

Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension Leicestershire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

March 2004

Client: Greenfields Associates

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 1497

NGR: SK 4100 2400

Client Name: Greenfield Associates
Client Ref No: n/a
Document Title: Breedon-on the Hill Quarry Extension

Document Type: Evaluation

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: SK 4100 2400
Planning Reference: 03/0701/7

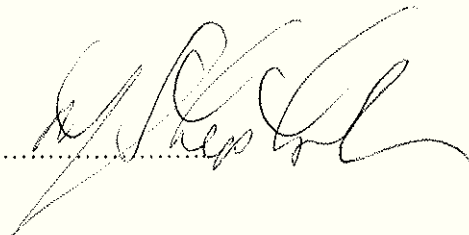
OA Job Number: 1497
Site Code: X.A.11. 2004
Invoice Code: BREEEV
Receiving Museum: Leicestershire County Museum
Museum Accession No: X.A.11. 2004

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Date: 9th March 2004

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Date: 12th March 2004

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Date: 16th March 2004

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Document File Location Server 1:/BRQEEV/Breedon on the Hill Evaluation
Report.doc
Graphics File Location Server 10:/OAPUBS 1/All Drawings/*BREEEV
Illustrated by Roz Smith/Julia Moxham

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Leicestershire****NGR SK 4100 2400*****ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION*****CONTENTS**

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation of a proposed quarry extension at land to the east of Breedon Quarry, on the outskirts of Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire. The evaluation revealed a small concentration of Early Neolithic pits and undated ditches on a hilltop plateau to the centre of the proposal area. Further undated ditches were also recorded within the greater extent of the proposal area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 During the period of the 2nd to the 18th February 2004, OA (Oxford Archaeology) carried out a trial trench evaluation at Breedon on the Hill, Leicestershire. The site is located at NGR SK 4100 2400. This work was commissioned by Greenfield Associates acting on behalf of Ennstone Breedon.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation formed a second stage of archaeological investigation required by the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council (Stephanie Chettle during the first stage investigation, Richard Clark during the second stage investigation) in order to inform advise given to the planning authority in respect of determination of a planning application for an eastern expansion of the quarry works. The first stage investigation was a programme of field-walking and geophysical survey undertaken in 2002 (OA, 2003).
- 1.1.3 The work was carried out to the specifications of a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by OA (2004) and agreed with Richard Clark.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the east of Breedon Hill, in the parish of Breedon on the Hill within the north east part of Leicestershire on the border with Derbyshire.
- 1.2.2 The land proposed for extraction is undulating and lies between 65 and 100 m OD falling away steeply to the south, north and east of the centre of the site.
- 1.2.3 The solid geology underlying the site is Mercia Mudstone and the drift geology is clay/marl.
- 1.2.4 The proposed development site is c.45.9 hectares in size and is situated to the east of the existing quarry. The majority of the land is under cultivation with a small portion to the centre of the site left fallow.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A desk-based assessment detailing the archaeological and historical background of the development area was undertaken by OA as part of the initial investigation on this site. This assessment examined entries from the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Records, the National Monument Record, a variety of published

sources, Ordnance Survey maps (from both C19th and C20th) and aerial photographs. A full list of these sources and the archaeological assessment of the site can be found within the Desktop Assessment (OA 2002) the results of which are briefly summarised below along with revisions recommended by Richard Clark and a brief statement on the results of the Stage 1 evaluation.

Prehistoric Period (500,000 BP - 43BC)

- The focus of activity in the study area during the period is likely to have been the prominent hill top of Breedon Hill. This stands immediately to the west of the site, and rises steeply to c.120 m OD. The hill has extensive views over the surrounding landscape and appears to have seen continuity of human activity throughout the period. The earliest known archaeological find from the study area is the spot find of a Mesolithic flint blade from the top of Breedon Hill. Two Neolithic axes were also found here, as were finds from the Bronze Age, including what appears to have been a barrow (a burial mound) which was cut into in 1858 by quarrymen.
- The main period of known activity on the hill however dates to the Iron Age. The hilltop contains an Iron Age hillfort, which as a result of advancing quarrying has seen rescue excavations since 1946. Excavations on the hill have indicated three probable phases of activity during the period. The first is a pre-rampart occupation of the hill, shown as an occupation layer sealed beneath the later rampart. The second phase is the construction of the first rampart, around 150 BC, followed by the third phase, a refortification, immediately prior to the Roman conquest. Other Iron Age finds from the hill include two fragmentary skeletons found in 1955 outside the ramparts. An Iron Age crucible that was found on the hilltop might indicate metalworking on the site.
- Elsewhere in the study area there are two cropmark sites that may date to the prehistoric period which can be seen on aerial photographs. A circular concentric double ditched enclosure and possible causeway (c.1 km from site) becomes more obvious on the aerial photographs towards the present day. This would suggest that the medieval ridge and furrow, also in this field, is being ploughed away revealing the earlier circular feature below. The feature is therefore likely to be pre-medieval and typologically would appear to date to the prehistoric. The second site is that of two doubtful ring ditches (possible barrows or roundhouses), shown on an aerial photograph c.400 m to the west of the proposed extraction site.

Roman Period (43AD – 410 AD)

- This area of Leicestershire was on the front line of the first wave of the Roman conquest, on the edge of the Plautian frontier zone. After the defeat of the Boudican revolt in AD 60 however, this frontier was abolished and Roman control of Britain was largely secure. Breedon lay c.16 miles to the north east of the Roman town of *Ratae* (Leicester) in the former tribal lands of the *Corieltauvi*.
- There is little evidence of Roman activity within the study area other than the Roman findspots (coins and pottery c.300 m from site) both from the hilltop. The two coins are of 4th century date, and the pottery was found during one of the excavations on the hill. The nearest known occupation site of the Roman period is a probable villa site c.2 km to

the south west. There is also the record of a 'tall red ware jug' of Roman date being dug up in the Breedon churchyard in 1863.

Early Medieval Period (AD410 - 1066)

- During the Anglo-Saxon period this area of Leicestershire is likely to have seen relatively early settlement (Faulks and Gillingham 1987. p.31). It is interesting that the place name of Breedon comprises the British word for hill bre, and the Old English word for hill dun (Ekwall 1985 p.62). It may be that this reflects certain degree of integration of the British and Saxon populations.
- A Saxon monastery was founded on the hill, probably between 675 and 704 AD, and was obviously a house of importance as the abbot Tatwine of Breedon was elevated to the See of Canterbury in 731 (VCH II). Although no remains of the Saxon church have been found in situ, there are a large number of Saxon carved stones re-used within the church fabric. Associated with the Monastery is an extensive Saxon/early medieval Christian cemetery (c.100-150 m from site), variously excavated between 1946 and 1967 in advance of quarrying. Over 180 inhumations have been identified and excavated, these graves being orientated east-west and laid out in two or three orderly rows. This site is located on the top of the hill so it is unlikely that the cemetery extended into the proposed development site. It appears that the monastery suffered greatly and was abandoned during the Danish period, and afterwards never fully recovered.
- The extent of early medieval settlement within the study area is uncertain, although the core of the Anglo-Saxon village (c.400 m from site) lay to the south of Breedon Hill. The village is likely to have prospered by servicing the monastery, and acting as a focal point for a small rural hinterland.

Later Medieval Period (AD1066-1550)

- The Domesday Book records Breedon as one of 34 villages given to Robert de Ferrariis in Leicestershire, but was granted as a part of the nearby township of Tonge. This probably illustrates that with the decline of the Monastery during the Danish settlement, Breedon also declined in importance.
- Between 1109 and 1122 the church of St. Mary and St. Hardulf was granted by Robert de Ferrariis, Earl of Nottingham, to the Augustinian Priory of Nostell of which Breedon became a cell. Breedon was a small house and it is likely that the church also maintained its parochial role. The priory held much land in the parish and had enclosed its holdings in the lost medieval settlement of Andreskirk in 1202 (Brown 2003). The church lies c.250 m from the proposed development site, and is mainly of 13th century date.
- It was noted during the site inspection that many earthworks and platforms were still extant within the graveyard, including a large square platform immediately to the north of the church which probably represents the cloister.
- Settlement in the study area during the period was focused upon the medieval core of Breedon, although three messuages (plots of land associated with dwellings) mentioned in 1173 suggest medieval occupation on the Hill itself. A market is also mentioned in 1173, and a medieval cross shaft was found in Breedon in 1959. The market may have

taken place on the hilltop as a map of 1770 shows an area called Marketstead adjacent to the church (the village is at the foot of hill and the church at its top). The townships of Tonge and Wilson (first mentioned c.972) also lie within the study area, and the township of Andreskirk to the south west may also have extended into it. There are also two mills within the study area and a medieval dovecote. There is also a field named Dovecote Close shown on the maps of 1758 and 1770 which lies within the proposed development area. This would suggest there was a dovecote in or near it. As a dovecote is not shown on the map it may be reasonable to suppose that the structure has disappeared by 1758, and was probably of medieval date.

1.4 Recent Work

- 1.4.1 A combination of geophysical survey and field walking survey was carried out by OA during 2003 (OA 2003 and Bartlett 2003). The non-intrusive surveys did not reveal any clearly defined focus of archaeological activity. Sherds of Roman pottery, medieval pottery, worked flint and worked stone were retrieved from the field walking. However, the quantity, density, spatial distribution and lack of correlation with geophysical anomalies give no indication of the presence of underlying archaeological remains.
- 1.4.2 Weak geophysical anomalies recorded by the survey did not appear characteristic of grouped archaeological features.

1.5 Evaluation aims

- 1.5.1 The aims of the evaluation were;
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the development area and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality, date, depth below ground surface and depth of any archaeological features present.
 - To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features.
 - To make available the results of the investigation.

2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 Extent of fieldwork

- 2.1.1 The evaluation comprised of 32 linear trenches numbered from 1 to 38 (trench numbers 16, 28, 29, 32, 33 and 37 were not used as the amount of trenches originally proposed was reduced and trench lengths were extended in order to attain the sample percentage). The combined trench area totalled 0.5 % of the proposal area.
- 2.1.2 Sixteen of the trenches measured 40 m in length, fifteen trenches were 30 m and one trench measured 35 m in length. All trenches were 2.1 m in width. Trenches were clustered on the hill to the centre of the site partially because of its greater archaeological potential but also due to restrictions on access to the surrounding

ploughed fields. Trench locations were, where possible, located over the weak geophysical signals produced from the stage 1 survey.

2.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 2.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket
- 2.2.2 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent, nature and date. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at a scale of 1:20.
- 2.2.3 All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson 1992).

2.3 Finds

- 2.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

2.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 2.4.1 Bulk samples were taken from Pit 2307. These were processed (floated and sieved) in order to generally define the presence/absence and level of preservation of ecofactual material (charred plant remains) and specifically to check for the presence of material that may be associated with the deposited pottery assemblage. The results of this are described in *section 5.4*.

2.5 Presentation of results

- 2.5.1 In the following sections the deposits are described by trench. Trenches containing no archaeological remains have been described and discussed as a group. There is additional comment on the finds and reliability of the results. A context inventory, including finds lists is included in Appendix 1. The stratigraphy and archaeology of each trench is described from earliest to latest. This is followed by a discussion, interpretation and conclusion of the evaluation.

3 RESULTS: GENERAL

3.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 3.1.1 The site incorporates an undulating landscape centred around a prominent hill on which there is a small flat plateau area. The soils consisted of silty-clays overlying subsoils (where present) and were found to be much deeper in trenches situated on lower ground due to colluviation. The natural clays were infused with frequent sandy fissures of a similar red colour and occasional grey-blue limestone inclusions. During the course of the evaluation any surface rain water pooled in the trench bases obscuring features identified during machining.

4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

4.1 Description of deposits

Trenches 1-6, 8, 10-12, 15, 17-21, 25-27, 30, 31, 35, 36, 38 (See Fig. 2)

- 4.1.1 No significant archaeological features or deposits were located in these 24 trenches. All trenches were machine excavated down to the natural red clay/marl where disturbances from roots, tree-throw holes and modern field drains were recorded. The clay natural was generally overlain by a mid-brown silty-clay subsoil, varying in depth from 0.05 m to 0.40 m across site. Trenches 1, 4, 10, 12 and 30 contained no subsoil horizon and showed recent plough scars in the natural clay upon machining. Trenches 2, 11, 17 and 36 all exhibited thick colluvial deposits above the natural clays. These trenches were all located in downhill areas which accounts for the deeper soil formation. Trenches 5, 11, 18, 21, 25 and 36 contained tree-throw/root activity which generally consisted of a whitish-brown sandy-silt fill from which no finds were recovered (these contexts are detailed in the context inventory, Appendix 1 below). Trench 26 contained 5 parallel drains running north to south made up of a brick lining and a slate cap. These may have been associated with a now demolished building seen on both the 1758 map of Breedon and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881.

Trench 7 (Fig 3)

- 4.1.2 This 30 m by 2.1 m trench was orientated north-west to south-east, parallel with the existing road which forms the present western boundary to the proposal. The trench was excavated to a general depth of 0.6 m. The natural clay (704) was encountered, at c.89.06 m OD and was overlain by 0.15 m of subsoil (703).
- 4.1.3 A single ditch (702) was encountered running east to west, 2.5 m from the north-west end of the trench. This feature cut through subsoil 703. Initially a 1m slot was excavated and showed that the ditch contained a primary fill of silt with pebbles (705) and a main silty-clay upper fill (701) with a combined depth of 0.68 m and width of 1.30 m. No finds were recovered despite the slot being extended for finds recovery.
- 4.1.4 Trench 7 was sealed by 0.23 m of topsoil (700).

Trench 9 (See Fig. 4)

- 4.1.5 This trench was located in a recently ploughed field and orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 40 m by 2.1 m wide. The ground slopes down towards the south-east and the trench was excavated to varying depths of 0.50 - 1.0 m. The natural red clay (910) contained patches of limestone and was reached at a depth of c.88.59 m OD.
- 4.1.6 The natural clay was cut by an east-north-east to west-south-west aligned ditch (902) with a single brown-red clayey fill (903). This feature measured 1.30 m wide and 0.62 m deep with no finds recovered from the 0.65 m long excavation slot.

- 4.1.7 A large circular burnt feature (cut 904) was seen within the centre of the trench. This measured 3.40 m x 1.50 m x 0.50 m deep, contained charcoal and had irregular fired edges. This is probably a burnt-out ash tree (pers. comm. with Mr Wallace) which was removed along with a hedgerow boundary within the last 30 years. The pit contained three fills (907, 906, 905). No finds were retrieved from the feature. This feature ties in with one of the larger magnetic anomalies from the geophysical survey.
- 4.1.8 Both features were overlain by 0.20 m of silty-clay subsoil (901) which thinned up-slope. Sealing this was 0.40 m of ploughsoil (900).

Trench 13 (Fig 5)

- 4.1.9 This trench was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 40 m by 2.1 m wide. It was located within a recently seeded field within the north part of the proposal area and runs roughly parallel with a nearby field boundary to the north. The natural ground slopes downwards very slightly to the north-east and the trench was excavated to depths of 0.60 m-1.20 m. The natural red clay (1312) was reached at a depth of c.69.04 m OD at the deeper, south-west end of the trench.
- 4.1.10 The south-west end of the trench contained a colluvial sequence (1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306) which overlay the natural clay (1312) and petered out after 9 m towards the north-east.
- 4.1.11 Natural clay 1312 was cut to the north east end of the trench by one ditch (cut 1307) and one gully (cut 1309) running parallel to each other (aligned north-west to south-east) and 1.20 m apart. Ditch 1307 was the more northern of the two features and measured 2.0 m wide and 0.45 m deep with shallow, stepped sides. It contained a single orange-brown sandy-clay fill (1308). No archaeological finds were recovered from this deposit.
- 4.1.12 Gully 1309 measured 0.76 m wide and 0.47 m deep with steep, straight sides and contained two fills. The lower fill was a red-brown clay (1311) and had slumped in from the south-west side. It had a high charcoal content and measured 0.12 m at its deepest point. The upper orange-brown sandy-clay fill (1310) measured 0.47 m in depth and contained occasional charcoal fragments. Pottery was recovered from the upper part of fill 1310. This was very fragmentary and could only be dated as probably Roman but possibly Medieval.
- 4.1.13 The uppermost colluvial layer (1302), the natural clay 1312 and the upper fills 1310 and 1308 were overlain by 0.14 m of brown silty clay subsoil (1301). Sealing this was 0.32 m-0.47 m of ploughsoil (1300).

Trench 14 (Fig 6)

- 4.1.14 This trench was located in a recently seeded field c.190 m to the south-east of trench 13. It was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 40 m by 2.1 m. The trench was excavated down 0.50 m and the natural red clay (1403), which contained limestone patches, was reached at c.72.82 m OD.

- 4.1.15 A ditch (cut 1405) cut clay 1403 in the centre of the trench. This feature was orientated north-east to south-west. It contained a single brownish-yellow silty-clay fill (1406) with limestone inclusions towards the base. The ditch was 0.96 m wide, and measured a depth of 0.21 m. Pottery recovered from this fill was very fragmentary and like that retrieved from Trench 13 could only be dated as probably Roman but possibly Medieval.
- 4.1.16 A second ditch (cut 1404) ran north-east to south-west and was located 8 m to the north of 1405. The ditch was straight sided with a U-shaped base and measured 1.15 m in width and 0.33 m in depth. It contained two fills, the lower of which was a brownish-red clayey-silt (1402) which produced burnt flint and flint waste. The upper and main ditch fill (1401), was a brownish-yellow silty-clay and contained no finds (see Fig. 6, section 1401).
- 4.1.17 This trench contained no subsoil. The natural clay (1403) and feature fills were sealed by 0.30 m of ploughsoil (1400), which produced four pieces of worked flint including a Neolithic end scraper.

Trench 22 (Fig 7)

- 4.1.18 This trench was located on the plateau, at the centre of the site. It was orientated north-south and measured 30 m by 2.1 m. It was excavated down to a maximum depth of 0.50 m and the natural red clay (2203) was reached at 94.10 m OD at the north end of the trench.
- 4.1.19 Three circular pits (cuts 2204, 2207, 2210) cut natural 2203 at the northern end of the trench. They were on a north-east to south-west alignment and of similar size and fill consistency. The pits followed the ground contours of the plateau area.
- 4.1.20 Pit 2204 measured 1.16 m wide and 0.37 m deep and contained two fills. The lower fill was a grey-orange sandy-clay (2206) measured a depth of 0.21 m and contained worked flint of probable Neolithic date. The upper fill was orange-brown sandy-clay (2205) measured 0.16 m deep and contained no finds. Both pit fills contained occasional charcoal flecks.
- 4.1.21 Pit 2207 measured 1.30 m wide and 0.46 m deep and contained two fills. The lower fill was a grey-orange sandy-clay (2209) which measured a depth of 0.20 m. The upper fill was an orange-brown sandy-clay (2208) measured 0.24 m deep, and contained two flint flakes of probable Neolithic date. Occasional charcoal flecks were present in both fills.
- 4.1.22 Pit 2210 was excavated along the western trench edge, contained two fills and measured 1.46 m wide and 0.57 m deep. The lower grey-yellow sandy-clay fill (2212) measured a depth of 0.26 m, and the upper orange-grey sandy-clay (2211) was 0.32 m deep. Worked flints of probable Neolithic date were recovered from the upper fill. Both contained occasional charcoal flecks.
- 4.1.23 All three pits were sealed by 0.10 m of red-brown clayey-sand subsoil (2202) which was overlain by 0.25 m of topsoil (2201).

Trench 23 (Fig 8)

- 4.1.24 This trench was orientated north to south on the top of the plateau at the centre of the proposal area. It measured 35 m by 2.1 m and was excavated down to a depth of 0.35 m at the shallow southern end and 0.58 m at the northern end. The natural red clay (2304) was reached at 95.00 m OD mid-trench. The clay was overlain by a red-brown sandy-clay subsoil (2303) of a maximum 0.32 m depth. The subsoil thinned out towards the southern end, where (2302), a thin patchy light red sand can be seen in patches overlying it.
- 4.1.25 Two features cut clay 2304 at the southern end of the trench. The first was a possible hedge line/ditch (cut 2305). This measured 1.20 m in width and 0.30 m in depth. No finds were recovered from the clay-sand fill (2306). A single circular Neolithic pit (2307) cut through fill 2306. This measured 0.90 m x 0.84 m to a depth of 0.26 m. The pit was truncated by ploughing which left a slightly irregular shape in plan. The pit contained a single, dark brown sandy-silt fill (2308) with regular charcoal inclusions and was bulk sampled for processing. Numerous pieces of worked flint (33) and pottery (>100) were recovered from fill 2308 and have been dated to the Early Neolithic.
- 4.1.26 Pit 2307 and Feature 2305 were overlain by 0.26 m of topsoil (2301).

Trench 24 (Fig 9)

- 4.1.27 This trench was located on the plateau to the centre of the proposal area. The trench measured 30 m by 2.1 m and was orientated north-west to south-east. It was excavated down to a depth of 0.45 m and the natural red clay (2404) was reached at 95.80 m OD at the southern end.
- 4.1.28 The southern end of the trench contained one ditch running north to south (cut 2405) which had been re-cut (2403) on its north-eastern edge. The ditch measured 1.00 m in width and 0.27 m in depth. The fill of the primary cut (2402) consisted of 0.26 m of red-brown silty-clay with no finds. Re-cut 2403 was filled by 0.25 m of brownish-yellow silt (2401) from which a flint flake was recovered.
- 4.1.29 The upper ditch fills were overlain by 0.34 m of topsoil (2400).

Trench 34 (Fig 10)

- 4.1.30 Trench was located to the south of the central plateau area and was orientated on an east to west axis. The trench was split in two to avoid excavation under overhead cables. The total trench length was 30 m. The westernmost segment, where the natural ground surface was higher, measured 10 m x 2.1 m and the easternmost measured 20 m x 2.1 m. The trench was excavated down to a depth of 0.30 to 0.50 m and reached the natural red clay (3403) at c.96.24 m OD.
- 4.1.31 The trench contained a 7 m long x 15 m deep rubble spread of stone, slate and pebbles (3402) across the western part of trench. This is likely to be of a fairly modern date due to the recovery of an iron horse shoe and Post-Medieval roof tile. This was overlain by up to 0.30 m of grey silty-sand subsoil (3401), which appeared to be absent in the eastern 20 m segment of this trench.

- 4.1.32 Two features (3404 and 3406) cut natural 3403. Both appeared to be rubble filled hollows. Cut 3404 was linear in plan and shape extended across the trench on a north-east to south-west axis. It measured 1.70 m wide x 0.35 m deep and contained a dark brown sandy-silt fill (3405) from which Late Medieval/Early Post-Medieval pot was retrieved. Cut 3406 was partially seen at the western end of the eastern trench segment and is possibly of pit or linear shape measuring 1.20 m wide by 0.34 m deep with a brown-grey sandy-silt fill (3407). Both features contain large rough hewn limestone blocks and may have been the result of deliberate backfilling or levelling of the area. These features may relate to the construction/destruction of a building seen on both the 1758 map of Breedon and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881.
- 4.1.33 The subsoil in the western segment and fills (3405) and (3407) in the eastern segment of trench 34 are sealed by a maximum of 0.20 m of brown sandy-silt topsoil (3400).

5 FINDS

5.1 Prehistoric Pottery

by Dr Alistair Barclay (OA)

Trench 23, Pit, context 2308

- 5.1.1 This feature produced approximately 100 sherds of quartzite, rock and/or flint tempered pottery of early Neolithic date. Featured sherds include a number of rims from at least four vessels and a shoulder sherd. The rims are either heavy and expanded or rolled. One heavy expanded rim is decorated with oblique lines. This type of decorated rim is quite common and can be paralleled at many sites in the south-east of England that are associated with Decorated Bowl assemblages of mid-4th millennium date (e.g. Briar Hill, Northants; Etton, Cambs. and Abingdon, Oxon).

5.2 Other Pottery

- 5.2.1 Ditch (fill 1406) and gully (fill 1310) contained fragmentary pot which was given a broad Roman/Medieval date due to its undiagnostic form. Stone rubble spreads within trench 34 yielded Late Medieval/Early Post-Medieval (C15th-C16th) ceramics and Post-Medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil of trenches 12 and 17.

5.3 Lithics

by Rebecca Devaney (OA)

Introduction

- 5.3.1 A total of 55 pieces of struck flint were recovered from the evaluation at Breedon on the Hill (Table 1). One fragment (30g) of burnt unworked flint was retrieved from context (1402). Neolithic pits in trenches 22 and 23 provide the most interesting material and are described separately from the rest of the assemblage.

Provenance

- 5.3.2 The worked flint was spread between eight contexts within five trenches, including ditch and pit fills. There is also an unstratified small find (SF 1) that was recovered by the survey team. Most contexts contain less than five pieces of flint, however, contexts (2211) and (2308) produced 10 and 33 pieces respectively. Both are fills of Neolithic pits.

Table 1. Summary of worked flint by context.

Context	SF 1	1400	1402	2206	2208	2211	2308	2401	3101	Total
Flake		3		1	2	3	11	1		21
Blade							1			1
Bladelet							1			1
Blade-like flake				1			2			3
Chip							9			9
Irregular waste			1			6	4			11
Other blade core									1	1
Unclassifiable/ fragmentary core							1			1
End scraper		1					1			2
Other scraper						1	1			2
Retouched flake	1									1
Serrated blade							1			1
Miscellaneous retouch							1			1
Total	1	4	1	2	2	10	33	1	1	55

Raw material and condition

- 5.3.3 Where identifiable, the raw material is gravel flint. The cortex is very thin and colour varies from medium grey to creamy white. These are likely to be from river gravel sources.
- 5.3.4 The condition of the flint is fairly good. Most pieces (47%) were recorded as being in a fresh condition. Slightly fewer pieces (44%) show slight post-depositional damage and 5% show moderate post-depositional damage. 2% of the flints are rolled and 2% are glossed. The damage is most frequently seen on vulnerable unretouched edges and implies a fair amount of post-depositional disturbance. The exception is the material from the Neolithic pits, which is very fresh. Surface alteration is limited with 80% of the material being uncorticated. 9% exhibit light cortication, 7% exhibit moderate cortication and 4% exhibit heavy cortication. These pieces are spread between four contexts. A total of 25% suffer breaks and just 5% show signs of burning.

5.3.5 Technology and dating

Neolithic Pits

- 5.3.6 Three Neolithic pits were excavated in trench 22. Flint was recovered from three contexts, a total of 13 pieces of unmodified waste and one scraper (Table 1). Many of the flakes are irregular and two are possibly natural. The scraper is fragmentary and undiagnostic. Two of the flakes refit. Condition is good and cortication is restricted to the scraper, which suggests this may be a possible in situ group. The material is consistent with a Neolithic date.
- 5.3.7 Another Neolithic pit was excavated in trench 23. This produced 33 pieces of flint on site, with a further 4 pieces recovered from the environmental bulk sample which were not included in this assessment (Table 1). This can be broken down into 85% debitage, 3% cores and 12% tools. There is a small but significant blade element which suggests an early Neolithic date (Ford 1987:73). The presence of chips and irregular waste suggests knapping took place close by. There is one fragmentary core. The tools category is fairly large in comparison to the other material. The two scrapers have minimal direct retouch and the serrated blade has serrations along one edge and exhibits edge gloss. The piece with miscellaneous bifacial retouch forms an undiagnostic tool.

The remaining material

- 5.3.8 The rest of the assemblage from Breedon on the Hill was recovered from four contexts in three trenches, plus the unstratified piece (SF 1). Context (1400) (topsoil) contained four pieces of flint and the rest just one piece each (Table 1). The debitage category comprises four flakes and one piece of irregular waste. There is one possible bladelet core. It is small, weighing just 12g, and has been glossed by exposure to heat. The end scraper is very small and has direct retouch on the distal end. It is consistent with a Neolithic date, which is supported by the soft hammer impact. The unstratified find is a retouched flake that has inverse retouch along the right hand edge.

Discussion and potential

- 5.3.9 The flint from Breedon on the Hill is consistent with an early Neolithic date. This is supported by the presence of blade material and soft hammer impacts. The pit groups provide the most interesting material. In general the flint is thinly spread across the site and suggests low-density background activity.
- 5.3.10 The flint should be re-examined alongside the material to be recovered from any further excavations.

5.4 Palaeo-environmental remains

Assessment of the Environmental Indicators

By Claire Sampson (OA)

- 5.4.1 One bulk sample was taken from Neolithic pit 2307, fill 2308 for the recovery of charred plant remains. It was processed in a modified Siraf machine, with the flot retained on a 250µm mesh. The flot was scanned at x10 magnification.
- 5.4.2 The flot was quite large (150ml) and dominated by wood charcoal. A range of taxa appeared to be present, including *Quercus* (oak) and Maloideae (hawthorn, apple type). Fragments of *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nutshell and occasional cereal grains were also present. The grain was heavily infused with sediment and may not be identifiable. There was no obvious chaff in the sample and any weed seeds appeared to be modern. The residues for this sample also contain *Corylus* shell and some worked flint.
- 5.4.3 The presence of hazel nutshell and occasional cereal grain in this deposit suggests that this is likely to be a dump of domestic waste and is typical of the assemblages generally recovered from Neolithic features. Clearly, there is potential for charred plant remains on this site, although preservation is limited as the material was heavily infused with sediment. Nevertheless, the recovery of cereal remains in the Neolithic period is of some interest and this sample has the potential for limited further analysis. Any future excavations at this site should adopt a suitable environmental sampling strategy for charred plant remains.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 6.1.1 Archaeological features were revealed in eight out of the 32 trenches excavated (Trenches 7, 9, 13, 14, 22, 23, 24, 34). These were predominantly clustered on the hilltop area and corresponded with the area of potential activity highlighted by the desktop assessment (OA, 2002). Two of these trenches were, however, located down-slope to the north-east of this hilltop area.
- 6.1.2 The earliest deposits were located on the hilltop promontory. Trench 23 revealed a relatively small pit (2307) containing numerous pot sherds from at least four different vessels and 37 pieces of worked flint. These have been dated to the Early Neolithic. Three larger pits were located in trench 22 (2204, 2207, 2210) on a north-east to south-west alignment. All of these pits contained worked flint that is also consistent with a Neolithic date. Trench 24 contained a re-cut ditch orientated north to south (2405) which may be tentatively dated to the prehistoric due to the presence of worked flint in the re-cut fill and may relate to activity upon the hilltop at this time.
- 6.1.3 Trenches 7 and 9 contained undated ditches (702 and 902 respectively). These may be field boundaries of recent date. Such infilled boundaries could be typically expected in fields of this size which are likely to have been enlarged as a result of modern agricultural methods.

- 6.1.4 Trench 13 contained a ditch (1307) and gully (1309) both orientated north-south. Pottery was recovered from the upper part of gully fill (1310). These features are on the same alignment as each other but do not run with the contours of the field or with the existing field boundary to the north. They have the same main fill type and it is likely that they are contemporary. Trench 14 contained two ditches, both running north-east to south-west with flint waste from ditch 1404 and pottery from Ditch 1405. The pottery from trenches 13 and 14 was of an indistinct material and quite fragmentary and was given a broad Roman/Medieval date. The function of these ditches is unknown. They do not align with any of the current or past field systems seen on the OS maps used in this study.
- 6.1.5 Two features correlated with the geophysical survey. In trench 9 a mapped anomaly was revealed to be a large, burnt tree-removal pit (904) which formed part of a hedgerow seen on the OS Map of 1921 2nd Edition. In trench 34 and 26 Post-Medieval building debris appears to correspond to a 'hotspot' in the magnetometer scan. This could be the levelling of a building seen on both the 1758 map of Breedon and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881 as being situated in this area.

6.2 Conclusions

- 6.2.1 The evaluation has produced evidence for (early) Neolithic activity on the hilltop area. All pits contained worked flint with pit 2307 being particularly abundant in both flint and pottery of this period. The environmental sample of fill (2308), when processed, produced an assemblage typical of this date and indicated a potential for preservation of charred remains on site.
- 6.2.2 The nature of the Neolithic activity is unclear, whether the pits represent a temporary and insubstantial occupation or a more formal arrangement possibly associated with Breedon Hill could only be elucidated by further work.
- 6.2.3 The undated ditches are of less significance, many of these will be of fairly recent date immediately prior to modern field expansion. However there is certainly the possibility of elements of field systems from the prehistoric onwards.

6.3 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.3.1 A 0.5% sample is generally accepted as too small a level investigation to estimate the level of archaeological presence or absence with any certainty. However the level of trenching is not uniform across the site. On the hilltop to the centre of the proposal area (which topographically has high potential for archaeological remains) the percentage of investigation is c.15%. The results from this area of trenching combined with the geophysical survey gives a reliable indication of low-moderate density, but significant Neolithic activity. Trench investigation of the rest of the site is therefore a very low percentage of the proposal area and the lack of archaeological remains within the trenches (although also implied by the previous geophysical survey and in some areas by field-walking) cannot be interpreted as the complete absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.

6.4 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
1								
	100	Layer	-	0.30	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	101	Layer	-	>0.30	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	102	Cut	1.6	0.60	Modern field drain	-	-	-
	103	Fill	1.6	0.60	Fill of 102	-	-	-
	104	Layer	-	-	Natural Sand	-	-	-
2								
	200	Layer	-	0.40	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	201	Layer	-	0.39	Subsoil	-	-	-
	202	Layer	-	>0.18	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	203	Layer	-	-	Natural limestone bands	-	-	-
3								
	300	Layer	-	0.40	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	301	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-	-
	302	Layer	-	0.35	Yellow-brown sandy-clay	-	-	-
	303	Layer	-	0.25	Red-brown sandy-clay	-	-	-
	304	Layer	-	>0.30	Natural red clay	-	-	-
4								
	400	Layer	-	0.30	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	401	Layer	-	>0.30	Natural red clay	-	-	-
5								
	500	Layer	-	0.32	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	501	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-	-
	502	Layer	-	0.17	Silty-clay	-	-	-
	503	Layer	-	0.18	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	504	Cut	0.84	0.56	Tree-throw	-	-	-
	505	Fill	0.84	0.56	Fill of tree-throw 504	-	-	-
6								
	600	Layer	-	0.20	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	601	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-	-

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
6								
	602	Layer	-	0.10	Blue-grey clay natural	-	-	-
	603	Layer	-	>0.08	Natural red clay	-	-	-
7								
	700	Layer		0.18	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	701	Fill	2.52	0.64	Upper ditch 702 fill	-	-	-
	702	Cut	2.52	0.68	Ditch cut (ESE WNW)	-	-	-
	703	Layer		0.17	Subsoil	-	-	-
	704	Layer		>0.13	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	705	Fill		0.04	Lower ditch 702 fill	-	-	-
8								
	800	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-	-
	801	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-	-
	802	Layer	-	>0.12	Natural red clay	-	-	-
9								
	900	Layer	-	0.30	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	901	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-	-
	902	Cut	1.9	0.62	Ditch (NE-SW)	-	-	-
	903	Fill	1.9	0.62	Fill of 902	-	-	-
	904	Cut	3.40	0.50	Cut of burnt out tree pit.	-	-	-
	905	Fill	3.25	0.40	Fill of 904	-	-	-
	906	Fill	2.0	0.02	Fill of 904	-	-	-
	907	Fill	2.0	0.10	Fill of 904	-	-	-
	908	Cut	0.20	0.50	Modern land drain	-	-	-
	909	Fill	0.20	0.50	Fill of 908	-	-	-
	910	Layer	-	>0.43	Natural red clay	-	-	-
10								
	1000	Layer	-	0.30	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	1001	Layer	-	>0.30	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	1002	Layer	-	>0.05	Undulating natural limestone	-	-	-
11								
	1100	Layer		0.30	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	1101	Layer		0.20	Subsoil	-	-	-
	1102	Layer		0.60	Natural sandy-clay	-	-	-

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
11								
	1103	Layer		0.20	Natural brown-red clay	-	-	-
	1104	Layer		0.10	Alluvial silty-sand	-	-	-
	1105	Layer		0.10	Colluvium	-	-	-
	1106	Layer		>0.20	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	1107	Cut	0.62	0.20	Tree-throw	-	-	-
	1108	Fill	0.62	0.20	Fill of 1107 tree-throw	-	-	-
12								
	1200	Layer	-	0.26	Modern ploughsoil	Pot	138g	17th - 18th C
	1201	Layer	-	>0.24	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	1202	Layer	-	>0.07	Discoloured natural clay	-	-	-
13								
	1300	Layer	-	0.25	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	1301	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-	-
	1302	Layer	-	0.15	Red-brown silty-clay	-	-	-
	1303	Layer	-	0.25	Orange-brown silty-clay	-	-	-
	1304	Layer	-	0.10	Orange-brown sandy-clay	-	-	-
	1305	Layer	-	0.15	Brown-red clay	-	-	-
	1306	Layer	-	0.15	Orange-brown sandy-clay	-	-	-
	1307	Cut	2.30	0.45	Ditch (NW-SE)	-	-	-
	1308	Fill	2.30	0.45	Fill of 1307	-	-	-
	1309	Cut	0.75	0.50	Gully (NW-SE)	-	-	-
	1310	Fill	0.75	0.50	Fill of 1309	Pot	3g	Roman/ Medieval
	1311	Fill	0.10	0.05	Fill of 1309	-	-	-
	1312	Layer	-	>0.10	Natural red clay	-	-	-
14								
	1400	Layer	-	0.32	Modern ploughsoil	Flint	13g	-
	1401	Fill	1.17	0.21	Fill of ditch 1404	-	-	-
	1402	Fill	0.54	0.12	Fill of ditch 1404	Burnt Flint, Flint	31g, 10g	-
	1403	Layer	-	>0.14	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	1404	Cut	1.17	0.33	Ditch (NE-SW)	-		

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Find</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
14								
	1405	Cut	1.0	0.22	Ditch (NE-SW)	-	-	-
	1406	Fill	1.0	0.22	Fill of ditch 1405	Pot	8g	Roman/ Medieval
15								
	1500	Layer	-	0.24	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	1501	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-	-
	1502	Layer	-	0.24	Natural red silt-clay	-	-	-
	1503	Layer	-	>0.04	Natural red clay with limestone	-	-	-
17								
	1700	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	Pot	12g	17th - 18th C
	1701	Layer	-	0.29	Subsoil	-	-	-
	1702	Layer	-	0.14	Brown-red silty-clay	-	-	-
	1703	Layer	-	0.18	Red silty-clay	-	-	-
	1704	Layer	-	0.19	Yellowish silty-clay	-	-	-
	1705	Layer	-	0.04	Mid red silt	-	-	-
	1706	Layer	-	>0.09	Natural red clay	-	-	-
18								
	1800	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-	-
	1801	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-	-
	1802	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of tree-throw 1804	-	-	-
	1803	Layer	-	>0.20	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	1804	Cut		0.25	Tree-throw	-	-	-
	1805	Fill		0.08	Fill of tree-throw 1804	-	-	-
19								
	1900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-	-
	1901	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-	-
	1902	Layer	-	>0.13	Natural red clay	-	-	-
20								
	2000	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-	-
	2001	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-	-
	2002	Layer	-	>0.15	Natural red clay	-	-	-

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
21								
	2100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-	-
	2101	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-	-
	2102	Layer	-	0.30	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	2103	Layer	-	>0.06	Natural grey-red clay	-	-	-
	2104	Fill	0.80	0.32	Fill of tree-throw 2105	-	-	-
	2105	Cut	0.80	0.32	Tree-throw	-	-	-
	2106	Cut	0.76	0.08	Tree-throw	-	-	-
	2107	Fill	0.76	0.08	Fill of tree-throw 2106	-	-	-
22								
	2201	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-	-
	2202	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil	-	-	-
	2203	Layer	-		Natural red clay	-	-	-
	2204	Cut	1.16	0.37	Pit	-	-	-
	2205	Fill	1.16	0.18	Upper fill of pit 2204	-	-	-
	2206	Fill	1.84	0.20	Lower fill of pit 2204	Flint	4g	Neolithic
	2207	Cut	1.30	0.45	Pit	-	-	-
	2208	Fill	1.30	0.24	Upper fill of pit 2207	Flint	24g	Neolithic
	2209	Fill	0.72	0.20	Lower fill of pit 2207	-	-	-
	2210	Cut	1.44	0.58	Pit	-	-	-
	2211	Fill	1.44	0.32	Upper fill of pit 2210	Flint	109g	Neolithic
	2212	Fill	1.20	0.28	Lower fill of pit 2210	-	-	-
23								
	2301	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-	-
	2302	Layer	0.92	0.16	Sandy lens	-	-	-
	2303	Layer	-	0.36	Subsoil	-	-	-
	2304	Layer	-	>0.24	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	2305	Cut	0.95	0.27	Natural hollow	-	-	-
	2306	Fill	0.95	0.27	Fill of 2305	-	-	-
	2307	Cut	0.92	0.35	Pit	-	-	-
	2308	Fill	0.92	0.35	Fill of pit 2307	Pot, Flint	469g, 150g	Early Neolithic

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
24								
	2400	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-	-
	2401	Fill	1.52	0.25	Fill of ditch re-cut 2403	Flint	6g	Prehisto- -ric
	2402	Fill	0.94	0.14	Fill of ditch 2405	-	-	-
	2403	Cut	1.84	0.35	Re-cut of ditch	-	-	-
	2404	Layer	-	>0.10	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	2405	Cut	0.64	0.12	Ditch (N-S)	-	-	-
25								
	2500	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-	-
	2501	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-	-
	2502	Layer	-	>0.18	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	2503	Cut	1.2	0.12	Tree-throw	-	-	-
	2504	Fill	0.46	0.12	Fill of tree-throw 2503	-	-	-
	2505	Cut	0.68	0.10	Tree-throw	-	-	-
	2506	Fill	0.68	0.10	Fill of tree-throw 2505	-	-	-
	2507	Fill	0.62	0.10	Fill of tree-throw 2503	-	-	-
	2508	Cut	0.53	0.30	Natural sandy fissure	-	-	-
	2509	Fill	0.53	0.30	Fill of natural feature 2508	-	-	-
26								
	2600	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-	-
	2601	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-	-
	2602	Cut	0.25	0.10	Modern Drain	-	-	-
	2603	Fill	0.25	0.10	Fill of drain 2602	-	-	-
	2604	Layer	-	>0.07	Natural red clay	-	-	-
27								
	2700	Layer	-	0.25	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	2701	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-	-
	2702	Layer	-	>0.07	Natural red clay	-	-	-
30								
	3000	Layer	-	0.40	Modern ploughsoil	Lead	112g	Modern
	3001	Layer	-	0.24	Natural red clay	-	-	-

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
31								
	3101	Layer	-	0.40	Modern ploughsoil	Flint	13g	-
	3102	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-	-
	3103	Layer	-	>0.44	Natural red clay	-	-	-
34								
	3400	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-	-
	3401	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-	-
	3402	Layer	>2.2	0.20	Rubble spread	Stone, Pot	13g, 33g	Post-Medieval
	3403	Layer	-	>0.40	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	3404	Cut	4.0	0.35	Shallow rubble filled ditch	-	-	-
	3405	Fill	4.0	0.35	Fill of ditch 3404	Pot	4g	C 15th - C 16th
	3406	Cut	>1.20	0.30	Shallow rubble filled ditch	-	-	-
	3407	Fill	>1.20	0.30	Fill of ditch 3406	-	-	-
35								
	3500	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-	-
	3501	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-	-
	3502	Layer	-	0.18	Natural dark red clay	-	-	-
	3503	Layer	-	0.06	Natural grey limestone	-	-	-
	3504	Layer	-	0.24	Natural red clay	-	-	-
	3505	Layer	-	0.04	Natural brown limestone	-	-	-
36								
	3600	Layer	-	0.22	Modern ploughsoil	-	-	-
	3601	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-	-
	3602	Layer	-	0.28	Natural mid-red clay	-	-	-
	3603	Layer	-	>0.40	Natural dark-red clay	-	-	-
	3604	Cut	1.18	0.32	Tree-throw	-	-	-
	3605	Fill	1.18	0.32	Fill of tree-throw 3604	CBM	260g	-
38								
	3800	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-	-
	3801	Layer	-	0.27	Subsoil	-	-	-
	3802	Layer	-	0.28	Natural red clay	-	-	-

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
38								
	3803	Layer	-	>0.28	Natural red clay with limestone	-	-	-

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Breedon on the Hill Quarry Extension.

Site code: X.A.11.2004.

Grid reference: SK 4100 2400.


















Type of evaluation: Sixteen 40 m trenches, Fifteen 30 m trenches and one 35m trench .

Date and duration of project: 2nd February - 18th February 2004, 2.5 weeks.

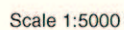
Area of site: 45.9 ha in total.

Summary of results: 4 Neolithic pits located on the hilltop plateau and seven undated ditches spread over the area were recorded.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Leicester City Museum Services in due course, under the following accession number: X.A.11.2004.

	Section line and number
	Limit of excavation
	Sondage / Interior limit of excavation
	Fill line and number
	Cut line and number
	Structure number
	Unclear boundary
	Stones
	Hachures indicate inclination of slope inside excavated feature
	Levels
	Charcoal
	Burnt Clay
	Pottery
	Sand
	Limestone
	Pot
	Burnt Clay

Key to Oxford Archaeology plans and sections, (figures 3-10)




 Proposed area of development

Figure 1: Site location

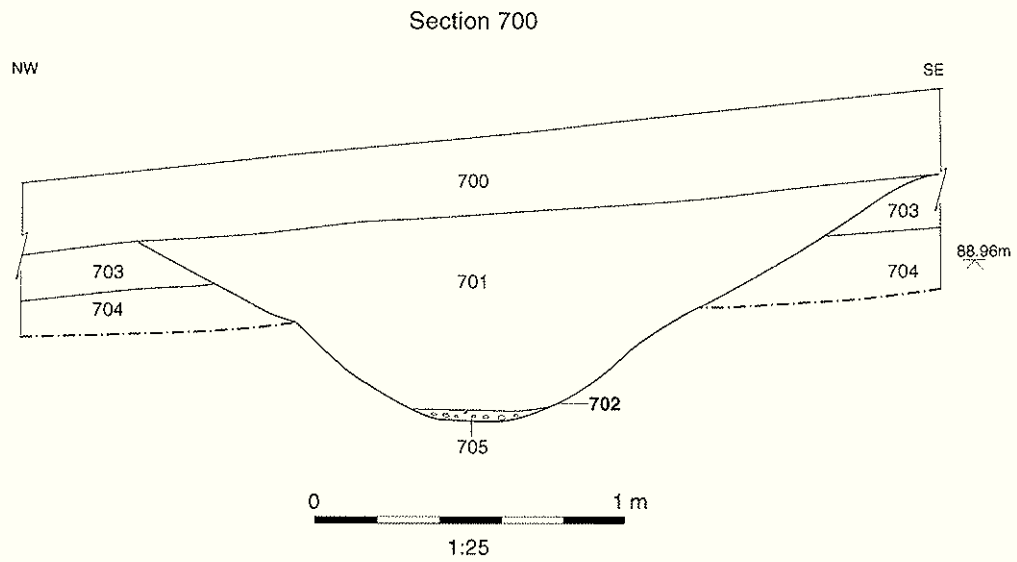
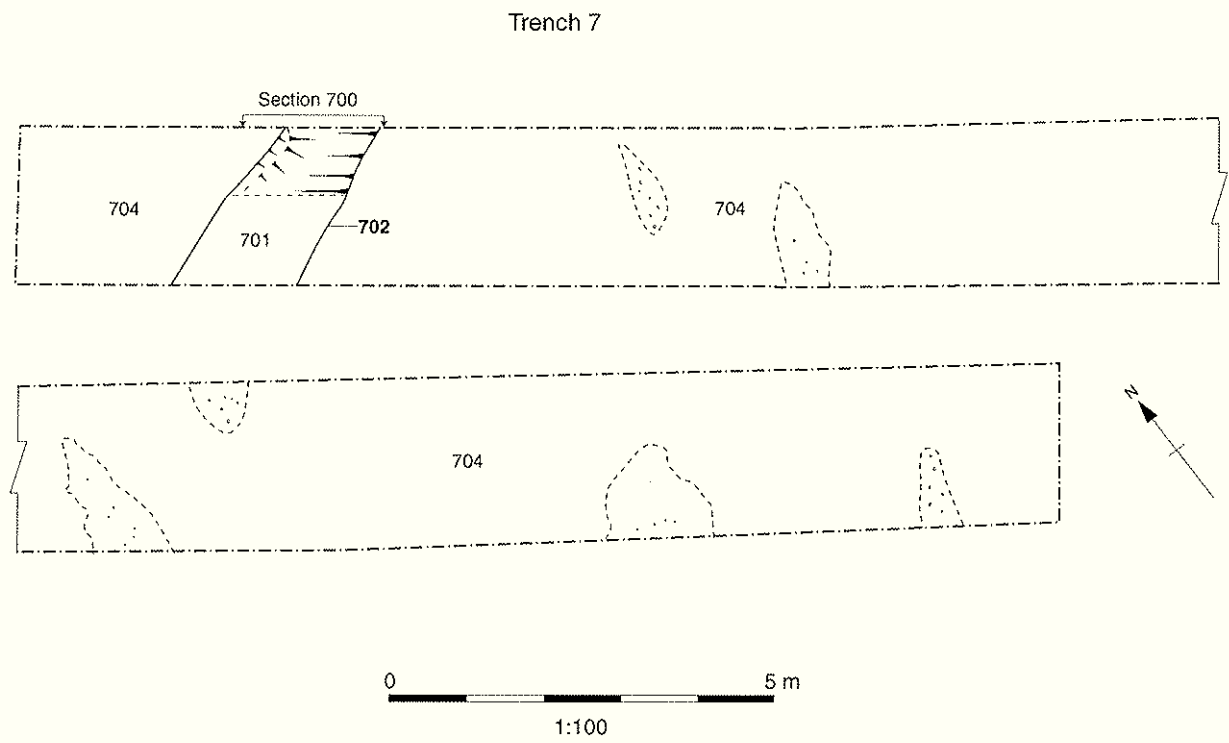


Figure 3: Trench 7, plan and section

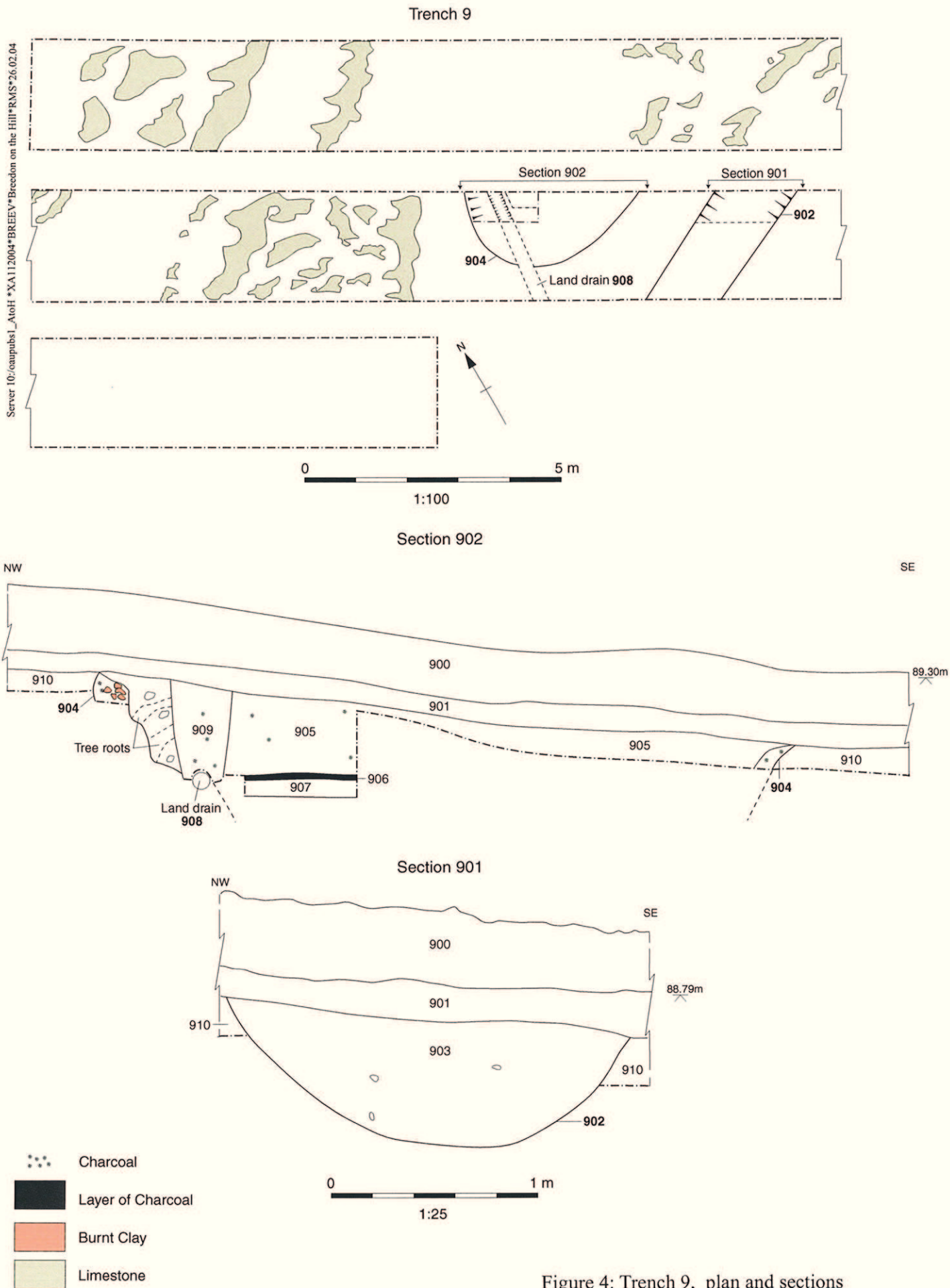


Figure 4: Trench 9, plan and sections

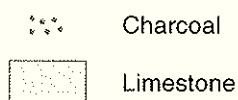
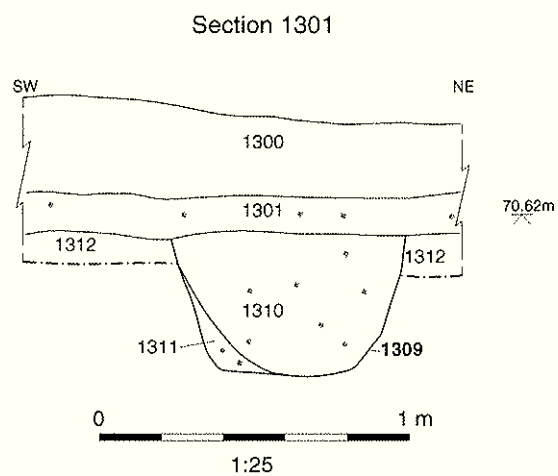
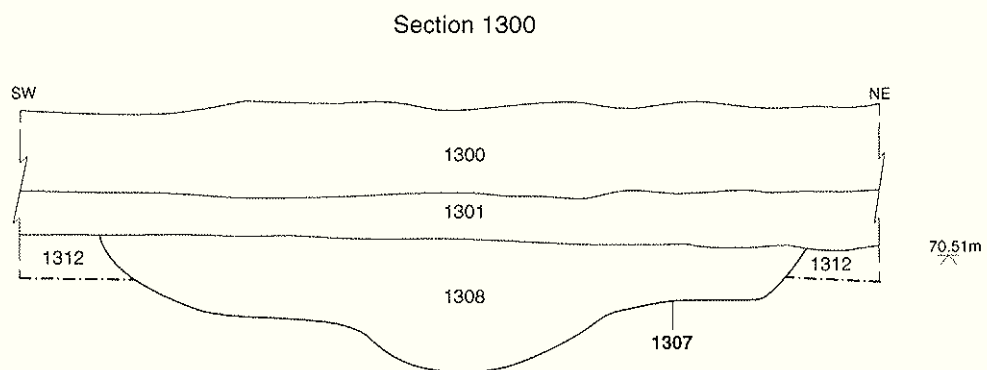
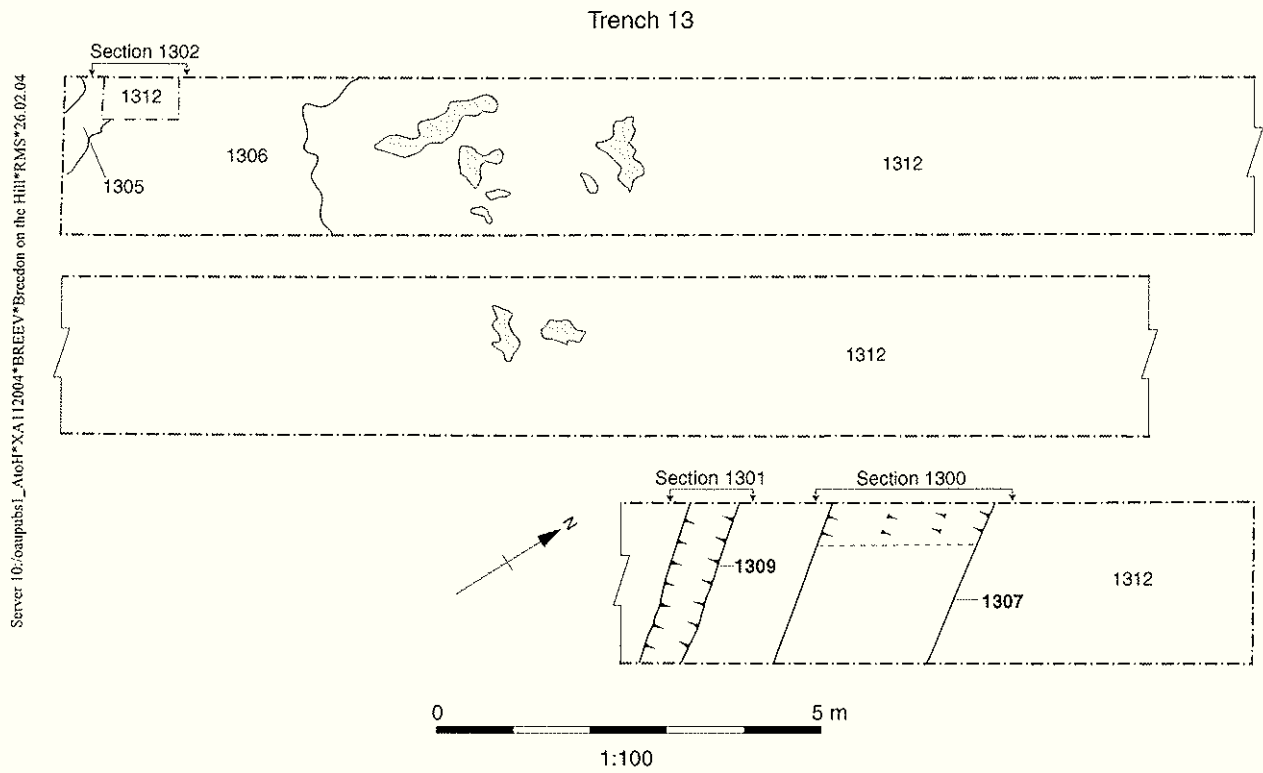
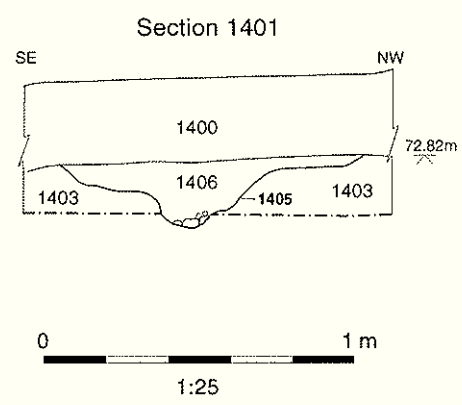
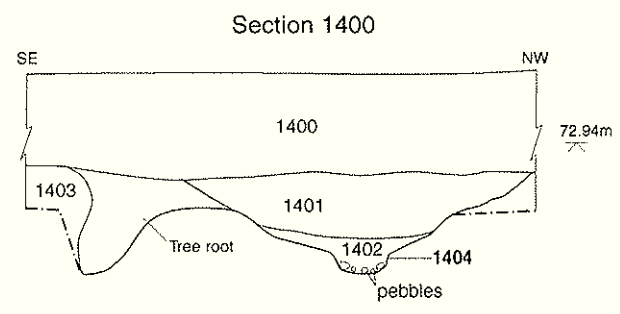
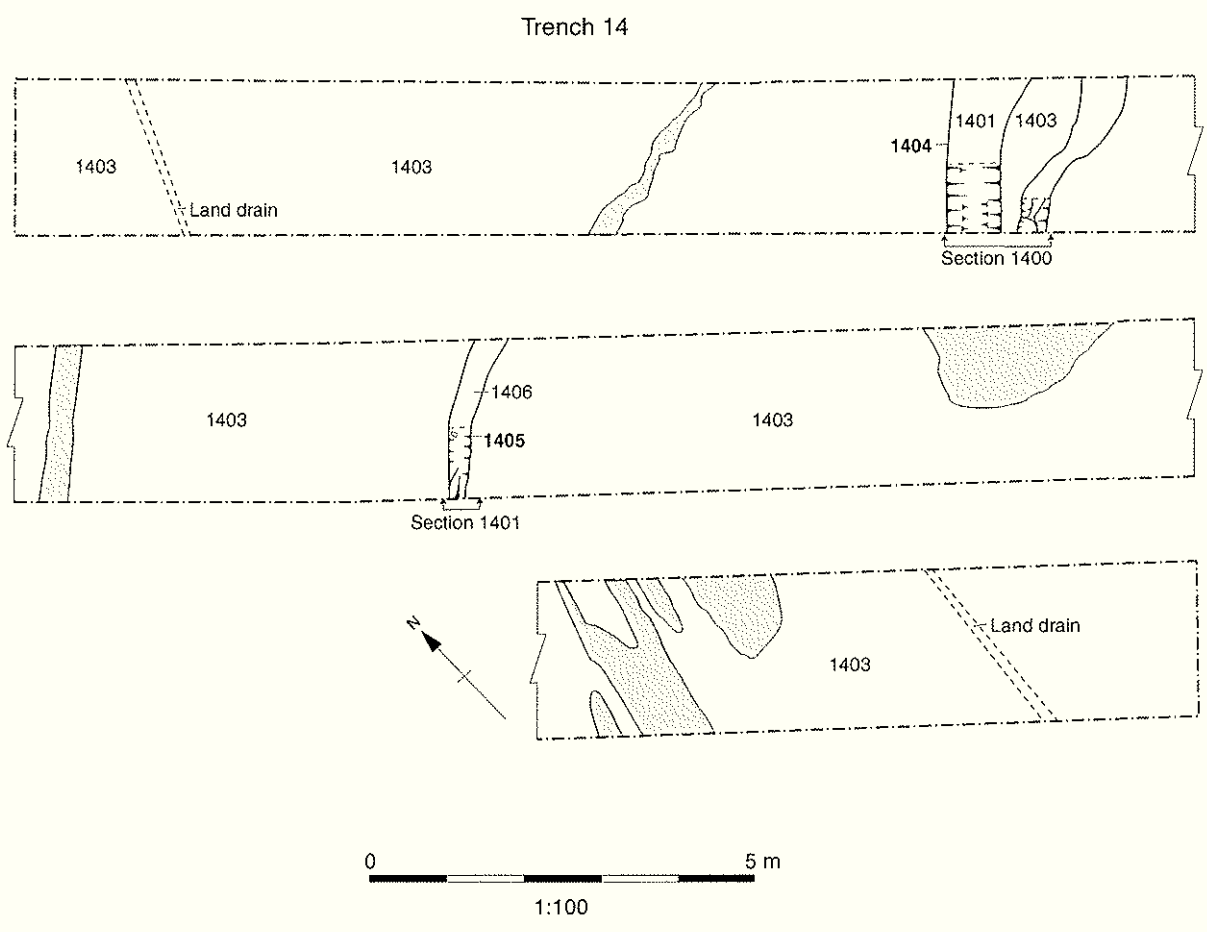


Figure 5: Trench 13, plan and sections

Server 10:/pubs/1_AtoH/XA/12004*BREEV*Breedon on the Hill/RMS*26.02.04





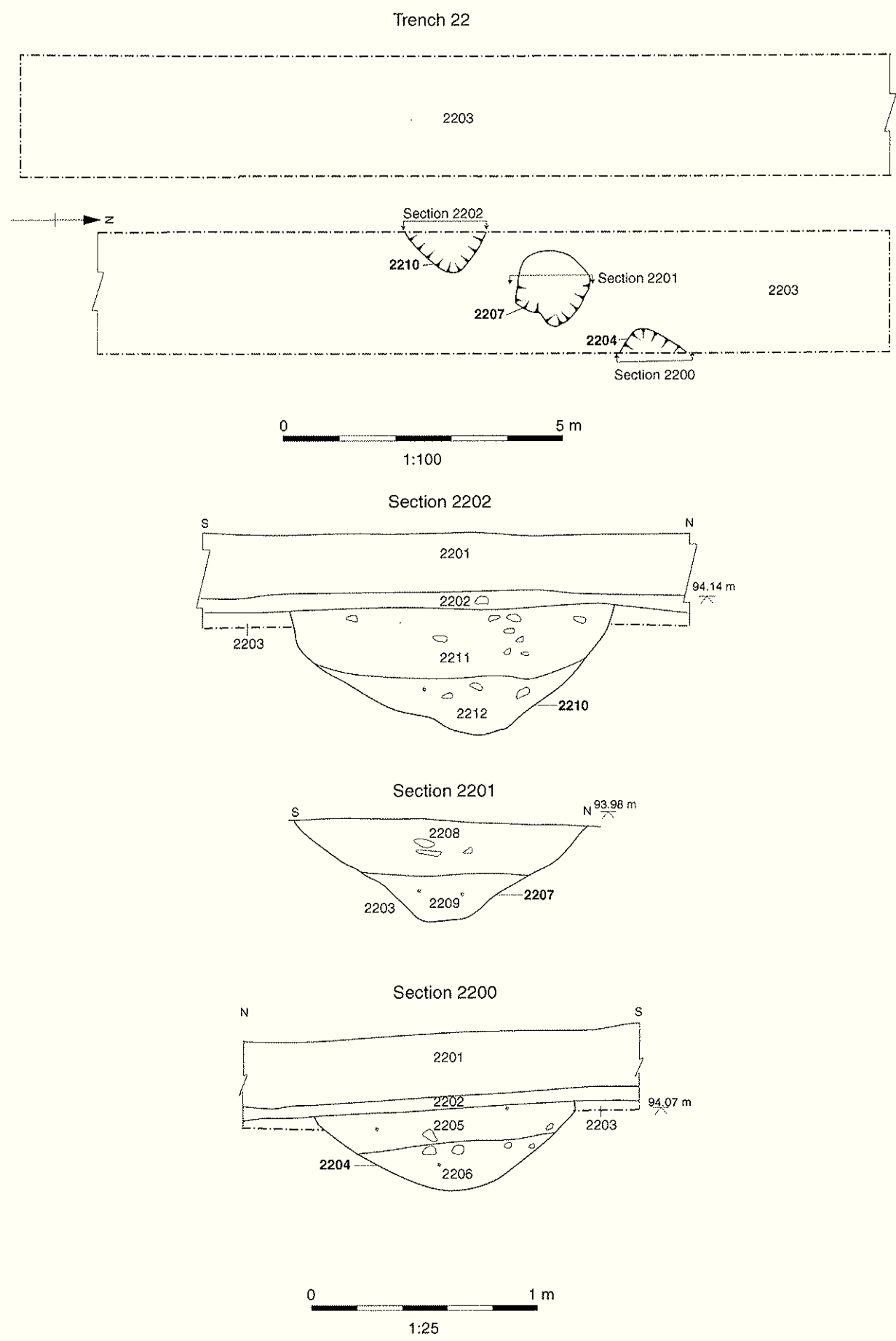
-  Charcoal
-  Limestone

Figure 6: Trench 14, plan and sections

Server 10:/ouapubsl_AloH*XA112004*BREEV*Brecon on the Hill*RMIS*26.02.04



*** Charcoal

Figure 7: Trench 22, plan and sections

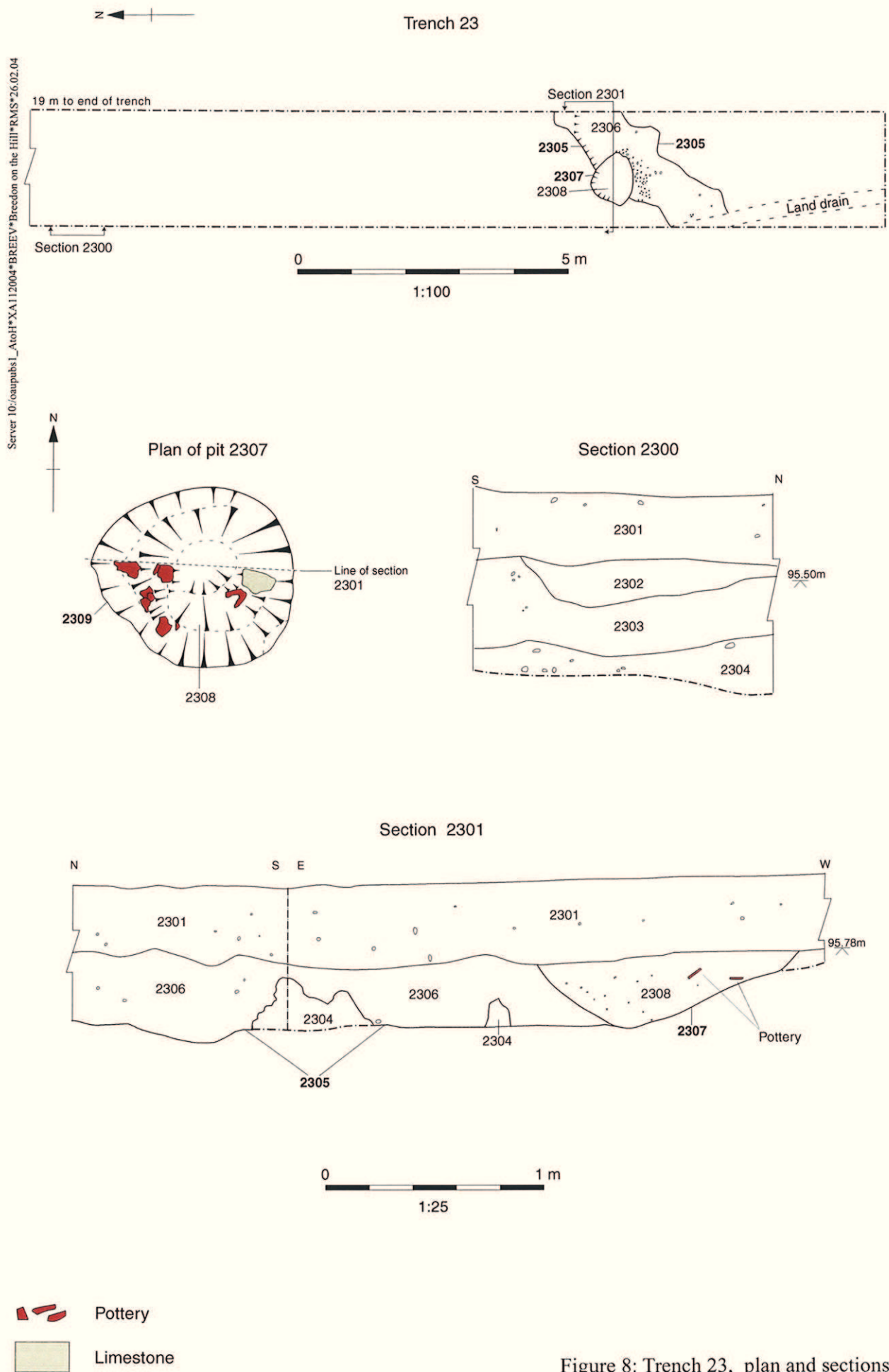
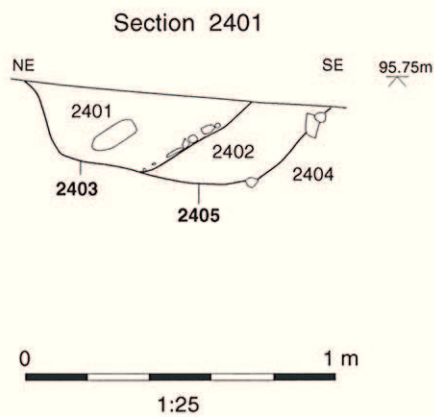
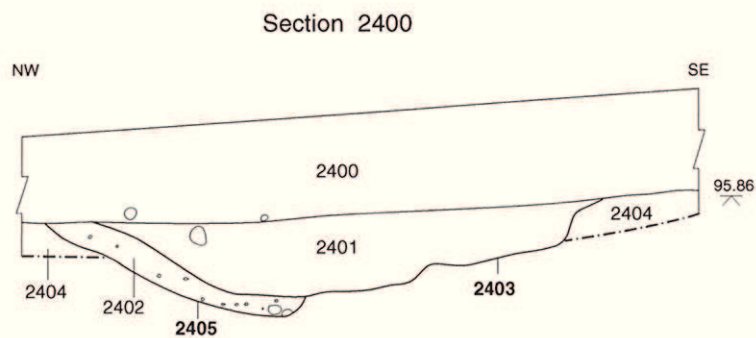
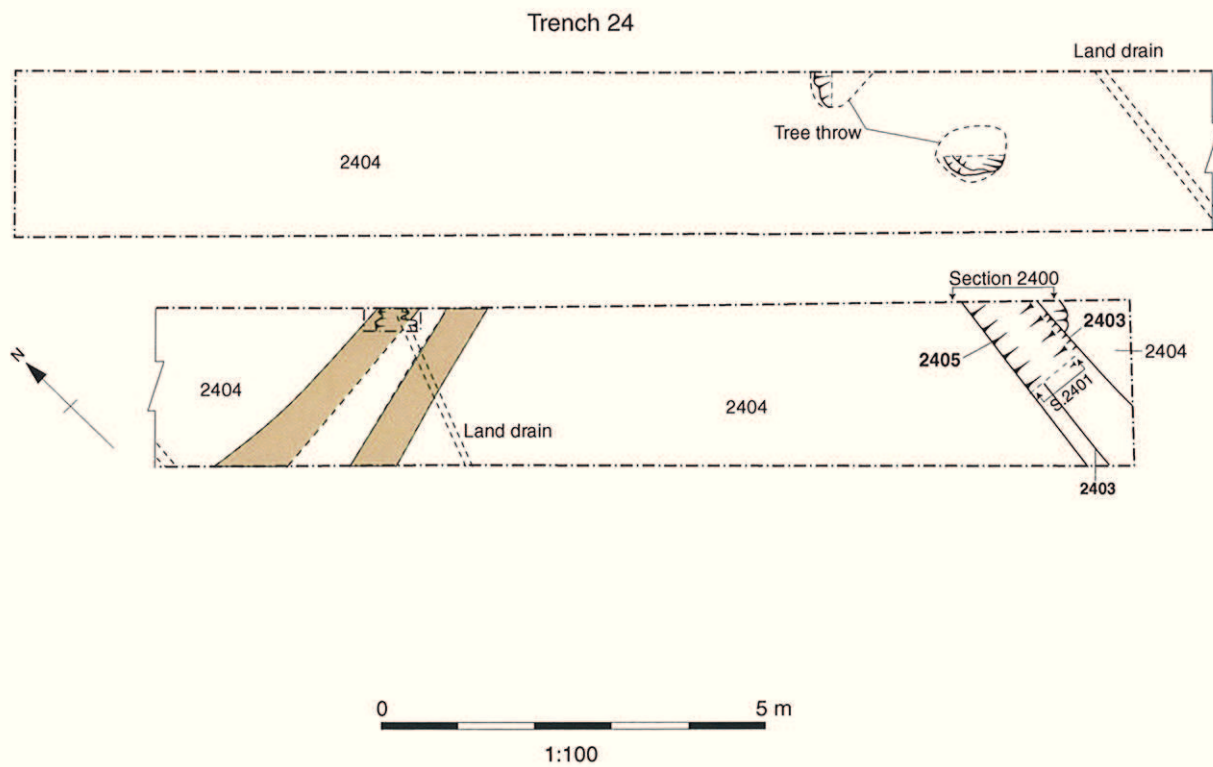


Figure 8: Trench 23, plan and sections

Server 10:/oupubs1_AtoH*XA112004*BREEV*Breedon on the Hill*RMS*26.02.04



 Sand

Figure 9: Trench 24, plan and sections

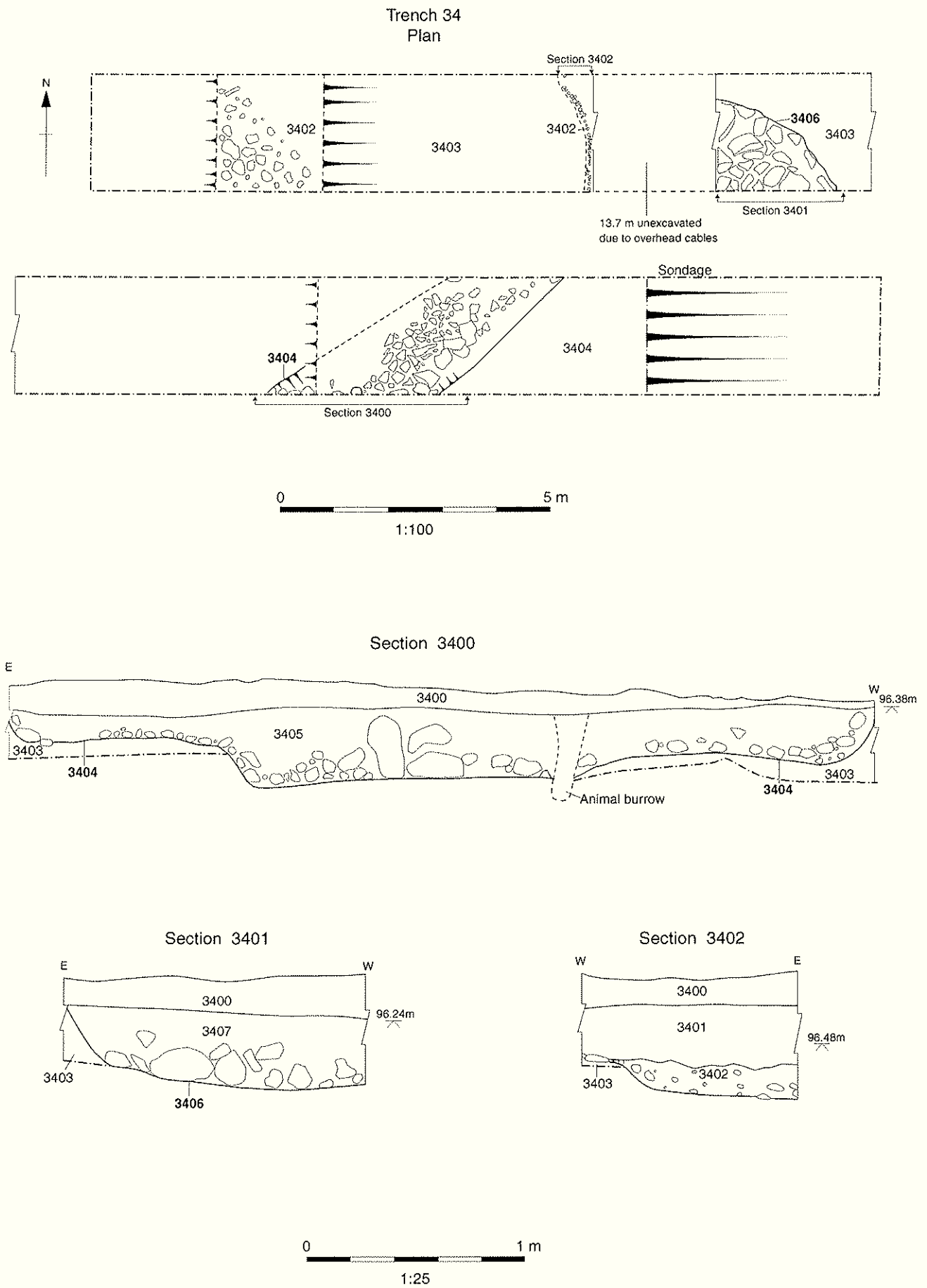


Figure 10: Trench 34, plan and sections

