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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Broughton Roman Villa, Broughton Castle Estate, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Contents

List of Figures vi

Summary vii

Acknowledgements viii

1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Scope of work 1

1.2 Location, topography and geology 1

1.3 Archaeological and historical background 1

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY 5

2.1 Aims 5

2.2 Methodology 6

3 RESULTS 7

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results 7

3.2 Ground conditions 7

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits 7

3.4 Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4) 7

3.5 Trench 2 (Figs 5 and 6; Plates 1-7) 8

3.6 Trench 3 (Figs 6 and 7; Plate 8) 10

3.7 Trench 4 (Fig. 9; Plate 12) 11

3.8 Trench 5 (Fig. 10; Plate 14) 12

3.9 Finds summary 13

3.10 Environmental summary 14

4 DISCUSSION 15

4.1 Evaluation objectives and results 15

4.2 Interpretation 16

APPENDIX A HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD 22

APPENDIX B TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY 23

APPENDIX C FINDS REPORTS 30
C.1 Pottery 30
C.2 Coins 35
C.3 Ceramic building material and stone tesserae 39
C.4 Stone 42
C.5 Fired clay and ash block 44
C.6 Wall plaster 44
C.7 Metal Objects 44
C.8 Glass 45
C.9 Flint 45
APPENDIX D ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS 47
D.1 Environmental samples 47
D.1 Animal bone 48
D.2 Marine shell 51
APPENDIX E BIBLIOGRAPHY 52
APPENDIX F SITE SUMMARY DETAILS 54

List of Figures

Figure 1 Site location
Figure 2 Trench locations with geophysical survey results*
Figure 3 Plan of Trench 1
Figure 4 Trench 1 sections
Figure 5 Plan of Trench 2
Figure 6 Trench 2 sections
Figure 7 Plan of Trench 3
Figure 8 Trench 3 sections
Figure 9 Plan of Trench 4
Figure 10 Plan of Trench 5
Figure 11 Geophysical survey interpretation*
Figure 12 Site location and Historic Environment Record
Figure 13 Comparison with North Leigh villa*
Figure 14 Metal detector survey coin plot over the geophysical survey results**

*all geophysical survey data reproduced from Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics 2017
** as for * with coin plot data by Keith Westcott

List of Plates

Plate 1 Looking north-west across Trench 2
Plate 2 Section 200 showing walls 205, 206 and 212
Plate 3 Trench 2, looking south-west
Plate 4 Pitched stone foundation 202, looking west
Plate 5 Post socket 228 and adjacent wall 227, looking west
Plate 6 Revetment 204, looking north
Plate 7 Section 201 showing sequence of revetment deposits, looking west
Plate 8 Trench 3, looking east
Plate 9 Burning event 309, with later occupation deposits 305 and wall 307, looking west
Plate 10 Section 302 and floor layers 318 and 319, looking south-west
Plate 11 Section 303 showing pitched stone foundation 325 and later rubble 332, looking north
Plate 12 Trench 4, looking south
Plate 13 Vertical view of structures 402, 403 and 405
Plate 14 Looking west across Trench 5
Plate 15 Trench 5, showing structures 507 and 511 in the foreground, looking north-east
Plate 16 Martin Fiennes working in Trench 2
Plate 17 View of the villa field from the east (ploughed field in centre of shot)
Plate 18 Aerial image of cropmarks over the villa ranges and courtyard area, July 2018
Plate 19 Aerial image of cropmarks over the aisled building, July 2018

Summary

Oxford Archaeology, under the overall management of CgMs Heritage (part of RPS), was commissioned by Martin Fiennes of the Broughton Castle Estate to undertake a trial trench evaluation as part of an ongoing research project aimed at investigating the remains of a Roman villa within arable farmland of the Broughton Castle Estate.

The site was previously discovered in 2016 following research and field investigation by Keith Westcott and the collection and locating of artefacts from the ploughsoil using a metal detector. A geophysical survey was commissioned in 2017 with the results indicating the presence of a large courtyard villa.

Five trenches were excavated for this evaluation targeting a possible ditched access track, the north, east and south ranges of the villa and a possible detached aisled building to the south of the main complex. The archaeological remains exposed in the trenches confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, and demonstrated that ridges in the field that correspond with the locations of the north and east ranges of the villa represent the survival of complex stratigraphic sequences up to 0.7m thick.

The villa comprises a quadrangular courtyard *c* 85m square with ranges of buildings on the north, east and south sides, and probably also on the west, set around a central courtyard, although the west wing was not investigated in this evaluation. It is therefore larger even than the villa at North Leigh (*c* 80m square), and represents the largest building of its type in Oxfordshire. It is comparable with the large villa establishments that are characteristic of the Roman period in the Cotswolds, such as Chedworth and other iconic courtyard villas such as Bignor in Sussex, Brading on the Isle of Wight and Woodchester. Placing a date on the construction and abandonment of the complex is hampered by the small size of the excavated sample, as a result of which the artefactual assemblage recovered was small and earlier phases may have remained obscured beneath later deposits; however, the emphasis of the pottery assemblage was on the later part of the Roman period, with little evidence for activity before the middle of the 2nd century, and it has been tentatively suggested that occupation was not intensive during the later 4th century.

The Broughton villa thus represents a major addition to our knowledge of Roman rural settlement in the region and beyond.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Martin Fiennes of the Broughton Castle Estate for commissioning this project and Rob Masefield (CgMs Heritage, Part of RPS) for his project management on behalf of the client. Thanks are also extended to Richard Oram and Hugh Coddington, who monitored the work on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council, for their advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Steve Lawrence and the fieldwork was directed by Mark Dodd, supported by David Pinches and Robert Backhouse. Survey and digitising were carried out by Conan Parsons. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff who cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

A special thanks goes to Keith Wescott for his research and fieldwork that lead to the discovery of the villa. Also for his enthusiasm and hard work throughout the evaluation along with the team of dedicated volunteers including, Martin Fiennes, William Fiennes, Nat Fiennes, Mike Cherry, Nathan Allan, Elliott Allan, Richard Oram, Rob Masefield, Georgina Masefield, William Gaytor, Patrick Reeve and Martin Brooks.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), under the overall management of Rob Masefield of CgMs Heritage (part of RPS), was commissioned by Martin Fiennes of the Broughton Castle Estate to undertake a trial trench evaluation within arable farmland of the Broughton Castle Estate.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as part of an ongoing research project aimed at investigating the remains of a Roman villa. Although this work is not part of any commercial development, the scope of the evaluation was discussed by Rob Masefield and agreed with Richard Oram (Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council). Consequently, a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by CgMs Heritage detailing the methodology for the evaluation. This document outlines the results of the investigation.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies *c* 1.6km north-west of Broughton Castle (Fig. 1). The land is currently used as arable farmland and is situated at *c* 116m aOD on an undulating spur, towards the base of a valley. The site slopes down to a small watercourse to the east and to a spring situated to the south of the spur.

1.2.2 The geology of the area is mapped as Marlstone Rock formation – ferruginous limestone and ironstone overlaying Dyrham Formation siltstone and mudstone. Charmouth Mudstone Formation is present adjacent to the stream at the east of the eite (BGS online).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site was established in the WSI and is reproduced here (with additions). Figure 12 illustrates the archaeological context based on the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). Appendix A provides the associated gazetteer for the HER references.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 The earliest tangible archaeological evidence from the vicinity is early Neolithic in date, comprising a scatter of lithic artefacts immediately north-west of the Madmarston Hill Iron Age hillfort *c* 1.5km west of the site (HER 11704). A polished axe fragment was also found within the hillfort area itself (HER 5184). A further fragment of imported polished stone axe (Langdale?) has been found on Broughton Castle Estate by Martin Fiennes (pers. comm. with Rob Masefield). Interestingly, aerial photography suggests the existence of a Neolithic henge monument (with opposing causeways) to the north-east of Broughton, just beyond the study area (Dickson and Priest 2013; Fig. 1). These findings suggest that the Broughton area, flanking the east-west stream, was of some significance within the wider region at this time.

1.3.3 The late Neolithic to early Bronze Age period included changes in monumental burial rites from the collective burial practice of the Neolithic period to round barrows focused on single central crouched inhumations (although additional burials were sometimes added later), One such barrow may be indicated by a cropmark at Tadmarton *c* 1.2km south-east of the evaluation site (HER 15962).

1.3.4 Closer to the site, *c* 400m to the west, another cropmark enclosure is of square form more typical of the later Bronze Age or Iron Age (HER 15017).

1.3.5 The area was clearly also of some local importance in the Iron Age (*c* 800 BC-AD 43) given the existence of the multivallate hillfort and associated linear earthwork known as Madmarston hillfort (Scheduled Monument 1006371; HER 1592) some 1.5km to the west. Given the necessary labour required to dig the ditches and construct the ramparts that would have surmounted the associated banks, such forts have usually been described as either permanently occupied fortified strongholds or temporary refuges associated with an elite local aristocracy. They are often found to contain multiple storage pits, probably associated with control/redistribution of agricultural products such as grain, and also produce a wider variety of imported artefacts than other settlement forms, reflecting possible use as trading hubs.

1.3.6 Extensive settlement apparently of middle Iron Age character is located adjacent to the stream lying below the hillfort just to the south-west. This is known only from aerial photographic evidence but suggests significant activity potentially contemporary with the occupation of the hillfort itself.

1.3.7 Late Iron Age coins have also been found in the vicinity of the hillfort (HER 2443), hinting at the existence of late Iron Age settlement, which usually post-dated the active use of hillforts. The coins therefore suggest that a community was present and farming the local landscape shortly before the Roman invasion of AD 43.

1.3.8 A possible Iron Age pit alignment (boundary feature) at North Newington (HER 16408) well to the north of the Site, may have been associated with a landscape boundary at the edge of an unknown settlement, based on analogy with similar early to middle Iron Age pit alignments in Oxfordshire and the East Midlands.

1.3.9 A short distance to the west of the site, east of the Shutford Road, is an undated linear earthwork. This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument described in the scheduling as ‘camp NE of village’ (ie Tadmarton). The associations of this earthwork are unclear, but it seems unlikely that it formed part of a defensive enclosure.

Roman

1.3.10 Aspects of the Roman occupation of Britain included the provision of an effective road network, an intensification of farming allowing expansion of rural population and the emergence of towns as regional centres and markets. The Broughton area was affected by all of these developments. An important Roman road runs roughly east-west some 400m to the south of the site. The road runs west to the line of the Fosse Way at Ettington, and thence to Stratford-on-Avon and beyond. To the east it almost certainly ran to the substantial Roman settlement in the Cherwell valley at Kings Sutton, but details of the course of the road in the area south of Banbury are uncertain. In the vicinity of the present site the road line shown on the HER follows a

sinuous route from the north side of Broughton Castle, running westwards to the north of the villages of Tadmarton and Swalcliffe and on the lower lying ground just to the south of the hillfort.

1.3.11 Significantly recent archaeological investigations at Swalcliffe parish, close to a possible Roman barrow location (HER 1584), have identified evidence for a substantial roadside settlement at Swalcliffe Lea (HER 2444; excavation (EOX5606) by North Oxon Archaeology Group). This comprises the remains of a number of stone buildings including a 'Roman villa' (HER 12104; excavated by North Oxon Archaeology Group – EOX1980). The buildings included mosaics, suggesting a high level of Romanisation and wealth. Part of the same settlement, slightly further to the west, has been the subject of geophysical (magnetometer) survey and associated excavations by Oxford University Archaeological Society (EOX1977 and 1978) and North Oxon Archaeology Group (EOX1981). Another investigation by Oxford University Archaeological Society is located by the HER focused on the road in the eastern zone of the roadside settlement (EOX2219). This corpus of work confirms the existence of an extensive 'small town' and as such provides an interesting local context for the presence of a potentially large villa estate, if proven at the present evaluation site.

1.3.12 Also of interest in terms of Roman settlement distribution and hierarchy are indications of a building and settlement (finds scatter) identified by the North Oxon Archaeology Group 1.2km south-east of the site (HER 27672; EOX2698). The location to the south of the Roman road is analogous to that of the Swalcliffe Lea roadside settlement, but this location adjacent to/west of Broughton Castle was also closely associated with the stream and is likely to represent a single farm.

1.3.13 The closest HER record to the site is of a female inhumation burial found in 1963 by ploughing *c* 300m to the south-east at SP 4045 3855 (HER13974). The burial was probably of 3rd or 4th century date, which is also the date of almost all courtyard villa forms. It consisted of a limestone coffin lined with a single sheet of lead, with an unlined single limestone slab lid, and contained a partially preserved female skeleton and a broken glass unguent bottle.

1.3.14 On the afternoon of October 31st 2017, Keith Westcott set out to fieldwalk the surrounding area of the little known sarcophagus burial. Keith had been interested in this high status burial for some years as he believed that at 1 mile from the closest known Roman site, there could be a residence within the vicinity comparative to that of the status of the burial. On surveying the land Keith noticed an area which did not appear to be of natural topography and returned home to confirm this from satellite imagery. Keith then returned to the field and found Roman flue tile.

1.3.15 Subsequently Keith completed a metal detecting survey across the field before focusing on an area of greatest artefact concentration. This unearthed 29 coins all recovered from the ploughsoil horizon and dating from the 1st to 4th century.

1.3.16 Also in 2017 a geophysical survey was undertaken by Abingdon Archaeological Geophysics and revealed evidence for a square courtyard some 85m square and ostensibly similar to the *c* 80m square North Leigh in layout. A series of ditches run parallel to the north-south field boundary west of the postulated villa. The ditches

seem to represent a track that would have led to the Roman road to the south, with which the route is exactly perpendicular. One ditch curves into the villa complex, suggesting a formal entrance point.

1.3.17 When plotted over the geophysical survey results the position of the coins corresponded closely to the north and south ranges of the villa with few coins present within the courtyard area or external to the buildings. The results demonstrate the potential of artefacts recovered from ploughsoil horizons to aid in the interpretation of archaeological sites and to provide broad dating evidence when accurate locations are recorded.

1.3.18 A separate probable building, consisting of a rectangle divided into three cells with a possible apse end, was identified to the south of the main building. By analogy this was most likely to have been an aisled building or bathhouse (although other possibilities such as a late Roman church or a temple are also possible). A spring is located just to the west and may have been functionally related.

1.3.19 In late 2017 Rob Masefield confirmed the presence of Roman surface finds across the entire area of the possible courtyard villa, including two tesserae close to the line of the south wing and box flue, flat tile (lydion or pilae), tegula and imbrex concentrated in an area commensurate with the north wing. Roman pottery including grey wares and fine wares was present in low density.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aim of the investigations set out by the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2018) was to establish the character, date and function of any archaeological features and deposits.

2.1.2 The specific aims for the overall investigation were as follows:

i. Establish whether provisional interpretation of the magnetometer survey as representing a large courtyard villa with a detached building to the south (?bathhouse) is correct;
ii. Enable confident comparison of the villa remains with regional examples of apparently similar nature, potentially including North Leigh, Oxfordshire and Chedworth, Gloucestershire;
iii. Enable the site to (begin to) be placed within its local Roman context, including with respect to the settlement/small Roman town to the south and the Roman road;
iv. Establish the depth of topsoil cover above significant *in situ* remains to assist agricultural management planning and to allow an informed impact assessment to be made that may result in a change or modification to the current agricultural regime.

2.1.3 These aims can be broken down for individual trenches as follows:

- Trench 1: to establish whether a series of linear features represent a NW/SE aligned route adjacent to the northern ?main villa complex entrance, and leading towards to the nearby road. Is there evidence of metalling and/or a hollow way?
- Trench 2: to establish whether the geophysics represent a complex of walled rooms of the 'north wing' – establish the likely date range of foundations and degree of preservation.
- Trench 3: to establish whether the geophysics represent the east wing of a courtyard villa and in particular whether a sub-square area of enhanced readings represent an *in situ* lowered floor or tessellated pavement. To assess the degree of preservation.
- Trench 4: to establish whether the geophysical survey has defined the southern wing of a courtyard villa and if so the nature (simple row of rooms linked by a corridor?), complexity, date and preservation of the remains.
- Trench 5: to establish whether the an apparently discrete Roman building is represented in this lower area closer to the spring, and if so whether the possible three rectangular cells and southern apse end, suggested by geophysics, define a detached bathhouse (or other form of building such as an aisled house or apse-ended late Roman church).

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of five linear trenches were excavated, targeted on specific anomalies revealed by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). Each trench measured 25m long and 1.6m wide.

2.2.2 Plough-disturbed soil horizons were removed by mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket to expose archaeologically significant horizons or the surface of the superficial or solid geology, whichever was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits or those with the potential to contain artefacts were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers directly relating to the individual trench (eg Trench 2, context 200, 201, etc).

2.2.3 The excavation and recording of archaeological features was undertaken as outlined within the WSI following established OA practices and in line with CIfA and OCC standards.

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 each trench. The full details of all trenches, with dimensions and depths of all deposits, can be found in Appendix B. Finds data is presented in Appendix C and palaeoenvironmental data in Appendix D.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated, eg pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 Ground conditions

3.2.1 Ground conditions during the evaluation were generally poor. The fieldwork took place during a prolonged period of wet weather, making working conditions difficult throughout the project. Fortunately, the deeply stratified deposits were generally well-draining, but excavation in Trenches 1 and 4 encountered groundwater which prevented further work in areas of these trenches. Despite the conditions, archaeological features and structures were easy to identify and the ability to address the aims of the project was not impacted.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all five trenches. Trench 1 revealed a relatively simple sequence of deposits sealing two ditches and a possible pit. Trenches 2 and 3 both revealed complex, stratified archaeology to a depth of at least 0.7m. These comprised a combination of stone-built structures and associated deposits representing phases of both occupation and demolition. The depth of stratified archaeology observed in Trenches 2 and 3 was not repeated in Trenches 4 and 5, but they did contain remains of stones structures and demolition layers.

3.4 Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4)

3.4.1 The trench exposed the drainage ditches flanking the putative entrance track (104, 109), situated *c* 14.5m apart. A pit (106) was also uncovered but was not excavated.

3.4.2 Ditch 109 was located towards the north-eastern end of the trench, on a broadly N-S alignment. It measured 2.8m wide, but was not excavated beyond a depth of 0.7m due to ingress of groundwater. Extrapolation of the steep, straight sides indicate that it could total a depth of 1.5m. The upper fills (111 and 110) were both naturally silted deposits and each contained artefacts including pottery that dated to the mid-3rd to 4th century.

3.4.3 Ditch 104 was revealed 14.5m to the south-west of ditch 109, on a broadly parallel alignment. It was, however, much smaller in comparison, with a width of 0.7m and steep sides leading to a concave base at a depth of 0.4m. It contained a single homogenous fill including pottery that dated to the mid-3rd to 4th century.

3.4.4 Immediately to the east of ditch 104 was a possible pit-like feature (106). It measured 0.95m wide and extended beyond the southern limit of the excavation. This feature was not investigated further.

3.4.5 Deposits 103, 108 and 112 were observed at the interface between the natural geology and the overlying subsoil and were also recorded overlying the archaeological features detailed above. The circumstances of their formation and preservation is unclear although it is possible that due to the undulating slope these represent early soil horizons and colluvial accumulations.

3.5 Trench 2 (Figs 5 and 6; Plates 1-7)

3.5.1 The trench contained walls that corresponded with the inner and outer walls of the north range of the villa complex, as well as some internal features and demolition layers.

3.5.2 At the northern end of the trench were three successive phases of stone wall on similar E-W alignments (Fig. 6, section 200; Plates 2 and 3). The sequence here began with a spread of angular stone and silty clay (229), formed onto a level horizon. This appears to have formed a foundation deposit onto which wall 212 was constructed. This wall largely consisted of flat limestone slabs forming the outer faces, with smaller angular stones used as core material. No bonding material was observed. It measured 0.85m wide and *c* 0.09m deep, with two courses surviving.

3.5.3 Abutting the southern edge of wall 212 was deposit 230, which was formed from large sub-angular blocks up to 0.4m in diameter. Constructed onto these stones, and just 0.25m to the south of 212, was wall 206. This structure was slightly more complex in construction, with an initial course of pitched stones, 0.2-0.3m in diameter, forming a foundation 0.67m wide, overlain by a regular course of roughly hewn blocks. The third and final course observed was stepped in to a maximum width of 0.44m, and comprised smaller, roughly hewn facing blocks, *c* 0.2m in diameter, with a rubble core.

3.5.4 The third and final wall (205) was also constructed onto a levelling layer of large angular stones (231=232), which clearly abutted wall 206. Wall 205 was constructed with an unbonded, offset foundation of regularly coursed, roughly hewn limestone blocks. The foundation measured 0.66m wide. The overlying two courses were constructed of similar stone, and were laid in the same manner, but at a reduced width of 0.58, leaving an offset on the northern edge. Unlike any of the other walls observed, these two courses were bonded using a pale grey, lime-based mortar.

3.5.5 No construction cuts were observed in association with any of these walls as they all appear to have been laid directly onto earlier levelling or demolition deposits. Although the offset foundations of 206 and 205 provided some suggestion of contemporary ground levels, no contemporary floor surfaces or occupation horizons were identified. However, it is worth noting that at the horizon between 233 and deposit 207, which appeared to be the level of construction for wall 205, there were some lenses of grey ashy material.

3.5.6 In the southern part of the trench, the natural geology (201) was directly overlain by layer 215 (Fig. 6, section 201), which consisted of a reddish brown silty clay and

contained a single worked flint. This deposit did not contain any of the stone or mortar fragments that were ubiquitous throughout the rest of the archaeological sequence and probably represents a buried soil horizon. Further towards the southern end of the trench were deposits 221 and 203, which were also recorded overlying the natural geology. These were distinct from deposit 215 as they were slightly more grey in appearance and contained a greater quantity of anthropogenic material. Deposit 203 contained a sherd of pottery that dated from no earlier than the mid-2nd century.

3.5.7 This horizon was overlain by foundation 202 (Plate 4), which comprised a series of pitched limestone slabs extending on an E-W alignment. Just a single course of stones was observed, forming a foundation *c* 1.2m wide. The stones varied in size up to 0.4m across and were typically between 0.02-0.05m thick. They each appeared to have been roughly shaped, although the upper edges were notably less angular. A small number of rounded ironstone blocks was also incorporated into the structure. Although a silty clay matrix was cleaned from between the stones, there was no evidence for any deliberate bonding material.

3.5.8 Towards the centre of the trench a dense stone layer (226, Plate 5) was recorded overlying deposit 215. The sub-angular fragments of limestone were between 0.05m and 0.01m in diameter and formed a distinct, single course of stones, probably intended as a foundation deposit or make-up layer. Placed onto the surface of layer 226 was a possible post-socket (228). It was formed from at least five limestone slabs, arranged in a semi-circular form with a central void, broadly square in plan, measuring 0.3m across and at least 0.1m deep. This would have allowed a timber to be inserted and rest upon the underlying stone layer 226. Unfortunately, the eastern side of this structure had been truncated away.

3.5.9 The surface of a narrow, E-W aligned stone wall (227) was revealed immediately to the north of 228. The wall consisted of large facing stones, each measuring *c* 0.3m x 0.15m, with a loose rubble core. The structure measured 0.62m wide. It extended beyond the western limit of the trench, and only a 0.31m length was revealed in the excavation area as it was sealed beneath deposit 213. The stratigraphic relationship between this wall the other remains in the trench could not be established at this stage, but it is interesting to note that its southern edge was aligned with the northern edge of post socket 228. It is therefore possible that 228 was constructed against the face of the wall.

3.5.10 The southern limit of stone surface 226 was partially overlain by deposit 220. This layer extended over a length of approximately 2.8m, sloping down to the south in parallel with the slope of the underling natural geology. It contained several lenses of blue-grey ashy material and frequent small flecks of mortar indicating that it was contemporary with construction or demolition activities.

3.5.11 The southern extent of deposit 220 was cut by a broad and shallow feature (224). This feature was only observed in section and was poorly defined but appears to have been orientated E-W. It was filled with a grey brown, clay silt and fragments of angular stone to a depth of 0.22m. Although only a small portion was exposed, it seems plausible that it could be a robber cut.

3.5.12 Partially sealing the fill of 224 and abutting the northern edge of 202 was a layer of small angular stones and clay silt (210). Onto the surface of this rubble layer was a crudely constructed, E-W alignment of stones (204). The large, oblong limestone blocks measured up to 0.45m in length and approximately 0.15m wide and were laid end to end with at least two courses present in places (Plates 6 and 7). Constructed without bonding material, the stones were subsequently abutted on their northern side by a combination of rubble and soil represented by deposits 214 and 211. In places, the stones within deposit 211 appeared to have been deliberately placed, perpendicular to and abutting structure 204, but the deposits were generally lacking in structure. This whole phase appears to be have been a levelling episode, with 204 forming a revetment.

3.5.13 Deposit 214 was partially overlain by layer 213, a deposit of redeposited clay and mortar that also overlay stone surface 226. Later deposit 219 largely filled a depression to the south of revetment 204. The relatively sterile homogenous nature of this context suggests that it formed after the main phase of occupation had ended.

3.6 Trench 3 (Figs 6 and 7; Plate 8)

3.6.1 The trench uncovered a significant depth of stratigraphy, representing the eastern range of the villa. This included a sequence of occupation layers (305), flagstone floors (318, 319), and an internal division (307).

3.6.2 Trench 3 revealed archaeological deposits throughout its length. Towards the centre of the trench, a well-stratified sequence of deposits *c* 0.5m thick was exposed (Fig. 8, sections 300 and 301). Context 313 was the earliest deposit, overlying the natural geology (303) at this point. It had a diffuse lower horizon and probably represents a disturbed interface between the geology and overlying, later activity. Towards the northern side of the sondage, deposit 313 was overlain by a thin charcoal-rich layer (312) and was also cut by a possible stakehole (315).

3.6.3 Sealing deposit 312 was a deliberately laid deposit of clean clay (311), followed by a further charcoal-rich layer (314). This horizon was notable as a phase of intensive burning (309) was observed over both layers 311 and 314. This event marked the beginning of a series of successive accumulations of charcoal and ashy lenses, grouped together as deposit 305 (Plate 9).

3.6.4 This sequence was cut by a feature (330) that was only observed in section and may be a posthole.

3.6.5 Truncating deposit 305 on an E-W alignment was the construction cut for stone foundation 307 (Plate 9). The structure was of an unusual construction and comprised a series of large limestone slabs up to 0.7m across and laid partially overlapping each other. It measured a maximum of 0.8m wide and extended for at least 1.07m. Although it clearly extended beyond the limits of the excavated sondage, its full dimensions could not be established during the investigation as it was obscured in plan by deposit 304.

3.6.6 At the western end of the trench a second sondage revealed further stratified remains (Fig. 8, section 302; Plate 10). A dirty natural interface (313) was overlain by

deposit 323, consisting largely of loose ironstone rubble with a silty clay matrix. Amongst the stones it was possible to observe some evidence that they had been deliberately laid, as they formed discrete patches appearing to have been laid at a pitched angle, although this was generally quite heavily disturbed.

3.6.7 Layer 323 was overlain by a sequence of floor surfaces, including 318, 319 and 310. Layers 318 and 319 were both represented by large limestone flagstones. Deposit 310 overlay both these surfaces and comprised a layer of sub-angular stones, 0.15-0.4m in diameter, with patches of gravelly mortar to consolidate the material.

3.6.8 Deposit 322 was located to the west of the floor surfaces, and although stratigraphically separated from them by a land drain it similarly overlay layer 323. Layer 322 comprised a stoney horizon, in which the majority of stones were resting on a horizontal axis, although their relative positions suggested they had not been deliberately laid. Above it lay deposit 301, a loose accumulation of rubble material with a clay silt matrix.

3.6.9 A shallow sondage in the eastern half of the trench revealed the surface of deposit 333, a mid greyish brown, clay silt horizon onto which further surfaces and rubble deposits had been laid (Fig. 8, section 303; Plate 11). The earliest of these was wall foundation 325, a compact layer of angular ironstone. The stones were angular in shape and *c* 0.15m in diameter and had been laid at an angle, consistent with the other foundation layers of pitched stone. Resting directly onto the surface of 325 was a concentration of large angular blocks, between 0.2m and 0.5m in diameter (332). Although there was a linear, N-S alignment to these stones, which may represent an internal division, it was not certain if they had been deliberately laid in their position.

3.6.10 Sloping down to the east and overlying both 325 and 332 was a thick deposit of silty clay and large stones (324), similar to 301 in the western part of the trench. It was truncated by land drain 320=327.

3.7 Trench 4 (Fig. 9; Plate 12)

3.7.1 The trench exposed a sequence of walls associated with the south range (402, 403, 405), a robber trench (407) and associated demolition layers which may have obscured further wall alignments (as suggested by the geophysics).

3.7.2 Deposits 410, 411, 412, 413 and 414 all predated the structures and rubble. Although not investigated in detail, these contexts appeared to represent horizons of disturbance between the natural geology and subsequent activity.

3.7.3 Approximately 1.6m from the northern end of the trench was a broadly E-W aligned rubble-filled cut that may represent a wall foundation (415; Plate 13). The fill material (402) measured a maximum of 0.5m wide and consisted of angular stones, between 0.15-0.2m in diameter.

3.7.4 Stone-lined drain 417, was recorded 1.6m to the south of 402, on a parallel alignment. It was cut into the underlying geology and although disturbed by subsequent activity, two distinct lines of roughly hewn small stone blocks (403) were identified on either side of a central channel 0.15m wide. Within the channel were several patches of light yellow grey silt which may have served as lining, or

accumulated during the use of the drain. At the western end of the drain were two capping stones.

3.7.5 Wall foundation 405 was also aligned broadly E-W. It measured 0.8m wide with large sub-angular blocks used as facing stones and a central rubble core. No bonding material was identified. This structure was only observed in plan and so only a single course of stones was observed.

3.7.6 It is possible that a corresponding wall foundation was represented by robber trench 407, 2.3m south of wall 405. The full depth of this feature was not exposed due to ingress of groundwater, but it measured up to 0.87m wide and at least 0.42m deep, with a mixed fill of silty clay and frequent angular stones, particularly towards the base.

3.7.7 It appeared as though the rubble layer 406, which extended to the north from cut 407, may have been generated during this phase of robbing as it merged imperceptibly into the backfill (408). Deposit 404 is likely to be a continuation of 406, further north around structures 403 and 405.

3.7.8 Deposit 409 was a separate, E-W aligned spread of rubble, located to the south of 407. It was similar in appearance to spreads 406 and 404 and is likely to have derived from another wall collapse or robbing episode. Notably, the zone incorporating these walls and spreads indicates a structure at least 10.5m wide. It is possible, however, based on the geophysics and rubble in the section further to the south that the overall width of the southern wing may have been wider.

3.8 Trench 5 (Fig. 10; Plate 14)

3.8.1 The trench was targeted on the putative aisled building to the south of the main complex and exposed three walls and a rubble spread that may represent the western wall (507) and aisles (511, 519) and possible eastern wall position (515) as well as a stone-lined drain (517).

3.8.2 At the western end of the trench was a large area of disturbed ground, created by cut 504. This feature was only recorded in plan, but it was at least 3m long and extended beyond the limits of the trench. It was filled with a deposit of clay silt that included numerous fragments and blocks of roughly hewn ironstone and occasional fragments of Roman brick (503).

3.8.3 Feature 505 was a NNW-SSE aligned, rubble-filled trench 0.8m wide (Plate 15). The infill material (507) comprised sub-angular ironstone and limestone fragments. The feature was recorded in plan only, so the full depth of this feature was not established.

3.8.4 Wall 511 was represented by a substantial stone foundation constructed within foundation trench 509. It comprised large, roughly hewn ironstone blocks forming the facing stones, with a rubble core also of ironstone. The facing blocks measured up to 0.5m across and the whole structure was *c* 0.9m wide, with at least two courses present (0.32m deep).

3.8.5 Parallel to wall 511 and further east was a single alignment of roughly hewn ironstone blocks (519). It is likely that these blocks formed the eastern face of a

corresponding wall. The full extent of this wall was not revealed as it was mostly obscured by the overlying rubble spread 513.

3.8.6 On the east side of wall 519 was another rubble spread (514). It is probable that this was originally a continuation of spread 513, but this area was notable as it contained several ashlar blocks of ironstone. Spread 514 extended over a distance of *c* 4m, decreasing in density towards its eastern extent.

3.8.7 The geophysics suggests the position of an eastern wall in the area of rubble spread 515 to the east side of 514. The remains of this wall were evidently poorly preserved at this location.

3.8.8 At the eastern end of the trench was a drain (517) represented by a N-S alignment of small slabs laid vertically into a narrow cut, 0.2m wide and 0.3m deep. Abutting the eastern edge of this structure and extending just over 1m to the east was a spread of sub-angular limestone and ironstone fragments (518), which appeared to have been laid directly onto the natural.

3.9 Finds summary

3.9.1 The finds assemblage from the evaluation was generally small. The pottery comprised 178 sherds (2322g; 2.19 REs) of middle and late Roman date. The pottery was generally in reasonable condition, with a moderate mean sherd weight of 13.0g. Very few sherds were specifically noted as being abraded, and despite the relatively superficial nature of some of the contexts evidence for surface treatment (such as burnishing or colour-coating) usually survived. The material derived from a variety of local, regional and more distant sources, all of which can be paralleled at other sites in the region, though the range of sources here is broader than is observed at a number of local farmstead sites.

3.9.2 A single coin of Constantius II, dated to AD 341-8, was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 2 using a metal detector.

3.9.3 Ceramic building material amounting to 114 fragments (13864g) and 46 stone tesserae (211g) from a disturbed mosaic from the north-east corner of the villa. The pieces of tile recovered are fairly large, although no complete items were found, nor do any complete dimensions other than thickness survive, except for the tesserae. The assemblage is composed of the range of forms that would be expected from a villa site, including roofing comprising tegula and imbrex tiles, flooring in the form of tesserae, and flue tile and brick relating to heated rooms.

3.9.4 A total of 48 pieces of stone were recovered, 19 of which are not worked. Several ashlar blocks were recovered from Trench 5, and two fragments of stone roofing with perforations but lacking original edges were found in Trench 3.

3.9.5 The fired clay assemblage amounts to just two fragments (147g) recovered from the topsoil in Trench 4. A block of deposit 305 was sampled, consisting of numerous fine thin lenses of trampled ash, eroded burnt clay and charcoal flecks.

3.9.6 Two fragments (15g) of painted wall plaster were recovered from Trench 2.

3.9.7 The metal assemblage was very small, comprising ten pieces of iron, six of which were nails or nail fragments, together with a single small lead offcut.

3.9.8 Just two pieces of glass were recovered. Both are probably pieces of window glass, although one has been partly melted, and neither is of Roman date.

3.9.9 Two pieces of struck flint was recovered, comprising a backed knife and a blade-like flake.

3.10 Environmental summary

3.10.1 A single soil sample was collected, from later 305 in the east range. Charcoal was in generally good condition with over 50 fragments larger than 2mm, but cereal grain was in poor condition with a 'clinkered' appearance, and the majority are partial. The poor condition has affected the identification of the material, but is unsurprising in a floor layer, as material is likely to have been crushed and generally abraded in the course of its deposition.

3.10.2 A total of 128 hand-collected animal bone specimens were recovered, plus three specimens from a single sieved sample. The most numerous species was cattle, followed by sheep/goat. Pig (including wild boar), dog, horse and chicken were also recovered.

3.10.3 A small assemblage of nine oyster shells was collected during hand excavation of Trench 2.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Evaluation objectives and results

4.1.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation are detailed above in Section 2, where the specific aims for each trench are also listed. A brief summary of the results and how they address the various objectives continues below.

Trench 1

4.1.2 Trench 1 positively identified two linear ditches which correspond with the N-S aligned anomalies that were targeted. Although there was a slight depression in the topography of the underlying geology between these two ditches, no evidence of metalling or a defined hollow-way was revealed, although the geophysical survey layout for these ditches implies they defined the sides of a track.

Trench 2

4.1.3 The recording of at least four *in situ* stone walls in Trench 2 confirmed the presence of several phases of construction of structures that would have formed at least part of the north wing of the villa complex. Due to the lack of identifiable floor surfaces, or construction horizons, combined with a paucity of artefactual evidence, it is difficult to confidently establish the date range of the structure at this stage. On the whole, the ceramic material consisted of small, abraded sherds and is most likely to have been residual in later deposits.

4.1.4 The trench was located across an E-W aligned ridge that survives as a distinct feature of the topography of the field. This investigation has demonstrated that this ridge represents a substantial area of *in situ* archaeology, at least 0.7m thick. Such a depth of stratified archaeology is unusual for a rural site unless it has accumulated in conjunction with colluvial processes at the base of a slope. Clearly this is not the situation here and given that the ploughsoil is just 0.15m thick in places, demonstrates an exceptional level of localised preservation while simultaneously illustrating how vulnerable these remains are.

Trench 3

4.1.5 The range of anomalies identified as the east wing are clearly archaeological in nature and therefore support the interpretation that these features are part of a courtyard villa.

4.1.6 The enhanced geophysical survey readings targeted in Trench 3 are not part of a tessellated pavement but more likely a result of occupation debris derived from repeated burning episodes.

4.1.7 As with Trench 2, there was a distinct ridge in the topography that correlates with the N-S alignment of geophysical anomalies. This ridge has been shown to result from the survival of another deep ridge of *in situ* archaeology, almost 0.6m thick. Furthermore, the various floor surfaces and possible occupation horizons identified in the trench demonstrate that the demolition and debris appears to have preserved the original ground level.

Trench 4

4.1.8 The various structural remains and demolition layers revealed in Trench 4 demonstrate clearly that there was a range of buildings that formed a southern wing. It is possible that the southern wall of this structure was disturbed, as a possible wall line is indicated further to the south of the identified walls in the trench by the geophysical survey results. Unlike Trenches 2 and 3, there was an absence of complex, deeply stratified archaeology. But, on balance this seems to be a reflection on the quality and longevity of the activity in this area as opposed to poor preservation of the remains.

Trench 5

4.1.9 Trench 5 successfully identified a series of wall foundations correlating to the linear anomalies from the geophysical survey. At this stage the function of the building remains unclear and the presence of a possible apsidal end has not been established. An aisled barn interpretation is probably most plausible, based on analogy with detached structures elsewhere.

4.2 Interpretation

Prehistoric Evidence

4.2.1 Although there is an interesting array of prehistoric features and finds from the surrounding landscape, the pre-Roman evidence from the evaluation is limited to a single flint point discovered in the possible buried soil horizon in Trench 2. However, it may be premature to discount the possibility of any significant pre-Roman activity on the basis of such scant evidence. Due to the density of the stratified remains, there were few opportunities to observe any features that may have pre-dated the villa structure and so there remains significant potential for the presence of such features in the unexplored areas. Certainly, the geophysical survey shows numerous linear and curvilinear anomalies on significantly different alignments to those of the villa and its associated features. These might relate to late Iron Age or early Roman phases of activity at the site.

Courtyard Villa

4.2.2 The results of the evaluation have confirmed the presence of at least three wings of the villa, forming the north, east and southern ranges. The correlation between the archaeologically revealed structures and the geophysical features means that greater confidence can be placed in the interpretation of the geophysical survey as indicating corresponding structural remains on the western side.

4.2.3 The well-preserved remains of walls 205, 206 and 212 in Trench 2 demonstrate three distinct phases of construction relating to the northern exterior wall of the north range. At this stage it remains unclear how these related to wall 227. This is because the construction types varied quite markedly and, more importantly, no clear stratigraphic relationships were observed in the limited interventions excavated. If feature 224 is to be accepted as a robber cut, then this could indicate the location of a southern wall that would have defined the internal courtyard.

4.2.4 It is also possible that the slightly more ambiguous pitched-stone structure 202 also served as a wall foundation, but this remains unconfirmed. With a width of 1.2m, it is evidently on a different scale to any of the other more obvious wall foundations, and also differs in construction techniques and material from many of the other walls, although pitched-stone foundations were found elsewhere. During its excavation it was hypothesised that this feature could have been part of a pathway, and the rounded nature of the top edges of the stones may have been generated through wear. However, during the short period in which it was exposed as part of this investigation, it became evident that these stones easily fractured under any slight, but direct pressure. A greater length of feature 202 would therefore need to be exposed to fully understand how it was incorporated into the overall complex.

4.2.5 Stone deposit 226 remains convincing as a foundation deposit for an internal floor surface. It directly overlay the buried soil horizon, but it has not been possible to determine at this stage which phase of construction it was associated with. However, survival of this deposit demonstrates the extent of preservation on site and the potential for survival of similar horizons.

4.2.6 The interpretation of structure 204 is hindered by its limited exposure within the confines of the trench. Its construction was certainly more *ad hoc* than other elements of the villa exposed elsewhere, which suggests two points. First, it was unlikely to have been required for any substantial structural support such as a wall foundation. Secondly, it appears quite late in the stratigraphic sequence, and may therefore be associated with more rudimentary re-use of the earlier buildings. On balance, it seems likely that this was a revetment of some kind, allowing the area to the north to be levelled. Deposit 213 may then have been a consolidation layer, either supporting a floor, or perhaps serving as a surface itself.

4.2.7 The nature of the deposits in the east range was significantly different to that observed elsewhere. The sequence of charcoal and burnt clay deposits in the centre of Trench 3 indicate a zone of intensive or prolonged activity. As in the north range, the late insertion of structure 307 demonstrates that there was a development of the building over time. At this stage, this feature is only tentatively interpreted as a wall foundation because, unusually, it comprises large flagstones rather than the roughly hewn blocks incorporated into the walls elsewhere. Without seeing more of it exposed, it is difficult to be certain of the interpretation, but the fact that the stones were inserted in a linear cut does make it more likely that this was a wall rather than a portion of flooring.

4.2.8 While there is no doubt that the remains in Trench 3 are part of the east range of the villa, no external walls were revealed during the evaluation at this location. The internal clay floors, and the elements of flagstone paving all show that preservation was adequate for these walls to have survived if present. Whilst the frequency of large limestone and ironstone blocks in the associated rubble layers suggest that any structures would have been constructed from stone as opposed to being timber framed, it is therefore likely that these were either robbed out, or remain sealed within the stratigraphy.

4.2.9 The sequence of remains representing the south range was much simpler than to the north or east. This is likely to be partly due to differential preservation, but perhaps more significantly is a reflection of the simplicity and longevity of construction activity in this area. Based on the positions of the structures, it is likely that wall 405 would have formed a corridor with a parallel wall indicated by the robber trench 407. This would have been adjoined to the south by a single room, with an external wall indicated by the stone rubble 411. To the north of the corridor, on the interior of the courtyard it is possible to imagine a portico type structure supported on the rubble foundations, perhaps with an associated footpath constructed in conjunction with the stone-lined drain.

4.2.10 Unfortunately, the clarity of the geophysical survey does not permit us to determine the precise footprint of the villa, particularly on the southern side. This is in part due to the intensity and longevity of activity on the site, as the deep sequences of stratigraphy have prevented a clear picture from being developed by geophysical survey.

4.2.11 The pottery assemblage was quite small but gives no indication of activity on the site before the 2nd century AD. The presence of a single late 1st-century coin recorded by the metal detector survey is not problematic as this is likely to have remained in circulation during the 2nd century. Most of the dated contexts were attributed either to the later 3rd-4th century or could only be assigned to a broad period encompassing the 2nd-4th centuries. Stratified coins were lacking during the evaluation with only a single coin dated to AD 341-8 recovered from the topsoil of Trench 2. However, the date range of the coins recovered during the metal detector survey corresponds to the ceramic evidence with a bias towards the later 3rd-4th century.

4.2.12 The assemblage of ceramic building material similarly lacked forms of 1st or early 2nd century date, and the tegula cutaways and flue tiles are suggestive of a mid-2nd to 3rd century date. This dating evidence may indicate a focus on the later part of the Roman period, and potentially a late origin for the complex, but it is important to remember that detailed excavation was limited and earlier deposits may have been obscured by later stratigraphy. It is possible that the absence of late Roman shell-tempered ware, and, particularly, the relative absence of Oxford colour-coated ware, suggest that occupation was not intensive in the later 4th century, but any such suggestion has to be treated with caution given the small size of the excavated assemblage.

Aisled Building

4.2.13 It was suggested that the building to the south of the main villa complex was an aisled building, perhaps a bath-house or even a late Roman church. Although the survival of at least three walls (and probably four walls) confirms the presence of a building that correlates with the results of the geophysical survey, the precise function of the structure cannot be confirmed on present evidence. Only a small assemblage of finds was recovered from the associated debris, and there was no evidence of any contemporary floor surfaces. Nevertheless, it was clearly a

significant building, measuring *c* 25 x 15m and produced finely dressed stone of a character that was not seen anywhere else on the site.

Associated Features

4.2.14 The geophysical survey indicated a dense array of features within the vicinity of, but evidently separate from the main villa building. As suggested above, many of these may derive from completely different periods of activity that are yet to be identified. During the evaluation the two ditches to the north-west of the villa were investigated. They are likely to have been contemporary with one or more phases of the villa. It was initially hypothesised in the WSI that these formed part of a formal entrance or hollow-way, but on current evidence it is not possible to confirm or refute these suggestions. The ditches differed significantly in size and provided no indication that they worked together other than their shared alignment. On balance it seems likely that these N-S ditches indicate the position of a *c* 15m wide 'greenway' track flanking the west side of the villa, with the larger curved ditch, which curves east into the structure, representing an entrance arrangement.

4.2.15 The general arrangement of ditches flanking the west side of the villa as indicated by the geophysical survey hints of that the villa was accessed from the south. Such a track may have linked with the Roman road to the south and provides a possible trackside context for both the putative aisled building in Trench 5) and the high-status sarcophagus burial found in the field to the south of the villa field.

Surface Finds

4.2.16 Although there has not yet been any formal fieldwalking survey of the site, a number of finds have been recovered from the surface of the field, both as part of this investigation and also in the preceding years in the course of metal detecting. During the evaluation, a distinct and discrete spread of stone tesserae (of a mosaic) and tile tesserae (typically used to border mosaics) was identified *c* 15-20m north of Trench 3, coinciding with the probable north-east corner of the villa. Alongside these were several fragments of tufa and bipedales. On the basis of these finds it seems possible that there was a tessellated (mosaic) floor and perhaps a vaulted ceiling present within this part of the villa.

4.2.17 No further dense collections of tesserae were evident based on informal fieldwalking of the villa wing positions. By analogy, courtyard villas typically contain multiple mosaics and tessellated pavements, which may suggest that others are present and have potentially not been plough-disturbed. As mentioned in Section 1.3, previous informal collections of material also included Roman tile forms typical of a villa along with pottery. This was most densely concentrated in the north wing around Trench 2. However, a small number of tile-derived tesserae were noted from the south wing of the villa and pottery of later 1st-2nd century date (including simple everted rim sherds) was also noted, indicating an early Roman phase of activity at the site generally.

Overview

4.2.18 The evaluation has confirmed the general interpretation of the geophysical survey as representing a substantial Roman villa of courtyard form. The topographical position of the main building complex is of interest as it slopes down both to the east, overlooking a stream, and to the south, with a view across the location of the previously-excavated high status inhumation burial (surely related to the villa complex) towards the line of the Roman road. If the most substantial structural elements are in the north range, as is possible, it may be that the complex was designed to face southwards, but this is not certain.

4.2.19 The southern building, sampled in Trench 5, is fairly certainly an aisled structure, although the interpretation of a possible apse on the basis of the geophysical survey is very speculative. Such a building could have served as a store and processing area for agricultural produce, but Romano-British aisled structures are typically multi-functional. The association of well-dressed ashlar blocks with this building is notable. There is no support from either the geophysical survey or the evaluation trenches for the suggestion that this could have been a bath building. Isolated bath buildings, though not infrequently found on villa sites in some parts of the south-east, are not a feature of such sites in this region, and it is altogether more likely that any bath suite would have been located in the north range of the complex, though a tentative suggestion that the very strongly marked, angled linear geophysical anomaly running into the north-west corner of the complex was a channel serving a bath suite remains unsubstantiated and may not be supported by topographical evidence, although it is clear that this feature, as seen in Trench 1, was a substantial ditch.

4.2.20 The alignment of the aisled building and the N-S aligned ditches that flank the villa, as seen in Trench 1, could support the view that the principal axis of the complex is north-south, with analogous locations for such buildings at sites such as Bignor, in the Cotswolds at Woodchester and Spoonley Wood, and more locally, at Stonesfield. Recent geophysical survey at North Leigh (Creighton and Allen 2017) has confirmed earlier suggestions that a substantial aisled building lay at right angles to the south-east facing axis of the courtyard and outside it. At North Leigh, the fourth side of the courtyard consisted principally of a double foundation, presumably carrying an enclosure wall with a portico or, at best, a simple range of narrow rooms. The complexity of the geophysical survey for Broughton suggests that all four sides of the courtyard may have contained a variety of rooms.

4.2.21 In terms of scale the Broughton courtyard complex appears to be slightly larger than that at North Leigh. The main quadrangle at North Leigh has approximate external dimensions of *c* 80m. On the basis of the geophysical survey, the Broughton complex is roughly 85m square. It is not clear if the layout is entirely regular. At North Leigh the asymmetrical plan of the courtyard complex reflects the long term evolution of the site. The evidence of multiple building phases at Broughton suggests that minor differences of alignment, for example in the east range, might reflect similar complexities of development sequence. Currently, however, there is no indication of activity in the 1st century AD (although this could be concealed by later structures), so the overall occupation sequence may not extend as far back as at North Leigh and

a number of other villas lying within the North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch complex, which is situated some way to the south of Broughton and appears to represent an unusual concentration of high status activity from the late Iron Age onwards.

4.2.22 Overall, even on present evidence the Broughton villa represents a major addition to our knowledge of Roman rural settlement in the region and beyond. With a main quadrangular enclosure larger than that at North Leigh it is the largest building of its type in Oxfordshire. Superficially, only a few sites, with certain or probable outer courtyards, such as Woodchester and Chedworth, were probably rather larger establishments. For example, the north wing of Chedworth is *c* 100m in length, with the width between the north and south wings measuring *c* 75m. Other comparable scale villas include Bignor in West Sussex, Woodchester and Brading on the isle of Wight.

APPENDIX A HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Gazetteer

Scheduled Monuments

ListEntry	Legacy UID	Name
1002923	OX 36 B	Earthwork NE of Tadmarton village
1006371	OX 36 A	Madmarston Hill camp
1020968	30882	Broughton Castle: fortified house and moat

Registered Park or Garden

ListEntry	Legacy UID	Grade	Name
1001088	2090	II	BROUGHTON CASTLE

Conservation Area

Name
North Newington
Tadmarton

HER Features

PREFREF	MONUID	Record Type	Name	MON Type	Period	Easting	Northing
497	MOX4033	Monument	Site of Lime kiln	LIME KILN	Post Medieval	438600	238400
1091	MOX4038	Monument	Lea Deserted Medieval Village	DESERTED SETTLEMENT	Medieval to Post Medieval	438814	238396
1584	MOX4039	Monument	Roman Barrow	BARROW	Roman	438630	238389
1592	MOX24	Monument	Madmarston Hillfort	MULTIVALLATE HILLFORT, LINEAR EARTHWORK	Iron Age	438631	238927
1594	MOX6841	Monument	Undated Earthwork NE of Tadmarton	EARTHWORK	Unknown	439860	238780
1609	MOX4042	Monument	Site of Medieval Building and Pottery, near Madmarston Hill	BUILDING, FINDSPOT	Medieval to Post Medieval	438700	238400
2443	MOX4048	Find Spot	Iron Age Coins	FINDSPOT	Iron Age	439000	238500
2444	MOX4049	Monument	Roman Settlement at Swalcliffe Lea	SETTLEMENT, INHUMATION, WELL, VILLA, MOSAIC	Roman	438883	238486
3913	MOX4052	Find Spot	Undated Quern Fragment	FINDSPOT	Undated	438600	238900
4725	MOX4275	Monument	Site of Old Limekiln	LIME KILN	Post Medieval	440840	238600
5184	MOX4063	Find Spot	Neolithic Fragment of Polished Stone Axe	FINDSPOT	Neolithic	438610	238880
5987	MOX4290	Monument	Formalised Rabbit Warren Complex	RABBIT WARREN, SHRUNKEN VILLAGE	Medieval to Post Medieval	441500	238300
8927	MOX4067	Linear	Roman Road	ROAD	Roman	439345	238443
9217	MOX4068	Monument	Possible Medieval Shrunken Village	SHRUNKEN VILLAGE	Medieval	439165	237879
9348	MOX10743	Monument	Possible Medieval Shrunken Village	SHRUNKEN VILLAGE?	Medieval	442100	238501
9415	MOX4292	Monument	Possible Medieval Fishponds	FISHPOND	Medieval	441844	238371
9416	MOX4293	Monument	Possible Fishpond or Millpond	FISHPOND?, MILL POND?	Medieval	441800	238000
9417	MOX4294	Monument	Post Medieval Park at Broughton Castle	PARK	Post Medieval	441600	238500
9418	MOX4295	Monument	Formalised Rabbit Warren, Broughton Park	RABBIT WARREN	Medieval to Post Medieval	441520	238390
9419	MOX4296	Monument	Formalised Rabbit Warren, Broughton Park	RABBIT WARREN	Medieval to Post Medieval	441530	238330
9421	MOX4298	Monument	Site of Medieval Tithe Barn	TITHE BARN	Medieval	442000	238400
10232	MOX4305	Monument	Site of Toll House	TOLL HOUSE	Post Medieval	442099	238454
11191	MOX4087	Find Spot	Post Medieval Token from Madmarston Hill	FINDSPOT	Post Medieval	438700	238800
11402	MOX4315	Find Spot	Neolithic Flint	FINDSPOT	Neolithic	441300	239200
11613	MOX4318	Monument	Undated Cropmarks	ENCLOSURE	Unknown	442208	239290
11704	MOX6834	Find Spot	Multi-period Artefact Scatter (N of Madmarston Hill)	ARTEFACT SCATTER, ARTEFACT SCATTER	Early Neolithic to Post Medieval	438500	239000
12104	MOX4095	Monument	Roman villa and well at Swalcliffe Lea	WELL, VILLA	Roman to Post Medieval	439134	238383
13709	MOX4101	Find Spot	Neolithic Flint Core	FINDSPOT	Neolithic	439600	237500
13974	MOX4373	Monument	Romano British Inhumation Burial (approx 300m WNW of the Fulling Mill)	INHUMATION	Roman	440450	238550
15017	MOX4103	Monument	Later Prehistoric Square Enclosure (E of Madmarston Hillfort)	SQUARE ENCLOSURE	Later Prehistoric	439900	238890
15018	MOX4375	Monument	Medieval Moat, Broughton Castle	MOAT	Medieval	441710	238130
15962	MOX4377	Monument	Possible Bronze Age Ring Ditch near Tadmarton	ROUND BARROW?, SQUARE ENCLOSURE	Bronze Age	440900	237650
16169	MOX4379	Monument	Undated Enclosure and Linear Feature	RECTANGULAR ENCLOSURE, LINEAR FEATURE	Unknown	439431	238461
16348	MOX10571	Monument	Roman Settlement and Finds (Between Round Hill and Madmarston Hill)	SETTLEMENT, FINDSPOT	Roman	438450	239350
16408	MOX11205	Monument	Possible Pit Alignment at North Newington	PIT ALIGNMENT?	Iron Age	440450	240604
16789	MOX12556	Find Spot	Roman Face-pot from Drayton Woods	FINDSPOT	Roman	440000	240000
26482	MOX23925	Find Spot	Purse bar fragment	FINDSPOT	Undated	439600	237940
26483	MOX23926	Find Spot	Harness mount	FINDSPOT	Undated	439640	238160
27564	MOX24075	Find Spot	Scatter of RB material on slope to east of Madmarston Hill Fort rampart	FINDSPOT	Roman	438750	238850
27672	MOX24185	Monument	Roman occupation site at Broughton Castle	ARTEFACT SCATTER, BUILDING	Roman	441500	238200
28030	MOX24559	Monument	Scarp edge indicative of Medieval or Post-Medieval quarrying	QUARRY	Medieval to Post Medieval	440455	237151
28031	MOX24560	Monument	Post-Medieval quarry	EXTRACTIVE PIT, QUARRY	Post Medieval	441740	237490
28032	MOX24561	Monument	Post-Medieval or early C20 quarry	QUARRY	Post Medieval to Modern	440450	237860
28033	MOX24562	Monument	Post-Medieval or early C20 quarry	QUARRY	Post Medieval to Modern	440280	239470
28034	MOX24563	Monument	Post-Medieval or early C20 quarry	EXTRACTIVE PIT, QUARRY	Post Medieval to Modern	441900	238720
28040	MOX24569	Element	Banked linear earthworks	FISHPOND, MILL POND	Medieval to Post Medieval	441680	237770
28048	MOX24577	Monument	An area of probably Medieval or Post-medieval settlement	SETTLEMENT, BUILDING PLATFORM	Medieval to Post Medieval	439680	237420
28049	MOX24578	Monument	A probably medieval or post-medieval plough headland and a lynchet	LYNCHET, PLOUGH HEADLAND	Medieval to Post Medieval	439640	237610
28051	MOX24580	Monument	Undated possible field system	FIELD SYSTEM, FIELD BOUNDARY	Early Bronze Age to Modern	439940	237030
28052	MOX24581	Monument	A series of probably post-medieval or Twentieth Century limestone quarries	LIMESTONE QUARRY, QUARRY	Post Medieval to Modern	439930	237830
28053	MOX24582	Monument	A medieval or possibly post-medieval plough headland and a lynchet	CULTIVATION TERRACE, PLOUGH HEADLAND, LYNCHET	Medieval to Post Medieval	438320	238500
28054	MOX24583	Monument	Probable Medieval or Post-Medieval hollow way	HOLLOW WAY	Medieval to Post Medieval	438960	238560
28055	MOX24584	Monument	A probably post-medieval quarry pit	QUARRY	Post Medieval	438750	237920
28056	MOX24585	Monument	A pair of probably medieval or post-medieval hollow ways	HOLLOW WAY	Medieval to Post Medieval	439130	238210
28058	MOX24587	Monument	Undated rectilinear enclosure	RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE	Undated	439580	238950
28124	MOX24653	Monument	Probable Post-Medieval quarrying	QUARRY	Post Medieval	438562	238527
28132	MOX24662	Monument	Earthworks in Broughton Park	BOUNDARY BANK, BOUNDARY DITCH, HOLLOW WAY, FIELD BOUNDARY, QUARRY	Medieval to Post Medieval	441700	238300
28164	MOX24694	Monument	possible post-medieval bedwork water meadow	WATER MEADOW	Post Medieval	440420	238780
28224	MOX24756	Element	Post-Medieval or C20 drainage ditches	DRAINAGE DITCH	Post Medieval to Modern	439967	237273
28227	MOX24759	Monument	post-medieval quarry pit	QUARRY	Post Medieval	439076	238031

HER Events

EVUID	Name	Organisation	Date
EOX1034	MPP Quarrying Industry: Step 3.2 Site Assessment	English Heritage	1999
EOX1548	Broughton Castle, Broughton, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report	Oxford Archaeology	2004
EOX1977	Magnetometer Survey of Roman Town at Swalcliffe Lea	Oxford University Archaeological Society	1959
EOX1978	Excavations of a Roman settlement at Swalcliffe Lea	Oxford University Archaeological Society	1959
EOX1980	Excavations at Swalcliffe Lea Roman Villa	North Oxon Archaeology Group	1996-2006
EOX1981	Excavation of a Roman building at Swalcliffe Lea	Unassigned	1966
EOX2219	Excavation of Roman Road E of Swalcliffe Lea Roman settlement	North Oxon Archaeology Group	2007
EOX2310	MPP Assessment of Pillow Mounds and other Features in Broughton Park	OCC Archaeological Service	2000
EOX2698	Broughton Castle Site	North Oxon Archaeology Group	2003
EOX2699	Round Hill Roman ?Site	North Oxon Archaeology Group	2004
EOX2810	Upper Lea	North Oxon Archaeology Group	1997
EOX3093	An Archaeological Watching Brief At The Old Rectory	John Moore Heritage Services	2010-2011
EOX3119	Upper Lea farm	Phoenix Consulting	2009-2010
EOX3309	Land adj 2 Park Lane	Oxford Archaeology	2006
EOX522	Preedy's Farm	Oxford Archaeological Unit	1996
EOX5606	Swalcliffe Lea Roman Building	North Oxon Archaeology Group	2012

APPENDIX B TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	WSW-ENE
Trench contained two ditches and a possible pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying colluvial horizons and natural geology of silty clay and ironstone.					**Length (m)**	25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.2	Colluvial subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Layer		0.2	Reddish brown/grey brown sandy, clay silt layer with large ironstone rocks		
104	Cut	0.7	0.4	Ditch		
105	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of 104, grey brown, sandy clay silt with occ. Ironstone.		
106	Cut	0.8	-	Pit? (unexcavated)		
107	Fill	0.8	-	Fill of 107, mid reddish brown, sandy clay silt.		
108	Layer	-	0.15m	Reddish brown, sandy clay silt layer with ironstone fragments.		
109	Cut	2.8	>0.7	Ditch (not bottomed)		
110	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of 109, mid to dark reddish grey brown, sandy silty clay.		
111	Fill	-	>0.36	Fill of 109, dark reddish grey brown, sandy silty clay		
112	Layer	-	0.1	Dark reddish brown, sandy clay silt.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained four stone walls, other stone constructions and numerous deposits representing foundation layers and demolition episodes. These were overlain by a layer of topsoil, with an underlying natural geology of yellow silty clay.					**Length (m)**	25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.15
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.10-0.25	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
202	Structure	1.22	0.1	Pitched stone foundation	-	-
203	Layer	-	0.12	Mid to dark grey, silty clay layer		
204	Structure	0.15	0.2	Limestone structure, possible revetment		
205	Structure	0.66	0.32	Mortared wall and foundation		
206	Structure	0.67	0.59	Limestone wall		
207	Deposit	-	0.5	Light brown clay silt with frequent stones and mortar fragments		
208	Deposit	-	-	Duplicate of 207		
209	Deposit	-	-	Duplicate of 207		
210	Layer	-	0.15	Mid grey brown, clay silt with frequent, small angular stones		
211	Deposit	-	0.22	Angular limestone blocks abutting structure 204, with soil matrix of light brown clay silt.		
212	Structure	0.85	0.09	Limestone wall		
213	Layer	-	0.2	Light yellow brown clay with stones and mortar fragments		
214	Deposit	-	0.3	Compact, mid grey brown clay silt with frequent angular stones		
215	Layer	-	0.24	Mid reddish brown, silty clay	Flint	
216	Layer	-	-	Duplicate of 210		
217	Deposit	-	-	Duplicate of 214		
218	Finds	-	-	Assigned to locate finds from deposit 207		
219	Layer	-	0.3	Mid brown, clay silt		
220	Layer	-	0.15	Mid brown grey, silty clay with frequent small stones, mortar flecks and lenses of blue-grey ashy		

				deposits		
221	Layer	-	0.15	Mid grey brown, silty clay		
222	Cut	0.54	0.18	Pit or ditch (only observed in section)		
223	Fill	-	0.18	Fill of 222, mid to dark reddish brown, clay silt		
224	Cut	0.96	0.22	Foundation trench or robber cut		
225	Fill	-	0.22	Mid grey brown, clay silt with frequent angular stones		
226	Layer	-	0.1	Layer of sub-angular stones		
227	Structure	0.62	-	Limestone wall (only observed in plan)		
228	Structure	0.9	0.1	Limestone post socket		
229	Deposit	-	-	Limestone rubble, foundation layer		
230	Deposit	-	-	Limestone rubble, foundation layer		
231	Deposit	-	-	Limestone rubble foundation layer		
232	Deposit	-	>0.2	Limestone layer, perhaps same as 231		
233	Deposit	-	0.4	Grey brown, silty clay with mortar flecks		
234	Deposit	-	>0.1	Grey brown, silty clay with frequent angular stones	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained archaeology throughout representing remains of the eastern wing of the of the villa. In the centre of the trench a sondage revealed an E-W aligned wall foundation and a series of floor surfaces. Fragmentary floor surfaces and rubble deposits were revealed within two further slots. The underlying natural geology consisted of yellow silty clay.					**Length (m)**	25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.1-0.25	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
302	Void	-	-	-	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	Natural		
304	Layer	-	0.09	Dark greyish brown, silty clay		
305	Layer	-	0.32	Multiple lenses of dark grey, light grey and light brown, silty clay and ash with reddish brown burnt clay.		
306	Cut	1	0.36	Construction cut		
307	Structure	0.8	-	Limestone slab wall foundation		
308	Fill	-	0.36	Fill of 306, dark grey brown, silty clay		
309	Layer	-	0.03	Dark reddish orange, burnt clay		
310	Structure	-	0.03	Ironstone floor surface		
311	Layer	-	0.06-0.12	Mid orangey yellow clay		
312	Layer	-	0.02	Dark grey brown, charcoal rich, silty clay		
313	Layer	-	0.11	Mid brownish yellow, clay		
314	Layer	-	0.04	Dark greyish brown, silty clay		
315	Cut	0.09	0.2	Stake hole		
316	Fill	0.09	0.2	Fill of 315, mid brownish yellow, slightly silty clay with burnt clay margins		
317	Finds	-	-	Surface finds recovered from a discrete area, c.20m to north of Trench 3		
318	Structure	-	-	Surface of limestone slabs		
319	Structure	-	-	Surface of limestone slabs		
320	Cut	-	-	Land drain		
321	Fill	-	-	Fill of 320		

322	Deposit	-	0.1	Dark greyish brown, silty clay with frequent large stones lying flat		
323	Layer	-	0.26	Dark greyish brown, silty clay with frequent medium stones		
324	Layer	-	0.32	Dark greyish brown, silty clay, frequent small and medium stones		
325	Structure	-	-	Area of pitched stone comprising yellow ironstone		
326	Void	-	-	-	-	-
327	Cut	-	-	Land drain		
328	Fill	-	-	Fill of 327		
329	Layer	-	0.23	Dark greyish brown, silty clay with small stones		
330	Cut	0.31	0.3	Possible post hole (only observed in section)		
331	Fill	-	-	Dark grey, slightly clay silt		
332	Deposit	-	-	Large limestone blocks		
333	Layer	-	-	Grey brown, clay silt (unexcavated)	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a series of rubble deposits sealing two wall foundations, a robber cut of a wall and a stone-lined drain. Natural geology consisted light yellow grey of silty clay and ironstone.					**Length (m)**	25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
402	Structure	0.4	-	Rubble foundation	-	-
403	Structure	0.4	-	Stone-lined drain		
404	Layer	-	-	Rubble spread		
405	Structure	0.8	-	Stone wall foundation		
406	Layer	-	-	Rubble spread		
407	Cut	0.87	>0.42	Robber cut		
408	Fill	-	-	Fill of 407, dark orangey brown, silty clay with angular stones		
409	Layer	-	0.27	Orangey yellow, silty clay and medium angular stones		
410	Deposit	-	-	Rubble spread		
411	Deposit	-	0.2	Orangey brown, sandy clay silt and stone rubble		
412	Layer	-	-	Orangey brown, silty clay		
413	Layer	-	-	Dark orangey brown, silty clay and stones	-	-
414	Layer	-	-	Reddish brown, sandy clay silt		
415	Cut	0.4	-	Cut for foundation 402		
416	Cut	0.84	-	Cut for foundation 405		
417	Cut	0.38	-	Cut for drain 403		
418	Fill	-	-	Light yellow grey clay fill of drain, 403		

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					**Length (m)**	25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.05	Interface between ploughsoil and archaeology	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
503	Fill	-	-	Fill of 504, dark grey brown, slightly clay, sandy silt with ironstone roughly hewn blocks	-	-
504	Cut	>3	-	Unexcavated cut at western end of trench		
505	Cut	1.2	-	Cut for rubble foundation 507		
506	Fill	-	-	Fill of 505, orangey grey brown, clay sand silt		
507	Structure	0.77	-	Rubble foundation		
508	Layer	0.8	-	Mid brown, sandy clay silt		
509	Cut	1	-	Cut for wall foundation 511		
510	Fill	-	-	Fill of 509, yellow brown, greyish brown clay silt with ironstone fragments		
511	Structure	0.95	-	Wall foundation		
512	Layer	-	-	Grey brown, sandy clay silt		
513	Layer	-	-	Ironstone rubble with orangey grey brown, silt		
514	Deposit	-	-	Ironstone rubble including dressed ashlar blocks		
515	Deposit	-	-	Brown and orangey brown, sandy clay silt		
516	Cut	0.2	0.3	Cut for drain 517		
517	Structure	0.2	0.3	Stone-lined drain		
518	Layer	1.3	-	Ironstone rubble, possible path		
519	Structure	-	-	Partially visible stone wall foundation		
520	Finds	-	-	Finds reference for surface finds gathered during the investigation.		

APPENDIX C FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Pottery

By Paul Booth

Introduction

C.1.1 Some 178 sherds (2322g; 2.19 REs) of pottery of mid to late Roman date were recovered during the evaluation. The total includes a single sherd from a sieved soil sample, as well as material from topsoil contexts in the evaluation trenches. Two sherds of post-medieval date (one each from contexts 300 and 501) were present but are not discussed further.

C.1.2 The pottery was recorded by context group using the system employed for all Roman pottery from OA projects (Booth 2014a). Details of fabrics, vessel forms and decoration etc were recorded using standardised codes which allow ready comparison between assemblages in the region. Quantification was by sherd count, weight and rim equivalents (REs). The methodology is in line with recently-published standards (PCRG *et al*. 2016). The full records are on paper sheets and on an Excel spreadsheet which are contained in the project archive.

C.1.3 The pottery was generally in reasonable condition, with a moderate mean sherd weight of 13.0g. Very few sherds were specifically noted as being abraded, and despite the relatively superficial nature of some of the contexts evidence for surface treatment (such as burnishing or colour-coating) usually survived. It was noted, however, that sherds in calcareous fabrics (C10 and C20) tended to be characterised by voids where the relevant inclusions (mainly shell and limestone ooliths) had been leached out.

Fabrics

C.1.4 Identification of fabrics was at a fairly generalised level, usually at an intermediate stage of the fabric/ware definition hierarchy used in the recording system. The major ware groups represented in the Broughton assemblage were: S - samian ware, F - fine wares, M - mortarium fabrics, W - white wares, Q – white-slipped fabrics, O - oxidised `coarse' wares, R - reduced `coarse' wares, B - black-burnished ware and C - calcareous (usually shell-tempered) fabrics. Most sherds were assigned to subgroups of these categories (eg R30, a general grouping for moderately fine sandy reduced wares), though some were identified at the level of specific fabric (eg M22, Oxfordshire white ware mortaria).

C.1.5 Brief descriptions of the fabrics present in the group, or familiar names of well-known wares, are given with quantification in Table C1 below. Fuller descriptions can be found in the documentation of the recording system contained in the project archive. Fabric codes from the national Roman pottery fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) are given in the table in bold. The total quantities of pottery are such that presenting percentages of the different fabrics by each measure would

be of limited value. Percentages are therefore only given for the totals of each ware group, treating the 'fine and specialist' wares (ware groups S, F, M, W and Q) as a single group.

Table C1: Quantification of pottery fabrics

Ware	Summary description	No. of sh.	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight	REs	% REs
S	samian ware, source uncertain	1		2			
S30	Central Gaulish samian ware (incl **LEZ SA 2**)	10		93		0.15	
S40	East Gaulish samian ware (incl **RHZ SA**)	1		28			
F44	Moselkeramik (**MOS BS**)	1		2			
F51	Oxford colour-coated ware (**OXF RS**)	4		29		0.02	
F52	Nene Valley colour-coated ware (**LNV CC**)	1		5			
M22	Oxford white mortarium fabric (**OXF WH**)	5		105			
W10	Fine white fabrics, ?Oxford (**OXF WH**?)	4		28		0.25	
Q22	South-western white slipped ware	4		21			
Fine and specialist wares		***31***	***17.4***	***313***	***13.5***	***0.42***	***19.2***
O10	Fine oxidised coarse ware fabrics	6		21		0.08	
O37	'West Oxfordshire' medium sandy oxidised ware	11		211			
O40	Severn Valley ware (**SVW OX 2**)	4		56		0.14	
O81	'Pink grogged ware' (**PNK GT**)	7		139		0.06	
O subtotal		*28*	*15.7*	*427*	*18.4*	*0.28*	*12.8*
R10	Fine reduced coarse ware fabrics	7		86			
R20	Sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics	1		9			
R30	Medium sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics	47		717		0.69	
R37	'West Oxfordshire' medium sandy reduced ware	11		118		0.30	
R37F	Fine variant of R37	2		7		0.02	
R38	As R37 with clay pellet inclusions	1		10		0.07	

Ware	Summary description	No. of sh.	% sherds	Weight (g)	% weight	REs	% REs
R50	Medium sandy reduced with black surfaces	1		7			
R90	Coarse (mainly grog-tempered) reduced fabrics	1		52			
R95	Savernake ware (**SAV GT**)	3		109			
R96	?'West Oxfordshire' grog-tempered reduced ware	1		6			
R subtotal		*75*	*42.1*	*1121*	*48.3*	*1.08*	*49.3*
B11	*Dorset black-burnished ware (BB1, **DOR BB 1**)*	*35*	*19.7*	*364*	*15.7*	*0.28*	*12.8*
C10	Shell tempered fabrics unspecified (local?)	8		88		0.06	
C20	Oolitic limestone-tempered fabrics (local?)	1		9		0.07	
C subtotal		*9*	*5.1*	*97*	*4.2*	*0.13*	*5.9*
TOTAL		**178**		**2322**		**2.19**	

C.1.6 Much of the assemblage consisted of local or regional products. Imported fabrics comprised a few fragments of samian ware, mostly from Central Gaul (Lezoux) and a single fine ware (F44) sherd. Extra-regional imports were black-burnished ware (BB1, OA fabric B11) from south-east Dorset and Nene Valley colour-coated ware (fabric F52). Savernake (R95), Severn Valley ware (O40) and 'south-west white slipped ware' (Q22) were all from sources (that of the last being uncertain) peripheral to the region.

C.1.7 The Central Gaulish samian ware included a single decorated sherd from a Drag. 37 bowl (context 322). Plain forms 18/31 or 31, 32, and 36 were represented by rim sherds, while the probable East Gaulish sherd was another plain bowl of form 38. A single potter's stamp was present in context 214, but only a tiny part of it survived so it cannot be attributed to a named potter. The small fabric F44 sherd was from an indented beaker, almost certainly from Trier, of later 2nd-3rd-century date. Other fine wares were from the Nene Valley (F52) and Oxford (F51) industries, though the latter was less well-represented than might have been expected. White ware mortaria were entirely, and other white wares mostly, from the Oxford industry, but a single small flagon rim in fabric W10 appears not to have been an Oxford product – its source is unknown.

C.1.8 The majority of the reduced coarse wares (fabrics R10, R20, R30 and R50) and some of the oxidised wares (eg fabric O10) probably also derived from the Oxford industry (Young 1977), but this is less easily demonstrated than in the case of the fine wares since other products, potentially even more local in origin, are not necessarily easily distinguished either in terms of fabric or typological range. Fabrics O37, R37, R38 and R96, however, are assigned to a non-Oxford source. This is currently unlocated but thought to lie in the area between Witney and Akeman Street to the north, perhaps in the vicinity of the Akeman Street settlement of Wilcote (these fabrics are particularly common there, and also at Asthall on Akeman Street and at Gill Mill,

Ducklington) and is currently described as the 'West Oxfordshire' industry. Together these fabrics amount to 14.6% of the total sherds. The reduced ware groups R10 and R30 represent a continuum of fabrics with differing amounts of quartz sand inclusions of varying size and the dividing line between them in terms of frequency of sand is not always clearly defined. This characteristic supports the view that most R10 and R30 sherds derive from a common source, almost certainly the Oxford industry, though in real terms the reduced fabrics of that industry lack distinctive characteristics and it is possible that some R10 and R30 sherds were from other unrecognised local or regional sources working in a similar tradition with similar basic clays. A Warwickshire source (eg the Wappenbury kilns; Stanley and Stanley 1964) for some of the R30 sherds cannot be completely discounted. The less common fabrics R20, R50 and R90 are all potential Oxford products, but this is less certain.

C.1.9 It is possible that the small sherds of fabric O10 included fragments of eroded Oxford colour-coated ware. Other oxidised fabrics came from sources to the east (pink grogged ware (O81) from Stowe) and west (Severn Valley (O40) from uncertain sources in the eponymous region). Severn Valley ware is here at the eastern margin of its distribution, but two jar rims are typical, as is a body sherd probably from a tankard, a form particularly characteristic of this industry. Savernake ware (R95) is also close to the limits of its distribution at the present site.

C.1.10 Dorset black-burnished ware (B11) is less well-represented by weight and REs than by sherd count owing to the tendency of this fabric to fragment quite readily, particularly when present as 'cooking pot type' jars. Despite this characteristic the quantity of black-burnished ware (by any measure) is notable. Aspects of the distribution of black-burnished ware in the Oxford region have been discussed recently (Booth 2017) and it is likely that patterns relate to the specific character of consumer sites rather than simple distributions based on local or regional market centres.

C.1.11 Chronological factors account for the total absence of pottery in two major ware groups: A (amphorae) and E (late Iron Age/early Roman 'Belgic type' wares).

Discussion

C.1.12 The small size of the assemblage precludes detailed comment. Its contents derive from a variety of local, regional and more distant sources, all of which can be paralleled at other sites in the region, though the range of sources here is broader than is observed at a number of local farmstead sites (for example, fabrics F44 and R95 were not present in the much larger assemblage from the Banbury Flood Alleviation Scheme (Booth 2014b, 94)). The assemblage size particularly limits refinement of chronology; with very few exceptions, arguments based on the absence of particular fabrics or vessel types have little validity. Overall, however, the present assemblage gives no indication of activity on the site before the 2nd century AD, though it is not possible to say at what point in that century occupation began. Many of the small context groups can only be assigned to a broad '2nd century or later' date range, and a significant number of such groups could have been of later 3rd-century or even 4th-century date but lack specific diagnostic pieces. Of the 23

context groups in Table C2 which are not from topsoil (ie discounting contexts 300 and 400), six are certainly assigned to a later 3rd-4th century date range. Unsurprisingly, given the relatively superficial nature of excavation, the majority of the evidence at this stage will reflect later Roman activity.

C.1.13 Exactly how late this activity continued, however, is equally uncertain. Notwithstanding the caveat about evidence of absence noted above, it is possible that the absence of late Roman shell-tempered ware, and, particularly, the relative absence of Oxford colour-coated ware, suggest that occupation was not intensive in the later 4th century, but any such suggestion has to be treated with caution.

C.1.14 Indications of site character based on aspects of the associated pottery assemblages have been considered recently (eg Booth 2004; forthcoming). Assessment of the representation of 'fine and specialist' wares (here comprising ware groups S, F, M, W and Q), a potential measure of site status, suggests that in this region the late-Roman period values of such wares (based on percentage of sherd count) range from about 7% to just over 35%. The figure from the present site, 17.4%, is not remarkable considering the apparent scale of the villa complex, but nevertheless groups the assemblage with a variety of rural settlements, including villa and villa-related groups at Chilton and Roughground Farm and other farmstead sites, as well as the roadside settlement at Asthall and a possible minor nucleated settlement at Birdlip. The comparable figure for the substantial minor nucleated settlement at Gill Mill (Booth forthcoming) is 19%. The comparative data therefore place the assemblage in a range occupied by sites of interestingly diverse character. Again, however, this assessment is speculative given the size of the assemblage.

Table C2: Summary of pottery quantities and ceramic dating by context

Ctxt	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Ceramic date	Comment
103	2	113	3rd-4th century	
105	20	242	Mid 3rd-4th century	
110	30	306	Mid 3rd-4th century	
203	2	63	Mid 2nd century or later	
207	2	80	2nd century or later	
208	5	39	Late 2nd-3rd century?	
209	1	5	2nd century or later	
213	3	33	After c AD 120	
214	7	91	Late 2nd century?	Not necessarily later
216	5	74	2nd century	
217	15	113	Mid 3rd-4th century	
218	3	26	Mid 2nd century or later	
300	8	61	Mid 2nd century or later	One post-medieval sherd (16g)
305	6	78	Mid 3rd-4th century	
308	6	31	Mid 3rd-4th century	
310	2	59	After c AD 120	
317	1	5	After c AD 120	
322	8	121	Mid 2nd century or later?	Post-medieval field drain fragments

Ctxt	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Ceramic date	Comment
324	18	396	Late 3rd-4th century?	
329	4	83	After c AD 120	
400	10	145	2nd century or later	
406	13	83	Late 2nd-3rd century	
408	4	13	After c AD 120	
412	1	9	?late 1st-2nd century	
501	2	53	Post-medieval	One post-medieval sherd (18g)

C.2 Coins

By Paul Booth

4.2.23 A single coin was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 2 using a metal detector:

AE3 (14-15mm)

Obv. CONSTANTI] VS PFAVG (Constantius II, head r)

Rev. Victoriae DD Avgg Q NN (2 victories with wreaths)

AD 341-348

C.2.1 The coin was probably only slightly worn when lost, but it is partly encrusted, particularly on the reverse, so only fragments of the reverse legend are visible, and the mintmark cannot be seen. Close dating within the period AD 341-348 is therefore not possible.

C.2.2 A total of 29 coins were recorded by the author in 2017 following the metal detector survey undertaken by Keith Wescott. These are recorded in Table C3 and shown plotted against the geophysical survey results in Figure 14.

Table C3: Metal detector survey coin data

SF No	Location	Est Date	Reece Period	Denomination	Obv	Rev	Mint	Ref	Condition	Comment
8	40370 38809	98-99	5	denarius	IMP CAES NERVA TRAIAN AVG GERM	PONT MAX TR POT COS II, victory seated l	RIC II, 22	SW/W		
15	40398 38777	103-111	5	denarius	IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC PM TR P	COS V P P S P Q R OPTIMO PRINC, AET AVG across field	RIC II, 91	SW/W		
4	40319 38807	138-161?	7	dupondius/as 27-28mm	head r ?Antoninus Pius	figure seated l on globe S C		VW/VW		
26	40289 38804	140-144	7	sestertius 30mm	AVRELIVS CAES AR AVG PII F COS	HIL] ARITAS S C	Rome	RIC III Antoninus, 1230	W/VW	
5	40335 38763	161-180?	8?	denarius	IMP C M AVRE[LIVS ??	] AVGG figure stg			SW/SW	part trimmed off and ?nail hole 4-5mm across punched through from obverse side. Obv legend not easily matched - IMP is not certain & it is just possible that the E of AVRE[is an A
23	40369 38715	1-2C		dupondius/as 25mm	head r				EW/EW	almost flat
17	40244 38767	1-2C?		as fragment?	head r?				EW/EW	less than half
3	40300 38823	270-275	13	aurelianus 22-24mm	IMP AVRELIANVS AVG	ORI E NS AVG	P in exergue	Gloucester 103, as RIC Vi, 134	SW/SW	good
9	40321 38768	271-274	13	radiate 18mm	IMP TET]RICVS PF AVG (Tetricus I)	PIETAS AVGVS[TOR Implements	cf RIC Vii, 112	SW/SW	part encrusted	
7	40327	260-	13/14	radiate 16-	radiate head r	figure			W/W	irregular, part encrusted

SF No	Location	Est Date	Reece Period	Denomination	Obv	Rev	Mint	Ref	Condition	Comment
	38755	296		17mm						and eroded
14	40313 38759	260-296	13/14	radiate 15-18mm	?	figure			W?	mostly eroded
29	40351 38829	260-296	13/14	radiate 15-17mm	radiate head r	figure			W/W	eroded, no legends survive
12	40343 38763	270-296?	13/14	radiate 15-16mm	..VI]CTORINVS PF A[VG	figure l			W/VW	irregular
1	40259 38795	286-293	14	aurelianus 20mm	VIRTVS CA]RAVSI	PAX [AVG	?	as RIC Vii, 891	W/W	prob no mm, but exergue worn
2	40270 38794	310-318?	15	AE2 21-22mm	head r	SOLI INVICTO COMITI	London?		W/W	eroded
25	40433 38667	310-318?	15	AE2 19-20mm	IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG?	SOLI INVICTO COMITI?			VW/VW	part eroded
11	40333 38819	320-321	16	AE3 19mm	helmeted head r	VIRT]VS EX[ERCIT	PLN?		W/W	incomplete, part eroded
28	40334 38835	330-		AE3 14mm	head r	wreath			EW/EW	eroded
18	40332 38817	330-335	17	AE3 16-17mm	VRBS ROMA	Wolf and twins	TRP[		SW/SW	very end of mintmark lost
20	40330 38830	330-335	17	AE3 14mm	FL] IVL CONSTANT[	Gloria Exercitus 2 standards		SW/SW	edges eroded or trimmed?	
13	40343 38760	332	17	AE3 16mm	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	Victory on prow	symbolPLG	RIC VII Lyons, 256	SW/SW	
10	40298 38811	341-348	17	AE3 14-15mm	CONSTAN S PF AVG	VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN	D/TRS	LRBCI, 148	SW/SW	
27	40302 38823	341-348	17	AE3 14-15mm	CON[Constans?	VICTORIAE DD AVGG Q NN	?		SW/W	but eroded
16	40433 38770	4C?		AE2? 19-21mm	head r?					eroded
19	40319	4C?		AE2? 19-20mm	head r?				EW/EW?	very eroded

SF No	Location	Est Date	Reece Period	Denomination	Obv	Rev	Mint	Ref	Condition	Comment
	38855									
22	40288 38776	3-4C		AE3? 16mm+	?	?			EW/EW	incomplete and eroded
6	40271 38841	3-4C?		AE2 22mm						mostly eroded, early 4C?
24	40308 38758	late 3-4C		AE3 13-14mm	?	?			EW/EW	surface mostly eroded - perhaps late 3C?
21	40331 38823	?		AE3 19mm?	head r				EW/EW	eroded - v thin, probobaly not Roman

C.3 Ceramic building material and stone tesserae

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

C.3.1 Ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to 114 fragments weighing 13864g and 46 stone tesserae weighing 211g were recovered from 23 contexts spread across all trenches with the greatest concentrations in Trenches 2, 3 and 5. The material is well preserved with a high mean fragment weight of 150g (excluding tesserae, which have a MFW of 5g). The pieces of tile recovered are fairly large though no complete items were found, nor do any complete dimensions other than thickness survive, except for the tesserae. The majority of the assemblage was Roman in date apart from a few pieces of 19th-early 20th century field drain.

C.3.2 The assemblage has been fully recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2007). The record includes quantification, fabric type, form, surface finish, forms of flanges, cutaways and vents, markings and evidence of use/reuse (mortar, burning etc). The terminology follows Brodribb (1987); coding for markings, tegula flanges, etc. follows that established by OA for the recording of CBM and tegula cutaway types follow Warry (2006). Fabrics were characterised on macroscopic characteristics and with the aid of x20 hand lens.

The Roman tile

C.3.3 The assemblage is composed of the range of forms that would be expected from a villa site. This includes roofing comprising tegula and imbrex tiles, flooring in the form of tesserae, and flue tile and brick relating to heated rooms. There was considerable uniformity of fabric across the assemblage with much of the tile made in very fine sandy or silty clay that is likely to be derived from local mudstone deposits (fabrics A, D, F). Fabric C was made in the same basic clay matrix but contained sparse quartz sand that may largely be a contaminant from the moulding sand. Fabric B contained small red iron oxide inclusions which may indicate some areas of clay lay close to the local ironstone deposits.

C.3.4 Tegulae (9 fragments 1726g) were generally fairly thick mostly measuring 20-30mm and had rectangular flanges, except for one curved. Lower cutaways partly survived on three tiles: one was Warry's type C5 and the others could be B6 or C5. On the basis of Warry's dating of these cutaway types, they indicate a date range of 2nd-mid-3rd century. The majority of the plain flat fragments without diagnostic features are likely to derive from the plain central sections of tegulae based on the thickness range of 15-27mm. Three of these had parts of a signature mark on the surface in the form of curved arcs of one or two finger grooves. Two of these began at the tile edge suggesting they formed the most common type in the shape of a semi-circle. The third was incurving towards the tile edge, suggesting it formed a circle or loop.

C.3.5 One very unusual tegula was found in the ploughsoil close to Trench 5. The upper surface of the tile has been painted in two colours consisting of a series of vertical black lines and some other wider patches in black. The areas between the black stripes have been covered by a dark red paint that has partly overwashed the black. No evidence of paint was found on any other tegula fragments and it is possible the painted tile was not used as roofing, but had been utilised as part of an internal structure that was painted or may have been a 'one-off' such as being painted to use as a sign.

C.3.6 The imbrex (19 fragments, 1761g) was fairly uniform in character with a 'half-round' profile. Several tiles had the same distinct polygonal profile on the underside resulting from the shape of the wooden former over which the slab of clay had been curved to shape. Thickness ranged from 15-27mm, with most 18mm or more and with the thickest measurements occurring at the corners or side edges. One imbrex had been reused being roughly chipped to a circular disc 90x95mm in size.

C.3.7 The flue tile (7 fragments, 1679g) was very uniform in character made in the same very fine smooth fabric and measuring 24-27mm thick, except for one thinner piece made in a fine sandy fabric. All have diagonal bands of combing probably forming criss-cross patterns bisected by vertical bands (but not saltires) made with combs 26-37mm wide with five or six teeth. The thickness of the flue tile could suggest these were wall tile, an early form of cavity walling usually occurring in the 1st and early 2nd centuries. However, it is more likely that these are thick tubuli or box flue tiles, which tend to be most common in the later Roman period, though in the absence of any corner fragments or vented side pieces this must remain uncertain. No voussoirs were found, suggesting an absence of any vaulted roof, though this may merely be an effect of the limited areas excavated.

C.3.8 Brick (20 fragments, 6971g) was used for a variety of purposes including paving, string courses in walling, and in underfloor heating as pilae and as the suspended floor constructed of large bricks spanning the gaps between pilae or across flues. A variety of sizes are probably represented based on surviving thickness. The thinner pieces between 34 and 39mm cannot be certainly identified as brick as no corners survived on these and this size could overlap with thick tegulae and flue tile. If brick, these thinner pieces are likely to derive from the small forms of *bessales* and *pedales*, which were commonly used for pilae. The thicker bricks, which ranged from 43 to 57mm thick, are likely to derive from larger bricks such as *sesquipedalis* and *bipedalis*, used for the flooring supported on the pilae.

C.3.9 Significant quantities of ceramic (24 tesserae, 337g) and stone tesserae (46 tesserae, 211g) were recovered mostly from topsoil/ploughsoil and superficial layers. The stone tesserae mostly come in a range of cream – buff – pale or mid grey shades, made from a very smooth fine grained rock, possibly a local mudstone. A small number were made in brown or grey sandstone, one in a grey fossiliferous limestone and one black example in a metamorphic rock, possibly dolerite. The ceramic tesserae were mostly made from tile (identifiable as deriving from tegula and imbrex in three instances), together with two that appear to be made from pottery. They were square, rectangular or trapezoidal in shape and almost half fell into the 10-15mm size group, the typical size used in mosaics. Most of the remainder divided

roughly equally between larger size groups between 15 and 30mm. There were two examples greater than 30mm and one less than 10mm. The coarser size groups would have been used in the plainer border areas of a mosaic or in plain tessellated pavements. The single very small tessera suggests more detailed decorative designs were present in at least one mosaic. The range of colours is limited suggesting simple geometric designs were most common or that most of the tesserae were disturbed from border or background areas.

Post-medieval tile

C.3.10 The only later tile found were examples of two types of field drain. One was a standard circular pipe made in a red-orange sandy clay fabric with a diameter of 130mm and walls 17mm thick. The second, of the same size, is an unusual form in having been made with a corrugated exterior surface. It was made in a white 'pipe clay' fabric. Both drain tiles must have been machine made by the extrusion method and are probably of mid-19th century or later in date.

Discussion

C.3.11 The Roman tile is well preserved and though no complete tiles were found, the general condition of the assemblage suggests that the material has not moved far from its original area of use and is likely to relate to the structures found in the evaluation trenches. In general, the tile cannot be dated more closely than Roman. That said, no early forms of 1st or early 2nd century date are present and the tegula cutaways are suggestive of mid-2nd to 3rd century date. The character of the flue tiles, if thick box flue, would be consistent with this. The uniformity of the tile and lack of evidence for reuse could suggest a single major phase of construction or that in any subsequent alterations, tile was not a major constituent of the building materials.

C.3.12 The uniformity of the tile fabric and characteristics across the site suggest that it may have been produced on site, with a kiln being set up in the vicinity of the construction site to provide tiles expressly for the villa buildings.

C.3.13 The suite of tiles is typical of those associated with villas indicative of buildings with a tiled roof and one or more heated rooms. Roofing tile was recovered from all trenches suggesting this was a significant roofing material though it need not have been used for all of the buildings in an area where stone suitable for roof slabs was readily available.

C.3.14 Flue tile occurred in Trenches 2, 3 and 5, as did the brick, suggesting heated rooms may have been constructed in different areas of the complex. In Trenches 2 and 3 tesserae were also present which would be consistent with the main wings of a courtyard villa. The geophysics traversed by Trench 2 is suggestive of a bath suite set into the corner of the wing, whilst the larger room traversed by Trench 3 is more likely to be a main reception room for receiving or entertaining guests such as a dining room. In both cases the ceramic building material is appropriate to both interpretations. The CBM from Trench 5 suggests this building was also heated, or at least in part, though the absence of tesserae may indicate a less ornate interior with

plainer paved floors. It was in the vicinity of this building that the painted tegula was found, suggesting that it may have differed from the standard domestic villa buildings in some way.

Table C4: Quantification of CBM and summary of forms with spot dating

Ctxt	Nos	Wt (g)	Forms	Spot date
103	2	750	Brick, Flue	RB
105	3	70	Imbrex, Flat tile	RB
110	4	284	Imbrex, Flat tile	RB
203	7	416	Brick, Tegula	RB
208	1	46	Imbrex	RB
214	7	501	Flue, Imbrex, Tegula, Tessera	RB: AD100-180
216	9	74	Tessera, Flat tile, Indeterminate	RB
217	6	531	Flue, Imbrex, Tessera, Indeterminate	RB
218	2	198	Imbrex, Flat tile	RB
300	12	1939	Brick, Flue, Imbrex, Tegula, Tessera; Field drain	RB & C19
305	1	6	Indeterminate	RB
308	2	43	Tessera, Flat tile	RB
310	3	41	Imbrex, Flat tile, Indeterminate	RB
317	59	1757	Brick, Tessera (58)	RB
324	9	685	Brick, Flue, Tessera, Flat	RB
329	9	902	Brick, Imbrex, Flat tile	RB
400	5	295	Flat, Imbrex, Tegula	RB: AD100-260
406	3	18	Flat tile	RB
411	3	193	Imbrex, Indeterminate	RB
412	2	289	Tegula	RB: AD160-260
501	1	117	Field drain	MC19-C20
503	7	4050	Brick, Imbrex/disc, Flat tile	RB
518	1	41	Tegula	RB
520	2	829	Flue, Tegula	RB
Total	160	14075		

C.4 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Description

C.4.1 A total of 48 pieces of stone were recovered from seven contexts, not including the tesserae, which are reported on elsewhere. A total of 19 small fragments of stone are not worked and can now be discarded. A further 20 pieces of fragmented tufa were recovered from context 317 (773g) and two larger pieces from context 310 (1425g); they are not worked and can also be discarded.

C.4.2 A slab of laminated shelly limestone with the appearance of Purbeck limestone was found in context 520 (1230g). It could be from the Forest Marble but that would need further investigation. It does not bear any tool marks but has two squared edges, presumably shaped for use as building stone. Two fragments of stone roofing

with perforations but lacking original edges were found in contexts 322 (145g, 12mm thick) and 305 (150g, 18mm thick). The former is made from a coarse shelly oolitic limestone with quartz veins running through it and the latter from a fine grained sandy limestone with occasional shell debris, made slightly pink in colour through burning.

C.4.3 A large block of sandy shelly limestone was found in context 520. This has been worked into an approximate ashlar block (4587g, >210 x >150 x 50mm). Another large piece of stone, this time of the local ferruginous sandstone (the Northampton Sand formation), was recovered from context 103 (3599g). It is not obviously worked, but was presumably used structurally as suggested by the recovery of three pieces of ashlar of the same stone (514). These pieces of ashlar have been very carefully dressed into cuboid shapes, presumably when the stone was freshly quarried and before it had hardened. The use of ferruginous sandstone and ironstone for ashlar in Roman buildings is not typical and the adoption of it here is therefore significant.

Table C5 Catalogue of worked stone

Ctxt	Function	Notes	Size	Lithology
514	Ashlar	Two sides, one end and two faces all original. Tooled neat ashlar block	Measures 290 x 165 x 138mm	Northampton Sand
514	Ashlar	All six faces survive but damaged in one corner. Neat ashlar block with clear chisel marks	Measures 335 x 220 x 140mm	Northampton Sand
514	Ashlar	1 edge, 2 ends and 2 faces survive of neat ashlar block. Presumably quarried when soft and allowed to harden	Measures 325 x >210 x 100mm	Northampton Sand
322	Roofing	With perforations but lacking original edges	Measures 12mm thick	coarse shelly oolitic limestone with quartz veins running through it
305	Roofing	With perforations but lacking original edges	Measures 18mm thick	fine grained sandy limestone with occasional shell debris, made slightly pink in colour through burning.

C.5 Fired clay and ash block

By Cynthia Poole

C.5.1 Fired clay amounting to two fragments (147g) were recovered from topsoil layer 400. It is not diagnostic, nor can it be dated. Both pieces are irregular amorphous lumps 40 and 70mm in size. They both consist of a purplish pink- cerise fine sandy clay matrix with cream streaks and a sparse scatter of red ferruginous inclusions. Both are quite heavily fired suggesting they derive from some sort of oven structure.

C.5.2 A block of deposit 305 was sampled (sample 300) consisting of a slab 34mm (weighing 215g). Brief examination of this showed it to consist of numerous fine thin lenses of trampled ash, eroded burnt clay and charcoal flecks. Such a deposit is likely to have arisen within the stoking chamber to a hypocaust.

C.6 Wall plaster

By Cynthia Poole

C.6.1 Two fragments (15g) of painted wall plaster were recovered from 213. Both were made of brown very sandy lime mortar containing quartz sand and ironstone sand and grits up to 3.5mm as aggregate. This is effectively the same as the mortar observed on the tesserae. The mortar formed a thin render layer 11mm thick with a flat back face. The front face was coated with a thin skim of white plaster that had been painted maroon red. On one piece this ground as traversed by a yellow ochre stripe 5mm wide.

C.6.2 The wall plaster comes from an area, where the ceramic building material indicates the presence of heated rooms, possibly a bath suite. Painted plaster would be a standard finish for the walls in such a structure.

C.7 Metal Objects

By Ian R Scott

Introduction

C.7.1 A small metal assemblage was recovered comprising 10 pieces of iron, including six nails or nail fragments, together with a single small lead offcut. A single Roman coin in cu alloy has be separately reported. None of the finds can be securely dated, but nails from contexts 216, 217 and 324 would not be out of place in a Roman context.

Table C6 Catalogue of metal objects

Ctxt	Item no.	Desription
216	1	Nail with flat but slightly domed oval head. Complete. Hand wrought with tapered square section stem. Fe. L: 59mm. Could be Roman (Manning Type 1).
217	2	Nail, small flat oval head; double clenched. Hand wrought. Fe. Overall L: c 75mm.
	3	Nail stem fragment, tapered square section. Fe. Not measured.
	4	Nail with flat near circular head. Complete. Hand wrought with

Ctxt	Item no.	Desription
		tapered square section stem. Fe. L: 70mm. Could be Roman (Manning Type 1).
218	5	Nail with small flat oval head. Hand wrought with tapered square section stem. Fe. L: 55mm.
300	6	Fragment comprising length curved rod of circular section with T-junction at on end. Part of a larger object. Fe. L: 41mm; W: 19mm. Possibly post medieval or later.
305	7	Tiny fragment of square or lozenge section rod or nail stem section. Fe. Not measured. Sample <300>
	8	Sliver or offcut of sheet lead. L: 29mm. Sample <300>
322	9	Washer, thick with large central hole. Probably hand made. Fe. D: 35mm; Th: 5.5mm. Not closely datable.
324	10	Nail with flat or slightly domed near circular head. Complete. Hand wrought with tapering square section stem. Fe. L: 62mm. Could be Roman (Manning Type 1).
400	11	Narrow strip angled and possibly narrowed at one end. No obvious nail holes. Fe. 85mm x 9mm; Th: 3.5mm

C.8 Glass

By Ian R Scott

C.8.1 Just two pieces of glass were recovered. Both are probably pieces of window glass, although one has been part melted, and neither is of Roman date.

Table C7 Catalogue of glass

Ctxt	Item no.	Desription
300	1	Possible window glass which has been part melted? Pale green glass. 53mm x 22mm; Th: 4.3mm. Possibly later post-medieval but probably more recent.
400	2	Window glass. Darker blue green glass. 28mm x 18mm; Th: 1.6mm. Probably later post-medieval but possibly more recent.

C.9 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

C.9.1 A very small assemblage of 2 pieces of struck flint was recovered from this evaluation. The assemblage comprised one quite finely made backed knife and another burnt blade-like flake that may have also been a tool. The small size of the assemblages greatly limits its value but the knife very likely dates to the Neolithic period or early Bronze Age.

Description

C.9.2 Context 105 yielded a single, heavily burnt blade-like flake struck from an opposed platform core. Its distal end is particularly heavily burnt and exists now as a central distal projection with heavy damage along both spurs. Heavy burning very often

causes severe damage to retouched edges and it is possible that this was some form of awl or piercer. It was recovered from the fill of a Romano-British ditch and is clearly residual.

C.9.3 Context 215 represented a buried soil below the villa. It contained one very fine backed knife surviving as the mesial segment of a blade or long flake. Its proximal snap may have been intentional in order to remove the generally thicker bulbar end but the distal break is clearly post retouch. Its left edge is finely backed while two-thirds of its surviving right edge have partial invasive retouch. Overall, knives of this form have a fairly broad date range but well-made examples on a blade are more likely to belong to the (earlier) Neolithic period or possibly the early Bronze Age.

Discussion

C.9.4 Although this assemblage is very small it does contain one fine tool and another probable tool form. Both are well made and are likely to be earlier in date rather than later. The fact that both pieces are blade-like may suggest an earlier Neolithic date is most likely. This may suggest that some domestic foci existed in the immediate vicinity of the Roman Villa, most probably directly beneath it where buried soil 215 was encountered. There is some evidence of early Neolithic activity in the surrounding landscape while a later Neolithic presence is suggested by a probable henge known as a cropmark just to the east of Broughton.

Methodology

C.9.5 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Table C8: flint assemblage by context

Ctxt	type	sub-type	notes	date
101	flake	inner	Heavily burnt flake from opposed platform core, blade-like in form with distal central projection with heavy damage from burning, possible tool tip	?EPH
215	Backed knife	Inner blade	Mesial segment with very fine backing and partially invasive retouch along its right edge	Neo-EBA (E Neo?)

APPENDIX D ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

D.1 Environmental samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

D.1.1 A single sample was taken from the evaluation at Broughton Castle Estate Roman Villa. The sample was taken from a series of floor layers (305) from within the villa, primarily for the retrieval of charred plant remains and artefacts.

Method

D.1.2 The bulk sample was processed at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flot was collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh and dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

D.1.3 Identifications were carried out using standard morphological criteria for the cereals (Jacomet 2006), identification of wild plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al. 2006) and by comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010).

Results

D.1.4 This sample produced a 50ml flot of which a small proportion is composed of modern roots and occasional uncharred seeds. Charcoal is in generally good condition with over 50 fragments larger than 2mm. Cereal grain is present but all grains are in poor condition with a 'clinkered' appearance, and the majority are partial. The poor condition has affected the identification of the material and many identifications can only be taken to family level. Two large fragments of 'clinkered' material are likely to be large seeds or grain but heat damage has completely destroyed all identifiable characteristics.

D.1.5 The grain within this sample is mostly wheat (*Triticum* sp.) with a single grain of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and a second grain which is likely to be barley. This is usual for Roman sites in this area where wheat is generally a primary crop and barley is a secondary crop. No chaff is present within the sample which is not unexpected within the context of a kitchen where clean grain would be expected. Unfortunately, however, the lack of chaff together with the poor condition of the grain means that it is impossible to identify the type of wheat although at this period it is most likely to be spelt (*Triticum spelta*).

D.1.6 The poor condition of the remaining plant seeds is unfortunate as it is difficult to judge if these are all wild plant seeds accidently brought into the building or if they are culinary herbs. Of those which are identifiable, the majority are seeds commonly

found within assemblages of this period and usually interpreted as crop contaminants or wild plants found on waste ground.

Discussion

D.1.7 The material within this assemblage is in generally poor condition which is unsurprising in a floor layer, as material is likely to have been crushed and generally abraded in the course of its deposition. However, the more robust seeds such as the vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), have survived much better than the cereal grains and the condition of the charcoal is fairly good, although no identifications have been attempted.

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100) ++++=abundant (>100)

Table D1: Results from sample <300>, context 305

Sample no.	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other	Notes
300	50	+++	+++		+++	+	++	Grain: 4 *Triticum* sp., 4 *cf Triticum* sp., 1 *Hordeum* sp., 1 *cf Hordeum* sp. 18 indet cereal. Occasional land snails including *Cecilioides acicula*. Wild plant seeds: 5 *Galium aparine.* 8 *Vicia/Lathyrus*, 6 fragmented Poaceae, 3 *Rumex* sp., 2 *Isolepsis setacea*, 1 *Spergula arvensis*, 7 small Fabaceae in poor condition> Also 10 unidentified seeds in poor condition, 2 large unidentifiable clinkered items. 4 fragments of badly damaged *cf Cornus sanguinea.*

D.1 Animal bone

By Martyn Allen

Introduction

D.1.1 The animal bones from the evaluation at Broughton Castle were recorded at Oxford Archaeology South following the unit's standard guidelines, using its comparative reference collection to aid identification. A total of 128 hand-collected animal bone specimens were recovered from 22 contexts, plus three specimens from a single sieved sample (Table D1). The assemblage dates between the 2nd and the 4th century AD. The faunal remains were fairly evenly distributed across contexts and there was little sign of any concentrations of material. Context 110 produced a slightly larger group of animal bones, though these largely consisted of small, unidentified fragments. Preservation of the material was variable, with some

specimens in good condition but others being quite fragmentary with deteriorating surfaces. This variation was observed within single contexts, such as context 400, suggesting that some bones were residual in later features. Some evidence of carnivore (dog?) gnawing was observed, which may also have had a detrimental effect.

D.1.2 The hand-collected assemblage consisted primarily of cattle remains (34 specimens). To these can probably be added 30 'large mammal' specimens, representing vertebrae, rib and long bone fragments, many of which likely derive from cattle. A range of cattle body parts were identified including mandibles, upper and lower limb bones, scapulae, and metapodials. Most of the remains came from skeletally mature animals (the epiphysis of one distal femur had not fused) and there was no evidence of neonatal cattle. Butchery marks were evident on seven cattle specimens. These were primarily made by heavy-bladed implements, such as a meat cleaver, and included some marks that are often only found at urban and military sites in the Roman period, such as meat-filleting 'scoops' on a humerus shaft and scapulae trimming.

D.1.3 Sheep/goat remains were represented by 12 specimens and no context produced more than two specimens. A range of sheep/goat elements were identified, including mandible, tooth, upper and lower limb, pelvis, and metapodial specimens. None of the sheep/goat remains exhibited butchery marks, though a small rib did have some cut marks.

D.1.4 Pig remains were represented by eight specimens, four of which were skull fragments from context 105. A notable aspect of the pig assemblage is the possible presence of a wild boar represented by an especially large lower canine in context 324. Canine size is not a conclusive separator of wild and domestic pigs, but this specimen (from a male animal) was unusually large. A metacarpal bone from context 411 was notably small and unfused at the distal end, suggesting the presence of a particularly young animal.

D.1.5 Horses were represented by a lower molar from context 110 and a tibia from context 322. Notably, the tibia exhibited chop marks on the shaft suggesting that horse meat was being consumed, though perhaps only on a limited basis.

D.1.6 Dog bones were recovered from contexts 400 and 406, including left and right femurs and a tibia. The epiphyses of these bones were all fused indicating the presence of an adult. No butchery marks were observed, and the bones may all derive from a disturbed burial.

D.1.7 Chicken bones were recovered from contexts 216 and 310, both of which were right ulnae. The specimen from context 310 had been chopped through the proximal end indicating dissection of the wing.

D.1.8 Overall, the faunal assemblage from the evaluation is largely unremarkable. The possible wild boar specimen is of interest in the context of hunting at Roman villas. If further excavation is undertaken at the site, this group should be incorporated with any additional material recovered.

Table D2: Distribution of hand-collected animal bones by context (nb. * denotes the presence of a possible wild boar specimen)

Ctxt	Spot date	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig*	Dog	Horse	Chicken	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Unid.	Total
103	3-4C	1									1
105	mid-3-4C	4	1	4							9
110	mid-3-4C	9	2			1				23	35
203	mid-2C+							1			1
207	2C+		1						1		2
209	2C+							1			1
210	-	1									1
214	l. 2C	1	1	1				1			4
216	2C	1					1	1	1		4
217	mid-3-4C	2	2	1				2	2		9
218	mid-2C+							1	2		3
300	mid-2C+	3						1			4
305	mid-3-4C	1						2			3
310	AD120+	2					1	4			7
322	mid-2C+	2	2			1		1	2		8
324	mid-3-4C	2	1	1*				2	1		7
329	AD120+	1									1
400	mid-2C+	2	2		1			7			12
406	l. 2-3C				2			4	1	4	11
411	-			1				2			3
412	l. 1-2C	1									1
518	-	1									1
Total		34	12	8	3	2	2	30	10	27	128

D.2 Marine shell

By Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

D.2.1 A small assemblage of 9 shells, all of oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) was recovered by hand during the excavation, mostly from layers within Trench 2 associated with the likely north wing of a Roman villa.

D.2.2 The shells are in fair-poor condition, of variable size although mostly fairly large and of the traditional rounded shape. The left valves from deposit 209 have chalky deposits internally and possible associated chambering which may indicate growth in an area of fluctuating or reduced salinity such as may be found in estuaries (Winder 2015; MacDonald 2011). The rather irregular external surfaces of two of the valves suggests that the shells had grown on a hard, probably rocky substrate, and evidence of disturbed growth in the form of a change in shell and hinge shape on one valve may indicate that the oysters had been moved at least once, perhaps due to humans re-laying for "fattening" (Campbell 2010). The left valve from this context has a clear v-shaped opening notch on the ventral margin.

D.2.3 The presence of oyster shells is consistent with a Roman villa, since oysters were favoured by the Roman and are fairly frequent finds from villas, towns and military forts even as far inland as Banbury. They would have been transported alive, probably in vats of seawater.

Table D3 Numbers and weights of shellfish

Ctxt	No. of left valves	No. Right valves	Other	Total Weight (g)
209	3	1		108
214			1 oyster body frag	4
216	1	1		25
324		1		30
406		1		9

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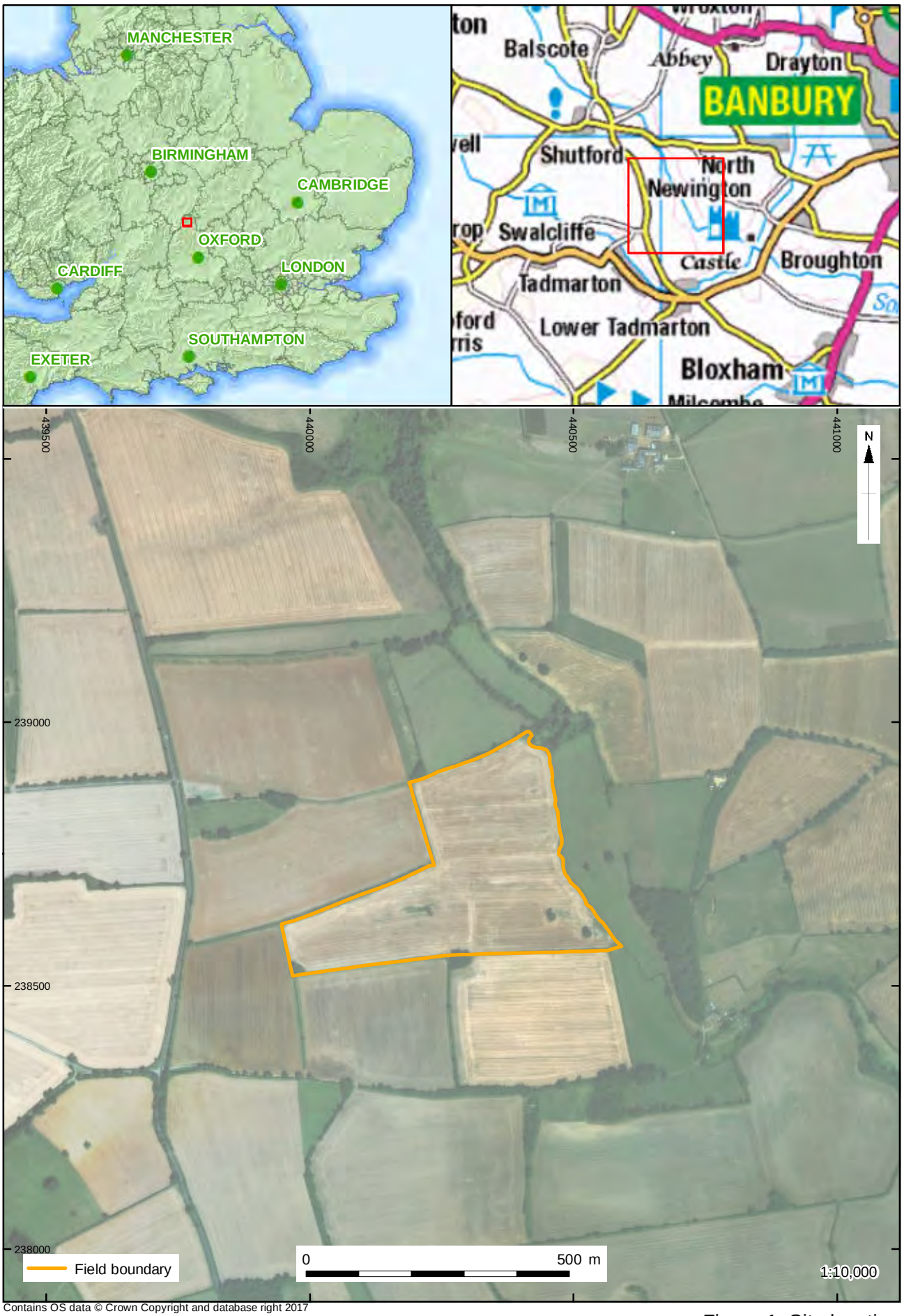
APPENDIX F SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Broughton Roman villa, Broughton Castle Estate, Oxfordshire
Site code:	TABC 18
Grid Reference	SP 40317 38795
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	3rd-16th April
Area of Site	Five trenches, each measuring 25m x 1.6m
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES. Subject to confirmation by the landowner, it is anticipated that it will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course
Summary of Results:	Oxford Archaeology, under the overall management of CgMs Heritage (part of RPS), was commissioned by Martin Fiennes of the Broughton Castle Estate to undertake a trial trench evaluation as part of an ongoing research project aimed at investigating the remains of a Roman villa within arable farmland of the Broughton Castle Estate. The site was previously discovered in 2016 following research and field investigation by Keith Westcott and the collection and locating of artefacts from the ploughsoil using a metal detector. A geophysical survey was commissioned in 2017 with the results indicating the presence of a large courtyard villa. Five trenches were excavated for this evaluation targeting a possible ditched access track, the north, east and south ranges of the villa and a possible detached aisled building to the south of the main complex. The archaeological remains exposed in the trenches confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, and demonstrated that ridges in the field that correspond with the locations of the north and east ranges of the villa represent the survival of complex stratigraphic sequences up to 0.7m thick. The villa comprises a quadrangular courtyard c 85m square with ranges of buildings on the north, east and south sides, and probably also on the west, set around a central courtyard, although the west wing was not investigated in this evaluation. It is therefore larger even than the villa at North Leigh (c 80m square), and represents the largest building of its type in

Oxfordshire. It is comparable with the large villa establishments that are characteristic of the Roman period in the Cotswolds, such as Chedworth and other iconic courtyard villas such as Bignor in Sussex, Brading on the Isle of Wight and Woodchester. Placing a date on the construction and abandonment of the complex is hampered by the small size of the excavated sample, as a result of which the artefactual assemblage recovered was small and earlier phases may have remained obscured beneath later deposits; however, the emphasis of the pottery assemblage was on the later part of the Roman period, with little evidence for activity before the middle of the 2nd century, and it has been tentatively suggested that occupation was not intensive during the later 4th century.

The Broughton villa thus represents a major addition to our knowledge of Roman rural settlement in the region and beyond.



Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,

Figure 1: Site location

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Scale at A3 1:500

Survey Data supplied by :
Conan Parsons

Figure 2: Trench location with geophysics results.

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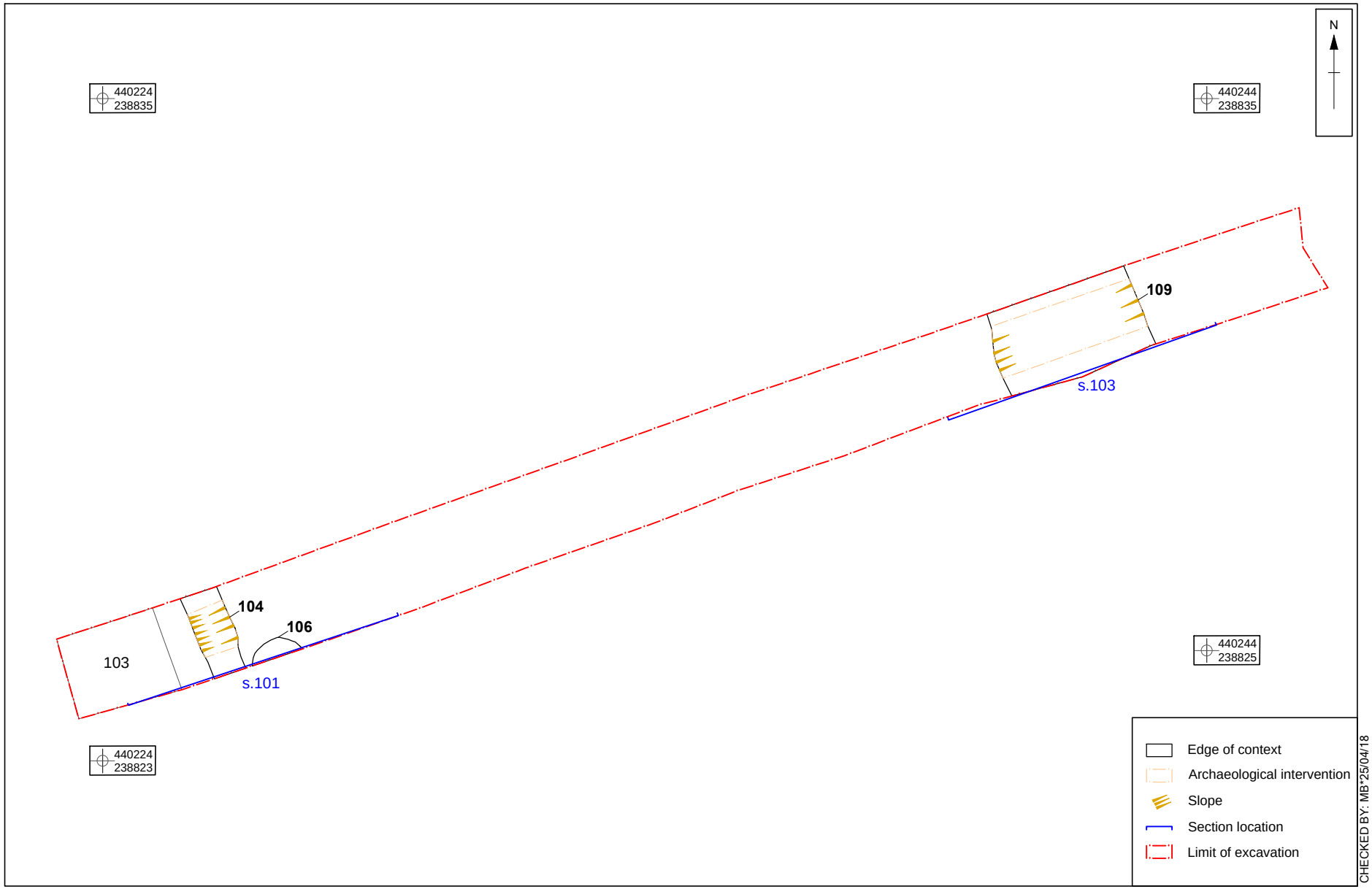

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Conan Parsons

Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1

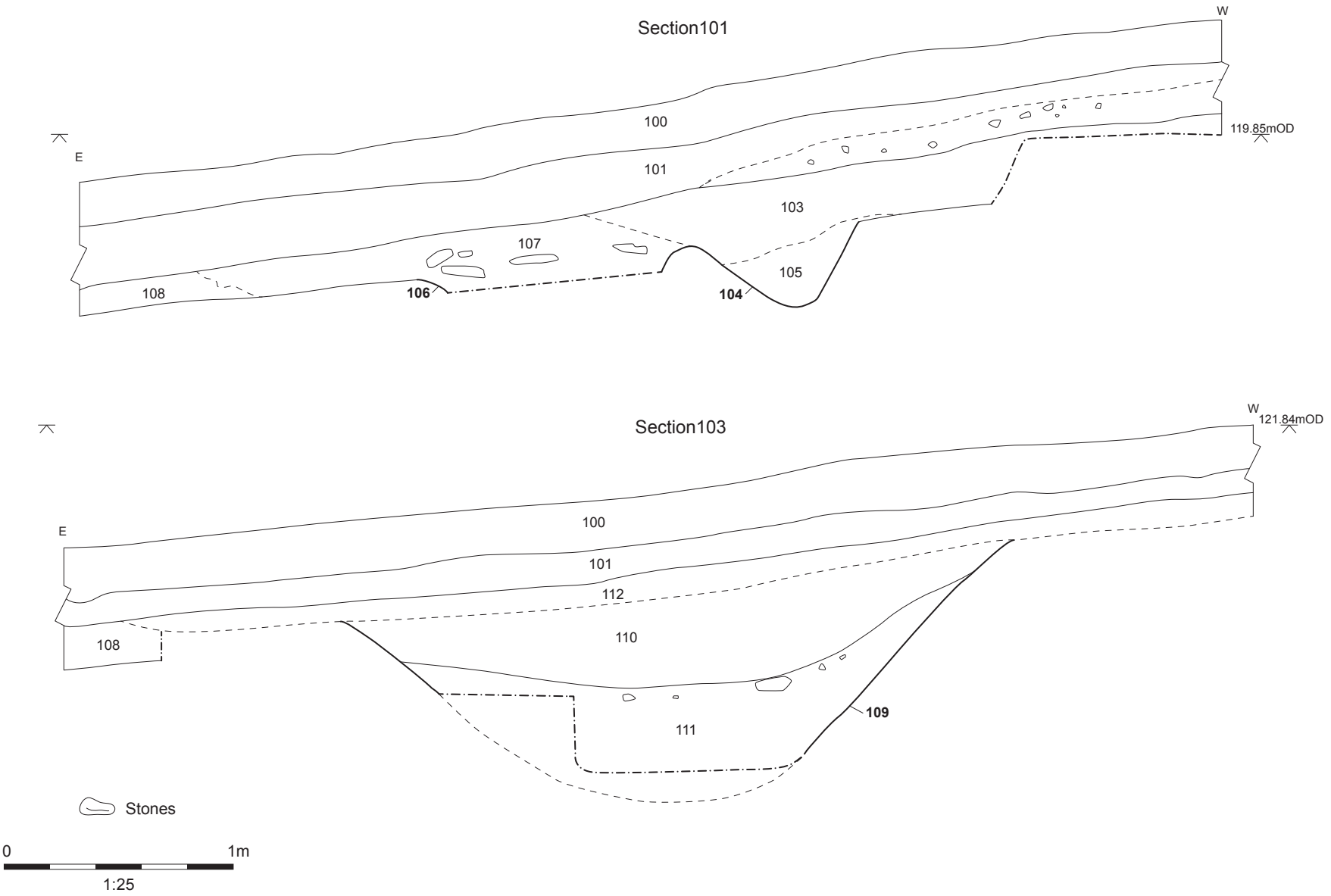

Figure 4: Trench 1 sections

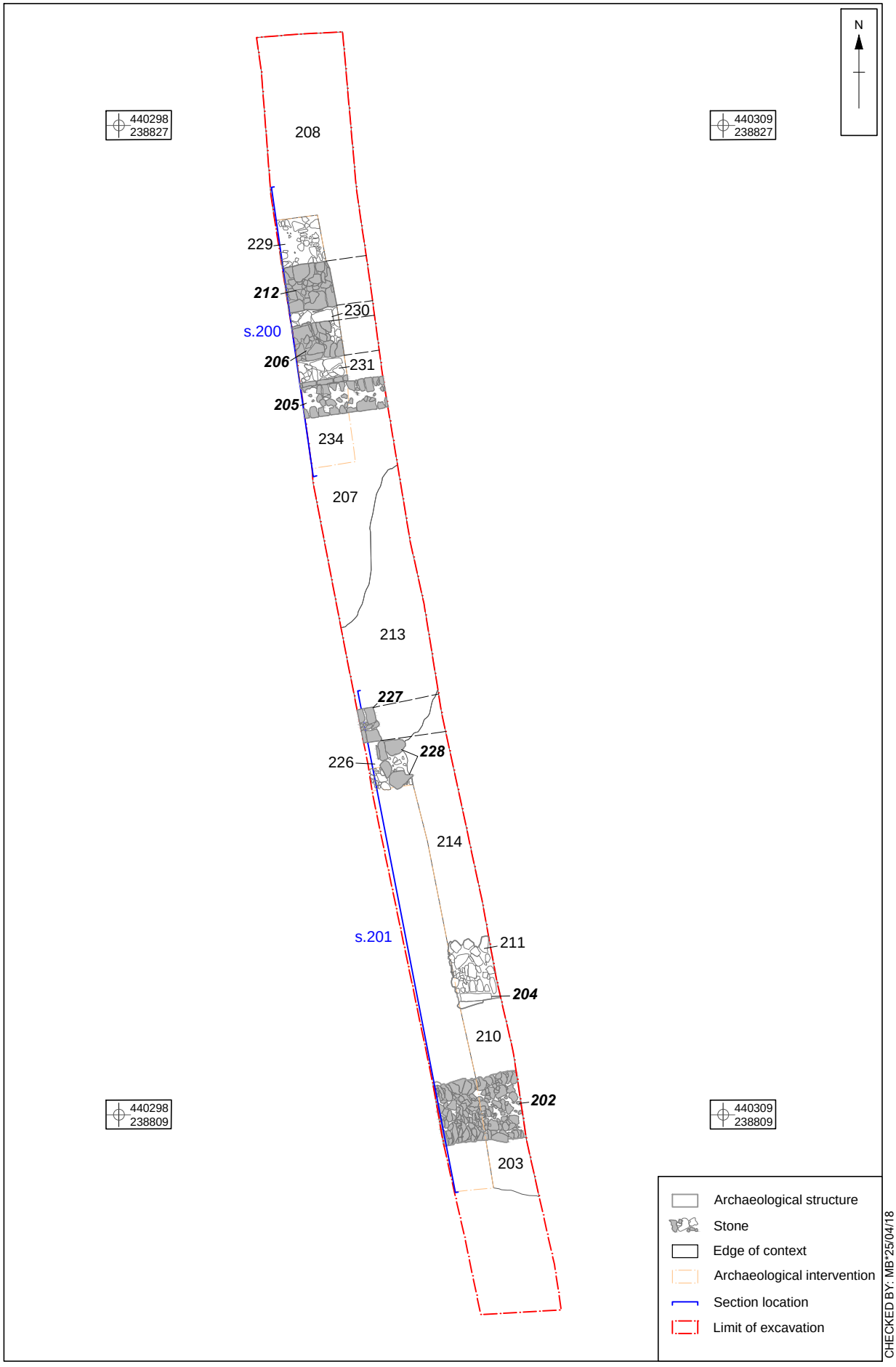

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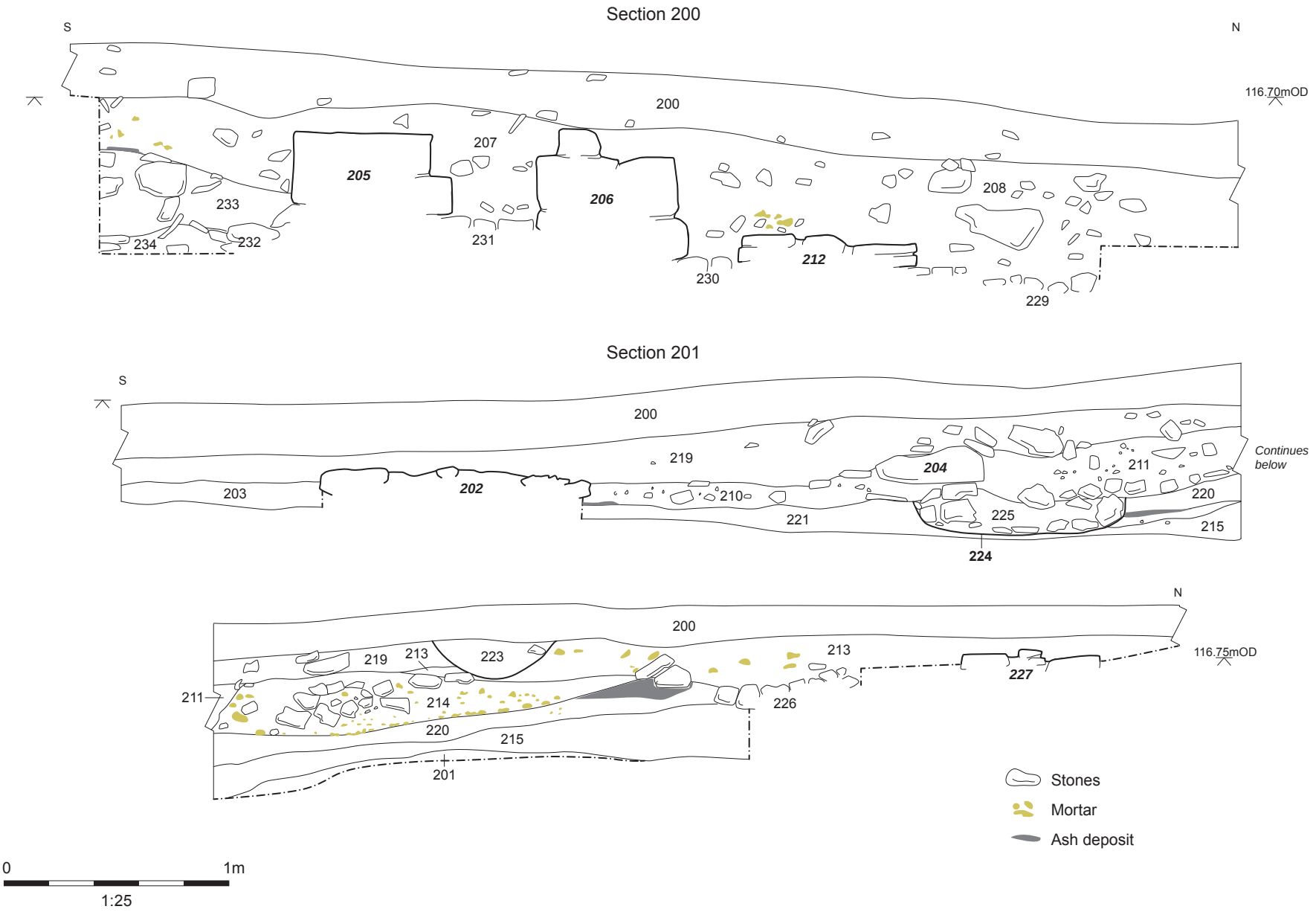
Figure 5: Plan of Trench 2



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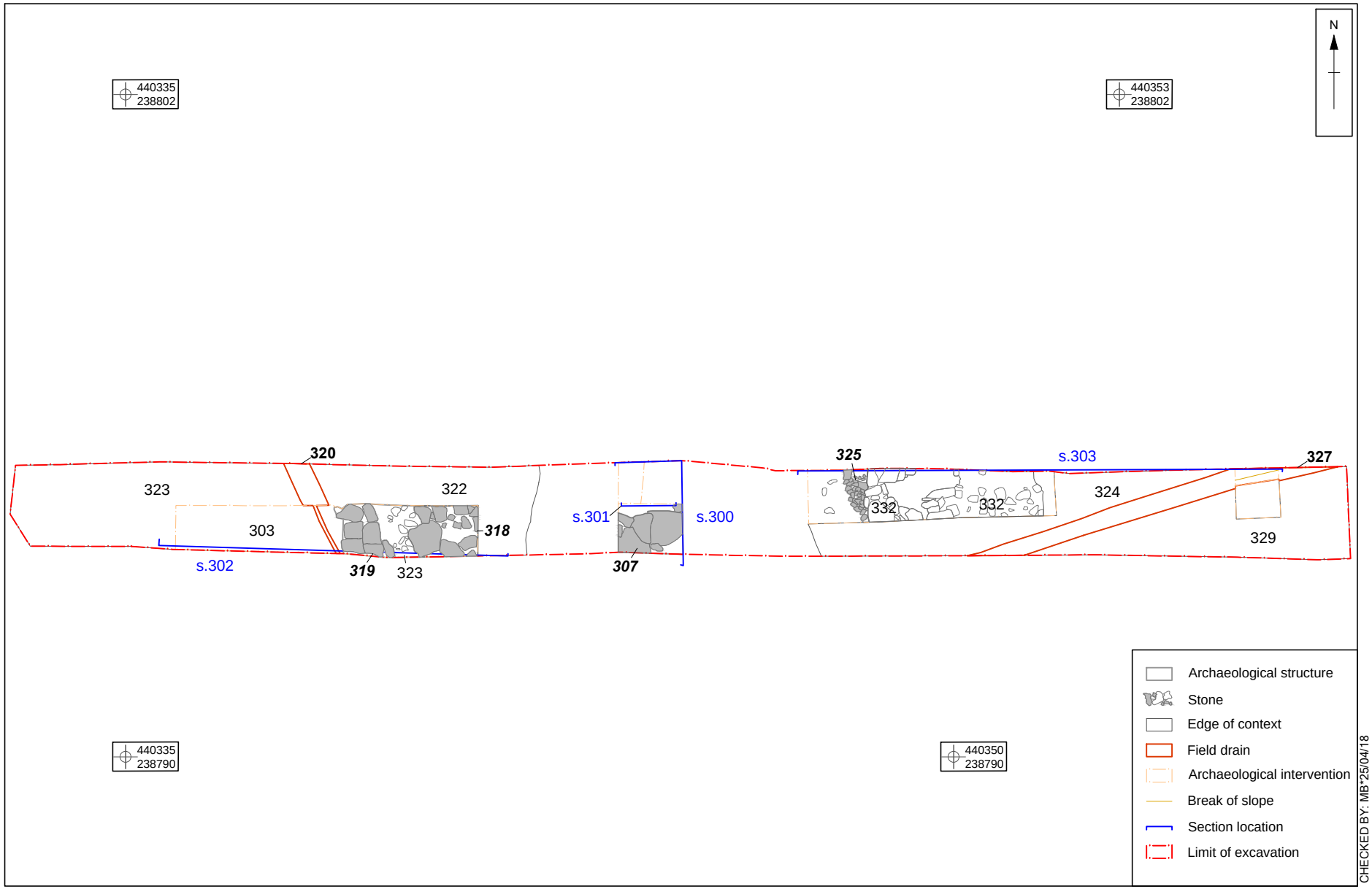

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Figure 7: Plan of Trench 3

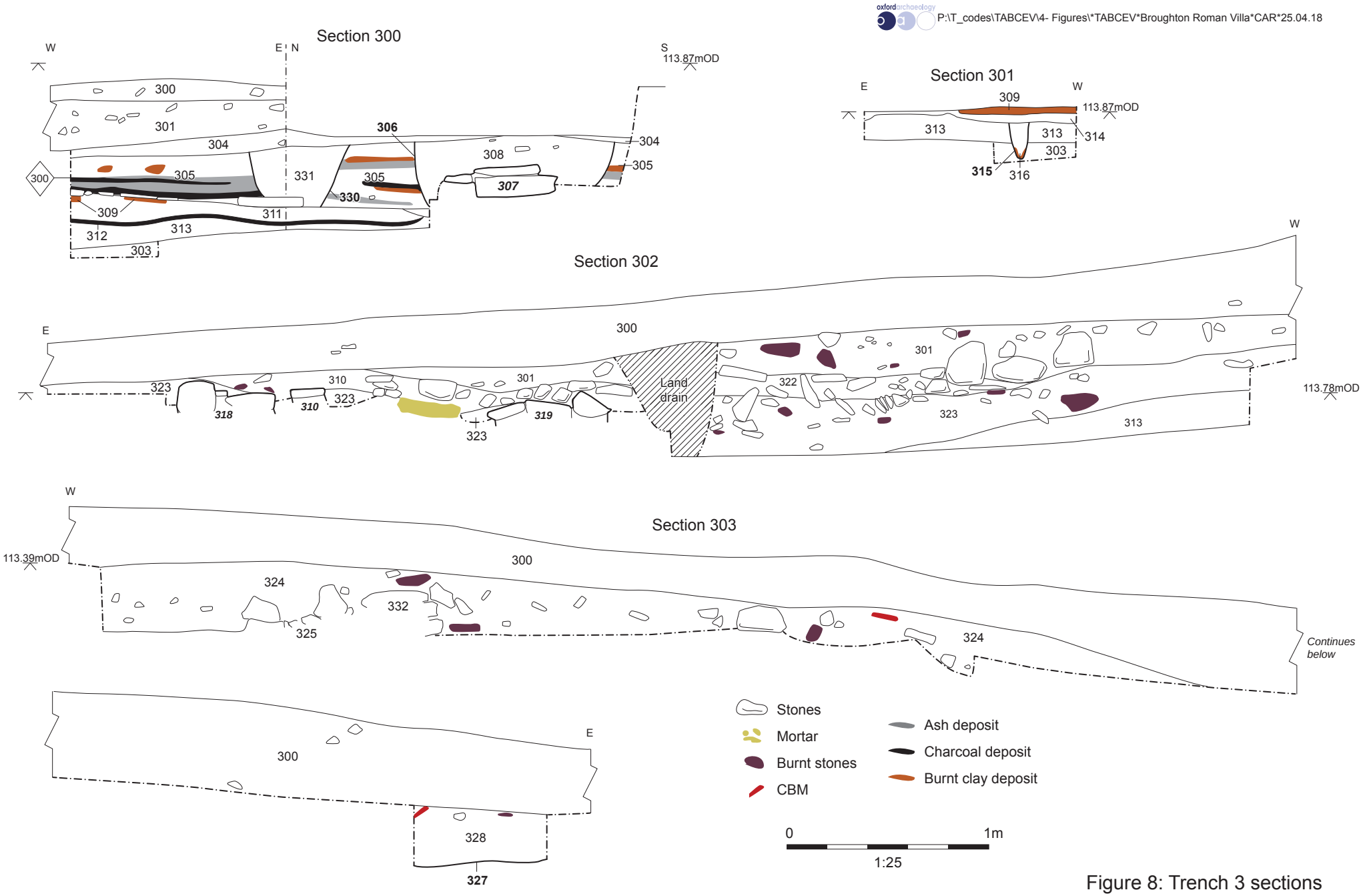

Figure 8: Trench 3 sections

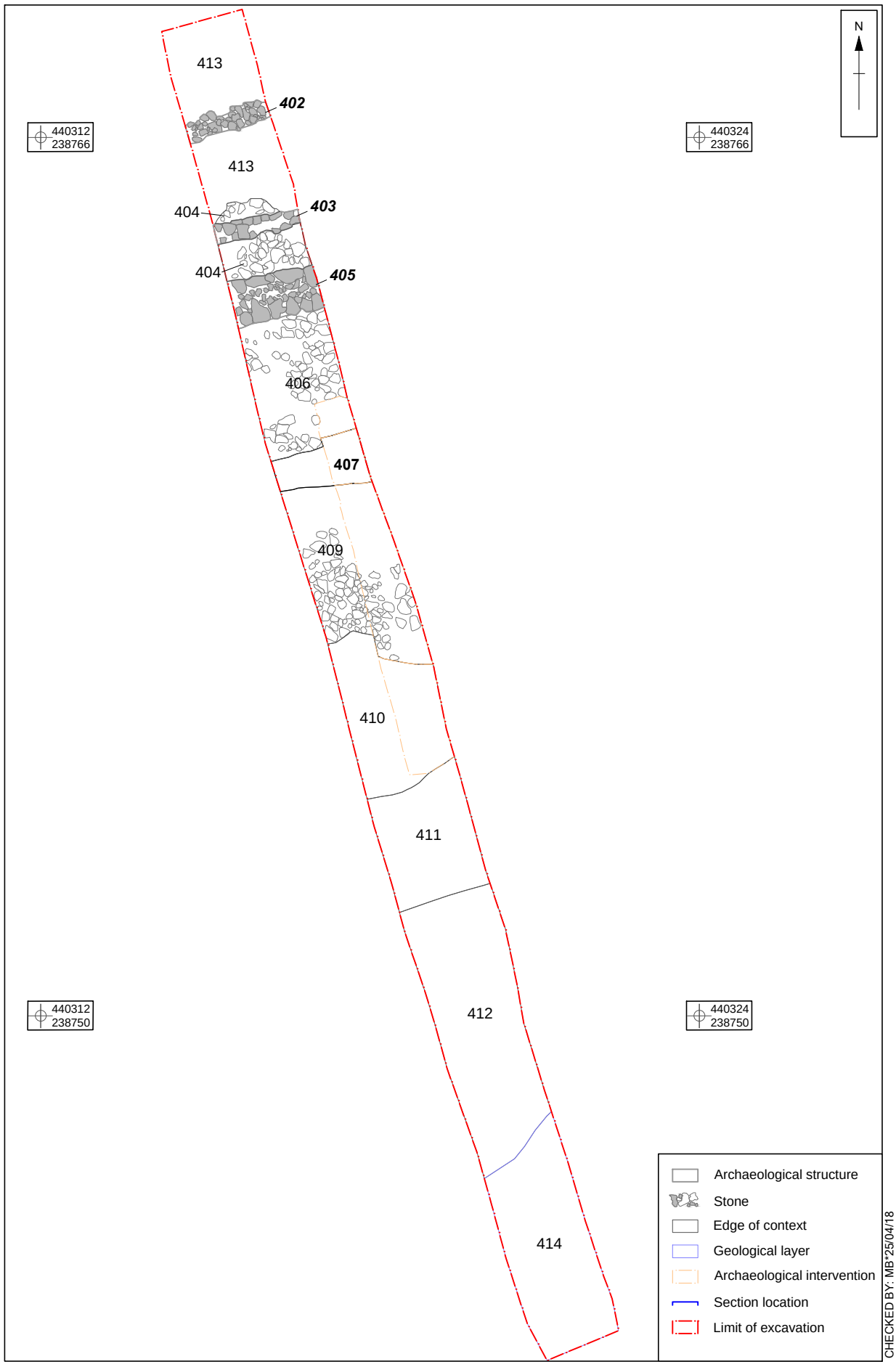

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Figure 9: Plan of Trench 4

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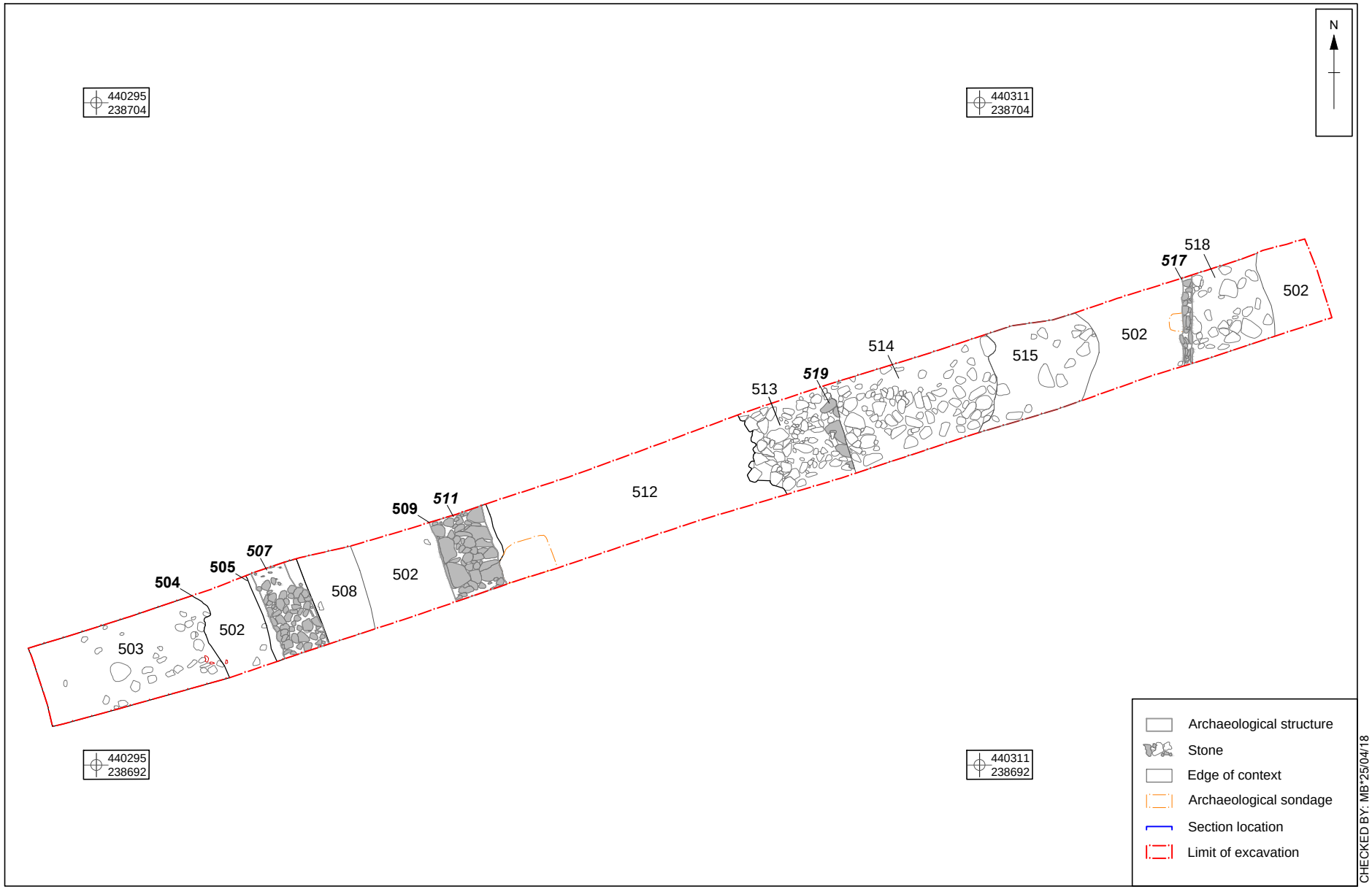

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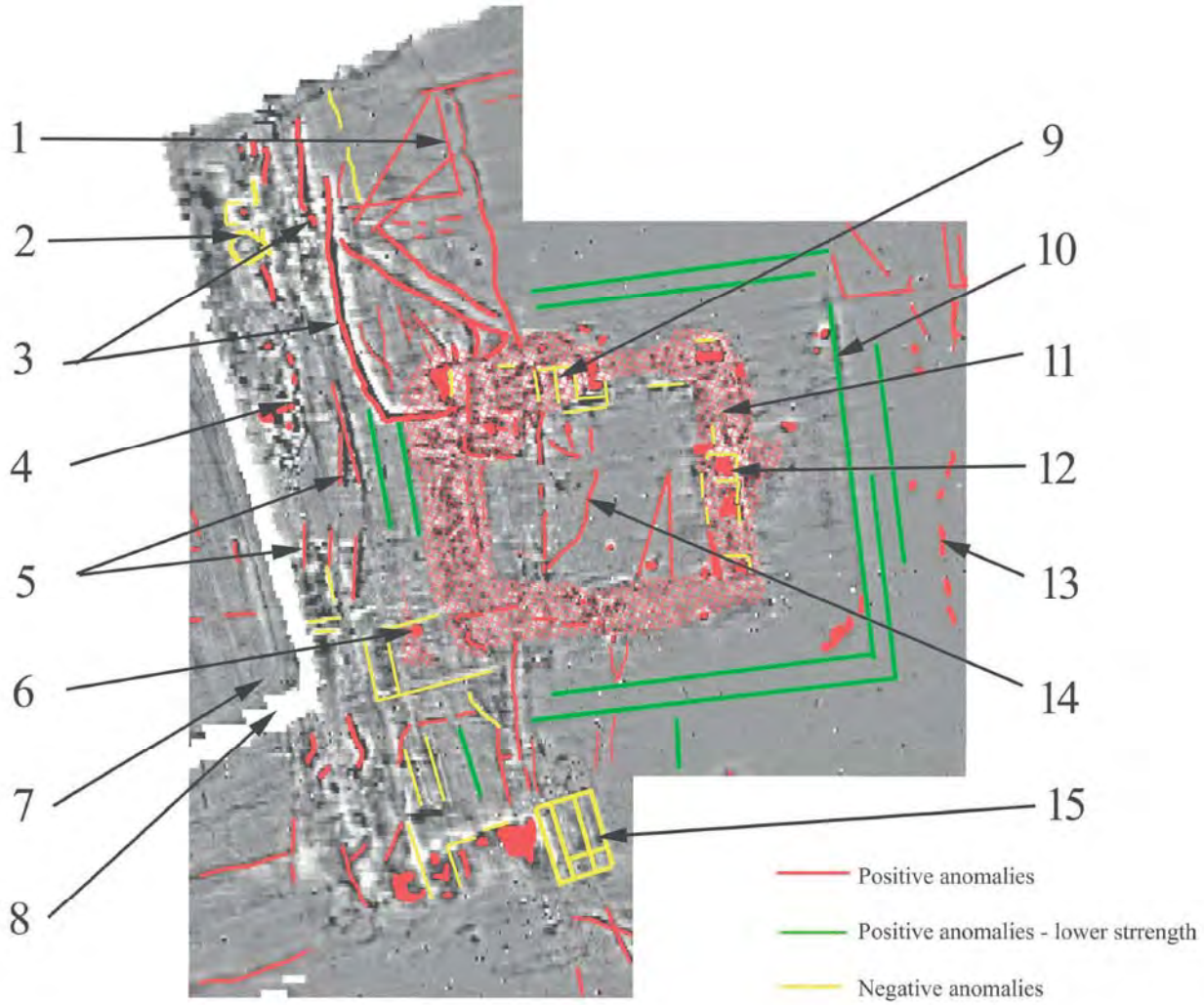
Figure 10: Plan of Trench 5



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N

RPS

Figure 11: Geophysical survey interpretation

RPS

- Site Location
- Search Radius 2km

Designated Heritage Assets:

- Scheduled Monument
- Broughton Castle Registered Park & Garden
- Conservation Area

Non-Designated Heritage Assets:

HER Features

- Later Prehistoric to Bronze Age
- Iron Age
- Roman
- Roman to Post Medieval
- Medieval to Post Medieval
- Post Medieval to Modern
- Undated/Unknown
- Roman Road
- HER Events

Probable henge at Broughton

N

Scale at A4: 1:16,000

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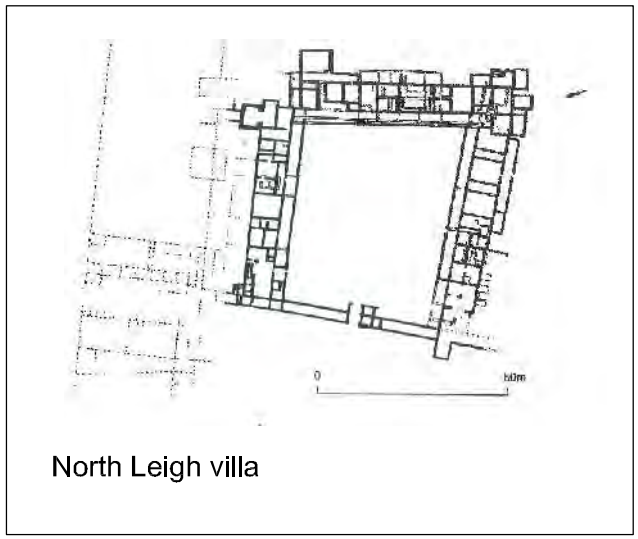
Figure 12: Site location and Historic Environment Record



North Leigh villa

Broughton villa

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Figure 13: Comparison with North Leigh villa (after Henig and Booth 2000)

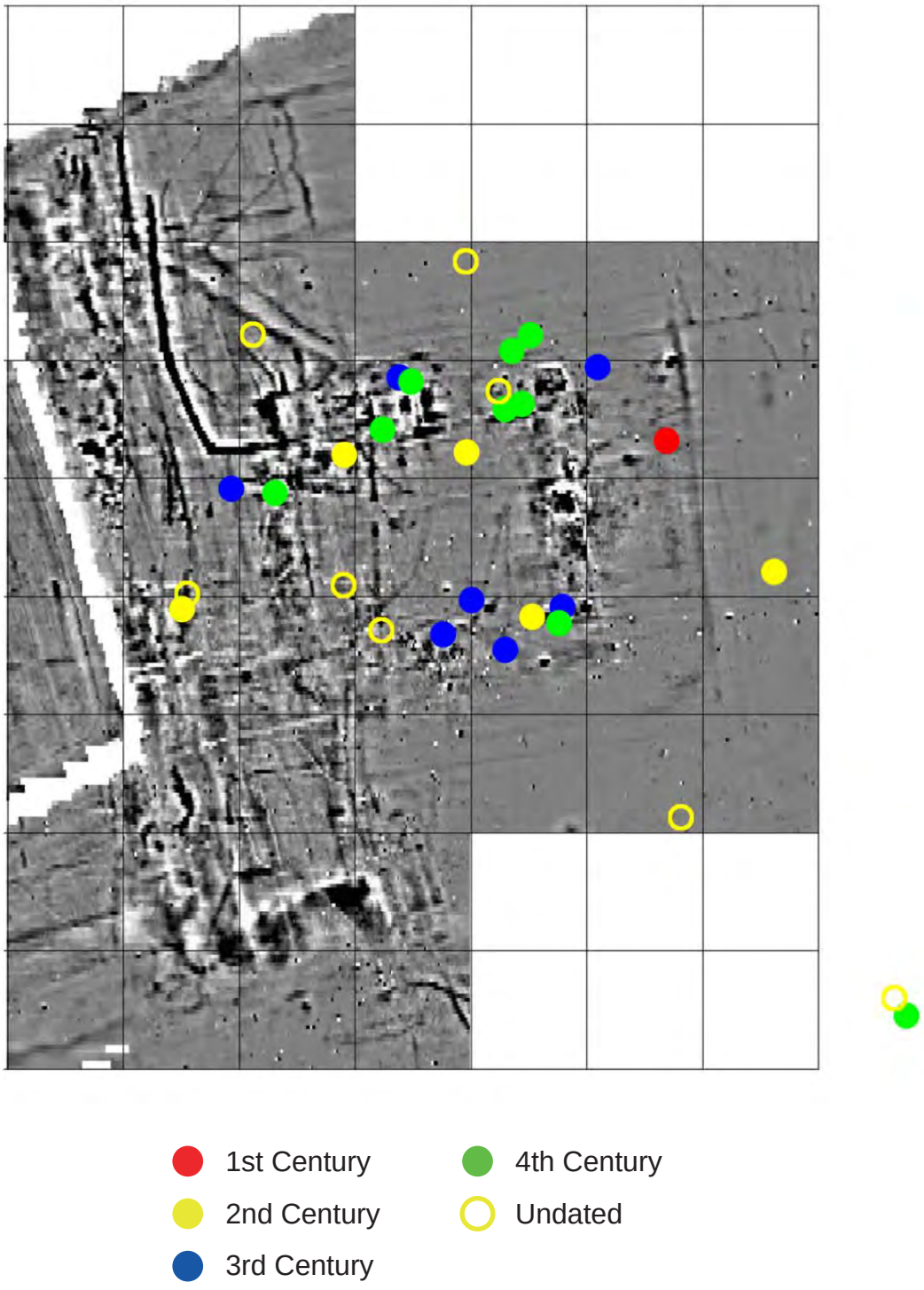

Figure 14: Metal detector survey coin plot over the geophysical survey results

Plate 1: Looking north-west across Trench 2

Plate 2: Section 200 showing walls 205, 206 and 212

Plate 3: Trench 2, looking south-west

Plate 4: Pitched stone foundation 202, looking west

Plate 5: Post socket 228 and adjacent wall 227, looking west

Plate 6: Revetment 204, looking north

Plate 7: Section 201 showing sequence of revetment deposits, looking west

Plate 8: Trench 3, looking east

Plate 9: Burning event 309, with later occupation deposits 305 and wall 307, looking west

Plate 10: Section 302 and floor layers 318 and 319, looking south-west

Plate 11: Section 303 showing pitched stone foundation 325 and later rubble 332, looking north

Plate 12: Trench 4, looking south

Plate 13: Vertical view of structures 402, 403 and 405

Plate 14: Looking west across Trench 5

Plate 15: Trench 5, showing structures 507 and 511 in the foreground, looking north-east

Plate 16: Martin Fiennes working in Trench 2

Plate 17: View of the villa field from the east (ploughed field in centre of shot)

Plate 18: Aerial image of cropmarks over the villa ranges and courtyard area, July 2018

Plate 19: Aerial image of cropmarks over the aisled building, July 2018

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