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Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Woolmarket Car Park, Cirencester

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SUMMARY

In June 2006 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the Woolmarket Car Park, Cirencester (NGR SP02580203) on behalf of P. H. Gillingham Group Ltd., following a DBA commissioned in 2005. The work comprised 14 test pits, mostly 1.5 metres square, although two were considerably larger. The site was a level, tarmac-surfaced car park but had historically been the rear gardens of properties on Dyer Street, a major medieval thoroughfare. The evaluation generally revealed deposits at levels between 1 m and 1.48 m below the present surface. In Trench 4 the deposits were at 0.86 m down. Borehole evidence indicated that the total thickness of archaeological deposits was 2.9 metres. The upper strata seem to have formed a surface in medieval times, through which features of medieval and later date had been cut, disturbing the Roman levels. These deposits have been interpreted as Roman demolition levels reworked in medieval times. This is supported by the observation that few of the contexts examined contained exclusively Roman material, and the larger objects such as roofing tile were broken in relatively small fragments. However, they were only examined in a limited way, because of the need to leave open the possibility of preservation, and this interpretation is, therefore, not certain. The contexts were predominantly the top of rubble from demolished buildings, covered with later medieval and post-medieval garden soil or dumped and reworked rubble. Limestone walls, and mortar and limestone floor surfaces were also encountered and a tessellated surface was recorded in the side of a robber trench in the north west corner of the site. A medieval pit was excavated in the south-east corner of the site and a possible medieval wall was recorded in the south corner. An inter-insulae road postulated as running NE-SW along the western boundary of the site was not revealed. However, post-medieval metallised surfaces and associated wall lines were exposed. These are likely to relate to the pre-World War II road layout.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In June 2006 OA carried out a field evaluation at the Woolmarket Car Park, Cirencester (NGR SP025020) on behalf of P. H. Gillingham Group Ltd. The work was in respect of a proposal for the development of the car park for commercial and residential use. Following discussions with English Heritage and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Archaeology Service, OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, OA 2006) outlining how it would deal with any exposed archaeological remains. As the site is scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Gloucestershire no 361), Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was obtained from the Dept. of Culture, Media & Sport and the WSI was approved by English Heritage. The development site is situated at The Waterloo in the centre of Cirencester and is 0.082 hectares in area (Figs. 1, 2 and 3).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology consists of Jurassic cornbrash limestone overlain by up to 8 m of river terrace gravel at 110 m above OD. Cirencester lies in the valley bottom and the river Churn runs through the walled area of the Roman town. The site is set

on ground rising slightly from the valley bottom itself. The site is currently occupied by a car park which was earlier the rear gardens of properties on Dyer Street, and a small part of the fields north of them. The current street frontage is the result of a considerable alteration to boundaries and road lines carried out after the Second World War.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study (OA 2005), the results of which are summarised below. A GPR survey was also carried out prior to the evaluation. The site itself had previously produced no archaeological evidence, although there are several known sites with archaeological remains adjacent to the development site.
- 1.3.2 The area of proposed development lies just north-west of the centre of the former Roman town of Corinium, within the insulated area of the town, in insula XVII, not far from the important public buildings of the Forum and Basilica. In modern terms the site is north of Dyer Street, lying to the rear of numbers 19 to 27, although the site is now approached from The Waterloo. The area occupied by the car park is part of the scheduled area of the town, SAM 361.
- 1.3.3 The archaeological potential for the Roman period was thought very high. All excavations around the area of proposed development have produced significant remains from this period. Evidence of a mosaic pavement and associated building was revealed by the construction of the Argos Store on Dyer Street, south of the site, in 1972 (McWhirr 1973, 201). North of the site, investigations have revealed the existence of well-preserved structural remains of Roman date (Rawes and Wills 1998).
- 1.3.4 For all other periods the archaeological potential was thought to be low.
- 1.3.5 The site is on the fringes of the medieval town and indeed of the town until the mid 20th century, the northern boundaries of the properties on the site forming the edge of the pre-20th century built-up area. The site appears to have been a garden or rear yard for all its documented post-Roman life until recently.
- 1.3.6 The site is shown on historic maps of the late 18th and early to mid 19th centuries and again in the first large scale Ordnance Survey map of 1884 and is shown as rear gardens. The OS map seems to indicate a degree of formal garden layout.
- 1.3.7 In order to further elucidate the results of the desk-based assessment, a non-invasive GPR survey was undertaken within the proposal area (see section 7.3).
- 1.3.8 The geophysical survey identified the presence of a number of anomalies within the proposal area that suggest the survival of below ground remains of variable potential.
- 1.3.9 Comparison of these with the historic mapping made it nearly certain that the great majority of these reflect recent events, such as the pre-Second World War frontage of

The Waterloo (earlier Bull Lane) and features of the gardens that existed here and are mapped in varying detail on the 1795 Hall map and the first OS edition of 1884. It seemed unlikely that any of the clear responses from the survey would be deeper than 1.5 metres and might be shallower. The relevant responses start to appear at about 300-400 mm, to some extent masked by the inchoate noise from the car park make-up and are clearest at 800-900 mm deep. The depths suggested are based on assumptions about the signal velocity and the expected depths extrapolated from nearby excavations.

- 1.3.10 A Roman street is conventionally proposed forming the north-west side of insula XVII (Wacher 1974 *inter alia*) and this ought to fall under the north-west side of the survey area. A response here is visible at an appropriate depth in the GPR (Arrow Geophysics 2006, Fig. 8).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank Peter Noest of P. H. Gillingham Group, and Nigel Maydew, Project Manager for PHG, for their help and interest in the project. Charles Parry of GCC Archaeology Service suggested the form of the evaluation and approved the WSI. Both he and Melanie Barge, the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the area, were helpful in expediting the completion of bureaucratic procedures, especially SMC. The evaluation was run by Nick Pankhurst of OA and managed by Peter Davenport. Welcome support was available from Dan Poore of OA.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.
- 2.1.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.1.3 To establish the likely impact of proposed development on any archaeological remains present.
- 2.1.4 To determine the potential for preservation in situ of significant archaeological remains, should they be present.
- 2.1.5 To make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Site specific

- 2.2.1 To establish the nature and state of preservation of archaeological remains beneath the existing Woolmarket Car Park.

- 2.2.2 To establish the nature and level of the top of the late Roman archaeological horizon and the presence/absence and thickness of any overlying 'dark earth' horizon.
- 2.2.3 To evaluate the potential for the survival of undisturbed dark earth, and assess the depth to which post-medieval re-working of the dark earth has occurred.
- 2.2.4 In addition, provision was made for the carrying out of engineer's plate bearing tests in four of the archaeological test pits during excavation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The work required the excavation of twelve 1.5 m square test pits and a 4.5m and a 6 m long trench in the car park (Figs. 2 and 3).
- 3.1.2 The overburden of tarmac and hardcore make up was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB back hoe excavator supplemented by a wheeled 14 ton 360° mechanical excavator, both fitted with a toothless bucket. The latter was mostly used in conjunction with the engineer's investigations. It was thought, from the evidence of previous excavation nearby, that the test pits would have to be stepped, or "boxed", out for safety reasons. The boxing only affected the overburden of 19th century garden soil, other recent deposits and the car park make up.
- 3.1.3 In some trenches archaeological deposits were shallower than expected and appeared at the step level (e.g., Trenches 11 and 13, see Fig. 10 for Tr. 11). The entire area of these trenches was cleaned and recorded archaeologically and excavation essentially stopped at this point. Some features that were cut into the general level of the deposits were sample excavated to try to help elucidate the character of the stratigraphic sequence. This latter decision was agreed by the County Archaeologist.
- 3.1.4 Where the cultivation soils were deeper than the step they were excavated in 0.10 m spits until other layers were encountered. This technique was intended to show where any Roman material ceased to be contaminated with later finds in the absence of very clear stratigraphical demarcation. Excavation was intended to sample these putative "dark earths" in the test pits but excavation beyond the top of the Roman deposits was not otherwise part of the WSI or SMC consent.
- 3.1.5 The likely date or status of potential dark earth layers was not always clear during excavation. Layers thought to be immediately over late Roman layers were sampled as in the WSI, some others were removed by machine, especially in the first few trenches to be opened. In all but two of these, however, sample excavation of the potential dark earth was possible.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The deposits revealed in the base of the test pits were cleaned by hand and the revealed features recorded. In some cases where the character of the deposits

revealed was uncertain, a limited number of features cut into the general level were excavated. Where there were no such features to facilitate such investigations, a sample of the uppermost levels was removed archaeologically to the same end (e.g., Trench 5, Figs. 5 and 6). Finds were collected from the surface of the Roman deposits and in the usual way from excavated contexts.

- 3.2.2 All archaeological features were planned at 1:50 and where excavated their sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. The sides of trenches were drawn or sample sections drawn. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. The spoil from excavation and parts of the excavated surfaces were scanned with a metal detector to increase recovery levels. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 Primarily, long-lived continually mixed cultivation soils or other mixed deposits were encountered and environmental sampling was not considered appropriate.

3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 The archaeological results from each trench are described individually but where results in adjacent trenches were similar they are described together.
- 3.5.2 Section 5 contains a description of all archaeological observations within each trench, and includes some individual context descriptions. Archaeological context information is summarised in the trench inventory table (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The site is located on river terrace gravels but these were not reached in the excavations. However, borehole samples taken by the engineers at the same time showed that the total depth of archaeological deposit was just over 2.9 metres from the tarmac and that these sat on alluvial gravels and clays which were not bottomed at 4.0 m (log recorded by OA on site 13/06/06). The log for Borehole 2 started at 1.2 m below the surface as the ground was excavated to this depth to avoid services. The log for Borehole 1 was not made as the core was not preserved above 2.9 metres or so.
- 4.1.2 The excavated soils below the car park make-up and the top of Roman levels in the eastern part of the site were very humic dark brown loams with a high organic content. At the west end of the car park the overlying soils were much more disturbed and

mixed, clayey with inclusions of brick and stone and with more activity in the way of drains, gullies and at least one well. These two conditions were clearly demarcated by the post-medieval boundary wall that ran just below the surface across the centre of the site and was recorded in Trenches 9, 10 and 11, (Fig. 3) and was the property boundary between 21 and 23, Dyer Street, until the mid 20th century.

- 4.1.3 Site conditions were generally dry, but the ground remained damp throughout. As long as it remained damp, colour and texture definition were good and easily determined. When the ground dried out the excavated surface was sprayed with water to retain this dampness for recording.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 Roman deposits were revealed throughout the site in the form of demolition layers, surfaces and walls. Medieval activity was highlighted through the presence of pits and robbing trenches and possibly one wall as well as the reworking of the Roman deposits. Post-medieval deposits encountered included walls, drains, pits and ditches, and metalised surfaces. The entire site was covered with 0.3 to 0.5 m of hard core and tarmac.

5 RESULTS: STRATIFIED DEPOSITS

5.1 Trenches 1-4

- 5.1.1 The trenches were between 0.6 m and 1.3 m deep to the step, with the upper level of the Roman deposits being nearest the modern ground level at 108.88 m OD in Trench 4 (or 0.86 m below car park surface - context 406) and at the deepest between 1.23 m (108.67 m OD) and 1.29 m (108.48 m OD) in Trenches 1-3; that is: contexts 104/5, 204 (Fig. 5) and 330 - the loamy soils immediately above the structural deposits. The latter were up to another 0.50 m below the top of these soils.

Trenches 1-2

- 5.1.2 In Trenches 1 and 2 demolition or collapse deposits (106, 107 and 205, 206) were revealed below the silty loam soils in the 1.5 metres square lower part of the test pits (105 and 204, Fig. 5). The exposed part of context 106 was 0.2 m wide and contained a high concentration of roof tile, perhaps indicating a collapsed roof. Two broken fragments of chisel-worked stone blocks were recorded from this context, of typical but not exclusively Roman style (Appendix 10, 106). No pottery was recovered from these deposits. Layers 205 and 206 contained a high percentage of limestone rubble.
- 5.1.3 A wall (207) ran on a NW-SE line in the western corner of trench 2 (Fig. 5). Its full width was not seen but it was at least 0.5 m wide and it was constructed of lime mortared limestone blocks. A partial section of its NW end in a small disturbance showed no signs of a plaster finish to the NE face at this level.

Trench 3

- 5.1.4 Pit 310 cut soil layer 303 within Trench 3. 303 was the first probable dark earth layer and was sealed by 302, a later, post-medieval garden soil. The pit was 0.84 m deep below the top of 303 and contained two stony clay fills (305, 306). The latest pottery recovered from the pit fills dated from the 17th to 19th century, but residual medieval pottery was also recovered from these layers. The base of 310 was slightly excavated into 307, by 0.1 m. This latter layer was a dark silt with much limestone rubble, and may represent a truncated Roman horizon. The deposits revealed in the sides of pit 310 also appeared to be pit fills, perhaps suggesting concentrated post-medieval, and possibly medieval, pitting within this area (Fig. 4). In the southern corner of the trench, pit 308 was revealed. This feature was planned but not excavated. No finds were recovered from its silty, uppermost fill (309).

Trench 4

- 5.1.5 Another probable wall (408) was recorded on the southern side of Trench 4 (Fig. 7, section 401). It was covered by a limestone and mortar demolition rubble (407). This made the alignment of the structure difficult to determine. It is possible that 408, with a width of 0.6 m is more than one structure. What was thought to be a Roman soil horizon (405) was noted overlying these deposits, but this also overlay context 406 which contained 11th to 13th century pottery and a 17th century coin, through which a clearly post-medieval feature, 403, cut (Fig. 6).

5.2 Trenches 5-8

- 5.2.1 The uppermost archaeological deposits in this series of trenches were at from 0.84 m below the modern tarmac in Trench 8 (108.83 m OD) to 1.0 to 1.10 m below in the other three (108.87 to 108.73 m OD, Figs 6 and 7).

Trench 5

- 5.2.2 A series of medieval and post-medieval features truncated Roman deposits within Trench 5, making this one of the more complex of stratigraphic sequences on the site (Figs. 5 and 6).
- 5.2.3 The earliest context was mortared rubble 512 which seemed to represent a wall or other structure. It was capped by mortary rubble demolition or collapse layers 513 and 511. Together these layers were 0.9 m thick (Fig. 7). These deposits appear to be Roman. Layer 513 yielded pottery of Roman date (no closer dating possible).
- 5.2.4 Cut through these layers and aligned NE-SW was a large feature (507) which was probably a robber trench, filled as it was by limestone rubble, chippings and silt (508) (Fig. 7). Its fill 508 contained Minety ware of the 12th to the 15th century, so this may be a medieval robber trench.
- 5.2.5 Cut 507 was cut by another feature, interpreted as a ditch (505) which itself was seen in section to be a recut of an earlier feature at the south-west end of the test pit (509

and its fill 510). This recut was not visible at the north-east end, however, and 506 and 510 were dug together (and numbered 506 on the section, Fig. 7).

- 5.2.6 Pottery of 12th to 15th century date was recovered from 510 but the pottery from 506 was 18th century. Such a difference in date of a recut is unlikely and the medieval pottery here is probably residual from 508, cut by these two features.

- 5.2.7 Visible in the base of the step, outside the deeper excavation, wall 512 ran on an E-W alignment in the southern corner of Trench 5 (Fig. 5). A small sondage was excavated to clarify the stratigraphical position of this wall. Unlike the cut features in the deeper part of the trench, this wall followed what appears to be the Roman alignment and is probably Roman. No construction cut was visible but the structure was butted/overlain by a soil 504 from which 11th to 13th century pottery was recovered. This means the wall could be contemporary with 511/12 etc but is at least earlier than robber trench 507.

Trench 6

- 5.2.8 In Trench 6, the lowest layer was an ashy occupation layer 607 containing no datable finds. This was covered by a demolition deposit (606) which was recorded in the side of a modern pipe trench which was excavated as a sondage, with a depth of 0.3 m. This 0.5 m wide pipe trench bisected the test pit on a N-S alignment (Fig. 4). Fourth century pottery was recovered from this layer. Above 606 were potential dark earth deposits with an upper surface at a depth of 108.44 m above OD. A probable pit (609) was planned but not excavated in the SW corner of the trench, cut through the dark earth. Pottery from the top silty fill (610) of this feature dated to the 3rd to 4th century.

Trench 7

- 5.2.9 In Trench 7 rubble layer 703 was reached at 0.9 to 1.0 m below the modern car park surface (108.81 m OD). This deposit extended across the deeper part of the excavation except where cut by linear feature 707 (Fig. 8). The latter occurred at the same level and was excavated to 0.3 m but not bottomed. It contained a silty, mortary fill (705) from which finds of late 12th to 15th century date were recovered. It is most likely a robber trench. The dark cultivation soil above this (702) contained 17th and 19th century pottery.

Trench 8

- 5.2.10 Trench 8 also contained a similar demolition rubble layer 803. This deposit sloped up towards the centre of the trench with a thickness of 0.5 m. It contained some fragments of human skull (Appendix 4) but no other finds. Below 803 a mortary rubble, possible a demolition deposit (804) was encountered at a depth of 107.91 m above OD. Post-medieval limestone wall footing 805 was aligned E-W at the northern end the trench. This wall was also recorded in Trench 11 to the east as context 1113 (see below).

5.3 Trenches 9-12

- 5.3.1 The trenches were stepped out at between 0.63 m and 0.90 m below the present ground surface (109.14 m OD to 109.07 m OD, Figs 9-11). Trenches 9 and 10 contained a similar sequence of both 19th century and earlier cultivation soils. Trench 11 however was subject to a greater degree of post-medieval disturbance, as was the case with Trench 12 and Trenches 13 and 14 on the west of the site (see below).

Trench 9

- 5.3.2 In Trench 9 a Roman wall, and associated floor make-ups were found at a depth of 108.29 m OD, or 1.48 m below the present surface (Fig. 9). The wall (911) was aligned NW-SE wall and was 0.35 m wide. The SW face was finished with painted plaster. Against wall 911 there was a thin compacted lime mortar floor layer 913, which survived to a width of 0.75 m. It overlay a floor make up layer (916), of decayed mortar and gravel which was probably originally concrete. Layer 913 was also partially masked by a layer of yellow-brown, sandy mortar, demolition/collapse material (912). From this layer painted plaster fragments were recovered (Appendix 8 and section 6.9). Layer 916 survived further to the south than 913, the latter having been dug away by shallow inter-cutting pits 914 and 915. These were 0.3 m deep. No distinction could be made between the fills of pits 914 and 915 and the overlying cultivation soil 904. Therefore, the fills were given the same number, 920, from which 11th to 13th century pottery was recovered. Pit 918 was revealed at the base of 914 and 915. This feature was planned but not excavated and no finds were recovered from the silty fill (919) of this feature.
- 5.3.3 A further elongated pit (903) was located in the southern corner of Trench 9. This feature was seen to cut cultivation soil 904, and was 0.6 m deep. The plan, Fig. 9, shows it undersized as it was planned after its sloping upper sides had been removed. Its original excavation was probably the cause of the removal of the east end of wall 911 and the truncation of 918 (Fig. 9). Green-glazed pottery of 12th to 13th century date was recovered from greenish, silty fill 910 of this feature. A NE-SW aligned post-medieval wall footing was revealed against the western edge of the trench. This footing was also recorded in Trenches 10 and 11 to the north (see below).

Trench 10

- 5.3.4 An ashy, probable occupation layer was encountered within Trench 10 at a depth of 108.82 m above OD and below the dark cultivation soils (1.04 metres below the present surface). From this layer (1010) which occupied the full width of the deeper trench, pottery dated from the 12th to the 15th century was recovered. This layer appeared to be cut by inter-cutting pits 1018 and 1019. These features were not excavated and contained fills 1008 and 1007 respectively. Post-medieval wall footing 1005, revealed on a NE-SW alignment, was also seen in Trench 9 to the south and Trench 11 to the north. Other post-medieval activity was encountered in Trench 10 in

the form of NW-SE wall footing 1006, which abutted wall 1005, and modern mortar spread 1004 to the west of the trench.

Trench 11

- 5.3.5 Within Trench 11 the sequence of cultivation soils encountered within the trenches to the west of the site was not present. Post-medieval activity within this trench had resulted in the truncation of these soils (Fig. 10).
- 5.3.6 In the far southern corner of Trench 11 the earliest layers survived as fragments under and around the post-medieval structures and features described below. A tiny strip of a rough, tessellated surface made up of small limestone tesserae (1114) overlay a mortar make-up 1102 and was 0.5 m long. The level of 108.92 m OD for this possible tessellated floor (1.02 m below present ground surface) is a little high but not incompatible with a Roman date, and has survived the massive disruption at the higher levels caused by the activity described below. It is considerably higher than the floor in Trench 14 (see below), but this has no necessary significance.
- 5.3.7 Trench 11 otherwise contained a very high level of post-medieval activity, masking the underlying Roman deposits (Fig. 10). Layer 1102 was cut by pits 1110 and 1108, and by construction the cut 1128 for wall 1113. Also cutting this layer on the north of wall 1112 was the construction cut (1136) for structure 1115. Layer 1102 formed the southern side of structure 1115 below wall 1112, its re-use due to the solid consolidated nature of the deposit.
- 5.3.8 Post-medieval wall 1113 ran on a NE-SW alignment, continuing in Trenches 10 and 9 to the south. In Trench 11 this footing appeared to be overlain by a series of metallings and surfaces (1123, 1122 1121 and 1127). E-W wall footing 1112, which was 0.7 m wide, and its construction cut (1135) were butted\overlain by wall 1113 (Fig. 10). It was also butted by structure 1115, a tank or cistern 1.7 m square on the north side of the wall, whose construction cut (1136) truncated a series of earlier deposits. Wall 1112 was cut by a more recent pipe in a narrow stone culvert (1116) which emptied into tank 1115 (Fig. 10). Circular structure 1120, which looked superficially like a stone well-lining, also truncated earlier deposits and is likely to be a 19th century garden feature.
- 5.3.9 A series of post-medieval metallated surfaces were revealed at the northern end of the trench (1105, 1106). Surface 1105 produced pottery of 17th to 19th century date and was cut by pit 1104 which was 0.7 m wide. Metalling 1006 was cut by substantial pit 1110, which was 2.5 m wide. 1110 also cut fill 1107 of pit 1108 in the southern corner of the trench. Fill 1107 produced pottery of 11th to 13th century date and pit 1108's stratigraphic position allows the possibility it is indeed medieval.

Trench 12

- 5.3.10 Within Trench 12 the lower courses of a wall (1229) were revealed at a depth of 109.097 m above OD (0.92m below the present car park surface), aligned NE-SW. This structure was overlain by a series of post-medieval cultivation soils and rubble

deposits (1225, 1221, 1218), finds from which suggest considerable reworking of deposits in this area in the 19th century (Fig. 11). Second and third century pottery was found in 1225 suggesting deeper disturbance into Roman layers or complex reworking.

- 5.3.11 Wall 1229 was 1 m wide and constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks. There was a suggestion of a heavily degraded, sandy clay mortar bond, and its construction cut (1228) was seen to cut a dark grey, loamy, cultivation soil (1234). The structure was overlain/butted by demolition spread 1230 that contained a large number of triangular peg-holed stone roof tiles. From deposit 1230 came pottery of 11th to 13th century date but the underlying cultivation soil (1234), predating the wall 1229, produced pottery dated to the 16th to 17th century. This suggests a post-medieval date for this wall, but the soil (1234) may have been in use and open to later pottery for a long period and may date the later use and demolition; the medieval pottery overlying it is clearly residual. The wall *may*, nonetheless, be medieval in origin.

5.4 Trenches 13 and 14

- 5.4.1 Trenches 13 and 14 were subject to heavy post-medieval disturbance. In both trenches the cultivation soils present in the majority of the trenches to the east were largely absent.

Trench 13

- 5.4.2 Within Trench 13 deposits earlier than the 20th century were encountered at a depth of 108.81 m above OD (1.16 m below the present car park surface). A spread of mortar and rubble (1328) extended across the whole of the trench. It was interpreted as a demolition spread. Through this layer a number of features were cut. Pit 1302 was 0.5 m deep and 2.2 m wide and clay silt fill 1303 contained pottery dating to the 4th century, presumably residual. Pit 1322 was 0.85 m wide. It was planned, but not excavated (Fig. 3).
- 5.4.3 A number of post-medieval and modern features also cut demolition spread 1328, such as pit 1319, whose fill 1308 produced 17th to 19th century pottery. Construction cut 1305, for the limestone rubble lining of well 1307, was cut from just below car park make-up (1301), contained pottery from the 16th century or later, and was back filled with modern, graded, construction gravel (1308).
- 5.4.4 Underlying deposit 1328, mortar spread 1326 was 4.5 m wide and 0.05 m thick. This apparent concentrated demolition material overlay a dark grey, clay silt layer 1327, a possible occupation deposit that was 2.7 m wide. Also overlain by 1326 was a compacted lime mortar layer 1325. This deposit was 1.5 m wide and was interpreted as a floor layer.

Trench 14

- 5.4.5 Recent disturbance within Trench 14 was indicated by the presence of a layer of geofabric revealed at a depth of 109.04 m above OD (0.77 m below the present car park

surface). Below this disturbance were cultivation soils 1403 and 1410, the latter producing pottery of 12th to 15th century date.

- 5.4.6 The excavation of the fill of a robber trench (1409) revealed a series of occupation and floor layers, in the side of the trench (1413-1417, 1419-1425, and 1427-1430 – Fig. 12). Of these deposits, 1414 was a limestone flag floor, most likely associated with wall 1426, as the SW face of the structure was plastered to the same level. 1418 was a compacted mortar floor, the upper surface of which was reddened through heat action. Layer 1430 was a tessellated floor made up of red and white clay tesserae at a depth of 108.18m above OD (1.63 m below the present car park surface). Pottery was recovered from 1427 dating to the late 2nd to 3rd centuries. A 4th century coin was recovered from occupation layer 1413 that overlay floor layer 1414.
- 5.4.7 At one end of the robber trench, the wall itself still survived (1426), on a NW-SE alignment (Fig. 12). This well-built, lime mortared, limestone block wall had a plastered and painted NE face and was 0.54 m wide. Removal of the robber trench fill west of the surviving wall showed a minimum depth of 0.75 m of wall still standing.
- 5.4.8 To the north of wall 1426 demolition/collapse deposit 1412 contained toppled masonry and plaster suggesting the wall had fallen to the north. However, to the south of the wall, a similar demolition/collapse deposit (1411) was revealed. This was overlain by a deposit of dark grey silty loam, a possible dark-earth (1410 and 1403).
- 5.4.9 At the SW end, these layers and wall 1426 was overlain by a probably post-medieval metallated surface, 1406, through which pit 1405 was cut (Fig. 12). This pit was 0.1 m deep and 1.3 m wide.
- 5.4.10 The robber trench fill of wall 1426 (1408) contained pottery dating to the 19th century (this may be intrusive or wrongly attributed given the degree of disturbance in the immediate vicinity) Unsurprisingly, much of the painted plaster was recovered from this layer. This robbing was seen to extend under the eastern end of the trench, where it was itself subject to modern disturbance. A section of the fill of the robber trench was removed to inspect the stratigraphy adjacent to the wall (see above).

6 ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 Summaries of the artefact and ecofact reports can be found below. Full reports/assessments and references can be found in Appendices 1-15.

6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of some 479 sherds of pottery, 6.35 kg in weight dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

- 6.2.2 A total 68 contexts yielded pottery, most of the groups being very small with only three producing 20 or more sherds. Despite an obviously very high level of residuality the pottery was moderately well-preserved in terms of surface condition and with an average sherd size of 13 g.

6.3 Roman Pottery

- 6.3.1 Some 249 sherds of Roman pottery are present weighing 3242 g, just over half the recovered assemblage at 52% of the total.
- 6.3.2 Most of this however, appears to be redeposited in medieval or later contexts. Just 17 contexts produced exclusively Roman material, a total 72 sherds, 29% of the total Roman assemblage.
- 6.3.3 Although the pottery is largely of late Roman date there are odd sherds of potentially 1st to 2nd-century material present, notably a fragmented sherd of Campanian black sand amphora or flagon from layer 802, some oxidised flagon sherds and a piece of Savernake ware.
- 6.3.4 The assemblage, although moderately diverse, is dominated by sherds of Dorset black burnished ware and Oxfordshire colour-coated ware. In addition, there are several sherds from regional or continental imports, for example, New Forest colour-coated ware, Oxfordshire whiteware and parchment ware, late Roman shelly ware, South-west white-slipped ware, African amphora, Gaulish amphora, Baetican amphora and samian. Local wares mainly comprise grey and black wares probably largely from the Wiltshire industries and some Severn Valley ware.
- 6.3.5 The 17 contexts with exclusively Roman dated material seem to include groups of later 2nd to 3rd century date through to 4th century.

6.4 Medieval and later pottery

- 6.4.1 The medieval assemblage amounts to some 177 sherds weighing 2418 g. In total some 28 contexts appear to date to the medieval period.
- 6.4.2 The medieval assemblage is dominated by Cotswold limestone-tempered ware, Cirencester fabric 200 (cf. Vince 1984), Mellor (1994) fabric OXAC. Traditionally this ware is considered to date from the 11th century through to the 13th century. All the sherds appear to come from jars or cooking pots, as evidenced by burnt residues or sooting.
- 6.4.3 The individual occurrences are very low and thus it is difficult to determine whether the presence of this ware on the site is exclusively of medieval date or whether there may potentially be some late Saxon material. Many of the medieval contexts have more Roman than medieval material.
- 6.4.4 Also present is some quantity are sherds of Minety ware, some of which carry a glaze. Vessels are again mainly jars but there are some sherds of glazed pitcher

present. This industry has a time span from the later 12th century through to the 15th century.

- 6.4.5 Glazed jug is very much in the minority with just a few sherds including one piece of possible Ham Green Bristol ware and Laverstock ware. The sherds are very small.
- 6.4.6 Some 53 sherds of post-medieval date are present, 687 g in weight. These are distributed across some 26 contexts.
- 6.4.7 The post-medieval assemblage is largely dominated by glazed red earthenware, probably mainly from the Ashton Keynes kilns (17th-19th century).
- 6.4.8 Other wares present include single sherds of tin glazed ware and porcelain, along with unglazed flowerpot, transfer printed 'china', creamware, stonewares, iron-glazed kitchenwares and salt glazed whiteware.

6.5 Coins

- 6.5.1 Some 35 copper alloy coins of late Roman date were recovered, plus a small plain disc which may have served as a coin, and two post-Roman coins, a 'rose' farthing of Charles II (1625-1649) and a farthing of William III (1694-1702).
- 6.5.2 The coins were scanned rapidly, identifications undertaken where possible and a note made of those pieces which require cleaning to enable identification or allow improved identification. Thirteen of the 35 Roman coins fall into this category. The coins vary widely in condition, from almost mint in two or three cases to heavily worn and/or encrusted in others.
- 6.5.3 All the Roman coins are of late 3rd-4th century date. The breakdown by approximate issue periods or more generalised date ranges is as follows:

260-296	5
317-330	2
330-348	14
348-364	2
364-378	5
388-402	1
4C	5
3-4C	1

- 6.5.4 None of the later 3rd century coins is closely identifiable at present, although at least one is a barbarous radiate. The two early 4th century pieces are both *Providentiae* types. Coins of the period 330-348 dominate the assemblage, and include the usual types (*Gloria exercitus*, *Urbs Roma*, *Constantinopolis* and *Victoriae dd Augg q nn*), mostly from the mint of Trier, as would be expected in this period. A regular *Gloria Romanorum* issue of Magnentius (AD 350-351) is the most striking individual coin in the assemblage. The later 4th century coins are generally in poor condition, and the

identification of a *Victoria Auggg* type of the latest period commonly represented in Britain (AD 388-402) is not absolutely certain.

- 6.5.5 Overall the assemblage appears typical of material from Cirencester, allowing for the fact that excavation was confined to the very latest deposits in the sequence.
- 6.5.6 All but two coins were from post-Roman, often post-medieval deposits, but are unlikely to have travelled far from their point of loss.

6.6 Building Material

- 6.6.1 Ceramic and stone building material was recovered amounting to 479 pieces of CBM and 96 of stone. The majority of the material came from medieval/post-medieval contexts with relatively small quantities from demolition layers or other deposits. The majority of the stone material would not be out of place in Roman contexts, but little if any is diagnostic or unequivocally of Roman date, apart from the wall veneers and the possible tesserae.

6.7 Stone

- 6.7.1 The stone collected on site fell into three broad categories: roofing material, wall stone (structural and decorative), and sampled fragments of no interpretable shape or character. In addition, a small number of tesserae were recovered (see Appendix 10 for details).
- 6.7.2 The roofing material was mostly broken slabs of pennant sandstone with a typical thickness of 18 to 20 mm. 15 fragments of this were identified, only two with nail holes. The shape was irrecoverable in all but one, one of those with a nail hole, the original edge of which formed about 25% of a circle. This is a very odd shape for a Roman roof tile.
- 6.7.3 Five other fragments were considered probably roof tiles, and these were made from a finer grained, hard grey sandstone with a tendency to laminate finely.
- 6.7.4 A particularly interesting set of stone slabs, all but one broken on all edges, are interpreted as wall veneer, or stone wall tile. Nine of the ten recovered are of a fine grained, smooth, grey-white limestone, one piece of which exhibits the curvilinear darker grey patterning of forest marble, the others plain, or with darker *laminae* in the thickness. The tenth is fine grained oolite. The largest piece, with a surviving edge, is 290 mm long and this is probably approaching an original size of one Roman foot. The panels are extremely well finished and planar, and the largest one has remains of paint or whitewash on one face.
- 6.7.5 The wall stone fragments are mostly spalls and fragments of oolitic or fossiliferous limestone, of local origin. One block of oolitic limestone shows two adjacent faces of narrow chisel working. The fossiliferous material is rather coarse and may derive from the local Roman quarries at Cirencester.

- 6.7.6 Only four pieces that may be tesserae were recovered. By chance these are each of the most common materials: red ceramic roof tile (probably from a tegula – 30 mm thick), reddish grey pennant stone, white lias limestone (the only piece of this material seen on site) and a piece of yellowish oolite.
- 6.7.7 The great majority of this material came from the medieval and post-medieval layers, as few Roman layers were actually excavated, suggesting robbing and demolition, as well as re-sorting of contexts in those periods. Roof tiles and wall veneers were found in contexts with only Roman finds, but these were also quite possibly reworked.

6.8 Ceramic Building Material

- 6.8.1 A total of 479 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 28,951 g were recovered from the archaeological investigations. The assemblage is Roman in type (with the exception of 2 fragments of medieval ridge tile). The material has been briefly scanned and fragments from recognisable tile types have been recorded on to a database together with contextual information, weight and any complete dimensions (Appendix 5).
- 6.8.2 Evidence of roofing including imbrex and tegula fragments are represented in the assemblage, flooring materials include fragments from large, thick tiles, bricks and tessera. Box tiles fragments with their characteristic combing pattern indicate the presence of a heating system. No attempt has been made at this stage to analyse the fabric types present but many of the fragments appear to originate from the Minety kilns in Gloucester and are identifiable by the characteristic swirling poorly mixed orange and cream clay or the particularly hard fired dark red fabric with a dark grey core.
- 6.8.3 Roofing material comprising imbrices and tegulae fragments made up nearly 50% of the total assemblage. Flooring material comprising large flat plain tiles, bricks and tesserae made up nearly 32% (by weight) of the total assemblage. A total of 9 fragments of box tile (tubuli) with traces of a combed pattern or key for plaster were recovered, indicating the existence of a building with a heating system.
- 6.8.4 Other notable objects include a possible fragment from a voussoir, a rough fragment with a crude perforation through it that may be part of an oven plate (no other fired clay was recovered from the site) and a possible fragment from a lamp chimney (see Timby 1991, 25, fig 5 No.81).
- 6.8.5 The items from both categories suggest the presence of high status buildings on or near the site.

6.9 Plaster

- 6.9.1 The relatively high status of the buildings on site is also shown by the wall plaster, much of it painted, both recovered and left in situ on the site.

- 6.9.2 Painted plaster was noted in situ on wall 911 and most of the painted plaster was collected from the demolition layer associated with this wall, 912 and the soil layers above it, 908 and 909. It was also seen on wall 1426 and the layers around it and in Trench 13.
- 6.9.3 The plaster from Trench 14 was in plain colours, examples of dark red, white and pink were recovered.
- 6.9.4 The plaster from Trench 9 suggested a higher quality, in that plain pink, ochre and dark red were represented, as well as pink with red spots (representing the look of porphyry) and one fragment with evidence for a blue panel bounded with a complex band of a bright red colour framed with thin pink lines with thinner still white lines on either side of them. The whole band was 2.5 cm broad. The fragment was only 40 x 35 mm.
- 6.9.5 90 fragments were recovered. These have been dry brushed and boxed but not subject to further study.
- 6.9.6 The banded and plain painted plaster is not closely datable, but if the red-spotted, pink painted plaster is meant to represent porphyry or red Egyptian granite, then this is predominantly a later Roman taste. Similar material from the Temple Precinct at Bath is dated to later than 200 AD (unpublished observation during conservation work).

6.10 Metalwork

- 6.10.1 Apart from two unidentifiable and tiny blobs of copper alloy, all the non-coin metal work collected was of iron, and as is typical on sites such as this were predominantly essentially undatable (except pre-modern) nails and nail fragments. The distribution across the site is shown in Table 6 in Appendix 7. As a metal detector was used to scan the soil on site, it seems likely that metalwork was, indeed, rare on the site.

6.11 Human bone

- 6.11.1 Several fragments of one human skull were found among stones in the top of the rubbly layer (803), probably demolition/collapse layers, under the cultivation soils in Trench 8. Probably from an adult male, it can only be assumed that these are fragments from a medieval burial which has been disturbed and found its way here by chance. On the other hand, burials in urban contexts of Roman date, though anomalous, are becoming known. Radio carbon essay may be worth considering to see what time period the remains belong to.

6.12 Animal bone

- 6.12.1 502 fragments of bone were collected by hand. No sieving of deposits took place.
- 6.12.2 The great bulk of the material came from the cultivation soils under the car park make up in the east end of the site. A small amount came from pit fills in Trench 3

and the post medieval ditch fills in Trench 4. No animal bone was collected from the trenches in the west of the site where the cultivation soils were absent. See Appendix 6 for the list of contexts that produced animal bone.

- 6.12.3 Much more material would certainly be found in properly stratified deposits such as pit fills and sealed layers, were more of the site to be excavated. The relatively small collection here is indicative of the small amounts of archaeological deposits actually removed, other than cultivation soils.

7 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

7.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 7.1.1 The evaluation took the form of the excavation of 14 test pits. Demolition deposits and/or surfaces from Roman buildings or other activities were revealed at the bases of 10 of the test pits. Although the upper level of the Roman archaeological horizon was revealed, the size of the test pits - the majority were only 1.5 m square - made interpretation difficult. In general, archaeological deposits were revealed at a slightly higher level than was anticipated. Significant layers in Trenches 4 and 13 were found at a level that required no step and deposits were revealed across the whole of the trench. Limited excavation of discrete features took place with the agreement of the county archaeologist. This was in order to aid the characterisation of the Roman deposits encountered, and the interpretation of subsequent activity within the area.
- 7.1.2 Much of the exposed archaeology consisted of limestone and limestone and mortar rubble deposits. The tops of several limestone mortared walls were revealed, two of which had plastered faces, one of them clearly internal. Deposits such as floor layers and occupation layers were also encountered, the majority of which were recorded in the sides of excavated features.
- 7.1.3 Well-sorted 19th century cultivation soils were identified in the trenches to the east of the site, immediately under the modern car park make up, and these overlay more mixed earlier soils, probably representing a medieval and post-medieval re-working of late Roman deposits. In many of the trenches, medieval and post medieval pottery was encountered in soil overlying Roman deposits and structures. Roman pottery and coins were commonly found in these later deposits confirming the mixed nature and history of the stratified deposits here. The lower portion of this re-worked soil was excavated in spits of 0.1 m in order to establish the boundary between the late Roman deposits and subsequent reworking. To the west of the site the 19th century cultivation soils were absent and only the base of the re-worked soils survived post medieval and modern truncation.
- 7.1.4 Archaeological deposits were highest in the centre and in the NW corner of the area. Modern truncation had occurred in the NW corner of the site (as was highlighted by the presence of geo-textile). The survival of demolition spreads across the site suggests relatively good survival of late Roman deposits. However, it is fairly clear

that these deposits also formed the medieval ground surface and have been much reworked as well as pierced and truncated by later activity.

7.2 Overall interpretation

Roman

- 7.2.1 Roman deposits were revealed throughout the site, the majority of which were demolition deposits, although walls, floors, occupation and make-up layers were present. It was clear that the top of the demolition deposits had also served as the medieval ground surface and had been consequently mixed and altered.
- 7.2.2 NW-SE aligned walls were revealed within Trenches 2, 5, 9 and 14. Masonry in Trench 4 may represent more than one wall (overlying deposits making interpretation difficult). Floor layers were encountered in Trenches 9, 11 and 14, consisting of compacted mortar and tessellated surfaces. Apparent occupation layers were revealed in trenches 6, 14 and possibly in Trench 13. The date for these features is unclear, but seems most likely to be of third to fourth century date.
- 7.2.3 The site lies within the northern corner of insula XVII at the junction of two inter-insulae streets. Insula XVII is on the north-west side of Lewis lane, which follows the line of the Fosse Way. On the other side of this road, south of Insula XVII, is the Roman Forum. Therefore, the site is close to the centre of the Roman town, not far from the Forum and just to the north-west of a major Roman road. The presence of high status buildings, as suggested by painted, plaster-rendered and veneered walls, tessellated floors and evidence of central heating, is consistent with the location, close to the heart of the Roman town. It is impossible from the fragmentary nature of the remains revealed to state if the buildings uncovered relate to public buildings, or to wealthy town housing. Land use in this part of the town is likely to have changed over the course of the Roman period.
- 7.2.4 A Roman street is conventionally proposed forming the north-west side of insula XVII (Wacher 1974 *inter alia*), and this was predicted to fall under the north-west side of the site. Trenches 13 and 14 did not reveal any traces of this road, which would have presumably survived truncation relatively well. The existence of the robbed wall in Trench 14 right up to the north-west edge, means, unless the building that the wall represents had encroached on the road, that it must lie outside of the area evaluated. The NW-SE aligned walls, along with the high level of the archaeology in the NW area of the site may suggest that the buildings revealed fronted this proposed street, or at any rate followed the general street grid alignment.
- 7.2.5 A possible continuation of this Roman alignment into the modern period is suggested by the north-east boundary of the site. This boundary appears to be a survival of the tenement divisions illustrated on Hall's map of 1795, and so is likely to be medieval in origin. The NE-SW line of this division is at odds with other boundaries, which are aligned to the street frontage. It forms an approximate right-angle to the Roman walls

excavated and may well have been influenced by upstanding Roman remains at the time of laying out of the tenement blocks.

- 7.2.6 It may be that this alignment reflects the early laying out of the Manor of Archebaldes property here, before the detailed tenement plots were allocated.

Medieval/Post-medieval

- 7.2.7 The area lay within the medieval town, at the rear of properties fronting Dyer Street, leading back on to fields to the north-east. Cultivation soils across the eastern part of the site, with pottery dating from the 11th or 12th centuries onwards are representative of re-working of late Roman deposits in this period and may also reflect the importation of soil, or organic material. Relatively abundant pottery of the 11th to the 15th centuries suggests active use of the site throughout this period, when it is known to have been the rear of tenements on the busy main thoroughfare of Dyer Street.
- 7.2.8 Unlike at the Arkenside Hotel evaluation (OA 2006), it was not apparent that there was a distinct silty dark earth immediately over the Roman levels and below the garden soils of post-medieval date. While a darker, grey brown, silty loam was seen in a few trenches under the more recent garden soil, its excavation in shallow spits indicated that nearly all occurrences contained medieval, and often, post-medieval, pottery and other finds at the deepest levels just above the Roman structural and demolition deposits. Some layers of this material produced no post-Roman material and has been assigned to a "reworked Roman" phase.
- 7.2.9 The pit in Trench 3 is likely to indicate the presence of human waste disposal arrangements. Such arrangements are most common before the end of the 13th century and in this instance may relate to the manor of Archebaldes that is known to have fronted the north side of Dyer Street, and occupied part of this area during the period (McWhirr 1976, 99)
- 7.2.10 A post-medieval NE-SW property boundary wall was revealed in Trenches 9, 10 and 11. This boundary persists in the yard to the south-west of the site in the form of a concrete post and chain link fence, running up to the rear of the property fronting Dyer street. A similar wall on an E-W alignment was encountered in Trenches 8 and 11. This structure is likely to be the back wall of the property fronting Dyer street, prior to the post-World War II realignment of The Waterloo. The metalled surfaces revealed to the north of this wall in Trenches 11 and 14 may belong to Bull Lane, the precursor to The Waterloo, that is shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 25" map of 1884. The surfaces overlying the NE-SW wall in Trench 11 may derive from the apparent garden paths indicated on both Hall's map of 1795 and Wood's plan of 1835.
- 7.2.11 The pottery evidence for the post-Roman years seems to cluster in two groups: 11th to 13th century and late 17th to 19th. This obviously coincides with historical periods of urban growth and economic activity. The presence of pottery of the earlier

period in robber trenches and on the top of the Roman layers suggests that this may be when the site was being cleared of Roman masonry and other impediments to development.

Modern

- 7.2.12 Modern service trenches were observed across the site, and in the NW corner crushed concrete and brick make-up was present under the car park construction levels. In the SW corner of the site, cobbled surfaces and drains related to the recent reduction of the structure just beyond the area evaluated.

7.3 Conclusions

- 7.3.1 The evaluation has confirmed the existence of deep and well preserved archaeological deposits and structures of the Roman town at a depth a little less than predicted in the desk based assessment, but not inconsistent with those predictions or the occurrence of similar deposits elsewhere in the town.
- 7.3.2 Medieval layers and some post-medieval deposits were also revealed.
- 7.3.3 The archaeological stratification is complex and potentially highly informative for urban studies in Cirencester and because of Cirencester's national importance to Roman studies, the remains are of national importance, as implied by their scheduled status. The medieval deposits are considerable interest for Cirencester's medieval urban history and are certainly of regional importance.
- 7.3.4 The development proposals are currently designed to leave the overwhelming majority of Roman and medieval deposits *in situ*. There may have to be very limited (in depth and extent) excavation on small areas of deposit. Some post-medieval remains may have to be dealt with by mitigation excavation.

7.4 Note on the Ground Penetrating Radar Survey

- 7.4.1 A non-intrusive GPR survey was carried out prior to the evaluation (Fig. 15). Both 250MHz and 500MHz antenna were used in order to provide a good combination of depth and penetration of the survey and resolution of its results.
- 7.4.2 Fig. 15 includes the time slice from the 500 MHz antenna at a depth of 800-900mm, roughly the depth at which Roman and medieval deposits were encountered. The survey highlights well the level of modern disturbance over the western side of the site. Conversely, the lack of activity picked over the eastern side of the site appears to reflect the presence of broadly undisturbed cultivation soils. The post-medieval property boundary wall seen in trenches 9, 10 and 11 is also well represented, as is the post-medieval wall in Trenches 8 and 11.
- 7.4.3 There is an apparent wall parallel to the NE-SW property boundary, that turns at the northern end to the east and then to the south east. This is likely to represent a flanking wall for the garden features (paths perhaps) present on Hall's 1795 map of

Cirencester. As mentioned above, the wall in Trench 11 is likely to be the rear of the property fronting Dyer street. The continuation of this structure to the west is not indicated on the survey, perhaps suggesting it stops just to the west of Trench 11.

- 7.4.4 The survey failed to pick up the majority of Roman and medieval activity revealed through excavation, even in areas where the cultivation soils were undisturbed. However a possible NW-SE Roman wall alignment is present which passes through Trench 5 and is consistent with the general Roman alignment. Masonry was revealed during here during excavation (507) but its alignment is not really consistent with the radar trace.

8 THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF REDEVELOPMENT

8.1 The proposals

- 8.1.1 It is proposed to build a three storey structure on the site occupying approximately the north eastern half of the site. It is intended to mitigate the effects of the development on the buried archaeological deposits by appropriate foundation design allowing preservation *in situ* of Roman and medieval deposits and structures.
- 8.1.2 It is currently proposed to build the new construction on a concrete raft which will occupy the upper 0.75 m or so of the ground below the present car park surface. Detailed designs are still being worked up, but the results of borehole and plate bearing tests appear to support the view that this approach is feasible. The impact of lift pits below this level are being investigated to see if new designs with requirements for shallower basal pits (or none) can be installed. It appears that disturbance can be limited to just over 1.05 m below the finished floor levels, which will be about where the present surface is.
- 8.1.3 Drainage runs are still to be designed but it is hoped to connect to existing services with minimal disturbance. One approach will be to investigate whether services can be fitted within the raft, above significant archaeological levels.

8.2 Impact and Mitigation

- 8.2.1 The upper surfaces of archaeological deposits have been demonstrated to occur at depths of between 0.86 and 1.30 m. The suspected dark earths occur at higher levels (between c. 0.5 m and 1.0 m) but have been demonstrated in the evaluation excavations to be of 13th century or later origin and in most cases disturbed in the post-medieval centuries. That is, they are simply the garden soils of the medieval and later properties along Dyer Street.
- 8.2.2 Medieval deposits occur at about the same level as Roman and it is accepted that they are as important as the Roman in terms of mitigation. Both will be essentially preserved *in situ*. Nonetheless, it may become necessary to argue for limited mitigation by excavation of the upper parts of some of the Roman or medieval deposits in some cases, often merely of garden soils, specifically to allow the

insertion of lift pits and service runs. However, potentially Roman, medieval and post-medieval deposits within the footprint of the new building will need excavation to allow the insertion of the raft, for example in the areas of Trenches 4 and 11.

- 8.2.3 Only the northern part of the site will be affected by the new building. Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10 11 and parts of 13 and 14 will be covered by the foot print. Trenches 3, 6, 7 9 and 12 will be unaffected.
- 8.2.4 The service runs will be set within the raft itself so will have no further impact. Where they emerge from beneath the building they should be above the level of concern. An exception to this is probably the connection to drainage under The Waterloo, but this will be a very short run in areas under the pavement quite probably already disturbed by services.
- 8.2.5 There are two lift shaft bases required. One will fall just north of Trench 5, the other into Trench 10. Research indicates that the lift shafts need be no deeper than 1.052 m below the finished floor level. Archaeological deposits older than post medieval are at this depth and below in these areas so may suffer no impact.
- 8.2.6 Detailed proposals for any mitigation by design to allow preservation *in situ*, and any proposals for mitigation excavation, will be presented at the appropriate time after discussion with the County Archaeological Officer and English Heritage.
- 8.2.7 The effects of compression on the archaeological strata will be calculated and presented in later detailed mitigation proposals but preliminary work suggests this will be minimal and is likely to occur in the layers under the archaeological deposits.

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT INVENTORY

Table 1

Trench	Context No.	Type	Thickness (m)	Width (m)	Comments	Date
1	101	layer	0.3	4	Tarmac/make-up	modern
	102	layer	0.36	4	Cultivation soil	
	103	layer	0.37	4	Cultivation soil	
	104	layer	0.2	4	Cultivation soil spit 1	
	105	layer	0.2	4	Cultivation soil spit 2	
	106	Layer	0.2	0.2	Demolition rubble	
	107	layer	-	4	Demolition rubble	
	108	layer	-	4	Demolition rubble	
2	201	layer	0.5	4	Tarmac/make-up	
	202	layer	0.37	4	Cultivation soil	
	203	layer	0.4	1.5	Cultivation soil	
	204	Layer	0.22	1.5	Cultivation soil	
	205	Layer	0.22	0.4	Demolition spread	
	206	Layer	0.2	1.5	Demolition spread	
	207	Masonry	-	0.8	Wall	
3	301	Layer	0.5	4	Tarmac/make-up	
	302	Layer	0.6	4	Cultivation soil	
	303	Layer	0.1	4	Cultivation soil	
	304	Fill			Pit fill	
	305	Fill	0.64	1.3	Pit fill	
	306	Fill	0.22	1.3	Pit fill	
	307	Layer	0.1	1.3	Demolition spread	
	308	Cut	0.9	-	Pit	
	309	Fill	0.9	-	Pit fill	
	310	Cut	1.3	0.85	Pit	
4	401	Layer	0.4	4	Tarmac/make-up	
	402	Layer	0.25	4	Cultivation soil	
	403	Cut	0.75	0.9	Pit/ditch	
	404	Fill	0.75	0.9	Fill of pit/ditch	
	405	Layer	0.2	4	Make up	
	406	Layer	0.2	4	Cultivation soil	
	407	Layer	0.3	0.5	Demolition rubble.	
	408	Masonry	4	0.5	Wall	
5	501	Layer	0.4	4	Tarmac/make-up	
	502	Layer	0.3	4	Cultivation soil	
	503	Layer	0.5	4	Cultivation soil	
	504	Layer	0.2	2	Cultivation soil	
	505	Cut	0.15	-	Post-med ditch	
	506	Fill	0.5	1.5	Fill of ditch	
	507	Cut	3.1	1.1	Post-med ditch	
	508	Fill	1.1	1	Fill of post-med ditch	
	509	Cut	0.6	-	Ditch	
	510	Fill	0.6	1.2	Fill of ditch	
	511	Layer	0.1	0.75	Demolition deposit	
	512	Masonry	-	1	Masonry	
	513	Layer	1	0.75	Demolition deposit.	
6	601	Layer	0.5	4	Tarmac/make-up	
	602	Layer	0.6	4	Cultivation soil	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Thickness (m)	Width (m)	Comments	Date
	603	Layer	1.3	0.2	Pipe trench	
	604	Layer	0.6	0.75	Fill of pipe trench	
	605	Layer	0.6	0.75	Cultivation soil spit 1	
	606	Layer	0.3	1.5	Demolition deposit	
	607	Layer	0.2	2	Occupation deposit	
	609	Cut	-	0.8	Pit	
	610	Layer	-	0.8	Cultivation soil spit 2	
	611	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 3	
	612	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 4	
	613	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 5	
7	701	Layer	0.	4	Tarmac/make-up	
	702	Layer	0.3	4	Cultivation soil	
	703	Layer	0.3	1.2	Rubble layer	
	704	Cut	0.3	2	Linear feature	
	705	Fill	0.3	2	Fill of linear feature	
8	801	Layer	0.3	4	Tarmac/make-up	
	802	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 1	
	803	Layer	0.5	1.5	Demolition spread	
	801	Layer	-	0.2	Demolition spread	
	805	Masonry	0.8	0.5	Wall	
	806	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil	
	807	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 2	
	808	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 3	
	809	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 3	
9	901	Layer	0.3	4	Tarmac/make-up	
	902	Layer	0.85	4	Cultivation soil	
	903	Cut	0.6	0.6	Pit	
	904	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 1	
	905	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 2	
	906	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 3	
	907	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 4	
	908	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 5	
	909	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 6	
	910	Fill	0.6	0.6	Fill of pit	
	911	Masonry	0.35	1.1	Wall	
	912	Layer	0.05	0.4	Mortar spread	
	913	Layer	0.05	0.75	Floor surface	
	914	Cut	0.3	0.6	Pit	
	915	Cut	0.3	0.5	Pit	
	916	Layer	-	0.7	Mortar spread	
	917	Layer	0.25	0.42	Rubble layer	
	918	Cut	-	0.75	Pit	
	919	Fill	-	0.7	Fill of pit	
	920	Fill	0.3	0.7	Fill of pit	
	921	Masonry	0.2	4	Wall	
10	1001	Layer	0.25	4	Tarmac/make-up	
	1002	Layer	0.3	4	Make-up	
	1003	Layer	-	-	Cultivation soil	
	1004	Layer	0.55	1	Mortar spread	
	1005	Masonry	0.25	4	Wall	
	1006	Masonry	-	1.5	Wall	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Thickness (m)	Width (m)	Comments	Date
	1007	Layer	-	0.4	Rubble spread	
	1008	Layer	-	-	Dark earth	
	1009	Cut	-	4	Construction cut	
	1010	Layer	-	1.3	Occupation spread	
	1011	Layer	0.18	4	Cultivation soil	
	1012	Cut	0.15	2.25	Pipe trench	
	1013	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 1	
	1014	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 2	
	1015	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 3	
	1016	Layer	0.1	1.5	Cultivation soil spit 4	
	1017	Fill	0.15	2.25	Fill of pipe trench	
11	1101	Layer	0.3	4	Tarmac/make-up	
	1102	Layer	0.28	0.6	Mortar spread	
	1103	Fill	-	1.75	Pit fill	
	1104	Cut	-	1.75	Pit	
	1105	Layer	-	2.7	Metalling	
	1106	Layer	-	1.5	Metalling	
	1107	Fill	-	1.25	Pit fill	
	1108	Cut	-	1.25	Pit	
	1109	Fill	-	2.5	Pit fill	
	1110	Cut	-	2.5	Pit	
	1111	Layer	0.03	1.4	Occupation layer	
	1112	Masonry	0.5	3.2	Wall	
	1113	Masonry	0.7	1.6	Wall	
	1114	Layer	-	0.5	Floor surface	
	1115	Masonry	0.4	1	Wall	
	1116	Cut	0.4	0.6	Pipe trench	
	1117	Fill	0.4	0.6	Fill of pipe trench	
	1118	Cut	0.4	1.6	Pipe trench	
	1119	Fill	0.4	1.6	Fill of pipe trench	
	1120	Masonry	0.1	0.55	Garden feature(?)	
	1121	Layer	0.2	0.45	Mortar spread	
	1122	Layer	0.06	0.9	Use layer	
	1123	Layer	0.02	0.5	Metalling	
	1124	Layer	0.12	1.62	Mortar spread	
	1125	Layer	0.08	1.62	Use layer	
	1126	Fill	0.24	4	Make-up	
	1127	Masonry	0.2	0.45	Surface	
	1128	Cut	0.7	1.6	Construction cut	
	1129	Layer	0.03	0.2	Mortar spread	
	1130	Layer	0.06	0.2	Use layer	
	1131	Layer	0.02	0.2	Metalling	
	1132	Fill	-	0.1	Construction cut backfill	
	1133	Layer	0.25	0.1	Cultivation soil	
	1134	Layer	0.35	1.5	Backfill of structure	
12	1201	Layer	0.3	4	Tarmac/make-up	Modern
	1204	Layer	0.2	4	Cobbling	Modern
	1205	Layer	0.8	0.12	Brick surface	Modern
	1206	Layer	0.12	4	Make-up	Modern
	1207	Layer	0.2	4	Make-up	Modern

Trench	Context No.	Type	Thickness (m)	Width (m)	Comments	Date
	1208	Fill	0.25	0.27	Pipe trench fill	Modern
	1209	Fill	0.25	0.27	Pipe	Modern
	1210	Cut	0.25	0.27	Pipe trench	Modern
	1211	Layer	0.38	0.96	Fill of pit	
	1212	Cut	0.38	0.96	Pit	Modern
	1214	Layer	0.05	0.26	Mortar spread	Modern
	1215	Layer	0.35	4	Cultivation soil	Post-med
	1216	Fill	0.45	0.28	Fill of post hole	Modern
	1217	Cut	0.45	0.28	Post hole	Modern
	1218	Layer	0.29	1.19	Rubble layer	Post-med
	1220	Layer	0.21	1.96	Make-up	Modern
	1221	Layer	1	0.5	Rubble spread	
	1222	Layer	0.38	1.42	Cultivation soil	
	1223	Fill	0.24	0.64	Fill of post hole	
	1224	Cut	0.24	0.45	Post hole	
	1225	Layer	0.21	2.2	Cultivation soil	
	1226	Layer	0.12	1.2	Rubble spread	
	1227	Fill	0.42	0.8	Construction cut backfill	
	1228	Cut	0.42	0.8	Construction cut	
	1229	Masonry	0.43	1	Wall	
	1230	Layer	0.6	1.2	Demolition spread	
	1231	Fill	-	0.29	Fill of post hole	
	1232	Cut	-	0.29	Posthole	
	1234	Layer	0.1	1.1	Cultivation soil spit 1	
	1235	Layer	0.1	0.74	Cultivation soil spit 2	
	1236	Layer	0.1	0.74	Cultivation soil spit 3	
	1237	Layer	0.1	0.74	Cultivation soil spit 4	
13	1301	Layer	0.3	4	Tarmac/make-up	Modern
	1302	Cut	0.5	1.6	Pit	
	1303	Fill	0.5	1.6	Fill of pit	
	1304	Cut	-	0.8	Construction cut	
	1306	Fill	-	0.6	Backfill of well	Modern
	1307	Masonry	-	0.8	Well	Post-med
	1308	Fill	1	1	Fill of pit	
	1309	Structure	0.4	0.3	Drain	Modern
	1310	Fill	.03	0.1	Fill of drain	Modern
	1311	Cut	0.4	0.3	Construction cut	Modern
	1312	Cut	0.3	1.5	Pit	Modern
	1313	Fill	0.3	1.5	Fill of pit	Modern
	1314	Cut	0.3	0.5	Pit	Modern
	1315	Fill	0.3	0.5	Fill of pit	Modern
	1316	Fill	-	3	Fill of pit	
	1317	Cut	0.5	1.5	Pit	Modern
	1318	Fill	0.5	0.15	Fill of pit	Modern
	1319	Cut	0.2	0.6	Pit	
	1320	Fill	0.3	0.6	Fill of pit	
	1322	Cut	0.8	0.4	pit	Post-med
	1323	Fill	0.4	0.3	Fill of pit	Post-med
	1324	Fill	0.4	0.3	Fill of pit	Post-med

Trench	Context No.	Type	Thickness (m)	Width (m)	Comments	Date
	1325	Layer	-	1.5	Mortar spread	Roman
	1326	Layer	0.05	4.5	Mortar spread	Roman
	1327	Layer	-	4.5	Demolition spread	Roman
14	1401	Layer	0.3	4	Tarmac/made-ground	Modern
	1402				Make-up	Modern
	1403	Layer	0.12	4	Cultivation soil	
	1404	Fill	0.1	1	Fill of pit	
	1405	Cut	0.1	1	Cut of pit	
	1406	Layer	0.1	1	metalling	
	1407	Cut	-	2	Cut for metalling	
	1408	Fill	1	1	Backfill of robber cut	
	1409	Cut	1	1	Robber cut	
	1410	Layer	0.24	4	Cultivation soil	
	1411	Layer	0.2	1	Demolition spread	
	1412	Layer	-	0.8	Demolition spread	
	1413	Layer	0.17	0.4	Occupation layer	Roman
	1414	Layer	0.1	0.4	Floor layer	Roman
	1415	Layer	0.1	0.4	Occupation layer	Roman
	1416	Layer	0.07	0.4	Collapsed plaster	Roman
	1417	Layer	0.06	0.4	Occupation layer	Roman
	1418	Layer	0.02	0.4	Floor layer	Roman
	1419	Layer	0.1	0.4	Floor make-up layer	Roman
	1420	layer	0.05	0.4	Make-up layer	Roman
	1421	layer	0.2	0.85	Cultivation soil	
	1422	layer	0.02	0.85	Mortar spread	Roman
	1423	layer	0.10	0.4	Occupation layer	Roman
	1424	layer	0.06	0.4	Floor make-up layer	Roman
	1425	layer	0.11	0.4	Floor make-up layer	Roman
	1426	masonry	0.76	0.54	Wall	Roman
	1427	layer	0.10	0.85	Make-up layer	Roman
	1428	Layer	0.03	0.85	Make-up layer	Roman
	1429	layer	0.06	0.85	Make-up layer	Roman
	1430	layer	0.15	0.45	Tessellated floor	Roman

APPENDIX 2 THE POTTERY

By Jane Timby

1 Introduction

1.1 The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of some 479 sherds of pottery, 6.35 kg in weight dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.

1.2 A total 68 contexts yielded pottery, most of the groups being very small with only three producing 20 or more sherds. Despite an obviously very high level of residuality the pottery was moderately well-preserved in terms of surface condition and with an average sherd size of 13 g.

1.3 For the purposes of this assessment the material was scanned and quantified by period with a spot date for each context. The resulting data is summarised in Table 1.

1.4 The work was undertaken in the absence of any site data or knowledge of any potential stratigraphic sequence.

2 Roman

2.1 Some 249 sherds of Roman pottery are present weighing 3242 g, just over half the recovered assemblage at 52% of the total.

2.2 Most of this however, appears to be redeposited in medieval or later contexts. Just 17 contexts produced exclusively Roman material, a total 72 sherds, 29% of the total Roman assemblage.

2.3 Although the pottery is largely of late Roman date there are odd sherds of potentially 1st to 2nd-century material present, notably a fragmented sherd of Campanian black sand amphora or flagon from (802) some oxidised flagon sherds and a piece of Savernake ware.

2.4 The assemblage although moderately diverse is dominated by sherds of Dorset black burnished ware and Oxfordshire colour-coated ware. In addition there are several sherds from regional or continental imports, for example, New Forest colour-coated ware, Oxfordshire whiteware and parchment ware, late Roman shelly ware, South-west white-slipped ware, African amphora, Gaulish amphora, Baetican amphora and samian. Local wares mainly comprise grey and black wares probably largely from the Wiltshire industries and some Severn Valley ware.

2.5 The 17 contexts with exclusively Roman date seems to include groups of later 2nd to 3rd century date through to 4th century.

3 Medieval

3.1 The medieval assemblage amounts to some 177 sherds weighing 2418 g. In total some 28 contexts appear to date to the medieval period.

3.2 The medieval assemblage is dominated by Cotswold limestone-tempered ware, Cirencester fabric 200 (cf Vince 1984), Mellor (1994) fabric OXAC. Traditionally this ware is considered to date from the 11th century through to the 13th century. All the sherds appear to come from jars or cooking pots, as evidenced by burnt residues or sooting.

3.3 The individual occurrences are very low and thus it is difficult to determine whether the presence of this ware on the site is exclusively of medieval date or whether there may potentially be some late Saxon material. Many of the medieval contexts have more Roman than medieval material.

3.4 Also present in some quantity are sherds of Minety ware, some of which carry a glaze. Vessels are again mainly jars but there are some sherds of glazed pitcher present. This industry has a time span from the later 12th century through to the 15th century.

3.5 Glazed jug is very much in the minority with just a few sherds including one piece of possible Ham Green Bristol ware and Laverstock ware. The sherds are very small.

4 Post-medieval

4.1 Some 53 sherds of post-medieval date are present, 687 g in weight. These are distributed across some 26 contexts.

4.2 The post-medieval assemblage is largely dominated by glazed red earthenware, probably mainly from the Ashton Keynes kilns (17th-19th century).

4.3 Other wares present include single sherds of tin glazed ware and porcelain, along with unglazed flowerpot, transfer printed 'china', creamware, stonewares, iron-glazed kitchenwares and salt glazed whiteware.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The assemblage recovered from the Woolmarket car park is quite typical for the centre of Cirencester both in terms of the range of material represented and in the levels of residuality present.

5.2 The Roman assemblage is quite diverse with a moderately high level of regional and continental imports but this is quite typical of an urban centre such as Cirencester. The presence of two sherds of later Roman shelly ware attest to some occupation in the late quarter of the 4th or early 5th century but these are residual here. Overall the assemblage is largely of later 3rd to 4th century date.

5.3 The medieval assemblage is quite modest and again typical of Cirencester in that it is mostly dominated by two wares, Cotswold limestone-tempered and Minety ware. Although there has not been a great deal published from the town the assemblage here will probably not add much to that already documented.

5.4 The post-medieval assemblage is completely commensurate with an excavation in an urban area.

Table 2: Pottery from Woolmarket

Context	Roman	Med	Pmed		Tot No		Tot Wt		Date	coin date
	No	No	Wt	No	Wt					
102	0	0	0	5	59	5	59		C18/19th	
104	17	3	183	0	0	20	391		C12-C15th	C3-4
105	17	0	190	0	0	17	190		C4th	335-341
209	0	1	0	3	120	4	138		C17-19th	
211	3	0	43	0	0	3	43		late C3-C4	
212	1	1	40	0	0	2	62		C12-13th	
213	2	0	13	0	0	2	13		Roman	
214	5	0	48	0	0	5	48		C4th	
215	6	0	80	0	0	6	80		C3	
302	0	2	0	1	2	3	22		C18/19th	
303	0	1	0	1	4	2	11		C18/19th	
305	4	9	23	0	0	13	165		C12-15th	
306	3	3	20	1	10	7	76		C17-19th	
402	1	0	3	5	46	6	49		C19th	
404	3	1	17	1	6	5	29		C18/19th	1700 plus from coin evidence
406	3	2	39	0	50	5	89		C11-13th	
503	5	14	51	0	0	19	201		C12-13th	
504	12	4	98	0	0	16	180		C11-13th	
506	0	1	0	4	28	5	42		C18th	
508	4	3	96	0	0	7	357		late C12-15th	
510	5	3	50	0	0	8	137		C12-15th	
513	2	0	10	0	0	2	10		Roman	
604	0	0	0	4	8	4	8		C19th+	
606	1	0	47	0	0	1	47		C4th	
610	1	0	20	0	0	1	20		C3-C4	
611	4	0	85	0	0	4	85		C4th	
612	3	0	20	1	2	4	22		C18/19th	
613	7	0	110	0	0	7	110		C4th	
702	5	6	61	6	75	17	168		C19th+	
705	0	2	0	0	17	2	17		late C12-15th	

802	13	133	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	133	C1-C4
807	3	123	1	19	0	0	0	0	4	142	C11-13th
808	3	105	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	105	C4th
809	6	93	1	3	0	0	0	0	7	96	C11-13th
904	1	6	1	8	0	0	0	0	2	14	C11-13th
904	3	20	4	44	0	0	0	0	7	64	C11-13th
905	1	27	3	69	0	0	0	0	4	96	C11-13th
906	2	32	4	55	0	0	0	0	6	87	C11-13th
907	0	0	1	40	0	0	0	0	1	40	C11-13th
907	1	20	6	46	0	0	0	0	7	66	C12-13th
908	1	9	1	7	0	0	0	0	2	16	C11-13th
909	2	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	late Roman
910	5	24	10	69	0	0	0	0	15	93	C12-15th
920	10	270	1	10	0	0	0	0	11	280	C11-13th
1010	0	0	2	10	0	0	0	0	2	10	C12-15th
1013	0	0	0	0	2	30	0	0	2	30	C17-19th
1014	1	10	2	43	0	0	0	0	3	53	C12-15th
1015	1	35	7	96	0	0	0	0	8	131	late C12-15th
1016	11	192	26	304	2	10	0	0	39	506	C19th+
1105	0	0	0	0	1	21	0	0	1	21	C17-19th
1107	11	86	2	24	0	0	0	0	13	110	C11-13th
1109	1	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	30	C3
1134	3	19	1	8	1	1	1	1	5	28	C16th+
1215	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	1	4	C18th
1221	0	0	0	0	1	65	1	1	1	65	C17-19th
1225	4	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	18	C2/C3
1226	5	26	7	27	1	19	1	13	13	72	C19+
1230	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	1	1	5	C11-13th
1234	4	46	12	107	2	23	2	18	18	176	C16-17th
1235	0	0	3	24	1	1	1	4	4	25	C18/19th
1236	3	7	10	42	0	0	0	13	13	49	C12-13th
1237	4	16	12	80	0	0	0	16	16	96	C12-15th
1303	3	45	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	45	C4th
1305	2	26	0	0	1	18	1	3	3	44	C16th+
1308	0	0	0	0	1	5	1	1	5	5	C17-19th

330-335

1408	14	210	2	53	7	173	23	436	C19th
1410	9	144	1	20	0	0	10	164	C12-15th
1427	8	109	0	0	0	0	8	109	late C2-C3
TOTAL	249	3242	177	2418	48	628	474	6288	

APPENDIX 3 THE COINS*Paul Booth*

Table 3: Dark shading indicates context with only Roman material; mid grey, with medieval material; pale grey, with post medieval material

SF	Context	Date	Denomination	Reverse	Mint	Obverse	Reference	Comment	Clean
101	408	330-335	AE3 16mm	Wolf and twins	symbol PLG Lyons	URBS ROMA	LRBCI, 200	Good	N
102	406	350-351	AE2 21-22mm	GLORIA ROMANORUM	TRP Trier	DN MAGNEN TIUS PF AUG	LRBCII, 53		N
103	406	260-295	barbarous radiate 15-17mm	figure 1		radiate head r			N
104	406	341-346	AE3 14mm	VICTORIAE DD AUGG Q NN	M over SARL? Arles	CONSTANS] PF AUG	LRBCI, 457		N
105	406	335-341	AE3 15mm	GLORIA EXERCITUS I standard	TRP Trier	FLIULCONSTANTIUS NOB C	LRBCI, 94		N
106	406	?4C	AE3 16mm					encrusted	Y
108	1303	330-335	AE3 16mm	Victory on prow	TRS Trier	CONSTANTINOPOLIS	as LRBCI, 59		N
109	702	?324-330	AE3 16mm	?Providentiae Augg/Caess, camp gate		encrusted			Y
111	103	341-346	AE3 15mm	VICTORIAE DD AUGG Q NN	D over TRP Trier	CONSTAN S PF AUG	LRBCI, 150		N
112	103	335-341	AE3 13mm	GLORIA EXERCITUS I standard	TRPsymbol Trier	head r, legend off flan	LRBCI, 130-131	irregular, R of mintmark looks like M	N
113	103	4C	AE3 17mm	??	-	head r		v poor and damaged	N

154	US	364-378	AE3 17mm	Gloria Romanorum, emperor and captive	?	head r	coin? worm	N
155	US	324-330	AE2/3, 18mm	PROVIDENTIAE Augg or Caess, camp gate	PTRsymbol Trier			Y
156	US	?4C	AE3 17mm				encrusted	Y
157	US	?330-335	AE3 16mm	?Gloria exercitus 2 standards		head r		Y
135	US	1625-1649	Rose farthing	?FRA ET HI REX		CAROLU DG MA. BRI		N
140	406	1694-1702	farthing	BRITANNIA ?date		GULIEL[William III		N

Some 35 copper alloy coins of late Roman date were recovered, plus a small plain disc which may have served as a coin, and two post-Roman coins, a 'rose' farthing of Charles II (1625-1649) and a farthing of William III (1694-1702). The coins were scanned rapidly, identifications undertaken where possible and a note made of those pieces which require cleaning to enable identification or allow improved identification. Thirteen of the 35 Roman coins fall into this category. The coins vary widely in condition, from almost mint in two or three cases to heavily worn and/or encrusted in others.

All the Roman coins are of late 3rd-4th century date. The breakdown by approximate issue periods or more generalised date ranges is as follows:

260-296	5
317-330	2
330-348	14
348-364	2
364-378	5
388-402	1
4C	5
3-4C	1

None of the later 3rd century coins is closely identifiable at present, although at least one is a barbarous radiate. The two early 4th century pieces are both *Providentiae* types. Coins of the period 330-348 dominate the assemblage, and include the usual types (*Gloria exercitus*, *Urbs Roma*, *Constantinopolis* and *Victoriae dd Augg q nm*), mostly from the mint of Trier, as would be expected in this period. A regular *Gloria Romanorum* issue of Magnentius (AD 350-351) is the most striking individual coin in the assemblage. The later 4th century coins are generally in poor condition, and the identification of a *Victoria Auggg* type of the latest period commonly represented in Britain (AD 388-402) is not absolutely certain. Overall the assemblage appears typical of material from Cirencester, allowing for the fact that excavation was confined to the very latest deposits in the sequence.

APPENDIX 4 HUMAN REMAINS

By Sharon Clough

The human bone from context 803 comprised 10 fragments which, when refitted, represented most of the left and right frontal bone and part of the left parietal bone of a single cranium. The bone was in a good condition, the cortical surface was unabraded. The sagittal and coronal sutures showed significant closure, indicating a mature adult (36-45 years) (Buikstra and Ubelaker, 1994). There were no diagnostic elements available with which to determine sex.

APPENDIX 5 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Leigh Allen

A total of 479 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 28,951g were recovered from the archaeological investigations at Cirencester Wool Market. The assemblage is Roman in date (with the exception of 2 fragments of Medieval ridge tile). The material has been briefly scanned and fragments from recognisable tile types have been recorded on to a database together with contextual information, weight and any complete dimensions. Evidence of roofing including imbrex and tegula fragments are represented in the assemblage, flooring materials include fragments from large, thick tiles, bricks and tessera. Box tiles fragments

with their characteristic combing pattern indicate the presence of a heating system. No attempt has been made at this stage to analyse the fabric types present but many of the fragments appear to originate from the Minety kilns in Gloucester and are identifiable by the characteristic swirling poorly mixed orange and cream clay or the particularly hard fired dark red fabric with a dark grey core.

Table 4

<i>Tile type</i>	<i>No. of fragments</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>% by weight of total assemblage</i>
Tegula	50	8957	30.9
Imbrex	51	5367	18.7
Flat tile	60	8203	28.3
Brick	4	853	2.9
Tesserae	8	142	0.4
Box tile	9	1442	4.9
Chimney	1	48	0.2
Misc	293	3545	12.2
Ridge tile (Medieval)	2	118	0.4
Voussoir ?	1	276	0.9
Total	479	28951	100%

Roofing material comprising imbrices and tegulae fragments made up nearly 50% of the total assemblage. No complete examples of tegula were recorded, fragments were identified by the existence of the flange, the groove at the base of the flange or semi-circular incised grooves at the lower end of the tile. Tegula thicknesses range from 18-24mm, tegula flange heights from 40-55mm, a variety of flange forms and cut-away designs were represented. No complete examples of imbrices survive but one example has a complete measurable width of 137mm narrowing to 14mm. The imbrices fragments had a thickness range of 15-23mm with the majority of the fragments measuring 16-18mm.

Flooring material comprising large flat plain tiles, bricks and tesserae made up nearly 32% (by weight) of the total assemblage. No complete examples of floor tile or bricks survive. Thicknesses of floor tiles range from 20-32mm and for bricks 42-57mm. Eight tesserae were recovered all rather crude and irregular in shape.

A total of 9 fragments of box tile (tubuli) with traces of a combed pattern or key for plaster were recovered, indicating the existence of a building with a heating system.

Other notable objects include a possible fragment from a voussoir, a rough fragment with a crude perforation through it that may be part of an oven plate (no other fired clay was recovered from the site) and a possible fragment from a lamp chimney (see Timby 1991, 25, fig 5 No.81)

Statement of potential

The archaeological investigation was carried out in the centre of the former Roman town of Corinium close to the important public building of the basilica and forum and therefore as expected large quantities of Roman building material have been recovered. Although the area of proposed development appears not to have been built on and therefore should survive in good condition the assemblage appears to be fairly fragmentary, complete dimensions (with the exception of thickness) are almost non-existent, and cross joins are rare. Most of the standard tile types are represented, roofing materials form the bulk of the assemblage with only a few examples of tiles associated with a heating system and only one possible fragment from a voussoir. The recovery of 8 single tesserae supports the evidence from previous

excavations in the area for the presence of mosaics. An initial scan of the tile fabric indicates that it is being produced locally probably at Minety.

Recommendations for further work

The assemblage should be recorded in full including fabric analysis and the material should be compared with other assemblages recovered from the locality.

- Recording 3 days
- Data input 1 day
- Report writing 1 day

APPENDIX 6 ANIMAL BONE

A total of 502 fragments of animal bone were recovered from the site. The table below gives the quantification for each context.

Table 5

Context	SF No	No of Objects	Weight (g)
103		3	44
104		23	441
105		9	342
210		1	10
211		2	50
212		1	62
213		5	53
214		1	21
215		3	141
303		1	12
305		10	114
306		3	59
404		2	15
406		2	50
503		9	277
504		7	126
504	152	1	7
506		9	113
508		17	439
510		7	366
513		2	52
604		1	30
605		3	47
611		4	104
613		5	38
702		76	85
703		1	38
705		10	49

APPENDIX 7 METALWORK*By Leigh Allen***Iron**

A total of 33 metal fragments were recovered, and comprise overwhelmingly nails or nail fragments (see table). There are two miscellaneous fragments: a piece of sheet and bar fragment. The latter could be a nail stem fragment. There are four unidentified pieces ('Unknown'), one of which is very probably a piece of slag, and another a piece of lead.

Table 6

Context	Function			Context Totals
	Miscellaneous	Nails	Unknown	
105		3		3
211	1			1
406		2	1	3
508		1		1
510		1		1
605	1			1
607		1		1
612		1		1
807		1		1
808		1		1
906		1	1	2
910		1		1
912		2		2
1107		1		1
1215		1		1
1225		2		2
1226		1		1
1235		1		1
1237		2		2
1303		1		1
1408		3	2	5
Function Totals	2	27	4	33

APPENDIX 8 PLASTER

Context	SF No	Sample No	No. bags	No. Objects	Weight g	Material	Est Date
0	158		1	2	10	Plaster	Roman
908			1	1	47	Plaster	Roman
909			2	8	242	Plaster	Roman
1303	100		1	1	162	Plaster	Roman
1408			1	1	14	Plaster	Roman
1415			1	2	37	Plaster	Roman
1416			1	4	47	Plaster	Roman
1427			1	1	10	Plaster	Roman
912	126		1	1	17	Plaster	Roman
912	125		1	1	11	Plaster	Roman
912	124		1	1	24	Plaster	Roman
912	123		1	1	15	Plaster	Roman

Context	SF No	Sample No	No.Bags	No. Objects	Weight (g)	Material	Est Date
912	121		1	1	26	Plaster	Roman
912			1	6	337	Plaster	Roman
1408			1	59	2073	Plaster	Roman

The plaster is all Roman wall plaster and all painted in mostly plain colours. Two pieces from Trench 9 have evidence of painted panels and imitation stone work. The plaster appears to come from the demolition debris of two buildings, a wall of each still extant with plaster in place, in Trench 9 and Trench 14. The piece from Trench 13 will have come from the building in Trench 14, to which it is adjacent. The material is stable and needs only to be protected from mechanical damage and damp. Further study and comparison with material from other sites in and near Cirencester is recommended.

APPENDIX 9 STONE

By Peter Davenport

Context Description

Context	Description	Material	Size (mm)	Phase	Comment	SF	Discard	Pottery spot date
104.1	Chip of flat slab	Oolitic limestone		- Post Roman soils	Roof tile fragment		N	C12-15
104.1	Chip of stone	Oolitic limestone		- Post Roman soils	Stone chip		Y	C12-15
104.1	Segmental section of flat slab, curved edge is nibbled to shape, broken across an "hour glass" nail hole	Fine grained laminating sandstone	250 x 120 x 18	Post Roman soils	Roof tile, snapped across nail hole. Shape suggested is circular which is unlikely		Y	C12-15
104.1	Chip of flat slab	Oolitic limestone		- Post Roman soils	Roof tile fragment		N	C12-15
104.1	Small piece of flat slab even thickness,	Oolitic limestone		- Post Roman soils	Wall veneer fragment		N	C12-15
104.1	Small piece of flat slab even thickness,	Fine grained limestone, probably unmottled forest marble		- Post Roman soils	Wall veneer fragment		Y	C12-15
105	Cuboid stone with wear on long faces	Fine grained dark grey micaceous sandstone	65 x 20 x 14		Small whetstone with wear patterns suggesting sharpening of narrow blades like chisels		N	C4
105.2	Triangular broken slab, irregular thickness	Fossiliferous limestone, Cirencester quarries?	60 x 50 x 10-15	Post Roman soils	Probably spall from larger block split in demolition		Y	C4
105.2	Even thickness and finely finished slab, one edge surviving, paint on one face	Fine grained limestone, probably unmottled forest marble	90 x 290 x 25	Post Roman soils	Wall veneer		Y	C4

105.2	Irregular broken slab burnt to a grey red colour	Fossiliferous limestone, Cirencester quarries?	-	Post Roman	Probably spall from larger block split soils in demolition	Y	C4
105.2	Flat slab, grey, broken all round, even thickness	Fine grained sandstone	100 x 70 x 15	Post Roman	Roof tile	Y	C4
105.3	Fine grained creamy coloured slab, very finely finished and of even thickness	Fine grained limestone, probably unmottled forest marble	40 x 25 x 7	Post Roman	Probably wall veneer	N	C4
105.3	Irregular slab broken all sides. Very finely finished and of even thickness	Forest marble	80 x 80 x 20	Post Roman	Probably wall veneer	Y	C4
105.3	Irregular slab broken all sides	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	140 x 90 x 15	Post Roman		N	C4
106	Large piece of wall stone two worked sides surviving	Oolitic limestone	380 x 270 x 90		Two adjacent sides have oblique narrow chisel working, but stone is not highly finished	N	No date
106	Broken corner from roughly squared block	Oolitic limestone	220 x 160 x 90		No clearly worked or finished sides but one corner is a right angle. Like the other piece from this context, probably from a thin course in a wall.	Y	No date
124	Chunk	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	-		Shapeless chunk	N	No date
124	Chunk	Fine grained laminating sandstone	-		Shapeless chunk	N	No date
213	Chip	Fossiliferous limestone, Cirencester quarries?	-		Chip	N	Roman

303	Chip	Oolitic limestone	-	Chip	Y	C18-19
306.1	Reddish chip	Oolitic limestone	60 x 60 x 30	Post Roman soils Stone chip, burnt	N	C17-19
306.2	Red and grey chunk with mortar	CBM	-	Post Roman soils Tile chip	Y	C17-19
504	Chip	Oolitic limestone	-	Chip	Y	C11-13
504	Laminated sheet from a mid grey brown rectangular slab.	Fine grained laminating sandstone	100 x 80 x 6	Roof slab fragment or possibly a tile from a tessellated floor.	Y	C11-13
508	Chip	Fine grained laminating sandstone	-	Chip	Y	Late C12-13
607	Trapezoidal slab, broken all sides with Cu/a concretion in corner	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	110 x 130 x 17.5	Fragment of roof tile with fortuitously attached blob of material (burnt or corroded)	Y	No date
611	Irregular chip	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	50 x 40 x 25	Frag of roof tile?	Y	C4
613.2	Fine grained creamy grey slab with mortar, broken all sides	Fine grained sandstone	148 x 58 x 17.5	Probably roof slate re-used in a later wall	N	
613.2	Flake or large spall	Fossiliferous limestone, Cirencester quarries?	-	Post Roman soils Flake of building stone or rubble	N	C4
702.3	Fragment of slab	Fine grained laminating sandstone	100 x 80 x 15	Post Roman soils Frag tile or wall veneer	Y	C19+
702.3	Fragment of finely finished slab, but rear face unaltered shear face with fossil bedding patterns	Fine grained limestone	110 x 110 x 20	Post Roman soils Poss wall veneer, fossil face is a shear plane?	N	C19+
702.3	Fragment of finely finished slab, traces of mortar adhering	Fine grained limestone	100 x 100 x 20	Post Roman soils Poss wall veneer	Y	C19+

802	Fragment of slab	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	90 x 70 x 10	Possible roof tile but a bit thin	N	C1-4
809	Fragment of slab	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	80 x 55 x 12	Fragment of roof tile	N	C11-13
809	Burnt chip	Oolitic limestone	-		Y	C11-13
904	Fragment	Fossiliferous limestone, Cirencester quarries?	60 x 90 x 10	Spall of building stone	Y	C11-13
904	Fragment	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	70 x 50 x 10	Fragment of roof tile?	Y	C11-13
904	Fragment	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	70 x 50 x 0.5	Fragment of roof tile?		C11-13
906	2 chips	Oolitic limestone	-		Y	C11-13
906	Pebble	Fine grained sandstone	-		Y	C11-13
907		Irregular chunk Oolitic limestone	50 x 40 x 20		N	C11-13
907		Irregular chunk Fine grained laminating sandstone	60 x 50 x 15	Fragment of roof tile?	Y	C11-13
907		Irregular chunk Fine grained laminating sandstone	60 x 50 x 10	Fragment of roof tile?	Y	C11-13
908	Chip	Oolitic limestone	-		Y	C11-13
908	Fragment of finely finished slab	Fine grained limestone	35 x 80 x 12	Wall veneer fragment	Y	C11-13

908	Flat pebble with mortar	Find grained sandstone	-	Ex-concrete aggregate or wall core	N	C11-13
908	Chip	Oolitic limestone	-		N	C11-13
909	Fragment of slab	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	70 x 80 x 20	Fragment of roof tile	Y	Late Roman
909	Fragment of slab	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	60 x 30 x 20	Fragment of roof tile	Y	Late Roman
909	Chunk	Oolitic limestone	-		Y	Late Roman
909	Fragment of slab	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	120 x 80 x 20	Fragment of roof tile	Y	Late Roman
909	Part of flat pebble with mortar	Fine grained sandstone	-	Ex-concrete aggregate or wall core	Y	Late Roman
909	Flat pebble with mortar	Find grained sandstone	45 x 60 x 5	Ex-concrete aggregate or wall core	Y	Late Roman
910	Fragment of slab	Fine grained laminating sandstone	20 x 40 x 10	Fragment of roof tile?	Y	C12-15
920	Fragment of slab	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	-	Fragment of roof tile	Y	C11-13
1016	Burnt chunk	Fossiliferous limestone, Cirencester quarries?	-		Y	C19+
1016	Chunk	Oolitic limestone	60 x 40 x 10		Y	C19+
1016	Chip	Oolitic limestone	-		Y	C19+

1016	Fragment of slab	Fine grained laminating sandstone	-	Fragment of roof tile?	Y	C19+
1016	Chip	Fine grained laminating sandstone	-		Y	C19+
1107	3 chips	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	-		Y	C11-13
1107	2 chips	Fine grained hard sandstone	-		Y	C11-13
1134	2 chips	Fine grained laminating sandstone	-		Y	C16+
1134	Chip	Carboniferous limestone?		Poss modern scalplings	Y	C16+
1226	4 chips	Oolitic limestone	-		Y	C19+
1226	Fossil	Oolitic limestone			Y	C19+
1230	6 tiny chips	Oolitic limestone	-		Y	C11-13
1234	Cuboidish chunk	Oolitic limestone	20 x 15 x 20	Poss tessera	N	C16-17
1234	Cuboidish chunk	CBM	20 x 10 x 30	Poss tessera	N	C16-17
1234	Cuboidish chunk	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	20 x 20 x 20	Poss tessera	N	C16-17
1236	Fragment of slab	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	50 x 50 x 14	Fragment of roof tile?	Y	C12-13
1237	Chunk of flat slab	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	30 x 45 x 15	Roof tile	Y	C12-15

1237	Chunk of dark grey stone with shells broken on all faces	Greensand/ORS?	50 x 50 x 60	Possibly piece of quern	N	C12-15
1237	River pebble	-	-	-	Y	C12-15
1237	Chunk of dark grey stone	Sandstone	-	-	Y	C12-15
1237	Chunk of white limestone	White lias		Possible tessera	N	C12-15
1408	Laminated spall	Fine grained laminating sandstone	30 x 40x 10		Y	
1408	Burnt broken slab	Fine grained oolite	120 x 45 x 20	Poss roof tile	Y	C19
1408	Laminated spall	Fine grained laminating sandstone	70 x 60 x 10		Y	C19
1408.2	Broken piece of slab, burnt	Fine grained limestone	50 x 55 x 25	Roof slab or wall veneer	N	C19
1408.2	Thin slab with nail hole	Sandstone, pennant type, poss FoD	110 x 80 x 5	Broken fragment of roof tile, broken across nail hole	N	C19
1427	Fragment of slab	Fine grained laminating sandstone	40 x 30 x 5	Fragment of roof tile?	Y	Late C2-3

Recommendations.

The whetstone should be looked at more thoroughly and its exact material and provenance ascertained. The wear patterns and any material left on its surfaces could indicate the use(s) to which it was put. In general, the stone of the wall veneers and the laminating sandstone should be sourced; otherwise the material can be discarded as indicated in the table.

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APPENDIX 11 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**Site name:** Woolmarket Car Park, Cirencester**Site code:** CIWOO06**Grid reference:** NGR SP 026020**Type of evaluation:** 14 machine excavated test pits**Date and duration of project:** June 5th 2006 to June 16th 2006 (two weeks)**Area of site:** 0.035ha

Summary of results: Roman structural remains, representing high status masonry buildings were found over the whole site. The associated demolition/abandonment layers had been reworked in medieval and post-medieval times. These were sealed by post-medieval deposits related to the use of the rear parts of the existing properties (apparently of medieval origin). A possible medieval wall and pit was revealed and post-medieval walls and surfaces were evident.

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



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench location plan



Figure 3: Trench location plan detail 1, north-west

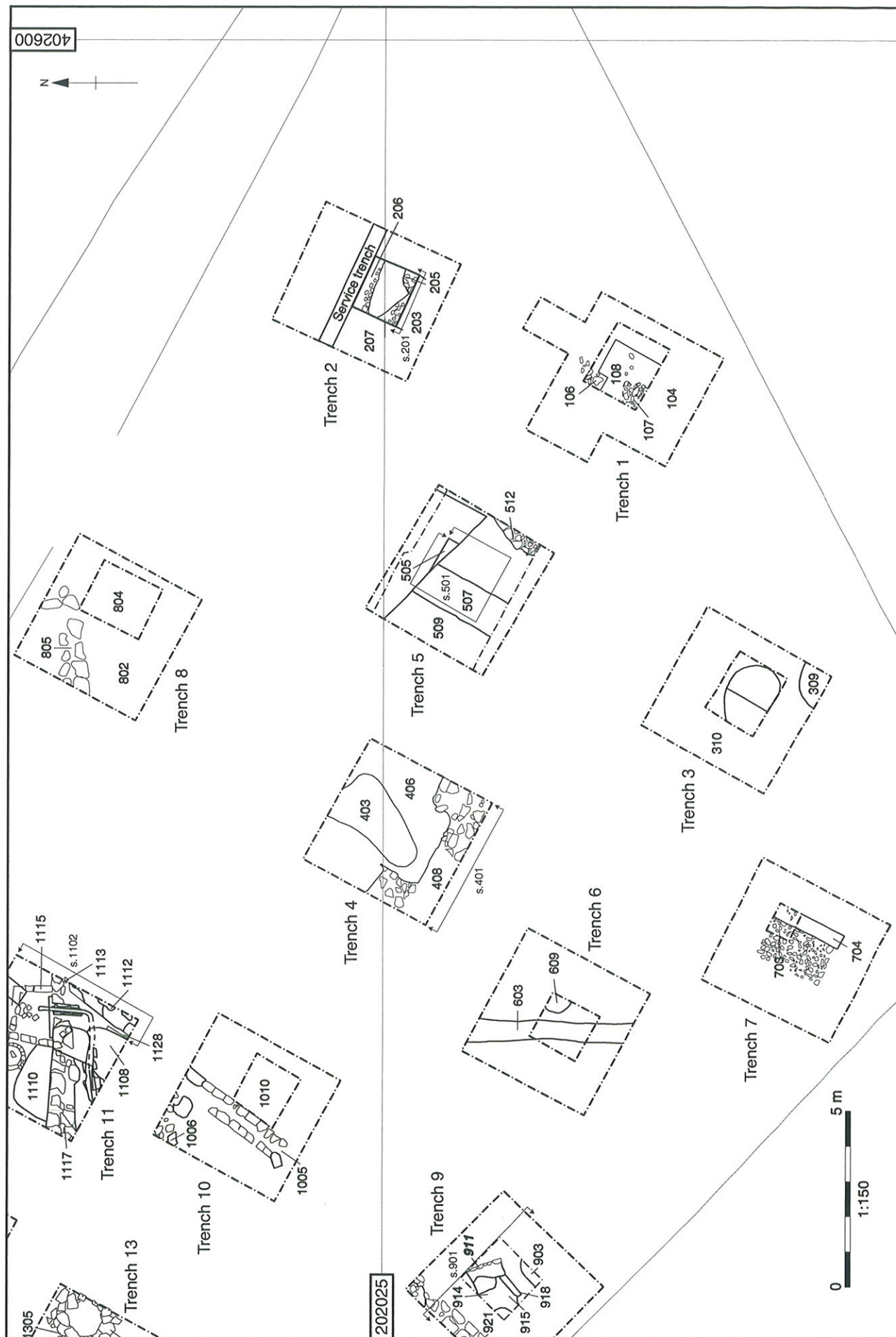


Figure 4: Trench location plan detail 2, south-east

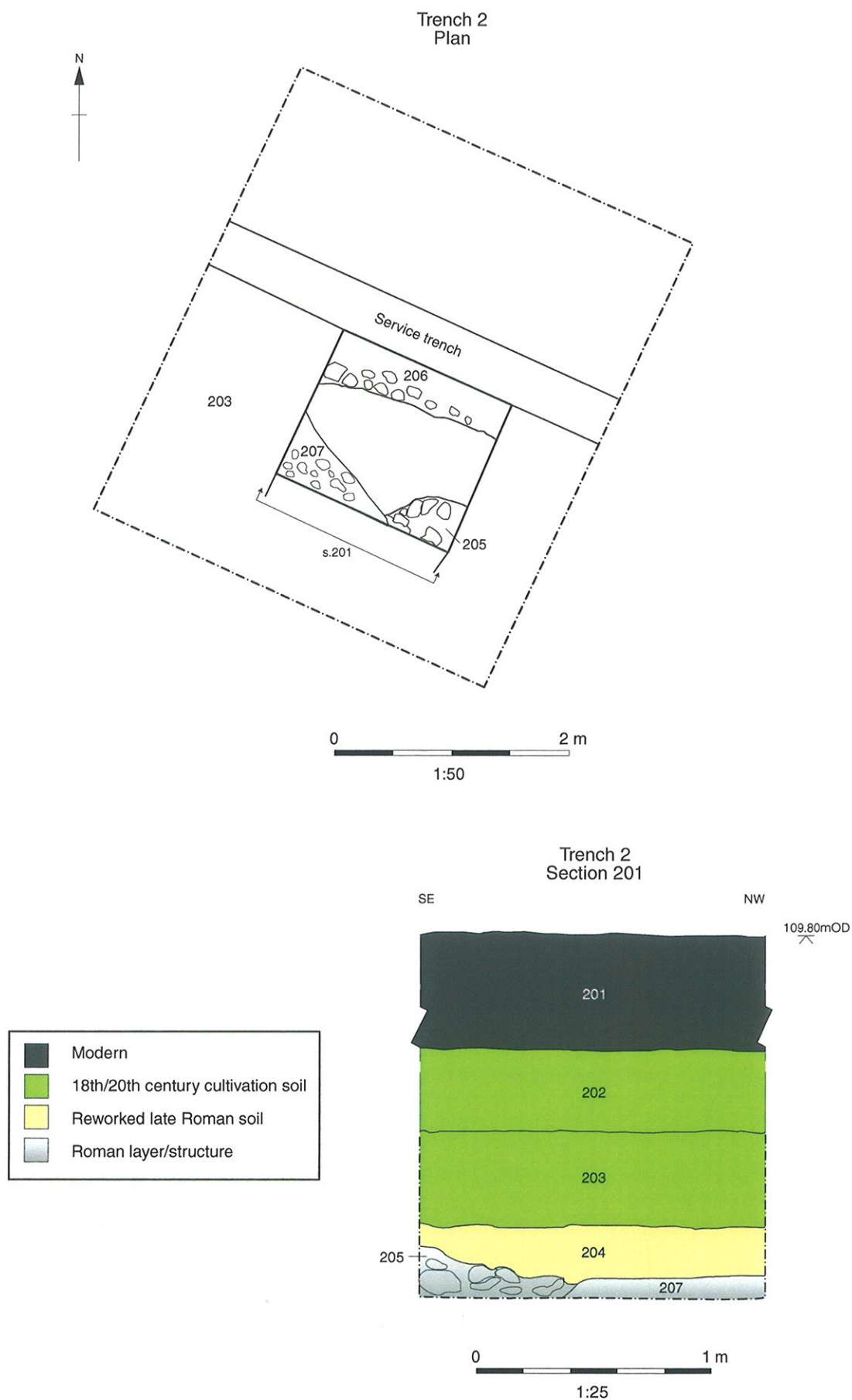


Figure 5: Trench 2, plan and section

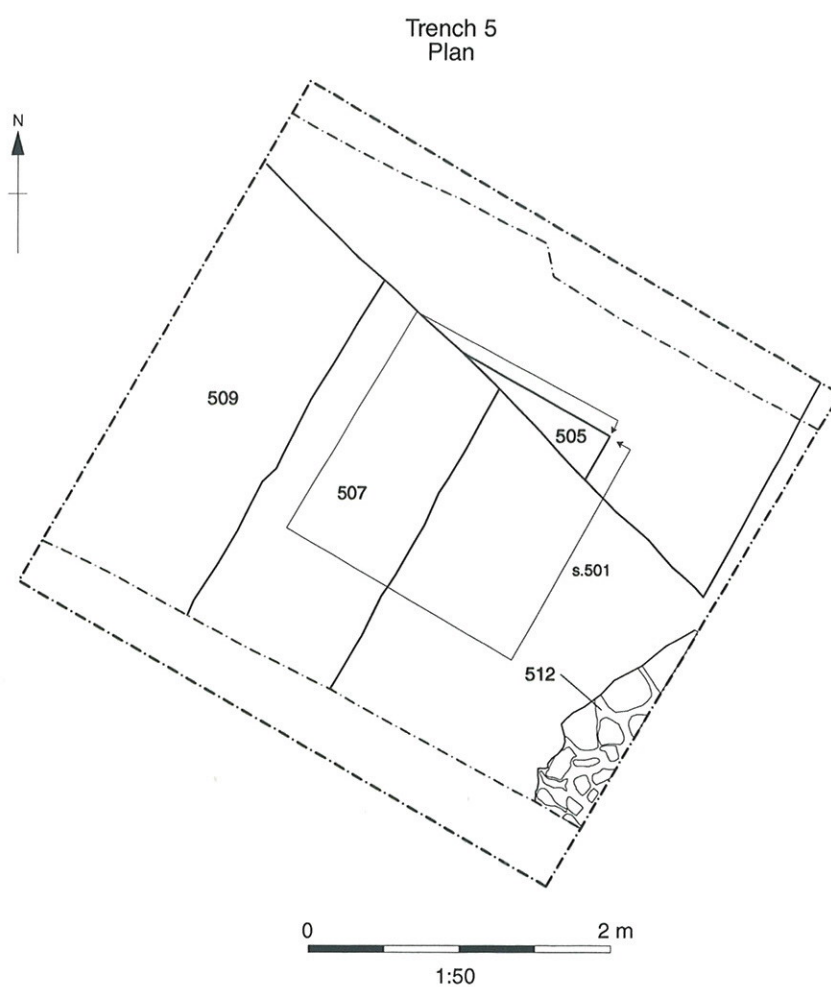
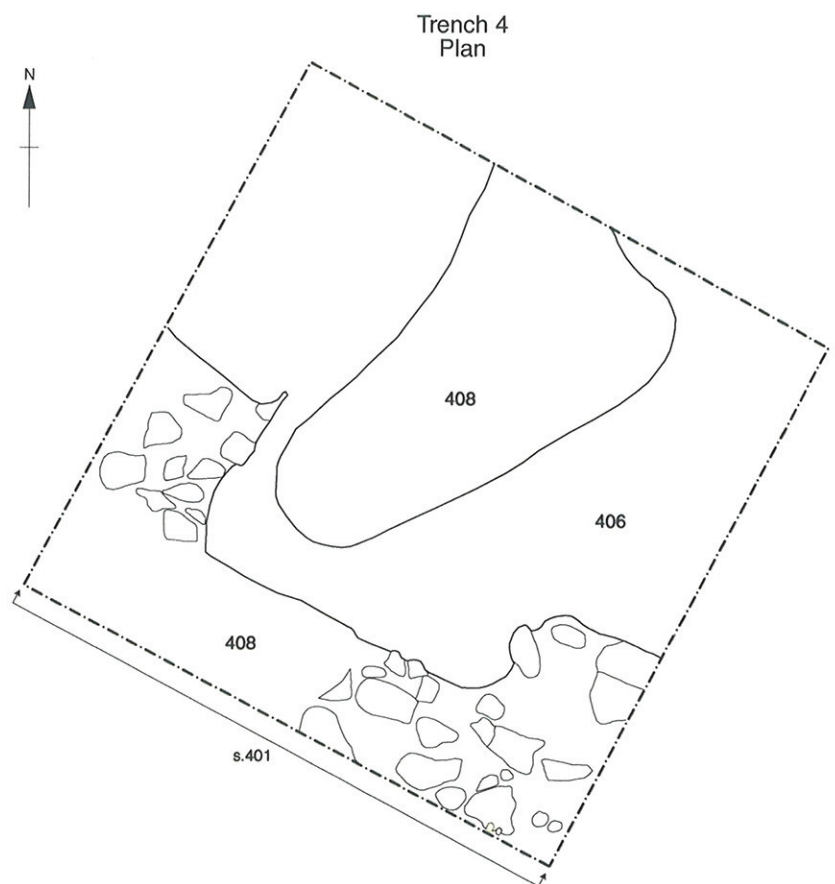
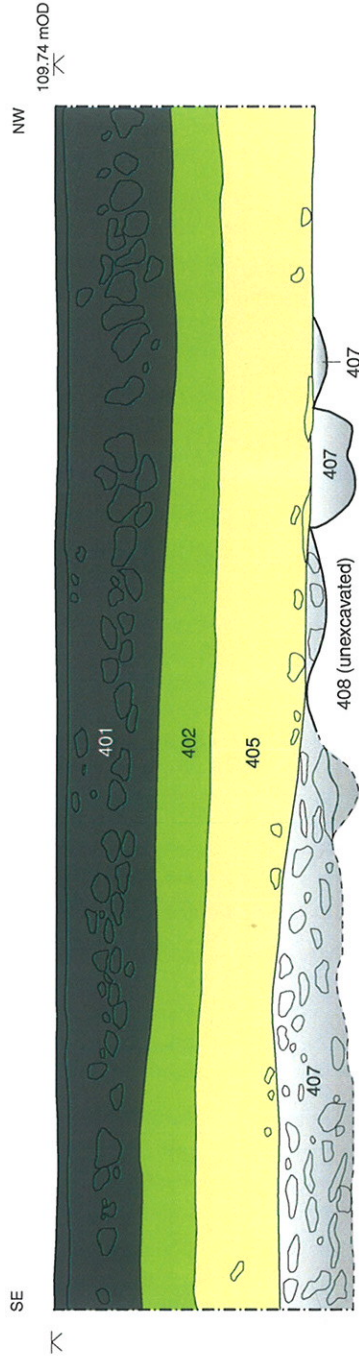


Figure 6: Trenches 4 and 5

Section 401



Section 501

Level of tarmac

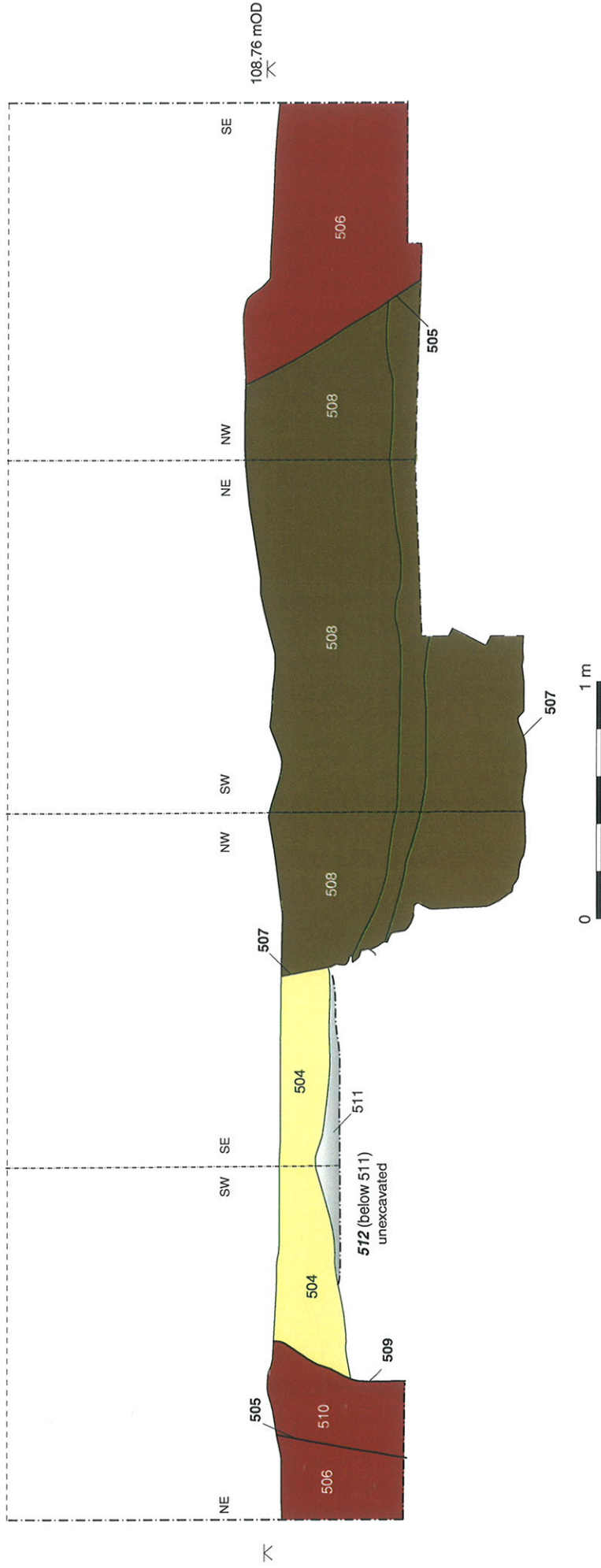


Figure 7: Trenches 4 and 5, sections

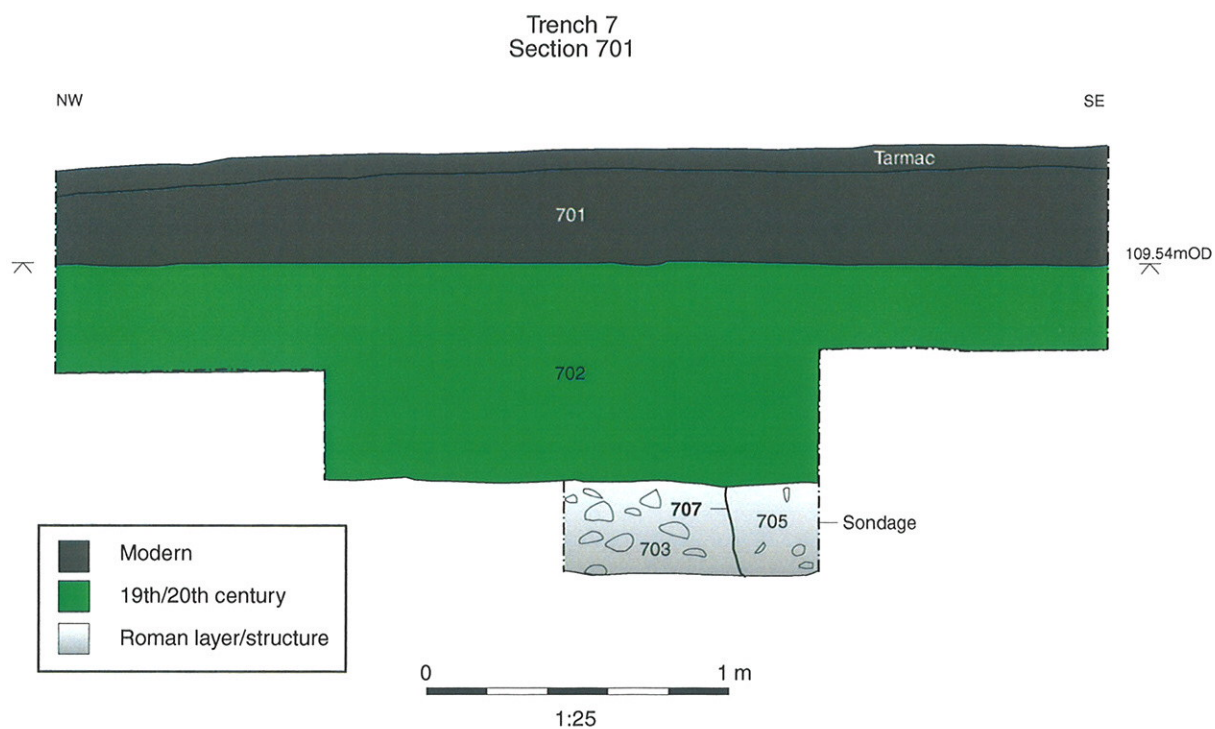


Figure 8: Trench 7, section

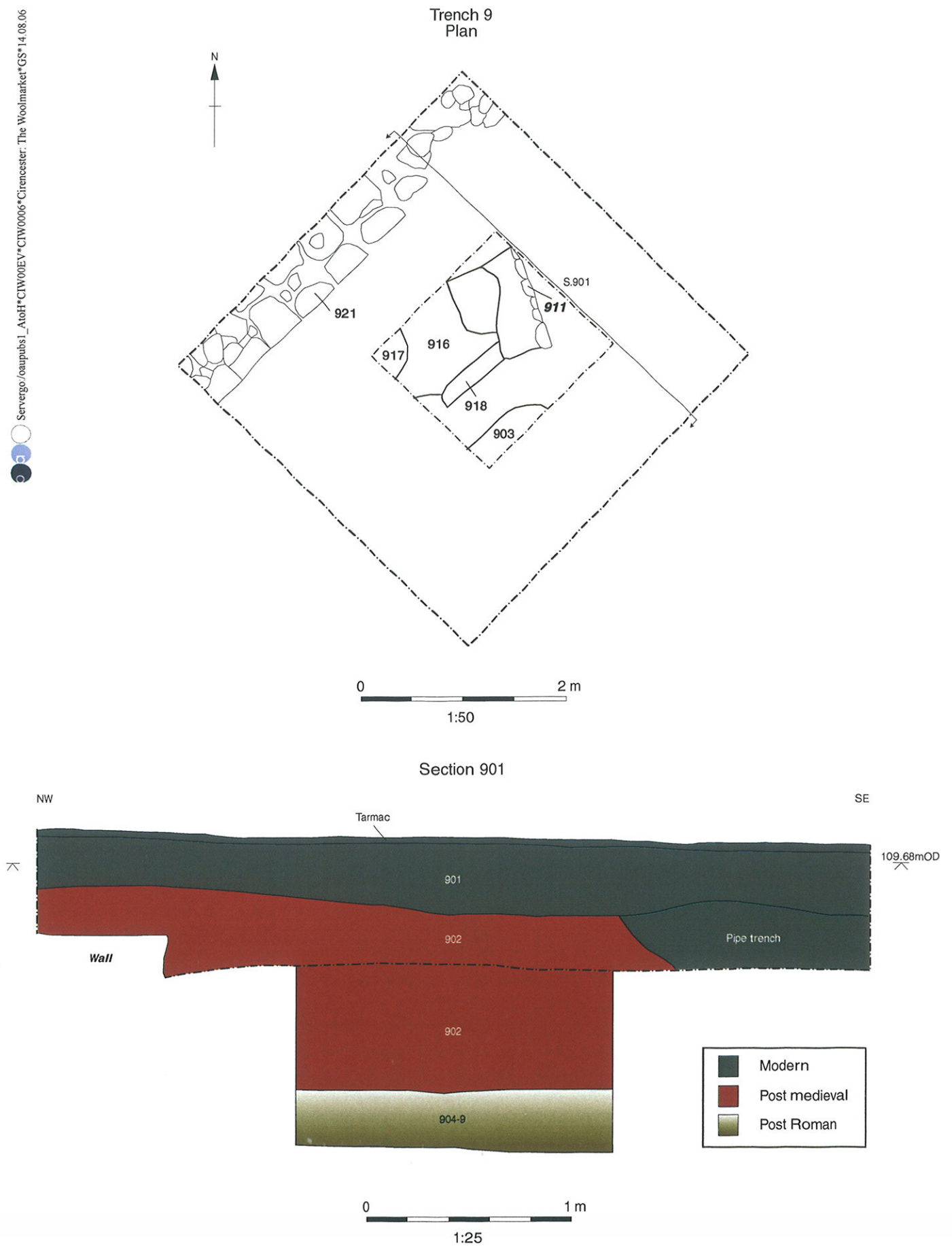


Figure 9: Trench 9, plan and section

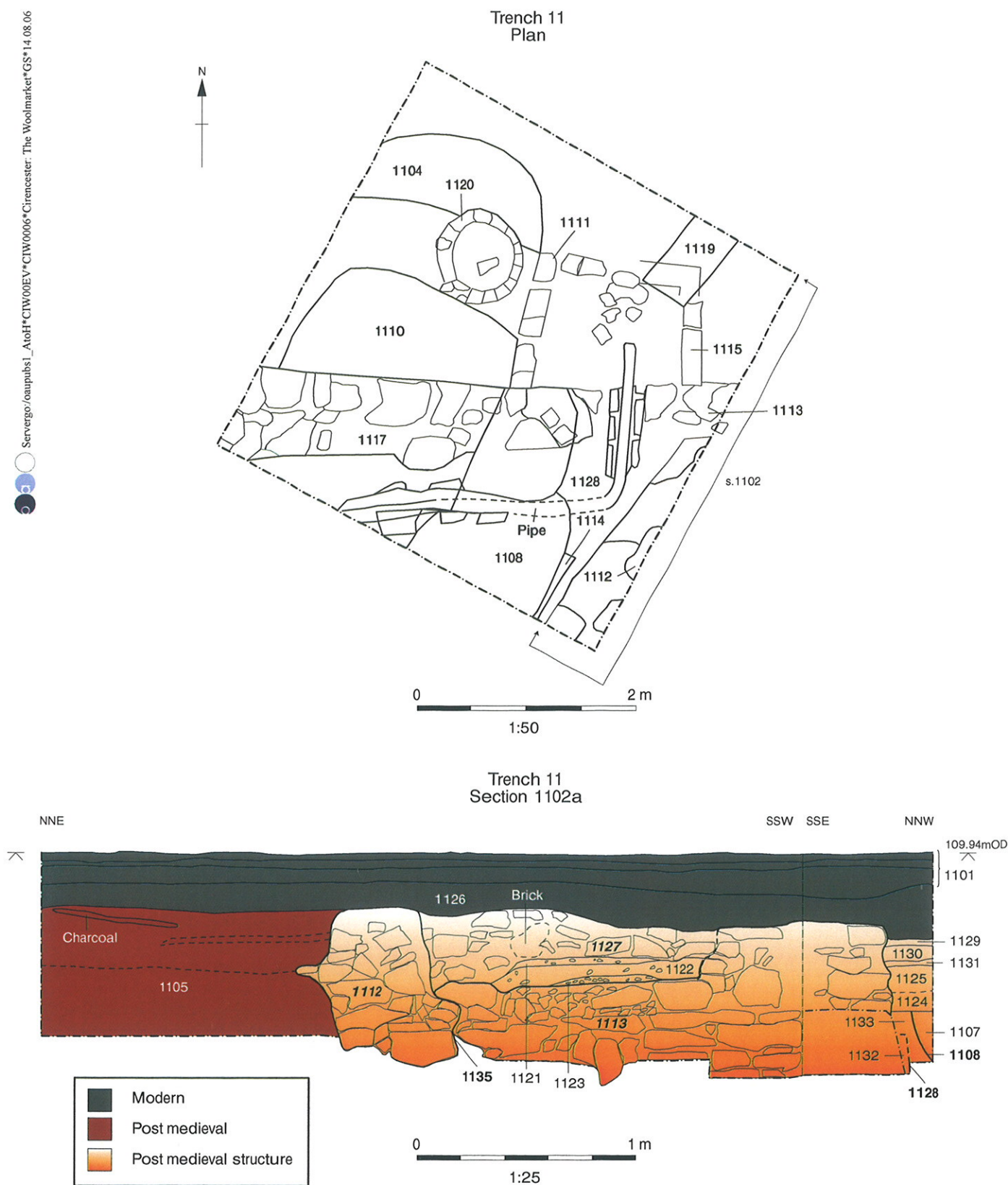
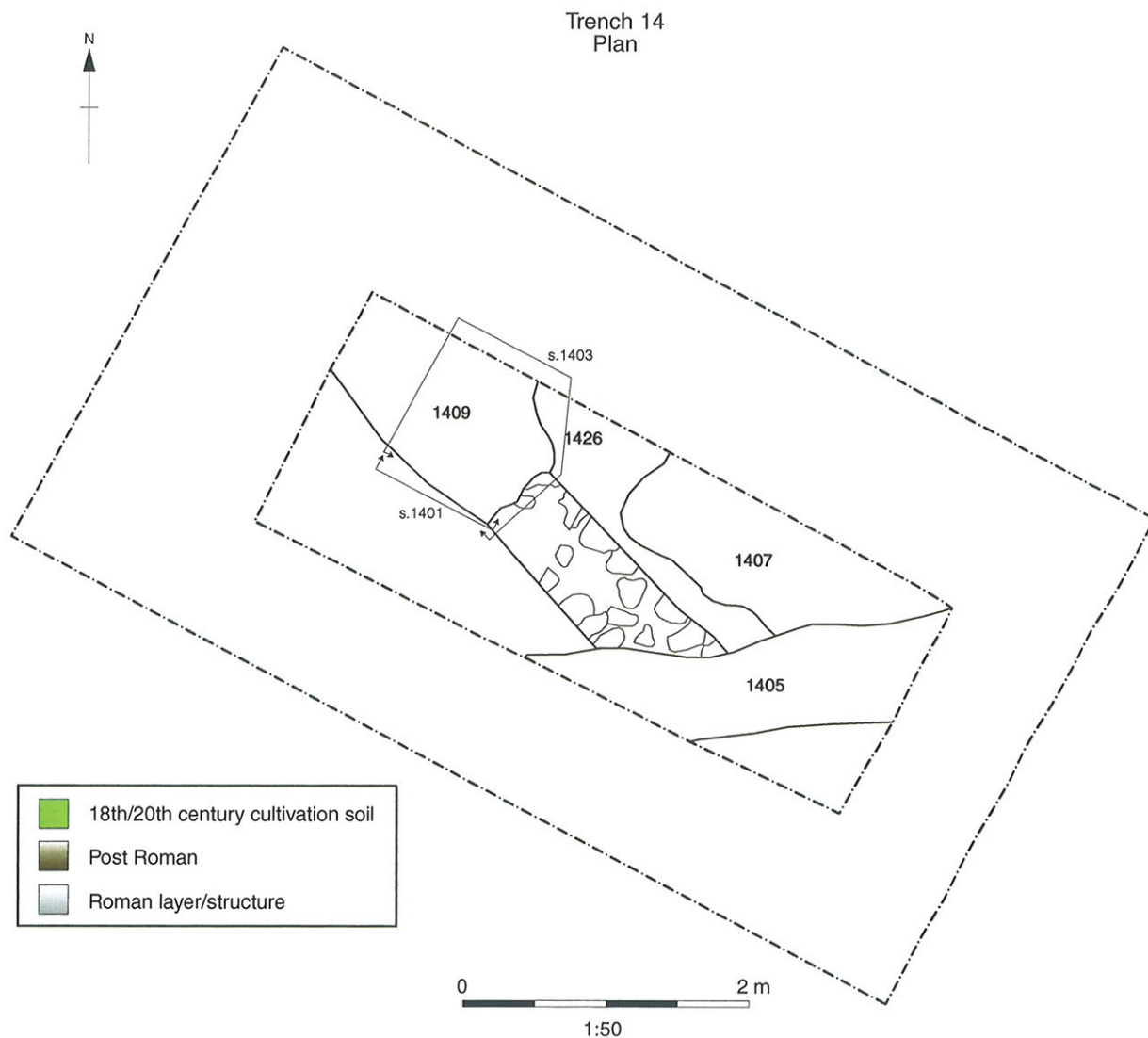


Figure 10: Trench 11, plan and section



Section 1401/3

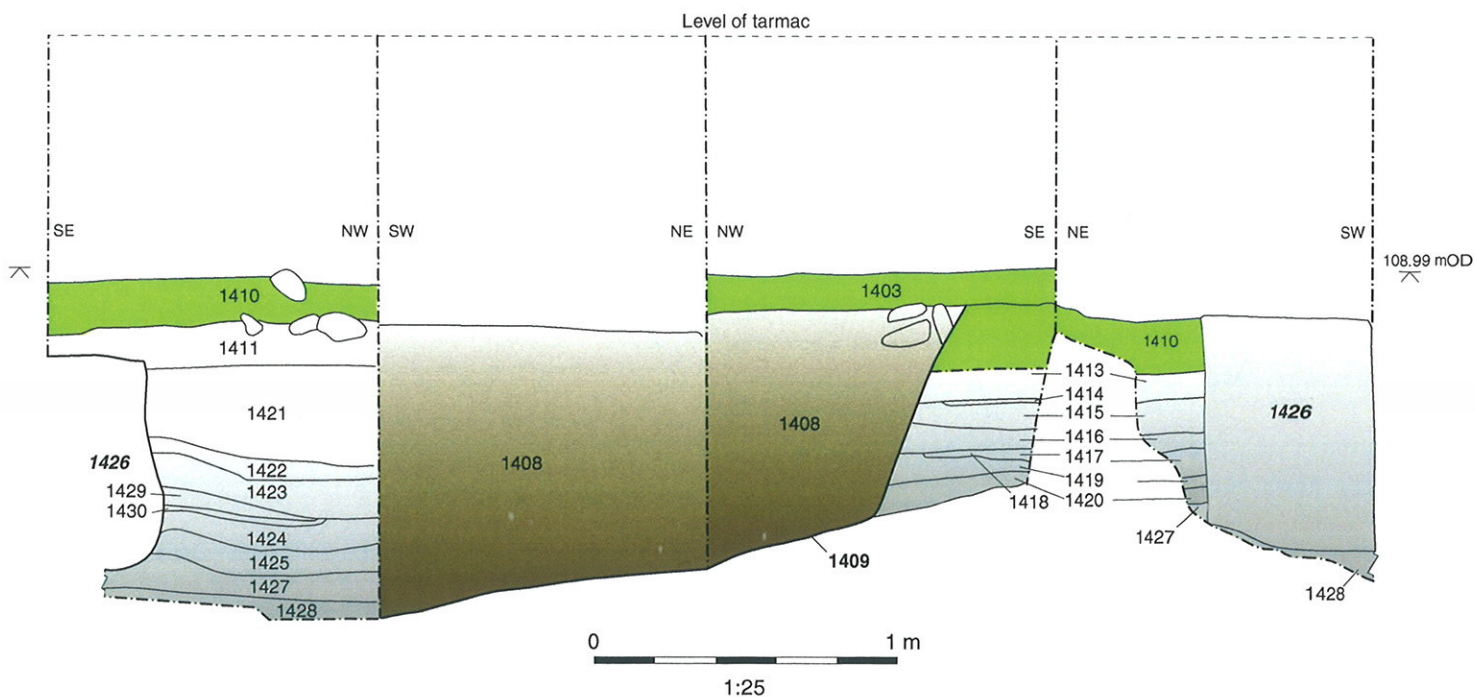


Figure 12: Trench 14, plan and section

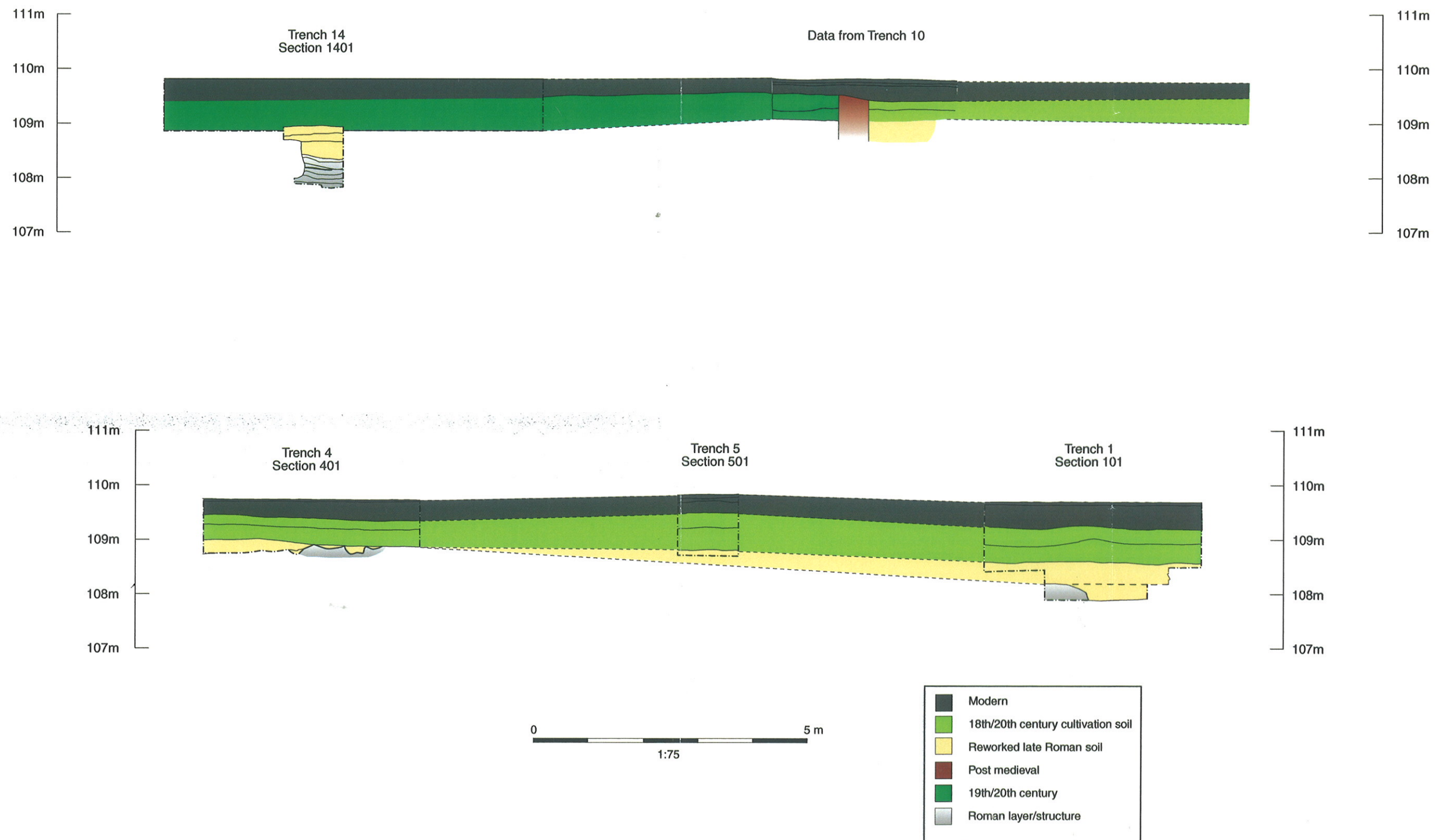


Figure 13: NW-SE site cross section



Figure 14: SW-NE site cross section

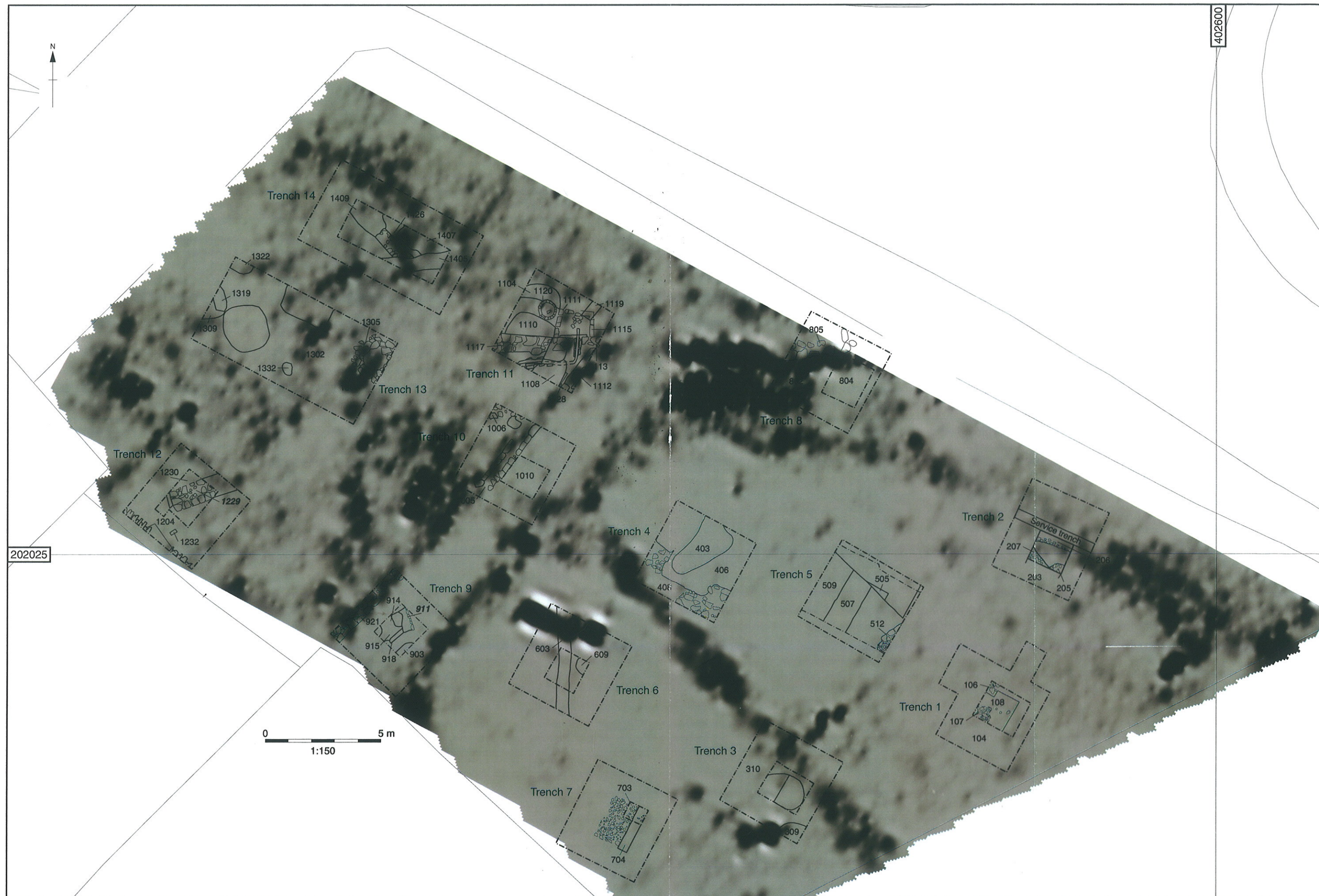


Figure 15: Radar plot and excavated archaeological features



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