Clifton Road, Deddington, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Clifton Road, Deddington, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In September 2019 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a six-trench archaeological evaluation on behalf of Harcourt Ltd at the site of a proposed housing development at Clifton Road, Deddington, Oxfordshire. The site lies close to the historic centre of Deddington. Deddington Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, overlooks the site to the south-west. The evaluation aimed to assess whether any activity extended into the site area.

Four of the evaluation trenches contained no archaeological remains with the natural geology overlain by topsoil. A few natural features and geological variations were investigated as a precaution. Evidence of pits revealed within two of the trenches hint at low-level activity, possibly relating to quarrying or deposal of rubbish during the Roman or medieval period. Based on these results the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Sally Dicks from RPS Group for commissioning and monitoring this project. We are also grateful to Richard Oram, who monitored the work on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Mariusz I. Górniak, who was supported by Rebecca Coombes, Fieldwork Archaeologist. Survey and digitizing were carried out by Mariusz I. Górniak and Conan Parsons. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff who cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Geraldine Crann and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS Group to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development. A six-trench evaluation was undertaken across the site, representing a 4% sample of the development area.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform decision makers in relation to a planning application (planning ref: 19/00831/OUT). A brief was set by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), detailing the local authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. The project's written scheme of investigation (RPS 2019b) outlined how OA was to implement those requirements. This report describes the results of the evaluation.

1.1.3 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 on agricultural land and bounded by hedgerows, bounded by Clifton Road (B4031) to the north, an industrial estate to the east and a housing estate to the west (Fig. 1). The total area of proposed development comprises approximately 0.9ha.

1.2.2 The historic centre of Deddington to the west is located on a plateau of high ground, with Deddington Castle at the eastern edge of this plateau overlooking the area to the south and west. The site is located on gently sloping ground at the eastern edge of this plateau, with a recorded height of *c* 120m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the eastern boundary and 128m AOD at the western boundary. A number of natural springs originate within this plateau of high ground and run southwards away from Deddington. One such spring is recorded on Ordnance Survey mapping immediately east of the study site and flows south and eventually into the River Cherwell *c* 2km to the south-east.

1.2.3 The solid geology of the study site is recorded by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2019) as Marlstone Rock Formation (Limestone & Ironstone). No superficial deposits are recorded overlying the bedrock.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background derives from a desk-based assessment (RPS 2019a). The DBA comprised a review of known archaeological assets within a 1km radius of the site held on the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER), together with a historic map regression exercise. The following summary provides a context for the proposed works.

1.3.2 Most of the entries in the HER within the study area relate to the historic core of the town Deddington. The map regression exercise has demonstrated that the study site comprised open land throughout the post-medieval and modern periods to the present day.

Prehistoric period (500,000 BP – AD 43)

1.3.3 Limited areas of archaeological work have been undertaken within the historic core of Deddington to the west of the site. These identified no evidence for prehistoric activity. The topography of the site might suggest that later prehistoric settlement and occupation activity is more likely to be found on areas of high ground to the west of the site at Deddington or further west at Hempton, Radwell Hill or Mackley Hill. The Ilbury Camp hillfort is recorded on one such area of high ground *c* 3.6km west of the site.

Romano-British period (AD 43 – 410)

1.3.4 The Roman roads between Bicester and Alcester is projected to run on a north-west to south-east alignment within the area of Deddington, although the exact course is unknown.

1.3.5 A number of pits filled with broken pottery, fuel ash and charred bones were found during excavation of a quarry pit immediately north of the site on the opposite side of Clifton Road. A few coins and an inhumation burial were also found during the same works. A Roman coin was found in 1850 'at Deddington'.

Early medieval period (AD 410 – 1065)

1.3.6 Deddington, meaning *the tun or village of Deda*, may have been settled in the 6th or 7th century, although little information is available regarding the Saxon period settlement. No finds of Anglo-Saxon date have been recorded within the vicinity of the site.

1.3.7 The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Deddington as a very large estate at the time of 99 households and held by Bishop Odo of Bayeux (Palmer and Powell-Smith 2019). According to the survey, it was the sixth largest and most populous places in the country, twice as large as neighbouring Banbury (Munby *et al*. 1974).

Later medieval period (1066 – 1550)

1.3.8 The later Medieval landscape was dominated by Deddington Castle, located *c* 100m south-west of the site. It comprises an 11th century motte and bailey castle, with a 12th century enclosure. The motte (with a tower constructed on an artificial mound) and the bailey (with the domestic buildings) are a form of castle that is associated with the Norman invasion and is dated to from the 11th to the 13th centuries. Excavations at Deddington Castle indicated that the stone buildings within the castle had fallen out of use by the 14th century.

1.3.9 The town retains its medieval street plan (Munby *et al.* 1974). The original settlement is denoted by an irregular street pattern to the south and east of the Market Place. The area of New Street comprise a planned extension laid out during the early 13th century. Deddington is believed to have received market rights and/or the freeholding of burgage tenements in connection with the New Street extension of the town. It held a weekly market from the 14th century that was closed in 1852.

1.3.10 The course of Clifton Road along the northern boundary of the study site is thought to have originated as a hollow-way between the village of Clifton to the east and Deddington to the west during the Medieval period. Possible earthworks are recorded *c* 280m west of the study site, which appear to suggest that the hollow-way once continued west towards the centre of the town and was later diverted south via Castle Street.

1.3.11 Earthworks of enclosed medieval crofts are recorded within this same area south of Earls Lane, whilst ridge and furrow cultivation have been identified to the north of Earls Lane. Further remains of ridge and furrow cultivation and a possible medieval fishpond have been observed *c* 550m south of the site.

1.3.12 A medieval wall foundation and two pits dated to between the mid-12th and the 14th centuries were uncovered at Mews House in the town centre. A 14th-century wooden pipe or flute have also been retrieved within Deddington.

Post-medieval (AD 1500 – AD 1900)

1.3.13 Historic mapping indicates that the study site has generally remained open land from the post-medieval period to the present day. The early modern cartographic sources depict the site as open fields. On the 1808 Deddington Parish Enclosure map the site is recorded within a single parcel of land which is described as 'Seventh Allotment' by the associated Enclosure Award. No change is shown within the study site throughout the 19th century. Residential development is shown to the north west of the site on the 1922 Ordnance Survey map and immediately west of the site in 1972.

1.3.14 A post-medieval quarry, known locally as the 'Parish Pit' is recorded on the north side of Clifton Road opposite the site.

1.4 Potential

1.4.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment for the site identified potential for Roman and medieval activity. A low archaeological potential had been identified for all other periods.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The evaluation aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To evaluate the survival of archaeological deposits or features to gain information about the archaeological resource (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation, quality and significance);
ii. If archaeological remains are identified, to inform the preparation of a strategy to mitigate the impact of development.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

iii. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
iv. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;

2.2.2 The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas (Hey and Hind 2014).

2.3 Scope of works

2.3.1 A total of 6 trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m were laid out within the site (Fig. 2). The trenches were located to provide a representative sample of the archaeological potential of the site in order to help inform any further mitigation strategies. Some modifications were made in the field in order to avoid a shallow plastic water-pipe that had recently been installed by the landowner. This was an unmapped service who position was only broadly recorded by the landowner and there was no way of identifying its location with any accuracy during the fieldwork. The plastic pipe also meant that it could not be picked-up by our CAT scanning and therefore a 5m buffer was established either-side of the approximate location of the water-pipe, in order to avoid hitting the pipe and flooding the site.

2.3.2 Each trench was excavated using an appropriate mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from the trench edges. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending on which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand and the appropriate use of a machine excavator.

2.3.3 The exposed surfaces were cleaned to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or deposit type was excavated and recorded. Excavation was found to be sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation.

2.3.4 Trench 1 was relocated from its proposed location to avoid it extending across a fence-line. On a request of the monitoring archaeologist, two extensions were made to the trench to investigate potential features.

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 feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground condition

3.2.1 The soils sequences in Trenches 2, 4, and 6 were fairly uniform. The natural geology of a brownish orange sandy silt with angular pieces of ironstone was overlain by a slightly orangey brown sandy silt subsoil and sealed by modern topsoil/ploughsoil.

3.2.2 Trench 1 showed signs of a 'disturbed' soil sequence, with a thin silty layer below ploughsoil most likely to be of anthropogenic origin (Plate 1). A thin subsoil – a thin brownish orange silty clay with pieces of ironstone – was also identified in parts of the site with Trenches 1 and 3 (Plate 3).

3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were only present in two trenches – one large Roman pit was identified in Trench 3 and an undated pit (only partially exposed) in trench 5. Trenches 1, 2, 4, and 6 did not produce any archaeological remains.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 was located in the north-western part of the site. The soil sequence consisted of 0.3m thick topsoil (a dark greyish brown silt with occasional angular pieces of ironstone). This overlay a 0.1m thick, brown silt subsoil on orangey brown sandy silt natural geology.

3.4.2 A potential feature (104) was investigated in the western part of the trench. This elongated, amorphous feature was 3.74m long and 2.2m wide, with gently sloping sides, and 0.28m in depth. Given its shape in plan, lack of finds, and stratigraphy, the feature was characterized as being of a natural origin, potentially an old tree-throw hole.

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 Trench 2 was positioned in the south-western part of the site and was devoid of archaeology. The soil sequence consisted of topsoil (an orangey brown sandy silt with angular pieces of ironstone) overlaying natural geology composed of a brownish orange sandy silt with frequent angular pieces of ironstone (Plate 2).

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Trench 3 was located in the central southern part of the site. The soil sequence consisted of topsoil, which overlay a 0.2m thick subsoil and natural geology of a brownish orange sandy silt with frequent angular pieces of ironstone (Plates 3 and 4).

3.6.2 A large pit-type feature (303) was 4.4m wide and located in the eastern part of the trench. It extended north and south beyond the limits of the trench. Its eastern part was excavated, revealing a 1.38m deep feature with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 3).

3.6.3 The feature had two fills (304 and 305). The upper fill (304) consisted of a 0.8m-thick, friable, loose brown silt with occasional angular pieces of ironstone (Fig. 3). One small piece of pottery from the fill could not be firmly dated; it is probably of Roman date, but a medieval date cannot be discounted. Lower fill 305 was a 0.58m-thick, brown, slightly clayey silt with angular pieces of ironstone and relatively frequent pieces of animal bone.

3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 Trench 4 was located in the central part of the site and devoid of archaeology. Its soil sequence consisted of 0.3m thick topsoil/ploughsoil overlaying natural geology.

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 Trench 5 was located in the south eastern part of the site. The soil sequence consisted of 0.3m topsoil/ploughsoil overlaying natural geology.

3.8.2 A potential shallow pit (507) in the north-western end of the trench was exposed and excavated (Plate 5). The pit was 0.55m wide and 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides and was filled with a brown slightly clayey silt with angular pieces of ironstone. The only find from the pit fill was a single piece of animal bone.

3.8.3 A large spread of material (503), measuring 6.24m wide, was identified in the south-east end of the trench and marked the boundaries between two different geologies. Its eastern part was machine-excavated to 1.4m depth to investigate the nature of the deposit (Plate 5). A series of four geological fills of brown-red clay with ironstone were recorded but contained no finds. The deposits are interpreted as geological variations relate to the boundary.

3.9 Trench 6

3.9.1 Trench 6 was located in the north-east of the site and was devoid of archaeology. Its soils sequence consisted 0.3m thick topsoil overlying natural geology.

3.10 Finds summary

3.10.1 A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the upper fill of pit 303, in Trench 3. The pot was a sandy white ware, but it is small and burnt, and therefore its precise identification and date are uncertain. It is reasonable to suggest that the sherd is Roman, possibly from the Oxford pottery industry. However, a medieval date and a Brill/Boarstall source (*c* AD 1200-1600) cannot be ruled out, although this possibility is

less likely on fabric grounds. Based on its size and worn edges it is likely to have been deposited incidentally away from the focus of settlement.

3.10.2 A total of 30 pieces of animal bone, weighing 564g, were also recovered from the two fills of pit 303, while 1 piece was from the fill of feature 507. Domestic cattle, caprine and/or goat and pig are all present in the assemblage. Several specimens have been gnawed by canids, suggesting that dogs were also present at the site.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The ground conditions and visibility were generally good throughout the evaluation. The majority of the trenches were dug at their proposed locations with only slight modifications necessary due to the water-pipe and boundary fencing. The evaluation was therefore able to achieve good coverage of the proposed development area and the results can be considered to provide a reliable assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

4.2 Interpretation and conclusion

4.2.1 The evaluation revealed only two significant archaeological features in the area of the development. The large pit within Trench 3 may represent part of a rubbish pit or quarry pit. Dating of the activity is tentative. Based on one small sherd, the pit is most likely Roman, but it may instead be medieval in date. The undated pit within Trench 5, containing a single piece of animal bone, also hints at wider activity within the site area. The topsoil and subsoil were very sterile in all the other trenches. A small number of natural features and geological variations were also investigated as a precaution.

4.2.2 The evaluation suggests that the site has been mostly in agricultural use since the medieval period. Evidence of pits within two of the trenches hint at low-level activity possibly relating to quarrying or deposal of rubbish within pits during the Roman or medieval periods. Based on these results the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.

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APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the north western part of the site. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil and thin subsoil overlying layers of natural geology of silty clay and clay, with lenses of old tree-throws.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.75
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Dark greyish brown silt with occasional angular pieces of ironstone. Overlaying 101 and 107	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Angular pieces of ironstone in orangey sandy silt. Overlain by 100, overlaying 102 and 105	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.25	Natural geology. Friable, light greyish brown silty clay with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized angular pieces of ironstone. Overlain by 101, overlaying 103, and cut by 104	-	-
103	Layer		+0.4	Firm, orangey brown clayey silt with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized angular pieces of ironstone. Overlain by 102 and cut by 104. Natural geology	-	-
104	Cut	3.74 x 2.2	0.28	Elongated, amorphous, gently sloping sides, and a slightly undulating base, filled with 105, cutting 102 and 103. An old tree-throw	-	-
105	Fill	3.74 x 2.2	0.28	Friable, dark brown silt with no inclusions. Fill of tree-throw 104, overlain by 101	-	-
106	Deposit	+10m x +3.5	+0.5	Very compact, firm, light brown clayey silt with only very occasional pieces of angular ironstone, overlain by 100, 'cut' into 107	-	-

107	Layer	-	+0.1	Natural geology. Brownish grey sandy silt with frequent angular pieces of ironstone	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench located in the south western part of the site, devoid of archaeology. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.75
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Orangey brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized angular pieces of ironstone.	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural geology. Brownish orange sandy silt with very frequent angular pieces of ironstone	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the central southern part of the site. The soil sequence consisted of topsoil overlaying subsoil which overlain natural geology. One Roman date feature within the trench.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.75
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Slightly orangey brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized angular pieces of ironstone. Overlaying 301	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil (colluvial) brownish orange silty clay with pieces of ironstone. Overlain by 300, overlaying 302	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural geology. Brownish orange sandy silt with frequent angular pieces of ironstone. Overlain by 301, cut by 303	-	-

303	Cut	4.4	1.38	Extending N and S-wards beyond Tr3. A very steep side (only eastern edge exposed by sample excavation), a flat base, filled with 304 and 305, cutting 302. Possibly a quarry pit	-	-
304	Fill	4.4	0.8	Friable, not very compact brown silt with occasional angular pieces of ironstone, relatively frequent animal bones fragments, fill of 303, overlaying 305, overlain by 302 (?)	Animal bone fragments, a piece of pottery	Roman or medieval
305	Fill	+1.6	0.58	Brown slightly clayey silt with a moderate amount of angular pieces of ironstone, overlain by 304, lower fill of 303	Animal bone fragments	

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench located in the central part of the site; devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.75
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Orangey brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized angular pieces of ironstone. Overlaying 401	-	-
401	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish orange sandy silt with very frequent angular pieces of ironstone	-	-

Trench 5		
General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench located in the south eastern part of the site. The soils sequence consisted of ploughsoil overlaying natural geology. One large feature in the central southern part of the trench sample excavated and recorded.	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.75
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Orangey brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized angular pieces of ironstone. Overlaying 501	-	-
501	Layer	-		Natural geology; pieces of angular ironstone in light yellowish brown clay, overlain by 500, overlaying 502; NW-eastern and central part of the trench	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural geology; firm, mottled grey and light yellowish brown silty clay, overlain by 501 horizon; south eastern part of the trench	-	-
503	Cut	6.24	+1.4	Linear – extending E and W-wards beyond Tr 5; a moderately steep side (only southern exposed), a base not exposed, cutting 501 and 502; three fills, possibly a natural/geological feature – wedge in between two natural horizons	-	-
504	Fill	+4.7	0.5	Firm, greyish brown clayey silt with frequent pieces of ironstone, lower fill of 503, overlain by 505; overlaying 509		
505	Fill	+4.22	0.54	Firm, dark orangey brown silt with a moderate amount of angular pieces of ironstone, overlaying 504, overlain by 506		
506	Fill	6.24	0.32	Friable, orangey brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of angular pieces of ironstone, fill of 503, overlain by 500, overlaying 505		
507	Cut	+1.8	0.55	NW-eastern end of Tr 5 – extending NW, NE, and SW-		

				wards beyond Tr1; a gently sloping side, a base not within the evaluation trench, filled with 508, cutting 501		
508	Fill	+1.8	0.55	Firm, brown slightly clayey silt with a moderate amount of angular pieces of ironstone	One piece of animal bone	
509	Fill	c 1.0	+0.2	Firm, patches of blackish and brown clay, overlain by 504, not fully excavated		

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench located in the north eastern of the site; it had to be moved a couple of meters westwards, as otherwise it would run across a fence; devoid of archaeology. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil overlying natural geology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.75
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil. Orangey brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized angular pieces of ironstone. Overlaying 601	-	-
601	Layer	-		Natural geology. Brownish orange sandy silt with very frequent, small-medium/large sized angular pieces of ironstone	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Results

B.1.1 A single sherd of pottery, weighing 2g, was recovered. The fragment, a body sherd from context 304, a fill of feature 303, is a sandy white ware, but it is small and burnt and therefore its precise identification and date are uncertain. The dark grey quartz grains and occasional black, possibly iron-rich inclusions within the fabric bring to mind Oxford white ware (OXF WH; Tomber and Dore 1998, 173-7), and it is reasonable to suggest that the sherd is from a vessel made by the Roman-period Oxford pottery industry (*c* AD 100-410). However, a medieval date and a Brill/Boarstall source (OXAM; *c* AD 1200-1600) cannot be ruled out (J Cotter, pers. comm.), although that possibility is less likely on fabric grounds.

B.1.2 Given the uncertain identification, little can be said about the sherd, except that it is likely to have been deposited incidentally away from the focus of settlement. It may derive from Roman activity, though that cannot be confirmed at this stage.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

C.1.1 A total of 31 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site (Tables 1 and 3), all of which was collected by hand.

C.1.2 The hand-collected material was recorded in full, with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system (Serjeantson 1996). Material recovered from environmental samples was only recorded when it could be identified, following the same criteria.

Description

C.1.3 Preservation on the site was moderate to poor (Fig. C.1): although weathering seems to have occurred, the absence of other signs of diagenesis suggest that animal bones may survive well on the site once buried.

C.1.4 Domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*), caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goat [*Capra hircus*]) and pig (*Sus domesticus*) are all present in the assemblage (Table 1). Some limited ageing data was recorded from epiphyseal fusion for domestic cattle (Table 2). This was made up entirely of fused elements – proximal and distal metapodials – indicating that these animals survived into adulthood. A fusing caprine proximal tibia was also present, indicating an age at death of between three and three and a half years (Silver 1969). The midshaft fragment of a foetal or neonatal caprine metatarsal was also present in the assemblage, indicating that these animals were bred on the site.

C.1.5 Several specimens have been gnawed by canids, suggesting that dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) were also present on the site.

Conclusions

C.1.6 Little can be read into such a small assemblage, particularly when it is not dated. The three species recorded are the most common found on British archaeological sites.

Table 1: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period from hand-collected material from the site.

	Undated
domestic cattle	5
caprine	4
pig	1
medium mammal	2
large mammal	11

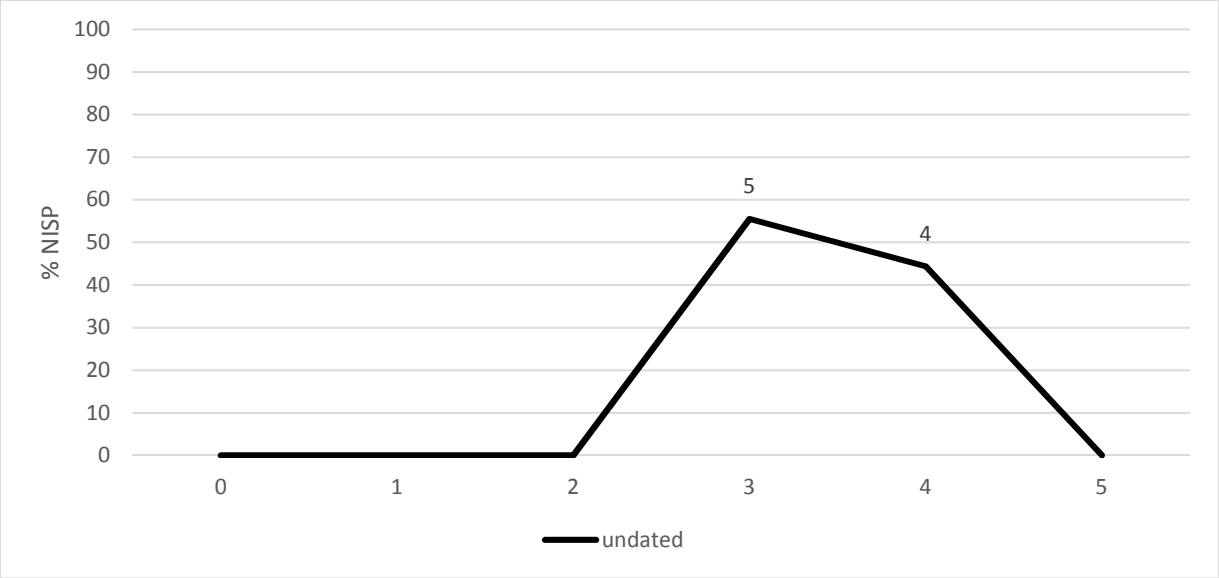


Figure C.1: Condition of identified specimens, expressed as a percentage of NISP (numbers above line are raw NISP) (following Behrensmeyer, 1978)**.**

Table 2: Non-species data recorded from the specimens (NSP) in the assemblage.

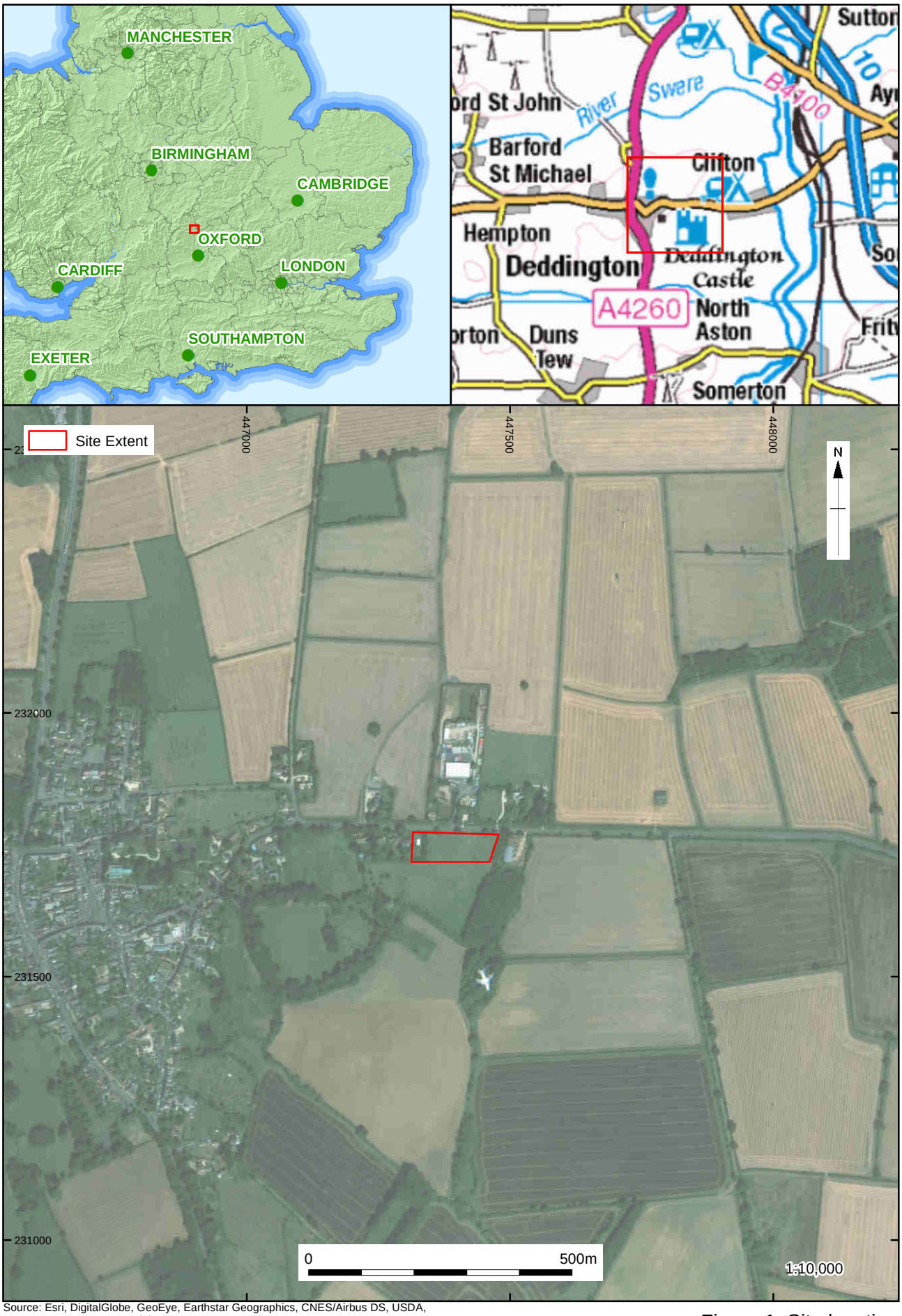
	Gnawed	Burnt	Ageing data	Biometric data
domestic cattle	4		3	1
caprine			1	
pig	1			
indet.		1		
Total	5	1	4	1

Table 3: Total NSP and weight of specimens from each context.

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
307	29	527
508	2	37

APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Clifton Road, Deddington, Oxfordshire
Site code:	DECR19
Grid Reference	SP 47387 31757
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	05.09.2019-06.09.2019
Area of Site	0.9ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ESD, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: 1995.137
Summary of Results:	In September 2019 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook a six-trench archaeological evaluation on behalf of Harcourt Ltd at the site of a proposed housing development at Clifton Road, Deddington, Oxfordshire. The site lies close to the historic centre of Deddington. Deddington Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, overlooks the site to the south-west. The evaluation aimed to assess whether any activity extended into the site area. Four of the evaluation trenches contained no archaeological remains with the natural geology overlain by topsoil. A few natural features and geological variations were investigated as a precaution. Evidence of pits revealed within two of the trenches hint at low-level activity, possibly relating to quarrying or deposal of rubbish during the Roman or medieval period. Based on these results the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.



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

Figure 1: Site location

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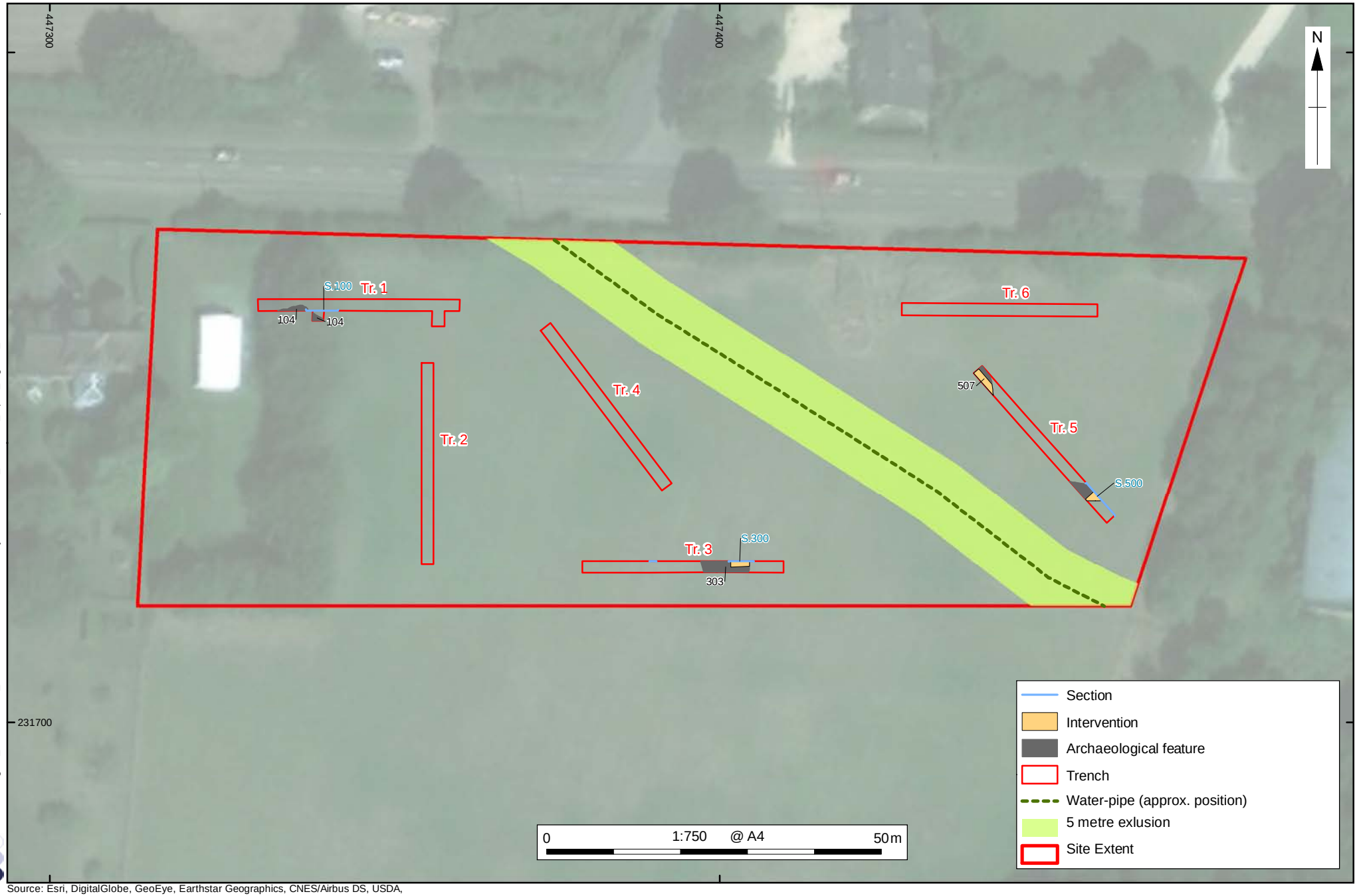

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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 2: Trench plan

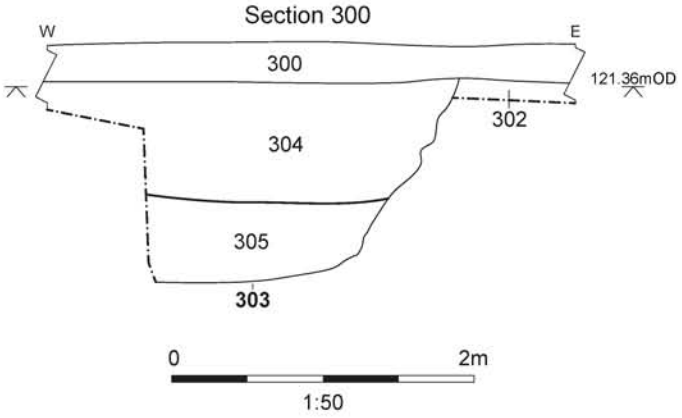

Figure 3: Section of eastern part of feature 303, south facing

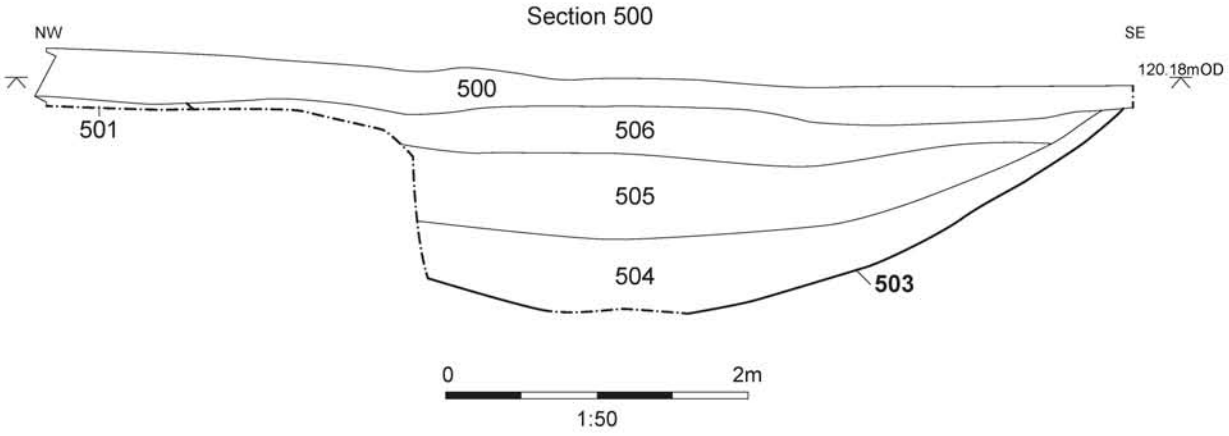

Figure 4: Section of south-eastern part of feature 503, south-west facing

Plate 1: Trench 1, western end, section, looking north

Plate 2: Trench 2, view, looking north

Plate 3: Trench 3, view, looking east

Plate 4: Trench 3, representative section, looking north

Plate 5: Trench 5, partially excavated feature 503, looking north-west

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