

**HENBURY SECONDARY SCHOOL
MARISSAL ROAD
HENBURY
BRISTOL**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

C S J PLANNING CONSULTANTS LTD

on behalf of

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

CA REPORT: 03031

MARCH 2003

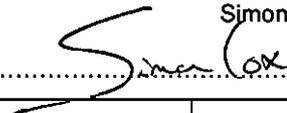
**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**



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CA PROJECT: 1502
CA REPORT: 03031

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SUMMARY

Site Name: Henbury Secondary School
Location: Marissal Road, Henbury, Bristol
NGR: ST 56362 79434
Type: Evaluation
Date: 24th February – 4th March 2003
Planning Reference: 02/04648/PB
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
Accession no. CMAG 2003/9
Site Code: HSB 03

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February/March 2003 at the request of C S J Planning Consultants Ltd, on behalf of Bristol City Council Department of Education and Lifelong Learning, at Henbury Secondary School, Bristol. In compliance with an approved project design a total of thirteen trenches were excavated across the development area.

Six Roman burials were previously encountered within the SE part of the site, during landscaping works in 1982, but trial trenching has revealed no additional graves within this area. Further inhumations might survive, however, within any adjacent areas undisturbed by previous groundworks.

A Late Iron Age or early Roman ditch within trench 6A, and ditches of third to fourth-century AD date in trenches 4, 5, 6B and 7, together identify an area of activity or occupation within the site. Fieldwork also revealed medieval or later plough furrows together with a post-medieval or early modern holloway, field boundaries and drainage features.

The evaluation has characterised the archaeological potential of the proposed redevelopment area, confirming extensive modern landscaping across the eastern part of the site but identifying surviving Late Iron Age/early Roman and later Roman features within the southern part of the site between 0.22m and 1m below modern ground levels.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February/March 2003 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for C S J Planning Consultants Ltd, on behalf of Bristol City Council Department of Education and Lifelong Learning, at Henbury Secondary School, Bristol (centred on NGR: ST 56362 79434; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for redevelopment of the school (ref. 02/04648/PB).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation (BCC 2003) prepared by Mr. Bob Jones, City Archaeologist, Bristol City Council, and with a subsequent detailed project specification produced by CA (2003) and approved by Mr. Jones. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999). The evaluation was monitored by Mr Jon Brett, Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Officer, Bristol City Council, and included a site visit on the 28th February 2003.

The site

- 1.3 Henbury Secondary School is bordered on its southern side by Avonmouth Way, to the west by Hallen Road, on its northern side by Marissal Road and to the east by Station Road (Figs. 1 and 2). The proposed redevelopment area is approximately 12ha in area and comprises the existing school buildings together with associated areas of hardstanding and adjacent playing fields. Ground level within the western part of the site, at approximately 41m AOD, slopes gently downward from south to north. The previously landscaped eastern half of the site is relatively level at approximately 38m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Keuper Marl deposits of the Triassic Period (British Geological Survey 1974). A mottled pink-green to grey-blue clay derived from the Keuper Marl was encountered during trenching, together with sandstone outcrops within the eastern part of the site.

- 1.5 Field evaluation focused upon areas of grassed playing field within the western, southern and eastern parts of the site.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Two desk-based archaeological assessments of the site have been undertaken, to which reference should be made for detailed archaeological and historical information (BaRAS 2001, Smith 2002). A geophysical survey of the site has also been carried out, the results of which formed the basis of the current evaluation strategy (GeoQuest 2002, CA 2003). Archaeological interest in the site arises largely from the known presence of Roman remains, as revealed during previous archaeological investigations, together with some potential for later medieval and post-medieval activity.
- 1.7 Six Romano-British burials were discovered within the SE corner of the current playing fields during landscaping works in 1982 (SMR ref 5470; at NGR: ST 5623 7906). These inhumations were considered likely to have been associated with a small agricultural settlement (Russell 1983). The Bristol City SMR also notes that Roman coins were found approximately 120m south of the site (SMR ref. 811; ST 56327894).
- 1.8 In addition a former NE-SW aligned holloway within the site has been considered as perhaps marking the course of a possible Roman road, postulated as being that from Sea Mills to Gloucester (Fig. 2) (Smith 2002). This holloway, formerly known as 'Old Lane', partially survives as an extant earthwork within the western part of the site and shares an alignment with field boundaries north and south of the site.
- 1.9 Geophysical survey also identified several linear, rectilinear and circular anomalies which were considered as possibly being associated with later prehistoric or Roman settlement, and with the postulated line of the Roman road from Sea Mills to Gloucester (GeoQuest 2002).
- 1.10 The site appears to have been utilised as arable farmland during the medieval period but was predominantly pasture land by the early sixteenth century (Smith 2002). Degraded, NE-SW aligned, ridge and furrow cultivation patterns were identified by the geophysical survey together with probable former field boundaries,

including the partially-extant NE-SW aligned holloway and a possible minor NW-SE hollow way on the line of an old boundary between fields shown on the 1841 tithe map. An extensive network of land drains was also detected together with other landscape features, including a circular bank about 20m across and 0.3m high in the SW part of the site (GeoQuest 2002, Smith 2002).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.11 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date, significance and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information would assist the Local Planning Authority in making an informed judgement on the likely impact of proposed development upon the archaeological resource.

Methodology

- 1.12 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of thirteen trenches, with trench 6 split into two parts coded 6A and 6B, in positions determined by the City Archaeologist (see Appendix 1 for trench dimensions). Slight adjustments were made to the location and dimensions of trenches due to machine access requirements.
- 1.13 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (1996).
- 1.14 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking of Samples for Palaeoenvironmental/Palaeoeconomic Analysis from Archaeological Sites* (1994). None required sampling and processing. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

- 1.15 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive (including artefacts) will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery under accession number CMAG 2003/9.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix 3. OS co-ordinates for trenches 1 to 13 are given in Appendix 4.
- 2.2 Trenches 1 and 9 both revealed a simple sequence of natural clays and sandstone overlain by homogenous subsoil and topsoil horizons. No archaeological features were encountered within these trenches with the exception of a series of post-medieval or early modern land drains (see Appendix 1).

Trenches 2, 3 and 13 (Fig. 2)

- 2.3 The same sequence of natural clays covered by subsoil and topsoil horizons was recorded within all three trenches. NE-SW aligned plough furrows 204, 304 and 1304 cut the natural clays.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2, 3)

- 2.4 Natural clays 407 were cut by a NE-SW aligned ditch 417 containing stony-clay fills 410, 411 and 412. The position of ditch 417 correlates with the southernmost of two ?enclosure ditches, coded within the preceding geophysical survey as f8 (GeoQuest 2002). A second, more northerly, enclosure ditch identified by geophysical survey was not present within the trench. A recut, 410, of ditch 417 produced a second to fourth-century AD pot sherd from its clay fill 405 together with animal bone, burnt stone and residual Iron Age pottery. Ditch fill 405 was sealed by a subsoil 402/403,

through which modern land drains 413 and 415 had been cut, overlain by topsoil 401.

Trench 5 (Figs. 2, 3)

- 2.5 The natural sandstone 503 was cut by two ditches 504 and 506, containing stony-clay fills 505 and 507. These lay near to two linear anomalies identified by geophysical survey and coded as f8, but did not match their location and orientation as closely as many of the other features identified by the survey. Fill 505 yielded four sherds of undiagnostic Romano-British pottery and 507 produced third-century AD or later pottery. Ditch fills 505 and 507 were both covered by subsoil 502, cut by a modern land drain 508, overlain by topsoil 501.

Trench 6A (Figs. 2, 3)

- 2.6 A NW-SE aligned ditch 604 cut the natural clay 603. Stony-clay fill 605 produced 70 sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery together with abundant animal bone fragments and a small amount of burnt stone.
- 2.7 Despite trench 6A having been positioned across an area where Roman burials were discovered in 1982 no further graves were encountered. Two undated sub-circular features 606 and 623 were also recorded. It is uncertain whether these represent Late Iron Age or Roman pitting activity adjacent to ditch 604, or the remains of two of the graves excavated in 1982 which may have been subsequently truncated by landscaping works at that time. Modern land drains 619 and 621 were noted cut from within topsoil 601/602.

Trench 6B (Figs. 2, 3)

- 2.8 A N-S aligned ditch, 618, cut the natural clays 603. Its clay fill 617, which yielded a single abraded sherd of Iron Age pottery, had been disturbed by a tree bole 613 from which a fragment of sandstone roof tile was recovered. A NW-SE aligned sewer trench 616 also cut across ditch 618.

- 2.9 Two segments of post-medieval or early modern ditch were also noted. NW-SE and NE-SW ditches 609 and 611 were both cut from the level of subsoil 602 and, containing identical rubble fills, appeared to be elements of a single, early modern, ditched boundary. Ditch fill 610 contained residual first to second century AD and Iron Age pottery, whilst fill 608 produced a nineteenth to twentieth-century sherd and a modern brick fragment. Subsoil horizon 602 was overlain by topsoil 601.

Trench 7 (Figs. 2, 3)

- 2.10 Natural clays and sandstone 709 were revealed only at the limit of excavation within a sondage, 1, where the N-S aligned edge 705 of a cut feature of undetermined size and shape was detected. A 1m thick sequence of silty-clay fills 706, 707 and 708 within 705 produced sherds of third to fourth-century AD pottery and animal bone fragments. Abundant unworked sandstone fragments, together with some burnt stone, was also noted within secondary fill 707. Latest fill 706, which incorporated redeposited natural clays, appeared to extend across the entire trench.
- 2.11 A shallow sub-circular cut 703 within uppermost fill 706 contained a clay deposit 704 from which second to fourth-century AD pottery, animal bone and half of the topstone of a rotary quern were recovered. Roman deposits 704 and 706 were sealed by a subsoil horizon 702 cut by modern land drains 710 and 713 and overlain by topsoil 701.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

- 2.12 Natural clays 803 were cut by a post-medieval boundary ditch 804 whose position and NW-SE alignment correlates with the extant earthwork of the possible minor 'holloway', f3, identified in the preceding geophysical survey (GeoQuest 2002). Ditch fill 805 produced a single sherd of nineteenth to twentieth-century pottery. The subsoil 802 was cut by a post-medieval or modern land drain 806 and overlain by topsoil 801.

Trench 10 (Fig. 2)

- 2.13 The natural clays 1003 and overlying subsoil 1002 had been either deliberately cut for, or otherwise eroded by, a shallow NE-SW aligned holloway 1004 approximately 2.4m wide and 0.5m deep (identified as feature f4 within the preceding geophysical survey). No Roman finds or deposits were encountered within trench 10. A rough stone surfacing 1005 within the holloway extended approximately 1m north-eastward into trench 10, comprised of an approximately 0.2m thick deposit of fragmentary, angular, limestone with post-medieval or modern brick fragments. A 1945 halfpenny was recovered from this layer. No physical trace of the holloway was recognisable within trench 10 beyond stone spread 1005, although a continuation of the holloway line appears to be marked by field boundaries further to the NE (Smith 2002). Subsoil 1002 was cut by a land drain 1006 and was overlain by topsoil 1001.

Trench 11 (Figs. 2, 3)

- 2.14 The natural clays 1103 and overlying subsoil 1102 were again seen to have been either deliberately cut for, or otherwise eroded by, the NE-SW aligned holloway 1104. Within trench 11 the holloway was approximately 3m wide and 0.30m deep, with gently-sloping sides. No Roman finds or deposits were encountered within the trench. A single 0.2m thick layer of rough stone surfacing 1105, comprised of angular limestone and post-medieval/modern brick fragments, overlay the natural clay 1103. Subsoil 1102 was cut by a land drain 1106 and was overlain by topsoil 1101.

Trench 12 (Fig. 2)

- 2.15 Natural clays 1203 were overlain by subsoil 1202 above which a topsoil deposit 1201 formed an extant low circular bank, coded f5 within the geophysical survey report. Nineteenth to twentieth-century pottery was recovered from topsoil 1201. This circular earthwork has been identified by a former member of the school staff as a golf-related feature built for teaching staff during or after the 1960s (Norriss, *pers.comm.*).

The Finds

- 2.16 Some 76 sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from 4 contexts. Their condition is good with little abrasion and the material would seem to date to the Late pre-Roman Iron Age, almost certainly to the first half of the first century AD. The style of the pottery is comparable with similarly dated material from Chew Valley Lake, north Somerset (Rahtz and Greenfield 1977, Fig. 94).
- 2.17 83 sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered, from 8 separate contexts, and their condition is also generally good with little abrasion apparent. The bulk of the Roman pottery is probably of fairly local manufacture, with non-local Roman pottery restricted to two sherds of Gaulish samian from context 708 and a larger quantity of Dorset Black-Burnished Ware from 405, 507, 706 and 707. With the exception of a grog-tempered greyware sherd from 610 and the samian, which appears to be residual in its context, most of the Roman pottery is of third or fourth-century AD date.
- 2.18 Non-ceramic artefacts are restricted to a quern fragment and a small quantity of burnt stone. The quern fragment represents approximately one half of the upper stone of a rotary quern of the type known throughout the Roman period. This item awaits petrological identification although initial inspection suggests a source in the Forest of Dean. A small quantity of post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered but not retained.

3. DISCUSSION

Romano-British

- 3.1 Evaluation trenching has revealed activity or occupation of Late pre-Roman Iron Age/early Roman, and later Roman, date within the proposed redevelopment area. A boundary or enclosure ditch, 604, in trench 6A produced a large quantity of pottery probably dating to the first half of the first century AD. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was also recovered from ditch 618 in trench 6B. In addition residual Iron Age pottery was recovered from Roman ditch fill 405 in trench 4 and from post-medieval/modern ditch fill 610 in trench 6B. No associated building remains were

encountered but the quantity, and relatively unabraded nature, of recovered pottery might suggest proximity to an as yet unidentified associated settlement.

- 3.2 Later Roman occupation or activity within the site is attested from probable enclosure or boundary ditches within trenches 4 and 5, associated with second to fourth-century pottery. Although the ditch in trench 4 corresponds with anomaly f8 recorded during the previous geophysical survey (Fig. 2), the ditches in trench 5 were not such a close match. Therefore, it is not clear whether together these linear features form part of a double ditched feature, as suggested by f8 of the geophysical survey. It is uncertain whether these ditches represent plot boundaries within settlement areas or might be associated either with outlying fields or the known burial ground.
- 3.3 Pottery of third to fourth century AD date was also recovered from fills 704, 706, 707 and 708 of two features only partially exposed within trench 7. These deposits are difficult to characterise from the limited view afforded by evaluation trenching but 705 perhaps represents a large boundary ditch or a ?clay or stone-quarry pit.
- 3.4 With the exception of a single fragment of sandstone ?roof tile no material was encountered to indicate actual Roman buildings within the site. The abundant and relatively unabraded pottery, animal bone, burnt stone and the rotary quern fragment all suggest, however, refuse dumped into open features, within or close to a settlement focus, during the second to fourth centuries AD.
- 3.5 No Roman artefactual evidence or deposits were encountered within trenches 10 and 11 to indicate that the partially extant holloway, f8, within the western part of the site, originated within the Roman period. Indeed the post-medieval/early modern finds from its rough stone surfacing suggests that that this 'Old Lane' instead marks a narrow holloway bordering fields recorded on nineteenth-century maps (Smith 2002). The former presence of the Roman road from Gloucester to Sea Mills within the site, postulated largely from field boundary alignments depicted on historic maps, has been recognised as being somewhat conjectural (Smith 2002) and remains uncertain.
- 3.6 Trenching was also undertaken within the SE part of the site where six Roman inhumation burials were previously discovered in 1982. No additional Roman graves have been identified, despite the proximity of trenches 6A and 6B to the six

inhumations discovered during landscaping works in 1982 (Russell 1983). Shallow, undated, ?pitting noted in trench 6A may represent the truncated remains of one or more of the excavated grave cuts, and it remains conceivable that further burials may survive within any adjacent areas undisturbed by the groundworks in 1982. The extent of this cemetery remains uncertain. The evaluation has revealed no Roman deposits or artefacts within trench 8 to indicate that the putative minor holloway, f3, that runs NW-SE from the 'Old Lane' holloway is a spur off the Sea Mills to Gloucester Roman road with burials sited either side of it. A post-medieval ditch 804 recorded on the exact line of the 'holloway' suggests instead that the extant earthwork represents a former field boundary as depicted from historic map coverage of the site (Smith 2002).

Medieval and later

- 3.7 No artefacts or features of demonstrably medieval date were recovered during the evaluation. Several NE-SW aligned furrows of medieval or later date were noted, however, identifying former cultivation of the site.
- 3.8 Trenching has revealed that the partially extant holloway f4, formerly known as 'Old Lane', within the western part of the site contains only a single, rough stone, surfacing associated with post-medieval and/or modern finds. The minor holloway recognisable running south-eastward at right angles to Old Lane and coded f3, has also been shown to be of post-medieval date and appears to be an infilled ditched boundary between fields shown on the 1841 Henbury tithe map. An extensive network of land drains, as previously detected by geophysical survey and coded as f2, were encountered during trenching and the circular bank, f5, surviving within the SW part of the site has been identified as being of modern date.

Conclusions

- 3.9 Evaluation trenching has identified the presence of both Late Iron Age/early Roman and later Roman activity or occupation within the site, apparently focused around trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7, at depths of between 0.22m and 1m below modern ground level.

3.10 The positions of features recorded during trenching generally correlate well with anomalies identified during the preceding geophysical survey (GeoQuest 2002), with the exception of those in trench 5 (f8), where there is a slight discrepancy (see 3.2 above). Many of the geophysical signals tested during the evaluation appear, however, to reflect the presence of modern land drains, as with anomaly f7, although a Roman ditch been demonstrated to lie within the area of anomaly f8 in trench 4. In addition Roman deposits revealed within trench 7 were undetected by geophysical survey, perhaps reflecting the poor textural contrast between the clay-filled undetermined feature 705 and surrounding natural clays. This suggests that further features, of earlier prehistoric or later date, previously undetected by geophysical survey may lie within the site in areas unaffected by modern landscaping.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alistair Barber, assisted by Nick Corcos, Kate Cullen, Heather Hirons, Rosemary Jones and Stuart Whatley. The report was written by Alistair Barber and the illustrations prepared by Pete Moore. The archive has been compiled by Alistair Barber, and prepared for deposition by Ed McSloy. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

5. REFERENCES

BaRAS 2001 *Archaeological Desktop Study of Henbury School, Henbury, Bristol*. Report No. 853/2001

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

101	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.35m in thickness.
102	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.05m in thickness.
103	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.4m depth.

Trench 2

201	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.27m in thickness.
202	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.07m in thickness.
203	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.34m depth.
206	Modern land drain: NNW-SSE aligned, 0.2m wide, depth untested.
207	Fill of 206: grey sandstone scalplings around yellow plastic pipe.

Trench 3

301	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.35m in thickness.
302	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.05m in thickness.
303	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.4m depth.
304	Modern land drain: NE-SW aligned, 0.2m wide, depth untested.
305	Fill of 304: grey sandstone scalplings around yellow plastic pipe.
306	Plough furrow: NE-SW aligned, in excess of 3.5m wide. 0.25m deep.
307	Fill of 306: Grey-brown clay with brick and glass fragments.

Trench 4

401	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.25m in thickness.
402	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.3m in thickness.
403	Subsoil: grey-brown clay, 0.13m in thickness.
405	Roman ditch fill: mid grey-red clay, 0.21m in thickness.
407	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.4-0.55m depth.
409	Roman ditch cut: 0.45m deep, 1.05m wide, steeply-sloping sides and rounded base.
410	Fill of 417: grey-red clay and stone 0.07-0.21m in thickness and 1.10m wide.
411	Fill of 417: mid grey-red clay. 0.04-0.21m in thickness.
412	Fill of 417: limestone fragments and brown clay, 0.1-0.3m in thickness.
413	Modern land drain: E-W aligned, 0.2m wide, depth untested.
414	Fill of 413: grey sandstone scalplings around yellow plastic pipe.
415	Modern land drain: E-W aligned, 0.2m wide, depth untested.
416	Fill of 415: grey sandstone scalplings around yellow plastic pipe.
417	Roman ditch cut: in excess of 1.2m wide. 0.55m deep with steep, near vertical, NW edge.

Trench 5

501	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.2m in thickness.
502	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.05m in thickness.
503	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.25m depth.
504	Roman ditch cut: approximately 1.9m wide and 0.35m deep with near vertical sides and flat base.
505	Fill of 504: brown silty-clay with limestone.
506	Roman ditch cut: gently-sloping sides. 2.2m wide and 0.2m deep.
507	Fill of 506: brown silty-clay with stone.
508	Modern pipe trench: vertical pipe trench. 0.2m wide, depth untested.
509	Fill of 508: grey sandstone scalplings around yellow plastic pipe.

Trench 6A

601	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.35m in thickness.
602	Modern topsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.05m in thickness.
603	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.4m depth.
604	Late Iron Age/early Roman ditch: NW-SE aligned, gently-sloping sides, 1.85m wide and 0.37m deep.
605	Fill of 604: dark red-brown silty-clay with charcoal flecking and limestone.
606	Roman ?pit or truncated grave cut: irregular shape and edges, rounded base, 0.5m long, 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep.
607	Fill of 606: dark grey-brown silty-clay.
619	Modern drain cut: 0.13m wide, depth untested.
620	Fill of 620: grey sandstone scalplings around yellow plastic pipe.
621	Modern drain cut: 0.18m wide, depth untested.
622	Fill of 621: grey sandstone scalplings around yellow plastic pipe.
623	Roman pit or truncated grave cut: sub oval, rounded base, 0.80m long, 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep.
624	Fill of 623: red brown to grey green clay.

Trench 6B

601	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.5m in thickness.
602	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.5m in thickness.
603	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 1m depth.
608	Fill of 609: brown-black clayey-silt.
609	Modern ditch: NW-SE aligned, 1.1m wide, 0.30m deep.
610	Fill of 611: brown clay and fragmentary limestone.
611	Roman ditch: N-S aligned, 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep.
612	Fill of 613: brown clay.
613	Tree bole: irregular shape, approximately 0.25m deep.
614	Modern drain: grey sandstone and brown clay.
615	Ceramic pipe associated with 614.
616	Sewer trench cut: 1m wide, depth untested.
617	Fill of 618: brown clay.
618	Ditch cut: N-S aligned, 1.05m wide, 0.4m deep.

Trench 7

701	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.35m in thickness.
702	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.65m in thickness.
703	Roman ?pit cut: 2.10m long, 1m wide and 0.15m deep.
704	Fill of 703: dark grey to black silty-clay.
705	Roman ?pit or ditch cut: edges not seen, sloping base only partially exposed within sondage 1.
706	Tertiary fill of 705: redeposited red-brown clay with humic mottles, 0.2m in thickness.
707	Secondary fill of 705: greyish red-brown clay, 0.6m in thickness.
708	primary fill of 705: grey-brown clay, 0.25m in thickness.
709	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 2.05m depth in sondage 1.
710	Modern land-drain cut, vertical sided. 0.3m wide but depth untested.
711	Red earthenware pipe within 710.
712	Grey stone scalplings around pipe 711.
713	Modern land-drain cut: 0.3m wide, depth untested.
714	Fill of 713: grey black cinder deposit.

Trench 8

801	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.35m in thickness.
802	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.5m in thickness.
803	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.85m depth.
804	Post-medieval/modern ditch: 0.8m wide, 0.35m deep, steeply-sloping edges and rounded base.
805	Fill of 804: dark grey-silty clay.
806	Modern land drain: vertical sided, 0.4m wide, depth untested.
807	Fill of 806: grey stone scalplings around ceramic pipe.

Trench 9

901	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.25m in thickness.
902	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.5m in thickness.
903	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.75m depth.
904	Modern drain run: approximately 0.3m wide, depth untested.
905	Fill of 904: pitched, voided, limestone fragments up to 0.2m x 0.3m in size.
906	Modern drain run: approximately 0.3m wide, depth untested.
907	Fill of 906: pitched, voided, limestone fragments up to 0.2m x 0.3m in size.
908	Modern drain run: approximately 0.3m wide, depth untested.
909	Fill of 908: pitched, voided, limestone fragments up to 0.2m x 0.3m in size.
910	Modern drain run: approximately 0.3m wide, depth untested.
911	Fill of 910: pitched, voided, limestone fragments up to 0.2m x 0.3m in size.

Trench 10

1001	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.35m in thickness.
1002	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.35m in thickness
1003	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at approximately 0.7m depth.
1004	Undated holloway edge: gentle, unpronounced, approximately 3m wide and 0.2m deep
1005	Fill within 1004: fragmentary limestone spread, with brick fragments, approximately 0.20m in thickness.
1006	Modern drainage cut: 0.30m wide, depth untested.
1007	Fill of 1006: ashy-clay fill around ceramic drain pipe.

Trench 11

1101	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.15m in thickness.
1102	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.35m in thickness.
1103	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.5m depth.
1104	Undated holloway edge: gentle, unpronounced, approximately 3m wide and 0.20m deep.
1105	Fill within 1104: fragmentary limestone spread, approximately 0.2m in thickness, and clay soil.
1106	Modern drainage cut: 0.30m wide, depth untested.
1107	Fill of 1106: ashy-clay fill around ceramic drain pipe.

Trench 12

1201	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.25m in thickness.
1202	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.2m in thickness.
1203	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.45m depth.

Trench 13

1301	Modern topsoil: dark brown sandy-clay soil, approximately 0.2m in thickness.
1302	Subsoil: dark grey-brown clay, approximately 0.1m in thickness
1303	Natural substrate: grey-blue to pink-green clay, at 0.3m depth.
1304	Plough furrow: NE-SW aligned, in excess of 11m in width; 0.25m deep, gently sloping sides and rounded base.
1305	Fill of plough furrow 1304: grey brown clay fill.

APPENDIX 2: THE FINDS

By Ed McSloy

Archaeological works at Henbury Secondary School resulted in the recovery of quantities of Iron Age, Romano-British and post-medieval pottery, together with animal bone, burnt stone and a Roman quernstone fragment.

Concordance of finds

- 405 3 sherds Iron Age pottery (12g); coarse shelly limestone tempered fabric
1 sherd Roman pottery (10g); Dorset Black-Burnished (or imitation?). burnished lattice decoration.
26 fragments of animal bone (207g)
Burnt stone (568g)
Spot-date: second to fourth centuries AD
- 505 4 sherds Roman pottery (17g); burnt greyware
1 fragment of animal bone (4g)
Spot-date: RB
- 507 7 sherds of Roman pottery (146g); Dorset Black-Burnished Ware, ?Congresbury greyware, micaceous black, sandy ware.
Spot-date: third century AD or later
- 603 1 sherd of post-medieval pottery (17g); glazed red earthenware
Burnt stone (103g)
1 fragment of animal bone (1g)
Spot-date: seventeenth to eighteenth centuries AD or later
- 605 70 sherds of Iron Age pottery (863g); calcite/quartz tempered, quartz/fossil shell-tempered fabrics and (1 sherd) quartz/grog tempered.
41 fragments of animal bone (587g)
Burnt stone (352g)
Spot-date: Late Iron Age – probably first century AD
- 608 1 sherd modern pottery* (60g); stoneware container
1 brick fragment (116g)
1 Fe. obj
Spot-date: nineteenth to twentieth centuries AD
- 610 2 sherds of Iron Age pottery (37g); calcitic and shelly limestone tempered types
1 sherd of Roman pottery (183g); grog-tempered greyware (Savernake?).
4 fragments of animal bone (87g)
Spot-date: Late first to second centuries AD
- 612 1 fragment Pennant sandstone ?roofing tile
- 617 1 sherd ?Iron Age pottery (10g); with leached calcareous inclusions. Abr.
Spot-date: Iron Age
- 704 5 sherds of Roman pottery (33g); micaceous greywares
21 fragments of animal bone (226g)
rotary quern fragment (SF. 1)
Spot-date: second to fourth centuries AD
- 706 47 sherds of Roman pottery (396g); mainly coarse ?Congresbury type greywares and Dorset Black-Burnished Ware, miscellaneous oxidised ware.
3 fragments of animal bone (12g)
Spot-date: third to fourth centuries AD
- 707 2 sherds of Roman pottery (17g); ?Congresbury type greyware and Dorset Black-Burnished

8 fragments of animal bone (145g)
Burnt stone (17g)
Spot-date: third to fourth centuries AD

708 18 sherds of Roman pottery (109g); sparse ?Congresbury greywares, micaceous greyware micaceous coarse black-sandy ware, samian.
9 fragments of animal bone (72g)
Spot-date: third to fourth centuries AD

1005 1 1945 halfpenny, damaged

* modern finds have been discarded

Discussion

Iron Age Pottery

Some 76 sherds (922g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered from 4 contexts. Condition is good with little abrasion or leaching of inclusions apparent and average sherd weight relatively high at 12.1g. All would seem to date to the late pre-Roman Iron Age, almost certainly the first half of the first century AD. Represented fabrics comprise, near exclusively, calcareous types, including fossil shell tempered and calcite-tempered types. With the exception of two wheel-thrown or finished sherds from 605, the Iron Age pottery is hand-made and all is undecorated. Identifiable forms, for the most part restricted to context 605, include large, slack-shouldered storage jars with flattened bead rims (these in coarse fossil shell tempered fabric), high shouldered neck-less jars or bowls with stubby, slightly everted rims and carinated/biconical bowls, similarly with short, everted rims. The style of the pottery is comparable to similarly dated material from Chew Valley Lake, north Somerset (Rahtz and Greenfield 1977, Fig 94)

Roman pottery

83 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from 8 separate contexts. Condition is generally good, with little abrasion apparent and average sherd weight reasonably high at 11g. The bulk of the Roman pottery is probably of (fairly) local manufacture and consists of coarse or medium coarse quartz-tempered reduced wares, some of which are highly micaceous. Represented forms are mostly utilitarian, consisting of large necked jars or smaller, neck-less, everted-rimmed jars, together with one probable tankard. A common and distinctive greyware fabric with red 'margins' visible within the break, almost certainly comes from kilns known at Congresbury, north Somerset. Non-local Roman pottery is restricted to two sherds of Gaulish samian from 708 and a larger quantity of Dorset Black-Burnished Ware from 405, 507, 706 and 707. In addition there is a single sherd of a grog-tempered greyware fabric which resembles material from Savernake, Wilts, although a more local source is perhaps more likely.

With the exception of the grog-tempered greyware sherd from 610 and the samian (which appears to be residual in its context), most of the Roman pottery is of the later Roman period, the third or fourth centuries AD. Datable elements include late forms of Dorset Black-Burnished Ware and local imitations, which include cooking pots with 'obtuse angled' burnished lattice, and in one instance an oval, handled 'fish-dish' (context 507). The kilns at Congresbury are thought to have been most prominent in the third century AD, although to have continued into the fourth.

Other material

A small quantity of post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered, but not retained. Non-ceramic artefacts are restricted to a quern fragment and a quantity of burnt stone. The quern fragment represents approximately one half of the upper stone of a rotary quern of the type known throughout the Roman period. This item awaits petrological identification, although initial inspection suggests a source in the Forest of Dean.

Reference

Rahtz, P and Greenfield, E 1977, Excavations at Chew Valley Lake, Somerset, HMSO

APPENDIX 3: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres above Ordnance Datum, calculated using a spot height opposite 83 Hallen Road (42.4m AOD).

	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4	Trench 5	Trench 6A	Trench 6B
Current ground level	(0.00) 38.72- 38.94	(0.00) 39.17- 39.35	(0.00) 39.10- 39.22	(0.00) 38.77- 39.13	(0.00) 38.43- 38.58	(0.00) 38.66- 39.05	(0.00) 39.62- 40.06
Top of Roman features	-	-	-	(0.40) 38.37	(0.22) 38.21	(0.23) 38.82	(0.27) 39.35
Limit of excavation	(0.48) 38.46	(0.57) 38.77	(0.87) 38.35	(1.36) 37.67	(0.70) 37.88	(0.67) 38.38	(1.08) 38.98

	Trench 7	Trench 8	Trench 9	Trench 10	Trench 11	Trench 12	Trench 13
Current ground level	(0.00) 37.96- 38.29	(0.00) 37.55- 37.62	(0.00) 37.75- 37.86	(0.00) 37.79- 37.81	(0.00) 38.03- 38.55	(0.00) 40.66- 41.43	(0.00) 38.19- 38.45
Top of Roman features	(1.00) 37.29	-	-	-	-	-	-
Limit of excavation	(2.08) 36.01	(0.61) 37.01	(0.53) 37.33	(0.61) 37.20	(0.83) 37.73	(0.38) (40.28)	(0.55) 37.90

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level, lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

APPENDIX 4: TRENCH CO-ORDINATES

Trench 1

NW corner:	ST 56298 79172
SW corner:	ST 56297 79171
NE corner:	ST 56312 79170
SE corner:	ST 56311 76169

Trench 2

SW corner:	ST 56321 79138
NW corner:	ST 56322 79139
SE corner:	ST 56333 79131
NE corner:	ST 56334 79132

Trench 3

NW corner:	ST 56294 79125
SW corner:	ST 56292 79123
SE corner:	ST 56303 79119
NE corner:	ST 56304 79121

Trench 4

SW corner:	ST 56242 79100
NW corner:	ST 56243 79102
SE corner:	ST 56256 79092
NE corner:	ST 56257 79093

Trench 5

NW corner:	ST 56238 79109
NE corner:	ST 56240 79109
SE corner:	ST 56238 79126
SW corner:	ST 56240 79126

Trench 6A

NW corner:	ST 56209 79065
SW corner:	ST 56208 79063
NE corner:	ST 56234 79075
SE corner:	ST 56235 79074

Trench 6B

SW corner:	ST 56226 79056
SE corner:	ST 56228 79055
NW corner:	ST 56234 79069
NE corner:	ST 56236 79068

Trench 7

SW corner:	ST 56133 79110
SE corner:	ST 56135 79109
NW corner:	ST 56138 79121
NE corner:	ST 56140 79120

Trench 8

SW corner:	ST 56065 79148
SE corner:	ST 56067 79147
NW corner:	ST 56070 79160
NE corner:	ST 56072 79159

Trench 9

SW corner:	ST 56050 79127
NW corner:	ST 56051 79129
NE corner:	ST 56086 79118
SE corner:	ST 56085 79116

Trench 10

NW corner:	ST 56029 79174
NE corner:	ST 56033 79184
SE corner:	ST 56043 79178
SW corner:	ST 56039 79168

Trench 11

NW corner:	ST 56018 79157
NE corner:	ST 56017 79155
SE corner:	ST 56032 79149
SW corner:	ST 56021 79147

Trench 12

SW corner:	ST 55950 79120
SE corner:	ST 55952 79118
NE corner:	ST 55965 79134
NW corner:	ST 55963 79136

Trench 13

SW corner:	ST 55969 79217
SE corner:	ST 55971 79217
NE corner:	ST 55972 79238
NW corner:	ST 55974 79238

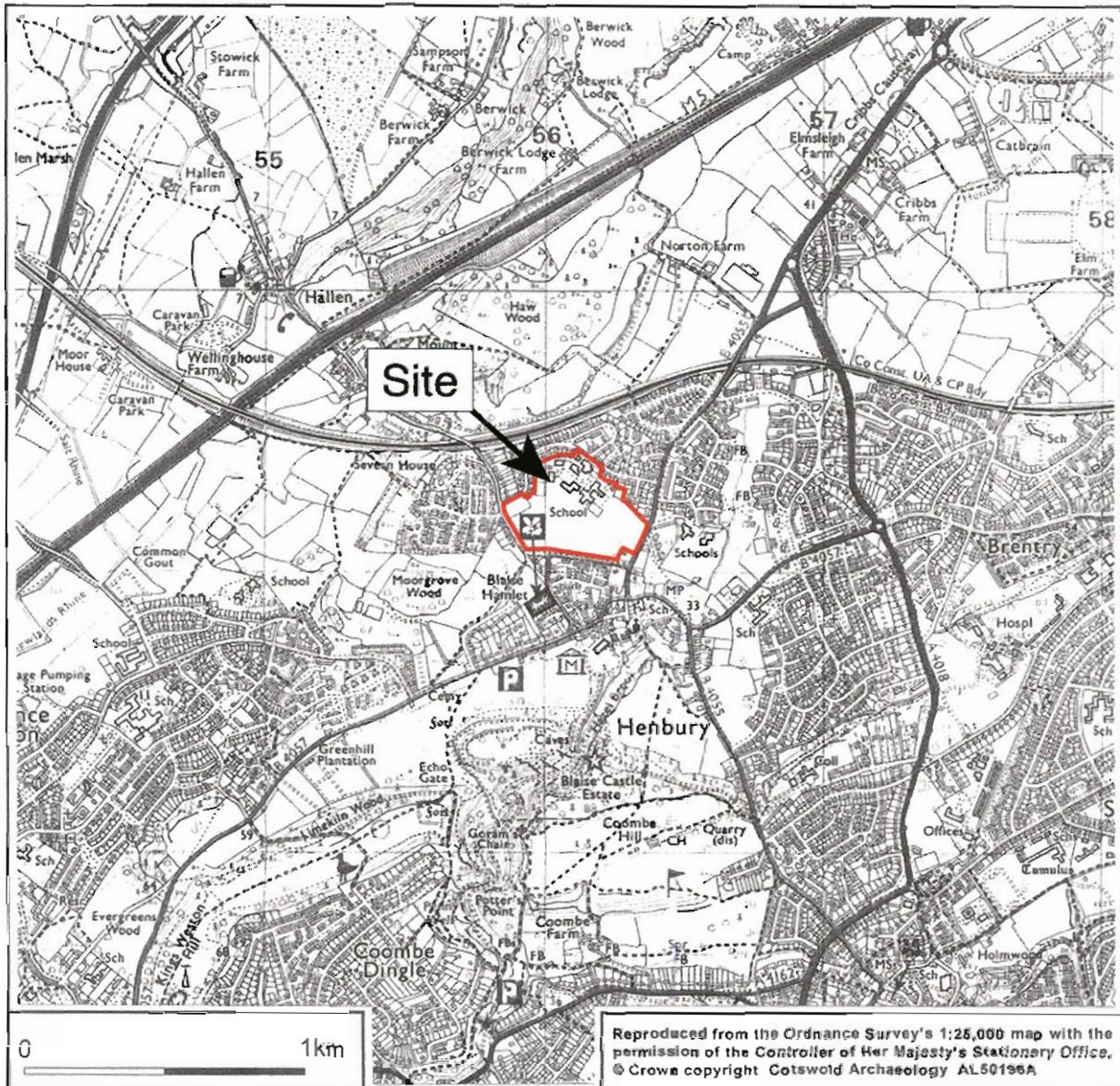
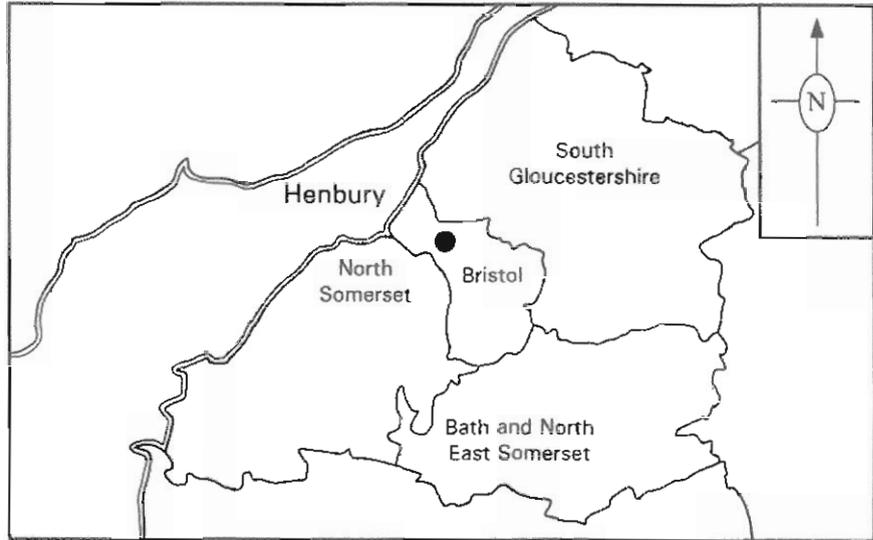


Fig. 1 Location plan

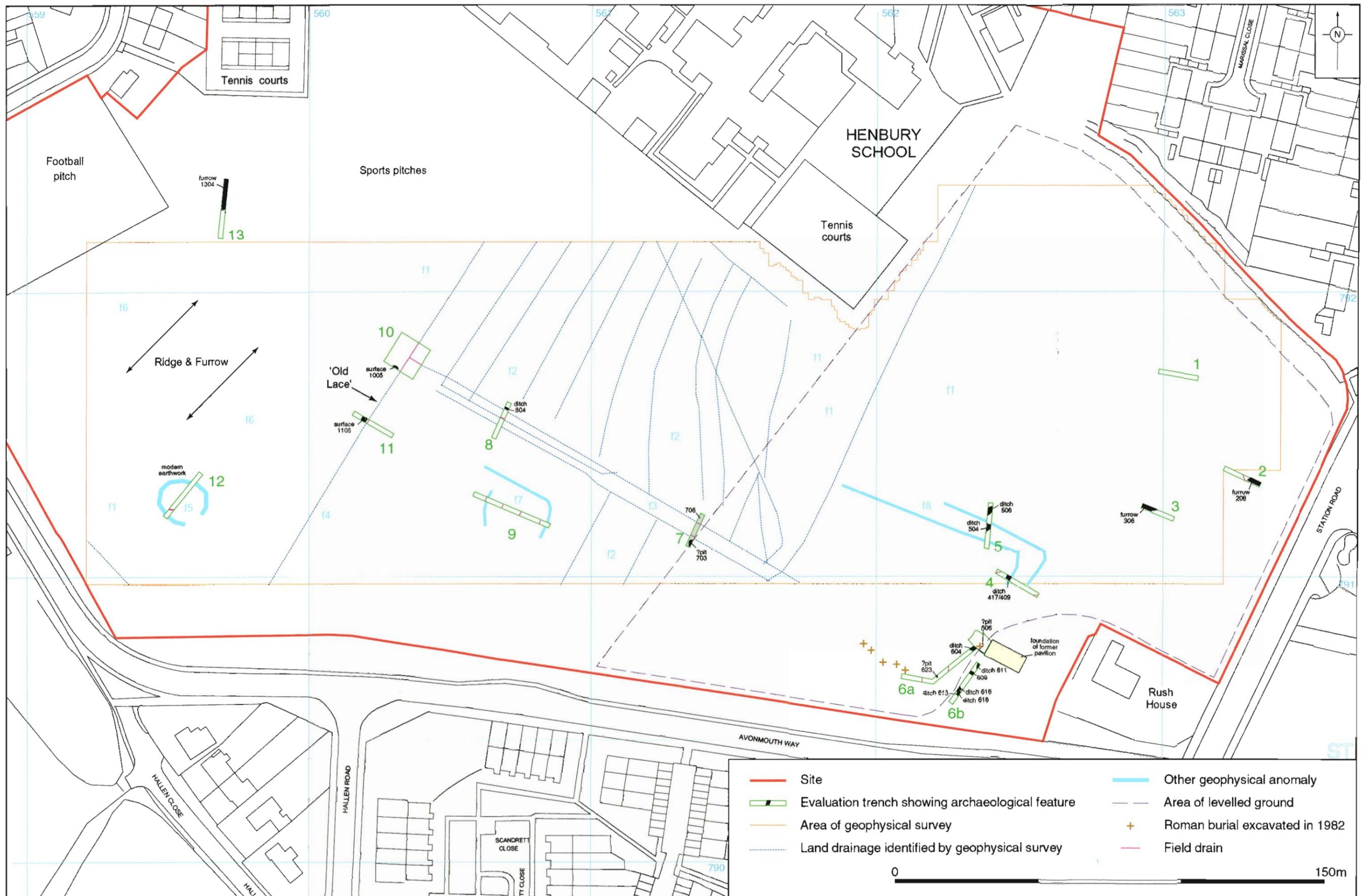
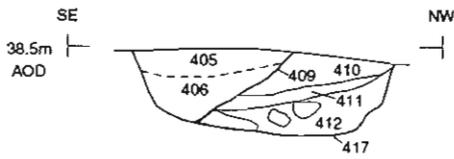
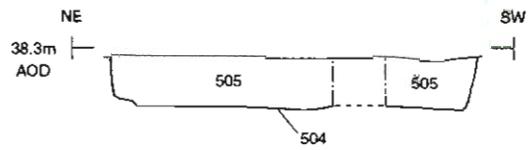


Fig. 2 Trench locations showing archaeological features and geophysical survey

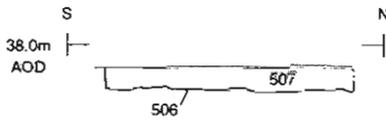
Ditches 417 & 419



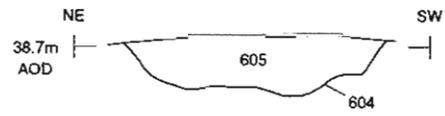
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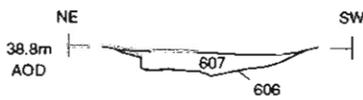
Ditch 506



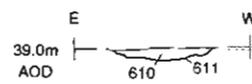
Ditch 604



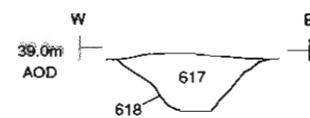
?Pit 606



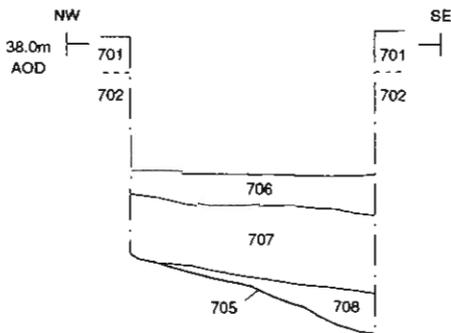
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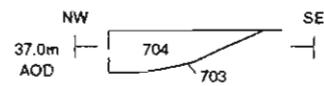
?Pit 618



Undetermined feature 705



?Pit 703



'Holloway' 1104

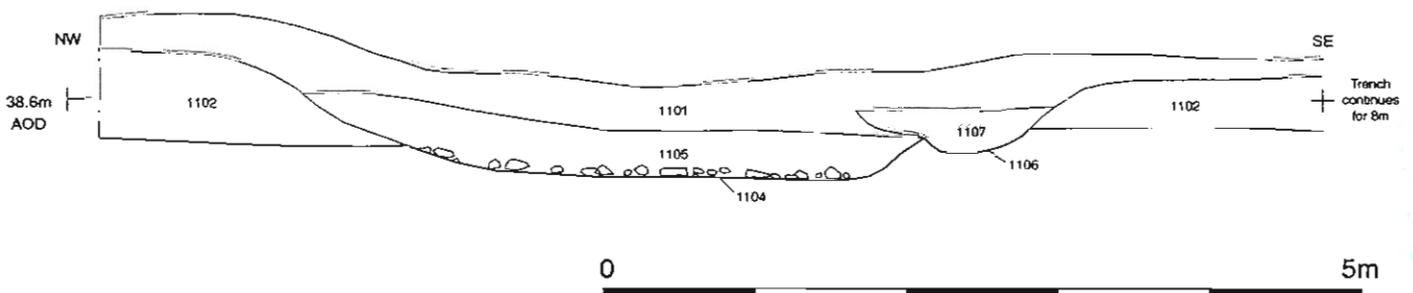


Fig. 3 Sections



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