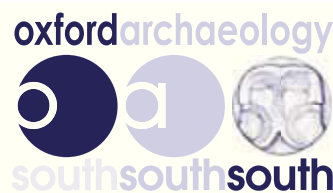


The Former NXP Works Southampton



Archaeological Evaluation Report



April 2013

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The Former NXP Works, Southampton

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

From the 18th to the 27th of March 2013, Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation on the site of The Former NXP Works in Southampton, Hampshire, on behalf of CgMs Consulting prior to the redevelopment of the site by Canmoor Projects Ltd.

Of a proposed 30 trenches, 21 were excavated, and these revealed a single undated ditch which was located towards the eastern edge of site. The ditch was cut through the tidal flat deposits which were present within the majority of trenches across the site, and which had been subject to varying levels of truncation. The ditch is likely to correspond with a boundary shown on the historic maps of the area. The remainder of the trenches were devoid of archaeological features.

Six geo-technical test pits situated around the periphery of the proposed building were also monitored and recorded.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 From the 18th to the 27th of March 2013, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a trial trench evaluation on the site of the former NXP Works in Southampton, Hampshire. The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting for Canmoor Projects Ltd as a condition of outline planning permission.
- 1.1.2 The site, which is situated to the west of the Southampton Docks, is bound to the west by Allington Road, to the north by Second Avenue and to the east by First Avenue. The site is centred on NGR 437780 113370 (Fig. 1) .
- 1.1.3 The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2013) which was approved by Kevin White of Southampton City Council (SCC).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site consisted of an L-shaped piece of land bordered by roads to the east, west and north. The southern part of site was bounded by an electricity substation, a gas works and a former industrial building. The site occupied a total area of 3.9 hectares (Fig. 2).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is formed by the Eamley Sand Formation, which consists of gravels, sand, silt and clay. Superficial geology consists of tidal flat deposits of clay and silt (BGS ,1992).
- 1.2.3 The site was fairly level and lay at around 6m to 6.5m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The majority of site was covered with hard standing and the remnants of the recently demolished NXP Works buildings, with only the extreme eastern corner under grass.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been subject to a desk based assessment (DBA, CgMs 2012), and will not be repeated here.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to acknowledge James Gidman of CgMs Consulting who commissioned the evaluation, and Kevin White of SCC who monitored the work. Fieldwork was directed by Dan Sykes with the assistance of Lee Sparks and Conan Parsons, and the evaluation was managed for OA by Gerry Thacker.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the project as outlined in the WSI (CgMs 2013) were:

- (i) To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- (ii) To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- (iii) To determine suitable mitigation responses for any identified remains.
- (iv) Specifically, to determine whether any remains related to the Roman coin hoard or the identified prehistoric potential in the wider study area as mentioned in the DBA are present in the study site.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of 21 trenches each measuring 30m by 2m, and located as shown in Figure 2. The trenches were broken out and excavated under close archaeological supervision by a 360° tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.2 The modern overburden was removed down to the surface of the tidal flat deposits which was then removed in spits until the surface of the underlying gravels was reached.

2.2.3 Several trenches (4, 5, 11, 12, 17, 19, 21, 25 and 29) were not excavated after on site discussions with Kevin White of SCC, as it was felt that sufficient coverage of the proposed development area had been gained through the 21 trenches excavated.

2.2.4 Trenches 1, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 23, 24 and 28 were moved slightly from their initial locations due to the presence of buried services and above ground obstructions.

2.2.5 The gravels within Trenches 10 and 13 were located at a depth greater than 1m below the current land surface. Therefore these two trenches were widened and the sides were stepped in order that they could be safely entered and recorded.

2.2.6 In addition six test pits, each measuring 2m by 2m, were archaeologically monitored and recorded (see Fig. 2). The test pits were situated on the periphery of the proposed new building .



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a general description of the deposits encountered and a stratigraphic account of those trenches which contained archaeological remains. This is followed by an overall discussion and interpretation. A table of all trenches, including deposit types and depths forms the contents of Appendix A. The results of the finds analysis forms Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The underlying geology was reached in all trenches and consisted of tidal flat deposits which manifested as silt rich clay overlying sandy gravels. Ground conditions were good and trenches remained dry throughout the course of the evaluation.

3.2.2 Trenches 13, 14 and 15 contained topsoil which varied in depth between 0.20m and 0.40m, with an average depth of 0.30m. A subsoil, probably a buried ploughsoil, was also present within these three trenches, and varied from 0.35m to 0.50m thick with an average depth of 0.42m.

3.2.3 The tidal flat deposits were present in the majority of trenches but had been subject to varying levels of truncation, caused by the construction of the former works buildings and associated structures. For example within Trench 1 to the NW of the site only 0.16m of the deposit remained, compared to c. 1.0m within Trench 10 towards the east of the site. The only archaeological feature uncovered (ditch 1404 within Trench 14) was cut through the tidal flat deposit (1402).

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Trench 14 was the only trench to contain any archaeological remains. Trench 7 contained a tree-throw (703) of recent date which was observed to be cut through the topsoil.

3.4 Trench 14

3.4.1 Trench 14 contained a NW-SE ditch (1404) which was sealed by subsoil (1401) and truncated tidal flat deposit 1402. It contained a single mid-dark grey-brown silty fill (1405), which yielded a small quantity of burnt, unworked flint and fragments of slate (see Appendix 2).

3.5 Finds summary

3.5.1 Finds were only recovered from ditch 1404 in trench 14, and comprised six fragments of burnt flint cobble and two small pieces of slate. No deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental analysis were identified.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches remained dry throughout the evaluation. The fill of the the only feature uncovered was relatively easy to identify against the underlying sediments.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The presence, depth, condition and character of the surviving archaeological features was established, as was the depth of the made ground and tidal flat deposits that overlay the natural gravels. Finds were recovered from the solitary ditch (1404), but these could not be dated.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The only feature identified (ditch 1404) was within Trench 14 towards the eastern edge of the site. The ditch was sealed by the buried ploughsoil (1401), and truncated the tidal flat deposit 1402. The ditch was not present within Trench 13 immediately to the north.

4.3.2 The Millbrook Tithe Map of 1843 (CgMs 2012, 21) and the first edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1883 (CgMs 2012, 22) show a series of NE-SW orientated field boundaries present within the eastern part of the site. Rectification of these maps, and the trench location plan (Fig. 3) show a fairly close correlation between the orientation of ditch 1404 and the central field boundary. Although ditch 1404 appears to be a few metres to the east of the boundary illustrated on the maps it is not unlikely that they correspond.

4.3.3 The tidal flat horizon was present within all of the trenches (with the exception of Trench 27), but had been subject to varying degrees of truncation from the buildings of the former works. However where this deposit survived to the greatest depth, along the northern and north-eastern edge of the site, no archaeological features were present.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Test Pit 1						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of tidal flat deposit overlying gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.68
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	2.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
TP100	Layer	-	0.68	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
TP101	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Test Pit 2						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of tidal flat deposit overlying gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	1.50
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	2.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
TP200	Layer	-	1.50	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
TP201	Layer	-	-	Gravel	-	-

Test Pit 3						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of tidal flat deposit overlying gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	2.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
TP300	Layer	-	0.70	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
TP301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Test pit 4						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of tidal flat deposit overlying gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	2.00



Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
TP400	Layer	-	0.40	Crushed concrete	-	-
TP401	Layer	-	0.30	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
TP402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Test pit 5						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of tidal flat deposit overlying gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	2.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
TP500	Layer	-	0.80	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
TP501	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Test Pit 6						
General description					Orientation	-
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of tidal flat deposit overlying gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	2.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
TP600	Layer	-	0.80	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
TP601	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil/turf layer overlying modern levelling layers to natural of mixed mid brown brick earth and gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	30.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.10	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.16	Modern brick/rubble levelling layer	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.08	Modern tarmac layer	-	-



103	Layer	-	0.27	Made ground/Levelling layer	-	-
104	Layer	-	0.16	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
105	Layer	-	-	Gravel natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil/turf layer overlying modern levelling layers to natural of tidal flat deposits which subsequently overlay gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	30.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.18	Modern brick/rubble levelling layer	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.15	Modern levelling layer	-	-
203	Layer	-	0.08	Levelling deposit	-	-
204	Layer	-	0.20	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
205	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern crush deposit overlying tidal flat deposit which subsequently overlay natural sandy gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	30.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	-	0.25	Crushed concrete	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.3	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural gravels	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete overlying a tidal flat deposit. Factory foundations and modern services throughout the trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
					Width (m)	2.00



					Length (m)	30.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
600	Layer	-	0.02	Crushed concrete		
600	Layer	-	0.68	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
601	Layer	-	-	Gravel	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained a tree-throw associated with a recently grubbed out tree . Topsoil sealed a tidal flat deposit overlying sandy gravels.				Avg. depth (m)	1.05	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
700	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.70	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Gravel	-	-
703	Cut	1.00	0.26	Tree-throw cut	-	-
704	Fill	1.00	0.26	Fill of 703	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete overlying a tidal flat deposit above natural sandy gravels.				Avg. depth (m)	1.12	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
800	Layer	-	0.10	Tarmac layer	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.55	Modern crush layer	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.50	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	Gravel	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of tarmac overlying crushed concrete overlying a tidal flat deposit above natural sandy gravels.				Avg. depth (m)	1.60	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	



Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
900	Layer	-	0.10	Tarmac layer	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.20	Modern crushed concrete	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.30	Modern gravel levelling layer	-	-
903	Layer	-	-	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
904	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete overlying a levelling layer, overlying a tidal flat deposit above natural sandy gravels.				Avg. depth (m)	1.50	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1000	Layer	-	0.10	Tarmac layer	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.15	Modern crush layer	-	-
1002	Layer	-	0.20	Modern levelling deposit	-	-
1003	Layer	-	1.00	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
1004	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a tidal flat deposit above natural sandy gravels.				Avg. depth (m)	1.40	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1300	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.50	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.60	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
1303	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained a single NE-SW aligned ditch. The ditch truncated the tidal flat deposit, and was sealed by subsoil and				Avg. depth (m)	0.95	
				Width (m)	2.00	



topsoil.				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1400	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.36	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	0.40	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
1403	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1404	Cut	1.30	0.30	Ditch cut	-	-
1405	Fill	1.30	0.30	Fill of 1404	Burnt Stone/slate	-

Trench 15						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a tidal flat deposit, above natural sandy gravels.				Avg. depth (m)	1.50	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1500	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	0.80	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
1503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern crush overlying a tidal flat deposit which overlay gravel.				Avg. depth (m)	0.75	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1600	Layer	-	0.46	Modern crush deposit	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.35	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 18						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete				Avg. depth (m)	1.10	



overlying a tidal flat deposit overlying natural sandy gravels.		Width (m)	2.00			
		Length (m)	20.70			
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1800	Layer	-	0.26	Modern crush layer	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.10	Modern crush layer	-	-
1802	Layer	-	0.18	Modern levelling layer	-	-
1803	Layer	-	0.08	Modern brick crush layer	-	-
1804	Layer	-	0.19	Modern crush layer	-	-
1805	Layer	-	0.36	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
1806	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 20						
General description	Orientation	NE-SW				
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete overlying a tidal flat deposit, overlying natural sandy gravels.	Avg. depth (m)	0.70				
	Width (m)	2.00				
	Length (m)	30.00				
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2000	Layer	-	0.25	Modern levelling deposit	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.05	Modern crush layer	-	-
2002	Layer	-	0.40	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
2003	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 22						
General description	Orientation	N-S				
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete overlying a tidal flat deposit, overlying natural sandy gravels.	Avg. depth (m)	0.70				
	Width (m)	2.00				
	Length (m)	30.00				
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2200	Layer	-	0.30	Modern crush layer	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.30	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 23		
General description	Orientation	N-S



Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete overlying a tidal flat deposit overlying natural sandy gravels.		Avg. depth (m)	0.83			
		Width (m)	2.00			
		Length (m)	30.00			
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2300	Layer	-	0.23	Modern crush	-	-
2301	Layer	-	0.65	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
2302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 24						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete overlying a tidal flat deposit, overlying natural sandy gravels				Avg. depth (m)	1.10	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2400	Layer	-	0.15	Modern crush layer	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.80	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
2402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 26						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete overlying a tidal flat deposit, overlying natural sandy gravels.				Avg. depth (m)	0.80	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2600	Layer	-	0.10	Modern crush layer	-	-
2601	Layer	-	0.78	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
2602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 27						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of tarmac, crushed concrete and made ground overlying natural gravels. Heavily truncated by modern foundations.				Avg. depth (m)	0.60	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						



context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2700	Layer	-	0.09	Tarmac layer	-	-
2701	Layer	-	0.32	Crushed concrete	-	-
2702	Layer	-	0.10	Made ground	-	-
2703	Layer	-	0.06	Made ground	-	-
2704	Layer	-	-	Gravel	-	-

Trench 28						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete overlying a tidal flat deposit, overlying natural sandy gravels.				Avg. depth (m)	1.12	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2800	Layer	-	0.25	Modern crush layer	-	-
2801	Layer	-	0.45	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
2802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 30						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of crushed concrete overlying a tidal flat deposit, overlying natural sandy gravels.				Avg. depth (m)	1.05	
				Width (m)	2.00	
				Length (m)	30.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3000	Layer	-	0.20	Crushed concrete	-	-
3001	Layer	-	0.80	Tidal flat deposit	-	-
3002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Flint

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
1405	6 fragments of burnt unworked flint cobbles, 213g

Discussion/recommendations

There is no evidence on any of the fragments of burnt unworked flint to indicate that they were by-products of stone tool manufacture and there is also no evidence for burning within the area of excavation. It is likely therefore that the flint was thermally fractured when used as pot-boilers and is residual in the ditch fill. The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.2 The Stone

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
1405	2 fragments of slate, 6g

Discussion/recommendations

The fragments of slate are too small to determine whether they were used in building construction. The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.



APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 1992. Sheet 108 Southampton.

CgMs 2012. Former NXP Works, Second Avenue, Southampton. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment. Unpublished document.

CgMs 2013. Former NXP Works, Southampton. Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished document.



APPENDIX D. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: The Former NXP Works, Southampton

Site code: SOU1621

Grid reference: NGR 437780 113370

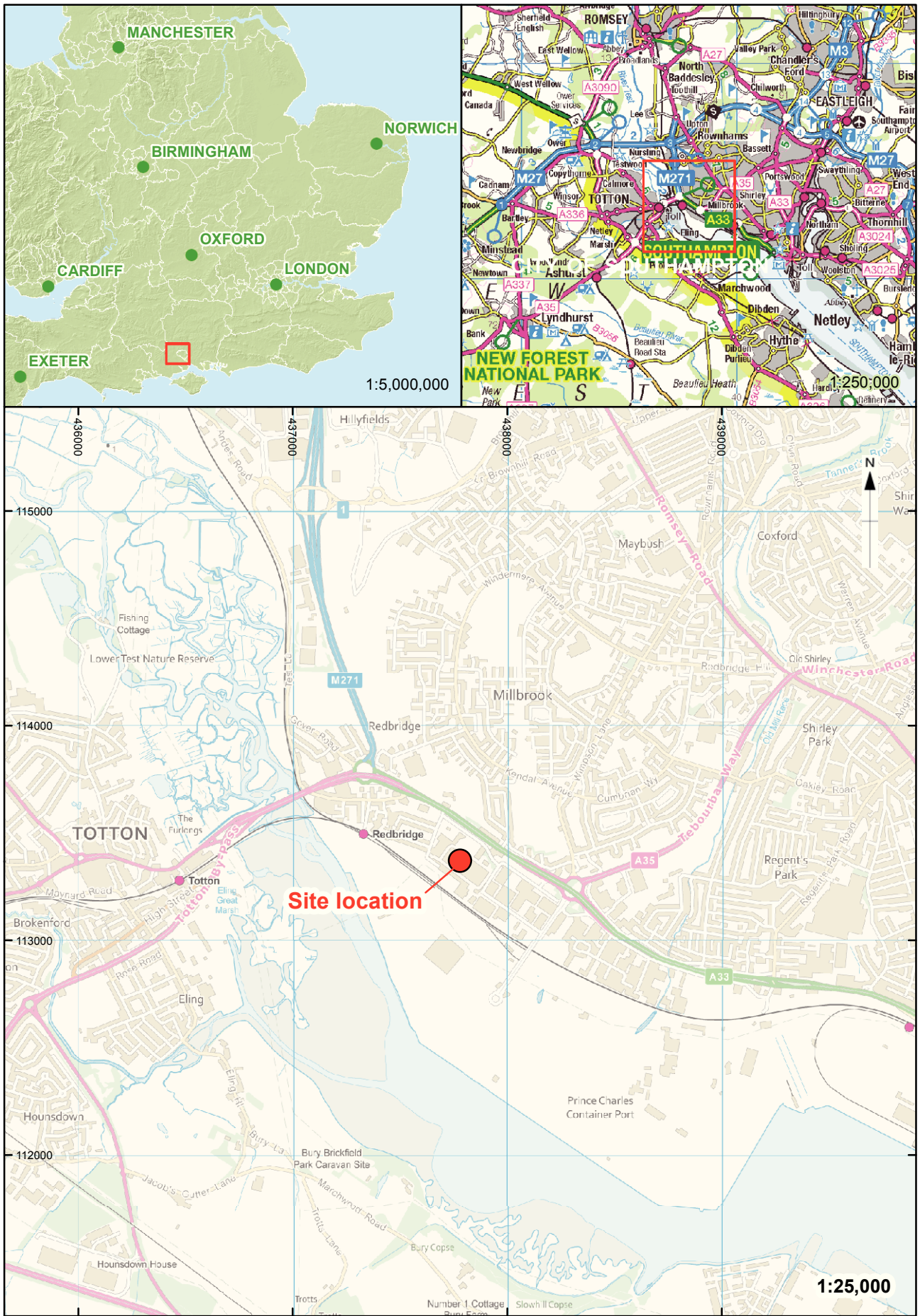
Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 19th March to 26th March 2013

Area of site: 3.9 hectares

Summary of results: Twenty-one trenches measuring 30m by 2m were excavated, and six test pits measuring 2m by 2m were monitored. A ditch likely to correspond with a boundary shown on historic maps was uncovered and a tree-throw of recent date investigated.

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



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Figure 1: Site location

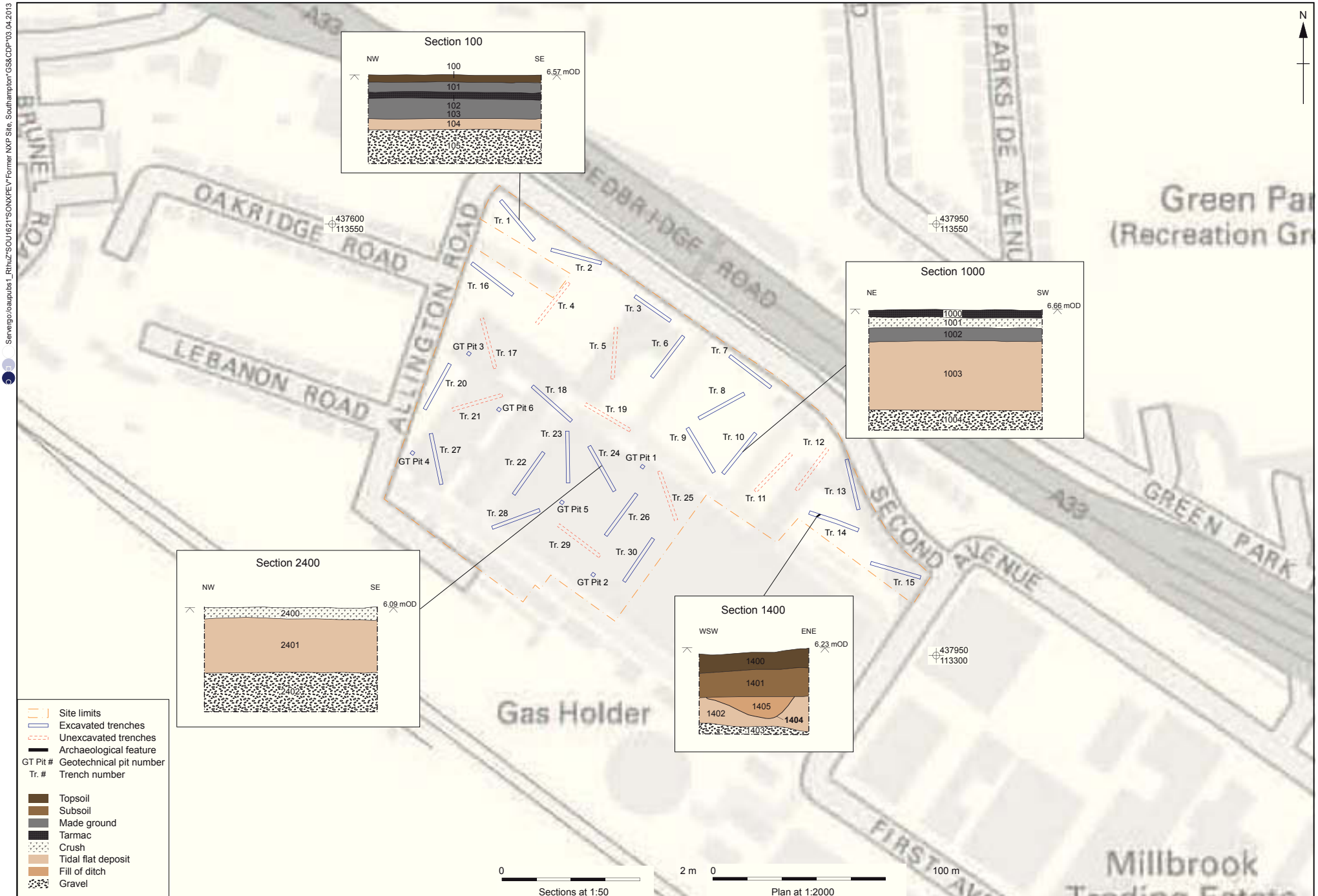


Figure 2: Sections



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Fig 3. Trenches and 1883 OS Map

Scale at A4 1:750



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