Abingdon Museum Lift Pit Abingdon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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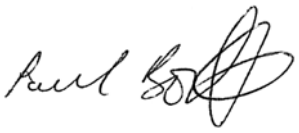

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Abingdon Museum Lift Pit, Abingdon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In March 2009 Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation and geotechnical exercise at Abingdon Museum, Abingdon, in advance of a planning application for the construction of a new lift shaft and the lowering of the basement floor by 1 m. Undated pits or postholes were revealed within two testpits to the south of the museum. The pits/postholes were overlain by a sequence of metalled Roman road surfaces, and were most likely Iron Age in date. The bases of probable early Roman pits were observed within two testpits cut through the existing basement floor. Roman and medieval soil horizons overlay the deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between 10th March and 27th March 2009, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological evaluation and geotechnical exercise at Abingdon Museum, Abingdon (SU 4979 9705). The work was carried out in advance of a determination of a proposal for the construction of a new lift shaft, and lowering of the existing basement floor by 1 m. The work was carried out on behalf of Ridge Partnership LLP and Abingdon Town Council. A brief outlining the archaeological requirements of the work, was produced by Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeological Officer (OCC 2009). Oxford Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how the requirements of the brief would be met (OA 2009).

1.1.2 Abingdon Museum, formerly the County Hall, is a Grade 1 Listed Building (LB 250413) located in the centre of Abingdon, opposite the Market Square and bounded by High Street to the north, East St Helen's Street to the east and south and Market Place to the west.

1.1.3 The evaluation comprised the excavation of four testpits measuring up to 2 m wide. Two testpits (A and B) were excavated against the external south-western walls of the museum, and two testpits (C and D) were excavated within the museum's basement (Fig. 2).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on the first gravel terrace of the River Thames, overlying Kimmeridge Clay, at *c* 54 m OD. The external testpits were located in an area designated for bicycle parking, and the internal testpits were within the museum's basement.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A Desktop Study for the centre of Abingdon was carried out in 1996 for the nearby Regal Cinema, which was located *c* 200 m to the west (OAU 1996). That work is summarised below and supplemented by more recent information.

1.3.2 Little work has been carried out on the site; a trench was excavated in 1973 to locate a gas main, observations made at that time recorded a ditch cut 2.2 m below ground level that contained Romano-British pottery. A wall foundation was set into the fills and was overlain by four undated road surfaces, which may have dated to the 17th century (Thomas and Miles 1973).

Prehistoric

1.3.3 Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity has been found in small quantities beneath much of the town centre. The early Iron Age (750-350 BC) saw the establishment of permanent large-scale settlement at Abingdon, while the middle Iron Age settlement (350 – 100 BC) was both larger and more densely occupied. More than a dozen house-sites were excavated beneath Abbey House and its car park (Allen 1989; 1990; 1991), and Iron Age pits were found just south of the Vineyard either side of Abbey Close. Pottery and storage pits were found in East and West St Helen Streets (Wilson and Wallis 1991; Clayton 1972). Another Middle Iron Age settlement was found beneath the Abbey Day Centre and the west end of the Thames-side strip (Wilson and Wallis 1991; Miles 1975).

1.3.4 In the late Iron Age (100 BC – AD 43) the town centre settlement continued to thrive (Allen 1989; 1990; 1991), and was surrounded by two or three parallel defensive ditches each 6-12 m wide. The ditches have been excavated on the west of the town (Allen 1997; Brady *et al*. 2007) and on the north under the Sheltered Housing development and Waitrose (Chambers and Moore 1988; Allen 1993). The ditches were in use until at least the early 2nd century AD, after which the inner ditch (where sectioned) was deliberately filled in with gravel.

1.3.5 Prehistoric finds in close proximity to Abingdon Museum include Beaker pottery from Twickenham House, at the west end of East St Helen's Street (Wilson and Wallis 1991). Early Iron Age pottery was discovered *c* 50 m south-west of the site, at Lombard Street (Jones 1983); and an Iron Age ditch was recorded during the Old Gaol Excavations (Parrington 1975a).

Roman

1.3.6 Much of the defended town was densely occupied in the early Roman period (AD 43-120). There are at least three Roman masonry buildings known in Abingdon; one in Fore Street (Ackerman 1867), parts of one or more under the Railway Inn (John Moore pers comm), and a third under Abbey House and continuing into the Abbey Gardens (Allen 1989; 1990; 1991).

1.3.7 Compacted gravel surfaces, constituting either road or yard surfaces were recorded at Twickenham House (Wilson and Wallis 1991). These contained both Iron Age and Early Roman Pottery.

1.3.8 By the 2nd century AD the late Iron Age defensive ditches had been filled in and the town expanded northwards over them. Roman ditches, pits, ovens and burials have all been recovered (Allen 1989; 1996; 1997; 1998; Wilson 1984). During the excavation of trenches across the Abbey in 1922, Roman finds were recovered throughout the Abbey Gardens, suggesting that Roman occupation covered the whole of this area (Biddle 1968). Roman ditches were also found just south of the Abbey Gardens in Checker Walk (Thomas 1981).

1.3.9 The Roman building in Fore Street, close to the junction of East St Helen Street and Lombard Street, reportedly had a herringbone pattern tiled floor (Ackerman 1867). A wall, possibly from the same building, was seen at Twickenham House (Wilson and Wallis 1991). Early Roman pits and ditches were also revealed to the south. A late Iron Age/early Roman inhumation was recorded at Queen Street (Parrington 1975b); late Iron Age/early Roman cobbled floors and later Roman pits were recorded to the rear of St Nicholas Church; Roman finds were recovered from work at Market Place (unpublished); and a Roman corndrier was excavated at the Old Gaol (Parrington 1975a).

Anglo-Saxon

1.3.10 Roman occupation was succeeded by early Saxon settlement without an apparent break. The church of St Helen's to the west, is believed to have been a Saxon Minster, and Abingdon Abbey to the east of the site, is though to have been founded in the 10th century. Sunken-floored buildings (SFBs) of 5th century date were found beneath Abbey House (Allen 1989; 1990; 1991), grass-tempered Saxon pottery at the Old Goal (Parrington 1975a), in East St Helens Street (Parrington 1974) and in the High Street (Rodwell 1975, 33), while loomweights were found close to the site in Broad Street (*ibid.*). Another Saxon settlement was found beneath the Abbey Day Centre c 900 m to

the east of the site (Keevill 1992), and a single sherd of grass-tempered pottery was found within the Thames-side strip (Scott Wilson 1999).

Medieval

1.3.11 Abingdon expanded throughout the medieval period with much of the wealth based on malting, the wool trade and tanneries. St Nicholas' Church, *c* 50 m to the east of the site, dates from the 12th century and is located on one side of the Abbey Gate, the other side being formed by the Hospital of St John's. The Market Square opposite the abbey is medieval in origin; the Domesday Book records 10 merchants (mercatores) resident before the abbey gates.

1.3.12 A Market Hall is first recorded in the centre of Market Place by 1327 as there is a record of it being burnt in the riots of that year. The 14th-century Market House may itself have replaced an earlier structure as it is called the New House. A cross was erected within the square in *c* 1442, directly opposite the museum, but in 1644 this was toppled by Parliamentarian troops.

1.3.13 Medieval tenement plots and pits have been revealed within sites across Abingdon, with evidence for various trades. Lombard Street, which is situated *c* 50 m to the west of the museum, existed in name by the 15th century and is very likely to indicate (as has been shown in Lombard Streets in London and elsewhere) the presence of goldsmiths and bankers in this area. Excavations at 6 Lombard Street revealed medieval pits and Arabic glassware, indicative of a rich community with very distant contacts (Jones 1983).

1.3.14 Medieval pits and activity have been recorded at Twickenham House; East St Helen Street; Stert Street, near to St Nicholas Church; Abingdon Vineyard; and the Old Gaol excavations. An unpublished excavation in Market Place, on the site of the Nat-West Bank in 1972, revealed medieval pits and a 14th-century road surface.

Post medieval

1.3.15 Abingdon recovered from the dissolution of Abingdon Abbey in 1538, and became an important market and administrative town. During the Civil War of 1642 - 1649, Abingdon occupied an important position on a major road to London and crossing point of the Thames only 8 miles from the Royalist headquarters at Oxford. Evidence for Civil War defence ditches were found during recent excavations south of Abingdon Vineyard (Devaney 2007).

1.3.16 Abingdon Museum was originally built between 1678 and 1683 as a market hall. It comprises a stone plinth supporting pillars below a two storey structure. A sessions hall was located on the first floor (OCC 2009).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 OA extends its thanks to the staff of Abingdon Museum, James Carter-Brown (Ridge Partnership LLP) and Hugh Coddington (OCC) for their assistance prior to and during the works.

1.4.2 The fieldwork was carried out over 3 weeks by Robin Bashford (Project Officer), Jodie Ford (Supervisor), Mattias Pihlwret, Ben McAndrew and Matt Morgan (Assistant Supervisors). The project was managed by Andy Norton (Senior Project Manager). The drawings were produced by Hannah Brown.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

General

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the area of study.

Specific

2.1.2 To determine the depth and nature of the museum's foundations.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Where practicable, mechanical excavation was carried out by a 5 tonne tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Machine excavation was carried out under close archaeological supervision and ceased at the top of the first significant archaeological horizon.

2.2.2 In Testpit A a safe system of shoring was installed when a depth of 1.2 m had been reached.

2.2.3 All archaeological features were hand sampled and issued with unique context numbers. All recording was in accordance with established OA practice as detailed in the OA Field Manual (OAU 1992).

2.3 Finds

2.3.1 Bulk finds recovered during the course of the evaluation were bagged by context.

2.4 Paleo-environmental evidence

2.4.1 Where appropriate, soil samples were retained for paleo-environmental analysis. Samples were taken from a charcoal rich pit fill and an organic layer overlying a road surface (see Appendix C.1).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Presentation of results

3.1.1 The results are presented on a testpit by testpit basis. Where appropriate, individual deposits are described within the text. Otherwise, detailed context descriptions are located in the Context Inventory (Appendix A).

3.1.2 A generalised interpretation can be found in Section 4.

3.2 Soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soils encountered were derived from natural gravels, mixed with silty soils.

3.2.2 There was moderate intrusion by modern service trenches and minimal root disturbance. All of the deposits were well defined, showing no evidence of mixing.

3.3 Distribution of archaeological deposits

Testpit A (Figs 3 and 4)

3.3.1 Testpit A was located against the north-south aligned exterior stairwell wall (416) of the museum, and measured 1.2 m by 1.9 m. The testpit was excavated to the base of the foundations of wall 416, which were encountered at 2.5 m below ground level (51.74 m OD).

3.3.2 Natural geology was encountered at 52.29 m OD, which comprised bedded gravel (443) overlain by a *c* 0.2 m thick layer of silty-clay loess (supra-natural, 444 - Fig. 4, Section 400). Two pits or large postholes were cut into the supra natural. Pit 428, in the south-east corner of the testpit, was oval in shape and measured 0.5 m wide and 0.4 m deep (Fig. 3, Plan 407 and Fig. 4, Section 404). The pit was filled with dark brown silts (429 and 432).

3.3.3 Pit 430 was located 0.5 m to the north-west of 428 and was also oval in shape, measuring 0.62 m by 0.4 m and 0.38 m deep (Fig.3, Plan 407 and Fig 4, Section 405). The pit contained a single fill (431) of charcoal-rich clay-silt. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill of either pit but charred grain and weed seeds were recovered from fill 431.

3.3.4 Pits 428 and 430 were overlain by a 0.25 m thick layer of grey-brown clay silt of uncertain origin (427; Fig. 4, Section 400). The layer was most likely a buried soil, which was overlain by a 0.1 m thick, heavily compacted silty-clay soil horizon (426 and 420; Fig. 4, Section 400), which contained pottery dating from the 2nd century AD.

3.3.5 The soil was overlain by a sequence of metalled road surfaces and occupation deposits. The earliest road surface comprised a thin layer of well-compacted brown-grey gravel, which sloped slightly down to the north and contained early Roman pottery (425; Fig. 4, Section 400, Plate 3). A 0.8 m wide repair comprising a patch of mid brown-orange gravel overlay 425 (433; Fig. 4, Section 400). Both surfaces were overlain by a 0.06 m thick build-up of sandy-silt (424), which contained inclusions of charcoal and early Roman pottery.

3.3.6 Layer 424 was overlain by a series of gravel metalled surfaces, potentially forming part of a road, which were interspersed with silty build-up layers representing periods of use before resurfacing took place (Fig. 3, Plan 407, Fig. 4. Section 400, Plates 1 and 2).

3.3.7 The metalled surfaces were between 0.015 m and 0.07 m thick, and generally sloped slightly down towards the north. With the exception of surface 441, all of the deposits were observed in plan and none showed any signs of wear, such as wheel ruts.

3.3.8 Layer 407 (Fig. 3, Plan 402, Fig. 4 Section 400), towards the top of the sequence, was overlain by a patch of gravel, and an area of larger stones and pebbles (440), forming a repair. The silt accumulations between the metalled surfaces were on average 0.02 m thick and followed the same contour as the metalled surfaces.

3.3.9 Early Roman pottery was recovered from the uppermost surface, a 0.1 m thick, slightly silty layer of finer compacted gravel (401), which was overlain by an uneven and patchy cobbled surface (402; Fig. 3, Plan 402, Fig. 4, Section 400). The cobbled surface was cut by a gully and possibly by posthole 412, although the relationship between the cobbles and the post-hole was unclear.

3.3.10 Gully 403 was north-west to south-east aligned and 0.6 m wide and 0.45 m deep. It is conceivable that the gully formed a central drainage channel within the road, or a boundary following the abandonment of the road. It was filled by a dark brown-grey clay silt (404) that contained pottery dating from the 2nd century.

3.3.11 Post-holes 412 and 414 were located in the north-east corner of the testpit and were 0.15 m by 0.15 m and 0.35 m and 0.8 m deep respectively (Fig. 3, Plan 402 and Fig. 4, Section 402). Post-hole 414 (fill 413) cut through the latest road surface (401) and it is likely that it was contemporary with 412.

3.3.12 The post-holes and ditch were overlain by a dark grey-black buried soil or 'dark earth' (405; Fig. 4, Section 400), which contained late 3rd- to 4th-century pottery. This was overlain by a very similar deposit (411; Fig. 4, Section 400), containing 12th- or 13th-century pottery.

3.3.13 Buried soil layer 411 was overlain by layers of medieval made-ground or garden soil (409 and 410; Fig. 4, Section 400). The soils contained 13th-century pottery and soil 409 contained a significant amount of large stones and a small amount of mortar, indicative of a demolition deposit. The deposits were overlain by a crude cobbled surface constructed from tile and stone (400; Fig. 4, Section 400), which was cut by a square pit (445) containing fragments of masonry and Victorian china. Modern make up layers for the current surface (406) overlay the deposits.

3.3.14 The museum wall (416) was trench built and its base was encountered at 51.74 m OD (2.5 m below ground level - Fig. 4, Section 400). The wall foundations were constructed from roughly hewn limestone blocks (between 0.1 m by 0.1 m and 0.4 m by 0.15 m in size), bonded with lime mortar. The stones were roughly coursed and obscured by the mortar. The point in the sequence at which the construction cut (422) originated was unclear, and it was presumed to cut through surface 400.

Testpit B

3.3.15 Testpit B was located against the southern, east-west aligned external museum wall (306; Fig. 5, Section 301). The testpit measured 2 m by 1.7 m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6 m (53.83 m OD); the top of the Roman road sequence revealed in Testpit A (Fig. 5, Plan 300). Following discussions with Hugh Coddington (OCC) and Ridge, it was agreed that the testpit did not need to be excavated to full depth.

3.3.16 The sequence of deposits overlying the Roman surfaces in Testpit B was similar to that observed in Testpit A, with the exception of the post-medieval cobbled surface (400, Fig. 4, Section 400), which was not observed in Testpit B.

A compacted gravel surface with occasional cobble stones was revealed that was probably the same as surface 401 in Testpit A (302; Fig. 5, Plan 300). The surface was overlain by a 0.2 m thick layer of buried soil (301) containing 12th- to 13th-century pottery. The soil was overlain by a second 0.2 m thick layer of buried soil containing similarly dated pottery (300; Fig. 5 Section 302). The deposits were similar in colour and texture to the buried soil deposits in Testpit A (405 and 411), which overlay surface 401, but no medieval pottery was present in layers 405 and 411.

3.3.17 Buried soil layer 300 was overlain by layers of medieval made-ground/soils (303 - 304; Fig. 5, Section 302), which contained 13th- or 14th-century pottery and can be equated to layers 409 and 410 in Testpit A. The deposits were overlain by modern levelling deposits (305).

3.3.18 The foundation of museum wall 306 (Fig. 5, Section 301) was of the same construction as wall 416 in Testpit A. The wall was trench built and the construction cut (307) was presumed to cut layer 304, although this was not visible in section.

Testpit C

3.3.19 Testpit C was located in the south-east corner of the western room in the museum's basement (Fig. 6), at the intersection of the southern east-west aligned external wall (212), and the internal north-south dividing wall (211). The testpit measured 1.2 m by 1.2 m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5 m below basement floor level. Natural alluvial or glacial clay (210) was encountered directly below the basement floor.

3.3.20 An auger was used to determine the depth of the Kimmeridge Clay. This was revealed at 2 m below basement floor level (69.76 m OD).

3.3.21 The bases of three inter-cutting pits (202, 204 and 206) were recorded, measuring between 0.5 m and 1 m wide and up to 0.4 m deep (Fig. 6, Plan 200, Section 200). All three pits were largely obscured by the limit of excavation and were filled with dark clay silts and redeposited natural (203, 205, and 207 - 209). The fill of pit 204 (205) contained a single fragment of early Roman pottery.

3.3.22 The base of the museum wall foundations (211 and 212) was encountered at a depth of 51.66 m OD (Fig. 6, Section 200).

Testpit D

3.3.23 Test pit D was located in the north-east corner of the western room in the museum's basement, at the intersection of the northern east-west aligned external wall and the internal north-south dividing wall (106). The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.5 m below basement floor level (51.25 m OD), through the natural gravel (100), which was encountered 0.05 m below the basement floor.

3.3.24 A pit base measuring 0.9 m wide in section (the pit was not observed in plan) and 0.18 m deep was recorded (103; Fig. 4, Section 102). The sandy fill (104) produced no dating evidence, although the pit was overlain by a 0.05 thick layer of dark grey-black silty-clay (102), containing pottery dating from the mid 1st to 2nd centuries AD. The deposits were overlain by a levelling layer (101) for the basement floor.

3.3.25 The base of the museum wall foundations (106) was encountered at a depth of 51.75m OD.

4 Discussion

4.1 Interpretation

General

4.1.1 It is clear that Abingdon Museum lies in an area of high archaeological potential, Testpits A and B revealed a complex sequence of stratigraphy over 2 m deep and comprising probable Iron Age pits/postholes, a sequence of Roman road surfaces, and Roman and medieval soil horizons.

Iron Age

4.1.2 The earliest features are most likely associated with the extensive Iron Age activity that has been observed elsewhere within the town. The presence of cereal grain in the pit or posthole fills indicates that crop processing/storage was undertaken nearby, and the weed seeds such as field madder are indicative of arable cultivation.

Roman

4.1.3 The presence of The Roman road surfaces were somewhat unexpected, the primary road surfaces were well made and in general resurfaced rather than repaired. However, the latest surfaces (for example 401 and 407; Fig. 4, Section 400) were crudely repaired with cobbles and pebbles, representing the road's relative disuse in the late Roman and early Saxon periods. If the late Roman gully was a central drainage feature the road was most likely aligned north-west to south-east, possibly linking Abingdon with Dorchester, although the road need not have extended further than the edge of the Roman town.

4.1.4 The possibility that the surfaces formed a yard area cannot be discounted, but the interpretation of a road is more likely based on the number of surfaces encountered (10), and the location of a similar sequence of surfaces at Twickenham House, Lombard Street *c* 65 m to the south-east (Wilson and Wallis 1991), on the line of the likely continuation of the Abingdon Museum road.

4.1.5 Neither the surfaces at the museum or those at Twickenham House displayed any evidence of wear caused by carts or animals, but this is likely due in part to the road's solid construction and the small size of the investigation areas.

4.1.6 The construction of the museum's basement had largely removed any evidence of archaeological activity within its footprint. However, the base of deep pits/postholes did survive and it is likely that the bases of similar features will survive elsewhere beneath the basement floor. The pits/postholes may have been associated with agricultural activity or a nearby structure.

4.1.7 The build up of the 'dark earth' indicates that the road and possible structure fell out of use in the 4th century, with the site being abandoned or perhaps used for agriculture or pasture.

Medieval

4.1.8 The medieval soil layers overlying the road surfaces and 'dark earth' demonstrate that the site remained unoccupied until the construction of the town hall in the 17th century. The land may have formed a yard within a medieval tenement or open space opposite

the market place. However, it is possible that medieval occupation deposits were truncated by later activity.

Post-medieval

4.1.9 The late cobbled surface's relationship with the museum building was unclear. It is feasible that it formed part of a street that pre-dated the construction of the County Hall in the 17th century.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Testpit A						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Testpit containing possible Iron Age pits, Roman metalled road surfaces and later Roman cobbled surfaces, as well as a possibly associated drainage ditch and Roman, medieval and post-medieval buried soils and made-ground deposits.					**Avg. depth (m)**	2.5
					Width (m)	1.2
					Length (m)	1.9
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Thickness (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer/ surface	1.2	0.1	Cobbled surface/make-up layer	CBM	
401	Surface	1.2	0.12	Degraded metalled gravel surface. Final surface of Roman road.	Pottery	Late 1st-mid 2nd C
402	Surface	1.2	0.15	Patchy cobbles overlying 401.	-	-
403	Cut	0.6	0.4	Poss drainage ditch	-	-
404	Fill	0.6	0.4	Single fil of 403. Dark brown-grey silty-clay.	Pottery	2nd C+
405	Layer	1.2	0.2	Buried soil/poss dark earth. Dark grey-black loam.	Pottery	Late 3rd-4th C
406	Layer	1.2	0.15	Modern made-ground	-	-
407	Layer	1.2	0.07	Metalled gravel surface. Mid brown-yellow, shows evidence of repairs.	-	-
408	Layer	0.3	0.2	Modern made-ground	-	-
409	Layer	1.2	0.29	?Med/post-med. Made ground. Dark grey-brown silty-clay with greeen mottling.	Pottery, animal bone, CBM	1225-1400
410	Layer	1.2	0.15	Med/post-med made ground. Dark brown sandy-clay.	Pottery, animal bone, CBM	1250-1400
411	Layer	1.2	0.2	Buried soil layer. Poss 405 reworked. Dark brown-black clay-silt.	Pottery, CBM	1175/1200-1300
412	Cut	0.15	0.35	Post hole. NE corner of trench. Cuts 401.	-	-
413	Fill	0.15	0.35	Fill of 412. Dark grey-brown silty clay.	-	-
414	Cut	0.15	0.08	Post hole. NE corner of trench. Prob cuts 401.	-	-

Testpit A						
415	Fill	0.15	0.08	Fill of 414. Dark grey-brown silty-clay.	-	-
416	Wall	1.2	2.5	External N-S wall of stairwell of 17th C. museum building.	-	-
417	Surface	1.2	0.03	Mettalled gravel road surface. Mid brown-orange.	?	
418	Layer	1.2	0.02	Accumulation of silt on top of road surface 434. Mid grey sandy-silt.	-	-
419	Layer	0.8	0.02	Accumulation of silt on road surface 435. Mid grey sandy silt.	-	-
420	Layer	1.2	0.02	Accumulation of silt on road surface 436. Mid grey sandy silt.	-	-
421	Layer	1.2	0.015	Accumulation of silt on road surface 422. Mid grey sandy silt.	-	-
422	Surface	1.2	0.02	Metalled gravel road surface. Mid yellow-orange. Less conpact than other surfaces in this sequence.	-	-
423	Layer	1.2	0.1	Lightly compacted gravel road. Mid brown-red with occ larger stones.	Pottery	1175-1350
424	Layer	1.2	0.06	Accumulation of silt on road surface 425. Mid grey sandy silt with 5% charcoal and poss organic matter.	Pottery	Mid-late 1st C
425	Surface	1.2	0.015	Metalled gravel road surface. Mid grey in colour due to underlying layer 426. Poss predates main phase of road building.	Pottery	Mid-late 1st C
426	Layer	1.2	0.1	Make-up layer for 425 or poss a surface in its own right. Extremely compact brown grey silty-clay.	Pottery	2nd C+
427	Layer	1.2	0.2	Pit fill or layer. Mid grey brown clay-silt.	-	-
428	Cut	0.5	0.4	Pit. Poss Iron Age.	-	-
429	Fill	0.18	0.28	Top fill of 428.	-	-

Testpit A						
430	Cut	0.62	0.38	Oval pit. Poss Iron Age.	-	-
431	Fill	0.62	0.38	Single fill of 430. Dark grey-black clay silt. Very rich in charcoal.	-	-
432	Fill	0.28	0.34	Bottom fill of 428. Mid grey-brown clay-silt.	-	-
433	Layer	0.8	0.08	V compact patch of mid brown-orange gravel on road surface 425. Prob represents a repair to this surface.	-	-
434	Surface	0.8	0.04	Metalled gravel road surface. Mid brown-orange.	-	-
435	Surface	0.8	0.04	Metalled gravel road surface. Mid Yellow-orange.	-	-
436	Surface	1.2	0.06	Metalled gravel road surface. Mid brown-orange.	-	-
437	Layer	1.2	0.15	Accumulation of silt on road surface 423. Mid grey sandy silt.	-	-
438	Layer	1.2	0.05	Silt build up	--	-
439	Layer	0.6	0.1	Gravelly silty-sand layer possibly representing mixed/degraded road surfaces- possibly disturbed by 403.	-	-
440	Surface	0.6	0.03	Metalled gravel. Poss repair/relaying of 407. Dark red-brown.	-	-
441	442	0.6	0.04	Metalled gravel road surface. Mid brown-orange.	-	-
442	Cut	1.2	2.5	Construction cut for wall 416	-	-
443	Layer	1.2	-	Natural gravel	-	-
444	Layer	1.2	0.2	Supra natural. Mid brown-yellow sandy-silt.	-	-
445	Cut	0.8	0.65	Victorian pit/construction cut.	-	-
446	Fill	0.8	0.65	Fill of 446	-	-

Testpit B						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench containing Roman, medieval and post-medieval buried soil and made-ground layers. Excavated to the top of the Roman road sequence seen in Testpit A.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.6
					Width (m)	1.7
					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Thickness (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	1.7	0.2	Prob made-ground layer. Dark green-black clay-silt. Med/post med.	Pottery, animal bone, CBM	1175/1200-1300
301	Layer	1.7	0.2	Medieval buried soil layer. Dark grey-black loam. Possibly 302 reworked.	Pottery, animal bone, CBM	1175/1200-1300
302	Layer	1.7	0.2	Roman buried soil layer. Dark grey-black loam.	Pottery	325-400
303	Layer	1.7	0.15	Med/post-med buried soil/made-ground. Mid grey-brown sandy-silt.	Pottery, animal bone, CBM	13-14C
304	Layer	1.7	0.2	Prob post-med made-ground/buried soil. Dark grey-brown clay-silt.	-	-
305	Layer	1.7	0.4	Modern made-ground/ demolition rubble	Pottery, Bone, CBM, Clay tobacco pipe	Modern
306	Wall	1.7	1.6	External E-W wall of 17th c museum.	-	-
307	Cut	1.7	1.6	Construction cut for wall 306	-	-
308	VOID					
309	Layer	1.7	0.15	Modern concrete	-	-
310	VOID					-
311	VOID					
312	Fill	0.03	1.6	Material filling 307. Prob composed of degraded lime mortar.	-	-

Testpit C						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Testpit containing 3 intercutting pits/pit bases.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	1.2
					Length (m)	1.2
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Thickness (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	1.2	0.1	Made-ground/ dump of bricks and sand	CBM	Modern
201	VOID	-	-	-	-	-
202	Cut	0.65	0.4	Small pit	-	-
203	Fill	0.65	0.2	Top fill of 202. Mid brown-grey clay silt.	-	-
204	Cut	1	0.35	Oval pit	-	-
205	Fill	1	0.35	Fill of 204. Dark brown-grey clay-silt.	Pottery	1st – mid 2nd C
206	Cut	0.5	0.15	Small pit	-	-
207	Fill	0.5	0.15	Fill of 206. Dark brown-grey clay-silt.	-	-
208	Fill	0.1	0.5	Intermediate fill of 202. Redeposited natural.	-	-
209	Fill			Bottom fill of 202. Dark grey-brown clay silt.	-	-
210	Layer			Natural clay and gravel	-	-
211	Wall			N-S dividing cellar wall	-	-
212	Wall			E-W external cellar wall		

Testpit D						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Testpit containing a single small pit (103).					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
					Width (m)	1.2
					Length (m)	1.2
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Thickness (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	1.2	-	Natural gravel	-	-
101	Layer	1.2	0.05	Made-ground	-	-
102	Layer	1.2	0.05	Made-ground	Pot	Mid 1 to 2nd C-
103	Cut	0.9	0.18	Small pit	-	-
104	Fill	0.9	0.18	Grey-brown silty-sand fill of 103	-	-
105	Wall	-	-	E-W external cellar wall	-	-
106	Wall	-	-	N-S dividing cellar wall	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman and post-Roman pottery

By John Cotter with contributions from Paul Booth (Roman pottery)

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of 119 sherds of pottery weighing 1159 g were recovered from 17 contexts. The assemblage was of mixed Roman and post-Roman (medieval) date. Some contexts were dated purely by one or the other but some of the Roman pottery was clearly residual. The Roman pottery comprised 69 sherds (438 g) and the post-Roman 50 sherds (721 g). All the pottery was examined and spot-dated, for each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date, which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation (Table B1.1). Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg, decoration etc.).

Date and nature of the assemblage

B.1.2 Both Roman and post-Roman assemblages are in a fragmentary condition with worn and fresh sherds present in both. The post-Roman sherds are generally fresher. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. The pottery is described in detail in the spreadsheet (employing fabric codes used by Oxford Archaeology) and is summarised below.

B.1.3 The Roman pottery comprises a range of dates from the 1st century to *c* AD 400. The types present are all typical of the area with nothing particularly remarkable noted.

B.1.4 The post-Roman sequence seems to commence in the late 12th or early 13th century and probably ends in the later 14th century. Pottery of the 13th century is particularly well represented. One or two sherds of earlier fabrics including Cotswold-type oolitic-tempered ware (OXAC, *c* 900-1250) and Early Medieval Oxford ware (OXY, *c* 1070-1300) are present but are either residual or late examples of their type. The main late 12th/13th-century wares represented are Ashampstead-type ware (OXAG, formerly Abingdon-type ware, Mellor 1994) and East Wiltshire ware (OXAQ). The former includes glazed and slip-decorated jugs and the base of a tripod pitcher. It also includes an unusual curving walled bowl or skillet with a pouring lip (contexts 300 and 301) and a dripping pan (context 410). Plain jars/cooking pots also occur. East Wiltshire ware is a flint- and sand-tempered coarseware and occurs here in the form of jars/cooking pots including a large-diameter ?storage jar (diam. 380 mm, context 411). Single sherds from 13th/14th-century Brill/Boarstall ware and Kingston-type ware glazed jugs also occur. No late medieval or post-medieval pottery types were noted.

Table B1.1 Pottery

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
102	Mid 1-2C	2	13	1 vess. Roman fine grey sandy ware small jar, R30
205	1-mid 2C	1	14	Bs sandy grog-tempered ware, R90
300	c1175/1200-1300	28	393	1x worn frag med roof tile (extracted 25g; gritty Abingdon-type fabric c1175+ see CBM). Pot fresh - mostly 2 fabrics: c13 sherds glazed Ashampstead-type ware (OXAG, formerly Abingdon-type ware) incl pitcher-type jug handle with slashed & stabbed dec & side thumbing; 2x pitcher rims with white slip dec; pitcher sherd with wavey applied strip dec; near-profile unusual rounded bowl with int bevelled crucible-like rim (diam. 270mm., see Mellor 1994, fig.26.10 poss skillet?) grey fab w clear glaze int & in band under rim. c 13 sherds East wiltshire ware (OXAQ) incl 3 cpot rims - 1 thumbed. 2x small bss unident fine greyware poss OXY?
301	c1175/1200-1300	6	49	OXAG bowl/skillet rim with pouring lip JOINS 300. Worn sherds incl OXY thumbed cpot rim, bss OXY, OXAG, OXAQ
301	c1175/1200-1300	6	35	Residual Roman pot. F51 barbotine dec bs; R20-type HB bowl; R10(4) - 1 jar rim, 3-4C
302	c325-400	21	129	S20; F51 (C75 etc); O10; R10/30 (17); R30 (R9)
303	13-14C	2	14	1x OXAG prob thumbed jug base floor. 1x resid OXAC (c900-1250) (see also med CBM extracted from pot)
303	13-14C	6	20	Residual Roman pot. R10(2) 1 ?jar rim; R20; R30(3), ?1-2C
305	13-14C	2	11	Fresh bs glazed OXAG pitcher or cpot? Worn bs OXAQ (see CBM)
305	13-14C	1	3	Residual Roman pot. R10
401	Late 1-mid 2C	4	8	Small worn sherds - except fresh small Samian handle.O1; R30; S20 ?handle prob from Drag 42
404	2C+	4	16	Fresh & worn. R10 jar rim; R30(2); F60
405	Late 3-4C	9	70	Fresh & worn. F51(2); M41; F50 (?dish); W20; R10 (3); C11 (jar)
409	c1225-1400	1	2	Worn bs Brill-Boarstall (OXAM) jug w green glz
409	c1225-1400	2	34	Residual Roman pot. R20; R90
410	c1250-1400	3	43	Jug rim in green-glazed Kingston-type ware (?OXBG). Bs OXAQ. Profile v burnt dripping pan - black sandy fab w traces of glaze - poss OXAG?
410	c1250-1400	4	47	Residual Roman pot. M41; S30 (burnt); R10 jar rim; R90
411	c1175/1200-1300	7	200	Mostly fresh OXAG incl base of tripod pitcher (reduc) with complete stubby tripod foot, basal angle & fingernail nicks int near area of foor attachment. Green-glazed OXAG jug/pitcher handle w central slash. Oxid OXAG jug handle frag w vert slashing. Fresh OXAG (or OXY?) reduc cpot rim simple thick flat-topped - large fresh piece. 1x robust OXAQ jar rim c380mm diam w bead rim & int lid-seating/shelfing (see CBM)
423	c1175-1350	1	9	Bs OXAQ
424	Mid-late 1C	2	13	worn bs grog-temp & fine greyware. R90; E20
425	Mid-late 1C	5	12	Small bss grog-tempered ware. ?E80
426	2C+	2	24	2 vess, bss. Fine grey sandyware, burnished. R30
TOTAL		**119**	**1159**	

B.2 The clay pipe

By John Cotter

B.2.1 A single piece of clay pipe weighing 1 g was recovered from levelling layer 305. It comes from the mouthpiece of a pipe in fresh condition. The stem bore is *c* 2 mm in diameter suggesting a late 18th- or early 19th-century date.

B.3 The ceramic building material (CBM)

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.3.1 A combined total of 38 pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 928 g were recovered from nine contexts. Of these 34 pieces (623 g) are of medieval date and four (305 g) are Roman. All this material was examined and spot-dated in a similar way to the pottery (see Table B3.1). Complete dimensions and other useful measurements were recorded when present. As usual, the dating of broken fragments of building material is an imprecise art and spot-dates derived from them are necessarily broad and should therefore be regarded with caution. The manufacturing date of a roof tile, for example, may be several centuries earlier than the context it was eventually discarded in, depending on how long the tile remained in use. Nevertheless, the medieval CBM seems to be mostly in contemporary contexts.

Date and nature of the assemblage

B.3.2 All four pieces of Roman CBM are very worn and almost certainly residual. The only recognisable types are a piece of tegula and imbrex which are residual in a medieval context (410). A few medieval pieces are fairly large and fresh but some are small and very worn. Most of the medieval assemblage comprises fragments of plain roofing tile (peg tile), some with splashes of clear or brownish glaze. Several smallish pieces of medieval (13th- to 14th-century) ridge tile were also noted - in three different regional fabrics (see catalogue). The presence of these suggests medieval buildings of some substance in the area. A small piece of probable 13th-century oolitic limestone-tempered ridge tile is decorated with rare combed decoration (soil 303) and should be illustrated at some stage (Oxford Fabric IB, Lambrick and Mellor 1985). A very worn medieval floor tile, perhaps originally decorated, was noted in levelling layer 305. A modern dumped deposit (200) was the only context to produce scraps of 19th/20th-century brick and drainpipe.

Table B3.1 CBM

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
200	c1875-1925+	4	52	Scraps incl brown salt-glazed stoneware drainpipe, 2x hard dark grey mod engineering bricks, scrap softer red brick
300	13-14C	3	86	Worn/fairly worn frags coarse roof tile - 1 with circular nailhole. 1 with patchy greenish-brown glaze. All in coarse Abingdon-type fabric with v coarse rounded quartz grits & some chalk
301	Roman	1	18	Prob Roman. Shapeless lump prob from tegula etc. red fab
303	L13-14C	5	83	1x fresh small frag med roof tile in coarse Abingdon fabric. The other bits prob all from medieval ridge tiles. 2 joining fresh frags from coarse red sandy ridge tile upper side with trace of curvature towards crest, good quality dark brown glaze allover ext. 1x fresh scrap (max 33mm across) oolitic limestone-tempered (Oxford Fabric IB) prob ridge tile side - but w v unusual broad band of straight combed decoration over traces of a combed wavey band of dec - ILLUS/PHOTO? 1x v worn scrap prob from a cream sandy fabric ridge tile with bright green glaze - Brill/Surrey - prob L13-14C?
305	13-14C	2	84	Fresh edge frag (poss thumbed or finger indented) oolitic Fabric IB ridge tile with splash greenish-br glaze ext. 1x edge frag red fabric medieval floor tile - prob 'Stabbed Wessex type ' c1280-1350 with upper surf completely worn-away, underside with 3 deep keying stabs, side with cloudy light brown glaze over edge
400	14-16C?	16	237	?Late med roof tile. All in similar pale orange-red sandy unglazed fabric - looks more developed than coarser (prob earlier) Abingdon-type fabric. Up to 15m thick, fairly worn. Incl corner/edge frags. 1 w traces accidental greyish ash-glaze. 1 sl curved - poss ridge tile?
409	13-14C?	1	16	Scrap med roof tile in Abingdon fabric with traces glaze
410	Roman	2	202	1x v worn tegula end with trace of flange, soft orange-red fabric. 1x worn scrap imbrex, tightly curved, pale orange fabric with abundant surface chalk inclusions
411	13-14C?	3	65	Scraps 2 med roof tiles in coarse Abingdon-type fabric & 1 v worn in finer fabric (or poss Roman?)
411	13-14C?	1	85	V worn shapeless lump prob Roman brick/tile. Red fabric
TOTAL		**38**	**928**	

B.4 The metalwork assemblage

B.4.1 A small assemblage of metal objects from the evaluation comprises 10 iron objects and 4 copper alloy objects. All the metalwork is in very poor condition, particularly the copper alloy which is very corroded and fragmentary.

B.4.2 The copper alloy objects comprise a pin, a pin or needle shaft fragment and two very fragmentary items. The pin (SF 01), from modern dump 305, has a spherical head with a spiral groove running around it, the shaft is plated with a white metal coating, probably tin. Pins of this type are commonly found in large numbers in late medieval/post-medieval contexts and would have been used to secure light clothing. The pin/needle shaft (SF 02) came from medieval soil 300, the head/eye is missing. The fragmentary copper alloy objects SF 03 and 04 were recovered from contexts 300 and surface 400; neither is identifiable and although it is recommended that the assemblage is x-rayed this will not necessarily lead to identification.

B.4.3 The iron assemblage comprises 8 nails, a fragment of sheet with a curved profile and an irregularly shaped fragment. The nails were recovered from contexts 303 (medieval soil), 305 and 405 ('dark earth') the later being of possible Roman date.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Remains

By Laura Strafford and Julia Meen

Introduction

C.1.1 Two bulk soil samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts.

C.1.2 Sample 1 (424) was taken from a thick accumulation of silt overlying a road surface. Sample 2 (431) was taken from a steep sided oval pit thought to date from the Iron Age.

Aims

C.1.3 Sampling was undertaken to:

- Record the range of soils and sediments on site.
- Determine whether ecofacts and environmental evidence (such as plant remains, animal bone, human bone and molluscs) are present.
- Determine the quality, range, state and method of preservation of any ecofactual evidence.
- Recover and identify any small artefacts.
- Make further recommendations about sampling for future excavations at the site.

Methodology

C.1.4 All the bulk (CPR) samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine, with the flot collected on a 250 µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500 µm. All flots and heavy residues were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flots were scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification. Identifications were made with guidance from Dr. Wendy Smith but without reference to Oxford Archaeology's reference collection and therefore, should all be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (1997).

Results

Sediment

C.1.5 Two bulk soil samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR), bones and artefacts. Sample 1 (424) was a dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional (*c* 5%) clods of paler grey clayey silt, with approximately 30% inclusions of rounded to sub-angular stone pebbles. 35 litres were processed for CPR, bones and artefacts.

C.1.6 Sample 2 (431) was a very dark greyish brown silt loam with patches (*c* 35%) of more clayey, dark yellowish brown sediment, and inclusions of subangular to subrounded pebble (25%). It was noted in the field that this sample was very charcoal rich. 10 litres were processed for CPR, bones and artefacts.

Bones and artefacts

C.1.7 Finds from the samples are detailed in Table C1.2. The samples did not produce a great variety or quantity of artefacts. Animal bone was common in sample 1 (424) and occasional in sample 2 (431), yet in both cases the preservation was poor and consisted wholly of unidentifiable fragments, most of which were burnt.

C.1.8 Sample 1 (424) produced a small amount of burnt flint and pottery. A small amount of burnt flint was also present in sample 2 (431).

Charred Plant Remains

C.1.9 Table C1.1 summarises the assessment results for charred plant remains (CPR) from the two samples.

C.1.10 Sample 1 (424) contained a moderate quantity of charcoal; however this was predominately of less than 2 mm in diameter and therefore has no potential for identification. This sample also contained a low quantity of indeterminate cereal grain, many of which were highly fragmented and one of which showed evidence of fungal or insect damage prior to charring. Cereal chaff was present in low to moderate numbers, including glume bases of emmer/spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta)* and one oat *(Avena)* awn. A poor weed seed assemblage consisted of one example each of dock (*Rumex* sp.), spike rush (E*leocharis palustris/uniglumis*) and of probable vetch (V*icia/Lathyrus* sp.) as well as several indeterminate large and medium grass seeds and one oat or brome (*Avena/Bromus sp.*) seed. Following the arguments of Van der Veen and Fieller (1982) that assemblages of less than 100 identifications are unlikely to be of interpretable value, this sample has been assessed as being of poor potential for CPR.

C.1.11 Sample 2 (431) contained a moderate quantity of charcoal, including several pieces greater than 4 mm in diameter which may be identifiable. The sample was abundant in both barley (*Hordeum sp.*) and emmer/spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta)* grains, both of which were present in roughly equal proportions. Many of the wheat grains were positively identified as spelt wheat. In addition, a moderate quantity of emmer/spelt spikelet forks were observed, again some were certainly from spelt. Terminal spelt glume bases were also present. The weed seed assemblage consisted of mallow (M*alva sp.*), vetch/vetchling (V*icia/Lathyrus sp.*), field madder (S*herardia sp.*), bedstraw/ cleavers (G*alium sp.*), medick/melilot/clover (*Medicago*/*Melilotus*/*Trifolium* sp.) as well as several examples of indeterminate grasses. The charred plant assemblage from this sample was assessed as good to rich.

Discussion

C.1.12 The assessment of the charred plant remains from this site demonstrates that this material survives well. The presence of cereal grain in both of the samples suggests that crop processing/storage was being undertaken in the area and there is the potential for significant material to occur within features yet to be excavated. The abundance of cereal grain in sample 2 (431), a pit of probable Iron Age date, together

with weed seeds such as field madder (S*herardia* sp.*)* indicative of arable cultivation, suggests that as yet unexcavated deposits may have considerable potential for the recovery of charred plant remains which would relate directly to the prehistoric economy of this area.

C.1.13 Waterlogged deposits were not encountered during this evaluation, but the possibility of encountering them should be borne in mind during any subsequent excavations. Molluscs are unlikely to survive in these sediments, and indeed none were recovered in the evaluation samples. Pollen may be preserved should suitable deposits (buried soils or waterlogged deposits) be discovered. If further excavations are carried out, standard 30-40 litre bulk samples should be taken from a range of potentially datable features across the site. The flot from sample 2 (431) should be included in any subsequent analysis of charred plant remains from excavations at the site.

Table C1.1: Assessment of charred plant remains

Sample No	Context No	Feature Type	Sample Volume (L.)	Date/ Phase	Flot vol (ml)	Grain	chaff	weeds	other CPR	Animal Bone	Charcoal	Molluscs	Comments on CPR	CPR Potential
1	424	Silt accumulation over road surface. Undated.	35		36	+	++	+			++		c. 30% of flot scanned. Moderate quantity of charcoal, predominately <2mm. No molluscs observed. Low quantity of indeterminate cereal grain, some very fragmented, including one example with circular pitting suggesting insect/fungal damage prior to charring. Low to moderate quantity of fragmented cereal chaff present including glume bases of emmer/spelt (*Triticum sp.*) and one oat (*Avena sp.*) awn. One example each of dock (*Rumex sp.*), spike rush (*Eleocharis palustris/uniglumis*) and of probable vetch (*Vicia/Lathyrus sp.*) were noted. Several indeterminate seeds including large and medium grasses and one oat/ brome grass (*Avena/Bromus*) seed were also observed. CPR assessed as POOR.	C
2	431	Pit	10	Prob. Iron Age	140	++++	+++	+++			+++		c. 30% of flot scanned. Occasional modern root. No molluscs observed. Moderate quantity of charcoal, including pieces >4mm. Cereal grains of barley (*Hordeum sp.*) and spelt/emmer (*Triticum sp.*) abundant in roughly equal quantities; some *Triticum* grains identified as definite spelt. Numerous spikelet forks of spelt/emmer (*Triticum sp.*) including some identified as definite spelt, including terminal glume bases. Moderate quantity of wild seeds including mallow (*Malva sp.*), vetch/vetchling (*Vicia /Lathyrus sp.*), field madder	A*

Sample No	Context No	Feature Type	Sample Volume (L.)	Date/ Phase	Flot vol (ml)	Grain	chaff	weeds	other CPR	Animal Bone	Charcoal	Molluscs	Comments on CPR	CPR Potential
													(*Sherardia sp.*), bedstraw/cleavers (*Galium sp.*), medick/melilot/clover (*Medicago* / *Melilotus*/*Trifolium*) and indeterminate grasses. CPR assessed as GOOD to RICH.	

Table C1.2: Fnds

Sample number	Context number	Mammal bone	Burnt flint	Pottery
1	424	++++	++	++
2	431	+	+	-

Key: + = <5 ++ = 5-10 +++ = 10-25 ++++ = 25-50

C.2 Animal bones

By Lena Strid

C.2.1 A total of 176 animal bones were recovered from the site. Most bones were in good condition (see Table C2.1). Only two bones were burnt and three displayed gnaw marks from carnivores, probably dogs. The bones were recovered from buried soils or made ground in Testpits A and B, and were of medieval date (contexts 300, 301, 303, 409 and 410).

C.2.2 The predominance of cattle and sheep/goat in the assemblage (see Table C2.2) is to be considered normal, regardless of time period. Remains of one sub-adult cat were found in context 300.

C.2.3 Judging by the epiphyseal fusion, the cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones derived from sub-adult and adult animals (see Tables C2.3-5). Two cattle mandible fragments, one of which could be aged dentally, derived from young calves. One sheep/goat mandible derived from an adult sheep, suggesting an age at death at 4-6 years (Payne 1973), see Table C2.6.

C.2.4 Butchering marks were recorded on one cattle pelvis, one cattle femur, one large mammal rib, one large mammal vertebra and one medium mammal vertebra. The pelvis and vertebra had been split sagitally, a common practice in butchery since the medieval period, dividing the carcass into two halves for further portioning. The rib had several parallel transverse chopmarks, suggesting filleting or portioning. The femur had been chopped through.

C.2.5 Pathologies were found on two cattle bones, which displayed minor exostoses at the joint surfaces of the first phalanx. These suggest that the cattle had been used for traction (De Cupere *et al*. 2000).

N	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
176		36.4%	60.8%	2.8%

Table C2.1. Preservation level for bones from the ABMLS 2009.21 assemblage.

	Cattle	Sheep /goat	Sheep	Pig	Dog	Cat	Small mammal	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Indet.
Horn core										
Skull	3	1				1				
Mandible	8	3								
Loose teeth	7	2								
Atlas	2			1						
Axis										
Vertebra								2	6	
Rib								7	6	
Sacrum										
Scapula	1	2				1			1	
Humerus	1	2		2		2				
Radius	1	1		2	1	1				
Ulna	1	1				1				
Carpal										
Metacarpal	3	8	2							
Pelvis	2									
Femur	3	1		1						
Tibia		5								
Metatarsal	5	6	2							
Calcaneus										
Astragalus										
Phalanx 1	2									
Phalanx 2	2									
Longbone							1	4	14	
Indeterminate										45
TOTAL	**41**	**32**	**4**	**6**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**13**	**27**	**45**
Weight (g)	1365	313	41	95	7	9	1	52	434	240

Table C2.2. Bone assemblage from ABMLS 2009.21.

	Unfused	Fusing	Fused	% unfused
Early fusion (< 1.5 years)			6	0%
Mid fusion (2-2.5 years)			1	0%
Late fusion (> 3 years)	1		2	33.3%

Table C2.3. Cattle epiphyseal fusion.

	Unfused	Fusing	Fused	% unfused
Early fusion (< 1 year)			3	0%
Mid fusion (1-2 years)			7	0%
Late fusion (> 3 years)	1		2	33.3%

Table C2.4. Sheep/goat epiphyseal fusion

	Unfused	Fusing	Fused	% unfused
Early fusion (< 1.5 years)			2	0%
Mid fusion (2-2.5 years)				
Late fusion (> 3 years)	1			100%

Table C2.5. Pig epiphyseal fusion.

	dp4	M1	M2	M3	MWS
Cattle	c	V			2-3
Sheep/goat		g	g	g	36

Table C2.6. Tooth wear stages of cattle and sheep/goat mandibles (Grant 1982).

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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Appendix E. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Abingdon Museum Lift Pit, Abingdon

Site code: ABMLS09

Grid reference: NGR SU 4979 9705

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 10th March 2009 - 27th March 2009

Area of site: Four testpits measuring up to 2 m by 2 m

Summary of results: Four testpits located within the museum basement and externally, against the south-western walls, revealing deposits dating from the mid-late Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval and Victorian periods.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS2009.21

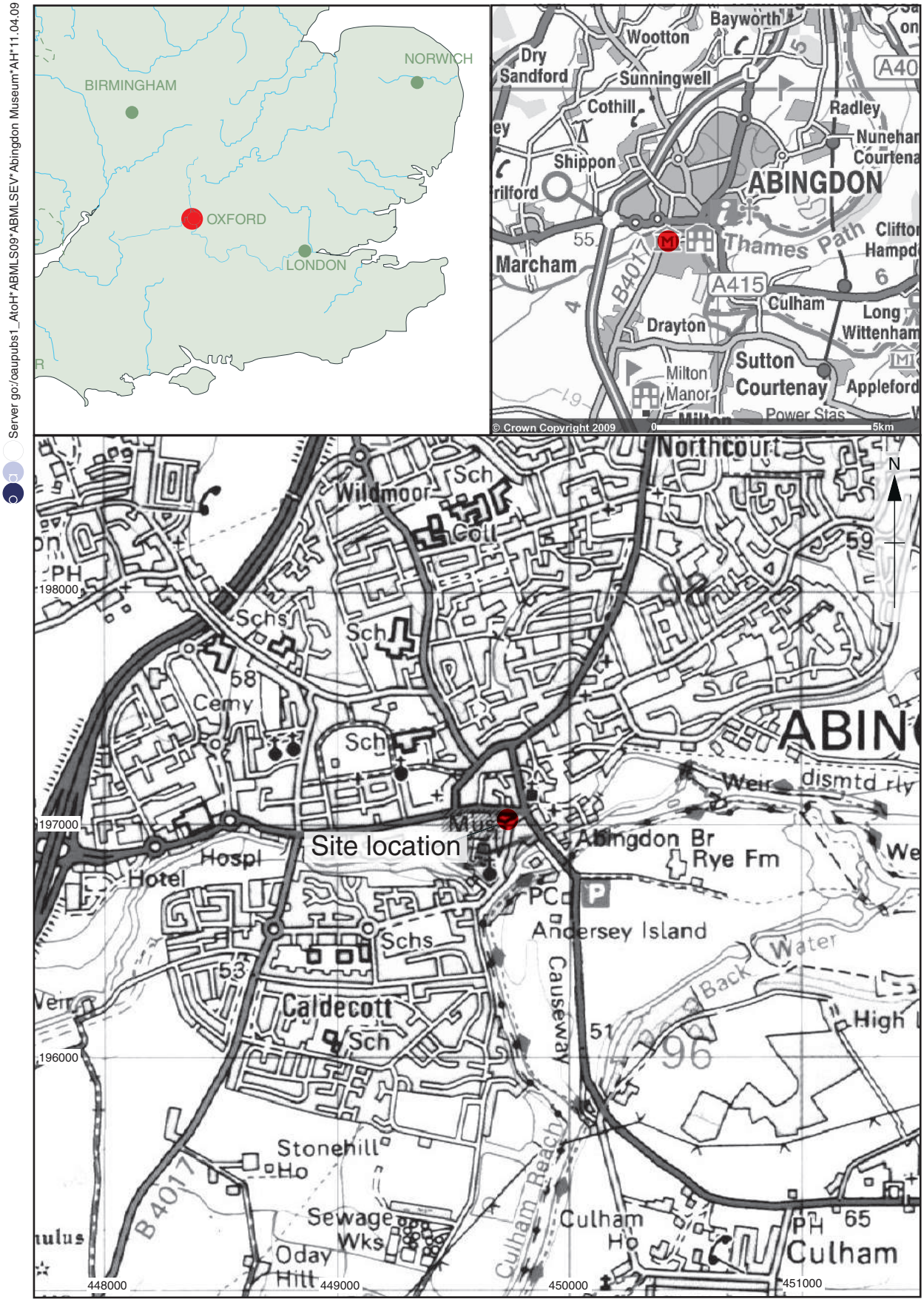


Figure 1: Site location

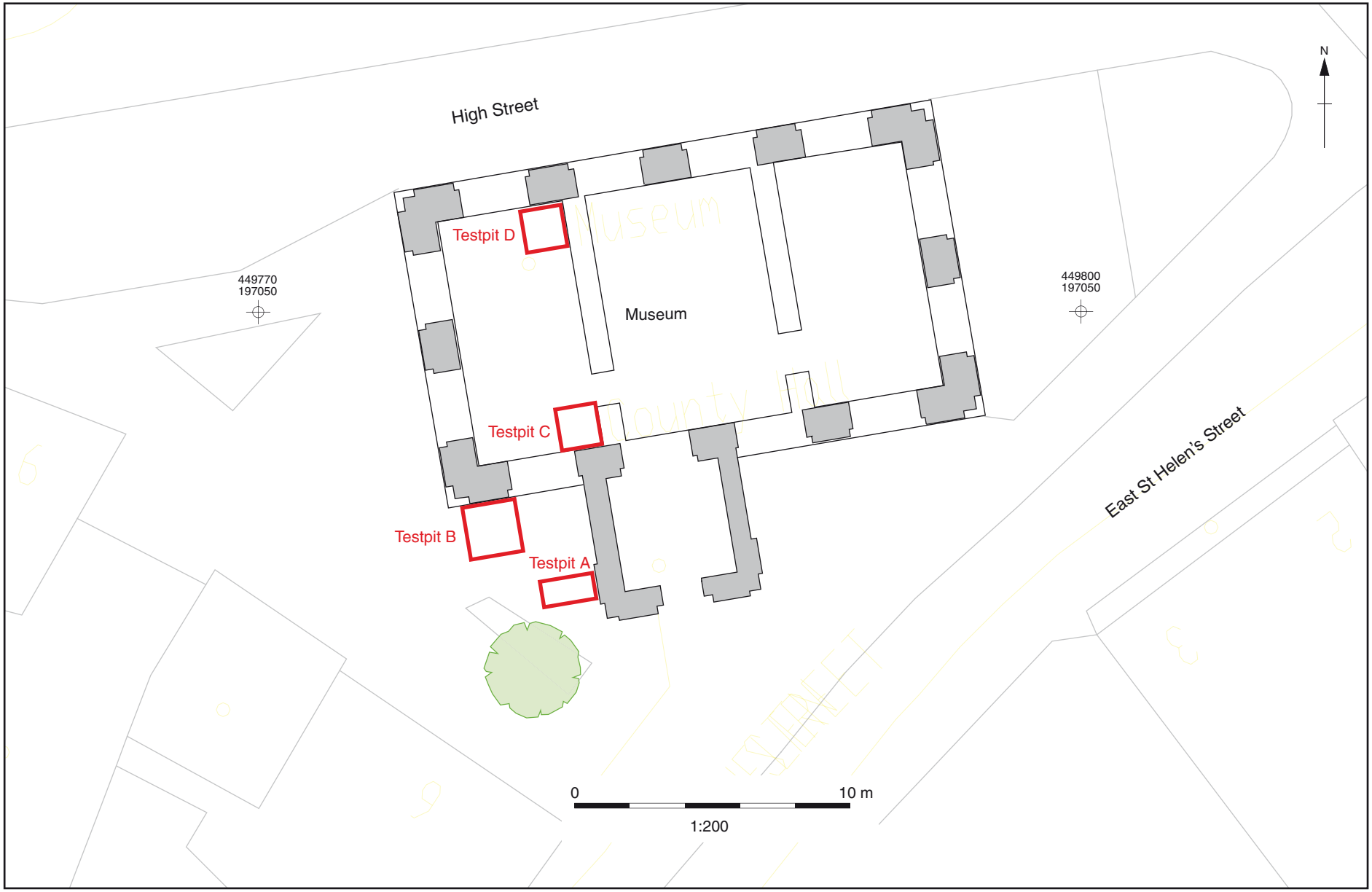


Figure 2: Testpit location map

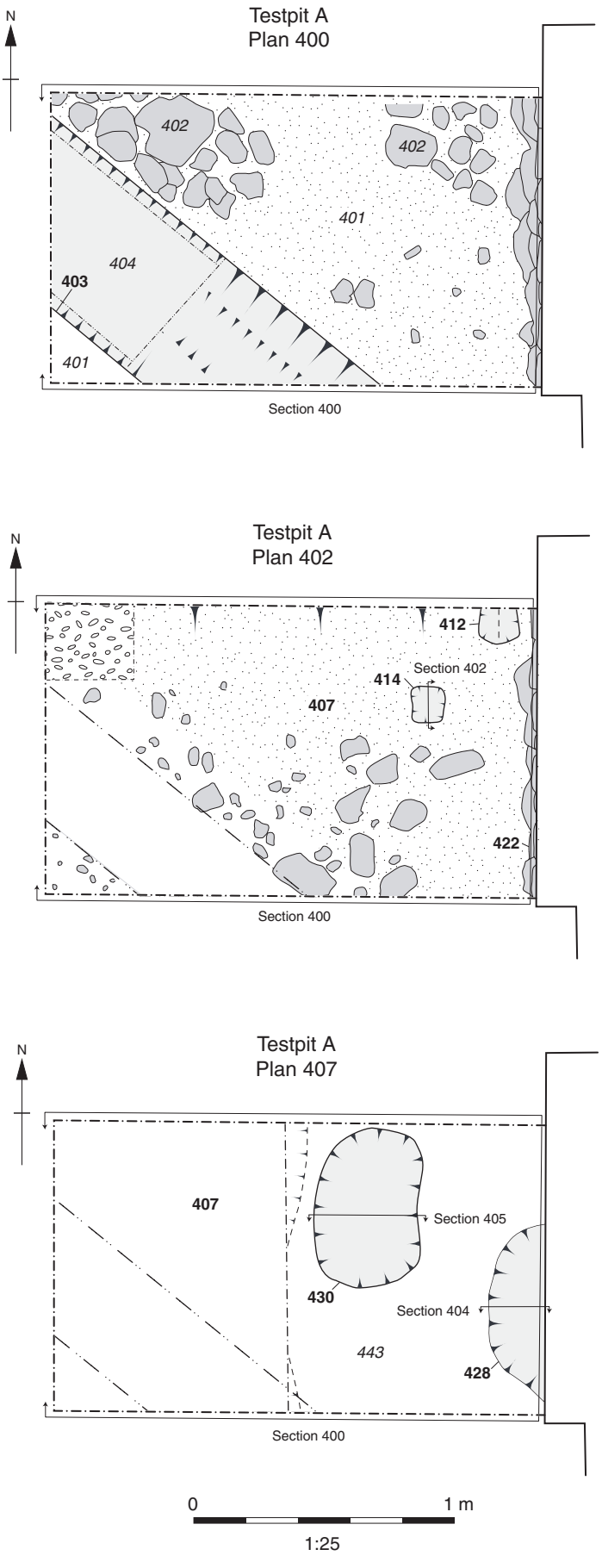


Figure 3: Testpit A, plans

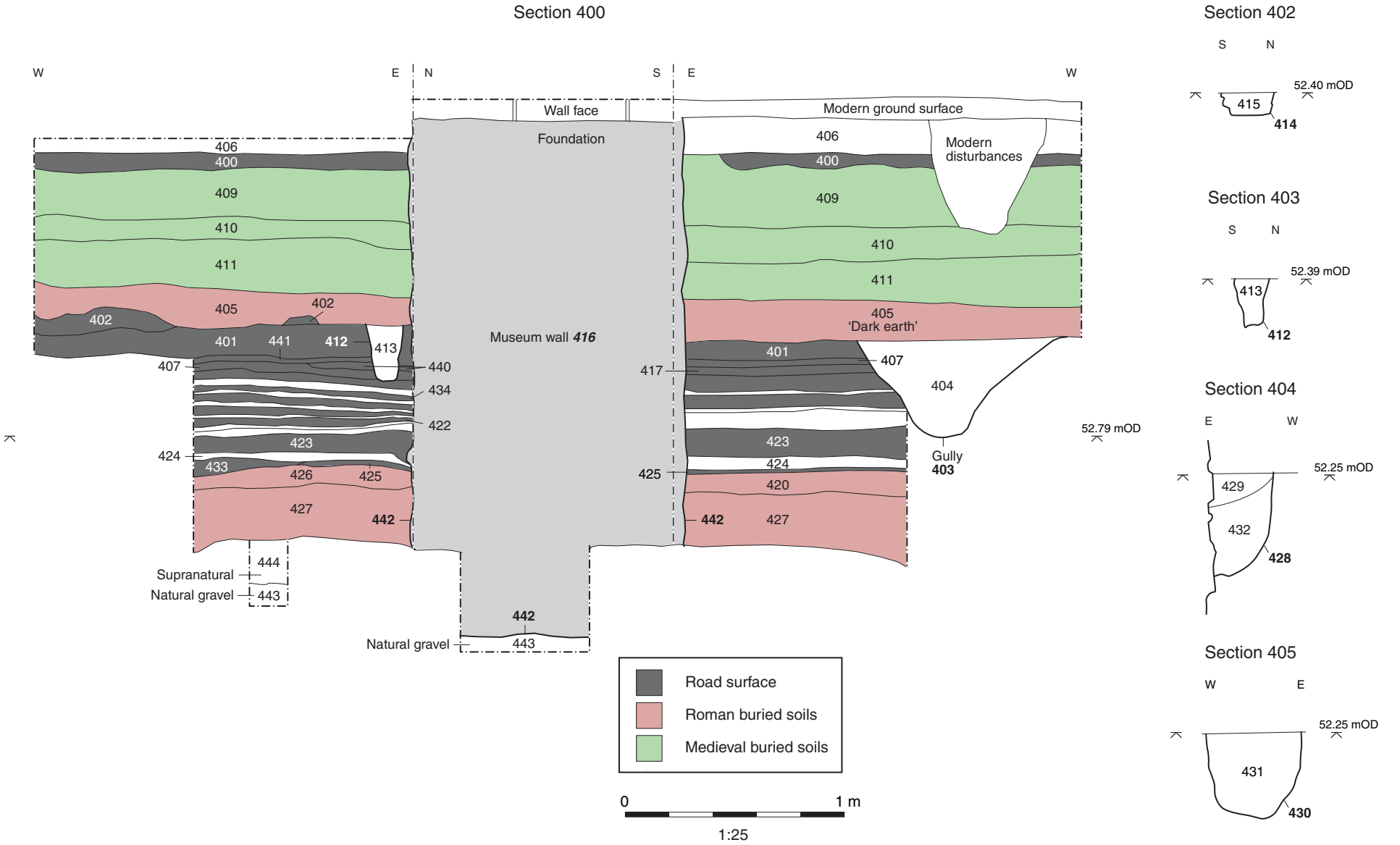
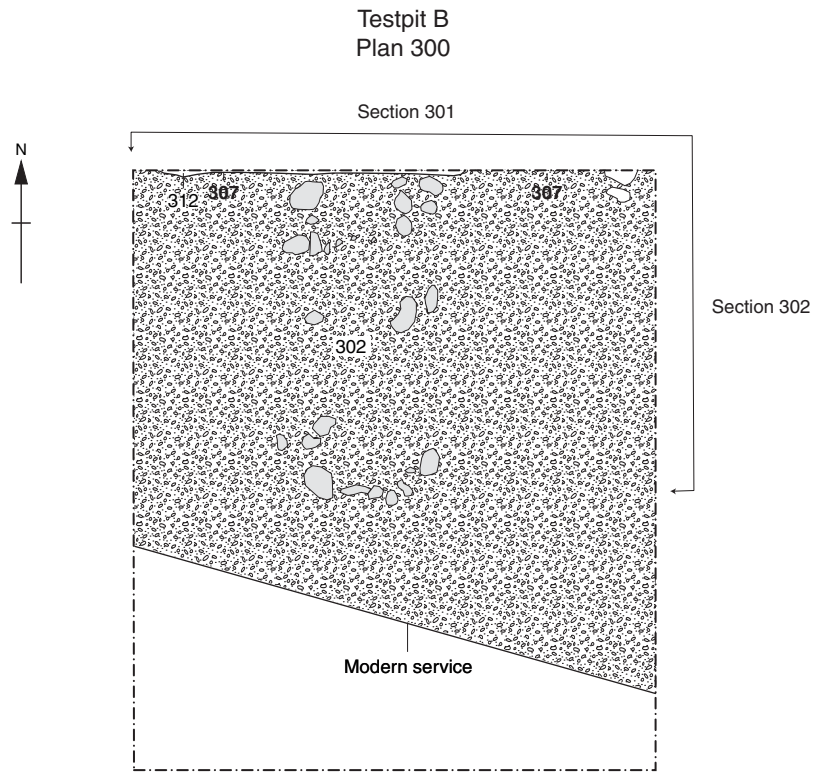


Figure 4: Testpit A, sections



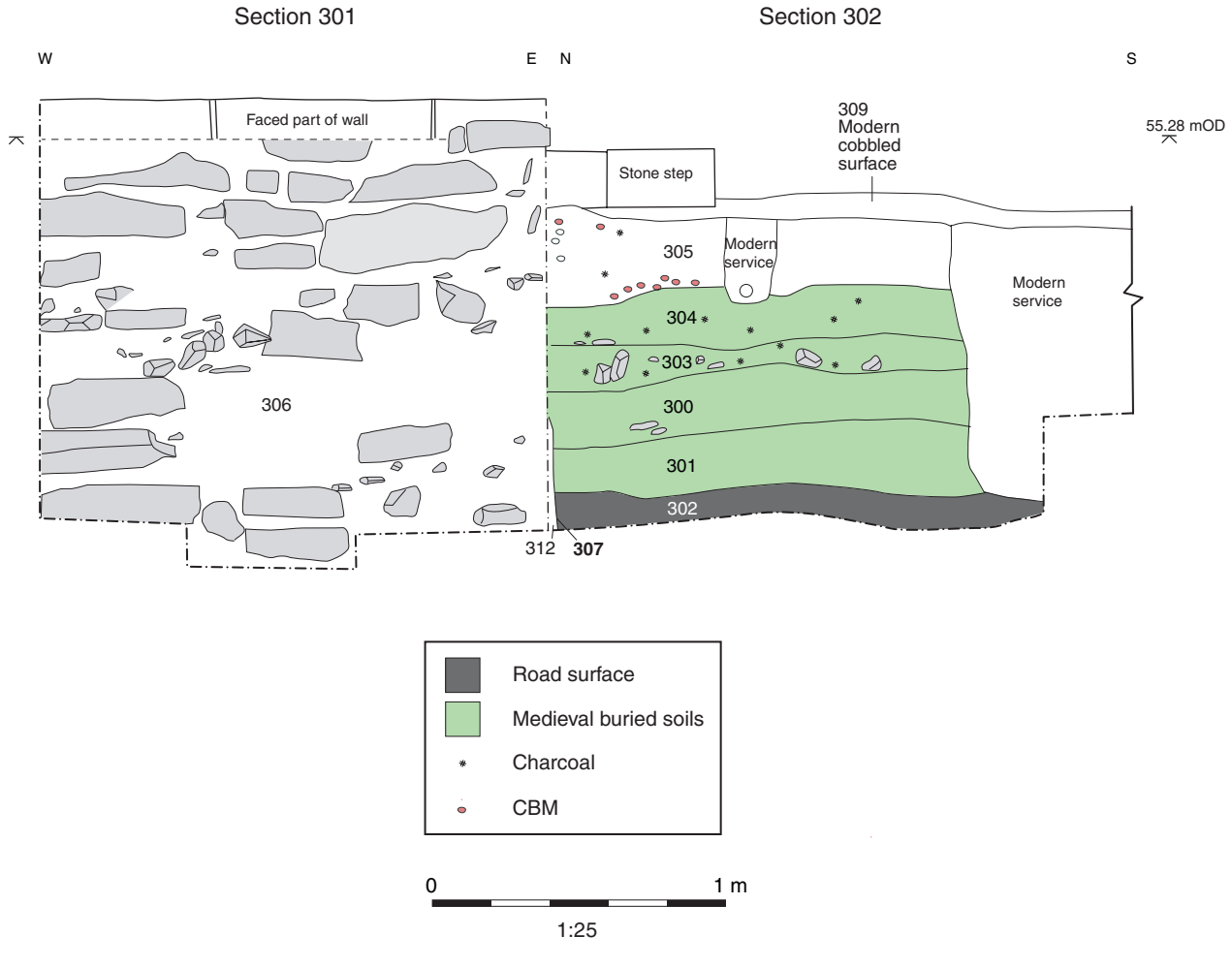


Figure 5: Testpit B, plan and sections

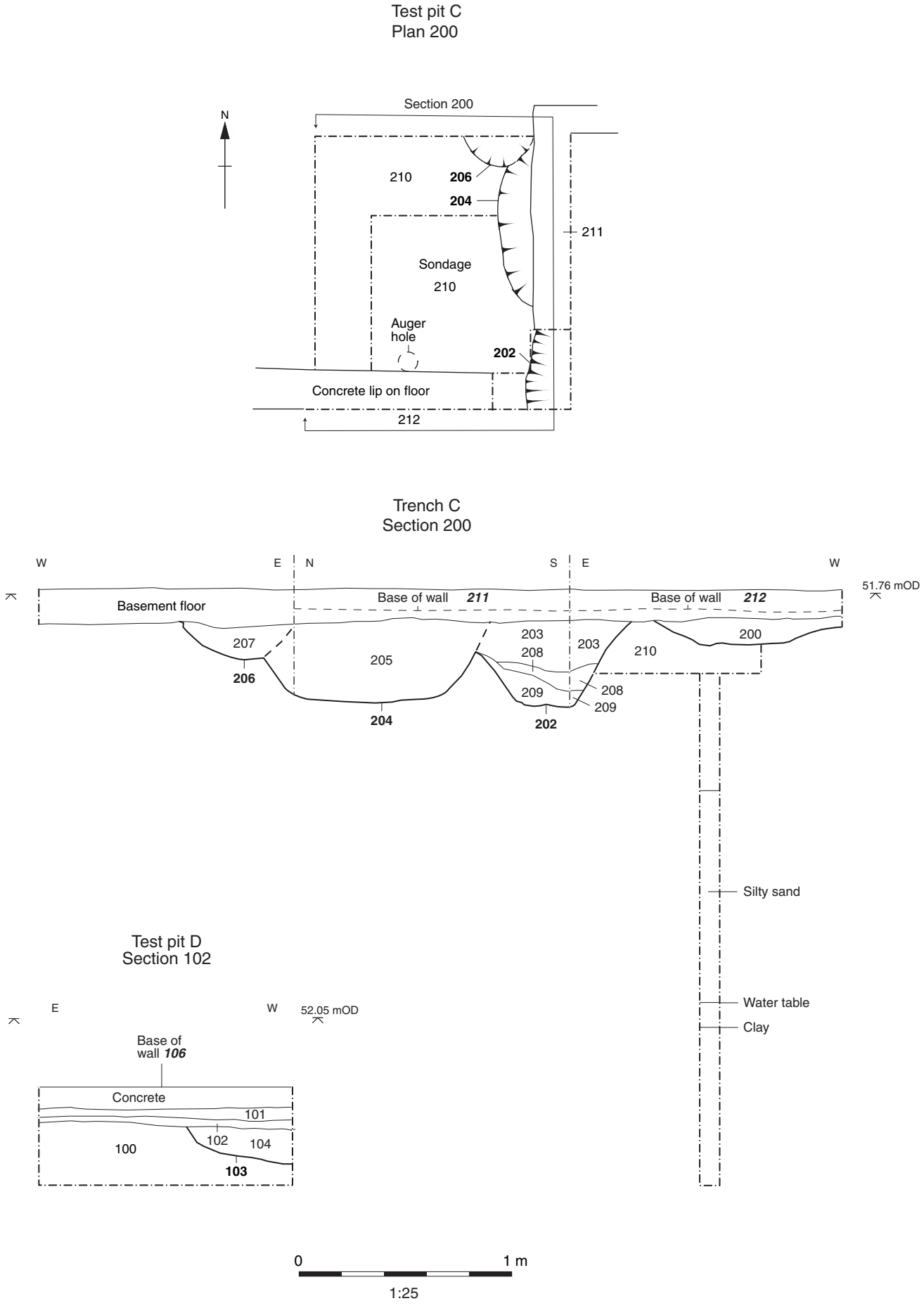


Figure 6: Testpits C and D, plan and section

Plate 1: Testpit A; south facing section through metalled road surfaces

Plate 2: Testpit A; road surface **417**

Plate 3: Testpit A; road surface **425**

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