Berkshire Archaeology

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THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Whitehall Brick and Tile Works, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield Garrison.

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An Archaeological Evaluation

for

Persimmon Homes (South East) Ltd

March 1998

Whitehall Brick and Tile Works, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield Garrison
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Jo Pine

Report 96/79

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Whitehall Brick and Tile Works, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield Garrison, Berkshire (SU 7645 6525) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. N. Pishavadia, of Persimmon Homes (South East) Ltd, Persimmon House, Brooklands Business Park, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 OYP.

This evaluation was undertaken as a condition on the granting of planning permission to redevelop the site for housing. This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Policy and Planning Guidance Note, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16, 1990). The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr. R. Bourn of Babtie, archaeological advisors to Wokingham District Council. The fieldwork was supervised by Jo Pine who was assisted by Andy Smith and Steve Weaver. It was undertaken between the 24th February and 2nd March 1998 and the site code is WBT 96/79.

Location, Topography and Geology

The site is approximately 5.95 ha. in extent and located to the west of Sheerlands Road and south of Baird Road (Fig. 1). At the time of evaluation the site contained a number of partially demolished buildings relating to the brick and tile works and a number of spoilheaps relating to the demolition and groundworks which were taking place at the time of the evaluation. Furthermore, a number of stands of trees, with preservation orders placed upon them, were

located across the site. The underlying geology of the site is London Clay (BGS 1946) and the site lies at approximately 59 m. above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological Background

A desktop study of the site (Hall 1996) indicated there were no known archaeological deposits within the development area, although a small number were recorded in the near vicinity. A late Iron Age to 1st century settlement was discovered during excavation of a clay pit in 1934, approximately 500 m. to the south-east of the brick and tile works. One of the excavated ditches contained late Iron Age/Roman pottery and other domestic waste. A further excavation at the clay pit in 1936 recovered more pottery, loomweights and domestic debris. The full extent of this settlement is not known, however, an evaluation to the south-east of this site (Ford 1989) did not uncover any archaeological features, only a single sherd of Roman pottery and two flint flakes. This would appear to indicate that the Iron Age/Roman site did not extend in that direction.

Two areas of cropmarks are known in the vicinity. The group nearest to the brick and tile works are indistinct; a possible penannular feature, parallel linears and diverging linears. These have not been investigated and thus remain undated.

Evidence of Medieval activity in the vicinity of the site takes the form of a number of listed buildings and a moat dated between the 15th and 16th century. A collection of pottery of 13th to 14th century date was recovered from a trench approximately 500 m. to the south of the brick and tile works.

Objectives and Methodology

The desktop study recommended an evaluation as it was not certain that archaeological deposits did not exist on the site (Hall 1996). The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The evaluation was to consist of the excavation of 24 trenches, each 1.6 m. wide and 24 m. long. In the event, 26 trenches were excavated, 1.9 m. wide and ranging between 20 m. and 27 m. in length. The trench locations and lengths varied slightly from the specification due to the presence of badger setts, demolition spoilheaps, trees with preservation orders, and the need to maintain access (Fig. 2).

A 360° machine, fitted with a toothless grading bucket, was employed under direct and continuous archaeological supervision to remove made-ground/topsoil until the correct levels were obtained. Following machine trenching all certain/possible archaeological deposits were hand-cleaned and investigated and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results

Trench 1 This was aligned approximately north-east - south-west, was 24.20 m. long and 1.00 m. deep (max.). The trench sections showed there to be 0.60 m of made-ground overlying 0.10 m. of yellow-brown sand over London Clay. A modern pit and pipe trench were observed to be cutting the London Clay. No finds were recovered from the spoilheap.

Trench 2 This trench was aligned approximately north-west - south-east, was 22 m. in length and varied in depth between 0.80 m. - 1.70 m. London Clay was observed at the south-eastern end of the trench under 0.75 m. of made-ground and it appears to have been truncated to a

depth of over 1.70 m. in the remainder of the trench, with made-ground being recorded from that depth to the present day surface. This truncation is probably due to the trench being located close to the known clay pit (Fig. 2); the London Clay probably being extracted for use in the brick and tile works. No finds were retrieved from the spoil heap of this trench.

Trench 3 This trench was aligned approximately north-south and was 22 m. long and 0.90 m. deep. The trench sections showed there to be 0. 45 m. of made-ground overlying 0.30 m. of a light grey sand, over London Clay. A pipe trench was observed cutting the London Clay. No archaeological finds were retrieved from the spoilheap.

Trench 4 This trench was located north-east - south-west and was 20 m. long and 0.60 m. deep (max.). The sequence of stratigraphy was 0.30 m. of made-ground over 0.20 m. of orange sand, overlying London Clay. No archaeological features or finds were observed in the trench or subsequent spoilheap.

Trench 5 This trench was aligned approximately north-west - south-east and was 26 m. long and 0.50 m. deep (max.). The trench sections showed there to be 0.40 m. of made-ground over London Clay. A modern pipe trench was observed cutting the London Clay and no archaeological finds were recovered from the spoilheap.

Trench 6 This trench was located approximately east-west and was 26 m. long and between 0.80 m. and 1.40 m. deep. A layer of made-ground, 0.60 m. deep, overlay a grey brown sand which was between 0.15 m. and 0.50 m. deep. This in turn overlay London Clay. Modern pits cut through the sand and the London Clay. No archaeological finds were retrieved from the spoil heap of this trench.

Trench 7 This trench was aligned approximately north-south and was 24.20 m. long and 0.55 m. deep (max.). The sequence of stratigraphy was 0.20 m. of made-ground onto 0.20 m. of

light brownish grey sand onto London Clay. A modern pipe trench cut the London Clay. No finds were retrieved from the spoilheap.

Trench 8 This was aligned approximately NNW - SSE and was 25.40 m. long and 0.35 m. deep (max.). The sections showed there to be 0.30 m. of made-ground onto London Clay. This had been contaminated/stained by the overlying made-ground. No archaeological features were observed and no finds retrieved from the spoilheap.

Trench 9 This was located north-west - south-east and was 25 m. long and 0.54 m. deep (max.). The sequence of stratigraphy was 0.10 m. of topsoil onto 0.26 m. of subsoil, over London Clay. A modern pipe and tree roots were observed cutting the natural. No archaeological finds were retrieved from the spoilheap.

Trench 10 This was aligned north-west - south-east and was 27 m. long and 0.50 m. deep (max.). The sequence of stratigraphy was 0.10 m. of topsoil over 0.20 m. of subsoil, over London Clay. A ditch (1) was recorded running from a south-eastern terminus in a north-west direction for 3 m. (Fig. 3). It was 1.10 m. wide and 0.15 m. deep (Fig. 4, Section 16) and its fill (52) contained 28 sherds of Roman pottery dated to the 1st century AD, and one piece of iron pyrites (weighing 4 gms). No finds were recovered from the spoilheap.

Trench 11 This trench was orientated north-west - south-east and was 24 m. long and 0.75 m. deep (max.). The trench sections showed 0.25 m. of topsoil overlying 0.50 m. of subsoil, which overlay London Clay. A large ditch (17) crossed the trench in a north-east - south-west direction (Fig. 3). This was 2.15 m. wide and 0.95 m. deep. and contained fills 74, 75 and 76. The tertiary fill (74) contained twenty sherds of pottery dated to the late 1st century AD and 74 fragments of fired clay (weighing 158 gms). No finds were retrieved from the spoilheap of this trench.

Trench 12 This trench was aligned NNE - SSW and was 21.4 m. long and 0.56 m. deep (max.). The trench sections showed there to be 0.20 m. of topsoil over 0.36 m. of subsoil, over London Clay. A number of archaeological features/deposits were recorded; a ditch (2), a working hollow (3), four postholes (6, 7, 14 and 15), two termini of linear features (5 and 13), and a spread (71).

Ditch 2 crossed the trench in an approximate north-west - south-east direction (Fig. 3) (Pl. 1). It was 1.28 m. wide and 0.80 m. deep. Four of its five fills (53, 54, 56 and 57) contained 37 sherds of pottery of late 1st century AD date. The ditch also contained 22 fragments of fired clay (weighing 1.182 kg.), six pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 668 gms), four pieces of bloom slag (weighing 964 gms) and one piece of burnt flint (weighing 76 gms).

Feature 3 was c. 6.20 m. in length, over 1.90 m. wide and 0.25 m. deep (Fig. 3) (Pl. 2). Its south-western side was gently sloping, its base was relatively flat and it contained two fills (66 and 63). The primary fill (66) contained 77 sherds of pottery dated to the later 1st century AD, one piece of slag (weighing 138 gms), one fragment of possible hearth lining (weighing 198 gms), one piece of burnt flint (weighing 108 gms), 16 pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 1.526 kg) and 22 pieces of fired clay (weighing 966 gms). The secondary fill (63) contained 189 pottery sherds of late 1st century AD date, six pieces of slag (weighing 778 gms), one fragment of possible hearth lining (weighing 98 gms), 37 pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 2.435 kg), one piece of burnt flint (weighing 86 gms) and 44 pieces of fired clay (weighing 1.074 kg). It has been interpreted as a working hollow.

Posthole 6 (Fig. 3; Fig. 4, Section 18) was 0.51 m. in diameter, 0.08 m. deep and contained five pottery sherds dated to the later 1st century AD, two pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 18 gms) and one fragment of fired clay (weighing 16 gms). Posthole 7 (Fig. 3; Fig. 4, Section 21) was 0.40 m. in diameter, 0.12 m. deep and contained four pottery sherds of 1st

century AD date. Posthole 14 was 0.49 m. in diameter, 0.05 m. deep and one sherd of 1st century AD pottery, three pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 48 gms) and two fragments of fired clay (weighing 1709 gms) were recovered from its fill (69) (Fig. 3). Posthole 15 (Fig. 3; Fig. 4, Section 23) was 0.25 m. in diameter, 0.04 m. deep and it's fill (70) contained two sherds of 1st century AD Roman pot.

Feature 13 was the probable terminal of a gully. It was c. 1.62 m. long, 0.67 m. wide and 0.06 m. deep (Fig. 3; Fig. 4, Section 19). Its fill (68) contained six sherds of early Roman pottery and two fragments of burnt clay (weighing 75 gms). Feature 5 was a terminal of a linear feature (Fig. 3). It was 1.25 m. long, 0.94 m. wide and 0.08 m. deep (Fig. 4, Section 22). Its fill (60) contained four sherds of later 1st century AD pottery. The spread (71) 1.30 m. long, 0.50 m. wide and 0.05 m. deep (max.) and contained nine sherds of early Roman pottery.

A single piece of early Roman pottery was recovered from the surface of this trench.

Trench 13 This was orientated NNE - SSW and was 24 m. long and 0.67 m. deep. The trench sections showed there to be 0.18 m. of topsoil over 0.27 m. of subsoil, over London Clay. A modern gully and tree roots were observed cutting the natural. No archaeological features were recorded or finds retrieved from the spoilheap.

Trench 14 This was aligned NNE - SSW and was 23.80 m. long and 0.60 m. deep. The trench sections showed 0.25 m. of mixed topsoil and brick/tile, over 0.25 m. of subsoil, onto London Clay. A modern gully and pipe trench were recorded. No finds were retrieved from the spoilheap.

Trench 15 This trench was aligned north-east - south-west and was 24 m. long and 1.00 m. deep (max.). The sequence of stratigraphy was 0.25 m. of topsoil mixed with brick/tile onto 0.20m. of a brown clayey sand, over orange sand with grey/white clay lenses. No

archaeological features were observed in the trench and no finds recovered from the spoil heaps.

Trench 16 This was aligned approximately north-east - south-west and was 26.60 m. long and 0.50 m. deep (max.). Made-ground 0.25 m. deep overlay 0.10 m. of greyish brown sand, which in turn overlay London Clay. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheap of this trench.

Trench 17 This was aligned approximately north-south and was 25.60 m. long and 0.65 m. deep (max.). The trench sections showed 0.10 m. of topsoil, brick and tile, overlying 0.25 m. of greyish brown sand, onto London Clay. No archaeological deposits were observed in the trench and no finds recovered from the spoilheap.

Trench 18 This trench was located NNE - SSW and was 23 m. long and 1.40 m. deep (max.). A test-pit was excavated in the southern end of the trench. The trench sections showed there to be 0.30 m. of made-ground overlying 0.20 m. of grey sand, over orange sand with grey/white clay lenses. This sand was excavated to a depth of 0.90 m. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheap.

Trench 19 This was orientated north-east - south-west and was 24.50 m. long and between 1.10 m. and 2.00 m. deep. A test-pit excavated at the southern end of the trench showed 0.30 m. of made-ground (including scalpins) overlying 0.10 m. of mid-brown sand, which in turn overlay orange sands with grey/white clay lenses. This was exposed in the test-pit to a depth of 1.60 m. No archaeological features were observed and no finds retrieved from the spoilheap.

Trench 20 This was aligned north-east - south-west and was 25 m. long and 1.00 m. deep (max.). The trench sections showed there to be 0.50 m. of made-ground onto 0.10 m. of mid-brown sand, over orange sand with grey/white clay lenses. No archaeological features were observed and no finds retrieved from the spoilheap of this trench.

Trench 21 This trench was aligned approximately north-east - south-west and was 23.60 m. long and between 0.70 m. and 1.50 m. deep. A test-pit dug in the northern end of the trench and the trench sections showed 0.60 m. of made-ground overlying orange sands with grey/white clay lens. This was excavated, within the test pit, to a depth of 0.90 m. No archaeological deposits were observed in the trench and no finds recovered from the subsequent spoilheap.

Trench 22 This trench was located north-east - south-west and was 22.40 m. long and 0.55 m. max. The trench sections showed there to be 0.15 m. of topsoil overlying 0.25 m. of subsoil. This in turn overlay London Clay. A modern pipe trench was recorded but no archaeological deposits observed and no finds were recovered from the spoilheap of this trench.

Trench 23 This was located north-west - south-east and was 24.50 m. long and 0.90 m. -1.50 m. deep. A test pit was dug in the southern end of the trench. The trench sections showed there to be 0.20 m. of made-ground overlying orange sand with white/grey clay lenses. This sand was excavated to a depth of 1.30 m. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheap of this trench.

Trench 24 This trench was aligned north - south and was 25.40 m. deep and 0.64 m. deep. The sequence of stratigraphy was 0.17 m. of topsoil overlying 0.26 m. of subsoil. This in turn overlay London Clay. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheap of this trench.

Trench 25 This trench was aligned NNW - SSE and was 23.50 m. long and between 0.80 m. - 1.60 m. deep. The sequence of stratigraphy was 0.10 m. of topsoil with brick/tile over 0.30 m. of brown sandy clay, onto orange sand with white/grey clay lenses. No archaeological features were observed and no finds recovered from the spoilheap.

Trench 26 This trench was located north-east - south-west and was 24 m. long and 0.40 m. deep (max.). The sections showed there to be 0.10 m. of topsoil overlying 0.20 m. of subsoil, over London Clay. Six shallow archaeological features were recorded in this trench. A linear feature (4) ran north-east from a southern terminal (Fig. 3). It was only partially exposed in the trench and was 1.90 m. long, 0.60 m. wide and 0.15 m. deep (Fig. 5, Sections 2, 4 and 5). It contained two fills (58 and 59), the latter contained six later 1st century AD pot sherds and three pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 150 gms). Pit 8 had gently sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 3). It was 1.60 m. long, 0.75 m. wide, 0.11 m. deep (Fig. 5, Section 6) and contained 51 sherds of pottery dated to the 1st century AD, two pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 92 gms) and one fragment of fired clay (weighing 1 gms). A further pit or the terminal of a linear feature (10) was 0.90 m. wide and 0.08 m. deep and contained 21 pottery sherds dated to the 1st century AD. Pit 12 (Fig. 3) was 1.40 m. long, 0.78 m. wide and 0.08 m. deep. It contained a single pottery sherd dated to the 1st century AD, one fragment of tile (weighing 66 gms) and two pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 56 gms).

Features 9 and 11 were shallow and irregular (Fig. 3). On reflection these are possibly the result of tree root action and not of archaeological origin. However, feature 9 did contain two sherds of pottery and 11 contained eight sherds of pottery dated to the 1st century AD. Seven sherds of early Roman pottery were also recovered from the spoilheap of this trench.

The Finds

Pottery by Jane Timby

A moderately good assemblage of some 481 sherds of pottery weighing 5389 gms and dating to the early Roman period was recovered. Although superficially the assemblage appears to belong to one period, further refinement of chronology based on stratigraphic details may be feasible but cannot be attempted at this juncture.

Most of the pottery was recovered from Trenches 12 and 26 with small amounts from Trenches 10 and 11. The assessment was carried out by sorting the sherds into broad ware groups and quantifying these by sherd count and weight for each excavated context. The information is presented in Table 1. A summary is given in Table 2.

In total 21 contexts produced pottery with good groups of over 20 sherds from Tr 10 (1), Tr 12 (2) and (3), Tr 26 (8). The overall average sherd size is 11 gms, fairly typical of rubbish material that has been subjected to a certain amount of disturbance. Because of this the condition of the sherds is not particularly good with slightly abraded edges and deteriorated surfaces. There are several cases of sherds from the same vessel.

The assemblage is dominated by reduced sandy wares from both wheelmade and handmade vessels some of which at least are likely to derive from the Alice Holt industries, Surrey. In addition there are substantial quantities of flint-tempered ware including Silchester ware, and grog-tempered ware, both of which survive into the later 1st century AD. The high proportion of sandy ware suggests a date towards the end of the 1st century AD, just possibly extending into the early 2nd century. Although essentially rural in character the group is distinguished by having the substantial part of a South Gaulish samian dish (Drag 15/17) and a North Gaulish *terra nigra* platter (Cam type 12-14), both imported in the pre-Flavian period. Although such imported wares are common at the

TR	FEAT	CONT	WARE	WT	NO	COMMENT
10	1	52	GROG	974	22	STOR JAR
10	1	52	RW	46	6	JAR
11	17	74	FLINT	80	5	JAR
11	17	74	OXID	6	3	
11	17	74	GRFL	7	1	
11	17	74	RW	74	11	
12	2	53	FLINT	14	2	
12	2	53	SAM	1	1	
12	2	53	RW	17	2	
12	2	54	FLINT	25	3	
12	2	54	GROG	36	8	
12	2	54	RW	76	10	JAR
12	2	54	GROG	210	8	JAR/BOWL
12	2	56	RW	4	2	
12	2	57	GROG	14	1	
12	3	63	AMP	73	1	
12	3	63	TN	20	1	CAM 12-14
12	3	63	GROG	167	17	
12	3	63	FLINT	236	27	
12	3	63	RW	733	90	JAR,PL,BOWL
12	3	63	SAM	83	3	PRE-FLAV
12	3	63	RW	382	33	JARS
12	3	63	GROG	32	5	
12	3	63	FLINT	88	10	
12	3	63	OXID	2	1	
12	3	63	WW	12	1	
12	3	66	RW	235	27	
12	3	66	AMP?	80	3	
12	3	66	WW	28	1	BOWL
12	3	66	GRFL	14	1	
12	3	66	GROG	38	6	
12	3	66	SAND	104	2	STOR JAR
12	3	66	FLINT	377	34	
12	3	66	FLINT	115	3	JARS
12	3	SURF	RW	10	3	
12	5	60	RW	10	4	
12	5	60	FCLAY	0	0	X1
12	6	68	RW	33	4	
12	6	68	GROG	13	1	
12	7	62	RW	6	3	
12	7	62	GROG	9	1	
12	13	68	GROG	10	2	
12	13	68	RW	25	4	JAR
12	14	69	GROG	5	1	
12	15	70	RW	4	2	
12	16	71	RW	29	7	JAR
12	16	71	GROG	94	2	STOR JAR
12	SURF	0	RW	10	1	JAR
26	4	59	FLINT	3	1	
26	4	59	RW	10	3	
26	4	59	RW	7	1	
26	4	59	GROG	26	1	
26	8	64	GROG	89	6	
26	8	64	FLINT	105	9	JAR
26	8	64	RW	130	30	
26	8	64	SAND	44	1	JAR
26	8	64	RW	64	5	JAR

26	9	65	RW	10	2	
26	10	72	FLINT	15	2	
26	10	72	GROG	72	5	
26	10	72	RW	46	13	
26	11	73	RW	39	5	
26	11	73	OXID	1	1	
26	11	73	GROG	1	2	
26	12	67	RW	2	1	
26	SPOIL	0	FLINT	8	1	
26	SPOIL	0	OXID	4	1	
26	SPOIL	0	WW	20	1	
26	SPOIL	0	RW	32	4	
TOTAL				**5389**	**481**	

TR	FEAT	CONT	GROG	FLINT	RW	OXID	SAND	WW	AMP	FW	TOTAL	DATE
10	1	52	22	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	**28**	1ST AD
11	17	74	1	5	11	3	0	0	0	0	**20**	1ST AD
12	2	53	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	**5**	1ST AD
12	2	54	16	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	**29**	1ST AD
12	2	56	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	**2**	1ST AD
12	2	57	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**	1ST AD
12	3	63	22	37	123	1	0	1	1	4	**189**	1ST AD
12	3	66	7	37	27	0	2	1	3	0	**77**	1ST AD
12	3	SURF	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	**3**	1ST AD
12	5	60	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	**4**	1ST AD
12	6	68	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	**5**	1ST AD
12	7	62	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	**4**	1ST AD
12	13	68	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	**6**	1ST AD
12	14	69	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**	1ST AD
12	15	70	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	**2**	1ST AD
12	16	71	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	**9**	1ST AD
12	SURF	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	**1**	1ST AD
26	4	59	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	**6**	1ST AD
26	8	64	6	9	35	0	1	0	0	0	**51**	1ST AD
26	9	65	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	**2**	1ST AD
26	10	72	5	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	**20**	1ST AD
26	11	73	2	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	**8**	1ST AD
26	12	67	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	**1**	1ST AD
26	SPOIL	0	0	1	4	1	0	1	0	0	**7**	1ST AD
TOTALS			**90**	**97**	**273**	**6**	**3**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**481**	

nearby Roman town of Silchester they are usually relatively rare on sites in the immediate hinterland. Four sherds of abraded South Spanish amphora were also present.

Key to fabric codes in Tables 1-2

GROG - grog-tempered, mainly handmade wares
FLINT - flint tempered wares including Silchester ware
RW - reduced grey and black sandy wares
OXID - oxidised sandy ware
SAND - Alice Holt storage jar type fabric
WW - whitewares
AMP - amphorae
FW - fineware including samian and *terra nigra*

Slag

Two features contained small amounts of bloom iron slag:

(2, 53) Ditch containing one piece of slag (weighing 330 gms).

(2, 54) Ditch containing two pieces of slag (weighing 240 gms).

(2, 57) Ditch containing one piece of bloom slag (weighing 394 gms).

(3, 63) Working hollow containing six pieces of bloom slag (weighing 778 gms).

(3, 66) Working hollow containing one piece of bloom slag (weighing 138 gms).

Hearth lining

Two possible pieces of hearth lining were recovered from the working hollow (3):

(3, 63) One piece of hearth lining (weighing 98 gms).

(3, 66) One piece of hearth lining (weighing 198 gms).

Iron Pyrites

Nine features contained a small quantity of iron pyrites, possibly to be used as iron ore:

(1, 52) Ditch containing one piece of iron pyrites (weighing 4 gms).

(2, 53) Ditch containing five pieces of iron pyrites (492 gms).

(2, 54) Ditch containing one piece of iron pyrite (weighing 250 gms).

(2, 57) Ditch containing one piece of iron pyrite (weighing 6 gms).

(3, 63) Working hollow containing 37 pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 2.435 kg).

(3, 66) Working hollow containing 16 pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 1.526 kg).

(4, 59) Linear containing three pieces of iron pyrites (150 gms).

(6, 68) Posthole containing two pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 18 gms).

(8, 64) Pit containing two fragments of iron pyrites (weighing 92 gms).

(11, 73) Tree root? containing one piece of iron pyrites (weighing 52 gms).

(12, 67) Pit containing two pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 56 gms).

(14, 69) Posthole containing three pieces of iron pyrites (weighing 48 gms).

Fired Clay

A number of fragments of fired clay were recovered which have been interpreted as either loom or thatch weights. Some fragments possess perforations suggestive of suspension holes.

(1, 52) Ditch containing one fragment of fired clay ((weighing 8 gms).

(2, 53) Ditch containing 11 fragment of fired clay (weighing 966 gms).

(2, 59) Ditch counting 11 fragments of fired clay (weighing 216 gms).

(3, 63) Working hollow containing 22 fragments of fired clay (weighing 966 gms).

(3, 66) Working hollow containing 44 fragments of fired clay (weighing 1.074 kg)

(6, 68) Posthole containing one fragment of fired clay (weighing 16 gms).

(8, 64) Posthole containing one fragment of fired clay (weighing 1 gm).

(13, 68) Gully containing two fragment of fired clay (weighing 75 gms).

(10, 72) Pit/linear containing one fragment of fired clay (weighing 38 gms).

(14, 69) Posthole containing two fragments of fired clay (weighing 170 gms).

(17, 74) Ditch containing five fragments of fired clay (weighing 158 gms).

Burnt flint

Three features contained small amounts of burnt flint:

(2, 53) Ditch containing one piece of burnt flint (weighing 76 gms).

(3, 63) Ditch containing three pieces of burnt flint (weighing 86 gms).

(3, 66) Ditch containing three pieces of burnt flint (weighing 108 gms)

Tile

One fragment of tile was recovered from pit 12 (67), weighing 66 gms.

Conclusions

The archaeological features recorded on the site were concentrated around an area examined by Trenches 10, 11, 12 and 26 (Fig. 2). The remaining trenches showed no evidence of archaeological activity. Trenches 15, 18, 20, 21, 23 and 25 cut an orange sand natural, which is probably an isolated sand bar, which was consolidated to the south of the site (Fig. 2) .

Trenches 10, 11, 12 and 26 have produced evidence of Roman occupation in the form of ditches, gullies, postholes and a working hollow. The pottery evidence indicates a single phase of occupation towards the end of the 1st century AD, possibly extending into the early 2nd century. The character of the recorded features and artefacts recovered would appear to suggest a settlement, rather than the features being elements of a field system. The majority of the pottery indicates a rural character for this occupation. However, the discovery of fragments of a South Gaulish samian dish and a North Gaulish *terra nigra* platter, which are relatively rare on a Silchester hinterland site, are interesting to note. A large assemblage of iron pyrites was recovered from the features, some in association with slag. This and the discovery of a possible working hollow (3) suggests that some sort of industrial activity was taking place here. Iron pyrites occurs widely but the large amounts of this material collected in association with slag may indicate that it was being deliberately collected to smelt for iron (Hodges 1989).

The location of this site, and others identified by the East Berkshire Archaeological Survey (Ford 1987), on the London Clay, indicates that settlement did occur more frequently on this

geology than was previously thought. The location and study of these sites on what is usually thought of as agriculturally marginal land raises the possibility of examining the demographic trends in the Roman period. For example, it may be possible to infer whether Roman settlement of this marginal land was a product of population expansion/land hunger similar to that which occurred in the Medieval period in the 13th and 14th centuries, or whether the settlement largely continued a pattern established in the Iron Age.

The archaeological potential of the area surrounding Trenches 10, 11, 12 and 26 (Fig. 6) is good, as, although a few of the features were shallow, the remainder were deep and well defined. Large deep features would be expected to produce well-dated pottery assemblages and evidence of the economy of the occupants. The remainder of the site was archaeologically sterile and has little potential.

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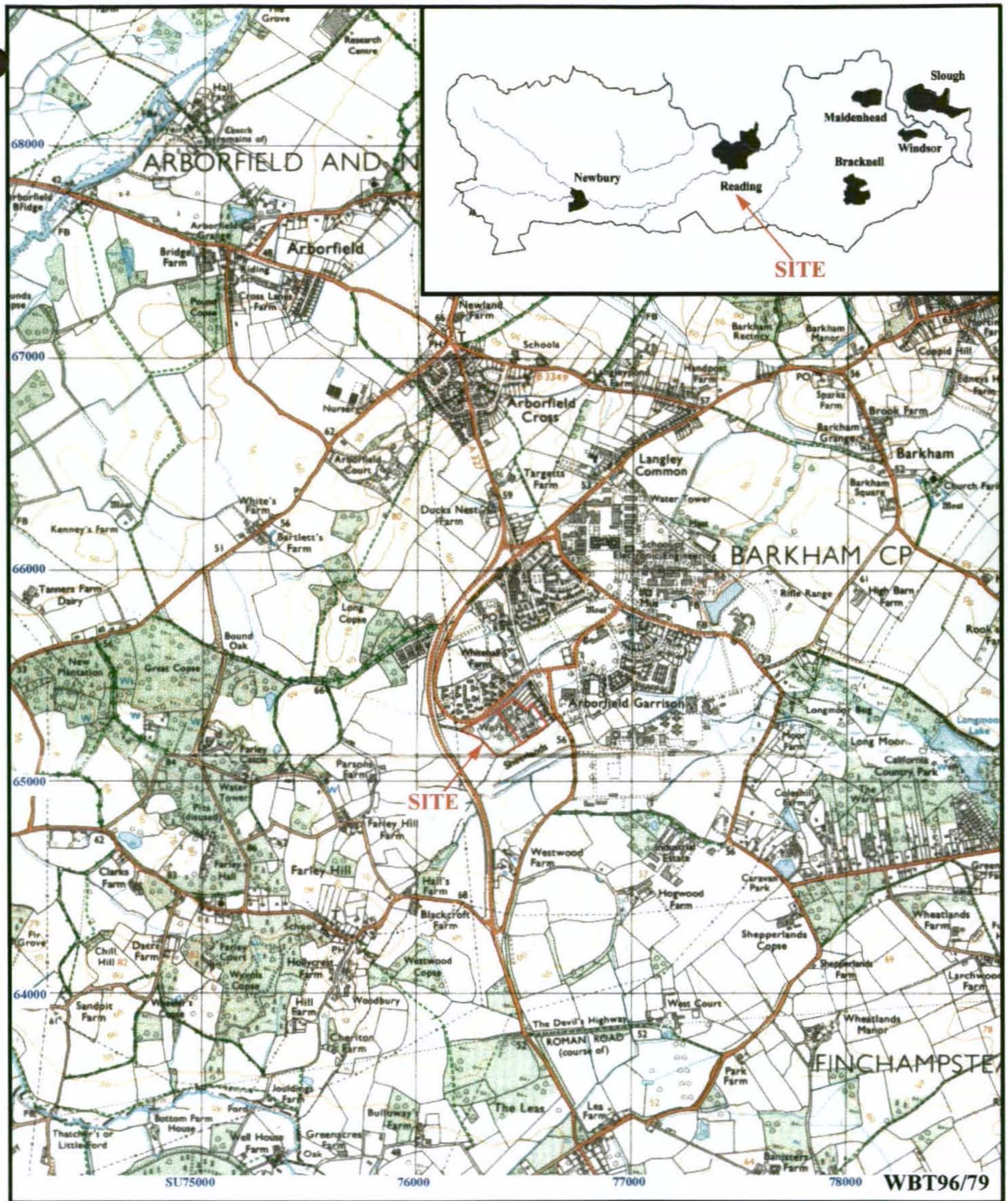
APPENDIX 1: Trench Details

Trench No.	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	24.20	1.90	1.00 (max.)	Made-ground onto yellow/brown sand onto London Clay. No archaeology.
2	22	1.90	1.70 (max.)	Made-ground onto London Clay. No archaeology.
3	22	1.90	0.90 (max.)	Made-ground onto grey sand onto London Clay. No archaeology.
4	20	1.90	0.60 (max.)	Made-ground onto orange sand onto London Clay. No archaeology.
5	26	1.90	0.50 (max.)	Made-ground onto London Clay. No archaeology.
6	26	1.90	1.60 (max.)	Made-ground onto grey/brown sand onto London Clay. No archaeology.
7	24.20	1.90	0.55 (max.)	Made-ground onto brown sand onto London Clay. No archaeology.
8	25.40	1.90	0.35 (max.)	Made-ground onto London Clay. No archaeology.
9	25	1.90	0.54 (max.)	Topsoil onto subsoil onto London Clay. No archaeology.
10	27	1.90	0.54 (max.)	Topsoil onto sub soil onto London Clay. Ditch (1).
11	24	1.90	0.75 (max.)	Topsoil onto subsoil onto London Clay. Ditch (17).
12	21.40	1.90	0.56 (max.)	Topsoil onto subsoil onto London Clay. Ditch (2), Working hollow (3), Postholes (5, 6, 14 and 15), Linears (5 and 13) and spread (71).
13	24	1.90	0.67 (max.)	Topsoil onto subsoil onto London Clay. No archaeology.
14	23.80	1.90	0.60 (max.)	Topsoil/brick/tile onto subsoil onto London Clay. No archaeology.
15	24	1.90	1.00 (max.)	Topsoil/brick/tile onto brown clayey sand onto orange sand (with grey/white clay lenses).No archaeology.
16	26.60	1.90	0.50 (max.)	Made-ground onto grey/brown sand onto London Clay. No archaeology.
17	25.60	1.90	0.65 (max.)	Topsoil/brick/tile onto greyish brown sand onto London Clay. No archaeology.
18	23	1.90	1.40 (max.)	Made-ground onto grey sand onto orange sand (with grey/white clay lenses). Test pit and no archaeology.
19	24.50	1.90	2.00 (max.)	Made-ground onto brown sand onto orange sand (with grey/white clay lenses). Test pit and no archaeology.
20	25	1.90	1.00 (max.)	Made-ground onto mid brown sand onto orange sand (with white/grey sand lenses). No archaeology.
21	23.60	1.90	1.50 (max.)	Made-ground onto orange sand (with grey/white clay lenses). No archaeology.
22	22.40	1.90	0.56 (max.)	Topsoil onto subsoil onto London Clay. No archaeology.
23	24.50	1.90	1.50 (max.)	Made-ground onto orange sand (with grey/white clay lenses). Test pit and no archaeology.
24	25.40	1.90	0.64 (max.)	Topsoil onto subsoil onto London Clay. No archaeology

25	23.50	1.90	1.60 (max.)	Topsoil/brick/tile onto orange sand (with grey/white clay lenses).Test pit and no archaeology
26	24	1.90	0.40 (max.)	Topsoil onto subsoil onto London Clay. Linear (4), Pits (8, 10, 12). Tree roots (9 and 11).

Appendix 2: Feature details

Feature	Fill	Description	Date
1	52	Ditch	1st century AD
2	53 - 57	Ditch	1st century AD
3	63, 66	Working hollow	1st century AD
4	58, 59	Linear	1st century AD
5	60	Gully terminus	1st century AD
6	61	Posthole	1st century AD
7	62	Posthole	1st century AD
8	64	Pit	1st century AD
9	65	Tree root/scoop	1st century AD
10	72	Pit/Linear	1st century AD
11	73	Tree root/scoop	1st century AD
12	67	Pit	1st century AD
-	71	Spread	1st century AD



Whitehall Brick and Tile Works, Sheerlands Road, Arborfield Garrison, Berkshire, 1998

Figure 1. Location of site within Arborfield and Berkshire.

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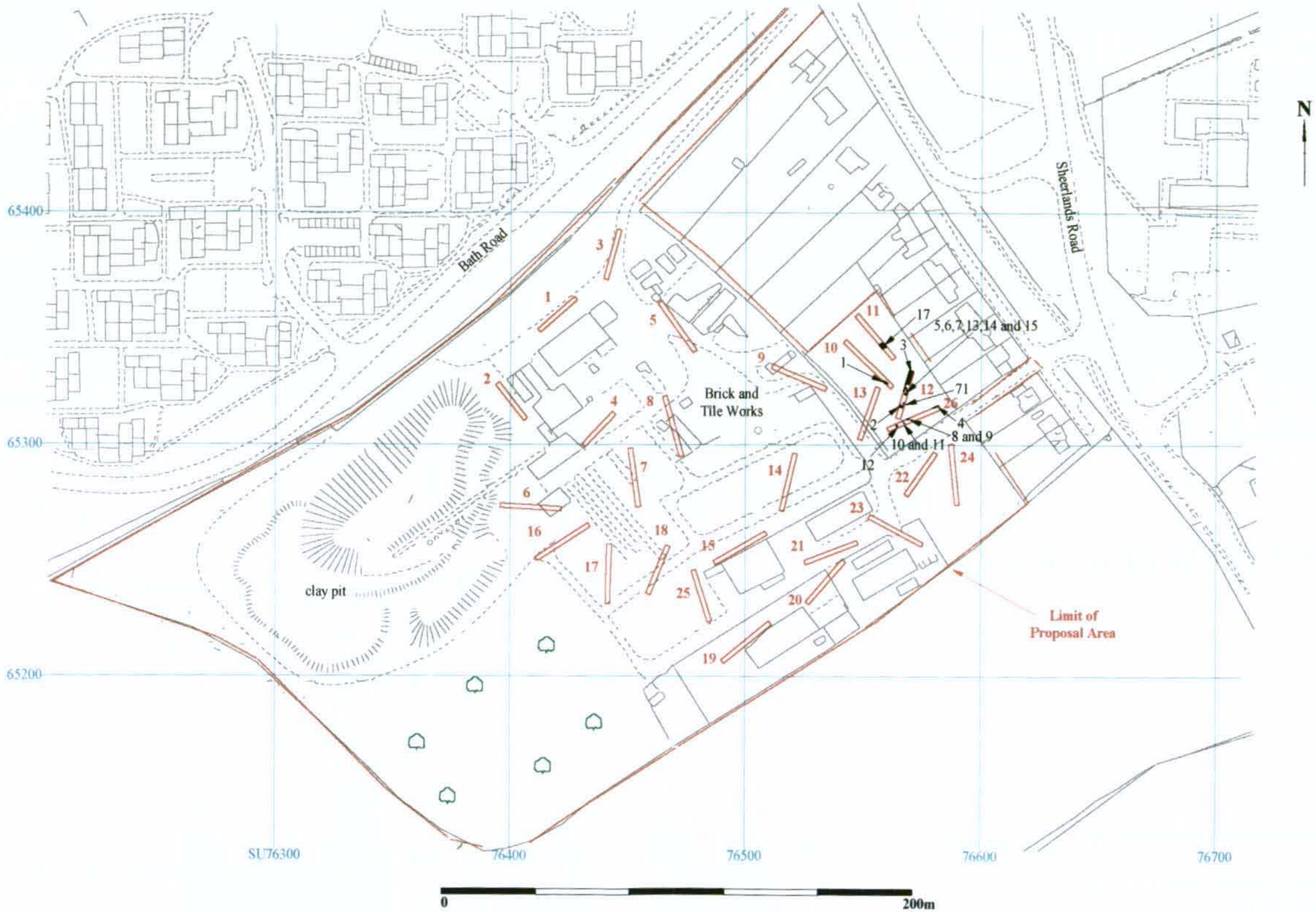

Figure 2. Trench location plan, showing all archaeological features

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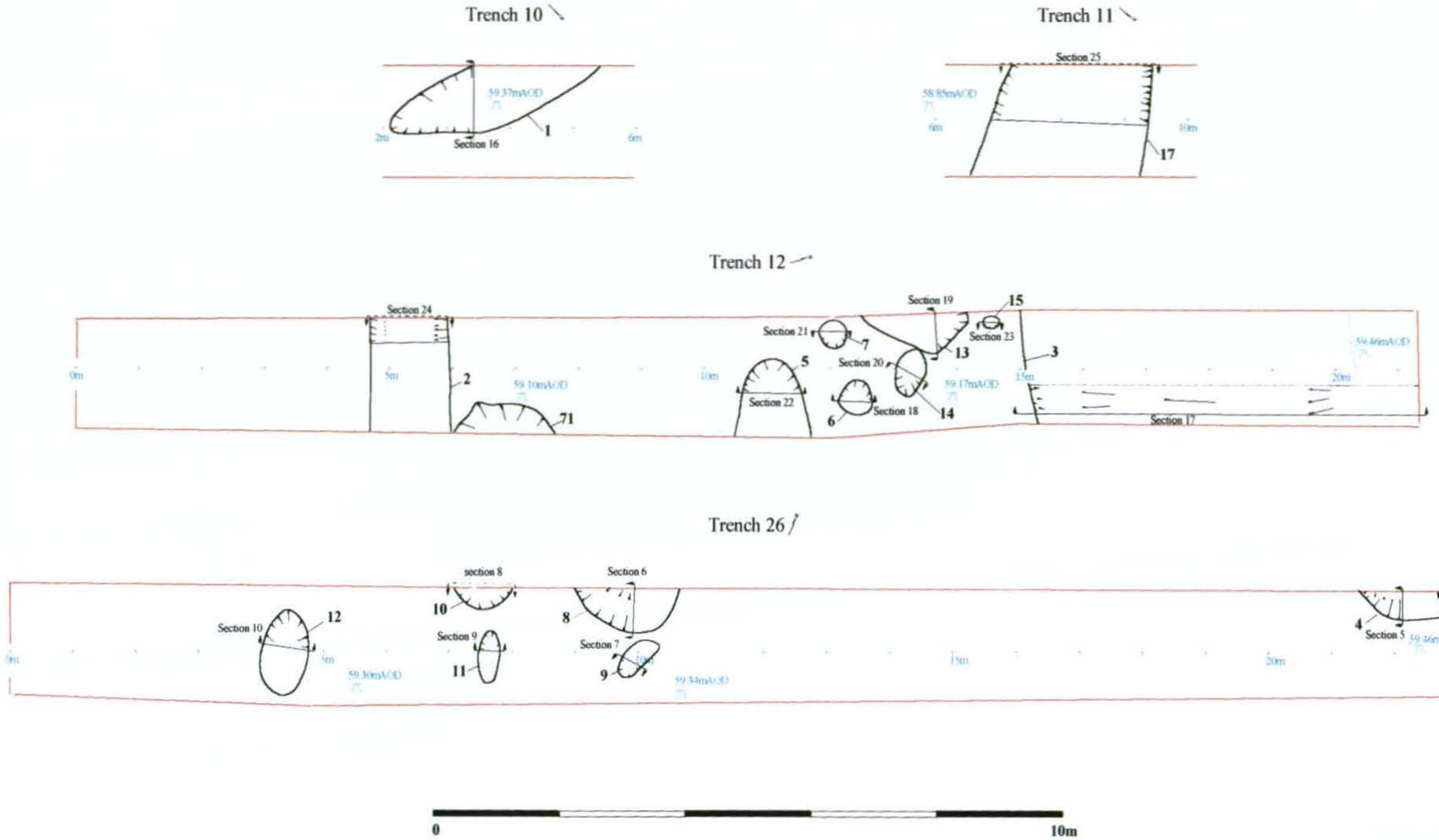

Figure 3. Trench plans, showing all archaeological features.

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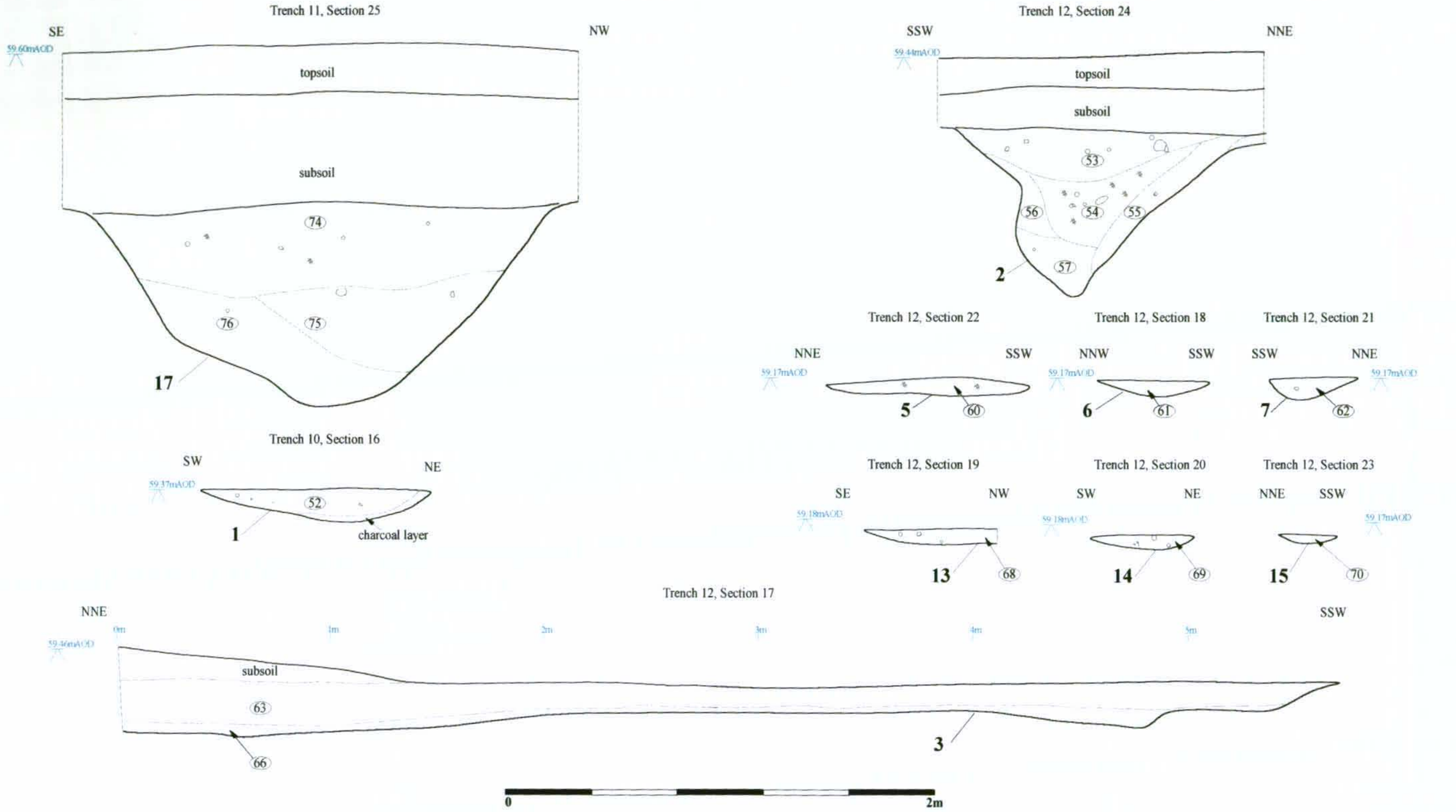

Figure 4. Sections, trenches 10, 11 and 12.

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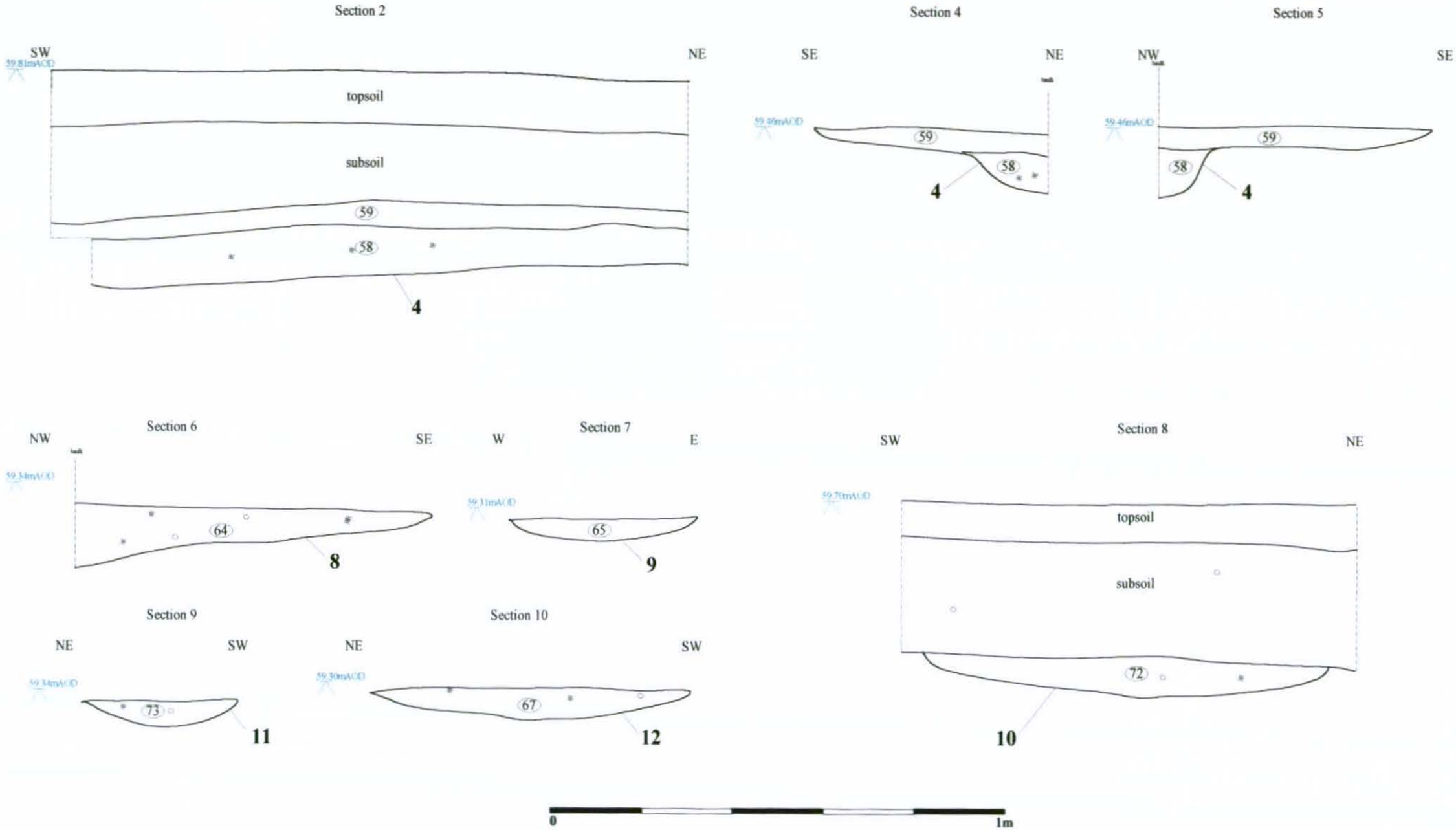

Figure 5. Sections, trench 26.

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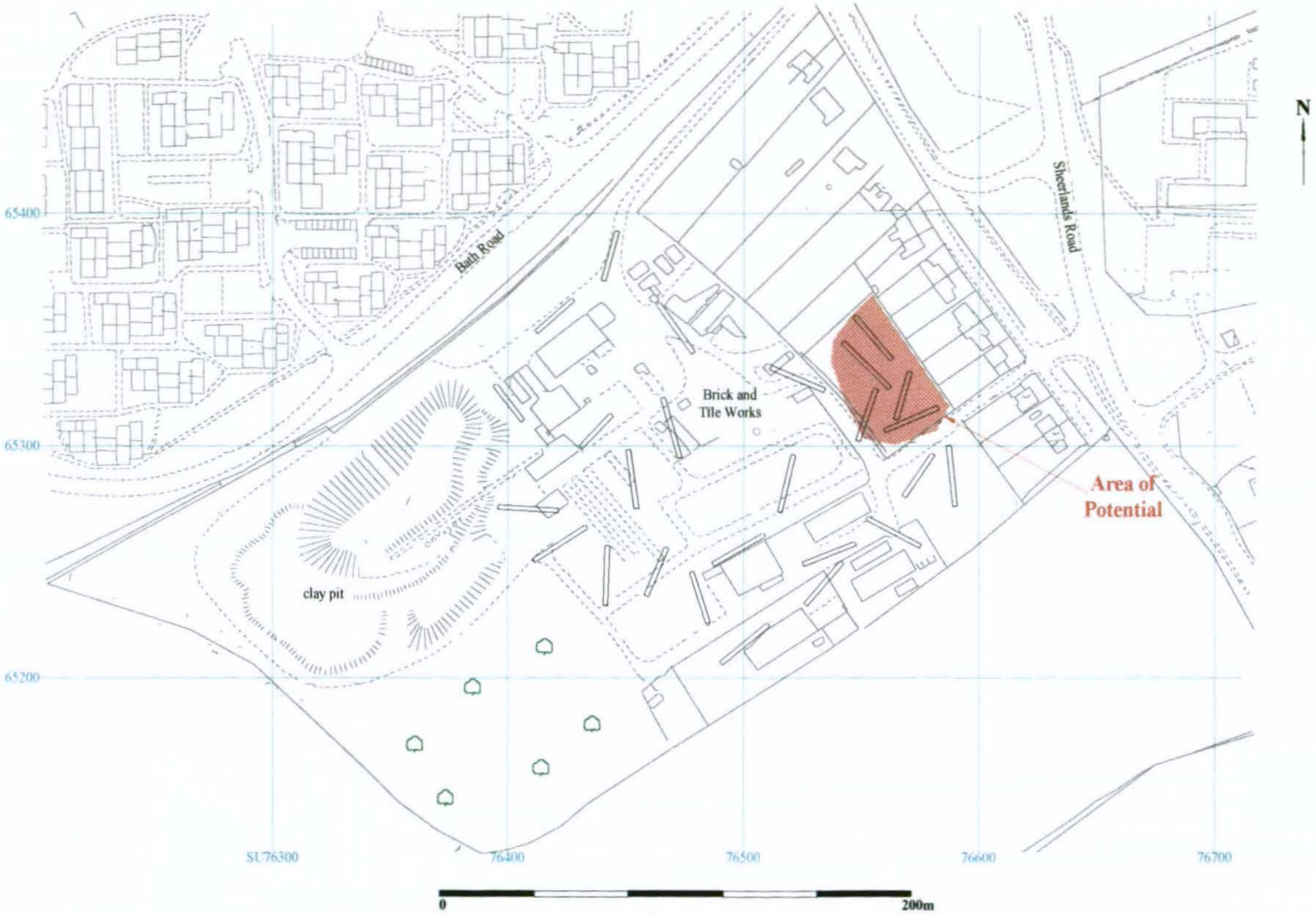

Figure 6. Area of potential.

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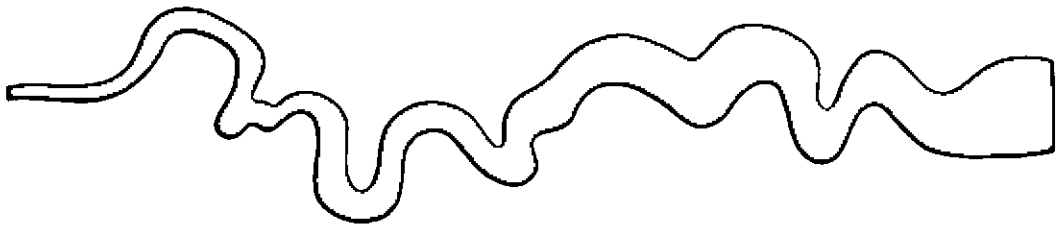
Plate 1. Trench 12, ditch 2 looking north west, scale: 1m.

Plate 2. Trench 12, working hollow 3 looking north east, scale: 2m.

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10,000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	50,000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70,000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC



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