Church Farm, Ryton on Dunsmore, Warwickshire

Archaeological Excavation Report

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1	Kirsty Smith (Project Officer)	Leo Webley (Head of Post Excavation)	David Score Head of Fieldwork	DavidScore

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Illustrated by	Conan Parsons and Charles Rousseaux

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: +44 (0) 1865 263800 e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
f: +44 (0) 1865 793496 w: oxfordarchaeology.com
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Church Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore

Archaeological Excavation Report

by Kirsty Smith

with contributions by Sharon Cook, John Cotter, Julia Meen, Rebecca Nicholson, Ian R Scott and Ruth Shaffrey

Illustrated by Benjamin Brown, Conan Parsons and Charles Rousseaux

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Summary

In October and November 2015 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation for Derek O'Neill at Church Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire. The site is located in the historic core of the village, immediately to the south of the church. The earliest feature was a pit containing pottery dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period. Most of the dated features relate to medieval settlement, including three shallow pits, two deeper pits or wells, and a possible quarry later used for rubbish deposition. Pottery evidence suggests that the features date from the late 12th to early 14th centuries. The pottery is mostly of local origin, and includes cooking pots with sooting from use. Other finds include animal bone, iron nails, and fragments of a fine glass vessel. Environmental samples indicate the cultivation of cereals and legumes. The foundations of recently demolished post-medieval outbuildings were also encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 During October and November 2015 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological excavation at Church Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire (NGR 43867 27449: Fig. 1). The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority (Warwickshire County Council) of the archaeological implications of proposed residential development as part of the submission of a planning application (Planning Ref: R14/0970). This document describes the results of the excavation, presents the findings of the artefactual and environmental analyses, and makes recommendations for the dissemination of the report.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site was located within the village of Ryton-on-Dunsmore and was bounded to the south by the A445/London Road, to the west and north by St Leonard's Church and dwellings, and to the east by open farmland. The site was enclosed with a 1.8m-high boundary wall. At the time of excavation the area of proposed development consisted of a mixture of hard standing, access roads, standing buildings and grassed areas.

1.2.2 The bedrock geology of the area of excavation is Mercia Mudstone Group (mudstone) which is sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 200 to 251 million years ago. The superficial geology of the site is River Terrace Deposits (sand and gravel) formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period where the local environment was previously dominated by rivers (BGS website).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Summary results of the 2013 evaluation at Church Farm

1.3.1 A trial trench evaluation took place within the area of excavation during October 2013 (OA 2014). The evaluation comprised seven trenches measuring between 4m and 30m long (Fig. 2).

1.3.2 Trench 1A contained two pits, 108 and 110, and either a pit or ditch terminus 106. Pits 106 and 108 contained pottery and tile of 18th or 19th century date. Feature 110 remained undated.

1.3.1 Trench 1B contained three shallow animal burials, all thought to be of post-medieval date. The on-site OA animal bone specialist established that two of the burials were of lambs, and the third was of a dog and puppy. The bones were examined *in situ* and not lifted or reported on. The fill of one of the burials contained porcelain sherds.

1.3.2 Trench 2B contained a pit (205) which extended beneath the northern limit of the trench. The pit had a shallow-sided profile, the base of which was not reached due to the depth of overburden above. Four sherds of cooking pot rim dating to the 13th or 14th century were recovered from the fill.

1.3.3 Trench 3A contained a pit (305) which extended beneath the western baulk. A small scrap of pottery from its fill dated from the 12th to 14th century, while two fragments of roof tile had a broad 13th to 16th century date range. Adjacent to pit 305, a linear feature (307) crossed the trench at right angles. The feature had very steep sides, and the base was not reached due to constraints over depth. It contained fragments of medieval pottery and post-medieval ceramic building material.

1.3.4 Trench 4 contained a large circular pit (405) which extended beneath the eastern baulk. The pit could only be partially investigated due to the depth of the trench. Two fills were identified, the lower of which contained 24 sherds of pottery dated to the 13th-14th century. The pit is potentially large enough to have been a well, although no evidence for a lining was recovered from the levels investigated. An environmental sample taken from fill 404 revealed the preservation of charred grain, which given the general absence of chaff and weed seeds may be indicative of domestic refuse, rather than agricultural processing. The majority of the animal bone recovered also came from this feature, including cattle and sheep/goat, along with fish bones from the environmental sample.

Previous archaeological excavations in the locality

1.3.5 Evaluation trenches were excavated to the north, north-east and south-east of the site in 1993. Trenches 1 and 2 were located *c* 50m north of Church Farm, Trench 3 around 70m north-east and Trenches 4-6 were located between 20-120m south-east of the farm. A geophysical survey was also undertaken to the north of the church, around 50m north of Church Farm. Those trenches to the north and east of the church, within an area of presumed medieval earthworks, identified occupation evidence from the 12th/13th century up until the 17th century. The trenches to the south-east of Church Farm identified a buried ploughsoil sealed by topsoil, but no associated artefacts were recovered (Warwickshire County Council 1993).

1.3.6 A further archaeological evaluation was undertaken for a proposed cemetery extension adjacent to the church in 2010. The cemetery extension was designed around the known earthworks and uncovered medieval deposits dating to the 12th and 13th centuries.

1.3.7 An evaluation in 1997 at the Dilke Arms, located 130m north-west of Church Farm, uncovered occupation from the 13th century (C Jones 1997).

1.3.8 In 1997 a 7ha area of land 200m south of Church Farm was excavated. Nineteen trenches excavated following topographic survey recorded that the earthworks were mostly 18th-century drainage features (L Jones 1997).

Historical background

1.3.9 An archival search was made at the Warwickshire Record Office during the evaluation stage of work and the results of this search are discussed below, along with information from the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record, Victoria County History and additional 19th-century mapping information.

1.3.10 The site was located in the core of medieval settlement of Ryton-on-Dunsmore (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA9528), to the immediate south of the medieval church of St Leonard (MWA4275) which was built in the late 11th century. Ryton-on-Dunsmore may have been founded during the mid 11th century. It was amongst land given to Coventry Priory in 1043 by Earl Leofric and is thought to have got its name from the growing of rye on the light sandy soils in the area (Salzman 1951). In 1066 Ryton was held by Alwin and had 23 villagers, 8 smallholders and 1 priest. The village had 10 ploughlands and 8 men's plough teams, 12 acres of meadow, 1 mill and was taxed at a value of 3.5 geld units (Palmer 2016). The manor of Ryton remained with Alwin's descendants for several hundred years (becoming the Arden or Arderne family) before passing to the Knights Hospitallers, then the Crown and in the later 16th century to Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick (Salzman 1951). The location of the medieval manor house of Ryton is unknown.

1.3.11 A 1517 inquiry into depopulation reported of Ryton-on-Dunsmore that 'by reason of enclosure the remainder of the inhabitants are deprived of common pasture and impoverished. The church is likely to be left desolate.' Ryton occurs again in an inquiry of 1607, but the enclosure could not have been total and the church was not in fact left desolate (Beresford 1946).

1.3.12 There is no map of the site relating to the Inclosure Act of 1761 (CR2981/5/9/7). The Survey of Estates of Thomas Dilke map of 1840 (CR2981/5/2/8) shows Church Farm as 'The Hall', which is described as 'The Hall, Farm Buildings, Yards and Garden'. The tenant at this time was Charles Johnson, and the Hall's land holdings and land use are described on the Schedule of Estates of Thomas Dilke, 1874 (CR2981/5/2/8). Pencilled additions to the map of 1840 indicate that the farm and much of the land was tenanted by Mr Bagshaw in 1921. The 1841 census return lists Charles Johnson as a farmer, and the head of household at Ryton Hall. Along with five members of his family, the household also included a farm servant and three agricultural labourers.

1.3.13 The 1:2500 OS First edition map of 1887 (sheet 27.6) shows that the area of excavation was located in the core of the village of Ryton-on-Dunsmore and adjacent to a north, south, east and west cross roads. The road to Coventry is labelled to the west, a short road to the north led to a linear settlement pattern of houses, the major road to the south-east was the Northampton road and the High Street to the south linked to both the Southam/Oxford road to the south-west of the village and the Northampton Road to the south-east of the village. The site was also located adjacent and to the south of the graveyard of St Leonard's Church with a boundary line between the site and the graveyard to the north. The site itself is labelled Ryton Hall. Several large buildings were located to the west of the excavation area and several smaller buildings were located along the northern boundary of the Ryton Hall plot.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The primary objectives of the strip map and sample excavation strategy were noted in the WSI of August 2015 (Oxford Archaeology 2015, 5-6):

- To mitigate the effect of the development of Church Farm on any surviving buried archaeological remains through archaeological investigation and recording, analysis of the excavated data, publication of the results, and deposition of an ordered project archive with a local museum ("preservation by record").
- Provide information for accession to the Warwickshire HER.
- To enable the archaeological data from the site to be placed within its local, regional and national context.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives were:

- To determine the nature, date and duration of activity represented by any revealed remains.
- To examine the social, economic and cultural relationships evidenced by the surviving archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains.
- To publish the results of the excavation in an appropriate journal or other publication as required.
- To submit a summary account of the results to the editor of West Midland Archaeology and any other relevant journals no later than March 31st of the year following completion of fieldwork.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The excavation comprised three trenches. Trench 1 measured 31.06m long by 14.79 wide at the widest point, Trench 2 measured 14.38m long by 9.3m wide and Trench 3 measured 13.81m long by 7.7m wide (Figs 2 and 3).

2.2.2 The site was stripped under close archaeological supervision using one mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The archaeological features thus revealed were mapped using a Global Positioning System. All features were hand cleaned and sample excavated. Ditches were sampled at a level of 10%; discrete features such as pits were sampled at 50%. Plans and sections of the excavated features were drawn at a scale of either 1:20 or 1:50. All features were photographed in black and white print film and colour digital formats. Environmental samples were taken where datable deposits were identified as having potential for preservation of charred plant remains. All excavation and recording followed procedures laid down in the OA *Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson 1992).

3 Site Description

3.1 General

3.1.1 The excavation uncovered seventeen pits, of which one dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, six dated to the medieval period, and the remainder were undated. Also uncovered were the foundations of a recently demolished post-medieval barn, modern postholes, and a number of geological features and tree throw holes (Figs 3-6).

3.1.2 In Trench 1 the features were cut into the natural ground surface (1005), which consisted of yellow gravel overlying red-brown alluvial/colluvial silty clay. At the western edge of the trench the features were sealed by the patchy and truncated remains of subsoil 1004, a mid brown silty clay. Subsoil 1004 contained two base sherds of Coventry A pottery dated to the 12th-13th century and a residual sherd dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Above 1004 was layer 1002, a mid orange-brown silty sand which was 0.38m thick. This may have been made ground relating to the construction of the post-medieval outbuildings, the remains of which (1015 and 1016) were found in Trenches 1 and 2.

3.1.3 In Trench 2 and 3 the features were cut into the natural ground surface (2002), which consisted of gravel within a mid brown-yellow course sand matrix, with occasional patches of brown-orange sand with no gravel. This natural surface is likely to be the same natural deposit present in Trench 1 (1005). The features in Trenches 2 and 3 were sealed by subsoil 2001, a dark red-brown clay sand with rounded pebbles.

3.2 Late Iron Age/early Roman period

3.2.1 Pit 2017 (Figs 5 and 8; Plate 4) was 1.67m wide and 0.42m deep, with a flat base. The lowest fill (2016) was 0.09m thick and consisted of black-brown silty sand with charcoal inclusions. This fill also contained 24 sherds of pottery which may have been from a single vessel dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. The upper fills included fill 2015, a light yellow-brown course silty sand 0.14m thick, fill 2014, a light red-brown silty clay 0.19m thick which may have been deliberate backfill, and fill 2013, a light brown-grey silty sand 0.40m thick which contained some heat-affected sandstone.

3.2.2 An environmental sample (<2>) taken from fill 2016 produced abundant cereal grain including wheat (likely spelt) and rye. A single fragment of hazelnut shell was also present. This sample also contained a mix of wood charcoal with oak occurring frequently and with hazel, field maple and Pomoideae-type charcoal also present.

3.3 Medieval

3.3.1 Three shallow pits (1034, 1037 and 3015), two deeper pits or wells (1014 and 1036) and a possible quarry pit (1032) contained pottery of medieval date.

Pit or well 1014

3.3.2 Possible well 1014 (Figs 4 and 8; Plate 5) was located in the south-western part of Trench 1. The feature was 2.53m wide and 1.22m deep, and was oval in plan with steep/convex sides and a flat/irregular bottom. The feature was filled by seven layers (1006-1013). The lowest fill was deposit 1013, a dark red-brown silty clay which may have been formed by the trample of the feature during initial excavation. The upper layers of the feature (1007-1012) included clay, silty clay and sandy silt which may have been formed by a collapse of the clay natural at the edges of the feature and/or from rainwash. The uppermost layer (1006) was a mid brown silty clay and may have been formed by ploughing of material into the depression left by the feature. Deposit 1006

also contained a single body shed dating to the late 12th- early 14th century. The single sherd of pottery may be residual, so this feature is only tentatively dated to the medieval period.

Pit 1032

3.3.3 Pit 1032 (Figs 4 and 8; Plate 6) was located at the northern edge of Trench 1, and most of the feature is thought to have extended beyond the northern limit of excavation. In plan the feature was over 8m long and 2.2m wide, although the feature is likely to have been much larger than this. A slot dug in the centre of the feature showed that it had steep and irregular sides, possibly suggesting that it was a quarry pit. The feature was excavated to a depth of 1m but the bottom was not reached. The pit contained lower fill 1046 and upper deposit 1003. The lower fill (1046) was a dark brown organic-rich silty sand layer and may have been a deliberate back fill. This contained 26 sherds of medieval pottery, mostly dating to *c* 1200-1250, but also including a possibly intrusive sherd of the 15th-16th century. This deposit also contained iron nails and 21 pieces of vessel glass. The upper layer of pit 1032 was layer 1003, a dark brown organic-rich clay silt pre-dating layer 1002. This layer was possibly a cemetery soil although no bone was found.

3.3.4 An environmental sample (<3>) taken from fill 1046 produced large quantities of unidentified cereal grains together with wheat, rye and barley. This sample also contained larger legumes including cultivated beans and peas. Large fragments of hazelnut shell are also present as well as a single fruit stone (*Prunus sp*.). Charcoal from this sample was dominated by oak with some willow/poplar and birch.

Pit 1034

3.3.5 Pit 1034 (Figs 4 and 8; Plate 7) was located at the southern edge of Trench 1. The pit was oval in plan and was 1.76m wide and 0.51m deep with steep sides and a flat bottom. The feature contained two fills. Lower fill 1050 was redeposited natural. Upper fill 1049 was a mid grey-brown clay sand with rounded pebbles. This layer contained 19 sherds of medieval pottery including a number of jugs dating to *c* 1150-1400.

Pit or well 1036

3.3.6 Pit or possible well 1036 (Figs 4 and 8; Plate 8) was located at the south-western corner of Trench 1. The feature was 2.9m wide and was not bottomed at 0.88m deep due to its proximity to the northern baulk. It was sub-circular in plan with steep sides, although the western side had been truncated by pit 1037. The lower fill (1048) consisted of mid grey-brown silty sand with lenses of dark brown organic-rich silty clay, green silty sand, mid-red brown silty sand and redeposited natural, which may have been caused from slow erosion of the feature sides by standing water. The upper fill (1047) was a 0.54m-thick red-brown silty clay. Pottery found in this layer indicates a date of the mid 12th to mid 13th century.

Pit 1037

3.3.7 Pit 1037 (Figs 4 and 8; Plate 9) was located at the south-western corner of Trench 1. The pit was 2.25m wide and 0.74m deep and had steep sides and a flat base. Pit 1037 truncated pit 1036 at its eastern edge and contained two fills. Lower fill 1045 was a mid brown silty clay that may have been a deliberate back fill. It contained a body sherd dating from *c* 1175-1325. Upper fill 1044 was a dark brown clay silt and contained a further body sherd dating from *c* 1175-1325.

Pit 3015

3.3.8 Pit 3015 (Figs 4 and 8; Plate 10) was located at the eastern side of Trench 3, and was 2.96m wide and 0.56m deep. The feature was sub-circular in plan, and in profile had a steep side to the north and a shallower slope to the southern side. Its fill (3014) was a mid brown clay silt. This deposit contained 12 sherds of medieval pottery including jugs and cooking pots dating from *c* 1250-1350. An environmental sample (<1>) contained abundant cereal grain, including wheat and occasional rye and barley grains. Charcoal from the sample was dominated by oak, with some *Prunus* type (blackthorn/cherry/plum) and Pomoideae type.

3.4 Post-medieval

3.4.1 Features 1015 and 1016 in Trench 1 were north-south and east-west aligned sandstone and brick foundations of recently demolished post-medieval farm outbuildings (Fig. 4). The structures can be seen on the 1:2500 OS first edition map of Warwickshire (1887), and were outbuildings associated with Ryton Hall. The demolition rubble for these outbuildings were seen in layer 1000 which formed the uppermost deposit across Trench 1. Post-medieval to modern postholes within and close to the outbuildings were not excavated.

3.4.2 Feature 1040 (Fig. 4) was a late post-medieval or modern burial of a juvenile cow. Excavation of the feature was stopped once the bones were found to be greasy and to have water retention, indicating a fairly recent date.

3.4.3 In Trench 2 an east-west aligned ditch was uncovered (Fig. 5). This had been investigated in the evaluation (feature 307) and found to contain tile of 17th- to 19th-century date.

3.5 Undated

Pits

3.5.1 Pit 2004 (Figs 5 and 8; Plate 11) was 1.12m wide and 0.40m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its fill (2003) consisted of dark grey-brown clay sand with abundant rounded pebbles.

3.5.2 Pit 2006 (Figs 5 and 8; Plate 12) was 1.36m wide and 0.34m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its fill (2005) consisted of mid grey-brown clay sand with rounded pebbles.

3.5.3 Pit 2008 (Figs 5 and 8; Plate 13) was 1.31m wide and 0.57m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its fill (2007) was a mid red-brown clay sand with rare charcoal flecks.

3.5.4 Pit 2010 (Figs 5 and 8; Plate 14) could not be fully investigated due to the proximity of the western baulk of Trench 2. This pit was U-shaped in profile and was 0.84m wide in the section that was excavated and 0.27m deep. Its fill (2009) consisted of mid grey-brown clay sand with rounded pebbles.

3.5.5 Pit 2019 (Figs 5 and 8; Plate 15) was 0.74m wide and 0.11m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its fill (2018) was a mid grey-brown clay sand with occasional flecks of charcoal and frequent rounded pebbles.

3.5.6 Pit 2023 (Figs 5 and 8; Plate 16) was 1.08m wide and 0.48m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its fill (2022) was a dark grey-brown clay sand with rounded pebbles.

3.5.7 Pit 2027 (Figs 5 and 8; Plate 17) was 0.84m wide and 0.32m deep, with a U-shaped profile. Its fill (2031) was a mid grey-brown clay sand with rounded pebbles.

3.5.8 Pit 3004 (Figs 6 and 8; Plate 18) was 1.39m wide and 0.45m deep with a flat base. Its fill (3003) was a dark red-brown clay sand with frequent rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.

3.5.9 Pit 3006 (Figs 6 and 8; Plate 19) was 1.22m wide and 0.21m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its fill (3005) was a light grey-brown silt with rounded pebbles and burnt stone.

3.5.10 Pit 3010 (Figs 6 and 8; Plate 20) was 1.65m wide and 0.21m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. Its lower fill (3011) was a light grey-brown silty sand with rounded pebbles. The upper fill (3009) was a loose black-brown silty sand with rounded pebbles.

Tree throw holes

3.5.11 Four tree throw holes were identified on the site: feature 1033 in Trench 1 and features 3008, 3013 and 3017 in Trench 3. These features had irregular sloped sides and bases and were shallow in depth. Their silty sand or clay sand fills were all sterile with no evidence of anthropogenic deposits or finds, and several showed signs of bioturbation.

4 Finds Reports

4.1 Pottery

by John Cotter with a contribution by Paul Booth

Introduction

4.1.1 A total of 103 sherds of pottery weighing 2119g were recovered from nine contexts. Only seven rim sherds were present, with a total rim EVEs of 0.86 (see below). The totals here include 30 small sherds (150g) derived from sieved samples and with an average sherd weight of 5g. The 73 hand-excavated sherds had an average weight of 27g. Though small, the assemblage produced an interesting range of relatively local medieval pottery including two vessel profiles and several other large featured or decorated sherds. These suggest medieval activity on the site from the 12th to the 14th century. A single (intrusive?) sherd of pottery probably dates to the 15th or 16th century and is the latest piece from the excavation. It also produced parts of at least one late Iron Age/early Roman vessel. The range of medieval pottery fabrics present is typical of many sites in Warwickshire (Rátkai 2008).

Methodology

4.1.2 The whole assemblage was catalogued in some detail. The catalogue (on an Excel spreadsheet) contains the following fields of information, per context and per fabric: quantification by sherd count, weight and EVEs (a measure of surviving rim circumference), simplified vessel form, rim diameter and rim sherd count. Other details such as vessel part, decoration, fabric description, glaze and evidence of use etc were recorded in a comments field. Four of the most complete medieval items have been illustrated (Fig. 9). Full catalogue details may be consulted in the site archive.

Pottery fabrics

4.1.3 For the purposes of this report the eight pottery fabrics identified have been assigned simple numerical fabric codes (Fabrics 1-8) specific to this site only. These are also described by their common names and referenced where possible to the Warwickshire County Type Series (WCTS) set up by Rátkai and Soden (1998). Samples from the four illustrated vessels, and a few other sherds, were kindly identified by Stephanie Rátkai. Fabric descriptions have been provided only for the four illustrated vessels (see illustration catalogue) and the late Iron Age/early Roman vessel. The types and quantities of medieval pottery occurring here are listed below in roughly chronological order (Table 1), with the one earlier vessel at end of the list.

Fabric	Common name	Date	Sherds	Weight (g)	EVEs	No. rims
1	Coventry A ware (WCTS Sq20.3)	*c* 1100-1300	31	1056	0.33	2
2	Coventry D ware (WCTS Sq21)	*c* 1150-1250	20	246		
3	Reduced Deritend ware (Birmingham) (WCTS RS01)	*c* 1175-1325	10	200	0.44	3
4	Northamptonshire-type shelly ware (WCTS CS05)	*c* 1150-1400	3	99		
5	North Warks Granitic ware (WCTS StR11)	*c* 1200-1300	6	213	0.05	1
6	Cannon Park ware (Coventry) (WCTS Sq23)	*c* 1250-1350	7	80		
7	Late Malvernian ware (Worcs) (WCTS SLM01)	*c* 1380-1600	1	11		
8	Late Iron Age/early Roman organic-tempered ware	*c* 50BC-50AD	25	214	0.04	1
Totals			**103**	**2119**	**0.86**	**7**

Table 1. Breakdown of pottery types from the site

Trench	Sherds	Weight (g)	EVEs	No. rims	Dating comments
1	54	1742	0.82	6	Late 12th-13th century
2	24	208	0.04	1	Late Iron Age/early Roman (1 vessel?)
3	25	169			*c* 1250-1350
Totals	**103**	**2119**	**0.86**	**7**	

Table 2. Pottery quantification by trench

Description of the pottery by trench

4.1.4 As the pottery distribution falls into three discrete chronological groups by trench (Table 2) it will be summarised below by trench. Most of the pottery came from pit fills. Some of these were not fully excavated as they continued beyond the horizontal or vertical limits of the excavation area.

Trench 1

4.1.5 This produced the largest quantity of pottery from the site (54 sherds, 1742g), and the pottery in the best condition. All the illustrated pottery is from this area. All of this is medieval apart from a single small residual sherd (6g) of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery (Fabric 8) from subsoil context 1004. The medieval pottery was probably used and deposited during the late 12th and 13th century, and perhaps not much later than *c* 1250. While contexts with the most pottery can be dated with more precision, the similar nature of the rubbish pits and their fills in Trench 1 suggests they are all broadly of the same date.

4.1.6 Within this area most of the pottery come from a single context: 1046, the upper fill of pit 1032, possibly a quarry pit. Although this produced only 26 sherds (1314g) it includes many large and fresh sherds including two complete vessel profiles. The sherds comprise 62% of the site assemblage by weight, 95% by EVEs and 86% by rim count. Five medieval fabrics (Fabrics 1-5) are present including a cooking pot profile in Coventry A ware (Fig. 9a) and cooking pots in Reduced Deritend ware (Fig. 9b) and a bowl profile in North Warwickshire Granitic ware (Fig. 9c). Other fabrics include a single internally glazed sherd from the base of a bowl/jar in Coventry D ware and two small sherds from a wide ?bowl in Northamptonshire shelly ware. The six sherds of Granitic ware (including the bowl profile) probably come from a minimum of three vessels. This fabric is dated to the 13th century but is less common after *c* 1250; on this basis a deposition date of *c* 1200-1250 is suggested for the pit assemblage. A minor inconvenience here is that the pit also produced a single body sherd (11g) from a jar/pipkin in a fine sandy orange fabric with an internal orange-brown glaze; this has tentatively been identified as late medieval/early post-medieval Malvernian ware and probably dates to the 15th or 16th century (S Rátkai, pers. comm.). It is therefore the latest sherd of pottery recovered from the site. Its presence in the pit fill here can probably be dismissed as intrusive - perhaps introduced during machining of the topsoil layer? The only vessel forms identified were cooking pots (mostly) and wide bowls. The cooking pots, and some bowls, exhibit external sooting from use. Several body sherds from a medieval glass vessel were also recovered.

4.1.7 The only jugs identified from Trench 1 are the two vessels from Context 1049, the upper fill of pit 1034. These include sherds from the body of a glazed and decorated jug (or small tripod pitcher) in Coventry D ware (Fig. 9d) and a sherd from the shoulder of a thin-walled jug in Northamptonshire shelly ware. The Coventry D ware jug should date to *c* 1150-1250 and thus supports the suggestion above that the rubbish pits in Trench 1 probably date no later than *c* 1250. A small worn body sherd (2g) of Reduced Deritend ware from 1045, the fill of pit 1037, has traces of rouletting and incised horizontal line decoration on the shoulder (not illustrated).

Trench 2

4.1.8 The 24 sherds (208g) from here are probably all from a single vessel of late Iron Age/early Roman date (identified by Paul Booth). They are all from context 2016, the fill of pit 2017. This has a sandy dark grey fabric with brownish surfaces and contains abundant very coarse organic inclusions commonly up to 10mm long, including grass

stem and seed impressions. These are mostly burnt-out giving the vessel a corky texture. The largest sherd here is from a crude handmade thick-walled ?jar with a flat base (diam *c* 180mm, 20mm thick) and a steeply flaring straight wall (10mm thick). The surfaces are very worn and many sherds are simply scraps. On the internal base surface is a shiny black deposit, possibly sooting or carbonised food residue. A small worn plain upright rim sherd (diam *c* 160-180mm) may be from the same vessel. There is also a small body sherd of this fabric from Trench 1 (see above).

Trench 3

4.1.9 The 25 sherds (169g) here are all from context 3014, the fill of pit 3015. These include seven body sherds (80g) of a hard orange sandy ware, from three probable jugs. One has a reduced greenish-brown glaze all over externally, while the other two also show evidence of glaze. This fabric is probably to be identified as Cannon Park ware (*c* 1250-1350). A few worn sherds of Coventry A ware and Reduced Deritend ware occur in the same context. Aside from the probably intrusive sherd of Malvernian ware in Trench 1, this is the latest pottery from the site and demonstrates continued medieval activity into the late 13th or 14th century.

Illustration catalogue

4.1.10 Fig. 9a. Cooking pot profile in Coventry A ware. Dark grey/black sandy fabric with coarse red-brown inclusions of iron-rich mudstone and earthy iron-rich clay inclusions. Body probably hand-built with a wheel-finished rim. Heavily sooted externally from use. Context 1046. Pit 1032.

4.1.11 Fig. 9b. Cooking pot in Reduced Deritend ware. Hard sandy dark grey fabric with brown core. Wheel-turned. On the top of the surviving rim circumference are three light finger indents spaced *c* 80-90mm apart which are possibly decorative. Context 1046. Pit 1032.

4.1.12 Fig. 9c. Bowl profile in North Warwickshire Granitic ware. Hard, weakly oxidised sandy orange-brown fabric with thin grey core. Sooted grey external surface. Some very coarse red/brown mudstone/ironstone inclusions present and sparse-moderate coarse white granitic inclusions. Abundant fine mica. Probably hand-built with a wheel-finished rim. Context 1046. Pit 1032.

4.1.13 Fig. 9d. Jug (tripod pitcher?) in Coventry D ware. Seventeen body sherds from globular jug body. Some joining. Hard dark grey sandy fabric including a single very coarse sub-angular milky quartz grit 6mm across. Fairly crude, possibly handmade or turntable-finished. All over external clear dark brown glaze with decayed lighter brown patches. Decoration comprising two rows of squarish rouletting at the base of the neck and four surviving rows of lightly combed horizontal bands separated by combed wavy bands. Context 1049. Pit 1034.

4.2 Metal finds

by Ian R Scott

4.2.1 There are seven pieces of ironwork from three contexts. One piece is part of cobbler's last in cast iron (No. 6; context 2000) which is probably of 19th- or 20th-century date. The nails from pit 1032 include two (Nos 1 and 2) of distinctive medieval form. The nail from pit 3015 could be medieval but T-headed nails occur in other periods.

4.2.2 Context 1046, medieval pit 1032:

(1) Nail, tapered wedge-shaped stem. Fe. L: 70mm

(2) Nail, flat figure-of-eight head. Fe. L: 34mm. Sample <3>

(3) Nail with small flat head, incomplete. Fe. Not measured. Sample <3>

(4) Nail stem fragment. Fe. Not measured. Sample <3>

(5) Rolled over loop formed from thick wire. Fe. L: 31mm. Sample <3>

4.2.3 Context 2000, topsoil:

(6) Cobbler's anvil last. One arm of the original three arms. 19th- or 20th-century. Cast Fe. L: 106mm; extant Ht of arm: 118mm

4.2.4 Context 3014, medieval pit 3015:

(7) Nail with T-shaped head. Fe. L: 50mm.

4.3 Glass

by Ian R Scott

4.3.1 There are 21 pieces of vessel glass, all from context 1046 in pit 1032. All the pieces are body fragments with no diagnostic features, but all are weathered and opaque, and some show signs of devitrification. It probable that the glass is medieval but the sherds are not diagnostic to vessel form. The sherds are all quite thin walled suggesting that they possibly come from a single fine-quality goblet or bowl.

4.3.2 Context 1046, pit 1032: (1-10) Vessel glass. Ten gently curved body sherds, quite thin-walled and dark opaque glass with signs of devitrification. Not diagnostic to form. There are some fresh breaks, but there are two refits. Not measured.

(11-18) Vessel glass. Similar to sherds above and probably from same or similar vessel. Not diagnostic to form Not measured. Sample <3>

(19-21) Vessel glass. Three small sherds similar to Nos 1-10 and 11-18 and probably from similar vessels. Not diagnostic to form. Not measured. Sample <3>

4.4 Stone

by Ruth Shaffrey

4.4.1 Eleven pieces of stone were retained and submitted for analysis. None of these are worked or used and all can now be discarded.

4.5 Animal bone

by Rebecca Nicholson

4.5.1 The faunal remains from the excavation comprised a total of only 25 fragments, recovered from context 1046, the upper fill of a large medieval rubbish pit 1032, context 3014, the fill of medieval pit 3015, and undated deposits. Nine of these fragments came from the sorted residues of sieved soil samples, one fish bone from sample <3>, context 1046, and eight bird bones and an indeterminate fragment of mammal bone from sample 1, context 3014.

4.5.2 Bones were recorded using a pro-forma Access database and with the use of a modern comparative bone collection, with readily identifiable elements identified to species or

family (Table 3). Large mammal indicates animals of cattle, horse or red deer size. Where zones have been recorded they follow Serjeantson (1996).

4.5.3 Bone condition was scored on a scale of 1 (very good) to 5 (extremely poor) condition (Table 4) with the majority of bones, particularly from undated subsoil 3001, in good condition (category 2). No bones are burnt and there is no evidence of gnawing.

4.5.4 The assemblage contains bones from cattle, sheep/goat, domestic fowl and fish. Where epiphyses are present all apart from an unidentified bird tarsometatarsus are fused. A fused cattle distal metatarsal in pit 3015 indicates an animal of at least 2 years old (Habermehl 1975, 104-5), and judging by bone size and surface structure there are no juvenile or neonatal mammals in the assemblage. The bones of domestic fowl all appear to be from adult birds. No evidence of butchery or pathology is present and no bones could be sexed. None of the mammal bones are complete, and measurable bones confined to those from unphased contexts. Measurements taken on the domestic fowl bones from pit fill 3014 indicate bantam-sized birds in keeping with the medieval date (Table 5).

4.5.5 A small cyprinid caudal vertebra recovered from sample 3 from pit fill 1046 is a fairly unusual find for a rural site and demonstrates the consumption of freshwater fish, almost certainly caught locally.

Context	1006	1046	2020	3001	3014	Total
	undated	12th-15th century	undated	undated	13th-14th century	
Cattle						
humerus			1			1
metatarsal					1	1
tibia				1		1
Sheep/goat						
femur				1		1
lumbar vertebra				3		3
pelvis				1		1
sacrum				1		1
tibia				1		1
Large mammal						
rib		1				1
Indet. mammal						
Indeterminate					1	1
vertebra		1				1
Domestic fowl						
carpometacarpus					1	1
coracoid					1	1
humerus					1	1
ulna					1	1
Indet. bird						
frags					5	5
scapula					1	1
tarsometatarsus	1					1
Cyprinid						
caudal vertebra		1				1
Total	**1**	**3**	**1**	**8**	**12**	**25**

Table 3. Number of identified animal bone fragments, by context

Condition	12th-15th century	13th-14th century	undated	Total
1		1	1	2
2	1	6	3	10
3		1	3	4
4	2		1	3

Table 4. Bone condition by period

	GL	Bp	Bd	Other
Humerus			13.3	SD 6.3
Coracoid	51.2			Lm=48.5; BB=12.8
Carpometacarpus	34.7	10.7		

Table 5. Measurements of domestic fowl bones from medieval pit fill context 3014 (after von den Driesch 1976)

5 Environmental Report

5.1 Charred plant remains and wood charcoal

by Sharon Cook, Julia Meen and Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

5.1.1 Three samples were taken during the excavation. Sample <1> (3014) was a 40-litre sample from the deliberate backfill of quarry pit 3015 which is dated to the medieval period (13th-14th century), sample <2> (2016) was an 8-litre sample from the bottom fill of late Iron Age/early Roman pit 2017, and sample <3> (1046) was a 40-litre sample from the single fill of rubbish pit 1032 which dates to the medieval period (12th-15th century).

Methods

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.

5.1.3 The dried flots were sieved to 2mm and samples <1> and <2> entirely sorted using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification. For sample <3>, due to its large volume, 100% of the >4mm fraction of the flot was sorted and, using a riffle sample splitter (van der Veen and Fieller 1982), 60% of the material in the 4-2mm fraction and 50% of the <2mm fraction was sorted with the remainder being rapidly scanned for missing classes of material. Identifications were made by S. Cook with reference to published guides and the comparative seed collection held at OAS, and under guidance from S. Boardman. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

5.1.4 A selection of representative charcoal fragments from each sample was examined by J. Meen to provide a provisional species identification. This most commonly involved examining the transverse section at x10-40 magnification, with unusual items checked on the radial and tangential sections using a Brunel Metallurgical SP-400BD microscope at up to x400 magnification. Items were identified with reference to keys in Schweingruber (1990) and Hather (2000).

Results – Charred plant remains (Table 6)

5.1.5 Sample <1> produced a 175ml flot which contains abundant cereal grain, most of which is unfortunately in poor condition and unidentifiable, with many grains having a glassy vitrified texture as a result of high-temperature burning. The abraded exteriors may also indicate secondary deposition. The majority of cereal grain is wheat (*Triticum sp*.) with occasional rye (*Secale cereale*) and barley grains (*Hordeum sp.*). Brome (*Bromus sp.*) and other grass seeds (Poaceae) are also present together with small legumes of <2mm (*Vicia/Lathyrus spp*.); these may be crop contaminants. There are also large well-preserved fragments of hazelnut shell and a single fragment of a >2mm legume.

5.1.6 Sample <2> produced a 75ml flot which also also includes abundant but poorly preserved cereal grain in a similar condition to those from sample <1>. Wheat and rye are both present together with a single fragment of a spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) glume base, a possible indication that the wheat grain in this sample includes spelt rather than free-threshing wheat. A single fragment of hazelnut shell was present but was small and heavily abraded.

5.1.7 Sample <3> produced a flot of 650ml and was the richest of the three assemblage. As with samples <1> and <2>, large quantities of unidentified cereal grains are present together with wheat, rye and barley. This sample also contains larger legumes including two abraded examples which may be cultivated beans (cf. *Vicia faba*) and three which are likely to be peas (*Pisum sativum.*). As with sample <1>, large fragments of well-preserved hazelnut shell are also present as well as a single fruit stone (*Prunus sp.*).

5.1.8 In addition to the cultivated plants some wild seeds are present, including a single small and damaged Caryophyllaceae seed which could not be identified to species and two very badly damaged corncockle seeds (*Agrostemma githago*), the latter often found as contaminants of cereal crops. Brome (*Bromus sp*.) and other grass seeds are present together with small legumes of <2mm (*Vicia/Lathyrus*).

Results – Charcoal

5.1.9 Medieval samples <1> and <3> were both dominated by oak charcoal (*Quercus sp.*). In sample <3>, many of these oak fragments contain tyloses within the xylem vessels, indicating that the charcoal derives from mature heartwood. In addition, charcoal of *Prunus* type (blackthorn/cherry/plum) and Pomoideae type (a group of anatomically similar woods which includes hawthorn, rowan and apple) was recovered from sample <1>, and willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus spp*) and birch (*Betula sp.*) charcoal was noted in sample <3>.

5.1.10 Late Iron Age/early Roman sample <2> contains a greater mix of wood taxa with oak charcoal, whilst still occurring frequently, not dominating to the extent seen in the other two samples. Hazel (*Corylus avellena*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and Pomoideae type charcoal was also present.

Discussion and conclusions

5.1.11 The charred material from sample <2> from late Iron Age/early Roman pit 2017 suggests a mixed arable farming regime with both wheat and rye being cultivated locally. It is possible that the rye is a crop contaminant but the lack of other common crop contaminants such as weed seeds and grasses makes this less likely. The scarcity of chaff and weeds seeds suggests that the sample comes from a cleaned crop, perhaps charred accidentally during storage, drying or food preparation.

5.1.12 Samples <1> and <3> from the medieval contexts are similar in composition to, but richer than, the sample reported from the earlier evaluation (Meen in OA 2014). The combination of rye, wheat and legumes together with hazelnut shells suggests a mixed arable farming regime, probably using the open field, crop rotation system of alternate planting of wheat/rye, followed by legumes and a year of fallow. Mixed cereal crops such as maslins (winter wheat and rye) are often referred to in medieval documents, and small legumes such as common vetch were grown as a fodder crop during the medieval period in Britain (Moffett 2006). While it is likely that the wheat was a free-threshing variety, positive identification of wheat is only possible if diagnostic rachises are present, which, unfortunately, was not the case in these samples. Again the absence of chaff may indicate a cleaned product, probably accidentally charred, perhaps during drying, although a study has shown that the chaff from free-threshing cereals such as bread wheat is particularly prone to disintegration when burnt, which could explain the general absence of chaff in medieval assemblages (Boardman and Jones 1990; Moffett 1991). The majority of contaminants are larger seeds such as the corncockle which, as a similar size to the grain itself, may not have been separated from it during processing. Corncockle is highly poisonous and flour contaminated with

this seed would have caused sickness. The larger legumes may have been a cultivated crop or casual invaders from earlier plantings (Letts 2001).

5.1.13 The light sandy soils around Warwickshire have proved favourable for rye cultivation, giving the settlement of Ryton-on-Dunsmore its name. According to Dugdale, writing in the 17th century and cited in Salzman (1951), 'The soyl here is of a light sandy disposition, and beareth Rye best of any Grain'. Although without a radiocarbon date the provenance of the grain in sample <2> can not be verified, it seems likely that rye was cultivated in the area from at least early Roman times.

5.1.14 The presence of the hazelnut shells would seem to indicate that wild resources were also utilised from the local area, and together with the charcoal indicates that the material within the features probably represents rake out from hearths, corndriers or ovens.

Sample No		**1**	**2**	**3**
Context No		**3014**	**2016**	**1046**
Sample vol (litres)		**40**	**8**	**40**
Feature Type		**Pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**
Period		**Med**	**LIA/ERB**	**Med**
Cereal grain				
Triticum sp.	wheat	8	4	54
cf. Triticum sp.		3		
Triticum/Secale	wheat/rye	1		1
Secale cereale	rye	4	6	25
cf. Secale cereale		2		
Hordeum sp.	barley	2		3
Cereal indet.	Indeterminate cereal	73	40	200
Cereal chaff				
Triticum spelta	spelt glume base		1	
Pulses, nuts				
Prunus cf. avium	cf. cherry			1
cf. *Pisum sativum*	pea			3
cf. *Vicia faba*	broad bean			2
Corylus avellana	hazel nutshell fragments	18	1	9
Wild Plants				
Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisim	vetch/tare/pea (>2 mm)	1		7
Vicia/Lathyrus	vetch/tare (< 2mm)	6		14
Agrostemma githago	Corncockle			2
Caryophyllaceae undiff.	pink family			1
Bromus spp.	brome grasses	11		13
Poaceae undiff. small	grass family	2		3
Poaceae undiff. medium	grass family	8		15

Table 6. Summary of charred plant remains and charcoal

6 Discussion and Conclusions

6.1 Discussion

6.1.1 The earliest feature on the site was pit 2017, which contained a small amount of pottery dated to the 1st century BC or 1st century AD. Charred plant remains from this feature suggest a mixed arable farming regime with both wheat and rye being cultivated. It is likely that the pit was part of a settlement of the late Iron Age and/or early Roman period. Though no contemporary activity is known from the immediate vicinity of the site, there is abundant evidence for later Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in the wider area around Ryton-on-Dunsmore. A late Iron Age settlement and Romano-British field system have been excavated at the A45/A445 roundabout, 600m to the south-east (Palmer 2005), and a Romano-British enclosure has been found at the former Peugeot Citroen Ryton Plant, *c* 1km to the west (Jones 2008).

6.1.2 During the medieval period the site was located within the core of the village of Ryton-on-Dunsmore, with the 11th-century church of St Leonard lying immediately to the north. Six excavated features could be dated to the medieval period including three shallow pits, two deeper pits or wells, and a possible quarry later used for rubbish deposition. A further pit (305) investigated during the evaluation also belongs to this period. The pottery suggests that the features may not all have been contemporary. The features in Trench 1 in the northern part of the site probably date to the late 12th to early 13th centuries, though one possibly intrusive sherd of the 15th to 16th centuries was recovered from the upper fill of the quarry pit. To the south, pit 3015 probably dates to the late 13th to early 14th centuries.

6.1.3 The pottery vessels were mostly local products, and include cooking pots with sooting from use. Other finds include animal bone, iron nails, and fragments of a glass vessel. Overall, the finds are commensurate with domestic occupation, though the vessel glass – possibly deriving from a fine-quality goblet or bowl – hints at the presence of high-status individuals.

6.1.4 Environmental samples from two medieval features produced rye, wheat and barley, along with legumes, hazelnut shell, and wood charcoal. The charred material from these features may represent rake out from hearths, corndriers or ovens. It is possible that the inhabitants were using a crop rotation system of alternate planting of wheat/rye, followed by legumes. The presence of rye is interesting as this crop is thought to have given Ryton-on-Dunsmore its name.

6.1.5 The medieval occupation at Church Farm adds to our picture of the development of the village of Ryton-on-Dunsmore. Village earthworks are present *c* 70m to the north-east of the site, and an evaluation trench excavated here in 1993 revealed 14th-15th century occupation. A further trench a short distance to the west, close to the road frontage, encountered a longer sequence of activity from the 12th/13th century to the 17th century (Warwickshire County Council 1993). A later evaluation for an extension to the churchyard found deposits dating to the 12th and 13th centuries. An evaluation in 1997 at the Dilke Arms, located 130m north-west of the site, uncovered occupation from the 13th century (C Jones 1997). The evidence from Church Farm thus increases the impression that some areas around the church were no longer occupied by the late medieval period. This corresponds with the report of the 1517 inquiry into desertion, which indicates that the village had been severely depopulated by that time (Beresford 1946).

6.2 Recommendations for dissemination

6.2.1 The stratigraphic, artefactual and palaeo-environmental evidence has been fully analysed for the production of this report. A copy of the report will be deposited with the site archive and a further copy will be submitted to Warwickshire Historic Environment Record. The report will also be made available online via the OA Library at http://library.thehumanjourney.net.

6.3 Acknowledgements

6.3.1 OA would like to acknowledge staff who worked on this project including fieldworkers Brenton Culshaw (Supervisor); Rebecca Nielson and Neil Holbrook. The brief was set for Warwickshire County Council by Anna Stocks and the work was monitored by John Robinson. The project was managed for OA by Gerry Thacker. Conan Parsons digitised the site plan and Benjamin Brown and Charles Rousseaux prepared the illustrations.

Appendix A. Archaeological Context Inventory

1.1 Context Table

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Comments	Date
1000	Layer	0.4 - 0.54	30m +/15m +	Recent demolition deposit	Modern
1001	Layer	0.25	11m +	Former land surface	Post-med/modern
1002	Layer	0.38	14m +	Former land surface/made ground	Post-med/modern
1003	Layer	0.72	14m/2.5m	Upper fill of pit 1032	
1004	Layer	0.16	6m +	Former subsoil	Undated
1005	Layer	0.47-0.86	30m +	Natural gravel/clay	N/A
1006	Fill	0.43	1.64	Tertiary deposit	Undated
1007	Fill	0.45	1.52	Secondary deposit	Undated
1008	Fill	0.36	1.69	Secondary deposit	Undated
1009	Fill	0.55	0.8	Primary deposit	Undated
1010	Fill	0.35	1.64	Secondary deposit	Undated
1011	Fill	0.22	0.62	Secondary deposit	Undated
1012	Fill	0.38	0.68	Secondary deposit	Undated
1013	Fill	0.07	1.67	Primary deposit	Undated
1014	Cut	1.22	2.53	Waterhole/well	Undated
1015	Structure			Barn wall foundation	Post-med/modern
1016	Structure			Barn wall foundation	Post-med/modern
1017	Cut	0.52	1.12	Geological feature	N/A
1018	Cut	0.52	1.12	Geological feature	N/A
1019	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1020	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1021	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1022	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1023	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1024	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1025	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1026	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1027	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1028	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1029	Cut			Modern posthole (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Comments	Date
1030	Cut			Tree throw	Undated
1031	Cut			Modern truncation (unexcavated)	Modern
1032	Cut	0.92+	2.2	Pit (not bottomed), for gravel extraction?	Medieval?
1033	Cut	0.27	1.62	Tree throw	Post-med/modern
1034	Cut	0.51	1.76	Pit for gravel extraction?	Undated
1035	Cut			Natural geology (unexcavated)	N/A
1036	Cut	0.88	2.9	Well/water hole truncated by 1047	Medieval
1037	Cut	0.74	2.25	Pit for gravel extraction or storage?	Medieval
1038	Cut			Natural geology (unexcavated)	N/A
1039	Cut			Natural geology (unexcavated)	N/A
1040	Cut	0.4	2.55	Modern animal burial	Modern
1041	Cut			Foundation cut for 1015 (unexcavated)	Post-med/modern
1042	Fill	0.27	1.62	Bioturbation deposit associated with 1033	Post-med/modern?
1043	Fill	0.4+	2.55	Deliberate backfill of 1040 (cow burial)	Post-med/modern?
1044	Fill	0.23	1.58	Tertiary deposit	Medieval
1045	Fill	0.26	2.55	Deliberate backfill of 1037	Medieval (C12- C14)
1046	Fill	0.92	2.2+	Deliberate backfill of pit 1032	Medieval (C12- C15)
1047	Fill	0.54	2.28	Secondary deposit	Medieval
1048	Fill	0.45	2.9	Secondary deposit	Undated
1049	Fill	0.51	1.76	Upper fill of pit	Medieval (C12- C13)
1050	Fill	0.11	0.28	Upper fill of redeposited natural in 1034	Undated
1051	Layer	0.33	18+/8+	Garden soil	Modern
1052	Layer			Concrete	Modern
1053	Layer	0.28		Made ground	Modern
1054	Layer	0.22	1	Made ground	Modern
1055	Layer	0.12	1	Poss. Made ground	Undated
1056	Layer	0.28	1	Poss. Subsoil	Undated
1057	Layer	0.24	1	Natural	N/A
2000	Layer	variable	entire area	Topsoil/modern disturbance	Modern
2001	Layer	variable	entire area	Sub soil	Post-med/modern?
2002	Layer	variable	entire area	Natural	Undated
2003	Fill	0.4	1.12	Fill of pit 2004	Undated
2004	Cut	0.4	1.12	Cut of pit - for gravel extraction?	Undated
2005	Fill	0.34	1.36	Fill of pit 2006	Undated
2006	Cut		1.36	Pit for gravel extraction?	Undated

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Comments	Date
2007	Fill	0.52		Fill of pit 2005	Undated
2008	Cut		1.31	Pit for gravel extraction?	Undated
2009	Fill	0.27		Fill of pit 2010	Undated
2010	Cut	0.27	0.51	Pit for gravel extraction?	Undated
2011	Fill	0.52+	1.12	Natural deposit (aeolian)	N/A
2012	Cut	0.52+	1.12	Geological deposit	N/A
2013	Fill	0.4	1.67	Upper fill of pit 2017	Undated
2014	Fill	0.19	0.82	Upper middle fill of pit 2017	Undated
2015	Fill	0.14	1.14	Lower middle fill of pit 2017	Undated
2016	Fill	0.09	1.21	Lower fill of pit 2017	Late Iron Age/Early Roman
2017	Cut	0.42	1.67	Pit	Late Iron Age/Early Roman?
2018	Fill	0.11	0.74	Fill of pit 2019	Undated
2019	Cut	0.11	0.74	Pit for gravel extraction?	Undated
2020	Fill	0.39	2.12	Bioturbation deposit	Undated
2021	Cut	0.39	1.91	Tree throw	Undated
2022	Fill	0.48	1.08	Fill of pit 2023	Undated
2023	Cut	0.48	1.08	Pit for gravel extraction?	Undated
2024	Cut			Tree throw (unexcavated)	Undated
2025	Cut			Natural deposit (unexcavated)	Undated
2026	Cut			Natural, same as 2012	Undated
2027	Cut	0.32	0.84	Pit for gravel extraction?	Undated
2028	Cut			Natural deposit (unexcavated)	N/A
2029	Cut		0.53	Bioturbation deposit/natural?	N/A
2030	Cut	0.12	0.6	Bioturbation deposit/natural?	Undated
2031	Fill			Fill of pit 2027	Undated
3000	Layer	0.45 - 0.30	entire site	Topsoil	Modern
3001	Layer	0.30 - 0.50	entire site	Subsoil	Undated
3002	Layer		entire site	Natural	N/A
3003	Fill	0.45	1.39	Fill of pit 2004	Medieval?
3004	Cut	0.45	1.39	Pit for gravel extraction?	Undated
3005	Fill	0.21	1.22	Fill of pit 2006	Undated
3006	Cut	0.21	1.22	Pit for gravel extraction?	Undated
3007	Fill	0.21	1.74	Fill of pit 2008	Undated
3008	Cut	0.21	1.74	Pit	Undated
3009	Fill	0.12	1.65	Upper fill of pit 3010	Undated
3010	Cut	0.21	1.65	Pit	Undated
3011	Fill	0.11	0.92	Lower fill of pit 3011	Undated
3012	Fill	0.15	1.54	Fill of tree hole 3013	Undated
3013	Cut	0.15	1.54	Cut of tree hole	Undated

Context	Type	Depth	Width	Comments	Date
3014	Fill	0.56	2.96	Deliberate backfill	Medieval (C13- C14)
3015	Cut	0.56	2.96	Pit for gravel extraction?	Medieval (C13- C14)
3016	Fill	0.19+	1.5+	Bioturbation deposit of tree throw 3017	Undated
3017	Cut	0.19	1.5+	Tree throw	Undated

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Inclosure Act 1761 (CR2981/5/9/7) No map but relates to Charles Johnsons land

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Schedule of Estates of Thomas Dilke, 1874 (CR2981/5/2/8)

Survey of Estates of Thomas Dilke, 1840 (CR2981/5/2/8)

Appendix C. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Church Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore

Site code: RYDC 15

Grid reference: NGR 43867 27449

Type: Excavation

Date and duration: 27th October 2015 - 19th November 2015

Area of site: 0.14ha

Summary of results: In October and November 2015 Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation for Derek O'Neill at Church Farm, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire. The site is located *in the* historic core of the village, immediately to the south of the church. The earliest feature was a pit containing pottery dated to the late Iron Age or early Roman period. Most of the dated features relate to medieval settlement, including three shallow pits, two deeper pits or wells, and a possible quarry later used for rubbish deposition. Pottery evidence suggests that the features date from the late 12th to early 14th centuries. The pottery is mostly of local origin, and includes cooking pots with sooting from use. Other finds include animal bone, iron nails, and fragments of a fine glass vessel. Environmental samples indicate the cultivation of cereals and legumes. The foundations of recently demolished post-medieval outbuildings were also encountered.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course.

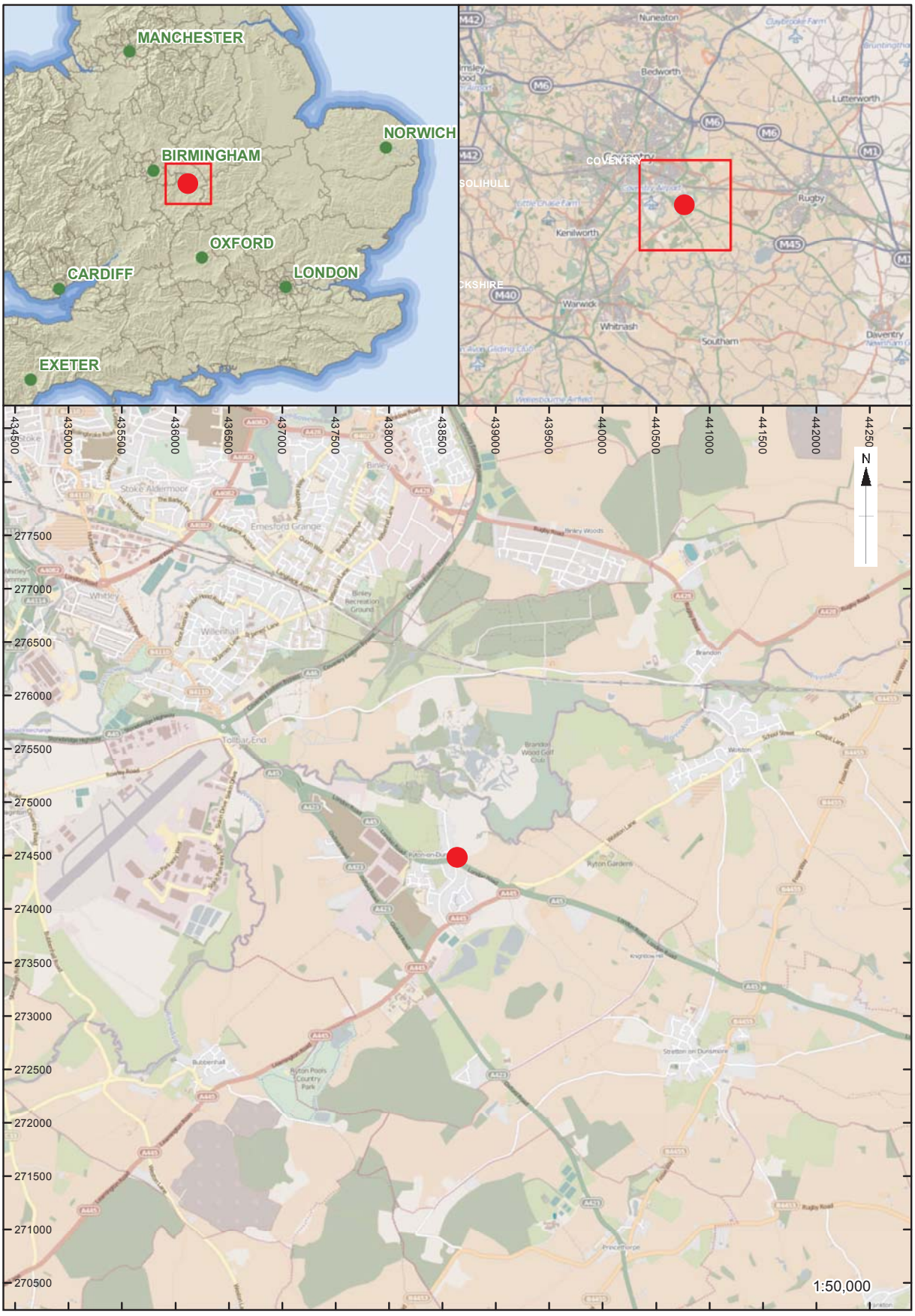


Figure 1: Site location

X:\r\Ryton-on-Dunsmore\Excavation phase\010Geomatics\02 CAD\RYDCEX Ryton-on_Dunsmore 2015-11-11.dwg(A3 landscape)*RYDC15*RYDCEX*Ryton-on_Dunsmore*Conan Parsons* 27 Feb 2017

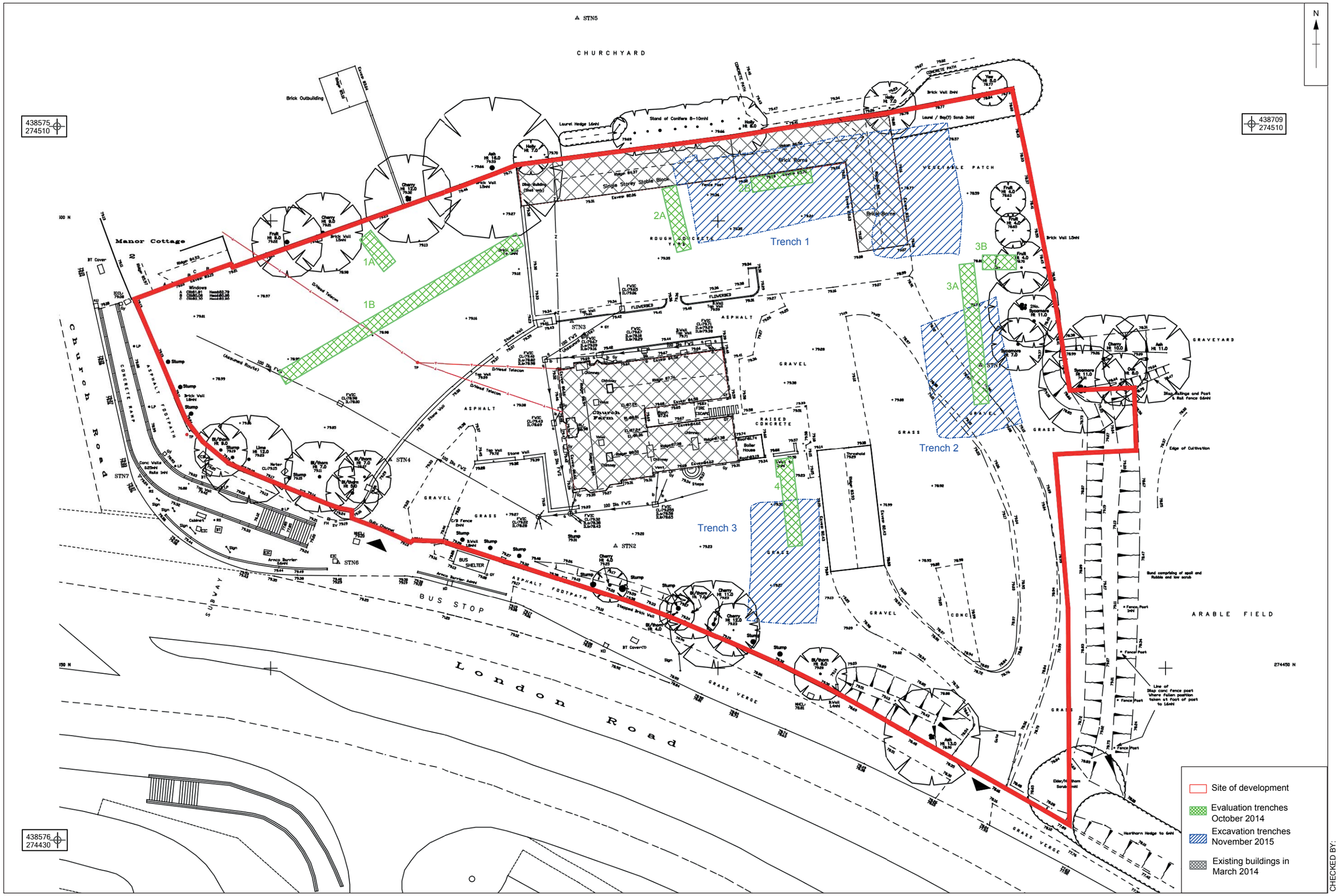


Figure 2: Site layout showing evaluation trenches and excavation trenches

X:\r\Ryton-on-Dunsmore\Excavation phase\010Geomatics\02 CAD\RYDCEX Ryton-on_Dunsmore 2015-11-11.dwg(Fig3)*RYDC15*RYDCEX*Ryton-on_Dunsmore*benjamin.brown* 10 Feb 2017

N

438635
274510

438685
274510

1032
1036
1037
1014
1014

Trench 1

2017

Trench 2

3015

Trench 3

438635
274450

Late Iron Age/Early Roman
Medieval
Archaeological feature
Modern feature
Treethrow
Evaluation trench (2014)
Limit of excavation

CHECKED BY: MB*14/12/16

0 5 10 m

Scale at A3 1:200

Figure 3: Excavation Trenches 1-3 (overview)

X:\r\Ryton-on-Dunsmore\Excavation phase\010Geomatics\02 CAD\RYDCEX Ryton-on_Dunsmore 2015-11-11.dwg(Fig4a)*RYDC15*RYDCEX*Ryton-on_Dunsmore*benjamin.brown* 10 Feb 2017

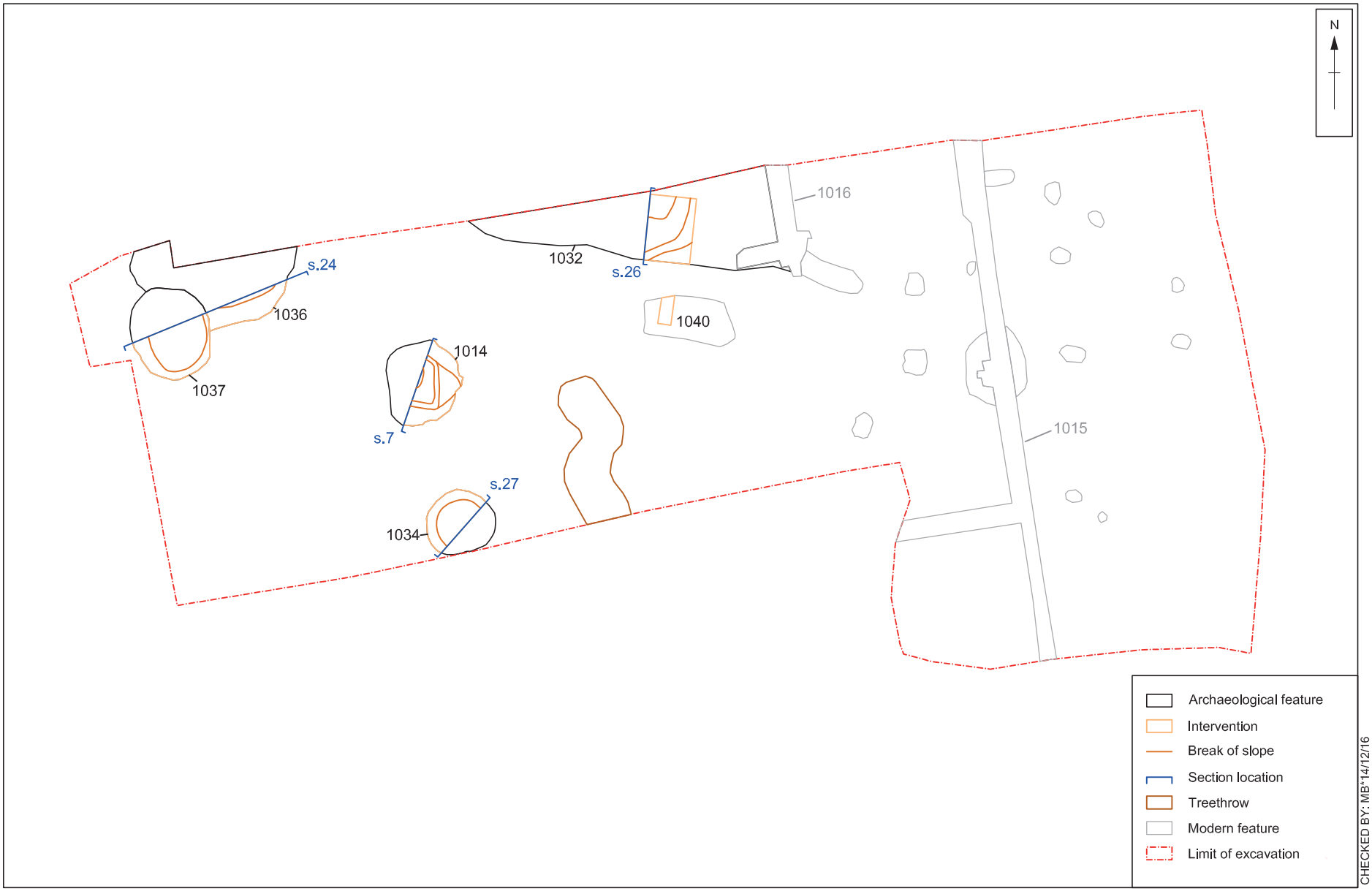


Figure 4: Trench 1, plan of archaeological interventions

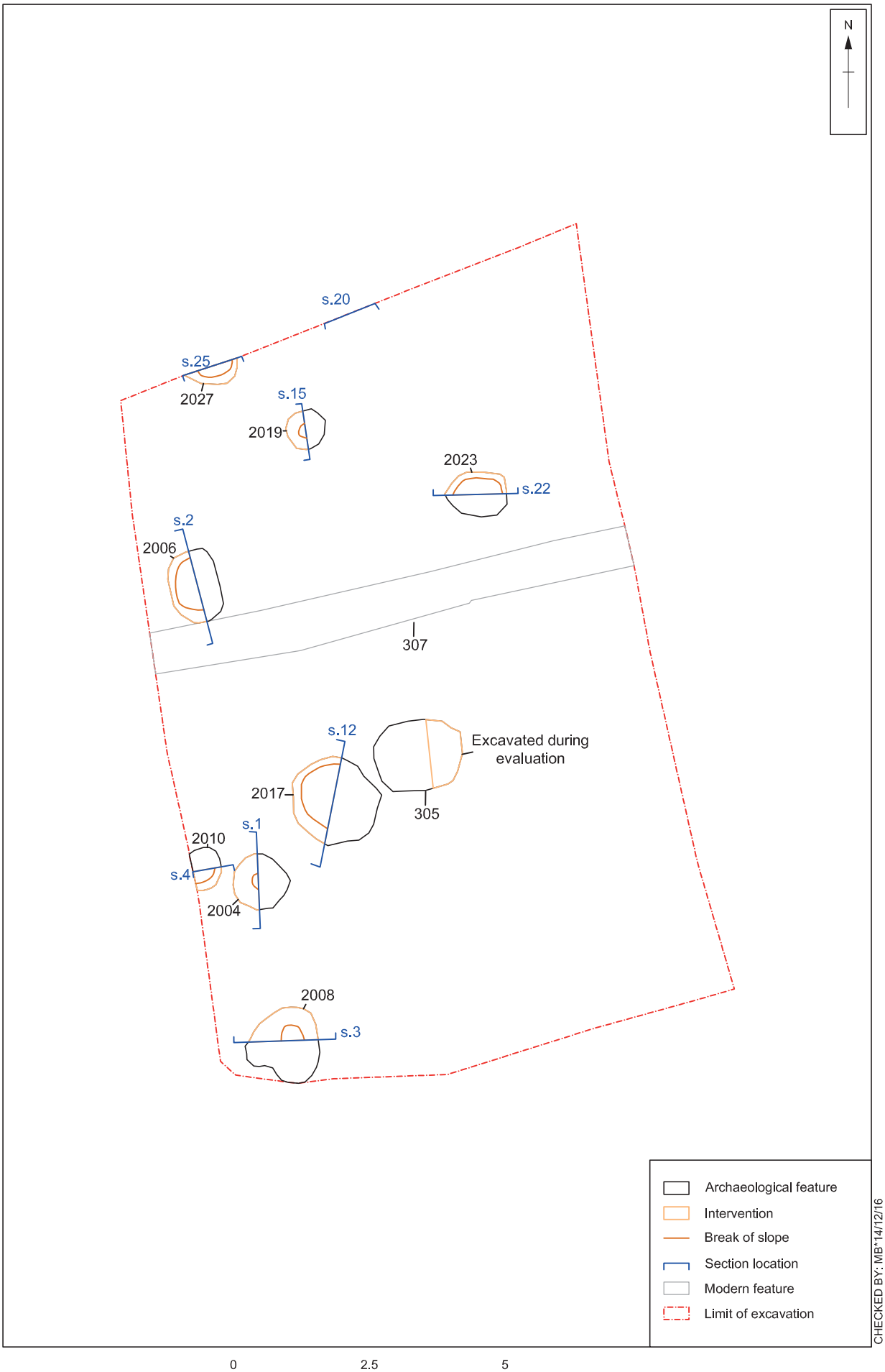


Figure 5: Trench 2, plan of archaeological interventions

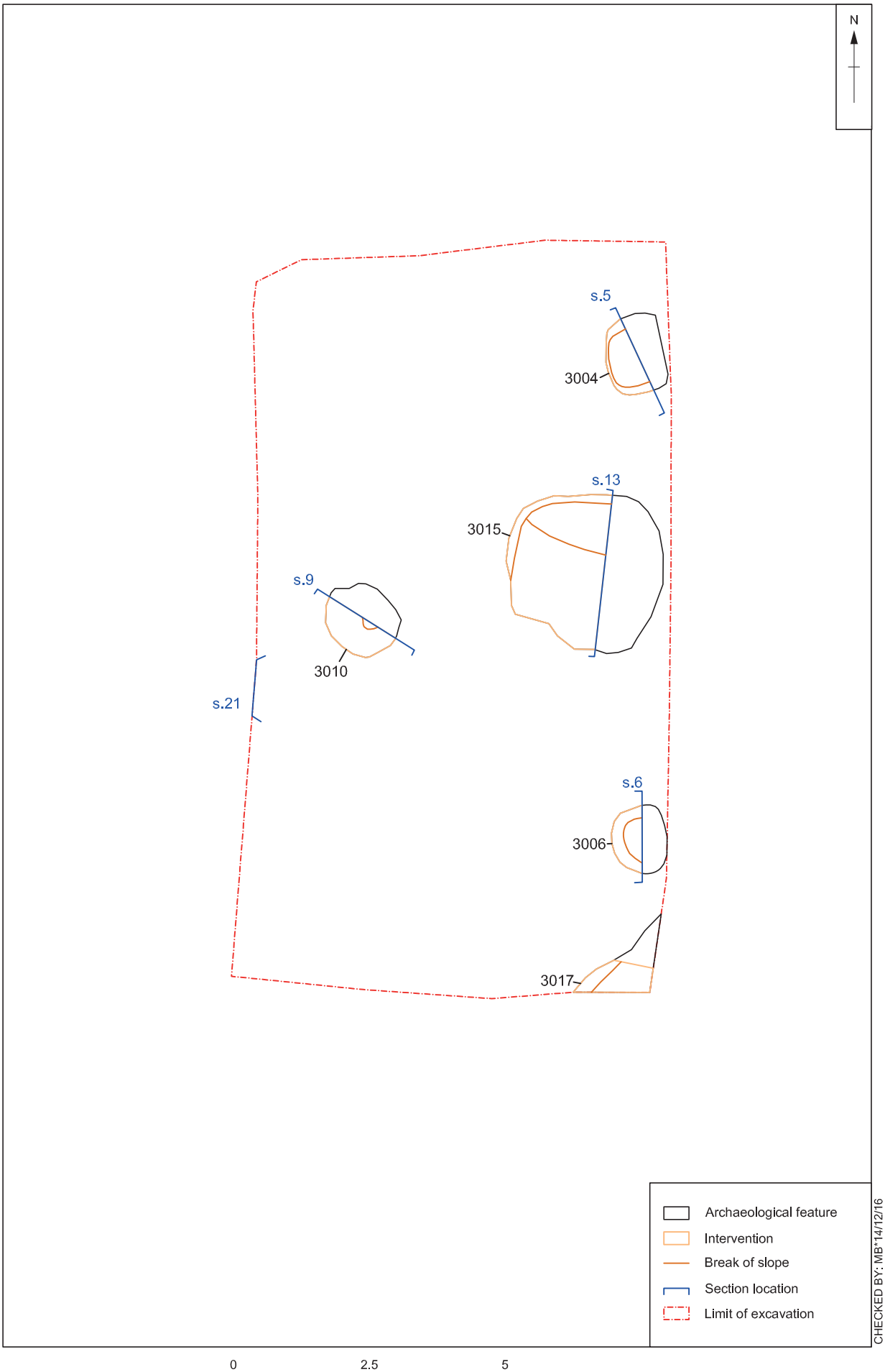


Figure 6: Trench 3, plan of archaeological interventions

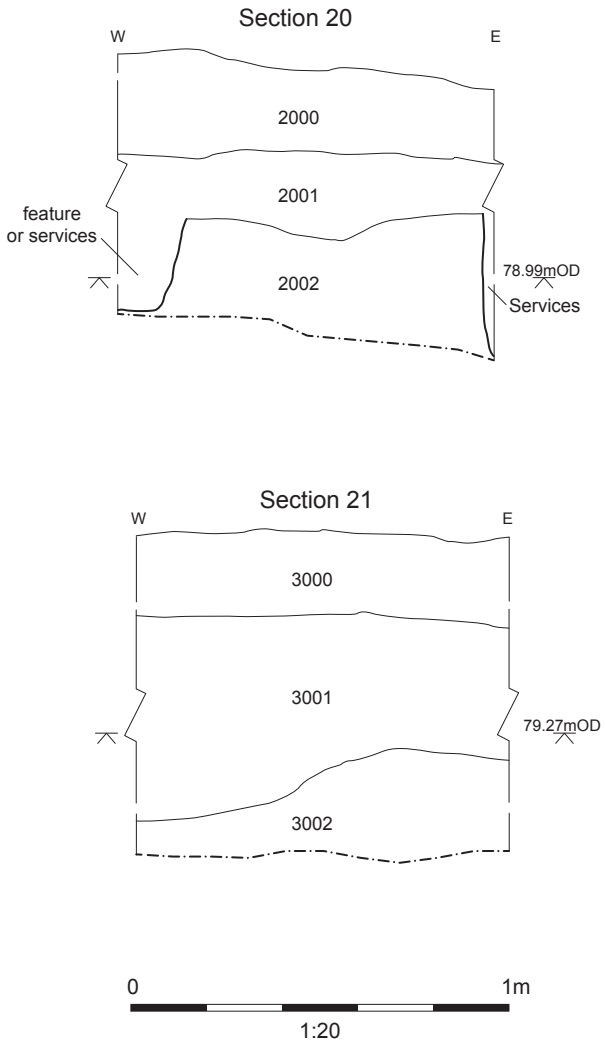
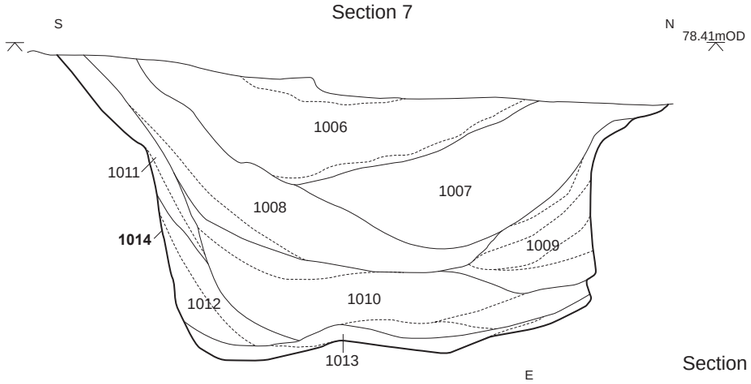


Figure 7: Representative sections of Trench 2 (Section 20) and Trench 3 (Section 21)

Trench 1

Section 7



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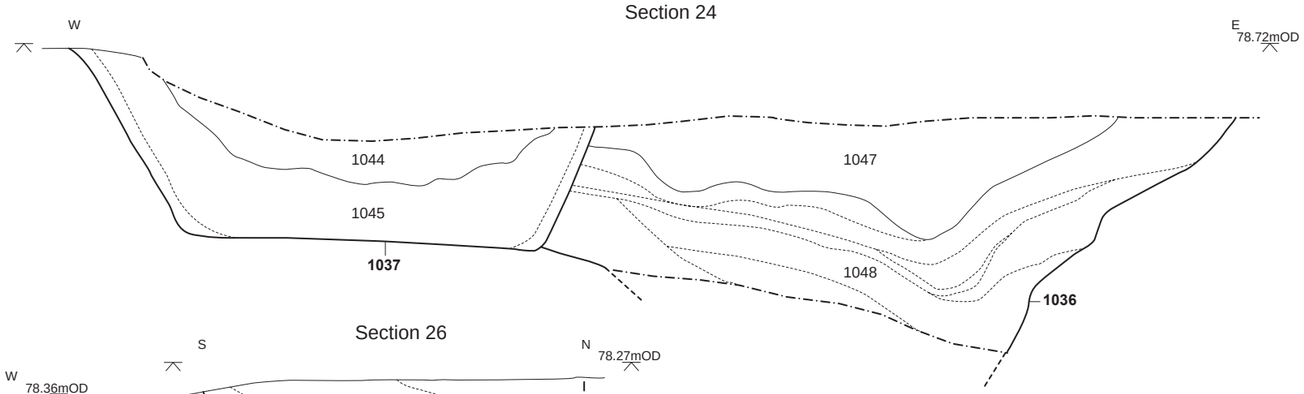

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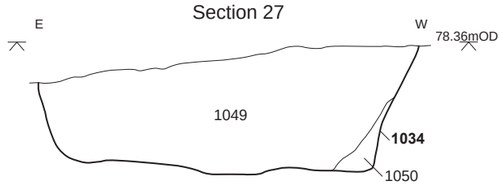

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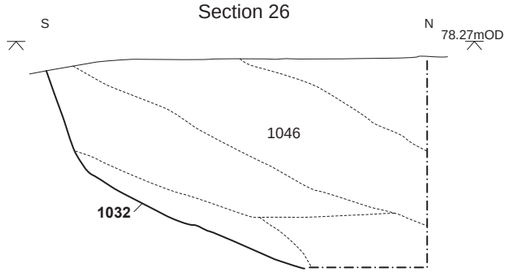
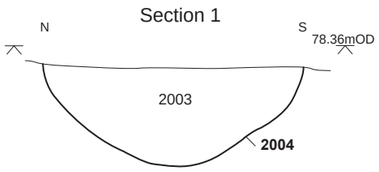
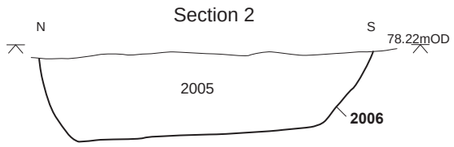


Trench 2

Section 1



Section 2



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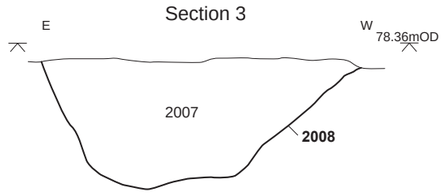

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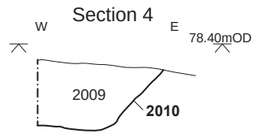

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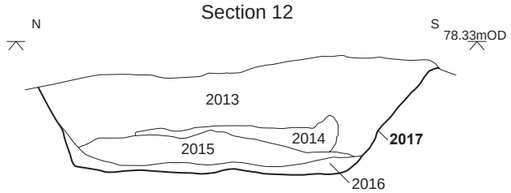

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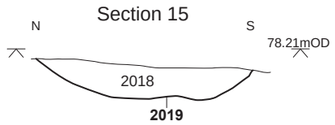

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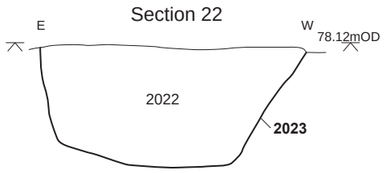

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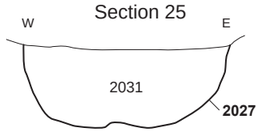
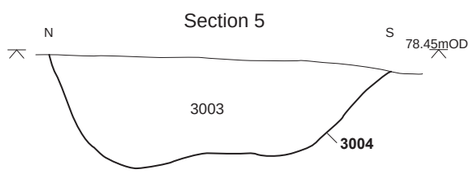


Trench 3

Section 5



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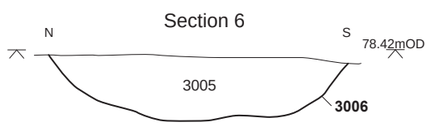
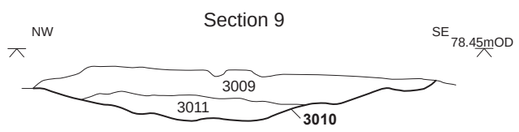


Section 9



Section 13

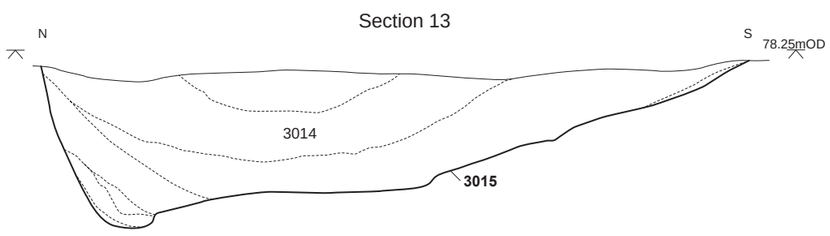


Figure 8: Sections of selected features from Trenches 1, 2 and 3

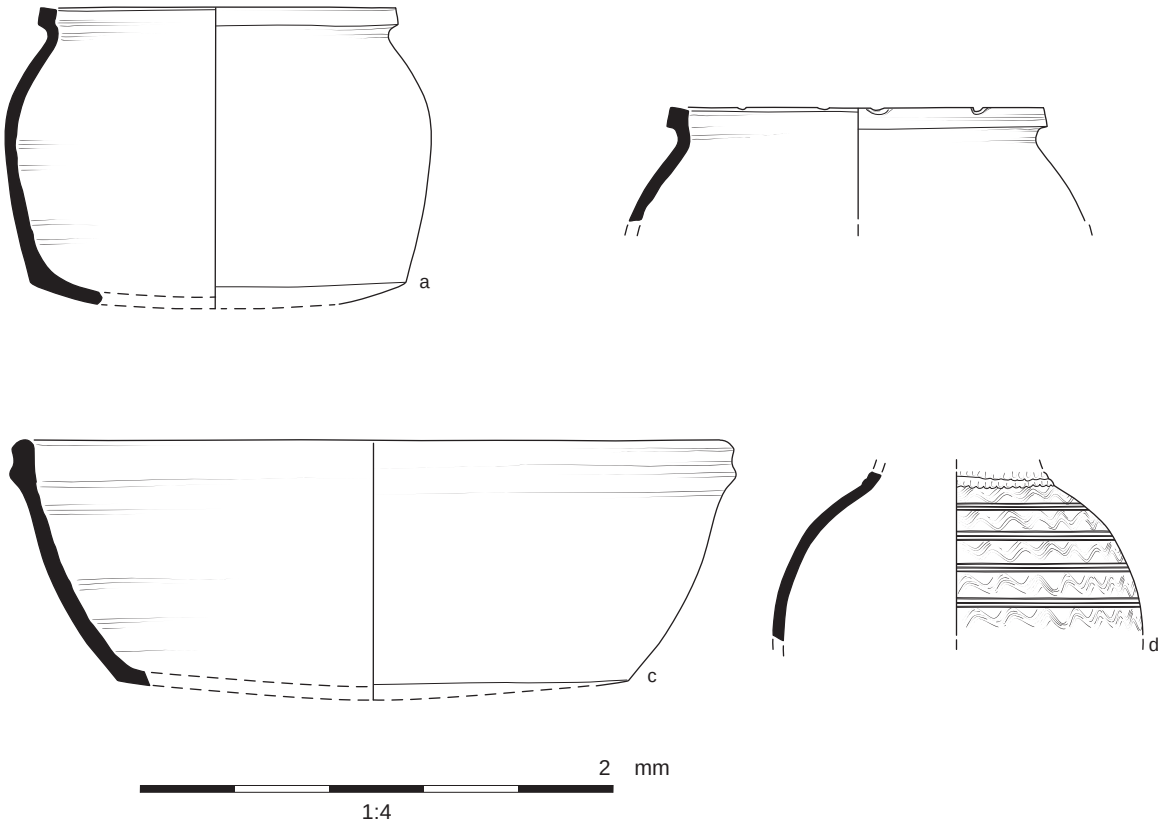


Figure 9: edie al otter :
a. oo ing ot rofile in o entr are, from fill 1046, it 1032
. oo ing ot in educed Deritend are, from fill 1046, it 1032
c. o l rofile in North War ic shire ranitic are, from fill 1046, it 1032
d. ug tri od itcher in o entr D are, from fill 1049, it 1034

late 1: eneral shot of Trench 1 facing east

late 2: eneral shot of Trench 2 facing north

late 3: eneral shot of Trench 3 facing north

late 4: Section 12, it 2017, facing south east

late 5: Section 7, ossi le ell 1014 facing north est

late 6: Section 26, ossi le uarr and ru ish it 1032 facing est

late 7: Section 27, it 1034 facing south

late 8: Section 24, ossi le ell 1036 facing north est

late 9: Section 24, it 1037 facing north est

late 10: Section 13, it 3015 facing east

late 11: Section 1, it 2004 facing est

late 12: Section 2, it 2006 facing east

late 13: Section 3, it 2008 facing south

late 14: Section 4, it 2010 facing north

late 15: Section 15, it 2019 facing east

late 16: Section 22, it 2023 facing south

late 17: Section 25, it 2027 facing north

late 18: Section 5, it 3004 facing east

late 19: Section 6, it 3006 facing east

late 20: Section 9, it 3010 facing north east

oxfordarchaeology

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
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
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com