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Archaeological Evaluation Report



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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation along the proposed route of the A415 Marcham Bypass, Oxfordshire (SU 440 970 to SU 461 966) on behalf of Jacobs Babié in May 2005.

The work comprised twenty trenches targeting cropmark evidence and anomalies highlighted by a fluxgate gradiometer survey of the route, carried out in 2004 by Pre-Construct Geophysics.

A first focus of activity, dated to the early to mid Saxon period was identified in Field 1 in the form of a field system and a pit. To the south, across the A338, in Field 2, another field boundary along with a large pit, both dating to the late 11th century were discovered. A Romano-British ditch was recorded in Trench 3. In both Field 1 and 2 a certain quantity of residual Romano-British pottery was also encountered.

A second focus of activity dating to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age was recorded in Trenches 14 and 15, in Field 6, possibly representing settlement related occupation. Field 6 also revealed evidence of extensive field systems, probably of Romano-British, Saxon and Medieval date.

Another possible focus of prehistoric activity, although undated, was excavated in Trenches 22 and 24.

Further linear features were identified in Fields 8, 10, and 11. Although many of these are undated, the presence of burnt stone in a number of features points to a prehistoric date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In May 2005, OA carried out a field evaluation along the proposed route of the A415 Marcham Bypass, Oxfordshire (between SU 440 970 and SU 461 966) on behalf of Jacobs Babcie. This followed a brief set by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, and a Written Scheme of investigation (WSI) set by Jacobs Babcie and agreed with the County Archaeological Services. The proposed route lies to the south of the A415 and is 3 km long (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The study area is located on mixed geology ranging from sands, sandy clay and brash in the west (Fields 1 and 2) through to sandy gravels with pockets of naturally occurring sandy clay throughout the rest of the route. A band of thick blue grey clay was encountered only in Trench 11.

1.2.2 Heights ranged from 69.5 m OD in Field 1 dropping off to 67.3 m OD in Field 2, and 62.5 m OD by Trench 14. Immediately to the south of trench 14, the land falls quite sharply to 57.8 m OD in Trench 12 then continues dropping off to 55.5 m OD in Field 8, with the rest of the route corridor remaining rather flat at around 55 m OD across the floodplain of the River Ock.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 In 2004 Jacobs Babcie produced a draft Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report which identified the general archaeological potential of the study area. The Cultural Heritage section of the EIA identified a high potential for archaeological remains which include extensive archaeological remains dating from prehistory to World War II defensive structures.

1.3.2 Extensive cropmarks have been recorded within the immediate environs of the scheme. These can be split into two main groups:

- *SMR 12415 [EIA Site 56] (SU 4542 9569 centred)*: This can be categorised as a regular aggregate field system comprising a fragmentary, ordered set of ditched boundaries covering approximately 60 hectares. This site is undated and could range from the Bronze Age to the 5th century AD.
- *SMR 15277 [EIA Site 105] (SU 4649 9613 centred)*: This can be categorised as a field system, comprising an extensive area of discontinuous perpendicular linear features, each defined by a single ditch, and covers an area of approximately 40 hectares.

1.3.3 A geophysical survey carried out as part of the first phase of this evaluation (Pre-Construct Geophysics, David Bunn 2004), indicates the presence of regular aggregate field systems surviving in Fields 1, 2 and 3 and has revealed that Fields 8, 9, 10, 11,

and 14 contain positive linear anomalies that may be associated with the cropmark evidence described above (1.3.2).

- 1.3.4 Approximately 650 m to the south of Fields 3 and 5 lies an extensive series of important sites centred on 'Noah's Ark', where research excavations have brought to light a Roman temple complex and possible Roman amphitheatre. A Roman cemetery also lies to the north east of this site.
- 1.3.5 The A338 follows the course of a former Roman Road.
- 1.3.6 Also present in the area are World War II features such as the GHQ Stop Line consisting of a substantial anti-tank ditch, which crosses the western part of the route.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 The general aims of the sample excavation programme were to obtain information which would contribute to an evaluation of the archaeological potential of the area and which would enable the need for, and nature and scope of any mitigation measures to be determined. More specifically the aims of the evaluation included the following:
 - 2.1.2 To determine or confirm (so far as possible) the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains and their spatial extent.
 - 2.1.3 To determine or confirm the general nature of any significant archaeological features.
 - 2.1.4 To determine or confirm the approximate date or date-range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
 - 2.1.5 To determine the condition or state of preservation of the remains.
 - 2.1.6 To determine the depth and thickness of archaeological deposits, including the nature and depth of the overburden.
 - 2.1.7 To determine the likely range, quality, quantity and nature of palaeoenvironmental evidence present.
 - 2.1.8 To identify research potential or research questions that could be addressed at mitigation stage.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 A geophysical survey was carried out by Pre-Construct Geophysics in September 2004 along the proposed route of the bypass. Recorded anomalies indicated that the western half of the proposed route had the greatest archaeological potential. These results, together with cropmark evidence, were used to target specific areas of the route and inform on the trench layout.

- 3.1.2 The evaluation consisted of twenty trenches of various sizes (Fig. 2) up to 60 m long, representing a total area of 1,280 m².
- 3.1.3 Trenches 4 to 8 were not excavated in consultation with Jacobs Babbie and the county Archaeological Services, because of access issues.

Fields 1 and 2, Trenches 1, 2 and 3 (Fig. 2)

- 3.1.4 A total of three trenches measuring 30 m x 1.60 m were excavated at the western end of the proposed bypass route in the vicinity of the junction between the A415 and the A338.

Fields 5 and 6, Trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 (Fig. 2)

- 3.1.5 A total of eight trenches measuring 30 m x 1.60 m were excavated in Fields 5 and 6 in the area to the west and south of Kiln Copse.

Fields 8, 9, 10, 11, and 14, Trenches 17 - 25 (Fig. 2)

- 3.1.6 Extending from the south of Manor Farm up to where the proposed route rejoins the existing A415 to the north-east, Fields 8 to 15 contained nine trenches ranging in length from 30 to 60 m.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, supplemented by limited hand excavation of archaeological deposits. The trenches were excavated to the top of the 'natural', or to the top of any significant archaeological level, whichever was the higher. The exposed archaeological horizon was cleaned to clarify the remains and archaeological features were sampled to sufficiently characterise and date them. Particular care was taken to ensure that archaeological deposits were not damaged through excessive use of machine excavation.
- 3.2.2 The stratigraphy of the trenches was recorded even where no archaeological deposits could be identified. Spoil heaps were monitored to allow analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 3.2.3 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established OA practice in *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).
- 3.2.4 All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them, were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context.
- 3.2.5 The photographic record comprised colour transparency and black-and-white negative photographs. Site plans were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:50) with larger scale plans of features as necessary. Section drawings of features and sample sections of stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

3.2.6 All fieldwork was monitored by Pete Fasham, from Jacobs Babbie and Paul Smith, from Oxfordshire County Council.

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 Samples were taken from a number of deposits according to the perceived character, interpretative importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation, in order to ascertain the palaeo-environmental potential across the site.

3.4.2 A total of seven 40 litres bulk samples were taken across the site for flotation for carbonised remains where there was clear indication of good potential for such material

3.4.3 A total of fifteen bulk samples were collected for molluscs if clearly present. Two monoliths were also taken on site.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 A general description of the soils, ground conditions, stratigraphic sequence and distribution of archaeological deposits is given below, along with the results of the geophysical survey. The empty trenches are listed in Appendix 1, but not otherwise described. Trenches containing features are described in detail. The trench layout has been illustrated in Figure 2. Detailed plans and sections of all trenches containing archaeological features are illustrated in Figures 3 to 18.

3.5.2 The trench descriptions are followed by a description of the finds and a summary and discussion of the results.

3.5.3 A table detailing individual contexts is given in Appendix 1.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The study area is located on mixed geology ranging from sands, sandy clay and brash in the west (Fields 1 and 2) through to sandy gravels with pockets of naturally occurring sandy clay throughout the rest of the route. A band of thick blue grey clay was encountered only in Trench 11. The natural was encountered at a depth ranging between 0.25 to 0.84 m. The average depth of the trenches was 0.47 m. Ground water was only encountered in Trenches 14 and 17 due more to local hydrology than widespread high water table conditions.

4.1.2 The general sediment sequence of overburden was fairly consistent across the site. A layer of subsoil was identified in trenches, ranging in thickness from 0.1 to 0.3 m. The average thickness was 0.18 m. Descriptions of subsoil can be found below. A layer of topsoil/ploughsoil overlay the subsoil across the whole route and varies in thickness between 0.15 and 0.37 m. The average depth of topsoil was 0.26 m.

4.2 **Distribution of archaeological deposits**

4.2.1 A total of 15 trenches (1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 24) contained archaeological features or deposits. Significant concentrations of archaeological features were found in three different locations along the proposed route. The features recorded elsewhere appear to be more sporadic and isolated. The potential for archaeology was highlighted by geophysical survey in many areas of the site.

4.2.2 To west of the route, Trenches 1, 2 and 3 revealed a concentration of archaeological features including mostly ditches, one pit and some possible postholes of Saxon to early medieval date.

4.2.3 Further to the south-east, in Field 6, Trenches 14 and 15 revealed a concentration of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age features.

4.2.4 To the eastern end of the route, Trenches 22 and 24 revealed a small concentration of undated archaeological features.

5 RESULTS: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 The results of the Trench Evaluation

Fields 1 and 2: Trenches 1, 2 and 3 (Fig. 2)

- 5.1.1 Trenches 1, 2 and 3 situated at the western end of the proposed route were located to examine a series of linear anomalies discovered in the geophysical survey. Many linear features were identified in the excavation.
- 5.1.2 All three trenches were excavated onto the natural sand and brickearth. This was overlain by a mid orange brown sandy silt subsoil, *c* 0.21 m thick, and a modern ploughsoil or topsoil, *c* 0.26 m thick. The depth of the trenches varied between 0.4 and 0.5 m.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

- 5.1.3 Trench 1 revealed several archaeological features, including two ditches, a gully and a posthole. A north-south orientated ditch (107) was present at the western end of Trench 1. It was 0.6 m wide by 0.36 m deep with steeply sloping sides and a rounded bottom. It was filled by 108, a mid brown clayey sand producing 3 pottery sherds (12 g) of early/mid Saxon date. This fill was overlain by subsoil (101) which contained 9 sherds (57 g) of pottery ranging in date from Romano-British to early/mid Saxon.
- 5.1.4 Posthole 109 was situated 2.5 m to the east of ditch 107. This feature had vertical sides and a flat base and was 0.1 m deep. Its fill (110) contained a high concentration of charcoal indicating perhaps that the post had burnt *in-situ*.
- 5.1.5 At the eastern end of Trench 1, ditch 105 was orientated NNW-SSE, and was 3.4 m wide by 1.3 m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Gully 106 was aligned at a right angle with ditch 105 and was possibly contemporary. Both features appear to have been filled simultaneously by primary fill 104, 0.17 m thick and a mid brown clayey sand secondary fill (103), 0.4 m thick, which produced 5 sherds (95 g) of pottery indicating a 2nd century AD date.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

- 5.1.6 Trench 2, orientated north-south, contained two ditches, a tree throw, a possible posthole and a modern feature. East-west running ditch (207) had a vertical south side, a steep north side and a flat base. It was 0.5 m wide and 0.32 m deep. Its single fill (206) was brown sandy clay. Recutting this feature was a gently sloping ditch (205), 1.3 m wide and 0.28 m deep, with a concave base, whose fill (204), a mid brown silty clay, produced 1 sherd (9 g) of residual Romano-British pottery and 5 sherds (40 g) of early/mid Saxon pottery.
- 5.1.7 Eight metres to the south of ditches 205/207 was sub-circular feature 214, 0.11 m deep, which could be a posthole. It contained a large slab of limestone approximately

0.4 m by 0.35 m and 0.1 m thick, which may have been a post pad. In its immediate proximity was a modern feature 212, which contained modern pottery and fragments of barbed wire.

- 5.1.8 At the southern end of Trench 2 was tree throw 210, which was 0.2 m deep with a diameter of 1.3 m and an irregular base. Its two fills, secondary silt 208 and redeposited natural 209, produced 9 sherds (34 g) of early/mid Saxon pottery.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

- 5.1.9 Trench 3 was situated to the north-west of the Frilford Service Station and was located to investigate a linear anomaly in its northern end. Four ditches and a pit were identified in this trench.
- 5.1.10 A 4.5 m wide ditch was revealed at the north end of Trench 3. This ditch (306) ran roughly east-west and was 1.5 m deep, with gently, slightly irregular sloping sides and a flat base. Its lower fill (313) appeared to be derived from eroded sand as the feature sides stabilised. It was overlain by a secondary fill of siltier material (305), which contained a flint flake, 3 fragments of animal bone and a single human carpal bone. Primary fill 313 produced a range of pottery with 6 sherds (32 g) of Romano-British date, 5 sherds (17 g) of north-east Wiltshire Ware, (AD1050 – 1400), and 4 sherds (11 g) of Medieval Oxford ware (AD1075 – 1350). It is likely that the Romano-British pottery is residual, possibly associated with the former Roman Road that is now the A338.
- 5.1.11 Ditch 306 cut two earlier features, 304 and 310, which are both on the same alignment as (306). Feature 304 appeared to be the terminus of a steep sided gully and 310 was a shallow gently sloping gully. Neither of these features produced finds.
- 5.1.12 A metre to the north of feature 310 was pit 308. It was 3.5 m in diameter and 0.32 m deep. It contained a fill (307) of dark brown silty clay, which contained 4 sherds (14 g) of late 11th century pottery, and 2 sherds (5 g) of Romano-British pottery.
- 5.1.13 At the southern end of Trench 3 was a very wide linear feature (312) running SE-NW which is interpreted as the GHQ Stop Line, a substantial WWII anti-tank ditch. This ditch was backfilled with a loose brush material (311), which may correspond to redeposited natural, possibly explaining the lack of clear anomalies during the geophysical survey. This feature was not excavated.

Fields 5 and 6: Trenches 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 (Fig. 2)

- 5.1.14 Trenches 9 to 16 were all located to examine several geophysical linear and pit like anomalies. In most cases these anomalies were identified in the excavation. All the trenches were excavated onto the natural sand and gravel, except for Trench 11 which came down on to a band of blue grey clay. Trench depth varied between 0.3 and 0.6 m.

- 5.1.15 Overlying stratigraphy usually consisted of mid grey brown clay silt subsoil, c 0.19 m thick, overlain by modern ploughsoil, c 0.25 m thick. This was the case unless otherwise stated.

Trenches 9 (Fig. 6) and 13

- 5.1.16 Excavation of Trenches 9 and 13 revealed a number of natural features (1306, 1308), hollows in the gravel natural and tree-throw hole (903). One possible undated post hole (905) was present in the centre of Trench 9 but was found in an area of root disturbance so could in fact have been formed by bioturbation.

Trench 10 (Fig. 7)

- 5.1.17 Trench 10 revealed two ditches and a pit. Excavated to the gravel natural at a depth of 0.35 m, a substantial ditch (1010), a shallow gully (1012) both running north-south, and a large pit (1007) were revealed to the west of Trench 10. Gully 1012 was 0.6 m wide and only 0.08 m deep and was truncated by ditch 1010, which was 2 m wide and 1 m deep. The primary fill (1009) of the large ditch seemed to be derived largely from the upcast material, and the secondary fill (1008) was a mid orangey brown silty clay which may have accumulated as the upper sides of the feature eroded. A single sherd (5 g) of Romano-British pottery, possibly residual, was found in the upper fill of the ditch (1003).
- 5.1.18 Truncating the eastern side of ditch 1010 was pit 1007. With a diameter of 0.9 m and a depth of 1 m, it had steep sides and an undercutting top profile. All its four fills (1003, 1004, 1005 and 1006) were completely sterile and probably derived from the erosion of the features sides. Pit 1007 appeared to have been cut through ditch 1010 when it was only partially filled.

Trench 11

- 5.1.19 Trench 11 was excavated to a depth of 0.4 m on to a natural blue grey clay. Overlying the clay was 0.15 m of mid grey brown silty clay subsoil (1101) which in turn was overlain by 0.25 m of ploughsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the base of this trench.

Trench 12 (Fig. 8)

- 5.1.20 Trench 12 revealed a NW-SE running ditch (1203), which appeared (see section 1200) to be cut through subsoil 1201. Ditch (1203) was 1 m wide and 0.4 m deep with a V-shaped profile and a concave base. Its fill (1202), a dark brown silty clay, produced domestic rubbish including 4 fragments of animal bone (153 g) and 3 sherds (8g) of pottery of Romano-British date. Its stratigraphic position suggests however that it is likely to be a modern feature and that the Romano-British pottery is probably residual.

Trench 14 (Fig. 9)

- 5.1.21 Trench 14 was situated at the top of a rise to the north of Field 6 just before the land drops off to the south. It was located to target a large linear anomaly running NE-SW that was revealed in the geophysical survey. The trench was excavated down to natural gravel at 0.65 m at the western end, and 1.1 m at the eastern end where the overlying stratigraphy was thicker. Several archaeological features were recorded in this trench, including nine gullies, two ditches, four pits and two postholes.
- 5.1.22 In the northern half of the trench, natural sand and gravel were overlain by 1413, a colluvial type subsoil. Subsoil 1401 and then modern ploughsoil 1400 overlay this layer., Layer 1402, a mid grey brown clay silt, was recorded below subsoil 1413, 8.5 m from the north-west end of the trench. Rather patchy at its northern limit, this layer, interpreted as a buried soil, extended along the length of the trench from this point onwards to becomes thicker to the south-east. Layer 1402 contained 32 sherds (113) of pottery dated to the late Bronze Age-early Iron Age (LBA-EIA).
- 5.1.23 Two intercutting pits 1424 and 1428 were excavated at the north-west end of the trench. Both were circular with steep sides. Pit 1428 was 1 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep. The full extent of pit 1424, was not visible, but it was at least 0.6 m in diameter and 0.28 m deep. Section 1404 (Fig. 9) shows that pit 1424 cut pit 1428. The latter pit contained two thin primary fills (1426 and 1427) overlain by a 0.36 m thick silt deposit (1425), which produced 14 sherds (37 g) of pottery of a LBA-EIA date. Pit (1424) also contained an undated secondary silty fill (1422, overlying a thin sandy silt primary fill (1423). Pit 1428 was also cut by two parallel shallow gullies or plough scars 1419 and 1421 orientated NW-SE. No finds were recovered from their fills.
- 5.1.24 Two heavily truncated circular features, 1430 and 1432, were located immediately to the south of feature 1419. These two possible postholes were a maximum of 0.08 m deep and 0.35 m wide with concave bases and moderate sides. Three sherds (31 g) of LBA-EIA age pottery were found in the fill of 1430.
- 5.1.25 Further to the south-east were a series of four shallow gullies, all orientated NW-SE. The larger outer two of these (1436 and 1442), were between 0.4 and 0.5 m wide and 0.12 m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The fill of gully 1436 (1435) produced 1 sherd (4 g) of LBA-EIA pottery. The two inner gullies (1438 and 1440) were much shallower, being 0.08 m deep and 0.2 m wide. The spatial distribution of these four linear features, at a regular distance apart and the uniformity of their yellow brown clay silt fills suggest a possible agricultural origin, such as deep ploughing, with the sherd of pottery being residual.
- 5.1.26 A possible pit, 1444, was truncated by the most northerly of these four features (1442). This pit was 0.2 m deep and 0.55 m wide and produced a flint flake and 5 sherds (3g) of un-diagnostic pottery. At the opposite side of the trench, was feature

1434, a possible gully terminus only 0.04 m deep, which contained a sherd (3g) of LBA-EIA pottery.

- 5.1.27 In the centre of the trench were three tree throw type features, 1404, 1408, and 1412., all of which were sub-circular in plan and irregular sided and ranged from 1.9 to 0.6 m in diameter with a depth of *c* 0.2 m. The fills of 1404 (1403) and 1412 (1411) produced respectively 32 sherds (113 g) and 5 sherds (9 g) of LBA-EIA pottery. Fill 1403 also contained 2 fragments of animal bone and a small fragment of indeterminate copper alloy sheet. A north-south running gully 1406/1410 cut 1408 and 1412). This gully was 0.12 m wide and 0.08 m deep and produced 2 sherds (9 g) of LBA-EIA pottery.
- 5.1.28 Overlain by buried soil (1402) and 14 m from the southern end of the trench was another sub-circular feature, 1449. This possible pit was 1.75 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep, with a dark grey brown clay silt fill (1448) containing 13 sherds (34 g) of LBA-EIA pottery, 2 flint flakes and 1 sherd (27 g) of intrusive Romano-British pottery date. This feature cut a WNW-ESE running linear feature (1417), 3.5m wide and 0.3 m deep. Its wide and shallow nature associated with its irregular flat base suggests that this feature may have been a natural water channel, but an anthropogenic origin cannot be ruled out. Its fill (1416) also contained a total of 24 sherds (108 g) of LBA-EIA pottery, 14 g of fired clay and a flint flake.
- 5.1.29 Immediately to the south and parallel to feature 1417 was linear 1415, which was 3.5 m wide and 1.0 m deep. The latter appears to cut layers 1413 on its north-west side and 1446, which replaces 1413, on its south-east side. Both sides were rather diffuse, moderately sloping with a flat irregular base. Its fill (1414) was a mid yellow brown silty clay, almost identical to layer 1446 which appears to start to the south-east of this feature. Its later date in the sequence of this trench is confirmed by the discovery of 1 sherd (10 g) of Iron Age pottery in fill 1414.
- 5.1.30 Layer 1446 was visible for 3 m before the south-east end of Trench 14 and overlay 1445, a redeposited natural gravel, 0.15 m thick.

Trench 15 (Fig. 10)

- 5.1.31 Trench 15 was excavated to a depth of 0.6 m on to natural gravel (1503), overlain by a colluvial layer (1502), an orange silty clay 0.3 m thick. Above 1502 was subsoil 1501 which produced 3 sherds (21 g) of early Iron Age pottery, overlain by modern ploughsoil (1500). At least six features were encountered in this trench, including a ditch, a gully, three pits and a posthole.
- 5.1.32 At the southern end of Trench 15 was a large elongated ovoid pit (1515) with concave sides and base, 1.4 m in diameter and 0.44 m deep. Its fill (1514), a mid grey brown silt clay produced 8 sherds (18 g) of early Iron Age pottery and a fragment of a possible shale bracelet (small find 2). This feature was cut on its southern side by east-west running ditch 1513. This linear was 0.9 m wide and 0.3 m deep and its

compact orange brown silty clay fill (1512) contained 3 sherds (6 g) of early/mid Saxon pottery and a fragment of animal bone.

- 5.1.33 Immediately to the north of (1515) were two heavily truncated features, pit 1518 which was 0.26 m wide and 0.14 m deep, and undated pit 1516, which was 0.1 m deep and 0.4 m wide. Pit 1518 produced a right cattle mandible and 3 sherds (8 g) of LBA-EIA pottery..
- 5.1.34 Across the centre of the trench was a NNE-SSW orientated gully (1520). It was only 0.1 m deep and 0.2 m wide, probably heavily truncated and did not produce any dating evidence. It possibly terminated within the extent of the trench.
- 5.1.35 Directly north of gully 1521 was linear feature 1509/1511 that was aligned east-west. This feature appeared to be cut through layer 1502, and had post hole 1507 cut into its base. Therefore 1509/1511 was interpreted as the construction trench for a series of postholes, possibly a fence line. Post hole 1507 was filled with material derived from the topsoil (1506) indicating that the post had been deliberately removed. One sherd (16 g) of possible early/mid Saxon pottery was recovered from this material.
- 5.1.36 A possible pit (1505) was also revealed to the north of Trench 15. It was sub-circular with irregular sides and was 0.6 m in diameter and 0.12 m deep. Its fill (1504) was a sterile brown grey clay silt.

Trench 16 (Fig. 11)

- 5.1.37 Trench 16 contained five ditches. A pair of NE-SW orientated ditches, 1604 and 1607, were recorded towards the south-east end of the trench. Ditch 1604 contained a modern field drain in its top fill (1602). Ditch 1604 could be a re-cut of earlier ditch 1607, which has been reused in modern times. Ditch 1607 was 0.6 m wide and 0.26 m deep. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base, and neither of its two silty fills (1605 and 1606) contained any finds.
- 5.1.38 To the north-west of ditch 1607 was a NNW-SSE aligned ditch (1609) with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled with 1608, an undated light yellow brown silt clay. Further north-west, across the centre of the trench, was another shallow NE-SW running ditch (1611) with no dating evidence.
- 5.1.39 At the north-west end of the trench, running north-south was a possible ditch terminus (1613). It was 0.7 m wide and 0.24 m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (1612), a mid brown grey clay silt, contained no finds.

Fields 8, 9, 10, 11, and 14: Trenches 17 - 25 (Fig. 2)

- 5.1.40 Trenches 17 to 25 were located to target pit-like and parallel linear anomalies, and also some cropmarks that were not identified by the geophysical survey. There was

generally a good correlation between the geophysics results and the features identified in the excavations.

- 5.1.41 Trenches 17 to 25 were excavated onto the natural sand and gravel to a depth varying between 0.25 and 1.1 m. Overlying stratigraphy usually consisted of mid orangey brown sandy clay subsoil, c 0.16 m thick, overlain by modern ploughsoil, c 0.28 m thick. This was the case in all the trenches except for Trench 22 which is described below.

Trench 17 (Fig. 12)

- 5.1.42 Across the middle of Trench 17 was a NE-SW running gully (1704), possibly for modern drainage, which was 0.6 m wide and 0.8 m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (1703) was a mottled grey orange and white clay with much decaying organic material within it. This fill was probably of same origin as 1705, a layer 0.1 m thick, filling a shallow depression (1708) located 1 m to the west of 1704. A sondage below this depression proved that the orange and grey sand and gravel (1706 and 1707) underlying 1708 was natural.

Trenches 18 and 19 (Figs. 13 and 14)

- 5.1.43 Both Trenches 18 and 19 were excavated to natural sand and gravel at a depth of 0.45 m, through modern ploughsoil and subsoil. Both trenches contained moderate archaeology, respectively a ditch and two ditches.
- 5.1.44 A NE-SW orientated ditch (1805) was seen in the eastern half of Trench 18. This feature was 1.6 m wide and 0.45 m deep with moderate sides and a concave base. Its four fills, which mainly comprised eroded gravel from the sides and silty clay, produced no finds.
- 5.1.45 Trench 19 revealed two ditches. Ditch 1907, at the western end of the trench, was aligned N-S. This ditch was 1.4 m wide and 0.5 m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. This ditch was similar to ditch 1805 in Trench 18 and could be part of the same enclosure or field system. Its fills (1905 and 1906), respectively a bluey brown silty clay and an orangey brown silty clay, produced no finds.
- 5.1.46 Ditch 1904, aligned NE-SW in the eastern half of Trench 19, was 0.8 m wide and 0.35 m deep with a sharp top profile, moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill (1903), a mid yellow brown sandy clay produced no datable finds.

Trench 20 (Fig. 15)

- 5.1.47 A number of irregular features (2003, 2007, 2009, and 2011) were investigated in Trench 20, which upon examination appeared to be either tree root disturbance or variations in the natural. One of these, a sub-circular feature (2007), could possibly have been a pit, but its irregular sides and sterile subsoil type fill (2008) indicates that it was some form of bioturbation. Linear feature 2005, however, was possibly a

furrow, running NNW-SSE, it was 2.4 m wide and 0.26 m deep. No artefacts were recovered from these features.

- 5.1.48 At the western end of Trench 20 was a large shallow irregular feature (2016), which was interpreted as a palaeochannel. This feature was NNW-SSE and was 7.8 m wide and 0.4 m deep. Its fill (2017), a dark brown silty clay came down on to the flat base of this wide feature.

Trench 21 (Fig.16)

- 5.1.49 Two ditches were recorded in Trench 21. Ditch 2104 was orientated north-south. It was 1.4 m wide and 0.3 m deep, with one fill (2103), a mid grey clay which produced 14 sherds (24 g) of pottery in very poor condition which could not be dated.
- 5.1.50 Across the centre of the trench ran ditch 2110, aligned NW-SE. It was 0.7 m wide and 0.25 m deep and its terminal, recorded to the north-west (2106), had sharp sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from this feature, and it was truncated by tree root disturbance 2108 immediately to the west.

Trench 22 (Fig. 17, Plates 1 to 4)

- 5.1.51 Trench 22 was excavated 0.8 m on to natural sand and gravel and revealed a total of four linear features, including two ditches and two gullies. At the south-western end, excavation encountered two curvi-linear ditches, 2213 and 2216, which were considered to be part of the same circular feature, initially considered to be a possible barrow.
- 5.1.52 Both ditches had roughly equal dimensions, being 2 m wide and 0.5 m deep, and had moderate sides and flat bases. They both cut through a layer (2204), which appeared to directly overlie natural gravel 2205. This deposit (2204) was 0.7 m thick and comprised a soft orange black sandy silt whose extent is limited by the two ditches, and it is interpreted as a buried soil horizon (Plate 3). The north-easterly of the two ditches (2213; Plates 1 and 2), contained a primary fill of eroded gravel (2212), overlain by secondary fills 2211 and 2209 comprising material derived from natural silting. Upper fills 2208, 2207, and 2206 seem to be derived from the erosion of surrounding subsoils with bands of iron panning tipping in from the west into 2206, deriving from 2204. The fragment of a probable sandstone saddle quern was found within fill 2209. No datable material was however recovered.
- 5.1.53 Ditch 2216, the south-westerly ditch (Plate 4), had three fills 2215, 2214 and 2219. Primary fill 2215 was overlain by a 0.32 m thick deposit (2214) of blue clayey material indicating a slow accumulation possibly in waterlogged conditions, which produced 14 fragments of large mammal bone including a left cattle metatarsal. Final fill 2219 appears to derive from erosion of the surrounding subsoil and was a mid grey brown silty clay.

- 5.1.54 These two ditches, although similar in size, and initially believed to be part of the same entity are now considered to be different. This is indicated by the very different nature of the fills of the two features, and supported by the molluscan analysis of samples taken from the two ditches, which shows a high degree of variation in the preservation of snail shells between the two and therefore may suggest different processes, sediment source and ultimately date for the infilling of these two features.
- 5.1.55 Centrally located between the two ditches was an irregular oval feature interpreted as a tree throw hole (2218). It was 1.3 m wide by 1 m, and was filled with (2217), an orange brown sandy silt. Layer 2204 also slumped into the top of this feature.
- 5.1.56 Overlying the top fills of ditches 2213, 2216 and layer 2204 was layer 2203 and 2202 which are separated by a thin layer of gravel (2224). These two similar layers (2202 and 2203) could be interpreted as buried medieval ploughsoil, which would indicate the possibility of a certain amount of truncation to any feature underlying it. Overlying 2202 was a band of limestone gravel (2201), 0.15 m thick. Uppermost deposit 2200 was the modern ploughsoil, which was 0.2 m deep.
- 5.1.57 Two further features were present in this trench. Both were shallow, ephemeral gullies (2221 and 2223). Gully 2221 was found 4 m to the south-east of ditch 2213 and ran NW-SE across the trench. It was 0.26 m wide and 0.08 m deep. Curvi-linear gully 2223 was located at the north-east end of the trench, and was 0.2 m deep and 0.06 m deep. No dating evidence was recovered from these features.

Trenches 23 and 25

- 5.1.58 Both trenches 23 and 25 contained several features that were investigated but produced only either root disturbance or variations in the natural. Trench 23 revealed 1 tree throw (2304) and 1 modern drain (2306). Trench 25 revealed three tree throws or natural features (2504, 2506, 2508). No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 24 (Fig. 18)

- 5.1.59 Three archaeological features were encountered in Trench 24, two ditches and a pit. A linear ditch (2412) ran north-south near the eastern end of the trench. Quite substantial in size, it was 2.1 m wide and 0.75 m deep, with moderate sides and a concave base. Its primary fill (2411) of eroded gravel natural contained a fair quantity of burnt limestone. Secondary fills 2410 and 2409, mottled blue and orange silty clays, were possibly waterlain deposits. Fill 2410 produced 26 fragments (38 g) of animal bone, a fragment of stone saddle quern and the occasional lump of burnt limestone. Uppermost fill 2408 was a mix of eroded topsoil and subsoil. Truncating this feature was a possible pit (2407), which was 0.9 m in diameter and 0.3 m deep, burnt limestone was recovered from its top fill (2405). No datable finds were recovered from either feature.
- 5.1.60 A possible furrow (2404) was found 13 m to the west of ditch 2412. It was 1.9 m wide and 0.28 m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base.

- 5.1.61 In the far western end of Trench 24, another linear (2413) was partially excavated. It was orientated NW-SE. With over half of this feature beneath the baulk, it was at least 1 m wide and 0.58 m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. A primary fill (2414) of sandy clay, from which a small fragment of animal bone and a flint flake were recovered, was overlain by 2415, a tenacious mid grey silty clay.
- 5.1.62 The features in Trench 24 were overlain by a mid orangey brown silty clay subsoil (2401) which contained a tiny sherd (2 g) of 13th century pottery, overlain by modern ploughsoil (2400).

5.2 Finds

Table 1: Summary of all finds

	Box Number	Fragment Count	Specialist
Animal Bone	Misc.01	166	Fay Whorley
CBM	Misc.01	1	Leigh Allen
Copper Alloy	FE.01	1	Leigh Allen
Fired Clay	Misc.01	3	Rose Grant
Flint	F.01	18	Rebecca Devaney
Human Bone	HB.01	1	Ceridwen Boston
Iron	FE.01	6	Leigh Allen
Pottery	P.01	205	Medieval - Paul Blinkhorn Roman - Dan Stansbie Prehistoric - Emily Edwards
Shale	Shale.01	1	Rose Grant
Slag	Misc.01	4	Rose Grant
Stone	Misc.01	65	Ruth Shafrey

Prehistoric Pottery

- 5.2.1 A total of 133 prehistoric sherds (448 g) were recovered, including 103 sherds dating from the late Bronze Age to the early Iron Age (800-500 BC).
- 5.2.2 The pottery was counted and weighed by context whilst fabric and form were briefly noted (Table 2). Generally speaking, in excess of 20 sherds (or several diagnostic sherds) are required from a single prehistoric feature to allow some precision of dating which takes residuality into account. This must be taken into account with the spot dating especially where there are less than five sherds.
- 5.2.3 The pottery comprises abraded plain body sherds, rims and bases. Some surfaces are smoothed and burnished. As diagnostic forms or decoration were minimal, the pottery was dated on the strength of the fabrics, which are typical of the period in the region (Duncan, Lambrick and Barclay 2005, 284). The material deriving from the ditches, gullies, soils and ploughscars may, on the whole, have been residual; it is possible that this is also true of the deposits from tree throw 1412. Treethrow 1404, pits 1449, 1428, 1442 and 1515 and posthole 1430 contain abraded material which may represent the remainders of a redeposited surface scatter.

Table 2: Quantification and dating of prehistoric pottery

Feature	Context	Date	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Comment
1404 Treethrow	1403	LBA-EIA	32	113	Coarse fossil shell and sand, two shoulders and one rim.
1412 treethrow	1411	LBA-EIA	5	9	Coarse fossil shell and sand, body sherds
1417 channel/ditch	1416	LBA-EIA	24	108	Fine and Coarse shell, two rims.
1449 Pit	1448	LBA-EIA	13	34	Fine sand and coarse shell fabrics,
1428 Pit	1425	LBA-EIA	14	37	Fine sand and coarse shell tempered body sherds
1430 Posthole	1429	LBA-EIA	3	31	Shell sand and ferruginous iron pellets. False rim?
1442 Pit	1443	Ind	5	3	Five sand tempered crumbs and one possible fired clay
1436 Gully	1435	LBA-EIA	1	4	Shell sand and ferruginous iron pellets. Abraded body sherd
1415 Ditch/Gully	1414	IA	1	10	Shell and sand tempered body sherd. Slightly overfired.
1406 Gully	1405	LBA-EIA	2	9	Shell and sand tempered rim and body sherd
1434 Gully Terminus	1433	LBA-EIA	1	3	Coarse shell temper, slightly overfired body sherd
Buried soil	1402	LBA-EIA	4	16	Sand and shell tempered body sherds
Subsoil	1501	EIA	3	21	Coarse shell and medium coarse sand fabrics, abraded body sherds.
1515 pit	1514	EIA	8	18	Coarse and fine shell, fine sand. Abraded body sherds.
1518 Pit	1519	LBA-EIA	3	8	Coarse shell fabrics, abraded body sherds.
2104 Ditch	2103	Ind	14	24	Mostly not ceramic pot, or dirty.
Total			133	448	

Key- LBA: late Bronze Age; EIA: early Iron Age; Ind: Indeterminate

Roman Pottery

- 5.2.4 A total of 10 sherds, weighing 135 g, were recovered from ditch fill 103, pit fill 1007, ditch fill 1202 and pit fill 1448 (Table 3). This material was rapidly scanned to determine context dates and to assess the character of the pottery. No detailed examination of the pottery was undertaken. A note was made of the Roman pottery using OA's later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system (Booth 2004).
- 5.2.5 Pottery from contexts 1003, 1202 and 1448 is generally abraded and may not represent *in situ* material (intrusive or residual). Further residual Romano-British sherds were found in later context. These are detailed by context in the Post-Roman pottery section (see below).
- 5.2.6 The main assemblage of Romano-British pottery came from ditch fill 103. With an average sherd weight of 19 g the condition of the assemblage is generally good. The sherds are fresh and unabraded and their surfaces are well preserved. The group is

chronologically fairly homogenous, although one small sherd of grog-tempered ware may be residual.

- 5.2.7 Pottery from fill 103 comprises a single rim sherd from a bead rim jar in grog-tempered ware (E80), three sherds from an everted rim jar in locally produced sandy grey ware (R20) and a sherd of white slipped sandy grey ware (Q40). The form of the sandy grey ware jar suggests a date sometime in the second century AD.
- 5.2.8 This pottery assemblage is small but has the potential to inform us about the chronology of occupation. A larger assemblage from this site may have the potential to inform us about issues of ceramic supply, chronology and site status.

Table 3: Quantification and dating of Roman pottery

Ctx	Sh no.	Wgt (g)	Fabric/Form	Spot Date
103	5	95	E80 grog-tempered ware (1 bead rim jar), R20 sandy grey ware (1 everted rim jar), Q40 white slipped sandy grey ware	C2nd
1003	1	5	body sherd	RB
1202	3	8	body sherds	RB
1448	1	27	body sherd	RB

Post-Roman pottery

- 5.2.9 The pottery assemblage comprised 58 sherds with a total weight of 291 g. It consisted of a mixture of Romano-British, early/middle Saxon and early medieval wares.
- 5.2.10 The following fabric types were noted:
Early/middle Saxon (E/MS)
EMS1: Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz up to 1 mm, most below 0.5 mm. 21 sherds, 103 g.
EMS2: As EMS1, with moderate organic voids up to 5 mm. 9 sherds, 55 g.
- 5.2.11 None of the hand-built pottery from this site was decorated, meaning that it is impossible to date other than to within the early to middle Saxon period. Plain pottery of this type is very difficult to date closely, unless accompanied by decorated sherds or datable imports such as Ipswich ware or Continental wares. The Anglo-Saxons largely ceased decorating pottery in the early part of the 7th century (Myres 1977), but such wares were rare even when they were used. Usually, decorated wares only comprise around 3% of the pottery from settlement sites of the 5th and 6th century, such as Mucking in Essex (Hamerow 1994), and rarely occur in small assemblages. Thus, a small assemblage lacking decorated pottery cannot be given a date of later than the 6th century with any confidence.
- 5.2.12 The fabric types are typical of those found at contemporary sites in the Abingdon area, where fine sandy fabrics, often with unfinished surfaces, along with smaller quantities of organic tempered wares tend to dominate assemblages, from early/middle Saxon sites (e.g. Underwood-Keevil 1992).

5.2.13 Late Saxon and later

The medieval pottery was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

OXBF: North-East Wiltshire Ware, AD1050 – 1400. 7 sherds, 27 g.

OXY: Medieval Oxford ware, AD1075 – 1350. 5 sherds, 13 g.

OXAM: Brill/Boarstall ware, AD1200 – 1600. 1 sherd, 2 g.

5.2.14 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 4. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. All these fabrics are well-known at sites in the region.

5.2.15 Generally, the whole assemblage comprises small sherds which have been abraded to a greater or lesser degree. It shows that there were three distinct phases of activity at the site (Roman, early/middle Saxon and earlier medieval), but is otherwise too small and fragmented to offer any further information.

Table 4: Pottery occurrence by context and fabric type

Context	RB		EMS1		EMS2		OXBF		OXY		OXAM		Date
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	
101	1	5	7	39	1	9							E/MS
108			3	12									E/MS
204	1	9	3	18	2	22							E/MS
208			3	10	6	24							E/MS
307	2	5	1	2			2	10	1	2			L11thC?
313	6	32					5	17	4	11			L11thC?
1506			1	16									E/MS?
1512			3	6									E/MS
2401											1	2	13thC
Total	15	91	21	103	9	55	7	27	5	13	1	2	

Flint

5.2.16 A total of eleven pieces of worked flint were recovered (Table 5). The material is of varied condition and was spread between ten contexts.

Table 5: Summary of worked flint by context

Context	103	305	1202	1411	1416	1443	1448	1905	2405	2414	Total
Flake	1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	8
Blade-like flake							1				1
Irregular waste								1			1
End and side scraper				1							1
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	11

5.2.17 The flakes are quite small in size and some may be naturally struck. Three are broken and one is lightly burnt. The end and side scraper has irregular direct retouch on the distal end and sides. The technologically poor nature of the flint suggests they are of a later prehistoric date.

5.2.18 No further work is recommended for the flint, however, it should be considered alongside any material recovered from future excavations.

Ceramic Building Material

5.2.19 Two fragments of ceramic building material weighing a total of 54g were recovered. The fragment from context 1003 is possibly of Roman date, the other fragment from context 1602 is a burnt/scorched fragment from a medieval/post-medieval brick.

Metalwork

5.2.20 Only two metal objects were recovered. A small irregularly shaped fragment of copper alloy sheet (SF 1) came from context 1403 and six short lengths of barbed wire from context 211.

Fired Clay

5.2.21 A total of three fragments of fired clay were recovered from the site.

Table 6: Quantification of fired clay by context

Context Number	Fragment Count	Weight (grams)
1008	1	6
1416	2	14
1514	1	46

Shale

5.2.22 There was one fragment of shale (SF 2) recovered from context 1514. It is possibly a fragment from a bracelet.

Slag

5.2.23 There is a single fragment of slag weighing 2g from context 1008

Stone

5.2.24 Of a total of 65 pieces of retained stone, the bulk are burnt unworked limestone. There are two possible quern fragments (Table 7).

5.2.25 The worked stone was examined with the aid of a x10 magnification hand lens, as was a sample of the burnt limestone.

5.2.26 The worked stone comprises two probable quern fragments. The first is a very well used saddle quern fragment with polish on the pecked grinding surface (SF 3, ctx 2410); it is made from Sarsen. The second fragment is of probable Culham Greensand (although this identification is tentative at present), and is also probably a quern fragment: it has one flat worked surface but no edges remain.

Table 7: Description of worked stone by context

Ctx	SF	Descrip	Notes	Size	Lithology
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Ctx	SF	Descrip	Notes	Size	Lithology
2410	3	Saddle quern fragment	The slightly concave grinding surface is pecked and has been worn into a polish. End fragment.	Measures 70 mm thick x 100 x 60 fragment dimensions	Sarsen
2209		Probable saddle quern fragment	No edges remain but has a flat worked surface, finely pecked.	Measures > 60 mm thick	Possibly Culham Greensand. Fine grained, cream, calcite cemented slightly shelly sandstone. With a few polished granules

5.2.27 Although the stone has limited potential to add to our understanding of the site, the possible Culham Greensand could add to a growing understanding of the use of this material and, if it is early in date, may be of some significance to our understanding of stone supply and use in the region.

Animal Bone

5.2.28 The assemblage of animal bone included a refitted count of 167 fragments (954g). The animal bone was recovered from contexts (103), (305), (1202), (1403), (1501), (1512), (1514), (1519), (1804), (2214), (2401), (2410) and (2414). Identified taxa included horse, cattle, sheep/goat and possible pig with further fragments identified as large mammal (probably horse or cattle) and medium mammal (probably sheep/goat or pig). Table 8 presents the number and weight of fragments of animal bone from each context.

Table 8: Refitted number and weight of fragments of animal bone in each context

Context	Cattle	Horse	Indet.	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Pig?	Sheep/goat	Total
103		2 (44g)	20 (3g)	44 (163g)				66 (210g)
305	1 (37g)	1 (36g)					1 (1g)	3 (74g)
1202		1 (138g)		3 (15g)				4 (153g)
1403						1 (2g)	1 (7g)	2 (9g)
1501					7 (4g)		2 (25g)	9 (29g)
1512	1 (22g)							1 (22g)
1514	1 (7g)							1 (7g)
1519	1 (131g)			35 (113g)				36 (244g)
1804				2 (5g)				2 (5g)
2214	1 (135g)			13 (18g)				14 (153g)

Context	Cattle	Horse	Indet.	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Pig?	Sheep/goat	Total
2401	2 (5g)							2 (5g)
2410				2 (13g)	23 (24g)		1 (1g)	26 (38g)
2414					1 (5g)			1 (5g)
Total	7 (337g)	4 (218g)	20 (3g)	99 (327g)	31 (33g)	1 (2g)	5 (34g)	167 (954g)

- 5.2.29 The species and elements identified, age-at-death of the animals and evidence for butchery are discussed by context below. All age-at-death data presented below is based on ages suggested by Silver (1969) (bone fusion and tooth eruption) and Halstead (1985) (tooth attrition).
- 5.2.30 (103) contained horse and large mammal bone (possibly also horse). Identified horse bone included a right scapula and lateral metapodial. The glenoid cavity of the scapula had fused, suggesting an age-at-death of over a year. The large mammal bone from this context included a humerus, with fused distal epiphysis. Bone fusion of the humerus suggests an age-at-death of over 15-18 months if the animal was a horse or over 12-18 months if it was bovine. Large mammal bone also included long bone and flat bone fragments, which may be from the scapula or humerus, and a fragment of tooth enamel.
- 5.2.31 (305) contained three compact bones; a cattle left astragalus, a horse left calcaneum (over three years old at death) and a sheep/goat proximal phalanx (over 13-16 months at death).
- 5.2.32 (1202) contained a right horse humerus and large mammal long bone fragments.
- 5.2.33 (1403) contained a right sheep/goat tibia and possible pig cranial fragment.
- 5.2.34 (1501) included fragments of a left sheep/goat tibia and a sheep/goat metatarsal which had been gnawed by a carnivore (probably a dog).
- 5.2.35 (1512) contained a single fragment of cattle pelvis. A small, non-metric, crease was identified on the acetabulum.
- 5.2.36 (1519) included only cattle and large mammal bone; a right cattle mandible with associated second and third premolars and first molar (Wear stage J suggesting an age-at-death of over 8-18 months) and a large mammal rib broken into at least four fragments. Further large mammal indeterminate and tooth enamel fragments probably originate from the large mammal rib and cattle mandible.
- 5.2.37 (1804) included two large mammal long bone fragments.
- 5.2.38 (2214) included a left cattle metatarsal which had had its distal diaphysis chopped off and thirteen large mammal indeterminate fragments.

- 5.2.39 (2401) contained a cattle navicular-cuboid tarsal and further tarsal fragment possibly from the same bone.
- 5.2.40 (2410) included only large and medium mammal indeterminate and rib fragments.
- 5.2.41 (2414) contained two conjoining fragments of a medium mammal long bone.
- 5.2.42 The condition of the bone was generally fair to poor with frequent fresh and old breaks and few complete elements (only the cattle astragalus and sheep/goat phalanx in (305)).

Human Bone

- 5.2.43 A single isolated human bone was discovered within context 305, the fill of a late Saxon ditch. The bone was a complete left triquetral (one of the carpals of the wrist joint). It was fully ossified and of adult size. Bone condition was excellent and there was no evidence of weathering or abrasion.
- 5.2.44 The triquetral is highly unusual, being grossly malformed. Aetiology was probably congenital as there is no evidence of disease or of past trauma (such as a healed fracture). The medial aspect of the bone was considerably enlarged due to a large protrusion of extra bone which extended medially and proximally. The extra 'process' is 26.22 mm x 18.20 mm in dimension. The pisiform articular surface was lobed and greatly enlarged (17.62 mm wide). It appears that this surface articulated with two bones (the pisiform and probably the lunate). The joint surfaces that normally articulate with the hamate and lunate were greatly reduced in size, and altered in angulation. The extra 'process' has a small circular facet on the distal aspect that appear to articulate with the hamate, or possibly the 5th metacarpal. In order to articulate with the triquetral, the other carpal bones must also have been malformed. There is no indication of joint disease, such as osteophytosis, to indicate stress to any of the above joint surfaces.
- 5.2.45 Functionally it is unclear the extent to which this malformation would have affected the individual. Some limitation in medial movement of the hand may have been present, as well as reduced adduction of the 5th finger. Visually, the process would have appeared as a large lump protruding from the medial aspect of the left hand.

5.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

Charred Plant Remains and charcoal assessment

by Prof Mark Robinson and Seren Griffiths(OA)

Methodology

- 5.3.1 Seven 40 litre samples were to assess the potential of charred plant remains. The samples were processed by flotation using a modified Siraf-type machine, with the flot collected onto a 250 micron mesh. The samples were air-dried. The flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification at the Oxford University Museum by Professor Mark Robinson.

Results

- 5.3.2 Sample 1 (context 103) produced a flot which included one indeterminate cereal grain, one grain of *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and one grain of *Triticum* sp. (wheat; free-threshing). The sample also included fragments of *Quercus* sp. (oak) charcoal. Samples 2 (2214), 9 (2410) and 3 (2209) also produced indeterminate cereal grains, while samples 3 (2209) and 9 (2410) also contained examples of *Triticum* sp. (wheat; free-threshing). There was an example of Gramineae (possibly oat *Avena* sp.) in sample 9 (context 2410). Sample 4 (1402) produced small elements of Pomoideae (hawthorn/apple) charcoal. Sample 5 (1416) contained only indeterminate charcoal. The flots were all relatively small for the volume of soil processed. Samples 3 (2209), 6 (2217), 4 (1402) and 9 (2410) all contained examples of post-medieval weed seeds

Discussion

- 5.3.3 The flots from these samples were very small and the most frequent cereal grain was that of *Triticum* sp. (free-threshing wheat). While free-threshing wheat can occur in small quantities in Bronze Age sites it is predominantly a post-medieval crop. Quantities of free-threshing wheat might be regarded as part of an over-arching subsistence strategy in a large Bronze Age assemblage; however in this case the incidence of charred plant grains was very low, with free-threshing wheat making up the majority of the cereal assemblage. Other seed material in the samples was also characterised as modern or post medieval (such as the modern *Stellaria media* (chickweed) in sample 9 (2410), the modern *Polygonum* (knot-grass) and *Taraxacum* (dandelion) in samples 4 (1402)). This interpretation was based on the condition of the charred seeds, which were crisp and uneroded. While the free-threshing wheat therefore *could* be stratigraphically integral Bronze Age charred plant remains, the number incidences of charred cereal grains in the sample together with the presence of post-medieval weed seeds makes this unlikely. It must therefore be concluded that remains were absent apart from low levels of post-medieval contaminants. It should be noted that this does not effect the stratigraphic integrity of the features:

stratigraphic integrity may exist on a level that does not compromise interpretation of features or bulk finds, however there maybe taphonomic processes which effect the distribution of much smaller ecofacts (such as worm action, animal burrows and disturbance etc). Future sampling which hasn't been subject to bioturbation might produce contemporary remains.

Table 9: Summary of the charred plant remains

Sample No	Context No	Flot vol (ml)	Charcoal	Grain	Weeds
1	103	10	++ inc <i>Quercus</i> sp. (oak)	+ <i>Triticum</i> sp. free-threshing (wheat)	
2	2214	20		+ indeterminate	
3	2209	40		+ <i>Triticum</i> sp. free-threshing (wheat), indeterminate cereal grain	+ (modern weed indeterminate)
4	1402	40	++ Small Pomoideae (hawthorn/apple) fragment		+ modern <i>Polygonum</i> (knot-grass), <i>Taraxacum</i> (dandelion)
5	1416	20	+ (indeterminate)		
6	2217	20	+ (indeterminate)		+ <i>Atriplex</i> sp. (iron root)
9	2410	40	+ (indeterminate)	+ Gramineae (possibly <i>Avena</i>), <i>Triticum</i> sp. free-threshing (wheat), cereal indeterminate	+ <i>Stellaria media</i> (chickweed)

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25)

Assessment of Land and Freshwater Mollusca

by Elizabeth Stafford (OA)

Introduction

5.3.4 12 samples were assessed and derive from the fills of two ditches and a number of layers from trench 22, and a ditch from trench 14. No dating evidence was retrieved from these features. The purpose of the work was to ascertain if the molluscan assemblages retrieved could provide data on the local site environment for the various phases of activity represented. At the most basic level the assessment aimed to:

- Determine the presence/absence of molluscan remains
- Give preliminary data on taxonomic content
- Indicate the potential for further work

Method

5.3.5 Assessment was carried out on small 2 litre samples specifically collected for the retrieval of molluscs. The sediment was floated in water onto 0.5mm mesh and the

flots dried. The residues were also sieved to 0.5mm and dried. Both the flots and residues were then scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications of x10 and x20 and the abundance of taxa recorded. Flotation was generally found to have given adequate shell recovery for assessment purposes. The results are presented in Table 10. For the purposes of assessment the species are grouped at a very basic level by ecological preferences following Evans (1972), Robinson (1979, 1993). Nomenclature follows Kerney (1999).

Results

- 5.3.6 Layers 2202 and 2203 sealing the ditch deposits were entirely barren.
- 5.3.7 Ditches 2216 and 2213: Preservation in ditch 2216 was similarly poor with only one shell of the *Vallonia pulcella* identified in sample 12, context 2219. Six samples were examined from various contexts within ditch 2213. Preservation was moderately better with up to 60 individuals estimated in sample 21, context 2211 and sample 16, context 2212. The assemblages were quite mixed comprising both freshwater species indicative of fast flowing conditions, ditch and slum species, as well as terrestrial marsh species and occasionally those of drier terrestrial habitats. The character of the assemblages suggests a component may represent shell debris transported from in-channel locations perhaps by floodwater. This is supported by the fact the majority of the identifiable fragments of these species were broken apices and operculae, characteristic of channel bed deposits along with a significant amount of unidentifiable shell fragments. Equally a component of the assemblages may derive from communities living on the floodplain, or living within, or in the vicinity of the feature as it infilled. Overall the general impression is of rather wet conditions and it is possible the feature held standing water at least seasonally. The presence of terrestrial marsh species *Succinea/Oxyloma* spp. and *Zonitoides nitidus* suggests the growth of vegetation perhaps tall grasses or reeds in the vicinity though not necessarily within the ditch. Both species are amphibious and are characteristic of wetland environments. Their typical habitat is the zone of emergent vegetation at the edge of water bodies living on decaying *Phragmites* or *Carex* litter (Kerney 1999). The difference in lithology noted during the fieldwork, along with preservation levels between the ditches 2216 and 2213 is noteworthy and may suggest different processes, sediment source and ultimately date for the infilling of these two features.
- 5.3.8 Layer 2204, which was truncated by both ditches 2213 and 2216 and interpreted as a possible buried soil, produced only one shell of the freshwater species *Valvata pisinalis*.
- 5.3.9 Feature 1416 from trench 14 produced an assemblage comprising approximately 20 individuals. The character of the assemblage was somewhat different in that it was dominated by terrestrial open country species indicative of much drier conditions. The main species included *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia excentrica* and *Helicella itala*. Freshwater species were entirely absent.

5.3.10 Overall preservation of molluscan remains appears to be quite variable at the site ranging from very poor to moderate. However, none of the assemblages examined would be considered particularly rich. It is unlikely further work on these assemblages would add any significant additional information regarding the local environment particularly in the absence of dating evidence. It is recommended however the results of this assessment are included in any final report. It is also recommended any future sampling strategy should allow for retrieval of samples for molluscan remains.

Table 10: Molluscan Assemblages

Cut	Feature type	Buried soil?	Layer	2213						2216			1417
				2202	2203	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2214	
Context		15	13	20	11	22	17	21	16	14	12	18	1416
Sample		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5
Volume processed (litres)		0	0	30	3	15	50	60	60	0	1	1	20
Total no. shells													
Taxa	Habitat												
<i>Vabata cristata</i>	D			++			+	++	+				
<i>Vabata piscinalis</i>	F			+		++		+				+	
<i>Bithynia</i> spp.	F			+			+	+	++				
<i>Carychium minimum</i>	T(m)s			+			++	+	++				
<i>Carychium cf. tridentatum</i>	Is			+			+	+					
<i>Carychium</i> spp.	T(m)s			+			+	+					+
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>	S M			++			+	+	+				
<i>Lymnaea cf. palustris</i>	S M						+						
<i>Lymnaea</i> spp.	S M C			+		+	++	+	+				
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>	S			++			+	++	++				
<i>Gyraulus albus</i>	C					+	+		++				
<i>Gyraulus crista</i>	C								+				
<i>Ancylus fluviatilis</i>	F								+				
<i>Succinea/Oxytoma</i> spp.	T(m)					+	+	+					
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.	T(m)						+	+	+				
Vertiginidae indet	Tom(m)							+	-				
<i>Vertigo cf. antivertigo</i>	Tm			+									
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	T(m)o					+							
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	To			+									++
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	To							+	+				
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	To								+				+

Cut	Feature type	Buried soil?	Layer	2213			2216			1417
				Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Buried soil?	Ditch
	<i>Vallisneria spiralis</i>									
	<i>Vallisneria spiralis</i>									
	<i>Zonitidae</i>									
	<i>Vitis</i> spp.									
	<i>Nesovitis hammonis</i>									
	<i>Zonitoides nitidus</i>									
	cf. <i>Clausilia bidentata</i>									
	cf. <i>Helicella itala</i>									
	<i>Trichia hispida</i>									
	<i>Cepaea/Artaea</i> spp.									
	<i>Psidium</i> spp.									
	<i>Psidium ammicum</i>									

Estimates of abundance (no. of individuals) + 1-3 ++ 4-10 +++ 11-25 ++++ 26-50 +++++ 51+

F = Flowing water species require a clean stream with a current.

SI = Slum species are those able to live in water subject to stagnation, drying up and large temperature variations.

D = Ditch species require clean slowly moving water often with abundant aquatic plants.

C = Catholic species that tolerate a wide range of conditions except the most extreme of environments

T = Terrestrial

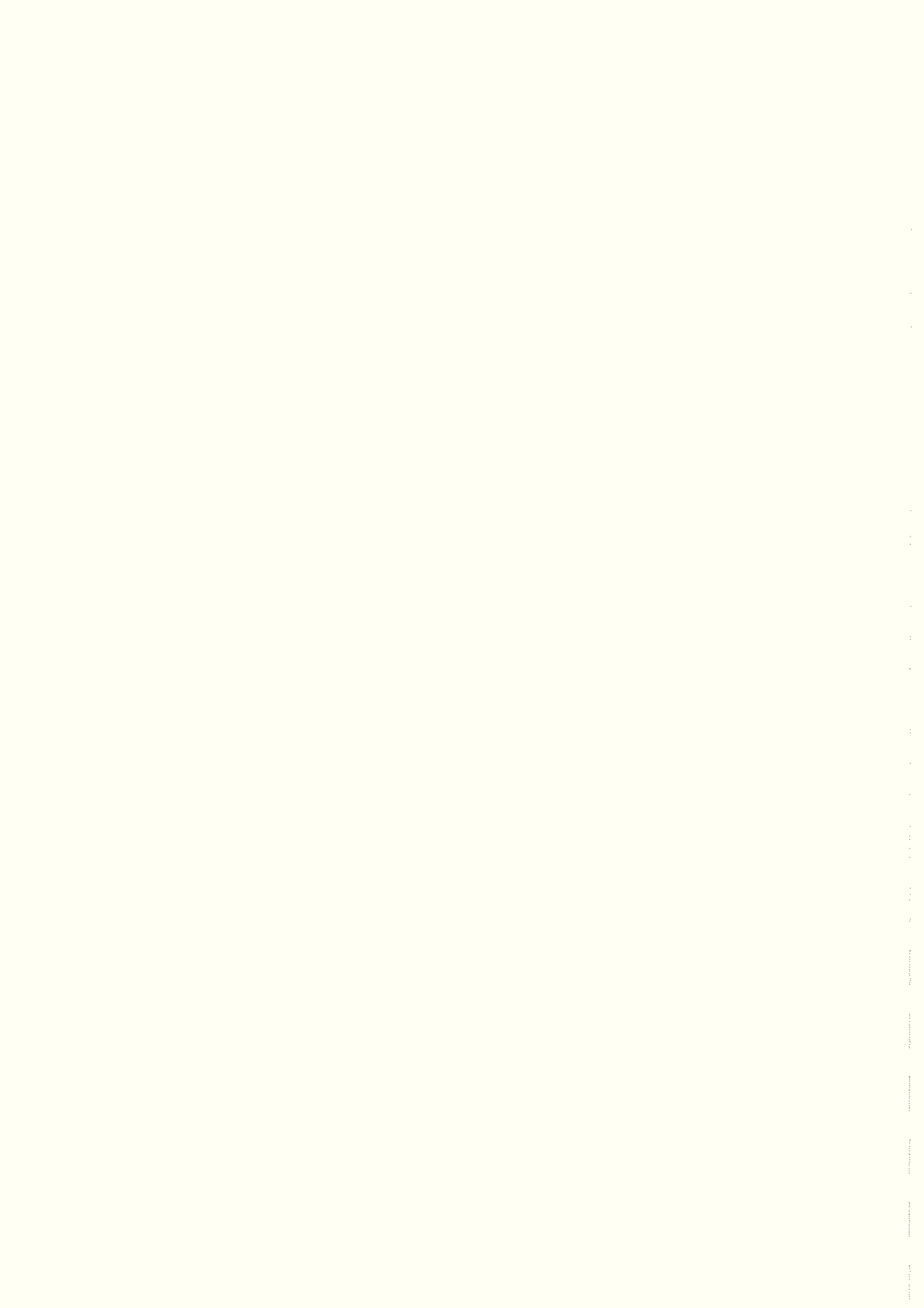
o = Open country

s = Shaded environments

c = Catholic (species that tolerate a wide range of conditions except the most extreme of environments)

m = Obligate marsh species

(m) = Terrestrial species that can live in wet conditions



A short note on the soils and sediments from Trench 22

5.3.11 On the 9th June 2005 a visit was made by Dr. Richard Macphail (University College London) to Oxford Archaeology to examine sediment samples retrieved during the evaluation at the site. Two monoliths (samples 8/1 and 8/2), taken through a series of layers (sediments/buried soils?) associated with two linear features (ditches 2213 and 2216), were examined from Trench 22.

5.3.12 The following is a summary of the observed sequence:

context	Interpretation
2202	Sandy soil/sediment containing sand seemingly originating from the local Corallian Sand (cf. Layer 2205), and developing upwards into a medieval ploughsoil?
2203	Enigmatic deposit, in that it is a heavier textured brown sandy loam of unknown origin.
2204	A humic soil formed in this sand
2205	Appears to be sandy natural – Corallian Sand (Jurassic, Geological Survey map 253; L. Stafford <i>pers. comm.</i>).

5.3.13 Although no samples were examined from the ditch fills, from examination of the field photographs they appear to be quite different in terms of the sediment infilling them.

5.3.14 Further micromorphological work on this sequence of deposits could investigate:

- The nature of the buried humic soil (Layer 2204)(Probably this could be broadly dated on its humus content)
- The relationship between Layers 2204 and 2203 (and the origins of 2203), in order to establish whether layer 2203 is a dump for a monument (barrow) or a sandy loam alluvium. If the latter, for example, alluvial material will have been washed into Layer 2204 forming void clay coatings.
- The relationship between Layers 2203 and 2202, in order to investigate the history of 2203 and to identify 2202 as another alluvium, but this time derived from local Corallian Sand.

5.3.15 A decision regarding the need for micromorphology analysis will be based on the results of this report. If this analysis is conducted at a later stage, the assessment report will be issued separately.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 Archaeological features were easily identified on the gravel and sand. However, in many trenches there was the presence of natural disturbance or puddling in the gravel which would leave hollows filled with subsoil type material. The majority of these features were sampled and proved non-archaeological, mainly tree-throw holes.
- 6.1.2 There was little intrusion by modern features such as services and land drains. The archaeological field evaluation was undertaken in generally good weather and ground conditions. Ground water was only encountered in the base of one feature in Trench 14.
- 6.1.3 Truncation due to ploughing since medieval times has been observed, however, the overall preservation of archaeological deposits seemed fair.
- 6.1.4 The percentage sample, distribution and positioning of the evaluation trenches based on the cropmarks and geophysical anomalies has given a good understanding of the overall archaeological potential of the site.
- 6.1.5 There was a very good correlation between the features identified in the geophysical survey and those identified in the excavation. It is probable that the shallow nature of alluvial deposits encountered in this part of the floodplain is not masking archaeological features.

6.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

- 6.2.1 No evidence of early Prehistoric activity was encountered in the course of the evaluation, not even in the form of residual material found in later features.
- 6.2.2 In the western half of the proposed route, a focus of late Bronze Age to Iron Age activity was revealed in the form of a concentration of ditches, gullies and pits in Field 6, concentrated around Trenches 14 and 15. Although the pottery was abraded, suggesting that it could be residual, the quantities, concentrations and lack of later material associated with the prehistoric evidence suggest that the attribution of this focus of activity to the late Bronze Age/Iron Age is reliable.
- 6.2.3 Trench 14 contained a number of features dating to the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age. These features consisted of a number of settlement-type features, including gullies, pits, postholes and ditches. This concentration of activity was sealed by a buried soil horizon (1402), possibly a ploughsoil, which has heavily truncated many of the features to the south-east of the trench and therefore also contains pottery of this date. One feature, a large linear (1415), cut the buried soil and appeared to follow the

topographical line of the east-west running ridge to the north of Field 6. This feature is tentatively dated to the Iron Age, and may be a recut of earlier late Bronze Age boundary 1417.

- 6.2.4 Trench 15 produced a number of archaeological features, not quite as intensive as in Trench 14, and with a broader range of dates. One large sub-circular feature (1515) produced early Iron Age pottery and a fragment of a possible shale bracelet. Other settlement-type features included two heavily truncated pits, one of which produced a late Bronze Age-early iron Age date.
- 6.2.5 A second focus of possible prehistoric activity was identified in Field 11. However, the complete lack of dating evidence makes interpretation tentative.
- 6.2.6 Excavation in Trench 22 encountered two curvi-linear ditches, (2213) and (2216), (cutting through a buried soil horizon (2204)) which were considered to be part of the same circular feature, initially considered to possibly be a barrow with 2204 comprising the remnant of a truncated mound. After intensive investigation, however, it appears, due to the inconsistency of their respective fills and evidence provided by the molluscan analysis, the ditches may not be contemporary. It is more probable that they are field boundary ditches and further work in this area is needed to prove this.
- 6.2.7 Two further undated ditches and a pit were excavated in Trench 24, located only *c* 35 m north-east of Trench 22. Although no dating evidence was found, two flint flakes, some animal bones and a stone quern fragments were recovered in the course of the excavation. This material, especially the quern stone fragment suggests settlement activity nearby. Another probable quern fragment was found in Trench 22 (ditch 2213). It is possible that features in both trenches relate to a prehistoric settlement nearby however, with the currently available evidence, this is a very tentative interpretation. Further investigations in the area would be needed to ascertain the existence of a prehistoric settlement and the date of features in Trenches 22 and 24.
- 6.2.8 Further linear features were recorded in Fields 9, 10, and 11. Although many of these are undated the presence of burnt stone in some of them, for example 2104, points to a prehistoric date. These features could be part of a possible prehistoric field system.
- 6.2.9 Limited evidence for Romano-British activity, was identified at the western end of the route, within Fields 1 and 2. Two contemporary ditches, 105 and 106 were dated to the Roman period, and were probably part of a field boundary or drainage system associated with this period. Features in both Field 1 and 2 also produced a relatively low level quantity of residual Romano-British pottery which may indicate that the Saxon and Medieval field boundary ditches encountered were Romano-British in origin or that there is some Romano-British activity in the vicinity of these fields which was not found during the evaluation.
- 6.2.10 A very small amount of Romano-British material was found within a pit and a ditch, located respectively in Trenches 10 and 12. They could be part of a Romano-British

field system, however the quantities were so small (just a few grammes) that these sherds could be residual material within ditches of a later field system.

- 6.2.11 Evidence for early to mid-Saxon occupation was revealed in the form of a concentration of ditches in Trenches 1 and 2. Two ditches, 107 and 205, have a fairly similar profile and could be part of the same early to mid-Saxon enclosure. A possible pit or tree throw hole (210) also produced pottery of this date. In addition, a posthole (214) with the remnants of a post pad, although undated, may indicate the presence of settlement activity in this area.
- 6.2.12 To the east, across the A338, in Field 2 was a large east-west running field boundary ditch dating to the late 11th century. A pit immediately to the north of this feature proved to be contemporary with it.
- 6.2.13 Evidence for Saxon activity in the rest of the route is limited to a field boundary and a possible fence line excavated in Trench 15.
- 6.2.14 Very limited evidence for medieval occupation was found in the evaluation. Although no dating evidence was recovered, it is more than likely that some of the undated ditches excavated along the route belong to the medieval field system. Probable medieval ridge and furrow was also present and furrows were excavated in Trenches 20 and 24 (2005, 2009, and 2404).
- 6.2.15 At the southern end of Trench 3 the excavation came down onto the top of what is interpreted as the WWII anti-tank ditch.

6.3 Character of archaeological remains

- 6.3.1 Evidence recovered in the evaluation ranges from the late Bronze Age to the medieval period, however it is rather sporadic in some cases. It does however demonstrate continuous occupation in the area.
- 6.3.2 The preservation of environmental remains and artefacts was variable across the site.
- 6.3.3 Environmental samples were taken from ditch fills in Trenches 1, 14 and 22, and from buried soil 1402. The most frequent cereal grain recovered from the flots was that of *Triticum* sp. (free-threshing wheat). While free-threshing wheat can occur in small quantities in Bronze Age sites it is predominantly a post-medieval crop. Other seed material in the samples was also characterised as modern or post medieval. It is therefore concluded that the samples were contaminated by bioturbation.
- 6.3.4 The pottery recovered ranged in date from the late Bronze Age to the Medieval period, with the greatest quantity from the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age. It was in variable condition; the mean sherd weight was reasonably high, but some fabrics were fragmented. The assemblage consisted of fabrics and forms that are standard for the region.

6.3.5 Only fragmentary pieces of animal bone were recovered from the site. The condition of the bone was generally fair to poor with frequent fresh and old breaks and few complete elements.

6.4 Archaeological potential

- 6.4.1 Prehistoric activity is represented by one and possibly two foci of activity along the route. The archaeological features excavated in Trenches 14 and 15 revealed dating evidence of the late Bronze Age-early Iron Age. Although the interpretation of some of the features were problematic, there is some potential for a better understanding of later prehistoric activity in the area. Trench 14 in particular was located on a 'natural' rise in the field and its position there is possibly no coincidence. A wider excavation area would no doubt help to understand the location, the function and relationships to this focus of activity to the surrounding landscape.
- 6.4.2 The second possible focus of prehistoric activity was identified in Trenches 22 and 24. Although no dating evidence was recovered from any of the features excavated in Field 11, the available evidence (flint flakes, burnt limestone, quern fragments) suggest a prehistoric date. The potential for ditches 2213 and 2216 to be part of a barrow monument, although unlikely, cannot be excluded at this stage.
- 6.4.3 Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation have previously been identified in the area. Bronze Age activity includes ten ring ditches to the south of Frilford and a large sub-rectangular settlement enclosure identified by archaeological evaluation to the south of the river Ock. Iron Age activity has also been recorded to the south of the river, including eleven sites, largely comprising sub-rectangular enclosures.
- 6.4.4 The potential for Romano-British activity appears very limited. The evaluation has failed to demonstrate the presence of a Romano-British focus of occupation, though a single ditch in Trench 3 could be securely dated to this period. Several residual sherds of Romano-British pottery were however recovered in later features. In regards of the available evidence, it is likely that Romano-British activity along the proposed route of the bypass consisted of just field system with the focus of occupation/settlement area located elsewhere.
- 6.4.5 The lack of activity from this period may be the most surprising element in regards to the known archaeological background in the surrounding area (Lock et al 2001). The site of Noah's Ark, which holds a temple complex, is located just c 650 m to the south of the western end of the proposed bypass. In addition, a possible Roman amphitheatre and cemetery lie respectively to the east and north-east of the temple site. A further twelve Romano-British sites are known to the south of the river Ock, clearly indicating an extensive occupation of the area in the Romano-British period.
- 6.4.6 The potential for Anglo-Saxon remains was identified, mostly in Fields 1 and 2. This has the potential to enhance our understanding of the Saxon origin of Marcham (Marcham is a Saxon name) and of its development. Although the features identified

within trenches 1 to 3 may not be part of the settlement area, it is probable that the settlement is located in the vicinity.

6.4.7 There is very limited potential regarding the medieval and post-medieval landscape.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No. /wt (grammes)	Date
1								
	100	Layer		0.28	Topsoil			
	101	Layer		0.17	Subsoil	Pot	8 (52)	E/MS
						Pot	1 (5)	RB
	102	Layer			Natural Sandy Clay			
	103	Fill		0.4	fill of 106	Pot	5 (95)	RB
						Bone	66 (210)	
						Flint flake	1	
	104	Fill		0.17	fill of 105			
	105	Cut		1.3	Ditch			
	106	Cut		0.19	Gully			
	107	Cut		0.36	Ditch			
	108	Fill		0.36	Fill of 107	Pot	3 (12)	E/MS
	109	Cut	0.18	0.1	Possible post hole			
	110	Fill		0.1	Fill of 109			
	111	Fill		0.3	Fill of 105			
	112	Fill		0.3	Fill of 105			
2								
	200	Layer		0.24	Topsoil			
	201	Layer		0.22	Subsoil			
	202	Layer			Void			
	203	Layer			Natural sandy clay			
	204	Fill		0.28	fill of 205	Pot	5 (40)	E/MS
						Pot	1 (9)	RB
	205	Cut	1.3	0.28	Ditch			
	206	Fill		0.32	fill of 207			
	207	Cut	0.43	0.32	Ditch			
	208	Fill		0.12	Fill of 210	Pot	9 (34)	E/MS
	209	Fill		0.18	Fill of 210			
	210	Cut	1.2	0.18	Tree Throw			
	211	Fill		0.2	Fill of 212	Barbed wire		
	212	Cut	0.22	0.2	Modern feature	Pot		Modern
	213	Fill		0.04	Fill of 214			
	214	Cut	0.33	0.04	Possible post hole			
3								
	300	Layer		0.26	Topsoil			
	301	Layer		0.23	Subsoil			
	302	Layer			Natural sand			
	303	Fill		0.3	Fill of 304			
	304	Cut	0.21	0.3	Ditch terminus			
	305	Fill		0.37	Fill of 306	Bone	3 (74)	
						Flint flake	1	
						Human bone	1	
	306	Cut	4.5	0.62	Ditch			
	307	Fill		0.3	Fill of 308	Pot	4 (14)	L11thC
						Pot	2 (5)	RB

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No. /wt (grammes)	Date
	308	Cut	3.7	0.3	Large pit			
	309	Fill		0.1	Fill of 310			
	310	Cut	0.6	0.1	Ditch			
	311	Fill		Unknown	Fill of 312			
	312	Cut	13.5		Possible modern ditch			
	313	Fill		0.28	Fill of 306	Pot Pot	9 (28) 6 (32)	L11thC RB
9								
	900	Layer		0.3	Topsoil			
	901	Layer		0.25	Subsoil			
	902	Fill		0.44	Fill of 903			
	903	Cut	2.0	0.44	Tree throw			
	904	Fill		0.32	Fill of 905			
	905	Cut	0.35	0.32	Possible post hole			
	906	Layer			Natural sand and gravel			
10								
	1000	Layer		0.2	Topsoil			
	1001	Layer		0.1	Subsoil			
	1002	Layer		>1.0	Natural sand and gravel			
	1003	Fill		0.4	Fill of 1007	Pot CBM	1 (5) 1	RB RB?
	1004	Fill		0.4	Fill of 1007			
	1005	Cut		0.05	Fill of 1007			
	1006	Fill		0.5	Fill of 1007			
	1007	Cut	0.6	1.0	Pit			
	1008	Fill		0.6	fill of 1010	Fired Clay Slag	6 g 1 (2)	
	1009	Fill		0.1	fill of 1010			
	1010	Cut	2.0	1.0	Ditch			
	1011	Fill		0.08	fill of 1012			
	1012	Cut	0.6	0.09	Ditch			
11								
	1100	Layer		0.25	Topsoil			
	1101	Layer		0.15	Subsoil			
	1102	Layer			Natural clay			
12								
	1200	Layer		0.37	Topsoil			
	1201	Layer		0.3	Subsoil			
	1202	Fill		0.4	Fill of 1203	Pot Bone Flint flake	3 (8) 4 (153) 1	RB
	1203	Cut	1.0	0.4	Ditch			
	1204	Layer			Natural sandy clay			
13								
	1300	Layer		0.22	Topsoil			
	1301	Layer		0.17	Subsoil			
	1302	Layer			Natural Gravel			
	1303	Fill		0.08	fill of 1306			
	1304	Fill		0.16	fill of 1306			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No. /wt (grammes)	Date
	1305	Fill		0.08	fill of 1306			
	1306	Cut	0.85	0.3	Natural feature			
	1307	Fill		0.32	fill of 1308			
	1308	Cut	1.6	0.32	Natural Gully			
14								
	1400	Layer		0.26	Topsoil			
	1401	Layer		0.2	Subsoil			
	1402	Layer		0.26	Buried soil	Pot	4 (16)	LBA-EIA
	1403	Fill		0.22	fill of 1404	Pot	32 (113)	LBA-EIA
						Bone	2 (9)	
						Cu alloy	1	
	1404	Cut	1.8	0.22	Tree throw			
	1405	Fill		0.08	Fill of 1406	Pot	2 (9)	LBA-EIA
	1406	Cut	0.1	0.08	Gully			
	1407	Fill		0.12	Fill of 1408			
	1408	Cut	0.42	0.12	Bioturbation			
	1409	Fill		0.06	Fill of 1410			
	1410	Cut	0.2	0.06	Gully			
	1411	Fill		0.2	Fill of 1412	Pot	5 (9)	LBA-EIA
						Flint scraper	1	
	1412	Cut	1.1	0.2	Tree throw			
	1413	Layer		0.25	Subsoil			
	1414	Fill		1.0	Fill of 1415	Pot	1 (10)	IA
	1415	Cut	3.5	1.0	Ditch/channel			
	1416	Fill		0.4	Fill of 1417	Pot	24 (108)	LBA-EIA
						Fired Clay	14 g	
						Flint flake	1	
	1417	Cut	0.28	0.4	Ditch/channel			
	1518	Fill		0.08	Fill of 1419			
	1419	Cut	0.18	0.08	Gully/Plough scar			
	1420	Fill		0.14	Fill of 1421			
	1421	Cut	0.12	0.14	Gully/Plough scar			
	1422	Fill		0.28	Fill of 1424			
	1423	Fill		0.08	Fill of 1424			
	1424	Cut	0.6	0.28	Pit			
	1425	Fill		0.36	Fill of 1428	Pot	14 (37)	LBA-EIA
	1426	Fill		0.04	Fill of 1428			
	1427	Fill		0.04	Fill of 1428			
	1428	Cut	1.0	0.4	Pit			
	1429	Fill		0.04	Fill of 1430	Pot	3 (31)	LBA-EIA
	1430	Cut	0.35	0.04	Post hole			
	1431	Fill		0.04	Fill of 1432			
	1432	Cut	0.22	0.04	Post hole			
	1433	Fill		0.04	Fill of 1434	Pot	1 (3)	LBA-EIA
	1434	Cut	0.24	0.04	Gully terminus			
	1435	Fill		0.15	Fill of 1436	Pot	1 (4)	LBA-EIA
	1436	Cut	0.5	0.15	Gully			
	1437	Fill		0.08	Fill of 1438			
	1438	Cut	0.2	0.08	Gully			
	1439	Fill		0.09	Fill of 1440			
	1440	Cut	0.2	0.09	Gully			
	1441	Fill		0.1	Fill of 1442			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No. /wt (grammes)	Date
	1442	Cut	0.4	0.1	Gully			
	1443	Fill		0.2	Fill of 1444	Pot	5 (3)	Indeterminate
						Flint flake	1	
	1444	Cut	0.55	0.2	Pit			
	1445	Layer		0.1	Redeposited natural			
	1446	Layer		0.2	Colluvium/subsoil			
	1447	Layer			Natural sandy gravel			
	1448	Fill		0.3	Fill of 1449	Pot	13 (34)	LBA-EIA
						Pot	1 (27)	RB
						Flint flake	2	
	1449	Cut	1.75	0.3	Pit			
15								
	1500	Layer		0.2	Topsoil			
	1501	Layer		0.19	Subsoil	Bone	9 (29)	
						Pot	3 (21)	EIA
	1502	Layer		0.22	Colluvium			
	1503	Layer			Natural clay			
	1504	Fill		0.1	Fill of 1505			
	1505	Cut	0.6	0.1	Pit/ tree throw			
	1506	Fill		0.45	Fill of 1507	Pot	1 (16)	E/MS?
	1507	Cut	0.37	0.45	Post hole			
	1508	Fill		0.1	Fill of 1509			
	1509	Cut	0.4	0.1	Post trench			
	1510	Fill		0.1	Fill of 1511			
	1511	Cut	0.3	0.1	Post trench			
	1512	Fill		0.3	Fill of 1513	Pot	3 (6)	E/MS
						Bone	1 (22)	
	1513	Cut	1.0	0.3	Ditch			
	1514	Fill		0.4	Fill of 1515	Pot	8 (18)	EIA
						Bone	1 (7)	
						Fired Clay	46 g	
						Shale object	1	
	1515	Cut	1.8	0.4	Pit			
	1516	Cut	0.4	0.12	Pit			
	1517	Fill		0.12	Fill of 1516			
	1518	Cut	0.25	0.1	Pit			
	1519	Fill		0.1	Fill of 1518	Pot	3 (8)	LBA-EIA
						Bone	36 (244)	
	1520	Cut	0.2	0.1	Plough scar			
	1521	Fill		0.1	Fill of 1520			
16								
	1600	Layer		0.2	Topsoil			
	1601	Layer		0.15	Subsoil			
	1602	Fill		0.2	Fill of 1604	CBM	1	Med/PMed
	1603	Fill		0.05	Fill of 1604			
	1604	Cut	1.0	0.25	Ditch			
	1605	Fill		0.13	Fill of 1607			
	1606	Fill		0.11	Fill of 1607			
	1607	Cut	0.6	0.27	Ditch			
	1608	Fill		0.24	Fill of 1609			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No. /wt (grammes)	Date
	1609	Cut	0.55	0.24	Ditch			
	1610	Fill		0.12	Fill of 1611			
	1611	Cut	0.62	0.12	Ditch			
	1612	Fill		0.18	Fill of 1613			
	1613	Cut	0.8	0.19	Possible ditch terminus			
	1614	Layer			Stony brash			
17								
	1700	Layer		0.28	Topsoil			
	1701	Layer		0.1	Subsoil			
	1702	Layer			Natural sandy gravel			
	1703	Fill		0.18	Fill of 1704			
	1704	Cut	0.54	0.18	Ditch			
	1705	Fill		0.1	Fill of 1708			
	1706	Fill		0.1	Fill of 1708			
	1707	Fill		0.35	Fill of 1708			
	1708	Cut	0.8	0.5	Natural depression			
18								
	1800	Layer		0.25	Topsoil			
	1801	Layer		0.25	Subsoil			
	1802	Layer			Natural sandy gravel			
	1803	Fill		0.38	Fill of 1805			
	1804	Fill		0.2	Fill of 1805	Bone	2 (5)	
	1805	Cut	1.6	0.45	Ditch			
	1806	Fill		0.1	Fill of 1805			
	1808	Fill		0.4	Fill of 1805			
19								
	1900	Layer		0.4	Topsoil			
	1901	Layer		0.1	Subsoil			
	1902	Layer			Natural sand and gravel			
	1903	Fill		0.35	Fill of 1904			
	1904	Cut	0.9	0.35	ditch			
	1905	Fill		0.48	Fill of 1907	Flint waste	1	
	1906	Fill		0.18	Fill of 1907			
	1907	Cut	1.4	0.67	Ditch			
20								
	2000	Layer		0.28	Topsoil			
	2001	Layer		0.1	Subsoil			
	2002	Layer			Natural sandy gravel			
	2003	Cut	1.5	0.8	Tree throw			
	2004	Fill		0.8	Fill of 2003			
	2005	Cut	2.4	0.22	Natural feature			
	2006	Fill		0.22	Fill of 2005			
	2007	Cut	1.0	0.3	Tree throw			
	2008	Fill		0.3	Fill of 2007			
	2009	Cut	1.15	0.2	Natural feature			
	2010	Fill		0.2	Fill of 2009			
	2011	Cut	2.4	0.15	Natural feature			
	2012	Fill		0.15	Fill of 2011			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No. /wt (grammes)	Date
	2013	Cut	0.8	0.4	Drain			
	2014	Fill		0.12	Fill of 2013			
	2015	Fill		0.28	Fill of 2013			
	2016	Cut	8.1	>0.3	Palaeochannel			
	2017	Fill		>0.3	Fill of 2016			
21								
	2100	Layer		0.35	Topsoil			
	2101	Layer		0.3	Subsoil			
	2102	Layer			Natural Gravel			
	2103	Layer		0.3	Fill of 2104	Pot?	14 (24)	Indeterminate
	2104	Cut	1.4	0.3	Ditch			
	2105	Fill		0.25	Fill of 2106			
	2106	Cut	0.4	0.25	Ditch			
	2107	Fill		0.1	Fill of 2108			
	2108	Cut	0.65	0.1	Tree throw			
	2109	Fill		0.2	Fill of 2110			
	2110	Cut	0.4	0.2	Ditch			
22								
	2200	Layer		0.2	Topsoil			
	2201	Layer		0.1	Redeposited gravel			
	2202	Layer		0.2	Subsoil			
	2203	Layer		0.5	Colluvium			
	2204	Layer		0.2	Possible bank material			
	2205	Layer			Natural sand and gravel			
	2206	Fill		0.3	Fill of 2213			
	2207	Fill		0.24	Fill of 2213			
	2208	Fill		0.26	Fill of 2213			
	2209	Fill		0.18	Fill of 2213	Worked stone	1	
	2210	Fill		0.16	Fill of 2213			
	2211	Fill		0.12	Fill of 2213			
	2212	Fill		0.08	Fill of 2213			
	2213	Cut	2.1	0.6	Ditch			
	2214	Fill		0.3	Fill of 2216	Bone	14 (153)	
	2215	Fill		0.2	Fill of 2216			
	2216	Cut	1.6	0.5	Ditch			
	2217	Fill		0.25	Fill of 2218			
	2218	Cut		0.25	Tree throw			
	2219	Fill		0.28	Fill of 2216			
	2220	Fill		0.08	Fill of 2221			
	2221	Cut	0.2	0.08	Gully			
	2222	Fill		0.06	Fill of 2223			
	2223	Cut	0.2	0.06	Gully			
	2224	Layer		0.02	Redeposited gravel			
23								
	2300	Layer		0.25	Topsoil			
	2301	Layer		0.13	Subsoil			
	2302	Layer			Natural sand and gravel			
	2303	Fill		0.2	Fill of 2304			

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No. /wt (grammes)	Date
	2304	Cut	1.1	0.2	Tree throw			
	2305	Fill		0.3	Fill of 2306			
	2306	Cut	0.35	0.04	Drain			Modern
24								
	2400	Layer		0.27	Topsoil			
	2401	Layer		0.27	Subsoil	Pot Bone	1 (2) 2 (5)	13thC
	2402	Layer	0.84	0.1	Natural gravel			
	2403	Fill		0.26	fill of 2404			
	2404	Cut	1.6	0.26	Furrow			
	2405	Fill		0.18	fill of 2407	Flint flake	1	
	2406	Fill		0.12	fill of 2407			
	2407	Cut	0.8	0.42	Pit			
	2408	Fill		0.28	Fill of 2412			
	2409	Fill		0.22	Fill of 2412			
	2410	Fill		0.1	Fill of 2412	Bone Stone quern frag.	26 (38) 1	
	2411	Fill		0.18	Fill of 2412			
	2412	Cut	2.1	0.75	Ditch			
	2413	Cut	0.4	0.58	Ditch			
	2414	Fill		0.4	Fill of 2413	Bone Flint flake	1 (5) 1	
	2415	Fill		0.2	Fill of 2413			
25								
	2500	Layer		0.15	Topsoil			
	2501	Layer		0.1	Subsoil			
	2502	Layer			Natural sandy clay			
	2503	Fill		0.4	Fill of 2504			
	2504	Cut		0.4	Tree throw			
	2505	Fill		0.05	Fill of 2506			
	2506	Cut		0.05	Tree throw			
	2507	Fill		0.25	fill of 2508			
	2508	Cut	0.45	0.25	Tree throw			

Key- LBA-EIA: late Bronze Age to early Iron Age; RB: Romano-British; E/MS: early to mid Saxon; Med: Medieval; Pmed: Post-medieval

APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**Site name:** A415 Marcham Bypass**Site code:** A415MA 05**Grid reference:** SU 440 970 to SU 461 966**Type of evaluation:** Twenty trenches ranging in length from 20 m. to 60 m.**Date and duration of project:** 09/05/05 ten days**Area of site:** 41.2 ha.

Summary of results: The work comprised twenty trenches targeting cropmark evidence and anomalies highlighted by a fluxgate gradiometer survey of the route, carried out in 2004 by Pre-Construct Geophysics.

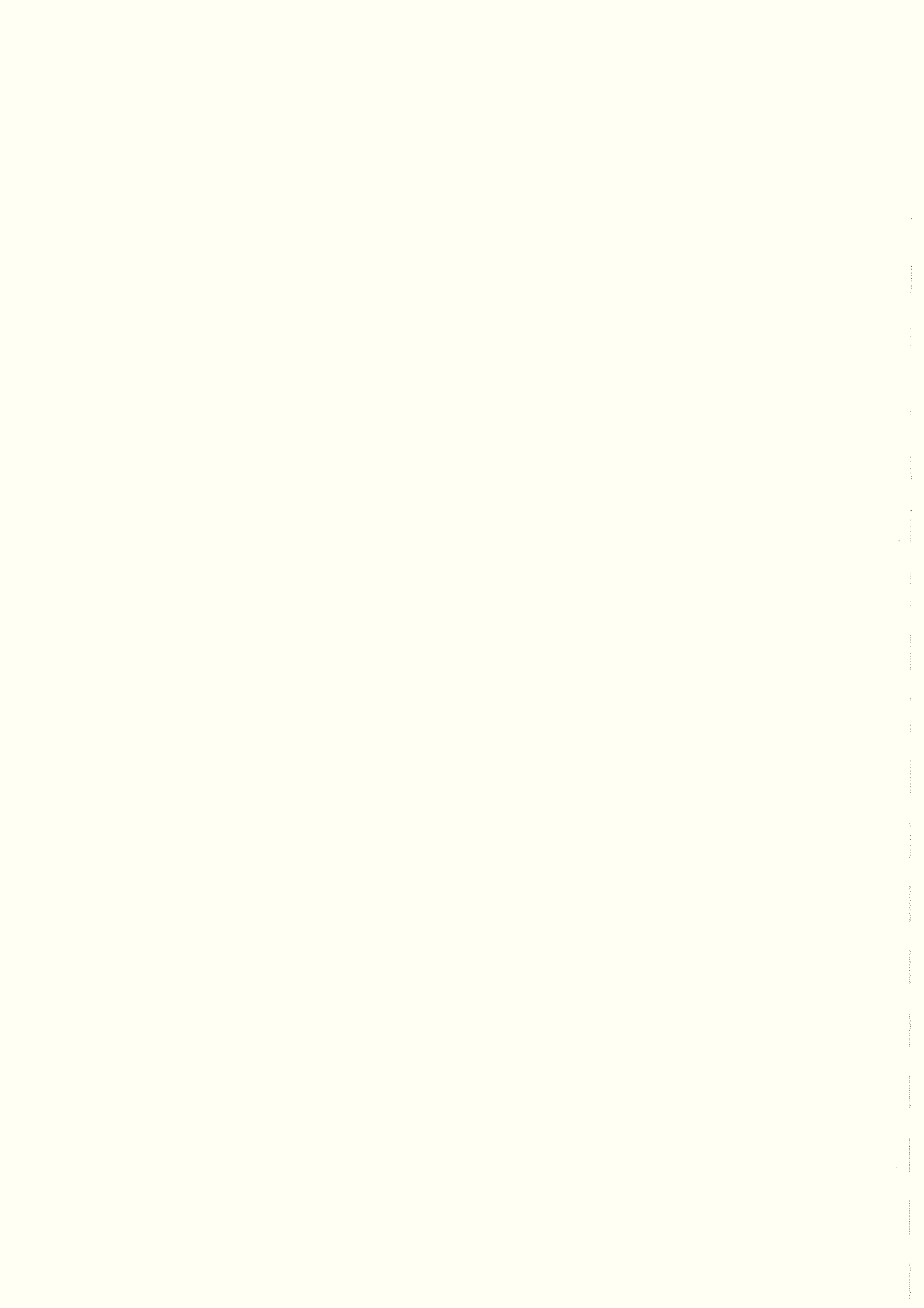
A first focus of activity, dated to the early to mid Saxon period was identified in Field 1 in the form of a field system and a pit. To the south, across the A338, in Field 2, another field boundary along with a large pit, both dating to the late 11th century were discovered. A Romano-British ditch was recorded in Trench 3. In both Field 1 and 2 a certain quantity of residual Romano-British pottery was also encountered.

A second focus of activity dating to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age was recorded in Trenches 14 and 15, in Field 6, possibly representing settlement related occupation. Field 6 also revealed evidence of extensive field systems, probably of Romano-British, Saxon and Medieval date.

Another possible focus of prehistoric activity, although undated, was excavated in Trenches 22 and 24.

Further linear features were identified in Fields 8, 10, and 11. Although many of these are undated, the presence of burnt stone in a number of features points to a prehistoric date.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course under the following Accession Number: OXCMS.2005.54..





A415 Marcham Bypass Marcham Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report: Figures



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July 2005

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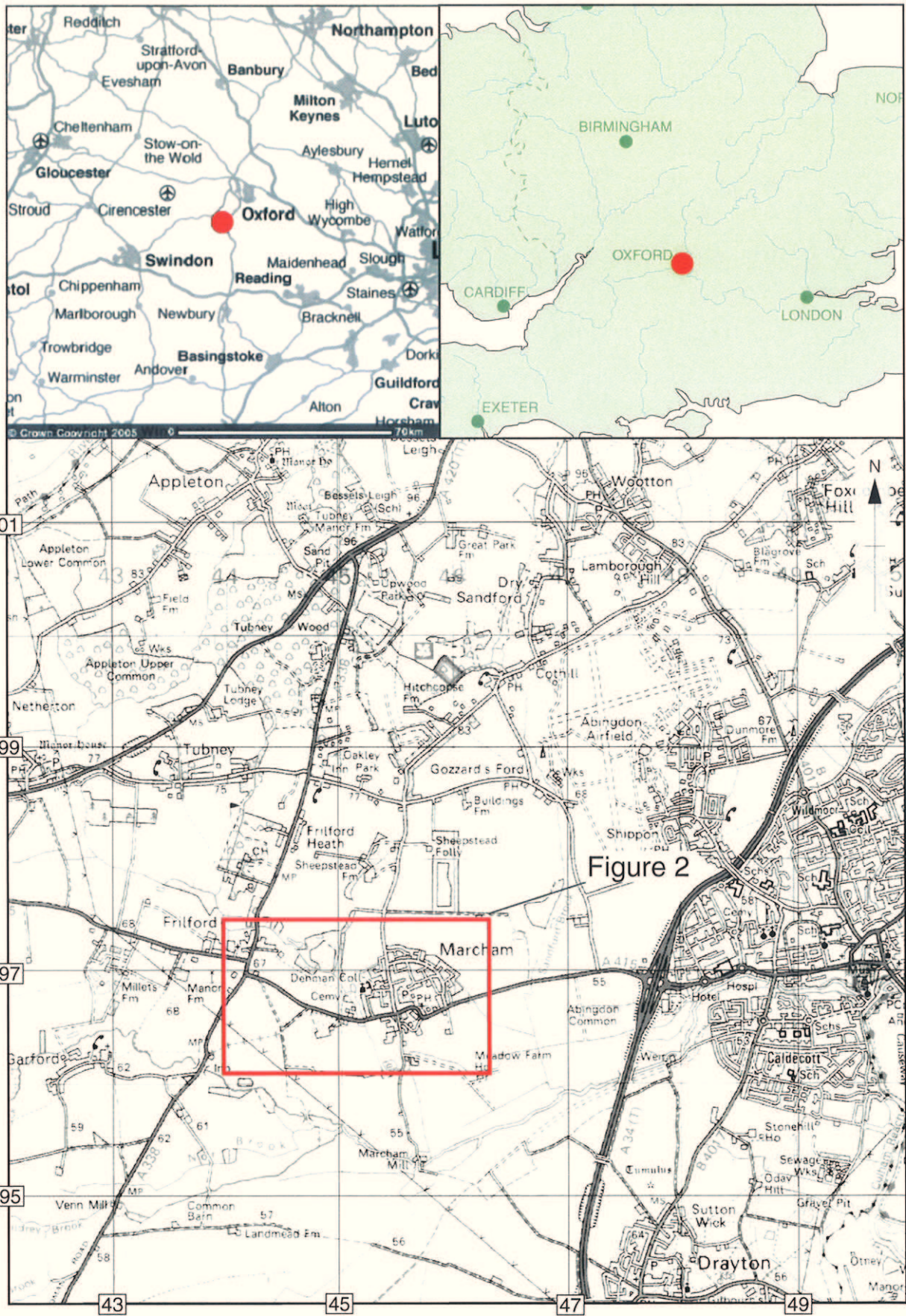
**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Client: Jacobs Baptie/
Oxfordshire County Council**

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 2712

NGR: SU 441 970 to SU 461 966



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Figure 1: Site location

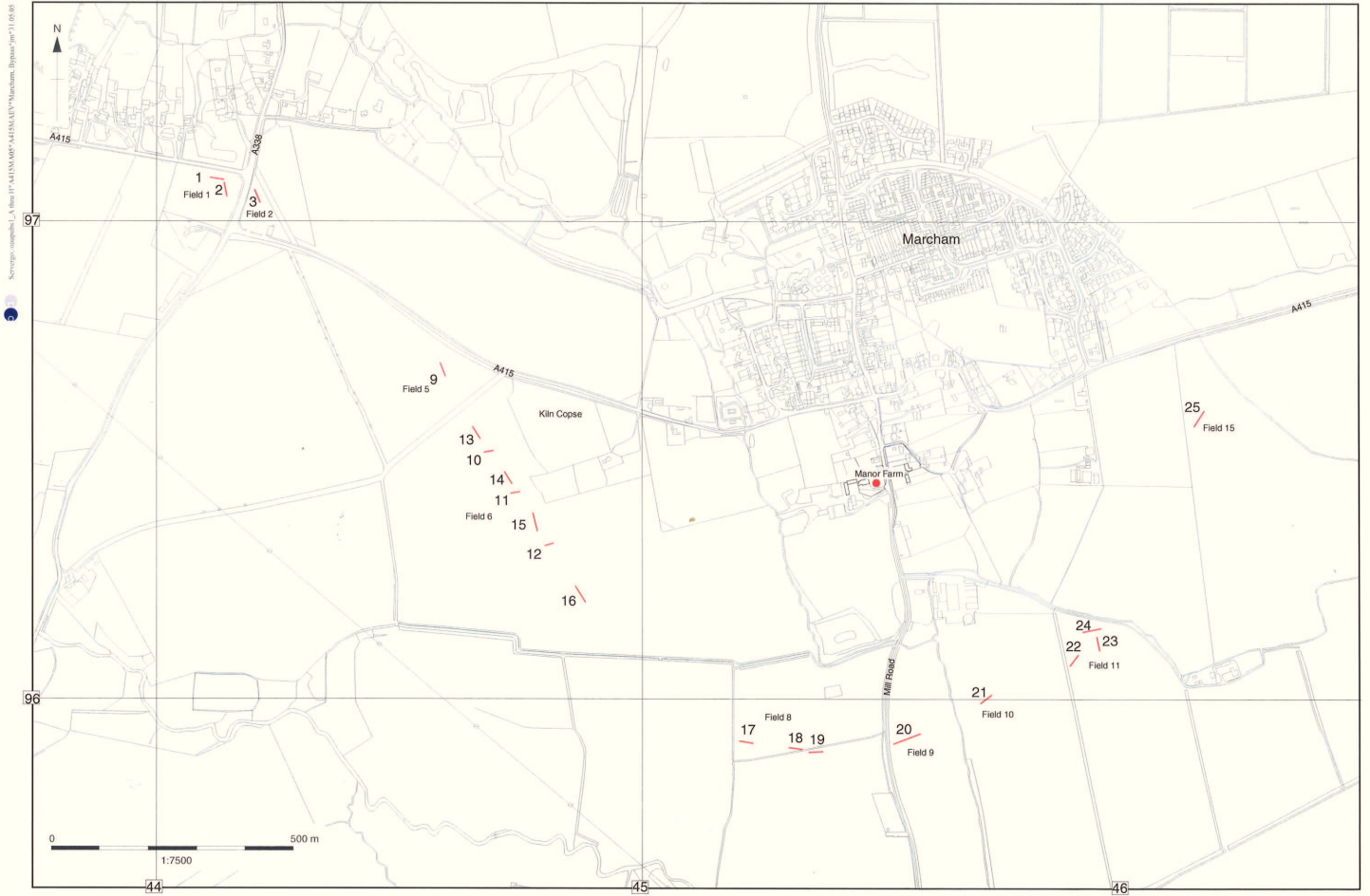
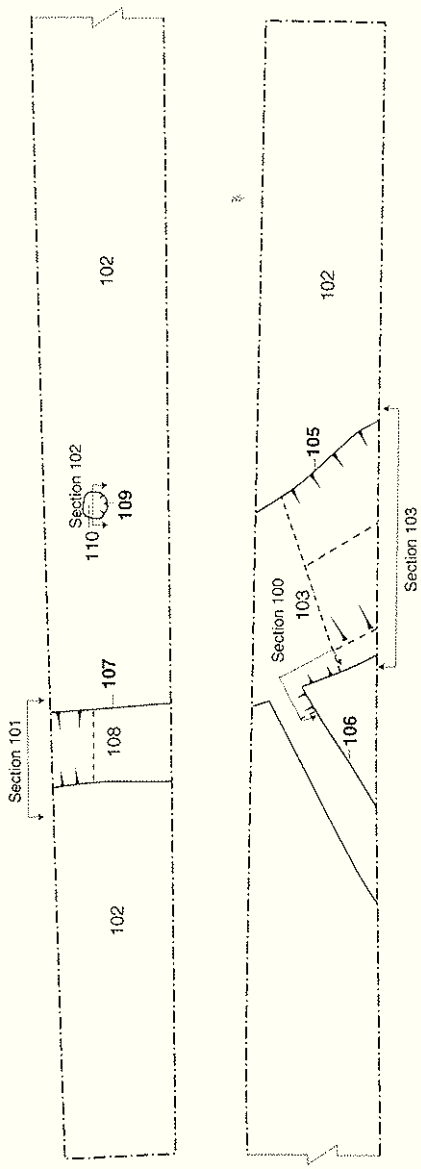
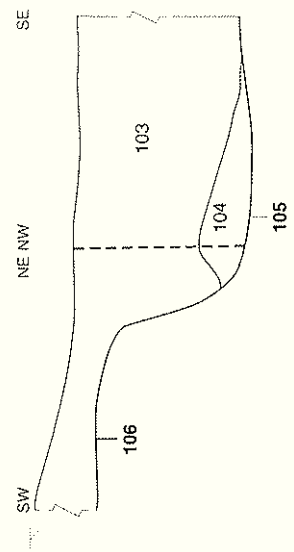


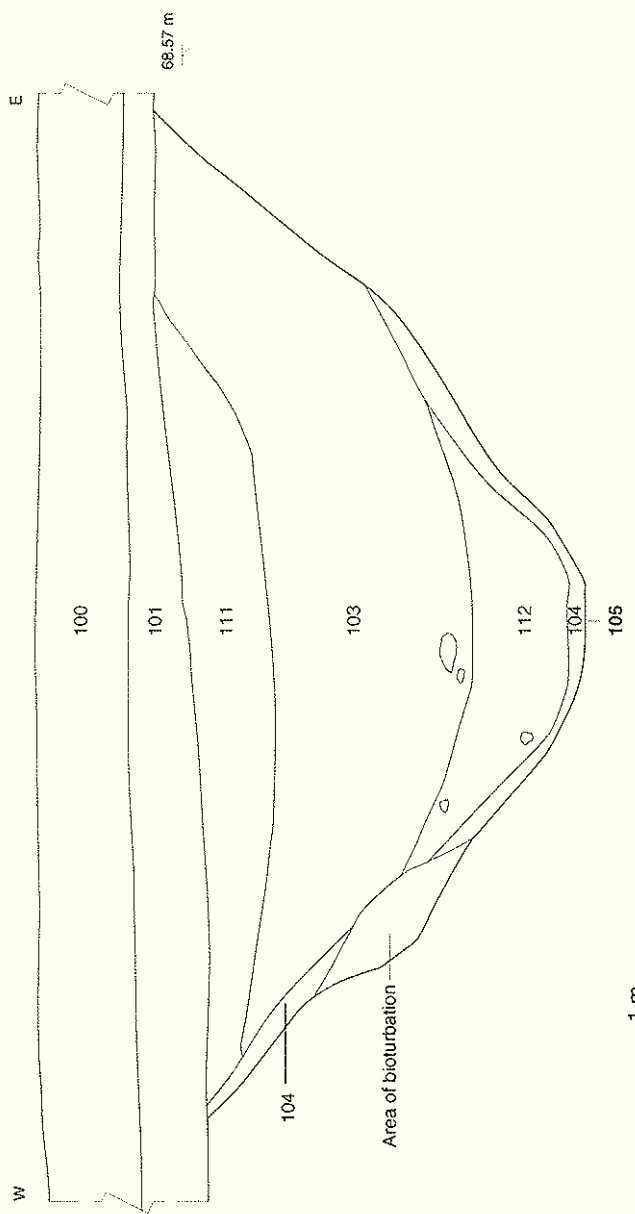
Figure 2: Trench location plan



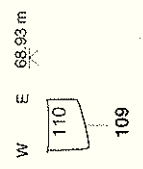
Section 100



Section 103



Section 102



Section 101

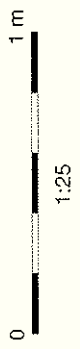
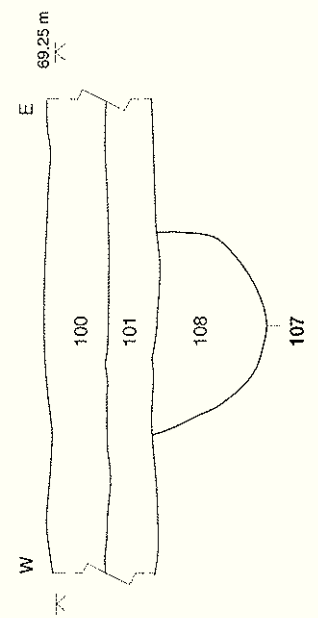


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections

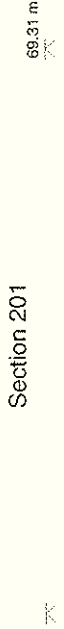
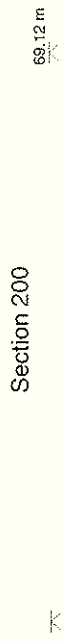
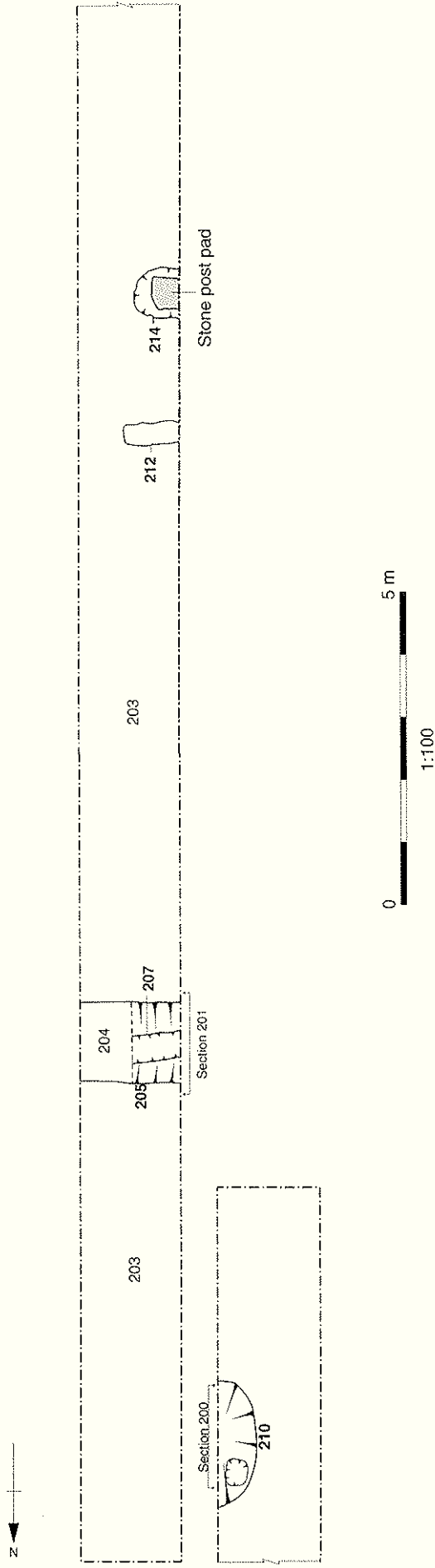


Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and sections

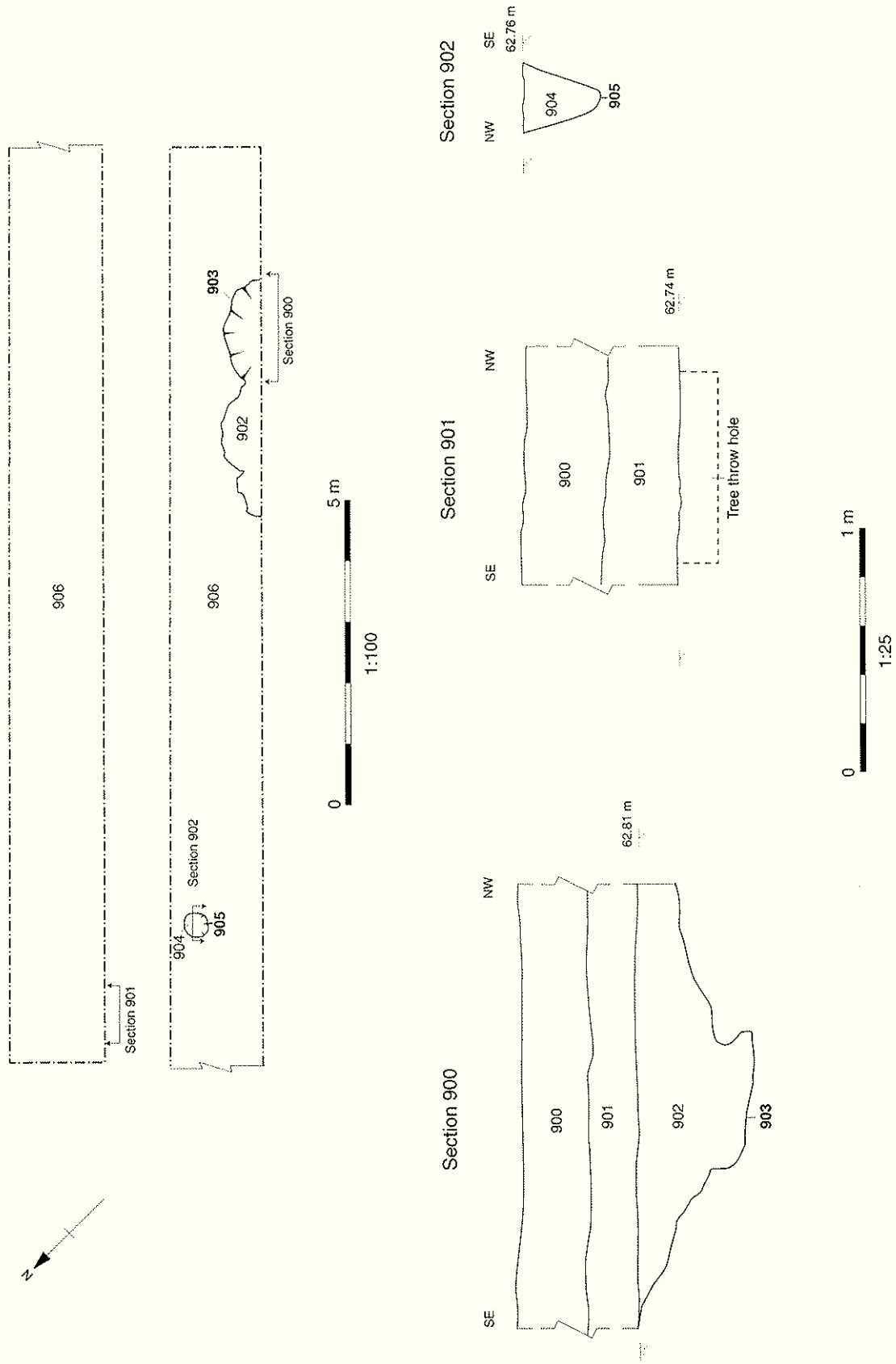


Figure 6: Trench 9, plan and sections

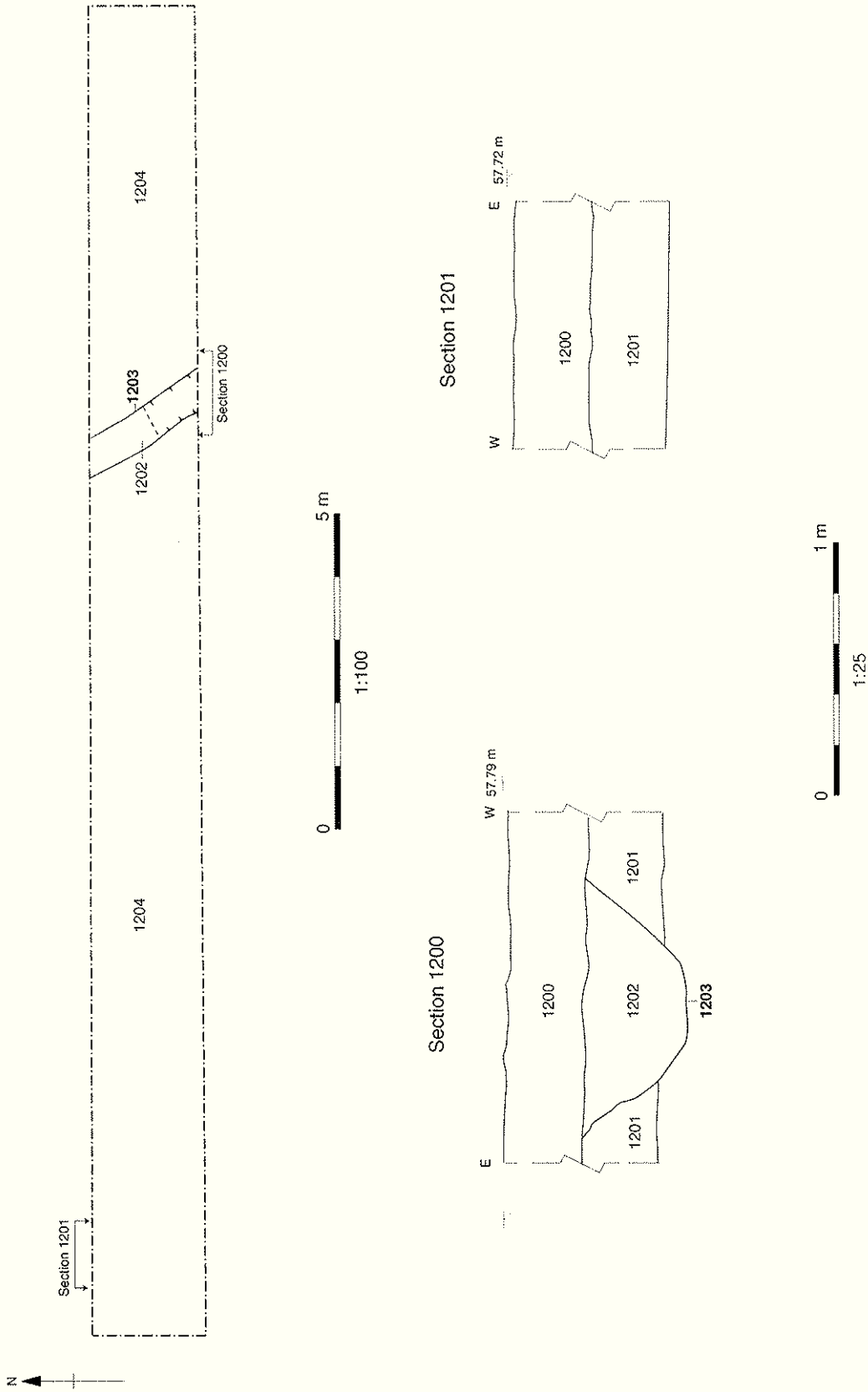


Figure 8: Trench 12, plans and sections

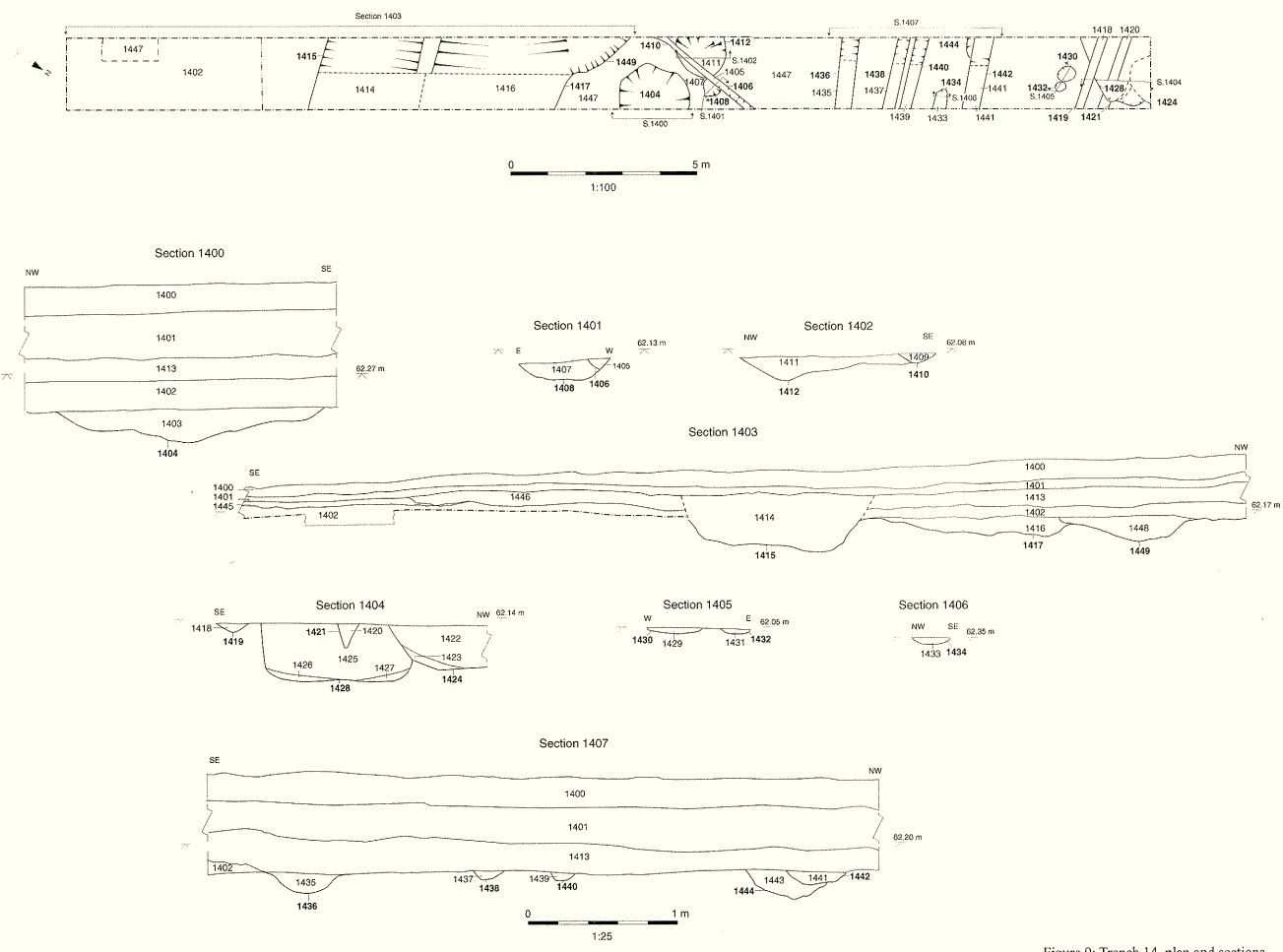


Figure 9: Trench 14, plan and sections

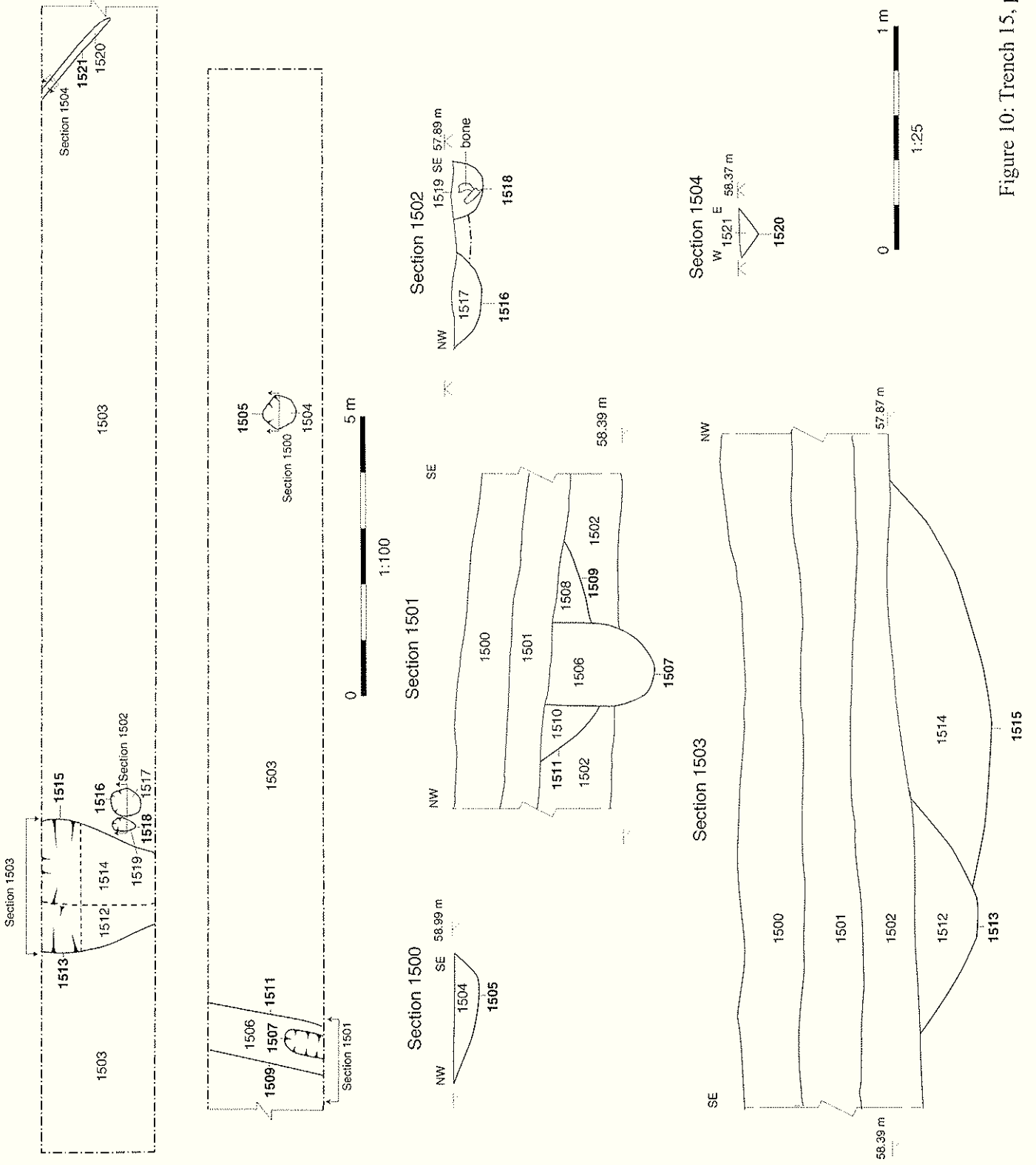


Figure 10: Trench 15, plan and sections

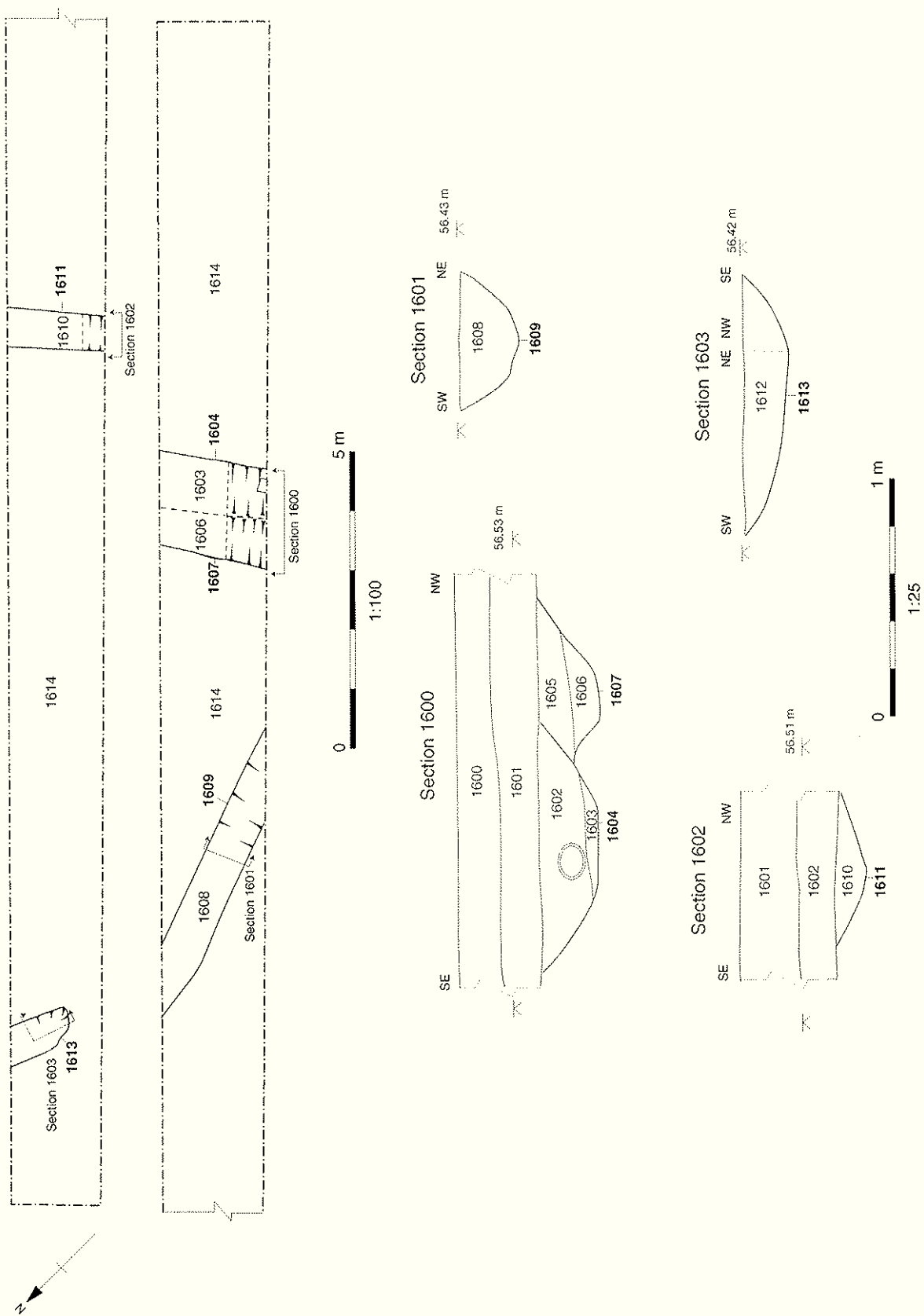


Figure 11: Trench 16, plan and sections

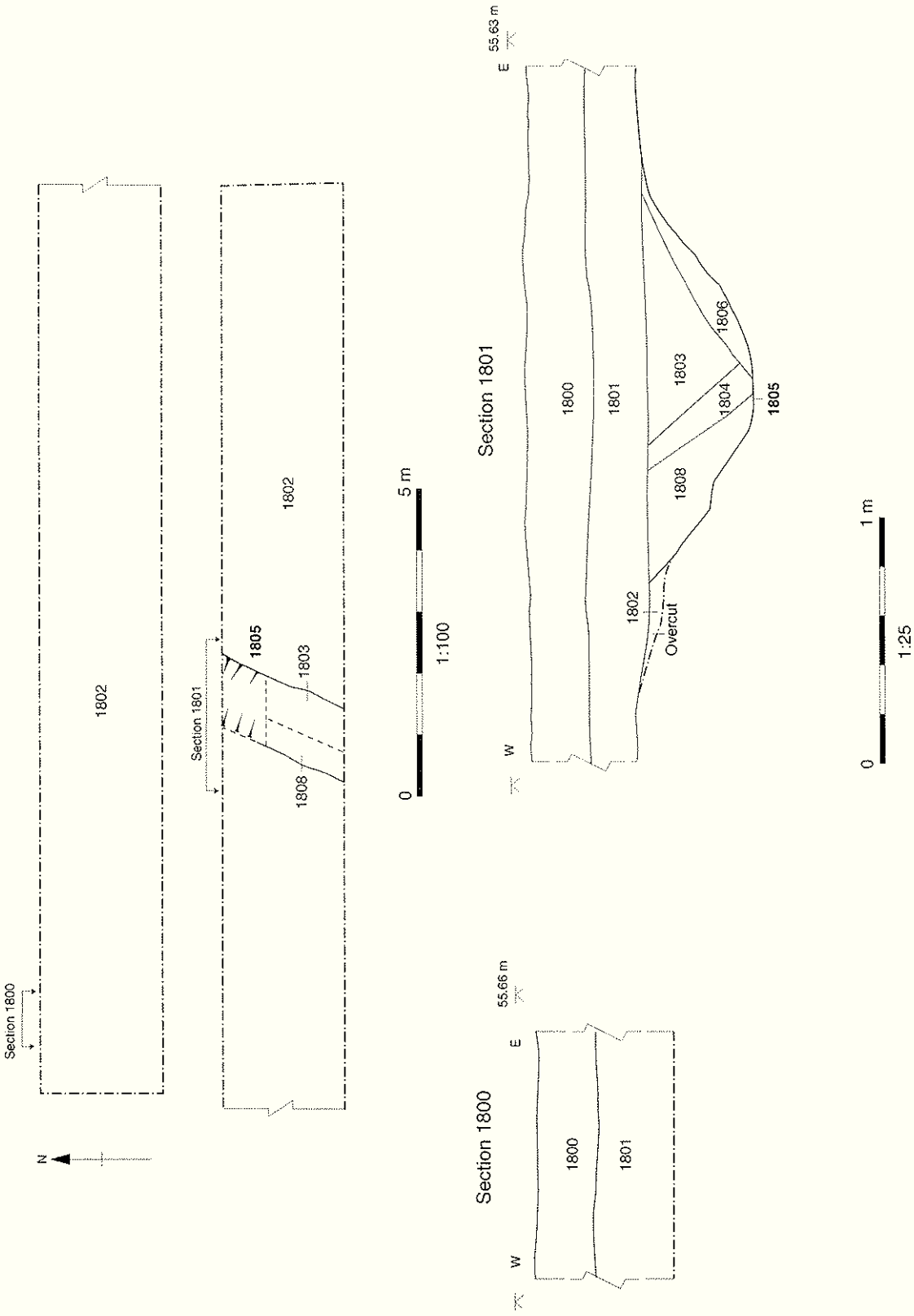


Figure 13: Trench 18, plan and sections

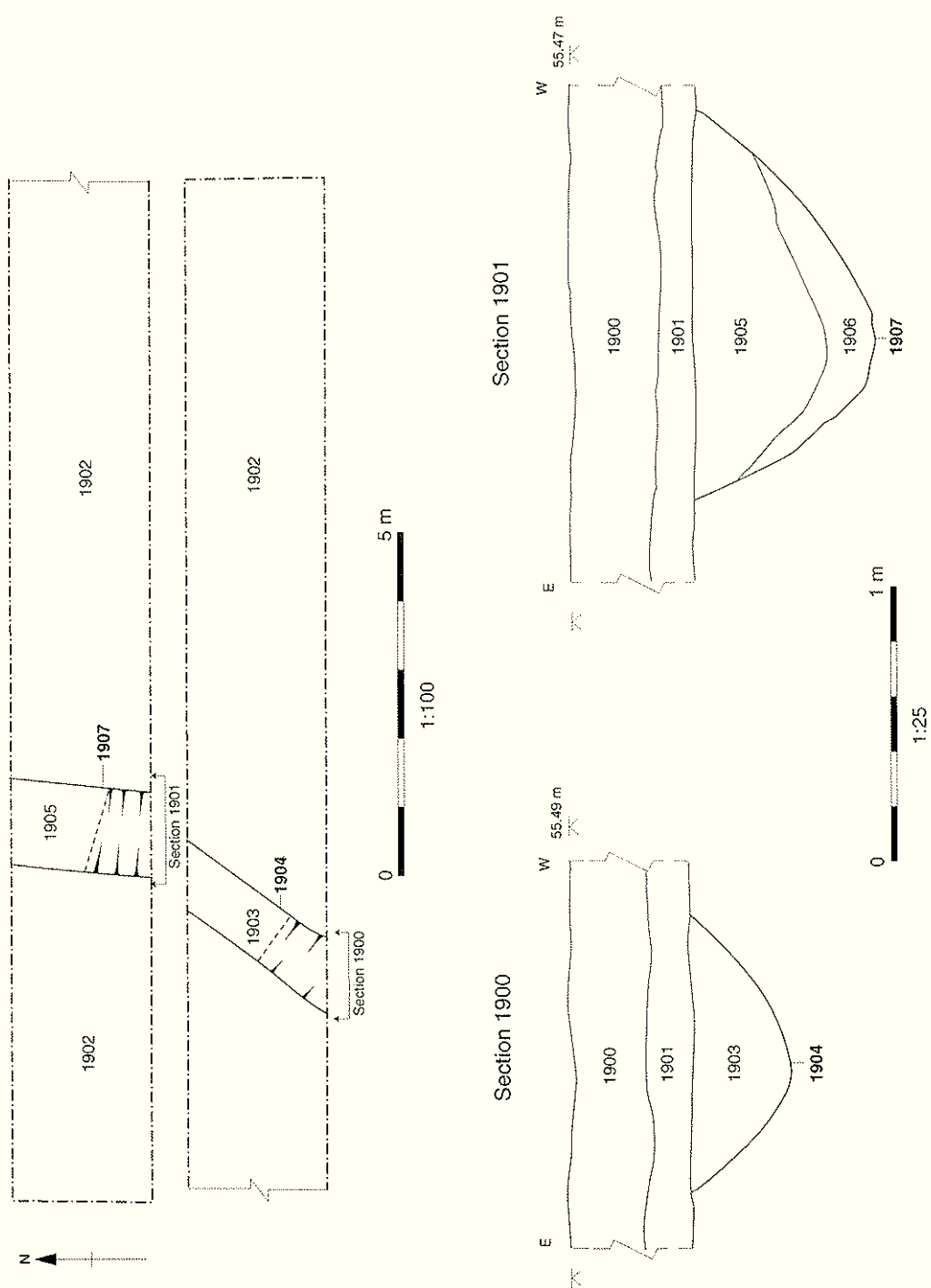


Figure 14: Trench 19, plan and sections

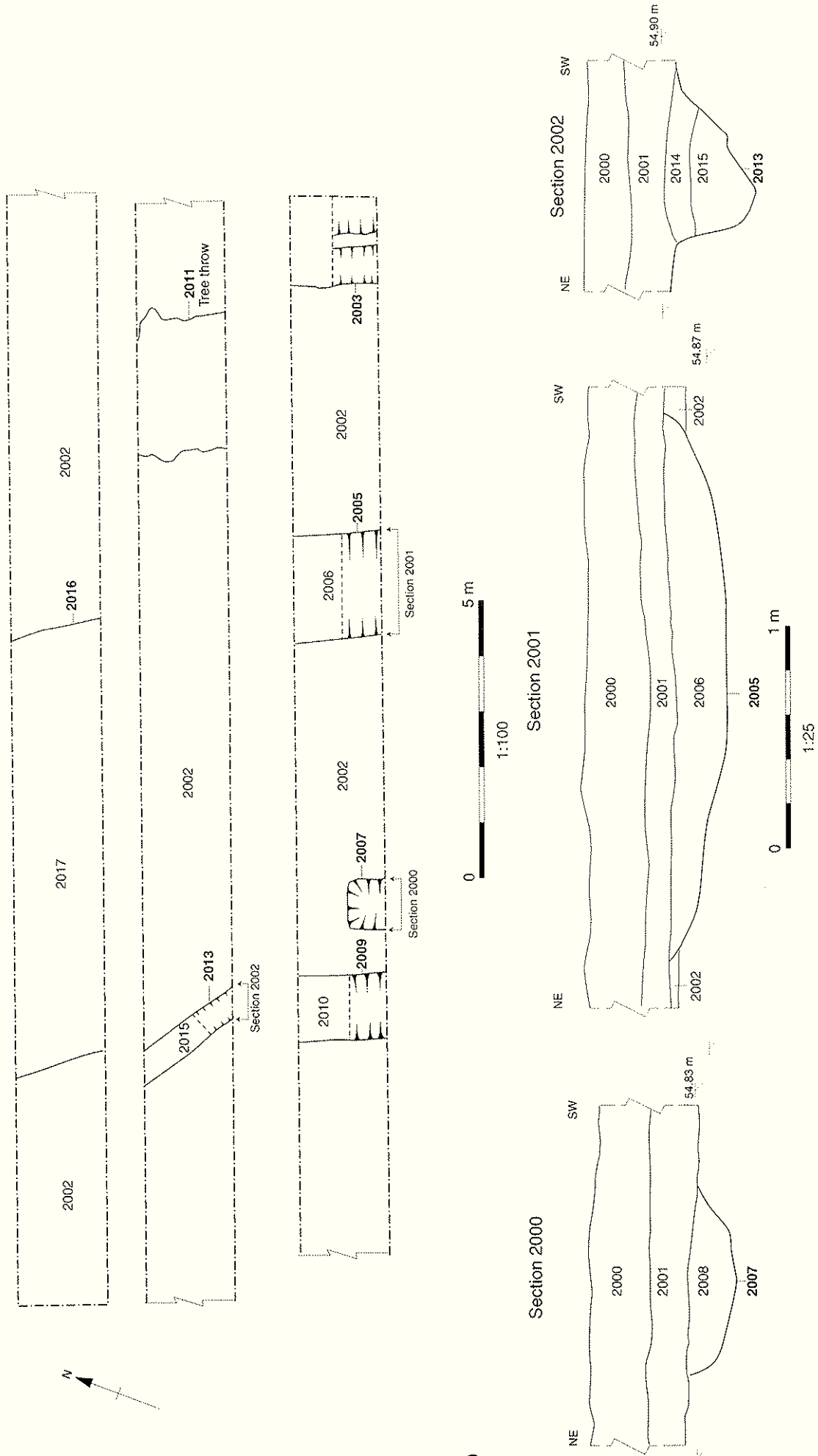


Figure 15: Trench 20, plan and sections

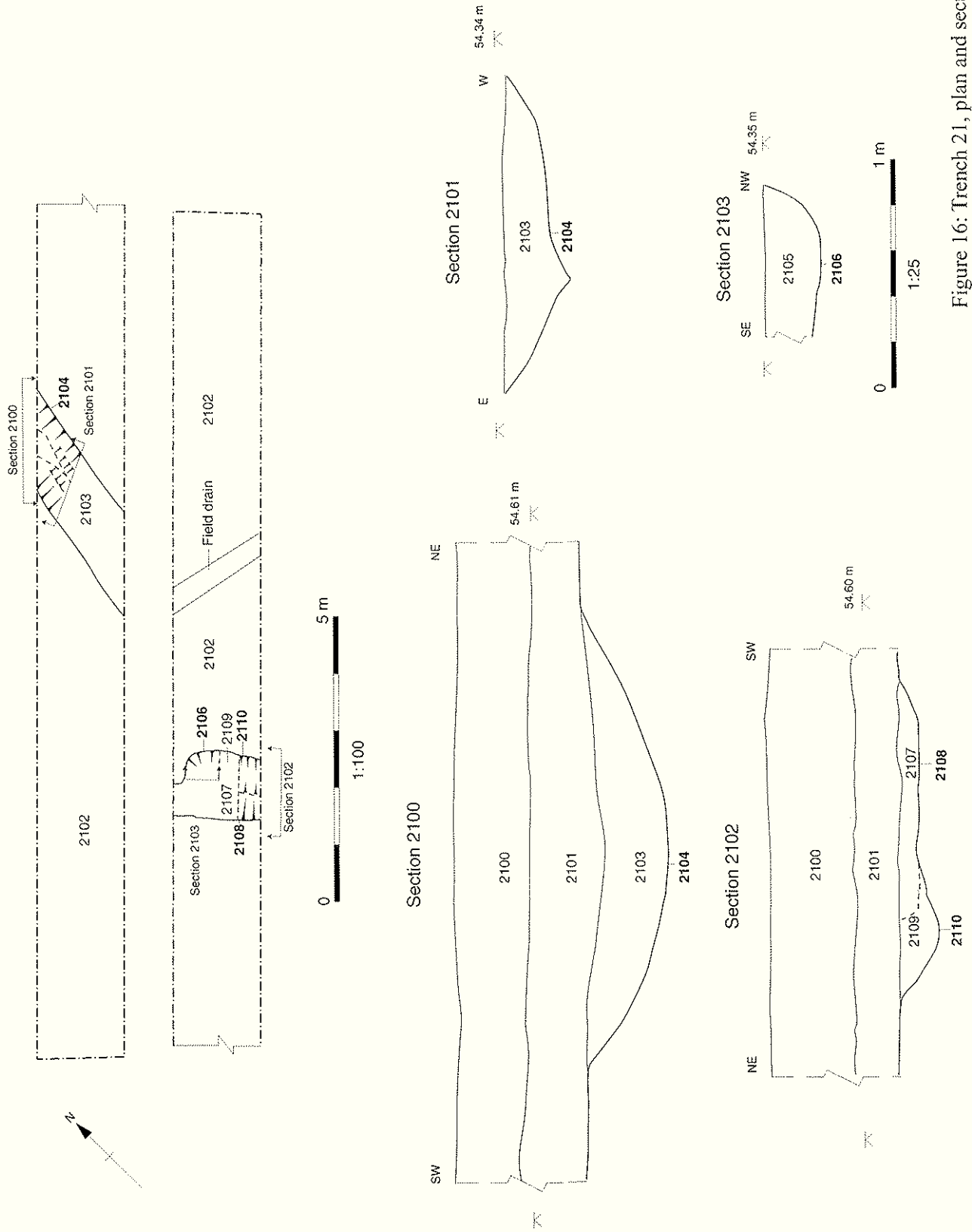


Figure 16: Trench 21, plan and sections

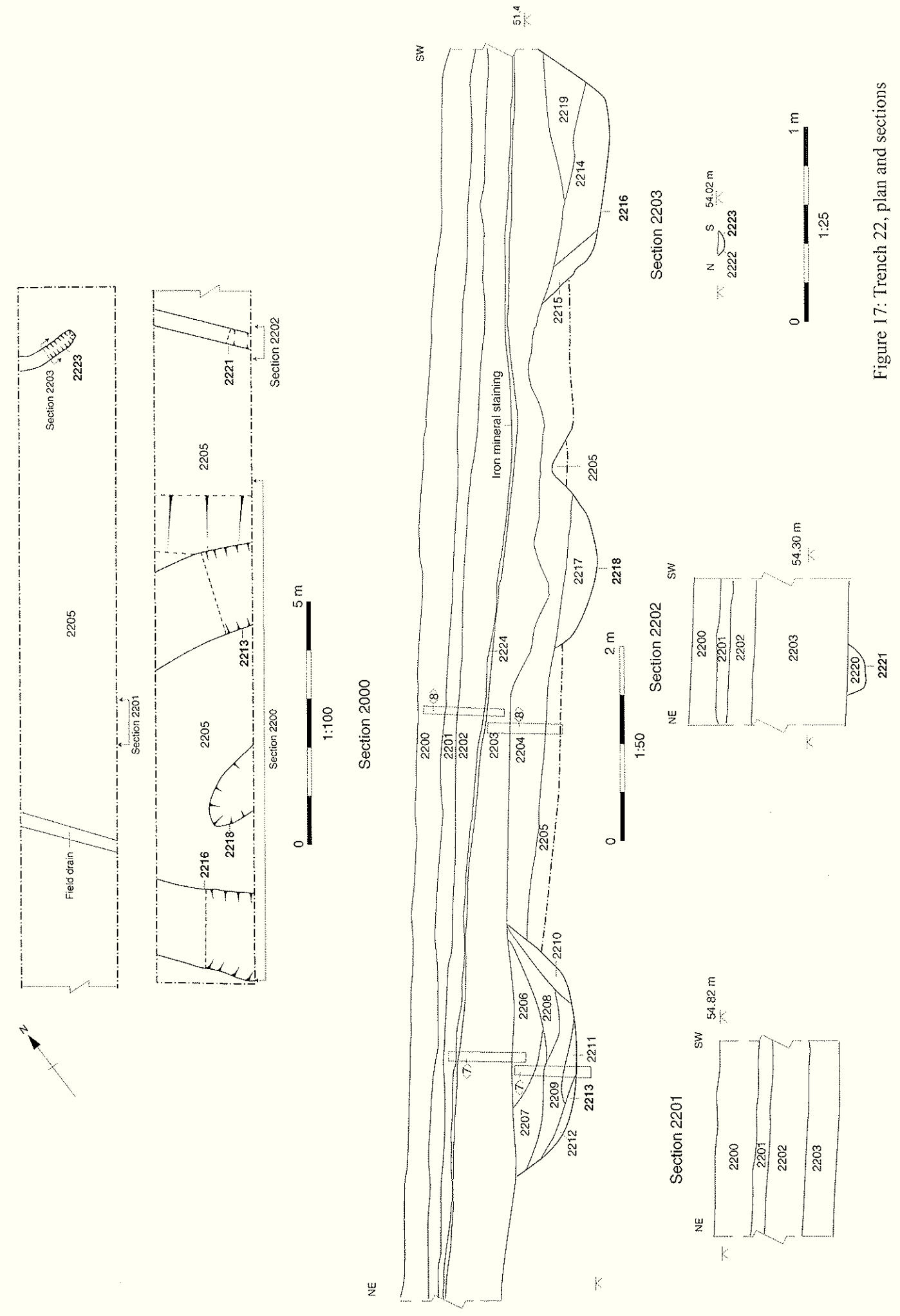


Figure 17: Trench 22, plan and sections



Plate 1: Ditch 2213



Plate 2: Ditch 2213 and layer 2204



Plate 3: Layer 2204, a buried soil horizon?



Plate 4: Ditch 2216



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