

Stockham Farm Wantage Oxfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxfordarchaeology

southsouthsouth

July 2013

Client: CgMs Consulting

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 5681
NGR: SU 3800 8864



Client Name: CgMs Consulting
Client Ref No:
Document Title: Stockham Farm, Wantage, Oxfordshire
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Issue/Version Number: 1
Grid Reference: NGR: SU 3800 8864
Planning Reference:
OA Job Number: 5681
Site Code: WASTOK 13
Invoice Code: WASTOK3EV
Receiving Museum: Oxfordshire Museum Service
Museum Accession No: OXCMS:2012.14
Event No:

Issue	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Signature
1	Kate Woodley Project Officer	Ken Welsh Senior Project Manager	Ken Welsh Senior Project Manager	

Document File Location X:\Stockham Farm, Wantage
Graphics File Location \\San-access\invoice codes r thru z\W_codes\WASTOK3V
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Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net

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Stockham Farm, Wantage, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Kate Woodley and Ken Welsh

*with contributions from Lena Strid, Geraldine Crann, Paul Booth, John Cotter and
illustrated by Markus Dylewski*

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Summary

Between the 23rd and the 30th of June 2013, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land at Stockham Farm, Wantage, Oxfordshire on behalf of CgMs Consulting.

The site is approximately 3.8 hectares in extent and the evaluation consisted of seventeen trenches each measuring 30m by 1.5m.

The earliest archaeological evidence comprised two Bronze Age flint flakes recovered from the subsoil. A small cluster of features, including a possible waterhole, in the centre of the site may be of later prehistoric date but their function is uncertain.

Occasional sherds of later Roman and medieval pottery were also recovered but the majority of the features recorded were undated and consisted of shallow ditches. It is thought likely that many of these may be the remnants of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture.

A watching brief on geotechnical test pits on the site and on land adjacent to the site was also undertaken but no archaeological features were recorded.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Stockham Farm, Wantage, Oxfordshire. The work was undertaken in order to inform the Planning Authority in advance of submission of a Planning Application. A design brief was set by Hugh Coddington, Principal Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council, detailing the Local Authority's requirements for the work necessary to inform the planning process. This document describes the results of that fieldwork.
- 1.1.2 The site is approximately 3.8 hectares in extent and is situated to the north of Stockham Farm, Denchworth Road, Wantage, Oxfordshire (centred on NGR SU 3800 8864) (Fig. 1). The site is currently open farmland bounded by a course of the former Wilshire and Berkshire canal to the north, housing to the south and field boundaries to the east and west.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation consisted of a 2% sample evaluation, consisting of seventeen trenches each measuring 30m by 1.5m (Fig. 2), and a watching brief on geo-technical test pitting (Fig. 3).
- 1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2013), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for field evaluation* (revised 2008), and national and local policies on archaeology.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site slopes from South to North from around 91.12m aOD (south end of Trench 63) to 84.78m aOD (north end of Trench 67).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology across the current site is Upper Greensand Formation (calcareous sandstone and siltstone) (British Geological Survey, Sheet 253).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been detailed in a previous desk-based assessment (CgMs 2012) and is not reproduced here. A brief summary of recent archaeological work undertaken at the site is given below.

Previous Work

- 1.3.2 A watching brief on geotechnical test pits on land adjacent to the current site was undertaken in January 2012. An east-west aligned ditch dating to the late Iron Age or early Roman period was recorded in one of the test pits (Oxford Archaeology 2012a).
- 1.3.3 Subsequent to the watching brief, an evaluation of the land adjacent to the current site (centred on SU 39309 88882) was undertaken (Oxford Archaeology 2012b). This revealed a series of ditches and shallow pits likely to belong to middle Iron Age enclosures and fields, which the artefactual evidence indicates may be associated with settlement.
- 1.3.4 Occasional features containing pottery of the Bronze Age and of the Roman periods were also found together with human bones belonging to part of a single juvenile individual which were recovered from one of the ditches at the south-west end of the site.



1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank Steve Weaver of CgMS for commissioning the project, and Hugh Coddington, Principal Archaeologist of Oxfordshire County Council, who monitored the work. The fieldwork was managed for OA by Ken Welsh and conducted by Kate Woodley, Ben McAndrew, Ian Cook and Tom Black.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI, 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 potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive;
- (viii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (ix) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.1.2 Specific aims and objectives were:

- (x) To establish whether the Iron Age occupation evidence recorded in the area immediately to north-east extends into the current site.
- (xi) To establish whether the extent of occupation is related to the underlying geology or not.
- (xii) If practicable, to determine the start date of the ridge-and-furrow cultivation.
- (xiii) To relate any observations to previous works.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Seventeen trial trenches (Fig. 2) were excavated to the top of the natural geology by a JCB with fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The numbering of these trenches and the deposits found within them follows on from the evaluation carried out in 2012.

2.2.2 Trench 66 was extended northwards by 4m to reveal the full extent of a ditch. Trench 77 was moved 10m south east from its original location to avoid a line of trees.

2.2.3 The excavation of a series of geotechnical test-pits (Fig. 3) was also monitored for the presence of archaeological features.

2.2.4 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with standard OAS practices (Wilkinson 1992)



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are summarised in section 3.3, and discussed by trench in section 3.4. A full context inventory with depths and dimensions of all deposits is presented in the table in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The topsoil varied between 0.2m (Trench 66) and 0.3m (Trench 64) in depth and sealed a subsoil which was present in all trenches. The subsoil is likely to be a buried plough soil of medieval or later date. The natural geology was changeable across the site, and varied from a greyish brown greensand to a calcareous rich brown clay with occasional outcrops of sandstone and flint.

3.2.2 Ground conditions were dry other than in Trenches 71, 72 and 77 where groundwater was present.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were widely distributed across the site although none were present in Trenches 63, 64, 70, 71 and 72.

3.3.2 All features were sealed beneath the subsoil unless otherwise stated in the descriptions below.

3.4 Trench 61 (Figs 2 and 4)

3.4.1 A ditch (6103), aligned E-W, was located within the northern end of the trench. It was steep sided with a flat base and contained fill 6104 that contained no finds.

3.4.2 A struck flint of mid-late Bronze Age date and two sherds of later Roman pottery were recovered from the subsoil (6101).

3.5 Trench 62 (Figs 2 and 4, Plate 1)

3.5.1 A ditch (6203), aligned N-S, terminated within the trench. It was filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (6204) which contained two sherds of medieval pottery.

3.5.2 Pit 6205 was 1.5m in diameter and 0.1m deep and contained a dark brown silty clay (6206).

3.6 Trench 65 (Figs 2, 4 and 5)

3.6.1 A pit (6504) was located in the northern end of the trench. It had undulating sides and base and was filled by a dark brown silty clay (6505) that contained no finds.

3.6.2 Immediately to the south of this was a large feature (6506, Plate 2). It was 10m across and at least 0.7m deep but was only partially excavated. On its northern side, it was filled by a dark brown silty clay (6508) overlain by brownish grey silty clay (6507). On its southern side (where it was numbered 6509), it contained fill 6510, a dark brown silty clay. Several small sherds of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from fill 6507.

3.6.3 Pit 6511 contained a single fill (6512), a dark brown silty clay, which produced no finds.



- 3.6.4 Immediately to its south was a larger pit (6513) with steep, straight sides and a flat base. This contained a single greyish brown silty clay fill (6514) which produced no finds.
- 3.6.5 Posthole 6515 was located south of this feature and had a concave profile with a single fill (6516) that comprised a light greyish silty clay which produced no finds.
- 3.6.6 Pit 6517 had a shallow, concave profile with a single light greyish silty clay fill (6518) which produced no finds.
- 3.7 Trench 66** (Figs 2 and 5)
- 3.7.1 Ditch 6603, aligned NE-SW, was a shallow, straight-sided cut with a flat base. It contained a single greyish brown silty clay fill (6604) which produced no finds.
- 3.8 Trench 67** (Figs 2 and 5)
- 3.8.1 An east-west ditch (6703) was located in the northern end of the trench. It had steep, straight sides, a flat base and contained a single greyish brown silty clay fill (6604) which produced no finds.
- 3.8.2 Immediately to the south of ditch 6703 was a NE-SW aligned ditch (6705). It had shallow, straight sides, a concave base and contained a single light greyish brown silty clay fill (6706) which produced no finds.
- 3.9 Trench 68** (Fig. 2)
- 3.9.1 Two N-S aligned ditches were located in the middle and eastern end of the trench but neither was excavated due to presence of standing water in the trench.
- 3.10 Trench 69** (Figs 2 and 5)
- 3.10.1 Ditch 6905, aligned E-W, was located in the southern end of the trench. It had shallow, straight sides, a flat base and contained a single dark greyish brown silty clay fill (6904). A sherd of later Roman pottery, a fragment of animal bone and two fragments of burnt flint were recovered from the fill.
- 3.11 Trench 73** (Figs 2, 5 and 6)
- 3.11.1 Ditch 7304, aligned NE-SW, had shallow, straight sides, a flat base and contained a single dark grey clay fill 7305 which produced no finds.
- 3.11.2 Ditch 7306, on a parallel alignment, had shallow straight sides, a flat base and contained a single dark grey clay fill 7307 which produced no finds.
- 3.12 Trench 74** (Figs 2 and 6)
- 3.12.1 Ditch 7403, aligned NW-SE, contained two fills. Upper fill (7405) was a greyish brown silty clay, and lower fill (7404) was an orange mottled mid blue grey silty clay.
- 3.13 Trench 75** (Figs 2 and 6)
- 3.13.1 An E-W aligned ditch (7503) was located in the southern end of the trench (Plate 3). It had straight, sloping sides, a concave base and contained two fills. The upper fill (7505) was a grey clay, and the lower fill (7504) was a dark grey clay silt, neither of which contained artefactual material.



- 3.13.2 Ditch 7506 was aligned NE-SW. The profile of this ditch was not visible within the trench although it had a flat base. It contained a single greenish grey silty clay fill (7507) that produced fragments of animal bone. This ditch had been truncated on its western side by a later ditch (7508).
- 3.13.3 Ditch 7508 was aligned NE-SW and had straight, steep sides, a concave base and contained a single dark greyish brown silty clay fill (7509) which produced no finds.
- 3.13.4 A struck flint of mid-late Bronze Age date was recovered from the subsoil (7501).

3.14 Trench 76 (Figs 2 and 7)

- 3.14.1 An NE-SW aligned ditch (7603) was located in the northern end of the trench (Plate 4). It had steep sides, a concave base and contained a single dark brownish grey fill (7604).
- 3.14.2 To the south of this was a NW-SE aligned ditch (7605) that had straight sides, a concave base and contained a single dark greyish brown silty clay fill. Ditch 7605 had been truncated on its north eastern edge by treethrow 7607. This had irregular, shallow sides and base and contained a single brown silty clay fill (7608).

3.15 Trench 77 (Figs 2 and 7)

- 3.15.1 A N-S aligned ditch (7703) was located in the south eastern end of the trench, it had straight sides a concave base and contained a single dark brown silty clay fill (7704), this had been truncated to the north west by a later, undated ditch (7705).
- 3.15.2 Ditch 7705 had a straight, shallow sides, a flattish base and contained a single dark greyish brown silty clay fill (7706), this had also been truncated on its north western side by tree throw (7707). Tree throw 7707 had an irregular, shallow edges, base and contained a single, mixed dark brown greyish silty clay fill (7708).
- 3.15.3 This trench also contained two further N-S aligned ditches, located in the north western end of the trench, but neither was excavated due to presence of standing water in the trench.

3.16 Geotechnical test-pits

- 3.16.1 No archaeological features or finds were observed or recorded in any of the geotechnical test-pits monitored during the works.



4 FINDS

4.1 The animal bone

Identified by Lena Strid

Context	Description
6904	1 large mammal scapula and unidentifiable fragments, 34g
7507	1 cattle tibia, fused distally, and unidentifiable fragments, 159g

4.2 The flint and burnt unworked flint

Identified by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description	Date
6904	2 fragments of burnt unworked flint, 55g	
6101	Single thick irregular flake, ventral surface pot-lid fracture, short length of abrupt retouch and usewear to ventral lateral margin, hard-hammer struck, 40% cortex, some post-depositional damage, 13g	Mid-late Bronze age
7501	Single irregular flake, over shoot termination, hard hammer struck, 10% cortex, some post-depositional damage, 12g	Mid-late Bronze age

4.2.1 The flint assemblage is small and this limits its interpretation. Technologically it may be dated to the mid-late Bronze age; both flakes are irregular and crude, with overshoot terminations and no evidence for soft-hammer use or core preparation. The piece from 6101 shows pragmatic use of an irregular flake (possibly a natural pot lid flake) by retouching one edge to form a crude scraper. The assemblage attests to human activity in the area during the mid-late Bronze age.

4.3 The pottery

Identified by Paul Booth and John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
6101	1 sherd R30 medium sandy grey ware; 1 sherd from a straight-sided bowl in Oxford colour coated ware, 12g	240-410AD
6204	1 sherd OXAQ; 1 unglazed sherd from a glazed pitcher; 1 sherd in OXY-related fabric, 44g	1150-1350AD
6507	Several scraps of flint-tempered ware, 4g	Later prehistoric
6904	1 sherd bowl/dish footring, Oxford colour coated ware, 68g	240-410AD



5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 Ground conditions were generally dry throughout and this contributed to good visibility of all archaeological features and deposits. Trench 68 and the north-eastern end of Trench 77 flooded soon after excavation. Nevertheless, it was possible to record any archaeological features present in plan before the ingress of water prevented further work.
- 5.1.2 It is therefore felt that the recorded density and distribution of archaeological features provides a generally accurate representation of the evaluation area as a whole.

5.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 5.2.1 The presence of archaeological features and deposits was confirmed by the evaluation. The extent of these was recorded within the footprints of the trenches. The archaeology was characterised through excavation and datable material recovered where present.

5.3 Interpretation

- 5.3.1 A scatter of features, largely consisting of ditches but including occasional pits and other features, were recorded across the site. Most of the features were shallow and it is likely that a substantial degree of truncation has occurred at the site, probably as a result of earlier, perhaps medieval, ploughing. Indeed, it is likely that at least some of the shallow ditches recorded here could be the remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation.
- 5.3.2 In addition, very few features produced any artefactual material, which suggests that they are not related to settlement activity but, rather, may be of agricultural origin. This is in contrast to the evaluation of the field immediately to the north-east (OA 2012b) where a greater range and quantity of finds was recovered from numerous features.
- 5.3.3 Two worked flints of probable mid-late Bronze Age date were recovered from the site, both from subsoil contexts, perhaps indicating a low level of background activity of this date. Some evidence of a similar date was also present in the field to the north-east.
- 5.3.4 A possible focus of activity may be present in the area of Trench 65 where a number of undated pits and a posthole were recorded. In addition, a large feature towards the north of the trench may have been a waterhole. A few small scraps of later prehistoric pottery were recovered from the upper fill of the feature and may provide a date for the activity here.
- 5.3.5 Very limited evidence of later Roman activity was present in the form of three sherds of pottery, one from a shallow ditch in Trench 69 and two from the subsoil in Trench 61. The sherd from Trench 69 was in reasonably fresh condition but no other features of this date were present and little can be said about its significance.
- 5.3.6 A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from a shallow ditch in Trench 62 but, as discussed above, many of the shallow ditches recorded elsewhere may date to this period.
- 5.3.7 In summary, the character of the features and the lack of artefactual material is not indicative of settlement activity. It is likely that most of the features present relate to the agricultural use of the field. The possible exception to this is the cluster of features in Trench 65 which may be of later prehistoric date. Even here, the paucity of artefactual material militates against a firm interpretation as settlement. It is perhaps more likely



that these features derive from some agricultural use, perhaps within outlying fields at a distance from any settlement.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 61						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained one undated E-W aligned ditch, and two patches of colluvium.					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6100	Layer	-	0.35	Dark Orange brown silty clay	-	-
6101	Layer	-	0.30	Greyish brown silty clay	-	-
6102	Layer	-	-	Greyish green clay with quartzite.	-	-
6103	Cut	0.65	0.2	Ditch	-	-
6104	Fill	0.65	0.2	Greyish brown silty clay fill of 6103	-	-
6105	Layer	-	-	Colluvium	-	-
6106	Layer	-	-	Colluvium	-	-

Trench 62						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contains one medieval N-S aligned ditch and an undated pit.					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6200	Layer	-	0.28	Dark Orange brown silty clay	-	-
6201	Layer	-	0.22	Greyish brown silty clay	-	-
6202	Layer	-	-	Greyish green clay with quartzite.	-	-
6203	Cut	1	0.2	Ditch		
6204	Fill	1	0.2	Greyish brown silty clay fill of 6203	Pot	2 nd – 4 th century AD
6205	Cut	1.5	0.1	Pit	-	-
6206	Fill	1.5	0.1	Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of 6205	-	-

Trench 63



General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.				Avg. depth (m)	0.6	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6300	Layer	-	0.3	Dark Orange brown silty clay	-	-
6301	Layer	-	0.3	Greyish brown silty clay	-	-
6302	Layer	-	-	Greyish green clay with quartzite.	-	-

Trench 64						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6400	Layer	-	0.3	Dark Orange brown silty clay	-	-
6401	Layer	-	0.2	Greyish brown silty clay	-	-
6402	Layer	-	-	Greyish green clay with quartzite.	-	-

Trench 65						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench contains one large, Later prehistoric waterhole, four undated pits, one posthole.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6500	Layer	-	0.3	Dark Orange brown silty clay	-	-
6501	Layer	-	0.2	Greyish brown silty clay	-	-
6502	Layer	-	-	Calcareous and clay	-	-
6503	Layer	-	-		-	-
6504	Cut	1.3	0.15	Pit	-	-
6505	Fill	1.3	0.15	Dark brown silty clay fill of	-	-



				6504		
6506	Cut	3	0.8	Waterhole	-	-
6507	Fill	3	0.7	Dark brown silty clay fill of 6506	Pot	Roman
6508	Fill	3	0.1	Light brownish grey chalky clay	-	-
6509	Cut	1.50	0.3	Same as 6506	-	-
6510	Fill	1.5	0.3	Dark brown silty clay fill of 6509	-	-
6511	Cut	0.45	0.16	Pit	-	-
6512	Fill	0.45	0.16	Brownish grey silty clay fill of 6511	-	-
6513	Cut	1.9	0.55	Pit	-	-
6514	Fill	1.9	0.55	Greyish brown silty clay fill of 6513	-	-
6515	Cut	0.3	0.1	Posthole	-	-
6516	Fill	0.3	0.1	Light brownish grey fill of 6515	-	-
6517	Cut	0.4	0.1	Small pit	-	-
6518	Fill	0.4	0.1	Light brownish grey silty clay fill of 6517.	-	-

Trench 66						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench contains one undated E-W aligned ditch.				Avg. depth (m)		0.44
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		37.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6600	Layer	-	0.28	Dark Orange brown silty clay	-	-
6601	Layer	-	0.22	Greyish brown silty clay	-	-
6602	Layer	-	-	Greyish green clay with quartzite.	-	-
6603	Cut	1.8	0.2	Ditch	-	-
6604	Fill	1.8	0.2	Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of 6603.	-	-

Trench 67			
General description		Orientation	N-S
Trench contains an undated E-W ditch and an undated NE-SW ditch.		Avg. depth (m)	0.5
		Width (m)	2



					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6700	Layer	-	0.28	Dark Orange brown silty clay	-	-
6701	Layer	-	0.22	Greyish brown silty clay	-	-
6702	Layer	-	-	Greyish green clay with quartzite.	-	-
6703	Cut	1.02	0.38	Ditch	-	-
6704	Fill	1.02	0.38	Dark greyish brown silty clay	-	-
6705	Cut	1	0.12	Ditch	-	-
6706	Fill	1	0.12	Light greyish brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 68						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench contains an undated N-S ditch and a possible furrow.				Avg. depth (m)	0.8	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
6800	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
6801	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
6802	Layer	-	0.26	Colluvium	-	-
6803	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
6804	Cut	1	-	Ditch	-	-
6805	Fill	1	-	Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of 6804	-	-
6806	Cut	4	-	Furrow	-	-
6807	Fill	4	-	Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of 6806	-	-

Trench 69						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench contains a Late Roman E-W ditch.				Avg. depth (m)	0.76	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context	type	Width	Depth	comment	finds	date



no		(m)	(m)			
6900	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
6901	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
6902	Layer	-	0.2	Colluvium	-	-
6903	Layer	-	-	Natural		
6904	Fill	2	0.12	Light brown grey silty clay fill of ditch 6905	Pot	240-410AD
6905	Cut	2	0.12	Ditch	-	-

Trench 70						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.64
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7000	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
7001	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
7002	Layer	-	-	Colluvium	-	-
7003	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
7004	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 71						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand. Sondage dug through the lower natural to a depth of 2m				Avg. depth (m)		2
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
7101	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
7102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
7103	Layer	-	2	Lower natural	-	-

Trench 72						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil, subsoil and alluvium overlying a natural of silty sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.7
				Width (m)		1.8



					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7200	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
7201	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
7202	Layer	-	0.1	Alluvium	-	-
7203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 73						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contains an undated E-W aligned ditch and a possible ditch terminus. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7300	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
7301	Layer	-				
7302	Layer	-				
7303	Layer	-				
7304	Cut	0.7	0.1			
7305	Fill	0.7	0.1			
7306	Cut	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
7307	Fill	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 74						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7400	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
7401	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
7402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
7403	Cut	1.9	0.38	Ditch	-	-
7404	Fill	1.36	0.26	Mid blue greyish silty clay fill of 7403	-	-



7405	Fill	1.9	0.12	Greyish brown silty clay fill of 7403	-	-
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Trench 75

General description Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.	Orientation	E-W
	Avg. depth (m)	0.44
	Width (m)	2.10
	Length (m)	37.70

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7500	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
7501	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
7502	Layer	-	0.3	Colluvium	-	-
7503	Cut	1.6	0.67	Ditch	-	-
7504	Fill	1.6	0.43	Greyish black silty clay fill of 7503	-	-
7505	Fill	1.60	0.21	Mid grey clay fill of 7503	-	-
7506	Cut	0.80	0.28	Ditch	-	-
7507	Fill	0.8	0.28	Greenish grey clay fill of 7506.	Bone	-
7508	Cut	0.64	0.51	Ditch	-	-
7509	Fill	0.64	0.51	Dark greyish brown silty clay fill of 7508	-	-
7510	Layer	-	-	Mid greenish grey sandy clay	-	-

Trench 76

General description Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.	Orientation	E-W
	Avg. depth (m)	0.44
	Width (m)	2.10
	Length (m)	37.70

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7600	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
7601	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
7602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
7603	Cut	0.8	0.18	Ditch	-	-
7604	Fill	0.8	0.18	Dark brownish grey silty clay fill of 7603	-	-
7605	Cut	0.75	0.35	Ditch	-	-



7606	Fill	0.75	0.35	Dark brownish grey silty fill of 7605	-	-
7607	Feature	1.4	0.15	Tree throw	-	-



APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CgMs, 2012 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for Stockham House, Wantage, Oxfordshire

Oxford Archaeology, 2012a Stockham House, Wantage: Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Oxford Archaeology, 2012b Stockham House, Denchworth Road, Wantage, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report

Oxford Archaeology, 2013 Stockham Farm, Wantage: Written Scheme of Investigation



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Stockham Farm, Wantage, Oxfordshire

Site code: WASTOK13

Grid reference: SU 3800 8864

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 16th – 23rd June 2013

Area of site: 3.8 ha

Summary of results: Between the 23rd and the 30th of June 2013, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land at Stockham Farm, Wantage, Oxfordshire on behalf of CgMs Consulting.

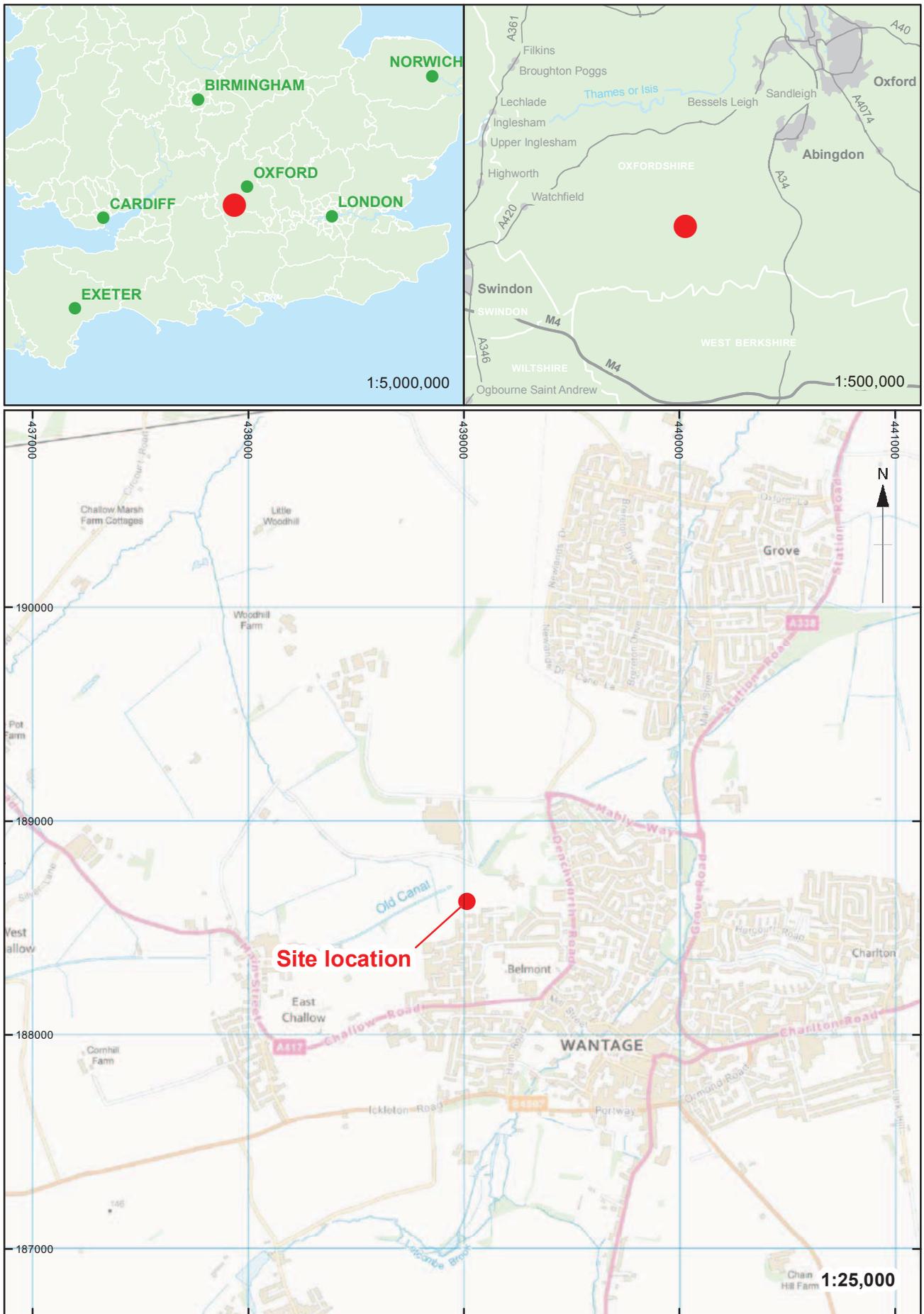
The site is approximately 3.8 hectares in extent and the evaluation consisted of seventeen trenches each measuring 30m by 1.5m.

The earliest archaeological evidence comprised two Bronze Age flint flakes recovered from the subsoil. A small cluster of features, including a possible waterhole, in the centre of the site may be of later prehistoric date but their function is uncertain.

Occasional sherds of later Roman and medieval pottery were also recovered but the majority of the features recorded were undated and consisted of shallow ditches. It is thought likely that many of these may be the remnants of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture.

A watching brief on geotechnical test pits on the site and on land adjacent to the site was also undertaken but no archaeological features were recorded. The current site was undertaken simultaneously (Fig. 3) and no archaeology was found.

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 Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2012.14.



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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench location and archaeology



Figure 2: Proposed trench plan

Figure 3: Test-pit locations

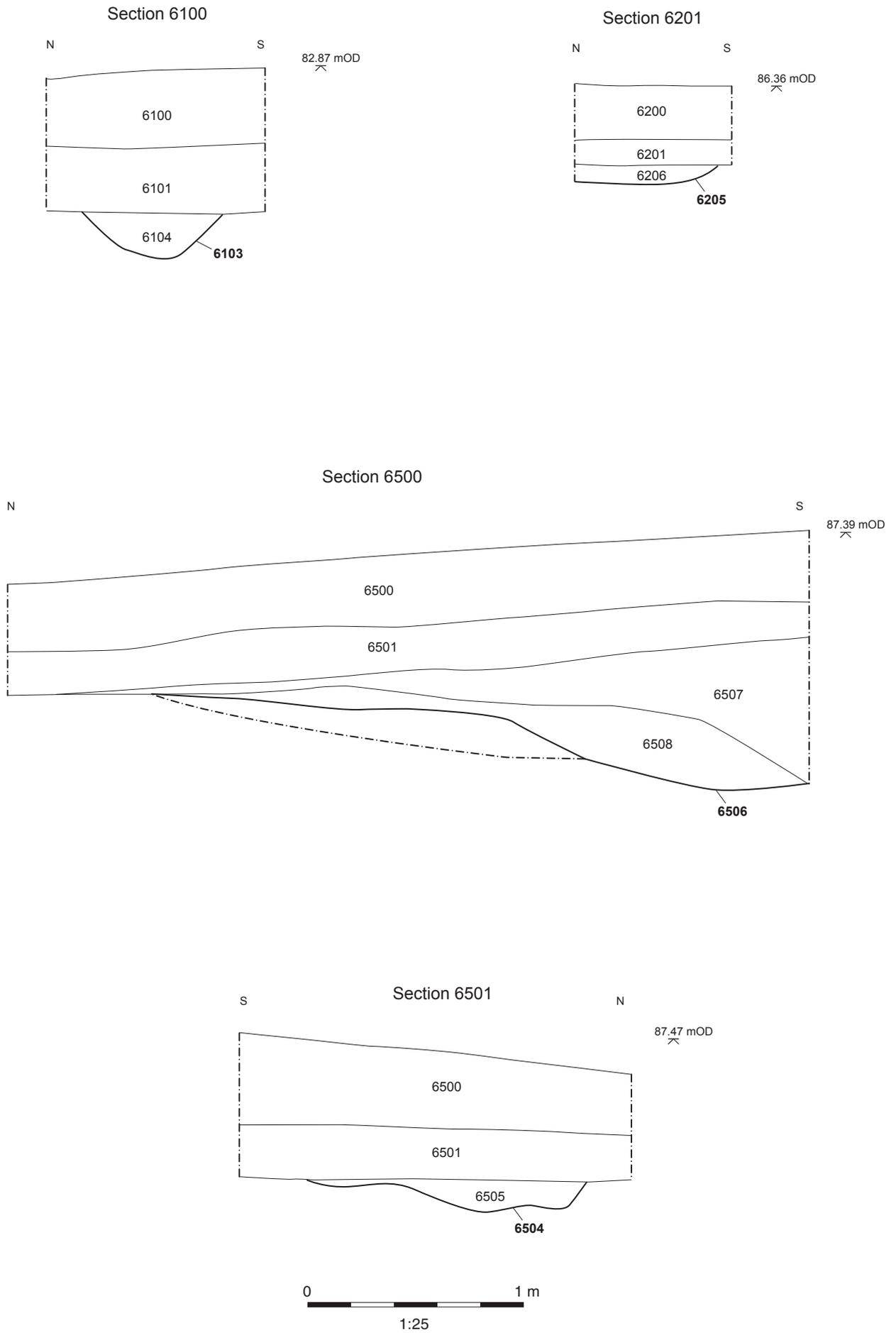


Figure 4: Trenches 61, 62 and 65: sections

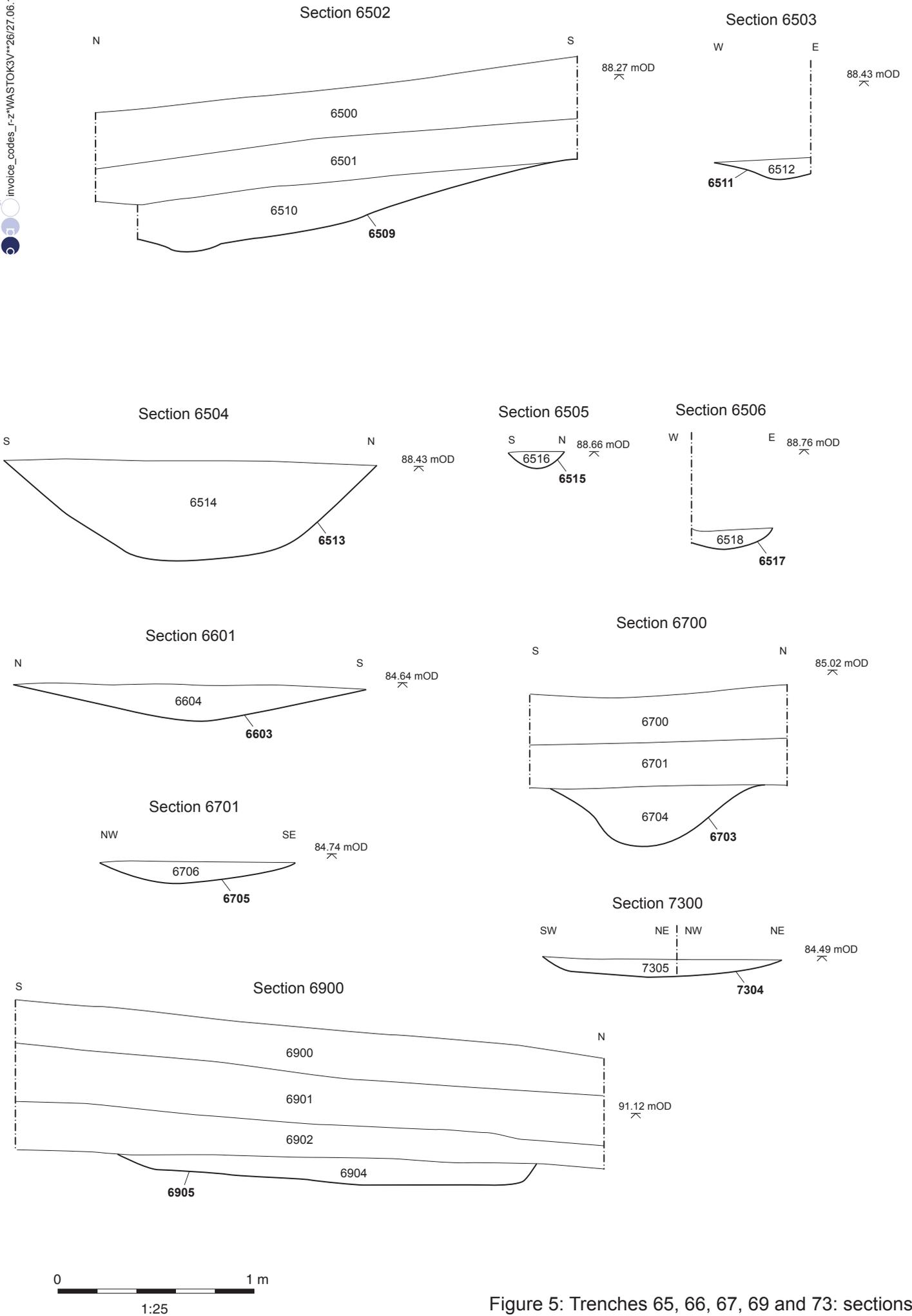


Figure 5: Trenches 65, 66, 67, 69 and 73: sections

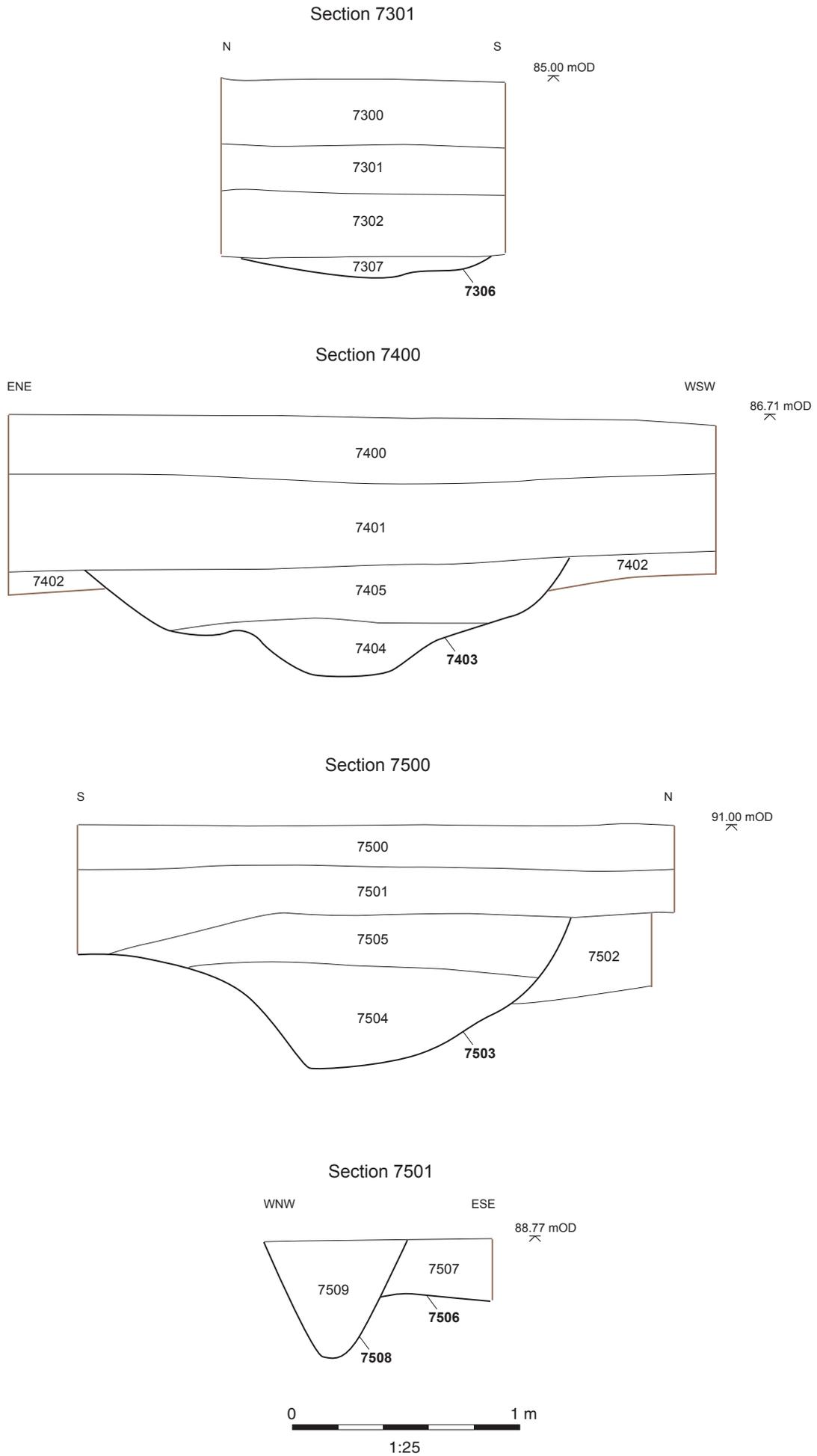


Figure 6: Trenches 73, 74 and 75: sections

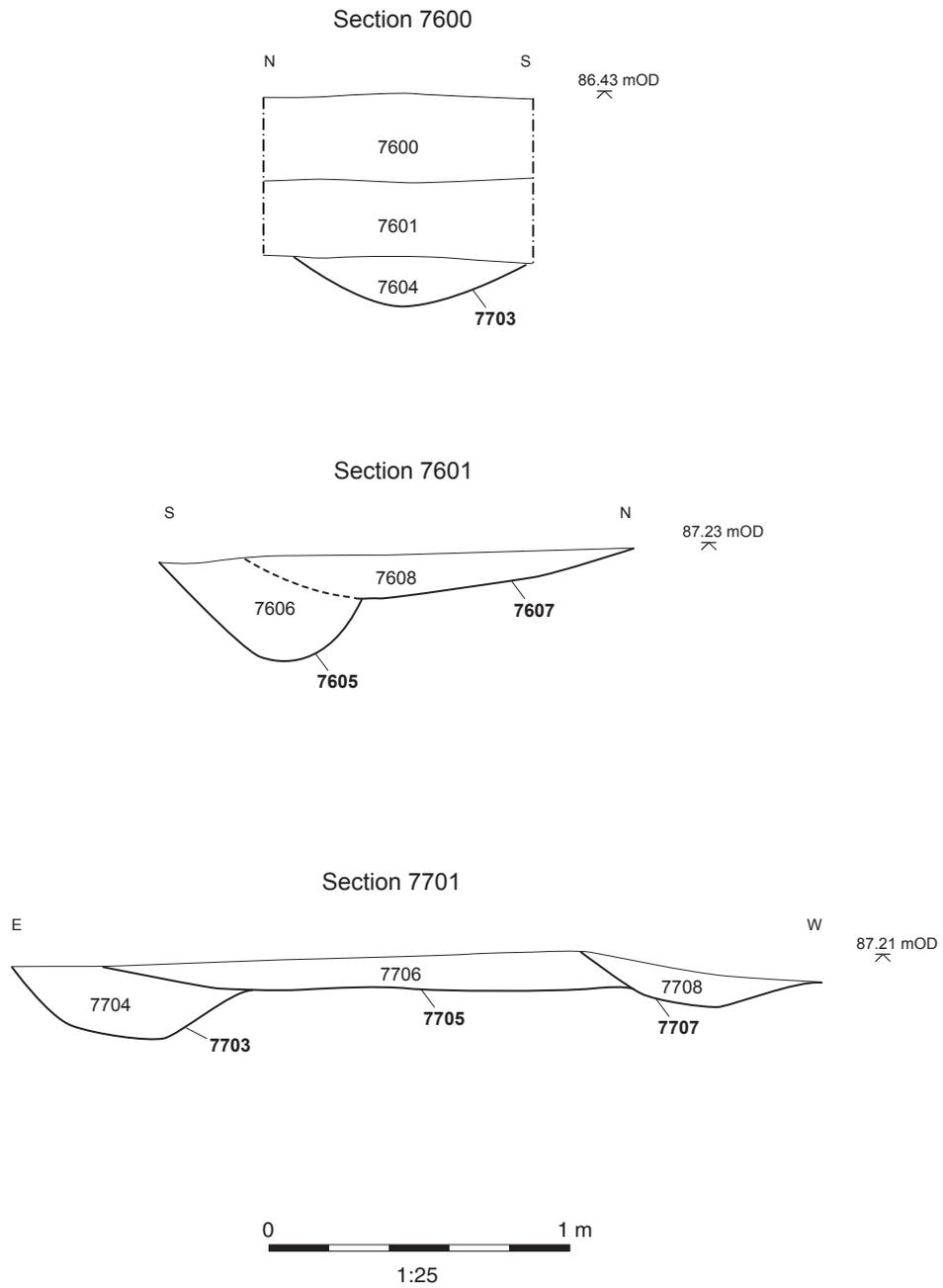


Figure 7: Trenches 76 and 77: sections



Plate 1: Trench 65: view from the north showing cluster of features



Plate 2: Feature 6506: view from the west



Plate 3: Ditch 7503: view from the west



Plate 4: Ditch 7603: view from the west



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

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

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

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

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

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

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



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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