

Land to the South of Bristol Road Stonehouse Gloucestershire



Archaeological Evaluation Report




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Land South of Bristol Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 7th of May and 13th May 2013, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on Land South of Bristol Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. The evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd and their successors in title to the land.

The evaluation consisted of sixteen trenches targeted in part on a series of geophysical anomalies which were thought to be of archaeological origin. The form of the geophysical anomalies suggested the presence of a series of enclosures with a possible track-way leading south towards the River Frome, and this was confirmed by the results of the evaluation.

The earliest archaeological evidence consisted of a ditch containing small fragments of later prehistoric pottery in the western half of the site. No other finds of this date were present.

Archaeological features of Roman date were recorded in five trenches, largely consisting of ditches forming enclosures and a possible track-way. The majority of the features dated to the later 1st-2nd century AD date although at least some are of later Roman date. The features are concentrated in the eastern central part of the site and generally corresponded to the recorded geophysical anomalies.

The quantity of pottery and the presence of a range of other finds (including human bone, animal bone, a small quantity of slag and a possible hone stone) suggest that the remains represent settlement activity. The distribution of features and form of the geophysical anomalies suggests that the focus of settlement activity lies towards (and almost certainly beyond) the northern edge of the site.

The western half of the site, along with the eastern margin, contained a few, largely undated, archaeological features.

Part of the site appears to have been subject to quarrying, and subsequent dumping of domestic waste in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. Evidence for this was recorded towards the northern edge of the site and its extent is indicated by an area of strong magnetic responses recorded in this part of the site in the geophysical survey.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Robert Hitchins Ltd and their successors in title to the land, to undertake an evaluation of Land South of Bristol Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire (centred on SO 7955, 0522).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in advance of submission of a Planning Application. Although the Local Planning Authority had not set a brief for the work, discussions with Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council established the scope of work required. A Written Scheme of Investigation for the works (Oxford Archaeology 2013) was submitted to, and approved by, Charles Parry.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (revised 2008) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the south of Bristol Road and to the north of the Stroudwater Canal (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of arable land.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area comprises third terrace Frome River deposits (sand and gravel) over mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (British Geological Survey 1975, Sheet 234).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2013), and will not be reproduced here.
- 1.3.2 A geophysical survey of the site has been carried out, the preliminary results of which show the presence of a series of geophysical anomalies which were thought to be of archaeological origin (Fig. 3).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank CgMs Consulting, who commissioned the work and acted as archaeological consultant, and Charles Parry, the Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council, who monitored the evaluation. The project was managed by Ken Welsh for OA and the fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Pickard assisted by Ben McAndrew, Lee Sparks, Ian Cooke and Michael McLean.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation, were:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development;
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed development to be assessed;
- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
- To disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Gloucestershire HER.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To investigate and characterise the various anomalies identified through geophysical survey that may represent archaeological features;
- To examine areas identified by the geophysical survey as being blank.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in Appendix A of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2013).

2.2.2 The evaluation consisted of sixteen trenches (Fig. 2), each measuring c. 30m by 1.8m.

2.2.3 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the close supervision of an archaeologist. Mechanical excavation took place in level spits to the top of natural gravels.

2.2.4 Any potential archaeological features were then cleaned and excavated by hand and were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, beginning with a summary of the trench results, followed by a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. An index of all trenches is presented in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 Topsoil was present in all trenches and averaged 0.30m thick in the trenches located to the east of trench 10. To the west of Trench 10, the topsoil was slightly thinner being between 0.20-0.25m thick. A similar pattern was observed with the underlying subsoil layer which was generally thicker to the east of the site, varying between 0.20-0.30m thick here. To the west, beyond Trench 10, the subsoil was on average 0.25m thick but was only 0.10m thick in Trench 16.
- 3.2.2 The natural geology was predominantly yellow brown gravelly sand with occasional outcrops of blue grey clay, particularly in Trenches 7 and 11. An area of reddish brown sandy clay in Trench 4 (excavated as feature 406) was probably also a variation in the natural geology.
- 3.2.3 Ground conditions were generally dry and there was minimal disturbance to the natural geology from root activity.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were recorded in ten trenches. The features were concentrated in the eastern central part of the site (Fig. 2) and generally corresponded to the recorded geophysical anomalies (Fig. 3). The western half of the site, along with the eastern margin, contained a few, largely undated, archaeological features.
- 3.3.2 The recorded features consisted largely of ditches, although a small number of pits were also present. The features were generally filled with a mid brown gravelly sandy silt. Almost all of the features on site were located beneath the subsoil layer and were cut into the natural sandy gravel. The exception to this were the late 19th/20th century quarry pits in Trench 5 and a possible geotechnical test pit in Trench 6 which were cut through the subsoil.

3.4 Trench Descriptions

3.5 Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 5)

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 contained a single feature a shallow circular cut 202 with concave sides and a rounded base. The fill (203) contained no artefactual material.



3.6 Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 5)

- 3.6.1 Trench 3 contained a ditch (302) on an E-W alignment. The ditch had a generally rounded base with concave sides. The ditch was located at the junction where the natural topography sloped down to the east. The ditch was filled with (303) that contained no artefactual material.

3.7 Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 5)

- 3.7.1 An N-S aligned ditch (402) was present at the east end of the trench. The ditch had concave sides and a rounded base and was filled by natural silting deposit (403) that contained no artefactual material.
- 3.7.2 To the west of ditch 402 was a further ditch (408) on roughly the same N-S alignment. As with ditch 302 in Trench 3, it was located at the junction where the natural topography sloped down, in this instance to the east. The geophysical survey suggests that ditches 302 and 408 may be part of the same feature. Ditch 408 had gentle sloping sides on both faces with a rounded base. It contained no dating evidence.
- 3.7.3 Ditch 408 almost completely truncated a ditch (404) on the same N-S alignment. The earlier feature (404) had concave sides and a rounded base, and contained no dating evidence.
- 3.7.4 To the west of 404/408 was an area of mid reddish brown clayey silt (407) on a NE-SW alignment. A section excavated through this material was assigned the cut number 406. The feature had an irregular undulating base and no cultural material was recovered from it. It is probable that this was either a variation in the natural or a tree throw hole.

3.8 Trench 5 (Figs 4 and 6)

- 3.8.1 Trench 5 (Plate 1) contained five ditches, four on a broadly N-S alignment, with the fifth on a similar N-S alignment before returning to the west.
- 3.8.2 At the east end of the trench was ditch 512 with gentle sloping sides and a rounded base. Its fill (513) produced a single sherd of 2nd century black-burnished pottery and a fragment of bone from a sheep or a goat.
- 3.8.3 Adjacent to ditch 512 was ditch 510 with steeper sides and a flattish base. It contained fill 511 which produced three sherds of medium sandy reduced coarse ware dating to the 2nd century and a single fragment of bone from a sheep or a goat.
- 3.8.4 Ditch 508 had gently sloping sides and a rounded base. It contained fill 509 which was similar in composition to the fills of other ditches in this trench. No artefactual material was present.
- 3.8.5 Ditch 506 had steep sides and a flattish base. It contained fill 507 which produced sherds of late 2nd century pottery including Severn Valley wares, black-burnished wares, medium sandy and grog and sand-tempered coarse wares, along with a fragment of animal bone from a large mammal.
- 3.8.6 Ditch 504 had a 'V' shaped profile. It contained fill 505 which produced 19 sherds of 3rd century pottery including Severn valley wares, medium sandy coarse wares and black burnished wares, as well as animal bones from cattle and several unidentified mammals.



- 3.8.7 The western extent of ditch 504 was truncated by pit 502. The pit had concave sides and a rounded base. It contained fill 503 which contained two sherds of Severn Valley ware dated to the 1st to 2nd centuries. However, given that this feature was stratigraphically later than ditch 504 (which contained 3rd century pottery), it is likely that this material is residual.
- 3.8.8 At both the north and east ends of Trench 5, large quarry pits were recorded which had been backfilled in the late 19th/early 20th century. At the northern extent, quarry pit 516 contained a mixed backfill of ash, charcoal, redeposited natural deposits along with domestic waste including bricks, roof tile, glass bottles and metal objects (of which a representative sample was retained for dating).
- 3.8.9 At the eastern end of Trench 3 were two inter-cutting quarry pits (518 and 514). These features contained fewer finds but both had been deliberately backfilled with layers of sandy gravel and ashy material that produced similarly dated late 19th/early 20th century material.

3.9 Trench 6 (Figs 4 and 7)

- 3.9.1 Feature 620 appeared to be the terminal end of a shallow ditch with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. No artefactual material was present.
- 3.9.2 It was truncated on its eastern edge by pit 625 which had sloping sides and a rounded base. No artefactual material was present.
- 3.9.3 Pit 622 had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. The cut contained two fills, 623 and 624. The upper fill (624) produced 19 sherds of mid 3rd century pottery that included Central Gaulish samian ware, Severn Valley wares, south-western micaceous wares and black-burnished wares. It also produced several pieces of fired clay from oven structures and furnace lining similar to the material from feature 603 (see below). One fragment had a large lump of iron slag attached to its surface. A possible fragment of a crucible or mould was also present. A single piece of utilised stone was also recovered from which showed signs of use on one side (unevenly worn face) and was blackened through burning on the other. It may have been used as a hone. The fill also produced sheep/goat bones and other unidentified animal bones.
- 3.9.4 Pit 636 was located to the east of pit 625 and again was a shallow feature with sloping sides and a rounded base.
- 3.9.5 Feature 616 appeared to be the terminal end of a shallow ditch with steep sides and a rounded base. It contained fill 617 which produced a sherd of 1st to 2nd century pottery. The ditch was truncated by possible posthole (618) which had near-vertical sides and a flattish base. The post hole contained fill 619 which produced a sherd of pottery ware dated to the 2nd century.
- 3.9.6 Ditch 614 contained two fills, 615 and 641). The primary fill (615) contained 3 sherds of 2nd century pottery (Severn Valley ware) as well as cattle and horse bones.
- 3.9.7 A series of features (627, 631, 634 and 644) were truncated by ditch 614. Of these, only 627 produced dating evidence: a single sherd of 1st to 2nd century pottery (Severn Valley ware) from fill (628). Cut 627 was a shallow probable pit cut with a concave slightly undulating base. Cut 634 appeared to be the butt end of a shallow linear ditch it had slightly convex sides at its upper limits and a rounded base. Features 631 and 644 were only seen in section but both appeared to be pit cuts rather than linear features. Cut 631 to the west of linear 614 had 45° sides with a slightly rounded base. Cut 644 to east of 614 was also heavily truncated by later ditch 629 on its eastern edge.



- 3.9.8 Ditch 614 was itself truncated by ditch 629 to the east that had 45° sides with a pronounced flat base. The ditch contained three naturally silted fills (630, 639 and 640) none of which contained any dating evidence.
- 3.9.9 Ditch 629 was truncated by ditch 611 with a similar depth and profile. It contained four fills (612, 613, 642 and 643) none of which contained any artefactual material.
- 3.9.10 A small undated probable pit cut 609 truncated the eastern edge of ditch 611. The cut had gentle sloping sides and a flat base.
- 3.9.11 At the eastern end of Trench 6 was a pair of parallel ditches, 603 and 607, aligned N-S, which probably form a continuation of one or more of the ditches recorded at the eastern end of Trench 5, as suggested by the geophysical survey.
- 3.9.12 The easternmost ditch, 603, had 45° sides and a rounded base and was truncated by 607 on its western side. It contained fill 604 which produced a large quantity of 3rd century pottery (79 sherds) as well as fired clay and indeterminate ceramic building material. The pottery included South Gaulish amphorae, 'Belgic type' wares, Severn Valley wares, medium sandy and grog and sand-tempered coarse wares and black-burnished wares.
- 3.9.13 The fired clay included fragments from an oven structure as well as fragments of furnace lining or smithing hearth lining. A single piece of oven/hearth furniture was recovered in the form of a corner fragment from a triangular perforated brick.
- 3.9.14 The fill also contained a variety of animal bones with cattle, sheep/goat and horse present.
- 3.9.15 Ditch 607 had an undulating base with concave sides, the undulations may suggest that this was two inter-cutting linear features. However, the fill of the feature was homogeneous and no second cut could be determined.
- 3.9.16 Feature 606 was cut through the subsoil and was thought to be a geotechnical test pit.

3.10 Trench 7 (Figs 4 and 8)

- 3.10.1 Trench 7 contained four ditches, three of which corresponded with geophysical anomalies (Fig 2). It also contained an undated tree hole, 705, at the western end of the trench.
- 3.10.2 Ditch 711 (Plate 2) was on a rough NE-SW alignment as it crossed the trench, although the geophysics indicates that it turns to the north to meet up with ditches 629 or 611 in Trench 6. The ditch had 45° sides and a 'V' shaped profile. Its fill (710) produced three sherds of 1st century pottery as well as fragments of human bone and animal bone. The disarticulated human arm bone fragments (radius and humerus shaft fragments) may indicate the incorporation of remains from a disturbed burial in the ditch fill.
- 3.10.3 Ditch 714, on a parallel alignment to ditch 711, had 45° sides and a slightly rounded base. It contained two fills, 712 and 713. Fill 713 produced three sherds of 1st -2nd century pottery. Fill 712 contained 28 sherds of pottery dating to 120-200 AD (possibly 120-150) as well as a bone from a sheep or goat and six fragments of fired clay.
- 3.10.4 Ditch 714 possibly corresponds to cut 504 in Trench 5, although the corresponding geophysical anomaly is not as clear along its length as others in the area. Ditches 711 and 714 possibly represent a track-way running broadly N-S across the site.



- 3.10.5 The two ditches at the western end of the trench, 707 and 709, were on a N-S alignment. The geophysics shows that the westernmost ditch, 707, curves round slightly to the north, where it is represented by ditch 902 in Trench 9.
- 3.10.6 Ditch 707 had a 45° side to the east and c. 30 to the west and a rounded base. The fill 706 contained nine sherds of 2nd century pottery as well as animal bone (sheep or goat).
- 3.10.7 Ditch 709 was very shallow with a slightly rounded base. The fill (708) did not contain any artefactual material

3.11 Trench 8 (Figs 4 and 9)

- 3.11.1 Trench 8 contained three E-W aligned ditches (802, 804 and 806), the terminal end of a N-S ditch (812) and two inter-cutting features (808 and 810) that were probably pits.
- 3.11.2 Ditch 802 had steep sides with a flat base. It contained three fills, 816, 815 and 803. Fill 803 contained six sherds of late 1st-2nd century pottery along with animal bone including bones of a fowl sized bird. Ditch 802 corresponds to a geophysical anomaly which runs E-W to join a N-S ditch (recorded in Trenches 7 and 9).
- 3.11.3 To the north of 802 were two closely spaced ditches (804 and 806) of similar size and profile. The fill of ditch 804 contained a single sherd of 2nd century or later pottery.
- 3.11.4 A terminal end of an undated N-S aligned ditch (812) was located at the southern end of the trench. The cut had 45° sides with a slight step to the east and a rounded base.
- 3.11.5 At the northern end of Trench 8 were two inter-cutting pits, 808 and 810. Three small sherds of 1st-2nd century pottery, as well as animal bone, was recovered from fill 811 of pit 810. Fill 809 of pit 808 produced a fragment of fired clay. Both features are clearly shown as anomalies on the geophysical survey.

3.12 Trench 9 (Figs 4 and 10)

- 3.12.1 Trench 9 contained two N-S aligned ditches, 902 and 904. Ditch 904 was re-cut by ditch 910.
- 3.12.2 Ditch 904 contained three fills, 906, 907 and 908. Fill 906 contained cattle, sheep/goat bones and a single bone from a dolphin or porpoise, while fills 906 and 907 contained several sherds of pottery. Ditch 908 was truncated by ditch re-cut 910 which had concave sides and a rounded base. The re-cut contained a single fill, 905, which was undated. The geophysical survey suggests that ditch 904/910 continues to the south of the trench for a short distance before turning to the west.
- 3.12.3 Ditch 902 (Plate 3), at the west end of Trench 9 contained two fills, 903 and 911, neither of which contained artefactual material.

3.13 Trench 12 (Figs 2 and 10)

- 3.13.1 Trench 12 contained a single archaeological feature. Ditch 1203 (Plate 4) was aligned NE-SW and contained two small sherds of pottery of possible later prehistoric date. The ditch corresponds to a NE-SW aligned geophysical anomaly that appears to continue to the south for a further c.25m and to the north to the edge of site.



3.14 Trench 16 (Figs 2 and 10)

- 3.14.1 Trench 16 contained a single possible archaeological feature, a shallow sub-circular cut (1604) that was 0.14m deep. The cut contained a single fill (1603) which produced no artefactual material. This feature was probably a small tree throw hole.

3.15 Finds Summary

- 3.15.1 Two small sherds (3g) of possible later prehistoric pottery were recovered from Trench 12. Pottery of Roman date (192 sherds weighing 3301g) was recovered from a number of features in Trenches 5-9. The assemblage was dominated by regional and extra-regional coarse wares, specifically Severn Valley and black-burnished wares, but three sherds of Central Gaulish samian ware and a single sherd of south Gaulish amphora were also present. The majority of the assemblage is probably of later 1st-2nd century AD date although at least some is of later Roman date.
- 3.15.2 Pottery, metal objects and glass of late 19th/early 20th century date was recovered from quarry pits in Trench 5.
- 3.15.3 A possible hone stone was recovered from Trench 6.
- 3.15.4 Fired clay (15 fragments weighing 250g) was recovered from three trenches (6, 7 and 8) with the majority from Trench 6. The material included fragments of oven structure, furnace lining and a possible crucible or mould fragment. A large lump of iron slag, attached to a fragment of furnace lining was also recovered.
- 3.15.5 A small quantity of animal bone (60 fragments) was recovered from features in Trenches 5-9. Although the assemblage has limited value on its own, the range of species present is of interest: species include cattle, sheep/goat, small cetacean (porpoise or dolphin) and fowl-sized bird.
- 3.15.6 Two fragments of human bone (radius and humerus shaft fragments) were recovered from a ditch in Trench 7.
- 3.15.7 Details of the finds assemblages can be found in Appendix B.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Ground conditions were good throughout the evaluation and this contributed to good visibility of archaeological deposits. In addition, there was good correspondence between the archaeological features seen in the trenches and the recorded geophysical anomalies.
- 4.1.2 It is therefore felt that the recorded density and distribution of archaeological features provides an accurate representation of the evaluation area as a whole.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 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 from many features.
- 4.2.2 The results of the evaluation will be made publicly available in due course with deposition of the site archive with Stroud District Museum, and of this report with Gloucestershire County Council Historic Environment Record

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The presence of a ditch to the west of the site containing two small sherds of possible later prehistoric pottery may indicate activity of this date on the site although the sherds are so small that their significance is uncertain.
- 4.3.2 The results of both the geophysical survey and the trench evaluation indicate the presence of a focus of Roman activity in the eastern central part of the site. The form of the geophysical anomalies suggests the presence of a series of enclosures with a possible track-way leading south towards the River Frome, and this was confirmed by the results of the evaluation.
- 4.3.3 The pottery recovered from Trenches 5-9 indicates a broadly 1st-2nd century focus for much of the activity although the presence of later material indicates that it continued into the 3rd century. However, the total absence of characteristic 4th century material suggests that the activity did not continue as late as this.
- 4.3.4 The quantity of pottery and the presence of a range of other finds (including human bone, animal bone, fired clay, a small quantity of slag and a possible hone stone) suggest that the remains represent settlement activity. The presence of several pieces of fired clay associated with metalworking in Trench 6 indicates that small-scale industrial activity was also taking place on the site while other pieces are likely to have come from domestic ovens.
- 4.3.5 Two fragments of human bone in a ditch in Trench 7 may have derived from a nearby disturbed burial. The possibility exists, therefore, that other, intact, burials may be present on the site.
- 4.3.6 The animal bone assemblage, while small, contained a cetacean bone, demonstrating the consumption of marine mammal meat at the site. This is an unusual find for an inland site, albeit one situated fairly close to the Severn Estuary, where the presence of small cetaceans was presumably fairly commonplace.



- 4.3.7 The distribution of features and form of the geophysical anomalies suggests that the focus of settlement activity lies towards (and almost certainly beyond) the northern edge of the site. If this is the case, then much of the evidence may have been destroyed by later quarrying of the site, and subsequent dumping of domestic waste in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. Evidence for this can be seen at either end of Trench 5 and its extent is indicated by an area of strong magnetic responses recorded in this part of the site in the geophysical survey.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Two land drains traversed the trench. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel.					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
					Width (m)		1.8
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-	
101	Layer	-	0.34	Subsoil	-	-	
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench 2 consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel, two tree throws and one possible pit.					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
					Width (m)		1.8
					Length (m)		37.70
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
200	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-	
201	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-	
202	Cut	1.3	0.2	Possible pit cut	-	-	
203	Fill	1.3	0.2	Fill of pit 202 a dark brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions	-	-	
204	Layer	-	-	Natural a yellowish brown sandy gravel with occasional patches of blue grey clay	-	-	

Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench 3 consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel it also contained a linear ditch on an c. EW alignment.					Avg. depth (m)		0.44
					Width (m)		2.10
					Length (m)		37.70
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	



300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
302	Cut	1.8	0.4	Ditch cut	-	-
303	Fill	1.8	0.4	Fill of Ditch 302 dark grey brown sandy silt		
304	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 4 consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel. The trench contained a roughly NS aligned shallow ditch at the E End. Towards the middle of the trench was a natural bank/ditch on a NNE/SSW alignment. At the west end of the trench was a probable tree throw or variation in the natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
402	Cut	1.12	0.3	Ditch	-	-
403	Fill	1.12	0.3	Fill of 403 a mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
404	Cut	0.3	0.1	Ditch	-	-
405	Fill	0.3	0.1	Fill of 404 mid to dark grey brown silty clay	-	-
406	Cut	1.85	0.3	Tree hole	-	-
407	Fill	1.85	0.3	Fill of 406 mid reddish brown silty clay	-	-
408	Cut	2.5	0.22	Cut of natural bank/ditch	-	-
409	Fill	2.5	0.22	Fill of 408 mid to dark brown clay silt	-	-
410	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 5 consisted of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel. This 'L' shaped trench contained modern quarry pits at both the North and Eastern ends. Four NS aligned ditches were located in the EW section of the trench. At the west end of this section of trench a further NS ditch was located that turned EW. The EW element of the ditch was truncated by a later pit cut.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	32
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date



500	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
502	Cut	0.8	0.2	Pit cut	-	-
503	Fill	0.8	0.2	Fill of 502 dark grey silty sand	Pot	1-2C?
504	Cut	0.7	0.3	Ditch		
505	Fill	0.7	0.3	Fill of 504 dark brown gravelly silty sand	Pot, Bone	250
506	Cut	0.8	0.3	Ditch		
507	Fill	0.8	0.3	Fill of 506 dark brown sandy gravel	Pot, Bone	Late 2C+
508	Cut	0.9	0.1	Ditch		
509	Fill	0.9	0.1	Fill of 508 mid brown silty sand		
510	Cut	1	0.45	Ditch		
511	Fill	1	0.45	Fill of 510 mid brown silty sand	Pot, Bone	?2C+
512	Cut	0.8	0.15	Ditch		
513	Fill	0.8	0.15	Fill of 512 mid brown silty sand	Pot, Bone	120
514	Cut	2.2	0.95	Pit cut	CBM	C20
515	Fill	2.2	0.95	Fill of 514 modern backfill		
516	Cut	10.5	0.6	Pit cut		
517	Fill	10.5	0.6	Fill of 516 modern backfill	Metal, Glass, Pot	Late 19C/20C
518	Cut	1.8	0.95	Pit cut		
519	Fill	1.8	0.95	Fill of 518 modern backfill		
520	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6

General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench 6 consisted of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel. This trench contained eight clearly defined NS aligned linear ditch cuts along the length of the trench and a pit cut at the westernmost end. Five further features were located that not exposed enough to determine whether they were pit cuts or the butt ends of linear features. A modern geo-technical pit was also located towards the E end of the trench.					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
					Width (m)		1.8
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
600	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-	
601	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-	



602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
603	Cut	1.2	0.5	Ditch		
604	Fill	1.2	0.5	Fill of 603 dark brown silty sand	Pot, CBM, Bone, Stone (burnt)	250-300?
605	Fill	0.5	0.6	Fill of 606		
606	Cut	0.5	0.6	Modern feature		
607	Cut	1.5	0.23	Ditch		
608	Fill	1.5	0.23	Fill of 607 dark brown silty sand		
609	Cut	1.2	0.15	Pit		
610	Fill	1.2	0.15	Fill of 609 dark brown silty sand		
611	Cut	1.5	0.65	Ditch		
612	Fill	0.5	0.13	Fill of 612 light brown silty sand		
613	Fill	1.1	0.2	Fill of 612 dark greyish brown silty sand		
614	Cut	2	0.45	Ditch		
615	Fill	0.8	0.2	Fill of 614 mid brown sandy gravel	Pot, Bone	2C?
616	Cut	0.55	0.25	Ditch (Butt end)		
617	Fill	0.55	0.25	Fill of 616 mid brown silty sandy gravel	Pot	1-2C?
618	Cut	0.4	0.3	Ditch (Butt end) or pit		
619	Fill	0.4	0.3	Fill of 618 mid brown sandy gravel	Pot	2C+
620	Cut	0.7	0.15	Ditch (Butt end)		
621	Fill	0.7	0.15	Fill of 620 mid brown gravelly silty sand		
622	Cut	1	0.3	Pit cut		
623	Fill	1	0.07	Fill of 622 light brown gravelly sand		
624	Fill	1	0.23	Fill of 622 mid brown silty sand	Pot, CBM, Bone, Stone	Mid 3C+
625	Cut	1.2	0.1	Ditch (Butt end) or pit		
626	Fill	1.2	0.1	Fill of 625 dark brown silty sand		
627	Cut	1.2	0.3	Ditch (Butt end) or pit		
628	Fill	1.2	0.3	Fill of 627 mid brown silty sand	Pot	1-2C
629	Cut	1.2	0.45	Ditch		



630	Fill	0.9	0.25	Fill of 629 light brown sandy gravel		
631	Cut	1.1	0.4	Pit or butt end		
632	Fill	0.5	0.15	Fill of 631 mid brown silty sand		
633	Fill	1.1	0.25	Fill of 631 dark brown gravelly silty sand		
634	Cut	0.6	0.3	Ditch (Butt end)		
635	Fill	0.4	0.1	Fill of 634 mid brown gravelly silty sand		
636	Cut	0.6	0.13	Pit or possible butt end		
637	Fill	0.6	0.13	Fill of 636 dark brown gravelly silty sand		
638	Fill	0.6	0.2	Fill of 634 mid brown silty sand		
639	Fill	0.9	0.1	Fill of 629 dark brown silty sand		
640	Fill	1.2	0.2	Fill of 629 mid brown sandy gravel		
641	Fill	2.15	0.5	Fill of 614 mid brown gravelly silty sand		
642	Fill	0.8	0.2	Fill of 611 dark grey brown gravelly silty sand		
643	Fill	1.6	0.6	Fill of 611 mid brown gravelly silty sand		
644	Cut	0.85	0.4	Ditch (Butt end) or pit		
645	Fill	0.85	0.4	Fill of 644 mid brown silty sand		

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 7 consisted of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel. This trench contained four linear ditches on a roughly NS alignment. Three of the linear features contained Roman pottery. A probable tree hole was located at the S end of the trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
701	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
704	Fill	1.2	0.12	Fill of Tree hole light greyish brown gravelly silty sand	-	-
705	Cut	1.2	0.12	Tree hole	-	-



706	Fill	1.04	0.28	Fill of 707 mid grey brown gravelly sandy silt	Pot, Bone	2C?
707	Cut	1.04	0.28	Ditch cut	-	-
708	Fill	1.5	0.1	Fill of 709 greyish brown sandy silt with occasional yellow sand	-	-
709	Cut	1.5	0.1	Ditch cut	-	-
710	Fill	0.82	0.25	Fill of 711 mid brown sandy gravel	Pot, Bone	1C?
711	Cut	0.82	0.25	Ditch cut	-	-
712	Fill	1.06	0.2	Fill of 714 mid greyish brown sandy silt	Pot, Bone, CBM	120-250
713	Fill	1	0.4	Fill of 714 mid grey brown gravelly sandy silt	Pot	1-2C
714	Cut	1.38	0.5	Ditch cut	-	-

Trench 8

General description

Trench 8 consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel. The trench contained 4 linear features on a rough EW alignment and a further linear on a NS alignment two of which produced Roman pottery. The linear at the N end of the trench truncated a shallow pit cut, the latter producing Roman pot.

Orientation

E-W

Avg. depth (m)

0.5

Width (m)

1.8

Length (m)

30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
800	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
802	Cut	1.38	0.72	Ditch cut	-	-
803	Fill	1.38	0.32	Fill of 802 light to mid brown gravelly sandy silt	Pot	Late 1-2C?
804	Cut	0.9	0.38	Ditch cut	-	-
805	Fill	0.9	0.38	Fill of 804 mid brown gravelly sandy silt	Pot	2C+
806	Cut	0.8	0.3	Ditch cut	-	-
807	Fill	0.8	0.3	Fill of 806 mid brown gravelly sandy silt	-	-
808	Cut	1.5	0.3	Ditch cut	-	-
809	Fill	1.5	0.3	Fill of 808 mid brown gravelly sandy silt	CBM	-
810	Cut	1.3	0.3	Pit Cut	-	-
811	Fill	1.3	0.3	Fill of 810 mid to dark brown gravelly sandy silt	Pot	1-2C?
812	Cut	1.36	0.4	Ditch (butt end)	-	-



813	Fill	1.36	0.4	Fill of 812 mid brown gravelly sandy silt	-	-
814	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
815	Fill	1.1	0.34	Fill of 802 mid to dark yellowish brown gravelly sandy silt	-	-
816	Fill	0.7	0.23	Fill of 802 light grey sandy silt	-	-

Trench 9

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 9 consisted of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel. The trench contained NS aligned linear features at both ends. A single ditch was located to the E and a possibly re-cut ditch to the W.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
900	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
902	Cut	1.4	0.56	Ditch Cut	-	-
903	Fill	1.1	0.4	Fill of 802	-	-
904	Cut	1.7	0.64	Ditch Cut	-	-
905	Fill	1.56	0.34	Fill of 910	-	-
906	Fill	0.76	0.12	Fill of 904	Pot, Bone	2C+
907	Fill	1.5	0.24	Fill of 904	Pot	2C+
908	Fill	1.2	0.2	Fill of 904	-	-
909	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
910	Cut	1.56	0.34	Ditch Cut	-	-
911	Fill	1.4	0.18	Fill of 902	-	-

Trench 10

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1000	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-



1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
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Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 12 consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel. A single NE/SW aligned ditch cut was located at the E end of the trench that produced late prehistoric pottery.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1200	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1203	Cut	0.99	0.58	Ditch Cut	-	-
1204	Fill	0.99	0.58	Fill of 1203 yellow brown gravelly sandy silt	Pot	Later prehistoric

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1300	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



Trench 14							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel.					Avg. depth (m)		0.35
					Width (m)		1.8
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1400	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-	
1401	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-	
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 15							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel.					Avg. depth (m)		0.45
					Width (m)		1.8
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1500	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-	
1501	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-	
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	

Trench 16							
General description					Orientation		E-W
Trench 16 consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel. A single feature was located in this trench a shallow possible pit that produced no dating.					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
					Width (m)		1.8
					Length (m)		30
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1600	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-	
1601	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-	
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	
1603	Cut	0.91	0.14	Pit	-	-	
1604	Fill	0.91	0.14	Fill of 1603 reddish brown sandy gravel	-	-	



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman pottery

By Paul Booth

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 Some 194 sherds of pottery, weighing 3304g, were recovered, of which all but two tiny fragments (3g) were of late Iron Age and Roman date (post-medieval pottery is reported elsewhere). The material was recorded rapidly, using standard codes defined in the OA system for recording later prehistoric and Roman pottery. Pottery fabrics were identified at a fairly broad level of precision (eg Severn Valley wares) and quantified in context groups by sherd count and weight. Vessel forms (where present) were also noted in terms of broad classes.

Summary of the assemblage

- B.1.2 The pottery was in moderate condition. The mean sherd weight (17g overall) was fairly high, boosted in some contexts by relatively large sherds of Severn Valley ware, though this effect was counteracted by the typical tendency of black-burnished ware to fragment into relatively small sherds (mean weight 8.8g). Surface condition was variable; a few Severn Valley ware sherds appeared relatively abraded, perhaps as a consequence of redeposition, but otherwise eroded surfaces are likely to have been a result of soil conditions rather than depositional processes.
- B.1.3 A relatively limited range of late prehistoric/Roman fabrics was present, defined by OA codes as follows (Table 1):

Table 1: Quantities of pottery by fabric

Fabric code	Description	No. sherds	Weight (g)	
LA	limestone and quartz sand inclusions	1	1	?later prehistoric
S	shell inclusions	1	2	?later prehistoric
S30	Central Gaulish samian ware	3	62	
A13	South Gaulish amphorae	1	171	
E80	Grog-tempered 'Belgic type' wares	9	54	
O10	Fine (?limestone tempered) oxidised ware	1	17	Possible Severn Valley ware variant
O40	Severn valley ware	69	1448	
O41	Severn valley ware, organic tempered	4	76	
R30	Medium sandy reduced coarse ware	11	241	
R49	Reduced Severn Valley area	1	26	
R60	Organic tempered reduced ware	1	11	Possible reduced ware equivalent of O41
R85	'South-western micaceous wares' sandy reduced coarse ware	14	161	
R90	Grog and sand-tempered reduced coarse ware	7	185	Comparable to Savernake ware
B10	Black-burnished type ware	1	22	
B11	SE Dorset black-burnished ware (BB1)	69	604	
G25	Malvernian limestone tempered fabric	1	23	Tentative identification
Total		194	3304	



- B.1.4 The assemblage was dominated by regional and extra-regional coarse wares, specifically Severn Valley and black-burnished wares. More local production might be indicated by the fabrics grouped as E80, R30 and R85, none of which is assigned to a specific source. A range of fabrics was present in the Severn Valley ware grouping, but no systematic attempt was made to subdivide them at this stage and, as usual with these wares, precise sources cannot be assigned. Imported pottery consisted only of three sherds of Central Gaulish samian ware and a single sherd of south Gaulish amphora (this last from context 604). There was a notable absence of any local or regional fine and specialist wares (mortaria, for example, were completely lacking). The only possible fine ware was a single small fragment from context 803 in fabric R30, which had fragmentary traces of a vertical row of barbotine dots in a contrasting lighter grey clay – this vessel might have been a beaker.
- B.1.5 Twenty-two Roman vessels were represented by rims, but few of these could be assigned to detailed types. Severn Valley ware types comprised four jars (two narrow-necked), a jar/bowl and two tankards. One of the latter, from context 706, was notable. This was the complete profile of a small vessel (diameter 100mm and 90mm high) of 2nd century or perhaps 3rd century type (cf eg Webster 1976, no. 42) which had been mended with a lead rivet which was still in situ. This is unprecedented in the present writer's experience. A further early Roman tankard occurred in reduced Severn Valley fabric R49. Eight vessels were in Dorset BB1, six of these being cooking pot type jars and the other two flat rimmed dishes (both from context 712. A further cooking pot type jar occurred in the uncertain black-burnished type fabric B10. The remaining vessels were a jar and an indeterminate jar/bowl in micaceous fabric R85, another jar in fabric R90 and a dish, probably of form Drag 18/31, in Central Gaulish samian ware.

Chronology

- B.1.6 The chronology of the smaller groups is uncertain, a problem exacerbated by the lack of close dating for Severn Valley ware forms even when rims are present. The majority of the assemblage appears to be broadly of later 1st-2nd century date. The only potentially earlier element is represented by sherds of the E80 ware group, but all of these occurred in context 604, for which a later (probably mid-late 3rd century) date seems certain, so their significance is unclear. It is possible, however, that the earliest activity on the site could have been as early as the middle of the 1st century AD.
- B.1.7 Dating of the later stages of the occupation in effect depends entirely on the black-burnished ware. Of the forms represented by rims, both the dishes and five of the seven jars (including the example in fabric B10) were certain or probable 2nd century types. One jar in context 604 had lattice decoration perhaps of early-mid 3rd century type, while another more clearly had obtuse angled lattice which is unlikely to date before the later 3rd century. Similar lattice was noted on body sherds from contexts 505 and 624. The fact that diagnostic later Roman pieces were only identified in some of the larger groups raises the question of whether some of the smaller assemblages, which lacked such material, might nevertheless have been of later Roman date. This is possible but not demonstrable. However, the total absence of characteristic 4th century material such as Oxford wares suggests that on present evidence activity on the site did not extend far, if at all, into the 4th century.


Table 2: Summary of pottery by context

Context	No sherds	Wt (g)	Fabrics/wares	Context group date	Comment
503	2	20	O40	1-2C?	
505	19	187	O40, R30, B11	250+	
507	5	74	O40, R85, R90, B10, B11	Late 2C+	
511	3	22	R30	?2C+	
513	1	9	B11	120+	
604	79	1030	A13, E80, O40, R30, R90, B11	250-300?	
615	3	46	O40	2C?	
617	1	11	R60	1-2C?	
619	1	11	R85	2C+	
624	19	184	S30, O40, R85, B11	Mid 3C+	
628	1	6	O40	1-2C?	
706	9	238	O40, R85	2C?	
710	3	38	O40, R30, G25?	1C?	
712	28	1049	S30, O40, O41, R49	120-200	Poss 120-150?
713	3	154	O41, R30	1-2C	
803	6	73	O40, R30, R90	Late 1-2C?	
805	1	7	R85	2C+	
811	3	26	O40, R90	1-2C?	
906	2	35	O40, R85	2C+	
907	3	81	O40	2C?	
1204	2	3	Limestone, shell	Later prehistoric?	
Total	194	3304			

Distribution

- B.1.8 The two later prehistoric fragments from Trench 12 are so small that their significance is uncertain but potentially very limited. The Roman pottery is confined to contexts in Trenches 5-9, with the largest individual groups and overall sherd totals in Trenches 6 and 7. The few definite later Roman groups occur in Trenches 5 and 6 (one and two groups respectively). A fairly clear focus of Roman activity is indicated.



B.2 Post-medieval pottery

By John Cotter

Table 3: Post-Roman pottery

Context	Description	Date
514	Modern stoneware ginger beer bottle sherds, 178g	1850-1925
517	Wedgewood transfer printed ware sherd, complete modern stoneware preserve jar and similar sherds, local post-medieval redware (PMR) storage jar sherd, 1260g	1890-1925

B.2.1 The post-medieval pottery assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.3 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.3.1 Of a total of seven pieces of retained stone, only one is utilised (624). The utilised stone shows signs of use on one side (unevenly worn face) and is blackened through burning on the other. It may have been used as a hone. The unutilised stone may be discarded.



B.4 Fired clay and ceramic building material

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

- B.4.1 A small quantity of fired clay (15 fragments weighing 250g) and ceramic building material (6 fragments weighing 97g) was recovered from trenches 5-8. The assemblage has been recorded and is summarised in Table 4. The assemblage was all recovered by hand excavation and is moderately well preserved with little evidence of abrasion and a mean fragment weight of 16g. Both the ceramic building material and fired clay was made in a fine sandy micaceous fabric (A) sometimes with the addition of red ferruginous (B) or calcareous grits (C).

Ceramic Building Material

- B.4.2 Trench 5 produced only a single fragment of modern machine made roof tile from context 514, which also produced a quantity of late 19th and 20th century pottery. The remaining ceramic building material, probably of Roman date, were amorphous fragments from context 604.

Fired Clay

- B.4.3 Most of the fired clay is probably oven structure, represented by fragments with a single moulded flat or undulating surface. One piece had possible wattle impressions on the back and another had a line of depressions creating a ridge along one side. It is unclear whether this resulted from pressing the clay over another structural element or by pressing another object into the clay.
- B.4.4 In addition there were two more heavily fired fragments with a vitrified or vesicular cindered surface typical of furnace line or smithing hearth lining. One had a large lump of iron slag attached to the surface. Both had the typical range of colours of black or dark grey surface grading through a purplish margin to the orange core or exterior of the furnace wall. Another small fragment may also be associated with metal working activity. This was a thin curving sherd fired to a uniform pale grey with a smooth inner surface and sandy slightly vitrified exterior. This could either be a mould or crucible fragment.
- B.4.5 A single piece of oven or hearth furniture is represented by what is probably a corner fragment from a triangular perforated brick. The fragment was too small for a perforation to survive, so the identification must remain uncertain.

Chronology and Function

- B.4.6 Fired clay is not intrinsically dateable, except in the case of a small number of diagnostic forms. Clay was used as a structural material from the prehistoric to medieval periods and is reliant on associated material for more precise phasing. The only dateable piece is the possible triangular perforated brick, which broadly dates from the middle Iron Age to early Roman period. The furnace/smithing hearth lining with the associated iron slag must be of Iron Age or later date. The character of the assemblage is consistent with a late Iron Age - Roman date as indicated by the pottery from the site. The presence in such a small assemblage of several pieces associated with metal working from contexts 604 and 624 in trench 6 is of interest and suggests some sort of



small scale industrial activity was undertaken on the site. Other pieces are likely to be associated with domestic ovens or hearths.

Table 4: summary and quantification of fired clay and ceramic building material

Context	No s	Wt(g)	Size	Fabric	Form	Date	Description
514	1	7	>10mm th	Mod	Roof tile	C20	Flat machine made tile
604	5	90	>24mm th	B	CBM: indet	RB	Amorphous broken fragments
604	1	84	12mm th	B	FC: furnace lining	IA-Med	Flat even surface covered with large lump of iron slag.
604	2	39	>25 x >50mm	A	FC: triangular brick	MIA-ERB	Rounded corner probably from triangular perforated brick.
604	2	13	6-12mm th	C	FC: oven structure	PH-Med	Roughly moulded flat/undulating surface with possible wattle impressions on underside of one piece.
624	1	14	>22mm th	C	FC: oven structure		Possibly moulded surface with a second forming an edge at right angles
624	1	4	>11mm th	A	FC: furnace lining	IA-Med	Flat/convex vitrified and cindered surface fired black, grading through purple to orange in core.
624	1	1	4.5mm th	A	FC: mould or crucible	BA-Med	Thin curving sherd with one very smooth concave surface and convex exterior covered with sand and slightly vesicular, but not vitrified.
712	6	57	>16mm th	B	FC: oven structure	PH-Med	Well fired irregular broken fragments.
809	1	38		B	FC: oven structure	PH-Med	One rough flat moulded surface covered with coarse sand; the opposite side has a series of depressions leaving a ridge along one side.
Total	21	347					



B.5 Metal finds

By Ian R Scott

- B.5.1 There are two metal finds from the evaluation, both from context 517:
- B.5.2 **Enamelled teapot**, cylindrical body, brown enamel with cream band around shoulder. The body of the teapot is complete but the lid is missing. Ht: 116mm; Body D: 112mm; overall L: 210mm. Context 517. Enamelled wares first became widely available in the mid 19th century, were popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. From the 1930s vessels in other materials began to replace enamelled wares. Likely to date from late 19th or early 20th century.
- B.5.3 **Metal can or tin with small screw cap**. Encrusted with layer of corrosion. Possibly a polish tin. Ht overall: 76mm; Ht of body: 67mm; D of body: 48mm. Probably dates to the late 19th or 20th century.
- B.5.4 Both objects are likely to date to the end of the 19th century or early years of the 20th century. The same context produced parts of 6 glass vessels all of similar date.

B.6 Glass finds

By Ian R Scott

- B.6.1 There are seven pieces of glass comprising five complete or almost complete vessels, the base of another vessel and single piece of window glass. The vessels all come from context 517, the window glass from context 514.

Context 514

- B.6.2 **Window glass**. Thick fragment of modern glass. Colourless, slight yellow green tint. 83mm x 40mm; Th: 5.5mm.

Context 517

- B.6.3 **Coffee essence bottle**, complete. Moulded Square section bottle with narrow bevelled corners. Moulded in a 3-piece mould, applied hand tooled finish. Corked closure. Embossed on three faces: (1) PATERSON'S; (2) ESS "CAMP" COFFEE & CHICORY; and (3) GLASGOW. Feint embossing on base: . . . B & Co Ld. Blue green metal. Ht: 220mm; body: 54mm x 54mm.
- B.6.4 Camp coffee is a brand still available today. The original product was produced by Robert Paterson and Sons, vinegar, pickle, sauce and oil merchants (*Post Office Glasgow Directory 1876-77*, 372, 533; *Post Office Glasgow Directory 1889-90*, 485, 688). By 1891 they were manufacturing coffee essence as well as vinegar, pickles, sauces and fruit wine (*Post Office Glasgow Directory 1891-92*, 487, 962), and by 1904 were using the brand name 'Camp coffee' (*Post Office Glasgow Directory 1904-05*, 500, 1080). This coffee bottle dates to the late 19th century or very early 20th century.
- B.6.5 **Cylindrical bottle**, small, with no markings and missing finish. Moulded bottle made in 3-piece mould. Blue green metal. Ht extant: 108mm; D: 37mm.
- B.6.6 **Ink bottle**, square section with bevelled corners. It has straight neck with burst-off finish. Made in 3-piece mould. Blue green or turquoise metal. No embossing. Ht: 102mm; body: 42mm x 43mm.



- B.6.7 **Medicine bottle.** Square section bottle with bevelled corners. Made in 3-piece mould with hand finished rim. Corked closure. Embossed on one face: THE | ONLY | GENUINE | DAY SON | AND | HEWITTS | GASEOUS | FLUID | LONDON. Colourless metal. Ht: 121mm; body: 35mm x 35mm.
- B.6.8 'Gaseous fluid' (Black mixture) was medicine for horse, cows, calves and sheep sold by Day, Son and Hewitt, originally of London, now trading from Lytham St Annes. The company was established in 1833. This bottle dates to the later 19th century, or even possibly the very early years of the 20th century.
- B.6.9 **Beer bottle.** Complete body but no neck of finish. Moulded in a 3-piece mould. Embossed label: FAWKES & SONS | WINES & SPIRITS | MERCHANTS | STROUD. The bottle is embossed on the base: P & R B for Powell and Rickets, Bristol. Ht extant: 155mm; D: 84mm. Dark green metal.
- B.6.10 In 1902 Fawkes' Stores were at 8 and 9 Kendrick Street, Stroud, and in High Street, Stonehouse. They were 'grocers, provision, ale, stout, wine & spirit merchants, tea dealers & coffee roasters' (*Kelly's Directory of Gloucestershire* 1902, 325). The bottle is best date to late 19th or early 20th century.
- B.6.11 **Tumbler.** Base of a fluted tumbler possibly in leaded glass. Colourless. D: 55mm; Ht extant: 31mm. Not closely datable, but probably belongs to the later 19th century.



B.7 Mammal and bird bone

By Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

- B.7.1 The animal bone reported here was recovered from contexts excavated during an evaluation at Land south of Bristol Road, Stonehouse. All of the bone was hand collected, mostly from ditch fill contexts although a few bones came from pit fills. Contexts have been broadly phased to the Roman period.

Methods

- B.7.2 The animal bone was recorded following the protocol and zoning method outlined in Serjeantson (1996). Where possible fragments were identified to species using the Oxford Archaeology Zooarchaeology reference collection and published manuals. Fragments that could not be identified to species were put into categories: large mammal sized (e.g. cattle, horse or large deer) and medium-mammal (sheep, goat, roe deer, dog and pig-sized). Condition was recorded on a 5-point scale, where grade 1 equates to very well preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable. Tooth wear stages were recorded according to Grant (1982).
- B.7.3 All bone was recorded in a Microsoft Access database and will be available as part of the site archive.

Table 4. Number of Identified Fragments (NISP) by context

Context	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Horse	Cetacean	Human	Large mammal	Medium mammal	Mammal	Bird	Grand Total
505	1					3		3		7
507						1				1
511		1								1
513		1								1
604	1	4	3			2	5			15
615	1		1				1			3
624		1				1	5			7
706		1				1				2
710					2	1				3
712		1								1
803						2			1	3
809	1	1						1		3
811						4	4			8
906	2	1		1		1				5
Grand Total	6	11	4	1	2	16	15	4	1	60

Results and Recommendations

- B.7.4 This small assemblage comprises 60 fragments from a range of animals including cattle, sheep/goat, horse, small cetacean (porpoise or dolphin) and fowl-sized bird (Table 4). Two bones from context 710, from ?Roman ditch [711], are human (radius and humerus shaft fragments). Generally the bone is in good condition, although



fragmented. Several bones exhibit clear evidence of gnawing, from both rodents and dogs. Butchery marks are present on several bones and include chop marks on a large mammal metapodial shaft and fine cut marks to a cattle humerus (distal end of the shaft). No bones exhibit pathological changes. Tooth wear on two fragments of sheep/goat mandible suggest that these animals were sub-adult. A fusing cattle proximal humerus from the fill of ditch cut [904] indicates an animal of around 3.5-4 years old, based on modern data in Silver (1963).

- B.7.5 The presence of cetacean bone in such a small assemblage demonstrates the consumption of marine mammal meat and is an unusual find for an inland site, albeit one situated fairly close to the Severn Estuary. The disarticulated human arm bone fragments from ditch cut [711] may indicate the incorporation of remains from a disturbed burial in this ditch fill.
- B.7.6 Although this small assemblage has limited value on its own, the diversity of remains is of interest and the assemblage worth considering further should additional archaeological work take place at the site.



APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land South of Bristol Road, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

Site code: STSB13

Grid reference: NGR:SO 7955 0522

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 7th - 13th May 2013

Area of site: c. 390 x160m

Summary of results: The evaluation consisted of sixteen trenches targeted in part on a series of geophysical anomalies which were thought to be of archaeological origin. The form of the geophysical anomalies suggested the presence of a series of enclosures with a possible track-way leading south towards the River Frome, and this was confirmed by the results of the evaluation.

The earliest archaeological evidence consisted of a ditch containing small fragments of later prehistoric pottery in the western half of the site. No other finds of this date were present.

Archaeological features of Roman date were recorded in five trenches, largely consisting of ditches forming enclosures and a possible track-way. The majority of the features dated to the later 1st-2nd century AD date although at least some are of later Roman date. The features are concentrated in the eastern central part of the site and generally corresponded to the recorded geophysical anomalies.

The quantity of pottery and the presence of a range of other finds (including human bone, animal bone, a small quantity of slag and a possible hone stone) suggest that the remains represent settlement activity. The distribution of features and form of the geophysical anomalies suggests that the focus of settlement activity lies towards (and almost certainly beyond) the northern edge of the site.

The western half of the site, along with the eastern margin, contained a few, largely undated, archaeological features.

Part of the site appears to have been subject to quarrying, and subsequent dumping of domestic waste in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. Evidence for this was recorded towards the northern edge of the site and its extent is indicated by an area of strong magnetic responses recorded in this part of the site in the geophysical survey.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Stroud County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: STGCM:2013.31



Figure 1: Site location

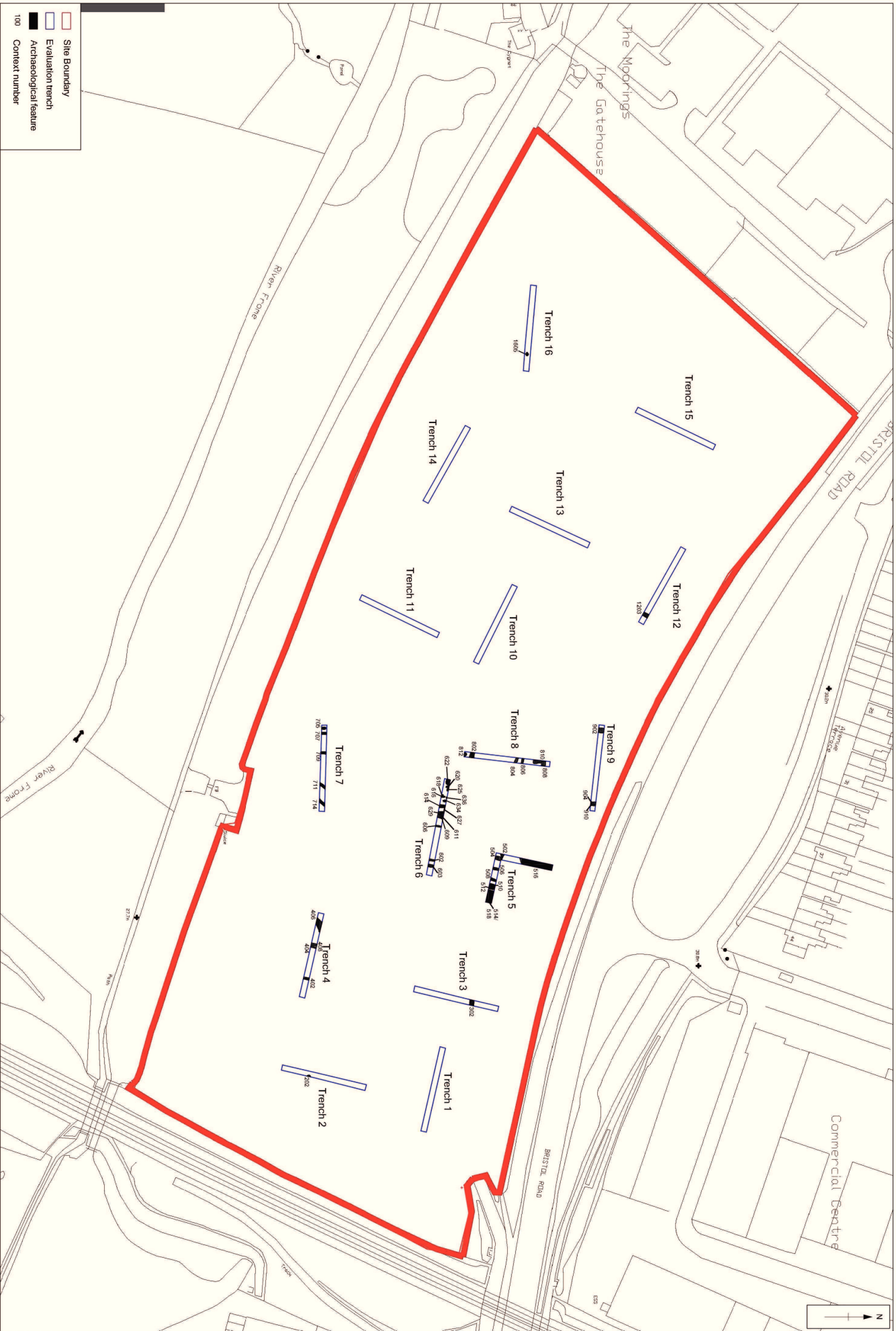
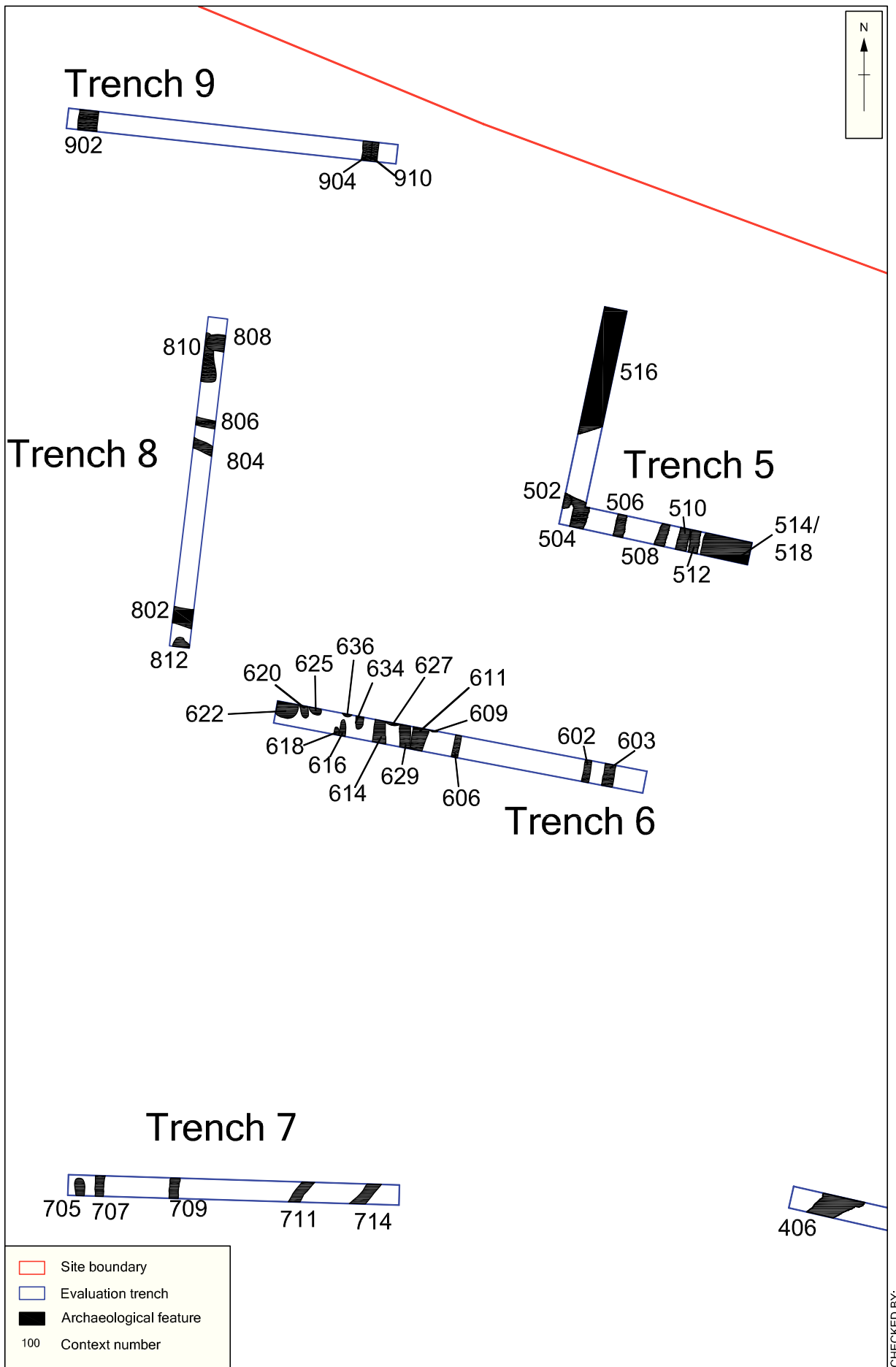


Figure 2: Trench Location



X:\Stonehouse_Bristol Road\Geomatics\02 CAD\001\current\Stonehouse_Bristol_Road_dig\fig4\Figure 4)*code*code*SUBJECT*matt.bradley* 07 Jun 2013



0 20 m
Scale at A4 1:500

Figure 4: Plan of Trenches 5-9

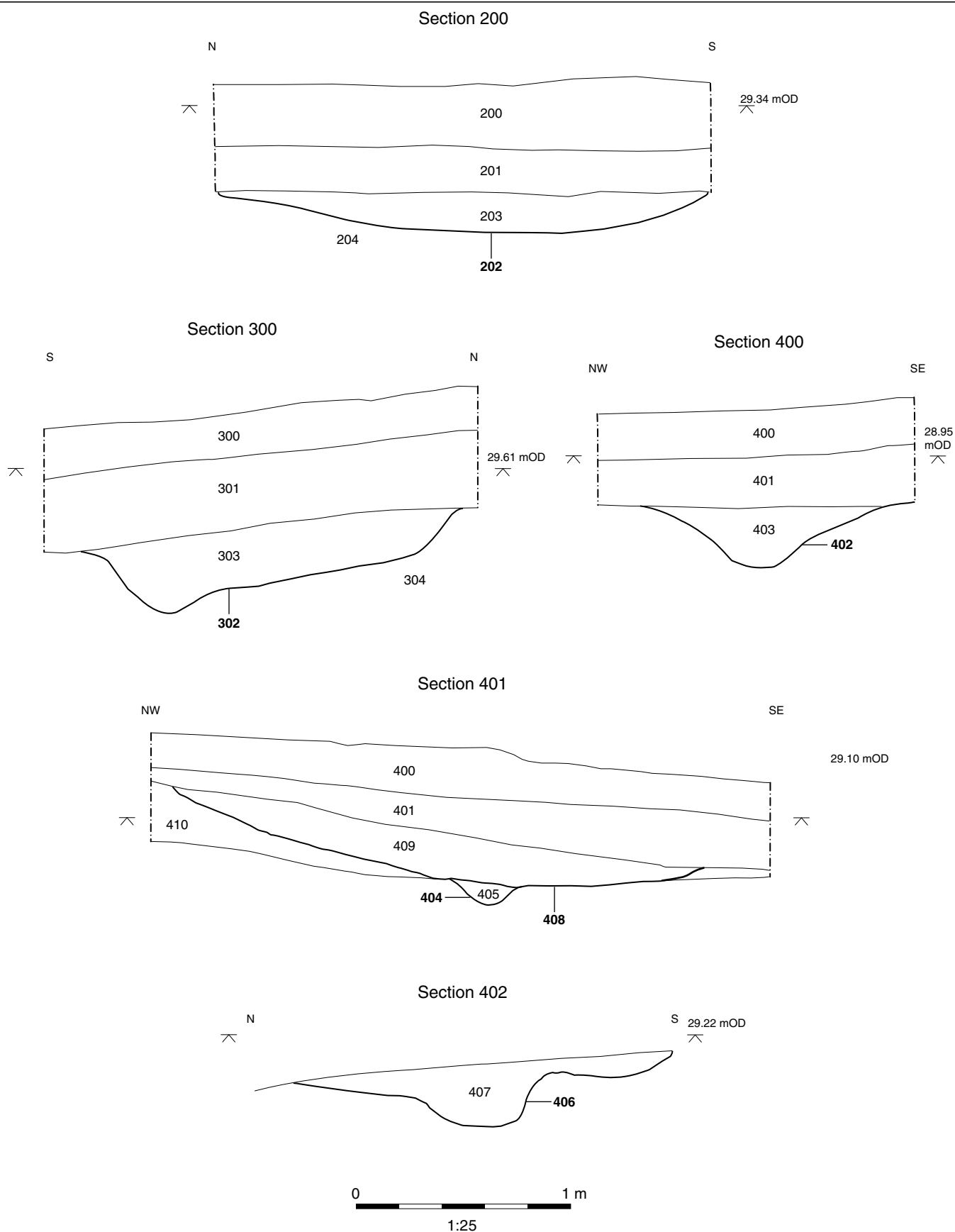


Figure 5: Trenches 2, 3 and 4: sections

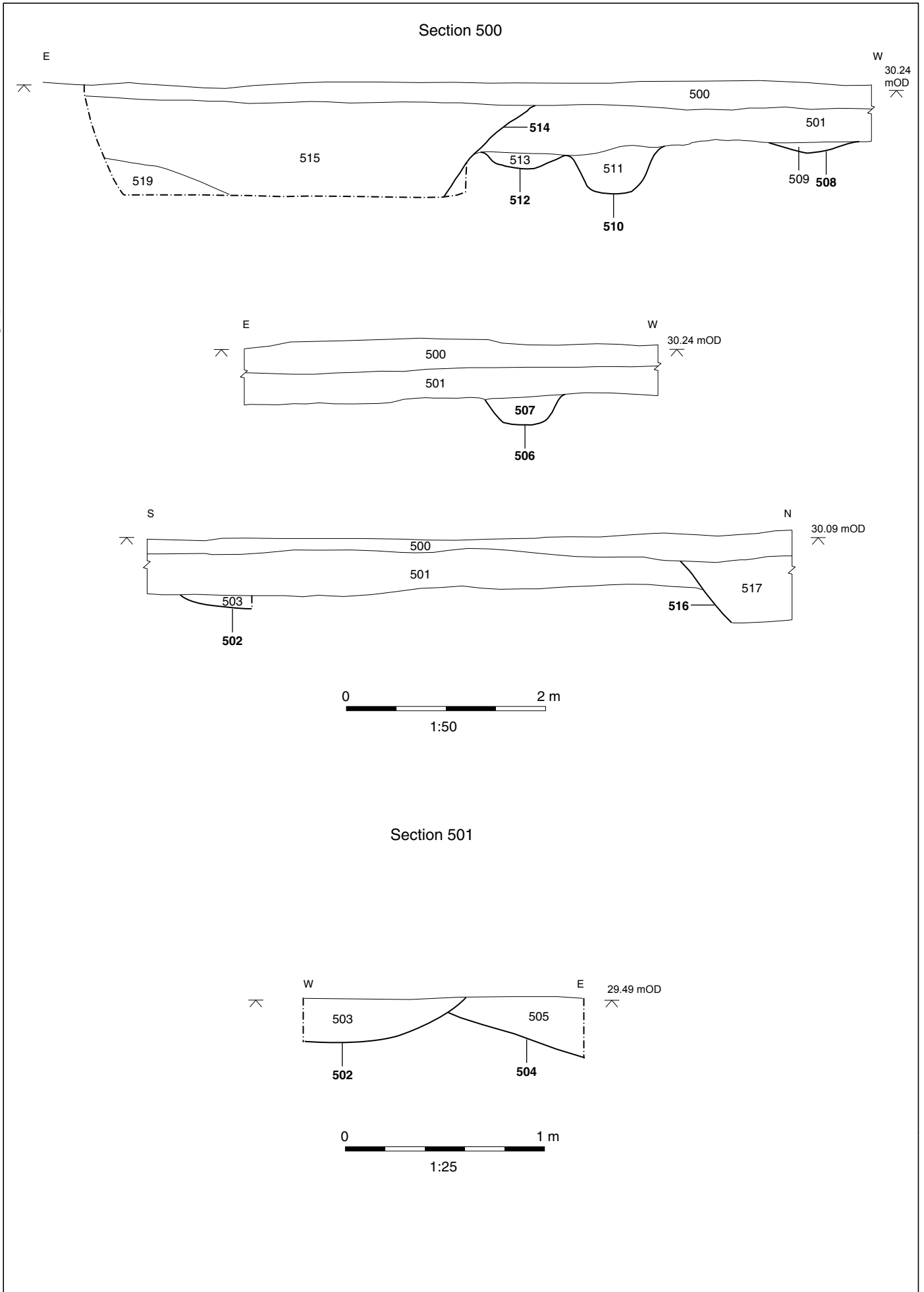


Figure 6: Trench 5: sections

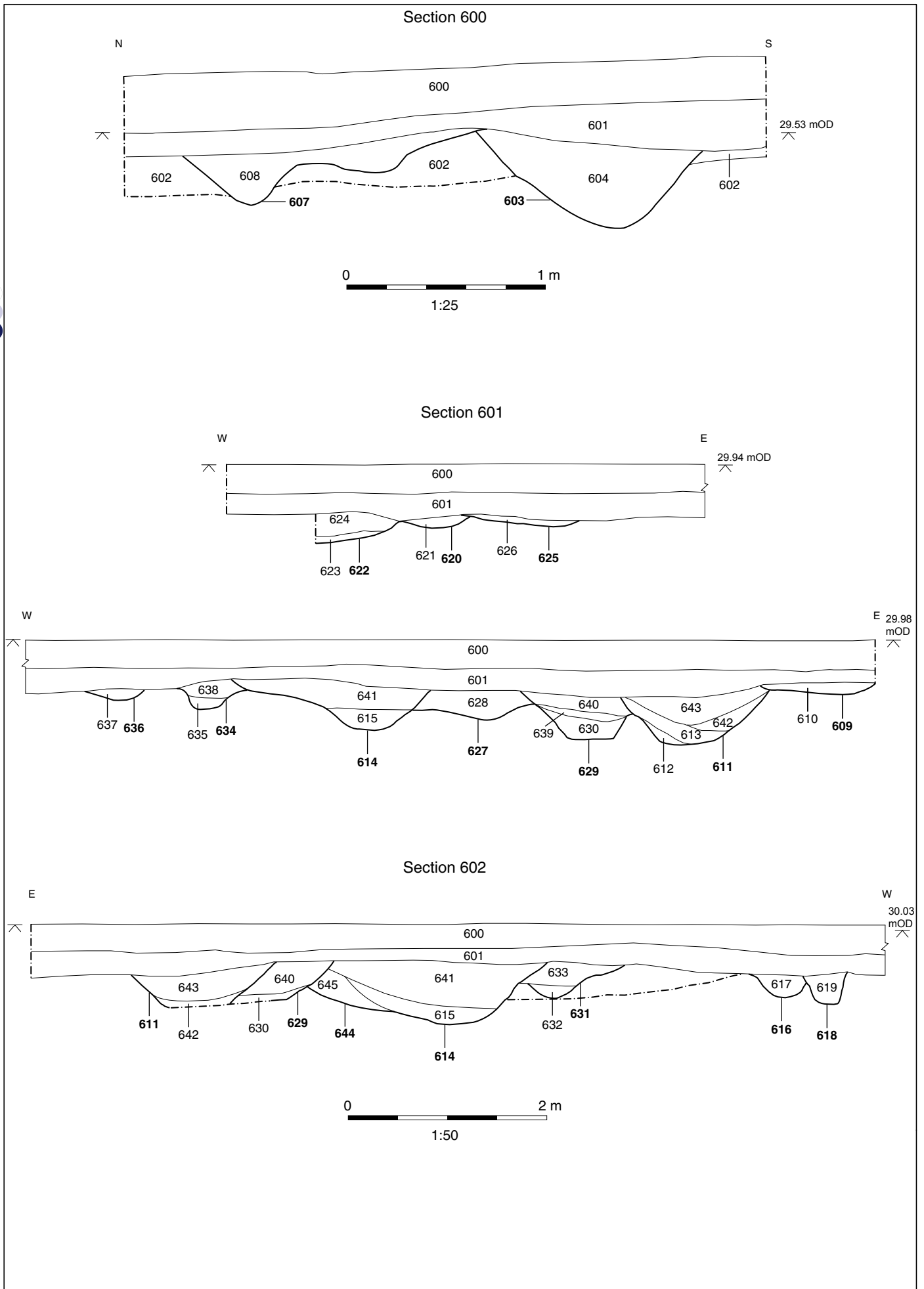


Figure 7: Trench 6: sections



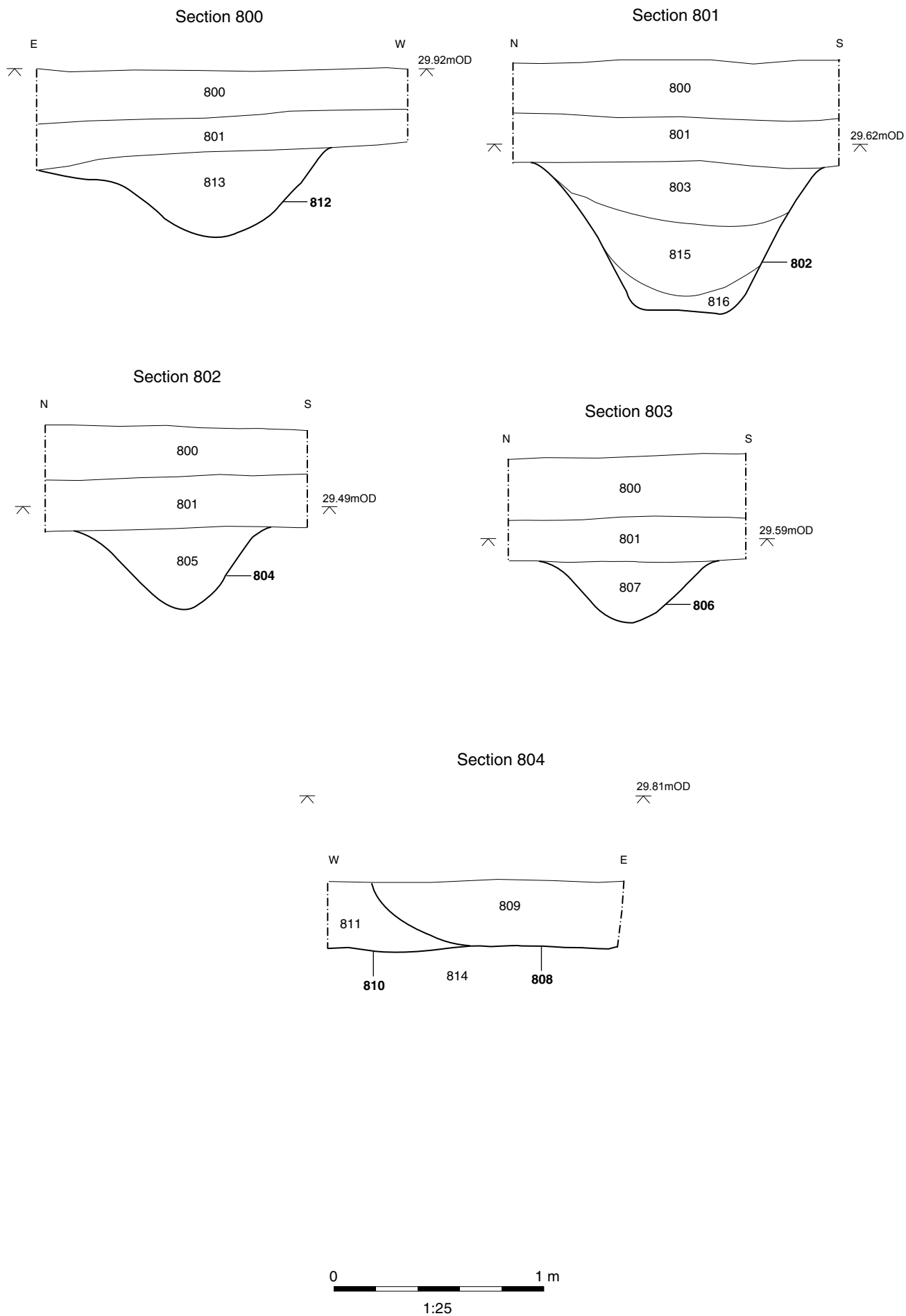


Figure 9: Trench 8: sections

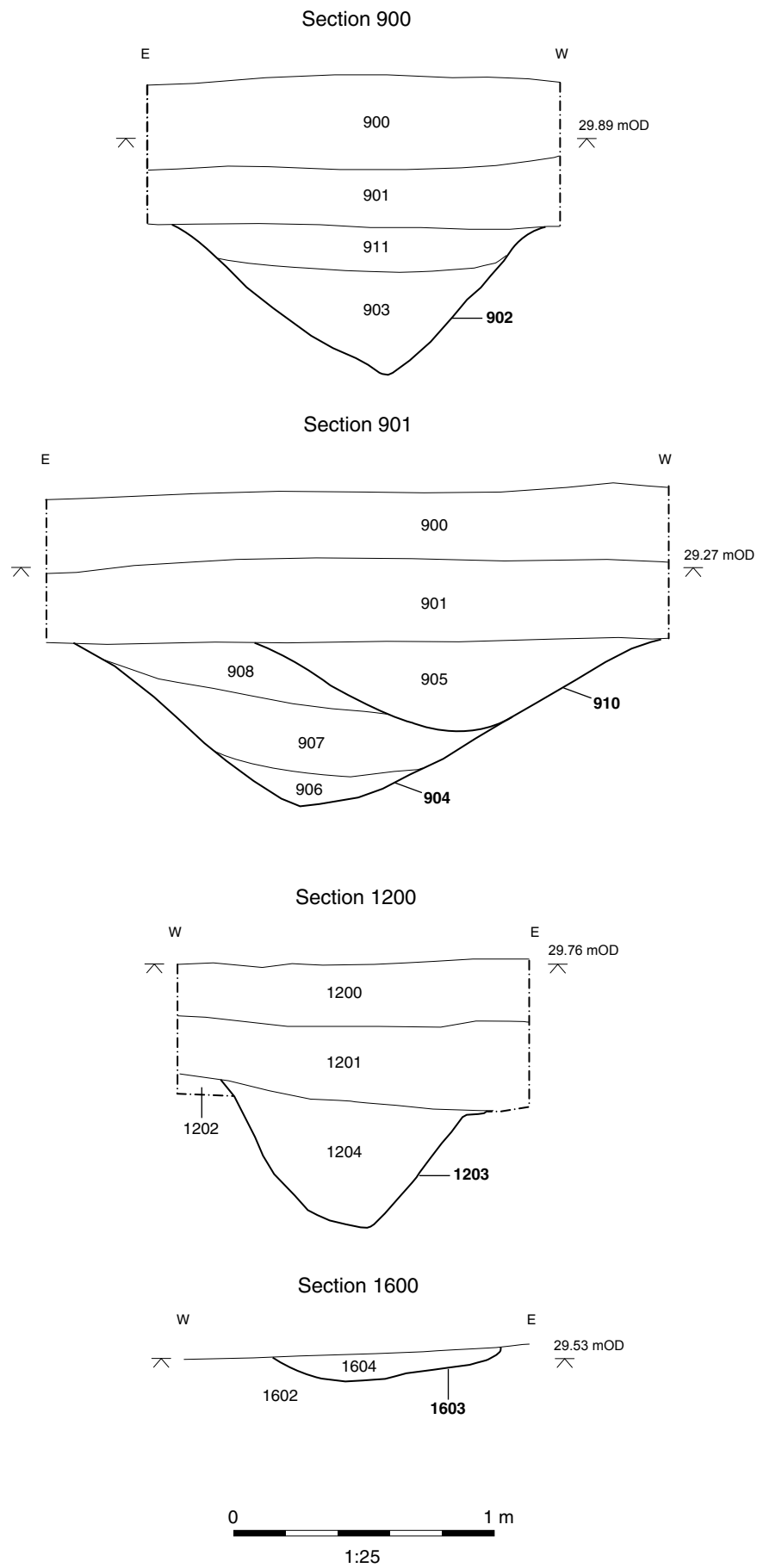


Figure 10: Trench 9, 12 and 16: sections



Plate 1: Trench 5, looking south: Post-medieval quarrying in foreground with Roman ditches beyond



Plate 2: Trench 7, ditch 711, looking south-west



Plate 3: Trench 9, ditch 902 looking, south-west



Plate 4: Trench 12, ditch 1203 looking, south-west



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