Phase 1, Foxbridge, Swindon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Phase 1, Foxbridge, Swindon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between 28th October and 8th November 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation on the site of a proposed mixed development at Foxbridge, Swindon. The works comprised the excavation of 30 trenches and form the first of three phase of evaluation undertaken within the proposed development area. Each phase of evaluation is covered by its own report.

The 30 trenches were located in the northern half of the proposed development area and included five trenches targeted on geophysical anomalies provisionally interpreted as the continuation of *Durocornovium* Roman Town, a Scheduled Monument located to the north of and partially within the site. Archaeological remains consistent with Roman roadside activity were identified within these five trenches. It is the intention to preserve this remains *in situ and* given poor ground conditions during the works, excavation of the exposed features was minimally intrusive. The remains comprised rectilinear enclosures, pits and a couple of postholes but no evidence for *in situ* structural remains was identified. The activity is contained within a 50m wide strip that runs parallel to the Wanborough Road, which forms the eastern site boundary, and is delimited to the west by a large enclosure ditch. Features of potential archaeological origin investigated to the west of this ditch were demonstrated to be of geological origin.

The finds assemblage comprises 396 sherds of Roman pottery, ceramic building material, glass and metal objects, worked flint, animal bone and stone. The assemblage suggests the activity within the site occurred predominately in the middle Roman period with none of the contexts dated to earlier than the 2nd century. The pottery assemblage, however, does contain sherds dating to the late Roman period suggesting activity within the site continued into the 4th and early 5th centuries. This is supported by the metalwork assemblage which includes six late Roman coins. Although no obvious *in situ* building remains were present, several fragments of roof tile and unworked limestone were recovered and suggest the presence of structures within the vicinity. Similarly, the recovery of metal working slag suggests industrial activities occurred within the area, but no evidence was recorded within the trenches. A single inhumation was identified, and although heavily disturbed it is believed to be that of an adult male. A buried soil of unknown origin was recorded sealing the archaeological features. The origin of this deposit is uncertain, but it is suspected to represent a former land surface or occupation layer.

No archaeological features or deposit were recorded in the trenches located beyond those targeting the roadside activity.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Mark Dodd, who was supported by Phil Terry, Jessica Domiczew, Mike Sims, Chris Pickard, John Carne, Sam Oxley and Lee Sparks. Survey and digitising were carried out by Simon Batsman, Caroline Souday and Aidan Farnan. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Danescroft (PCDF IV Swindon) LLP to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed residential development, east of Swindon.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the local planning authority (LPA) in advance of a submission of a planning application. Although the LPA did not set a brief for the work, discussions between Jo Vallender of EDP and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger the Archaeological Advisor to Swindon Borough Council established the scope of work required. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA detailing the LPA's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2019). This document outlined how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.1.3 These works form the first of three-phases of evaluation undertaken within the proposed development area. Separate reports have been produced for each phase of trenching (OA 2021a and 2021b).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the eastern edge of Swindon in Wanborough Parish (Fig. 1; NGR. SU 19827 84476).

1.2.2 The area of the site proposed for development consists of an array of several agricultural fields separated by hedgelines and covers a total area of 40 hectares (ha). The central section of the site has been previously subjected to archaeological investigations. The northern part of the site lies within a Scheduled Monument (list entry 1004684) and was not impacted by these works. The site consists of a roughly triangular parcel of land; it is bounded to the north and east by the Wanborough Road, to the south by agricultural fields and to the west by the A419. The site lies approximately between 95m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and 98m aOD.

1.2.3 The geology of the central and southern part of the site is mapped as Gault Formation Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 101 to 113 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. In the northern part of the site, the underlying geology is mapped as Kimmeridge Clay Formation Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 152 to 157 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. A band of alluvium is recorded overlaying the Gault Formation in the centre of the site along the route of a water course which functions as an open drain (BGS Online).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Previous archaeological work

1.3.1 The site is bisected by the route of the proposed Swindon Southern Connector Road and a recently installed water pipeline. Both projects have been subject to prior archaeological investigations, including a geophysical survey (AS 2017) and trial-trench

evaluations (CA 2018 and WA 2017). Based on the results of these investigations, further archaeological work is proposed, including open-area excavation and strip, map and sample, as well as two areas identified for preservation *in situ*.

1.3.2 The following summary is derived from the desk-based assessment (CA 2016) produced for the Swindon Southern Connector Road and has been supplemented by the results of the associated archaeological investigations.

Prehistoric

1.3.3 No heritage assets dating to the prehistoric period were recorded within the site prior to the trial-trench evaluations, although features of a prehistoric date are known in the immediate vicinity. The evaluation works identified a Bronze Age cremation towards the northern end of the southern parcel of the proposed development (CA 2018). An assemblage of worked flints of prehistoric date were also recovered but were not considered to date any of the archaeological features identified. In addition, a Mesolithic flint tool was recovered from a pit immediately to the south of the site. The geophysical survey identified a cluster of suspected intercutting ring ditches within the route of the proposed connector road.

Roman

1.3.4 The Roman nucleated roadside settlement of *Durocornovium* (Scheduled Monument 1004684) lies within the site boundary and extends to the north and north-east. Wanborough Road, which forms the north-eastern boundary of the previously evaluated site, is broadly aligned on Roman Ermin Street. The nucleated settlement is known to have been occupied from the mid-1st century AD to the mid-4th century AD (Anderson *et al*. 2001). Geophysical survey of the evaluation area clearly shows that the settlement extended along either side of Ermin Street within the proposed development area and beyond. Excavations undertaken in the 1960s and 70s identified the remains of a substantial Roman roadside settlement. The earliest activity identified was the remains of large post-built structure suspected to have served a military function. This developed over the course of the late 1st and early 2nd centuries into a small town or nucleated settlement with the construction of several rectangular timber buildings and at least one stone building. The timber structures were formed of vertical sided foundation trenches which either contained ground-beams or uprights, the presence of packing stones in one of the trenches suggest the latter. Cobbled and mortar floor surface were also identified. Evidence for possible lead production or lime for mortar was identified with the remains of oven structures surviving and quantities of slag being recovered. The settlement underwent significant development in the 3rd and 4th centuries with the focus of activity lying to the east of Ermin Street. Ermin Street was resurfaced and widened, and additional street extending from it constructed. Numerous additional stone buildings were built during this period, likely to reflect the increased wealth of the settlement. However, wooden structures were still built and comprised the placement of sill-beams on sarasen stones to elevate the structure above ground level to overcome damp ground conditions. A lack of roof tile suggests the building were predominately thatched and the recovery daub indicates the continued use of timber framed structures during this period.

Evidence for metal working was indicated by the presence of slag and the recovery of metal working tools.

1.3.5 Trial trenching in the vicinity revealed ditches, shallow pits and one inhumation burial, all dating to the Roman period; several possible industrial features are thought to have been related to the town (WA 2017). Further to the south, along the route of the connector road but beyond the limits of this site, two Romano-British farmsteads and associated agricultural features were identified by the geophysical survey and confirmed by the trail-trench evaluation, one *c* 75m to the south and the other *c* 700m (CA 2018).

Medieval/post-medieval

1.3.6 The village of Wanborough, *c* 1km to the southeast of the site, is suspected to have Saxon origins, and Saxon pottery sherds have been recovered from the village. The parish church of St Andrew is Grade I Listed and dates to the 14th century. A medieval moated site indicative of former settlement is located some 1.2km to the south of the site.

1.3.7 Areas of ridge and furrow are recorded on the HER within the northern part of the site and these are confirmed by the results of the geophysical survey. Its presence was also recorded in a significant number of trenches within the route of the proposed connector road (CA 2018).

1.3.8 No archaeological features dating to the early medieval period were identified during the previous evaluation works. A series of geophysical anomalies identified within the southeast corner of the site was interpreted as enclosure systems of possible Roman origin. Several linear ditches were identified in the trenches excavated across the anomalies, from which quantities of medieval pottery were recovered. The features were interpreted as representing a small medieval farmstead dating from the 11th to the 15th century, with some evidence for mid-16th- to 18th-century activity. It should be noted that sherds of pottery dated to the Roman period were also recovered from these features but in very small quantities.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were to record the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features, and to report on the findings to inform the planning process.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were to:

- To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- To ground truth the results of the geophysics.
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
- To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- To determine the potential of the site to provide paleoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- To determine the implications of any remains with reference to the economy, status, utility and social activity of or at the site.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- To disseminate the results of the evaluation through the production of a fieldwork report.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The proposed works were to comprise the excavation of 30 trenches measuring 50m by 1.8m (Fig. 2; Phase 1 trenches). The trenches were positioned to provide an even coverage of the proposed development area and to investigate the results of the geophysical survey.

2.2.2 Trenches 8, 9, 17, 18 and 19 were excavated in the area where the preceding geophysical survey had indicate intense roadside activity and therefore had greater potential to contain archaeological remains (Fig. 3). Archaeological investigations in this area were minimally intrusive and limited to the hand dug slots requested by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger archaeological advisor to Swindon Borough Council. The limited scope of the investigation was driven by the intention to preserve the remain *in situ* but works were further restricted due to poor ground conditions.

2.2.3 The presence of public rights of way, ecological exclusion zones and services were taken into consideration when producing the proposed trench layout; however, minor alterations were required in the field due to unforeseen constraints.

2.2.4 Localised flooding prevented the excavation of Trench 11. Trenches 19a and 19b were moved slightly from their intended location to avoid the overhead cables.

2.2.5 Due to restricted access, it was not possible to excavate Trenches 27 and 28. These will be investigated during a later phase of fieldwork and reported on in a separate report.

2.2.6 Once the trenches had been open, all spoil heaps and the exposed archaeological features were scanned with a metal detector. All recovered finds were associated assigned a unique identifying number and associate with the context from which they were recovered.

2.2.7 A previously disturbed inhumation was identified during the mechanical removal of overburden deposits and a buried soil in Trench 8. Upon discovery of the burial an application was submitted to the Ministry of Justice for a burial licence should further remains be identified.

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.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The agricultural use of the site meant that the sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform, comprising natural geology, overlain where present by a shallow subsoil and a layer of ploughsoil. At the eastern edge of the site, a buried soil horizon was identified overlying the natural through which the majority of archaeological features were cutting.

3.2.2 Ground conditions were poor throughout the evaluation. Many of the trenches revealed saturated geology that led to the infiltration of groundwater into the open trenches. These conditions deteriorated during the course of work due to several episodes of heavy rainfall. This led to varying degrees of flooding in many of trenches and ultimately led to a reduction in the level of hand excavation that could be undertaken without unnecessarily damaging the exposed archaeological remains. Archaeological features, however, where present, were easy to identify prior to flooding events.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were limited entirely to the eastern side of the site, in Trenches 8, 9, 17, 18, 19 and 25 (Fig. 3). These remains comprised a dense distribution of features that correlated well with the geophysical survey results indicate intense roadside activity.

3.3.2 No archaeological features were present in Trenches 1-7, 10, 12-16, 20-24, 26 and 29-33.

3.4 Trench 8 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)

3.4.1 Deposits 803 and 804 formed part of the same layer, overlying the natural in the north-eastern half of Trench 8. It survived to its greatest depth at the north-east end, nearest the Wanborough Road, where it measured 0.4m thick. This layer appeared to represent a buried soil horizon, underlying the archaeological activity.

3.4.2 Numerous features were identified along the length of the trench, many of which truncated deposits 803 and 804. Ditch 834 was excavated to a depth of 0.83m but could not be fully exposed (Fig. 7, Section 804; Pl. 2). The bottom of the ditch was identified by augering and indicated a minimum depth of 1.73m. The upper fills comprised a series of clay-rich naturally silted deposits (835, 836 and 838). Deposit 837 was a deliberate dump of charcoal-rich debris. The final upper fill 805 was a dark organic deposit that likely accumulated as adjacent occupation layers were ploughed or washed into the ditch.

3.4.3 Approximately 6.5m to the south-west of ditch 834 was a shallow linear depression, filled with a dark organic deposit and a broadly linear arrangement of limestone stones (813; Fig. 7, Section 805; Pl. 3). The stones survived as a single layer and did not appear to be coursed or arranged in any deliberate manner to suggest they were the remnants of a specific structure.

3.4.4 Ditch 830 was orientated on a north-south alignment, with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, Section 802; Pl. 4). It contained a naturally silted primary fill (829), overlain by an upper fill of dark organic material (821) very similar to 801.

3.4.5 Deposit 801 was a dark organic layer present along the length of the trench, overlying and partially infilling the archaeological features to the north-east of ditch 823. It was particularly rich in charcoal and artefactual material and probably represented a disturbed occupation layer or land horizon. The numerous unexcavated features were largely defined by the presence of this material, which had formed in the top of these features as they settled. An environmental sample recovered from this deposit produced a poor flot providing little insight into the origin of the deposit. The flot comprised mostly modern roots, poorly degraded CPR and possible grain fragments.

3.4.6 During machine excavation of the trench, the partial remains of a human skeleton (SK: 833) were disturbed in the area immediately to the south-west of ditch 830 (Fig. 4). No specific grave cut could be identified in association with the human remains and it appeared to have been previously disturbed at the horizon between the layer 801 and the natural geology 802. The approximate location of the burial is indicated on Fig. 4. The burial was that of a male prime adult (26-35-year-old; Appendix C.4). Although initially re-interred at the point of discovery, at the request of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger the remains were fully recovered.

3.4.7 To the south-west of 823 was a large tree throw (828) and a plough furrow (827).

3.5 Trench 9 (Fig. 4; Pl. 9)

3.5.1 Trench 9 revealed a particularly dense arrangement of ditches and possible pits or postholes. At the western end of the trench was a large north-south aligned boundary formed by ditches 940 and 938. The earliest of the two, ditch 940, had a broad concave profile, at least 2.14m wide and 0.5m deep (Fig. 7, Section 901; Pl. 6). It was filled with a naturally silted sequence of silty clay deposits (947, 946, 945 and 939). Ditch 938 truncated the western edge of ditch 940, re-cutting the same boundary. It had a narrower and steeper, concave profile containing silty clay fills (935 and 934). The boundary formed by these ditches correlates with a large linear geophysical anomaly that appears to form the western limit of the archaeological activity.

3.5.2 Deposit 944 was recorded at the eastern end of the trench and probably represented a continuation of buried soil deposits 803 and 804. Feature 943 was recorded as a possible pit or ditch terminus beneath layer 944, but the relationship between the two was very difficult to discern. The relationship with ditch 941 was more clearly visible, with the ditch truncating the earlier deposit. Ditch 941 had a broad concave profile and naturally silted sequence of silty clay fills (904, 936 and 937) (Fig. 7, Section 900). This ditch clearly formed a boundary that also correlates well with a distinct geophysical anomaly.

3.5.3 Through the centre of the trench were numerous features that were recorded in plan only. As in Trench 8, these were well defined by the accumulation of an occupation layer (901), settling in the tops of the features.

3.6 Trench 17 (Fig. 5; Pl. 7)

3.6.1 Within a sondage excavated towards the north-eastern end of Trench 17, a disturbed occupation horizon was identified (1728; Fig. 8, Section 1700; Pl. 8). It is likely that this was a similar deposit to the buried soil layers in Trenches 8 and 9, but it was less substantial in Trench 17 and apparently more mixed, with artefactual material throughout and diffuse upper and lower horizons. It appeared this layer continued to the south-west as deposits 1721 and 1723. This was overlain by a dark organic layer (1725) that appears to be the same as the occupation layer also identified in the adjacent trenches. Deposit 1725 covered an area at least 16m across in the north-eastern end of the trench.

3.6.2 Ditch 1726 had steep sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 8, Section 1701; Pl. 9). It contained a primary fill of grey silty clay (1727), overlain by 1724, a dark grey brown clay silt that was probably a slumped portion of deposit 1725.

3.6.3 The remaining features to the south-west of ditch 1726 were a combination of ditches, small pits and postholes. These features were only recorded in plan. Feature 1703, situated at the south-west end of the trench, clearly correlates with the large NW-SE aligned geophysical feature interpreted to delineate the edge of the archaeological activity.

3.7 Trench 18 (Fig. 5; Pl. 10)

3.7.1 Ditches 1818, 1815 and 1823 formed a single boundary that defined the south-west extent of the archaeological remains in Trench 18 (Fig. 8, Section 1801; Pl. 11). The full profile of ditch 1818 was not visible due to truncation, but it had moderately steep sides and a concave profile. It contained relatively sterile deposits of slowly accumulated, silty clay (1817, 1816 and 1824). Ditch 1823 had a steep north-eastern edge and broad, flat base. It also contained a relatively sterile sequence of washed in silty clay deposits (1822, 1821 and 1820), with a darker more organic final upper fill (1819). Both ditches 1818 and 1823 were truncated by ditch 1815, which had steep, slightly irregular sides and a concave base. It contained another sequence of naturally silted deposits, with a darker more organic final deposit (1814, 1813 and 1803).

3.7.2 To the north-east of the main boundary ditches were a combination of possible ditches and pits but also residual occupation deposits filling shallow depressions in the natural, for example, deposit 1807 (Fig. 8, Section 1800; Pl. 12).

3.8 Trench 19 (Fig. 6; Pl. 13)

3.8.1 Trench 19 revealed a thick deposit of probable buried soil, 1904 (Fig. 8, Section 1900; Pl. 14). The relationship between ditch 1905 and deposit 1904 was unclear, as the buried soil was very similar to ditch fill 1906. It is most likely that ditch 1905 was cut through 1904 and then its fill was derived from the deposit through which it cut. Post-depositional staining of the deposits also appears to have affected the visibility of ditch 1905.

3.8.2 At the north-west end of the trench was a larger, NW-SE aligned ditch (1907). It was clearly cut through layer 1904, with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 1901; Pl. 15). It had a primary fill of sandy clay (1908), overlain by a dark charcoal-rich deposit (1909). As in the adjacent trenches, this rich upper fill appears to have derived from, and probably was the same deposit as, the remnant occupation layer that formed the surface of the archaeological horizon (1903).

3.8.3 The south-east end of ditch 1907 appeared to be sealed beneath deposit 1903 and truncated by a NE-SW aligned ditch (1919) that corresponds with a geophysical anomaly in the same location.

3.8.4 Ditch 1913 was orientated on a parallel alignment to ditch 1919 and also appears to have been identified by the geophysical survey. Cutting through layer 1904, it had a slightly irregular, steep sided profile, with a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 1903; Pl. 16). It was filled with a sequence of naturally silted clay and silty clay deposits (1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917).

3.8.5 Pit 1910, was a shallow concave feature filled with grey clay (1911), overlain by a dark organic and charcoal-rich deposit (1912) (Fig. 8, Section 1902). It remains unclear if this was a deliberately cut feature or a hollow in the surface of deposit 1904 that subsequently silted up. A second possible pit (1918) was recorded in plan to the north-west.

3.9 Trench 25 (Fig. 6)

3.9.1 Ditch 2503 was partially exposed at the north-east end of the trench on a NW-SE alignment. This correlates with the larger boundary ditch identified by the geophysical survey and also recorded in Trenches 17 and 18.

3.10 Finds summary

3.10.1 Some 396 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 5915g, were recovered from the evaluation. It is possible that pottery groups with date ranges commencing at *c* AD 43 were deposited in the 1st century AD but, given that the assemblage as a whole has a middle and late Roman emphasis, the likelihood of early Roman deposition is low.

3.10.2 A modest assemblage amounting in total to 34 fragments weighing 2080g of ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay was recovered from Trenches 8-9 and 17-19. Included with this are a number of fragments that have been identified as pottery/CBM, as it was not possible to identify them with certainty. The assemblage all appears to be of Roman date. Although fired clay is rarely intrinsically dateable, there are certain characteristics and its association with other Roman material suggests all the material belongs within the Roman period.

3.10.3 There are just two pieces of glass from the evaluation. One fragment came from Trench 17 and the second piece from Trench 19.

3.10.4 The metal finds number 47 (54 frags) and comprise 39 iron objects (46 frags), 5 copper alloy coins, 1 silver siliqua and 1 lead object.

3.10.5 A small assemblage (five pieces) of worked flint of Bronze Age or early Iron Age date was also recovered; however, given the contexts from which they were found, the material is likely residual.

3.10.6 Two stone objects were recovered, a possible fragment of roof tile and a wet stone. Neither object is datable, but both were recovered from contexts that have been dated to the middle-late Roman period.

3.11 Environmental summary

3.11.1 Three bulk samples were collected (one from Trench 8 and two from Trench 19). The samples indicate a good potential for charred material to be preserved on site with charcoal surviving well and assemblages of grain and chaff present but fragmentary.

3.11.2 A sizeable (215 fragments) animal bone assemblage was recovered from Trenches 8, 9, 17, 18 and 19 with the remains in good condition. As is standard for Roman British settlements, the assemblage is dominated by domestic cattle and sheep/goat. Specimens of pig, horse and dog are also present.

3.11.3 Marine shell was also recovered.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The ground conditions were poor throughout the fieldwork due to the amount of groundwater and additional rainfall. It was possible, however, to clean and plan each trench immediately after they were opened and before conditions deteriorated. Therefore, the overall impact of the conditions on the results of the investigation were kept to a minimum.

4.1.2 A difficult aspect of the investigation derived from the ubiquitous nature of the ploughed out occupation layer seen in Trenches 8, 9, 17, 18 and 19. It appears to have been spread across the majority of the settlement and also formed the final phase of silting in almost all of the features. Consequently, it was difficult to confidently differentiate between the remnants of the layer and archaeological features. Some caution should therefore be taken when considering the unexcavated features, particularly those that do not correlate with geophysical anomalies.

4.1.3 Despite the density of activity and associated disturbance, there was a strong correlation between the geophysical survey results and the identified archaeological features. A high level of confidence can therefore be placed in the results of the two types of investigation and the identified extents of the archaeological remains.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 This evaluation has successfully confirmed the results of the geophysical survey by demonstrating that there is was concentration of archaeological activity adjacent to the Wanborough Road. This activity was strictly confined to a narrow strip approximately 50m wide, delimited on the south-west by a ditch defined boundary, as observed in Trenches 8, 9, 17, 18 and 25. Investigation of additional geophysical anomalies to the south-west of this boundary confirmed that these were not archaeological in origin.

4.2.2 The rich assemblage of finds recovered from excavated and unexcavated features and later deposits of overburden has shown that the site was mostly active throughout the middle to late Roman period. None of the context groups dated by pottery is earlier than the 2nd century and nearly half of the total pottery assemblage was dated to the middle Roman period. Nevertheless, both the pottery and metalwork, in particular the coins, indicate that there was a continued presence on the site into the 4th and early 5th centuries.

4.2.3 Although several fragments of roof tile and unworked limestone were identified on the site, no obvious *in situ* structures were revealed during the investigation. Overall, very few postholes were observed and no features relating to industrial activities were exposed. Metalworking slag, however, was frequently encountered, particularly in the vicinity of Trenches 18 and 19, and the CBM recovered does indicate reuse of the material in both domestic and industrial structures.

4.2.4 The presence of a partially articulated human skeleton in the occupation horizon that covers the site is a testament to the complexity of the remains preserved here. Vertical stratigraphy was limited to the plough disturbed occupation horizon or land surface,

present across much of the settlement area, but its survival indicates that very little truncation is likely to have taken place. The cut features were observed surviving up to 1.73m (ditch 834) but were typically between 0.1m and 0.5m deep.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The combination of archaeological and geophysical evidence makes it clear there is intense roadside activity in the area immediately adjacent to the Wanborough Road.

4.3.2 Although the full extent of large ditch 834 was not fully exposed, it is likely that this was a roadside ditch, defining the route of Ermin Street, but also establishing the north-east edge of the archaeological activity. The south-west limit of the activity was also clearly defined by the large recut boundary indicated on the geophysical survey and identified in Trenches 8, 9, 17, 18 and 25.

4.3.3 Considering the intensity of the activity between the two boundary ditches, it is interesting that no significant remains were revealed beyond this to the south-west. This includes a lack of both field systems and drainage ditches that would typically have been associated with agricultural development of the land. It would appear that the low-lying and poorly drained nature of the site had been prohibitive to settlement or even agricultural improvement until the post-medieval period.

4.3.4 The Scheduled Monument that lies partially within the site but extends to the north-west is known to have been occupied from the mid 1st century AD until the mid 4th century (Anderson *et al*. 2001). On the basis of the evidence recovered during these works, the roadside activity recorded appears to date from the 2nd century AD to the 5th century AD, thus slightly later than but broadly contemporary to the settlement. The mixed condition of the pottery assemblage (Appendix B.1.12) and the presence of oven furniture (Appendix B.4.6) but an absence of obvious structures suggests that the bulk of the material culture has accumulated through dumping and redeposition away from core areas of activity. However, Wacher's excavations of *Durocornovium* revealed evidence for buildings with beam slot foundations. While no obvious structures, i.e. stone footings, were identified during these works, the limited level of investigation means that the presence of beams slots within the trenches should not be ruled out. Despite the absence of pottery groups predating the 2nd century the presence of sherds of 1st century AD date may indicate the formation of the enclosures in the first century with later material coming from the focus of activity to the north.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The rich nature of the remains and the level of preservation demonstrate that the site has significant potential. Further investigation and comparison with the adjacent Roman town would be required to determine if and to what extent the activity within the trenches relates to those within the town.

4.4.2 The excavations of *Durocornovium* undertaken by Wacher in the 1960s and 1970s (Anderson *et al*. 2001) identified a series of Insula fronting on to Ermin street which comprised structures separated by metalled streets. This represent a significantly more structured and organised settlement that than indicated by the results of this

evaluation. Recent evaluation works undertaken to the north-east on the opposite side of the Wanborough Road (CA 2020) identified a density of field or boundary ditches and pits. These were interpreted as representing enclosures on the periphery of *Durocornovium* rather than evidence for occupation. The results of Foxbridge Phase 1 evaluation appear to lie between the two sets of results in terms of complexity and significance. the presence of the buried soil, the greater density of archaeological features and artefactual evidence recover suggest the remains identified likely lie on the interface between the main settlement area to the north and the enclosure based activity observed to the east. As such, the archaeological remains identified during the evaluation represent a significant aspect of the development of *Durocornovium*.

4.4.3 Further understanding the difference between the settlement activity to the north and these remains will help inform the understanding of how the town developed. Given the evidence for activity into the early 5th century, the potential for understanding the decline of the settlement is also significant.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer			0.2	Ploughsoil. Mid grey brown clayey silt.		
101	Layer			0.13	Subsoil. Light yellowish grey silty clay		
102	Layer				Natural. Light orange brown silty clay		

Trench 2

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.39

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer			0.19	Ploughsoil. Mid grey brown clayey silt		
201	Layer			0.08	Subsoil. Mid Yellowish grey clayey silt. No inclusions		
202	Layer				Natural. Varies between mid yellowish brown and greyish brown. Clayey silt. No inclusions.		

Trench 3

General description	Orientation	N-S
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.37

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer			0.24	Ploughsoil. Mid grey brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
301	Layer			0.14	Subsoil. Light yellowish grey silty clay. No inclusions		
302	Layer				Natural. Light orange brown silty clay.		

Trench 4							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.					Length (m)		
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.23	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer			0.13	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
401	Layer			0.09	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown. Clayey silt. No inclusions.		
402	Layer				Natural. Light yellowish brown with patches of light greyish brown. Silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 5							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer			0.14	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
501	Layer			0.07	Subsoil. Light greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
502	Layer				Natural. Varies from light yellowish brown to mid greyish brown. Silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 6							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer			0.2	Ploughsoil. Mid grey brown clayey silt.		
601	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Light yellowish grey clayey silt		

602	Layer				Natural. Light orange brown silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 7

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.38

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer			0.2	Ploughsoil. Mid grey brown clayey silt with no inclusions.		
701	Layer			0.18	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with no inclusions.		
702	Layer				Natural. Varies from light yellowish brown to light greyish brown. Clayey silt. No inclusions.		

Trench 8

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
A dense concentration of linear features and possible pits, cut through a preserved soil horizon. Archaeological features sealed by an occupation layer, subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer			0.2	Ploughsoil. Dark brownish grey clay silt.		
801	Layer			0.2	Occupation Layer. Dark grey clay silt. Possible midden material.		
802	Layer				Natural. Mixed light brown and grey clay.		
803	Layer			0.16	Buried soil. Buried soil horizon. Mixed, light green grey sandy clay.	Pot, Metal	AD 300-410
804	Layer			0.4	Buried soil. Same as 803. Mixed, light green grey, silty clay.		
805	Fill	834		0.41	Tertiary Fill. Dark grey clay silt	Pot, CBM, Flint	AD 240-410
806	Unexcavated feature		1.44		Pit. Dark grey, clay silt.		
807	Unexcavated feature		0.88		Pit. Dark grey, clay silt.		
808	Unexcavated feature		0.39		Ditch. Dark grey, clay silt.		

809	Unexcavated feature		1.8		Pit. Dark grey, clay silt.		
810	Unexcavated feature		0.7		Pit. Dark grey, clay silt.		
811	Unexcavated feature		1.03		Pit. Dark grey, clay silt.		
812	Unexcavated feature		0.39		Pit. Dark grey, clay silt.		
813	Layer		0.6	0.08	Other Layer. Stone filled linear depression. Dark grey, clay silt.		
814	Layer				Occupation Layer. same as 801		
815	Layer				Occupation Layer. Same 801.		
816	Unexcavated feature		0.63		Pit. Possible pit or posthole. Dark grey, clay silt.		
817	Unexcavated feature		0.54		Pit. Possible pit or posthole. Dark grey, clay silt.		
818	Unexcavated feature		2.46		Ditch. Dark grey, clay silt.		
819	Unexcavated feature		0.93		Pit. Dark grey, clay silt.		
820	Layer			1.18	Occupation Layer. Same as 801. Dark grey clay silt.	Pot	AD 150-200
821	Fill	830	0.4	0.25	Secondary Fill. Dark grey, clay silt.	Pot, metal	AD 43-410
822	Unexcavated feature		0.62		Ditch. Dark grey, clay silt.		
823	Unexcavated feature		4.4		Ditch. Dark grey, clay silt.	Metal	
824	Unexcavated feature		0.99		Pit. Dark grey, clay silt.		
825	Fill	828		0.15	Secondary Fill. Yellow brown, clay silt.	Pot	AD 43-410
826	Fill	827	2	0.16	Secondary Fill. Yellow grey brown, clay silt.		
827	Cut		2	0.16	Plough Furrow		
828	Cut		2	0.15	Tree Throw		
829	Fill	830		0.4	Primary Fill. dark yellow brown, silty clay.	Pot, Flint	AD 43-410
830	Cut		1.2	0.4	Ditch		
832	Layer			0.17	Subsoil. Greyish brown, silty clay		
833	Fill				Skeleton.		

834	Cut		1.52	0.83	Ditch. Not fully excavated. Augured to additional 0.9m deep.		
835	Fill	834		0.18	Secondary Fill. Mixed light brown and grey clay		
836	Fill	834		0.44	Secondary Fill. Mid grey clay	Pot	AD 120-180
837	Fill	834		0.02	Other Fill. Charcoal lens of dumped material.		
838	Fill	834		0.4	Secondary Fill. Mixed light yellow brown and mid grey silty clay		
839	Layer			0.11	Subsoil. Mid to dark brown clay silt.		

Trench 9

General description	Orientation	E-W
Trench revealed numerous linear ditches, mainly on NW-SE or SW-NE alignments with two larger ditches orientated N-S. Several pits, postholes and small gullies were also located.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer			0.2	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate stones		
901	Layer			0.25	Occupation Layer. Mid to dark grey sandy silt with occasional stones		
902	Layer				Natural. yellow brown and grey brown silty clay (floodplain alluvial deposit)		
903	Unexcavated feature		0.5		Ditch. mid grey silty clay	Pot, metal	AD 150-400
904	Fill	941	1.9	0.35	Secondary Fill. Mid grey silty clay fill of NW/SE aligned ditch	Pot	AD 340-410
905	Unexcavated feature		0.7		Ditch. Dark grey silty clay with occ. stones/pot on surface the fill of SW/NE aligned ditch	Metal	
906	Unexcavated feature		0.3		Ring Gully. Grey brown silty clay fill of possible gully or beamslot?		
907	Unexcavated feature		1.5		Pit. Dark grey brown silty clay with occ stone frags fill of pit (maybe more than one feature)	Metal	

908	Unexcavated feature		1.2		Pit. Mixed grey brown and mid grey silty clay fill of sub rectangular pit cut	Pot	AD 160-240
909	Unexcavated feature		1		Ditch. Mid to dark grey silty clay fill of NW/SE aligned linear ditch truncated by 908		
910	Unexcavated feature		0.7		Ditch. Dark grey silty clay with frequent animal bone / occ pot fill of ditch on NW/SE alignment	Pot, CBM	AD 140-240
911	Unexcavated feature		0.6		Ditch. Mid to dark grey silty clay fill of possible linear (or pit)		
912	Unexcavated feature		1.5		Ditch. Mid grey silty clay fill of linear on a c. N/S alignment		
913	Unexcavated feature		1.05		Ditch. Dark grey silty clay	Pot, metal	AD 120-240
914	Unexcavated feature		0.35		Ring Gully. Light to mid greyish brown silty clay fill of possible ring gully feature not fully exposed		
915	Unexcavated feature		1.4		Pit. Mid to dark grey silty clay fill of sub ovoid pit cut	Pot, CBM	AD 43-410
916	Unexcavated feature		1.45		Pit. Mid grey brown silty clay fill of pit	Pot	AD 120-200
917	Unexcavated feature		0.4		Posthole. Mid grey brown silty clay		
918	Unexcavated feature		0.7		Ditch. Mid to dark grey silty clay fill of linear parallel to 919 on SW/NE alignment	Pot	AD 160-400
919	Unexcavated feature		0.55		Ditch. Mid to dark grey silty clay fill of linear on SW/NE alignment parallel to 918	Pot	AD 270-410
920	Unexcavated feature		1.2		Pit. Light to mid grey brown silty clay fill of ovoid pit cut		
921	Unexcavated feature		0.7		Pit. Light to mid grey brown silty clay fill of pit or posthole		
922	Unexcavated feature		1.1		Ditch. Mid grey brown silty clay fill of N/S linear		
923	Unexcavated feature		4.9		Ditch. Mid grey silty clay fill of large N/S linear	Pot, CBM	AD 140-240
924	Unexcavated feature		1		Ditch. Mid grey silty clay fill of linear on NW/SE alignment	CBM	
925	Unexcavated feature		1.3		Ditch. Light to mid grey silty clay fill of NE/SW linear		

926	Unexcavated feature		0.5		Ditch. Mixed grey brown and light to mid grey silty clay fill of NE/SW linear		
927	Unexcavated feature		0.5		Ditch. Dark grey silty clay fill of NW/SE linear	CBM	
928	Unexcavated feature		0.8		Pit. Mid grey brown silty clay fill of pit/posthole		
929	Layer		3	0.16	Occupation Layer. Mid to dark grey silty clay layer slumped into top of extensive c. N/S linear ditch 938 that runs parallel to 923	Pot, metal, CBM	AD 240-300
930	Unexcavated feature		2.2		Pit. Light to mid grey silty clay fill of possible pit (may however just be a variation in natural)		
931	Unexcavated feature		0.6		Pit. Light to mid grey silty clay fill of possible pit (may however just be a variation in natural)		
932	Unexcavated feature		1		Pit. Mid to dark grey silty clay fill of poorly defined feature that was not fully exposed		
933	Unexcavated feature		0.7		Pit. Mid grey silty clay fill of truncated feature cut by 903 and 904 function unknown		
934	Fill	938	1.56	0.3	Secondary Fill. mid grey silty clay fill of linear	Pot, Flint	AD 43-410
935	Fill	938	1.7	0.26	Secondary Fill. Mid brown grey silty clay fill of linear		
936	Fill	941	1.72	0.22	Secondary Fill. Yellow brown silty clay.	Pot, Flint	AD 250-400
937	Fill	941	2	0.08	Secondary Fill. Yellow brown silty clay.		
938	Cut		1.9	0.56	Ditch. N/S linear ditch cut		
939	Fill	938	0.9	0.26	Secondary Fill. Dark grey silty clay fill of linear		
940	Cut		2.04	0.5	Ditch. N/S linear ditch cut		
941	Cut		2.14	0.62	Ditch. Linear ditch cut NE/SW		
942	Fill	943	0.4	0.2	Secondary Fill. mixed fill of linear		
943	Cut		0.4	0.2	Ditch. probable linear but not fully exposed continued beyond limits of trench		
944	Layer		1	0.2	Occupation Layer. possible occupation layer or subsoil horizon that sealed cut 943		

					n.b width is extent of sondage only		
945	Fill	940	1.5	0.22	Secondary Fill. mid grey silty clay		
946	Fill	940	1.2	0.3	Secondary Fill. mid brownish grey silty clay fill of linear		
947	Fill	940	1.14	0.22	Primary Fill. light to mid brownish grey silty clay fill of linear		

Trench 10

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	42
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.26

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer			0.18	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt with no inclusions.		
1001	Layer			0.08	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
1002	Layer				Natural. Varies from light to mid yellowish brown. Silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 11

General description	Orientation	
	Length (m)	
	Width (m)	
	Avg. depth (m)	

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

Trench 12

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.25

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer			0.16	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions .		
1201	Layer			0.11	Subsoil. Light greyish brown. Clayey silt. No inclusions.		

1202	Layer				Natural. Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 13

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.29

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer			0.21	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
1301	Layer			0.09	Subsoil. Light greyish brown. Clayey silt. No inclusions.		
1302	Layer				Natural. Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 14

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.31

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer			0.21	Ploughsoil. Mid grey brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
1401	Layer			0.13	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt.		
1402	Layer				Natural. Mid orange brown silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 15

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.32

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer			0.19	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown. Clayey silt. No inclusions.		
1501	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown. Clayey silt. No inclusions.		

1502	Layer				Natural. Light yellowish brown. Silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 16

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and plough soil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.33

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer			0.23	Ploughsoil. Mid grey brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
1601	Layer			0.13	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown clayey silt.		
1602	Layer				Natural. Mid orange brown silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 17

General description	Orientation	SW-NE
Dense concentration of archaeological features cutting through a possible buried soil horizon and sealed by an occupation layer. Overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.34

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer			0.2	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown clayey silt. No inclusions.	Pot, metal, CBM	
1701	Layer			0.13	Subsoil. Mid brown clayey silt.		
1702	Layer				Natural. Light orange brown silty clay.		
1703	Unexcavated feature		3.8		Ditch. NW-SE Boundary ditch. Dark black brown clayey silt.	Metal	
1704	Unexcavated feature		0.8		Ditch. NW-SE ditch, cut by land drain. Mid orange brown clayey silt.		
1705	Unexcavated feature		0.85		Ditch. W-E ditch. Mid grey brown clayey silt.		
1706	Unexcavated feature		0.7		Pit. Pit. Mid grey brown clayey silt.		
1707	Unexcavated feature		1.1		Pit. Pit. Mid grey brown clayey silt.		
1708	Unexcavated feature		0.4		Posthole. Posthole. Mid grey brown clayey silt		
1709	Unexcavated feature		0.25		Posthole. Posthole. Mid grey brown clayey silt.		

1710	Unexcavated feature		0.36		Posthole. Posthole. Mid grey brown clayey silt.		
1711	Unexcavated feature		2.5		Ditch. W-E ditch, cut by land drain on same alignment. Mid brown clayey silt.		
1712	Unexcavated feature		4		Pit. Large pit. Mid grey brown with light yellowish grey clayey silt.		
1713	Unexcavated feature		0.6		Pit. Pit. Mid grey brown clayey silt.		
1714	Unexcavated feature		0.77		Pit. Pit. Mid grey brown clayey silt.		
1715	Unexcavated feature		0.42		Pit. Pit. Mid grey brown clayey silt.		
1716	Unexcavated feature		0.28		Posthole. Posthole. Dark grey brown clayey silt.		
1717	Unexcavated feature		0.75		Ditch. NW-SE ditch. Light grey brown clayey silt.		
1718	Unexcavated feature		1.1		Ditch. NW-SE ditch. Dark grey brown clayey silt.		
1719	Unexcavated feature		1.16		Ditch. NW-SE ditch. Light yellowish grey clayey silt.		
1720	Unexcavated feature		1.24		Ditch. NW-SE ditch. Dark grey brown clayey silt.		
1721	Layer		1.3		Midden Deposit. Mixed midden deposit. Light yellowish grey clayey silt.		
1722	Unexcavated feature		1.5		Ditch. NW-SE ditch. Dark grey brown clayey silt.		
1723	Layer		1.4		Midden Deposit. Mixed midden deposit. Light yellowish grey clayey silt.		
1724	Fill	1726	1.52	0.16	Secondary Fill. Dark grey brown clay silt.	Pot, metal, CBM, Stone	AD 240-410
1725	Layer		16.5	0.2	Occupation Layer. Dark grey brown clayey silt.	Pot, metal, CBM	AD 180-200
1726	Cut		1.1	0.37	Ditch		
1727	Fill	1726		0.24	Secondary Fill. Grey silty clay fill with infrequent charcoal	Pot	AD 240-410
1728	Layer			0.2	Other Layer. Possible midden deposit/occupation layer. Light yellow grey clay silt.	Pot, glass, metal, CBM	AD 150-200
Trench 18							

General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil. Dense area of archaeology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.41
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer			0.18	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.	Pot, CBM	AD 300-410
1801	Layer			0.09	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
1802	Layer				Natural. Light yellowish brown silty clay. No inclusions.		
1803	Unexcavated feature		4.36		Ditch. Mid grey silty clay.	Pot, metal, CBM	AD 240-410
1804	Unexcavated feature		1.04		Pit. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.	Pot, metal	AD 240-410
1805	Unexcavated feature		1.41		Pit. Varies from light grey to mid grey clayey silt.		
1806	Unexcavated feature		0.61		Pit. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt.		
1807	Layer		4.45		Midden Deposit. Light greyish brown clayey silt. May also be a series of interconnecting features however hard to distinguish.	Pot, CBM	AD 120-410
1808	Unexcavated feature		2.45		Ditch. Mid grey clayey silt.		
1809	Unexcavated feature		2.3		Ditch. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt.		
1810	Layer		4.89		Midden Deposit. Mid yellowish brown clayey silt.		
1811	Cut		2.58	0.1	Other Cut. Shallow hollow		
1812	Fill	1811		0.1	Other Fill. Light yellow grey, clay silt		
1813	Fill	1815		0.34	Secondary Fill. Yellow grey brown, silty clay	Pot	AD 120-410
1814	Fill	1815		0.37	Primary Fill. Light yellow green, silty clay		
1815	Cut		1.8	0.8	Ditch		
1816	Fill	1818		0.28	Secondary Fill. Grey brown, clay silt		
1817	Fill	1818		0.42	Primary Fill. Greyish yellow, silty clay.		

1818	Cut		1.8	0.8	Ditch		
1819	Fill	1823		0.14	Secondary Fill. dark grey brown, clay silt	Pot	AD 100-410
1820	Fill	1823		0.35	Deliberate Backfill. Mixed, yellow brown silty clay		
1821	Fill	1823		0.4	Secondary Fill. Greenish grey brown, clay silt.		
1822	Fill	1823		0.42	Primary Fill. Yellow, green grey, silty clay.		
1823	Cut		1.7	0.65	Ditch		
1824	Fill	1818		0.18	Secondary Fill. Dark grey green, clay silt.		

Trench 19

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Dense concentration of archaeological features cutting through a possible buried soil horizon and sealed by an occupation layer. Overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	47
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer			0.2	Ploughsoil. Mid brown, clay silt		
1901	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Mid to dark grey, clay silt.		
1902	Layer				Natural. Light yellow grey clay.		
1903	Layer			0.16	Occupation Layer. Dark grey brown, silty clay.	Metal, CBM	
1904	Layer			0.25	Buried soil. Dark green grey, silty clay.	Pot, CBM	AD 120-200
1905	Cut		0.2	0.12	Ditch		
1906	Fill	1905		0.2	Secondary Fill. Dark green grey, silty clay	Pot	AD 160-200
1907	Cut				Ditch		
1908	Fill	1907			Secondary Fill. Green grey, sandy clay	Pot, glass, CBM	AD 200-300
1909	Fill	1907		0.26	Secondary Fill. Dark grey, clay silt.	Pot, metal, CBM, Stone	AD 240-300
1910	Cut		0.84	0.17	Pit		
1911	Fill	1910			Secondary Fill. Grey clay basal fill		

1912	Fill	1910			Secondary Fill. Dark grey clay silt with charcoal inclusions		
1913	Cut		1.56	0.8	Ditch. Boundary Ditch		
1914	Fill	1913			Secondary Fill. Yellow/grey clay redeposited natural		
1915	Fill	1913			Secondary Fill. Mixed, yellow grey clay.		
1916	Fill	1913			Secondary Fill. Mid to dark grey, silty clay.	Pot, metal, CBM	AD 240-410
1917	Fill	1913			Secondary Fill. Light brown-grey, silty clay.		
1918	Unexcavated feature		1.49		Pit. Dark grey, clay silt.		
1919	Unexcavated feature		0.84		Ditch. Mixed dark grey and light grey, clay silt and clay.		

Trench 20

General description	Orientation	E-W
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.26

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer			0.16	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.		
2001	Layer			0.1	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown clayey silt.		
2002	Layer				Natural. Varies from light yellowish brown to light greyish brown. Silty clay. Patches of light grey silty clay.		

Trench 21

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.25

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer			0.16	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.		
2101	Layer			0.09	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown clayey silt.		
2102	Layer				Natural. Light yellowish brown silty clay.		

Trench 22							
General description					Orientation	W-E	
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2200	Layer			0.22	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
2201	Layer			0.16	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt.		
2202	Layer				Natural. Light orange brown silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 23							
General description					Orientation	W-E	
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer			0.23	Ploughsoil. Dark grey brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
2301	Layer			0.13	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt.		
2302	Layer				Natural. Light orange brown silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 24							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer			0.23	Ploughsoil. Mid grey brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
2401	Layer			0.13	Subsoil. Light yellowish grey clayey silt.		
2402	Layer				Natural. Light orange brown silty clay. No inclusions.		

Trench 25		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Single ditch partially exposed at northeast end. Natural geology overlain by subsoil and plough soil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.33

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer			0.12	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.		
2501	Layer			0.11	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown clayey silt.		
2502	Layer				Natural. Varies from light yellowish brown to light greyish brown. Silty clay.		
2503	Unexcavated feature		1.35		Ditch. Boundary ditch. Dark grey clay silt.		

Trench 26

General description	Orientation	W-E
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.36

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer			0.24	Ploughsoil. Mid grey brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
2601	Layer			0.1	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt.		
2602	Layer				Natural. Mid orange brown silty clay.		

Trench 27

General description	Orientation	
Trench no opened.	Length (m)	
	Width (m)	
	Avg. depth (m)	

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

Trench 28

General description	Orientation	
Trench not opened.	Length (m)	
	Width (m)	
	Avg. depth (m)	

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

Trench 29

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8

					Avg. depth (m)	0.26	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer			0.12	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
2901	Layer			0.06	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
2902	Layer				Natural. Varies from light yellowish brown to light greyish brown. Silty clay. No inclusions.		
Trench 30							
General description					Orientation	N-S	
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer			0.18	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.		
3001	Layer			0.08	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown. Clayey silt.		
3002	Layer				Natural. Light yellowish brown silty clay.		
Trench 31							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.41	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3100	Layer			0.19	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
3101	Layer			0.22	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
3102	Layer				Natural. Varies between light and mid yellowish brown silty clay. Patches of light grey silty clay. No inclusions.		
Trench 32							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	

Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.25	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer			0.16	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
3201	Layer			0.07	Subsoil. Light greyish brown. No inclusions.		
3202	Layer				Natural. Varies between light yellowish brown and mid greyish brown. Silty clay. No inclusions.		
Trench 33							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Natural geology overlain by subsoil and ploughsoil.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.2	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer			0.1	Ploughsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
3301	Layer			0.1	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown clayey silt. No inclusions.		
3302	Layer				Natural. Light yellowish brown silty clay. No inclusions.		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

B.1.1 Some 396 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 5915g, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, provide spot dates and generally characterise the material. Pottery fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording guidelines (Booth nd) and correlated where possible with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC; Tomber and Dore 1998). Forms identified by rim were given codes from OA's system, supplemented where possible by coding from relevant industry-wide or regional typologies (Gillam 1957; Webster 1996; Young 1977).

B.1.2 Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight (g), and any rims present were additionally quantified by vessel count (MV), based on rims, and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), which measures the percentage of rim circumference that survives (thus, 0.3 equals 30%). The total was 5.72 EVEs from 69 vessels identified by rim. Pottery data by context is provided in Table 1.

B.1.3 The following fabrics were noted (NRFRC codes in brackets):

- A11 South Spanish amphora fabric (BAT AM 1/2)
- C10 Unsourced shell-tempered wares
- C11 Late shell-tempered ware (HAR SH)
- B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1)
- F43 Central Gaulish 'Rhenish' ware (CNG BS)
- F51 Oxford red/brown colour-coated ware (OXF RS)
- F52 Nene Valley colour-coated ware (LNV CC)
- F60 Unsourced red/brown colour-coated wares
- M22 Oxford white ware mortarium fabric (OXF WH)
- M32 South-west white slipped ware mortarium fabric (SOW WS)
- M41 Oxford red/brown colour-coated ware mortarium fabric (OXF RS)
- O10 Unsourced fine oxidised wares
- O20 Unsourced sandy oxidised wares
- O30 North Wiltshire oxidised ware
- O80 Coarse tempered oxidised wares
- O81 Pink grogged ware (PNK GT)
- Q22 South-west white slipped ware (SOW WS)
- R10 Unsourced fine reduced wares
- R20 Unsourced sandy reduced wares
- R30 Unsourced medium sand-tempered reduced wares
- R35 North Wiltshire sandy reduced ware
- R90 Coarse tempered reduced wares
- R95 Savernake grog-tempered ware (SAV GT)

- S Unsourced samian wares
- S30 Central Gaulish samian ware (LEZ SA 2)
- S40 East Gaulish samian ware
- W10 Unsourced fine white wares
- W12 Oxford fine white ware (OXF WH)
- W20 Unsourced sandy white wares

B.1.4 In addition, the following forms were identified by rim:

- C Jar
- CK 'Cooking-pot'-type jar
- CM Wide-mouthed jar
- E Beaker
- EC Bag-shaped beaker
- EH 'Jar-beaker'
- FA Hemispherical cup
- FC Conical cup
- GB Handled mug
- H Bowl
- HA Carinated bowl
- HB 420 Straight-sided bowl with 'incipient' bead and flange
- HB 440 Straight-sided bowl with dropped flange
- HC Curving-sided bowl
- I Bowl or jar
- I 410 Bowl or dish with flanged rim
- IB 410 Curving-sided bowl or dish with flanged rim
- JB Curving-sided dish
- JB 110 Plain-rimmed curving-sided dish
- JB 220 Curving-sided dish with groove below plain rim
- K Mortarium
- KD Wall-sided mortarium
- KE Mortarium with tall bead and stubby flange

Description

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	MV	EVE	Description	Spot-date
803	13	634	2	0.26	B11 (JB 110, 0.23 EVE); F51 (HC, Young C71, 0.03 EVE); body sherds A11, F60, Q22, R20, S30/S40 (?Drag. 31R), W12, W20	AD 300-410
805	21	427	5	0.32	B11 (IA 410, 0.05 EVE); B11 (JB 110, arc decoration, 0.03 EVE); B11 (JB 110, arc decoration, 0.03 EVE, possibly same vessel as last); M32 (KE, 0.03 EVE); R30 (C, 0.18 EVE); body sherds A11, F51, R35, R95, S30	AD 240-410
820	1	233	0	0	Body sherd R95	AD 43-200

820	5	136	4	0.46	B11 (JB 110, arc decoration, 0.16 EVE); B11 (JB 110, 0.15 EVE); S30 (FC, Drag. 33, 0.06 EVE); S30 (JB, Drag. 31, 0.09 EVE); body sherd R35	AD 150-200
821	4	62	0	0	Body sherds R30	AD 43-410
825	1	27	0	0	Body sherd R35	AD 43-410
829	1	100	0	0	Body sherd R90	AD 43-410
836	8	135	3	0.38	B11 (EH, 0.16 EVE); B11 (GB, handle scar, 0.14 EVE); F60 (EC, 0.08 EVE); body sherds O10, R30	AD 120-180
903	1	92	0	0	Body sherd O81	AD 150-400
904	6	63	2	0.18	B11 (CK, 0.08 EVE); F51 (JB, Young C45, 0.1 EVE); body sherds F51 (HC-type bowl with stamped decoration), R30	AD 340-410
908	1	94	1	0.1	M32 (KA, 0.1 EVE)	AD 160-240
910	1	6	0	0	Body sherd S40	AD 140-240
913	1	7	0	0	Body sherd S30/S40 (?rouletted dish)	AD 120-240
915	2	7	0	0	Body sherds O30, R20	AD 43-410
916	5	46	1	0.1	B11 (IB 410, 0.1 EVE); body sherds O30, R35	AD 120-200
918	2	47	0	0	Body and base sherds O80, Q22	AD 160-400
919	2	34	1	0.02	B11 (HB 440, 0.02 EVE)	AD 270-410
923	4	39	0	0	Body sherds A11, R30, S30/S40, S40	AD 140-240
929	11	81	3	0.16	B11 (HB 420, 0.1 EVE); B11 (JB 110, 0.02 EVE); F51 (JB, Young C49, 0.04 EVE); body sherds F52, O10 (indented beaker)	AD 240-300
934	5	96	0	0	Body sherds O80, R35	AD 43-410
936	2	96	1	0.28	C11 (CK, rilled and with burnt deposit on shoulder, 0.28 EVE)	AD 250-400
1700	9	123	3	0.28	S30 (HC, ?Drag. 37, 0.05 EVE); S30/S40 (FC, O&PLV13, 0.13 EVE); R30 (C, 0.1 EVE); body and base sherds B11, M41, F51, R30 (handle)	AD 270-410
1724	31	490	6	0.33	B11 (JB 110, 0.03 EVE); B11 (JB 110, 0.01 EVE); R30 (C, 0.06 EVE); S30 (FC, O&PLV13 – large example, 0.05 EVE); S (JB, Drag. 18/31OR31, 0.03 EVE); W11 (HA, Young P24, 0.15 EVE); body and base sherds O10, B11, F51, R35	AD 240-410
1725	66	536	5	0.51	B11 (CK, 0.1 EVE); M22 (KD, Young M13, blackening on rim, 0.1 EVE); R20 (C, 0.06 EVE); R20 (C, 0.1 EVE); R35 (E/C, 0.15 EVE); body and base sherds A11, C10, O30, R35, R90, S30 (Drag. 33, internal ring of wear on base; sherd from decorated vessel), W12	AD 180-200
1728	70	534	12	0.99	B11 (IB 410, 0.11 EVE); B11 (JB 110, 0.06 EVE); B11 (JB 110, 0.05 EVE); B11 (JB 220, 0.03 EVE); B11 (CK, 0.08 EVE);	AD 150-200

					O80 (C, 0.1 EVE); O80 (C, 0.03 EVE); R10 (EH, 0.15 EVE); R20 (C, 0.1 EVE); R30 (C, 0.05 EVE); R30 (I 410, 0.05 EVE); S30 (JB, Drag. 31, 0.18 EVE); body and base sherds O10, O20, O30, R35, W10, W12	
1727	3	77	0	0	Body and base sherds B11, F51, M22	AD 240-410
1800	1	23	1	0.07	M41 (KE, Young C100, 0.07 EVE)	AD 300-410
1803	4	65	0	0	Body sherds F51 (base of dish or bowl, internal blackening), O30	AD 240-410
1804	7	136	1	0.05	M22 (K, 0.05 EVE); body and base sherds F51 (base of dish or bowl), O10, R35, R90	AD 240-410
1807	6	32	0	0	Body sherds B11, O30, R10, R30, R35	AD 120-410
1813	4	4	0	0	Body sherds S30/S30	AD 120-240
1819	2	17	1	0.02	F51/O11 (I, 0.02); body sherd O20	AD 100-410
1904	4	160	1	0.04	B11 (JB 220, fine lattice, Gillam 318, 0.04 EVE); body sherds R35, R95	AD 120-200
1906	13	248	4	0.38	R30 (CM, 0.15 EVE); S30 (FA, Drag. 35, worn across internal surface of base, 0.14 EVE); S (I, 0.03 EVE); S30 (JB, Drag. 31OR31R, 0.06 EVE); body and base sherds B11, F60, O30, Q22, R35	AD 160-200
1908	5	106	2	0.15	B11 (HB 420 arc decoration, Gillam 227, 0.11 EVE); B11 (JB 110, 0.04 EVE); base sherd S30 (footring fragment of Drag. 18/31R or 31R)	AD 200-300
1909	71	865	10	0.64	B11 (CK, 0.1 EVE); B11 (CK, 0.01 EVE); B11 (CK, 0.12 EVE); B11 (JB 110, 0.1 EVE); B11 (JB 110, 0.03 EVE); B11 (HB 420 arc decoration, Gillam 227, 0.08 EVE); M22 (KE, ?Young M17, 0.05 EVE); O30 (?H, 0.04 EVE); R35 (E, 0.06 EVE); S30 (JB, Drag. 36, 0.05 EVE); body sherds F43 (indented), Q22, R30, R90, S30 (Drag. 31R with repair hole, Drag. 33)	AD 240-300
1916	3	37	0	0	Body sherds M41, R30	AD 240-410
Total	396	5915	69	5.72		

Table 1: Summary and quantification of the pottery by context

B.1.5 No context group is dated earlier than the 2nd century AD. It is possible that pottery groups with date ranges commencing at *c* AD 43 were deposited in the 1st century AD but, given that the assemblage as a whole has a middle and late Roman emphasis, the likelihood of early Roman deposition is low.

B.1.6 Forty-six percent of pottery by sherd count was recovered from context groups dated by the pottery to the middle Roman period (*c* AD 120-240/50). Most groups were confined to the 2nd century AD and none was dated exclusively to the first half of the 3rd century AD. The pottery was collected from Trenches 8, 9, 17, 18 and 19.

B.1.7 Pottery diagnostic of the period included plain-rimmed, groove-rimmed and flanged dishes in black-burnished ware (B11), mortaria in south-west white-slipped ware (M32) and Oxford white ware (M22), samian from Central and East Gaul (S30 and S40) and olive oil amphorae from southern Spain (A11). Other wares characteristic of the period but not found in middle Roman groups include Savernake ware (R95) and Central Gaulish 'Rhenish' ware (F43).

B.1.8 Pottery from context groups spot dated to the late Roman period (*c* AD 240/50-410) similarly accounted for 46% of the assemblage by sherd count. Groups recovered from Trenches 8, 9, 17, 18 and 19 were dated largely by the presence of Oxford red/brown colour-coated ware (F51), which was available as dishes, bowls and mortaria, with the date being supported in some groups by dropped flange dishes in fabric B11, mortaria in fabric M32, a 'cooking-pot' in late Roman shelly ware (C11), Nene Valley ware (F52), and a bowl in Oxford parchment ware (W11). The presence of samian wares and amphorae fabrics indicates that a proportion of the pottery from late Roman groups (samian accounted for 12% of the assemblage by EVE) was residual.

B.1.9 Of the remaining groups, context 1908 contained a black-burnished ware bowl with a shallow groove, or 'incipient' bead, in the flange and was dated to the 3rd century AD. Several small groups from Trenches 8, 9 and 18 contained undiagnostic pottery and were dated generally to the Roman period or the middle/late Roman period.

B.1.10 Overall, pottery deposition occurred mainly from the 2nd century onwards. Samian ware was relatively common, but the absence of South Gaulish samian and typically early samian forms, such as the Drag. 27 cup and Drag. 18/31 dish, suggests that the site did not receive much, if any, samian until *c* AD 150, which offers a start date for the sequence of deposition. The latest Oxford products included a mortarium with a tall bead and angular flange (Young 1977, type C100), which dates to the 4th century AD, and a bowl with stamped decoration (the precise form is uncertain), which is likely to have been deposited after *c* AD 340.

B.1.11 Overall, the assemblage was in moderately good condition. The mean sherd weight (MSW; weight divided by sherd count) is 15g, while the range of MSW values per context is from 1g to 233g. Together, these values are characteristic of an assemblage with a mixture of both large and small fragments. The mean rim percentage (EVE divided by MV) is 0.08 EVE or 8%, which is more characteristic of a poorly preserved assemblage.

B.1.12 The mixed condition of the assemblage and factors such as the proportion of residual pottery in late Roman groups suggest that the assemblage was deposited away from core areas of use and initial discard and that groups had undergone episodes of disturbance or relocation before final deposition. The constricted date range of the assemblage, with no indication of early Roman activity, however, suggests that the pottery derived from a discrete area of settlement that was equally chronologically restricted.

B.1.13 The area of evaluation is located to the south and south-east of the Roman roadside settlement of Wanborough, often identified as *Durocornovium*. The pottery recovered from the evaluation is consistent with material typically collected from such settlements, including as it does a relatively high proportion of table wares and

continental imports (including decorated samian vessels); the proportion of samian within the assemblage, 9% by EVE, compares well with proportions typically seen in assemblages from minor civil centres (Willis 2005, table 27). A diverse range of sources is also represented. Apart from the continental supply, pottery arrived from the Nene Valley, Dorset, the Oxford region, the Stowe area in north Buckinghamshire and the South Midlands, in addition to more local sources in Wiltshire. This points to a settlement with good trading connections.

B.1.14 The assemblage offers a good range of evidence for vessel use. Several samian vessels showed evidence of use-wear. A Drag. 33 cup, for example, had a ring of wear around the edge of the internal surface of the base, while another cup, a Drag. 35, had extensive wear across the base. Such wear patterns are characteristic of the forms (Biddulph 2008). Another samian vessel, a Drag. 31 dish, had a repair hole. A jar in fabric C11 had burnt deposits on the shoulder and had clearly been used as a cooking jar, while blackening, possibly providing further evidence for uses involving heat, was recorded on Oxford fabrics F51 and M22.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.1.15 The pottery reported on here has the potential to inform future research through re-analysis and thus it is recommended that all the pottery is retained. This follows the advice set out in the 'Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016).

B.2 Glass

By Ian R Scott

B.2.1 There are just two pieces of glass from the evaluation. One fragment came from Trench 17 and the second piece from Trench 19.

B.2.2 The glass from Trench 17 is a sherd probably from a Roman square bottle in blue green glass. Square bottles were in used from the Claudian invasion until the end of the 2nd century.

B.2.3 The glass from Trench 19 is a rim sherd in pale blue green glass and possibly from a beaker or perhaps less likely from a flask. The rim is fire polished and there are signs of horizontal abraded lines. It is not closely dated.

Trench 17	
Context 1728	Bottle. Sherd probably from the base of a square bottle of blue green glass. Very likely to be Roman. Sf 22.
Trench 19	
Context 1908	Beaker? Out-turned fire polished rim sherd (D: c 60mm) in pale blue green glass with horizontal abraded lines. Roman

Table 2: Glass finds register

B.3 Metals

By Ian R Scott

B.3.1 The metal finds number 47 (54 frags) and comprise 39 iron objects (46 frags), 5 copper alloy coins, 1 silver coin and 1 lead object. There is also a piece of possible slag (Table 3).

	fe		ca		ag		pb		(fe)		Totals	
Function	Count	Frags	Count	Frags	Count	Frags	Count	Frags	Count	Frags	Count	Frags
Coin			5	5	1	1					**6**	**6**
Tools	1	1									**1**	**1**
Writing	1	1									**1**	**1**
Footwear	6	6									**6**	**6**
Household	2	2					1	1			**3**	**3**
Structural	2	2									**2**	**2**
Nails	14	21									**14**	**21**
Miscellaneous	8	8									**8**	**8**
Query	4	4									**4**	**4**
Waste	1	1							1	1	**2**	**2**
Totals	**39**	**46**	**5**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**47**	**54**

Table 3: Summary Quantification by Metal and Object Function

B.3.2 The finds were recovered from just five trenches: 8, 9, 17, 18 and 19.

B.3.3 Trench 8 produced 1 whittle tang knife of Roman type, 5 nails, 1 hobnail, 1 lead rivet or ceramic plug, and 4 later Roman coins. These comprise three copper-alloy coins and one small silver siliqua. (Total = 12). The silver siliqua is marked VIRTVS ROMANORVM which are not struck before AD 379. The coin is heavily clipped, a practice not believed to have occurred before the early 5th century and is thought to be a particular feature of the reign of Constantine III (AD 407-411)

B.3.4 Trench 9 produced 4 nails and 1 nail stem fragment, 1 hobnail and a small piece of iron strip. (Total = 7)

B.3.5 Trench 17 produced 2 later Roman copper-alloy coins, 1 nail and 6 nail stem fragments, 1 boot clamp, 7 pieces of miscellaneous metalwork and 1 piece of possible slag. (Total = 18)

B.3.6 Trench 18 produced 1 Roman stylus, 2 nails, 1 U-staple, 1 hobnail, 1 piece of metal strip and 3 unidentified iron fragments. (Total = 8)

Trench 8		
Context 803	(1)	Nail, slightly domed oval head. Fe. Sf 29.
Context 820	(2)	Hobnail. Fe. Sf 11
	(3)	Lead rivet, ceramic repair. Pb. Sf 12
	(4)	Coin, cu alloy, poorly struck. Late Roman. D: 19 x 17mm. Sf 10.
Context 821	(5)	Nail with small or eroded head? Fe. L: 49mm.
	(6)	Nail, Manning Type 1, complete. Slightly domed head. Fe. L: 100mm. Sf 7
	(7)	Knife. Whittle tanged knife of distinctive form with back strongly curved down to point and with concave curved cutting edge. The blade has a

		dropped edge and tang continues the line of the back of the blade. Possibly a pruning knife. Fe. L: 160mm. SF 8
	(8)	Nail, small flat head and tapered square section stem. L: 65mm. Sf 9
Context 823	(9)	Nail, small flat head, incomplete. Fe. Sf 4
	(10)	Coin, small silver, late Roman. D: 11mm. Sf 3
	(11)	Coin, small cu alloy, late Roman. D: 14 x 15mm. Sf 5
	(12)	Coin, small cu alloy, late Roman. D: 13 x 14mm. Sf 6
	Total	12 finds including 4 coins (1 silver, 3 cu alloy) (Total 12)
Trench 9		
Context 903	(13)	Nail, Manning Type 1, incomplete. Slightly domed head. SF 30
Context 905	(14)	Hobnail, worn or eroded head. Fe. Sf 14
	(15)	Nail stem fragment or thin bar. Fe. Sf 13
Context 907	(16)	Nail, small flat head, incomplete. Sf 15
Context 913	(17)	Nail, Manning Type 1, almost complete, tip missing. Fe. L: 97mm.
Context 929	(18)	Nail with untapered square section stem with almost blunt tip. Nailed through a fragment of iron sheet? Fe. L: 58mm. Probably recent?
	(19)	Strip, thick but narrow fragment. Fe. 35mm x 14mm x 7mm.
	Total	6 finds, plus 1 nail stem fragment (Total 7)
Trench 17		
Context 1700	(20)	Coin, small cu alloy, late Roman. D: 13.5 x 14.5mm. Sf 1
Context 1703	(21)	Coin, cu alloy, late Roman. D: 22 x 21.5mm. Sf 17
Context 1724	(22)	Thin strip fragment, width varies a little between 22mm and 26mm. Fe. L: 120mm; Th: 2mm.
	(23)	Slag? L-shaped fragment of possible slag (non-magnetic).
	(24)	Flat fragment, small of fe.14mm x 19mm. Sf 16
	(25)	Sheet or plate, triangular fragment. Fe. 30mm x 23mm. Sf 16
	(26)	Tapered fragment of rectangular section (10mm x 9mm). Fe. L: 34mm. SF 16
	(27)	Boot clamp, with oval plate. Fe. L: 34mm; W: 19mm. Sf 16
Context 1725	(28)	Tapered fragment, of almost square section at wide (broken) end (16mm x 15mm) Tapers to a rounded point. Possibly the broken tip of a tool? Fe. L: 42mm. Sf 2
	(29-31)	Nails, 3 x stem fragments? Fe. Sf 21
	(32)	Sheet or plate, small irregular fragment. Fe. 24mm x 13mm. Sf 21
	(33)	Lump, irregular. Fe. Sf 21
	(34)	Nail stem fragment. Fe. Sf 25
Context 1728	(35)	Nail stem fragment or tapered bar. Fe. Sf 23
	(36)	Nail stem fragment. Fe. Sf 24
	(37)	Nail, Manning Type 1, small. Fe. L: 38mm. Sf 26
	Total	12 finds, including 2 coins (cu alloy) plus 6 nail stem fragments (Total 18)
Trench 18		
Context 1803	(38)	U-staple, hand forged. Fe. L: 47mm.
	(39)	Narrow strip, fragment. Fe. L: 44mm.
	(40)	Stylus, Manning Type III. The point is missing. Fe. L: 80mm.
Context 1804	(41)	Nail, slightly domed oval head, incomplete stem. Fe.
	(42)	Hobnail. Fe.
	(43)	Staple fragment. Only one end survives. Fe.

	(44-45)	Fragments (x 2). Fe.
	(46)	Nail slightly domed near circular head, incomplete stem. Fe. Sf 18
	Total	7 finds plus 2 unidentified fragments (Total 9)
Trench 19		
Context 1903	(47)	Hobnail. Fe.
	(48)	Nail, flat near circular head, incomplete stem. Fe. Sf 19
	(49)	Knife with whittle tang, and an almost straight back continuing the line of the tang. Deep blade with dropped edge and curved cutting edge. Manning Type 12 (Manning 1985, 114, ply 54, Q42. Fe. L: 120mm; blade W: 42mm. Sf 20
Context 1909	(50)	Bucket handle mount, incomplete, with rolled over loop for the bucket handle and single extant nail hole. The mount would have been longer with further nail holes. Fe. L: 69mm; W; 29mm.
	(51)	Possible knife blade fragment, tapered fragment of triangular section, possibly the tip of blade. Fe. L extant: 46mm; W: 20mm.
	(52)	Narrow strip fragment varying between 9mm and as little as 5 mm in width. Fe. L: 48mm. Sf 27
	(53)	Large nail, with flat oval head and square section tapered stem. Stem bent at a right angle. Fe. L: 120mm. Sf 28
Context 1916	(54)	Hobnail. Fe. Sample <3>
	Total	8 finds (Total 8)

Table 4: Finds Register of metal finds

B.4 Fired clay and ceramic building material

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

B.4.1 A modest assemblage amounting in total to 34 fragments weighing 2080g of ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay was recovered from Trenches 8-9 and 17-19. Included with this are a number of fragments that have been identified as pottery/CBM, as it was not possible to identify them with certainty. The assemblage all appears to be of Roman date. Although fired clay is rarely intrinsically dateable, there are certain characteristics and its association with other Roman material suggests all the material belongs within the Roman period. The assemblage has been spot dated and recorded on an Excel file, which forms part of the archive and is summarised in the table below.

Ceramic building material

B.4.2 The CBM amounts to 12 fragments weighing 1834g and includes examples of the most common Roman forms of tegula, imbrex and brick. The majority had smooth even surfaces and a neat regular finish. Tegula was identified in two cases, though only one had the flange surviving. The flange had a slightly rounded profile with angled inner edge measuring 25mm wide at its base but tapering to 17mm at the top and with an external height of 40mm. The tiles measured 15mm and 18mm thick. Three other examples of flat tile may also be fragments of tegula. Two imbrex end fragments had

more uneven undulating surfaces than the tegulae and were quite thick measuring 18mm and 20mm (one increasing to 25mm at the edge). Three fragments of brick had smooth upper surface but rougher edges and bases with knife trimming on one base. Only one had a complete thickness of 39mm increasing to 45mm at the edge.

B.4.3 The tile was made in two closely related fabrics, occurring in roughly equal numbers. Fabric E1 is a pinkish red or salmon coloured fine sandy clay matrix streaked with cream laminations. Fabric E2 is a red-orange fine sandy silty micaceous clay containing small cream marl or calcareous grits and red iron oxide inclusions. These both appear to be equivalent to Wanborough Fabric group F (Darvill 2001, 318-9), which it has been suggested may originate from the Highworth area 8km to the north of the site. The only piece to differ from this was one in a light orange fabric containing a very high density of fine sand and a scatter or orange-red ?tile grog.

B.4.4 A group of nine small fragments (177g) either flat or slightly curved have been classified as pottery/CBM. It was not immediately apparent to which category they should be assigned. They measure 14-24mm thick and have smooth surfaces, though on two the underside/inside appears worn. These are made in a distinctive pinkish red or pinkish orange fabric with pale grey, buff or cream surfaces and which contain medium quartz sand, red iron oxide and frequent buff-pink rounded fine sandy grog or very fine sandstone grits 1-5mm. It is thought likely that, if larger fragments are found from further excavation of the area, these will in fact prove to be fragments of coarse large storage jars rather than tile and may then possibly be more closely dateable within the Roman period.

Fired clay

B.4.5 A small quantity of fired clay amounting to 12 fragments (67g) consisted largely of indeterminate fragments. Nearly all was made in an orange, red, buff or brown sandy clay containing quartz sand, frequent shell or limestone grits, generally less than 5mm in size and occasional iron or haematite inclusions up to 8mm. In one unusual exception, the cream inclusions were broken fragments of sandy lime mortar. Only one fragment contained no limestone or shell inclusions.

B.4.6 Most pieces of fired clay had a single smooth flat or slightly dished, well finished surface and measured from 9-23mm thick. The quality of finish suggests that in most cases the fragments derived from some form of portable oven or hearth furniture. One piece with a somewhat rougher finish had the hint of a lip to an edge or perforation. One fragment had a rounded groove on the back surface, possible the impression of a wattle 13mm in diameter and therefore is the only piece that probably had a structural function within an oven.

Mortar

B.4.7 A single small amorphous fragment of opus signinum/mortar was found in the surface of the fill of unexcavated ditch 923. It was a pale pink-cream lime mortar containing high density of aggregate, including coarse opaque quartz sand, limestone or lime balls, and a high density of broken subangular red and grey tile grit from sand size - 6mm.

Conclusions

B.4.8 All the material is of Roman date but cannot be more closely dated within the Roman period. Nearly all the tile exhibits some degree of burning from small patches to the whole surface and of varying intensities. It is probable that the tile was obtained for reuse in the construction of ovens, hearths or corn dryers, probably recycled from masonry buildings in the small town of Wanborough subject to refurbishment or demolition. There appears to be a clear preference for flat tile – either brick or tegula — which would be most suitable for such use.

B.4.9 This is complemented by the fired clay, which, as far as can be judged from the meagre fragments, consisted predominantly of portable oven or hearth furniture. The single fragment with a possible wattle impression points to the possibility of double chambered ovens or kilns in use, as wattles possibly formed the supports for the suspended floor in a double chambered oven or for the drying floor of a crop processing oven.

Ctx	Spot Date	Nos	Wt g	Material	Fabric	Form
805	RB	1	49	CBM	E1	Flat tile
910	RB	1	5	CBM /Pot	Sandy grog	Flat
915	RB	1	52	CBM	E2	Imbrex
915	RB	2	1	FC	SH	Indeterminate
923	RB	1	2	BM	M/Op.sig.	Indeterminate
923	IA-RB	1	20	FC	SH	Furniture with lip of perforation?
924	RB	1	29	CBM /Pot	Sandy grog	Curved
927	RB	1	7	FC	SH	Portable Furniture?
929	RB	3	26	CBM /Pot	Sandy grog	Flat
929	RB	1	168	CBM	E1	Tegula
1700	RB	1	59	CBM	E2	Tegula
1724	RB	1	101	CBM	E2	Brick
1724	RB	1	4	FC	SH	Utilised
1724	RB	1	10	CBM /Pot	Sandy grog	Flat
1725	RB	1	103	CBM	G	Flat tile/?tegula
1725	RB	1	5	FC	SH	Utilised
1728	RB	3	21	FC	LS	Utilised
1800	RB	1	70	CBM /Pot	Sandy grog	flat/very slightly curving
1803	RB	1	9	CBM /Pot	Sandy grog	Flat
1803	RB	2	5	FC	SH	Utilised
1807	RB	1	4	FC	Q	Structural: ?wattle
1903	RB	1	9	CBM	E?	Indeterminate
1904	RB	1	276	CBM	E2	Brick
1908	RB	1	84	CBM	E2	Imbrex
1909	RB	1	28	CBM /Pot	Sandy grog	Curved
1916	RB	1	924	CBM	E1	Brick
1916	RB	1	2	CBM	E1	Indeterminate
1916	RB	1	7	CBM (sieving)	E1	Flat

Table 5: Summary of CBM and fired clay assemblage

B.5 Struck flint

By Tom Lawrence

Introduction

B.5.1 A small assemblage of one natural and four struck flints were recovered from this evaluation. They are likely to be late Bronze Age or early Iron Age in date. The assemblage was catalogued according to OA's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Bradley 1999; Allen *et al*. 2013), general condition was noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment, additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication) and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al*. 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982) and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

B.5.2 Trench 8 contained two flints. A single end scraper was found in ditch 834. This scraper was poorly made with ad hoc retouch on a squat flake. These attributes suggest it is late Bronze Age or early Iron Age in date. A utilised natural flake was found in ditch 830. Utilised natural flint is common in late Bronze Age and early Iron Age assemblages.

B.5.3 Trench 9 contained three flints from ditch 938 – a flake, a chip and a tested nodule. The flake was made from the same material as the utilised natural piece in Trench 8. The tested nodule was made from the same material as the end scraper. Large, squat flakes were removed from this piece, indicative of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age debitage technology. Possible cresting along one edge may have been an attempt to form a roughout for a core tool.

Context	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
805	End Scraper	Preparation Flake	Small, squat flake. Unimodal flaking pattern. Ad hoc irregular retouch. damaged	Later Prehistoric
829	Natural		Possible utilised natural flake.	
934	Flake	Preparation Flake	Small squat flake. Damaged	
936	Chip			
936	Tested Nodule		Same material as the end scraper. Several squat removals. Possible attempt at cresting for roughout?	

Table 6: Flint catalogue

B.5.4 The size of the assemblage and its condition limit the interpretation of the material. This assemblage is likely to be late Bronze Age or early Iron Age in date due to its squat and ad hoc nature. Due to significant damage on some pieces, the assemblage may be classed as residual.

B.5.5 The flints from this evaluation should be retained and fully integrated into any future analysis arising from further investigation on the site or the local area.

B.6 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Introduction

B.6.1 A total of two pieces of stone were retained and submitted for analysis. These were examined with a x10 magnification hand lens for signs of use. The stone comprises one piece of grey siltstone (25g, 1909), which is not obviously utilised but could be a small fragment of roofing, and a fragment of thin flat micaceous grey sandstone (41g, 1724) which is smoothed on one side and could be part of a larger object such as a whetstone. It is not dateable.

B.6.2 The possible whetstone should be retained. The fragment of possible roofing (1909) can be discarded.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Richard Palmer

Introduction

C.1.1 Three bulk samples were collected from the evaluation at Foxbridge, Swindon, primarily for the retrieval and assessment of charred plant remains (CPR) and the recovery of bones and artefacts.

Method

C.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety at OA 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 and with the aid of a magnet, 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.

Results

C.1.3 Table 7 presents details of the assessed flots.

Trench 8

C.1.4 Sample 1 is from fill 837 of ditch 834. All recovered charred material was less than 4mm in size. The flot is dominated by sedges (Cyperaceae), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and grass seeds. A single wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) is also present. Seed preservation is good and there is potential for further identification work. Freshwater molluscs, primarily *Planorbis planorbis*, are also present in the flot. Bone and pottery were recovered from the residue.

C.1.5 Sample 4 was recovered from layer 801 during the Phase 2 evaluation works (OA 2021a). The flot is mostly modern roots and the CPR consists of a highly degraded, unquantified possible grain fragment. Charcoal fragments are highly vitrified and coal like and further identification will not be possible. Pottery, bone and iron was extracted from the residue

Trench 19

C.1.6 Sample 2 is from buried soil 1904, which is spot dated as Roman. Charred material preservation is variable with charcoal in good condition. Recovered grain is highly fragmentary and this hindered further identification. Additionally, recovered chaff is damaged and fragmentary causing a loss of diagnostic features. Freshwater molluscs, mainly *Bithynia tentaculata* are also present. Pottery was recovered from the residue.

C.1.7 Sample 3 is from fill 1916 of ditch 1913, which has a Roman spot date. Charcoal is in good condition with several fragments >4mm in size. All other charred material is damaged or fragmentary, but a wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) was identified. The mollusc assemblage is a mix of land and freshwater species with both *Discus rotundatus* (land)

and *Planorbis planorbis* (freshwater) being identified. Bone, pottery and iron were among the materials recovered from the residue.

Discussion

C.1.8 The samples indicate a good potential for the recovery of charred material on site. Material preservation appears variable though the poor condition of the material from Trench 19 may not be indicative of preservation across the entire site and is more likely due to the pre-depositional history of the material from Samples 2 and 3.

C.1.9 The presence of freshwater molluscs suggests the features experienced periods of dampness, though no waterlogged material is present. The quantities of recovered molluscs were not large, but a dedicated sampling strategy should be considered if further significant deposits are present.

Recommendations

C.1.10 In general, if further excavation is carried out, it is recommended that sampling should take place, ideally from a range of features across the site. This sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (Historic England 2011).

C.1.11 The flots warrant retention until all works on the site are complete, although at this stage it is not expected that further work will be required on the material.

Sample no.	Context no.	Area/Trench	Feature/Deposit	Date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other	Notes
1	837	Tr. 8	834		30	30	++	+		+++	+++		2.5Y silty clay loam. Some modern roots.
2	1904	Tr. 19	1904	RB	40	40	+++	++	++	+	++		2.5Y 4/2 silty clay loam. Frequent modern roots.
3	1916	Tr. 19	1913	RB	40	40	+++	+	++	+	++		2.5Y 4/2 silty clay loam. Some modern roots.
4	801	Tr. 8	801		28	50	+				+		10YR 4/2 sandy silt loam, 90% roots

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

Table 7: Assessment of Bulk Sample Flots

C.2 Shell

By Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

C.2.1 Marine shell in fair or good condition, weighing 312g in total, was recovered by hand and from the residue of one sieved soil samples. Details are provided in Table 8, below. Illustrations of bristleworm (*Polydora ciliata* (Johnston)) tunnels are given in Winder (2011).

Conclusions

C.2.2 Beyond demonstrating that seafood was eaten in the vicinity of the Roman town of *Durocornovium*, and presumably purchased in the town market, interpretation is limited by the small numbers of shells.

Context	Sample	Weight (g)	Oyster Right valve	Oyster left valve	Other shell	Notes
803		50	2			Medium size, rounded hinges, no epibonts or encrustations. Opening notches on both valves.
805		74		1		Fairly large,triangular hinge, no epibonts or encrustations
820		38		1		Fairly large, triangular hinge, possible *Polydora ciliata* tunnelling
1724		65	1	1		Valves are incomplete. Left valve is heavy/thick with large triangular hinge and surface flaking. Possible *P. ciliata* tunnelling.
1726		13			2 mussel	Also frags of oyster
1807		13	1			Small-medium valve, rounded hinge and orange staining to exterior surface.
1909		52	1	3		Medium-sized valves with small rounded, triangular and angled hinges. No epibonts or encrustations
1919	3	6		1		Fragment. Fairly large, angled hinge.

Table 8: Catalogue of Shell by Context

Recommendations for Retention/Dispersal

C.2.3 The shells have been recorded and as a small and largely hand collected assemblage have fairly minimal research value and are not recommended for retention in the archive.

C.3 Animal bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

C.3.1 A total of 215 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site (Table 9), most of which were collected by hand. Environmental sample were also taken and were sieved at 10mm, 4mm, 2mm and 0.5mm fractions. Features on the site were dated on the basis of associated ceramic finds (seriation), mostly to the Roman period.

C.3.2 The material was assessed on a context level basis in line with current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019), ie no material has yet been recorded in full.

C.3.3 Taxonomy follows Wilson and Reeder (2005) for mammals and Gill and Donsker (2019) for birds. The word 'caprine' is used when referring to an animal that may be a sheep or a goat.

Description

C.3.4 Preservation on the site was moderate to good, with most bags of finds being typified by stage 3 weathering on the Behrensmeyer scale, which measures surface preservation (Behrensmeyer 1978).

C.3.5 The assemblage is dominated by domestic cattle (Bos taurus taurus) caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goat [*Capra hircus*]) specimens, with pig (*Sus domesticus*), horse (*Equus caballus*) and dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) also present (Table9). There is good potential for ageing and biometric data contained in the assemblage, with domestic cattle having 16 specimens that could provide ageing estimates, either through epiphyseal fusion data or mandibular wear stage (Table10). Evidence for butchery practice, as well as pathological evidence, is more scarce, but several of the specimens have been gnawed by canids (Table 11) suggesting that dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) played some role in the taphonomy of the site.

Conclusions

C.3.6 Roman assemblages are often dominated by domestic cattle and caprines, so this assemblage fits that pattern. The size and condition of the assemblage, though, suggest that it holds high potential for a large assemblage, which could aid our understanding of the economy in the region at this time.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

C.3.7 The assemblage should be considered a priority for retention, at least until such time as it can be combined with material recovered from future phases of the excavation

	AD 43-410	AD 100-410	AD 120-200	AD 150-200	AD 160-400	AD 180-200	AD 200-300	AD 240-300	AD 240-410	AD 250-400	AD 270-410	AD 300-410	AD 340-410	sieved	Undated
Bos taurus taurus	**4**					**1**		**3**	**7**	**9**	**1**	**2**			**10**
Ovis aries/Capra hircus	**5**		**1**			**5**		**2**	**5**	**1**	**1**				**5**
Sus scrofa domesticus								**3**	1						1
Equus caballus		**1**						1			**1**		**1**		**4**
Canis familiaris									**2**						
Total Mammal	9	1	1	0	0	6	0	9	15	10	3	2	1	0	20
Bufo bufo/Rana temporaria														**4**	
Total Amphibian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Total NISP	9	1	1	0	0	6	0	9	15	10	3	2	1	4	20
Total NSP	17	1	1	3	1	18	2	25	38	56	7	4	5	4	33

Table 9: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period from hand-collected material from the site.

	Butchery marks	Ageing	Biometric data	Sex
domestic cattle	1	16	1	
caprine		1		
Pig		3		
Horse		3	2	
Total	1	23	3	0

Table 10: Non-species data recorded from the specimens (NSP) in the assemblage.

Gnawed	Pathologies	Burnt
9	1	0

Table 11: Contexts containing gnawed, pathological or burned specimens.

C.4 Human skeletal remains

By Lauren McIntyre

Introduction

C.4.1 The remains of one heavily disturbed articulated inhumation burial (833) were recovered. No grave cut or fill were discernible, but the remains appeared to have been disturbed prior to this evaluation, at the horizon between the occupation layer 801 and the natural geology 802. The remains were provisionally dated to the Roman period.

Methodology

C.4.2 Skeleton 833 was recorded on site. When osteological recording was complete, the bones were reburied in Trench 8, as close to the site of discovery as practicable.

C.4.3 Recording of the human bone was undertaken with reference to Brickley and McKinley (2004) and Mitchell and Brickley (2017). The skeleton was assessed in terms of bone surface condition (Grade 0-5+, after McKinley 2004, 16), completeness (0-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100%) and fragmentation ('low', <25% of the skeleton fragmented, 'medium', 25-75% of the skeleton fragmented, or 'high', >75% fragmented). Age and sex were estimated using relevant standards (Lovejoy *et al.* 1985; Bass 1987; Chamberlain 1994; Schwartz 1995). Standard metrical analysis was carried out and stature was calculated using regression equations devised by Trotter and Gleser (1952) and revised by Trotter (1970). It was not possible to calculate cranial or platycnemic (tibial) indices for the skeleton, though it was possible to calculate the platymeric (femoral) index (Brothwell 1981, 90-1). The presence/absence of non-metric traits was scored for with reference to Berry and Berry (1967) and Finnegan (1978). Pathological lesions were recorded with reference to standard texts (eg Aufderheide and Rodríguez-Martín 1998; Buikstra 2019).

Results

C.4.4 The results are summarised below. Full osteological data are recorded in the archive.

C.4.5 Skeleton 833 was approximately 20% complete. Fragments of bone from the right arm and hand, torso, pelvis, and left and right legs were present. Bone surface condition was scored as grade 1 (slight and patchy surface erosion; McKinley 2004, 16) and fragmentation was medium. Considering all these observations together, the overall preservation of the skeleton was recorded as ‘good’.

C.4.6 The age of the skeleton was estimated as prime adult (26-35 years), based upon the auricular surface of the pelvis (Lovejoy *et al*. 1985). Sex was estimated as possible male. Only two pelvic indicators were present, the sciatic notch, which was in keeping with a female individual (grade 2; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994, 19), and the sacral ala, which was more in keeping with a male individual (Schwartz 1995). Measurements were taken to determine the maximum width of the femoral heads, and these were also more in keeping with a male individual (Bass 1987; Chamberlain 1994).

C.4.7 Stature was estimated at 171.37cm (5 feet 7 inches), based upon the maximum length of the left femur (Trotter and Gleser 1952; Trotter 1970). The platymeric (femoral) index was calculated at 84.82, which falls into the platymeric classification (where the index is calculated at less than 84.9; Brothwell 1981, 90). This indicates that the femoral shaft was broad or flat in shape (from front to back).

C.4.8 No evidence of non-metric traits or the dentition was observed.

C.4.9 One unidentified thoracic vertebral body exhibited a Schmorl's node. Schmorl's nodes are visible as indentations on the superior or inferior surfaces of vertebral bodies, with the lesions representing sites of herniation in the intervertebral disc material through the vertebral body end plates (Rogers 2000, 169-70). These are likely to form as a result of a combination of activity related stresses placed on the vertebrae and intervertebral disc, and developmental factors associated with vertebral formation and growth in early life (Dar *et al*. 2010, 675).

Summary and Conclusion

C.4.10 Data collection in general (and hence interpretation) was somewhat hindered by the level of incompleteness. The remains examined for this study comprise one prime adult possible male individual exhibiting evidence for spinal joint disease. Stature was slightly higher than the male average for the Roman period (169 cm; Roberts and Cox 2003, 163). The Platymeric index score was consistent with other Romano-British populations. Over time, the femoral shaft has become more rounded, with earlier British populations being more likely to exhibit flattening (Brothwell 1981, 88-9; Waldron 2007, 46). The reason for this is not clear, although it has been postulated that this may be an adaptive response to increased mechanical stress as a result of physical activity, although habitual squatting and vitamin and mineral deficiency have also been cited as potentially influencing femoral shaft shape (Brothwell 1981, 88-9; Waldron 2007, 46).

C.4.11 Sufficient osteological data has been obtained from the human skeletal remains. If further burials are recovered from the site in the future, the assemblage detailed in this report should be considered as part of the wider burial landscape, with a review of similar burials in type and date, within the Wiltshire region.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name:	Foxbridge Swindon
Site code:	SOX19
Grid Reference	SU 19827 84476
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	28th Oct to 8th Nov 2019 – Two weeks
Area of Site	40ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford and will be deposited with the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery in due course, under the following accession number: SWIMG.2019.162.
Summary of Results:	Between 28th October and 8th November 2019, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation on the site of a proposed mixed development at Foxbridge, Swindon. The proposed works comprised the excavation of 59 trenches targeting the results of a geophysical survey. Due to ground conditions and access constraints, only 31 of the proposed trenches were excavated during these works. The remaining trenches are to be completed at a later date and the results reported on separately. The 31 trenches were located in the northern half of the proposed development area and included five trenches targeted on geophysical anomalies provisionally interpreted as the continuation of *Durocornovium* Roman Town, a Scheduled Monument located to the north of and partially within the site. Archaeological remains consistent with Roman roadside activity were identified within these five trenches. The remains comprised rectilinear enclosures, pits and a couple of postholes but no *in situ* structural remains were identified. The activity is contained within a 50m wide strip that runs parallel to the Wanborough Road, which forms the eastern site boundary, and is delimited to the west by a large enclosure ditch. Features of potential archaeological origin investigated to the west of this ditch were demonstrated to be of geological origin. The finds assemblage comprises 396 sherds of Roman pottery, ceramic building material, glass and metal objects, worked flint, animal bone and stone. The assemblage suggests the activity within the site occurred predominately in the middle Roman period with none of the contexts dated to earlier than the 2nd century. The pottery assemblage, however, does contain sherds dating to the late Roman period suggesting activity within the site

continued into the 4th and early 5th centuries. This is supported by the metalwork assemblage which includes six late Roman coins. Although no *in situ* building remains were present, several fragments of roof tile and unworked limestone were recovered and suggest the presence of structures within the vicinity. Similarly, the recovery of metal working slag suggests industrial activities occurred within the area, but no evidence was recorded within the trenches. A single inhumation was identified, and although heavily disturbed and believed to be that of an adult male.

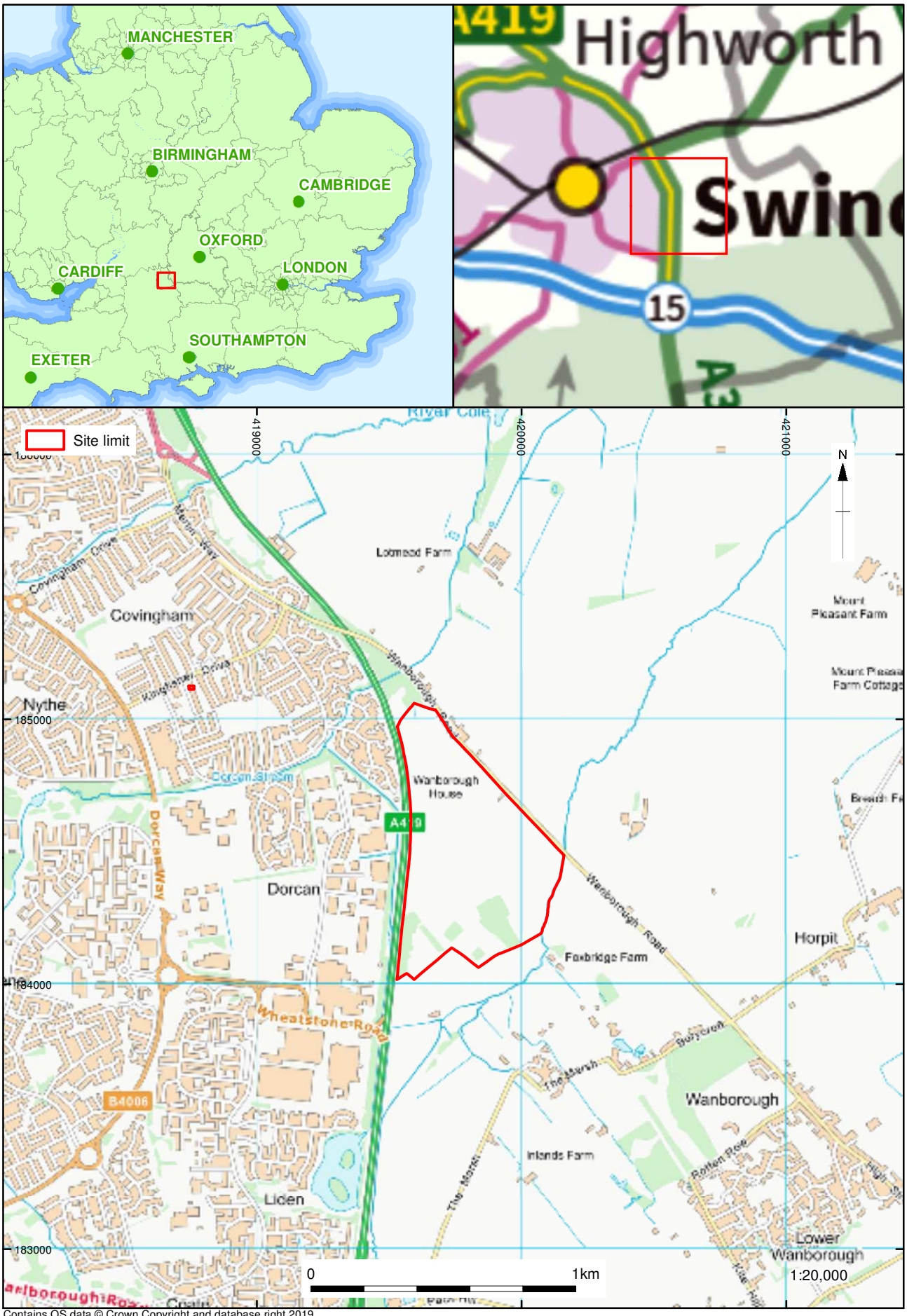

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Figure 1: Site location

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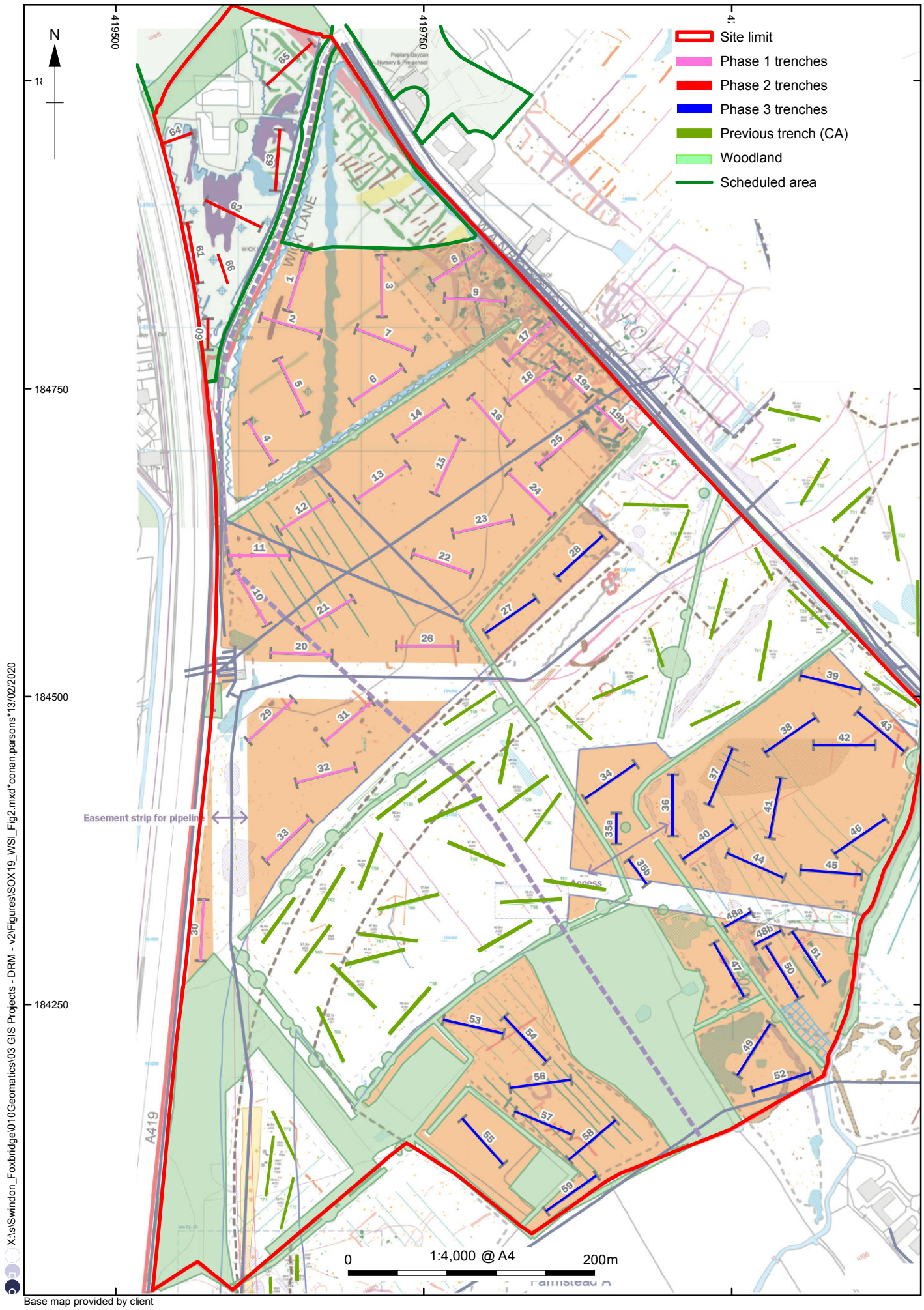

Figure 2: Trench locations and geophysical survey results

Figure 3: Archaeological remains in Trenches 8, 9, 17, 18, 19 and 25

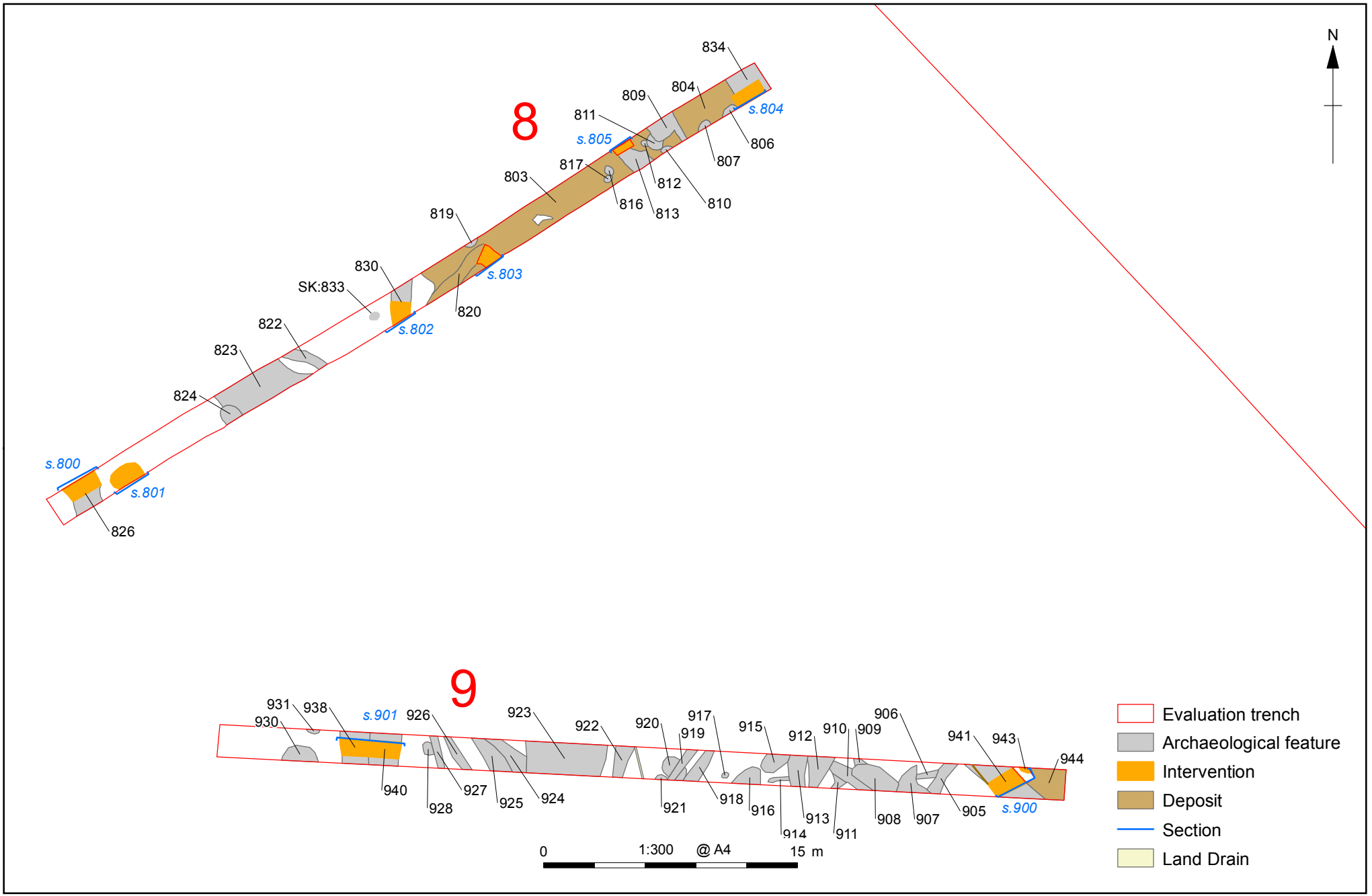

Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trenches 8 & 9

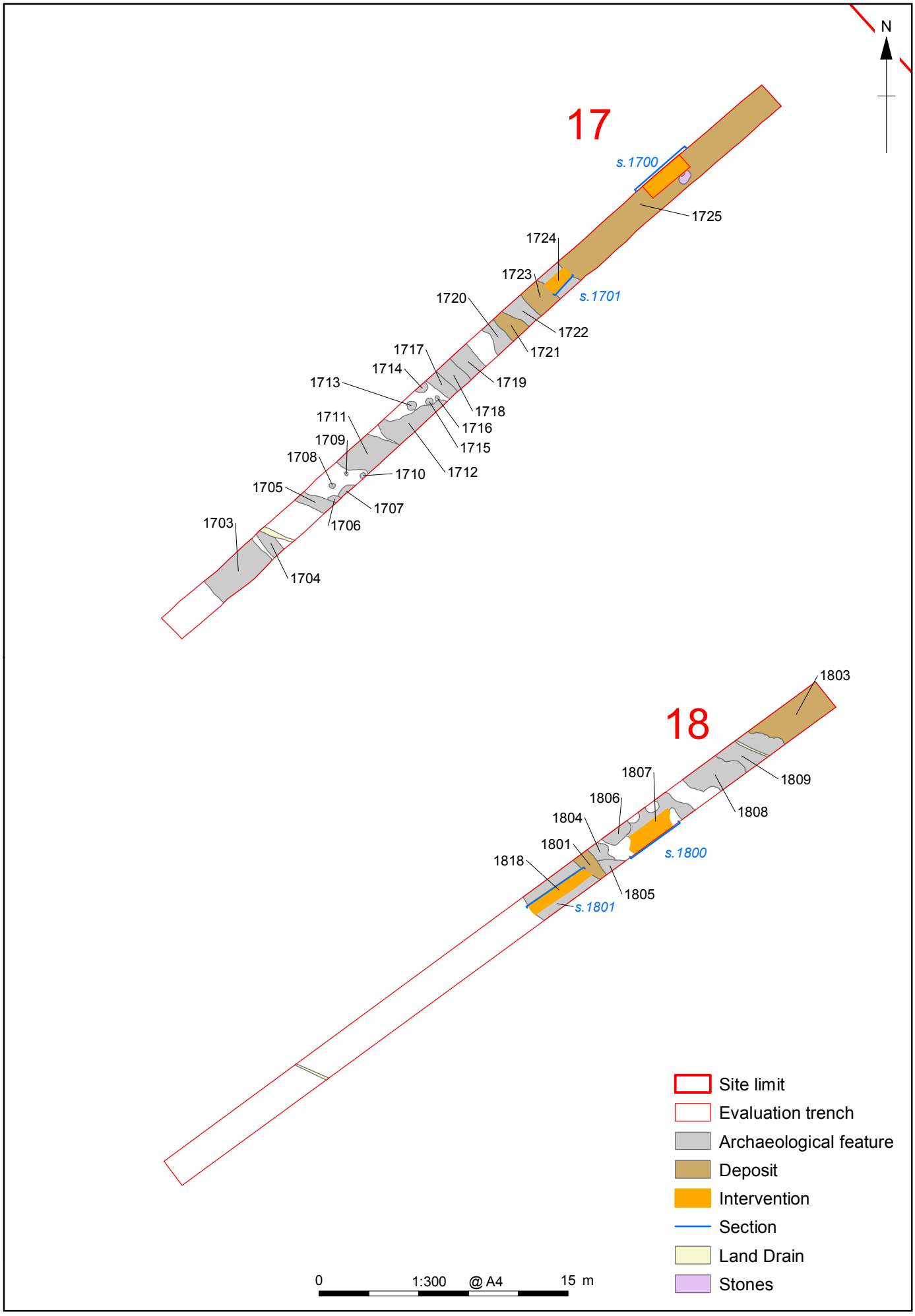

Figure 5: Detailed plan of Trenches 17 & 18

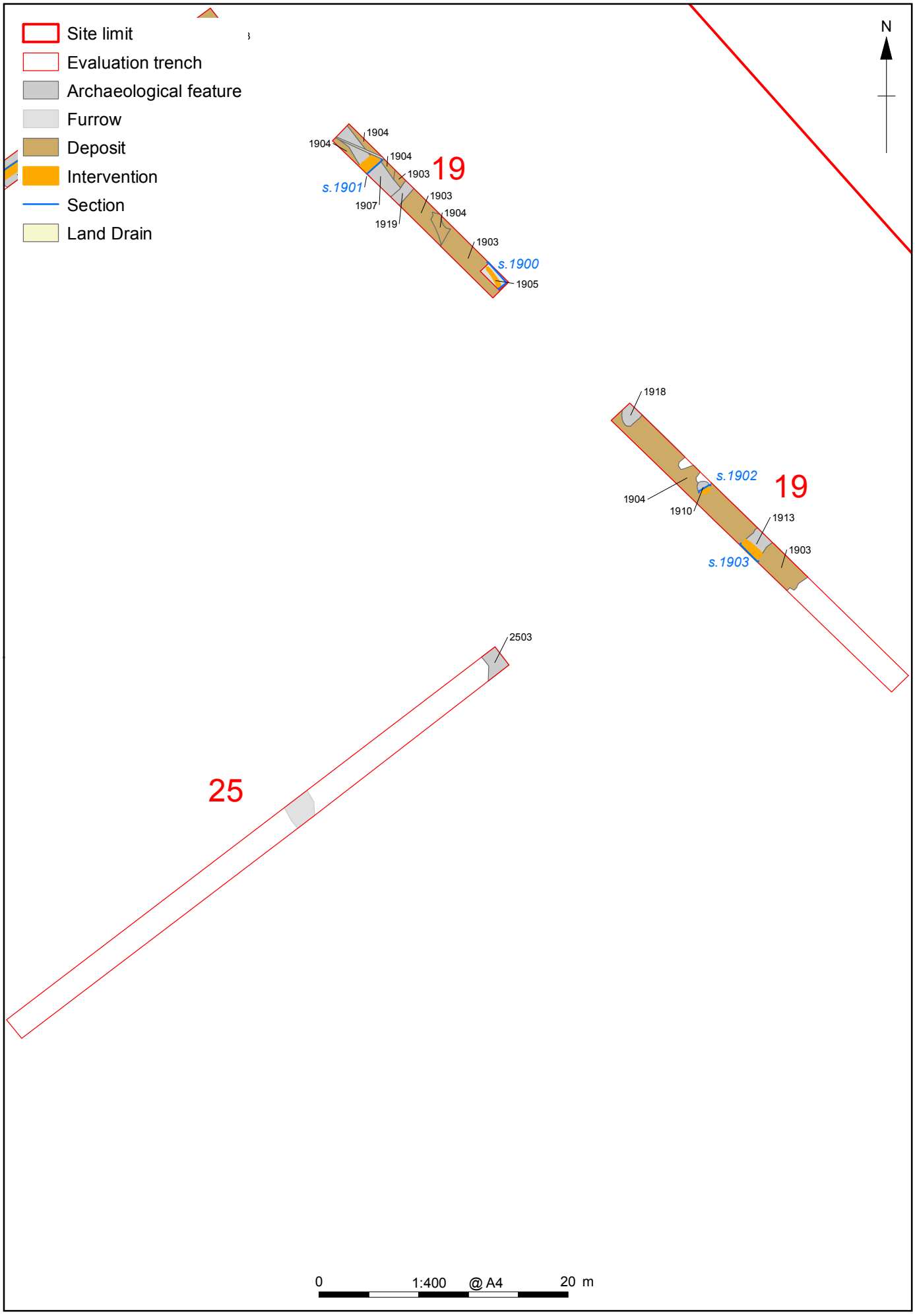

Figure 6: Detailed plan of Trenches 19 & 25

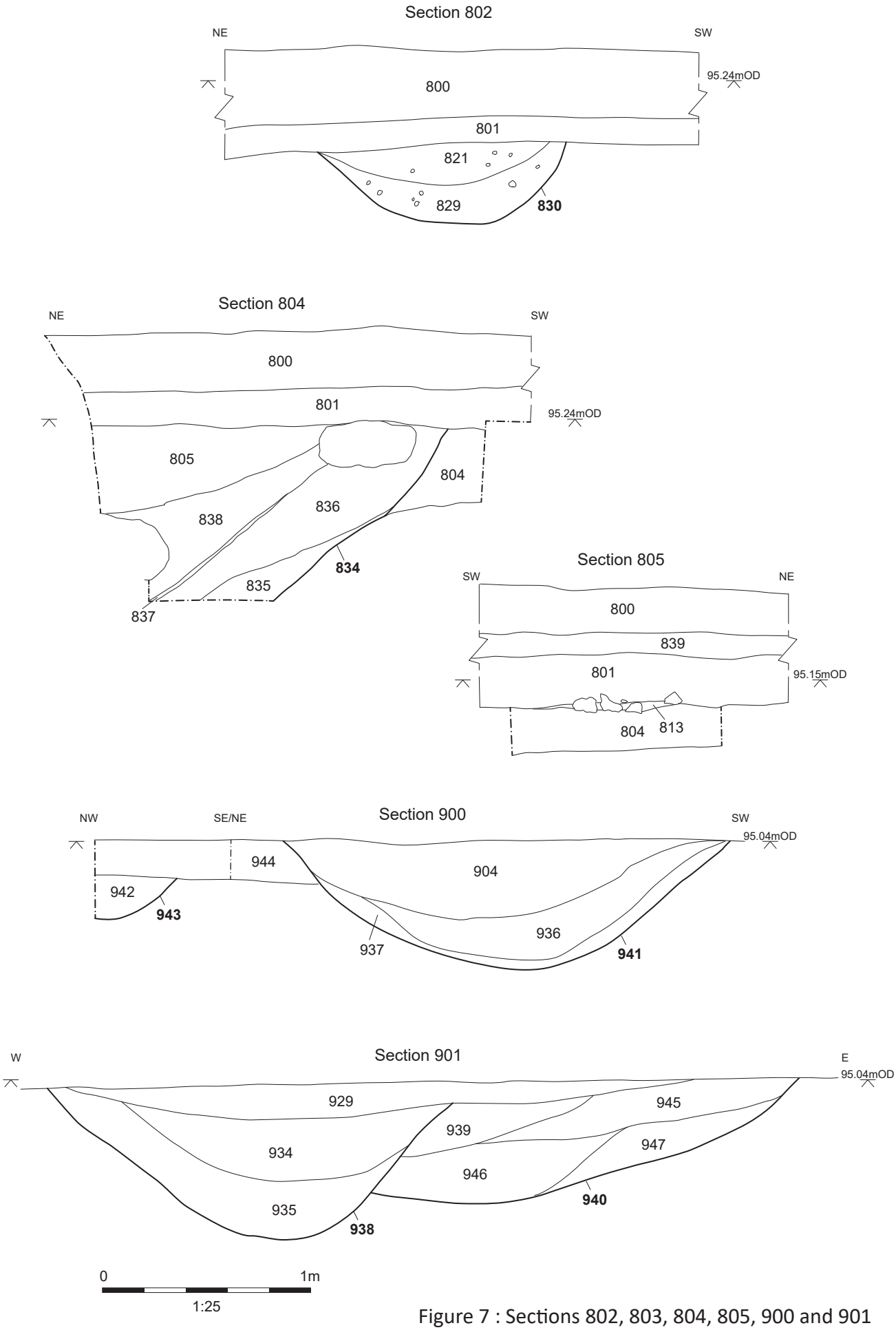

Figure 7 : Sections 802, 803, 804, 805, 900 and 901

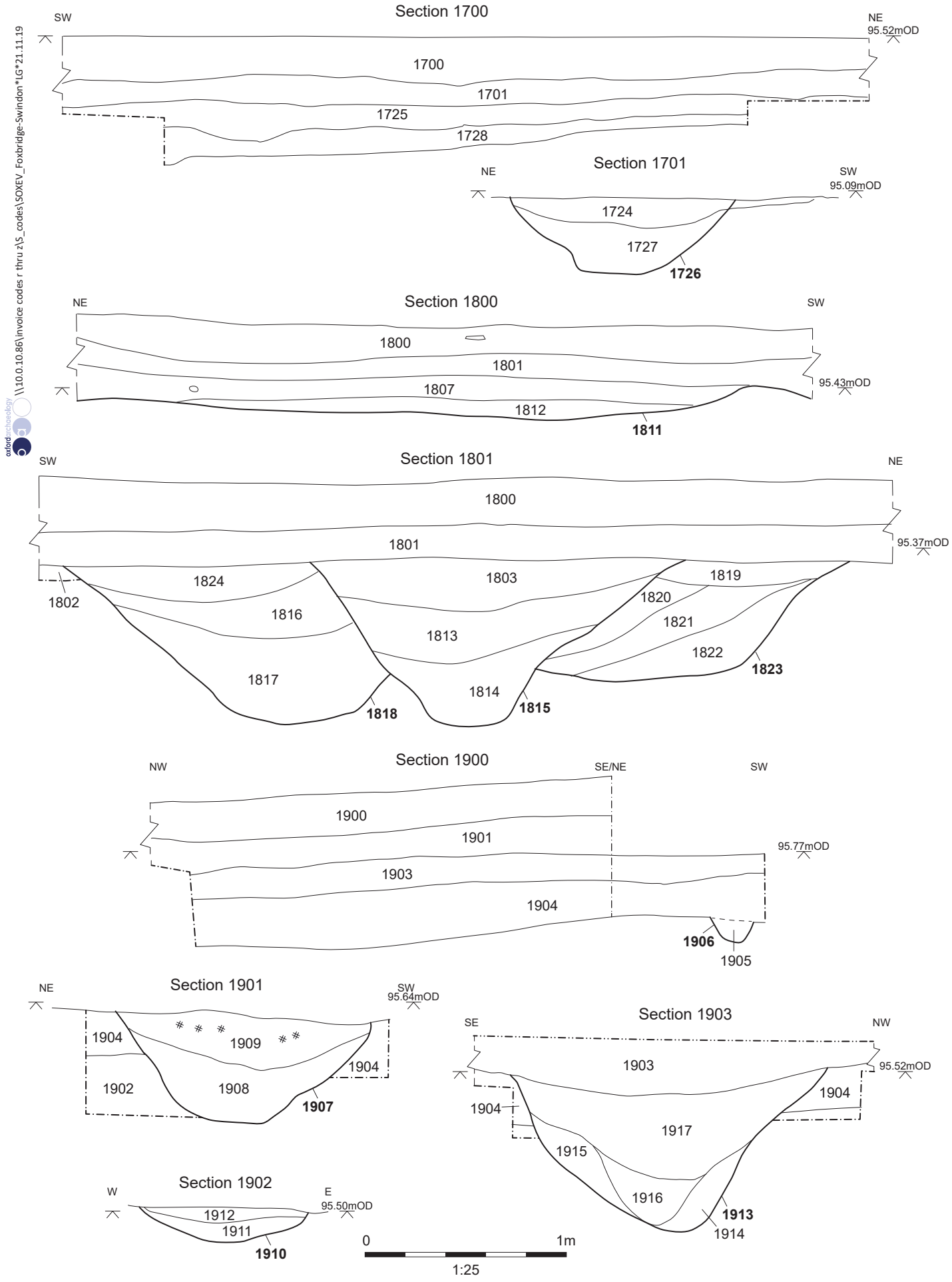

Figure 8 : Sections 1700, 1701, 1800, 1801, 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1903

Plate 1: Trench 8, view to southwest

Plate 2: Ditch 834

Plate 3: Section 805 showing stoney deposit 813

Plate 4: Ditch 830

Plate 5: Trench 9, view to east

Plate 6: Ditches 938 and 940

Plate 7: Trench 17, view to northeast

Plate 8: Section 1700 showing deposits 1728 and 1725

Plate 9: Ditch 1726

Plate 10: Trench 18, view to southwest

Plate 11: Ditches 1818 showing deposits 1812 and 1807

Plate 12: Section 1800 showing deposits 1812 and 1807

Plate 13: Trench 19b, view to southeast

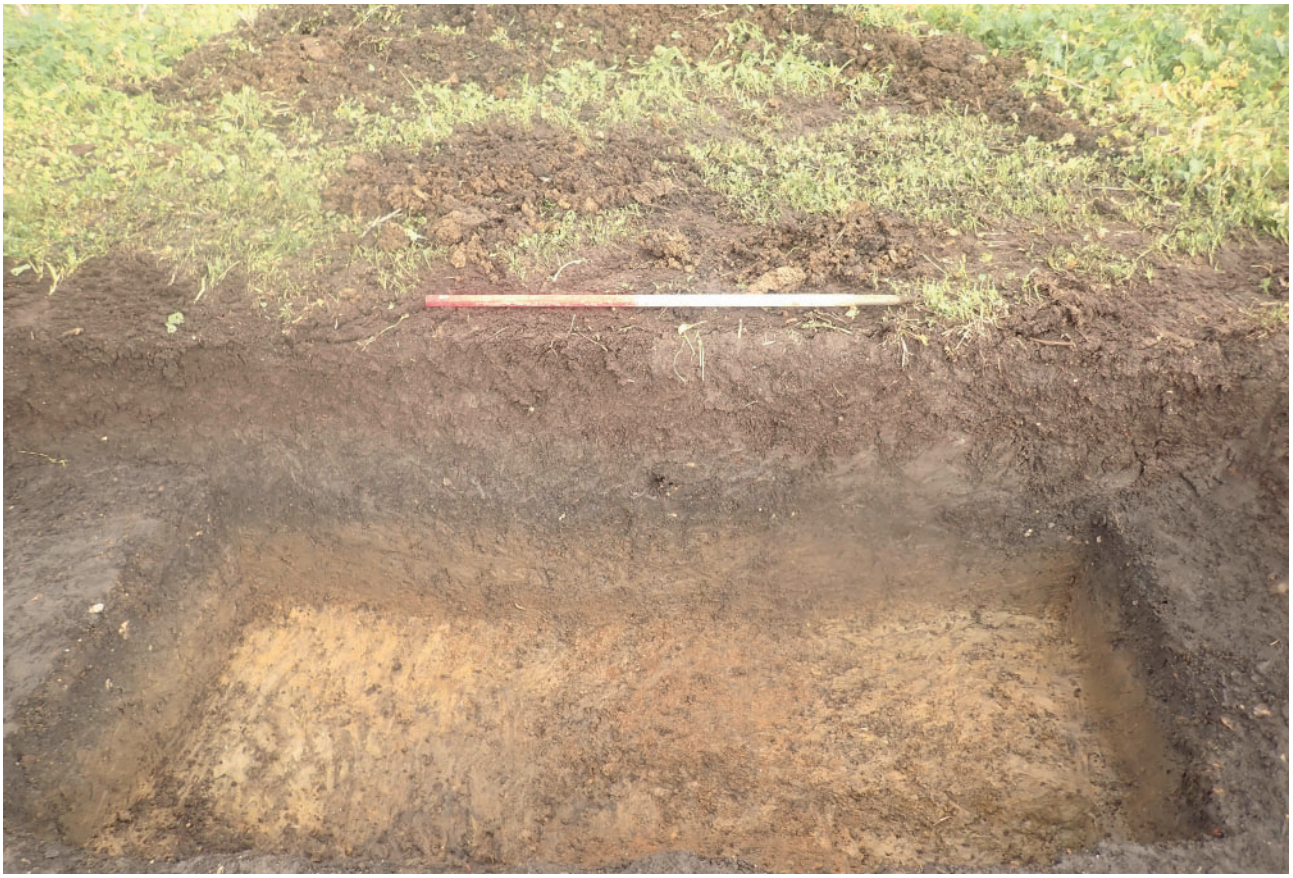

Plate 14: Section 1900 showing deposits 1904 and 1903

Plate 15: Ditch 1907

Plate 16: Ditch 1913

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