

Merton Meadow Hereford



Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Merton Meadow, Hereford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Gerry Thacker

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Summary

From the 10th to the 14th of June 2013 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a trial trench evaluation in and around Merton Meadow car park in Hereford. The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and consisted of five trenches. The two trenches within the southern part of the car park revealed former channels, the infilling of one dating to the mid twentieth century, the others undated. A trench adjacent to Widemarsh Street revealed the remains of several phases of late post medieval buildings respecting the street frontage, and a culverted channel of nineteenth century date. A single small undated ditch of probable recent date was revealed in one of the two trenches within the north of the car park.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 From the 10th to the 14th of June 2013 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a trial trench evaluation in and around Merton Meadow car park in Hereford (Fig.1), centered on SO 50989 40622. The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and consisted of five trenches, three measuring 20m by 1.85m and two measuring 10m by 1.85m.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 To the north of the site the geology is described as alluvium, and to the south as sands and gravels of the Devensian period (BGS, Geology of Britain Viewer). The trenches were located within the current Merton Meadow car park, with a single trench in the forecourt of an adjacent former garage (Fig. 2). The site was generally level, at around 53m aOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been discussed in a Desk Based Assessment, *Land at Merton Meadow* (CgMs 2013), *ESG Hereford link road Environmental Statement* (Parsons Brinkerhoff 2009) and *An Archaeological Characterisation of the Edgar Street Grid* (Baker 2007), and is summarised below
- 1.3.2 The site of the car park is shown as open meadow on the earliest available historic maps (1841-4), and not developed until the construction of the 1000 space car park in 1968 to service the adjacent cattle market.
- 1.3.3 The site is deemed to have the potential to include heritage assets of significance. The majority of the site is situated over the former wetland area known variously as 'Widemarsh' or 'Moorfields'. At depth peat, and other wetland deposits, of palaeoenvironmental value are preserved. Towards the southern end of the site there is a slightly raised area of ground which has some potential for the presence of remains of prehistoric date.
- 1.3.4 Along the eastern side of the site, adjacent to Widemarsh Street, there is the potential for medieval and post medieval deposits and features, in the form of street frontages and settlement plots.
- 1.3.5 At the northern end of Widemarsh Street, adjacent to the Newtown Road roundabout there are possible indications of a significant thirteenth century cemetery. The scheduled remains of the former Blackfriars Monastery are located to the south east of the site.
- 1.3.6 A previous evaluation was conducted by Archaeological Investigations in 2009. Three trenches were sited within the Merton Meadow car park (see Fig. 2). The evaluation revealed c. 0.5m of modern deposits sealing clays and peat deposits associated with former watercourses.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The evaluation was commissioned by William Bedford of CgMs Consulting, and the works monitored for Herefordshire Council by Archaeological Advisor Julian Cotton. The fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Sykes who was assisted by Tom Black, Al Zochowski



and Hannah Brown. The project was managed for OA by Gerry Thacker, who was advised by Carl Champness of the OA Geoarchaeological Department.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- (i) To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
- (iii) To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (viii) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- (ix) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of five trenches (Fig. 2) of which three measured 20m by 2m, and two measured 10m by 2m. Trench 1 was located within the forecourt of a former petrol station on Widemarsh Street. Trenches 2-5 were located around the periphery of the Merton Meadow car park.
- 2.2.2 The trenches were laid out using a GPS system accurate to 50mm.
- 2.2.3 Trench 2 was moved slightly from its original position to avoid blocking the access to the adjacent Football Club car park (see Fig 2).
- 2.2.4 Trenches were machined through the compacted gravels of the car park surface, with the exception of Trench 1, which was opened through tarmac using a breaker.
- 2.2.5 Deeper channel deposits were investigated up to a maximum depth of 2m below current ground level by machined sondage.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are discussed below, with the reliability of the work and a discussion of the results within Section 4. A table with a description and the depths and dimensions of all deposits forms the content of Appendix A. Finds reports form Appendix B, and environmental data are discussed within Appendix C. Appendix D contains a table showing the aOD (above Ordnance Datum) heights of the gravels within both the trenches from this phase of work, and those from the Archaeological Investigations evaluation of 2009.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 All trenches contained upper surfaces of modern date, either tarmac (Trench 1) or gravels (Trenches 2 – 5). These upper surfaces invariably overlay make up layers of compacted gravels. Within Trenches 2 to 5 the modern layers overlay a varying thickness of probable buried topsoil (deposits 305 and 402), or channel deposits (203, 205, 504 and 505) and these overlay natural gravels. Within Trench 1 the structures uncovered had been backfilled with a mixed deposit (101) of late post medieval date.
- 3.2.2 The trenches all remained dry throughout the evaluation works.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 The majority of the archaeological deposits and structures uncovered were associated with the former Widemarsh street frontage within Trench 1. Former channels were identified within Trenches 2 and 5 towards the south of the area investigated. A small ditch was uncovered with Trench 3, and this was noted to cut the buried topsoil.

3.4 Trench 1

Northern end (Fig 3 Plan 100, Fig. 4 Sections 101, 102, Plate 1)

- 3.4.1 Wall 108, located towards the northern end of the trench, was 'L' shaped in plan (the angle slightly over 90°) with roughly north-south and west-east aligned elements, and presumably represents the corner of a building. The wall was constructed of bricks which are likely to date from the 18th or 19th century, and had dimensions of 9" by 4.25" by 2.5". The bricks were bonded with a firm mid whitish grey mortar with frequent sand and lime inclusions. Within the angle of wall 108 a series of layers had built up after the building had gone out of use. The earliest of these (122) was a soft sandy clay which contained fragments of slate, perhaps from the building's collapsed roof. Overlying 122, layer 121 was a mortar rich deposit containing frequent small brick and tile fragments. This was in turn sealed by layer 120 an ash rich deposit which contained a clay pipe stem, pottery sherds in a variety of fabrics with a date range of 1820-1850, and an 'arrowhead' shaped bone object with copper alloy rivets (see Appendix B).
- 3.4.2 External to the angle of wall 108, a slightly narrower abutting wall (107) was orientated west-east and ran beneath the western limit of the trench. Wall 107 was also constructed of bricks (with dimensions of 9" by 4" by 2.4") and was bonded in a similar mortar to 108, but with the addition of frequent charcoal flecks.

Centre of trench (Fig 3 Plan 100, Fig. 4 Sections 100 and 101, Plates 1 and 2,)

- 3.4.3 Towards the north and centre of the trench was an arched culvert, 106, constructed of brick and orientated west-east, and would once have carried the Widemarsh Brook. Only the upper surface of the culvert was revealed, and the northern end abutted walls 107 and 108 (see above). To the south the culvert abutted stone wall 105 (see below), which may have formerly demarcated the southern edge of the channel.

Southern end (Fig. 3 Plan 100, Fig. 4 Sections 100, 101 and 102, Plates 2, 3 and 4).

- 3.4.4 Wall 105 was orientated west-east, with a return to the south at its western end, and was constructed of roughly hewn, randomly coursed limestone blocks. The wall may have demarcated a building, with the north-south element also defining the edge of the channel prior to the construction of brick culvert 106. Wall 105 was abutted by a further west-east aligned wall 103. Wall 103 was also constructed of roughly hewn sandstone blocks, randomly coursed. Towards the eastern edge of the trench the wall survived to a height of around 500mm (revealed height), but to the west of the trench it was lower, an area interpreted as a doorway.
- 3.4.5 Parallel to wall 103, and situated around 100mm to the south, was a further west-east aligned wall, 102. This wall was also constructed of roughly hewn sandstone blocks the upper two courses of which were visible. Walls 102 and 103 clearly represent different phases of building, but both were post-dated by the same deposit (113 below), and no relationship between the two structures was present at the depth to which the trench could be safely excavated. Wall 102 was constructed directly upon a layer of mid greyish brown sandy clay, 118, which contained pottery with the broad date range of 1700-1800, and overlay a further layer of silty clay, 119, which remained unexcavated. Any relationship between layer 118 and wall 103 could not be established without the removal of wall 102.
- 3.4.6 Wall 102 was abutted to the south by deposit 114, which was a compact gravel layer containing occasional very small brick fragments, and may represent the remnants of a possible floor associated with the wall. Layer 114 and wall 102 were overlain by a coal and charcoal rich sandy layer, 113.
- 3.4.7 The area of doorway within wall 103 was blocked up by the west-east running part of an 'L' shaped brick wall, 104, which also turned to the north to run parallel with the western edge of the trench where it also overlay wall 105. Up to seven courses of brick were noted, each brick measuring 9" by 4.4" by 3.75", and bonded with a light whitish grey lime mortar with charcoal fleck inclusions.
- 3.4.8 The majority of the structures within Trench 1 were sealed by a loose mid greyish brown silty clay deposit, 101 (=123), which contained pottery sherds, clay pipe stems, tile fragments, animal bone, and glass. The deposit also contained a corroded possible silver shilling of George III or IV. The finds certainly date to the 19th century or later.
- 3.4.9 Overlying, or truncating deposit 101, were a concrete slab (115), a concrete stanchion for a timber post (109 within cut 111) and small area of brick wall 110. These features of relatively recent date were sealed by crushed gravel make up layer 100, and then by the current tarmac surface.

3.5 Trench 2

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 (Fig. 3 Plan 200, Fig. 4 Section 200, Plate 5), contained two potential channel deposits, 202 to the east of the trench, an mid orange brown clay (which was not



investigated), and 203/205 to the west which was investigated by machine sondage. Both of the channels overlay the natural gravels 204.

- 3.5.2 The western channel contained two fills (Fig. 4, Section 200), the upper fill 203 which was a dark grey green deposit with a slight resemblance to peat, which overlay 205, consisting of fairly fine mid to dark grey gravels. No finds were recovered from either deposit. The interface between the two deposits was horizontal within the area of sondage. An environmental sample was taken from both the upper and lower parts of 203 (see Appendix C). Deposit 203 was overlain by car park make up layer 201, which was sealed by the compacted gravel surface 200.

3.6 Trench 3

- 3.6.1 At the base of the sequence within Trench 3 (Fig. 4, Section 300) were the natural gravels (302). These were overlain by a thin layer of mottled greenish grey clay (305), interpreted as the former topsoil from before the construction of the current car park. Layer 305 was truncated by a narrow west-east orientated ditch (303, Section 300, Fig. 4) with a concave profile, and a single peat rich fill 304, which contained no finds. Ditch 303, and layer 305 were both sealed by car park make up layer 301, which was in turn sealed by the current car park surface 300.

3.7 Trench 4

- 3.7.1 The sequence of deposits within Trench 4 was similar to that within Trench 3 above. The natural gravels (403) were sealed by layer 402, interpreted as the former topsoil. Layer 402 was sealed by make up layer (401) and car park surface (400) (see Fig. 4, Section 400).

3.8 Trench 5

- 3.8.1 Trench 5 contained a single channel 503, which truncated the natural gravels (502), and which contained two distinct fills (Fig. 4, Section 500). The channel was orientated broadly west-east, and fairly steep edged the east, and more gentle sided to the west. The lower fill was a black peat rich deposit (505), and the upper fill, 504, was a light grey clay which contained pottery with a date range of 1940 to 1960, and a sauce bottle which pre-dated the 1950's (see Appendix B).

3.9 Finds and environmental summary

Finds (Appendix B)

- 3.9.1 Finds were recovered from contexts 101, 118, 119 and 120 within Trench 1. These included pottery sherds, clay pipe fragments, pieces of roof tile and plaster, bottle glass and animal bone. Small finds consisted of a possible silver coin of George III or IV, a copper alloy brooch, and a bone object of uncertain identification.
- 3.9.2 A bottle and pottery sherds were recovered from the upper fill of the channel identified within Trench 5.

Environmental samples (Appendix C)

- 3.9.3 Environmental samples were taken from the top and base of the upper fill of the channel investigated within Trench 2 (deposit 203). The samples were analysed for the potential for the preservation of waterlogged and charred plant material.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The sequences identified within the trenches were, with the exception of Trench 1, fairly straight forward. Ground conditions were good, and the trenches remained dry throughout.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation determined the presence and or absence of archaeological remains within the locations examined, and where possible these remains were dated by means of the recovered artefacts, and their state of preservation recorded. The degree of complexity of the stratigraphy encountered was determined, and the palaeoenvironmental potential of the channel sequence examined was assessed.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The structures and deposits uncovered within Trench 1 clearly relate to the former Widemarsh Street frontage, and represent at least two buildings. The southern building (walls 102, 103 and 104) had a least three phases of development, and the northern building had two phases of construction represented by walls 108 and 107. Although the construction level of the walls could not be reached within the confines of the trench, it is likely that they are of late post medieval date. The earlier phases of building were post-dated by the culverted channel of the Widemarsh Brook which is illustrated on the maps of 1841 and 1888 (CgMs 2013).
- 4.3.2 Of the two channels investigated (within Trenches 2 and 5) within the southern part of the site, channel 503 (Trench 5) was still open in the mid twentieth century. The channel within Trench 2 remains undated, and although the potential for waterlogged plant remains was evaluated these did not survive, although charcoal did (see Appendix C).



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench contained a sequence of 4 phases of construction running E-W across southern end of trench. A brick culvert, two brick walls and three stone walls and a possible brick floor were recorded within the trench.					Avg. depth (m)		1
					Width (m)		1.85
					Length (m)		10.2
Contexts							
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date	
100	Layer	-	0.3	Modern tarmac and hardcore levelling layer	-	Modern	
101	Layer	-	0.74	Backfilling / levelling prior to tarmac.	Pot, bone, glass, metal, CBM, coin	19th century	
102	Wall	0.3	0.34	Limestone wall visible for 1.85m. E-W aligned at the southern end of the trench. Constructed from roughly hewn blocks 340 x 300 x 150mm. Two random courses visible. Light brownish red mortar with sand and lime inclusions.	-	-	
103	Wall	0.85	0.88	E-W aligned wall running visible for 1.85m in the trench. Constructed from roughly hewn limestone blocks 360 x 400 x 180mm. Survives for 5-6 courses. Mid yellow grey mortar with inclusions of sand and flecks of lime.	-	-	
104	Wall	0.5	0.56	Brick 'L' shaped wall surviving for 7 courses (stretcher). Moulded bricks with whitish grey mortar with sand, charcoal and lime flecked inclusions. Visible for 1.85m (E-W) and 3.30m (N-S).	-	-	
105	Wall	0.45	0.16	Two courses of limestone wall bonded with light whitish grey mortar with sand, charcoal and lime flecked inclusions. Roughly hewn stone constructed in random courses. The wall formed an 'L' shape within the trench and was visible for 1.75m (E-W) and 1.70m (N-S).	-	-	
106	Wall	3.55	-	Brick built culvert constructed from mid orangey red, moulded bricks (230 x 110 x 70mm).	-	-	



				English bond. Light greyish white mortar with sand, charcoal and lime inclusions.		
107	Wall	0.23	0.30	Brick wall (orangey red). Brick dimensions 230 x 100 x 60mm. Stretcher bond with light whitish grey mortar with frequent charcoal, sand and lime inclusions. Three courses visible.	-	-
108	Wall	0.80		Brick 'L' shaped wall constructed from moulded orangey red bricks bonded with whitish grey mortar with frequent charcoal, sand and lime inclusions. Stretcher bond. Visible for 1.56m N-S, 0.80m E-W.	-	-
109	Post Pad	0.40	0.40	Brick and concrete post pad.	-	Modern
110	Floor?	0.94	0.14	Brick and limestone structure. Possible part of floor associated with structure 104.	-	-
111	Cut	0.40	0.40	Square post hole cut with vertical sloping sides. Truncated structure 104.	-	Modern
112				Void		
113	Layer	0.96	0.42	Loose dark bluey black with yellowy green patches of clinker coal and charcoal. Moderate sand inclusions. Deliberate dump of industrial waste with no evidence for <i>insitu</i> burning.	-	-
114	Layer	0.50	0.20	Compact sandy gravel. Mid whitish red with grey flecking. Contains rare brick and tile fragments. Possible remains of a surface relating to wall 102.	-	-
115				Concrete slab under tarmac.	-	Modern
116				Void		
117				Void		
118	Layer	0.54	0.22	Soft mid grey brown sandy silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks, CBM fragments and poorly sorted stone. Levelling layer beneath wall 102.	Pottery, clay pipe, animal bone, glass, tile	19th century
119	Layer	-	0.54	Loose mixed mid grey brown, black, white flecks. Sandy silty clay with frequent stone fragments. Demolition deposit.	Clay pipe, tile	18th-19th century
120	Layer	0.54	0.12	Loose dark whitish grey with	Clay pipe,	Late 18th -early



				black and red flecks. Sandy silty ash with frequent charcoal and CBM flecks. Charcoal heavy dump of ashy material with some domestic debris.	pottery, worked bone, iron	19th century
121	Layer	0.54	0.08	Loose mid grey white sandy gravel with brick and tile. Occasional charcoal inclusions. Rubble dump/backfill.	-	-
122	Layer	0.54	0.18	Soft sandy silty clay. Mid grey brown with moderate CBM, stone and charcoal fragments. Backfilling inside structure 108.	-	-
123	Layer	1.02	0.22	Soft mid grey brown sandy silty clay with frequent fragments of brick, tile, slate, stone and charcoal. Identical to layer 101.	-	-

Trench 2

General description

Successive periods of levelling deposits overlying natural red gravel were observed within the trench. A sondage was excavated at the western end of the trench to a depth of 1.94m to test the natural gravel.

Orientation

E-W

Avg. depth (m)

1.70

Width (m)

1.85

Length (m)

20

Contexts

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.26	Modern hardcore consisting of sub-angular mid grey beige stones.	-	Modern
201	Layer	-	0.50	Mid grey make up deposit. Contained numerous bricks and gravel inclusions.	-	Modern
202	Layer	-	0.32	Mid brown orange levelling deposit. Present only in the eastern end of the trench.	-	-
203	Layer	-	0.44	Dark grey green desiccated peat layer. Probable fill of channel.	-	-
204	Layer	-	-	Natural red gravels.	-	-
205	Layer	-	0.60	Gravel fill of channel	-	-

Trench 3

General description

A single E-W aligned possible ditch was observed within the trench. Probably a modern feature which truncated the former topsoil horizon.

Orientation

N-S

Avg. depth (m)

0.60

Width (m)

1.85

Length (m)

20

Contexts



Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.26	Modern hardcore consisting of mid grey stones	-	Modern
301	Layer	-	0.28	Darker grey make up layer. Fewer stones than in context 300.	-	Modern
302	Layer	-	-	Natural red brown gravel with occasional red clay patches.	-	-
303	Cut	0.70	0.24	Cut of ditch.	-	-
304	Fill	0.70	0.24	Fill of 303. Firm mid dark grey black green silty clay.	-	-
305	Layer	-	0.10	Layer comprising mottled green grey clay.	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	ESE-WNW
Trench devoid of archaeological remains. Consists of modern hardcore overlying redeposited natural and subsoil.					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	20.50
Contexts						
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.30	Mid grey hardcore, with occasional lighter grey lenses.	-	Modern
401	Layer	-	0.20	Dark grey make up layer	-	Modern
402	Layer	-	0.25	Dark mid greyish brown silty clay – former topsoil.	-	-
403	Layer	-	-	Natural mid red – dark red gravels.	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 5 contained a single post medieval channel. A sondage was excavated to a depth of 1.70m in order to locate any surviving peat deposits. None were observed.					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	10
Contexts						
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.40	Modern hardcore. Coarse stone, mottled grey in	-	Modern



				colour.		
501				Void	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural. Reddish orange gravel with occasional red clay patches.	-	-
503	Cut	3.5	0.50	Cut of channel. Plan unclear, but probably linear. Gently sloping sides with concave base.	-	-
504	Fill	3.5	0.50	Fill of channel 503. Firm mottled grey brown green silty clay with occasional stones and roots.	Pot, glass	1940-1960
505	Fill	0.1	-	Lower peaty fill of 503	-	-
506	Layer	-	0.40	Make up layer. Overlain by 500.	-	Modern



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
101	54 sherds - including transfer printed wares (TPW) includes base with 'Lady of the Lake'; modern English stoneware blacking bottle 'Warren's liquid blacking'; cream wares; green and blue feather-edged pearl ware; Staffordshire combed slipware; Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware; local black ware bowls; Wedgewood basalt ware teapot; English porcelain; Sunderland lustre ware, 2286g	1830-1840
118	3 sherds - Staffordshire combed slipware; Midlands iron streaked ware; German Westerwald stoneware, 8g	1700 - 1800
120	5 sherds - bone china tea cup; pearl ware; cream ware; local earthenware; Midlands black glazed base, 195g	1820 - 1850
504	4 sherds – British Rail tea mug late WWII; residual English porcelain hanging fixture 19th c, 155g	1940 - 1960

Description/recommendations.

B.1.1 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.2 CBM and plaster

By John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
101	1 fragment pantile, 149g	18-19th c
119	1 fragment pantile, 179g	18-19th c
118	1 fragment plaster, 5g	-

Description/recommendations.

B.2.1 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.3 Clay pipe

By John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
101	1 bowl, 4 stems, 33g	Late 18th -early 19th c



118	1 bowl - 17 th c - residual, 2 stems, 8g	19 th c
119	1 stem, 6g	Late 17th -early 18th c
120	1 stem, 3g	Late 18th -early 19th c

Description/recommendations.

B.3.1 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.4 Animal bone

By Lena Strid

Context	Description
101	1 large mammal rib fragment, 3 large mammal vertebrae fragments, 1 unidentifiable fragment, 158g
118	1 large mammal vertebra fragment, 1 sheep tibia fragment, 1 calf metacarpal, 39g

Discussion/recommendations

B.4.1 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.5 Glass

By Ian R Scott

B.5.1 There are just 8 pieces of glass from 3 contexts. Context 101 produced 6 sherds of glass, context 118 a single sherd, and context 504 a complete bottle.

Context 101:

- (1) cylindrical bottle, body sherd from above the heel with faint vertical mould line. Probably moulded in a 3-piece mould. Very pale blue green metal. Mid to late 19th-century.
- (2) cylindrical wine bottle, body sherd. Possibly moulded rather than free blown. Dark green metal with some weathering. Later 18th-century or mid to late 19th-century.
- (3) neck of a free blown wine bottle, tapering with tooled finish and flat tooled string rim. Green metal heavily weathered with some lamination. Ht extant: 114mm. Mid 18th-century (1750-1770)
- (4) neck of a free blown wine bottle, short tapering with tooled finish and flat tooled string rim. Green metal with slight weathering. Possibly from a broad cylindrical bottle. Ht extant: 103mm. Mid 18th-century (1750-1770)
- (5) bulged neck from a free blown cylindrical wine bottle, with down tooled thickened rim and down tooled string rim. Dark green metal. Ht: 91mm. Late 18th- or early 19th-century.
- (6) base of broad cylindrical free blown wine bottle. Deep conical kick. Dark green metal limited light weathering. D: 107mm. Mid 18th-century.

*Context 118:*

- (7) body sherd from shoulder neck junction of a free blown wine bottle. Light green metal with iridescent weathering. 18th-century, not more closely datable.

Context 504:

- (8) complete sauce bottle. Large bottle, square section with rounded corners. Cork closure. Machine moulded. Embossed on 2 faces: 'FLAG SAUCE'. Colourless metal. Ht: 282mm; W: 70mm x 70mm. Post World War 1 to 1950. Flag Sauce was available from at least 1900 and continued to be marketed until at least the 1950s.

- B.5.2 The glass from context 101 comprises a number of large pieces from 18th-century wine bottles, including a bottle base and 3 complete necks. The sherds are not worn or abraded. They do not appear to be pieces that have been redeposited and yet they were found with a large body sherd from a moulded cylindrical bottle probably of mid to late 19th-century date. The large sauce bottle from context 504 was made in an automatic bottle machine and therefore post-dates the First World War.
- B.5.3 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.6 Small finds

By Ian R Scott

- B.6.1 There are just 4 small finds from 2 contexts.
- B.6.2 Context 101: (1) Coin, probable silver shilling, encrusted with corrosion. Part of a crown and garter visible on probable reverse. Obverse illegible. No visible inscriptions on either face. Appears to be copper alloy, but the crown and garter is found on silver shillings of the reigns of George III (new coinage 1816-20) and George IV (1820-30). The coin is the correct diameter for a shilling. D: 24mm.
- B.6.3 (2) Oval 2-piece brooch formed from thin copper alloy sheet. Back is plain with a hinge and a hook to secure the drawn wire pin. Front is stamped and slight domed with an oval cutout with a cable pattern surround. There are 6 small circular cutouts arranged around the central cutout. The brooch has a fine cable pattern edge. 39mm x 32mm. Probably late 19th or early 20th-century.
- B.6.4 Context 120: (3) Bone object of uncertain identification, comprising arrowhead shaped fragment. It is made of 2 pieces of polished bone held together by 3 cu alloy rivets. The point is flat on one face and convex on the opposite face. There is a stub of a broken stem or handle. Its function is uncertain. L: 63mm; W: 22mm. Date uncertain.
- B.6.5 (4) Strip of iron, curved in longitudinal section. No visible nail holes. L: 84mm; W: 25mm. Not closely dated.
- B.6.6 With the exception of the probable Georgian shilling, none of the finds need date earlier than the late 19th century. The purpose or function of the bone point or terminal (context 120) is unclear.

B.7 Stone

By Geraldine Crann



Context	Description
119	Two pieces of red sandstone 16mm and 19mm thick, 722g ?possible roof tile fragments

Description/recommendations

4.3.3 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Julia Meen

Introduction

- C.1.1 A suspected peat deposit, context (203), was encountered within Trench 2. The site covers a former meadow crossed by a series of palaeochannels, and the deposit was identified in a sondage through one of the suspected channel fills.
- C.1.2 Peat is formed from vegetation growing on permanently saturated ground, such as is found in areas of high rainfall and poor drainage, where decomposition of organic matter is slowed to the extent that it forms layers of partially decayed plant material known as peat. Peat is relatively stable if hydrological conditions remain unchanged at a site, and can therefore be used for the reconstruction of past environments through analysis of the preserved plant material it contains. Two samples were therefore taken from the top and bottom of the suspected peat deposit to assess their potential for organic remains.
- C.1.3 The uppermost sample <200> was a grey (5Y 5/1) clayey silt, fairly friable but with little coarse inclusion. The lower sample <201> was also grey (5Y 5/1) in colour but had a higher clay content and was more compacted. The two samples were 0.5L and 0.6L in volume respectively.

Methodology

- C.1.4 As there was potential for waterlogged remains to be present in the samples, an initial assessment was carried out of each, with the samples bucket floated onto 250µm mesh and the resultant flots inspected by eye. As no waterlogged remains were observed from either sample, the heavy residues were sieved to 500µm and both flots and residues were dried in a heated room. The residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains and the flots were scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification.

Results

Finds

- C.1.5 No finds were recovered from either of the samples.

Plant Remains

- C.1.6 Both of the samples produced very small flots, neither greater than 5ml in volume. Scanning the entirety of each flot confirmed the earlier observation that waterlogged plant remains were not present. Very small flecks of charcoal (less than 2mm in size) were present in both, but these were of too small a size to allow identification. A small number of snails were also present in both samples, identified as Elizabeth Stafford as *Trichia hispida* and *Vallonia* sp.

Discussion and Recommendations

- C.1.7 Both of these samples were very poor for the preservation of plant remains, with the few items noted being preserved as charred rather than as waterlogged material. This suggests that deposit (203) does not represent a peat deposit. The darker layer



identified during excavation may be the result of slightly increased organic inputs into an otherwise sterile channel fill.

- C.1.8 Of the molluscs present in the sample, both are terrestrial snails, with *Trichia hispida* a catholic species and *Vallonia* sp. found in open country. Their presence adds little information about the environment at the time the deposit was formed, although they do demonstrate that modern conditions are suitable for the preservation of shell. Although few organic remains were recovered in these samples, the presence of charcoal does indicate that charred remains can be preserved at the site, and it may be that further, as yet unexcavated features may contain richer deposits of this material. If further excavation is undertaken at this site in the future, standard 40L bulk samples should be taken from a range of potentially datable features across the site and all sampling should be in accordance with the most recent guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology 2005 and English Heritage 2011).

**APPENDIX D. SURFACE AND GRAVEL LEVELS OF OA AND AI TRENCHES**

Trench number	Height top of trench	Height top of gravels
OA 1	53.95m	Gravel not reached at 52.9m
OA 2	53.42m	51.92m
OA 3	53.17m	52.53m
OA 4	53.1m	52.35m
OA 5	53.06m	52.62m
AI 3	53.57m	52.77m
AI 4	52.55m	52.5m
AI 5	53.85m	Gravel not reached at 52.85m

Heights are shown as meters above ordnance datum

OA: Oxford Archaeology trenches from this evaluation (Fig. 2)

AI: Archaeological Investigations trenches from 2009 (Fig. 2)



APPENDIX E. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX F. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Merton Meadow, Hereford

Site code: HEMM 13

Grid reference: SO 50989 40622

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 10th to the 14th of June 2013

Area of site: 3.24 ha

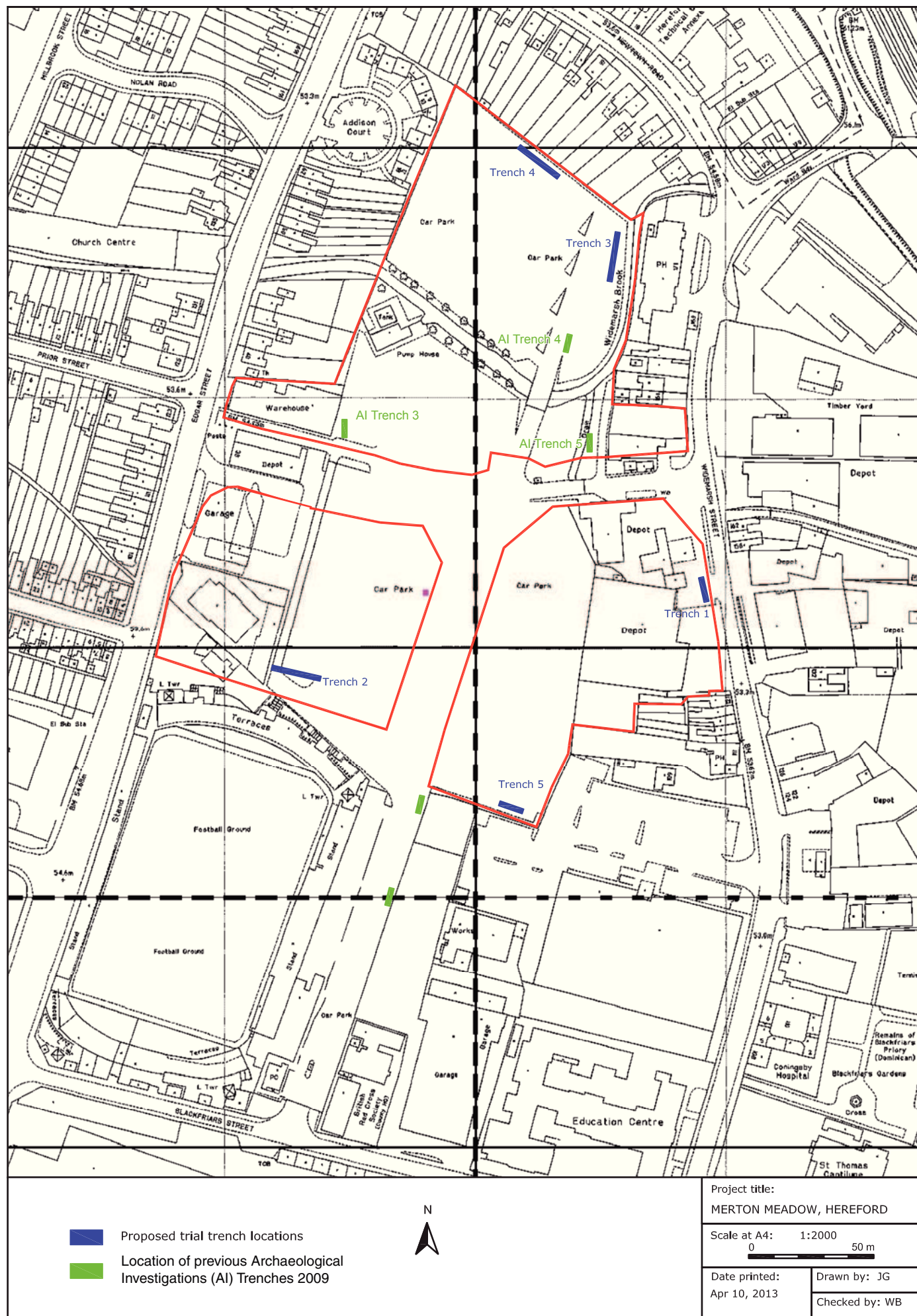
Summary of results: The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting and consisted of five trenches. The two trenches within the southern part of the car park revealed former channels, the infilling of one dating to the mid twentieth century, the others undated. A trench adjacent to Widemarsh Street revealed the remains of several phases of late post medieval buildings respecting the frontage, and a culverted channel of nineteenth century date. A single small undated ditch was revealed in one of the two trenches within the north of the car park.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Hereford Museum in due course, the accession number is yet to be confirmed.



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Figure 1: Site location



Taken from a drawing by CGMS, March 2013

Figure 2: Trench locations

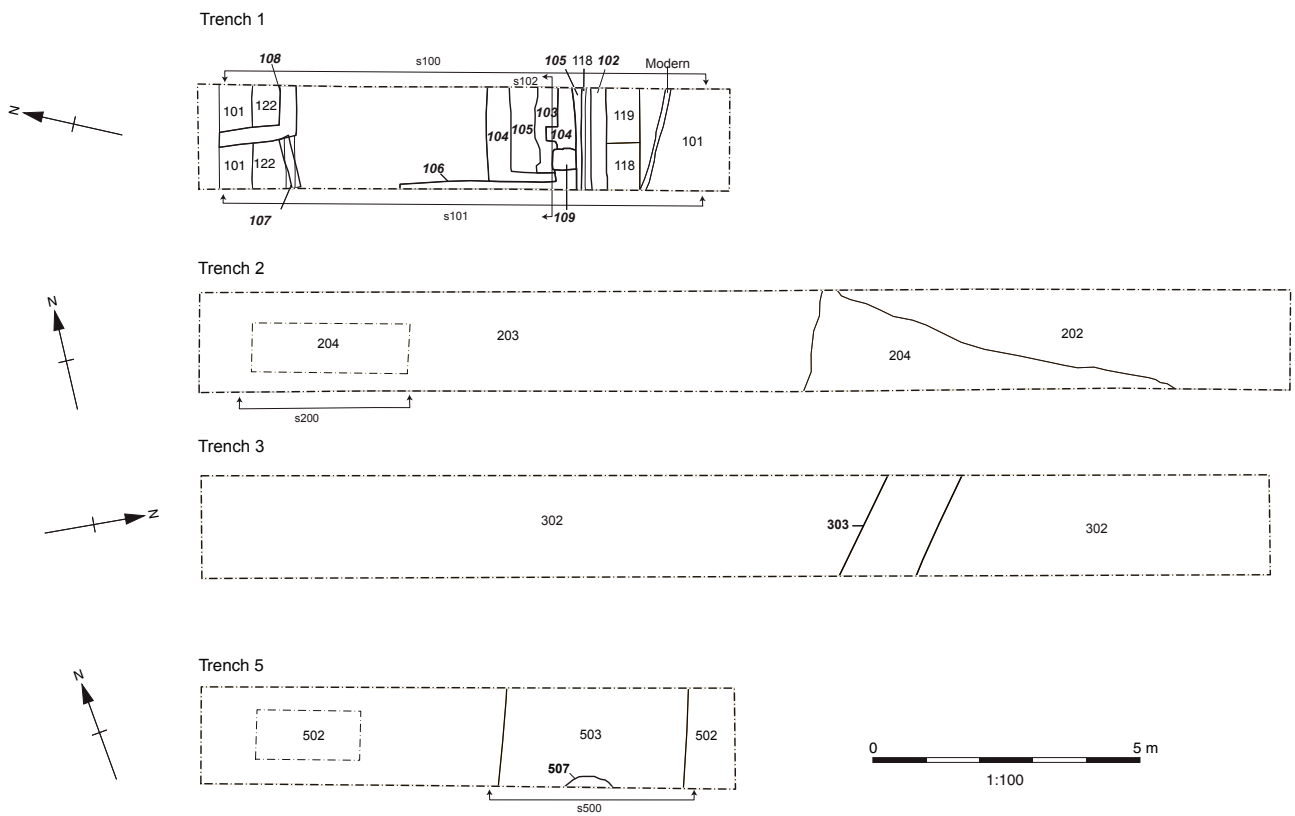


Figure 3: Trench plans

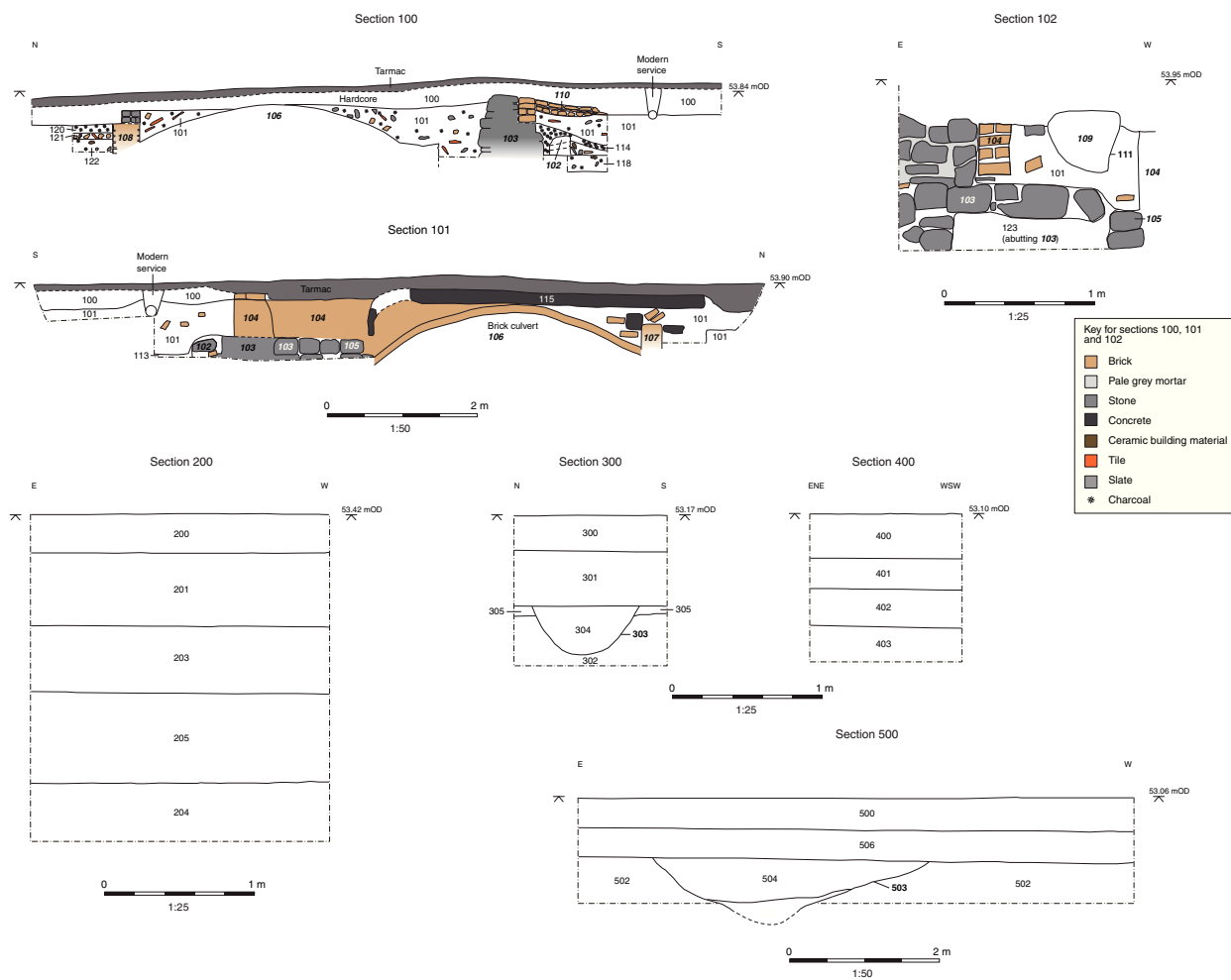


Figure 4: Sections



Plate 1: Trench 1, view to south



Plate 2: Trench 1, view to north



Plate 3, Trench 1, Section 102



Plate 4, Trench 1, Section 101 (detail)



Plate 5, General shot of Trench 2 showing sondage through channel sequence



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