

West Wick Weston-super-Mare North Somerset



Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology

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West Wick, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*****CONTENTS**

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SUMMARY

In March 2005, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at land at West Wick near Weston Super Mare (centred on NGR ST 371 618), for CgMs on behalf of RPS Design.

The majority of the trenches revealed only the natural alluvial sequence, however those located approximately in the centre of the proposed development area contained a fairly high density of medieval and post-medieval boundary ditches and rubbish pits. Some of these have been dated to the late Saxon or Saxo-Norman period.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In March 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at West Wick, near Weston Super Mare, centred on NGR ST 371 618 (Fig. 1) on behalf of CgMs Limited for RPS Design.

1.1.2 OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (OA 2005) outlining how it was proposed to investigate the potential for archaeological remains, and identify within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition, significance, quality and depth of any surviving remains within the proposed development area. The proposed strategy for the evaluation involved the excavation of 14 trial trenches measuring from 10 to 50 m in length by two meters wide (Fig. 2).

1.1.3 The area of proposed development lies to the east of West Wick village within the North Somerset Levels. It is to the south of the proposed West Wick Business Park and to the south and east of new developments at St Georges and Moor Lane.

1.1.4 The site is roughly triangular and approximately 5.6 ha in area. It is bounded by Summer Lane to the north and west and Wolvershill Road to the east. It has a number of abandoned buildings in the centre of the site (Fig. 2).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The geology of the site consists of alluvial clays

1.2.2 The site is fairly flat at c. 5.5 m OD and is divided into a number of small pasture fields separated by water filled rhynes and hedgerows. A number of derelict buildings and structures are present on the site.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site and the surrounding area has been subject to a number of archaeological studies. These studies have indicated that the surface archaeology is largely of medieval or later date.
- 1.3.2 Any remains of early prehistoric date are likely to be sealed by peat deposits at considerable depth below present ground level.
- 1.3.3 Previous work in the area has indicated that a horizon of late prehistoric and early Roman activity exists at a depth from the current ground surface of between 0.5 and 1 m. Features included ditches and buried ground surfaces containing cultural material.
- 1.3.4 The hamlet of West Wick is first mentioned in the thirteenth century, and its name appears typical of the late Saxon re-occupation of the Northmarsh following its abandonment in the late Roman period. The extant agricultural buildings located towards the centre of the site are the remains of part of a settlement known as West Wick Green, and the area between them is seen as having high archaeological potential.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- To establish the presence/absence and extent of archaeological remains within the development area.
- To identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition, significance, quality and depth of any surviving remains.
- To assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of survival of buried archaeological deposits.
- To report on the results.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 Fourteen trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne tracked excavator under close archaeological supervision (Fig. 2). Trenches 10 and 11 measured 50m long; trenches 2, 5, 6 and 12 measured 30m long; trenches 1, 3, 4, 7, 13 and 14 measured 20m long and trench 8 was 10m long. Trench 9 was an 'L' shape measuring 15m per axis. All trenches were 2m wide.

- 3.1.2 The majority of the trenches were located in order to provide an even distribution across the proposed development area. Trenches 10 and 11 were targeted on the area between the extant, but derelict, farm buildings. Trench 9 was located to the north and west of the most westerly building to discover whether the building had previously extended in these directions. Trench 8 was positioned over one of the extant walls in order to examine the construction in more detail.
- 3.1.3 Several of the trenches were moved slightly from their original positions in order to allow adequate clearance from live services and buildings deemed to be in a dangerous structural condition.
- 3.1.4 In several trenches, where archaeological deposits were not present at the level of the upper alluvial layer, a sondage was machined at one end of the trench to a depth of approximately 2 m below present ground level.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The evaluation trenches were machined under close archaeological supervision to the top of the first archaeological horizon or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Excavation of features and deposits was undertaken by hand. As noted above (3.1.4), selected deeper excavation took place to examine natural alluvial deposits.
- 3.2.2 All features and deposits were issued with a unique context number, and context recording was in line with the established OA *Field Manual* (OAU 1992). Colour transparency and black and white negative photographs were taken of all trenches and archaeological features. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50, which was appropriate for the level of archaeological remains encountered. Section drawings of features and sample sections of trenches were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the evaluation and bagged by context. Pottery, bone, burnt daub and tile were recovered from a variety of features.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 Several features of medieval date were bulk sampled for charred plant remains. Where possible a 40 litre sample was taken from each deposit

thought to have a good potential for environmental remains. A pollen monolith was taken through the alluvial sequence.

3.4.2 A member of OA's Geo-Archaeology Department was on site throughout the evaluation.

3.5 **Presentation of results**

3.5.1 In the following sections the deposits are described by trench. The stratigraphy and archaeology of each trench is described. There is additional comment on the finds and reliability of the results. This is followed by a discussion, interpretation and conclusion. A context inventory is included in Appendix 1.

4 **RESULTS: GENERAL**

4.1 **Soils and ground conditions**

4.1.1 The site was a generally flat landscape, at *c.* 5.5 m OD, with deep rhynes running along many of the boundaries. The central area, around trenches 10 and 11 had been subject to the dumping of material in the modern period. These trenches also filled with groundwater rapidly, and had to be pumped.

4.2 **Distribution of archaeological deposits**

4.2.1 The majority of the trenches were devoid of archaeology. However, those trenches located towards the centre of the site (trenches 10 and 11) contained ditches and pits of medieval and post-medieval date. Trench 8 contained a post-medieval wall and trench 9 contained a post-medieval garden soil.

4.2.2 Where archaeological features were present they cut the uppermost alluvial layer at a depth of *c.* 0.7 m below current ground level (*c.* 4.9 m OD). This depth takes into account the fact that a layer of made ground of modern origin was present above trenches 10, 11 and 9. Peat was not encountered but may be present below the levels that the evaluation could safely examine. Palaeosols were not encountered in any of the trenches.

5 **RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS**

5.1 **Description of deposits**

Trench 1

5.1.1 Trench 1 was orientated north-west/south-east and was 20 m in length. It reached a depth of 0.45 m (4.9 m AOD), the level of the upper alluvial deposit associated (where present) with archaeological features.

5.1.2 A clean, mid blue-brown alluvium (102) was overlain by a ploughsoil of mixed, reworked alluvium (101), which was overlain by topsoil (100).

5.1.3 No archaeological deposits were present within trench 1.

Trench 2

5.1.4 Trench 2 was orientated north-east/south-west and was 30 m in length and reached a depth of 0.6 m (4.70 m AOD). Alluvium (202) was overlain by subsoil (201) which was overlain by topsoil (200).

5.1.5 No archaeological deposits were present within trench 2.

Trench 3

5.1.6 Trench 3 was orientated north-west/south-east and was 20 m in length and reached a depth of 0.5 m (4.85 m AOD). Alluvium (302) was overlain by subsoil (301) which was overlain by topsoil (300).

5.1.7 No archaeological deposits were present within trench 3.

Trench 4

5.1.8 Trench 4 was orientated north-west/south-east and was 20 m in length. The trench was machined to a depth of 0.5 m (4.9 m AOD) except at the south-eastern end where a sondage was excavated to approximately 2 m depth (c. 6.4 m AOD). The sondage revealed that the upper alluvium (402) sealed an ephemeral band of slightly organic material (403) at 1 meter below ground level (4.4 m AOD). This material seems to represent a short lived drier phase of the site and the possible inception of peat. The organic layer overlay at least another meter of alluvium, (404), identical (although less oxidised) to (402). (402) was overlain by subsoil (401) and topsoil (400).

5.1.9 No archaeological deposits were present in trench 4.

Trench 5

5.1.10 Trench 5 was orientated north-east/south-west and was 30 m in length and reached a depth of 0.5 m (4.95 m AOD). A sondage to approximately 2 m depth was excavated at the south-western end. The sondage revealed the same sequence as that described in trench 4.

5.1.11 No archaeological deposits were present in trench 5.

Trench 6

5.1.12 Trench 6 was orientated north-east/south-west and was 30 m in length and reached a depth of 0.6 m (4.85 m AOD). Alluvium (602) was overlain by subsoil (601) which was overlain by topsoil (600).

5.1.13 No archaeological deposits were present in trench 6.

Trench 7

5.1.14 Trench 7 was orientated north-west/south-east and was 20 m long and reached a depth of 0.7 m (5.50 m AOD). Alluvium (702) was overlain by subsoil (701) which was overlain by topsoil (700).

5.1.15 No archaeological deposits were present in trench 7.

Trench 8

5.1.16 Trench 8 was orientated north-north-west/south-south-east and was 10 m long. The trench reached a depth of 0.7 m (5.00m AOD). A limestone wall footing (800) was located approximately 3 m from the southern end of the trench. The wall footing is part of an extant ruined building. The footing was constructed of rough limestone blocks with no particular coursing evident. Some concrete chunks in the wall proper seem to have resulted from repairs prior to abandonment. The wall was trench built and the construction cut, (801), cut a layer of made ground (803) of post-medieval date. Alluvium (804) was present in the base of the trench, and topsoil (805) overlay the made ground (803).

Trench 9

5.1.17 Trench 9 formed an 'L' shape around the north-west of the western-most ruined farm building. Both the north-east/south-west and the north-west/south-east axis measured 15 m. The trench was 1.1 m deep (5.02 m AOD). The natural alluvium (904) was overlain by a thin layer of post-medieval garden soil (903), presumably relating to the building in the vicinity of the trench. This context contained sherds of Ham Green ware (dated to the late 12th to early 14th century) and Red Earthware (dated to the 16th to 19th century). This was overlain by a thick deposit of made ground (902), which overlaid a thin layer of sand (901). This was overlain by the Topsoil (900).

5.1.18 There was no evidence to suggest that the building had ever extended in the direction of the trench.

Trench 10 (Fig. 3)

5.1.19 Trench 10 was orientated north-west/south-east and was 50 m long and up to 1.2 m deep (4.65 m AOD). At the north-western end of the trench a modern rubbish pit had truncated the alluvium (1002) to a considerable depth. A post-medieval ditch (1006) ran across the trench in a west-east orientation. The ditch was 2.05 m wide. It was fully excavated in the adjacent trench 11 and is described in detail below

5.1.20 A post-medieval ditch (1004) ran almost parallel and partially beneath the south-western facing baulk for approximately 16 m. The ditch was 0.8 m deep with a tenacious mid greyish-brown silty clay fill (1003) which contained pottery, bone and a large quantity of rough limestone blocks. It contained sherds of Ham Green ware (dated to the late 12th to early 14th century) and Red Earthenware (dated to the 16th to 19th century). The edges of the ditch were quite diffuse and not always easy to see in plan. The ditch is interpreted as a field or property boundary, the quantity of finds present probably indicated the proximity of the related settlement.

5.1.21 Both ditches cut the alluvium (1002) which was overlain by a layer of modern made ground (1001), sealed by topsoil (1000).

Trench 11 (Fig. 4)

5.1.22 Trench 11 was orientated north-west/south-east and was 50 m long and 0.7 m deep (4.95 m AOD). At the south-eastern end of the trench was a 2.5 meter wide medieval ditch (1111) orientated north-east/south-west and with three distinctive fills. The upper fill (1112) was a mid yellowish brown clay and contained no datable material. The secondary fill (1113) consisted of a dark grey gravelly clay, again containing no cultural material. The primary fill (1110) was a mid brownish-grey silty clay, visually similar to the underlying alluvium. This deposit contained animal bone and sherds of Bath Fabric B/D (10th to 12th century) and Bristol A/B ware (early 11th to 12th century).

5.1.23 A post-medieval pit (1109), cut ditch (1111) on its south-eastern edge. Its single dark-greyish brown clay fill (1108) contained animal bone and sherds of Red Earthenware (16th to 19th century). Immediately to the south-east of (1109) was a similar pit (1107). It was filled with (1106), which also contained animal bone and sherds of Red Earthenware. Only the very edges of both pits were present within the trench and no relationship could be determined between them.

- 5.1.24 Seven metres to the north-west of ditch (1111) was a large medieval rubbish pit (1124) measuring 2.7 m wide. A quadrant of the pit was excavated to a depth of 1 metre within the trench (1.8m below ground level). Its single identifiable fill (1125) contained animal bone and large quantities of pottery sherds of Bath Fabric B/D ware (10th to 13th century), Bristol A/B ware (early 11th to 12th century), Proto-Ham Green ware (12th to 13th century) and Ham Green Ware (Late 12th to early 14th century). The pit was not bottomed due to safety concerns and excessive ground water levels.
- 5.1.25 Ditch 1128 ran north-east to south-west across the trench. It was 2.05 m in width and greater than 0.25 m in depth, with rounded sides. It was not bottomed due to the large amounts of groundwater within the feature. It was filled with 1129, a dark brown clay. The fill contained a number of sherds of mid 18th century pottery. This feature is the same as ditch 1006, seen in trench 10.
- 5.1.26 Adjacent to pit (1124) and 1.5 m to the north-west was a 1.05 meter wide ditch running north-north-east/south south-west. This feature (1103) had a single mid greyish-brown silty clay fill (1104) which reached a depth of 0.45 m. It contained 15 sherds of Bath fabric B/D ware (10th to 13th century) and Bristol A/B ware (early 11th to 12th century).
- 5.1.27 A small, shallow pit (1120) extended into the trench from the south-west facing section for 0.4 m. The fill (1121) was charcoal rich and contained burnt daub and sherds of Bath Fabric B/D ware (10th to 12th century). Although only part of the feature was present within the trench it is possible that it may be the remnants of an oven or similar structure. The fill, a dark grey clay, was only 0.1 m deep.
- 5.1.28 Immediately to the north-west of the possible oven structure was a narrow gully (1118) running north-north-east/south-south-west. The gully was 0.4 m wide and 0.22 m in depth. Appearing very diffuse in plan its single fill (1119) was a charcoal rich dark grey clay. It contained sherds of Bath Fabric B/D ware (10th to 12th century).
- 5.1.29 A second gully (1126) on a similar alignment to (1118) was located 3.25 m to the north-west. The fill (1127) appeared to be alluvial in origin and contained no cultural material or any inclusions. The gully was 0.28 m wide and 0.28 m deep with a concave profile.
- 5.1.30 A single square post hole (1122) was adjacent to gully (1126). Measuring 0.21 by 0.18 m it was 0.1 m deep. The fill (1123), a mid grey clay, contained a single fragment of burnt limestone, but no dateable material.

- 5.1.31 The extreme north-western end of trench 11 had been subject to modern truncation almost certainly relating to that described in a similar position in trench 10.
- 5.1.32 All of the archaeology present within trench 11, including the post-medieval element, was overlain by subsoil (1102), modern made ground (1101) which became thicker to the north-west, and finally a thin layer of topsoil (1100). All archaeological features cut the upper alluvium (1105).
- 5.1.33 Environmental samples were taken from deposits (1119), (1125) and (1121) in order to check for the presence of charred plant remains (see Appendix 2).

Trench 12

- 5.1.34 Trench 12 was 30 m long and orientated north-west/south-east. It was machined to a depth of 1 meter (4.69 m AOD), except at the north-western end where a sondage was excavated to 1.8 m depth. Topsoil (1200) overlay subsoil (1201), which in turn overlay alluvium (1202). Below the upper alluvial layer (1202) was a thin band of dark organic material within a clay matrix (1203), possibly indicative of the peat inception during a short lived drier spell (see also trench 4). This deposit almost certainly relates to the layer described above as (403), although (1203) was considerably darker. Layer (1203) contained no cultural material. Below (1203) was more alluvium (1204), essentially identical to (1202). This lower alluvial layer continued to the base of the sondage, and below.
- 5.1.35 No archaeological deposits were present within trench 12.

Trench 13

- 5.1.36 Trench 13 was orientated north-east/south-west and was 20 m long and machined to a depth of 1 meter (4.68 m AOD). The sequence of deposits was the same as that described for trench 12. A pollen column was taken through all of the deposits exposed by the trench, namely topsoil (1300); subsoil (1301), upper alluvium (1302), the organic layer (1303) and lower alluvium (1304).
- 5.1.37 No archaeological deposits were present within trench 13.

Trench 14

- 5.1.38 Trench 14 was orientated north-west/south-east and was 20 m long and machined to a depth of 1 meter (4.40 m AOD). The sequence of deposits was the same as that described for trench 12. Topsoil (1400) overlay subsoil

(1401) which in turn overlay the upper alluvial layer (1402). (1402) overlay a thin organic layer (1403) which overlay the lower alluvium (1404).

5.1.39 No archaeological deposits were present within trench 14

5.2 **Finds**

5.2.1 The ceramic assemblage indicates that the activity evident in trenches 10 and 11 can be assigned to two phases (See Appendix 3). The first of these can be dated to the 11th to the later 12th or early 13th century. The second phase is post-medieval, beginning around the 17th century. The sherds within the assemblage were in good condition and contained a number of bases and rims.

5.3 **Palaeo-environmental remains (Appendix 3)**

5.3.1 The paeleo-environmental remains from contexts within trench 11 demonstrated that there was good preservation of charred material. The assemblage suggested the dumping of household refuse during the medieval period.

6 **DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION**

6.1 **Reliability of field investigation**

6.1.1 Weather and light conditions were generally good. Ground water presented a problem, especially in the trenches where archaeology was present. Several of the deeper features required constant pumping to facilitate their excavation. On occasion it was felt that to excavate a deep feature to its base was unsafe and this was noted within the record.

6.1.2 Generally however it is felt that the investigation was a reliable representation of the archaeological resource with regards to the surface archaeology. It should be noted, however, that the sample of the alluvial sequence is a smaller one and, although a consistent and undisturbed sequence was identified right across the site, it is not quite as reliable.

6.2 **Overall interpretation**

6.2.1 Archaeological deposits were only uncovered towards the centre of the site in the vicinity of the ruined farm buildings. The quantity of artefacts recovered from the ditches and pits would suggest early medieval settlement in the immediate area of trenches 10 and 11, although no evidence for buildings of this period was present within the footprint of the trial trenches. The quality and type of charred remains retrieved from these features also suggests a

settlement in close proximity to this area. The post-medieval ditch present in trenches 10 and 11 may well relate to the boundary of the extant farm buildings.

6.3 Conclusions

- 6.3.1 Many of the trenches revealed no archaeological features or artefacts, although where deeper, machine dug sondages were excavated, these show clean alluvial deposits separated at *c.* 4.50m OD by a more organic layer. This possibly indicated a drying out of the wetland environment. No dating evidence was present for this, although it is clearly pre-Saxon, and no evidence for settlement or other activity was recorded, although the sample was necessarily small.
- 6.3.2 Trenches 10 and 11 demonstrated good evidence that the centre of the site was utilised for settlement in the early medieval (possibly late Saxon) period of the 11th to 13th century, with substantial amounts of well preserved sherds present in the features. This ties in well with the placename evidence for the name 'West Wick' as a late Saxon settlement, involved in the reclamation of the levels after the abandonment at the end of the Roman period.
- 6.3.3 There appears to then have been a second phase of settlement that begins around the 17th and presumably culminated in the standing, but now derelict, buildings present on the site.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1							
	100	Layer		0.15	Topsoil		
	101	Layer		0.15	Subsoil		
	102	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
2							
	200	Layer		0.18	Topsoil		
	201	Layer		0.17	Subsoil		
	202	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
3							
	301	Layer		0.14	Topsoil		
	302	Layer		0.2	Subsoil		
	303	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
4							
	400	Layer		0.17	Topsoil		
	401	Layer		0.17	Subsoil		
	402	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
	403	Layer		0.05	Organic Horizon		
	404	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
5							
	500	Layer		0.16	Topsoil		
	501	Layer		0.18	Subsoil		
	502	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
6							
	600	Layer		0.23	Topsoil		
	601	Layer		0.35	Subsoil		
	602	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
7							
	700	Layer		0.18	Topsoil		
	701	Layer		0.34	Subsoil		
	702	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
8							
	800	Structure	0.5	0.65	Wall		
	801	Cut	0.8	0.65	Trench for wall		
	802	Fill	0.8	0.65	Backfill for 801		
	803	Layer		0.5	Made ground		
	804	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
	805	Layer		0.15	Topsoil		
9							
	900	Layer		0.13	Topsoil		
	901	Layer		0.04	Made ground	Plastic	Modern
	902	Layer		0.72	Made ground	Plastic	Modern
	903	Layer		0.22	Garden soil	Pottery	17 th century
	904	Layer		0.08	Natural Alluvium		

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
10							
	1000	Layer		0.12	Topsoil		
	1001	Layer		0.14	Made ground		
	1002	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
	1003	Fill	1.4	0.8	Fill of 1004	Pottery	17 th century
	1004	Cut	1.4	0.8	Ditch		
	1005	Fill	>2.0	n/a	Fill of 1006	Pottery	Post-medieval
	1006	Cut	>2.0	n/a	Ditch		Post-medieval
11							
	1100	Layer		0.15	Topsoil		
	1101	Layer		0.4	Made Ground		
	1102	Layer		0.13	Subsoil	Pottery	17 th century
	1103	Cut	1.04	0.44	Ditch		
	1104	Fill	1.04	0.44	Fill of 1103	Pottery	11 th century
	1105	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
	1106	Fill	0.65	0.6	Fill of 1107	Pottery	17 th century
	1107	Cut	0.65	0.6	Pit		
	1108	Fill	0.6	0.65	Fill of 1109	Pottery	17 th century
	1109	Cut	0.6	0.65	Pit		
	1110	Fill	2.5	0.45	Fill of 1111	Pottery	11 th century
	1111	Cut	2.5	0.75	Pit		
	1112	Fill	1.3	0.25	Fill of 1111		
	1113	Fill	1	0.1	Fill of 1111		
	1114	Layer		0.05	Organic Horizon		
	1115	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
	1116	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
	1117	Not used					
	1118	Cut	0.41	0.23	Gully		
	1119	Fill	0.41	0.23	Fill of 1118	Pottery	11 th century
	1120	Cut	0.32	0.09	Pit/Ditch terminus		
	1121	Fill	0.32	0.09	Fill of 1120	Pottery	Early 12 th century
	1122	Cut	0.21	0.1	Posthole		
	1123	Fill	0.21	0.1	Fill of 1122		
	1124	Cut	3.34	>0.95	Pit		
	1125	Fill	0.34	>0.95	Fill of 1124	Pottery	Late 12 th century
	1126	Cut	0.38	0.31	Gully		
	1127	Fill	0.38	0.31	Fill of 1126		
	1128	Cut	2.05	>0.25	Ditch		
	1129	Fill	2.05	>0.25	Fill of 1128	Pottery	Mid 18 th

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
							century
12							
	1200	Layer		0.25	Topsoil		
	1201	Layer		0.18	Subsoil	Pottery	17 th century
	1202	Layer		0.24	Natural Alluvium		
	1203	Layer		0.05	Organic layer		
	1204	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
13							
	1300	Layer		0.15	Topsoil		
	1301	Layer		0.45	Subsoil		
	1302	Layer		0.24	Natural Alluvium		
	1303	Layer		0.05	Organic Layer		
	1304	Layer			Natural Alluvium		
14							
	1400	Layer		0.3	Topsoil	Pottery	17 th century
	1401	Layer		0.31	Subsoil		
	1402	Layer		0.21	Natural Alluvium		
	1403	Layer		0.02	Organic Layer		
	1404	Layer		0.04	Natural Alluvium		
	1405	Layer			Natural Alluvium		

APPENDIX 2 PALEOENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

West Wick, Weston-super-Mare (WWW05)

Assessment of Environmental Remains

Dawn Irving and Dana Challinor (Oxford Archaeology)

METHODOLOGY

Three samples were taken during the evaluation from several contexts, (1119), (1125) both pit fills and (1121) a gully rich in charcoal dating to the medieval period, for the recovery of charred plant remains. The samples were processed for charred plant remains by flotation using a modified Siraf-type machine, with flots collected on a 250µm mesh. After air-drying these flots were scanned for material under a binocular microscope at x10 and x20 magnification.

RESULTS

The results of the assessment are presented in Table A2.1. The flots were similar in size and the preservation of the material was good with minimal modern contamination. All of the three flots contained molluscs, including the species *Ceciloides acicula*. This is a burrowing species and thus not necessarily an archaeological deposit. Pottery and mammal bones were also retrieved from the residues

Wood charcoal was present in all of the samples, in varying quantities. Context (1119) contained a large amount of identifiable wood charcoal, including *Quercus* sp. (oak) and

Alnus/Corylus sp. (alder/hazel). Context (1121) contained a fragment provisionally identified as *Fagus* sp. (beech).

Two of the three flots (1125) and (1119) produced cereal grains, including *Triticum* sp. (wheat), *Hordeum* sp. (barley) and *Avena* sp. (oat), but no chaff was noted in any of the samples. These two flots also contained charred remains of pulses (Fabaceae family). Weed seeds were not abundant but were noted in all samples; most were indicative of arable/disturbed ground such as *Bromus* sp. (brome grass) and *Chenopodium* spp. (goosefoots).

DISCUSSION

It is likely from these results that the sampled layers contained discarded domestic refuse, with a range of foodstuffs present. The charred material was well preserved and the range of features sampled produced useful assemblages. There is potential for good economic information from any further excavations at the site, though the results were consistent with what would be expected in the medieval period. The wood charcoal could also provide some information about fuel use. Any future excavations undertaken on the site should include an appropriate strategy for sampling in accordance with current best practice.

Sample no.	Context no.	Type of context	Period	Charcoal identification		Grain		Other Charred Remains		Potential
				Quantity	Identification	Quantity	Identification	Quantity	Identification	
1000	1119	Gully	Medieval	+++	<i>Quercus</i> sp. <i>Alnus/Corylus</i> sp.	+		+	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp. <i>Pisum</i> sp.	High
1001	1125	Pit	late Med.	+		++	<i>Triticum</i> sp. <i>Hordeum</i> sp.	+	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	High
1002	1121	Possible Pit	Medieval	+	<i>Fagus</i> sp.	+++	<i>Triticum</i> sp. <i>Hordeum</i> sp. <i>Avena</i> sp.	++	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp. <i>Bromus</i> sp. Pluses	High

+ = present (up to 5 items), ++ = frequent (5-25), +++ = common (25-100), ++++ = abundant (>100)

Table A2.1: The results of the assessment of samples of charred plant remain

APPENDIX 3 POTTERY REPORT***Pottery from Weston-super-Mare (Site WWW05)***

Paul Blinkhorn (Freelance medieval ceramic specialist)

The pottery assemblage comprised 186 sherds with a total weight of 4,850 g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 1.06. The ceramic assemblage indicates two phases of activity, one of which can be dated from the 11th to the later 12th or early 13th century, and the other post-medieval. It seems likely that the earlier phase started before the Norman Conquest, and suggests that there are substantial late Saxon or Saxo-Norman remains within the immediate vicinity of these excavations.

Fabric

Where possible, the pottery was classified using the conventions in AG Vince's unpublished PhD thesis, as follows:

F1: **Bath Fabric B/D** (Vince unpub.). Fossiliferous limestone fragments, c.0.01 mm to 2.0 mm. Less common are inclusions of rounded quartz, c.0.1 mm to 0.7 mm and scattered fragments of oolitic limestone, angular chert, up to c.0.6mm across, fine and coarse-grained sandstones, including ferruginous fragments with white mica and quartz inclusions, flint and rounded pellets of silty clay with a high iron content. Very similar to Mellor's Cotswolds-type ware (ibid. 1994), and with a similar chronology: 10th century examples are known, but common from the 11th – 13th centuries. 129 sherds, 2,192 sherds, EVE = 1.06.

F2: **Bristol A/B ware** (ibid.). Well rounded and sorted inclusions of quartz and quartzite (some with possible mica inclusions), fine-grained limestone with angular quartz and brown amorphous inclusions, poorly sorted sandstone with some mica and a brown-stained cement and chert? Early 11th – 12th century. 8 sherds, 140 g, EVE = 0.

F3: **Proto-Ham Green ware** (ibid.) Abundant medium to coarse sand, mainly up to 0.7mm across but with sandstone fragments up to 1.0 mm across. Subangular and a little rounded quartz, often cloudy with brown veins, some plagioclase feldspar, fragments of coarse-grained sandstone with overgrown quartz or quartzite grains (up to 0.7 mm across), brown chert, often varying in colour within one fragment and crossed with quartz veins. Silicious sandstone with brown inclusions, opaque iron ore (smaller than the other inclusions, up to 0.3 mm), and dark brown inclusionless clay pellets. 12th – 13th century. 1 sherd, 48 g, EVE = 0.

F300: **Ham Green ware** (ibid.). Varying proportions of a well-sorted, predominantly quartz and limestone sand and angular to rounded clay pellets. Few of the sand inclusions are larger than 0.3 mm but the clay pellets are often several millimetres across. Sub-angular and rounded quartz, angular to rounded clay pellets. Glossy green glaze. Late 12th - ?early 14th century. 4 sherds, 120 g, EVE = 0.

F301: **Minety-type ware** (Mellor 1994). Moderate to dense oolitic shelly limestone up to 1 mm. Few other visible inclusions except for very sparse quartz up to 0.5 mm. Splashes of poor-quality, sage-green glaze. Cotswolds source. Early 12th – 15th century. 1 sherd, 24 g, EVE = 0.

F425: **Red Earthenwares.** Fine, sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 38 sherds, 2,295 g.

F430: **Staffs Manganese ware,** late 17th – early 19th century. Uniform, buff-fired fabric in a moderately sorted matrix. Occasional sub-angular and rounded black ironstone up to 0.6mm. This ware is characterised by its brown 'tiger striped' manganese glaze. 1 sherd, 6 g, EVE = 0.

F431: **Creamware,** c 1740-1880. A cream-coloured earthenware made from the same calcinated flint clay that produced Staffordshire white salt-glazed stonewares (Jennings 1981, 227). However, Creamwares were fired at different temperatures with a lead glaze, resulting in a rich cream colour. The general range of forms for this ware include plates and bowls. 1 sherd, 10 g.

F436: **English Stoneware.** White/grey stoneware with a white salt glaze. Made at numerous centres, such as Staffordshire, London and Nottingham, from the later 17th century onwards, in a wide range of utilitarian forms (Crossley 1990). 1 sherd, 14 g.

F1000: **Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares.** 2 sherds, 1 g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table A3.1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

The Assemblage

The range of pottery types present indicate that there were two main phases of activity at this site, the first, early medieval, from around the time of the Norman Conquest until the later 12th or early 13th century, the second in the post-medieval period, particularly the 17th century.

The dating of the earliest phase of medieval activity is slightly problematic. It revolves around the dating of Vince's Bath B/D ware, which is very similar, if not identical to Mellor's Cotswolds-type ware, and also has petrological affinities with late Saxon Gloucester ware, Gloucester fabric TF41A (Vince unpub.). Bath B/D ware has been noted in Bath, at the Citizen House site, in contexts which also produced Cheddar 'E' ware, meaning that a start date of the 10th century is highly likely (ibid.). In Oxfordshire, the similar Cotswolds type ware has been noted in 10th century contexts (Mellor 1994), but did not become common until the 11th century.

At this site, a few contexts, such as 1119 produced only Bath B/D wares, meaning that they could actually date to the 10th century, and the largest group of pottery, from context 1110, produced a large group of well-preserved Bath B/D vessels, including a full profile of a jar, and a single sherd of Bristol A/B ware. This context is likely to date to before the Norman Conquest, as the latter has been found in pre-Conquest contexts beneath the Castle mound in Bristol (ibid.). It is entirely possible therefore that there is a phase of late Saxon activity at this site which pre-dates the Norman Conquest, although further work will be required to confirm this.

The 12th century pottery is typical of the period, comprising mainly unglazed fragments of jar forms, along with small quantities of glazed jugs.

The medieval pottery is generally well-preserved, and the sherds mostly quite large, with two full profiles of Bath B/D ware jars noted. One of these is thickly sooted on the outer surface, indicating a domestic or industrial use. The fact that the pottery is so well-preserved indicates that it is highly likely that there are substantial late Anglo-Saxon or Saxo-Norman remains in the immediate vicinity of these excavations.

Table A3.1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Cntxt	F1		F2		F3		F300		F301		F425		F430		F431		F436		F1000		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
903							1	5			1	128									17thC
1003							1	78			11	438									17thC
1102											5	1155									17thC
1103											4	111					1	14	2	1	19thC
1104	13	68	2	7																	11thC
1106											4	79									17thC
1108											2	105									17thC
1110	23	865	1	10																	11thC?
1119	14	94																			11thC
1121	3	14							1	24											E12thC
1125	75	1145	5	123	1	48	2	37													L12thC
1129											7	183	1	6	1	10					M18thC
1201	1	6									3	68									17thC
1400											1	28									17thC
Total	129	2192	8	140	1	48	4	120	1	24	38	2295	1	6	1	10	1	14	2	1	

APPENDIX 4 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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- Jennings, S 1981 *Eighteen Centuries of Pottery from Norwich* E Ang Archaeol **13**
- 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
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Unpublished PhD Thesis
<http://www.postex.demon.co.uk/thesis/thesis.htm>
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APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: West Wick, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset

Site code: WWW05.

Grid reference:NGR: ST 371 618

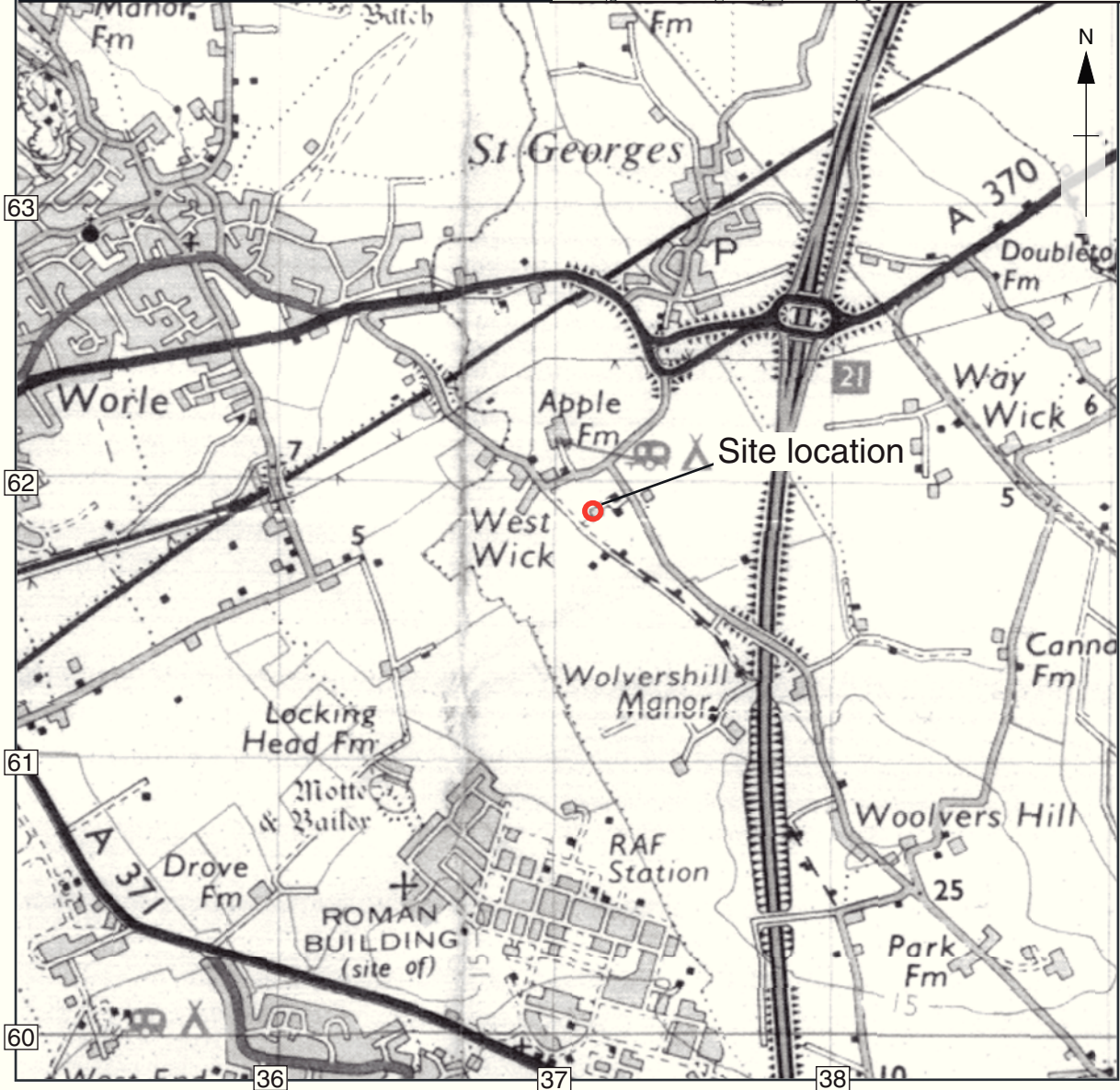
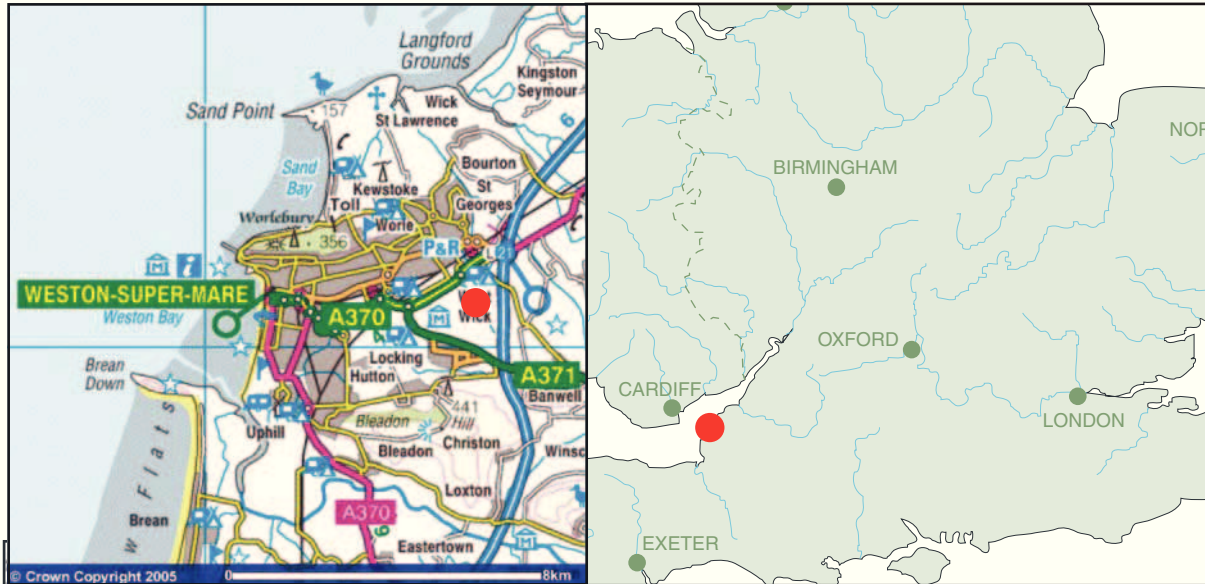
Type of evaluation: 14 trial trenches of varying lengths were excavated across the site. Some were moved from their proposed positions due to the presence of live services.

Date and duration of project: 28th February to 4th March 2005

Area of site: approx 5.6 ha

Summary of results: Much of the site revealed undisturbed alluvial deposits with evidence for a drier period within the sequence. The centre of the site, between the derelict 19th/20th century buildings, contained substantial pits and ditches representing two phases of occupation. The first of these was of Saxon or Saxo-Norman date running into the early medieval period. The second was of 17th century to Modern date.

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



Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location

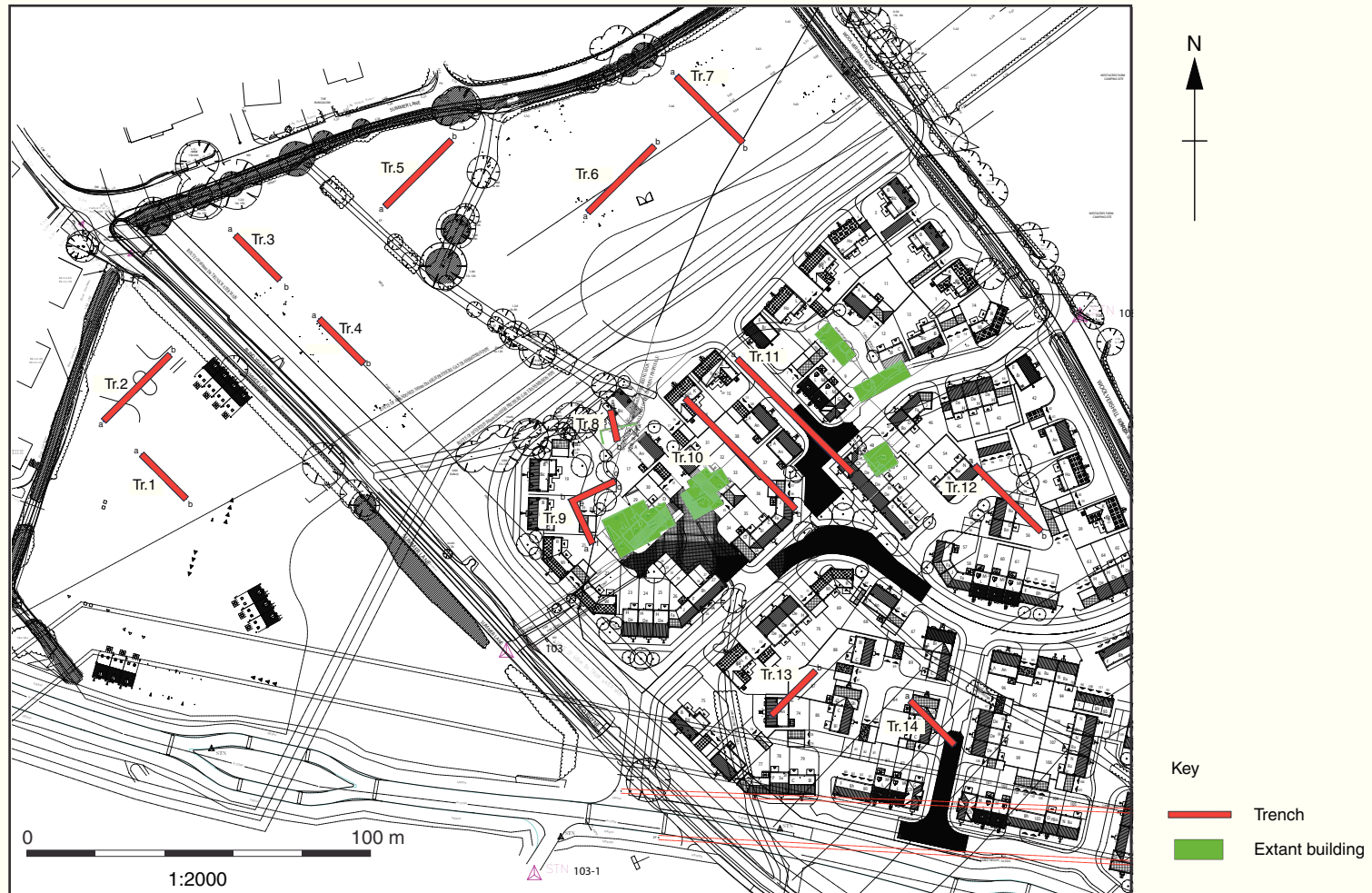


Figure 2: Trench location and proposed development

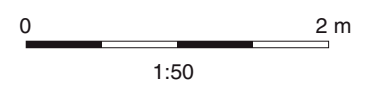
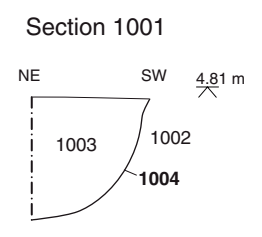
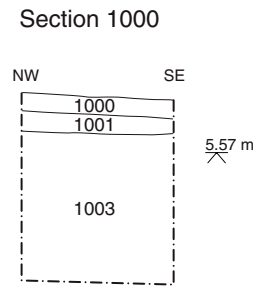
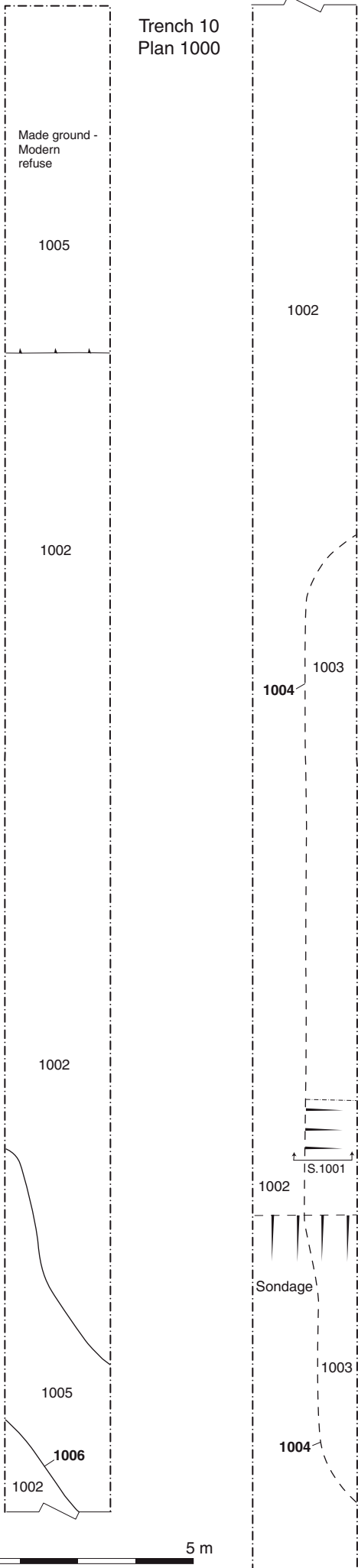
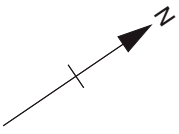
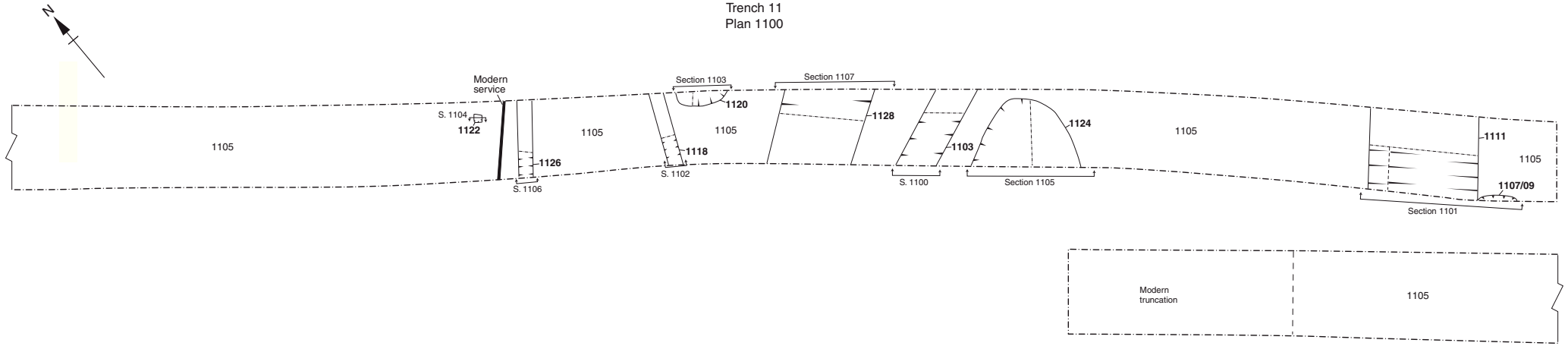


Figure 3: Trench 10 plan and sections

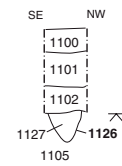
Trench 11 Plan 1100



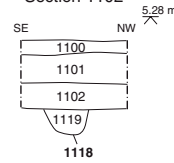
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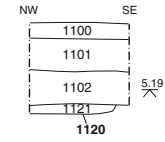
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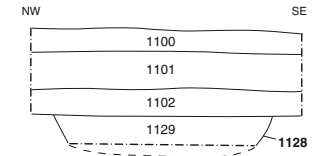
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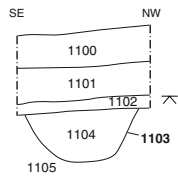
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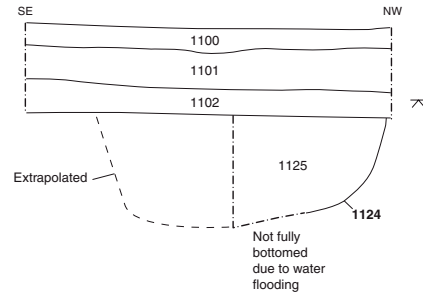
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Section 1100



Section 1105



Section 1101

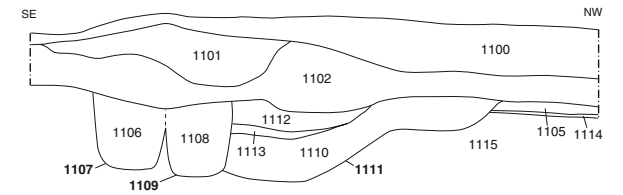


Figure 4: Trench 11 plan and sections