The former RAF radar site
Norwich Road
Watton
Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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The former RAF radar site, Norwich Road, Watton Norfolk

NGR: TF 926 007

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In November and December 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the former RAF radar site, Watton, Norfolk (NGR: TF 926 007), on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants. The evaluation revealed limited archaeological remains. The discovery of a Bronze Age round barrow with a central cremation urn in a trench to the south of the site, together with a possible associated inhumation (of uncertain date, possibly pre-historic based on very limited pottery evidence), may give a context for the hoard of prehistoric socketed axes discovered on the site in 1958. In addition to the barrow and burial remains, a Bronze Age ditch containing fragments of a bucket urn was found in Trench 16 (towards the centre of the site). A northern continuation of this ditch, or at least its alignment, was suggested by features (a ditch and gully) in other trenches. A few undated features were recorded, some cut by tree-throw holes. A number of natural geological features were also identified. Natural subsoil appears to cover most of the site, where not cut away by building activities when the RAF occupied the site. The northern part of the site has seen more intrusion by building works than the southern part and a number of services also cross the site. Post-medieval plough furrows were also observed at the south end of the site and a pillbox of W.W.II date was recorded at the eastern perimeter.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In November and December 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the former RAF radar site, Watton, Norfolk (Fig. 1). This work was carried out on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC), in respect of a planning application for new development (Planning Application No. 3PL/2005/1167/O).

1.1.2 A brief was set by and specification agreed with David Gurney, Principal Archaeologist, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. The development site is situated at NGR TF 926 007, approximately 0.9 km east of the centre of Watton off the Norwich Road in the District of Breckland. The application area is 4.6 hectares.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983) shows the site on the boundary of two geological formations (711r, the Beccles 1 Association consisting of chalky till and 552b the Romney Association which comprises marine alluvium) and is between 56.8 m - 60.23 m above OD.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development is situated on a former RAF radar site and has been subjected to previous building and demolition after decommissioning. Approximately half of the 4.6 ha site has been previously developed. This area is to the north alongside the Norwich Road. The land slopes towards the south and this

half of the site, outside of the former radar station's perimeter fence, is currently scrub land. The ground surface is uneven suggesting the site had been ploughed in the past.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the set out in a separate brief (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, 2005), the results of which are presented below.

1.3.2 There are a number of archaeological sites and findspots recorded in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) within or adjacent to the proposed development. These include the discovery in 1958 of a hoard of six Bronze Age socketed axes (NHER 8777).

1.3.3 The line of Norwich Road follows one of the main east-west Roman roads across Norfolk, from the *Civitas* capital at *Venta Icenorum* (Caistor St Edmund) to the fen-edge at Denver (and beyond) - (NHER 8786).

1.3.4 Beside this Roman road, to the north, two areas have been investigated. In 1991, an area with a scatter of over 50+ Roman coins, 12 or more Roman brooches, Roman pottery and medieval coins and metalwork. Also recorded were Iron Age pottery and Iron Age/Roman pits and ditches (NHER 25014). In 2003, and evaluation recorded an Iron Age pit and undated linear features (NHER 39786).

1.3.5 On the eastern edge of the development site, just within the perimeter fence, stands a rare (or possibly unique) World War II pillbox (NHER 32423). English Heritage has expressed a preference that this should be preserved within an area of public open space, possibly as part of any development.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

The aims of the evaluation were:

2.1.1 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development site within a 5% sample. To determine the extent, quality and preservation of any archaeological remains present and enable an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

2.1.2 To provide the Principal Archaeologist for Norfolk Landscape Archaeology with sufficient information to advise the Local Planning Authority as to the scope of any archaeological mitigation required in association with the proposed development. To establish a context for the deposition of the Bronze Age hoard and to determine if there is evidence for the extension of the Roman settlement from the west.

2.1.3 To record a rare World War II pillbox to RCHME level 2.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of twenty-three trial trenches (Fig. 2), located to provide the best coverage of the proposed development area. The trenches were to be 50 m in length and 2 m wide, although the dimensions and placements were subject to change due to site constraints and any archaeological remains encountered.

3.1.2 Twelve trenches were located in the southern (previously undeveloped) part of the site and eleven were located to the north, within the extant inner perimeter fence of the radar site. The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by an 18 tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.1 m-wide toothless bucket. Trench 14 was machined by a JCB fitted with a toothless 1.5 m-wide bucket.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The evaluation trenches were machined under close archaeological supervision to the top of the first archaeological horizon or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Several trenches required machining below a safe working depth. In these trenches, where potential archaeological remains were exposed, the sides of the trench were stepped to a safe depth around the features to be investigated.

3.2.2 Trenches were cleaned by hand where necessary. The revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned at scales of 1:50 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 detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (1992). The spoil, bases and sides of each trench were scanned using a metal detector. Archaeological features were also scanned during excavation.

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 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.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 Environmental samples were taken from several features thought to have potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Samples were taken for charred plant remains, small bones/artefacts and cremated remains. A 40 litre sample was taken where possible.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 The results of the evaluation are presented in the following sections. The trenches are described in two groups: those trenches containing no archaeological features and trenches with archaeological features.

3.5.2 Both groups detail the trenches in numerical order and all trenches were 2.1 m wide and 50 m in length, unless otherwise stated. There is additional comment on the finds,

environmental remains and the reliability of the results. A context inventory is included in Appendix 1.

4 SOILS AND GROUND CONDITIONS

4.1.1 The soil across the site was generally free draining silty sand or sandy clay. A spread of sand, probably associated with the demolition of the buildings within the inner perimeter of the radar site was noted within Trenches 14, 15, and 19-21.

4.1.2 Truncation associated with construction and demolition work was noted within Trenches 18, 22 and at the northern end of Trench 13 and the western end of Trench 23. Trenches 13-23, within the inner perimeter, were also heavily affected by the presence of services. Relocation of the trenches to avoid these services was impractical and where possible, the trenches were extended to compensate for the loss of length.

4.1.3 The site stratigraphy was generally better preserved to the south end of the site. Trenches 1-12 were not impacted by previous development and fewer services were detected. The vegetation in this area, however, was severely overgrown with tall brambles and saplings and some vegetation clearance was required prior to establishing trenches. Relocating the trenches was not possible owing to the extensive area affected.

5 RESULTS: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Trenches containing no archaeological features

5.1.1 Trenches 1-3, 6, 8-10, 12-14, 17-18 and 20-21 contained no archaeological features. These trenches have not been illustrated. The stratigraphy of the trenches is discussed below.

Trenches 1 - 3

5.1.2 Trench 1 was orientated E-W and machined to an average depth of 0.9 m (59.22 m OD). The natural (103) was a mid orange brown sand with irregular patches of light yellow white chalky clay. This was overlain by subsoil (102), a mid orange brown silty sand with frequent small angular flints. Overlying (102) was the modern topsoil, a dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small angular flints.

5.1.3 Trench 2 was orientated E-W and machined to an average depth of 0.55 m (59.2 m OD). The natural (203), a mid orange brown sandy clay, was overlain by subsoil (202), a mid orange brown silty sand with occasional angular flints. The topsoil (201) was a dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small angular flints.

5.1.4 Trench 3 was orientated E-W. The trench was machined to an average depth of 0.4 m (58.74 m OD). The natural (302) was a mid yellow grey silty clay with occasional patches of light yellow white chalky clay. This deposit was overlain by topsoil (301), a dark grey brown sandy silty with occasional small angular flints. No subsoil was present within this trench.

Trench 6

5.1.5 Trench 6 was orientated N-S and reached an average depth of 0.8 m (58.79 m OD). Deposit (602), the natural, was a mid orange brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular flints. This was overlain by subsoil (603), a light orange brown silty sand, which was overlain by dark grey brown silty sand (601) forming the topsoil.

Trenches 8 - 10

5.1.6 Orientated N-S, Trench 8 reached an average depth of 0.9 m (58.65 m OD). The natural (803), a mid orange brown sandy clay, was overlain by subsoil (802) consisting of a light orange brown silty sand. The topsoil (801) was a mid brown silty sand.

5.1.7 Trench 9 was orientated N-S reaching an average depth of 0.9 m (58.69 m OD). The trench contained no archaeological features although irregular patches of mid orange brown silty sand were noted within the natural. Three patches were investigated and were interpreted as natural features associated with the nearby tree lined boundary.

5.1.8 The natural (902) varied within the trench. At the southern end the natural was light orange brown sand and this gradually changed towards the north to light orange brown sandy clay with occasional patches of light yellow white chalky clay. This was overlain by subsoil (901), a mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-angular flints and fine tree roots. The overlying topsoil (900) was a mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flints and frequent small tree roots.

5.1.9 Trench 10 was orientated ENE-WSW and machined to an average depth of 0.9 m (58.21 m OD). It was moved slightly from its proposed location to avoid extensive vegetation overgrowth and to avoid blocking the access point. The natural (1003) was a mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional medium flint inclusions. The overlying subsoil (1002) was a loose mid orange brown silty sand. This deposit was overlain by topsoil (1001), a dark grey brown sandy silt.

Trenches 12 - 14

5.1.10 Orientated E-W, Trench 12 was machined to a maximum depth of 0.9 m (58.33 m OD). A modern square pit measuring 0.75 x 0.8 m was observed within the trench and was visible immediately below the topsoil. The pit had vertical sides and a flat base and contained a single deposit of mid brown silty sand. The natural (1203), a mid orange brown sandy clay, was overlain by subsoil (1202). This deposit was a mid orange brown silty sand and was overlain by topsoil (1201), a mid brown silty sand.

5.1.11 Trench 13 was orientated N-S and was relocated slightly from its proposed location to maintain the integrity of the inner perimeter fence. It was situated on a slope recording a drop in elevation of *c* 1 m from the top at the southern end to the bottom at the northern end. The trench was machined to an average depth of 0.4 m (57.99 m OD to the south). The northern end of the trench had suffered severe truncation from

the previous construction and demolition. At this end the natural was only 0.1 m below the modern topsoil (56.98 m OD).

5.1.12 The natural (1303) consisted of a mid orange brown sandy clay. This was overlain by subsoil (1302), a mid orange brown silty sand. The topsoil was a mid brown silty sand.

5.1.13 Trench 14 was orientated E-W and was moved 10 m south of its proposed location to avoid a cluster of trees. The trench was machined by JCB and was 1.5 m in width reaching an average depth of 1.15 m (57.17 m OD). A modern feature, probably associated with the demolition phase, was noted within the trench cutting through the modern topsoil. The feature appeared to be a modern machine bucket scoop that had been immediately backfilled.

5.1.14 The natural within the trench (1405) was a light orange brown sand. This deposit was overlain by subsoil (1404), a mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub rounded pebbles and sub-angular flint. Overlying the subsoil was (1403), buried topsoil. This deposit was a dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flints. This deposit was then overlain by a spread of mid orange brown silty sand, (1402), which has been interpreted as a post-demolition levelling spread. The modern topsoil (1401), a mid brown silty sand, overlies (1402). Although no archaeological remains were encountered, a flint blade was recovered from the spoil of (1403).

Trench 17

5.1.15 Orientated N-S, Trench 17 was machined to a maximum depth of 0.8 m (57.88 m OD). The trench sloped downhill and recorded a drop in elevation of 1.68 m. Considerable modern disturbance was noted within the northern half of the trench and this disturbance is likely to have truncated away any potential archaeological remains. The natural (1703) was a mid orange brown sandy clay. This was overlain by subsoil (1702), a mid orange brown silty sand. Subsoil was only present in the southern half of the trench. To the north the deposit had been truncated away. The topsoil (1701), was a mid brown silty sand.

Trench 18

5.1.16 Orientated E-W, Trench 18 was machined to an average depth of 0.2 m (57.26 m OD) and relocated from its proposed location to avoid a group of trees. The natural (1802), a mid orange brown sandy clay, was disturbed in large areas throughout the trench by modern demolition rubble. A large pit was cut into the western end of the trench filled with brick and concrete. A machine sondage was placed through the deposit to a depth of 0.50 m below current ground level. No subsoil was present within the trench, and the natural was overlain by the modern topsoil (1801), a mid brown silty sand.

Trench 20

5.1.17 Trench 20 was orientated NW-SE and machined to an average depth of 0.81 m (55.83 m OD). The natural (2004), a mid orange brown silty sand with occasional light yellow white chalky clay patches, was overlain by subsoil (2003), a mid yellow brown silty sand. Overlying the subsoil was deposit (2002), a mid orange brown silty sand. This deposit is probably the same post-demolition levelling spread that is observed in trench 14. The topsoil (2001) overlies (2002) and was a dark grey brown silty sand.

Trench 21

5.1.18 Trench 21 was orientated NNW-SSE, measured 48 m in length and was 0.74 m deep. This trench was machined slightly short due to the presence of services at the southern end. The trench could not be extended to the north due to the perimeter fence. Trench 21 was also moved a few metres east of its proposed location in order to avoid damaging the roots of a nearby tree. The natural (2103) was a mid orange brown sandy clay with occasion patches of light yellow white chalky clay. This was overlain by subsoil (2102), a mid orange brown silty sand. The topsoil (2101) was a dark grey brown silty sand.

5.2 Trenches containing archaeological features

Trench 4 - single undated pit

5.2.1 Trench 4 (Fig. 3), orientated NW-SE, was machined to an average depth of 1.1 m (58.69 m OD). The trench was moved slightly from its proposed location to avoid an area of extensive brambles and to avoid services detected to the south of the trench.

5.2.2 The natural (404) was a mid orange sand mottled with patches of light yellow chalky clay. Overlying (404) was subsoil (403), a mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flint nodules. This deposit was overlain by (402) a spread of mid orange brown sand with no visible inclusions. Overlying (402) was topsoil (401), a mid to dark grey brown silty sand with frequent small sub-angular stones.

5.2.3 Trench 4 contained a single undated pit (405) measuring 1.4 m in diameter and 0.2 m in depth. This pit was cut into the subsoil and disturbed by tree root activity. It contained a single fill (406), a friable mid grey brown silty sand with frequent flecks of charcoal. Animal bone was recovered from this deposit.

Trench 5 - post-medieval plough furrows

5.2.4 Trench 5 (Fig. 4), orientated E-W, reached an average depth of 0.9 m (58.77 m OD). Some 7 m of the trench was unable to be fully machined, due to an obliquely angled service running through the trench.

5.2.5 Four shallow features (504, 506, 508 and 510) were recorded cutting into the subsoil. These features, ranging in width from 0.08 m to 0.2 m and in depth from 0.02 m to

0.06 m have been interpreted as plough furrows. All of the furrows were filled by a mid orange brown silty sand. Post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from deposit 505, the fill of furrow (504).

5.2.6 A feature at the west end of the trench was investigated but proved to be a shallow depression in the natural or a tree hole - this was planned but not fully recorded.

5.2.7 The natural (503) was a mid orange soft sand with patches of light yellow chalky clay. This was overlain by subsoil (502), a mid orange brown silty sand. The topsoil (501) was a mid to dark grey brown silty sand.

Trench 7 - barrow ditches, central cremation and associated but probable prehistoric grave

5.2.8 Trench 7 (Fig. 5), orientated E-W, and machined to an average depth of 0.7 m (58.61 m OD) revealed two curvilinear ditches (706) and (709). Also identified were a cremation urn (703) and fill 704 and a possible grave (713) that was not fully investigated, owing to the presence of ?human bone in the fill. Two small N-S extensions were machined along the south baulk of the trench. These were positioned over ditches 706 and 709 in order to determine whether they continued to curve around the cremation. The extensions demonstrated that it is highly probable that the ditches form an enclosure around the cremation.

5.2.9 The two curvilinear ditches (706 and 709) were located to the eastern end of the trench and had 'V'- shaped profiles. Ditch 709 measured 1.m in width and 0.46 m in depth. It contained two deposits: deposit 710 was a mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small angular stones. This primary deposit appears to have been entered the ditch from the eastern side perhaps indicating the direction of original up-cast to an external bank. Overlying this deposit was 711, a soft mid yellow brown silty sand with occasional small angular stones. No finds were recovered from either deposit.

5.2.10 Ditch 706 measured 1.1 m in width and 0.46 m in depth. It contained two deposits: fill 707 was a mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small angular stones. This deposit, similar to 710, appears to have slumped into the ditch from the eastern edge and may represent the direction of slippage from a central mound forming the barrow into the surrounding ditch. Overlying this deposit was 708, a loose mid yellow grey silty sand with occasional small irregular shaped stones. An environmental sample of 40 litres was taken from this deposit for any small bones or artefacts and charred plant remains.

5.2.11 Between the two ditches was an urned middle Bronze Age cremation (see *Finds* reports, section 5.3). The surrounding area was cleaned and the cremation was block-lifted for excavation and sampling off site, after obtaining a Home Office licence (Fig. 5).

5.2.12 An oblong shaped feature entered the trench from the northern baulk 2 m to the east of ditch 709. This feature (713), orientated N-S and 0.5 m wide, had vertical sides and contained a single mixed deposit of dark grey brown silty sand (714). Several small fragments of possibly worked or struck flint were recovered along with several tiny fragments of black and highly abraded pottery. These sherds are likely to be prehistoric rather than any later date, although the quality of the material makes absolute dating uncertain. Some small and extremely degraded fragments of bone were noted within the deposit. Excavation ceased upon observation of the bone as this, combined with the profile of the feature suggested a possible grave where the bone had dissolved due to the acidic sandy conditions. A 40 litre environmental sample was taken for small bones/artefacts.

5.2.13 The general stratigraphy of the trench was very similar to the surrounding trenches. The natural (715), was a light orange brown sandy clay with occasional patches of light yellow white chalky clay. This was overlain by subsoil (701), a light yellow grey silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-angular flints. To the west of the enclosure deposit (712) overlay the subsoil, a mid orange sand perhaps represents a localised spread. Overlying this was topsoil, a mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small to sub-angular flints (700).

Trench 11 - ditch feature

5.2.14 Orientated E-W, Trench 11 (Fig. 6) was machined to an average depth of 1 m (58.15 m OD) and was 58 m in length. It was extended slightly to both the west and the east in order to locate the trench over the projected path of a feature within trench 16 and to compensate for a baulk over a detected service. The trench contained a NW-SE aligned ditch, demonstrating two possible phases of re-cutting.

5.2.15 Feature 1105 survived to a maximum width of 0.2 m and a depth of 0.1 m. It contained a single light yellow brown sandy fill. No finds were recovered from this deposit and although it may be an early ditch or pit with a leached deposit, it may equally be a natural feature. A wide shallow feature (1107) interpreted as a ditch cut feature (1105). The ditch was 2.78 m wide and 0.44 m deep. It contained a single fill (1108), a friable mottled mid brown and mid yellow brown silty sand. Feature (1107) had been cut by ditch (1111). This ditch contained two deposits, (1112) and (1113). Deposit (1112) was a loose light yellow brown sand with no inclusions. This deposit slumped slightly towards the eastern side of the ditch and may suggest the direction of up-cast. Overlying this deposit was (1113), a compact mid brown sandy silt with rare small angular flint inclusions. Ditch 1111 and/or ditch 1107 may be associated with the NW-SE aligned ditch in Trench 16 as they are on a similar alignment. On the basis of profile, ditch 1107 may be the same as ditch 1605 in Trench 16.

5.2.16 The natural within this trench was a mid orange sandy clay (1104). This was overlain in the east of the trench by (1103), a mid yellow brown silty sand. Deposit (1103) was overlain by subsoil (1102), a mid orange brown silty sand. The topsoil (1101) was a mid brown sandy loam.

Trench 15 - two shallow linear features

5.2.17 Trench 15 (Fig. 7), orientated N-S, was machined to an average depth of 1.3 m (56.58 m OD). Some 16.5 m of the trench was machined by JCB, with the rest completed by the 360° machine. Due to the trench depth, the sides were stepped back in order to provide a safe working environment. A 4.5 m baulk was left within the trench due to detected services crossing obliquely through.

5.2.18 The natural within the trench was a light orange brown sandy clay (1505). This deposit was overlain by subsoil (1504), a mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-angular stones. Overlying this was a buried topsoil deposit (1503), a dark grey brown silty sand. Covering 1503 was 1502, a mid orange brown sand, interpreted as a spread associated with demolition. The present day topsoil (1501) overlay 1502 and was a dark brown silty sand.

5.2.19 Two shallow linear features (1506 and 1510 - probably ditches) were recorded within the trench and these features cut 1505. Both were disturbed by bioturbation. Section 1501 shows a shallow ditch (1506) cutting a natural feature, probably a tree hole. Natural feature (1507) contained two deposits. Fill 1508 was a light yellow grey silty clay with occasional small chalk fragments. This was overlain by (1530), a mid grey brown silty sand. No finds were recovered from either context. Ditch (1506) cut 1507 and was aligned NE-SW, was 1.2 m wide and 0.32 m deep and contained a single deposit (1509), a mid grey brown silty sand with rare small flints.

5.2.20 Ditch 1510, aligned NW-SE, was 0.84 m wide and 0.25 m deep. It contained a single fill (1511), a mid grey brown silty sand with no inclusions and no finds were recovered. This ditch was then cut by feature (1512), a shallow gully that was filled by 1513, a mid grey brown silty sand.

5.2.21 Towards the northern end of the trench was a small feature emerging from the eastern baulk and sealed by the subsoil. Feature 1528 may possibly be a pit/ditch terminus but equally possible is that is a tree-throw pit, was 0.6 m wide and 0.24 m deep. It contained a single fill (1527), a mid yellow brown sandy clay - no finds were recovered.

5.2.22 Several features that were investigated in the trench were proved to be natural. Feature 1514, although linear in plan, had an irregular-shaped profile. Measuring 2.7 m in width and 0.26 m in depth, it contained a single mid yellow brown silty clay (1529) and was interpreted as a change in natural geology. Two probable tree throws were also investigated (cuts 1516, 1520 and 1518) are the same feature. Deposit 1515, a mid yellow brown sandy clay, contained a flint flake. Further north an additional natural feature was investigated and recorded (1522, 1524 and 1526). This feature also contained a yellow brown sandy clay (deposits 1521, 1525 and 1527).

Trench 16 - Bronze Age ditch

5.2.23 Trench 16 (Fig. 8), orientated E-W and machined to an average depth of 0.64 m (57.82 m OD), contained a NW-SE aligned ditch (1605), possibly the same ditch as 1107 in Trench 11. An irregularly shaped feature revealed within the confines of the sondage opened to investigate this ditch revealed a tree hole cutting the ditch fill. The western end of the trench demonstrated modern truncation for approximately 8 m. A sondage was placed through the deposit to a depth of 0.9 m. It seems likely that this deposit is associated with the disturbance seen within Trench 17.

5.2.24 Ditch 1605 was 1.88 m wide and 0.5 m deep. It contained a single deposit (1609), a mid grey brown silty sand with rare small sub-angular flints. Fragments of a late Bronze Age bucket urn were recovered from this deposit. An irregular shaped tree hole (1610) measuring 1.3 m in width and reaching a depth of 0.9 m in the middle of the excavated slot cut the ditch. The tree hole contained two deposits (1612 and 1611). Deposit 1612 was a dark grey silty sand with occasional charcoal lumps. The deposit was irregularly shaped and undercut ditch (1605) suggesting that the deposit may have derived from burning out the tree stump. Overlying this was 1611, a mid orange brown silty clay with occasional large flint nodules.

Trench 19 - undated gullies

5.2.25 Trench 19 (Fig. 9) was orientated E-W and machined to an average depth of 0.9 m (56.29 m OD) and was moved slightly to the west due to the presence of trees and bushes along the eastern boundary. The depth of the trench varied and was deepest to the east, reaching a depth of 1.3 m. In this area the trench was stepped where archaeological remains were encountered. Services were also found, and 8 m of the central part of trench was unable to be excavated. The trench was unable to be extended to the west due to the detection of further services.

5.2.26 The trench contained two small gullies aligned approximately N-S to the east of the trench. Gully 1907 measured 0.62 m wide and 0.30 m deep. It contained a single fill (1908), a mid red brown sandy clay with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered. Gully 1909 measured 0.72 m wide and 0.3 m deep and also contained a mid red brown sandy clay with no finds. Both gullies were greatly disturbed by bioturbation and sealed by the subsoil. East of these was an irregular shaped tree-hole (1911) with a shallow depression filled with disturbed natural (1912) extending away to the to the east.

5.2.27 The natural (1906) within the trench was a light orange yellow silty clay with occasional patches of light yellow white chalky clay. This was overlain by the subsoil (1905), a mid grey brown silty sand. Overlying this was deposit 1904, a buried topsoil consisting of dark grey brown silty sand. A layer of dark grey black silty sand with frequent charcoal (1903) overlay deposit (1904). This modern localised deposit may be associated with the deterioration of the buildings within the radar site. This was overlain by 1902, a mid orange sand, the levelling spread observed in Trenches

14 and 15. The present day topsoil 1901 overlay 1902 and was a mid grey brown silty sand.

Trench 22 - prehistoric gully

5.2.28 Orientated N-S, Trench 22 (Fig. 10) was machined to an average depth of 0.2 m (57.28 m OD) and demonstrated a significant degree of truncation that probably occurred during the building and demolition of the radar site. The natural (2203), a mid orange brown sandy clay was heavily disturbed by demolition debris. This was overlain by the modern topsoil (2201), a loose dark grey brown silty sand. No subsoil was present within the trench.

5.2.29 Trench 22 contained a single gully (2206 = 2204) aligned NW-SE that terminated within the trench. The terminal end was investigated and recorded as 2204. In this section the feature was 0.13 m deep and contained a mid grey brown silty sand (2205) and one sherd of abraded prehistoric pottery. A second slot was excavated (Section 2203) further to the north, which revealed the gully (here 2206) to be 0.38 m wide and 0.13 m deep. A single fragment of abraded prehistoric pottery was recovered from the gully fill (2207). An area of modern disturbance lay to the south of the gully.

Trench 23 - undated gully; modern services

5.2.30 Trench 23 (Fig. 11) was orientated NE-SW and sloped downwards to the NE. It was moved slightly from its proposed location in order to preserve the integrity of the site perimeter fence. The trench was 60 m in length and was machined to a maximum depth of 0.95 m (57.64 m OD) to the SW and 0.20 m (56. 70 m OD) to the NE. Truncation is evident to the extreme NE within the footprint of the former development. The natural (2308) was a mid orange brown sand with mottled patches of light yellow white chalky clay and was overlain by subsoil, although this was only present to the west of the trench. To the east development and subsequent demolition have truncated the deposit. Where present, the subsoil (2303) was a mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small pebbles and sub-angular flints. This deposit was overlain by (2302), a mid orange brown sand. This deposit was similar to the levelling spread observed in Trenches 14. 15, 19 and 20 and may be associated. The overlying topsoil (2301) was a dark grey brown sandy silt.

5.2.31 Services were present throughout the trench. Overall 13 m of the trench length was affected by services. In order to compensate for this, the trench was extended to the NE by an additional 10 m. Further extension was not possible due to storage of building materials. One small NNW-SSE aligned gully was recorded within the trench. Gully (2304) was 0.50 m wide and 0.20 m deep. It contained a single mid orange brown silty sand fill, (2305). This feature was truncated along its eastern edge by (2306), a small tree hole measuring 0.90 m in width and 0.35 m in depth. This feature was filled by (2307), a mid brown orange silty sand. No finds were recovered from either feature. It is unclear where these features were cut from.

5.3 W.W.II. Pillbox: Structure No. 2401

5.3.1 Located just inside the eastern perimeter fence was a WW2 pillbox (structure 2401, Fig. 12, Plates 1-4). The area around the pillbox was overgrown and required some vegetation clearance in order to record the structure. The pillbox is in poor condition with damaged walls and no roof, which in recent times has been used to retain and burn garden refuse.

5.3.2 The structure stands only 0.63 m above the current ground surface, suggesting a substantial part of the building is buried. The tops of the extant walls are not broken and have a smooth, finished surface. Constructed from concrete, the structure has an external octagonal shape with an added square entrance to the NE. Internally the structure is circular and appears to have been constructed as one piece, probably by shuttering - pouring concrete into a mould constructed on site. The walls are 0.25 m thick and did not appear to be reinforced.

5.3.3 Two loopholes are visible on the NNW and SSE side of the structure. The SSE loophole measures 0.67 m in width and 0.31 m in height. The NNW loophole has been damaged and the top is located about 1 m to the NW. Further damage exits to the entranceway where part of the wall has been removed. The concrete walls are cracking in places, particularly to the SW and above the SSE loophole.

5.3.4 Four auger holes were placed within the pillbox to attempt to determine the depth of the structure and whether any steps were present within the entranceway. The two bore holes placed in the circular part of the structure revealed an impenetrable surface 0.45 m and 0.47 m below the current surface level. These measurements would give a height for the structure of 1.1 m. It seems unlikely that this reflects the true height of the pillbox, even with the addition of a roof which was likely to be flat and perhaps the depth of the bore holes reflect an obstruction within the feature, possibly from roof or perhaps even an associated gun mount.

5.3.5 Within the entrance an impenetrable surface was reached in both bore holes at 0.63 m below current surface level. This may suggest the absence of any stairs within the entrance, although it is possible that the potential stairway may have been damaged.

5.3.6 This pillbox does not appear to conform to any of the known typology, suggesting that it may be rare or unique. Although standard designs and patterns for pillboxes were issued to contractors by the War Office Directorate of Fortifications and Works, variations in designs could occur due to tactical considerations, materials, or local needs (Lowry, 1995). It is possible that it may be a variation on the Pickett-Hamilton Fort. The Pickett-Hamilton Fort has a circular ground plan and has similar loopholes. However, this type of structure was sunken into the ground and mechanised in order to be raised from ground level during attack. The octagonal design of the pillbox and the offset entrance suggests this feature was designed to be above ground level, to some degree, at all times.

5.4 **Finds**

The Pottery by Emily Edwards (OA)

5.4.1 A total of 783 sherds (4810 g), or a minimum of two vessels, was recovered from five contexts at RAF Watton, in the Breckland district of Norfolk. The majority of sherds (721 sherds) derived from one middle Bronze Age (1500-1150 cal BC) 'South Lodge' type Barrel Urn (contexts 703 and 704), which was decorated with finger tip decorated cordons, some of which were arranged in a crossing pattern, on the base. A late Bronze Age (750-450 cal BC) jar, with finger tip decorated rim and shoulder, was also well represented (contexts 1609) by 14 sherds. The remainder was too small to be easily dated.

5.4.2 The pottery was counted and weighed by context whilst fabric and form were briefly noted. Fabrics were given alphanumerical codes relating to the size of the principal inclusion. Generally speaking, in excess of 20 sherds (or several diagnostic sherds) are required from a single prehistoric feature to allow some precision of dating which takes residuality into account. This must be taken into account with the spot dating especially where there are less than five sherds.

5.4.3 As the site at RAF Watton sits on chalk bedrock, the flint temper used to manufacture the late Bronze Age jar may be locally procured. Both the grog and the flint fabrics are typical of the traditions that they represent.
G1 = 3 % fine grog in a hackly matrix. Thick walled, poorly fired fabric.
AF1 = 15 % moderately well sorted, fine sand and 5 % flint up to 2 mm.
F2 - 20 % angular and well sorted flint up to 2 mm. Well fire, thin walled fabric.

5.4.4 The Barrel Urn was broken and not complete, but otherwise in good condition with several large sherds present. It contained a cremation and was placed within the centre of a barrow whilst the late Bronze Age jar was recovered from a section of ditch within trench 16 (see Table 1). The shoulder of the Barrel Urn (1500-1150) was decorated with a thick, applied, fingertip decorated cordon whilst the base was decorated with a crossing pattern formed by applied cordons. This type of decoration is typical of middle Bronze Age Deverel Rimbury ware and is possibly of a South Lodge type Barrel Urn (Burgess 1980, 134-5, fig. 3.14). The vessel was a secondary burial within a barrow.

5.4.5 The late Bronze Age sherds were, in contrast to the Barrel Urn, well fired and thin walled. One vessel was represented by 14 sherds in good condition. Diagnostic sherds included one finger tip decorated, flared rim sherd and one gritted base, both of the same carinated jar. These are traits characteristic of later Bronze Age Plain Wares (750-450 cal BC). The remaining sherds (from contexts 703, 714) are probably residual and were difficult to date with any certainty, being very broken and abraded. These were given either indeterminate or prehistoric dates.

5.4.6 The middle Bronze Age cremation urn may be a secondary burial within an earlier Bronze Age barrow, although Brown and Murphy (1997, 12) and Peters (2000) state that the tradition of mound building (albeit in a less conspicuous form than early types) continues into the middle Bronze Age. The decorative style, especially that of

the cordoned pattern on the base, was typical of the South Lodge type. The late Bronze Age element to this assemblage may be significant for two reasons. Firstly, evidence of late Bronze Age activity in Norfolk is scant. Secondly, the Breckland area, in which RAF Watton is located, appears to have favoured settlement of this period (Bryant 1997, 19; Davies 1996, 67) including the site at West Harling (Clark and Fell 1953).

5.4.7 The pottery from the grave fill (context 713) comprised very small pieces with no rims present and no discernible forms. The tempering is grog-based however, and on balance would most likely suggest a prehistoric date. This should not be taken as absolute dating for the feature, however, and the pottery must remain of indeterminate date.

Table 5.4.1: Table giving quantification by context. (MBA = middle Bronze Age, LBA - late Bronze Age, PMED = post medieval, IND = indeterminate).

Feature	Ctx	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	Fabric	Date
504 Plough Furrow	505	4	10		Fired clay
504 Plough Furrow	505	1	5		PMED
705 Cut for Cremation Urn	702	15	5	G1	MBA
2207	703	1	5	AF1	Prehistoric
Cremation Urn	703	170	3733	G1	MBA
Cremation contained with 703	704	551	312	G1	MBA
713 Fill of Grave	714	3	1	IND	IND/?prehistoric
713 Fill of Grave	714	20	2	IND	IND/prehistoric
Topsoil	1401	2	10		PMED
1605 Cut of ditch	1609	14	720	F2	LBA
Topsoil	2101	1	4	F2	LBA
2206 Gully	2207	1	3	A	Prehistoric
Total		**783**	**4810**		

The Flint by Rebecca Devaney (OA)

5.4.8 A total of 73 pieces of worked flint were recovered from the evaluation. This overall total includes 52 chips recovered from environmental sieving (Table 5.3.2). The material was spread between 11 contexts in six trenches, with no context containing more than five pieces of flint, except where a large number of chips were recovered. A further 31 fragments (44 g) of burnt unworked flint was also retrieved from five contexts (see also Table 5.3.2). The flint can be broadly dated to the later Neolithic or Bronze Age on technological grounds. This date is consistent with the presence of a probable Bronze Age barrow and Bronze Age ceramics.

Table 5.3.2: Summary of flint by type and context

Flint Category/ Ctx	403	701	702	704	708	714	1113	1401	1404	1501	1905	Total
Flake	2	2				5	1	2	1	3	1	**17**

Blade-like flake											1	**1**
End and side scraper	1											**1**
Side scraper		1										**1**
Fragmentary core	1											**1**
Total	**4**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**21**
Sieved Material/Ctx												
Sieved chips 10-1 mm				17								**17**
Sieved chips 10-4 mm			1		21	13						**35**
Total	**0**	**0**	**1**	**17**	**21**	**13**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**52**
Grand Total	**4**	**3**	**1**	**17**	**21**	**18**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**73**

5.4.9 *Methodology:* The flint was catalogued according to a debitage, core or tool type. Information about burning and breaks were recorded and where identifiable raw material and technological characteristics were also noted. In addition, the burnt unworked flint was quantified by count and weight. Flint recovered from environmental samples was recorded in the same way. The data was entered into an MS Access database.

5.4.10 *Raw material and condition:* Where identifiable, most of the raw material is gravel flint. This is generally characterised by a thin and abraded cortex and is likely to be locally derived, perhaps sourced from river gravel deposits. The exception is the end and side scraper that is made on a chalk derived flint. The lack of chalk flint in the assemblage is unusual due to the site being located on chalk bedrock. It may therefore be the case that the gravel flint was more easily accessible than the chalk flint, however, it is of poor knapping quality with many pieces having internal flaws.

5.4.11 The condition of the worked flint is quite good with most pieces being fresh or exhibiting only slight levels of post-depositional damage and a small number (5 pieces) are moderately damaged. The damage is most frequently seen on vulnerable unretouched edges and implies the occurrence of some post-depositional disturbance. The majority of the assemblage is uncorticated, with only two pieces, from separate contexts, exhibiting light cortication. A total of 3 pieces are broken.

5.4.12 *Technology and dating:* Unretouched debitage dominates the assemblage (18 pieces, excluding chips). In general, the material is reminiscent of later prehistoric flint working and probably dates to the hard hammer industries of the later Neolithic and Bronze Age. Characteristics usually associated with earlier flint working (Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic), such as platform edge abrasion and a significant proportion of blades, are not seen. Similarly, characteristics associated with Iron Age flint working, such as short, squat flakes; obtuse striking angles; thick, wide striking platforms and a high instance of step and hinge terminations were not present. A few of the flakes are small primary removals with cortical platforms, which in some cases may be naturally struck.

5.4.13 The fragmentary core, from context 403, has a couple of blade-like removals on one side. The reverse has broken away along the line of an internal flaw, which truncates both the flake removals and the striking platform, and therefore occurred during knapping or after discard. The core is quite small, weighing just 38 g. The piece is not chronologically diagnostic, but is consistent with the rest of the assemblage.

5.4.14 The end and side scraper, from context 403, has abrupt direct retouch to the distal end and right side. The proximal end is broken, possibly deliberately, and appears to truncate the retouch. This piece is the only identified chalk-derived flint in the assemblage and may be older than the rest of the assemblage, possibly being earlier Neolithic in date. The side scraper, from context 701, has direct retouch on both lateral sides that cuts into the otherwise cortical dorsal surface and creates two opposite scraping edges. Like the core, the side scraper is chronologically undiagnostic, but is consistent with a later Neolithic to Bronze Age date.

5.4.15 *Discussion and potential:* The technological appearance of the worked flint from Watton suggests that the material derives from the later Neolithic and Bronze Age. The material is therefore broadly contemporary with the probable Bronze Age barrow and ceramics seen in Trench 7. However, due to the small assemblage size and lack of any chronologically diagnostic pieces, this date cannot be further refined. The flint was recovered in small numbers from many trenches and suggests small-scale activity in the area during this period. A small amount of undiagnostic burnt flint was recovered and is tabulated below.

Table 5.3.3: Summary of burnt unworked flint by context

Context	Count	Weight (g)
702	2	1
704	15	4
708	10	5
714	3	2
2101	1	32
Total	***31***	***44***

Human Bone, osteological summary - cremation burial (704) by Jonny Geber (OA)

5.4.16 One cremation burial (704), consisting of 3,990 fragments of burnt bone, with a total weight of 868g, has been osteologically analysed (Full report presented as Appendix 2). The burial was interred with and in a Middle Bronze Age bucket urn (703), which seemed to be enclosed by two V-shaped ditches (706, 709) indicating that it was placed within a barrow. No grave goods accompanied the deceased. Burial practise in southern Britain during the Middle Bronze Age (1400-1000 BC) is characterised by single cremations burials in round barrows with none or very few grave goods present. By the end of this period, this practise was replaced by the tradition of interring cremation burials in flat urnfield cemeteries (Adkins & Adkins 1982, 46-49; Taylor 1988, 39).

5.4.17 It can be concluded that the urned cremation burial (704) contained one adult, probably. The individual suffered from degenerative joint changes, although it was not possible to assess the full extent. She had also lost at least one tooth in life. The cremation process had been successful and the incineration temperature did exceed 700-800°C. The bones were clean, which might indicate that the bones were picked out separately from the pyre. It was also evident that the largest fragments were located at the bottom of the urn, which might suggest that the largest fragments were collected first.

Animal Bone by Kristopher Poole (OA)

5.4.18 A total of three refitted fragments of animal bone (24.5g) were recovered from contexts 406 and 1609. The bone was in fair condition, but had suffered from root damage.

5.4.19 Context 406 contained a right horse tibia and a right cattle humerus, both of which were fused, indicting that the horse was at least 42 months old at death. The cow was at least 48 months old at death. Context 1609 contained a proximal fragment of left sheep scapula.

5.5 Palaeo-environmental remains

by Seren Griffiths (OA)

5.5.1 Seven samples were taken as part of the evaluation at RAF Watton. The samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains, molluscs and small bones and artefacts from a range of features (Full report, Appendix 3). The samples were taken from a Bronze Age (BA) cremation urn, a grave-like feature and a BA barrow ditch. The absence of charred material from around the cremation vessel suggest that cremation event did not take place in this location.

5.5.2 However the evidence of vitrified charred plant material, and quantities of burnt flint from the barrow ditch fill (sample 3, context 780) suggest that some in situ high temperature burning may have taken place in the vicinity. Samples from context 704 contained little charred material apart from small quantities of charcoal, and the snail assemblage indicates that there might have been some limited disturbance to the site. *C. acicula* is a burrowing species likely to be intrusive and therefore not indicative of contemporary environment; post-depositional disturbance to at least some of the deposits from this site therefore could be a possible explanation for the limited charred assemblages.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

6.1.1 The evaluation sampled *c* 5% of the site. The natural subsoil above the solid geology appears to be present along the lengths of the majority of trenches, that is to say, it

has not been removed in total in any areas of the site, but has been cut into where previous buildings/trenches associated with the RAF base were present. In most trenches the subsoil deposits were 0.5 m thick or greater in depth.

6.1.2 Limited archaeological remains were observed in the southern half of the site, with the Bronze Age barrow and possible associated grave being of greatest significance. Overall it is felt that the positioning of the trenches have given a good indication of the archaeological potential within the two areas. The site has been ploughed in antiquity, thus truncating the upper parts of the revealed archaeological features.

6.2 Overall interpretation

6.2.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that limited but potentially significant archaeological remains exist on the site (see Fig. 2, features mapped onto overall trench plan). Within Trench 7, two undated curvilinear ditches (706 and 709) enclose an urned middle Bronze Age cremation. Although no dating evidence was retrieved from either ditch section, it is very likely that the feature is associated with the cremation and represents a Bronze Age round barrow.

6.2.2 No direct evidence of a mound or ditch bank associated with the barrow could be seen in section. However, the slumping of the primary fills at the east edge of both ditches suggests that an outer bank may have existed and eroded from the east into easterly ditch (706), while the slumped primary fill of ditch 707 could suggest that a central mound eroded into the western of the barrow ditches.

6.2.3 The grave-like feature near the barrow certainly contained human bone, though the feature was not fully excavated. The pottery evidence is uncertain for dating purposes - the fabric of these small sherds gives no more than a likelihood that the feature is prehistoric.

6.2.4 Trench 16 also contained a Bronze Age ditch. This feature does not appear to extend much further to the north and was not detected within Trench 18. It is possible, however, that the ditch extended south into Trench 11 (ditch 1111). The profile and size of the two features, however, changes between the two trenches and further work would be required to determine their exact relationship. The gully within Trenches 22 and 23 may be associated with the ditch, if only on analogy with the alignment, as it contained prehistoric pottery.

6.2.5 Flint recovered from topsoil in Trench 15 and from other trenches (including Trench 7), suggest prehistoric activity in the general area of the site. An undated pit was recorded in Trench 4 and four post-medieval plough furrows were observed in Trench 5.

6.2.6 There is little evidence for the extension of the Roman settlement documented to the west of the site. No Roman pottery was recovered from the evaluation. Undated linear features were recorded in Trenches 15 and 19. These features demonstrated significance disturbance by bioturbation.

6.2.7 The W.W. II pillbox is currently in poor condition above ground level. The visible cracks within the structure suggest further deterioration is likely in the near future. English Heritage has expressed a preference that the pillbox is retained within an area of public open space.

6.3 Overall summary of results

6.3.1 The 5 % trial trenching has demonstrated that although limited archaeological remains have been discovered by the evaluation, the Bronze Age and other prehistoric remains in Trenches 7, 11 and 16 are most noteworthy.

6.3.2 These Bronze Age features could suggest a context for the hoard of socketed axes discovered in 1958. Flints of late Neolithic/Bronze Age type were recovered from the site, suggesting additional activity to the ditch features so far attributed to this period.

6.3.3 Undated ditches and gullies were recorded in Trenches 15 and 19 and an undated pit was recorded in Trench 4. Post-medieval plough furrows were seen in Trench 5.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	*Ctxt No*	*Type*	*Width (m)*	*Thick. (m)*	*Comment*	*Finds*	*Date*
01							
	101	Layer		0.40	Topsoil		
	102	Layer		0.50	Subsoil		
	103	Layer			Natural		
02							
	201	Layer		0.37	Topsoil		
	202	Layer		0.18	Subsoil		
	203	Layer			Natural		
03							
	301	Layer		0.10	Topsoil		
	302	Layer			Natural		
04							
	401	Layer		0.40	Topsoil		
	402	Layer		0.10	Spread		
	403	Layer		0.50	Subsoil		
	404	Layer			Natural		
	405	Cut	1.10	0.20	Pit		
	406	Fill		0.20	Fill of 405	bone, daub?	
05							
	501	Layer		0.40	Topsoil		
	502	Layer		0.44	Subsoil		
	503	Layer			Natural		
	504	Cut	0.22	0.04	Plough furrow		
	505	Fill		0.04	Fill of 504	pot, CBM	
	506	Cut	0.14	0.02	Plough furrow		
	507	Fill		0.02	Fill of 506		
	508	Cut	0.10	0.02	Plough furrow		
	509	Fill		0.02	Fill of 508		
	510	Cut	0.14	0.08	Plough furrow		
	511	Fill		0.08	Fill of 510		
06							

	601	Layer		0.38	Topsoil		
	602	Layer			Natural		
	603	Layer		0.40	Subsoil		
07							
	700	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
	701	Layer		0.60	Subsoil		
	702	Fill			Fill of 705. Issued for sample purposes only.		
	703	Object	0.34		Cremation Urn		
	704	Fill			Cremation contained within 703		
	705	Cut			Cut for cremation urn. Not visible. Issued for matrix purposes.		
	706	Cut	1.20	0.50	Cut of ditch		
	707	Fill		0.10	Fill of 706		
	708	Fill	1.10	0.46	Fill of ditch 706		
	709	Cut	1.00	0.48	Cut of ditch		
	710	Fill		0.06	Fill of ditch 708		
	711	Fill	0.94	0.48	Fill of ditch 708		
	712	Layer	0.80+	0.10	Spread		
	713	Cut	0.50	0.58+	Cut of grave?		
	714	Fill		0.58+	Fill of 713		
	715	Layer			Natural		
08							
	801	Layer		0.40	Topsoil		
	802	Layer		0.50	Subsoil		
	803	Layer			Natural		
09							
	900	Layer		0.35	Topsoil		
	901	Layer		0.90	Subsoil		
	902	Layer			Natural		
10							
	1001	Layer		0.33	Topsoil		
	1002	Layer		0.54	Subsoil		
	1003	Layer			Natural		
11							
	1101	Layer		0.32	Topsoil		

	1102	Layer		0.46	Subsoil		
	1103	Layer		0.24	Transition layer		
	1104	Layer			Natural		
	1105	Cut	0.20	0.12	Cut of ditch/pit?		
	1106	Fill		0.12	Fill of 1105		
	1107	Cut	2.80	0.40	Cut of ditch		
	1108	Fill		0.40	Fill of ditch	flint	
	1109	Unused					
	1110	Unused					
	1111	Cut	0.82	0.50	Cut of ditch/pit		
	1112	Fill		0.16	Fill of 1111		
	1113	Fill	0.82	0.46	Fill of 1111	flint	
12							
	1201	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	1202	Layer		0.68	Subsoil		
	1203	Layer			Natural		
	1204	Cut	0.80	0.14	Pit		
	1205	Fill		0.14	Fill of 1204	flint	
13							
	1301	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	1302	Layer		0.20	Subsoil		
	1303	Layer			Natural		
14							
	1401	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
	1402	Layer		0.19	Spread. Same as 1502, 1902, 2002		
	1403	Layer		0.30	Buried topsoil		
	1404	Layer		0.44	Subsoil		
	1405	Layer			Natural		
	1406	Cut	1.00	1.20	Cut of modern feature		
	1407	Fill		0.06	Fill of 1406		
	1408	Fill		0.44	Fill of 1406		
	1409	Fill		0.20	Fill of 1406		
	1410	Fill		0.06	Fill of 1406		
	1411	Fill		0.04	Fill of 1406		
	1412	Fill		0.45	Fill of 1406		
15							

	1501	Layer		0.24	Topsoil		
	1502	Layer		0.20	Spread. Same as 1402, 1902, 2002		
	1503	Layer		0.10	Buried topsoil		
	1504	Layer		0.50	Subsoil		
	1505	Layer			Natural		
	1506	Cut	1.20	0.50	Cut of ditch		
	1507	Cut	0.50	0.22	Cut of natural feature		
	1508	Fill		0.16	Fill of 1507		
	1509	Fill		0.34	Fill of 1506		
	1510	Cut	0.84	0.25	Cut of ditch		
	1511	Fill		0.25	Fill of 1510		
	1512	Cut	1.34	0.12	Cut of natural feature		
	1513	Fill		0.12	Fill of 1512		
	1514	Cut	2.70	0.26	Natural feature		
	1515	Fill		0.20	Fill of 1516	flint	
	1516	Cut	0.80	0.20	Cut of natural feature; tree throw		
	1517	Fill		0.14	Fill of 1518. Same as 1515		
	1518	Cut	0.78	0.14	Same as 1516		
	1519	Fill		0.26	Fill of 1520. Same as 1515		
	1520	Cut	0.86	0.26	Same as 1516		
	1521	Fill		0.20	Fill of 1522		
	1522	Cut	0.60	0.20	Cut of natural feature; tree throw		
	1523	Fill		0.08	Fill of 1524. Same as 1521		
	1524	Cut	0.64	0.08	Cut of natural feature; tree throw. Same as 1522		
	1525	Fill		0.12	Fill of 1526. Same as 1521		
	1526	Cut	0.34	0.12	Cut of natural feature; tree throw. Same as 1522		
	1527	Fill		0.24	Fill of 1528		
	1528	Cut	0.60	0.24	Cut of pit/ditch terminus?		
	1529	Fill		0.26	Fill of 1514		

16							
	1601	Layer		0.18	Topsoil		
	1602	Layer		0.28	Subsoil		
	1603	Layer		0.18	Same as 1602. Interface between subsoil and natural		
	1604	Layer			Natural		
	1605	Cut	1.80	0.52	Cut of ditch		
	1606	Unused					
	1607	Unused					
	1608	Unused					
	1609	Fill		0.28	Fill of 1605	pot	
	1610	Cut	1.30	0.64	Cut of natural feature; tree bole		
	1611	Fill		0.36	Fill of 1610		
	1612	Fill		0.28	Fill of 1610		
17							
	1701	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	1702	Layer		0.60	Subsoil		
	1703	Layer			Natural		
18							
	1801	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	1802	Layer			Natural		
19							
	1901	Layer		0.25	Topsoil		
	1902	Layer		0.10	Spread. Same as 1402, 1502, 2002		
	1903	Layer		0.02	Spread		
	1904	Layer		0.16	Buried topsoil		
	1905	Layer		0.56	Subsoil		
	1906	Layer			Natural		
	1907	Cut	0.60	0.30	Cut of gully		
	1908	Fill		0.30	Fill of 1907		
	1909	Cut	0.72	0.30	Cut of gully		
	1910	Fill		0.30	Fill of 1909		
	1911	Cut	2.22	0.30	Cut of natural feature		
	1912	Fill		0.30	Fill of 1911		
20							

	2001	Layer		0.23	Topsoil		
	2002	Layer		0.30	Spread. Same as 1402, 1502, 1902		
	2003	Layer		0.26	Natural		
	2004	Layer			Natural		
21							
	2101	Layer		0.23	Topsoil		
	2102	Layer		0.40	Subsoil		
	2103	Layer			Natural		
22							
	2201	Layer		0.10	Topsoil		
	2202	Unused					
	2203	Layer			Natural		
	2204	Cut	0.40	0.13	Cut of gully	pot	
	2205	Fill		0.13	Fill of 2204		
	2206	Cut	0.56	0.16	Cut of gully. Same as 2204		
	2207	Fill		0.16	Fill of 2206. Same as 2205		
23							
	2301	Layer		0.40	Topsoil		
	2302	Layer		0.10	Spread		
	2303	Layer		0.50	Subsoil		
	2304	Cut	0.60	0.20	Cut of gully		
	2305	Fill		0.20	Fill of 2304		
	2306	Cut	0.90	0.35	Cut of natural feature; tree bole		
	2307	Fill		0.35	Fill of 2306		
	2308	Layer			Natural		
	2401	Structure			Pillbox		WW2

APPENDIX 2 OSTEOLOGICAL REPORT

By Jonny Geber (OA)

Introduction

One cremation burial (704), consisting of 3 990 fragments of burnt bone, with a total weight of 868g, has been osteologically analysed. The burial was interred with and in a Middle Bronze Age bucket urn (703), which seemed to be enclosed by two V-shaped ditches (706, 709) indicating that it was placed within a barrow.

No grave goods accompanied the deceased. Burial practise in southern Britain during the Middle Bronze Age (1400-1000 BC) is characterised by single cremations burials in round barrows with none or very few grave goods present. By the end of this period, this practise was replaced by the tradition of interring cremation burials in flat urnfield cemeteries (Adkins & Adkins 1982, 46-49; Taylor 1988, 39).

Osteological methodology

There are many obstacles in the osteological study of cremated bone. The main limitations are the often considerable fragmentation and the distortions caused by the heat implications during the cremation process. Another factor is the loss of volume, from the burning to the deposition of the bones into the grave, which often is evident in ancient cremation burials. All these factors makes many of the available osteological methods inadequate when analysing burnt skeletal materials (see Rösing 1977, 54).

The urned cremation burial was block lifted on site and excavated and sampled within a controlled laboratory environment. The assemblage was dug in spits of 2cm, for the purpose of assessing stratigraphic distribution of skeletal elements within the urn.

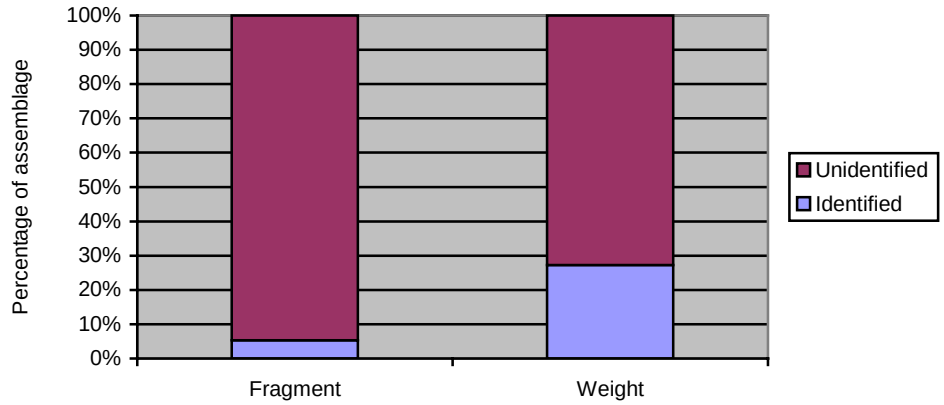
The cremated bone were thereafter sieved in >10mm, 5-10mm and 2-5mm size categories for the purpose of assessing the fragmentation of the sample (Table 1). The bone fragments were thereafter counted, weighed (with 1g accuracy), identified to species and skeletal elements, side, colour/degree of incineration, and whether they were clean or sooty.

Age was estimated on the basis of the method of evaluating the relative thickness of the tables and diploë of skull vault fragments (Gejvall in Sigvallius 1994, 10) and from the morphology of the auricular surface (Lovejoy et al 1985). Sex was assessed based on diagnostic traits of the cranium and pelvis (see Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994, 15-21).
The anatomical terminology used in this report is strictly according to the international nomenclature as described by Feneis and Dauber (2000).

Cremation burial (704)

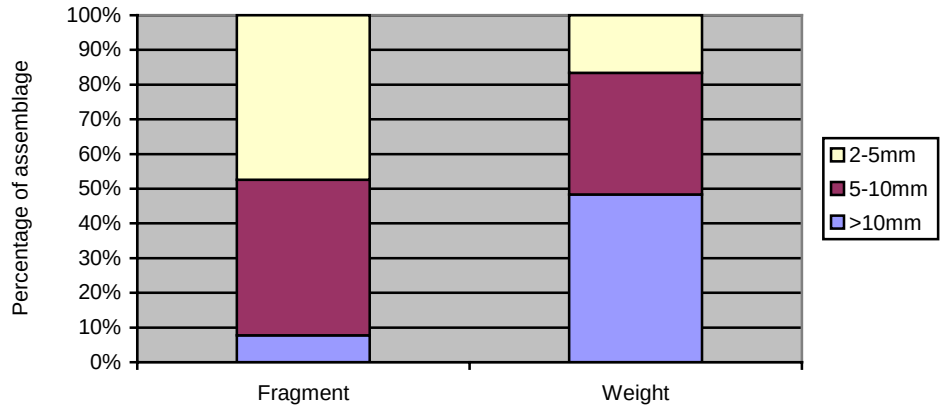
The cremation burial was truncated during mechanical stripping of the subsoil, however it was well preserved and contained several large bone fragments. In all, 5% of all the fragments and 27% of the weight was identifiable (Fig. A.2.1). This illustrates the fragmentation of the material and that larger fragments are identified more easily.

Figure A.2.1. The amount of identified and unidentified cremated bone fragments the cremation burial (704).



The largest fragment in the sample was 67.35mm in size, and the mean weight value per fragment in the burial was 0.21g. The relative distribution between fragment sizes based on number of fragments and weight within the context is displayed in Fig. A.2.2.

Figure A.2.2. Fragmentation of the bones the cremation burial (704).



Age and sex

The cremated remains of one 25-44 year old individual were identified in the material. Age was assessed from the relative thickness of the diploë in skull vault fragments, from the appearance of dental roots and the morphology of the right auricular surface. One fragment from the sciatic notch region of the left pelvis and supraorbital border above the right eye orbit suggested that the individual was female. The thickness of the skull vault, based on 16 measurements, ranged from 3.17 mm to 5.04 mm with a mean value of 4.03 mm. The low measured values for these fragments could indicate female sex (Table A.2.3)

Figure A.2.3. Comparison of Watton (704) with Gejvall's sexing discrimination based on the maximal measured wall thickness in measurement area 1a (see Gejvall 1969, 474).

	Males (n=46)	**Females (n =45)**	**Watton (704)**
Minimum range value	4.50mm	4.00mm	3.17mm
Mean value	6.50mm	5.90mm	4.03mm
Maximum range value	10.00mm	9.20mm	5.04mm

It has been noted that modern cremations results in a bone weight between 1000-3600 g (McKinley 2000, 404). The total weight of 851 g in the Watton cremation burial corresponds well with what may be expected from the cremated remains of one adult individual.

Pathology
Despite the implications from the incineration process and the fragmentation of the bones, some pathological conditions were noted in the material. Three fragments of one cervical and two thoracic vertebrae displayed minor osteophytic growth around the vertebral bodies and one articular process, which indicated a slight degenerative changes of the spine manifested by intervertebral osteophytosis and spinal osteoarthritis.

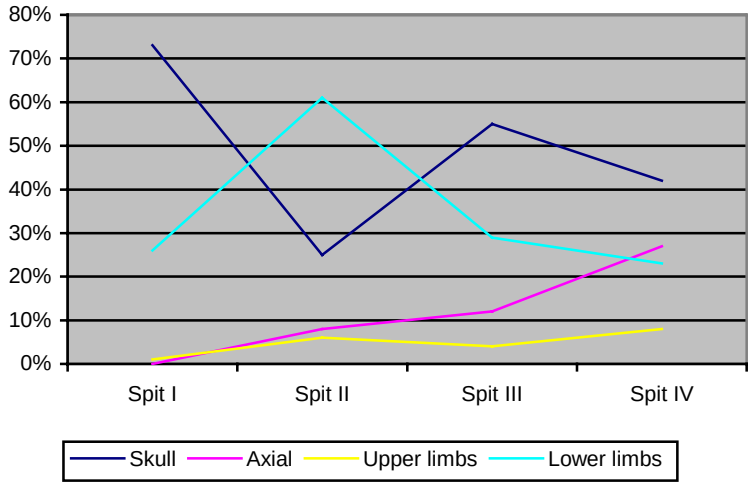
Physical labour and wear and tear will cause stress and pressure on the back, which is reflected by osteoarthritic changes in the vertebral joints or as compression lesions or osteophytic growth at the superior and inferior surfaces of the vertebral bodies. Other primary causes are trauma, infections, metabolic disorders and more (Aufderheide & Rodríguez-Martín 1998, 93). Arthritic changes in the spine are very common in inhumations, but less readily identified in cremations due to fragmentation.

The articular surface on a head of one rib displayed minor osteophytes and possible porosity. A fragment of a proximal phalanx of a first metacarpal (thumb) displayed minor osteophytes at the distal end, suggesting the individual also suffered from extra-spinal joint degeneration. Enthesophytes, which are bone excrescence at the site of tendons or ligament attachments to bones, were also noted on the base on the left patella, indicating stress from the *Rectus femoris* muscle. Antemortem tooth loss was also identified, where the first left mandibular molar had been lost. No other dental pathologies were noted.

Cremation technology
A successful cremation is only evident from bones with a whitish to white colour (Wahl 1982, 27). The white colour on all the bone fragments in this sample indicates a successful cremation with a burning temperature exceeding 700-800°C. Whether the burnt bones are clean or sooty reflects how they were handled after the cremation. Clean bones would have been picked up and sorted after the burning. Sooty bones would have been collected together with pyre debris and charcoal (Gejvall 1948, 155; 1961; Herrman 1972; Lisowski 1968, 78). The bones this burial were all clean, which suggests that the bones were picked out from the pyre remains and then put into the urn.

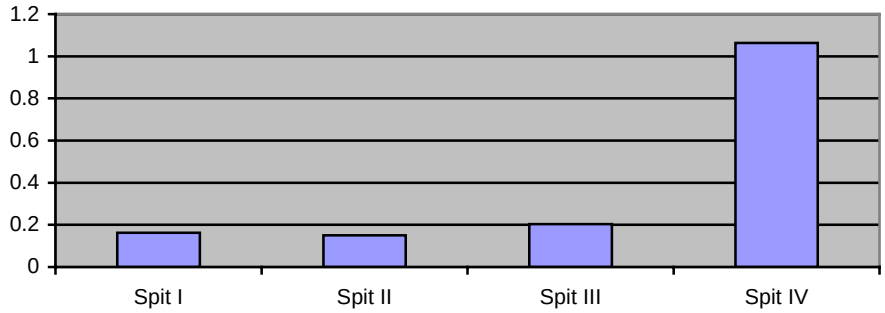
Based on the relative percentage in weight of skull fragments, axial bone fragments, upper limb fragments and lower limb fragments in each spit dug, it was attempted to assess whether there was any stratigraphic pattern of various bone elements within the urn (Fig. A.2.4). The graph show an increase in identified axial and upper limb fragments towards the lower strata of the vessel, while skull and lower limb fragments show a variation in occurrence. No specific pattern in collecting the remains can therefor be indicated from the data.

Figure A.2.4. The relative distribution of skeletal elements within levels of the cremation urn vessel.



It is also noticeable that the largest fragments of bones were present within the last spit, at the bottom of the vessel (Fig. A.2.5). This could either be interpreted as them being best protected against fragmentation or that during the collecting of the remains in antiquity the largest fragments were picked up first.

Figure A.2.5. The relationship between weight/fragment and the level in the cremation urn vessel (spits).



Summary and conclusion

It can be concluded that the urned cremation burial (704) contained one adult, probably female. The individual suffered from degenerative joint changes, although it was not possible to assess the full extent. She had also lost at least one tooth in life. The cremation process had been successful and the incineration temperature did exceed 700-800°C. The bones were clean, which might indicate that the bones were picked out separately from the pyre. It was also evident that the largest fragments were located at the bottom of the urn, which might suggest that the largest fragments were collected first.

Catalogue

Context number: 704
Type: Urned burial
Period: Middle Bronze Age
NISP: 3 990 fragments (5% identified)
Weight: 868g (27% identified)
Maximum fragment size: 67.35mm
Colour/Incineration: White (>700-800ºC)
Clean/Sooty: Clean

Skull: Frontal bone, Parietal bone, Temporal bone, Zygomatic, Maxilla, Mandible, Teeth (118.5g).
Axial: Cervical vertebrae, Thoracic vertebrae, Lumbar vertebrae, Sacrum, Ribs, Hip bone (33g)
Upper limb: Scapula, Humerus, Radius, Metacarpal, Phalanges (10g)
Lower limb: Patella, Femur, Tibia, Fibula, Metatarsal (84.5g)
MNI: 1
Age: 25-44 years *(Adult)*
Sex: Female
Pathology: Not present
Animal bones: Not present

Table A:1. The relative fragmentation of the cremated burial (704) from RAF, Watton (n= 1)

Cxt	Total weight (g)	10 mm weight (g)	*% total weight*	5 mm weight (g)	*% total weight*	2 mm weight	*% total weight*	1mm residue weight	max. frag. size (mm)	id. weight	*% weight*	Skull weight	*% weight*	Axial weight
704	867.5	423	*48.76*	303	*34.93*	141.5	*16.31*	0	67.35	236.5	*27.26*	118	*49.89*	24

APPENDIX 3 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

By Seren Griffiths (OA)

Methodology

Seven samples were taken as part of the evaluation at RAF Watton. The samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains, molluscs and small bones and artefacts from a range of features.

The samples were taken from a Bronze Age (BA) cremation urn, a ?probable grave, and a BA barrow ditch. Samples from the barrow ditch, the grave and the sample from around the cremation urn were processed by flotation using a modified Siraf-type machine, the flot being collected onto a 250 micron mesh.

The remaining material was then wet sieved through a column for the recovery of small bones and artefacts. The cremation spit samples were hand floated onto 250 micron mesh. The residue was washed onto 500 micron mesh and retained. The flots and residues were air-dried and the flots scanned under a binocular microscope at Oxford Archaeology. The residues were sorted for bones and artefacts down to 4mm and the remaining material retained. Initially assessment was undertaken at Oxford Archaeology by Seren Griffiths.

Results

Charred Plant Remains: All the samples produced limited organic flots (see table A.3.1 for a summary of results). The flots produced from the bulk samples originating from the barrow ditch, the ?possible grave, and the soil surrounding the cremation were small (c. 40ml). The majority of these flots comprised modern plant material.

Charcoal was present in all three bulk flots but was quite comminuted and smaller than, or close to 2mm in radial cross section, making identification difficult.

A charred Gramineae grain was present in sample 2 (context 702). Sample 3 (context 708) contained three items of comminuted but highly vitrified charred material. The flots from the cremation spit samples were also small (c 10mm), again small quantities of comminuted charcoal were present in the spits. A ?Gramineae grain was present in sample 7 (context 704) and an unidentifiable charred element with a surface was present in sample 8 (context 704).

Molluscs: Molluscs were present or frequent in all the samples, but in most cases they were limited to *Cecilioides acicula*. However other species were present in samples 2 (context 702) and 4 (context 714).

Other material: Modern plant material was present in all the flots. In most cases the majority of the flot by volume was composed of modern ?root matter. A range of modern weed seeds representing a variety of taxa were also present samples 2 (context 702), 3 (context 708) and 4 (context 714).

Artefacts and residues: Flots 5, 6 and 7 (all context 704) contained elements of cancellous bone, and small fragments of both burnt and cremated bone. The residues were sorted for artefacts to 2mm. Sample 3 (context 708) contained frequent incidents of burnt flint.

All residues from samples 5, 6, 7 contained frequent to common incidents of burnt bone. The sorted artefacts were transferred to the finds department and the two smaller fractions of residue retained.

Discussion

The absence of charred material from around the cremation vessel suggest that cremation event did not take place in this location. However the evidence of vitrified charred plant material, and quantities of burnt flint from the barrow ditch fill (sample3, context 780) suggest that some in situ high temperature burning may have taken place in the vicinity.

Samples from context 704 contained little charred material apart from small quantities of charcoal, and the snail assemblage indicates that there might have been some limited disturbance to the site. *C. acicula* is a burrowing species likely to be intrusive and therefore not indicative of contemporary environment; post-depositional disturbance to at least some of the deposits from this site therefore could be a possible explanation for the limited charred assemblages.

Further work

Molluscs, apart from intrusive burrowing snails, were not common in the sampled deposits and the potential for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction at the site is likely to be limited, unless future excavations discover waterlogged deposits in the lower fills of features.

Charred material is however present at the site and any future work should include targeted sampling strategies of deposits for the recovery of charred plant remains and bones in line with current best method and practise as out lined in OA Environmental Manual (2000 edition) and English Heritage sampling guidelines (2002).

A summary of the charred plant remains is presented overleaf.

Table A.3.1- a summary of the charred plant remains

Sample No	Ctx No	Flot vol (ml)	Type of context	Charcoal	Grain	Other charred	Molluscs	Volume floated (litres)	Notes
2	702	30	Material surrounding cremation urn	+<2mm	+Gramineae		++ *Cecilioides acicula* + Other	20	+Modern weed seeds (range of taxa)
3	708	40	Barrow ditch, upper fill	++<2mm		+ Comminuted highly vitrified charred material	+ + *Cecilioides acicula*	40	+Modern weed seeds (range of taxa)
4	714	40	? grave	++>2mm		+Charred ?root matter	+ *Cecilioides acicula* + Other	30	+Modern weed seeds (range of taxa)
5	704	10	Cremation spit 1	+>2mm			+ *Cecilioides acicula*	1	Cancellous bone in flot
6	704	20	Cremation spit 2	+<2mm			++ *Cecilioides acicula*	1	Cancellous bone in flot
7	704	10	Cremation spit 3	+<2mm		+?Gramineae	+ *Cecilioides acicula*	1	Cancellous bone in flot
8	704	10	Cremation spit 4	+>2mm		+?	++ *Cecilioides acicula*	1	

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100) ++++=abundant (>100)

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APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: RAF Watton
Site code: 42674 WAT
Grid reference: TF 926 007
Type of evaluation: Twenty three 50 m long trial trenches
Date and duration of project: 28/11/05 - 19/12/05
Area of site: 4.6 ha
Summary of results: The 5 % sample trial trenching has demonstrated limited archaeological remains comprising a Bronze Age barrow with central cremation and a possible associated grave of likely prehistoric date. A Bronze Age ditch was tentatively suggested to cross part of the site. The Bronze Age features provide a potential context for the hoard of socketed axes discovered on the site in 1958. Flints of late Neolithic/Bronze Age type were recovered from the site, suggesting additional activity to the ditch features so far attributed to this period. Several undated ditches and gullies and four post-medieval plough furrows were observed. A W.W. II pillbox was also investigated.
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service in due course under Accession No. 42674 WAT.

Scale 1:50,000

Figure 1: Site location

X:\Watton, Norfolk\Geomatics\CAD\current\Archaeology_090206.dwg(Figure2)*42674WAT*WATRAFEV*RAF Watton*robin.latour* 13 Feb 2006

OS 592550 E
OS 300800 N

OS 592800 E
OS 300800 N

Gully
Gully
Gullies
Ditch?
Pillbox
Ditch
Ditch
Cremation
Barrow
Grave?
Furrows
Pit

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
11
11
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

OS 592550 E
OS 300500 N

OS 592800 E
OS 300500 N

evaluation area
evaluation trench
archaeological feature
tree throw
modern feature
basemap

Survey Data supplied by :
Oxford Archaeology

Oxford Archaeology
Janus House,
Osney Mead,
Oxford,
OX2 0ES.
Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496
email : mail@oxfordarch.co.uk
web : www.oxfordarch.co.uk

N
0 20 m
Scale at A3 1:1000

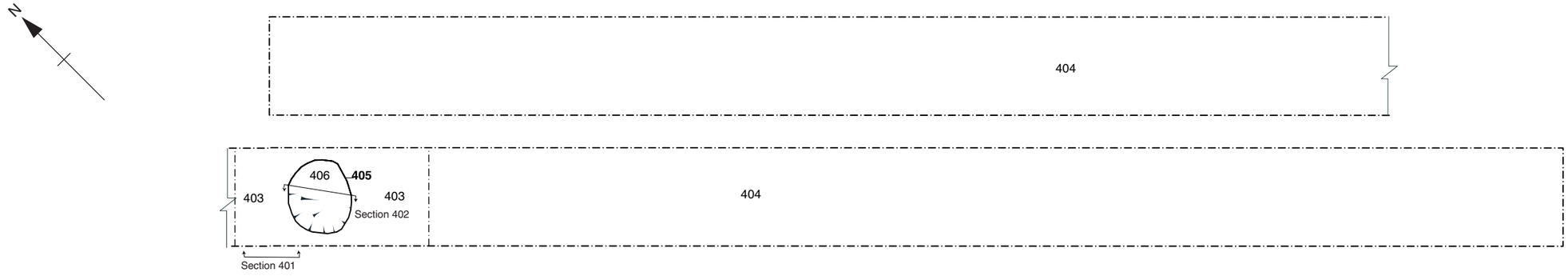
42674WAT
RAF Watton

Drawing No.	42674/OA_Fig2
Date printed	13 Feb 2006
Drawing title	

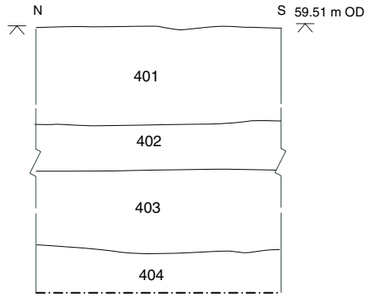
Figure 2:
Evaluation trenches

CHECKED BY:M Bradley 27.01.06

Trench 4



Section 401



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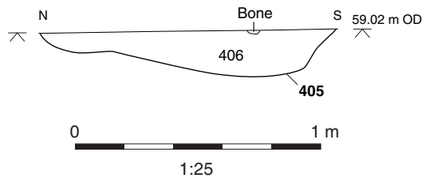


Figure 3: Trench 4, plan and section

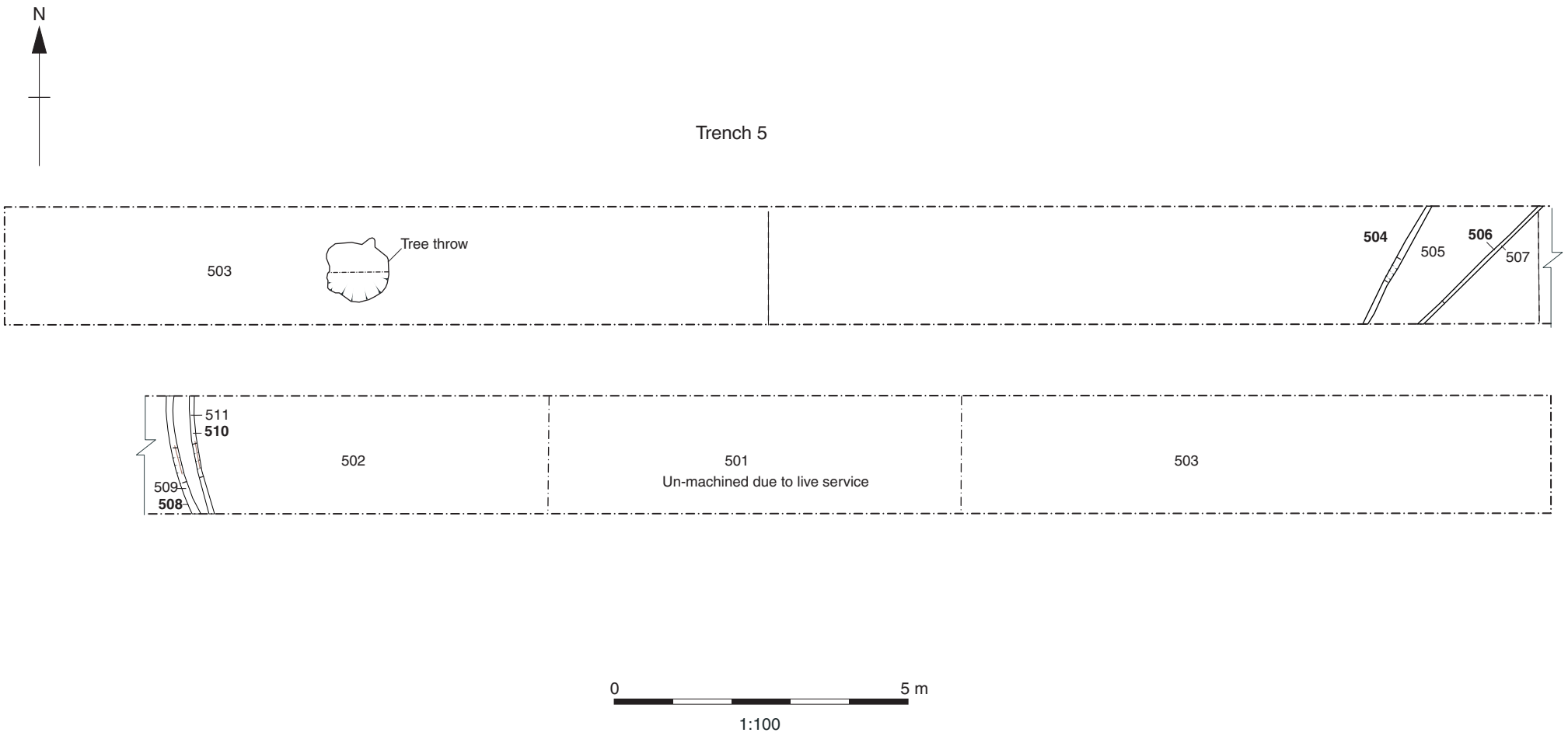
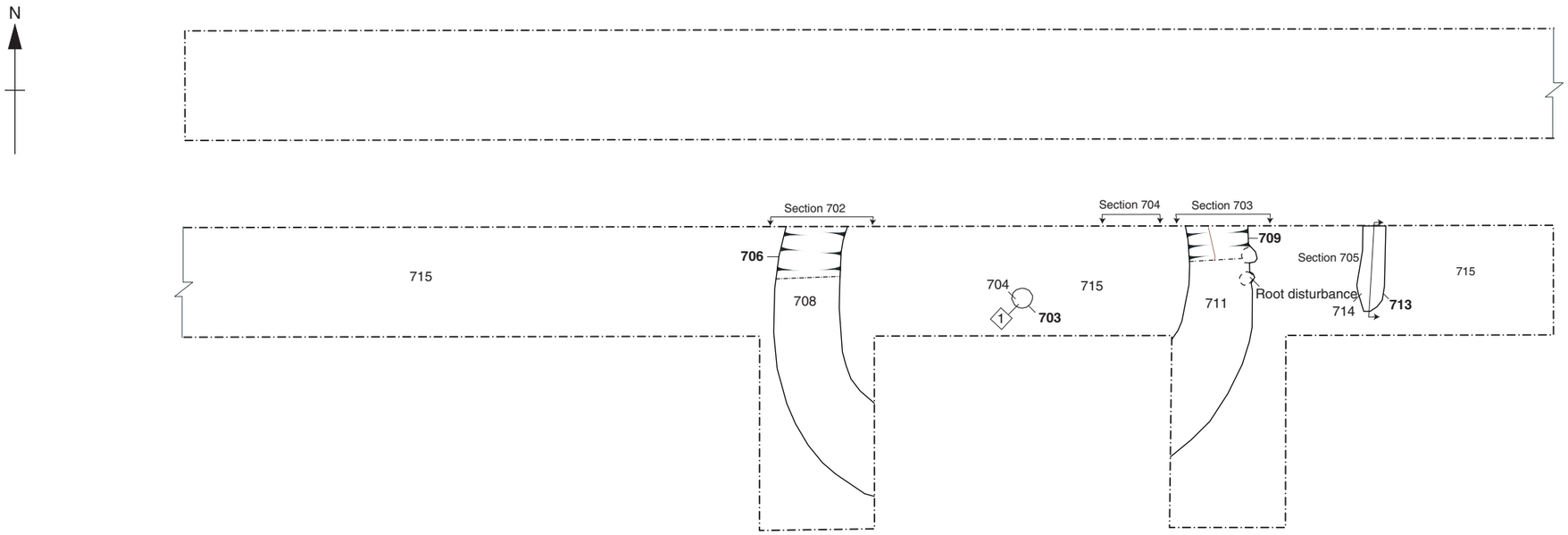


Figure 4: Trench 5, plan

Trench 7



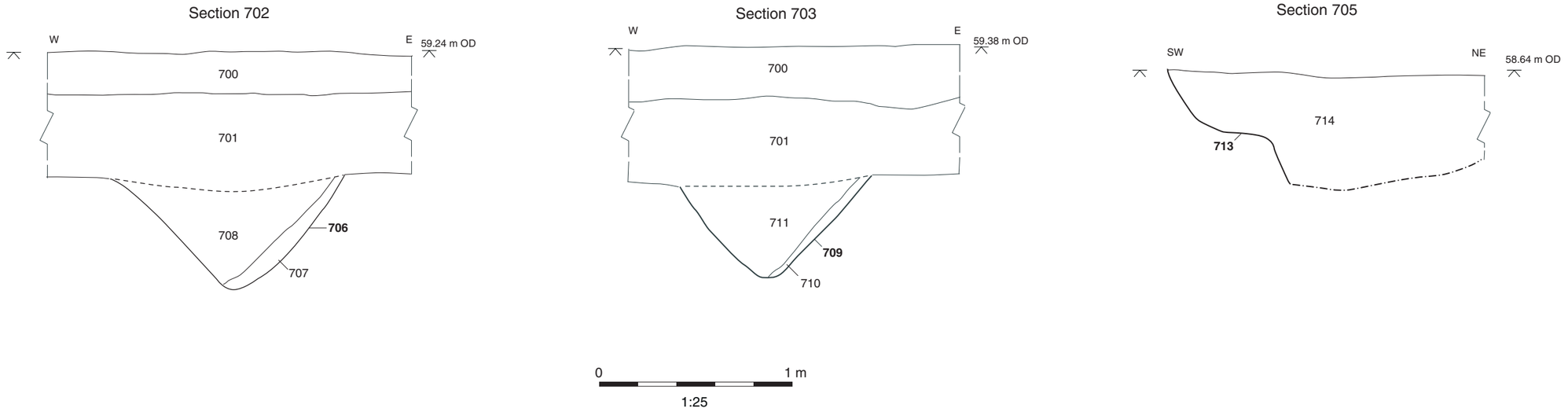
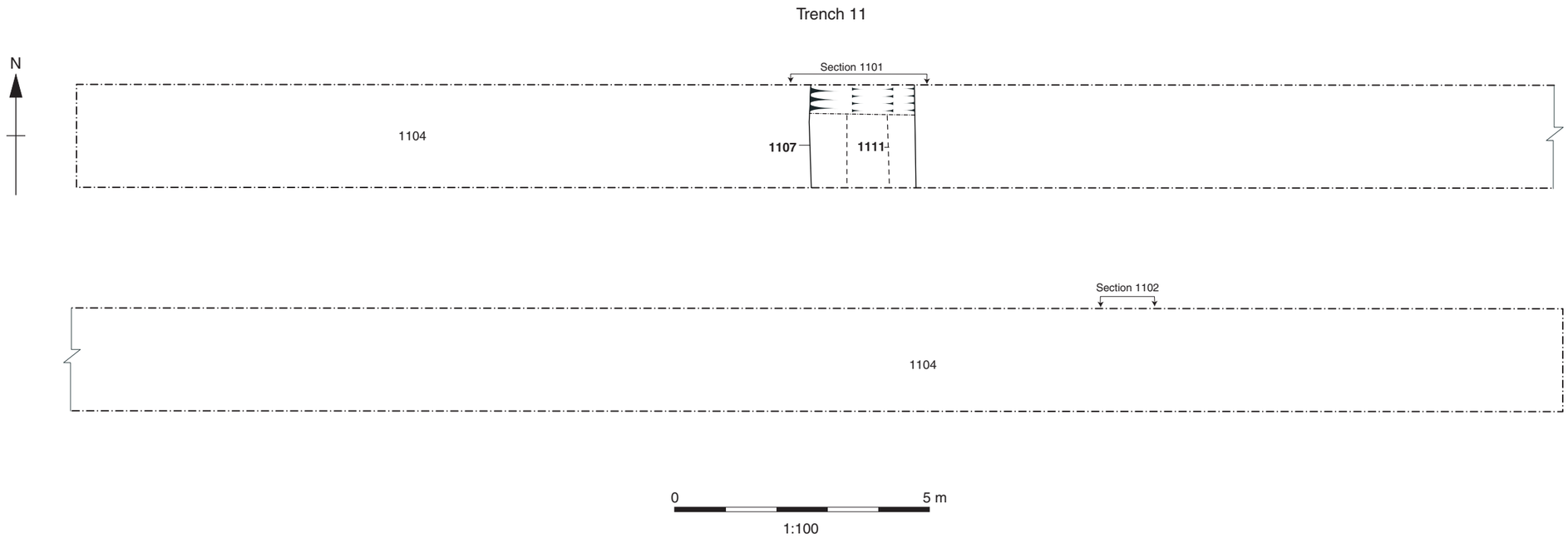


Figure 5: Trench 7, plan and sections



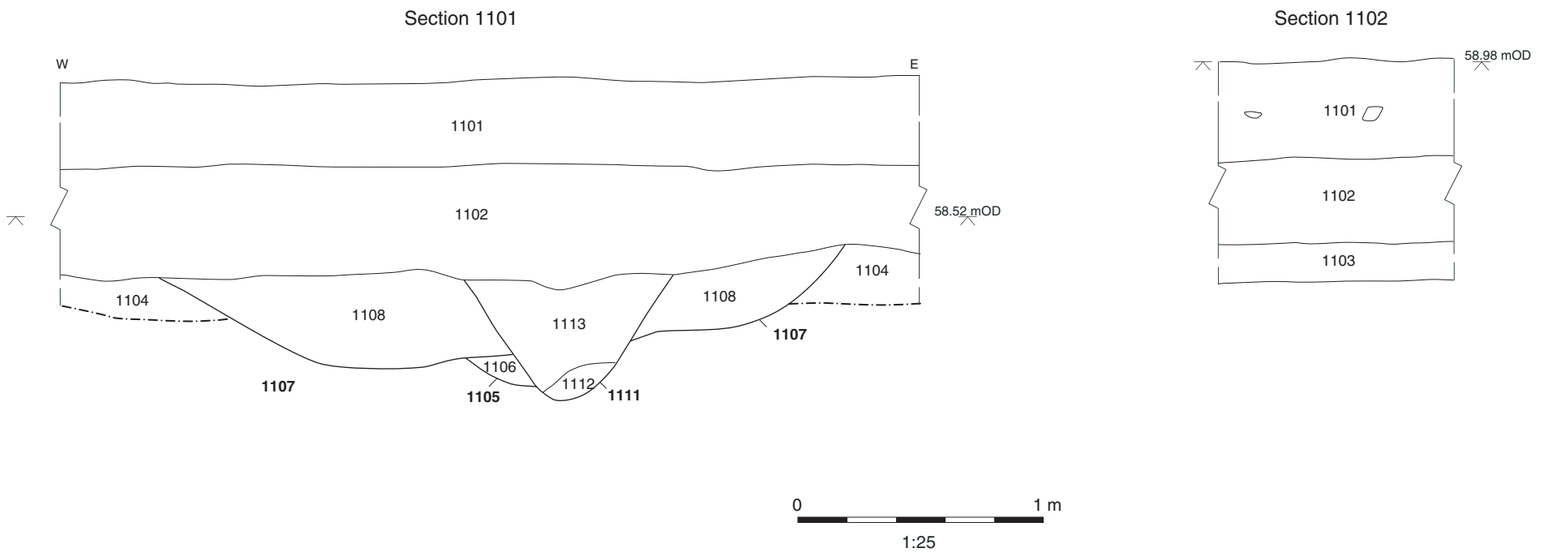
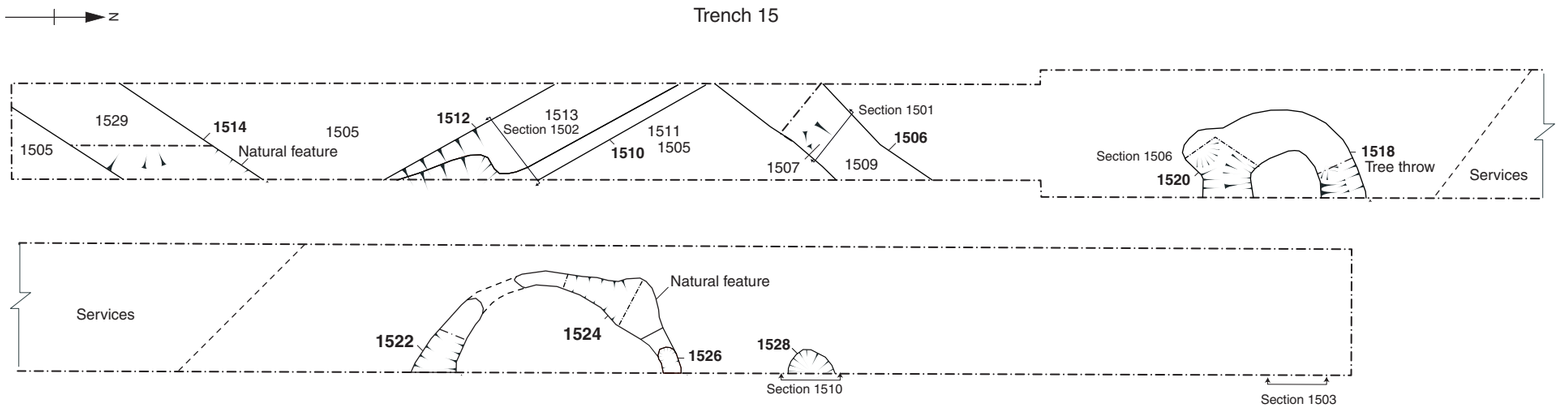
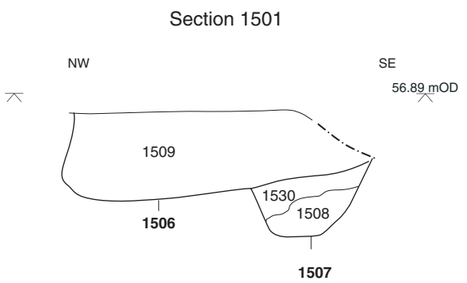
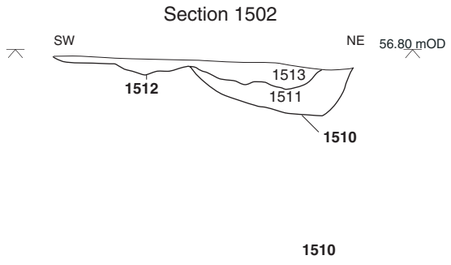
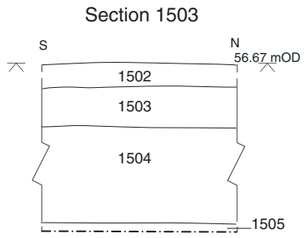


Figure 6: Trench 11, plan and section









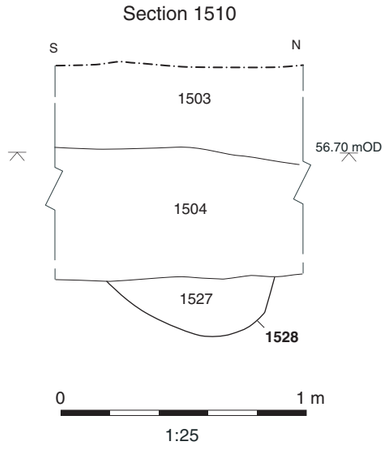
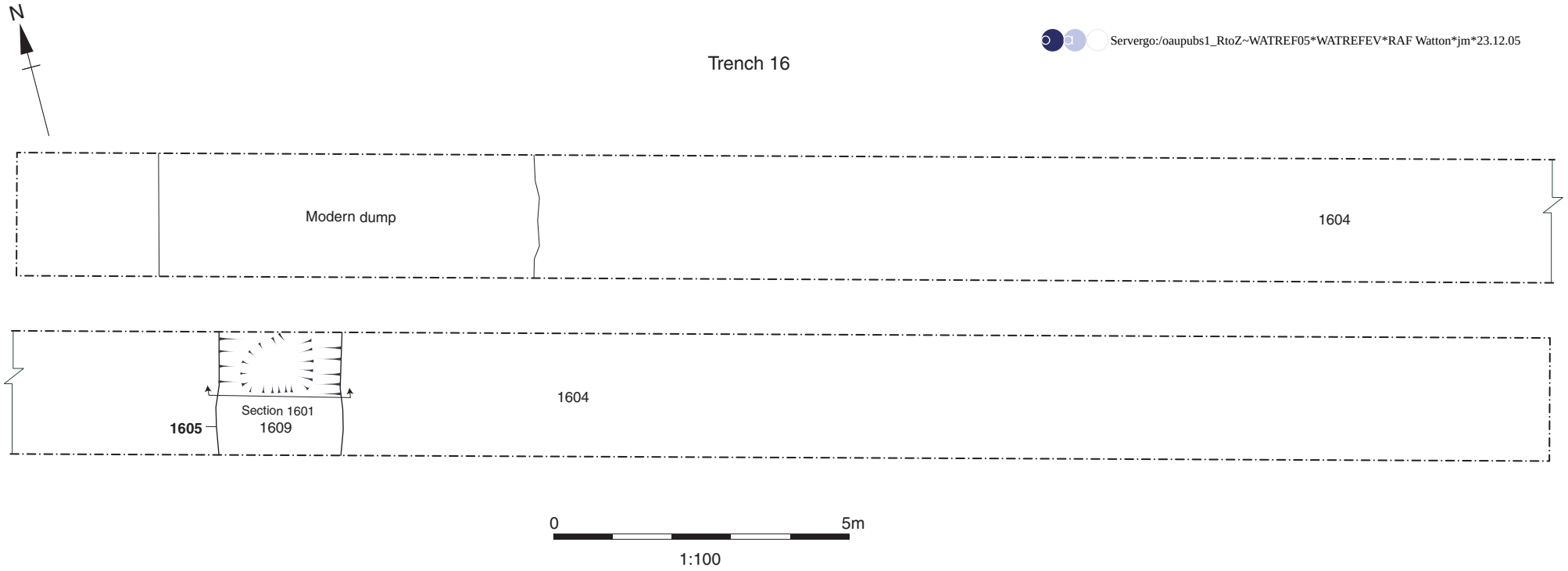


Figure 7: Trench 15, plan and sections



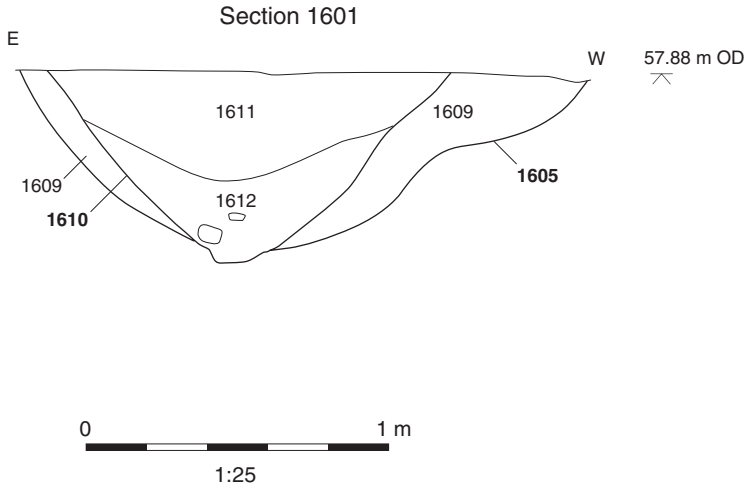
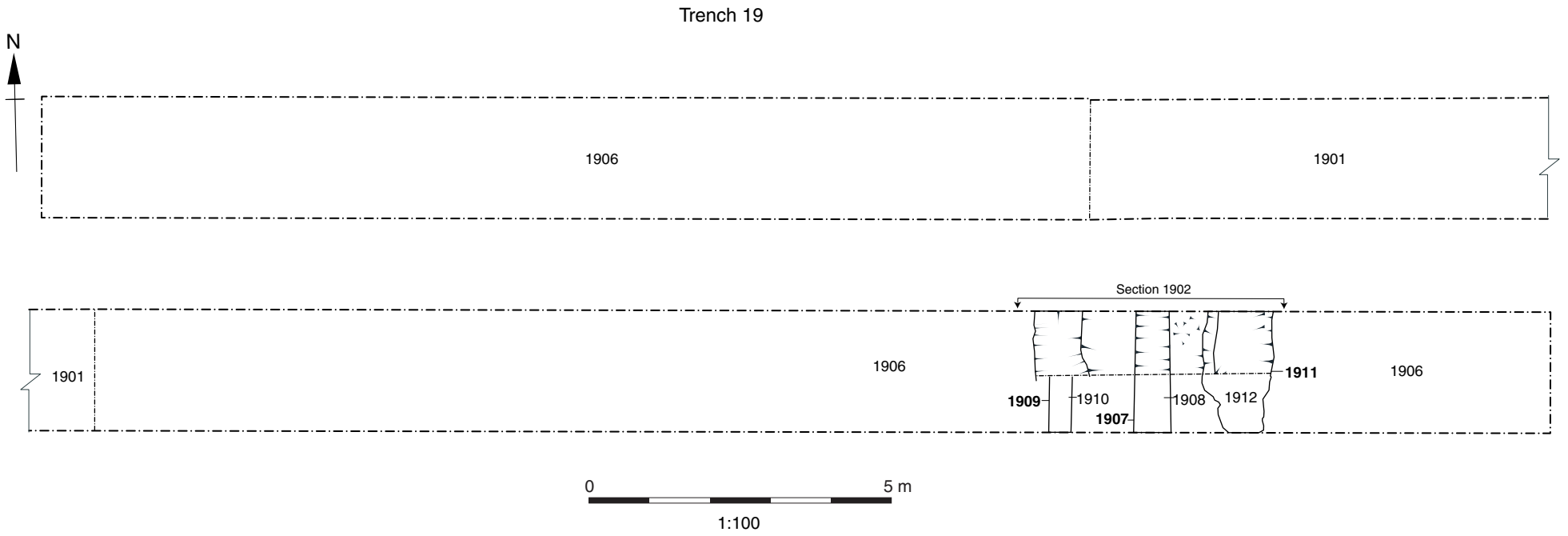


Figure 8: Trench 16, plan and section



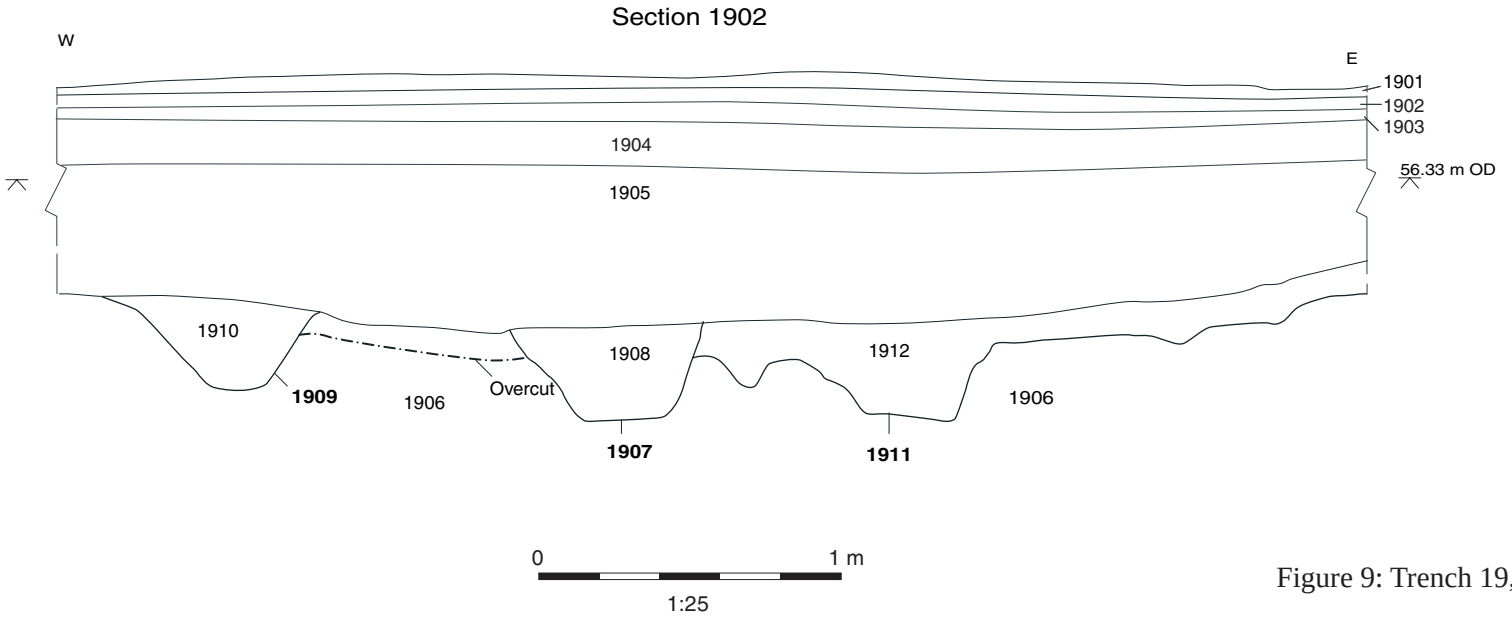
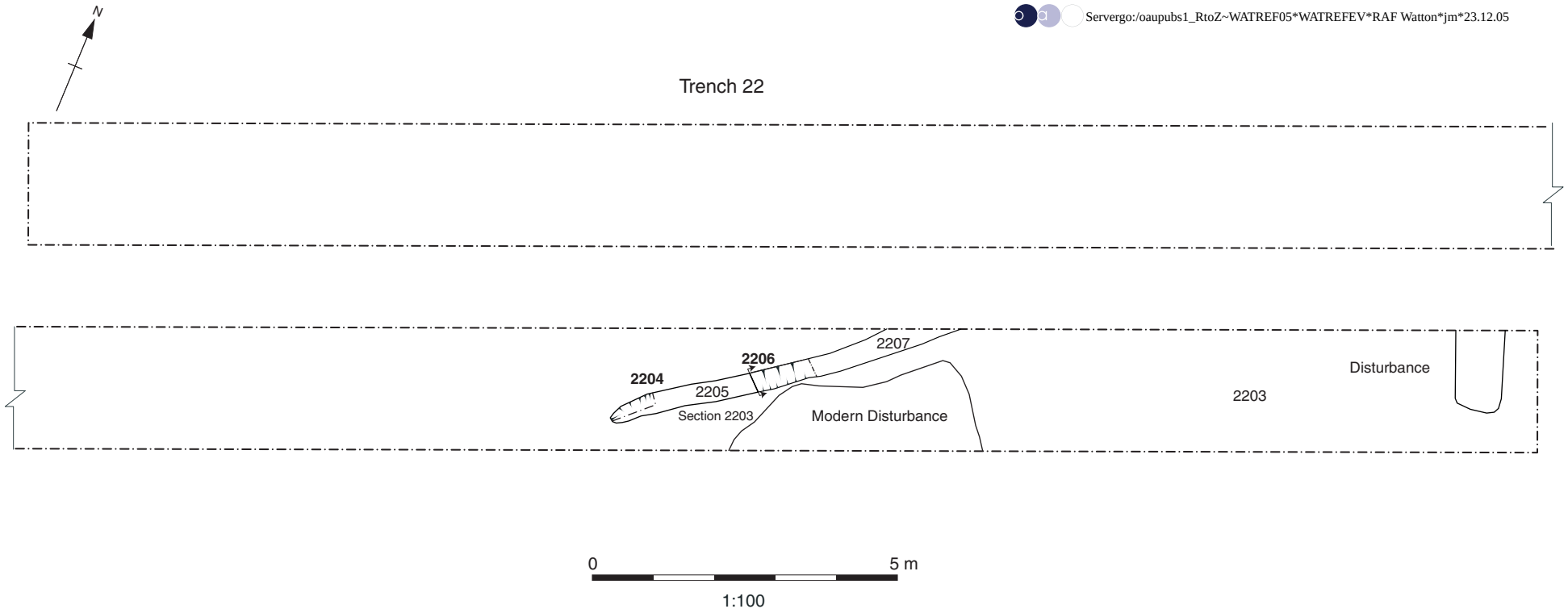


Figure 9: Trench 19, plan and section



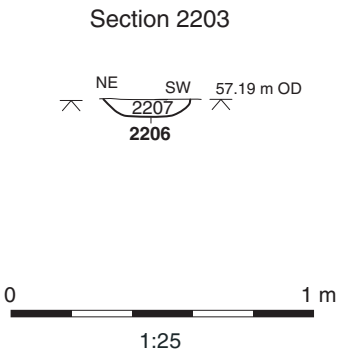


Figure 10: Trench 22, plan and section

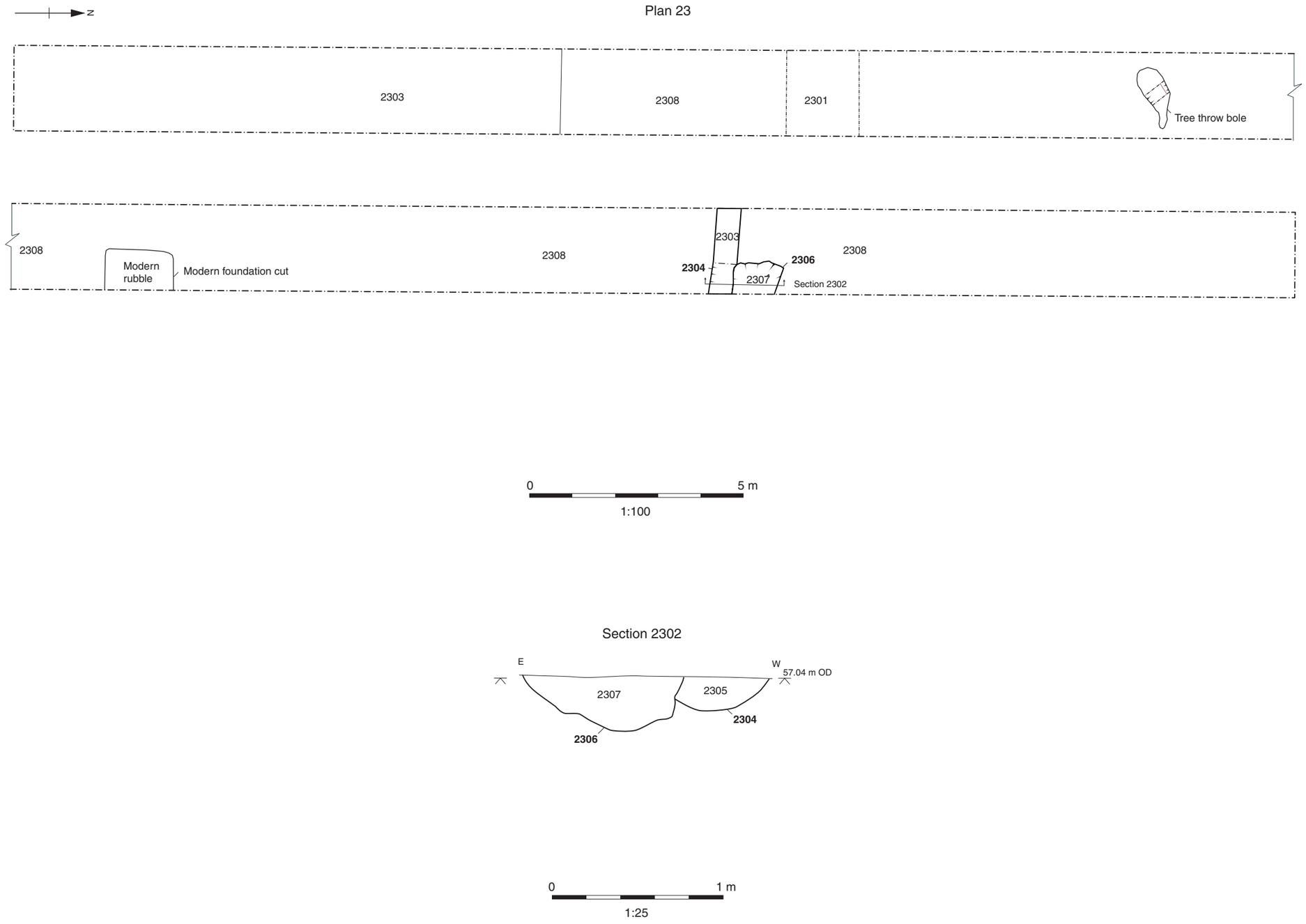


Figure 11: Trench 23, plan and section

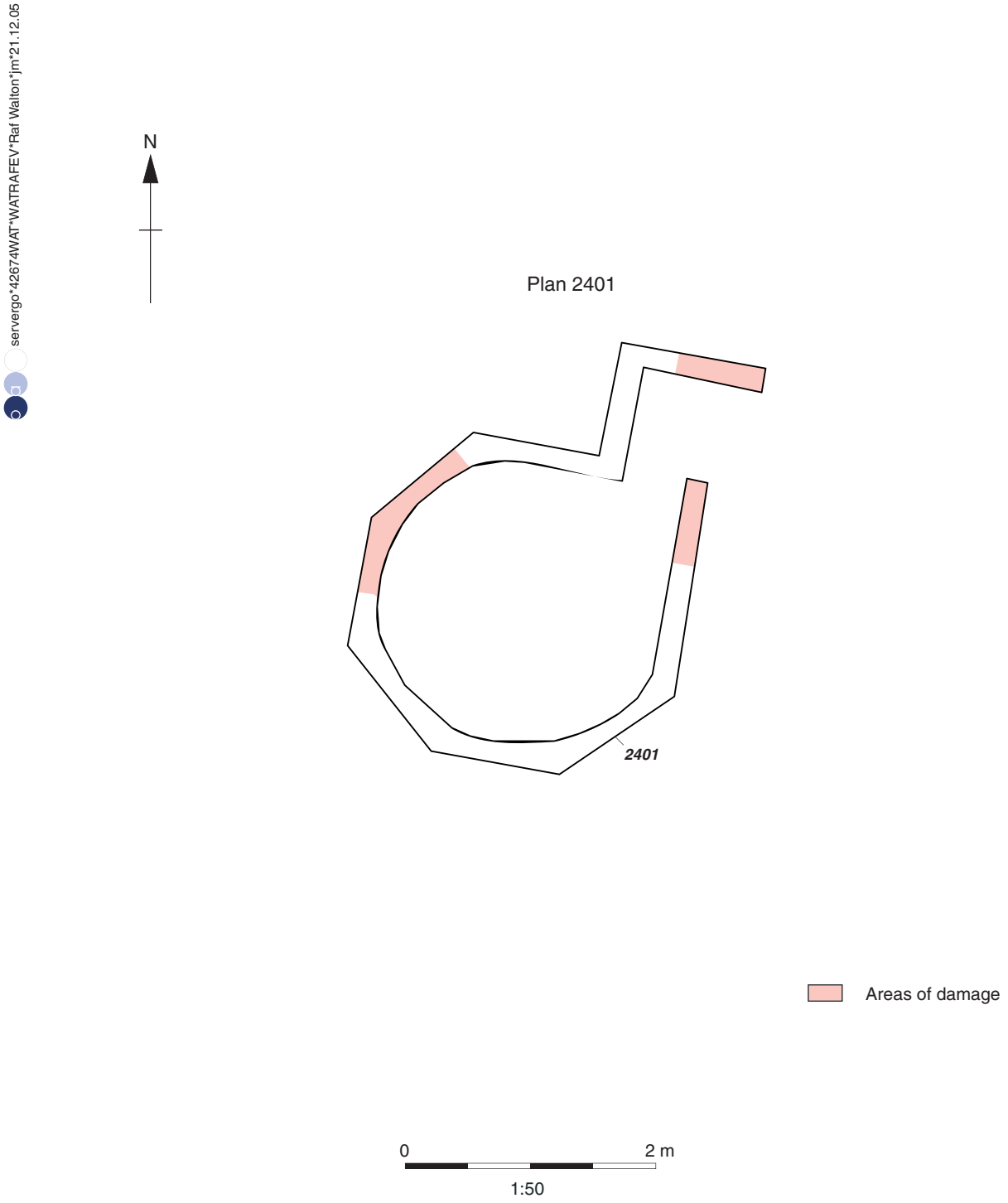


Figure 12: Plan of Pillbox

Plate 1: Pillbox 2401, view to the south

Plate 2: Pillbox 2401, south-east facing loophole

Plate 3: Pillbox 2401, view to the west

Plate 4: Pillbox 2401, view to the east

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