

Ambrosden Court, Merton Road, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxfordarchaeology

southsouthsouth
December 2015

Client: Croudace Homes

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NGR: SP 6018 1911

Ambrosden Court, Merton Road, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire

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Summary

In November 2015 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Croudace Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development at Ambrosden Court, Merton Road, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire (centred on SP 6018 1911). A total of 13 trenches were excavated across the proposed development which aims to construct 45 new homes. The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 13/01669/OUT).

Evidence was found for agricultural activity of late-medieval/post-medieval date across the site in the form of field drainage features including plough furrows, field ditches and drains. No evidence of earlier activity was recorded on the site. A series of sterile ditches were identified and may have formed part of more extensive fieldsystems, either acting as field boundaries or assisting drainage. The exact dating of some of the fields are unknown since very little dating evidence was recovered but residual fragments of abraded Roman material were found in one ditch. A number of the ditches are, in general, on similar alignments to the furrows and it may be that they are remnants of strip fields. Two 17th-18th-century stone drains were also seen aligned NW-SE in two of the trenches. These were perhaps associated with attempts to further define and improve the drainage close to the floodplain fields to the south-west.

The 19th-century OS mapping for the area shows that the western side was regarded as marshy ground. This has been substantiated by the sequence of alluvial deposits overlain by peaty/humic material in the western most trenches. A clear change was seen within one of the trenches which corresponds to an old field boundary.

Deliberate dumping of material to raise the ground level and allow the entire western field to be utilised, appears to have occurred in the mid-20th century. The material used as infill was consistent with Victorian demolition rubble. It is assumed that these were demolished and imported from elsewhere, rather than representing any in-situ structures present on the site.

The evaluation identified several phases of drainage features indicating that there have been sustained attempts to utilise the edge of the floodplain. No features were found to pre-date the late medieval/post-medieval periods and what was found is consistent with an agricultural landscape. Based on these results the site is believed to have low archaeological potential.



Ambrosden Court, Merton Road, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project details

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Croudace Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development at Ambrosden Court, Merton Road, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire. The development proposes to construct 45 new homes with access off Merton Road.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 13/01669/OUT). A brief was set by Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition; this document outlines how OA implemented those requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *'Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation'* (December 2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The area of proposed development (the site) lies on the western side of Ambrosden, west of the railway line. The site is bounded by Merton Road to the north, by gardens to the east, and by open fields to the south and west. The site is centred on national grid reference SP 6018 1911 (Figure 1). The site lies at c 61m OD.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of domestic residential structures to the north and east and agricultural land in the west. The proposed development will involve the demolition of Ambrosden Court and other ancillary domestic structures to the east of the site.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Cornbrash (British Geological Society.ac.uk), a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 161 to 168 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. The site lies close to the edge of the River Ray floodplain, with extensive alluvial deposits recorded to the south and east of the field.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background is described in the archaeological brief (Oram 2014) and is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 A medieval manor house (PRN 5657) lies c180m to the west of the development site. A further building was constructed to the north in 1663. The exact location of the manor house is unknown. In addition, a pipeline excavation 260m to the north of the development revealed undated archaeological features, as well as flint deposits dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age (PRN 16825). Furthermore, a series of Iron Age roundhouses and Roman and Saxon ditches (PRN 27985) were revealed 260m to the north-west of the development.



Previous Archaeological Work at the Site

1.3.3 There have been no previous archaeological investigations within the area of proposed development.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology was appointed to undertake the evaluation by Robert Cooper of Croudace Homes, which funded the project. Richard Oram, the Archaeological Officer for Oxfordshire County Council, monitored the work. The fieldwork was conducted by Vix Hughes assisted by Christof Heistermann, Jeremy Mordue and Bob McIntosh. The report was written by Vix Hughes. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General aims

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2014), were:

- (i) To identify the presence and/or absence of archaeological material at the site that will be impacted by the development;
- (ii) To characterise and define the nature of any archaeological activity identified at the site
- (iii) identify the depth and density of any archaeological features or artefacts across the site;
- (iv) To provide baseline information to help inform any further mitigation strategies for the site;
- (v) Disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with Oxfordshire County Museum Service and to provide information for accession to the Oxfordshire HER.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- (vi) Identify any features or structures associated with the medieval manor house located 180m to the west of the site;
- (vii) Investigate and characterise any evidence of early prehistoric activity near to the edge of the floodplain;
- (viii) Characterise any features or deposits associated with Iron Age, Roman or Saxon activity recorded to the north-west of the site.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 An array of 13 trenches, each of variable size (but approximately 30m by 1.9m), were excavated across the site, representing an approximate 5% sample of the proposed development area. Trenches were numbered 1-14. Trench 11 was not excavated as demolition works prevented safe access to this area (Figure 2).

2.3.2 Ten of the trenches (Area A) were located in the area of agricultural land forming the western side of the development and a further three trenches (Area B) were located in the residential area to the east. The originally proposed layout was altered slightly on site to avoid proximity to standing walls and site hazards.



- 2.3.3 The trenches were laid out in a grid formation to insure maximum coverage of the area under investigation and provide a good general coverage of the site.
- 2.3.4 All trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand and the appropriate use of machine.
- 2.3.5 A number of the trenches were found to encounter modern make-up deposits and these were machined to a safe working depth.
- 2.3.6 A sample of each feature was excavated and recorded. Sufficient excavation was undertaken to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation. All fieldwork and recording was undertaken in accordance with the WSI (OA 2015) and standard OAS recording practices (Wilkinson 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with the dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Eight of the 13 trenches contained features of potential archaeological origin and were further investigated. The archaeological remains were cut from immediately beneath the older/lower subsoils, unless otherwise stated.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The underlying geology consisted of a variably tinged mid orange, to orangey brown silty clay with small rounded stone inclusions. This was found to graduate to a blueish grey clay beneath and the deposit sequence was checked in a number of deeper sondages positioned at the ends of trenches.
- 3.2.2 Archaeological features were all cut into the underlying geology and were sealed by, to the west, either the remnants of an old ploughsoil or dumped subsoil, and to the east by either subsoil or modern dump layers up to 1m in thickness.
- 3.2.3 The fieldwork was undertaken in good ground conditions and the weather conditions were reasonable.

3.3 Area A: Trenches 1-10

- 3.3.1 Of the ten trenches within this western field (Figures 2 and 3; Plate 1), five (Trenches 6-10) contained features of archaeological origin.
- 3.3.2 Trenches 1-5 all demonstrated a compatible sequence of modern imported soil and subsoil, which overlay a rubble-rich extensive layer. This then overlay a humic/peaty silt which had uneven boundaries (Plate 2) and the sampled peat was found to be rich in fibrous material and root fragments. The peaty deposit overlay a more oxidised brown-orange alluvium, which overlay a blue-grey alluvial clay. Only within Trench 1 and the sondage within Trench 4 was a more solid geological deposit seen at a depth of 1.9m. These five trenches contained no discernible features of significant archaeology.



- 3.3.3 Trenches 6-10 showed a similar spread of more recent subsoil and topsoil that overlay the original topsoil and subsoil. The finds from these layers provided a date range of 16th to 20th centuries but the majority of the material was redeposited and residual.

Trench 6

- 3.3.4 The trench contained two linear features 607 and 609 (Plate 3). Feature 607 (Plate 4) was a NW-SE aligned stone drain. It was constructed from two parallel alignments of rough-hewn stones, with the faced stones on internal sides, which formed a channel. The drain survived to two courses in height. There was evidence of disturbance along the eastern side, with either deliberate or accidental damage and a later deposit layer including 612 which contained four fragments of 17th-18th century pottery and two pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) of the same date.
- 3.3.5 Towards the western end there was feature 609, which had three fills, 608, 614 and 615 (Plate 5). All three showed mixed sources of material and were consistent with deliberate, rapid backfilling. The feature is likely to be of modern date, but is of uncertain function. Fill 608 contained a single iron nail and eight pieces of 18th-early 19th century CBM.
- 3.3.6 At the extreme western end 3.4m of the trench the edge of the humic/peat deposit was seen. The original ground level rose slightly to the east of this.
- 3.3.7 The subsoil 605, within the trench, produced a number of animal bones fragments, CBM and a single iron nail. The six fragments of CBM were broadly dated to 15th-17th century.

Trench 7

- 3.3.8 The trench contained three linear features: a furrow 706 overlying a ditch 704 at the northern end, and a stone drain 709 further south. In addition there were two other NW-SE stone-packed drains (different construction), an E-W segmented ceramic drain and a NW-SE modern ceramic drain.
- 3.3.9 The NW-SE aligned furrow 706 was a shallow broad 'U'-shaped feature 2.5m wide, with a single fill 707 (Plate 6). It overlay the similarly NW-SE aligned ditch 704. The ditch was 0.73m wide, with a vertical-sided, flat-based profile. It had a single fill, 705 which yielded no artefactual material.
- 3.3.10 A single sherd from the neck of an 18th- or 19th-century wine bottle was recovered from the subsoil layer 701.

Trench 8

- 3.3.11 Four linear features were visible within the trench comprising three furrows and a ditch. The furrows were all of a similar orientation, and width and were recorded at regularly spaced intervals throughout the trench.
- 3.3.12 The furrow 807 and underlying ditch 810 at the western end of the trench were excavated (Figures 3 and 4; Plate 7). The furrow and ditch were on the same NW-SE alignment as those seen in Trench 7 and were a continuation of those features. Furrow 807 was 2.5m wide with a slightly asymmetrical broad 'U'-shaped profile. It had a two fills (808 and 809), neither of which contained any artefacts.
- 3.3.13 The ditch 810 to the east was 0.67m wide and had the same vertical sided profile as Ditch 704 to the south. The single fill 811, contained no artefactual remains.

Trench 9

- 3.3.14 The trench contained two identified linear features; a furrow (905) aligned NW-SE that extended along the length of the trench (Plate 8). The furrow overlay a ditch 907 towards the northern end.
- 3.3.15 Ditch 907 was 0.94m wide and had steeply sloped sides with a flat base. The single fill, 906, contained no artefactual material (Figures 3 and 5; Plates 9 and 10).
- 3.3.16 Two possible features were seen to the west of the furrow, but these were more amorphous and probably resulted from tree rooting.

Trench 10

- 3.3.17 Three linear features were seen within this trench: ditches 1005, 1008 and 1010 (Plate 11). In addition there were three segmented ceramic drains seen on varying alignments.
- 3.3.18 Ditch 1005 was aligned E-W, with a right-angled return to the south at the western side of the trench (Figure 6; Plate 12). It was 0.7m wide and had two fills, the lower (1006) being overlain by (1007). The upper fill 1007 contained two abraded fragments of CBM and one small worn fragment of grey ware dated to the Roman period.
- 3.3.19 Ditch 1008 was aligned ENE-WSW and was 0.5m wide (Figure 7; Plate 13). It had a single fill, 1009 that contained no artefactual material. Fill 1009 was truncated by Ditch 1010.
- 3.3.20 Ditch 1010 was aligned NW-SE, parallel to the return of Ditch 1005. It was 1m wide and had a single fill which contained no artefactual material.

3.4 Area B: Trenches 12-14

- 3.4.1 All of the three trenches within this eastern area contained features of archaeological origin. This area had been subject to more intensive domestic, structural and garden occupation in the modern era, than had the western field (Plate 14).

Trench 12

- 3.4.2 A single linear feature was visible towards the western end. The feature, 1205, was aligned NE-SW with a 'U'-shaped profile and a single fill 1206, which contained no artefactual material. The feature was interpreted as a ditch 1205 (Figure 8).

Trench 13

- 3.4.3 The trench contained two inter-cutting linear features, Ditches 1304 and 1305, and a third linear feature, Drain 1303. The drain and ditches had no stratigraphical relationship within the confines of the trench.
- 3.4.4 Ditch 1304 was on a N-S alignment, was 2.2m wide and had sloping side with a concave base (Figure 9; Plate 15). There were two fills, lower fill 1306 and upper fill 1307. Fill 1307 contained a small amount of undated animal bone. The bones included one cattle astragalus, one horse scapula, humerus and skull, as well as some indeterminate fragments. The scapula and the humerus are fused, indicating an age-at-death of at least 10-12 months and 3.5 years respectively.
- 3.4.5 The ditch cut an earlier ditch, Ditch 1305, which was on the same alignment, to the immediate west. It only partially lay within the trench but was seen to extend over 0.6m



in width. There were two fills, 1308, which was overlain by 1309. Neither contained any artefactual material.

- 3.4.6 Drain 1303 was aligned E-W was 0.63m wide and constructed of 50% rough-hewn stones and 50% unfrogged brick fragments (Plate 16). The structural elements formed two parallel alignments with a central channel, infilled with clay which had been waterlain. The CBM sampled from the drain dated to the 16th-early 17th century but it was probably reused rather than original.

Trench 14

- 3.4.7 There was a single round feature, (1403) within the trench. In addition there was evidence of modern truncation from the pre-existing greenhouses at the south-western end of the trench.
- 3.4.8 Feature 1403 was interpreted as a small pit, 0.8m in diameter with a single 0.15m deep fill 1404 that contained two fragments of undated animal bone (Figure 10; Plates 17 and 18).

3.5 Finds summary

- 3.5.1 A very small quantity of artefactual material was recovered from the features recorded in the evaluation. The range of material included pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), glass and animal bone. A fuller description of the finds can be found in Appendix B.
- 3.5.2 The pottery assemblage consisted of 9 sherds (140g). One sherd was of Roman date and the rest were medieval and post-medieval or modern. In addition there was a single fragment of clay pipe found.
- 3.5.3 There were 31 pieces of ceramic building material (brick and tile) (2703g) recovered. Two fragments were of Roman date and the remainder were of post-medieval date.
- 3.5.4 A total of 11 complete bottles and a single sherd were recovered. The bottles were all from the rubble dumped context 402. The bottles from context 402 are all made by automatic bottling machines and therefore date from the 20th century or later. They included a sherry or aperitif bottle, bell-shaped bottles, and a Heinz ketchup bottle.
- 3.5.5 A total of 27 fragments of animal bone (1445g) were recovered. The assemblage contained cattle, sheep/goat and horse.
- 3.5.6 A small number of bones from ditch fill 1307 and pit fill 1404 had traces of gnawing by carnivores, probably dogs.

3.6 Environmental summary

- 3.6.1 A single deposit suitable for environmental sampling was taken during the course of the evaluation. A sample from the base of organic alluvial sequence from Trench 5 was taken to clarify the nature of the deposit and to check for any potential datable material. The full report can be found in Appendix C.
- 3.6.2 The sample produced a rich fibrous material and root fragments, but no seeds, charred materials or crop seed remains were noted. The sample was not suitable for dating.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trenches were excavated in reasonable weather, and conditions were sufficiently good in all of the trenches to identify the presence or absence of archaeological features.
- 4.1.2 It is therefore felt that the recorded density and distribution of archaeological features representation in the evaluation provides an accurate reflection of the archaeological potential of the site as a whole.

4.2 Evaluation results in relation to the project objectives

- 4.2.1 Features of archaeological origin were concentrated in the eastern half of the field and within the garden areas (Trenches 6-14). The remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture, seen as the base of furrows, were identified in Trenches 7, 8 and 9. A number of post-medieval drains were observed, including segmented ceramic drains, stone-packed drains, the stone and brick drain of Trench 13 and the more substantial stone-built drain which continued from Trench 6 to Trench 7.
- 4.2.2 Small to medium sized probable boundary and/or drainage ditches were identified in Trenches 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The furrows were seen to post-date the ditch seen continuing from Trench 7 to 8. The date of the various ditches was difficult to discern as the majority contained no artefactual material. The small abraded fragments from Ditch 1005 in Trench 10 might indicate a Roman date, but this is far from certain. A single discrete, undated pit feature was seen in Trench 14.
- 4.2.3 The presence of made ground on the western part of the site demonstrates that any potential archaeological horizons would only be encountered 1.2m below the present ground level (Trenches 1-5). The slight rise in the original ground surface means that archaeological features would be encountered at a depth of 0.7-0.8m below present ground surface for the eastern half of the field and through to the garden area forming the eastern part of the site.
- 4.2.4 The western part of the site (Trenches 1-5) demonstrated that the original ground surface was slightly lower and may have constituted the edge of the floodplain. No features were identified in association with this area.
- 4.2.5 No features, structures or artefactual material associated with the medieval manor house located 180m to the west of the site were uncovered during the evaluation. The lack of datable material from the identified ditches and pit meant that it was not possible to associate them with the known Iron Age, Roman or Saxon activity recorded to the north-west of the site.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 Evidence was found for agricultural activity of post-medieval date across the site in the form of field drainage ditches and drains. There were several phases of drainage indicating that there have been sustained attempts to utilise what are likely to have been damp fields at the edge of the River Ray.
- 4.3.2 Plough furrows, the remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture, were recorded in three of the trenches.
- 4.3.3 Several ditches uncovered may have been part of more extensive field systems, either forming boundaries or assisting drainage. The exact dating is unknown, although there is relative dating to suggest that there may be two different phases of fields at least. A



number of the ditches are, in general, on similar alignments to the furrows and it may be that they are remnants of medieval strip fields.

- 4.3.4 The 19th century OS mapping for the area shows that the western side was regarded as marshy ground. This has been substantiated by the sequence of alluvial deposits overlain by peaty/humic material in the westernmost trenches. A clear change was seen within one of the trenches which corresponds to the old field boundary.
- 4.3.5 The deliberate dumping of material to raise the ground level and allow the entire western field to be utilised, appears to have occurred in the 20th-century (local resident pers comm). The material is likely to have been brought in demolished rubble, rather than representing any *in-situ* structures on site. The bottles from the dumped context 402, all made by automatic bottling machines, demonstrate a mid 20th century date.
- 4.3.6 A number of amorphous patches seen within trenches were the result of tree rooting. An orchard or area of trees was depicted in the corresponding area on the 19th century OS mapping.

4.4 Conclusion

- 4.4.1 The evaluation identified several phases of drainage features indicating that there have been sustained attempts to utilise the edge of the floodplain. No features were found to pre-date the late medieval/post-medieval periods and were consistent with a low density agricultural landscape. Based on these results the site is believed to have low archaeological potential.

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APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 100, overlying a modern subsoil 101, which overlay a layer of 20th century rubble 102. The rubble overlay an intermittent layer of humic silt 103, which when removed revealed hard natural 104. The trench was abandoned after the northern 10m was dug because asbestos was found amongst the rubble layer.				Avg. depth (m)		1.6
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		10
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.9	0.15	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
101	Layer	1.9	0.3	Subsoil: mid yellowy brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	1.9	0.7	Layer: Rubble, mid-dark grey mixed clay and stones, with 80% wood, bricks, stones, plastic	-	-
103	Layer	1.9	0.4	Layer: Humic silt, dark brownish black, soft humic silt, root and wood fragments discerned, peaty	-	-
104	Layer	1.9	-	Natural Geology: hard mid blueish grey ?mudstone	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A sondage was dug at the eastern end of the trench. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 200, overlying modern subsoils 201, and 202. These overlay a layer of 20th century rubble 203. The rubble overlay an alluvial deposit 204.				Avg. depth (m)		1 (1.3)
				Width (m)		1.4
				Length (m)		32.1
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	1.4	0.15	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
201	Layer	1.4	0.3	Subsoil: mid yellowy brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	1.4	0.35	Subsoil: mid-dark grey, firm, silty clay imported / dumped subsoil	Pottery CBM	c 1680-1800 13th-16th century
203	Layer	1.4	0.3	Layer: Rubble, mid-dark grey mixed clay and stones, with 80% wood, bricks, stones, metal	-	-
204	Layer	1.4	-	Natural Geology: alluvium mid orange, firm-tacky clay	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. The western part of the trench was dug to 1m depth. The eastern part of the trench was dug below the top of the natural.				Avg. depth (m)		1.25-1.4
				Width (m)		1.4



Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 300, overlying modern subsoils 301, and 302. These overlay a layer of 20th century rubble 303. The rubble overlay a humic peaty layer 304 which was over an alluvial clay deposit 305.				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer	1.4	0.15	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, firm, silty clay	-	-
301	Layer	1.4	0.25	Subsoil: mid yellowy brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped-subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	1.4	0.7	Subsoil: mid-dark grey, firm, silty clay imported / dumped-subsoil	-	-
303	Layer	1.4	0.3	Layer: Rubble, mid-dark grey mixed clay and stones, with 80% wood, bricks, stones, metal	-	-
304	Layer	1.4	0.18	Layer: Humic silt, dark brownish black, soft-spongy humic silt, root and wood fragments discerned, peaty	-	-
305	Layer	1.4	-	Natural Geology: alluvium pale-mid yellowy blue, firm, clay	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A sondage was dug at the southern end of the trench. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 400, overlying modern subsoils 401, and 405. These overlay a layer of 20th century rubble 402. The rubble overlay a humic peaty layer 403 which was over alluvial clay deposits 404 and 406.				Avg. depth (m)	1.3-1.6	
				Width (m)	1.4-1.9	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	1.9	0.1	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, firm, silty clay	-	-
401	Layer	1.9	0.35	Subsoil: mid grey brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped-subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	1.9	0.45	Layer: Rubble, mid-dark grey mixed clay and stones, with 80% wood, bricks, stones, plastic	Pottery CBM Glass	c 1760-1830 c 1875-1930 20th century
403	Layer	1.9	0.4	Layer: Humic silt, dark brownish black, soft humic silt, root and wood fragments discerned, peaty	-	-
404	Layer	1.9	0.6-0.75	Natural Geology: alluvium mid brownish blue-grey, firm, clay	-	-
405	Layer	1.9	0.2	Subsoil: mid yellowy brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped-subsoil	-	-
406	Layer	1.9	-	Natural Geology: alluvium mid blue-grey, hard, clay	-	-

Trench 5					
General description				Orientation	N-S



Trench contained no significant archaeological remains. A sondage was dug at the northern end of the trench. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 500, overlying modern subsoils 501, and 505. These overlay a layer of 20th century rubble 502. The rubble overlay a humic peaty layer 503 which was over alluvial clay deposit 504.					Avg. depth (m)	1.3 – 2.4
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	29.6
Contexts						
500	Layer	1.9	0.15	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, firm silty clay	finds	date
501	Layer	1.9	0.45-0.6	Subsoil: mid grey brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	1.9	0.3	Layer: Rubble, mid-dark grey mixed clay and stones, with 80% wood, bricks, stones, plastic	-	-
503	Layer	1.9	0.25	Layer: Humic silt, dark brownish black, soft humic silt, root and wood fragments discerned, peaty	-	-
504	Layer	1.9	>1.2	Natural Geology: alluvium mid orangey blue-grey, firm, clay	-	-
505	Layer	1.9	0.1	Subsoil: mid yellowy brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped subsoil	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two linear features. One was a stone drain, 607 and the other was an uncertain feature 609; both features truncated 605. A sondage was dug at the eastern end of the trench. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 600, overlying modern subsoils 601, and 602. These overlay a layer of 20th century rubble 603. The rubble overlay a lower subsoil 605 for the majority of the trench. At the western end the rubble overlay a humic peaty layer 604. Both deposits 605 and 604 overlay alluvial clay deposit 606.					Avg. depth (m)	0.8-1.25
					Width (m)	1.9
					Length (m)	29.9
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
600	Layer	1.9	0.15	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
601	Layer	1.9	0.18	Subsoil: mid grey brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	1.9	0.3	Subsoil: mid grey, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped subsoil	-	-
603	Layer	1.9	0.5	Layer: Rubble, mid-dark grey mixed clay and stones, with 80% wood, bricks, stones, plastic	-	-
604	Layer	1.9	>0.1	Layer: Humic silt, dark brownish black, soft humic silt, root and wood fragments discerned, peaty, 3.35m at the western end of trench	-	-
605	Layer	1.9	0.3	Subsoil: pale-mid greyish brown, firm, clay	CBM	15th-17th century
606	Layer	1.9	0.6	Natural Geology: alluvium mid orangey blue-grey, firm, clay	-	-
607	Structure	0.72	0.35	Drain: fill of 613, two parallel alignments of rough-hewn stones, with faced stones on internal sides forming a channel,	-	-



				disturbance along eastern side, 2 courses		
608	Fill	0.7	0.3	Uncertain Linear: fill of 609, below 615, mixed yellowish grey, firm, silty clay, 20% sub-square stones along western edge	CBM	18th-early 19th century
609	Cut	0.7	0.71	Uncertain Linear: filled by 615, 614 and 608, NW-SE aligned, straight sided with a flat base		
610	Fill	0.28	0.13	Drain: mid grey, firm, silty clay, fill within 607	Clay pipe	17th-early 18th century
611	Layer	0.85	0.12	Uncertain: pale yellowish brown, firm, clay, 15% small stone flecks		
612	Layer	>2m	0.22	Uncertain: mid greyish brown, firm, clay, 5% stone fragments, 2% brick fragments	Pottery CBM	17th-18th century 16th-18th century
613	Cut	0.72	0.35	Drain: filled by 610, NW-SE aligned, steep sides and flat base		
614	Fill	0.7	0.16	Uncertain Linear: fill of 609, above 615, mixed yellowish grey, firm silty clay,		
615	Fill	0.7	0.25	Uncertain Linear: fill of 609, below 614, above 608 mixed brownish yellow, firm, sandy clay, 5% sub-square stones		
616	Layer	1.9	0.4	Natural Geology: alluvium mid greyish blue, firm, clay		

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		N-S
<p>Trench contained three linear features; a furrow 706 overlying a ditch 704 at the northern end, and a stone drain 709 further south. The features truncated 703 and were sealed by 702. In addition there were two other NW-SE stone packed drains (different construction), an E-W segmented ceramic drain and a NW-SE modern ceramic drain.</p> <p>A sondage was dug at the southern end of the trench. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 700, overlying modern subsoils 711, and 701. These overlay a lower subsoil 702 which overlay alluvial clay deposit 703, and the lower alluvium 712 was seen in the sondage.</p>				Avg. depth (m)		0.8-1.85
				Width (m)		1.9
				Length (m)		29.75
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
700	Layer	1.9	0.15	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, firm silty clay		
701	Layer	1.9	0.15	Subsoil: mid grey brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped subsoil	CBM Glass	16th-18th century 18th-19th century
702	Layer	1.9	0.3	Subsoil: pale-mid greyish brown, firm-tacky, clay	Pottery	c 1550-1700
703	Layer	1.9	0.8	Natural Geology: alluvium mid orange, firm, clay		
704	Cut	0.73	0.36	Ditch: filled by 705, NW-SE aligned, steep sided with a flat base		
705	Fill	0.73	0.36	Ditch: fill of 704, mid brownish grey, firm, sandy silt		
706	Cut	2.5	0.12	Furrow: filled by 707, broad-gentle U-shaped profile, overlay		



707	Fill	2.5	0.12	fill 705 Furrow: fill of 706, mid grey, friable, sandy silt	-	-
708	Fill	0.85	0.12	Drain: fill of 710, mid yellowish brown, stiff, clay	-	-
709	Structure	0.85	>0.15	Drain: fill of 710, two parallel alignments of rough-hewn stones, with faced stones on internal sides forming a channel, disturbance of upper courses, some orange sandy mortar seen on stones	-	-
710	Cut	0.85	>0.25	Drain: filled by 708 and 709, NW-SE aligned, steep sides and flat base	-	-
711	Layer	1.9	0.2	Subsoil: mid yellowy brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped subsoil	-	-
712	Layer	1.9	0.35	Natural Geology: alluvium mid greyish blue, firm, clay	-	-

Trench 8							
General description					Orientation		
Trench contained four linear features; three furrows and a ditch. Furrow 807 appeared to post-date ditch 810. The features truncated 806 and were sealed by 803=805. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 800, overlying modern subsoil 801 and 804. These overlay a subsoil 803=805 which overlay alluvial a lower subsoil 806 and then the alluvial clay deposit 802=812.					E-W		
					Avg. depth (m)		0.7
					Width (m)		1.9
					Length (m)		
					30		
Contexts							
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
800	Layer	1.9	0.3	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-	
801	Layer	1.9	0.2-0.25	Subsoil: mid-dark grey, firm, silty clay, 20% small sub-angular stones, occasional CBM fragments imported / dumped subsoil and possible old topsoil	CBM	17th-18th century	
802	Layer	1.9	-	Natural Geology: alluvium mid orange, firm-tacky, silty clay, occasional pebble, water seepage	-	-	
803	Layer	1.9	0.1	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm-tacky, silty clay	-	-	
804	Layer	1.9	0.12	Subsoil: dark grey, firm, silty clay, 15% small pale stones	-	-	
805	Layer	1.9	0.1	Subsoil: = 803	-	-	
806	Layer	1.9	0.16	Subsoil: mid brown, firm clayey silt, original subsoil	-	-	
807	Cut	2.5	0.38	Furrow: filled by 808 and 809, NE-SE aligned, filled by 808, moderately sloped sides and a concave base, asymmetrical in profile	-	-	
808	Fill	1.98	0.13	Furrow: fill of 807, mid grey, firm, clayey silt	-	-	
809	Fill	2.5	0.25	Furrow: fill of 807, mid brownish grey, firm, clayey silt	-	-	
810	Cut	0.67	0.37	Ditch: filled by 811, NW-SE aligned, steep/vertical sides with flat base	-	-	



811	Fill	0.67	0.37	Ditch: fill of 810, mid brownish grey, firm, clayey silt,	-	-
812	Layer	1.9	-	Natural: = 802	-	-

Trench 9

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained two identified linear features; a furrow 905 that extended along the length of the trench and overlay a ditch 907 towards the northern end. The features truncated 902 and were sealed by 901. Two possible features were seen to the west of the furrow but these were more amorphous (probably tree rooting). Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 900, overlying subsoils 901, and 902. These overlay alluvial clay deposit 903.	Avg. depth (m)	0.7
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	24

Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
900	Layer	1.9	0.18	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
901	Layer	1.9	0.15	Subsoil: mid grey, firm-tacky, silty clay, 2% small sub-angular stones, occasional CBM, coal fragments	Pottery CBM	c 1800-1840 17th-18th century
902	Layer	1.9	0.4	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm, silty clay	-	-
903	Layer	1.9	-	Natural Geology: alluvium mid orange, firm-tacky, silty clay, occasional pebble, water seepage	-	-
904	Fill	>0.58	0.1	Furrow: fill of 905, mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay	-	-
905	Cut	>0.58	0.1	Furrow: filled by 904, broad gentle U-shaped profile, overlay fill 906	-	-
906	Fill	0.94	>0.35	Ditch: fill of 907, dark grey, firm, clayey silt	-	-
907	Cut	0.94	>0.35	Ditch: NW-SE aligned, filled by 906, steep sided with a flat base	-	-

Trench 10

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench contained three identified linear features; ditches 1005, 1008 and 1010. The features truncated 1004 and were sealed by 1002. In addition there were three segmented ceramic drains seen. Stratigraphy consisted of ploughsoil 1000, overlying modern subsoil 1001, which overlay the earlier topsoil 1003 and subsoil 1002. These overlay alluvial clay deposit 1004.	Avg. depth (m)	0.8
	Width (m)	1.9
	Length (m)	34.25

Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1000	Layer	1.9	0.22	Topsoil: dark brownish grey, firm silty clay	-	-
1001	Layer	1.9	0.15	Subsoil: mid yellowy brown, firm, silty clay, imported / dumped subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	1.9	0.35	Subsoil: mid grey, firm, silty clay, occ CBM fragments	-	-
1003	Layer	1.9	0.25	Subsoil: dark grey, firm-tacky, silty clay, diffuse at south end	-	-
1004	Layer	1.9	-	Natural Geology: alluvium mid orange, firm-tacky, silty clay, 15%	-	-



				small white pebbles/stones, water seepage		
1005	Cut	0.7	0.37	Ditch: filled by 1006 and 1007, NE-SW aligned, steep/vertical sides with flat base	-	-
1006	Fill	0.7	0.2	Ditch: fill of 1005, below 1007, mid greyish brown, firm, clayey silt	-	-
1007	Fill	0.7	0.15	Ditch: fill of 1005, above 1006, mid-dark brown, firm, clayey silt	Pottery CBM	Roman Roman
1008	Cut	0.5	0.13	Ditch: filled by 1009, NE-SW aligned, sloped sides with flat base	-	-
1009	Fill	0.5	0.13	Ditch: fill of 1008, dark brownish grey, firm, clayey silt,	-	-
1010	Cut	1	0.17	Ditch: filled by 1011, NW-SE aligned, sloped sides with flat base	-	-
1011	Fill	1	0.17	Ditch: fill of 810, dark brownish grey, firm, clayey silt,	-	-

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench contained a single linear feature, ditch 1205 that truncated 1203 and was sealed by 1202. In addition there were three segmented ceramic drains seen. Stratigraphy consisted of tarmac 1200, which overlay modern make-up 1201, which in turn overlay subsoils 1202 and 1203. These were above the alluvial clay deposit 1204.				Avg. depth (m)	0.85-1	
				Width (m)	1.9	
				Length (m)	18.9	
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1200	Layer	1.9	0.08	Surface: dark black tarmac, solid	-	-
1201	Layer	1.9	0.45	Layer: make-up material, dark blackish grey rubbles and stones, some clay	-	-
1202	Layer	1.9	0.12	Subsoil: dark grey (stained darker from above), firm, silty clay, 20% small stone and CBM inclusions	-	-
1203	Layer	1.9	0.35	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm, clay	-	-
1204	Layer	1.9	-	Natural Geology: alluvium mid greyish orange (stained from above), firm, silty clay, water seepage	-	-
1205	Cut	1.9	1	Ditch: filled by 1206, NE-SW aligned, sloped sides with a gently-concave base	-	-
1206	Fill	1.9	1	Ditch: fill of 1205, mid grey, firm, silty clay	-	-

Trench 13			
General description		Orientation	
Trench contained two intercutting linear features, ditches 1304 and 1305 (ditch 1304 cut ditch 1305). There was a third linear feature, a drain 1303. The features were sealed by 1301 and cut 1302. The drain and ditches had no stratigraphical relationship within the trench confines.		NW-SE	
		Avg. depth (m)	0.8
		Width (m)	1.9
		Length (m)	25



Stratigraphy consisted of garden soil 1300, which overlay subsoil 1301, which overlay alluvial clay deposit 1302.						
Contexts						
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1300	Layer	1.9	0.3	Topsoil: dark blackish grey, firm silty clay, roots, humic material	-	-
1301	Layer	1.9	0.5	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm, clay	-	-
1302	Layer	1.9	-	Natural Geology: alluvium mid orangey brown, firm, clay,	-	-
1303	Structure	0.63	>0.15	Drain: E-W aligned, constructed of 50% rough-hewn stones and 50% unfrogged brick fragments	CBM	16th-early 17th century
1304	Cut	2.2	0.7	Ditch: filled by 1306 and 1307, N-S aligned, sloped sides with a concave base	-	-
1305	Cut	>0.6	>0.3	Ditch: filled by 1308 and 1309, N-S aligned, only southern side seen, sloped side with a probable gently concave base	-	-
1306	Fill	1.9	0.44	Ditch: fill of 1304, below 1307, mid greyish brown, firm, silty clay	-	-
1307	Fill	2.2	0.28	Ditch: fill of 1304, above 1306, mid brownish grey, firm, clayey silt	Animal bone	undated
1308	Fill	>0.6	0.16	Ditch: fill of 1305, dark brownish grey, firm, silty clay	-	-
1309	Fill	>0.6	0.09	Ditch: fill of 1305, mid brown, firm, silty clay	-	-

Trench 14							
General description				Orientation		NE-SW	
Trench contained a single round feature, 1403 that truncated 1405 and was sealed by 1402. In addition there was evidence of modern truncation from the pre-existing greenhouses at the south-western end of the trench. Stratigraphy consisted of demolition material 1400, which overlay an intermittent garden soil 1401. This overlay subsoil 1402 which was above the alluvial clay deposit 1405.				Avg. depth (m)		0.8	
				Width (m)		1.9	
				Length (m)		19	
Contexts							
context no.	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1400	Layer	1.9	0.2	Demolition: debris from the greenhouse, including foundation materials, concrete, metal, bricks	-	-	
1401	Layer	1.9	0.3	Topsoil: garden soil, dark blackish grey, firm silty clay, roots, humic material	-	-	
1402	Layer	1.9	0.5	Subsoil: mid greyish brown, firm-tacky, clay, orange and grey streaks and patches	-	-	
1403	Cut	0.8	0.15	Pit: filled by 1404, moderately sloped sides and concave base, gentle U-shaped profile	-	-	
1404	Fill	0.8	0.15	Pit: fill of 1403, mid greyish brown, firm, silty clay, rare charcoal fleck/smear	Animal bone	undated	
1405	Layer	1.9	-	Natural Geology: alluvium mid orange, firm-tacky, silty clay, 15% small white pebbles/stones, water	-	-	



			seepage		
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APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Animal bone

By Lena Strid

Context	Weight (g)	No. of Fragments	Description
605	15	3	x1 sheep/goat axis; x1 large mammal vertebra; x1 indet
701	97	1	x1 left cattle humerus
901	4	1	x1 large mammal vertebra
1307	1323	20	x1 cattle astragalus; x1 horse scapula; x1 horse humerus; x1 horse skull; indeterminate fragments
1404	6	2	x1 medium mammal longbone; x1 indet
Total	1445	27	

	N	0	1	2	3	4	5	Burnt	Gnawed
Subsoils 605, 701, 901	5		3			2			
Ditch fill 1307	20		1	19					2
Pit fill 1404	2				1	1			1

Discussion/recommendations

- B.1.1 A total of 27 hand-collected animal bone fragments were recovered from this site. The species present include cattle, sheep/goat and horse. The bone condition was varied but generally fair. A small number of bones from ditch fill 1307 and pit fill 1404 had traces of gnawing by carnivores, probably dogs. Burnt bones were absent.
- B.1.2 The animal bones from subsoil layers 605, 701 and 901 are possibly post-medieval. A single cattle humerus fragment and a sheep/goat axis are the only bones that could be identified to species. These were also the only bones in the assemblage that displayed evidence of butchery. The humerus had been chopped off mid-shaft and the axis had been split longitudinally.
- B.1.3 The two fills of undated ditch 1304 contained one cattle astragalus, one horse scapula, horse humerus and horse skull, as well as some indeterminate fragments. Humeri and skull fragments were found in both fills, but element fragmentation, bone colour and bone condition suggest that they are in fact from single bones that may have erroneously been assigned different contexts during excavation. The scapula and the humerus are fused, indicating an age-at-death of at least 10-12 months and 3.5 years respectively (Habermehl 1975, 48).
- B.1.4 None of the bones from the single fill of undated pit 1403 could be identified to species.
- B.1.5 No further information can be gained from such small sample of bones. However, if further excavations take place on the site, the bones should be included in the full excavation report



B.2 Clay pipe

By John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
610	1 piece (3g): fresh tapered stem fragment from near the mouthpiece end. Fairly good burnish. Stem bore diameter of c 3mm	17th – e18th century.

Discussion/recommendations.

B.2.1 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.3 Ceramic building material

By John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
202	1 piece (75g). Fairly fresh top-right corner from peg tile with circular nail hole and ring of surplus clay around exit internally. 15mm thick. Fairly smooth light orange low-iron fabric with pale grey core - possibly from Kimmeridge or Gault clay source? Possibly 15th-16thC rather than earlier?	13th-16th century
402	1 piece (32g). Corner fragment from modern kitchen/bathroom-type wall tile. Press-moulded form. Fine whiteware with panels of brown glaze and marbled greyish-brown glaze. Fairly worn.	c 1875-1930
605	6 pieces (32g). Very worn scraps from several medieval and probably post-med ?peg tiles. 1 thicker scrap in fine orange sandy late-looking fabric - possibly from a quarry/floor tile or brick	15th-17th century
608	8 pieces (192g). Fragments and scraps from at least two soft orange bricks. Well-made with sharp arrises. Light orange fabric with red-brown iron-rich clay pellets, white clay pellets and streaks of white clay/marl	18th-early 19th century
612	2 pieces (87g). 1x scrap light orange brick with fabric as in (608) but harder. 1x larger frag from lower corner of an early post-med peg tile in fine sandy light orange fabric similar to bricks with red and white clay pellets	16th-18th century
701	3 pieces (256g). 2x frags probably early post-med peg tile: larger fresher edge frag in hard fine sandy orange fabric similar to (612); smaller scrap very worn. 1x frag very hard red post-med (PMR-like) ridge tile - from the rounded/sub-angled apex of the tile	16th-18th century
801	3 pieces (475g). 1x smallish edge frag (36g) neatly made, light orange peg tile with white and red clay pellets, trace of nailhole; probably 17th-18thC? Two frags from the same early post-med ridge tile in fine sandy orange-brown fabric with light grey core; one large frag from the end of the tile with trace of rounded apex and with knife-trimmed end, 18-20mm thick; probably 16-17C on Oxford parallels.	17th-18th century
901	3 pieces (197g). 1x worn lower edge frag early post-med ridge tile as in (801). 2x frags early post-med peg tile in hard light orange fabric as in (801), 1 fresh, 1 very worn	17th-18th century
1007	2 pieces (39g). Very worn rounded scraps probably from two separate tiles. Both have a very smooth light orange fabric with a few red and brown clay pellets. The fabric texture and degree of wear are unlike any	Roman



	of the post-Roman CBM above. Larger frag is just possibly from a tegula flange. Both probably residual/redeposited	
1303	2 pieces (1271g). Approx two-thirds of a complete unfrogged brick including one end. Second frag is a tiny chip of the same brick. Light orange-brown sandy fabric with some red clay pellets. Handmade, fairly crude with creased sides. Width 105mm, thickness 55mm. Possibly Tudor? Traces of white lime mortar. Also, the broken end is covered with the same white limey film as the brick surfaces suggesting it was either reused as broken, or discarded into mortar-rich ground	16th-early 17th century

Discussion/recommendations

B.3.1 A total of 31 pieces of CBM weighing 2703g were recovered from ten contexts. This is mainly post-medieval but a few pieces of medieval and Roman CBM are also present. The condition of the material is generally poor and scrappy. This has not been separately catalogued but is described below. No further work is recommended.

B.4 Glass

By Ian Scott

Context	ID No.	Description	Date
402	1	Medicine bottle of flattened oval section, complete. Machine moulded, with screw cap closure. No maker's marks or embossing. Colourless. Ht: 228mm; W: 87mm	Post-medieval to modern
	2	Ketchup bottle , complete. Has octagonal section body and long tapered neck with combination finish for screw cap or crown cork closure. Embossed around the base: 'H.J. HEINZ Co. PATd' and in the centre of the base '251' over a maker's mark of an 'O' in square. The Design No. 251 was for an 8 oz bottle manufactured between 1918 and 1943 (Heinz Bottle Codes), the maker's mark is for the Owen's Bottle Co. and was used between 1919 and 1929. Colourless. Ht: 212mm; D: 56mm	1919-1929
	3	Sauce or condiment bottle of square section with chamfered corners. Complete. Machine made. Screw cap closure. No maker's marks, a single '5' embossed on the base. Colourless. Ht: 171mm; W: 42mm x 42mm	Post-medieval to modern
	4	Possible wine bottle , complete. Machine made cylindrical wine bottle with sloping shoulders, flat string rim and rounded lip, possibly for metal cap closure. Bell-shaped pushup. Embossed 'VMB' (not identified, but possibly French?). Light olive green Ht: 299mm; D: 76mm.	Post-medieval to modern
	5	Possible wine bottle , complete. Machine made cylindrical wine bottle with sloping shoulders, flat string rim and rounded lip, possibly for metal cap closure. Bell-shaped pushup. Embossed 'VMB' (not identified, but possibly French?). Light olive green. Ht: 299mm; D: 76mm	Post-medieval to modern
	6	Beer bottle , complete. Cylindrical with sloping shoulders, machine made. It had a hard rubber screw cork closure. Embossed 'ANSELLS BREWERY LTD around the shoulder. Base embossed	Post-medieval to modern

		'R.B.B. 69(?) 33'. The makers were probably Redfearn Bros Bottle Makers, Barnsley. Dark green. Ht: 268mm; D: 76mm	
	7	Sherry or aperitif bottle , complete. Cylindrical bottle with rounded shoulders and straight neck with screw cap closure. Machine moulded . No embossed labels. Embossed on base: '629 DB U G B' Manufacture by United Glass Bottle established 1911. Dark green. Ht: 312mm; D: 84mm	Post-medieval to modern
	8	Machine made bottle , bell-shaped in outline and oval in section. Complete. Screw cap closure. Embossed on base: "AL 130 L 2 U G B". Manufactured by United Glass Bottle. For smaller version of bottle see No. 9. Colourless. Ht: 172mm; W: 94mm	Post-medieval to modern
	9	Machine made bottle , bell-shaped in outline and oval in section. Complete. Screw cap closure. Smaller version of ID 8 above Embossed on base: "S 21A". No maker's mark but probably like ID 8 manufactured by United Glass Bottle. Colourless. Ht: 144mm; W: 77mm	Post-medieval to modern
	10	Soda or mixer bottle , complete. Small machine made cylindrical bottle with sloping shoulders and crown cork closure. Probably a mixer or fruit juice bottle. Embossed on base " 2 26". Colourless. Ht: 156mm; D: 46mm	Post-medieval to modern
	11	Sherry or aperitif bottle , complete. Machine made cylindrical bottle with round shoulders, bulged neck and flat vertical rim over angled string rim. Corked closure. Base embossed "G B C 32 55B". Maker (G B C) not identified. Amber/brown glass. Ht: 293mm; D: 80mm	Post-medieval to modern
701	12	Wine bottle . Sherd from neck of 18th- or 19th-century wine bottle. Possibly pale green, but heavy Iridescent weathering. Not measured	Post-medieval

Discussion/recommendations

- B.4.1 There are 11 intact glass bottles all from context 402m and single sherd from an 18th- or 19th-century wine bottle from context 701.
- B.4.2 The bottles from context 402 are all machine made suggesting that they were almost certainly manufactured after the First World War. The sherry or aperitif bottle (**No. 7**) and the larger of the bell-shaped bottles (**No. 8**) were both manufactured by United Glass Bottle, which was only established in 1911 by the amalgamation of a number of British bottle manufacturers. The Heinz ketchup bottle (**No. 2**) was manufactured by the Owen's Bottle Company of the USA between 1919 and 1929 (Lockhardt *et al* 2010). None of the other bottles can be closely dated on present evidence. The bottles from context 402 are all made by automatic bottling machines and therefore date from the 20th century or later.
- B.4.3 The small sherd 18th- or 19th-century wine bottle from context 701 has no diagnostic features and cannot be closely dated.

B.5 Pottery

By John Cotter

Context	Description	Date
202	1 sherd (25g). Damaged rim from wide dish/bowl in post-medieval red earthenware (PMR). Amber-brown glaze int. Probably a Brill product	c 1680-1800
402	1 sherd (56g). Rim from a ?soup bowl in developed Creamware with painted and gilded decoration (CREA PNTD). Blue painted and gilded bands ext with gilding along the rim. Probably early 19th century	c 1760-1830
612	4 sherds (13g). Small worn sherds from four vessels. Includes a cream-coloured body sherd with traces of brownish glaze, fabric uncertain, possibly an early post-medieval Staffordshire-type fabric related to Staffs slipware (STSL, c 1680-1800)? Or possibly late Brill/Boarstall ware (OXBK, c 1400-1625). 1x small scrap (1g) unidentified buff-coloured unglazed sandy ware (possibly late med or Roman?). 2x worn rim sherds in dark grey-brown fabric with Jurassic shell inclusions - probably 13-14th century Olney Hyde-type shelly ware from north Bucks (OXCG) or Bucks/Northants (OXBK)?	17th-18th century
702	1 sherd (38g). Fresh rim sherd from a jar in post-medieval red earthenware (PMR) with squared rim and internal brownish glaze. Possibly a post-med Brill product	c 1550-1700
901	1 sherd (6g). Rim sherd from a ?sugarbowl in Pearlware with blue transfer-printed decoration (PEAR TPW)	c 1800-1840
1007	1 sherd (2g). Very worn scrap of fine Roman greyware (confirmed by Ed Biddulph)	Roman

Discussion/recommendations

- B.5.1 A total of 9 sherds of pottery weighing 140g were recovered from six contexts. This is a mixture of medieval and post-medieval but includes a sherd of Roman pottery. The condition of the material is generally poor and very fragmentary. Given the small size of the assemblage a separate catalogue has not been constructed and instead the pottery is simply described and spot-dated below. Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994).
- B.5.2 Post-medieval pottery fabric codes used are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). No further work is recommended.

B.6 Metalwork

By Ian Scott

Context	No. of fragments	Description
605	1	Nail , small with flat circular head. Complete. Probably hand forged. L: 35mm
608	1	Nail , small probably complete, encrusted. Form of head uncertain, possibly hand forged. L: 42mm

Discussion/recommendations



B.6.1 There are just two small iron nails from contexts 605 and 608. Neither nail can be closely dated.

B.6.2 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.7 Coal and clinker

By Geraldine Crann

Context	No. of fragments	Description
203	1	One piece of clinker, 24g
611	1	One piece of coal, 5g

Discussion/recommendations

B.7.1 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

- C.1.1 A single sample was taken from Trench 5 during the evaluation. The sample <500> (503) comprised dark brown (10YR 3/3) compressed plant material with silt, and was taken from a layer overlying bedrock near the river which formed part of a floodplain sequence. The sample was taken to clarify the nature of the deposit and to check for any potential datable material.

Methodology

- C.1.2 One litre of this sample was hand floated for the recovery of waterlogged plant remains (WPR). The flot and residue were collected on 250µm meshes and kept wet before being scanned for plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification.

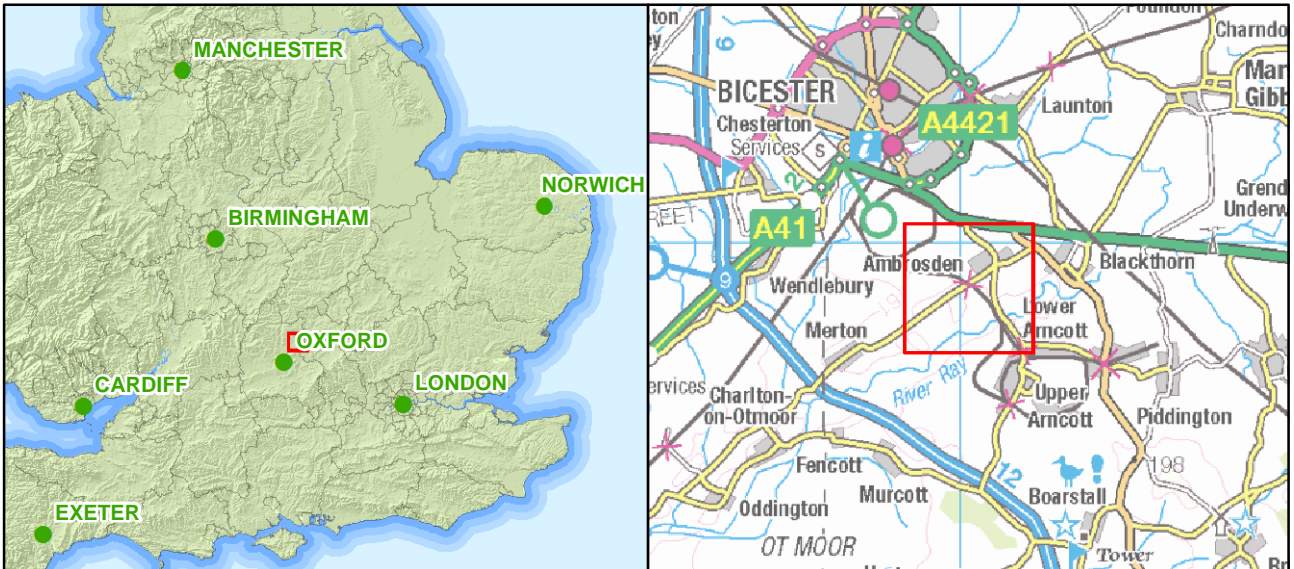
Interpretation

- C.1.3 The WPR flot was 800ml in size and rich in fibrous material and root fragments. No seeds, charred materials or crop seed remains were noted. No further work is recommended.



SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Ambrosden Court, Merton Road, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire
Site code:	AMMR 15
Grid reference:	SP 6018 1911
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	9th-17th November 2015
Area of site:	1.68 hectares
Summary of results:	<p>In November 2015 13 trenches were excavated across a proposed housing development at Ambrosden Court, Merton Road, Ambrosden, Oxfordshire centred on SP 6018 1911. Evidence was found for agricultural activity of late medieval to post-medieval date across the site in the form of field drainage furrows, ditches and drains.</p> <p>The 19th century OS mapping for the area shows that the western side was regarded as marshy ground. This has been substantiated by the sequence of alluvial deposits overlain by peaty/ humic material in the western most trenches.</p> <p>The deliberate dumping of material to raise the ground level and allow the entire western field to be utilised, appears to have occurred in the mid 20th century. The material used as infill was consistent with Victorian structures and some modern debris. It is assumed that these were demolished and imported from elsewhere, rather than any structures on site.</p>
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS.2015.100.



\\SAMBA-1\invoice codes a thru h\BIDS_ WSlS and TNS\16848_Ambrosden\Fig01.mxd\hammah.kennedy*10/04/2015

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

Figure 1: Site location

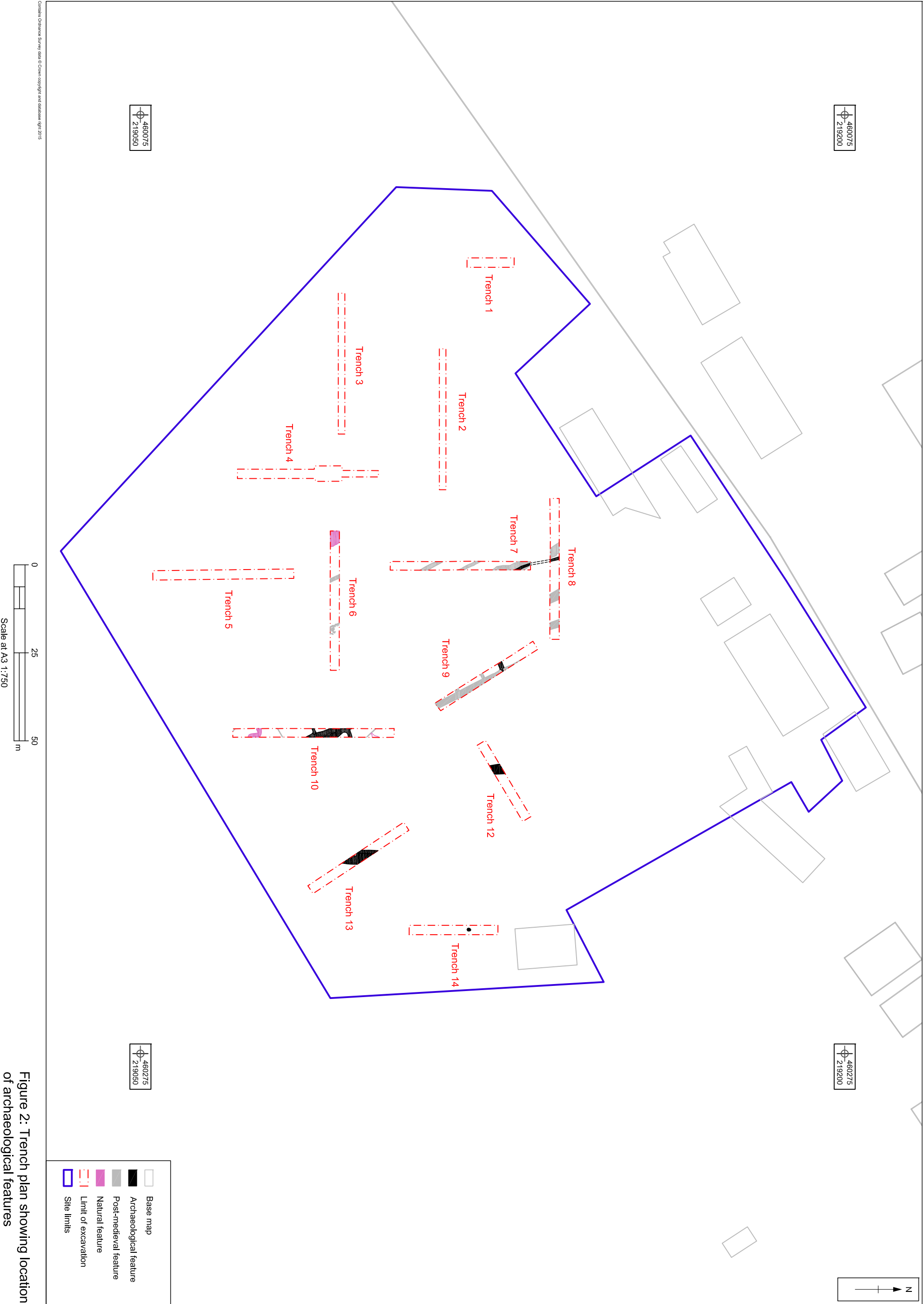


Figure 2: Trench plan showing location of archaeological features

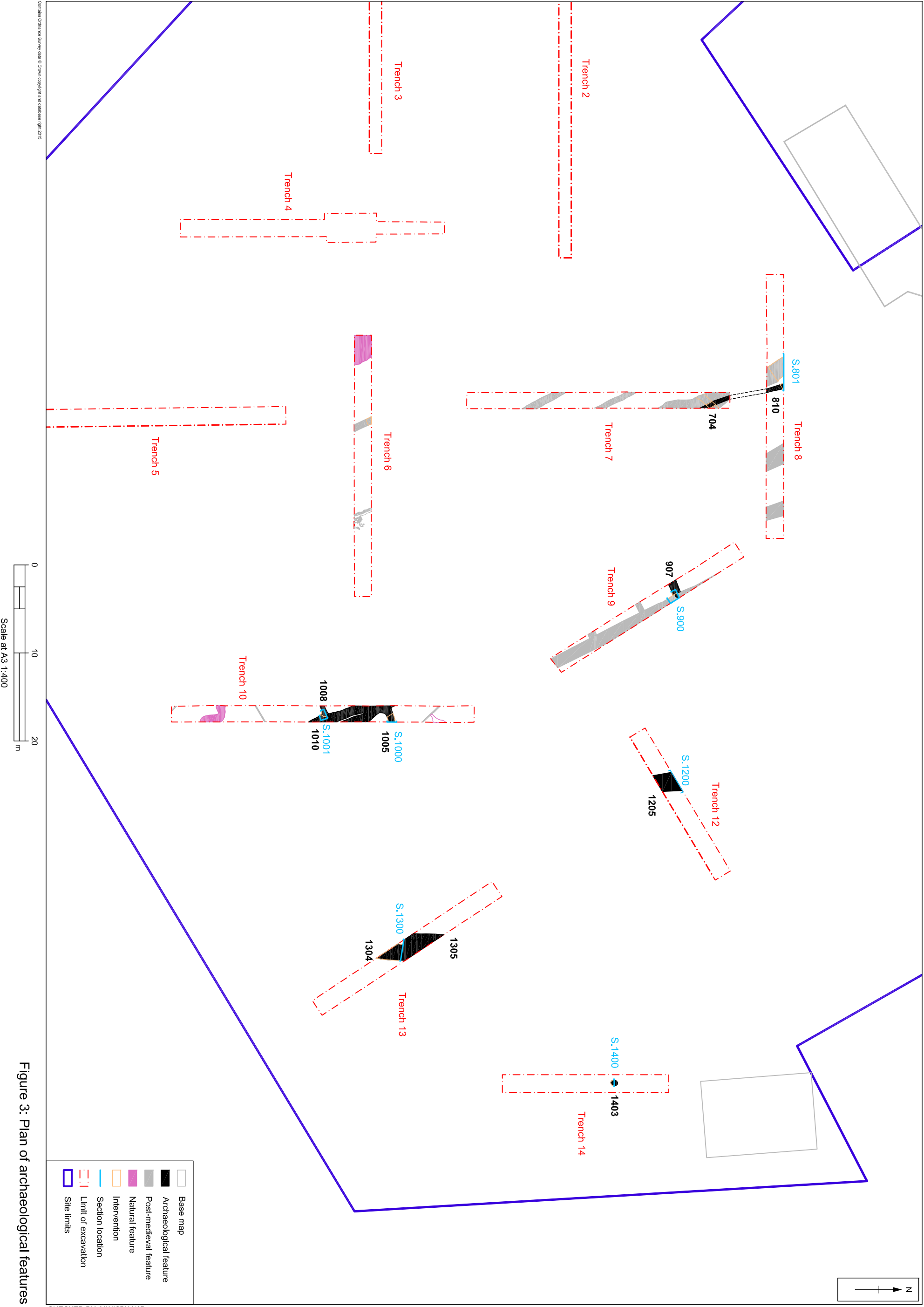


Figure 3: Plan of archaeological features

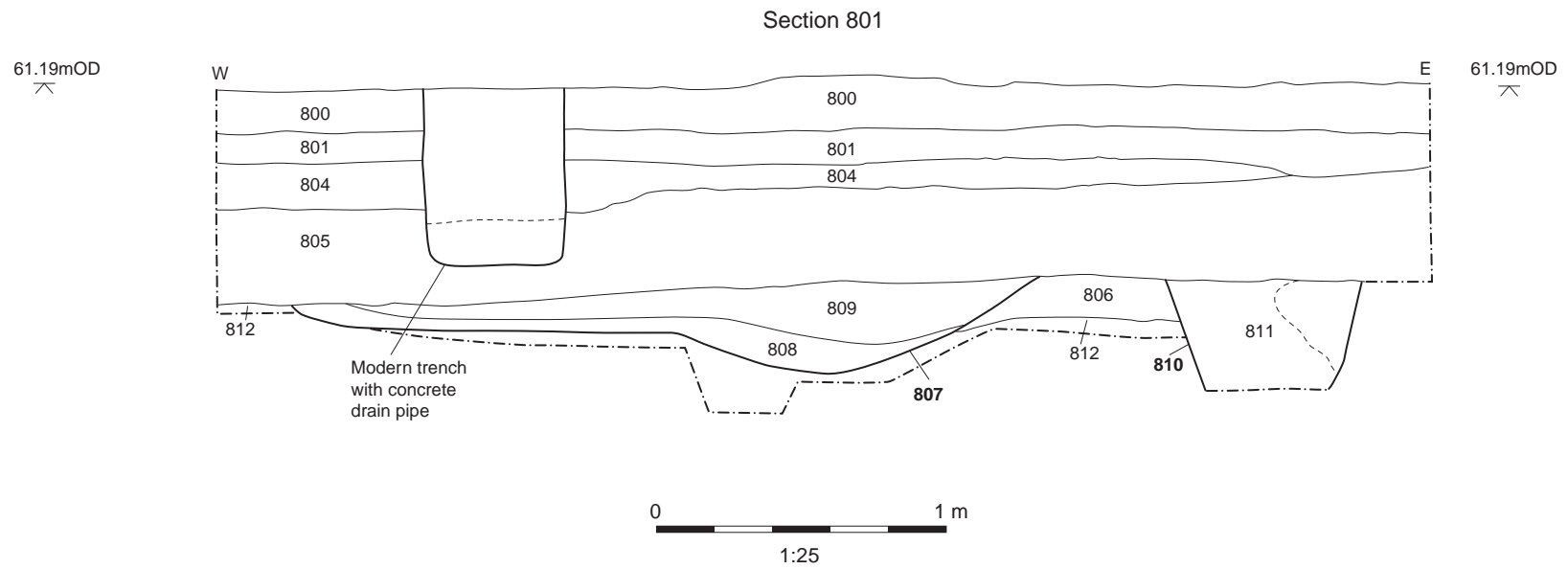


Figure 4: Trench 8: section of furrow and ditch

Figure 5

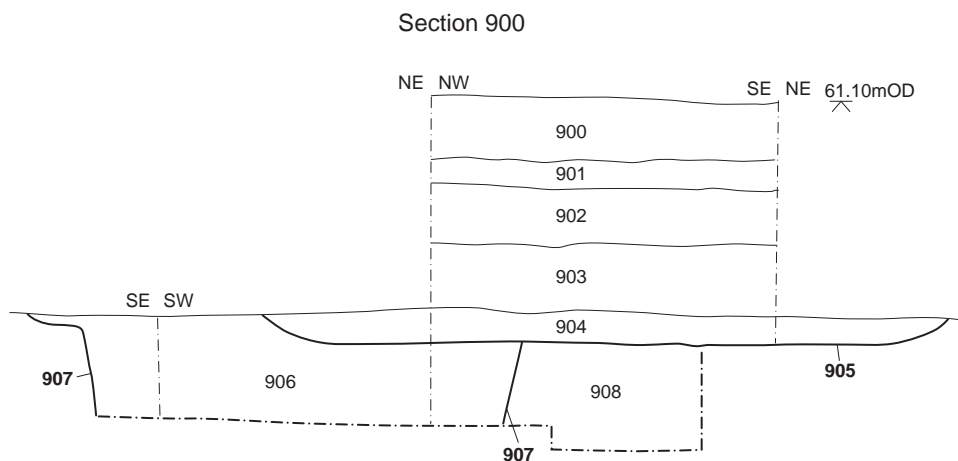


Figure 6

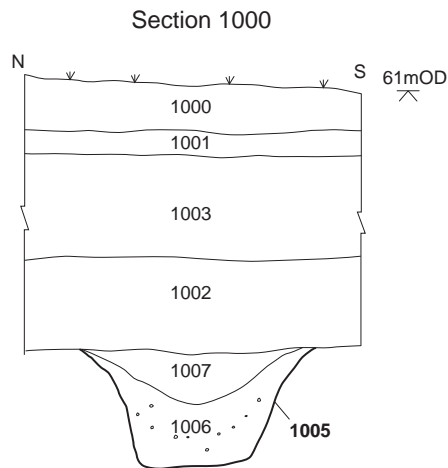


Figure 7

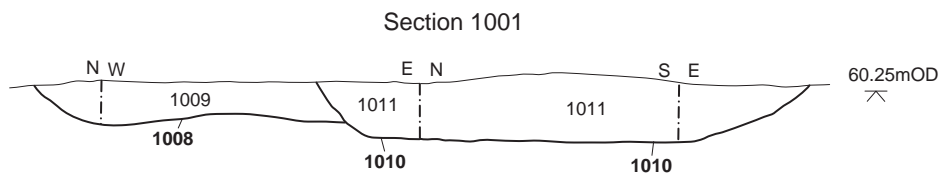


Figure 5, 6 and 7: Trench 9: Section of furrow and ditch, Trench 10: Section of ditch 1005, 1008 and 1010

Figure 8

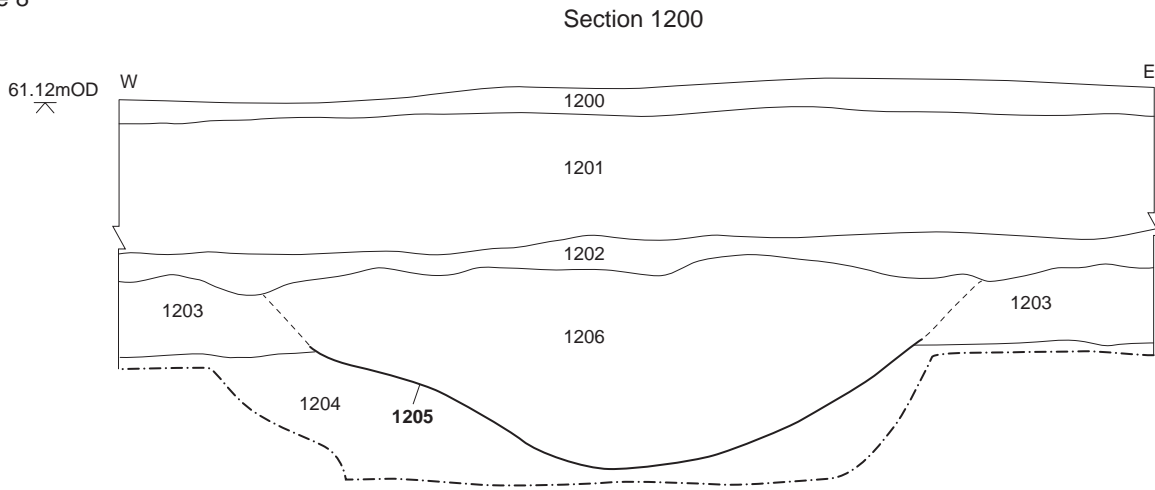


Figure 9

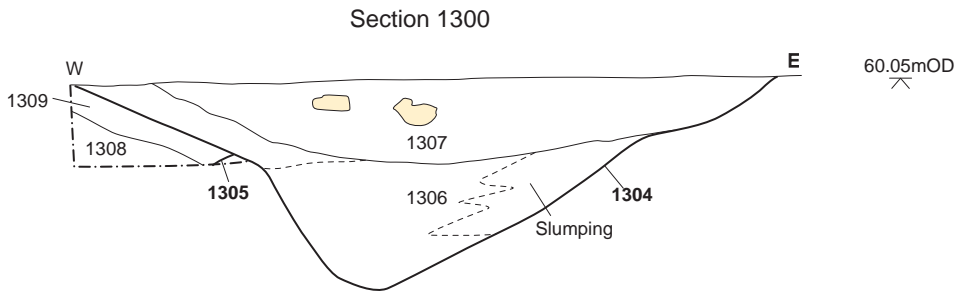


Figure 10

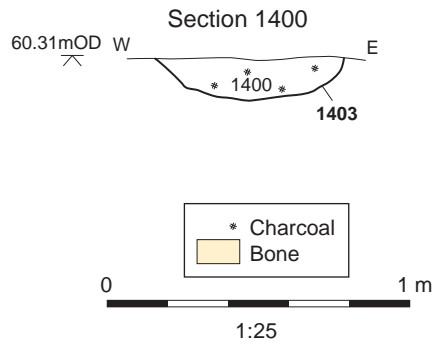


Figure 8, 9 and 10: Trench 12: Section of ditch. Trench 13: Section of ditch and Trench 14: Section of pit



Plate 1: Area A: general view, looking north



Plate 2: Trench 5: general section view, looking south-east



Plate 3: Trench 6: general plan view, looking east



Plate 4: Trench 6: plan view of drain 607, looking north-west



Plate 5: Trench 6: feature 609, looking north-west



Plate 6: Trench 7: furrow 706, overlying ditch 704, looking north



Plate 7: Trench 8: furrow 807, overlying ditch 810, looking north



Plate 8: Trench 9: plan view, looking north-west



Plate 9: Trench 9: furrow 905, overlying ditch 907, looking north-east



Plate 10: Trench 9: ditch 907, looking west



Plate 11: Trench 10: plan view, looking north



Plate 12: Trench 10: ditch 1005, looking west



Plate 13: Trench 10: ditch 1010 overlying ditch 1008, looking north-east



Plate 14: Area B: general view, looking north



Plate 15: Trench 13: ditch 1304 overlying ditch 1305, looking north-east



Plate 16: Trench 13: drain 1303, looking west



Plate 17: Trench 14: pit 1403 pre ex, looking east



Plate 18: Trench 14: pit 1403, looking north



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