

**LAND AT 38 RISSINGTON ROAD,  
BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

**NGR: SP 1705 2049**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND RECORDING;  
POST EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT.**

**December 2010**

**Report No. 717**

**Quality Assurance**

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS' s Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2000)

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## **GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

### *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.

### *CBM*

Ceramic Building Material.

### *Medieval*

The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and *c.* AD 1500.

### *Natural*

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

### *NGR*

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

### *OD*

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

### *OS*

Ordnance Survey.

### *Post-medieval*

The period after *c.* AD 1500.

### *Prehistoric*

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – *c.* 500,000 BC to *c.* 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – *c.* 12,000 BC to *c.* 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – *c.* 4,500 BC to *c.* 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – *c.* 2,000 BC to *c.* 800 BC; *Iron Age* – *c.* 800 BC to AD 43.

### *Roman*

The period traditionally dated AD 43 to *c.* AD 410.

## **SUMMARY**

In July 2010 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in advance of the construction of a domestic dwelling on land at 38 Rissington Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 1705 2049). The project was commissioned by Mr A. Beadman.

The excavation programme identified and recorded Roman archaeological features and deposits, which included a series ditches, along with two stone features/deposits of unknown function and a small number of shallow pits and cuts.

This assessment document provides an overview of the results from the archaeological works and sets out the requirements to bring the site to publication.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In July 2010 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological excavation and recording in advance of the construction of a domestic dwelling (Planning Reference: 07/00229/FUL), on land at 38 Rissington Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (NGR: SP 1705 2049).
- 1.2 In accordance with the principles of PPS5 (Planning Policy Statement 5) and the archaeological policies of Gloucestershire County Council and Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council, a programme of archaeological works was required by the Gloucestershire County Archaeological Service, prior to commencement of development.
- 1.3 The archaeological excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Archaeology Planning and Solutions (2007), based on the standard brief issued by the Gloucestershire County Archaeological Service, acting as advisors to Bourton-on-the-Water Parish Council, and with IfA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Excavation* (1994, revised 2001).
- 1.4 This document provides an assessment of the evidence recovered during the project and a programme to bring the results to publication. The assessment details the proposed publication format and content of the excavation report in accordance with Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment - MoRPHE (English Heritage, 2006).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The site is located immediately to the southeast of Rissington Road and is bounded to the northeast, southeast and southwest by residential dwellings.
- 2.2 The study area is situated approximately 100m to the south of *Salmondsbury Camp* Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 32392), which is known to have been occupied in the Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman periods. A recent geophysical survey of the site revealed a possible Neolithic causewayed enclosure, which may be related to Neolithic ditches previously identified in the area. The survey also identified the ditches of an Iron Age hillfort, including the layout of possible defences around the northern entrance, as well as circular gullies and ditches within the hillfort.
- 2.3 An archaeological evaluation of the site was undertaken by Archaeology Planning & Solutions in October 2005. The evaluation indicated the presence of a possible stone wall and a possible tree bowl, both of which contained Roman pottery.
- 2.4 The study area therefore contained the potential for archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the Roman period. This did not

prejudice the excavation against the recovery of evidence dating to other periods.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

3.1 In accordance with the WSI, non-significant overburden was removed to the top of archaeological deposits or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first, by use of a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, whilst under constant archaeological supervision. After the completion of the mechanical strip, the exposed areas were hand cleaned prior to planning.

3.2 Due to poor visibility conditions some archaeological deposits were inadvertently truncated during the mechanical strip. The final excavation depths are shown in Figure 3.

3.3 The excavation and recording of archaeological features was undertaken in accordance with the methodologies set out in the WSI. In summary, archaeological features were subject to the following sampling levels:

i/ structural remains were to be investigated by removal of a 100% sample of the deposit from each feature;

ii/ pits were to be investigated at a minimum sample of 50% from each feature;

iii/ linear features (such as ditches/gullies, paths/tracks) required a minimum of a 20% sample of the deposits from each feature.

### **4 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE**

4.1 The natural deposits, which consisted of an orange clay sand with limestone brash inclusions, were encountered at an average depth of 0.20m (128.99m OD) below the modern ground surface. These were overlaid by topsoil (102), up to 0.40m thick, which comprised a dark grey/brown plastic sand/clay. The topsoil was overlaid by modern gravel (101), up to 0.15m thick, which only occurred in the southwestern part of the site.

4.2 Numerous archaeological features and deposits were present within the excavated area. The descriptions of these are detailed in Appendix 1 and a Harris Matrix is presented in Figure 6. A summary discussion is given below.

### **5 DISCUSSION**

5.1 Visibility conditions were poor, with feature and deposit edges being generally diffuse, both in plan and section.

- 5.2 The site contained a series of inter-cutting ditches, which were associated with pottery dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The stratigraphic sequence suggested that the ditches represented a sequence of three different ditch alignments, as shown in Figure 7. Phase 1 comprised two north-south aligned ditches ([111]/[113]). In Phase 2, these were replaced by a northwest – southeast ditch alignment, represented by ditches [142], [105], [109] and [107]. Phase 3 consisted of a sequence of ditches ([124], [127], [137], [131] and [139]), which formed part of a curvilinear ditch situated in the northern part of the excavation area.
- 5.3 Feature [135] was stratigraphically earlier than ditch [124], however, it was unclear if this feature represented a primary ditch cut, or a pit, which pre-dated the curvilinear ditch.
- 5.4 Stone deposit (116) was contained within fill (128). It was uncertain if deposit (116) represented a discrete stone setting, of unknown function, or was a layer of dumped stones within the partially filled curvilinear ditch.
- 5.5 Stone feature (117) consisted of a linear setting of pitched, irregularly shaped limestone fragments. The feature had an extremely variable upper profile and was, therefore, unlikely to be the remains of a cobbled surface. It is most likely that stones (117) represented the base of a truncated or robbed dry-stone wall, or part of a drain or soakaway.
- 5.6 Features [103], [118], [120] and [122] comprised a dispersed set of shallow pits and cuts, which probably date to the Roman period.

## **6 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK**

- 6.1 The excavation programme identified and recorded Roman archaeological features and deposits, which included a series ditches, along with two stone features/deposits of unknown function and a small number of shallow pits and cuts. The on-site activity appeared to span the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD.
- 6.2 The limited nature of the excavation severely limits further interpretation and, at this stage, it is unclear how the evidence from this site relates to Salmondsbury Camp.
- 6.3 The Roman pottery assemblage is typical of that to be expected from the area and is too small to warrant further analysis, however, it should be incorporated into any future overview or summary for this area.
- 6.4 Given the complete lack of post-Roman pottery from below the topsoil, it is likely that the vast majority of the recovered bone is likely to relate to Roman activity and, as such, the bone assemblage from the site should be assessed by a specialist prior to publication.



- 6.5 The series of ditches within the site form a relatively well dated sequence. The potential for the recovery of environmental data from these features should be assessed by a specialist prior to publication.
- 6.6 Comparison with contemporary sites, particularly Salmondsbury Camp, should be undertaken in order to inform the publication.

## **7 NATURE OF THE RECORD**

- 7.1 The stratigraphic archive for the site consists of the following elements:

- Context Sheets
- Record Sheets
- Plans
- Sections
- Black & White photographs
- Digital photographs
- Colour slides

- 7.2 The following contexts types were represented:

- ditch;
- pit/cut;
- stone feature/deposit
- layer;
- fill.

- 7.3 The methodologies used to recover this evidence were set out in the WSI. In summary the following excavation methods were utilised. A mechanical excavator was used to remove overburden onto the surface of archaeological deposits, thereafter an appropriate sample of selected deposits was removed by manual excavation. It should be noted that some archaeological deposits were inadvertently truncated by the mechanical excavator. All contexts were recorded on a pro-forma context sheet and principal deposits were drawn in plan and section. These are available in the archive. Photographs were taken of all excavated features and sections.
- 7.4 Following the completion of the excavation an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive was compiled in accordance with MoRPHE.

## **8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL**

8.1 The specific objectives set out in the WSI comprised;

*i/ ...to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of all surviving archaeological remains within the excavation area and to place them within the context of the known archaeology of Bourton-on-the-Water. This has been partially achieved; the location, extent, date and character of the archaeological remains have been broadly determined. Due to the partial machine truncation, it is difficult to assess the condition and quality of the remains. The recommended further works will enable the site to be placed within its local context.*

8.2 The results of the fieldwork justified the implementation of the excavation programme and the site is of sufficient quality to warrant a short publication in *The Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*. The following section presents a considered policy for dissemination of the results, achieving;

- i/* the presentation of the results in a coherently synthesized and detailed format;
- ii/* the deposition of an ordered and internally consistent archive with Corinium Museum.

## **9 PUBLICATION, PRESENTATION AND ARCHIVING**

9.1 The following synopsis presents the proposed format for the final report:

### **Table of Contents**

#### **Abstract**

#### **Introduction**

*Background*

*Location and topography*

*Methodology*

#### **Excavated evidence**

*Site chronology and brief summary of stratigraphic evidence*

#### **Synthesis**

*Discussion and Conclusion*

#### **Illustrations**

*Acknowledgements*

*Bibliography*

*Appendices*

- 9.2 The report should comprise approximately 2-3 pages of text illustrated with appropriate plans and sections.
- 9.3 A full OASIS record, with attached report, will be created.
- 9.4 Additionally a full report of the excavations will be posted on the Internet at the Foundations Archaeology website (<http://www-foundations.co.uk>).
- 9.5 The site archive for the project will be submitted to the National Monuments Record of English Heritage for security copying upon completion of the report.
- 9.6 The site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with the Corinium Museum.

## 10 REFERENCES

Archaeology & Planning Solutions. 2005. *36 Rissington Road, Bourton-on-the-Water; Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished Report.

Archaeology & Planning Solutions. 2007. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation at 36 Rissington Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire*. Unpublished Report.

English Heritage. 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*. English Heritage. London.

IfA. 1994 (revised 2001). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*. Institute for Archaeologists. Reading.

## 11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Charles Parry and Jan Wills of the Gloucestershire County Archaeological Service and Mr Beadman (senior and junior) for their help in the completion of this project. The fieldwork was undertaken by Diana King, James Vessey, Jack Crennell and James Steward.

## APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DATA

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION
				Area 1: natural deposits comprised orange/yellow clay/sand/limestone brash.
101	na	na	0.15	Modern levelling layer; gravel. Only occurred in southwestern trench section.
102	na	na	0.4	Topsoil; dark grey/brown plastic sand/clay, which contained occasional limestone fragments, occasional CBM fragments, rare oyster shells and three fragments of bone.
[103]	0.52	0.4	0.14	Sub-oval pit with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 104. Completely removed by subsequent section.
104	0.52	0.4	0.14	Fill of [103]; dark grey/brown clay/sand, which contained occasional gravel.
[105]	8.3	0.9	0.53	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a steep profile and an irregular base. Contained fill 106.
106	8.3	0.9	0.53	Fill of [105]; light brown/orange clay/silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks, frequent small pebbles and pea-grit, along with two fragments of bone.
[107]	8.3	1.25	0.75	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a steep, rounded profile. Contained fill 108.
108	8.3	1.25	0.75	Fill of [107]; light brown/grey clay/silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks, frequent small stones and 12 fragments of bone.
[109]	2.65	0.7	0.3	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a rounded profile. Contained fill 110.
110	2.65	0.7	0.3	Fill of [109]; light brown/orange silt/clay, which contained frequent small stones.
[111]	3.4	0.85	0.22	North/northwest - south/southeast aligned ditch with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 112.
112	3.4	0.85	0.22	Fill of [111]; light brown/orange silt/clay, which contained frequent small stones and occasional charcoal flecks.
[113]	2.5	0.7	0.18	North/northeast - south/southwest aligned ditch with a shallow profile. Contained fill 114.
114	2.5	0.7	0.18	Fill of [113]; dark brown/grey clay/silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and frequent small stones.
115				void

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION
116	1.45	0.9	0.26	Sub-rectangular deposit of irregular limestone fragments in a grey/brown soil matrix, which was situated within ditch fill 1028. The individual stones measured up to 0.24m X 0.22m X 0.07m.
				Upon completion of the recording, the feature was manually excavated to a 50% sample level (not recorded). Equivalent to evaluation feature [205]/206.
				Six fragments of bone were recovered from context 116.
117	1.25	0.65	0.22	Northwest - southeast alignment of pitched, irregularly shaped limestone fragments. The individual stones varied between 0.30m X 0.25m X 0.07m and 0.15m X 0.10m X 0.06m.
[118]	1.3	0.5	0.13	Shallow feature, probably a pit. Contained fill 119.
119	1.3	0.5	0.13	Fill of [118]; orange/brown silt/clay, which contained rare charcoal flecks and occasional small stones.
[120]	1.5	0.8	0.13	Sub-rectangular pit with a shallow profile. Contained fill 121.
121	1.5	0.8	0.13	Fill of [120]; dark brown/grey clay/silt, which contained occasional small stones.
[122]	1.9	0.9	0.28	Cut feature, probably a pit, with a shallow, rounded profile. Contained fill 123.
123	1.9	0.9	0.28	Fill of [122]; dark brown silt/clay, which contained occasional small stones and occasional charcoal flecks, along with three fragments of bone.
[124]	7.5	1.4	0.87	Curvilinear ditch with a steep, irregular profile. Contained fills 125, 126, 134 and 141.
125	?	0.22	0.06	Primary fill of ditch [124]; orange/brown plastic clay/silt, which contained occasional small stones.
126	7.5	1.02	0.52	Secondary fill of ditch [124]; light brown/orange clay/silt, which contained frequent small stones and frequent pea-grit, along with nineteen fragments of bone.
[127]	?	1.6	0.55	Re-cut of ditch [124]; ditch with a sloping, 'V' shaped profile. Contained fill 128. Possibly equivalent to cut [137].
128	?	1.6	0.55	Fill of [127]; light brown/orange plastic clay/silt, which contained frequent small stones and pea grit, along with frequent charcoal flecks, one flake of struck chert, a single oyster shell and 12 fragments of bone.
[129]	?	0.3	0.17	Sloping cut; probably associated with either ditch [124] or ditch [127]. Contained fill 130.

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION
130	?	0.3	0.17	Fill of cut [129]; light brown/red plastic clay/silt, which contained occasional pea-grit.
<b>[131]</b>	?	1.32	0.34	Re-cut of ditch [124]; ditch with steep sides and a flat base. Contained fills 132 and 133. Possibly equivalent to cut [139].
132	?	1.32	0.34	Primary fill of ditch [131]; dark brown/grey clay/silt, which contained frequent charcoal flecks and frequent small stones, a single oyster shell and 11 fragments of bone.
133	?	0.88	0.19	Secondary fill of ditch [131]; light brown/grey clay/silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks, along with frequent small stones.
134	?	0.83	0.27	Fill of ditch [124]; brown/orange clay/silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.
<b>[135]</b>	?	1	0.4	Cut feature with a rounded profile. Contained fill 136.
136	?	1	0.4	Fill of feature [135]; light brown/orange silt/clay, which contained occasional small stones.
<b>[137]</b>	?	1.2	0.22	Re-cut of ditch [124]; ditch with a shallow, flat profile. Contained fill 138.
138	?	1.2	0.22	Fill of ditch [137]; brown/grey clay/silt, which contained frequent pea-grit and occasional stones.
<b>[139]</b>	?	0.3	0.17	Re-cut of ditch [124]; cut with a sloping profile. Contained fill 140.
140	?	0.3	0.17	Fill of ditch [139]; brown/grey clay/silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional stones.
141	?	1.4	0.37	Fill of ditch [124]; light brown/orange silt/clay, which contained frequent pea-grit and small stones, along with occasional charcoal flecks.
<b>[142]</b>	2	0.5	0.6	Northwest - southeast aligned ditch with a sloping profile. Contained fill 143.
143	2	0.5	0.6	Fill of ditch [142]; light brown/orange plastic clay/silt, which contained frequent small stones, occasional charcoal flecks and 13 fragments of bone.
144	?	2.5	0.17	Layer of yellow/brown clay/sand, which contained frequent gravel, along with occasional CBM fragments and 11 fragments of bone.

## **APPENDIX 2 – THE POTTERY**

By Jane Timby

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of a modest assemblage of 241 sherds of pottery, weighing 3414 g, dating to the Roman and Post-medieval periods. In addition two small fragments of ceramic building material and one small piece of fired clay are present.
- 1.2 Pottery was recovered from 17 defined contexts trenches with a small group of unstratified finds.
- 1.3 The sherds are moderately fresh and well-preserved reflected in an overall average sherd size of 14.2 g. There are at least two incidences of multiple sherds from single vessels.
- 1.4 For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was scanned to assess its likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The resulting data is summarised in Table 1.

### **2 Roman**

- 2.1 In terms of composition the assemblage is quite limited comprising largely of local coarsewares. There is only a single sherd of samian present and the regional imports are limited to 13 sherds of Dorset black burnished ware and a sherd of white-ware flagon.
- 2.2 The single sherd of samian is a redeposited Central Gaulish piece from (102). The Dorset black burnished ware includes jar and bowls/dishes whilst the cupped-mouth white-ware flagon, probably a 2nd century form, is amongst the unstratified finds.
- 2.3 The local wares include multiple sherds from a wheel-made grey, grog-tempered ware from (104). The base has a single central hole made after firing. Several sherds from a second, similar, jar came from (106). Most of the other wares are fine and sandy grey-wares and oxidised wares probably from the Oxfordshire industries.
- 2.4 The only other wares present are a single shell-tempered sherd and three pieces from a Severn Valley ware tankard from (132).

### **3 Post-medieval**

- 3.1 Thirteen sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from (102). Eleven of the pieces appear to be unglazed red earthenware flowerpot and thus of 19-20th century date.

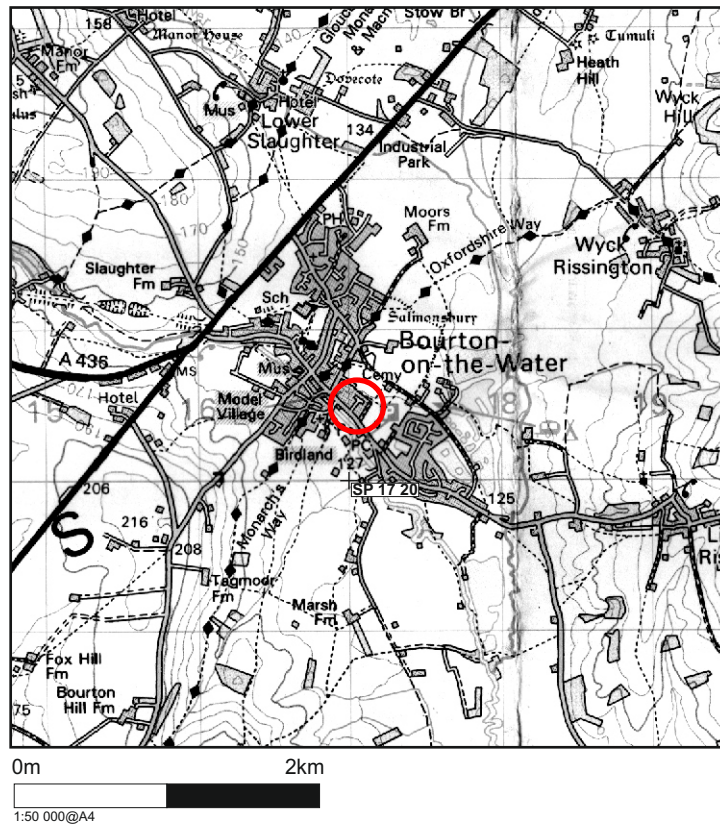
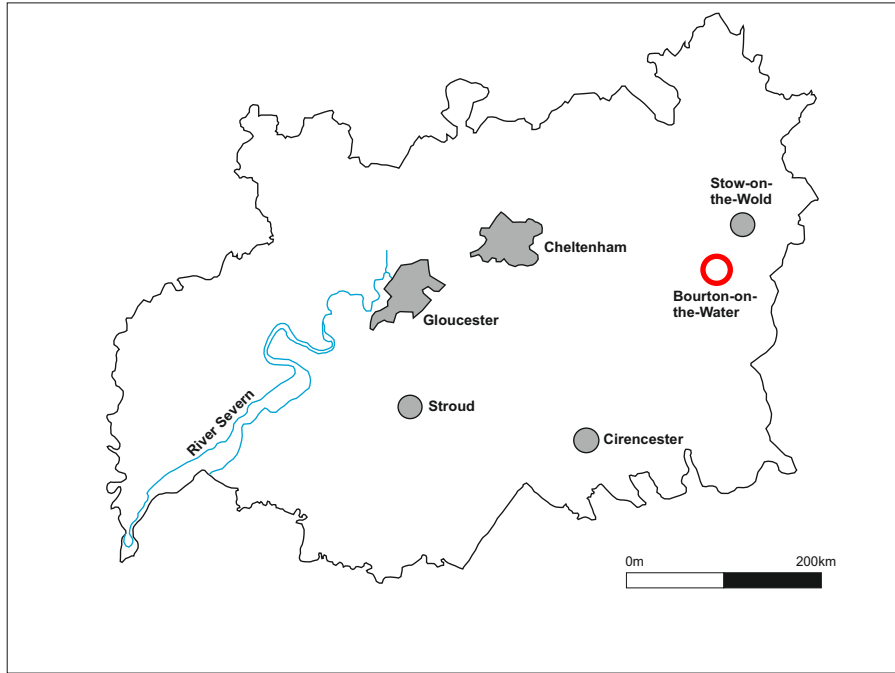
#### **4 Chronology**

- 4.1 With the exception of the topsoil (102) all the layers investigated archaeologically with pottery appear to date to the Roman period.
- 4.2 The assemblage appears to comprise a mixture of mainly 2nd and 3rd-century types. Although there are 228 Roman sherds the presence of multiple sherds from single vessels greatly reduces this number to around 118, so the diversity of material present is very limited. The number of imports present is surprisingly low but this again may be a reflection of the small size of the group.

#### **5 Potential and further work**

- 5.1 The assemblage recovered from RRB 10 is very typical of that to be expected from the Roman settlement known to exist under the present village at Bourton both in terms of composition and date.
- 5.2 The assemblage is perhaps too small to warrant further work unless additional material is recovered from the same locality in which case it should be added into any overview.





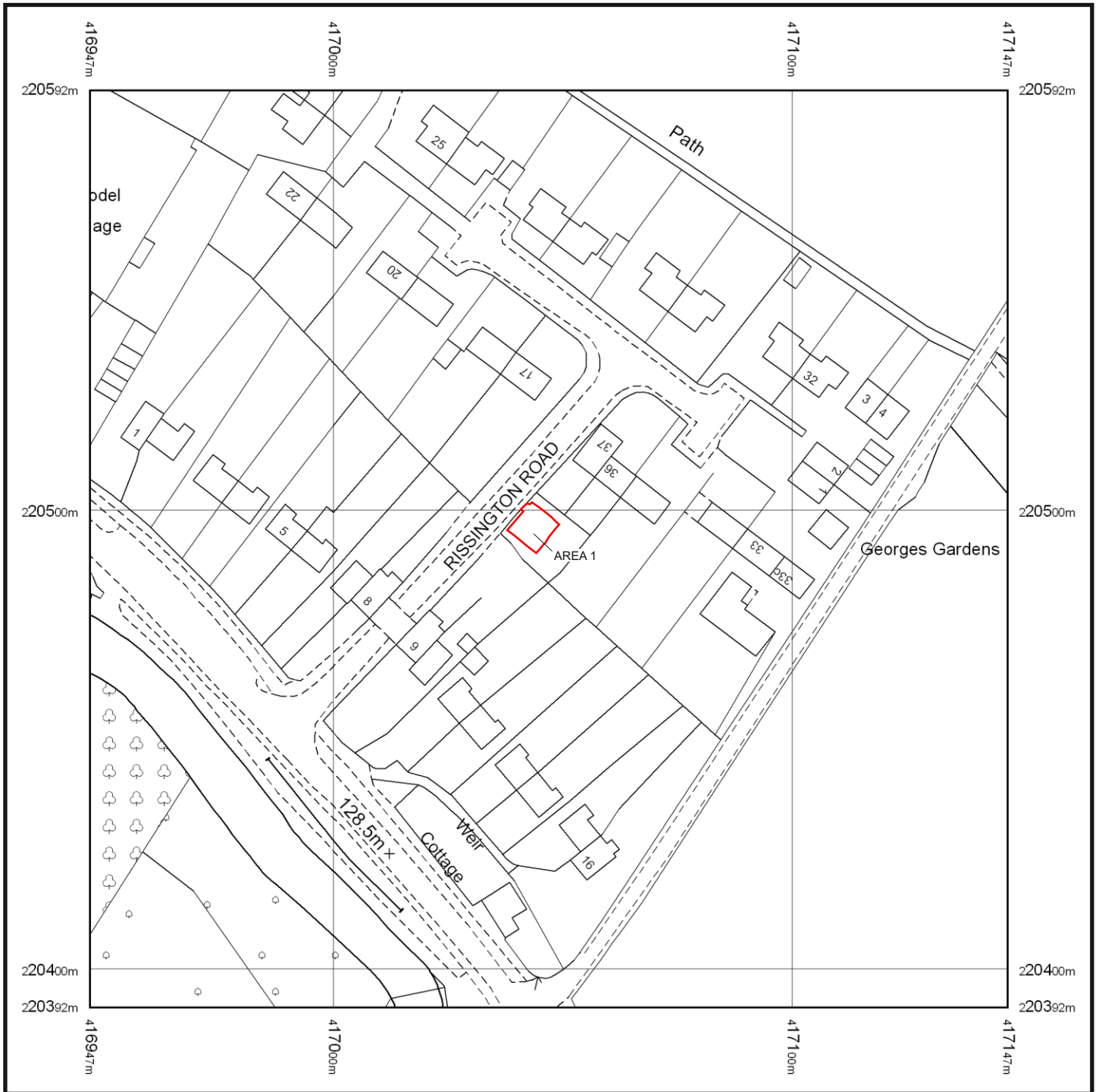
© Crown Copyright  
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**Site Code: RRB10**

**Accession Code:**



**FIGURE 1: Site Location**



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**Site Code: RRB10**  
**Accession Code:**

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N

0m 50m

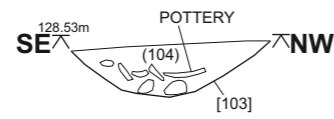
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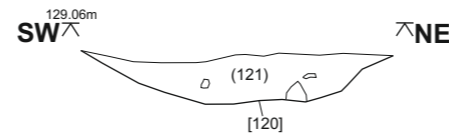
**FIGURE 2: Study Area Location**



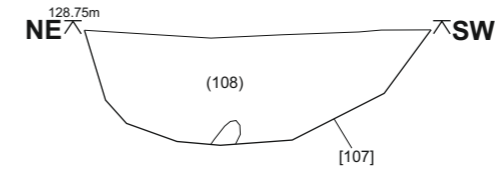
SEC 001: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [103]



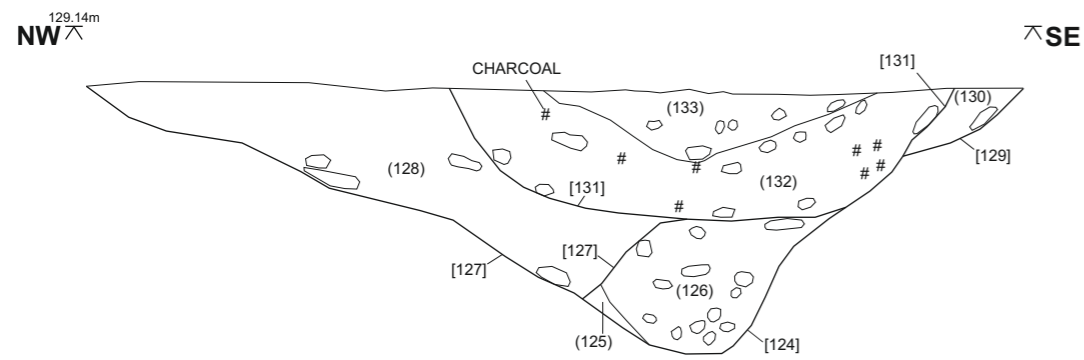
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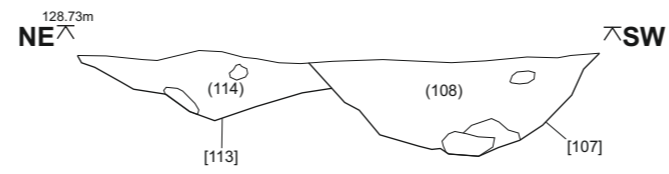
SEC 003: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [107]



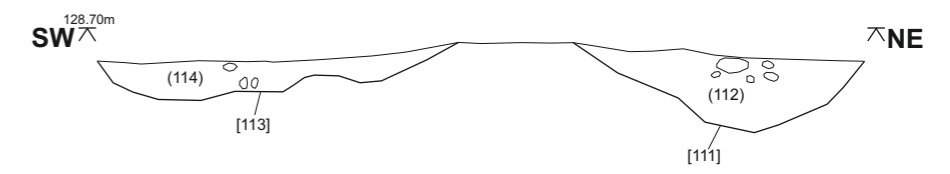
SEC 004: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [124], [127], [129] and [131]



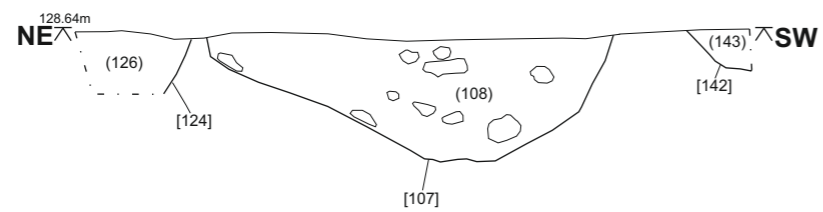
SEC 005: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [107] and [113]



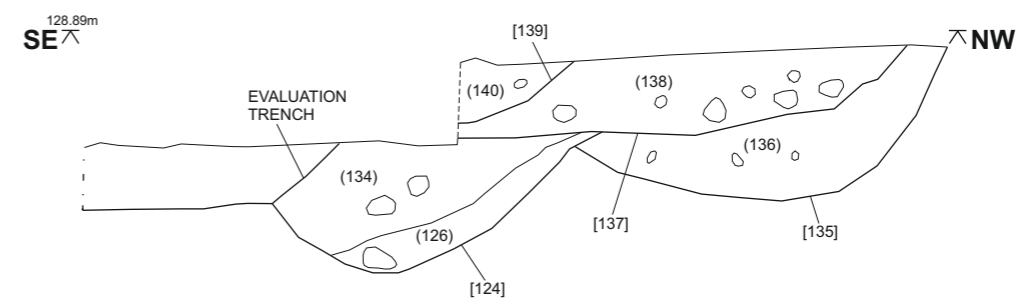
SEC 006: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [111] and [113]



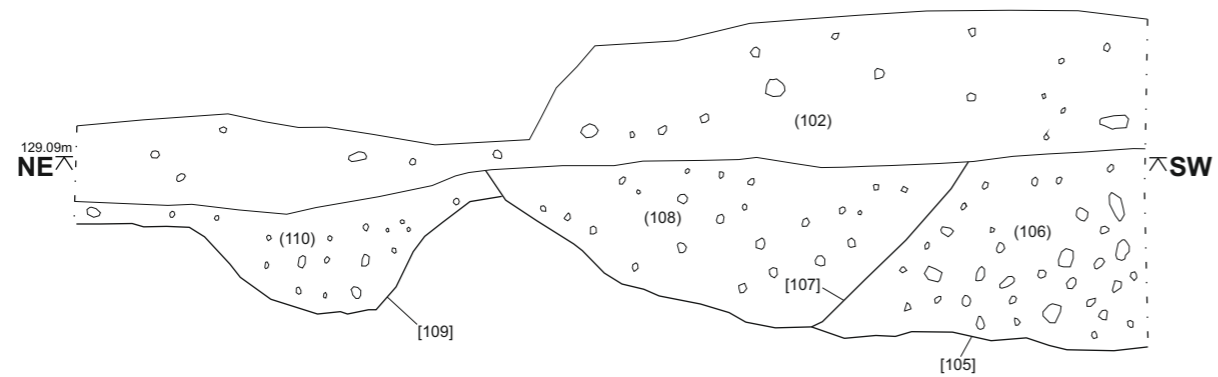
SEC 007: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [107], [124] and [142]



SEC 008: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [124], [135], [137] and [139]

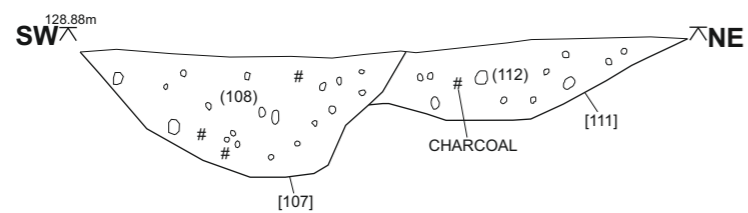


SEC 009: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [105], [107] and [109]

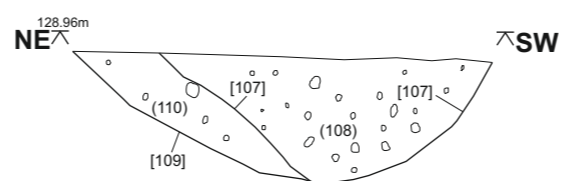


Site Code: RRB10
Accession Code:
<b>FIGURE 4: Sections 001 to 009</b>

SEC 010: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [107] and [111]



SEC 011: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [107] and [109]



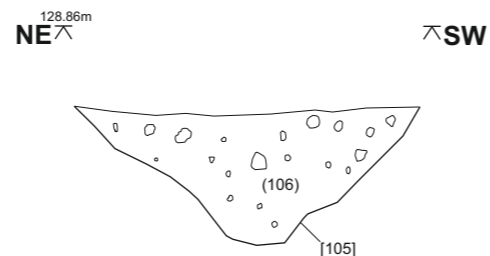
SEC 012: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [105]



SEC 013: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [105]



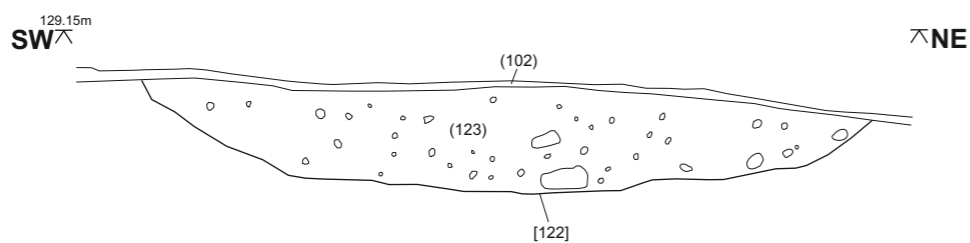
SEC 014: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [105]



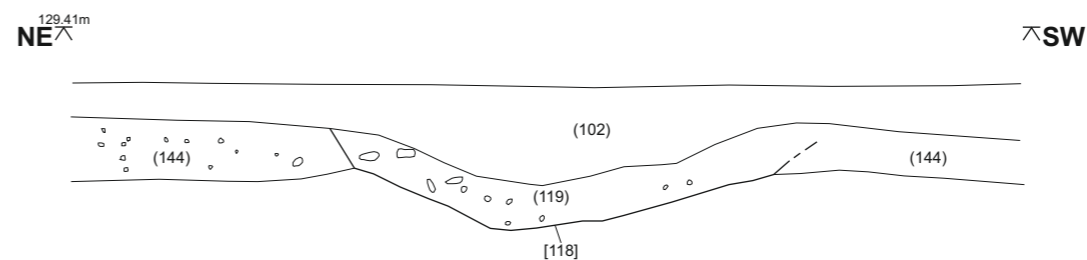
SEC 015: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION (128) and PARTIAL PROFILE (116)



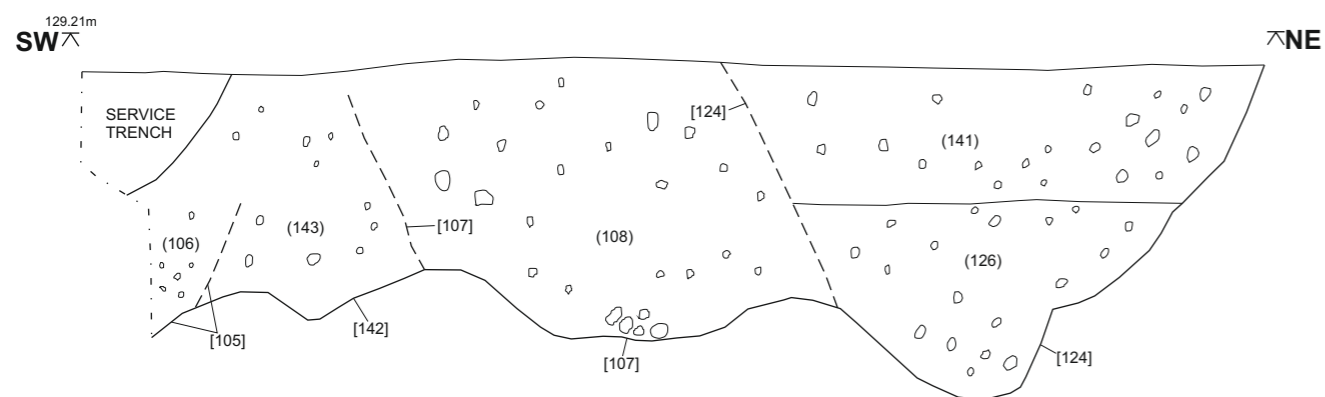
SEC 016: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [122]



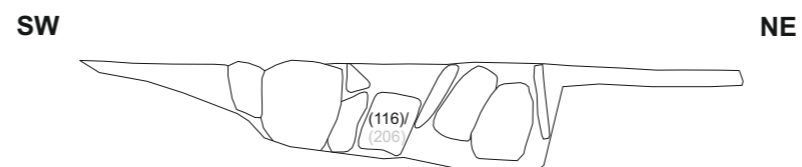
SEC 017: NORTHWEST FACING SECTION [118]



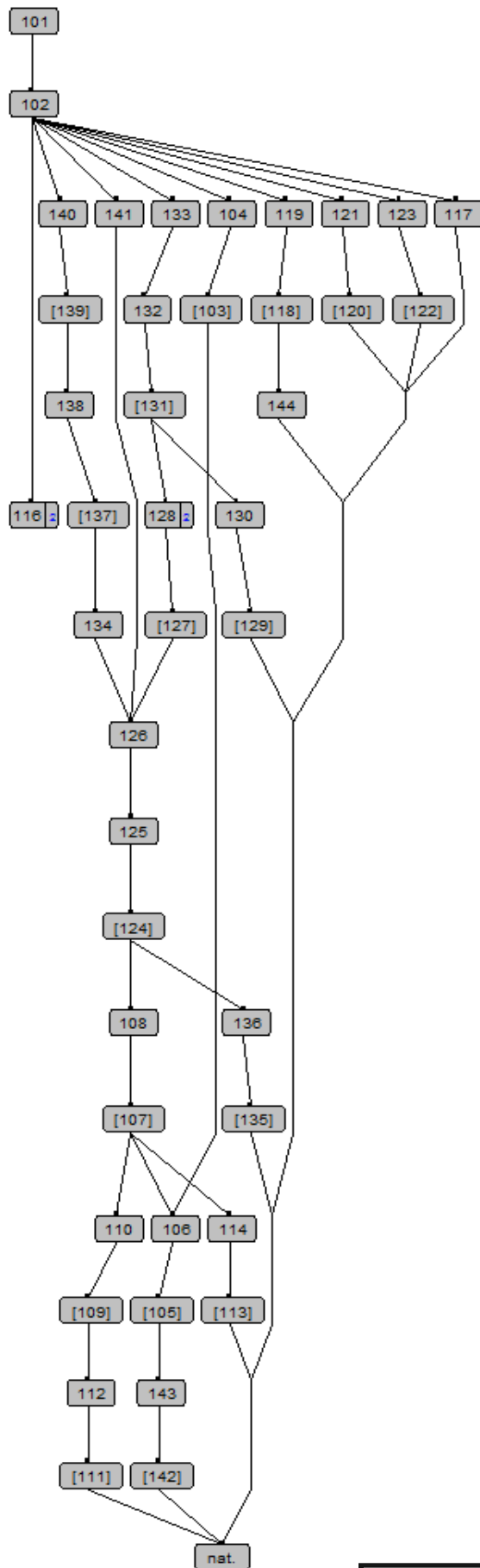
SEC 018: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION [105], [107], [124] and [142]



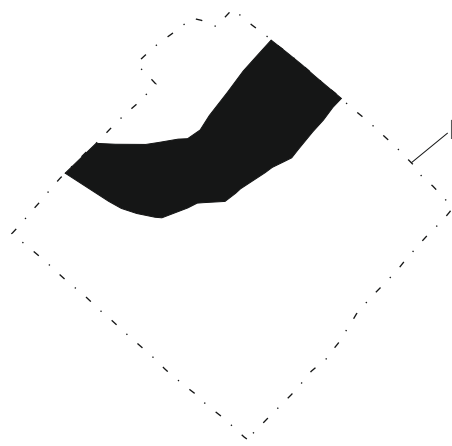
EVALUATION SEC: SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION (116)/(206)



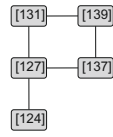
Site Code: RRB10
Accession Code:
<b>FIGURE 5: Sections 010 to 018</b>



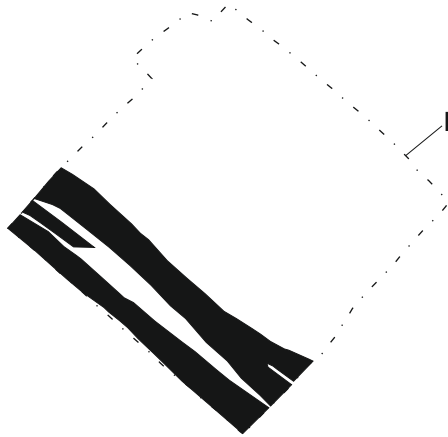
Site Code: RRB10  
 Accession Code:  
**FIGURE 6: Area 1 Stratigraphic Matrix**



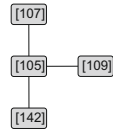
**PHASE 3**



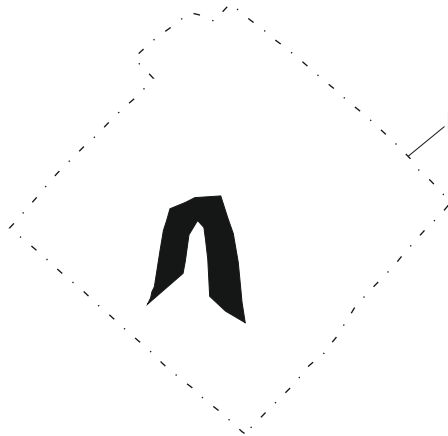
**POTTERY = 2ND - 3RD CENTURY AD**



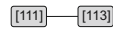
**PHASE 2**



**POTTERY = 2ND CENTURY AD**



**PHASE 1**



**POTTERY = 2ND CENTURY AD**

