

Land to the Rear of
Bourne Industrial Estate
Bourne Road
Crayford



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

13th May 2003



Client: CgMs

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 1749

Planning Ref N^o: Applic. 02/5739/F

NGR: TQ 511 746

Client Name: CgMs

Client Ref No: RB/3925

Document Title: Land to the Rear of Bourne Industrial Estate, Bourne Road, Crayford: Archaeological Evaluation Report

Document Type: Evaluation

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: TQ 511 746
Planning Reference: Application 02/5739/F

OA Job Number: 1749
Site Code: BUI 03
Invoice Code: BUI EV
Receiving Museum: Museum of London
Museum Accession No: TBA

Prepared by: B. Mathews and H. Lamdin-Whmyark
Position: Supervisor/Research Officer
Date: 12th May 2003

Checked by: R. Brown
Position: Project Manager
Date: 12th May 2003

Approved by: N. Shepherd
Position: Head of Fieldwork
Date: 12th May 2003

Signed.....

Document File Location Server1/projects/Bourne Industrial Crayford
Graphics File Location sever10/oaupub1_AtoH/BUIEV/Bourne Industrial Estate Crayford, Kent

Illustrated by Amy Hemingway

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology
© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2003

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Land to the Rear of Bourne Industrial Estate
Bourne Road, Crayford

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

Summary	1
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Location and scope of work	1
1.2 Geology and topography	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background	1
2 Evaluation Aims	2
3 Evaluation Methodology	2
3.1 Scope of fieldwork	2
3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording	2
3.3 Finds	3
3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence	3
3.5 Presentation of results	3
4 Results: General	3
4.1 Soils and ground conditions	3
4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits	3
5 Results: Descriptions	3
5.1 Description of deposits	3
5.2 Finds	5
6 Discussion And Interpretation	5
6.1 Reliability of field investigation	5
6.2 Overall interpretation	5
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	6
Appendix 2 Bibliography and References	7
Appendix 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR Archaeological Report Form	8

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig 1	Site location
Fig 2	Trench location
Fig 3	Trench 1, Section 1
Fig 4	Trench 3, Section 3

SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land to the rear of Bourne Industrial Estate, Crayford, on behalf of CgMs Consulting. No significant archaeological deposits or remains were revealed. The evaluation identified a modern stone-built culvert and extensive industrial disturbance. The earliest archaeological layers found dated from the 19th century onwards.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 OA carried out a field evaluation on land to the rear of Bourne Industrial Estate, Crayford, on behalf of CgMs Consulting in respect of a planning application for the re-development of the site (Planning Application No. 02/5739/F).
- 1.1.2 The site is to the rear of Bourne Industrial Park, Bourne Road, Crayford, at national grid reference TQ 511 746 (Fig. 1). The site is 2.9 ha in extent and is bound by Bourne Industrial Park to the north, the River Cray to the south and Bourne Road recreation ground to the west.
- 1.1.3 The work is outlined in the specification (CgMs 2003).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology is alluvium and brick earth (BGS Sheet 271 - Dartford). The site is within the valley of the River Cray just above the floodplain. The site is level, situated at *c* 8 m O.D. Beyond the site boundary the land rises quite sharply to the north of Bourne Road and to the south of the Crayford to Sidcup Railway.
- 1.2.2 The site is occupied by a range of industrial textile printing buildings, which range in date from the mid 1930s to the 1980s. The area between the buildings is either tarmac or concrete hard standing.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A desk-based assessment (DBA) has been carried out by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2002). The assessment is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 The results of the DBA indicate that the development site is within an area that is considered to have potential for Palaeolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman remains. Palaeolithic remains, if present, are likely to be at depth below the proposed development impact level and are unlikely to be disturbed by it. There is also the potential for remains associated with the Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation of the area. A hoard of Bronze Age gold bracelets and metal tools found nearby are suggestive of settlement in the area the location of which is unknown. An Iron Age settlement has been recorded to the north of the site, associated remains of which

could extend into the site. A Roman settlement is known to have straddled the Watling Street crossing of the River Cray, the full extent of which is unknown and could also have extended into the site.

- 1.3.3 The site has been occupied by textile printing works since *c* 1800. It was likely to have been part of the area used to bleach the textiles in the sun prior to the introduction of chemical bleaching. In 1936 the printing factory was extended into the site and by the time of its closure, completely occupied the entire site. The southern part of the site was crossed by two arms/leats of the River Cray prior to the extension of the factory into the site.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

The aims and objectives of the evaluation were as follows:

- 2.1.1 To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- 2.1.2 To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- 2.1.3 To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains.
- 2.1.4 To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- 2.1.5 To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- 2.1.6 To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present.
- 2.1.7 To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.
- 2.1.8 To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of three trenches each measuring approximately 10 m long and 2 m wide (Fig. 2). The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trenches were excavated to the underlying sandy gravel natural. A stone-built culvert seen in Trenches 2 and 3 was left *in situ*. The depth of the excavated trenches (typically 3.6 m deep) precluded hand cleaning of deposits but excavated contexts were carefully monitored and finds recovered where present. All archaeological structures were planned at 1:20, sections were also drawn at 1:20. All

structures/deposits were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Where finds were modern, a representative sample was retained for analysis and subsequently disposed of.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 Banded peaty and tufa deposits were encountered at depth within all of the trenches, however, no archaeological features or finds were associated with these deposits. No environmental samples were taken.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 A general description of the soils and ground conditions is provided. This is followed by a description of the trenches and an interpretation of the results. Trenches 2 and 3 are described together because they contained a very similar stratigraphic sequence. Individual contexts are tabulated in described in Appendix 1.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The underlying geology consisted of orange sandy gravel, encountered at 3.4 m to 3.6 m beneath current ground surface (*c* 4 m O.D.). The natural gravel was overlain by banded peaty silty clays (*c* 0.50 m) which in turn was overlain by a thin layer of calcareous silt (tufa) (*c* 0.06 m). A layer of alluvial silty clay, *c* 0.7 m thick, overlay the tufa and peat. The upper deposits, *c* 1.6 m thick, were modern made ground.

4.1.2 During the evaluation ground conditions were good, and although the trenches were fairly close to adjacent watercourses they did not flood.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 No significant archaeological features were found and no finds were recovered from the alluvial, peat or calcareous silts. The finds recovered from the made ground are post medieval (*c* 19th century).

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1

- 5.1.1 Within Trench 1 the underlying sandy gravel was encountered at a depth of 3.4 m (4.04 m O.D.) (Fig. 3). The gravel was overlain by a patchy light brown alluvial silty clay (110) and a 0.36 m thick banded layer of silty peat (109). The peat varied in colour from dark brown to greyish brown according to variations in the percentages of clay and calcareous material present. This deposit was of quite a fine texture and appeared to contain no wood or other visible plant remains.
- 5.1.2 The peat was overlain by thinner bands of light grey chalky silt (108), dark greyish brown silty peat (107) and a yellowish white calcareous sandy silt (or 'tufa')(106).
- 5.1.3 The upper calcareous silt (106) was sealed by a 0.7 m thick layer of orange brown silty alluvial clay (104). This deposit contained occasional pebbles and small chalk nodules.
- 5.1.4 No archaeological features observed, or finds recovered, the peat, calcareous silts or alluvial clay.
- 5.1.5 A 0.52 m thick interface layer of orange brown silty clay (103) overlay context 106. This deposit contained occasional brick fragments and mortar flecking, as well as 19th century pottery.
- 5.1.6 Towards the of southern end of the Trench 1 layer 103 was cut by a modern pit, 111, measuring 1.4 m by 1.8 m and 0.68 m deep. This feature was filled by bright orange silty sand containing brick, mortar and industrial waste. Two distinct layers of dark brown silty clay, 101 and 102, were present in the upper 1.25 m of Trench 1; both layers contained brick, metal and modern pottery.
- 5.1.7 Trench 1 was sealed by a thin layer of stone make-up and the present tarmac car-park surface, layer 100 (0.10 m thick).

Trenches 2 and 3

- 5.1.8 Trenches 2 and 3 contained a very similar stratigraphic sequence and are described together below (Fig. 3).
- 5.1.9 The underlying sandy gravel was found at a depth of 2.90 m from the surface (4.71 m O.D.) and was overlain by banded layers of peat, clayey peat and a calcareous silt (tufa). These were in turn sealed by a 0.70 m to 1.20 m thick deposit of brown alluvial silty clay (307/204). All of these layers appeared to be archaeologically clean.
- 5.1.10 In Trench 3, the alluvial deposit (307/204) was, overlain by a 0.30 m thick band of disturbed alluvial deposits (306), which contained frequent mortar flecking. This layer was not observed in Trench 2 and may have been removed by later truncation. A possible brick structure (305) was identified on the upper surface of layer 306. Structure 305 was composed of three courses of yellow unfroged bricks. The bricks were not mortared.

- 5.1.11 The alluvial and disturbed alluvial interface were cut by the insertion of a modern stone built culvert, 302/210. The culvert consisted of two parallel stone walls aligned NNW-SSE from the centre of Trench 3 to the western side of Trench 2 (Fig. 2). The culvert measured 0.70 m high by 1.64 m wide and overlay a thin, blackish grey, silty gravel primary fill, 313/212. In Trench 3 fill 313 contained plastic sheeting beneath the wall construction and is clearly modern.
- 5.1.12 The culvert construction cut was back-filled with a dark greyish brown silty clay, 202/301, which contained modern brick and concrete debris. In Trench 2 only the eastern wall of the culvert was exposed, but in Trench 3 the culvert was back-filled with grey brown silty clay, containing very large concrete slabs and other mixed modern debris. This backfill was overlain by the make-up for the present tarmac car-parking area.

5.2 Finds

Pottery and glass

- 5.2.1 A total of four finds were retained for analysis. A glazed earthenware vessel and a sherd of a second were retained from made ground 103; a late 19th or early 20th century date is appropriate for these finds. A Pepsi-cola bottle and a sherd of china were found in culvert fill 202, these finds date from the mid 20th century.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 During the evaluation conditions were good and the results are consistent across all three trenches. Despite careful observation during machining, no archaeological features were observed. The earliest finds recovered date from the 19th century; no evidence of earlier occupation was found.

6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 No archaeological structures or remains were associated with the underlying alluvial sequence, within the evaluation trenches. The upper strata of the site appear to have been disturbed by the known post-medieval/modern industrial activity here. There was no evidence of any activity earlier than the 19th century. The thick underlying alluvial deposits indicate that the area was previously part of the floodplain of the River Cray.

Significance

- 6.2.2 No significant archaeological features or finds were located. The upper surface of the alluvium has probably been truncated by 20th century activity. The peat and alluvial sequence is Holocene, but no dating evidence was recovered to refine this date. The absence of charcoal and artefactual remains may suggest little human activity in the vicinity of the site whilst these deposits formed.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick . (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
001								
	100	Layer		0.10	Tarmac	-		Modern
	101	Layer		0.80	Made ground	Brick and concrete		Modern
	102	Layer		0.45	Modern dump/made ground	-		Modern
	103	Layer		0.52	Made ground	Brick and Mortar, earthen-ware		Modern
	104	Layer		0.70	Alluvial deposit	-		
	105	Layer		-	Natural gravel	-		
	106	Layer		0.22	Calcareous deposit	-		
	107	Layer		0.10	Organic deposit/peat	-		
	108	Layer		0.05	Calcareous deposit	-		
	109	Layer		0.36	Organic deposit/peat	-		
	110	Layer		0.30	Alluvial deposit	-		
	111	Cut	1.4 by 1.8	0.68	Pit			Modern
	112	Fill	1.4 by 1.8	0.68	Fill of pit 111	Brick	-	Modern
002								
	200	Layer		0.7	Tarmac			Modern
	201	Layer		0.82	Made ground	Brick and concrete		Modern
	202	Fill		1.30	Fill of cut 210 for culvert 209	Pepsi bottle, china		Modern
	203	Layer		0.12	Calcareous deposit	-		
	204	Layer	8.80	1.20	Alluvial deposit	-		
	205	Layer		0.40	Organic deposit/Peat	-		
	206	Layer		0.28	Alluvial deposit	-		
	207	Layer	5.8	0.28	Alluvial deposit	-		
	208	Layer		-	Natural Gravel	-		
	209	Wall			Wall of culvert			Modern

	210	Cut	4.35	1.70	Cut for culvert 209			Modern
	211	Layer		0.04	Calcareous deposit			
	212	Fill	4.80	0.18	Fill of 210, layer beneath culvert construction			Modern
003								
	300	Layer		0.20	Tarmac	-		Modern
	301	Fill	4.6 x 1.8+	1.20	Made ground, above culvert 304	Brick		Modern
	302	Cut	8.8 x 1.8+	1.70	Cut for culvert	-		Modern
	303	Fill		.72	Backfill of culvert construction trench cut 302	Mortar and concrete		Modern
	304	Str.	1.75	0.70	Culvert	Brick		Modern
	305	Str.	0.30	0.30	Possible wall	Un-frogged brick		Post medieval
	306	Layer		0.50	Mixed Alluvium/Made ground?	-		
	307	Layer		0.70	Alluvial deposit	-		
	308	Layer		0.06	Calcareous deposit	-		
	309	Layer		0.28	Mixed peat layer	-		
	310	Layer		0.18	Peat	-		
	311	Layer		-	Natural gravel	-		
	312	Cut	6.42 x 8.8	0.72	Cut for culvert backfill	-		Modern
	313	Fill		.30	Fill of 312, culvert 304 constructed on this fill	Plastic		Modern

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CgMs, 2002 *Land to the rear of Bourne Industrial Estate, Bourne Road, Crayford: Desk Based Assessment*. Unpublished

CgMs, 2003 *Land to the rear of Bourne Industrial Estate, Bourne Road, Crayford: Specification for an archaeological evaluation*. Unpublished

Wilkinson, D, 1992 *OAU Fieldwork Manual*, Oxford

APPENDIX 3 GLSMR/RCHME NMR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT FORM

1) TYPE OF RECORDING

Evaluation

2) LOCATION

Borough: Bexley

Site address: Bourne Industrial Estate, Bexley, London

Site Name: Crayford, Land at Bourne Lane Industrial Estate Site Code: BUI'03

Nat. grid Refs: centre of site: TQ 5110 7460

Limits of site: N 50997466 S 51187462

E 51017454 W 5167470

3) ORGANISATION

Name of archaeological unit/company/society: Oxford Archaeology

Address: Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES

Site director/supervisor: B Matthews Project manager: M Brown

Funded by: CgMs consulting

4) DURATION

Date fieldwork started: 29.4.03 Date finished: 31.4.03

Fieldwork previously notified? YES

Fieldwork will continue? NOT KNOWN

5) PERIODS REPRESENTED

Post-Medieval

Undated

6) PERIOD SUMMARIES

Post-medieval

A series of layer of made ground were identified. The made ground contained 19th and 20th century finds. A modern brick culvert was also found.

Undated

The made ground sealed undated alluvial layers and peat.

7) NATURAL

Type: Gravel.

Height above Ordnance datum: *c* 4.10 m O.D.

8) LOCATION OF ARCHIVES

The archive is presently at Oxford Archaeology. The Archive will be deposited with MoL in due course.

- a) Please provide an estimate of the quantity of material in your possession for the following categories:

NOtes	0	PLans	4	PHotos	NGtives
SLides	0	COespondence	1	MScripts (unpub reports, etc)	
BUlk finds	0	SMall finds	0	SOil samples	0
Other, Sections	5				

- b) The archive has been prepared and stored in accordance with MGC standards and will be deposited in the following location: YES
- c) Has a security copy of the archive been made?: NO

10) BIBLIOGRAPHY

See Appendix 2 Bibliography and References

SIGNED:

DATE:

NAME :



Scale 1:25,000

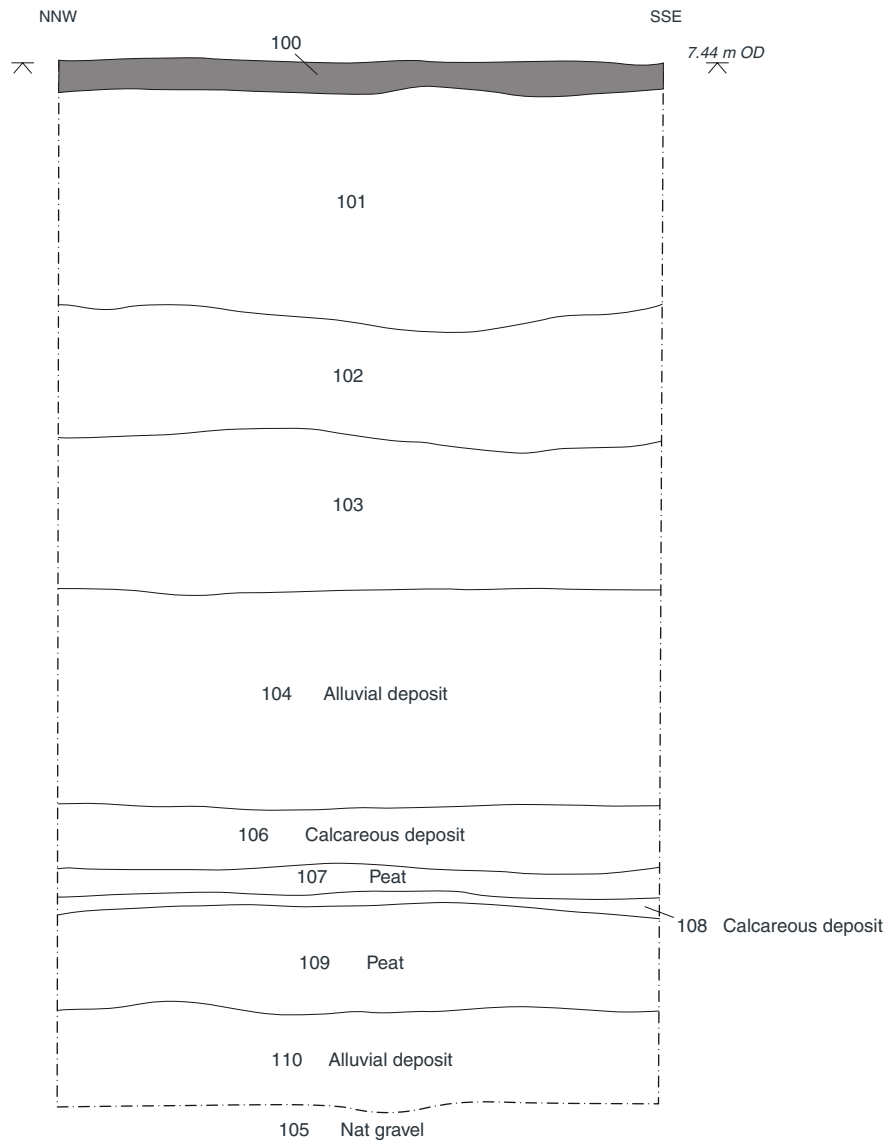
Reproduced from the Landranger 1:25,000 scale by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
© Crown Copyright 1998 . All rights reserved. Licence No. AL 10005569

Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench location

Trench 1 Section 1

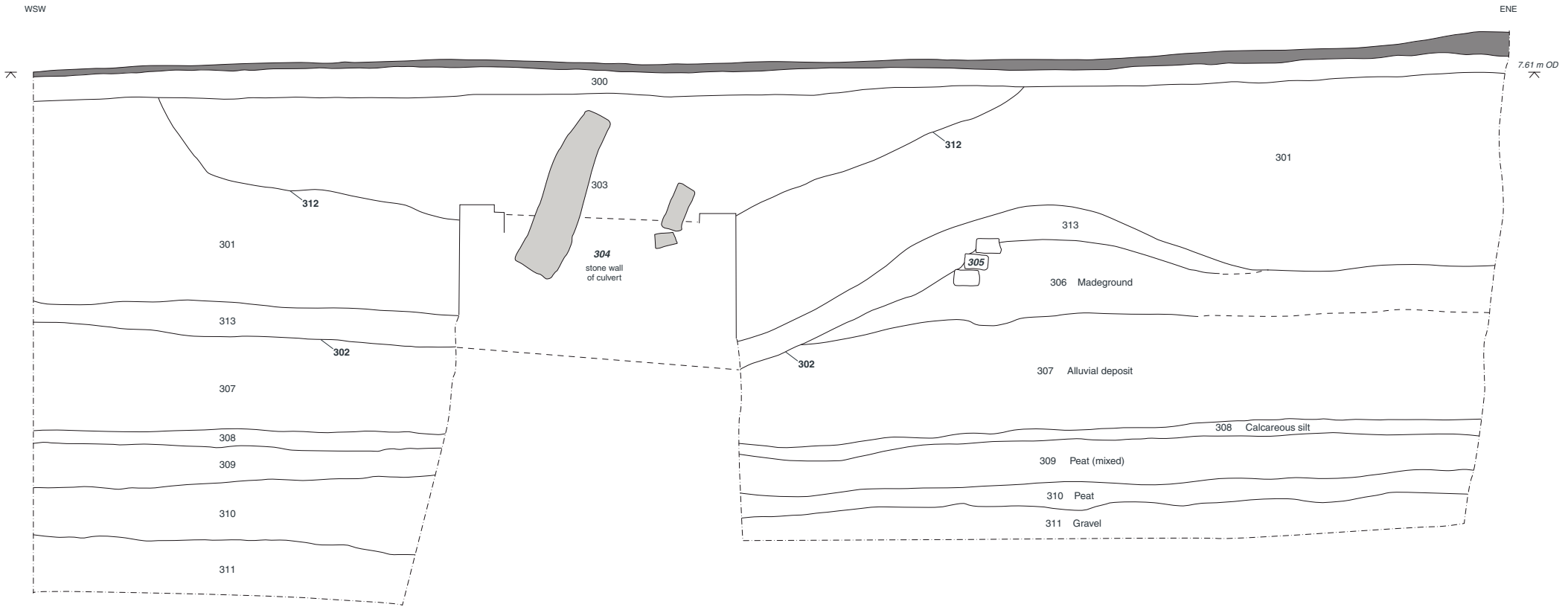


■ Tarmac



Figure 3: Trench 1 Section 1

Trench 3 Section 3



- Tarmac
- Concrete



Figure 4: Trench 3 Section 3



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*