

**LAND OFF PERSHORE ROAD
ECKINGTON
WORCESTERSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

LAND PARTNERSHIPS LIMITED

CA REPORT: 03083

JULY 2003

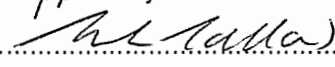
COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY



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CA PROJECT: 1511
CA REPORT: 03083

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SUMMARY

Site Name:	Land off Pershore Road
Location:	Eckington, Worcestershire
NGR:	SO 9213 4166
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	28 May-23 June 2003
Planning Reference:	W/02/2151
Location of Archive:	Worcestershire County Museum
Site Code:	PRE 03

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in May-June 2003 at the request of Land Partnerships Ltd on land off Pershore Road, Eckington, Worcestershire. In compliance with an approved project design, a total of seven trenches were excavated across the development area.

The trenches revealed a complex of Romano-British ditches and gullies, the majority of which apparently formed part of a co-axial field system. The artefactual evidence suggests occupation during the early Roman period of the first and second centuries AD, with only limited evidence for later occupation. Most of the pottery sherds recovered show little abrasion or degradation, and that they are heavily biased towards utilitarian forms, seems to indicate that they may originate from a nearby, small rural settlement but no settlement focus was identified in the evaluation, with only very limited evidence for structural remains being encountered.

The evaluation has characterised the archaeological potential of the study area, and has indicated that archaeological deposits survive at an average depth of between 0.8m and 0.9m below the modern ground surface. In two trenches deposits survive at a higher level above the natural substrate, 0.5m below the modern ground level, and are cut through what appears to be the remnants of a Roman subsoil horizon occurring locally within these trenches.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May and June 2003 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Land Partnerships Ltd on land off Pershore Road, Eckington, Worcestershire (centred on NGR: SO 9213 4166; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application to Worcestershire County Council (ref: W/02/2151) for a residential development and associated works that may affect an archaeological site (SMR WSM07724). The Planning Authority had been advised that further information on the archaeological site was required before they could decide whether to grant consent for development.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Worcestershire County Archaeological Service prepared by Mr Mike Glyde, the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and with a subsequent detailed project specification produced by CA (2003) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Mr Glyde. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999), and the *Requirements and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in the County of Worcestershire*. It was monitored by Mr Glyde, including site visits on 28 May, 10, 13 and 19 June 2003.

The site

1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 1.35ha of open ground on the northern limits of Eckington, between the B4080 Pershore Road and the main railway line (Fig. 2). The site lies on broadly level ground at approximately 25m AOD.

1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Lower Lias clay of the Lower Jurassic Period (Institute of Geological Sciences 1979).

Archaeological background

1.5 Although prehistoric settlement is well documented in Worcestershire, especially on the well-draining river gravels of the River Avon, there are no recorded prehistoric remains on the fan gravels in and around the site. In the wider vicinity there is

cropmark evidence of a potential Neolithic henge around 2km to the east of the site at Nafford (Wilkes 1996, 1) and the well-known Iron Age hillfort of Bredon Hill lies around 4km to the south-east. A small number of prehistoric pottery sherds have been found within the parish.

- 1.6 A great quantity of Roman remains were discovered immediately to the west of the Site when the railway line was constructed through Eckington in 1838 (SMR WSM07724; NGR SO 2014 4166). Contemporary sources documented three wells, a range of ceramic building material, large quantities of pottery and human bones, all of which suggest the presence of a Roman building or small settlement. Between 1982 and 1985 a large portion of Eckington parish was fieldwalked by South Worcestershire Archaeological Group (Price 1985), and concentrations of Roman pottery were found in the field in which the site lies (SMR WSM05905; NGR SO 9210 4166) and a field on the western side of the railway line (SMR WSM05902; NGR SO 9185 4170). These finds raise a potential for the continuation of Roman structural remains both to the west and east of the 1838 discoveries.
- 1.7 Little is known of the Eckington area in the early medieval period, although it is recorded as *Eccyngtun* in a charter of 972 (Willis-Bund & Doubleday 1913, 68), and the nucleated form of the village (and the -tun place-name suffix) is typical of many Anglo-Saxon settlements in Worcestershire. The manor of Eckington is documented throughout the medieval period, and the earliest elements of the parish church in the historic core of the village (250m south of the Site) date to the late twelfth century. Many fields around the site contain ridge and furrow earthworks, possibly a result of medieval ploughing techniques. The main Tewkesbury Road through the village was turnpiked (administered and tolled by a Trust authorised by private Act of Parliament) in 1756, and The Old Pike House adjacent to the Site was used to collect tolls (SMR WSM23743; NGR SO 9218 4170).
- 1.8 The site is first illustrated in reasonable detail on the Eckington Inclosure map of 1813 (WRO BA4341/3) where it forms part of a large field known as 'Part of Latchmere' on the northern side of the village. The construction of the railway in 1838 divided the field, and the boundary to the north of The Old Pike House was in place by the time of an undated but probably mid nineteenth-century map of the parish. This new field was known as 'The Cross Garden' or 'Jubilee', and is also depicted with the former toll house on the 1st Edition of the new Ordnance Survey

map series of the 1880s. Development in the twentieth century resulted in the northern expansion of the village, creating a new southern boundary to the site.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date, significance and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the Local Planning Authority in making an informed judgement on the likely impact upon the archaeological resource by the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of seven trenches, six measuring 50m by 1.5m and one measuring 60m by 1.5m, representing a 4% sample of the proposed development area.
- 1.11 Before machining, the areas over the proposed evaluation trenches were subject to scanning by the on-site archaeologists using a metal detector. All artefacts other than non-diagnostic finds or those of recent date were recovered from the topsoil.
- 1.12 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (1996).
- 1.13 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and, where appropriate, sampled in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking of Samples for Palaeoenvironmental/Palaeoeconomic Analysis from Archaeological Sites* (1994). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.14 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive (including artefacts) will be deposited with Worcestershire County Museum.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 As outlined above, seven trenches were excavated across the site (Fig. 2), all of which revealed a number of linear features containing datable material, mainly locally produced Romano-British pottery.
- 2.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in all of the trenches. The natural geological substrate, comprising Lower Lias clay, was revealed at a depth of between 0.76m and 1.37m below the present ground level. It was overlain by a subsoil which on average measured 0.35m in depth and from which occasional residual sherds of Romano-British pottery and post-medieval/modern material were retrieved. This in turn was sealed by a levelling/dump deposit typically 0.3m in depth, consisting of firm, pale yellow-brown silty sand containing inclusions and finds identical to the subsoil described above. Finally, the whole sequence was sealed by topsoil typically 0.35m in depth.
- 2.3 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3)

- 2.4 In trench 1, shallow ditches and gullies showed common co-axial alignments, running in north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east directions (103/105, 107/111, 109/115, 119, 123, 125, & 129; 127 was the terminus of a gully on the same alignment). While it may be assumed that the features represent repeated re-establishments of boundaries or drainage features, there were no stratigraphic relationships between the ditches/gullies and all were apparently of a single phase, with no evidence for recutting.
- 2.5 The termini of two shallow gullies recorded within the trench (117 and 121) were on slightly differing alignments to the main ditches. A rectangular posthole 113 may be associated with an adjacent steep-sided feature with an almost flat base, 111. This may have been a timber ground beam slot and it was late in the sequence, cutting both ditch 103 and gully 115 (Fig. 3, section 1). The only other feature recorded was 119, the irregular shape of which and the complete lack of any finds from its fill suggests it is probably a natural feature.

2.6 All the excavated features contained almost identical fills, consisting of soft, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand with very occasional small sub-rounded pebbles, and occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Most of the features were devoid of any datable material, apart from ditch 103 and gully 115, which contained Romano-British pottery and fragments of animal bone.

2.7 The use of a metal detector to scan the spoil from trench 1 resulted in the recovery of a small number of iron nails and a post-medieval lead seal.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

2.8 In trench 2, a single ditch 203 running in a north-east/south-west direction contained a single fill 204 from which a significant assemblage of Romano-British pottery and fragments of animal bone, and a number of possible fire-cracked stones.

2.9 The ditch fill was scanned using the metal detector, resulting in the recovery of a very small fragment of a copper-alloy object, possibly a twisted rod armlet.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 and 3)

2.10 In trench 3, again a series of gullies and ditches (317, 319, & 323) were revealed orientated on the co-axial north-west/south-east and north-west/south-east alignments. 317 cut through an earlier, apparently curvilinear gully 313/319, which terminated close to 315, an irregular-edged feature which may in fact represent its continuation. A very short length of gully 2m in length, cut the infilled terminus of 313. The termini of a shallow gully 305/307 and possible elongated pit/gully 303 were also revealed, along with two ditches 317 and 321, orientated north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east. Feature 303 was of uncertain function, being either part of a pit or a ditch terminus.

2.11 All the features contained almost identical fills (as described in 2.5 above), and were largely devoid of any datable material, the exceptions being gullies 309, 313, and gully/pit terminus 303, which contained a Romano-British pottery and fragments of animal bone.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 4)

2.12 In trench 4, a series of ditches and gullies were revealed (403, 407, 409, 411, 413, 417, 419, & 421), orientated on the same north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east axes. The only stratigraphic relationship present was that where

ditch 413, with its distinctively different steep-sided V-profile, was observed cutting ditch 411 (Fig. 4, section 4). Two oval-shaped pits 405 and 415 were also excavated.

- 2.13 With the exception of ditch 417, 419 and pit 405, which only contained the occasional fragment of animal bone, all of the other features could be dated as the fills included frequent sherds of locally produced Romano-British pottery.
- 2.14 A single iron nail was retrieved during scanning with the metal detector.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 and 4)

- 2.15 In trench 5, four main ditches on the repeating co-axial system, each of which had been recut twice, were excavated (503/505/507, 513/515/517, 521/523/525, & 527/529/531; Fig. 2, and Fig. 4, sections 5-8), as well as three further single-phase gullies 509, 511 and 519.
- 2.16 All the features contained identical fills. With the exception of the three smaller gullies (509, 511 & 519), most of the ditches included datable sherds of locally produced Romano-British pottery.
- 2.17 Hand cleaning of the trench section above the four main groups of recut ditches (503/505/507, 513/515/517, 521/523/525, & 527/529/531) revealed that some of the ditches survive at a slightly higher level than the level of the geological substrate, cutting what appears to be the remnants of a Roman subsoil horizon, 534. This was more clearly demonstrated in trench 7 (Fig. 5, section 13).

Trench 6 (Figs. 2 and 5)

- 2.18 In trench 6, further ditches and gullies (603, 605, 607, 609, 618/628 & 636, Fig. 5) were revealed on the previously-observed north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east alignments running across the trench, while a further number (614/616, 620/626, 622, 624, 632, & 642/646) terminated within the trench. A group of linear features, 630, and 642, 634/644, recorded at the south end of the trench, had a shared north-south alignment. 634/644 appeared to be cut by gully 646, which was on the more common north-west/south-east alignment. A single pit 612 was also observed.

- 2.19 As before, all the features contained almost identical fills with very occasional sherds of Romano-British pottery being retrieved from a small number of ditches/gullies (605, 618, 636 & 642).
- 2.20 The spoil from trench 6 was scanned using a metal detector resulting in the recovery of a Roman copper-alloy brooch.

Trench 7 (Figs. 2 and 5)

- 2.21 As with all the other trenches, trench 7 revealed a number of straight ditches/gullies orientated in north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east directions (708, 710, 713, 716, 718 & 722); within these 716 was the latest in a sequence of three recut ditches in the same area, of which 718 was the earliest. A single curvilinear ditch 706 was the only other feature recorded.
- 2.22 With the exception of ditch 718 and small gully 722 (not excavated), all the features contained occasional sherds of Romano-British pottery, and in the case of fill 717 in ditch 716, frequent sherds (80 in total).
- 2.23 Hand cleaning of the north-facing section in trench 7 (Fig. 5 section 13) revealed that the ditches were cut through the remnants of Roman subsoil horizon 703 and a further deposit 704 beneath that, both of which appeared to survive locally in the vicinity of the ditches.

The Finds

- 2.24 A large quantity of pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material and occasional metal objects were recovered from all of the trenches. Nearly all the pottery recovered is of the Romano-British period, dating to first and second centuries AD. This is indicated by 'early type' Severn Valley ware, native Malvernian ware and Samian ware. A small proportion dates to the late Roman period (after AD 250), as indicated by Oxfordshire red-slipped ware and late forms of Dorset Black-Burnished ware or coarse black-sandy ware. The absence of Midlands shell tempered ware may be significant, perhaps indicating that occupation was curtailed before the mid fourth century AD.
- 2.25 Much of the Roman pottery assemblage is made up of local fabrics, most notably hand-made Malvernian types such as 'Native type', which includes type A (granitic)

- and B (limestone-tempered) types. Non-local pottery was also recovered in the form of small quantities of Dorset Black-Burnished ware and Gaulish Samian. The occasional sherd of greyware and coarse black sandy ware imitating Dorset Black-Burnished ware was also recovered, the origins of both types being uncertain.
- 2.26 Other than the occasional sherd of Samian ware, the pottery is heavily biased towards utilitarian forms such as jars for storage or cooking in Malvernian or Severn Valley type fabrics, which seem to suggest a lower status site. Most significant is the absence of any Roman mortaria, flagons or beakers.
- 2.27 Four sherds of a small, straight-sided, crudely formed 'pinch-built' pot were recovered from pit 415 in trench 4. The crude form and overfired fabric suggests that it was probably a crucible, possibly of late Iron Age or more likely Roman date.
- 2.28 Metal objects recovered mainly comprise iron nails, which are square-sectioned with irregular flattened heads, probably Roman in date. Other objects include an almost complete, mid to late first-century copper-alloy Polden Hill type brooch, from trench 6. A small fragment of a twisted copper-alloy rod, possibly part of an armlet, was recovered from the single fill 204 of ditch 203 in trench 2. A small quantity of ironworking slag was also recovered from ditch 511 in trench 5 and ditch 411 in trench 4.
- 2.29 Other artefactual material comprises two worked flint flakes from ditches/gullies in trenches 3 and 5, two fragments of limestone building material from ditch 529 in trench 5 and ditch 713 in trench 7, and two fragments of Roman brick from ditch 203 in trench 2 and ditch 421 in trench 4.

The Biological Evidence

- 2.30 Three samples were taken in total, two from the lower fills of ditches 713 and 716 in trench 7, and one from the fill of pit 415 in trench 4. A preliminary examination of the samples from both ditch fills revealed a moderate amount of animal bone and charcoal, and charred seeds/grain in the case of fill 721 in ditch 716. Full results are not available at present, as further processing of the samples is still being carried out.

3. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The evaluation identified a concentration of boundary or enclosure ditches/gullies indicating the presence of a nearby settlement site dating to the early Roman period. The majority of the features revealed contained datable artefactual material, mainly sherds of locally produced Severn Valley and Malvernian Wares, the bulk of which date to the first and second centuries AD. The complete absence of any sherds of Midlands shell-tempered ware seems to indicate that the occupation of the settlement may have ended before the mid fourth century AD. The utilitarian pottery forms such as jars for storage or cooking, with a complete absence of any mortaria, flagons and beakers may indicate that the settlement is more likely to be of a small rural type.
- 3.2 The fresh condition of the pottery, which shows little abrasion or degradation, may also indicate that there have been very low levels of dispersal and disturbance across the site. However, no obvious settlement focus was apparent in the evaluation trenches and the majority of features were ditches and gullies of an apparently co-axial field system, with the apparent re-establishment of boundaries over the duration of the occupation. Evidence for structural features was limited to the single posthole and possible beam slot seen in very limited exposure in trench 1, and other occasional features across the rest of the site. The evidence of the significant Roman settlement remains excavated during the construction of the railway to the west suggest that the focus of the settlement lies in that direction, and that this site is part of the associated agricultural field system to the east of it.
- 3.3 The recovery of fragments of an Iron Age/Roman crucible and the small quantity of ironworking slag are indicative of small-scale metal working within the immediate locale, but again no clear focus was apparent.
- 3.4 Most archaeological features encountered across the site survive at an average depth of between 0.8m and 0.9m below the modern ground surface. In the case of ditches revealed in trenches 5 and 7 at the western limit of the site, it was observed that the features survive at a higher level above the natural, 0.5m below the modern ground surface. These ditches have been cut through what appears to be the surviving remnants of a Roman subsoil horizon.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Franco Vartuca, assisted by Alistair Barber, Jocelyn Davis and Kelly Saunders. The report was written by Franco Vartuca. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Grey. The archive has been compiled by Franco Vartuca, and prepared for deposition by Ed McSloy. The project was managed for CA by Mary Alexander; the report was edited by Mark Collard.

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Cartographic sources

1813 *Eckington Inclosure Map* Worcestershire Records Office (WRO Tithe Register)

Mid 18th century *An Attempt to Display the Boundaries of the Parish of Eckington* (WRO)

1880s 1st Edition (new series) Ordnance Survey map (25" to 1 mile)

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

100	Topsoil/plough soil: moderately compact, mid grey-brown sandy silt with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Roman pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.25m-0.30m.
101	Subsoil: moderately compact, light to mid grey-brown clay sand with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.25m-0.30m. Sealed by levelling/dump deposit 131.
102	Natural substrate: very loose, bright yellow-orange clay sand with occasional small patches/lenses of small sized rounded gravel. Not excavated.
103	Cut of ditch: shallow linear cut with gentle sloping concave sides and base, orientated NW-SE. Depth 0.24m, width 2.70m.
104	Fill of cut 103: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of limestone. Contains occasional Romano-British pottery sherds and animal bone. Depth 0.24m, width 2.70m. Cut by ditch 107.
105	Cut of ditch: same as 103 above.
106	Fill of cut 105: same as 104 above.
107	Cut of gully/beam slot: very shallow linear cut with very steep, lightly concave sides and an almost flat base, orientated NE-SW. Depth 0.11m, width 0.64m. Cuts ditch 103/105. Possibly associated with posthole 113.
108	Fill of cut 107: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with very occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of limestone. Depth 0.11m, width 0.64m.
109	Cut of ditch/gully: very shallow, straight linear cut with steep concave sides and base, orientated NW-SE. Depth 0.15m, width 0.70m.
110	Fill of cut 109: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of limestone. Contains occasional Romano-British pottery sherds and animal bone. Depth 0.15m, width 0.70m. Cut by ditch 111.
111	Cut of gully/beam slot: same as 107 above.
112	Fill of cut 111: same as 108 above.
113	Cut of posthole: very shallow, rectangular shaped in plan, with very steep straight sides and an almost flat base. Depth 0.06m, width 0.23m, length 0.25m. Possibly associated with gully/beam slot 107.
114	Fill of cut 113: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand. Depth 0.06m, width 0.23m, length 0.25m.
115	Cut of ditch/gully: same as 109 above. Depth 0.07m, width 0.40m.
116	Fill of cut 115: same as 110 above. Depth 0.07m, width 0.40m.
117	Cut of ditch/gully terminus: shallow, straight linear orientated NE-SW, with a rounded-off end, moderately steep concave sides and base. Depth 0.10m, width 0.40m.
118	Fill of cut 117: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with very occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of limestone. Depth 0.10m, width 0.40m.
119	Cut of gully: shallow, irregular shaped linear with moderately steep concave sides and base, orientated NE-SW. Depth 0.15m, width 0.40m-1.75m.
120	Fill of cut 119: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with very occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of limestone. Depth 0.15m, width 0.40m-1.75m.
121	Cut of ditch/gully terminus: very shallow, straight linear orientated NE-SW, with a rounded-off end, moderately steep lightly concave sides and base. Depth 0.05m, width 0.35m.
122	Fill of cut 121: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with very occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of limestone. Depth 0.05m, width 0.35m.
123	Cut of ditch: slightly irregular shaped linear orientated NW-SE, with a moderately steep, lightly concave NE side, a steeper, stepped SW side and a concave base. Depth 0.30m, width 1.75m.
124	Fill of cut 123: firm, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand with very occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of limestone. Depth 0.30m, width 1.75m.
125	Cut of ditch/gully: shallow, straight linear orientated NW-SE, with moderately steep concave sides and an irregular base. Depth 0.10m, width 1.15m.
126	Fill of cut 125: firm, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand with very occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of limestone. Depth 0.10m, width 1.15m.
127	Cut of ditch/gully terminus: shallow, straight linear orientated NE-SW, with a rounded-off end, moderately steep irregular sides and concave base. Depth 0.12m, width 0.40m.
128	Fill of cut 127: firm, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand with very occasional small sub-rounded pebbles

	and fragments of limestone. Depth 0.12m, width 0.40m.
129	Cut of ditch: slightly irregular shaped linear orientated NE-SW, with a steep, lightly convex SE side, steep concave NW side and a convex base. Depth 0.17m, width 1.60m.
130	Fill of cut 129: firm, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand with very occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of limestone, and the odd sherd of Romano-British pottery. Depth 0.17m, width 1.60m.
131	Levelling/dump deposit: firm, pale yellow-brown silty sand containing very occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone, and very occasional residual sherds of Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern material. Depth 0.25m-0.30m. Present throughout the trench below topsoil 100, and probably the result of material from the railway cutting being dumped during the late nineteenth century.

Trench 2

200	Topsoil/plough soil: moderately compact, mid grey-brown sandy silt with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Roman pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.35m-0.40m.
201	Subsoil: moderately compact, light to mid grey-brown clay sand with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.40m-0.50m. Sealed by levelling/dump deposit 205.
202	Natural substrate: very loose, bright yellow-orange clay sand with occasional small patches/lenses of small sized rounded gravel. Not excavated.
203	Cut of ditch: straight linear orientated NE-SW, with moderately steep, lightly convex sides and a convex base. Depth 0.73m, width 3.20m.
204	Fill of cut 203: moderately compact, mid grey-brown sandy clay with occasional orange-brown mottles throughout. Contains very occasional small rounded pebbles and very occasional larger cobbles, some of which appear to have been fire cracked/scorched, very occasional charcoal flecks, and abundant sherds of Romano-British pottery and animal bone. Depth 0.73m, width 3.20m.
205	Levelling/dump deposit: firm, pale yellow-brown silty sand containing very occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone, and very occasional residual sherds of Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern material. Depth 0.25m-0.30m. Present throughout the trench below topsoil 200, and probably the result of material from the railway cutting being dumped during the late nineteenth century.

Trench 3

300	Topsoil/plough soil: moderately compact, mid grey-brown sandy silt with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Roman pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.30m-0.35m.
301	Subsoil: moderately compact, light to mid grey-brown clay sand with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.30m-0.35m. Sealed by levelling/dump deposit 325.
302	Natural substrate: very loose, bright yellow-orange clay sand with occasional small patches/lenses of small sized rounded gravel. Not excavated.
303	Cut of gully/pit: terminus of a shallow linear or of an elongated pit, orientated NW-SE, with a rounded-off end, moderately steep convex sides and concave base. Depth 0.20m, width 0.35m.
304	Fill of cut 303: loose, mid grey-brown silty sand containing very occasional sherds of Romano-British pottery. Depth 0.20m, width 0.35m.
305	Cut of gully: straight linear orientated N-S with steep, lightly concave sides and base. Depth 0.12m, width 0.38m.
306	Fill of cut 305: loose, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand. Depth 0.12m, width 0.38m.
307	Cut of gully: very shallow, rounded-off terminus of linear 305 (as above). Depth 0.05m, width 0.30m.
308	Fill of cut 307: same as 306 above.
309	Cut of gully terminus: very shallow, short linear orientated NW-SE, with a rounded-off end, moderately steep concave sides and base. Depth 0.07m, width 0.28m, length 1.90m. Part of gully 311.
310	Fill of cut 309: loose, mid to dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional sherds of Romano-British pottery, and a flint waste flake. Depth 0.07m, width 0.28m, length 1.90m.
311	Cut of gully: very shallow, short linear orientated NW-SE, with a moderately steep, lightly concave NE side, steep, lightly concave SW side, and a concave base. Depth 0.09m, width 0.31m, length 1.90m.

	Part of gully 309 above. Cuts fill 314 of ditch 313
312	Fill of cut 311: same as 310 above.
313	Cut of gully: slightly irregular shaped linear orientated NW-SE with a rounded-off terminus, steep, lightly concave sides and a convex base. Depth 0.15m, width 0.35m at NW end, 1.40m at SE end, length approximately 6.5m.
314	Fill of cut 313: loose, dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional medium sized sub-angular fragments of limestone, and very occasional sherds of Romano-British pottery. Depth 0.15m, width 0.35m, length approximately 6.5m. Cut by gully 309/311.
315	Cut of gully: irregular shaped curvilinear cut orientated NW-SE with moderately steep, irregular convex sides and a lightly concave base. Depth 0.12m, width 0.70m. Possible tree bole.
316	Fill of cut 315: loose, dark brown-grey sandy silt with occasional medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.12m, width 0.70m. Possible fill of tree bole.
317	Cut of ditch: straight linear orientated NE-SW, with moderately steep, lightly convex sides and base. Depth 0.38m, width 1.65m. Cuts fills 314/320 of gullies 313/319.
318	Fill of cut 317: loose, dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.38m, width 1.65m.
319	Cut of gully: straight linear orientated NW-SE, with gentle, lightly convex sides and a concave base. Depth 0.18m, width 0.45m.
320	Fill of cut 319: loose, dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.18m, width 0.45m. Cut by ditch 317.
321	Cut of ditch: straight linear orientated NW-SE, with moderately steep, lightly convex sides and a concave base. Depth 0.22m, width 1.20m.
322	Fill of cut 321: loose, dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.22m, width 1.20m.
323	Cut of gully: straight linear orientated NW-SE, with moderately steep, lightly concave sides and base. Depth 0.08m, width 0.38m.
324	Fill of cut 323: loose, dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.08m, width 0.38m.
325	Levelling/dump deposit: firm, pale yellow-brown silty sand containing very occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone, and very occasional residual sherds of Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern material. Depth 0.25m-0.30m. Present throughout the trench below topsoil 300, and probably the result of material from the railway cutting being dumped during the late nineteenth century.

Trench 4

400	Topsoil/plough soil: moderately compact, mid grey-brown sandy silt with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Roman pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.30m-0.35m.
401	Subsoil: moderately compact, light to mid grey-brown clay sand with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.30m-0.35m. Sealed by levelling/dump deposit 423.
402	Natural substrate: very loose, bright yellow-orange clay sand with occasional small patches/lenses of small sized rounded gravel. Not excavated.
403	Cut of ditch/gully: straight linear orientated N-S with moderately steep convex sides and base. Depth 0.20m, width 0.83m.
404	Fill of cut 403: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with very occasional off-white limestone and black charcoal flecks/mottles. Contains very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone, occasional sherds of Romano-British pottery and animal bone. Depth 0.20m, width 0.83m.
405	Cut of pit: almost oval shape in plan with a steep, convex SW side, moderately steep, irregular convex NE side, and a concave base. Depth 0.30m, width 0.95m.
406	Fill of cut 405: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles, some of which appear to have been scorched/fire cracked, very occasional limestone and charcoal flecks, small angular fragments of limestone, and an animal tooth. Depth 0.30m, width 0.95m.
407	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with moderately steep sides and a concaved base. Depth 0.28m, width 1.05m.
408	Fill of cut 407: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles, some of which appear to have been scorched/fire cracked, very occasional limestone and charcoal flecks, small angular fragments of limestone. Contained Romano-British pottery and animal bone. Depth 0.28m, width 1.05m.
409	Cut of gully running NW-SE parallel to ditch 407. SW side moderately steep, NE side slightly concaved

	as is the base. Depth 0.17, width 0.50m.
410	Fill of cut 409: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles, some of which appear to have been scorched/fire cracked, very occasional limestone and charcoal flecks, small angular fragments of limestone. Contained Romano-British pottery and animal bone. Depth 0.17m, width 0.50m.
411	Cut of ditch running NNW-SSE with moderately steep sides. SW side slightly irregular and convex, NE side concaved as is the base. Ditch is probably cut by ditch 413. Depth 0.49m, width 1.45m.
412	Fill of cut 411: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent small rounded pebbles, some of which appear to have been scorched/fire cracked, occasional limestone and charcoal flecks, small angular fragments of limestone. Contained Romano-British pottery, animal bone, slag and coal. Depth 0.49m, width 1.45m.
413	Cut of ditch running NNW-SSE parallel with ditch 411. SW side very steep and slightly convex, NE side steep becoming almost vertical in lower half of the ditch. Appears to cut ditch 411. Depth 0.83m, width 0.90m.
414	Fill of cut 411: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent small rounded pebbles, some of which appear to have been scorched/fire cracked, occasional limestone and charcoal flecks, small angular fragments of limestone. Contained Romano-British pottery and animal bone. Depth 0.83m, width 0.90m.
415	Cut of oval pit with very steep slightly concave NW side and a flat base. Feature extends beyond limit of excavation. Depth 0.36m, width at least 0.80m.
416	Fill of cut 415: soft, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional black flecks. Contains a moderate amount of small sub rounded pebbles some of which appear to have been burnt, very occasional charcoal flecks and small angular fragments of limestone. Romano-British pottery and animal bone also present. Depth 0.36m, width at least 0.80m.
417	Cut of ditch running NE-SW with a moderately steep and concave NW side and a slightly steeper and concave SE side. Depth 0.29m, width 0.80m.
418	Fill of cut 417: soft light to mid grey silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles and small angular limestone fragments. No dating evidence but some animal bone. Depth 0.29m, width 0.80m.
419	Cut of ditch running NE-SW with very steep slightly concave sides. Depth 0.34m, width 0.80m.
420	Fill of cut 419: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles, some of which appear to have been scorched/fire cracked, very occasional limestone and charcoal flecks, small angular fragments of limestone. Depth 0.34m, width 0.80m.
421	Cut of ditch running N-S with steep sides. Slightly concave E side, slightly convex W side. Depth 0.63m, width 2.75m.
422	Fill of cut 421: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles, some of which appear to have been scorched/fire cracked, very occasional limestone and charcoal flecks, small angular fragments of limestone. Depth 0.63m, width 2.75m.
423	Levelling/dump deposit: firm, pale yellow-brown silty sand containing very occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone, and very occasional residual sherds of Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern material. Depth 0.25m-0.30m. Present throughout the trench below topsoil 400, and probably the result of material from the railway cutting being dumped during the late nineteenth century.

Trench 5

500	Topsoil/plough soil: moderately compact, mid grey-brown sandy silt with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Roman pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.25m-0.30m.
501	Subsoil: moderately compact, light to mid grey-brown clay sand with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.30m. Sealed by levelling/dump deposit 533.
502	Natural substrate: very loose, bright yellow-orange clay sand with occasional small patches/lenses of small sized rounded gravel. Not excavated.
503	Cut of ditch running NE-SW with moderately steep concave sides and base. Depth 0.60m, width 1.90m. Cuts ditch 505.
504	Fill of cut 503: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone and occasional Romano-British pottery and animal bone. Depth 0.60m, width 1.90m.
505	Cut of ditch running NE-SW with moderately steep concave sides and base. Depth 0.53m, width 2.15m. Cuts ditch 507.
506	Fill of cut 505: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone and frequent Romano-British pottery and animal bone. Depth 0.53m, width 2.15m.

507	Cut of ditch running NE-SW with steep almost straight sides and a concave base. Depth 0.63m, width 1.37m.
508	Fill of cut 507: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone. Depth 0.63m, width 1.37m. Cut by ditch 505.
509	Gully running NW-SE. Width 0.70m. Not excavated.
510	Fill of 509: appears identical to 506, not excavated.
511	Ditch running NW-SE. Width 1.15m+. Not excavated.
512	Fill of 511: appears identical to 506, not excavated.
513	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with moderately steep concave sides and base. Depth 0.50m, width 1.45m. Cuts ditch 515.
514	Fill of cut 513: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone and occasional Romano-British pottery, animal bone and a flint flake. Depth 0.50m, width 1.45m.
515	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with steep concave sides and base. Depth 0.43m, width 0.75m. Cuts ditch 517.
516	Fill of cut 515: soft, light to mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles and very occasional small angular fragments of limestone. Depth 0.43m, width 0.75m. Cut by ditch 513.
517	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with moderately steep concave sides and base. Depth 0.37m, width 0.84m.
518	Fill of cut 517: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles and very occasional small angular fragments of limestone. Depth 0.37m, width 0.84m. Cut by ditch 515.
519	Cut of ditch running E-W with very shallow, gentle concave sides and base. Depth 0.13m, width 0.98m.
520	Fill of cut 519: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.13m, width 0.98m.
521	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with steep convex sides and a concave base. Depth 0.31m, width 0.45m. Cut by ditch 523.
522	Fill of cut 521: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.31m, width 0.45m. Cut by ditch 523.
523	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with steep straight sides and a concave base. Depth 0.33m, width 0.45m. Cuts ditch 521.
524	Fill of cut 523: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.33m, width 0.45m. Cut by ditch 525.
525	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with steep lightly convex sides and a concave base. Depth 0.28m, width 0.87m. Cuts ditch 523.
526	Fill of cut 525: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.28m, width 0.87m.
527	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with steep lightly concave sides and base. Depth 0.37m, width 0.45m. Cut by ditch 529.
528	Fill of cut 527: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.37m, width 0.45m.
529	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with steep lightly concave sides and base. Depth 0.35m, width 0.90m. Cuts ditch 527.
530	Fill of cut 529: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.35m, width 0.90m. Cut by ditch 531.
531	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with steep lightly convex sides and a lightly concave base. Depth 0.49m, width 1.20m. Cuts ditch 529.
532	Fill of cut 531: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.49 width 1.20m.
533	Levelling/dump deposit: firm, pale yellow-brown silty sand containing very occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone, and very occasional residual sherds of Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern material. Depth 0.25m-0.30m. Present throughout the trench below topsoil 500, and probably the result of material from the railway cutting being dumped during the late nineteenth century.
534	Deposit: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small sub-rounded pebbles and very occasional small angular fragments of limestone. Depth 0.25m-0.30m. Possible Roman subsoil horizon as ditches/gullies cut from this level.

Trench 6

600	Topsoil/plough soil: moderately compact, mid grey-brown sandy silt with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Roman pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.30.
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601	Subsoil: moderately compact, light to mid grey-brown clay sand with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.35m.
602	Natural substrate: very loose, bright yellow-orange clay sand with occasional small patches/lenses of small sized rounded gravel. Not excavated.
603	Cut of ditch running NE-SW with very shallow concave sides and a concave base. Depth 0.05m, width 0.45m.
604	Fill of cut 603: soft mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional large sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.05m, width 0.45m.
605	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with steep slightly convex sides and concave base. Depth 0.31m, width 0.68m.
606	Fill of cut 605: soft, dark reddish-brown silty sand with occasional large sub-rounded pebbles and frequent medium sized sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.31m, width 0.68m.
607	Cut of gully running NW-SE with shallow concave sides and a concave base. Depth 0.09m, width 0.33m.
608	Fill of cut 607: soft, mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.09m, width 0.33m.
609	Cut of ditch running NE-SW with very steep sides, NW side slightly concave, SE side slightly convex. Convex base. Depth 0.36m, width 0.75m.
610	Primary fill of cut 609: soft, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.19m, width 0.58m.
611	Secondary fill of cut 609: soft, dark greenish grey-brown silty sand with occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.18m, width 0.75m.
612	Cut of oval pit, long axis orientated N-S, with irregular concave sides and slightly convex base. Depth 0.08m, width 0.48m.
613	Fill of cut 612: soft, mid to dark grey-brown silty sand with very occasional large rounded and sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.08m, width 0.48m.
614	Cut of gully terminus running NE-SW with very shallow sides and concave base. Depth 0.07m, width 0.39m.
615	Fill of cut 614: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional large and medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.07m, width 0.39m.
616	Cut of gully running NE-SW. SE side fairly steep and convex, NW side steep and concave. Base is concave. Depth 0.14m, width 0.44m.
617	Fill of cut 616: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional large and medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.14m, width 0.44m.
618	Cut of ditch running NE-SW with irregular moderately steep sides. Depth 0.30m, width 0.84m. Cut by gully 620.
619	Fill of cut 618: soft, dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.30m, width 0.84m.
620	Cut of gully running NW-SE with even shallow sides and concave base. Depth 0.11m, width 0.34m. Cuts ditch 618.
621	Fill of cut 620: soft, dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional large sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.11m, width 0.34m.
622	Cut of gully running NE-SW with moderately steep sides and concave base. Depth 0.10m, width 0.10m
623	Fill of cut 622: soft, mid orange-brown silty sand. Depth 0.10m, width 0.10m.
624	Re-cut of gully running NE-SW with moderately steep sides and slightly concave base. Depth 0.21m, width 0.4m.
625	Fill of cut 624: loose dark brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.21, width 0.4m.
626	Terminus of gully running SE-NW with rounded end, convex sides and concave base. Depth 0.06m, width 0.29m.
627	Fill of cut 620: soft, dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional large sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.06m, width 0.29m.
628	Cut of ditch running NE-SW with irregular moderately steep sides. Depth 0.15. Cut by gully 620.
629	Fill of cut 618: soft, dark grey-brown silty sand with occasional medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.30m, width 0.84m.
630	Cut of ditch running N-S with very shallow sides with a slightly concave base. Depth 0.26m, width 0.48m.
631	Fill of cut 630: loose dark grey brown silty sand with occasional large sub-rounded pebbles. Depth 0.26m, width 0.48m.
632	Cut and terminus of gully running NNE-SSW with concave sides and slightly convex base. Depth 0.09m, width 0.31m.
633	Fill of cut 632: loose mid grey brown silty sand. Depth 0.09m, width 0.31m.
634	Cut running N-S, with slightly concave sides and concave base. Depth 0.16m, width 0.24m.
635	Fill of cut 634: loose dark grey brown silty sand with occasional large sub-rounded pebbles. Depth

	0.16m, width 0.24m.
636	Cut running N-S, with steep sides and concave with rounded transition to the sides. Depth 0.38m, width 0.84m.
637	Fill of cut 636: loose dark brown silty sand with occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles and rare small pieces of charcoal and a small lens of sand (natural). Depth 0.38m, width 0.84m.
638	Cut of posthole with slightly concave sides and concave sides and rounded transition to sides. Depth 0.16m, Diameter 0.22m.
639	Fill of posthole 638: loose dark brown silty sand with occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles and rare small pieces of charcoal and a small lens of sand (natural). Depth 0.16m, width 0.22m.
640	Cut of curvi-linear ditch running N-S changing to NW-SE, with concave sides. Base not excavated. Excavated depth 0.13m, excavated width 0.19m.
641	Fill of Cut 640: loose dark brown silty sand with occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles and rare small pieces of charcoal and a small lens of sand (natural), not fully excavated. Excavated Depth 0.13m, width 0.19m
642	Cut running E-W, with straight ledges to S. Base concave with rounded transition to sides, not fully excavated. Excavated Depth 0.18m, width 0.16m.
643	Fill of cut 642: loose dark patchy orangy brown silty sand with occasional medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles and pottery. Excavated depth 0.18m, width 0.16m.
644	Cut for ditch running N-S, with shallow low sides and concave base. Excavated depth 0.06m, width 0.21m.
645	Fill of cut 644: loose dark red brown silty sand. Excavated depth 0.06m, width 0.21m.
646	Cut for terminus of ditch 644. Concave sides and base not excavated. Excavated depth 0.16m, width 0.19m.
647	Fill of cut 646: loose dark patchy orangy brown silty sand with occasional medium rounded and sub-rounded pebbles. Excavated depth 0.16m, width 0.19m.
648	Levelling/dump deposit: firm, pale yellow-brown silty sand containing very occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone, and very occasional residual sherds of Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern material. Depth 0.25m-0.30m. Present throughout the trench below topsoil 600, and probably the result of material from the railway cutting being dumped during the late nineteenth century.

Trench 7

700	Topsoil/plough soil: moderately compact, mid grey-brown sandy silt with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Roman pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.25m.
701	Levelling/dump deposit: firm, pale yellow-brown silty sand containing very occasional small and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone, and very occasional residual sherds of Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern material. Depth 0.30m-0.35m. Present throughout the trench below topsoil 700, and probably the result of material from the railway cutting being dumped during the late nineteenth century.
702	Subsoil: moderately compact, light to mid grey-brown clay sand with very occasional small rounded pebbles, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone/sandstone. Contains very occasional residual Romano-British pottery mixed with post-medieval/modern domestic refuse. Depth approximately 0.35m.
703	Deposit: soft, mid grey-brown silty sand with a moderate amount of small sub-rounded pebbles and very occasional small angular fragments of limestone. Depth 0.25m-0.30m. Possible Roman subsoil horizon as ditches/gullies cut from this level.
704	Deposit: loose, pale yellow-grey silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles. Depth 0.15m-0.20m. Sealed by deposit 703. Possibly redeposited/disturbed natural.
705	Natural substrate: very loose, bright yellow-orange clay sand with occasional small patches/lenses of small sized rounded gravel. Not excavated.
706	Cut of ditch running NE-SW with moderately steep lightly convex sides and a concave base. Depth 0.88m, width 2.90m. Cuts 703.
707	Fill of ditch 706: soft, pale grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and mid sized sub-rounded pebbles/cobbles, some of which appear to be scorched/fire cracked, very occasional charcoal flecks and small fragments of limestone, and occasional sherds of Romano-British pottery and fragments of animal bone. Depth 0.88m, width 2.90m.
708	Cut of ditch running NW-SE with steep concave sides and a concave base. Depth 0.54m, width 1.15m.
709	Fill of ditch 708: soft, pale grey-brown silty sand with occasional small and mid sized sub-rounded pebbles/cobbles, some of which appear to be scorched/fire cracked, very occasional charcoal flecks and small fragments of limestone, and occasional sherds of Romano-British pottery and fragments of animal bone. Depth 0.54m, width 1.15m.
710	Cut running N-S. with convex sides and slightly convex base with rounded transition to sides. Depth

	0.75m, Width 2.42m.
711	Primary fill of cut 710: loose dark grey brown sandy silt. Depth 0.61m, width 2.42m.
712	Secondary fill of cut 710: loose dark grey brown silty sand with occasional medium to large sub-rounded pebbles and fragments of animal bone. Depth 0.14m, width 0.57m.
713	Cut for shallow 'v' shaped ditch running N-S with slightly convex sides with concave base with rounded transition to sides. Depth 0.91m, width 2.74m.
714	Secondary fill within cut 713: medium sticky dark slightly brown grey silty clay with occasional large sub-rounded pebbles and dense collection of disarticulated animal bones and fragments of Romano-British pottery. Depth 0.14m, width 0.44m.
715	Third fill of cut 713: loose mid orangy grey-brown silty sand with occasional medium to large sub-rounded pebbles along with flecks and fragments of charcoal. Fragments of animal bone and Romano-British pottery also present within fill. Depth 0.8m, width 2.74m.
716	Cut for ditch running NW-SE, with moderately steep, lightly convex sides and lightly concave base. Depth 0.9m, width 3.2m.
717	Upper Fill of ditch 716: soft friable light to mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sized rounded pebbles, some fire-cracked, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone, very occasional rare charcoal flecks and abundant Roman-British pottery and animal bone fragments. Depth 0.9m, width 3.2m.
718	Cut of wide straight ditch, with gentle sloping sides. Not excavated.
719	Fill of ditch 718: soft friable pale grey-brown with occasional pale yellow mottling silty sand with small to medium sized rounded pebbles, very occasional charcoal flecks, limestone flecks and the odd small fragment of angular limestone. Fill is truncated by ditch 716. Not excavated.
720	Primary fill of ditch 713: loose mid brown orange slightly silty sand with occasional medium sub-rounded pebbles and iron panning lens. Depth 0.1m, width 0.11m.
721	Lower fill of ditch 717: soft friable mid to dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sized rounded pebbles, some fire-cracked, very occasional small angular fragments of limestone, occasional charcoal flecks and abundant Roman-British pottery and animal bone fragments. Depth 0.12m, width 1.34m.
722	Cut of ditch gully. Not excavated.
723	Fill of ditch 722. Not excavated.

APPENDIX 2: THE FINDS

By E R. McSloy

Archaeological work at site PRE03 resulted in the recovery of quantities of pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material, worked stone and metal items. The pottery, is almost exclusively of the Romano-British period, spanning the first to the later third/fourth centuries AD.

Pottery

315 sherds of pottery (6908g) was recovered from 34 contexts. With the exception of modern china from contexts 423 and 702, the pottery dates to the Roman period.

Condition is generally good with little abrasion or degradation observable. Average sherd weight is high at 22g. This is in part a reflection of the abundance of inherently robust and weighty Malvernian storage jars but probably also indicates low levels of disturbance and dispersal.

Much of the Roman assemblage is made up of local fabrics, most notably Malvernian types and Severn Valley Ware. Non-local material is present in the form of small quantities of Dorset Black Burnished ware and Gaulish samian. Small quantities of greywares and coarse black sandy wares imitating Dorset Black-Burnished ware, both of uncertain source, were also recovered. Other than the occasional sherd of samian ware, the Roman pottery is very heavily biased towards utilitarian forms and suggestive of a lower status site. Jars (for storage or cooking) dominate both in Malvernian and Severn Valley ware. Most significant is an absence of Roman introductions, mortaria, flagons or beakers.

Of note is a small, straight-sided, crudely formed 'pinch-built' pot from 416 which may be of late Iron Age date or (more likely) earlier Roman date. The fabric is dense and heavily overfired to a pale grey colour. Although no metallic residues are obvious the fabric and form are suggestive of a crucible.

The bulk of the pottery would seem to date to the early Roman period, the first and second centuries AD. This is indicated by 'early type' Severn Valley ware (Timby 1990), native Malvernian ware and samian ware. A small proportion dates to the late Roman period (after c. AD 250), as indicated by Oxfordshire red-slipped ware and late forms of Dorset Black-Burnished ware or coarse black-sandy ware. Late forms include drop-flanged bowls and jars with flaring everted rims and/or obtuse-angled lattice decoration. The absence of Midlands shell-tempered ware may be significant, perhaps indicating that occupation was curtailed before the mid fourth century AD.

'Native type' (hand-made Malvernian wares includes both types A (granitic) and B (limestone-tempered) types. Forms are restricted to 'tubby cooking pots' (Peacock 1967) and everted-rim jars and large storage jars. Both fabric varieties have their origins in the late Iron Age, however both clearly persist into the Roman period. Limestone tempered Malvernian type B wares are not generally considered to outlast the Flavian period. Malvernian A type 'tubby cooking pots' and large storage jars of the type identified here (see below) almost certainly continue into the Antonine period (Peacock 1967, 16). A Roman date for the Malvernian native pottery is in most instances at Eckington indicated by its occurrence with Severn Valley Ware. Small quantities of 'developed' (wheel thrown) Malvernian wares also occur.

Severn Valley Ware is clearly the most abundant single type and occurs in almost all sampled contexts (see concordance). Represented forms comprise mainly necked jars, some with bifid rims and most with shoulder cordons. Somewhat unusually, tankard forms were not identified. The early variety of the fabric characterised by burnt out organic voids (Timby 1990, 249) occurs most commonly. Such material probably dates to no later than the mid second century. Early type forms include a carinated bowl sherd from 721 and a high-necked jar (Timby 1990, no. 47) from context 717.

Dorset Black-Burnished ware is present in small quantities. A flat-topped rim bowl with burnished lattice decoration from context 412 is the earliest diagnostic form present, dating to the mid-late second century AD. The remaining forms (flanged bowls, jars) are late types and probably date to after c. AD 250.

Metal Objects

Copper-alloy items comprise a Polden Hill type brooch and a twisted rod (armlet?) fragment.

The Polden Hill type brooch (Trench 6 – unstratified find) is virtually complete, lacking only a portion of its pin. The bow features ribbed decoration along its back and the catchplate has a small triangular perforation. Brooches of this class are relatively abundant on western British sites and probably date to the mid to late first century AD. (c. AD 45-70).

4 iron nails were also recovered. All are square-sectioned with irregular flattened heads and are probably Roman in date.

Other Material

Other artefactual material is restricted to 2 flakes of worked flint; 2 fragments of limestone building material and 2 fragments of Roman brick. A quantity of ironworking slag was also recovered from context 512.

References

Peacock, D P S 1968 Romano-British Pottery Production in the Malvern District of Worcestershire Trans. Worcs. Arch. Soc. Third Series. Vol. 1

Peacock, D P S 1968, A petrological study of certain Iron Age pottery from Western England, *Proc Prehistoric Soc* 34, 414-27

Timby, J 1990 Severn Valley wares: A Reassessment *Britannia* Vol. 21

Finds Concordance

- 104 10 sherds Roman pottery (291g): Severn Valley Ware; Malvernian A
animal bone weighing 56g
Spot-date: LC1-C2
- 109 1 sherd Roman pottery (7g): Severn Valley Ware
animal bone weighing 410g
Spot-date: C2-C4
- 115 1 sherd Roman pottery (21g): Severn Valley Ware
Spot-date: C2-C4
- 130 15 sherds Roman pottery (280g): Severn Valley Ware; samian
animal bone weighing 112g
Spot-date: C2+
- 204 60 sherds Roman pottery (1128g): Severn Valley Ware; Malvernian A
animal bone weighing 11g
1 fragment Roman brick (118g)
1 fragment copper-alloy ?armlet
Spot-date: C2
- 304 animal bone weighing 34g
- 310 1 sherd Roman pottery (47g): Severn Valley Ware
1 worked flint flake
Spot-date: C2-C4
- 314 4 sherds Roman pottery (85g): Severn Valley Ware
Spot-date: C2-C4
- 404 16 sherds Roman pottery (305g): Severn Valley Ware
animal bone weighing 10g
Spot-date: C2-C4
- 406 animal bone weighing 15g
- 408 1 sherd Roman pottery (14g): Severn Valley Ware
animal bone weighing 30g
Spot-date: C2-C4
- 410 1 sherd Roman pottery (17g): Malvernian A
animal bone weighing 1g
Spot-date: C1-C2
- 412 5 sherds Roman pottery (112g): Malvernian wheel-thrown greyware; Severn Valley ware; Dorset Black-Burnished ware
9 fragments coal (16g)
animal bone weighing 446g
Miscellaneous ironworking slag (512g)
Spot-date: MC2-EC3
- 414 17 sherds Roman pottery (326g): Malvernian wheel-thrown greyware; Severn Valley ware; Dorset Black-Burnished ware; ?East Gaulish samian
animal bone weighing 58g
Spot-date: LC2-C3
- 416 4 sherds IA/Roman pottery (60g): possible crucible
animal bone weighing 9g (burnt)
- 418 animal bone weighing 60g
- 422 8 sherds Roman pottery (253g): Malvernian A; Severn Valley Ware; misc. greyware
1 fragment Roman brick (37g)
animal bone weighing 35g
Spot-date: C2+

- 423 2 sherds Roman pottery (15g): Malvernian A
2 sherds modern pottery (4g): white china
1 fragment charcoal (2g)
Spot-date: C19+
- Tr5 (us.) 12 sherds Roman pottery (327g): Malvernian A; Severn Valley Ware; misc. greyware
- 504 4 sherds Roman pottery (573g): Malvernian A; Severn Valley Ware
animal bone weighing 174g
Spot-date: C2
- 506 17 sherds Roman pottery (823g): Malvernian A; Malvernian B; Severn Valley Ware, samian
animal bone weighing 980g
Spot-date: LC1-EC2
- 510 1 sherd Roman pottery (45g): Severn Valley Ware
Spot-date: C2-C4
- 514 8 sherds Roman pottery (140g): Severn Valley Ware; samian (with vessel repair); misc. black-sandy
1 worked flint flake
animal bone weighing 126g
Spot-date: C2+
- 530 6 sherds Roman pottery (405g): Malvernian A, ?Droitwich briquetage; Severn Valley Ware early type
1 fragment limestone: ?building stone
animal bone weighing 52g
Spot-date: MC1-EC2
- 532 3 sherds Roman pottery (58g): Malvernian A, Severn Valley ware
animal bone weighing 606g
Spot-date: LC1-C2
- TR.6 us Copper alloy brooch: Polden Hill type
- 606 2 sherds Roman Pottery (35g): Malvernian A. Abr.
- 619 1 fragment fired clay (7g)
animal bone weighing 10g
- 637 2 sherds Roman pottery (11g): Malvernian A
Spot-date: C1-C2
- 643 2 sherds Roman pottery (45g): Severn Valley Ware
Spot-date: C2-C4
- 701 1 sherd Roman pottery (192g): Severn Valley Ware
Spot-date: C2-C4
- 702 2 sherds modern pottery (1g): white china
Spot-date: C19-C20
- 707 5 sherds Roman pottery (49g): Severn Valley Ware
animal bone weighing 126g
Spot-date: C2-C4
- 709 8 sherds Roman pottery (152g): Dorset black-burnished ware; coarse black-sandy ware (imitating BB1 forms); ?Oxfordshire red-slipped ware
animal bone weighing 132g
Spot-date: MC3-C4
- 712 3 sherds Roman pottery (62g): Malvernian A; Severn Valley Ware early type
Spot-date: LC1-C2
- 714 2 sherds Roman pottery (20g): Malvernian A
animal bone weighing 1564g
Spot-date: C1-C2

- 715 5 sherds Roman pottery (59g): Malvernian A
2 fragments burnt stone
animal bone weighing 235g
Spot-date: C1-C2
- 717 80 sherds Roman pottery (832g): Malvernian A; Malvernian B; Severn Valley Ware early type
animal bone weighing 300g
Spot-date: MLC1+
- 721 4 sherds Roman pottery (114g): Malvernian B; Severn Valley Ware early type
animal bone weighing 488g
Spot-date: MLC1+

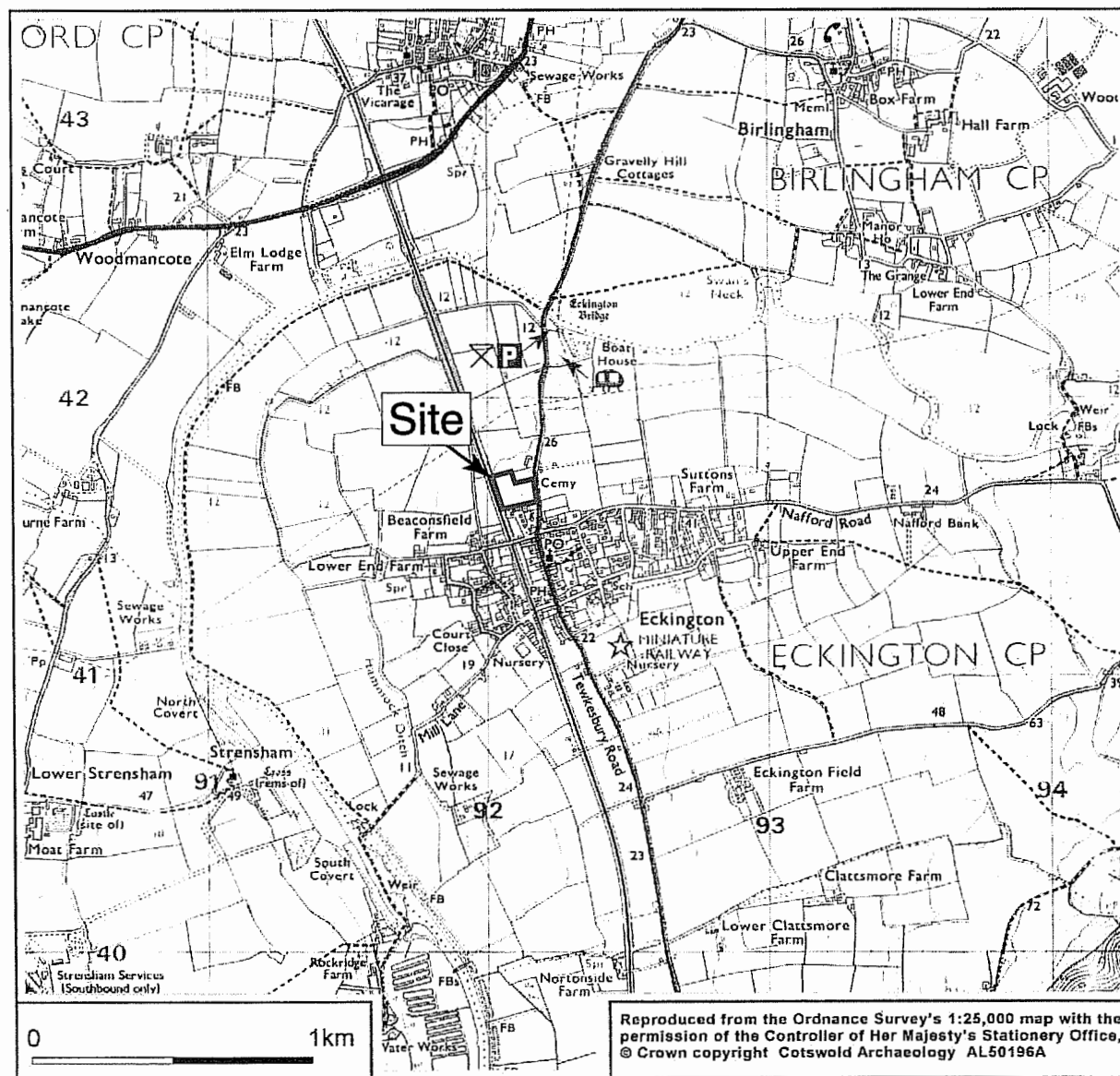
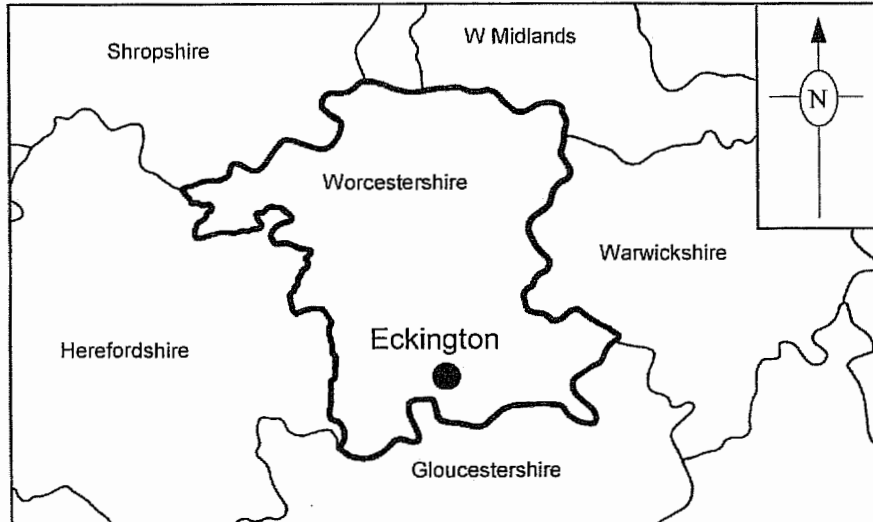


Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

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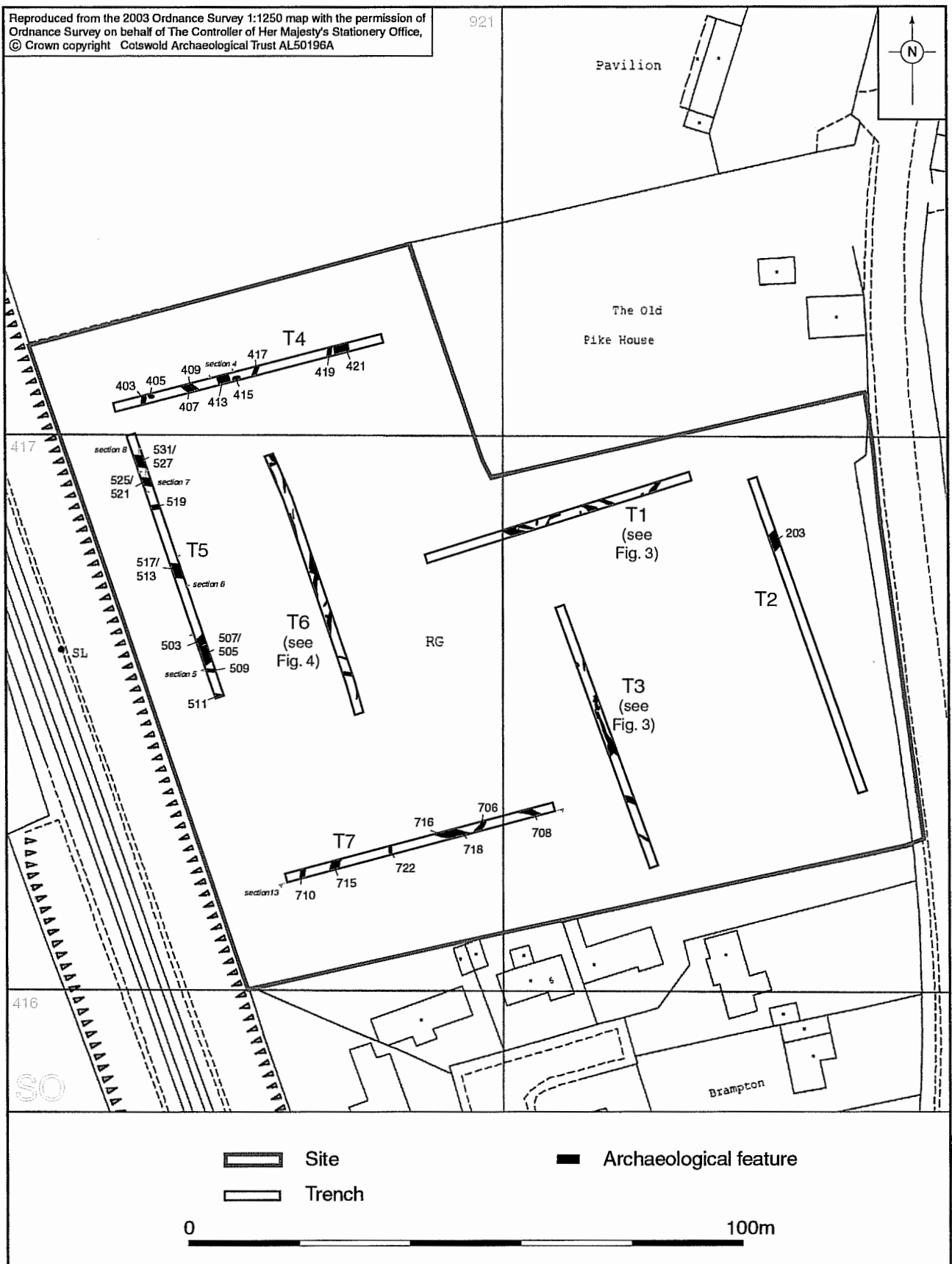
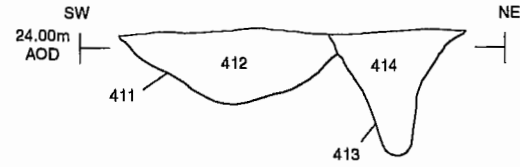
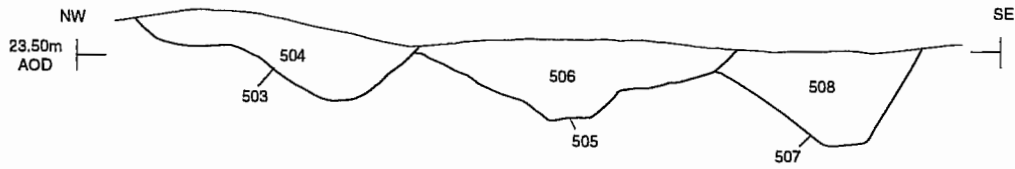


Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1000)

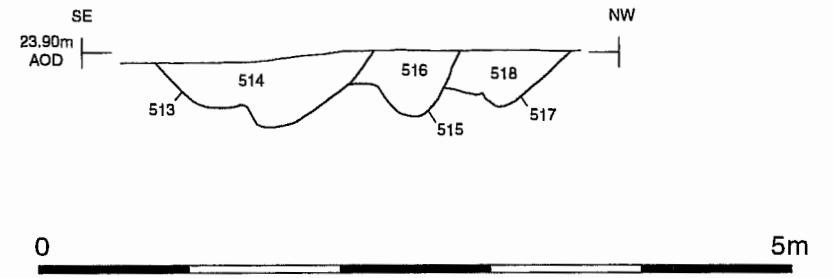
Trench 4 section 4



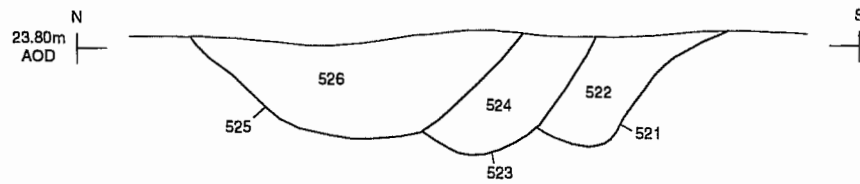
Trench 5 section 5



Trench 5 section 6



Trench 5 section 7



Trench 5 section 8

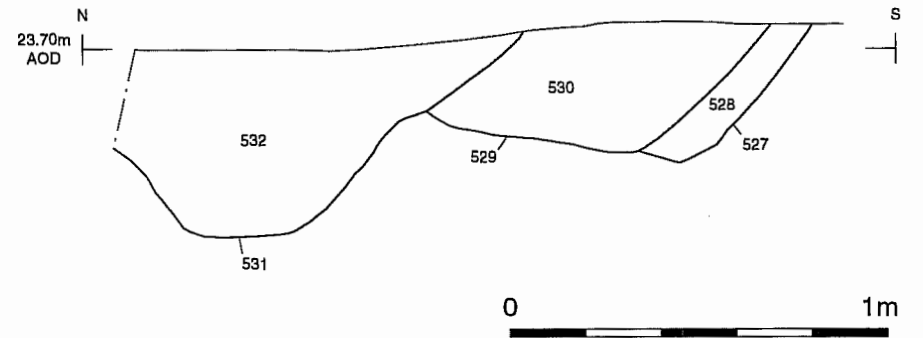
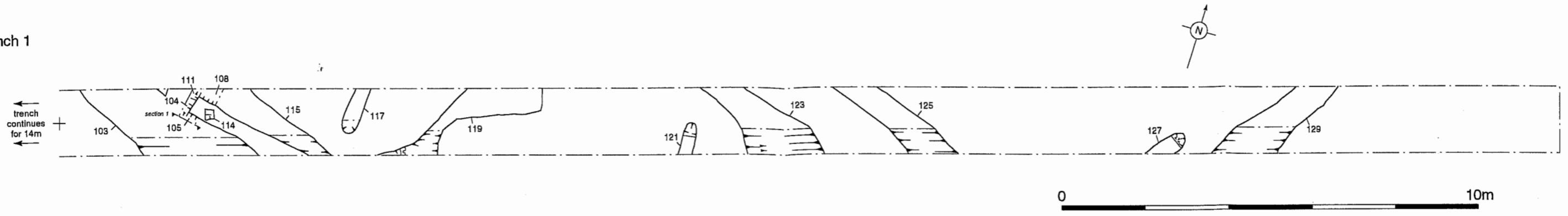
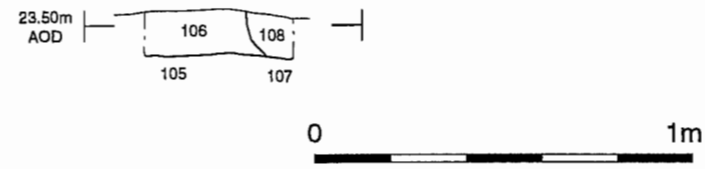


Fig. 5 Trenches 4 and 5: sections (1:50 and 1:20)

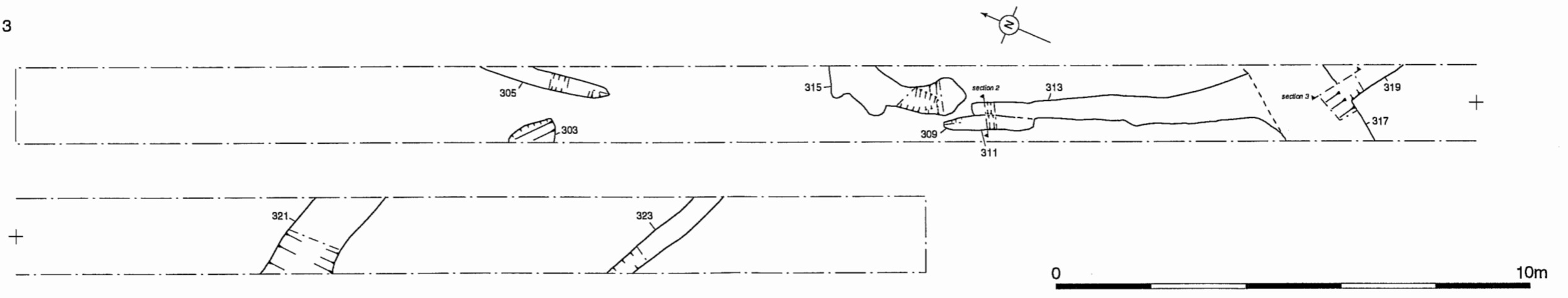
Trench 1



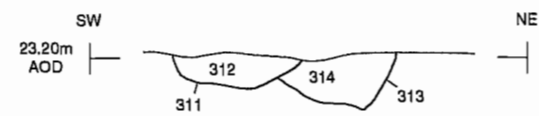
Trench 1 section 1



Trench 3



Trench 3 section 2



Trench 3 section 3

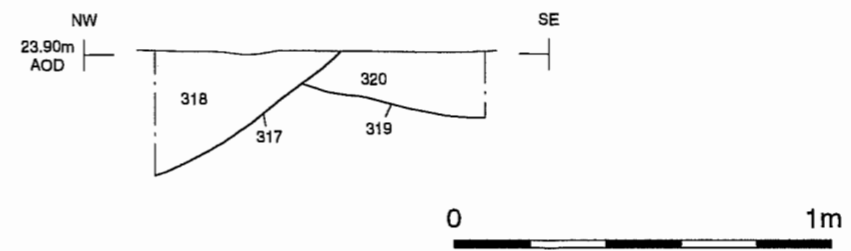
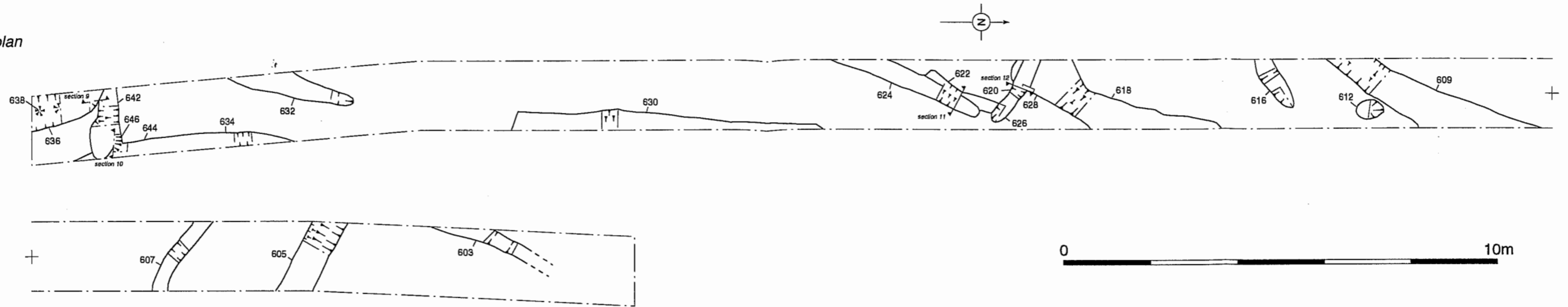
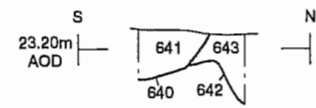


Fig. 3 Trenches 1 and 3: plans and sections (1:100 and 1:20)

Trench 6 plan



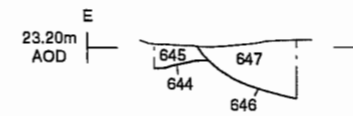
Trench 6 section 9



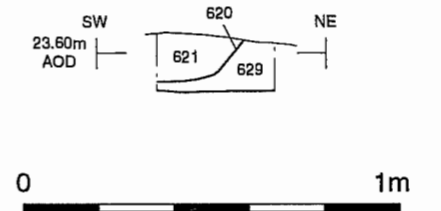
Trench 6 section 11



Trench 6 section 10



Trench 6 section 12



Trench 7 section 13

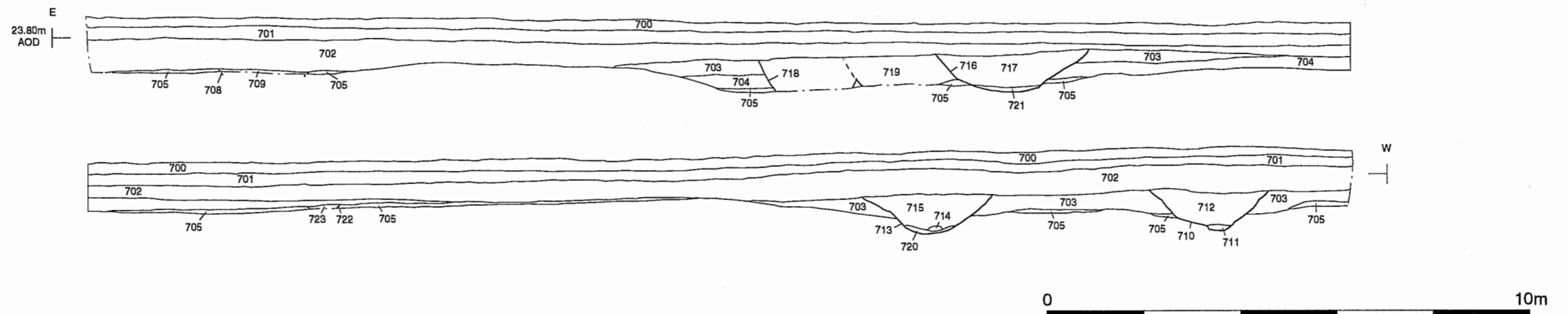


Fig. 4 Trench 6: plan and sections, and Trench 7: section (1:100 and 1:20)



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