Reading Civic Headquarters and Hosier Street Masterplan

Archaeological Evaluation Report

oxfordarchaeology

February 2008

Client: Mace Ltd

Issue No: 1
OA Job No: 3726
NGR: SU 713 733

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client Name: Mace Ltd

Client Ref No:

Document Title: Reading Civic Headquarters and Hosier Street Masterplan

Document Type: Evaluation

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: NGR SU 713 733
Planning Reference:

OA Job Number: 3726
Site Code: RECIHQ 08
Invoice Code: RECIHQEV
Receiving Museum: Reading Museum
Museum Accession No: REDMG:2008.33

Prepared by: James Mumford
Position: Project Officer
Date: 11th February 2008

Checked by: Andy Norton
Position: Project Manager
Date: 12th February 2008

Approved by: Nick Shepherd Signed…….
Position: Head of Fieldwork
Date: 13th February 2008

Document File Location X:\Reading Hosier St Evaluation\Eval report\RECIHQEV_Rep.doc
Graphics File Location Servergo:/oaupubs1_RtoZ*RECIHQEV*Reading Civic Headquarters*MD*28.01.08
Illustrated by Markus Dylewski

Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES
t: (0044) 01865 263800 e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
f: (0044) 01865 793496 w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Reading Civic Headquarters and Hosier Street Masterplan

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

SUMMARY

In January 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the site of the Reading Civic Headquarters and Hosier Street Masterplan, Reading, Berkshire. The work was on behalf of Mace Ltd in advance of a planning application for the redevelopment of the Hosier Street area of Reading, and construction of a new Civic Centre. The evaluation revealed possible medieval pits overlain by a garden or cultivation soil. A re-cut 16th century boundary ditch, 16th- and 17th-century pits and post-medieval garden soils were also recorded. Redeposited medieval pottery and roof tile was recovered from the features, as well as the disarticulated skeletal remains of two individuals. It is likely that prehistoric, Roman or Saxon burials are located in close proximity to the evaluation trenches. The post-medieval features were overlain by a 19th century garden soil, which was cut by the footings of a 19th century school and terraced properties.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In January 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at the site of the Reading Civic Headquarters and Hosier Street Masterplan, Reading, Berkshire (NGR SU 713 733). The work was on behalf of Mace Ltd in advance of a planning application for the redevelopment of the Hosier Street area of Reading, and construction of a new Civic Centre. The archaeological evaluation was requested by Berkshire Archaeology (BA) to determine the presence/absence of significant archaeological remains. If significant archaeological remains were revealed during evaluation, the mitigation of those archaeological remains would be a condition attached to any future planning permission. OA produced a Project Design (OA 2007b) outlining how the archaeological requirements of the work would be met.

1.1.2 The Masterplan Area is situated in the centre of Reading, on the north side of Castle Street (Fig. 1). It includes an access road off Castle Street and extends along the rear of the Police Station, Magistrates Court and other buildings fronting Castle Street. The Inner Distribution Road (IDR) forms the western boundary and St Mary's Butts the eastern boundary. To the north of the Masterplan Area are the Yell Building and Broad Street Mall. At present the area contains the Hexagon, the existing Civic Centre and a network of access roads and underground car parks. The car parks and Hexagon are to be retained, with some changes to the road layout.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The Masterplan Area lies on the edge of the gravel terrace associated with the River Thames, which lies *c* 1 km to its north. It also lies on the southern edge of the underlying Chalk bedrock, which itself overlies the Reading Beds sands.

1.2.2 The topography of the site is complex, largely as a result of excavations for the car parks and access roads. The IDR runs through a cutting below the level of the main pedestrian area around the Civic Centre and Broad Street Mall. The level there is slightly higher than that of Castle Street and St Mary's Butts, with the paths graded to slope up gently from street level (*c* 45 m OD).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

General

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been the subject of a separate desk study (OA 2007a), the results of which are summarised below. No archaeological investigations have been carried out in the Masterplan Area although a well was uncovered in the road at St Mary's Butts in 1951. A topographic survey was carried out by David J Powell Survey Ltd in 2007 for the proposed redevelopment of the Hosier street area. There are several known sites with archaeological remains adjacent to the development site.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 No archaeological sites or finds dating from the prehistoric period have been identified within the Masterplan Area. However, a Neolithic flint axe, stray finds from the Mesolithic to Bronze Age periods, and an Iron Age coin and brooch have been found within 600 m of the Masterplan Area.

Romano-British

1.3.3 One coin dated to the Roman period was recovered in *c* 1961 from the garden of 53 Hosier Street, which used to lie within the Masterplan Area.

1.3.4 A number of isolated chance finds of pottery and coins have been found in the area around the site, and as residual finds in excavations in Gun Street and Friar Street. Most of the Roman finds in Reading have been found further to the south and east of the River Kennet, which runs *c* 250 m south of the Masterplan Area.

Anglo-Saxon

1.3.5 The evidence for occupation in the Reading area following the end of Roman occupation is very sparse. The first documentary mention of the town comes from 870 AD, when the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records the overwintering of the Viking army, whose camp is thought to have lain *c* 1 km to the east of the Masterplan Area, possibly on the site of the medieval abbey. The Minster church is believed to have been on the site of the present St Mary's church, where a Saxon burial was found with a coin hoard dated to *c* 875 AD in 1839. It is also possible that there was a nunnery by the Minster. Reading was a royal borough by 1086 when the Domesday Book was compiled, probably established by Edward the Confessor during whose reign a mint operated in the town.

1.3.6 The precise location and extent of Saxon Reading is unknown and very little archaeological evidence has been recorded for this period. However, Astill has suggested that the western limits of the Saxon town run through the Masterplan area (Astill 1978, fig. 23). Saxon cultivation soils have been found at 90-93 Broad Street, and 7-8 Broad Street. A dagger or spearhead was found at 3-7 Queen's Road and another spearhead, probably 10th-century, at the Courage Brewery site in 1967. Stray finds have also come from excavations at Friar Street and Castle Street, and the flint-lined well uncovered in St Mary's Butts in 1951 may be of Saxon date.

Medieval

1.3.7 Reading grew in importance throughout the medieval period, particularly following the foundation of Reading Abbey by Henry I in the early 12th century. The modern road layout of the centre is thought to have originated in the medieval period, and medieval occupation has been identified at many locations within the town, some within 150 m of the Masterplan Area.

1.3.8 A major development during this period was the extent to which land reclamation was carried out around the River Kennet and then developed with wharves, warehouses and other buildings. This area, *c* 300 m to the south-east of the Masterplan area, also contained the Holy Brook, which served the Abbey Mill. The Courage Brewery site, occupying both sides of Bridge Street, 300 m south-east of the Masterplan Area, and that of The Oracle, *c* 400 m to the south-east, have revealed much about the waterfront and at the latter site one of Reading's medieval mills has also been identified.

1.3.9 The number of churches in the town increased as the population increased. Within 600 m of the Masterplan Area are St Laurence's, St Giles and Greyfriars. The church is all that remains of the 13th century friary, and served as a guildhall and bridewell before its restoration to a church in 1863. Reading is thought to have had a castle for a short period, but this was demolished in *c* 1153.

1.3.10 The earliest available map of Reading is a modern plot of the town in 1552 based on documentary records. This plan refers to Hosier Street as Luckemere Lane and only shows development along a short stretch of its north side.

Post-medieval

1.3.11 Following the Dissolution, Reading Abbey was a royal possession and was demolished from 1550 onwards, the stone being reused elsewhere. Cloth working remained important for the town in the 16th and 17th centuries, but gradually malting began to gain prominence, boosted by the development of the Kennet and Avon Canal as a transport route (Peyt 1993, 84). The position of Reading on the main road from London to Bath made it an important stop for coaches (Phillips 1980, 44). By 1611 when Speed produced his map of Reading, building had begun on the south side of Hosier Street. However, most of The Masterplan Area was still located within fields.

1.3.12 During the Civil War Reading was held by both the King and Parliament. It was a Royalist garrison from 1642 until April 1643 when the town surrendered following a siege (Phillips 1980, 67). In 1642 a ring of defensive earthworks and redoubts had been constructed around the town (Slade 1969, map), part of which ran close to the western edge of the Masterplan Area. Rocque's Map of 1761 shows buildings around the east end of Hosier Street with gardens further west, although the road itself had been completed. There is no sign of any defensive earthworks remaining.

1.3.13 A plan of Reading was produced in 1802 for the local authority and this shows that building was increasing along Hosier Street, but the western section, where the Hexagon and Civic Centre are now located was still undeveloped, mostly in use for gardens.

Modern

1.3.14 By 1879 when the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map was published the centre of Reading had changed radically. The fields between Hosier Street and Oxford Road had disappeared below a network of streets, terraced housing and small industrial premises. A row of buildings lined the east side of St Mary's Butts in front of the church and there was still a block of development in the centre of the street. The Episcopalian church of St Mary opened in Castle Street in 1798 and is shown next door to an inn. On Hosier Street a Methodist Chapel and St Mary's School were the most significant buildings. In the area between Hosier Street and Castle Street, on the Police Station site, was a coach manufactory. The brewery behind 17 Castle Street is also shown. Further south both the Holy Brook and Mill Stream have disappeared or been culverted.

1.3.15 Following World War II some of the buildings lining Hosier Street had been demolished, particularly on the north side. The sawmill on Hope Street to the north had closed and been replaced by a car park, which extended to Hosier Street. By 1970 the IDR had been constructed and a large swathe of land between Oxford Road and Castle Street cleared in anticipation of redevelopment. The IDR was placed in a deep cutting and the 1970 OS map shows embankments at the edges of the development area. By that stage all the buildings on the north side of Hosier Street had been demolished apart from the group at the east end which still survive. Demolition had also taken place on the south side, but the east end was still built up. Demolition had not begun on Castle Street, but the west side of St Mary's Butts had been cleared apart from around its corner with Hosier Street, and a block about midway between there and Oxford Road. This group survives within the new development.

1.3.16 The 1979 OS map shows the Masterplan Area essentially as it is today, with the public conveniences and the Spanish Civil War Memorial the only clear addition since that date. To its north the Yell Building and hotel had not been constructed. No buildings surviving along the south side of Hosier Street and clearance had extended partway along St Mary's Butts. On Castle Street all the buildings west of the car park

entrance had been replaced by the Police Station and Magistrate's Court. East of the entrance the building line had attained its present layout.

2 EVALUATION AIMS

General

2.1.1 General aims were to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains within the proposal area, and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains that may affect further need for mitigation during the construction process.

2.1.2 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features, and to make available the results of the investigation.

Specifically

2.1.3 To establish the location of the western limits of the Saxon town, and any associated occupation evidence.

2.1.4 To establish evidence for the medieval and post-medieval occupation of Hosier Street.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of fieldwork

3.1.1 The fieldwork comprised a 10% evaluation of an area of proposed new basements and roads (Fig. 2). Trench 1 (measuring 5 m by 1.6 m) was designed to locate evidence of Hosier Street and any medieval or post medieval properties that fronted it.

3.1.2 Trench 2 (measuring 36 m by 2 m) was designed to locate evidence for the western limits of Saxon Reading (a ditch and/or bank), and evidence for Saxon properties, as well as medieval and post medieval activity within the yards of properties fronting Hosier Street.

3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

3.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket.

3.2.2 The trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures laid down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (OAU 1992).

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.4.1 No deposits suitable palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered.

3.5 Presentation of results

3.5.1 Section 5 comprises a detailed description of the deposits within each trench, including individual context descriptions, with archaeological features described from earliest to latest. General context information is summarised in the inventory (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 The site is located on brickearth overlying chalk, and the pit fills were generally derived from a mixture of these deposits and cultivation soils. The archaeological deposits survived to a depth of 2.5 m below ground level, and so as to establish the level of natural geology the use of shoring was required.

4.1.2 Live services were located to the north and west of Trench 1.

4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

4.2.1 No archaeological remains were revealed within Trench 1, the trench was entirely located within the embankment of the modern underpass. Medieval and post-medieval pits, walls and garden soils were located throughout Trench 2.

5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Archaeological deposits

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

5.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the western part of the evaluation area. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m below ground level (44.9 m OD), where a dumped deposit of chalk (4) was revealed. The deposit contained modern bricks and reinforced iron bars. The deposit was overlain by a 0.15 m to 0.6 m thick brown silty sand, with flinty gravel (3). A 0.3 m thick layer of buried topsoil (2) and the 0.3 m thick modern topsoil (1) overlay the deposits.

Trench 2 - medieval (Figs 4-5)

5.1.2 Trench 2 was located in the eastern part of the proposed basement area. Natural brickearth (108, 125 and 199) was revealed *c* 1.3 m below ground level (43 m OD in the west of the trench and 43.2 m OD in the east of the trench). In the east end of the

trench the natural was cut by probable pits (126 and 128 - Figs 4 and 5, Section 3). Pit 126 was obscured by a later wall, but was over 1.5 m long, over 0.3 m wide and 0.42 m deep. It had near vertical sides rounding sharply to a flat base. It was filled by a dark brown silty sand with orange patches (127), no finds were recovered. Pit 128 was circular and measured over 0.7 m wide and 0.3 m deep. It had very steep sloping sides and was filled by a dump of chalk fragments with flint pebbles (132), below a reddish brown silty sand (131). A fragment of medieval roof tile was recovered from fill 131. The pit fills were overlain by a 0.16 m thick, silty sand loam cultivation/garden soil (133).

Trench 2 - mid-16th century (Figs 4-6)

5.1.3 In the middle of the trench the natural had been cut by a NE-SW aligned ditch (169), measuring over 1 m wide and 0.48 m deep (Figs 4 and 6 - Section 7). It was filled by a grey brown silty loam (160) that contained no finds. The ditch had been re-cut (109) along its western side, the re-cut measured 2 m wide and 0.6 m deep. It was filled by sandy silts (137 and 155). Fill 137 contained animal bone, ceramic building material (CBM), a horseshoe and pottery dating from the mid-16th century.

5.1.4 At the western end of the trench a possible silty loam pit fill (130) and the natural (199) were cut by a large pit (190), measuring over 4 m wide and 1.5 m deep. It had an undulating base, and was filled by dumps of silty sand loam (187 - 189), below a sandy silt (129). The fills contained animal bone, nails, fragments of medieval and post-medieval CBM and pottery dating from the mid 16th century. Overlying fill 129 was a deposit of re-deposited natural sandy silt (185).

5.1.5 The fills of the pit had been cut by pit 191, which measured 1.5 m x 0.8 m x 0.7 m, had vertical sides and was filled by a dark grey silty sand loam (192).

5.1.6 The western edge of pit 190 was truncated by a small pit (196), measuring 0.8 m wide and 0.8 m deep, with near vertical sides and concave base. It was filled by a brown silty sand (197), which contained redeposited medieval CBM and animal bone, below a silty clay (198) that contained 16th-century pottery and animal bone. The top of the pit contained a dump of redeposited garden soil (201).

5.1.7 The deposits were overlain by possible garden or cultivation soils (134, 153, 161, 165, 183, 185 and 186) that were between 0.2 m and 0.8 m thick.

Trench 2 - 17th century (Figs 4-6)

5.1.8 In the centre of the trench, soil horizon 165 had been cut by pit 112. The pit was rectangular, vertically sided, 1.3 m wide and 0.95 m deep. It was filled by sandy silts (156 and 157) that contained late 17th-century pottery, bone, glass, clay pipe and CBM. Fill 156 had been cut by a later pit (Figs 4 and 5 - Section 5), measuring 1.1 m wide and 0.9 m deep. It was filled by sandy silts (158 and 164), the lower of which contained CBM and the leg and arm bones of two individuals. The bones were redeposited, but probably originated from disturbed graves close to the trench.

5.1.9 In the west end of the trench pit 205 was revealed, measuring 2 m wide and 1 m deep. It was filled with sandy silts (180-182) and a silty clay (178). Pottery dating from the mid 17th century was recovered.

Trench 2 - 19th century (Figs 4-6)

5.1.10 Pit 141 was revealed in the centre of the trench and measured 3.3 m wide but the base of the pit was below the limits of safe excavation (Figs 4 and 5 - Section 4). It was filled by a silty sand loam (142) that contained 19th-century pottery, bone, glass, clay pipe and CBM.

5.1.11 The pit fills were overlain by 0.25 m to 0.35 m thick garden soil (135, 146 and 163) that contained pottery and CBM dating from the 19th century. In the western part of the trench a possible backfilled cellar was revealed (106). It measured 2 m x 5.1 m but its base was below the level of safe excavation (Figs 4 and 5 - Section 5). It was backfilled with loose silty sand (107) that contained mortar, CBM and pottery dating from the early 18th century. A NW-SE aligned wall (104) was constructed upon the fill (107); the bricks were dated to the late 18th or 19th century. The wall measured 0.35 m wide and 1.6 m high; two relieving arches were visible.

5.1.12 Wall 104 was abutted by a NE-SW aligned brick wall 110, which stood three courses high, 0.7 m wide and was constructed on a concrete foundation. It was abutted by brick wall 105 at its south-west end, which was constructed over the line of wall 104, and wall 111 at its north-west end. Wall 111 was constructed on a concrete foundation. Within construction trench 204 (fill 203), at the western end of the trench, was a similarly constructed NE-SW aligned wall (102 - Figs 4 and 6, Section 6). The walls probably formed part of St Mary's School. In the north-west corner an associated brick soakaway was revealed.

5.1.13 NW-SE aligned walls (113, 114, 115 and 116) were revealed to the east of wall 111, and may have formed the eastern wing of the school. The walls were overlain by demolition layers (149 and 151) and floor make up layers (152 and 150 - Fig. 5, Section 4).

5.1.14 In the western end of the trench an outbuilding or toilet, from one of the terrace houses which fronted Hosier Street, was located. It was formed from concrete foundations and brick walls (117, 118 and 122). The walls were abutted by makeup layers (118 and 120) for a blue, brick tile floor (121).

5.1.15 At the east end of the trench wall 194 was revealed, it was similarly constructed to wall 104 to the west, with a relieving arch visible within construction trench 193 (fill 195). Wall 123 was constructed over the top of the structure.

5.1.16 Modern pits (170 and 176) filled with demolition deposits (162, 174, 175 and 179 truncated the walls, and the deposits were overlain by modern levelling deposits (101) for the existing grassed area (100).

5.2 Finds

Pottery

5.2.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 101 sherds with a total weight of 7422 g. It was entirely post-medieval, apart from three small sherds of residual medieval material.

5.2.2 The range of fabric types is typical of sites in Reading and its hinterland. The bulk of the pottery came from pit fill 156, and comprises a mixture of utilitarian and display wares which is typical of the late 17th century. It is most notable for the presence of three side-handled pipkins in Red Earthenware, which are typical cooking vessels of the period, although only two of them shows actual signs of use in the form of sooting. The rest of the assemblage from that context consists of other utilitarian wares, but also fragments of a large polychrome Tin-Glazed dish, which is likely to have been used at the table, rather than in the kitchen. Overall, the whole assemblage is what one would expect to see from a reasonably well to do urban household in the Thames Valley in the 17th and early 18th centuries.

Clay tobacco pipes

5.2.3 The excavation produced a total of 40 fragments of clay tobacco pipes. The assemblages were found in dumped pit fills and a cultivation soil. Of the total 40 fragments of clay tobacco pipes 36 were stem fragments. One of the stem fragments had the letters THO/MA/??? incised on it. The third letter on the third line may have formed a small D or the top of a B, P or R. The stem was incomplete and had broken along the third line of letters, but the letters probably formed the words 'Thomas' and a surname; perhaps Draper who was a pipemaker from Banbury in the late 17th and early 18th centuries (Oswald 1984, p. 261). The pipe bowls dated from 1690-1730. None of the bowls displayed makers marks or stamps.

Metalwork

5.2.4 A total of 14 pieces of ironwork were recovered. The metalwork is for the most part is heavily encrusted with corrosion products, which makes identification difficult.

5.2.5 Ten objects came from pit fill 156, which include two whittle tang knives, both broken into two pieces and one of which may be an early medieval or Saxon knife. Other finds from context 156 include a probable awl, and a possible tanged tool. Finds from other contexts include 2 nails, a small fragment probably from the heel of a horseshoe and a rectangular plate, possibly with nail holes in it.

Glass

5.2.6 A total of 5 glass objects were recovered from pit fills 142 and 156. These included the base of a cylindrical wine bottle of 19th-century date, and most of a small colourless bottle of uncertain use. The glass from pit fill 156 included two, possibly three olive green sherds, from the base of a shaft and globe late 17th-century wine bottle.

Ceramic Building Material

5.2.7 A total of 224 fragments (12640 g) of ceramic building material was recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage is composed primarily of roof tile of medieval date together with later material comprising bricks, flooring and roofing. Two pieces from pit fill 129, including one curved tile, may be Roman in date, but their identification is by no means certain. Several fragments of glazed tile were noted, mainly with brown or greenish brown glaze as either splatters or more extensive areas. A smaller amount of post-medieval roof tile was identified, usually occurring in finer fabrics.

5.2.8 Brick formed about a fifth of the assemblage. Much was very fragmentary but a few complete dimensions survived, all are likely to be of post-medieval date, probably covering a range from early, possibly Tudor, through 17th-18th century to possibly 19th century (one with grey charcoaly mortar adhering). Only two examples of floor tile were found, both of post-medieval date, probably *c* 18th-early 19th century.

Human skeletal remains

5.2.9 The remains of two skeletons were recovered from pit fill 158. Skeleton A was represented by the long bones of the arms and legs, and was found to be over at least 12 years of age, possibly a late adolescent. The reduction in size of this skeleton's left femur may represent disuse atrophy following trauma, although the preservation of the remains prevents any further investigation of this. The skeleton may also have had a fractured humerus. Skeleton B, of unknown age, was represented by a left femur, a left ulna and a small fragment of left radius, and displayed no pathological lesions. Sex could not be estimated for either individual.

Animal bone

5.2.10 A total of 170 refitted bones from 12 contexts were recovered from pit fills and garden soils. The two main domesticates, cattle and sheep/goat, dominate the assemblage. These were represented by 26 and 19 specimens respectively. Of the other domestic species, pig, dog and cat were identified. No wild species were identified, and with the exception of an ulna fragment from a domestic fowl, all remains were mammalian.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1.1 The results from Trench 1 demonstrated that the western edge of the evaluation area had been removed during the ground works for the construction of the Civic Centre and Hexagon in the 1960s.

6.1.2 Within Trench 2 the natural geology was located in three places at a depth of *c* 1.5 m below the present ground surface. No certain evidence for any Saxon activity was revealed, however a possible early medieval/Saxon knife and very abraded human remains were recovered from intercutting post-medieval pits. The human remains, although disarticulated, comprised bones from two individuals and it is likely that graves were disturbed by the post-medieval pitting. It is possible that the graveyard

associated with the Minster extended beyond St Mary's Butts, into the proposed development area. Alternatively the human remains my derive from isolated prehistoric or Roman burials.

6.1.3 As the full depth of deposits was only revealed in a few places, the potential for Saxon evidence still remains. It is possible that a defensive ditch or bank, defining the western limits of the Saxon town, might survive beneath the accumulated medieval and post-medieval garden/cultivation soils or obscured by post-medieval pitting.

6.1.4 The large assemblage of residual medieval roof tiles, indicates that properties possibly lined Hosier Street during the medieval period. The two pits sealed by a possible garden/cultivation soil may provide evidence for back yard activity. However, it is also possible that the area formed waste land at the edge of the medieval town. The roof tile may have originated from elsewhere in town and been dumped on the site.

6.1.5 The 16th-century pits and large amount of material remains indicate that Hosier Street was certainly occupied in the early post-medieval period, a fact supported by the 16th and 17th century cartographic evidence. The infilled cellar and the later walls with relieving arches may have formed part of 16th to 18th-century properties, and the ceramic assemblage indicates that the residents were of above average status. The 19th-century walls formed part of St Mary's School and a toilet/outbuilding in the back yard of a property fronting Hosier Street. Figure 7 demonstrates how the 19th-century walls are aligned with the footprints of these structures.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Depth. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
001							
	1	Layer		0.3 m	Topsoil		
	2	Layer		0.3 m	Topsoil make up		
	3	Layer		0.15 - 0.6 m	Make up		
	4	Layer			Make up		
002							
	100	Layer		0.25 m	Topsoil		
	101	Layer		0.3 m	Make up/ levelling layer		
	102	Wall	0.6 m	0.8 m	19th Century brick wall		
	103	Wall	1.3 m	2.7 m	19th Century soakaway		
	104	Wall	0.35 m	1.16 m	18th? Century brick wall		
	105	Wall	0.6 m	0.6 m	19th Century brick wall		
	106	Cut	5.1 m	0.8 m	18th Century feature		
	107	Fill			Fill of cut 106	Pottery, bone	E 18th C
	108	Natural			yellowish brown sand		
	109	Cut	0.66 m	0.6 m	Ditch		
	110	Wall	1 m	1 m	19th Century brick wall		
	111	Wall	1 m	0.7 m	19th Century brick wall		
	112	Wall	0.7 m	0.95 m	19th Century brick wall		
	113	Wall	0.35 m	0.5 m	19th Century brick wall		
	114	Wall	0.4 m	0.5 m	19th Century brick wall		
	115	Wall	0.4 m	0.5 m	19th Century brick wall		
	116	Wall	0.8 m	0.6 m	19th Century brick wall		
	117	Wall	0.5 m	1 m	19th Century brick wall		
	118	Wall	0.46 m	0.68 m	19th Century brick wall		
	119	Layer		0.1 m	Floor make up		
	120	Layer		0.1 m	Floor make up		
	121	Layer		0.1 m	Brick floor		
	122	Wall	0.85 m	0.85 m	19th Century brick wall		
	123	Wall	0.38 m	0.7 m	19th Century brick wall		
	124	Layer			Floor make up		
	125	Layer			Disturbed natural		

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Depth. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	126	Cut	0.3 m	0.42 m	Feature unknown		
	127	Fill			Fill of 126		
	128	Cut	0.3 m	0.3 m	Pit		
	129	Fill			Fill of 190	Pottery, bone, metalwork, CBM	M 16th C
	130	Fill			Possible pit fill		
	131	Fill			Fill of 128	CBM	
	132	Fill			Fill of 128		
	133	Layer		0.16 m	Soil horizon		
	134	Layer		0.6 m	Cultivated soil horizon		
	135	Layer		0.4 m	Soil horizon	Pottery	19th C
	136	Layer		0.1 m	Floor make up		
	137	Fill			Fill of ditch 109	Pottery, bone, metalwork, CBM	M 16th C
	138	Cut	0.9 m	1.1 m	Construction cut		
	139	Cut	0.5 m	0.6 m	Construction cut		
	140	Cut	0.4 m	1 m	Construction cut		
	141	Cut	3.3 m	0.9 m	Rubbish pit		
	142	Fill			Fill of pit 141	Pottery, Clay pipe, glass, CBM, bone	19th C
	143	Cut	0.6 m	0.45 m	Construction cut		
	144	Cut	0.5 m	0.45 m	Construction cut		
	145	Cut	0.85 m	0.8 m	Construction cut		
	146	Layer		0.3 m	Construction layer	Pottery	19th C
	147	Fill			Backfill of 143		
	148	Fill			Backfill of 144		
	149	Layer		0.06 m	Construction layer	Pottery, CBM	19th C
	150	Layer		0.08 m	Floor make up		
	151	Layer		0.12 m	Construction layer		
	152	Layer		0.08 m	Floor make up		
	153	Layer		0.9 m	Cultivated soil		
	154	Cut	1.1 m	0.8 m	Pit		
	155	Fill			Fill of ditch 109		
	156	Fill			Fill of pit 112	Pottery, Clay pipe, metalwork, glass, CBM, bone	L 17th C
	157	Fill			Fill of pit 112	Pottery, bone, metalwork, CBM	L 17th C

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Depth. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	158	Fill			Fill of pit 154	Human bone, CBM, bone	
	159	Fill			Backfill of 145		
	160	Fill			Fill of ditch 169		
	161	Layer		0.56 m	Cultivated soil		
	162	Fill			Series of modern deposits filling 170		
	163	Layer		0.35 m	Cultivated soil		
	164	Fill		0.24 m	Fill of pit 154		
	165	Layer		0.70 m	Cultivated soil		
	169	Cut	0.6 m	0.48 m	Ditch		
	170	Cut			Modern demolition cut		
	171	Cut	1 m	0.95 m	Construction cut		
	172	Cut	0.7 m	1 m	Construction cut		
	173	Layer		0.2 m	Disturbed soil horizon		
	174	Layer		0.1 m	Disturbed soil horizon		
	175	Layer		0.5 m	Demolition layer		
	176	Cut			Modern demolition cut		
	177	Void					
	178	Fill		0.24 m	Fill of 205		
	179	Fill			Fill of 176	Clay pipe	
	180	Fill			Fill of 176		
	181	Fill			Fill of 176	Pottery, bone	M 17th C
	182	Fill			Fill of 176	bone	
	183	Layer		0.2 m	Soil horizon		
	184	Layer		0.25 m	Cultivated soil		
	185	Layer			re-deposited natural		
	186	Layer		0.5 m	Cultivated soil		
	187	Fill			Fill of pit 190	Pottery, bone, metalwork, CBM	M 16th C
	188	Fill			Fill of pit 190		
	189	Fill			Fill of pit 190		
	190	Cut	1.8 m	0.8 m	Post-medieval pit		
	191	Cut	0.55 m	0.5 m	Post-medieval pit		
	192	Fill			Fill of pit 191		
	193	Cut	0.13 m	0.96 m	Construction cut		
	194	Wall			18th? Century brick wall		

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Depth. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
	195	Fill			Backfill of 193		
	196	Cut	0.44 m	0.22 m	Pit		
	197	Fill			Fill of pit 196	CBM, bone	
	198	Fill			Fill of pit 196	Pottery, bone	M 16th C
	199	Natural			yellowish brown sand		
	200	Cut	0.7 m	0.9 m	Construction cut		
	201	Fill			Fill of pit 196		
	202	Cut	0.55 m	0.6 m	Construction cut		
	203	Fill			Backfill of 204		
	204	Cut	0.6 m	0.8 m	Construction cut		
	205	Cut			Post-medieval pit		

APPENDIX 2 POTTERY

By Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 101 sherds with a total weight of 7422 g. It was entirely post-medieval, apart from three small sherds of residual medieval material. The following fabrics were noted:

M1: Local fine sandy ware, ?Late 11th –-? 14th century. A range of fine sandy fabrics, similar to those noted at the Reading Waterfront excavations (Underwood 1997, 144). Fine sandy wares such as these are found along a considerable length of the middle Thames Valley and its hinterland, and the problem of differentiating between the numerous different wares has been noted in the past (Mellor 1994, 84). Consequently, this fabric category should be regarded as a group of several similar traditions, rather than pottery from a single source. 2 sherds, 16 g.

ASH: Ashampstead ware, 12th - 14th century (Mepham and Heaton, 1995). Sandy ware, the main products of the kiln being jars and highly decorated glazed jugs, the latter often having painted geometric slip designs. It is thought that the kiln, which is located *c* 15 km to the west of Reading, was supplying the town with the bulk of the sandy wares found here, and it is entirely possible that F1 (above) at this site may also be from the same source, as it seems likely that there was more than one kiln at Ashampstead (ibid. 41). 1 sherd, 6 g.

GRE: Red Earthenware, **16th - 19th century**. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 45 sherds, 5841 g.

BW: Border Wares: **Mid 16th - 18th century**. Generic term for the post-medieval pottery industry of the Hampshire/Surrey border area (Pearce 1992). The range of fabrics comprised fine, sandy whitewares with an off-white to buff fabric and with yellow, green olive or brown glaze, and fine redwares with clear green to olive or brown glaze. The manufacture of whitewares ceased during the 18th century. Produced a wide range of late medieval and early post-medieval vessel types. 6 sherds, 44 g.

TGE: Anglo-Dutch Tin-glazed Earthenware 17th - early 18th century (Orton 1988). Fine white earthenware, occasionally pinkish or yellowish core. Thick white tin glaze, with painted cobalt blue or polychrome decoration. Range of table and display wares such as mugs, plates, dishes, bowls and vases. 5 sherds, 63 g.

SSW: Staffordshire Slipware. **AD1680 - 1750**. Fine cream fabric with white slip and pale yellow lead glaze, commonest decoration is feathered dark brown trailed slip. Chiefly press-moulded flat wares, although small bowls and mugs etc are known. 1 sherd, 21 g.

PORC: Chinese Porcelain: Hard, slightly translucent white fabric with a clear glaze, often with hand-painted polychrome decoration. Known in Europe from the 13th century but did not become common until the 16th century (Whitehouse 1972, 63). 1 sherd, 3 g.

IGE: Iron-glazed Earthenware, **late 17th - 18th century**. Range of large, heavy utilitarian vessels, mainly pancheons, with a thick, black, internal glaze. 5 sherds, 119 g.

MANG: Staffordshire Manganese Mottled Ware. **Late 17th - 18th century**. Hard buff fabric with distinctive purplish-brown glaze. Usually fine drinking pottery, but chamber pots and other more utilitarian vessels also known. 1 sherd, 35g.

SWSG: Staffordshire Salt-Glazed Stoneware, **AD1720 - 1780** Hard, white fabric with a distinctive white 'orange peel' textured glaze. Range of fine tablewares such as mugs tea bowls and plates. 1 sherd, 25 g.

19th: Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares. Mass-produced white earthenware's, stoneware's etc. 33 sherds, 1247 g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table A2.1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabric types is typical of sites in Reading and its hinterland. The bulk of the pottery came from a single context, 156, and comprises a mixture of utilitarian and display wares which is typical of the late 17th century. It is most notable three for the presence of three side-handled pipkins in Red Earthenware, which are typical cooking vessels of the period, although only two of them shows actual signs of use in the form of sooting. The rest of the assemblage from that context consists of other utilitarian wares, but also fragments of a large polychrome Tin-Glazed dish, which is likely to have been used at the table, rather than in the kitchen. Overall, the whole assemblage is what one would expect to see from a reasonably well to do urban household in the Thames Valley in the 17th and early 18th centuries.

	M1		ASH		GRE		BW		TGE		SSW		PORC		MANG		IGE		SWSG		19th		
Context No.	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
107					9	1472											1	23	1	25			E18th
129							1	2															M16th
135																					6	36	19th
137					4	65	1	12															M16th
142					6	783					1	21									22	1194	19th
146					3	18															4	5	19th
149																					1	12	19th
156					18	3343	3	29	5	65					1	35	3	82					L17th
157					3	142											1	14					L17th
181													1	3									M17th
187	2	16	1	6	1	10	1	1															M16th
198					1	8																	M16th
Total	2	16	1	6	45	5841	6	44	5	65	1	21	1	3	1	35	5	119	1	25	33	1247	

Table A2 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type, unstratified and post-medieval contexts only

APPENDIX 3 HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS

by Helen Webb

Introduction

This report details the findings of a specialist examination of human remains excavated from pit fill 158 during archaeological evaluation at Hosier Street, Reading.

Methods

The remains were examined in accordance with standard osteological practice (Brickley and McKinley 2004). Examination involved assessment of the minimum number of individuals, condition, completeness, and estimation of biological parameters (age and sex) where possible, as well as any other information that may be obtained, such as the presence of pathological lesions.

Results

Examination of the skeletal material revealed that a minimum of two individuals were present. One individual was represented by the remains of left and right humeri, and left and right femurs (skeleton A), whilst the remains of an additional left femur, a left ulna and a small fragment of left radius (probably all from the same individual), indicated the presence of a second, more robust, older individual (skeleton B). In addition, there were four other small bone fragments that could not be identified to a specific skeletal element, including three long bone shaft fragments and a probable long bone epiphysis fragment. In the absence of any element duplication, it must be assumed that these remains derived from the two individuals identified. A further nine bone fragments were identified as animal bone.

Both individuals were represented by less than 25% of the whole skeleton and all bones were very poor, with most surfaces heavily eroded. In places, erosion masked normal bone surface morphology and no joint surfaces had survived. Where bone surfaces had survived, there was a substantial amount of dark blackish/brown staining and intermittent small, slightly raised, crystalline deposits, possibly mineral deposits from the soil.

This pattern of bone survival and preservation is consistent with bone that has undergone heavy disturbance through exposure to the elements, repeated, deposition, water percolation within the soil and general ‘kicking around’ on the surface (Mckinley 2004).

Due to the absence of any sexually dimorphic traits, sex could not be estimated for either individual. The single left femur belonging to skeleton B lacked epiphyses and precludes any comment on this individual's age. For skeleton A, the fusion of the proximal ulna epiphysis suggested an age of over at least 12 years. The bones of this individual were generally quite small, and this may indicate that they had not reached adulthood by the time they died. However, the absence of any other indicators of age (for example, other epiphyses and a dentition) prevents more precise age estimation.

The left femur shaft belonging to skeleton A was abnormally thin in comparison with the right. Although this bone displayed severe post-mortem surface erosion (more so than the right femur), the size difference seemed to be related to factors beyond this, possibly pathological. General reduction in the size of a limb bone such as this may occur as the result

being unable to use the limb following trauma. The resultant 'wastage' of the bone is known as disuse atrophy (Roberts and Manchester 1995, 90). The absence of any associated bones, the left tibia/fibula, foot or pelvis, precludes further investigation of this. The left humerus belonging to the same skeleton had marked discontinuity (in the antero-posterior plane) in the alignment the bone towards the top of the shaft and was suggestive of an old healed fracture. Radiological investigation would be required to confirm this.

Conclusions

The human skeletal material described in this report represents the remains of two skeletons. Skeleton A was represented by the long bones of the arms and legs, and was found to be over at least 12 years of age, possibly a late adolescent. The reduction in size of this skeleton's left femur may represent disuse atrophy following trauma, although the preservation of the remains prevents any further investigation of this. The skeleton may also have had a fractured humerus. Skeleton B, of unknown age, was represented by a left femur, a left ulna and a small fragment of left radius, and displayed no pathological lesions. Sex could not be estimated for either individual.

APPENDIX 4 CLAY TOBACCO PIPES

By Andrew Norton

Introduction

The excavation produced a total of 40 fragments of clay tobacco pipes. The assemblages were found in dumped pit fills and a cultivation soil.

Methodology

All fragments were examined for evidence of markings, decoration and name stamps. Unmarked bowls have been dated by reference to Oswald's general typology (Oswald 1975). No attempt has been made to consider the bowl shape in terms of regional variations. Plain stems have been counted. Sufficient dating information has been obtained from bowl shape typology so no attempt has been made to assess their dates on stem bore analysis.

Results

The results of the assessment are tabulated below by context.

Of the total 40 fragments of clay tobacco pipes 36 were stem fragments. One of the stem fragments had the letters THO/MA/??? incised on it. The third letter on the third line may have formed a small D or the top of a B, P or R. The stem was incomplete and had broken along the third line of letters, but the letters probably formed the words 'Thomas' and a surname; perhaps Draper who was a pipemaker from Banbury in the late 17th and early 18th centuries (Oswald 1984, p. 261).

One of the bowls was fragmentary, although all could be dated. Two bowls were spurred and were most comparable to London type 20G, dating from 1690-1730. Two bowls were heeled and were most comparable to London type 9G, dating from 1680-1710. None of the bowls displayed makers marks or stamps.

Although the date ranges given are for London types it can be assumed that examples from Reading will have been made at a similar time.

Context	Stem Count	Bowl count	Comments
142	3	1	Fragmentary, spurred, type 18 or 20 G (1660-1730)
156	32	3	1 stem incised with ' THO/MA/??(?R)'; 2 x heeled type 9 G (1680-1710); 1 x spurred type 20 G (1690-1730)
179	1		

Table A4.1 Incidence of clay pipe stems and diagnostic fragments by context

APPENDIX 5 METALWORK

By Ian Scott

Introduction

The evaluation produced a small ironwork assemblage (n = 14). The metalwork is for the most part is heavily encrusted with corrosion products, which makes identification difficult.

Assemblage composition and provenance (Table A5.1)

Ten objects came from context 156. The finds from context 156 include two whittle tang knives, both broken into two pieces. One knife is incomplete - the point of the blade is missing - and blade form cannot be determined. The second knife is heavily encrusted, but it is clear that the back of the blade is slightly curved, and that it angles down to the tip. It is possible, but by no means certain, that this is an early medieval knife (possibly Saxon). Other finds from context 156 include a probable awl, and a possible tanged tool. Unfortunately the latter is particularly heavily encrusted, which precludes certain identification. There are three objects, which cannot be identified to function in part because they are encrusted with corrosion products. Finally there are 2 nails and large fragment of plate eroded to an irregular outline. The knives and some other finds from 156 would benefit from the being x-rayed.

Finds from other contexts include 2 nails, a small fragment probably from the heel of a horseshoe and a rectangular plate, possibly with nail holes in it. Again x-rays would be useful, especially to establish any nail holes or other features on the rectangular plate.
With the possible exception of the knives, none of the iron finds is closely dateable.

	Identification										
	Tools		Transport	Household	Misc	Nails	Query				
Context	awl	tanged tool?	horseshoe	knives	plate	nails	curved object	object	Plate?	nail or tool	Totals
129						1					1
137			1								1
156	1	1		2	1	2	1	1		1	10
157									1		1
187						1					1
Totals	1	1	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	1	14

Table A5.1: Summary of Ironwork assemblage by context

APPENDIX 6 GLASS

By Ian Scott

Introduction

There is a small glass assemblage (n objects = 5; n = of fragments = 8). The glass comes from two deposits, contexts 142 and 156.

Assemblage composition and provenance (Table A6.1)

Context 142 produced the base of a cylindrical wine bottle of 19th-century date, and most of small colourless bottle of uncertain use. The latter was mould blown in a two piece mould and can date no earlier than the 1820s.

The glass from context 156 included two, possibly three olive green sherds, from the base of a shaft and globe wine bottle with a quite shallow indent or pushup, and therefore possibly late 17th century rather than early 18th century in date. The other finds were a body sherd in green glass, from a vessel of uncertain form. This sherd appears to have yellow metallic flecks embedded in the metal. The remaining two fragments from this context are pieces of thin very regular window glass, which appears to be float glass. Float glass was not made before the 19th century, and therefore it possible that these sherds are intrusive in what otherwise is a late 17th- or early 18th-century assemblage.

	Identification				
Context	wine bottle	bottle	body sherd	Window glass	Totals
142	1	1			2
156	3		1	2	6
Totals	4	1	1	2	8

Table A6.1: Summary of the glass assemblage by context (fragment count)

APPENDIX 7 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

A total of 224 fragments (12640 g) of ceramic building material was recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage had a mean fragment weight of 56 g, a relatively small size reflected in the absence of any complete tiles or bricks. However much of the assemblage had suffered only low or moderate levels of abrasion.

The assemblage is composed primarily of roof tile of medieval date together with later material comprising bricks, flooring and roofing. Two pieces from context 129, including one curved tile, may be Roman in date, but their identification is by no means certain.

Methodology

The assemblage has been visually examined and recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet, which forms part of the archive. Fabrics have been characterised on the basis of visible macroscopic characteristics and with the use of a x10 hand lens.

Fabrics

The fabrics have been broadly differentiated and three fabric groups identified. Fabric C is a coarse sandy clay. Fabric D is a fine sandy clay. Fabric E is a laminated sandy clay containing high densities of medium-coarse quartz sand, red-maroon iron oxide grit or ferruginous clay pellets, cream calcareous silty clay pellets and in the coarsest variety (E3) broken chert pebbles. It has been divided into sub-types based on the degree of preparation and resulting fineness or coarseness of inclusions.

Description of the Forms

Roofing

Roof tile formed three quarters of the assemblage. All was flat, of peg tile variety, where evidence survived. The majority was medieval in character, being quite crudely made with rough finishes and ranging in thickness from 13-20 mm. No other dimensions survived. Peg holes were all circular, cylindrical in profile measuring 13-17 mm diameter and positioned between 20 and 35 mm from the top edge and *c* 35-40 mm from the side edge. One hole was blind and had not been broken suggesting some of the tile had not been used, at least not for roofing: roof tiles were often used set on edge for hearths, though burning was rarely noted on those recovered. Several fragments of glazed tile were noted, mainly with brown or greenish brown glaze as either splatters or more extensive areas. All are probably peg tile though none of the glazed sherds preserved a peg hole.

A smaller amount of post-medieval roof tile was identified, usually occurring in finer fabrics (C, D or E2). Two large pieces forming the upper half of two tiles was found in context 142. The tiles measured 13-15 mm thick by 160 mm and 165 mm wide. Peg holes were cylindrical measuring 14-15 mm in diameter or conical 12-13 mm narrowing to 8-9 mm.

Brick

This formed about a fifth of the assemblage. Much was very fragmentary but a few complete dimensions survived: thickness measured from 53-57 mm (2" – 2"¼) and one width 116 mm (4" ½). All are likely to be of post-medieval date, probably covering a range from early, possibly Tudor, through 17th-18th century to possibly 19th century (one with grey charcoaly mortar adhering).

Flooring

Only two examples were found, both of post-medieval date, probably *c* 18th-early 19th century. A fragment of plain floor tile 30-35 mm thick and a paver 30-38 mm thick, both had heavily worn surfaces.

Discussion

The quantity of building material is indicative of buildings in the area and the levels of abrasion suggest it had not been subjected to much movement or weathering between its primary use and final resting place. The quantity of medieval roof tile suggests buildings in the area were roofed with clay tile and were probably of timber frame construction with wattle and daub infill in the absence of any quantity of other building materials. Some of the roof tile had not been used for roofing as the blind peg holes had not been pierced; (these probably indicate the use of nails, rather than timber pegs for attaching the tiles). This may indicate some were used in other structures such as hearths or were stockpiled ready for repairs.

The small quantity of post-medieval brick, roof and floor tile derives from later buildings or more likely later modifications and refurbishments of the medieval buildings. The fact that many of the contexts producing ceramic building material contained a mixture of medieval and post-medieval types suggests the demolition of buildings that had been built and modified over a considerable period of time.

One piece of roof tile from context 137 may have been deliberately shaped to a circular disc *c* 80 mm diameter. Such items were often used as pot lids.

		Fab								
Form	Data	C	D	E	E var	E1	E2	E3	O	Grand Total
Brick	Sum of Nos			3			1	14		18
	Sum of Wt (g)			48			76	2551		2675
floor	Sum of Nos							1		1
	Sum of Wt (g)							155		155
Misc	Sum of Nos			4					18	22
	Sum of Wt (g)			17					227	244
Paver	Sum of Nos							1		1
	Sum of Wt (g)							182		182
Ridge?	Sum of Nos						1			1
	Sum of Wt (g)						30			30
Roof: flat	Sum of Nos	2	1	32	1	66	51			153
	Sum of Wt (g)	121	76	867	54	2845	2602			6565
Roof: peg	Sum of Nos		1			6	21			28
	Sum of Wt (g)		97			301	2391			2789
Total Sum of Nos		2	2	39	1	72	74	16	18	224
Total Sum of Wt (g)		121	173	932	54	3146	5099	2888	227	12640

Table A7.1: Summary quantification of ceramic building material by form

Context	Count	Wt (g)	Form	Fab	Date	Comments
129	2	30	Brick	E	Pmed?	
129	11	332	Roof: peg	E1, E2	Med	includes glazed of 13C-14C
129	1	30	Curved tile	E2	?	Could possibly be R-B
131	1	76	Roof: flat	D	C13-C14	glazed
137	1	48	Brick	E3	Pmed	
137	64	3417	Roof: peg	E1, E2, C	Med	The single piece in fab C maybe Pmed. One possibly shaped to circular disc.
137	4	17	Misc	E	~	
142	4	1404	Roof: peg	E2	Pmed	c C17-early C19
149	1	76	Brick	E2	Pmed	c. C18-C19
156	10	1083	Brick	E3	Pmed	Tudor type – early Pmed
156	56	2612	Roof: peg	E1, E2, D	Med	The one in fabric D looks early Pmed.
156	1	155	Floor	E3	Pmed	heavily worn surface
156	1	182	Paver	E3	Pmed	heavily worn surface
156	18	227	Misc	~	~	
157	3	1420	Brick	E3	Pmed	could be as late as C18
157	7	288	Roof: flat	E1	Late Med - early Pmed	
158	5	246	Roof: flat	E2	Med	
187	1	18	Brick	E	Pmed	
187	32	867	Roof: flat	E	Med	includes glazed of 13C-14C
197	1	112	Roof: peg	E2	Med	blind peg hole
Total	224	12640				

Table A7.2: Summary of ceramic building material by context.

APPENDIX 8 ANIMAL BONE

By Tara-Jane Sutcliffe

Introduction

This report communicates the results of analysis of the animal bone recovered from Reading Civic Headquarters, Berks. The site was evaluated by Oxford Archaeology in January 2008. A total of 170 refitted bones from 12 contexts were collected by hand from features of late- and post-medieval date. Of these 30 % (52) were unidentifiable fragments and a further 36 % (62) were identifiable only to generic categories of 'large' or 'medium' mammal.

Method

The bones were recorded where possible to element, species and handedness (L/R) using the standard osteological literature and a comparative skeletal reference collection at Oxford Archaeology, February 2008. The resulting database in Microsoft Access has been deposited with the full site archive.

All bones were counted, weighed and where practicable measured to the standard of von den Driesch (1976) at an accuracy of 0.01 mm. Completeness was recorded using a system of zones for the fragmented bones (Serjeantson 1996) and condition was graded on a 6-point scale from excellent (0) to unrecognisable (5). Modern breaks were noted and aggregated in order not to inflate the number of identified fragments per species (NISP). Tooth eruption and wear stages were recorded and interpreted following established guidelines (Grant 1982).

Results

The two main domesticates, cattle and sheep/goat, dominate the assemblage as per normal. These were represented by 26 and 19 specimens respectively (see Table A8.1). A single horse tooth was recorded and it is therefore likely that those bones recorded as 'large mammal' are largely cattle. Of the other domestic species, pig, dog and cat were identified. The category 'medium' mammal may therefore encompass sheep/goat, pig and larger sized dog.

Taken together cattle and sheep/goat were represented by most skeletal elements, with the exception is a noticeable absence of horn cores. Pig on the contrary were represented only by cranial elements, which occurred in two successive fills of a pit pottery dated to the late 17th century.

No wild species were identified, and with the exception of an ulna fragment from a domestic fowl, all remains were mammalian. In the absence of sieving a bias is evident in the assemblage against smaller remains.

The condition of the bone in the assemblage ranged from medium to poor (see Table A8.3). The makeup of the assemblage, together with abrasion and gnawing evidence suggest it to be largely re-deposited waste.

Judging by the epiphyseal fusion, the majority of the cattle and all sheep/goat bones derived from sub-adult and adult animals. The surface structure of three cattle bones indicated juveniles. In addition, a single sheep/goat pelvis was able to be sexed as female.

Butchering practices were evident on a sample of 15 bones from cattle, sheep/goat and large mammals, which suggest disarticulation, portioning and filleting of the meat bearing bones. Possible skinning marks were also noted on a cattle centrotarsal.

Recommendations

No further information can be gained from such a small sample of bones, but the data should be further considered should the site proceed to full excavation in the future.

	Cattle	Horse	Sheep/goat	Pig	Fowl	Dog	Cat	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Indet.	Totals
Horncores											
Skull			3	2				1	1		7
Mandible	1		4	1				1	1		7
Loose teeth	3	1	1	2				1			8
Atlas											
Vertebra								1	6		7
Rib								1	19		20
Sternum									1		1
Scapula	1								2		3
Humerus	5*		3*								8*
Radius	4		1								5
Ulna	1		1		1						3
Metacarpal	3		1			1					5
Pelvis			1						5		5
Femur									1		1
Tibia	4		2			1			1		7
Calcaneus			1								1
Centrotarsal	1										1
Metatarsal	1						1				23
Phalanx	2					1					
Indeterminate metapodial			1								1
Longbone								2	5	14	21
Indeterminate										38	38
TOTAL (NISP)	26	1	19	5	1	3	1	7	55	52	170
MNI	3	1	2	1	1	1	1				10
Weight (g)	1260	10	420	55	< 1	6	< 1	57	1038	131	2978

Table A8.1. RECIHQ08 Animal bone assemblage by species and skeletal element. Elements used for estimating Minimum no. of individuals (MNI) marked with an asterisk

Context	Description	Species	No. of bones (refitted)	Sum of weight (g)
107	Fill of 18th-century feature	Cattle	2	164
		Large mammal	1	23
129	Fill of post-medieval pit	Large mammal	1	9
		Indet.	1	2
137	Fill of ditch, pottery dated 16th century	Cattle	6	407
		Dog	3	6
		Domestic fowl	1	< 1
		Medium mammal	2	21
		Large mammal	8	158
		Sheep/goat	3	90
		Indet.	12	37
142	Fill of rubbish pit dated 19th century	Medium mammal	1	7
156	Fill of pit, clay pipe dated late 17th-century	Cattle	8	249
		Sheep/goat	10	234
		Pig	3	25
		Medium mammal	3	27
		Large mammal	31	655
		Indet.	34	82
157	Fll of pit, pottery dated late 17th century	Cattle	1	242
		Sheep/goat	1	27
		Pig	1	30
		Large mammal	6	67
158	Fill of undated pit	Cattle	2	68
		Sheep/goat	2	25
		Large mammal	1	44
181	Fill of modern demolition cut, pottery dated mid-17th century	Large mammal	1	13
182	Fill of modern demolition cut	Cattle	1	12
187	Fill of post-medieval pit	Cattle	1	31
		Pig	1	0
		Cat	1	< 1
		Horse	1	10
		Sheep/goat	2	7
		Medium mammal	1	2
		Large mammal	6	39
		Indet.	4	8
197	Fill of undated pit	Sheep/goat	1	37
198	Fill of undated pit	Cattle	1	31
		Indet.	1	2
Totals			166	2892

Table A8.2. Number and weight of bones per species by context, RECIHQ08

Condition	**N**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
%	170	0	2	37	39	22

Table. A8.3. Summary of animal bone condition, RECIHQ08

APPENDIX 9 REFERENCES

Astill, G G, 1978 *Historic towns in Berkshire: an archaeological appraisal*, Berkshire Archaeological Committee Publication no. **2,** Reading

Brickley, M, and McKinley, J I, 2004 *Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains*. IFA Paper No. **7**. British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology and the Institute of Field Archaeologists

David J Powell Survey Ltd, 2007 Reading Hosier Street Topographic Survey

Grant, A, 1982 'The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates' in *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites* (eds B Wilson, C Grigson and S Payne), 91-108. Oxford: BAR British Series

McKinley, J I, 2004 Compiling a skeletal inventory: disarticulated and co-mingled remains, in Brickley and McKinley, 14-17

Mellor, M, 1994 Oxford Pottery: A Synthesis of middle and late Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval pottery in the Oxford Region, *Oxoniensia* **59**, 17-217

Mepham, L, and Heaton, M J, 1995 A Medieval Pottery Kiln at Ashampstead, Berkshire *Medieval Ceramics* **19**, 29-44

OA, 2007a Reading Civic Headquarters and Hosier Street Masterplan, Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

OA, 2007b Reading Civic Headquarters and Hosier Street Masterplan, Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation

OAU, 1992 Fieldwork Manual (ed. D Wilkinson)

Orton, C, 1988 Post-Roman Pottery, in *Excavations in Southwark 1973-76 and Lambeth 1973-79* (ed. P Hinton), MoLAS and DGLA Joint Publication **3**, 295-364

Oswald, A, 1975 *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*, B.A.R. (Brit. Series) **14**

Oswald, A, 1984 Clay pipes, in Excavations in St Ebbe's, Oxford, 1967-1976; Part II: Post-medieval domestic tenements and the post-dissolution site of the Greyfriars (T G Hassall, C E Halpin and M Mellor), *Oxoniensia* **XLIX**, 251-262

Pearce, J, 1992 *Border Wares*, HMSO

Peyt, M, (ed), 1993 *The Growth of Reading*

Phillips, D, 1980 *The Story of Reading*

Roberts, C, and Manchester, K, 1995 *The archaeology of disease*, Second Edition, Stroud, Gloucestershire, Sutton Publishing

Serjeantson, D, 1996 'The animal bones' in *Refuse and disposal at Area 16 East Runnymede. Runnymede Bridge Research Excavations*, (eds S Needham and T Spence), vol. **2**, 194-253. London: British Museum

Slade, C, F, 1969 Reading, in M, D, Lobel (ed), *Historic Towns Atlas **I***

Underwood, C, 1997 Pottery, in *Excavations on Reading Waterfront Sites, 1979-1988* (J W Hawkes and P J Fasham), Wessex Archaeol Rep **5**, 142-161

Whitehouse, D, 1972, Chinese Porcelain in Medieval Europe, *Medieval Archaeology* **16**, 63-78

Von den Driesch, D, 1976 *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, Harvard: Peabody Museum

APPENDIX 10 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Reading Civic Headquarters and Hosier Street Masterplan, Reading, Berkshire
Site code: RECIHD 08
Grid reference: NGR SU 713 733
Type of evaluation: Two trench evaluation in an urban context.
Date and duration of project: Two weeks from the 7/1/2008 to the 18/1/2008.
Area of site: *c* 0.1 ha
Summary of results: Medieval and post medieval pitting and garden soils. 19th century school and terrace walls.
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course, under the following accession number: REDMG:2008.33

Figure 1: Site location

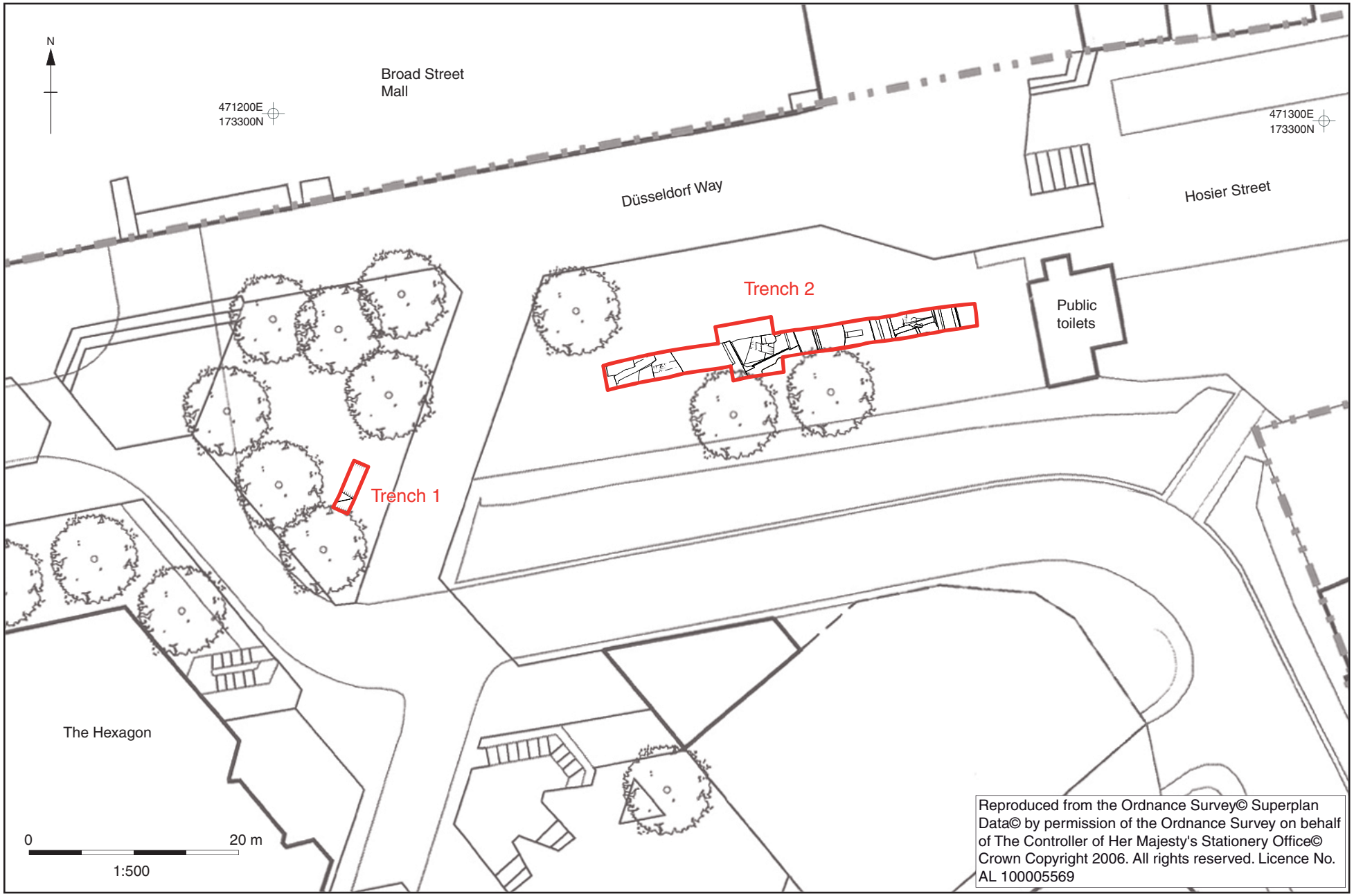


Figure 2: Trench location

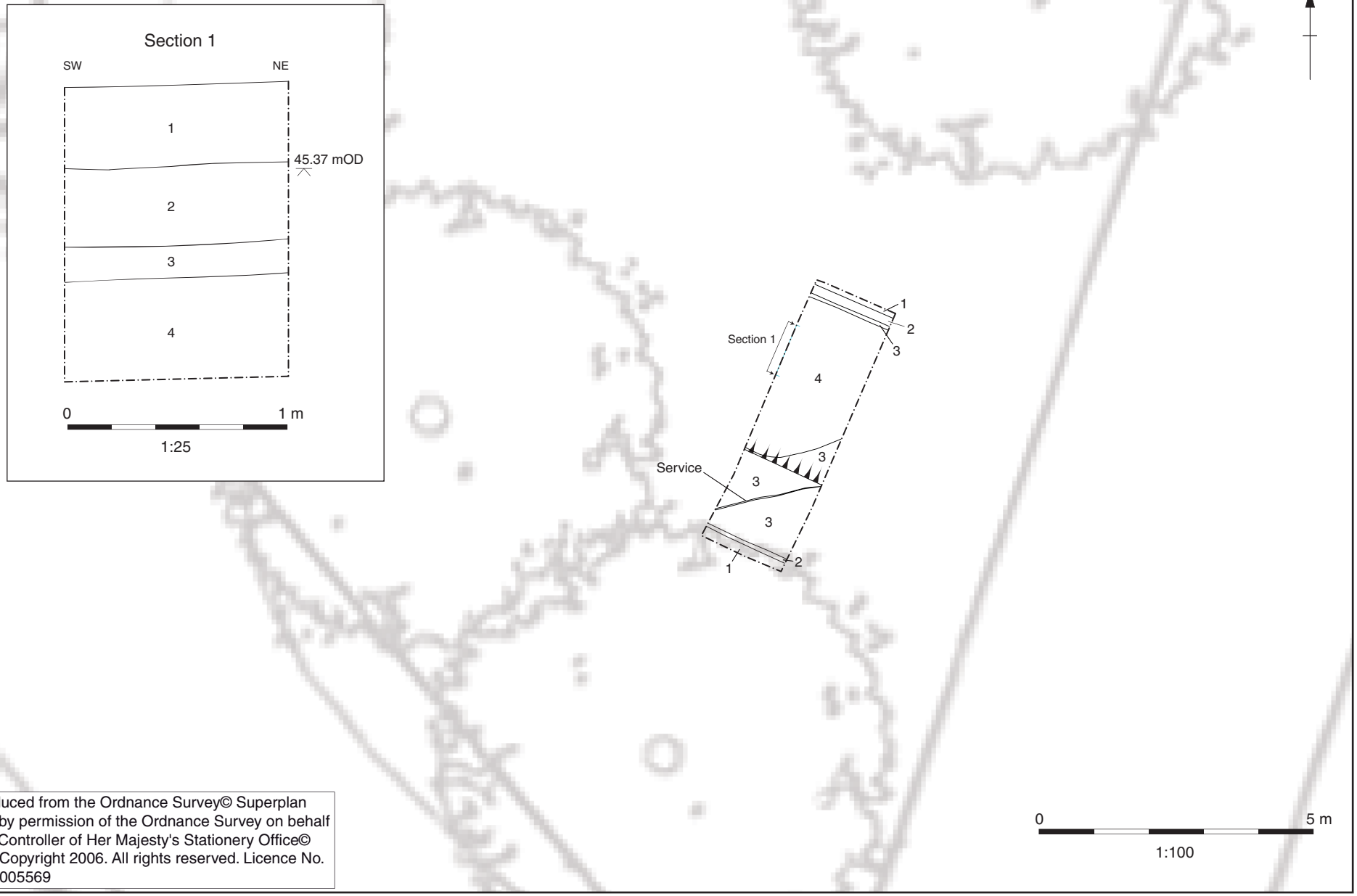


Figure 3: Plan and section of Trench 1

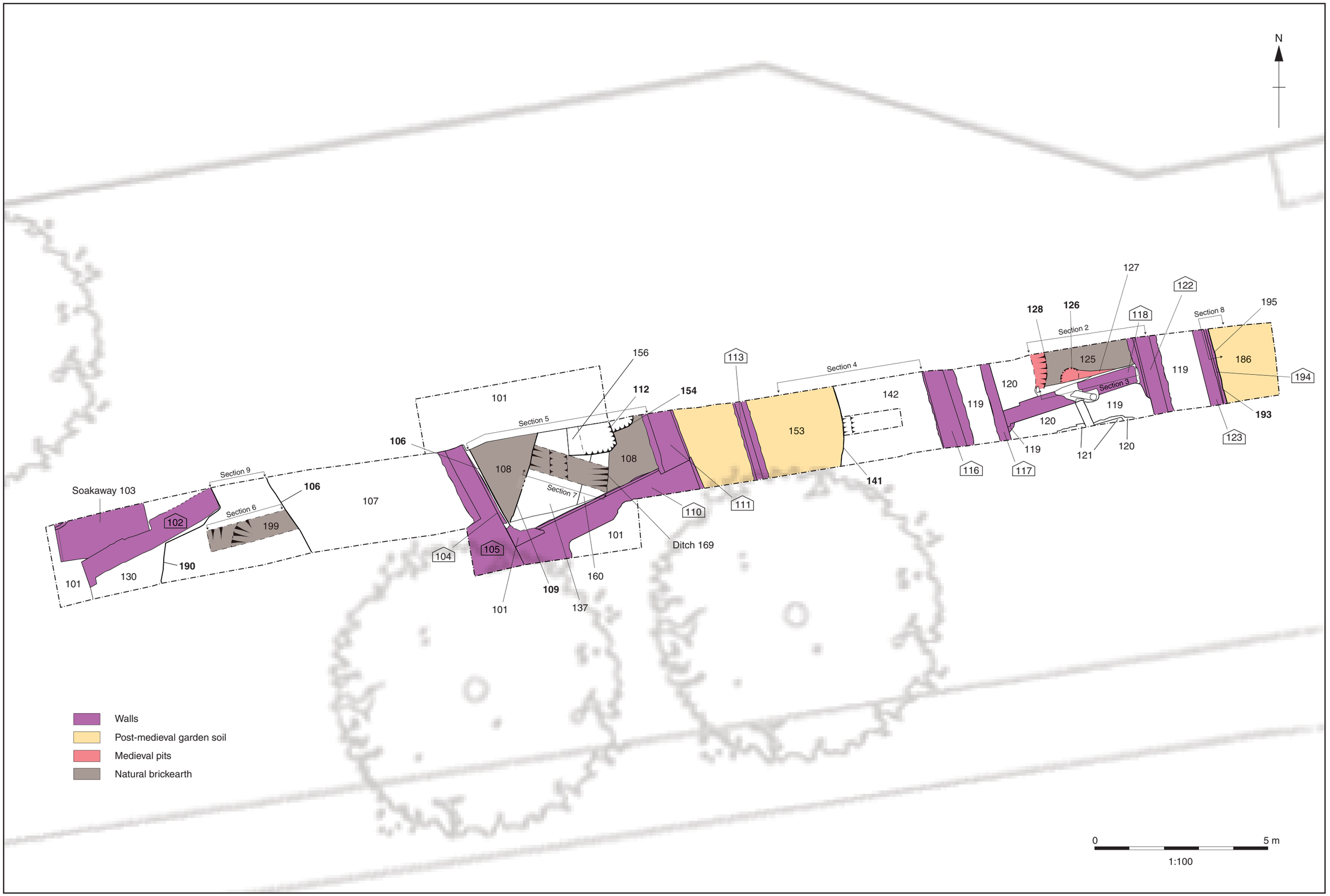
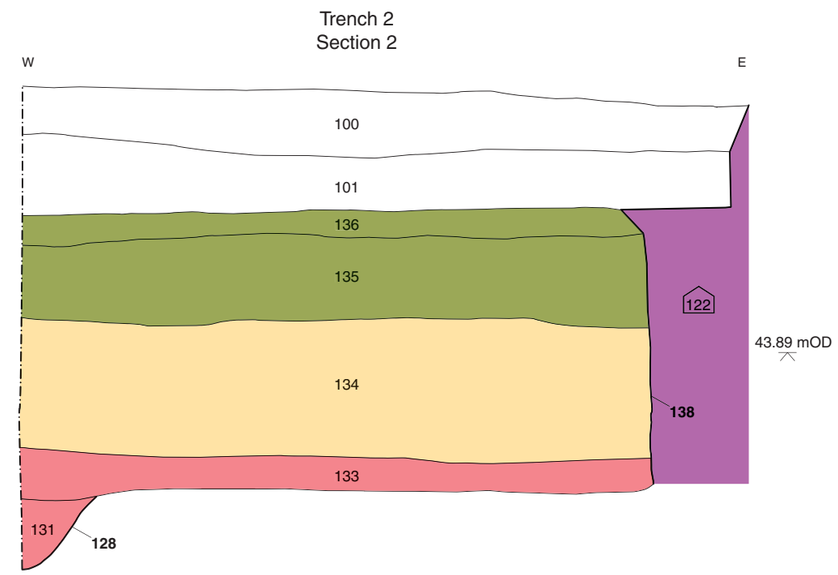
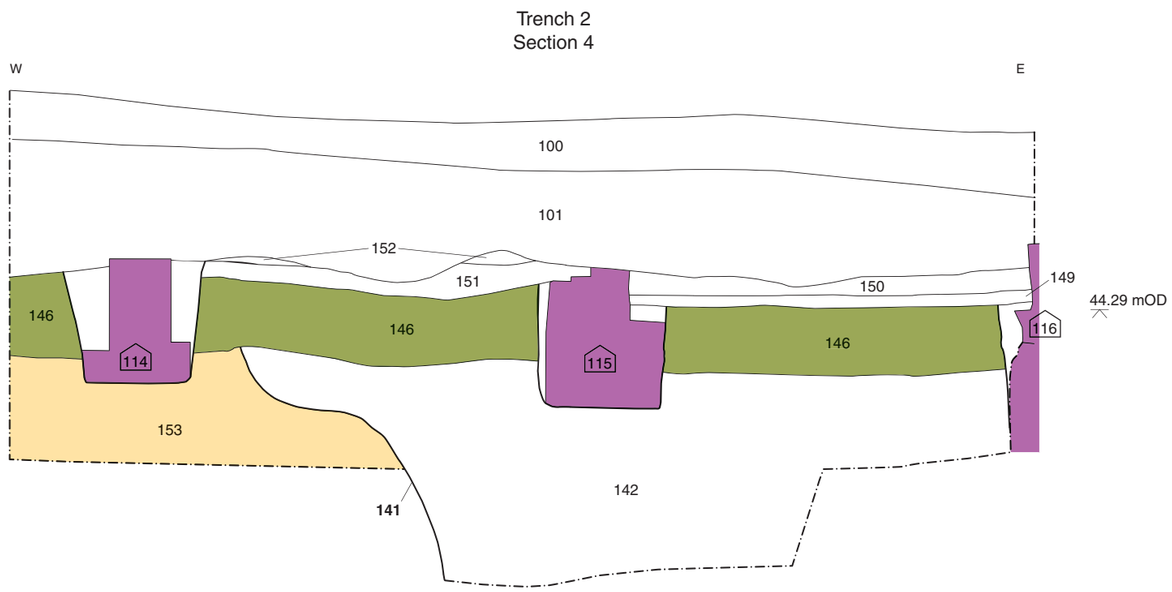
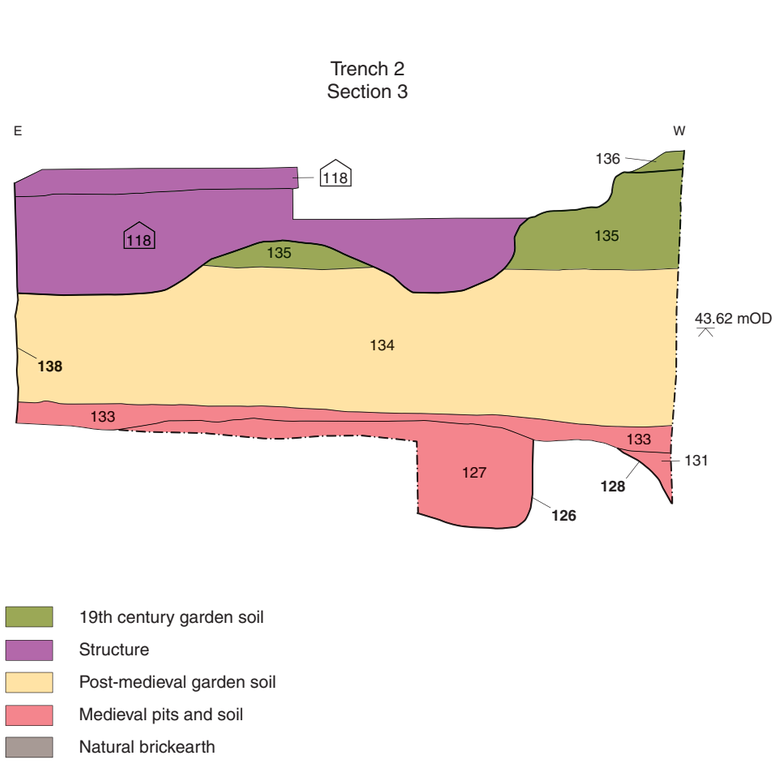


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 2







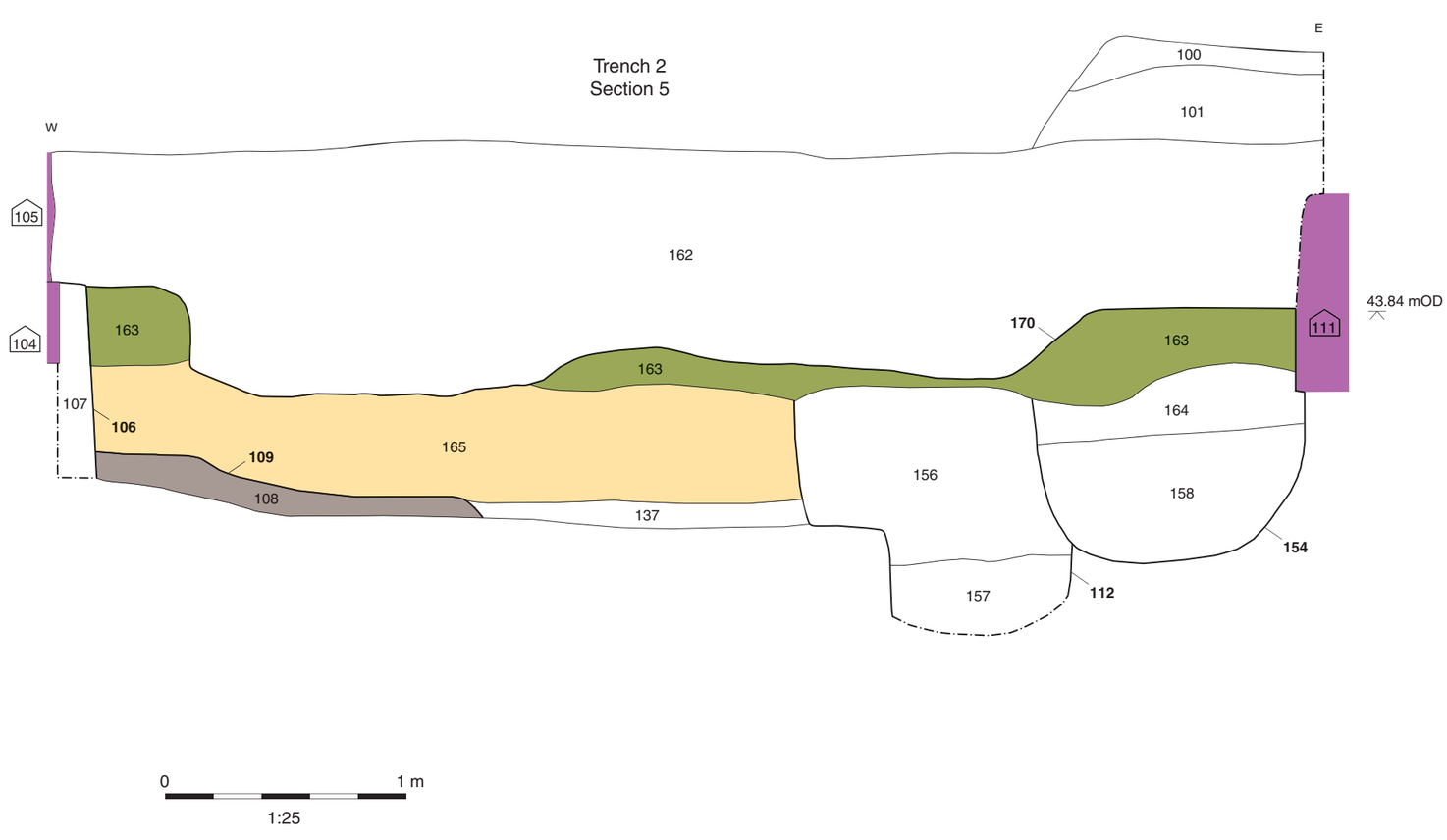
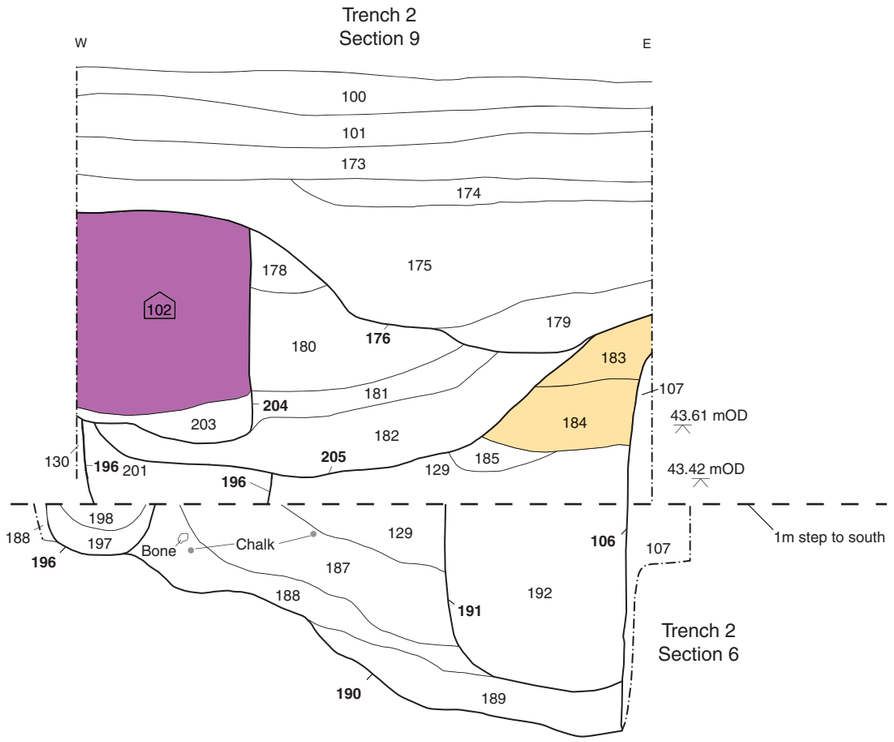
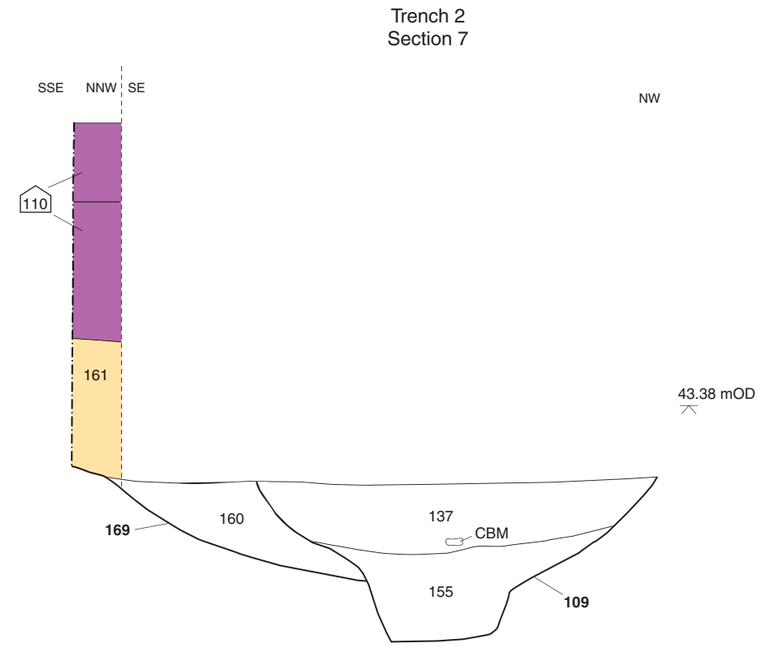
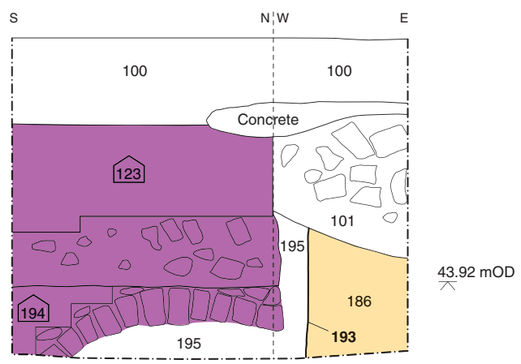


Figure 5: Sections 2-5







Structure

Post-medieval garden soil

Figure 6: Sections 6-9

Figure 7: Trenches in relation to 1879 Ordnance Survey Map (25” to 1 mile)

Oxford Archaeology

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.thehumanjourney.net

Oxford Archaeology North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606
e: lancinfo@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.thehumanjourney.net

Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, No: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, No: 285627

Registered Office:
Oxford Archaeological Unit
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES