The Former Aston Martin Works, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Planning Application Number: 09/00530/OUT
National Grid Reference Number: SP 8808 4375
AOC Project No: 30256
Site Code: AYBCM:2010.123
Date: August 2010

AOC Archaeology Group

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The Former Aston martin Works, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire;

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	**Pinnacle Consulting Engineers Ltd** Studio 4 37 Broadwater Road Welwyn Garden City AL7 3AX
National Grid Reference (NGR):	**SP 8808 4375**
AOC Project No:	**30256**
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Date:	**August 2010**

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group between the 28th July and 6th August 2010 at the site of the Former Aston Martin Works, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell*, Buckinghamshire. The work was undertaken on behalf of Pinnacle Consulting Engineers Ltd. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of development on any surviving archaeological remains.*

The evaluation comprised the machine excavated of 16 trenches measuring between 20m and 30m in length. Archaeological features were identified in 11 of the 16 trenches. The key features recorded were a medieval pit and post-medieval pits and ditches, located adjacent to the Tickford Road frontage and northern boundary. In addition to this, multiple post-medieval pit and structural features were identified concentrated in the western half of the site. A large undated palaeochannel feature was also located during the course of the evaluation in the northeast corner of the site. There was also evidence for the substantial truncation of earlier deposits related to 19th and 20th century activity associated with the former Aston Martin works.

Overall, there is good potential for further features associated with the medieval and post-medieval periods to survive on site. The medieval pit is significant due to its potential to inform on the early development of the town and activity occurring on the Tickford Road frontage. The post-medieval remains can be classified as of lesser significance, but can still contribute to the well-documented later development of the town, specifically the contemporary land use on site.

Due to the good level of survival and degree of significance associated with the remains related to the medieval and post-medieval periods, it is recommended that further work be undertaken. In relation to the proposed development plan, the areas of archaeological interest will be located within areas of proposed car parking, suggesting minimal impact upon the archaeological horizons. There may also be a possible impact upon known archaeological features during construction of the access road along the Tickford Road frontage. Therefore, dependent on the details of the finalised development plans, it is recommended that further archaeological investigations take place it the area of the Tickford Road frontage to mitigate any damage from the proposed development within this area. The final decision regarding further works will lie with Nick Crank, Archaeological Advisor to Milton Keynes Council.

1. Introduction

1.1 Site Location

1.1.1 The site is located in the town of Newport Pagnell, to the east of the town centre, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 8808 4375. The site is bounded by Tickford Street to the south, and residential properties to the north, east and west. The site is irregular in shape and measures approximately 2.34 hectares (Figures 1 & 2).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 The local planning authority is Milton Keynes Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by the Senior Archaeological Officer, Nick Crank.

1.2.2 The part of the northwest area of the site lies within the Newport Pagnell Conservation Area, as designated by Milton Keynes Council. No Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings are located within the area of the site.

1.2.3 The site was formerly part of the Aston Martin Works. The majority of the previously existing motorcar-manufacturing complex has been demolished with the exception of three road frontage buildings. The proposed development scheme involves the construction of a new retail park with associated car parking facilities and landscaping.

1.2.4 A planning application (Application No.:09/00530/OUT) was submitted to develop the site as a Tesco superstore. Nick Crank has advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to ensure that adequate consideration is given to any areas of archaeological interest and to provide for the recording or preservation of remains.

1.2.5 A Brief for the evaluation work has been provided by Milton Keynes Council (MKC 2010). The Brief states:

'The evaluation will obtain sufficient information to establish the extent, character, quality, date and condition of any archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts and ecofacts within the area affected by the proposed development. This is to allow a scheme to be produced containing provisions for the mitigation of any significant archaeological remains revealed.

If significant archaeological remains are encountered during the evaluation the potential of the mitigation or further investigation of these remains to enhance public understanding and to achieve public engagement in line with Policy HE12 of PPS5 should also be assessed'.

1.2.6 This work was recommended in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG 2010), which states:

'Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation'.

1.3 Geology and Topography

1.3.1 The British Geological Survey Map (BGS South Solid) indicates that the site lies on solid geology of Oxford Clay and Kellaways Beds. The northern part of the site is situated on terrace gravels (MKC 2010).The majority of the site lies at around 54.5mOD, where the footprint of the Aston Martin Works

lay. Adjacent to Tickford Road, the site lies at 55.3m OD. At the east end of the site, the ground rises to 61mOD.

1.3.2 The site is located within the flood plain of the River Ouzel/Great Ouse River, with the River Ouzel located approximately 400m to the west of the site, and the Great Ouse located approximately 400m to the north. The local topography is relatively flat, with a gentle gradient descending north-west towards the Great Ouse.

1.3.3 On site geotechnical investigations were undertaken by Arcadis Geraghty & Miller International Ltd in July and August 2007, comprising of 10 boreholes, the installation of permanent monitoring wells and the advancement of 36 trial pits across the site (Arcadis 2007). The results of these have been summarised below in order to extract relevant archaeological information:

- The bedrock geology of blue-grey **Oxford clay** was reached in the south-western area of the site (Boreholes GM 401-405) and in the west-central part of the site (Borehole GM 410) at a depth of between 2.70m to 2.90m below ground level.

- The overlying **natural deposits** described as **gravelly clay and/or sand** were encountered across site at between 0.30m to 0.70m below ground level, with the exception of the area around the pond in the south-central part of the site (Trial Pits 313, 315, 317 and 330 did not reach the natural soils, while Trial Pit 314 encountered the natural at 1.20m). The natural deposits were found at its highest in the car park area in the north-eastern part of the site (Trial Pits 301 -306).

- **Made ground** was identified overlying the natural deposits. It varied in composition and could be subdivided into several distinct horizons in a number of trial pits and boreholes. These were present across site measuring in between 0.20m to 0.80m in thickness, with the thinnest horizon located in the north-eastern area of the site (Trial Pits 301-306).

- Sealing the made ground was an up to 0.20m thick layer of **concrete** in the western and northern area of the site as well as compacted **road stone** of up to 0.20m thickness in the eastern and southern area of the car park.

2. Archaeological And Historical Background

Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BP – AD 43)

2.1 Only a limited range of prehistoric activity is known within the immediate vicinity of the site, whereas a greater quantity of evidence demonstrates the presence of prehistoric activity within the wider landscape surrounding the town. Locally, during construction work 100m from the site, Mesolithic and Neolithic artefacts were recovered. Other findspots from a 5km radius include the recovery of a Palaeolithic handaxe, early prehistoric pottery, animal bones and potboilers to the southeast of the town, as well as worked flint found on the Tickford Park estate to the east.

2.2 Iron Age artefacts have been uncovered during construction work 100m from the site during excavations at Tickford Priory, little other evidence is present from the immediate vicinity. In addition to this, a Late Iron Age or Romano-British settlement with evidence of metalworking was excavated at Lathbury, approximately 2km to the north of Newport Pagnell, in 2000.

2.3 Cropmarks seen from aerial photography at Lathbury and Campbell Park to the north of the site could potentially represent either prehistoric round barrows or Roman circular enclosures.

Roman (c.AD 43 – 410)

2.4 A low density of Romano-British material has been discovered in the Newport Pagnell area. These include pottery, coins and a gold bracelet..

Anglo-Saxon (c.AD 410 – 1066)

2.5 No evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity is known within the immediate area of the site. To the east of the town a possible late Anglo-Saxon settlement has been located due to the presence of concentrated pottery scatters. In the same area an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery has also been located. Another Anglo-Saxon cemetery was uncovered in 1923 on the Tickford Park Estate to the northeast of the site.

Medieval (c.AD 1066 – 1485)

2.6 The settlement of Newport Pagnell is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Neuport, meaning “New Town” belonging to William FitzAnsculf and having two mills (www.domesdayonline.co.uk). The town was later granted to the Pagnell family by William the Conqueror, whose surname became associated with the town name. The Pagnell’s had a castle at Newport Pagnell, the site of which is still called the Castle-mead, although no standing remains are visible.

2.7 In the time of William Rufus Fulk Pagnell founded a Cluniac monastery (Tickford Priory) which is to the north of the site. The priory was subordinate to the abbey of St. Martin at Tours, and was seized as an alien priory by King Edward III during the wars with France, later restored by King Henry IV. Several incidents are reported at the abbey of mismanagement and laxity, for example, in 1233 the Bishop of Lincoln reported that "the rule was so lax and badly kept that the priory was a scandal, and the number of monks was only half what it should be." (www.nbas.org.uk). These incidents continued until the priory was suppressed by Henry VIII and given to Cardinal Wolsey (Lysons 1806).

2.8 Excavations carried out by the North Buckinghamshire Archaeology Society in 2000 revealed several walls relating to the priory, along with evidence of Iron Age and Roman occupation.

2.9 A market at Newport-Pagnell was either originally granted, or confirmed by charter, in 1270, to Roger de Somery and again confirmed to John Botetort, in 1333. In 1187 the monks of Tickford Priory were granted the privilege of selling free of toll (Page 1927) The Magna Britannia (Lysons 1806) records that by 1240 the town had two hospitals (St Margaret’s and New Hospital). The town was of importance in the region being a seat of the county assizes from the time of Henry III until Henry VI (Wilson 1870-72).

2.10 The site itself lies in close proximity to the medieval settlement of Newport Pagnell (MKC 2010) near a key fording point of the river and the important routeway of Tickford Street. The surrounding settlement is likely of medieval origin, with several significant historic buildings on Tickford Street itself.

Post-Medieval (c.AD 1485 - Modern)

2.11 Newport Pagnell, sited on important road and river routes became an important garrison during the Civil War. The town was originally held by Prince Rupert for King Charles, but along with the castle was seized by the Parliamentary forces; the garrison being under the command of Sir Samuel Luke,

the original 'Hudibras' of Butler (Wilson 1870-72; Page 1927). Traces of the fortifications can still be found in the town common, Bury Field.

2.12 Newport Pagnell was sited on important crossing places on the river and had road links between Leicester, London, Oxford and Cambridge. These were responsible for the growth of the town and a large number of coaching inns were set up to cater for travellers.

2.13 The town became the centre for the bone lace industry in the eighteenth century. This declined due to the growth of machine-made lace, eventually the last lace business closed in 1884 (Page 1927).

2.14 An iron bridge was built across the River Lovat in 1810 which is the oldest cast iron bridge in Britain still carrying main road traffic. Newport Pagnell used to have its own canal and, in the late 19th century its own branch railway line, suspended in 1967.

Aston Martin Works

2.15 The site itself was part of the Tickford Park estate and contained a farmhouse shown on the 1880 Ordnance Survey Map. This was later demolished to make way for carriage works.

2.16 The Aston Martin site has been used for vehicle construction for nearly two hundred years. The first producer was Hopkins, a coach maker on the corner of Priory Street and Tickford Street before 1823 (MKC 2010).

2.17 This was replaced by Salmons & Sons who began making nationally famous dog carts, but later helped set up and provide the chassis for the first rural bus service. By 1900 the company was selling motorcars and displayed at the first Motor Show, while the site was shortly afterwards devoted entirely to motor vehicle works (MKC 2010).

2.18 The site was expanded and several new buildings erected, including a three storey factory in 1910 and a large car showroom known as the 'Olympia'. A fire in 1933 involved the reconstruction of workshops on the northern part of the site.

2.19 During the Second World War the site was used for the production of items necessary for the war effort, and the business was sold to Ian Boswell in 1943 who changed the name to 'Tickford Ltd'.

2.20 In 1955 the business was sold to David Brown, the owner of Aston Martin. Previously the site had been used by manufacturers such as Daimler and Austin for some body components, but now the site was to be used exclusively for the production of Aston Martin car bodies.

2.21 In 1986 a 75% share of the business was purchased by Ford, who later sold part of the business in 2007 due to mounting financial problems. Whilst the area to the north of Tickford Street is to be redeveloped (the site covered by this WSI) the southern area of the site will continue Aston Martin servicing works.

3. Strategy

3.1 Aims of the Investigation

3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were defined as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.

- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable Nick Crank, Senior Archaeology Officer to Milton Keynes Council to make an informed decision on the archaeological condition and any requirement for further mitigation work.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.

3.1.2 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2010). The evaluation comprised the excavation of 16 trenches ranging in size between 20m to 30m in length by 2m wide. The trenches were located as shown on Figure 2.

3.2.2 Prior to commencing work Buckinghamshire County Museum Service were contacted and a unique site code (AYBCM:2010.123) created and used as the site identifier for all records produced.

3.2.3 The excavation of the evaluation trenches was undertaken between the 28th July and 6th August 2010.

3.2.4 Levels for each context were established, a temporary Bench Mark of 55.76mOD was established on the site, transferred from a benchmark on 186, Tickford Street.

3.2.5 The site work was conducted by Les Capon, Project Officer, under the overall management of Melissa Melikian, General Manager. The site was monitored by Nick Crank on behalf of Milton Keynes Council.

4. Results

4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the northwest of the site, measuring 27.25m by 2.2m, constrained by nearby property boundaries and a mature tree at the northern end.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
101	Demolition Horizon	0.20m	54.63m to 54.72m
102	Made ground	0.40m	54.43m to 54.52m
103	Subsoil	0.26m	54.03m to 54.12m
104	Natural silt and gravel	0.05m	53.77m to 53. 86m
105	Natural silt and gravel	>0.10m	53.71m to 53.81m

4.1.2 The lowest deposit in the trench consisted of layers of sand and gravel (104 and 105), naturally-lain water-born deposits, sloping down northwards from 53.86mOD to 53.77mOD. This was sealed by a layer of mid yellowish brown sandy silty clay subsoil (103). This layer was cut by two archaeological features; a possible ditch and a posthole.

4.1.3 The possible ditch [110] ran northwest-southeast and was truncated by a later service. The untruncated edge of the ditch sloped gradually to a flat base 0.46m deep, cut from 54.05mOD. The ditch had a single fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (109). Inclusions within the fill included oyster shell, brick fragments, and flowerpot, suggesting that this may be an 18th century garden feature rather than a ditch.

4.1.4 The posthole [107] was circular with a diameter of 0.35m, and was 0.22m deep. The post had been packed with pieces of limestone and mid yellowish brown sand (108), indicating a post of 0.20m diameter. The post-pipe was filled with loosed dark brown sandy silt (106), with organic remains. The presence of a clay tobacco-pipe stem dates this feature to the post-medieval period, and may be relatively modern.

4.1.5 The features were sealed by made ground of 20th century date (102) associated with services running towards Priory Street, and are assumed to relate to the construction of the factory on site in the mid 20th century. No buried topsoil survived, indicating that the site had been stripped prior to the factory's construction. The made ground was sealed by recent demolition rubble, lying generally flat at 54.72m in the north, dropping slightly to the south at 54.63mOD.

4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

4.2.1 Trench 2 was oriented east-west in the western area of the site, within the footprint of the recently demolished factory. It measured 30m by 2m, and revealed a similar sequence to Trench 1.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
201	Demolition Horizon	0.17m	54.83m to 54.55m
202	Made ground	0.53m	54.66m to 54.38m
203	Subsoil	0.15m	54.20m to 54.12m
204 and 207	Natural silt and gravel	NFE	54.05m to 53.92m

4.2.2 The lowest deposits were layers of naturally lain silts, sands and gravel (204 and 207), revealing a virtually level horizon dropping slightly from 54.05mOD in the east to 53.92mOD in the west. These were sealed by a layer of mid brown clayey silt up to 0.15m deep (203), that was heavily truncated

by modern brick footings (206), inspection pits and services relating to the Aston Martin Works [205]. Two identifiable soil horizons were associated with the factory, a thick layer of made ground (202) and a layer of demolition rubble (201). The made ground may date to reworking of the site prior to demolition, or may be a demolition intrusion. No buried topsoil was present, indication truncation associated with the works. The surface of the trench lay at 54.83mOD, dropping westwards to 54.55mOD.

4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

4.3.1 Trench 3 was moved from its proposed location to avoid a standing mid 19th century building that was involved in vehicle construction and is being retained, now part of a conservation area. The trench was L-shaped in plan, and measured 30m by 2.2m, running parallel to Tickford Street before turning north.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
301	Tarmac	0.10m	55.32m to 54.93m
322	Buried Topsoil	0.32m	54.92m
310	Cobbled surface	NFE	54.71m to 54.57m
313 and 320	Subsoil	0.20mm	54.72m to 54.32m
319	Natural sand	NFE	54.52m to 54.22m

4.3.2 The lowest deposit recorded was naturally-lain sand (319), located at 54.52mOD in the northern end of the trench, dropping to 54.22mOD towards Tickford Street. This was sealed by a layer of mottled yellowish brown clayey silty sand subsoil (313 and 320) which had been variously cut by features and compacted by surfaces. It was 0.20m thick in the north, only 0.10m thick towards the street.

4.3.3 The subsoil was cut by a ditch [308] which was over 2m wide which spanned the trench north-south and continued beyond the limit of excavation. It was 0.33m deep. It had a concave side and a flattish base. The ditch contained a single fill of dark brown clayey slit (307) which contained small flecks of charcoal, oyster shell and occasional gravel. Pottery recovered from the fill was primarily post-medieval in date although it also included a residual fragment of strap handle from a medium sand tempered greyware of medieval date. The post medieval pottery comprises of sherds of glazed red earthenware; typical of 17th and 18th century assemblages.. One small find collected <1> was a piece of carved bone; carved with an image of a gryphon or other heraldic beast. The piece was not complete, but still displays a high degree of artistic skill. It may be a piece of inlay from a highly decorated box or other item of status and based on its floral design is post-medieval in date; most probably 16th to 17th century. A number of fragments of brick and roofing tile of probable 15th to 18th century date were also recovered. An environmental sample of the ditch fill recovered small, infrequent charcoal fragments, two charred cereal caryopses of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and further fragments of indeterminate cereals. The sample was limited and appears to derive from a short-lived episode of infilling of the ditch feature.

4.3.4 The ditch was cut by two later pits and a posthole. One pit against the south edge of the trench [315] measured 1.40m long by 0.40m wide and 0.44m deep. It had steep sides and a rounded base. The fill, a greyish brown silty clay (314) was free of finds, so its date is unknown. The second pit [306] was small and roughly square with a flat base; it was 0.50m wide and 0.35m deep. The fill was dark brown silty clay (305), and contained a large part of a glazed red earthenware jar with blackish brown glaze of 17th to 18th century date. Such a large sherd is unlikely to have travelled for, so this is secure dating evidence. Also present in this fill were fragments of brick and roofing tile that could be dated to the 15th to 18th centuries. The third feature cutting the ditch was a rectangular posthole with

rounded corners, 0.25m across and 0.22m deep [304] with steep sides and a flat base. The single fill (303) was soft dark greyish brown silt clay, but no finds were present; this too contained fragments of tile and brick that could be dated to the 15th and 18th centuries.

4.3.5 In the corner of the trench was a heat-affected area of clay, at 54.47mOD, noticeably pink with charcoal fragments that spread for almost 2m (309). This appeared to be burnt *in situ*, and may represent clayey subsoil that had been affected by an event carried out nearby. A hollow in the western side of this deposit was filled with pieces of limestone (316) at around 54.50mOD. They did not make a coherent structure, rather resembling a dump or collapse of a building to the immediate northeast. This rubble was later sealed by a stone cobble surface that was worn in patches and showed evidence for repair.

4.3.6 At the northern end of the trench, a sequence of soil horizons continued above the subsoil; they appears to have been truncated elsewhere. The subsoil was sealed by a layer of very dark brown silty clay with inclusions of charcoal, stone, and occasional oyster (321), which is interpreted as a buried topsoil. This was cut by a trench for a well-built limestone foundation (311), built of blocks 80mm thick and up to 300mm by 150mm laid in courses bedded with a sandy clay mix which did not appear to have any lime content. Both sides of the foundation were formed of straight edges of stone, creating a regular face. The wall stood for 0.72m high, and had suffered some collapse (323) over the topsoil. The wall foundation was built into a tight trench with near-vertical edges [327]. Later deposits accumulated against it.

4.3.7 Approximately 1.40m south of this was a second stone feature that appeared to have been constructed after the wall. This was formed of a series of slim limestone blocks [312] set on edge with bricks below, and may be the remains of a drain, or a wall of a different kind. A fragment of window glass that can be attributed a date between 1600 and 1800 was recovered from within this wall along with a fragment of pale blue glass flask, which can be dated to between 1550 and 1750. The stonework was set into a trench [325] dug through the underlying topsoil (321) and dark brown silt, from which a fragment of post-medieval brick was recovered, backfilled against the stone (324). A fragment of window glass, which can be dated between 1550 and 1750 was also recovered from this feature. Two events appear associated with this structure. To the north, a further layer of topsoil was present (322), overlying the rubble of the collapsed larger wall, and running up to and not beyond the narrower blocks.

Plate 1: Walls [311, 312] and cobbled surface (310), Trench 3

4.3.8 On the south side of the wall lay an area of compacted yellow sandy clay and gravel with a shallow narrow trench that seemed likely to be a beam slot [318] cut into it. The slot was rectangular and

measured 0.20m wide, 0.06m deep, and continued west beyond the limit of excavation. The fill was mid brown sandy silt that was quite loose (317). This gravel is associated with a wide spread of cobbles (310), flattish rounded pebbles up to 60mm across bedded in hard yellow sandy clay. This covers some 11.6m, and the cobbles are quite uneven and worn, the worn parches repaired with areas of smaller gravel. The cobbled surface lay at 54.71m AOD at its highest point.

Plate 2: Cobbled surface (310).

4.3.9 The cobbles were sealed by a layer of loose greyish brown sandy silt, either a layer of disuse or a layer of made ground (326) which contained fragments of post-medieval pottery and fragments of a wine bottle, which can be dated to the mid 18th to 19th centuries. This was sealed by a layer of compact mid yellowish brown sandy clay with a high proportion of gravel and occasional brick rubble (302) that is though to be the remains of surface associated with a the Aston Martin works. Interestingly, the larger wall footing is covered by this gravel, suggesting the collapsed wall was a feature of the site for some time. The gravel was sealed by the modern tarmac surface of the Aston martin works (301), lying at 55.32mOD in the north, dropping towards the road at 54.93mOD

4.4 Trench 4 (Figure 6)

4.4.1 Trench 4 was located in the central eastern area of the site and measured 27m by 2m, aligned approximately east-west.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
401	Made Ground	0.17m	54.96m to 54.91m
402	Soil Horizon	0.28m	54.83m to 54.61m
403	Soil Horizon	0.18m	54.81m to 54.55m
404	Soil Horizon	0.21m	54.69m to 54.35m
407	Natural	NFE	54.49m to 54.15m

4.4.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 4 was mid orangey brown, natural sand and gravel (407) recorded at a height of 54.49m AOD, dropping eastwards to 54.15m AOD. Truncating the natural at the eastern end of the trench was the cut for a rectangular posthole [406] measuring 0.40m in length by 0.35m wide and 0.20m deep. In profile, this posthole [406] had convex sides with a rounded base. The fill of posthole [406] was a mid brownish grey, silty sand deposit (406) which contained a

concentration of charcoal located in the central upper fill, which potentially suggests the post previously positioned within the posthole was burnt *in situ*. No finds were recovered from the fill, which means no firm date can be attributed to this feature.

4.4.3 Sealing posthole fill (406) was a friable, dark orangey brown, sandy soil horizon (404), which was up to 0.20m thick. This, in turn, was overlain by a dark orangey brown, gravely sandy silt layer (403), 0.18m thick, also thought to be a soil horizon. A third soil horizon (402) was observed above this layer (403) consisting of a hard, pale greyish brown, silt deposit, measuring up to 0.30m thick. Layers (404), (403), (402) were present in the eastern end of Trench 4 covering an approximate distance of 4m, and then observed intermittently over the remaining distance of the trench. The reason for the intermittent survival of these three soil horizons is due to significant modern truncation occurring, primarily in the central and western area of the trench. Associated with this modern truncation was a layer of modern made ground (401), up to 0.30m, consisting of a mix of crushed concrete and ceramic building material (CBM) which sealed all surviving soil horizons, forming the modern ground surface, lying virtually level at 54.93mOD.

4.5 Trench 5 (Figure 7)

4.5.1 Trench 5 was located in the southern area of the site and measured 30m by 2m on an east-west alignment.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
501	Made Ground	0.10m	55.68m to 55.61m
502 and 527	Made Ground	0.30m	55.58m to 55.51m
503	Subsoil	0.25m	54.95m to 55.24m
504	Natural	NFE	54.41m to 54.91m

4.5.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 5 was orangey brown natural clay (504), which was present to a height of 54.91mOD, dropping eastwards by 0.5m. Sealing the natural was an extensive layer (503), of mid brown clayey silt subsoil up to 0.25m thick that extended across the full length of the trench, lying at 55.24mOD in the west and 54.95mOD in the east. Three patches of brownish silty clay, (513) (515) and (517) were investigated in Trench 5. Upon excavation they had insubstantial irregular shapes and profiles, [514], [516] and [518] and were designated as natural features.

4.5.3 Truncating the subsoil were multiple features distributed throughout the area of the trench. Located in the central area of the trench was a north-south orientated ditch [512]. The ditch was 2.30m wide by 0.50m deep, with a gradual concave profile. The ditch [512] contained a 0.35m thick fill (511) of brownish grey silty clay, containing fragments of pottery, tile and animal bone. The pottery and tile recovered from this feature was predominantly post-medieval in date; most probably 17th to 18th century. The fill was sealed by a spread (510) of silty clay material up to 0.15m thick, extending along the trench for a distance of approximately 6m. Pottery, tile and animal bone fragments collected from the spread (510) are post-medieval in date, most likely from the 17th to 18th centuries. The spread may be the result of distortion of the feature in a damp landscape.

Plate 3: Ditch [512]

Plate 4: Truncated medieval pit [520]

4.5.4 To the east of the ditch [512] was a sub-rectangular pit [520], with no direct relationship, but also cutting the subsoil. This was 1.10m in length and 0.62m wide, its western side was truncated. The pit was 0.20m deep, with a gentle convex profile. The fill was firm dark grey sandy silt (519) which contained occasional fragments of pottery. This pit contained a small assemblage of purely medieval pottery; all cooking wares and including part of a skillet. This pottery assemblage suggests a medieval date for the feature; most probably late 12th to late 13th century.

4.5.5 At the western end of the trench was a widespread scatter of limestone rubble (506) that had no real form, and may represent an area of tumble from a building, or simply just a dump to level the ground. It does not represent a surface, being uneven and irregular. A single fragment of green wine bottle glass, which can be attributed a date between 1650 and 1800 was recovered from (506). The rubble was covered by a layer of made ground, soft sandy silt (505).

Plate 5: Posthole [508] with limestone packing (507)

4.5.6 Truncating this made ground (505) in the eastern end of the trench was a sub-circular posthole [508], which measured up to 0.55m in length, and was over 0.50m in width before continuing into the section. The cut contained a dark brownish grey fill (507) which contained several large limestone blocks, one of which formed one side of a square, deeper area marking a post 0.20m square. The fill contained numerous fragments of pottery, glass and CBM. The glass comprised of fragments of green bottle glass that can be attributed a date between 1650 and 1800.

4.5.7 In the eastern area of the trench soil horizon (503) was overlain by a dump deposit (530) up to 0.10m thick consisting of compact horizon of tile and brick. Both dump deposit (530) and layer (505) were sealed by another extensive dark greyish brown, sandy silt soil horizon (526) up to 0.25m thick. The character of soil horizon (526) suggested it may represent a buried topsoil horizon.

4.5.8 The most significant feature post dating the deposition of soil horizon (526) is the construction of wall [525] in the western part of the trench. Wall [525] lies on a north-south alignment and is constructed from red bricks measuring 230mm by 110mm by 65mm, indicative of a 19th or 20th century construction. The wall reached a maximum width of 0.25m.

4.5.9 Several discreet deposits modern made ground (527), (528) and (529) were identified in various locations along the length of the trench overlying soil horizon (526). All of these deposits were similar in character, consisting of building debris in a silty matrix, measuring between 0.1m and 0.2m thick. Two modern service trenches [522] and [509], and their associated fill (521), were also observed truncating this horizon. All layers and service trenches at this level were sealed by a 0.10m formation layer (502) consisting of a silty deposit containing fragments CBM, which spanned the full area of the trench. This was subsequently covered by a modern surfacing deposit of compacted gravel and tarmac (501) measuring up to 0.55m thick.

4.6 Trench 6 (Figure 8)

4.6.1 Trench 6 was located in the northern area of the site measuring 22m by 2m, on a northwest-southeast alignment.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
601	Made Ground	0.10m	54.96m to 55.11m
602	Made Ground	0.40m to 0.80m	54.86m to 55.01m
607	Natural	NFE	54.25m to 54.62m

4.6.2 The earliest deposit observed was natural yellow sand and gravel (607), present at a maximum height of 54.62mOD and dropping to the southeast to 54.25mOD. Cutting the natural deposit at the southeast end of the trench was a ditch [606], which followed the northwest-southeast alignment of the trench. The ditch measured 6m+ long by 0.90m+ wide and 1.10m deep and had steep vertical sides; a full profile for ditch [606] could not be fully established as the northern side of the ditch continued beyond the limit of excavation. The ditch [606] contained three discreet fills. The primary fill (605) was a mid brown, sandy silt deposit, which was over 0.70m thick, and contained limited charcoal inclusions. The secondary fill (604) was dark grey, sandy silt up to 0.40m thick, and contained a more extensive range of inclusions represented by fragments of pottery, CBM and charcoal flecks. The pottery recovered from this feature was predominantly post-medieval in date but included a residual sherd of medieval green glazed sand tempered ware. The tile fragments from this feature could all be attributed the post-medieval period; most likely 17th to 18th century. The tertiary fill (603) of ditch [606] was a redeposited natural sandy gravel material, equivalent in thickness to fill (604).

Plate 6: Ditch 606 looking northwest

4.6.3 The upper fill (603) of ditch [606] was sealed by a substantial layer of modern made ground (602) consisting of grey silt and rubble, which varied in thickness between 0.40m and 0.80m. It was recorded at its thickest in the northwest end of the trench. Overlying the made ground (602) was a further layer of modern made ground (601) consisting of loose, sand and gravel, 0.10m thick, forming the modern ground surface at 55.11mOD, dropping to the southeast, at 54.25mOD.

4.7 Trench 7 (Figure 9)

4.7.1 Trench 7 was located in the central area of the site measuring 30m by 2m on an approximate northeast-southwest alignment.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
701	Topsoil	0.07m	55.13m to 55.22m
702	Made Ground	0.10m	55.08m to 55.15m

703	Made Ground	0.36m	54.98m to 55.05m
704	Natural	NFE	54.62m to 54.73m

4.7.2 The earliest deposit recorded was orangey brown, natural silty sand and gravel (704) which contained frequent inclusions of angular stones and flint at a height of 54.68mOD.

4.7.3 Truncating the natural (704) were multiple features throughout the full length of the trench. Positioned at the southwest end of Trench 7 was a small circular pit [714] with a gradual concave profile, measuring 0.80m in diameter by 0.10m deep. The fill (713) of pit [714] was loose, mid grey, silt, which contained fragments of animal bone and pottery identified to be early to mid 18th century in date.

4.7.4 Two isolated postholes were located to the north of pit [714] in the central area of the trench. Posthole [712] was sub-square in plan, with near vertical sides and flat base. The posthole measured 0.20m square by 0.10m deep. The second posthole [710] was oval in shape measuring 0.40m long by 0.30m wide and 0.10m deep. Posthole [710] had a concave profile. The fills of postholes [712] and [710], (711) and (709) respectively, were similar in character, containing loose, mid brown, silty deposits. Neither fills contained finds.

4.7.5 In the northeast end of the trench a tree pit [708], partially located within the area of the trench, was 2.50m long and 1.00m wide, by 0.10m in depth. The tree pit [708] was filled by a mid brown, silty sand deposit (707) which contained a small assemblage of post-medieval material including fragments of clay pipe, post-medieval pottery, tile and glass. The pottery in this feature included two sherds of creamware that could date the feature to as late as 1830 – 1900, as could the glass, which included fragments of pale blue cylinder bottle of 19th to early 20th century date. The finds suggest the pit had been filled after the tree had fallen. A linear cut for service trench [706], 0.30m wide, was also present, which contained dark brown, silty sand (705) from which post-medieval CBM fragments were retrieved.

4.7.6 Deposited above the natural (704) intermittently throughout the trench was light grey, sandy silt made ground (703). This deposit was up to 0.25m thick, and contained modern CBM inclusions. Sealing deposit (703) and the fills of all the cut features was a 0.10m thick modern soil horizon (702), mid brown, silty sand deposit. Soil horizon (702) was overlain by a mid greyish brown, silty sand topsoil (701) measuring 0.10m thick.

4.8 Trench 8 (Figure 10)

4.8.1 Trench 8 was located in the southern area of the site and measured 30m by 2m. The trench was aligned north-south.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
804	Made Ground	0.25m	55.47m to 55.91m
810	Soil Horizon	0.23m	55.22m to 55.50m
814	Natural	0.40m	54.99m to 55.25m
819	Alluvial Deposit	0.12m	54.37m
820	Alluvial Deposit	NFE	55.25m

4.8.2 The earliest layer recorded in Trench 8 was blue, alluvial clay (820) observed in the northern area of the trench. This survived to a height of 54.59mOD. At the same end of the trench a lens of black, alluvial silt (819) was observed overlying alluvial deposit (820), reaching a maximum thickness of

0.10m. Sealing both alluvial contexts was a substantial layer of mid brown, silty sand (814) measuring up to 0.40m, another natural deposit, and recorded at a height of 54.99m AOD.

4.8.3 At the southern end of Trench 8 overlying natural deposit (814) was a layer of yellowish brown, silty clay (813), which extended for a distance of 3.35m+; it was truncated by later activity. This is thought to be a surviving subsoil horizon. Truncating the western extent of layer (813) was construction cut [812] for wall [811]. The wall survived as little more than the foundation course [811], and was constructed from roughly dressed blocks of limestone, measuring up to 400mm by 240mm by 110mm. The wall was 0.35m wide and travelled on a north-south alignment for a distance of 5.50m, and then sealed by the floors and walls of a later building. It lay at 55.27mOD. On the eastern side of the wall was a row of three red bricks [821] extending for a distance of 0.70m, thought to have been part of a later drain lying across it, post-dating its demolition. In association with this was a small dump of black, ashy silt (822) which extended 1.40m north-south by 0.96m east-west, reaching a maximum thickness of 0.10m. Dump deposit (822) contained a small assemblage of pottery, animal bone, metal and CBM fragments, indicating a 19th or 20th century for the deposit's deposition. Sealing deposit (822), and identified throughout the full extent of Trench 8, was a buried topsoil (810). The topsoil was of dark brownish grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal, mortar and CBM inclusions, and deposited after the demolition of the structure associated with wall [811].

Plate 7: Stone foundation [811], Trench 8

4.8.4 Located in the central area of the trench and truncating soil horizon (810) was a red brick structure consisting of three elements spanning 4.50m north-south and 1.20m east-west, lying at 55.57mOD. To the south was an area of brick flooring, bricks set on their beds, bound by a wall foundation of bricks on edge [809]. A channel across the floor of bricks on edge may represent a drain. To the north of this [807 were bricks set into a sandy mortar bed representing part of a floor and base of an eastern facing wall. The exterior of the wall had been rendered with a thin skim of concrete. The bricks themselves measured 215mm by 105mm by 65mm. The brick size, combined with the concrete render, suggests the structure is of a 19th century date. Abutting structure [807] on its northern side was a further length of exterior wall, the bricks set on edge [808], which was 0.40m wide and extended to the north by 2.10m before returning to the west and travelling beyond the limit

of excavation. The red and purple bricks in wall [808] measured 225mm by 110mm by 60mm, indicating they might be a slightly earlier type of brick suggesting either an earlier phase to the structure or a later reuse of building materials.

4.8.5 Truncating the natural deposit (814) to the north of wall [808] was the east-west aligned service trench [818] for ceramic drain (817). Cut [818] was 0.60m wide but not fully excavated. The instillation of drain (818) is likely to be associated with the construction of structure [807] due to its spatial relation and parallel orientation to wall [808].

4.8.6 Cut [818] and structural features [807], [808] and [809] were sealed by a mixed, brown, sandy clay made ground deposit (805)/(806) which included fragments of mortar and CBM, up to 0.30m thick. This demolition horizon was truncated by a modern service trench [801] and insertion of a modern manhole [816] and associated brick inspection chamber [815] which truncated earlier wall [811]. In the southern area of Trench 8 these features were sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of concrete (803) followed by 0.05m thick layer of tarmac (802). In the northern area of the trench layer (805)/(806) was sealed by a sandy silt modern made ground deposit (804) 0.20m thick. Tarmac (803) and made ground layer (804) formed the current ground surface.

4.9 Trench 9 (Figure 11)

4.9.1 Trench 9 was located in the central area of the site and measured 30m by 2m on northeast-southwest alignment.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
901	Tarmac	0.10m	55.68m to 55.82m
902	Made Ground	0.25m	55.58m to 55.72m
903	Buried Topsoil	0.10m	55.33m to 55.48m
904	Subsoil	0.35m	55.23m to 55.38m
905	Natural	NFE	54.74m to 55.02m

4.9.2 The earliest deposit observed was yellowish brown silt (905), mottled with greenish blue patches, identified as the natural deposit. At its highest the natural silt lay at 55.02mOD, dropping to the southwest to 54,74mOD.

4.9.3 In the central area of Trench 9, a 1.00m wide linear disturbance [910] was identified travelling on a northwest-southeast alignment. When excavated the linear disturbance [910] had an irregular profile, reaching a depth of 0.45m. Such linear disturbances are commonly associated with former hedge lines, and this is supported by the extensive traces of roots identified within the greyish brown, silty clay fill (909) of the feature. Sealing feature [910] was a 0.25m thick layer of yellowish brown, silty clay subsoil (904).

4.9.4 Cut through the subsoil at the southwest end of the trench was a linear, approximately east-west aligned, cut for a drain [907]. The drain cut [907] was 0.75m wide by 0.60m deep, with near vertical sides and flat base. At the base of the cut a drainage structure [906] had been constructed consisting of two courses of brick supporting a horizontal limestone slab. Overall, the structure was 0.40m wide by 0.31m high. The limestone slabs measured 400mm square by 80mm thick, while the red brick measured 230mm by 105mm by 65mm indicating a possible 18th century date for the drains construction. Once the drain [906] had been constructed, it was subsequently backfilled using a firm, dark brown, sandy clay deposit (908), which contained two fragments of probable residual medieval tile as well as post-medieval tile fragments. Sealing drain cut [907] was a thin layer of dark

greyish brown, silty clay buried topsoil (902), up to 0.25m thick, and present throughout the full area of the trench.

Plate 8: Stone and brick drain [906] Trench 9

4.9.5 Deposited above buried topsoil (903) was a layer of sandy gravel made ground (902) 0.25m thick, which was overlain by 0.10m of modern tarmac (901) that sloped down slightly northwards from 55.82m AOD to 55.68m AOD

4.10 Trench 10 (Figure 15)

4.6.1 Trench 10 was located in the southern area of the site measuring 38m by 2m on an approximate north-south alignment.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
1001	Made Ground	0.26m	56.62m to 56.57m
1002	Made Ground	0.06m	56.36m to 56.21m
1003	Made Ground	0.17m	56.30m to 56.15m
1004	Made Ground	0.35m	56.13m to 55.98m
1005	Natural	NFE	55.62m to 55.72m

4.10.2 The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 10 was orangey brown, natural clay (1005), recorded at a height of around 55.67m AOD. This was uncharacteristically low for the site, and had probably undergone truncation.

4.10.3 Overlying the natural was a layer of dark greyish brown, clayey made ground (1004) which contained frequent fragments of modern CBM, and was 0.35m thick. Additional made ground material overlay layer (1004), in the form of a greenish brown, clay deposit (1003) which also contained CBM fragments. Made ground (1003) measured up to 0.15m thick. Above made ground (1003) the sequence of modern deposits was extended with the presence of a 0.05m thick layer of dark, mixed silty clay (1002). The sequence of deposits in Trench 10 was sealed by a layer of loose, orangey brown, silty gravel (1001), up to 0.25m thick, forming the current ground surface at around 56.60mOD

4.11 Trench 11 (Figure 12)

4.11.1 Trench 11 was located in the northeast corner of the site and measured 30m by 2m, on an approximate northeast-southwest alignment.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height

1101	Made Ground	0.20m	55.55m to 55.72m
1102	Soil Horizon	0.25m	55.35m to 55.52m
1107	Natural	NFE	54.86m to 54.97m

4.11.2 The earliest deposit observed was yellowish brown, natural sandy clay (1107), which was recorded at a height of 54.86m OD, rising to 54.97m in the southwest.

4.11.3 Truncating the natural deposit was the cut of an extensive palaeochannel [1108], aligned approximately east-west. The width of the palaeochannel was 14m, with its depth known to exceed 1m. Due to the size of the palaeochannel and the angle at which it passed through the trench prevented a full profile of the feature being established, although its southern edge appeared to be partially stepped. A slot was cut into the southern edge of the feature identifying a sequence of three fills. The earliest palaeochannel fill (1110) consisted of a greyish brown sandy silt 0.50m thick, which was overlain by a mottled yellowish brown, silty clay fill (1109) 0.30m thick, then subsequently sealed by greenish brown, silty clay deposit (1103) up to 0.50m thick. Three further palaeochannel fills (1104), (1105) and (1106) were recorded from the surface of the feature, all consisting of various shades of silty clay deposits.

Plate 9: Section through palaeochannel [1108]

4.11.4 The sequence of palaeochannel fills was sealed by yellowish brown, silty clay soil horizon (1102) measuring up to 0.25m thick. Soil horizon (1102), in turn, was overlain by a layer of made ground (1001) consisting of crushed concrete and CBM, 0.20m thick, forming the modern ground surface at around 55.62mOD.

4.12 Trench 12 (Figure 13)

4.12.1 Trench 12 was located in the eastern area of the site, and measured 30m by 2m, on an approximate northeast-southwest alignment.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
1201	Made Ground	0.12m	57.71m to 58.17m
1202	Made Ground	0.20m	57.59m to 58.05m
1203	Soil Horizon	0.64m	57.39m to 57.85m
1205	Natural	NFE	56.82m to 57.27m

4.12.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 12 was dark orangey brown, natural sandy clay (1205) which was recorded at a 57.27mOD, dropping by 0.5m to the southwest. Variation in the natural deposit was identified in the northeast end of the trench by a more greyish brown band of natural silty clay (1204). A brown, sandy silt soil horizon (1203) up to 0.65 m thick overlay the natural deposit across the whole trench. Above soil horizon (1203) a layer of compact chalk rubble (1202) 0.20m deep had been deposited, most likely as a formation layer to facilitate the laying of a modern rubble hardcore surface (1201). This hardcore surface formed the existing ground surface at between 58.17mOD in the southwest and dropping slightly northwards to 57.71mOD.

4.13 Trench 13 (Figure 14)

4.13.1 Trench 13 was located in the eastern area of site, measuring 30m by 2m on an approximate east-west alignment.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
1301	Made Ground	0.15m	57.57m to 59.54m
1302	Made Ground	0.13m	57.42m to 59.39m
1304	Soil Horizon	0.45m	57.29m to 59.26m
1306	Natural	NFE	57.25m to 59.11m

4.13.2 The earliest deposit uncovered was mid orangey brown, natural gravely sandy clay (1306). The natural was present at a height of 59.11mOD in the east of the trench, dropping by almost 2m to the west.

4.13.3 One variation in the natural was investigated; at the eastern end of Trench 13 was a 2.6m wide area of dark greyish brown clay (1307). One feature was present, a circular shallow bowl shaped cut [1308], approximately 0.75m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. Cut [1308] contained a brownish grey, silty clay deposit (1305) with occasional charcoal inclusions and evidence for root disturbance. This was probably a tree-pit. This was sealed by a 0.45m thick mid brown, silty clay soil horizon (1304).

4.13.4 In the southern area of the trench, overlying soil horizon (1304) was a layer of modern brick rubble (1303) 6m in length by 0.20m thick. Sealing brick rubble (1303) and covering the full extent of the trench was a formation layer of compact chalk rubble (1302) 0.15m thick, positioned to facilitate the deposition of the current rubble hardcore surface (1301) that followed the natural slope of the site in this location.

4.14 Trench 14 (Figure 15)

4.14.1 Trench 14 was located in the southeast corner of the site. The trench measured 25.50m by 2m and was aligned north-south.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
1401	Made Ground	0.22m	57.62m to 58.17m
1402	Made Ground	0.07m	57.40m to 57.95m
1403	Made Ground	0.03m	57.33m to 57.88m
1404	Made Ground	0.14m	57.30m to 57.85m
1405	Natural	NFE	57.16m to 57.71m

4.14.2 The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 14 was bluish brown, natural clay (1405), recorded at a height of 57.16mOD in the north, rising to 57.17mOD in the south of the trench, and was heavily truncated.

4.14.3 Truncating the natural deposit at the southern end of the trench was part of a large pit [1407], approximately 6m wide and 1m deep. The pit fill (1406) was dark brown, clayey deposit containing modern material including metal and plastic debris.

4.14.4 Pit [1407] was sealed by a sequence of made ground horizons. The earliest layer of made ground (1404) consisted of a mid brown, silty clay material, measuring up to 0.15m thick, with moderated modern brick inclusions. Overlying layer (1404) was a thin layer of crushed brick (1403), up to 0.05m thick. Deposited above layer (1403) was a formation deposit constructed from compacted crushed debris (1402) 0.10m thick, facilitating the construction of a modern car park surface (1401) which was 0.20m thick.

4.15 Trench 15 (Figure 16)

4.15.1 Trench 15 was located in the eastern corner of the side, measured 30m by 2m on a northwest-southeast alignment.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
1501	Made Ground	0.25m	59.32m to 61.02m
1506	Buried Topsoil	0.10m	59.05m to 60.77m
1507	Subsoil	0.20m	58.95m to 60.67m
1508	Natural	NFE	58.74m to 60.47m

4.15.2 The earliest deposit encountered was yellowish brown, silty clay natural (1508), recorded at a height of 58.87mOD in the southeast of the trench, rising by c.1m to the northwest. Overlying the natural was a 0.20m thick brownish yellow, silty clay subsoil deposit (1507). A firm, dark brown, clayey silt buried topsoil deposit (1506) sealed subsoil (1507). The buried topsoil deposit (1506) was up to 0.10m thick, with occasional small inclusions of CBM. Intruding through the layer of buried topsoil (1506), and located throughout the trench, were several isolated patches of modern made ground of variable description (1502), (1503), (1504) and (1505). These isolated patches of made ground were sealed by the modern ground surface (1501) constructed from rubble hardcore, to a depth of 0.25m.

4.16 Trench 16 (Figure 17)

4.16.1 Trench 16 was located in the central northern area of the site and measured 19m by 2m. The trench was aligned approximately northeast-southwest.

Context	Description	Depth	OD height
1601	Made Ground	0.20m	54.96m to 55.11m
1604	Made Ground	0.60m	54.76m to 54.91m
1607	Natural	NFE	54.25m to 54.62m

4.16.2 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 16 was yellowish brown, natural sandy gravel (1607), recorded at a height of 54.25mOD in the southwest, rising slightly to the northeast.

4.16.3 Truncating the natural were two large features. In the southwest area of the trench was the cut for either a substantial pit or ditch [1606]. The cut was in excess of 7.50m in length by 1.20m deep, with gradual sloping sides. The feature had been backfilled by a loose, greyish brown, sandy silty deposit (1605) which contained 19th or 20th century rubble, and tile debris. At the opposite end of the trench a north-south aligned linear ditch feature [1603] was recorded cutting into the natural. Ditch [1603] was up to 3.00m wide by 0.40m deep, and had a gentle concave profile. The fill (1602) of ditch

[1603] was similar to feature fill (1605) and also contained the same type of 19th or 20th century inclusions.

4.16.4 Both feature [1603] and [1606] were sealed by a substantial layer of loose yellowish brown sand gravel made ground (1604) containing frequent modern demolition debris, measuring up to 0.60m thick. Overlying made ground (1604), and forming the existing ground surface, was a layer of modern compacted demolition rubble (1601) up to 0.20m thick.

5. Finds and Environmental Samples

5.1 The finds and sample have been processed and undergone specialist assessment. The results of the assessment is included as Appendix B and integrated into the main report.

5.2 The finds included small assemblages of pottery, tile, brick and glass as well as animal bone. These finds were predominantly of post-medieval date and could mainly be dated to between 1600 and 1800. A small number of medieval pot sherds were however present, but apart from those in a single shallow pit [519] were demonstrably residual. The presence of medieval pottery and two fragments of medieval tile is however indicative of a low level of medieval activity in the locality of the site.

5.3 By far the best-represented period is that between the early 1600 and 1800, into which the majority of the pottery, tile and glass recovered can be attributed. Amongst the glass recovered were pieces of window glass that can be dated from 1550–1800 within the two walls [312] and [324]. Of interest was a fragment of bone decoration of 16th to 17th century date recovered from within ditch [308]

5.4 The small assemblage of animal bone recovered was dominated by cattle, although sheep, pig, horse, dog and chicken were also represented. This assemblage was too small to be diagnostic in its own right.

5.5 A single environmental sample was taken from fill (307) of ditch [308]. Small, infrequent, charcoal fragments, two charred cereal caryopses of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and further fragments of indeterminate cereals were evident. However the flot contains no other charred macro botanical remains. Land snail shells are also infrequent and no other faunal remains are present. This appears to derive from a short-lived episode of infilling of the ditch.

6. Conclusions and Interpretation

6.1 The evaluation successfully characterised both the stratigraphic sequence and the archaeological potential of the site. Alluvial or natural deposits of varying character were observed in all 16 trenches. At the eastern end of the site, the natural deposits are sandy clay, at 60mOD, dropping to 55.6m where alluvial blue clay was encountered, while further to the west, alluvial sands and gravel were present, closer to the rivers, at 54mOD.

6.2 The geology and the topography of the site also shows patches of naturally lain gravel along the edge of Tickford Street, where the features of medieval date lie. The soft alluvial silts, suggest that the central part of the site was probably soft, marshy ground still prone to flooding into the modern period. It is also notable that the areas stripped of topsoil for the Aston Martin Works are generally lower than the trenches with archaeological remains, so it may be that much of the pre-20th century horizon had been removed; no topsoil remained in the trenches excavated within the footprint of the works.

6.3 No features appear to be earlier than medieval in date, although flint flakes were collected from subsoil in Trench 5, which indicate a prehistoric presence in the general area. A single probable medieval feature, a shallow pit, was identified in Trench 5, It is, therefore unlikely that any intensive medieval activity is present on the site, although the finds of medieval pottery could indicate a general low level of activity in the immediate area.

6.4 The only significant period of activity that was evident during the course of the evaluation is associated with the post-medieval use of the site. Post-medieval features were observed in Trenches 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 16. This evidence primarily consisted of structural features, namely postholes and walls, in association with multiple pits and a drainage channel. Evidence for post-

medieval activity is concentrated in the western half of the site and can mainly be attributed a date of between 1550 and 1800. Taken together, these features indicate that the western area of the site has been regularly exploited for the construction of structures and domestic settlement during this period.

6.5 Several undated features were excavated during the archaeological investigation on site, the most significant of which is the substantial palaeochannel identified in Trench 11. The size of the palaeochannel suggests it may represent a former river channel associated with the Great Ouse which runs approximately 400m to the north of the site.

6.6 A review of the deposits observed across the full area indicate significant levels of modern truncation and disturbance have taken place on site. This has occurred in various locations on site, with no distinct pattern forming. It is most likely that where truncation has occurred less substantial archaeological features may have been removed.

6.7 The evaluation trenches have revealed evidence for activities carried out on the site prior to its use by the Aston Martin Works. The archaeological remains are concentrated in the trenches excavated close to Tickford Street, and near to the northern boundary. In all other trenches on the lower part of the site, the impact of the Aston Martin Works was significant, and no topsoil remained. This may indicate that much of the potential archaeological horizon has been lost too. On the hill to the east of the site, the trenches also revealed a paucity of archaeological features as well as topsoil. The use of this area as a car park probably also necessitated the removal of the topsoil. Two trenches (Trenches 10 and 14) indicate the area was significantly reduced and disturbed, with no features present.

6.8 Overall, the evaluation demonstrates that the site contains a moderate to high density of features, where truncation has not occurred. The most significant of these features are associated with the post medieval period, which appear to be concentrated in proximity to the Tickford Road frontage, representing domestic activity and boundary alignments. Other features associated with the post-medieval period are distributed across the western half of the site. There is good potential for further features associated with this period to survive despite areas of known modern truncation.

6.9 The post-medieval remains are of relatively limited significance, but can still contribute to the well-documented later development of the town, specifically regarding the contemporary land use on site.

6.9.1 Due to the good level of survival and degree of significance associated with the remains related to medieval and post-medieval periods, it is recommended that further work be undertaken. In relation to the proposed development plan, the areas of archaeological interest will be located within areas of proposed car parking, suggesting minimal impact upon the archaeological horizons. Although, drainage runs associated with the construction of the car park may impact on these horizons. There may also be a possible impact upon known archaeological features during construction of the access road along the Tickford Road frontage. Therefore, dependent on the details of the finalised development plans, it is recommended that further archaeological investigations take place it the area of the Tickford Road frontage to mitigate any damage from the proposed development within this area. The final decision regarding further works will lie with Nick Crank, Archaeological Advisor to Milton Keynes Council.

7. Publication

7.1 Due to the nature of the project, initial publication is expected to be limited to a summary in the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Round-Up and publication via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix B).

8. Archive Deposition

8.1 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of finds, paper records, drawings, and digital and black and white photographs, will be deposited with the Buckinghamshire County Museum Service.

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Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 1995
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500m 0 2 km

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Figure 1: Site Location

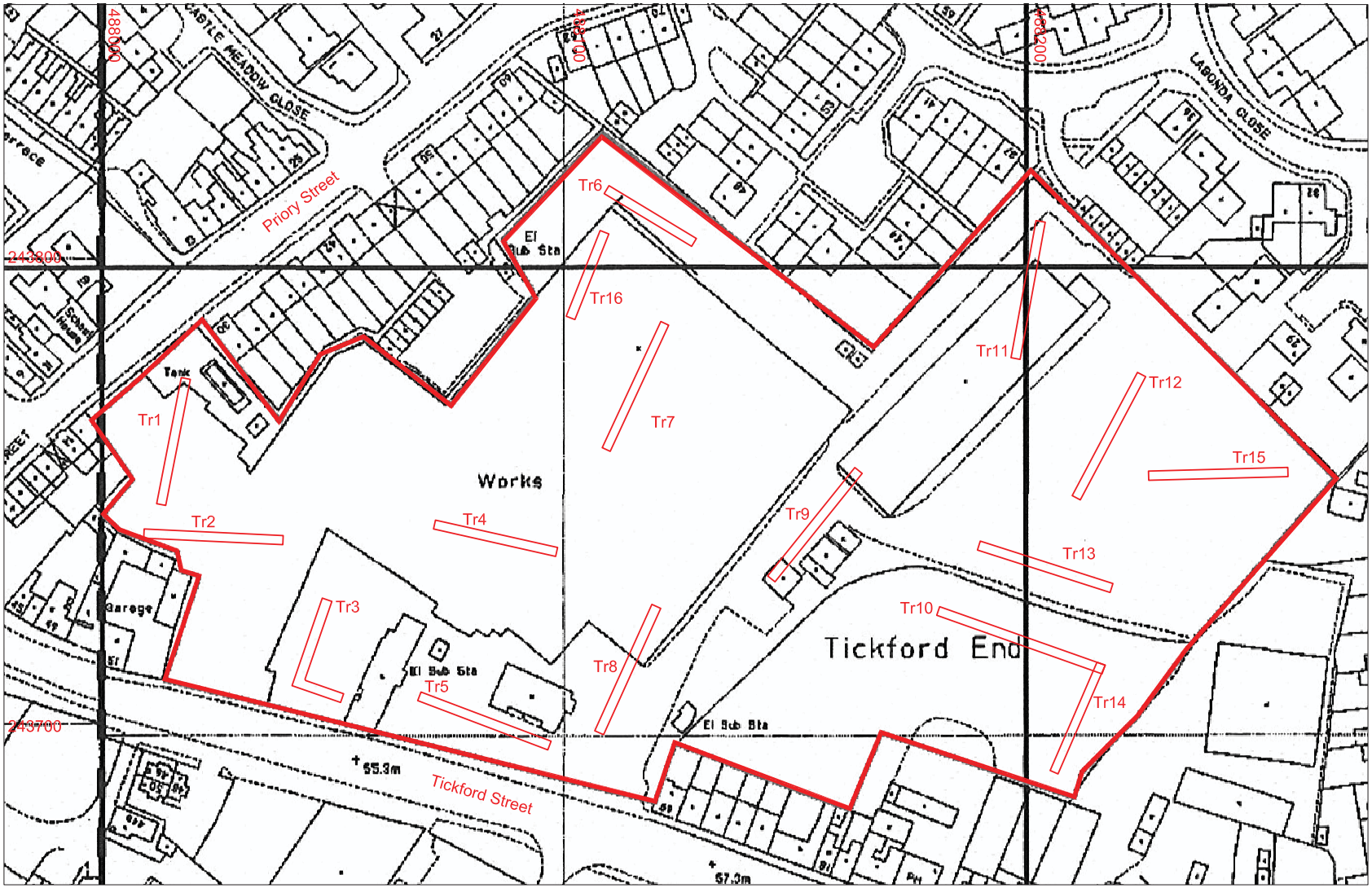
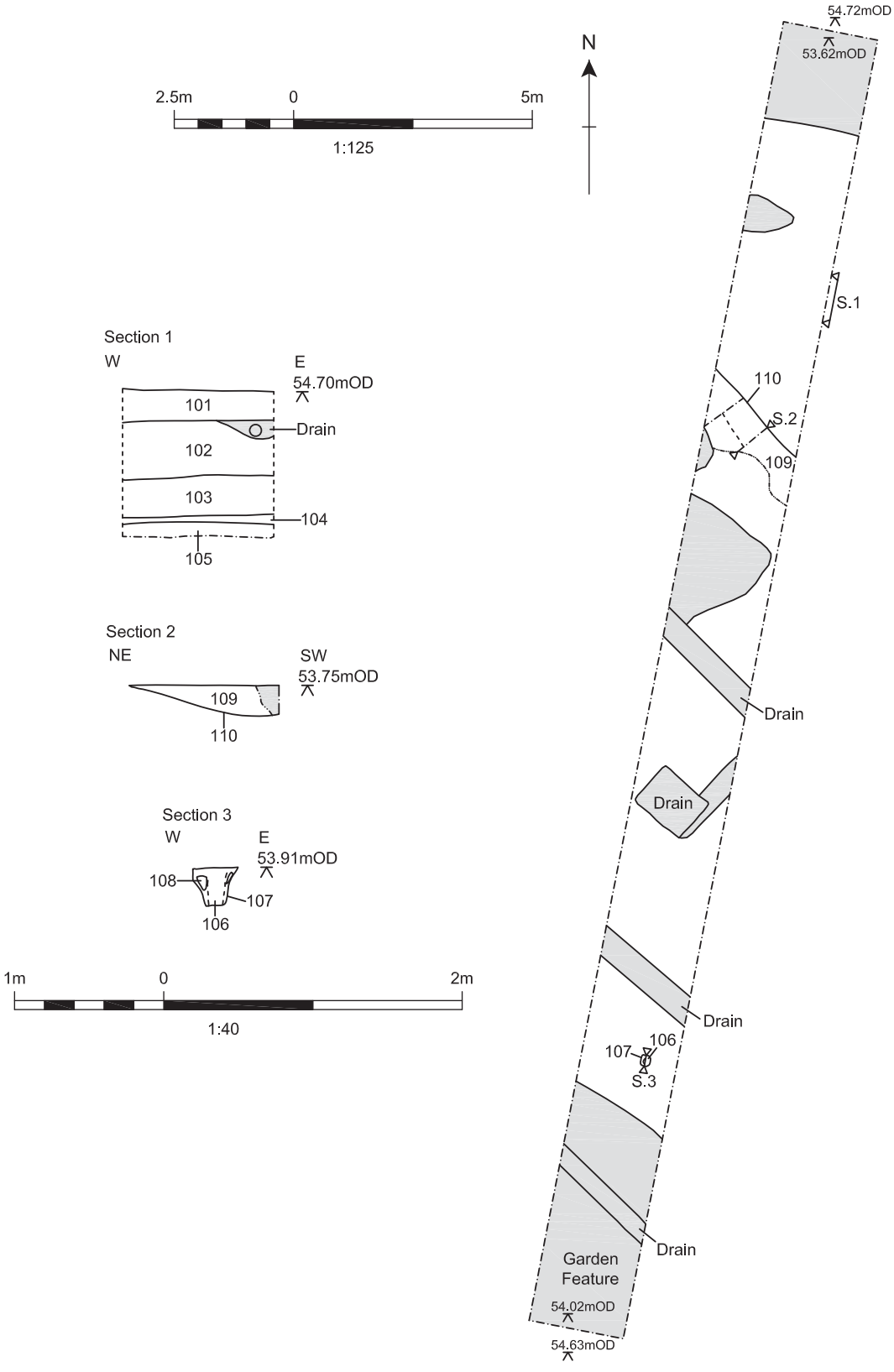
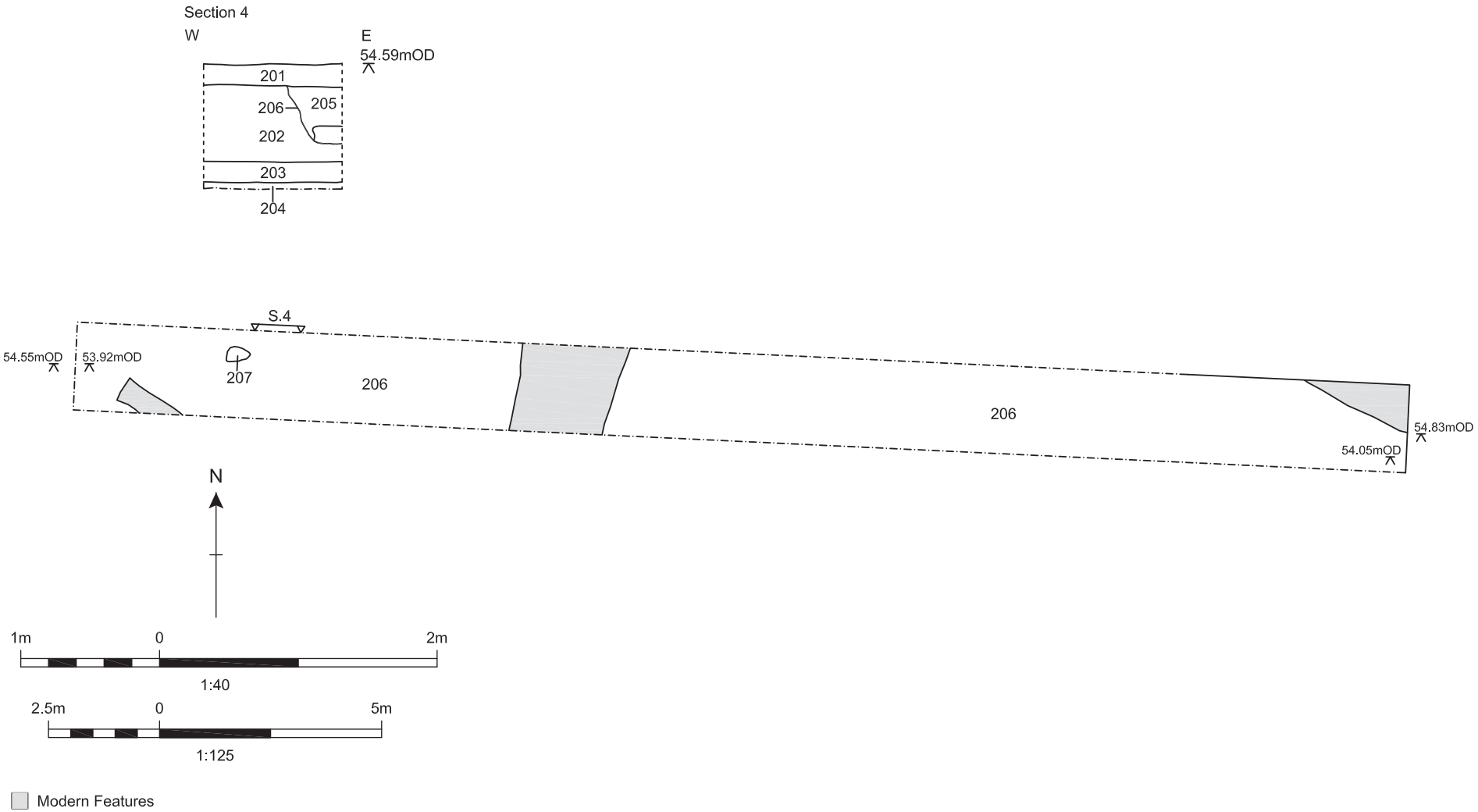


Figure 2: Detailed Site / Trench Location Plan



Modern Features

Figure 3: Trench 1: Plan (1:125) & Sections (1:40)



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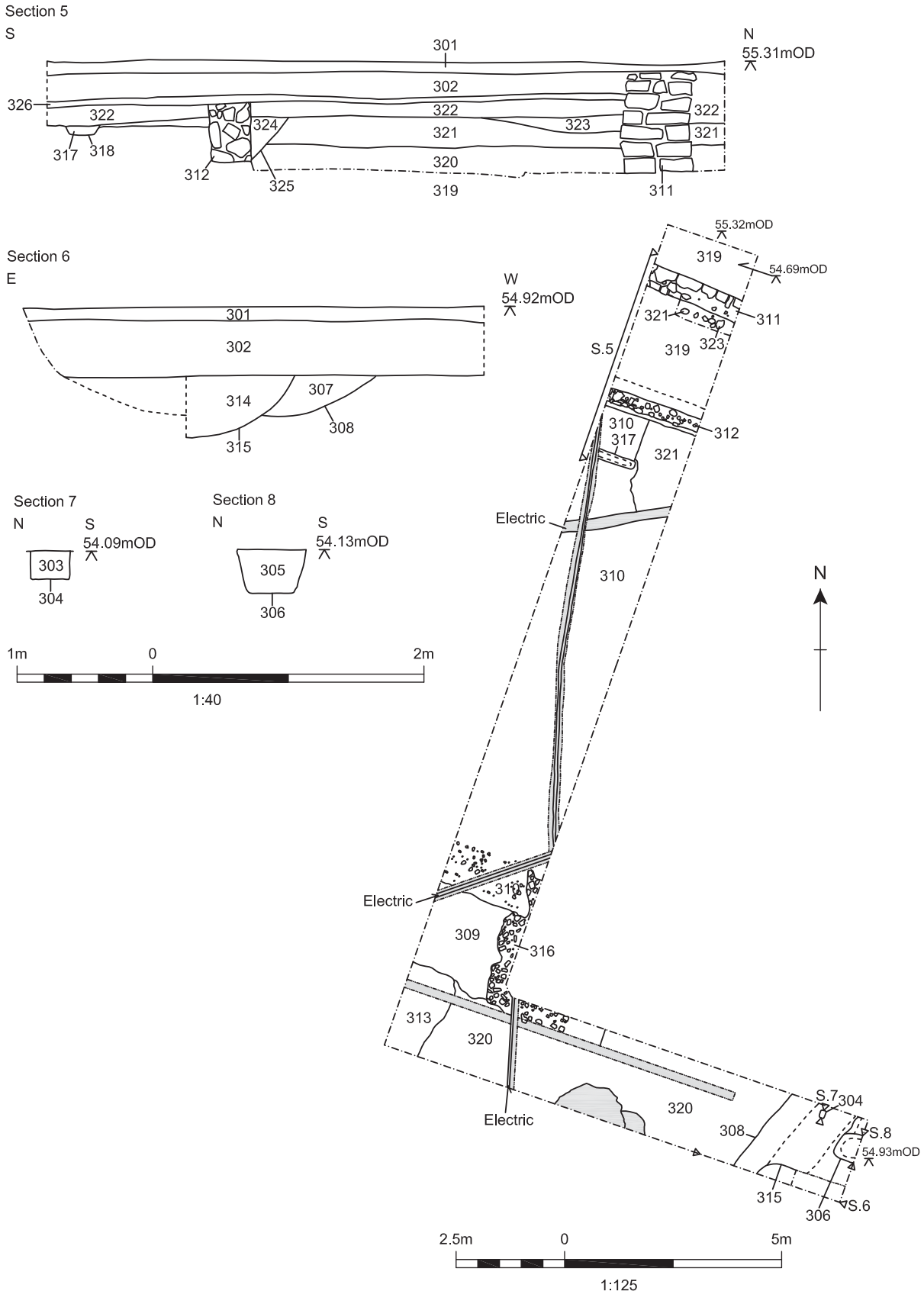

Figure 5: Trench 3: Plan (1:125) & Sections (1:40)

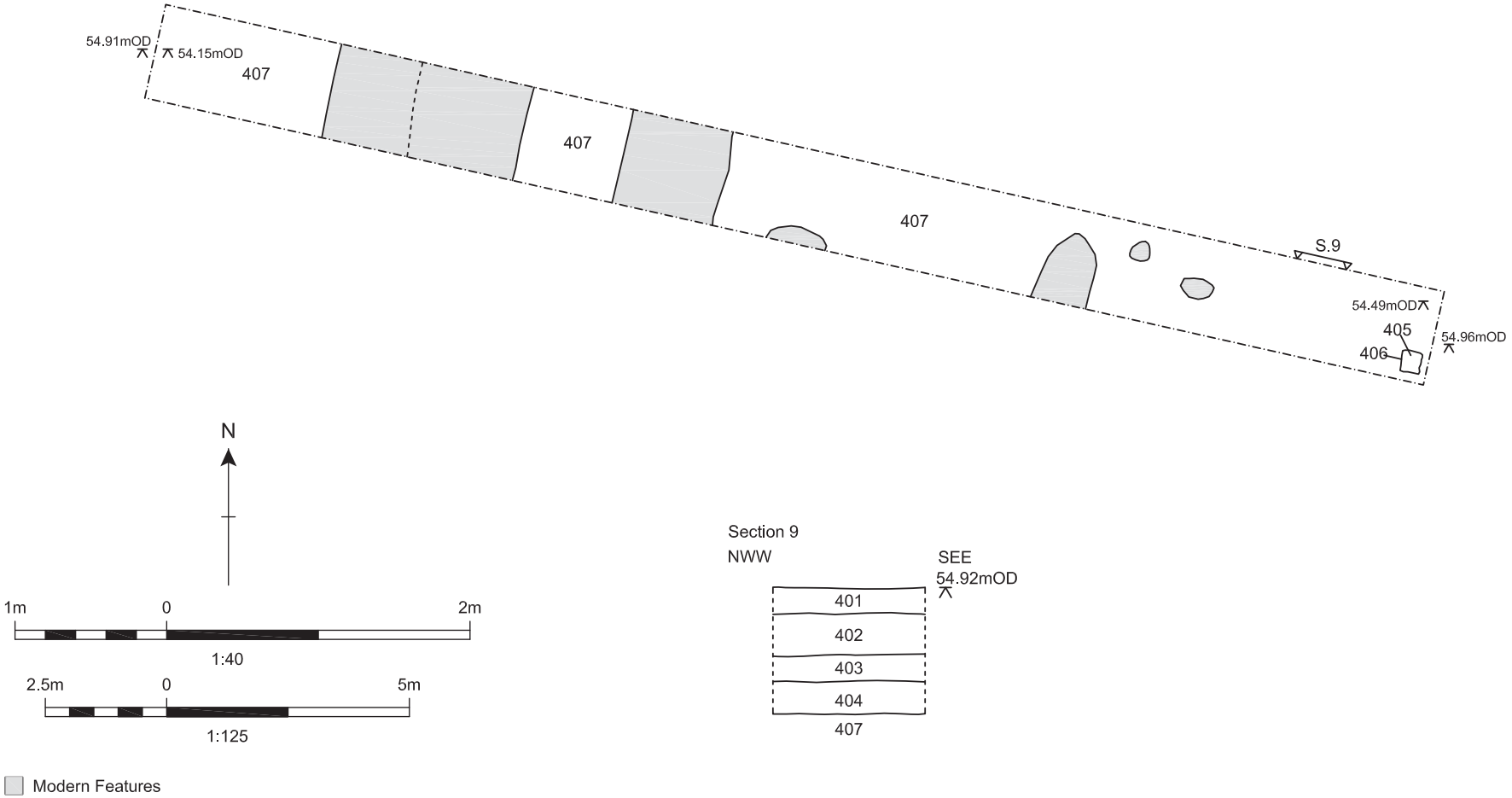

Figure 6: Trench 4: Plan (1:125) & Section (1:40)

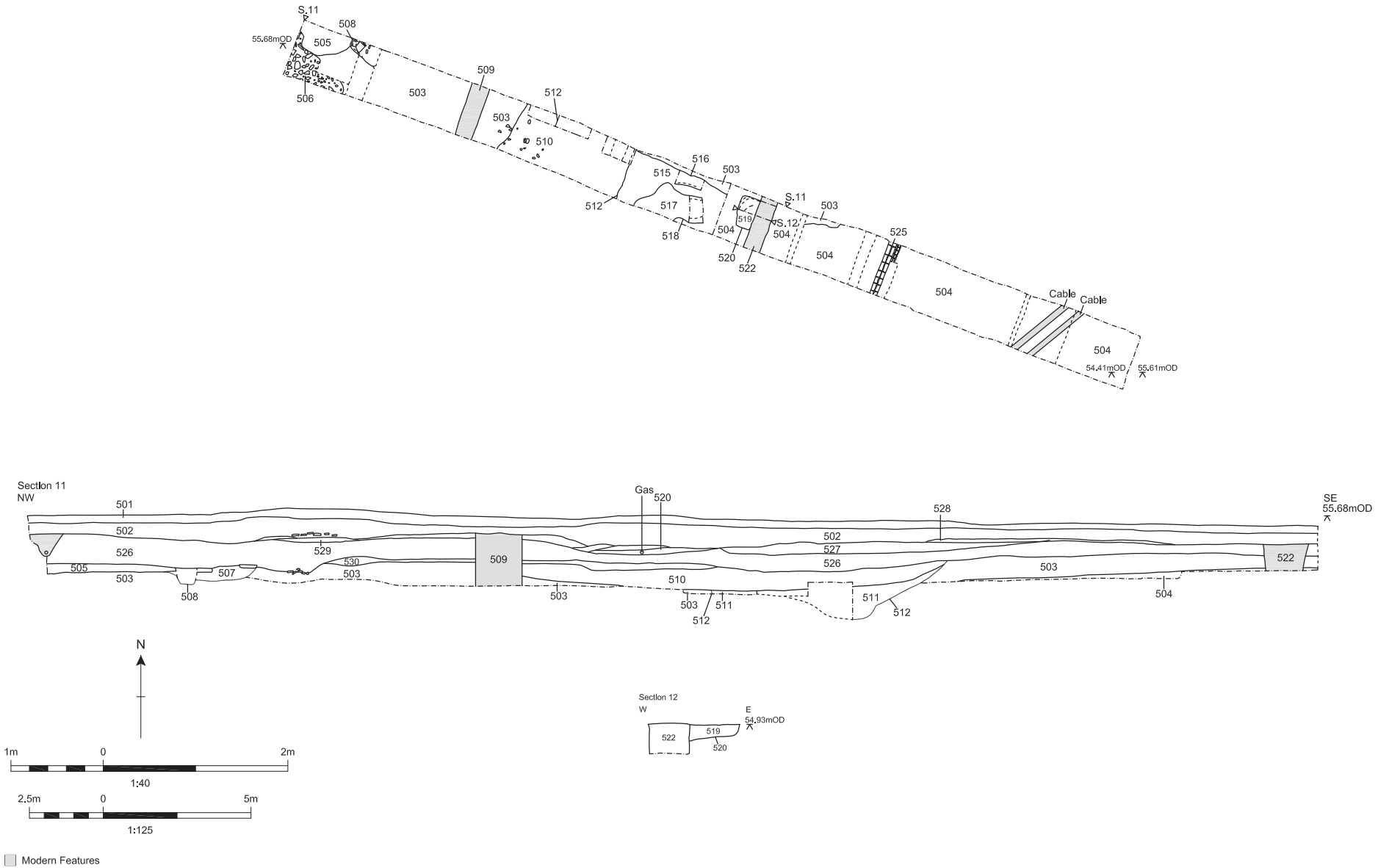

Figure 7: Trench 5: Plan (1:125) & Sections (1:40)

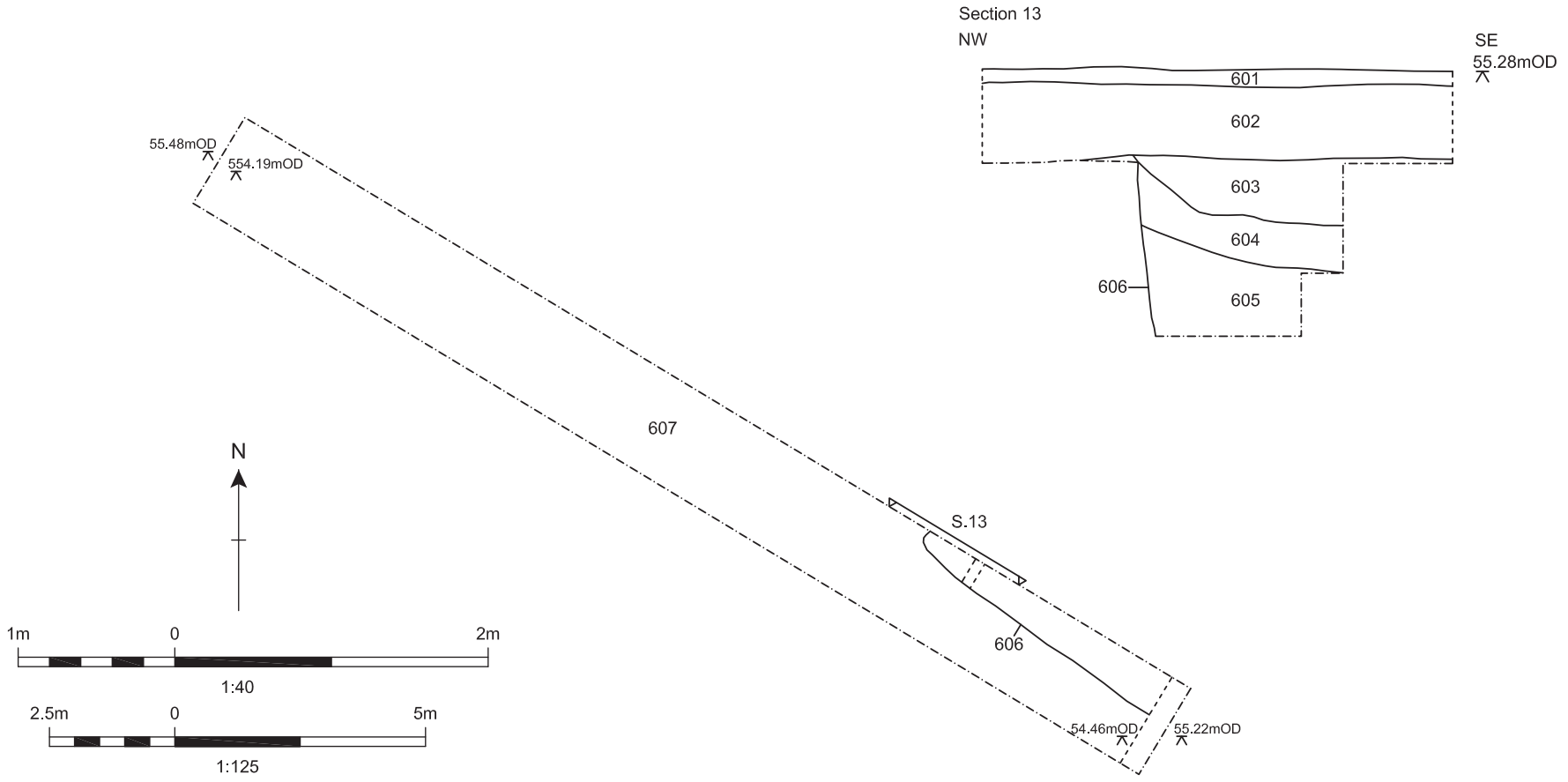

Figure 8: Trench 6: Plan (1:125) & Section (1:40)

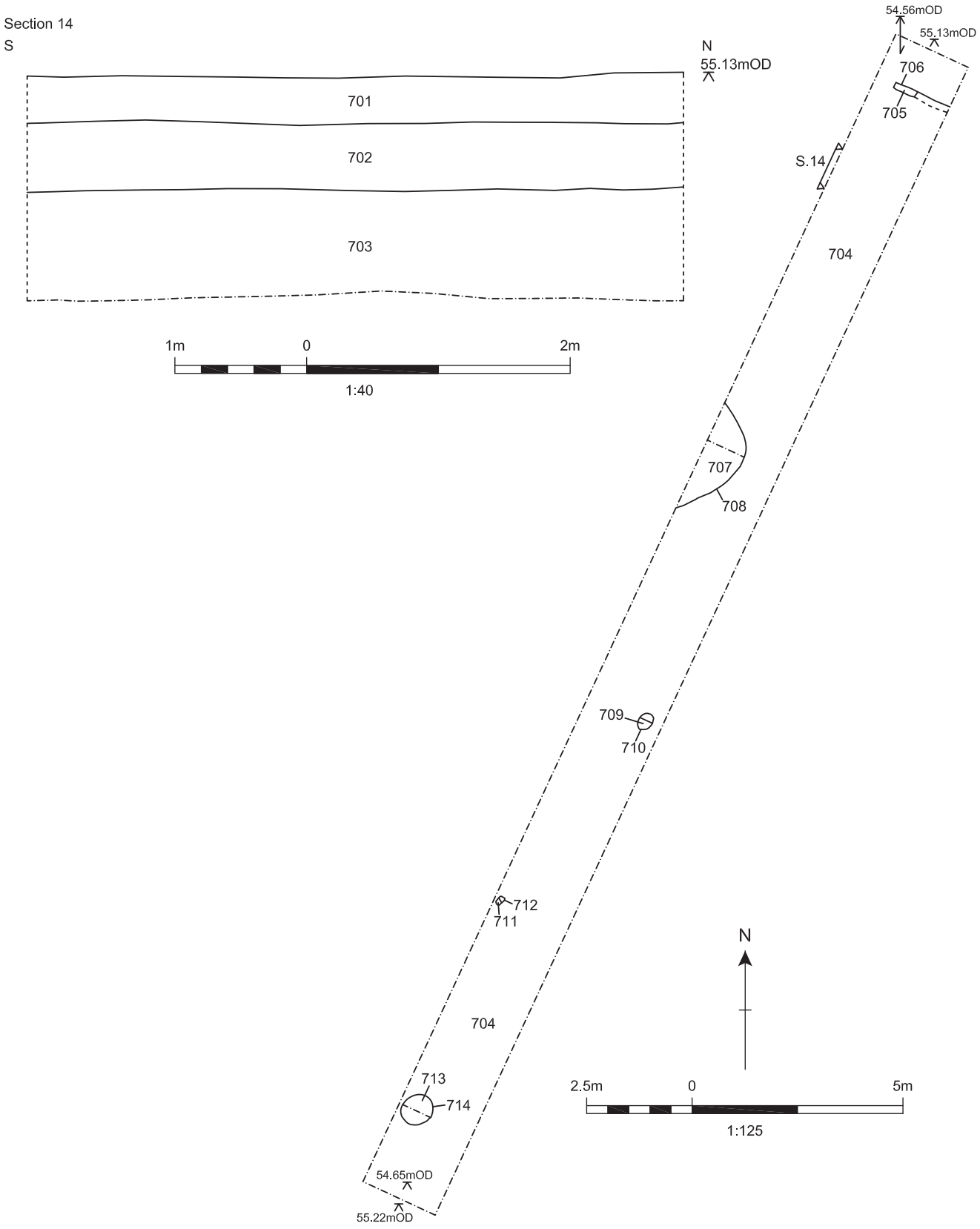

Figure 9: Trench 7: Plan (1:125) & Section (1:40)

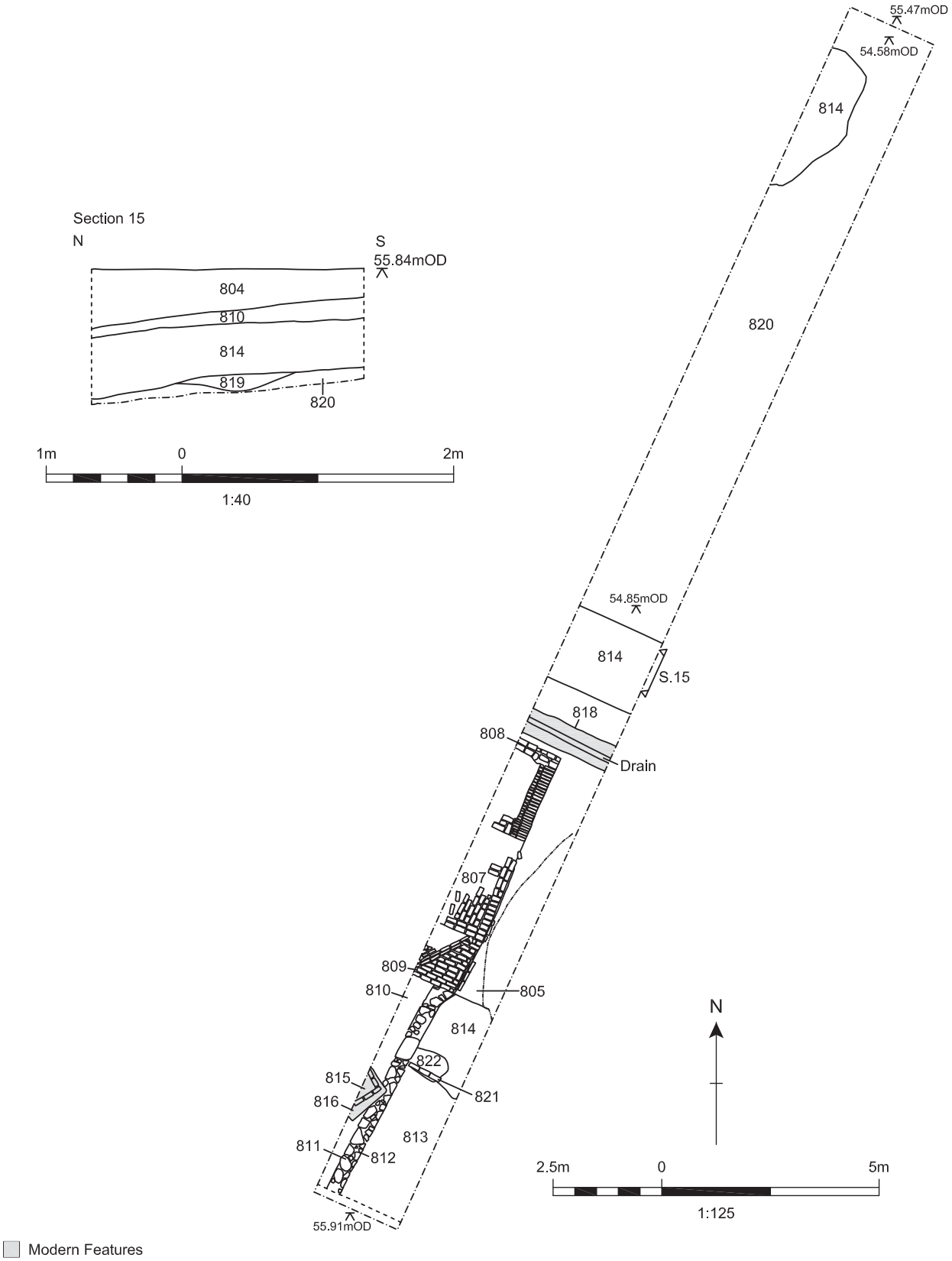

Figure 10: Trench 8: Plan (1:125) & Section (1:40)

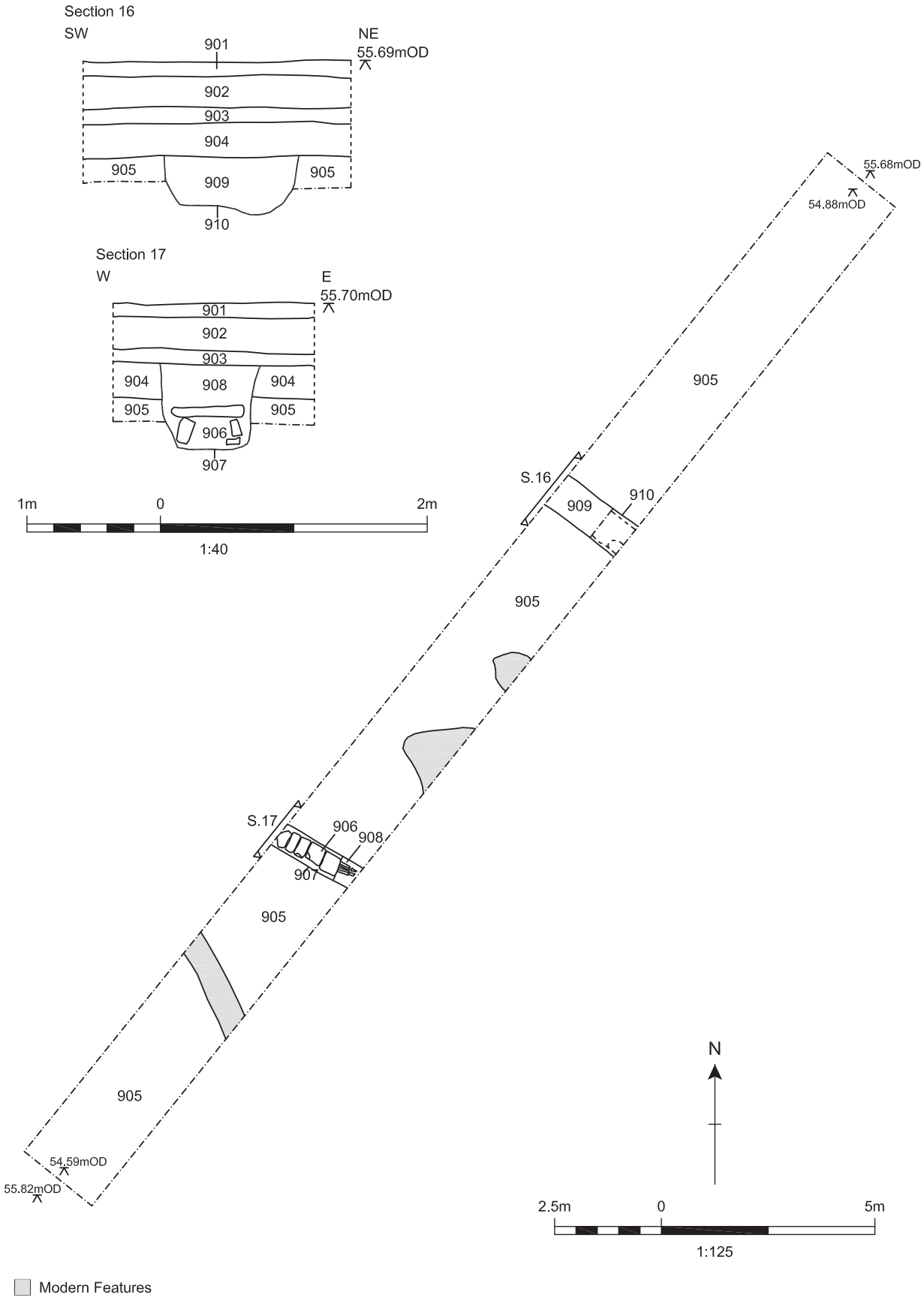

Figure 11: Trench 9: Plan (1:125) & Sections (1:40)

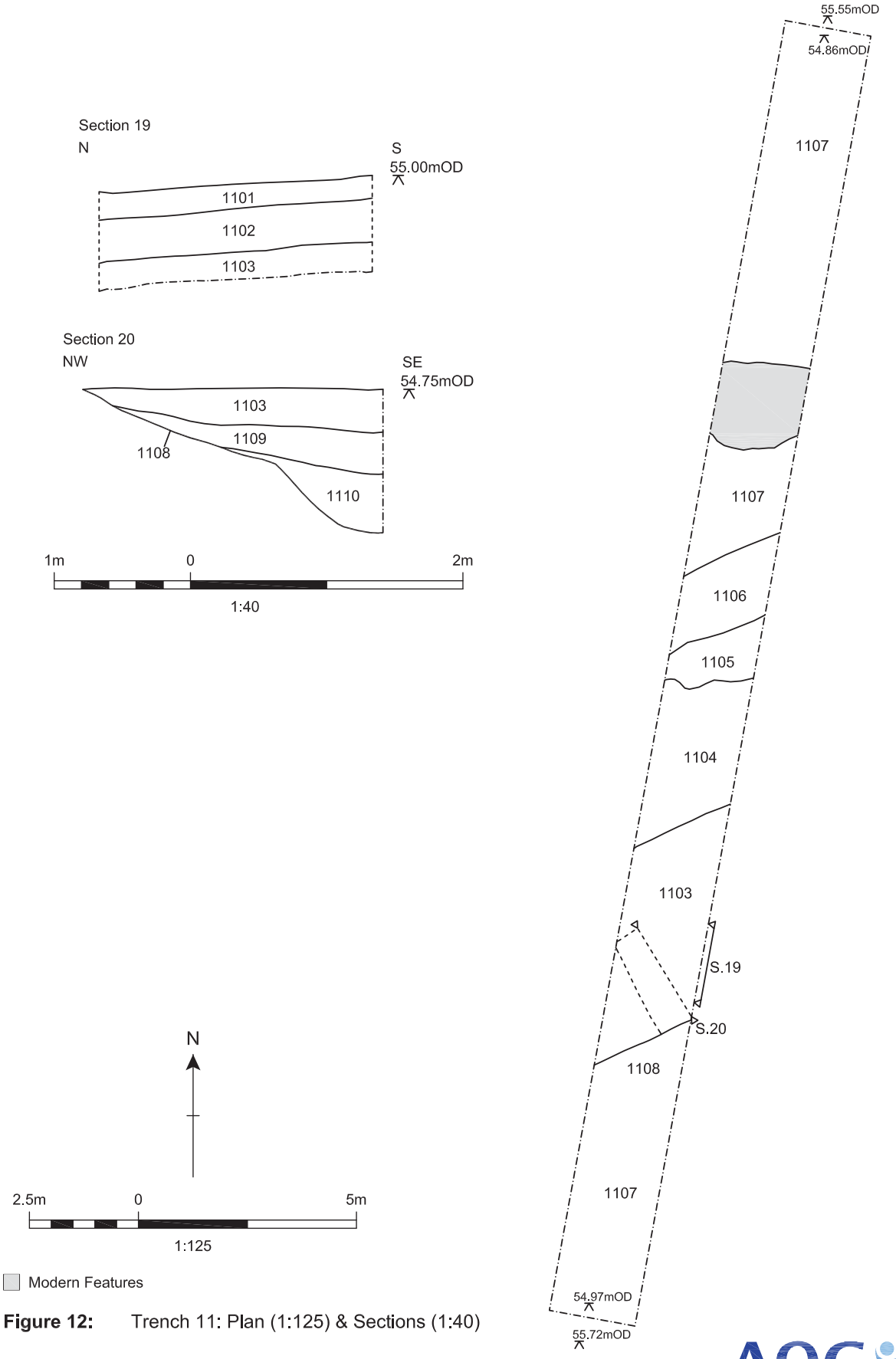

Figure 12: Trench 11: Plan (1:125) & Sections (1:40)

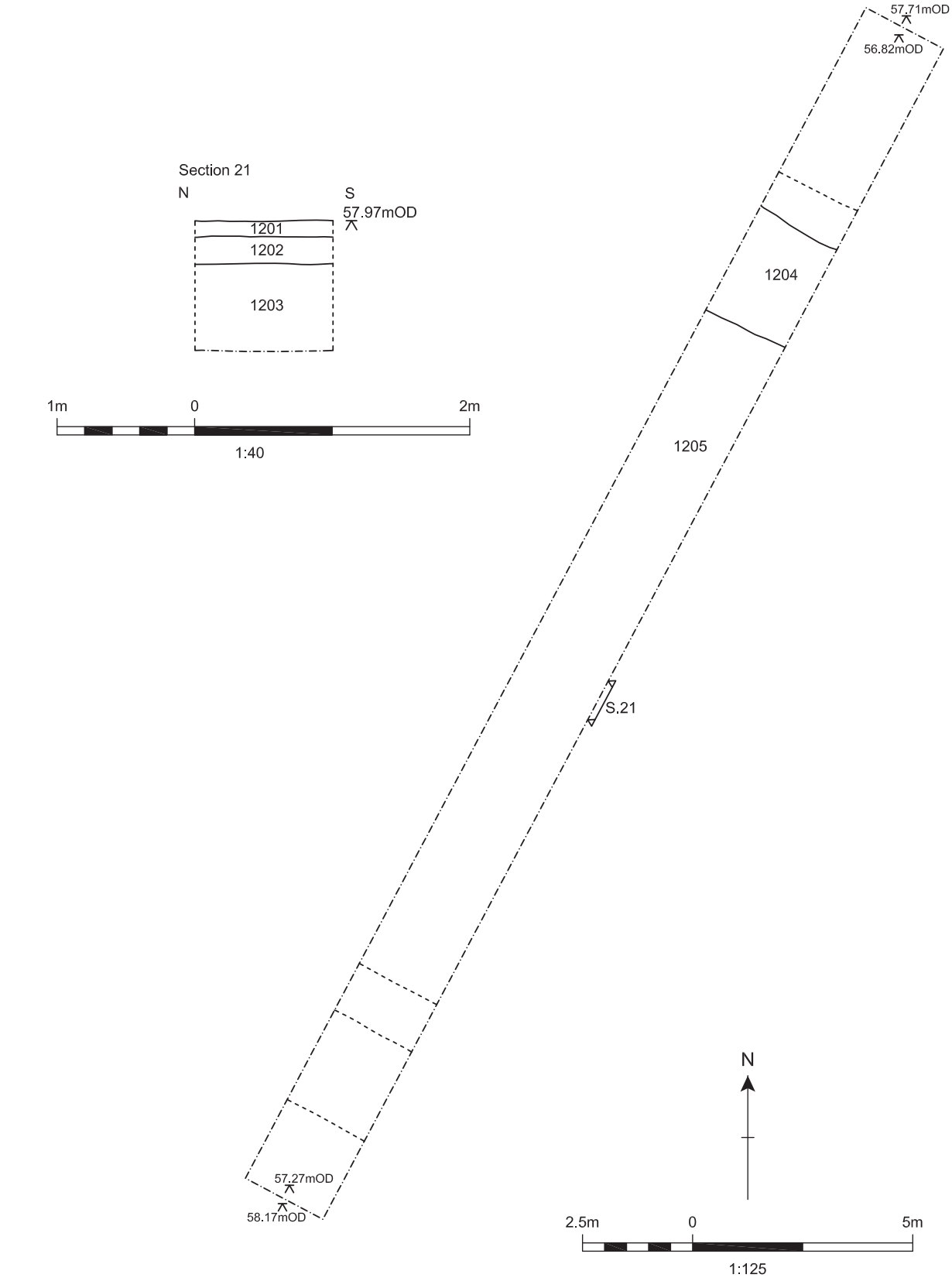

Figure 13: Trench 12: Plan (1:125) & Section (1:40)

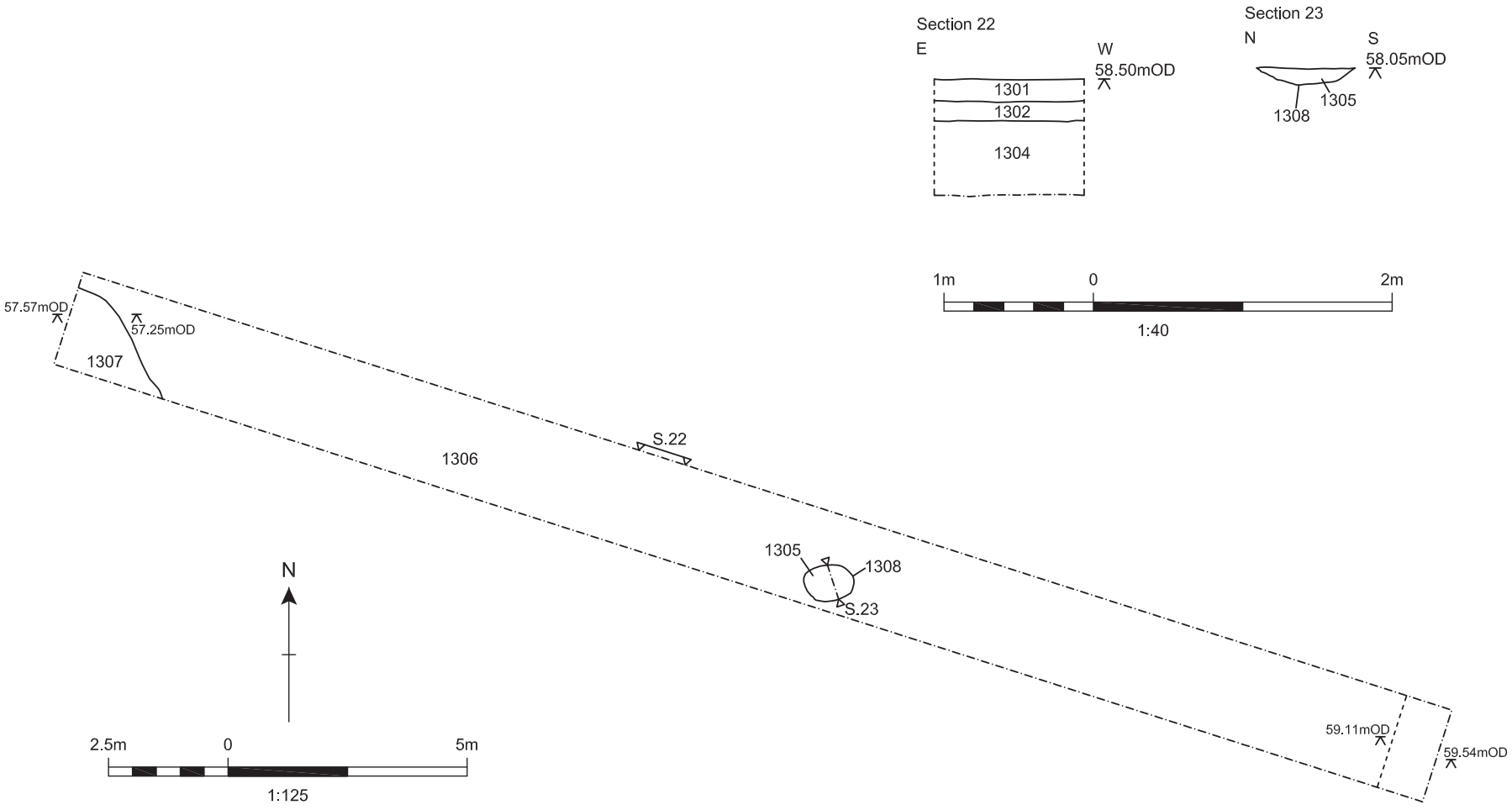

Figure 14: Trench 13: Plan (1:125) & Sections (1:40)

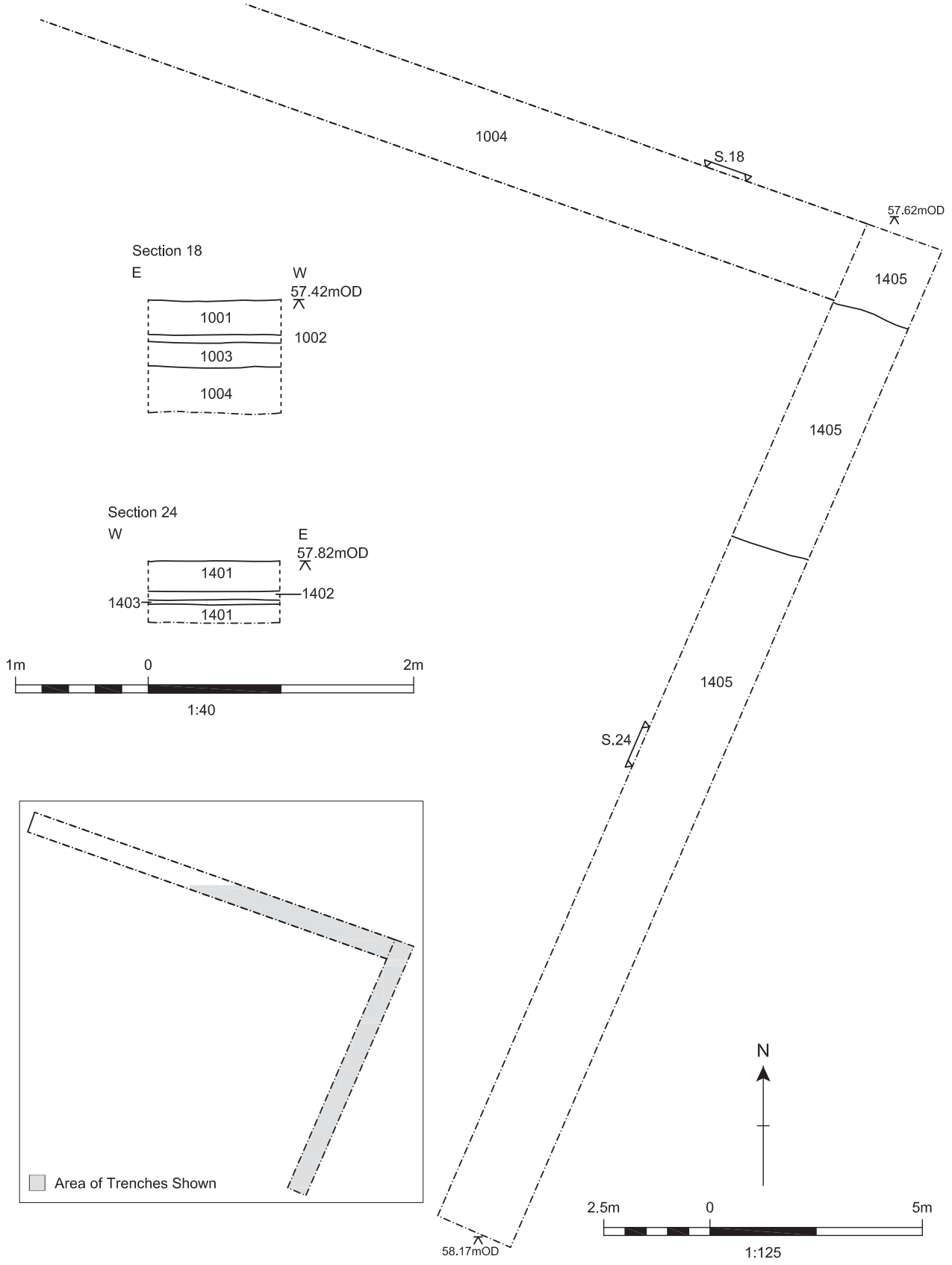

Figure 15: Trenches 10 & 14: Plans (1:125) & Sections (1:40)

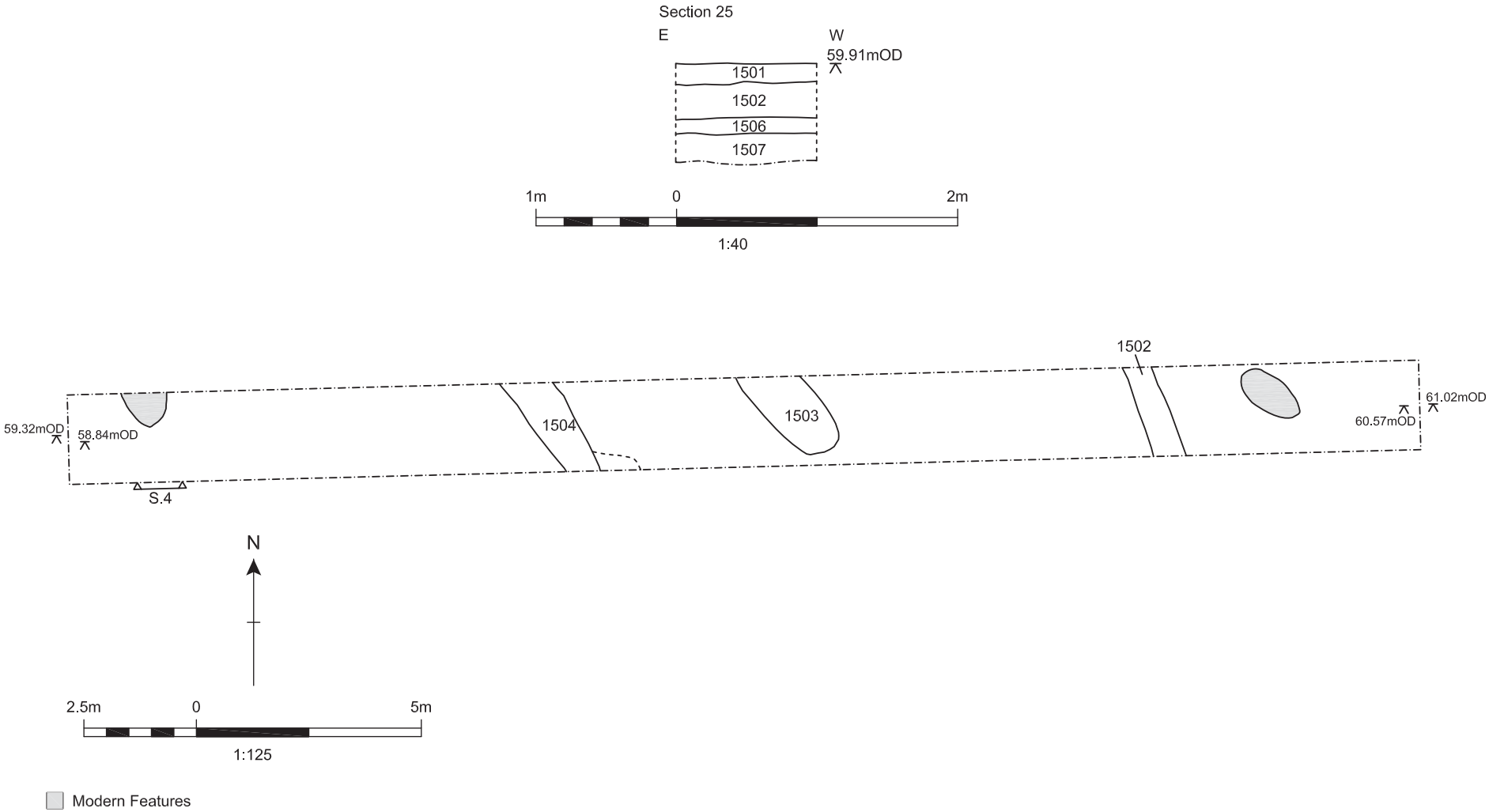

Figure 16: Trench 15: Plan (1:125) & Section (1:40)

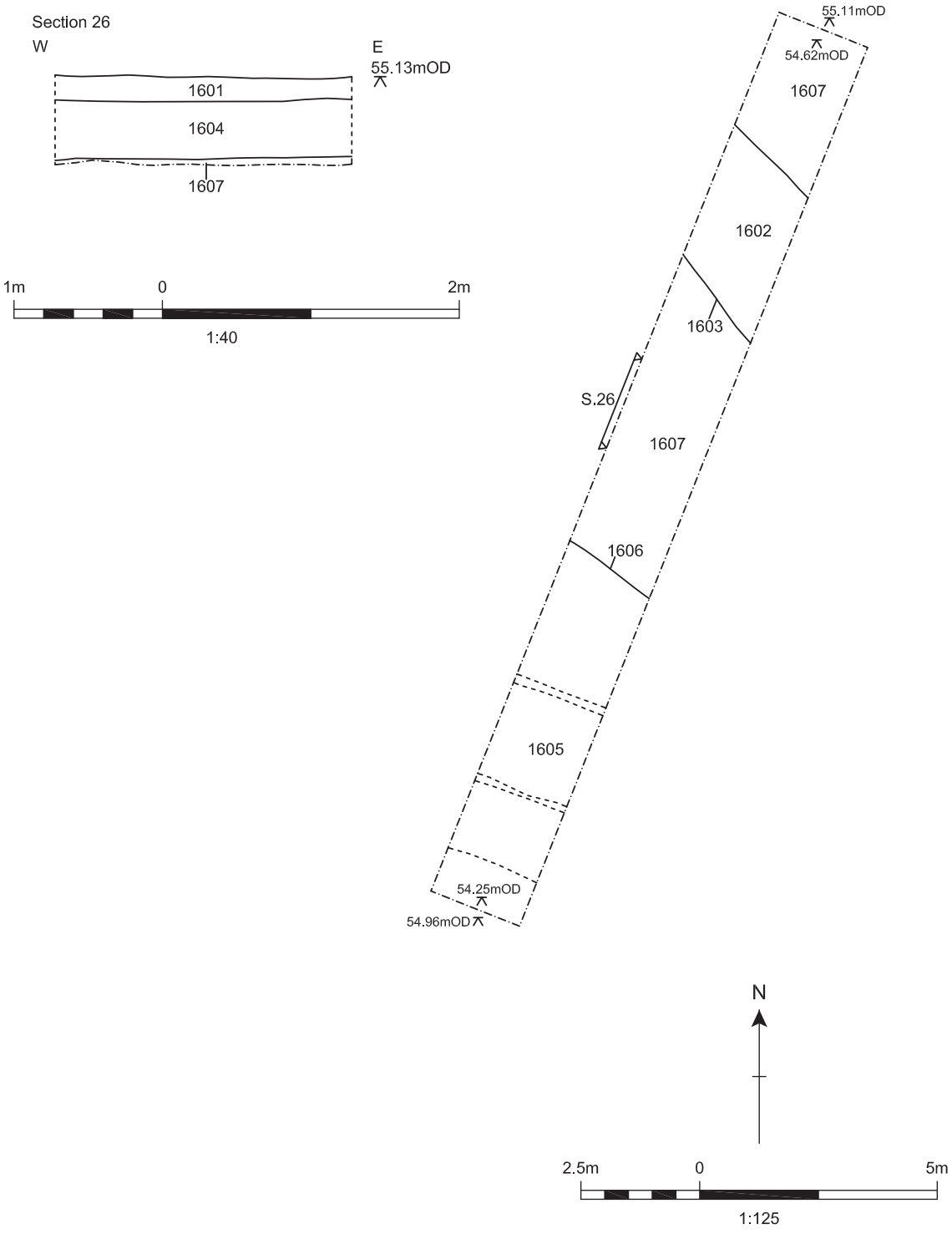

Figure 17: Trench 16: Plan (1:125) & Section (1:40)

Appendices

Appendix A- Context Register

Context	Description	Length(m)	Width(m)	Depth(m)
101	Demolition horizon-current surface	27.50	2.00	0.20
102	Levelling layer	27.50	2.00	0.40
103	Subsoil?	27.50	2.00	0.26
104	Natural lens?	27.50	2.00	0.05
105	Natural sand gravels	27.50	2.00	>0.10
106	Post pipe fill	0.20	0.20	0.22
107	Post hole cut	0.35	0.35	0.22
108	Stone packing around (107)	0.35	0.35	0.22
109	Fill of [110]	2.00	>1.00	0.20
110	Ditch	2.00	>1.00	0.20
201	Demolition rubble-current surface	30.0	2.20	0.17
202	Made ground	30.0	2.20	0.53
203	Subsoil	30.0	2.20	0.15
204	Natural sand gravels	30.0	2.20	>0.10
205	Footing (modern)	2.00	1.00	0.40
206	Cut of footing [205]	2.00	1.00	0.40
207	Natural –variation of (204)	0.50	0.30	0.05
301	tarmac	30.0	2.00	0.10
302	Compacted levelling for (301)	30.0	2.00	0.40
303	Fill of [304]	0.25	0.13	0.20
304	posthole	0.25	0.13	0.20
305	Fill of pit [306]	0.50	0.50	0.35
306	Pit cut	0.50	0.50	0.35
307	Fill of [308]	2.10	2.00	0.33
308	Ditch	2.10	2.00	0.33
309	Burnt spread	1.90	1.60	NFE
310	Cobbled surface	20.0	2.20	NFE
311	Wall	2.20	0.30	0.72
312	Wall	2.20	0.30	0.42
313	Layer	2.10	1.90	NFE
314	Fill of pit [315]	1.40	0.40	0.44
315	Pit	1.40	0.40	0.44
316	Stone rubble dump	2.10	0.50m	NFE
317	Fill of [318]	1.10	0.20	0.06
318	Beam slot	1.10	0.20	0.06
319	Natural sands	2.20	1.50	NFE
320	subsoil	8.00	2.00	0.20
321	Buried topsoil horizon	2.60	2.00	0.24
322	Buried topsoil horizon	4.20	2.00	0.18
323	Collapse of [311]	1.20	0.40	0.20
324	Soil matrix around [312]	2.20	0.30	0.25
325	Cut for [312]	2.20	0.30	0.25
326	Silting over surface [310]	20.0	2.20m	0.05

401	Current ground surface	27.0	2.00	0.30
402	Subsoil remnant(same as 403,404)	13.70	2.00	0.28
403	Subsoil remnant	13.70	2.00	0.18
404	Subsoil remnant	13.70	2.00	0.21
405	Fill of [406]	0.42	0.35	0.20
406	Posthole?	0.42	0.35	0.20
407	Natural sand gravels	27.0	2.0	NFE
501	Pea gravel and compacted ballast-Current surface	30.0	1.80	<0.54
502	Made ground	30.0	1.80	<0.12
503	Buried subsoil	30.0	1.80	0.23
504	Natural	30.0	1.80	NFE
505	Deposit over 506	2.80	1.80	0.12
506	Soil matrix around [507]	1.18	1.80	NFE
507	Stone deposit	2.00	0.60	NFE
508	Cut assigned for [506]	NFE	NFE	NFE
509	Service trench	1.80	0.70	NFE
510	Large Spread deposit	5.00	1.80m	n/a
511	Fill of [512]	1.08	0.60	0.36m
512	Sondage in Ditch	1.08	0.60	0.36m
513	Fill of [514]	0.40	0.50	0.05
514	Shallow rounded depression	0.40	0.50	0.05
515	Glacial clay spread	1.00	0.60	0.17
516	Cut assigned for 515	1.00	0.60	0.17
517	Glacial spread	0.89	0.50	0.20
518	Cut assigned for 517	0.89	0.50	0.20
519	Fill of pit [520]	1.00	0.64	0.14
520	Pit	1.00	0.64	0.14
521	Fill of service trench [522]	1.80	0.55	0.44+
522	Service trench	1.80	0.55	0.44+
523	Fill of [524]	1.20	0.34	0.05
524	Possible pit	1.20	0.34	0.05
525	Modern wall	1.80	0.32	0.46
526	Buried topsoil	30.0	1.80	0.25
527	Made ground	4.10	Not recorded	0.15
528	Demolition deposit	3.32	Not recorded	0.11
529	Demolition deposit	5.25	Not recorded	0.21
530	Demolition deposit	5.38	Not recorded	0.08
601	Current gravel and sand topsoil	22.0	2.00	0.10
602	Modern made ground	22.0	2.00	0.40-0.80m
603	Fill of ditch [606]	6.00	0.90	0.40
604	Fill of ditch [606]	1.30	0.80	0.40
605	Fill of ditch [606]	1.10	0.50	0.70+

606	Ditch	6.00	0.90	1.50+
607	Natural sand gravels	22.0	2.00	NFE
701	Topsoil	30.0	1.80	0.07
702	Subsoil	30.0	1.80	0.10
703	Made ground	1.80	1.00	0.23
704	Natural	30.0	1.80	0.10+
705	Fill of [706]	1.27	0.30	0.13
706	Linear-pipe trench?	1.27	0.30	0.13
707	Fill of [707]	2.50	1.00	0.12
708	Tree bole?	2.50	1.00	0.12
709	Fill of cut [710]	0.37	0.30	0.09
710	Uncertain cut	0.37	0.30	0.09
711	Fill of [712]	0.19	0.18	0.07
712	Uncertain cut	0.19	0.18	0.07
713	Fill of [713]	0.80	0.76	0.10
714	Pit	0.80	0.76	0.10
801	Service trench cut	2.30+	0.34	NFE
802	tarmac	30.0	2.00	0.06
803	concrete	2.0+	1.00	0.07
804	Rubble topsoil mix	15.0	2.00	0.22
805	Dump deposit	13.0	2.00	<0.28
806	Demolition layer	Not recorded	Not recorded	0.26
807	masonry	2.60	1.07	NFE
808	Brick structure	1.92	0.72	NFE
809	Brick flooring	1.34	1.04	NFE
810	layer	30.0	2.00	0.23
811	Stone wall	5.50	0.34	NFE
812	Cut for wall [811]	5.50	0.34	NFE
813	subsoil	3.35	1.60	Not rec
814	Natural silt sands	30.0	2.00	NFE
815	Brick inspection chamber	0.80	0.53	0.50+
816	Cut for [815]	0.80	0.53	0.50+
817	Ceramic water drain	2.00	0.15m	NFE
818	Cut for drain [817]	2.00	0.60	NFE
819	Alluvial deposit	1.80	Not rec	0.22
820	Natural blue clay	3.50	2.00	0.11
821	Brick masonry	0.68	0.11	NFE
822	Dump deposit	1.40	0.96	0.07
901	Current tarmac surface	30.0	2.00	0.10
902	Hardcore/bedding for (901)	30.0	2.00	0.25
903	Buried topsoil	30.0	2.00	0.10
904	Subsoil	30.0	2.00	0.25
905	Natural	30.0	2.00	NFE
906	Stone and brick Drain	2.10	0.40m	NFE
907	Cut for [906]	2.10	0.40m	NFE

908	Silting in/around [907]	2.10	0.40m	NFE
909	Former Hedge line	2.00	0.86	0.44
910	Cut assigned for hedge run (909)	2.00	0.86	0.44
1001	Current gravelled surface	26.0+34.0	1.80	0.26
1002	Subsoil	26.0+34.0	1.80	0.06
1003	Subsoil with frequent land drains	26.0+34.0	1.80	0.17
1004	Subsoil with frequent land drains	26.0+34.0	1.80	0.35
1005	natural	26.0+34.0	1.80	NFE
1101	Demolition levelled surface	30.0	2.00	0.20
1102	Subsoil	30.0	2.00	0.25
1103	Palaeochannel fill	6.30	2.00	0.48
1104	Palaeochannel fill	3.80	2.00	NFE
1105	Palaeochannel fill	1.50	2.00	NFE
1106	Palaeochannel fill	2.00	2.00	NFE
1107	Natural sand clays	30.0	2.00	NFE
1108	palaeochannel	11.30	2.00	1.24
1109	Fill-sondage into [1108]	Not rec	Not rec	0.32
1110	Fill-sondage into [1108]	Not rec	Not rec	0.48
1201	Current rubble ground surface	30.0	2.00	0.12
1202	Levelling layer	30.0	2.00	0.20
1203	subsoil	30.0	2.00	0.64
1204	Natural variation	2.60	2.00	NFE
1205	natural	27.40	2.00	NFE
1301	Current rubble ground surface	30.0	2.00	0.15
1302	Levelling layer	30.0	2.00	0.13
1303	Demolition layer	6.00	2.00	0.22
1304	subsoil	30.0	2.00	0.45
1305	Fill of [1308]	0.75	0.70	0.12
1306	Natural sand gravel clays	30.0	2.00	NFE
1307	variation in natural	2.60	1.70	NFE
1308	Rounded cut	0.75	0.70	0.12
1401	Current gravelled surface	25.50	1.80	0.22
1402	subsoil	25.50	1.80	0.07
1403	Crushed brick rubble layer	20.0	1.80	0.03
1404	subsoil	20.0	1.80	0.14
1405	natural	25.50	1.80	NFE
1406	Fill of cut[1407]	6.00	1.80	1.0m
1407	Uncertain feature	6.00	1.80	6.00
1501	Current rubble surface	30.0	2.00	0.25
1502	Made ground	0.65	2.00	0.25
1503	Made ground	1.40	1.65	0.25
1504	Made ground	1.30	2.00	0.25
1505	Made ground	30.0	2.00	0.25

1506	Buried topsoil	30.0	2.00	0.10
1507	subsoil	30.0	2.00	0.20
1508	Natural clays	30.0	2.00	NFE
1601	Rubble topsoil	20.0	2.00	<0.20
1602	Fill of [1603]	3.00	2.00	0.40
1603	Linear feature	3.00	2.00	0.40
1604	Rubble layer	20.0	2.00	0.60
1605	Fill of [1606]	7.50	2.00	1.20
1606	Modern cut	7.50	2.00	1.20
1607	Natural sand gravels	20.0	2.00	NFE

Appendix B – Specialist Reports

The Post-Roman Pottery

by

Luke Barber

The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery: a total of 100 sherds, weighing 1,181g, from 17 individually numbered contexts. The sherds are variable in both size and degree of abrasion. Although some large fresh conjoining sherds are present (over 50mm across), the majority of the assemblage consists of small, slightly abraded, bodysherds. The assemblage spans a wide chronological range with the earliest pieces being of the later 12th to later 13th centuries and the latest of probable late 19th-century date. The entire assemblage has been recorded on an excel database by fabric/form for the archive and is summarised in Table 1 by fabric.

Fabric code	Fabric Description	No./Weight
Medieval		
M1	Medium sand-tempered greyware	2/129g
M2	Fine sand-tempered with some larger quartz and iron oxides	2/9g
M3	Medium sand-tempered with milky quartz	6/26g
M4	Moderate/abundant calcareous-tempered	10/74g
M5	Moderate calcareous and medium sand tempered	1/17g
M6	Moderate/abundant coarse sand-tempered	1/6g
M7	Buff fine sand-tempered with sparse iron oxides to 1mm and grey core	1/4g
Post-medieval		
GRE1	Glazed red earthenware: rare/sparse quartz to 0.5mm	13/275g
GRE 2	Glazed red earthenware: moderate fine quartz hard-fired purple	2/18g
GRE 3	Glazed red earthenware: moderate fine quartz	13/184g
GRE 4	Glazed red earthenware: rare fine quartz. Black-glazed	11/217g
GRE 5	Glazed red earthenware: moderate calcareous inclusions (voids) to 1mm	4/46g
GRE 6	Glazed red earthenware: sparse iron oxides and white clay streaks/pellets to 1mm	1/3g
GBE 1	Glazed buff earthenware: with sparse iron oxides and occasional white clay pellets	3/11g
FREC	Frechen stoneware	2/28g

LONS	London stoneware	1/10g
SWSG	Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware	1/1g
CREA	Creamware	3/2g
PEAR	Pearlware	12/24g
TPW 2	Transfer-printed ware (blue decoration)	4/35g
REFW	Refined white earthenware	6/34g
YELL	Yellow ware	1/28g

Table 1: Quantification of post-Roman pottery by fabric.

The Medieval Assemblage

A total of 23 sherds (265g) were recovered from seven individually numbered contexts, although only one of these appears to definitely date to the period. The earliest pottery consists of a number of M4 coarseware sherds tempered with varying amounts of calcareous material. The temper consists of crushed shelly limestone and as such the sherds probably derive from the Olney Hyde kilns where Fabric A, dated to the mid 12th to late 13th centuries, is very similar (Mynard 1984). Fabric B at Olney Hyde is dated to the mid 14th to early 15th centuries and, being essentially a sand tempered fabric with some limestone, provides a parallel to the current M5 and possibly M1 fabrics. Such a date would be in keeping with the residual M1 wide strap handle from pit [306], fill [307]. The only other feature sherds in these fabrics are all small but do include M4 cooking pots with simple and rounded club rims as well as a bodysherd with horizontal rouletted decoration (all from pit [520], fill [519]) and an M5 skillet with squared club rim from the same context. Context [519] is the only deposit to produce secure medieval sherds and is by far the largest assemblage of this period: 12 sherds, weighing 111g. Although dominated by M4 sherds (7/64g) it also contains an M1 cooking pot base (1/15g), M3 cooking pot body sherds (2/9g), an M5 skillet (1/17g) and an M6 cooking pot base (1/6g). Although taken together a later 12th- to later 13th- century date is probable, the degree of residuality/intrusiveness is difficult to gauge in such a small assemblage. With the exception of the residual unglazed M1 pitcher handle in [307] the only other sherds of note consist of a residual M2 jug sherd with external green glaze (ditch [606], fill [604]) and an M7 bodysherd from a probable Potterspury vessel (Maynard 1970) from pit [708], fill [707]. The origin of the other sand-tempered wares is uncertain as a number of kilns were producing sandy wares in the area, particularly during the 14th and 15th centuries (McCarthy and Brooks 1988). The similarity of many of the sandy ware fabrics along with the complete absence of feature sherds in the current assemblage does not allow closer attribution with any certainty.

The Post-Medieval Assemblage

The remainder of the assemblage is of the post-medieval period. The pottery is mainly represented by larger, fresher sherds suggesting the material has been subjected to less reworking than the earlier assemblage. Despite this there is still a lack of feature sherds and context groups are small: the largest consisting of a mere 13 sherds (358g) from pit [306], fill [305] of which 9 sherds (197g) are from a single large black-glazed GRE 4 tyg. The fact that parts of the same GRE 3 jar are present in both [305] and ditch [308], fill [307], is as a result of these two features intercutting.

By far the largest element of the post-medieval assemblage consists of glazed red earthenwares that, including the buff type GBE 1, account for 47 sherds weighing 754g. These wares are common on most post-medieval sites and are notoriously long-lived. However, the current material appears to be mainly of the 17th to mid 18th centuries considering the presence of black glazed GRE 2 and GRE 4 sherds and at least

one GRE 1 plate with trailed slip decoration. Several other GRE 1 vessels have a slip wash. Recognised forms include bowls, plates, tygs and jars and a single flower pot (drain [906], fill [908]) in GRE 3 that is likely to be of later 18th- to 19th- century date. Numerous production sites made these wares, including the large industry at Brill (Farley 1979 and Cocroft 1985) to the south-west as well as more local sites such as Potterspury where potters were still operating in the 17th century (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 432). Certainly the calcareous GRE 5 is likely to be local but the other finer redwares could be from a number of sources. Without larger diagnostic sherds for form/decorative traits it is not possible to look for meaningful parallels.

Non-local wares of early post-medieval date include two body sherds from a Frechen bottle of later 16th- to 17th- century date (made ground [505]) and, from the end of the period, a London stoneware tankard handle (ditch [606], fill [604]) and chip of foot-ring from a SWSG tea-bowl (pit [714], fill [713]), both of early/mid 18th-century date.

Later post-medieval material is also present in the assemblage and can be divided into an earlier period (c. 1750-1830) and a later period (c. 1830-1900) although often too few sherds are present to closely date deposits within these ranges. Some of the GRE sherds may well belong to the earlier part of the late post-medieval period but if this is the case, the quantities are negligible. Examples include the GRE 5 sherds which appear with two chips of creamware (pit [708], fill [707]) although the latter could be intrusive. A scattering of badly fragmented creamware and pearlware represents the disposal of tablewares, perhaps during garden manuring, between c. 1760 and 1830 with a continuation of such disposal being marked by the scatter of slightly less fragmented TPW, YELL and REFW wares. A range of bowls, plates and teawares are represented but never in large numbers.

The pottery sheds light on the periods of activity at the site in that it demonstrates low levels of activity from the later 12th/early 13th to 14th/15th centuries with an increase in activity in the 17th to mid 18th centuries with low levels of activity subsequently. However, the current assemblage is too small and lacking in diagnostic sherds to warrant any further analysis beyond that already undertaken for the assessment. There are no large context groups and the degree of residuality is either moderate or unascertainable. Far larger and better-preserved assemblages have been excavated from the area and the current assemblage does not hold any potential to further the knowledge of the local ceramic sequence. A separate report on the current assemblage is not proposed for publication beyond a summary of the above factual statement and the integration of key ceramic data into the site narrative. No sherds are proposed for illustration. However, if further archaeological work on the site produced significant new finds of post-Roman ceramics the current assemblage should be reviewed in the light of the new material.

The Ceramic Building Material

by

Sarah Porteus

A total of 89 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 7776g were recovered from the works. The material is of medieval and post-medieval date and includes brick and peg tile (table 2). The majority of the material recovered falls into the broad category of late medieval or early post-medieval date. A small quantity of undated mortar was also recovered.

Date	Count	Weight (g)	Forms
Medieval	2	192	Curved and flanged tile
Late medieval to early post-medieval	83	4376	Brick, floor brick, floor tile, peg tile, tile
Post-medieval	4	3208	Brick possible pot/terracotta

Table 2: Summary of Ceramic building material by period, count, weight and form.

Methodology

The ceramic building material has been recorded on a recording form based on that of the Museum of London (MoL). The CBM has been quantified by fabric, form, weight, and fragment count. Fabrics have been identified with the aid of a binocular microscope and a provisional fabric series has been drawn up. The data has been entered onto an Excel database.

In fabric descriptions (table 3) the following conventions have been used; frequency of inclusions is described as being sparse, moderate, common or abundant; the size categories for inclusions are fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (between 0.25 and 0.50mm), coarse (between 0.5 and 1mm), and very coarse (greater than 1mm).

Dating of the material is approximate and based upon form, firing and fabric type. In some cases the fragments are too small to permit identification of form and the most likely date based upon comparison of fragments in a similar fabric is given.

Medieval

Context: 908

Two fragments of tile from context [908] are of probable century medieval date based upon form. Both fragments are in provisional fabric T3 (table 2). The tiles are of curved and flanged type, a medieval version of the Roman *tegula* and *imbrex* style. The exact date of the fragments is uncertain beyond a broad medieval date.

Later medieval to early post-medieval

Contexts: 106, 109, 305, 307, 324, 326, 505, 507, 510, 511, 604, 705, 707, 908, 1602, 1605

Roofing tile

Roof tile was represented by peg tile in four different fabrics: T1, T2, T3, and T5. Three of the fabrics (T1, T3 and T5) are broadly similar, with varying amounts of quartz, voids and calcareous inclusions These fabrics are broadly 15th to 17th, 12th to 17th and 16th to 17th century in date respectively. Fabric T2 differs from the others having less voids and calcareous inclusions and harder white inclusions, possibly shell. It is therefore possible that fabric T2 is slightly later in date with a probable end date of the 18th century based upon form of tile in this fabric. Peg tile in fabric T1 had two styles of peg hole, with some examples retaining a circular peg hole and others a squared peg hole.

Brick

Brick was identified in four fabrics: B1, T1, T2, and T3. The earlier of the brick fabrics are T1 and T3 with a date range of 15th to 17th century with brick in fabrics B1 and T2 having a slightly later range of 16th to 18th century. Brick in fabric B1 has variable firing with once fragment being under-fired [324] and the other being over-fired with vitrified surface [307]. These bricks are of 50 and 55mm thickness respectively. A single brick fragment from context [505] retains a complete thickness of 59mm. Brick in fabric T3 has a minimum thickness of 42mm.

Floor tile

A single fragment of floor tile of 27mm thickness in fabric T3 was recovered from context [326]. The fragment has an abraded upper surface and is unglazed with traces of mortar adhering to the base. Dating of this fragment appears to be again of 15th- to 17th- century date. A second probable floor tile or floor brick in fabric T1 and measuring 39mm thick, was recovered from context [507]. The fragment, with abraded upper surface and sanding with shell inclusions on the base, also has a probable date range of 15th to 17th century.

Post-Medieval

An unfrogged brick of 18th- to 19th- century date was recovered from context [906]. The piece is substantially heat affected and over-fired with warped and vitrified edges.

Undated

Pottery

Two fragments of probable pottery from context [510] and [604] were also present in the assemblage. Fragments are in fabric T4 and retain traces of clear glaze on the interior. The date of these fragments is unknown and they will be passed to a specialist should further work be required.

Mortar

A fragment of sandy mortar with yellow probable clay inclusions from [707] is undated.

Fabric	description	Date range
B1	red sandy brick fabric with moderate medium sized quartz and sparse fine calcareous inclusions and sparse black iron rich inclusions	C16th-C18th
T1	Orange fabric with moderate to abundant medium sized quartz and abundant calcareous? Inclusions	C15th-C17th
T2	Orange sandy fabric with moderate white shell? inclusions with sparse medium sized quartz and sparse black iron rich inclusions.	C16th-C18th
T3	Pinkish orange fabric with abundant elongated oval voids and some paler silt streaking with very sparse quartz	C12th-C17th
T4	fine fabric with sparse medium sized quartz.	C18th-C19th

T5	pinkish orange fabric with abundant fine to medium quartz and sparse fine calcareous? Inclusions.	C16th-C17th

Table 3: Overview of the Fabrics.

Summary

The similarity between fabrics T1, T3 and T5 suggest a similar source of production, whereas variables observed within the fabrics may be variations between production batches. Fabrics B1 and T2 were sufficiently different to have a probable alternative source. The assemblage is dominated by material of later medieval to early post-medieval date with a combination of flooring, roofing and brick represented.

Material for Illustration

No items are recommended for illustration

Analysis of potential

The CBM assemblage has the potential to date the contexts in which it occurs.

Significance of the material

International and national

The assemblage is not of international or national significance.

Regional and local

The assemblage is not of regional or local significance

Further work required

The information contained in this report should be incorporated into the main text of the report. No further work is recommended.

Preparation for deposition in the archive

Depending upon the requirements of the accepting museum, as a minimum the fabric samples and curved and flanged tiles should be retained. The remainder of the material may be discarded.

Conservation requirements

None.

The Clay Tobacco Pipe

by

Elke Raemen

Introduction

A small-sized assemblage consisting of 28 pieces (wt 92g) was recovered from nine different contexts. Included are three bowl fragments, one mouthpiece and 24 stem fragments. The majority of the fragments are of mid 18th- to early 20th-century date, followed by pieces dating to the late 17th to early 18th century. None of the pipes date before 1650. Classification of bowls has been based principally on the London typology by Atkinson and Oswald (1969, prefix AO). Pieces have been recorded in detail on pro forma sheets for archive and all data has been entered in excel spreadsheets.

Overview

Dating of stem fragments should be treated with caution, however, a total of 12 are broadly of mid 17th- and early 18th- century date. The remaining pieces are dateable between the mid 18th- to early 20th century, mainly reflecting tree pit [708] (fill [707]) which contained eight fragments. The latter feature also included the only, plain cut mouthpiece.

Only three bowls were recovered, one of which is complete. Of these, two represent variations on the long bowls in use between ca. 1680 and 1720. Both are plain, unmarked and were recovered from context [506]. The last bowl is a type AO27, although fairly thick-walled, and dates to ca. 1780-1820. The piece consists of leaf decoration on the seams and maker's initials "WB" moulded in relief on the spur. Various makers with these initials are known to have worked in the area in this period. The bowl, complete and in good condition, was recovered from cut [710] (fill [709]).

Significance and Potential

The assemblage is too small and fragmentary to be of potential for further analysis. The only piece of note is the marked and decorated pipe from context [709]. The group's only significance therefore lies in the refinement of dating.

Methodology for Further Work

All pipes have been recorded in full. The assemblage does not warrant a separate report and it is proposed to extract information for the site narrative from the above overview. In particular the marked bowl deserves mention, recording the distribution of maker's marks. None of the pieces however are recommended for illustration and no further work is required. However, if further stages of work take place on the site, clay pipes should be studied in conjunction with the current assemblage.

The Glass

by

Elke Raemen

Introduction

Only a small assemblage of glass was recovered, consisting of 33 pieces weighing 210g from nine different contexts. The majority of pieces are of early post-medieval date, with a domination of wine bottle and window pane fragments. All pieces have been recorded in detail on pro forma sheets for archive as well as entered into an excel spreadsheet.

Overview

Vessels

The earliest pieces consist of a pale blue flask neck fragment from wall [312] and a small vessel fragment of undiagnostic form and colour (ditch fill [511]). Both date to between ca. 1550 and 1750.

As previously mentioned, a high proportion of the assemblage consists of wine bottle fragments. However, the total of 22 pieces represents a minimum of only six individual vessels. Eleven of these are conjoining, amber fragments from a brittle base dating to between ca. 1650 and 1800 and recovered from stone deposit [507]. A small, green body fragment from [506] is of the same date.

Most wine bottle fragments are however of later date, and include base, rim and body sherds from deposit [326], all dating to the mid 18th to 19th century and representing a minimum of three individual vessels. A small, green base fragment of 19th- to early 20th-century date was recovered from service trench [706] (fill [705]).

Other beverage containers consist of two aqua mineral water bottle fragments, from two different bottles and both from tree pit [708] (fill [707]). On one of these the partial embossing "(…)EWPC(…)" survives.

Small bottles for storage of household products, toiletries or medicine are represented by only two fragments. A pale green shoulder fragment from a cylindrical bottle and dating to the late 18th to 19th century was recovered from [1605]. In addition, tree pit [708] (fill [707]) contained a pale blue body fragment from a cylindrical bottle of 19th- to early 20th-century date.

Window Panes

Five window pane fragments were recovered. Four of these date to between ca. 1550 and 1750. The fifth piece dates slightly later, to between ca. 1600-1800. The latter, recovered from wall [312], retains two straight cut edges at a 100° angle from a green, diamond-shaped pane. Traces of the lead window cames survive. Other pieces are either colourless or pale green. A straight cut edge also survives on a fragment from soil matrix [324].

Significance and Potential

The assemblage is small, recovered from only a few contexts and fairly homogenous. The two early post-medieval vessel fragments are too small and lack diagnostic features enabling closer dating. Later fragments represent domestic waste/casual discard, lacking any pieces of intrinsic interest. As such, the assemblage does not contribute any further information to the site, other than their contribution to the dating of features.

Methodology for Further Work

Fragments have all been recorded in detail. The assemblage does not require a separate report for publication and it is recommended that where necessary, information for the site narrative is drawn from the current assessment. None of the pieces are proposed for illustration.

The Bulk Metalwork

by

Elke Raemen

Introduction

A small assemblage of eight pieces of metalwork (wt 51g) was recovered from four individually numbered contexts. An additional piece of ironstone has been discarded. Included are seven piece of ironwork, all in poor condition, and a copper-alloy object in fair condition. All objects have been recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive and have been entered into an excel spreadsheet.

Overview

The earliest pieces were recovered from linear feature [706] (fill [705]), pottery from which dates to the late 12th to late 13th century. Included are two conjoining iron strip fragments (width 20mm, thickness 3.2mm) and a sheet fragment measuring 2mm thick. In addition, the feature contained a complete copper-alloy stud with domed head (di. 19.1mm, total length 18.3mm). The latter is likely to be from furniture upholstery.

Three general purpose iron nail fragments were recovered from two different contexts. Two pieces retain their rectangular-sectioned head, with measurements of 5 by 7.2mm and 8.5 by 11mm. Pottery from deposit [326] is of late 18th- to early 19th-century date, whereas soil matrix [506] contained 17th-century pottery.

In addition, tree pit [708] (fill [707]) contained a piece of iron concretion.

Significance and Potential

The assemblage is too small and mixed in date to be of any potential for further analysis. None of the pieces are of intrinsic interest.

Methodology for Further Work

All metalwork has been recorded in full. No separate report is recommended and none of the pieces require illustration. Where necessary, information for the site narrative can be drawn from the current report. No further work is required.

The Registered Finds

by

Elke Raemen

Introduction

Three finds were assigned a unique registered finds number (<00>). Included are a bone object as well as two copper-alloy objects, the latter two showing minor signs of active bronze disease. All three pieces are of early post-medieval date.

Overview

Included is a bone strip (RF <1>) representing furniture or box inlay, with floral motifs carved in relief and dating to the 16th to 17th century. The piece, measuring 3.75mm thick and 57.3mm long, tapers into a rounded end. The inlay was recovered from ditch [308] (fill [307].

A D-sectioned, copper-alloy strip fragment (RF <2>) was recovered from [324] (around wall [312]). The fragment, with a width of 9mm, is likely to represent a box or casket binding. Pottery from the same context dates to the 17th to mid 18th century.

In addition, deposit [505] contained a complete thimble with fine, rectangular punching and a border defined by two moulded ridges. The piece (RF <3>) is of early post-medieval date. Pottery from the same context dates to the 17th century.

Significance and Potential

The assemblage represents domestic waste and includes evidence for domestic textile working as well as furniture. The group however is small and objects appear isolated.

Methodology for Further Work

All objects have been recorded in full on pro forma sheets for archive as well as excel spreadsheets. No separate publication report is warranted given the small size of the assemblage. Details from the above overview can be incorporated in the site narrative and it is recommended to illustrate the inlay. However, if further work takes place on the site, any future finds should be considered together with the current assemblage. As it stands, no further work is required.

The Animal Bone

by

Gemma Ayton

Excavations at the site of the Former Aston Martin Works, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell produced 48 fragments of animal bone. The bone has been hand-collected from features that have been dated to the medieval and Post-medieval periods including pits and ditches.

Methodology

The bone has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet. Wherever possible, bone fragments have been identified to species and the skeletal element represented. The bone was identified using the in-house reference collection and Schmidt (1972). Elements that could not be confidently identified to species, such as rib and vertebrae fragments, have been recorded according to their size. The bone has been recorded according to the part and proportion of the bone present.

The assemblage has also been studied for signs of butchery, burning, gnawing and pathology and the state of fusion has also been noted.

Quantification

The assemblage contains 48 fragments of bone of which 44 were identifiable to some level. The NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) count is shown in Table 4 and includes all elements.

TAXA	NISP
CATTLE	7
CATTLE-SIZED	21
SHEEP	5
SHEEP-SIZED	5
PIG	1
HORSE	2
DOG	2
CHICKEN	1
TOTAL	44

Table 4: NISP count

Assessment

The assemblage is in a moderate to good condition with little evidence of surface erosion, although few complete bones remain.

The assemblage is dominated by cattle and cattle-sized fragments. Sheep and sheep-sized fragments are the second most abundant taxa. The cattle-sized and sheep-sized bones derive from ribs and vertebrae. The assemblage contains both meat-bearing and non-meat bearing elements. Evidence of gnawing has been noted on a chicken scapula and a sheep humerus. The puncture marks are indicative of canid gnawing. A small dog tibia has also been identified. A cattle-sized lumber vertebra has been sliced through the articulation. The majority of the bones are fused although one unfused cattle-sized vertebra has also been recovered. No evidence pathology has been recorded and the assemblage provided no metrical or tooth-wear data.

Potential

Due to the size of the assemblage it holds little potential for further analysis. The bone should be retained in case further work is undertaken in the area.

Environmental Sample

by

Lucy Allott

A single bulk sample, <1>, [307] measuring 30 litres was taken during excavation to systematically recover environmental remains including charcoal and shell noted during excavation of this ditch feature [308]. The sample was processed by AOC Archaeology and the flot was retained on a 300µm mesh and dried prior to further assessment. This report presents an overview of the flot contents (Table 5) and provides preliminary identifications for macro botanical remains where possible through comparison with modern reference material.

The flot from this sample is small measuring <5ml volume and consists predominantly of fine to medium sand (80% of the flot). Charcoal fragments are also present although these are generally very small and infrequent. Two charred cereal caryopses of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) are present, one of which is very short and plump and compares well with bread-type wheat (*T.* cf. *aestivum*). Further fragments of indeterminate cereals are evident however the flot contains no other charred macro botanical remains. Land snail shells are also infrequent and no other faunal remains are present.

This single sample from ditch feature [308] contains very few environmental remains and although cereal grains and charcoal are evident they present no potential for further analysis or dating as they do not appear to derive from a short-lived episode of infilling of the ditch feature.

Table 5: Flot Quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context Number	Context / Feature description	Flot Volume (ml)	% Uncharred	% Sediment	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Charred crop seeds	Crop Identifications	Preservation	Mollusca
1	307	Fill of ditch [308]	<5	<2	80	*	**	***	*	*Triticum* sp., *Triticum* cf. *aestivum*, indet. Cerealia	+/++	* Land snails

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Appendix C - OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-79781

Project details

Project name	former Aston Martin works, Newport Pagnell
Short description of the project	A sixteen trench evaluation was conducted at the land of the former Aston martin Works in Newport Pagnell. Mainly post medieval features were identified along with masonry relating to early phases of the motorworks and possibly earlier.
Project dates	Start: 28-07-2010 End: 06-08-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	30256 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AYBCM:2010.123 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Modern
Significant Finds	WORKED BONE post medieval

Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE MILTON KEYNES NEWPORT PAGNELL Aston Martin Works, Tickford Street
Study area	37800.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 8808 4375 52.0846679790 -0.714403656670 52 05 04 N 000 42 51 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Project creators

Name of Organisation	AOC Archaeology
Project brief originator	Milton Keynes Council
Project design originator	Nick Crank

Project director/manager	Melissa Melikian
Project supervisor	Stella Bickelmann
Type of sponsor/funding body	Contractor
Name of sponsor/funding body	Pinnacle Consulting Engineers Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Physical Archive ID	AYBCM:2010.123
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Worked bone'
Digital Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Digital Archive ID	AYBCM:2010.123
Digital Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Stratigraphic','Worked bone'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Text'
Digital Archive notes	it is hoped that full report with graphics and find asseeements will be submitted digitally with archive. Jpeg images
Paper Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum

Paper Archive ID	AYBCM:2010.123
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Stratigraphic','Worked bone'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Matrices','Microfilm','Photograph','Report','Unspecified Archive'
Paper Archive notes	Black and white 35mm negatives with contacts should accompany paper archive

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	ASTON MARTIN WORKS, TICKFORD STREET, NEWPORT PAGNELL-written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Bickelmann, S.
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 text and accompanying site location figures

Project bibliography 2

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The former Aston Martin site,Newport Pagnell:an archaeological evaluation report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke,C.
Date	2010

Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology South
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 sized,colour text and graphics including image plates
Entered by	Fitz (paul.fitz@aocarchaeology.com)
Entered on	18 August 2010

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