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Fig 1 Location plan

Fig 2 Study area showing Trenches 1-39 with archaeological features
(superimposed over geophysical survey and plan of 1998 excavation)

Fig 3 Trench 12; plan

Fig 4 Trench 14; plan

Fig 5 Trench 17; plan

Fig 6 Sections

GLOSSARY

ARCHAEOLOGY

For the purposes of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains, from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

BRONZE AGE

Chronological division of the prehistoric period, which sees the introduction of copper and eventual widespread adoption of bronze weapons, implements, jewellery etc. In Britain it is dated between c2300 BC-700 BC.

CONTEXT

The simplest level of excavated archaeological data, i.e. a context could be the cut of a ditch shown as [1], or its fill, shown as (2).

IRON AGE

The first period in which iron was the predominant metal. In Britain it is dated between c.700 BC to the Roman conquest in AD 43.

MEDIEVAL

Taken here as the period from the Norman invasion in AD 1066 to approximately AD 1500.

MESOLITHIC

A chronological division within the post-Glacial prehistoric period in which hunter-gathering formed the basis of economy. Settlement patterns are not well understood but may have taken the form of intermittently occupied, perhaps seasonal, camping sites. The material culture is represented by a range of flint-work, particularly *microliths*, bone and antler work and organic materials. The period is dated between c10,000 BC and 3500 BC.

NATURAL

Defined in archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, e.g. Lower Lias clay, river terrace gravels etc.

NEOLITHIC

A chronological division of the prehistoric period during which agriculture and domesticated animals are introduced to Britain. It is dated between c4500 BC - 2000 BC.

NGR

National Grid Reference given from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above mean sea level.

POT-SHERD

A fragment of a pottery vessel.

RIDGE AND FURROW

Remains of cultivation of medieval or later date forming a corrugated surface.

RING-DITCH

A ditch of circular or pennanular plan, usually surviving as a cropmark and often representing the remains of ploughed barrows of Bronze Age date.

ROMANO-BRITISH

Term used to describe a fusion of indigenous late Iron Age traditions with Roman culture, often abbreviated as 'R-B.'

SETTLEMENT

An area of habitation, perhaps surrounded by associated closes, paddocks, approach ways and other features which together constitute a complex of earthworks or cropmarks distinct from fields.

SITE

Sites may be defined as 'windows' onto the archaeological resource, e.g. an excavation, aerial photograph, or an old map. Any of these may reveal certain archaeological features (pits, ditches, etc) which can be classed as components, but not monuments.

SUMMARY

Between August and September 2000 Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT) carried out an evaluation, consisting of 39 trenches, on land to either side of the Gloucester Business Park Link Road, Brockworth, Gloucestershire. The trenches were distributed to give as comprehensive a coverage of the site as possible although some were placed in order to examine features identified through geophysical survey.

Two postholes in Trench 19 may represent part of a structure associated with a Bronze Age funerary site excavated by CAT in 1998 prior to the construction of the Link Road. In addition a Romano-British site, in the form of enclosures, a possible trackway, ditches, and a soil spread, formed the continuation of a rural settlement of first to fourth century AD date, also excavated by CAT in 1998. A possible ring-ditch was also identified. Much of the site also contained evidence for a medieval agricultural regime in the form of ridge and furrow ploughing and field boundaries. Large backfilled pits, presumably for clay/gravel extraction, were also identified.

Technical Information

SITE NAME	Brockworth MSA
SITE CODE	BRW 00
NGR	SO 882173
DATE OF FIELDWORK	August-September 2000
ARCHIVE	To be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery (accession code GLRCM 2000/31)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Introduction*

1.1.1 In June 2000 Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT) was commissioned by Bryant Homes Ltd. to carry out an archaeological evaluation of approximately 15ha of land to either side of the Gloucester Business Park Link Road on the north-western outskirts of Brockworth, Gloucestershire, centred on NGR SO 882173 (Figs. 1 and 2).

1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out between August and September 2000 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by CPM, the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2) issued by English Heritage.

1.1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the nature, character, extent and significance of archaeological deposits within the study area.

1.1.4 The fieldwork was monitored by Mr. Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council.

1.2 *Landuse, topography and geology*

1.2.1 The study area consists mostly of two large fields under arable cultivation, which lie to either side of the newly built Gloucester Business Park Link Road. However the north-western part of the site is separated from the north-western field by a large linear embankment created when this area was in use as a compound for road construction. This former compound is now under rough grass, gravel and tarmac.

- 1.2.2 The study area is bounded by the Horsbere Brook to the north-east, the M5 embankment to the north-west, a dual carriageway to the south-west and a housing estate to the east.
- 1.2.3 The study area lies on land which slopes gently from about 45m to 40m OD north-westwards to the Horsbere Brook. The underlying geology comprises clays belonging to the broad mass of the Lower Lias beds present on the eastern side of the Severn Valley, capped in places by eroded remnants of the Third or Main terrace gravels (BGS 1972). In all of the trenches a layer of alluvium, presumably derived from episodic flooding of the Horsbere Brook, was also evident.

1.3 *Archaeological background*

- 1.3.1 The study area lies adjacent to a section of Ermin Street, the major Roman road linking the towns of Silchester (*Calleva Atrebatum*) and Cirencester (*Corinium*) with Gloucester (*Glevum*) just 5.5km to the west. This road is now preserved in the line of the modern Hucclecote Road which lies between 100-400m to the south of the study area (Fig. 1).
- 1.3.2 Approximately 250m to the west of the study area lies Hucclecote Roman villa which is registered as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Fig. 1). Excavations here have uncovered evidence of late Bronze Age and early Iron Age activity and established that the villa site was occupied from the first century AD through to the late fourth or more probably the fifth century AD (Clifford 1933). More recent excavations within the vicinity of the villa have revealed further buildings, a corn-drier and a complex system of enclosures (Parry 1994, Parry and Cook 1995).
- 1.3.3 An archaeological assessment of the study area was carried out by CPM Ltd. in 1997 (CPM 1464H.2, 1997). This revealed no previously recorded archaeology within the study area apart from possible ridge and furrow remnants. Historic maps also suggested the existence of clay pits in the south-eastern part of the site. This was followed by a geophysical survey by

GSB Prospection in 1998 (GSB 98/35, 1998). This identified several features of probable archaeological origin (Fig. 2).

1.3.4 Also in 1998 CAT carried out an excavation in advance of the construction of the Gloucester Business Park Link Road, which bisects the study area. Apart from a few Mesolithic and Neolithic flints the earliest activity was of Bronze Age date and comprised five sub-circular structures, possibly funerary monuments. In addition six cremations, two gullies, a pit, a ditch and a posthole alignment were uncovered. Two further gullies and postholes were of Iron Age date (Bateman 1999).

1.3.5 However, most of the archaeological features found in the excavation related to a Romano-British rural settlement, although it is unclear whether this settlement was independent of, or a component of, Hucclecote villa. The settlement ranged in date from the first to fourth centuries AD and comprised a cemetery, agricultural enclosures and paddocks, a trackway leading to Ermin Street, a midden, and a possible building (Bateman 1999).

1.3.6 Evidence of a medieval agricultural regime, in the form of ridge and furrow ploughing, was also found (Bateman 1999).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 A total of 36 trenches was initially excavated across the study area. Trenches 1-24 were 40m long and excavated by a 360⁰ tracked machine using a toothless 1.8m wide ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Due to problems of access into the field to the east of the Link Road a JCB with a 1.5m wide bucket was used for the excavation of Trenches 25-36, which were also 40m in length. In addition, at a monitoring meeting held on 31st August, Mr. Charles Parry requested that test pits be excavated in the area of the former compound in the north-western corner of the study area. This took the

form of three further trenches (37-39) approximately 10m long and 1.5m wide, also excavated using a JCB (Fig. 2).

- 2.2 All the trenches were excavated onto the upper level of the alluvium as the experience of the 1998 excavation showed that Bronze Age and Romano-British features cut through this deposit. Excavation and recording then continued by hand in accordance with the *CAT Field Recording Manual*. All artefacts were recovered and retained for processing in accordance with the *CAT Finds Manual*.
- 2.3 In the following report features cut into the alluvium are designated by square brackets thus; [0000]. All other deposits/layers are in round brackets; (0000). Detailed context descriptions per trench are provided in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 Subject to the landowner's consent the artefacts from the excavation will be deposited along with the site archive at Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery under the accession code GLRCM 2000/31.

3. EVALUATION RESULTS

3.1 *Introduction*

- 3.1.1 All of the trenches produced evidence of alluviation and this is described in section 3.2. Two postholes found in Trench 19 may represent a continuation of a Bronze Age funerary site excavated in 1998 and are discussed in section 3.3. Trenches 12-18 contained evidence of the continuation of a Romano-British settlement, also found in the 1998 excavation, and this is discussed in section 3.4. Most of the trenches produced evidence of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture and a few former field boundaries were also identified. Some possible medieval/post-medieval clay pits were also found in the south-eastern part of the site. These findings are discussed in section 3.5. Evidence

for modern and undated features is discussed in sections 3.6 and 3.7 respectively.

3.2 *The environment*

3.2.1 The natural gravels were exposed only in Trenches 27, 29 and 33 at a depth of between 0.63m–0.65m below ground level. These were covered by an alluvial deposit which in the remaining trenches was removed by machine for a thickness between 0.19m-0.44m without the natural gravels being encountered.

3.2.2 The alluvium is probably derived from the Horsbere Brook which runs along the north-eastern boundary of the study area and which flows into the River Severn to the north-west of Gloucester. This brook may have been inundated during regular seasonal flooding of the Severn and such a location may have provided an ecologically productive environment for settlement. However, the fact that all identified archaeological features cut through the alluvium indicates that major alluviation ceased prior to the construction of the Bronze Age structures found in the 1998 excavation.

3.3 *The prehistoric period*

3.3.1 No features or finds of definite prehistoric date were recovered from the evaluation. However, two undated shallow postholes [1904] and [1906] in Trench 19 lie approximately 60m to the west of the Bronze Age possible funerary structures excavated in 1998 (Fig. 2). They may represent a westward continuation of these structures or alternatively could be of Romano-British or later origin.

3.4 *The Romano-British period*

3.4.1 Romano-British features were found in Trenches 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18. This suggests that the extent of the Romano-British settlement as plotted by the geophysical survey is correct. It is likely that many of the features

identified in this survey relate to a series of northeast-southwest aligned enclosures and paddocks found in the 1998 excavation. However, of further interest is the line of a possible trackway, just to the south-east of Trench 13 which curves to the south at the south-eastern end of Trench 15 and continues through Trench 16. Part of a possible ring-ditch in Trench 9 has also been tentatively assigned to this period (Fig. 2). If it is Roman in date it may define a feature such as a roundhouse.

Trench 12 (Figs. 2 & 3)

3.4.2 Three linear ditches [1204], [1207] and [1210] were found in this trench. Thirty-one potsherds of late third to fourth century AD date, four bone fragments, a tile and a *tegula* fragment were found in the fill (1206) of ditch [1204] which was 0.84m deep (Fig. 6, Section 3). Thirteen potsherds of second to third century AD date, seven bone fragments and a fragment of iron were found in the fills (1208/1209) of ditch [1207] which was 0.36m deep (Fig. 6, Section 4). These ditches probably relate to northeast-southwest aligned features identified in the geophysical survey although a further linear detected in the latter was not found, possibly due to it being masked by one of two plough furrows in the trench. An animal burial [1216] was also found immediately south-east of ditch [1204]. It is of uncertain date and was left *in-situ*.

Trench 14 (Fig. 4)

3.4.3 A feature [1404] was apparent for a length of 14.6m at the south-eastern end of this trench. It had been truncated by a plough furrow and two modern pits but may form a soil spread masking Romano-British features below. Two small trial pits (1405) and (1407) were excavated through this deposit and both produced single sherds of Roman pottery. It was otherwise left *in-situ*. A north-east to south-west aligned geophysical linear feature crossing this trench was probably a plough furrow although it may relate to an earlier truncated feature on the same alignment.

Trench 15

- 3.4.4 A single northeast-southwest aligned ditch [1504], in excess of 0.35m deep, was identified in this trench and this may correlate with one side of a small enclosure suggested by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). A total of 46 potsherds of second century AD date was recovered from its fill (1505) together with 172 animal bone fragments, 18 fired clay fragments and 3 pieces of slag. The other side of the enclosure may be masked by a plough furrow.

Trench 16

- 3.4.5 A single ditch [1606] was found in this trench and probably correlates with one of the possible trackway ditches identified in the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). It was 0.3m deep. A single potsherd of second to third century AD date, 4 animal bones and an iron nail were found in its fill (1607). A small pit or posthole [1604] was found immediately to the east of this ditch and 2 bone fragments were recovered from its fill (1605).

Trench 17 (Fig. 5)

- 3.4.6 At the western end of Trench 17 a linear feature [1715], with fills containing charcoal and burnt clay (1716, 1717, and 1718), was apparent. Towards the eastern end of the trench a curvilinear ditch [1706 = 1713], 0.37m deep, which had been recut was also found. Pottery of second and third century AD date was found within its fills along with a few bone fragments. A pit [1711] which produced a single potsherd of first to second century AD date was found just to the north of this ditch (Fig. 6, Section 5). To the east was a gully terminal [1720], which contained 5 potsherds of second century AD date, and a shallow pit or posthole [1722]. A plough furrow [1704], which cut ditch [1715] also produced a large quantity of residual Roman pottery along with medieval sherds. None of these archaeological features correspond exactly with the geophysical readings, but nonetheless reflect the intensive survival of archaeological deposits.

Trench 18

- 3.4.7 A single linear ditch [1804] was found at the north-eastern end of this trench and probably correlates with a northwest-southeast aligned linear feature identified in the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). The ditch was 1.8m wide and 0.5m deep (Fig. 6, Section 6). Six potsherds of second to third century AD date were recovered from its secondary fill (1806) along with 1 *imbrex* fragment, a tile fragment, a piece of slag and part of a copper alloy armlet.

Trenches 9 and 13

- 3.4.8 In Trench 9 ditch [906] probably corresponds with a northwest-southeast aligned linear anomaly on the geophysical survey although there was no sign of the same feature in Trench 13 (Fig. 2). This feature may be part of a medieval/post-medieval field boundary. It was 3.1m wide (Fig. 6, Section 2). However, the plough furrows in both Trenches 9 and 13 do not turn to form a headland respecting any such boundary and as such it may be that this feature is of Romano-British origin.
- 3.4.9 Also in Trench 9 one side of a possible ring-ditch [904] of approximate 12m diameter identified in the geophysical survey was examined. The other side was not apparent although it is likely to have been severely truncated, if not entirely removed, by a plough furrow. It was 1.5m wide and just 0.18m deep and contained 2 potsherds of second to third century AD date on the surface of the fill (Fig. 6, Section 1). To the south-west in Trench 10 a northwest-southeast aligned gully [1008] was also found. Its date is not known and its relationship to an adjacent plough furrow could not be established because of the similarity of the fills.

3.5 *The medieval and post-medieval periods*

Introduction

- 3.5.1 Medieval and post-medieval activity was largely confined to field boundaries and a ridge and furrow ploughing regime. Evidence for the latter was found in the vast majority of the trenches. Clay or gravel extraction quarries were also found in Trenches 31, 34, 35 and 36 to the east of the Link Road.

Field boundaries (Fig. 2)

- 3.5.2 Former field boundaries were found in Trenches 2, 4, 6 and 10. However, several field boundaries known from historic maps of the study area were not evident in the eastern part of the site either in the geophysical survey or the evaluation, suggesting that these boundaries were not ditched.
- 3.5.3 In Trench 2 linear ditch [212], which contained 6 bone fragments, probably forms the continuation of one of two north-west to south-east geophysical linear anomalies. These in turn may relate to a field known as Poplars Orchard recorded on the nineteenth-century tithe map. Linear ditch [404] in Trench 4 also may relate to a north-east to south-west aligned boundary separating Poplars Orchard from a further field called Poplars.
- 3.5.4 In Trenches 6 and 10 a north-east to south-west aligned geophysical linear anomaly was identified [613] and [1010] and may form part of a field boundary separating former fields known as Poplars Piece and Brookfield.

Ridge and furrow agriculture (Fig. 2)

- 3.5.5 With the exception of Trenches 4, 5, 7, 31, 33, 34, 38 and 39, all of the trenches contained plough furrows associated with medieval ridge and furrow agriculture. These generally conformed to the pattern of ridge and furrow ploughing identified in the geophysical survey.

Clay/gravel quarries (Fig. 2)

- 3.5.6 Evidence for large backfilled pits was found in Trenches 31, [3103]; 34, [3403]; 35, (3503); and 36, [3603]. These probably relate to areas of increased magnetic response noted by the geophysical survey which in turn may relate to historically attested clay/gravel quarries.

3.6 *Modern features*

- 3.6.1 Field drains were noted in many of the trenches and where evident these followed the lines of the medieval plough furrows. Modern pits were also observed in Trenches 26 [2607] and 33 [3304]. The latter may also relate to an area of increased magnetic response on the geophysical survey. Modern pits filled with iron debris at the south-eastern end of Trench 14 may also relate to a linear ferrous deposit identified in the geophysical survey. The linear nature of this deposit may suggest that iron debris has been dumped in a pre-existing feature such as a ditch.

- 3.6.2 In addition the north-western corner of the site has in recent years been used as a compound for road construction. This has resulted in this part of the site being stripped of its topsoil for the insertion of gravel hardcore and tarmac. A backfilled modern pit [3803] was also noted in Trench 38 and a former service trench [3904] in Trench 39 (Fig. 2).

3.7 *Undated features*

- 3.7.1 Undated features which are likely to be of archaeological origin were found in Trenches 13 and 26 (Fig. 2).

- 3.7.2 In Trench 13 an undated northeast-southwest aligned gully [1304] was found. This alignment is also shared by a plough furrow and field drain seen in this trench and it is possible that it is associated with the medieval/post-medieval ploughing regime.

3.7.3 In Trench 26 a single pit [2603] was identified at the southern end of the trench. It was 0.3m deep and contained fills of burnt clay and charcoal. Its date is uncertain but could relate to activity on the eastern periphery of the Romano-British settlement.

4. THE FINDS

4.1 The pottery (by Jane Timby)

4.1.1 An assemblage of 349 potsherds weighing 2226g was recovered. This assemblage comprised wares of Roman date accompanied by four medieval sherds and a single modern fragment. The material was recovered from seven trenches with the highest concentration from Trench 17 which effectively accounts for 70% of the assemblage. The material, although relatively fresh, was well fragmented with an average sherd size of just 6.4g. There are several instances of sherds from the same vessels.

4.1.2 For the purposes of this assessment the material was sorted into broad fabric categories to assess the likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The resulting information is summarised in Appendix 2.

Roman

4.1.3 Roman wares account for most of the assemblage, some 344 sherds. The range of wares is fairly limited with most of the types being typical of the first to third centuries AD. Many of the individual groups are very small with four exceptions: the fill of plough furrow [1704]; the fill of recut ditch [1727] and the fills of ditches [1204] and [1504].

- 4.1.4 The earlier material includes a number of handmade Malvernian limestone tempered wares which are typical of the later first century BC through to the early second century AD in rural areas. Also of potentially early date are sherds of early Severn Valley ware and sherds in two other handmade fabrics.
- 4.1.5 A significant proportion of the pottery belongs to the local Severn Valley ware tradition whose longevity (first to fourth centuries AD) and conservative nature makes the dating of individual or unfeatured material difficult.
- 4.1.6 Roman regional imports include sherds of Dorset black burnished ware and Savernake ware from Wiltshire. The former occurs as jars, straight-sided dishes and a flanged conical bowl. These are types spanning the second to late third or early fourth centuries AD.
- 4.1.7 The presence of Dorset black burnished wares in many contexts, assuming such wares are unlikely to reach such rural sites until the later first century AD, suggests that either local traditions are persisting or material has been redeposited and that much of the activity dates from the second century AD. There is a complete absence of imported fine wares or amphora and the latest recognisable material is a Dorset black burnished conical flanged bowl from ditch [1204] suggesting a date in the later third or early fourth century AD. There are no other wares typical of the fourth century AD.
- 4.1.8 Four possible abraded medieval sherds accompanied the Roman material from plough furrow [1704] and sherds of white china together with residual Roman pottery came from the fill of modern pit [3304].

4.2 *The animal bone (by Alistair Barber)*

- 4.2.1 A total of 241 animal bone fragments was recovered from 12 contexts (see Appendix 3). Most of these came from fill (1505) of ditch [1504] in Trench 15. The material was subjected to basic scanning to identify broad species representation, anatomical identification and the presence or absence of butchery marks.

4.2.2 Overall bone survival was generally good although the material was predominantly small and fragmentary with much unidentifiable to species. However, cow, horse and sheep/goat were all represented.

4.2.3 Teeth and mandible fragments were well represented along with vertebrae and metacarpals/metatarsals. Rib and longbone fragments were also present but showed no clear evidence of butchery marks.

4.3 *The other finds*

4.3.1 A summary of the finds other than pottery is given in the form of a table in Appendix 3.

Metalwork (by Emma Harrison)

4.3.2 A copper alloy armlet fragment was found in fill (1806) of ditch [1804]. It has a lozenge shaped section 5mm across which thickens at the terminal to 8mm.

4.3.3 A single small iron fragment was recovered from fill (1209) of ditch [1207] in Trench 12. A nail was also recovered from the fill (1607) of ditch [1606] in Trench 16.

Tile and fired clay

4.3.4 Small fragments of a tile and a *tegula* were recovered from fill (1206) of ditch [1204] in Trench 12 and a further tile and *imbrex* fragment were also recovered from fill (1806) of ditch [1804] in Trench 18.

4.3.5 Small fragments of fired clay were recovered from the fill (1505) of ditch [1504] in Trench 15 and fill (1705) of plough furrow [1704] in Trench 17.

Slag

- 4.3.6 Three small pieces of slag were recovered from the fill (1505) of ditch [1504] in Trench 15 and a further piece was found in the fill (1806) of ditch [1804] in Trench 18.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 *Introduction*

- 5.1.1 The evaluation has proved the existence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. This section will discuss the importance of the remains in general.

5.2 *Confidence rating*

- 5.2.1 In most instances, for example Trenches 9, 12, 15, 16 and 18, the geophysical readings corresponded extremely well with Romano-British archaeological features found in the trenches. In trenches 14 and 17 there was little correlation but, in general, the twin methodology of geophysical survey and trial trenching has undoubtedly proved successful in determining the general extent of the Romano-British settlement within the study area, particularly when allied to the results of the 1998 excavation.
- 5.2.2 However, the presence of the Bronze Age site was not detected by geophysical survey prior to the 1998 excavation and small features such as postholes can be difficult to detect in evaluation trenches, especially if they have been truncated or masked by features such as plough furrows.

5.3 *Extent, nature and date*

Prehistoric

5.3.1 No definite prehistoric features or finds were identified from the evaluation. However, the study area was clearly used during this period as evidenced by the Mesolithic and Neolithic flint, Bronze Age circular post-built structures and Iron Age features found during the excavation of the Link Road (Bateman 1999). In this light it is important to note the presence of the two postholes in Trench 19 which lie approximately 60m to the west of the Bronze Age structures. It is quite possible that these postholes represent part of a further structure of this date and that more postholes may survive under the medieval plough furrows noted in Trenches 18 and 20 and beyond. The evidence from the 1998 excavation suggests that these structures may have had a funerary function.

Romano-British

5.3.2 The evaluation has clearly established that the Romano-British settlement excavated in 1998 continues to the west into the study area. The evaluation has also suggested that the extent of the main settlement as suggested by the geophysical survey is correct. It appears to cover an area of approximately 200m x 100m and was aligned north-east to south-west on the north-western side of a trackway leading to Ermin Street.

5.3.3 The nature of the settlement is best interpreted from the results of the 1998 excavation where it was shown to be rural in nature with several enclosures and paddocks and a small cemetery. It appears to have been founded in the first century AD and continued in use through to the fourth century AD (Bateman 1999).

5.3.4 The geophysical survey has also suggested further areas of activity outside the main focus of settlement. The route of another possible road or track has

been indicated running from the south-western corner of the settlement before turning south to run parallel to the trackway identified in 1998.

- 5.3.5 Approximately 160m to the west of the main settlement lies a possible ring-ditch identified through geophysical survey, the presence of which was confirmed in Trench 9. Although potsherds of Romano-British date were recovered from the surface of the fill it is possible that this feature is of earlier prehistoric origin. A shallow undated gully [1008] was also identified in Trench 10.
- 5.3.6 The ring ditch lies just to the north of a linear northwest-southeast aligned linear ditch identified in the geophysical survey for a length of 250m. It is uncertain whether this ditch is of Romano-British or later origin, but it could relate to an agricultural field system to the west of the settlement. It could equally be of medieval or later date.
- 5.3.7 Both the geophysical survey and evaluation trenches have suggested that there are only limited archaeological remains to the east of the Link Road, although the presence of pit [2603] in Trench 26 may suggest the presence of some slight archaeological remains here. In addition smaller features such as postholes may not be picked by geophysical survey and as such an eastern continuation of the Bronze Age structures found in 1998 into the study area cannot be entirely ruled out.

The medieval and post-medieval periods

- 5.3.8 Evidence for medieval activity was associated with an agricultural regime with ridge and furrow ploughing noted in most of the trenches, confirming the pattern suggested by the geophysical survey. Some former field boundaries were also noted. Probable clay/gravel extraction pits were also found in the south-eastern corner of the site.

5.4 *Condition and survival*

5.4.1 Over most of the study area the archaeology survives as negative features cut into the top of the alluvium. Here the effects of the extensive ridge and furrow ploughing regime have clearly truncated the tops of such features. Site stratification is likely to be restricted to relationships between negative features cut into the alluvium and therefore deeply stratified deposits are not likely to survive. An exception to this general pattern is Trench 14 where a possible soil spread may mask features below.

5.4.2 In the north-western part of the site the evidence from Trenches 37-39 indicates that any archaeological features here will have already been truncated by the construction of the compound. However, the existence of a plough furrow in Trench 37 suggests that the ground truncation has not been so severe as to totally remove all trace of any potential archaeological deposits.

5.5 *Significance*

5.5.1 There is reasonable potential to recover a stratigraphic sequence and to date this by a combination of artefactual evidence and absolute means. The evaluation and 1998 excavation show that a ceramic dating sequence can be formulated. Ecofactual evidence has also been shown to survive with animal bone recovered in relatively good condition from a number of trenches. However, the 1998 excavation indicated that there was only low potential for environmental recovery in the form of molluscs and seeds from the samples taken (Bateman 1999).

5.5.2 The evaluation and the 1998 excavation established that the alluvium within the study area pre-dated the Bronze Age structures. Such alluviation is conventionally thought to date from the mid first millennium BC onwards (Brown and Barber 1985, 93) and as such a study of the date and origin of the alluvium is of environmental interest.

- 5.5.3 Examination of any further Bronze Age structures within the study area is clearly of interest in the study of the prehistoric period in Gloucestershire. The location of such funerary monuments in a lowland marginal location on the edge of marshy ground is known elsewhere, for example at the Cambridgeshire Fenland barrow cemeteries and Market Deeping Barrow in the Lincolnshire Fenland (Hall and Coles 1994, 69-75).
- 5.5.4 Examination of the Romano-British remains within the study area has the potential to complete the overall picture of the nature, size and activities carried out within the settlement excavated in 1998. Relatively little evidence of structural remains was found in the 1998 excavation and it is conceivable that any domestic structures would have lain to the west within the study area. In this respect the recovery of roofing tile fragments from Trenches 12 and 18 is of note.
- 5.5.5 There is also the potential to examine the status of this settlement and its physical and economic links to both Hucclecote villa and the settlement previously identified to the south of Brockworth church (Rawes 1979 and 1981). The archaeology within the study area also has the potential to inform on wider links with the *territorium* of the fortress and later *colonia* of Gloucester.
- 5.5.6 The fact that the Romano-British settlement and much of the ridge and furrow agriculture is on a similar alignment is also of interest. This may hint at the long lasting nature of land division in the area as previously identified close to Hucclecote villa (Parry 1994).

5.6 Conclusions

- 5.6.1 Parts of the study area contain archaeological deposits of interest. Other parts, such as the areas to the east of the Link Road and along the northern margins nearest to the Horsbere Brook, seem on current evidence to have relatively little archaeological potential. The prehistoric and Romano-British remains discovered by the evaluation are clearly of interest and have the

potential to contribute to the variety of research topics outlined above. The remains have been truncated, however, by medieval and later agriculture, and a swathe through the settlement enclosures has already been lost to the construction of the Link Road (albeit with prior excavation).

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(101)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.27m in depth.
(102)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.24m without natural deposits (103) being encountered.
[104]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.2m wide and filled by [105].
(105)	Fill of furrow [104]; pale brown silty clay.
[106]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.6m wide and filled by (107).
(107)	Fill of furrow [106]; pale brown silty clay.
[108]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 2.3m wide and filled by (109).
(109)	Fill of furrow [108]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 2	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(201)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.21m in depth.
(202)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.29m without natural deposits (203) being encountered.
[204]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, width not established and filled by [205].
(205)	Fill of furrow [204]; pale brown silty clay.
[206]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.4m wide and filled by (207).
(207)	Fill of furrow [206]; pale brown silty clay.
[208]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.6m wide and filled by (209).
(209)	Fill of furrow [108]; pale brown silty clay.
[210]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.2m wide and filled by (211).
(211)	Fill of furrow [210]; pale brown silty clay.
[212]	Cut for linear feature (possibly a continuation of a linear field boundary plotted by the geophysical survey) aligned NW-SE, width not established and filled by (213). Cut by field drain on a NW-SE alignment.
(213)	Fill of feature [212]; greyish-green clay 0.5m thick, the fill of which produced 6 bone fragments.

Trench 3	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(301)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.31m in depth.
(302)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.3m without natural deposits (303) being encountered.
[304]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NW-SE, 2.1m wide and filled by [305].
(305)	Fill of furrow [304]; pale brown silty clay.
[306]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NW-SE, 1.6m wide and filled by (307).
(307)	Fill of furrow [306]; pale brown silty clay.
[308]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NW-SE, 1.4m wide and filled by (109).
(309)	Fill of furrow [308]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 4	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(401)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.29m in depth.
(402)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.21m without natural deposits (403) being encountered.
[404]	Cut for linear ditch aligned NE-SW, 1.1m wide and 0.25m deep and filled by [405].
(405)	Fill of ditch [404]; pale brown silty clay which was heavily rooted and contained numerous fragments of modern bottle glass.

Trench 5	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(501)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.31m in depth.
(502)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.62m without natural deposits (503) being encountered.

Trench 6	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(601)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.21m in depth.
(602)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.2m without natural deposits (603) being encountered.
[604]	Recut of ditch [613]; aligned NE-SW, 1.65 wide and 0.45m deep and filled by (606).
(605)	Fill of ditch [613]; orange-brown sandy clay.
(606)	Fill of ditch [604]; greyish-brown silty clay.
[607]	Cut for plough furrow, aligned NE-SW, 3m wide and filled by (608).
(608)	Fill of furrow [607]; pale brown silty clay.
[609]	Cut for plough furrow, aligned NE-SW, 1.5m wide and filled by (610).
(610)	Fill of furrow [607]; pale brown silty clay.
[611]	Cut for plough furrow, aligned NE-SW, 1.2m wide and filled by (612).
(612)	Fill of furrow [611]; pale brown silty clay.
[613]	Ditch cut; 0.4m deep and filled by (605) but largely cut away by recut [604].

Trench 7	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(701)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m in depth.
(702)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.4m without natural deposits (703) being encountered. This alluvium was cut by several field drains on a NE-SW alignment

Trench 8	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(801)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(802)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.3m without natural deposits (803) being encountered.
[804]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 2.9m wide and filled by (805).
(805)	Fill of furrow [804]; pale brown silty clay.
[806]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 3.1m wide and filled by (807).
(807)	Fill of furrow [806]; pale brown silty clay.
[808]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.6m wide and filled by (809).
(809)	Fill of furrow [808]; pale brown silty clay.
[810]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.6m wide and filled by (811).
(811)	Fill of furrow [810]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 9	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(901)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.27m in depth.
(902)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.26m without natural deposits (903) being encountered.
[904]	Ditch cut; aligned NWW-SEE, 1.5m wide, 0.18m deep and filled by (905).
(905)	Fill of ditch [904]; reddish-brown sandy clay which produced 2 sherds of Roman pottery of 2 nd -3 rd century AD date.
[906]	Cut for ditch; aligned NW-SE, 1.3m wide and filled by (907).
(907)	Fill of ditch [906]; orange-brown sandy clay.
[908]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.7m wide and filled by (909).
(909)	Fill of furrow [908]; pale brown silty clay.
[910]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.5m wide and filled by (911).
(911)	Fill of furrow [910]; pale brown silty clay.
[912]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.3m wide and filled by (913).

(913)	Fill of furrow [912]; pale brown silty clay.
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Trench 10

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1001)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m in depth.
(1002)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.05m without natural deposits (1003) being encountered.
[1004]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 3.5m wide, and filled by (1005).
(1005)	Fill of furrow [1004]; pale brown silty clay
[1006]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 5.3m wide and filled by (1007).
(1007)	Fill of furrow [1006]; pale brown silty clay.
[1008]	Cut for linear gully; aligned NW-SE, 0.6m wide, 0.1m deep and filled by (1009).
(1009)	Fill of gully [1008]; orange-brown sandy silt.
[1010]	Cut for irregular ?ditch; heavily tree-rooted and up to 1.8m wide and filled by (1011).
(1011)	Fill of ?ditch [1010]; consisted largely of tree roots.

Trench 11

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1101)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.19m in depth.
(1102)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.18m without natural deposits (1103) being encountered.
[1104]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.7m wide and filled by [1105].
(1105)	Fill of furrow [1104]; pale brown silty clay.
[1106]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 2m wide and filled by (1107).
(1107)	Fill of furrow [1106]; pale brown silty clay.
[1108]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.8m wide and filled by (1109).
(1109)	Fill of furrow [1108]; pale brown silty clay.
[1110]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, width not established and filled by (1111).
(1111)	Fill of furrow [1110]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 12

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1201)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m in depth.
(1202)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.27m without natural deposits (1203) being encountered.
[1204]	Cut for ditch; aligned NE-SW, 2.1m wide, 0.84m deep and filled by (1205) and (1206).
(1205)	Primary fill of ditch [1204]; orange-yellowish brown sandy clay.
(1206)	Secondary fill of ditch [1204]; orange-brown sandy clay which produced 31 Roman potsherds of late 3 rd -4 th century date, 1 <i>tegula</i> fragment, 1 tile fragment and 4 bone fragments.
[1207]	Cut for ditch; aligned NE-SW, 1m wide and 0.36m deep and filled by (1208) and (1209).
(1208)	Primary fill of ditch [1207]; orange-brown sandy clay which produced 6 Roman potsherds of 2 nd -3 rd centuries AD date.
(1209)	Secondary fill of ditch [1207]; orange-brown sandy clay which produced 7 Roman potsherds of 2 nd century + AD date, 7 bone fragments and an iron fragment.
[1210]	Cut for ditch; aligned NE-SW, 1.3m wide and filled by (1211). Not excavated.
(1211)	Fill of ditch [1210]; greyish-brown silty clay.
[1213]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 2.9m wide and filled by (1214).
(1214)	Fill of furrow [1213]; pale brown silty clay.
[1215]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 2.5m wide and filled by (1216).
(1216)	Fill of furrow [1215]; pale brown silty clay.
[1217]	Cut for animal burial; filled by (1218).
(1218)	Fill of animal burial [1217]. Not excavated.

Trench 13	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1301)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(1302)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.38m without natural deposits (1303) being encountered.
[1304]	Cut for gully; aligned NE-SW, 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep and filled by (1305).
(1305)	Fill of gully [1304]; greyish-yellow sandy silt.
[1306]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, width not established and filled by (1307).
(1307)	Fill of furrow [1306]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 14	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1401)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m in depth.
(1402)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.3m without natural deposits (1403) being encountered.
(1404)	Layer at SE end of trench; at least 14.6m long and possibly a soil layer overlying features below. It was cut by furrow [1408] and two modern pits. It consisted of a greyish-brown silty clay. Two trial pits (1405) and (1407) were excavated through this deposit to a maximum depth of 0.3m at which point excavation ceased.
(1405)	Fill of trial pit through layer (1404) which produced 1 Roman potsherd of 3 rd century AD date and 3 bone fragments.
(1407)	Fill of trial pit through layer (1404) which produced 1 Roman potsherd of 2 nd -3 rd century + AD date.
[1408]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NW-SE; possibly part of a headland, 3.2m wide and filled by (1409).
(1409)	Fill of furrow [1408]; pale brown silty clay.
[1410]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 6.5m wide and filled by (1411).
(1411)	Fill of furrow [1410]; pale brown silty clay.
[1412]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, width not established and filled by (1413).
(1413)	Fill of furrow [1410]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 15	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1501)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.27m in depth.
(1502)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.21m without natural deposits (1503) being encountered.
[1504]	Cut for ditch; aligned NE-SW, 2.7m wide, excavated to a depth of 0.35m and filled by [1505].
(1505)	Fill of ditch [1504]; greyish-brown silty clay which produced 46 Roman potsherds of 2 nd century AD date, 172 animal bones, 18 fired clay fragments and 3 pieces of slag.
[1506]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, width not established and filled by (1507).
(1507)	Fill of furrow [1506]; pale brown silty clay.
[1508]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.9m wide and filled by (1509).
(1509)	Fill of furrow [1508]; pale brown silty clay.
[1510]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, width not established and filled by (1511).
(1511)	Fill of furrow [1510]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 16	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1601)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.35m in depth.
(1602)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.15m without natural deposits (1603) being encountered.
[1604]	Cut for small pit/posthole; 0.45m x 0.25m across and 0.07m deep, and filled by (1605).
(1605)	Fill of pit/posthole [1604]; greyish-brown sandy silt which produced 2 bone fragments.
[1606]	Cut for ditch; aligned N-S, 1.45m wide and 0.3m deep and filled by (1607).
(1607)	Fill of ditch [1606]; greyish-brown sandy silt which produced 1 Roman potsherd of 2 nd -3 rd century AD date, 4 bone fragments and an iron nail.
[1608]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NW-SE, 4.5m wide and filled by (1609).

(1609)	Fill of furrow [1608]; pale brown silty clay.
[1610]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NW-SE, width not established and filled by (1611).
(1611)	Fill of furrow [1610]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 17

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1701)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.2m in depth.
(1702)	Alluvium; yellowish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.2m without natural deposits (1703) being encountered.
[1704]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NNE--SSW, width not established and filled by (1705).
(1705)	Fill of furrow [1704]; pale brown silty clay which produced 116 potsherds of 2 nd century + AD and medieval date, 29 bone fragments and 5 fired clay fragments.
[1706]	Cut for curvilinear ditch; 1m wide and 0.37m deep, filled by (1708) and recut as [1727]. Same ditch as [1710] and [1713].
(1707)	Fill of ditch recut [1727]; mid-brown silty clay which produced 106 Roman potsherds of 3 rd century date and 4 bone fragments.
[1708]	Fill of ditch [1706]; mid-dark brown silty clay which produced 10 Roman potsherds of late 2 nd -3 rd century date and 2 bone fragments.
(1709)	Fill of ditch [1710]; mid-brown silty clay which produced 3 Roman potsherds of 2 nd century date and 4 bone fragments.
[1710]	Cut for ditch; 0.9m wide and 0.28m deep. Profile suggestive of a recut but none discernible within fill (1709). Same ditch as [1706] and [1713].
[1711]	Cut for pit; 0.8m x 0.7m across and 0.16m deep and filled by (1712).
(1712)	Fill of pit [1711]; mid-brown silty clay which produced 1 Roman potsherd of 1 st -2 nd century AD date..
[1713]	Cut for ditch; width and depth not established and filled by (1714). Same ditch as [1706] and [1710].
(1714)	Fill of ditch [1713]; dark brown to black silty clay which produced 3 Roman potsherds of 2 nd century date and 1 bone fragment.
[1715]	Cut for ?ditch; aligned NW-SE, 1.3m wide and filled by (1716), (1717) and (1718).
(1716)	Fill of ditch [1715]; mid brown sandy silt with orange clay flecks and frequent pieces of charcoal.
(1717)	Fill of ditch [1715]; burnt reddish-brown and orange clay with charcoal pieces and flecks.
(1718)	Fill of ditch [1715]; greenish brown clay .
(1719)	Same as (1702).
[1720]	Cut for gully terminal; aligned NE-SW, 0.29m wide and 0.09m deep and filled by (1721).
(1721)	Fill of gully [1720]; dark brown clayey silt which produced 5 Roman potsherds of 2 nd century date and 3 bone fragments.
[1722]	Cut for shallow pit or posthole; 0.2m in diameter and 0.06m deep and filled by (1723) and (1724).
(1723)	Secondary fill of pit/posthole [1722]; mixed brown and orange silty clay.
(1724)	Primary fill of pit/posthole [1722]; black silt with charcoal flecks.
[1725]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NNE-SSW, and filled by (1726).
(1726)	Fill of furrow [1725]; pale brown silty clay.
[1727]	Recut of ditch [1706]; 0.45m wide and 0.22m deep and filled by (1707).
[1728]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NNE-SSW and filled by (1729).
(1729)	Fill of plough furrow [1728]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 18

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1801)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.27m in depth.
(1802)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.31m without natural deposits (1803) being encountered.
[1804]	Cut for ditch; aligned NW-SE, 1.8m wide and 0.5m deep and filled by (1805) and (1806).
(1805)	Primary fill of ditch [1804]; mixed grey and orange clayey silt.

(1806)	Secondary fill of ditch [1804]; orange-brown silty clay which produced 6 Roman potsherds of 2 nd -3 rd century date, 1 <i>imbrex</i> and 1 tile fragment, a piece of slag and a copper alloy armlet fragment.
[1807]	Cut for plough furrow, aligned NNW-SSE, and filled by (1807).
(1808)	Fill of furrow [1807]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 19

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(1901)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m in depth.
(1902)	Alluvium; yellowish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.25m without natural deposits (1903) being encountered.
[1904]	Cut for posthole; 0.2m in diameter and 0.2m deep and filled by (1905).
(1905)	Fill of posthole [1904]; greyish-black silty clay with charcoal flecking.
[1906]	Cut for posthole at least 0.3m in diameter and 0.31m deep and filled by (1907).
(1907)	Fill of posthole [1906]; greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks.
[1908]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW and possibly part of a headland and filled by (1909).
(1909)	Fill of furrow [1908]; pale brown silty clay.
[1910]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW and possibly part of a headland and filled by (1911).
(1911)	Fill of furrow [1910]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 20

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2001)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m in depth.
(2002)	Alluvium; yellowish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.3m without natural deposits (2003) being encountered.
[2004]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NWW-SEE, 5.3m wide and filled by (2005).
(2005)	Fill of furrow [2004]; pale brown silty clay.
[2006]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NWW-SEE, 4.2m wide and filled by (2007).
(2007)	Fill of furrow [2006]; pale brown silty clay.
[2008]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NWW-SEE, full width not established and filled by (2009).
(2009)	Fill of furrow [2008]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 21

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2101)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m in depth.
(2102)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.4m without natural deposits (2103) being encountered.
[2104]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.9m wide and filled by (2105).
(2105)	Fill of furrow [2104]; pale brown silty clay.
[2106]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 1.8m wide and filled by (2107).
(2107)	Fill of furrow [2106]; pale brown silty clay.
[2108]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 2.6m wide and filled by (2109).
(2109)	Fill of furrow [2108]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 22

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2201)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.32m in depth.
(2202)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.21m without natural deposits (2203) being encountered.
[2204]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 2m wide and filled by (2205).
(2205)	Fill of furrow [2204]; pale brown silty clay.
[2206]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NW-SE, 2.4m wide and filled by (2207).
(2207)	Fill of furrow [2206]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 23	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2301)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.4m in depth.
(2302)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.3m without natural deposits (2303) being encountered.
[2304]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NNW-SSE, width not established although it covered most of the base of the trench and was filled by (2305).
(2305)	Fill of furrow [2304]; pale brown silty clay.
[2306]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned N-S, width not established and filled by (2307).
(2307)	Fill of furrow [2306]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 24	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2401)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m in depth.
(2402)	Alluvium; yellowish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.2m without natural deposits (2403) being encountered.
[2404]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NWW-SEE, width not established and filled by (2405).
(2405)	Fill of furrow [2404]; pale brown silty clay.
[2406]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NWW-SEE, 3.7m wide and filled by (2407).
(2407)	Fill of furrow [2406]; pale brown silty clay.
[2408]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NWW-SEE, 2.3m wide and filled by (2409).
(2409)	Fill of furrow [2408]; pale brown silty clay.
[2410]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NWW-SEE, 2.5m wide and filled by (2411).
(2411)	Fill of furrow [2408]; pale brown silty clay.
[2412]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NWW-SEE, width not established and filled by (2413).
(2413)	Fill of furrow [2412]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 25	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2501)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.41m in depth.
(2502)	Alluvium; yellowish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.26m without natural deposits (2503) being encountered.
[2504]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NW-SE, width not established and filled by (2505).
(2505)	Fill of furrow [2504]; pale brown silty clay.
[2506]	Cut for tree bowl; filled by (2507).
(2507)	Fill of tree bowl [2506]; very rooted.

Trench 26	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2601)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(2602)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.3m without natural deposits being encountered.
[2603]	Cut for pit; 1.8m x 0.98m across and 0.3m deep and filled by (2604) and (2605).
(2604)	Secondary fill of pit [2603]; black charcoal stained with reddish brown burnt clay.
(2605)	Primary fill of pit [2603]; mid brown silty clay with charcoal and burnt clay flecking.
[2607]	Cut for modern pit; filled by (2608) and cutting furrow [2609].
(2608)	Fill of pit [2607]; not excavated but sherds of white china and brick observed in the fill.
[2609]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NNW-SSE, width not established and filled by (2610).
(2610)	Fill of furrow [2610]; pale brown silty clay.
[2611]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NNW-SSE, width not established and filled by (2612).
(2612)	Fill of furrow [2611]; pale brown silty clay.
[2613]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NNW-SSE, 1.2m wide and filled by (2614).
(2614)	Fill of furrow [2613]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 27	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2701)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.43m in depth.
(2702)	Alluvium; yellowish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.21m.

(2703)	Traces of natural gravel seen across much of the base of the trench.
[2704]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NWW-SEE, 2m wide and filled by (2705).
(2705)	Fill of furrow [2704]; pale brown silty clay.
[2708]	Cut for plough furrow; 1.7m wide and filled by (2709).
(2709)	Fill of furrow [2708]; pale brown silty clay

Trench 28

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2801)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(2802)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.35m without natural deposits being encountered.
[2803]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NNW-SSE, 2m wide and 0.1m deep and filled by (2804).
(2804)	Fill of furrow [2803]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 29

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(2901)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(2902)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.38m.
(2903)	Natural gravel; seen for short distances at the southern end and towards the northern end of the trench.
[2904]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NW-SE, 3m wide and filled by (2905).
(2905)	Fill of furrow [2904]; pale brown silty clay.
[2906]	Cut for plough furrow; 3m wide and filled by (2907).
(2907)	Fill of furrow [2906]; pale brown silty clay

Trench 30

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3001)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(3002)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.25m without natural deposits being encountered.
[3003]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NW-SE, 1.2m wide and filled by (3004).
(3004)	Fill of furrow [3003]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 31

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3101)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(3102)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.25m without natural deposits being encountered.
[3103]	Cut for large pit 21m in length and filled by (3104).
(3104)	Fill of pit [3103]; blue-grey lias clay, alluvium and gravel.

Trench 32

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3201)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(3202)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.45m without natural deposits being encountered.
[3203]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned N-S, 3.5m wide and filled by (3204).
(3204)	Fill of furrow [3203]; pale brown silty clay.
[3205]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned N-S, 1.2m wide and filled by (3206).
(3206)	Fill of furrow [3206]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 33

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3301)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.44m in depth.
(3302)	Alluvium; yellowish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.21m.
(3303)	Natural; patches of blue-grey clay, gravel and sand seen over parts of the base of the trench.

[3304]	Cut for modern pit; filled by (3305).
(3305)	Fill of pit [3304]; reddish silty sand with large pieces of charcoal, glass and brick and 4 sherds of Roman and post-medieval pottery.

Trench 34

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3401)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(3402)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.3m.
[3403]	Possible pit; at least 28m long seen at western end of the trench and filled by (3404).
(3404)	Fill of pit [3403]; blue-grey lias clay with pockets of alluvium.

Trench 35

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3501)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.25m in depth.
(3502)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.15m without natural deposits being encountered.
(3503)	Layer of blue-grey lias clay; possibly the fill of a clay-pit, cut probably under furrow [3504].
[3504]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned N-S, 4.5m wide and filled by (3505).
(3505)	Fill of furrow [3504]; pale brown silty clay.
[3508]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned N-S, 5.5m wide and filled by (3509).
(3509)	Fill of furrow [3508]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 36

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3601)	Ploughsoil; greyish brown silty clay, 0.24m in depth.
(3602)	Alluvium; reddish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.1m without natural deposits being encountered.
[3603]	Cut for pit; apparent for distance of 9.5m at south-eastern end of the trench and filled by (3604).
(3604)	Fill of pit [3603]; black silty clay with brick and slate fragments, excavated to depth of 0.3m.
[3605]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned N-S, 2m wide and filled by (3606).
(3606)	Fill of furrow [3605]; pale brown silty clay.
[3607]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned N-S, 2.6m wide and 0.2m deep and filled by (3607).
(3608)	Fill of furrow [3607]; pale brown silty clay.
[3609]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned N-S, 2.15m wide and filled by (3610).
(3610)	Fill of furrow [3609]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 37

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3701)	Gravel hardcore; 0.44m in depth.
(3702)	Alluvium; yellowish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.11m without natural deposits being encountered.
[3703]	Cut for plough furrow; aligned NE-SW, 3.5m wide and filled by (3704).
(3704)	Fill of furrow [3703]; pale brown silty clay.

Trench 38

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3801)	Gravel hardcore; 0.5m in depth.
(3802)	Alluvium; yellowish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.15m without natural deposits being encountered.
[3803]	Cut for modern pit, seen at NE end of trench and filled by (3804).
(3804)	Fill of pit [3803]; black clay with iron fragments.

Trench 39	
<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Description</i>
(3901)	Layer of redeposited clay and rubbish; 0.44m in depth.
(3902)	Gravel hardcore; 0.18m in depth
(3903)	Alluvium; yellowish-brown silty clay, excavated to a depth of 0.13m without natural deposits being encountered.
[3904]	Cut for service trench at NW end of trench and filled by (3905).
(3905)	Fill of trench [3905]; gravel.

APPENDIX 2: POTTERY TABLE

FEATURE NO.	CONTEXT NO.	FABRIC	WEIGHT	NUMBER	DATE
[904]	(905)	SVWOX	18g	2	2 nd -3 rd centuries AD
[1204]	(1206)	SVWOX, DORBB1	280g	31	late 3 rd -4 th centuries AD
[1207]	(1208)	SVWOX, SVWRE	56g	6	2 nd -3 rd centuries AD
[1207]	(1209)	SVWOX, SVWRE, DORBB1, BWMIC	33g	7	2 nd century AD +
[1404]	(1405)	DORBB1	6g	1	3 rd century AD +
[1404]	(1407)	SVWOX	125g	1	2 nd -3 rd centuries AD
[1504]	(1505)	SVWRE, SVWOX, CALC, MALVLI, DORBB1, SVWEA	250g	46	2 nd century AD
[1606]	(1607)	SVWOX	8g	1	2 nd -3 rd centuries AD
[1704]	(1705)	SVWOX, SAVGT, DORBB1, SVWRE, WILRE, MALV, MED, MUDS	512g	116	2 nd century AD and medieval
[1727]	(1707)	DORBB1, SVWOX, GWMIC, SVWRE	798g	106	3 rd century AD
[1706]	(1708)	DORBB1, SVWOX, SVWRE	34g	10	late 2 nd -3 rd centuries AD
[1710]	(1709)	MALVLI, SVWEA, DORBB1	10g	3	2 nd century AD
[1711]	(1712)	MALVLI	15g	1	1 st -2 nd century AD
[1713]	(1714)	SVWOX, DORBB1	12g	3	2 nd century AD
[1720]	(1721)	SVWOX, DORBB1, MALVLI	25g	5	2 nd century AD
[1804]	(1806)	SVWOX	38g	6	2 nd -3 rd centuries AD
[3304]	(3305)	CHINA, SVWOX	6g	4	Roman and post-medieval
TOTAL			2226g	349	

Code

BWMIC - black micaceous sandy ware
 CALC - Jurassic limestone-tempered ware
 CHINA - modern glazed refined white earthenware
 DORBB1 - Dorset black burnished ware
 GWMIC - grey micaceous ware
 MALVLI - Malvernian limestone tempered ware
 MED - ?Medieval oolitic limestone-tempered
 MUDS - native ?mudstone-tempered ware
 SAVGT - Savernake type ware
 SVWEA - early variant Severn Valley ware
 SVWOX - Severn Valley oxidised ware
 SVWRE - Severn Valley reduced ware
 WILRE - Wiltshire reduced ware

APPENDIX 3: OTHER FINDS

FEATURE NO.	CONTEXT NO.	BONE	OTHER
[212]	(213)	6 (46g)	
[1204]	(1206)	4 (25g)	1 <i>tegula</i> (122g), 1 tile (532g)
[1207]	(1209)	7 (47g)	1 iron fragment
[1404]	(1405)	3 (4g)	
[1504]	(1505)	172 (757g)	3 pieces of slag (26g), 18 fired clay fragments (112g)
[1604]	(1605)	2 (1g)	
[1606]	(1607)	4 (252g)	1 iron nail
[1704]	(1705)	29 (169g)	5 fired clay fragments (31g)
[1727]	(1707)	4 (10g)	
[1706]	(1708)	2 (7g)	
[1710]	(1709)	4 (5g)	
[1713]	(1714)	1 (<1g)	
[1720]	(1721)	3 (8g)	
[1804]	(1806)		1 <i>imbrex</i> (13g), 1 tile (305g) and 1 piece of slag (160g) and 1 cu armet fragment
[3304]	(3305)		2 brick fragments (66g) and 1 sherd of glass

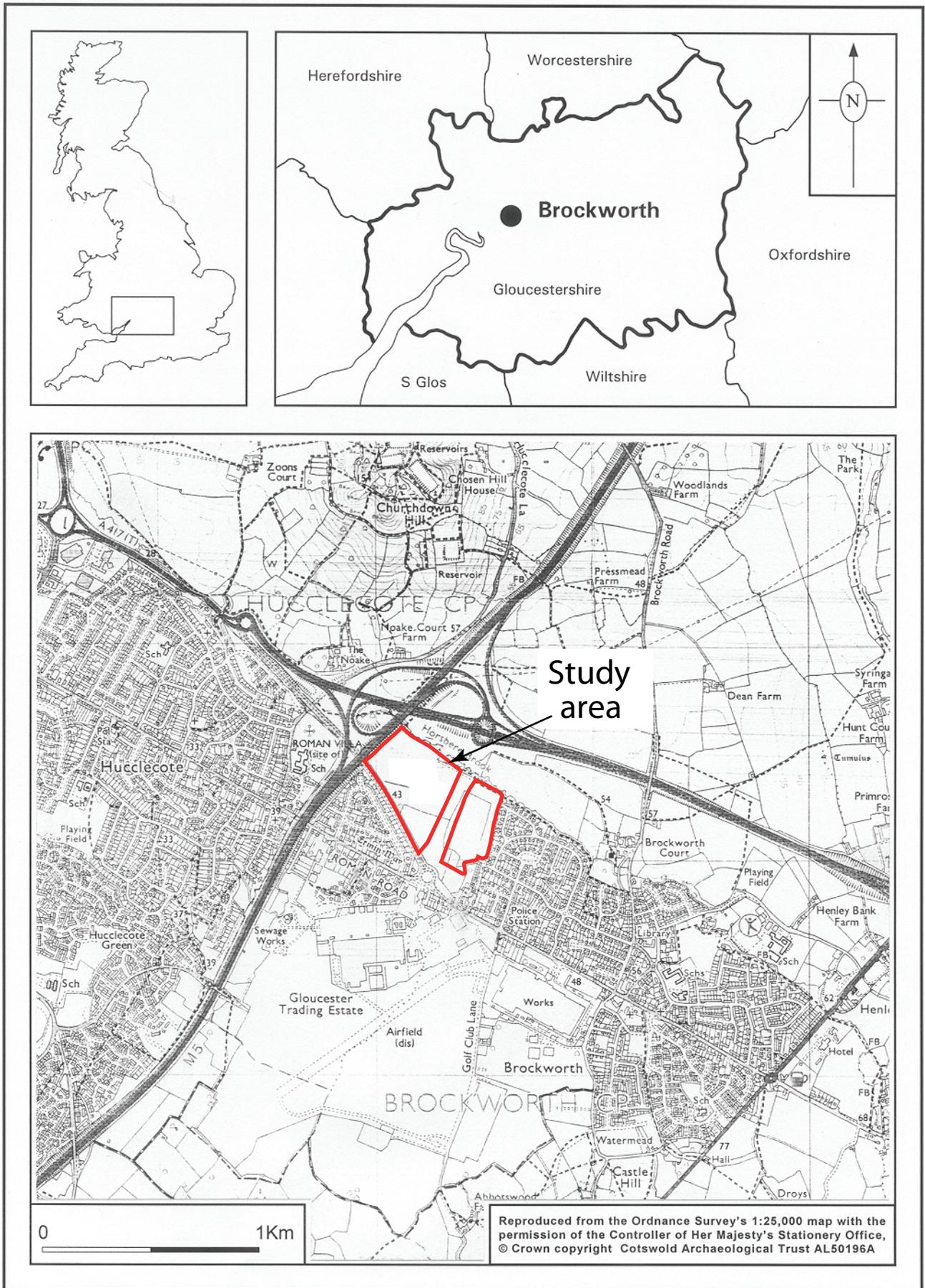


Fig. 1 Location plan

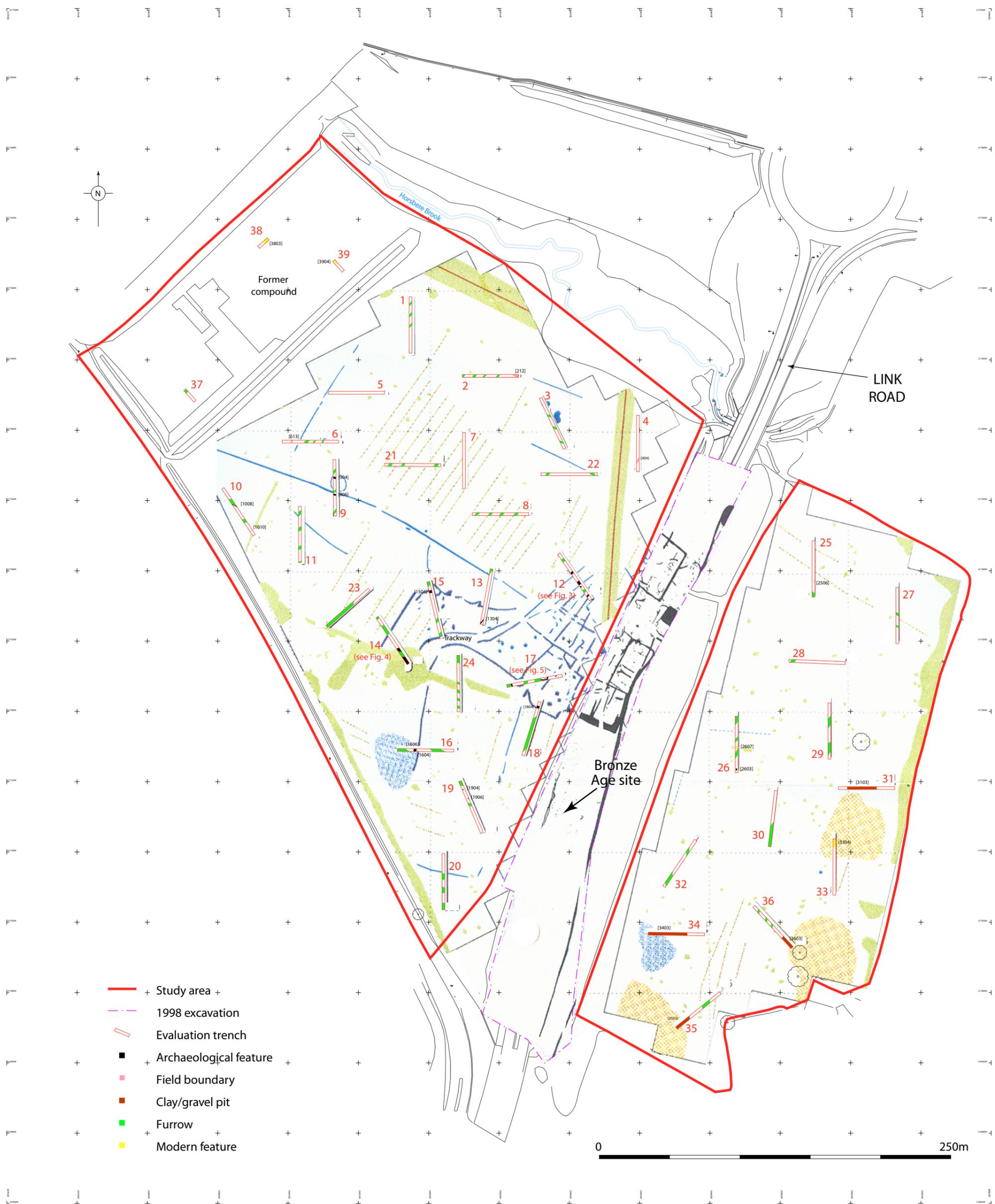


Fig. 2 Study area showing trenches 1-39 with archaeological features (superimposed over geophysical survey and plan of 1998 excavation)

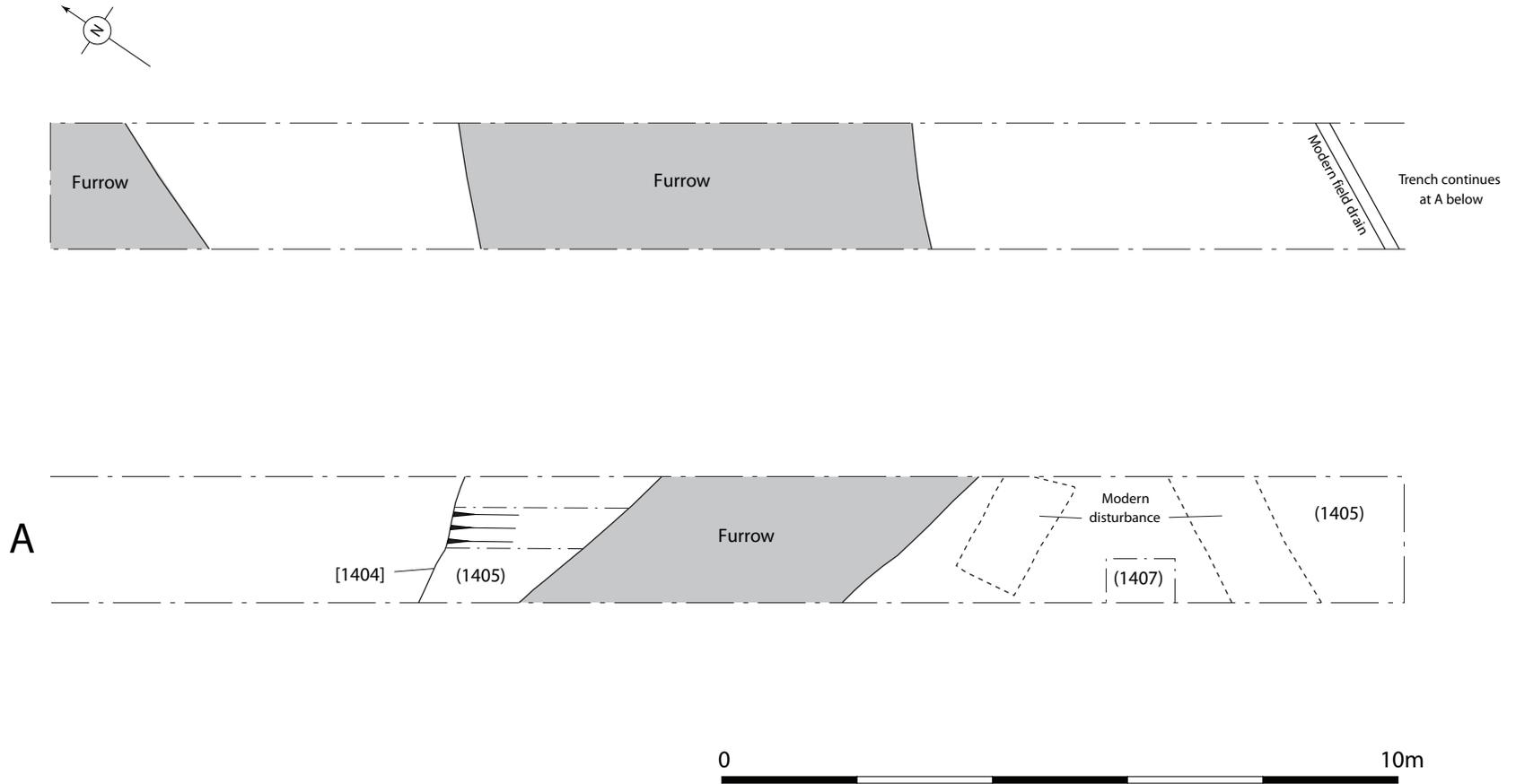


Fig.4 Trench 14; plan

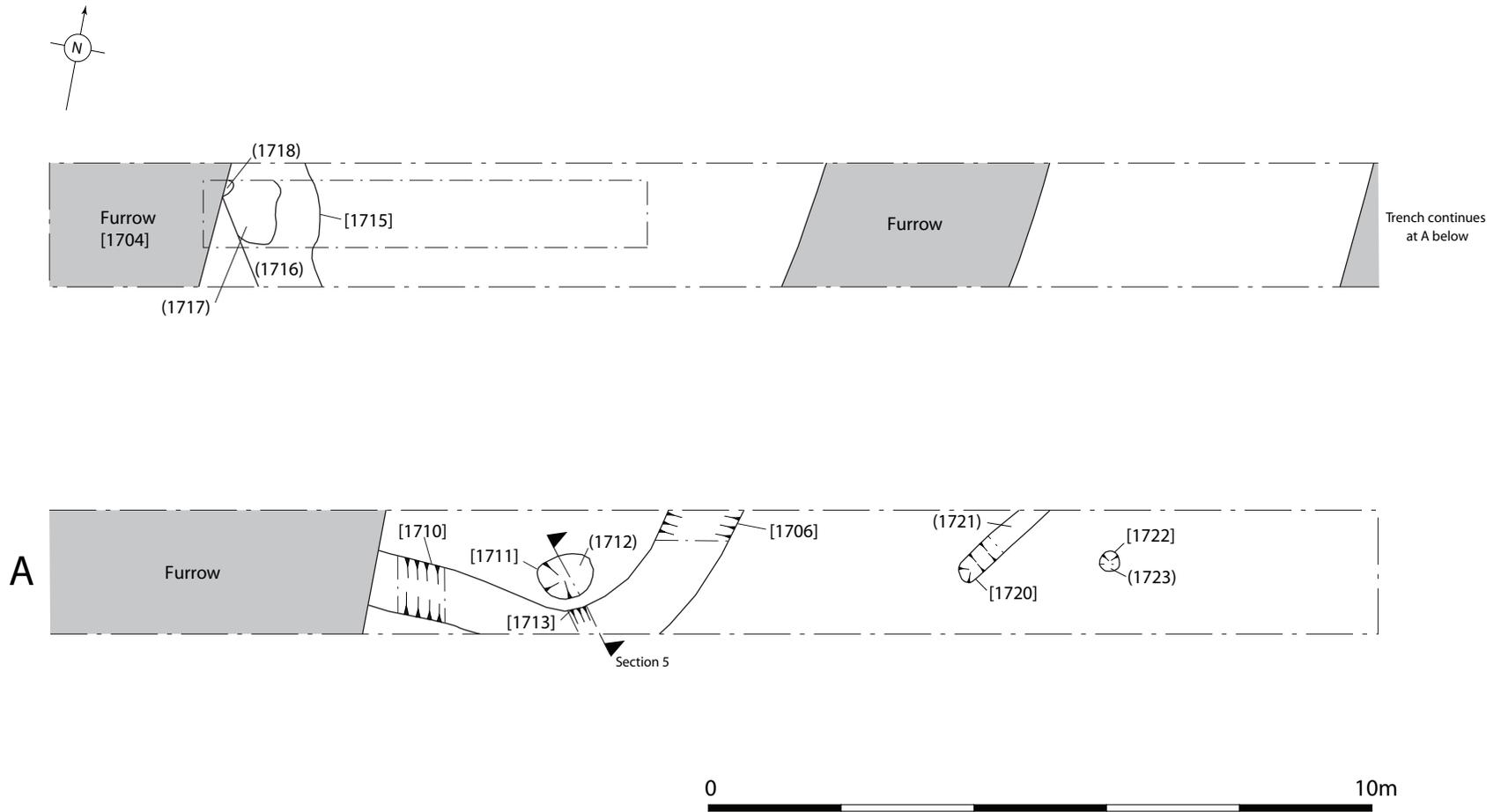
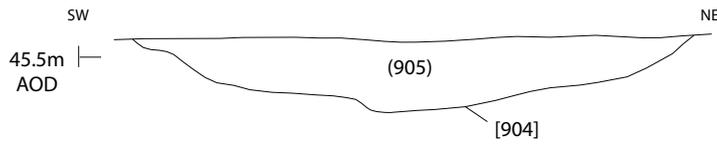
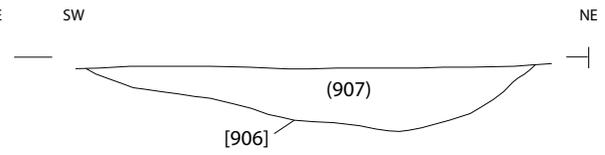


Fig. 5 Trench 17; plan

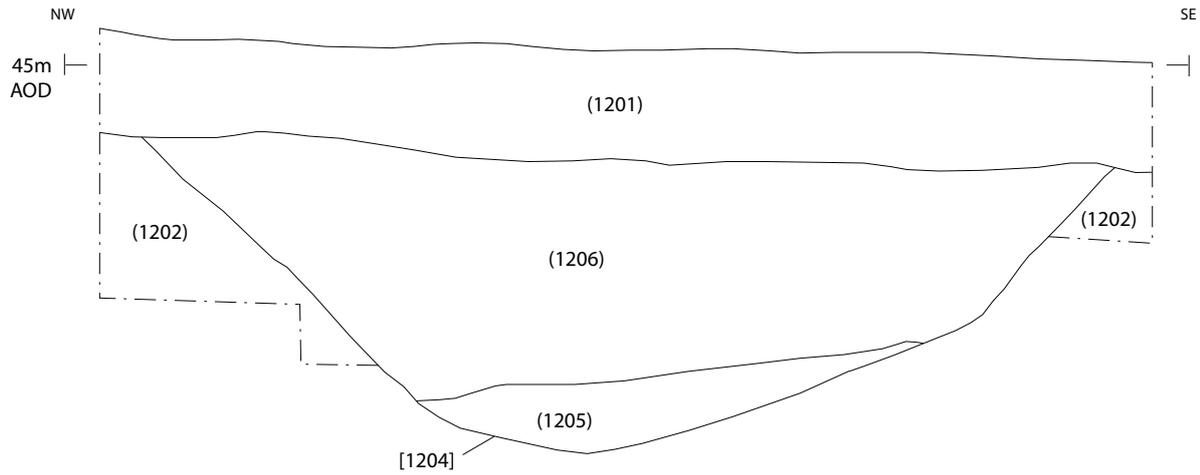
Section 1 (Trench 9)



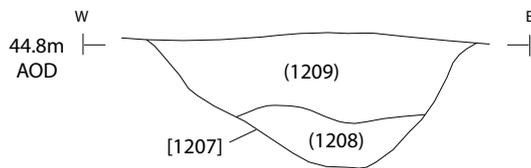
Section 2 (Trench 9)



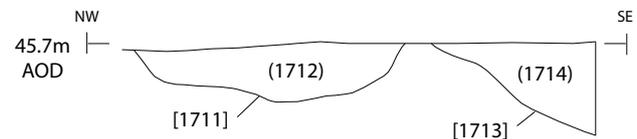
Section 3 (Fig. 3)



Section 4 (Fig. 3)



Section 5 (Fig. 5)



Section 6 (Trench 18)

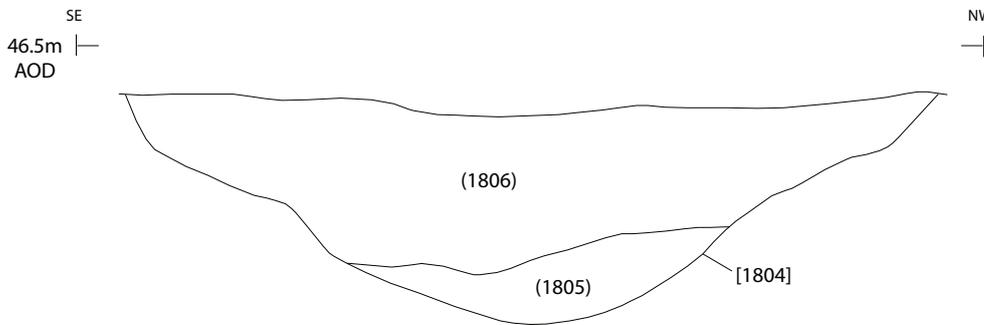


Fig. 6 Sections