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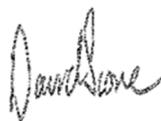


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Prepared by: Rachael Daniel (Supervisor) and Kirsty Smith (Project Officer)
Checked by: Carl Champness (Project Manager)
Edited by: Leo Webley (Head of Post-Excavation)
Approved for Issue by: David Score (Head of Fieldwork)
Signature:



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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

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Bishop's College, Estcourt Close, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation and Strip, Map and Sample Excavation Report

Written by Rachael Daniel and Kirsty Smith

*With contributions from Edward Biddulph, Lee Broderick,
Sharon Cook, John Cotter, Geraldine Crann and Ian R Scott,
and illustrations by Matt Bradley and Magdalena Wachnik*

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Summary

During May and June 2018 Oxford Archaeology South undertook a trial trench evaluation and a strip, map and sample excavation at Bishop's College, Estcourt Road, Gloucester. The fieldwork was undertaken as part of the programme of demolition works. Three areas, totalling approximately 2400m², had been targeted on the foundation pads of previous buildings due to be demolished. These areas were supplemented with the excavation of eleven trial trenches within the surrounding fields.

The evaluation trenches uncovered a quarry pit of possible Roman date, and linear boundary ditches and plough furrows dating to the post-medieval period. Strip, map and sample Area 1 contained ditches that may have been field boundaries. Finds suggest that these date to either the Roman or medieval period.

There was a large amount of modern disturbance and truncation in the trenches located in the footings of the Bishop's College School buildings and their environs. SMS Areas 2 and 3 were found to have been heavily truncated and disturbed by the construction of the buildings and the concrete pads, and as such no archaeology was recovered from these areas.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd and Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Ben McAndrew, Ben Attfield, Adam Fellingham and Rachael Daniel, who were supported by Caroline Souday, Christoph Heisterman, David Pinches. Survey and digitising was carried out by Caroline Souday, Diana Chard, Ben Brown. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Geraldine Crann, processed the environmental remains under the management of Sharon Cook, 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 Heritage to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed housing development.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref. 16/00631/OUT) to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a planning application. Although the Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions between Nick Cooke of CgMs Consulting and Andrew Armstrong, Planning Archaeologist for Gloucester City Council, established the scope of work required. A written scheme of investigation was then produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition (Boothroyd 2018).
- 1.1.3 The work complied with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014) and the CIfA Code of Conduct (CIfA, 2014a) and has been done with reference to the local guidance.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to on the northern edge of the City of Gloucester (NGR: SO 8407 1976; Fig 1.). It is bounded to the south by Estcourt Road, to the east by allotments, the west by residential properties and to the north by Oxstalls Sports Park and the University of Gloucestershire sports fields.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of the grounds of the former Bishops' College, which became part of Gloucester Academy in 2010. The academy relocated in 2011 and the school buildings have since been demolished apart from the foundation pads.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 183 to 210 million years ago in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. Superficial deposits of Cheltenham Sand and Gravel, formed 3 million years in the Quaternary Period, are recorded across the site (British Geological Survey 2018).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the heritage desk-based assessment previously produced (CA 2015a), and will not be reproduced here. A summary is provided to place these works in context.
- 1.3.2 Apart from occasional finds of Neolithic worked flint to the east of the site, no prehistoric activity has been recorded in the immediate area.
- 1.3.3 Between 1983 and 1985 a large Roman cemetery was partially excavated at Gambier Parry Lodge approximately 400m to the west of the site. Over 300 burials, mostly inhumations of 2nd–4th century AD date, were excavated. An earlier 1st century AD polygonal building, interpreted as a shrine, was also recorded, along with gravel

extraction pits. Roman burials have also been recorded along the route of Estcourt Road to the south of the site.

- 1.3.4 The site is located beyond the limits of the medieval city, some 900m north-east of the city walls, in an area that was historically occupied by agricultural land and small hamlets.
- 1.3.5 The 1780 Estate Map shows the site across several fields, including part of the Pedmarsh open field. An apportionment accompanying the map names areas within the site as containing ridges, indicative of ridge and furrow.
- 1.3.6 Subsequent historic maps dated to the 19th and early 20th century show that the site remained in agricultural use until the establishment of allotments in the 1930s. These remained in use until the construction of the school in the 1960s. The school changed its name several times and was extended in the early 1990s. The school became Bishops College in 2006 and Gloucestershire Academy in 2010, before closing in 2011 (Gloucester City Council 2016).

Previous archaeological works

- 1.3.7 Previous archaeological work within the school has identified Roman remains. A dupondius of Antonia, mother of Claudius I, was recovered during the construction of school buildings in 1967. An archaeological evaluation and watching brief were undertaken in advance of and during the construction of new school buildings in 1995. The works revealed a Roman ditch and gravel pits, along with undated gravel pits, post-medieval and later plough-soils and modern building foundations.
- 1.3.8 In 2015 a trial trench evaluation was undertaken in support of the current planning application (CA 2015b). The works comprised the excavation of seven trenches and revealed two pits and three postholes of Roman date in the south-east corner of the site (Fig. 2). Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation was observed across the site as well as modern landscaping.
- 1.3.9 Trial trenching was also undertaken immediately to the north of the development area on playing fields associated with the school (OA 2015; 2016). No archaeological features, other than plough furrows, were recorded in the eight trenches excavated.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- iv. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- v. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- vi. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- vii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status utility and social activity.
- viii. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The works comprised a mix of strip, map and sample excavation (SMS) and trial trench evaluation.

2.2.2 The SMS excavation was undertaken as part of the programme of demolition works. As such, three areas (SMS Areas 1-3), totalling approximately 2400m², targeted the foundation pads of the school buildings that were demolished (Fig. 2).

2.2.3 These SMS areas were supplemented with the excavation of 11 trial trenches (Trenches 1-11) measuring 50m by 1.8m. The trial trenching was undertaken in two phases. The first phase comprised three trenches to the east of the site, and the second phase comprised the remaining eight trenches. The proposed trench locations were positioned to expand upon the results of the earlier phase of evaluation and investigate areas previously unavailable (Fig. 2).

Site specific methodology for the SMS areas

2.2.4 The SMS areas were laid out by the demolition contractor and this was dictated by the extent of the areas to be disturbed (Areas 1-3). The foundation slabs were then removed and this was carried out using the demolition contractor's methodology and was monitored as appropriate by an archaeologist. After the foundation slabs were removed the demolition contractor reduced the areas in level spits down to the top of natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending on which was encountered first. This was done using a machine affixed with a toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist.

2.2.5 Once archaeological deposits had been exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand as agreed with Nick Cooke and Andrew Armstrong. The exposed surface was

sufficiently clean to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. The level of hand excavation of features was as outlined within the approved WSI (Boothroyd 2018).

- 2.2.6 Upon agreement, the SMS areas were signed off and handed back to the demolition contractor.

Site specific methodology for the trial trench evaluation

- 2.2.7 The eleven trenches were laid out as shown in Fig. 2 using a GPS, except where adjustments were required due to ground conditions or site obstructions.
- 2.2.8 The trenches were excavated using an appropriately powered mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon dependent upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation was undertaken by hand. The exposed surface was sufficiently clean to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or deposit type, for example plough furrows, were excavated and recorded.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation and the SMS area investigation 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 reports and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B and environmental reports are contained in Appendix C.
- 3.1.2 Context numbers and section numbers reflect the trench numbers and SMS areas. The SMS contexts are denoted by 100s, 200s etc and the trenches are denoted by 1000s, 2000s etc. For example, feature 102 is located within SMS Area 1 and feature 1002 is located in Trench 1. Likewise section 100 is located in SMS Area 1 and section 1000 is located within Trench 1.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was differentiated across the site, due to some trenches being located under made-ground or demolished buildings and some being located in undisturbed natural geology. The natural sandy gravel, with some layers of reddish friable silt, was overlain by a subsoil of a mid-brownish grey sandy silt, which in turn was overlain dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil. In some areas the topsoil was replaced by hardstanding, made ground or asphalt. It was also noted that the natural horizon of gravel was irregularly interspersed with lenses of reddish friable silt natural formations across the site. There was also evidence of cryoturbation in some parts of the natural gravel layer, leading to a mixed and disturbed appearance to the gravel layer.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, with trenches and SMS areas remaining dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were relatively straightforward to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 In the evaluation trenches, archaeological features were present in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 11 (see Fig. 3). Trenches 1-3 were all located to the north-west of the evaluation, in the relatively undisturbed playing fields area of the site. Trench 11 was located in the eastern part of the site in the former grounds of the school.
- 3.3.2 In the SMS areas, only Area 1 contained archaeological features (see Fig. 4). SMS Areas 2 and 3 were disturbed by the building foundations and as such did not contain any archaeological features (see Fig. 5, section 200 for a representative baulk section of SMS Area 2). Plate 6 shows the foundation pads within Area 2.

Trench 1

- 3.3.3 Linear ditch 1002 (Fig. 5, section 1000; Plate 1) was 1.4m wide and 0.41m deep, aligned north-south with steeply sloping concave sides and a gently concave base. This ditch contained a single fill of reddish brown silty sand which did not produce any datable finds, but did produce some animal bone. There is no indication of the date or use of the ditch.

- 3.3.4 Posthole 1006 was 0.4m wide and 0.26m deep, and was circular in plan with steeply sloping straight sides and a flat base. This posthole did not produce any finds and as such cannot be dated.

Trench 2

- 3.3.5 Linear ditch 2004 was 2m wide and 1.6m deep, and aligned east-west with shallow sloping concave sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, section 2001; Plate 3). This feature had one fill (2005) of reddish brown sandy silt which contained six sherds of pottery (originating from one vessel) which was dated to the mid-Roman period (mid-2nd to mid-3rd century AD) and one scrap of Roman ceramic building material (CBM). It also contained one sherd of post-medieval pottery dating to c 1550-1650 indicating that the Roman pottery and CBM could be residual.

Trench 3

- 3.3.6 Within Trench 3 a possible quarry pit was identified (3003) which was 0.72m wide and 0.45m deep (Fig. 5, section 3000; Plate 5). This feature was irregular in plan with moderately concave sides and it had one fill (3004). Fill 3004 contained an abraded fragment of Roman roof tile.
- 3.3.7 Three east-west aligned furrows were also identified in Trench 3 and two of these were excavated (3005 and 3007). Furrows 3005 and 3007 were 0.92 and 0.98m wide, both 0.13m deep and had similar profiles with shallow concave sides and a wide concave base. Fill 3006 within furrow 3005 contained a clay tobacco pipe fragment dating to the mid-17th century to early 18th century, suggesting that the furrows may have gone out of use by this date.
- 3.3.8 To the north of the three furrows a possible field boundary ditch was identified (3009). This ditch was also east-west aligned and was 1.98m wide and 0.54m deep with moderately concave sides and a wide concave base. This ditch contained two fills, lower fill 3010 and upper fill 3011. The lower fill 3010 contained one sherd of pottery dating to c 1675-1750 and two pieces of CBM that dated from the 15th-16th century. Upper fill 3011 contained two sherds of late 18th century to 19th century pottery and two pieces of CBM that dated from the 15th-16th century. The datable material from this possible boundary ditch suggests that it had begun to infill by the late 17th century and had gone out of use by the late 18th century to 19th century. Fill 3010 also contained two domestic cattle bones that had been gnawed by wild dogs/foxes (canids).

Trench 11

- 3.3.9 Trench 11 contained one furrow (11003) that was 3m wide and 0.2m deep with regular sloping sides and a concave base. This furrow was orientated NE-SW. This furrow contained one fill (11004), a firm dark greyish brown silty clay with no finds.

SMS Area 1

- 3.3.10 Within Area 1 three ditches were identified (Fig. 4). Ditch 111/109 was located in the western part of this area and was orientated north-east to south-west. This ditch was 0.4-1.05m wide and 0.16-0.2m deep with one fill (110/112) of red-brown silty clay. This ditch had regular sloping sides and a concave base.

- 3.3.11 Ditch 113/105 was orientated east-west and was 1.05-1.1m wide and 0.12-0.3m deep with regular sloping sides and a concave base. It contained one fill (114/106) that had some variations with greyish brown sandy clay within fill 106 to the east, and red-brown silty clay with grey and yellow mottling within fill 114 to the west.
- 3.3.12 Ditch 107/103 was also orientated east-west and was 0.4-0.44m wide and 0.10-0.11m deep. This ditch had a moderately concave side on the west side, shallow concaved sides on the east side of the ditch and a moderately concaved base. This ditch contained one fill (104, 108), a reddish/greyish brown sandy silt (104) and a dark mottled yellowish grey sandy silt (108). Within fill 104, CBM and mortar or plaster was found, dating to the Roman or possibly the medieval period. This fill also contained one sheep or goat bone, slag and an iron tack.
- 3.3.13 The exact usage of the ditches is unknown, although agricultural boundary ditches may be likely. These ditches are tentatively dated to the Roman period but may be of medieval date.

3.4 Finds summary

- 3.4.1 Six sherds of Roman-period pottery were recovered from context 2005, a fill of ditch 2004 (Trench 2). A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was also found within context 2005 dating to 1550-1650, so the Roman pottery could be residual. Post-medieval pottery was also found within the subsoil of Trench 1 dating to c 1600-1750 and also in fill 3010 of ditch 3009. Clay tobacco pipe fragments were found within fill 3006 (furrow 3005) and within fill 3011 (ditch 3009), both of 17th-19th century date.
- 3.4.2 Ceramic building material of Roman or possibly Roman date was found in contexts 104, 2005 and 3004 and in the case of 2005 this is almost certainly residual. Within fills 3010 and 3011 15th-16th century ceramic building material was found. Mortar or plaster was found within fill 104 which was dated to the Roman or medieval period.
- 3.4.3 Metal objects were found in contexts 104, 10006 and glass within 2005 which could not be dated. Slag was found in context 104 and in 2005.
- 3.4.4 Animal bones was found within contexts 104, 1003, 1005, 3008, 3010 and 4008. The species identified included domestic cattle, caprine and pig. The pig bones came from modern pit 4008 and could represents the modern disposal of deadstock.
- 3.4.5 A single oyster was recovered from environmental sample <2>, context 104. Apart from confirming that oysters were imported to the site, little can be deduced from this small assemblage.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The weather and ground conditions for this evaluation were generally good, and there was no flooding or any adverse circumstances which would have compromised the reliability of the field investigation. However, in Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7 the presence of robust reinforced concrete footings, present in some cases along the extent of the trench, caused difficulty in machining the trenches down to the undisturbed natural layer. However, the trenches were all dug in their proposed positions with only slight modification needed due to on site obstructions, achieving good coverage of the site area. The ground and site conditions were generally good throughout the course of the evaluation and the machining was carried out cleanly with good visibility of features and deposits in the trenches.
- 4.1.2 The evaluation demonstrated a presence of archaeological remains associated with Roman and medieval activity across the site. As such, the results of the evaluation are considered to be a true reflection of the archaeological potential of site.

4.2 Interpretation

- 4.2.1 In the evaluation trenches, there is tentative evidence of Roman agricultural activity and some medieval to post-medieval agricultural activity in the north-west area of the site. Possible quarry pit 3003 contained a piece of Roman tile. Ditch 2004 contained Roman pottery dating to the mid-2nd to mid-3rd century AD but also post-medieval pottery. Whilst the Roman pottery may be residual in this feature it does suggest mid-Roman activity either on or close to the site during this period.
- 4.2.2 Towards the north-west of the site it appears likely that the furrows and field boundaries in this area went out of use by the 18th-19th century. There is also evidence of domestic cattle and dogs being present on the site during the post-medieval period. The presence of the furrows suggests that the site was in use for arable farming during the post-medieval period.
- 4.2.3 In the SMS Area 1, a limited amount of potentially Roman to medieval activity was found, but the precise nature of this is unclear. Within ditch 103, CBM and mortar was found dating to the Roman or medieval period and this is the basis for the tentative date of these features. If this set of ditches were Roman in date it may linked to agricultural activity or a rural settlement. In the previous trial trench evaluation by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2015b), trenches located approximately 40m to the south of SMS Area 1 found a small cluster of two pits and three postholes, with pottery dating to the early Roman period. This reinforces the hypothesis that this area could have been the site of Roman activity, although probably agricultural and low intensity in nature.
- 4.2.4 The other two SMS areas were heavily truncated and disturbed by the construction of the buildings, and as such no archaeology was preserved.

4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 In the north-western area of the site, a limited amount of Roman activity may be present. Also in this area, some post-medieval agricultural activity has been identified. The remaining trenches did not produce any other significant archaeology.
- 4.3.2 SMS Area 1 produced some potential Roman activity, although this does not appear to have been intensive and may have comprised agricultural ditches. SMS Areas 2 and 3 did not produce any archaeology.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a linear ditch aligned north-south, a post hole and an irregular natural feature, none of which contained any dating material. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravelly sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.72
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil: friable, very dark grey sandy silt with rare ceramic building material fragments, pebbles and charcoal inclusions.	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.34	Subsoil: friable dark brown sandy silt with rare pebble inclusions.	Pottery	1600-1750?
1002	Cut	1.4	0.41	Ditch cut, linear north-south aligned, with steeply sloping concave sides and a gently concave base.	-	-
1003	Fill	1.4	0.41	Fill of ditch: friable reddish brown silty sand with infrequent small limestone pebble inclusions.	Animal Bone	-
1004	Cut	1	0.34	Natural feature: gently sloping concave sides and a flat/irregular base.	-	-
1005	Fill	-	0.32	Fill of natural feature: friable reddish brown silty sand with rare small limestone pebble inclusions.	Animal Bone	-
1006	Cut	0.4	0.26	Cut of posthole: circular in plan with steeply sloping straight sides and a flat base.	-	-
1007	Fill	0.4	0.26	Fill of posthole: firm, light grey sandy clay with rare sub angular stone inclusions.	-	-
1008	Layer	-	-	Natural: Pale yellow gravelly sand with lenses of gravel, overlain by red silty sand.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a linear ditch aligned east-west and natural geological features. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil: very dark brownish grey silty/sandy loam	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil: brownish grey sandy/silty loam.	-	-
2002	Cut	-	-	Cut of natural geological feature.	-	-
2003	Fill	-	-	Fill of natural geological feature.	-	-
2004	Cut	2	1.6	Cut of ditch, aligned east – west with shallow sloping concave sides and a flat base.	-	-
2005	Fill	2	1.6	Fill of ditch, soft reddish brown sandy silt with very rare gravel inclusions.	Pottery, CBM, glass, slag, hammerscale	1550-1650
2006	Layer	-	-	Natural: Brownish red silty sand and pale brownish yellow sand and pea gravel.	-	-

Trench 3						
1000General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench contained three furrows, two of which were recorded, all aligned east-west. A possible field boundary ditch on the same alignment was also excavated. To the south-east of the trench, a possible quarry pit was excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geologies of sand and gravelly sand.					Length (m)	50.1
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil: dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions.	-	-
3001	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil: light brownish grey sandy silt with infrequent stone inclusions.	-	-
3002	Layer	-	-	Natural: loose, greyish yellow/red gravelly sand with frequent stone inclusions.	-	-
3003	Cut	0.72	0.45	Possible quarry pit, irregular in plan with moderately concave sides.	-	-
3004	Fill	0.72	0.45	Possible quarry pit fill, friable reddish brown	Ceramic Building Material	Roman

				sandy silt with infrequent stony inclusions.		
3005	Cut	0.92	0.13	Linear furrow aligned east-west with shallow concave sides and a wide concave base.	-	-
3006	Fill	0.92	0.13	Fill of furrow, loose reddish brown sandy silt.	Clay pipe	Mid 17th-early 18th century
3007	Cut	0.98	0.13	Linear furrow aligned east-west, shallow concave sides, wide concave base.	-	-
3008	Fill	0.98	0.13	Fill of furrow, loose reddish brown mid sandy silt.	Animal Bone	-
3009	Cut	1.98	0.54	Cut of ditch, east-west aligned. Moderately concave sides and a wide concave base.	-	-
3010	Fill	1.54	0.45	Fill of ditch, friable mid greyish brown sandy silt.	Pottery, Animal bone and Ceramic Building Material	1675-1750
3011	Fill	1.68	0.45	Fill of ditch, friable dark greyish brown sandy silt.	Clay pipe and Ceramic Building Material	late 18th-19th century
3012	Layer	-	-	Natural: brownish red mid/loose friable sand with moderately frequent stone inclusions.	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravelly sand.					Length (m)	52.7
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.92
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4000	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil: firm dark greyish brown silty sand.	-	-
4001	Layer	-	0.68	Subsoil: friable mid reddish brown silty sand.	-	-
4002	Layer	-	-	Natural: light yellowish brown sandy gravel.	-	-
4003	Cut	1.5	0.35	Cut of Natural feature, sub circular in plan with moderately concave sides and a concave base.	-	-

4004	Fill	1.5	0.35	Fill of natural feature, friable mid reddish brown silty sand.	-	-
4005	Cut	1.7	0.32	Cut of natural feature, sub circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base.	-	-
4006	Fill	1.7	0.32	Fill of natural feature, friable mid reddish brown silty sand.	-	-
4007	Cut	-	-	Cut of modern pit	-	-
4008	Fill	-	-	Fill of modern pit	Animal Bone	-
4009	Cut	0.5	0.2	Cut of natural feature, irregular in plan with a concave base and shallow sloping sides.	-	-
4010	Fill	0.5	0.2	Fill of natural feature, friable mid reddish brown silty sand.	-	-
4011	Layer	-	0.64	Topsoil, light yellowish brown sandy gravel.	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5000	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil: a mid greyish brown loose modern demolition debris, a poorly sorted mixture of stones, gravel, breeze blocks, timber, metal fragments, sand lenses and clay nodules.	-	-
5001	Layer	-	0.9	Subsoil: compact dark greyish brown clay made ground with mixed modern debris inclusions, as in 5000. Occasional lenses of angular stones, building sand and gravel.	-	-
5002	Layer	-	-	Natural: firm, pale yellowish brown gravel with sandy lenses, and lenses of reddish silt	-	-

				interpreted as natural disturbances.		
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Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists an overburden, buried topsoil/subsoil which overlies a natural geology of clayey sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	1.05
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6000	Layer	-	0.65	Overburden: yellow sandy gravel.	-	-
6001	Layer	-	0.46	Overburden: mid reddish brown sandy clay, maybe buried topsoil/subsoil.	-	-
6002	Layer	-	-	Natural: friable greyish yellow clayey sand with frequent stone inclusions.	-	-
6003	Layer	-	-	Natural geological layer, brownish red clayey sand.	-	-
6004	Layer	-	-	Man-made levelling: very compact dark greyish/black sandy clay.	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of overburden, overlying a layer of disturbed natural, overlying natural geology of gravelly sand.					Length (m)	26
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
7000	Layer	-	0.25	Hardcore overburden: building foundations.	-	-
7001	Layer	-	0.08	Disturbed natural: light reddish brown gravelly sand. Frequent stony inclusions.	-	-
7003	Layer	-	-	Natural: friable mid reddish yellow gravelly sand. Frequent stony inclusions.	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern asphalt, overlying a modern levelling layer, overlying a natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
8000	Layer	-	0.06	Modern Asphalt	-	-

8001	Layer	-	0.32	Modern levelling layer, dark bluish black gravel.	-	-
8002	Layer	-	-	Natural: fine grained, soft, light reddish yellow silty sand.	-	-

Trench 9

General description					Orientation	ESE-WNW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern asphalt, overlying a modern levelling layer, overlying subsoil, overlying a natural geology of sandy gravel.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.76
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9000	Layer	-	0.08	Modern Asphalt	-	-
9001	Layer	-	0.48	Modern levelling layer, light greyish pink gravel.	-	-
9002	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil: soft dark yellowish brown silty sand.	-	-
9003	Layer	-	-	Natural: soft, light reddish brown sandy gravel.	-	-

Trench 10

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology, containing two natural features and a tree throw. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel.					Length (m)	44.9
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
10000	Layer	-	0.65	Topsoil: firm, dark brown sandy silt. Landscaping layer.	-	-
10001	Layer	-	0.62	Subsoil: firm, mid reddish brown silty sand.	-	-
10002	-	-	-	Void	-	-
10003	Layer	-	0.46	Modern debris layer consisting of mixed rubble, gravel and bricks.	-	-
10004	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid yellowish brown sandy gravel.	-	-
10005	Cut	2.4	0.6	Cut of tree throw, curvilinear in plan with a flat/irregular base and shallow sloping sides.	-	-
10006	Fill	2.4	0.6	Fill of tree throw, friable mid brown silty sand.	Nail	-
10007	Cut	2	0.5	Cut of tree throw, irregular shape in plan, concave sides and irregular base.	-	-

10008	Fill	2	0.5	Fill of tree throw, friable mid brown silty sand.	-	-
10009	Cut	1.72	0.33	Cut of natural feature, sub circular in plan with concave base and moderately sloping sides.	-	-
10010	Fill	1.72	0.33	Fill of natural feature, firm, mid reddish brown silty sand.	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench contained two furrows on a north-west/ south-east alignment, one of which was excavated. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	37
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	1.2
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
11000	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil: dark greyish brown sandy silt.	-	-
11001	Layer	-	0.1	Made ground: light orangey brown sandy gravel dump.	-	-
11002	Layer	-	0.55	Possible buried topsoil: dark brown sandy silt.	-	-
11003	Cut	3	0.2	Cut of furrow, linear aligned NE-SW with regular sloping sides and a concave base.	-	-
11004	Fill	3	0.2	Fill of furrow, firm dark greyish brown silty clay with infrequent sub-angular stone inclusions.	-	-
11005	Layer	-	-	Natural: dark orangey brown silty clay with gravel inclusions.	-	-

Strip Map Sample Area 1						
Area contained three ditches, two on an east-west alignment, and one on a north-south alignment. Consists of a made ground hardcore overburden, overlying subsoil, overlying natural geology of silty gravel.					Length (m)	
					Width (m)	
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	1	Hardcore overburden/ made ground	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil: firm, dark reddish brown sandy clay with small stone inclusions.	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural: mid yellowish brown silty gravel.	-	-
103	Cut	0.4	0.11	Cut of ditch, linear aligned E-W with regular sloping sides and a concave base.	-	-
104	Fill	0.4	0.11	Fill of ditch, moderately compact reddish/greyish brown sandy silt with poorly sorted, sub angular corn-brash inclusions.	CBM, mortar/plaster, iron tack, animal bone	Roman or medieval
105	Cut	1.05	0.12	Cut of ditch, linear aligned E-W with regular sloping sides and a concave base.	-	-
106	Fill	1.05	0.12	Fill of ditch, firm greyish brown sandy clay with frequent sub angular stone inclusions.	-	-
107	Cut	0.44	0.1	Cut of ditch, linear aligned E-W. Moderately concave side on the west side, shallow concaved sides on the east side of the ditch. Moderately concaved base.	-	-
108	Fill	0.44	0.1	Fill of ditch, moderately compact, dark mottled yellowish grey sandy silt.	-	-
109	Cut	1.05	0.2	Cut of ditch, linear N-S aligned with regular sloping sides and a concave base.	-	-
110	Fill	1.05	0.2	Fill of ditch, firm reddish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions.	-	-
111	Cut	0.4	0.16	Cut of ditch, linear N-S aligned with regular	-	-

				sloping sides and a concave base.		
112	Fill	0.4	0.16	Fill of ditch, firm reddish brown silty clay, rare small stone inclusions.	-	-
113	Cut	1.1	0.3	Cut of ditch, E-W aligned with regular sloping sides and a concave base.	-	-
114	Fill	1.1	0.3	Fill of ditch, firm reddish brown silty clay with grey and yellow mottling, rare stone inclusions.	-	-

Strip Map Sample Area 2						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Area was devoid of archaeology. Consists of reinforced concrete foundations, overlying mixed made ground, overlying a natural geology of silty/sandy gravel.					Length (m)	
					Width (m)	
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.4	Reinforced concrete slab	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.2	Made ground: mid greyish brown moderately compact sandy silt with poorly sorted broken concrete fragments, modern CBM and mixed size angular stone inclusions.	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.5	Natural: moderately compact pale yellow gravel with infrequent, moderately sorted rounded pebbles. Infrequent bands of reddish brown silt and pale yellow sand.	-	-
203	Layer	-	0.16	Natural: loose mid reddish brown sand.	-	-
204	Layer	-	0.1	Natural: loose, mid pale bluish grey sandy silt.	-	-
205	Layer	-	0.14	Natural: loose, mid brownish red sand.	-	-
206	Layer	-	-	Natural: loose, mid reddish brown sand.	-	-

Strip Map Sample Area 3						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Area was devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	
					Width (m)	
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300						

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Description

- B.1.1 Six sherds (19g; 0.07 EVE) of Roman-period pottery were recovered from context 2005, a fill of ditch 2004 (Trench 2). The fragments belonged to a single vessel, a bulbous beaker in Central Gaulish 'Rhenish' ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, fabric CNG BS) with barbotine decoration bordered by grooves and a band of rouletting. The vessel dates to the mid-2nd to mid-3rd century AD.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.1.2 The pottery has the potential to inform future research through re-analysis and thus it is recommended that it is retained. This follows the advice set out in the 'Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016).

B.2 Post-medieval pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction

- B.2.1 A total of three sherds of pottery weighing 40g were recovered from three contexts. All of this is of post-medieval date. Given the small size of the assemblage a separate catalogue has not been constructed and instead the pottery is simply described and spot-dated below. No further work is recommended. Fabric codes referred to are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014).

Description

- 4.3.3 **Context (1001) Spot-date c 1600-1750?** Description: 1 sherd (15g). Fresh rim sherd (diameter 160mm) probably from a large jug/pitcher, or a deep bowl, in ?local post-medieval red earthenware (PMR, c 1550-1900). Sub-squared rim on a near-vertical neck. Traces of decorative horizontal ridges or rilling on the outside of the neck. Fine sandy red-brown fabric with a dark grey core. Dark brown glaze all over inside and out, thick and glossy in places. Not closely datable but probably early post-medieval.
- B.2.2 **Context (2005) Spot-date c 1550-1650?** Description: 1 sherd (15g). Fresh base sherd (diameter 60mm) probably from a small cup/mug. Globular thick-walled body with a pad base. Basically a post-medieval red earthenware (PMR-type) but with a very hard-fired purplish-brown fabric covered inside and out with a thick glossy black glaze in the manner of Cistercian-type wares (CSTN, c 1480-1700), post-medieval black-glazed redwares (PMBL, c 1580-1750) and Midlands blackwares (miscellaneous code: BLACK, c 1600-1900). Probably a local or regional variant of these types. The small size and thick walls suggest a date of c 1550-1650 may be likely, but possibly as late as c 1700.

B.2.3 Context (3010) Spot-date c 1675-1750. Description: 1 sherd (10g). Fresh body sherd probably from a cylindrical tankard in Westerwald stoneware (WEST, c 1590-1750), a common German import. Probably from the lower wall of a tankard, just above the base, with a band of decorative horizontal ribbing and a painted blue band in the middle of this. Such tankards were common imports of the period c 1675-1750.

B.3 Clay tobacco pipes

By John Cotter

Introduction

B.3.1 Three pieces of clay pipe stem weighing 9g were recovered from two contexts. These have not been separately catalogued but are described below. No further work is recommended.

Description

B.3.2 Context (3006) Spot-date: Mid-17th century to early 18th century. Description: 1 fairly fresh stem fragment (2g). Surviving length 45mm. Fairly slender - probably from near the mouthpiece-end of the pipe. Poor or weak burnish. Stem bore diameter of c 2.5mm, probably mid-17th to early 18th century.

B.3.3 Context (3011) Spot-date: Late 18th century to 19th century. Description: 2 fairly fresh stem fragments (6g). One later piece of stem (length 40mm). Fairly slender with a stem bore diameter of c 2.1mm, probably late 18th century to 19th century. The latter abraded at one end. The other stem is 60mm long and has a stem bore diameter of c 4mm indicating a date in the first half of the 17th century.

B.4 Ceramic building material (CBM)

By John Cotter

Introduction

B.4.1 Eleven pieces of CBM weighing 740g were recovered from six contexts. These have not been separately catalogued but are described below. No further work is recommended.

Description

B.4.2 Context (104) [SMS Phase, Area 1] Spot-date Roman or post-Roman? Description: 4 pieces of CBM (13g). Shapeless scraps of soft orange-red brick/tile. Undatable.

B.4.3 Context (104) [Sieved Sample <2>] Spot-date Roman or medieval? Description: 1 piece of CBM (8g). Abraded lower angle from a brick or tile in a fairly soft orange-red fabric with a sanded/gritted underside containing quartz and limestone/chalk grits. Undatable other than possibly Roman or medieval (possibly a thick medieval roof tile?).

B.4.4 Context (2005) Spot-date Roman. Description: 1 piece of CBM (198g). Fresh side fragment from a curved Roman roof tile (imbrex) with a roughly finished/flattened

lower edge. Hard orange-brown fabric with a grey core. Rare coarse calcareous inclusions.

- B.4.5 **Context (3004) Spot-date Roman.** Description: 1 piece of CBM (55g). Abraded fragment from the upright flange of flat Roman roof tile (tegula). Smooth internal surface. Roughly finished or knifed external surface. Fairly smooth, hard, orange to orange-buff fabric with moderate to abundant calcareous inclusions.
- B.4.6 **Context (3010) Spot-date 15th-16th century?.** Description: 2 pieces of CBM (299g). Larger fragment from fairly abraded corner of a crudely made brick (50mm thick), in a fairly soft light orange-red fabric, probably Tudor. Smaller scrap probably from a second brick.
- B.4.7 **Context (3011) Spot-date 15th-16th century?.** Description: 2 pieces of CBM (167g). Larger fragment from very abraded corner of thick floor tile or quarry tile (37mm thick), in a fairly soft, fairly sandy orange-brown fabric. The upper surface completely worn-off from use but the surviving sides bear a dark brown glaze. Probably 15th-16th century. Smaller scrap possibly from an early post-medieval brick or another quarry tile?

B.5 Mortar or plaster

By John Cotter

- B.5.1 Context (104) [Sieved Sample <2>] Spot-date Roman or possibly medieval. Description: 1 piece (6g). Small shapeless lump of light pink mortar or plaster. Fairly soft with a fine matrix containing moderate coarse rounded inclusions of red-brown mudstone and a few grains of quartz. Probably Roman but a medieval date may also be possible.

B.6 Metal

By Ian R Scott

- B.6.1 There are just two metal objects. Neither is closely datable or diagnostic on its own.
- B.6.2 **Context 104 (1) Tack** with small flat circular head, probably complete but encrusted. Fe. L: 16mm.
- B.6.3 **Context 10006 (2) Nail** with flat irregularly shaped head, and incomplete stem. Fe. Not measured. Sample <3>

B.7 Metalworking debris

By Ian R Scott

- B.7.1 Some very few small pieces of slag and a possible hammerscale were recovered from soil samples.
- B.7.2 Context 104 (1) Slag. Six small pieces of slag. Two of the six pieces show a magnetic response. Too small to distinguish slag type.
- B.7.3 Context 2005(2) Slag. Tiny piece, shows magnetic response

B.7.4 Context 2005 (3) Hammerscale. Only 12 pieces recovered, but presence could be suggestive. Strong magnetic response.

B.8 Glass

By Ian R Scott

B.8.1 There is a single tiny sherd of glass. It is probably vessel glass rather than window but it is too small for absolute certainty. It cannot be dated.

B.8.2 Context 2005 (1). Glass, small sherd of probable vessel. The sherd is yellow-green. Sample <1>.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Shell

By Geraldine Crann

- C.1.1 A single oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) right valve, 9g, was recovered from environmental sample <2>, context 104. Apart from confirming that oysters were imported to the site, little can be deduced from this small assemblage and the shell could be discarded.

C.2 Fossil

By Geraldine Crann

- C.2.1 A single fossil (belemnite) fragment was collected from context 10008, weighing 3g. It can be discarded.

C.3 Animal bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

- C.3.1 A total of 58 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site, most of which were collected by hand. This material was recorded in full, with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system (Cohen and Serjeantson 1996 for birds; Serjeantson 1996 for mammals). Environmental samples were also taken and sieved at 10mm, 4mm, 2mm and 0.5mm fractions. Only identifiable material was recorded from these samples, following the same criteria as the hand-collected material.

Description

- C.3.2 The assemblage was generally in moderate condition and was dominated by pig (*Sus scrofa domesticus*). All of this material came from a single modern pit fill (4008). This consisted of parts of at least three neonatal individuals, with head, forelimb and hindlimb elements present (but no torso elements). It is possible that this represents the modern disposal of deadstock.
- C.3.3 The only Roman/medieval specimen came from sample <2>, from context (104), and is a fusing caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] or goat [*Capra hircus*]) ulna olecranon. This suggests an age of death for the animal of around 2½ years (Silver 1969), which is towards the end of the age range for slaughtering for maximising meat yield (Payne 1973).
- C.3.4 Domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) was the only species to be identified on the site from the post-medieval phase, with a calcaneum and an unfused distal tibia, from context (3010) suggesting two different individuals based on the age at which these bones fuse. The tibia has been gnawed by canids (dogs, foxes and wolves).

C.3.5 Table 2), suggesting that dogs (*Canis familiaris*) were also present on the site at the time. It is worth noting that medium mammal (sheep/pig sized) was also present at this time.

Conclusions

C.3.6 It is difficult to draw conclusions from such a small assemblage beyond the presence of certain species on the site at certain times. Those species it has been possible to demonstrate the presence of are common domesticates in Britain and, therefore, add little to our knowledge. It is, perhaps, worth noting that the only evidence for the Roman period on the site came from environmental samples, rather than hand-collection. Despite the otherwise moderate levels of preservation noted this might indicate that larger specimens were not present on the site.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

C.3.7 The assemblage should not be considered a priority for retention.

Table 1: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period from the site

	Roman or medieval	1675-1750	Undated/modern
domestic cattle		1	1
domestic cattle?		1	1
caprine	1		
Pig			30
medium mammal		2	15
large mammal		3	3
Total NISP	1	7	50
Total NSP	1	7	50

Table 2: Non-taxonomic data recorded for material from the site

	Gnawed	Ageing data	Biometric data
domestic cattle	1	2	1
caprine		1	
pig		20	
Total	1	23	1

Table 3: NSP and total mass per context

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
104	1	4

1003	2	34
1005	2	45
3008	1	5
3010	7	221
4008	45	246

C.4 Environmental samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.4.1 A single bulk sample was taken from the evaluation, together with a second sample from the strip, map and sample excavation (SMS); both came from ditch fills. The samples were taken primarily for the retrieval of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts.

Method

- C.4.2 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.4.3 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).

Results

- C.4.4 Table 4 lists the charred taxa identified in the sample flots.
- C.4.5 The majority of material contained within these flots comprised indeterminate clinkered material and anthracite. These fragments are all small in size and it is possible that they may have worked into the deposit as a result of bioturbation although they may be related to the small quantity of slaggy material retrieved from the residues of these samples.
- C.4.6 Charred remains are generally small with the majority of charcoal being <4mm in size and while in generally good condition there is insufficient material to justify identifying the charcoal to species. The majority of other charred material is in generally poor condition with a great deal of fragmentation. Uncultivated seeds within the flots are commonly found and give no additional information with regard to site conditions or usage.

- C.4.7 Land snails are present in both samples; these do however include *Cecilioides acicula* which is a burrowing snail probably modern in origin and forms the majority of the molluscan assemblage.
- C.4.8 The residues of sample 1 contained pottery, glass and slag in small quantities, while sample 2 contained mammal bone, marine shell, iron and slag also in small quantities.

Discussion and recommendations

- C.4.9 These samples both proved to contain few charred plant remains or other interpretable organic material. As such, all that can be said is that charred seeds and chaff survive on this site, albeit in variable quantities and fairly poor condition in the sampled contexts. Ditch fills, unless close to a settlement or industrial area, often contain only scant material of paleoeconomic significance so the absence of interpretable material is not unexpected, although the presence of bone and artefacts in both sample residues is likely to indicate the dumping of settlement waste.

Retention/discard

- C.4.10 The flots warrant retention until all works on this site are complete, after which point they could be discarded.

Table 4: Description of environmental flots

Sample no.	Context no.	Trench/Area	Sample vol. (L)	Feature /Deposit	Date	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other	Notes
1	2005	2	40	Single fill of ditch 2004	Post-medieval	25	+++	+	++	+	+++		Indet clinkered material and anthracite majority of material. 26 fragments of charcoal >2mm only. 1 <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> <2mm, 1 indet cereal grain in v poor condition, 8 small glume base fragments, 1 small grass seed, 1 <i>Rumex</i> sp. Generally poor condition. Small land snails present – mostly <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> although occasional others present.
2	103	SMS	35	Single fill of ditch 103	Roman or medieval	50	+++			+	+++		Indet clinkered material and anthracite majority of material. 1 <i>Carex</i> sp., 1 <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> <2mm. Generally poor condition. Small land snails present – mostly <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> although occasional others present.

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

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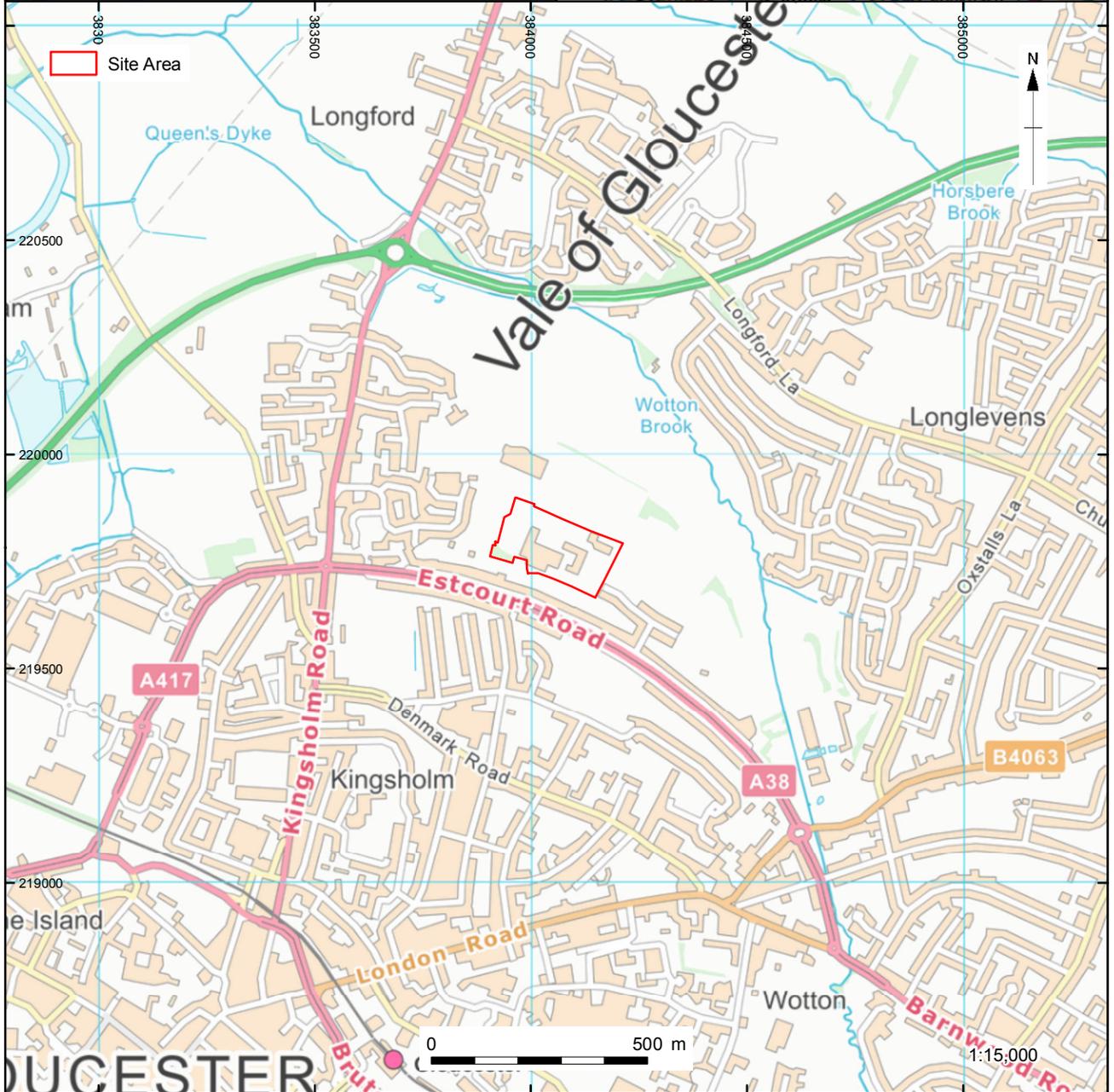
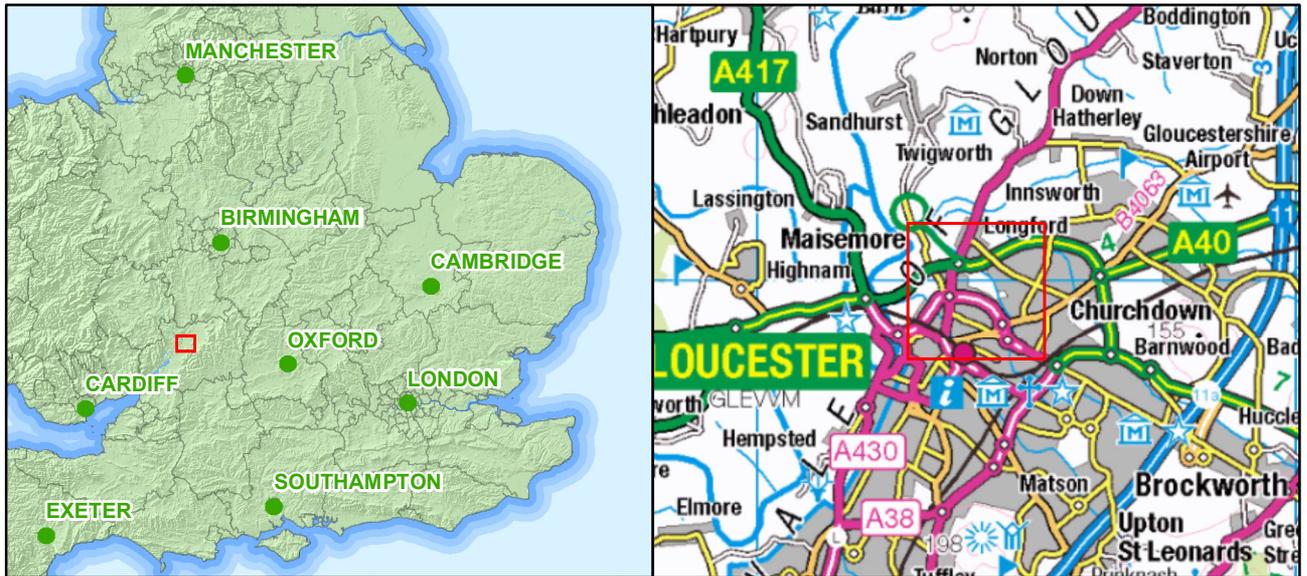
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Site name: Bishop's College, Estcourt Road, Gloucester
Site code: OAGLBC18
Grid Reference: OAGLBCEV
Type: Evaluation
Date and duration: 8th May to 12th June 2018
Area of Site: 2400m²
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery in due course.

Summary of Results: During May and June 2018 Oxford Archaeology South undertook a trial trench evaluation and a strip, map and sample excavation at Bishop's College, Estcourt Road, Gloucester. The fieldwork was undertaken as part of the programme of demolition works. Three areas, totalling approximately 2400m², had been targeted on the foundation pads of previous buildings due to be demolished. These areas were supplemented with the excavation of 11 trial trenches within the surrounding fields.

The evaluation trenches uncovered a quarry pit of possible Roman date, and linear boundary ditches and plough furrows dating to the post-medieval period. Strip, map and sample Area 1 contained ditches that may have been field boundaries. Finds suggest that these date to either the Roman or medieval period.

There was a large amount of modern disturbance and truncation in the trenches located in the footings of the Bishop's College School buildings and their environs. SMS Areas 2 and 3 were found to have been heavily truncated and disturbed by the construction of the buildings and the concrete pads, and as such no archaeology was recovered from these areas.



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Figure 1: Site location

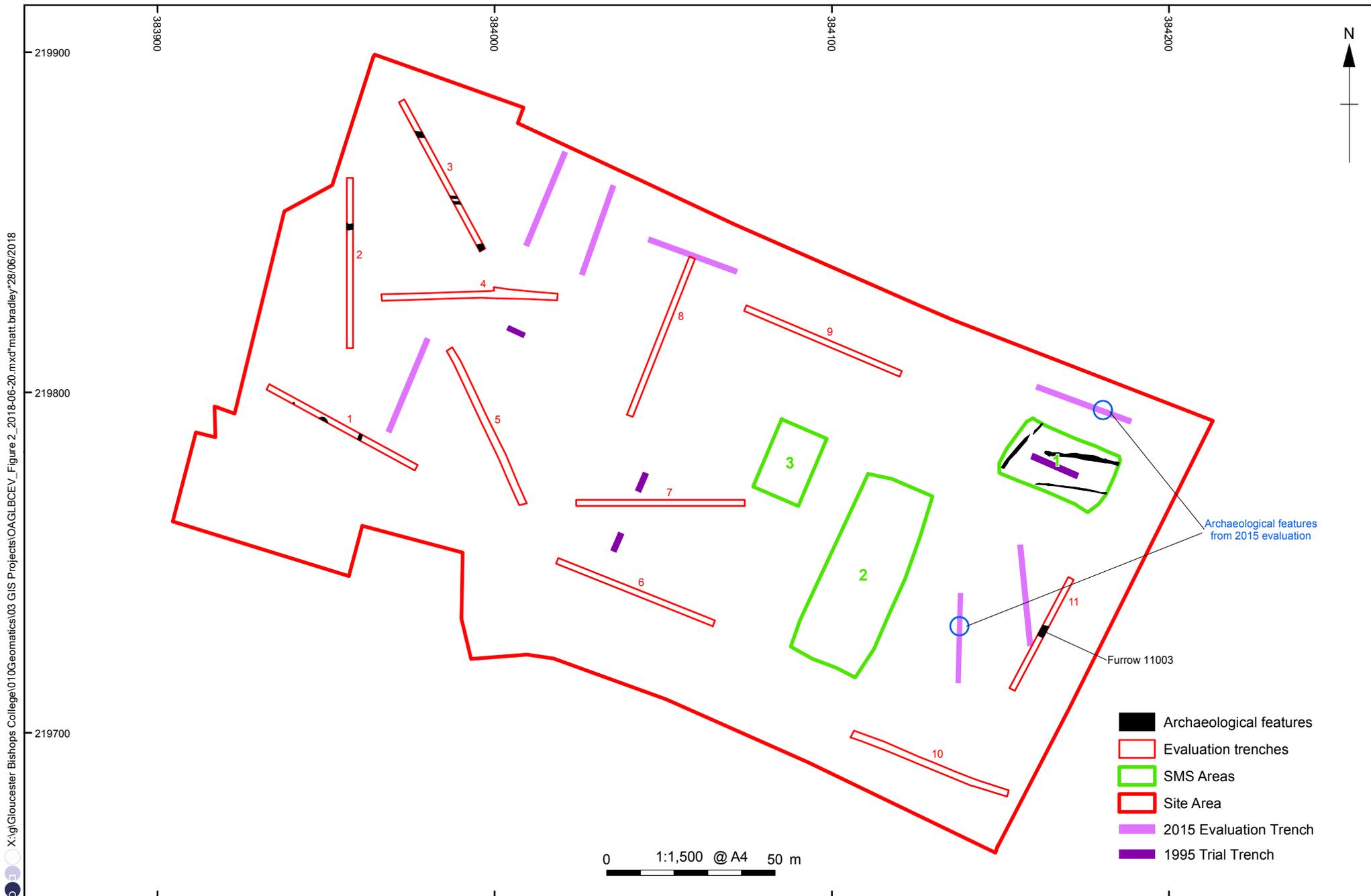


Figure 2: Location of Trenches and SMS Areas

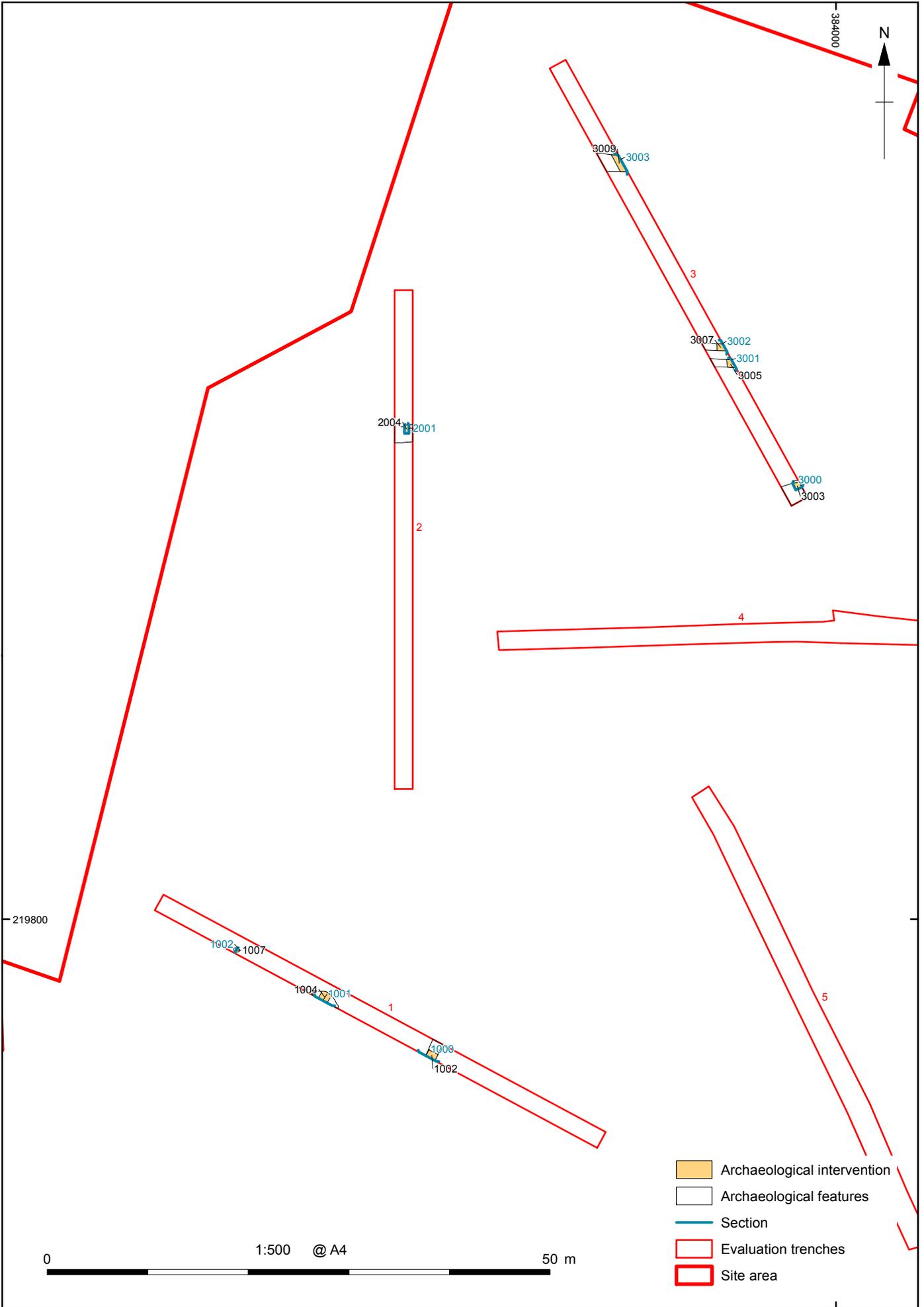


Figure 3: Trenches 1, 2 and 3



Figure 4: SMS Area 1

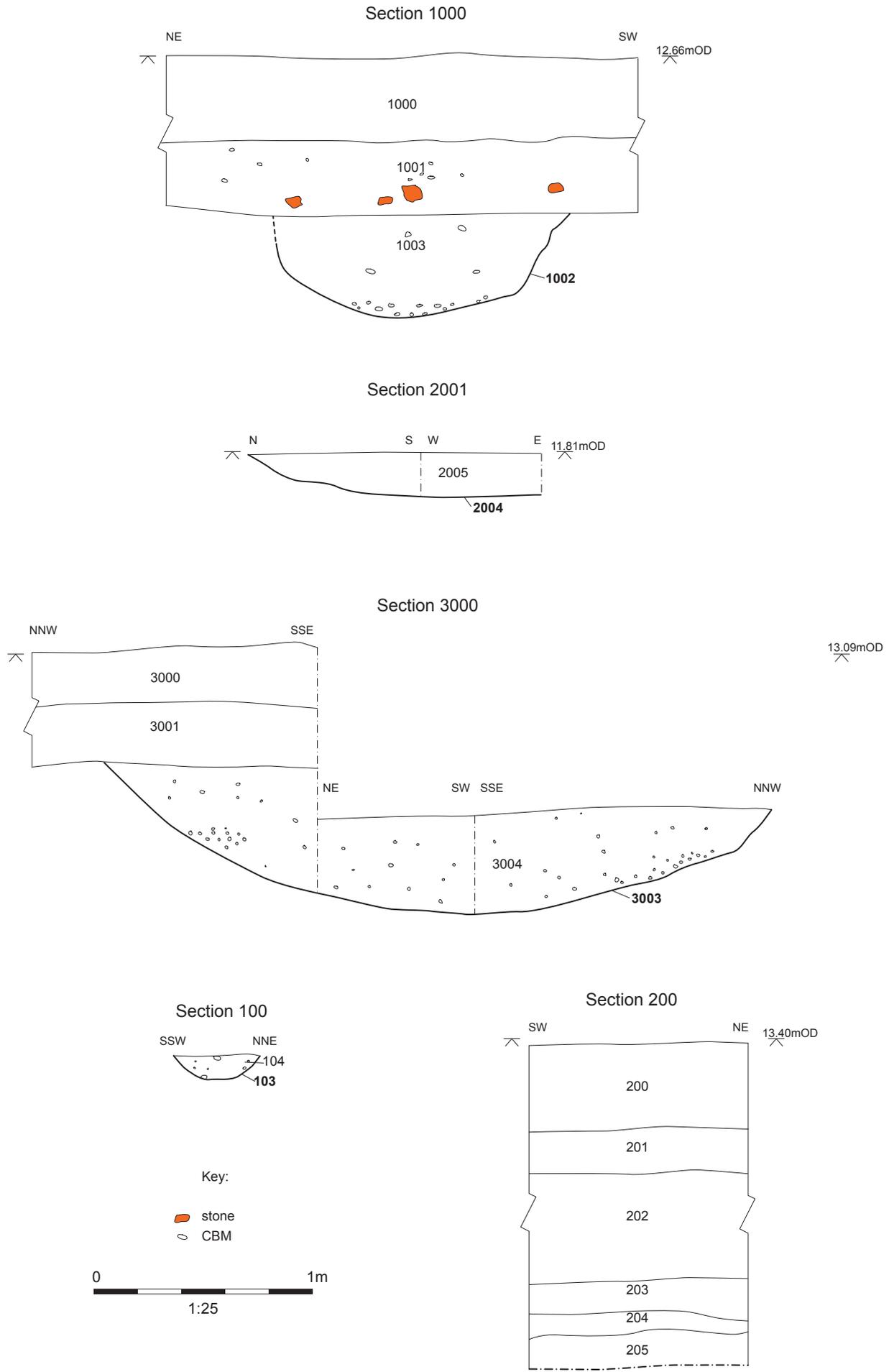


Figure 5: Selected sections



Plate 1: Ditch 1002, section 1000, scale 1x1m, North facing



Plate 2: Trench 2, 1x1m scale, South facing



Plate 3: Ditch 2004, section 2001, scale 1x1m, East facing



Plate 4: Trench 3, 1x1m scale, West facing



Plate 5: Quarry pit 3003, section 3000, scale 1x1m, East facing



Plate 6: SMS area 1, ditch 103, section 100, scale 1x0.5m, South facing



Plate 7: SMS area 2, North facing



**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 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCifA
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