

LBNG/02



LYDNEY B NORTH – RODLEY MANOR

TARGETED EVALUATION

commissioned by CgMs Consulting
on behalf of Robert Hitchens Ltd

February 2016

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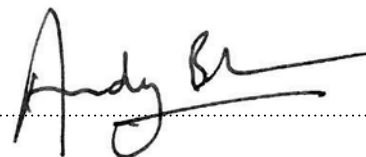
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PROJECT SUMMARY

A trial trench evaluation was carried out on land to the east of Lydney during November and December 2015. The previously undertaken geophysics highlighted the footprint of a series of medieval and post-medieval buildings and other structural anomalies. The main aim was to identify the extent and elucidate more about the nature of medieval features here. Very little activity was identified in the southern part of the site and none in the north. Most activity occurred in a band just north of the centre of the site. This comprised early medieval structures dated to the 14th century on the east side and wall foundations of late-medieval/post-medieval buildings to the west of these. The site of Rodley manor lies between these latter remains and was not evaluated. However, it may be expected that further foundations of 16th century origin would be present here. Fieldwork took place between 24th November and 1st December.

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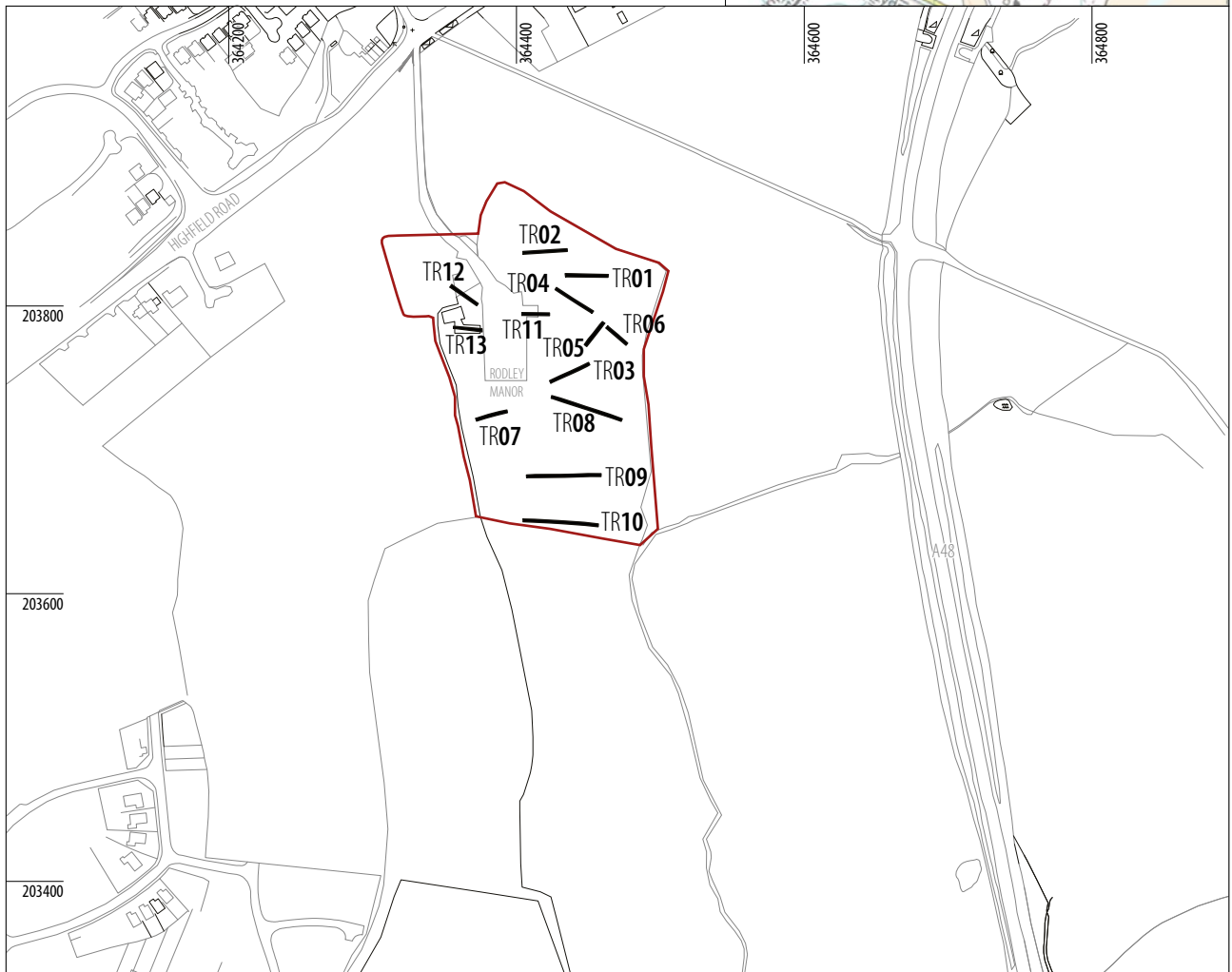
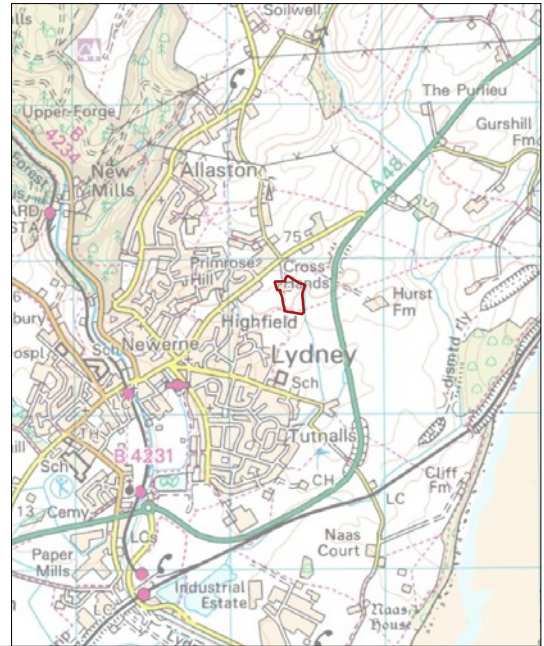
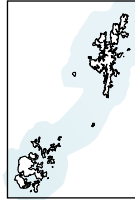
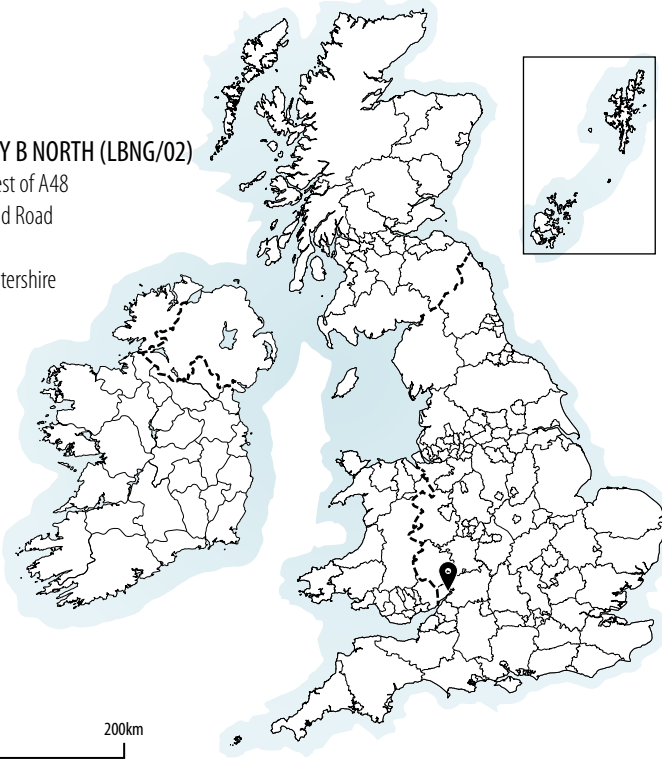
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LYDNEY B NORTH (LBNG/02)

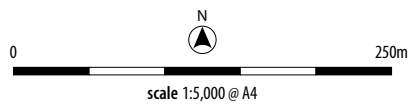
land west of A48
Highfield Road
Lydney
Gloucestershire



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KEY

- geophysical survey area
- trench location



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LYDNEY B NORTH – RODLEY MANOR

TARGETED EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation on land on the east side of Lydney, Gloucestershire. The archaeological works, commissioned by CgMs, relate to the obtained planning application for the proposed residential development of the site.

It was agreed with the archaeological advisor to Gloucestershire County Council, Mr Charles Parry, that the site had the potential to include heritage assets of archaeological interest. The purpose of the evaluation was, in accordance with relevant policy and best practice, to provide sufficient information to assist in determining future mitigation strategies that need to be applied to the site.

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs to undertake the required works in accordance with a project design agreed with the archaeological advisor (Boucher 2015).

1.1 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The site lies at NGR SO 64395 03787 on land that slopes gently towards the south east. The underlying geology is predominantly St Maughans Formation which comprises Argillaceous rocks and interbedded sandstone, formed by river deposits. There are no superficial deposits recorded within the proposed development area, although colluvium has been identified during previous phases of fieldwork in parts of the site. The soils are classified in the Soilscape 8 association, characterised as loams and clays with impeded drainage (Landis 2015).

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

As part of the pre-planning stage of this development, a number of projects have taken place. These include a topographic survey carried out by Cotswold Archaeology in 2002. In 2003 an Historic Buildings Assessment was made of the standing remains of Rodley Manor Farm, followed by extensive trial trenching undertaken by Wessex Archaeology.

Prehistoric

In the HER there are two references to evidence for occupation in the near vicinity of the site. The earliest lies to the south where evaluation work by Cotswold Archaeology uncovered pits of Bronze Age date (HER 33996). To the northwest of the site an area of colluvium was identified during a Lidar survey of the region (HER 33224), this was scientifically dated as being deposited in and around the latter part of the 1st millennium BC.

Previous work by Cotswold archaeology (Wessex 2003) suggested no significant prehistoric activity, however, five struck flints were recovered from the topsoil during the Wessex evaluation. Potential for prehistoric remains is considered as low.

Roman

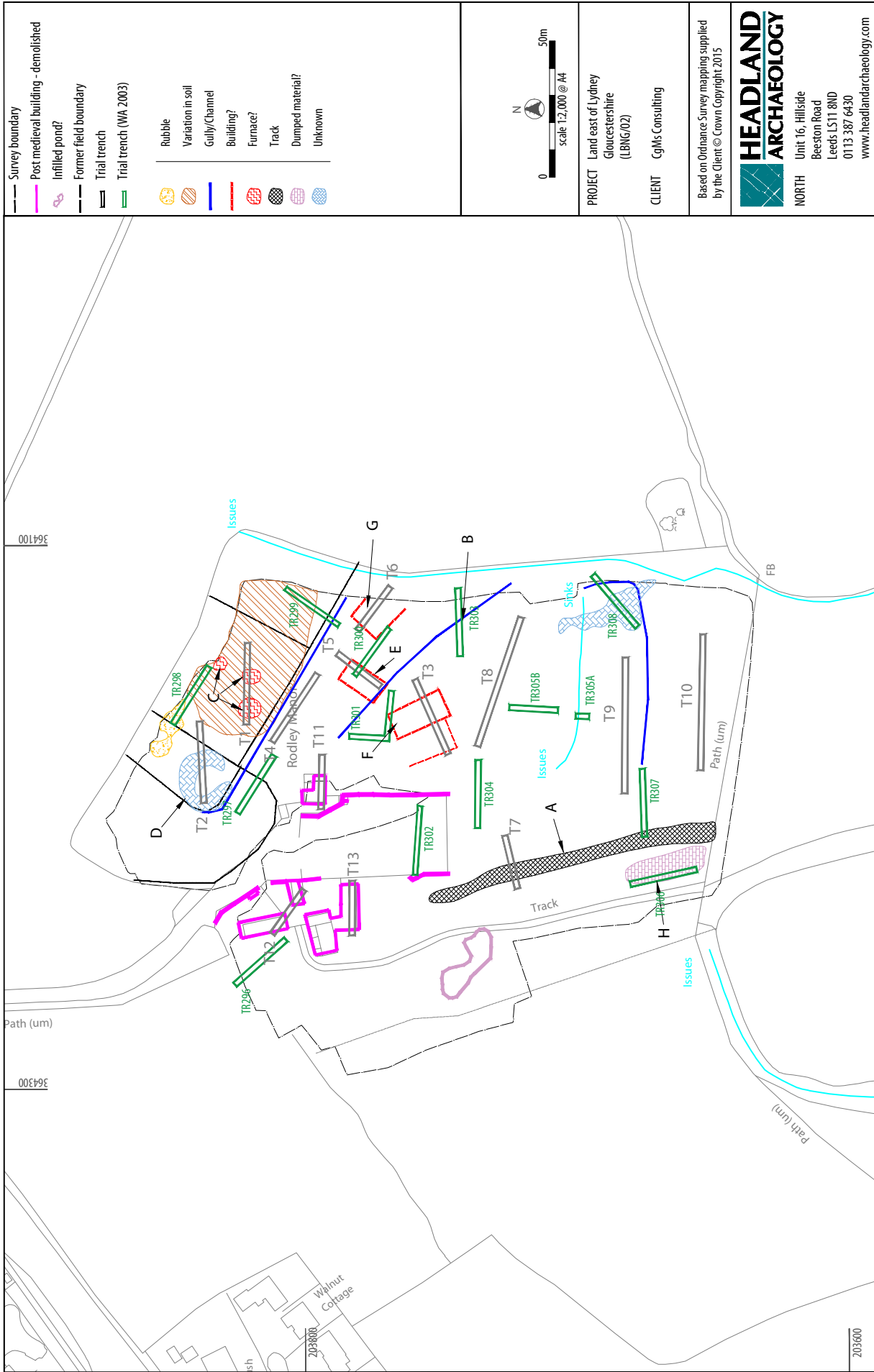
The line of a Roman Road is projected to pass close to the northern edge of the site on a roughly NE-SW alignment (HER 3212). About 300m north-west of the site charcoal associated with a deposit of bloomery slag provided a C14 date in the late 1st to early 2nd century AD (HER 23500). About 800m to the south of the proposed development site, an evaluation undertaken in 2009 identified Roman activity dating to the 3rd to 4th century AD (HER 33996). Iron working was also evident in the vicinity of these finds although no date is attributed to it in the record. The Wessex evaluation identified building material and pottery of Roman date to the east of Rodley Manor (Wessex 2003). One other find indicating activity of this date is a coin to the southeast of the site's centre (HER 20181).

Saxon

There is no evidence of Saxon or early medieval activity in the area of the development.

Medieval

Wessex archaeology excavated fifteen trenches within the development area (Wessex 2003) targeted on earthworks surveyed by Cotswold Archaeology in 2002 (HER 11899, event 21524). To the



ILLUS 2 Archaeological interpretation of em survey

immediate east of the site of the post-medieval Rodley Manor the remains of 12th-14th century buildings were found, alongside significant evidence for iron working and a corn drier.

It is possible these are related to the earlier 13th century Archer's Hall, identified in the Gloucestershire Victoria County History (Lowe 2003). The first records relating to a manor with tenants in this locale is in AD287 when it was granted to Llanthony priory. Previously Alan, Chamberlain of Walerun, Earl of Warwick had been granted 1.5 yardland (about 45 acres) at Archer's Hall in Lydney in AD 201 by the then owners of Tucknall Manor, Ralph and Niel de Munderville (Lowe 2003), however it is not clear what buildings were extant at that time.

A holloway on an approximate north to south alignment may also be medieval in date (HER 11864).

Post-medieval and modern

It is not clear when Archer's Hall became Rodley Manor, or if this is the result of rebuilding, however by AD1540 William Kingscote passed Rodley Manor and lands to his son William at his death. It is also during this time period that Rodley Manor separates from the larger Tucknall Manor estates. The tithe map of AD1840 clearly shows some of the buildings that occupied the site until very recently. The tithe apportionment refers to various areas of land allotted for gardens, orchards, and meadow. We also know that by AD1839 George Jones was the owner of the site (Lowe 2003).

Through the subsequent years this building and its environs have evolved, with the manor in particular being rebuilt in the early 19th century (Lowe 2003). The current remains now appear to be mostly c.19th – 20th century, with one possible 16th century barn and 16th/17th century wall (Lowe 2003).

The remaining dated evidence relating to the site is predominantly from features mapped on either the 1839/40 tithe map or 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. A road labelled 'Old Road' on the tithe map runs southwards from Rodley Manor Farm (HER 21554) and may be associated with a Holloway labelled 'Rodley Manor Driveway' on the tithe map (HER 11902). Two field boundaries in the south eastern part of the site (HER 11907 and 11888) are also shown on this map, as are another field boundary and trackway just outside the northeast edge of the site (HER 11908 and 11901).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the programme of trenching are to gather further information to try and establish the presence/absence, character and primarily the extent of the known archaeological remains within the proposed development site around Rodley Manor. The results of this work may then be used to inform further mitigation strategies.

The aims of the survey are to set:

- the results of the survey and targeted trenching alongside those of previous stages of work and a model for the site proposed;

- the local and regional research contexts are provided by the Archaeological Research Framework for the South West. Any evidence retrieved during the works will be analysed in light of the objectives contained in these frameworks;
- the resulting archive (finds and records) will be organised and deposited with the local Museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 TRIAL TRENCHING

Fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with a project design (Boucher 2015) agreed in advance with the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of 13 trenches totalling 390 linear metres. These trenches were targeted on various features, and as such vary in length. Trenches 1, 2, 3, and 4 were 30m in length; Trenches 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 13 were 20m in length; and Trenches 8, 9, and 10 were 50m in length. The six 20m trenches were all targeted on known structural remains, both medieval and post-medieval. The 30m trenches were intended to assess possible geophysical anomalies, and included potential further structural remains. The three 50m trenches were for general sampling, located in areas with little identified archaeological content.

All trenches were set-out using differential GPS, which also provided absolute heights above OD. Service plans were consulted in advance of excavation and safe digging techniques were observed. All trenches were opened by a 360°, tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket. All machining was carried out under the direct supervision of an appropriately qualified archaeologist. Machining proceeded until the first archaeological horizon, or undisturbed natural deposits were encountered. All archaeological features or deposits were cleaned and excavated by hand. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately, at either side of each trench and were reinstated in stratigraphic order.

The stratigraphic sequence of every trench was recorded in full, even where no archaeological deposits were identified. All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations. All stratigraphic units were allocated unique numbers and recorded on pre-printed pro-forma record cards. The photographic archive comprised black-and-white negative photographs, supplemented by a digital photographic record. Plans and sections were recorded at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 as appropriate. Due to the unstable nature of some of the sections containing rubble these were recorded using photogrammetry, as the sections kept collapsing when attempts were made to clean them. Similarly the detail recording for trenches containing structures was also recorded in plan using this method alongside an outline survey using the dGPS.

Exploratory slots

In some areas further trench slots were required to establish the depths of possible floor surfaces and excess overburden. Where

possible, these were excavated by hand, however in some areas a small 0.7m ditching bucket on the 360°, tracked mechanical excavator had to be used due to depth of deposit. These few slots were excavated to the same standards listed above, including standards of recording and supervisory methods of machine watching.

Trench 3 had one exploratory slot in the centre of the trench approximately 8.7m × 0.7m on a north-east to south-west alignment. This slot was to assess the depth of the build-up of clay material that lay between wall [3004] and ditch [3008], as well as trying to establish whether this deposit concealed other archaeological features.

In the west end of Trench 11 a slot approximately 1.9m × 0.9m was excavated in the centre of the trench on an east to west alignment. This slot was located over a deposit containing rubble in order to gauge a depth and highlight any concealed archaeology.

Trench 12 had three exploratory slots, Slot 1 to the south east approximately 2.6m × 0.7m on a north-west to south-east alignment. This was targeted on a cobbled surface in order to establish its thickness and the nature of any underlying deposits or features. Slot 2 was in the centre of the trench, approximately 1.7m × 0.7m and on a north-east to south-west alignment, and Slot 3 was at the north-west end of Trench 12; approximately 1.8m × 0.7m and on a north-west to south-east alignment. These two slots were targeted on possible floor surfaces, with the aim of identifying their thickness, whether they were part of the same feature, as well as the potential for concealed archaeological deposits beneath.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Two samples, of 10 litres each, were taken at Lydney B during excavation. The first sample <005> was from context (3009) in Trench 3 and the second, <006>, was from context (9006) from Trench 9. Context (3009) was interpreted on site as a ditch fill with industrial waste, and context (9006) was a charcoal rich pit fill with industrial waste. Both contexts were thought to be medieval in date.

The samples were subjected to flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf-style flotation machine. The floating debris (the flot) was collected in a 250µm mesh and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Wood charcoal was subsampled for identification and identification made with reference to Schweingruber (1990). Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed.

4 RESULTS

4.1 TRIAL TRENCHING

Trenches with no archaeology (Trenches 1, 6 and 10)

Trenches 1, 6, and 10 contained no archaeological remains. Trench 1 was located on higher ground in the northern part of the site with the aim of examining Anomaly C. Here the topsoil measured 0.15m

thick and was composed of a mid-brown, soft, silty clay beneath which was a light brown friable silty clay, approximately 0.15m thick, overlying the natural which was a pale yellow orange clay. The anomalies did not relate to archaeological features, instead having been caused by shallowly buried iron debris.

In Trench 6, the topsoil was a dark brown silty clay, 0.2m thick, overlying an orangey brown silty clay, 0.1m thick. The natural comprised a mottled, firm, slightly stony clay.

Trench 10 was located in the lowest area of the site, with stratigraphy to reflect this. Overlying the mid-brown red clay geology, was a layer of mid-reddish brown, silty clay. This layer was concealed by an upper subsoil of mid-reddish brown loamy clay, followed by the dark brown clay loam site topsoil.

Trench containing only undated features (Trench 9)

In one case, whilst a feature was present within the trench, there were no finds that could be used to date this. In Trench 9 a pit [9005] measured 2.52m wide × 0.43m deep, with regular sides and a flattish base (ILLUS 3). Its fill (9006), comprised a soft, silty clay, and was packed with abundant amounts of charcoal. This feature was sealed by the upper subsoil (9002).

Trenches containing medieval features

Trench 3

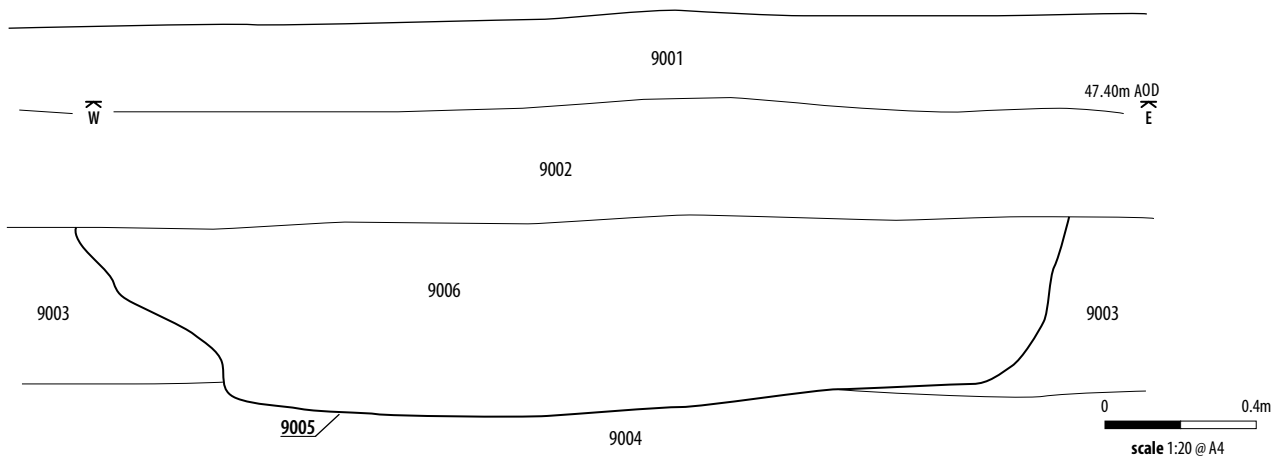
Trench 3 contained three archaeological features which were distributed evenly along the trench. They comprised two medieval features (a wall and a ditch) and an undated ditch.

In the centre of the trench was a stone wall [3004] measuring 0.6m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.50m, the base was not ascertained due to water ingress (ILLUS 4). There was no bonding and it survived several courses deep, having tumbled to the west. The surrounding matrix (3005), a greyish brown silty clay, was visible extending away from the wall and was thought to be indicative of a possible occupation/abandonment layer. This feature was on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment.

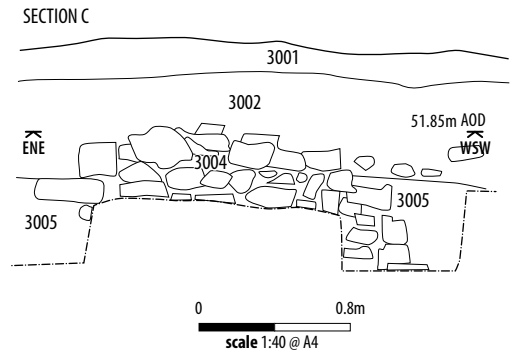
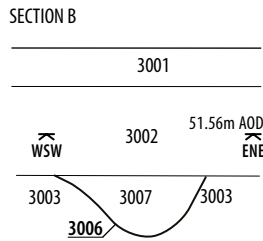
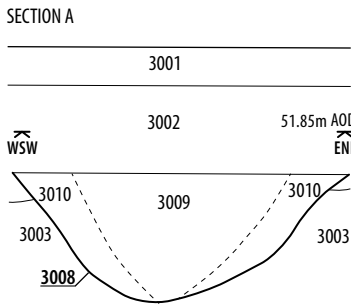
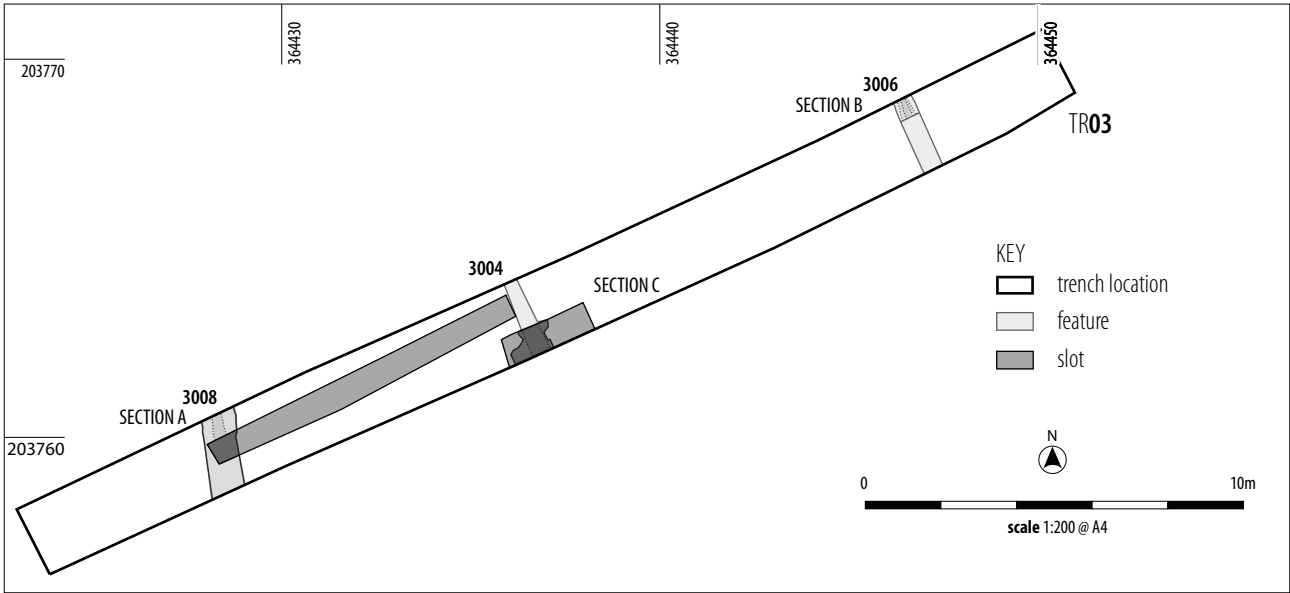
Ditch [3008] lay in the south-west end of Trench 3. A linear v-shaped cut on an approximate north to south alignment. The ditch appears to have been cut into a continuation of deposit (3005) and contained a significant amount of drop slag as well as some pottery. The upper fill of the feature was sealed by subsoil (3002).

At the east end of Trench 3 an undated north-west to south-east aligned ditch was recorded. Ditch [3006] had a stepped profile with a flat base, and a single mid-grey brown, silty clay fill (3007). Infrequent charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions were also present.

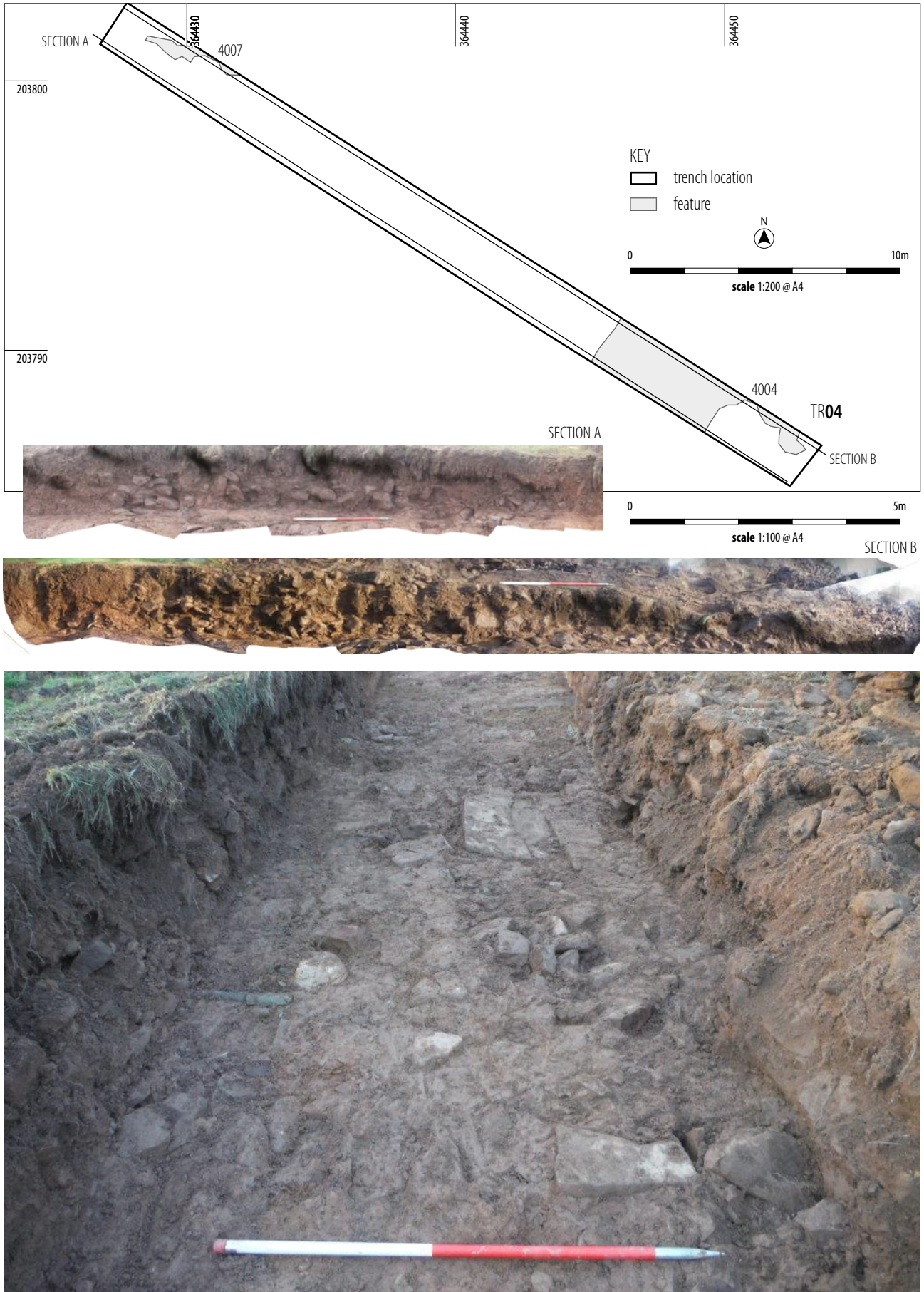
An Exploratory Slot was located in Trench 3 to explore the potential for archaeological deposits between the stone wall tumble [3004] in the centre of the trench, and ditch cut [3008] at its west end. A mid-reddish brown, slightly sandy clay deposit, with a depth between 0.10m and 0.24m and no visible inclusions was recorded, forming a continuation of (3005). Adjacent to the wall [3004], a sondage was



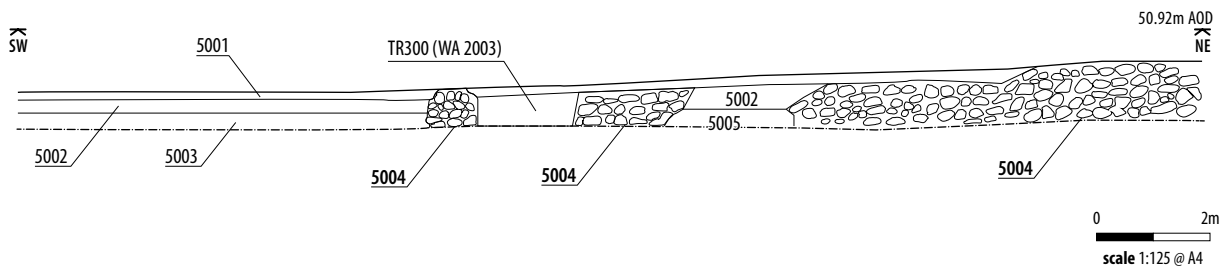
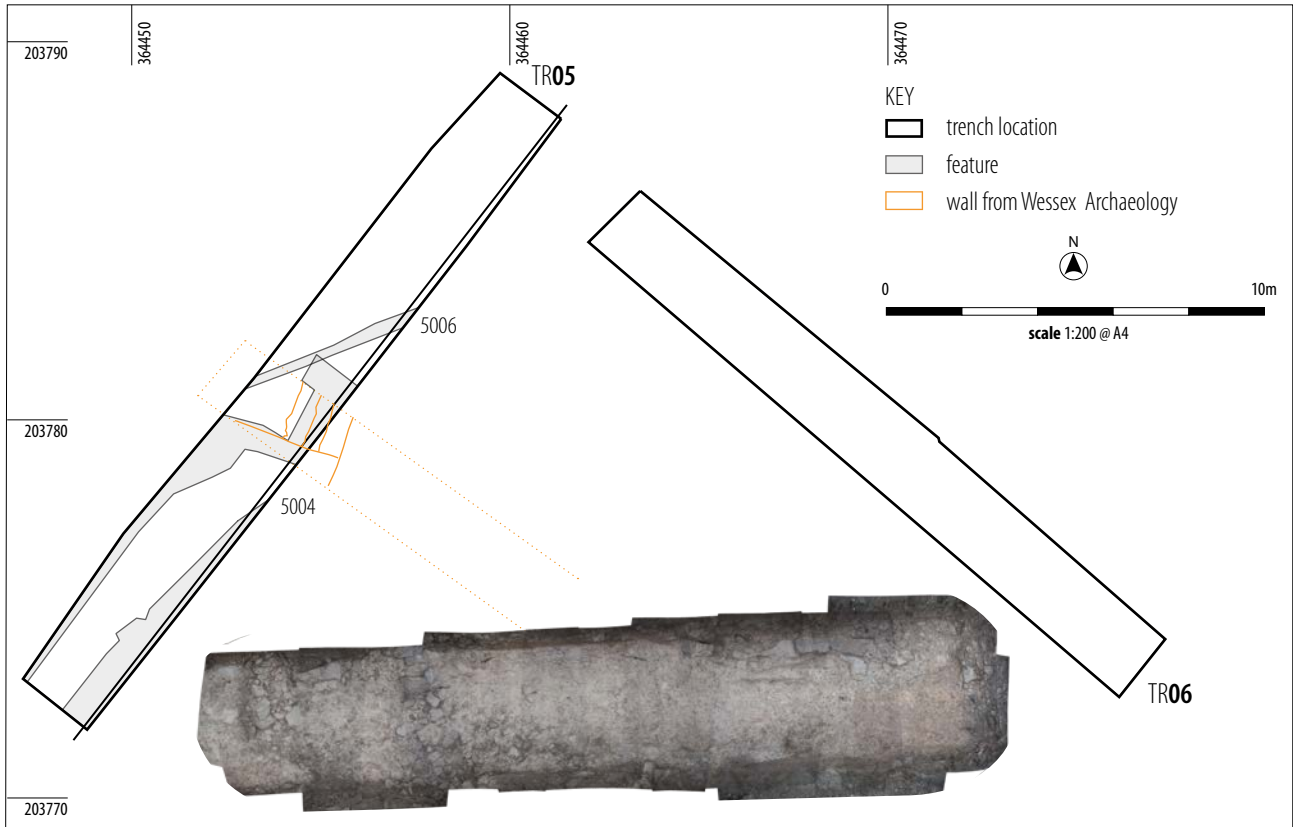
ILLUS 3 Trench 9, plan of features with south facing section of [9005] and inset photos of undated pit [9005], looking north



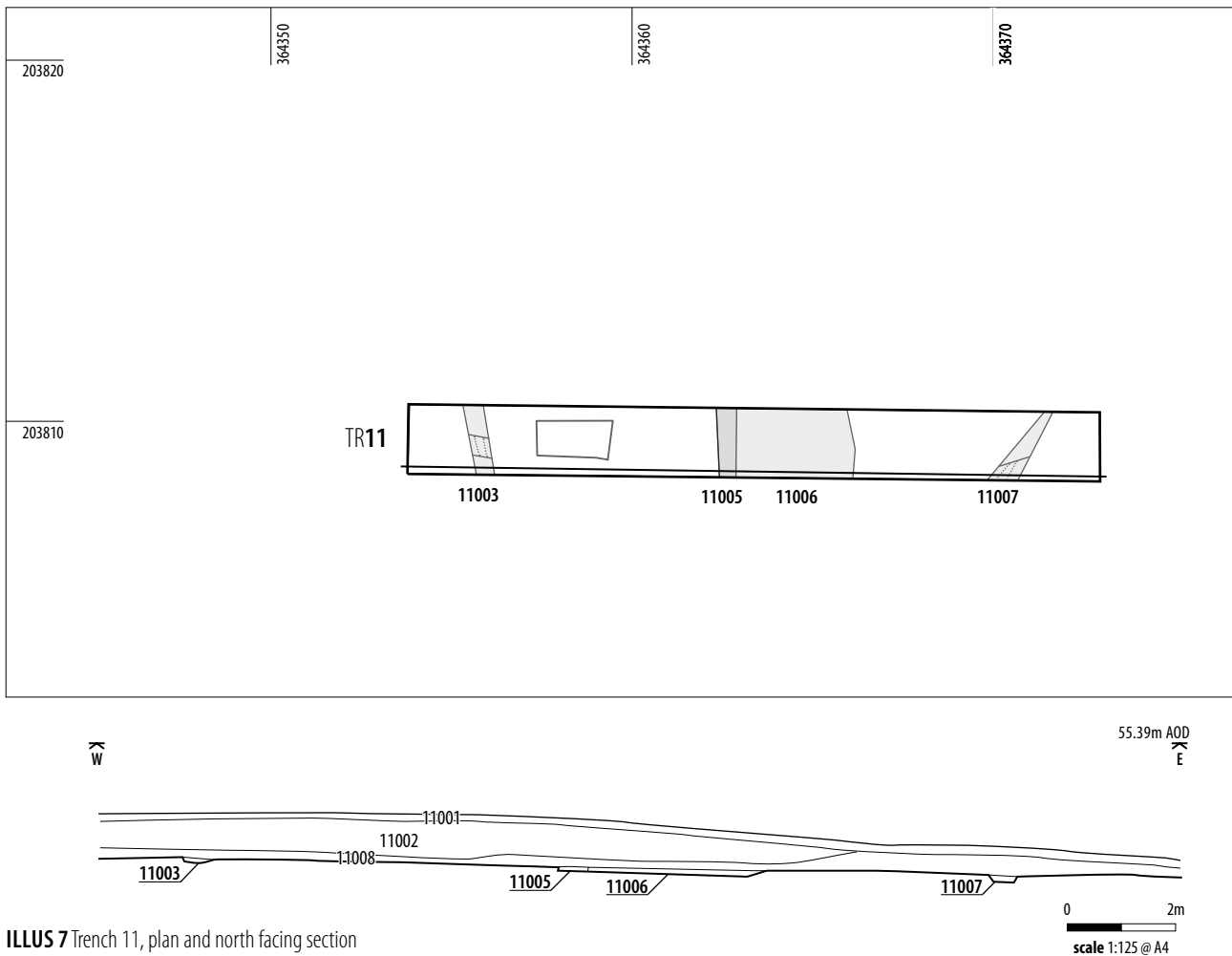
ILLUS 4 Trench 3, plan of features with south-southwest facing sections of [3006] and [3008], north-northeast facing section of [3004] and inset photos of ditch [3008] looking north-west and wall [3004] looking south-east



ILLUS 5 Trench 4, plan of features, southwest facing section (A), northwest facing section (B) showing stone structures [4004] and [4005] and inset photo of [4004] with [4005], facing north-west



ILLUS 6 Trench 5, plan of features, plan shot of structural remains and inset photo of (5004), facing south-east



ILLUS 7 Trench 11, plan and north facing section

dug within the sterile clayey deposit (3005) to establish its depth (which was approximately 0.35m). At the base of the sounding a series of lenses of natural degraded sandstone were uncovered which merged with this overlying deposit (3005), and probably represent the eroded surface of natural bedrock.

Trench 4

Within Trench 4 the remains of a collapsed building were uncovered. This was represented by a significant level of building rubble, an in situ wall and probable stone floor.

At the eastern end of Trench 4 a large quantity of sandstone blocks [4005] was identified (ILLUS 5). Most of the sandstone blocks appeared fairly roughly-hewn. However, shaped fragments were uncovered, one probable voussoir and other less clearly defined fragments. The piece of worked sandstone (4005) lay within the same dark reddish brown sandy clay (4004) that contained all the other fragments of demolition debris. Fragments of Medieval pottery, slag, and bone were also recovered from this sandy clay deposit (4004).

Within this area there was a floor surface [4009] with at least one sandstone flagstone still in situ measuring 0.9m × 0.48m × 0.05m, with what was probably a second one to the south. The medieval floor surface was left undisturbed during this stage of the work as it is proposed to expose the whole floor in a subsequent stage of excavation. Limited investigations to the side of one of the floor slabs suggests that these were lying on a clay deposit. The floor slabs

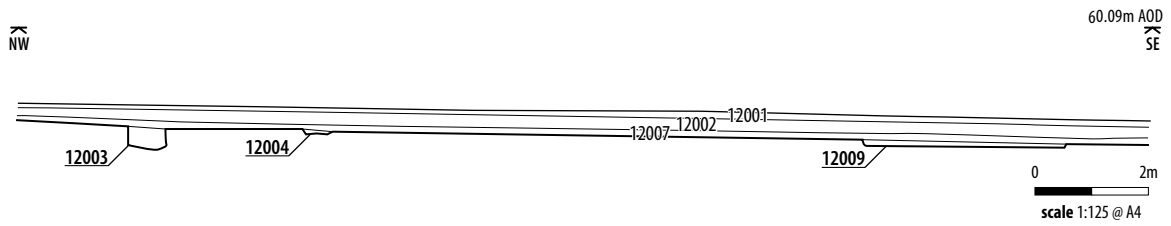
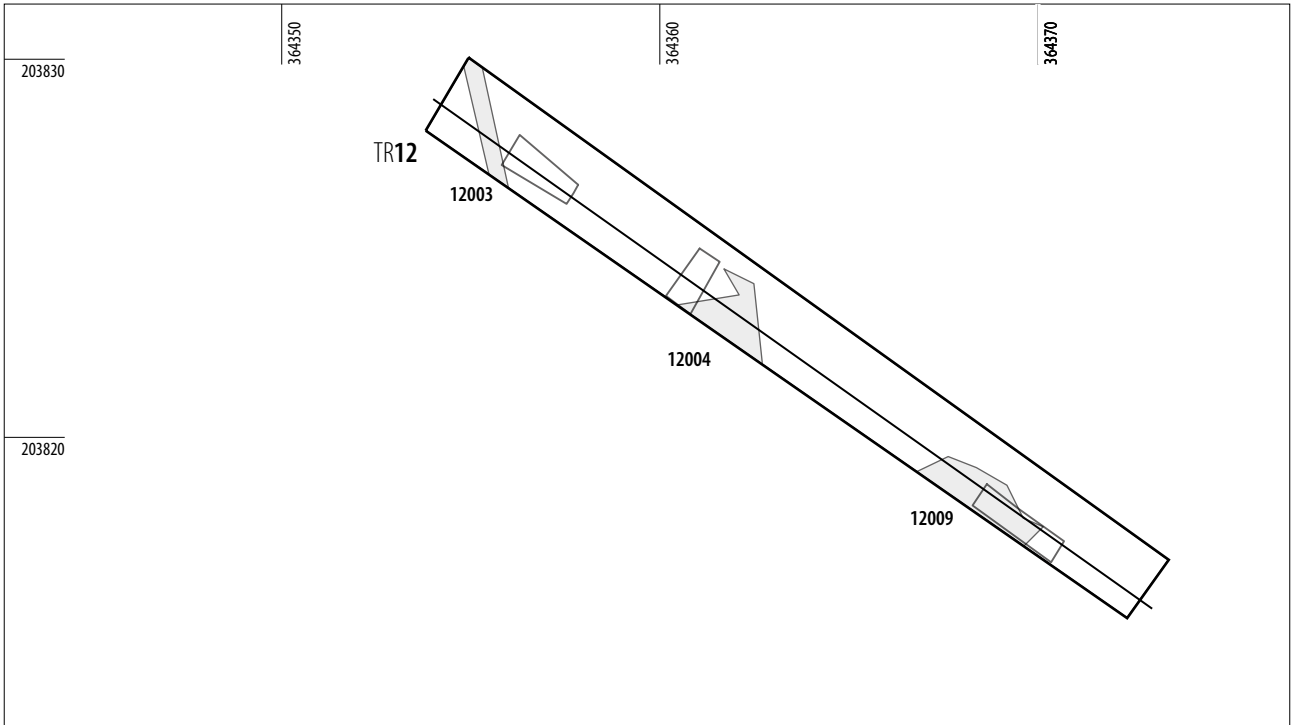
abutted a dual line of shaped sandstone blocks, measuring 0.4m wide with roughly 3m visible in length, and suggested the presence of a probable wall (4008). This feature was on an approximate north-west to south-east alignment against the north section of the trench.

Approximately 4.8m of sandstone rubble (4004) and the mixed clay deposit surrounding it (4005) was visible in plan within the trench, with a further 3.3m of this demolition deposit visible in section to the east.

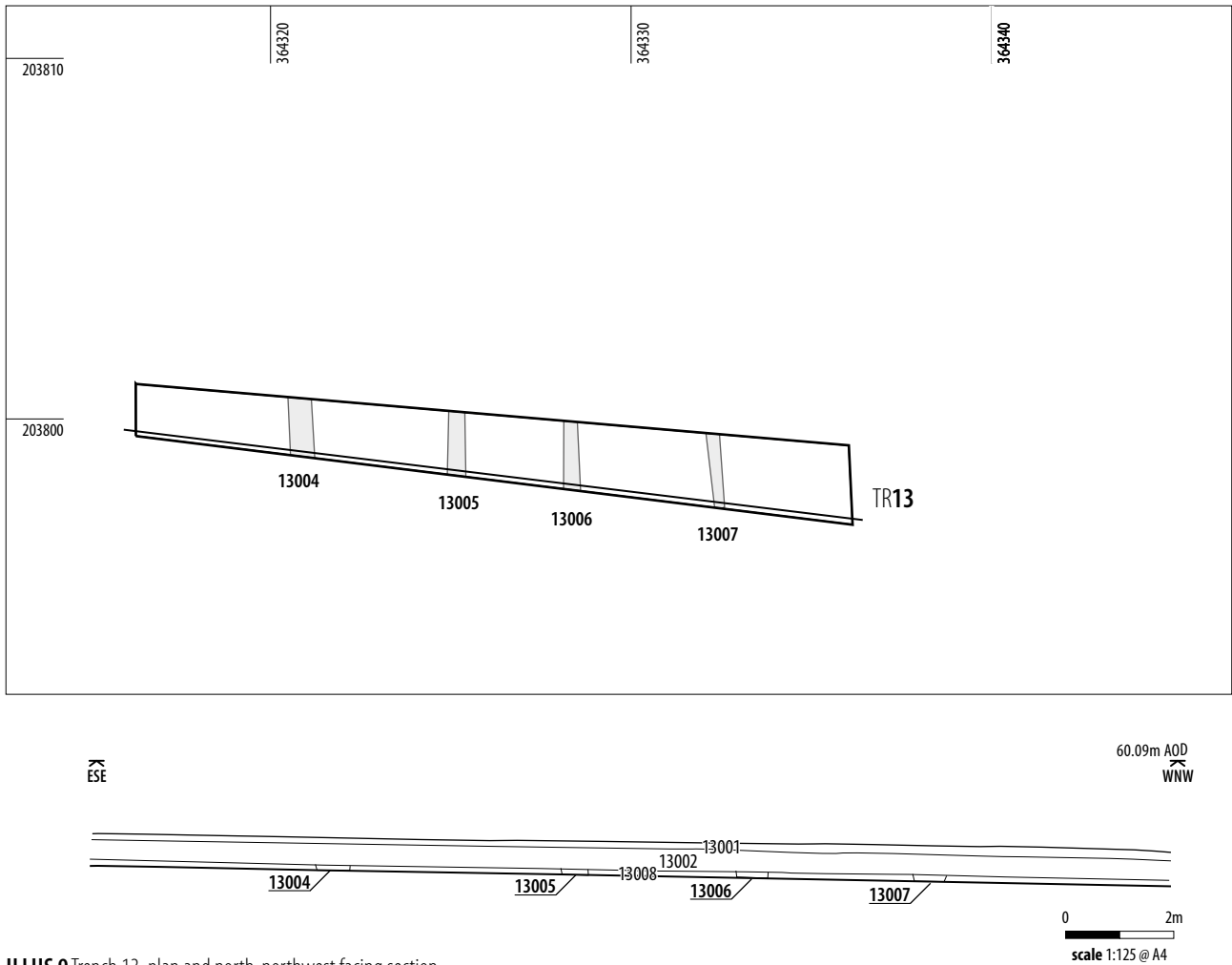
At the west end of Trench 4 a cut for a possible drain [4007] was recorded. It measured 0.4m wide and 3.8m in length, and was not fully excavated.

Trench 5

Trench 5 also contained a spread of structural material. This was predominantly a series of sandstone walls [5004] (ILLUS 6). In the north-west facing trench section a substantial wall was observed running from the centre of the trench, continuing in plan for 2.76m, and then visible in the section for a further 1m. This wall appeared to continue further along the trench after a disturbed area, of approximately 1m, where the Wessex Archaeology Trench 300 was dug in 2003 (Wessex Archaeology 2003). Its orientation change to one that was slightly more westerly and it was partially exposed in plan for another 5.43m to the south-west before it met the end of the trench. This appears to be mirrored within the south east facing section where there was a 10.38m length of substantial wall, none of which was exposed in plan as it lay just outside the trench. These two walls were typically observed to be made up of between 4 to 9 shallow stone courses.



ILLUS 8 Trench 12, plan and southwest facing section and inset photo of wall (12004), sandstone with underlying brick



ILLUS 9 Trench 13, plan and north-northwest facing section

These were intersected in plan by two parallel walls in the centre of the trench. The wall to the north east appeared to have been disturbed by ditch [5006], whilst the south west wall clearly connected with both larger walls. This created a partially enclosed area with internal dimensions of 1.8 x 1.5m.

A clayey matrix (5005) surrounded the stone walls and was similar in composition to (4004). It was a dark reddish brown, silty sandy clay. This deposit extended across the southern half of the trench, surrounding [5004], and is likely to include occupation evidence. Within the trench section large deposits of slag and burnt debris were observed.

A ditch on an approximate north-east to south-west alignment in Trench 5 [5006] was cut into the occupation/abandonment deposit (5005). It measured 0.25m wide and was visible for a distance of 3.7m in the trench. The greyish brown silty clay (5007) filling this cut, contained small stones and flecks of charcoal.

Late medieval/post-medieval buildings

Post medieval activity was confirmed through the excavation of Trenches 11, 12 and 13.

Trench 11 (ILLUS 7)

A mortared wall foundation [11005] was uncovered in the centre of Trench 11. It was orientated north to south and measured 0.4m wide

and 0.05m deep and was visible the full width of the trench. It was created from sandstone blocks with one course visible.

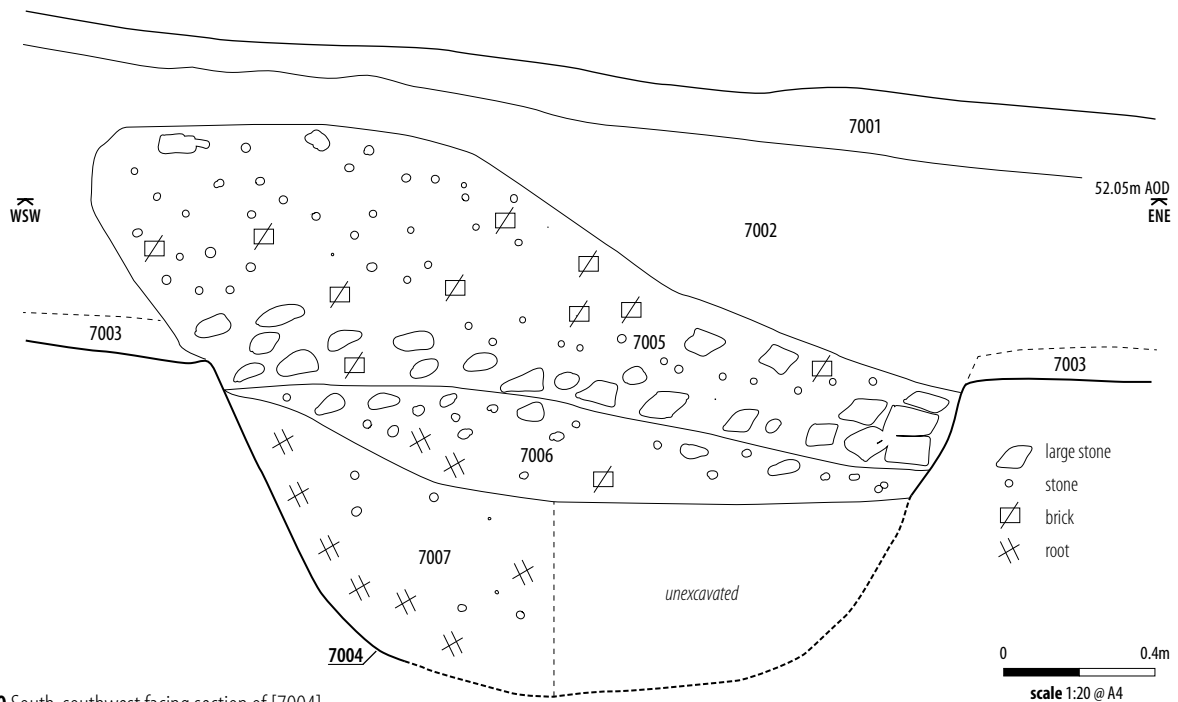
Two undated gulleys were also revealed in Trench 11. At the western end of the trench was gully [11003]. It was on a north to south alignment with a rounded profile, and measured 0.6m x 0.15m, with 1.88m visible in the trench. Gully [11007] measured 0.6m wide x 0.2m deep also with a rounded profile. It was orientated north-east to south-west at the east end of Trench 11. Neither appeared to correspond to the post medieval building ground plan.

An exploratory slot was excavated over a rubble clayey layer containing sandstone blocks. This established that it was a thin (0.11m) layer of disturbed material, probably a slightly firmer continuation of demolition layer (11002) with sandstone fragments spread irregularly throughout.

Trench 12 (ILLUS 8)

In Trench 12, the footprint of a rectangular building was identified. A former cobbled surface at the east end of the trench, and two potential walls in the centre and west end. A large Mill Stone [12008] was located on the cobbled surface.

A wall [12003] was located in the west end of the trench on an approximate north west to south east alignment. It was 0.4m wide and 0.3m deep, with 2.89m visible in length. It was created from mortared sandstone blocks.



ILLUS 10 South-southwest facing section of [7004]

During initial excavation a potential wall return or drain [12004] was located in the centre of Trench 12. On the surface were a series of large fairly regular sandstone blocks, with a width of approximately 2m. Underneath these blocks a series of bricks had been laid, with at least two courses visible. This could represent a large culvert and wall, with no clear distinction between the two (ILLUS 7).

A cobbled surface [12005] was recorded at the south east end of Trench 12. It was constructed from rounded square cobbles in a black, gritty clay matrix and measured 3.37m in length extending 1.04m into the trench from the south west trench edge.

Three slots/sondages were excavated into the base of the trench to establish the presence of other features and the depth of deposits observed here.

Slot 1 was positioned to reveal the extent of cobbled surface [12005]. The surface was 0.2m in depth towards the north-west becoming shallower towards the south-east (0.08m). No archaeological deposits were recorded below this layer, where natural clay was exposed.

Slots 2 and 3 were targeted over potential demolitions layers and revealed that these undulating layers appeared to be continuations of deposit (12006), consisting of a firm clay with large angular sandstone blocks. In Slot 2 this deposit had a minimum depth of 0.24m and a maximum depth of 0.33m, whilst in Slot 3 this deposit was between 0.13 – 0.43m thick.

Trench 13 (ILLUS 9)

Three wall foundations were located in Trench 13, as well as a stone drain. These features were buried under a demolition layer containing a significant amount of sandstone fragments and were spread fairly evenly throughout the trench.

The first wall [13004] was recorded at the west end of Trench 13, with another [13005] 3.82m to its east. The third wall [13007] was located

at the east end of the trench. All walls comprised a single course of mortared sandstone and were orientated north to south. Wall [13004] measured 0.6m wide, wall [13005] was 0.4m wide, and wall [13007] was 0.5m wide and 0.10m deep.

What was interpreted as a stone drain [13006] was located 2.8m east of wall [13005] and 3.7m west of wall [13007]. It was on a north to south alignment and was 0.6m wide. It was constructed from large mortared sandstone blocks, and differed from the other walls as it appeared to have upstanding sandstone blocks at either side.

Trenches containing other post-medieval features (Trenches 2, 7, and 8)

Other features of likely post medieval date included two linear features in Trench 2. The first ditch [2003] measured 1.9m wide × 0.7m deep, with a fill (2004) containing fragments of glass. The second ditch [2006] was smaller, and contained a single fill with charcoal flecks and fragments of coal/cinder.

Traces of ploughing were identified in Trench 8. They were aligned north-south and measured approximately 2m wide × 0.28m deep [8006].

Trench 7 was targeted across a potential sunken trackway. Following machine excavation a wide linear feature was identified [7004], measuring 3.05m wide × 1.8m deep (ILLUS 10). The sides were steep with an extrapolated flat base. The feature contained an undated lower basal fill (7007), but was capped by a post medieval deposit containing bottles (7005). The latter deposit also contained a high concentration of stone towards the base of its fill.

Tr	Feature	Pottery (Medi)	Pottery (Medi)	Pottery (Mod)	Pottery (Mod)	Iron	Glass	CBM	CBM	Ind	Dating
		Count	Wgt	Count	Wgt	Count	Count	Count	Wgt	Wgt	
3	around wall 3004	2	6g	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14
3	ditch 3008	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	85g	583g	14
4	around wall 4005	8	64g	–	–	–	–	5	141g	299g	14
4	U/S	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	49g	–	14
5	around wall 5004	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1288g	Medi
5	U/S	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	135g	–	14
7	sunken trackway 7004	–	–	1	5g	–	1	4	123g	–	20th
12	hollow of millstone 120	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	Mod
Total		10	70g	1	5g	2	1	13	533g	2170g	

TABLE 1 Summary of assemblage by feature

Fabric Code	Fabric Name	Date	Sherds	Weight
TF44	Minety	early/	6	50g
TF52	Oxidized glazed	14	3	15g
TF126	Hereford Fine Micaceous Glazed Ware	13	1	5g
Total			10	70g

TABLE 2 Medieval pottery type series

4.2 FINDS

JULIE FRANKLIN, PAUL BLINKHORN, JULIE LOCHRIE

The finds assemblage numbered 11 sherds (75g) of pottery, 13 sherds (533g) of ceramic building material, 2.170kg of industrial waste and pieces of iron and glass. The majority of retained finds were of medieval date, with some modern material. Where possible, the fabrics were classified using the coding system of the Gloucester City type-series (eg Vince 1984a; Vince 1984b). The assemblage is summarised in Table 1 and a complete catalogue of all the finds is given at the end.

Medieval pottery

The pottery assemblage comprised 10 sherds with a total weight of 70g. The range of fabric types is fairly typical of sites in the region (Vince 1984a; Vince 1984b). The medieval assemblage comprised fragments of glazed jugs, except for the TF44 sherds, which were all from the same unglazed jar.

The medieval sherds were concentrated in Trench 4 around wall [4005] (4004), with further sherds in Trench 3 around wall [3004] (3005).

Modern pottery

A single sherd (5g) of modern whiteware was recovered from 'sunken trackway' [7004] (7005). It is of 19th or 20th century date.

Metalwork

Only one metal find was recovered from the central hole of millstone [12008] (12009). They are two small sherds of cast iron sheeting covered in a shiny grey laminate and are clearly of very recent origin.

Glass

One sherd of glass was recovered from sunken trackway [7004] (7005). It is of probable 20th century origin.

Ceramic building material

The majority of the ceramic building material (9 sherds, 310g) consisted of fragments of glazed Malvernian roof-tiles including a fragment of a ridge tile with knife-cut 'cock's-comb' decoration on the crest (Trench 5 unstrat). All the fragments had a mottled green glaze, and are of 14th-15th century date (Vince 1977, 274). As with the medieval pottery, sherds were concentrated around wall [4005]

(4004), with further sherds in ditch [3008] (3009) and unstratified in Trenches 4 and 5.

There were also a few sherds of modern roof tile recovered from ‘sunken trackway’ [7004] (7005, 7006).

Industrial waste

The industrial waste comprised 2.170kg of tap slag. Tap slag is formed during iron smelting. The slag collects in a tapping pit beneath the furnace and has a distinctive lava like appearance. These types of furnaces were in use from the 8th century BC to 16th century AD, and even later in some areas (Historic England 2015).

The slag was found in ditch [3008] (3009) and around walls [4005] (4004) and [5004] (5005). In the former two cases the slag is associated with 14th century pottery and tile suggesting it is of medieval date.

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL

CATHERINE LONGFORD

The results are displayed below in TABLE 3 and TABLE 4.

The flots of both samples <005> and <006> were very rich in fragments of oak (Quercus) wood charcoal (TABLE 3). The charred oak fragments were large in size and examination of the microscopic wood anatomy revealed that the ring curvature was generally weak to moderate. Occasional pieces of roundwood were present in the samples. On

average, the oak fragments were composed of more than 15 growth rings. Occasional modern fibrous roots were also present in the flots.

Fragments of wood charcoal, amorphous lumps of CBM and pieces of spherical hammerscale were recovered from the retent of both samples, <005> and <006> (TABLE 4). The hammerscale pieces range from 1–7mm in diameter and were very abundant in the samples.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 COMPARISON OF METHODS USED

The results of the geophysical survey are firstly considered in the light of the follow on trenching (refer to TABLE 5), with a broader discussion relating to the extent and nature of archaeological features within the site subsequent to that.

In the geophysical survey results, there is a good correlation between the in-phase and quadrature survey data. Both techniques have identified a service pipe, a possible trackway, possible iron working and rubble associated with Rodley Manor. Of particular note is the trackway in the west of the survey area that may be an extension of the trackway down to Rodley Manor. Three potential buildings have been identified in the quadrature survey. Based on the geophysical survey the likelihood that there are archaeological features located in the east of Rodley Manor is high, with a low potential in the south of the site and a low to moderate potential elsewhere.

Context	Sample	Total flots Vol (ml)	Charcoal Qty	Charcoal Max size (cm)	Material available for AMS	Comments
3009	5	900	+++++	3	Yes	Oak wood charcoal. Weak to Medium ring curvature
9006	6	600	+++++	5	Yes	Oak wood charcoal. Weak to Medium ring curvature

Key: + = rare (0-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (15-50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

TABLE 3 Flotation sample results

Context	Sample	Sample Vol (l)	CBM	Mag res	Charcoal		Material available for AMS Dating
					Qty	Max Size (mm)	
3009	5	10	+	+++++	+++	0.5	No
9006	6	10	+	++++	++++	0.5	No

Key: + = rare (0-5), ++ = occasional (6-15), +++ = common (15-50) and ++++ = abundant (>50)

NB charcoal over 1cm is suitable for identification and AMS dating

TABLE 4 Retent sample results

Trench	EM Survey	Archaeology Present
1	Possible furnace activity	None
2	Circular unknown anomaly	2 corresponding linear features
3	3 linear features, part of rectangular structures	3 corresponding linear features
4	Nothing identified	Medieval surface/structure
5	Features associated with medieval building	Medieval wall foundations and structures
6	Linear feature associated with rectangular structure	Not identified
7	Trackway	Deep ditch of unknown date, unlikely to be trackway
8	Nothing identified	Ploughing activity running north-south
9	Nothing identified	Charcoal filled pit of unknown date
10	Nothing identified	None
11	Wall foundations of post medieval building	Corresponding foundations identified, plus small ditch of unknown date
12	Wall foundations of 2 post medieval building	Both corresponding structures identified
13	End wall foundations of post medieval building	Corresponding features identified

TABLE 5 Comparison by trench, showing survey prediction of archaeological features and located archaeology

The areas of possible furnace activity suggested in Trench 1 were not present, however there was modern ferrous material just below the surface in this area which would appear to explain the results of the EM survey.

A faint circular anomaly visible in the survey was not present in Trench 2, however, the two linear features recorded in this trench broadly equate to the outer edges of this geophysical anomaly.

The three linear features associated with the possible structure in Trench 3 were identified, as were the wall foundations in Trench 5, suggesting a degree of concurrence between lower conductive anomalies and buried structural remains. Whilst the surface in Trench 4 was not predicted as part of the geophysics this may be a result of more horizontal structures being less detectable using this method of geophysical survey.

The feature in Trench 7 did not appear to display any characteristics associated with a sunken or metalled surface, and it is possible that this feature is actually a service trench, covered and sealed by a dump of relatively modern material. Subsequently it is thought that this trench may have missed the actual line of the presumed trackway, or relate to an older west edge of the feature later obscured by recent tipping.

The charcoal-filled pit in Trench 9 would not have been expected to give a response in the geophysical survey due to its small size and depth of burial relative to this.

Generally the EM survey appears to have been quite accurate in predicting the location of the foot print of the wall foundations belonging to the post medieval farm buildings, seen in Trenches 11, 12 and 13.

5.2 GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE TRENCHING

The areas of lower conductivity in a band across the centre of the site correlate well with areas of rubble and former buildings exposed during trenching. There was no evidence to suggest that the post-medieval buildings replaced earlier ones and therefore it might be assumed that the settlement was displaced, or simply relocated at a later date to the west of the earlier medieval core. The archaeology suggests medieval occupation associated with ironworking on the east side of the site and a post-medieval farm on the west side.

The EM38 survey results in conjunction with Trench 5 and the Wessex trench 300 have much more precisely established the extent of the structure here. The EM38 data appears to provide a reasonably accurate picture of the location of the structure. The top of the walls are buried at a depth of approximately 0.3m with the structure extending to 0.6–0.8m beneath the ground surface and being filled with rubble. Some rubble continues to near the ground surface above the wall positions.

Trench 4 also identified another, previously unknown structure which appears to closely correlate with an earthwork feature here. The length of the structure along the main axis of the trench is clearly defined, and it might be reasonably assumed that the earthwork defines its extent in the other direction. The results also tie in well with an area of low conductivity in the EM38 data.

Trench 3 identified an isolated stretch of wall towards its centre and this is on a par with the wall located in the Wessex trench 301. It was originally interpreted as a yard type boundary and the evidence from trench 3 would not contradict this, although in this latter case a lack of facing might also suggest an interpretation as a stone filled land drain, particularly given other nearby draining ditches on the same alignment.

It would appear that the eroded surface of the natural bedrock is not far from the surface having been located in a trial slot excavated in Trench 3. Above this was a slightly reddish sandy clay deposit that could be a mixture of the upper bedrock and colluvium. Features observed on the site (both medieval and post-medieval) cut through this deposit and were then sealed by a slightly lighter clayey deposit that forms the subsoil on the site.

The work also could not find any evidence for earlier buildings beneath the late medieval/post-medieval buildings in the western part of the site, of which, very little of the footprints from these buildings were shown to remain. The site of the manor remains uninvestigated.

5.3 COMMENTS ON THE NATURE AND DATE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The finds evidence points towards a substantial tiled roofed building occupied in the 14th century, possibly for longer. A 14th century date is implied for walls [3004], [4005] and [5004], and for ditch [3008]. It

also indicates iron smelting was being undertaken in the vicinity at the time. The lack of later medieval or post-medieval finds suggest the occupation was relatively short-lived. Modern finds found in sunken trackway [7004] and associated with millstone [12008] imply a modern date or at least modern contamination of these features. In the environmental samples the presence of a large amount of oak charcoal together with a quantity of spherical hammer scale suggest that contexts (3009) and (9006) may contain industrial waste related to metal smelting. These deposits are a mix of fuel residues and metal smelting by-products. This suggests that metal smelting was occurring near to the site.

As the Historic Buildings report specified, the post-medieval buildings contained varying structural elements from different time periods (Lowe 2003). Most of the structures contained earlier features, in particular the 16th century sections of Building 1 upon which Trench 13 was targeted. Trench 11 was focused on Building 6, also potentially containing 16th century sections but was of predominantly 17–18th century construction. Buildings 4 and 5 were recorded as being of 19th century construction, and Trench 12 was centred over these two buildings. Whilst the expected foundations were located, these were not able to be dated with any accuracy due to the lack of stratified finds. However, as no earlier foundations were detected it does indicate that any alteration/rebuilding was kept to the original footprint, or a very close approximation thereof. Within the historic documents the earliest habitation for this site is described as the 13th century (Lowe 2003). The finds found in trenches 3, 4, and 5 date the initially located walls and possible floors as from the 14th century, and it is possible earlier finds could be located elsewhere. However, this does highlight a concentration of earlier medieval structures that are likely to relate to the manor when it was known as Archer's Hall.

6 CONCLUSIONS

The follow on trenching work has confirmed the presence, extent and depth of archaeological deposits and structures, which are confined to the central-northern part of the site. The remains are generally of the medieval/post medieval period, and there is no evidence to suggest that the undated ditches, gullies and other features are not contemporary with this.

There was no clear evidence of earlier medieval occupation under the post-medieval structures in trenches 11, 12, or 13. When compared with the earlier building survey (Lowe 2003), none of buildings were recorded as having functions or accessories for use as mill, this suggesting the millstone was brought from elsewhere as an ornament.

The medieval remains are centred on trenches 4 and 5, with some activity in Trench 3, which indicates the structural focus has shifted to the west in the post-medieval period.

Trenches to the south of the site did not identify any significant archaeological remains and it is likely that this area, as well as the terraces to the north served a predominantly agricultural function.

The subsoil with a basal depth of about 0.3–0.4m beneath the surface appears to post-date the medieval features on the site, although there is very little cover over the medieval buildings themselves.

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8 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

OASIS ID: headland3-236340

Project details

Project name	Lydney B North - Rodley Manor
Project dates	Start: 23-11-2015 End: 01-12-2015
Previous/future work	Yes /Yes
Any associated project reference codes	LBNG-002 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	STRUCTURE Medieval
Monument type	STRUCTURE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval
Significant Finds	INDUSTRIAL WASTE Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON Modern
Methods & techniques	"Geophysical Survey","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GLOUCESTERSHIRE FOREST OF DEAN LYDNEY Rodley Manor Farm
Postcode	GL15 5FF
Study area	3.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	SO 64395 03787 51.731208044343 -2.51561023394 51 43 52 N 002 30 56 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
Project brief originator	CLIENT
Project design originator	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
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