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*An Archaeological Evaluation
of land off*
BODIAM AVENUE, QUEDGELEY
GLOUCESTER

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ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE
Environment Department

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 2002

Museum Accession No. GLRCM 2001/51
Site Code BAQ 02
OS NGR SO 8143 1446
Planning Application ref. 01/00554/FUL

**An Archaeological Evaluation of
land off Bodiam Avenue, Quedgeley, Gloucester**
Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service
for Entec UK Ltd

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out as a condition attached to outline planning permission for a proposed residential development on land off Bodiam Avenue, Quedgeley, Gloucester. Eighteen trenches were excavated in the area of the proposed development. Archaeological features were recorded within Trenches 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16 and 18. A total of 30 features and possible features were recorded. Nine of these features produced finds and of these six produced dateable finds. The majority of the features were irregular and difficult to interpret, and may be the result of post-medieval agricultural activity. It is notable that the features were concentrated in the south-western corner of the evaluation area, an area formerly occupied by an orchard, and it is possible that some of the features derive from the planting of trees.

The pottery recovered from the evaluation was in a very fragmentary state and difficult to identify. However, it has been possible to tentatively date six features. Two pits and a ditch were dated to the Iron Age; a pit and a ditch were dated to the Romano-British period; and a pit was dated to the post-medieval period.

The nature of the features and the scarcity of finds indicates a pattern of non-intensive occupation of the site within the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods, with later activity, probably associated with an agricultural use of the site, in the post-medieval period.

1 Introduction

1.1 Between the 8th and 16th January 2002 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service on land off Bodiam Avenue, Quedgeley, Gloucester. The evaluation was carried out as a condition attached to outline planning permission for a proposed residential development (planning application ref. 01/00554/FUL). The work was commissioned by Mr. S. Atkinson of Entec UK Limited.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a project specification (Vallender 2001) and a brief issued by the Gloucester City Archaeologist. The work was also in accordance with *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* produced by the Institute of Field Archaeology (IFA 1999).

1.3 Thanks are due to: Jo Vallender (Senior Project Officer) for supervising the evaluation; the staff of the Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record (GSMR) for providing background information; Neil Wright for assistance on site; Jane Timby for the assessment of the ceramic finds; and Mr. S. Atkinson, Entec UK Limited for commissioning the work.

2 Site location (see Fig 1)

Bodiam Avenue lies in the parish of Quedgeley, to the north-east of the former RAF Quedgeley site. The proposed development area is on the western side of Bodiam Avenue and on the eastern side of the A 38. The site is divided by the boundary of the former RAF Quedgeley, the southern half of the site falling within this boundary and the northern half of the site lying within an area of rough grassland. The southern half of the site comprises a grassed area, an area of hardstanding, two buildings and two fenced areas, known to be subject to low level radium contamination. The northern area includes land formerly in use as an orchard and an area of low mounds thought to represent the remains of earth movement associated with the construction of the former RAF Quedgeley. The proposed development site covers an area of c.4ha and is shown on plan number 04481.S002 provided by Entec UK Ltd and dated Dec 2000. The site is centred on OS NGR SO 8143 1446 and lies geologically on lower lias clays overlain by areas of River Severn gravels, at a height of between 15m and 20m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

3 Background information

The information for this section has been extracted from the document supplied to support the tender process by Entec. It has been supplemented by information from the Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record (GSMR) and historic maps held by Gloucestershire County Council.

3.1 Prehistoric

There are no known archaeological features of prehistoric date within or adjacent to the proposed development area.

3.2 Roman

3.2.1 The remains of Roman timber buildings were recorded at Quedgeley Farm, 250m to the north west of the proposed development area (GSMR 3857). Four 'U'-shaped parallel ditches associated with stony surfaces and metalled areas with stone packed post sockets and narrow slots were recorded. It is suggested that these features represent three timber buildings. The surface of the possible timber buildings contained 4th century pottery.

3.2.2 The probable course of a Roman road, c.500m to the west, has been suggested by field-work (GSMR 7365). It is believed to run to the west of, and parallel to, the A38.

3.2.3 Part of an east-west linear feature interpreted as a Roman field boundary was recorded in the south side foundations of Athena House, c.450m to the north-west of the site (GSMR 11130). A light scatter of 2nd - 4th century pottery found over the development area thins out to the north. The Olympus Park Romano-British villa complex was found to the north of the Bodiam Avenue site in 1994. This site included buildings, a hypocaust, pits, ditches and a burial. A watching brief on the construction of the Olympus Business Park revealed a Roman masonry building. A Roman brooch and a number of coins dating from the 1st - 4th century were found, on the site of a former orchard during a watching brief at the south side of the access into the Olympus Business Park.

3.3 Medieval

3.3.1 The proposed development site is located within the parish of Quedgeley which by the early 13th century was held by Llanthony priory. It is recorded as comprising open fields, common meadow as well as small and numerous pastures. Much of the land was enclosed for use as pasture during the early 16th century. The presence of ridge and furrow to the north of the area suggests that cultivation took place during the medieval period.

3.4 Previous archaeological work

3.4.1 Twenty-eight trial trenches were excavated by the Oxford Archaeological Unit to the immediate north of the proposed development site in 1998. A substantial Romano-British ditch was identified within three trenches on the western edge of the site. A series of earthworks comprising banks and ditches adjacent to the northern boundary of the proposed development site had trenches placed through them in order to test their date. It was concluded that they represented the remains of post medieval field boundaries. However, in some of the trenches adjacent to the site boundary (20, 22, 23, 27, and 28) no archaeological features were recorded.

3.4.2 The RAF Quedgeley site was investigated by geophysical survey and trial trenching, the nearest of which were located 300m to the south of the proposed development site. These trenches contained a number of features of medieval date, most of which were drainage ditches. It was considered that these were most likely to represent an agricultural drainage system in existence from the 11th century. Medieval ridge and furrow and some evidence of 1st century settlement was also recorded.

3.5 Historic maps

The First (OS c.1880), Second (OS c.1900) and Third (OS c.1925) Edition Ordnance Survey maps show the area of the proposed development as agricultural land with an orchard occupying the western side of the site until the 1925 map by which time it appeared to have been removed.

4 Results of the evaluation

4.1 Eighteen trenches were excavated (see Fig 2) using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.83m ditching bucket. A total of 460.5m of linear trench (an area of 842.71m²) was excavated. The trenches were located so as to give as good a coverage as possible of the site, whilst avoiding two contaminated areas and a number of live underground services. An area within the central part of the northern half of the site was not fully covered by trenching due to the presence of deep modern dumped deposits in this area. The dumping could be clearly seen as a mounded area and was verified by the excavation of Trenches 15 and 18. The results of the evaluation are outlined below. Cut numbers are shown in squared brackets [], deposit and fill numbers are shown in rounded brackets. The site archive is presently stored at Shire Hall, Gloucester, under site code BAQ 02, but it is intended that it will eventually be deposited with Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery, under accession number GLRCM 2001/51.

4.2 Trench 1 (Fig 3)

4.2.1 Trench 1 was located within the southern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 25.5m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 1 was as follows:-

4.2.2 The lowest layer was a mid yellow-brown gravel (21), at a depth of between 0.46m and 0.66m below ground level (between 18.62m and 18.83m AOD). Deposit (21) was interpreted as the natural gravel. The natural was cut by a series of features and possible features which are described below.

4.2.3 The natural was cut by an irregular ovoid feature [14], measuring 0.8m in length by 0.6m in width and only 85mm in depth. Feature [14] was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (13) which contained a fragment of fired clay (a possible loomweight fragment, see 5, below). The shallow nature of feature [14] suggests that it is heavily truncated. Feature [14] was interpreted as a possible pit. Based on the tentative interpretation of the fragment of fired clay loomweight, from fill (13), the feature may be of Iron Age date.

4.2.4 The natural was cut by a linear feature [16], orientated north-east to south-west and measuring 0.9m in width and 50mm in depth. The feature was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (15) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [16] was on the alignment of the ridge and furrow which is visible in this area, and is also on the alignment of a field boundary, shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey plan (OS c.1880). The feature was interpreted as a ditch of uncertain date, but it seems likely that it is either a furrow or the remains of a post-medieval field boundary.

4.2.5 The natural was cut by an irregular linear feature [18], orientated north to south and measuring at least 2.5m in length by 0.33m in width and 90mm in depth. The fill of feature [18] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (17) from which no finds were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a possible feature of uncertain date.

4.2.6 The natural was cut by an irregular ovoid feature [23], measuring 1.6m by at least 1.1m and 0.24m in depth. The feature was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (22) from which no finds were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a possible pit of uncertain date.

4.2.7 The natural was cut by an irregular ovoid feature [25], measuring 1.6m by at least 1m and 120mm in depth. The fill of feature [25] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (24) from which no finds were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a possible truncated pit of uncertain date.

4.2.8 Above the features was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (20), up to 0.4m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 1 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (19), up to 0.4m in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 19.29m and 19.49m AOD.

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 was located within the southern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 25m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 2 was as follows:-

4.3.2 The lowest layer was a mid blue-grey clay with patches of orange-brown sandy clay and gravel (3), at a depth of between 0.67m and 0.8m below ground level. Deposit (3) was interpreted as the natural clay.

4.3.3 Above the natural was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (2), up to 0.4m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 2 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil, up to 0.4m in depth. Ground level was at a height of 18.68m AOD.

4.4 Trench 3

4.4.1 Trench 3 was located within the southern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 25m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 3 was as follows:-

4.4.2 The natural (8) at the western end of Trench 3 was a mid blue-grey clay with occasional patches of orange-brown sandy clay. At the eastern end of the trench the natural was a dark orange-brown sandy clay. The natural deposits were at a depth of between 0.86m and 1.1m below ground level.

4.4.3 Above the natural was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (7), up to 0.36m in depth.

4.4.4 Above the ploughsoil was a dark grey-brown silty clay buried topsoil (6), up to 0.3m in depth.

4.4.5 The buried topsoil was sealed by a mixed mid blue-grey clay and orange gravel deposit (5), up to 0.3m in depth, which was interpreted as redeposited natural. The upper layer in Trench 3 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (4), up to 200mm in depth. Ground level was at a height of 18.52m AOD.

4.5 Trench 4

4.5.1 Trench 4 was located within the southern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 15.4m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 4 was as follows:-

4.5.2 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (12), at a depth of between 1.22m and 1.65m below ground level. Deposit (8) was interpreted as the natural.

4.5.3 Above the natural was a dark red-brown sandy clay (11), up to 0.38m in depth. Deposit (11) contained two sherds of modern pottery and was interpreted as a possible contaminated deposit of modern date.

4.5.4 Above deposit (11) was a mixed deposit of mid blue-grey clay and loose yellow gravel (10), up to 0.78m in depth. Deposit (10) was interpreted as redeposited natural. The upper layer in Trench 4 was a mid grey-brown silty clay topsoil (9), up to 0.4m in depth. Ground level was at a height of 18.55m AOD.

4.6 Trench 5 (Fig 4)

4.6.1 Trench 5 was located within the southern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 25.3m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 5 was as follows:-

4.6.2 The lowest layer was a mid yellow-brown gravel (40), at a depth of between 0.64m and 0.69m below ground level (between 18.67m and 18.82m AOD). Deposit (40) was interpreted as the natural gravel. The natural was cut by a series of features and possible features which are described below.

4.6.3 The natural was cut by an ovoid feature [31], measuring 0.9m in length by 0.5m in width and only 60mm in depth. Feature [31] was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (30) from which no finds were retrieved. The shallow nature of feature [31] and the similarity of the fill to the ploughsoil may suggest that it is the result of a natural hollow within the gravel. Feature [31] was interpreted as the heavily truncated base of a possible feature of uncertain date.

4.6.4 The natural was cut by an irregular linear feature [33], orientated east to west and measuring up to 1.4m in width and at least 0.29m in depth. The feature was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (32) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [33] was interpreted as a possible ditch or furrow of uncertain date.

4.6.5 The natural was cut by an irregular linear feature [35], orientated north-east to south-west and measuring up to 1.1m in width and 180mm in depth. The fill of feature [35] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (34) from which four small sherds of pottery of probable Iron Age date were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a heavily truncated ditch which has been tentatively dated to the Iron Age period.

4.6.6 The natural was cut by an irregular ovoid feature [37], measuring 1.4m by at least 0.7m and at least 150mm in depth. The feature was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (36) from which no finds were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a heavily truncated possible pit of uncertain date.

4.6.7 Above the features was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (39), up to 0.4m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 5 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (38), up to 0.3m in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 19.37m and 19.47m AOD.

4.7 Trench 6 (Fig 5)

4.7.1 Trench 6 was located within the southern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 25.8m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 6 was as follows:-

4.7.2 The lowest layer was a mid yellow-brown gravel with occasional patches of orange-brown sandy clay (51), at a depth of between 0.56m and 0.72m below ground level (between 18.77m and 18.79m AOD). Deposit (51) was interpreted as the natural gravel. The natural was cut by a series of features and possible features which are described below. Modern deposits were recorded at either end of the trench, with the deposits at the eastern end containing concrete and metal and extending to a depth of up to 1.05m below ground level.

4.7.3 The natural was cut by an irregular feature [42], measuring 2.9m in length by at least 1.2m in width and 0.26m in depth. Feature [42] was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (41) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [42] was interpreted as a possible irregular pit of uncertain date.

4.7.4 The natural was cut by an irregular linear feature [44], orientated approximately north to south and measuring between 0.8m and 2.6m in width and 120mm in depth. The feature was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (43) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [43] was interpreted as a probable furrow of uncertain date.

4.7.5 The natural was cut by an irregular ovoid feature [46], measuring up to 1.8m in width and 210mm in depth. The fill of feature [46] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (45) from which no finds were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a possible pit of uncertain date.

4.7.6 The natural was cut by an irregular possible curvilinear feature [48], measuring 200mm in depth. The feature was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (47) from which no finds were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a possible ditch of uncertain date.

4.7.7 The natural was cut by an ovoid feature [53], measuring 1.06m in diameter and 170mm in depth. The feature was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (52) from which a single sherd of pottery of probable Romano-British date was retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a heavily truncated pit of probable Romano-British date.

4.7.8 Above the features was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (50), up to 0.4m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 6 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (49), up to 0.3m in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 19.33m and 19.49m AOD.

4.8 Trench 7 (Fig 6)

4.8.1 Trench 7 was located within the southern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 30.5m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 7 was as follows:-

4.8.2 The lowest layer was a mid yellow-brown gravel with occasional patches of orange-brown sandy clay (120), at a depth of between 0.5m and 1m below ground level (between 18.63m and 18.95m AOD). Deposit (120) was interpreted as the natural gravel. The natural was cut by a series of features and possible features which are described below.

4.8.3 The natural was cut by an irregular linear feature [55], orientated approximately north-east to south-west and measuring up to 3.1m in width and at least 200mm in depth. Feature [55] was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (54) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [55] was interpreted as a probable furrow of uncertain date.

4.8.4 The natural was cut by an irregular feature [57], measuring 2.5m in width and at least 40mm in depth. The feature was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy clay (56) from which a single sherd of pottery of post-medieval date was retrieved. Feature [57] was interpreted as a probable pit of post medieval date.

4.8.5 The natural was cut by an irregular linear feature [59], measuring up to 3m in width and 140mm in depth. The fill of feature [59] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (58) from which no finds were retrieved. The feature was interpreted as a probable furrow of uncertain date. Deposit (58) was cut by a modern linear feature [123].

4.8.6 Above the features was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (121), up to 0.6m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 7 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (122), up to 0.4m in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 19.24m and 19.71m AOD.

4.9 Trench 8 (Fig 7)

4.9.1 Trench 8 was located within the northern half of the evaluation area, at the western edge, adjacent to the A 38. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 25.6m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 8 was as follows:-

4.9.2 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown sandy clay and mid yellow-brown gravel (62), at a depth of between 0.78m and 0.92m below ground level (between 18.98m and 19.09m AOD). Deposit (62) was interpreted as the natural.

4.9.3 The natural was cut by a linear feature [64], orientated north-east to south-west and measuring 0.7m in width and 200mm in depth. The fill of feature [64] was a dark orange-brown sandy clay (63) from which a single iron fragment (probably the head of a nail) was retrieved. Feature [64] was interpreted as a ditch of uncertain date, however the feature is on the same alignment as a probable Romano-British ditch, [73], in Trench 9, and the two features may be parts of the same ditch.

4.9.4 Above feature [64] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (61), up to 0.6m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 8 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (60), up to 0.4m in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 19.84m and 19.9m AOD.

4.10 Trench 9 (Fig 8)

4.10.1 Trench 9 was located within the northern half of the evaluation area, at the western edge, adjacent to the A 38. The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 26.3m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 9 was as follows:-

4.10.2 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown sandy clay and mid yellow-brown gravel (82), at a depth of between 0.6m and 0.84m below ground level (between 18.88m and 19.16m AOD). Deposit (82) was interpreted as the natural. The natural was cut by a series of features and possible features which are described below.

4.10.3 The natural was cut by an irregular feature [69], measuring 3m in length by 1m in width and 80mm in depth. The fill of feature [69] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (68) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [69] may have been the remains of an archaeological feature, but it seems more likely that it is the result of disturbance by tree roots.

4.10.4 The natural was cut by a linear feature [71], orientated north-east to south-west and measuring at least 1.3m in width and 70mm in depth. The fill of feature [71] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (70) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [71] was interpreted as a probable furrow of uncertain date.

4.10.5 The natural was cut by a linear feature [73], orientated north-east to south-west and measuring 1.6m in width and at least 200mm in depth. The fill of feature [73] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (72) from which three sherds of pottery of Romano-British date were retrieved. Feature [73] was interpreted as a ditch of Romano-British date, and may be the same feature as ditch [64] in Trench 8.

4.10.6 The natural was cut by an irregular ovoid feature [75], with unclear edges. The feature was not excavated and measured approximately 1.2m in diameter. The fill of feature [75] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (74) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [75] may have been the remains of an archaeological feature, but could also be the result of disturbance by tree roots.

4.10.7 The natural was cut by an irregular feature [77], measuring up to 4m by at least 1.1m and at least 190mm in depth. The fill of feature [77] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (76) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [77] was interpreted as a possible feature of uncertain date.

4.10.8 Above the features was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (81), up to 0.44m in depth, from which three residual sherds of pottery of medieval date were retrieved. The upper layer in Trench 9 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (80), up to 0.3m in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 19.74m and 19.81m AOD.

4.11 Trench 10

4.11.1 Trench 10 was located at the western side of the northern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 18.7m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 10 was as follows:-

4.11.2 The lowest layer was a mid yellow-brown gravel with patches of mid orange-brown sandy clay (67), at a depth of between 0.71m and 0.79m below ground level (between 18.93m and 19.02m AOD).

Deposit (67) was interpreted as the natural gravel. The patches of sandy clay in Trench 10 were similar to some of the fills of what have been interpreted as features in other trenches. However, the patches in Trench 10 are very irregular and are probably the result of disturbance by tree roots.

4.11.3 Above the natural was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (66), up to 0.4m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 10 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (65), up to 0.4m in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 19.71m and 19.73m AOD.

4.12 Trench 11 (Fig 9)

4.12.1 Trench 11 was located at the western side of the northern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 30.1m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 11 was as follows:-

4.12.2 The lowest layer was a mid yellow-brown gravel with patches of mid orange-brown sandy clay (91), at a depth of between 0.58m and 0.81m below ground level (between 18.84m and 19m AOD). Deposit (91) was interpreted as the natural gravel. The natural was cut by a series of features and possible features which are described below.

4.12.3 The natural was cut by a linear feature [84], orientated north-west to south-east and measuring 0.9m in width and 0.24m in depth. The fill of feature [84] was a mid orange-brown sandy/silty clay (83) from which a single fragment of undated fired clay was retrieved. Feature [84] was on the alignment of the ridge and furrow in this area, and was interpreted as a probable furrow of uncertain date.

4.12.4 The natural was cut by an irregular ovoid feature [86], measuring at least 1.6m in width and at least 0.36m in depth. The fill of feature [86] was a mid grey-brown sandy/silty clay (85) from which four fragments of animal bone, two fragments of fired clay and a single sherd of pottery of probable Iron Age date were retrieved. Feature [86] was interpreted as a pit of Iron Age date.

4.12.5 The natural was cut by an irregular ovoid feature [88], measuring 1.8m by at least 0.9m and 110mm in depth. The fill of feature [88] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (87) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [88] was interpreted as a possible feature of uncertain date.

4.12.6 The natural was cut by two parallel linear features [124] and [126], orientated north-west to south-east and measuring 1m in width. The features were poorly defined and were interpreted as the remains of furrows.

4.12.7 Above the features was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (90), up to 0.6m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 11 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (89), up to 0.23m in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 19.55m and 19.78m AOD.

4.13 Trench 12

4.13.1 Trench 12 was located at the western side of the northern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 26.5m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 12 was as follows:-

4.13.2 The lowest layer was a mid blue-grey clay with occasional patches of mid orange-brown sandy clay (94), at a depth of between 0.56m and 0.66m below ground level (between 18.46m and 18.48m AOD). Deposit (94) was interpreted as the natural clay.

4.13.3 Above the natural was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (93), up to 0.4m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 12 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (92), up to 0.3m in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 19.02m and 19.14m AOD.

4.14 Trench 13

4.14.1 Trench 13 was located at the northern end of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 26.2m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 13 was as follows:-

4.14.2 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional patches of mid blue-grey clay (97), at a depth of between 0.65m and 0.77m below ground level. Deposit (97) was interpreted as the natural clay.

4.14.3 Above the natural was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (96), up to 0.4m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 13 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (95), up to 0.4m in depth. Ground level was at a height of 17.06m AOD.

4.15 Trench 14

4.15.1 Trench 14 was located at the northern end of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 26.1m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 14 was as follows:-

4.15.2 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional patches of mid blue-grey clay (100), at a depth of 0.6m below ground level. Deposit (100) was interpreted as the natural clay.

4.15.3 Above the natural was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (99), up to 0.4m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 14 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (98), up to 0.3m in depth. Ground level was at a height of 16.38m AOD.

4.16 Trench 15

4.16.1 Trench 15 was located at the eastern side of the northern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 30m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 15 was as follows:-

4.16.2 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown sandy clay and mid blue-grey clay (104), at a depth of between 1.4m to 2.3m below ground level. Deposit (104) was interpreted as the natural clay.

4.16.3 Above the natural was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (103), up to 0.4m in depth.

4.16.4 Above the ploughsoil was a dark grey-brown silty clay buried topsoil (102), up to 0.4m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 15 was a mixed deposit of clay and gravel (101), up to 1.5m in depth. Deposit (101) was derived from the dumping of spoil across the area and is visible as a mound in the centre of the northern half of the site. Due to the excessive depth of these dumped deposits no further trenches were excavated through them. Ground level was at a height of between 17.63m and 18.14m AOD.

4.17 Trench 16 (Fig 10)

4.17.1 Trench 16 was located within the northern half of the evaluation area. The trench was orientated east to west and measured 29.8m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 16 was as follows:-

4.17.2 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown sandy clay and mid blue-grey clay (107), at a depth of 0.59m below ground level (between 18.17m and 18.44m AOD). Deposit (107) was interpreted as the natural clay.

4.17.3 The natural was cut by a ovoid feature [109], measuring 1.2m by 0.7m and 80mm in depth. Feature [88] was filled by a mid orange-brown sandy/silty clay (108) from which two fragments of animal bone were retrieved. Feature [109] was interpreted as a pit of uncertain date.

4.17.4 Above feature [109] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (106), up to 0.3m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 16 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (105), up to 0.3m in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 18.63m and 19.03m AOD.

4.18 Trench 17

4.18.1 Trench 17 was located within the northern half of the evaluation area, along the western boundary. The trench was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 30.6m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 17 was as follows:-

4.18.2 The lowest layer was a mid orange-brown sandy clay with occasional patches of mid blue-grey clay (112), at a depth of 0.43m below ground level (between 17.6m and 18.3m AOD). Deposit (112) was interpreted as the natural clay.

4.18.3 Above the natural was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (111), up to 0.3m in depth. The upper layer in Trench 17 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (110), up to 200mm in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 18.03m and 19.02m AOD.

4.19 Trench 18 (Fig 11)

4.19.1 Trench 18 was located within the northern half of the evaluation area, along the eastern boundary. The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 18.1m by 1.83m. The sequence of deposits recorded in Trench 18 was as follows:-

4.19.2 The lowest layer was a mid blue-grey clay with occasional patches of mid orange-brown sandy clay (117), at a depth of 1.25m below ground level. Deposit (117) was interpreted as the natural clay.

4.19.3 The natural was cut by a linear feature [119], orientated north-east to south-west and measuring 0.54m in width and 0.32m in depth. The fill of feature [119] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay (118) from which no finds were retrieved. Feature [119] was interpreted as a ditch of uncertain date.

4.19.4 Above feature [119] was a mid orange-brown sandy clay ploughsoil (116), up to 0.6m in depth, from which a single residual sherd of pottery of medieval date was retrieved.

4.19.5 Above the ploughsoil was a dark grey-brown silty clay buried topsoil (115), up to 170mm in depth.

4.19.6 Above the buried topsoil was a mixed layer of clay and gravel (114), up to 0.3m in depth, which was interpreted as a dumped deposit. The upper layer in Trench 18 was a dark grey-brown silty clay topsoil (113), up to 160mm in depth. Ground level was at a height of between 16.59m and 17.1m AOD.

5 Pottery assessment (J. R. Timby)

5.1 Introduction

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of 14 sherds, (89g), of pottery accompanied by two fragments of ceramic building material and three fragments of fired clay. Pottery was recovered from seven trenches (1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 18), a total of seven separate contexts. The pottery was extremely fragmentary and difficult to identify with great confidence but material of Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date appears to be present. For the purposes of this assessment the material was scanned and a count and weight made. The resulting information can be found summarised in Table 1.

5.2 Later Prehistoric

5.2.1 Five pieces are tentatively assigned to the later prehistoric period, four from Trench 5 (34) and one piece from Trench 11 (85). The sherds are extremely fragmentary and appear to be of a calcareous nature, mainly represented as dissolved voids. Two fragments of fired clay accompanied the piece from Trench 11. Such material would be commensurate with Iron Age pottery in the locality but further sherds would be required to validate this conclusion.

5.2.2 In addition an isolated fragment of fired clay was recovered from Trench 1 (13) showing part of a right-angle. It is just possible that this is a fragment of triangular loomweight, a type also associated with the Iron Age period.

5.3 Roman

5.3.1 Four possible sherds of Roman date were recovered from Trench 6 (52) and Trench 9 (72).

5.3.2 The sherd from Trench 6 is a black ware probably of Malvernian origin. A number of ceramic industries were based here from prehistoric through to post-medieval times. The sherd here could be later Iron Age or Roman as the same handmade technology existed well into the Roman period.

5.3.3 The three sherds from Trench 9 include a rim from an early Dorset black burnished ware jar, probably dating to the early 2nd century, accompanied by two Malvernian type sherds presumed to be contemporary.

5.4 Medieval

5.4.1 Four sherds are attributed to the medieval period, three from Trench 9 (81) and one tentative one from Trench 18 (116).

5.4.2 The Trench 9 sherds include a rim and bodysherd from Malvernian jars (Glos type fabric 40) and a limestone-tempered sherd, possibly Minety ware. The Malvernian wares date from the later 12th-14th centuries. A piece of ceramic building material accompanied this group.

5.4.3 The sherd (fresh break into 2 pieces) from Trench 18 may be a Forest of Dean type of broadly similar date.

5.5 Post-medieval

5.5.1 A single sherd of iron glazed streaky earthenware of post-medieval date was recovered from Trench 7.

5.6 Conclusion

5.6.1 The assemblage appears to indicate a scatter of non-intensive occupation over the area investigated during the later prehistoric, early Roman and medieval periods. However, it must be stressed that with such a diverse and fragmentary group of material any conclusions must be regarded as provisional at this stage.

5.6.2 No further work is recommended unless additional corroboratory evidence is recovered.

5.7 Table 1

Tr	Context	Later Preh	Roman	Med	P-med	Tot No	Tot Wt	CBM	Date
1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	fc x1	possibly Iron Age
5	34	4	0	0	0	4	5		?Iron Age
6	52	0	?1	0	0	1	6		?Roman
7	56	0	0	0	1	1	18		17-19th
9	72	0	3	0	0	3	14		Roman
9	81	0	0	3	0	3	35	1	late 12-14th
11	83	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	no date
11	85	1	0	0	0	1	4	fc x2	?Iron Age
18	116	0	0	1	0	1	7		?medieval
TOT		5	4	4	1	14	89		

6 Conclusions

- 6.1** The archaeological evaluation on land off Bodiam Avenue, Quedgeley has established the presence of archaeological features within Trenches 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16 and 18. No archaeological features were present within Trenches 2, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17. A total of 30 features and possible features were recorded. Only nine of the features produced finds, and only six of these produced dateable finds. The interpretations of the majority of the features are very tentative, and many of the features are either very irregular in shape or very shallow and possibly heavily truncated. With the exception of single features in Trenches 16 and 18, the features were located within the south-western corner of the site in an area previously occupied by an orchard. It is possible, given the presence of an orchard in this area, that some of the features recorded are the result of activity associated with tree planting or with ridge and furrow ploughing of this area.
- 6.2** Trench 1 contained a pit which, based on a fragment of possible loomweight, was tentatively dated to the Iron Age. The trench also contained an undated ditch which may be a post-medieval boundary ditch shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey plan (OS c.1880), two possible pits and a possible linear feature.
- 6.3** A ditch, tentatively dated to the Iron Age, and three possible features, one of which may be a furrow and a second which may be a pit, were recorded in Trench 5.
- 6.4** Trench 6 contained a pit of probable Romano-British date and four possible features, two pits, a ditch and a furrow, which were all undated.
- 6.5** A pit of post-medieval date, and two probable furrows were recorded in Trench 7.
- 6.6** Trench 8 contained a single ditch which was undated, but which was aligned with a ditch of Romano-British date, recorded in Trench 9.
- 6.7** A ditch of Romano-British date, three irregular possible features and a probable furrow were recorded in Trench 9.
- 6.8** A pit of Iron Age date, three probable furrows and a possible feature were recorded in Trench 11.
- 6.9** Trench 16 contained a single undated pit.
- 6.10** Trench 18 contained a single undated ditch.
- 6.11** The nature of the features and the scarcity of finds indicates a non-intensive occupation of the site within the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods, with later activity, probably associated with an agricultural use of the site, in the post-medieval period.

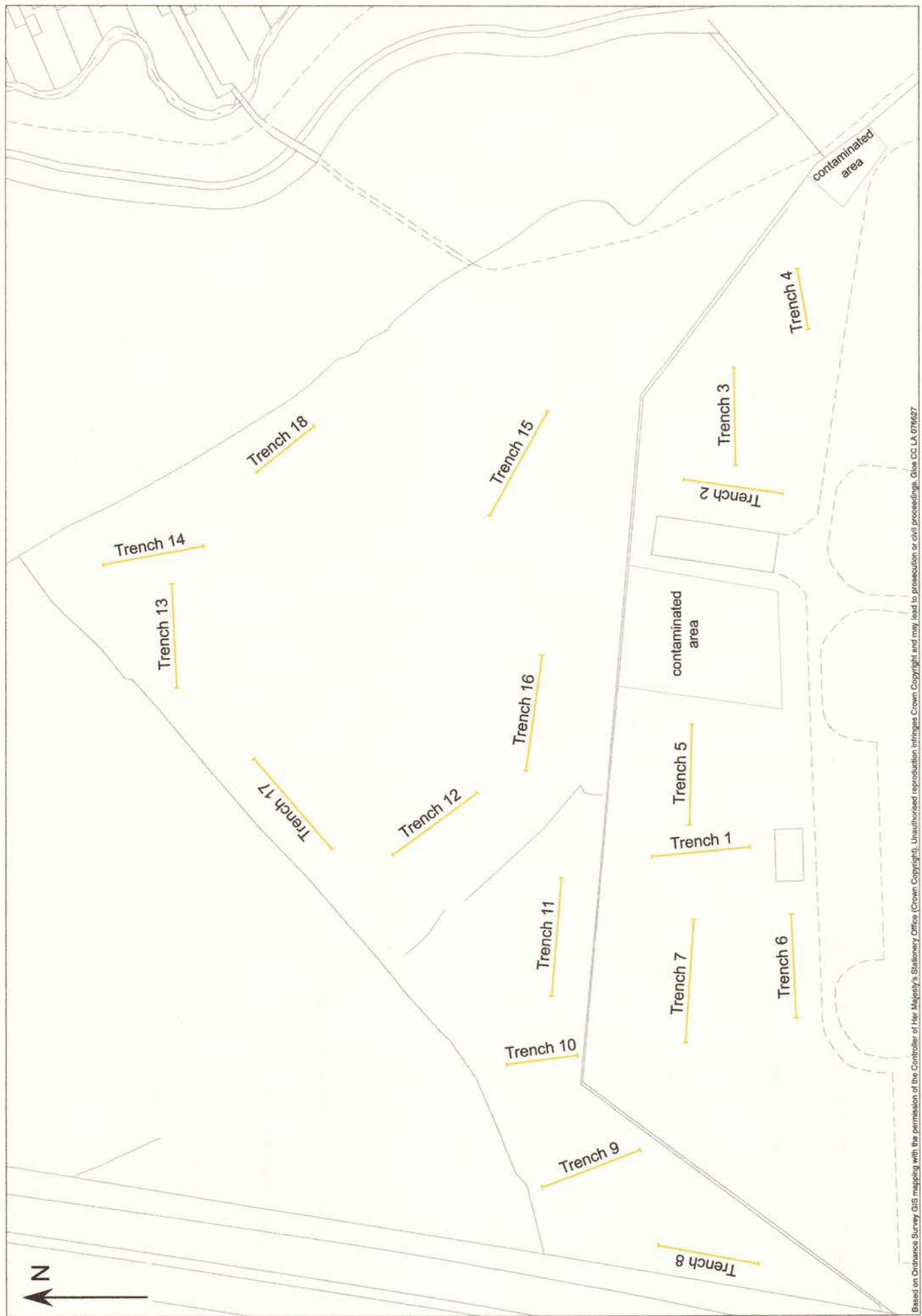
6 References

OS	c.1880	Ordnance Survey First Edition County Series plan. OS Digital data held on GCC GIS
OS	c.1900	Ordnance Survey Second Edition County Series plan. OS Digital data held on GCC GIS
OS	c.1925	Ordnance Survey Third Edition County Series plan. OS Digital data held on GCC GIS
Vallender, J.	2001	Archaeological evaluation at Bodiam Avenue, Gloucester. Project design. GCC typescript.



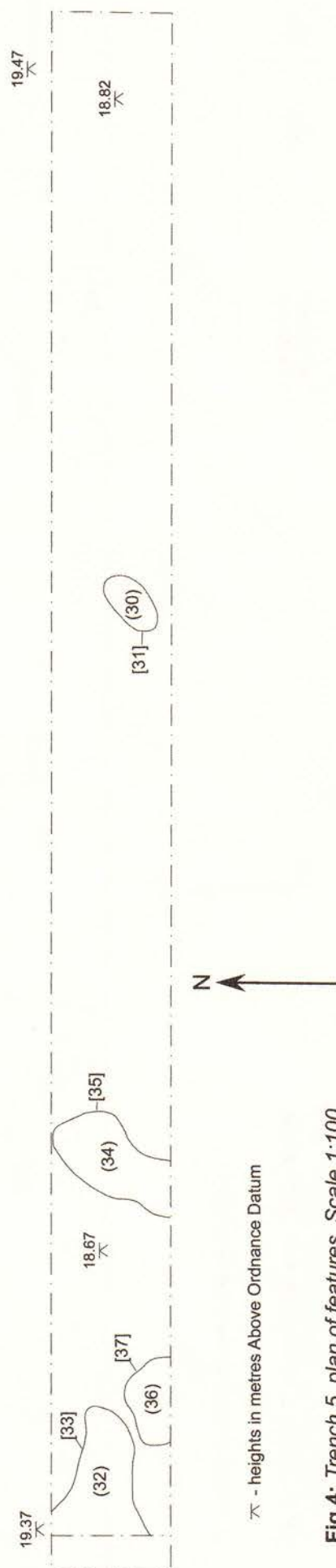
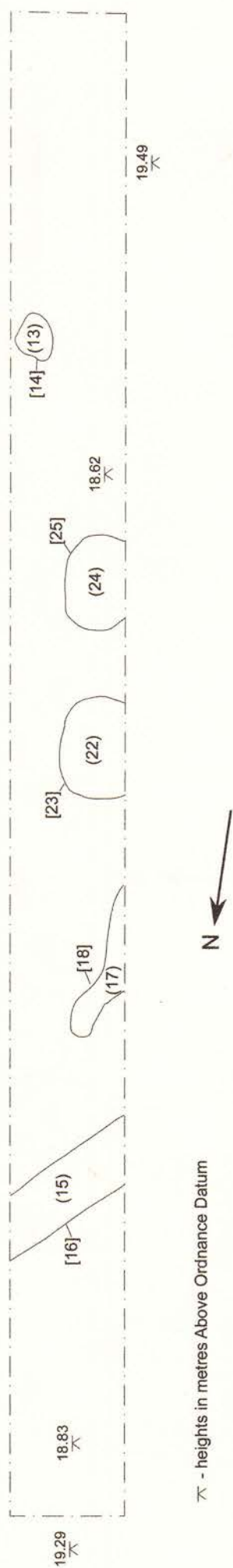
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Fig 1: Site location plan. Scale 1:10000.



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Fig 2: Trench location plan. Scale 1:1250



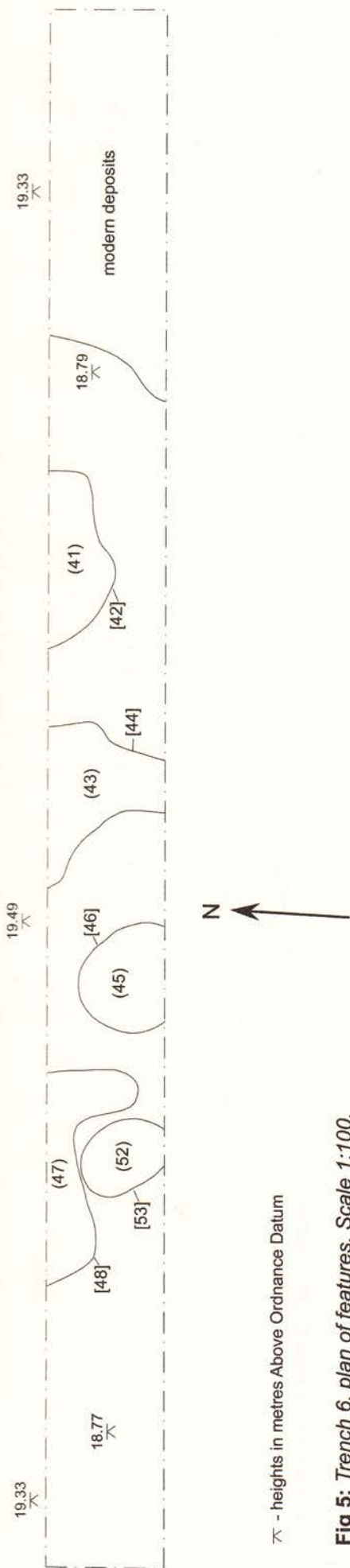


Fig 5: Trench 6, plan of features. Scale 1:100.

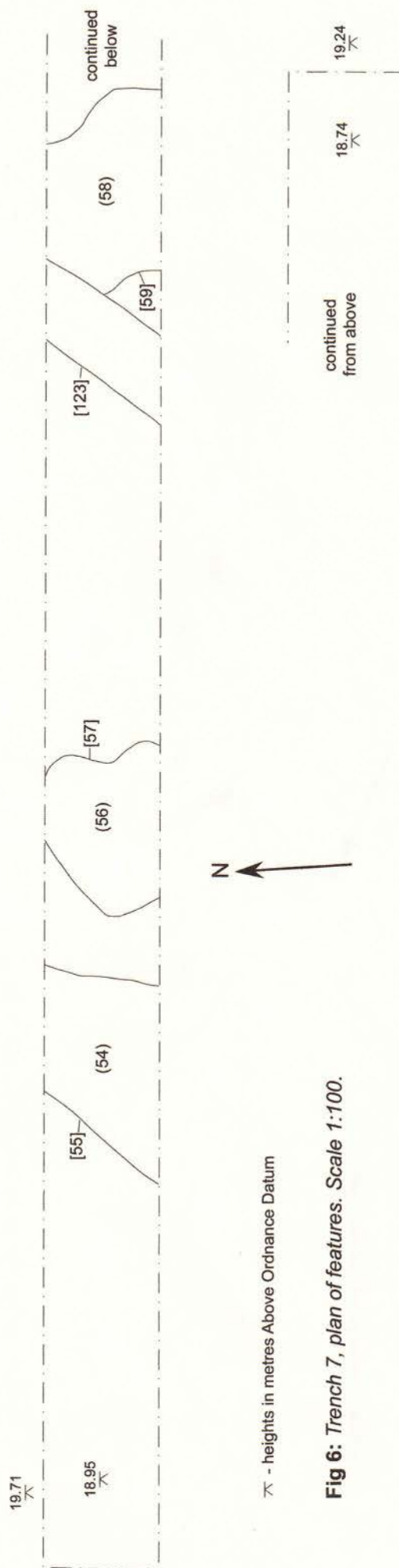
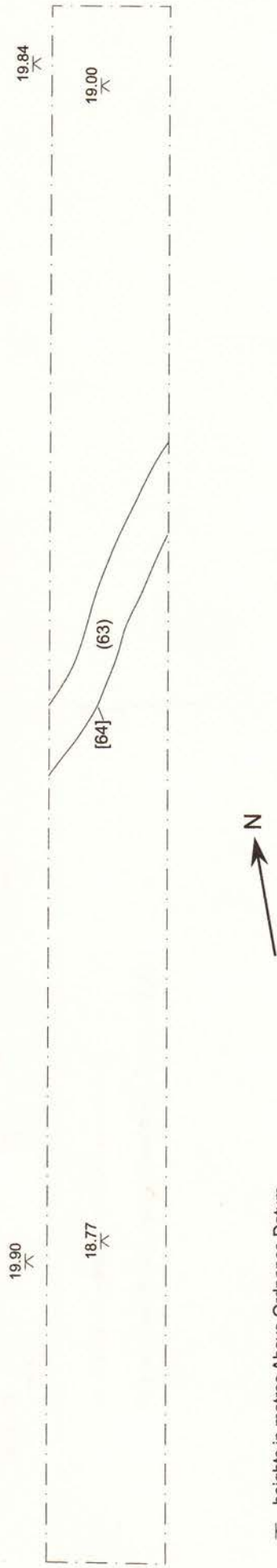
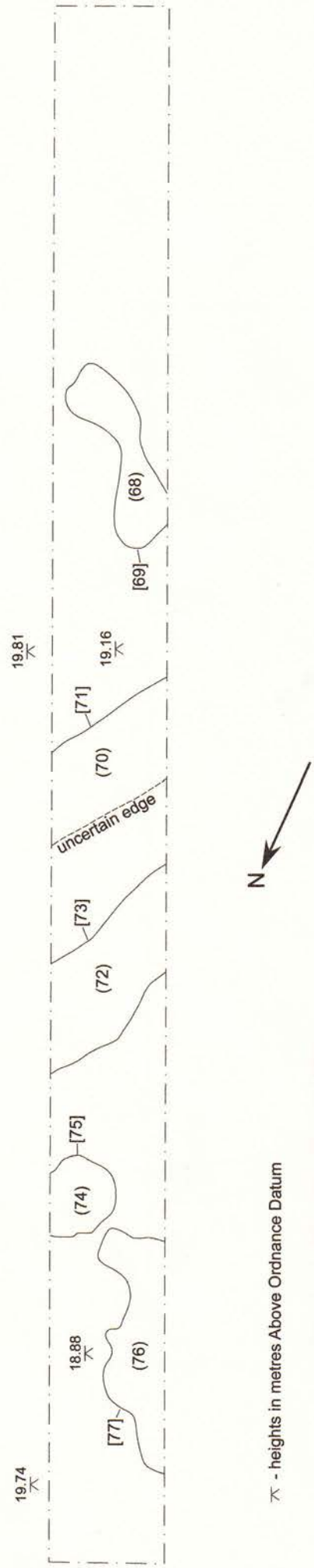


Fig 6: Trench 7, plan of features. Scale 1:100.



⌵ - heights in metres Above Ordnance Datum

Fig 7: Trench 8, plan of feature. Scale 1:100.



⌵ - heights in metres Above Ordnance Datum

Fig 8: Trench 9, plan of features. Scale 1:100.

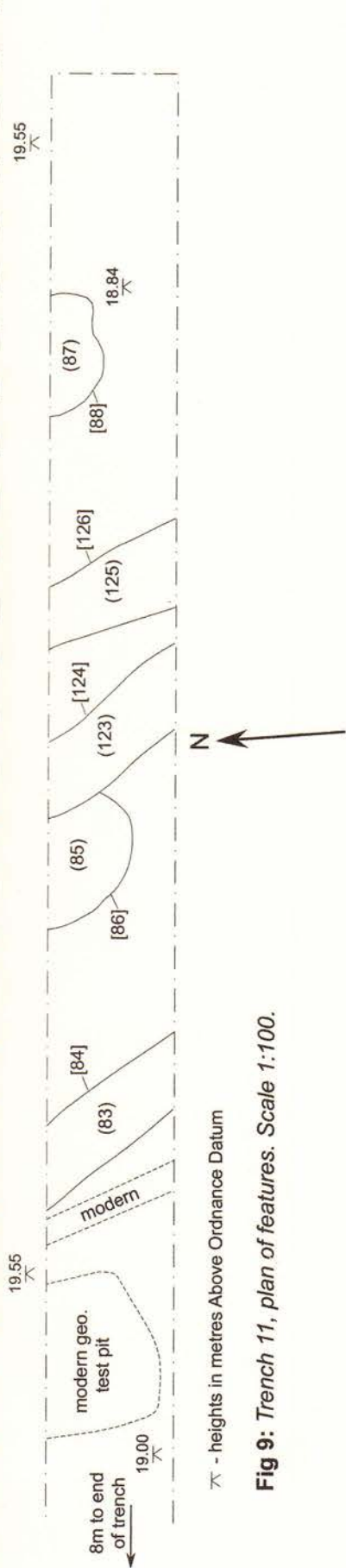


Fig 9: Trench 11, plan of features. Scale 1:100.

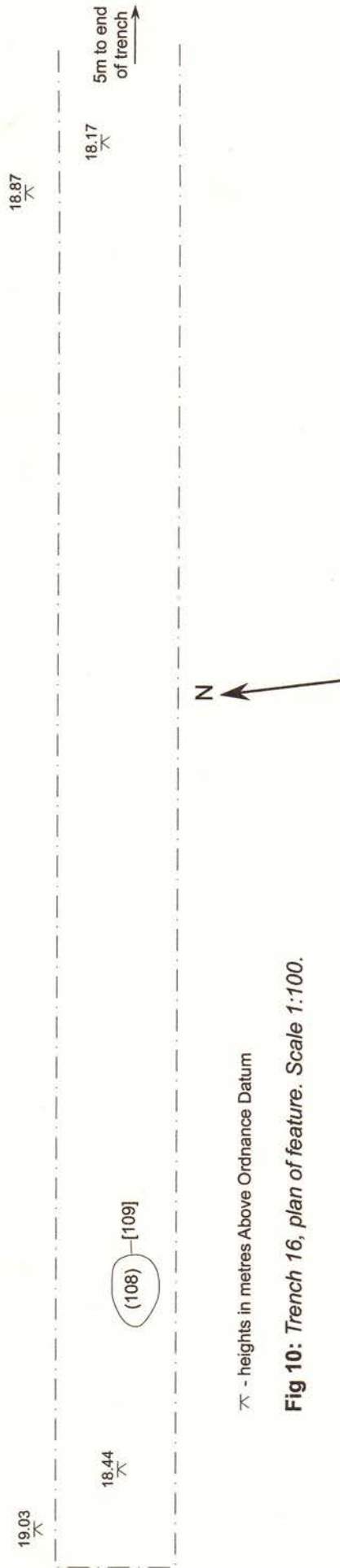


Fig 10: Trench 16, plan of feature. Scale 1:100.

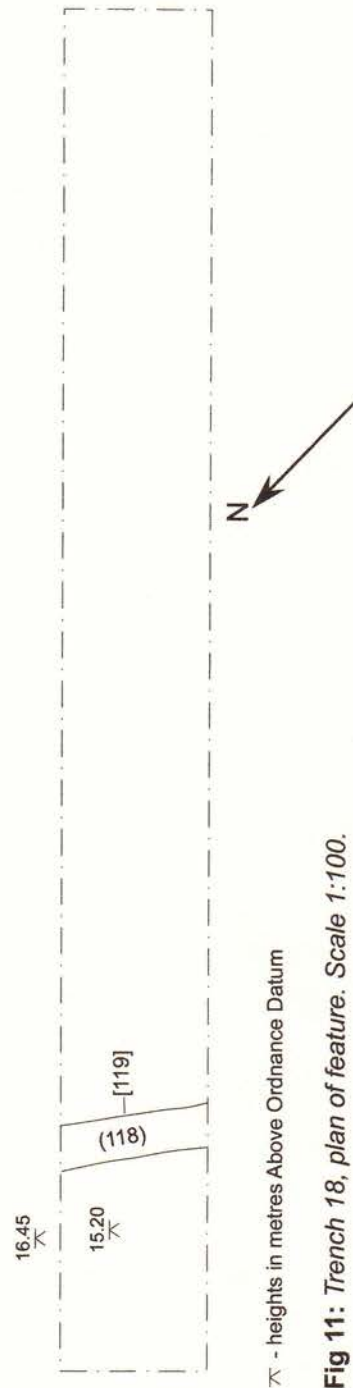


Fig 11: Trench 18, plan of feature. Scale 1:100.