

**COTMORE WELLS FARM,
THAME,
OXFORDSHIRE.**

NGR: SP 72157 05156

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Report No. 972
June 2014



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES



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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Between the 6th and 19th of May 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Cotmore Wells Farm, Thame, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 72157 05156). The works were commissioned by BSA Heritage on behalf of Stoford Properties Limited.

The project comprised the excavation and recording of eleven trenches within a proposed development area.

The evaluation has identified a small number of archaeologically significant features in the form of pits, a possible posthole, linears and walls in Trenches 6, 7, 9 and 10. Agricultural features recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 have negligible interest. The earliest phase of activity dates to the mid-late Roman period, in the form of a number of features, including two possible refuse pits that may be indicative of nearby settlement, in Trench 6. The presence of this activity in Trench 6 is consistent with other data recorded on the HER, which suggests significant Roman activity to the south of the site. A further sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from Trench 10 in the northern part of the site. Unlike the pottery from Trench 6, however, this sherd was very small and abraded and is almost certainly residual and not, therefore, representative of more widespread Roman activity.

Evidence for Medieval activity was recovered in the form of furrow bases in Trenches 1 and 2, which is consistent with the results of the geophysical survey. No furrows were, however, identified in Trench 8, despite being predicted by the geophysical survey.

Evidence for three stone walls was recovered from Trench 9; the finds recovered in association with these features were generally of Post-medieval date, although some were non-diagnostic and may be of Medieval or Late medieval origin. Excavation of the walls was limited by health and safety and flooding constraints and the possibility remains that these features are associated with the Medieval farmhouse believed to be present on the edge of the site area. Further Post-medieval evidence was present in Trench 7 in the form of three probable linears. These features were on a similar alignment to the ridge and furrow identified immediately to the east by geophysical survey and may represent well preserved examples of furrows.

A single Modern feature was identified in Trench 3. Undated features were present in Trenches 6 and 10, but are likely to be either of Roman or Medieval origin.

The evaluation therefore suggests three areas of activity; in the south around Trench 6 where Roman activity has been identified and in Trenches 9 and 10 in the central and northern parts of the site respectively, where possible Medieval/Post-medieval activity has been identified. The remaining areas of the site that were sampled appear to have been included within a Medieval field system that has only survived in Trenches 1 and 2 and possibly in Trench 7.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between the 6th and 19th of May 2014. Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Cotmore Wells Farm, Thame, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 72157 05156). The works were commissioned by BSA Heritage on behalf of Stoford Properties Limited.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2014); IfA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (2008); and *MoRPHE*, issued by English Heritage (2006).
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is proposed to develop land at Cotmore Wells Farm, Thame.
- 2.2 The site is currently a working farm which comprises farm buildings and yards, as well as agricultural fields set over to pasture. It is bounded to the west by Howland Road (B4012), to the south by a former railway line, which is now utilised as a cycle path, to the east by a stream and to the north by further agricultural fields.
- 2.3 The underlying geology comprises *Gault Formation* – mudstone, overlaid by river terrace deposits comprising sand and gravel (BGS online viewer).
- 2.4 The Oxfordshire HER records Iron Age and Roman finds, features and inhumations, located immediately south of the former railway line, which forms the site's southern boundary. It is also thought that there is the potential for the remains of a Medieval or later farmhouse and related activity to be present within the site.
- 2.5 A geophysical survey of areas of pasture within the site, undertaken by ASWYAS (2014), identified a number of dispersed possible archaeological features as well as possible agricultural remains.
- 2.6 The site therefore contains the potential for the presence of archaeological features, predominately relating to the later Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods. This did not prejudice the evaluation against deposits dating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the location, date, character, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
 - iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
 - iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present;
 - v) to define any research priorities that may be relevant, should further field investigation be required.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The WSI required the excavation of ten trenches within the development area. However, subsequent to the approval of the WSI, it was decided to excavate an additional trench, in an area where advance construction of a badger sett was proposed and as shown in Figure 2. Due to on-site constraints, it was necessary to amend the locations of some of the trenches. All amendments to the trenching methodology were agreed with BSA Heritage and the Oxfordshire archaeologist.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a JCB type mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A detailed description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1 and a finds list is presented in Appendix 2. A summary discussion is given below.
- 5.2 The natural sands, clays and gravels were encountered at an average depth of between 0.32 to 0.55m (74.96m OD) below Modern ground; these were on the whole directly overlaid by an orange brown sandy silt to sandy clay subsoil, which was in turn sealed by a dark brown sandy silt ploughsoil. Visibility was generally very good, although there was some ground water flooding within the deeper sections.
- 5.3 **Trench 1:** A total of four furrows orientated north-south at approximate intervals of 8m were present within the trench. No further archaeology was present.
- 5.4 **Trench 2:** A single furrow was visible within the trench, orientated approximately north-south. No further archaeology was present.
- 5.5 **Trench 3:** A substantial Modern cut [303] was present.
- 5.6 **Trench 4:** No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.
- 5.7 **Trench 5:** No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.
- 5.8 **Trench 6:** A total of five features were present within this trench.
- 5.8.1 Feature [603] was a substantial cut which continued beyond the limits of the trench. It contained two distinct fills and yielded three sherds of Roman sandy greyware, along with animal bone and CBM pieces. The function of this feature is not clear from the limited evidence, but the quantity of animal bone present may suggest that this feature was a refuse pit. The western edge of this feature was cut away by an undated feature [606].
- 5.8.2 Possible pit/posthole [613] did not yield any artefactual evidence; however, the eastern edge was cut by probable Roman pit [616].
- 5.8.3 Feature [606] was another substantial feature, which was most likely a pit, possibly a refuse pit from the quantity of animal bone present within the fills. This feature is undated but its relationship with [603] would suggest a date no earlier than the later Roman period. It is unclear what a charcoal lense (619) represented, but the lower fill (609) did not contain any evidence of *in situ* burning.
- 5.8.4 Feature [610] was a shallow U-shaped linear, orientated north-south. No artefactual evidence was present within the area sampled and as such this feature is undated.

- 5.8.5 Feature [616] comprised a possible pit, which contained Roman sandy greyware pottery of 1st to 4th date. The possible pit cut earlier feature [613].
- 5.9 **Trench 7:** A total of three probable linears were present within this trench on an approximate east-west alignment.
- 5.9.1 Due to the small sample of such wide features within the trench and considerable animal disturbance throughout, it is difficult to prove that the features were linears, rather than large, shallow pits. However, if the features [702], [704] and [706] were linears they were on a similar alignment and as such could possibly be contemporary. Possible linears [702] and [706] both contained mid to late 16th century artefactual evidence.
- 5.10 **Trench 8:** No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.
- 5.11 **Trench 9:** A total of three stone built walls were present within this trench.
- 5.11.1 Walls (906) and (913) were on a similar alignment and were most likely contemporary, but due to a paucity of artefactual evidence within this feature, they remain undated. However, wall cut [912] appeared to cut through probable dump layers (915) to (918) and layer (917) yielded pieces of CBM of probable Post-medieval date. This would suggest that the walls were of Post-medieval/Modern date.
- 5.11.2 Wall (921) was on a slightly different alignment to walls (906) and (913) and was unmortared, therefore, employed a different construction technique and so may suggest a different phase of activity.
- 5.11.3 The northwestern end of Trench 9 showed signs of significant dumping/levelling during the late Post-medieval/Modern period.
- 5.12 **Trench 10:** a total of two features were present within this trench.
- 5.12.1 Feature [1007] was a possible pit or ditch terminus. The fill yielded a quantity of animal bone and an abraded sherd of Roman black burnished ware which may be residual in context, giving the feature a terminus post quem of the 2nd Century, although the level of abrasion of the pot sherd suggests it is likely that this feature is of Medieval or Post-medieval date.
- 5.12.2 Linear [1005] was aligned northeast-southwest but contained no artefactual evidence and therefore remained undated.
- 5.13 **Trench 11:** No archaeological finds or features were identified within this trench.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has identified a number of archaeologically significant features in the form of pits, a possible posthole, linears and walls in Trenches 6, 9 and

10. In Trench 7 there were three probable linears or possible furrows, which contained Post-medieval evidence, Likely agricultural features were located in Trenches 1 and 2, but these have negligible interest. The earliest phase of activity dates to the mid-late Roman period, in the form of a number of features, including two possible refuse pits that may be indicative of nearby settlement, in Trench 6. The presence of this activity in Trench 6 is consistent with other data recorded on the HER, which suggests significant Roman activity to the south of the site. A further sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from Trench 10 in the northern part of the site. Unlike the pottery from Trench 6, however, this sherd was very small and abraded and is almost certainly residual and not, therefore, representative of more widespread Roman activity.
- 6.2 Evidence for Medieval agricultural activity was recovered in the form of furrow bases in Trenches 1, 2 and possibly 7, which is consistent with the results of the geophysical survey. No furrows were, however, identified in Trench 8, as predicted by the geophysical survey.
- 6.3 Evidence for three stone walls was recovered from Trench 9; the finds recovered in association with these features were generally of Post-medieval date, although some were non-diagnostic and may be of Medieval or Late medieval origin. Excavation of the walls was limited by health and safety and flooding constraints and the possibility remains that some of these features are associated with the Medieval farmhouse believed to be present on the edge of the site area.
- 6.4 Post-medieval evidence was present in Trench 7 in the form of three probable linears.
- 6.5 A single Modern feature was identified in Trench 3. Undated features were present in Trenches 6 and 10, but are likely to be either of Roman or Medieval origin.
- 6.6 Preliminary assessments of the soil samples suggest that the density of material present is too low for any significant information, however, if additional works take place, an aim of these works should be to source further samples.
- 6.7 The evaluation therefore identified Post-medieval or earlier features in four trenches; in the south around Trench 6 where Roman activity has been identified and in Trenches 9 and 10 in the central and northern parts of the site respectively, where possible Medieval/Post-medieval activity has been identified. The remaining areas of the site that were sampled appear to have been included within a Medieval field system, vestiges of which have only survived in Trenches 1 and 2 and possibly in Trench 7.
- 6.8 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Cotmore Wells Farm, Thame, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation

APPENDIX 1: The Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				Trench 1: 50m by 1.6m; natural (at average 76.55m OD) = Orange brown clay sand with bands of yellow beige clay gravel.		
101	na	na	0.23	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	nat.	na
102	na	na	0.09	Subsoil; orange brown sandy silt.	nat.	101
				A total of four furrows orientated north-south at approximate intervals of 8m were present within the trench.		
				Trench 2: 50m by 1.6m; natural (at average 76.38m OD) = Orange/brown clay sand with frequent gravel inclusions.		
201	na	na	0.28	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	nat.	na
202	na	na	0.22	Subsoil; orange brown sandy silt.	nat.	201
				A single furrow was visible within the trench, orientated approximately north-south.		
				Trench 3: 50m by 1.6m; natural (at average 76.59m OD) = orange brown clay sand.		
301	na	na	0.26	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	nat.	na
302	na	na	0.28	Subsoil; orange brown sandy silt.	Nat.	301, [303]
[303]	30+	1.6+	?	Large, substantial Modern cut (not recorded). Contained fill 304.	301, 302, nat.	304
304	30+	1.6+	?	Fill of Modern feature [303], which contained frequent late Post-medieval and Modern artefacts.	[303]	na
				Trench 4: 50m by 1.6m; natural (at average 76.85m OD) = orange brown sandy clay.		
401	na	na	0.24	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	nat.	na
402	na	na	0.30	Subsoil; orange brown sandy silt.	nat.	401
				Trench 5: 40m by 1.6m; natural (at average 77.13m OD) = orange beige sand clay.		
501	na	na	0.23	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	nat.	na
502	na	na	0.25	Subsoil; orange brown sandy silt.	nat.	501
				Trench 6: 50m by 1.6m; natural (at average 77.85m OD) = orange beige sand clay, with gravel.		
601	na	na	0.27	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	nat.	na
602	na	na	0.21	Subsoil; orange brown sandy silt. Roman pottery present, three sherds reduced sandy greyware.	na	601
[603]	3+	1.6+	0.5	Large, flat based cut. Contained 604 and 605.	nat.	[606], 602
604	3+	1.6+	0.35	Primary fill of [603]. Orange brown friable sandy silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel inclusions. Contained Roman pottery (3 sherds reduced sandy greyware) and animal bone fragments.	[603]	605
605	3+	1.6+	0.20	Upper fill of [603]. Dark brown friable sandy silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel inclusions. Contained CBM and animal bone.	604	602
[606]	6.4	1.6+	0.62	Large, flat based cut. Contained 607, 608 and 609. Undated.	nat.	607, 608, 609
607	2.5	1.6+	0.62	Fill of [606]. Mid brown plastic clay silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel inclusions. Possibly equivalent to 609. Contained animal bone.	[606]	608, 602

Cotmore Wells Farm, Thame, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
608	3.7	0.3+	0.2	Fill of [606]. Orange brown sandy silt. No inclusions. Possibly a patch of redeposited natural.	607, 609	602
609	4.2	1.6	0.5	Fill of [606]. Mid brown plastic clay silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel inclusions. Possibly equivalent to 607. Contained animal bone.	[606]	608
[610]	1.6+	0.87	0.23	Shallow U-shaped linear, orientated north-south. Undated.	nat.	602
611	1.6+	0.87	0.23	Fill of [610]. Dark brown friable sandy silt fill. No finds or charcoal.	[610]	602
612	0.83	0.15	0.10	Fill of [606]. Mid brown friable sandy silt, with frequent charcoal.	619, 607/9	602
[613]	0.9	0.45+	0.75	Cut of pit/posthole. Steep sides, uneven base. Undated.	nat.	[616], 602
614	0.65	0.45+	0.75	Fill of [613]. Grey brown plastic clay silt with rare small stone/gravel inclusions. Possible postpipe?	615?, nat.	602
615	0.75	0.45+	0.75	Fill of [613]. Mottled orange grey plastic clay silt with rare small stones.	nat.	[616], 602
[616]	2.3	0.8+	0.90	Cut of pit. Steep sides, with flattish uneven base.	[613], nat.	602
617	2.3	0.8+	0.90	Primary fill of [616]. Grey brown slightly plastic sandy clay, with occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions. Contained two sherds of reduced sandy greyware and animal bone.	[616], nat., 615	618, 602
618	1.8	0.8+	0.45	Secondary fill of [616]. Light brown plastic clay, with occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions.	617	602
619	0.83	0.15	0.15	Fill of [606]. Lense of black silty clay with very frequent charcoal throughout. Only present in west facing section.	609	612
				Trench 7: 50m by 1.6m; natural (at average 76.63m OD) = beige sand clay, with gravel. Animal disturbance throughout.		
701	na	na	0.29	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	[702], [704]	na
[702]	5.6	1.6+	0.45	Cut of probable linear.	nat.	701
703	5.6	1.6+	0.45	Fill of [702]. Orange brown sandy silt. Contained pottery of late 16 th century date, animal bone and residual Roman pottery.	[702], nat.	701
[704]	6.8	1.6+	0.9	Cut of probable linear.	nat.	701
705	6.8	1.6+	0.9	Fill of [704]. Brown sandy silt.	[704], nat	701
[706]	4.8	1.6+	0.8	Cut of probable linear.	nat.	701
707	4.8	1.6+	0.8	Primary fill of [706]. Mid brown silty clay	[706], nat.	701, 708
708	2.1	1.6+	0.18	Second fill of [706]. Layer of redeposited natural.	707	709
709	4.8	1.6+	0.5	Top fill of [706]. Mid brown silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks. Similar in appearance to (707). Contained probable late Post-medieval CBM, mid 16 th century pottery and a single residual sherd of Roman black burnished ware.	707, 708	701
				Trench 8: 75m by 1.6m; natural (at average 74.54m OD) = orange sand and gravels. Frequent northeast-southwest aligned land drains.		
801	na	na	0.26	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	802	na
802	na	na	0.23	Subsoil: orange brown sandy silt.	nat.	801
				Trench 9: 22m by 1.6m; natural (at average 76.44m OD) = yellow beige clay sand, with gravel.		
901	na	na	0.23	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	902, 903	na
902	10+	1.6+	0.26	Modern gravel surface in northwest end of trench.	903	901

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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
903	5+	1.6+	0.18	Dark grey plastic clay silt with frequent charcoal and Modern brick inclusions.	902	904, 910, 911, 915
904	10+	1.6+	0.55+	Subsoil; mid brown plastic sandy silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and small limestone pieces.	903	[905]
[905]	1.6+	0.6+	1.04+	Wall cut. Aligned north-south. Limit of feature not reached due to health and safety. Contained wall 906. Equivalent to [912]?	904	903, 907 to 911
906	1.6+	0.6	0.53+	North-south aligned wall, arranged in rough courses of limestone blocks (0.25x0.25x0.15m), with a pale grey mortar.	[905]	907
907	3.4	1.6+	0.62+	Infill between stone walls 906 and 913. Orange brown plastic silty clay, with frequent tile, CBM, mid 17 th century pottery, glass fragments, clay pipe, oyster shell and animal bone. Possible wall collapse at southeast edge of fill.	906, 908, 909, 913	
908	2.3	1.6+	0.16	Layer of grey green sand, late Post-medieval/Modern dumping? Contained lense 909.	907	910, 911
909	1.26	na	0.15	Lense of burnt material within 908. Contained CBM and very frequent charcoal flecks and lumps.	907	910, 911
910	1.8	1.6+	0.52	Modern? dumping within cut of walls [905] and [912]. Yellow sandy silt deposit with industrial waste and CBM inclusions.	907, 908, 909	911, 903
911	2.3	1.6+	0.45	Modern? dumping within cut of walls [905] and [912]. Grey white deposit of clay and gravel, with occasional charcoal and frequent CBM inclusions.	907, 908, 910	903
[912]	1.6+	0.37+	1.17+	Wall cut. Aligned north-south. Limit of feature not reached due to health and safety. Contained wall 913. Equivalent to [905]?	914 to 918?	903, 907 to 911
913	1.6+	0.37	0.45+	North-south aligned wall, arranged in rough courses of limestone blocks (0.25x0.25x0.15m), with a pale grey mortar.	[905]	907, 910
914	1	2+	0.20	Dump layer? Pale grey yellow plastic sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions. Equivalent to 918?	?	[912], 915
915	3	1.6+	0.5	Dump layer? Brown plastic silty clay with occasional charcoal and chalk inclusions.	914, 916	[912], 903, [922]
916	2.42	0.5+	0.18	Dump layer? Redeposited natural? Yellow plastic sandy clay.	917	915
917	1.7	0.5+	0.2	Dump layer? Mid brown plastic clay silt, with occasional charcoal flecks. Post-medieval? CBM recovered.	918	916
918	1.35+	0.50+	0.15+	Dump layer? Yellow sandy clay, limit not reached due to health and safety. Equivalent to 914?	?	917
919	0.8+	0.50+	0.46	Layer. Orange grey plastic clay, with occasional chalk inclusions.	921	920
920	0.75+	1.6+	0.60	Modern dump layer of limestone rubble.	919	903
921	0.5+	0.5+	0.25+	Northeast-southwest aligned wall of unfaced limestone blocks. No mortar visible. Only partly excavated.	915 to 918?	?
[922]	0.5+	0.5+	0.25+	Wall cut. Aligned northeast-southwest. Contained wall 921. Limit not reached due to health and safety.	915 to 918?	?
				Trench 10: 40m by 1.6m; natural (at average 76.98m OD) = orange brown clay sand, with gravel.		
1001	na	na	0.19	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	1002	na
1002	na	na	0.20	Subsoil; brown orange plastic sandy clay.	1006, 1008	1001
1003	23+	1.6+	0.4	Modern dump layer. Black sandy silt fill with frequent Modern debris throughout (metal, plastic and brick)	1002, 1004	1001
1004	13+	1.6+	0.19	Buried topsoil? Dark brown grey friable sandy silt.	1002	1003, 1001
[1005]	2+	1.24	0.45	Northeast-southwest aligned linear cut. U-shaped profile. Contained 1006	Nat.	1002
1006	2+	1.24	0.45	Fill of [1005]. Dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. Undated.	[1005]	1002
[1007]	0.75+	1.4	0.21	Possible pit or linear terminus cut. Flat base with sloping sides. Contained 1008.	Nat.	1002
1008	0.75+	1.4	0.21	Fill of [1007]. Dark brown silty clay, occasional charcoal inclusions. Contained 2 nd /4 th AD Roman pottery and animal bone.	[1007]	1002

Cotmore Wells Farm, Thame, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				Trench 11: 25m by 1.6m; natural (at average 72.07m OD) = orange brown sandy clay, with gravel.		
1101	na	na	0.24	Ploughsoil; dark brown friable sandy silt.	1102	na
1102	na	na	0.31	Subsoil; brown orange plastic sandy silt.	Nat.	1101

Appendix 2: The Finds List

CONTEXT	BONE	POTTERY	TILE	CBM	Miscellaneous	Date Range
602		3				Romano-British
604	2	3				Romano-British
605	6		1	1		2nd to 4th century AD?
607	5					?
609	4					?
617	3	2				Romano-British
703		7	1 glazed	4		Late 16 th Century
705			3	2		Post-medieval?
709	1	1		3		Mid 16 th Century
907	1	19	52	33	2 coal, 1 shell, 5 Clay pipe, 13 glass fragments.	Mid 17 th Century
917			3	1		Post-medieval?
1008	6	1				Romano-British

Appendix 3: The Pottery Report By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 32 sherds with a total weight of 470g. It comprised a mixture of Romano-British and post-medieval material, and was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (eg. Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

Romano-British

- B11: Black Burnished Ware**, 2nd – 4th C. 1 sherd, 6g
F51: Oxford Colour-coated Ware, 3rd – 4th C. 3 sherds, 45g.
R30: Reduced Sandy Greyware, 1st – 4th C. 9 sherds, 70g.

Post-medieval

- OXCE: Tin-glazed Earthenware**, 1613 – 1800. 1 sherd, 12g.
OXRESWL: Polychrome Slipware, 17thC. 1 sherd, 36g
OXBESWL: Staffordshire Slip-trailed Earthenware, 1650 – 1750. 1 sherd, 3g.
OXDR: Red Earthenwares, 1550+. 15 sherds, 296g.
OXEAH: Midland Blackware, late 16th – 17th C. 1 sherd, 2g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. All the sherds are in good condition, and appear reliably stratified, other than the residual Roman material.

The post-medieval assemblage comprises a mixture of fine and utilitarian earthenwares which is typical of a reasonably well-to-do household of the period.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntxt	B11		F51		R30		OXDR		OXEAH		OXCE		OXRESWL		OXBESWL		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
602					3	51											RB
604					3	10											RB
617					2	6											RB
703			3	45			2	46	1	2							L16thC
709					1	3	1	77									M16thC
907							12	173			1	12	1	36	1	3	M17thC
1008	1	6															RB
Total	1	6	3	45	9	70	15	296	1	2	1	12	1	36	1	3	

Bibliography

Mellor, M, 1984 A summary of the key assemblages. A study of pottery, clay pipes, glass and other finds from fourteen pits, dating from the 16th to the 19th century in TG Hassall et al, Excavations at St Ebbe's *Oxoniensia* 49, 181-219.

Mellor, M, 1994 Oxford Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region *Oxoniensia* 59, 17-217

Appendix 4: The Animal Bone Report By Natasha Moakes

Introduction

A collection of bone from 8 contexts were examined by the author. Preservation was good, although most elements were fragmentary. Bones were identified by element and by species, where possible.

Methods

The bones analysed for this report were identified to species using diagrams from Reitz and Wing (2008) and Abel's (2012) visual online guide. Bones from the following species were tentatively identified in the assemblage: Bos (cattle), Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat) and Sus (pig). Ostreidae (oyster) shells were also identified in the assemblage.

Results

Overall 48 bone fragments, 2 loose teeth and 1 shell fragment were counted. A total of 19 were identified to element and 12 of these were tentatively identified to species. The results are presented in the table below. A single cut mark and 1 shear mark were identified within the assemblage.

Interpretation and Recommendations

This small assemblage is largely consistent with a rural domestic arrangement, although the small sample size prevents any detailed interpretation. There is some further potential for aging the sample of teeth using the tooth wear stages of Grant (1982) to allow comparison to other sites.

References Cited

Abel, S. M. (2012) *Bone Identification: A visual guide for forensic anthropologists, law enforcement, and naturalists* <http://www.boneid.net/Elements.html> (last accessed 30/06/2014)

Grant, A. (1982) The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates. In B Wilson, C Grigson and S Payne (eds) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites*, Oxford, BAR British Series 109

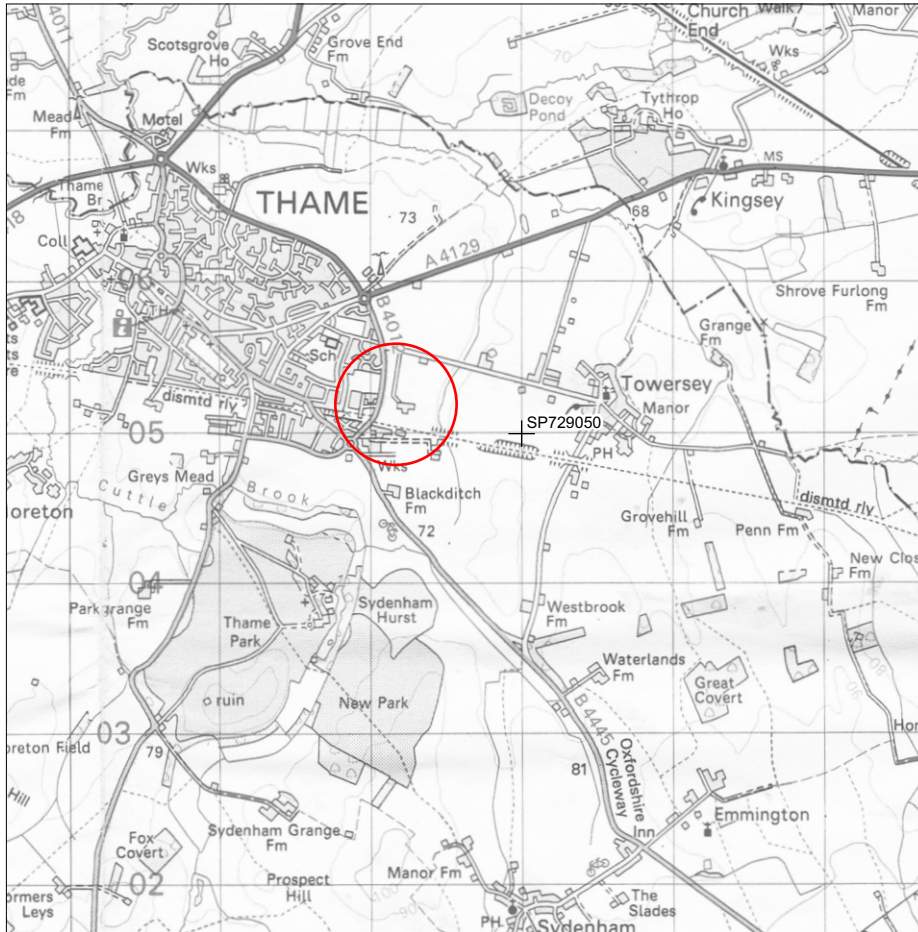
Reitz, E. J. and Wing, E. S. (2008) *Zooarchaeology* (Second Edition). Cambridge University Press.

Cotmore Wells Farm, Thame, Oxfordshire: Archaeological Evaluation

Context	Number of elements	Animal/Human	Elements represented	Suggested species	Evidence for pre-deposition cut marks
604	1	animal	1 x long bone	unidentified	no
604	1	animal	1 x tooth	? <i>Bos/Cervidae</i>	no
605	1	animal	1 x carpal/tarsal	unidentified	shear mark
605	1	animal	1 x long bone articular surface	unidentified	no
605	1	animal	1 x long bone shaft fragment	unidentified	no
605	1	animal	1 x tooth	<i>Sus</i>	no
605	3	animal	3 x unidentified	unidentified	no
607	1	animal	3 x long bone	<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	no
607	1	animal	3 x unidentified	unidentified	no
609	26	unidentified	26 x unidentified	unidentified	no
617	1	animal	2 x skull	unidentified	no
617	1	animal	1 x unidentified	unidentified	no
709	1	animal	1 x tarsal	<i>Ovis/Capra</i>	no
907	1	animal	1 x oyster shell	<i>Ostreidae</i>	no
907	1	animal	1 x metapodial	<i>Bos</i>	cut marks on mediolateral shaft
1008	4	animal	4 x mandible fragments	<i>Sus</i>	no
1008	5	animal	5 x unidentified	unidentified	no

Appendix 2: The Finds List

CONTEXT	BONE	POTTERY	TILE	CBM	Miscellaneous	Date Range
602		3				2nd to 4th century AD
604	2	3				2nd to 4th century AD
605	6		1	1		2nd to 4th century AD?
607	5					?
609	4					?
617	3	2				Mid 13th century
703		7	1 glazed	4		17th century+
705			3	2		Late Post-medieval?
709	1	1		3		Late Post-medieval?
907	1	19	52	33	2 coal, 1 shell, 5 Clay pipe, 13 glass fragments.	18th+
917			3	1		Post-medieval?
1008	6	1				2nd to 4th century+



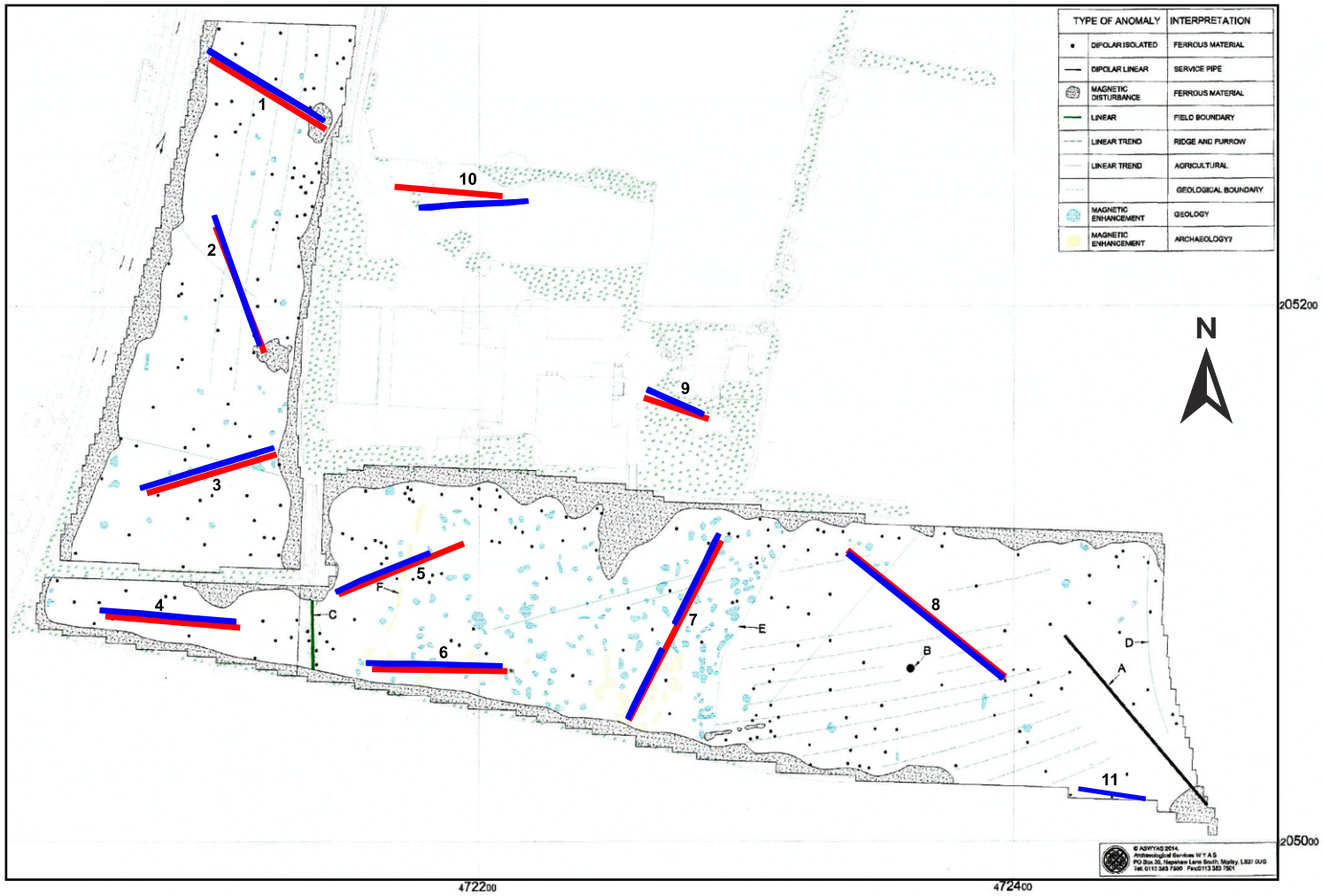
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Site Code: CWF14
Accession Code:

N

0m 2km
1:50,000

FIGURE 1: Site Location

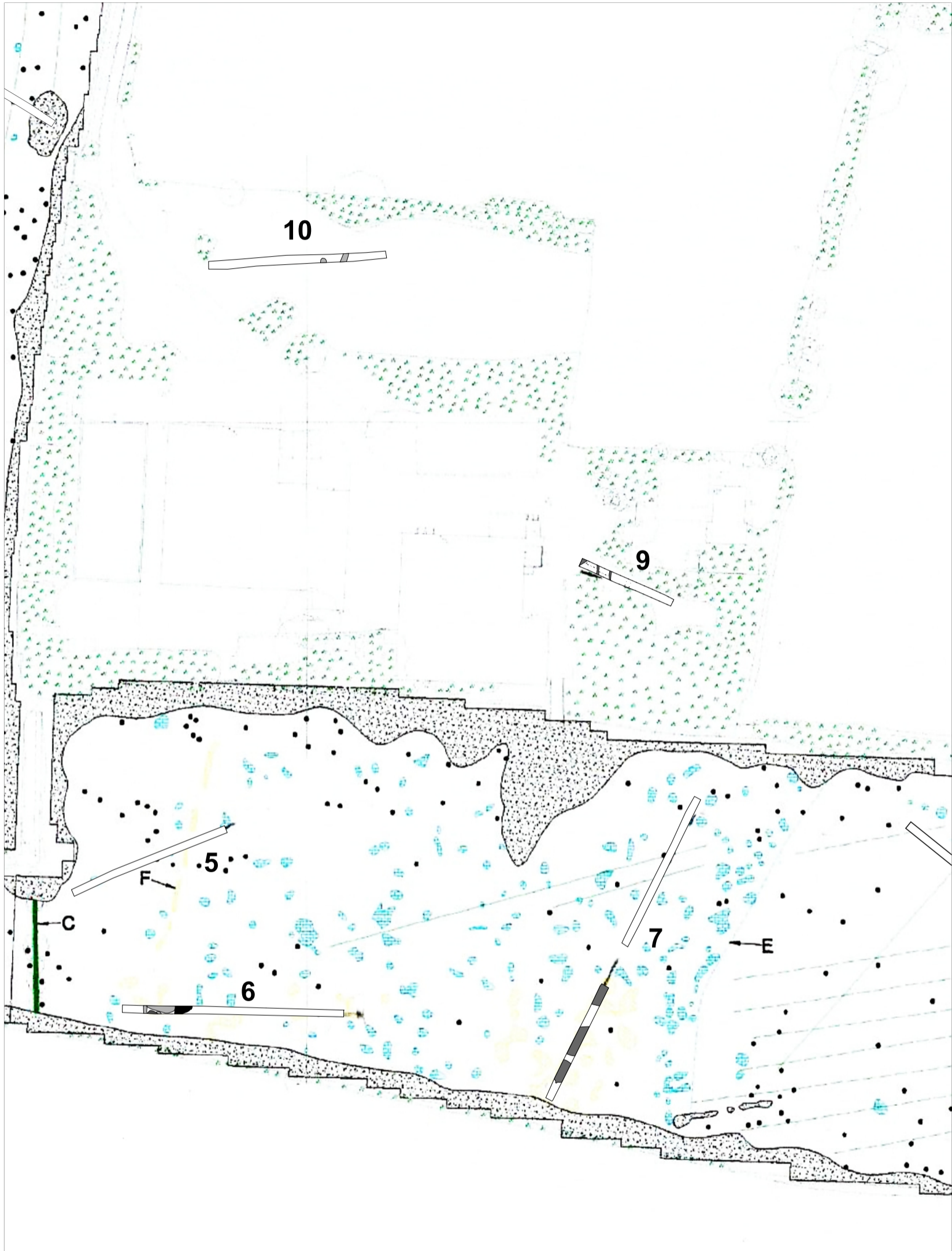


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— Original Trench Locations
— Final Trench Locations

0m 100m
 1:2500@A4

FIGURE 2: Trench Location Plan



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Site Code: CWF14

Accession Code:

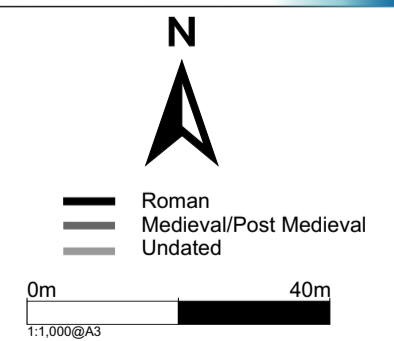
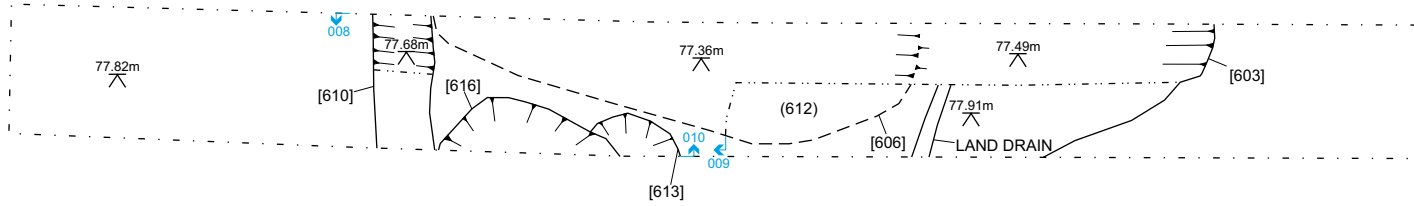
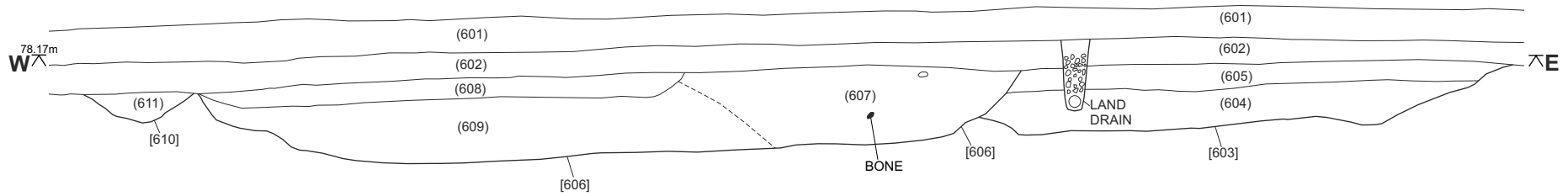


FIGURE 3: Trench Plan Showing Archaeological Features

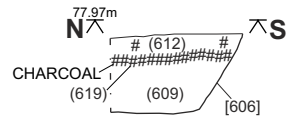
TRENCH 6



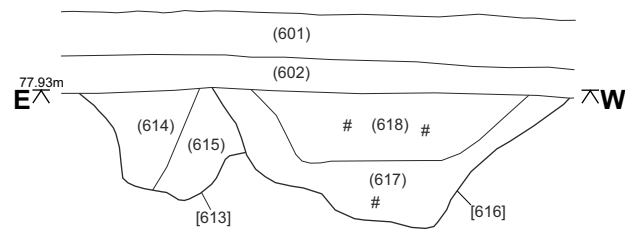
008: SOUTH FACING SECTION [603], [606] and [610]



009: WEST FACING SECTION [606]



010: NORTH FACING SECTION [613] and [616]



Site Code: CWF14
Accession Code:

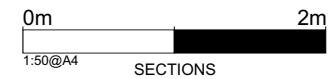
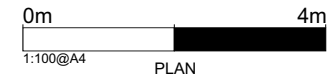
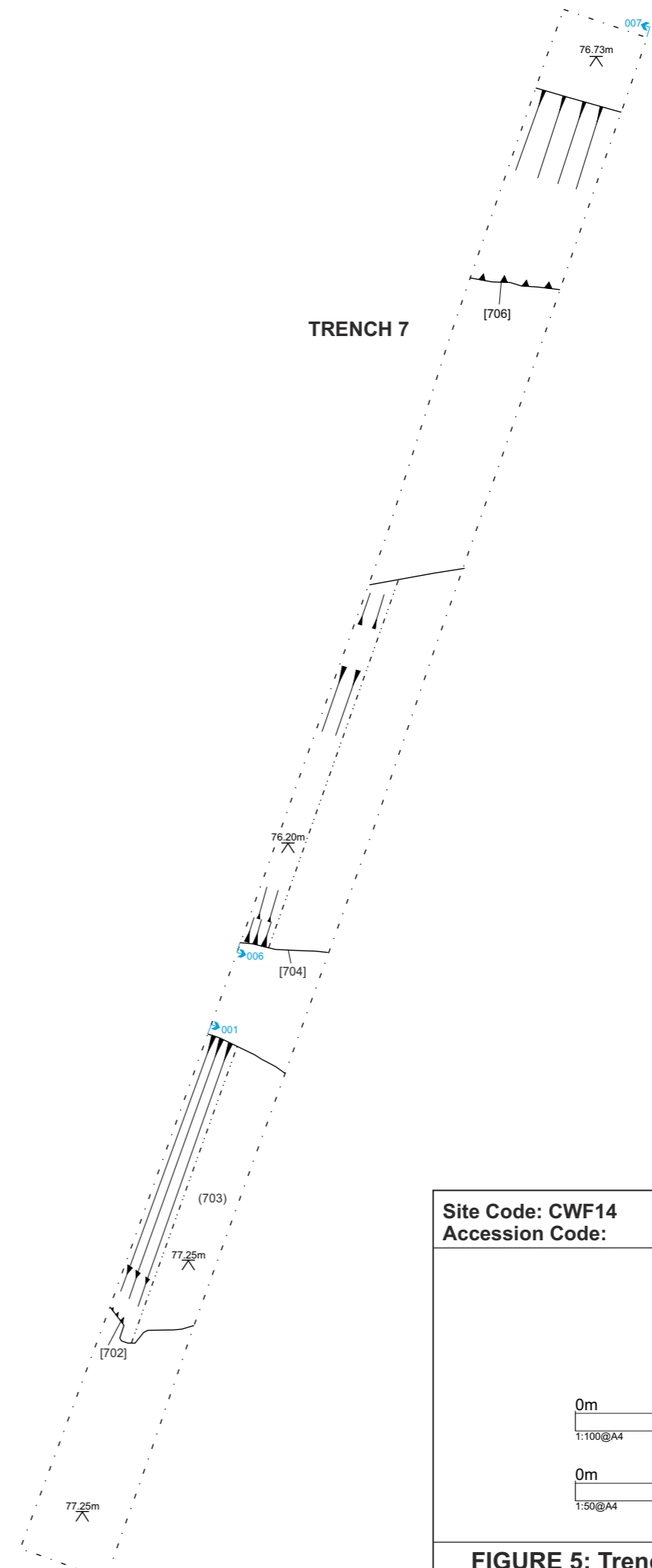
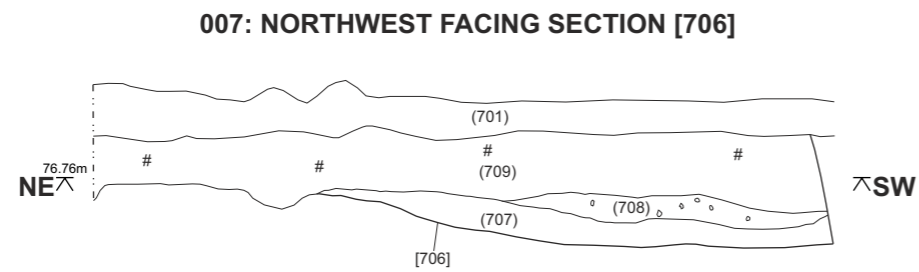
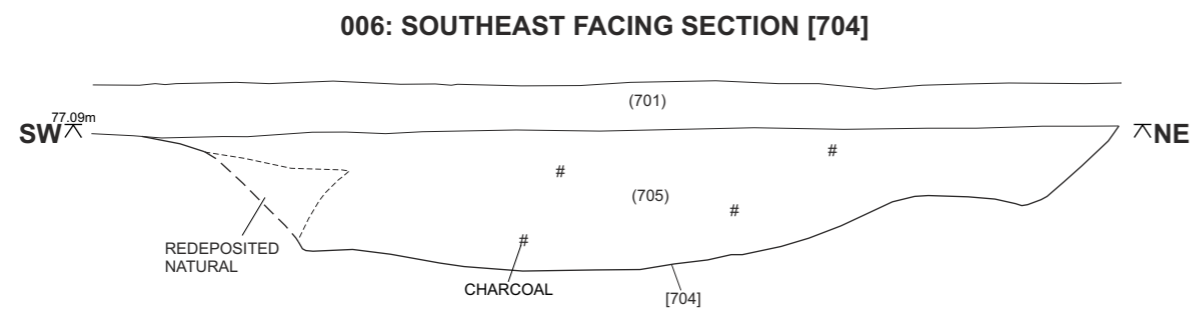
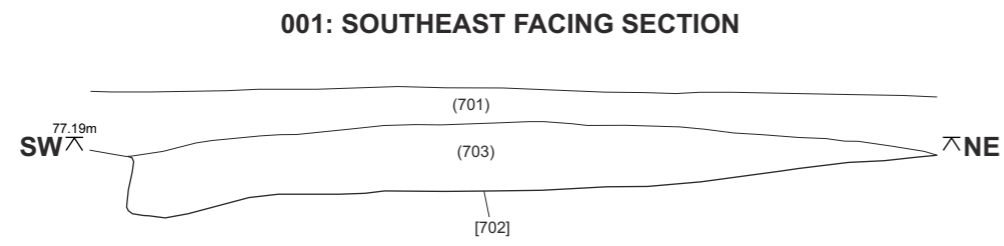


FIGURE 4: Trench 6 Plan and Sections



Site Code: CWF14
 Accession Code:

N

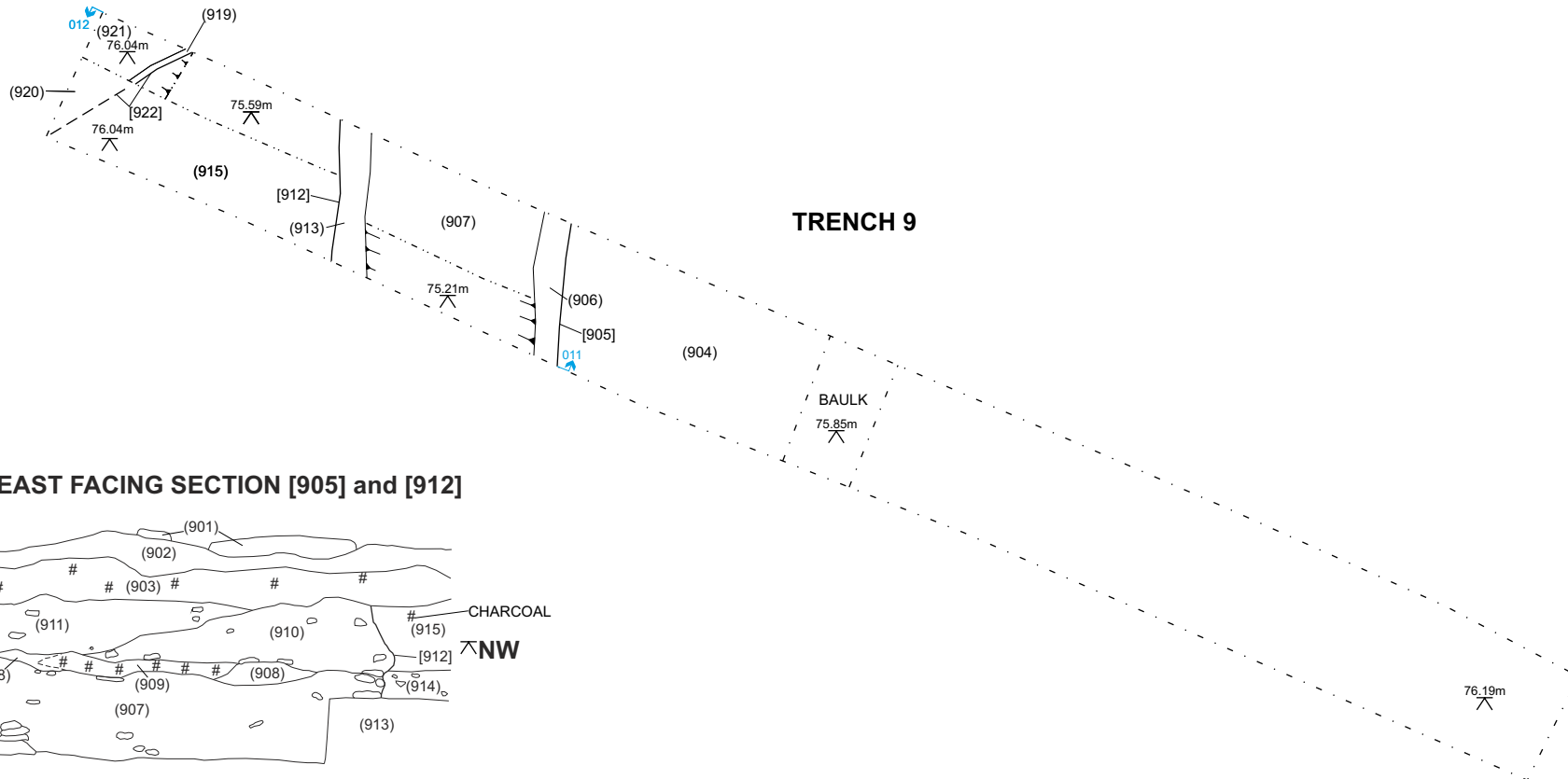
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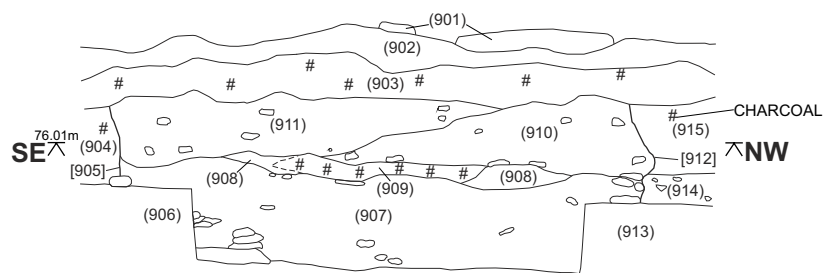
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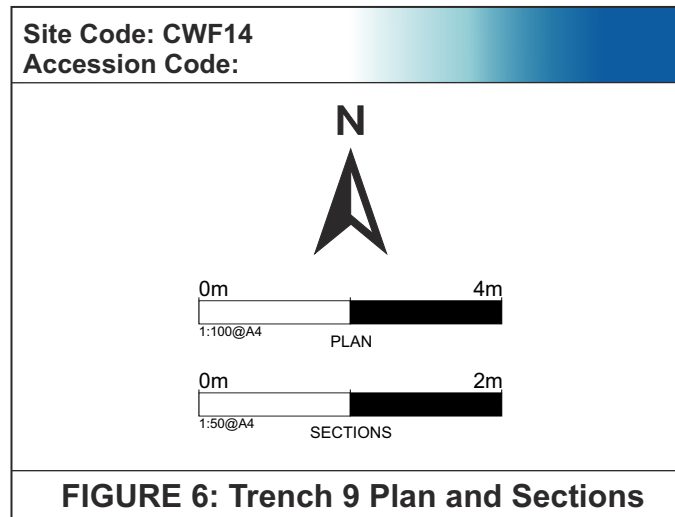
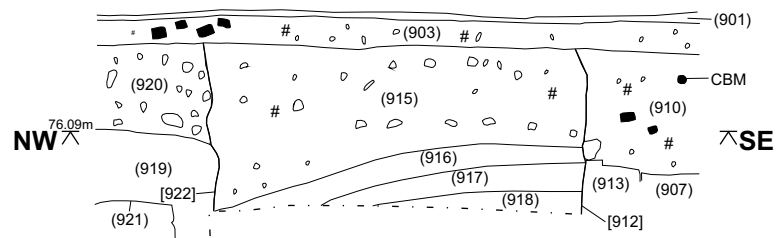
FIGURE 5: Trench 7 Plan and Sections



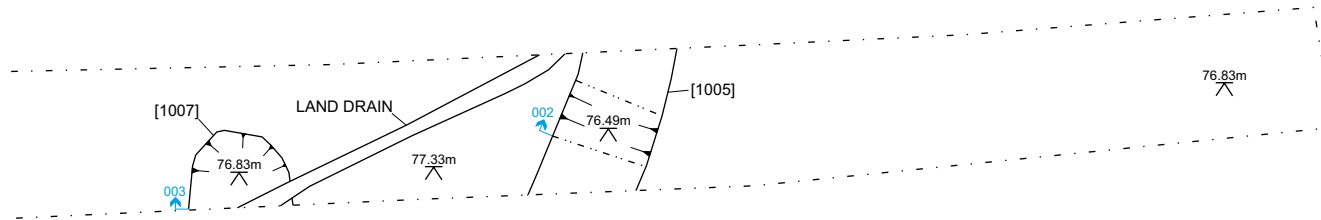
011: NORTHEAST FACING SECTION [905] and [912]



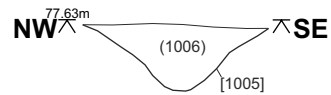
012: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION, NORTHWEST END OF TRENCH 9



TRENCH 10



002: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION [1005]



003: NORTH FACING SECTION [1007]

