



OAKFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological evaluation on land at the Salston Manor Hotel, Ottery St Mary, Devon



on behalf of
the client

Report No. 21-14

Project No. 1784

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OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Oakford Archaeology in May 2021 on land at the Salston Manor Hotel, Ottery St Mary, Devon (SY 09019 94375). The work comprised the machine-excavation of 7 trenches totalling 88m in length, with each trench 1.2m wide. These provided a spatial sample of the site.

The evaluation demonstrated the presence of two shallow sub-circular features in Trench 2. No dating evidence was recovered from these features. Trenches 3, 4 and 5 immediately to the east of the house identified two episodes of landscaping dating to the 18th and late 19th century.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for PCR Homes Ltd and sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation undertaken by Oakford Archaeology (OA) in May 2021 on land at the Salston Manor Hotel, Ottery St Mary, Devon (SY 0902 9437). The work was required under a condition attached to the grant of planning permission (20/1647/MFUL) for the construction of 13 dwelling houses within the grounds and associated works. The work was required by the local planning authority East Devon District Council, as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).

1.1 The site

The site (Fig. 1) lies roughly 1km south of the historic town of Ottery St Mary at a height of between 93 and 102mAOD. The underlying solid geology belongs to the Helsby Sandstone Formation, formed approximately 242 to 247 million years ago in the Triassic Period and gives rise to fine loamy- and silty soils.¹

1.2 Historical and archaeological background

The site lies in an area where prehistoric activity has previously been identified. In the area surrounding the site lithic scatters dating to the Mesolithic and early Neolithic period have been identified. Later prehistoric activity has been identified in the form of cropmarks from aerial photography, including annular and linear anomalies immediately to the south, perhaps the remains of settlement and agricultural activity.² In addition, the univallate hillfort of Belbury Castle is located 1km to the east of the site.³ To the southwest a pit containing a single cremation of an adult female, dated by radiocarbon to 1948-1772 cal. BC, was identified by Cotswold Archaeology in 2014 during work on a gas pipeline.⁴

Little is known of the development of the surrounding landscape in the immediate post-Roman and early Saxon period. The historic manor of Ottery St Mary developed in the early medieval period and is first mentioned in 963 when King Edgar granted two *cassati* (i.e. about 2 hides, or 240 acres) of land called *Othery* to his *minister* Wulfhelm.⁵ This seems to have comprised mainly the area of the town and lands to the east. In 1061 Edward the Confessor granted land at Ottery to the Cathedral Church of St Mary of Rouen in northern France. The manor of *Otrei* is mentioned again in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when it had a population of about 500 people,⁶ and in 1227 when a weekly market and an annual fair had been granted to the Church of Rouen.⁷ In 1335 Bishop Grandisson of Exeter purchased the manor and hundred from the Church of Rouen and subsequently founded a college of secular priests centred on the existing church.⁸

The site is likely to have been in agricultural use throughout the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. Nothing is known of the early history of the buildings and *Saltson* is shown for the first time on Donn's 1765 map of Devon. Following a fire, the early building was restored in the 18th century. The central range of the existing house was built by William Hart Coleridge,

¹ www.bgs.co.uk.

² Mudd *et al.* 2014; Mudd *et al.* 2016.

³ Historicengland.org.uk.

⁴ Mudd *et al.* 2014.

⁵ Hooke 1994.

⁶ Darby and Finn 1967, Thorn and Thorn 1987.

⁷ Cornish 1869.

⁸ Dalton 1917.

the first Bishop of Barbados, around 1822. He returned from the Caribbean in 1842 due to ill-health the same year as the tithe survey of Ottery St Mary parish took place. The map (Fig. 2) shows an east-west aligned rectangular building with a central porch flanked by two small wings, while the small rectangular building projecting from the west end is the earlier 18th century range. William Hart Coleridge died at Salston in 1849 and the property passed to his son William Rennell Coleridge, a local landowner.

The area was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1889, when the property was shown in the greatest detail thus far (Fig. 3). The map shows that the elevation between the projecting wings has been infilled and a new, larger central porch built on the north elevation. The west and south elevation of the main range both have small extensions projecting west and south respectively. The house remained remarkably unaltered throughout the late 19th and early 20th century as is evidenced by the 1905 Ordnance Survey Map. The main addition to the building at this period was the construction by William Rennell Coleridge of a new east range, including a large ballroom, supposedly for a visit from the Princess Mary of Teck, later Queen Mary.⁹

Following the death of William Rennell, the manor passed to his son; Major Rennell Coleridge, who served as High Sheriff of Devon in 1925.¹⁰ His daughter Betty sold the manor to the Ullman family in 1950, keeping the surrounding farmland. The Ullmans sold it in 1959 to Neills and Betty Svendsen who converted the buildings to a hotel.¹¹

2. AIMS

The principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, character, extent, depth, date and condition/state of survival of any archaeological features and deposits within the footprint of the proposed development. The results of the evaluation will inform the planning process - particularly whether there are any remains present of sufficient significance and state of preservation to affect the principle or layout of the proposed development and may also be used to formulate a programme of further archaeological work either prior to and/or during groundworks to mitigate the impact of the development on any remains present.

3. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by Oakford Archaeology (2021), submitted to and approved by DCHET prior to commencement on site. This document is included as Appendix 1.

The work comprised the excavation of 7 trenches totalling 88m in length, with each trench 1.2m wide. They were positioned to provide a spatial sample of the site and their positions were agreed with the DCHET prior to commencement on site. The positions of trenches as excavated are shown on Fig. 5.

Machine excavation was undertaken under archaeological control using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless grading bucket. Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed to the level of either natural subsoil, or the top of archaeological deposits

⁹ Historicengland.org.

¹⁰ Pugsley 2008

¹¹ TheDicamillo.com

(whichever was higher). Areas of archaeological survival were then cleaned by hand, investigated and recorded.

The standard OA recording system was employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets and individual trench recording forms, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed digital photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

4. RESULTS

Relevant detailed plans and sections are included as Figs. 5-7 and context descriptions for the trenches are set out in Appendix 2.

A generally uniform overlying layer sequence of topsoil and subsoil onto natural subsoil was encountered within Trenches 1, 2, 6 and 7. The depth of the overlying deposits ranged from 0.8-0.9m. Trenches 3, 4 and 5 exposed layers of landscaping to a depth of 0.79-1.4m.

4.1 The trenches

Trench 1 (Plates 1-5)

This trench measured 20m x 1.2m, was orientated approximately N-S and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.87m. No archaeological features or finds were present. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 1, Appendix 2.

Trench 2 (Detailed plan and section Fig. 6, Plates 1, 6-9)

The trench measured 10m x 1.2m, was orientated approximately E-W. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m. Excavation partially exposed two shallow sub-circular features; likely the remains of tree throws. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 2, Appendix 2.

Feature 203 was a large sub-circular pit, with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 1.53m and was 0.44m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (202). This consisted of a uniform sandy silt based deposit similar to the overlying subsoil.

Feature 204 was a small circular pit, with gradually breaking sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 1.16m and was 0.32m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (205). This consisted of a uniform sandy silt based deposit similar to the overlying subsoil.

Trench 3 (Detailed section Fig. 7, Plates 10-12)

The trench measured 13m x 1.2m, was orientated approximately E-W. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m. A sequence of successive episodes of historic landscaping was present, but no archaeological features or finds. Overlying the mid orange sand natural subsoil (305) was a 0.4m thick layer of mid reddish brown silty sand with rare inclusions of cbm and occasional fragments of roofing slate fragments. This was overlain by a 0.4m thick layer of mid greyish brown sandy silt (304) which was in turn sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of redeposited river terrace gravels (302). Above this was a 0.2m thick mid to dark grey sandy silt (303) which was overlain by a compacted mid red clay (300) with frequent inclusions of tarmac, cbm, charcoal flecks and slate. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 3, Appendix 2.

The interpretation of the exposed layers has been hampered by a general lack of dating evidence from secure contexts. However, an attempt has been made at sub-dividing the sequence into broad periods based on the limited dating evidence available and the stratigraphy from the adjacent trenches. The presence of cbm within the basal layer suggests that although the subsoil (304) is largely *in situ* it has nonetheless been extensively reworked or landscaped in the 18th or 19th century. The presence of a thin leached topsoil (303) above this deposits, indicative perhaps of a reworked soil horizon, would seem to support this view. The redeposited river terrace gravels (302) sealing this sequence are possibly the result of the excavation of the foundations of the east wing in the late 19th century, with 301 part of the soft landscaping. The upper most deposit is likely associated with the construction of the tennis court in the late 20th century.

Trench 4 (Detailed section Fig. 7. Plates 13-16)

The trench measured 10m x 1.2m, was orientated approximately N-S. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. A simple sequence of historic landscaping was present, but no archaeological features or finds. The heavily truncated remains of a 0.2m thick light brown sandy silt subsoil (403) were exposed at a depth of 0.7m below ground level. This deposit was in turn overlain by a 0.15m thick mid to dark brown sandy silt former topsoil (402). Due to the thickness of the underlying subsoil and the shallow nature of the topsoil it is likely that both have been extensively reworked, the latter imported following the reduction in height of the subsoil. This was in turn sealed underneath a 0.45m thick light reddish brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of river terrace gravels (401) and containing a single sherd of 19th century industrial whiteware. The similarity with deposit (302) suggests that this deposit too is the result of the excavation of the foundations of the east wing in the late 19th century. The overlying 0.1m thick modern made ground likely represents 20th century landscaping associated with the construction of the tennis. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 4, Appendix 2.

Trench 5 (Detailed section Fig. 7. Plates 17-20)

The trench measured 10m x 1.2m, was orientated approximately NE-SW. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. Excavation revealed a similar sequence of landscaped deposits to the one identified in Trench 4, but no archaeological features or finds. The earliest deposit consisted of a 0.15m thick truncated subsoil (503) overlain by 0.23m thick mid brown sandy silt (502) interpreted as a redeposited topsoil. This deposit was in turn sealed underneath a 0.21m thick light to mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of river terrace gravels (501). Two sherds of blue-and-white transfer-printed ware were recovered from this deposit, suggesting that this is a landscaping deposit of late 19th century date. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 5, Appendix 2.

Trench 6 (Plates 21-24)

The trench measured 20m x 1.2m, was orientated approximately N-S. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m. No archaeological features or finds were present. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 6, Appendix 2.

Trench 7 (Plates 25-28)

The trench measured 8m x 1.2m, was orientated approximately E-W. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. No archaeological features or finds were present. Context descriptions for this trench are set out in Table 7, Appendix 2.

5. THE FINDS

This is a very small finds assemblage composed entirely of post-medieval materials. These are itemised in Appendix 3 and briefly described below.

The finds consisted of a single sherd of late 18th-19th century industrial white ware recovered from the redeposited river terrace gravels in Trench 4 (401) and a further two sherds of late 19th century blue-and-white transfer printed ware finds recovered from the same redeposited river terrace gravels in Trench 5 (501). Finally, a single sherd of miscellaneous 19th century redware was recovered from the topsoil (600) in Trench 6.

6. CONCLUSION

The trench evaluation constitutes a thorough examination of the site, with trenches positioned to provide a spatial sample of the site. Intact soil sequences (up to 0.8m deep) have been confirmed in Trenches 1, 2, 6 and 7 and the total removal of this material within each trench has revealed evidence for buried archaeological features and deposits. The evidence for archaeological activity within the site is nonetheless somewhat limited, both in terms of the number and the variety of features identified, while the interpretation and dating of the exposed features is hampered by a general lack of pottery, lithics and other dating evidence from secure contexts. The distribution of archaeological features and deposits identified during the evaluation is shown on Fig. 8.

The focus of the early activity consisted of two discrete features identified within Trench 2. These were more difficult to discern due to the similarity of their single fills to the overlying subsoil. Although no dating evidence was found the general character of both features is not inconsistent with pits or tree throws of prehistoric date.

Elsewhere the results have been consistent with deposits identified in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 relating to successive episodes of 18th and 19th century landscaping of the grounds to the east of the house.

The pottery assemblage recovered from the site is minimal, despite examination of spoil heaps. This further indicates that the site is, with the potential exception of the area around Trench 2, archaeologically sterile.

7. PROJECT ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1784, pending deposition with the ADS. Details of the evaluation, including a pdf copy of the final report will be submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1- 420801).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This evaluation was commissioned by Chris Riley (PCR Homes Ltd). The project was managed for Oakford Archaeology by Marc Steinmetzer. The fieldwork was carried out by Michael Wootton and Marc Steinmetzer; the illustrations for the report were prepared by Michael Wootton. Thanks are hereby recorded to Susan Watts (DCHET) and Marrina Neophytou (DCHET) who provided advice throughout the project.

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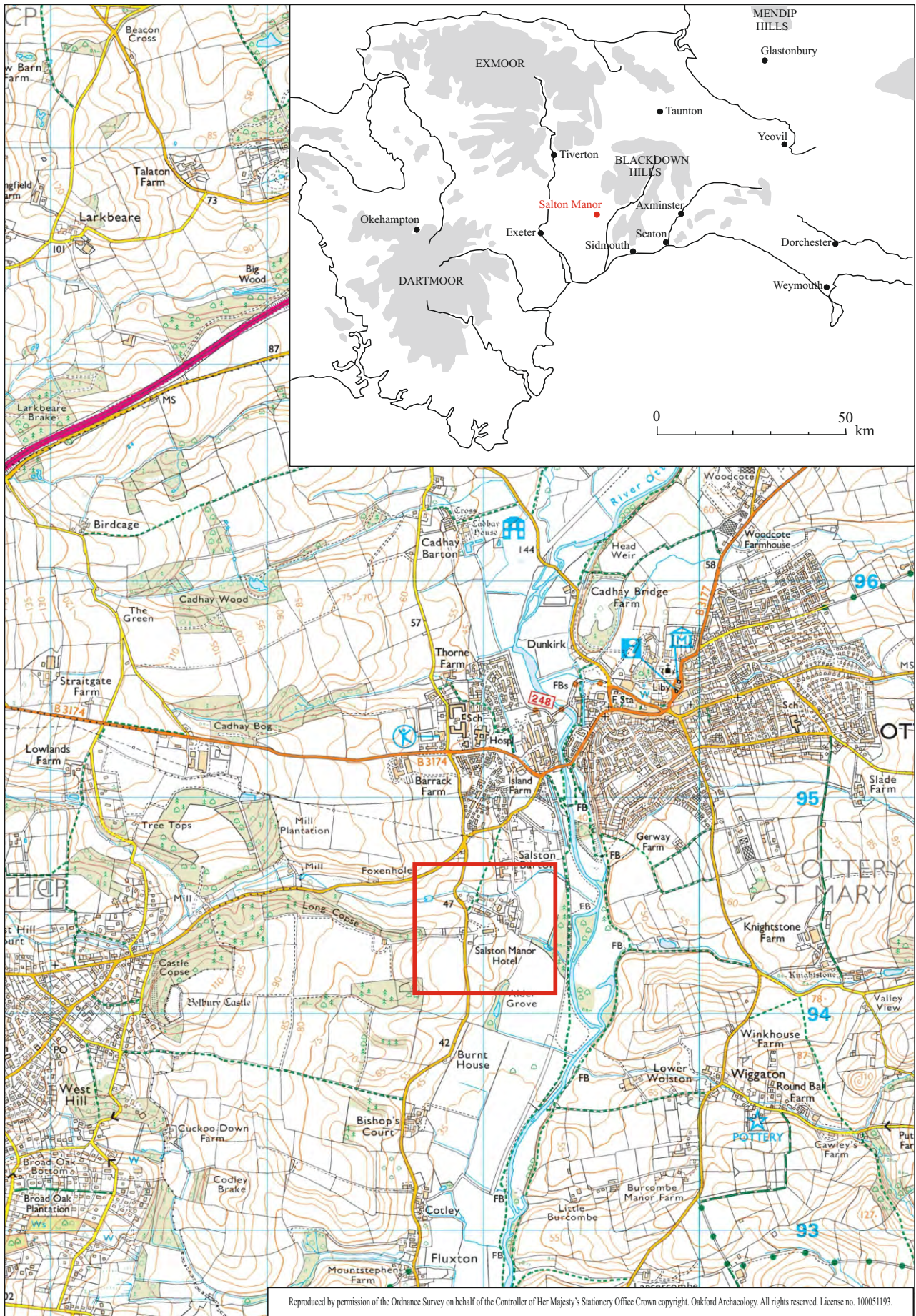


Fig. 1 Location of site



Fig. 2 Detail from the 1842 Ottery St Mary Tithe Map.

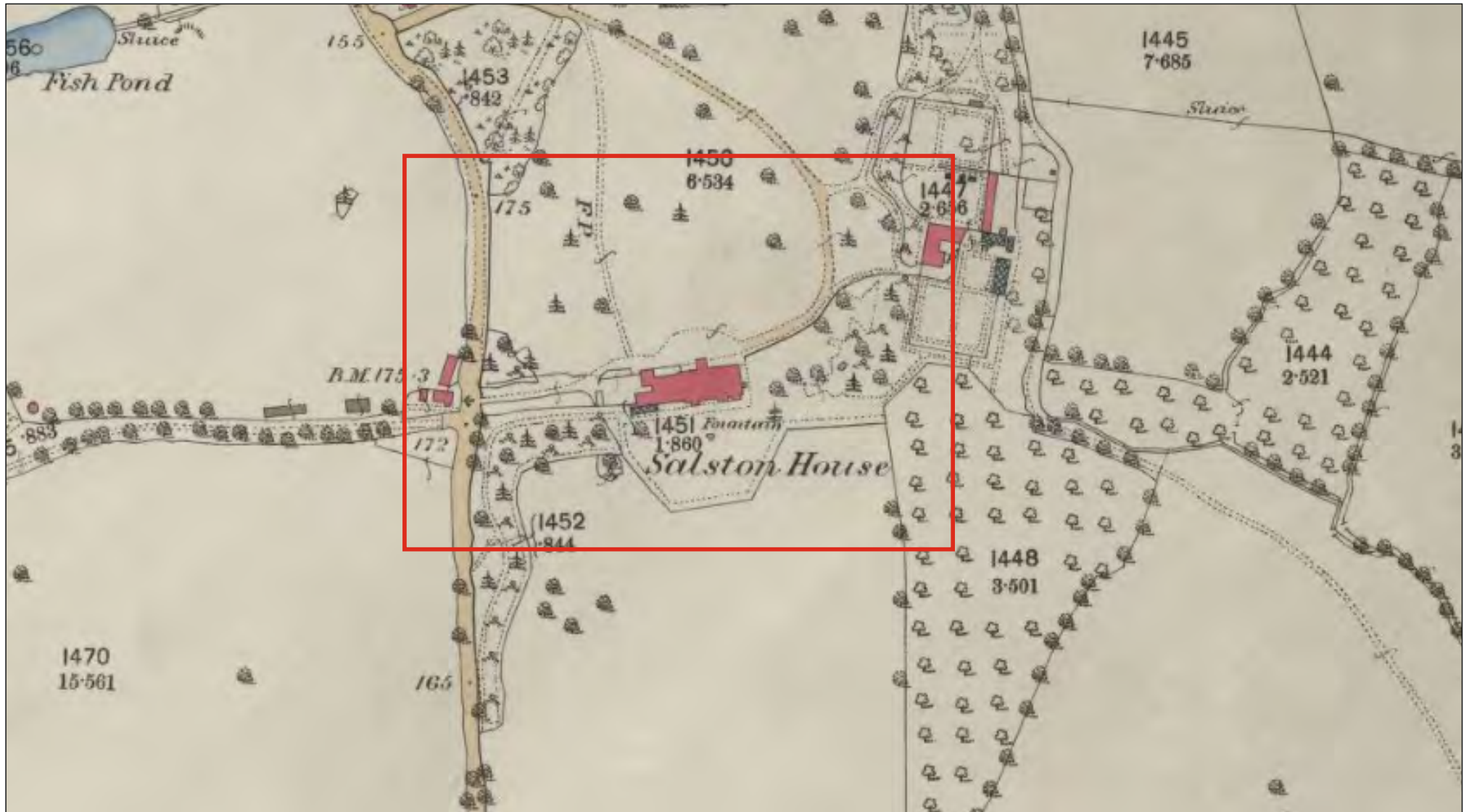


Fig. 3 Detail from the 1st edition 1889 Ordnance Survey Map Devonshire Sheet LXXXII.1.



Fig. 4 Detail from the 2nd edition 1905 Ordnance Survey Map Devonshire Sheet LXXXII.1.

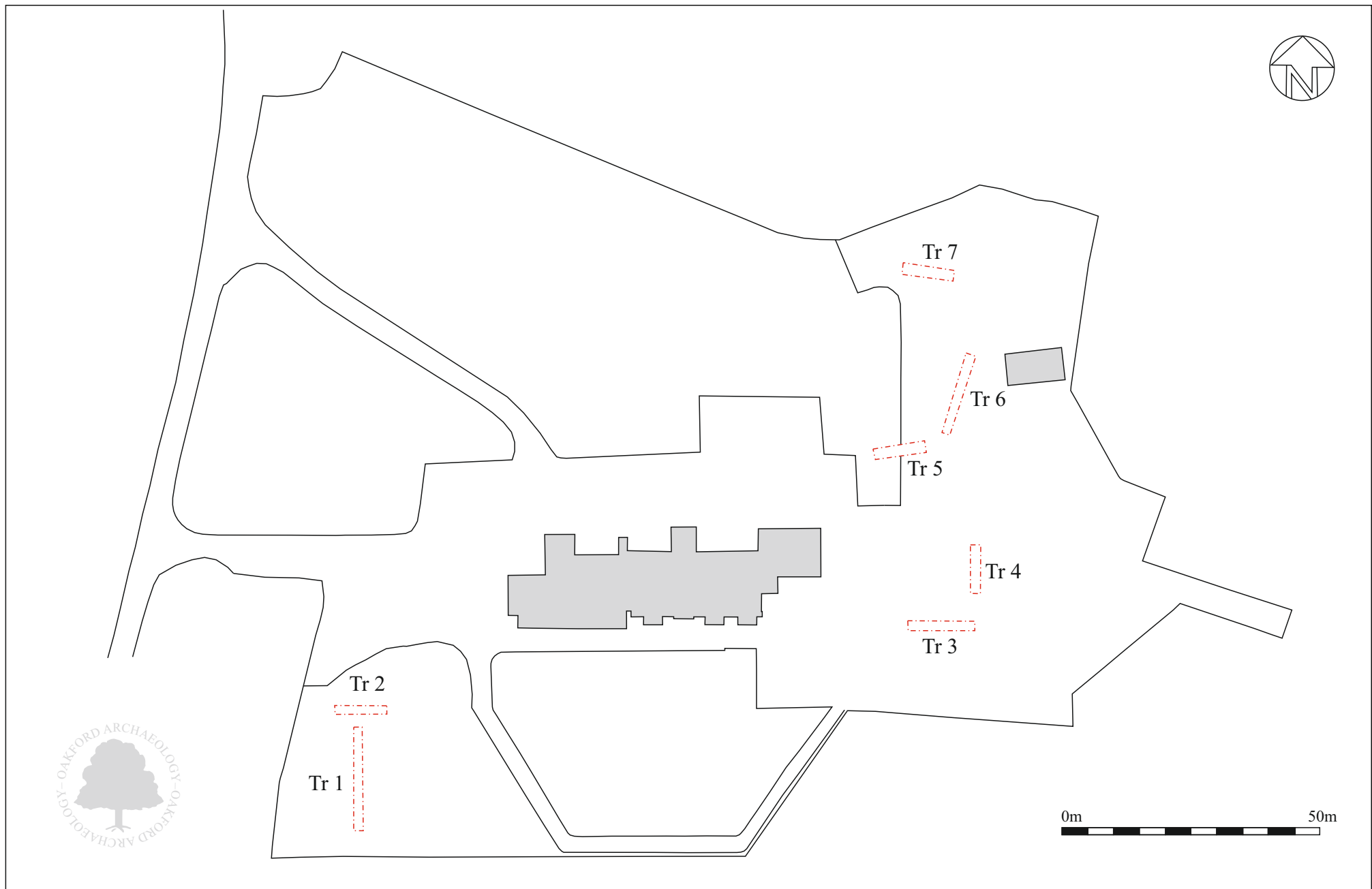


Fig. 5 Plan showing location of trenches.

Trench 2

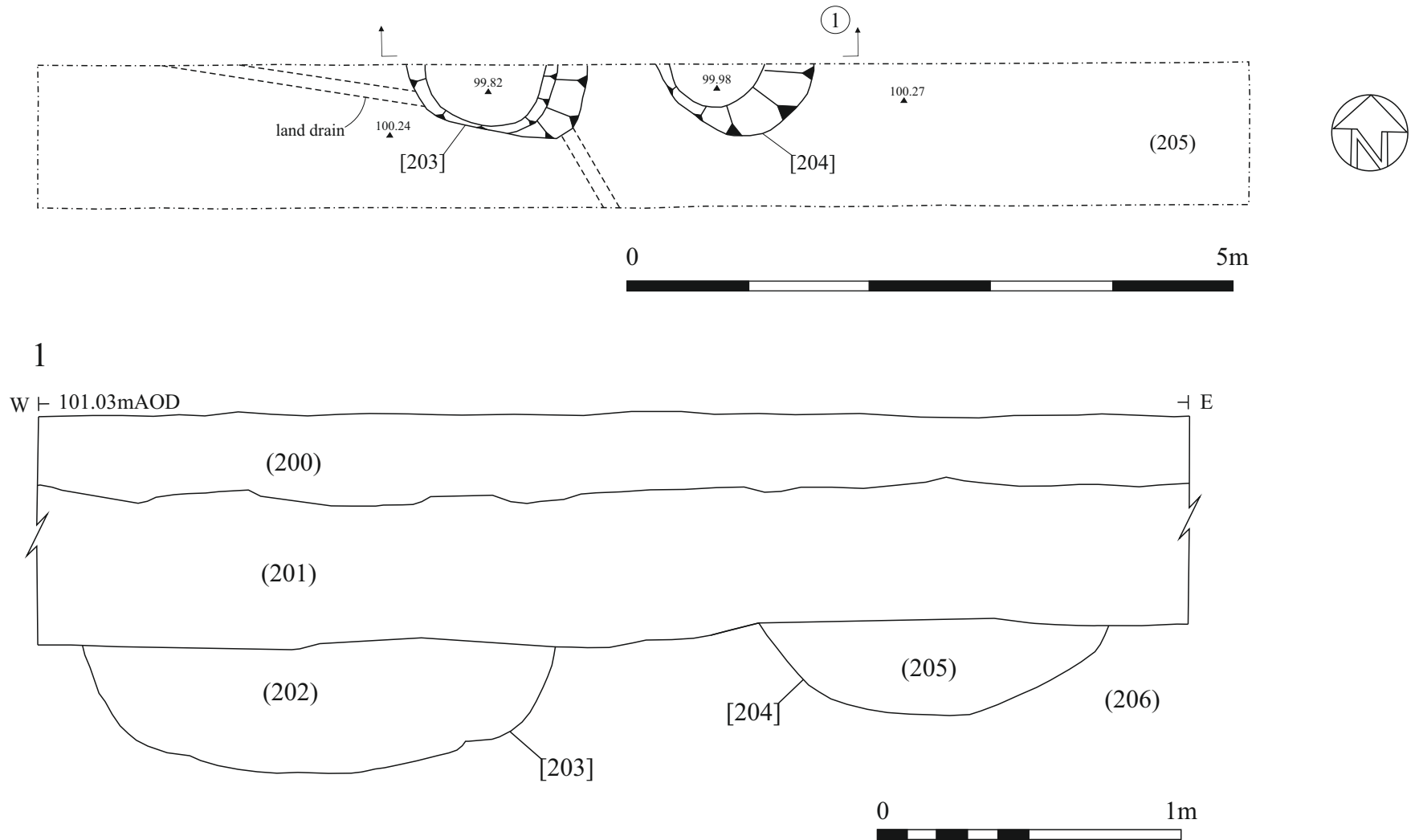
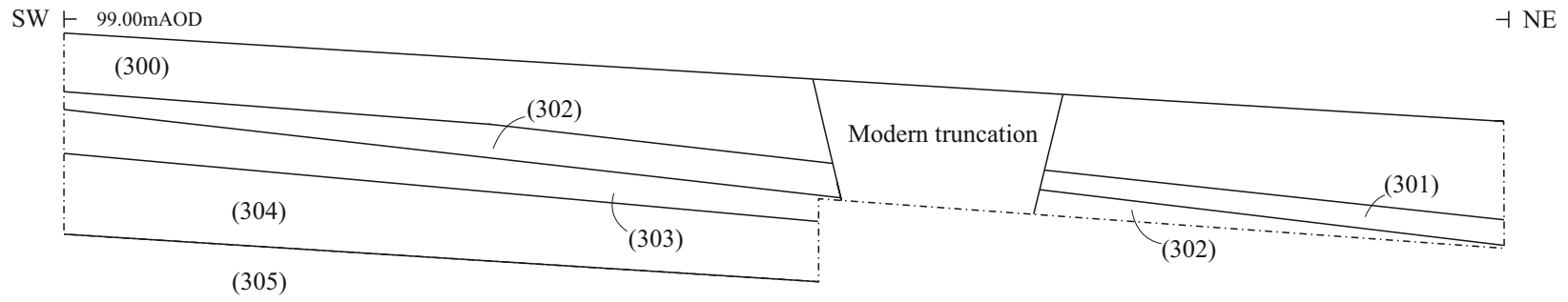
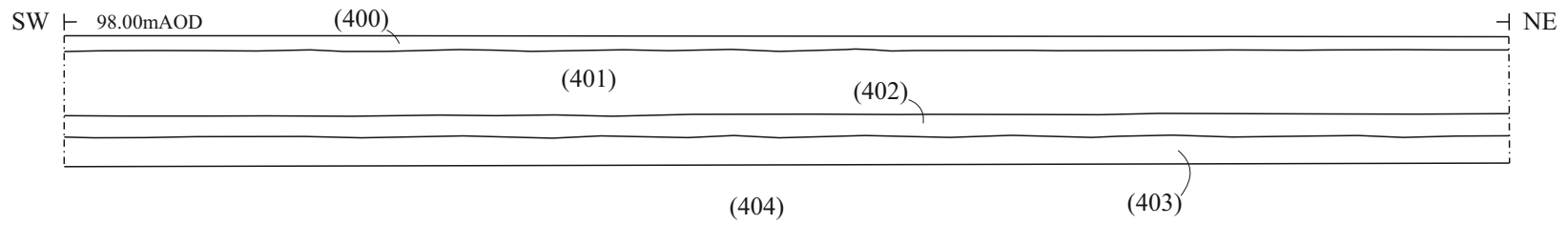


Fig. 6 Trench 2: Plan and section.

Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 5

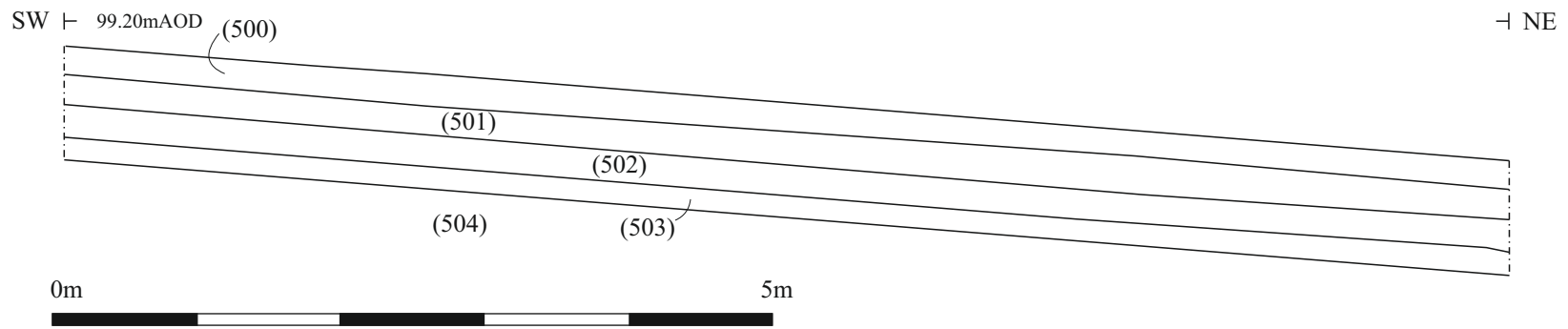


Fig. 7 Trenches 3, 4 and 5: sections.

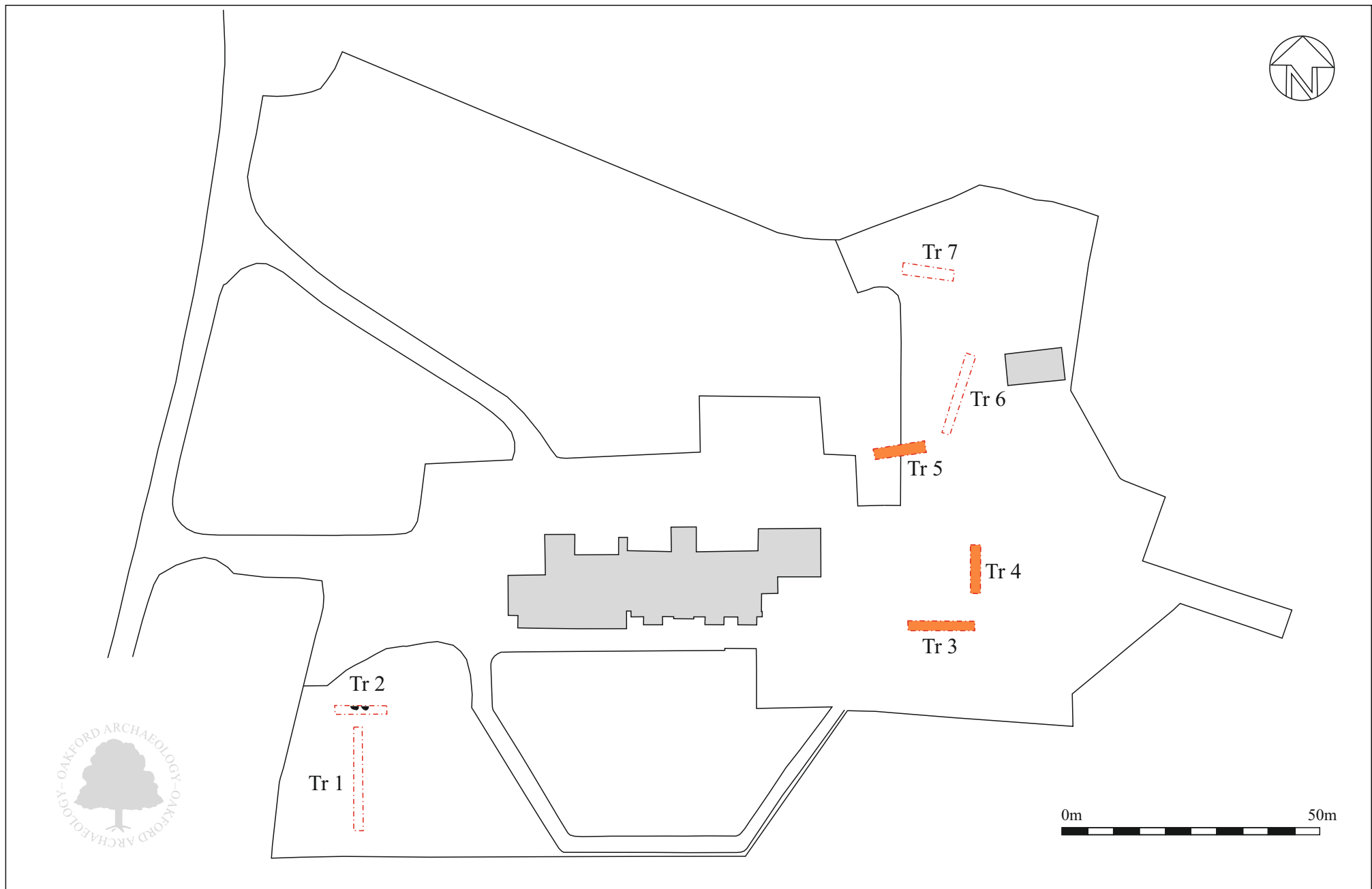


Fig. 8 Plan showing principal features identified (black) and areas of historic landscaping (orange).



Pl. 1 General view of Trenches 1 and 2 with the former Salston Manor Hotel in the background. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 General view of Trench 1. 2m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 3 Sample section through Trench 1 showing soil sequence. 1m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 4 Sample section through Trench 1 showing soil sequence. 1m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 5 General view of Trench 1. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 6 General view of Trench 2. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 7 Section through Trench 2 showing possible pit [203]. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 8 Section through Trench 2 showing possible pit [204]. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 9 General view of Trench 2. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 10 General view of Trench 3 showing successive phases of historic landscaping. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 11 Section through successive phases of landscaping in Trench 3. 2m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 12 Section through successive phases of landscaping in Trench 3. 2m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 13 General view of Trench 4. 2m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 14 Section through historic landscaping in Trench 4.1m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 15 Section through historic landscaping in Trench 4. 1m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 16 General view of Trench 4. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 17 General view of Trench 5. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl.18 Section through historic landscaping in Trench 5. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 19 Section through historic landscaping in Trench 5. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 20 General view of Trench 5. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 21 General view of Trench 6. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 22 Sample section through Trench 6 showing soil sequence. 1m scale.
Looking west.



Pl. 23 Sample section through Trench 6 showing soil sequence. 1m scale.
Looking west.



Pl. 24 General view of Trench 6. 2m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 25 General view of Trench 7. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 26 Sample section through Trench 7 showing soil sequence. 1m scale.
Looking south.



Pl. 27 Sample section through Trench 7 showing soil sequence. 1m scale.
Looking south.



Pl. 28 General view of Trench 7. 2m scale. Looking west.

Appendix 1:

Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological works

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for the client and sets out the methodology to be employed during an archaeological evaluation on land at the Salston Manor Hotel, Ottery St Mary, Devon (SY 0902 9437). This document represents the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' required under a planning application (20/1647/MFUL) for the construction of 13 dwelling houses within the grounds and construction of single and two storey extensions to Salston Manor and associated works. The work is required by the local planning authority East Devon District Council, as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).
- 1.2 The proposed work is situated in an area of archaeological potential. The Devon Historic Environment Record indicates the presence of a possible prehistoric funerary monument as well as linear features that may be indicative of prehistoric or Romano-British activity in the fields to the south of the proposed development.

It is possible therefore that the proposed groundworks have the potential to expose and destroy archaeological and artefactual deposits associated with medieval or later activity in the area.

2. AIMS

- 2.1 The aim of the evaluation is to identify, excavate and record any *in situ* archaeological remains affected by the development, by excavating trial trenches and, if necessary, excavate the archaeological remains prior to the start of construction, and to report on the results of the project, as appropriate.

3. METHOD

- 3.1 The first phase will comprise the excavation of 7 trenches totalling 110m in length, with each trench 1.6 m wide (see attached plan). Localised site constraints (eg. buried services, tree canopies etc.) may result in minor modifications to the trench layout.

Phase 1 - trial trenching, to identify whether any remains are present on the site, and if so where.

This will inform the level of mitigation needed before proceeding with the development:

Option 1 – no mitigation required

Option 2 - monitoring and recording/limited excavation during construction groundworks, if necessary. Sufficient time will need to be allowed for the completion of any archaeological recording and limited excavation necessary within the construction groundworks. At times this may require a pause in the

construction works, but the need for this will be kept to a minimum where possible. Where more substantial delays are envisaged, then a site meeting will be convened as necessary with the DCHET and the client to agree the way forward.

Option 3 - full archaeological excavation of certain areas prior to construction starting, if necessary

The need for, and extent of options 1, 2 & 3 will be reviewed and agreed at a site meeting with the DCHET once the trial trenches have been dug and the results are clear. If required, option 3 will then be carried out and completed before the commencement of construction works, and option 2 during the latter. Should significant archaeological deposits or remains be present in the phase 1 trial trenches, then these will be left in situ and excavated as part of a larger area excavation under option 3.

In addition, there will be a further phase of off-site analysis and reporting work.

The method outlined below applies primarily to the phase 1 trenching work. Should options 2 or 3 be required, then the generic methods and provisions set out in sections 3.3 - 3.10 and 4 - 5 below will apply, and a plan showing proposed areas of excavation and/or monitoring will be submitted to the DCHET for approval prior to such works starting.

- 3.2 Trenches will be CAT scanned prior to excavation. Trenches will be opened using a tracked or wheeled machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Excavation will continue until either the top of significant archaeological levels or natural subsoil is reached (whichever is higher), at which point machining will cease and investigation will continue by hand. Where archaeological deposits are present the trench will be cleaned and deposits investigated, excavated and recorded.

General project methods

- 3.3 The area subject to option 2 or 3 will be agreed with the DCHET in advance of fieldwork and shown on a plan. Topsoil or overburden across the area(s) to be investigated will be removed using a tracked or wheeled machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the direct control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of in situ subsoil/weathered natural, archaeological or significant palaeoenvironmental deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence, at which point machining will cease and investigation will continue by hand to clean the exposed surface.

All archaeological deposits and features will be stratigraphically excavated by hand down to natural subsoil in the following manner, unless agreed otherwise with the DCHET:

- all significant deposits will be excavated and recorded by hand,

- some less significant and more bulky deposits may be carefully removed by machine with a toothless grading bucket, under direct archaeological supervision and with prior agreement of the DCHET,
 - fills of cut features will be excavated by hand as follows: -pits (50%), postholes (50 and then 100%), stakeholes (100%), linears (20%, targeted on intersections, terminals or overlaps, etc). Surfaces will be completely excavated within the confines of the trenches or area excavation,
 - If excavations reveal a substantial number of repetitive discrete features, such as stake-holes, the DCHET would require that these should be adequately sampled by excavation to understand their character rather than the complete excavation of all such features,
 - Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of environmental samples and the recovery of artefacts,
 - Variations to these may be required, for example to fully recover important finds and material, or to obtain firmer dating evidence, and these will be agreed with the DCHET and then carried out,
 - Spoil will also be examined and scanned with a metal detector for the recovery of artefacts.
- 3.4 Environmental deposits will be assessed on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist, with advice as necessary from Allen Environmental Archaeology or the Historic England Regional Science Advisor, to determine the possible yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence, and its potential for radiocarbon dating. If deposits potential survives, these would be processed by Allen Environmental Archaeology (AEA) using the HE Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (HE CfA Guidelines 2002/1) and Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (Historic England, second edition, August 2011), and outside specialists (AEA) organised to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.
- 3.5 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer-term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (specifically ‘First Aid for Finds’ Watkinson, D and Neal V, (London: Rescue/UKICAS 2001) and CfA 2014 ‘Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials’) and on advice provided by A Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.
- 3.6 Should artefacts be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Act. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.7 Should any articulated human remains be exposed; these will initially be left *in situ*. If removal at either this or a later stage in the archaeological works is

deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site subject to the compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be excavated in accordance with the CIfA 'Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains' (Megan Brickley and Jacqueline I McKinley, 2004) and the CIfA Standards for Recording Human Remains (Piers D Mitchell and Megan Brickley, CIfA 2017). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected.

- 3.8 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve artefacts or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon (see below). The client will be fully briefed and consulted if there is a requirement to submit material for specialist research.
- 3.9 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to work commencing.
- 3.10 The DCHET will be informed of the start of the project and will monitor progress throughout. A date of completion of all archaeological site work will be confirmed with the DCHET and the timescale of the completion of items under section 5 will run from that date.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

- 4.1 The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:
 - standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;
 - colour digital photography;
 - survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;
 - labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required

5. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the DCHET on completion of the site work. If little or no significant archaeology is exposed then reporting will consist of a completed County HER entry, including a plan showing location of groundworks and of any significant features found. The text entry and plan will be produced in an appropriate electronic format suitable for easy incorporation into the HER and sent to the client and the DCHET within 3 months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork.

5.2 Should significant deposits be exposed, further work (options 2 or 3 above) will be required either prior to and/or during construction groundworks. If the main contractor's programme requires that such archaeological work carries straight on from the trench evaluation, the results of all phases of archaeological work will be presented within one summary report within six months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork. However, if there is a significant delay (more than six months) between the end of the trench evaluation and the start of subsequent groundworks, an interim summary report will be produced of the results of the phase 1 work. This report, if required, will be prepared within three months of the completion of the phase 1 trenching. Any summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:

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- location plan and overall site plans showing the positions of the trenches, excavated areas and the distribution of archaeological features within them, as well as copies of any relevant historic maps;
- a written description of the exposed features and deposits and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of the known history of the site;
- plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location and character of significant archaeological deposits;
- a selection of photographs illustrating the principal features and deposits found;
- specialist assessments and reports as appropriate, including if necessary (see 5.6 below) an outline of, and timetable for the completion of, any further work required to bring the most important results to wider publication.

5.3 A pdf version of the summary report will be produced and distributed to the Client and the DCHET on completion of sitework within the timescale above. A copy of the report and.pdf version will also be deposited with the site archive.

5.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the project.

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital (data images, survey data, digital correspondence, site data collected digitally etc.) and digital copies of the primary site records and images, compiled in accordance with the ADS Guidelines for Depositors (2015).

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) with the permission of the landowner within 6 months of the completion of site work, while the artefactual element will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (*ref. number pending*). Any artefacts not taken by the Royal Albert Memorial Museum will be offered to the landowner before being discarded. The hardcopy of the archive will be offered to the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and if not required will be disposed of by OA.

OA will notify the DCHET upon the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and the deposition of any material (finds) archive with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum.

Should no artefacts be recovered or should the Royal Albert Memorial Museum not wish to retain any that are, then, with the agreement of the DCHET, the report submitted to OASIS will form the sole archive for this project.

- 5.5 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological investigations) database within three months of the completion of site work (oakforda1-420801).
- 5.6 A short report summarising the results of the project will be prepared for inclusion within the “round up” section of an appropriate national journal, if merited, within 12 months of the completion of site work.
- 5.7 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including (para 141 of the NPPF) any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the DCHET, in consultation with the Client. OA, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client and the DCHET. A final draft publication text and figures will be produced within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed in writing.
- 5.8 Any amendments to the method or timescale set out above will be agreed in writing with the DCHET before implementation.

6. CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES

- 6.1 If topsoil stripping or groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of the archaeological contractor then it is the archaeological contractor's responsibility - in consultation with the developer and/or site owner - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

7. COPYRIGHT

- 7.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

8. PROJECT ORGANISATION

- 8.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, 2014, revised 2020, the Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation, 2014*). The project will be managed by Marc Steinmetzer. Oakford Archaeology is managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Health & Safety

- 8.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specialists contributors and advisors

The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;

Bird remains: Matilda Holmes;

Dating techniques: Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre;

Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;

Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);

Environmental data: AEA;

Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);

Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);

Fish remains: Hannah Russ, Sheila Hamilton-Dyer;

Human remains: Charlotte Coles, Mandy Kingdom;

Lithic analysis: Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);

Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan;

Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);

Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);

Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;

Plant remains: Lisa Gray;

Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);

Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates (Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields);

Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team

MFR Steinmetzer
4 May 2021
WSI/OA1784/01

Appendix 2:

Context descriptions by Trench

Table 1: Trench 1

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
100	0-0.3m	Mid brown sandy loam	Topsoil
101	0.3-0.87m	Mid to light yellowish brown sandy silt with inclusions of sub-rounded river terrace gravels and pebbles (5%)	Subsoil
102	0.87m +	Mid red silty sand	Natural subsoil

Table 2: Trench 2

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
200	0-0.36m	Mid brown sandy loam	Topsoil
201	0.36-0.8m	Light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt with inclusions of sub-rounded river terrace gravels and pebbles (5%)	Subsoil
202	0.6-1m	Light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt	Fill of possible pit [203]
203	0.6-1m	Sub-circular feature with gradually breaking sides and a concave base	Pit
204	0.65-0.9m	Sub-circular feature with gradually breaking sides and a concave base	Pit
205	0.65-0.9m	Light to mid yellowish brown sandy silt	Fill of possible pit [204]
206	0.8m +	Mid red silty sand	Natural subsoil

Table 3: Trench 3

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
300	0-0.7m	Mid red compact clay with inclusions of modern tarmac and cbm (1%), river terrace gravels (5-10%) and charcoal flecks (<1%)	Modern made ground
301	0.7-0.9m	Mid to dark grey sandy silt with inclusions of charcoal flecks (<1%), cbm (<1%) and river terrace gravels (<5%)	Imported topsoil
302	0.5-0.7m	Light to mid reddish brown silty sand and river terrace gravels.	Redeposited river terrace gravels
303	0.7-1.07m	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with <2% river terrace gravels and charcoal flecks (<1%)	Imported topsoil
304	1-1.4m	Mid reddish brown silty sand with inclusions of cbm (2-3%) and roofing slate fragments (5%)	Subsoil
305	1-1.4m	Mid yellow silty sand with inclusions of medium sub-rounded river terrace gravels and pebbles	Natural subsoil

Table 4: Trench 4

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
400	0-0.1m	Mid red compact clay with inclusions of modern tarmac and cbm (1%), river terrace gravels (5-10%) and charcoal flecks (<1%)	Modern made ground
401	0.1-0.55m	Light to mid reddish brown silty sand and river terrace gravels.	Redeposited river terrace gravels
402	0.55-0.7m	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded river terrace gravel	Imported topsoil
403	0.7-0.9m	Light brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded river terrace gravel	Truncated subsoil
404	0.9m +	Mid yellow silty sand with inclusions of medium sub-rounded river terrace gravels and pebbles	Natural subsoil

Table 5: Trench 5

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
500	0-0.2m	Mid brown silty loam with infrequent river terrace gravel inclusion	Topsoil
501	0.2-0.41m	Light to mid reddish brown silty sand and river terrace gravels.	Redeposited river terrace gravels
502	0.41-0.64m	Mid to dark reddish brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded river terrace gravel	Imported topsoil
503	0.64-0.79m	Mid reddish brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded river terrace gravel	Truncated subsoil
504	0.79m +	Mid yellow silty sand with inclusions of medium sub-rounded river terrace gravels and pebbles	Natural subsoil

Table 6: Trench 6

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
600	0-0.22m	Mid brown silty loam with infrequent river gravel inclusion	Topsoil
601	0.22-0.65m	Mid to light yellowish brown sandy silt with inclusions of sub-rounded river terrace gravels and pebbles (5%)	Subsoil
602	0.65m+	Reddish brown silty sand with rare inclusions of river terrace gravel	Natural subsoil

Table 7: Trench 7

Context No.	Depth (b.g.s.)	Description	Interpretation
700	0-0.4m	Mid brown silty loam with infrequent river gravel inclusion	Topsoil
701	0.4-0.9m	Mid to light yellowish brown sandy silt with inclusions of sub-rounded river terrace gravels and pebbles (5%)	Subsoil
702	0.9m+	Yellowish brown silty sand with inclusions of medium sub-rounded river terrace gravels and pebbles	Natural subsoil

Appendix 3: Finds quantification

Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	weight	Notes
401			1	2g	1 sherd of industrial whiteware (after 1780).
501		late 19 th century	2	3g	2 sherds of blue-and-white transfer-printed industrial whiteware (late 19 th century).
601			1	2g	1 sherd of miscellaneous redware (19 th century);