Archaeological Evaluation Report

Land North-East of Bridgwater Somerset **Phase 2**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land North-East of Bridgwater, Somerset

Phase 2

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

During March and April 2010 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land to the north-east of Bridgwater, Somerset. The Phase 2 evaluation followed earlier trial trenching conducted by OA during December 2009 and January 2010 (OA 2010b).

The current evaluation comprised machine excavation of 31 trenches (nubered 49 to 79) measuring 50 m by 1.9 m. 19 trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1 m and 12 trenches were machined to a depth of 2.20 m. A test pit was also excavated at one end of the deeper trenches to the maximum safe reach of the excavator.

No significant archaeological features were identified. A number of recent linear features, undated but at the top of the sediment sequence, were observed in four of the trenches. These linear features, which cut through the subsoil, were visible on the ground as distinct depressions prior to machining and are most likely associated with modern land drainage. A fragment of a modern 3 inch fence post was observed at the base of one of these features.

In trench 76 an undated vertical sided pit or ditch terminal was observed. This feature, again cut through the subsoil, contained a mixed backfill, and is possibly related to the installation of the nearby water main.

The deposits encountered during the evaluation were mostly sterile; the only finds recovered were three small fragments of post-medieval pottery from the topsoil of trench 55. No other finds or ecofacts were recovered.

The alluvial sequence was broadly uniform across the northern area of the evaluation. Three trenches in the southern area showed some slight variation (trenches 74, 75 and 77). Trench 74 was the only trench that exposed peat at 4.50 m below current ground level. Trenches 75 and 77 showed distinct alluvial layers not seen in other trenches.

Access to the trenches was restricted due to the wet ground conditions and unstable trench sides and no personnel entered the deeper trenches. Visibility was good during the excavation of all trenches, despite the ground conditions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between 29th March and 16th April 2010 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land at Little Sydenham Farm, near Bridgwater, Somerset, centred on NGR: ST 313 392 (Fig.1). The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs for Hallam Land Management Ltd. The area evaluated was *c* 18 hectares.

1.1.2 The evaluation consisted of 31 trenches, each 1.9 m wide and 50 m long. Nineteen trenches were machine excavated to a maximum safe working depth of 1 m and 12 trenches were machined to a depth of 2.20 m (Figs. 2 and 3). A test pit was excavated at one end of each of the deeper trenches, to the maximum reach of the excavator. No personnel entered the deeper trenches as no archaeological remains were encountered. Should archaeological remains have been present, the deeper trenches would have been battered to a safe angle to enable investigation.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies in the valley of the river Parrett, within the Somerset Levels, at heights of between *c* 6 m and 8 m OD. The site is bordered to the east by the M5 motorway, and to the west by the Penzance to Bristol railway. Current land use is a mixture of pastoral and arable.

1.2.2 The underlying geology is identified as deposits of Upper Keuper Marl, overlain by bands of riverine alluvium, interspersed with isolated peat deposits. The Holocene alluvial sequence is up to 22 m thick (OA 2008).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 There are no records of archaeological features or finds from the earlier or later prehistoric periods within the site, and there is only limited evidence from the vicinity of the site. However, previous archaeological investigations within the Somerset levels have revealed significant evidence for occupation and exploitation of the wetland resources from the Mesolithic to Iron Age periods. The paucity of known evidence from the area of the site may be a function of its proximity to the tidal floodplain of the river Parrett, as seasonal inundations are not conducive to settlement. Any such prehistoric evidence that is present would, however, have been sealed by later episodes of alluvial deposition (CgMs 2009).

1.3.2 There are no Roman remains recorded within the site, although remains of this date have been recorded within a 1 km radius of the site. These comprise a major settlement (and possible port) on the former course of the river Parrett on the Crandon Bridge to Puriton road, and a large linear settlement at Down end and Chilton Trinity, to the west of the application area. Roman roads and salterns have also been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

1.3.3 The site appears to have been in agricultural use from the Saxon to the post-medieval periods, although only a few medieval finds have been recovered. The deserted medieval village of Horsey, a Scheduled Monument (SAM No. 33729), lies to the east of the site, on the opposite side of the M5.

1.3.4 To further examine the potential of the site, a geoarchaeological assessment of the application area was undertaken (OA 2008). This involved a geophysical survey (combined with LIDAR data), and a programme of boreholes and test pits.

1.3.5 The geoarchaeological assessment revealed four zones of sedimentation. Two of these (Zones A and C) represented large channel systems, one a channel edge environment (Zone B) and one an area of alluvial floodplain undisturbed by former channel activity (Zone D). The channel systems contained localised peat deposits located between 2 m and -2.5 m OD. These deposits have the potential to contain waterlogged structures from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. They are overlain by considerable depths of later alluvial deposits which have the potential to contain remains of Roman, Saxon, medieval or post-medieval date. The evaluation was situated on the area of zone C and D (OA, 2008).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The evaluation was commissioned by Rob Bourn of CgMs on behalf of Hallam Land Management Ltd (CgMs 2009) and WSI approved by Steve Membery of Somerset County Council.

1.4.2 The fieldwork was managed for OA by Stuart Foreman and conducted by Katrina Anker with the assistance of Chris Richardson and Abigail Brown.

1.4.3 Thanks to John Bloomfield of Innovia Limited, for facilitating access to Innovia-owned land.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

General

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving within the study area. Attention was to be given to remains of all periods including evidence for past environments, with provision for environmental sampling included. However, the depth of the evaluation trenches was limited. 19 trenches were excavated to the depth of the main zone of construction impact, the top 1 m of the sediment sequence and 12 were excavated to a depth of 2.20 m. Roman and later sediments could potentially have been present at these depths, by comparison with other sites in the vicinity. Prehistoric remains are expected to be at greater depth.

Detailed aims and objectives

2.1.2 (i) To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.

(ii) To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

(iii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains.

(iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.

(v) To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.

(vi) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of any artefactual evidence present.

(vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 All trenches, with the exception of trench 79, were laid out by a surveyor using a GPS system tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. Trench 79, an extra trench added during the evaluation, was set out using tapes from previously surveyed reference points. All levels were related to Ordnance Survey datum level.

2.2.2 All trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation. Where buried or overhead services were present, trenches were moved to allow a safe exclusion zone, and the new locations recorded (Figs. 2 and 3). All plant was fitted with boom height restrictors and was supervised by a banksman when traversing below overhead cables.

2.2.3 Trenches were excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately and reinstated in reverse order of excavation. Turf was removed and stored separately under ecological direction.

2.2.4 19 trenches were excavated to a depth of 1 m. The remaining trenches were excavated to 2.20 m below ground level. Due to the laminated nature of the sandy sediments encountered at greater depths, the sides of the deeper trenches proved highly unstable, so stepping was not carried out routinely. Had archaeological remains

have been encountered within the deeper trenches, the sides would have been battered to a safe working angle to allow access, but this was not required. A test pit was excavated at one end of the deeper trenches to the maximum safe reach of the excavator. Test pits were also excavated at both ends of trench 79.

2.2.5 A representative section was cleaned, photographed and recorded in trenches excavated to 1 m (Fig. 4). In the deeper trenches only photographs and measurements were taken. All trenches were photographed with black and white 35 mm film. A digital photographic record was also maintained (see Plates 1-4 for representative trench and section photographs). All trenches had Ordnance Datum levels recorded at ground level at both ends and where safe, at three points along the base.

2.2.6 Due to flooding, trenches were backfilled soon after they had been recorded with the prior agreement of the Somerset County Council Archaeological Officer.

2.2.7 The excavation of all trenches were monitored for the presence of great crested newts by an ecologist from FCPR Ecology.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified in the course of the evaluation. Descriptions of all deposits and details of trenches are tabulated in Appendix 1.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The sediment sequence in all trenches was covered by topsoil layer 0.14 – 0.30 thick. The majority of trenches contained a subsoil (a buried ploughsoil, essentially re-worked alluvium), which was between 0.12 m and 0.4 m thick. This subsoil was generally not recorded towards the centre of the evaluated area, perhaps due to variations in agricultural practices or differential visibility.

3.2.2 All trenches contained alluvial deposits which were generally mid to light yellow or grey brown silty clays, becoming greyer with depth and with occasional manganese or iron staining.

3.2.3 The alluvial sequence was fairly uniform across the site. Slight variations, however, were apparent in trenches 75 and 77.

3.2.4 In trench 75 a thin band (0.10 m) of light grey clay was observed across the length of the trench at approximately 5.70 m OD. This deposit was only observed in this trench and may represent a localised flooding event (Fig. 5 section 7501).

3.2.5 A thicker band of of mid grey brown silty clay was observed in trench 77. This deposit, located at 5 m OD, again may represent a localised flooding event.

3.2.6 Peat was only encountered in the test pit within trench 74, excavated at the south eastern end of the trench, which contained a band of woody peat approximately 0.30 m thick at a approximately 1.70 m OD (4.2m below present ground level).

3.3 Finds summary

3.3.1 Three small fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil of trench 55. No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental sampling were encountered.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Ground conditions were reasonable, although trench flooding was an issue. The bases of all trenches were visible in plan prior to any flooding and any archaeological features present would have been identified.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 It seems likely that the evaluated area has, during the historic period, been exclusively used for agricultural purposes. The likelihood of flooding from the tidal river Parrett appears to have precluded any settlement within the flood plain. No evidence for salt production was uncovered.

4.2.2 Evidence of previous land/water management of the site was observed in trenches 53, 56, 74, 76 and 78. Ditch 5303 and 5604 are the same feature. The ditch was aligned NE-SW and could clearly be seen as a depression on the ground surface prior to machine excavation. The partly filled ditch was observed dipping down into the existing boundary drainage ditch to the south and probably continues to functioned as a active drainage feature during the winter (Fig. 5, section 5301).

4.2.3 In trench 74, ditch 7402 was aligned NW-SE and probably formed part of the current current boundary/rhyne to the west and east (Fig. 5 section 7401). A fragment of 3 inch diameter, circular-sectioned timber post was observed in the base of the ditch (Fig. 5 section 7401).

4.2.4 The vertical sided 3.10 m wide pit or ditch terminal in trench 76 contained a mixed backfill deposit and is likely to be relatively recent, perhaps relating to the installation of the water main situated approximately 4 m to the east (Fig. 5 section 7601).

4.2.5 Several shallow linear depressions were noted on the ground surface prior to excavation at trenches 55, 75 and 78. Although the sections were cleaned, no evidence of these features could be seen either in section or in plan during machine excavation, and it seems likely that these features were confined to the depth of the topsoil only. In trenches 75 and 78 the linear depressions are likely to be part of the former water management of the site and could still function albeit in a limited way. At the location of trench 55, the depressions were extremely ephemeral. Six N-S aligned depressions, roughly 8 m apart, were observed on the ground surface. They were not visible in section or in plan during machining despite hand cleaning suggesting they were limited to the topsoil only. It was from the topsoil of trench 55 that three small fragments of post-medieval pottery was recovered. These small fragments constituted the only finds recovered during the evaluation.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 49						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological remains. Water table reached at 0.90 m and base of trench rapidly flooded. Visibility during machining, however, remained good.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
4901	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay with no inclusions visible.	-	-
4902	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil. Firm mid yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
4903	Layer	-	>0.68	Alluvium. Tenacious light yellow brown silty clay.	-	-

Trench 50						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological remains. Alluvium was slightly sandier to the west of the trench and occasional iron panning was visible across the whole of the base of the trench. Water table reached at 0.90 m and the rust coloured water infiltrated at the eastern end due to the close proximity of a newly drilled bore hole.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5000	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay. Inclusions of modern charcoal and metal spread of *c* 4 m located 13 m from western end of trench.	-	-
5001	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil. Firm mid yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
5002	Layer	-	>0.65	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey brown sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 51						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological remains. Two areas of recent disturbance were recorded within the trench. An 8 m wide probable pit extending across the width of the trench contained modern brick, iron and several two m long lengths of tree trunk. This was located 12 m from the eastern end of the trench. 17 m from the western end of the trench was another smaller probable pit measuring 4 m wide. This also contained tree roots and					**Avg. depth (m)**	2.2
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50

modern concrete. A test pit was excavated to a depth of 4m at the western end of the trench.						
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5101	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay.	-	-
5102	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil. Friable light brown silty clay.	-	-
5103	Layer	-	1.75	Alluvium. Friable light brown clay sand laminated towards the bottom with occasional iron pan	-	-
5104	Layer	-	>1.50	Alluvium. Dark blue grey clay		

Trench 52						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological remains. Water table reached at 0.90 m. Trench flooded more rapidly than others in the area. Visibility, however, during machining remained good.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5200	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay. Rare inclusions of small sub angular fragments of slate (<50mm).	-	-
5201	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil. Firm mid yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
5202	Layer	-	>0.66	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey brown silty clay.	-	-

Trench 53		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features were observed, however, a former boundary/drainage ditch was recorded orientated NE-SW. Although no finds were recovered, the feature is likely to be relatively recent, probably part of the drainage system of the field. It was observed on the ground surface prior to machining as a distinct depression and was traced running down into the existing rhyne to the south through trench 56. It probably still functions as an active drain during the winter. In section a single fill of mid grey brown silty clay was observed with tree roots evident along the south western edge. The ditch was 2.40 m wide and 1.50 m deep. A test pit was excavated at the eastern end of the trench to a depth of 4 m	**Avg. depth (m)**	2.2
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	50

below current ground level.						
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5300	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay.	-	-
5301	Layer	-	2.2	Alluvium. Firm light grey brown silty clay. Fine laminations visible from approx. 0.70 m below current ground level.	-	-
5302	Layer	-	>1.50	Alluvium. Dark blue grey sandy clay.	-	-
5303	Cut	2.4	1.5	Cut of boundary/drainage ditch.	-	-
5304	Fill	2.4	1.5	Fill of 5303. Mixed mid grey brown silty clay. Contained tree roots along south western edge of ditch, probably remnants of former hedgerow.	-	-

Trench 54						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological remains.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5400	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay with very rare small fragments of tile, possibly ceramic field drain.	-	-
5401	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil. Firm light yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
5402	Layer	-	>0.76	Alluvium. Firm light grey brown silty clay with fine sandy laminations.	-	-

Trench 55		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological remains. On the ground surface six 2 m wide linear depressions were observed roughly 8 m apart. On excavation no evidence could be seen in section, although the topsoil was observed to be slightly crumblier in these locations. No evidence of any cut could be detected. Two small fragments of post medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil.	**Avg. depth (m)**	1
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	50
Contexts		

context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5501	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	Pottery	PM
5502	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil. Tenacious light brown silty clay.	-	-
5503	Layer	-	>0.40	Alluvium. Light grey brown sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 56

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
No archaeological remains, however a 4 m wide probably modern boundary/drainage ditch was observed running NE-SW through the trench. This is the same feature that appeared in trench 53 and could be observed dipping down into the existing rhyne to the SW. It contained a mixed backfill with tree roots along the NE side with water still flowing through the feature despite being backfilled. This trench was shortened due to the presence of overhead power cables. It was also designated as a 2.2 m deep trench, however, this was changed to 1 m on health and safety grounds. After excavating 10 m to a depth of 2.2 m from the SW end of the trench, the sides were collapsing so severely due to the higher water table that it was deemed unsafe to continue at this depth. A test pit was excavated at the NE end of the trench to a depth of 4 m.	**Avg. depth (m)**	1
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	48

Contexts

context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5600	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil. Mid grey brown silty clay.	-	-
5601	Layer	-	2	Alluvium. Light grey brown silty clay, sandier from 1 m below current ground level with occasional iron pan.	-	-
5602	Layer	-	>1.50	Alluvium. Dark blue grey sandy clay.	-	-
5603	Cut	4	0.9	Cut of boundary/drainage ditch. Likely part of former water management in the field.	-	-
5604	Fill	4	0.9	Fill of 5603. Mixed firm light yellow brown silty clay with patches of mid grey brown silty clay.	-	-

Trench 57

General description	Orientation	E-W
No archaeological features. No test pit was excavated at the end of this	**Avg. depth (m)**	2.2

trench due to health and safety concerns over the rapid rate of rising water and collapsing sides.	**Width (m)**	1.9
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay with rare inclusions of small sub-rounded pebbles.	-	-
5701	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil. Firm light yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
5702	Layer	-	>1.60	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey brown sandy clay. Small laminations visible of *c* 1.2 mm.	-	-

Trench 58

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological remains.	**Avg. depth (m)**	1
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5800	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay. No inclusions visible.	-	-
5801	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil. Firm mid yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
5802	Layer	-	>0.63	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey brown silty clay.	-	-

Trench 59

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features. Trench started to flood at 0.90 m, but visibility still good.	**Avg. depth (m)**	1
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5901	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	-	-
5902	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil. Firm light brown silty clay.	-	-
5903	Layer	-	>0.55	Alluvium. Tenacious light brown silty clay.	-	-

Trench 60						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features. A test pit was excavated at the western end of the trench to a depth of 3.80 m from ground surface.					**Avg. depth (m)**	2.2
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6000	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable dark brown silty clay.	-	-
6001	Layer	-	2.2	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey brown silty clay. No inclusions visible.	-	-
6002	Layer	-	>1.40	Alluvium. Tenacious mid grey blue sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 61						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological features. Visibility good even though water started to enter the trench at 0.90 m below ground level.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay. Modern concrete and blue plastic pipe buried in topsoil 25 m from north end of trench.	-	-
6101	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Firm light yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
6102	Layer	-	>0.65	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey brown silty clay. Getting sandier towards 1.00 m below ground level. Laminations of 1-2 mm visible at 0.90 m below ground level.	-	-

Trench 62						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological remains. A test pit was excavated at the western end of the trench to a depth of 4.0 m below current ground level. Deposits 6202 and 6203 are essentially the same, but 6203 had a higher sand content.					**Avg. depth (m)**	2.2
					Width (m)	50
					Length (m)	1.9
Contexts						
context	**type**	**width**	**depth**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**

number		(m)	(m)			
6201	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	-	-
6202	Layer	-	1	Alluvium. Firm mid brown silty silt.	-	-
6203	Layer	-	1	Alluvium. Tenacious light brown sandy clay.	-	-
6204	Layer	-	>1.7	Alluvium. Tenacious dark blue grey clayey sand.	-	-

Trench 63						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological remains. Trench filled with water slowly – initial excavation was dry and visibility was good.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6301	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil. Friable light grey brown silty clay.	-	-
6302	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Firm mid brown silty clay.	-	-
6303	Layer	-	>0.74	Alluvium. Tenacious light brown silty clay.	-	-

Trench 64						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological remains.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6401	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	-	-
6402	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil. Firm mid brown silty clay.	-	-
6403	Layer	-	>0.45	Alluvium. Tenacious light brown silty clay.	-	-

Trench 65		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological remains.	**Avg. depth (m)**	1

					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6501	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	-	-
6502	Layer	-	>0.74	Alluvium. Firm light grey brown silty clay. Occasional sand laminations visible at lower depths.	-	-

Trench 66						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological remains. Water table reached at 0.90 m, but visibility still good.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.06
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6600	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay.	-	-
6601	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil. Firm light grey brown clay.	-	-
6602	Layer	-	>0.62	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey brown clay.	-	-

Trench 67						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological remains. Test pit excavated at western end to 4 m below current ground level.					**Avg. depth (m)**	2.2
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6701	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay.	-	-
6702	Layer	-	1.9	Alluvium. Light brown sandy clay, becoming lighter and sandier lower down. Thin laminations visible.	-	-
6703	Layer	-	>1	Alluvium. Dark blue grey sandy clay	-	-

Trench 68						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological remains.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6800	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	-	-
6801	Layer	-	>0.70	Alluvium. Friable light brown silty clay.	-	-

Trench 69						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
No archaeological remains. Trench relocated to avoid overhead power cables. Machined to 2.20 m across length of trench with a test pit excavated at the NW end to the maximum safe reach of the excavator (3.50 m below current ground level). Trench sides collapsing due to water table and sandy soils. Visibility was good prior to collapse.					**Avg. depth (m)**	2.2
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
6900	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay.	-	-
6901	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Firm light yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
6902	Layer	-	2.5	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey brown with occasional flecks of manganese.	-	-
6903	Layer	-	>0.70	Alluvium. Tenacious dark grey sandy clay. Essentially the same deposit as 6902 but not reduced.	-	-

Trench 70						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological remains.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.04
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
7000	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil. Friable dark grey brown silty clay.	-	-

7001	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil. Firm light yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
7002	Layer	-	>0.80	Alluvium. Tenacious light yellow brown sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 71						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological remains. A test pit was excavated at the eastern end to maximum safe reach of the excavator (3.70 m below current ground level).					**Avg. depth (m)**	2.2
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
7100	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay.	-	-
7101	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil. Firm light yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
7102	Layer	-	2.7	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey brown sandy clay.	-	-
7103	Layer	-	>0.70	Alluvium. Tenacious dark grey sandy clay. Same deposit as 7102, not reduced.	-	-

Trench 72						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological remains. Alluvial deposit in this trench was less sandier than seen in the fields to the north. Test pit excavated at the southern end of a depth of 4 m below current ground level.					**Avg. depth (m)**	2.2
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
7201	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil. Friable mid brown sandy clay.	-	-
7202	Layer	-	1.95	Alluvium. Light brown silty clay	-	-
7203	Layer	-	>1.50	Alluvium. Tenacious dark blue grey silty clay.	-	-

Trench 73						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
No archaeological remains. A spread of modern brick, stone, concrete and iron was noted within the topsoil at the SE end of the trench. The spread extended for approximately 10 m.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						

context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7301	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	-	-
7302	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil. Tenacious light brown silty clay.	-	-
7303	Layer	-	>0.45	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey brown clay.	-	-

Trench 74

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 74 was relocated to avoid geotechnical investigations. The only feature within the trench was a NE-SW orientated boundary/drainage ditch visible on the ground surface prior to machining as a distinct earthwork extending from the existing rhyne to the west to the existing rein to the east. The ditch is probably a defunct section of the existing rhyne to the east. The depth of the trench was decreased, in part, from 2.2 to 1 m to facilitate investigation of the feature. The ditch measured 2.5 m wide and 1.2 me deep and contained a single mid grey brown silty clay fill. Part of a 3 inch rounded post was recovered from the base of the fill. No other dating evidence was recovered. A test pit was excavated at the SE end of the trench to a depth of 4.5 m below current ground level. A thin band of immature peat was encountered at a depth of 4 m.	**Avg. depth (m)**	1.5
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context number	type	width (m)	depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7400	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil. Friable mid grey brown silty clay.	-	-
7401	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil. Firm light yellow brown silty clay.	-	-
7402	Cut	2.5	1.2	Cut of boundary/drainage ditch orientated NW-SE. Visible on ground surface as an earthwork. Probable infilled section of the existing rhyne, to the east.	-	-
7403	Layer	-	2	Alluvium. Firm light grey silty clay.	-	-
7404	Layer	-	1.8	Alluvium. Dark blue grey sandy clay becoming much sandier towards the base.	-	-
7405	Layer	-	0.3	Peat. Immature peat containing visible twigs and leaf material.	-	-
7406	Layer	-	>0.3	Dark blue grey sandy clay.	-	-
7407	Fill	2.5	1.2	Fill of 7402. Firm mid grey brown silty clay. Inclusions of	-	-

				occasional small sub angular stones and rare small twigs.		

Trench 75						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
No archaeological remains. Trench was relocated to avoid water main. Visibility was good despite rapid flooding of trench. A thin mottled lens appeared throughout the trench at 0.35 m below current ground level. This lens did not appear in any of the other trenches and perhaps represents a localised flood event.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	5
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
7501	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	-	-
7502	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil. Tenacious light brown silty clay.	-	-
7503	Layer	-	0.1	Alluvium. Tenacious mottled light brown/light grey clay.	-	-
7504	Layer	-	>0.54	Alluvium. Soft light brown silty clay.	-	-

Trench 76						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a vertical sided sub rectangular pit or ditch terminal, of modern date. The sub rectangular feature was located 13 m from the northern end of the trench and was cut from under the topsoil containing a mixed mixed grey silty clay fill with patches of redeposited topsoil. The feature may be related to the modern water main service located only a few meters to the east. Only partial hand excavation of this feature could take place due to the extremely rapid flooding of the trench. The drainage ditch was apparent on the surface prior to trench excavation and is aligned NW-SE and heads towards the existing ponds located just to the east. Two other shallow linear depressions aligned NW-SE and NE-SW were observed on the ground surface prior to excavation of the trench. No evidence of these features could be seen within the trench, suggesting they are within the topsoil.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
7601	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	-	-
7602	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil. Tenacious mid brown silty clay.	-	-

7603	Layer	-	0.5	Alluvium. Tenacious light brown clay.	-	-
7604	Cut	3.1	>1.20	Cut of vertical sided pit or linear terminus. Extended 0.50 m into trench and was sub rectangular in plan.	-	-
7605	Fill	3.1	0.5	Fill of 7604. Firm light grey brown silty clay.	-	-
7606	Fill	1.4	0.5	Fill of 7607. Tenacious blue grey silty clay.	-	-
7607	Cut	1.4	0.5	Cut of drainage ditch. Probably modern	-	-
7608	Fill	2.9	0.7	Fill of 7604. Firm mid yellow brown with occasional patches of grey brown silty clay. Inclusion of occasional lumps of redeposited topsoil.	-	-

Trench 77						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological remains. Water table reached at 0.50 m. Visibility fair during machining although sides collapsed soon after and the trench was extremely wet. A test pit was excavated at the southern end to a depth of 3.50 m below current ground surface.					**Avg. depth (m)**	2.2
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
7700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	-	-
7701	Layer	-	0.8	Alluvium. Firm mid brown grey silty clay.	-	-
7702	Layer	-	0.2	Alluvium. Firm mid brown silty clay.	-	-
7703	Layer	-	1.5	Alluvium. Firm mid brown grey silty clay.	-	-
7704	Layer	-	>1	Alluvium. Tenacious mid blue grey silty clay, becoming sandy towards base.	-	-

Trench 78		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench was shortened to avoid to buried power cables. No archaeological remains.	**Avg. depth (m)**	1
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	37

Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
7800	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty clay.	-	-
7801	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil. Firm mid grey brown silty clay.	-	-
7802	Layer	-	>0.7	Alluvium. Firm mid brown grey silty clay.	-	-

Trench 79						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
No archaeological remains. Two test pits were excavated at either end of the trench to a depth of 3.50 m (NE) and 4 m (SW) below current ground level.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.9
Contexts						
context number	**type**	**width (m)**	**depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
7901	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil. Friable dark brown silty clay.	-	-
7902	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil. Firm mid brown silty clay.	-	-
7903	Layer	-	0.34	Alluvium. Friable light brown sandy clay.	-	-
7904	Layer	-	2	Alluvium. Tenacious light grey with brown mottles.	-	-
7905	Layer	-	>1.5	Alluvium. Tenacious dark grey silty clay.	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CgMs, 2009 *Archaeological Evaluation/Strip Map and Sample. Land North-East of Bridgwater, Somerset.*

OA, 2008 *Little Sydenham Farm, near Bridgwater, Somerset. Geoarchaeological Assessment Report,* Oxford Archaeology client report for CgMs Consulting and Hallam Land Management.

OA, 2010a *Land North-East of Bridgwater, Somerset. Archaeological Evaluation Report.* Oxford Archaeology client report for CgMs Consulting and Hallam Land Management (Phase 1 trenching).

OA, 2010b *Archaeological Evaluation of Land North-East of Bridgwater, Somerset, Phase 2 trenching.* Written Scheme of Investigation. Oxford Archaeology client report for CgMs Consulting and Hallam Land Management.

Appendix C. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Land north-east of Bridgwater, Somerset

Site code: TTNCM:247/2009

Grid reference: ST 313 392

Type: 31 trench evaluation

Date and duration: 29th March to 16th April 2010

Area of site: 18 ha

Summary of results: An alluvial sequence was observed with no significant archaeological deposits or features.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Somerset County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: 28324

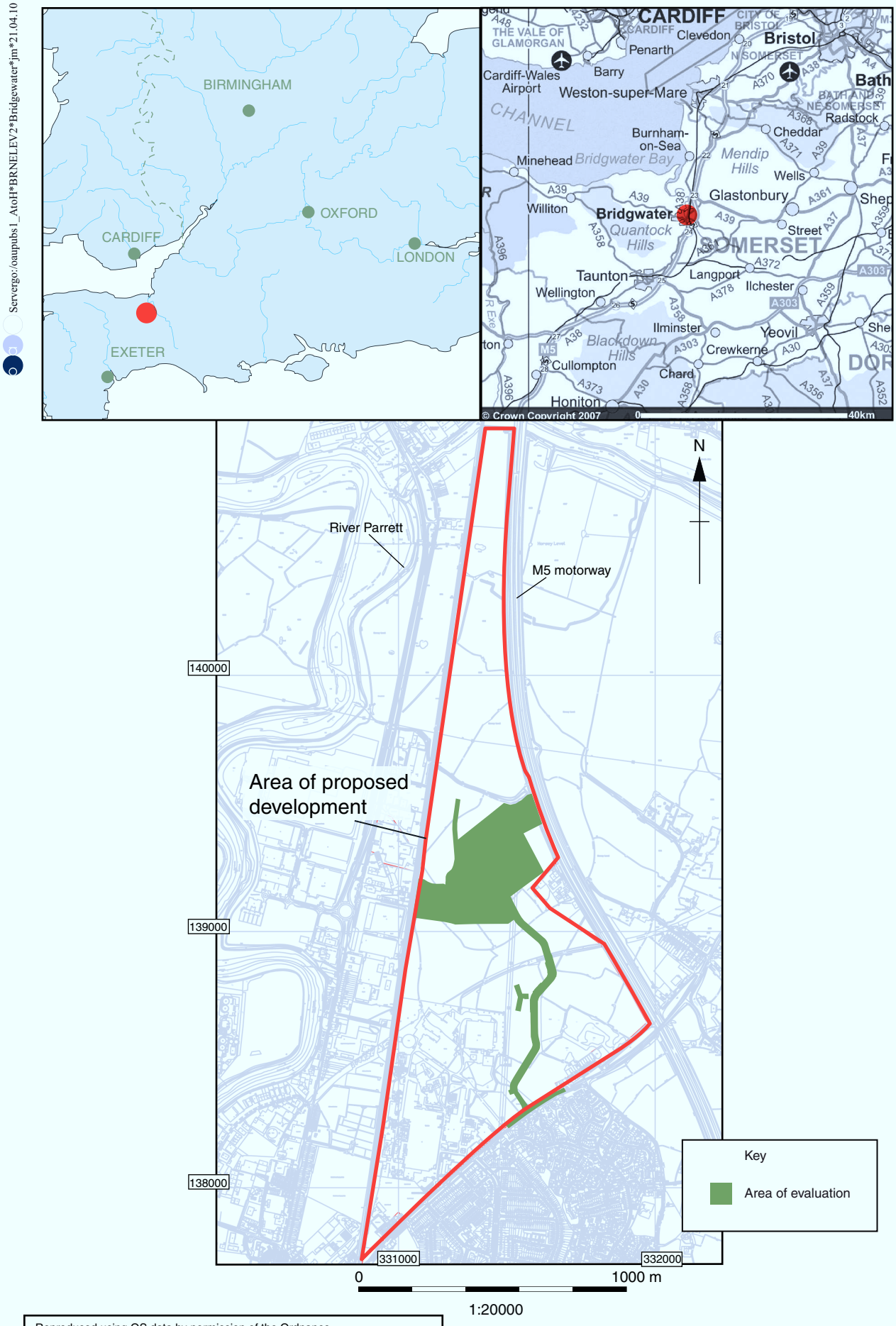

Figure 1: Site location

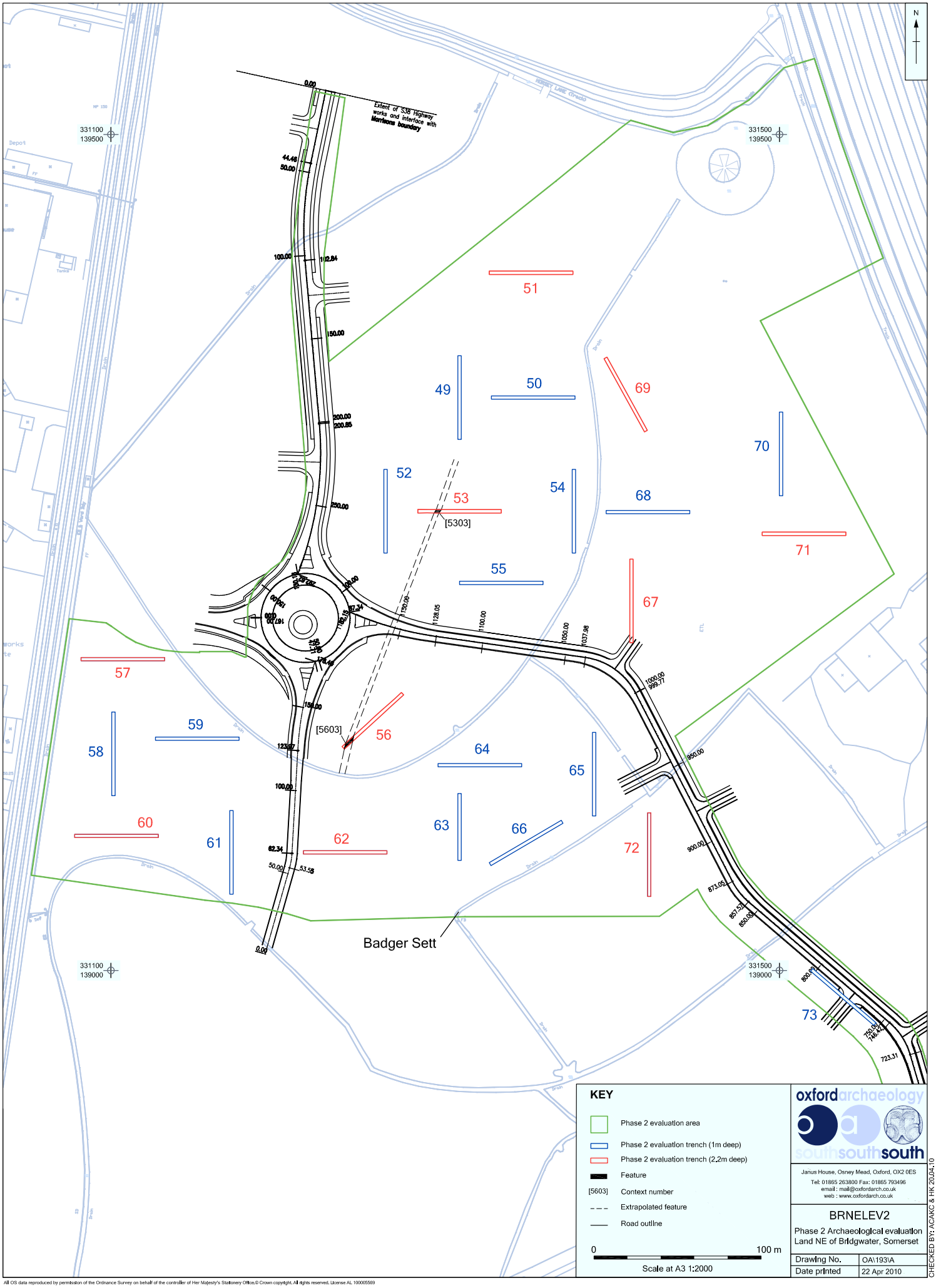

Figure 2: Evaluation trench location (North)

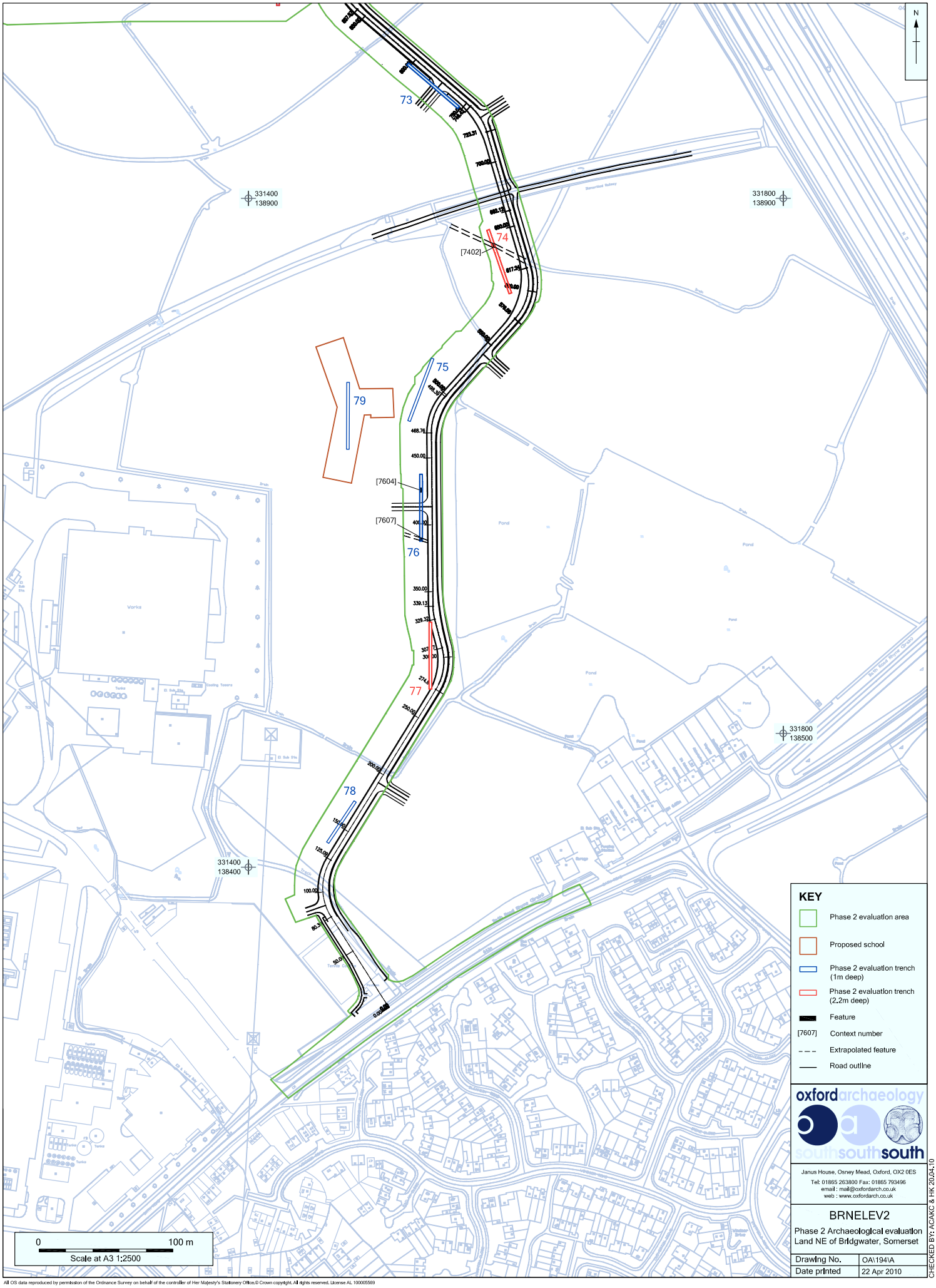

Figure 3: Evaluation trench location (South)

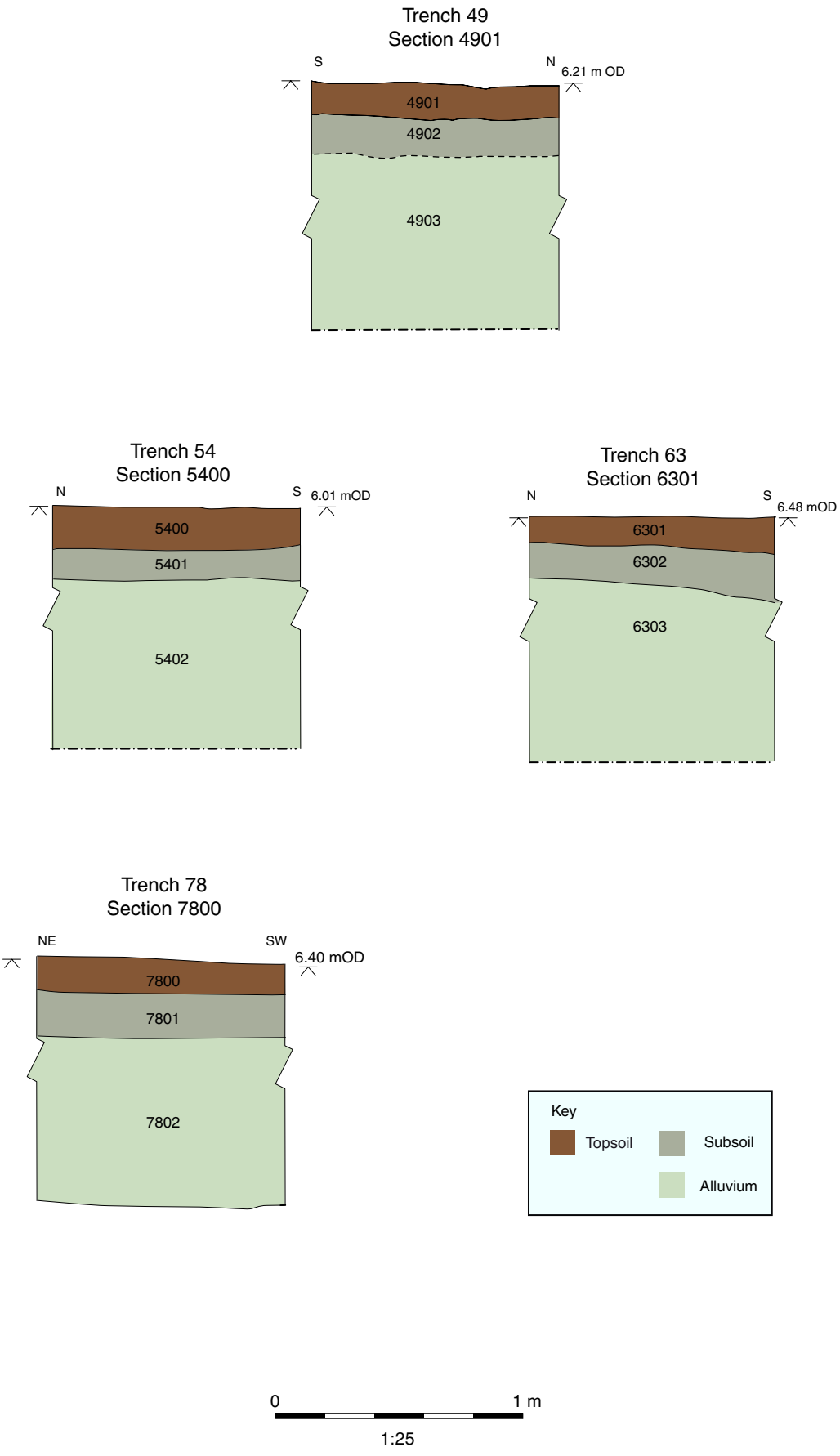

Figure 4: Representative sections 4901, 5400, 6301, 7800

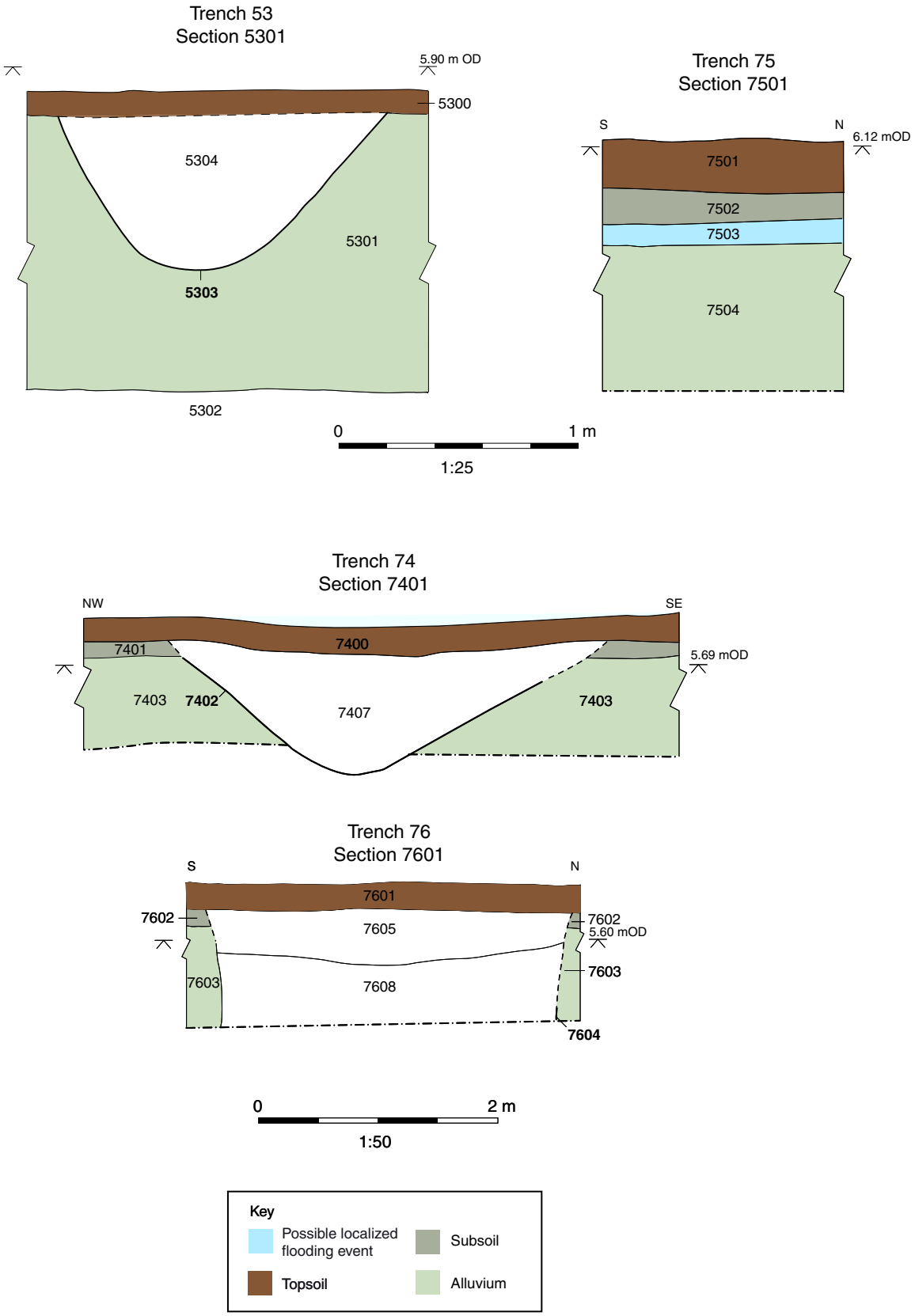

Figure 5: Sections 5301, 7501, 7401, 7601

Plate 1: Trench 49

Plate 2: Trench 57

Plate 3: Section 5400

Plate 4: Section 7901

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