

Anthony Paul Architects

**Broadwell Manor, Broadwell,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR: SP 2005 2760



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Broadwell Manor, Broadwell Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Summary

The Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) carried out a field evaluation in June 2001 at Broadwell Manor, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 2005 2760) on behalf of Anthony Paul Architects, for the landowners Mr and Mrs Shearer. The evaluation revealed four limestone-built drains of likely post-medieval date and the remains of a dry stone wall, also probably of post-medieval date. There were also three discrete features: a gully of probable early medieval date and a pit and a gully that were undated. There was also evidence for landscaping and ground reduction on the evaluation site, probably undertaken at the time the Manor House was constructed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In June 2001, OAU carried out a field evaluation at Broadwell Manor, Broadwell, Gloucestershire (Fig. 1) on behalf of Anthony Paul Architects in respect of a planning application for the construction of an artificial lake *c* 150 m to the south of the existing Manor House.
- 1.1.2 Gloucestershire County Council set a brief for the fieldwork and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by OAU and agreed with Charles Parry, the County Archaeologist for Gloucestershire.. The development site is situated at NGR SP 2005 2760 and is *c* 3.4 hectares in area.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies in a sunken bowl dropping to the south-west with on a gentle east-facing slope on the west side. The site lies at *c* 160m OD. The underlying geology comprises a mixture of cornbrash stone over Lias Clay with outcrops of Oolitic limestone on the higher ground of the Parish; on the lower ground clay caps lower Lias Clay and boulder clay (British Geological Survey Map 1957, drift edition [revised 1964], 217).
- 1.2.2 The land is currently unused and has an intense growth of poplar saplings growing across the area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background was researched at the Gloucestershire SMR comprising a search of records in a 1 km square area around the site of the manor. The development site lies in the north-western edge of the historic village of Broadwell.
- 1.3.2 The study area contains one known prehistoric find being a Neolithic polished stone axe head. This was found in 1984 *c* 300 m to the south-east of the area of proposed development (GSMR No. 11862). The significance of this find is uncertain but

indicates possible Neolithic activity in the general area. The Clay geology and heavy soils suggest that the study area would not have been a first choice for early farming communities, and is likely to have been heavily wooded throughout this period. However, Broadwell is located along a spring line, which may have attracted settlement or other activity. The modern Ordnance Survey map marks springs *c* 100 m to the west and *c* 150 m to the north of the area of proposed development.

- 1.3.3 The study area contains two known sites dated to the Roman period (43 BC - AD 410). The Fosse Way, a Roman road aligned approximately north-south lies at the top of the slope *c* 400 m to the west of the area of proposed development. The road ran from the Roman town and fort of Cirencester towards the South Midlands and was a major line of communication in this period. Margary notes that traces of the road foundation are visible 'near Broadwell as the road descends towards Stow' (Margary 1967, 151).
- 1.3.4 Broadwell Roman villa is located at the side of the Fosse Way, *c* 250 m north-west of the area of proposed development. The site was first identified in 1913 when numerous Roman finds including tesserae, tiles, pottery and nails, were recovered during ploughing. In 1923 DT Rice carried out a small excavation of one part of the site and identified well-preserved structural remains of two rooms with at least two phases of construction (RCHM *Gloucs* I, 21). The villa is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no. 157).
- 1.3.5 Broadwell is first mentioned in AD 708 when King Coenred gave the manor (estate) to Evesham Abbey (VCH *Gloucs* vi, 51) and it is mentioned again in *c* AD 1034. At the time of Domesday (1086) the manor was still in the possession of Evesham Abbey (when 48 people are recorded) and remained so until the time of the dissolution in the 16th century. Early medieval settlement within the manor is likely to have been centred on or near village of Broadwell, as shown on historic maps dated to the late 18th century (see below) with settlement around the village green (*c* 250 m to the south-east of Broadwell Manor) and the 12th century church of St Paul, which is located immediately north of the manor house.
- 1.3.6 In *c* 1200 AD one Abbot Roger Norreys built 'a noble house' at Broadwell. The house was burnt down some 20 years later and was replaced by a grange, which was rebuilt and enlarged in about AD 1300 (VCH *Gloucs* vi, 49-50). The 'noble house' was probably located on or near the site of the existing 17th-century Broadwell Manor (see below). The area of proposed development is located immediately south of the manor house on the edge of what was the medieval green (Fig. 2).
- 1.3.7 The Victoria County History for Gloucestershire discusses the possible early development of the village based on documentary and cartographic sources:

'It is uncertain whether the village once centred on the green. Most of the larger houses lie near it, and the smith, the pound, and both inns were on the edge of its lower (south-eastern) end. There is no evidence, however, that there were ever cottages round the upper end near the church, and the cottages round the lower end, though possibly replacing earlier ones, were built in the 19th century...' (VCH Gloucs vi, 51). 'By 1793 the green had been divided, by tracks and by farm buildings across it, into upper, middle, and lower greens, and the common land was then allotted to various landowners. A piece of the former green was added to the churchyard in c. 1921...' (VCH Gloucs vi, 50)

- 1.3.8 The Tithe Map of 1795 confirms this pattern of development with Broadwell Manor and the area of proposed development to the south of it, on the edge of 'Middle Green', with Upper Green to the north-west and 'Lower Green', with most of the settlement, to the south-east. The map indicates that the original medieval green would have covered an extensive area of land.
- 1.3.9 In 1757, following a fire, Dr Thomas Chamberlayne rebuilt Broadwell Manor. The building is now Grade II* Listed. Chamberlayne incorporated surviving of the original early 17th century structure at the back of the house (*ibid.*, 50). The earliest maps consulted, those of 1792 and 1793, and the Tithe Map of 1795, show Broadwell Manor as a substantial square building immediately south of St Paul's church. These maps also show small crofts or yards around the house, and a range of three buildings to the north of the house.
- 1.3.10 The OS 1st edition 6" map of 1880 shows two artificial scarp slopes along the south-western and south-eastern sides of a field situated to the south-west of the house, immediately north of the footprint of the proposed lake. The presence of the slopes suggests that the natural slope may have been cut back to form a level terrace. The OS 6" maps of 1900 and 1925 and the modern OS map show little change within the area of proposed development.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OAU is grateful to Anthony Paul for providing plans of the site and for all the patience and help offered by the residents at Broadwell Manor during the evaluation.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the development.

- 2.1.2 Equal attention was to be given to sites and remains of all periods, with provision for environmental sampling to elucidate evidence for past environments.
- 2.1.3 The evaluation was to determine the relationship of above ground structures to surviving deposits below ground - should these relationships be identified then the evaluation would assess the character, condition, significance and quality of the above ground remains.
- 2.1.4 The evaluation sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion on the site and assess the degree of archaeological survival of all buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 2.1.5 The final aim was to record all remains to established OAU standards (OAU Fieldwork Manual, 1992), in order to secure their preservation by record.

2.2 Scope of fieldwork

- 2.2.1 The evaluation comprised two trenches within the area of impact as defined by the landscape plans for the artificial lake.
- 2.2.2 The two trenches measured 30 m in length by 1.5 m in width. Trench 1 was aligned north-east to south-west, at the south-west end of the area of investigation. Trench 2 was aligned north-west - south-east (Fig 2). A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket removed the overburden under close archaeological supervision.

2.3 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 2.3.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. 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).

2.4 Finds

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

2.5 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 2.5.1 No deposits of specific environmental interest were located in either evaluation trench.

2.6 Presentation of results

- 2.6.1 The results of the evaluation are described by trench, from the earliest deposits to the latest. This is followed by the general conclusions and interpretations reached by the analysis of these sequences.

3 RESULTS: GENERAL

3.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 3.1.1 The site is located on Lias Clay with oolitic limestone outcrops over the higher ground. Below the topsoil level a thick layer of soil interpreted as colluvium (hillwash) was encountered; this extended downslope to the south of the site.
- 3.1.2 The lawn area of the Manor was some 2 m above the level of the area of this investigation, and it would seem apparent that this had been the result of the removal of ground from the lower area where the evaluation trenches were located. Possibly this material was redeposited on the higher ground near the Manor House itself. The date of this action is uncertain.
- 3.1.3 Root disturbance was fairly abundant due to the mature trees, which bordered the area of investigation, and the poplar saplings that had begun to encroach across the site.

4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

4.1 Description of deposits

- 4.1.1 At the base of Trench 1 the natural was recorded as a red-brown clay with limestone cornbrash outcrops (111). This was cut by a shallow feature (106) with a surviving depth of c 0.12 m. It had a width of 0.4 m and its length within the trench was 4.5 m, aligned SSW-NEE (Fig 3, plan 100, section 101). This shallow feature, possibly a gully, was covered by an overlying layer of grey-brown clay silt (110). The fill of the feature (107) and layer 110 were similar in nature, so it is possible that the gully cut this layer, though there was no direct evidence for this in the trench section. Two abraded sherds of medieval pottery (AD 975-1350) were recovered from this fill, together with a small piece of clay daub.
- 4.1.2 Layer 110 extended across the full length of the trench. It contained charcoal inclusions and was 0.18 m thick, thinning to the south end of the trench. This was overlain by layer 109, a compact red-brown clay silt.
- 4.1.3 Cutting through these layers were two limestone-built structures (101, 104), which extended across the trench on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig 3, plan 100). These structures, likely to be field drains, were built from the level of soil layer 109 and extended down into the natural. Drain 101, in construction cut 100, was 0.8 m wide and capped with limestone slabs that were 0.6 m wide and 0.2 m thick. Drain 104 was 0.3 m wide and was 0.3 m deep. The cut (103) for this structure was 0.5 m wide. The stones for these drains were unworked and no bonding material was used; no visible coursing was evident (Fig 3, section 100). The backfill soils in the drainage cuts were overlain by the topsoil (108).
- 4.1.4 In Trench 2 the natural (203) was identified at the base of the trench, beneath a layer of grey-brown clay silt (202) similar to layer 110 in Trench 1. A pit (213) and a gully (215) were cut into layer 202: the pit was observed in the south-west section and was

1.06 m in diameter and 0.4 m deep (Fig. 4, plan 200, section 200). The gully was 0.84 m wide and was 0.24 m deep (Fig. 4, section 203). Neither feature contained dating evidence.

4.1.5 A layer of moderately compacted grey-brown clay silt (201) overlay both features. This deposit was cut by two limestone-built structures (probably field drains - contexts 211 and 208 in construction cuts 210 and 207 respectively). The construction cuts for both had steep sloping edges descending to flat bases. The drains were capped with large flat limestone slabs of irregular shape with an internal dimension of c 0.15 m (Fig. 4, section 200 and 201). Also built from the level of layer 201 was a possible dry-stone wall (204) constructed from local cornbrash. The wall was aligned north-east - south-west. The wall was 0.4 m wide and survived to a height of 0.15 m (Fig. 4, section 202).

4.1.6 The final deposit in the trench was the topsoil (200).

4.2 Finds

Pottery and fired clay by Paul Blinkhorn

4.2.1 The pottery assemblage comprised three sherds with a total weight of 9 g. All three sherds were Cotswold-type ware (Mellor 1994, 44-54), and can be dated between AD 975-1350, although finds of the material which are securely dated to before the earlier 11th century are rare (ibid. 51).

4.2.2 A single sherd weighing 1 g occurred in context 101, a limestone drain, and two sherds (8g) were noted from context 107, the fill of a shallow gully. The latter context also produced a small piece of daub (6g), in a fine fabric with few visible inclusions except for sparse fragments of sub-angular shelly-limestone up to 2 mm.

Other finds: the Animal Bone by Bethan Charles

4.2.3 A total of 22 animal bone fragments were recovered from post-medieval features. One poorly preserved bone came from context 101, a stone drain: the fragment was not identified to species.

4.2.4 The remaining fragments of bone were recovered from context 206, the soil around a former dry-stone wall. These bones were in good condition and four elements were identified from the re-assembled fragments. One was a fragment of sheep metacarpal with dog tooth marks at the bone ends. The other bones came from a horse, including most of the proximal phalanx, part of a metapodial and most of the right radius. None of these bones had butchery marks or signs of pathological damage.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The evaluation comprised a 3% sample of the overall development area, with both trenches concentrated within the area proposed for the new lake and thus to be totally removed by the forthcoming excavation works. Part of the new lake will fall within an overgrown pond, in the north-west part of the site.
- 5.1.2 The stratigraphy on site did not show evidence of ploughing in this location, but it was clear from on site observations and the nature of the excavated deposits and features that re-working of the manor grounds had previously been carried out.
- 5.1.3 The presence of tree roots was noted across the site but these do not appear to affected the soils or features that were recorded.

5.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

- 5.2.1 The earliest feature in either trench was gully 106, which certainly cut the natural though its relation ship with the layer of silt above was slightly unclear. The gully was shallow and there was no obvious sign of an associated ground surface contemporary with the feature. It is possible therefore that the feature and the ground surface had been truncated when the landscaping noted in section (3.1.2 above) was undertaken. It is possible that the feature was originally part of a larger feature, possibly a ditch, or conceivably a plough furrow. Pottery from the fill dates to the medieval period, so taken at face value this may be a remnant of an early medieval feature, possibly associated with the medieval green.
- 5.2.2 The general deposit over the natural is presumably a hillwash or colluvial deposit possibly formed after the original ground surface here was removed to raise the ground towards the manor house. The artificial slope thus created may have led to material eroding downslope.
- 5.2.3 The stone drains post-date the colluvial layer and presumably form part of a drainage system installed after the ground reduction phase. It is possible that they are associated with a well, which is depicted in the southern corner of the evaluation area on the OS Map of 1900. The date of the drains and the stone wall remnant that was found to cut from the same level is fairly unclear as the only sherd of pottery recovered was among the stones of drain 101. The sherd was abraded and very small, and is probably therefore redeposited. It is assumed that the drains are associated with a phase of agricultural activity in the manor grounds after the post-medieval manor was built, or were designed to drain the low lying ground thus created.

- 5.2.4 The function of the small pit and gully in Trench 2 is unclear, and no dating evidence was recovered from either feature.

Significance

- 5.2.5 The features located in this evaluation are of minor local significance in demonstrating medieval and post-medieval activity, and possible scarping of the area for building work.

APPENDICES

6 APPENDIX I ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	CTX No	Type	Width (m)	Thick (m)	Comment	Finds	No./Wt	Date
1	100	Cut	0.8	0.4	Cut for drain 101			
1	101	Structure	0.6	0.2	Limestone drain			
1	102	Fill	0.8	0.4	Fill of 101	pottery	2 sherds	
1	103	Cut	0.5	0.4	Cut for drain 104			
1	104	Structure	0.3	0.3	Limestone drain			
1	105	Fill	0.5	0.4	Fill of 103			
1	106	Cut	0.4	0.12	Gully			
1	107	Fill	0.4	0.12	Fill of 106	pottery	3 sherds	
1	108	Layer	0.18		Topsoil			
1	109	Layer	0.34		Clayey silt			
1	110	Layer	0.18		Colluvium/silty clay			
1	111	Layer			Natural			
2	200	Layer	0.3		Topsoil			
2	201	Layer	0.3		Colluvial sub-soil			
2	202	Layer	0.25		Colluvium/silty clay			
2	203	Layer			Natural			
2	204	Structure	0.4	0.1	Stone wall remnant			
2	205	Cut	0.8	0.45	Cut for 204			
2	206	Fill	0.8	0.45	Fill of 205	animal bone		
2	207	Cut	1.06	0.6	Cut for drain 208			
2	208	Structure	0.3	0.2	Limestone drain			
2	209	Fill	1.06	0.6	Fill of 207			
2	210	Cut	0.9	0.5	Cut for drain 211			
2	211	Structure	0.3		Limestone drain			
2	212	Fill	0.9	0.5	Fill of 210			
2	213	Cut	1.06	0.4	Pit			
2	214	Fill	1.06	0.4	Fill of 213			
2	215	Cut	0.84	0.24	Gully			
2	216	Fill	0.84	0.24	Fill of 216			

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Gloucestershire Record Office

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8 APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Broadwell Manor, Broadwell, Moreton-on-Marsh, Gloucestershire

Site code: BWMAN 01

Grid reference NGR SP 2005 2760,

Type of evaluation: 2 x 30m Trench Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 11/6/01 – 13/06/01

Area of site: 3.4 ha

Summary of results: Probable post-medieval drain system and possible medieval linear feature; two undated features, probably post-medieval, one dry stone wall, post-medieval

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OAU, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Gloucestershire County Museums Service in due course.

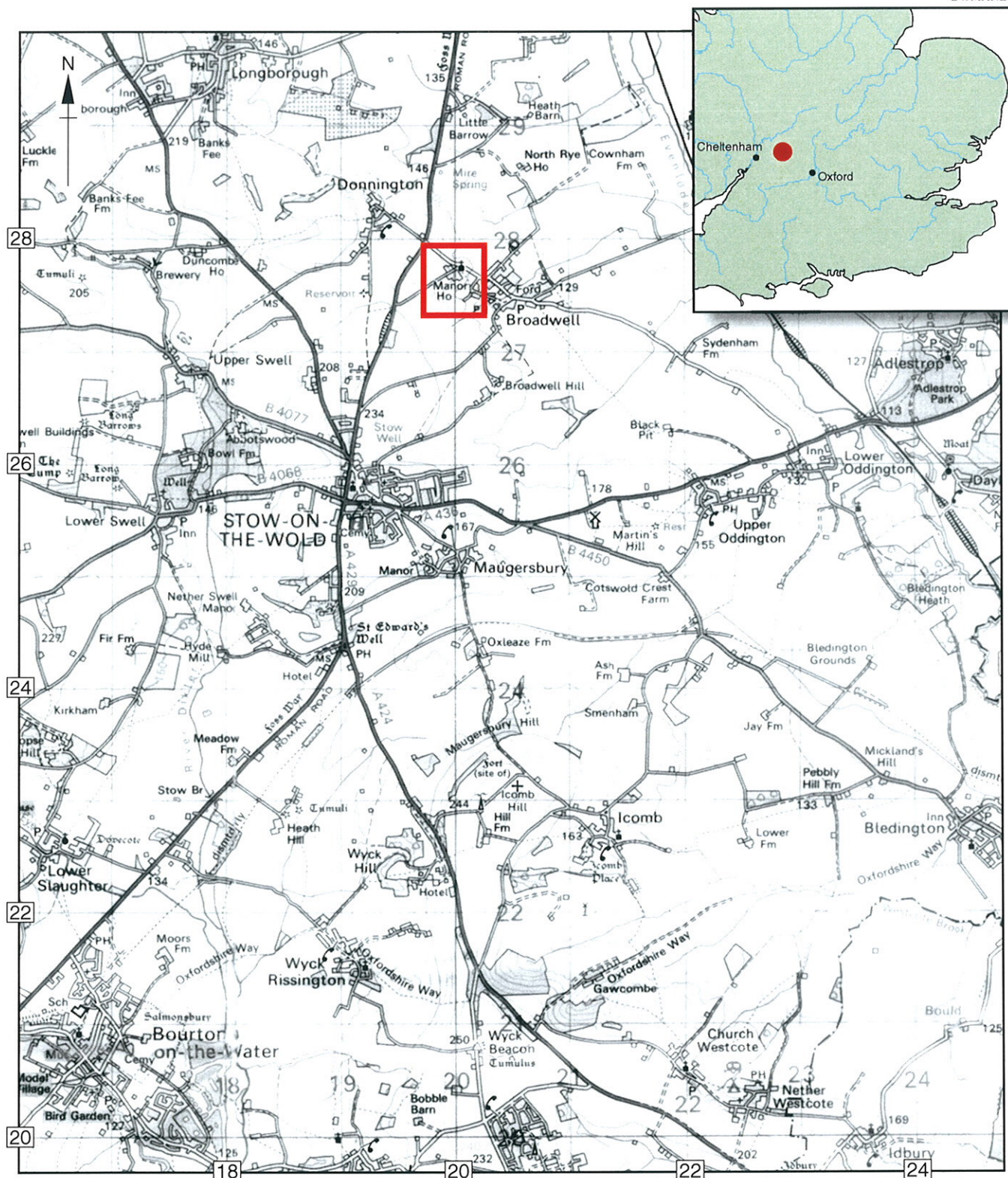
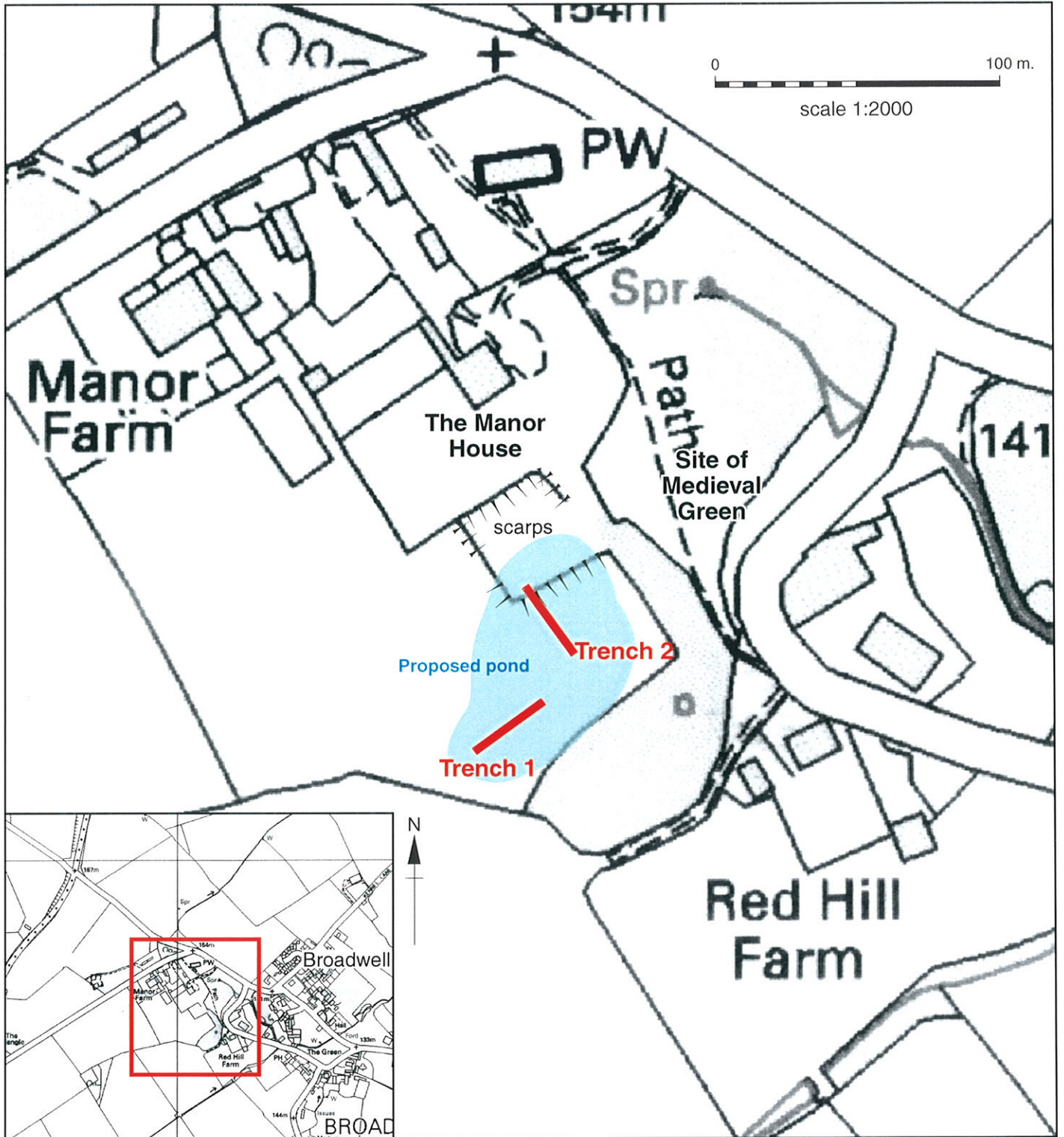


Figure 1: Site location



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:10,000 map of 1998 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Licence No. 854166

Figure 2: Trench locations

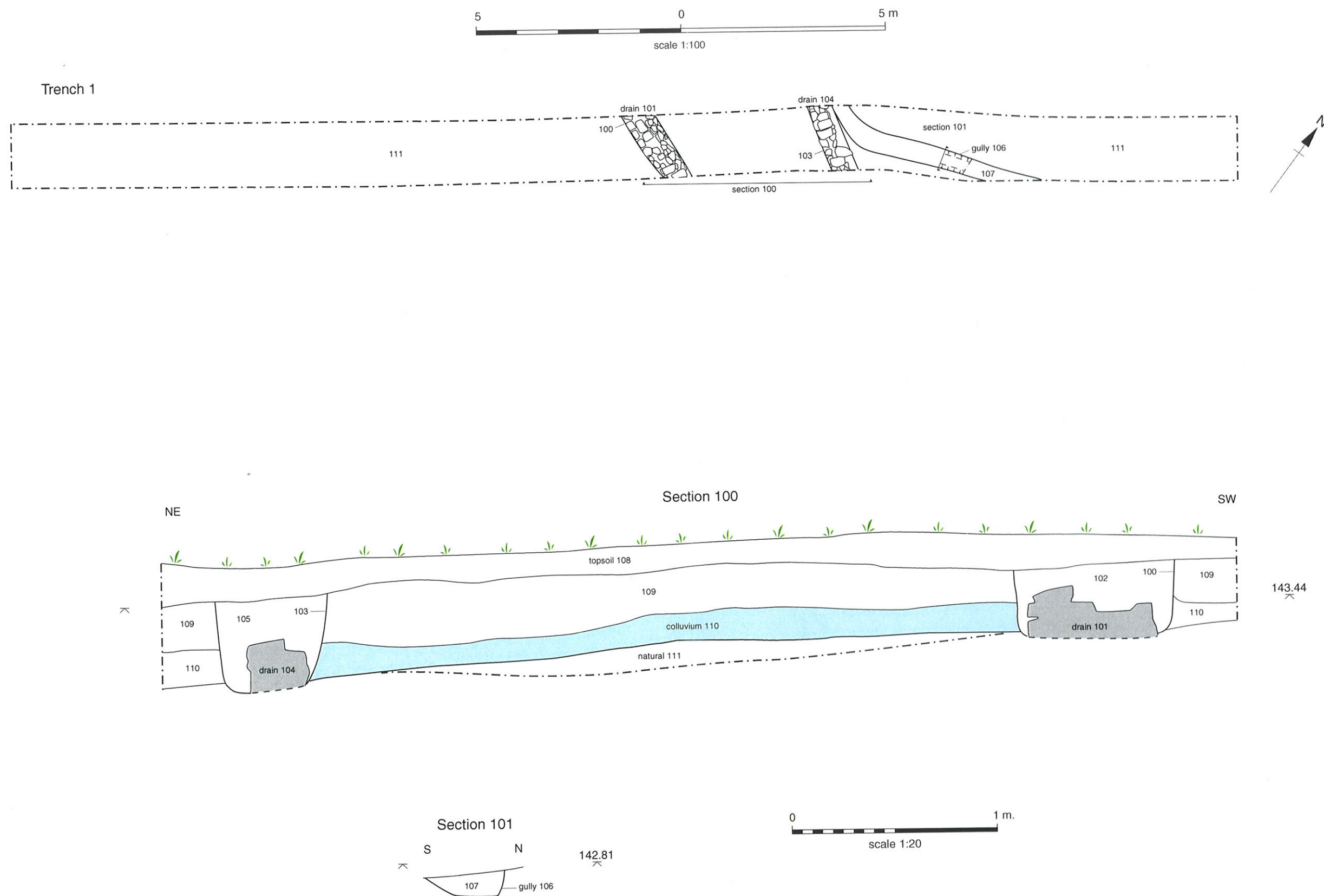


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections

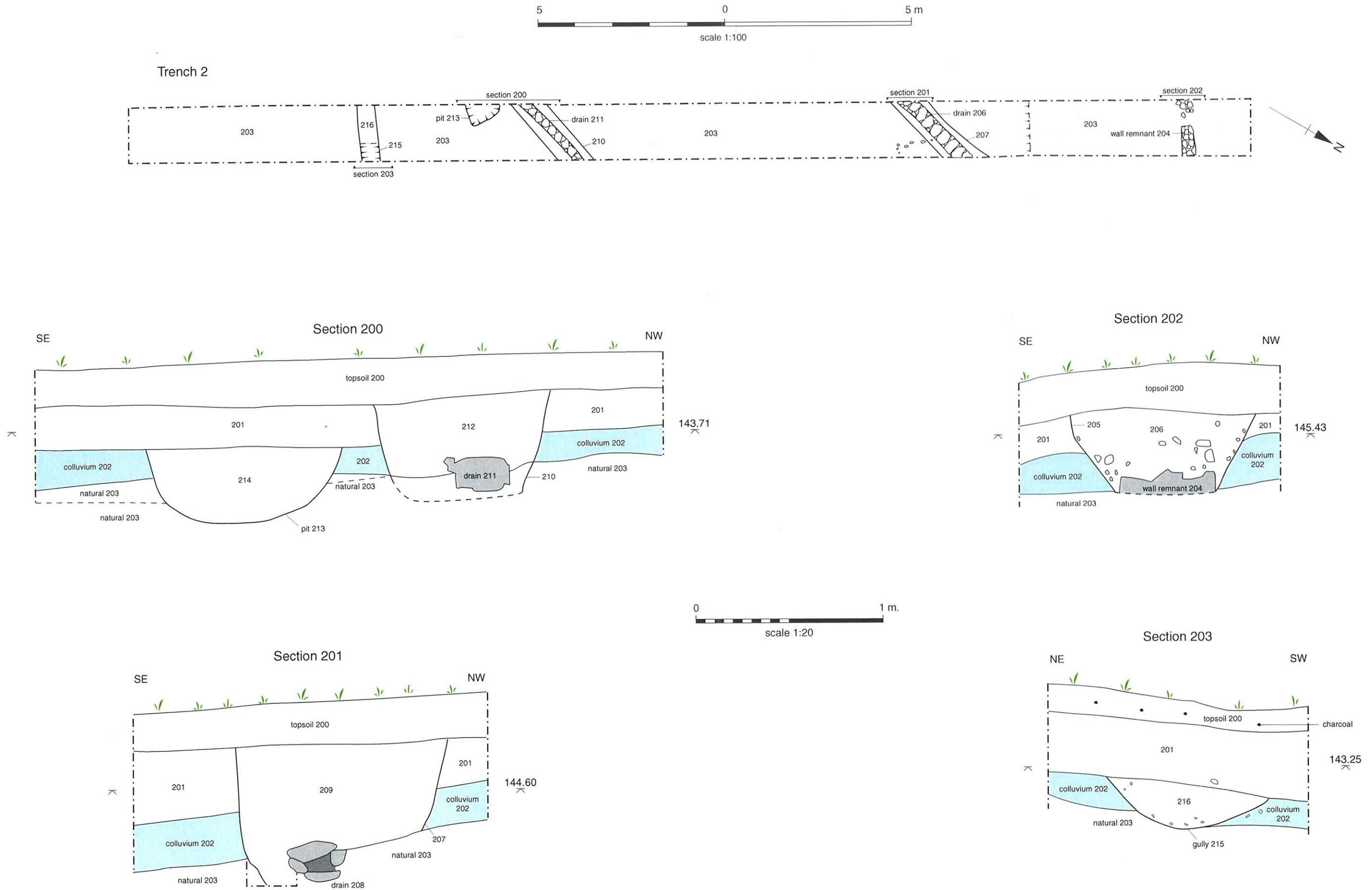


Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and sections



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