



# Phase 1 Area: Somerville College, Walton Street, Oxford

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

July 2017

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Prepared by: Robin Bashford (Site Supervisor)

Checked by: Ben Ford (Senior Project Manager)

Edited by: Name (position)

Approved for Issue by: Name (position)

Signature:

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**OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford  
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridge  
CB23 8SG

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)

w. [oxfordarchaeology.com](http://oxfordarchaeology.com)

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## Phase 1 Area: Somerville College, Walton Street, Oxford

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Robin Bashford*

*With contributions from John Cotter, Rebecca Nicholson,  
Ruth Shaffrey, Cynthia Poole, Lee G. Broderick, Ian R. Scott,  
Sharon Cook and illustrations by Charles Rousseaux and Matt  
Bradley*

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## Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Bidwell LLP on behalf of Somerville College to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of the proposed Catherine Hughes Building, Somerville College, Walton Street, Oxford (SP 5093 0689).

The evaluation revealed the top of the second terrace gravel which in one trench was overlain by a layer of post-glacial brickearth. A number of features were revealed which had fills that were predominantly composed of re-deposited brickearth and gravel, which elsewhere in the city has been indicative of prehistoric or late Saxon features. However, a single sherd of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from a soil sample taken from the fills of one of these features, which may indicate a later date for some fills of this nature where they are encountered on the periphery of the core of the medieval city.

With the exception of these features, little evidence for medieval occupation was revealed within the trenches, which probably reflects the fact that the area now occupied by Somerville College almost certainly lay within open fields in the medieval period.

A north-south aligned linear feature was revealed within a trench in the south-western corner of the site. The fills of this feature produced artefactual material dating to the late-17<sup>th</sup>-early-18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and it almost certainly correlates to part of the Civil War defensive network around the city, as illustrated by Bernard de Gomme in 1644. The dating evidence is also consistent with the fact that this section of the earthwork is shown as extant on David Loggan's later plan of 1675. A series of deeply stratified deposits of a similar date was also revealed in a trench to the north-east of this feature. Although the extent of these deposits was not revealed within the confines of the trench, it seems likely that they represent the backfill of the eastward return of the north-south aligned feature described above.

A number of walls were revealed which broadly correlate with structures shown on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1876. Additionally, the majority of the trenches contained a series of large 19<sup>th</sup>-century pits which almost certainly represent occupation associated with these properties. A stone-lined well of similar date was also revealed.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Ben Ford. The fieldwork was supervised by Robin Bashford, who was supported by Ben Slader, Ashley Strutt, Omar Shariff Quadir, Natalie Anderson and Bob Mackintosh. Digitizing was carried out by Matt Bradley and Charles Rousseaux. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Bidwell LLP on behalf of Somerville College to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of the proposed Catherine Hughes Building, Somerville College, Walton Street, Oxford (SP 5093 0689). The proposal includes the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of a five storey student accommodation block (The Catherine Hughes Building) to provide 68 student rooms fronting Walton Street in addition to a rear extension to and refurbishment of 25-31 Little Clarendon Street (The Shaw Lefevre Building) to provide 42 student rooms.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 16/03062/FUL). Following the preparation of a Heritage Impact Assessment by John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS 2016), a brief was set by David Radford of Oxford City Council, and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing how OA would implement the specified requirements.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the east side of Walton Street just to the north of its' junction with Little Clarendon Street at NGR SP 5093 0689. It consists of existing buildings, 120-121 Walton Street and Bedford House, with associated car-parking tarmac surfaces in Penrose Yard. The yard is bounded to the north by the rear elevation of Harold Rogers' 1927 Penrose Building and at its east end by the 1932 Sanatorium (subsequently converted into flats in 1966). The Sanatorium closes off the service yard from the soft and hard landscaping of the Sand Garden and the Fellows' Garden to the east (Figs 1 and 2).

1.2.2 The site is situated towards the edge of the western side of a N-S low promontory at the end of which is the historic core of Oxford (the Castle lies c. 650m due south). The nearest, and easternmost channel of the Thames, Castle Mill Stream lies 450m to the west. The underlying natural geology of the area is floodplain terrace gravel (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet No. 236). The existing ground is relatively level at c 61.50mOD.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

#### *Prehistoric*

1.3.1 Evidence for a Bronze Age barrow cemetery has been recorded at a number of different sites to the north of the confluence of the Rivers Thames and Cherwell, and partially under the city of Oxford itself. Recent works undertaken by Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS) within the Kendrew Quadrangle of St John's College have identified part of a likely henge monument, which has been interpreted as the dominant landscape feature which would have acted as a focal point of activity at the end of the Neolithic and into the early Bronze Age (TVAS 2008 and Wallis 2011).

1.3.2 Cropmarks in the University Parks have been noted since the 17th century. The cropmarks indicate the presence of at least five barrows with further excavated examples at the Rex Richards Building, St Michael's Street, The Sackler Library (Poore and Wilkinson 2001, 29) and latterly The Gene Function Building (Boston and Bowater 2003).

1.3.3 Immediately to the north of Somerville College, recent works during the re-development of the Radcliffe Infirmary site revealed three previously unknown barrows (Braybrooke 2010).

### *Early medieval*

1.3.4 The town of Oxford is believed to have its origins in the early 8th century about the time that the early religious house of St Frideswide was founded on the site of what subsequently became Christ Church. The city was developed as a fortified *burh* in the reign of King Alfred or his son Edward the Elder. By the 10th century a network of streets had been established and a defensive circuit constructed. Some evidence for a turf rampart has been found and wherever the early medieval rampart has been observed it has been on or close to the line of the later medieval wall. Recent discoveries at St Johns College and Mansfield Road have indicated a potential defensive line to the north of the defensive circuit of the late Saxon *burh*, although the projected line of this lies to the south of Somerville College.

1.3.5 Evidence for Saxon occupation was revealed immediately to the north of the site during the Radcliffe Infirmary works. Close to Walton Street part of a heavily truncated Saxon sunken feature building (SFB) was found; this contained a sherd of stamp decorated 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> century pottery and several burnt timbers indicating destruction by fire. To the south and west of the SFB, a Saxon pit was also discovered cutting the twin ring ditch of one of the barrows referred to above. The pit contained further pottery, burnt material, several complete and many fragments of ceramic loom weights (Braybrooke 2010).

1.3.6 Further to the north settlement activity was identified during work at 75 Walton Street (Inskeep 1998) where material evidence was recovered including pottery, tile, bone and a quern fragment.

### *Medieval*

1.3.7 The following two paragraphs are taken from Oxford City Council's Urban Archaeological Resource Assessment (OARARA 2012):

1.3.8 By the late medieval period Walton Manor formed part of the estate of Osney Abbey. The Hundred Rolls of 1279 recorded some 46 dwellings in the hamlet with later references to a grange belonging to the Abbott of Osney. By the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Godstow also held land in the village although there is evidence of some decline in the later medieval period with just eight tenants registered in the Godstow Manor in 1541. This decline was likely reflected in the Osney estate and the village appears to have been deserted altogether by the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

1.3.9 In 1975 a 'midden' or 'pit' to the rear of 75 Walton Street was recorded and included a quantity of sheep and cattle bones, 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery and a ridge tile post-dating the 12<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting a substantial dwelling nearby. Medieval pottery was also recovered from upper levels. The site of the manor and later Walton Farmhouse may be located nearby at No 73 Walton Street; this had been a three-storeyed timber-framed building, out of keeping with the others around it. This difference may reflect its earlier position as the house for the medieval farm. Additional medieval finds were made at 82 Walton Street (Inskeep 1998).

1.3.10 The area now occupied by Somerville College almost certainly lay within open fields in the medieval period. Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation, cultivated soils and field

boundaries has been found at some sites along Walton Street. A survey of west Oxford undertaken by Julian Munby and Tony Dodd (2006) records the history of the ownership and use of the land prior to the development of Walton Street and Worcester place in the 19th century (Munby and Dodd 2006).

### *Post-medieval*

1.3.11 The following paragraph is taken from Oxford City Council's Urban Archaeological Resource Assessment (OARARA 2012):

1.3.12 During the Civil War Oxford became the Royalist capital; the defences were repaired and enhanced and the colleges occupied and used as garrison blocks and royal residences. The first defensive line around Oxford was constructed in 1642 for the Royalist garrison and was subsequently slighted by Parliamentary forces the following year. When the Royalists returned they constructed the remade first defensive line and constructed a new and more extensive outer line. Several areas around the city were also provided with additional defences. A star work was placed around St Clements and Magdalen Bridge in order to protect this important access into the town. This work took place between 1644 and 1645 and served in the Siege of Oxford in 1646. Few contemporary sources can provide an accurate plan of their location and several maps indicate different layouts for the defences (Lattey *et al.* 1936: 161). The most reliable plan is that of the royalist engineer Sir Bernard de Gomme, although this should be treated with some caution. Drawn in 1644 it appears to show an incomplete line of defences around the city; notations on the map indicate the earliest phase of defensive construction along the north side of Oxford inside the later, more extensive phase (*ibid.*: 166). The defensive line has been encountered during excavations to the north and west of the city, but is poorly understood to the east and south. The remaining earthworks are shown with considerable accuracy on Loggan's map of 1675, and de Gomme's map was used as the basis for the later large-scale Siege of Oxford painting by Jan de Wyck dated 1689.

1.3.13 Loggan's map shows that a section of the earthwork is still extant in the approximate location of the site in the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 23).

1.3.14 In the eighteenth century, the future site of Somerville College formed part of the common fields of St. Giles's parish. Davis's map of 1797 shows some inclosures bordering the Woodstock Rd., with open pasture beyond. The Survey of 1772 makes it clear that there were no houses immediately south of the infirmary (VCH 1954).

1.3.15 The construction of the Oxford Canal in 1790 (VCH 1979, 181-259) enabled industrial as well as residential development at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Eagle Iron Works moved to Walton Well Road in 1825. The Radcliffe Infirmary was erected between 1759 and 1770. Walton House was constructed c. 1826 by Alderman Thomas Ensworth and later became Somerville College (see below). The University Press moved to Walton Street in 1830; the presence of which led to the rapid development of the Jericho district through the latter part of that century. Working class houses were constructed along Walton Street and Jericho mainly in the decade 1821-31, but this continued into the 1860s and 1880s.

1.3.16 Bedford House school was originally based at 130 Walton Street, but moved to new premises which opened on 22 May 1875. Jackson's Oxford Journal of 16 October 1875 reported: "A new School in Walton-street, built for Mr. Thorogood, Master of the "Bedford

*House School”, by Mr. Joseph Hall, was opened on the 22nd of May last. The School, which is built of brick, with stone facings, is spacious, and there is a large playground at the back, together with all the necessary offices.”* Further information regarding the history of the school can be found on the Oxford History website: ([http://www.oxfordhistory.org.uk/streets/inscriptions/north/bedford\\_house\\_school.html](http://www.oxfordhistory.org.uk/streets/inscriptions/north/bedford_house_school.html)).

### **Somerville College**

1.3.17 The following information is a summary of the history of the college buildings as detailed in the Victoria County History (VCH 1954):

1.3.18 In June 1879 premises temporarily suitable for a hall of residence were found in Walton House, a St. John's property to the west of St Giles. The whole property purchased by 1881 measured 2 acres, 2 roods, 25 perches. In the first years two architects were employed to carry out two different plans for providing residential accommodation. The first was an adaptation of the original house. In 1881 T. G. Jackson designed a new wing projecting from the south-east corner. It provided twelve new rooms with a favourable south aspect, later to be blocked by other buildings. In 1885 Walter Lane designed a north-eastern extension to balance the Jackson wing, and at the same time considerable changes were made in the structure of the house; the roof was raised to make five rooms in the attics and the east frontage was brought forward. The same architect built the Woodstock Rd. Gatehouse in 1892, and the hostel, a small block on the site of the old coach-house, in 1898. The latter was intended as part of a future building to be called the Eleanor Smith Cottages, but the plan was never completed. Meanwhile the alternative policy of building a second self-contained hall with its own administration had also been pursued in imitation of Newnham. The west building, set at the NW. end of the site and designed by H. C. Moore, was built in two stages. The first, in 1886–7, gave accommodation for eighteen students with their own dining-room and drawing rooms; the second, which included two sets of tutors' rooms and a lodge at the Walton St. Gate, was completed in 1895. A gymnasium projecting from the north-east corner of West was built in 1890 at the cost of Miss E. J. Forster. It was converted into a lecture room in 1922.

1.3.19 Plans for a library were first discussed in 1899. The building, designed by Basil Champneys, was completed in 1903 and opened by John Morley in 1904. It was set against the north boundary wall and connected by a short cloister at either end with the west block and the house. The library itself was on the first floor above a row of students' rooms and a loggia. A gallery was added in 1924 in accordance with the original plan.

1.3.20 A hall large enough to hold the whole college was the second urgent requirement, and in 1912 it was possible to begin the building. The position chosen for the hall and block of rooms was south of the house and facing west. It stood partly on the original site and partly on the east end of an adjoining freehold presented to the college by Miss E. J. Forster in 1897. This property was made up of two strips purchased from University College and Balliol for £4,000 and £1,400 respectively. The University College property comprised a number of cottages in Radcliffe Row, earlier known as Cock's Row, and extended west to 119 and 119A Walton St.; the Balliol strip on the farther side of Radcliffe Row was let as a rope-walk (Fig. 24). Permission to close the right of way through Radcliffe Row was given by the City council in 1903, in view of the possible use of this site for the Library. The cottages were pulled down and the site laid out as a garden in 1905. The new building was connected with the Jackson

wing by an archway over which a wide staircase led to the hall. Below the hall were senior common rooms and kitchens. The Maitland block to the south accommodated eighteen students and two tutors. The buildings were designed by Edmund Fisher and were opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Heberden, in 1911.

1.3.21 Since the 1914–18 war the main additions have been Penrose, the East quadrangle, and the chapel. The Penrose block, designed by Mr. Harold Rogers, was built in 1927 at the south-west end of the garden and on the site of 119 and 119A Walton St. The East quadrangle, opened by Lord Halifax, the Visitor, in 1934, was the fulfilment of a long-planned intention, which is shown in the gradual absorption of the Woodstock Road properties between the Gate House and St. Aloysius Church. The architect of the new quadrangle was Mr. Morley Horder, who had already designed two smaller additions to the college, a reading-room and fellows' set, filling the gap between the hall and Maitland, and a sanatorium adjoining the Penrose building to the South. The chapel was offered to the college in 1932 by an anonymous donor and was dedicated in 1935. The position chosen for it was at right angles to Maitland on the site of the Radcliffe Row and rope-walk properties. The architect was Mr. Courtenay Theobald, who also designed a case for the organ. In 1930 the college purchased the lease and freehold of Bedford House, a private school for boys, built by the Rev. J. H. Thorogood in 1875, a St. John's property adjoining 119 and 119A Walton St. The building was taken into use with only slight alterations as a lecture room. It was enlarged in 1939.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

#### *General*

2.1.1 Archaeological evaluation trenching aimed to gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the area of study.

2.1.2 It was agreed that the number and spread of Stage 1 evaluation trenches in the Phase 1 Area was sufficient for further post-demolition Stage 1 evaluation not to be required in the Phase 1 Area. Oxford City Council will advise on any Stage 2 archaeological mitigation required.

2.1.3 The project takes account of pertinent elements of the city and regional resource assessments and research agendas available on the web:

[http://thehumanjourney.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=553&Itemid=277](http://thehumanjourney.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=553&Itemid=277)

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decP/OxfordArchaeologicalPlan.htm>

#### *Specific Aims and Objectives*

2.1.4 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- Establish the character, extent and date of any prehistoric, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity.
- Establish the presence or absence of the Civil War defensive line.

### 2.2 Methodology

#### *Scope of works*

2.2.1 A total of nine archaeological evaluation trenches (Nos. 1-9) were positioned within the Phase 1 Area. Their positions were designed to target areas of design impact from the proposed development, avoid existing buildings and services, and provide a broad coverage to realise the above aims (Fig.2).

#### *Site specific methodology*

2.2.2 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in Appendix A of the WSI. Standard methodologies for geomatics and survey, environmental evidence, artefactual evidence and burials can also be found in that document (Appendices B, C, D and E respectively).

Site specific methodologies were as follows:

- i. All trenches were marked out according to the locations and dimensions as shown on Fig. 2 with the exception of Trench 9, which was moved c1.5m to the south-west to avoid impacting on an existing path which is currently in use.
- ii. Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7 had the hard surface removed by David Beecroft Ltd (after scanning for services)
- iii. Trenches 2, 3, 4, 7 and 1 had overburden removed by mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket, under archaeological supervision from the Site Director to the first significant horizon or to a depth of 1.2m maximum (whichever came first)
- iv. Trenches 5, 6, 8, and 9 were inaccessible for machine access and were excavated by hand to the first significant archaeological horizon or 1.2m maximum depth (whichever came first)
- v. Archaeological deposits were not removed by machine except where such a procedure had been sanctioned by the City Council Archaeologist.
- vi. Hand excavation of a representative sample of archaeological deposits continued once the significant archaeological horizon had been reached. Modern truncation was removed where it assisted in revealing the nature, depth etc of the archaeological sequence
- vii. Sufficient features were sample-excavated to achieve the Stage 1 objectives above. For discrete features such as pits and postholes this involved half-sectioning a representative sample. Linear features were sectioned. As deeply stratified deposits were encountered it was necessary to excavate sample boxes and examine the stratigraphy revealed in the section of excavated cut features.
- viii. Shoring was required in one of the trenches (Trench 4) on the advice of OA Health and Safety advisor, Ken Welsh.
- ix. Hand-augering of deep archaeological features where hand excavation is impractical was undertaken.



## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The following section summarises the stratigraphic sequence in each trench from the earliest deposit to the most recent.

3.1.2 Detailed context descriptions are presented in the context inventory (Appendix A), and within the descriptive text below where they are integral to the interpretation of the deposit in question.

3.1.3 Finds reports are presented in Section 4; a report on the environmental analysis is presented in Section 5; and a discussion and interpretation of the results, can be found in Section 6.

### 3.2 Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Plate 1)

3.2.1 Trench 1 measured 2m<sup>2</sup> and was excavated within the community garden on the Walton Street frontage to the west of the Bedford House. The top of the terrace gravel was encountered at 0.94m below existing ground level (60.55m OD). Although the top 0.30m of the deposit comprised a mix of reddish brown silt; loose silty gravel; sterile yellow sand; grey sandy silt and sterile sand and gravel (110), it is possible that this did indeed represent the top of the natural geological deposits, as it was overlain by a c0.4m thick deposit of mid reddish brown clayey silt (109) which may have represented the post-glacial brickearth which overlies the second terrace, albeit the higher concentration of gravel inclusions in the top 0.2m of the deposit may have indicated that it had been re-worked (107). However, comparisons between the elevation of the mixed gravel deposit and a that of a layer very similar in composition encountered within Trench 3 may suggest an alternative interpretation as to the origin of the 'brickearth deposit'. This is discussed in greater detail in Section 6.

3.2.2 The possible brickearth was overlain by 0.32m of fairly homogenous loamy buried soil (106) which appeared to have been cut by the eastern edge of a north-south aligned ditch (101), which also truncated the brickearth deposit and gravels to a depth of 1.94m below ground level (59.55m OD). The feature had seven fills (102, 103, 104, 105, 112, 113 and 114), two of which produced early post-medieval redware (fills 105 and 114) dating from 1550-1700.

3.2.3 The upper fill (105) had been truncated by a stone-built structure (100) with a loose sandy bond. The configuration and function of the structure was unclear, although the southern 'face' suggested an east-west alignment and it is likely to be associated with a structure which formerly fronted onto Walton Street.

3.2.4 The remaining deposit within the trench comprised a mixed bedding deposit (108) for the existing brick surface.

### 3.3 Trench 2 (Figs 2, 5 and 6; Plate 2)

3.3.1 Trench 2 measured 3m x 2m and was excavated within Penrose Yard to the rear of 120-121 Walton Street. Possible terrace gravel was only encountered within two hand-augered boreholes in the base of a machine excavated sondage within the trench (AH1 and 2 at 59.23m and 59.03m OD respectively).



3.3.2 The possible gravel was overlain by a series of 17th-18th-century deposits (214, 216) which must have been filling a negative feature given the relative elevation of the terrace gravel in adjacent trenches. These fills were cut by two roughly ovate pits (202 and 204) of indeterminate function, which contained 19th-century artefactual material.

3.3.3 The fills of these pits and the top of the sequence of 17th-18th-century deposits were overlain by a fairly homogenous loamy buried soil (200) which was cut by a 'clinker' filled pit containing 19th-century pottery and ceramic building material. Deposit 200 also appeared to have been truncated by the construction cut (217) for a north-east/south-west aligned wall (211) in the northern end of the trench. The Wall was constructed from large, roughly hewn limestone blocks in a predominantly beige coloured sandy lime mortar, and was abutted by a perpendicularly aligned structure (209), the construction cut (210) for which had also truncated the uppermost of the sequence of 17th-18th-century deposits (214) described above. Structure 209 was constructed of a mixture of limestone blocks and brick.

3.3.4 The remaining deposits within the trench comprised modern levelling and bedding layers for the existing tarmac surface.

### 3.4 Trench 3 (Figs 2, 7 and 8; Plate 3)

3.4.1 Trench 3 was also excavated within Penrose Yard and also measured 3m x 2m. As with Trench 1, a c0.30m thick mixed deposit of reddish brown silt; sterile sand and gravel and grey silt (300) appeared to represent the first significant archaeological horizon. However, this was encountered at 0.66m below existing ground level (c61.02m OD), approximately 0.47m higher than the elevation of the top of the mixed gravel deposit in Trench 1 (60.55m OD). This discrepancy casts some doubt on the interpretation of the brickearth deposit in Trench 1 and the implications of this are discussed further in Section 4.

3.4.2 Deposit 300 had been truncated by north-west/south-east aligned linear feature (305) and a second apparently linear feature on a roughly north-south alignment (307). The relationship between these two features was uncertain given the similarity in the composition of the fills. Feature 305 contained a primary fill comprising predominantly re-deposited gravel eroded from the edge of the feature (313) and overlain by a mid-reddish brown clayey silt (306) similar in composition to the brickearth deposit encountered elsewhere within the city. The sequence of fills was almost identical within Feature 307 with a gravel rich lower fill (308) overlain by a reddish brown clayey silt (309).

3.4.3 A third possible feature (310) with a fill almost entirely comprised of re-deposited brickearth (311) was encountered in the north-east corner of the trench. It is possible that this represented the northern continuation of the putative ditch 307, although upon excavation it appeared to have a more pit-like profile and may have represented a separate discrete feature. A single small sherd of Kennet Valley B ware (c1150-1350) was recovered from a soil sample taken from Fill 306.

3.4.4 The fills of Features 305 and 307 were cut by a pit (301) in the south-western end of the trench, the single fill of which (302) produced artefactual material dating from 1580-1650. The fills of all these features and the mixed gravel deposit were overlain by a 0.38m thick layer of homogeneous loamy soil (303) which was in turn overlain by 0.25m of rubble hardcore (304) for the existing tarmac surface.

### 3.5 Trench 4 (Figs 2, 9 and 10)

3.5.1 Trench 4 measured 4m x 2m and was excavated in the south-east corner of Penrose Yard. The north-eastern half of the trench was only excavated to a depth of 0.4m below existing ground level due to the presence of a ceramic pipe.

3.5.2 Possible natural gravel was encountered at c2.15m below existing ground level (59.48m OD) within a hand-augered borehole (AH3). This was overlain by a series of silty clay deposits (407) which produced pottery dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As with the deposits in Trench 2, this deposit must have been filling a negative feature, given the relative elevation of the terrace gravel in adjacent trenches.

3.5.3 At the south-eastern end of the trench, Deposit 407 had been truncated by a vertically sided pit (402), the lower excavated fill of which (403) contained early-mid-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

3.5.4 In the north-western end of the trench, Deposit 407 was cut by the north-eastern corner of a possible stone-lined pit (408), although this had been heavily truncated by a brick soakaway.

3.5.5 Deposit 407; the upper fill (406) of Pit 402 and the possible stone-lined feature were overlain by a homogeneous clayey silt deposit (405) up to 0.5m thick and itself overlain by a modern levelling layer (404).

### 3.6 Trench 5 (Figs 2, 11 and 12)

3.6.1 Trench 5 measured 3m x 2m and was excavated within the Sand Garden to the east of Penrose Yard. Terrace gravel was encountered at 60.11m OD, but had been truncated by a series of intercutting pits (512, 518, 514) encountered within a sondage in the south-east corner of the trench.

3.6.2 The sondage was excavated from an arbitrary level of 60.41m OD, as this was 1.2m below ground level and further excavation across the entirety of the trench was restricted due to health and safety concerns. The general sequence at this level comprised a fairly homogeneous sand and gravel rich deposit (515) overlain by second homogeneous layer of sandy silt, approximately 0.40m thick. No obvious well defined cuts were apparent within these deposits, but it seems likely that they represent the upper fills of the intercutting pits encountered within the sondage. If this is the case, then it would suggest that the top of the first significant archaeological horizon is at approximately 60.78m OD.

3.6.3 The putative pit fills (517 and 515) were overlain by a loamy buried soil horizon (503) and both this latter deposit and the underlying 'fills' had been truncated by the construction cut (510) for a north-east/south-west aligned brick wall footing (507/506). The wall comprised a rubble foundation overlain by a concrete base (507) for a stepped brick footing with one offset course at the base (506). The offset course was overlain by a rubble rich deposit (502) which varied in thickness across the trench and may have represented a construction horizon associated with either the Penrose Building or the former Sanitorium to the west. This was overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of dark grey clayey silt which probably represented a buried garden soil (501).

3.6.4 Structure 507/506 was also abutted by the concrete foundation for a brick structure on a perpendicular alignment (505/504). The configuration of this structure suggested that it

may have represented an earlier version of the garden wall defining the eastern extent of the Sand Garden, as the northern extent appeared to terminate in a pillar base. Additionally, a 'scar' was apparent on the south wall of the Penrose Building to the north, perhaps indicating where the opposing pillar had once butted the latter structure. The relationship between Structure 505/504 and the buried garden soil (501) was uncertain.

3.6.5 The remaining deposit within the trench was the existing garden soil (500) and was approximately 0.30m thick.

### **3.7 Trench 6** (*Figs 2, 13 and 14; Plate 4*)

3.7.1 Trench 6 was also excavated within the Sand Garden, and also measured 3m x 2m. As with Trench 5, initial excavation was to a maximum depth of 1.2m below existing ground level (c60.50m OD), after which a 0.8m wide sondage was excavated through the length of the trench. A mixed layer of gravel and reddish brown sandy silt (617) was encountered at 60.36m OD, which may have represented the top of the terrace gravel and was similar in composition to the top of the geological deposits seen elsewhere (i.e. Trenches 1 and 3). As with Trench 5 this had been heavily truncated by a series of inter-cutting pits. Although no dating evidence was recovered, the earliest of these (620) appeared to be encountered in the south-west corner of the sondage and was filled by a sterile mid-reddish brown clayey silt (619).

3.7.2 At the south-eastern end of the sondage was a probable pit (613), the fill of which (614) produced late-18<sup>th</sup>-early-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The fills of both these pits were overlain by two sandy silt deposits (606 overlain by 605) which were similar in composition, although deposit 605 contained considerably more gravel inclusions and appeared more mixed in colour. As with Trench 5 – it is possible that these fairly homogeneous deposits represented the mixed upper fills of other pits. Three further pit cuts were discernible at the interface between deposits 605 and 606 (607, 609 and 616). Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from the fill (610) of Pit 609. The fills of these pits, and Deposit 605, were overlain by a c0.40m thick layer of loamy buried soil (604), which was in turn overlain by a mortar and rubble rich layer (602 and 603) which varied in thickness across the trench and is likely to equate to the putative construction horizon identified in Trench 5 (502).

3.7.3 The remaining deposits within the trench appeared to represent later garden soils (601 and 600).

### **3.8 Trench 7** (*Figs 2, 15 and 16; Plate 5*)

3.8.1 Trench 7 was excavated on the Walton Street frontage of Penrose Yard and measured 2m x 1m. The earliest deposit encountered was a fairly homogeneous silty clay (706) which was only observed in a small sondage at the northern end of the trench. This deposit was at least 0.4m thick and was overlain by a 0.12m thick, compacted mortar surface (702) which was overlain by 0.10m of fairly compacted sandy gravel (708). The mortar surface had been truncated at the northern end of the trench by a construction cut (701) for a south-west/north-east aligned wall (700) running perpendicular to Walton Street. The surviving element of the wall was approximately 0.40m deep and comprised at least 3 courses of roughly hewn limestone blocks in a beige sandy mortar, although this was not consistently present between courses. The fills of the construction trench (704 and 705) contained artefactual material which suggested that the structure was likely to be 19<sup>th</sup> century in origin.

3.8.2 The wall and the compacted gravel layer were overlain by a mixed deposit (707) which, together with the gravel layer and mortar surface, had been truncated by a number of service trenches. These are likely to have been redundant, but were treated as live in the absence of definitive evidence to the contrary. Consequently, further excavation was not possible, with the exception of the aforementioned sondage, which was excavated within the base of construction cut 701.

3.8.3 The remaining deposits within the trench comprised a 0.1m thick layer of Type I for the existing concrete surfaced.

### **3.9 Trench 8** (*Figs 2, 17 and 18; Plates 6 and 7*)

3.9.1 Trench 8 was excavated in the Fellows' Garden and measured 3m x 2m. Possible terrace gravel was encountered in the north-west corner of the trench at c0.55m below existing ground level (60.76m OD) and had been truncated by a series of 19<sup>th</sup> century features.

3.9.2 The extent of the earliest of these features was not observed within the confines of the trench, although the fill (807) had been truncated by a stone-lined well (805), the top of which appeared to have been robbed by a later pit cut (809). Pits were also present in the north-western and south-eastern ends of the trench (811 and 800 respectively), although the relationship between these features was uncertain.

3.9.3 The remaining deposits within the trench comprised a possible buried soil horizon (816) overlain by the existing topsoil and turf of the Fellows' Garden.

### **3.10 Trench 9** (*Figs 2, 19 and 20; Plate 8*)

3.10.1 Trench 9 was also excavated within the Fellows' Garden and also measured 3m x 2m. Terrace gravel was encountered at approximately 1m below existing ground level (60.45m OD) and had been truncated by a large pit (902), the upper fill of which (905) produced pottery dating from 1830-1860. The upper fill of the pit had been truncated by a smaller discrete feature (916) of uncertain date and function.

3.10.2 The fills of Pits 902 and 916 (903, 905 and 917 respectively) were overlain by a 0.24m thick layer of loamy buried soil (915), which was cut by a later pit (912) with a lower fill of very sterile sand (914); and also by a brick-built structure of indeterminate function (910) in the south-west corner of the trench.

3.10.3 The remaining deposits within the trench were the existing topsoil and turf of the lawn of the Fellows' Garden (906, 900).

## 4 FINDS REPORTS

### 4.1 Pottery

*By John Cotter*

#### *Introduction and methodology*

4.1.1 A total of 179 sherds of post-Roman pottery weighing 4509g were recovered from 27 contexts. Most of this is post-medieval. 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.). Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994) whereas post-medieval codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet and therefore only summarised below.

#### *Date and nature of the assemblage*

4.1.2 The assemblage is mostly in a fairly worn and fragmentary condition, although some of the many 19th-century sherds are quite large and fresh. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented and all typical of the wares commonly found in central Oxford.

4.1.3 Most of these contexts contain 19th-century pottery, which is plentiful here, along with smaller amounts of residual pottery of the 17th and 18th centuries, and rare sherds of medieval pottery. There is good reason therefore to suppose that most of the few contexts with spot-dates earlier than the 19th century (mostly with very small amounts of pottery) actually contain residual/redeposited material. Instances where this may not be the case include the following: Context (306), the fill of a ditch, containing a small sherd of Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ, c 1150-1350); Context (302), the fill of a shallow pit producing a few sherds datable c 1580-1650; Contexts (105), (106), (114) and (216) - all backfills of the Civil War defensive ditch, these produced a few sherds each of 16th-17th century pottery and in the case of (216) a sherd of c 1680-1800. Loggan's map of 1675 shows this ditch was still extant at this date (information supplied by the excavator).

4.1.4 A dozen small medieval sherds are present here (including the late Brill fabric OXBX, c 1400-1625). The earliest of these is a single body sherd of Cotswold-type ware (Fabric OXAC, c 1050-1250) residual in Context (302). There is also the small sherd of Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ, c 1150-1350) mentioned above from (306), and a few sherds of medieval glazed jugs in Brill/Boarstall ware (OXAM, c 1225-1625), here probably of 13th- to 15th-century date, but again residual. Also a limited range of 16th- to 18th-century pottery, including a few sherds of London tin-glazed wares (TGW) and a couple of sherds from 17th-century 'Bellarmine' bottles in German stoneware (FREC). None of this is particularly remarkable and most of it is probably residual. A range of late 18th- to early 19th-century Staffordshire-type tablewares is present including Developed Creamware (CREA DEV, c 1760-1830) and Pearlware (PEAR, c 1780-1840). There is a strong mid-19th century dating emphasis on the latest material - mostly dated by

Staffordshire-type transfer-printed tablewares (TPW) and English stonewares (ENGS and ENGS BRST). Probably the most interesting item in the whole assemblage is a 19th-century 'Temperance' side-dish from Context (213). This is about one-third complete and is in transfer-printed Pearlware (PEAR TR) with polychrome highlights and an inscription in black around the edge of the floor: 'INTEMPERANCE [PR]ODUCES STARVATION' enclosing a central scene of a destitute family about to be evicted from their home; it dates to around 1830-1845. Further details of the assemblage may be consulted in the spot-dates spreadsheet. No further work is recommended.

## 4.2 Clay tobacco pipes

*By John Cotter*

4.2.1 A total of 70 pieces of clay pipe weighing 349g were recovered from 20 contexts. These have been catalogued and recorded on an Excel spreadsheet. The catalogue records, per context, the spot-date, the quantity of stem, bowl and mouth fragments, the overall sherd count, weight, and comments on condition and any makers' marks or decoration present. The catalogue comprises 20 pipe bowls, 49 pieces of stem and one mouthpiece. The condition of the material, overall, is fairly poor and fragmentary; the earlier pipe bowls and stems are mostly quite worn. The later ones are in a fresher condition. Some stem pieces up to 95mm long survive but most are much shorter. The material is described in some detail in the catalogue and so is summarised here.

4.2.2 Nine of the twenty contexts have pipe bowls or stems dating them firmly to the 19th century (like most of the pottery) and six others are dated by the presence of pipe bowls or stems to the later 18th or 19th century. There is a good chance therefore that the pipes in the remaining five contexts dated to the 17th or 17th-18th centuries are all, or mostly, residual/redeposited.

4.2.3 Context (614) produced two of the earliest datable pipe bowls: one of c 1640-1660 and one of c 1660-1680. Local bowls of c 1690-1720 (Oxford Type C) also occur. Probably the most interesting piece (Ctx 905) is an 18th-century stem fragment bearing the mark 'RICH/ARD.S/ AYER' by the pipemaker Richard Sayer of East Woodhay (Hants) who was active c 1700-1730. Marked pipes by this maker are known from several other sites in Oxford (Oswald 1984, fig. 53.17; Cotter 2015, 172). Several 19th-century pipe bowls are present including four by the Huggins pipemaking family of Oxford; three of these have marks on the spur for the maker Benjamin Huggins who was active c 1841-1876 (Oswald 1984, fig. 56.31A-B). Huggin's address is listed as 76 Observatory Street and his manufactory may have been located there. Observatory Street lies only c 200 metres north of the Somerville College and this might explain the frequency of Huggin's pipes on the site. No further work on the assemblage is recommended.

## 4.3 Glass

*By Ian R. Scott*

4.3.1 There are just 33 sherds of glass, including 10 sherds of window glass. Most of the glass came from contexts 601 (n = 13), 801 (n = 6), 803 (n = 4) and context 906 (n = 4). The 23 sherds of vessel glass include 13 sherds from wine bottles, mostly dating to the late 18th or



19th century. There is single thick-walled sherd with opaque weathering that is probably from an early 18th-century wine bottle (context 610, Cat. No. 5), but this is residual amongst later material. Other bottle glass from context 610 includes the base of a 'Torpedo' soda water bottle (Cat, No.9) of mid to late 19th-century date and part of a medicine or medicinal tonic bottle of 19th-century date. Also from context 601 there is a pedestal base in colourless glass presumably from a vessel, although its form is uncertain. The glass from context 801 includes sherds from wine or beer bottles in very dark green glass ('black bottle' glass) (Cat Nos 18-19). Again these are of 19th-century date.

4.3.2 The 10 sherds of window glass include eight sherds from context 610. All the window is almost certainly post medieval in date, but cannot be more closely dated.

- Context 105** (1) **Bottle.** Small sherd probably from modern beer bottle. Amber glass.
- Context 108** (2) **Wine bottle.** Sherd from shoulder and neck of a cylindrical wine bottle. Dark olive green glass. Late 18th or 19th-century.
- Context 203** (3) **Wine bottle.** Sherd from neck of a cylindrical wine bottle. Dark olive green glass. Late 18th or 19th century
- Context 407** (4) **Wine bottle.** Sherd from base of a wine bottle. Dark green glass. Late 18th- or early 19th-century
- Context 610** (5) **Wine bottle.** Thick-walled body sherd from an early (early 18th-century) wine bottle. Eroded and with opaque iridescent weathering.
- (6) **Wine bottle.** Body sherd from a cylindrical wine bottle. Probably made in a dip mould. Olive green glass. Later 18th- or early 19th-century.
- (7) **Medicine or tonic bottle.** Body sherd from a bottle of rectangular section with chamfered corners. Pale green glass. 19th-century?
- (8) **Pedestal base** clearly applied or added to a vessel. Form of the vessel is uncertain because only the very base survives attached to the pedestal. The base of the vessel is pierced by a hole. Colourless glass.
- (9) **Soda water bottle.** Thick base of an early 'torpedo bottle' for soda or mineral water. No inscription survives. Green glass. Later 19th century.
- (10) **Window.** Sherd of window glass with one straight edge and signs of glazing. Good flat smooth faces. Dark blue green glass. Sample <2>. Post medieval or probably later
- (11) **Window.** Sherd no straight edges, but good flat smooth surfaces. Pale blue green. Sample <2>. (6 x sherds). Post medieval but probably later.
- (12) **Window.** Sherd of window glass with good flat smooth faces. Blue green glass. Post medieval or probably later
- Context 704** (13) **Window.** Small sherd of thin window glass. Smooth surfaces. Green glass. Post medieval or probably later.
- Context 707** (14) **Window.** Small sherd with parallel edges. Pale blue green glass. Post medieval or probably later in date.

- Context 801** (15) **Soda water bottle.** Part of neck and rounded finish of a soda water bottle for a corked closure. Very pale green glass. Later 19th-century.
- (16) **Moulded glass stopper.** Flat disc top and short tapered stopper. Colourless glass. 19th- or 20th-century.
- (17) **Bottle.** Shoulder sherd from a machine moulded bottle with moulded decoration. Colourless glass. 20th-century or later.
- (18) **Wine bottle.** Sherd from the heel of a wine bottle made in a dip mould with conical pushup. Very dark green glass (so-called 'black bottle'). Mid 19th-century
- (19) **Wine bottle.** 2 x refitting sherds from the heel of a wine bottle made in a dip mould with conical pushup. Very dark green glass (so-called 'black bottle'). Mid 19th-century
- Context 803** (20) **Medicine or tonic bottle.** Base of a bottle of rectangular section with chamfered corners. Made in two-piece mould. Pale blue green glass. Later 18th- or 19th-century.
- (21) **Wine bottle.** Thick walled body sherd from cylindrical wine bottle. Green glass. Later 18th- or early 19th-century
- (22) **Wine bottle.** Sherd from heel/base of wine bottle with deep pushup and marked basal sag. Green glass. Late 18th- to early 19th-century
- (23) **Wine bottle.** Neck with applied tooled finished formed with a finishing tool. Very dark olive green glass. 1820s to 1850s
- Context 906** (24) **Wine bottle.** Base of a cylindrical wine bottle with deep bell-shaped pushup, rounded heel and no basal sag. 2 x refitting sherds. Dark green glass. Probably mid 19th-century.
- (25) **Bottle.** Moulded bottle with abrupt heel and flat slightly irregular base with no obvious mould lines. Dark yellow green glass. 19th-century.
- (26) **Bottle.** Body sherd from a cylindrical bottle. Green glass.

## 4.4 Metals

*By Ian R Scott*

4.4.1 There are 63 metal objects (93 frags) from this site, including 23 nails (35 frags). Much of the material is no closely datable, but much which is datable appears to be of comparatively recent date, that is of 19th-century of later date. The heel iron (Cat. No. 17) from context 500 and lock escutcheon from context 509 date to later 19th or early 20th century, the cufflink (Cat. No. 22) from context 608 and the small cruciform brooch (Cat.No.53) from context 803 are probably of similar date, and the Vickers and Maxim factory token (Cat. No. 51) from context 803 will have been issued during the period 1897-1911. The dress or sewing pins (Cat. Nos 3-4, 13, 24-5, 34, 54) could be of Medieval or post medieval date, the technology of pinmaker did not change much until the 19th-century. The smaller pins particularly those from context 106 (Cat.No. 4) and context 610 (Cat. No. 24) are probably late in date, possibly date as late as the 19th century . The one possible earlier find is small leaf-shaped arrowhead



(Cat. No. 2) from context 106, which might be medieval in date, although it could be later in date, since archery was a popular past time in the early 19th century. The three-tined fork (Cat. No. 62) from context 617 is a form that was used during the 18th-century.

- Context 105** (1) **Nail with small head**, incomplete and encrusted. Plus tiny undiagnostic fragment. Fe.
- Context 106** (2) **Small leaf-shaped socketed arrowhead**. The socket is incomplete. Fe. L: 41mm; W: 15mm.
- (3) **Dress or sewing pin** with crimped round head, complete. Cu alloy. L: 30mm
- (4) **Dress or sewing pin** with wound wire head, complete. Cu alloy. L: 23mm
- Context 108** (5) **Curtain hook** (or dress hook), cu alloy, flattened and partly bent out of shape bent. L: 68mm.
- Context 205** (6) **Button**. Plain hollow domed shank button. Cu alloy. D: 26mm
- (7) **Nail**, small nail, complete. Fe. L: 35mm; 2 x stem fragments. Fe.
- Context 208** (8) **Very broad strip or binding** with small lip along one edge. Appears to curve through its length. Now in 7 refitting fragments. See also Cat. No. 9. Fe. L: c 760mm; W: c 100mm
- (9) **Broad strip or plate** fragments (x 7), probably further pieces of Cat No. 8. Fe.
- Context 214** (10) **Nail**, heavily encrusted (2 x frags). Fe.
- Context 302** (11) **Nail**, heavily encrusted; and nail stem fragment. Fe.
- Context 403** (12) **Probable button**, very slightly dished and heavily encrusted. Attachment method unclear. Cu alloy. D: 18mm
- (13) **Dress or sewing pin** with wire wound and crimped head. Cu alloy. L: 32mm
- (14) **Nail**, small head, complete. Fe. L: 67mm; 2 x nail stem frags. Fe.
- (15) **Sheet or plate**, small fragment. Fe.
- (16) **Wire**, bent length. Fe.
- Context 500** (17) **Heel iron**, no visible nail holes. Fe. L: 60mm; W: 68mm
- (18) **Nail** with tapered stem and small T-head, complete. Fe. L: 61mm
- Context 509** (19) **Oval escutcheon plate** with keyhole cut out and two nail holes. Cu alloy. L: 27mm; W: 29mm.
- (20) **Nails**. 1 x nail with tapered stem and small head. Fe. L: 77mm; 1 x nail almost complete, encrusted with small ?flat head. Fe. L: c 66mm.
- Context 519** (21) **Probable small nail** encrusted, possibly incomplete. Fe.

- Context 608** (22) **Cufflink** with two slightly dished and decorated discs joined by a single oval link. Cu alloy. D: of discs: 18mm.
- Context 610** (23) **Cone or funnel** formed from fe sheet with welded seam. It has a lip or rolled rim at the wider end. Possibly originally galvanised. Fe. D: c 120mm; Ht: 73mm.
- (24) **Small dress or sewing pin** the tiny crimp spherical head. Cu alloy. L: 20mm. Sample <2>
- (25) **Spherical pin head?** Cu alloy. Sample <2>
- (26) **Large flat circular plate**, with a circular hole at its centre. Two possible nail holes visible adjacent to central hole. Function unclear. Fe. D: 235mm; Th: c 8mm; D of central hole c 65mm.
- (27) **Broad strip**, 2 x fragments. Probably modern rolled strip? Fe. W: 23mm.
- (28) **Broad strip**, 1 x fragment. Fe. W: 32mm.
- (29) **Large nail** with slightly domed rectangular head, and stem tapering to a chisel tip. L: c 107mm; 1 x nail stem fragment. Fe.
- (30) **Possible nails** with tapered rectangular section stems and small heads (x 3), 2 near complete, 1 incomplete. Fe. L: 125mm
- (31) **Strip or binding** slightly curved in section. No visible nail or pin holes. Cu alloy. L: c 230mm; W: 13mm
- Context 611** (32) **Nail stem** fragment only. Fe.
- Context 705** (33) **Nails** (x 2), incomplete & heavily encrusted. Fe.
- Context 706** (34) **Dress or sewing pin** with small crimped circular head. Cu alloy. L: 23mm.
- Context 707** (35) **Nail stem** fragment. Fe
- (36) **Tiny cu alloy fragment**, little more than a cu stain on fragment of brick
- Context 801** (37) **Handle fragment**, possibly from a vessel. Stamped cu alloy. L extant: 45mm
- (38) **Spike or prick** formed from wire with a rolled over loop at one end. Fe. L: 170mm
- (39) **Strip** (2 refitting frags) with 2 nails. W: 24,, L: c 205mm
- (40) **Rod**. Fe. L: 154mm
- (41) **Bar** fragment, rectangular section, with nail fragment fused by corrosion. L: 97mm
- (42) **Nail**, large with slightly domed oval head and tapering stem. Fe. L: 113mm.
- (43) **Nail** with small head, complete. Fe.65mm; 2 x nails with small heads incomplete.

- (44) **Nail** with ?small head, encrusted and bent. Fe. L: c 110mm
- (45) **Nail** stem fragment only. Fe.
- (46) **Nail** with sub rectangular flat head and tapered stem. Fe. L: 54mm
- Context 802** (47) **Wire**, thick. Fe. L: c 180mm
- (48) **Wire**, somewhat eroded. Fe. L: 63mm.
- (49) **Nail** stem fragment. Fe
- (50) **Slag**, one fragment
- Context 803** (51) **Factory token**. Possibly a worker's identity token, to be produced when collecting wages, or when booking out a tool from the store, or to be shown when entering the works. Legend on both sides reads: 'VICKERS SONS & MAXIM LIMITED . SHEFFIELD.' and is over stamped '7371' on each face. Cu alloy. D: 33mm. Dates between 1897 and 1911.
- (52) **Chisel**, small with broad rectangular blade of rectangular cross-section and short tapered stem with battered head. L: 126mm; W: 39mm.
- (53) **Small brooch** in the form of a Cross pattée, with pin fastening Appears to have been enamelled originally, traces of white enamel visible. 21.5mm x 21.5mm
- (54) **Dress or sewing pin** with wire wound and crimped head. Cu alloy. L: 30mm
- (55) **Nail** with small domed head. Fe. L: c 60mm
- (56) **Binding strips**, two thin strips of cu alloy with a strip of timber sandwiched between. Appear to form an elongated ovoid terminal. Function uncertain. L: 64mm; W: 20mm.
- Context 906** (57) **S-shaped meat hook**. Fe. L: 124mm. 19th- or 20th-century.
- (58) **Tapering fe spike** with brass hook or rest. L: 110mm. Fe and Cu alloy
- (59) **Fire poker** formed from slightly tapered rod, narrower at the top which ends in a near spherical knob. The poker is incomplete. Fe. L extant: 240mm
- (60) **Strip or binding** with 1 nail. W: 24. Fe. L: c 105mm
- (61) **Large nail** with small circular slightly domed head. Tapered square section stem. Fe. L: 137mm
- Context 917** (62) **Three-tined fork** with plain bone handle attached by a rod tang. One tine is missing. The tines and stem of the fork are heavily encrusted with corrosion. Fe and bone. Length: 175mm. 18th-century

## 4.5 Ceramic building material

*By Cynthia Poole*

### *Introduction*

4.5.1 A modest assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to 59 fragments (7228g) was recovered from a ditch, pits and garden soils across all trenches except trench 3. The majority of the assemblage is later post-medieval in date, though a few pieces may be later medieval or early post-medieval. Dating is necessarily imprecise, as most of the assemblage is very fragmentary except for some late 19th century tiles. No complete items survive. The assemblage has been fully recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2007). The record includes quantification, fabric type, form, surface finish, markings and evidence of use/reuse (mortar, burning etc). Fabrics were characterised with the aid of x20 hand lens and where possible assigned to one of the broad groups of the Oxford fabric series. The assemblage is summarised by context in the table below.

### *Date and Nature of the Assemblage*

4.5.2 Much of the assemblage comprises flat roof tile (21 fragments, 1659g) of later medieval and post medieval date. Whilst the term flat tile is often used synonymously with peg tile, this may include the flatter sides of angular ridge tile. Most of the tile was made in red sandy fabric (Oxford fabric group III) or with fine cream laminations (Oxford fabric group IV). Though these are generally regarded as medieval in date the same broad fabric characteristics are found in the post-medieval tile though they tend to be somewhat finer in character than the earlier examples. The flat tile varied in thickness from 10 to 18mm; the thicker pieces may include ridge tile fragments based on tile characteristics elsewhere in Oxford. Two pieces with thicknesses of 22mm (ctx 611) and 17-20mm (ctx 802) are possible ridge tile fragments, especially the latter which had a slightly bevelled lower arris to the side with a hint of knife trimming on the underside, which is usually a feature of ridge tile. The lower half of a peg tile (ctx 610) of post-medieval date retained the complete breadth of 163mm. A single piece could be firmly designated as a peg tile (ctx 705), on the evidence of a circular peg hole measuring 14mm dia with a thickened halo of clay around the base, a feature occasionally observed on medieval peg tile elsewhere in Oxford.

4.5.3 Only five fragments (355g) of flat/peg tile and one of the possible ridge tiles were considered to be medieval of 13th – mid 15th century date on the basis of fabric (Oxford fabric IIIB and VIIBB) and finish; all were found residually in later phased contexts. A further seven pieces (424g) together with the second possible ridge tile are probably of late medieval or early post medieval date (late 15th-16th century) and were made in Oxford fabric groups III and IV. Post-medieval roof tile totalled seven fragments (628g) and were made in a red sandy fabric similar to Oxford fabric group III, though generally containing finer inclusions compared to the medieval fabrics.

4.5.4 A group of late Victorian ridge tile was found mostly in trench 9 with one piece from trench 8. These were made in two fabrics, both probably produced outside the local regional. Fabric D was a light pinkish brown very fine sandy clay used for three pieces (1071g) from contexts 906 and 917. They derived from ridge tiles with flat sides and a roll-top crest. The

second group of ridge tile were made in a fabric that probably derives from the Staffordshire coal measures: this was a very hard pinkish brown fabric flecked with frequent small cream grits <5mm, black inclusions 0.5-2mm and rare maroon sandy ferruginous pellets up to 12mm and the surfaces were vitrified fired to a dark grey colour. This is similar to the Staffordshire Blue engineering bricks. The tiles had flat sides with a plain angular crest and measured 13-27mm thick, generally thinning to the lower edges. The tile breadths could be estimated to be in the region of 250-290mm and lengths were greater than 230mm.

4.5.5 A single scrap (17g) of floor quarry tile from the base corner with cut bevelled edges was found in context 608. It was made in a light reddish orange sandy fabric similar to Oxford group III and is probably of post-medieval date.

4.5.6 Brick fragments were all probably hand-made stock moulded solid bricks without frogs or perforations made in sandy fabrics similar to Oxford group III or laminated marly clays similar to Oxford group IV. The only surviving dimensions were two thicknesses of 63 and 70mm. Three bricks had vitrified overfired surfaces. They are broadly of 17th – 19th century date.

### Conclusions

4.5.7 Most the CBM occurs residually in 19th century contexts, except for the late Victorian ridge tiles, which are broadly contemporary with the phasing of their contexts. These may represent construction waste from the construction of college buildings' built at this period. No buildings were present on the site prior to the late 18th century, so it is unlikely that the medieval and early post-medieval CBM derives from buildings in the vicinity of the site, unless some earlier building materials were recycled in some manner during the 19th century building works. It is possible they relate to the Civil War activity, perhaps brought in as additional material to consolidate the earthworks or represent waste material from elsewhere dumped in the various pits identified on the site.

*Table: Ceramic building material summarised by context*

Context	Nos	Wt (g)	Forms	Spot date
103	1	18	Roof: flat	Medieval
205	5	223	Roof: flat; Brick	LC18-C19
213	1	153	Roof: flat	LMed-EPmed
403	4	87	Roof: flat; Brick; Indet	LMed-EPmed
407	4	284	Roof: flat; Brick	Pmed
500	1	143	Brick	Pmed
608	4	61	Roof flat; Brick; Floor	Pmed
610	12	1199	Roof: flat; Brick; Indet	Pmed
611	4	143	Roof: flat & ridge?	C15-C17
704	2	10	Indet	Pmed
705	2	87	Roof: flat & peg	C16-C18
706	1	16	Roof: flat	C13-C14
801	1	25	Roof: flat	C17-C19
802	4	335	Roof: ridge?; Brick	L C18-C19
803	2	341	Roof: ridge; Brick	M C19-E C20
906	2	178	Roof: ridge	M C19-E C20
917	9	3925	Roof: ridge & flat	M C19-E C20
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>7228</b>		

## 4.6 Stone

*By Ruth Shaffrey*

### ***Introduction***

4.6.1 Insert all artefact reports here. Where appropriate these should be cross-references to the main body of the report, both in terms of results (i.e what was found in the features) and how the artefacts help with interpretation (e.g. with dating evidence).

4.6.2 A total of nine pieces of stone were retained and submitted for analysis. These have been recorded into an Excel spreadsheet and can be found in the project archive. These include seven fragments of sandy limestone roofing (558g from contexts 704, 403 and 610). These can all be discarded. An eighth piece of stone is a complete roofstone of diamond shape but without a perforation (context 208). Roofstones without perforations are usually found in the valleys of roofs, but here they would be wedge shaped, so it is possible that this stone was not used.

4.6.3 A slate pencil was recovered from a fill of pit 609 (610). It is a small example, typical of those found in archaeological contexts having been discarded or dropped when very well used.

## 5 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### 5.1 Environmental Samples

*By Sharon Cook*

#### **Introduction**

5.1.1 Two samples were taken during the evaluation at Somerville College, Walton Street, Oxford in July 2017. Sample <1> (306) was a 15 litre sample from a ditch dated to 1150-1350, [305] within trench 3, while sample <2> (610) was a 20 litre sample from a Victorian pit fill [609] within trench 6.

#### **Method**

5.1.2 The samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x 10 magnification.

#### **Results**

5.1.3 Sample <1> produced a flot of less than 5ml in volume, of which 100% was scanned. The majority of the flot consists of clinker/coal/antracite with very little charcoal. The charcoal observed is in good condition but small in size with only two fragments large enough to be considered for wood species identification. A single small and abraded fragment of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) was observed, however this is too small to be utilized for dating purposes. A single fragment of fish scale was also noted within the flot but likewise this is too fragmented to be identifiable further.

5.1.4 Sample <2> produced a flot of 60 ml of which 100% was scanned. As with sample <1>, the majority of material was clinker/coal/antracite with very little charcoal. The charcoal observed is again in good condition but small in size with only a small number of fragments large enough to be considered for wood species identification. No other charred remains were noted within the flot. Occasional snails were observed (<10) however these are non-diagnostic due to the small number present.

5.1.5 The dried residues were sorted by eye to 2mm and both samples produced small amounts of pottery. Sample <1> also contained glass fragments, animal bone, a bent copper pin, clay pipe fragments and a single piece of slag.

#### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

5.1.6 These samples contained very little charred plant material although the charcoal which was observed was in good condition. It is likely that the clinker type material observed within the flot of sample <1> which is small in size, is a result of bioturbation, having worked down from overlying contexts. It is not recommended that any further work be carried out on this assemblage.

5.1.7 If further excavation is carried out, it is recommended that further sampling should take place, ideally from a range of features of differing dates across the site. This sampling



should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology, 2005 and English Heritage, 2011).

## 5.2 Animal Bones

*By Lee G. Broderick*

A total of 105 animal bones were recovered from the site, mostly associated with contexts dated to the nineteenth century and mostly collected by hand. Environmental samples were taken from one context (610) and these were sieved at 10mm, 4mm and 2mm fractions, adding to the other data (Table 2). The specimens were generally in moderate to good condition with caprines (sheep – [Ovis aries] and/or goats – [Capra hircus]) being the most commonly represented species in the assemblage. Domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) specimens were also fairly common, with several other species being represented by one or two specimens. These included wild species that may have been present on the site as a result of hunting (i.e. rabbit [Oryctolagus cuniculus] and hare [Lepus europaeus]) as well as other domesticates (pig [Sus scrofa domesticus]) and as those that may have been either (domestic/greylag geese [Anser anser] and domestic/mallard duck [Anas platyrorhynchos]) and pets/pests (cat [Felis sylvestris]). The environmental samples increased the proportion of bird specimens recovered, as well as those of micro mammals, which were otherwise absent from the assemblage. It may be assumed that these groups of species would have been more common in the assemblage were more of it recovered in this manner. A third of the medium and large mammal specimens recovered exhibited butchery marks – mostly saw marks, but also chop marks and cut marks. Many of them also showed potential for ageing through epiphyseal fusion data, with a roughly equal split between fused and unfused epiphyses. Finally, six of the specimens showed signs of having been gnawed – four (including caprines and a large mammal specimen) by canids, probably dogs, which were absent from the assemblage, one (pig) by rodents, probably rats, which were also absent from the assemblage, and one (duck) by cats.

5.2.1 It is difficult to draw any further conclusions from such a small sample but certain general points can be made: although sometimes perceived as being of less importance than earlier periods, the zooarchaeology of the modern period is currently poorly understood. This is a time that saw profound changes in the way that people interacted with animals and the environment, in the development of breeds (both of livestock and of pets), in butchery practices and in biogeography. The preservation of this assemblage, together with the way that it might be dated fairly precisely, suggests that if a larger assemblage were recovered from the site then it may shed some light on each of these topics. In short, it is recommended that the bones should be included in the full excavation report.

5.2.2 If no more material is recovered then it might be suitable for use as part of a teaching collection, in order to show the development of butchery practices.



Table 1: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period from the site.

	c.1200-1550?	c.1550-1700?	c.1580-1650	c.1600-1750?	c.1680-1780?	c.1700-1850?	c.1820-1840	c.1820-1850?	c.1830-1840?	c.1830-1850?	c.1830-1860	c.1830-1880	c.1836-1860	c.1836-1900	c.1840-1860	c.1840-1880	Undated
domestic cattle			1		1	2		1					1			3	
domestic cattle?							1										
caprine		1					1	4			3			2		6	3
caprine?					1												
pig							1									1	
cat							1										
European hare													1			1	
rabbit																1	
micro mammal																1	
small mammal							1				2					2	
medium mammal			1	1		1	2	4				1	2	1	1	5	
large mammal		1	2					2				1	2				1
<b>Total Mammal</b>	0	2	4	1	2	3	7	11	0	0	5	2	6	3	1	20	4
bird																1	
greylag/domestic goose?																1	
domestic duck/mallard										1							
<b>Total Bird</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
<b>Total NISP</b>	0	2	4	1	2	3	7	11	0	1	5	2	6	3	1	22	4
<b>Total NSP</b>	8	2	4	2	2	3	9	11	1	2	6	2	7	3	2	36	5



Table 2: NSP recovered from sieved and unsieved samples.

	Sieved	Unsieved
Bird	2	1
Micro Mammal	1	0
Small Mammal	1	8
Medium Mammal	0	42
Large Mammal	0	18
indet.	6	25
<b>Total NISP</b>	4	69
<b>Total NSP</b>	10	94

Table 3: NSP and total mass of specimens per context.

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
21	1	21
105	2	16
203	2	10
205	4	13
302	4	350
403	9	42
407	1	
503	1	3
513	3	70
519	2	54
608	2	1
610	36	263
611	11	112
614	2	32
706	2	10
707	1	11
801	6	65
802	2	5
803	3	35
905	2	27
917	8	13



Table 4: Non-species data recorded for specimens from the site.

	Butchery marks	Pathologies	Gnawed	Burnt	Ageing data	Biometric data	Sex
domestic cattle	2				3		
domestic cattle?	1						
caprine	8	1	2			5	
caprine?					1		
pig	1		1		1		1
European hare					2		
medium mammal	5						
large mammal	3		1				
<b>Total Mammal</b>	20	1	4	0	7	5	1
domestic duck/mallard	1		1		1	1	
<b>Total Bird</b>	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
<b>indet.</b>			1	2			
<b>Total</b>	21	1	6	2	8	6	2



## 5.3 Fish Bones

*By Rebecca Nicholson*

### **Introduction**

5.3.1 Six fish bone fragments were hand recovered from post-medieval pit fill context (302) during the evaluation excavations at Somerville College

5.3.2 The only bone readily identifiable to species is a large flatfish (probably plaice, *Pleuronectes platessa*) subopercular, a coracoid and fragments of spines and rays may come from the same fish.

## 5.4 Marine Shell

*By Rebecca Nicholson*

### **Introduction**

5.4.1 A small quantity of oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) shell was hand recovered from the evaluation excavations at Somerville College.

5.4.2 The small assemblage is detailed in the table below. All the shell comes from deposits dated as post-medieval or early modern (17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century). Oysters are fairly common in medieval and post-medieval refuse contexts from Oxford, demonstrating the effective transportation and marketing of this perishable foodstuff, probably dredged from managed beds around the Solent, or further east around the coast of Sussex, Kent or Essex.

5.4.3 The only shell of note is an example of a right oyster valve from (803) perforated centrally with a distinctive rectangular hole. Examples of similarly perforated oyster shells date from the Roman to the post-medieval periods, but there is currently no consensus about the function of these shells, one suggestion being that they were cut to extract mother-of-pearl, perhaps for button making (<https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/611183>), another that the shells were perforated during roof repairs, or perhaps more likely given their occurrence in collections of unperforated shells, that the holes were made by tools used to harvest them (Dupont 2010). Other shell fragments from this context showed extensive damage caused by the marine sponge *Cliona*.

Context	Weight(g)	No. left valves	No. Right valves	Notes
105	2			Frag
302	23		3	Fairly small cup-shaped valves
403	14		3	Worn frags
407	23	2	3	Worn frags
503	22		1	Fairly large, complete
610	47	2	2	Variable size and condition.

Context	Weight(g)	No. left valves	No. Right valves	Notes
				One right valve is thick and internally bistered
611	12		1	
801	41	1	2	One right valve is worked; has rectangular hole cut through the centre.
803	16	1		Opening notch on left margin

Table. Catalogue of oyster shell



## 6 DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Reliability of field investigation

6.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence is reasonably well understood. However, only a relatively small area was subject to evaluation and consequently the following interpretation is necessarily circumspect.

### 6.2 Interpretation

#### *Geological deposits*

6.2.1 In the majority of the trenches, the natural geology had been heavily truncated. However, the presence of probable *in-situ* brickearth in Trench 1 suggests that the top of the gravel in the western half of the trench was undisturbed and lay at 60.55m OD.

6.2.2 As the top of the gravel in Trench 3 to the east was encountered at 61.00m OD, this would suggest that the gravel falls from the east towards the floodplain to the west. During the recent refurbishment of the Ruskin Building to the south-west of the site, the top of the gravel was encountered at 57.74m OD which appears to be consistent with this interpretation.

#### *Early features*

6.2.3 The composition of the fills of a number of features revealed during the evaluation may be indicative of an early date.

6.2.4 The fills of these features (in Trenches 3 and 6) were predominantly composed of re-deposited brickearth and gravel, which elsewhere in the city has been indicative of prehistoric or late Saxon features. However, the small sherd of pottery recovered from the environmental sample taken from the upper fill of Ditch 305 (306) would suggest a date-range of c1150-1350 for the filling of the feature. The similarity in the composition of the fills of these potentially 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century features to that of earlier features identified elsewhere may reflect the location of the site on the periphery of the medieval core of the city.

#### *Civil War defences*

6.2.5 The north-south aligned ditch in Trench 1 almost certainly formed part of the Civil War defensive network around the City as depicted by de Gomme in 1644 (Figs 21 and 22). On March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1646/7, The House of Commons ordered the new works to be 'slighted and dismantled' (Lattey et al 1936, 178). However, the dating evidence recovered from the feature suggests that it was backfilled in the late-17<sup>th</sup>-early-18<sup>th</sup> century, which is consistent with the fact that David Loggan shows this section of earthwork as extant on his plan of 1675 (Fig. 23). Consequently, it would seem that the slighting of the defences was not synchronous around the whole circuit.

6.2.6 It is possible that the deeply stratified fills encountered in Trench 2 (216) also represent backfilling of a section of the defensive ditch, particularly given the similarity in the date of the artefactual material recovered to that from the feature in Trench 1. The possible gravel encountered at the base of the auger holes in Trench 2 also correlated roughly with the base of the ditch in Trench 1 (59.18m OD and 59.59m OD respectively). However, the extent of the feature was not established within the confines of the trench, and consequently the alignment

of the putative ditch in Trench 2 is unclear. However, as the fills were not present within Trench 3, it is reasonable to assume that the edge of the feature lies between Trenches 2 and 3 and that consequently it is aligned east-west. The possible configuration of the likely defensive ditches is discussed in greater detail in Section 6.3.

6.2.7 It was initially thought that the deposits encountered within the auger hole in Trench 4 may also have been filling the defensive ditch. However, the 19<sup>th</sup>-century dating evidence recovered from this deposit(s) (407) would suggest that the feature it is filling is more likely to be associated with the concentration of large 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>-century features encountered to the west (see below).

### *Post-medieval pits*

6.2.8 Generally speaking, very little evidence for medieval and early post-medieval occupation was revealed within the trenches, which probably reflects the fact that the cartographic evidence suggests that the area now occupied by Somerville College almost certainly lay within open fields during this period. The exception to this was the shallow 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century pit revealed in Trench 3.

### *19<sup>th</sup> century*

#### *Structures*

6.2.9 A number of the structures revealed within the trenches appear to broadly correspond with buildings or walls shown on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1876 (Figure 24).

6.2.10 It seems highly likely that the north-west/south-east aligned wall in Trench 5 (506) is the boundary wall marking the eastern extent of the playground to the rear of the school (Bedford House), and that the cross wall (504) may well be associated with the outbuilding depicted to the east of the boundary wall. However, wall 504 clearly post-dated the boundary wall and it is possible that it also post-dates the configuration of structures shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition. The 'terminus' of the structure was indicative of a gateway, and a corresponding scar on the southern face of the Penrose Building may suggest that wall 504 actually represents an earlier version of the standing wall between the Sand Garden and Fellows' Garden.

6.2.11 Similarly, the north-west/south-east aligned wall in Trench 2 (211) almost certainly represents the boundary wall running from the south-east corner of 120 Walton Street down the western side of Radcliffe Row. The perpendicular wall (209) may well have formed an internal division within the outbuildings shown to the west of this wall.

6.2.12 Both of these north-west/south-east aligned walls were encountered marginally to the east of their locations as shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Consequently, it is possible that the similarly aligned wall in Trench 7 (700) represents the external western wall of the structure fronting Walton Street shown on the same plan, as its location within the trench would correlate with this wall if the discrepancy between the structures as found and mapped is the same as that within Trenches 2 and 5. The mortar surface (702) is likely to have been internal, and as it was truncated by the construction trench (701) for the wall (700), it probably belongs to an early phase of building.

6.2.13 The structure in Trench 1 was not fully characterized, but almost certainly relates to a building fronting Walton Street prior to the construction of Bedford House in 1875. The date

of the possible stone-lined pit in Trench 4 is uncertain but may also be associated with this earlier phase.

### *Negative features*

6.2.14 The dating evidence from the 19<sup>th</sup> century pits encountered in Trenches 4 and 6 appear to suggest an early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century date for these features and consequently it seems likely that they are also associated with the building which fronted Walton Street prior to the construction of the school.

6.2.15 The artefactual evidence from the pits and well encountered in Trenches 5, 8 and 9 suggests a late-19<sup>th</sup>-early-20<sup>th</sup> century date which would be consistent with the occupation of the Rope Walk tenement prior to the construction of the Maitland Building in 1911. Interestingly, similar features appear to have caused difficulties during the ground works for the construction of Maitland, as noted in the Victoria County History:

*“The rope-walk tenant was not disturbed until 1911, when the Maitland buildings were decided upon. The foundations of the new building presented unexpected difficulty and expense because of the existence of deep pits filled with loose gravel and rubble. De Gomme's plan of the fortifications of Oxford in 1644 shows that the outer lines of defence crossed the Somerville site at this corner. It seems probable that the pits formed part of the entrenchments, but this possibility was not explored at the time (VCH 1954).”*

6.2.16 It is possible that these features did indeed relate to the Civil War fortifications. Pitfalls have recently been recorded in association with the defensive ditch during works at the Tinbergen Building on the corner of South Parks Road and St Cross Road (OA 2016). However, given the evidence for deep features from the recent trenching in the Sand Garden and Fellows' Garden, it seems more likely that the features encountered in 1911 are of similar origin to the 19<sup>th</sup> century pits revealed during the evaluation.

## **6.3 Significance**

6.3.1 The urban archaeological research agenda for Oxford is set out in a series of documents available on the Oxford City Council website, which set out a number of questions that the surviving archaeological remains in the city may assist in answering (<https://consultation.oxford.gov.uk/consult.ti/OARAAC/consultationHome>):

6.3.2 *“The development of hinterland villages around Oxford is poorly understood. Less well-developed village cores may provide the best opportunities to study patterns of expansion and contraction and obtain representative rural assemblages.”* (OARARA 2012).

6.3.3 The potentially early features encountered within Trenches 3 and 6 may represent 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century activity (although it should be stressed that the dating of these features was primarily through the similarity in the composition of the fills to that of the one feature from which finds were recovered, which itself was only dated by a single pot sherd from an environmental sample). Similarly dated deposits have been found further to the north at 73 and 75 Walton Street (1.3.9 above), although any suggested correlation between these deposits and the features encountered during the evaluation is highly conjectural.

6.3.4 *“Can the line, phasing and character of the Royalist defences and Parliamentary siege works be further established?”* (OARARA 2012).

6.3.5 Although the full extent of the feature in Trench 1 and the extent and alignment of the feature in Trench 2 were not established with any degree of certainty, it seems highly likely that they represent the backfilling of the Civil War defensive ditch. However, there is a discrepancy between the configuration of the defences as depicted by de Gomme in 1644, and that shown on Loggan's map of 1675 (Figs 22 and 23). The configuration as shown on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) is based on that shown by Loggan (Figure 21), although if this is correct then it would suggest that the feature in Trench 2 should also have been encountered in the trenches within the Sand Garden and Fellows' Garden to the east (Trenches 5, 8 and 9). Whilst it is possible that the 19<sup>th</sup> century pits have truncated the possible ditch in these locations, the presence of the terrace gravel at a relatively high elevation in Trench 9 (60.45m OD) and possibly Trenches 5 and 9 (60.11m OD and 60.76m OD respectively) would suggest that the putative ditch was not present in these locations. Consequently, the apparent discrepancy between de Gomme's plan and the extant earthwork depicted by Loggan makes the interpretation of the configuration of the circuit based on the results of the evaluation problematic.

6.3.6 *The identification of further Early Modern pottery, glassware, tokens and clay pipe assemblages may much to add to our understanding of local trade and consumption patterns, especially where related to specialist activities or distinct communities.*

6.3.7 The fact that the features revealed within Trenches 5, 8 and 9 are likely to relate to the occupation of the Rope Walk tenement may go some way to understanding local trade and consumption patterns with regard to trades servicing the canal.

6.3.8 Additionally, the zooarchaeology of the modern period is currently poorly understood. This is a time that saw profound changes in the way that people interacted with animals and the environment, in the development of breeds (both of livestock and of pets), in butchery practices and in biogeography. The preservation of the animal bone assemblage, together with the way that it might be dated fairly precisely, suggests that if a larger assemblage were recovered from the site then it may shed some light on each of these topics (Broderick, above).

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
100	Structure	Post-medieval wall		
101	Cut	Civil War ditch		
102	Fill	Fill of Civil War ditch	Predominantly mid reddish-brown clayey silt with lenses of re-deposited gravel and mid-grey clay silt	
103	Fill	Fill of Civil War ditch	Friable mid brownish grey clayey silt	
104	Fill	Fill of Civil War ditch	Tenacious mid grey silty clay	
105	Fill	Fill of Civil War ditch	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional gravel fragments	c1550-1700?
106	Deposit	Buried soil	Friable mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional gravel fragments	c1500-1625?
107	Deposit	?Re-worked brickearth	Mid reddish brown clay silt with occasional lenses and concentrations of dark grey sandy silt and occasional large gravel pebbles and gravel fragments	
108	Deposit	Bedding layer for brick surface	Mixed rubble/gravel etc	c1840-1880
109	Deposit	Brickearth	Mid reddish brown clayey silt with very occasional gravel fragments	
110	Layer	Mixed top of terrace gravel	Mixed loose silty gravel; sterile yellow sand; grey sandy silt; sand and gravel	
111	Layer	Terrace gravel	Sand and gravel	
112	Fill	Fill of Civil War ditch	Re-deposited/eroded sand and gravel	
113	Fill	Fill of Civil War ditch	Mixed re-deposited gravel and brickearth	
114	Fill	Fill of Civil War ditch	Tenacious mid grey brown silty clay	c1550-1700?

Trench 2				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
200	Deposit	'Modern' levelling deposit	Dark grey sandy silt	
201	Layer	Terrace gravel		
202	Cut	Pit cut		
203	Fill	Fill of pit 202	Dark grey sandy silt with some charcoal flecking	1780-1850
204	Cut	Pit cut		
205	Fill	Fill of pit 204	Dark brown sandy silt with some charcoal flecking	c1830-1860
206	Fill	Fill of pit 202	Soft dark grey sandy silt with 10% gravel fragments	
207	Fill	Fill of pit 202	Soft mid brownish red sandy silt with 15% gravel fragments	
208	Fill	Fill of pit 202	Soft light brownish yellow sandy silt with 15% gravel fragments	
209	Structure	NW-SE aligned wall		
210	Cut	Construction cut for wall 209		
211	Structure	NE-SW aligned wall		
212	Cut	Pit cut		
213	Fill	Fill of pit 212	Soft dark grey sandy silt with 10% gravel fragments and clinker throughout	c1840-1880
214	Fill	Possible fill of Civil War ditch	Compact ranging from reddish grey to reddish brown sandy silt and silty gravel with 15% small gravel fragments	
215	Fill	Fill of construction cut 210	Soft mid grey sandy silt with 10% small gravel fragments	
216	Fill	Possible fill of Civil War ditch	Firm mid grey brown sandy silt with 10% small gravel fragments	c1680-1800
217	Cut	Construction cut for wall 211		

Trench 3				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
300	Deposit	Mixed upper element of terrace gravel	Mixed brickearth and gravel with concentrations of mid-dark grey clay silt with 25% gravel inclusions	
301	Cut	Shallow post-med pit		
302	Fill	Fill of pit 301	Tenacious mid-pale brownish grey silty clay with c2-3% gravel fragments	c1580-1650
303	Deposit	Buried soil	Mid brownish grey clay silt with c5% gravel fragments and occasional charcoal	
304	Deposit	Modern levelling/bedding deposit for tarmac	Brick rubble and shingle	
305	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch		
306	Fill	Fill of ditch 305	Mid reddish brown clayey silt with occasional gravel fragments	c1150-1350
307	Cut	Possible N-S aligned ditch		
308	Fill	Fill of possible ditch 307	Predominantly re-deposited gravel with greyish brown silty lenses	
309	Fill	Fill of possible ditch 307	Mid reddish brown clay silt	
310	Cut	Possible pit		
311	Fill	Fill of possible pit 310	Mid reddish brown clay silt with occasional gravel fragments	
312	Fill	Fill of ditch 305	Mid reddish brown clay silt	
313	Fill	Fill of ditch 305	Predominantly sandy gravel with lenses and concentrations of mid grey sandy silt	

Trench 4				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
401	Deposit	Modern gravel surface	Shingle	

Trench 4				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
402	Cut	Pit cut		
403	Fill	Fill of pit 402	Friable mid greyish brown silt with moderate charcoal and gravel	c1820-1840
404	Deposit	?Levelling deposit	Loose mid brown sandy silt with yellowish brown lens and frequent pebbles, charcoal and occasional brick fragments	
405	Deposit	Buried soil	Friable mid brownish grey silt with frequent charcoal fleckis and occasional CBM fragments	
406	Deposit	Probable upper fill of pit 402	Friable mid greyish brown silt with occasional charcoal	
407	Fill	Possible pit fill	Friable reddish brown silt with occasional gravel fragments	c1830-1840?
408	Structure	Stone-lined pit?		

Trench 5				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
500	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark brown grey sandy silt	c1836-1900
501	Deposit	Buried garden soil	Friable dark brown grey sandy silt with 5-10% gravel fragments	
502	Deposit	Possible construction horizon	Loose light brown yellowish grey silty sand with 60% gravel, loose concrete material and occasional broken slate and brick	
503	Deposit	Buried soil	Soft mid brown grey sandy silt loam with 5% gravel fragments and occasional brick fragments and charcoal flecks	c1830-1880
504	Structure	Garden wall		
505	Structure	Concrete foundation of 504		
506	Structure	Boundary wall		



Trench 5				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
507	Structure	Concrete foundation of 506		
508	Fill	Rubble backfill of construction cut 510	Predominantly CBM fragments	
509	Fill	Fill of construction cut 510	Loose mid brownish grey sandy silt with 30% gravel fragments and CBM fragments	19C
510	Cut	Construction cut for wall 506		
511	Fill	Fill of pit 512	Compact mid reddish brown sandy silt loam with 10% gravel fragments	
512	Cut	Pit cut		
513	Fill	Fill of pit 514	Loose mid reddish brown sandy silt loam with 2% gravel fragments	c1700-1850?
514	Cut	Pit cut		
515	Deposit	Mixed upper pit fills	Compact mid brownish yellow silty sand with 70% gravel fragments	
516	Structure	Possible surface drain butting wall 506		
517	Deposit	Mixed upper pit fills	Compact mid reddish brown sandy silt loam with c40% gravel fragments	
518	Cut	Pit cut		
519	Fill	Fill of pit 518	Friable mid grey brown sandy silt with 2% gravel fragments and occasional charcoal and CBM	c1680-1780?
520	Layer	Terrace gravel		

Trench 6				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
600	Deposit	Garden soil	Dark brown grey sandy silt with 1-2% gravel fragments	

Trench 6				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
601	Deposit	Garden soil	Soft mid-dark grey brown sandy silt with c15% CBM fragments	
602	Deposit	Construction horizon	Compact mid brown grey sandy silt with 40-50% construction debris	
603	Deposit	Construction horizon	Friable light brownish white mortar with 1% rounded gravel	
604	Deposit	Buried garden soil	Compact-friable mid grey sandy silt with 15% gravel fragments and occasional charcoal flecks	
605	Deposit	Mixed upper pit fills	Compact mid brown-grey sandy silt with 8-11% gravel fragments and occasional larger stones, charcoal and CBM	
606	Deposit	Mixed upper pit fills	Compact, mixed reddish brown, light brown grey and mid grey sandy silt with 10-25% gravel fragments	
607	Cut	Pit cut		
608	Fill	Fill of pit 607	Compact mid reddish grey sandy silt with 2% gravel fragments and occasional charcoal flecks	c1600-1750?
609	Cut	Pit cut		
610	Fill	Fill of pit 609	Soft dark brown-grey sandy silt with 5% gravel fragments	c1840-1880
611	Fill	Fill of pit 609	Soft mid reddish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and 2% gravel fragments	c1820-1850?
612	Fill	Fill of pit 609	Soft mid grey sandy silt with c2% gravel fragments and very occasional charcoal	
613	Cut	Pit cut		
614	Fill	Fill of pit 613	Compact dark grey sandy silt with c4% gravel fragments	1660-1680
615	Fill	Fill of pit 616	Compact mid grey sandy silt with 20% gravel fragments	
616	Cut	Pit cut		

Trench 6				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
617	Deposit	Mixed top of terrace gravel	Mixed loose silty gravel; sterile yellow sand; grey sandy silt; sand and gravel	
618	Fill	Fill of pit 616	Friable light grey sandy silt with 7% small gravel fragments	
619	Fill	Fill of pit 620	Friable mid reddish brown silty clay with 1% gravel fragments (re-deposited brickearth)	
620	Cut	Pit cut		
621	Layer	Terrace gravel	More sterile gravel deposit below 617	
622	Finds Ref	Finds reference allocated to artefacts recovered by groundworkers	Probably from deposits 605 and/or 606	

Trench 7				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
700	Structure	NW-SE aligned wall footing		Early-mid 19thC
701	Cut	Construction cut for wall 700		
702	Surface	Compacted mortar surface	Compact creamy white mortar with c5% gravel inclusions	
703	Deposit	Fill of construction cut 701	Soft light brownish yellow sandy silt	
704	Fill	Fill of construction cut 701	Soft dark grey brown sandy silt with 1-2% gravel fragments	c1820-1840
705	Fill	Fill of construction cut 701	Soft dark brown grey sandy silt with 1-2% gravel fragments	c1830-1880
706	Deposit	Possible buried soil	Friable dark grey brown silty clay	

Trench 7				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
707	Deposit	Levelling deposit for modern surface	Friable dark brownish grey silty loam with 15% gravel fragments and occasional CBM	19C
708	Deposit	Gravel rich deposit overlying mortar surface 702	50% gravel in sandy matrix	

Trench 8				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
800	Cut	Pit cut		
801	Fill	Fill of pit 800	Dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent small stones	c1836-1860
802	Fill	Fill of pit 809	Grey brown mixed sandy gravel and sandy silt with slate throughout	c1840-1860
803	Fill	Fill of pit 811	Loose mid brown sandy silt with moderate charcoal and occasional CBM	c1836-1900
804	Fill	Fill of pit 800	Friable mid-pale brownish grey silty clay	
805	Structure	Well		
806	Fill	Fill of pit 800	Friable mid-dark brownish grey silty clay with 25% gravel fragments	
807	Fill	?Pit fill	Friable mid-dark blueish grey clayey silt	
808	Fill	?Pit fill	Friable mid-dark grey clayey silt	
809	Cut	Pit cut, possibly robbing upper element of well 805		
810	Layer	Possible natural	Sterile sand and gravel; possibly re-deposited??	
811	Cut	Pit cut		
812	Fill	Fill of pit 811	Friable brownish grey clayey silt	
813	Cut	Construction cut for well 805		

Trench 8				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
814	Fill	Backfill of well 805	Mid grey brown clayey silt	
815	Fill	Fill of pit 800	Friable mid grey sandy silt	
816	Deposit	Buried ?garden soil	Predominantly mid-dark grey brown sandy loam	

Trench 9				
Context No.	Type	Description	Soil Description	Date
900	Deposit	Turf		
901	Layer	Terrace gravel	Light yellow sand	
902	Cut	Pit cut		
903	Fill	Fill of pit 902	Mid brown sandy silt	
904	Cut	Pit cut		
905	Fill	Fill of pit 904	Dark grey sandy silt	c1830-1860
906	Deposit	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy silt	c1836-1900
907	?Fill	Fill of pit 912	Dark reddish grey sandy silt	
908	?Fill	Fill of pit 912	Mid yellow compacted gravel	
909	Cut	Cut for brick structure 910		
910	Structure	Brick structure of indeterminate function		
911	Fill	Fill of cut for/bedding layer for brick structure 910	Mid grey sandy silt	
912	Cut	Pit cut		
913	Fill	Fill of pit 912	Light grey sandy silt	
914	Fill	Fill of pit 912	Dark grey sandy silt	
915	Fill	Fill of pit 912	Mid grey sandy silt	
916	Cut	Pit cut		
917	Fill	Fill of pit 916	Dark grey sandy silt	

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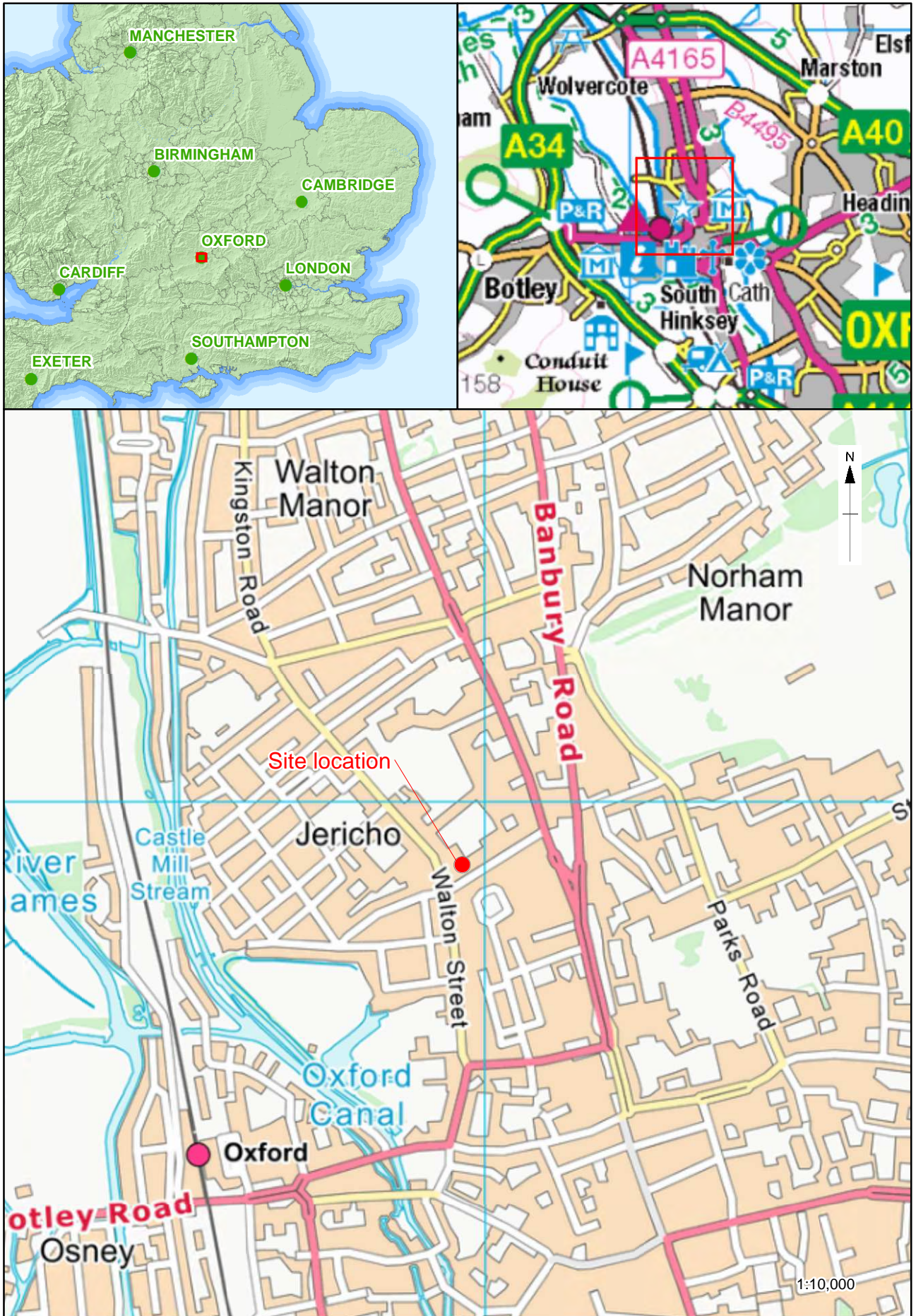
**APPENDIX C****SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

<b>Site name:</b>	Phase 1 Area: Somerville College, Walton Street, Oxford
<b>Site code:</b>	OXSCW17
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SP 5093 0689
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> June-10 <sup>th</sup> July 2017; 11 days
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2017.101
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	<p>Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Bidwell LLP on behalf of Somerville College to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of the proposed Catherine Hughes Building, Somerville College, Walton Street, Oxford (SP 5093 0689).</p> <p>The evaluation revealed the top of the second terrace gravel which in one trench was overlain by a layer of post-glacial brickearth. A number of features were revealed which had fills that were predominantly composed of re-deposited brickearth and gravel, which elsewhere in the city has been indicative of prehistoric or late Saxon features. However, a single sherd of 12th-14th century pottery was recovered from a soil sample taken from the fills of one of these features, which may indicate a later date for some fills of this nature where they are encountered on the periphery of the core of the medieval city.</p> <p>With the exception of these features, little evidence for medieval occupation was revealed within the trenches, which probably reflects the fact that the area now occupied by Somerville College almost certainly lay within open fields in the medieval period.</p> <p>A north-south aligned linear feature was revealed within a trench in the south-western corner of the site. The fills of this feature produced artefactual material dating to the late-17th-early-18th centuries, and it almost certainly correlates to part of the Civil War defensive network around the city, as illustrated by Bernard de Gomme in 1644. The dating evidence is also consistent with the fact that this section of the earthwork is shown as extant on David Loggan's later plan of 1675. A series of deeply stratified deposits of a similar date was also revealed in a trench to the north-east of this feature. Although the extent of these deposits was not revealed within the confines of the trench, it seems likely that they represent the backfill of the eastward return of the north-south aligned feature described above.</p> <p>A number of walls were revealed which broadly correlate with structures shown on the OS 1st edition map of 1876. Additionally, the majority of the trenches contained a series of large 19th-century pits which almost certainly represent occupation</p>



associated with these properties. A stone-lined well of similar date was also revealed.





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Figure 1: Site location



0 10 m  
Scale at A3 1:200

Figure 2: Trench locations

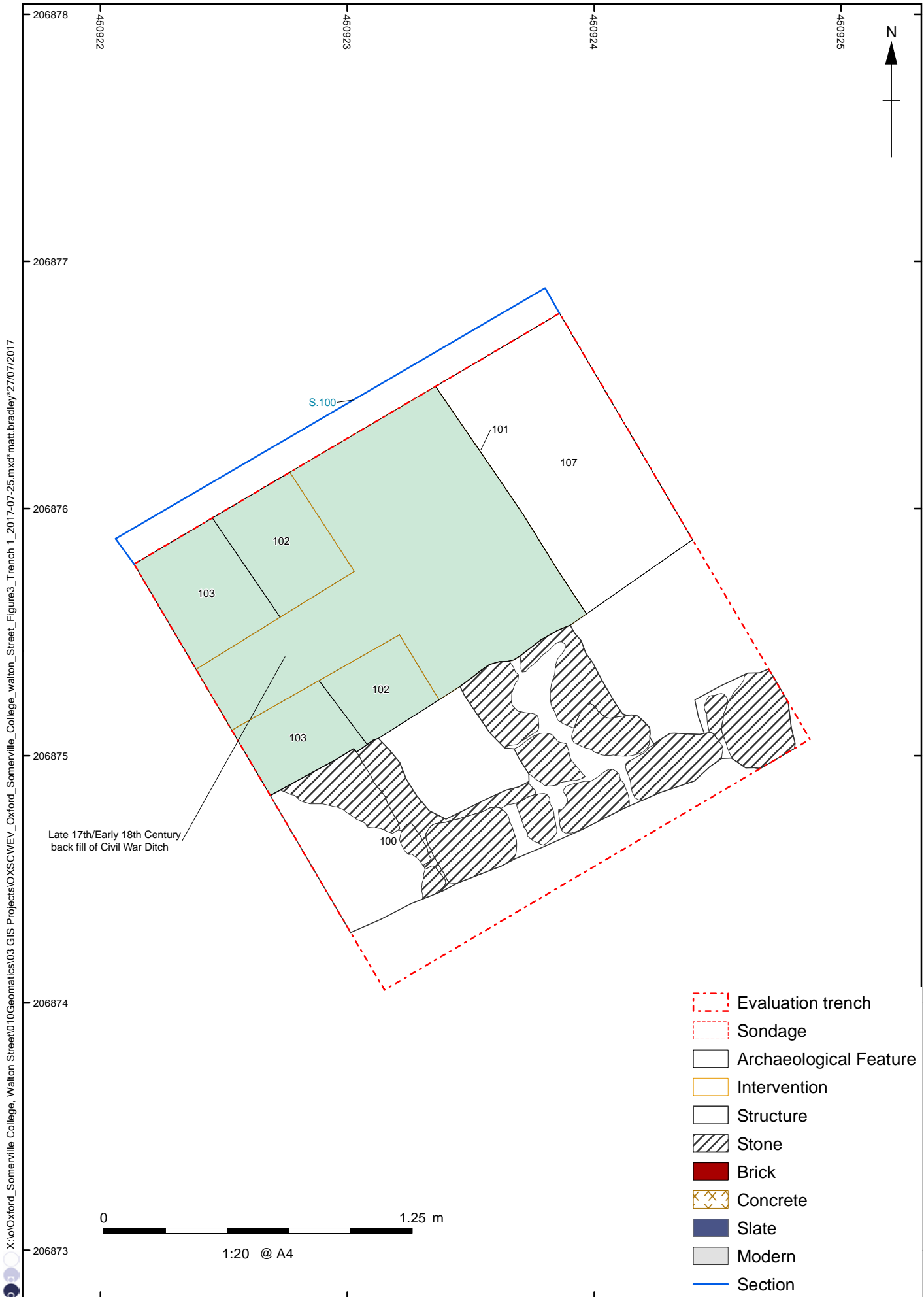


Figure 3: Trench 1

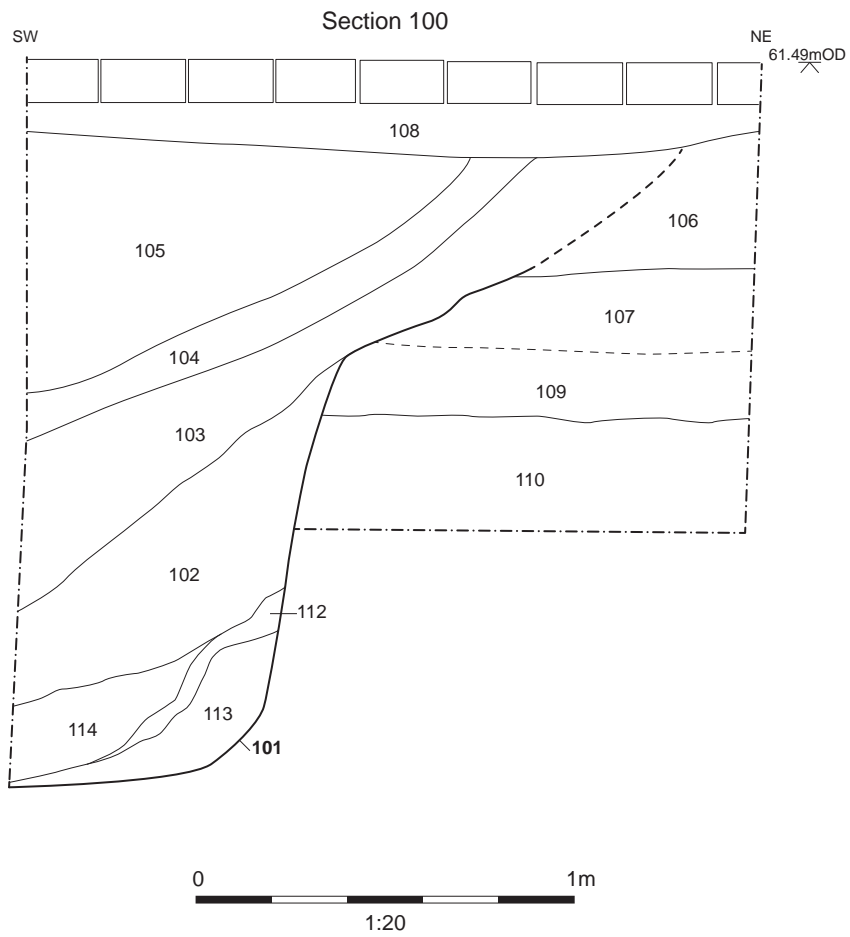


Figure 4: Trench 1, section 100



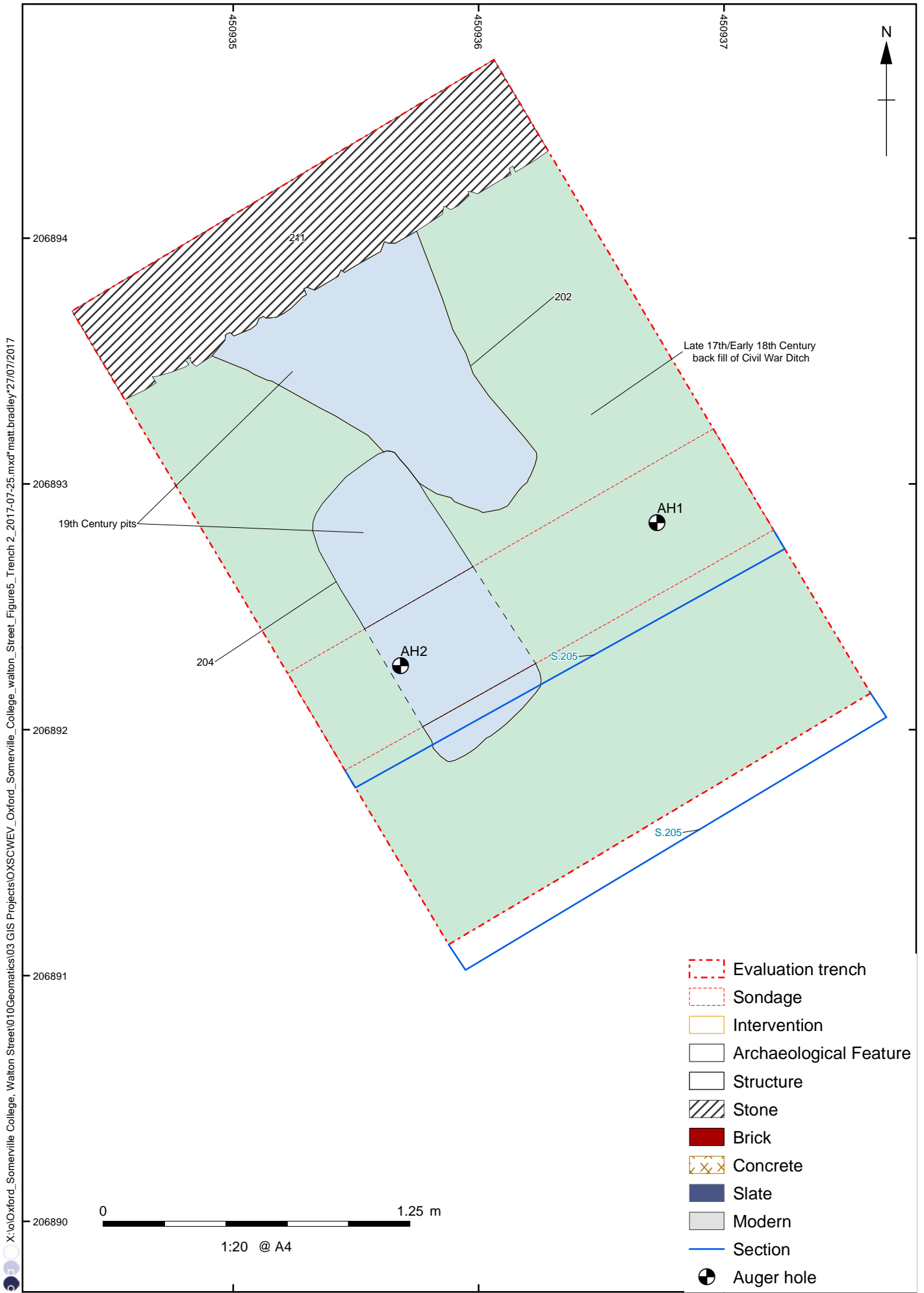


Figure 5: Trench 2

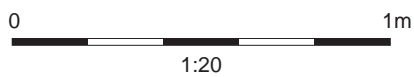
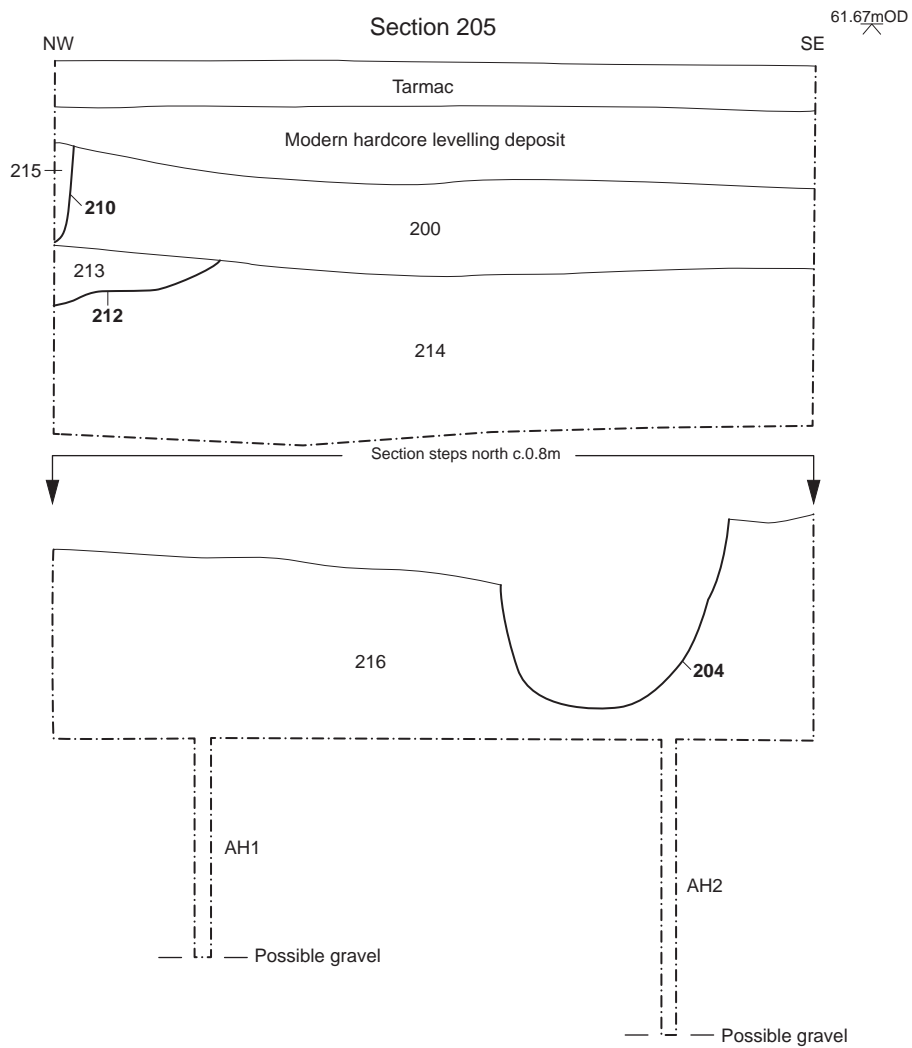
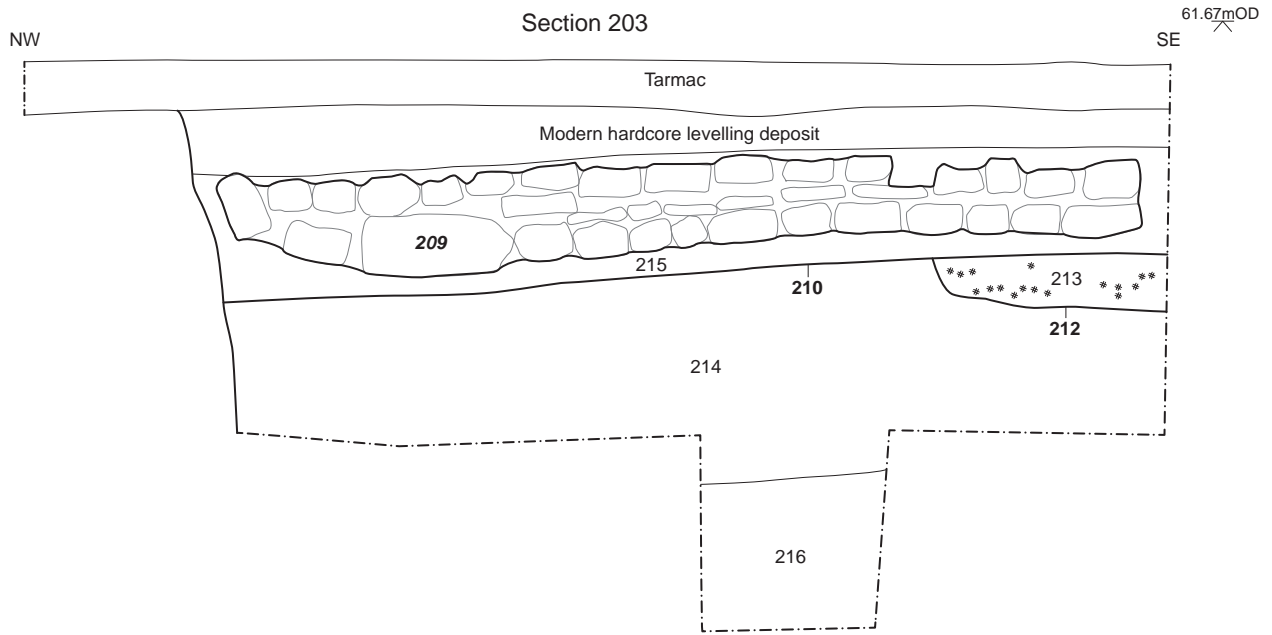


Figure 6: Trench 2, sections 203 and 203





Figure 7: Trench 3

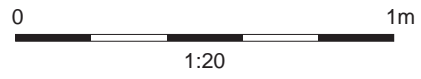
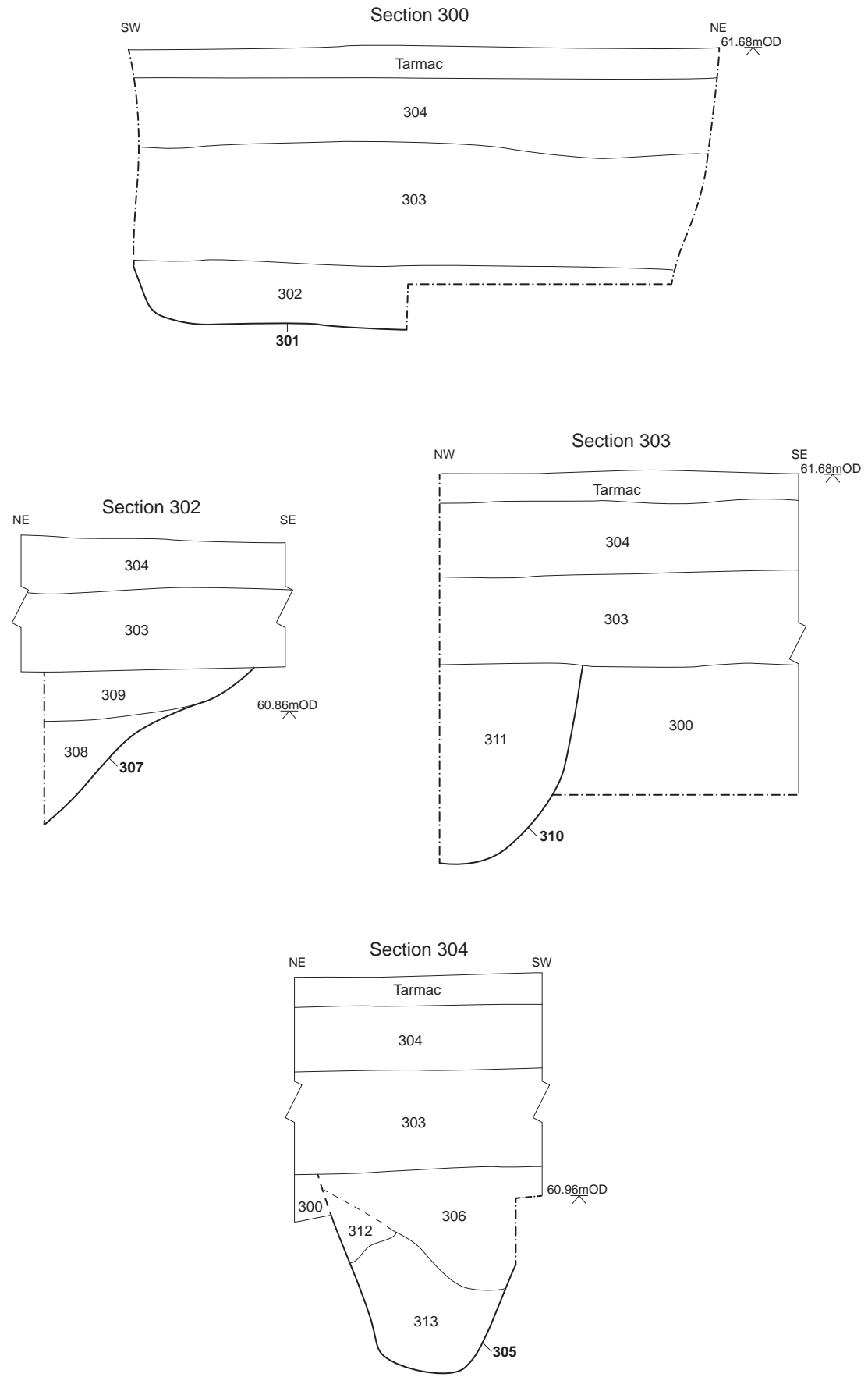


Figure 8: Trench 3, sections 300, 302, 303 and 304

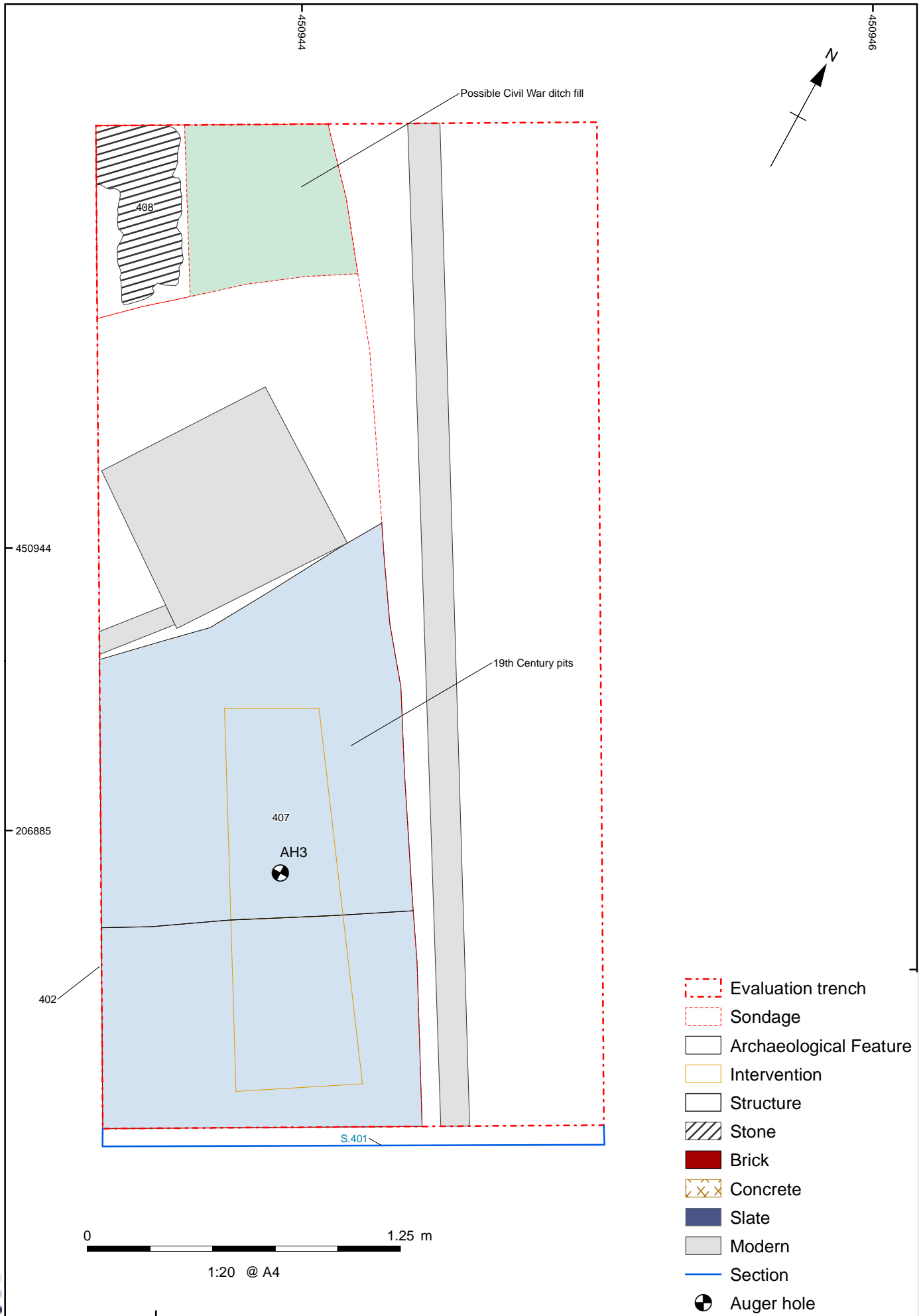


Figure 9: Trench 4

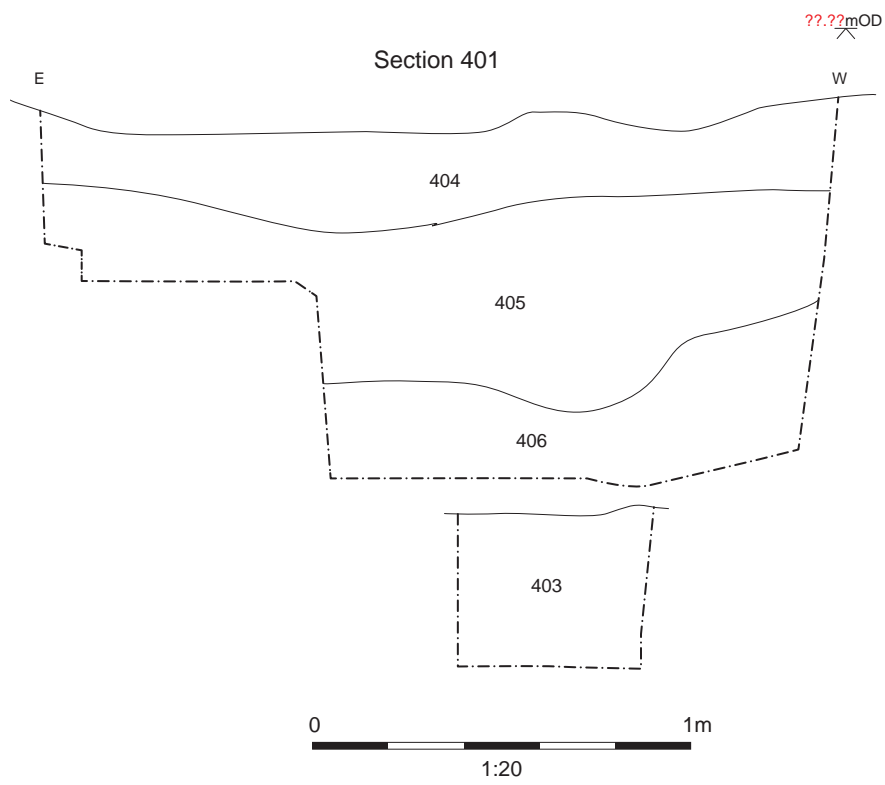


Figure 10: Trench 4, section 401



Figure 11: Trench 5

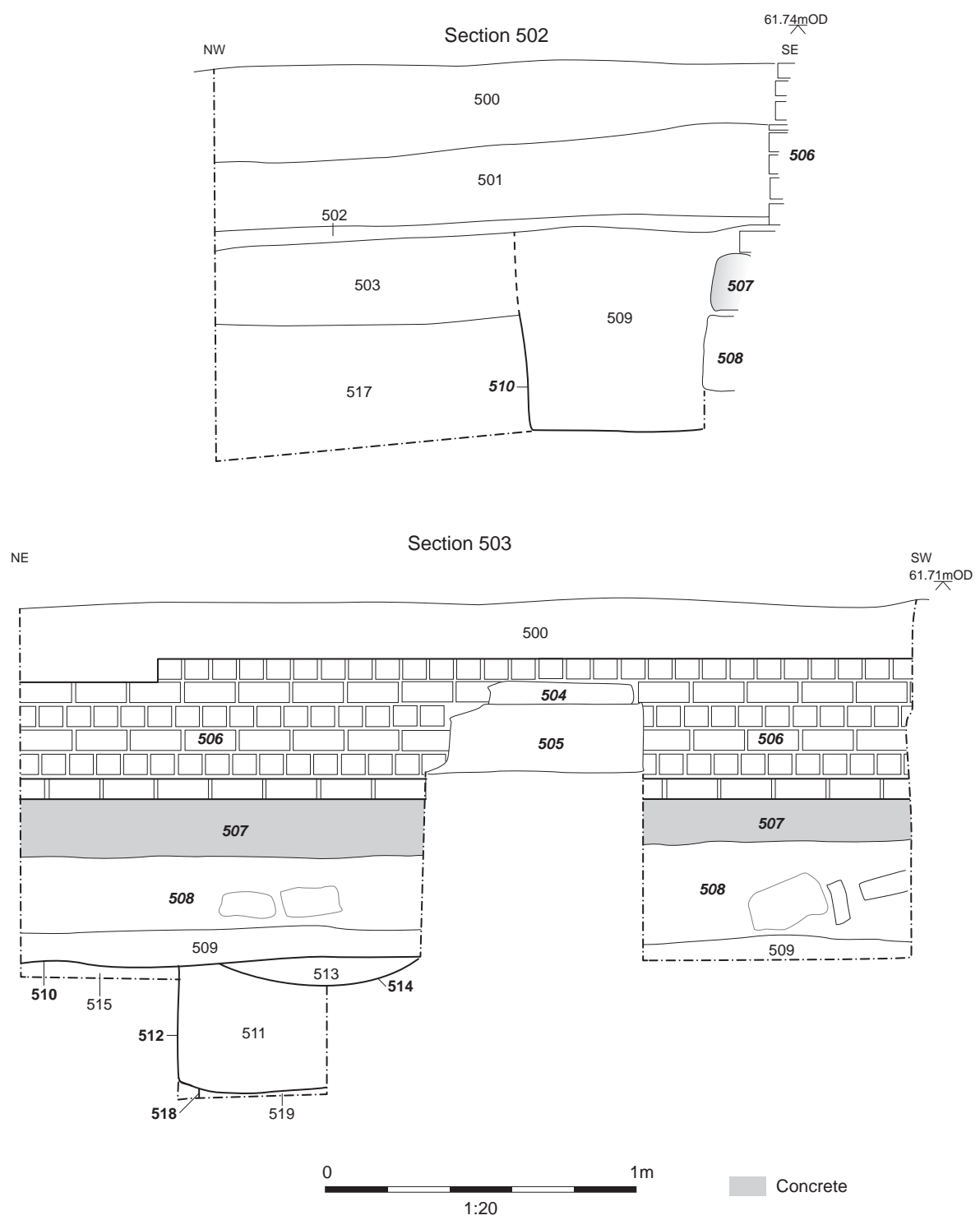


Figure 12: Trench 5, sections 502 and 503

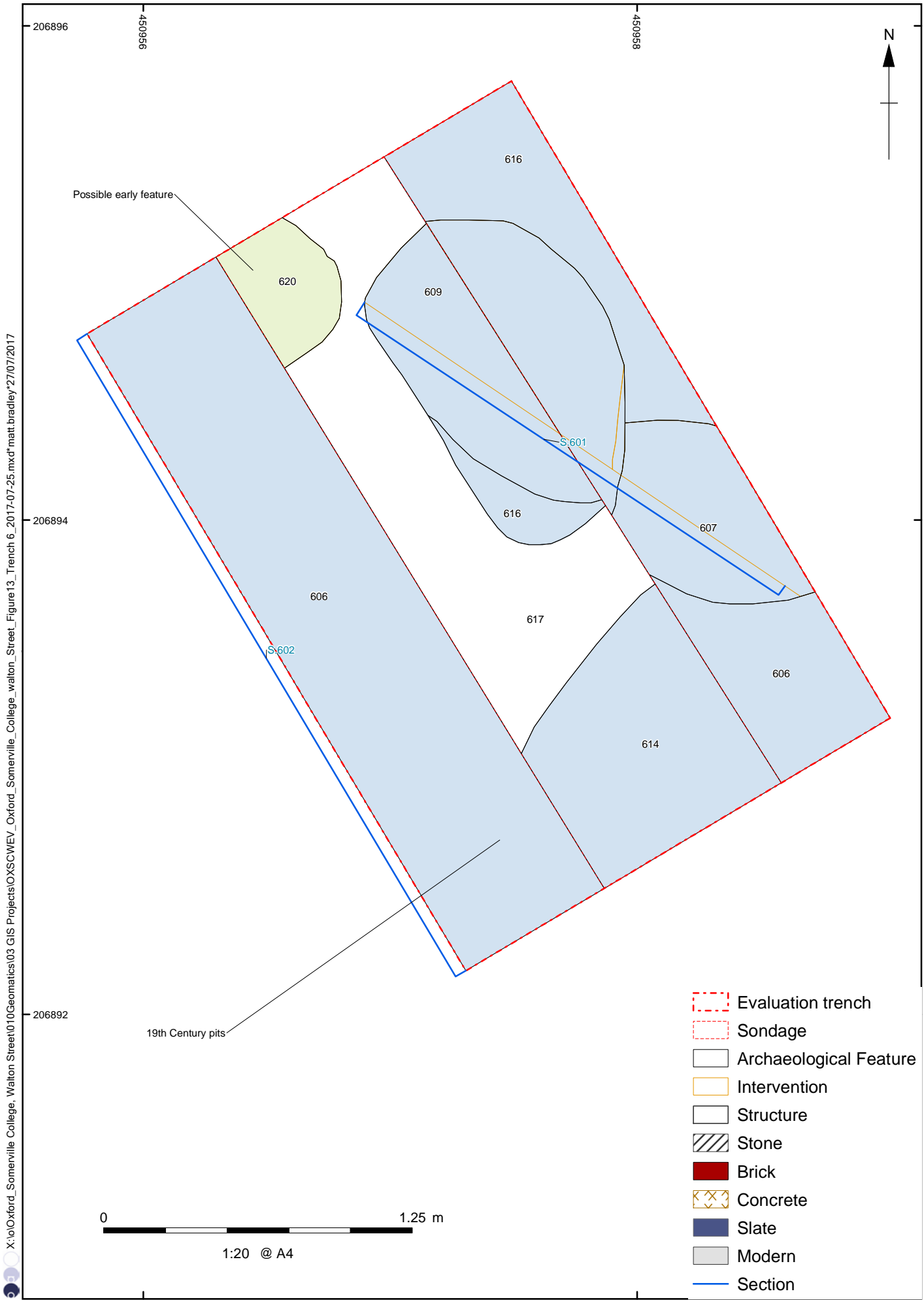


Figure 13: Trench 6

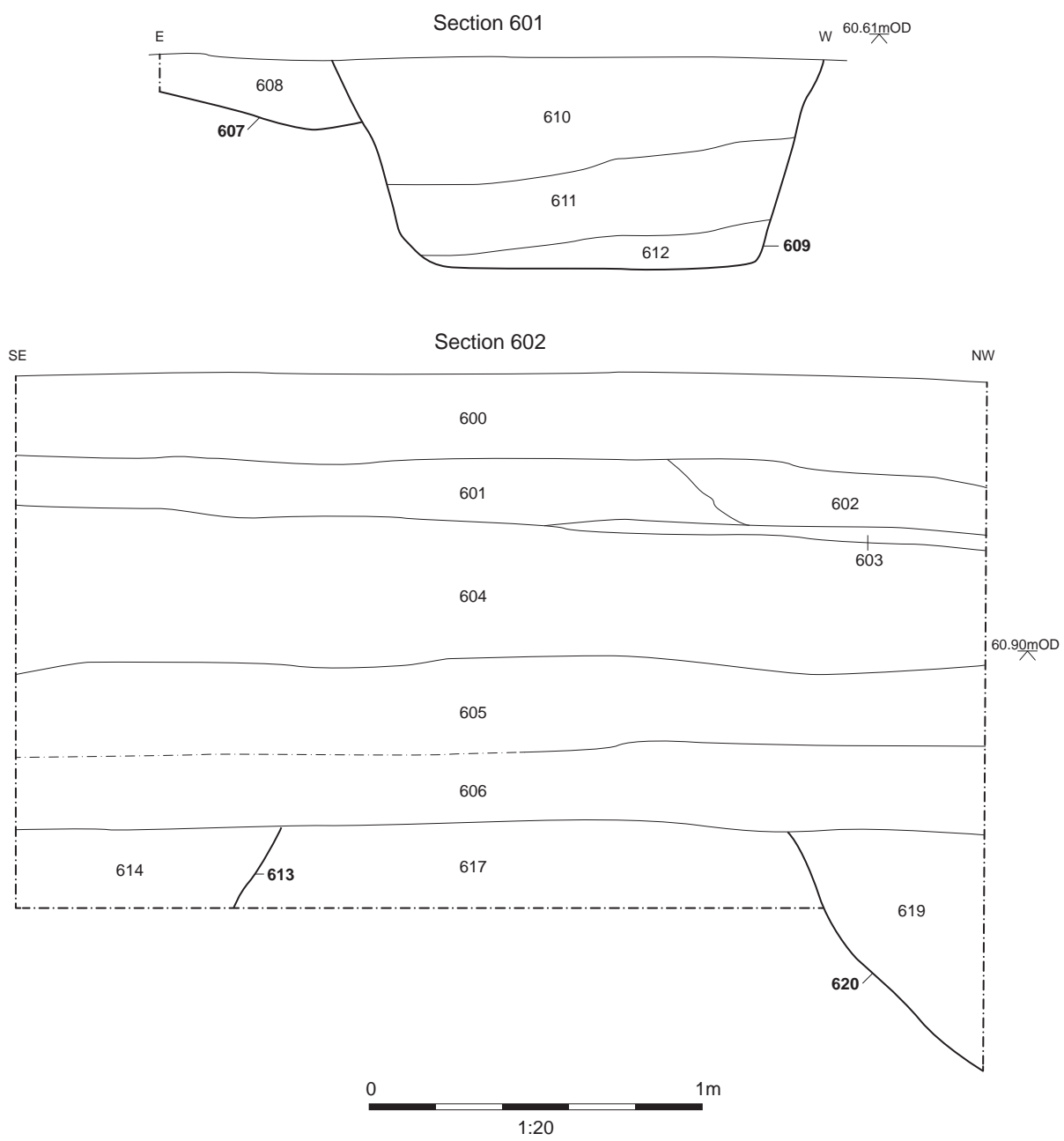
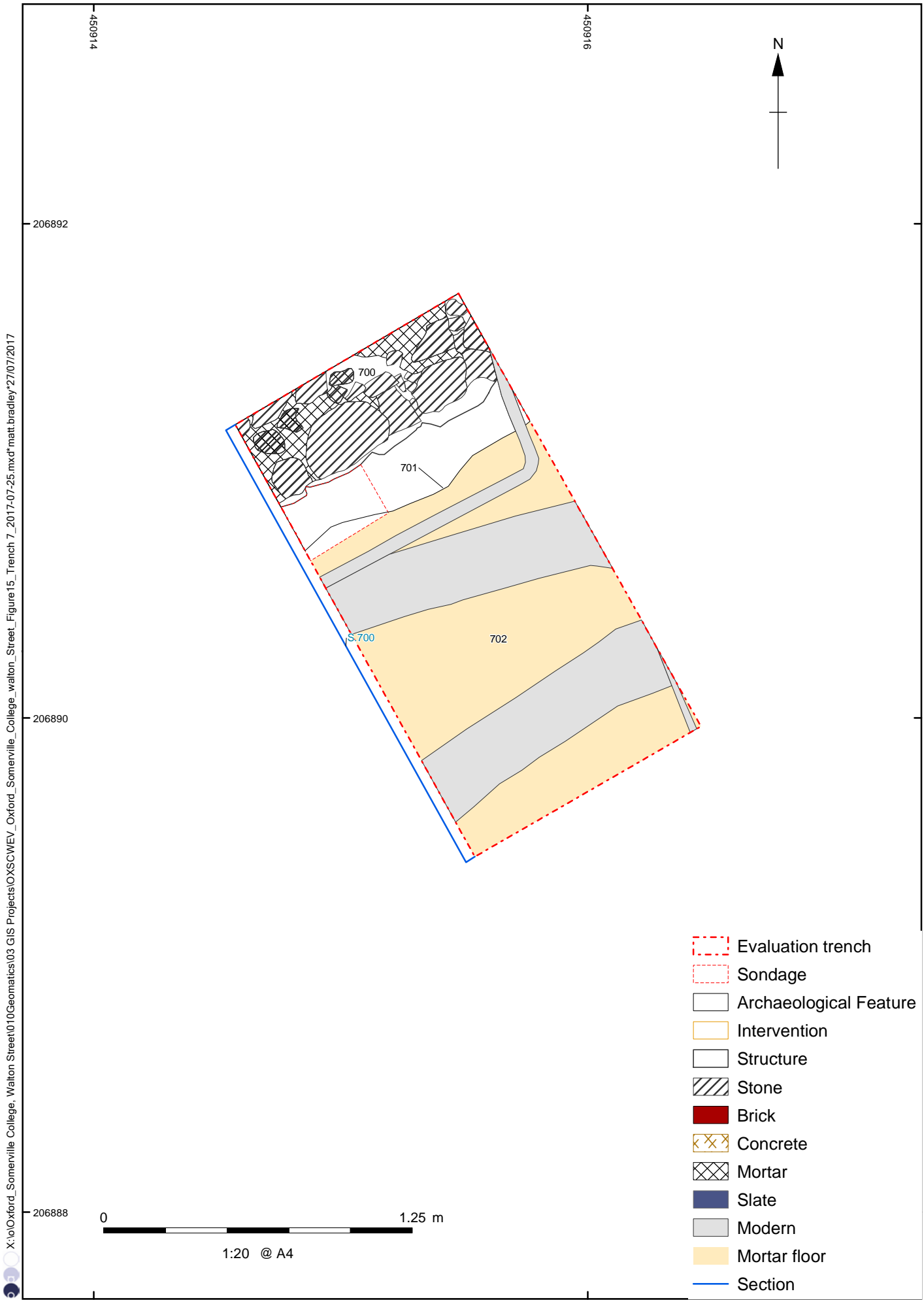


Figure 14: Trench 6, sections 502 and 503





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Figure 15: Trench 7

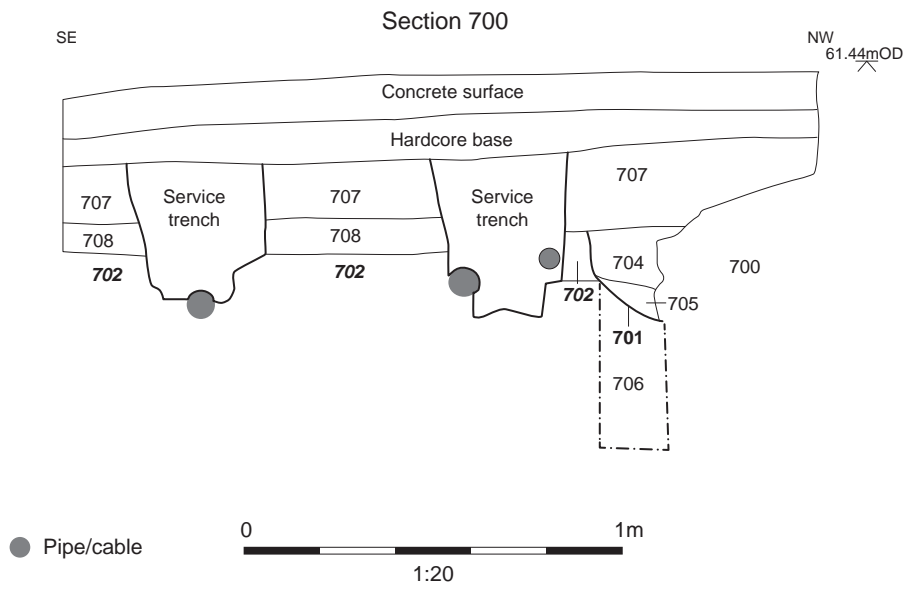


Figure 16: Trench 7, section 700

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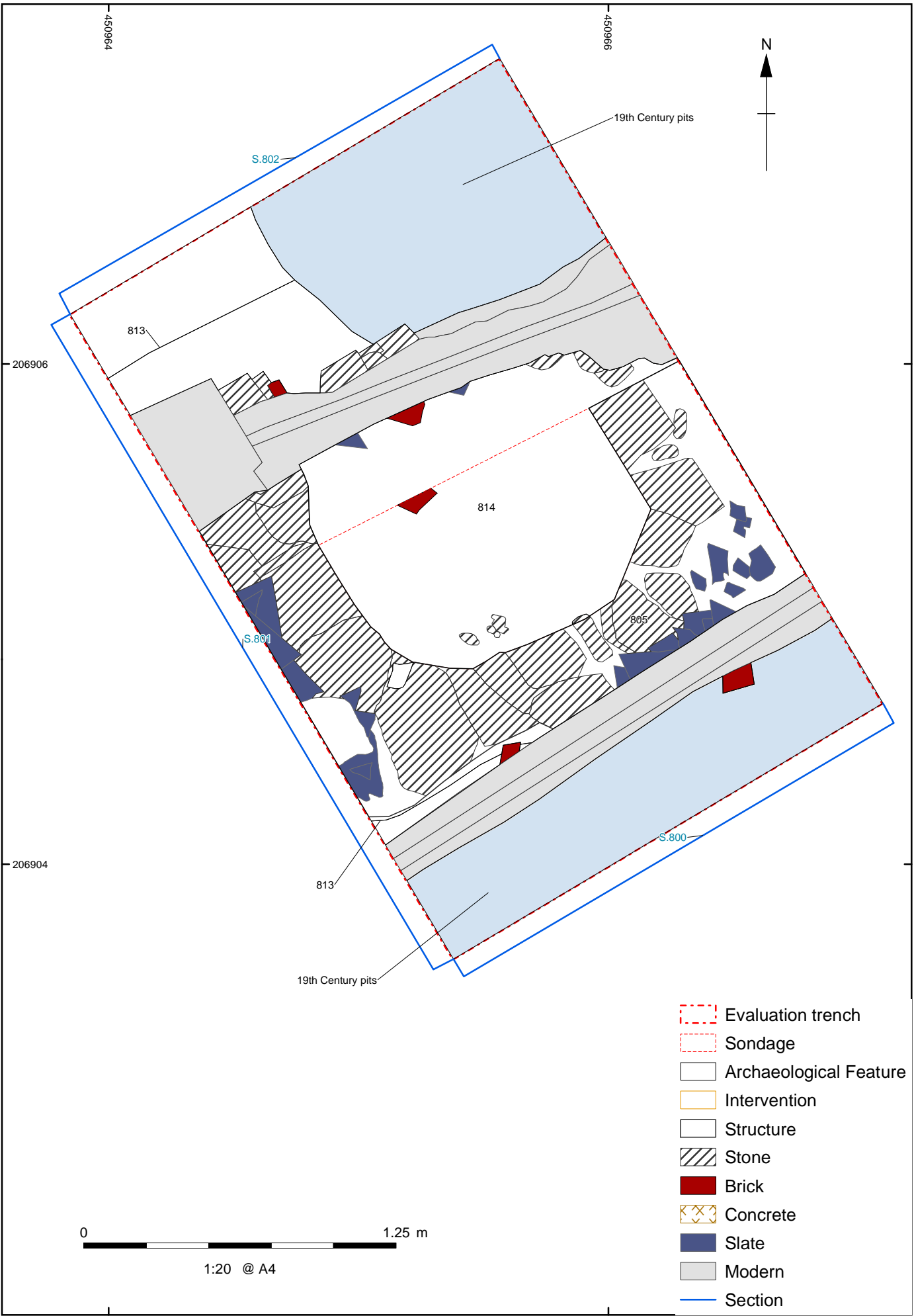


Figure 17: Trench 8

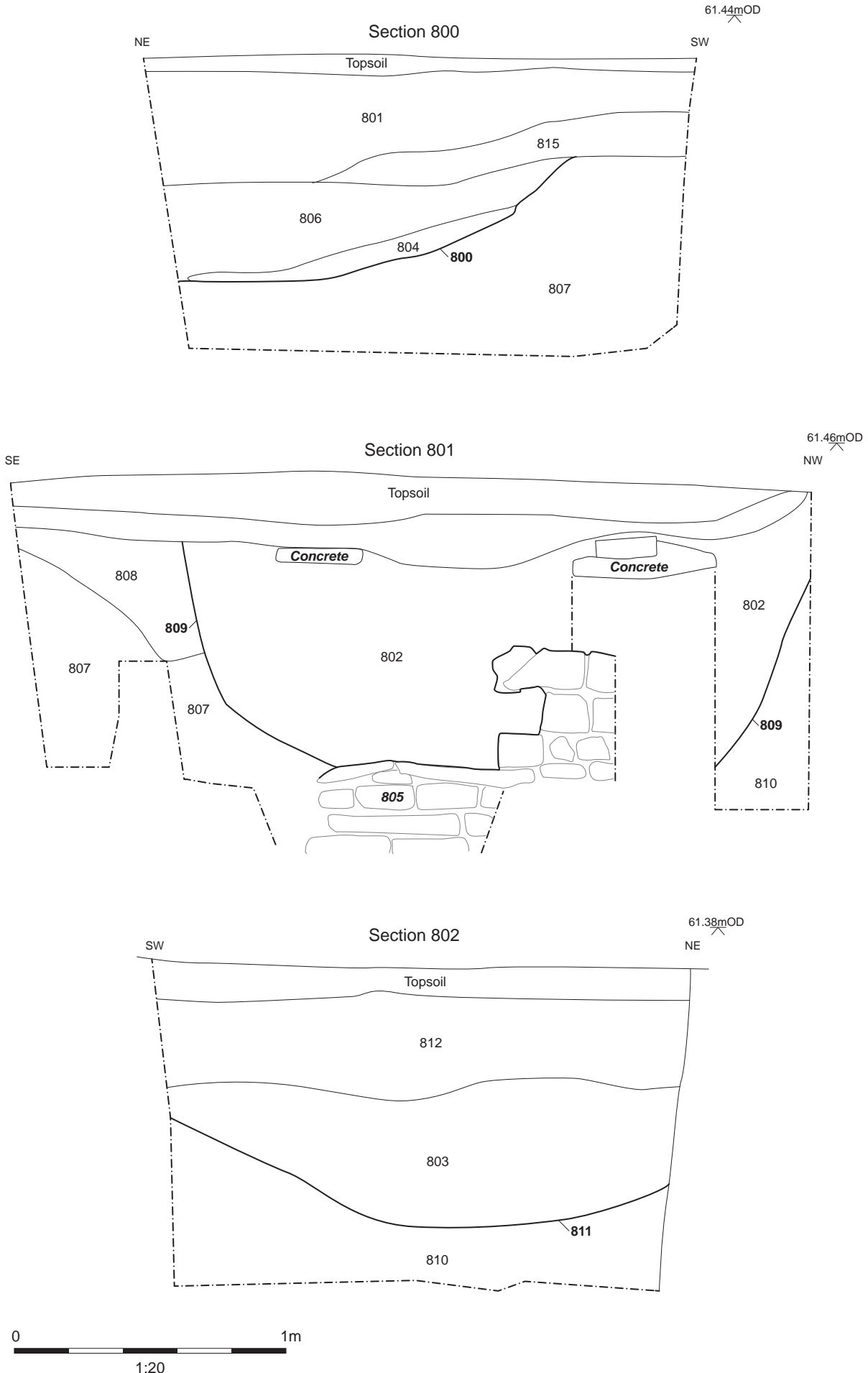


Figure 18: Trench 8, sections 800, 801 and 802

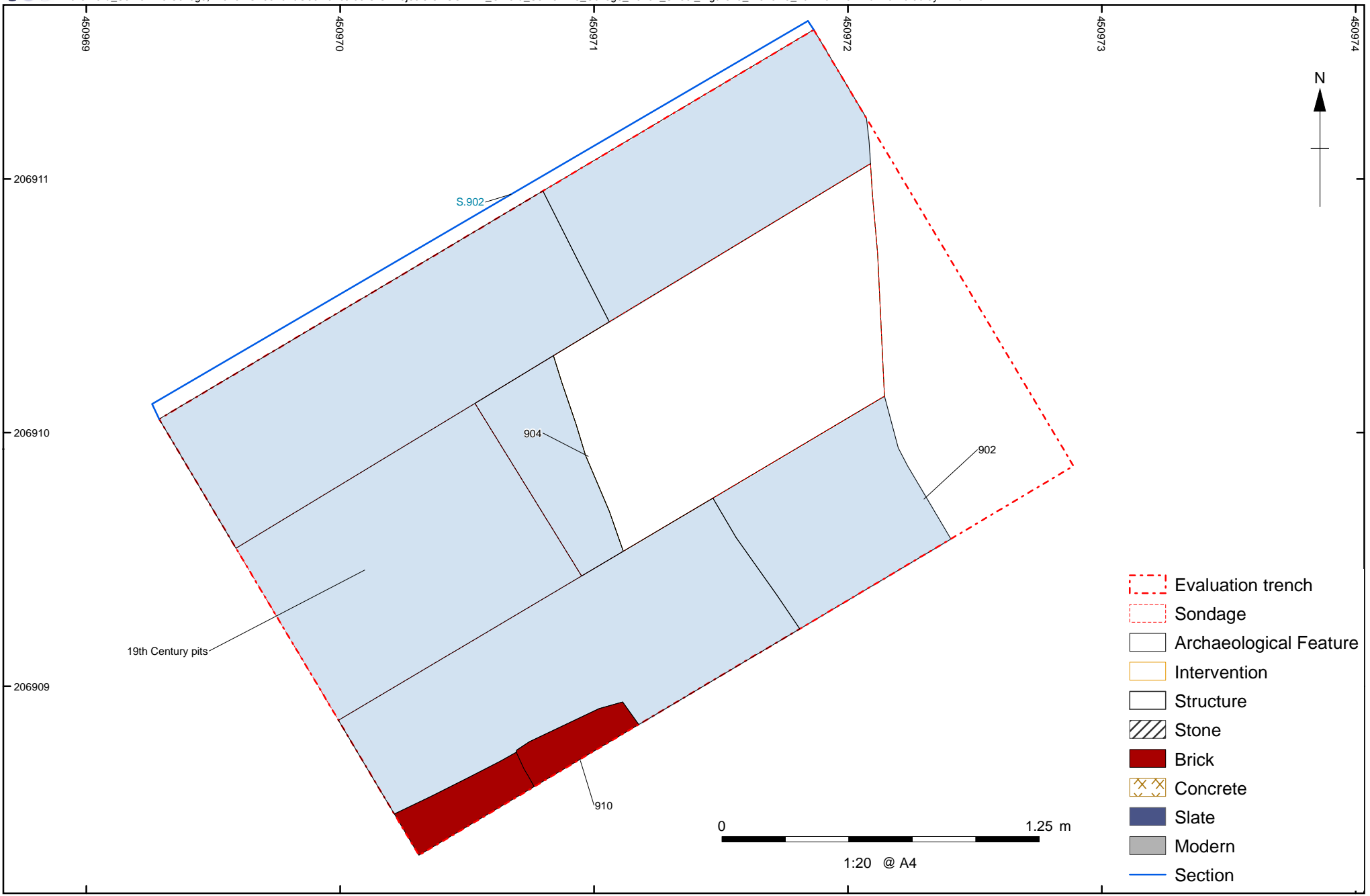


Figure 19: Trench 9

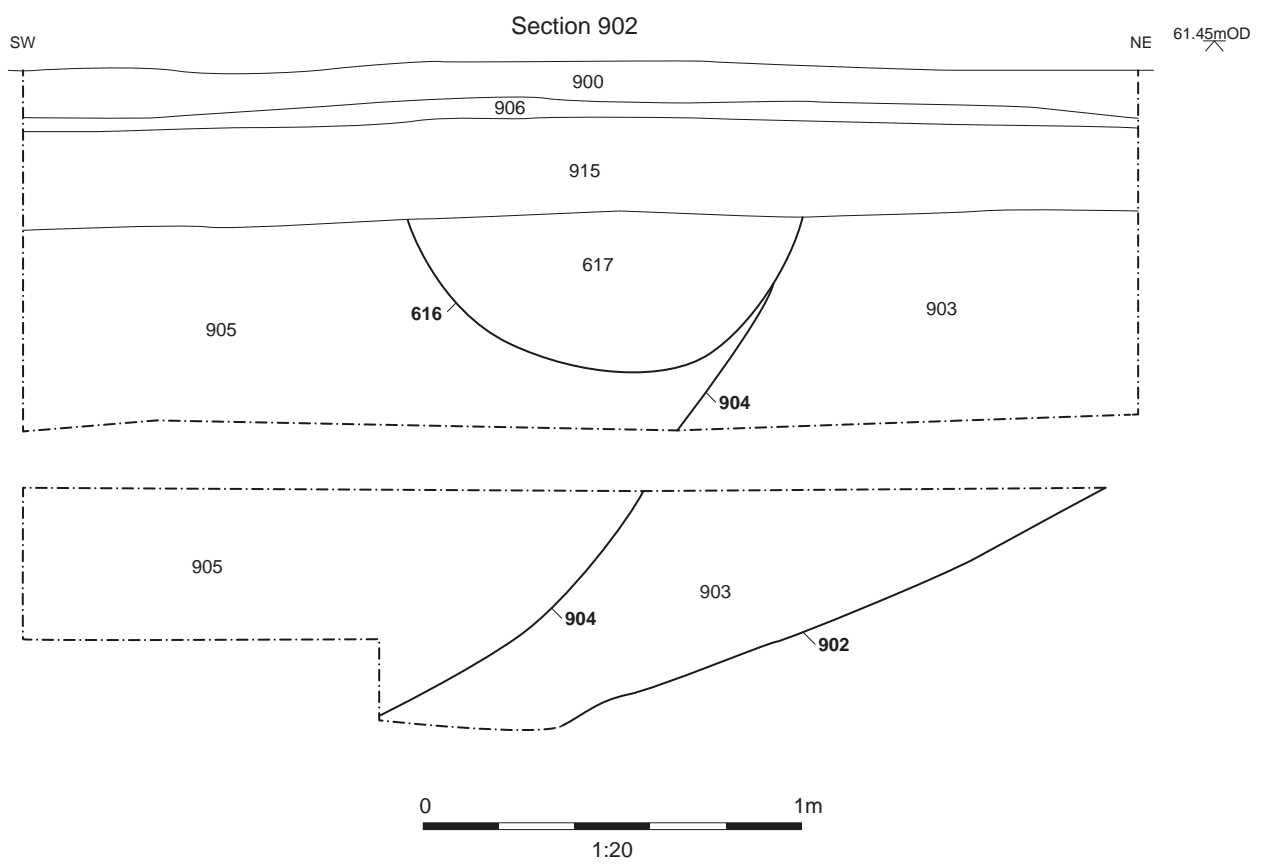


Figure 20: Trench 9, section 902



Figure 21: Suggested correlation of De Gomme's 1644 plan of the fortifications with modern mapping, showing the location of the trenches at Somerville college



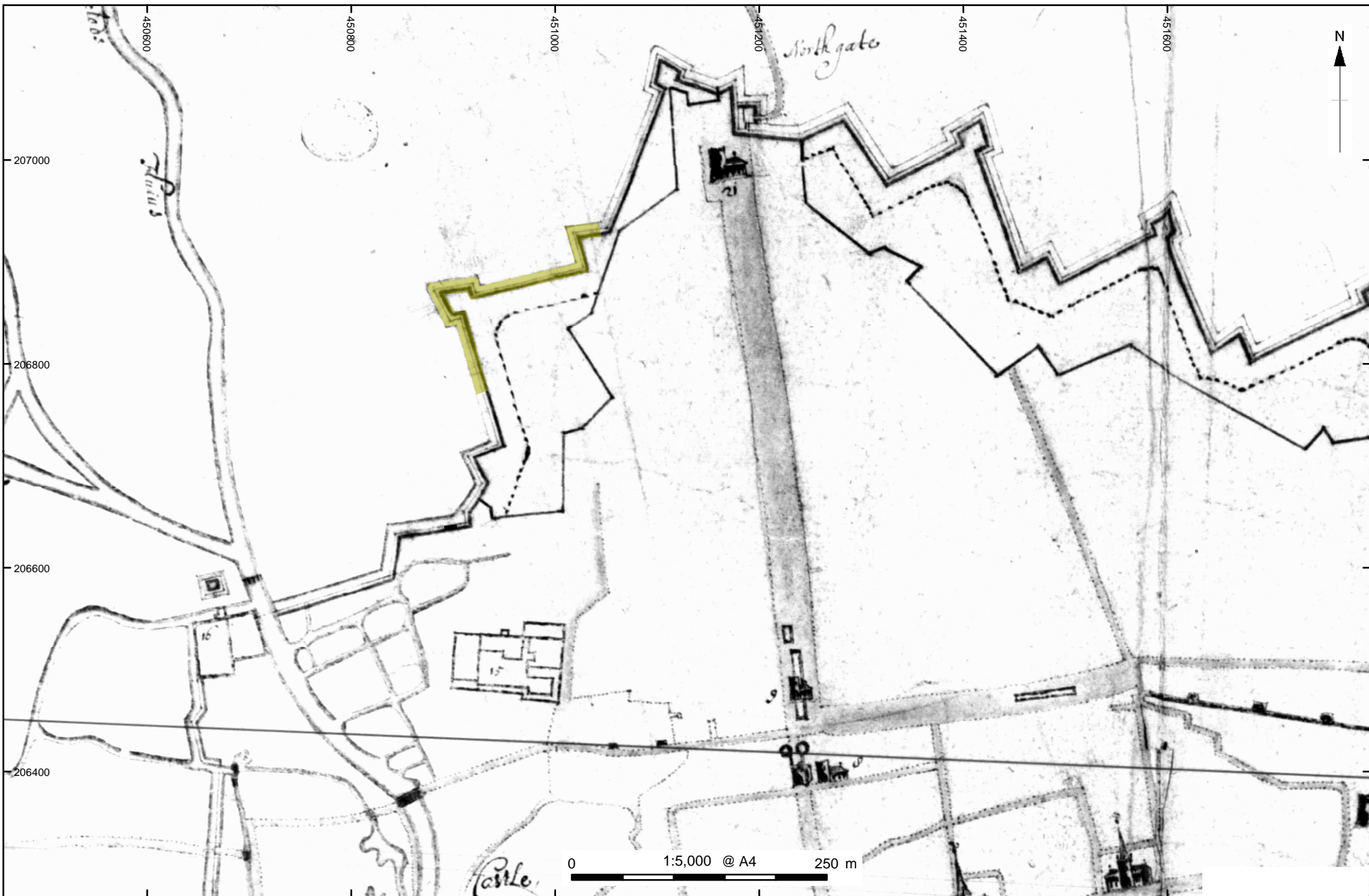


Figure 22: Part of De Gomme's plan of 1644 showing bastion at approximate location of site



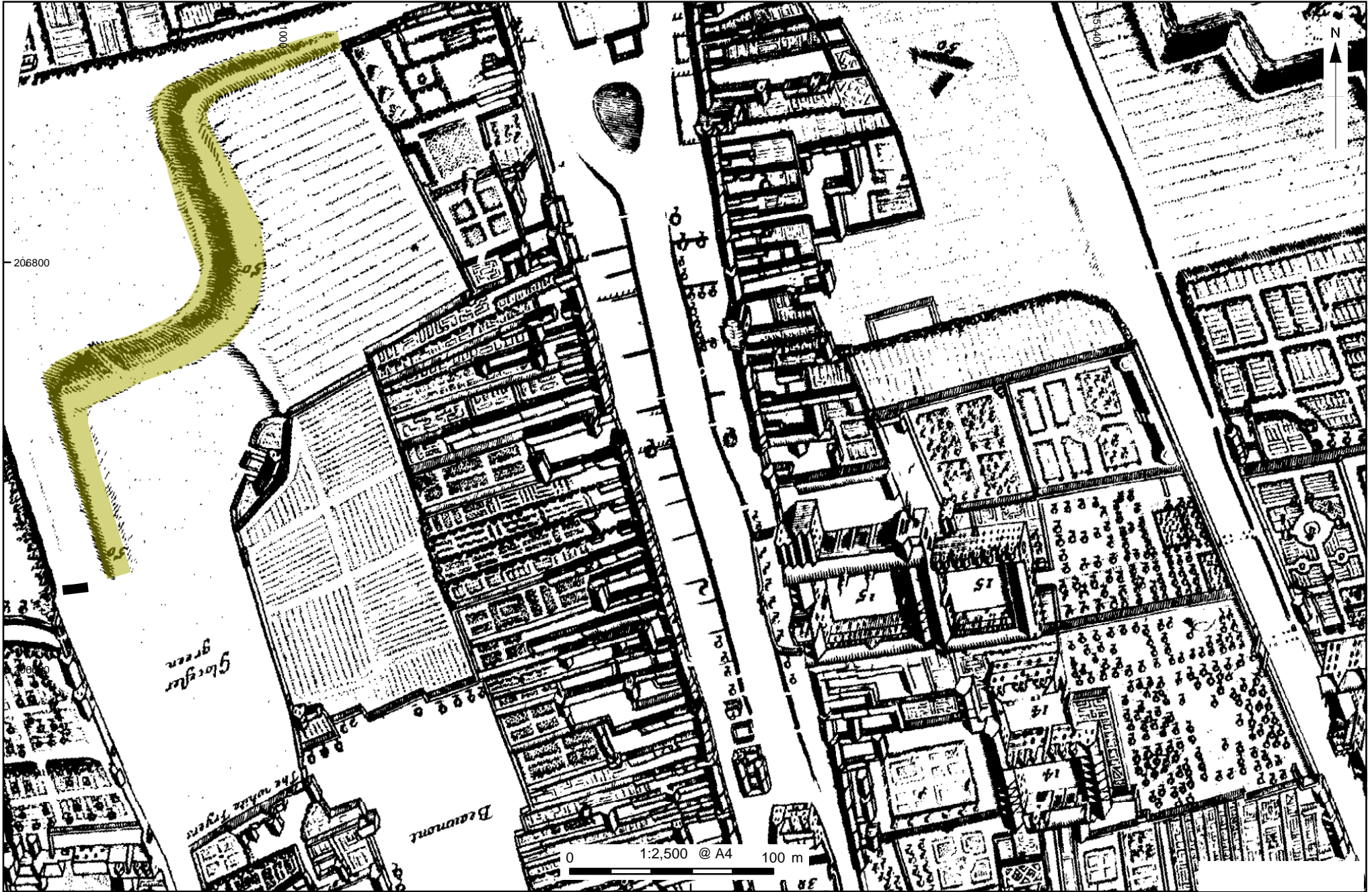


Figure 23: Part of Loggan's map of 1675 showing upstanding earthwork east of Walton Street



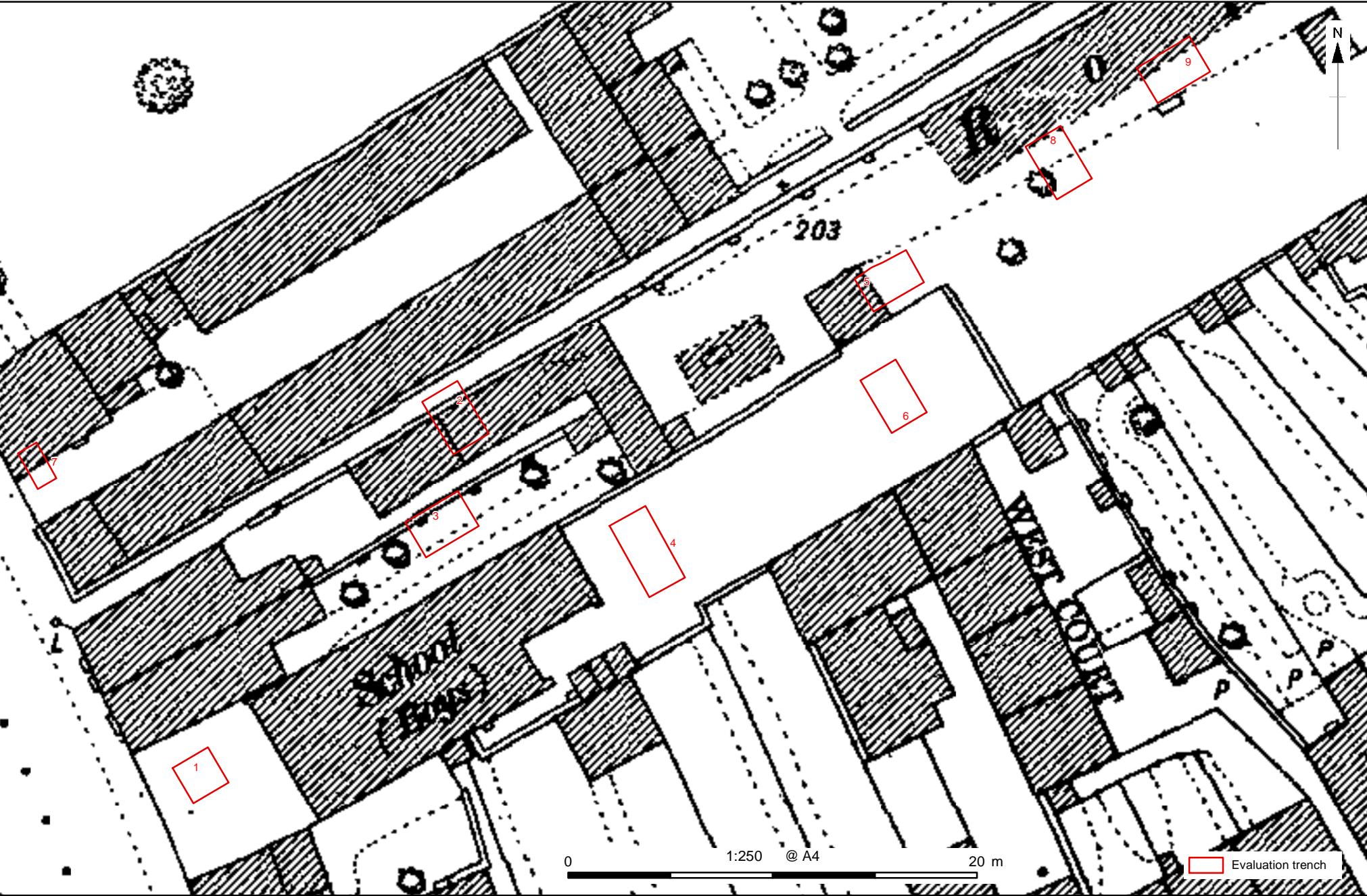


Figure 24: Trenches plotted onto OS 1st Edition map of 1876

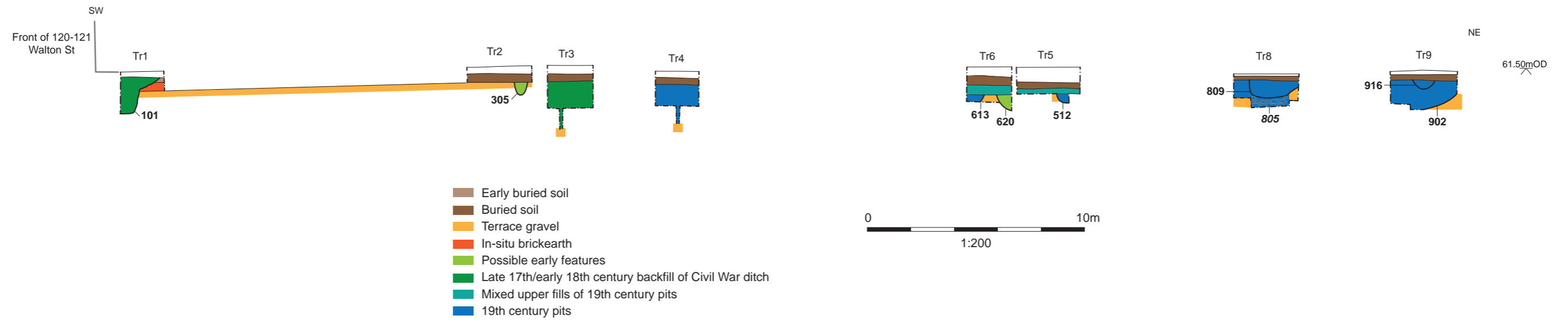


Figure 25: SW-NE transect across site









Plate 3: Profile of Ditch 305 in Trench 3, looking south-east



Plate 4: General shot of pit cuts in Trench 6, looking south-east





Plate 5: General shot of Wall 700 and mortar surface 702 in Trench 7, looking north-west



Plate 6: General shot of Sections 800 (left), 801 (facing) and 802 (right) in Trench 8, looking south-west







**Head Office/Registered Office/  
OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto:info@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



**Director:** Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCifA  
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