

Land at Box Road Cam Gloucestershire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



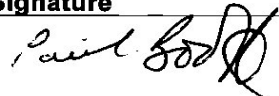
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Land at Box Road, Cam, Gloucestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land at Box Road, Cam, Gloucestershire, in advance of a planning application.

A desk-based assessment, prepared by CgMs Consulting in July 2011, established that although the wider area contains significant Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman remains, there was no evidence to suggest the presence of significant archaeological remains within the site. Assessment of aerial photographs did, however, suggest the presence of extensive ridge and furrow.

A geophysical survey of the site was arranged by CgMs Consulting in advance of the evaluation and the results of the survey confirmed the findings of the desk-based assessment. A small area of potential archaeological anomalies was identified in the north of the site.

The evaluation was undertaken in August 2011. Eight 30 m x 2 m trenches, representing a 2% sample area, were excavated across the site. The results of the evaluation confirmed that extensive medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow ran across the site, predominantly in a NW-SE alignment, albeit severely truncated. A single, severely truncated, undated, possible post hole was also identified in Trench 3 and in Trench 6, targeted upon anomalies identified in the geophysical survey, a substantial, undated, tree throw was recorded at the western end of the trench.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between the 15th – 18th of August 2011, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on land at Box Road, Cam, Gloucestershire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of submission of a Planning Application for residential development. A Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation was prepared by CgMs detailing Gloucestershire County Council's requirements for the work (CgMs, 2011b). OA produced a Written Scheme of Investigation describing how it would meet these requirements (OA, 2011) which was approved by Chales Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council.
- 1.1.3 Eight trenches measuring 30 m x 2 m, representing a 2% sample of the site, were excavated across the area. Trench 6 was targeted upon possible archaeological anomalies identified during a geophysical survey of the site commissioned by CgMs prior to the evaluation; the remaining trenches represented a random sample (Fig. 2).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The 2.28 hectare site, centred on National Grid Reference SO 749 017, was bound by Box Road to the south, the former Dursley Branch Railway to the west and north, and a strip of land to the rear of properties fronting Box Road Avenue to the east.
- 1.2.2 The site is currently farmland, most recently used as pasture. The area is roughly flat, lying at approximately 29 m above Ordnance Datum.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is Mercia Cheltenham Sand and Gravel overlying Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (CgMs, 2011a).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in the desk-based assessment produced by CgMs (CgMs, 2011a). The results of this assessment and a geophysical survey of the site conducted in February 2011 are briefly summarised below.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 A possible Neolithic settlement has been recorded approximately 600 m south-west of the site. Three pits were revealed containing up to 20 pots, half of a macehead, struck flints, animal bone and fragments of daub. The finds are suggestive of domestic occupation and form the largest assemblage of Neolithic artefacts in the County. A Neolithic stone axe findspot was also recorded approximately 600 m north of the site.
- 1.3.3 Bronze Age activity within the area is suggested by several ring ditch cropmarks, possibly the remains of barrows. The cropmarks consist of a single ring ditch c 540 m to the north-east of the site, and two ring ditches with possible central pits c 900 m to the north-west.
- 1.3.4 Other prehistoric finds include a single flint flake recovered from a deposit during an evaluation at Draycott Mills c 500 m south of the site.



Roman

- 1.3.5 The Roman road from Gloucester to Sea Mills is situated approximately 900 m to the west of the site. A possible Roman camp, visible as cropmarks, is situated on the eastern side of the road, c 800 m north-west of the site. Opposite the camp is a series of undated cropmark enclosures and a trackway. These cropmarks may be associated with the camp and/or a separate set of undated cropmarks further to the north, c 1 km from the site.

Saxon and early medieval

- 1.3.6 There are no recorded remains of Saxon or early medieval date within the 1 km study radius of the site. The site was situated away from any historic settlements in the area and would have presumably been agricultural land in this period.

Medieval

- 1.3.7 Approximately 1 km to the west of the site, to the south-west of Manor Farm, Gossington, is a collection of cropmarks representing a deserted medieval village.
- 1.3.8 During the construction of the M5, c 1 km to the north of the site, several pits containing 13th century pottery and burnt bone were recorded.
- 1.3.9 Examination of aerial photographs indicates that extensive remains of ridge and furrow were once present across the site and throughout the study area, which may demonstrate the wider area was part of agricultural holdings of nearby villages in the medieval period.

Post-medieval

- 1.3.10 The earliest map to show the area at a scale sufficient to view the detail of the site is the Cam Tithe Map of c 1839. This depicts the site before the railway was built and shows the site occupying all of a field called 'Hither 10 acres' and part of 'Further 10 acres' and 'Wheatlands'. No structures are depicted within the site.
- 1.3.11 The 1864 plan of Cam Parish depicts the site largely as it is today, with no structures. The site is the same on the 1884 Ordnance Survey (OS) map and although the surrounding area changes in the subsequent years, the site itself remained essentially unchanged up to the present day.

Potential

- 1.3.12 Although there has been no previous intrusive archaeological investigation of the site, the desk-based assessment and the results of a geophysical survey, conducted by Stratascan in February 2011, suggested that there was low potential for archaeological remains from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods (CgMs, 2011a). Although the wider study area contains significant Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman remains, examination of aerial photographs and the results of the geophysical survey indicated that there were no anomalies of clear archaeological origin. This assessment indicated some potential for the remains of medieval ridge and furrow, although these remains were observed on aerial photographs only and not the geophysical survey, which suggested they may have been truncated away through modern agricultural practices in the intervening period. A large number of anomalies that could be interpreted as pits were recorded during the geophysical survey, however, in the opinion of Stratascan, they represent natural geology, not archaeological remains. Therefore, while it is possible that the site had some potential to contain archaeological remains other than



ridge and furrow, the evidence available prior to the current evaluation works suggested that this was unlikely.



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were to:

- (i) clarify the presence/absence and extent of archaeological deposits within the site;
- (ii) identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition, significance, quality and depth of any surviving remains within the site;
- (iii) assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Eight trenches measuring 30 m x c 2 m, representing a 2 % sample of the site, were excavated across the site by mechanical excavator (Fig. 2). The trenches were excavated using an eight tonne JCB 3CX Sitemaster fitted with a toothless, wide blade, ditching bucket under the direct supervision of an attending archaeologist. The overburden was removed to the top of the archaeological horizon or the top of the natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

2.2.2 Trench locations were random, with the exception of Trench 6, which was targeted upon anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. The trenches were located with a Global Positioning System to ensure they were accurately located on areas of archaeological potential (Trench 2) and tied into the OS National Grid.

2.2.3 Due to the presence of overhead cables, Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8 were relocated slightly from the positions in the Specification document. Trench 6 was targeted upon anomalies identified in the geophysical survey.

2.2.4 Machine excavated sondages were placed at least one end of seven trenches in order to clarify the interpretation of a silty clay deposit identified across the site. This layer was completely removed across the entire length of Trench 2.

2.2.5 A hand drawn plan at a scale of 1:50 was produced of each trench and exposed features were sample excavated and then recorded on proforma sheets. Sections of excavated features and representative sections, where appropriate, were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Trenches and features were photographed in black-and-white negative and digital format. Ordnance datum levels were recorded on section lines, current ground level at both ends of the trench and at three points along the base.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Presentation of results

- 3.1.1 Detailed context descriptions are present in the context inventory (Appendix A) and within the descriptive text in Section 3.2 and 3.3 where appropriate.
- 3.1.2 Finds reports are presented in Appendix C. Discussion and interpretation of this evidence can be found in Section 4.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The underlying geological sequence was consistent in all eight trenches. The earliest deposit, a light yellow brown, clayey gravel, with small fragments of limestone, was observed at between 27.13 and 28 m OD. This deposit was overlain by a previously unidentified deposit of silts and clayey silts (102, 202, 302, 402, 502, 602, 702, 802). This light yellowish brown layer had inclusions of manganese and siltstone and sandstone nodules at the base of the deposit and ranged in thickness from 0.60 - 0.82 m. All features encountered within the trenches were cut into the upper surface of the silts and clayey silts (see Section 3.12 for further discussion on this deposit). Overlying the silts and clayey silts was a light brownish yellow, clay silt, subsoil between 0.20 - 0.30 m in thickness. This deposit comprises the worked upper surface of the underlying layer. The subsoil was overlain by the modern topsoil/ploughsoil, a dark brownish grey, clay silt, approximately 0.25 m thick.
- 3.2.2 The water-table was not encountered in any of the trenches.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 The investigation revealed natural gravel sealed by the silts and clayey silts deposit in all eight trenches. The upper surface of the silts and clayey silts had been worked by ploughing and ridge and furrow cultivation. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was apparent in all but two trenches, Trenches 2 and 8, both located at the eastern edge of the site. In addition to evidence for previous cultivation, a heavily truncated, possible post hole was recorded in Trench 4 and the remains of a substantial tree throw were observed in Trench 6.

3.4 Trench 1

- 3.4.1 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.06 m below current ground level (28 m OD) where natural gravel (103) was reached in a sondage at the eastern end. The remainder of the trench was machined to the upper surface of the silts and clayey silts (102) where five NW-SE aligned linear features were cut into this deposit (Fig. 3, Trench 1). Two linear features, 104 and 106, were sample excavated and interpreted as furrows. Both furrows were truncated and survived to a maximum width of 0.34 m and maximum depth of 0.08 m (Fig. 3, section 102). The relationship with the subsoil was closely examined in section, however the similarity of the subsoil with the light brownish yellow, clay silt, furrow fill obscured the relationship. The remaining three linear features, also interpreted as furrows, were of similar dimensions and contained a similar light brownish yellow, clay silt deposit. A small fragment of blue and white transfer-printed Pearlware, dated to c 1780-1830 was recovered from furrow 104. A single fragment of medieval pottery, possibly 12th-14th century, was recovered from the surface of un-excavated furrow 108.



3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 1.30 m below current ground level (27.91 m OD) across the length of the trench. Natural gravel was encountered at the base of the trench (203). This deposit was overlain by silts and clayey silts (202). The interface between 202 and the natural gravel was slightly mixed, with more flecks of manganese and occasional siltstone and limestone nodules (Plate 1). This horizon was only visible in Trench 2 and may preserve stabilisation surfaces associated with former landsurfaces. No evidence of human activity, however, was associated with this horizon and no archaeological features were observed within the trench.

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Natural gravel, 303, was encountered at 1.10 m below current ground level (27.92 m OD) within a machine excavated sondage at the western end of Trench 3. Two NW-SE aligned linear features and a single, small, discrete feature were observed cutting into the upper surface of the silts and clayey silts. The un-excavated linear features were similar to the excavated furrows in Trench 1, containing a similar light brownish yellow, clay silt fill. The discrete feature, 305, measuring only 0.17 m in width, was half-sectioned. Excavation demonstrated that the feature was a heavily truncated, possible post hole base, surviving to a maximum depth of only 0.04 m (Fig. 3, Trench 3, section 301).

3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 Gravel deposit 403 was encountered at 1.10 m below current ground level (27.43 m OD) at the base of a machine excavated sondage at the southern end of the trench. Two NW-SE aligned linear features were observed cutting into the silts and clayey silts. One linear feature, 404, was excavated and interpreted as a furrow. The 0.70 m wide feature survived to a maximum depth of 0.05 m. A residual, small, un-diagnostic prehistoric flint flake was recovered from the fill of 404 (Fig. 4, Trench 4, section 400).

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 Natural gravel was observed in two sondages, at opposite ends of the trench, both at a depth of 1.20 m below current ground level (27.51 m OD). Three NW-SE aligned linear features were recorded cutting into the upper horizon of the silts and clayey silts. All three un-excavated linear features contained a compact to friable light brownish yellow, clay silt and were similar to excavated furrows in other trenches. No finds were recovered.

3.9 Trench 6

3.9.1 Trench 6, targeted upon possible archaeological anomalies identified in the geophysical survey, revealed a single NE-SW aligned linear feature, 608, and a large irregular discrete feature, 606, filled with a reddish deposit (Fig. 4, Trench 6, sections 600 and 601). Linear feature 608, interpreted as a furrow, survived to a maximum depth of 0.05 m and contained three small fragments of post-medieval pottery and a single sherd of medieval pottery dating to the 12th or 13th century. The irregular shaped feature, 606, located at the western end of the trench, was approximately 3.5 m wide and 0.70 m deep, extended beyond the northern and southern limits of the trench and contained no finds. The trench was extended slightly to the west in order to exposed the full width of the feature. Feature, 606, interpreted as a tree throw hole, had an irregular eastern edge and an irregular base. It contained two fills, a sterile clay deposit that had been



partially heat affected (610), producing a deep brownish red colour (this lens was recorded as 604), and a gravel deposit, (605/607). The tree throw hole was sealed by the subsoil (Plate 2).

3.10 Trench 7

3.10.1 Natural gravel was reached at a depth of 1.10 m below current ground level (27.41 m OD) within a sondage at the eastern end of the trench. Five NW-SE aligned linear features were recorded cut into the upper horizon of the silts and clayey silts. Although none of the five linear features were excavated, their deposits and size were consistent with other excavated linear features interpreted as furrows in previous trenches.

3.11 Trench 8

3.11.1 No archaeological features were observed within Trench 8. Natural gravel was reached at a depth of 1.06 m below current ground level (27.72 m OD) within a machine excavated sondage at the south-eastern end of the trench.

3.12 Silts and clayey silts layer

3.12.1 A sequence of silts and clayey silts was identified in each trench and ranged in thickness from 0.60-0.82 m. This deposit has not been mapped by the British Geological Survey in this area which records superficial geology of Mercia Cheltenham Sand and Gravel overlying the bedrock of Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation. The deposit contained no dating evidence and all features identified in the evaluation were cut into its upper surface. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed within this sequence or the underlying natural gravel.

3.12.2 The sequence of silts and clayey silts consisted of three components:

- the lower deposit - a slightly browner silt with frequent inclusions of sandstone and siltstone with occasional deposits of mica and manganese
- the middle deposit - a fine-grained yellow brown silt with rare manganese and no coarse inclusions
- the upper deposit - the weathered upper surface of fine-grained light yellow brown silt.

3.12.3 The lower deposit was only visible in Trench 2. This deposit has the character of mudstone and may be reworked from localised outcrops within the area. It is possible that this deposit may preserve a series of stabilisation horizons associated with a former undated landsurface that is not preserved within the other trenches.

3.12.4 The middle, fine-grained structureless silt deposit is more characteristic of fluvial or aeolian (windblown) process. It is possible that it could be a polymorphic deposit, in the sense that it is formed by a combination of processes.

3.12.5 The upper surface consists of the weathered horizon of the middle deposit and forms part of the existing thin layer of subsoil/plough soil.

3.12.6 The origin of the undated silts and clay could not be established in the evaluation but two possible sources can be postulated. Firstly, it could be a Pleistocene deposit of aeolian or fluvial processes infilling a possible undulation in the gravels. Secondly, it may originate from estuarine flooding at the edge of the Severn or part of a small tributary. The nature of the lower deposit, that is the inclusions of siltstone and sandstone, may suggest a reworking of localised mudstone deposits within the area.



The middle sequence is characteristic of lower-energy deposits potentially related to estuarine flooding or aeolian coastal processes.

- 3.12.7 The exact nature of the deposit could not be fully defined within the trenches. If further work is undertaken in the area, additional sedimentary assessment may be able to clarify the character of the deposit.

3.13 Finds summary

- 3.13.1 Few finds were recovered during the evaluation. The paucity of finds within the features was reflected within the topsoil and subsoil. Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from three furrows situated at opposite ends of the site within Trenches 1 and 6. Two residual, un-diagnostic, prehistoric flint debitage flakes were also recovered, one from a furrow within Trench 4 and the second, from the subsoil at the northern end of the site, in Trench 6. Further information on the finds is included in Appendix B.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation is considered to be an accurate indicator of the extent of archaeological remains within the site boundary. Although a silt and clayey silt layer was present across the site, it is unlikely that this deposit is masking any archaeological remains. Trench 2 completely removed this layer and sondages in all other trenches removed at least 5 m of the sequence through to the natural gravel. No clear evidence of human activity, other than ridge and furrow cultivation, was observed within the deposit.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 The underlying sequence of silts and clayey silts are undated but potentially could be Pleistocene or early Holocene in date. They are possibly formed through a combination of coastal aeolian and fluvial processes. Although it is not possible to state for certain that no early archaeological features or deposits may be preserved within this sequence, none were detected during the evaluation. All archaeological features were cut into the upper surface of this layer.

4.2.2 The shallow linear features encountered within the upper surface of the silts and clayey silts have been interpreted as furrows associated with ridge and furrow cultivation. The linear features are all orientated NW-SE with the exception of a single linear feature in Trench 6, which was orientated NE-SW. The alignment of these features corresponds with the pattern of ridge and furrow identified through aerial photography during the desk-based assessment, and this supports their interpretation as furrows. The change in alignment of the furrows is likely to be associated with the former field divisions of the site as indicated on the 1839 Cam Tithe Map. The NW-SE furrows are associated with land parcel 405, Hither Ten Acres and the NE-SW furrow is associated with land parcel 404, Further Ten Acres (Fig. 5). Sparse dating evidence was recovered from the furrows and the few sherds of pottery discovered were predominantly post-medieval in date, suggesting a post-medieval date for the activity, although it is possible that the furrows had their origin in the medieval period. This lack of dating evidence also suggests that the site was situated away from the main area of settlement.

4.2.3 None of the furrows discovered during the evaluation were identified in the geophysical survey. This may be a result of the severe truncation of the features, most likely caused by modern agricultural processes.

4.2.4 The shallow, discrete feature within Trench 3 has been interpreted as the base of a possible post hole. The feature, however, was isolated and there was no evidence for any other associated post holes. The severe degree of truncation made interpretation difficult and it remains a possibility that the feature may be a geological anomaly rather than a man-made, archaeological feature.

4.2.5 Several possible archaeological anomalies had previously been highlighted in the Stratscan geophysical survey within the area of Trench 6. Feature 606, at the western end of Trench 6, is likely to have been identified as one of these possible archaeological anomalies. This discrete feature has been interpreted as a substantial tree throw hole due to its irregular shape, sides and base. The pattern of its gravel fill (610) may derive from upcast during the uprooting of the tree. The predominant fill, however, was a heat affected clay, producing a brownish red colour. Slow burning of the tree stump can produce such colouration. The tree stump is likely to have been situated further to the south, beyond the limit of the trench, which may account for the absence



of charcoal within the deposit. No finds were recovered from the feature. The other possible features identified in the survey may reflect natural variations in the geology. No further archaeological features were identified within the trench.

4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 No significant archaeological remains were identified during the evaluation. The works confirmed the presence of a widespread pattern furrows covering the majority of the site, which relate to the medieval/post-medieval agricultural method of ridge and furrow cultivation. In addition to the cultivation furrows, an undated tree throw hole was recorded in Trench 6 and a severely truncated, undated, possible post hole in Trench 3. The presence of two fragments of prehistoric flint debitage indicates a very low level of activity of uncertain date within this broad period. Such activity need not have been located within the present site.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Five linear features, all aligned SE-NW of similar dimensions, spaced at regular intervals, and containing a similar deposit, were recorded within the trench. Two linears were excavated and all five have been interpreted as truncated furrows associated with ridge and furrow cultivation. All features were cut into the silts and clayey silts deposit 102, although the relationship with 101, subsoil, could not be determined due to the similarity of the deposits. A 5 m long sondage was excavated at the NE end of the trench to the top of the natural gravel. The sondage was 1.06 m deep and gravel was encountered at 28 m above Ordnance Datum				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil. Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt. Overlies 101.		
101	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt. Overlies 102.		
102	Layer	-	0.6	Compact light yellowish brown silt and clayey silt. Overlies 109.		
103	Fill	0.22	0.08	Fill of 104. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt.		
104	Cut	0.22	0.08	Cut of linear. gully Aligned SE-NW. Probably related to ridge and furrow cultivation.		
105	Fill	0.34	0.06	Fill of 106. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt.	Pottery	c1780-1830
106	Cut	0.34	0.06	Cut of linear gully. Aligned SE-NW. Probably related to ridge and furrow cultivation.		
107	Fill	0.7	-	Fill of 108. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt. Probably related to ridge and furrow cultivation. Unexcavated.	Pottery	12-14C?
108	Cut	0.7	-	Cut of linear. Aligned SE-NW. Probably related to ridge and furrow cultivation. Unexcavated.		
109	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light yellow brown clayey gravel with small fragments of limestone.		

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeological remains observed within this trench. Modern topsoil overlies subsoil which overlies a silt and clayey silt deposit reaching a maximum thickness of 0.82 m. The natural gravels were encountered below this deposit at 27.91 m above Ordnance Datum. The				Avg. depth (m)	1.3	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	



trench was excavated to a depth of 1.3 m across its full length.						
Contexts						
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil. Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt with very rare inclusions of small sub-angular fragments of limestone. Overlies 201.		
201	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks and small fragments of burnt sandstone. Overlies 202.		
202	Layer	-	0.82	Compact light yellowish brown silt and clayey silt with very rare flecks of manganese. The lower 0.26 m of the deposit is a slightly darker brown with moderate small fragments of siltstone and sandstone. Interface with layer 203 below.		
203	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light yellow brown clayey gravel with small fragments of limestone.		

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Two NW-SE aligned linear features and a single discrete feature were observed within the trench. The unexcavated linear features deposits of similar dimensions and compositions to linear features interpreted as furrows associated with ridge and furrow cultivation in trenches 1, 4 and 6. The single, truncated, discrete feature was interpreted as the possible remains of a post hole. All features were cut into silt and clayey silt deposit 302, although the relationship with 301, subsoil, could not be determined due to the similarity of the deposits. A 6.5 m long sondage was excavated at the western end of the trench to the top of the natural gravel. The sondage was 1.10 m deep and the gravel was encountered at 27.92 m above Ordnance Datum.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil. Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt. Overlies 301.		
301	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt. Overlies 302.		
302	Layer	-	0.7	Compact light yellowish brown silt and clayey silt. Rare flecks of manganese. Overlies 303.		
303	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light yellow brown clayey gravel with small fragments of limestone.		
304	Fill	0.17	0.04	Fill of 305. Friable light yellowish grey clayey silt.		



305	Cut	0.17	0.04	Cut of possible post hole.		
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Trench 4

General description	Orientation	N-S
Two NW-SE aligned linear features were observed within the trench. Both features contained a similar deposit and were of similar dimensions. One feature was excavated and interpreted as the truncated remains of a furrow associated with ridge and furrow cultivation. Both features were cut into silt and clayey silt deposit 402, although the relationship with 401, subsoil, could not be determined due to the similarity of the deposits. A 7 m long sondage was excavated at the southern end of the trench to the top of the natural gravel horizon. The sondage was 1.10 m deep and the gravel encountered at 27.43 m above Ordnance Datum.	Avg. depth (m)	0.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil. Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt. Overlies 401.		
401	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt. Overlies 402.		
402	Layer	-	0.68	Compact light yellowish brown silt and clayey silt with very rare flecks of manganese.		
403	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light yellow brown clayey gravel with small fragments of limestone.		
404	Cut	0.7	0.05	Cut of furrow.		
405	Fill	0.7	0.05	Fill of 404. Friable, light yellow brown clayey silt with no visible inclusions.	Flint flake.	Prehistoric

Trench 5

General description	Orientation	N-S
Three unexcavated linear features, aligned NW-SE and spaced approximately 5 m apart, were recorded within the trench. Two of the linears were 0.70 m wide, the third was 1.70m wide. All three features contained a compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt deposit and were interpreted as furrows associated with ridge and furrow cultivation. Sondages were excavated at both ends of the trench to a depth of 1.2 m; the northern sondage measured 5 m in length and the south sondage, 7 m. Natural gravel was encountered at 27.51 m above Ordnance Datum.	Avg. depth (m)	0.6
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt. Overlies 501.		
501	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt. Overlies		



				502.		
502	Layer	-	0.64	Compact light yellowish brown silt and clayey silt. Overlies 503.		
503	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light yellow brown clayey gravel with small fragments of limestone.		

Trench 6

General description		Orientation	E-W
Trench 6 contained a single NE-SW aligned furrow and a substantial tree throw containing reddish clay at the western end of the trench. The trench was extended by 2.5 m to define the limits of tree throw 606. A 6 m long sondage was excavated at the western end of the trench to the top of the natural gravel. The sondage was 1.2 m deep and the natural gravel encountered at 27.07 m above Ordnance Datum.		Avg. depth (m)	0.6
		Width (m)	2
		Length (m)	32.5

Contexts

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt. Overlies 601.		
601	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt. Overlies 602.	Flint	Prehistoric
602	Layer	-	0.64	Compact light yellowish brown silt and clayey silt with rare flecks of manganese. Overlies 603.		
603	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light yellow brown clayey gravel with small fragments of limestone.		
604	Fill	0.8	0.7	Fill of tree throw 606. Compact dark brownish red silty clay with occasional flecks of manganese, rare gravel. A lens within 610.		
605	Fill	-	>0.1	Fill of tree throw 606. Compact dark whitish grey gravel in a brownish grey silty clay matrix. Possibly the same as 607. Not fully excavated for health and safety reasons (trench depth). A lens within 610.		
606	Cut	3.4	0.8	Cut of irregular shaped feature with irregular base and sides. Interpreted as a tree throw. Filled by 604, 605, 607 and 610.		
607	Fill	1.2	0.8	Fill of tree throw 606. Compact to friable dark whitish grey gravel in a brownish grey clay matrix. Interpreted as redeposited natural gravel upcast.		
608	Cut	0.8	0.05	Cut of linear gully. Interpreted as a furrow associated with ridge and furrow cultivation.		



609	Fill	0.8	0.05	Fill of 608. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt.	Pottery	12th-13th century? c1550-1800
610	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of tree throw 606. Compact light yellow brown silty clay with occasional gravel.		

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
This trench contained five NW-SE aligned linear features, interpreted as furrows associated with ridge and furrow cultivation. Although none of the features in this trench were excavated, the dimensions and fills were similar to other linear features excavated in other trenches that were interpreted as furrows. The features were cut into silt and clayey silt layer 702. The relationship with these features and the subsoil was not able to be determined due to the similarity of the deposits. A 7 m long, 1.10 m deep sondage was excavated at the NE end of the trench through deposit 702 to the top of the natural gravel, which was encountered at 27.41 m above Ordnance Datum.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil. Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt. Overlies 701.		
701	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt. Overlies 702.		
702	Layer	-	0.7	Compact light yellowish brown silt and clayey silt with rare flecks of manganese. Overlies 703.		
703	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light yellow brown clayey gravel with small fragments of limestone.		

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
No archaeological remains were observed within this trench. Modern topsoil overlies subsoil which overlies a 0.62 m thick silt and clayey silt deposit. The natural gravel was encountered below this deposit. A 6 m long sondage was excavated at the SE end of the trench reaching 1.06 m below ground level. The natural gravel was encountered at 27.72 m above Ordnance Datum.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil. Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt. Overlies 801.		
801	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil. Compact to friable light brownish yellow clayey silt. Overlies 802.		



802	Layer	-	0.62	Compact light yellowish brown silt and clayey silt. Overlies 803.		
803	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light yellow brown clayey gravel with small fragments of limestone.		

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of six sherds of pottery weighing 18 g were recovered from three contexts. This is all of medieval and post-medieval date. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc). Full details of this small assemblage may be consulted in Table 1.

Recommendations

B.1.2 No further work is recommended.

Table 1. Pottery spot-dates

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
103	c1780-1830	1	1	Scrap blue transfer-printed Pearlware
107	12-14C?	1	2	Scrap unglazed reduced medieval sandyware, possibly Thornbury ware?
609	c1550-1800	4	15	3x bss post-medieval glazed red earthenware, possibly S Somerset? Slightly worn. 1X worn residual medieval bs in soft brown fabric with abundant ? Chalk (mostly dissolved), sand and much mica – possibly 12/13C? Possibly Bridgwater or Bath A ware?
Total		6	18	

B.2 Flint

By Geraldine Crann

Discussion

B.2.1 All the flint can be classified as un-datable prehistoric debitage flakes. Although the flint is likely to be redeposited, it is all in relatively fresh condition. The small quantity of worked flint limits the interpretation of the material beyond illustrating a human presence in the local area during the prehistoric period. Full details can be found in Table 2.

Recommendations

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



Table 2. Flint

Context	Weight (g)	Description	Date
405	2	Small debitage flake on orange-brown flint	
601	11	Irregular debitage flake on mottled yellow-brown flint, with possible deliberate notch or useware scarring on distal end, right lateral margin	
Total	13		

APPENDIX C. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

C.1 OA Project Team

C.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Katrina Anker and Jane Smallridge. Site survey was conducted by Jane Smallridge. Geoarchaeological advice was provided by Carl Champness. The report was written by Katrina Anker with contributions from Carl Champness, John Cotter and Geraldine Crann, and illustrated by Markus Dylewski and Emily Plunkett. The archive will be prepared for deposition by Susan Rawlings and Nicola Scott.



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

CgMs, 2011a, Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey. Land at Box Road, Cam, Gloucestershire.

CgMs, 2011b, Specification for Archaeological Evaluation. Land at Box Road, Cam, Gloucestershire.

OA, 2011, Land at Box Rd, Cam, Gloucestershire. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.



APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Land at Box Road, Cam, Gloucestershire

Site code: LOCBOX 11

Grid reference: SO 749 017

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 15th-18th August 2011

Area of site: 2.28 hectares

Summary of results: No significant archaeological features were discovered during the evaluation works. A pattern gullies, interpreted as furrows associated with medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow cultivation were identified in six out of the eight trenches. An isolated, small, severely truncated, undated, possible post hole was identified in Trench 3 and a large discrete feature, identified as a tree throw was identified in Trench 6.

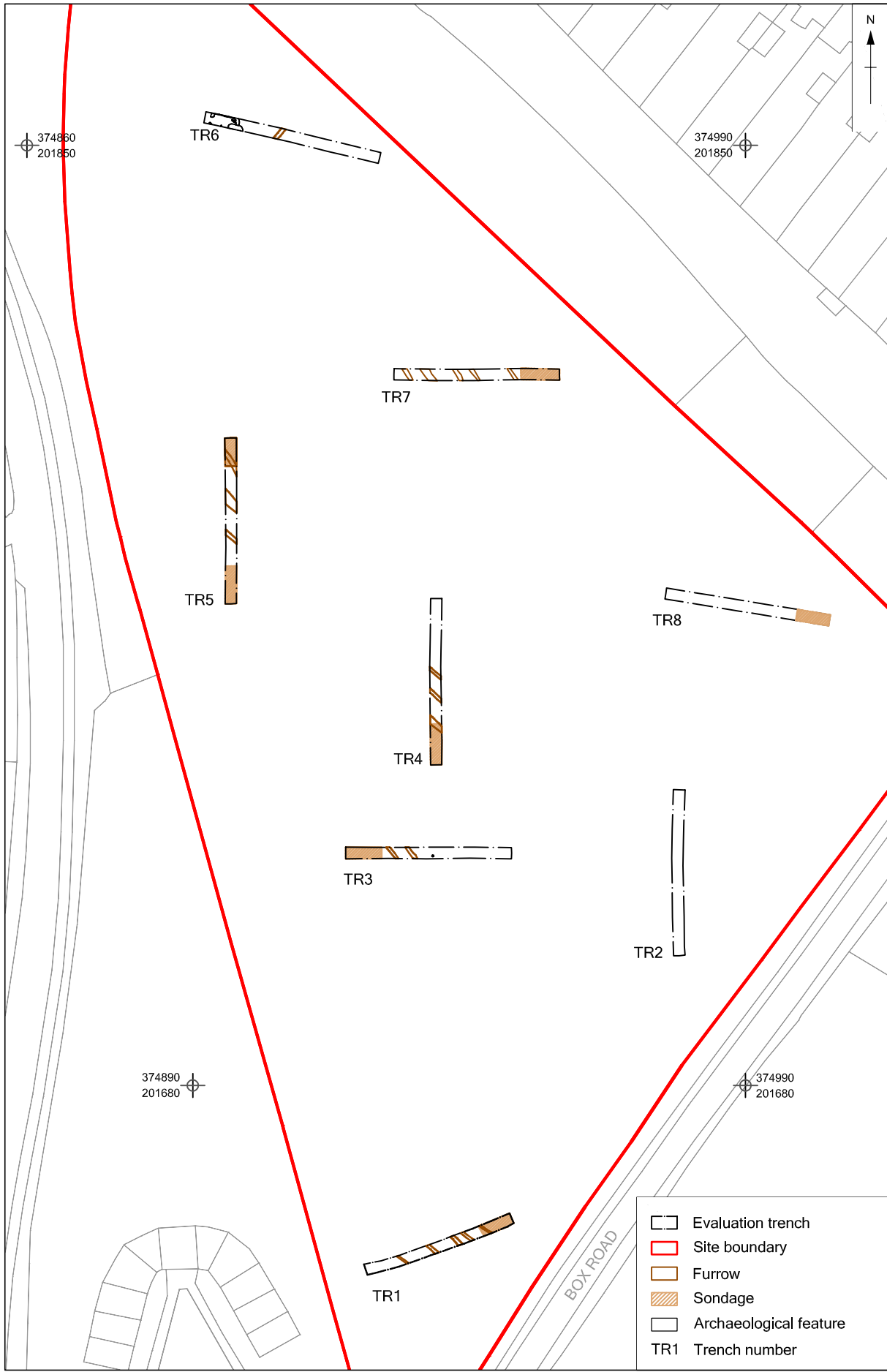
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Stroud District Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: STGCM 2011.39



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Figure 1: Site location

Y:\Box Rd, Cam\LOCBOX_EV\010\Geomatics\02 CAD\001\current\WEXGG11_080911.dwg(Layout3-A4 portrait)****Emily.Plunkett* 08 Sep 2011



CHECKED BY: HK and MB 08.09.11

Figure 2: Trench location plan

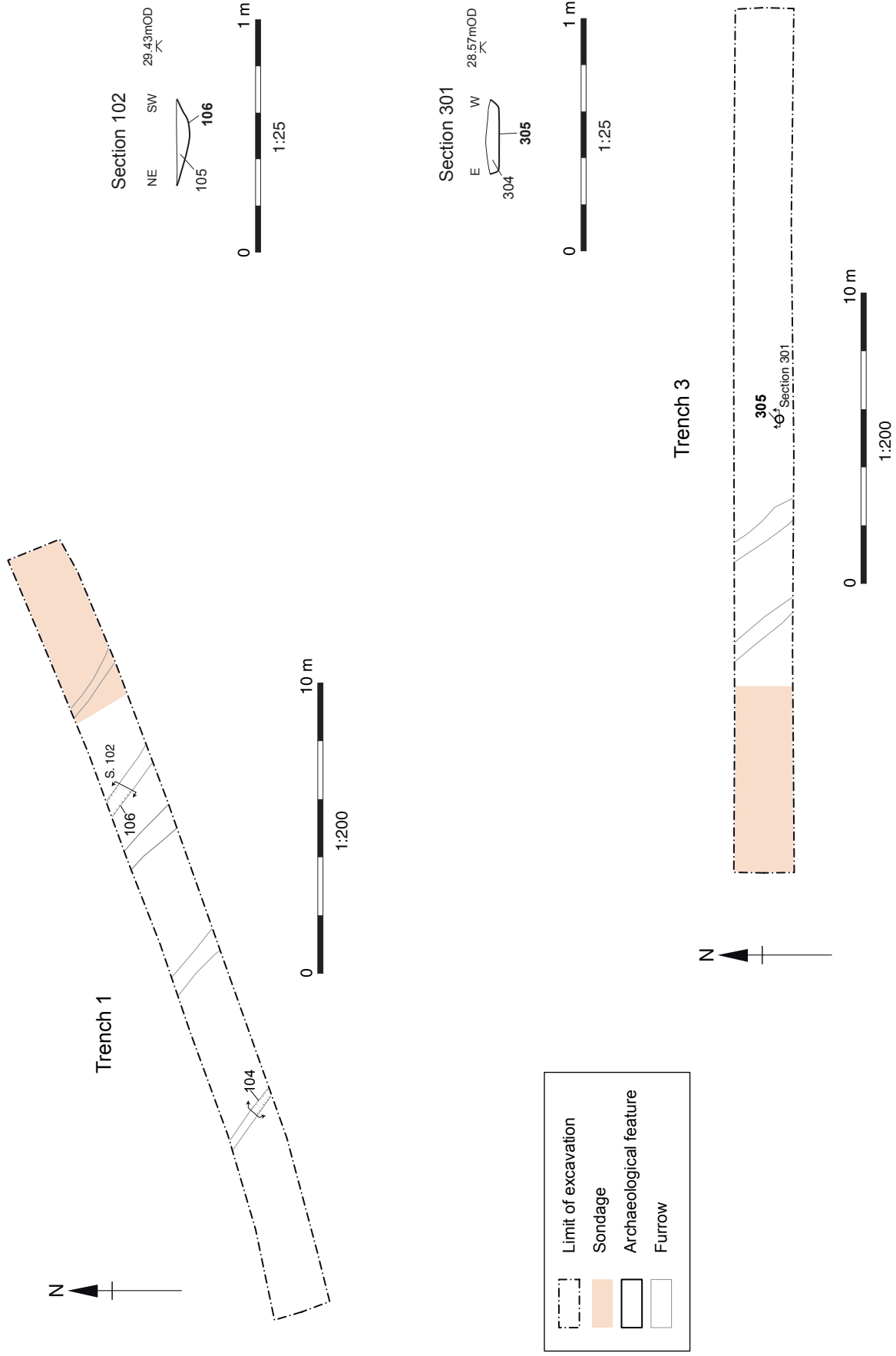


Figure 3: Trench 1 with section 102 and Trench 3 with section 301

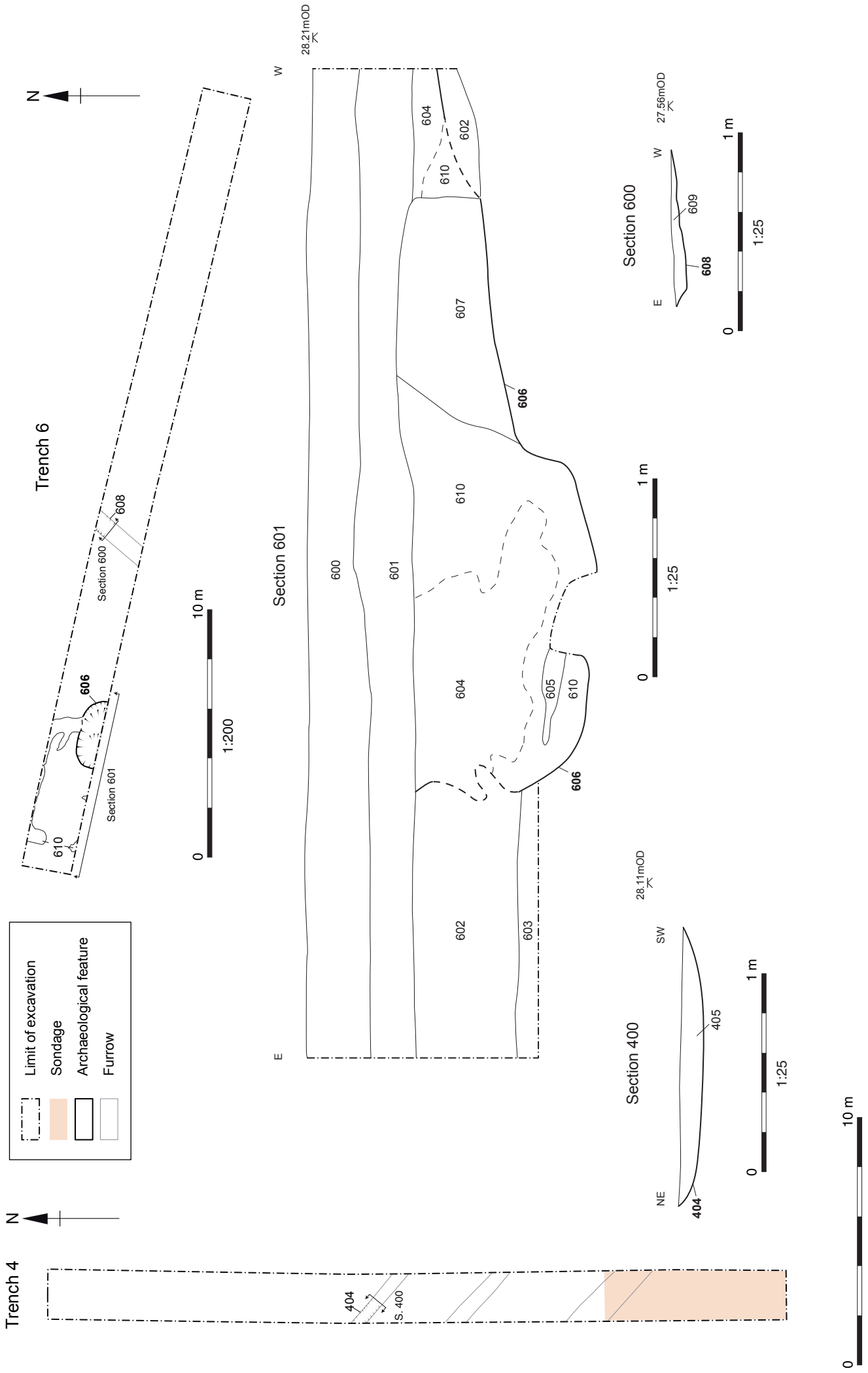


Figure 4: Trench 4 with section 400 and Trench 6 with sections 600 and 601

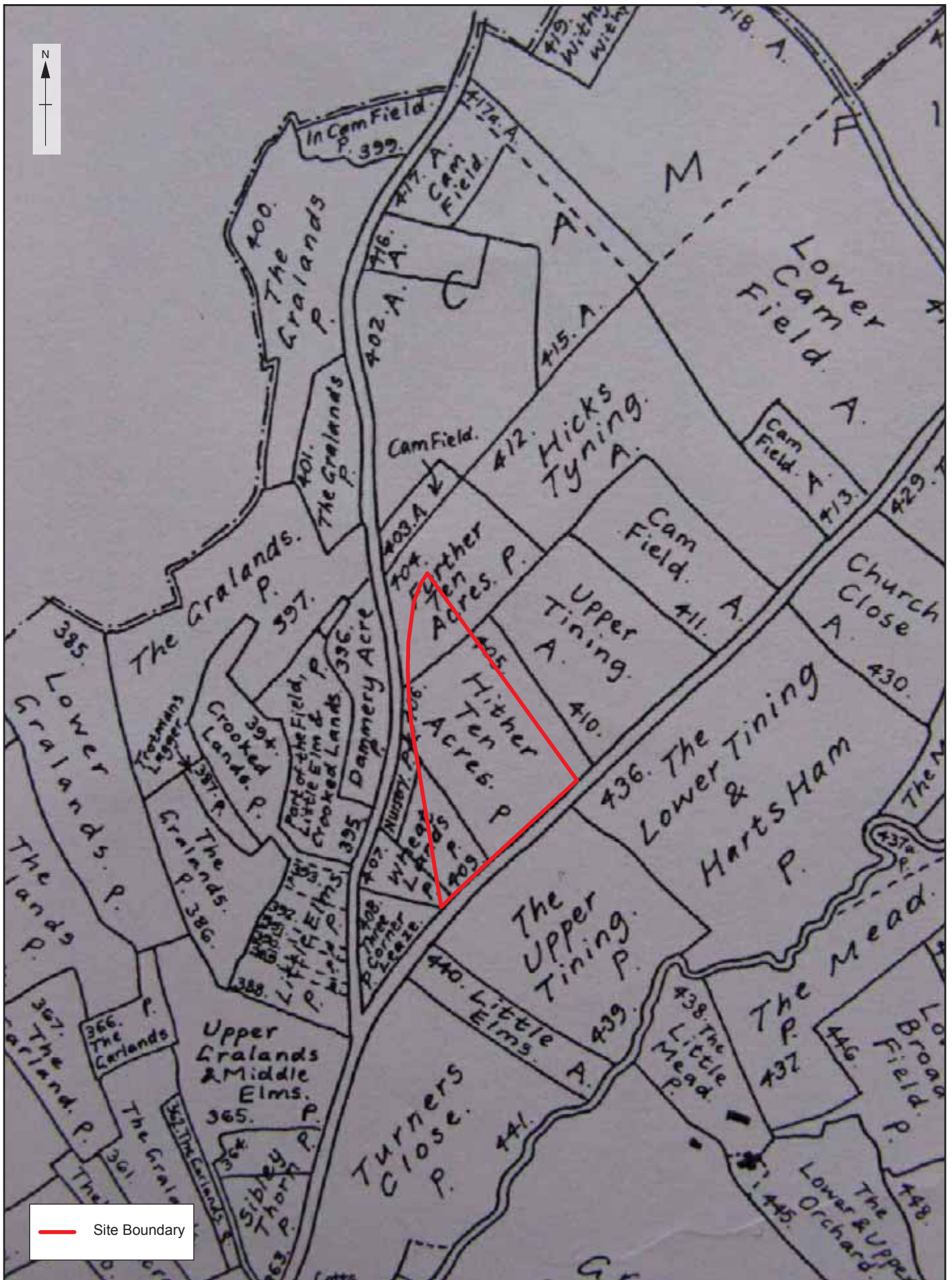


Figure 5: 1839 Cam Tithe Map (CgMs, 2011a)