

Windmill Hill Farm, Coton Lane, Tamworth

Archaeological Evaluation Report

September 2017

Client: CgMs Consulting

Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: 6787

NGR: SK 194 059



Client Name: CgMs Consulting
Document Title: Windmill Hill, Coton Lane, Tamworth
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Grid Reference: SK 194 059
Planning Reference:
Site Code: TACOT17
Invoice Code: TACOTEV
Receiving Body: Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent
Accession No.: 2017.LH.69

OA Document File Location: \\10.0.10.86\Projects\c\Coton_Lane_Tamworth
OA Graphics File Location:

Issue No: 1
Date: 27.09.17
Prepared by: Alex Davies (Project Officer)
Checked by: Carl Champness (Project Manager)
Edited by: Leo Webley (Head of Post excavation)
Approved for Issue by: David Score (Head of Fieldwork)
Signature:



Disclaimer:

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

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



Windmill Hill, Coton Lane, Tamworth

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Alex Davies and Carl Champness

*With contributions from Edward Biddulph, Ian R Scott,
Martyn Allen and Sharon Cook, and illustrations by Markus
Dylewski and Matt Bradley*

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	Scope of work.....	1
1.2	Location, topography and geology.....	1
1.3	Archaeological and historical background.....	1
1.4	Geophysics.....	2
2	EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	3
2.1	Aims	3
2.2	Methodology.....	3
3	RESULTS	4
3.1	Introduction and presentation of results	4
3.2	General soils and ground conditions.....	4
3.3	General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	4
3.4	Trench 2	4
3.5	Trench 6 (Figs. 3 and 5)	4
3.6	Trench 7	5
3.7	Trench 8 (Figs. 4 and 5)	5
3.8	Trench 10.....	5
3.9	Finds summary	5
4	DISCUSSION	6
4.1	Reliability of field investigation.....	6
4.2	Evaluation objectives and results.....	6
4.3	Interpretation.....	6
4.4	Significance	7
APPENDIX A	TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY	8

APPENDIX B	FINDS REPORTS.....	12
B.1	Pottery	12
B.2	Metals.....	13
APPENDIX C	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS.....	14
C.1	Environmental Samples.....	14
C.2	Animal Bone.....	15
APPENDIX D	BIBLIOGRAPHY	16
APPENDIX E	SITE SUMMARY DETAILS.....	17

List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location
Fig. 2	Trench location
Fig. 3	Plan of Trench 6
Fig. 4	Plan of Trench 8
Fig. 5	Sections 600, 601, 602 and 800

List of Plates

Plate 1	Ditch 608
Plate 2	Pit 606
Plate 3	Ditch 809

Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Windmill Hill Farm, Coton Lane, Tamworth. Eleven trenches were opened. Five contained one or two linear ditches that were either undated, or post-medieval/modern. The southernmost trench contained a ditch and pit containing middle Roman pottery, and a further undated ditch. It is likely that the undated ditches on the site either date to the Roman or post-medieval/modern period. The evaluation suggests a dearth of archaeological features over the majority of the site; however, further Roman features are likely to be present in the southwestern area. Very few finds or features dating to the Roman period are known in the vicinity of the site, although, the ditches and pit might be related to a cropmark complex known further to the west.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Mike Dawson, CgMs Consulting, for commissioning this project. Thanks is also extended to Stephen Dean who monitored the work on behalf of Staffordshire County Council for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Bob McIntosh, who was supported by Elizabeth Williams. 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 CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Windmill Hill Farm, Coton Lane, Tamworth. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2017). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of submission of a Planning Application. All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies. These include Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), that which relates to archaeology, and elements of the Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan 2006-2031 (adopted 2013). The Local Plan specifically refers to the western half of the site as Site No. 406, Land North of Coton Lane, having designated it as a plot for housing development (TBC 2013, 71, 79). The Plan describes the plot as 'medium quality Lowland Village Farmlands in the Mease Lowlands landscape character type.' Although currently part of the same field, the eastern half of the site falls outside the Local Plan boundary.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIFA 2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies at the north-western edge of Tamworth, Staffordshire, on land north of Coton Lane (NGR: SK 194 059, Fig. 1). A sewage works is located immediately to the west of the site, with Windmill Farm to the east and a drainage channel to the north. The River Tame is located about 1.2km to the west, though its floodplain extends to an area less than 300m from the site's western boundary.
- 1.2.2 The site covers an area of 7.9ha and currently consists of arable farmland. The land slopes gently west-east, from c 62m aOD to c 73m aOD.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, with overlying, superficial deposits of mid-Pleistocene diamicton till (BGS 2017).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is discussed in the desk-based assessment (ULAS 2014) and will not be repeated here. However, a brief summary of relevant aspects is provided below.
- 1.3.2 The only possible archaeological features previously recorded within the site are two undated linear cropmarks, thought to be field boundaries, that extend SW-NE across the eastern half of the site (HER 01552).
- 1.3.3 Relatively extensive cropmark complexes comprising enclosures and field systems of probable prehistoric and/or Roman date are in the vicinity of the site, notably to the

immediate west and north-east. These have not previously been explored by excavations.

- 1.3.4 The only certain Roman find within a 1km study area around the site comprises a very worn 3rd-century coin discovered in c 1962 in the rear garden of 54 Gillway Lane, Tamworth (Mon. No. 309856).
- 1.3.5 The site of a medieval windmill is suggested by the presence of a circular mound in the field to the east of the site (Mon. No. 306435).

1.4 Geophysics

- 1.4.1 A geophysical survey of the site was carried out in March 2017 as part of the baseline assessment for this project (Sumo 2017). No certain archaeological features were detected. Some anomalies were suggestive of recent plough marks, former field boundaries and land drains; others were of uncertain origin. The majority of these anomalies were explored during the evaluation.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To test several uncertain geophysical anomalies detected by the magnetometry survey previously carried out by Sumo Survey (Sumo 2017).
- ii. To determine the presence of any archaeological remains at the site and, where these exist, to establish the character and complexity of any remains by sample excavation.
- iii. To determine the approximate date or date-range of any remains through the examination of any artefacts recovered, or other evidence (e.g. radiocarbon dating).
- iv. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- v. To place any archaeological discoveries into their local/regional contexts, and to assess the implications of any discoveries for our current understanding of settlement and landscape change in the area.
- vi. To generate an accessible and useable archive which will allow future research of the evidence to be undertaken if appropriate.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A detailed account of the methodologies undertaken can be found in the WSI (OA 2017). The following is a brief summary of this information.
- 2.2.2 Eleven evaluation trenches were positioned across the site, opening up areas measuring 50m x 2m, representing a 4% sample of the area.
- 2.2.3 All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology. Any potential features were investigated by hand excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.
- 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 between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of mid-Pleistocene diamicton till was quite diverse, comprising red and yellow gravelly clays and sands. This was overlaid by silty sand subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were relatively easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 2, 6, 7, 8 and 10.
- 3.3.2 The majority of the features were ditches aligned on a N-S/E-W orientation. One of these dated to the middle Roman period, another to the post-medieval/modern period. The rest remain undated, but probably can be phased to either the Roman or post-medieval/modern period.

3.4 Trench 2

- 3.4.1 The only archaeological feature in Trench 2 comprised a single N-S aligned ditch, 203, located at the western end of the trench. Ditch 203 was 0.80m wide and 0.13m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The single fill, 204, did not contain any finds. This ditch was indicated as a possible archaeological feature in the geophysical survey. The other possible linear anomaly that the trench investigated did not appear as an archaeological feature.

3.5 Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 5)

- 3.5.1 Trench 6 in the southern most area of the site contained the most significant archaeological features, and the only that could be clearly dated prior to the modern period.
- 3.5.2 Ditch 604 was orientated E-W and was discovered in the southern area of the trench. It was 1.30m wide and 0.42m deep. Its sole fill, 603, did not contain any finds. This ditch was indicated as a possible archaeological feature in the geophysical survey.
- 3.5.3 A second probable E-W ditch, 608, was found towards the centre of the trench (Plate 1). This was 1.98m wide and 0.72m deep. Its sole fill, 607, contained 21 sherds of

middle Roman pottery weighing 283g, and a single unidentified calcined animal bone with a possible cut mark.

- 3.5.4 Pit 606 was partially exposed at the far southern area of the trench (Plate 2). It was at least 0.73m wide, and 0.22m deep. Its only fill, 605, contained two sherds of pottery dating to the later 2nd or 3rd century, weighing 24g. An environmental sample was taken, producing a small amount of charred cereal grains and wild plant seeds. Little can be interpreted from a single sample from this secondary context. This pit also produced two nail fragment and a hobnail fragment of possible Roman date, agreeing with the date of the pottery. The pit was identified on the geophysical survey.

3.6 Trench 7

- 3.6.1 Trench 7 produced a single NW-SE aligned ditch, 704, at the south-western area of the trench. The ditch was 0.86m wide and 0.20m deep with irregular sides and base. Its only fill, 703, did not contain any finds.

3.7 Trench 8 (Figs 4 and 5)

- 3.7.1 Two N-S aligned ditches were found in Trench 8. The western ditch, 805, had two fills, 803 and 804. Lower fill 804 contained modern finds including plastic and a shotgun cartridge. This ditch was identified on the geophysical survey and corresponds to a modern field boundary present on historic maps.
- 3.7.2 Ditch 809 was 1.12m wide and 0.19m deep, with irregular sides and base (Plate 3). This contained a single sterile fill, 808.
- 3.7.3 A possible linear feature, 807, was excavated. This, however, was a natural geological undulation and was observed on the geophysical survey.

3.8 Trench 10

- 3.8.1 Trench 10 contained a single NW-SE aligned ditch, 1003. This cut through the topsoil and subsoil, indicating a modern date. The line of the ditch corresponds with a field boundary present on historic maps, and was identified on the geophysical survey.

3.9 Finds summary

- 3.9.1 Archaeological finds were only recovered from two nearby features, 606 and 608. This comprised small amount of middle Roman pottery. Further fragments of probable Roman nails and a hobnail was also discovered in pit 606.
- 3.9.3 A single bone was found, and one environmental sample taken from pit 606. Evidence of a small assemblage of charred cereals and weed seeds were recovered, potentially indicating nearby domestic activity.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 No specific factors question the reliability of the evaluation. Conditions were good, and although the geology was variable, archaeological features could be recognised with relative ease.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 Approximately half of the possible archaeological features identified on the geophysical survey proved to be as such. One feature was a geological variation, and the remaining were not recognised during the evaluation. Three features were identified that were not present on the geophysical survey. Overall, this suggests that the geophysical survey provides a reasonably accurate impression of the archaeological features on the site.
- 4.2.2 The presence and extent of archaeological remains were established. Features of limited complexity dating to the middle Roman period were present in the southern area of the site. It was confirmed that one of the linear features present on the geophysical survey was a modern field boundary.
- 4.2.3 The date of a small number of other linear features was not confirmed. These ditches followed two orientations: N-S/E-W, and NW-SE. Ditch 608 dated to the Roman period, and was aligned E-W; however, ditch 805 was aligned E-W and dated to the post-medieval/modern period, suggesting that other ditches following the prevailing N-S/E-W orientation could date to either the Roman or post-medieval/modern periods. Ditch 1004 dated to the modern period and was aligned on a NE-SW orientation. This suggests that ditch 704 also aligned NE-SW also dated to the modern period.
- 4.2.4 Archaeological finds and features were sparse; however, these suggest that further excavation in the southern area of the site would provide useful evidence for the use of the site in the Roman period.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 Evidence of sparse activity dating to the middle Roman period was discovered in the southern area of the site. The exact nature of this cannot currently be ascertained, although substantial remains of a single dish suggests that the pottery was deposited close to areas of original use, and sherds from jars had burnt deposits probably resulting from cooking. This suggests domestic activity in the vicinity. It is not known if the undated linear features in the central and northern area of the site are related. However, the lack of features certainly dating to the Roman period in the central and northern part of the site suggests that this area witnessed limited use during this period. There does not, therefore, appear to be direct continuity of cropmarks known to the north-east of the site; however, this activity might be related to cropmarks known to the west of the site.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The majority of the area appears to have been largely agricultural, or witnessed only ephemeral activity in the past. However, features of Roman date are present in the southwest of the site, and these may be related to domestic activity.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of red clay with patches of yellow clay gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contains one ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of red clay with patches of yellow clay gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Cut	0.80	0.13	Ditch cut. Gently sloping sides, concave base	-	-
204	Fill	0.80	0.13	Sole fill of ditch [203]. Mid brown grey silty sand.	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of red clay with patches of yellow clay gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of red clay with patches of yellow clay gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-

402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
-----	-------	---	---	---------	---	---

Trench 5

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of red clay with patches of yellow clay gravel.					Length (m)	49.4
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.74
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.42	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two pits and a ditch, with topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of greyish red mottle loose sand.					Length (m)	49.6
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
603	Fill	1.30	0.42	Sole fill of ditch [604]. Mid grey brown sand	-	-
604	Cut	1.30	0.42	Ditch cut. Concave base, moderate sloping sides	-	-
605	Fill	0.73	0.22	Sole fill of pit [606]. Black/dark grey sand, frequent pebbles.	Middle Roman pottery	Middle Roman
606	Cut	0.73	0.22	Pit cut. Uneven base, steep to moderate sides.	-	Middle Roman
607	Fill	1.98	0.72	Sole fill of ditch [608]. Light grey brown sand, frequent stones	Middle Roman pottery	Middle Roman
608	Cut	1.98	0.72	Ditch cut. Concave base, steep/moderate sides	-	Middle Roman

Trench 7

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains one ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mixed reddish yellow to light grey sand.					Length (m)	49.3
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

703	Fill	0.86	0.20	Sole fill of ditch [704]. Light red brown sand, frequent rounded pebbles	-	-
704	Cut	0.86	0.20	Ditch cut. Irregular base, irregular moderate to shallow sides	-	-

Trench 8

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contains a ditch and a possible ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mixed mid yellow red sand to dark red clay to light grey sand.					Length (m)	49.2
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
803	Fill	0.92	0.16	Upper fill of ditch [805]. Light brown grey sand.	-	-
804	Fill	0.52	0.20	Lower fill of ditch [805]. Light grey brown clay sand.	Plastic and shotgun cartridge	Modern
805	Cut	1.52	0.26	Ditch cut. Irregular based, moderate sloping sides.	-	Modern
806	Layer	-	-	Layer of natural geology in undulation 807. At first thought to be possible ditch.	-	-
807	Undulation	-	-	Natural geological undulation, filled by 806. At first thought to be possible ditch	-	-
808	Fill	1.12	0.19	Sole fill of ditch 809. Mid red brown sand. Frequent pebbles.	-	-
809	Cut	1.12	0.19	Ditch cut. Irregular/sloping base, irregular shallow to steep sides.	-	-

Trench 9

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow and orange mixed gravelly sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-

902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
-----	-------	---	---	---------	---	---

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NE/SW
Trench contains single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow and orange mixed gravelly sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1003	Cut	2.00	>0.60	Ditch cut. Steep convex sides. Not bottomed. Cut through topsoil and subsoil.	-	Modern
1004	Fill	2.00	>0.60	Fill of ditch [1003]. Dark grey sandy silt. Occasional pebbles.	-	Modern

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow and orange mixed gravelly sand.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

B.1.1 Twenty-three sherds of Roman pottery weighing 307g were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was recorded to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, and to provide spot-dates. Fabrics and forms were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2014). Reference was also made to relevant typologies, specifically Gillam (1976). A limited range of fabrics, listed below, were identified. Codes in brackets are taken from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). Context-groups were quantified by sherd count and weight in grammes, while vessels were quantified by estimated vessel equivalents (EVE) based on rims.

- B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1)
- R Indeterminate reduced fabric
- R20 Sandy reduced wares, unsourced

Description of the assemblage

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot-date
605	2	24	R20 medium-mouthed necked jar (CD) with slightly bifid rim – 0.05 EVE R20 body sherd R tiny sherds in undiagnostic fabric, sample 1	c AD 150-300
607	21	283	B11 plain-rimmed, curving-sided dish (JB) – 0.53 EVE B11 everted-rim 'cooking pot' (CK) – 0.15 EVE B11 everted-rim 'cooking pot' (CK) – 0.05 EVE B11 body sherd with burnished lattice from CK type B11 misc. body sherds from jars and dishes	c AD 150-250
Total	23	307		

Table 1: Roman pottery

B.1.2 Context 605 contained a jar with a slightly bifid rim in a gritty reduced fabric that is likely to date to the later 2nd or 3rd century.

B.1.3 A larger group was recovered from context 607. The group consisted exclusively of black-burnished ware (B11). A plain-rimmed dish was recorded. This was decorated with narrow burnished arc decoration (similar to Gillam 1976, fig. 5, no. 73) that suggests a date in the first half of the 3rd century.

B.1.4 A maximum of two cooking pots were identified by rim. The two rim sherds do not join, but may possibly be part of the same vessel. The largest rim sherd, as measured by EVE, was fairly upright with a pronounced bead, again suggesting a later 2nd or,

perhaps more likely, an earlier 3rd century date (cf. Gillam 1976, fig. 1, no. 6). A large body sherd, also from a cooking-pot, was decorated with a burnished lattice. It was not possible to be certain whether the lattice was acute- or obtuse-angled, which could have chronological implications, but the decoration was nevertheless consistent with the date of the jar and dish rims.

Discussion

- B.1.5 Overall, the pottery assemblage dates to the middle Roman period, with strong indications of deposition in the first half of the 3rd century. The assemblage is too small, however, to be certain of the dating.
- B.1.6 The pottery has a mean sherd weight of 13g, with some relatively large sherds among smaller fragments. The presence of the substantial remains of a single dish – over half the rim circumference was recorded – suggests that the pottery was deposited close to areas of original use.
- B.1.7 The interior surface of the dish was encrusted with a deposit that may have derived from the use of the vessel, while the exterior surface of body sherds from jars in fabric B11 had burnt deposits probably resulting from cooking.

B.2 Metals

By Ian R Scott

- B.2.1 Three small pieces of iron were recovered from soil sample 1, context 605 (fill of Roman pit 606). All three pieces are encrusted with corrosion products.

Context	Sample	Description
605	1	(1) Nail fragment with flat near circular head, stem incomplete. Not measured.
605	1	(2) Possible hobnail head. Fe. Not measured.
605	1	(3) Nail stem fragment, with clenched end. Not measured.

Table 2: Metal

- B.2.2 The two nail fragments are probably hand forged but not closely datable, although the flat circular head of No.1 suggests that it could be Roman. The possible hobnail could be of Roman date.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

- C.1.1 A single 40L sample was from fill 605 of pit 606 within Trench 6. This has been dated to the middle Roman period.

Method

- C.1.2 The sample was 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. 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. Identifications were carried out using standard morphological criteria for the cereals (e.g. Jacomet 2006), and by comparison with modern reference material. Classification and nomenclature of plant material follows Stace (2010).

Results

- C.1.3 The sample produced a flot of 350ml of which 100ml was sorted. The flot contains small numbers of charred cereal grains and seeds of wild plants as well as large quantities of clean and robust looking charcoal in very good condition, many fragments of which are suitable for wood species identification, although this has not been undertaken.
- C.1.4 The few charred seeds are in mixed condition; while 18 unidentifiable cereal grains (Poaceae) are fragmented and in poor condition, two barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare*) and two wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) are intact and well preserved. A single small indeterminate cereal rachis fragment was also present.
- C.1.5 In addition to the cultivated cereals, a small number of charred wild plant seeds are also present but almost all are fragmented and in poor condition. A single fragment of a wild radish capsule (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) as well as 14 small seeds of the Brassica family are corroded, and hence could not be clearly identified to species although some of the seeds are too small to be wild radish. A single possible knotweed seed (cf *Persicaria* sp.) was identified, but was again in poor condition with the exterior completely missing.
- C.1.6 Small pottery fragments and pieces of iron were retrieved from the residue of this sample and will be discussed within the relevant specialist reports.

Conclusion

- C.1.7 While charred remains evidently survive at this site, as demonstrated by the results of this evaluation, it is not possible to interpret further from such a small and variably preserved assemblage from a secondary context. Any future excavations should incorporate a sampling policy in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (e.g. Oxford Archaeology 2005 and English Heritage 2011).

C.2 Animal Bone

By Martyn Allen

- C.2.1 A single animal bone was discovered, from context 607 (fill of Roman ditch 608).

Context	Description
607	A single fragment of calcined indeterminate animal bone with possible cut mark, 2g

Table 3: Animal bone

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

Booth, P, 2014 Oxford Archaeology Roman pottery recording system: an introduction, unpublished

British Geological Survey, 2017. Geology of Britain Viewer:
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

CIFA 2014 CifA, 2014 Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, Reading

English Heritage, 2011 *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2nd edition). Centre for Archaeology guidelines.

Gillam, J P, 1976 Coarse fumed ware in north Britain and beyond, *Glasgow Archaeological Journal* **4**, 57-80

Jacomet, S 2006 *Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites* (2nd edition). Archaeobotany Lab, IPAS, Basel University.

Oxford Archaeology, 2005 *Sampling guidelines*. Unpublished document.

Oxford Archaeology, 2017 *Windmill Hill Farm, Coton Lane, Tamworth. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished WSI.

Stace, C 2010 *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3rd Edition. Cambridge: CUP.

Sumo, 2017 *Coton Lane, Tamworth, Staffordshire: geophysical survey report*. Sumo Survey Report 11085

TBC, 2013 *Tamworth Local Plan 2006–2031, adopted February 2016*. Tamworth Borough Council document

Tomber, R and Dore, J, 1998 *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: a handbook*, MoLAS Monograph, London

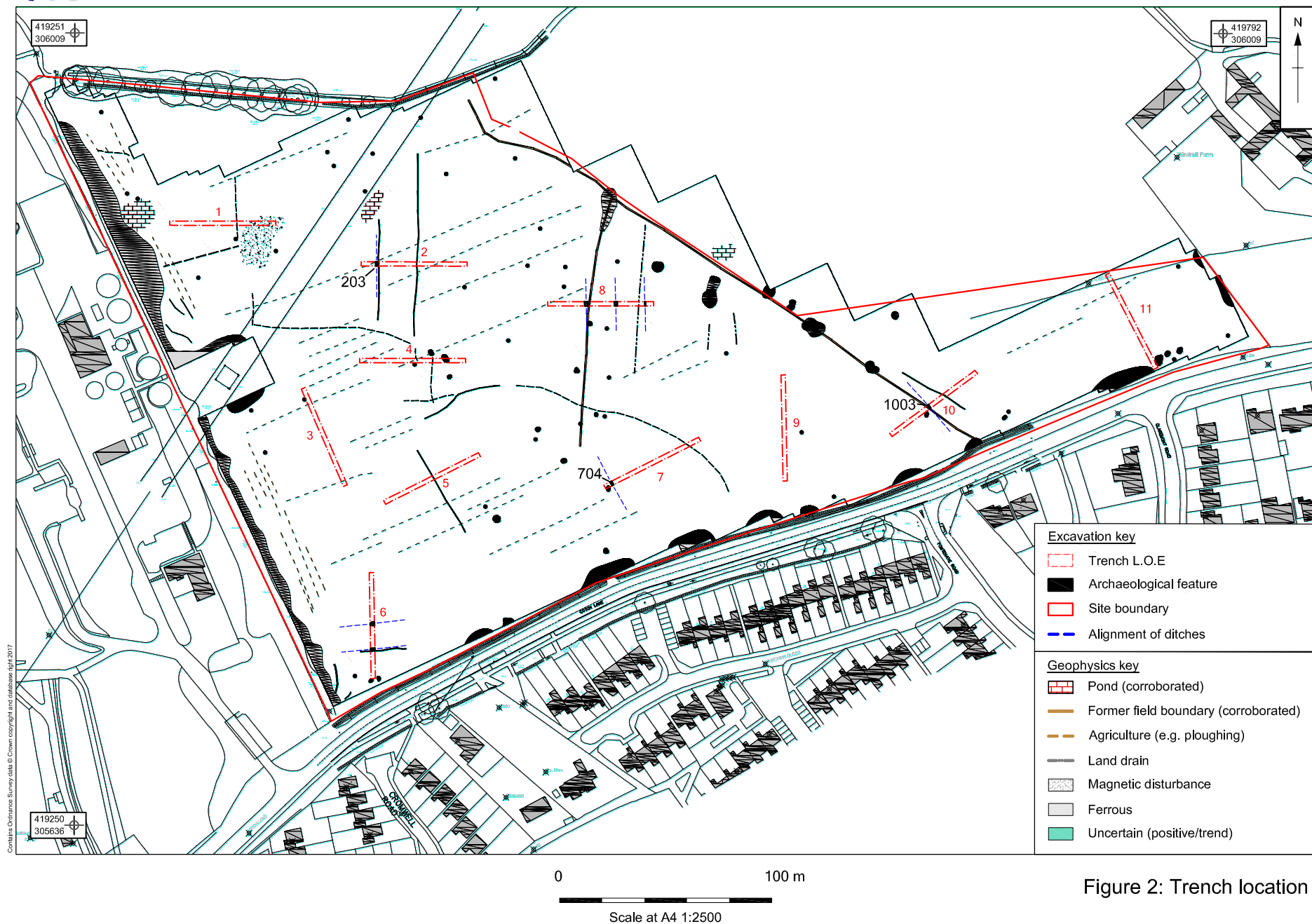
ULAS, 2014 *An archaeological desk-based assessment: Windmill Farm, Coton Road, Tamworth, Staffordshire*. University of Leicester Archaeological Services report no. 2014-227

APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

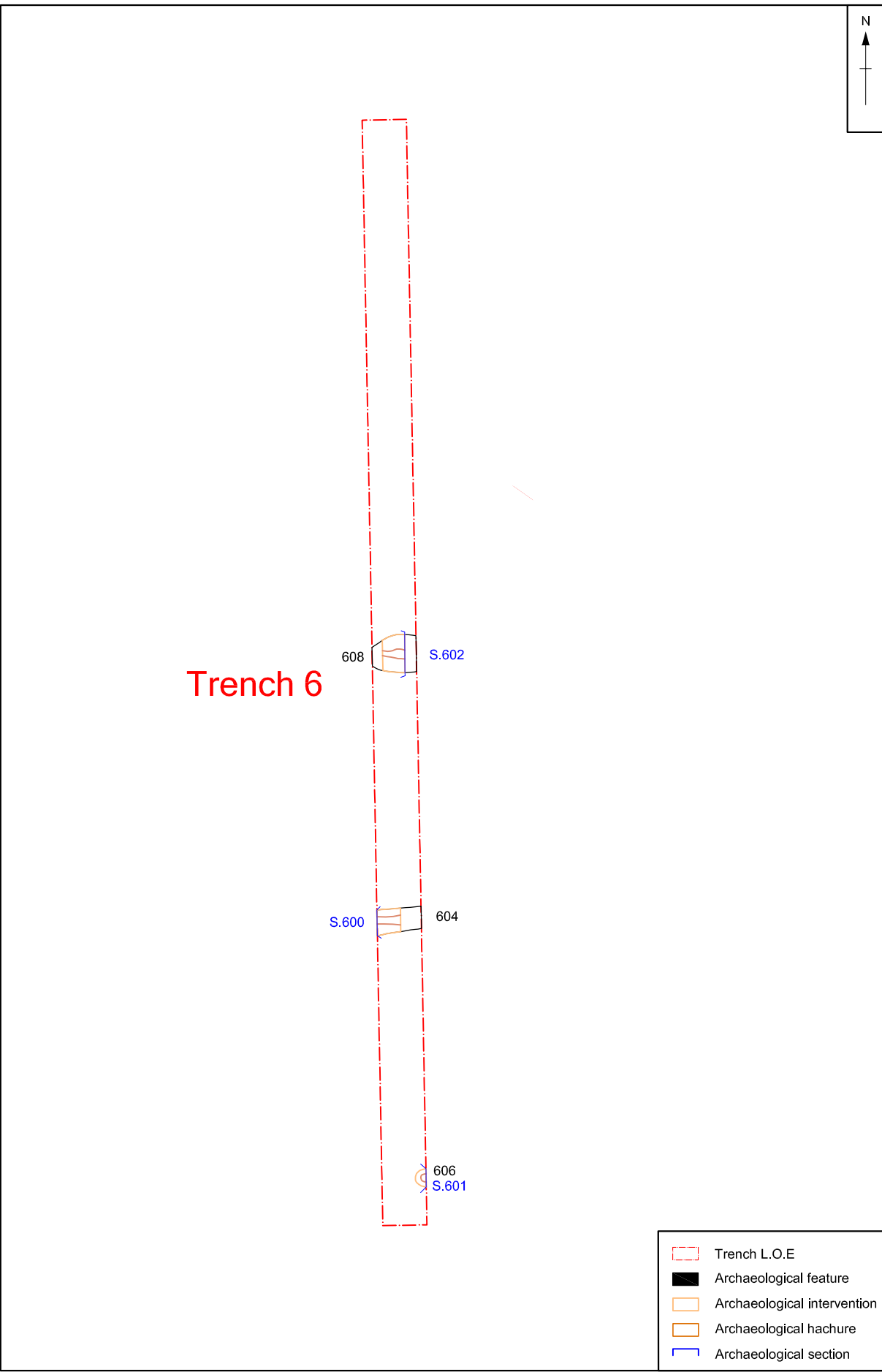
Site name:	Windmill Hill, Coton Lane, Tamworth
Site code:	TACOT17
Grid Reference	SK 154 059
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	August 2017
Area of Site	7.9ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent in due course, under the following accession number: 2017.LH.69
Summary of Results:	Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Windmill Hill Farm, Coton Lane, Tamworth. Eleven trenches were opened. Five contained one or two linear ditches that were either undated, or post-medieval/modern. The southernmost trench contained a ditch and pit containing middle Roman pottery, and a further undated ditch. It is likely that the undated ditches on the site either date to the Roman or post-medieval/modern period. The evaluation suggests a dearth of archaeological features over the majority of the site; however, further Roman features are likely to be present in the southern area. Very few finds or features dating to the Roman period are known in the vicinity of the site; although, the ditches and pit might be related to a cropmark complex known to the west.



Figure 1: Site location



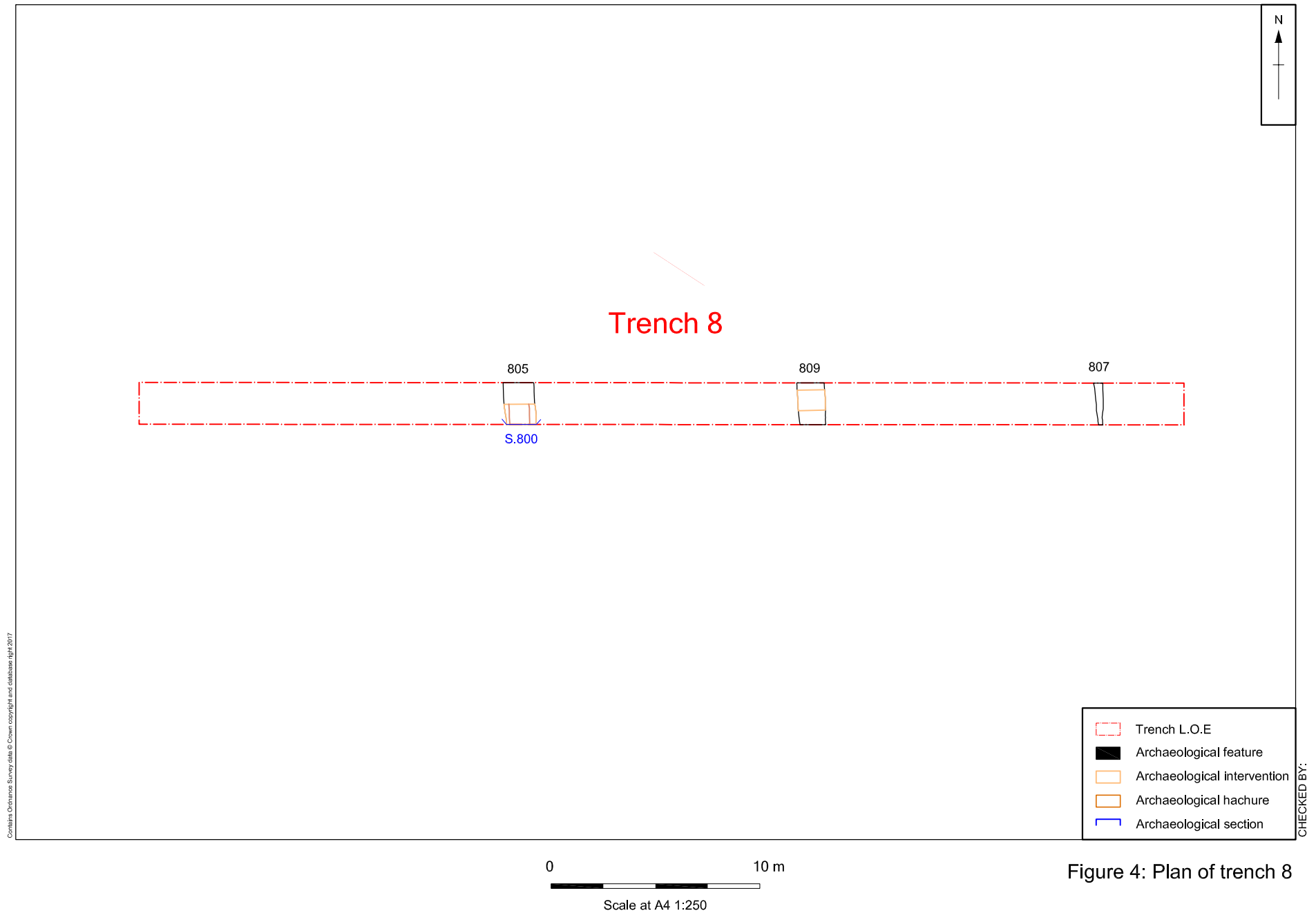
X:\cCoton_Lane_Tamworth\010Geomatics\02 CAD\TACOTEV_Coton_Lane_2017-08-29.dwg(Figure 3)***TACOTEV\benjamin.brown* 29 Sep 2017



0 10 m
Scale at A4 1:250

Figure 3: Plan of trench 6

CHECKED BY:



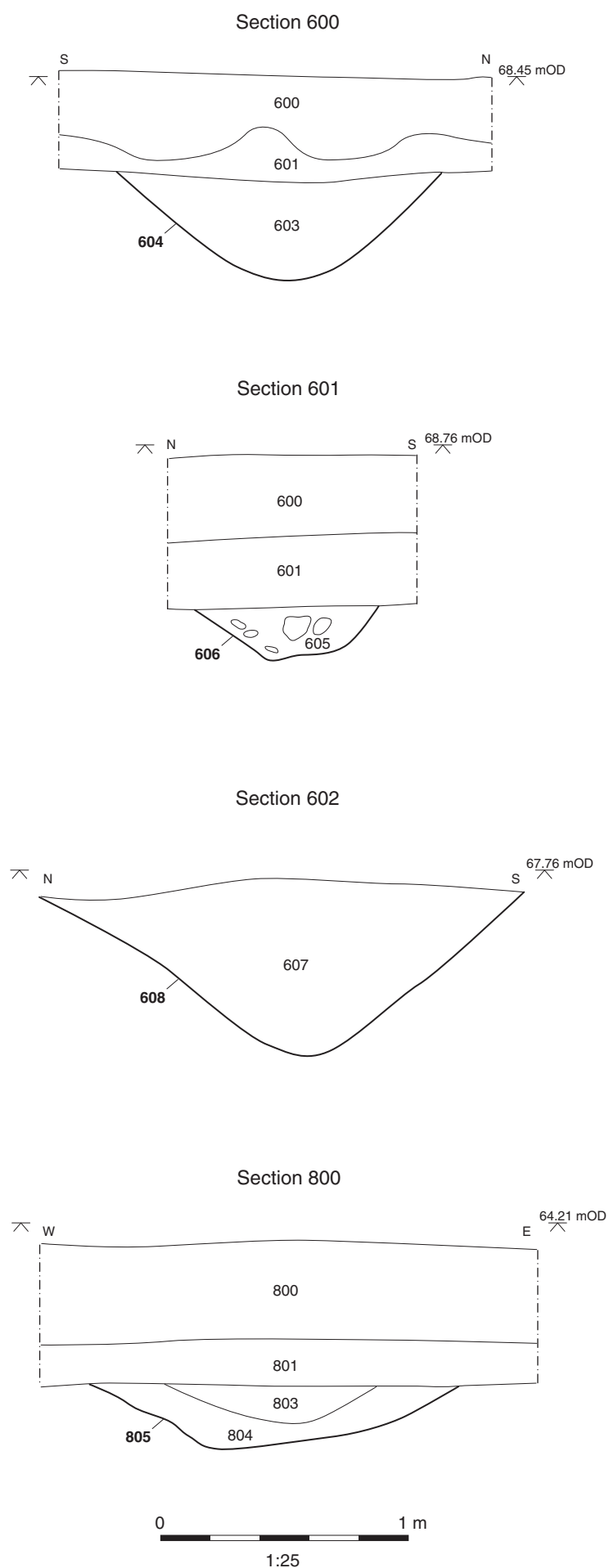


Figure 5: Sections 60, 601, 602 and 800



Plate 1: Ditch 608



Plate 2: Pit 606



Plate 3: Ditch 809



**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](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCifA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*