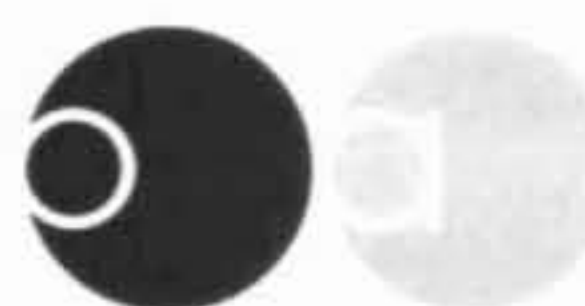


SWA18986
EWA 7453
CWA 13893
MWA 9727

107 Tiddington Road
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

September 2004

Client: Mr. Mackenzie

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 2419

Planning Ref N^o: 04/0950/FUL

NGR: SP 21628 55626

Client Name: Mr. Mackenzie

Client Ref No:

Document Title: 107 Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

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Date: 1st October 2004

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Date: 20th October 2004

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Date: 21st October 2004

Signed

JRH *N.SHEPHERD*

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In September 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at 107 Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 21628 55626) on behalf of Mr. Mackenzie. The evaluation revealed evidence of four Romano-British field boundary ditches running south-west to north-east across the site, possible continuations of those exposed during the JSAC 2001 evaluation west of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In September 2004 OA carried out a field evaluation at 107 Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 21628 55626)(Fig. 1) on behalf of Mr. Mackenzie, in respect of a planning application for the erection of a two story pitched roof side extension (Planning ref: 04/00950/FUL). A brief (Warwickshire Museums 2004) was set by, and a WSI agreed with Warwickshire County Council's Archaeological Officer, Edward Wilson.

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The development site is currently the site of a demolished garage. It is bounded to the south by a gravelled drive, to the west by an arable field, to the north by gardens and to the east by the standing residence. The site is situated on shallow sloping ground running north-east down to the River Avon at approximately 40 m OD and occupies an area of 81 m². The underlying geology is 1st terrace river gravels.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation had been prepared for the WSI (OA 2004), the results of which are presented below. The site itself had produced no archaeological evidence prior to this investigation, although there are known sites with archaeological remains adjacent to the development site.

1.3.2 Due to the proximity of this site to the evaluations carried out by JSAC at Land north of Tiddington Road and by OA at 121 Tiddington Road, information in relation to this site was sufficient such that a full SMR search was not deemed necessary.

1.3.3 The site lies within an area of significant archaeological remains revealed in the course of successive examinations of the major Roman settlement and its environs. Limited evidence of pits, ditches and a scatter of pottery suggest that dispersed farmsteads were established during the Iron Age (Palmer 1983, 43). A precursor of the modern Tiddington Road may have formed the spine of the settlement that developed from the later 1st century AD (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 310).

1.3.4 Excavations in 1982 on the north side of the road revealed a complex sequence of domestic occupation dating principally to the 1st and 2nd centuries, including enclosure ditches, rubbish pits and structures. Two kilns provided evidence for

pottery production. Kiln 1 was producing 'Belgic'-type wares during the 1st century AD, followed by Kiln 2, which was active from the mid 2nd century (Booth 1996b).

- 1.3.5 South of Tiddington Road, structures, pits and a road were uncovered in 1980-1, corresponding to an expansion of the settlement eastward during the 2nd century (Palmer 1982, 12). Excavations in 1925 and 1937, also south of Tiddington Road, revealed stone buildings accompanied by evidence of light industry (Fieldhouse *et al.*, 1931), although the precise character of this part of the settlement is disputed; Webster 1974, 53). May's 'tile kiln' was shown to be a corn-drier on re-examination in the 1980s. The settlement continued to develop south of the road in the late Roman period and, during the 4th century, was apparently enclosed by a large ditch. Only the eastern corner of this feature was discovered; its limits inferred by the natural boundary of the floodplain, the assumption that the Roman road ran centrally through the settlement, and the presence of Roman burials, which by Roman law were located outside urban boundaries (Lewis and Reinhold 1990 (3rd ed.) Vol 1, 114; cf Cicero *De leg ii*, 23, 58.). The ditch formed the basis of a reconstruction of the 'small town' (Palmer 1982, 16-18). The size of the resulting enclosure is questionable (Booth 1996a, 38).
- 1.3.6 OA (OAU 2001) carried out an excavation at 121 Tiddington Road and recorded 4th century or later activity in the form of two ditches, set at right angles, which yielded Anglo-Saxon pottery, accompanied by early Roman pottery and a small amount of late Roman wares (N Palmer pers. comm.; Booth 1996b). This evidence may represent late 5th-6th century re-cutting of 4th century ditches, or exclusively Anglo-Saxon ditches with residual Roman pottery. This part of the settlement was otherwise devoid of late Roman material.
- 1.3.7 OA also carried out an evaluation at 121 Tiddington Road prior to the excavation in April 2001 revealing ditch cuts in two trenches, which were interpreted as the continuation of the 1981 settlement ditch. No late Roman material was recovered, which appeared to confirm that the area had not seen activity since the early Roman period. Features belonging to this period were disturbed by the later ditch, with the result that residual pottery became incorporated into its fills. A third trench, apparently located outside the settlement boundary, revealed three shallow gullies. These perhaps related to a prehistoric field system (OAU 2001).
- 1.3.8 John Samuels Archaeological Consultants carried out an evaluation in April 2001 immediately south-west of the proposed development. This evaluation revealed a late Iron Age-early Roman co-axial field system and a small building. Later features such as pits and gullies containing pottery were dated tentatively to the 2nd century AD. Medieval/Post-medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation was also evident, as was later modern ploughing (JSAC 2001).

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the area affected by the proposed development.

- 2.1.2 To establish the presence of further Roman settlement evidence, and to relate any findings to the results from the nearby excavations.
- 2.1.3 To clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion on the site and assess the degree of archaeological survival of all buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of one trench measuring 9 m long by 1.6 m wide (Fig 2), positioned south-east by north-west along the western edge of the development area. The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 1.5 ton mini-digger fitted with a 0.3 m toothless bucket. The intended method was to machine down to either the undisturbed natural or to the first significant archaeological horizon as required by the brief. The start of the excavation was located at the north-west end of the trench which coincided with the deepest part of Ditch 7 giving a false impression of the depth of the natural, leading to an overcutting of the features within the trench.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The trench was cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and where possible, environmental samples. While the overexcavation of the base of the trench made directly planning the alignment of the features impossible, by examination of both sides of the trench and by matching the features and fills on the opposite sections it was possible to plot the alignments of the features as shown on fig. 2 with a high degree of confidence. The section of the north-eastern side of the trench and the trench plan were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OA Field Manual* (OAU 1992).

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 Other than the post-medieval garden soils no deposits containing burnt materials (charcoal flecking etc.) and no waterlogged deposits were encountered. It was therefore considered that no deposits were deemed suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling.

3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, starting with a stratigraphic account followed by a discussion and interpretation of the results.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The site is located on demolition rubble overlying garden deposits. The soil conditions were very dry making the trench sides unstable, particularly at the northern end of the trench.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 The trial trench produced a concentration of ditches. These were seen cutting at right angles and covered the length of the trench.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Description of deposits

- 5.1.1 The natural, a mix of dark red sands and gravels (15) was encountered at a depth of 0.6 m below the current ground level (Fig. 3). This was sealed by a 0.15 m deep layer of mixed soils, sand and small gravels (14), the base of an earlier (Romano-British ?) truncated ploughsoil.
- 5.1.2 Cutting through this layer at the north-west end of the trench was a 0.7 m deep by an estimated 3.2 m wide ditch (13) running north-east to south-west across the trench. The base of the ditch was filled with a 0.2 m deep reddish brown silty sand (12), the primary silting deposit. This was overlaid by a 0.15 m thick layer of a brown sandy silt (11), another layer of silting. A 0.3 m deep layer of a dark brown sandy silt (10) filled the remainder of the ditch.
- 5.1.3 At the south-east end of the trench the ploughsoil (14) was cut by a series of ditches and a probable recut. The earliest of these was a 1.9 m wide by 0.45 m deep ditch running north-east to south-west across the trench (9). The base of the ditch was sealed by a 0.15 m thick deposit of a reddish brown silty sand (8), the primary silting deposit within the ditch. The upper part of the ditch was filled with a 0.3 m deep deposit of a dark brown sandy silt (7), which produced fragments of Romano-British pottery and a possible Roman kiln waster.
- 5.1.4 Truncating the northern edge of ditch 9 was a 1.8 m wide by 0.6 m deep ditch (6), also running north-east to south-west across the trench, but diverging very slightly northwards from ditch 9. This was filled by a 0.6 m thick brown sandy silt (5), a probable silting deposit. Cutting through the southern edge of ditch 6 and the northern side of ditch 9 is the 1.8 m wide by 0.3 m deep ditch (4). Running north-east to south-west across the site, this follows the same alignment as ditch 9 and may represent a recut. This was filled by a dark brown sandy silt (3) which produced fragments of Roman pottery.

- 5.1.5 Running the length of the trench and sealing the upper fills of these ditches and the earlier ploughsoil was a 0.4 m thick layer of a dark brown silty loam (2). This represents a layer of post-medieval worked garden soils, probably originating after construction of the standing dwelling. At the north-west end of the site this was overlaid by a tapering layer of mixed limestone rubble and brick (1) up to 0.4 m deep, the levelling layer for the now demolished garage.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The percentage sample of the site (17%), the location of the trench and the even spread of the archaeology gives a high confidence that the interpretation of the results will apply equally throughout the development area.

6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 The evaluation produced evidence of four north-east to south-west aligned ditches. The finds recovered suggest a date of between the early 1st century and mid 2nd century AD. These feature most likely represent field boundary ditches similar to those recorded during the 2001 evaluations in the field immediately west of the site (JSAC 2001).
- 6.2.2 While the features' alignments appear to correspond to similar features within Trench 1 of the former JSAC evaluation, their size and number of fills recorded differ. Therefore to interpret the present evaluation's ditch alignments as continuations of the JSAC ditches can only be speculative at this time. However, the ditches exposed do add to the broader picture of the Roman settlement by giving another keyhole view of early activity and land use during this period.
- 6.2.3 The buried soil (14) seen sealing all four ditches may represent a relic ploughsoil. However, no dating material was recovered from this deposit and therefore it is not known whether this was post-medieval, medieval or Roman in origin.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i> Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	4.0 m	0.4 m	Base for demolished garage	Brick	C20th
2	Layer	-	0.4 m	Worked garden soils	-	C19th/C20th
3	Fill	1.8 m	0.3 m	Ditch fill	Pottery	C1st - mid C2nd AD
4	Cut	1.8 m	0.3 m	Ditch recut	-	Romano-British
5	Fill	1.8 m	0.6 m	Ditch fill	-	Romano-British
6	Cut	1.8 m	0.6 m	North-east to south-west boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
7	Fill	1.9 m	0.3 m	Upper fill of ditch 9	Pottery	Early C1st
8	Fill	1.2 m	0.15 m	Primary fill of ditch 9	-	Romano-British
9	Cut	1.9 m	0.45 m	North-east to south-west boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
10	Fill	1.7 m	0.3 m	Upper fill of ditch 13	-	Romano-British
11	Fill	2.6m	0.15 m	Layer of fill within ditch 13	-	Romano-British
12	Fill	2.8 m	0.2 m	Primary fill of ditch 13	-	Romano-British
13	Cut	2.8 m	0.7 m	North-east to south-west boundary ditch	-	Romano-British
14	Layer	-	0.15 m	Mixed soils and sand, base of possible ploughsoil ?	-	Poss. post-medieval to Roman?
15	Layer	-	>0.6 m	Natural gravels and sand	-	-

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 3 FINDS INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Context type</i>	<i>Find description</i>	<i>Comments</i>
3	Fill	Fragment of blue lias limestone	Possible imported building material
3	Fill	1 sherd, weight 10 g	Bodysherd from a local greyware closed form. Decorated with horizontal burnished lines. Roman, dated to late C1st - mid C2nd
7	Fill	6 sherds, total weight 184 g	Base and 5 bodysherds from a single jar. A local oxidized sandy ware, burnt or overfired with spalled surfaces. Roman, dated to early C1st

APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: 107 Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Site code: SBT2004-45

Grid reference: SP 21628 55626

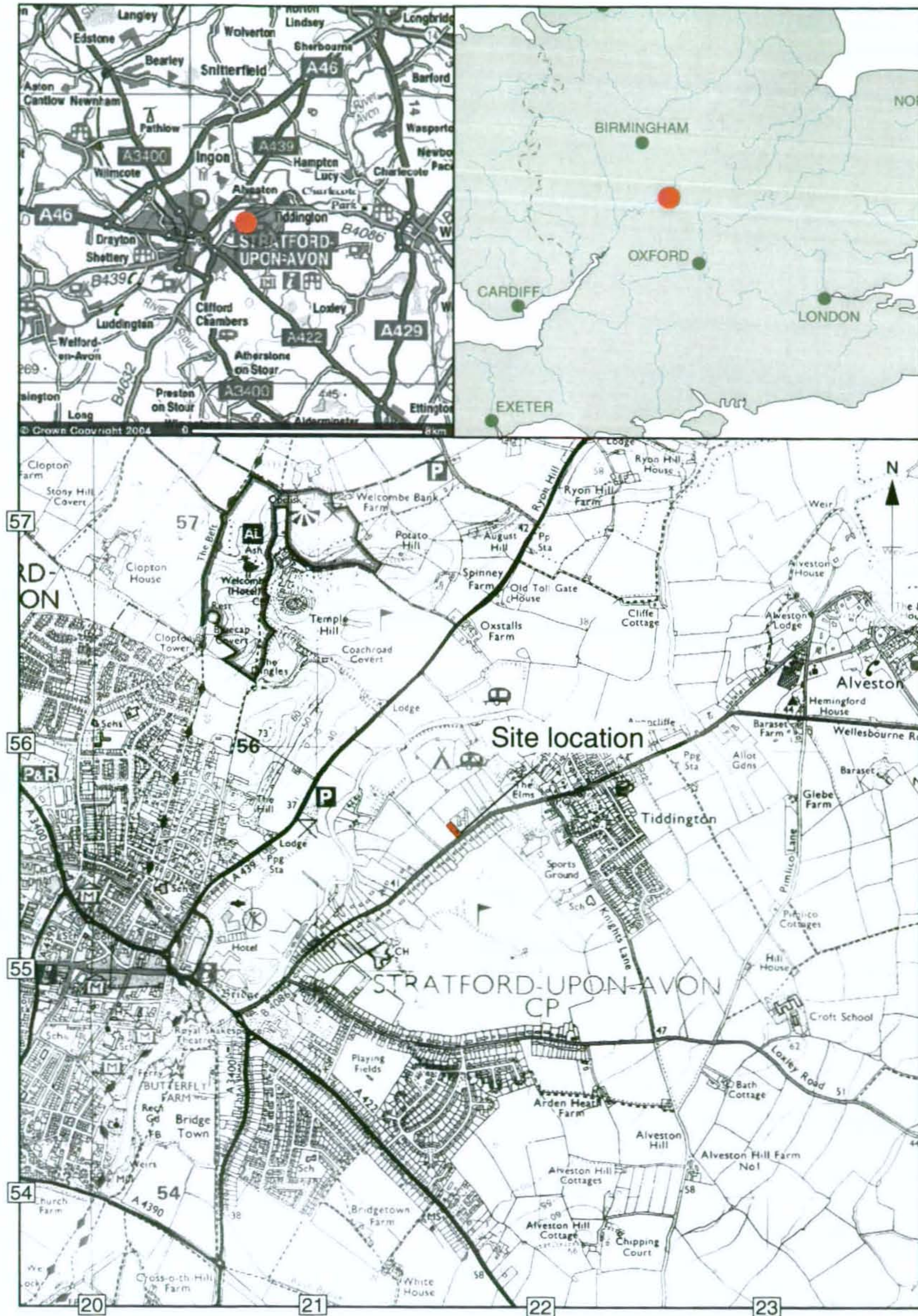
Type of evaluation: 1 trench, 9 m by 1.6 m

Date and duration of project: 2 days, 1st-2nd September 2004

Area of site: 81 m²

Summary of results: Four Romano-British, north-east by south-west aligned boundary ditches, and possible medieval ploughsoil.

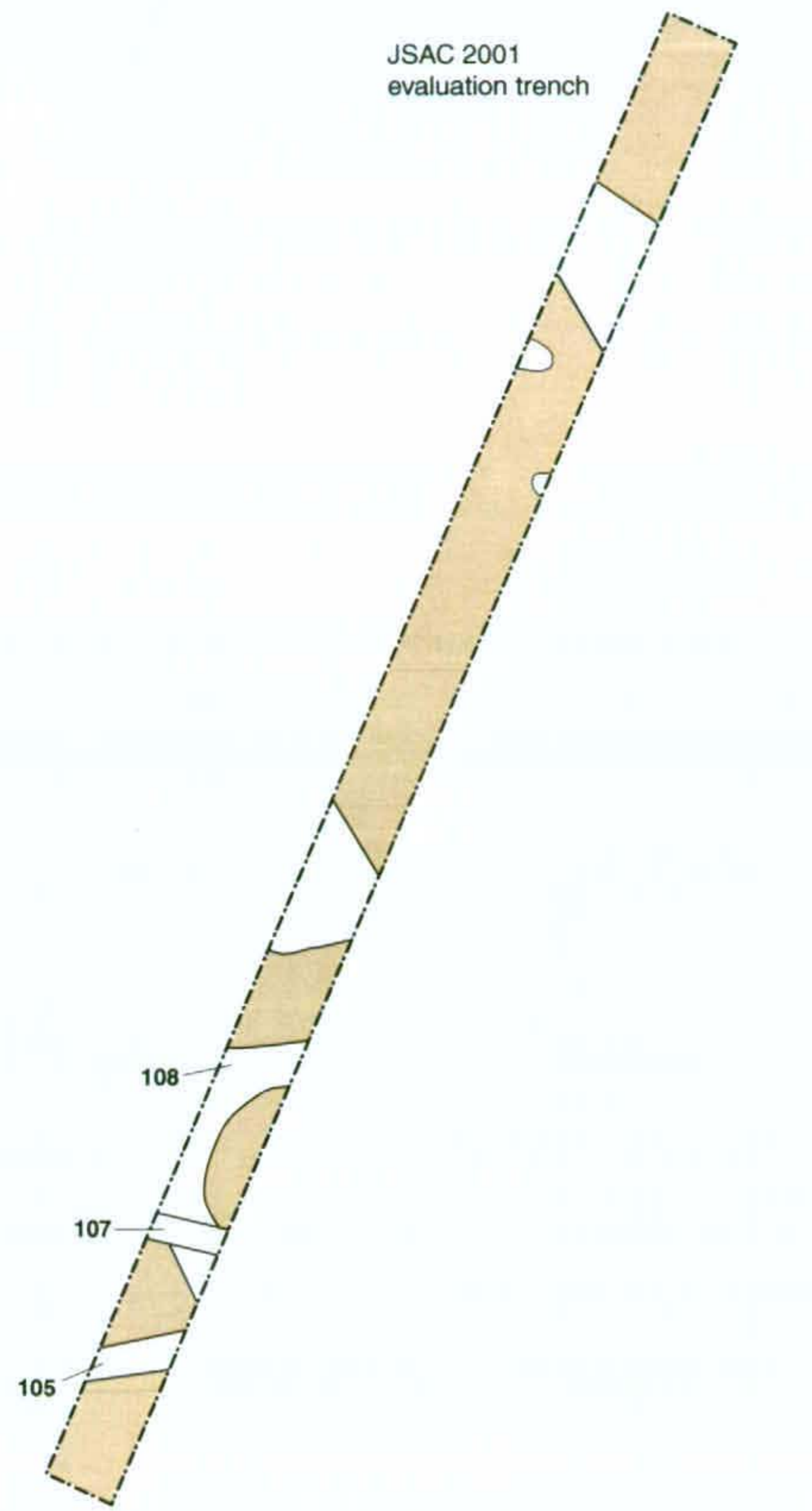
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Warwick Museum in due course.



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location



- Hedgeline
- Natural sand and gravels
- Natural silty clay

0 10 m
1:250

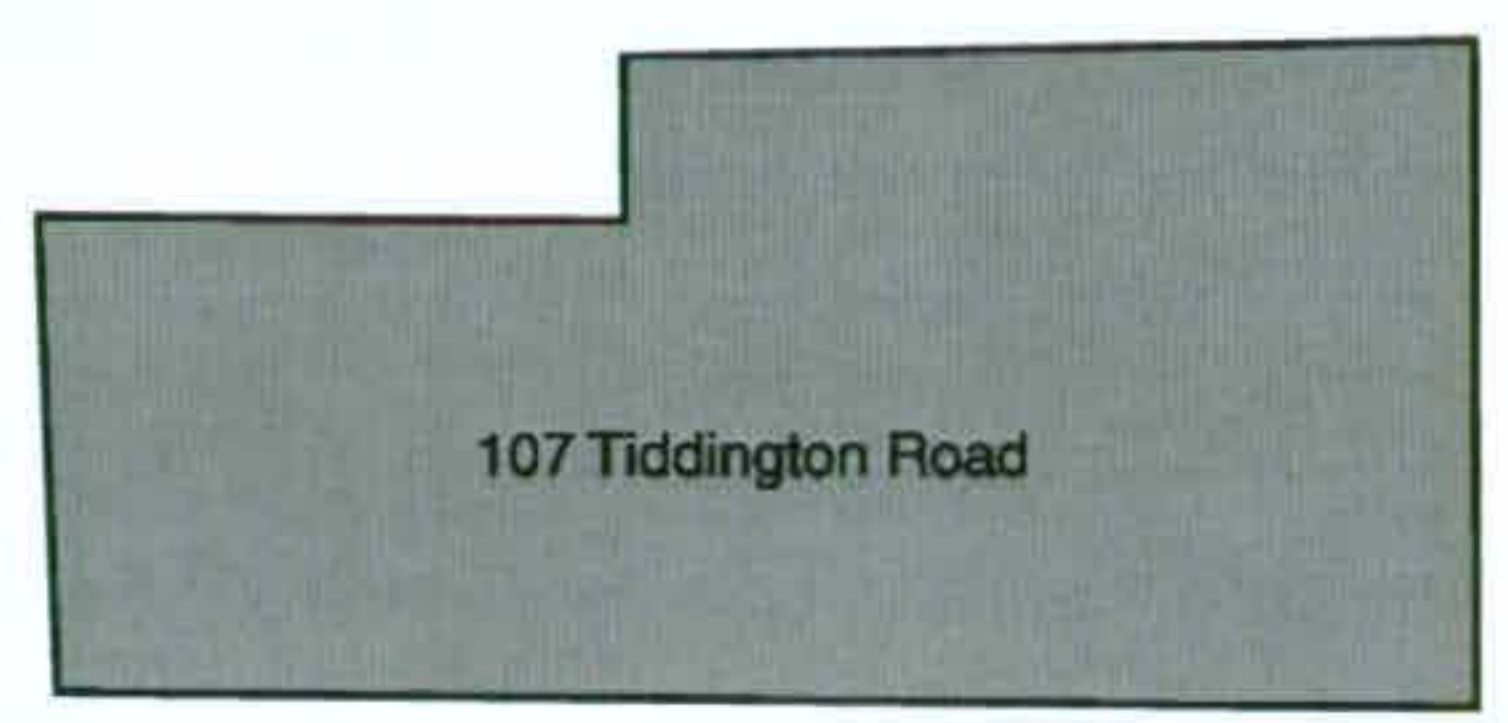
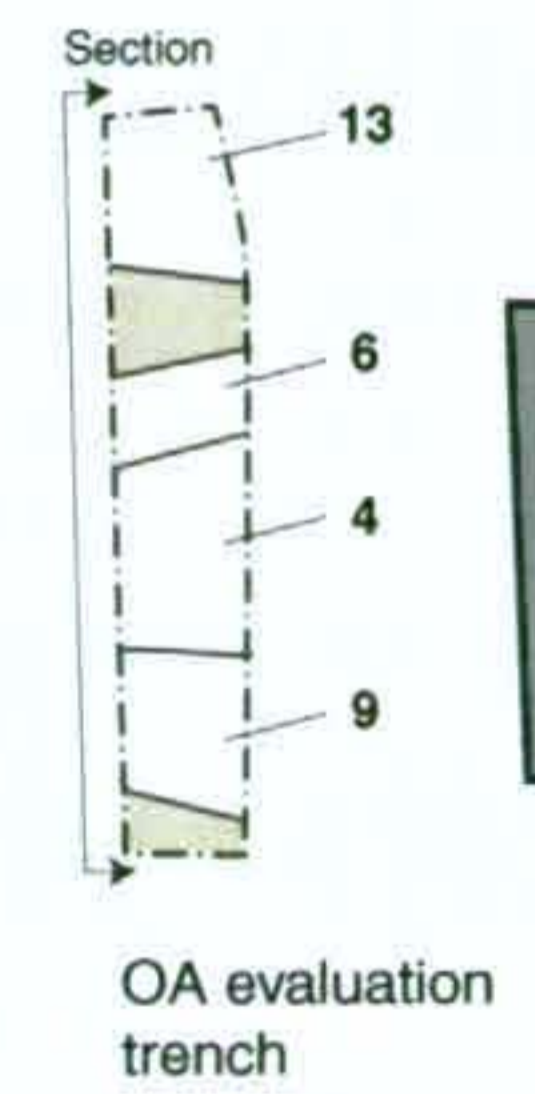


Figure 2: Trench plan including JSAC evaluation trench

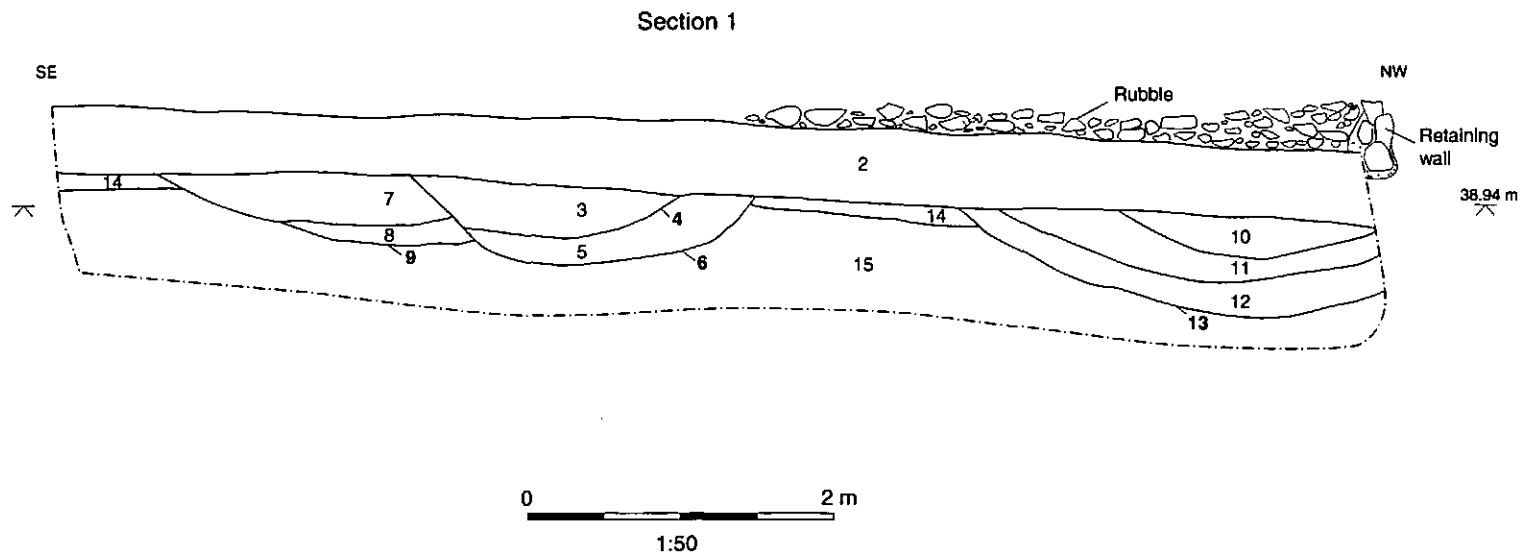


Figure 3: Trench section



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