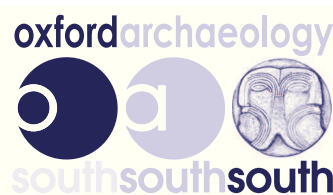


Land off Station Road Feniton Devon



Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Land off Station Road, Feniton, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 15th and the 17th of May 2013 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation within two adjoining fields at land off Station Road, Feniton, Devon on behalf of CgMs Consulting and in support of planning application 13/0591/FUL. The evaluation consisted of five trenches which were targeted on geophysical anomalies. The western parts of the fields had been previously evaluated by AC Archaeology.

The earliest archaeological evidence comprised a buried soil horizon of early Roman or pre-Roman date. This layer was cut by features within Trenches 1, 3 and 4. A ditch within Trench 1 contained pottery of mid-late Roman date, and an enclosure to the south may be of a similar date on grounds of alignment. Other undated features included enclosure ditches (Trench 2), and field boundaries (Trenches 3, 4 and 5).



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The area of proposed development (the site) currently consists of parts of two adjacent arable agricultural fields, and is situated to the east of the village of Feniton adjacent to Louvigny Close, to the south of Station Road, and is centred on NGR SY 1018 9920 (Fig.1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in support of planning application 13/0591/MFUL. A brief for the evaluation has been set by Stephen Reed, Archaeological Officer of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (2013).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation consisted of five trial trenches (Fig. 2), which had a total length of 192.5 metres.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is generally level, and lies at around 85m aOD, and the underlying geology is sandstone of the Otter Formation.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in the report on a previous phase of evaluation (AC Archaeology 2012), and is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 The site is situated within an area containing evidence for prehistoric settlement and funerary activity. A Bronze Age barrow located c. 200m to the SW of the site was excavated in 1920. Another potential barrow and linear features have been identified by geophysical survey c. 200m to the SE of the site.
- 1.3.3 Excavations in advance of the construction of the A30 at Castle Hill revealed the remnants of two Neolithic segmented enclosures and a Bronze Age settlement (WA 1999).
- 1.3.4 An evaluation c. 500m to the south of the site identified a potential Bronze Age settlement enclosure with internal features.
- 1.3.5 The 2012 evaluation of the western part of this site comprised six trenches totalling 210 linear metres which were targeted on geophysical anomalies (Archaeological Surveys 2011) The trenches revealed a series of NW-SE aligned ditches which contained pottery of early Bronze Age (Beaker) date, and these may represent part of a wider system of field boundaries.
- 1.3.6 Other ditches identified were on a near north-south to west-east alignment and appear to correspond to boundaries shown on 19th century maps.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank Steve Weaver of CgMS for commissioning the project, and Stephen Reed Archaeological Officer of the Devon County Historic Environment Team who monitored the work, and commented on the first draft of this report. Thanks are



also due to Norman Harwood the land owner. The fieldwork was managed for OA by Gerry Thacker and conducted by Kate Woodley, Lee Sparks and Tom Black.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- (i) To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
- (iii) To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- (viii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (ix) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.1.2 Specific aims and objectives were:

- (x) To target and investigate the anomalies shown on the geophysical survey. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Five trial trenches (Fig. 2) were excavated to the top of the natural geology by a JCB with fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The methodologies as outlined in the WSI were followed at all times.

2.2.2 The positioning of several of the trenches (Trenches 2, 4 and 5) was modified after on-site discussions between Steven Weaver of CgMs, Stephen Reed of the Devon County Historic Environment Team, and Kate Woodley of OA.

2.2.3 Trench 1 was located in the north-eastern end of the field, and was 'X' shaped with arms orientated NE-SW and NW-SE. The NE-SW arm measured 35m long and 1.5m wide, the NW-SE arm measured 30m long and 1.5m wide.

2.2.4 Trench 2 was orientated NE-SW, and located to the south of Trench 1 and measured 30m by 1.5m, though its south western end was extended by 5m to locate a ditch picked up by the results of the geophysical survey.

2.2.5 Trench 3 was orientated north-south, located to the south of Trench 2, and measured 35m by 1.5m.

2.2.6 Trench 4 was 'T' shaped with intersecting arms orientated north-south and east-west, which measured 30m by 1.5m, and 11m by 1.5m respectively. This trench was located in the northern end of the southern field. The southern end of the trench was moved westwards by 5m to avoid an extant field boundary.



- 2.2.7 Trench 5 was located to the west of Trench 4 and was orientated east-west, it measured 1.5m by 6m, shortened slightly from the intended length to compensate for the extension to Trench 2.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are summarised in section 3.3, and discussed by trench in section 3.4. Trench plans and sections are illustrated in Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. A full context inventory with depths and dimensions of all deposits is presented in the table in Appendix A. Finds identification, quantification and discussion form Appendix B. Environmental data are discussed and quantified in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 Topsoil was present within all trenches and varied in depth between 0.24m (Trench 1) and 0.44m (Trench 4). An undated buried soil was present within Trenches 1, 3, and 4, and was sealed by a subsoil (buried plough soil) likely to be of medieval or later date. The natural geology was fairly consistent, and manifested as a light reddish brown clay rich sand, with occasional outcrops of sandstone. Ground conditions were dry throughout.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Trench 1 (NE-SW arm) contained a ditch of mid-late Roman date, and two undated ditches (Plate 1). Trench 1 (NW-SE arm) contained a shallow undated ditch. Trench 2 contained two ditches, both undated. Trench 3 contained an undated ditch and two patches of discolouration that on investigation proved to be variations in the natural geology. Trench 4 (north arm) contained three undated ditches. Trench 4 (east arm) contained an undated curvilinear ditch. Trench 5 contained two undated ditches that probably formed a hedge and bank.

3.4 Trench 1 (NE-SW arm)

- 3.4.1 A NW-SE aligned ditch (107) appeared to be slightly curvilinear in plan, and was located within the north eastern end of the trench (Figs. 3 and 5). The ditch was steep sided to the north-east, with a more gentle profile to the south-west, and cut a light brownish grey silty clay interpreted as a buried soil horizon (112). The ditch had a steep slightly stepped side to the north-east, and was initially more gentle sided to the south-west, before becoming near vertical. The ditch measured a maximum of 2.9m wide was not bottomed due to the total depth (around 1m) leading to concerns over health and safety, but a small test hole indicated that it continued for around 0.3m beyond the 0.62m of depth excavated. The lowest fill encountered (108) was a firm mottled brown reddish grey sandy clay that contained pottery sherds dating to AD 250-410 (see Appendix B), and which measured 1m wide and up to 0.22m deep. This was overlain by fill 109, a light brownish grey sandy clay interpreted as the in-wash of surrounding soils; which contained several pottery sherds of the same late Roman date, a naturally smooth stone which had been utilised as a hone, and small quantities of burnt stone and fired clay. Fill 109, which measured 1.44m wide and 0.48m in depth, was overlain by deposit 110 that also contained several pottery sherds with the earlier date of AD 43-200, burnt stone and a small quantity of fired clay. Fill 110 was a mid brownish grey clay with a sand and silt component, and measured up to 1.5m in width and 0.44m deep. An environmental sample (Sample 1, see Appendix C) contained small fragments of charcoal, a small quantity of barley and wheat grains, a grass seed and a leguminous seed and fragments of hazelnut shell. The upper fill within the ditch (111) was a mid grey brown sandy clay which contained occasional charcoal flecks, and measured 2.9m wide and 0.2m deep.



- 3.4.2 Two other NW-SE aligned ditches were located within the trench. Ditch 103 (Figs. 3 and 5) was situated within the south-western end of the trench, and ditch 113 towards the centre of the trench. Ditch 103 was located in an area where buried soil horizon 112 was not present, had a concave profile, and measured 1.4m wide and 0.36m deep, cutting the reddish brown sandy clay natural (102). The single fill (104) comprised a soft mid greyish brown clay silt from which a single small pottery sherd was recovered which could only yield a generic Roman date. Ditch 113 measured 1.72m wide and 0.38m in depth, and cut buried soil layer 112. The ditch was filled by a single homogeneous deposit (114) consisting of a loose yellowy orange sandy silt, which contained no datable material.

3.5 Trench 1 (NW-SE arm)

- 3.5.1 A single NE-SW aligned ditch (105, Figs. 3 and 5) appeared to be slightly curvilinear in plan, and was located towards the centre of this arm of the trench. The ditch cut the sandy clay natural 102, and measured exactly 1m wide with a maximum depth of 0.2m and a shallow concave profile. The ditch was filled by a soft greyish brown sandy silt (106) which contained occasional small sub rounded pebbles, but no finds.
- 3.5.2 All of the features within both arms of Trench 1 were overlain by the dark reddish brown sand silt subsoil (101) with an average depth of 0.2m, which was in turn overlain by topsoil (100) with an average depth of 0.26m.

3.6 Trench 2

- 3.6.1 Trench 2 contained two ditches, the northernmost of which, ditch 203 (Figs. 3 and 5), was orientated east – west, and cut the reddish brown sandy clay natural (202). The ditch which measured 0.87m wide was fairly shallow (0.22m), with a concave profile and contained a single fill (204). This comprised a greyish brown silty clay which was noted to be fairly similar to the overlying buried plough soil (201).
- 3.6.2 Ditch 205 (Figs. 3 and 5) was on a NW-SE alignment, and was located towards the south-western end of the trench. The ditch which was 1m wide and 0.21m deep, cut the reddish-brown sandy clay natural 202, and displayed a similar concave profile to ditch 203. The ditch contained a single mid-dark greyish brown clay silt fill (206). No finds were recovered from either ditch. A buried plough soil (subsoil) 201 and topsoil 200 similar to those present in Trench 1 sealed both ditches.

3.7 Trench 3

- 3.7.1 Ditch 304 (Figs. 4 and 6) was located towards the northern end of the trench, and was orientated NE-SW and measured 0.96m wide and 0.24m deep with a concave profile. The single fill (305) was a soft greyish-brown sandy clay which contained frequent, although poorly sorted, gravel inclusions, but no finds. The ditch cut through an undated buried soil layer 302, which was up to 0.2m in depth and comprised a soft yellowish brown silty clay which contained occasional small patches of manganese. Buried soil 302 sealed the reddish brown sandy clay natural 303. A subsoil (301) with a depth of 0.28m and topsoil (300) with an average depth 0.26m, both similar to those described within Trench 1 above, sealed the ditch. Pottery recovered from the subsoil comprised sherds of both Roman and medieval (13th century) dates.



3.8 Trench 4 (N-S arm)

- 3.8.1 The trench contained three NE-SW aligned ditches (Figs. 4 and 6). Ditch 404 was located in the northern end of the trench, and was 1.18m wide and 0.28m deep with a concave profile. The ditch appeared to cut through the light reddish brown sandy clay buried soil 413, and although this relationship was unclear within the section. Ditch 404 contained a single greyish brown sandy clay fill, (405) which contained occasional small sub angular sandstone fragments, but no finds.
- 3.8.2 Towards the south-eastern end of the trench two more substantial NE-SW aligned ditches were present, 406 and 410 (Figs. 4 and 6). Ditch 406 had a slightly flared 'V'-shaped profile 1.9m wide and 0.3m deep, and was noted to cut through a buried soil layer (402). The ditch was filled by 407, a light greyish brown sandy clay (407), potentially derived from an associated bank to the south, and which contained occasional small sub angular sandstone fragments. Fill 407 was seen as being partially overlain by another deposit (409), a reddish brown sandy clay which was the lower fill of ditch 410 to the south. Ditch 410 cut through buried soil 413 (which was recorded as overlying 402, see below). The final infilling event appeared to be present within both ditches, and was a soft greyish brown sandy clay deposit (408). No finds were recovered from any of the ditch fills or buried soil horizons. The features were all sealed by 0.28m of subsoil 401, and 0.26m of topsoil 400.
- 3.8.3 Buried soil horizon 402, a mid yellow brown silty sandy clay, was recorded as overlying layer 413, a reddish brown sandy silt, only 1.45m of which was noted within section 401. Up to 0.22m depth of 413 remained, and it is possible that it represented a localised variation within more widespread soil horizon 402, rather than being an earlier soil horizon.
- 3.8.4 The interpretation of section 401 (Fig. 4) is somewhat problematic, and it is possible that the demarcation between fills 407 and 409 actually represents an episode of re-cutting which was not visible within overlying fill 408. If this is the case then ditch 410 would be a replacement for ditch 406, and may represent an episode of boundary migration.

3.9 Trench 4 (E-W arm)

- 3.9.1 This trench contained one sub circular feature (411, Figs. 4 and 6), which was slightly irregular in plan and had a concave profile. The feature, which measured 1.14m wide and 0.24m deep could be interpreted as a ditch terminal, pit or tree hole, and was cut through the reddish brown sandy clay natural (403). The single fill, 412, was a soft blueish grey sandy clay with occasional flecks of manganese, which contained no finds, and was overlain by subsoil (401) and topsoil (400).

3.10 Trench 5

- 3.10.1 The trench contained two ditches, ditches 503 and 505 (Figs. 4 and 6). Ditch 503 was aligned almost north-south, and was located within the centre of the trench. The ditch measured 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep, and had a shallow concave profile and a single fill (504) which consisted of a soft greyish brown sandy clay. Around 0.8m the east was a NW-SE aligned ditch (505), which measured 0.7m wide and had a similar although slightly deeper profile (0.16m) and also a single fill (506) that comprised a soft greyish brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered from either ditch. Subsoil (501) and topsoil (500) sealed both ditches.



3.11 Finds summary

- 3.11.1 Finds were recovered from Trenches 1 and 3 and included pottery sherds, ceramic building materials, fired clay and a whetstone. The majority of the pottery was from contexts 108, 109 and 110 and dated to the middle-late Roman period. Fired clay, possibly from a domestic oven, and burnt stone were also recovered from the two contexts. Four sherds of 13th century pottery were recovered from the subsoil from Trench 3.
- 3.11.2 Detailed finds reports form the contents of appendix B.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Ground conditions were dry throughout and this contributed to good visibility of all archaeological features and deposits.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The presence of archaeological features and deposits was confirmed by the evaluation. The extent of these was recorded within the footprints of the trenches. The archaeology was characterised through excavation and datable material recovered where present.
- 4.2.2 The anomalies shown on the geophysical survey generally corresponded well to the archaeological features found in the trenches. However the southern ditches that should have been present within Trench 3 were not identified, and anomalies which appeared to be discrete within Trench 4 turned out to be linear in nature. The potential for the survival of ecofactual remains was also assessed.

4.3 Interpretation

The buried soil horizons

- 4.3.1 Buried soil horizons were identified within trenches 1, 3 and 4 (deposits 112, 302, 402 and 413). These were all, with the exception of 413, mid yellow brown silty sandy clays, which measured between 0.1m (Trench 1) and 0.22m thick (Trench 4). These areas of soils may represent the remains of former a plough soil, potentially of prehistoric date, and 112 was cut by ditch 107, of probable Roman date. Within Trench 4 there was a second buried soil horizon, 413, which was of a similar composition, but with a reddish, rather than yellow hue. The discrepancy between the colours of the two soils within this part of the trench is perhaps best explained as a localised variation within a single stratigraphic unit. The alternative would be that horizon 402, which is shown as pre-dating 413, was an earlier buried soil, which survived only very locally. The buried soils, where present are cut by all identified features.

The cut features

- 4.3.2 Ditch 107 is dated to the Roman period and the relatively large amounts of cultural material recovered from its fills, including both pottery and fragments of fired clay potentially derived from a domestic oven, suggest that the ditch was located in the vicinity of a related settlement. It seems probable on grounds of alignment that the triangular enclosure represented to the south of ditch 107 by ditches 203 and 205 within Trench 2 and shown on the geophysical plot is of the same phase.
- 4.3.3 Ditches 103, 105 and 113 appear from the geophysical plot to form a small enclosure which may, although undated, represent part of an early Bronze Age field system postulated by the previous evaluation (AC Archaeology 2012), although the alignment of the ditches may be closer to that of ditch 107, and the enclosure ditches identified within Trench 2.
- 4.3.4 Ditch 304 within Trench 3 was the only feature identified within that trench, out of a possible three shown on the geophysical plot. The alignment of the ditch indicates that it may also form part of the postulated Bronze Age field system.



- 4.3.5 Parallel ditches 406 and 410 within Trench 4 may have formed a hedge and bank, but on the balance of evidence seem more likely not to have been contemporary, with the boundary that they demarcate shifting with time to the south east. Ditch 404, to the north-west of 406 and 410 is likely on grounds of alignment to have been related. None of these ditches was accurately represented on the geophysical survey, which identified a cluster of discrete features in this area.
- 4.3.6 Ditches 503 and 505 in Trench 5 appear to form a hedge and bank orientated perpendicular to the parallel ditches (406 and 410) excavated within Trench 4, and may potentially be part of the same field boundary defined by ditches F605 and F607 in Trench 6 of the previous evaluation.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The presence of buried soil layer 402 (and potentially 413 if this is a different deposit) indicates that there is the potential for the upper layers of infilling of other features to have survived subsequent ploughing.
- 4.4.2 There is some evidence for a prehistoric field system that may have been linked to a nearby settlement, although there is a distinct lack of cultural material within the fills. Within Trench 5 of the previous evaluation feature F508 was interpreted as a ditch terminal, and contained 358g of Beaker domestic pottery. However although the correlation between F508 and a linear feature identified on the geophysical plot is close, should this slightly irregular feature actually have been a pit or tree-throw hole then the dating of the NW-SE aligned field system is in doubt.
- 4.4.3 Linear ditch 107 (Trench 1) and ditches 203 and 205 seem to form part of a system of fields and enclosures of Roman date. The type and quantity of finds recovered from ditch 107, although absent from the other ditches, may indicate the presence of a settlement in the vicinity.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW NW-SE
Trench contained two NW-SE aligned ditches, one N-S curvilinear ditch of Romano British date, and one NE-SW curvilinear within the SE arm.					Avg. depth (m)		0.38
					Width (m)		1.5
					Length (m)		35, 30
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
100	Topsoil	-	0.26	Dark brown silty clay	-	-	
101	Subsoil	-	0.2	Reddish brown sandy clay	-	-	
102	Natural	-	-	Brownish red sandy clay	-	-	
103	Cut	1.4	0.36	Ditch			
104	Fill	1.4	0.36	Mid grey brown clay silt fill of 103	-	-	
105	Cut	1	0.2	Ditch	-	-	
106	Fill	1	0.2	Mid greyish brown clay sandy silt fill of 105	-	-	
107	Cut	2.9	0.92	Ditch	-	-	
108	Fill	1	0.22	Mottled brownish red sandy clay fill of 107	Pot	AD 250-410	
109	Fill	1.44	0.48	Light brownish grey sandy silty clay fill of 107	Pot, Stone, burnt stone, fired clay	AD 250-410	
110	Fill	1.5	0.44	Mid brownish grey silty sandy clay fill of 107	Pot, burnt stone, fired clay	AD 43-200	
111	Fill	2.9	0.2	Mid grey brown silty sandy clay fill of 107	-	-	
112	Buried soil	-	0.1	Mid yellow brown silty sandy clay	-	-	
113	Cut	1.72	0.38	Ditch	-	-	
114	Fill	1.72	0.38	Yellowy orange sandy silt fill of 113.	-	-	



Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contained two small N-S aligned undated ditches.					Avg. depth (m)		0.52
					Width (m)		1.5
					Length (m)		40.5
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
200	Topsoil	-	0.26	Dark brown silty clay	-	-	
201	Subsoil	-	0.28	Reddish brown sandy clay	-	-	
202	Natural	-	-	Brownish red sandy clay	-	-	
203	Cut	0.87	0.22	Ditch	-	-	
204	Fill	0.87	0.22	Mid greyish brown clay silt fill of 203	-	-	
205	Cut	1	0.21	Ditch	-	-	
206	Fill	1	0.21	Mid greyish brown clay silt fill of 205	-	-	

Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		N-S
Trench contained one small NE-SW aligned ditch					Avg. depth (m)		0.55
					Width (m)		1.5
					Length (m)		35
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
300	Topsoil	-	0.26	Dark brown silty clay	-	-	
301	Subsoil	-	0.28	Reddish brown sandy clay	Pot	Roman, medieval	
302	Buried soil	-	0.2	Mid yellow brown silty sandy clay	-	-	
303	Natural	-	-	Brownish red sandy clay	-	-	
304	Cut	0.96	0.24	Ditch	-	-	
305	Fill	0.96	0.24	Dark greyish brown sandy clay silt fill of 304	-	-	
306	Natural	-	-	Dark yellowy grey sandy clay	-	-	
307	Natural	-	-	Dark reddish grey sandy clay	-	-	



Trench 4							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW / NW-SE
Trench contained two small, undated ditches, and a ditch terminal, pit or tree hole.					Avg. depth (m)		0.58
					Width (m)		1.5
					Length (m)		30, 12
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
400	Topsoil	-	0.26	Dark brown silty clay	-	-	
401	Subsoil	-	0.28	Reddish brown sandy clay	-	-	
402	Buried soil	-	0.22	Mid yellow brown silty sandy clay	-	-	
403	Natural	-	-	Brownish red sandy clay	-	-	
404	Cut	1.18	0.28	Ditch	-	-	
405	Fill	1.18	0.28	Light yellowish brown sandy clay fill of 404	-	-	
406	Cut	1.9	0.62	Ditch	-	-	
407	Fill	1.9	0.33	Light greyish brown sandy clay fill of 406	-	-	
408	Fill	1.4	0.32	Orangey brown sandy silt fill of 406 and 410	-	-	
409	Fill	2.5	0.3	Light greyish brown sandy clay fill of 410	-	-	
410	Cut	2.5	0.7	Ditch	-	-	
411	Cut	1.14	0.24	Pit, ditch terminal or tree hole	-	-	
412	Fill	1.14	0.24	Blueish grey silty clay fill of 411	-	-	
413	Buried soil	-	0.22	Reddish brown silty sandy clay	-	-	

Trench 5							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench contained two small, undated ditches.					Avg. depth (m)		0.58
					Width (m)		1.5
					Length (m)		10
Contexts							
context	type	Width	Depth	comment	finds	date	



no		(m)	(m)			
500	Topsoil	-	0.32	Dark brown silty clay	-	-
501	Subsoil	-	0.4	Reddish brown sandy clay	-	-
502	Natural	-	-	Brownish red sandy clay	-	-
503	Cut	0.6	0.1	Ditch	-	-
504	Fill	0.6	0.1	Mid greyish brown clay silt fill of 503	-	-
505	Cut	0.7	0.16	Ditch	-	-
506	Fill	0.7	0.16	Mid greyish brown clay silt fill of 505	-	-



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot-date
104	1	4	Medium/fine reduced ware or BB1: rim sherd from unidentified vessel	Roman
108	4	73	BB1: everted-rim jars x 2	AD 250-410
109	31	286	BB1 (12 sherds): everted-rim jars x 3; base/body sherds from bowls Medium sandy reduced wares (19 sherds): misc body and base sherds	AD 250-410
110	89	402	BB1 (16 sherds): everted-rim jar; misc body and base sherds Shelly ware (2 sherds): bead-rimmed jar South Gaulish samian ware (1 sherd): body sherd from decorated bowl Sandy reduced fabric (51 sherds): everted-rim jar – body/base sherds from single vessel Medium/fine reduced ware (19 sherds): misc body/base sherds	AD 43-200
301	4	47	BB1 (1 sherd): plain-rimmed bowl/dish Coarse oxidised wares, sand/chert tempered (3 sherds): sagging base of jar. Coarse oxidised jar base 13 th century.	13th century
TOTAL	129	812		

B.1.1 Some 129 sherds, weighing 812g, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was rapidly scanned to identify forms and fabric and provide spot-dates for each context group. Handmade black-burnished ware (BB1) was present in all groups. Jars were best represented in the fabric. Late Roman types with widely-splayed rims and relatively narrow bodies were present in contexts 108 and 110. These groups also contained forms with more upright rims characteristic of the 2nd or early 3rd century. Context 110 contained a BB1 jar with a short everted rim, which is consistent with an early Roman date suggested by a sherd of South Gaulish samian ware, although the samian was very abraded and possibly residual, and a 2nd-century date for the BB1 jar cannot be discounted. A plain-rimmed bowl of 2nd-4th century date was recovered from context 301. This was found with a 13th century jar base in a coarse oxidised fabric. The sandy reduced ware recorded in context 109 is a BB1-like granular fabric with occasional flint, but it lacks burnished surfaces or the lattice decoration typical of BB1. If the fabric, in which the substantial portion of a single jar was recorded, is not a variant of the standard black-burnished ware fabric, it nevertheless appears to be copying BB1 tradition. Medium/fine reduced fabrics were recovered as body and base sherds, probably from jars, from contexts 109 and 110.

B.1.2 Although the assemblage is fragmented (the average sherd weight (weight / sherds) of the assemblage is just 6g) and the samian abraded, several rim sherds in contexts 109



and 110 joined to form larger sherds, and this, along with the substantial remains of a single vessel in context 110, suggests the pottery was deposited reasonably close to areas of Roman-period settlement. No additional work is required on this assemblage unless more pottery is recovered from further fieldwork, in which case the pottery should be incorporated into the expanded assemblage and recorded more fully.

B.2 Worked stone

by Ruth Shaffrey

Context	Description
109	1 stone with polish, 339g; 1 stone, 10g
110	1 stone, 3g

Description/recommendations

B.2.1 Three pieces of stone were retained, of which one was utilised. This is a naturally flat sided pebble (109). Some polish occurs on the smoothest face, and although this can form naturally, the long edge of this side has been used as a hone and is slightly bevelled. It is of a very fine-grained grey sandstone.

B.2.2 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work

B.3 Fired Clay

by Cynthia Poole

Context	No s	Wt (g)	Size	Fabric	Form	Description
109	1	11	14mm thick	Pinkish red fine sandy clay	Oven/ hearth structure	Flat slightly undulating moulded surface, fired yellowish brown at the surface.
110	4	14	11mm thick	Pinkish red fine sandy clay	Oven/ hearth structure	Flat fairly smooth moulded surface fired grey on one piece.
TOTAL	5	25				

B.3.1 Fired clay amounting to 5 fragments (25g) was recovered from two contexts (109, 110). All was made in the same pinkish red sandy clay fabric. The only feature from both contexts was a single flat moulded surface fired to a yellowish brown or grey colour, and with a broken underside. The pieces are non-diagnostic but most likely to derive from domestic oven or hearth structure. Fired clay is generally undateable and dependent on associated material for phasing, in this case the assemblage is Roman.

B.4 Animal Bone

by Helen Webb

Context	Description
110	Single fragment burnt bone, a dense skull fragment probably animal, no other diagnostic features present, 2g.



Description/recommendations.

B.4.1 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Julia Meen

Introduction

- C.1.1 A single environmental sample was taken for the recovery of charred plant remains and artefacts. The sampled context was (110), an upper fill of ditch 107 containing pottery dated to the mid-late Roman period (AD 250-410). The sediment was a brown (7.5YR 5/4) sandy clay loam, with abundant pebble inclusions and occasional angular cobbles.

Methodology

- C.1.2 The whole of sample <1>, 40L in volume, was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm and dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flot was scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification. Nomenclature for the plant remains follows Stace (2010).

Results

Finds

- C.1.3 A small quantity of burnt clay and abraded pottery was recovered from the sample. These were incorporated with the rest of the finds.

Charred Plant Remains

- C.1.4 The sample produced a flot of 10ml, 100% of which was scanned for charred plant remains. Much of the flot was composed of modern plant material and sand. Charcoal was present only as very small (<1mm) flecks of too small a size to allow identification, although two larger fragments were retrieved from the >4mm heavy residue. The flot contained a single grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), as well as one other cereal grain too poorly preserved to be identifiable. Two fragments of wheat (*Triticum* sp) glume base were also noted. Half of a Fabaceae seed, 4-2mm in size but not retaining any diagnostic characteristics, was also present, as was a small fragment of charred hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) and a small grass seed (Poaceae).

Discussion and Recommendations

- C.1.5 Although only a limited quantity of charred material was recovered in the single feature sampled, its presence demonstrates that charred plant remains do survive at this site. The traces of arable crops identified in the sample are most likely to represent background material, but they may signify that processing or storage of crops was being undertaken elsewhere at the site and excavation of additional features may reveal further, richer deposits of charred material that can provide information about the agricultural economy.



- C.1.6 If further excavation is undertaken at this site in the future, standard 40L bulk samples should be taken from a range of potentially datable features across the site and all sampling should be in accordance with the most recent guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology 2005 and English Heritage 2011).



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: The Land at Station Road, Feniton, Devon

Site code: FEST 13

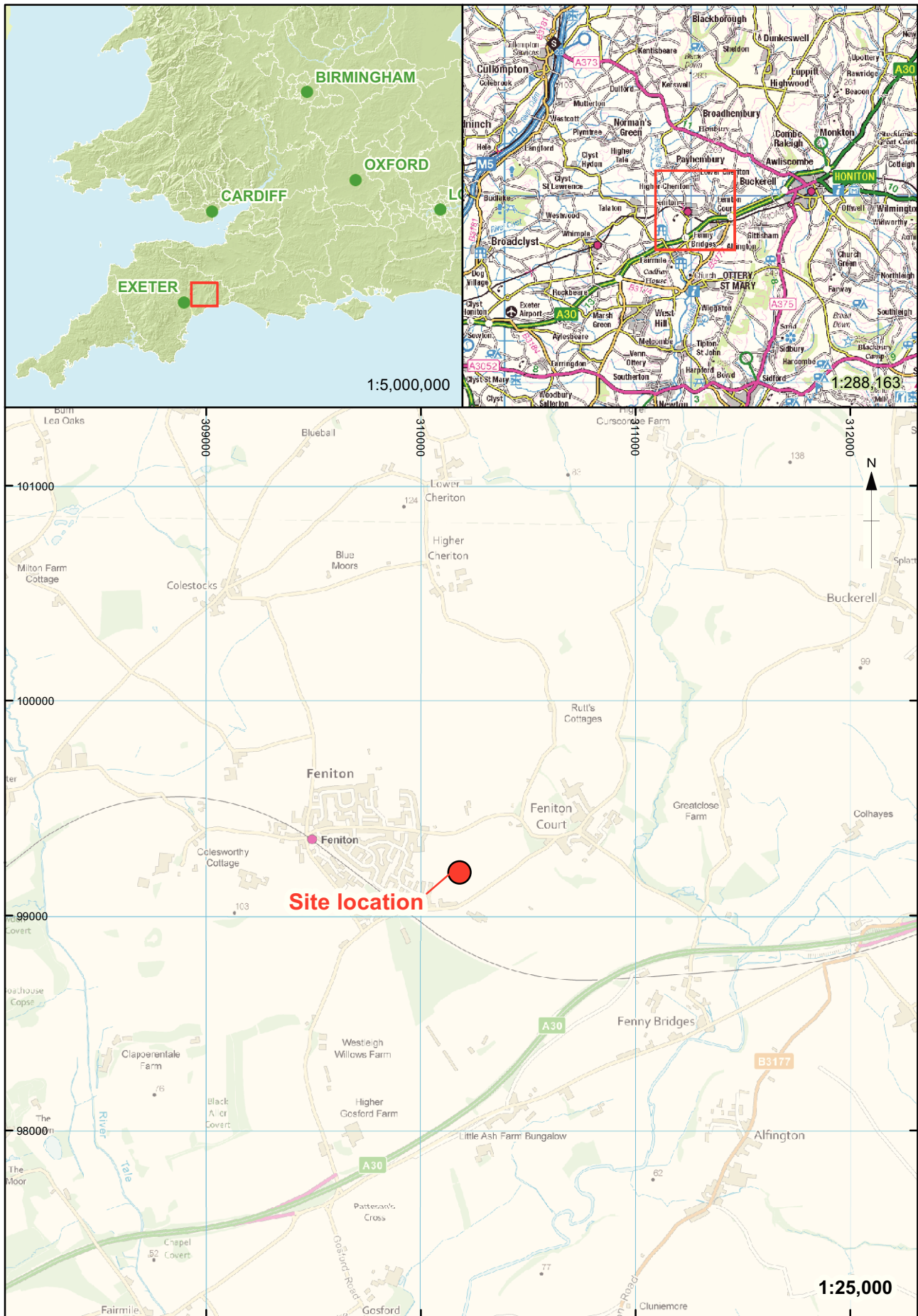
Grid reference: NGR SY 1018 9920

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 15th to 17th May 2013

Summary of results: The evaluation consisted of five trenches which were targeted on geophysical anomalies. The western parts of the fields had been previously evaluated by AC Archaeology. The earliest archaeological evidence comprised a buried soil horizon of early Roman or pre-Roman date. This layer was truncated by features within Trenches 1, 3 and 4. A ditch within Trench 1 contained pottery of mid-late Roman date, and an enclosure to the south may be of a similar date on grounds of alignment. Other undated features included enclosure ditches (Trench 2), and field boundaries (Trenches 3, 4 and 5).

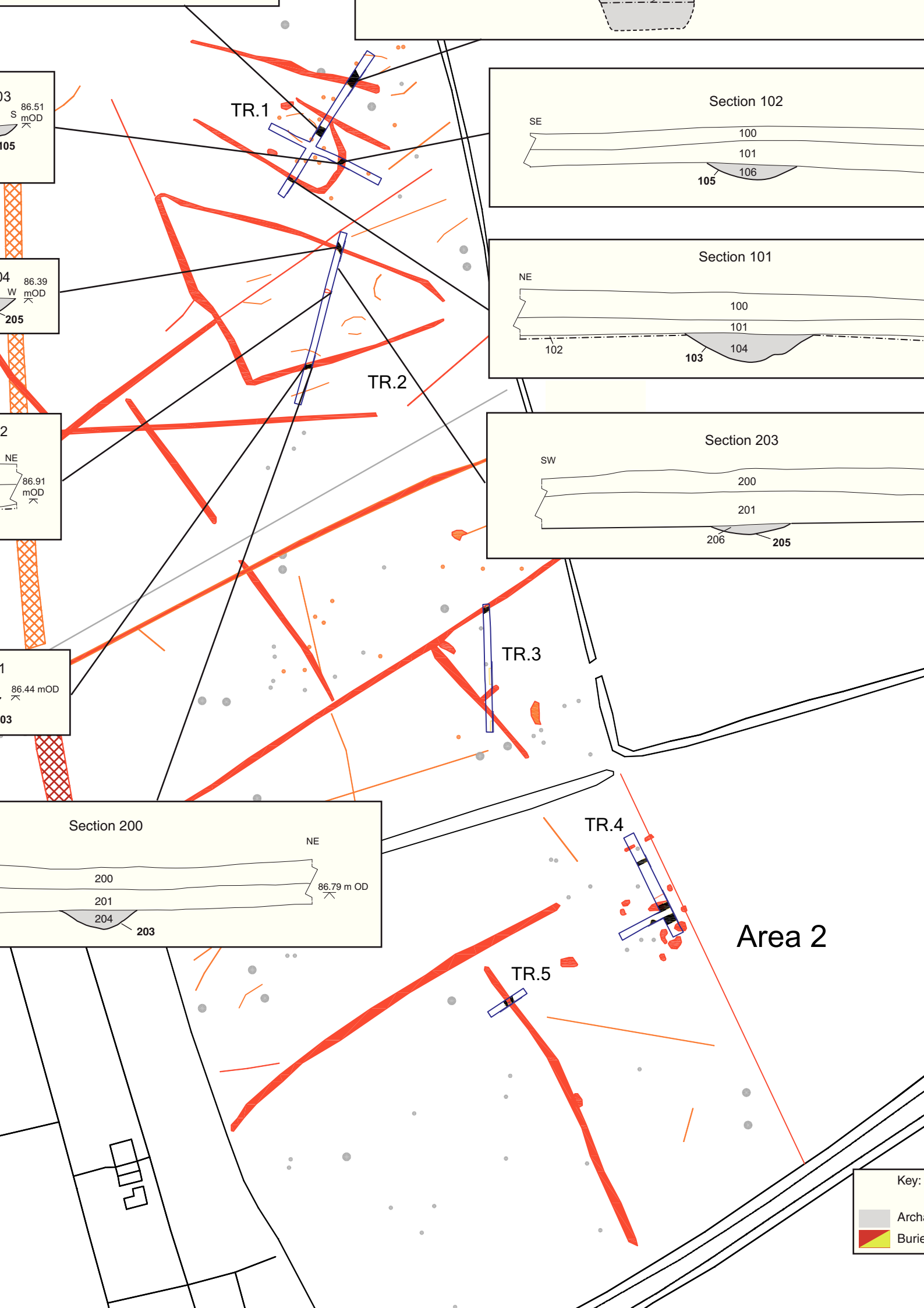
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be offered to the Prince Albert Memorial Museum in due course, under the following accession number: RAMM: 13/35. Digital copies of all data arising from the evaluation will be deposited with the ADS.

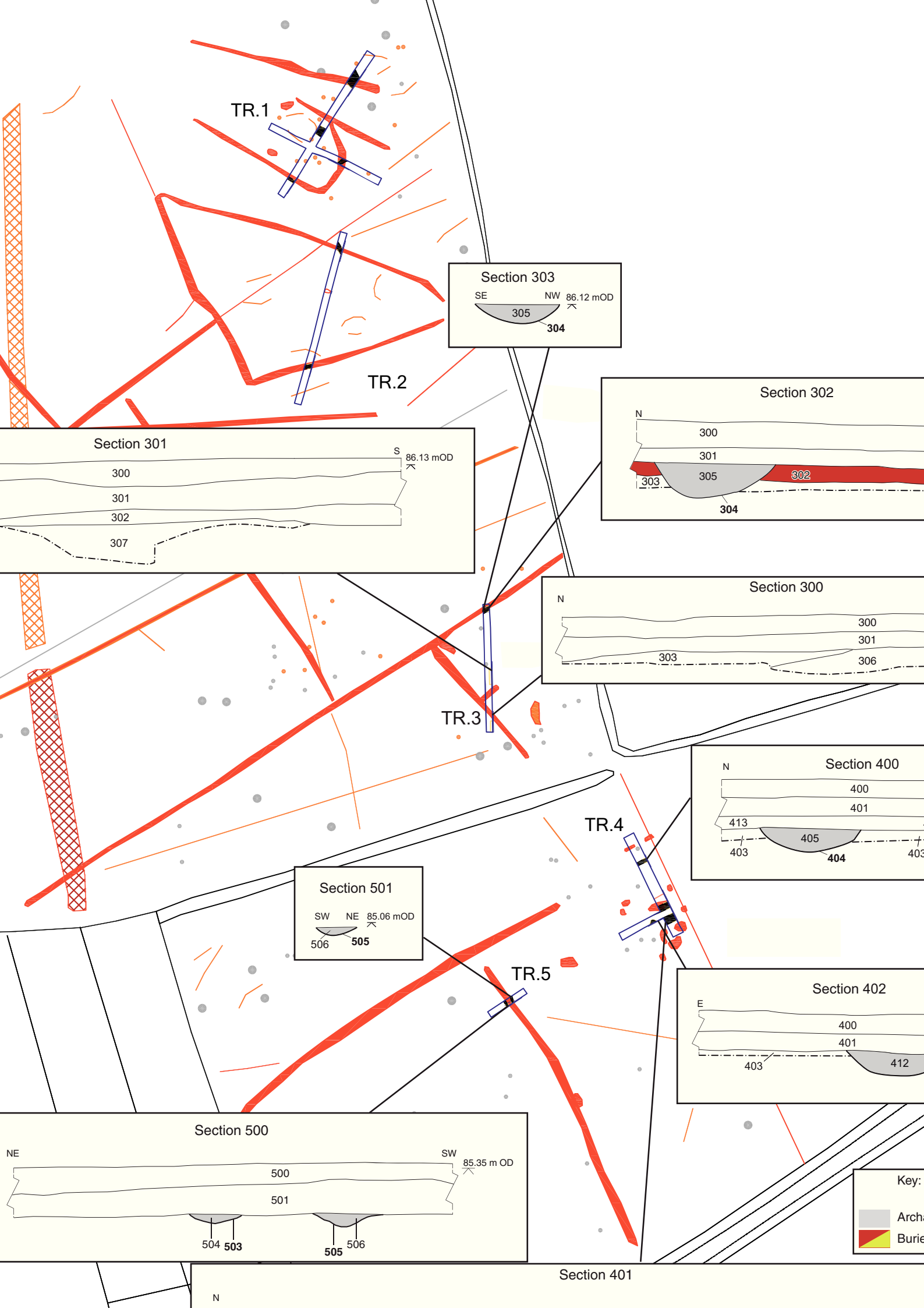


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012

Figure 1: Site location







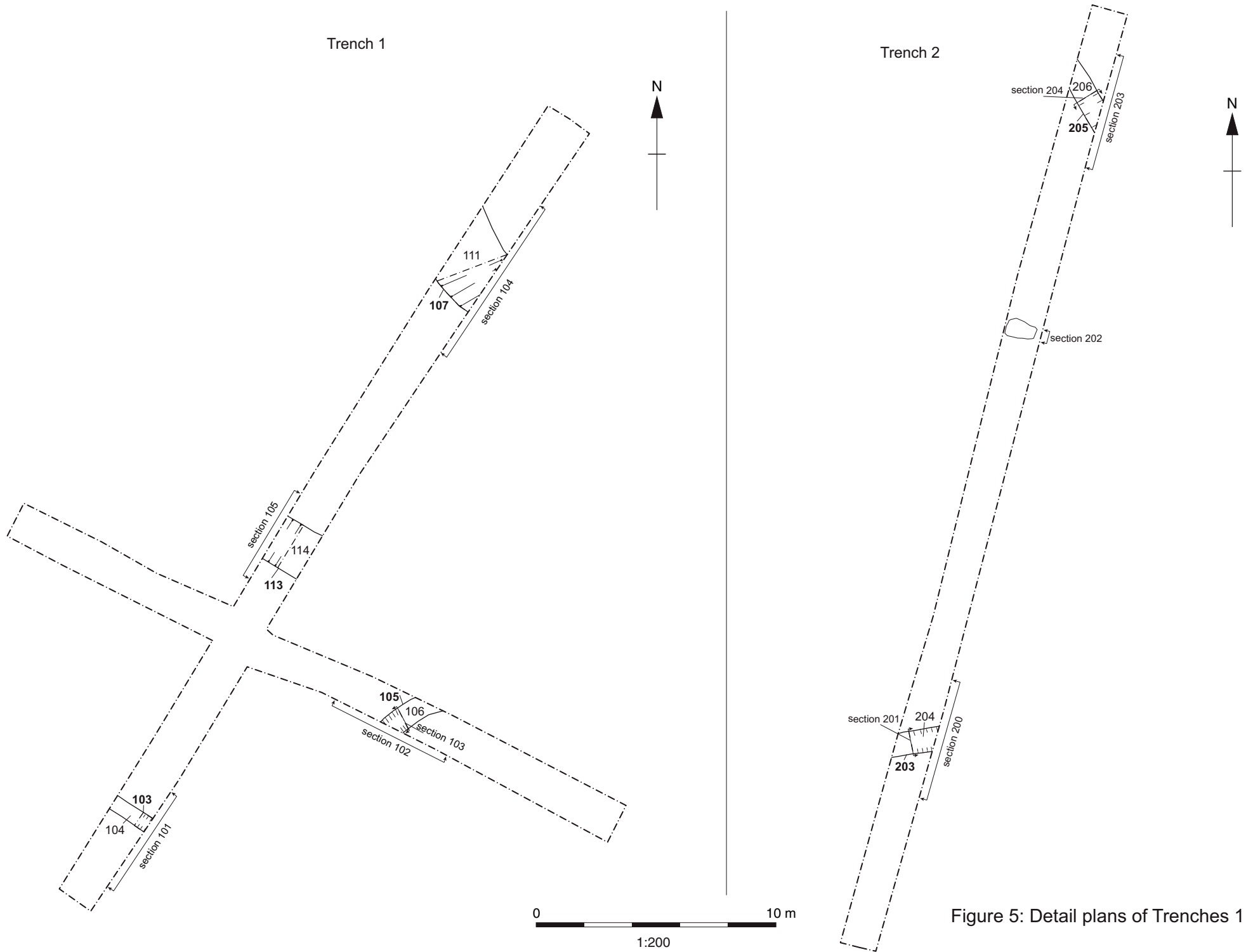
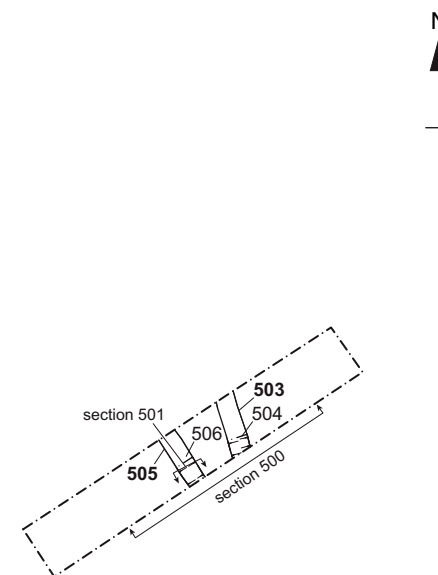
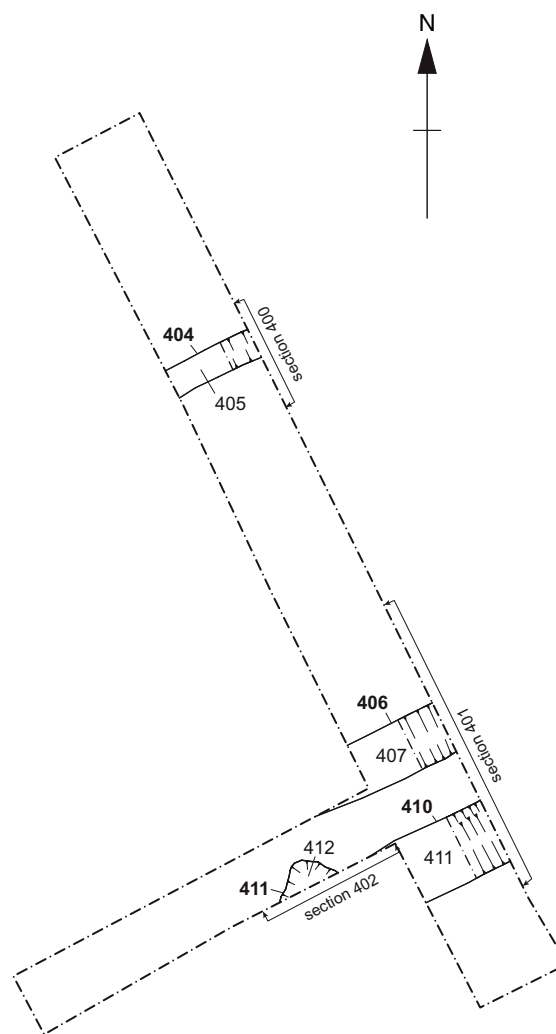
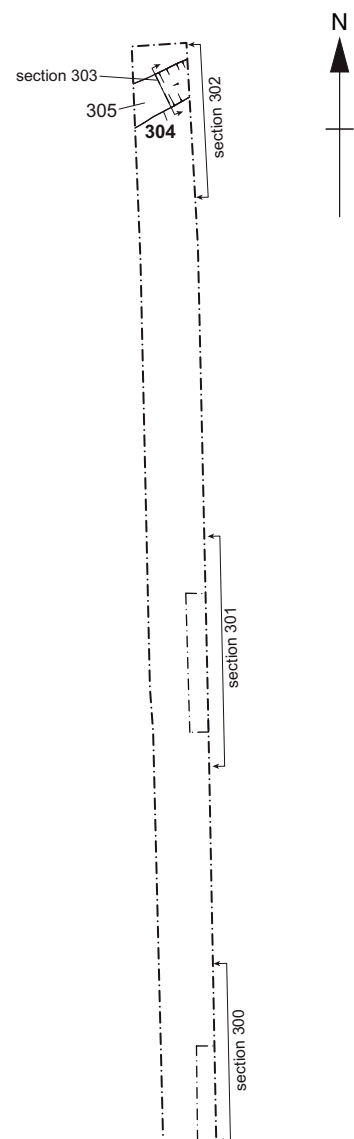


Figure 5: Detail plans of Trenches 1 and 2



0 10 m
1:200

Figure 6: Detail plans of Trenches 3, 4 and 5



Plate 1: General view of Trench 1, looking south-west (scale 2m and 1m)



Plate 2: General view of Trench 4, looking south (scale 2m)



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