Grove Airfield, Wantage Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Prepared by:	Dan Sykes (Project Officer) and Steve Teague (Project Officer)
Checked by:	Steve Lawrence (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by:	Andrew Simmonds (Senior Project Manager PX)
Approved for Issue by:	David Score (Head of Fieldwork, OAS)
Signature:	

OA South
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East
15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SG

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North
Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD
t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com
Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627

Grove Airfield, Wantage, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Dan Sykes and Steve Teague

With contributions from Martyn Allen, Paul Booth, Sharon Cook, Tom Lawrence, Rebecca Nicholson, Cynthia Poole, Ian Scott and illustrations by Conan Parsons and Charles Rousseaux

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Summary

In May 2018, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Grove Airfield near Wantage in Oxfordshire. This work was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (Wessex) in accordance with a condition of planning permission for a residential development with associated infrastructure. A total of 34 trenches revealed features dating to the middle and late Iron Age and from the early to late Roman periods. The focus of the activity, probably representing settlements of these periods, appears to be located within the south-eastern part of the evaluation. Ditches located beyond the apparent settlement focus most probably relate to associated field systems.

Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Steve Lawrence. The fieldwork was directed by Dan Sykes, who was supported by Liz Kennard, Omar Sharif Quadir and Liberty Bennett. Survey and digitising was carried out by Conan Parsons. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (Wessex) to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Grove Airfield near Wantage, Oxfordshire.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref: P12/VO299/O). Condition 10 reads as follows:

> "a) Prior to any demolition and the commencement of development within the area shown in red on the attached plan (Archaeological Area Plan 1 dated 23 July 2014) a professional archaeological organisation acceptable to the Local Planning Authority shall prepare an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, relating this to this archaeological area, which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
>
> b) Following approval of the Written Scheme of Investigation and prior to any demolition and the commencement of the development in the archaeological area (other than in accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation), a staged programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation shall be carried out by the commissioned archaeological organisation in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The programme of work shall include all processing, research and analysis necessary to produce an accessible and useable archive and a full report for publication which shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority."

1.1.3 A brief detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition was set by Hugh Coddington, Archaeology Team Leader, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). In response to these requirements Rob Masefield (CgMs Heritage part of RPS), acting as the client's archaeologist, issued an overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and project strategy for both the present evaluation process and for any resulting mitigation that may be required (RPS 2017). That document was approved by Hugh Coddington and was formally submitted pursuant to the planning condition.

1.1.4 Subsequently, OA issued a WSI relevant to the evaluation stage of the project and specific to its methods and procedures (OA 2018). This WIS largely reproduced the content to the overarching WSI.

1.1.5 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the north of Wantage and to the south and south-west of Grove, Oxfordshire, on land that was previously utilised as an airfield for World War II (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of the proposed development consists of approximately 130ha of agricultural land. This is relatively flat at *c* 85m OD. Some parts of the former airfield have apparently been subjected to artificial levelling. The evaluation area is set within the development boundary and encompasses approximately 7ha.

1.2.3 The underlying solid geology comprises mudstone of the Gault Formation (BGS website). This is overlain within the north-western part of the evaluation boundary by sand and gravel of the Summertown-Radley sequence.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following background section has largely been reproduced from the overarching WSI (RPS 2017).

The desk-based assessment

1.3.2 A desk-based assessment (DBA) was provided for the overall Grove Airfield proposals in 2004 (Johnson and Collcutt 2004). The assessment concluded that the site is situated within a landscape with good potential (in particular) to contain later prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and landscape archaeology. The basis for this summary includes several settlement sites from Grove, whilst the Roman road from the Roman towns of Alcester and Marlborough (Cunetio) passes to the east of the site.

1.3.3 The DBA also highlighted the presence of some remaining World War II airfield facilities, although the hard surfaces of the runways and most of the facilities were removed.

The 2006 and 2010 evaluations

1.3.4 The 2006 evaluation (TVAS 2006) included three *c* 30m long trenches (Trenches 12, 14 and 15) containing archaeological remains. These findings have provided the focus of the OCC defined 'Archaeological Area' (OCC 2015).

Trench 12 identified two parallel ditches 2.6m apart aligned north-west/south-east. These were 1.13m and 0.87m wide and 0.21m and 0.24m deep. Sample excavations within these produced two sherds of Iron Age pottery along with 15 fragments of animal bone.

1.3.5 Trench 14 identified an east-west aligned ditch and a gully aligned north-south. The ditch was 1.7m wide and 0.17m deep and contained five sherds of Iron Age pottery and two pieces of animal bone, whilst the gully was 0.59m wide and 0.19m deep and produced three Iron Age sherds and a fragment of animal bone.

1.3.6 Trench 15 contained a ditch and a pit or ditch terminus. The ditch (dimensions not specified) contained a sherd of Iron Age and sherd of Roman (2nd century AD) pottery, whilst the pit contained nine sherds of 2nd century AD pottery and an iron nail.

1.3.7 The report concluded that:

The evaluation identified a small number of archaeological deposits concentrated in the south-eastern area of the site in Trenches 12, 14 and 15. The evidence from these trenches points to an Iron Age and Roman site in this area.

However, the presence of further archaeological deposits cannot be ruled out due to the small sample fraction and the resulting large areas between trenches that that have not been investigated. Although some modern disturbance was evident towards the north of the site, around Trenches 1 and 2, it seems most likely that further archaeological deposits will be present around Trenches 12, 14 and 15. The unabraded nature of the retrieved finds can also indicate that this is an area of undisturbed archaeological deposits.

1.3.8 The 2010 evaluation for the road corridor and sports pavilion comprised seven more trenches, including three to the north of 2006 evaluation Trench 15 (TVAS 2010). Of these only Trench 22, to the south of the existing sub-station, produced archaeological remains in the form of a ditch and an oval pit, both of which produced small quantities of Bronze Age pottery.

2 PROJECT AIMS

2.1 General and Specific

2.2 General

2.2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to identify any archaeological deposits and the potential impacts upon these. To do this the general aims were to:

i. establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains;
ii. determine and confirm the character of any remains present, without compromising any deposits that may have merited detailed investigation or preservation;
iii. determine or estimate the date range of any remains from artefacts or otherwise;
iv. characterise any underlying archaeological strata down to undisturbed geology without significantly impacting upon younger (overlying) deposits where possible;
v. determine the geo-archaeological and palaeo-environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered where appropriate;
vi. recover suitable materials for scientific dating where appropriate;
vii. make available the results of the investigation to inform subsequent development designs or mitigation strategies;
viii. produce a factual report, full archive and HER data submission;
ix. disseminate the results of the investigation at a level appropriate to their importance.

2.3 Specific aims and objectives

2.3.1 Specific research aims for the investigation were based on the background data that exists for the site and included the following:

x. to establish the presence or absence of prehistoric features;
xi. to establish whether the context of the Iron Age/Roman features identified previously by trenching within the Archaeological Area was settlement and/or landscape related;
xii. to establish whether activities ceased after the 2nd century AD as is currently indicated or whether any late Roman or Saxon phases are present;
xiii. to confirm whether the assumed absence of medieval settlement and landscape features was reliable;
xiv. to establish the archaeological landscape history of the development site.

2.3.2 The aims and objectives were reviewed as the work progressed in accordance with the detailed objectives set out in the Thames-Solent Research Framework.

2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Council set out the requirements for evaluation in a Brief (Grove Airfield Phase II Evaluation; Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation, 22 June 2015). An 'area of archaeological potential'

was identified based on the Phase 1 evaluation results presented by TVAS. A caveat was included that further 'trenching will only be undertaken outside this area if the evaluation suggests that significant archaeological features may be present.'

2.4.2 The initial evaluation scope comprised a grid of 30 trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.8m, that were set within the specified 'Archaeological Area' in accordance with the Brief (Fig. 2). In addition, four further trenches were added to the initial scope of works as a result of the discovery of concentrated archaeological activity within the south-eastern part of the 'Archaeological Area' (i.e. the eastern projection of the investigation area shown on Fig. 2). These comprised three trenches measuring 50m x 1.8m and one measuring 70m x 1.8m.

2.4.3 All trenches were laid out using a GPS with sub-25mm accuracy. Some minor adjustments were made to avoid trees and other obstructions. Co-ordinates relative to Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Datum were obtained for each sampling location.

2.4.4 The trenches were excavated using a 13-ton excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. The spoil was stored adjacent to the trench edges and a safe distance from these.

2.4.5 Machining was carried out in level spits to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, depending on which was encountered first.

2.4.6 The exposed surfaces were sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. In the initial 30 trenches a sample of each feature or deposit type was excavated and recorded. In the additional trenches, all features were mapped and examined for dating evidence with a select number of features being excavated by both hand and by machine.

2.4.7 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers and context recording was in accordance with established best practice and OA Field Manual. Bulk finds were collected by context.

2.4.8 Digital photography was taken of any archaeological features, deposits, trenches and evaluation work in general and will form part of the project archive.

2.4.9 Plans were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:20/1:50). Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plans. The absolute height (m OD) of all principal strata and features, and the section datum lines, were calculated and indicated on the drawings.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below in trench order and include a stratigraphic description of each trench that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches, with dimensions and depths of all deposits, can be found in Appendix A. Sections for each sampled archaeological feature are shown in Figures 6-9, and plates illustrating selected features and trenches are shown in Plates 1-14. The finds and ecofacts reports are given in Appendices B and C respectively.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated, e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence was fairly uniform in all trenches. The natural geology of clay/gravel was overlain by a clay/silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil/ploughsoil. In a number of trenches, a rubble/levelling deposit overlay or totally replaced the subsoil and was interpreted as a remnant of landscaping relating to the disused airfield.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good and the trenches remained workable throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present across the study area but can be summarised in two main groupings. The northern and western trenches in general exhibited shallow and largely undated elements of a possible Iron Age/Roman field system (Fig. 3). The south-eastern trenches presented significant evidence of middle/late Iron Age and Roman activity (Trenches 22-4, 27 and 31-4) (Figs 4-5).

3.3.2 Trenches 3, 8, 9, 10, 12, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28 and 29 were devoid of archaeological features and therefore are not discussed below. They are all, however, listed and described in Appendix A.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 revealed a flat-bottomed N-S aligned ditch (103), which was undated.

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 Trench 2 contained two N-S aligned ditches and a pit. At the east end of the trench, ditch 203 contained three undated fills. To the west, an undated small pit (207) contained a quantity of animal bone. It was truncated by ditch 209 which yielded a sherd of Roman pottery, possibly of late 1st-2nd century date.

3.6 Trench 4

3.6.1 An apparent large N-S orientated ditch observed within the southern end of Trench 4 was revealed to be two parallel gullies (406 and 407), which had been truncated by pit 405. The pit produced two pieces of animal bone including one from a horse. None of the features were dated. A large possible linear feature within the northern end of the trench was tested and found to be of natural origin.

3.7 Trench 5

3.7.1 Trench 5 contained a pit (506) and four roughly N-S aligned linear features (504, 508, 510 and 512). The largest of the ditches (510, Plate 2), was the sole feature in the trench to contain finds, compromising a sherd of Roman pottery, possibly of late 1st-2nd century date, a fragment of Roman ceramic building material (CBM) and a quantity of animal bone. In addition, a knife blade, possibly of Saxon type, was recovered from the overlying subsoil (502).

3.8 Trench 6

3.8.1 Trench 6 contained two roughly NW-SE aligned ditches (603 and 605), one of which terminated to the NW. Neither produced any artefacts.

3.9 Trench 7

3.9.1 Trench 7 contained a NE-SW aligned ditch (703, Plate 3), which was undated.

3.10 Trench 11

3.10.1 Trench 11 a revealed NW-SE aligned ditch (1104, Plate 4), which was truncated by an E-W aligned gully (1106). Neither feature yielded dating evidence, although ditch 1104 produced two cattle bone fragments.

3.11 Trench 13

3.11.1 Trench 13 contained four ditches. Two were aligned NW-SE (1309 and 1311) and two aligned NE-SW (Plate 5, 1304 and 1307). One ditch (1304) had a terminus to the north from which a red deer bone was recovered. No dating evidence was present.

3.12 Trench 14

3.12.1 Trench 14 contained a single NE-SW orientated feature (1404) which was interpreted as a probable furrow. The fill yielded a brick fragment of possible Roman date and several animal bones.

3.13 Trench 15

3.13.1 Trench 15 contained a NW-SE aligned ditch (1506), which was undated, and a post-medieval land drain.

3.14 Trench 16

3.14.1 Trench 16 revealed two ditches, one E-W aligned (1603) the other N-S (1605), both with shallow, concave bases. Neither feature produced any artefactual dating evidence.

3.15 Trench 17

3.15.1 Trench 17 contained a single NW-SE orientated ditch (1703, Plate 6), which was undated but contained two cattle bone fragments.

3.16 Trench 18

3.16.1 Trench 18 contained two roughly NW-SE orientated gullies (1804 and 1806), located at opposite ends of the trench. Neither feature was dated.

3.17 Trench 22

3.17.1 Trench 22 revealed a NE-SW aligned ditch (2205) at the northern end of the trench. The main humic-rich fill of the feature yielded a sizeable quantity of middle Iron Age pottery and a small sherd of Roman pottery, the latter probably intrusive. Several fragments of animal bone and fired clay were also recovered.

3.18 Trench 23

3.18.1 A suspected large N-S enclosure ditch situated within the eastern end of the trench was machine-investigated revealing two intercutting ditches (Plate 7, 2304 and 2306), the alignment of which continued towards the south into Trench 24 and possibly towards the north into Trench 33. Ditch 2304 yielded a sherd of Roman pottery, of 1st century date. Three fragments of Roman brick and a small quantity of animal bone were also recovered from this ditch. A smaller NW-SE aligned ditch to the west (2308) yielded a sherd of late Roman pottery together with several animal bone fragments including two from a horse. Two worked flints were recovered from the subsoil.

3.19 Trench 24

3.19.1 Ditch 2404, located towards the southern end of Trench 24, aligned perfectly with ditches 2304 and 2306 in Trench 23. Ditch 2404 was not investigated further.

3.20 Trench 27

3.20.1 Trench 27 contained a single U-shaped, shallow ditch (2704), which was aligned E-W. This contained animal bone and a sherd of medieval pottery, together with a fragment of CBM of uncertain date.

3.21 Trench 30

3.21.1 Trench 30 contained a total of six ditches and one posthole (Plate 8). At the southern end of the trench, a NW-SE aligned feature was found to comprise two parallel intercutting ditches (3014 and 3016), with the earlier of the two (3016), yielding two Roman pottery sherds dating from the mid-late 1st century or later.

3.21.2 To the north was an E-W aligned, V-shaped ditch (3012, Plate 11) that also contained a Roman pottery sherd dated to the 2nd century. A second, larger E-W aligned enclosure ditch (3009), containing three fills and located further north, yielded later Roman pottery, possible of 4th century date. An undated posthole (3018, Plate 12), lay adjacent to its northern side. To the north of this was an E-W orientated ditch

(3007, Plate 10) that contained Roman pottery of 2nd century (or later) date, and animal bone.

3.21.3 A NW-SE aligned ditch (3005, Plate 9) at the northern end of the trench contained pottery dated to the mid-late 1st century or later and several Roman CBM fragments, together with animal bone.

3.22 Trench 31

3.22.1 Trench 31 was the first of the additional trenches excavated, and contained numerous archaeological features. A total of 11 ditches, eight pits and five postholes were identified as well as a group of intercutting features (Grp 3121), that occupied a 6.7m length of the trench.

3.22.2 Ditch 3128 was the sole sampled feature in this trench and contained a near-complete, large, decorated Roman vessel and other pottery dated to the mid-late 3rd century, together with an iron nail and some animal bone. The fills of the other unexcavated features were examined and sherds of Roman pottery, largely of 3rd-4th century date, were recovered from ditches 3310, 3117, 3119, 3120, and intercutting feature group 3121. Possible earlier pottery of 2nd century or later date was recovered from pit 3111.

3.23 Trench 32

3.23.1 Trench 32 revealed a total of eight ditches, two postholes and a cobbled 'yard' surface (3204). This stone surface covered a 3.2m area towards the eastern end of the trench and yielded Roman CBM including tegula and a sherd of pottery, both suggesting mid-2nd century date or later. To the west a substantial Roman ditch (3205), aligned approximately NE-SW, was machine-excavated and deemed to have been re-cut from examination of its section. The ditch also contained tegula fragments and late Roman pottery together with iron nails. Two unexcavated postholes (3207 and 3213) lay immediately adjacent on it northern side.

3.23.2 To the west, three NW-SE aligned ditches (3208, 3209 and 3210), a NW-SE aligned gully (3211) and an E-W aligned gully/ditch (3214), were all unexcavated and undated.

3.23.3 The western end of the trench was slightly extended to reveal feature 3212, a 'T'-junction of two large ditches possibly forming an enclosure. It was not excavated, although Roman pottery, possibly of early-mid 2nd century date, was recovered from the surface fill.

3.24 Trench 33

3.24.1 Trench 33 contained five large ditches, four or five postholes and a shallow curvilinear ditch/gully, three of which were sampled by excavation (Plate 13).

3.24.2 A curvilinear ditch (3303) located within the southern end of the trench was found to be shallow and flat-based. It was undated, but contained a piece of burnt flint, possibly a pot boiler. Posthole 3309 was 100% sampled but was undated. A NE-SW aligned ditch 3305 (Plate 14) was machine excavated and found to contain a large amount of late Iron Age pottery, possibly dating to the early 1st century AD. It also

contained a fragment of fired clay, possibly a disc or plate from a hearth, together with some animal bone.

3.24.3 At the northern end of the trench, a large approximately N-S aligned ditch (3311) continued the alignment of the two ditches (2304 and 2306) seen in Trench 23 and also the similarly aligned ditch (2404) in Trench 24.

3.24.4 A similarly aligned ditch (3312) to the south of 3311 was undated, as was an intersection of two further large ditches (3314 and 3315).

3.25 Trench 34

3.25.1 Trench 34 contained two curvilinear ditches (3404 and 3405), located at either end of the trench and a pit (3411).

3.25.2 The most substantial ditch (3405), a possible continuation of ditch 3315, measured up to 2.5m across and 0.94m deep. It appeared to enclose an area to the north of the trench that contained three postholes and a sizeable pit (3411), all of which remained unexcavated. The ditch was machined-excavated and proved to contain three fills, the earliest of which produced a sizeable assemblage of Roman pottery of late 1st-early 2nd century date. Several residual sherds of Iron Age pottery, together with fragments of fired clay from a disc or plate and animal bone were also recovered. Roman pottery, possibly dating to the mid-late 1st-2nd century, and animal bone were retrieved from shallow ditch 3404. This also produced a small amount of Iron Age pottery which seems likely to be residual. A possible iron punch also was recovered from this ditch.

3.26 Finds and environmental summary

3.26.1 Some 227 sherds (5088g) of pottery were recovered during the evaluation and fully recorded. These comprised 27 sherds (548g) of later prehistoric (probably all middle Iron Age) date, 199 sherds (4536g) of late Iron Age and Roman date, and a single fragment (4g) of medieval pottery. A further 23 sherds (69g) from two soil samples from features of Roman date were noted but not recorded.

3.26.2 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay was recovered from 11 features (all ditches apart from a single furrow and field drain) and a yard surface. The CBM amounted to 17 fragments weighing 1138g and fired clay to nine fragments weighing 460g. The CBM consisted almost entirely of Roman tile, including tegula, brick and a fragment of imbrex. The fired clay comprised mainly flat slabs, which are probably fragments of discs or plates, probably utilised in cooking or food processing in a domestic setting. The CBM had probably been reused for oven/hearth linings.

3.26.3 The metal finds, all iron, comprised 20 pieces including 4-5 nail fragments, a knife blade of possible Saxon type, eight fragments from machined-produced steel pointed bars of modern date and a possible punch.

3.26.4 A small assemblage of 26 struck flints and six burnt unworked flints were recovered from Roman contexts and from the overlying subsoil and topsoil. It included a scraper of Bronze Age date, a bladelet of possible late Mesolithic or early Neolithic

date and a flake core likely to be of Neolithic date. The burnt flint largely comprised pot boilers.

3.26.5 A total of 167 animal bone fragments from 25 contexts were recovered by hand together with *c* 66g from five environmental samples. The assemblage was dominated by cattle remains, followed by sheep/goat and horse bones. Pig, dog, red deer and bird remains were each represented by single specimens. A few vole bones were also present in the hand-collected assemblage, while rodent, shrew, and possible amphibian remains were identified in the sieved material, which also included a single fish vertebra. A single oyster shell was also recovered.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Conditions were fine throughout most of the work. The trenches remained dry and the excavation was undertaken with little difficulty. However, rainfall occurred during the excavation and recording of the easternmost trenches (particularly Trenches 23, 30-34) towards the end of the evaluation. Here water accumulated at the base of the deepest, largely machined-excavated features. Nonetheless, the contrast between the archaeological features and the natural clay/gravel allowed for them to be easily distinguished.

4.1.2 Despite the comparatively low level of hand excavation sampling of the dense concentration of features within Trenches 31-3, enough information was gained from surface artefact assemblages and the surrounding trenches to ascertain their likely date. The low sample level across this area was agreed prior to the trench excavation with Hugh Coddington as excavation and understanding of these densely grouped features would be better served in any later, open area excavation. It was agreed that only very limited sampling was sufficient to establish the presence of settlement in this area.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 Archaeological features were found in 22 out of 34 trenches, generally surviving below *c* 0.40-0.50m depth of topsoil, subsoil and occasionally modern rubble levelling. There is a marked increase in the density of features within the eastern trenches, particularly within Trenches 31-3, where there is clear evidence for middle-late Iron Age and Roman features suggesting this area was a focus of activity during these periods. These features, including ditches, pits and postholes were generally well-preserved. A number of largely undated ditches were discovered in other trenches and these also appear to have survived fairly well.

4.2.2 The quantity of pottery from features in the easternmost Trenches (30-34) is sizeable enough to determine their date as ranging from the late Iron Age/early Roman period to the late Roman period. The large amount of pottery from ditch 2205 in Trench 22 suggests that occupation may have started from the middle Iron Age. The only evidence for later archaeological activity was ditch 2704 in Trench 27, from which a sherd of medieval pottery was recovered. The only other evidence for activity from other periods was an iron knife of Saxon type recovered from the subsoil in Trench 5.

4.2.3 The recovery of a sizeable quantity of well-preserved animal bones and pottery dating to the middle Iron Age and the Roman periods suggests that the site has good potential for producing further finds and environmental remains. More extensive excavation, particularly towards the east of the site, is likely to be successful in generating enough material to enable an assessment of the social and economic character of the settlement(s).

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The features may relate to middle-late Iron Age and Roman rural settlement, possibly continually occupied. This confirms the results of the earlier and much more extensive evaluations (TVAS 2006; 2010), which revealed that Iron Age and Roman features are confined within the area of the site (TVAS 2006, Trenches 12, 14 and 15). Although there is little coherent pattern in the arrangement of the ditches on the western part of the site, they seem likely to form part of a field system associated with the settlement. The presence of pits, postholes and enclosure ditches within the eastern part of the site would support the view that this was the focus of the settlement. As such it would occupy an area of the site nearer to the Roman road from the Roman towns of Alcester and Cunetio and forms part of a landscape of settlements known within the area of Grove. However, this settlement appears to have not extended much further east since the earlier evaluations revealed no such as evidence for activity of this date apart from a single pit and ditch, both of which produced Bronze age pottery (TVAS 2010, Trench 22). The only evidence for Bronze Age activity from this evaluation is a scraper recovered from the subsoil in Trench 23.

4.3.2 The recovery of pottery, CBM and animal bones suggests the presence of domestic activity, the former suggesting a lower status rural settlement, which can perhaps also be confirmed from the charred plant remains evidence.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 1 contained a single, undated, N-S aligned ditch cutting the clay/gravel natural					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.2
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
101	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil		
102	Layer	-	-	Natural		
103	Cut	0.88	0.36	Ditch		
104	Fill	-	0.36	Fill of 103		

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 2 contained 2 ditches and a single pit					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
201	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		
202	Layer	-	-	Natural		
203	Cut	1.05	0.26	Ditch		
204	Fill	-	0.08	Ditch fill		
205	Fill	-	0.08	Ditch fill		
206	Fill	-	0.12	Ditch fill		
207	Cut	<0.73	0.22	Pit		
208	Fill	-	0.22	Pit fill	Bone	
209	Cut	0.7	0.26	Ditch		
210	Fill	-	0.26	Ditch fill	Pot	

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 3 was devoid of archaeology					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
302	Layer	-	0.4	Rubble levelling		
303	Layer	-	0.12	Buried Subsoil?		
304	Layer	-	-	Clay/gravel natural		

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench 4 contained a probable trackway consisting of 2 parallel gullies one of which was truncated by a later pit.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
401	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil		
402	Layer	-	0.4	Rubble levelling		
403	Layer	-	0.3	Rubble levelling		
404	Layer	-	0.24	Buried subsoil		
405	Cut	<2.25	0.4	Pit		
406	Cut	0.5	0.3	Gully		
407	Cut	0.62	0.2	Gully		
408	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of 405	Bone	
409	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of 406		
410	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of 407		

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Consisted of 4 linear features and one pit					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
501	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
502	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	Y	
503	Layer	-	-	Natural		
504	Cut	0.75	0.22	Ditch		
505	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of ditch 504		
506	Cut	<1m	0.17	Pit		
507	Fill	-	0.17	Fill of pit 506		
508	Cut	0.88	0.21	Ditch		
509	Fill	-	0.21	Fill of ditch 508		
510	Cut	1.2	0.2	Ditch		
511	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of ditch 510	Pot/Bone	
512	Cut	0.7	0.14	Ditch		
513	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of ditch 512		

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Consisted of 2 ditches cut into the natural clay, sealed by topsoil					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
601	Layer	-	<0.3	Topsoil		
602	Layer	-	-	Natural		
603	Cut	1.0	0.32	Ditch		
604	Fill	-	0.32	Fill of 603		
605	Cut	0.75	0.12	Ditch terminus		
606	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of 605		

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Contained 1 ditch/gully					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
701	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
702	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
703	Cut	0.56	0.16	Ditch/gully		
704	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 703		
705	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 8 was devoid of archaeology					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
801	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
802	Layer	-	0.15	Rubble levelling		
803	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 10 was devoid of archaeology					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1001	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
1002	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
1003	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 11 contained 2 linear features					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1101	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
1102	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil		
1103	Layer	-	-	Natural		
1104	Cut	1.1	0.25	Ditch		
1105	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of 1104	Bone	
1106	Cut	0.25	0.10	Gully		
1107	Fill	-	0.10	Fill of 1106		

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 12 was devoid of archaeology					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1201	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
1202	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil		
1203	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 13 contained 4 ditches					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1301	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
1302	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		
1303	Layer	-	-	Natural		
1304	Cut	0.56	0.32	Ditch terminus		
1305	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of 1304	Bone	
1306	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of 1304		
1307	Cut	0.62	0.24	Ditch		
1308	Fill	-	0.24	Fill of 1307		
1309	Cut	0.9	0.35	Ditch		
1310	Fill	-	0.35	Fill of 1309		
1311	Cut	0.5	-	Ditch-unexcavated		
1312	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1311		
1313	Fill	0.7	0.14	Fill of 1309		

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 14 contained one undated furrow					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1401	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil		
1402	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil		
1403	Layer	-	-	Natural		
1404	Cut	1.10	0.32	Furrow		
1405	Fill	-	0.32	Fill of 1404	Bone /CBM	

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 15 contained one undated ditch					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1501	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
1502	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil		
1503	Layer	-	-	Natural		
1504	Layer	-	0.5	Rubble levelling		
1505	Cut	-	-	Land drain	Y	
1506	Cut	0.6	0.16	Ditch		
1507	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 1506		

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 16 contained 2 undated ditches					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1601	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil		
1602	Layer	-	0.4	Rubble levelling		
1603	Cut	0.5	0.18	Ditch		
1604	Fill	-	0.18	Fill of 1603		
1605	Cut	0.56	0.14	Ditch		
1606	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of 1605		

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 17 contained one undated ditch					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1701	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
1702	Layer	-	0.15	Rubble levelling		
1703	Cut	0.8	0.4	Ditch		
1704	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of 1703	Bone	
1705	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 18 contained 2 undated ditches					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1801	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
1802	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
1803	Layer	-	-	Natural		
1804	Cut	0.38	0.1	Ditch		
1805	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of 1804		
1806	Cut	0.4	0.24	Ditch		
1807	Fill	-	0.24	Fill of 1806		

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 19 was devoid of archaeology					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1901	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
1902	Layer	-	0.2	Rubble levelling		
1903	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 20 contained 2 possible features which were tested and found to be of natural origin					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2001	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
2002	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
2003	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 21						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 21 was devoid of archaeology					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2101	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
2102	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
2103	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 22						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 22 contained a single ditch of Roman date.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2201	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
2202	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil		
2203	Layer	-	-	Natural		
2204	Layer	-	0.2	Rubble levelling		
2205	Cut	1.02	0.36	Ditch		
2206	Fill	-	0.32	Fill of 2205	Pot/Bone	Roman
2207	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of 2205		

Trench 23						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 23 contained 3 ditches, 2 of which formed a large N-S enclosure ditch at the eastern end of the trench					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2301	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
2302	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	2 x Flint	Prehistoric
2303	Layer	-	-	Natural		
2304	Cut	2.2	0.7	Ditch		
2305	Fill	-	0.7	Fill of 2304	Pot/Bone/CBM	Roman
2306	Cut	2.5	0.6	Ditch		
2307	Fill	-	0.6	Fill of 2306	Bone	
2308	Cut	>0.76	0.28	Ditch		
2309	Fill	-	0.28	Fill of 2308	Pot	Roman

Trench 24						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 24 contained a large NE-SW aligned ditch that was unexcavated					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2401	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
2402	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		
2403	Layer	-	-	Natural		
2404	Cut	2.5	-	Ditch		
2405	Fill	-	-	Fill of 2404		

Trench 25						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench 25 was devoid of archaeology					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2501	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
2502	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
2503	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 26						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench 26 was devoid of archaeology					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2601	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
2602	Layer	-	0.2	Rubble levelling		
2603	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 27						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench 27 contained a single E-W orientated ditch					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2701	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
2702	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil		
2703	Layer	-	-	Natural		
2704	Cut	0.5	0.15	Ditch		
2705	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of 2704	Pot/Bone	

Trench 28						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 28 was devoid of archaeology					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2801	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil		
2802	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil		
2803	Layer	-	0.2	Rubble levelling		
2804	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 29						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 29 was devoid of archaeology					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2901	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
2902	Layer	-	0.25	Rubble levelling		
2903	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 30						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 30 contained a total of 7 ditches and one posthole					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3001	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
3002	Layer	-	0.15	Rubble levelling		
3003	Layer	-	-	Natural		
3004	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil		
3005	Cut	1.5	0.4	Ditch		
3006	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of 3005	Pot/Bone	Roman
3007	Cut	0.75	0.28	Ditch		
3008	Fill	-	0.28	Fill of 3007	Pot/Bone	Roman
3009	Cut	3.1	0.7	Ditch		
3010	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of 3009	Y	
3011	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of 3009	Pot/Bone	Roman
3012	Cut	0.75	0.36	Ditch		
3013	Fill	-	0.36	Fill of 3012	Pot	
3014	Cut	0.88	0.16	Ditch		
3015	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 3014	Y	
3016	Cut	0.78	0.26	Ditch		
3017	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of 3016	Pot	
3018	Cut	0.34	0.3	Posthole		
3019	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of 3018		

3020	Fill	-	0.34	Fill of 3009	Pot/Bone	
3021	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of 3009		

Trench 31						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench 31 contained significant numbers of pits, ditches and postholes most of which were unexcavated.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3101	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Y	
3102	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	Y	
3103	Layer	-	0.2	Rubble levelling		
3104	Layer	-	-	Natural		
3105	Cut	0.4	-	Posthole		
3106	Cut	0.9	-	Pit?	Y	
3107	Cut	0.55	-	Ditch		
3108	Cut	1.3	-	Ditch		
3109	Cut	1.2	-	Ditch		
3110	Cut	1.6	-	Ditch	Y	
3111	Cut	1.3	-	Pit	Y	
3112	Cut	0.3	-	Ditch		
3113	Cut	0.9	-	Pit		
3114	Cut	0.7	-	Ditch		
3115	Cut	2	-	Pit		
3116	Cut	0.5	-	Ditch		
3117	Cut	0.8	-	Ditch	Y	
3118	Cut	1.6	-	Pit		
3119	Cut	0.5	-	Ditch	Y	
3120	Cut	1	-	Ditch	Y	
3121	Cut	6.7	-	Intercutting features	Y	
3122	Cut	0.5	-	Posthole		
3123	Cut	0.4	-	Posthole		
3124	Cut	0.7	-	Pit		
3125	Cut	0.3	-	Posthole		
3126	Cut	1.5	-	Pit		
3127	Cut	0.8	-	Ditch		
3128	Cut	0.53	0.16	Ditch		
3129	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 3128	Pot/Bone/Shell	Roman
3130	Cut	0.2	-	Posthole		

Trench 32						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench 32 contained a total of 8 ditches, 2 postholes and a cobbled yard surface					**Length (m)**	75
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**

3201	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil		
3202	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	Pot	Roman
3203	Layer	-	-	Natural		
3204	Layer	3.2	-	Yard Surface	Pot/CBM	Roman
3205	Cut	2	0.4	Ditch		
3206	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of 3205	Pot/Nails	Roman
3207	Cut	0.35	-	Posthole		
3208	Cut	1	-	Ditch	Y	
3209	Cut	1.2	-	Ditch		
3210	Cut	0.8	-	Ditch		
3211	Cut	0.4	-	Ditch		
3212	Cut	2.5	-	Ditch	Y	
3213	Cut	0.38	-	Posthole		
3214	Cut		-	Ditch		
3215	Fill	0.26	-	Fill of 3205		
3216	Fill	0.08	-	Fill of 3205		

Trench 33						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consisted of 4 large ditches, a smaller curvilinear ditch, 3 postholes and a pair of pits					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3301	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
3302	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil		
3303	Cut	0.92	0.07	Curvilinear Ditch		
3304	Fill	-	0.07	Fill of 3303		
3305	Cut	2	0.38	Ditch		
3306	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 3305		
3307	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of 3305	Pot/Bone	
3308	Layer	-	-	Natural		
3309	Cut	0.4	0.1	Posthole		
3310	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of 3309		
3311	Cut	4.2	-	Ditch		
3312	Cut	1.6	-	Ditch		
3313	Cut	0.3	-	Posthole		
3314	Cut	>1.6	-	Ditch		
3315	Cut	3.5	-	Ditch		
3316	Cut	0.2	-	Posthole		
3317	Cut	0.8	-	Pit		
3318	Cut	0.8	-	Pit		

Trench 34						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench 34 contained a large enclosure ditch with an associated pit and 3 postholes and a smaller enclosure ditch with 3 associated pits					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
3401	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
3402	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	Y	
3403	Layer	-	-	Natural		
3404	Cut	0.58	0.13	Ditch		
3405	Cut	2.5	0.94	Ditch		
3406	Fill	-	0.52	Fill of 3405	Pot/Bone	
3407	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of 3405		
3408	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of 3405	Bone	
3409	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of 3405	Pot/Bone	
3410	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of 3404	Pot/Bone	
3411	Cut	1.3	-	Pit		
3412	Cut	0.15	-	Posthole		
3413	Cut	0.2	-	Posthole		
3414	Cut	0.2	-	Posthole		
3415	Cut	0.5	-	Ditch		
3416	Cut	0.5	-	Pit		
3417	Cut	0.7	-	Pit		
3418	Cut	0.8	-	Pit		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Paul Booth

Introduction

B.1.1 Some 227 sherds (5088g; 2.98 REs) of pottery were recovered during the evaluation and fully recorded. These comprised 27 sherds (548g, 0.29 REs) of later prehistoric (probably all middle Iron Age) date, 199 sherds (4536g, 2.69 REs) of late Iron Age and Roman date, and a single fragment (4g) of medieval pottery. A further 23 sherds (69g) from two soil samples from features of Roman date were noted but not recorded – these added nothing to understanding of the features from which they derived.

B.1.2 The pottery was recorded by context group using the system employed for later prehistoric and Roman pottery from OA projects (Booth 2014). Details of fabrics, vessel forms and decoration etc were recorded using standardised codes which allow ready comparison between assemblages in the region. Quantification was by sherd count, weight and rim equivalents (REs). The methodology is in line with recently-published standards (PCRG et al. 2016). The full records are on paper sheets and on an Excel spreadsheet which are contained in the project archive.

B.1.3 The pottery was in variable condition. The high mean sherd weight (MSW) of 22.4g was boosted by the material from the largest context group, 3129, which produced 98 sherds with a mean weight of 30.2g, but even so the MSW of the Iron Age sherds, for example, was still about 20g, although some sherds in these fabrics were notably small. A few sherds were specifically noted as being abraded, but evidence for surface treatment (such as burnishing or colour-coating) usually survived.

Fabrics

Iron Age

B.1.4 Prehistoric fabrics were defined on the basis of their principal inclusion types (occasionally a single inclusions type, but more commonly two or three) identified by alphabetic codes and qualified by a numeric code indicating the fineness of the fabric on a scale of 1 (very fine) to 5 (very coarse). These fabrics were by definition hand made. The inclusion types present were: A quartz sand; F flint; G grog; N none visible; P clay pellets; U ironstone ooliths; V vegetable/organic; Z uncertain voids. The combinations of inclusion types recorded are not listed in detail here (the data are in the project archive), but in terms of principal inclusion type the quantities of later prehistoric pottery are as follows:

A fabrics	14 sherds, 318g
F fabrics	4 sherds, 31g
U fabrics	9 sherds, 199g

B.1.5 Many sherds contained some of the principal and secondary inclusion types in a variety of combinations. Sand-tempered sherds were most numerous; this is characteristic of the region in the middle Iron Age. Much less common, and indeed unexpected, was the relatively widespread occurrence of ironstone ooliths. This distinctive inclusion type is considered to derive from ironstone sources in the north of the county, and its presence has been noted occasionally at sites in the Thames Valley such as Yarnton. Its presence at the present site is noteworthy, and suggests exploitation of a distinctive clay source, presumably deposited by fluvial action, with a component ultimately derived from a north Oxfordshire geology. Ironstone ooliths occurred as the principal inclusion type in nine sherds but were also present as a secondary component in five of the quartz sand (A) fabrics.

Roman

B.1.6 Late Iron Age and Roman fabrics were identified in relation to a series of major ware groups, usually at an intermediate stage of the fabric/ware definition hierarchy assigned to each group. The major ware groups represented in the assemblage were: S - samian ware, F - fine wares, M - mortarium fabrics, W - white wares, Q – white-slipped fabrics, E – late Iron Age-early Roman 'Belgic type' fabrics, O - oxidised `coarse' wares, R - reduced `coarse' wares, B - black-burnished ware and C - calcareous (usually shell-tempered) fabrics. Most sherds were assigned to subgroups of these categories (eg R30, a general grouping for moderately sandy reduced wares), though some were identified at the level of specific fabric (eg F51, Oxford colour-coated ware).

B.1.7 Brief descriptions of the fabrics present in the assemblage, or familiar names of well-known wares, are given with quantification in Table B1.1 below. Fuller descriptions can be found in the documentation of the recording system contained in the project archive. Fabric codes from the national Roman pottery fabric reference collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) are given in the table in bold, but most local fabrics are not recorded there. The total quantities of pottery are such that presenting percentages of the different fabrics by each measure would be of limited value. Percentages are therefore only given for the totals of each ware group, treating the 'fine and specialist' wares (ware groups S, F, W and Q) as a single group.

Table B1.1: Quantification of late Iron Age and Roman pottery fabrics

Ware	Summary description	No.	% No.	Wgt (g)	% wgt	REs	% REs
S32	Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware (**LMV SA**)	1		20		0.15	
F51	Oxford colour-coated ware (**OXF RS**)	3		39			
W20	Sandy white fabrics, ?Oxford	1		3			
Q45	Oxidised white slipped fabric with moderate to common fairly coarse quartz sand	10		46			
Fine and specialist wares subtotal		*15*	*7.5*	*108*	*2.4*	*0.15*	*5.3*
E20	Fine sand-tempered 'Belgic type' wares	1		5			
E30	Coarse sand-tempered 'Belgic type' wares	6		46		0.08	

Ware	Summary description	No.	% No.	Wgt (g)	% wgt	REs	% REs
E60	Flint-tempered 'Belgic type' wares	22		327		0.10	
E80	Grog-tempered 'Belgic type' wares (SOB GT)	18		284		0.17	
E subtotal		*47*	*23.6*	*662*	*14.6*	*0.35*	*12.5*
O10	Fine oxidised coarse ware fabrics	4		18		0.08	
O20	Coarse sandy oxidised fabrics	2		17			
O80	Coarse (mainly grog-tempered) oxidised fabrics	5		58			
O subtotal		*11*	*5.5*	*93*	*2.1*	*0.08*	*2.8*
R10	Fine reduced coarse ware fabrics	2		23		0.16	
R11	Fine reduced Oxford fabric (OXF FR)	1		25			
R20	Sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics	64		13179		1.11	
R29	Reduced fabric with distinctive large quartz sand grains	7		83		0.08	
R30	Medium sandy reduced coarse ware fabrics	28		1697		0.78	
R50	Medium sandy reduced with black surfaces	5		85			
R90	Coarse (mainly grog-tempered) reduced fabrics	7		148			
R95	Savernake ware (SAV GT)	1		45			
R subtotal		*115*	*57.8*	*3423*	*75.5*	*2.13*	*75.8*
B11	*Dorset black-burnished ware (BB1, DOR BB 1)*	*10*	*5.0*	*244*	*5.4*	*0.10*	*3.6*
C11	*Harrold shell tempered ware (HAR SH)*	*1*	*0.5*	*6*	*0.1*		
TOTAL		199		4536		2.81	

B.1.8 Much of the assemblage consisted of local or regional products. A single sherd of Les Martres-de-Veyre samian ware was the sole Continental import. Extra-regional imports were black-burnished ware (BB1, OA fabric B11) from south-east Dorset and probable Harrold (Bedfordshire) shell-tempered ware. The source of the white-slipped fabric Q45 (body sherds and a handle fragment from a single flagon) is unknown but may not be local.

B.1.9 The majority of the E ware (late Iron Age to early Roman) fabrics are likely to be of local origin but no production sites are known in the area. A degree of continuity from the middle Iron Age is indicated by the relative frequency of flint-tempering traditions in both periods – and indeed some attributions of these sherds to one or the other period are uncertain. A further indication of continuity of traditions is seen in the occurrence of the distinctive and unusual ironstone ooliths in a vessel in the E80 ware group.

B.1.10 Most sherds in the O and R ware groups probably derived from the Oxford industry (Young 1977), but this is less easily demonstrated than in the case of the fine wares (eg fabric F51) since other products, potentially even more local in origin, are not necessarily easily distinguished either in terms of fabric or typological range. The reduced ware groups R10, R30 and R20 represent a continuum of fabrics with differing amounts of quartz sand inclusions of varying size and the dividing line between them in

terms of frequency of sand is not always clearly defined. This characteristic supports the view that most reduced sherds derive from a common source, almost certainly the Oxford industry, though in real terms the reduced fabrics of that industry lack distinctive characteristics and it is possible that some were from other unrecognised local or regional sources working in a similar tradition with similar basic clays. The less common fabrics R50 and R90 are all potential Oxford products, but this is less certain. Fabric R95, Savernake ware, is the only certain non-Oxford reduced ware, but this fabric occurs regularly on Oxfordshire sites.

Vessel types, context and chronology

B.1.11 The Iron Age sherds included four rims, all in sand-tempered fabrics, of which three also contained ironstone ooliths. All these vessels were probably simple jar forms, though one rim was from a large vessel with a thickened upright rim (unfortunately the diameter could not be determined). The rather indistinct rim forms, like the range of fabrics types, are consistent with a broadly middle Iron Age date. A number of sherds of this period occurred in later contexts and only one context group, from 2206, was certainly of middle Iron Age date, and contained 60% of all sherds assigned to that period.

B.1.12 The pottery does not clearly demonstrate continuity of activity from the middle Iron Age into the late Iron Age-early Roman period, though such continuity is possible. Two context groups (3307 and 3409) were fairly confidently assigned to this period, and the former may perhaps have been of pre-conquest date (the use, and quite probably production, of most E ware fabrics spans this period and pre- or post-conquest dating of groups is often not possible). All the context groups in Trench 34 are of early, and typically mixed, character: none necessarily dates after the later 1st century AD. Context 3006 may have been of similar date, but the few sherds there are all very small and their reliability for close dating is therefore uncertain.

B.1.13 Middle and later Roman period groups are all very small, with the very obvious exception of that from 3129, already mentioned, which produced half of all the late Iron Age and Roman sherds and 65% of this pottery by weight. Many of these sherds, however, derived from only three or four vessels, all jars, of which only two were represented by rim sherds. The general character of the ?three jars in reduced fabrics, including one in fabric R20 imitating a black-burnished ware 'cooking pot type' jar, plus part of a genuine Dorset BB1 version of the same form, suggest a date from about the middle of the 3rd century. This is supported by the presence of single, albeit very small, sherd of Oxford colour-coated ware (fabric F51) from this context. The lack of more material of this type, however, supports the view that the group belongs to the second half of the 3rd century and need not be dated any later. Elsewhere, however, contexts with single sherds of fabric F51 (3l20 and 3121) can only be given a broad mid 3rd-4th century date range. It is notable, however, that all the sherds in fabric F51 occur in Trench 31 and suggest a focus of late Roman activity in this vicinity. Other specific late Roman markers are scarce, but include two flanged bowls in Dorset BB1, one each from contexts 2309 and 3206. These can be assigned a later 3rd-4th century date, and the single sherd from a jar in shell-tempered fabric C11, probably from Harrold (Bedfordshire), in context 3308, is datable to the 4th century, and perhaps more likely to the second half of that century based on other evidence from the region.

B.1.14 The diverse nature of the assemblage, and the particular character of the one dominant feature group, mean that assessment of site character based on aspects of the associated pottery assemblage (eg Booth 2004; forthcoming) is not very meaningful. All that can be said is that the percentage of 'fine and specialist' wares (here comprising ware groups S, F, W and Q), a potential measure of site status, is low (7.5% of sherd count, and less by other measures), perhaps indicating a lower status rural settlement, although bearing in mind the caveats mentioned above the significance of this is not certain, and any assessment is speculative given the size of the assemblage.

Table B1.2: Summary of pottery quantities and ceramic dating by context

	Prehistoric		Roman			
Context	*No. sherds*	*Wt (g)*	*No. sherds*	*Wt (g)*	*Ceramic date*	*Comment*
210			1	3	Late 1st-2nd century?	
511			1	1	Late 1st-2nd century?	
2206	16	340			Middle Iron Age	
2305			1	3	1st century	
2309			1	39	Late 3rd-4th century	
2705					medieval	1 sherd, 4g
3006	1	10	4	14	Mid-late 1st century or later	
3008			3	57	2nd century (or later)	
3010			3	17	2nd century or later	
3015	1	8			Middle Iron Age	
3017			1	4	Late Iron Age/early Roman	
3020			1	3	2nd century or later	
3102			2	46	3rd-4th century	Rim sherd distorted- a second
3106			1	6	Late 1st-2nd century	
3110			1	1	Roman	
3111			1	4	2nd century or later	
3117			2	11	Mid-late 1st century or later	
3119			1	44	3rd-4th century	
3120			2	37	mid 3rd-4th century	
3121			1	2	mid 3rd-4th century	
3129			98	2964	Mid-late 3rd century	
3201			1	17	2nd century	
3204			1	14	1st-2nd century?	
3206			7	130	late 3rd-4th century	
3208			1	5	1st-2nd century?	Worn
3212			6	179	Early-mid 2nd century?	
3307	1	22	14	155	Late Iron Age	Early 1st century AD?
3308			2	20	4th century?	
3406	3	61	26	504	Late 1st-early 2nd century	

	Prehistoric		Roman			
Context	*No. sherds*	*Wt (g)*	*No. sherds*	*Wt (g)*	*Ceramic date*	*Comment*
3408			1	15	Late Iron Age/early Roman?	
3409	1	20	6	165	Late Iron Age/early Roman	
3410	4	87	9	76	Mid-late 1st-2nd century?	
TOTAL	27	548	199	4536		

B.2 Flint

By Tom Lawrence

Introduction

B.2.1 A small assemblage of 26 struck and 6 burnt unworked flints were recovered from the evaluation (Table B2.1). The flints were recorded using OA's standard methodology. The assemblage appears to be of mixed date.

B.2.2 Trench 23 contained a backed knife and a side scraper within the subsoil. The scraper is likely to be of Bronze Age date due to the squat and spurred nature of the flake and the dihedral platform.

B.2.3 A multiplatform flake core was found in the topsoil of Trench 31. This core is likely of Neolithic date due to the crossed flaking pattern and use of both core tablets and rejuvenation flakes in the reduction process.

B.2.4 A fragment of burnt unworked flint was found within ditch 3303. Several burnt unworked fragments and chips were found within ditch 3405. These burnt fragments contain square, as opposed to scaled, fractures which suggest they were vitrified in fired then placed in water to heat it. A bladelet and fragment of burnt unworked flint was found in ditch 3404. The bladelet may tentatively date to the late Mesolithic or early Neolithic.

Table B2.1: Flint assemblage

Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
Backed Knife	Inner Blade.	Heavy backed retouch on the dorsal right and fine semi-abrupt retouch on the dorsal left.	
End Scraper/ Combination Tool	Side Trimming Flake	Irregular fine convex retouch on the dorsal left to form a scraper. Regular semi-abrupt retouch on the dorsal right lower in an attempt to form a piercer.	Later Prehistoric
Multiplatform Flake Core.	Flakes	Flakes taken from 90 degrees. It is likely that this was formerly a bladelet core. Remnants of a core tableting and rejuvenation process.	EN
Burnt Unworked x1		Square fracture suggests use as potboiler.	
Burnt Unworked x4		Square fracture suggests use as potboiler.	
Chip <10mm x22			
Burnt Unworked x1		Square fracture suggests use as potboiler.	
Bladelet x1	Inner Bladelet	Unidirectional flaking pattern and plain platform.	LM/EN

Discussion

The size of the assemblage and its condition limit the interpretation of the material. This assemblage is highly mixed and a-typical, containing a higher proportion of tools and cores than the average assemblage. This is likely due to a collection bias rather than any significant pattern. The majority of the assemblage dates to the Neolithic or Bronze Age and the majority of pieces are likely residual in nature or derive from the topsoil or subsoil.

B.3 Ceramic building material and fired clay

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

B.3.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay was recovered from 11 features, all ditches apart from a furrow and field drain, and a yard surface within 11 trenches. The ceramic building material amounted to 17 fragments weighing 1138g and fired clay to nine fragments weighing 460g. Details are summarised by context in Table B3.1. The assemblage has been fully recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2007). Fabrics were characterised on macroscopic features and with the aid of x20 hand lens.a

Description

B.3.2 The ceramic building material consisted entirely of Roman tile apart from a few tiny flakes from a land drain (1505), which are probably flakes from the surface of the drain tile itself.

B.3.3 Diagnostic Roman tile included tegula and brick and possibly a single tiny edge fragment of imbrex. The imbrex was identified purely on the form of the edge, which was concave with projecting lipped arrises, and is typical of imbrex. Two tegula fragments were identified, both lower corner fragments. The lower cutaways were both of type C5 as defined by Warry (2006), and which he dates to AD160-260. One measured 25mm thick but was lacking the flange. The other had a rounded flange 38mm wide, the end of which had been cut to a bevel. Four brick fragments including one corner were identified and measured between 36 and 44mm thick. The corner fragment had been vitrified along its edge, probably slightly overfired during production. One had been burnt grey on its upper surface probably as a result of re-use in a hearth. Similarly, a fragment of flat tile of uncertain form had also been burnt and blackened on the surface. The three fragments of plain flat tile measured between 15 and 23mm thick and are most likely to derive from tegula or imbrex. Two fabrics were observed, one red or pinkish red in colour containing frequent coarse white coarse sand (fabric Q) and the other an orange-red laminated clay containing red ferruginous and buff clay pellets.

B.3.4 The fired clay comprised mainly flat slabs 23-28mm made in a brown sandy glauconitic fabric (fabric QGl), which are probably fragments of discs or plates. Although some had been initially classified as CBM these pieces had hand-moulded smooth flat surfaces and lacked moulding sand typical of CBM. One was burnt and blackened on one side. Circular discs and rectangular or polygonal plates are a common component of Roman fired clay assemblages in Oxfordshire the upper Thames valley and neighbouring regions. One of the fragments was over 35mm and may represent a larger variety of oven plate, rather than the more typical smaller plates that average 20-40mm in diameter. The clay used for their production must derive from local deposits of Gault Clay, with addition of glauconitic sand derived from overlying Greensand deposits.

B.3.5 Three indeterminate fragments, possibly oven structure, were made in a chaff or organic tempered fabric (fabric V).

Interpretation

B.3.6 The assemblage of CBM and fired clay consists entirely of Roman forms. The character of the material is typical of rural agricultural settlements of relatively low status. The CBM is unlikely to represent the use of tile in masonry buildings but was probably being obtained for reuse in hearths or ovens. The preference for flat tiles (tegula and brick) and evidence of burning on some supports such an interpretation. The function of the fired clay plates is uncertain, but the presence of burning on some suggests they were probably utilised in cooking or food processing in a domestic setting.

Table B3.1: Summary of ceramic building material and fired clay by context

Cxt	Spot Date	Nos	Wt (g)	Material	Form	Fabric	Comments
511	Roman	1	1	CBM	Indeterminate	E?	
1405	Roman	1	75	CBM	Brick RB?	Q	
1505	?Med-Pmed	3	2	CBM	Indeterminate	OX IVA/B?	
2206	Preh-Med	2	37	Fired Clay	FC2	V	
2305	Roman	3	141	CBM	Brick RB	E2	
2705	Roman?	1	0.5	CBM	Indeterminate	E?	
3006	Roman	1	123	CBM	Brick RB	Q	
3006	Roman	1	99	CBM	Flat tile	D	
3006	Roman	1	2	CBM	Imbrex?	E2	
3129	Preh-Med	1	4	Fired clay (sieving <6>)	Indeterminate	V	
3204	Roman	1	422	CBM	Brick RB	E1	
3204	Roman: AD160-260	1	92	CBM	Tegula	E2	
3204	Roman	1	10	CBM	Flat tile	E1	
3206	Roman: AD160-260	1	115	CBM	Tegula	Q	
3206	Roman	1	55	CBM	Flat tile	E2	
3307	Roman	1	135	FC/CBM	Plate/disc?	QGl	28mm th
3406	Roman	1	34	FC/CBM	Plate/disc?	QGl	>35mm th
3406	Roman	2	42	Fired Clay	Plate/disc?	QGl	23mm th
3409	Roman	1	201	FC/CBM	Plate/disc?	QGl	28mm th
3409	Roman	1	7	Fired Clay	Plate/disc?	QGl	

B.4 Metal finds

By Ian Scott

B.4.1 The metal finds number 20 pieces or fragments, all of iron. The knife blade fragment (No. 1) from context 502 has features – thick triangular section blade and a tang slightly angled down – that suggest a Saxon date. The metal fragments (Nos 7-13) from contexts 3402 and 3406 are clearly much more modern since they were clearly machine formed or stamped. The remaining objects comprise nails and a possible punch that cannot be closely dated.

Context 502	(1)	Knife blade with whittle tang. The blade has a triangular section, and a tang that is slightly angled down. The knife looks like a Saxon knife, but the absence of the point of the blade makes the identification less secure. L extant: 74mm. Fe. (1 frag)
Context 1505	(2)	Nails. One possible complete small nail (L: c 32mm) and five stem fragments or sheet, very small fragment. Not measured. Fe. (6 frags)
Context 3129	(3)	Nail stem fragment. Not measured. Fe. (1 frag)
Context 3204	(4)	Nail, with slightly domed sub-rectangular head and square section stem incomplete stem. L extant: 42mm. Fe. (1 frag)
Context 3206	(5)	Nail, with offset flat oval head and tapered square section stem, almost complete. L: 81mm. Fe. (1 frag)
	(6)	Bar or nail stem fragment of square section. L: 63mm. Fe. (1 frag)
Context 3402	(7)	Press steel pointed bar? Two fragments (no refit). One fragment a broad strip with half round hollow ridge down the centre formed (stamped?) from mild steel (L: 85mm; W: 40mm). This would have been backed by a second strip of similar profile (cf context 3406). The second fragment comprises a sharply tapered point formed of two layers (L extant: 74mm: W: 42mm). Originally the two pieces were part of pointed bar or post formed from two back to back machine formed strips with half round hollow ridges with points at one end, which together formed a hollow tube or channel. Fe. (2 frags)
Context 3406	(8-13)	Press steel pointed bars? Six fragments similar to those from context 3402 (No. 7) fragments. These include three strips with hollow half round ridges and two detached points. The sixth fragment (L: 128mm; W: 40mm) possibly complete and shows the construction of the pieces. Fe. (6 frags)
Context 3410	(14)	Possible punch. Slightly tapered bar of square section. L: 93mm; max W: 8mm. (1 frag)

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.1.1 Six bulk samples were taken, primarily for the retrieval of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts.

Method

C.1.2 The bulk samples were processed at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh and dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

C.1.3 Identifications were carried out using standard morphological criteria for the cereals (Jacomet 2006), identification of wild plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al*. 2006) and by comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010). Where fewer than twenty-five individuals are present for any material type, these have been fully quantified.

Results

C.1.4 Table C1.1 lists the charred taxa identified from each CPR sample.

C.1.5 The majority of samples from this area produced relatively small flots which comprised charcoal in a generally clean condition. Cereal grain was common but in poor condition, with the majority of grains unidentifiable as a result of a 'clinkered' appearance, fragmentation and in many cases vitrification as a result of burning. Few uncultivated plant seeds are present within any of these samples.

Discussion

C.1.6 The charred material recovered from these samples is fairly typical for a rural Romano-British site in this area. The wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) and associated chaff form the majority of the assemblages and while condition is poor, and the glume base fragments are small, it would seem most likely that these are spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) as this is the dominant crop during this period. A small number of grains show characteristics expected in barley (*Hordeum* sp.). However, these are also generally in a poor condition and cannot be identified with certainty. It would seem likely that the assemblage reflects a mixed regime of wheat and barley with glume wheat, probably spelt, as the main crop.

C.1.7 The non-cultivated plant seeds, especially the cleavers (*Galium aparine*), vetches (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus*) and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp(p). are all common crop contaminants frequently observed within Roman contexts.

C.1.8 The poor condition of this material would appear to be the result of damage caused by burning rather than by preservation conditions on site. The relatively small amount of material present within these flots is likely to be an indication that the features were not directly associated with crop processing or domestic activity.

C.1.9 The charcoal while generally less than 4mm in size is in clean condition with very little external encrustation or mineralization.

Sample no.	Context no.	Area/Trench	Sample vol. (L)	Feature /Deposit	Date	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other	Notes
1	2206	22	35	Fill of Ditch [2205]	Roman	55	+++	+++	+++	++			Volume is mostly roots. Charcoal is in clean condition but all <4mm in size. 30+ indet cereal grains, 8 *Triticum* sp., 2 *cf Triticum* sp., 1 *cf Hordeum* sp. 50+ glume base fragments. 2 *Juncus* sp., 2 *Galium aparine*, 2 small Fabaceae, 2 *Vicia/Lathyrus* <2mm, 1 *Vicia/Lathyrus* >2mm.
2	3020	30	32	Basal fill of Ditch [3009]	Roman	8					+		Volume almost entirely roots. Rich in modern goosefoot seeds. Also 4 small land snails. Small flecks of charred material
3	3406	34	35	Fill of boundary Ditch [3405]	Roman	3	+	+++		+			V rich in modern goosefoot seeds. 2 charcoal frags >2mm. 24 indet cereal grains in v poor condition – clinkered and vitrified. 3 probable *Hordeum* sp., 5 probable *Triticum* sp., 2 *Triticum* sp. 2 *Juncus* sp.
4	3410	34	40	Single fill of Ditch [3404]	Roman	75	+++	++	+	++			Volume largely roots. Rich in uncharred goosefoot seeds. 40+ charcoal >2mm in generally clean condition. 17 indet cereal grains, very clinkered and fragmented. 5 glume base fragments. 1 *Avena/Bromus*. 1 *Juncus* sp., 3 *Galium aparine*, 3 *Rumex* sp., 2 *Chenopodium* sp., 3 *Vicia/Lathyrus* <2mm and 2 small Fabaceae, 1 grass seed.
5	3310	33	8	Single fill of Posthole [3309]	U/D	2	++						Charcoal mostly small, in generally clean condition. No other CPR present.

6	3129	31	40	Single fill of Ditch [3128]	Roman	60	++	+++		++			Rich in modern roots and straw. Charcoal generally in clean condition. Oat awns observed. 25+ indet cereal grains. 1 *Triticum* sp., 2 grass seeds, 1 *Galium aperine*, 1 *Papaver* sp., 1 *Vicia/Lathyrus* <2mm. 4 unid seeds in generally poor condition.

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

Table C1.1: Charred plant remains

C.2 Animal bone

By Martyn Allen

Introduction

C.2.1 The evaluation produced 167 animal bone specimens from 25 contexts, and *c* 66g from five environmental samples. The assemblage was recovered from contexts ranging in date from the middle Iron Age to the 4th century AD (one specimen came from a possible medieval context). Preservation of the material was generally excellent and although there were some modern breaks, fragmentation was notably low. Butchery marks were infrequent, and many specimens had not suffered excessive breakage. The assemblage was dominated by cattle remains, followed by sheep/goat and horse bones. Pig, dog, red deer, and bird remains were each represented by single specimens. A few vole bones were also present in the hand-collected assemblage, while rodent, shrew, and possible amphibian remains were identified in the sieved material, which also included a single fish vertebra.

Methods

C.2.2 The assemblage was analysed at Oxford Archaeology South using the in-house skeletal reference collection to aid identification. Specimens were recorded using the zones system of Serjeantson (1996). Age-at-death was estimated from the observation of epiphyseal fusion of the long bones and dental-wear patterns (cf. Grant 1982). Butchery marks, burning, carnivore gnawing, and pathologies were recorded at a basic level where they were observed. No measurements were taken.

Results

C.2.3 Cattle remains were represented by 54 specimens from a range of contexts (Table C2.1). These were mostly restricted to a small number of specimens, except for 2nd-century contexts 3010 and 3020 which included larger collections of cattle bone. These contexts consisted of a range of elements from most parts of the body, including skull, mandible, scapulae, fore-limb and rear-limb bones, and metapodials. At least two cattle were represented in these fills. Many of the bones were also largely complete and had only succumbed to a small amount of post-depositional fragmentation. Butchery evidence was limited to cut marks found on one tibia shaft, indicative of meat filleting. The cattle were mostly skeletally mature except for an unfused proximal humerus and distal tibia, which suggest that the animals were about 36–42 months old when they died (cf. Getty 1975). However, one mandible included a moderately worn lower deciduous premolar and a slightly worn 1st molar, suggesting the presence of an animal about one year old. Given the completeness of the bones and general lack of butchery, it would be unsurprising if at least some of the remains were buried in articulation.

C.2.4 Cattle of different ages appear in the wider assemblage. These included bones of neonatal or very juvenile animals in 1st-century context 2305 and mid–late 3rd-century context 3129.

C.2.5 Further evidence of butchery marks included cut marks on a metacarpal shaft, probably made during skinning (context 1405), a tibia with an oblique shaft fracture, another with horizontal cuts on the medial side of the shaft at the proximal end, and a humerus with horizontal cuts on the medial side of the shaft at the distal end (all from late Iron Age/early Roman context 3409), and a radius with cuts on the medial side of the shaft (mid-1st–2nd-century context 3410).

C.2.6 Horse remains were limited to 11 specimens from six contexts. Perhaps the most notable of these was the late 1st–early 2nd-century context 3406, which included a complete left tibia, a largely complete left femur (possibly articulated), a small pelvis fragment and two upper molars.

C.2.7 As with cattle, the horse bones had suffered little from fragmentation. Two specimens exhibited butchery marks. These included a tibia with an axial chop mark on the posterior side of the distal end (context 408) and an axially split metatarsal from a mid–late 3rd-century context (3129).

C.2.8 All the horse bones were from skeletally mature animals.

C.2.9 Sheep/goats were represented by ten specimens from nine contexts, including two left mandibles from the middle Iron Age context 2206. The sheep/goat remains were mainly from skull (mandible) and foot (metapodial) bones, though the sample size was too small to see whether this was a significant pattern. Few remains could be aged, other than an unfused distal metacarpal from a lamb (context 3409). No butchery marks were found on any of the sheep/goat remains.

C.2.10 A pig was represented by a single mandible of a young animal from an Iron Age context (3307), a dog was represented by a lower canine from a mid–late 3rd century context (3129), and a single red deer molar was recovered from context 1305. Three vole bones were discovered in context 3129.

C.2.11 A small amount of faunal material was recovered from environmental samples (Table C2.2). This included rodent and possible amphibian bones from context 2206 (middle Iron Age), plus shrew bones and a single, small fish vertebra of an unidentified species from context 3406 (late 1st–early 2nd-century AD).

Discussion

C.2.12 The animal bone assemblage includes remains from most of the main livestock taxa. It appears to be dominated by cattle bones, though this needs to be confirmed by a larger sample from a wider range of contexts. The presence of neonatal animals indicates that livestock were being bred and reared at the site or nearby. Horses may have been important and there is some evidence that horse meat was being consumed. The style of butchery is indicative of practices common in the Iron Age and which continued at rural settlements in the Roman period, primarily employing knives as opposed to cleavers and with little evidence of long-bone fracturing for marrow. Bird bones were notably scarce. Hunting is suggested by the presence of red deer, while fish may also have been consumed, if only on a limited basis. The recovery of a number of bones from several microfauna species provides some potential for the examination of environmental conditions.

Table C2.1: Number of specimens per taxon by context

Context	Spot date	Cattle	Horse	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Dog	Red deer	Vole	?Bird	Large mam.	Medium mam.	Unident.	Total
208	–	1								16			17
408	–		1							1			2
511	L1-2C									10			10
1105	–	2											2
1305	–						1						1
1405	–	2								1	1		4
1505	–			1									1
1704	–	2											2
2206	MIA	1		2									3
2305	1C	2	1							6			9
2307	–	1	2	1						1			5
2309	L3-4C	1											1
2705	medieval	1											1
3006	M1C+			1							5		6
3008	2C+								1	2		4	7
3010	2C+	10		1						11			22
3020	2C+	17								15			32
3110	2C+	4									1		5
3120	M3-4C	3								2			5
3129	M-L3C	2	1	1		1		3		3			11
3307	LIA			1	1					1			3
3406	L1-E2C	1	5							1			7
3408	LIA/ER									2			2
3409	LIA/ER	3		1									4
3410	M1-2C	1	1	1						1	1		5
	Total	54	11	10	1	1	1	3	1	73	8	4	167

Table C2.2: Summary of animal bones from environmental samples

Context	Sample	Mesh/mm	Weight/g	Bird	Rodent	Amphibian	Fish	Other	Notes
3406	3	4–2	<1				y		small vertebra
3129	6	>10	3					y	mammal long bone frags
3406	3	4–2	<1		y				several shrew bones identified from mandible
3406	3	>10	14					y	sheep tooth, proximal radius and long bone frags, one burnt
3406	3	10–4	<1					y	sheep incisor
3020	2	>10	26					y	mostly long bone and rib frags
3410	4	>10	10					y	sheep tooth, unfused pig proximal ph1, mandible and long bone frags
2206	1	4–2	<1		y	y		y	small incisor, rodent vertebrae, and two possible amphibian bones
2206	1	2–0.5	<1		y				several rodent bones (humerus, ulna, etc.)
2206	1	>10	13					y	unfused sheep metapodial, sheep hyoid, mostly sheep-sized long bone (one burnt) and rib fragments, one possible skull frag

C.3 Marine shell

By Rebecca Nicholson

C.3.1 A single oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) right valve, in fair condition and of moderate size, was recovered from pit fill 3129. Pit 3128 has been dated to the Roman period and the oyster shell is consistent with this, since oysters were favoured by the Romans. A V-shaped notch in the margin opposite the hinge is likely to have originated when the live oyster was opened using a knife.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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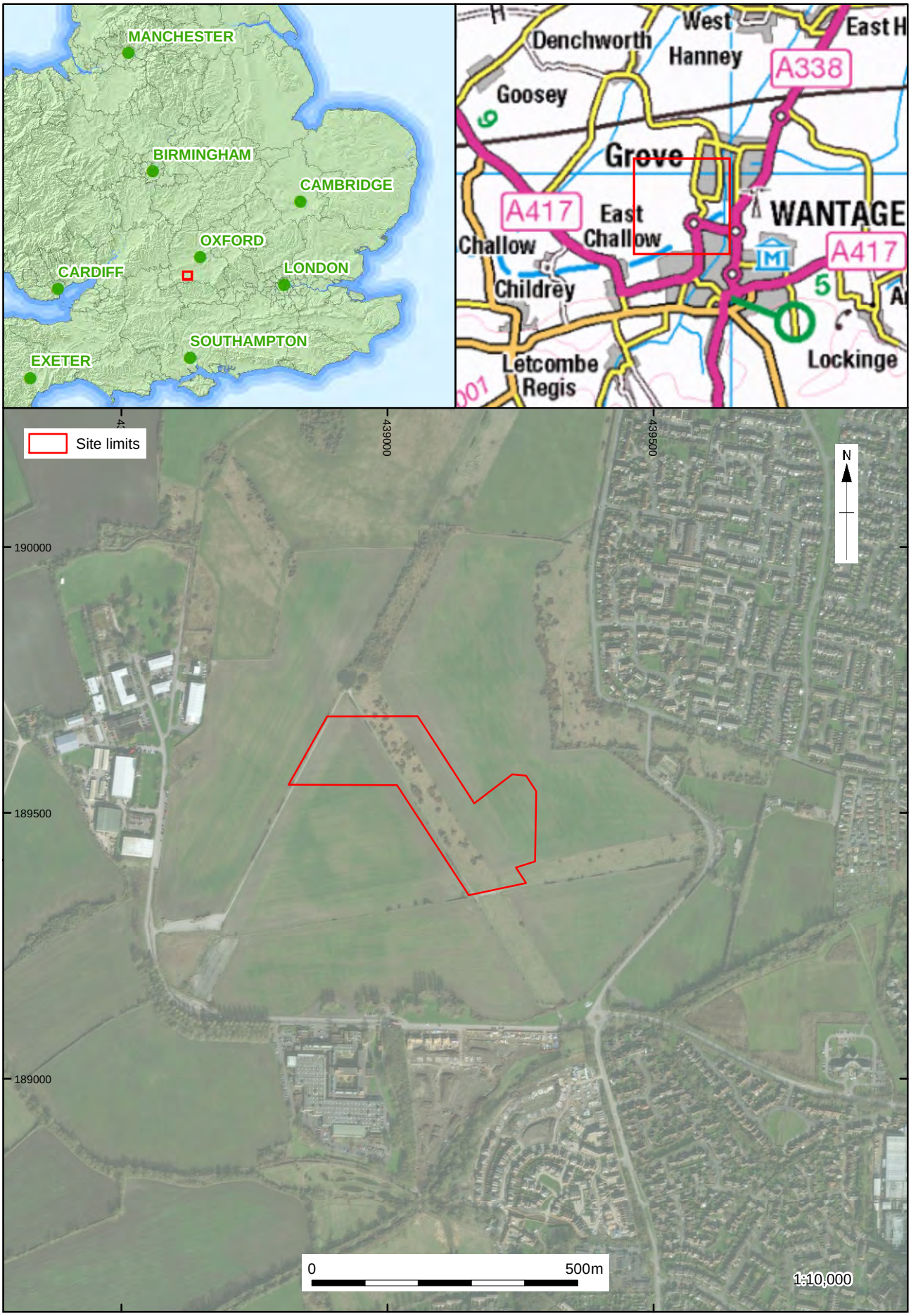
APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Grove Airfield, Wantage, Oxon
Site code:	GRAIR 18
Grid Reference	SU 3907 8955
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	14th–29th May 2018
Area of Site	6.8ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course under the accession code OXCMS:2017.108
Summary of Results:	In May 2018, Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Grove Airfield near Wantage in Oxfordshire. This work was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (Wessex) in accordance with a condition of planning permission for a residential development with associated infrastructure. A total of 34 trenches revealed features dating to the middle and late Iron Age and from the early to late Roman periods. The focus of the activity, probably representing settlements of these periods, appears to be located within the south-eastern part of the evaluation. Ditches located beyond the apparent settlement focus most probably relate to associated field systems.



X:\g\GRAIREV_Grove_Airfield_Oxon\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\GRAIREV_Fig1.mxd*conan.parsons*27/06/2018

Figure 1: Site location

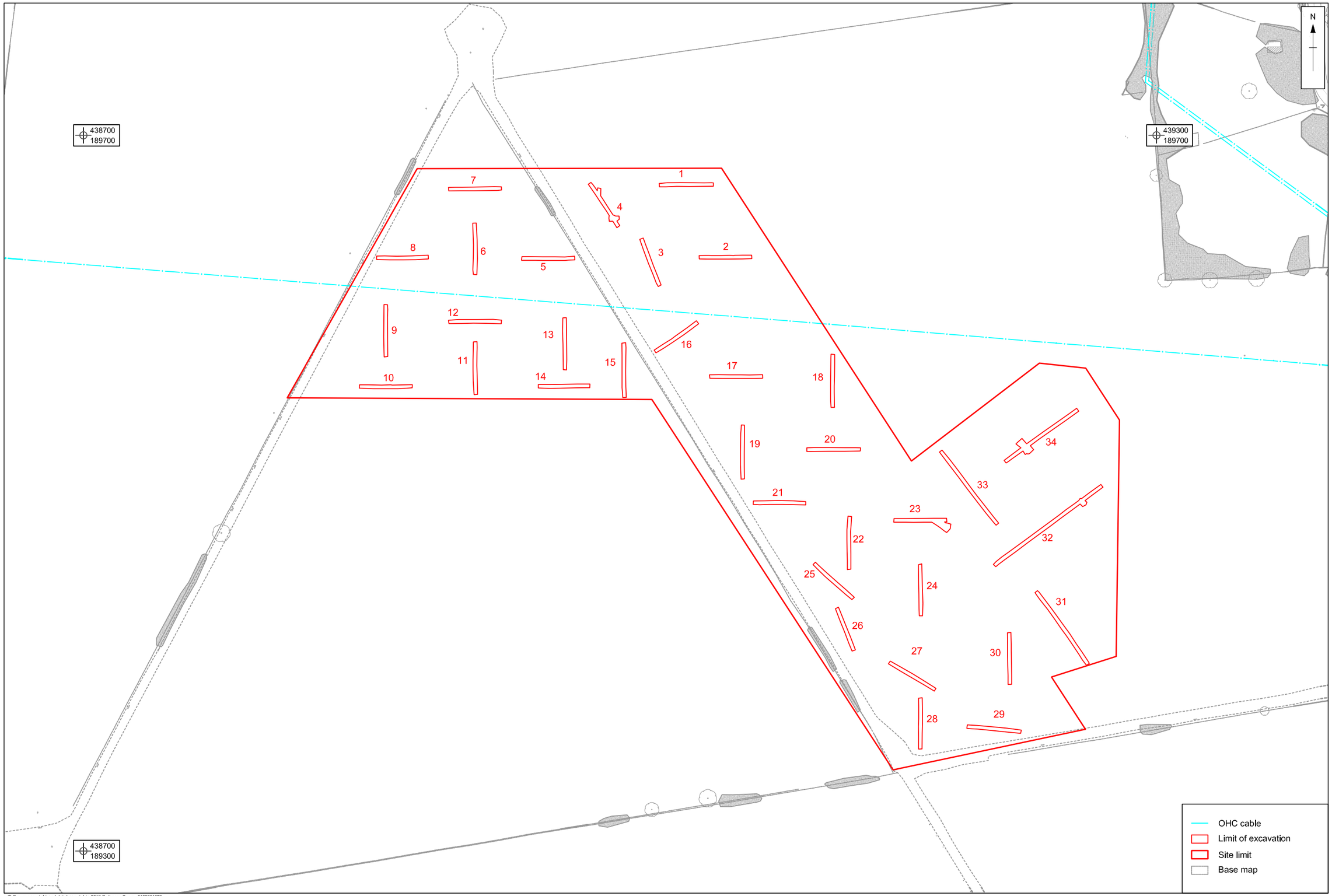


Figure 2: Trench location plan

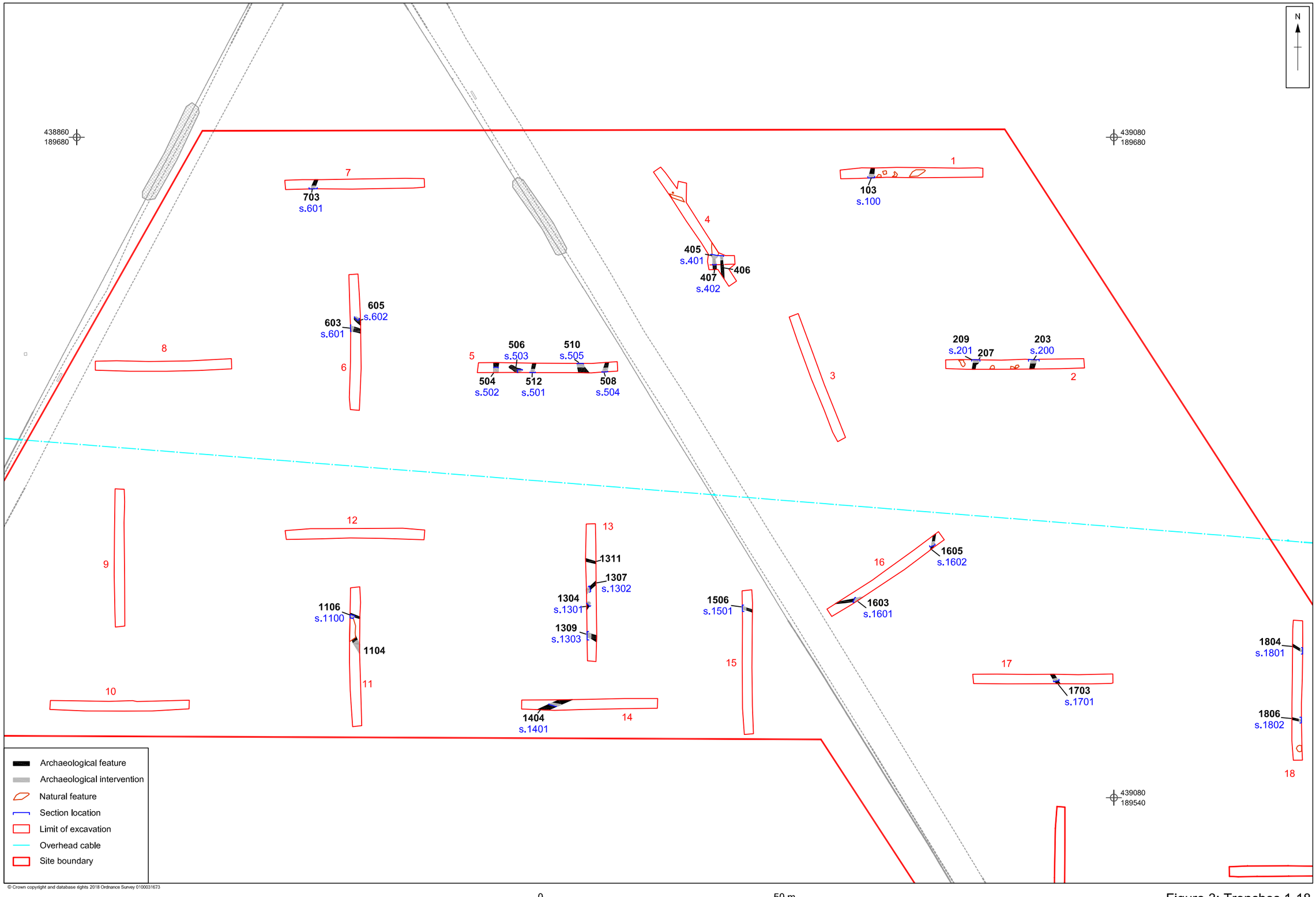


Figure 3: Trenches 1-18

X:\g\GRAIREV_Grove_Airfield_Oxon\010Geomatics\02 CAD\GRAIREV_Grove-Airfield_2018-05-11.dwg(A3 Fig4)*GRAIR18*GRAIREV*GRAIREV*steve.lawrence* 04 Jul 2018

N

19

20

439060
189520

439170
189520

33
(see fig.5)

21

2205
s.2201

23

2308
s.2303

2304 & 2306
s.2302

22

25

24

2404

26

2704
s.2701

27

28

439060
189380

Archaeological feature
Archaeological intervention
Sondage
Section location
Limit of excavation
Site boundary

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0 20 m

Scale at A3 1:500

Figure 4: Trenches 19-28

X:\g\GRAIREV_Grove_Airfield_Oxon\010Geomatics\02 CAD\GRAIREV_Grove-Airfield_2018-05-11.dwg(A3 Fig5)*GRAIR18*GRAIREV*GRAIREV*steve.lawrence* 04 Jul 2018

N

439170
189530

439270
189530

439270
189390

33

3311
3312
3305
s.3302
3309
s.3303
3315
3314
3303
s.3301

34

3404
s.3402
3411
3405
s.3401

23
(see fig.4)

24
(see fig.4)

27
(see fig.4)

32

3212
3211
3210
3209
3208
3205
s.3201
3213
3207
3204

31

3128
s.3101
3120
3119
3117
GRP3121
3110
3111

30

3005
s.3001
3007
s.3002
3018
s.3003
3009
s.3006
3012
s.3004
3016 & 3014
s.3005

29

Archaeological feature
Archaeological intervention
Archaeological surface
Sondage
Section location
Limit of excavation
Site boundary

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0 20 m

Scale at A3 1:500

Figure 5: Trenches 29-34

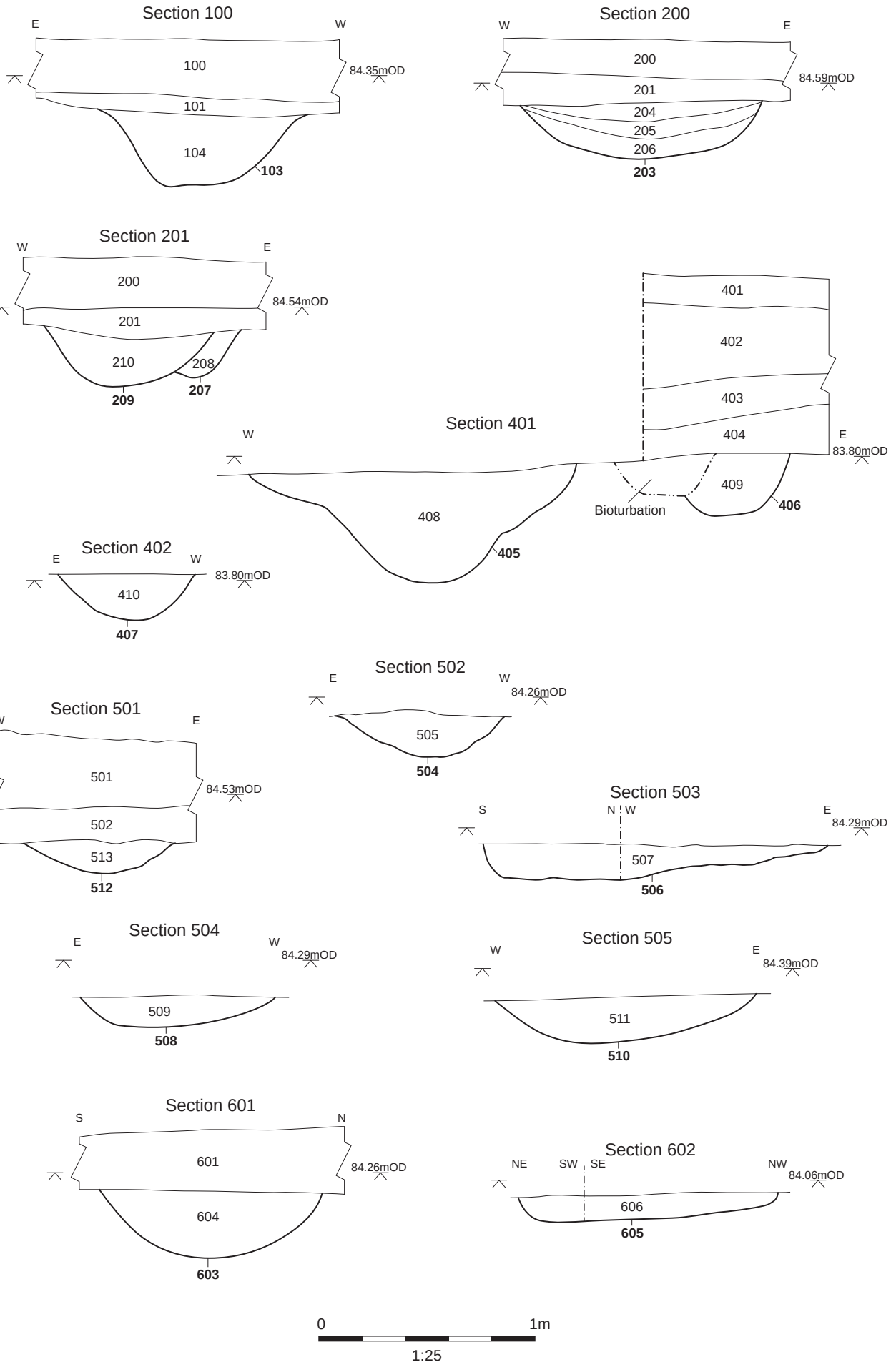

Figure 6: Sections (Trenches 1-6)

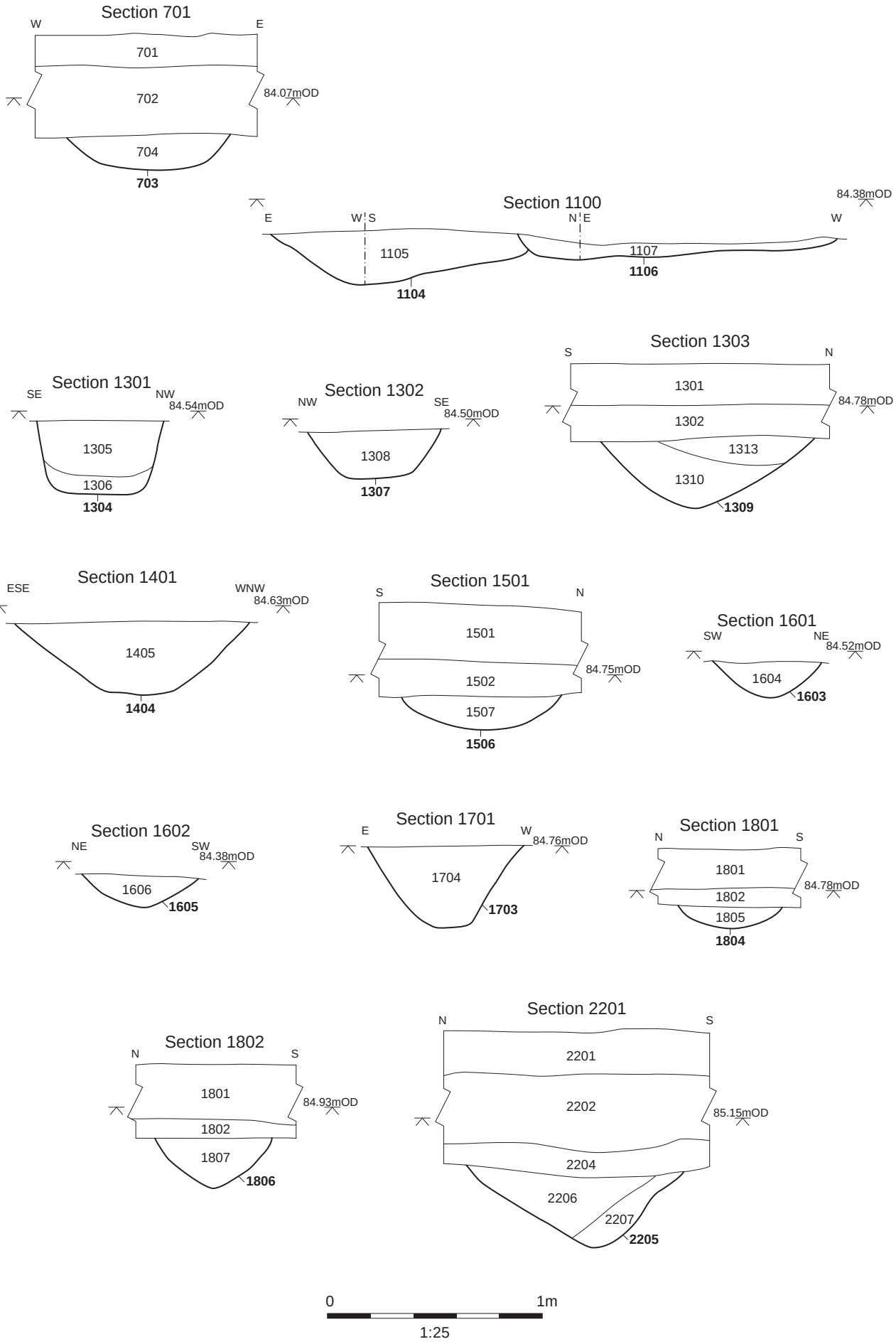

Figure 7: Sections (Trenches 7-22)

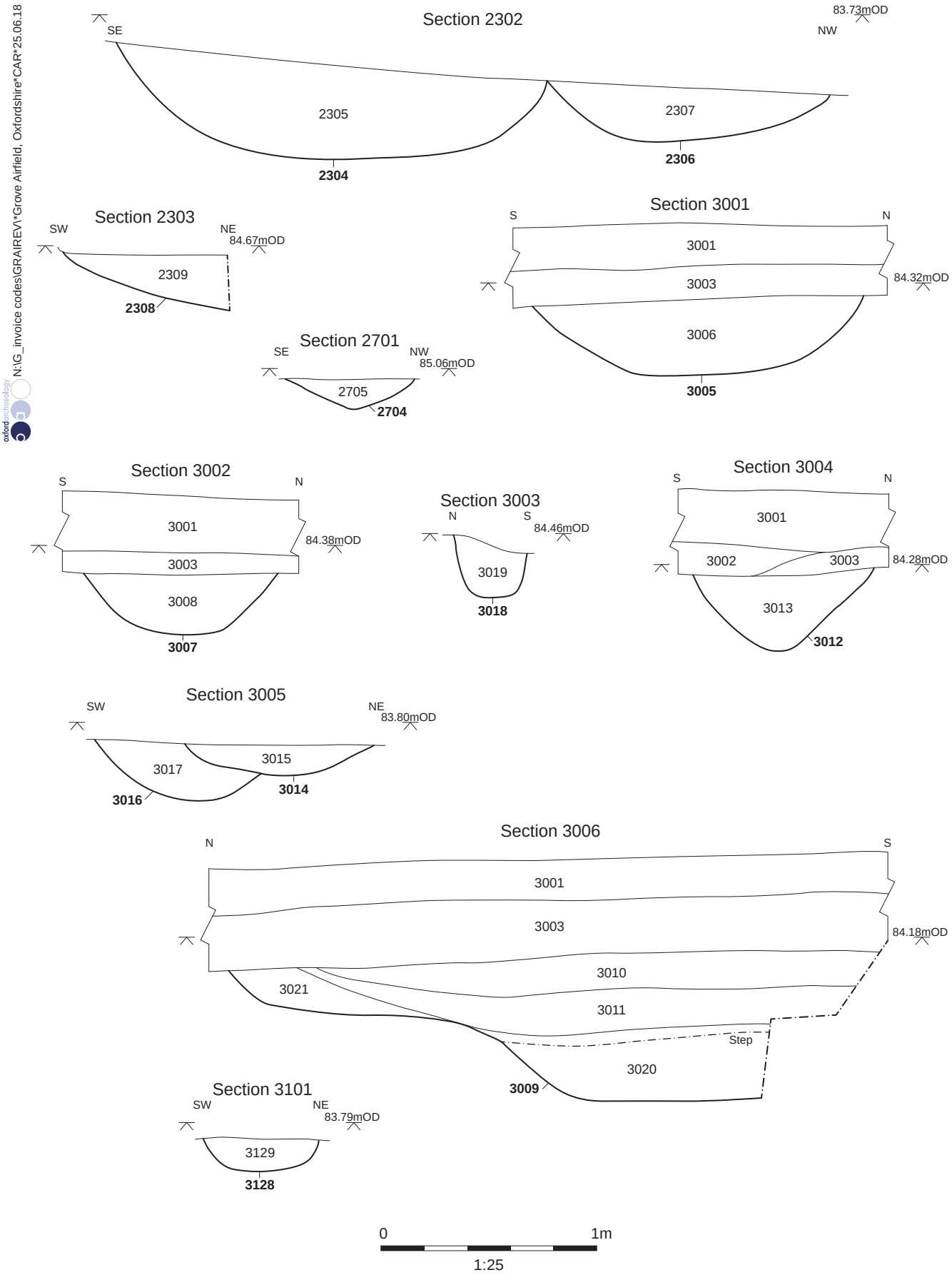

Figure 8: Sections (Trenches 23-31)

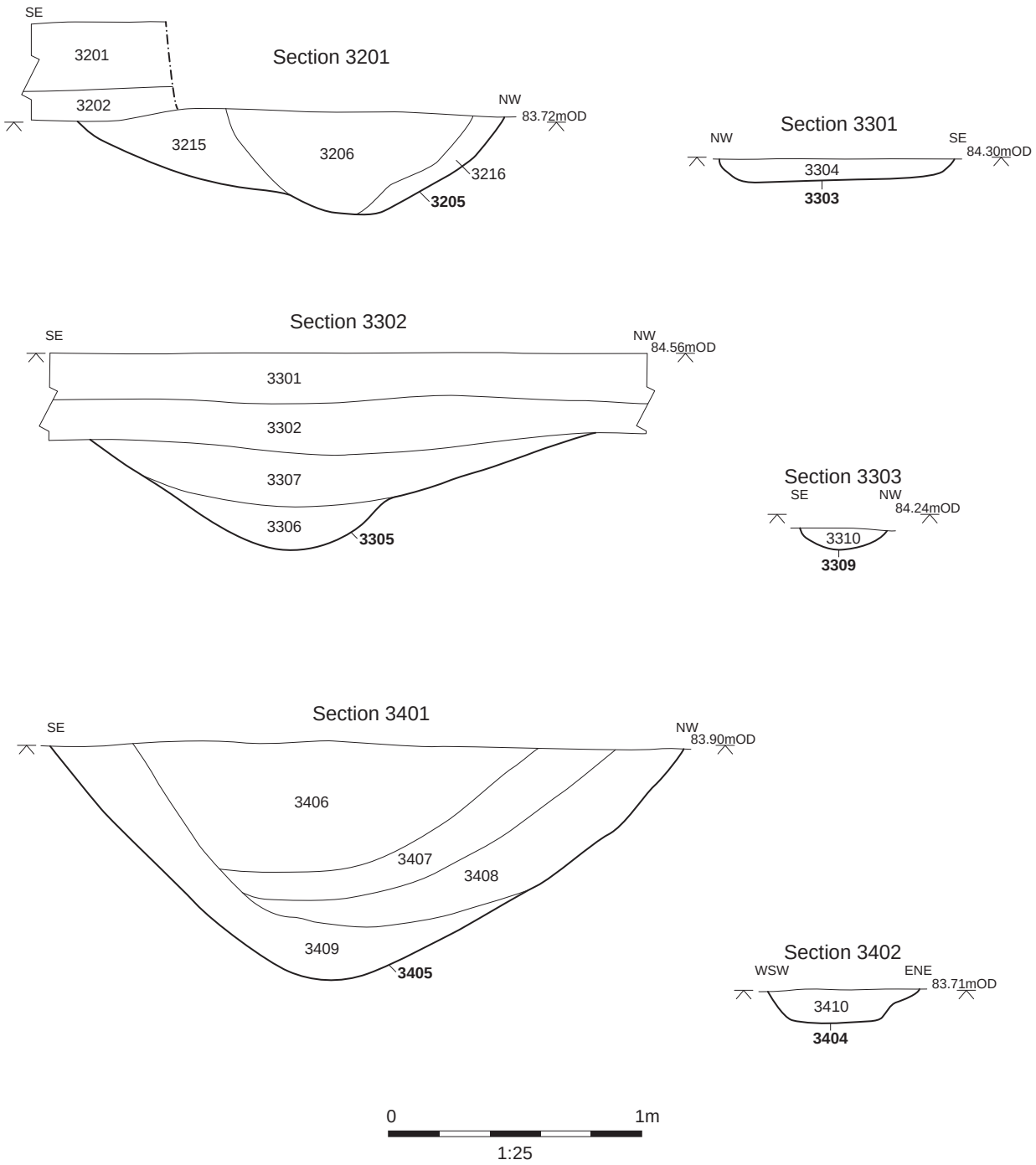

Figure 9: Sections (Trench 32-34)

Plate 1: Trench 4, view NW

Plate 2: Ditch 510, view NNE

Plate 3: Ditch 703, view S

Plate 4: Ditch 1104, view SW

Plate 5: Ditch 1307, view NE

Plate 6: Ditch 1703, view NW

Plate 7: Ditches 2304 and 2306, view SW

Plate 8: Trench 30, view S

Plate 9: Ditch 3005, view W

Plate 10: Ditch 3007, view W

Plate 11: Ditch 3012, view W

Plate 12: Posthole 3018, view E

Plate 13: Trench 32, view W

Plate 14: Ditch 3305, view W

oxfordarchaeology

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com