on a 6-point system (0-5). Grade 0 equating to very well preserved bone, and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

C.2.4 A record of the assemblage will be incorporated with the site archive.

Results

C.2.5 The only identifiable bone from ditch fill 109, from ditch 103 is a fused distal cattle humerus. Roman stone-lined pit 107 (fill 114) included a fragment of cattle radius shaft. The bones are in fair to poor condition (condition 3 - 4) and the humerus has evidence for gnawing probably by a dog. The sieved fragments from early medieval pit fill 3004 are typically small and include isolated teeth. They derive from a range of domesticates including cattle, sheep or goat and pig as well as from local wildlife: common shrew (*Sorex araneus*), mouse or vole and frog (*Rana temporaria*), the last typically found close to bodies of freshwater and in wet grassland.

Species	109	114	3004	Total
Cattle	1	1	1	3
Large mammal	1	2		3
Grand Total	*2*	*3*	*1*	*6*

Table 1: Number of hand collected specimens (NSP) per taxon by context

Species	Sample 1 (3004)
Cattle	1
Sheep/goat	1
Pig	2
mouse/vole	1
common shrew	1
frog	1

Large mammal	
mammal	28
Grand Total	*35*

Table 2: Number of sieved specimens (NSP) per taxon by context

Summary and recommendations

C.2.6 Overall, the assemblage is of little use on its own, and has been fully recorded. Retention in the archive is not considered to be a priority.

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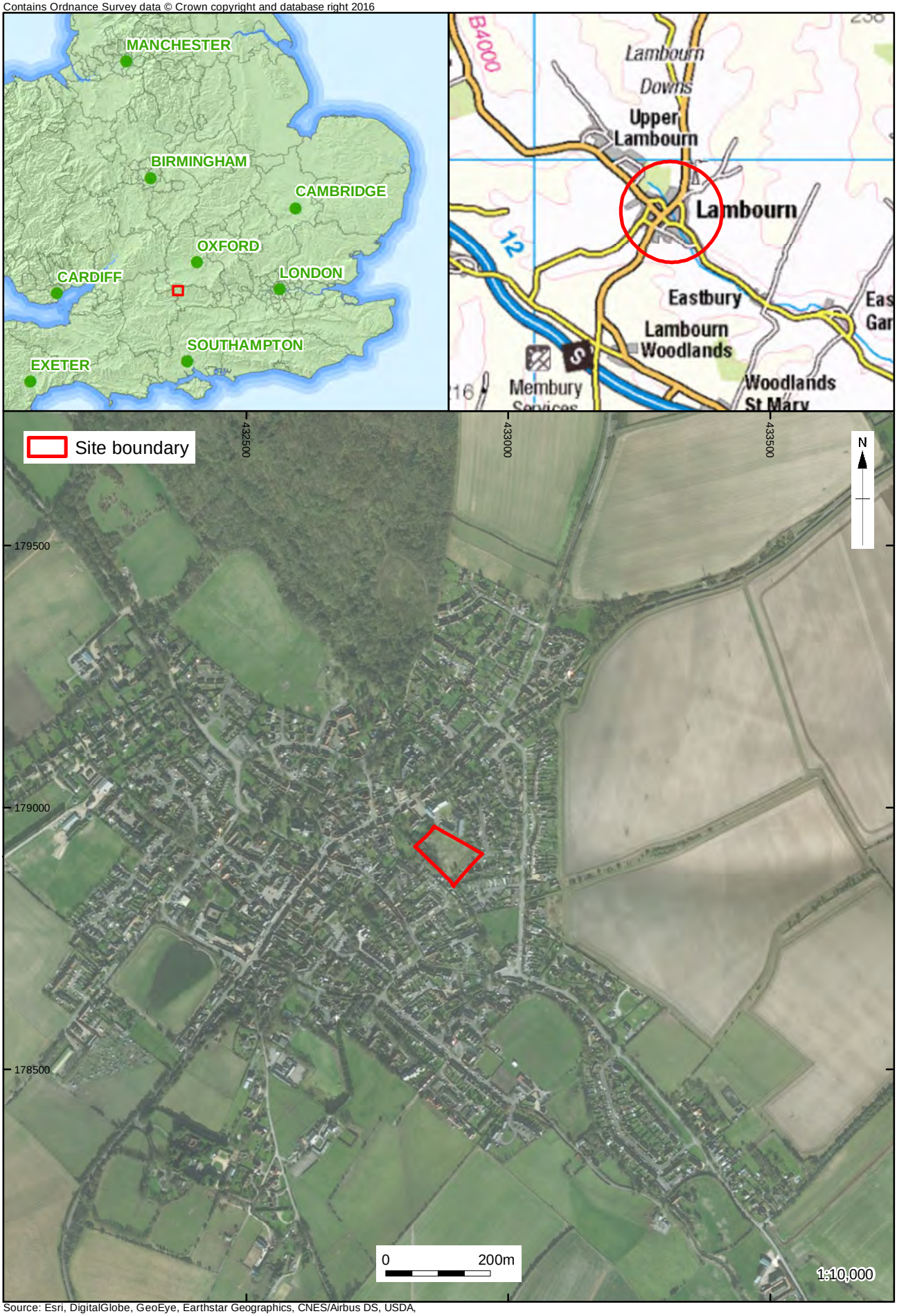

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

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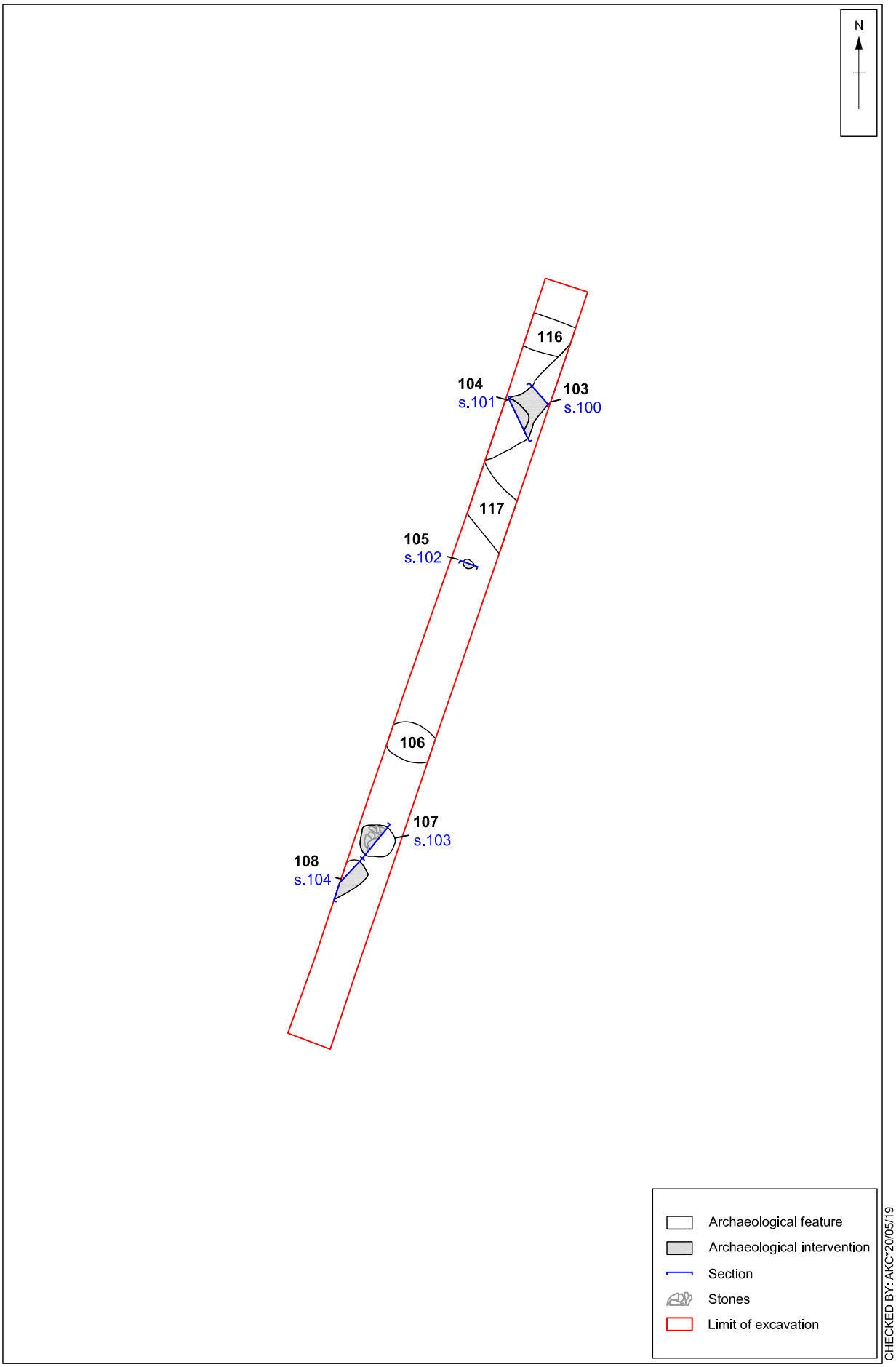
Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Trench location plan



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CHECKED BY: AKC*20/05/19

Figure 3: Trench 1 plan

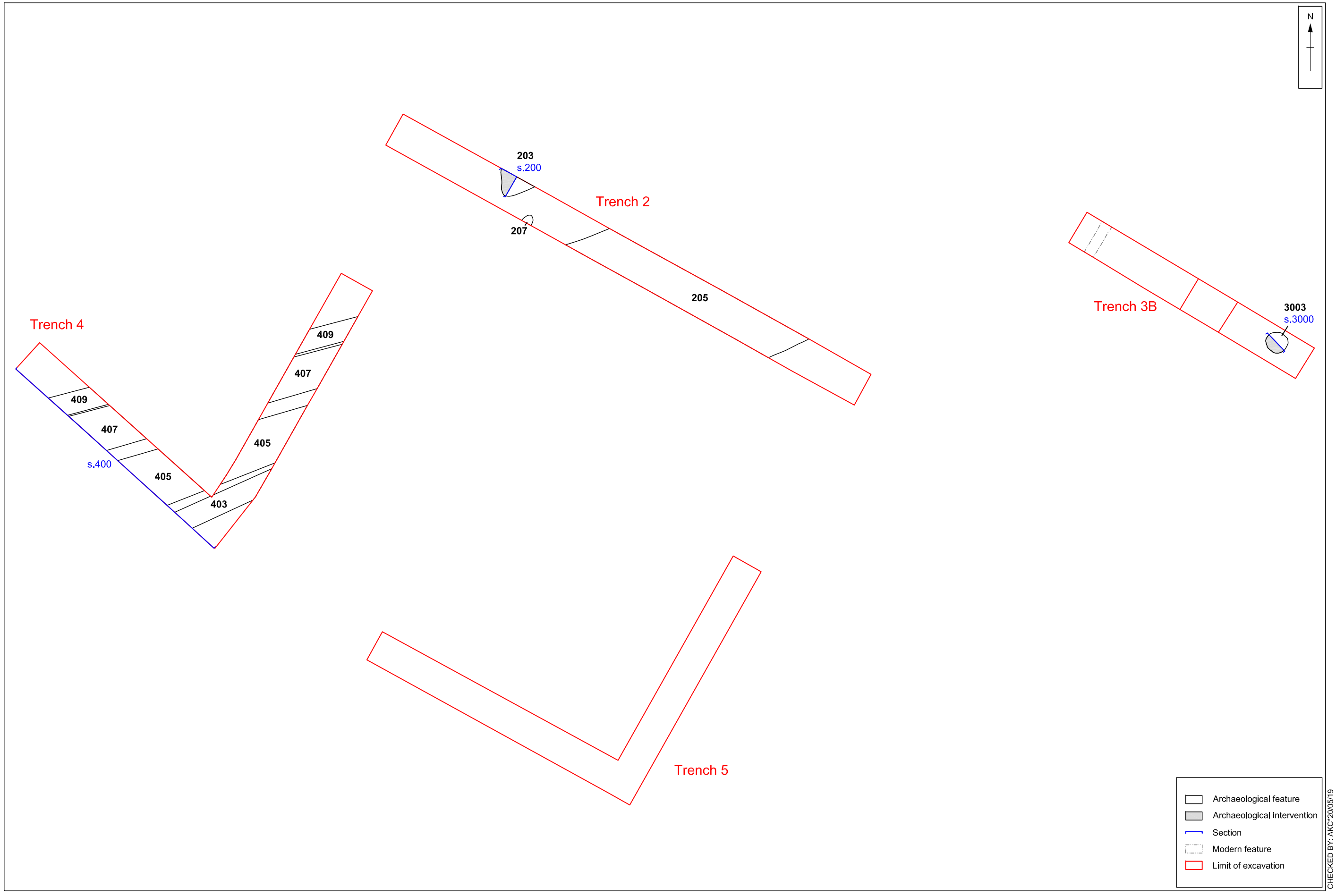

Figure 4: Plan of trenches 2, 3B and 4

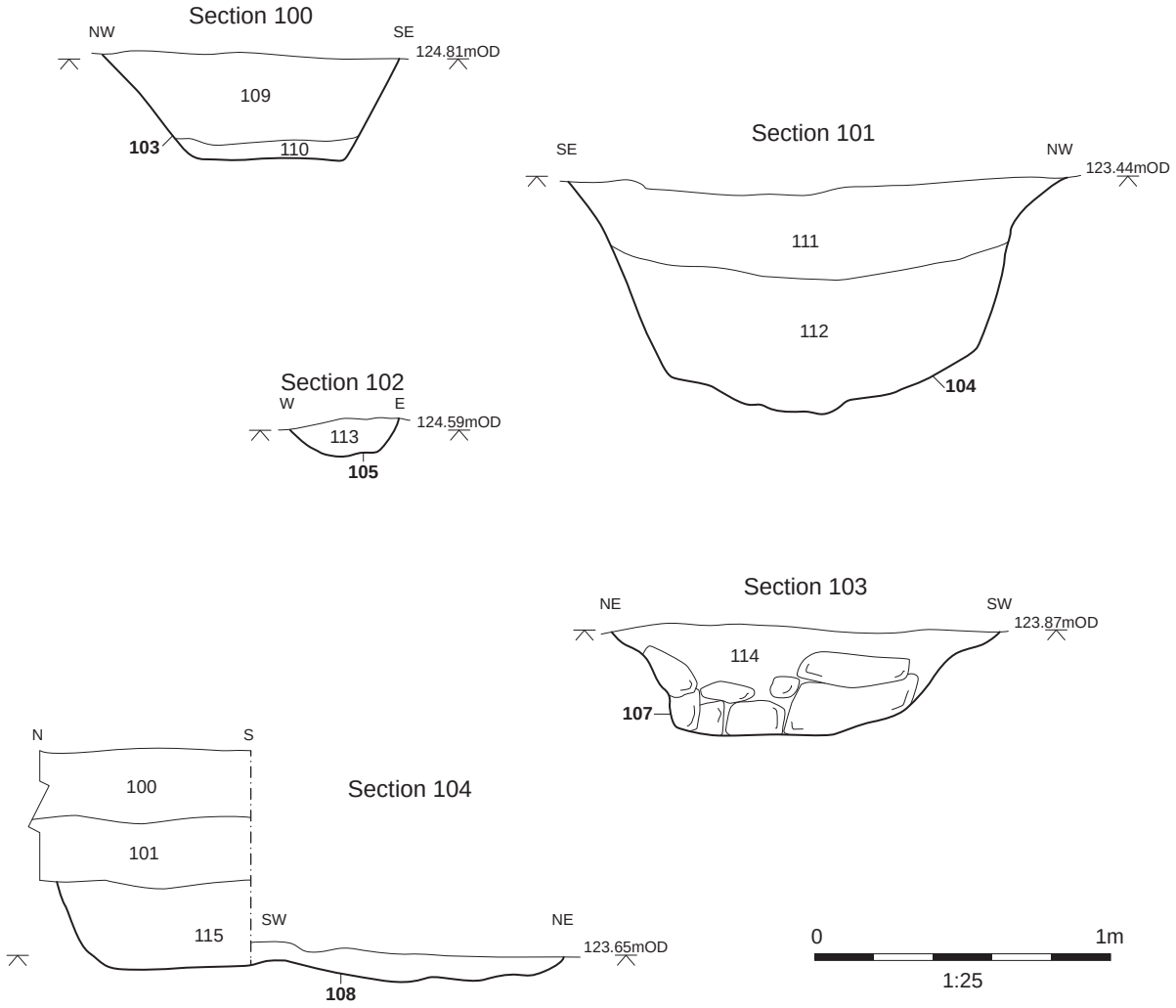

Figure 5: Sections of features in Trench 1

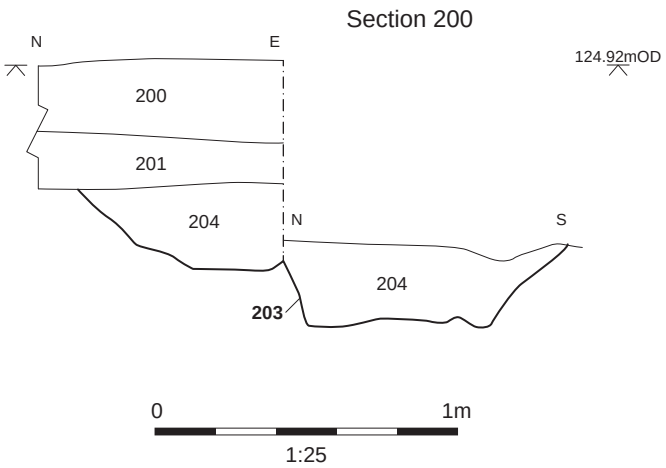

Figure 6: Section of feature in Trench 2

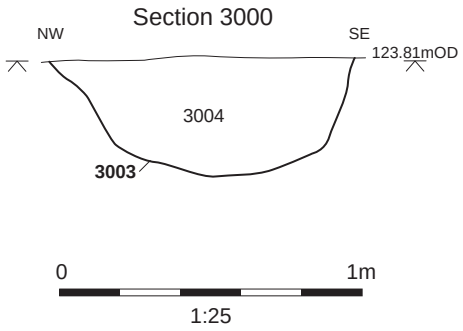

Figure 7: Section of feature in Trench 3b

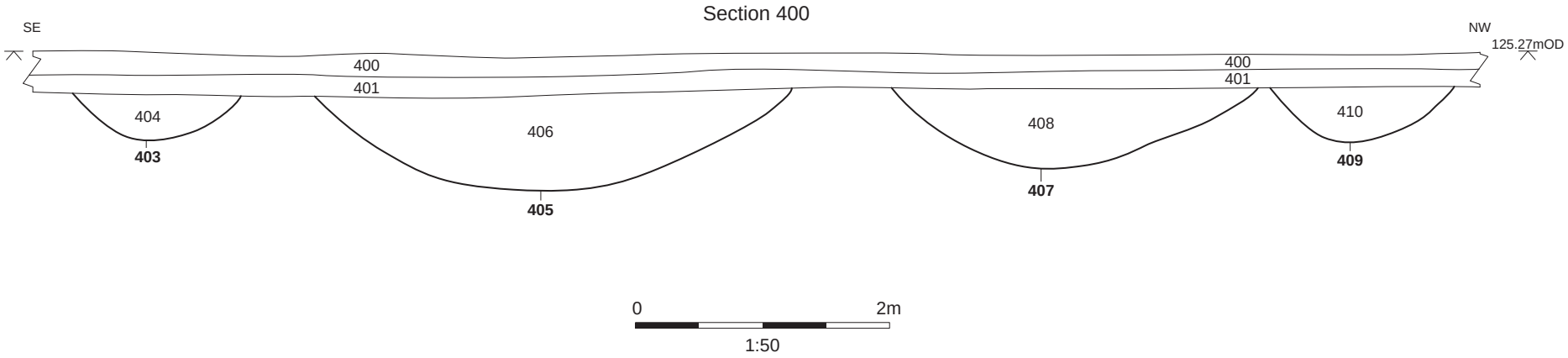

Figure 8: Section of features in Trench 4

Not to scale

Figure 9: Lambourn Enclosure Map (1806)
Archive ref: T/PCP/1B

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