

Proposed Community Hospital, Bicester, Oxfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation



Oxford Archaeology

27th May 2002

Client Name:
West Waddy ADP

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 1286

Planning Ref N^o: 01/01125/OUT

NGR: SP 5770 2210

Client Name: West Waddy ADP
Client Ref No: NHB JA/YG
Document Title: Proposed Community Hospital, Bicester, Oxfordshire
Document Type: Evaluation
Issue Number: 1
National Grid Reference: SP 5770 2210
Planning Reference: 01/01125/OUT
OA Job Number: 1286
Site Code: BICH 02
Invoice Code: BICH EV
Museum Accession No:
Prepared by: David Score / Andy Mayes
Position: Project Officer
Date: 22nd May 2002
Checked by: Paul Booth
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 23rd May 2002
Approved by: Paul Booth
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 27th May 2002
Document File Location: Server5/projects/BICH02/BICH Eval rep
Graphics File Location: \\Server10\oapubs1\All drawings\BICHEV/Bicester
Community Hospital/AMD/17.05.02
Illustrated by: Anne Dunkley

Signed... 

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd 2002

Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

f: (0044) 01865 793496

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Proposed Community Hospital, Bicester, Oxfordshire

NGR SP 5770 2210

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

Summary.....	2
1 Introduction	2
1.1 Location and scope of work	2
1.2 Geology and topography	2
1.3 Archaeological background.....	2
1.4 Evaluation Aims	3
2 Evaluation Methodology	3
2.1 Scope of fieldwork	3
2.2 Fieldwork methods and recording	4
2.3 Finds	4
2.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence.....	4
2.5 Presentation of results	4
3 Results: General.....	4
3.1 Soils and ground conditions	4
4 Results: Descriptions	4
4.1 Description of deposits	4
4.2 Finds	11
5 Discussion And Interpretation.....	15
5.2 Reliability of field investigation.....	16
Appendix 1 Archaeological Context Inventory	17
Appendix 2 Pottery spot dates.....	25
Appendix 3 Bibliography and references.....	26
Appendix 4 Summary of Site Details.....	27

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site location map
- Fig. 2 Trench location map
- Fig. 3 Trench 4 plan and sections
- Fig. 4 Trench 5 plan and sections
- Fig. 5 Trench 6 plan and sections
- Fig. 6 Trench 7 plan and sections
- Fig. 7 Trench 9 plan and sections
- Fig. 8 Trench 10 plan and sections
- Fig. 9 Trench 12 plan and sections
- Fig. 10 Trench 14 plan and sections

SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation between 15th and 19th April 2002 at land to the west of Oxford Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire on behalf of West Waddy ADP. Eighteen trenches were excavated. The evaluation revealed a concentration of archaeological features in the central area of the site. A number of possible structures were identified including one with substantial square shaped postholes. Two other concentrated clusters of smaller postholes were recorded which might represent additional buildings or possibly stock management features or fence lines. Some spreads of occupation material, pits and numerous enclosure or boundary ditches were also seen. The site is interpreted as a Romano-British low status farmstead dating to the late 1st-2nd century. A few sherds of middle Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery were also recovered indicating that the area had also seen activity in these periods.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In April 2002, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land to the west of Oxford Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1) on behalf of West Waddy ADP in respect of a planning application for the development of a new Community Hospital, Ambulance Headquarters and child day nursery with associated vehicular and pedestrian access (Planning Application No.01/01125/OUT). A brief was set by and a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Steven Weaver, Planning Archaeologist with Oxfordshire County Council.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the west side of Oxford Road (A421), to the rear of the Burger King/Little Chef Restaurant. (NGR SP 5770 2210). The proposed development area is 3.23 ha in total and is currently used as agricultural land. The site is located at around 70 m OD and the geology comprises sandy clay and Jurassic Cornbrash Limestone (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 236).
- 1.2.2 The site is situated on the side of a hill, which slopes gently down to the northeast.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The proposal area has been the subject of a desk-based assessment, *Land off Middleton Stoney Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire* produced by OA in February 2002.
- 1.3.2 The proposed development site is located in an area of known archaeological potential. Aerial Photographs have shown a series of linear cropmarks (PRN 11214) crossing the site. This cropmark evidence has been supported by the results of a geophysical survey undertaken in 1997, which included land close to the development site. This survey revealed part of a large perimeter ditch, protecting a number of smaller enclosures. A possible trackway lies just within this perimeter

ditch. A number of pits or possible hearths were also observed. All this activity appears to be focused around a structure centred on SP 5767 2208. This is likely to be a farmstead or similar habitation. The survey also revealed features containing possible iron objects.

- 1.3.3 Other investigations close to the site have revealed activity from several periods. Cropmarks located c. 250 m to the south of the proposal area (NGR SP 574 218) indicate the presence of two Bronze Age ring-ditches (PRN 5633). Further evidence of activity during this period was revealed by the recovery of part of a bronze sword, during the construction of the A41. A single sherd of 3rd century Roman pottery was recovered during a watching brief carried out by Oxford Archaeological Unit on the site of the Burger King/Little Chef complex to the immediate west of the proposal area. Subsequent metal detector survey of this site also revealed finds from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The A421 overlies the former Towcester to Alchester Roman Road (Alchester lies only 1 km to the south of the proposal site - NGR SP 573 204). An excavation of land on the east side of the Oxford Road in 1995 revealed a Romano-British rural settlement, sealed below a c. 0.03 m thick layer of alluvium.

1.4 Evaluation Aims

- 1.4.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.
- 1.4.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits and features.
- 1.4.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 1.4.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 2.1.1 The evaluation comprised a 3% sample consisting of nineteen trenches (Fig. 2). These were excavated by a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision supplemented by hand excavation of archaeological deposits. Trench 2 was not excavated as it was in an area already covered by a previous evaluation.
- 2.1.2 The trenches measured 30 m x 1.8 m. They were located across the site both to provide a representative sample of the areas to be impacted by the development and to specifically target features highlighted in the geo-physical survey (Fig.2).

2.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 2.2.1 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn a scale of 1:20.
- 2.2.2 All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed D Wilkinson, 1992).

2.3 Finds

- 2.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and generally bagged by context.

2.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 2.4.1 Two deposits were sampled for environmental analysis.

2.5 Presentation of results

- 2.5.1 In the following sections the deposits are described by trench. There is additional comment on the finds and the reliability of the results. A context inventory, including finds lists, is included in Appendix 1. The stratigraphy of each trench is described individually and a discussion and interpretation of the archaeology then follows.

3 RESULTS: GENERAL

3.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 3.1.1 The soils consisted of silty and organic loams overlying silt clays and Limestone Cornbrash.

4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

4.1 Description of deposits

Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 contained natural deposits as seen in the other trenches (see context inventory, Appendix 1). No archaeological features were seen in this trench.

Trench 2

- 4.1.2 Trench 2 was not excavated because it coincided with the location of an extension to a trench already excavated as part of an evaluation of land immediately to the north of the site (OA May 2002).

Trench 3

- 4.1.3 Trench 3 was orientated east-west and was 30 m long and 2 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.4 m.
- 4.1.4 A compact natural deposit orange sand with limestone (3036) (Cornbrash) was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m below ground surface (71.06 m OD).
- 4.1.5 Seventeen probable post/stake holes were recorded cutting the natural (3000 – 3033). They averaged 0.07 m in diameter and 0.6 m in depth and were filled by a mid/dark brown silty clay. No positive alignments could be determined. A pit (3034) measuring 1 m in diameter and 0.28 m in depth and filled with silty clay (3035) was also recorded.
- 4.1.6 The above features were overlain by subsoil of sandy clay with limestone fragments (3038).
- 4.1.7 The subsoil (3038) was overlain by clay loam topsoil (3037).

Trench 4 (Fig.3)

- 4.1.8 Trench 4 was orientated east-west and was 30 m long and 2.1 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.4 m.
- 4.1.9 A compact natural deposit orange sand with limestone (4001) (Cornbrash) was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m below ground surface (c. 70 m OD).
- 4.1.10 A thin layer of mid orange brown clay silt colluvium (4009) of maximum depth 0.2 m was noted overlying the natural in the eastern part of the trench and petering out towards the west.
- 4.1.11 A number of features were cut into the natural and colluvium deposits. A pit or ditch terminus (4007) which was 1 m in diameter or width and 0.32 m in depth was noted at the west end of the trench. It was filled by a mid orange brown clay silt (4008). Pit 4013 was 1.2 m in diameter and 1.2 m in depth. Its sides dropped steeply at 80° to a gently curved base and it was filled by grey and brown sandy clays (4014 – 4016). The terminus of a north south-orientated ditch (4004) running from the north was recorded in the central area of the trench. It was 0.9 m wide and 0.3 m in depth and filled by mid/dark grey brown clay silts (4005, 4006). A possible ditch (4011) was noted orientated northwest-southeast. It was 0.5 m wide but its fill (4012) was similar to the topsoil and it may be a result of modern ploughing. However, ditch 4000 appeared to cut this feature. This ditch was 0.94 m wide and 0.4 m in depth and had gently curving sides and base. It was filled by mid reddish brown clay silts (4002, 4003).
- 4.1.12 The features were overlain by clay loam topsoil (4010).

Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

- 4.1.13 Trench 5 was orientated east-west and was 30 m long and 2.3 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.5 m.
- 4.1.14 A compact natural deposit orange sand with limestone (5000) (Cornbrash) was encountered at a depth of 0.5 m below ground surface (c. 69.80 m OD).
- 4.1.15 A thin layer of mid orange brown clay silt colluvium (5001) was noted overlying the natural in the southwestern corner of the trench.
- 4.1.16 A number of features were cut into the natural. The base of a northwest-southeast orientated ditch (5003) 0.7 m wide and 0.05 m in surviving depth was recorded at the east end of the trench. This was filled by a mid brown clay silt (5004). The ditch appeared to be recut (5005) giving a width of 1.75 m and a depth of 0.2 m and this was also filled by a mid brown clay silt (5006). The recut ditch was cut by a roughly circular feature (5007) c. 2 m in diameter and 0.24 m in depth. Filled by a sterile mid brown clay silt (5008) this feature could have been a shallow pit but it could also have been a tree throw hole.
- 4.1.17 A north-south-orientated ditch (5009) immediately west of these features was 1.5 m in width and 0.28 m in depth. It had gently curving sides and base and was filled by a mid reddish brown clay silt (5010).
- 4.1.18 A possible pit (5013) was recorded in the central area of the trench. It was 0.8 m in diameter and 0.22 m in depth with gently sloping sides. It was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt (5014).
- 4.1.19 At the western end of the trench a curvilinear gully (5015) was recorded crossing the trench for a distance of 3 m. It was up to 1 m in width and 0.14 m in depth and was filled by grey brown clay silt.
- 4.1.20 The features were overlain by clay loam topsoil (5002).

Trench 6 (Fig. 5)

- 4.1.21 Trench 6 was orientated east-west and was 30 m long and 1.8 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.4 m.
- 4.1.22 A compact natural deposit orange sand with limestone (6007) (Cornbrash) was encountered at a depth of 0.4 m below ground surface (c. 69.68 m OD).
- 4.1.23 The Cornbrash was overlain by patches of blue grey Oxford Clay natural (6006).
- 4.1.24 The Cornbrash and clay were in turn overlain at the western end of the trench by patches of mid orange brown clay silt colluvium (6009).
- 4.1.25 Overlying the above deposits was a cobbled surface (6005). The surface was recorded over a distance of 7 m. The cobbles were up to 0.14 m in diameter, sub-angular and unworked. Three courses were noted at the thickest part (eastern end).

The surface was truncated on its western side by a shallow ditch (6003) which was 1.50 m in width and 0.14 m in depth. It was filled by a grey brown silty loam (6002).

4.1.26 To the east of the surface another ditch (6008) was recorded. It was 1.5 m in width and filled with reddish brown silty loam (6004).

4.1.27 The features were overlain by clay loam topsoil (6000).

Trench 7 (Fig. 6)

4.1.28 Trench 7 was orientated north-south and was 30 m long and 2.1 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.5 m.

4.1.29 The natural sequence in this trench was as follows. A compact natural deposit orange sand with limestone (7006) (Cornbrash) was encountered at a depth of 0.5 m below ground surface (c. 70.16 m OD). Overlying the Cornbrash was an orange sandy clay colluvium (7022). Overlying 7022 in a discreet area in the southern part of the trench was a blue/grey yellow clay (7002). Overlying these deposits was a further layer of yellow orange sandy clay colluvium (7005). These deposits were sealed by dark brown sandy clay subsoil (7001), overlain by a clay loam topsoil (7000).

4.1.30 A number of features were cut into the Cornbrash (7006) and early colluvium (7022) deposits. An east-west orientated shallow ditch (7017) 0.7 m in width and 0.1 m in depth and filled with a light orange yellow clay sand (7025) was recorded in the central area of the trench.

4.1.31 In the northern half of the trench eighteen post holes, possible postholes and a couple of possible beam slots were identified (7007 – 7016, 7027 – 7034). These were typically 0.35 m in diameter and 0.25 m in depth and were filled by yellow orange sandy clay. No positive pattern to these features could be discerned.

4.1.32 In the southern half of the trench the probable terminus of an east-west orientated ditch running from the west was recorded (7004). It was 0.6 m in width and 0.35 m in depth and filled with mid brown sandy clay and c. 30% stone.

4.1.33 Two indistinct curvilinear features (7020, 7023) were noted in the central area of the trench but their nature was unclear.

Trench 8

4.1.34 Trench 8 was orientated east-west and was 30 m long and 2.2 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.4 m with a deeper sondage at the western end.

4.1.35 A compact natural deposit orange sand with limestone (8006) (Cornbrash) was encountered at a depth of 1.4 m below ground surface (c. 69.92 m OD).

4.1.36 The Cornbrash was overlain by a light brown orange clay (8005) which was overlain by orange blue/grey clay (8003), which was overlain by deposits of light brown orange sandy clay (8002) and orange brown sandy clay (8004). These deposits were

sealed by a mid brown sandy clay subsoil (8001) overlain by a clay loam topsoil (8000).

- 4.1.37 No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 9 (Fig. 7)

- 4.1.38 Trench 9 was orientated north-south and was 30 m long and 2.1 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.4 m.
- 4.1.39 A compact natural deposit orange sand with limestone (9021) (Cornbrash) was overlain by a possibly alluvial layer of mid orange brown silty sand (9020), in turn overlain by Oxford Clay (9019). This was overlain by patches of mid orange brown sandy silt colluvium (9018).
- 4.1.40 Three layers of mid orange brown and mid grey clay silt containing flecks of charcoal (9002, 9003, 9004) were identified as occupation deposits.
- 4.1.41 The occupation deposits appeared to be associated with a structure or structures. Possible structural elements included a southeast-northwest-aligned wall footing (9000) of 1 m width constructed of unworked cornbrash pieces averaging 0.15 m in diameter. This feature was cut by a shallow ditch or gully 0.75 m in width and aligned north-east south-west. At the north end of the trench was a series of postholes/pits (9007, 9010, 9012, 9014) three of which appeared also to be aligned north-east south-west. The postholes/pits were roughly square in shape. 9002 was excavated and measured 1 x 0.80 m in plan. It was steep sided and was shown to extend to a depth of 0.68 m and to be filled by mid brown silty clay with up to 40% stone packing (9008, 9009).
- 4.1.42 A further isolated posthole (9016) was noted in the centre of the trench. It was roughly circular, 0.35 m in diameter and 0.14 m in depth and filled by dark grey clay silt with a high charcoal content (9017).
- 4.1.43 The features were sealed by clay loam topsoil (9024).

Trench 10 (Fig. 8)

- 4.1.44 Trench 10 was orientated north-south and was 30 m long and 2 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.3 m.
- 4.1.45 A light orange brown / blue green clay natural (10007) was seen throughout the trench at a depth of 0.3 m below present ground surface (70.65 m OD at the east end, 71.5 m OD at the west end).
- 4.1.46 Two features were recorded cutting 10007. A steep sided, flat bottomed curving linear (10003) measuring 3 m in length, 0.5 m in width and 0.15 m in depth was noted in the central area of the trench. It was filled by light brown silty clay. A possible pit / posthole, 0.44 m in diameter and filled by a mid brown silty clay with charcoal inclusions (10004) lay just to the east.

- 4.1.47 A possible sandstone surface (10006) extending for a distance of 2 m in the trench and having an average thickness of 0.12 m but having no distinct edges was also recorded.
- 4.1.48 The features were sealed by a light greenish brown silty clay subsoil (10001) and a clay loam topsoil (10000).

Trench 11

- 4.1.49 Trench 11 contained natural deposits as seen in the other trenches (see context inventory, Appendix 1). No archaeological features were seen in this trench.

Trench 12 (Fig. 9)

- 4.1.50 Trench 12 was orientated north-south and was 30 m long and 2.2 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.55 m.
- 4.1.51 Natural Oxford Clay (12000) was revealed at a depth of 0.55 m below the present ground surface (71.20 m OD).
- 4.1.52 A number of features were cut into the natural clay. A possible rectilinear feature (12006) was exposed in the central area of the trench but not excavated. It was filled by a mid grey brown clay silt (12007). A possible circular posthole / pit (12010) with vertical sides and a flat base, 0.6 m in diameter and 0.3 m in depth was filled by a mottled orange brown sandy silt (12011). Both the preceding features were truncated by an east-west orientated shallow ditch (12008) which was 2 m in width and 0.4 m in depth and filled by a mottled orange brown sandy silt with 5% charcoal content (12009).
- 4.1.53 The base of a 0.5 m² posthole (12012) filled by a mid orange brown silt (12013) was truncated by a west-south-west east-north-east orientated ditch (12014). This had gently curving concave sides and base and was 1.2 m in width and 0.3 m in depth. It was filled by a mid grey brown clay silt.
- 4.1.54 A number of other anomalies in this trench were interpreted as natural, possibly glacial, features.
- 4.1.55 The features were sealed by a clay loam topsoil (12002).

Trench 13

- 4.1.56 Trench 13 contained natural deposits as seen in the other trenches (see context inventory, Appendix 1). No archaeological features were seen in this trench.

Trench 14 (Fig. 10)

- 4.1.57 Trench 14 was orientated north-south and was 30 m long and 2.1 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.45 m.
- 4.1.58 Natural Oxford Clay (14002) was revealed at a depth of 0.45 m below the present ground surface (71.67 m OD).

- 4.1.59 A number of features were cut into the natural clay. A northwest-southeast ditch (14008) which was 1.45 m in width and 0.18 m in depth with sides sloping at 45° to a relatively flat base is interpreted as a construction cut for a wall (14011). The stone remnants of the possible wall were still in place in the base of the cut and were bedded on clay (14009). The ditch was backfilled by mid brown silty clay (14010).
- 4.1.60 Ten metres to the south a ditch (14016) forming a right-angled corner, aligned northwest-southeast and northeast-southwest was excavated. It was 1.8 m in width and 0.28 m in depth with sides sloping at 70° to a flat base. This is interpreted as a construction cut for a wall and was filled by the remains of clay bedding (14017) and robbing backfill (14018).
- 4.1.61 A small portion of another ditch (14012) was recorded on the west side of the trench but this was heavily truncated by a field drain (14014) and its interpretation was not clear.
- 4.1.62 At the north end of the trench a ditch (14005) ran parallel to possible construction cut 14008. This feature was 1.30 m in width and 0.40 m in depth and had sides sloping at 45°. It was filled by a clay lens (14007) and a mid brown silty clay deposit (14006).

Trench 15

- 4.1.63 Trench 15 contained natural deposits as seen in the other trenches (see context inventory, Appendix 1). No archaeological features were seen in this trench.

Trench 16

- 4.1.64 Trench 16 contained natural deposits as seen in the other trenches (see context inventory, Appendix 1). No archaeological features were seen in this trench.

Trench 17

- 4.1.65 Trench 17 contained natural deposits as seen in the other trenches (see context inventory, Appendix 1). No archaeological features were seen in this trench.

Trench 18

- 4.1.66 Trench 18 was orientated northeast-southwest and was 30 m long and 2.1 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.58 m.
- 4.1.67 Natural Oxford Clay (18000) was revealed at a depth of 0.58 m below the present ground surface (72.32 m OD). The clay was overlain by a mid brown silty clay colluvium (18001).
- 4.1.68 An east west orientated ditch 0.5 m in width and 0.08 m in depth and filled by a mid orange brown clay silt (18004) cut the colluvium.
- 4.1.69 The features were sealed by a clay loam topsoil (18002).

Trench 19

- 4.1.70 Trench 19 was orientated east-west and was 30 m long and 2 m wide. It was excavated to a general depth of 0.3 m.
- 4.1.71 Natural deposits of sandy gravel and blue green clay (19002) were encountered at 0.3 m below present ground level (72.4 m OD).
- 4.1.72 Two parallel cuts (19003, 19004) 0.3 m in width and situated 8.5 m apart on a northeast-southwest alignment and filled with stone rubble were probably field drains.
- 4.1.73 The features were sealed by a mid gray green silty clay subsoil (19001) and a clay loam topsoil (19000).

4.2 Finds

Pottery by Paul Booth

- 4.2.1 The evaluation produced some 492 sherds of pottery (5864 g) with a chronological range from middle Iron Age to post-medieval periods inclusive. The pottery was recorded rapidly, mainly using standard codes in the Oxford Archaeology Iron Age and Roman pottery recording system. The material came from 31 contexts in nine different trenches and was generally in moderate condition at best, a number of sherds being very small and preservation of surfaces being variable. The great majority of the material was of late Iron Age to early Roman date. Four sherds (76 g) were assigned, somewhat tentatively, to the Middle Iron Age, three sherds (22 g) to the Anglo-Saxon period, one sherd (4 g) was of medieval date and there were ten sherds (57 g) of post-medieval pottery. The medieval and later material is not discussed further.
- 4.2.2 Four sherds were probably or possibly of middle Iron Age date. These were a ?limestone-tempered piece from context 9002, a shell-tempered rim sherd from a roughly barrel-shaped jar in context 9003 and two small fragments, one sand-tempered and one grog-tempered, from context 10001. Only the sherd from 9003 was not associated with later material.
- 4.2.3 The late Iron Age and Roman pottery was assigned to ware groups in the OA recording system as follows:
- S20. South Gaulish samian ware. 6 sherds, 84 g.
 - S30. Central Gaulish samian ware. 3 sherds, 23 g.
 - F50. Red-brown colour-coated ware, uncertain source. 1 sherd, 6 g.
 - F51. Oxford red-brown colour-coated ware. 1 sherd, 2 g.
 - F52. Nene Valley colour-coated ware. 1 sherd, 4 g.
 - A11. South Spanish olive oil amphora fabrics. 2 sherds, 69 g.
 - M22. Oxford white mortarium fabric. 2 sherds, 78 g.
 - M31. Oxford white-slipped oxidised mortarium fabric. 1 sherd, 1 g.
 - W10. Fine white ware fabrics (includes Oxford products). 6 sherds, 17 g.
 - W20. Sandy white ware fabrics. 1 sherd, 5 g.
 - Q10. Fine oxidised white-slipped fabrics. 51 sherds, 303 g.

- E30. Coarse sand-tempered 'Belgic type' fabrics. 1 sherd, 5 g.
E80. Grog-tempered 'Belgic type' fabrics. 113 sherds, 1497 g.
E86. Oxidised grog-tempered fabric. 54 sherds, 1346 g.
O. General oxidised coarse wares. 6 sherds, 33 g.
O10. Fine oxidised 'coarse' wares, mostly Oxford products. 11 sherds, 55 g.
O20. Sandy oxidised coarse wares. 9 sherds, 109 g.
O30. Fine sandy oxidised coarse wares. 21 sherds, 92 g.
O80. Coarse- (usually grog-) tempered oxidised wares. 3 sherds, 282 g.
O81. Pink grogged ware. 6 sherds, 158 g.
R. General reduced coarse wares. 2 sherds, 28 g.
R10. Fine reduced 'coarse' wares, mostly Oxford products. 97 sherds, 701 g.
R20. Sandy reduced coarse wares. 2 sherds, 18 g.
R30. Moderately sandy reduced coarse wares. 24 sherds, 189 g.
R37. Fine sandy reduced coarse ware. 15 sherds, 124 g.
R90. Coarse- (usually grog-) tempered reduced wares. 8 sherds, 154 g.
B11. Dorset black-burnished ware (BB1). 1 sherd, 22 g.
B30. Wheel-thrown black-burnished type wares. 6 sherds, 107 g.
C10. General shell-tempered wares. 20 sherds, 192 g.

4.2.4 The assemblage was dominated by fabric groups dateable to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD and it is notable that there were very few fabrics or vessel types present which need necessarily have dated after the middle of the 2nd century at the latest. It is likely that all the fine (F) wares fell in this category, along with a single fragment of the mortarium fabric M31, but these were all present in very small quantities. Even in the case of long lived fabric groups such as the R10 and R30 coarse wares there was no indication of the presence of late Roman forms, and while some of the jar rims present could not be closely dated these were all potentially consistent with an early Roman date.

4.2.5 The late Iron Age to early Roman material (E wares) included squat, high shouldered jars and one (or possibly two) elaborately cordoned carinated bowls. These fabrics and forms are characteristic of the mid 1st century AD. Here they probably indicate that activity on the site commenced in the first half of the century, ie before the Roman conquest. A fine oxidised sand tempered (O30) butt beaker in context 4006 was probably an early post-Conquest type. Other post-Conquest components in the assemblage were small quantities of South Gaulish samian ware (notably better represented than Central Gaulish samian, which is normally much more common on sites occupied through the 2nd century), and two fragments of a South Spanish olive oil amphora (Dressel 20). The white-slipped fabric Q10 was well-represented in the assemblage, but all the sherds were from a single flagon of late 1st or early 2nd century date in contexts 4015 and 4016. Another notable occurrence in these two contexts was a dish in an imitation black-burnished ware fabric (B30) from an unknown source (again all the sherds in this fabric were from a single vessel). This was of 2nd century type, though closer dating is not possible on present evidence. It had linear burnished loops on the body wall, rather than the lattice decoration characteristic of this type and period.

4.2.6 The late Iron Age and early Roman assemblage suggests a period of fairly intensive settlement after rather more low level (or spatially more distant) middle Iron Age

activity. It is still possible that the entire assemblage terminated in the early part of the 2nd century AD, in conformity with a pattern observed widely in the region, as for example at Oxford Road, Bicester (Mould 1997). In any case it is most unlikely that the activity represented by the present assemblage dated after about the mid 2nd century.

- 4.2.7 Later Roman activity is suggested by a few (mostly small) sherds. A number of these occurred in demonstrably later (ie probably post-medieval) contexts. This material could have derived from more distant settlement, but is insufficient for this to be certain. More significant is the presence of three sherds of possible Anglo-Saxon pottery. It is stressed that the identification of these is tentative, and the problems of distinguishing between this kind of material and middle Iron Age pottery, for example, are well known. The identification of one sherd from context 9002 is reasonably confident, however. This relatively thin-walled black sherd was sand-tempered but also had a high mica content and a number of irregular voids. It is thus similar, but not identical, to material from Alchester (Booth et al 2002, 382). If correctly identified, these hints of an Anglo-Saxon presence in the area could be particularly important.
- 4.2.8 The assemblage is too small to permit a reliable assessment of site function or status in the early Roman period since the 'fine and specialist ware' figures are skewed by the occurrence of a large number of sherds from a single flagon (see above). Subjectively, however, the material is suggestive of a relatively low status assemblage.

Roman brooch by Leigh Allen

- 4.2.9 A Roman plate brooch was recovered by metal detector from the ploughsoil on the evaluation site. The brooch is of thin sheet metal in the shape of a 12 pointed star with a hinged pin on the reverse. The upper face of the brooch is decorated with a large dished rivet at the centre and 6 smaller rivets at the tip of each alternate point. The points in between are decorated with incised lines in a fern like pattern. Although this example was recovered from an unstratified context it can be dated by comparison with an identical brooch from Northamptonshire dating to the mid to late 1st century AD (Hattat 2000, Fig.201, No.514).

Animal bone by Bethan Charles

- 4.2.10 **Introduction and Quantification.** A total of 71 fragments (932g) of bone were recovered by hand during excavation at BICH 02.86 (fill in name of site). Many of these fragments were re-assembled reducing the count to 51. In addition to the hand collected material a small quantity of bone, 82 fragments (93g), were recovered from environmental samples sieved through meshes of >10 and 10 - 4mm.
- 4.2.11 **Methodology.** The calculation of the species recovered from the site was done through the use of the total fragment method. The primary recording data can be found with the archive for the site.

- 4.2.12 **Condition.** The condition of the bone was measured by grading it from 1 to 5 using the criteria stipulated by Lyman, R.L. (1996). Grade 1 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable. The majority of the bone was in good condition around grade 2 apart from the small amount of material recovered from trenches 10, 14 and 19. Four fragments of bone from context 4006 (trench 4) were burnt, two of which were identified as a sheep radius and scapula. One bone had signs of carnivore gnawing from context 4005. Pathological changes included a cattle proximal phalanx (ctx 4015) with part of the proximal articulation missing. The bone had healed well.
- 4.2.13 **Results and Recommendations.** The majority of the hand collected material came from trench 4 (21 fragments). The remaining fragments came from trenches 5, 6, 9, 10, 14 and 19 but were only found in small quantities. Elements from cattle were the most numerous recovered followed by those of sheep. A single fragment of a horse scapula was recovered from Trench 6 and part of a pig rib was identified from Trench 14.
- 4.2.14 The majority of the sieved bone consisted of small broken fragments from large to medium sized animals (e.g. horse/cattle and pig/sheep) that could not be identified to species. The only identifiable fragments came from context 9017 and consisted of a phalanx, vertebrae and rib fragment which all appeared to be from the remains of a neo natal sheep. It is unlikely that these small elements would have been recovered by hand from excavation highlighting the importance of environmental sampling in future work at the site.
- 4.2.15 The small quantity of material recovered does not provide detailed information regarding the economy of the site. However, the condition of the bone indicates that further excavation would enable the recovery of a good selection of animal bone and should provide a more detailed picture of the farming practices and status of the site.

Palaeoenvironmental remains by Elizabeth Huckerby

- 4.2.16 Two samples were taken for charred plant remains during the evaluation. Sample 1 was from an occupation spread containing pottery (9002) and sample 2 was from a posthole (9017).
- 4.2.17 Sample 1 was twenty litres in size and sample 2 ten litres. The samples were processed by flotation using a modified Siraf-type machine, with the flot collected on a 250µm mesh. After air-drying the flots were scanned for plant material under a Leitz/Wild stereozoom binocular microscope.
- 4.2.18 The flot from sample 1, which came from the occupation spread (9002), was small but very rich in charred plant remains. It contained charred cereal grain from wheat, possibly spelt/emmer (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*) and bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), oats (*Avena*) and barley (*Hordeum*). Some of the grain was poorly preserved and had germinated. Wheat glumes were frequent and some oat awns, possibly from wild oats (*Avena fatua*), were identified. A number of carbonised weed

seeds were noted. The presence of chaff and weed seeds together with charred grain suggest that grain was being processed nearby. The flot was rich in charcoal including some from oak plus other taxa. The flot also contained a few mammal bone fragments, small mammal bones and molluscs. There was some modern contamination from both plants and animals.

4.2.19 The flot from sample 2, which came from a posthole (9017), was not as rich as that from sample 1 but it also contained some charred wheat and undifferentiated cereal grains. The wheat grains and glume bases, which were also recorded, were very tentatively identified as emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*). As with the previous sample charred weed seeds were identified and together with the chaff again suggest the processing of cereals nearby. Charcoal was abundant and was from oak and other taxa. Mammal bone fragments and small mammal bones were recorded. There was some contamination from modern roots, stems and weeds. Preservation of the charred material was good.

4.2.20 The analysis of the samples demonstrates the high potential for the recovery of charred plant remains at the site. The data could provide good information about the economy of the area. The charred grain would also provide material for radiocarbon dating to help provide a chronology for the site. It is strongly recommended that a palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy be included if further archaeological intervention is required.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1.1 Significant archaeology was revealed in nine (Trenches 3-7, 9, 10, 12, 14) out of the 18 trenches excavated. These were clustered in the central area of the site and corresponded well with the area of potential activity highlighted by the geophysical survey.

5.1.2 Trench 9 contained the most positive evidence for a structure with a series of substantial postholes. It is difficult to comment on the size or form of the structure. A further possible structural feature was wall 9000, but the feature within which it lay was most uncharacteristic of a wall trench, so interpretation is uncertain. Spreads of occupation deposits were found in association with these features. Pottery dating to the late 1st-2nd century was recovered from this trench.

5.1.3 Trenches 3 and 7 both contained significant numbers of smaller postholes. No positive pattern could be determined from these, they could be related to structures or be part of a fencing or stock management system. Roman pottery was retrieved from some of the postholes in Trench 7.

5.1.4 In the area of Trenches 4 and 5 the geophysical survey identified linear features which appear to fit relatively well with the ditches recorded in these trenches. It is possible that these features relate to a trackway skirting the main focus of activity to the south-west.

- 5.1.5 In Trench 6 the stone surface was clearly a feature and with the ditches running either side hints at a possible trackway. Interestingly this feature corresponds with an anomaly on the geophysical survey which also crosses Trench 10 where a similar stone surface was also recorded. An assemblage of possibly 2nd century pottery was recovered from it.
- 5.1.6 The features in Trench 14 may be elements of a robbed out building. However, the presence of a substantial, walled structure in this location does not fit comfortably with the generally low status pottery assemblage from the site and again the profiles are not suggestive of wall trenches. In addition, 14016 yielded an Anglo-Saxon and a post-medieval sherd of pottery. Even if both these were intrusive the lack of even a single Roman sherd would be unusual. 14008 and 14005 that run parallel to each other both yielded Roman pottery and do appear to date to the 2nd century but may represent boundary rather than structural features.
- 5.1.7 The remainder of the archaeological features consisted of ditches that can be interpreted as enclosures or boundaries and a small number of pits. This would be consistent with an overall interpretation of the site as a late 1st-2nd century low status farmstead with possible outbuildings or stock management features focused roughly on the centre of the site area where the geophysics also appears to show a concentration of activity.
- 5.1.8 A small number of both middle Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds were identified and although attributing any of the features to these periods is not possible it is clear that there was probably some level of activity in this area in both times.

5.2 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.2.1 The integrity of the stratigraphic evidence encountered during the evaluation is believed to be good although the varying nature of the natural deposits, including clays made cleaning and identifying some of the features difficult. The excavated features had a generally good correlation with the results of the geophysical survey.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width. (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
001	1000	Layer		0.20	Topsoil			
001	1001	Fill		0.22	Prob root disturbance fill			
001	1002	Cut	0.72		Prob root disturbance			
001	1003	Layer		0.12	Subsoil			
001	1004	Layer			Natural			
003	3000	Cut	0.16		Posthole			
003	3001	Fill		0.12	Posthole fill			
003	3002	Cut	0.16		Posthole			
003	3003	Fill		0.06	Posthole fill			
003	3004	Cut	0.16		Posthole			
003	3005	Fill		0.06	Posthole fill			
003	3006	Cut	0.15		Posthole			
003	3007	Fill		0.04	Posthole fill			
003	3008	Cut	0.06		Stakehole			
003	3009	Fill		0.08	Stakehole fill			
003	3010	Cut	0.06		Stakehole			
003	3011	Fill		0.05	Stakehole fill			
003	3012	Cut	0.06		Stakehole			
003	3013	Fill		0.08	Stakehole fill			
003	3014	Cut	0.05		Stakehole			
003	3015	Fill		0.06	Stakehole fill			
003	3016	Cut	0.11		Posthole			
003	3017	Fill		0.09	Posthole fill			
003	3018	Cut	0.08		Stakehole			
003	3019	Fill		0.05	Stakehole fill			
003	3020	Cut	0.06		Stakehole			
003	3021	Fill		0.07	Stakehole fill			
003	3022	Cut	0.06		Stakehole			
003	3023	Fill		0.07	Stakehole fill			

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width. (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
003	3024	Cut	0.07		Stakehole			
003	3025	Fill		0.05	Stakehole fill			
003	3026	Cut	0.07		Stakehole			
003	3027	Fill		0.08	Stakehole fill			
003	3028	Cut	0.06		Stakehole			
003	3029	Fill		0.05	Stakehole fill			
003	3030	Cut	0.07		Stakehole			
003	3031	Fill		0.06	Stakehole fill			
003	3032	Cut	0.07		Stakehole			
003	3033	Fill			Stakehole fill			
003	3034	Cut			Stakehole			
003	3035	Fill			Stakehole fill			
003	3036	Layer			Natural			
003	3037	Layer			Topsoil			
003	3038	Layer			Subsoil			
004	4000	Cut	0.94		Ditch			
004	4001	Layer			Natural			
004	4002	Fill		0.16	Ditch fill			
004	4003	Fill		0.20	Ditch fill	Pot	4/36	Late 1C+
004	4004	Cut	0.90		Ditch terminus			
004	4005	Fill		0.06	Ditch terminus fill	Pot	31/361	mid-late 1 C
004	4006	Fill		0.20	Ditch terminus fill	Pot	127/1485	mid-late 1 C
004	4007	Cut	1		Ditch terminus ?			
004	4008	Fill			Ditch terminus fill ?	Pot	3/32	1 C
004	4009	Layer		0.20	Colluvium			
004	4010	Layer			Topsoil			
004	4011	Cut	0.50		Ditch base ?			
004	4012	Fill			Ditch base fill ?			
004	4013	Cut	1.20		Pit			
004	4014	Fill		0.15	Pit fill			
004	4015	Fill		0.35	Pit fill	Pot	136/1052	? early 2 C
004	4016	Fill		0.30	Pit fill	Pot	23/339	?early/mid

Trench	Ctct No	Type	Width. (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	No./wt	Date
								2C
005	5000	Layer			Natural			
005	5001	Layer			Colluvium			
005	5002	Layer			Topsoil			
005	5003	Cut	0.70		Ditch cut			
005	5004	Fill			Ditch fill			
005	5005	Cut	1.75		Ditch cut			
005	5006	Fill			Ditch fill	Pot	1/1	1C
005	5007	Cut	1.75		Pit			
005	5008	Fill			Pit fill			
005	5009	Cut	1.50		Ditch cut			
005	5010	Fill			Ditch fill			
005	5011	Cut	1.5		Tree throw			
005	5012	Fill			Tree throw fill			
005	5013	Cut	0.80		Pit			
005	5014	Fill		0.22	Pit fill			
005	5015	Cut	1		Gully			
005	5016	Fill		0.14	Gully fill	Pot	12/565	?1C
006	6000	Layer		0.30	Topsoil			
006	6001	Layer		0.15	Subsoil	Pot	1/5	1C
006	6002	Fill		0.20	Ditch fill			
006	6003	Cut	0.50		Ditch			
006	6004	Fill		0.14	Ditch fill	Pot	1/3	mid 1C+
006	6005	Structure	>1.80		Stone surface ?	Pot	13/124	2C
006	6006	Layer			Natural			
006	6007	Layer			Natural			
006	6008	Cut	1.50		Ditch			
006	6009	Layer		0.06	Colluvium			
007	7000	Layer		0.30	Topsoil			
007	7001	Layer		0.10	Subsoil			
007	7002	Layer		0.30	Natural			
007	7003	Fill		0.30	Ditch fill			
007	7004	Cut	0.60		Ditch	Pot	7/91	?mid-late

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width. (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
								2C+
007	7005	Layer		0.15	Colluvium	Pot	3/14	Late 1C+
007	7006	Layer			Natural			
007	7007	Cut	0.25		Posthole			
007	7008	Cut			Beamslot ?			
007	7009	Cut	0.35		Posthole			
007	7010	Cut	0.35		Posthole			
007	7011	Cut	0.20		Beamslot ?			
007	7012	Cut	0.45		Tree hole ?			
007	7013	Cut	0.35		Posthole			
007	7014	Cut	0.30		Posthole			
007	7015	Cut	0.25		Posthole			
007	7016	Cut	0.30		Posthole			
007	7017	Cut	0.70		Ditch			
007	7018	Cut	0.30		Land drain			
007	7019	Fill		0.15	Land drain fill			
007	7020	Cut			Ditch			
007	7021	Fill			Ditch			
007	7022	Layer		0.05	Colluvium			
007	7023	Cut			Ditch			
007	7024	Fill			Ditch fill			
007	7025	Fill		0.10	Ditch fill	Pot	3/11	Roman/me dieval/post -med
007	7026	Fill		0.05	Posthole fill			
007	7027	Cut			Posthole			
007	7028	Cut			Posthole			
007	7029	Cut			Posthole			
007	7030	Cut			Posthole			
007	7031	Cut			Posthole			
007	7032	Cut			Posthole			
007	7033	Cut			Posthole			
007	7034	Cut			Posthole			
007	7035	Group			Postholes / beamslots			

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctct No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width. (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
		no						
008	8000	Layer		0.20	Topsoil			
008	8001	Layer		0.15	Subsoil			
008	8002	Layer		0.25	Natural			
008	8003	Layer		0.60	Natural			
008	8004	Layer		0.20	Occupation deposit ?	Pot	27/501	?1C
008	8005	Layer			Natural			
008	8006	Layer			Natural			
009	9000	Structure	1		Wall ?			
009	9001	Cut	>2		Extent of occupation deposit			
009	9002	Fill			Occupation deposit ?	Pot	2/10	MIA
009	9003	Layer			Occupation deposit ?			
009	9004	Layer			Occupation deposit ?			
009	9005	Cut			Ditch			
009	9006	Fill			Ditch fill			
009	9007	Cut			Posthole			
009	9008	Fill			Posthole fill	Pot	1/5	Roman
009	9009	Fill			Posthole fill	Pot	1/4	Late 1-2C
009	9010	Cut	0.50		Posthole			
009	9011	Fill			Posthole fill			
009	9012	Cut	0.60		Posthole			
009	9013	Fill			Posthole fill			
009	9014	Cut	1		Posthole			
009	9015	Fill			Posthole fill			
009	9016	Cut	0.35		Posthole			
009	9017	Fill			Posthole fill			
009	9018	Layer		0.14	Colluvium			
009	9019	Layer			Natural			
009	9020	Layer		0.20	Natural			
009	9021	Layer			Natural			
009	9022	Group no			Postholes			

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width. (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
009	9023	Cut			Posthole			
009	9024	Layer			Topsoil			
009	9025	Fill			Posthole fill	Pot	1/2	Late 1-2C
010	10000	Layer		0.20	Topsoil	Pot	3/59	2C(+)
010	10001	Layer		0.14	Subsoil	Pot	16/90	MIA/late 1-2C
010	10002	Fill		0.15	Ditch fill ?	Pot	1/2	?2C
010	10003	Cut		0.50	Ditch ?			
010	10004	Fill			Pit fill	Pot	1/9	?2C
010	10005	Cut	0.44		Pit			
010	10006	Structure		0.12	Stone surface ?			
010	10007	Layer			Natural			
011	11000	Layer		0.30	Topsoil			
011	11001	Layer		0.22	Colluvium			
011	11002	Layer			Natural			
011	11003	Layer			Natural			
012	12000	Layer			Natural			
012	12001	Layer		0.14	Colluvium			
012	12002	Layer			Topsoil			
012	12003	Deposit			Glacial feature ?			
012	12004	Deposit			Glacial feature ?			
012	12005	Deposit			Glacial feature ?			
012	12006	Cut			Linear ?			
012	12007	Fill			Linear fill ?			
012	12008	Cut	2		Linear ?			
012	12009	Fill			Linear fill ?			
012	12010	Cut	0.60		Posthole			
012	12011	Fill			Posthole fill			
012	12012	Cut	0.50		Posthole			
012	12013	Fill			Posthole fill			
012	12014	Cut	1.20		Ditch			
012	12015	Fill			Ditch fill	Pot	1/11	1C
012	12016	Deposit			Glacial feature ?			

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width. (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
013	13000	Layer			Colluvium			
013	13001	Layer			Natural			
013	13002	Layer		0.18	Colluvium			
013	13003	Layer			Topsoil			
014	14000	Layer		0.24	Topsoil			
014	14001	Layer		0.24	Subsoil			
014	14002	Layer			Natural			
014	14003	Cut			Tree throw			
014	14004	Fill			Tree throw fill			
014	14005	Cut			Const trench/ditch			
014	14006	Fill		0.36	Fill of 14005	Pot	1/8	?Roman
014	14007	Fill		0.05	Fill of 14005			
014	14008	Cut			Const trench/ditch			
014	14009	Fill		0.08	Fill of 14008			
014	14010	Fill		0.22	Fill of 14008	Pot	7/18	?2C+
014	14011	structure	0.55		Wall ?			
014	14012	Cut			Const trench/ditch			
014	14013	Fill		0.20	Fill of 14012	Pot	1/1	Post-med
014	14014	Cut			Field drain			
014	14015	Fill			Field drain fill			
014	14016	Cut	1.80		Const trench/ditch			
014	14017	Fill		0.14	Fill of 14016			
014	14018	Fill		0.30	Fill of 14016	Pot	3/21	?2C/??Anglo-Saxon/post-med
015	15000	Layer			Topsoil			
015	15001	Layer			Natural			
016	16000	Layer			Topsoil			
016	16001	Layer			Natural			
017	17000	Layer			Topsoil			
017	17001	Layer			Natural			
018	18000	Layer			Natural			
018	18001	Layer		0.12	Colluvium			

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width. (m)</i>	<i>Thick (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./ wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
018	18002	Layer			Topsoil			
018	18003	Cut	0.50		Ditch ?			
018	18004	Fill			Ditch fill ?			
019	19000	Layer		0.30	Topsoil			
019	19001	Layer		0.20	Subsoil			
019	19002	Layer			Natural			
019	19003	Cut	0.30		Wall ?			
019	19004	Cut			Wall ?			

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY SPOT DATES

Context	No. sh	Weight (g)	Date	Ware code/comments
4003	4	36	late 1C +	E30, O, O80, R37
4005	31	361	mid-late 1C	S20, E80, E86, C10
4006	127	1485	mid-late 1C	S20, W10, E80, E86, O30, R20, R30, C10;
4006	1	15	post-med	intrusive
4008	3	32	1C	E80
4015	136	1052	?early 2C	M22, W10, W20, Q10, E80, O10, O80 R10, R30, R37, R90, B30, C10
4016	23	339	?early/mid 2C	Q10, O10, R10, R37, B30
5006	1	1	1C	S20
5016	12	565	?1C	A11, E86, O80, R30, R90
6001	1	5	1C	S20
6004	1	3	mid 1C+	R37
6005	13	124	2C	S30, E86, O10, O81, R10, R30, C10
7004	7	91	?mid-late 2C+	F50, E86, R10, R90, C10
7005	3	14	late 1C +	R, R30, R37
7025	1	1	Roman	O
7025	1	4	medieval	
7025	1	6	post-med	
8000	5	123	120+	E86, O, R10, B11
8004	27	501	?1C	F52, E80, E89, R10, C10. F52 (1/4) intrusive?
9000	18	137	late 3C +	
9000	6	30	post-med	2 frags poss medieval
9002	1	53	?MIA	limestone tempered
9002	29	633	2C	S20, E86, O10, O30, O81, R10, R20, R30, C10
9002	2	10	?Anglo-Saxon	sand-tempered
9003	1	12	MIA	shell-tempered
9008	1	5	Roman	R30
9009	1	4	late 1-2C	R10
9025	1	2	late 1-2C	R10
10000	3	59	2C (+)	M22, C10
10001	2	11	?MIA	1 sand-tempered, 1 grog-tempered
10001	14	79	late 1-2C	E86, O10, O20, O30, R10, R30, C10
10002	1	2	?2C	W10
10004	1	9	?2C	R30
12015	1	11	1C	?O80
14006	1	8	?Roman	?O20
14010	7	18	?2C+	?M31, E80, O10, R10
14013	1	1	post-med	
14018	1	4	?2C	R10
14018	1	12	??Anglo-Saxon	Sand tempered
14018	1	5	post-med	
TOTAL	492	5863		

APPENDIX 3 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Booth, P, Evans, J, and Hiller, J, 2002 *Excavations in the extramural settlement of Roman Alchester, Oxfordshire, 1991*, Oxford Archaeology Mono 1, Oxford.

Hattatt, R, 2000 *A Visual Catalogue of Richard Hattatt's Ancient Brooches*, Oxbow Books, Oxford.

Mould, C, 1997 An archaeological excavation at Oxford Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire, *Oxoniensia* 61 (for 1996), 65-108.

Oxford Archaeology, February 2002 *Land adjacent to Middleton Stoney Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire, desk based assessment*, Unpublished client report

Oxford Archaeology, May 2002 *Land adjacent to Middleton Stoney Road and Oxford Road, Bicester, Oxfordshire, evaluation*, Unpublished client report

APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Proposed Community Hospital, Bicester
Site code: BICH 02

Type of evaluation: Nineteen trenches

Date and duration of project: 15-19/04/02

Summary of results: Posthole structures, possible stone surfaces, fence lines?, enclosure/boundary ditches. Low status, 1st-2nd century farmstead.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum in due course.

\\Server10\capbs1_AtoH\B_invoice\codes\BIMSREV\Middleton_Soney_Rd_Bicester*L.Adams*25.04.02

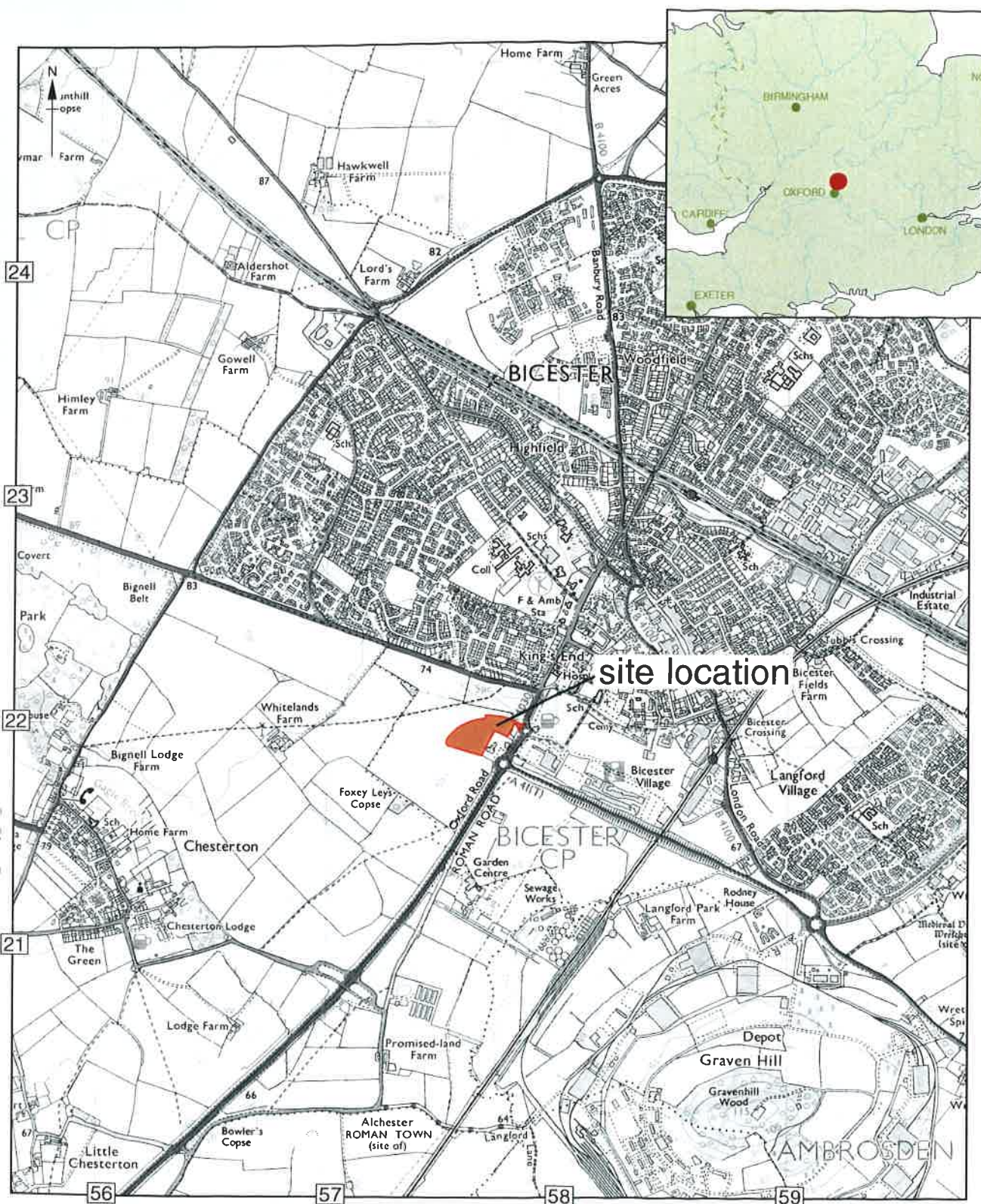


Figure 1: Site location

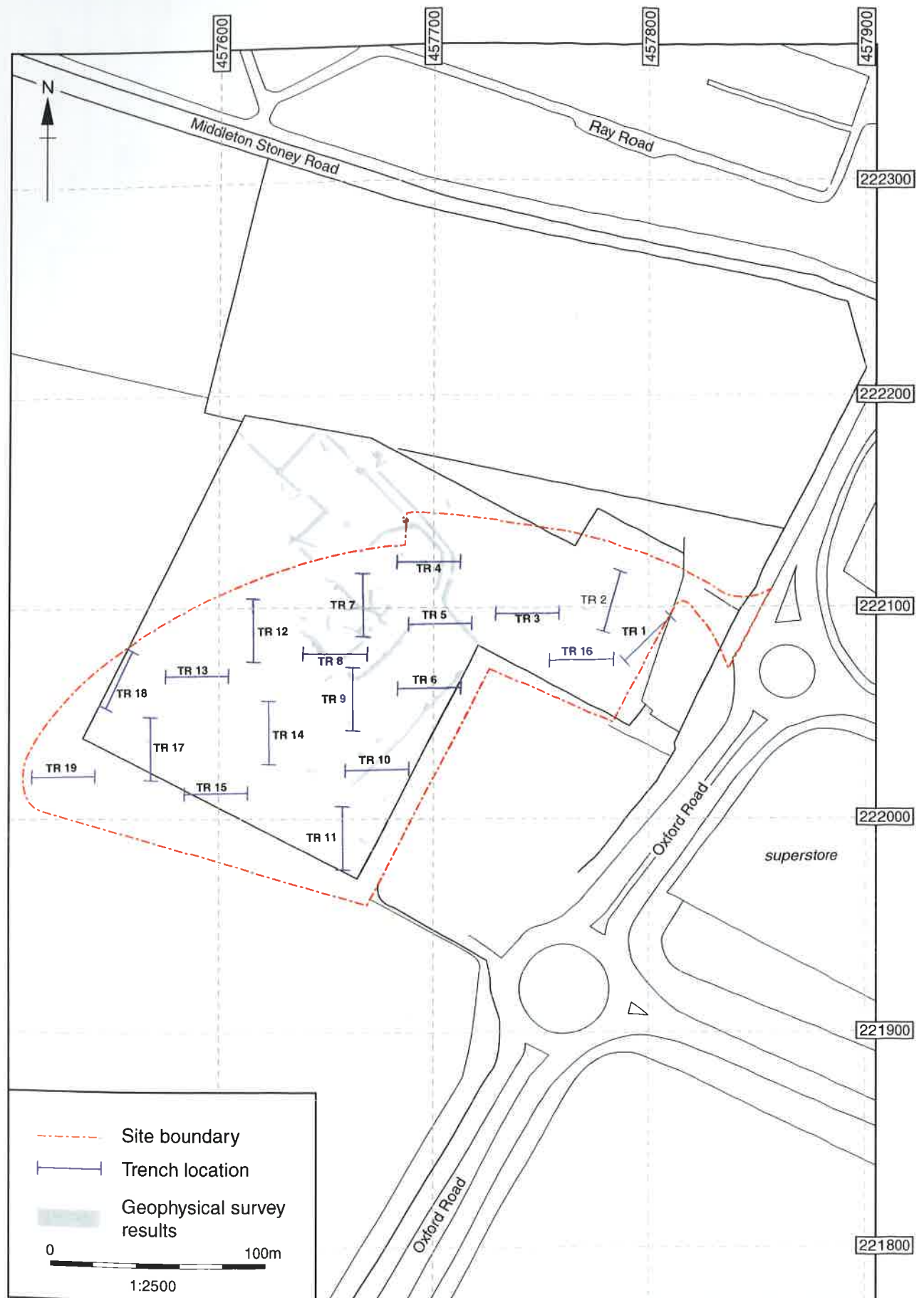


Figure 2: Trench Location

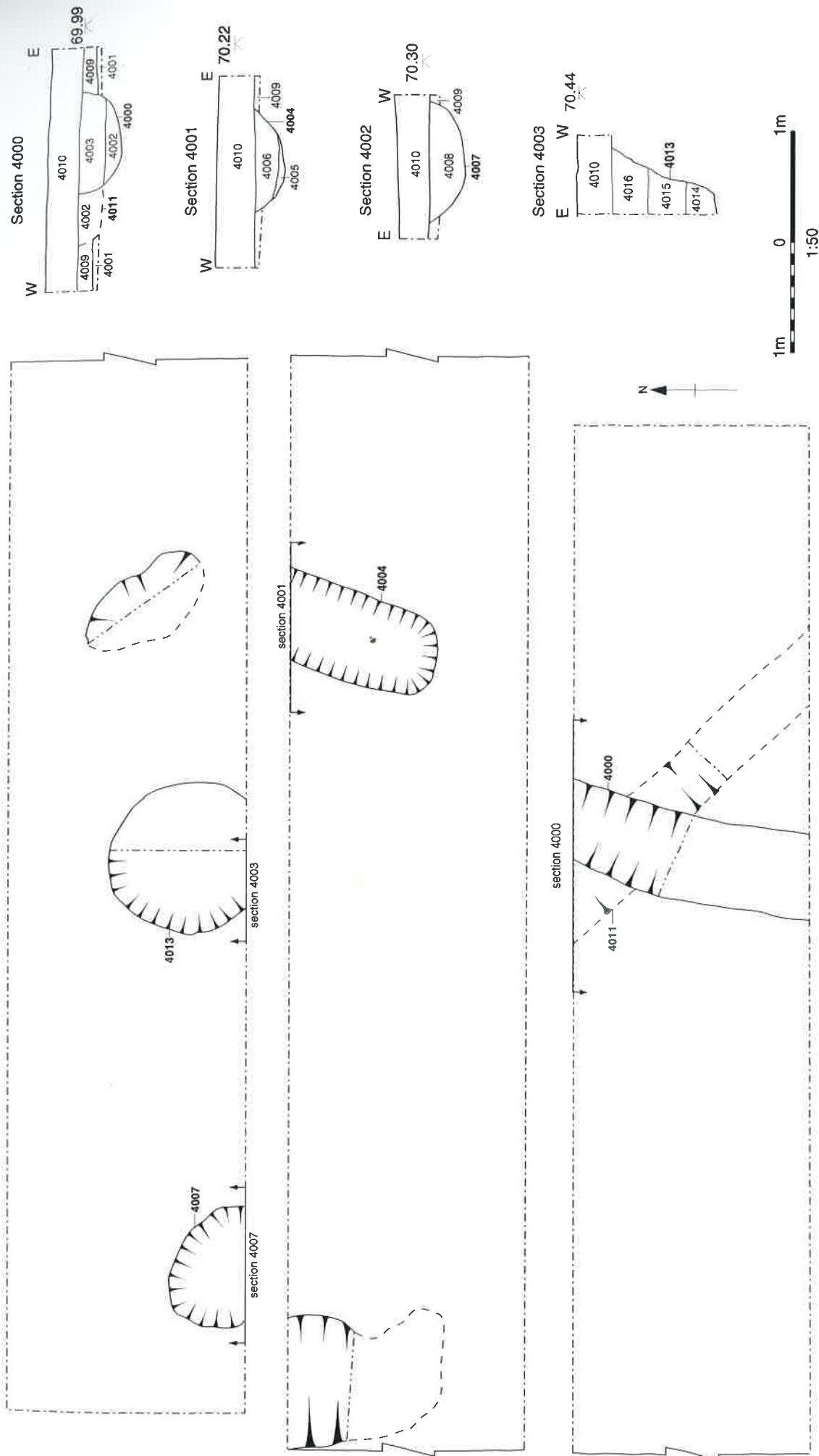


Figure 3: Trench 4, Plan and Sections

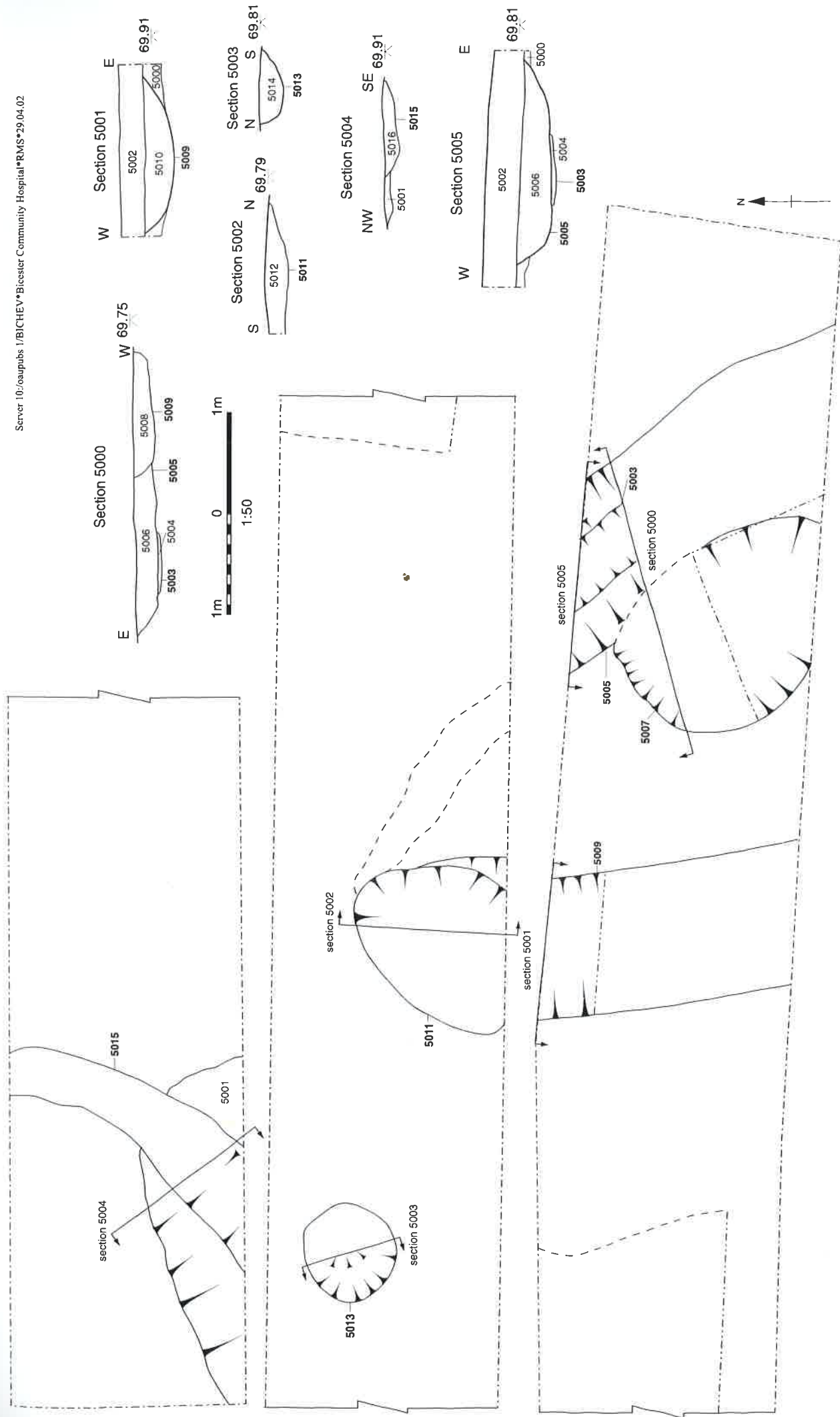


Figure 4: Trench 5, Plan and Sections

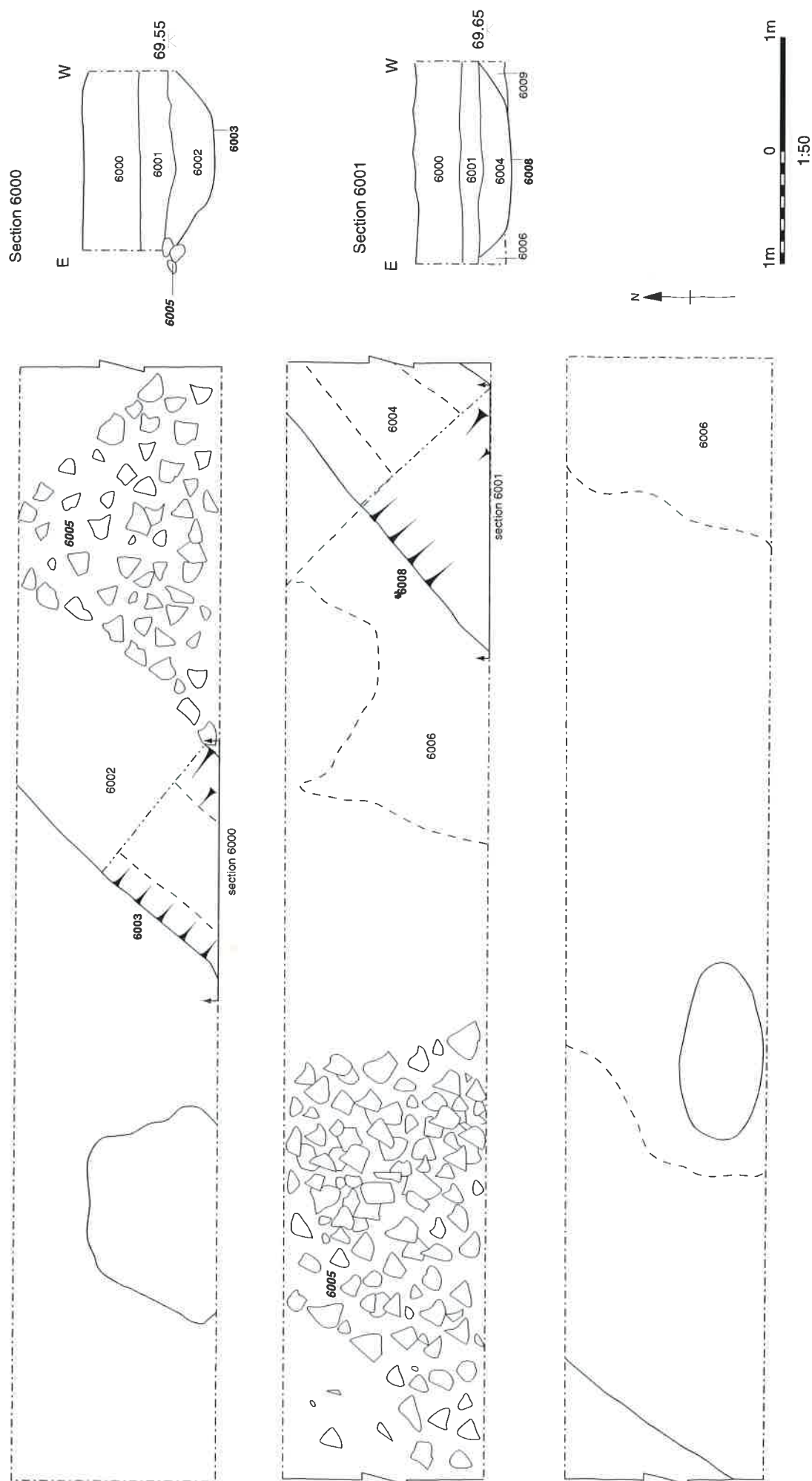


Figure 5: Trench 6, Plan and Sections

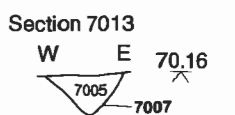
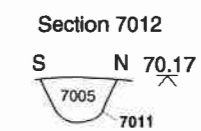
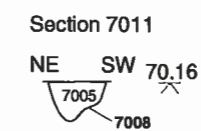
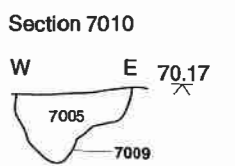
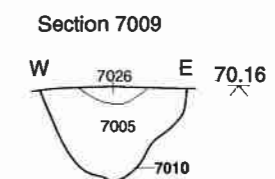
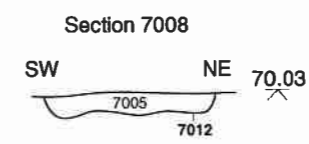
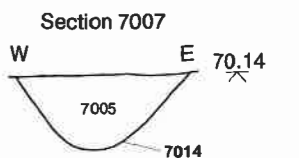
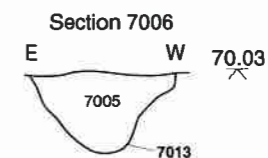
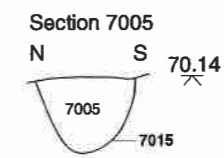
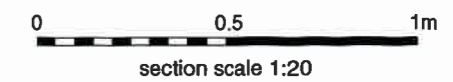
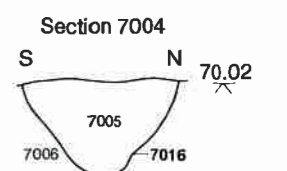
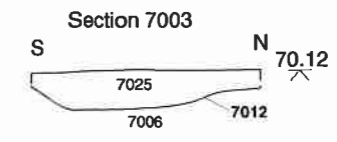
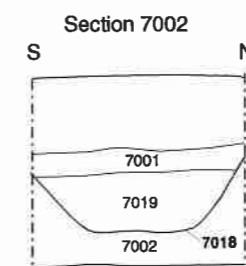
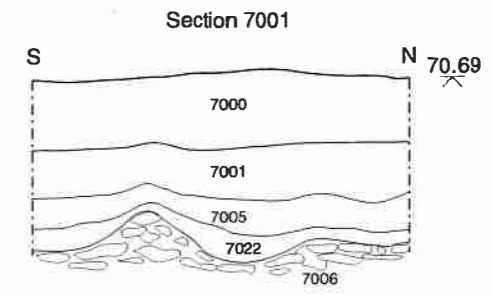
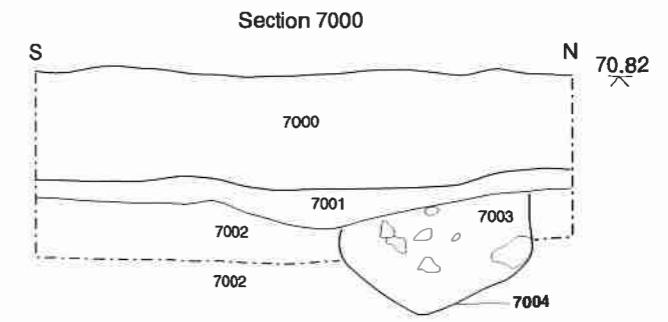
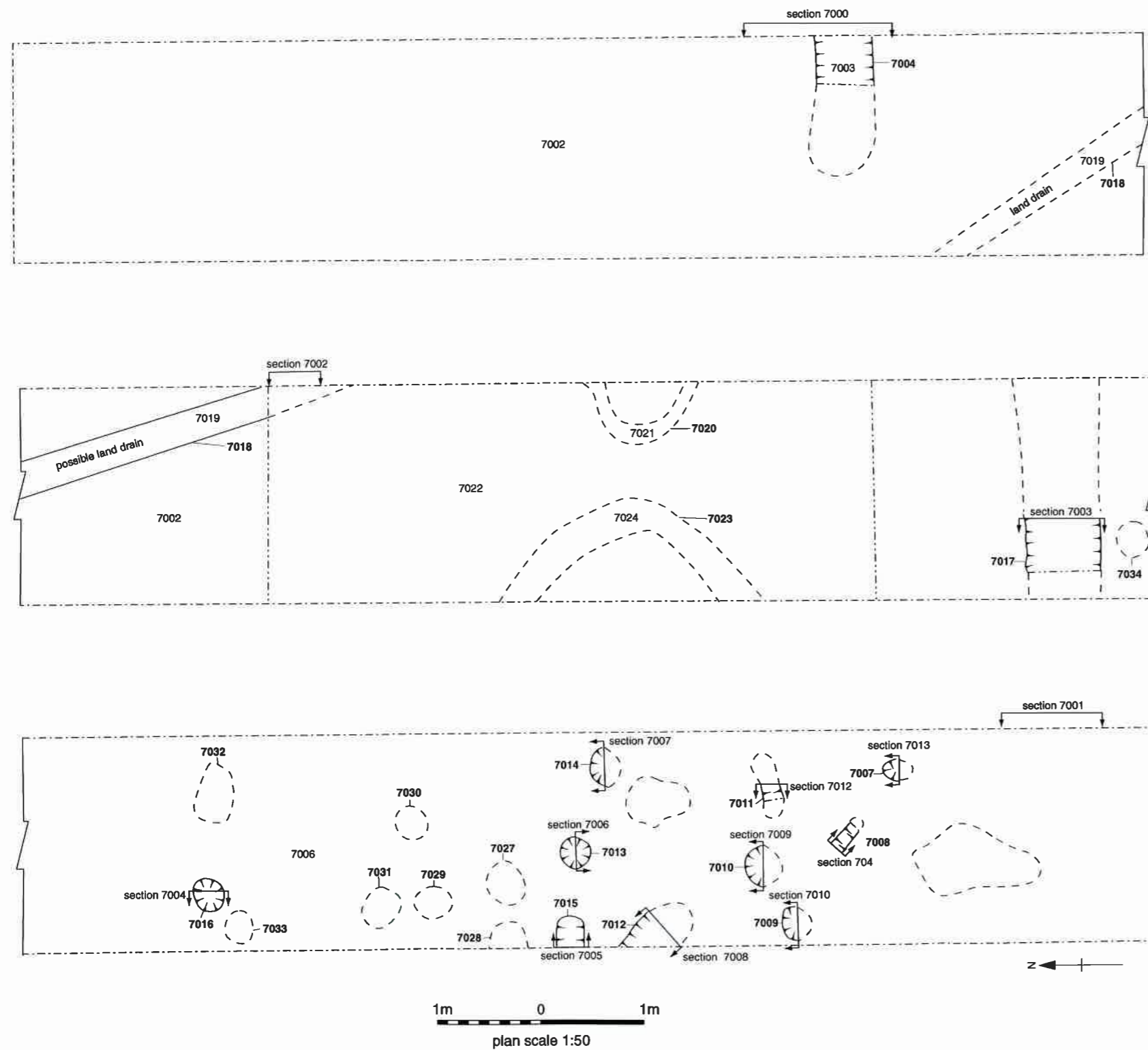


Figure 6: Trench 7, Plan and Sections

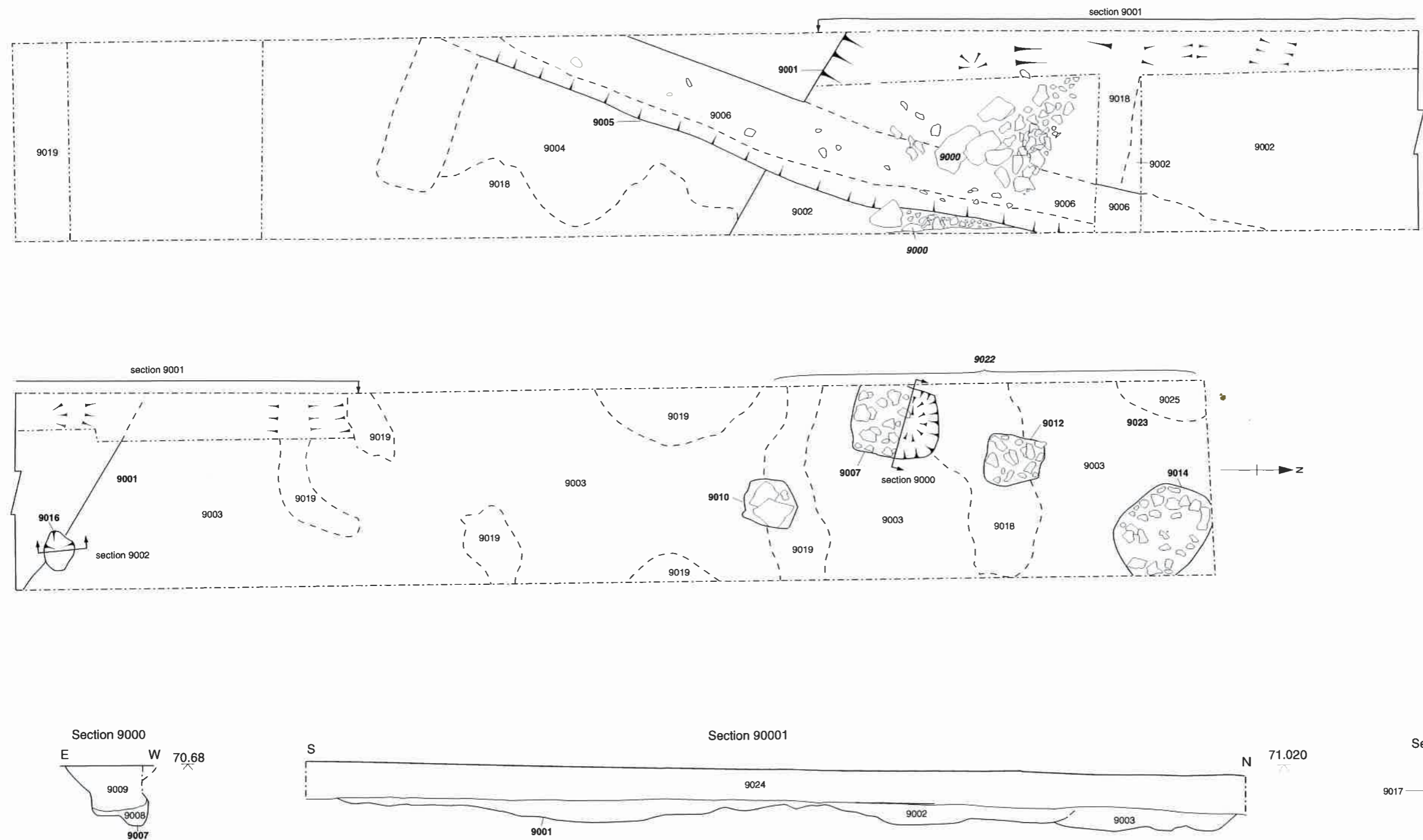


Figure 7: Trench 9, Plan and Sections

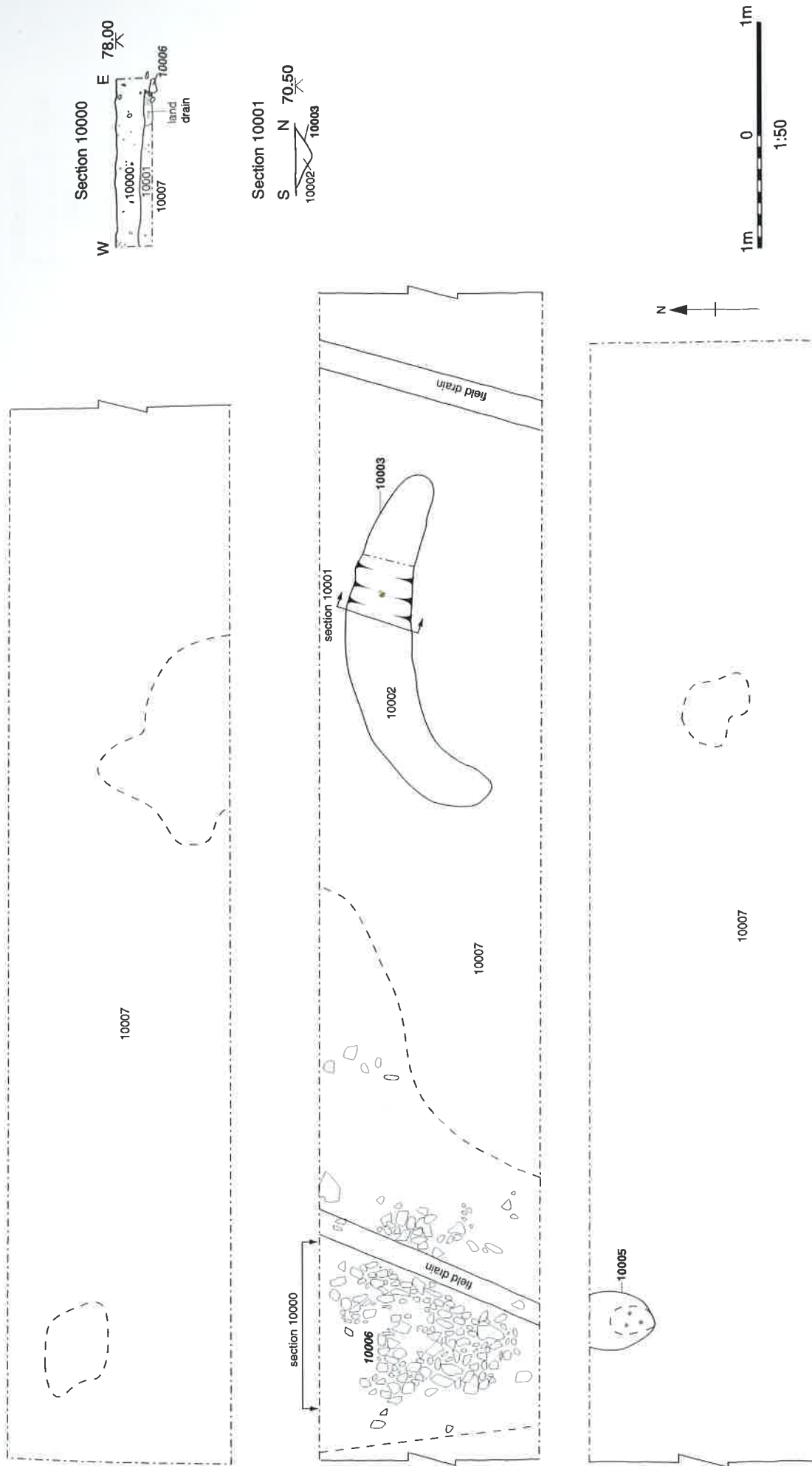


Figure 8: Trench 10, Plan and Sections

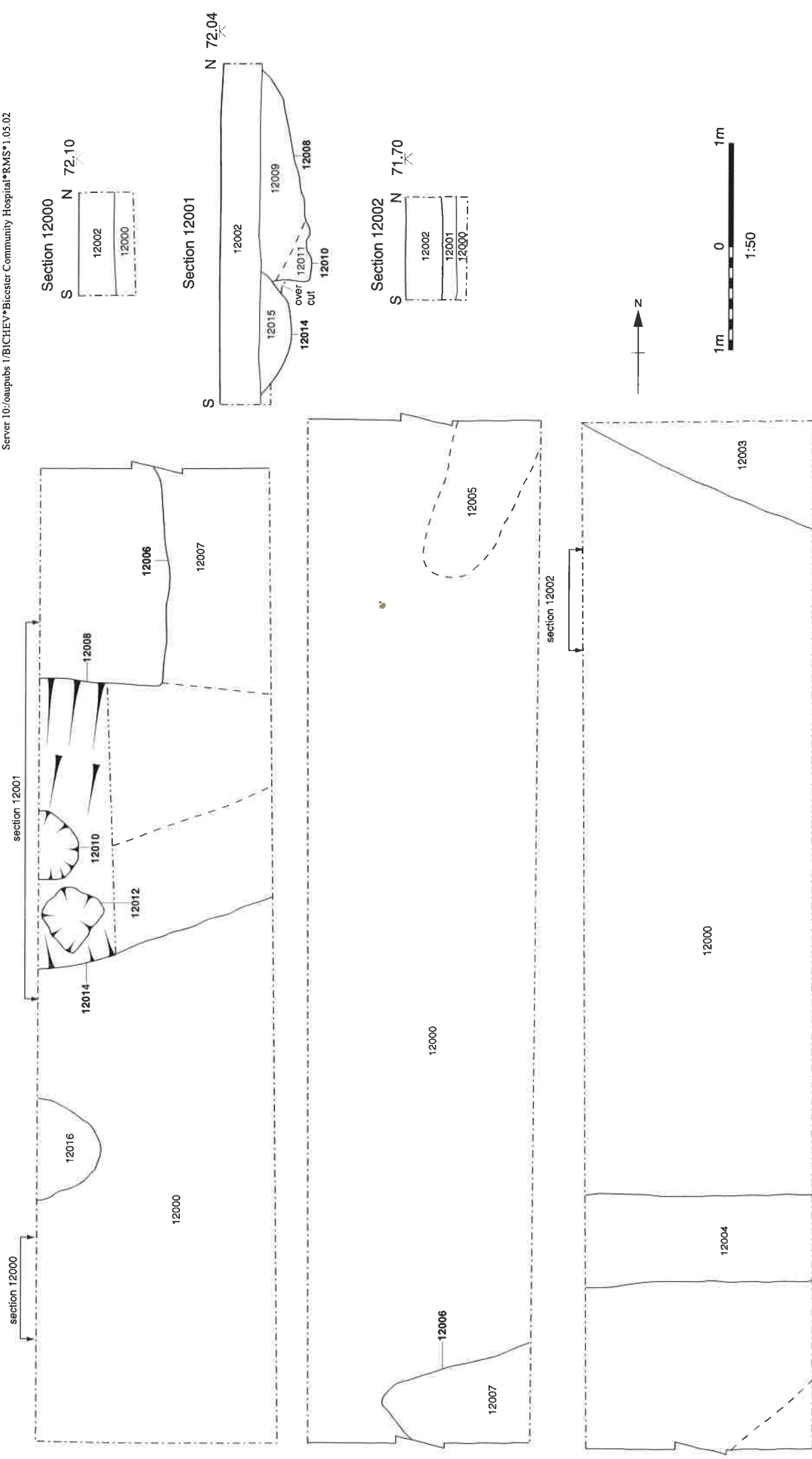


Figure 9: Trench 12, Plan and Sections

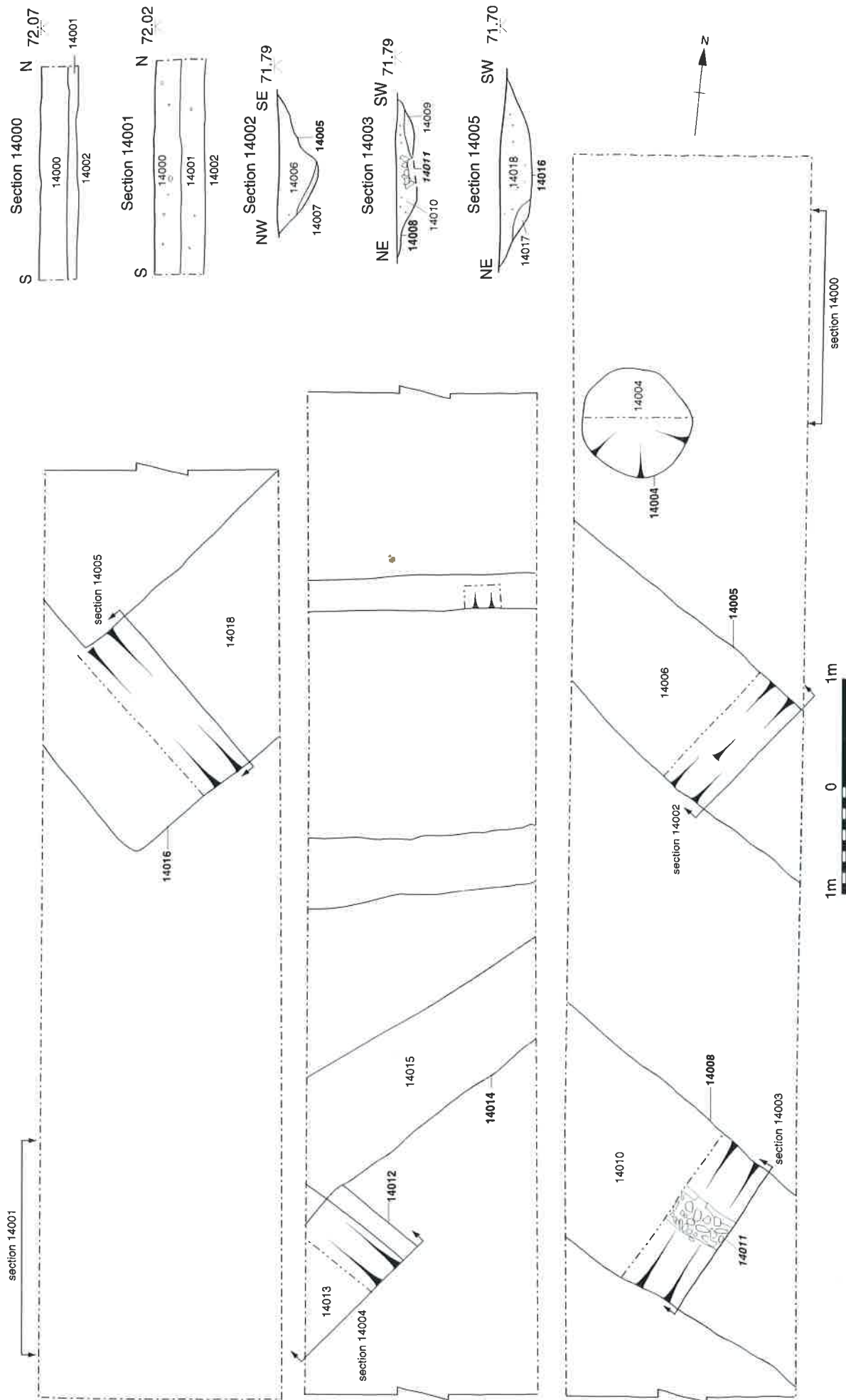


Figure 10: Trench 14, Plan and Sections



Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk



Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster LA1 1TF

t: (0044) 01524 848666
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627

Registered Office:

Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES