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SW 8786.
PLANNING REF E5178
DC FILE REF 472.34'S.

An Archaeological Evaluation at Kingshill South, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

NGR SP 035 010

**Diccon Hart
and
Michelle Collings**

**Project No. 2387
Site Code: KSC 06**

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Kingshill South, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. The work was undertaken between 11th and 22nd September 2006 on behalf of Berkeley Strategic. Sixty-nine 20m long trenches were excavated, totalling some 1380 metres of trenching.

The underlying natural, which varied from solid limestone bedrock to clay, was encountered at a maximum height of 118.58 m OD in the northeast of the site (Trench 36), falling away to 109.19 m OD to the northwest (Trench 1), 102.82 m OD to the southwest (Trench 49) and 106.70 m OD to the southeast.

The earliest identifiable activity on the site proved to be of Bronze or Iron Age date and comprised a wide but shallow ditch on a northwest-southeast orientation and located towards the western edge of the site (Trench 40).

Activity of Romano-British date proved the most extensive with some 16 trenches containing remains of Roman date. Much of the activity of this period appears to be related to an extra-mural settlement, to the east of the walled town of Corinium (modern Cirencester) and centred on Trenches 1-8 in the far north of the subject site. Here quantities of Roman building material, potential masonry foundations and associated pottery attest to the existence of a masonry building in the immediate vicinity. Further settlement may be evinced by significant quantities of Roman material retrieved from a number of pits centred on Trench 61 to the southeast of the study area but this is far from conclusive. The remaining activity of Roman date observed during the fieldwork comprises a combination of agricultural features such as ditches and quarry pits.

The results of the fieldwork were notable in failing to produce any concrete evidence of activity dating to the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods but this is considered here to reflect the well-documented agricultural usage of the landscape during these periods.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Berkeley Strategic to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Kingshill South, Cirencester, Gloucestershire (centred NGR SP 035 010) in advance of the submission of an outline planning application for residential and associated uses on land as illustrated at Fig 1.
- 1.2 The site is allocated in the Adopted Cotswold District Local Plan (April 2006) for residential uses and Berkeley Strategic intend to submit an outline planning application for the site to Cotswold District Council.
- 1.3 This Archaeological Evaluation forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the site and environs. A previous Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the site was undertaken for Berkeley Strategic by Wessex Archaeology (2000). The Gloucestershire County Council Senior Archaeological Officer (in his capacity as advisor on archaeological planning matters to the local planning authority) recommended that an updated desk-based assessment was required for the current outline application phase. Archaeology South-East (ASE) have undertaken the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the site and immediate area on behalf of Berkeley Strategic (James 2006). Subsequently, a geophysical survey of the site was carried out by ASE, the aim of which was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and to provide a basis upon which to carry out targeted evaluation across the site (Tibble 2006).
- 1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the requirements of the evaluation was prepared by Darryl Palmer of ASE and was submitted and duly approved by Charles Parry, Gloucestershire County Council Senior Archaeological Officer (GCCSAO) prior to the archaeological works taking place.
- 1.5 The site lies on the south-eastern edge of Cirencester, bordered by residential developments to the north and agricultural land and roads on all other sides. The site lies at an altitude of 110m AOD. The southern part of the site, which is proposed for informal open space lies within the northern floodplain of the River Churn, with the remainder occupying the slope above. The underlying geology comprises Forest Marble and Kemble Beds, overlain in places by superficial deposits of cornbrash, river gravels and alluvium.
- 1.6 The fieldwork was undertaken by Diccon Hart and Michelle Collings from 11th to 22nd September. On site assistance was provided by Liz

Chambers, Leonie Pett, Caroline Russell, Sam Whitehead and Dan Wray. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer.

- 1.7 The trenches were located with a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS) before excavation and each trench had a separate TBM. The trenches in the allotment Gardens were surveyed in with a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS) after they had been cut.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies on the edge of the historic town of Cirencester, founded as a Roman town in the 1st century AD. The site lies within farmland at Kingshill, Cirencester and is bounded by residential developments to the north and agricultural land and roads on all other sides. The majority of the trenches were situated within the farmland of Preston Forty Farm; an additional eight trenches were excavated in the Allotment Gardens attached to the residential development to the north of the site.
- 2.2 Early prehistoric occupation of the area is attested by a number of finds of artefacts, including stone axes and leaf-shaped arrowheads. Cropmarks interpreted as possible round barrows of Bronze Age date lie one kilometre to the south. Cropmarks were identified within the area that probably represents Iron Age or Romano-British occupation. The site borders a Roman road (Ermin Street/Way) to the south, and parts of a Roman cemetery associated with the road may exist within the site boundary. The southern part of the site is occupied by a post-medieval watermeadow.
- 2.3 The archaeological background of the site was obtained from the Desk-Based Assessments (James 2006; Wessex Archaeology (WA) 2000) and is summarised here with due acknowledgement to Wessex Archaeology. The recent Desk-Based Assessment (2006) has provided the most up-to-date reference material for the site and has confirmed aspects of the earlier report (WA 2000). The initial Desk-Based Assessment report indicated a high potential for the site to contain archaeological deposits of Iron Age, Roman and Post-Medieval date, moderate potential for containing deposits of pre-Iron Age date, and low potential for containing deposits of medieval date (WA 2000).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Sixty-nine trial trenches were excavated, positioned to provide the best possible coverage of the site based on the results of the geophysical survey (Tibble 2006). The majority of the trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies whilst the remainder have been located to provide a uniform, random sample of the remainder of the site (Fig 2). Trenches in the northern allotment area (current use) were carefully positioned so as not to disturb allotments still in use but to enable a uniform investigation of this part of the site. The trenches were accurately located using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS) tying them in directly with the grid used for the geophysical survey and ensuring anomalies are accurately targeted.
- 3.2 The trial trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches in Preston Forty farmland were cut by 20 ton and 15 ton 360° tracked excavators fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were 20m in length. The eight trial trenches in the Allotment Gardens were cut with a 360° tracked excavator with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:50 and a general site plan was kept at 1:250. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. The spoil, from site clearance prior to development, was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.4 A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditching, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.
- 3.5 Environmental samples were taken where appropriate. Material

obtained from environmental samples can provide information on the palaeo-vegetation and climate of an area as well as the economy and diet of a population. Samples were obtained from three suitable contexts and a preliminary analysis of these has been undertaken. The initial inspection has confirmed the good integrity of the samples as very few uncharred botanicals such as roots were observed.

4.0 RESULTS

Trench 1 (Figure 3)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
1/003	Fill	Ditch fill	1.60m	2.00m	0.57m
1/004	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	2.00m	0.80m
1/005	Fill	Ditch fill	0.50m	1.15m	0.43m
1/006	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with pockets of mid yellowish brown silty clay (1/006) was encountered at a maximum height of 110.17m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away gradually to 109.19m OD to the west.

A substantial north-south aligned ditch was observed at the western end of the trench [1/004]. This possessed a broadly 'V'-shaped profile and was seen to contain a sequence of two fills; a primary fill of dark greenish grey clayey silt with frequent limestone pebbles and cobbles and occasional pottery (1/005), overlain by a secondary fill of dark greyish brown silty clay, also containing frequent limestone pebbles and cobbles (1/003). The primary fill contained Roman pottery and pottery, including BB1 and fragments from a Roman flagon both dating to AD 120+, fragments of Roman Ceramic Building Material (henceforth CBM) and animal bone were recovered from the secondary fill.

Trench 2 (Figure 4)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.36m
2/003	Fill	Ditch fill	1.90m	1.20m	0.25m
2/004	Cut	Ditch cut	1.90m	1.20m	0.25m
2/005	Fill	Ditch fill	1.60m	2.00m	0.36m
2/006	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	2.00m	0.36m
2/007	Fill	Ditch fill	1.60m	1.15m	0.40m
2/008	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	1.15m	0.40m
2/009	N/A	Void No.	N/A	N/A	N/A

2/010	N/A	Void No.	N/A	N/A	N/A
2/011	Fill	Ditch fill?	0.40m	0.80m	0.56m
2/012	Cut	Ditch cut?	0.40m	0.80m	0.56m
2/013	Fill	Fill of 2/014	0.80m	0.68m	0.30m
2/014	Cut	Shallow pit?	0.80m	0.68m	0.30m
2/015	Fill	Ditch fill	1.30m	1.60m	0.28m
2/106	Cut	Ditch cut	1.30m	1.60m	0.28m
2/017	Fill	Fill of 2/018	0.40m	0.60m	0.25m
2/018	Cut	Shallow pit?	0.40m	0.60m	0.25m
2/019	Fill	Pit fill	1.50m	0.90m	0.14m
2/020	Cut	Pit cut	1.50m	0.90m	0.14m
2/021	Fill	Posthole fill?	0.50m	0.40m	0.06m
2/022	Cut	Posthole cut?	0.50m	0.40m	0.06m
2/023	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with pockets of reddish yellow silty clay (2/023), was encountered at a maximum height of 109.03 m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling away to 108.81 m OD to the south.

A total of eight archaeological features were seen to be cut into the surface of this natural geology and included some four ditches, a probable sub-rectangular pit, a possible posthole and an ill-defined sequence consisting of an extensive but shallow feature and a possible ditch.

All four ditches observed within this trench lay on a comparable northeast-southwest alignment and as such probably represent the renewal of existing boundaries. The northernmost of this group of ditches comprised a cut with steep, straight sides and a flat base [2/004], filled with dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles and occasional Roman pottery, including fragments of BB1 pottery dating to AD120+, animal bone and flecks of charcoal (2/003). The remaining three ditches in this group lay some 3.50m to the south and generally consist of shallow ditch cuts with rounded profiles: [2/006], [2/008] and [2/016]. The fills of these ditches consisted of dark yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent pebbles and moderate Roman pottery, including amphorae and a samian dish sherd dating to AD120+, large Roman CBM including tegula, and animal bone (2/005); dark grey silty clay with occasional pebbles and moderate Roman pottery and charcoal (2/007); and dark brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional Roman pottery dating to the 1st-2nd century AD (2/015).

Immediately to the south of ditch [2/004] lay a probable pit, consisting of a shallow sub-rectangular cut [2/020], filled with dark brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional fragments of CBM (2/019) and a shallow

sub-circular feature [2/022], also filled with dark brown silty clay (2/021) that may represent the base of a truncated posthole.

The remaining two features observed within this trench remain poorly defined and understood. These include a large but shallow feature with steep sides and flat base, recorded as [2/014] and [2/018] (2/018 is not visible in plan in Fig 4) and a *possible* north-south aligned linear feature with steep regular sides [2/012]. Both were filled with closely comparable stiff mid grey clay (2/013) and (2/017) and (2/011) respectively. The finds recovered included a sherd of Roman storage jar (2/017) and Roman pottery and CBM dating to the 1st-2nd Century AD (2/011). The similarity between these deposits to some extent frustrated the definition of the relationship between the two features, although the excavator was of the opinion that the possible ditch [2/012] was the later of the two features.

Trench 3 (Figure 5)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
3/003	Fill	Ditch fill	1.60m	0.55m	Unexc.
3/004	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.55m	Unexc.
3/005	Fill	Ditch fill	1.60m	0.60m	0.05m
3/006	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.60m	0.05m
3/007	Fill	Foundation?	6.40m	0.56m	0.15m
3/008	Cut	Foundation cut?	6.40m	0.56m	0.15m
3/009	N/A	Void No.	1.25m	1.00m	0.10m
3/010	N/A	Void No.	1.25m	1.00m	0.10m
3/011	Fill	Ditch fill	1.80m	1.20m	0.27m
3/012	Cut	Ditch cut	1.80m	1.20m	0.27m
3/013	Fill	Ditch fill	1.70m	0.60m	0.12m
3/014	Cut	Shallow pit?	1.70m	0.60m	0.12m
3/015	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone geology (3/015) was encountered at a maximum height of 111.93m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling away to 111.13m OD to the south.

A total of six features were recorded within this trench, including some four ditches, a *possible* masonry foundation and a tree throw. The four ditches observed within this trench may be seen to fall into two distinct groups based

primarily upon their orientations. The northernmost two ditches, for instance, were aligned almost directly east-west and included ditches [3/004] and [3/006]. The similarity in orientation of these ditches is considered here to represent an association of usage and thus only one of the pair was investigated to show a shallow cut with rounded profile [3/006], filled with dark brownish grey silty clay (3/005) with occasional pebbles and fragments of pottery dating to the 1st-2nd Century and Roman amphorae (BAETE). Roman CBM retrieved from the surface of ditch [3/004] is similar in date and character to that retrieved from ditch [3/006] and served to support the notion of association.

The southern pair of ditches within this trench comprise [3/012] and [3/014]. Both features were relatively shallow with rounded profiles and were seen to possess similar fills of mid brownish grey silty clay with moderate limestone pebbles and occasional Roman pottery in (3/011) and (3/013) respectively.

The possible masonry foundation recorded within this trench comprised a shallow flat-based cut [3/008] filled with large tabular limestone slabs laid on their beds in a matrix of dark brownish grey silty clay (3/007). These limestone slabs did not form a continuous structure within the cut [3/008] and the possibility exists that this feature represents little more than a shallow ditch filled with naturally occurring limestone. The finds recovered from this included Roman pottery, notably BB1 and samian dating to AD120+, and CBM.

The final feature recorded in this trench comprised a shallow and irregular cut [3/010] filled with mid brownish grey silty clay (3/009) containing a sherd from a BB1 plate dating to AD120+. However this feature was considered by the excavator to comprise a naturally formed tree throw.

Trench 4 (Figure 6)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
4/002	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	0.90m	0.33m
4/003	Cut	Ditch cut	Tr.	0.90m	0.33m
4/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural deposits, comprising light yellowish grey clay with tabular limestone slabs (4/004) was encountered at a maximum height of 114.06m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 113.32m to the west.

A single ditch with 'V'-shaped profile was seen to run the entire length of the trench on an east-west orientation [4/003]. This was filled with dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, charcoal, fragments of Roman pottery dating to the 1st- 2nd century AD, CBM and animal bone (4/002).

Trench 5 (Figure 7)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
5/002	Fill	Ditch fill	3.10m	3.40m	N/A
5/003	Cut	Ditch cut	3.10m	3.40m	N/A
5/004	Fill	Ditch fill	1.75m	1.20m	0.22m
5/005	Cut	Ditch cut	1.75m	1.20m	0.22m
5/006	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	0.85m	0.37m
5/007	Cut	Ditch cut	2.50m	0.85m	0.37m
5/008	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	1.15m	0.22m
5/009	Cut	Ditch cut	2.50m	1.15m	0.22m
5/010	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	1.30m	0.15m
5/011	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	1.20m	0.25m
5/012	Cut	Ditch cut	2.50m	1.30m	0.32m
5/013	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	0.85m	0.25m
5/014	Cut	Ditch cut	2.50m	0.85m	0.25m
5/015	Fill	Tree throw fill	0.75m	0.75m	0.17m
5/016	Cut	Tree throw	0.75m	0.75m	0.17m
5/017	Fill	Tree throw fill	0.50m	0.50m	0.12m
5/018	Cut	Tree throw	0.50m	0.50m	0.12m
5/019	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
5/020	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m

Summary

Natural tabular limestone (5/019) was encountered at a maximum height of 13.74m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, sloping down gradually to the southwest to 112.57m OD.

A sequence of at least three shallow ditch cuts on an east-west orientation was recorded towards the northeastern end of the trench. These contained Roman pottery, CBM and glass dating to the 2nd-3rd Century AD and in particular fragments of pottery (BB1) dating from AD120+. The earliest of these ditches consisted of a shallow cut with rounded profile [5/014], filled with light yellowish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles (5/013). This ditch was eventually re-cut to the north as [5/012] (also recorded as [5/007]), with a

primary fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles (5/011), in turn overlain with dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles and occasional fragments of Roman pottery (5/010) and (5/006). The later of which contained pottery and glass dating to the 1st-2nd Century AD. This ditch was also re-cut to the north as [5/009]. This ditch also displayed a rounded profile and was filled with dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional fragments of Roman CBM and pottery [5/008].

A further ditch was observed towards the southwestern end of this trench, [5/005]. Though on a slightly different orientation to the other ditches investigated within this trench (i.e. more on a southeast-northwest alignment) this feature possessed a comparable rounded profile with a fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles and occasional fragments of CBM and Roman pottery including a fragment of mortaria (5/004).

Two further features were noted towards the southern end of this trench. These comprised small irregular and shallow cuts [5/016] and [5/018], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles (5/015) and (5/017) respectively. No finds were recovered from either feature and they are considered here to represent rooting.

Trench 6

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	5.00m	Tr.	0.11m
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural light yellowish brown clay with pockets of tabular limestone (6/003) was encountered between 114.58 m and 113.87 m OD. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 7 (Figure 8)

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m
7/003	Fill	Ditch fill	15.00m	0.58m	0.12m
7/004	Cut	Ditch cut	15.00m	0.58m	0.12m
7/005	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
7/006	Fill	Ditch fill	1.40m	1.60m	0.35m
7/007	Cut	Ditch cut	1.40m	1.60m	0.35m

Summary

Natural geology, comprising light grey clay with frequent small fragments of limestone (7/005) was observed between 116.08m OD and 115.86m OD.

A substantial east-west aligned ditch was noted towards the northern end of the trench. This consisted of a 'V'-shaped cut [7/007] with a fill of dark brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional fragments of Roman pottery and CBM including tegula (7/006). A further linear feature, orientated north-south was situated to the south of ditch [7/007]. This comprised a small shallow gully with irregular rounded profile [7/004] filled with yellowish brown clay with occasional pebbles and fragments of Roman pottery and CBM (7/003).

Trench 8 (Figure 9)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m
8/003	Layer	Demolition	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
8/004	Layer	S/A (8/003)	1.25m	0.65m	0.05m
8/005	N/A	Void no.	N/A	N/A	N/A
8/006	Fill	Ditch fill	1.60m	0.45m	0.10m
8/007	Cut	Ditch cut	1.60m	0.45m	0.10m
8/008	Masonry	Foundation?	1.65m	1.15m	0.28m
8/009	Cut	Construction cut	1.65m	1.15m	0.28m
8/010	Deposit	Natural clay	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural light yellowish brown clay (8/010) was encountered between 115.70m and 115.40m OD. A probable masonry foundation on a north-south orientation was investigated towards the eastern end of this trench. This was composed of large slabs of tabular limestone laid on their beds and bonded with light brown clay (8/008) in a steep sided, flat-bottomed construction cut [8/009]. Several fragments of Roman CBM were recovered from this feature.

Immediately to the west of this probable foundation a small shallow gully was observed. This lay on a northwest-southeast foundation and consisted of a shallow cut with rounded profile [8/007], filled with mid brownish grey silty clay (8/006) containing occasional fragments of Roman pottery and animal bone.

Both features were sealed by an extensive layer of demolition material comprising dark grey silty clay containing frequent fragments of building material, including cut limestone slabs and Roman roofing materials such as *Tegula* and *imbrex* (8/003). Some notable pieces of pottery were recovered from this layer including fragments of Samian (CG) Drag 33, and BB1 both dating to AD120+ (8/004).

Trench 9

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.49m
9/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with pockets of mid yellowish brown silty clay (9/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 110.48m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 109.49m OD to the west. Natural was variable across the trench, the eastern end of the trench being predominantly comprised of limestone and the western end mainly clay.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 10

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.38m
10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with pockets of green clay and mid yellowish brown silty clay (10/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 110.14m OD at the southern end of the trench falling away to 110.12m OD to the north.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 11

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	8.00m	Tr.	0.46m
11/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone, mottled yellowish orange and mid yellowish brown silty clay with pocket of orangey brown sandy clay (11/003) was encountered at a height of 111.33m OD at the north east and 110.19m OD at the south west of the trench. Subsoil was only identified underlying topsoil across the central area of the trench.

No archaeological features observed. Trench 11 contained a possible linear feature and a section was excavated however it proved to be a geological variation comprised of orangey brown sandy clay.

Trench 12

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.36m
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	14.00 m	Tr.	0.53m
12/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with greyish green clay and patches of orangey brown sandy clay (12/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 112.74m OD at the north eastern end of the trench, falling away to 112.1m OD to the south west.

No archaeological features observed.

Trench 13

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	7.00 m	Tr.	0.42m
13/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with greyish green and yellowish brown silty clay with patches of orangey brown sandy clay (13/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 112.69m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away gradually to 111.71m OD to the west.

No archaeological features observed.

Trench 14 (Figure 10)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m
14/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.48m
14/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr	N/A
14/004	Fill	Ditch fill	2.00m	1.75m	0.80m
14/005	Cut	Ditch cut	2.00m	1.75m	0.43m

Summary

Natural geology, comprising greyish green and yellowish brown silty clay with small particles of fractured limestone (14/003) was encountered at a height of 111.50m OD at the northern end of the trench and 111.87m OD at the southern end of the trench.

An east-west aligned ditch was observed towards the northern end of the trench [14/005]. This possessed a broadly shallow 'U'-shaped profile and was seen to contain one fill, an orangey greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and frequent fragments of limestone and lenses of re-deposited natural (14/004). The ditch contained Roman pottery dating to the 1st-2nd century AD, CBM, metal, bone and shell. It is possible that this is the same ditch as that excavated in Trench 1 in the Allotment Gardens to the North.

Trench 15

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.44m
15/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.63m
15/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with pockets of mid yellowish brown silty clay and orangey brown clay (15/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 113.01m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 112.08m OD to the west.

No archaeological features observed.

Trench 16

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.34m
16/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.77m
16/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising greyish green and orangey brown silty clay with pockets of fractured limestone and orangey brown sandy clay (16/003) was encountered at a height of 113.78m OD at the western end of the trench and 114.13m OD to the east.

Trench 16 contained two possible archaeological features, though perhaps to evidence quarrying. Sections were excavated through these possible features however both proved not to be archaeological; the sub-circular feature proved to be a tree throw and the linear was a geological variation comprised of topsoil and limestone natural. Whilst these features may not attest to quarrying in the vicinity, it is *possible* that the greater depth of subsoil recorded here may indicate the presence of a large backfilled quarry that includes sequences observed in Trenches 17, 18 and 20.

Trench 17

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
17/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
17/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.56m
17/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with pockets of greyish green clay and orangey brown silty clay (17/003) was encountered at a height of 113.46m OD at the western end of the trench and 114.30m OD to the east.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 18

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
18/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m
18/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.77m
18/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, varied across the trench comprising fractured limestone with pockets of greyish green clay and mid yellowish brown silty clay (18/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 115.28m OD at the south eastern end of the trench and 114.54m OD to the north-west. No archaeological features were observed, although, as with Trench 16 above, the greater depth of subsoil recorded here may attest to large scale quarrying in the area.

Trench 19

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
19/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
19/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with mid brown silty clay (19/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 115.34m OD at the north eastern end of the trench, falling away gradually to 115.24m OD to the south west.

No archaeological features observed.

Trench 20

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
20/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
20/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.75m
20/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
20/004	Layer	Re-deposited Nat	Tr.	Tr.	1.20m
20/005	Layer	Clay layer and Re-deposited Nat	12.00m	Tr.	1.30m

Summary

Natural geology, comprising compact and fractured limestone and greenish grey silty clay (20/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 114.49m OD at the southern end of the trench, falling away to 113.405m OD to the north.

Machine excavation showed the natural geology in this trench to be sealed by a substantial sequence of made ground comprising mid brown clay with frequent limestone (20/05), overlain by layer of mixed yellow and brown sand with frequent tabular limestone slabs (20/004). It is considered here that this sequence represents the backfill of an extensive quarry that also includes Trenches 16, 17 and 18. Finds recovered from layer (20/005) are exclusively of Roman date and include pottery CBM and bone.

No other archaeological features were observed.

Trench 21

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
21/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.42m
21/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.70m
21/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with pockets of mid yellowish brown silty clay and greenish grey silty clay (21/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 114.49m OD at the south eastern end of the trench and 113.52m OD to the north west.

No archaeological features observed.

Trench 22

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
22/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m
22/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.48m
22/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

The natural geology was light olive green brown clay with occasional fractured limestone (22/003) and was encountered at a maximum height of 114.09m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 113.31m OD to the west.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 23

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
23/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
23/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising compacted fractured limestone mixed with light greyish brown clay (23/002) was encountered at a height of 115.81m OD at the southern end of the trench and 115.37m OD at the northern end of the trench.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 24

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
24/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
24/002	Layer	Subsoil	14.00m	Tr.	0.39m
24/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

The natural was variable with patches of orangey brown clay and greenish grey clay mixed with limestone with pockets of mid yellowish brown silty clay (24/003). This was encountered at a height of 116.15m OD to the eastern end of the trench and 115.81m OD to the west.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 25

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
25/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.37m
25/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.49m
25/003	Layer	Subsoil	14.00m	Tr.	0.63m
25/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising mottled greenish grey brown clay and small fragments of fractured limestone (25/004) was encountered at a maximum height of 116.13m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 115.43m OD to the west.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 26

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
26/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
26/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with pockets of greyish brown and orangey brown silty clay (26/002) was encountered at a height of 116.917m OD at the eastern end of the trench and 116.59m OD to the west.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 27 (Figure 11)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
27/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
27/002	Layer	Subsoil	7.00 m	Tr.	0.36m
27/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr	N/A
27/004	Cut	Posthole cut		0.50 m	0.18m
27/005	Fill	Posthole fill		0.50 m	0.18m
27/006	Cut	Posthole cut		0.56 m	0.21m
27/007	Fill	Posthole fill		0.56 m	0.21m

Summary

Natural geology (27/007), comprising fractured limestone with patches of very compacted limestone and pockets of mid yellowish brown silty clay and was encountered at a height of 116.83m OD to the northern end of the trench and to 116.52m OD to the south.

A posthole was observed at the northern end of the trench, this possessed a 'D' shaped profile [27/004] and was seen to contain one fill, a slightly greyish

mid brown gravelly clay with lenses of topsoil and moderate small pebbles and occasional flecks of charcoal (27/005) containing no finds. It is likely that this posthole was a fairly modern feature relating to the agricultural use of the land. A second posthole [27/006] was situated to the south of this at the middle/southern end of the trench. This possessed a broadly 'U' shaped profile [27/006] and contained one fill, a greyish mid brown clayey gravel with moderate small pebbles and frequent fragments of limestone and very occasional flecks of charcoal (27/007). This contained a very small fragment of burnt bone and two pieces of pottery.

Trench 28

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
28/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
28/002	Layer	Subsoil	7.00m	Tr.	0.43m
28/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology was variable comprising compact limestone with greenish grey clay and fractured limestone with greyish brown silty clay (28/003). This was encountered at a height of 116.93m OD to the western end of the trench and 116.99m OD to the east.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 29 (Figure 12)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
29/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m
29/002	Layer	Subsoil	14.00m	Tr.	0.30m
29/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr	N/A
29/004	Fill	Ditch fill	2.25m	0.69m	0.21m
29/005	Fill	Ditch fill	2.25m	1.10m	0.42m
29/006	Cut	Ditch cut	2.25m	1.10m	0.42m

Summary

Natural geology, comprising a greenish grey clay with occasional pockets of fractured limestone (29/003) was encountered at a height of 117.31m OD at the south eastern end of the trench and 116.84m OD to the north west.

An east-west aligned ditch was observed towards the northwest end of the trench [29/006]. This possessed a broadly shallow 'U'-shaped profile and was seen to contain two fills. The primary fill was olive green brown clay with occasional limestone inclusions containing no finds (29/005). The secondary fill was very dark brown silty clay with moderate limestone inclusions and containing pottery and bone (29/004).

Trench 30

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
30/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
30/002	Layer	Subsoil	7.00m	Tr.	0.33m
30/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with greyish green silty clay (30/003) was encountered at a height of 117.38m OD at the southern end of the trench and 117.18m OD at the northern end of the trench.

No archaeological features observed.

Trench 31

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
31/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
31/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (31/002) varied considerably across the trench and comprised of patches of compacted limestone and greyish brown silty clay mixed with fragmented limestone and pockets of orangey brown sandy clay. This was encountered at a height of 117.65m OD at the western end of the trench and 117.791m OD to the east.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 32 (Figure 13)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
32/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
32/002	Layer	Subsoil	14.00m	Tr.	0.44m
32/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr	N/A
32/004	Fill	Pit fill	0.65m	0.52m	0.39m
32/005	Cut	Pit cut	0.65m	0.52m	0.39m
32/006	Fill	Ditch fill	2.00m	0.39m	0.49m
32/007	Cut	Ditch cut	2.00m	0.39m	0.49m
32/008	Fill	Ditch fill	2.00m	0.42m	0.12m
32/009	Cut	Ditch cut	2.00m	0.42m	0.12m
32/010	Fill	Pit fill	0.62m	0.62m	0.41m
32/011	Cut	Pit cut	0.62m	0.62m	0.41m
32/012	Fill	Pit fill	0.80m	0.75m	0.70m
32/013	Cut	Pit cut	0.80m	0.75m	0.70m

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with orangey brown silty clay (32/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 117.68m OD at the north eastern end of the trench, falling away to 117.10m OD to the south west.

Two pits, one linear feature and an ephemeral pit and linear feature were observed. A well-defined pit was located to the north eastern end of the trench [32/011]. This was broadly 'U'-shaped in profile with a slightly pointed base [32/011] containing one fill which was a slightly yellowish greyish brown silty clay with small pebbles and occasional fragments of limestone but no finds (32/010). A second pit [32/013] was located to the south of this, it had an irregular 'U'-shaped profile containing one fill, which was a reddish brown silty clay with flecks of charcoal (32/012). No finds were recovered.

To the south of this were two linear features. An irregular 'U'-shaped ditch which tapered inwards on the south western side [32/007] containing one fill, a greyish brown clay with frequent stones and containing bone but no diagnostic material (32/006). This ditch cut a more ephemeral possible linear feature; [32/009] which contained one fill (32/008) a reddish brown clay with no inclusions, containing pottery. To the south of the two linear features was a fairly ephemeral pit. This was sub-square in plan and irregular in profile, the north eastern side being almost vertical and the south western side sloping and tapering [32/005]. It contained a reddish brown clay fill with occasional limestone inclusions but no finds were recovered (32/004). It would seem likely that these features relate to fairly modern activity and agricultural use of the land.

Trench 33

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
33/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
33/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology (33/002), comprising light yellowish brown silty clay with fractured limestone was encountered at a maximum height of 118.22m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling away to 118.06m OD to the south.

No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 34

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
34/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
34/002	Layer	Subsoil	7.00m	Tr.	0.36m
34/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising limestone and greyish brown clay with fractured limestone with pockets of mid yellowish brown silty clay (34/003) was encountered at a height of 117.88m OD to the eastern end of the trench and 117.59m OD to the west.

Several possible archaeological features were investigated all of which proved to be geological variations. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 35 (Figure 14)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
35/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m
35/002	Layer	Subsoil	14.00 m	Tr.	0.44m
35/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
35/004	Cut	Pit/Tree throw cut	1.30 m	0.70m	0.26m
35/005	Fill	Pit/Tree throw fill	1.30 m	0.70m	0.14m
35/006	Fill	Pit/Tree throw fill	1.30 m	0.70m	0.26

Summary

Natural geology, comprising fractured limestone with orangey brown silty clay (35/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 118.26m OD at the south western end of the trench and 118.25m OD to the north east.

An irregular oval-shaped pit or more likely a tree throw was observed at the south west end of the trench. This was an irregular oval shape in plan and broadly 'U'-shaped in profile [35/004]. The western side sloped slightly more steeply and was almost vertical from the surface, tapering inwards slightly and then sloping gradually to the base whilst the eastern side was more concave in profile [34/004]. There were two fills; the primary fill was slightly yellowish greyish brown silty clay with small fragments of limestone, containing no finds (35/005). The secondary fill was a mixed reddish orange and orangey red burnt silty clay with occasional small pebbles and fragments of limestone containing no finds (35/006). The irregular shape in plan and profile suggest that this was a tree throw however it is possible that it represents the area of a hearth.

Trench 36

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
36/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m
36/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising limestone with occasional pockets of mid yellowish brown silty clay (36/002) was encountered at a height of 118.48m OD at the western end of the trench and 118.58m OD to the east.

No archaeological features observed.

Trench 37

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
37/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m
37/002	Layer	Subsoil	7.00m	Tr.	0.33m
37/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising limestone with mid yellowish brown silty clay (37/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 118.05m OD at the south western end of the trench, falling away gradually to 118.40m OD to the north east.

Several possible archaeological features were investigated all of which proved to be geological variations. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 38 (Figure 15)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
38/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
38/002	Layer	Subsoil	5.00m	Tr.	0.10m
38/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
38/004	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	1.13m	0.21m
38/005	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	0.85m	0.11m
38/006	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	0.68m	0.17m
38/007	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	0.19m	0.16m
38/008	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	0.42m	0.19m
38/009	Cut	Ditch cut	2.50m	1.23m	0.38m

Summary

Natural limestone (38/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 110.39m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away gradually to 109.41m OD to the west.

A single northwest-southeast aligned ditch was observed at the eastern end of the trench and consisted of a steep-sided and flat-bottomed ditch cut

[38/009]. The sequence of fills recorded within this ditch is complex and probably results from a combination of slumping and bioturbation but may be summarised as including primary slumping deposits of light yellowish brown silty clay on both sides of the feature (38/007) and (38/008) overlain by a sequence of mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles (38/006), dark brownish black silty clay with frequent pebbles and charcoal flecks and occasional fragments of animal bone (38/005) and, finally, mid yellowish brown silty clay (38/004).

Trench 39

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
39/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.31m
39/002	Layer	Subsoil	c.2.50m	Tr.	0.10m
39/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone (39/003) was encountered between 108.47m and 108.32m OD. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 40 (Figure 16)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
40/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
40/002	Layer	Subsoil	3.60m	Tr.	0.16m
40/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
40/004	Fill	Ditch fill	2.50m	2.30m	0.25m
40/005	Cut	Ditch cut	2.50m	2.30m	0.25m

Summary

Natural limestone (40/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 110.48m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 109.35m OD to the southwest. A single large but shallow ditch on a northwest-southeast orientation with a rounded profile [40/005] was investigated towards the northeastern end of the trench. A single fill of mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and fleck of charcoal was recorded (40/004). This contained worked flint and a single flint-tempered sherd of prehistoric (Bronze Age or Iron Age) pottery.

Trench 41 (Figure 17)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
41/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
41/002	Fill	Ditch fill	3.00m	3.38m	0.74m
41/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
41/004	Cut	Ditch cut	3.00m	3.38m	0.74m

Summary

Natural limestone was observed at a maximum height of 108.66 m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, sloping down to 107.09 m OD to the southwest.

A single feature was investigated within this trench. This comprised a large but shallow ditch with a broadly 'V'-shaped profile [41/004], aligned northwest-southeast and filled with mid yellowish to greyish brown silty clay containing frequent fragments of tabular limestone and occasional Roman pottery dating to the 2nd-3rd century AD and CBM (41/002).

Trench 42 (Figure 18)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
42/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
42/002	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.65m
42/003	Layer	Alluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m
42/004	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
42/005	Fill	Fill of 42/006	2.30m	2.75m	0.70m
42/006	Cut	Poss. Ditch?	2.30m	2.75m	0.70m
42/007	Fill	Posthole fill	0.55m	0.55m	0.15m
42/008	Cut	Posthole cut	0.55m	0.55m	0.15m

Summary

Natural deposits, consisting of fine river gravels with a discontinuous capping of light yellow clay (42/004) was encountered at a maximum height of 107.41m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 103.09m OD to the southwest.

The northeastern edge of a large feature that extended beyond the limits of the excavation to the south, east and west was encountered at the far

southwestern end of the trench. Upon excavation, this proved to comprise a vertical sided cut with flat base [42/006] with a fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles (42/005).

A small sub-circular posthole [42/007], with a fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of Roman pottery (42/008) was investigated at the northeastern end of the trench.

Both these features were sealed by a substantial layer of alluvial material comprising mid brown silty clay with small pebbles and occasional fragments of pottery (42/003). This layer was in turn sealed by a layer of subsoil or colluvium that consisted of mid brown silty clay with frequent pebbles of limestone and limestone (42/002).

Trench 43

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
43/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
43/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone (43/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 108.76m OD at the eastern end of the trench sloping down gradually to 108.17m OD to the west. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 44

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
44/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
44/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone with some pockets of light yellowish brown clay (44/002) was encountered at a maximum height of 111.55m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away sharply to 110.16m OD to the southwest. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 45

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
45/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
45/002	Layer	Subsoil	5.00 m	Tr.	0.10m
45/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone was encountered between 112.23m and 111.37m OD. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 46

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
46/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
46/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone was encountered at a maximum height of 113.37m OD at the southeastern end of the trench, falling away to 113.22m OD to the northwest. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 47 (Figure 19)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
47/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
47/002	Layer	Subsoil	15.00m	Tr.	0.15m
47/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
47/004	Fill	Fill of quarry	3.00m	2.20m	0.25m
47/005	Cut	Quarry	3.00m	2.20m	0.25m
47/006	Fill	Fill of quarry	3.70m	2.30m	0.10m
47/007	Cut	Quarry	3.70m	2.30m	0.10m
47/008	Fill	Fill of quarry	5.15m	2.30m	0.20m
47/009	Cut	Quarry	5.15m	2.30m	0.20m
47/010	Fill	Fill of linear	2.50m	0.90m	0.25m
47/011	Cut	Poss. drain	2.50m	0.90m	0.25m

Summary

Natural limestone was encountered at a maximum height of 113.55m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, sloping down to 111.98m OD to the southwest.

A total of four features were recorded within this trench. Three such features consist of large but irregular and shallow pits [47/005], [47/007] and [47/009] with similar fills of mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderate small fragments of limestone (47/004), (47/006) and (47/008) and are considered here to represent small scale quarrying of the limestone into which they are cut. Roman pottery was recovered from one of the pits, including a fragment of BB1 dating to AD120+ (47/004). The final feature recorded within this trench consists of a shallow and irregular linear feature on a north-south orientation [47/011] filled with dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent fragments of limestone and has been interpreted as a shallow drain or the result of an episode of deep ploughing.

Trench 48

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
48/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
48/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.19m
48/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone with pockets of grey clay was encountered at 107.73m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling away to 105.66m OD to the south. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 49 (Figure 20)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
49/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
49/002	Layer	Colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	1.20m
49/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
49/004	Fill	Ditch fill	2.00m	1.00m	0.43m
49/005	Cut	Ditch cut	2.00m	1.00m	0.43m

Summary

Natural deposits, comprising fine river gravels with a partial capping of yellow clay was encountered at a maximum height of 104.21m OD at the northern end of the trench, falling away steeply to 102.82m OD to the south.

A single ditch was examined towards the northern end of the trench. This lay on a northwest-southeast alignment and comprised a shallow ditch cut with broadly 'V'-shaped profile [49/005], filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles and flecks of charcoal and CBM (49/004).

This feature was sealed by a substantial layer of probable colluvium consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay alluvium (49/002) containing Roman CBM and pottery.

Trench 50

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
45/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.36m
45/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.16m
45/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone was encountered between 106.35m OD to the east and 105.96m OD to the west. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 51 (Figure 21)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
51/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m
51/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10m
51/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural light yellowish brown clay was encountered at a maximum height of 109.40m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 108.70m OD to the west. A single north-south aligned ditch was investigated towards the western end of the trench. This consisted of a ditch cut with 'V'-shaped profile [51/004], filled with dark brown silty clay with frequent pebbles (51/005).

Trench 52

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
52/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
52/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone was encountered between 114.91m OD to the east and 114.29m OD to the west. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 53

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
53/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
53/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone was encountered between 112.84m OD to the northwest and 112.21m OD to the southeast. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 54

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
54/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
54/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.13m
54/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural light yellowish brown clay was encountered at a maximum height of 109.73m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 109.22m OD to the west. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 55 (Figure 22)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
55/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
55/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
55/003	Fill	Pit fill	1.20m	1.20m	0.17m
55/004	Fill	Pit fill	1.52m	1.52m	0.12m
55/005	Cut	Pit cut	1.52m	1.52m	0.24m

Summary

Natural limestone was encountered at a maximum height of 113.40m OD at the north end of the trench, sloping down to 111.07m OD to the south.

A single shallow ovoid pit was investigated at the southern end of the trench. This comprised an irregular cut [55/005] with a primary fill of light yellowish brown silty clay with frequent pebbles (55/004), overlain by a secondary fill of dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (55/003).

Trench 56

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
56/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
56/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.50 m	Tr.	0.20m
56/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone was encountered at a maximum height of 115.06m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 114.74m OD to the west. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 57 (Figure 23)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
57/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
57/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.18m
57/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
57/004	Fill	Ditch fill	2.40m	1.20m	0.16m

57/005	Cut	Ditch cut	2.40m	1.20m	0.16m
57/006	Fill	Ditch fill	1.80m	1.55m	0.25m
57/007	Cut	Ditch cut	1.80m	1.55m	0.25m
57/008	Fill	Pit fill	1.50m	1.30m	0.17m
57/009	Cut	Pit cut	1.50m	1.30m	0.17m

Summary

Natural geology, comprising a mix of limestone and yellowish brown clay (57/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 116.12m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 115.16m OD to the southwest.

Three features were investigated within this trench. The northernmost comprised a shallow and slightly irregular pit [57/009], filled with dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent pebbles (57/008). Immediately to the south of this pit lay a wide but shallow ditch on a northwest-southeast alignment and with an irregular profile [57/007] with a fill of mid greyish brown silty clay containing frequent pebbles (57/006). A further ditch was investigated at the southern end of the trench. This comprised a shallow ditch cut with irregular rounded profile [57/005], filled with dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent pebbles (57/004) containing Roman pottery.

Trench 58

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
58/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m
58/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone (58/002) was encountered between 116.15m OD to the north and 115.28m OD to the south. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 59

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
59/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
59/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural limestone (59/002) was encountered between 116.46m OD to the east and 116.16m OD to the west. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 60 (Figure 24)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
60/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
60/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
60/003	Cut	Gully	1.70m	0.40m	0.10m
60/004	Fill	Gully	1.70m	0.40m	0.10m
60/005	Cut	Posthole	0.20m	0.20m	0.18m
60/006	Fill	Posthole	0.20m	0.20m	0.18m

Summary

Natural limestone (60/002) was encountered between 114.33m OD to the northwest and 112.41m OD to the southeast.

Two archaeological features were present within this ditch; a small gully and a posthole. The gully comprised a shallow east-west orientated cut with rounded profile [60/003] filled with mid brown silty clay with occasional pebbles (60/004). Posthole [60/005] lay some 8.00m to the northeast and consisted of a small ovoid cut filled with mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional pebbles (60/006).

Trench 61 (Figure 25)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
61/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
61/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
61/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
61/004	Fill	Pit fill	2.00m	0.60m	0.30m
61/005	Fill	Pit fill	1.50m	0.60m	0.25m
61/006	Fill	Pit fill	1.20m	0.60m	0.10m
61/007	Fill	Pit fill	1.40m	0.60m	0.30m
61/008	Fill	Pit fill	2.30m	0.60m	0.10m
61/009	Cut	Pit cut?	2.50m	0.60m	0.70m
61/010	Fill	Pit fill	0.60m	0.30m	0.15m
61/011	Cut	Pit cut	0.60m	0.30m	0.15m
61/012	Fill	Fill of 61/013	1.80m	0.40m	0.23m
61/013	Cut	Rooting?	1.80m	0.40m	0.23m

61/014	Fill	Pit fill	1.20m	1.00m	0.15m
61/015	Fill	Pit fill	1.15m	0.90m	0.35m
61/016	Cut	Pit cut	1.20m	1.00m	0.50m
61/017	Fill	Pit fill	1.50m	0.85m	0.15m
61/018	Fill	Pit fill (burnt)	0.40m	0.40m	0.07m
61/019	Fill	Pit fill	1.50m	0.85m	0.35m
61/020	Cut	Pit cut	1.50m	0.85m	0.50m
61/021	Fill	Posthole fill	0.20m	0.20m	0.13m
61/022	Cut	Posthole cut	0.20m	0.20m	0.13m

Summary

Natural yellowish brown clay (61/003) was encountered between 110.66m OD to the east and 109.79m OD to the west.

A total of five features were recorded within this trench, including three pits, a posthole and a shallow spread that may have been the result of rooting. The easternmost of the three pits investigated within this trench [61/020] was sub-circular in plan with a primary accumulative fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay, clearly derived from the surrounding natural, with occasional pebbles and a single sherd of pottery (61/019). A small area of burning (61/018) evident in the surface of fill (61/019) is of some interest here and suggests the setting of a small fire within the partially silted up pit. A final fill of dark greyish brown silty clay (61/017) marks the disuse of the feature. This contained fragments of a probably Roman shell-tempered vessel.

Immediately to the west of this feature lay a further pit [61/016], also sub-circular in plan and also containing a primary accumulative fill of light yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles (61/015), overlain by a secondary fill of dark greyish brown silty clay (61/014). The third and final pit recorded in this trench lay some 3.00m to the west of those described above. The morphology of this feature was quite different to that of pits [61/016] and [61/020], consisting of an irregular linear cut in plan (indeed, it is not inconceivable that this feature represents an irregular ditch rather than a discrete feature). However, the sequence of fills within this feature is comparable with those described above, consisting of primary accumulative fills derived from the surrounding yellowish brown natural clay (61/004) and (61/005), overlain by fills of dark greyish brown silty clay that mark the final infilling of the feature (61/006) and (61/007), containing sherds of a shell-tempered Roman vessel (61/006). The small irregular interface towards the western edge of this feature probably represents disturbance from rooting.

A small posthole that lay immediately adjacent to pit [61/016] constitutes the only structural evidence from this trench. This consisted of a small sub-circular cut with rounded profile [61/022], filled with dark greyish brown silty clay (61/021). The frequency of charcoal flecking within this fill is suggestive of the *in situ* burning of a timber post.

The final feature investigated within this trench consists of an extensive but shallow, irregular and ill-defined cut [61/013] that extended beyond the limits of excavation to the west, south and north and was filled with mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles, pottery and bone (61/012). Given the limited exposure of this feature it is difficult to firmly establish its origin and function but the high degree of irregularity evident in the base of the feature is suggestive of natural actions such as rooting.

Trench 62

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
62/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
62/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
62/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural yellowish brown (62/002) clay was encountered at a maximum height of 108.10m OD at the eastern end of the trench, falling away to 107.71m OD to the west. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 63

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
63/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
63/002	Layer	Subsoil/ colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m
63/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.79m

Summary

Natural geology, consisting of mid reddish yellow silty clay (63/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 105.78m OD, falling away to 103.93m OD. This was overlain by a substantial layer of mid yellowish brown silty clay colluvium (62/002).

Trench 64 (Figure 26)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
64/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m
64/002	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
64/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
64/004	Fill	Ditch fill	1.80 m	1.25 m	0.27m
64/005	Cut	Ditch cut	1.80 m	1.25 m	0.27m

Summary

Natural geology, consisting of mid reddish yellow silty clay (64/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 107.88m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 106.12m OD to the southwest.

A single northwest-southeast aligned ditch with shallow 'V'-shaped profile was investigated at the northeastern end of the trench [64/005]. This was filled with mid greyish brown silty clay with moderate limestone pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks and fragments of animal bone, (64/004).

Trench 65

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
65/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.26m
65/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
65/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, consisting of mid yellowish brown silty clay (65/003) was encountered at a maximum height of 1076.48m OD to the north, falling away to 106.07m OD to the south. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 66 (Figure 27)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
66/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m

66/002	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.23m
66/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A
66/004	Fill	Fill of 66/005	1.35m	0.75m	0.18m
66/005	Cut	Tree throw?	1.35m	0.75m	0.18m

Summary

Natural geology, consisting of a mix of limestone and mid yellowish red clay was encountered at a maximum height of 112.71m OD at the northeastern end of the trench, falling away to 110.19m OD to the southeast.

A single irregular ovoid cut [66/005], filled with dark yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone slabs and containing very small and abraded fragments of pottery (66/004) is probably best seen as a tree throw.

Trench 67 (Figure 28)

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
67/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m
67/002	Layer	Subsoil/ colluvium	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m
67/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	0.79m
67/004	Fill	Quarry fill	3.50m	2.00m	0.40m
67/005	Cut	Quarry	3.50m	2.00m	0.40m

Summary

Natural geology, consisting of mid reddish yellow silty clay was encountered at a maximum height of 116.26m OD to the north, falling away to 114.92m OD to the south. A single large but shallow quarrying feature with steep sides and flat base [67/005] was investigated towards the northern end of the trench. This was filled with dark yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone slabs and occasional fragments of Roman pottery (67/004).

Trenches 68-77

Not excavated

Trench 78

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
78/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m

78/002	Layer	Subsoil	14.00m	Tr.	0.37m
78/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising greenish grey silty clay with fractured limestone was encountered at a maximum height of 119.26m OD at the north western end of the trench, falling away slightly to 119.23m OD to the south east.

Several possible archaeological features were investigated all of which proved to be geological variations. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 79

List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth
79/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
79/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

Summary

Natural geology, comprising limestone with greenish grey silty was encountered at a height of 119.17m OD at the northern end of the trench and 119.06m OD to southern end of the trench.

No archaeological features were observed.

5.0 THE FINDS

A reasonable sized assemblage was recovered from the evaluation trenches; the majority of the material concentrated in trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8, with smaller quantities from the other trenches that contained archaeological features. The assemblage is comprised predominately of Roman pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) with smaller quantities of animal bone, iron nails, flint and two pieces of Roman glass. Later glass was recovered from topsoil and unstratified contexts and is of 19th/20th century date.

The assemblage has been scanned in order to provide spot-dates and broadly characterise the material. The preliminary spot-dates are presented in Table 1 (see below), with undiagnostic material listed as 'Roman' and more refined dating where diagnostic types are present. The dating of the material has the potential to be further refined during detailed recording. The total bulk finds assemblage has been quantified by context and is shown in Appendix 1.

5.1 Roman Pottery

The Roman pottery is generally in good condition with some large sherds and surfaces intact. The pottery assemblage appears homogenous in character and date, perhaps suggesting the features from which it was retrieved are broadly contemporary and possibly part of an associated settlement.

Where diagnostic fabrics and forms are present these are predominately early 2nd century in date and include Black burnished ware 1 (BB1) and samian from Central Gaul (SAMCG). The remainder of the assemblage is composed of locally produced oxidised and reduced sandy wares which have a broad 1st-2nd century date. Also noted were a handful of amphorae sherds including examples of the Spanish Olive Oil amphorae (Dressel 20) and pieces of mortaria. The presence of these types suggests domestic settlement in the vicinity, utilising Romanised cooking methods and ingredients.

The only non-Roman sherd positively identified is from [40/004] and is probably prehistoric in date. The single sherd is coarsely tempered with flint and may date to the Bronze or Iron Age.

5.2 Ceramic Building Material

A number of contexts produced good assemblages of Roman CBM including large, fresh examples of roofing tiles: tegulae and imbrices. The size and condition of these suggest the demolition of a tile-roofed structure in the near vicinity

Context	Spot-Date	Comments
1/003	AD 120 +	BB1 & flagon
1/003	Roman	CBM, large, good condition
1/005	Roman	
2/003	AD 120 +	BB1, Shell-tempered
2/005	Roman	Large CBM inc tegula; Amphorae
2/005	AD 120 +	Samian CG dish/bowl
2/007	Roman	
2/009	1st-2nd C	Large CBM inc tegula; Amphorae & flagon
2/011	1st-2nd C	
2/015	1st-2nd C	
2/017	Roman	Storage jar sherd
3/001	MOD	19th C glass
3/003	Roman	CBM
3/005	1st-2nd C	Inc Amphorae (BAETE)
3/007	AD 120 +	BB1, samian Drag 27 cup
3/009	AD 120 +	BB1 plate
3/009	Roman	
3/011	Roman	
3/014	Roman	
4/002	1st-2nd C	
5/002	AD 120 +	Pottery inc BB1, CBM & glass
5/004	Roman	CBM & pottery inc mortaria
5/006	1st-2nd C	Pottery & glass
5/008	Roman	
5/010	Roman	
7/003	Roman	CBM
7/006	Roman	Large CBM inc tegula
8/003	Roman	CBM inc tegula
8/003	AD 120 +	inc Samian (CG) Drag 33, BB1, CBM
8/004	AD 120 +	BB1, BB1 dish, mortaria, CC
8/006	Roman	
8/008	Roman	CBM
14/004	1st-2nd C	
20/005	Roman	
40/004	PH?	Worked flint & single flint-tempered sherd BA/IA
41/002	2nd-3rd C	CBM, pottery, CC
42/004	Roman	
47/004	AD 120 +	BB1
49/002	Roman	CBM & pottery
57/004	Roman	
61/006	Roman	Shell-tempered vessel
61/017	Roman	Shell-tempered vessel
67/004	Roman	

Table 1: Preliminary dating of key contexts

5.3 Other Artefacts

Aside from the pottery and CBM, the range of finds recovered from the evaluation was relatively restricted, limited to iron nails, unworked stone, worked flint and two pieces of thin walled Roman glass (5/002; 5/006). Full details of all finds recovered can be found in Appendix 1.

5.4 Human Bone

Context [1/003] contained the partial remains of a human infant. The skeletal elements represented include the cranium, humerii, ribs and vertebrae. The size of the bones suggests that they belong to a new-born or young (< 6 months) infant.

5.5 Animal Bone

The animal bone is in a reasonable state of preservation but fragmentary with no complete bones noted. No large assemblages were present, the largest being from [2/005]. Cattle appear to form the majority of the assemblage with few fragments of sheep and horse also noted. Elements identified are from most parts of the skeleton and include cranial fragments, teeth, longbones and ribs. No butchery was noted at this preliminary stage but the state of the bone is such that it should survive and be identifiable if present.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Bulk samples were taken from contexts [61/006], [61/021] and [1/005]. Macro inspection of the samples prior to processing confirms the good integrity of these samples as very few uncharred botanicals such as roots were observed. A preliminary indication of their contents is given below however it is likely that this list will be added to.

Sample <001>, Context [61/006]

This grey-brown clay rich soil with medium cohesive properties contained charcoal fragments and occasional bone and pot fragments. Natural inclusions of limestone and gravels were also observed. Context [61/006] lies within a pit/ditch in which a series of fills were observed. The sample was taken with the aim of identifying the nature and possible function of the fill.

Sample <002>, Context [61/021]

This sample is a medium to loosely cohesive red-brown clay soil with charcoal and occasional pieces of stone. The northern half of this posthole fill was sampled to recover charcoal. If sufficient well preserved charcoal is present then further analysis and identification may shed light on the nature of the structure for which this support was used.

Sample <003>, Context [1/005]

This grey-green clay rich deposit with high cohesive properties contains shell, charcoal, occasional pottery (some of which is Roman) and some natural pebbles. The sample was taken from the lower fill of a ditch and it will be processed to establish the nature of the deposit and the origin of the green hue.

All samples will be processed by tank flotation and the contents of the residues and flots will be recorded. Where appropriate the charred botanical and other environmental remains will be identified and/or their potential for providing further information about the economy and environment of the site and specific feature functions will be assessed.

7.0 DISCUSSION

This programme of trenching has clearly demonstrated the presence of archaeological remains across the study area. The results of this investigation do permit some useful, if general observations to be made regarding the nature and date of past activity on the site and the extent to which the fieldwork can be seen to have fulfilled the original aims of investigation as set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation*.

Principally, it may be noted that there is very little concrete evidence for activity prior to the Roman period. Indeed, the only feature that could be ascribed a prehistoric date with any appreciable degree of confidence was the ditch [40/005] situated on the western edge of the site and even here, the non-diagnostic qualities of the available dating does not permit anything more than a broad Bronze-Iron Age date for the feature. This apparent lack of prehistoric activity within the study area is perhaps surprising given that a number of possible sites of Bronze and Iron Age activity are present within the environs of the site (James 2006, 7-8). However, in this context it should be noted that, with the exception of the early Iron Age enclosure at the Beeches, much of the evidence for Iron Age activity in the area appears to be inconclusive and contradictory (James *ibid*).

Although reliably dated prehistoric remains seems to be scarce, both within and without the boundaries of the present study site, it is perhaps unwise to regard this as an indication of a genuine absence of such activity. The scarcity of dating evidence retrieved during the course of the fieldwork is considered here to reflect the largely agrarian character of the activity represented on the site. Indeed, many of the recorded features – and particularly the many undated features that typify the excavated sequence – appear to be agricultural in origin, comprising field boundaries isolated pit and postholes and tree throws.

Whatever the exact character and extent of prehistoric activity on the site, the preponderance of Roman material within the excavated finds assemblage clearly demonstrates the exploitation of the site during the subsequent Romano-British period. This is perhaps only to be expected, given the proximity of the site to the Roman settlement of Corinium (centred on modern Cirencester). It is significant, however, that the bulk of these finds appear to relate to a possible settlement centred on Trenches 1- 8 to the north of the site. Here, a wealth of Roman finds, including domestic pottery, building material and animal bone were recovered from a variety of features that include ditches such as the large boundary ditch [1/004] and potential structural features such as the possible posthole [2/022] and masonry foundations (3/007) and (8/008), not to mention the apparent interment of a human infant within the upper fill of the boundary ditch [1/004]. Certainly, the significant quantities of building materials such as tegula and imbrex recovered from these trenches are suggestive of the demolition of a masonry

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	KSC06					
Identification Name and Address	Kingshill South, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL1					
County, District &/or Borough	County of Gloucestershire					
OS Grid Refs.	Centred NGR SP 035 010					
Geology	Forest Marble and Kemble Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2387					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 11 th -22 nd Sept 2006 inclusive	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Berkeley Strategic					
Project Manager(s)	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisors	Diccon Hart, Michelle Collings					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA ✓	IA ✓	RB ✓
	AS	MED	PM	Other Victorian		
<p><i>100 word summary</i></p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Kingshill South, Cirencester, Gloucestershire. The work was undertaken between 11th and 22nd September 2006 on behalf of Berkeley Strategic. Sixty-nine 20.00m long trenches were excavated, totalling some 1380 metres of trenching.</p> <p>The underlying natural, which varied from solid limestone bedrock to clay, was encountered at a maximum height of 118.58 m OD in the northeast of the site (Trench 36), falling away to 109.19 m OD to the northwest (Trench 1), 102.82 m OD to the southwest (Trench 49) and 106.70 m OD to the southeast.</p> <p>The earliest identifiable activity on the site proved to be of Bronze or Iron Age date and comprised a wide but shallow ditch on a northwest-southeast orientation and located towards the western edge of the site (Trench 40).</p> <p>Activity of Romano-British date proved the most extensive with some 16 trenches containing remains of Roman date. Much of activity of this period appears to be related to an extra-mural settlement, to the east of the walled town of Corinium (modern Cirencester) and centred on Trenches 1-8 in the far north of the subject site. Here quantities of Roman building material, potential masonry foundations and associated pottery attest to the existence of a masonry building in the immediate vicinity. Further settlement may be evinced by significant quantities of Roman material retrieved from a number of pits centred on Trench 61 to the southeast of the study area but this is far from conclusive. The remaining activity of Roman date observed during the fieldwork comprises a combination of agricultural features such as ditches and quarrying.</p> <p>The results of the fieldwork were notable in failing to produce any concrete evidence of activity dating to the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods but this is considered here to reflect the well-documented agricultural usage of the landscape during these periods.</p>						

APPENDIX 1: Bulk Finds Quantification (ct by material; wt in grams)

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	shell	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Fe	wt (g)	burnt clay	wt(g)	Glass	wt
1/003	10	62	11	1224	80	184							1	6				
1/005	8	72																
2/003	8	70	1	74	7	338												
2/005	2	22																
2/005	25	350	7	1322	9	1790												
2/007	10	50																
2/009	1	14	3	540	6	220												
2/011	14	106	1	16	1	38												
2/013	3	14																
2/015	6	46	2	82														
2/017	2	118			1	58												
2/019			2	30														
3/001																	1	24
3/003			2	156	11	180												
3/005	12	424			4	16							5	8				
3/007	15	66	10	36	12	300												
3/009	10	62	1	40	2	6					1	2						
3/011	9	70			6	26												
3/013	1	14			2	4					1	2						
4/002	33	252	7	1384	16	96					1	4						
5/002	13	136	16	363	20	240	1	36			1	8	4	16			1	<2
5/004			5	336									7	20				
5/006	1	28	1	38													1	<2
5/008	1	<1																
5/010	3	4																

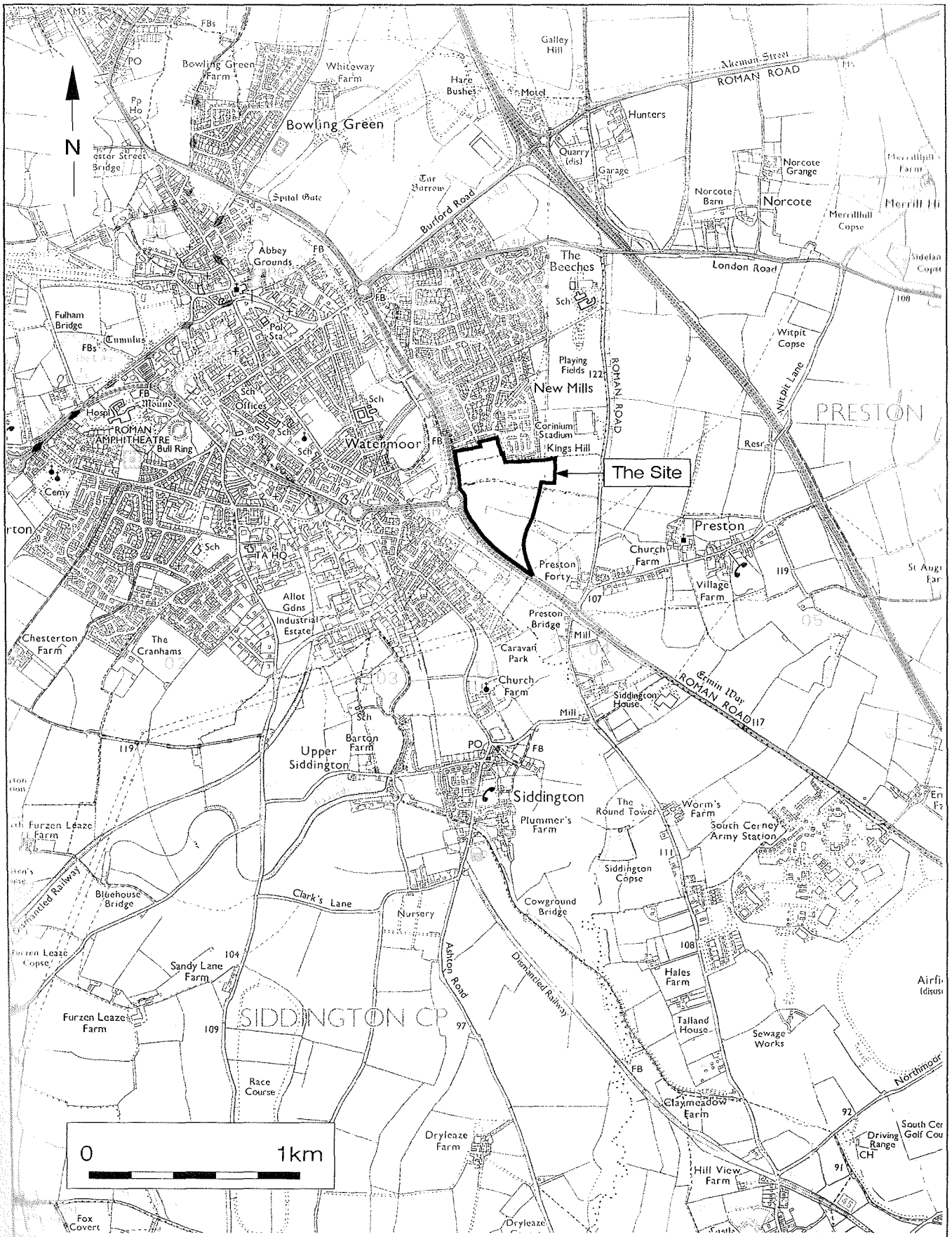
Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	shell	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Fe	wt (g)	burnt clay	wt(g)	Glass	wt
7/003	1	8	7	404														
7/006	18	40	1	732	4	2							1	2				
7/us																	1	4
8/003	27	204	27	4044	3	14					2	6	1	38				
8/004	9	100			5	16	4	12										
8/006	3	4	2	<2	2	4												
8/008	1	<1	5	132	5	8							3	14				
10/001			1	14														
14/004	22	127	3	222	6	48	1	8			2	12						
14/us																	1	8
20/001	1	16																
20/005	4	36	4	40	1	10												
27/007	3	6			1	<2												
29/004	1	6			5	20												
32/002	1	6																
32/008					9	152												
38/004					22	124												
40/004	1	8							2	4								
41/002	8	22	3	20			1	42										
42/003															6	14		
42/005	7	48	5	16					1	28	1	4						
42/008															17	6		
47/004	2	16																
47/008													1	46				
49/002	11	38																
51/005					3	4							1	106				
55/005	1	<2																
57/002	5	18																

Archaeology South-East
Kingshill South, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	shell	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Fe	wt (g)	burnt clay	wt(g)	Glass	wt
57/006									1	11								
59/002	9	12																
61/006	13	134			18	86					2	18						
61/008	5	10																
61/012	2	6			3	10					1	8						
61/014	1	4			4	8					6	108						
61/017	24	158			12	104					1	4			1	6		
61/019	1	2									12	288						
64/004					12	58					5	144						
66/004	15	6																
67/004	1	6									1	4			1	10		
79/001			2	20														
u/s	2	26																
Total	386	3047	129	11285	292	4164	7	98	4	43	37	612	24	256	25	36	5	36

03

02



02

03

04

05

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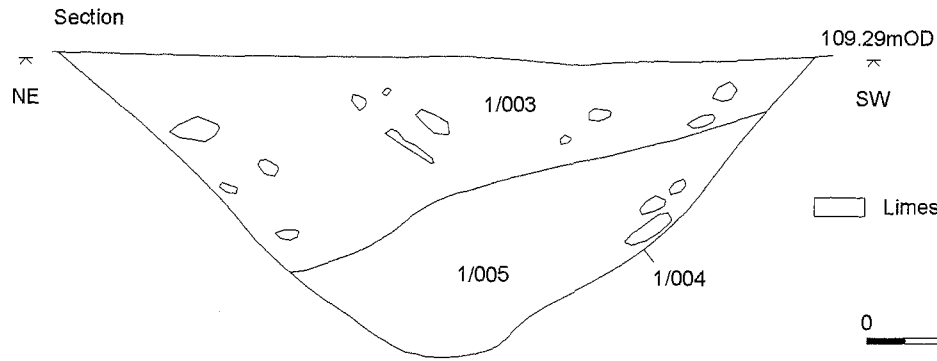
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Trench 1

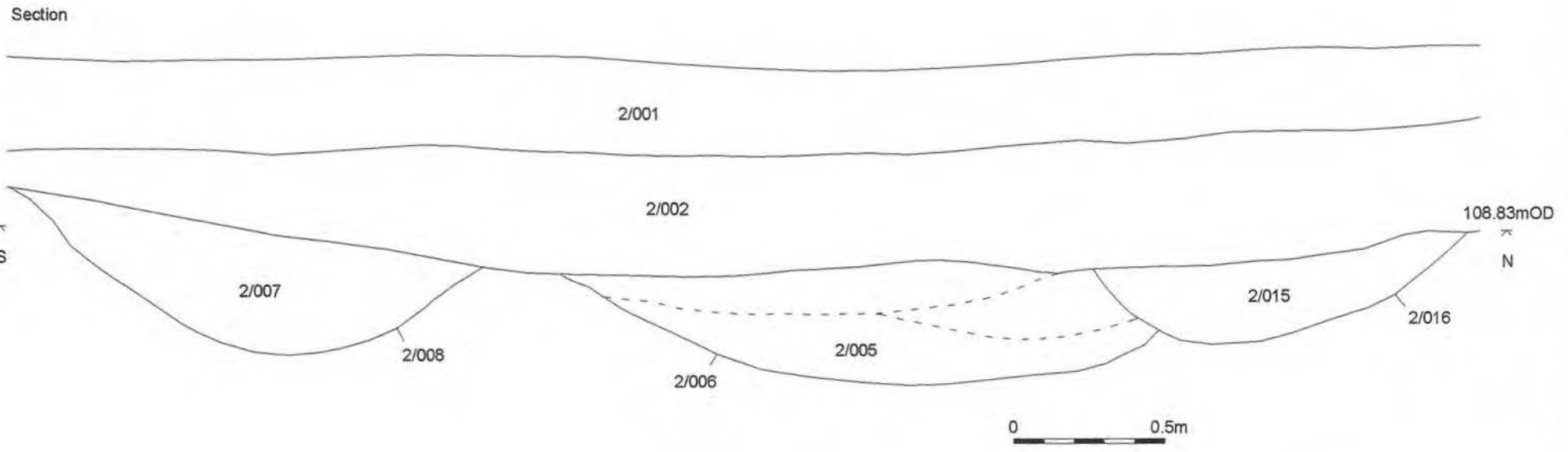
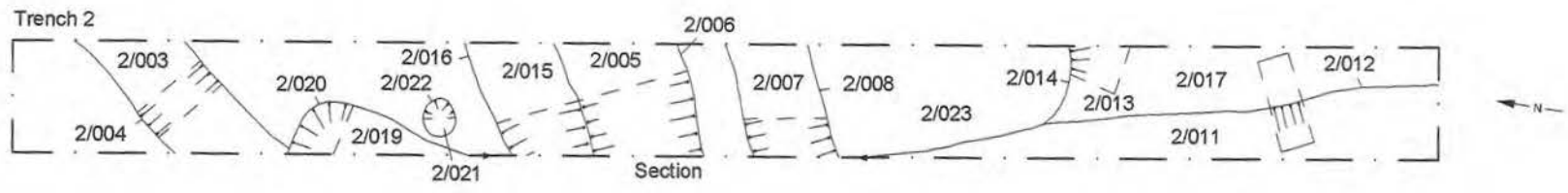


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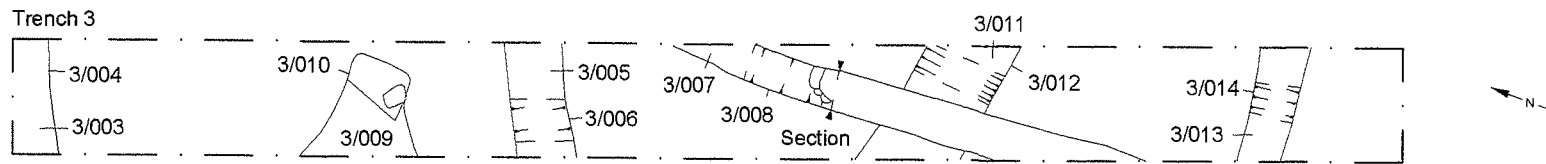


Limestone

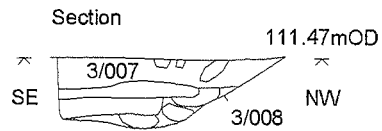
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Ref: 2387	Sept 2006	Drawn by: JLR	Trench 2 plan and selected sections	



0 2m



0 0.5m

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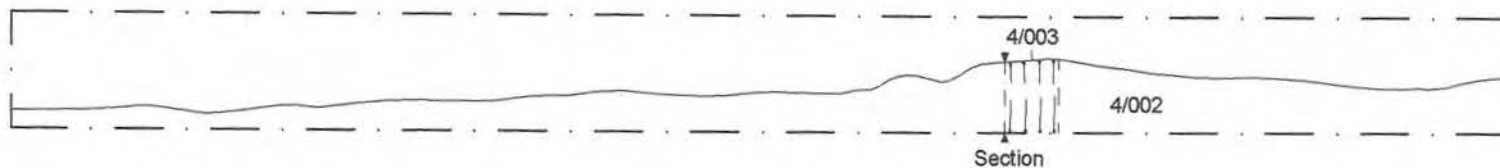
Sept 2006

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JLR

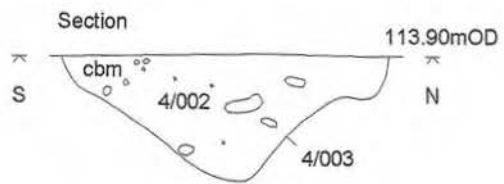
Trench 3 plan and selected section

Fig. 5

Trench 4



0 2m



0 0.5m

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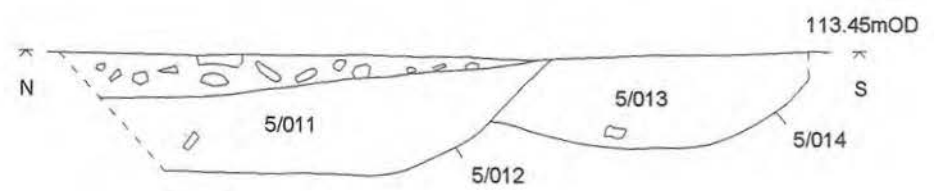
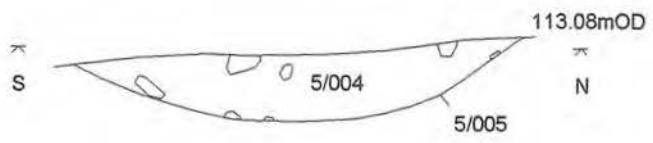
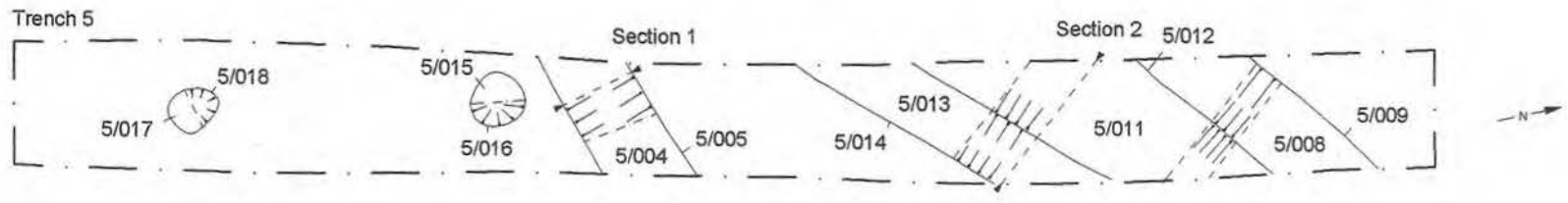
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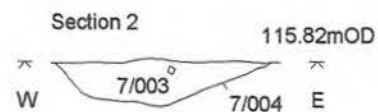
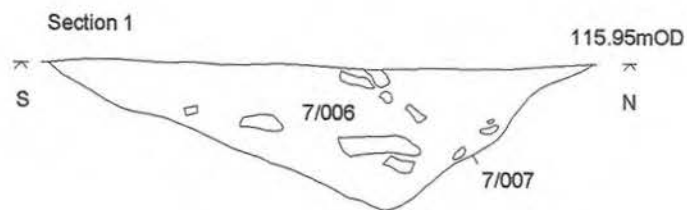
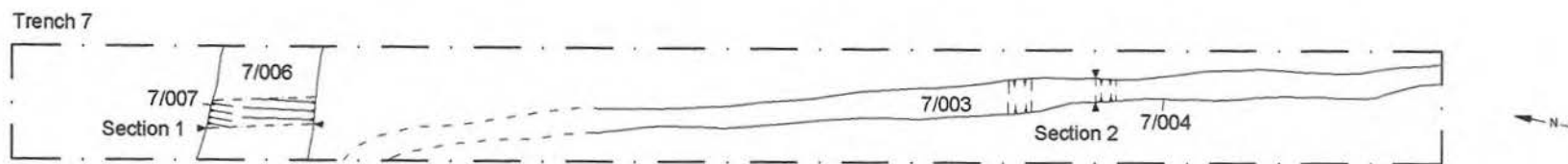
Trench 4 plan and section

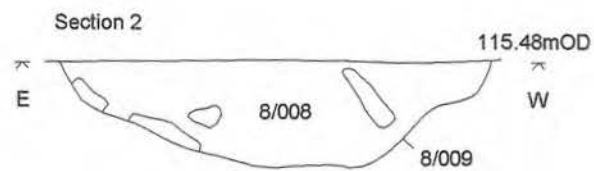
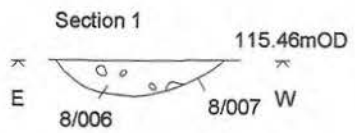
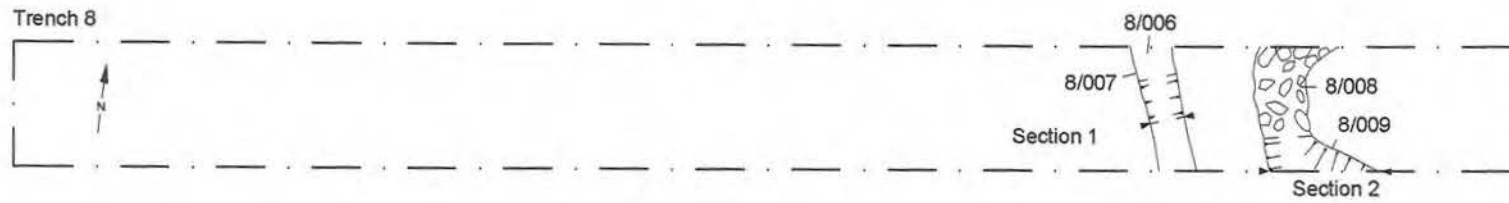
Fig. 6



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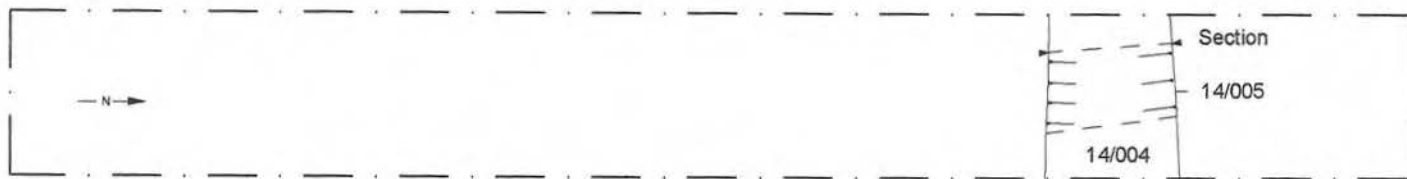
Fig 7



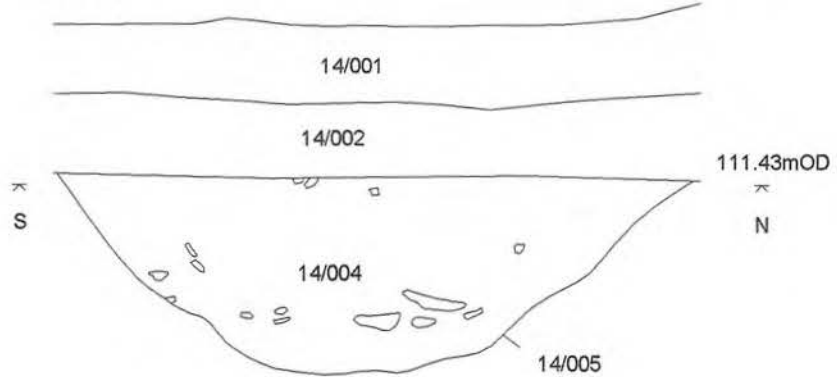


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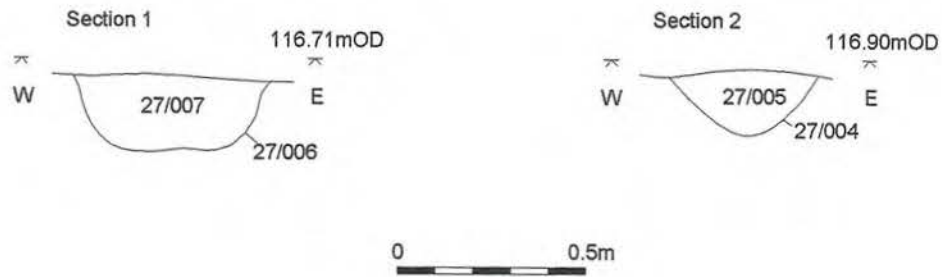
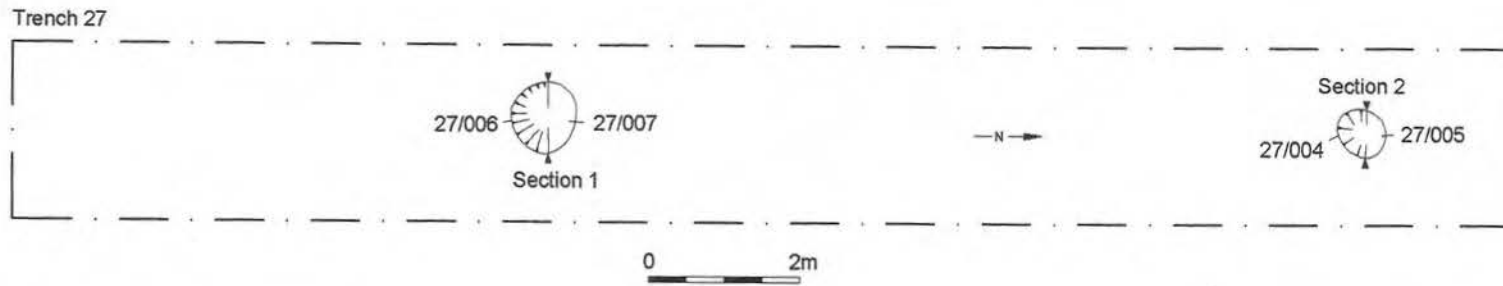
Trench 14

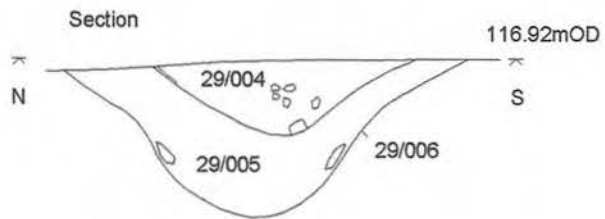
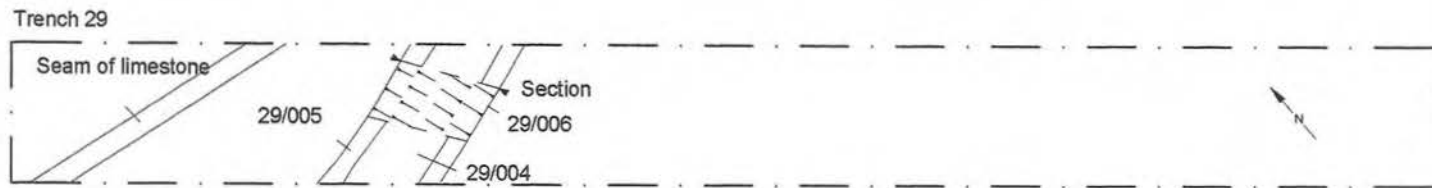


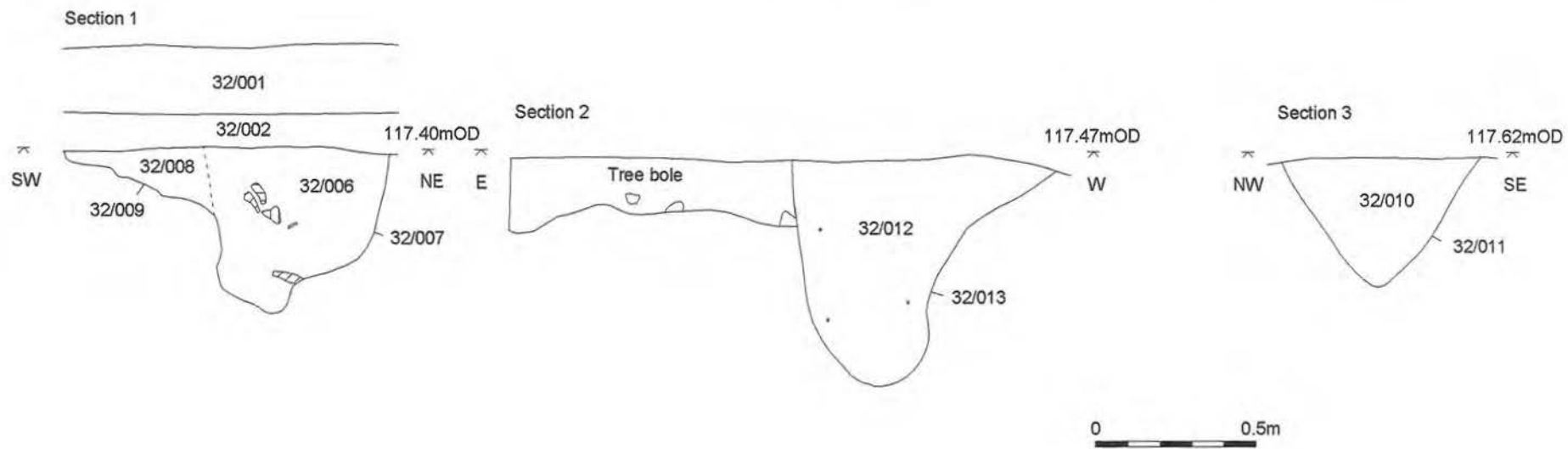
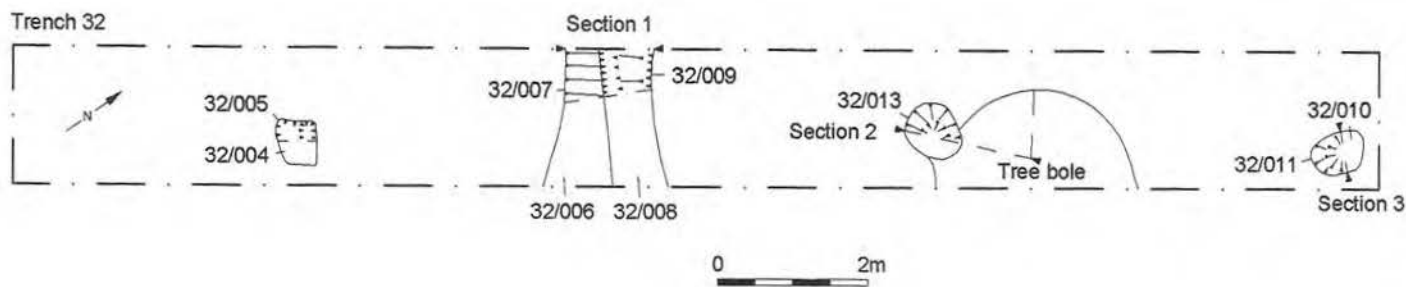
Section

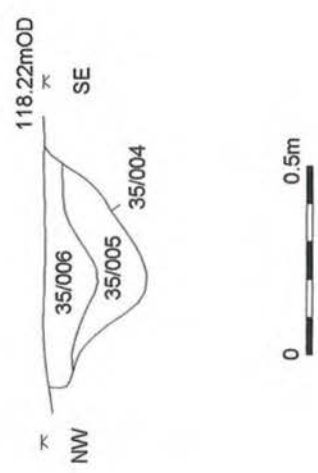
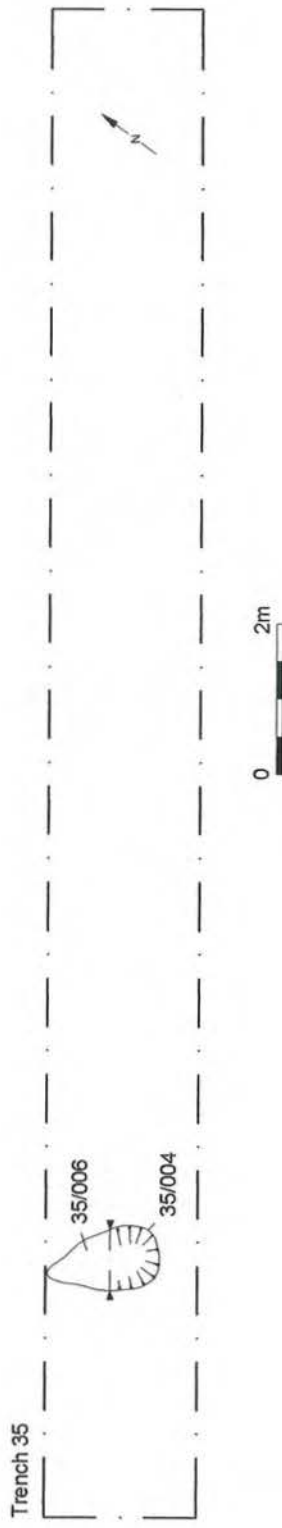


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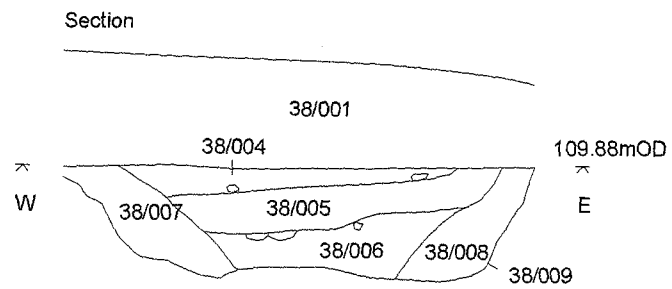




Trench 38



0 2m



0 0.5m

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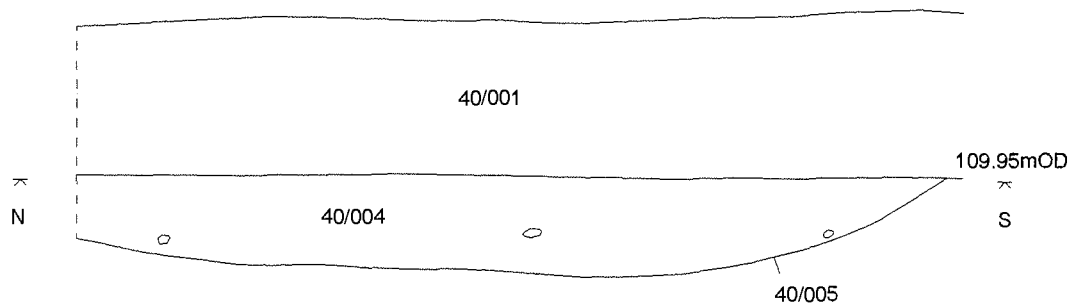
Trench 38 plan and selected section

Fig 15

Trench 40



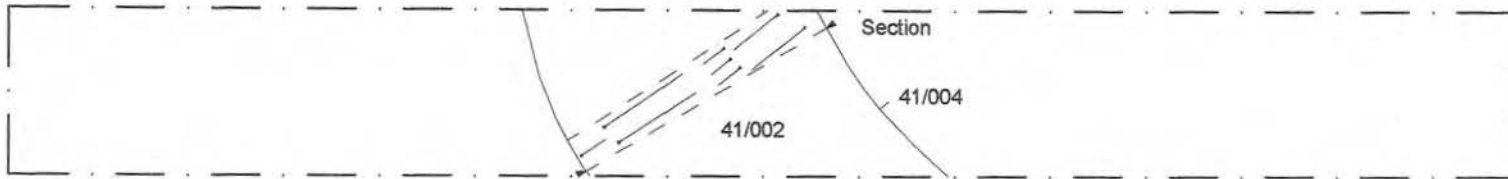
0 2m



0 0.5m

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Trench 41



Section

41/004

41/002

0 2m

N

107.98mOD
x
S

41/002

41/004

0 0.5m

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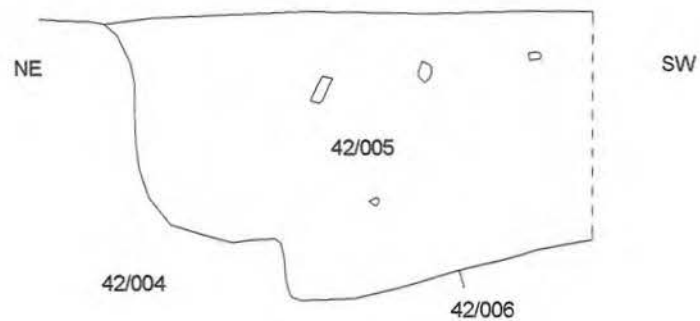
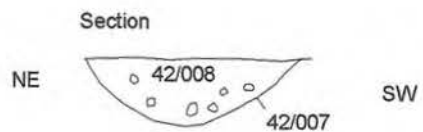
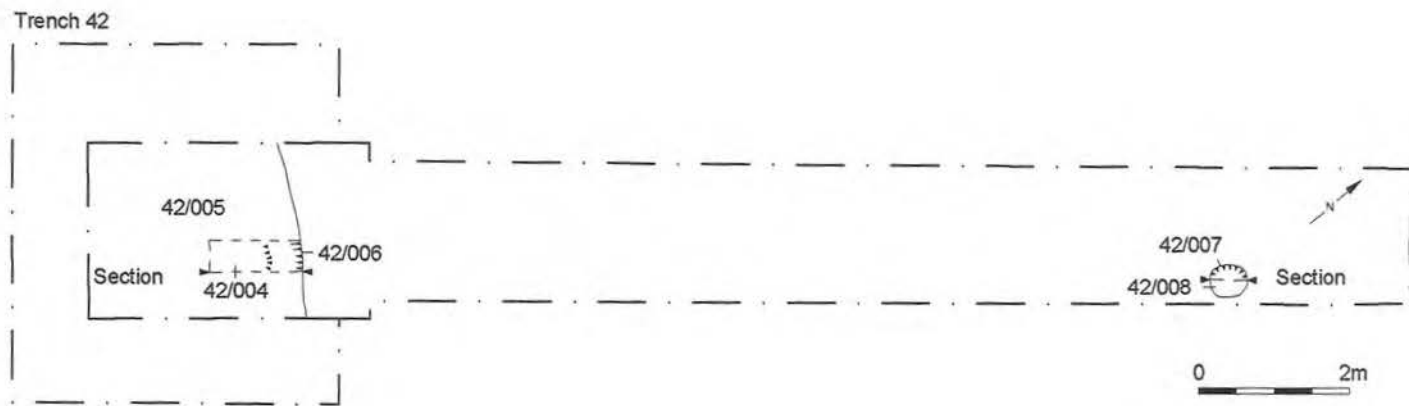
Kingshill South, Oremaster

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Trench 41 plan and section



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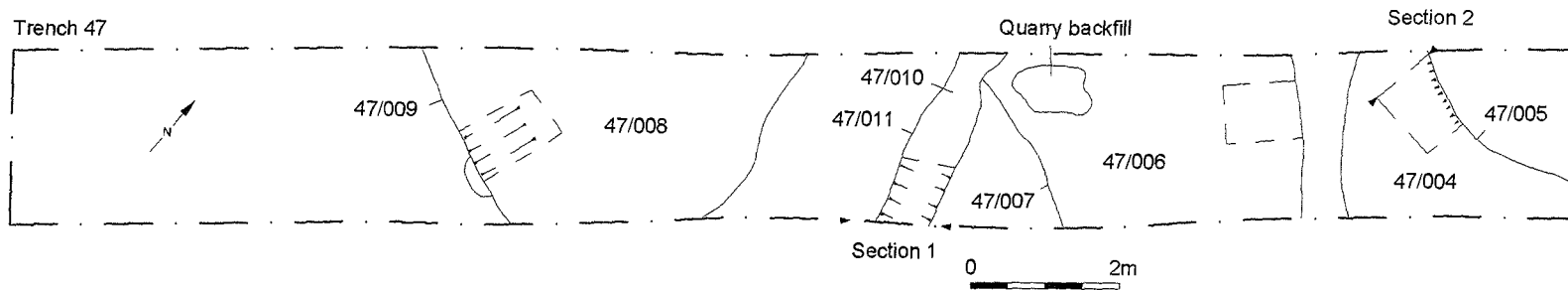
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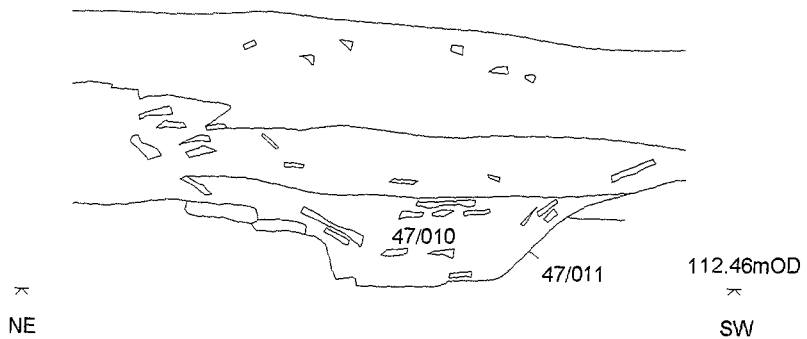
Trench 42 plan and section

Fig. 18

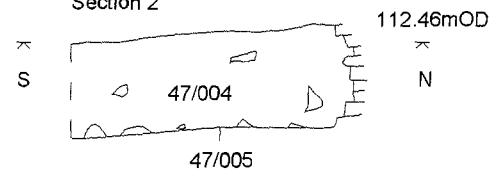
Trench 47



Section 1



Section 2



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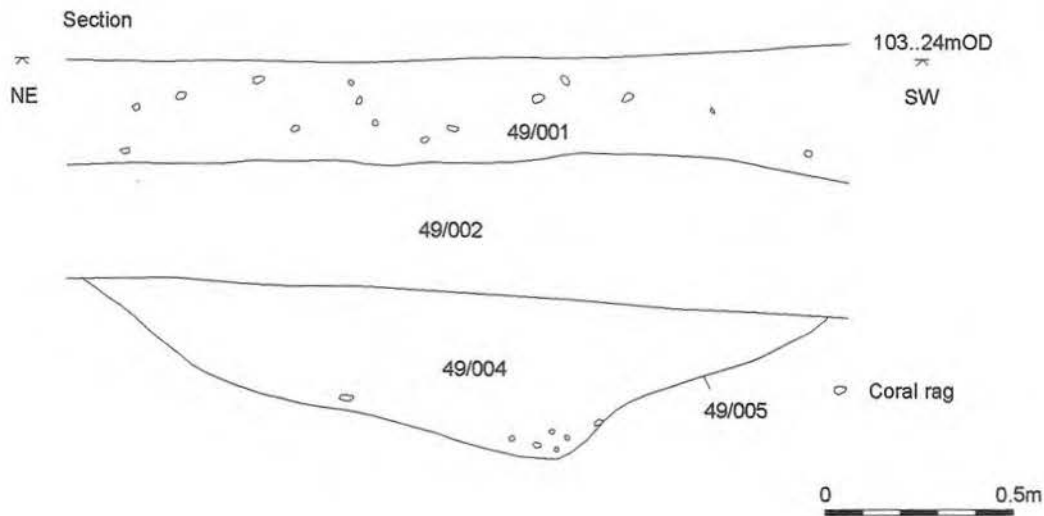
Ref: 2387

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Trench 47 plan and selected sections

Fig. 19



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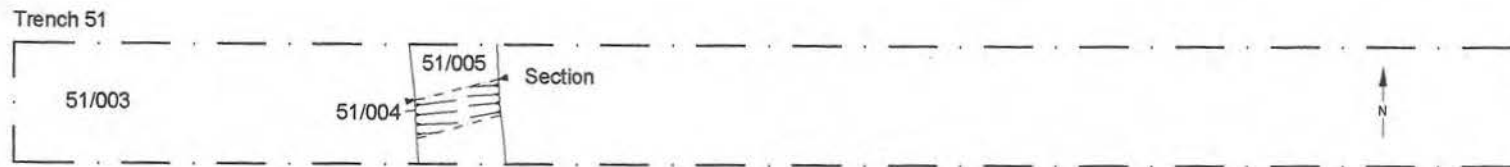
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Sept 2006

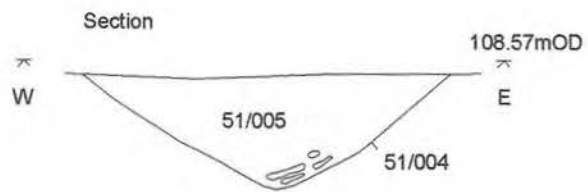
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Trench 49 plan and section

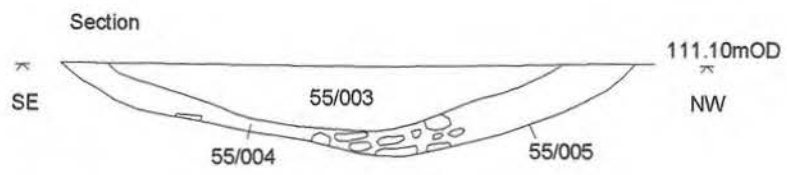
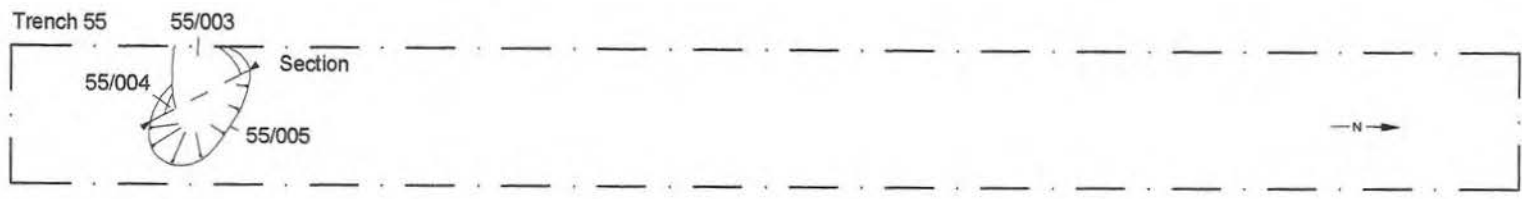
Fig 20



0 2m

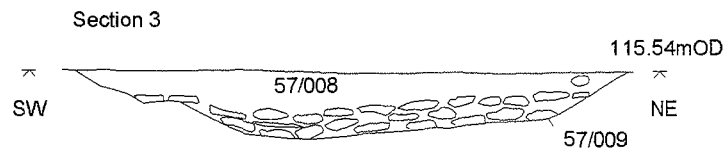
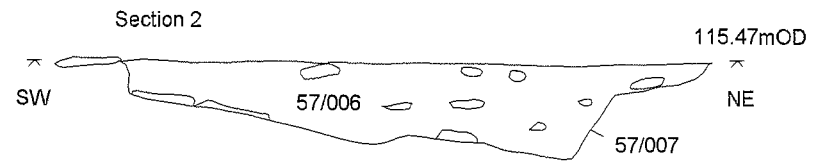
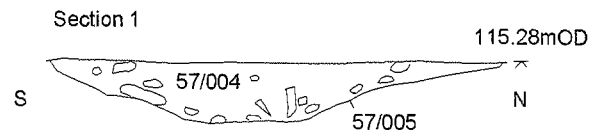
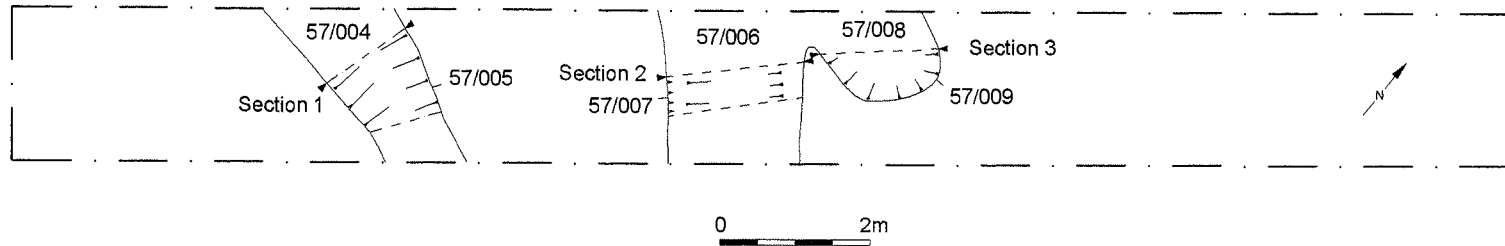


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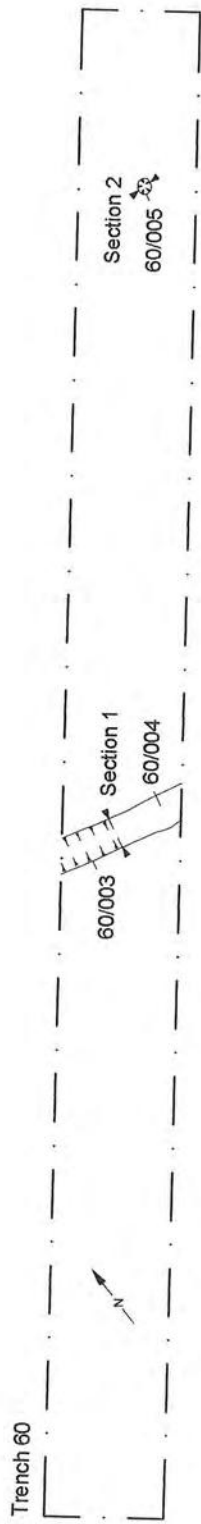


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Ref: 2387	Sept 2006	Drawn by: JLR	Trench 55 plan and section

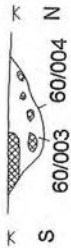
Trench 57



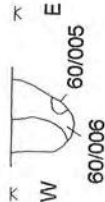
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Ref: 2387	Sept 2006	Drawn by: JLR	Fig. 23 Trench 57 plan and section



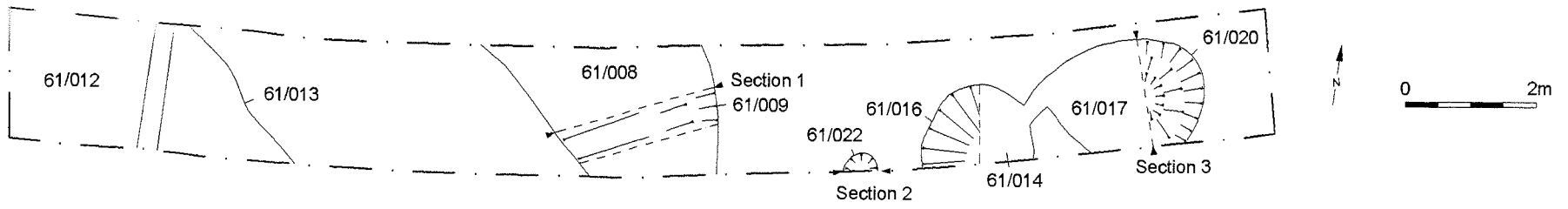
Section 1



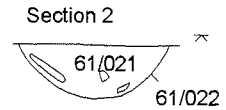
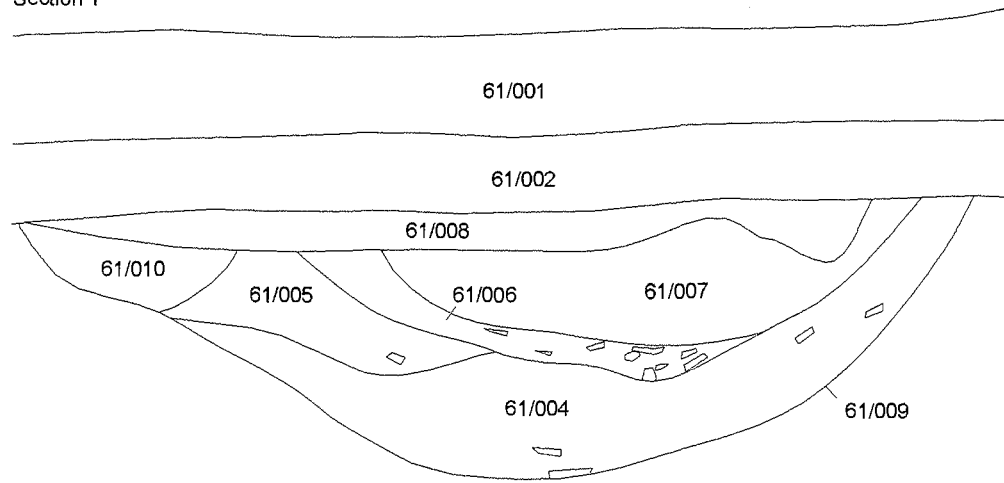
Section 2



Forest marble

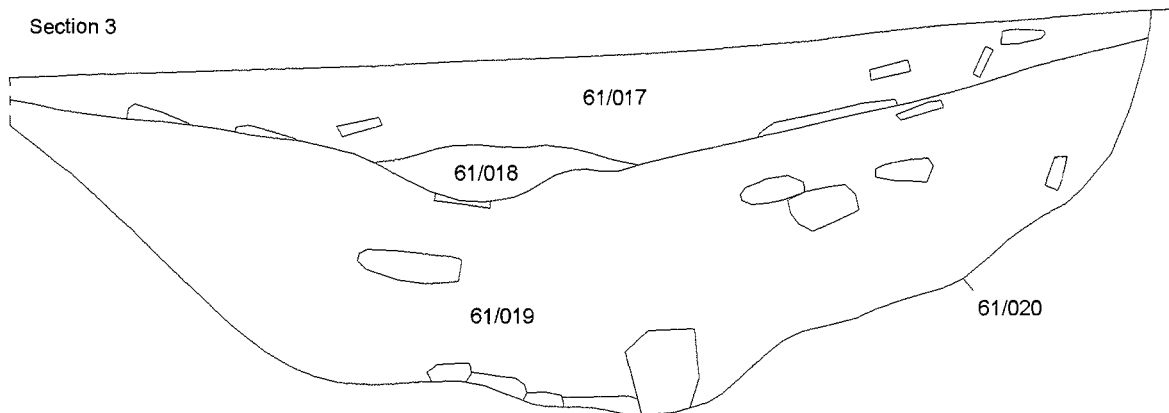


Section 1



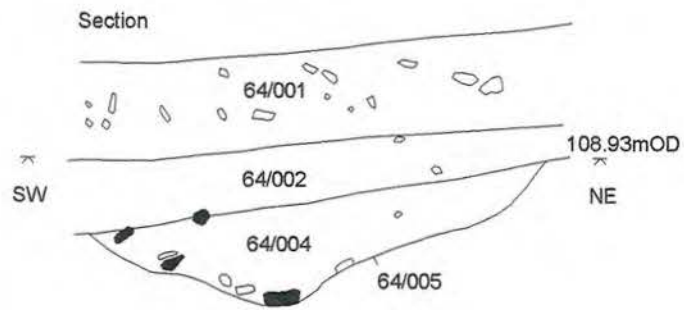
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Section 3



□ Limestone

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 Limestone
 Burnt limestone

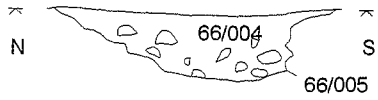
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Ref: 2387	Sept 2006	Drawn by: JLR	Trench 64 plan and selected section

Trench 66



0 2m

Section



0 0.5m

□ Limestone

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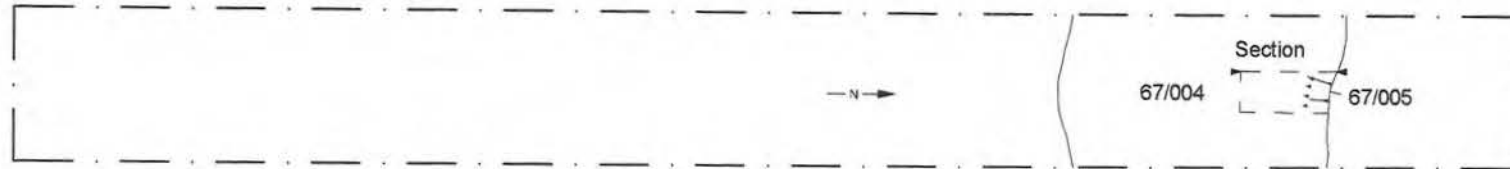
Sept 2006

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JLR

Trench 66 plan and section

Fig. 27

Trench 67



0 2m

Section



0 0.5m

□ Limestone

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Drawn by:
JLR

Trench 67 plan and section