


# Plock Court and Oxstalls Campus Gloucester



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# **Plock Court and Oxstalls Campus, University of Gloucestershire, Evaluation Report**

## ***Evaluation Report***

Centred on NGR 384205 220094

*Written by John Boothroyd*

*illustrated by Matt Bradley*

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## Summary

*Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Plock Court and Oxstalls Campus, University of Gloucestershire, comprising 18 trenches and 9 deep test pits in three separate areas.*

*The trenches generally confirmed the results of the preceding desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, indicating that the site has limited archaeological potential. In the medieval and post-medieval period the western part of the site was under open field cultivation, evident in traces of ridge-and-furrow. The parts of the site within the floodplain of the Wotton Brook were historically used as pasture. The various archaeological features observed, where they can be dated, are consistent with agricultural land-use rather than settlement. This is no doubt due in part to proximity to the Wotton Brook, which is prone to flooding.*

*A series of three test pits through the Pleistocene river terrace deposits to the west of the brook did not encounter any Palaeolithic artefacts.*

*No evidence for Holocene prehistoric activity was encountered in any of the trenches. Six deep test pits were excavated through the Holocene alluvium infilling the brook, but no significant archaeological or palaeoenvironmental evidence was encountered.*

*Evidence for Roman activity is surprisingly slight, given the proximity of the site to the Roman city of Glevum. Two ditches are likely to be of Roman date.*

*Medieval and post-medieval features are more common, particularly in areas of former ridge-and-furrow, but are again consistent with agricultural land-use. A notable concentration of such features occurred along the boundary between the terrace gravel and the floodplain of the Wotton Brook, including furrow terminals, and pits or gravel quarries. These may have lain along a hedgebank separating the open fields from the pasture on the floodplain.*





## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by the University of Gloucestershire to undertake an archaeological trench evaluation of three plots of land at Plock Court and Oxstalls Campus, University of Gloucestershire, which are proposed for development as part of an outline planning application, the scope of which is as follows:
- 1.1.2 “Outline planning application (with all matters reserved except for access) for the erection of a new 10,000sqm business school, the provision of new student accommodation (up to 200 beds) and the creation of additional car parking at the University of Gloucestershire Oxstalls Campus, Oxstalls Lane and the Debenhams Playing Field, Estcourt Road. Provision of new and improved sports facilities at Oxstalls Sports Park, Debenhams Playing Field, Oxstalls Campus, and Plock Court Playing Fields, including on land currently occupied by the Former Bishops College, to include - the provision of new multi use sports hall, 2 x 3G all weather sports pitches with associated 500 seat spectator stand, floodlighting, replacement cricket pavilion and additional parking; improved vehicular access at Oxstalls Lane, Plock Court and Estcourt Road, new vehicular access at Estcourt Close, improved pedestrian and cycling connections and associated highways, landscaping and ancillary works”.
- 1.1.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was completed which considered the potential impacts of the development on archaeological resources (OA July 2015). It concluded that the main impacts will be located in the southern parts of the site, where new buildings and car-parking areas are to be constructed. The northern areas of the development are mainly landscaping and sports pitches with limited below ground impacts. This report summarises the results of a subsequent geophysical survey, and details the results of a programme of trial trenches and test pits.
- 1.1.4 Three locations (Areas A – C) were identified as most likely to be affected by ground disturbance during development. These were subject to geophysical survey (Stratascan preliminary plots dated August 2015). Some affected parts of the site were not available for survey as occupied by allotments or heavily overgrown. The survey plots do not show any features that could reliably be interpreted as significant archaeology. The plots are dominated by traces of ridge-and-furrow cultivation features, land drains and magnetic signals indicating modern ground disturbance. Geophysical survey methods cannot be relied upon to detect significant archaeology in many circumstances. In particular, magnetometer survey is not capable of detecting archaeology buried deeply in alluvium. Trial trenching was therefore required to ground-truth the results, the scope of which was agreed in discussions with Andrew Armstrong (Gloucester City Archaeologist) and approved in the form of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, OA September 2015).
- 1.1.5 As detailed in the DBA and WSI, all work is required in accordance with the Gloucester City Council Revised Deposited Local Plan (2002, Policies BE31-BE38), which recognises the guidelines laid out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located within the northern city boundary of Gloucester. It is within the current parish of Gloucester St Mark, created in 1846 from the ancient parishes of Gloucester St Catherine, Gloucester St John and Gloucester St Amry de Lode (<http://maps.familysearch.org/#layer>).



- 1.2.2 The site, which is c 43.24ha in extent, lies partly in the comparatively flat alluvial floodplain of the Wotton Brook, a tributary of the River Severn, and partly on the adjacent gravel terrace. There is a gentle slope to the land, with the southern end of the site lying at approximately 18m AOD, and the north-west corner lying just below 10m AOD.
- 1.2.3 The northern part of the site is partially bounded by the Wotton Brook, which also runs through its southern part. A band of alluvium is associated with this Brook (See WSI Figure.2, which is plotted from the 1:50,000 BGS mapping). Either side of the alluvium are bands of Cheltenham Sand and Gravel deposits. The alluvium has been investigated in the south of the site where it was found to extend to a depth of 1.10 - 3.05m bgl. Alluvium was seen from these investigations to spread to the east of the area defined by the BGS as alluvium, which suggested that it is more extensive than previously thought (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Soft fibrous peats were found within the alluvial sequence in one of the boreholes close to the brook. The alluvium was not dated although, given that flooding still occurs, its deposition is likely to be ongoing. The underlying bedrock is Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/>).
- 1.2.4 During the walkover survey the majority of the site was covered by close cut grass sward, with an area of rougher, wetter grassland in the north-west. Neither the strip of allotments in the south of the site, nor the area of the school in the east was accessed. It is unlikely that any remaining historic landscape/upstanding archaeological features would have survived in the area of allotments, and views over the hedge to the school did not reveal any obvious heritage features. The playing fields between the Wotton Brook and the footpath running through the central area do not appear to have been affected by extensive landscaping.
- 1.2.5 The total area of development is 43.24 Ha. The areas subject to geophysical survey and trench investigation amounts to 9.67Ha, broken down as follows:
- Area A - 3.31Ha
  - Area B - 3.89Ha
  - Area C - 2.47Ha

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section is summarised from more detailed baseline information contained in the DBA. The area surrounding the site is rich in archaeological remains, in particular those of the Romano-British period, lying as it does within the immediate hinterland of the Roman fortress and city of *Glevum*. However the DBA and geophysical survey found few indications of significant archaeology within Areas A-C.
- 1.3.2 Recent evaluation trenching on land immediately to the west of Oxstalls Sports Ground (Bishops College site) uncovered a small group of Roman features consisting of two pits and three postholes, in the south-eastern corner of the site. Evidence for ridge-and-furrow cultivation was noted throughout the site as well as evidence for modern landscaping, the latter associated with the construction of the school and playing fields (Cotswold Archaeology 2015).
- 1.3.3 The Cheltenham Sand and Gravel deposits date from the Quaternary period and have the potential to contain palaeolithic artefacts, whether *in situ* or redeposited. The DBA and geophysical survey have identified little evidence for Mesolithic, Neolithic or Bronze Age archaeology within the site, although floodplain edge locations were always



attractive to early prehistoric people for the diverse range of resources that such locations offer. Such deposits may be sealed and preserved beneath alluvium.

- 1.3.4 In the Iron Age, just prior to the Roman invasion, evidence suggests that the area was beginning to be settled, as the early Roman settlements appear to have late Iron Age antecedents. A double-ditched enclosure found just to the north of the site may be a settlement of this period. Whilst the floodplain of the Wotton Brook would not have attracted permanent settlement, the adjacent sands and gravels may have been more conducive to settlement, as seen during recent evaluation and excavation work at Longford to the north.
- 1.3.5 Given the large amount of Roman archaeology in the surrounding area, mostly connected with the Roman fortress and cemeteries to the south of the site, the Roman Road to the south and west and the Roman settlement and pottery kilns to the north, the site lies within an area which is likely to have had some use during the Roman period. The highest potential would be alongside the Roman road in the north-west of the overall development, where burials or settlement may be found, and on the areas of drier ground on either side of the floodplain.
- 1.3.6 It is likely that the site was located away from known settlement during both the medieval and post-medieval periods. Geological, topographical, archaeological and cartographic evidence all suggest that the alluvial floodplain was mainly used for pasture, while the higher land on the gravel terrace on either side was used for open field agriculture, with some gravel quarrying in the south east of the site.
- 1.3.7 Whilst the alluvial areas may have been only suitable for pasture during most of the medieval and post-medieval periods, they could contain evidence for seasonal activities. Evidence for this may remain in the form of well-preserved finds and palaeo-environmental material within the alluvium. Peat has been identified in one borehole in the valley of the Wotton Brook, during previous borehole surveys within the site. The apparently localised nature of this deposit allows few conclusions regarding wider environmental conditions. The deposit has not been dated. An evaluation to the south of the site recorded that the alluvium extended c 60m further to the east than the extent shown by the BGS.
- 1.3.8 There is evidence for palaeochannels within the site, especially in the north, associated with a stream shown on a map of 1799, and with earlier channels of the Wotton Brook. These palaeochannels could contain well-preserved waterlogged environmental evidence and archaeological finds from all periods.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 Thanks are due to Amanda Jacobs (Senior Planner, West Waddy ADP LLP), for organising the evaluation on behalf of the client, and to the various staff of the University of Gloucestershire who assisted in facilitating access, in particular Roy Kirby. Andrew Armstrong (Gloucester City Archaeologist) monitored the project on behalf of the council and visited as often as needed to sign off the trenches in a timely manner.
- 1.4.2 The OA site team comprised John Boothroyd (Project Officer), Andrew Ginns and Sam Whytehead, assisted by Tim Cox (Beecroft Plant). Stuart Foreman was the OA Project Manager.



## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The evaluation aims were as follows:

- (i) To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- (iii) To ground-truth the geophysical survey results;
- (iv) investigate the extent and depth of alluvium and any archaeological remains present.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 As proposed by the WSI eighteen 50m x 1.8m trenches were excavated, representing a 2% sample of Area B (nine trenches, Fig.4) and Area C (six trenches, Fig.5). Area A (three trenches, Fig.3) was subject to a lower density sample due to restrictions around actively used sports pitches.
- 2.2.2 The trench locations proposed in the WSI were modified during the works in response to various restrictions encountered in the field, and in the light of initial results from the trenching. Trenches in Area B were relocated to avoid a planned Lacrosse pitch. The updated trench locations are shown on Figures 2 – 5. Trench 8 was shortened due to the presence of vegetation at the SE end of the trench. Following discussion with the City Archaeologist, Trench 9 was extended to form a T-shape to compensate for the shortening of Trench 14. Trench 11 was subject to the most significant relocation, from within the alluvial deposits to the higher terrace graves at the request of the City Archaeologist. All trenches were excavated to the natural horizon or a maximum depth of 1.2m if alluvial deposits were present.
- 2.2.3 For safety reasons most trenches were backfilled the same day once approval from the City Archaeologist had been granted. Trenches with significant archaeology that were left open overnight were fenced off for safety reasons.
- 2.2.4 Three deeper test pits were excavated within Area A (Tp101-Tp103, Fig. 3), to investigate the potential of the Quaternary terrace gravel deposits. The arisings were examined and sifted by hand to search for Palaeolithic artefacts.
- 2.2.5 A further 6 test pits (Tp104 – Tp109) were excavated within Area B to investigate the depth and archaeological potential of Holocene alluvium infilling the valley of the Wotton Brook, and the archaeological potential of the surface of the underlying deposits (Fig.4). The depth of these test pits varied and was limited due to water ingress undermining the trench sides. No access was granted to any trench or test pit excavated to a depth of greater than 1.2m. As no archaeological deposits were identified, there was no requirement to step the trenches to permit access.
- 2.2.6 All trenches and test pits (101-103) were excavated using a 13t tracked 360 mechanical excavated with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket. Due to ground compaction within test pits 104-109 a 1m toothed bucket was required to reach the specified depth.



### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 This section comprises an overview of the results. Individual trench and context descriptions are detailed in Appendix A. The general location of the trenches is shown on Figures 2, 3 and 4. Detailed context descriptions are given within the descriptive text where they are integral to the interpretation of the context in question.

#### 3.2 Trenches 1-3 and Test Pits 101-103, Area A, (Fig.3, Plates 1 & 2)

3.2.1 **Trench 1** was NW-SE aligned and located within the north-east corner of Area A. It was shortened at the north-east end during excavation by 4m due to dense trees and shrubs restricting access. No archaeological evidence was observed within the trench and the deposits had been subject to extensive modern disturbance, probably associated with the construction of the adjacent Oxstalls Tennis Centre. The southern 10m metres of the trench had been extensively disturbed with clear evidence of modern dumping.

3.2.2 A dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil, 0.27m thick, was observed overlying a mid greyish brown silty sand subsoil which varied in thickness from 0.14m at the north end to 0.46m thick at the south end. The subsoil contained modern brick and rubble inclusions. Natural geology, comprising mixed sand and gravel, was observed c.0.74m below ground level.

3.2.3 At the northern end of the trench, Test Pit 101 was excavated to 1.9m below ground level, no archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed.

3.2.4 **Trench 2, Area A (Fig.3)** was aligned NE-SW and located along the northern limit of Area A. The soil sequence consisted of a dark grey brown silty sand topsoil, 0.22m thick, overlying a mid greyish brown silty sand subsoil. Natural deposits comprising mid reddish brown silty sand were observed c.0.51m below ground level.

3.2.5 Test Pit 102, located at the eastern end of the trench, was excavated to a depth of 3.3m below ground level. Excavation was stopped at this depth due to flooding. No archaeological deposits or finds were observed.

3.2.6 A single plough furrow lay east-west across the majority of the trench, measuring 1.06 wide and 0.08m deep. Several pieces of post-medieval ceramic building material were recovered from the pale orange brown fill.

3.2.7 **Trench 3, Area A (Fig.3, Plates 1 & 2)** was partly relocated due to the proximity of a rugby pitch on one side and the perimeter hedge and fence on the other. The NE-SE section was therefore extended to 50m long to compensate.

3.2.8 The eastern 5m of the trench was not excavated to natural gravel due to the presence of an electrical cable supplying the Rugby pitch floodlights.

3.2.9 Two plough furrows were observed running E-W across the trench of which one was excavated (302). A compact mid greyish brown silty sand, comparable to the subsoil, filled both furrows.

3.2.10 A narrow (0.49 x 0.19) ditch [304], running north-south through the trench produced no artefactual evidence and remains undated. It was observed to be cut by the plough furrows.

3.2.11 The furrows and the undated ditch were cut into the natural gravel.



At the western end of Trench 3 Test Pit 103 was excavated to a depth of 3.45m below ground level. The natural sands and gravels were observed to be 0.4m thick and overlay a second mixed deposits of greenish yellow sand and gravels, underlying this was a pale reddish sand. No artefacts were observed in the arisings.

### **3.3 Trenches 4, 5 and 8, Area B (Fig.4)**

- 3.3.1 Trenches 4, 5 and 8 did not contain any archaeological features. Terrace gravels were not observed within the trenches. The only deposits encountered were alluvial deposits associated with the Wotton Brook.
- 3.3.2 Within each trench a similar deposit sequence was recorded, comprising a dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil, varying between 0.17 and 0.25m thick overlying a compact mid brownish red silty sand between 0.15 and 0.56m thick. A compact yellowish brown clay sand, believed to be thoroughly drained and oxidised alluvial deposits, underlay the subsoil and was excavated to a depth of 1.2m below ground level.
- 3.3.3 At the request the City Archaeologist Trench 8 was shortened to 14m due to the sterile nature of the alluvial deposits.

### **3.4 Trench 6, Area B (Fig.4)**

- 3.4.1 Located on the western edge of Area B, Trench 6 was aligned NE-SW. Topsoil 0.22m thick overlay a compact greyish brown silty sand subsoil. Terrace gravels were observed as the natural geology on average 0.55m below ground level. The depth of overburden varied with the deposit, becoming thicker towards the NE end of the trench.
- 3.4.2 A single shallow gully, 0.07m deep was observed running east-west across the centre of the trench. No dating evidence was recovered from the mid reddish brown silty sand fill.

### **3.5 Trench 7, Area B (Figs, 4, 6 & 7, Plates 3 & 4)**

- 3.5.1 Trench 7 was located within the south-east corner of Area B and was aligned NW-SE. Topsoil in this trench was 0.36m thick and overlay subsoil 0.15m thick. Six linear features and 2 pits were observed cutting the terrace gravels.
- 3.5.2 Ditch 701, located towards the western end of Trench 7 had a 'V' shaped profile with steep sides, 1.8m deep and 1.62m wide and ran east-west across the trench. In total 8 fills (702 -709) were observed within the ditch, comprising an alternating sequence of dark greyish brown silty sands and pale yellowish grey gravels. From the final fill (709) a chip of Samian (cAD43-250) was recovered, along with animal bone and iron slag.
- 3.5.3 To the east of 701 was ditch 720 which had a similar but slightly shallower profile (1.14m deep and 2.24m wide). Ditch 720 contained fills 721-725 all similar in nature, mid reddish silty sands with varying levels of gravel inclusions. Animal bone was recovered from the final fill (725).
- 3.5.4 Excavation of 3 further linear features (710, 712 and 716) were interpreted as plough furrows. All had shallow profiles of between 0.14 and 0.18m and widths of between 0.68 and 0.92m. Both 710 and 716 had comparable fills (711 and 717), comprising firm mid greyish brown silty sand. CBM was recovered from context 711. The fill of 712 (713) was cut by furrow 710. The fill was a mid reddish brown silty sand from which no artefacts were recovered. Fill 717 of furrow 716 was cut by ditch 701.





- 3.5.5 A pit (714) was partially exposed against the SW edge of the trench. It contained a single dark greyish brown clay sand from which no finds were recovered. The pit was 1.52m wide and 0.31m deep was steep sided with a near flat base.
- 3.5.6 An additional E-W linear feature and pit located between ditches 701 and 720 were not excavated.

### **3.6 Trench 9, Area B (Figs.4, 8 & 9, Plates 5 & 6)**

- 3.6.1 Trench 9 was aligned NW-SE. The soil sequence consisted of a dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil, 0.29m thick, overlying a mid brownish grey silty sand subsoil, 0.23m thick.
- 3.6.2 Plough furrows (901, 903, 905 and 910) were observed cutting the natural terrace gravels. The furrows all have a similar shallow profile and E-W alignment. The fills are also comparable greyish brown silty sands. Furrows 905 and 910 terminate within the trench, at the edge of the alluvium infilling the floodplain of the Wotton Brook.
- 3.6.3 At the western end of the trench, a large pit (919), c. 14m wide produced several sherds of 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century pottery as well as animal bone and a piece of iron slag. The pit fills were (920, 921, 922 and 923). The pit was 0.8m deep with concave undercutting sides and a flat base. Only the north-east side was exposed, the feature continuing beyond the south-western edge of Trench 9. The fills within the pit suggest deliberate backfilling with an alternating sequence of firm light green sandy clays and friable mid greyish brown clay sands. The size, profile and deposit sequence of the feature may indicate small scale gravel extraction.
- 3.6.4 Two smaller pits were also recorded within Trench 9. Pit 914 was partially exposed against the south-western edge of the trench. It contained a mid greyish brown stony sand (915) from which no artefacts were recovered, overlain by a dark brownish grey silty sand (918) from which 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century pottery, an iron nail and CBM were recovered. The pit had near-vertical straight sides and a flat base. It was 1.47m wide and 0.64m deep. The second pit (907), which was truncated by furrow 910 was circular in plan with a very similar profile to pit 914, with near vertical sides and a flat base (1.74m wide and 0.72m deep). The earliest pit fill (908), a mid brownish yellow silty sand 0.26m thick was overlain by (909), a mid greyish yellow redeposited gravel. Pottery dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century and shell were recovered from the basal fill (908).
- 3.6.5 The NE-SW extension to Trench 9 contained a single linear feature, ditch 916, which was 1.36m wide and 0.34m deep. The ditch was aligned north-south with straight shallow sides and a V-shaped base. It contained a single fill (917) a reddish brown silty sand which contained Severn Valley ware Roman pottery, dating from c.AD43-100. Other artefacts from the same context included animal bone and CBM.
- 3.6.6 Towards the eastern end of the extension a compact dark yellow red alluvial deposit was observed to be sealed by the subsoil and sealing the gravels. A test pit at the eastern limit exposed the terrace gravels at 1.85m below ground level.

### **3.7 Trench 10 and 18, Area B (Fig.4)**

- 3.7.1 Trenches 10 and 18 were both devoid of archaeology and had a similar deposit sequence. The trenches were aligned NE-SW and comprised a dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil between 0.12 and 0.2m thick, overlying subsoil between 0.22 and 0.38m thick. At the south-west end of each trench, natural gravels were exposed, with alluvial deposit increasing in thickness towards the north-east. A test pit at the north-east end of

the trench exposed terrace gravels 1.85m below ground level, compared to 0.48m at the south-west end of the trench.

### **3.8 Trench 11, Area B (Figs. 4, 10 & 11, Plate 7)**

3.8.1 Trench 11 was located in the south-west corner of Area B. Two substantial quarry pits (1102, 1105) were 8.35m wide and 11.2m wide respectively. They were aligned NW-SE and cut through the subsoil and natural terrace gravels. Planned test pit 1102 was not excavated as the trench had been relocated from the alluvium. A machine excavated slot through pit 1105 showed it to be 1.32m deep. Finds contained within the pit fills (1106, 1107, 1108 and 1112) appeared to be from various dumping episodes. Deposit 1106, the final fill, produced a chamberpot rim, dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as well as a residual 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> century cooking pot rim.

3.8.2 A third potential quarry pit was partially exposed at the far south-east end of the trench, but was not investigated further.

### **3.9 Trenches 12, 13, 14 and 15, Area C (Fig. 5, Plate 8)**

3.9.1 Trenches 12, 13, 14 and 15 were excavated through alluvial deposits. No archaeological evidence was observed. A similar deposit sequence was observed within all four trenches. A dark grey brown silty sand topsoil overlay a thoroughly drained and oxidised pale yellowish brown sandy clay alluvium, between 0.42 and 1m thick. Underlying this was a second alluvial deposit, a greyish blue sandy clay, which continued beyond the 1.2m limit of excavation.

### **3.10 Trench 16, Area C (Fig.5, Plate 9)**

3.10.1 Trench 16 contained a single ditch (1602) which was aligned east-west across the trench. It was sealed by topsoil and cut through the post-medieval/ modern subsoil. The ditch was 1.68m wide and 0.68m deep with concave sides and base. Of two fills, the primary fill (1606) was a pale mid brown clay gravel, 0.13m thick, which was sealed by 1603, a pale brownish grey clay gravel. No artefacts were recovered from either fill and this ditch thus remains undated.

3.10.2 The subsoil was 0.18m thick and sealed both natural terrace gravels and alluvial deposits. These alluvial deposits overlay natural gravels for the northern 22m of the trench. A sondage at the northern limit was excavated to 1.3m below ground level but did not expose gravels. The alluvial sequence was the same as observed in Trenches 12, 13, 14 and 15.

### **3.11 Trench 17, Area C (Fig.5)**

3.11.1 Trench 17 contained no archaeology. It aligned NW-SE at the southern limit of Area C. The topsoil was 0.26m thick and the subsoil 0.24m thick, overlying natural gravels.

### **3.12 Test Pits 104-109, Area C (Fig.5, Plate 10)**

3.12.1 All six test pits within Area B showed a similar deposit sequence, comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying drained alluvial deposits which sealed the gravels. Within test pits 104 and 105 the gravel deposits were not encountered, alluvial clays continuing beyond the limit of excavation, to depths greater than 3.8m below ground level.

3.12.2 The gravel horizon was observed within test pit 107 at 2.10m below ground level and was 0.7m thick. An additional alluvial deposit of compact dark greyish blue clay, with mudstone inclusions, was observed below the gravels.



3.12.3 No artefacts or archaeological deposits were observed in the gravels and no environmental preservation was apparent within the alluvial sequence.

### **3.13 Finds summary**

3.13.1 Artefacts were generally sparse and the majority were of post-medieval and modern date. Very small quantities of Roman and medieval pottery were recovered.

3.13.2 A break down of finds recovered and associated spot dates from each context is contained in Appendix A. Artefact and animal bone specialist reports are contained in Appendix C.

### **3.13.3 Environmental summary**

3.13.4 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were recovered and thus no soil samples were recovered.



## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 During the works the weather was generally dry and clear with occasional periods of rain. Ground conditions were dry, with the exception of flooding in deep test pits, where the water table was encountered.
- 4.1.2 There are gaps in trenching coverage in areas occupied by planned and active sports pitches in Areas A and C, and allotment areas. The significance of these gaps will depend partly on the precise impacts of the development in different areas of the site, as discussed in the DBA. In general the trenching coverage is sufficient to ground-truth the geophysical survey results, which showed little sign of significant archaeology within the site.
- 4.1.3 On the basis of these results there is a moderate degree of confidence that the investigated areas do not contain intensive or extensive settlement archaeology of any period. It should be noted, however, that geophysical survey and trenching are not reliable methods for detecting more ephemeral, localised or discreet archaeological features.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 Area A (Trenches 1-3) revealed evidence for ridge-and-furrow cultivation, as expected based on the DBA and geophysical survey results. Trench 1 had suffered modern disturbance, very likely associated with the construction of the adjacent tennis centre. Trenches 2 and 3 both contained medieval/ post-medieval plough furrows. Trench 3 in addition revealed a single undated ditch (aligned differently to the plough furrows).
- 4.2.2 The three test pits in Area A were designed to look for Palaeolithic artefacts in the Pleistocene terrace gravels, but none were observed. Area B (Trenches 4-11 and 18) investigated both alluvial deposits and terrace gravels. Archaeological features were confined to the terrace gravels along the western limits of the area.
- 4.2.3 The only feature in Area C was a small ditch located towards the SE corner beyond the limits of the alluvial deposits. Within the alluvial sequence observed in trenches 12-15 no archaeological deposits were observed.
- 4.2.4 The alluvial deposits in Areas B and C were somewhat more extensive than mapped by the BGS. They were fairly homogeneous, thoroughly drained and minerogenic throughout, with no sign of organic horizons, buried soils or archaeological deposits.

### 4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 Overall no archaeology of significance was observed within the trenches. The trenches generally confirmed the results of the DBA and geophysical survey, indicating that the site has limited archaeological potential. This is no doubt due in part to proximity to the Wotton Brook, which is prone to flooding.
- 4.3.2 No evidence for prehistoric activity was encountered.
- 4.3.3 Evidence for Roman activity is surprisingly slight, given the proximity of the site to the Roman city of *Glevum*. Two ditches (701 in Trench 7, and 916 in Trench 9) are likely to be of Roman date. These are consistent with agricultural land-use, and of low significance.



- 4.3.4 Medieval and post-medieval features are more common, particularly in areas of former ridge-and-furrow, but are again consistent with agricultural land-use. There is a notable concentration of such features in Trench 9, on the boundary between the terrace gravel and the floodplain of the Wotton Brook. These may have lain along a hedgebank separating the open fields from the pasture on the floodplain. Two small gravel quarry pits in Trench 11 also lie along this boundary.
- 4.3.5 In the post-medieval period, historic map evidence indicates that the site was partly under open field cultivation, evident in the traces of ridge-and-furrow. The parts of the site on alluvium were historically used predominantly as pasture. The various archaeological features observed, where they can be dated, are consistent with agricultural land-use.



## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 1  |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    | NE-SW |      |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel. Evidence of extensive modern disturbance at the southern end. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.74  |      |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8   |      |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 46    |      |
| Contexts  |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
| Context no  | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date |
| 100   | Layer | -         | 0.27      | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| 102   | Layer | -         | 0.46      | Subsoil               | -     | -    |
| 103   | Layer | -         | -         | Natural               | -     | -    |

| Trench 2   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>   |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    | NW-SE |      |
| Trench containing single E-W furrow. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand. Test pit at SE end exposed gravels underlying the silty sand. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.51  |      |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8   |      |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50    |      |
| Contexts   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
| Context no   | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date |
| 200  | Layer | -         | 0.22      | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| 201  | Layer | -         | 0.38      | Subsoil               | -     | -    |
| 202  | Layer | -         | -         | Natural - Gravels     | -     | -    |
| 203  | Cut   | 1.06      | 0.08      | Furrow                | -     |      |
| 204  | Fill  | 1.06      | 0.08      | Fill of Furrow 203    | CBM   |      |
| 205  | Layer | -         | 1.7       | Natural – silty sand  | -     | -    |

| Trench 3  |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    | NW-SE |      |
| Trench containing two E-W aligned furrows and an undated N-S linear.. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of mixed gravels and silty sand. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.65  |      |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8   |      |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50    |      |
| Contexts  |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
| Context no  | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date |
| 300   | Layer | -         | 0.35      | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| 301   | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Subsoil               | -     | -    |



| Trench 3 |       |      |      |                           |   |   |
|----------|-------|------|------|---------------------------|---|---|
| 302      | Cut   | 1.23 | 0.1  | Furrow                    | - | - |
| 303      | Fill  | 1.23 | 0.1  | Fill of furrow 302        | - | - |
| 304      | Cut   | 0.49 | 0.19 | Ditch                     | - | - |
| 305      | Fill  | 0.49 | 0.19 | Fill of ditch 304         | - | - |
| 306      | Cut   | 1.5  | -    | Furrow – unexcavated      | - | - |
| 307      | Fill  | 1.5  | -    | Fill of 306 – unexcavated | - | - |
| 308      | Layer | -    | 0.4  | Natural – sandy gravels   | - | - |
| 309      | Layer | -    | 0.9  | Natural – sandy gravels   | - | - |
| 310      | Layer | -    | -    | Natural - sand            | - | - |

| Trench 4  |       |           |           |                       |       |       |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    |       | NW-SE |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a compact clay sand alluvial deposit. Natural gravels not exposed after 1.2m |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |       | -     |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      |       | 1.8   |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     |       | 50    |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |       |           |           |                       |       |       |
| Context no  | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date  |
| 400   | Layer | -         | 0.28      | Topsoil               | -     | -     |
| 401   | Layer | -         | 0.56      | Subsoil               | -     | -     |
| 402   | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium              | -     | -     |

| Trench 5  |       |           |           |                       |       |       |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    |       | NE-SW |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a compact clay sand alluvial deposit. Natural gravels not exposed after 1.2m |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |       | -     |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      |       | 1.8   |
|   |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     |       | 50    |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |       |           |           |                       |       |       |
| Context no  | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date  |
| 500   | Layer | -         | 0.17      | Topsoil               | -     | -     |
| 501   | Layer | -         | 0.46      | Subsoil               | -     | -     |
| 502   | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium              | -     | -     |

| Trench 6  |  |  |  |                       |  |       |
|---|--|--|--|-----------------------|--|-------|
| <b>General description</b>  |  |  |  | <b>Orientation</b>    |  | NE-SW |
| Trench containing single E-W aligned linear. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravels. |  |  |  | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |  | 0.55  |
|   |  |  |  | <b>Width (m)</b>      |  | 1.8   |
|   |  |  |  | <b>Length (m)</b>     |  | 50    |



| <b>Trench 6</b>   |             |                  |                  |                   |               |             |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>Contexts</b>   |             |                  |                  |                   |               |             |
| <b>Context no</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>Comment</b>    | <b> Finds</b> | <b>Date</b> |
| 600               | Layer       | -                | 0.28             | Topsoil           | -             | -           |
| 601               | Layer       | -                | 0.22             | Subsoil           | -             | -           |
| 602               | Cut         | 0.57             | 0.07             | Cut of ditch      | -             | -           |
| 603               | Fill        | 0.57             | 0.07             | Fill of ditch 602 | -             | -           |
| 604               | Layer       | -                | -                | Natural           | -             | -           |

| <b>Trench 7</b>  |             |                  |                  |                     |                       |                       |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>General description</b>   |             |                  |                  |                     | <b>Orientation</b>    | NW-SE                 |
| Trench containing two linear features as well as 3 furrows. A small pit was also present though undated. In addition a sixth linear feature was unexcavated. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of gravels in a sand matrix. |             |                  |                  |                     | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.45                  |
|  |             |                  |                  |                     | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8                   |
|  |             |                  |                  |                     | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50                    |
| <b>Contexts</b>  |             |                  |                  |                     |                       |                       |
| <b>Context no</b>  | <b>Type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>Comment</b>      | <b> Finds</b>         | <b>Date</b>           |
| 700  | Layer       | -                | 0.28             | Topsoil             | -                     | -                     |
| 701  | Cut         | 1.62             | 1.8              | Ditch               | -                     | -                     |
| 702  | Fill        | 0.33             | 0.04             | Fill of ditch 701   | -                     | -                     |
| 703  | Fill        | 0.74             | 0.28             | Fill of ditch 701   | -                     | -                     |
| 704  | Fill        | 1.08             | 0.34             | Fill of ditch 701   | -                     | -                     |
| 705  | Fill        | 1.3              | 0.16             | Fill of ditch 701   | -                     | -                     |
| 706  | Fill        | 1.18             | 0.17             | Fill of ditch 701   | -                     | -                     |
| 707  | Fill        | 0.6              | 0.04             | Fill of ditch 701   | -                     | -                     |
| 708  | Fill        | 1.6              | 0.28             | Fill of ditch 701   | -                     | -                     |
| 709  | Fill        | 1.46             | 0.17             | Fill of ditch 701   | Pot, Bone Slag        | Samian chip cAD43-250 |
| 710  | Cut         | 0.92             | 0.14             | Furrow              | -                     | -                     |
| 711  | Fill        | 0.92             | 0.14             | Fill of furrow 710  | CBM                   |                       |
| 712  | Cut         | 0.68             | 0.15             | Furrow              | -                     | -                     |
| 713  | Fill        | 0.68             | 0.15             | Fill of furrow 712  | -                     | -                     |
| 714  | Cut         | 1.52             | 0.31             | Pit                 | -                     | -                     |
| 715  | Fill        | 1.52             | 0.31             | Fill of pit 714     | -                     | -                     |
| 716  | Cut         | 0.73             | 0.18             | Furrow              | -                     | -                     |
| 717  | Fill        | 0.73             | 0.18             | Fill of furrow 716  | -                     | -                     |
| 718  | Cut         | >0.08            | >0.08            | Ditch – Same as 701 | -                     | -                     |
| 719  | Fill        | >0.08            | >0.08            | Fill of ditch 718   | -                     | -                     |
| 720  | Cut         | 2.42             | 1.14             | Ditch               | -                     | -                     |





| Trench 7 |       |      |      |                   |      |   |
|----------|-------|------|------|-------------------|------|---|
| 721      | Fill  | 0.57 | 0.27 | Fill of ditch 720 | -    | - |
| 722      | Fill  | 0.94 | 0.3  | Fill of ditch 720 | -    | - |
| 723      | Fill  | 1.28 | 0.22 | Fill of ditch 720 | -    | - |
| 724      | Fill  | 1.22 | 0.21 | Fill of ditch 720 | -    | - |
| 725      | Fill  | 2.42 | 0.49 | Fill of ditch 720 | Bone |   |
| 726      | Layer | -    |      | Subsoil           |      |   |
| 727      | Layer | -    |      | Natural           |      |   |

| Trench 8  |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
|---|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>General description</b>  |             |                  |                  | <b>Orientation</b>    |              | N-S         |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. The trench was shortened as the IConsists of soil and subsoil overlying an alluvial deposit excavated to a depth of 1.1m bgl. |             |                  |                  | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |              | -           |
|   |             |                  |                  | <b>Width (m)</b>      |              | 1.8         |
|   |             |                  |                  | <b>Length (m)</b>     |              | 14          |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
| <b>Context no</b>   | <b>Type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>Comment</b>        | <b>Finds</b> | <b>Date</b> |
| 800   | Layer       | -                | 0.2              | Topsoil               | -            | -           |
| 801   | Layer       | -                | 0.15             | Subsoil               | -            | -           |
| 802   | Layer       | -                | -                | Alluvium              | -            | -           |

| Trench 9  |             |                  |                  |                       |                |  |
|---|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>General description</b>  |             |                  |                  | <b>Orientation</b>    |                | E-W  |
| Trench 9 was extended into a T-shaped form, to compensate for the shortening of Trench 8. It contained a total of six linear features, five furrows and one ditch. In additional evidence of gravel extraction was present and two possible storage pits. Features were sealed by soil and subsoil overlying natural gravels. |             |                  |                  | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |                |  |
|   |             |                  |                  | <b>Width (m)</b>      |                | 1.8  |
|   |             |                  |                  | <b>Length (m)</b>     |                | 50   |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |             |                  |                  |                       |                |  |
| <b>Context no</b>   | <b>Type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>Comment</b>        | <b>Finds</b>   | <b>Date</b>  |
| 900   | Layer       | -                | 0.28             | Topsoil               | -              | -  |
| 901   | Cut         | 1.54             | 0.15             | Furrow                | -              | -  |
| 902   | Fill        | 1.54             | 0.15             | Fill of furrow 901    | Clay pipe, CBM | Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 18 <sup>th</sup> century |
| 903   | Cut         | 0.59             | 0.05             | Furrow                | -              | -  |
| 904   | Fill        | 0.59             | 0.05             | Fill of furrow 903    | Pottery, CBM   | C1680-1800   |
| 905   | Cut         | 0.5              | 0.1              | Furrow                | -              | -  |
| 906   | Fill        | 0.5              | 0.1              | Fill of furrow 904    | -              | -  |
| 907   | Cut         | 1.74             | 0.72             | Pit                   | -              | -  |
| 908   | Fill        | 1.55             | 0.26             | Fill of pit 907       | Pottery,       | 1250-1550  |



| Trench 9 |       |       |      |                    |                           |            |
|----------|-------|-------|------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|
|          |       |       |      |                    | Shell                     |            |
| 909      | Fill  | 1.74  | 0.41 | Fill of pit 907    | -                         | -          |
| 910      | Cut   | 2.01  | 0.24 | Furrow             | -                         | -          |
| 911      | Fill  | 2.01  | 0.24 | Fill of furrow 910 | Bone,<br>Metal,<br>CBM    | 1250-1550  |
| 912      | Cut   | 0.76  | 0.2  | Furrow             | -                         | -          |
| 913      | Fill  | 0.76  | 0.2  | Fill of furrow 912 | -                         | -          |
| 914      | Cut   | 1.47  | 0.64 | Pit                | -                         | -          |
| 915      | Fill  | 1.32  | 0.15 | Fill of pit 914    | -                         | -          |
| 916      | Cut   | 1.36  | 0.34 | Ditch              | -                         | -          |
| 917      | Fill  | 1.36  | 0.34 | Fill of ditch 916  | Pottery                   | CAD43-100  |
| 918      | Fill  | 1.47  | 0.52 | Fill of pit 914    | Pottery,<br>Metal,<br>CBM | C1680-1800 |
| 919      | Cut   | >1.88 | 0.8  | Quarry             | -                         | -          |
| 920      | Fill  | 1.88  | 0.27 | Fill of quarry 919 | -                         | -          |
| 921      | Fill  | 1.88  | 0.61 | Fill of quarry 919 | Pottery,<br>Slag,<br>Bone | 1350-1550  |
| 922      | Fill  | 0.62  | 0.26 | Fill of quarry 919 | -                         | -          |
| 923      | Fill  | 0.91  | 0.12 | Fill of quarry 919 | -                         | -          |
| 924      | Layer | -     | 0.23 | Subsoil            | -                         | -          |
| 925      | Layer | -     | -    | Natural            | -                         | -          |

| Trench 10  |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>General description</b>   |             |                  |                  | <b>Orientation</b>    |              | NE-SW       |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a suspected alluvial deposit which in turn overlay natural gravels. |             |                  |                  | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |              | 0.46        |
|  |             |                  |                  | <b>Width (m)</b>      |              | 1.8         |
|  |             |                  |                  | <b>Length (m)</b>     |              | 50          |
| <b>Contexts</b>  |             |                  |                  |                       |              |             |
| <b>Context no</b>  | <b>Type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>Comment</b>        | <b>Finds</b> | <b>Date</b> |
| 1000   | Layer       | -                | 0.12             | Topsoil               | -            | -           |
| 1001   | Layer       | -                | 0.22             | Subsoil               | -            | -           |
| 1002   | Layer       | -                | -                | Alluvium              | -            | -           |
| 1003   | Layer       | -                | -                | Natural               |              |             |

| Trench 11                  |  |                    |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>General description</b> |  | <b>Orientation</b> |
|                            |  | NW-SE              |



**Trench 11**

|  |                       |      |
|--|-----------------------|------|
| Trench 11 was relocated due to extensive vegetation growth in the originally proposed location. It contained evidence of gravel extraction, two quarry pits were exposed with a potential third partially exposed at the SE end of the trench. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a mixed sand gravel natural. | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.52 |
|  | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8  |
|  | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 40   |

**Contexts**

| Context no | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment                       | Finds                   | Date       |
|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 1100       | Layer | -         | 0.2       | Topsoil                       | -                       | -          |
| 1101       | Layer | -         | 0.32      | Subsoil                       | -                       | -          |
| 1102       | Cut   | 8.35      | -         | Quarry - unexcavated          | -                       | -          |
| 1103       | Fill  | 6.05      | -         | Fill of quarry 1101           | -                       | -          |
| 1104       | Fill  | 2.3       | -         | Fill of quarry 1101           | -                       | -          |
| 1105       | Cut   | 11.2      | 1.32      | Quarry                        | -                       | -          |
| 1106       | Fill  | 3.95      | 0.65      | Fill of quarry 1105           | Pottery, CBM, Clay pipe | C1840-1900 |
| 1107       | Fill  | 3.65      | 0.96      | Fill of quarry 1105           | -                       | -          |
| 1108       | Fill  | 7.45      | -         | Fill of quarry 1105           | -                       | -          |
| 1109       | Cut   | >0.76     | -         | Possible quarry - Unexcavated | -                       | -          |
| 1110       | Fill  | >0.76     | -         | Fill of quarry                | -                       | -          |
| 1111       | Layer | -         | -         | Natural                       | -                       | -          |
| 1112       | Fill  | >0.87     | 0.29      | Fill of quarry 1105           | -                       | -          |

**Trench 12**

|   |                       |     |
|---|-----------------------|-----|
| <b>General description</b>  | <b>Orientation</b>    | W-E |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying alluvial deposits, excavated to a depth of 1.2m below ground level natural gravels were not exposed. | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 1.2 |
|   | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8 |
|   | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50  |

**Contexts**

| Context no | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment  | Finds | Date |
|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|------|
| 1200       | Layer | -         | 0.25      | Topsoil  | -     | -    |
| 1201       | Layer | -         | -         | Alluvium | -     | -    |

**Trench 13**

|   |                       |     |
|---|-----------------------|-----|
| <b>General description</b>  | <b>Orientation</b>    | N-S |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying alluvial deposits, excavated to a depth of 1.2m below ground level natural gravels were not exposed. | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 1.2 |
|   | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8 |
|   | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50  |



| <b>Contexts</b>   |             |                  |                  |                |              |             |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Context no</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>Comment</b> | <b>Finds</b> | <b>Date</b> |
| 1300              | Layer       | -                | 0.18             | Topsoil        | -            | -           |
| 1301              | Layer       | -                | 0.42             | Alluvium       | -            | -           |
| 1302              | Layer       | -                | -                | Alluvium       | -            | -           |

**Trench 14**

| <b>General description</b>  | <b>Orientation</b>    | NE-SW |
|---|-----------------------|-------|
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying alluvial deposits, excavated to a depth of 1.2m below ground level natural gravels were not exposed. | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 1.2   |
|   | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8   |
|   | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50    |

| <b>Contexts</b>   |             |                  |                  |                |              |             |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Context no</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>Comment</b> | <b>Finds</b> | <b>Date</b> |
| 1400              | Layer       | -                | 0.3              | Topsoil        | -            | -           |
| 1401              | Layer       | -                | 0.7              | Alluvium       | -            | -           |
| 1402              | Layer       | -                | -                | Alluvium       | -            | -           |

**Trench 15**

| <b>General description</b>  | <b>Orientation</b>    | NE-SW |
|---|-----------------------|-------|
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying alluvial deposits, excavated to a depth of 1.2m below ground level natural gravels were not exposed. | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 1.2   |
|   | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8   |
|   | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50    |

| <b>Contexts</b>   |             |                  |                  |                |              |             |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Context no</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Width (m)</b> | <b>Depth (m)</b> | <b>Comment</b> | <b>Finds</b> | <b>Date</b> |
| 1500              | Layer       | -                | 0.2              | Topsoil        | -            | -           |
| 1501              | Layer       | -                | 0.5              | Alluvium       | -            | -           |
| 1502              | Layer       | -                | -                | Alluvium       | -            | -           |

**Trench 16**

| <b>General description</b>   | <b>Orientation</b>    | N-S  |
|--|-----------------------|------|
| Trench contains a single E-W aligned linear, terrace gravels were observed at the southern end of the trench overlain by alluvial deposit towards the north, a test pit excavated to a depth of 1.3m below ground level showed alluvial deposits continuing beyond the limit of excavation. Overlying the alluvial deposit a sequence of soil and subsoil were observed. | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.36 |
|  | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8  |
|  | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50   |

| <b>Contexts</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|-----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|



| Trench 16  |       |           |           |                    |       |      |
|------------|-------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-------|------|
| Context no | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment            | Finds | Date |
| 1600       | Layer | -         | 0.19      | Topsoil            | -     | -    |
| 1601       | Layer | -         | 0.18      | Subsoil            | -     | -    |
| 1602       | Cut   | 1.68      | 0.68      | Ditch              | -     | -    |
| 1603       | Fill  | 1.68      | 0.55      | Fill of ditch 1602 | -     | -    |
| 1604       | Layer | 0.3       | -         | Alluvium           | -     | -    |
| 1605       | Layer | 0.9       | -         | Alluvium           | -     | -    |
| 1606       | Fill  | 0.79      | 0.13      | Fill of ditch 1602 | -     | -    |
| 1607       | Layer | -         | -         | Natural            | -     | -    |

| Trench 17   |       |           |           |         |                       |       |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|-------|
| <b>General description</b>  |       |           |           |         | <b>Orientation</b>    | NE-SW |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand. |       |           |           |         | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 0.5   |
|   |       |           |           |         | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8   |
|   |       |           |           |         | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50    |
| <b>Contexts</b>   |       |           |           |         |                       |       |
| Context no  | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment | Finds                 | Date  |
| 1700  | Layer | -         | 0.26      | Topsoil | -                     | -     |
| 1701  | Layer | -         | 0.24      | Subsoil | -                     | -     |
| 1702  | Layer | -         | -         | Natural | -                     | -     |

| Trench 18  |       |           |           |          |                       |       |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------------------|-------|
| <b>General description</b>   |       |           |           |          | <b>Orientation</b>    | NE-SW |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying alluvial deposits and natural of sandy gravels. |       |           |           |          | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 1.0   |
|  |       |           |           |          | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.8   |
|  |       |           |           |          | <b>Length (m)</b>     | 50    |
| <b>Contexts</b>  |       |           |           |          |                       |       |
| Context no   | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment  | Finds                 | Date  |
| 1800   | Layer | -         | 0.2       | Topsoil  | -                     | -     |
| 1801   | Layer | -         | 0.38      | Subsoil  | -                     | -     |
| 1802   | Layer | -         | 0.1       | Alluvium | -                     | -     |
| 1803   | Layer | -         | 0.38      | Alluvium | -                     | -     |
| 1804   | Layer | -         | -         | Natural  | -                     | -     |



| Test Pit 104   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>   |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    |       | -    |
| Test pit devoid of archaeology, consists soil and subsoil overlying alluvial deposits. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |       | 3.76 |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      |       | 1.5  |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     |       | c.2m |
| Contexts   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
| Context no   | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date |
| 10400  | Layer | -         | 0.16      | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| 10401  | Layer | -         | 0.2       | Subsoil               | -     | -    |
| 10402  | Layer | -         | 1.2       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |
| 10403  | Layer | -         | 2.2       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |

| Test Pit 105   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>   |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    |       | -    |
| Test pit devoid of archaeology, consists soil and subsoil overlying alluvial deposits. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |       | 3.8  |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      |       | 1.5  |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     |       | c.2m |
| Contexts   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
| Context no   | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date |
| 10500  | Layer | -         | 0.2       | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| 10501  | Layer | -         | 0.2       | Subsoil               | -     | -    |
| 10502  | Layer | -         | 0.8       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |
| 10503  | Layer | -         | 0.4       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |
| 10504  | Layer | -         | 2.2       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |

| Test Pit 106   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>   |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    |       | -    |
| Test pit devoid of archaeology, consists soil overlying alluvial deposits and gravels. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> |       | 3.2  |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      |       | 1.5  |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     |       | c.2m |
| Contexts   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
| Context no   | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date |
| 10600  | Layer | -         | 0.6       | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| 10601  | Layer | -         | 0.35      | Alluvium              | -     | -    |
| 10602  | Layer | -         | 0.95      | Alluvium              | -     | -    |
| 10603  | Layer | -         | 1.3       | Gravels               | -     | -    |



| Test Pit 107   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>   |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    | -     |      |
| Test pit devoid of archaeology, consists soil and subsoil overlying alluvial deposits and gravels. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 3.6   |      |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.5   |      |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     | c.2m  |      |
| Contexts   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
| Context no   | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date |
| 10700  | Layer | -         | 0.4       | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| 10701  | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Subsoil               | -     | -    |
| 10702  | Layer | -         | 1.4       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |
| 10703  | Layer | -         | 0.7       | Gravels               | -     | -    |
| 10704  | Layer | -         | 0.8       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |

| Test Pit 108   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>   |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    | -     |      |
| Test pit devoid of archaeology, consists soil and subsoil overlying alluvial deposits and gravels. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 3.2   |      |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.5   |      |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     | c.2m  |      |
| Contexts   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
| Context no   | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date |
| 10800  | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| 10801  | Layer | -         | 0.3       | Subsoil               | -     | -    |
| 10802  | Layer | -         | 0.6       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |
| 10803  | Layer | -         | 1.0       | Gravels               | -     | -    |

| Test Pit 109   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| <b>General description</b>   |       |           |           | <b>Orientation</b>    | -     |      |
| Test pit devoid of archaeology, consists soil overlying alluvial deposits and gravels. |       |           |           | <b>Avg. depth (m)</b> | 3.6   |      |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Width (m)</b>      | 1.5   |      |
|  |       |           |           | <b>Length (m)</b>     | c.2m  |      |
| Contexts   |       |           |           |                       |       |      |
| Context no   | Type  | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Comment               | Finds | Date |
| 10900  | Layer | -         | 0.8       | Topsoil               | -     | -    |
| 10901  | Layer | -         | 0.8       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |
| 10902  | Layer | -         | 0.2       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |
| 10903  | Layer | -         | 0.6       | Alluvium              | -     | -    |
| 10904  | Layer | -         | 1.2       | Gravels               | -     | -    |







## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Oxford Archaeology, July 2015 Plock Court and Oxstalls Campus, Gloucester Desk-based Heritage Assessment for University of Gloucestershire

Cotswold Archaeology, August 2015, Bishop's College, Estcourt Close, Gloucester, Gloucestershire. Archaeological Evaluation, CA Project 5540, CA Report 15635, for Gloucestershire County Council



## APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

### C.1 Pottery

*by John Cotter*

| Context      | Spot-date  | No.       | Weight     | Comments  |
|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|---|
| 709          | cAD43-250  | 1         | 3          | Chip of Samian (uncertain fabric). Seen by Ed Biddulph  |
| 904          | c1680-1800 | 1         | 6          | Body sherd (bo) Staffs-type mottled brown ware (STMO)   |
| 908          | c1250-1550 | 4         | 37         | 1x worn bo fine brown medieval ware with greenish glaze int - probably Malvernian ware (MALV). 1x v worn medieval green-glazed jug rim with grey sandy fabric - possibly Thornbury ware 13/14C (THORN)? 1x v worn bo oolitic limestone tempered Cotwold-type ware (OXAC, c900-1250). 1x bo fine v hard Roman greyware (9g)  |
| 911          | c1250-1550 | 2         | 8          | 1x worn bo green-glazed oxidised Malvernian ware (MALV). 1x v worn bo (4g) Roman oxidised Severn Valley ware (c 43-400AD)   |
| 917          | cAD43-100  | 3         | 32         | 2x worn bos Severn Valley ware including oxidised basal sherd with wire/string marks from wheel, & early grogged variant of Severn Valley ware in reduced fabric. 1x worn bo fine Roman greyware  |
| 918          | c1680-1800 | 10        | 53         | 3x worn post-med fine orange-buff ware with trailed white slip decoration under clear brown glaze = 2 vess incl dish base & bo from a closed form, possibly Donyatt or Wanstrow slipware (Somerset)? 5x scraps in the same fabric but glaze and dec missing, 1x worn scrap prob 13/14C Malvernian cooking pot base (sagging?). 1x worn bo fine Roman light grey ware (4g)   |
| 921          | c1250-1550 | 8         | 90         | Worn oxidised sherds probably all Malvernian ware (MALV), incl v crudely made ?bowl rim with broad thickened flat-topped rim on flaring neck with specks of clear glaze, also a probably bowl sherd with internal glaze - suggesting poss 15/16C dating? Glaze specks on 1-2 others bos. Fabric similar to late med Malvernian from Bristol, all containing decayed grainitic inclusions  |
| 1106         | c1840-1900 | 2         | 132        | 1x chamberpot rim in Staffs-type transfer-printed whiteware in v hard 'Ironstone' type fabric with band of green transfer dec on rim - stylised foliage. 1x large fresh Saxo-Norman type handmade cooking pot rim in light brown coarse oolitic limestone-tempered fabric, globular body with neckless flaring rim flattened at end into a short flange or hollow, possibly turntable finished with traces of knife-trimming ext on rim/shoulder junction. Possibly a local Cotswold-type variant (OXAC, c 875-1250) or an early Minety ware (c1120+)? Date probably within c 1050-1250. Rim diam c 190mm (78g) |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |            | <b>31</b> | <b>361</b> |   |



## C.2 Clay tobacco pipe

*by John Cotter*

- C.2.1 Three small and worn pieces of clay pipe weighing 15g were recovered from two contexts. These have not been separately catalogued but are fully described here.
- Context 902 spot-date: Late 17th to mid 18th century. Description: 1 piece (5g): Slightly worn stem fragment. Fairly thick early 'chunky' type with stem bore diameter of c 2.5mm.
  - Context 1106 spot-date: Late 17th to early 18th century. Description: 2 pieces (10g): Both fairly 'chunky'. 1x fairly fresh stem fragment L17-E18C. 1x worn 17C stem fragment.

## C.3 Metals

*by Ian R Scott*

- C.3.1 There are just three pieces of iron from three contexts There are two nails not modern drawn wire nails but probably hand made. They are not otherwise closely datable. The third object may be a nail stem fragment, but could be a tool fragment.
- Context 911: (1) Nail, incomplete and encrusted with corrosion. It has a small head. Fe. Not measured
  - Context 918: (2) Nail stem fragment with point. Fe. Not measured.
  - Context 921: (3) Fragment of lozenge cross section, possibly a specialist nail fragment, but maybe a fragment of a tool or iron bar. Fe.
- C.3.2 None of the objects is of intrinsic interest, and none can be dated closely.

## C.4 Ceramic building material (CBM)

*by Cynthia Poole*

- C.4.1 A total of 26 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 1907g were recovered from eight contexts in Trenches 2, 7, 9 and 11. All the CBM has been recorded including quantification, condition, form and fabric on an Excel spreadsheet, and where possible a spot-date assigned, relating to the period of production. Most of the CBM is very fragmentary and abraded, much of it indeterminate in character and of uncertain date.
- C.4.2 Most of the CBM was made in red-pinkish red sandy fabrics containing moderate densities of mixed sand and red ferruginous grits, probably derived from local and regional clay deposits. Some of the Roman tile was made in a distinctive light red-pink marbled fabric with cream streaks and red clay pellets.
- C.4.3 A small amount of Roman tile was identified, including an imbrex fragment from ditch 916 and a large brick of the type used for bridging hypocaust pilae, found residually in quarry 1105 in association with 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics. Its fresh condition suggest the quarrying may have disturbed an earlier deposit or feature of Roman date. A small amorphous fragment with an organic tempered fabric is likely to be fired clay, rather



than tile and was found in ditch 701, which also produced a small scrap of Samian pottery.

- C.4.4 The remaining pieces were all found in plough furrows and are probably of medieval-post-medieval date. One brick fragment (context 711) was 56mm thick, had a dense covering of organic impressions over the base and is of late 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century date. A heavily abraded ridge tile fragment (context 902) may be of similar date. The remaining pieces were largely undiagnostic, but most appear to be broken brick fragments.

## C.5 Stone

*by Ruth Shaffrey*

- C.5.1 A single piece of stone was retained from context 709 (19g). This a non-diagnostic fragment of lava, presumably from a rotary quern. It could be Roman or post-Roman in date.

## C.6 Marine shell

*by Rebecca Nicholson*

- C.6.1 A very small collection of shells were collected by hand during excavation. They comprised:
- Context 908: one right valve from the native european flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and two valves (left and right) from common mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) 17g in total.
  - Context 911: One fragment of oyster (*O. edulis*) right valve (12g).
  - Context 918: Two scraps of oyster shell (4g).
- C.6.2 Both the native oyster and the common mussel are frequently found on English archaeological sites, and while confirming that the local inhabitants consumed shellfish, such a small assemblage is of very limited value.

## C.7 Animal bone

*by Lena Strid*

- C.7.1 All bones are fragmentary unless stated otherwise. The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

| Context | Description   |
|---------|---|
| 709     | 1 large mammal long bone, 4g  |
| 725     | 1 horse astragalus, 1 sheep tooth and mandible, 1 lamb tibia, 1 large mammal rib, 66g |
| 902     | 4 indeterminate fragments, 3g   |
| 911     | 1 pig tooth, 45g  |



|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 918 | 1 medium mammal vertebra, 3g                                    |
| 921 | 1 cattle radius, 1 large mammal long bone, 1 cattle tooth, 158g |

## C.8 Coal

| Context | Description            |
|---------|------------------------|
| 902     | 1 fragment of coal, 5g |

## C.9 Slag

| Context | Description  |
|---------|--|
| 921     | 1 piece slag, likely to be a small hearth bottom, 498g |





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 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User

Figure 1: Site location



X:\gloucestershire\_university\trenching\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Eval Figures\GLPLOCEV\_Fig2\_271015.mxd\* matt.bradley\*27/10/2015



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User

0 250 m  
1:5,000 @ A4

Figure 2: Overall trench location plan



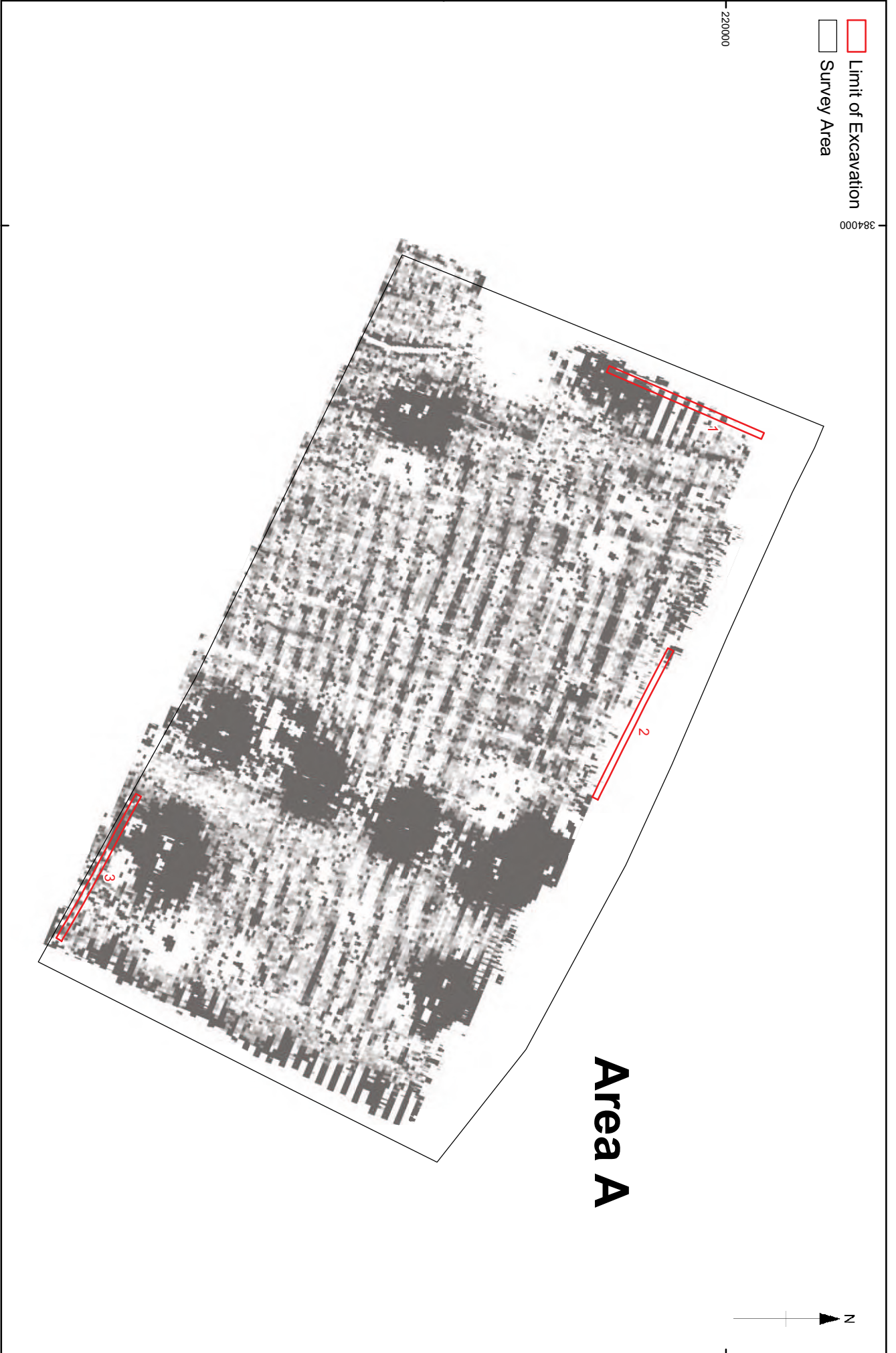


Figure 3: Area A trench plan with Geophysics



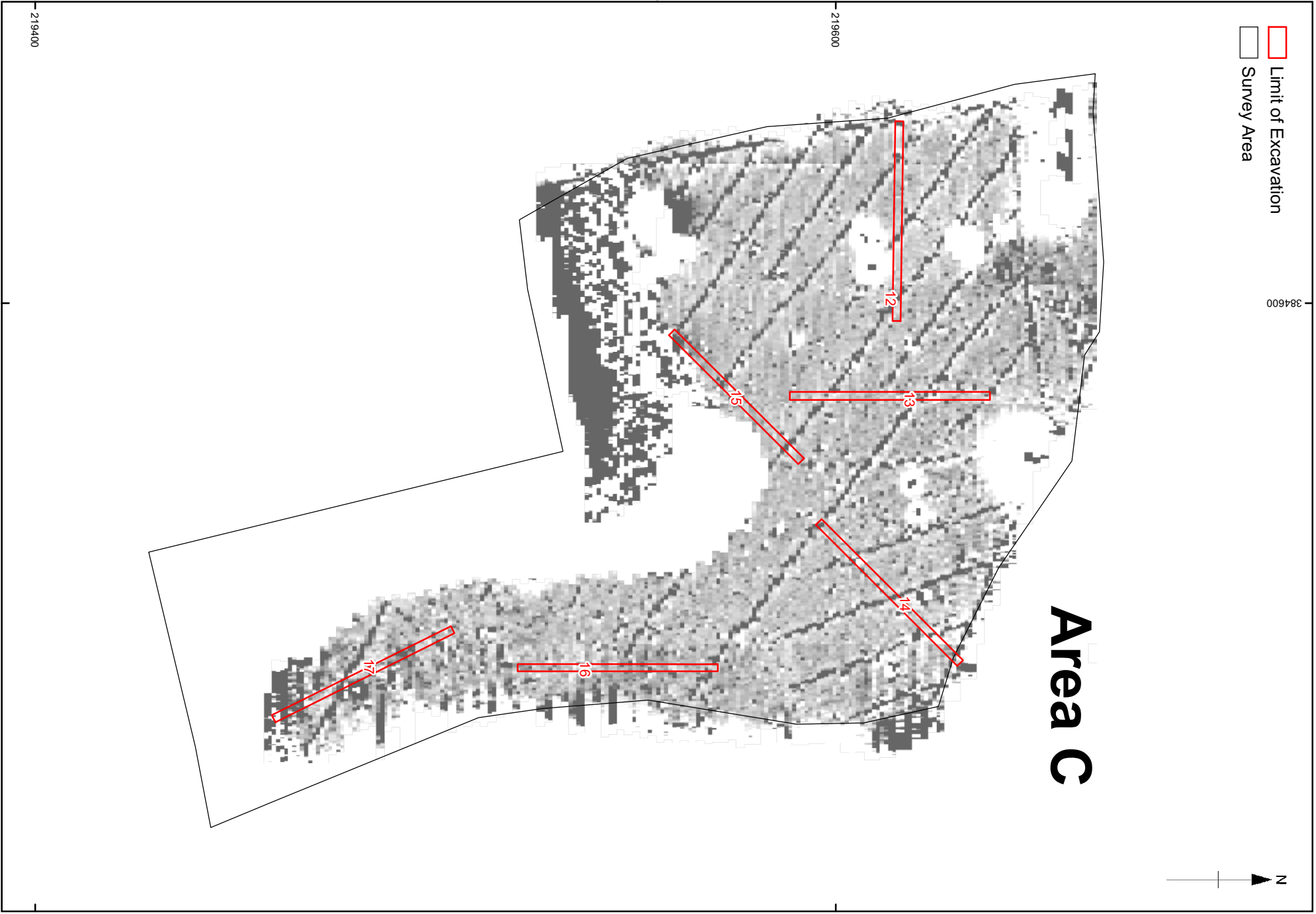
Limit of Excavation  
Survey Area

Area B



0 50 m  
1:1,500 @ A4

Figure 4: Area B trench plan with Geophysics



Limit of Excavation  
Survey Area

384600

219600

219400

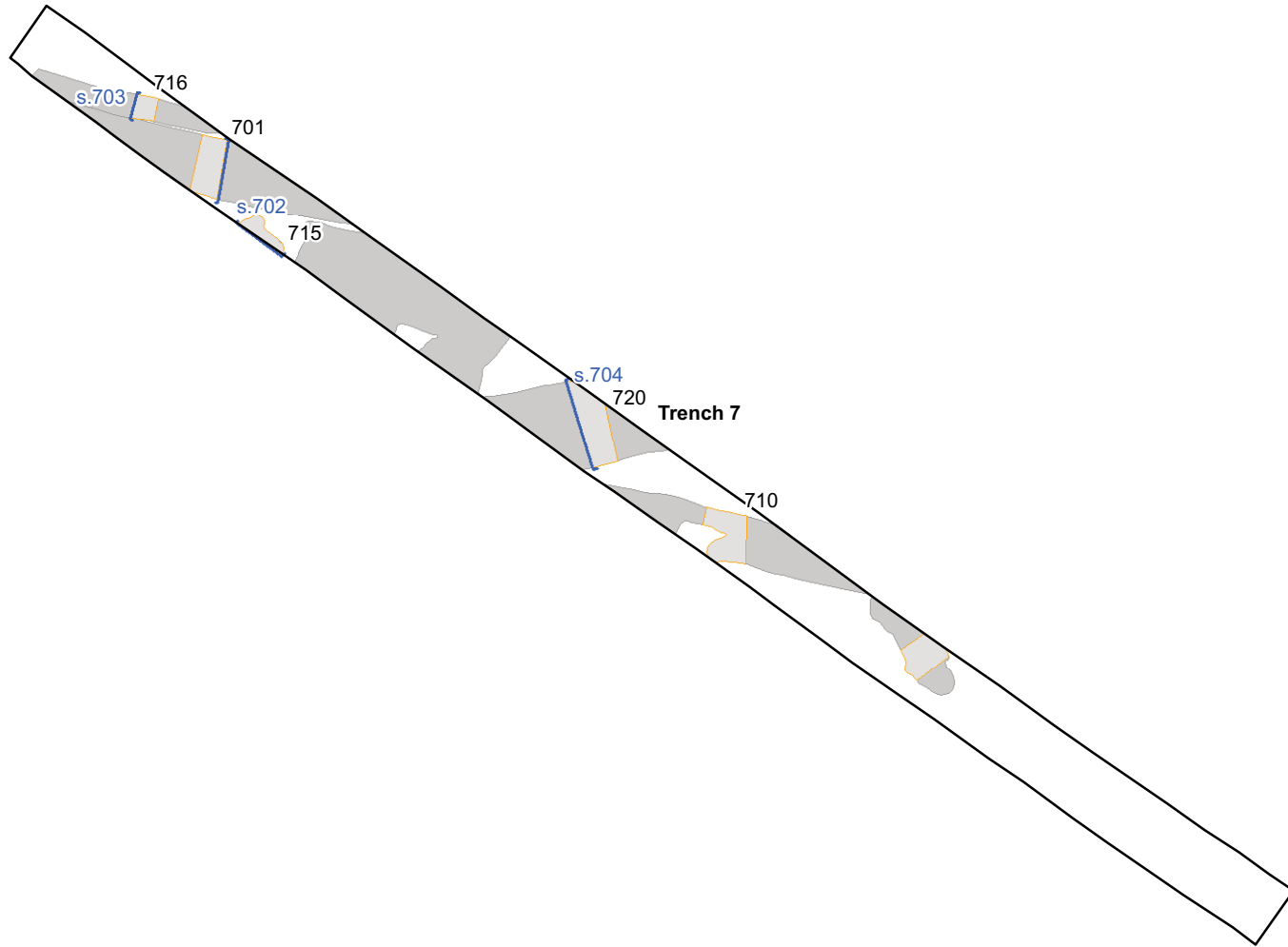


Area C

0 50 m  
1:1,250 @ A4

Figure 5: Area C trench plan with Geophysics

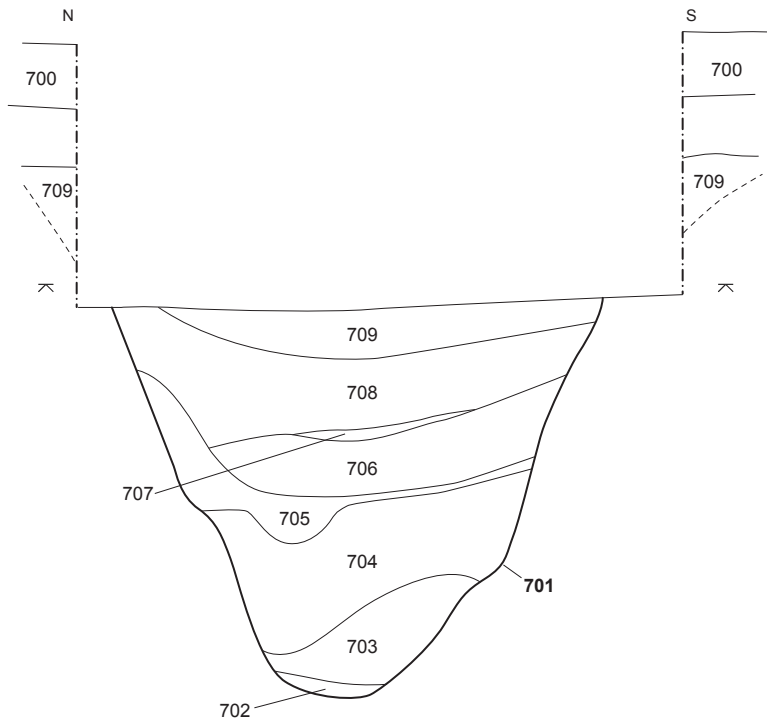
- Limit of Excavation
- Archaeological intervention
- Archaeological feature
- Archaeological Section



0 10 m  
1:200 @ A4

Figure 6: Trench 7 detailed plan

### Section 700



### Section 704

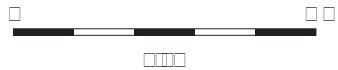
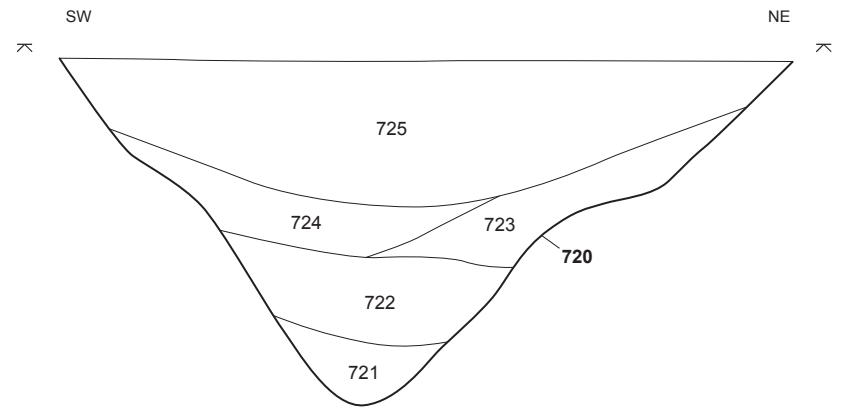


Figure 7: Sections 700, 704

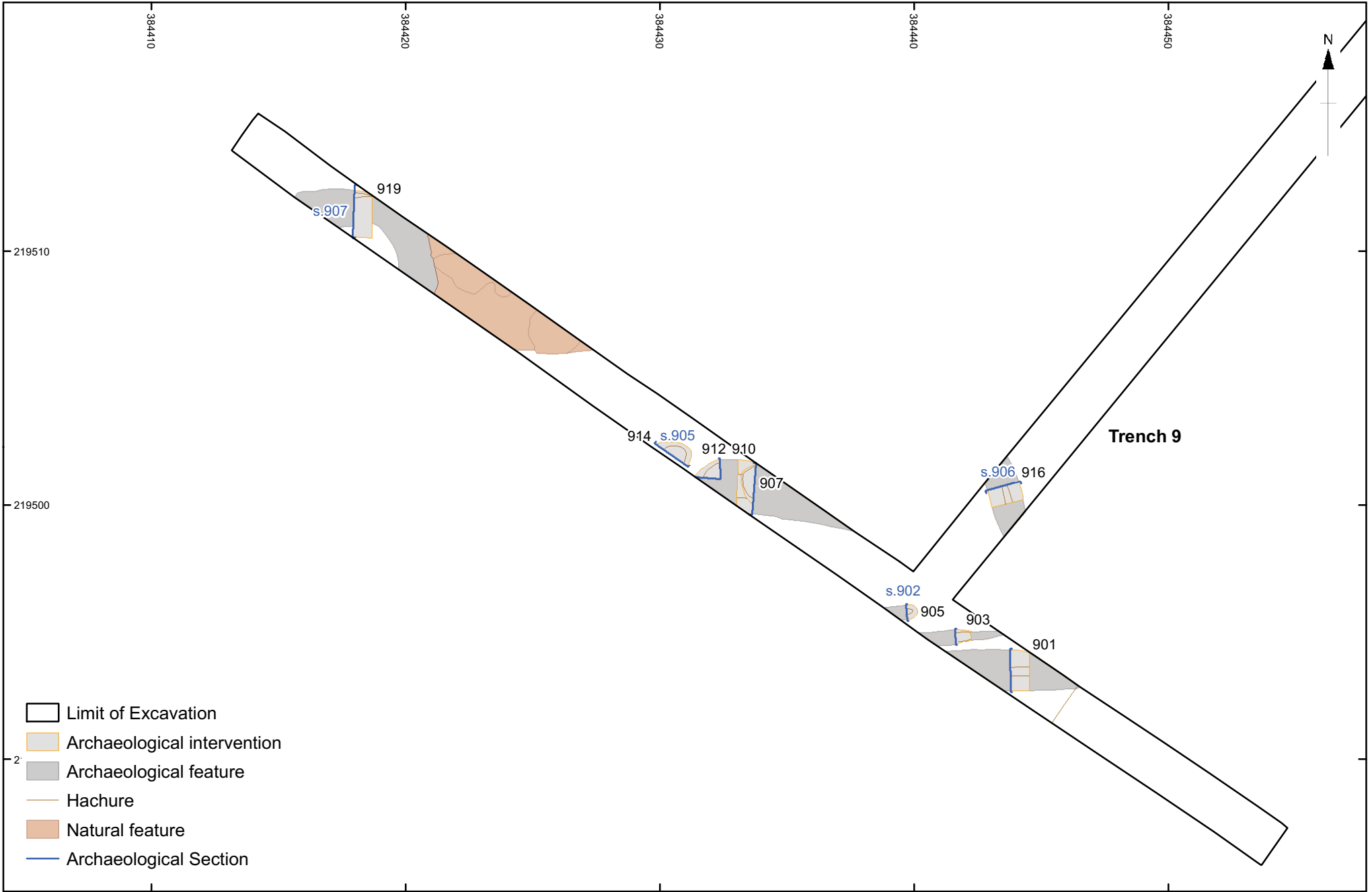


Figure 8: Trench 9 detailed plan

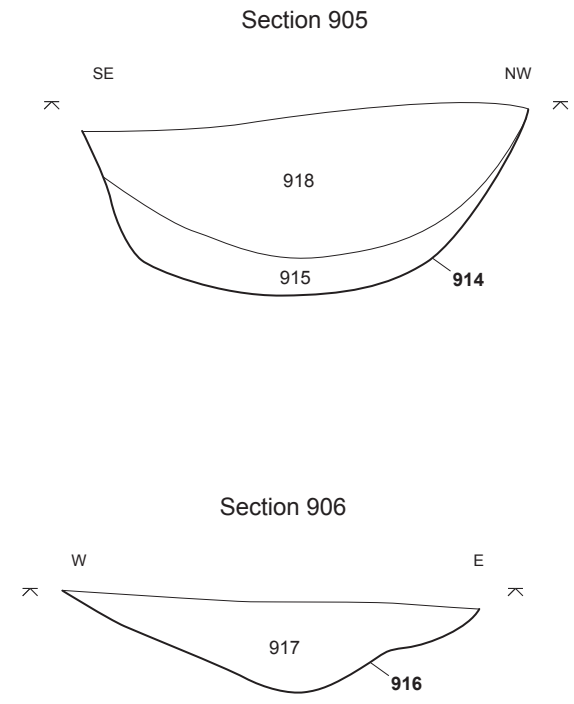
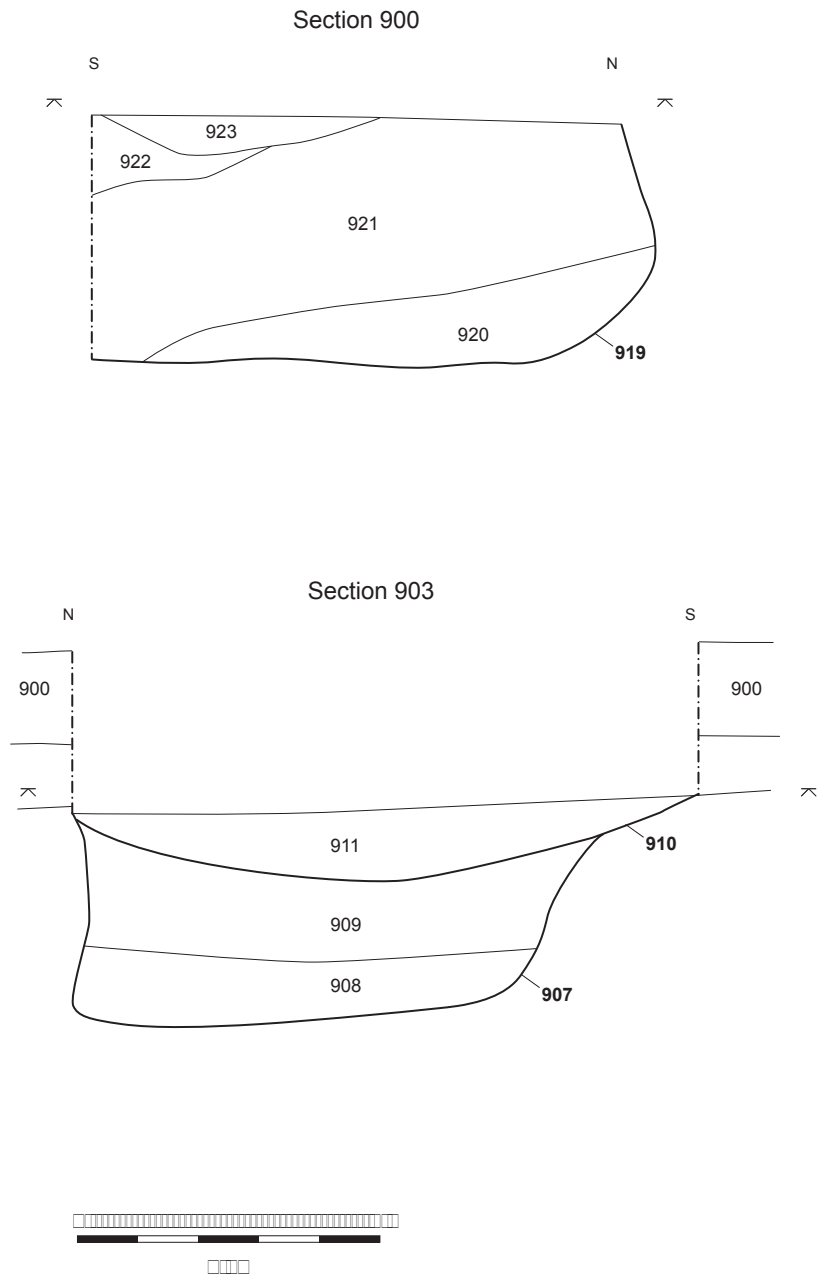
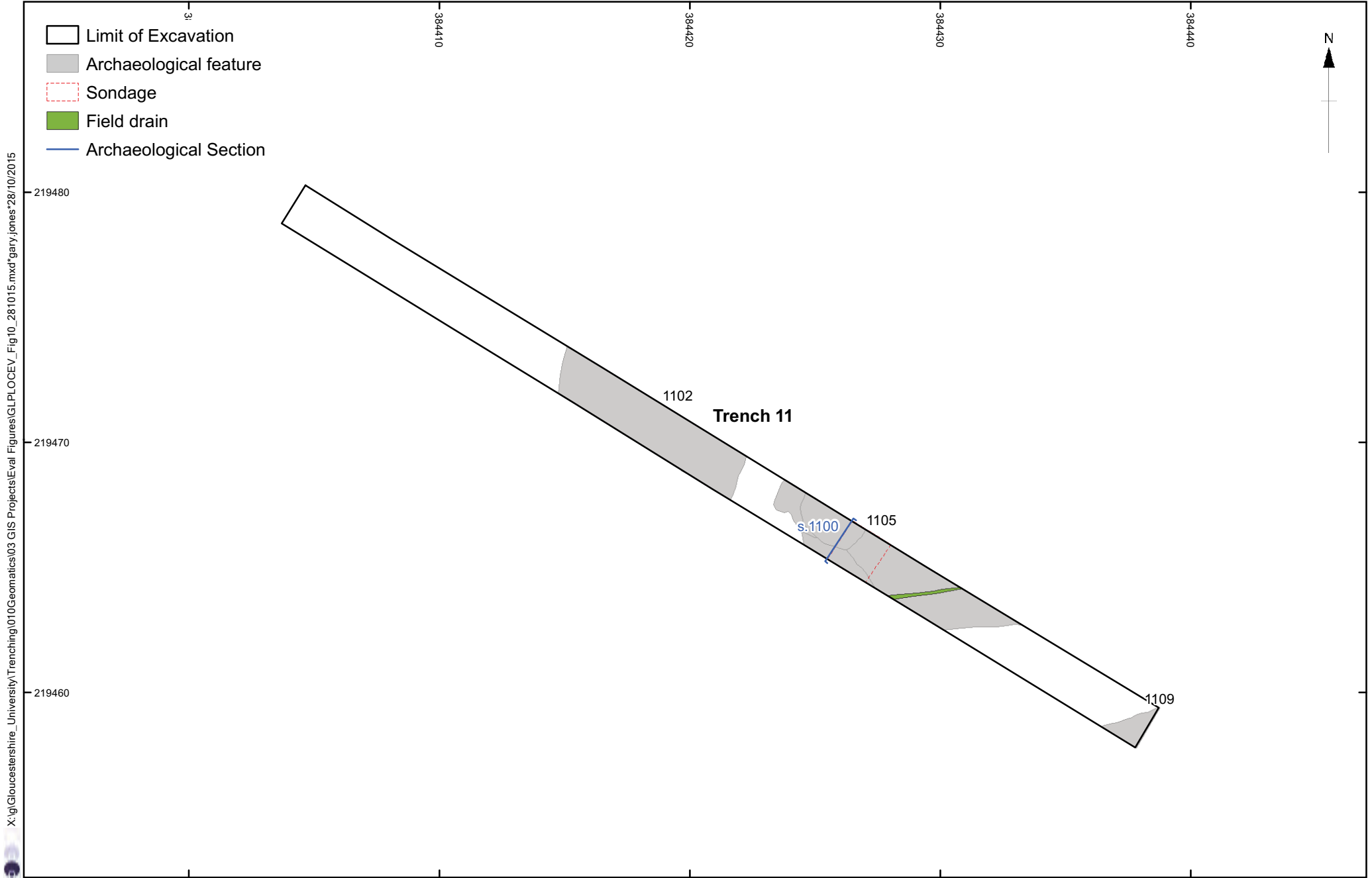


Figure 9: Sections 903, 905, 906 and 907



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Figure 10: Trench 11 detailed plan



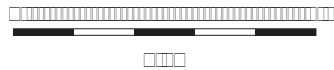
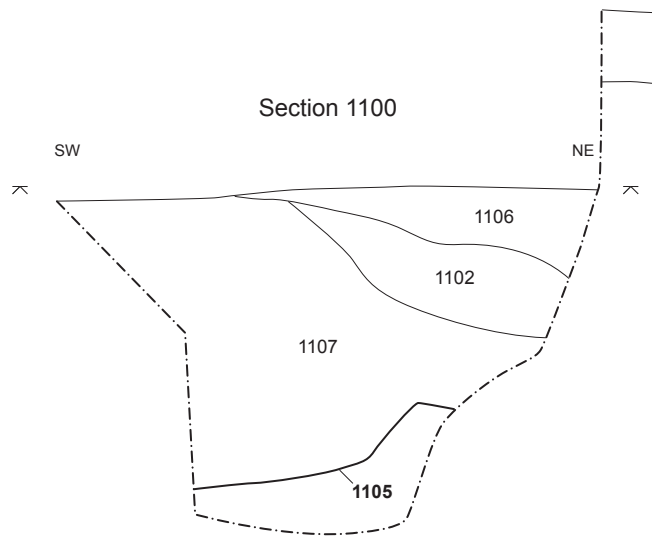


Figure 11: Section 1100



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## PLANNING

- 1. Existing allotments
- 2. Proposed student accommodation
- 3. Proposed student accommodation disabled parking and drop off point
- 4. Landscaped Area
- 5. Overflow carpark
- 6. Proposed Business school
- 7. Proposed Business school parking
- 8. Existing University buildings
- 9. Existing University parking
- 10. Revised playing pitch layout
- 11. Existing Oxstalls sporting facilities
- 12. Existing playing pitch / court
- 13. Proposed sports centre
- 14. Proposed sports centre parking
- 15. 3G All weather playing pitches
- 16. 500-seat spectator stand
- 17. Public right of way
- 18. Replacement cricket pavilion
- ▲ Existing access
- ▲ Proposed access

| Revisions   | Initials/Checked |
|---|------------------|
| B Alterations to retain the existing allotments as per their current location. Consequential alterations to general masterplan.       | IG/AD            |
| A Additional parking for Business School<br>Additional parking for overflow<br>Amended allotment boundary hedge<br>New sport facility | MW/HS            |

University of Gloucestershire  
Oxstalls Campus

### Illustrative Masterplan

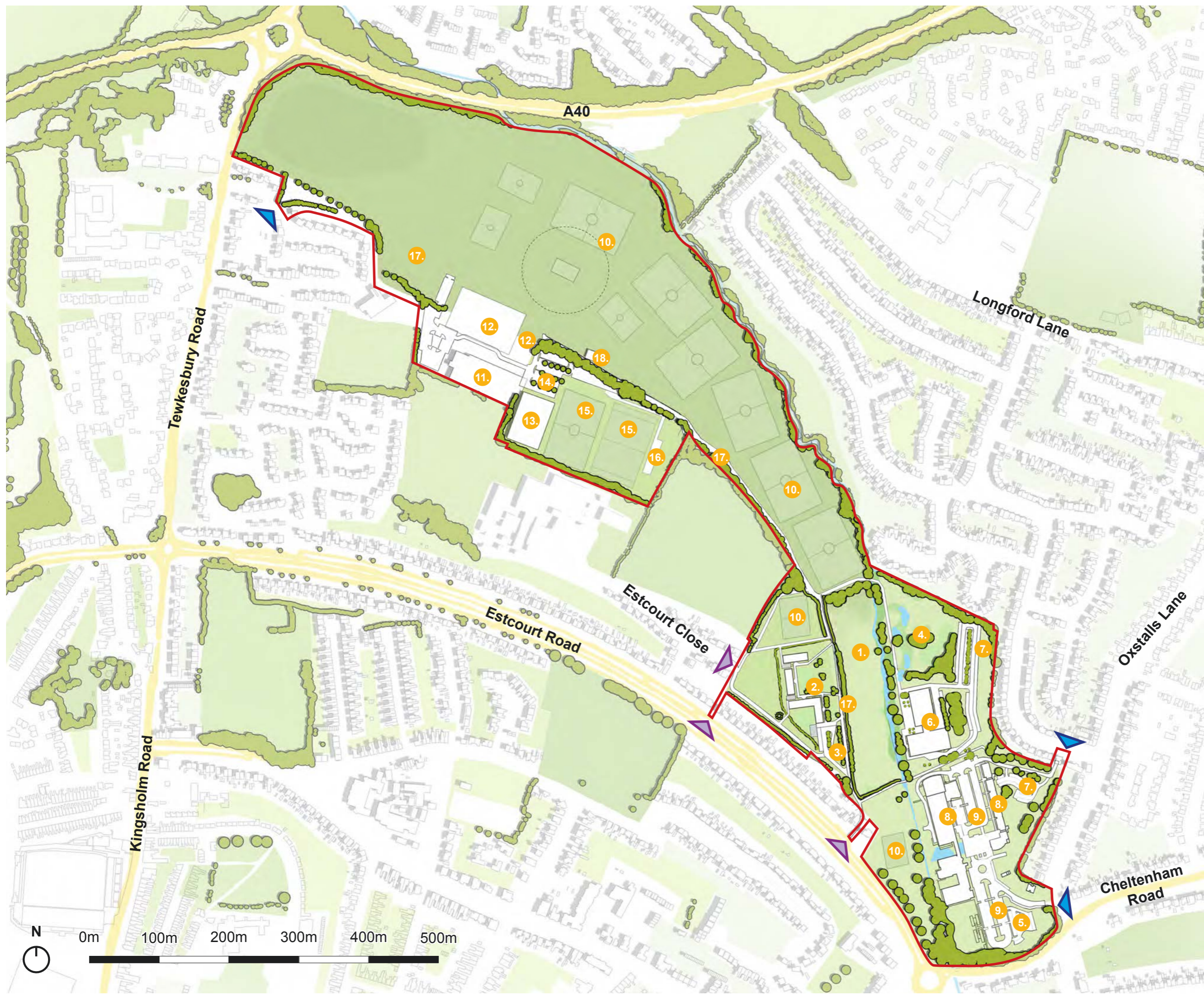
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ARCHITECTS AND TOWN PLANNERS  
**westwaddy ADP**

Date: 17th December, 2015  
Scale: 1:2500 @ A3  
Drawn: IG Checked: AD

|          |             |        |
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| Job: 412 | Dwg No: P01 | Rev: B |
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