

FFR
511/93 (OX)

36, FERNHAM ROAD,
FARINGDON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Archaeological Evaluation
36 Fernham Road, Faringdon, Oxon.

SU 28419425

Oxford Archaeological Unit
April 1992

36 Fernham Road, Faringdon, Oxon.

Archaeological Evaluation

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 36 Fernham Road, Faringdon, Oxon. (Fig. 1), during April 1992, on behalf of RK. Leatt Ltd. The evaluation was requested by the planning authority after submission of a planning application for two replacement and three new dwellings on the west side of Fernham Road (SU 28419425).

The county Sites and Monuments Record held information on Romano-British pottery (PRN 7924) immediately adjacent to the application area, but there was no record of previously known archaeology within the application area.

Faringdon is situated on Corallian Beds which are typically limestone, silt and sand.

The aim of the evaluation was to locate any significant archaeological deposits if present and to define their extent, character, date and state of preservation.

Summary

No archaeological features or deposits were located during the evaluation. Two modern pits containing modern bottles, leather, metal and willow pattern pottery were located in Trenches 1 and 4, both cut from immediately below the topsoil. Several sherds of post medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil but these were not retained. No Romano-British pottery was observed during the investigations.

Strategy

A total of seven trenches, each one 1.5m wide x 7m long, forming a 2% sample of the application area, were machine excavated down to natural deposits (Fig. 2).

All features were sampled by hand excavation.

Results

In all the trenches the topsoil, typically a mid brown sandy loam, overlay light brown/orange slightly clayey sand subsoil varying between 0.12-0.45m deep. This subsoil contained occasional sherds of modern pottery and occasional charcoal fragments. The natural was typically orange/brown sands mixed with limestone

fragments. The two modern pits are described below.

Trench 1

A modern pit (1/5) was located in trench 1. The pit was cut from below the topsoil and was 1.00m wide and 0.40m deep, containing brick, tile and willow pattern pottery, non of which was retained.

Trench 4

Another modern pit was located in trench 4. As in trench 1, the pit was cut from below the topsoil and was filled with modern bottles, glass, metal and leather. These finds were not retained.

Confidence rating of results

Although a 2% sample is not guaranteed to locate low concentrations of discrete features such as pits, postholes and burials associated with settlement sites, the overall sparsity of occupation debris from the topsoil and subsoil would indicate that the results of the evaluation are representative of the area as a whole.

The natural geology of the area was consistent between trenches and the two pits were well defined. Weather conditions were good.

Conclusion

The lack of archaeological features, deposits and topsoil artefacts suggests that the application area was not used for settlement purposes and that the area was probably not used for arable agriculture in the Roman period.

OAU
April 1992

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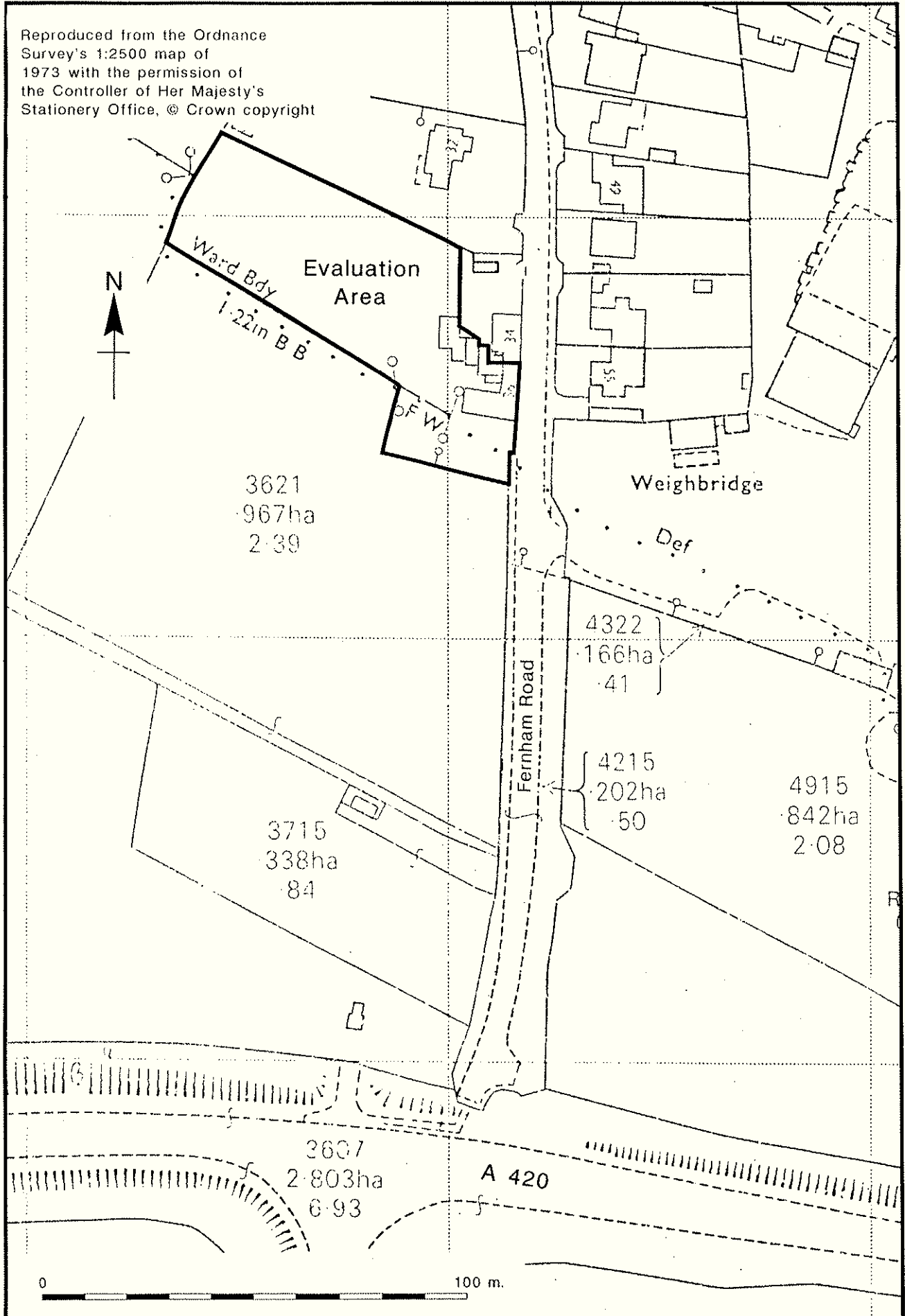
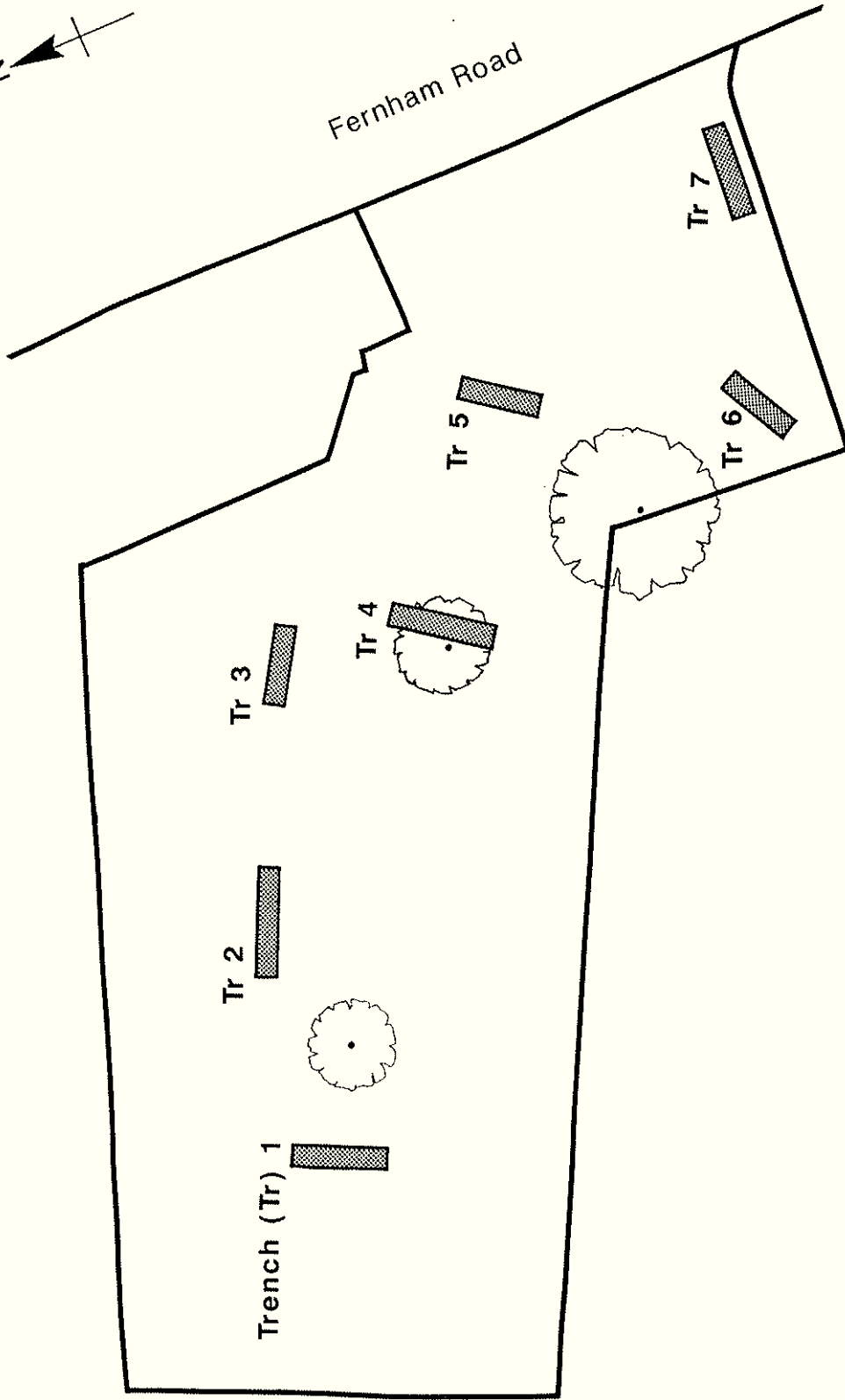


Figure 1



0 10 50 m.
SCALE 1:500

Figure 2