An Archaeological Evaluation
at
DEAN FARM
BISHOP'S CLEEVE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Dean Farm, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire for Robert Hitchins Ltd

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the determination of a planning application for a proposed residential development at Dean Farm, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. The evaluation established the presence of archaeological features below deposits as little as 0.29m in depth. Twenty-one archaeological features and four possible features were identified. Eight ditches, three pits and a post hole were dated to the mid to late Iron Age. A further ditch was dated to the Romano-British period. The recorded features suggest an Iron Age settlement, with later Romano-British activity, in the southern half of the site.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between the 8th and 12th November 1999 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Archaeology Service of Gloucestershire County Council at Dean Farm, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. The evaluation was carried out in advance of the determination of a planning application (TBC ref: 99/2380/0376/OUT) for a proposed residential development on the site. The work was commissioned by Robert Hitchins Ltd.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a project specification (Vallender 1999) and a brief issued by the Senior Archaeological Officer of Gloucestershire County Council. The work was also in accordance with *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* produced by the Institute of Field Archaeology (IFA).

1.3 Bishop's Cleeve is located c.6.5km north of Cheltenham on the A435 Evesham Road. The site is located on the northern edge of Bishop's Cleeve between the new line of the A435 and the old Evesham Road (see fig 1). The site is geologically located on Fan Gravel (OS 1983) at a height of c.49m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The proposed development covers an area of c.4.26ha, centred on OS NGR SO 9560 2825, as shown on Robert Hitchins Ltd drawing number LP: 519:185.

1.4 Thanks are due to: Jo Vallender (Project Officer) for supervising the evaluation; the staff of the Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record (GSMR) for providing background information; Ben Urmston and Kathy Speight for assistance on site; and Dr Jane Timby for the assessment of the ceramic finds.

2 Background information

2.1 Background information is taken from the project specification (Vallender 1999).

2.2 Presently, there is no record of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Dean Farm. However circular crop marks (GSMR 6428) in a field c.370m west of the proposed development site may indicate the presence of ploughed out burial mounds, hut circles or Iron age enclosures.

2.3 A possible Romano-British settlement site has been recorded 225m south-west of Dean Farm (GSMR 9882), finds included pits, ditches and pottery.

2.4 Medieval activity has been recorded at Homelands to the north of Dean Farm (GSMR 4440) in the form of a ridge and furrow field system. Crop marks have been noted on this site from aerial photographs, indicating possible enclosures of uncertain date.

2.5 An archaeological evaluation (GSMR 13880) was carried out in the field immediately south of the proposed development area in 1992. No archaeological deposits or features of any period were recorded. An evaluation (GSMR 18447) was also carried out 200m south east of the site in Selbourne Road, although no features of any period were recorded Romano-British pottery was recovered from the subsoil.

2.6 The tithe map dating to 1841 (Gwatkin 1993) records the area of the proposed development as part of a larger field extending to the east called Dean Field. There are no structures shown within the field.

2.7 The First County Series Ordnance Survey map dating to c.1880 (OS c.1880) shows the area of the proposed development as a field within the same boundaries as the tithe map. A footpath is shown on the alignment of the new Evesham Road, Dean Farm at that time was called Coombe Lodge. The Third County Series Ordnance Survey map dating to c.1925 (OS c.1925) shows the proposed site as an unoccupied field, with allotments noted on the western side in the area of the footpath, but the extent of these is not shown.

3 **Results of the evaluation** (for trench location see fig 2)

3.1 The brief stated that the area excavated should amount to at least 2% of the area to be evaluated. Nine trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 6ft (1.83m) ditching bucket. A total of 468.9m of linear trench (an area of 858.09m^2) was excavated representing 2.01% of the area to be evaluated. The trenches were located so as to give as good a coverage as possible of the site. Relationships between features were not fully excavated as it was felt that this would compromise the results of any future archaeological investigation on the site. The results of the evaluation are outlined below. Context numbers are shown in square brackets. The finds retrieved were washed, marked and quantified. The site archive is presently stored at Shire Hall, Gloucester, under GSMR 20562, but it is intended that it will eventually be deposited with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum.

3.2 **Trench 1** (see fig 3)

Trench 1 was located in the south-western corner of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 55m x 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 1 was as follows:-

3.2.1 The lowest layer was a light orange-brown clayey sand with patches of gravel and blue lias clay [3], between 0.48m and 0.61m below existing ground level, at a height of 47.93-48.54m AOD. Layer [3] was interpreted as the natural subsoil.

3.2.2 The natural [3] was cut by a linear feature [6] orientated east to west and measuring up to 1.5m in width and at least 0.31m in depth. A section through the feature was excavated to a depth of 47.62m AOD, but was not bottomed due to the level of the water table. The fill of cut [6] was a mid grey-brown silty sand [5] from which animal bone and four sherds of pottery of Romano-British date were retrieved. Cut [6] was interpreted as a ditch of Romano-British date.

3.2.3 The natural [3] was cut by a linear feature [10] orientated north-west to south-east and measuring up to 1.3m in width and 0.3m in depth. The south-western edge of the cut was uncertain and was possibly truncated by a linear feature, [8]. The fill of feature [10] was

a dark orange-brown silty sand [9] which contained animal bone and three sherds of pottery of Iron Age date. The feature was interpreted as a ditch of mid to late Iron Age date.

3.2.4 A linear feature [8] orientated north-east to south-west, which contained a modern land drain, was recorded. Further investigation of the feature was not possible due to the level of the water table, however, the feature was wider than necessary for a land drain, and it is possible that feature [8] was a ditch which was subsequently cut by the drain. A single sherd of pottery of Romano-British date was retrieved from the fill, [7], of feature [8]. The feature was interpreted as a possible Romano-British ditch, but could have been a modern drainage cut.

3.2.5 The natural [3] was cut by a linear feature [12] orientated north-west to south-east. The feature was only partially observed and continued beyond the northern and eastern limits of the trench. Cut [12] was at least 1.2m in width and 0.28m in depth and was filled with a dark orange-brown silty sand [11] which contained two pieces of possible slag material (see **3.5.3**, below), three fragments of fired clay and three sherds of pottery of Iron Age date. The feature was interpreted as a ditch of mid to late Iron Age date.

3.2.6 The features in Trench 1 were sealed by a mid orange-brown clayey sand subsoil [2] up to 0.4m in depth. Two residual fragments of ceramic building material of possible Romano-British date were retrieved from the subsoil.

3.2.7 The upper layer in Trench 1 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil [1]. The deposit was between 200mm and 0.3m in depth at a height of 48.41-49.02m AOD.

3.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the south-western corner of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 55.15m x 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 2 was as follows:-

3.3.1 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown clayey sand with occasional patches of gravel [101] at a height of 48.86m AOD. Layer [101] was interpreted as the natural subsoil.

3.3.2 The natural [101] was cut by five linear features orientated east to west. The cuts were filled with a light grey-brown clayey sand from which no finds were retrieved. The features were interpreted as the remains of medieval furrows.

3.3.3 The deposits in Trench 2 were sealed by a dark orange-brown clayey sand subsoil [100] up to 0.4m in depth.

3.3.4 The upper layer in Trench 2 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil [99]. The deposit was up to 0.4m in depth at a height of 48.86m AOD.

3.4 Trench 3 (see fig 4)

Trench 3 was located at the southern end of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 54.15m x 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 3 was as follows:-

3.4.1 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown clayey sand [26], between 0.32m and 0.6m below existing ground level at a height of 48.81-49.02m AOD. Layer [26] was

interpreted as the natural subsoil and was cut by a series of archaeological features. The recorded deposits from south to north were as follows:-

3.4.2 Cut [107] - A possible ditch terminus measuring 1.2m in width. Further investigation was not possible due to the level of the water table.

3.4.3 Cut [108] - A circular feature measuring 0.6m in diameter and filled with a light grey-brown sandy clay [14]. A single sherd of pottery of Iron Age date was retrieved from fill [14]. The feature was interpreted as a post hole of mid to late Iron Age date.

3.4.4 Cut [109] - A linear feature orientated east to west which appeared in plan to be 5.5m in width. Feature [109] had a definite southern edge, but the northern edge was not clearly defined. The width of feature [109] suggests that it may be more than a single feature. A small section excavated through the southern edge of the feature established a depth of 0.7m (48.12m AOD), however excavation was hampered by the level of the water table. The cut was filled with a dark grey-brown silty clay [15] which contained sixty-four sherds of pottery, fragments of fired clay, burnt stone, animal bone and two pieces of slag material (see **3.5.3**, below). The pottery was of Iron Age date and the feature was interpreted as a ditch, or ditches of mid to late Iron Age date.

3.4.5 Cut [110] - A linear feature orientated east to west and measuring 1.4m in width. Feature [110] was filled with a mid grey-brown sandy clay [16] from which five sherds of pottery of Iron Age date were retrieved. Feature [110] was not excavated and was interpreted as a ditch of mid to late Iron Age date.

3.4.6 Cut [111] - A linear feature orientated east to west and measuring 1.9m in width. Feature [111] was filled with a dark grey-brown silty clay [17] from which animal bone, two sherds of Iron Age pottery and six fragments of fired clay were retrieved. Feature [111] was not excavated and was interpreted as a ditch of mid to late Iron Age date.

3.4.7 Cut [112] - The eastern edge of a circular feature which continued beyond the western edge of the trench. Feature [112] was 1.4m in diameter and 100mm in depth and was filled with a mid grey-brown sandy clay [18] from which no finds were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a heavily truncated pit of uncertain date.

3.4.8 Cut [42] - A circular feature measuring 1m in diameter and 150mm in depth. Feature [42] was filled with a dark grey-brown silty clay [19] from which four fragments of fired clay and four sherds of Iron Age pottery were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a heavily truncated pit of mid to late Iron Age date.

3.4.9 Cut [40] - A small circular feature measuring 0.5m in diameter and 180mm in depth. Feature [40] was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay [20] which contained a fragment of animal bone. The feature was interpreted as a post hole of uncertain date.

3.4.10 Cut [113] - A small circular feature measuring 0.4m in diameter which was filled with a mid grey-brown sandy clay [21] from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [113] was not excavated and was interpreted as a post hole of uncertain date.

3.4.11 Cut [41] - A circular feature measuring 1m in diameter and 110mm in depth. Feature [41] was filled with a mid grey-brown sandy clay [22] from which no finds were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a heavily truncated pit of uncertain date.

3.4.12 Cut [114] - An irregular shaped feature measuring 1.8m north to south and 1.1m east to west. Feature [114] was filled with a dark grey-brown silty clay [23] from which a single

fragment of fired clay was retrieved. The cut was probably more than one feature and was interpreted as two inter-cutting pits of uncertain date.

3.4.13 The deposits in Trench 3 were sealed by a mid orange-brown sandy clay subsoil [25] up to 0.35m in depth. Some of the features may have been truncated by ridge and furrow, particularly at the northern end of the trench, but this was less obvious than the furrows in other trenches.

3.4.13 The upper layer in Trench 3 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil [24]. The deposit was up to 0.35m in depth at a height of 49.38-49.52m AOD.

3.5 Trench 4 (see fig 5)

Trench 4 was located in the south-eastern corner of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 53m x 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 4 was as follows:-

3.5.1 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown sandy clay [29], between 0.29m and 0.62m below existing ground level at a height of 49.30-49.93m AOD. Layer [29] was interpreted as the natural subsoil and was cut by a series of archaeological features. The recorded deposits from west to east were as follows:-

3.5.2 Cut [122] - An ovoid feature, measuring at least 1.5m in width and 0.48m in depth, which continues beyond the southern limit of the trench. Feature [122] was filled with a dark grey-brown silty clay [30] which contained pieces of burnt stone, animal bone, slag material (see **3.5.3**, below), fragments of fired clay and twenty sherds of pottery of Iron Age date. Feature [122] was interpreted as a pit of mid to late Iron Age date.

3.5.3 Cut [123] - A linear feature orientated north to south and measuring at least 1.2m in width. The eastern edge of the feature was truncated by a furrow [115]. The western edge of cut [123] was partially excavated to a depth of 0.4m, but was not bottomed. The fill of feature [123] was a dark grey-brown silty clay [31] which contained slag material, twelve fragments of fired clay and nine sherds of pottery of Iron Age date. Feature [123] was interpreted as a ditch of mid to late Iron Age date.

The slag material retrieved from fill [31], and from elsewhere on the site, was very light. It was interpreted as non-metallurgical slag and was possibly a type of slagged fuel ash resulting from high temperature burning (Bachman 1982, 2). An assessment of the pottery (see **4**, below) suggests that some of the fired clay fragments from [31] may be part of a tuyère from a furnace, or alternatively they may be fragments from a briquetage vessel. Although some of the fragments may be from a tuyère, the slag material is not necessarily the result of metallurgical processing and could have resulted from a domestic or destructive fire.

3.5.4 Cut [124] - A linear feature orientated north to south and measuring at least 1m in width. The western edge of the feature was truncated by a furrow [115]. The fill of feature [124] was a mid grey-brown sandy clay [32] from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [124] was interpreted as a ditch of uncertain date.

3.5.5 Cut [125] - Probably a series of cuts which were not clear in plan. The relationships were not investigated because it was felt that this might compromise the results of any future archaeological work on the site. The features were interpreted as a possible ditch orientated north to south and measuring up to 2m in width and two smaller ditches orientated east to west which were probably cut by the larger ditch. The fill of feature [125] was a dark grey-

brown silty clay [34] which contained animal bone, fired clay fragments and four sherds of Iron Age pottery. The feature was interpreted as three ditches of mid to late Iron Age date.

3.5.6 Cut [126] - A circular feature measuring 1m in diameter and 0.3m in depth. The feature was filled with a mid grey-brown sandy clay [35] from which burnt stone, animal bone and a single fragment of fired clay were retrieved. Feature [126] was interpreted as a pit of uncertain date.

3.5.7 Cut [127] - A linear feature orientated east to west and measuring at least 0.7m in width and at least 200mm in depth. Feature [127] continued beyond the southern limit of the trench and was cut by furrow [118] at the eastern end. The fill of cut [127] was a dark grey-brown sandy clay [36] from which animal bone and seven sherds of pottery of Iron Age date were retrieved. Feature [127] was interpreted as a ditch of mid to late Iron Age date.

3.5.8 Cut [128] - An irregular feature measuring at least 1.6m in width which continued beyond the southern limit of the trench and was cut by furrow [119] to the east. The feature was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay [37] from which a single fragment of animal bone was retrieved. Feature [128] was interpreted as a possible pit of uncertain date.

3.5.9 Cut [129] - An ovoid feature measuring at least 1.5m in width which continued beyond the northern limit of the trench and was cut by furrow [120] to the east. The feature was 0.36m in depth and was filled with a mid grey-brown silty clay [39]. The fill of feature [129] contained a large amount of burnt clay, eleven fragments of fired clay, animal bone and twenty sherds of pottery of Iron Age date. The feature was interpreted as a pit of mid to late Iron Age date which had possibly been used for dumping kiln waste.

3.5.10 The deposits in Trench 4 were sealed by a dark orange-brown sandy clay subsoil [28] up to 0.3m in depth.

3.5.11 The upper layer in Trench 4 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil [27]. The topsoil was up to 0.3m in depth at a height of 49.67-50.34m AOD.

3.6 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located on the eastern side of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 55m x 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 5 was as follows:-

3.6.1 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown clayey sand [47], between 0.37m and 0.6m below existing ground level at a height of 48.91-49.38m AOD. Layer [47] was interpreted as the natural subsoil.

3.6.2 The natural [47] was cut by seven linear features orientated north to south. The cuts were filled with a light grey-brown clayey sand from which no finds were retrieved. The features were interpreted as the remains of medieval furrows.

3.6.3 The natural was cut by an ovoid feature [44] which measured 0.45m by 0.35m and was 120mm in depth. The feature was filled with burnt red and black clay from which eleven fragments of fired clay were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a possible post hole, but may be a burnt out tree bole.

3.6.4 The deposits in Trench 5 were sealed by a dark orange-brown sandy clay subsoil [46] up to 0.3m in depth, from which two residual sherds of pottery of Iron Age date were retrieved.

3.6.5 The upper layer in Trench 5 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil [45]. The deposit was up to 0.4m in depth at a height of 49.38-49.98m AOD.

3.7 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located in the centre of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 50.5m x 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 6 was as follows:-

3.7.1 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown clayey sand [56] with occasional patches of blue lias clay, between 0.39m and 0.61m below existing ground level at a height of 48.38-49.39m AOD. Layer [56] was interpreted as the natural subsoil.

3.7.2 The natural [56] was cut by seven linear features orientated north to south. The cuts were filled with a light grey-brown clayey sand. The features were interpreted as the remains of medieval furrows, and residual finds comprising a fragment of fired clay and a fragment of ceramic building material of possible Romano-British date were retrieved.

3.7.3 The natural [56] was cut by a possible feature [66] at the western end of the trench. Feature [66] had no obvious edges and was partially excavated by machine to a depth of 0.96m below ground level. Further investigation was not possible due to the level of the water table. A single fragment of bone was retrieved from the fill of feature [66]. The western end of Trench 6 is on the line of what appears to have been a field boundary, and it is possible that feature [66] is part of this boundary.

3.7.4 The deposits in Trench 6 were sealed by a dark orange-brown sandy clay subsoil [55] up to 0.3m in depth.

3.7.5 The upper layer in Trench 6 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil [54]. The deposit was up to 0.4m in depth at a height of 48.84-49.39m AOD.

3.8 Trench 7

Trench 7 was located at the northern end of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 52.6m x 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 7 was as follows:-

3.8.1 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown clayey sand [72], 0.34m to 0.66m below existing ground level at a height of 47.31-47.84m AOD. Layer [72] was interpreted as the natural subsoil.

3.8.2 The natural [72] was cut by five linear features orientated north to south. The cuts were filled with a light grey-brown clayey sand from which no finds were retrieved. The features were interpreted as the remains of medieval furrows.

3.8.3 The deposits in Trench 7 were sealed by a mid orange-brown sandy clay subsoil [71] up to 0.4m in depth.

3.8.4 The upper layer in Trench 7 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil [70]. The deposit was up to 200mm in depth at a height of 47.78-48.56m AOD.

3.9 Trench 8

Trench 8 was located in the north-west corner of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 45m x 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 8 was as follows:-

3.9.1 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown clayey sand [69], 0.47m to 0.61m below existing ground level at a height of 46.65-46.99m AOD. Layer [69] was interpreted as the natural subsoil.

3.9.2 Layer [69] was cut by a small linear feature [98] orientated east to west which was interpreted as the base of a furrow or a land drain.

3.9.3 The deposits in Trench 8 were sealed by a mid orange-brown sandy clay subsoil [68] up to 0.4m in depth.

3.8.4 The upper layer in Trench 8 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil [67]. The deposit was up to 0.3m in depth at a height of 47.19-47.6m AOD.

3.10 Trench 9

Trench 9 was located in the centre of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 48.5m x 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 9 was as follows:-

3.10.1 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown clayey sand [85], 0.57m to 0.72m below existing ground level at a height of 47.51-48.05m AOD. Layer [85] was interpreted as the natural subsoil.

3.10.2 The natural [85] was cut by a six linear features, orientated north to south, north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east, and by five irregular shaped features. The fills were very similar to those of the furrows in other trenches and the features were interpreted as the remains of medieval furrows.

3.10.3 The deposits in Trench 9 were sealed by a mid orange-brown sandy clay subsoil [84] up to 0.35m in depth.

3.10.4 The upper layer in Trench 9 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil [67]. The deposit was up to 0.35m in depth at a height of 48.14-48.68m AOD.

4 Pottery Assessment (by Dr. J. Timby)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological work resulted in the collection of 152 sherds of pottery weighing 639 g accompanied by 76 fragments of fired clay and 3 fragments of brick/tile. Most of the sherds date to the Iron Age with a small number of Roman pieces and two Medieval sherds from the topsoil. Pottery was recovered from Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5, a total of sixteen contexts. A further seven contexts produced fired clay or ceramic building material (CBM) unaccompanied by pottery.

4.4.2 Generally speaking the sherds are in poor condition with an average sherd size of just 4.2 g. Featured pieces were sparse thus limiting chronological refinement. For the purposes of this assessment the assemblage was briefly scanned to assess its composition and likely date range. The pottery and other material is summarised in Table 1 (**4.5**, below).

4.2 Later Prehistoric

4.2.1 Of the 152 sherds recovered, some 145 are likely to date to the Iron Age. The sherds are small and largely in an uncleaned condition so any conclusions at this stage must be regarded as provisional. At least four fabrics could be discerned, the pastes respectively containing inclusions of Jurassic limestone, Malvernian limestone, sparse fossil shell and rounded quartz sand. Such fabrics are typical of the middle to later Iron Age of the area. The only featured sherds present are from thickened rim jars and a simple, vertically-sided, vessel, again typical of this period.

4.2.2 Accompanying the pottery were several fragments of fired clay. Of particular note are some joining fragments from Trench 4 [31] which have a tubular structure suggesting a structural purpose. One possibility, although perhaps a higher level of firing might be expected is that the fragments are part of a tuyère. It is also possible that one or two of the smaller clay fragments might prove to come from briquetage vessels for transporting salt.

4.3 Roman

4.3.1 Five sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from Trench 1. The sherds all belong to the local Severn Valley ware tradition. Although this pottery industry has a relatively long timespan, from the 1st to 4th centuries, the character of the fabrics here suggest that they come from the earlier Roman period.

4.3.2 A small number of very abraded tile fragments were present in Trenches 1 and 6 which could well be Roman in origin.

4.4 Medieval

4.4.1 Two abraded sherds, probably of Medieval date were recovered from the topsoil.

4.5 Table 1

Trench	Context	Fabrics	No	Wt	Fired clay	Brick/tile	Date
1	5	SVWOX	4	89			Roman
1	7	SVWOX	1	26			Roman
1	9	MALV,SHELL	3	11			Iron age
1	11	MALV	3	7	3		Iron age
1	2					2	?Roman
3	14	LIME	1	5			Iron age
3	15	LIME,MALV	64	186	12		Iron age
3	16	MALV	5	14	1		Iron age
3	17	MALV	2	3	6		Iron age
3	19	MALV,SHELL	4	13	4		Iron age
3	23				1		undated
4	30	LIME,SHELL,MALV	20	44	11		Iron age

Trench	Context	Fabrics	No	Wt	Fired clay	Brick/tile	Date
4	31	MALV,LIME,SAND	9	35	12		Iron age
4	34	MALV	4	4	3		Iron age
4	35				1		undated
4	36	LIME,MALV	7	63			Iron age
4	39	MALV,LIME	20	85	11		Iron age
4	us	MALV	1	10			?IA/Roman
5	44				11		undated
5	46	LIME,SAND	2	15			Iron age
6	58				1		undated
6	59					1	Roman?
us		MED	2	29			?Medieval
TOTAL			**152**	**639**	**76**	**3**	
		Key to fabrics					
		LIME: Jurassic limestone-tempered					
		MALV: Malvernian limestone-tempered					
		SAND: sandy ware					
		SHELL: sparse shell inclusions					
		SVWOX: Severn Valley ware					

5 Conclusions

5.1 The archaeological evaluation at Dean Farm, Bishop's Cleeve has established the presence of archaeological features of Iron Age and Romano-British date below deposits as little as 0.29m in depth. Ten ditches, three post holes and eight pits were recorded. The evaluation also recorded the presence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, some of which had truncated the archaeological remains. The archaeological features were located at the southern end of the evaluation area in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. The majority of ceramic finds retrieved from features were of mid to late Iron Age date and it is likely that the features from which no dating evidence was retrieved also dated to this period.

5.2 The evaluation has provided evidence for Iron Age occupation in the form of ditches, pits and post holes. Eight ditches were dated to the Iron Age, and a further ditch and three possible ditches were probably Iron Age in date. Three pits were dated to the Iron Age and a further five undated pits were of probable Iron Age date. Three post holes were recorded in Trench 3, one of which was dated to the Iron Age. A ditch, and a possible ditch, of Romano-British date were recorded in Trench 1.

5.3 The evidence provided by the evaluation suggests a mid to late Iron Age site with ditches, which may have been either settlement boundaries or stock enclosures; pits which are likely to have been for storage, but which were later used for dumping domestic debris; and post holes which suggest structural remains on the site. There may also be some evidence for metalworking on the site in the Iron Age. Fired clay material which may be part of a tuyère was retrieved from fill [31] in Trench 4, and material interpreted as slagged fuel ash was retrieved from Trenches 1, 3 and 4. However, the evidence for metalworking is somewhat tenuous and further study would be required to establish whether or not the deposits are the result of metallurgical processes.

5.4 The results of the evaluation suggest the presence of a mid to late Iron Age settlement with further activity in the Romano-British period. The archaeological deposits were encountered in the southern half of the site, and any groundworks penetrating to more than 0.29m in depth in this area would risk destroying significant archaeological deposits.

6 References

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OS 1983 *British Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales),* map sheet 216, scale 1:50000.

Vallender, J. 1999 Archaeological Evaluation at Dean Farm, Evesham Road, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire. Project Design.

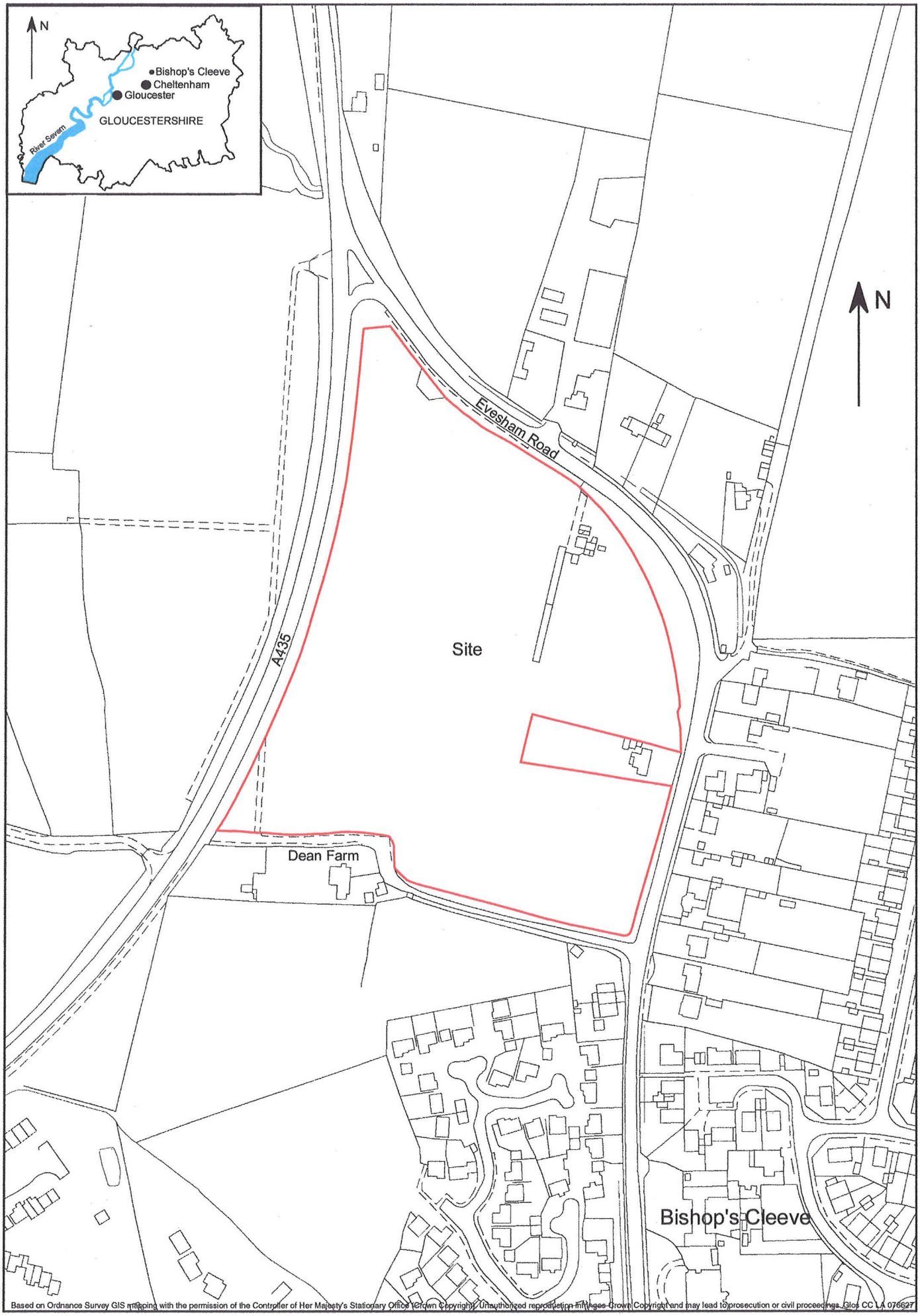

Fig 1: *Site Location Plan. Scale 1:2500*

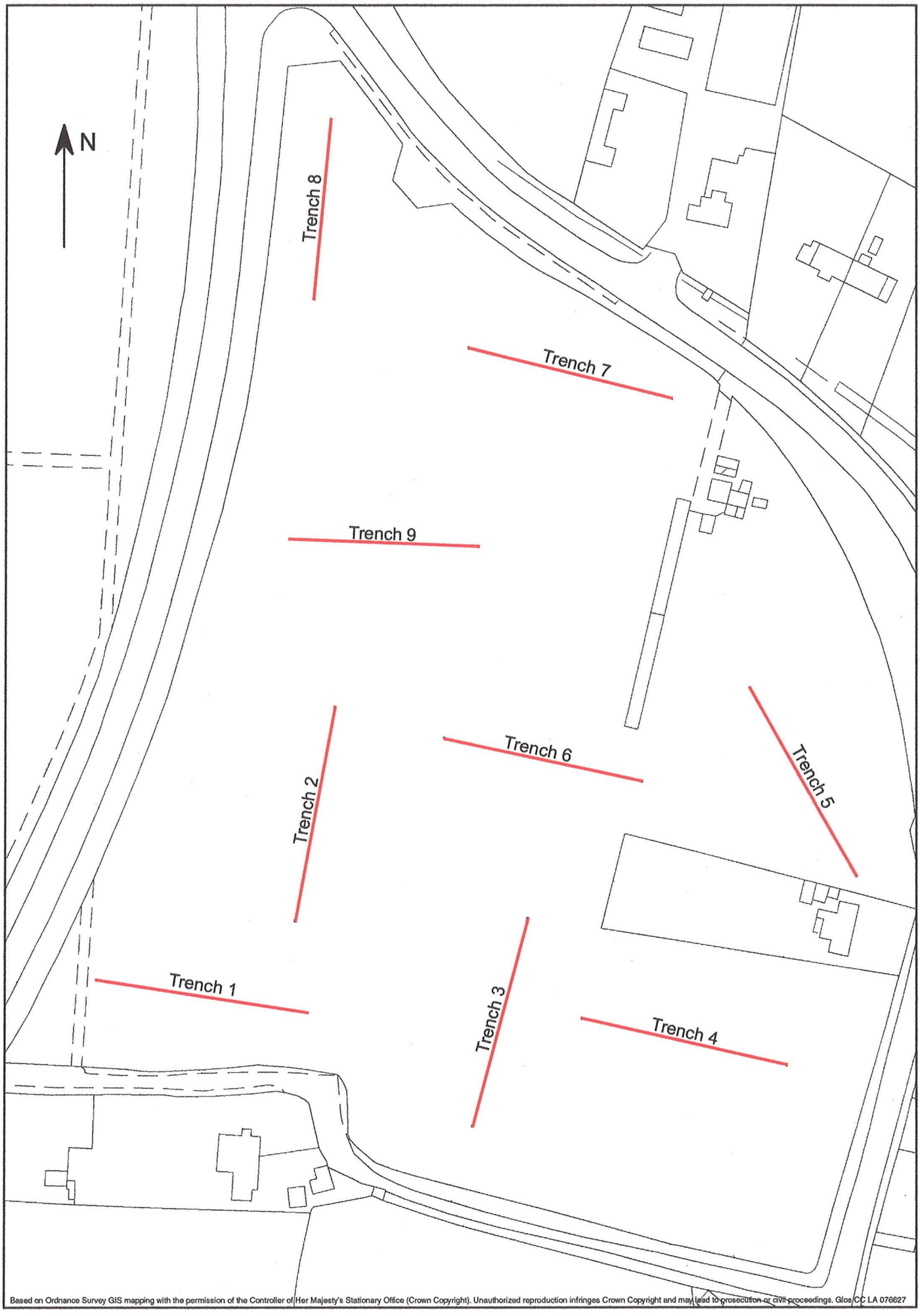

Fig 2: *Trench Location Plan. Scale 1:1250*

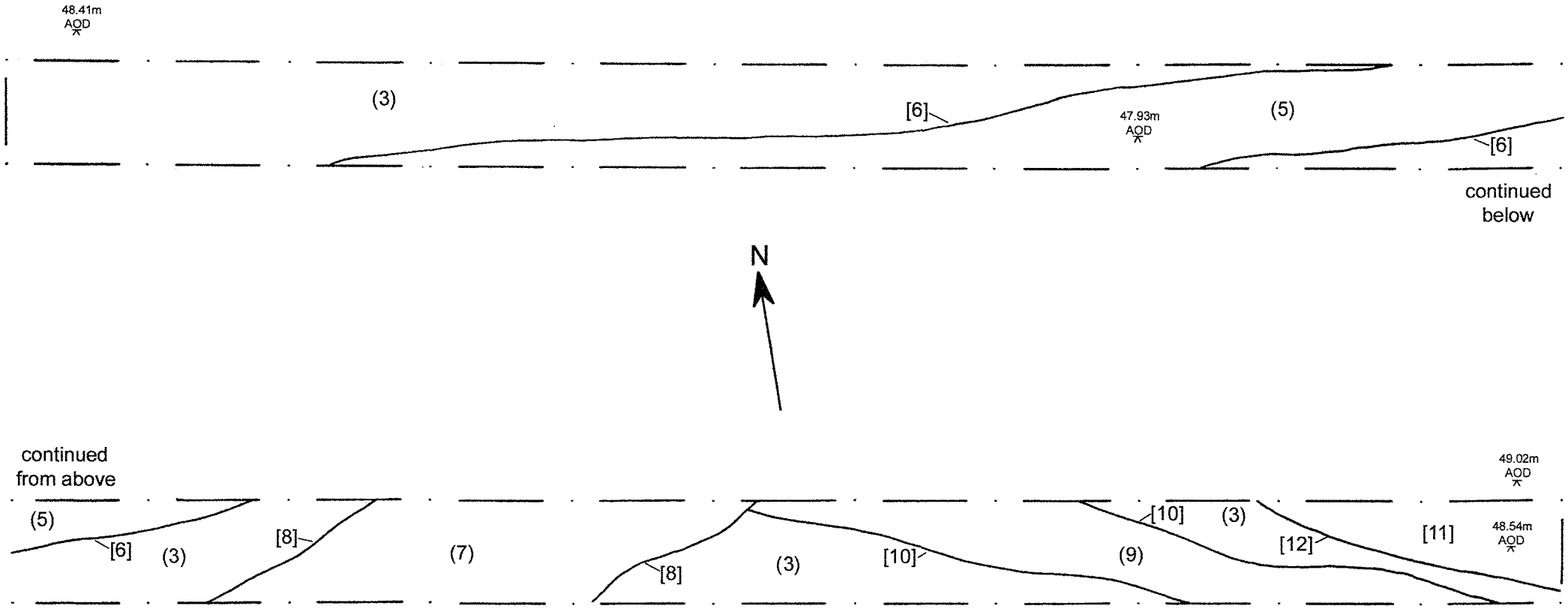

Fig 3: *Plan of Trench 1. Scale 1:100*

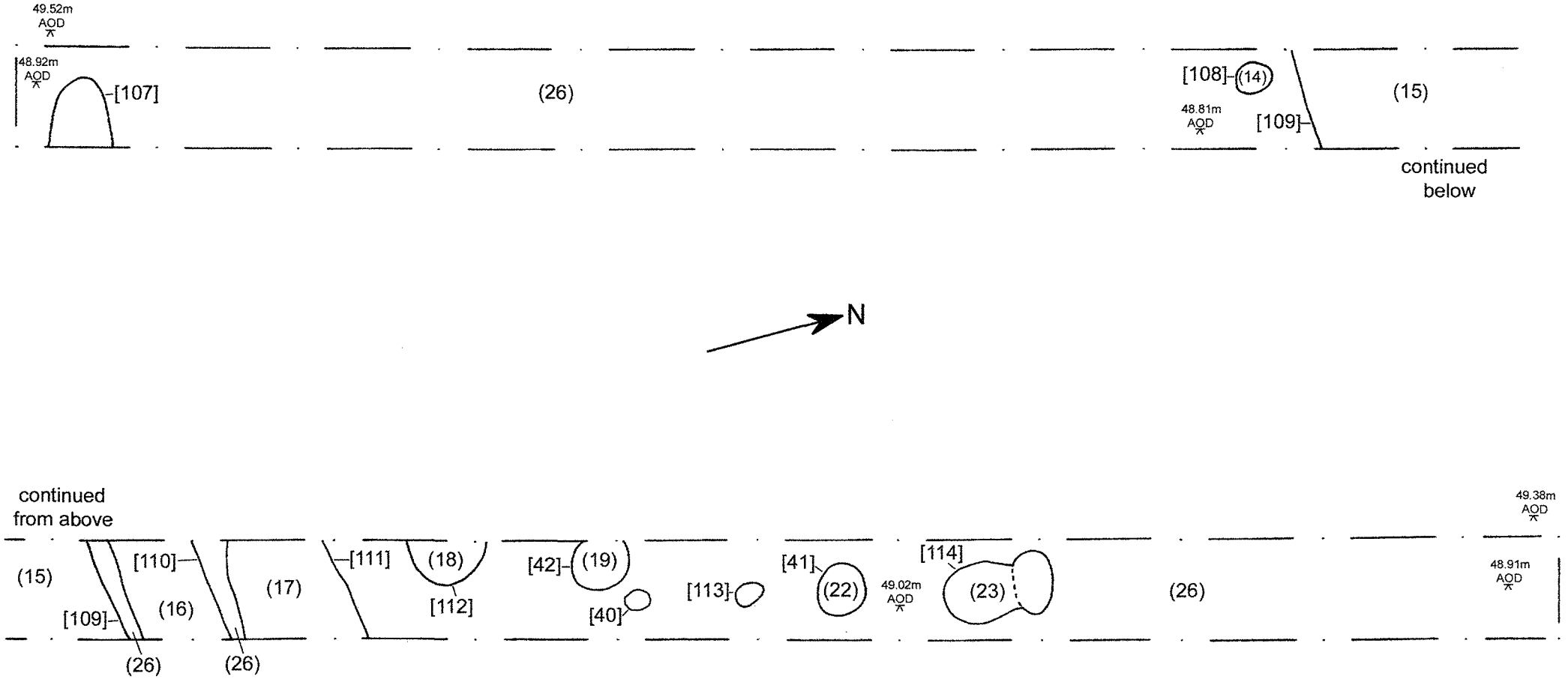

Fig 4: *Plan of Trench 3. Scale 1:100*

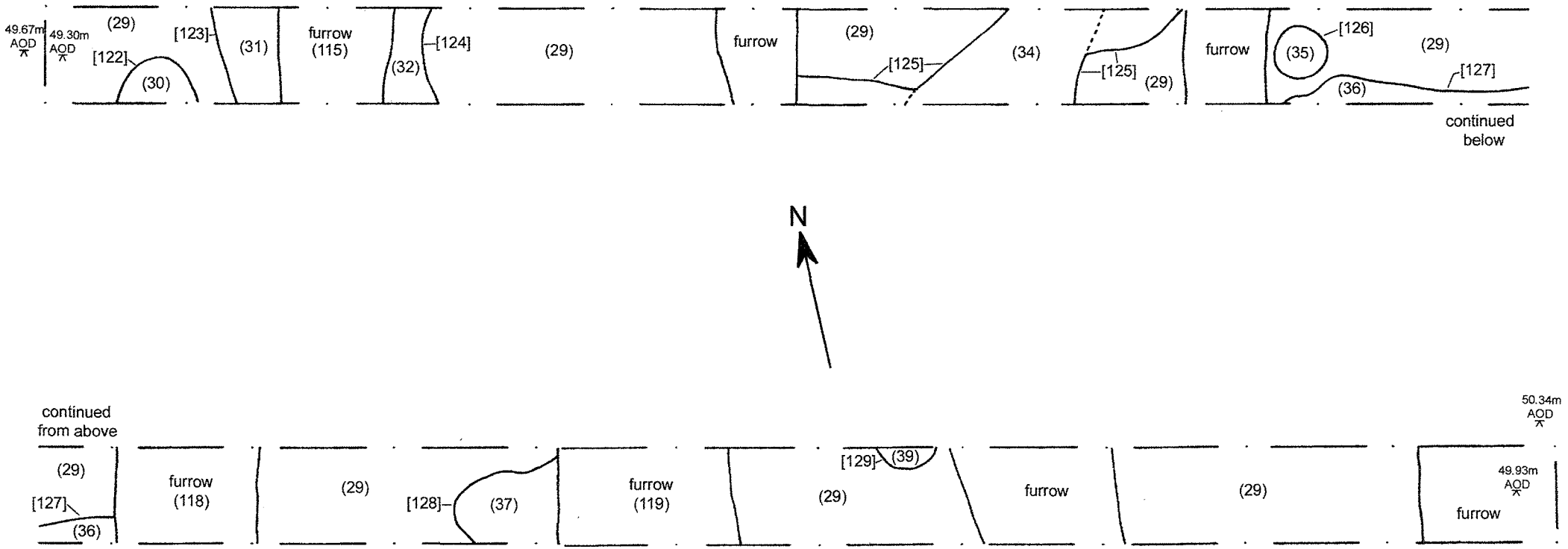

Fig 5: *Plan of Trench 4. Scale 1:100*