Leycroft Manor Farm
Souldern
Bicester

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Leycroft Manor Farm, Souldern

(NGR: SP 5238 3094).

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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with contributions from Paul Booth, Rachel Scales, Wendy Smith, Dan Stansbie and illustrated by Georgina Slater.

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Summary

In April 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA), carried out a field evaluation at Leycroft Manor Farm, Souldern, Bicester on behalf of Richard Deeley. Evaluation Trenches three and four revealed three ditches close to the southern boundary, almost certainly relating to a square enclosure, and linear features identified as crop marks in the adjacent field to the south. The ditch in Trench 4 produced 1st century Roman pottery and abraded fragments of lava quern. One further undated ditch was revealed in Trench 1. Four undated gullies and a series of medieval or post-medieval plough furrows were also revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In April 2008 Oxford Archaeology carried out a field evaluation on behalf of Richard Deeley in respect of a planning application for the construction of agricultural buildings (08/00444/F) and proposed earth bunds, landscaping and attenuation pond for surface water (08/00443/F) and a brief set by Richard Oram and a WSI set by Oxford Archaeology. The development site is located at Leycroft Manor Farm, Souldern, Bicester, Oxfordshire (NGR: SP 5238 3094).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site of the proposed development is located approximately 1 km south of Souldern and 2 km to the north of Fritwell (Fig. 1). The development area is situated in ploughed agricultural fields.

1.2.2 The site lies at *c* 133 m above OD and the underlying geology is Great Oolitic Limestone.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The proposed development is located in an area of significant archaeological potential. Crop marks identified from aerial photography include three rectangular enclosures less than 30 m to the south west of the proposed tree planting (PRN 12249) (NGR SP 5215 3075), and a square enclosure (PRN 12205) (NGR SP 5212 3054) to the south of these. A possible banjo enclosure (PRN 17453) (NGR SP 5189 3050) has been identified in adjacent fields to the west of these.

1.3.2 The proposed site is approximately 170 m west of Aves Ditch, a possible Iron Age tribal boundary (PRN 8925) (NGR SP 5253 3089) and a possible Anglo Saxon burial mound (Hlaew) is located 500 m to the north-east (PRN 4829) NGR SP 5265 3111), this was levelled in the C19th but records suggest that at least three burials were found within it.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to express their thanks to Richard and Edward Deeley and to Richard Oram, the County Planning Archaeologist.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

(i) To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

(ii) To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains affected by the proposed works.

(iii) To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features within the site and to take samples where appropriate.

(iv) To provide information to allow a mitigation strategy to be formulated prior to development of the site.

(v) To define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

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

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised six trial trenches measuring 30 m by 1.6 m. Trench 1 was located on the site of the proposed attenuation pond. Trench 2 was located on the proposed bund. Trenches 3 and 4 were located on the area of proposed landscaping and trenches 5 and 6 were located on the site of the proposed agricultural building (Fig 2).

2.2.2 The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a 13.0 tonne, 180^0, mechanical excavator (JCB) equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation proceeded to the top of the natural geology (oolitic limestone).

2.2.3 All archaeological features were hand sampled in order to characterise and date them. General site procedures were as defined in the Appendices to this document. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established OA practice as detailed in the OA Field Manual (OA 1992). All contexts and samples from them were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context. All excavation and recording met the requirements of the *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (IFA, 2001).

2.2.4 Colour transparency and black-and-white negative photographs were taken during the course of the evaluation. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50. Section drawings of features and sample sections of stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

2.2.5 Provision was made for taking environmental samples in accordance with OA Environmental procedures (OA 2000).

2.2.6 The project was directed by Paul Murray, Senior Project Manager under the overall direction of Nick Shepherd, OA Head of Fieldwork.

3 RESULTS

Soil and ground conditions

3.1.1 Trenches 1, 3 and 4 were located on well maintained grassland. Trenches 2, 5 and 6 were located in a ploughed field containing a young wheat crop.

3.1.2 The evaluation was conducted in dry bright conditions over the course of four days.

3.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

General

3.2.1 Five of the six trenches excavated contained archaeological deposits, these are described below. Trench 6 revealed no archaeology.

Trench 1

3.2.2 Natural geology (107) was encountered at a depth of 0.25 m (132.37 M aOD). Two archaeological features were identified cutting 107. A north-south orientated linear ditch (103) which terminated at the southern edge of the trench. The ditch was revealed to a length of 1.60 m and was 1.00 m wide and 0.30 m deep (Fig 5). It contained a single fill of compacted clayey silt (104). Some small sherds of shell tempered pottery were retrieved from the ditch but due to their heavily degraded state it was not possible to date them.

3.2.3 A tree bowl (105) was identified at the eastern end of Trench 1 measuring 1.40 m long, 1.35 m wide and 0.30 m deep. It was filled with a reddish brown silty clay.

3.2.4 All features were overlain by 0.25 m of topsoil (100).

Trench 2

3.2.5 Natural geology (209) was encountered at a depth of 0.38 m (135.18 m aOD).This trench revealed three east–west orientated medieval furrows (Group 208), at *c* 8 m intervals. One furrow was investigated (207), it measured 3.00 m in width and was 0.27 m deep and was filled with slumped subsoil (208).

3.2.6 A linear gully (203) was identified at the north end of the trench. It measured 0.72 m in width and and was 0.24 m deep and was filled with an orangish brown silty clay (206). No finds were recovered.

3.2.7 At the southern end of the trench a small circular feature (202) was identified. It had a maximum diameter of 0.50 m and was 0.10 m deep and was filled with an orange brown clay (205). No dating was recovered and it was almost certainly a geological anomaly.

3.2.8 All the features were overlain by 0.38 m of topsoil (200).

Trench 3

3.2.9 Natural geology (308) was encountered at a depth of 0.38 m (133.42 m aOD). Two parallel northeast-southwest orientated linear gullies were revealed at the western end of the trench (Fig. 3). The first (302) was revealed to a length of 2.40 m, was 0.50 m wide, 0.06 m deep and was filled with a light orangish brown clayey silt (303). The second (304) was revealed to a length of 2.10 m, was 0.56 m wide, 0.22 m deep and

was filled with mid orangish brown silty clay (305). No dating was recovered from either gully.

3.2.10 Near the centre of the trench was a northeast-southwest orientated linear ditch (306). it was revealed to a length of 1.90 m, was 1.28 m wide 0.06 m deep and filled with a light greyish brown clayey silt (307).

3.2.11 All the features were overlain by 0.38 m of topsoil (300).

Trench 4

3.2.12 The natural geology (403) was encountered at a depth of 0.3 m (133.72 m aOD). Two intersecting ditches were identified in this trench. The earliest ditch (404) was orientated east-west and was revealed to a length of 6.00 m. It measured 1.25 m in width and was 0.31 m deep. It was filled with a compacted brown, silty clay. No finds were recovered.

3.2.13 Ditch 404 was cut by a later ditch (406), this was orientated north-south and terminated near the southern edge of the trench (Fig 4). It was revealed to a length of 1.00 m, was 2.20 m wide and 1.00 m deep. It was filled with a sequence of homogeneous silty deposits, the central of which (408) contained a sherd of 1st century A.D. Roman pottery and some fragments of lava quern.

3.2.14 All the features were overlain by 0.3 m of topsoil (400).

Trench 5

3.2.15 The natural geology (507) was encountered at a depth of 0.42 m (133.7 m aOD). This trench revealed three east–west orientated medieval furrows (Group 508) at c. 8 m intervals . One example was excavated and measured 2.20 m in width and was 0.24 m deep and was filled with slumped subsoil (501).

3.2.16 The terminal of a shallow gully (503) was identified at the southern end of the trench. It was revealed to a length of 1.05 m, was 0.55 m wide, 0.14 m deep and filled with a brownish orange clayey silt (506). No finds were recovered.

3.2.17 A tree bowl (502) was identified adjacent to gully 503. It was 1.20 m long, 1.00 m wide, 0.16 m deep and contained a friable reddish brown silt.

3.2.18 All the features were overlain by 0.42 m of topsoil (500).

Trench 6

3.2.19 The natural geology (602) was encountered at a depth of 0.34 m (133.82 m OD). No archaeological features were identified.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation represents an approximate 3% sample of the proposed development area and therefore the results can only be an indication of the potential for the absence/ presence of archaeological remains across the proposal area.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the potential for significant archaeological remains and if any were found to assess their extent, condition and character.

4.2.2 The evaluation trenches in the area of the proposed farm buildings and bund demonstrated that the only major activity in the area was medieval farming as represented by a series of furrows at approximately 10 m intervals.

4.2.3 In the area of the proposed attenuation pond a small gully indicates low level activity but cannot be closely dated.

4.2.4 Significant archaeological remains were identified in the area of proposed tree planting, these are likely to be Late Iron Age/Early Roman in date and indicate domestic activity.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The ditch and two gullies identified within Trench 3, although undated, almost certainly represent a continuation of archaeological remains associated with the square enclosure and possible field system identified as crop marks (PRN 12250) in the adjacent field to the south. More specifically the ditch appears to represent the continuation of a sinuous linear crop mark aligned roughly east-west.

4.3.2 The two ditches identified within Trench 4 may also represent the continuation of the crop mark site.

4.3.3 The Iron Age tradition of enclosing farmsteads was maintained in the south of England into the 1st century A.D. Such enclosures were of varying size, shape and function, but many were single farming units (Cunliffe, 1991, 223-226) suggesting that the identified ditch and associated cropmarks may represent a small agricultural settlement spanning the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.

4.3.4 The 1st century pottery, fragments of lava quern and animal bones with evidence of cut marks and gnawing, although limited in quantity, suggest domestic activity.

4.3.5 The presence of lava quern fragments is of particular interest. During the Roman period these were imported from the Mayen region of Germany, with the Rhine providing the main axis of trade (Peacock, 1980). They were brought into Britain in large quantities but only after 43 A.D. (Williams & Peacock, forthcoming) and although they are found throughout Roman Britain they predominate on urban and military sites. In southern Britain lava querns were a regular part of civil trade as the evidence for quern importation at Poultry, London indicates (Buckley & Major, 1990). This suggests that the settlement at Souldern had good trade links, possibly directly with London and would have been of relatively high status.

4.3.6 The sherd of pottery recovered from the possible ditch terminus in Trench 1 has a broad date range, with shell-tempered fabrics being used from the Bronze Age to the late medieval period (Paul Booth, pers. comm.).

4.3.7 The remaining undated ditches and gullies potentially represent the continuation of the crop mark site but are more likely to be agricultural in nature.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The results of the evaluation almost certainly indicate that the archaeological site identified as crop marks extends into the southern part of the development area.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
A linear gully broadly dated to prehistoric/Romano British Period and an undated tree bowl were identified in this trench					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.25
					Width (m)	1.60
					Length (m)	28.60
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
101	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
102	Deposit	-	-	Natural – oolitic limestone	-	-
103	Cut	1.00	0.30	Cut of Gully	-	Bronze Age-Medieval
104	Fill	1.00	0.30	Fill of Gully 103	Pot	Bronze Age-Medieval
105	Cut	1.35	0.30	Cut of Tree Bowl	-	Undated
106	Fill	1.35	0.30	Fill of Tree Bowl 105	-	Undated
107	Layer		0.4	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Three medieval furrows, one linear gully and one posthole were identified in this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
					Width (m)	1.70
					Length (m)	29.20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
200	Layer	-	0.38	Ploughsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
202	Cut	0.35	0.1	Cut of Posthole	-	Undated
203	Cut	0.72	0.24	Cut of Gully	-	Undated
204	Cut	3.00	0.27	Cut of Furrow	-	Medieval
205	Fill	0.35	0.1	Fill of Posthole 202	-	Undated
206	Fill	0.72	0.24	Fill of Gully 203	-	Undated
207	Fill	3.00	0.27	Fill of Furrow 204	-	Medieval
208	Group	-	-	Group no, for Furrows	-	Medieval
209	Deposit	-	-	Natural – oolitic limestone	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Two linear gullies and one ditch were identified in this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.60
					Width (m)	1.65
					Length (m)	31.50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
300	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-
302	Cut	0.50	0.06	Cut of Gully	-	Undated
303	Fill	0.50	0.06	Fill of Gully 302	-	Undated
304	Cut	0.56	0.22	Cut of Gully	-	Undated
305	Fill	0.56	0.22	Fill of Gully 304	-	Undated
306	Cut	1.28	0.06	Cut of Ditch	-	Undated
307	Fill	1.28	0.06	Fill of Ditch 306	-	Undated
308	Deposit	-	-	Natural – oolitic limestone	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Two substantial Roman ditches were identified in this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.60
					Width (m)	1.50
					Length (m)	29.00
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
401	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	0.50	Subsoil	-	-
403	Deposit	-	-	Natural – oolitic limestone	-	-
404	Cut	1.25	0.31	Cut of Ditch	-	Roman?
405	Fill	1.25	0.31	Fill of Ditch 404	-	Roman?
406	Cut	2.20	1.00	Cut of Ditch	-	Roman
407	Fill	1.40	0.80	Primary Fill of Ditch 406	-	Roman
408	Fill	2.60	080	Fill of Ditch 406	Pot	Roman
409	Fill	1.20	0.23	Fill of Ditch 406	Lava Quern	Roman

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Four medieval furrows, one gully terminus and one tree bowl were identified in this trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.40
					Width (m)	1.60
					Length (m)	29.10
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
500	Layer	-	0.42	Ploughsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
502	Cut	1.00	0.16	Cut of Tree Bowl	-	Undated
503	Cut	0.55	0.14	Cut of Gully	-	Undated
504	Cut	2.20	0.24	Cut of Furrow	-	Medieval
505	Fill	1.00	0.16	Fill of Tree Bowl 502	-	Undated
506	Fill	0.55	0.14	Fill of Gully 503	-	Undated
507	Deposit	-	-	Natural – oolitic limestone	-	-
508	Group	-	-	Group no. for Furrows	-	Medieval

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of oolitic limestone.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	1.65
					Length (m)	29.30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
600	Layer	-	0.34	Ploughsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
602	Deposit	-	-	Natural – oolitic limestone	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 The Pottery

by John Cotter (with contributions by Dan Stansbie)

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of 10 sherds of pottery weighing 61 g were recovered from four contexts. This comprises pottery of prehistoric/Romano-British and post-medieval date. All the pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date 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 (e.g. decoration etc.).

Date and nature of the assemblage

B.1.2 Overall the pottery assemblage is in a poor and very fragmentary condition. The prehistoric/Romano-British sherds were very small and worn and clearly residual.

B.1.3 The post-medieval pottery comprises four sherds of common glazed Midlands-type coarsewares dating within the period c 1775-1900 including a storage jar and another possible jar or bowl rim. There is a possible sherd cross-join between the two contexts producing this later pottery (101 and 102).

B.1.4 The three sherds of earlier pottery occur as two small worn scraps and one larger worn basal sherd. The two smallest scraps are barely identifiable as pottery and are broadly datable to the prehistoric/Romano-British period (one is residual in 102, the other occurs in 407). The basal sherd (context 408) is in grog-tempered ware and probably dates to the late Iron Age/Romano-British period.

Recommendations

B.1.5 The earlier pottery is clearly residual but possibly indicates nearby early settlement. This material should certainly be kept. However, in view of the small size and fragmentary condition of the pottery assemblage no further work is recommended.

Table 1. Pottery Dates

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
101	c1775-1900	3	39	2 vess. 2 joining sherds coarse Midlands-type black glazed buff ware in coal measures clay, overfired to near butter jar hardness. Prob from a storage jar, 1x worn heavy beaded jar or bowl rim in pale orange post-med red earthenware with internal clear glaze
102	c1775-1900	2	5	1x worn bs Midlands-type black glazed ware - v similar to that in 101. 1x residual small worn bs (2g) soft reduced fine sand-tempered ware - Prehistoric/Romano-British? (pers. comm. Dan Stansbie)

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
407	Prehistoric/ Romano-British	1	1	Small worn scrap ?Jurassic limestone-tempered pottery (pers. comm. Dan Stansbie). Sieved sample <1>
408	Late Iron Age/Early Roman	1	12	Worn basal sherd grog-tempered ware (pers. comm. Dan Stansbie)
TOTAL		**7**	**57**	

B.2 The Animal Bone

by Rachel Scales

Methods

B.2.1 The animal bone was recorded following the protocol outlined in Serjeantson (1996). Where possible fragments were identified to species using the Oxford Archaeology Zooarchaeology reference collection. Fragments that could not be identified to species were put into categories: large mammal sized (e.g. cattle, horse or large deer) and medium mammal sized (e.g. sheep, goat, pig).

Results

B.2.2 A total of nine bones were recovered from the site, of which five were identifiable to species level; of the nine bones, one fragment was recovered from a sieved environmental bulk sample. Dog (*Canis familiaris*) and sheep/ goat (*Ovis aries*/ *Capra hircus)* bones were identified along with fragments of bone from large and medium sized mammals (Table 2).

Table 2. Number and percentage of identifiable bones.

Context	Element	SPECIES			
		Dog	Sheep / goat	Large Mammal	Medium Mammal
407	Long bone				1
408	Zygomaticus	1			
	Rib			1	
	Metacarpal	2			
	Metatarsal		1		
	First Phalange		1		
	Long bone				1
	Indeterminate			1	
	Total	3	2	2	2

B.2.3 The bone collected came from two different contexts associated with the fill of a ditch. One medium mammal long bone fragment was retrieved from an environmental soil sample (407) along with a piece of pottery thought to be Prehistoric to Romano-British in date. The remainder of the material was hand collected from context (408) which produced some fragments of 1st Century Roman pottery and lava quern (Table 1).

B.2.4 The condition of the bones was on the whole quite poor. The bone surface on a number of the bones had been eroded away and the bones were pitted and scarred from plant root action. The bone assemblage was collected from Trench 4 which was located on well maintained grassland, so given the long term agricultural use of the land the poor condition of the bone is not perhaps unexpected.

B.2.5 No evidence for burning was found on the bones. One large mammal rib had a cut mark on it. Carnivore gnawing was observed on four of the bones. The presence of both dog

bones and carnivore gnawing on the assemblage suggests that dogs were living in proximity to the site. The dog skull fragment was from a particularly large individual. When considered together the fragments of sheep/ goat bones, large mammal bones, butchery mark and evidence for dogs, along with the finds of pottery and quern stone from this context all appear to reflect domestic activity.

Comments

B.2.6 The assemblage from Leycroft Manor Farm was small, and not well preserved. It gives some scant evidence for domestic activity at the site. Further work on this material is not recommended at this time, but should further excavations be carried out at the site it should be included in future analysis.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

C.1 Environmental

by Wendy Smith

Introduction

C.1.1 Environmental sampling was carried out by Oxford Archaeology during 2008 field evaluation excavations at Leycroft Manor Farm, Souldern. Sampling was carried out in order to establish:

(i) if ecofacts (e.g. charred plant remains, animal bones, molluscs, etc...) are present

(ii) if those ecofacts present are of interpretable value

(iii) if small artefacts are present.

C.1.2 In addition, sampling during the evaluation fieldwork may help to inform future sampling strategies in this location.

Method

C.1.3 A single 40L soil sample (sample <1>) was collected for environmental evidence from the primary fill (context 407) of a Roman ditch (406). Another context (408) from this ditch produced pottery dated to the first century AD. The sample was processed by flotation using a modified Siraf-style machine. with the sample residue held on a 500µm mesh and the flot collected on a 250µm mesh. Flots and residues were dried in a heated room at approximately 30°C. The dried heavy residues were sorted by eye for charred plant remains, along with other ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, charcoal, molluscs, etc…) and artefacts (e.g. pottery, industrial debris, etc...).

Results

C.1.4 Table 3 presents the results for environmental finds recovered from the flot.. Table 4 presents the ecofacts and artefacts recovered from the heavy residue fractions. Charcoal was observed in the flot, but all fragments were < 2mm. No charred plant remains (seeds, nuts, fruits, etc...) were noted from the flot or heavy residue fractions. Snail shells were present in the flot and heavy residue fractions of the sample, but the assemblage is not particularly diverse. *Cecilioides acicula*, which can burrow to depths of 2m, was abundant in the flot and from the transparent appearance of the shells it seems likely that the land snail fauna is relatively modern. A single unidentifiable bone fragment was recovered from the heavy residue as well as a single small body sherd of coarseware pottery. A round, slightly vitreous, non-magnetic 'globule' was also recovered from the heavy residue.

Potential

C.1.5 Charred seeds were not observed in ditch (406) sample <1>, context 407. All of the charcoal observed was small-sized (< 2mm) and unlikely to be identifiable. The single bone fragment recovered from the heavy residue is unidentifiable, but likely to be from a mammal. Land snails are relatively abundant (ca. 100 items) but are overwhelmingly dominated by remains of *Cecilioides acicula* and, therefore, likely to be relatively modern or sub-fossil. The coarseware body sherd recovered is also unlikely to be identifiable, although the fabric may be distinctive. The 'globule' recovered from the

heavy residue may be related to an industrial process. The material sorted from the heavy residue has been retained for future analysis.

Recommendations

C.1.6 This sample produced only one animal bone and no charred seeds. No further analysis of land snails (which are likely to be modern or sub-fossil) or charcoal (which is primarily too small-sized to be identifiable) recovered from this sample is necessary. Fragments of pottery and a possible industrial residue have been retained; no further work is necessary now, but if further work is carried out on this site these should be assessed by the appropriate specialist.

C.1.7 Roman plant remains are well studied in Oxfordshire (English Heritage Environmental Archaeology Bibliography http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/specColl/eab_eh_2004 – consulted 21 April 2008) and several reports are available for the Bicester area (e.g. Giorgi and Robinson 1984; Pearson 1997; Pelling 2002; Robinson 1976). However, early Roman data is relatively scarce. As a result, any future environmental sampling from this site (especially early Roman features form the site) will be of regional importance and should include intensive sampling, with regular collection of at least 40 L of sediment for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoal, as well as other ecofacts (e.g. snails and bone) and artefacts.

Table 3. Evaluation results for ditch [406] sample <1> flot, from context (407) at Leyland Manor, Souldern, Bicester, Oxfordshire

Site Code	Sample No	Context No	Feature Type	Purpose	Phase	Floated Volume (L.)	Flot Vol. (ml)	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other Charred	Bone	Charcoal	Mollusc	Comments on CPR	CPR Potential	Full Analysis CPR	Charcoal potential	Full Analysis Charcoal
SOLEM F08	1	407	Primary fill of Roman ditch [406]	Charred Plant remains	Roman	40 L	124 ml	-	-	-	-	-	++	++ ++	25% of flot scanned. Flot is quite dirty - large amount of ?oolitic limestone grit in flot. No CPR observed. Charcoal present is all small-sized (< 2mm). Molluscs present in flot and heavy residue - mixture of taxa, but *Cecilioides acicula* prevalent in flot. CPR assessed as POOR.	C	N	C	N

Table 4. Evaluation results for ditch [406] sample <1> heavy residue, from context (407) at Leyland Manor, Souldern, Bicester, Oxfordshire

Item sorted/ retained	Sample	context	> 10 mm	10–0.5mm
Land snails	<1>	407		15
pottery (body sherd < 5mm)	<1>	407		1
bone fragment (unidentifiable)	<1>	407		1
? Industrial debris (round object 1.5mm)	<1>	407		1

Appendix D. Bibliography and References

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Appendix E. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Leycroft Manor Farm, Souldern, Bicester

Site code: SOLEMF08

Grid reference: SP 5238 3094

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: April 2008, 4 Days

Area of site: 6 trenches; 30 m x 1.5 m

Summary of results: Six evaluation trenches revealed a Roman enclosure ditch, a series of medieval furrows and undated linear features.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire County Museums service in due course, under the following accession number: 2008.28

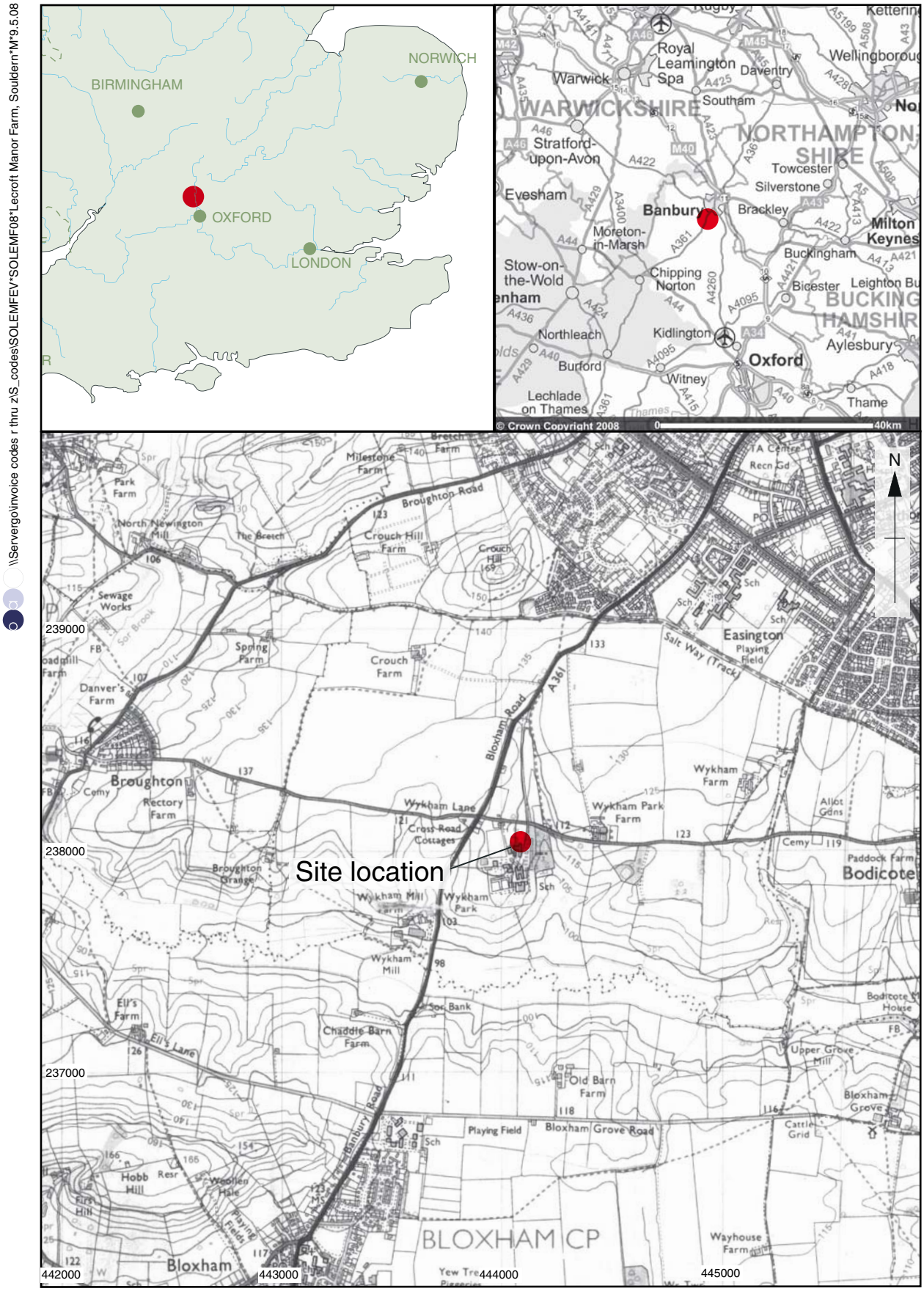
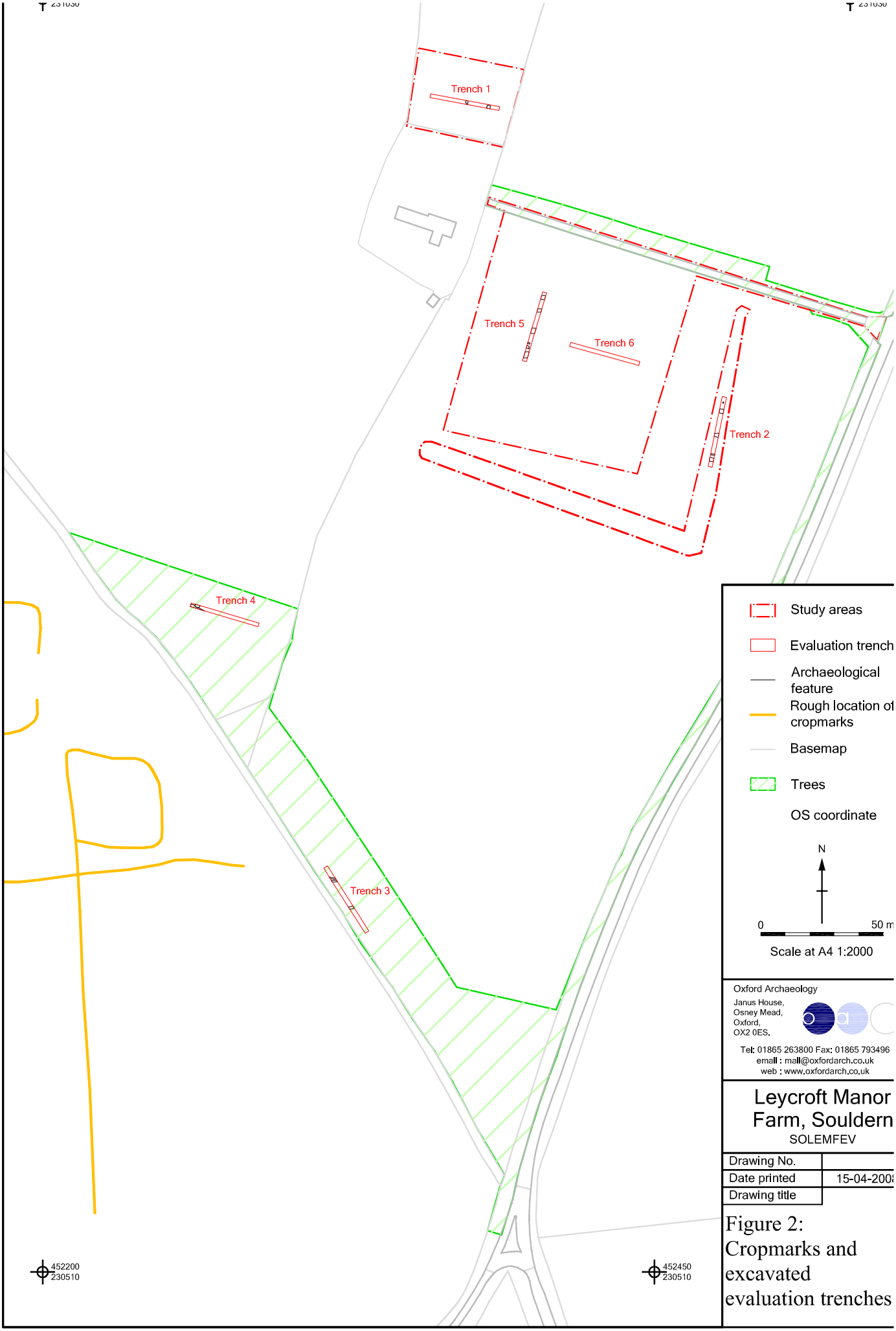


Figure 1: Site location



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Leycroft Manor Farm, Souldern

SOLEMFEV

Drawing No.	
Date printed	15-04-200
Drawing title	

Figure 2: Cropmarks and excavated evaluation trenches

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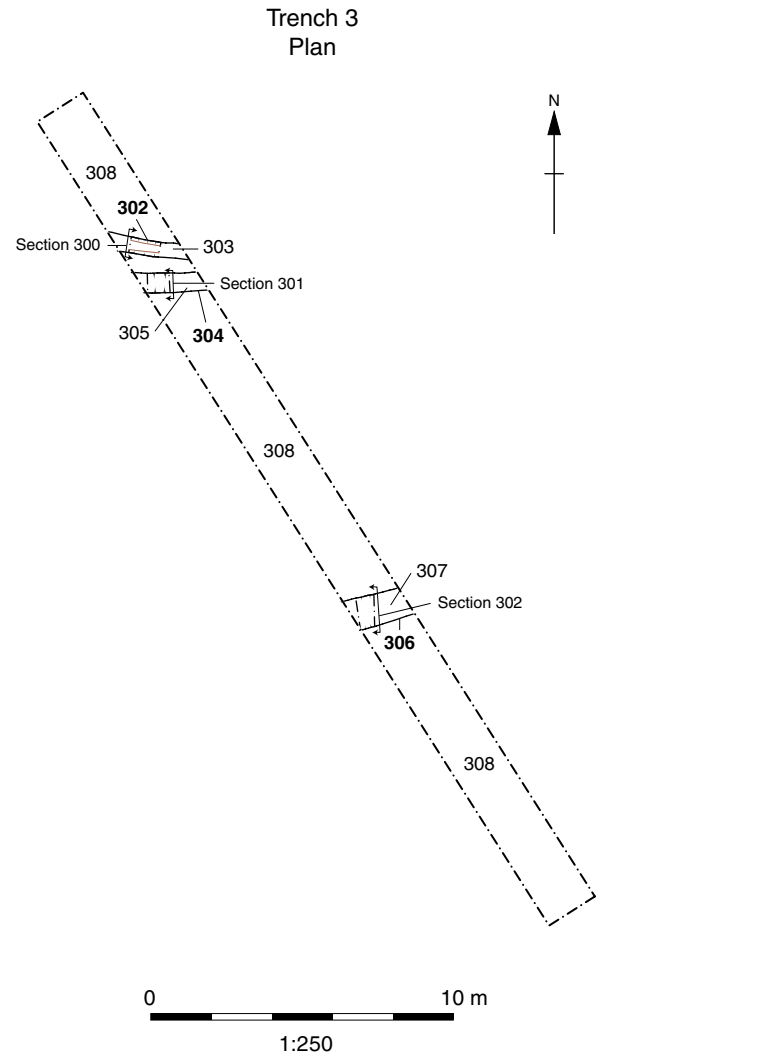
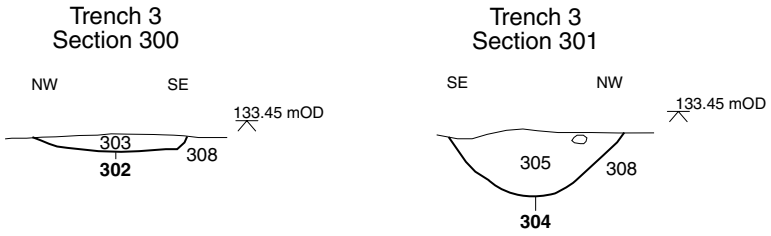




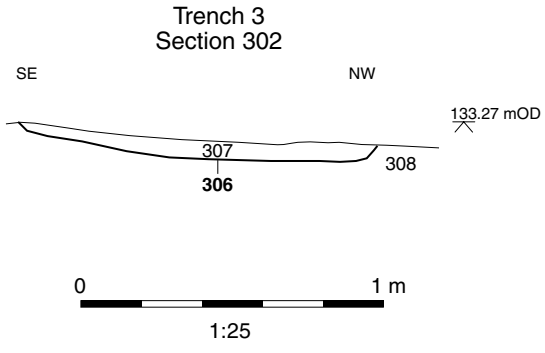
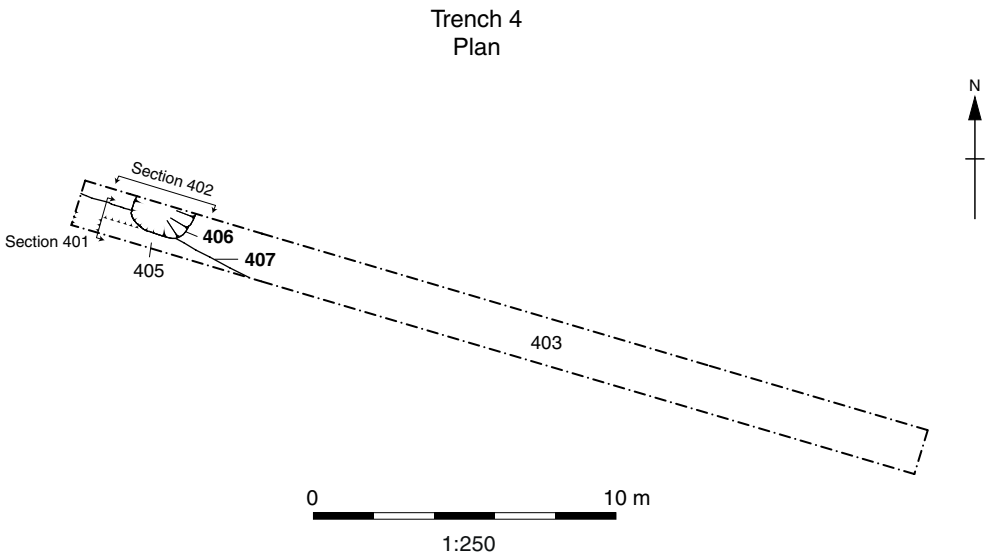
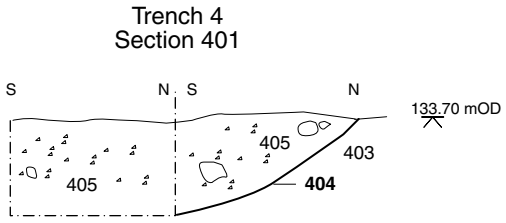


Figure 3: Trench 3, plan and sections





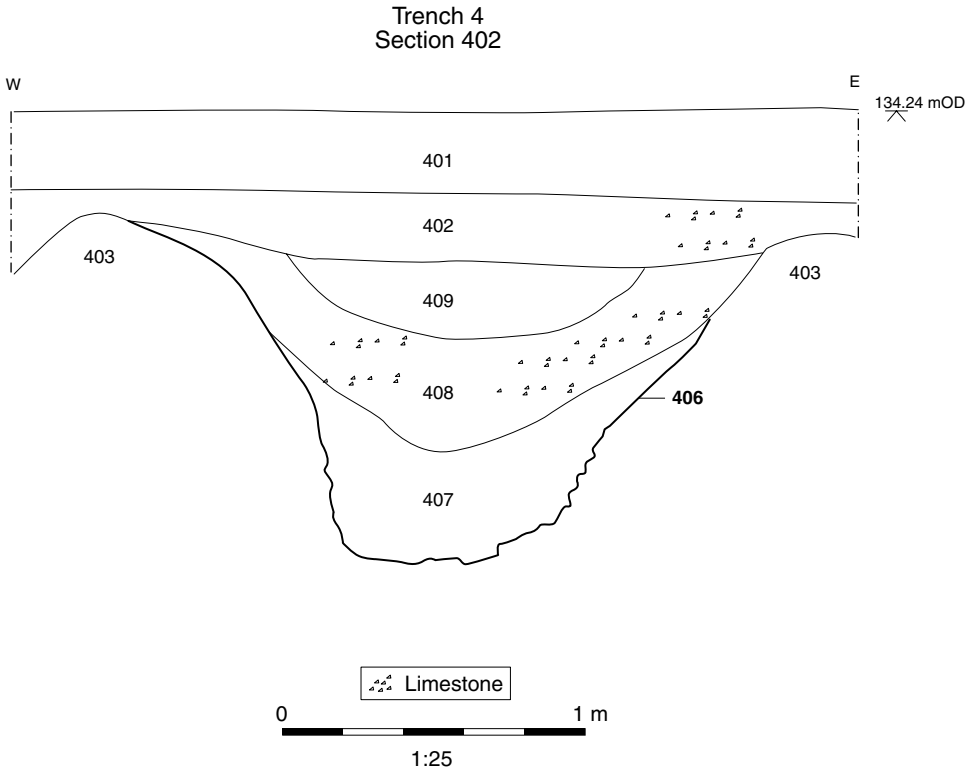


Figure 4: Trench 4, plan and ditch sections

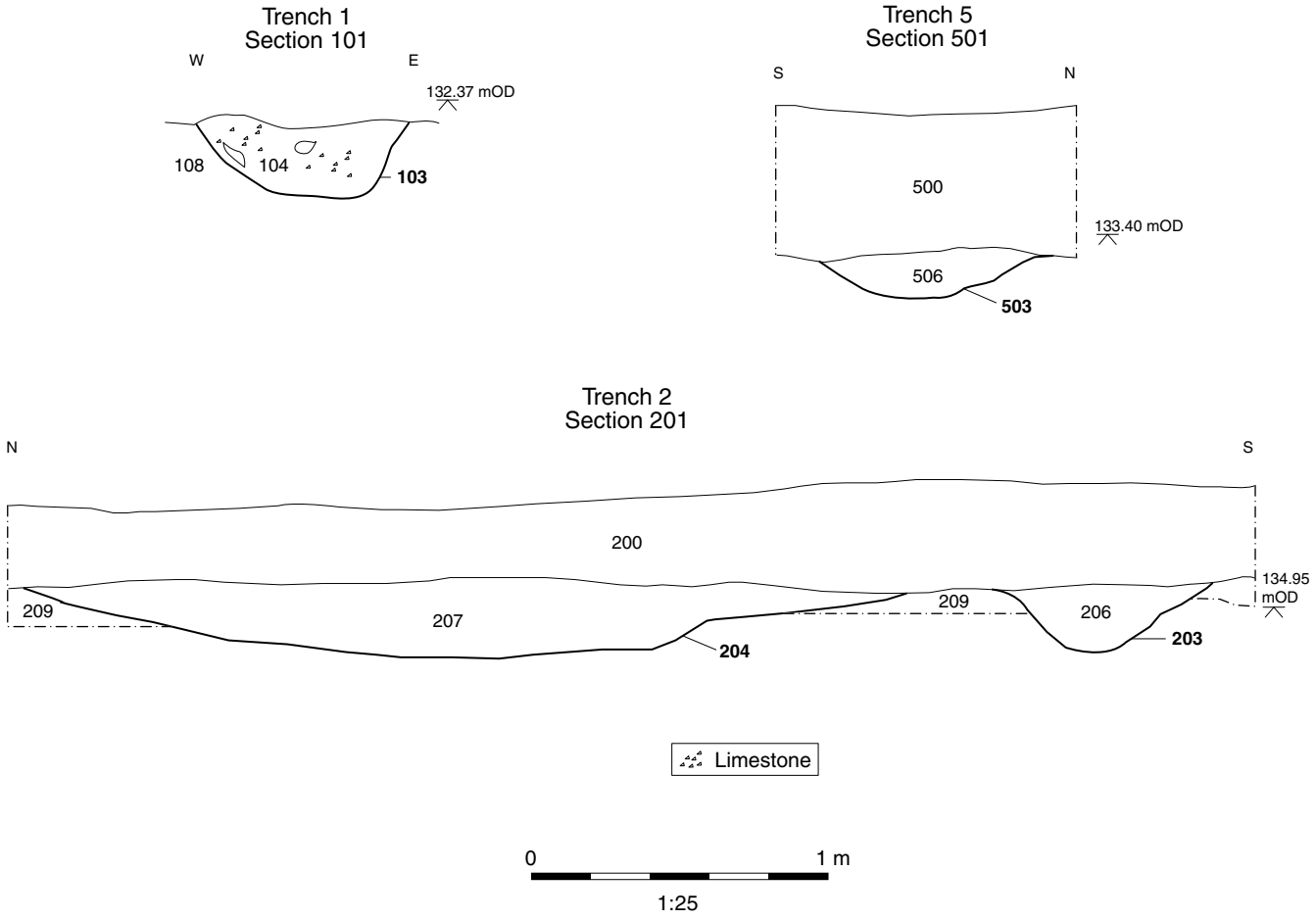


Figure 5 : Sections 101, 209 and 501

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