Master's Field, Balliol College, Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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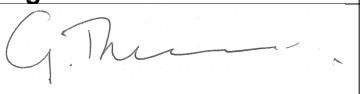
1	Peter Vellet Supervisor, Gerry Thacker Senior Project Manager	Edward Biddulph Senior Project Manager (Post-excavation)	Gerry Thacker Senior Project Manager	

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Master's Field, Balliol College, Oxford

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

Summary

During March 2016 Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation at Balliol College Master's Field, Oxford. Two evaluation trenches around the edge of the sports field each contained a ditch of medieval date, probably relating to agricultural boundaries. A pit of similar date was also present. The trenches excavated through the car park and gardens on the eastern side of the side all exhibited truncation of the natural gravels and no archaeological features remained. Several well preserved glass bottles and stoneware vessels of Victorian date were recovered from a made ground deposit.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Bidwells on behalf of Balliol College to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of proposed new residential buildings.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of submission of a planning application. Although the local planning authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions with David Radford, the City Archaeologist, established the scope of work required. 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*' (2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.2 Location, geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies to the north of Jowett Walk, and to the west of St Cross Road, within the north-eastern part of the walled medieval town of Oxford (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of the gardens and sports field within the southern and eastern parts of the Balliol College sports ground (Fig. 2).

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as gravel of the terrace of the River Cherwell overlying Oxford Clay (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

1.3.1 There is evidence of extensive prehistoric activity in the area to the north of the site, and to a lesser extent the west. Aerial photographs of the University Parks show a number of features spanning the Bronze Age to the Roman period, among them six Bronze Age barrows and a Roman field system. Excavations at the Rex Richards building to the north-west of the site (Parkinson *et al* 1996) uncovered the two concentric ring ditches of a Bronze Age barrow in addition to Iron Age activity.

1.3.2 Additionally two curvilinear ditches were revealed in excavations at the Sackler Library site on Beaumont Street to the west of the site, and were interpreted as the remains of Bronze Age barrows (Poore and Wilkinson 2001). Four probable Bronze Age skeletons were excavated at the Gene Function site adjacent to the Rex Richards building.

Roman

1.3.3 Evidence for Romano-British agricultural and domestic activity has been investigated at Mansfield College to the north, and the Institute for American Studies (Booth and Hayden 2000) and at the New Chemistry Research Laboratory, both to the north of the current proposal area.

Medieval and Post-medieval

1.3.4 De Gomme's map of 1644 shows the location of inner Civil War defensive ditches present within the area of the sports field. Loggan's map of 1675 shows the site of Jowett Walk to be occupied by cultivated strips of land suggesting agricultural activity at this time. An evaluation carried out by Oxford Archaeological Unit to the west along Jowett Walk, revealed medieval occupation and later property boundaries.

Previous Archaeological Work

1.3.5 An evaluation was undertaken within the Master's Field site, to the west of the current proposal, and immediately to the north of Jowett Walk (OAU 1994). The trenches uncovered a large north-east to south-west aligned ditch possibly relating to Oxford's Civil War defences.

1.3.6 A further phase of evaluation to the east of the 1994 trench (OA 2002) revealed a series of post-medieval and undated ditches and pits and postholes. The evaluation was followed by the excavation of two areas (Blocks 4 and 6; OA 2003). This revealed a 17th-century ditch, a number of undated three throw holes and a possible hedgeline.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology was appointed by Bidwells, represented by Nigel Aplin, on behalf of Balliol College. David Radford, of Oxford City Council, monitored the works. The fieldwork was conducted by Rob Bashford and Peter Vellet assisted by Richard Scurr and Rowan Kendrick. Site survey was undertaken by Conan Parsons. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objects were as follows:

(i) Establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains.

(ii) To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any remains present.

(iii) To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits or features.

(iv) To make available the results of the investigation.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 6 trenches were excavated across the site, all of which were targeted on areas of proposed construction impacts (Fig. 2). Each trench measured between 15m and 2.8m in length. Their locations were subject to change due to restrictions caused by tree rooting and services. Additionally, deep deposits of made ground overlying probable truncated natural geology were encountered in trenches 3, 4 and 6.

2.2.2 Trench 5 was spilt into two smaller trenches (labelled 5A and B due to their proximity) to avoid a known service. After completion, both were reinstated using a hydraulic compactor and then re-tarmacked.

2.2.3 Trenches 1-4 and 6 were excavated using a 1.8 tonne 360˚ mechanical excavator, while trench 5 was broken out and excavated using an 8 ton 360˚ mechanical excavator. All trenches were excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

2.2.4 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. Where deep deposits of made ground were encountered, trenches 3, 4 and 6 were machine excavated to arbitrary depths with regard to health and safety.

2.2.5 A sample of each feature was excavated and recorded. Sufficient excavation was undertaken to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation.

2.2.6 Digital photos and colour and black-and-white negative photographs were taken of any archaeological features, deposits, trenches and evaluation work in general.

2.2.7 Plans were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:50), with larger scale plans (1:20) of features as necessary. Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plans. The absolute height (mOD) of all principal strata and features and the section datum lines was calculated.

2.2.8 In addition to the evaluation trenching, two small trenches were conducted between Jowett Walk and the current Balliol College cricket pavilion. These were intended to explore the extent of the rooting associated with the large beech tree in this area. Both excavations were observed by an experienced archaeologist, but did not extend to a depth where any archaeological features could be noted.

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. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated within Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence differed greatly between the trenches, primarily as a result of modern truncation.

3.2.2 Trenches 1 and 2 both contained topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology, although a deposit of made ground (101) was observed overlying the subsoil and underlying the topsoil throughout Trench 1.

3.2.3 Trenches 3-6 were similar in that they all contained deep deposits of made ground. While a different sequence of deposits was observed in each of these trenches, this was relative to their position and level across site and they most likely represent a distinct phase of activity adjacent to St Cross Road. No natural geology was observed in these trenches.

3.2.4 Ground conditions during the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features were, where present, easy to identify against the underlying gravels.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features of medieval date were present within Trenches 1 and 2. Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 all exhibited layers of made ground of post-medieval date, which were investigated to varying depths. Trench 4 contained a Victorian bottle dump within the upper layers of made ground.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 A ditch, 104, was orientated north-east to south west and was located towards the eastern end of the trench. The ditch had a steep sided, flat based profile (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Plate 1). The lower fill, 106, was a dark grey brown silty clay interspersed with patches of gravel, from which a single sherd of medieval pot was recovered (see Appendix B.1). The upper fill, 105, was a mid reddish brown silty clay which contained a cattle scapula and dog ulna (Appendix B.6). The ditch was cut to the east by tree throw 107 (Figs 3 and 4), which remained undated.

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 A broadly north-west to south-east orientated ditch, 203, was situated towards the southern end of the trench. The ditch was fairly steep sided with a concave base. The lower fill, 205, was a light yellow brown sandy silt. This was overlain by 204, a reddish brown sandy silt which contained five sherds of medieval pottery. A pit, 206, was located within the southern end of the trench (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Plate 2), and cut the ditch fills. The pit had a concave profile, and single fill, 207, a dark brown sandy silt, from which seven sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. The northern end of Trench 2 contained an extensive area of tree throw and rooting, occasionally with

pieces of root surviving. It is likely that these relate to a fairly recently felled tree to the east (the stump surviving).

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Trench 3 was excavated through the grassed area adjacent to residential buildings (Figs 2 and 5). The trench was constrained by buried services and the root zones of adjacent trees, and only a 3m area of the trench could be opened to a depth of 1.1m. It was clear however that made ground was present to a depth below the expected level of the natural gravels, as extrapolated from Trenches 1 and 2 in the adjacent sports field. The lowest deposit encountered, 303, comprised redeposited natural gravels mixed with brick and other construction debris. This was overlain by a dark grey-black sandy clay, 302, which contained brick fragments and occasional pieces of plastic. This was in turn sealed by 301, a dark grey sandy silt also containing fragments of brick, which was sealed by topsoil and turf layer 300.

3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 Trench 4 was also only partially excavated, once it became clear that there was over 1.7m of made ground present (see also Trench 5 below). The lowest deposit identified, 404, was a mixed light grey-brown and yellow-brown sandy silt containing frequent gravels (Fig. 5). This was sealed by a dark grey sandy clay 403. Layer 402 above was a mid grey-brown sandy silt which contained fragments of pottery, slate and glass. Several complete glass and ceramic vessels were recovered from this deposit (see Appendices B.1 and B.5; Plate 4), and the area had clearly been used as a bottle dump, probably in the latter part of the19th century. Layer 402 was sealed by 401, 0.8m of mid brown sandy silt in turn sealed by the current topsoil and turf surface.

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 Trench 5 was split into two to avoid a buried surface that ran through the centre of the car park area (Figs 2 and 6; Plate 3). The western of the two trenches (Trench 5A) was machine reduced to a depth of 3.2m below the level of the car park surface. The lowest deposit encountered, 509, was a mid brownish-grey sandy clay containing low percentages of gravel, charcoal flecks and fragments of oyster shell. Glass recovered from this deposit is of certain post-medieval date, and possibly as late as the 20th century (Appendix B.5). Overlying this was layer 502, which was very similar to the underlying deposit, but a lighter yellow brown in colour. Layer 510 was again similar to the two underlying deposits but with a grater quantity of charcoal and gravel, and occasional fragments of limestone. Finds from 510 included pottery dating to 1650 and 1900, and glass dating from the later 18th to early 19th century. A layer of mixed black clinker like material in a green grey clay silt matrix, 511, sealed 510. Layer 511 contained pottery dating from 1830-1900. The upper layers encountered were 507, a loose deposit of limestone rubble overlain by 508, a loose layer of brick rubble sealed by the tarmac surface.

3.8.2 Trench 5B (Figs. 2 and 6) had a similar upper sequence which was partially investigated by hand excavation to a safe working depth. Layer 501 was equivalent to 509, and 502 was also present. Within this trench, layer 502 was overlain by 503, a mid brown clay silt containing pottery dating from 1760-1830, and glass of early 18th or 19th century date. This was below 504, a layer of limestone rubble with mortar fragments in a grey-brown clay silt matrix, the base of which was noted to tip down to the north. Pottery recovered dated to 1820-1840. Layer 504 was overlain by layer 505

(equivalent to 510) then 506 (equivalent to 511) and 507 (508 was not present), which was sealed by tarmac.

3.9 Trench 6

3.9.1 Trench 6 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m below current ground level (Figs 2 and 5). The northern end of the trench was not accessible due to an unmapped drainage pipe, and the southern end contained an unmapped telecoms cable. The lowest deposit encountered, 604, was a mid grey-brown gravel rich sandy silt. This was sealed by 603, a mid brown sandy silt from which a single sherd of pottery dating from 1805-1900 was recovered. Deposit 602 was the fill around the drain and sat within 601, the construction cut. All deposits were sealed by 600, the current grass surface.

3.10 Finds summary

3.10.1 Finds including pottery, clay pipe, ceramic building material, stone roof tile, glass, animal bone and shell and were recovered from several contexts from all trenches. Of these only pottery recovered from fill 106 in Trench 1, and fills 204 and 207 in Trench 2 were of medieval date. All other finds were of later post-medieval date with the exception a single struck and retouched flint flake from the subsoil (201) in Trench 2.

4 Discussion

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during dry conditions, and where present the archaeological features were easily identifiable against the underlying natural gravels. Although natural gravels were not reached in the trenches on the eastern side of the site, the depths of late post-medieval made ground present strongly suggest the truncation of the gravels, and any archaeological features in these areas.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The presence or absence, type, date, extent, nature and character of the archaeological features was examined and recorded.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The ditches uncovered within Trenches 1 and 2 are likely to form part of a field system dating to the medieval period, specifically from between 1150 to 1300. Ditch 203 is better dated with five sherds of pottery recovered from the fill (204), as opposed to the single sherd recovered from the basal fill of ditch 104 (fill 106). The ditches are quite different in both size and profile (Fig. 4), and it is possible that ditch 104, the larger of the two, formed the more major land division, and that ditch 203 formed a smaller boundary within this. Pit 206, which post-dated ditch 203, also contained pottery of similar, although potentially slightly later date (1225-1350), although it is possible that the pit is of considerably later date, and that the pottery eroded into the feature from the fills of ditch 203. All three features contained varying amounts of animal bone, generally representing species that could be indicative of food waste.

4.3.2 Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 all contained deposits of fairly recent date, often Victorian. The surface of the natural geology in all of these trenches is likely have to be severely truncated. This is particularly evident within Trench 5a, which was immediately adjacent to the playing field, where in Trenches 1 and 2, the gravel was reached at between 61.2 and 60.5m OD, but in Trench 5A the geology had not been reached at 57.1m OD, a drop of nearly 4m. The reason for the truncation is not immediately clear, and no buildings with potential basements for example are present in the footprints of the eastern trenches on the historic maps. It may be that gravel was removed during the alteration of the road layout, or other construction, and that the deposits identified in Trenches 4, 5a, 5d and perhaps 6 relate to the infilling of borrow pits. The layers encountered in Trench 3 are probably related to the construction of the adjacent Martin Building in more recent times.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single ditch and four tree throws. Stratigraphy consists of topsoil, made ground and subsoil overlying a sandy gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.70
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	15
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	1.80	0.30	Topsoil; dark brown, silty clay	-	-
101	Layer	1.80	0.20	Made ground; mixed deposit, mid yellowish brown sandy gravel, very dark grey to black sandy silt with charcoal components and light to mid brown clay	Clay pipe, glass, pottery	AD 1862-1900
102	Layer	1.80	0.20	Subsoil; mid reddish brown silty clay	-	-
103	Layer	-	-	Natural; light to mid yellowish brown, sandy gravels	-	-
104	Cut	2.70	0.63	Ditch; NE-SE aligned, steep to near vertical straight sides, flat base	-	-
105	Fill	2.70	0.26	Ditch; friable, mid reddish brown, silty clay, fill of 104	Animal bone	-
106	Fill	2.66	0.18	Ditch; moderately firm, mixed deposit – dark greyish brown silty clay and mid yellowish brown sandy gravel, fill of ditch 104	Pottery	AD 1175-1400
107	Cut	1.70	0.40	Tree throw; irregular shape in plan, sides and base	-	-
108	Fill	1.70	0.40	Tree throw; loose, mid yellowish brown, sandy silt	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained a single ditch and pit, as well as large tree throws dominating its NNE extent. Stratigraphy consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying sandy gravel natural geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.69
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	12
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	1.80	0.40	Topsoil; dark brown, sandy silt	-	-
201	Layer	1.80	0.29	Subsoil; mid brown, sandy silt	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural; light yellowish brown,	-	-

				sandy gravel		
203	Cut	1.42	0.55	Ditch; WNW-ESE aligned, moderate straight sides, rounded base	-	-
204	Fill	1.42	0.41	Ditch; loose, mid reddish brown, sandy silt, infrequent small stone inclusions, fill of ditch 203	Animal bone, pottery	AD 1150-1300
205	Fill	0.50	0.15	Ditch; loose, light yellowish brown, silty sand, frequent small stone inclusions, fill of ditch 203	-	-
206	Cut	1.20	0.38	Pit; circular, steep concave sides, round base	-	-
207	Fill	1.20	0.38	Pit; loose, dark brown, sandy silt, common small stone inclusions, fill of pit 206	Animal bone, pottery	AD 1225-1350

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained no significant archaeology. Stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying three distinct layers of Modern to Post-medieval made ground containing detritus. Natural geology was not observed in this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.02
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	5
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	1.80	0.10	Topsoil; dark greyish brown, clay silt	-	-
301	Layer	0.90	0.40	Made ground; friable, mid to dark greyish brown, sandy silt, infrequent stone inclusions and detritus	Glass	20th century
302	Layer	0.90	0.44	Made ground; friable, mixed - dark grey to black and mid yellowish brown, sandy silty clay, infrequent stone inclusions and detritus including plastic	Pottery	AD 1860-1900
303	Layer	0.90	>0.08	Made ground; firm, mixed deposit – mid greyish brown and mid yellowish brown, sand silty clay, infrequent stone inclusions and detritus	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained no significant archaeology. Stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying four distinct layers of Modern to Post-medieval made ground containing detritus. Natural geology was not observed in this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.70
					Width (m)	0.90
					Length (m)	2.60
Contexts						
Context	**Type**	**Width**	**Depth**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**

no		(m)	(m)			
400	Layer	1.80	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	0.90	0.80	Made ground; friable, mid brown, sandy silt, infrequent stone inclusions and detritus	-	-
402	Layer	0.90	0.31	Made ground; friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt, frequent detritus	Glass, pottery	Late 19th century
403	Layer	0.90	0.40	Made ground; friable, mixed dark grey to black, clay sandy silt, contained detritus and rooting	-	-
404	Layer	0.90	-	Made ground; friable, mixed deposit – light greyish brown and mid yellowish brown, sandy silt with gravels, contained detritus	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.65-2.50
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	2.80-3
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
501	Layer	2.00	>0.04	Deliberate deposit; mid brownish grey, sandy clay, infrequent gravel inclusions	Glass	Post medieval
502	Layer	2.00	0.28	Deliberate deposit; mid yellowish brown with occasional orange brown lenses, sandy clay	Animal bone	-
503	Layer	2.00	0.34	Deliberate deposit; mid greyish brown, clay silt, infrequent gravel inclusions	Glass, pottery	AD 1760-1830
504	Layer	c.1.00	0.20	Deliberate deposit; mid greyish brown, clay silt, abundant limestone rubble with mortar concentrations	Stone, CBM, pottery	AD 1820-1840
505	Layer	2.00	0.35	Deliberate deposit; mid grey, clay silt, infrequent gravel and occasional limestone inclusions	Animal bone, glass, pottery	AD 1820-1840
506	Layer	2.00	0.28-0.31	Deliberate deposit; mixed deposit – black and mid greenish grey, clay silt with abundant clinker inclusions	Pottery	AD 1860-1900
507	Layer	2.00	0.19-0.26	Deliberate deposit; loose, limestone rubble with no soil matrix	-	-
508	Layer	2.00	0.16	Deliberate deposit; loose, brick rubble with no soil matrix	-	-

				(west trench only)		
509	Layer	2.00	0.90	Deliberate deposit; possibly the same as 501	Shell, glass	c 20th century
510	Layer	2.00	0.64	Deliberate deposit; possibly the same as 505	Pottery	AD 1650-1900
511	Layer	2.00	0.28	Deliberate deposit; possibly the same as 506	Pottery	AD 1830-1900
512	Group	-	-	Group number; 501 – 505, 509 and 510	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained no significant archaeology. A single modern pit was observed. Stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying three distinct layers of Modern to Post-medieval made ground containing detritus. Natural geology was not observed in this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.60
					Width (m)	1.80
					Length (m)	6
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	1.80	0.12	Topsoil; dark brownish grey, silty sand	-	-
601	Cut	>0.74	0.48	Pit; modern pit containing charcoal and detritus including asbestos, full extent and function uncertain	-	-
602	Layer	>0.74	0.48	Pit; loose, dark grey, sandy silt, abundant charcoal and detritus	-	-
603	Layer	0.90	0.19-1.01	Made ground; friable, mid brown, sandy silt, infrequent small stones	Pottery	AD 1805-1900
604	Layer	0.90	>0.47	Made ground; mixed deposit – mid greyish brown and mid yellowish brown, sandy silt with gravels	-	-
605	Layer	0.90	>0.07	Made ground; possibly the same as 602	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of 68 sherds of pottery weighing 5.453kg was recovered from 13 contexts from five trenches. Some medieval material is present but the bulk is of 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 which is the date-bracket 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).

Date and nature of the assemblage

B.1.2 Apart from two complete vessels the pottery assemblage, overall, is in a fragmentary condition but with several quite large and fresh sherds present, mainly amongst the latest material. Ordinary domestic pottery types typical of Oxford sites are represented. These are detailed in the spreadsheet and summarised here. Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994) whereas the post-medieval pottery fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014).

B.1.3 The earliest material (12 sherds) is of medieval date and confined to Trenches 1 (1 sherd) and 2 (11 sherds). Context (204) produced 5 fairly fresh medieval sherds with an overall date of c 1150-1300, as defined by the presence of East Wiltshire ware (Fabric OXAQ, c 1150-1350), alongside glazed and unglazed Medieval Oxford ware (OXY, c 1075-1300) and a cooking pot rim in Cotswold-type ware (OXAC, c 1050-1250). Six medieval sherds from Context (207) provide an overall date of c 1225-1350, as defined by a jug sherd in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM, c 1225-1625) and fresh sherds of East Wiltshire ware cooking pots. A single worn sherd of OXY in Trench 1 (101) is probably residual but is the only piece in the context. All the remaining pottery from the site is post-medieval and nearly all dating to the late 18th and 19th centuries. Two or three smallish sherds of post-medieval redwares (PMR, PMBL) might, possibly, date to the 17th or 18th centuries, including the lone sherd from (510), but no pottery (or clay pipes or CBM) is definitely contemporary with the Civil War defences near the site.

B.1.4 Mass-produced pottery of the late 18th and particularly the 19th century is relatively common. These include tablewares (dishes and mugs etc) and storage vessels. A few sherds from dishes in developed Creamware (CREA DEV, c 1760-1830) are present, but probably all from 19th-century contexts. The 19th-century wares include a few dishes and other forms in Staffordshire-type transfer-printed whitewares (PEAR TR, TPW), mainly with blue 'Willow Pattern' decoration. At least four cylindrical storage jars in refined whitewares (REFW and TPW) date from the second half of the 19th century, including a Keiller's Dundee marmalade jar from (101). Three of these came from Context (402) in Trench 4, interpreted as a Victorian rubbish/bottle dump with a general spot-date of c 1870-1900. This produced two complete storage vessels in late English stonewares. The smaller one (125mm tall) is a commonplace ink bottle in cream

stoneware with a clear Bristol-type glaze (ENGS BRST, c 1835+). The larger vessel (335mm tall) is a tall flagon in a lustrous brown salt-glazed stoneware of a type produced in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire from c 1690-1900 (NOTS). It is of tall cylindrical flagon- or bottle-shaped form with a conical shoulder, a small neck and rim with a pouring lip or spout, a ribbed strap handle and flat base. Storage jars/bottles of this form and late period are more likely to come from one of the Derbyshire stoneware potteries. The vessel is remarkable both for its perfect (or pristine) state of preservation and for the inscription stamped on it shoulder allowing it to be precisely dated to the period 1860-1872. This is a tradesman's or proprietor's mark (no manufacturer's mark is present) typical of stoneware storage vessels of the second half of the 19th century: "HENRY STEPHENS/ MANUFACTURER OF WRITING FLUIDS/ & DYES FOR STAINING WOOD/ 171 ALDERSGATE STREET/ LONDON". Henry ("Inky") Stephens' company was the most important producer of indelible ink in Britain the late 19th and 20th century; the business moved premises several times in its long lifetime but only occupied the Aldersgate address between 1860-1872 (Wilde 2014). Given that the company was based in London it is unusual, but not unheard of, that it commissioned its storage vessels from a Midlands source rather than from one of the several major stoneware potteries operating in London at this time. The vessel is a museum-grade piece and one of the finest examples of its kind ever seen by the author; it deserves to be on display - at least occasionally - rather than kept in indefinite storage. Further research may reveal where, and by whom, it was used, and whether or not other examples exist in other collections. Photographs of the vessel have been taken and a fuller report should appear in the results of any further works.

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
101	c 1862-1900	4	57	Transfer-printed whiteware (TPW) Keiller's Dundee marmalade jar rim with black inscrip including mention of medal of merit at Vienna Exhibition (date missing 1862 or 1873). Transfer-printed whiteware (TPW) dish rim c1825-40. Bo (body sherd) Developed Creamware (CREA DEV). Bead rim red terracotta (PMR) flowerpot
106	1862-1900	1	11	Worn cpot base Med Oxford ware (OXY), or possibly Early Brill (OXAW c1175-1400)?
204	c 1150-1300	5	54	1x bo East Wilts/Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ). 2x bos OXY cpot - fairly fresh. 1x fresh bo OXY yellow-glazed jug/pitcher bo. 1x Cotswold-type (OXAC) cpot rim
207	c 1225-1350	6	80	1x Brill (OXAM) flat basal sherd from jug with green glz specks. 1x OXAW gr-glz jug bo. 1x fresh ?OXAW cpot bo, 2 large/fresh OXAQ cpot rim & base. Small bo OXY
302	c 1860-1900	2	104	
402	1860-1872	1	3160	Complete brown salt-glazed stoneware flagon in perfect condition. Probably Nottingam/Derbyshire stoneware (NOTS). Impressed tradesman's mark on shoulder datable 1860-72: "HENRY STEPHENS/ MANUFACTURER OF WRITING FLUIDS/ & DYES FOR STAINING WOOD/ 171

				ALDERSGATE STREET/ LONDON". Might be a Bourne & Denby (Derbys) product but no maker's mark present. Wheel-thrown. Cylindrical body with conical shoulder & small pulley-like neck/rim with a pouring-lip. Flat base. Vertical looped strap handle (37mm wide) attached to shoulder with 4 vertical grooves on back creating ribbed effect with bolder central rib; triangular or dart-shaped lower handle terminal. Pair of deeply incised grooves at shoulder angle. Lustrous brown salt glaze allover ext, clear grey glaze inside neck. Max Height 335mm; Base/body diam 178mm; Rim diam 57mm; Height to lower shoulder groove 230mm. ILLUS. (Wilde 2014: http://www.stephenshouseandgardens.com/assets/ugc/docs/InkCompanyTimeline_revised.pdf
402	c 1870-1900	7	996	6 vess. Incl 3 REFW preserve jar bases, the complete base bearing the impressed mark of 'MALING NEWCASTLE' with the letters 'S' & 'K' above & below the 'L' in a vertical line (commonly used on Keiller's Dundee marmalade jars from 1862 onwards - but no trace of the usual printed mark survives on the side). Of the other 2 jar bases, 1 is plain (2 sherds) & the other with moulded corduroy sides. 1x L19C jade-coloured green-glazed elaborate jardinaire rim/wall sherd with moulded shanked/fluted decoration including cabbage leaf moulding & crimping at the rim & traces of leaves - probably from c1870+. 1x complete small slender cream stoneware (ENGS BRST) ink bottle (125mm tall) with narrow pulley-shaped rim, unmarked. 1x fresh complete profile red terracotta (PMR) wheel-thrown flowerpot with bead rim & central base perforation (120mm tall)
503	c 1760-1830	1	3	Bo CREA DEV
504	c 1820-1840	7	217	4x joining sherds from willow pattern dish profile in transfer-printed Pearlware (PEAR TR, c1820-40). 1x CREA DEV dish bo. 2x post-med redware (PMR) incl flat base from large bowl in paler Brill fabric - poss 18C?
510	c 1650-1900	1	16	Worn basal sherd PMR ?dish/bowl with dark brown int glaze
511	c 1830-1900	4	39	3x TPW incl ?bowl or ?soap dish rim & jug handle. 1x bo 18/19C light orange PMR
603	c 1805-1900	1	35	Footring base REFW soup bowl
Total		**68**	**5453**	

B.2 Clay tobacco pipe

by John Cotter

B.2.1 Context (101) produced a single piece of slender clay pipe stem (weight 4g), in fairly fresh condition. This dates to the late l8th or 19th century.

B.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

by John Cotter

B.3.1 Context (504) produced a single piece of brick (weight 1087g), in fairly fresh condition. This is from the end of an unfrogged red brick with a thickness of 59mm and width of 105mm. A horizontal 'skintling' (stacking) impression is visible on one side. A late l8th or 19th century date is likely - probably the latter.

B.4 Stone

by Ruth Shaffrey

Description

B.4.1 Two pieces of worked stone were recovered from the site. One of these is certainly a fragment of roof-stone (604, 145g). It is made from a fine-grained calcareous sandstone and retains a narrow circular perforation of 8mm. A fragment of slate (504, 76g) also seems likely to have been used as roofing, but is a small fragment lacking original edges or perforation that would allow a more certain identification. Both stone types are typical of Oxford in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

B.5 Glass

by Ian R Scott

B.5.1 There are 14 sherds from 13 vessels and two pieces of window glass from seven contexts. Most of the glass recovered is from 402 and includes three complete bottles (Nos 8-10) and parts of two possibly three other bottles (Nos 4-6) and rim and part of the neck of a decanter (No. 7). None of the vessel glass can be dated before the mid 19th-century with certainty, although one piece (No. 14) could be that early. The ginger brandy bottle (No. 8) could date as early as the 1830s or 1840s. If the cylindrical blue bottle embossed 'KCB' on its base was manufactured by Kilner Brothers, which is far from certain, it cannot date before 1848 when the company was founded. The window glass is not closely datable. The milk bottle (No. 2) and possible milk bottle (No. 3) probably date no earlier than the early 20th century.

4.3.3 Context 101 1) Bottle. Thick-walled sherd from probable cylindrical bottle. Light green glass. Not closely datable

B.5.2 Context 301 2) Milk bottle. Sherd from shoulder of probable milk bottle. Embossed lettering: '. .]O or DIS'. Colourless. 20th century or later

B.5.3 Context 301 3) Bottle. Base of machine moulded bottle. Possibly milk bottle. Colourless. 20th-century or later

B.5.4 Context 402 4) Medicine bottle. Neck and shoulder of a medicine bottle of rectangular cross-section. Moulded with hand finished horizontal square rim for corked closure. Pale blue green. Later 19th- or early 20th-century

B.5.5 Context 402 5) Bottle. Body and base of a bottle of oval section (2 x refitting sherds) plain with moulded rectangular panel on one side with embossed inscription: " . . .DA VERITAS". Moulded in a two piece mould with base plate. Grey green glass. Late 19th or early 20th century.

B.5.6 Context 402 6) Bottle. Strongly curved sherd probably from shoulder of cylindrical bottle, scar for neck. Cobalt blue. Not closely datable.

B.5.7 Context 402 7) Decanter. Neck and finish from long necked decanter with broad squat body. Has 7 facets on neck. Colourless. Victorian 'shaft and globe' decanter

B.5.8 Context 402 8) Brandy bottle. Complete spirits bottle, square section with chamfered corners. Moulded in two-piece mould with base plate, and has hand applied tooled finish. Green. Part of label survives. Henry Brett & Co's 'Negro head' ginger brandy. The company were based in Old Furnival's Inn, Holborn and traded as wine and spirit merchants from at least as early as 1835 and was selling its Ginger Brandy by the 1840s if not earlier. Ht: 215mm; W max:80mm x 80mm.

B.5.9 Context 402 9) Bottle. Complete bottle of rectangular section with chamfered corners, rounded shoulder and long narrow neck. Made in a two-piece mould with separate base plate. Hand applied and tooled finish. Light green. Ht: 250mm; W: 73mm.

B.5.10 Context 402 10) Bottle. Complete cylindrical bottle with rounded shoulders, short neck and hand applied finish. Made in a Rickett's type three-piece mould. Light cobalt blue with matt finish. Embossed 'KCB' on base with mould or design number '1174'. It has been suggested that this ornate 'KCB' mark maybe a Kilner Brothers mark, but I am not convinced. Ht: 210mm; D: 77mm.

B.5.11 Context 501 11) Window glass. Triangular sherd of weathered window glass. Olive green. Probably post medieval.

B.5.12 Context 503 12) Window glass. Small sherd of window glass. Pale blue green. Not closely datable - post medieval or modern.

B.5.13 Context 503 13) Wine bottle. Thick walled body sherd possibly from early squat bottle but could be later. Iridescent weathering on surfaces. Olive green. Early 18th- to early 19th century

B.5.14 Context 505 14) Wine bottle. Thick-walled sherd probably from neck of later 18th- or early 19th-century wine bottle. Dark green.

B.5.15 Context 509 15) Bottle. Body sherd from cylindrical bottle, Colourless, hint of blue green. Undiagnostic, but probably 20th-century or later.

B.6 Animal bone

by Lena Strid

All bone is fragmentary unless stated otherwise

Context	Description
105	1 cattle scapula, 1 dog ulna, 68g
204	1 horse metacarpal; 1 calf sacrum; 1 pig ulna, first phalanx and atlas; 1 sheep mandible; 1 large mammal rib, 247g
207	2 large mammal ribs; 1 medium mammal rib, 32g

502	1 cow pelvis, 1 cow mandible, 92g
505	1 indeterminate fragment, 6g

Discussion and recommendations.

B.6.1 The animal bone assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.7 Flint

by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
201	A single worked flint flake, retouched along one margin, two notches on opposing margin, 3g

Discussion and recommendations.

B.7.1 The flint assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work at this stage. The worked flint from the evaluation should be integrated into any further analysis arising from future archaeological work on the site.

B.8 Shell

by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
207	Single fragment of oyster (Ostrea edulis) shell, 8g
509	Single oyster left valve (Ostrea edulis) 37g

Discussion and recommendations.

B.8.1 The shell assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

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Appendix D. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Master's Field, Balliol College, Oxford

Site code: OXBAM16

Grid reference: SP 518066

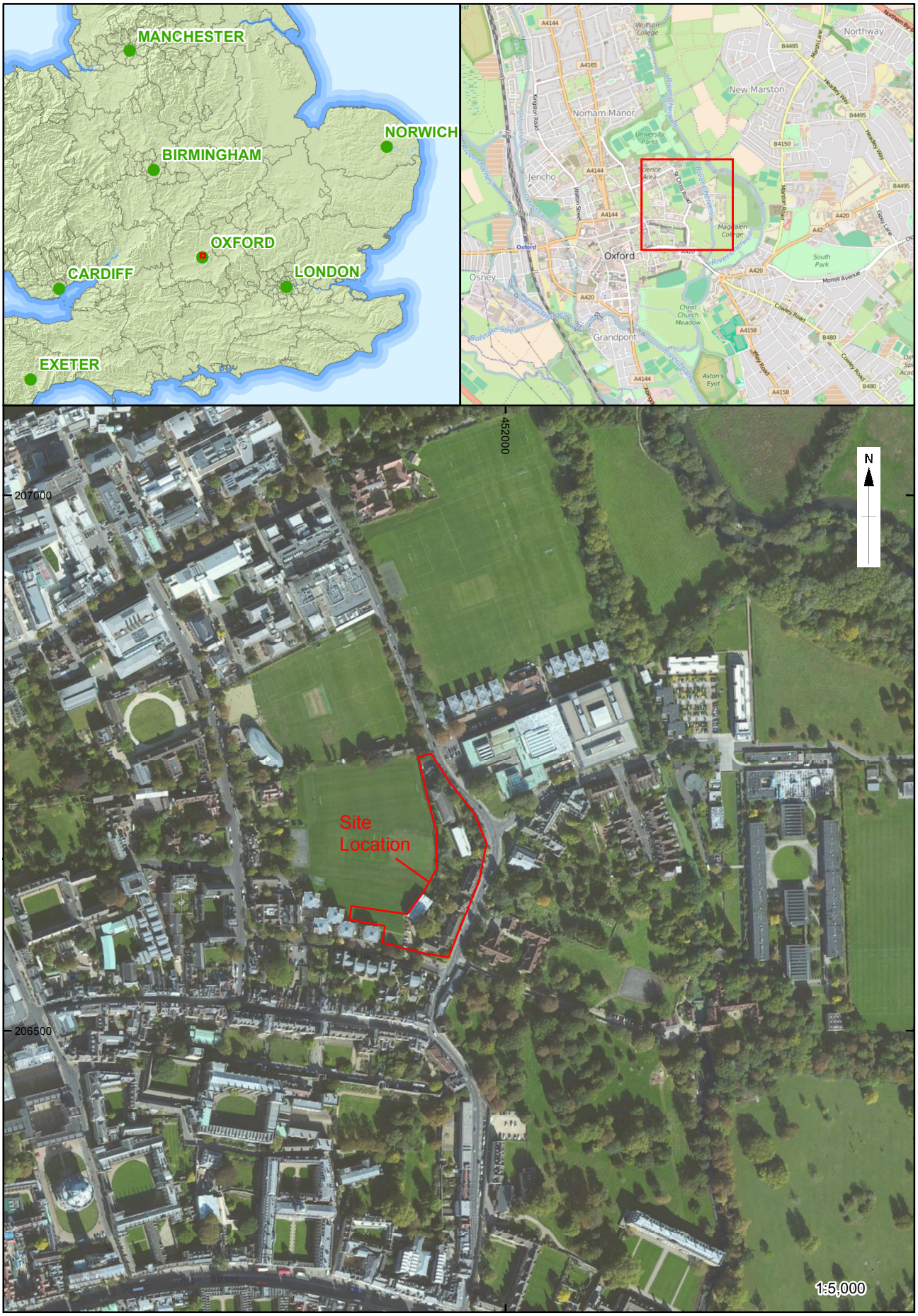
Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 14th-18th March 2016

Area of site: c 0.5ha

Summary of results: During March 2016 Oxford Archaeology carried out a trial trench evaluation at Balliol College Master's Field, Oxford. Two evaluation trenches around the edge of the sports field each contained a ditch of medieval date, probably relating to agricultural boundaries. A pit of similar date was also present. The trenches excavated through the car park and gardens on the eastern side of the side all exhibited truncation of the natural gravels and no archaeological features remained. Several well preserved glass bottles and stoneware vessels of Victorian date were recovered from a made ground deposit.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2016.41



O:\O_codes\OXBAMEV\OXBAMEV_Figure_1.mxd*victoria.hosegood*15/04/2016

Figure 1: Site location

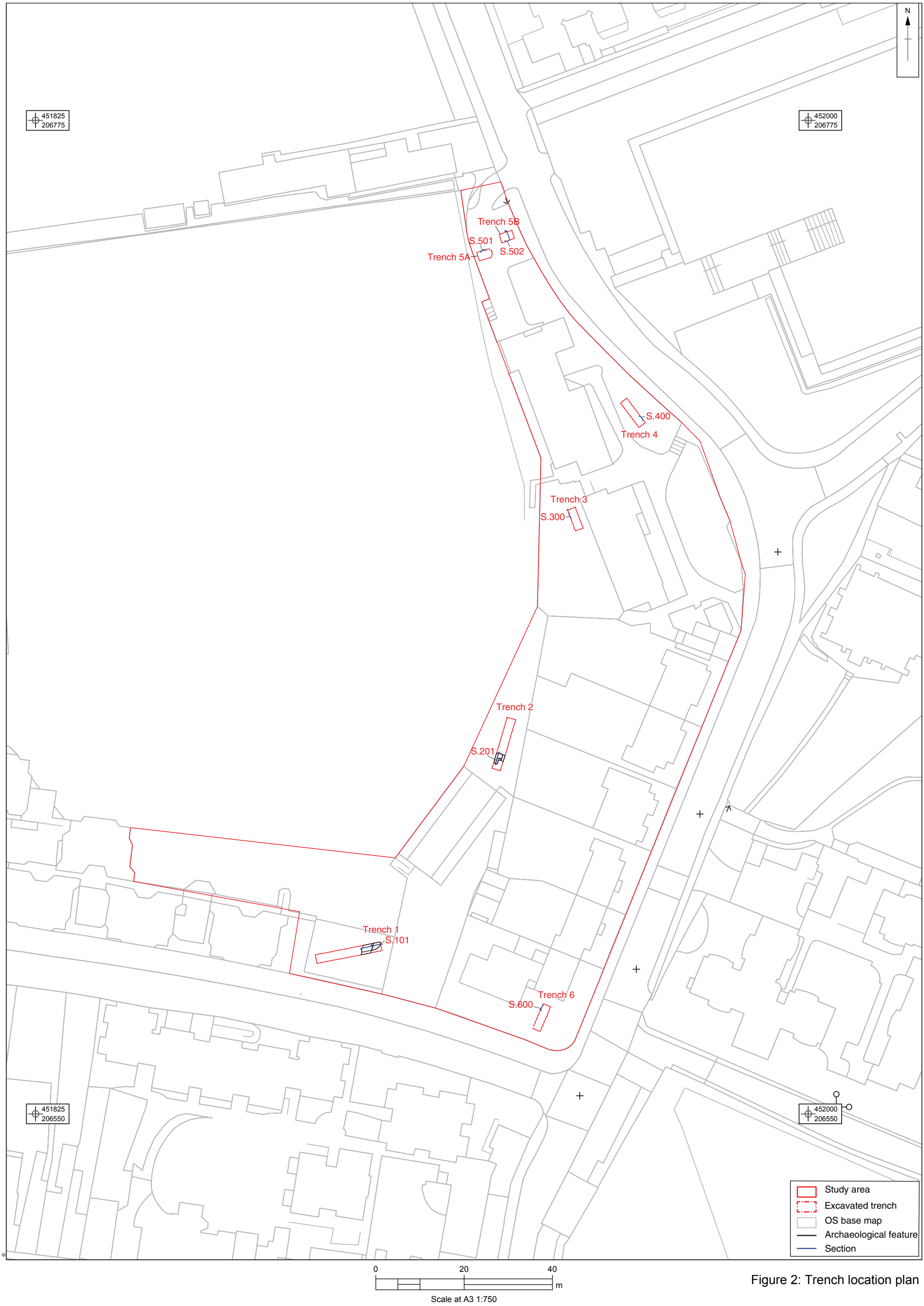


Figure 2: Trench location plan

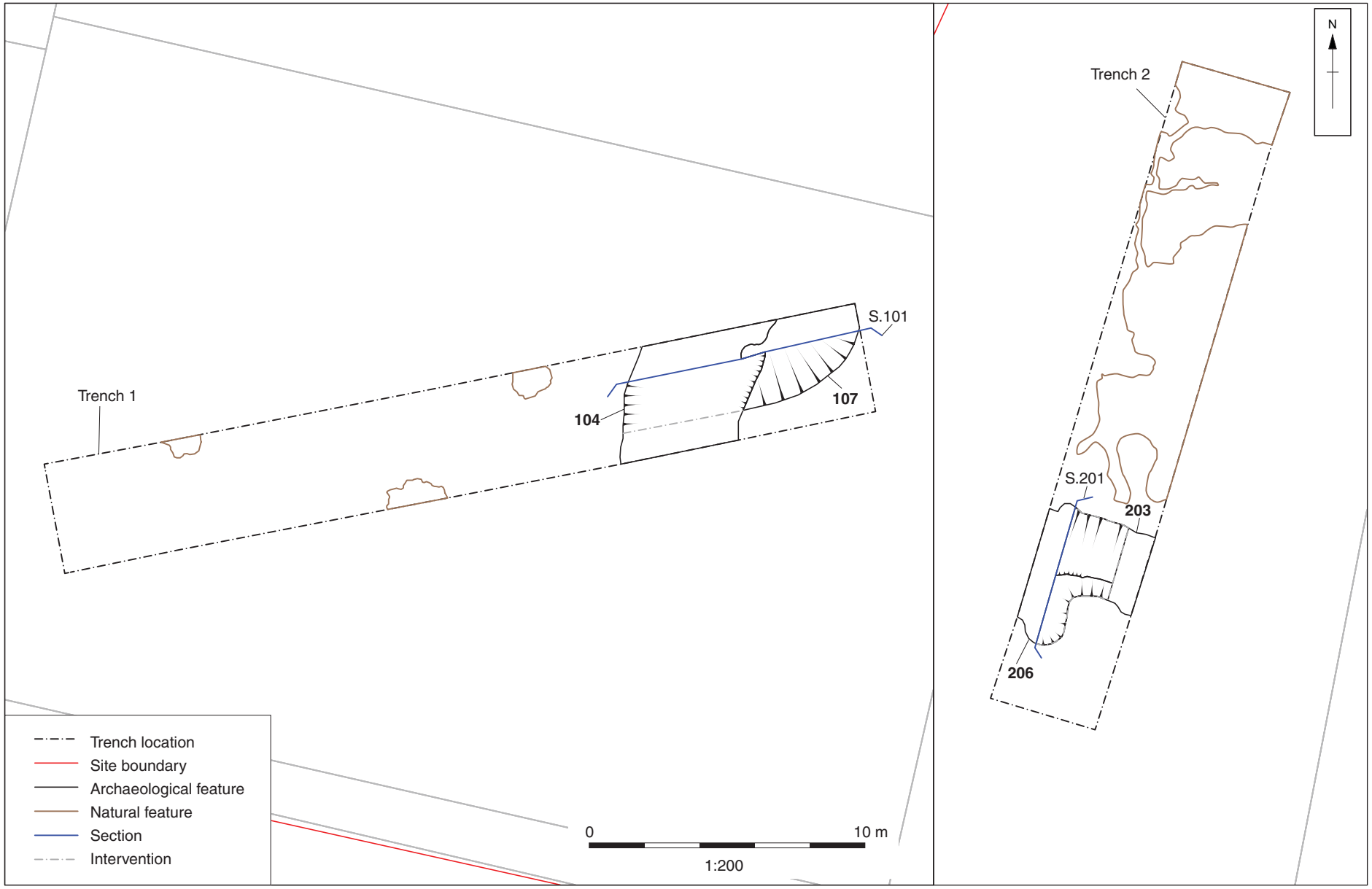


Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2

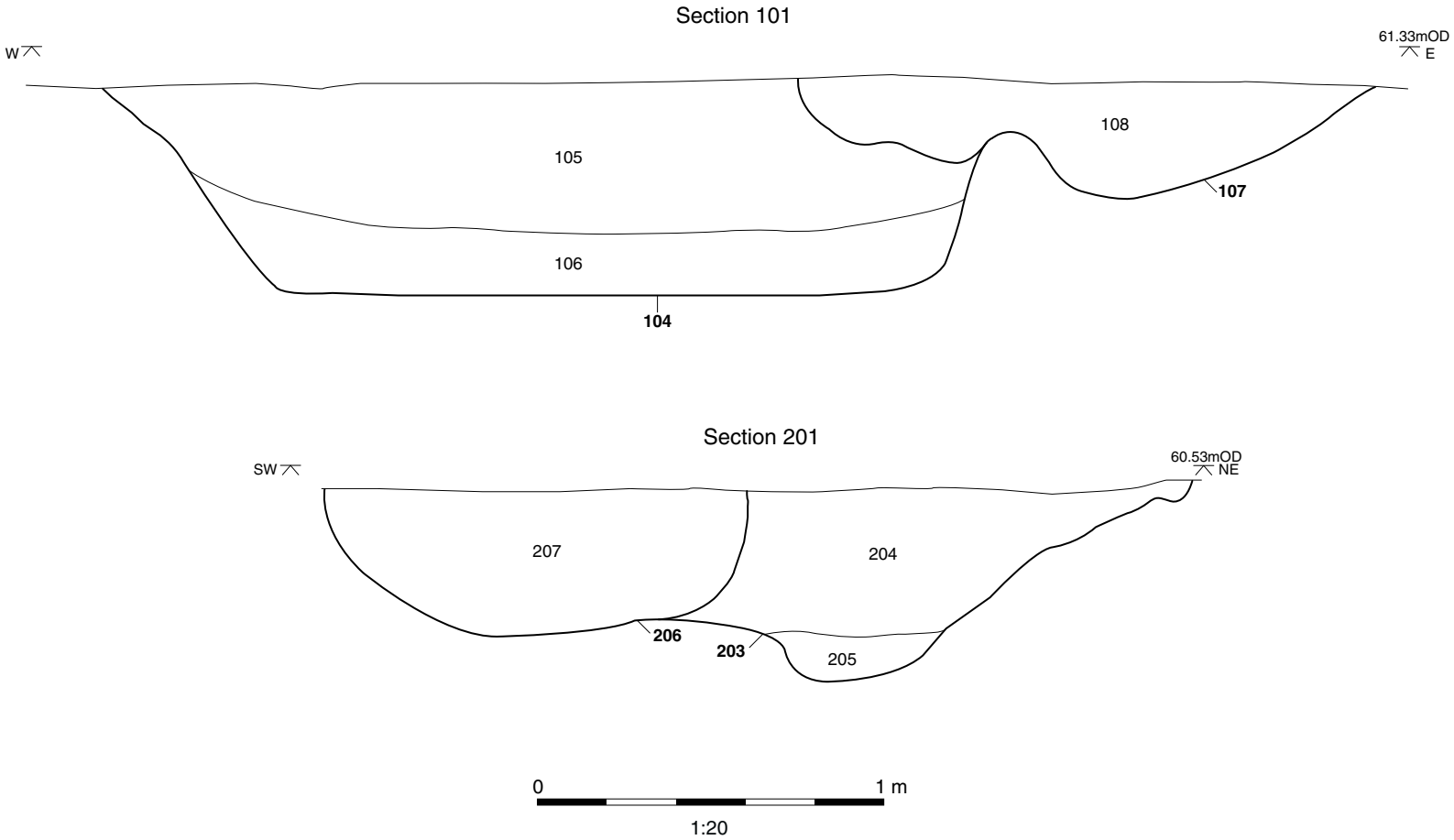


Figure 4: Sections 101 and 201 from Trenches 1 and 2

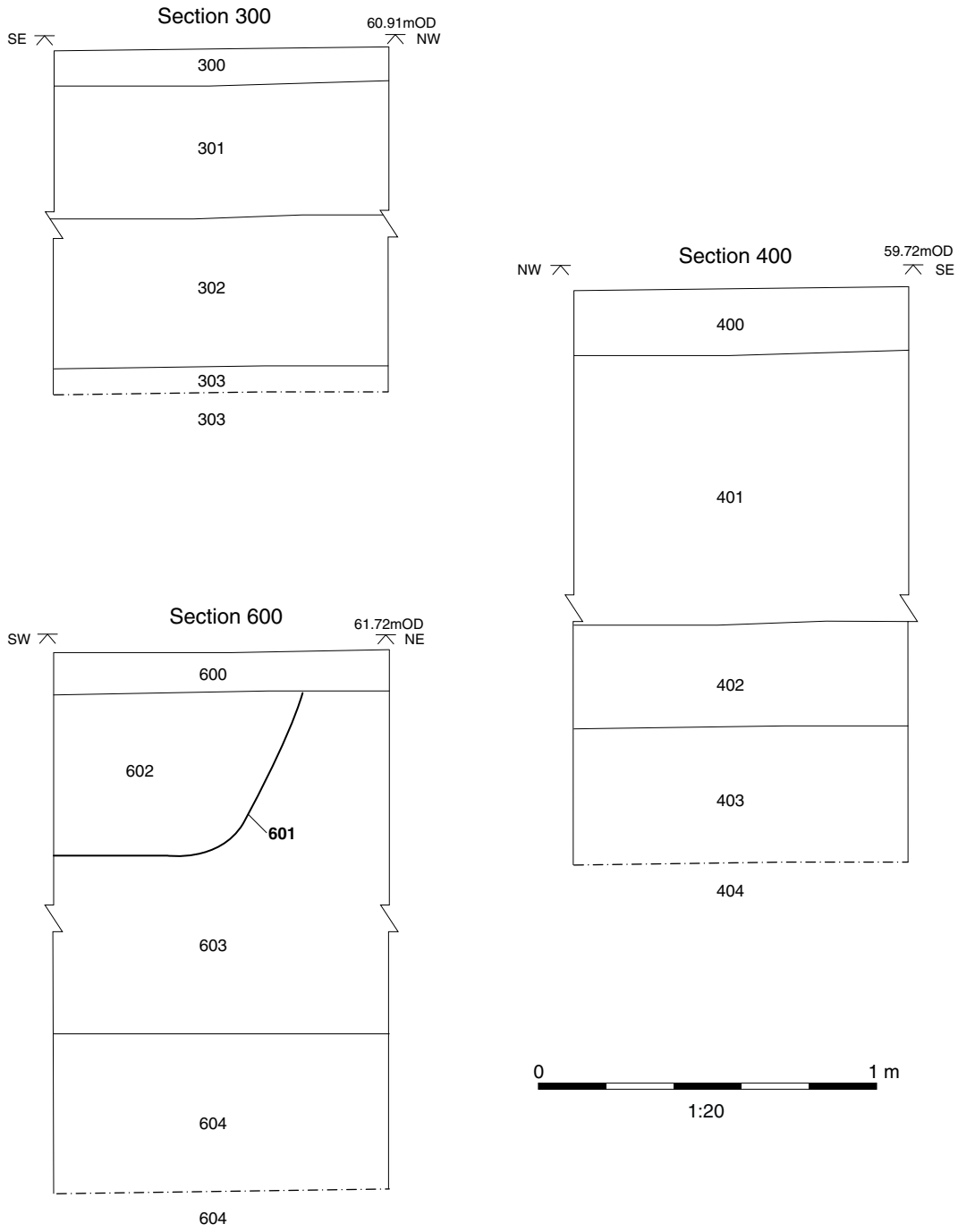


Figure 5: Sections 300, 400, and 600 from Trenches 3, 4 and 6

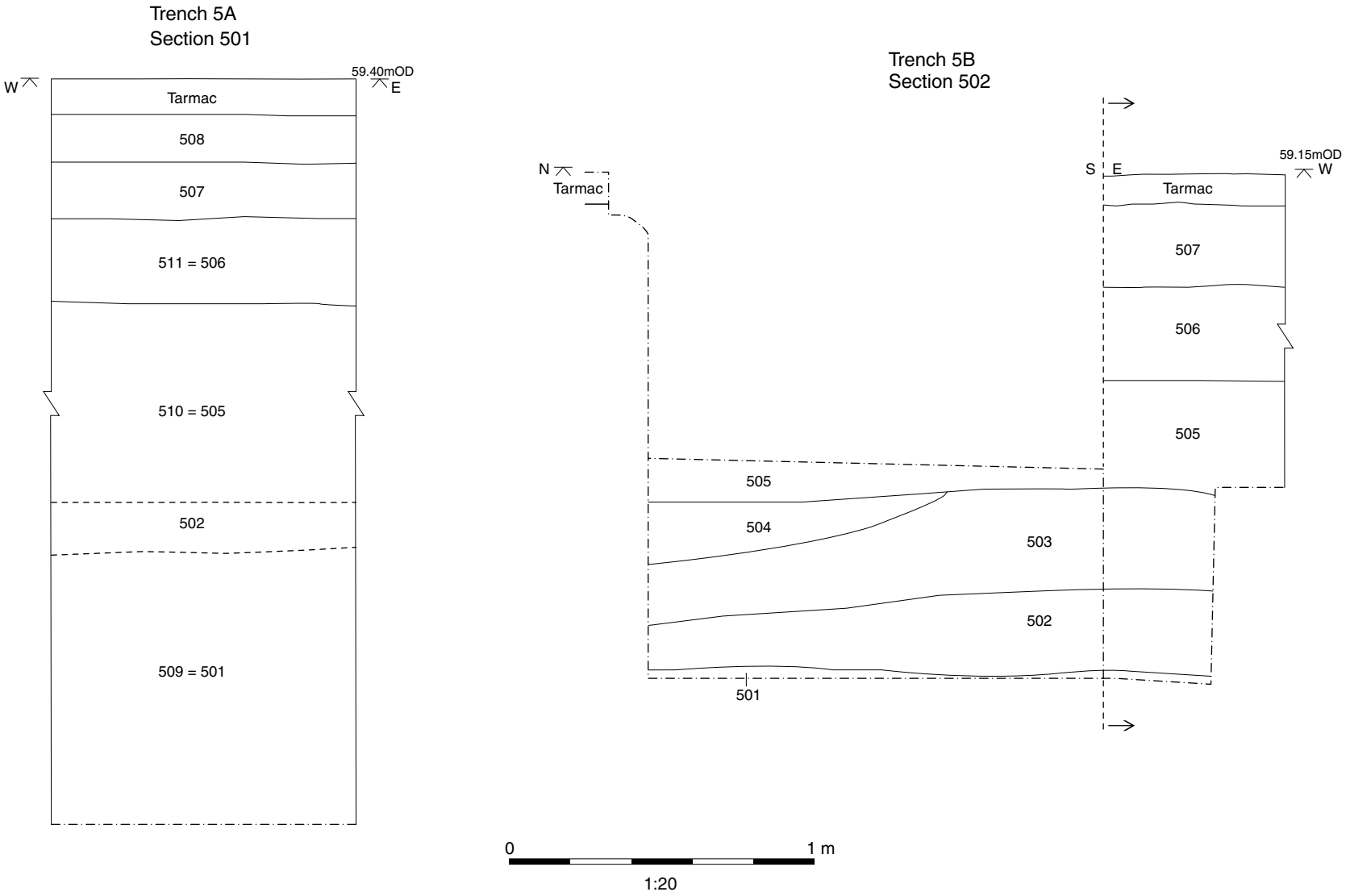


Figure 6: Sections 501 and 502 from Trench 5

Plate 1: Medieval ditch 104 and tree throw 107

Plate 2: Medieval ditch 203 and pit 207

Plate 3: Trench 5b

Plate 4 Vessels from Trench 4

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