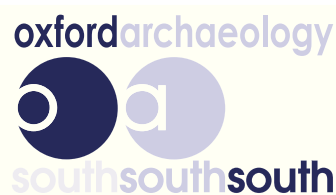


# Land West of Witney Oxfordshire



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



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## Land West of Witney, Oxfordshire

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

#### Table of Contents

<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Commission and planning background.....	4
1.2 Location, geology and topography.....	4
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	4
<b>2 Excavation Aims and Methodology.....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 General aims.....	6
2.2 Specific aims and objectives.....	7
<b>3 Project Specific Excavation and Recording Methodology.....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 Scope of works.....	7
3.2 Site methodology.....	7
<b>4 Results.....</b>	<b>8</b>
4.1 Presentation of results.....	8
4.2 Soils and ground conditions.....	8
4.3 Trench descriptions.....	8
4.4 Finds summaries.....	11
4.5 Environmental.....	11
<b>5 Discussion and Concluding Remarks.....</b>	<b>12</b>
5.1 Distribution of archaeological deposits.....	12
5.2 Archaeological interpretation and significance.....	12
5.3 Potential and development impact to the identified remains.....	13
<b>Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Appendix B. Finds Reports.....</b>	<b>20</b>
B.1 Pottery.....	20
B.2 Clay pipe.....	20
B.3 Worked flint.....	20



B.4 Other finds.....	21
<b>Appendix C. Bibliography and References.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix D. Gazetteer of Known Sites.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix E. Summary of Site Details.....</b>	<b>24</b>

## List of Figures

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench plan
Figure 3	Trench 1-3, photographs
Figure 4	Trenches 4 and 4, plan and photographs
Figure 5	Trench 7, plan and photographs
Figure 6	Trench 8, plan and photographs
Figure 7	Trenches 11 plan and Trench 9 photographs
Figure 8	Trench 10, plan and photograph



## **Summary**

*In February 2011, Oxford Archaeology South undertook an evaluation at Land West of Witney, Oxfordshire on behalf of Oxfordshire Land Ltd.*

*Eleven trenches were excavated at four separate locations which had been identified as having significant archaeological potential based on either cropmark evidence or a previous phase of geophysical survey.*

*Trenches 1-3 in Field 1 were located to investigate a large 50m diameter ring-shaped feature known from cropmark evidence, but revealed no trace of any archaeological features.*

*Trenches 4-6 in Field 2 were located over a linear feature and possible pits identified by geophysical survey. No pits were discovered but a row of possible postholes was identified close to where the linear feature was expected to be.*

*Trenches 7 and 8 in Field 3 were located over a possible small ring ditch identified in the geophysical survey. The probable cause of the anomaly is a series of natural and man-made features, although these do not form a ring as such.*

*Trenches 9-11 in Field 4 were located to investigate an area of dense geophysical disturbance located close to an area of known Roman settlement and burial activity. Features were found in all three trenches, but most of it appeared to be modern disturbance, probably associated with construction of the road. Two undated pits, two postholes and a post-medieval ditch were also discovered.*

*One potentially significant feature, a posthole in Trench 4, contained a single Iron Age pot sherd.*

*Fields 1 and 2 yielded stuck flints from the plough soil which are believed to date from the Neolithic period.*

*The results of the fieldwork indicate that there is a very low likelihood that the cropmark ring ditch features survives in any identifiable form, probably as a result of plough truncation, as the soil sequence is very shallow. The possible ringditch identified by geophysical survey does not appear to be a significant feature. The work also suggests that the Roman activity known south of the A40 does not continue into Field 4, possibly as a result of disturbance and truncation during construction of the road.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Commission and planning background

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology South (OAS) was commissioned by Oxfordshire Land Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land West of Witney, in the Parish of Curbridge. A Desk-based Assessment (DBA) had previously been produced by OAS (2002) to inform the development design. The data was updated in 2010 as part of a Cultural Heritage Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (Barton Willmore/ OA, in prep). Subsequently, OAS sub-contracted Bartlett-Clark Consultancy to undertake geophysical survey on the proposed development area (in September 2010, report November 2010). This identified several areas of potential archaeological interest and these and the locality of a known cropmark ring-ditch, were selected for targeted evaluation trenching.
- 1.1.2 Between 16th and 18th February 2011 OAS excavated eleven trenches, each 30m x 1.8m, to investigate the archaeological potential of features identified by previous surveys. This report outlines the results of the evaluation, the extent and significance of archaeological deposits identified and the likely impact of the development upon them.

### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is bordered by the A40, and the village of Curbridge to the south, by the town of Witney to the east and north, and by arable and pastoral farmland to the west. It lies within the historic parish of Curbridge, and the administrative area of West Oxfordshire District Council. This evaluation area encloses an area of 68.5ha centred upon NGR SP 331 094. The ground slopes down to the south and south-east from c. 104m OD in the north-eastern corner to c.87m OD in the south-eastern corner over a distance of approximately 1.5km.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey map shows the site to be mainly located on Middle Jurassic Cornbrash, with a small area of Forest Marble in the north-west (BGS online). On excavation the soil sequence overlying the Cornbrash was found to be very shallow (typically 0.3m).
- 1.2.3 The site has been subject to detailed magnetometer and magnetic susceptibility surveys (Bartlett, 2010). This highlighted several areas of interest and has informed the choice of trench location to a great extent. Three of the four trench groupings (trenches 4-11) were selected to test positive results from the geophysical survey (in one case in combination with previously known archaeological discoveries, a Roman settlement under, and to the south of, the A40). The fourth group of trenches (1-3) was designed to test a negative geophysical survey result – In this case the geophysics had failed to detect any trace of a 50m diameter ring-ditch known from aerial photographic evidence (OAS 2002).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological potential of the site has been previously outlined in detail in the desk-based assessment report (OAS 2002, baseline updated 2010). The following section summaries the key areas of archaeological potential.

- 1.3.1 Early prehistoric remains are very poorly represented in the near vicinity. A scatter of Neolithic and Bronze Age flints are known from around 400 meters to the north-east of the evaluation area (**OA 59**).





- 1.3.2 Potential later prehistoric remains are represented by six sites and include three which were directly targeted by this evaluation. The first of these was a circular cropmark feature (**OA 100**) some 50 metres in diameter, which had been noted in the central northern part of the Site from aerial photographs. This has been interpreted as the ploughed-out remains of a Bronze Age burial mound, although its diameter is a little large for such a feature and it is possible that some form of larger ceremonial monument is represented, such as a henge. No trace of this feature was detected during the geophysical survey, however. It was considered possible that remains of this feature could survive, in a form not susceptible to magnetometer survey.
- 1.3.3 Another circular feature apparently formed by a ring-ditch was recorded during the geophysical survey (**OA 144**), in this case having a diameter of c17m, which is more typical of Bronze Age burial mounds. To the west of the feature the geophysics suggested a possible area of pits.
- 1.3.4 Finally, the third set of features detected during the geophysical survey (**OA 141**) was located in the north-eastern part of the site. It consisted of a linear feature and a possible cluster of pits, together suggesting a possible settlement site.
- 1.3.5 Outside the site itself, but within the wider study area, a circular cropmark feature (**OA 60**), possibly the remains of a ploughed out round barrow dating from the Bronze Age, was identified from aerial photographs in the 1970s c 300 metres to the north east of the Site.
- 1.3.6 Three isolated finds spots of probable later prehistoric material have also been made within the wider study area. An evaluation carried out some 300 metres to the north-west of the Assessment Site (**OA 5**) found two pits that contained sherds of Bronze Age pottery (dating from c.2200 BC - 700 BC). Struck flints are also known from the immediate vicinity (**OA 43**) and (**OA 13**) but their date is uncertain.
- 1.3.7 There are no known Roman remains within the site itself. However the cluster of features recorded during the geophysical survey in the south-eastern part of the site (**OA 145**) may represent the north-western extent of a Roman settlement and cemetery recorded under the present course of the A40 (**OA 18**). The remains were found during a watching brief on construction of the A40 Witney by-pass at Coral Spring, some 70 metres to the south-east of the site. The watching brief found evidence for Romano-British settlement as well as a number of burials. Nineteen burials of a previously unknown cemetery were found along with ditches, pits and spreads of occupation debris. Traces of rubble and timber buildings were noted, although these had been damaged by later ploughing (Chambers, 1976, 41). The cemetery appeared to extend under a paddock to the north and was thought might possibly extend into the development (**OA 145**).
- 1.3.8 The County HER records a possible Iron Age 'Banjo' enclosure (**OA 52**) as recorded on the south-western edge of the Assessment Site from cropmarks noted on aerial photographs. These show a rectangular-shaped enclosure and entrance. However Iron Age 'Banjo' enclosures usually consist of a circular or sub-circular enclosure so this enclosure is perhaps more likely to be of Roman-British origin and possibly represent a small settlement site.
- 1.3.9 Several scatters of Roman material are known from around the edge of the evaluation area (**OA 1**), (**OA 16**), (**OA 42**) and (**OA 43**).



- 1.3.10 Anglo-Saxon coins dating between AD 700 and 729 (**OA 41**) were found in a spoilheap during construction work off Curbridge Road, Witney. Due to the nature of these finds it was not possible to place them in context and no associated deposits or features were noted in the vicinity.
- 1.3.11 It is possible that the north-eastern part of the site includes areas formerly within the Deer Park of Witney Park (**OA 8**), owned by the Bishop of Winchester and created in the mid 13th century (VCH 2004, 206). Witney Park Farmhouse (**OA 7**), located some 800 metres to the north-east, is thought to be on the site of a former lodge within Witney Park, although the OS incorrectly marks the location as a 'Bishop Palace'.
- 1.3.12 A series of fields of ridge and furrow earthworks (**OA 61**) were noted between c 350 and 980 metres to the south of the Assessment Site on aerial photographs. It is likely that those parts of the site that were cultivated in the later medieval and early part of the post-medieval period will have included the same form of earthworks, and these may survive as sub-surface features. Widespread cultivation features were certainly detected by the geophysical survey (**OA 137**). Features **OA 138**, **139** and **143** appear to represent either former field boundaries or possible plough headlands.

## 2 EXCAVATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 General aims

- 2.1.1 The evaluation aimed to establish the archaeological potential of the site. To achieve this the general objectives were:
- to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area,
  - to determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may merit detailed investigation under full area excavation,
  - to determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise,
  - to characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon significant younger (overlying) deposits where possible,
  - to determine the geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered,
  - to establish what archaeological remains/deposits maybe affected by any proposed development,
  - to make available the results of the investigation to inform the planning application and the potential for any further mitigation strategy,
  - to produce a report and full archive,
  - to disseminate the results of the investigation at a level appropriate to their importance.



## **2.2 Specific aims and objectives**

- 2.2.1 The geophysical survey identified a generally low density of potentially significant archaeology within the site, but left some questions unanswered. This preliminary phase of evaluation trenching sought to reduce the risk of late changes being required to the development masterplan as a result of significant archaeological discoveries by
- establishing the presence/absence of the the ring ditch feature (**OA 100**) known from cropmark evidence but absent from the geophysical survey,
  - establishing the presence/absence of the the ring ditch feature (**OA 144**) identified during the recent geophysical survey but absent from cropmark evidence,
  - establishing the presence/absence of a linear feature and a possible cluster of pits (**OA 141**) identified during the recent geophysical survey ,
  - establishing whether or not the Roman settlement and burial activity found under the A40 (**OA 18**) continues into the study area (possibly represented by a cluster of geophysical anomalies at **OA 145**).

## **3 PROJECT SPECIFIC EXCAVATION AND RECORDING METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Scope of works**

- 3.1.1 The evaluation comprised a small proportion of the area of proposed development impact within the site boundary. This is a preliminary phase of targeted evaluation with specific aims as outlined above (section 2.2.1). Eleven trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.8m were excavated (Fig. 2), according to a plan agreed with Hugh Coddington, Oxfordshire Deputy County Archaeological officer (who provides specialist advice to West Oxfordshire District Council).

### **3.2 Site methodology**

- 3.2.1 Prior to excavation all trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool to identify any unrecorded services. Excavation was carried out by a JCB wheeled excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was undertaken under direct archaeological supervision.
- 3.2.2 All undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon (the natural geology), in successive, level spits.
- 3.2.3 Following mechanical excavation, all areas of the trench that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Recording took place in accordance with the OA fieldwork manual (Wilkinson 1992).
- 3.2.4 Additionally, because most of the trenches were located over geophysical anomalies, it was often necessary to test variations in the natural, especially where they corresponded to those anomalies.



## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Presentation of results

- 4.1.1 The descriptions of the trenches presented below provides a detailed overview. A comprehensive listing of individual trench and associated context data can be found in Appendix A. This should be referred to for factual dimensions which are not generally included in the descriptive text.
- 4.1.2 Individual contexts have been uniquely numbered by trench starting at the 100's for trench one (e.g. The first context used for Trench 1 would be 101).
- 4.1.3 All recovered finds are recorded in the specialist reports in Appendix B. Relevant details are included in the detailed trench descriptions and summary information following the trench descriptions. Relevant dating information is also included within the Appendix A tables. No environmental soil samples were taken during the evaluation as nothing was discovered which merited sampling.

### 4.2 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.2.1 The land to be evaluated consisted of four fields, one of which had recently been planted, while the remaining three were under grass. Three of these fields had very stony topsoil (Fields 1, 2 and 4) while Field 3, under hay, was much less stony, despite having extremely thin topsoil. Visibility of features was good - The ground was partially frosted most mornings and was quite wet underfoot but dried quickly during the day. No flooding of features was encountered and what rainfall that fell during the evaluation took place at night. The trenches were excavated to the surface of the Cornbrash.

### 4.3 Trench descriptions

#### ***Field 1, trenches 1, 2 and 3 (Fig.3)***

- 4.3.1 Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were all located over the possible remains of a large ring-ditch feature (**OA 100**) known from cropmark evidence but absent on the geophysical survey plots. All three trenches had fairly thin mid-dark reddish brown silty/clay topsoil (101, 201 & 301) with very frequent limestone angular to sub-angular pebbles, cobbles and occasional boulders (up to 0.35m in length). This lay over a very patchy mid-light reddish brown silty-clay subsoil (102, 202 & 302) which in turn lay over a whiteish-yellow to pale yellowish brown silty-clay deposit with frequent limestone inclusions (Cornbrash) (103, 203 & 303). Occasional outcrops of weathered, smoothed limestone bedrock protruded in patches through the Cornbrash. The patchy subsoil areas occasionally resembled features in plan and were tested by hand excavation at several locations. In total, the topsoil and subsoil typically measured only 0.3m in depth.
- 4.3.2 No archaeology was found in any of these three trenches. Moreover, there did not appear to be any geological remains that could have been responsible for the cropmark. In trench 3, a shallow band of subsoil did run across the trench roughly where the cropmark was thought to be, but this band was very narrow (1.2m) and only about 0.05m deep.
- 4.3.3 None of the trenches here produced artefacts. However, a flint arrowhead (SF 2) was found in the field c.120m south of trench 3. It could be either a British Oblique or Hollow-Based form of late Neolithic date (Green 1980).



**Field 2, trenches 4, 5, and 6 (Fig.4)**

- 4.3.4 Trenches 4, 5 and 6 were located over a series of geophysical anomalies believed to represent a series of pits and a possible 'L'-shaped enclosure (**OA 141**). The soil sequence in this field was identical in terms of type to that identified in Field 1 but had an average depth of around 0.35m. The topsoil (401, 501 & 601) had similar quantities of limestone fragments in it, up to boulder size, and the subsoil (402, 502 & 602) was less patchy though still very thin. Unlike Field 1, no bedrock outcrops were observed protruding through the Cornbrash (403, 503 & 603)
- 4.3.5 Trench 4 appeared to contain a row of small circular features interpreted as postholes. (404, 406, 408 & 410) These ran parallel to the south-east edge of the trench and were fairly evenly spaced at around 2-2.5m, although there appeared to be a 'missing' post between 404 and 406. These features were quite small and very shallow, widening and deepening as they moved from south-west to north-east along the trench. One very worn pot sherd of probable Iron Age date was recovered from fill 407 of posthole 406 but otherwise the fills were sterile. The fills consisted of a mid-dark reddish brown silty-clay with occasional limestone inclusions. A single sherd of pottery is insufficient to reliably date a feature, so the significance of these features remains questionable.
- 4.3.6 Several struck flints were picked up from the surface of this ploughed field. These are in quite poor condition but some of them display characteristics typical of Mesolithic-Neolithic material.

**Field 3, trenches 7 and 8 (Figs.5 & 6)**

- 4.3.7 Trenches 7 and 8 were positioned to establish whether or not a possible ring ditch (**OA 144**) identified during the recent geophysical survey was archaeologically significant. Trench 7 ran from the centre of the putative ring ditch south-westwards, while trench 8 ran across the entire feature from south-east to north-west. The anomalies here were thought to represent some of the best candidates for prehistoric remains within the study area.
- 4.3.8 The soil sequence differed from Fields 1 and 2. Here, a very thin topsoil (701 & 801) of similar composition to elsewhere but with less dense limestone inclusions lay over a very patchy subsoil (702 & 802). This in turn lay over limestone bedrock with a very water smoothed/weathered upper surface (703 & 803). In total, this sequence was only 0.25m in depth.
- 4.3.9 Both these trenches had features which appeared to correspond to the geophysical anomalies. In trench 7, a cut was identified (704) running north-west to south-east across the trench. Feature 704 displayed a series of two or three vertical steps in the bedrock defining a 1.75m wide and 0.25m deep flat-bottomed cut. However the cut appeared to turn back on itself slightly suggesting a discrete rather than a curvilinear feature. The exposed edges of the limestone within and at the edge of the cut appeared to be very fresh and almost completely unaffected by weathering suggesting that the feature may not be very old. The fill (705) was quite similar to the subsoil in the area but was far more stone-rich. It consisted of a mid-light reddish brown silty-clay with around 40% limestone inclusions (angular to sub-angular in form and ranging up to 0.4m in maximum length). The fill contained no finds.
- 4.3.10 Trench 8 contained two possible features (804 & 806) which corresponded roughly to the geophysical anomalies though they were only 13m apart rather than the 17m suggested by the magnetometer survey results. Both were investigated and revealed very shallow hollows in the limestone, essentially filled with subsoil (805 & 807) and



with the same water smoothed/weathered upper surface to the limestone as was seen in the remainder of the trench. Modern finds of china and an iron strip with rivets were recovered from the fill (805) of 804, but given the extreme shallowness of the soil, it is quite probable that these may have been worked downwards through plough action until they reached bedrock. The fills were identical to the subsoil here and it is believed that both these features may be natural hollows in the surface of the bedrock.

***Field 4, trenches 9, 10 and 11 (Fig.8)***

- 4.3.11 Trenches 9, 10 and 11 were located in an area of dense geophysical anomalies (**OA 145**), probably related to modern disturbance but potentially indicating Roman settlement and burial activity, which has previously been recorded below and south of the A40, immediately south of Field 4 (**OA 18**).
- 4.3.12 Here the soil sequence measured around 0.45m in depth and consisted of a very limestone rich dark reddish brown silty-clay topsoil (901, 1003 & 1101) over an intermittent light yellowish to reddish brown silty-clay subsoil (902, 1013 & 1102). This lay over weathered limestone bedrock (904 & 1010) with a matrix of mid-light yellowish brown sandy clay with frequent limestone inclusions (1110).
- 4.3.13 Trench 9 revealed a modern pit (905) filled with a dark silty clay deposit containing metal, glass, brick and breeze-blocks (904), most likely dating to the construction of the A40. In places, patches of pea-grit (903) lay over the bedrock and may also represent up-cast material deriving from construction of the road.
- 4.3.14 At the far north-west end of the trench a broad deep cut (907) was present, filled with a light yellowish-brown sandy-clay (908) overlying a pale greenish blue clay (909) with several very thin, flat, sand and gravel lenses indicative of water-borne material. This feature could be a quarry pit or similar that has been left to fill up naturally, with occasional heavy rains accounting for the gravel lenses. This feature was not bottomed and was at least 2.8m wide and over 1m deep.
- 4.3.15 Animal bone and a single sherd of worn late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recovered from subsoil layer 902 in trench 9.
- 4.3.16 Trench 10 contained several archaeological features including two pits (1002 & 1006), a ditch (1004) and two rubble filled field drains (1008 & 1012). Pit 1002 continued beyond the north-east end of the trench and could equally be interpreted as the terminal of a linear feature. It was filled with a dark brown clayey-silt (1001) containing numerous limestone inclusions which produced no finds. Pit 1006 was not excavated as it appeared to represent a modern quarry pit or similar. It was filled with a very stony mid-dark reddish brown silty clay (1007). The upper surface of this pit was examined for finds but none were found.
- 4.3.17 A narrow ditch (1004) was also identified in trench 10, running east-west across the trench on a different alignment to the present boundaries of Field 4. This feature had a slightly irregular 'V' shaped profile and was cut into bedrock. It was filled with a mid reddish brown silty-clay (1005) that contained a small loop or attachment of copper alloy (SF1) of probable post-medieval or modern date.
- 4.3.18 Trench 11 was the most heavily disturbed trench in Field 4 with the southern 70% of the trench disturbed by modern features. These comprised a large pit containing bitumen (1103), two modern services, a possible terrace cut (1108) and road-building fill (1109).





- 4.3.19 The northern third of the trench was untouched by this disturbance and contained two undated postholes (1104 & 1106). They were filled with a dark greyish brown silty clay (1103 & 1105) with moderate limestone inclusions.

#### **4.4 Finds summaries**

- 4.4.1 There were very few finds recovered from these trenches. A single worn sherd of probable Iron Age date was found in a possible posthole in trench 4, and a single late Iron Age to early Roman sherd was recovered from a subsoil layer in trench 9.
- 4.4.2 The only other significant artefacts were recovered by opportunistic collection of artefacts from the field surfaces. Field 2 produced by far the most material and this was almost certainly due to it having been ploughed at the time of the evaluation. A stray find of a late Neolithic arrowhead was also recovered from Field 1.

##### ***Pottery***

- 4.4.3 Only four pot sherds were recovered from the project with single examples from contexts 401, 407, 805 and 902. Two are of probable very late prehistoric date and the other two are post-medieval or later.

##### ***Clay pipe***

- 4.4.4 Three pieces of clay pipe were recovered from the topsoil (401) in field 2, near trenches 4 to 6.

##### ***Worked flint***

- 4.4.5 Fourteen pieces of struck flint were recovered from two contexts, 101 and 401, both topsoil. Thirteen pieces were recovered from around trenches 4, 5 and 6, included a core, a scraper a broken tool and a blade. A single arrowhead was recovered from the topsoil in Field 1, near trench 3.

##### ***Animal Bone***

- 4.4.6 A single piece of animal bone was recovered from a subsoil filled hollow in trench 9 (902).

##### ***Metal***

- 4.4.7 A tiny copper loop or attachment was recovered from a ditch fill in trench 10 (1005), and a strip of iron was recovered from context 805. Both are probably post-medieval or modern.

#### **4.5 Environmental**

- 4.5.1 No samples were taken during this project. None of the contexts investigated showed any indication that the contained either charcoal or charred plant remains, nor were there any significant ditch sections to sample by increments for snails or pollen.



## 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

### 5.1 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 5.1.1 The archaeology identified was sparsely distributed across the evaluation area with features identified in three of the four fields (2-4). These corresponded directly to geophysical anomalies, while the fourth area (Field 1) which tested a site known from cropmark evidence against negative geophysical results, confirmed that no archaeology was present.

### 5.2 Archaeological interpretation and significance

- 5.2.1 The lack of any observable archaeological remains in trenches 1-3, Field 1 was perhaps to be expected. The cropmark (**OA 100**) had only been visible on one of four flyovers undertaken for the 1970s cropmark survey, and did not show up on the geophysical survey in 2010.
- 5.2.2 Evaluation trenches excavated and backfilled in rapid succession can sometimes miss archaeological features which only emerge after a period of weathering. However the Cornbrash bedrock makes that unlikely in this case – Given the very shallow soil sequence it seems probable that the feature that created the cropmark has been completely truncated by weathering and ploughing since the 1970s. One piece of evidence that a prehistoric monument may once have stood there is the recovery of a rare form of late Neolithic arrowhead from the topsoil. This type of arrowhead is often associated with Grooved Ware assemblages and ceremonial/burial sites.
- 5.2.3 Field 2 also produced results of limited significance. No sign of the predicted linear feature or possible pits was discovered (**OA 141**). However, a possible posthole row did appear to be in alignment with the linear feature expected in trench 4. These features have been very tentatively dated as late Iron Age to early Roman based on the single sherd of pottery recovered. This field also yielded several struck flints from the plough soil, including tools and a core believed to date to the Neolithic or early Bronze age.
- 5.2.4 Field 3 contained perhaps the most convincing geophysical anomalies (**OA 144**). Here two trenches placed directly over a possible ring-ditch found features that appear to broadly match the geophysical anomalies. However, in only one instance, in trench 7, was the feature identified believed to be of human origin and appears to be quite modern. The remaining two features in trench 8 have the irregular appearance of natural hollows. It is possible that the geophysical survey in Field 3 detected a group of unrelated natural and man-made features and these have been over-interpreted to form a ring shape. The freshness of the cut into the limestone, in trench 7, suggests that feature 704 may be of relatively recent date.
- 5.2.5 Field 4 produced significant number of features, as was expected from the geophysical survey (**OA 145**). However, most of these were clearly modern and it has been suggested that they relate to the construction of the A40, which runs through a cutting immediately south of this field. Nothing on the scale of the Roman settlement and burials known from below and south of the A40 (**OA 18**) was encountered and the majority of the finds retrieved were post-medieval, although one late Iron Age to early Roman pot sherd was found in a subsoil layer.





### **5.3 Potential and development impact to the identified remains**

- 5.3.1 In summary, the archaeological remains located within this evaluation appear to be of limited significance. There is little reason to doubt the former existence of the cropmark ring-ditch (OA 100) in the 1970s. However the recent geophysical survey and trial trenching results both suggest that no significant trace of this feature now survives. The geophysical survey anomalies investigated by trenching have proved to be of doubtful significance, although the posthole row in trench 9 may justify further investigation.
- 5.3.2 None of the features identified would justify changes to the development Masterplan. As this limited trench investigation has investigated the most likely archaeological features within the site, the overall potential of the site to produce further discoveries must be considered low, especially considering the very shallow soil sequence and evidence for active erosion by ploughing and weathering.
- 5.3.3 The development masterplan, which is currently in process of finalisation, is the subject of a separate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIA will include consideration of the potential impacts of the development on archaeological features, taking into consideration the results of this trench investigation.



## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	ENE-WSW
Trench 1 Did not reveal any archaeological remains. Moreover, there was no obvious geological feature corresponding to the known cropmark.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer		0.15	Topsoil, dark reddish brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	Flint	
102	Layer		0.15	Subsoil, mid-light reddish-brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions	no	
103	Layer		?	Cornbrash, mid-light yellowish brown sandy-clay frequent limestone inclusions	no	

Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NNW-SSE
Trench 2 Did not reveal any archaeological remains. Moreover, there was no obvious geological feature corresponding to the known cropmark.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.3
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.6
					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
201	Layer		0.25	Topsoil, dark reddish brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	no	
202	Layer		0.05	Subsoil, mid-light reddish-brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions	no	
203	Layer		?	Cornbrash, mid-light yellowish brown sandy-clay frequent limestone inclusions	no	



Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench 3 Did not reveal any archaeological remains. One band of subsoil running across the trench may have been responsible for the cropmark known from here					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
301	Layer		0.25	Topsoil, dark reddish brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	no	
302	Layer		0.05	Subsoil, mid-light reddish-brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions	no	
303	Layer		?	Cornbrash, mid-light yellowish brown sandy-clay frequent limestone inclusions, limestone bedrock outcrop at southern end	no	

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 4 was positioned within an area of geophysical anomalies that were thought to represent pits. None were found, however a row of postholes was tentatively identified.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
401	Layer		0.22	Topsoil, dark brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	Pot, etc	Frechen stoneware, post-medieval
402	Layer		0.08	Subsoil, mid-light reddish-brown gravel-silty-clay	no	
403	Layer		?	Cornbrash, mid-light whiteish-yellow silty-clay frequent limestone inclusions	no	
404	Cut	0.24	0.03	Circular posthole cut	-	LIA-E Roman?
405	Fill	0.24	0.03	Mid-dark reddish brown silty-clay, fill of 404	no	LIA-E Roman?
406	Cut	0.28	0.05	Circular posthole cut	-	LIA-E Roman?
407	Fill	0.28	0.05	Mid-dark reddish brown silty-clay, fill of 406	pot	LIA-E Roman?
408	Cut	0.3	0.06	Circular posthole cut	-	LIA-E Roman?
409	Fill	0.3	0.06	Mid-dark reddish brown silty-clay, fill of 408	no	LIA-E Roman?
410	Cut	0.32	0.08	Circular posthole cut	-	LIA-E Roman?
411	Fill	0.32	0.08	Mid-dark reddish brown silty-clay, fill of 410	no	LIA-E Roman?



Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 5 did not reveal any archaeological remains, nor did any geological features correspond to the geophysical results					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
501	Layer		0.3	Topsoil, dark brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	no	
502	Layer		0.05	Subsoil, mid-light reddish-brown gravel-silty-clay	no	
503	Layer		?	Cornbrash, mid-light whiteish-yellow silty-clay frequent limestone inclusions, outcrops of limestone bedrock in places	no	

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 6 did not reveal any archaeological remains, nor did any geological features correspond to the geophysical results					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
601	Layer		0.28	Topsoil, dark reddish brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	no	
602	Layer		0.07	Subsoil, mid-light reddish-brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions	no	
603	Layer		?	Cornbrash, mid-light yellowish brown sandy-clay frequent limestone inclusions	no	



Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 7 was located over the best geophysical results obtained during the survey which had indicated a probable ring-ditch. A cut was identified that corresponded to the location of the anomaly, however, the limestone is not weathered or worn and it is likely that this feature is quite recent in date					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
701	Layer		0.2	Topsoil, dark reddish brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	no	
702	Layer		0.05	Subsoil, mid-light reddish-brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions	no	
703	Layer		?	Limestone bedrock	no	Geological
704	Cut	1.75	0.25	Straight sided, slightly curving cut through the limestone bedrock, flat bottomed	-	
705	Fill	1.75	0.25	Mid-light reddish brown silty-clay fill, with frequent limestone inclusions, fill of 704	no	

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 8 was located over the best geophysical results obtained during the survey which had indicated a probable ring-ditch. Two bands of subsoil or infilled natural hollows were located at the two points where the ring ditch was expected. These appeared to be natural in origin with worn, weathered limestone and some modern finds which had been worked down into them					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
801	Layer		0.25	Topsoil, dark reddish brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	no	
802	Layer		0.05	Subsoil, mid-light reddish-brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions	no	
803	Layer		?	Limestone bedrock	no	Geological
804	Cut?	2.6	0.15	Natural hollow cut	-	Modern?
805	Fill?	2.6	0.15	Mid-light reddish-brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions, fill of 804	Iron, china	18th-19 <sup>th</sup> century Midlands yellow ware
806	Cut?	1.5	0.05	Natural hollow cut	-	
807	Fill?	1.5	0.05	Mid-light reddish-brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions, fill of 806	no	



Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 9 was situated in an area of dense geophysical anomalies believed to most likely represent modern disturbance but was very close to an area of dense Roman archaeology. The only archaeological feature was a modern pit, however, a possible quarry pit was identified here as well					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
901	Layer		0.15	Topsoil, dark reddish brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	no	
902	Layer		0.3	Subsoil, mid-light yellowish to reddish-brown gravely-clay	Pot	LIA/Roman
903	Layer		0.05	Very patchy pea-gravel lenses in hollows over the bedrock	no	
904	Layer		?	Limestone bedrock	no	Geological
905	Cut	1.8	0.5	Cut of modern sub-square pit	-	Modern
906	Fill	1.8	0.5	Fill of 905, contains brick, breeze-block, glass, metal and tile.	yes	Modern
907	Cut	2.8	?	Probable paleochannel cut, steeply sided, not bottomed	-	
908	Fill	2.8	0.4	Light yellow brown silty-clay, fill of 907	no	
909	Fill	2.8	?	Pale greenish-blue clay with several thin, flat gravely-sand lenses, fill of 907	no	

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 10 was situated in an area of dense geophysical anomalies believed to most likely represent modern disturbance but was very close to an area of dense Roman archaeology. A ditch and two pits were identified.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1001	Fill	1.5	0.2	Dark clayey-silt with frequent limestone inclusions, fill of 1002	no	
1002	Cut	1.5	0.2	Cut of shallow stepped, bowl shaped pit or ditch terminus (extends beyond trench)	-	
1003	Layer		0.35	Topsoil, dark reddish brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	no	



1004	Cut	0.5	0.2	Cut of E-W running broadly 'V'-shaped ditch	-	Post-Med?
1005	Fill	0.5	0.2	Mid reddish-brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions and single piece of copper, fill of 1005	copper	Post-Med?
1006	Cut	4	?	Cut of large circular quarry pit, not excavated	-	
1007	Fill	4	?	Mid-dark reddish brown silty-clay with very frequent limestone inclusions, fill of 1006	no	
1008	Cut	0.5	?	Cut of rubble filled drain	-	Post-Med
1009	Fill	0.5	?	Rubble fill of drain 1008	no	Post-Med
1010	Layer		?	Limestone bedrock	no	Geological
1011	Fill	0.5	?	Rubble fill of drain 1012	no	Post-Med
1012	Cut	0.5	?	Cut of rubble filled drain	-	Post-Med
1013	Layer		0.1	Subsoil, mid-light reddish-brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions		

### Trench 11

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 11 was situated in an area of dense geophysical anomalies believed to most likely represent modern disturbance but was very close to an area of dense Roman archaeology. Two postholes were identified but much of this trench was heavily disturbed with modern activity including two service trenches					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1101	Layer		0.25	Topsoil, dark reddish brown silty-clay with frequent limestone inclusions	no	
1102	Layer		0.15	Subsoil, mid-light reddish-brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions	no	
1103	Fill	0.45	0.16	Dark greyish brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions, fill of 1104	no	
1104	Cut	0.45	0.16	Sub-oval irregular, 'V'-shaped cut	-	
1105	Fill	0.28	0.16	Dark greyish brown silty-clay with moderate limestone inclusions, fill of 1104	no	
1106	Cut	0.28	0.16	Circular, rounded 'U'-shaped cut	-	
1107	Fill	2.7	1	Dark brown silty-clay with bitumen, fill of 1108	yes	Modern
1108	Cut	2.7	1	Cut of sub-square modern pit	-	Modern
1109	Deposit		?	Area of dense root disturbance associated with modern material	yes	Modern
1110	Layer		?	Cornbrash, mid-light yellowish brown sandy-clay frequent limestone inclusions	no	
1111	Cut?		?	Cut of probable modern activity, possibly	-	Modern



				terracing during A40 construction		
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## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Pottery

*By John Cotter and Dan Stansbie*

- B.1.1 A total of 4 sherds of pottery weighing just 17 g were recovered from four contexts. Two prehistoric sherds weight 8g while the two post medieval sherds weighed 10g.
- B.1.2 Two sherds of prehistoric pottery recovered from Trench 4, posthole fill 407 and trench 9, subsoil 902 are both small and very abraded. They are both reduced sand tempered ware and are likely to be of late Iron Age to early Roman date.
- B.1.3 There were two sherds of post-medieval pot recovered from the topsoil (401) in Field 2 and from within a natural hollow (805) in trench 8. The first is a sherd of German Frechen Stoneware dating to 1550-1750 while the second is a rim sherd of Midlands Yellow Ware piece dating to 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
407	LIA/E Roman	1	1	Very small and worn
902	LIA/E Roman	1	7	Small and worn
401	1550-1750	1	9	German Frechen Ware
805	18C-19C	1	1	Rim sherd Midlands Yellow Ware
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	

### B.2 Clay pipe

*by John Cotter*

- B.2.1 The clay pipe assemblage comprises 3 fragments (9g) from the topsoil in field 2 (401). All three represent stem fragments but one also includes the spur. The latter has traces of the makers mark on one side and the an illegible surname on the other. All probably date to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### B.3 Worked flint

*By Michael Donnelly*

- B.3.1 Fourteen pieces of worked flint weighing 55g were recovered from two contexts, all except one of the pieces originating from the plough soil in Field 2 (401). A single fine arrowhead was recovered from the topsoil in field 1 (101). All are in quite poor condition and are rolled, plough-struck and heavily corticated.





- B.3.2 The 13 pieces from Field 2 included a well-worked multi-platform flake core (26g) core, a double side scraper, a blade, a broken flake tool and several pieces of flake debitage and chips. Much of the assemblage shows limited evidence of platform preparation and several of the pieces exhibit evidence of careful reduction strategy in the negative removal scars. The scraper possibly utilised a remnant platform at its distal end has a naturally backed portion, making the piece in effect a horseshoe style – i.e., both sides and end scraper.
- B.3.3 The single flint from Field 1 represents either a British Oblique arrowhead with slightly broken tip to its asymmetrical barb, or a Hollow-based arrowhead (Green 1980). In either case the piece is almost certainly of late Neolithic date and constitutes quite a rare find.
- B.3.4 Overall the assemblage is small, unstratified and worn but does display evidence of Neolithic knapping and it is likely that the bulk of the material present dates to the late Neolithic-early Bronze Age, possibly with a limited early Neolithic presence as evidenced by the blade recovered.

## B.4 Other finds

*By Paul Booth and Lena Strid*

- B.4.1 A single copper fitting from ditch fill 1005 in trench 10, and an iron strap from subsoil hollow 805 in trench 8, weighed 1g and 22g respectively. Both pieces are believed to be post-medieval to modern in date.
- B.4.2 A single piece of animal bone weighing 26g (now broken) was recovered from subsoil layer 902 in trench 9. It represents a fragment of the pelvis from an adult pig (*S. scrofa domestica*).

## APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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Wilkinson, D (ed.), 1992 *Fieldwork Manual*, OAU unpublished report



## APPENDIX D. GAZETTEER OF KNOWN SITES

<i>OA Number</i>	<i>Feature Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>NMR/HER Ref</i>
OA 18	Archaeological event	Coral Springs. Excavation conducted by OA in mid 1980s. Evidence for Roman settlement and burials found.	NMR:655482 HER:8880
OA 100	Cropmark	Cropmarks of a circle visible on air photograph. Ring-ditch can be seen, but it is possibly too large to have been a barrow, maybe an enclosure. The diameter is 50m+. Not detected during the geophysical survey of 2010.	NMR:334485 HER8204 GS
OA 101	Archaeological Site	Former location of old quarry near Curbridge. Found to be in-filled when site visited in 1976.	HER:4576
OA 102	Historical Site	Former route of Down Road. A section of tarmac road complete with road markings is still visible in Plot 19 in the south west corner of the Site.	WS
OA 103	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned NNE - SSW, located in far NE corner of Site.	OA 2002 a
OA 104	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned NW - SE.	OA 2002 a
OA 105	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aigned WNW - ESE, then doglegs to NW- SE.	OA 2002 a
OA 106	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned NW - SE.	OA 2002 a
OA 107	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned SW - NE, forms north western edge of the green lane that crosses the southern third of the Site as far as the junction with OA 105.	OA 2002 a
OA 108	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned SW-NE, forms the south eastern edge of the green lane that crosses the southern third of the Site as far as the junction with OA 106.	OA 2002 a
OA 109	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown around 1822. Aligned NW- SE in SW corner of Site.	OA 2002 a
OA 110	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown around 1822. Aligned north - south at southern end of Site.	OA 2002 a
OA 111	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown around 1822. Aligned SW - NE, located in far NE corner of Site.	OA 2002 a
OA 112	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown around 1822. Aligned NW - SE, located in far NE corner of Site.	OA 2002 a
OA 113	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown around 1822. Forms NW boundary of Site from NE corner down to junction with OA 121.	OA 2002 a
OA 114	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown around 1822. Forms NW boundary of Site between green lane and junction with OA 124.	OA 2002 a
OA 115	Historic hedgerow	Furlong boundary, first shown around 1822. Located in SE corner of Site.	OA 2002 a
OA 116	Historic hedgerow	Furlong boundary, first shown around 1822. Short boundary close to southern edge of Site.	OA 2002 a
OA 117	Historic hedgerow	Furlong boundary, first shown around 1822. Boundary in SW corner of Site.	OA 2002 a
OA 118	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown around 1822. Located in SW corner of Site, south of green lane.	OA 2002 a
OA 119	Historic hedgerow	Furlong boundary, first shown around 1822. NW edge of green lane.	OA 2002 a
OA 120	Historic hedgerow	Furlong boundary, first shown around 1822. SE edge of green lane.	OA 2002 a
OA 121	Historic hedgerow	Boundary first shown in 1662. Located in NE corner of Site.	OA 2002 a



Land West of Witney, Oxfordshire

<b>OA 122</b>	Historic hedgerow	Boundary first shown in 1662. Aligned NNW - SSE, runs from OA 121 to green lane.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 123</b>	Historic hedgerow	Boundary first shown in 1662. Aligned NNW - SSE, runs from green lane to junction with OA 117.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 124</b>	Historic hedgerow	Boundary first shown in 1662. Aligned SW - NE, located in SE corner of Site.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 125</b>	Historic hedgerow	Boundary first shown in 1662. Aligned SW- NE. Forms boundary of Site with Curbridge Road.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 126</b>	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned NNE - SSW, NE corner of Site.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 127</b>	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned NNE - SSW, NE edge of Site.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 128</b>	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned NNE - SSW. NE edge of Site.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 129</b>	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned NNE - SSW, then doglegs to NNW - SSE. SW corner of Site.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 130</b>	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown around 1822. Forms NW boundary of Site between junction with OA 121 and NW edge of green lane.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 131</b>	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown around 1822. Forms NW boundary of Site between green lane and SE corner of Site.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 132</b>	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned SW - NE, forms north western edge of the green lane that crosses the southern third of the Site between the junction with OA 105 and the junction with OA 132.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 133</b>	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned SW-NE, forms the south eastern edge of the green lane that crosses the southern third of the Site as far as the junction with OA 106.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 134</b>	Historic hedgerow	Boundary first shown in 1662. Aligned NNW - SSE, runs from junction with OA 117 to junction with modern field boundary.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 135</b>	Historic hedgerow	Boundary first shown in 1662. Aligned NNW - SSE, runs from modern field boundary to junction with OA 116 and OA 124.	OA 2002 a
<b>OA 136</b>	Historic hedgerow	Hedgerow, first shown on the 1840 parish tithe map. Aligned SW - NE, located on SE edge of Site, NW edge of Curbridge. Shields OA 30 from view of Site.	WS
<b>OA 141</b>	Geophysical anomaly	A cluster of possible pits and a linear feature, possibly a ditched enclosure. Possible settlement site	GS
<b>OA 144</b>	Geophysical anomaly	Ring-ditch with a diameter of c 17m. Possible pits noted to north and south.	GS
<b>OA 145</b>	Geophysical anomaly	Pit-like anomalies in SE corner of field, opposite Roman settlement and cemetery (OA 18)	GS OA 1998



## APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

<b>Site name:</b>	Land west of Witney, Curbridge, Oxfordshire
<b>Site code:</b>	WITWST 10
<b>Grid reference:</b>	SP 331 094
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	16th to 18th February 2011
<b>Area of site:</b>	528 sq.m in 11 trenches (limited targeted trench investigation, 68.5 ha (overall development area)

### Summary of results:

In February 2011, Oxford Archaeology South undertook an evaluation at Land west of Witney, Oxfordshire, on behalf of Oxfordshire Land Ltd.

Eleven trenches in four Fields were excavated in order to test cropmark and geophysical results and archaeological features were identified in trenches 4, 7, 9, 10 and 11. Additionally, trenches 3 and 8 contained geological features which may account for the geophysical anomalies recorded there. The archaeology identified was in very poor state of preservation. Potentially significant features include of a row of probable postholes in trench 4, associated with a single worn sherd of Iron Age pottery. Trench 7 contained an undated but recent looking stepped cut into the limestone, either a ditch or pit. Trench 9 had a probable paleochannel and a modern pit. Trench 10 contained a small pit, a quarry pit and a narrow ditch with a piece of post-medieval copper, and trench 11 contained two postholes along with much modern disturbance. In addition, struck flint, including Neolithic material was recovered from the topsoil in Fields 1 and 2 (trenches 1-3 and 4-6).

Overall, the correlation between geophysical results and archaeological/geological evidence was good. The anomalies in Field 2 provided the poorest results but the posthole row may justify further investigation. Field 3 (trenches 7-8) contained two stretches of natural hollow and a cut feature which corresponded very well with the proposed anomalies. Field 4 (trenches 9-11) had a dense area of disturbance indicated by the geophysics and this was certainly the case even although much of it was modern in date.

The result of the fieldwork indicates that there is little likelihood of encountering substantial ceremonial or burial archaeology with the development area and it has also shown that the Roman settlement previously investigated under and south of the present A40 does not continue into the development area. The evaluation was limited in its scope, but nevertheless has succeeded in testing the existence of potentially significant cropmarks and geophysical anomalies. In general the potential for significant archaeology to be found at the site is low.

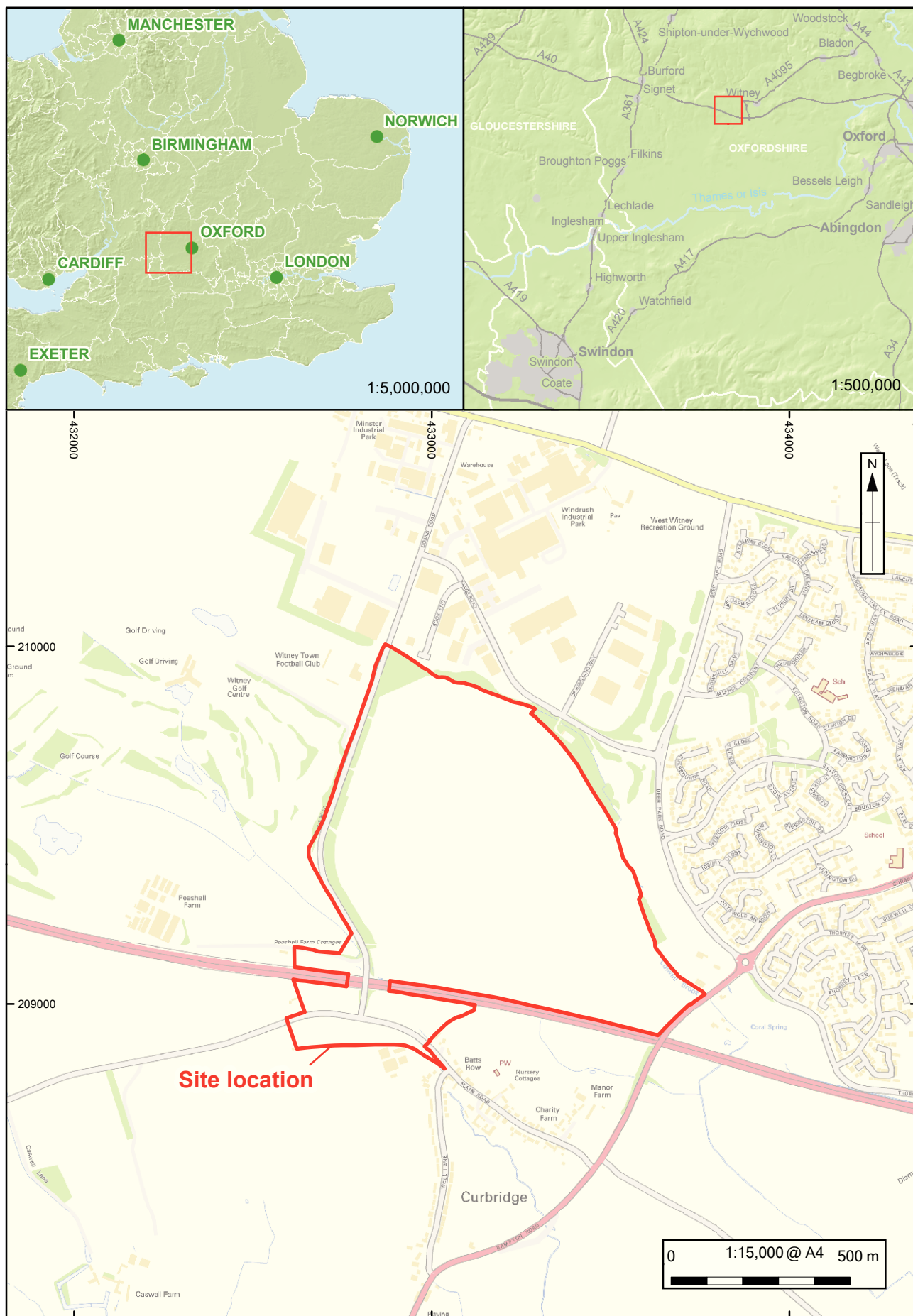
### Location of archive:

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum in due course.









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Figure 1: Site location







Trench 1



Trench 1, section 101



Trench 2



Trench 2, section 201



Trench 3

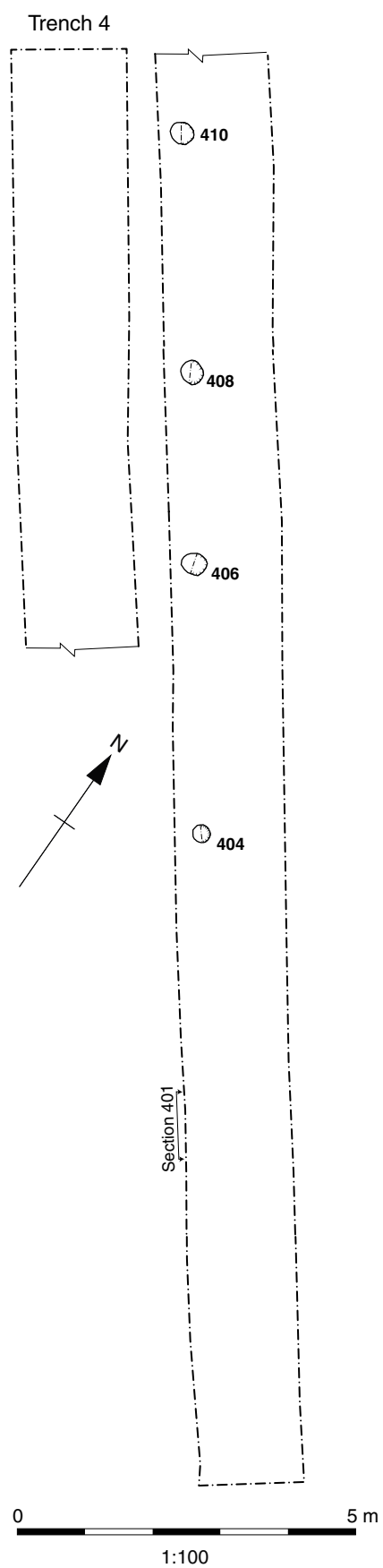


Trench 3, section 301

Figure 3: Trenches 1-3







Trench 4



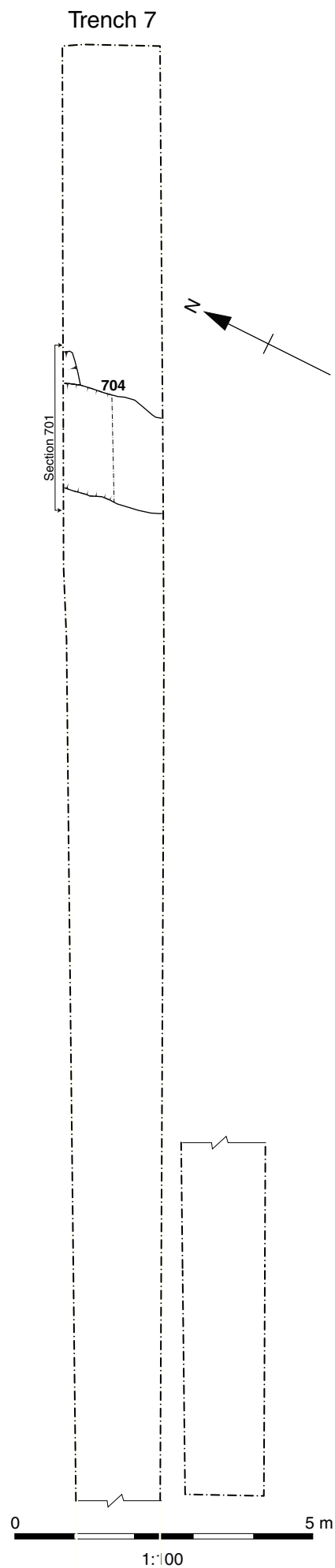
Trench 4, post hole 410



Trench 5, section 501

Figure 4 : Trenches 4-6, plan and photographs





Trench 7



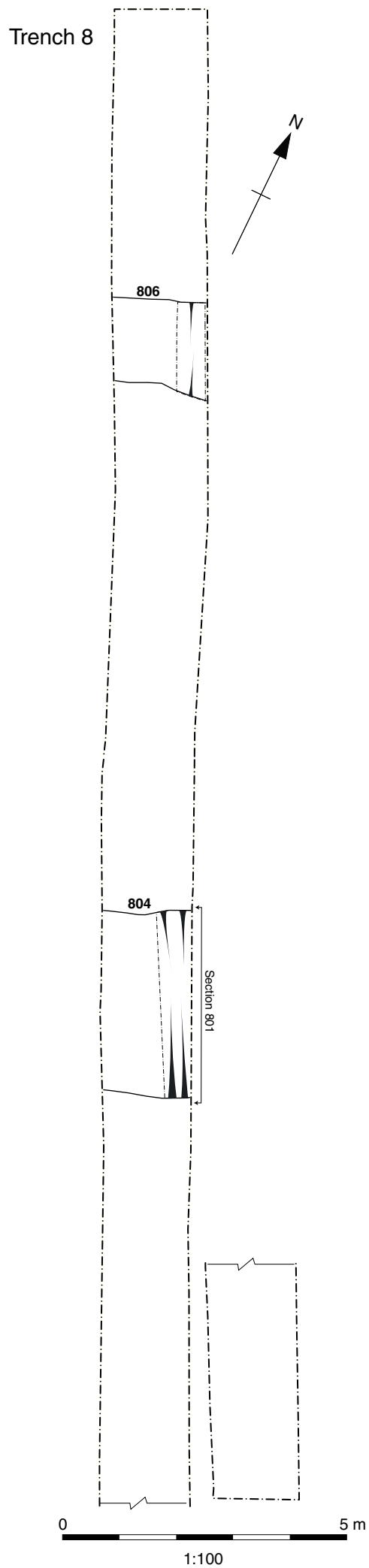
Trench 7, cut 704



Trench 7, section 701, cut 704

Figure 5 : Trench 7 plan and photographs





Trench 8



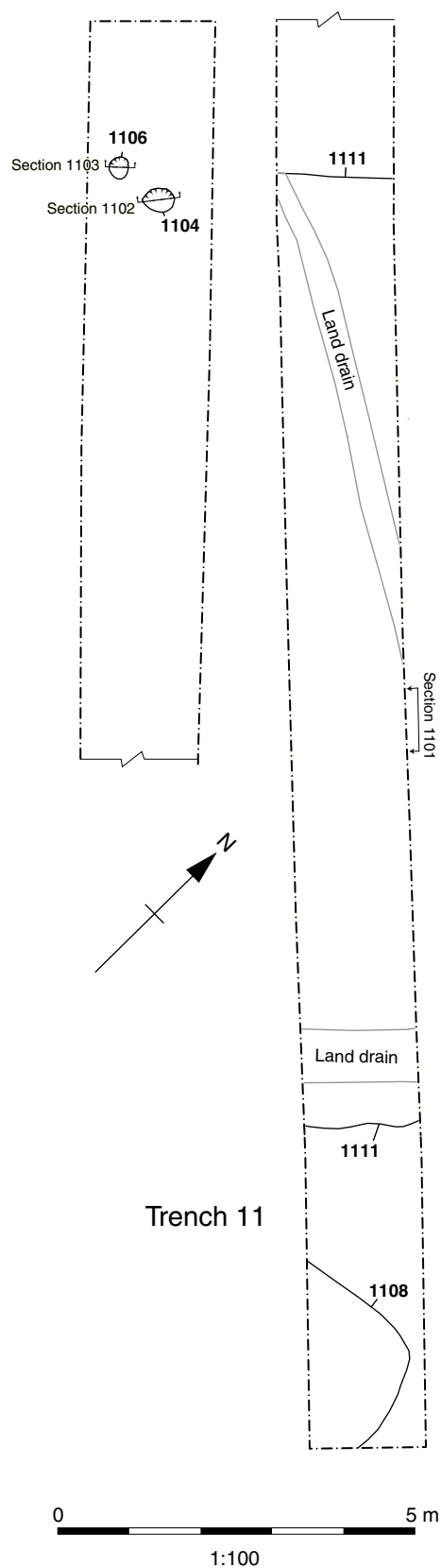
Trench 8, section 801, hollow 804

Figure 6 : Trench 8 plan and photographs





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Trench 9, section 901

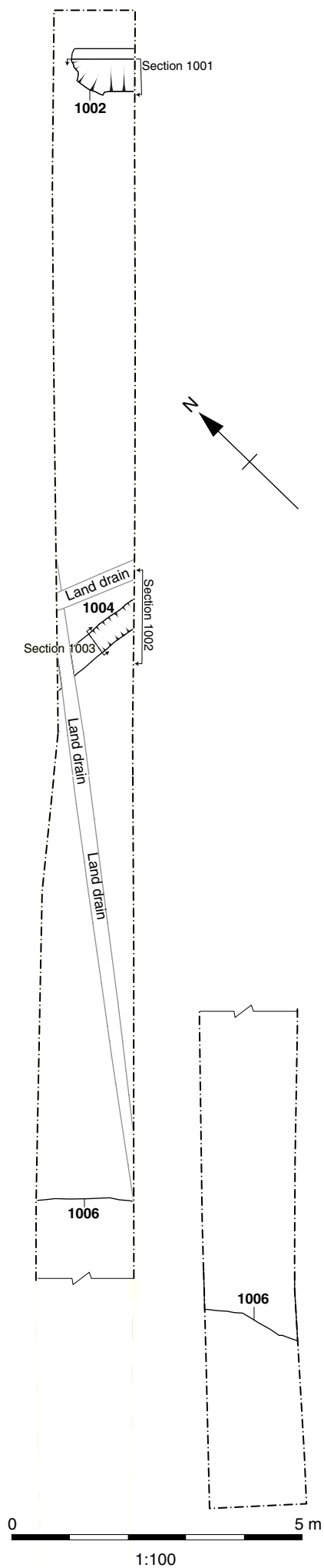


Trench 9, palaeochannel 907

Figure 7: Trench 9 section 901, palaeochannel 907 and Trench 11 plan



# Trench 10



Trench10, section 1001, ditch 1004

Figure 8: Trench 10, plan and photograph







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