

# Land at Wick Lane Norton Fitzwarren Somerset



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2006



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# Land at Wick Lane, Norton Fitzwarren, Somerset

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## SUMMARY

*During January 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at land adjacent to Wick lane, Norton Fitzwarren, Somerset, on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd. The evaluation revealed an area of medieval settlement remains, consisting of pits and ditches which produced pottery of 12th -13th century date along with evidence for crop processing and metalworking. A large, undated feature close by may have been a borrow pit of the same period. To the north of this settlement activity, two phases of shallow undated boundary or drainage ditches were recorded in the floodplain of the Norton Brook.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In January 2006, OA carried out a field evaluation at land west of Wick lane, Norton Fitzwarren, Somerset, on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd. in respect of a planning application for proposed flood alleviation works. The work was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Jim Hunter of Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd. and approved by the Archaeological Planning Officer of Somerset County Council. The evaluation took place across two fields with a combined area of 3.9 hectares and centred on NGR ST 1774 2674.

#### 1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on the floodplain of Norton Brook and the lower slopes of ground rising towards the south. The ground level varies from approximately 29 m AOD on the flood plain to 35 m AOD on the sloping ground to the south.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the site, as shown on the British Geological Survey map sheet for Taunton (Sheet 295), consists of rocks and soils of the Mercia Mudstone Group, with alluvial deposits above these within the floodplain. This evaluation also revealed colluvial deposits on the sloping ground immediately above the floodplain. .

#### 1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site was previously undertaken as part of an Environmental Statement and a two trench archaeological evaluation was undertaken (Avon Archaeological Unit 2002) on the line of the proposed flood barrier, immediately to the east of the present evaluation. The results of the desk-based assessment and the previous evaluation are summarised below. No SMR evidence occurs within the site itself but there are a number of sites and finds spots within the wider landscape.

***Palaeolithic - Bronze Age***

- 1.3.2 A Palaeolithic handaxe has been found 2 km SE of the site, but is regarded as an isolated find, and a Neolithic flint flake was found at School House, Norton Fitzwarren, approximately 3 km to the east of the site. The hillfort at Norton Hill (see 1.3.3, below) has a Bronze Age phase and a Bronze Age bronze hoard was discovered there.

***Iron Age - Roman***

- 1.3.3 The SMR details a number of sites and find spots of Iron Age or Roman date.
- 1.3.4 Norton Camp Iron Age hillfort, a Scheduled Monument, lies 2km to the east.
- 1.3.5 There are several cropmark sites to the east and south-east of the site, the closest of these lies 1 km to the SE, and is interpreted as a possible Roman marching camp.
- 1.3.6 There have also been finds of Roman pottery, to the east and south-east. The closest of these lies just 100 m to the east of the site, where Roman Greyware pottery was found.

***Saxon-medieval***

- 1.3.7 There are no SMR entries for these periods.

***Post-Medieval***

- 1.3.8 Cartographic sources indicate that the site has been made up of arable fields, pasture, meadows and orchards during this period, with farm buildings lying to the east. There has been some rationalisation for the field boundaries prior to 1889, but otherwise the landscape appears relatively unchanged.

**2 EVALUATION AIMS****2.1 General objectives**

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains.
- 2.1.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.1.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.1.4 To make available the results of the investigation.

**2.2 Specific objectives**

- 2.2.1 To clarify the presence or absence of prehistoric or Roman deposits and features, particularly those evidencing settlement of the site.

- 2.2.2 To assess and document the extent of possible buried archaeological deposits and assess the degree of impact to sub-surface horizons.

### 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of forty four trenches, forty three of which measured 20 m x 1.8 m and one of which measured 10 m x 1.8 m, arranged in a standard grid pattern across two fields (Fig. 2).

#### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Trenches were machined to the top of the first archaeological horizon or to the top of underlying natural deposits.
- 3.2.2 Spoil tips were monitored for finds. Where encountered, colluvial and alluvial deposits were also inspected for the presence of archaeological deposits or finds.
- 3.2.3 The trenches were cleaned by hand as appropriate 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 their sections drawn at a scale 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* (ed. D Wilkinson, 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 Column samples were taken from Trench 12 to investigate the flood plain deposits and from Trench 44 to investigate a possible buried soil. They have been retained for possible future examination.
- 3.4.2 Bulk samples for charred remains were taken from the fills of two pits, which contained medieval pottery and slag in Trench 43.

#### 3.5 Presentation of results

- 3.5.1 A description of the soils and ground conditions is given below, together with a description of the general stratigraphic sequence.
- 3.5.2 The distribution of archaeological deposits is stated and trenches containing archaeological features are described by area i.e. south-east of southern field, centre and western end of northern field, or eastern end of northern field.

- 3.5.3 Deposits and features are generally described according to their stratigraphic sequence, with the earliest deposits and features described first.
- 3.5.4 Empty trenches are identified but not otherwise described unless they contained finds or differed from the general stratigraphic sequence.
- 3.5.5 A table of contexts is given in Appendix 1, which gives details of individual contexts.

## 4 RESULTS: GENERAL

### 4.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 4.1.1 The general stratigraphic sequence within the northern field was of underlying gravels, overlain by mixed alluvial silty clays and silty gravels, an orange brown silty clay subsoil and the present turfed topsoil.
- 4.1.2 Within the southern field, the underlying natural consisted of a stoney or sandy orange brown silty clay loam, and was overlain by an orange brown silty clay colluvium and the present cultivated topsoil.
- 4.1.3 The evaluation took place during a period of dry weather and the water-table was relatively low. Deepened trenches gradually filled with water, but generally conditions were good.

### 4.2 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 4.2.1 A plot of the revealed features is shown on Figure 2.
- 4.2.2 Several shallow ditches were found within the west of the northern field, within Trenches 3, 7 and 8, cut into the top of alluvial deposits (Figure 3). These ditches were undated but may be associated with nearby spot finds of two struck flints and Roman pottery.
- 4.2.3 Within the eastern end of the northern field, a drainage ditch was recorded within Trenches 20 and 22, cut from beneath the topsoil.
- 4.2.4 Within the eastern end of the southern field, ditches and pits containing medieval pottery were found within Trenches 39 and 43 (Figure 5), cut into the top colluvial deposits. There were also spot finds of medieval pottery from within colluvial deposits in Trenches 36 and 37. A large undated feature was recorded within Trench 44.

## 5 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 5.1 Description of deposits

#### *Empty trenches*

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features or finds were found within Trenches 1, 2, 4- 6, 10-19 and 21 in the northern field or in Trenches 23- 35, 38, 40, 41 and 42 in the southern field.

***Centre and west of northern field (Figures 3 and 4)******5.2 Trench 3***

- 5.2.1 Within Trench 3 the underlying alluvium consisted of a stoney yellowish-brown silty clay (302). It was overlain by 0.14 m of orange-brown sandy loam subsoil (301) and the present turfed topsoil.
- 5.2.2 A single shallow north-south linear feature [303], cut into the top of the alluvium, was found within the southern end of the trench. The feature was fairly clear in plan but shallow and difficult to define during excavation. It had a gently rounded profile, 0.65 m wide by 0.05 m deep, and was filled by a red-brown sandy loam (304). A single undiagnostic struck flint blade (SF 1) was recovered from the surface of the feature. No other finds were recovered.

***5.3 Trench 7***

- 5.3.1 Within Trench 7 the underlying alluvium consisted of a pale yellow-grey silty clay (702). Linear features [703] and [707] were cut from this level. The alluvium was overlain by 0.3 m of red-brown silt loam, (701) and the present topsoil/ turfline (700). Linear feature [705] was cut from beneath the subsoil.
- 5.3.2 The largest of these features [703] was aligned NNE-SSW across the middle of the trench and appears to be a broad ditch, 2.71 m wide x 0.26 m deep. It had gently rounded sides with a broad base that sloped down very gradually towards the east. It was filled by a red-brown silty clay (704). No finds were recovered.
- 5.3.3 Cut [707] lay 1 m to the east of [703], on a parallel alignment. It was smaller, having a rounded profile, 0.96 m wide x 0.3 m deep. It contained a red-brown silty clay primary fill (708), and a red-brown clayey silt main fill (709). No finds were recovered.
- 5.3.4 Approximately 3 m to the west of ditch [703], a smaller, narrower feature [705] cut from beneath the topsoil. It was 0.41 m wide x 0.45 deep, with steep, straight sides, and a narrow, flat base, The cut was filled by a red-brown silty clay (706). No finds were recovered.

***5.4 Trench 8***

- 5.4.1 The underlying alluvium in Trench 8 was a pinkish-brown silty clay, (802). It was overlain by up to 0.25 m of red-brown clayey silt subsoil (801) and the present topsoil. Two sherds of Roman pottery were found within the east of the trench. at the interface between the subsoil and underlying alluvial deposit.
- 5.4.2 A shallow and poorly defined NNE-SSW aligned ditch [803] was seen to cut the alluvium within the western end of the trench. It measured 0.38 m wide x 0.08 m deep and was filled by pinkish-brown silty clay (804). No finds were recovered from



the feature, but a single struck flint flake was found at the interface between the subsoil and underlying alluvial deposit, 0.3 m to the west.

#### 5.5 *Trench 9*

- 5.5.1 No features were identified within Trench 9, but a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered at the interface between the subsoil and underlying alluvial deposit within the northern end of the trench.

### ***Eastern end of northern field***

#### 5.6 *Trench 20*

- 5.6.1 The underlying alluvium within Trench 20 varied from grey-brown clay (2003) to pinkish-brown silty clay (2002). It was overlain by up to 0.25 m of reddish-brown clayey-silt subsoil (2001), and a shallow topsoil (2000).
- 5.6.2 A single ditch [2005], cut from beneath the topsoil, and was aligned ENE-WSW across the northern end of the trench (not illustrated). The ditch was 'V' shaped in profile, 1.24 m wide x 0.32 m deep, and was filled by a mixed yellow-brown to grey brown clay (2004). No finds were recovered. This ditch was also recorded within Trench 22 and is likely to be the continuation of an existing drainage channel in the north-eastern corner of the field.

#### 5.7 *Trench 22*

- 5.7.1 Within Trench 22, a machined-excavated section was dug to investigate the underlying natural deposits.
- 5.7.2 Mixed gravels containing occasional decayed twiggy wood (2204) were located at a depth of 0.65 m beneath the present ground level. At this level the machined-section gradually filled with water, reflecting the level of the surrounding water-table at the time of the evaluation.
- 5.7.3 The gravel was overlain by 0.15 m of brownish-grey clay (2203), 0.28 m of brownish-orange silty clay (2202), 0.25 m of orange brown silty clay loam subsoil (2201) and the present topsoil.
- 5.7.4 A single ENE-WSW aligned ditch [2205], cut from beneath the topsoil, was seen within the middle of the trench. The ditch was roughly 'V' shaped in profile and 1.1 m wide x 0.6 m deep. It was filled with a grey-brown silty clay (2207), overlain by an intermittent band of orange clay (2206) at its upper interface. No finds were recovered.

***Eastern end of the Southern field (Figures 5, 6 and 7)*****5.8 Trenches 36 and 37**

5.8.1 Within Trenches 36 and 37, a total of 8 sherds of medieval pottery was recovered from within colluvial deposits that overlay the stoney natural. The majority of the pottery was recovered from the northern end of Trench 36. Despite careful machining and inspection, no features were apparent.

**5.9 Trench 39**

5.9.1 Within Trench 39, the underlying natural consisted of an orange brown silty loam (3902). It was overlain by 0.12 m of orange brown silty clay colluvium (3901), and 0.24 m of red-brown silty clay loam topsoil (3900).

5.9.2 Two ditches, [3905] and [3907], were cut into the top of the colluvium (3901).

5.9.3 Ditch [3905] was aligned NW-SE within the northern end of the trench. It had a shallow rounded profile, 0.23 m deep by 0.8 m wide, and was filled by a red-brown sandy silt (3904), which contained occasional charcoal flecking and medieval pottery.

5.9.4 Ditch [3907] was aligned E-W within the southern end of the trench. It had a broad, rounded profile measuring 0.36 m deep x 2.28 m wide. It was filled by a red-brown silty clay (3906) with occasional charcoal flecking. Eighteen sherds of 12th - 13th century pottery were recovered from the fill.

**5.10 Trench 43**

5.10.1 The general stratigraphic sequence within Trench 43 was similar to that of Trench 39, with a stoney natural (4302) overlain by 0.16 m of reddish brown silty clay colluvium (4301) and 0.26 m of topsoil (4300).

5.10.2 Two substantial pits, [4305] and [4308], and a smaller pit or posthole [4303] were cut into the top of the colluvium.

5.10.3 Pit or posthole [4303] was located within the middle of the trench and was roughly oval in shape. The sides and base of this feature were irregular and fairly shallow, measuring 0.9 m long x 0.5 m wide x 0.12 m deep. It was filled by a red-brown sandy silt (4304) which contained frequent charcoal flecking.

5.10.4 Adjoining pits, [4305] and [4308], lay within the southern end of the trench. The pits were roughly oval in plan, and both were steep sided with rounded bases, measuring 0.84 m x 0.7 m x 0.42 m deep and 0.75 m x 0.54 m x 0.71 m deep respectively.

5.10.5 Pit [4305] was filled by a stoney dark reddish-brown sandy silt primary fill (4306), and a paler, less stoney red-brown sandy silt upper fill (4307). Both fills were flecked with charcoal and contained fragments of slag. An environmental sample from fill

(4307) produced remains of barley, bread wheat, hazel nut shell, pea/bean and other legumes, brome grass or oats, and weed seeds. Slag and other fine magnetic material was also present.

5.10.6 The fills of pit [4308] were similar to those of pit 4305, with a dark reddish brown sandy silt primary fill (4309) and a red-brown sandy silt upper fill (4310). Both fills contained occasional charcoal flecking, medieval pottery and slag. Fill (4309) also contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. An environmental sample from fill (4310) produced remains of barley, bread wheat, hazel nut shell, legumes, brome grass or oats, and weed seeds. Slag and other fine magnetic material was also present.

#### 5.11 *Trench 44*

5.11.1 Trench 44 revealed a large feature which extended beyond the confines of the trench. Because of the size of this feature, it was machine excavated to investigate the deposit sequence within it and to establish its depth. The machine-excavated spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts.

5.11.2 Within the deepened trench, the earliest deposits revealed were the underlying blue-grey clay (4409) and gravels (4410) and (4405). Above these deposits, layers of reddish brown clayey silt (4408) and (4406) dip down from the south, and were interleaved with isolated pockets of gravel (4407) and (4404). Within the southern half of the trench, a broader, and more substantial layer of dark reddish-brown silty loam (4402) overlay these clayey silts and gravels, and was in turn overlain by a reddish brown loamy clay subsoil (4401) and the present topsoil. No finds were recovered from these deposits.

#### 5.12 **Finds**

##### *Pottery*

5.12.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 47 sherds with a total weight of 362g. It comprised a range of early medieval (late 12th-13th Century) wares typical of the region, along with four sherds of Romano-British grey ware (see Appendix 2).

##### *Lithics*

5.12.2 Two pieces of worked flint were recovered during the evaluation, a blade from Trench 3 and a flake from Trench 8 (see Appendix 3).

##### *Slag*

5.12.3 A total of 59 fragments of slag, weighing 4309g, were recovered from two features (4305 and 4308) in Trench 43.

### 5.13 Palaeo-environmental remains

#### *Carbonised plant remains and charcoal*

- 5.13.1 Two 40 litre bulk samples were taken to evaluate the preservation of charred plant remains and to recover small artefacts. The charred plant samples were taken from two pits, [4305] and [4309], dated to the 12th -13th century.
- 5.13.2 Both samples contain charcoal that has the potential to be identified to species level. Free-threshing, bread-type wheat is present in the samples and is a typical of the crops of the period. The presence of a glume base gives the potential to identify this wheat to species level. Weed seeds and cereal chaff may indicate cereal processing by-products, although the assemblage may also have derived from thatch. The survival of relatively unclinkered cereal remains and chaff together with the slaggy material in the pits suggests that these features contain material representative of more than one activity (see Appendix 4).

## 6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The evaluation took place during a period of dry weather and the water-table was relatively low. Therefore, the general site conditions during the evaluation were good.
- 6.1.2 Archaeological features were found cut into the top of colluvium within the southern field, and cut into the top of alluvium within the northern field.
- 6.1.3 Within the southern field, the top of the colluvium was inspected, and if no features were found, the trenches were machined to the top of the underlying stoney or gravelly natural.
- 6.1.4 Within the northern field the underlying alluvial deposits were investigated by the excavation of a machined sondage within Trench 22, to reveal the underlying natural gravels. No additional features were found.

### 6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 Within the south-east of the southern field, medieval ditches and pits were located within Trenches 39 and 43, together with a scatter of medieval pottery from within the colluvium in Trenches 36 and 37. With the exception of a sherd of residual Roman pottery from Trench 43, all of the pottery recovered from these trenches dates from the 12th to 13th century. A large feature within Trench 44 may have been a borrow pit and, although no dating evidence was retrieved, is likely to date to the same period.
- 6.2.2 The scatter of medieval features within the southern field is limited in extent, being confined to Trenches 29, 43 and possibly 44. There is no evidence that the activity

represented by these features extends further to the west within the site. It is, however, possible that the activity continues further to the east, although not revealed during the previous evaluation under the proposed flood barrier (Avon Archaeological Unit 2002), and to the south. The nature of the finds and the environmental evidence is indicative of at least two separate activities, cereal processing and metalworking, both of which might typically occur within hamlet or village of this date. Along with the possible borrow pit in Trench 44, the evidence suggests a reasonably high level of economic activity. The ceramic evidence, however, indicates that this activity was relatively short-lived, at least within the evaluated area.

- 6.2.3 While the settlement may have been limited in area, it is possible that the features form part of a much larger settlement and that the extant farms to the east are the shrunken remnants of the same settlement. However, such large, nucleated settlements were relatively rare in Somerset where the more typical settlement pattern was of scattered farmsteads and hamlets (Aston 1994).
- 6.2.4 The presence of 12th-13th century pottery within the colluvium and also within features cutting the colluvium suggests that this deposit may have formed almost contemporaneously with the activity represented by the features and may indeed result from destabilisation of soils caused by a continuation of this activity further upslope to the south.
- 6.2.5 Within the west of the northern field, in Trenches 3, 7 and 8, several N-S or NNE-SSW aligned ditches or gullies were recorded below the subsoil. These features are undated but spot finds of Roman pottery and two struck flints from below the subsoil in Trenches 3, 8 and 9 suggests at least a background level of activity here during the prehistoric and Roman periods.
- 6.2.6 In Trenches 7, 20 and 22, ditches were recorded immediately below the topsoil indicating a later, probably recent, phase of activity.
- 6.2.7 The features in the northern field have a different character from those to the south, and represent at least two, undated, phases of activity - features cut from below the current topsoil and features cut from below the subsoil. It is likely that in both cases the recorded features are field boundaries/drainage ditches associated with agricultural activity in the floodplain away from any focus of settlement.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<b>Trench 1</b>							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
100	Layer	Topsoil	0.19				
101	Layer	Subsoil	0.23				
102	Layer	Alluvial	0.15				
103	Layer	Alluvial					
104	Layer	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 2</b>							
200	Layer	Topsoil	0.19				
201	Layer	Subsoil	0.23				
202	Layer	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 3</b>							
300	Layer	Topsoil	0.16				
301	Layer	Subsoil	0.14				
302	Layer	Alluvial					
303	Cut	Ditch or gully	0.05	0.65	7.4+		
304	Fill	Fill of 303	0.05				
<b>Trench 4</b>							
400	Layer	Topsoil	0.2				
401	Layer	Subsoil	0.25				
402	Layer	Alluvial					
403	Layer	Gravelly alluvial					
<b>Trench 5</b>							
500	Layer	Topsoil	0.18				
501	Layer	Subsoil	0.22				
502	Layer	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 6</b>							
600	Layer	Topsoil	0.2				
601	Layer	Subsoil	0.1				
602	Layer	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 7</b>							
700	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				
701	Layer	Subsoil	0.15				
702	Layer	Alluvial					
703	Cut	Ditch?	0.26	2.71			
704	Fill	Fill of 703	0.26				
705	Cut	Possible land-drain or gully	0.28	0.33	1.9+		
706	Fill	Fill of 705	0.28				
707	Cut	Ditch	0.3	0.96	1.8+		
708	Fill	Fill of 707	0.08				
709	Fill	Fill of 707	0.22				
<b>Trench 8</b>							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
800	Layer	Topsoil	0.18				
801	Layer	Subsoil	0.25				
802	Layer	Alluvial				Pottery, flint	RB

803	Cut	Gully or ditch?	0.08	0.38			
804	Fill	Fill of	0.08				
<b>Trench 9</b>							
900	Layer	Topsoil	0.1				
901	Layer	Subsoil	0.15				
902	Layer	Alluvial				Pottery	RB
<b>Trench 10</b>							
100	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				
101	Layer	Subsoil	0.15				
102	Layer	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 11</b>							
1100	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				
1101	Layer	Subsoil	0.15				
1102	Layer	Alluvial	0.15				
1103	Layer	Natural					
1104	Cut	Irregular tree-throw	0.2				
<b>Trench 12</b>							
1200	Layer	Topsoil	0.1				
1201	Layer	Subsoil	0.2				
1202	Layer	Alluvial	0.1				
1203	Cut	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 13</b>							
1300	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				
1301	Layer	Subsoil	0.15				
1302	Layer	Alluvial	0.15				
1303	Layer	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 14</b>							
1400	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				
1401	Layer	Subsoil	0.15				
1402	Layer	Alluvial	0.1				
1403	Layer	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 15</b>							
1500	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				
1501	Layer	Alluvial	0.15				
1502	Layer	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 16</b>							
1600	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				
1601	Layer	Subsoil	0.15				
1602	Layer	Alluvial	0.2				
1603	Layer	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 17</b>							
1700	Layer	Topsoil	0.1				
1701	Layer	Subsoil	0.25				
1702	Layer	Alluvial					
1703	Layer	Alluvial					

<b>Trench 18</b>							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date
1800	Layer	Topsoil	0.1				
1801	Layer	Subsoil	0.1				
1802	Layer	Alluvial	0.3				

1803	Layer	Organic silt	0.2				
1804	Layer	Fine gravel	0.1				
1805	Layer	Organic silty clay	0.1				
1806	Layer	Silty gravel					
<b>Trench 19</b>							
1900	Layer	Topsoil	0.12				
1901	Layer	Subsoil	0.13				
1902	Layer	Alluvial					
<b>Trench 20</b>							
2000	Layer	Topsoil	0.13				
2001	Layer	Subsoil	0.25				
2002	Layer	Alluvial					
2003	Layer	Alluvial					
2004	Fill	Fill of 2005	0.32				
2005	Cut		0.32	1.24			
<b>Trench 21</b>							
2100	Layer	Topsoil	0.1				
2101	Layer	Subsoil	0.15				
2102	Layer	Alluvial	0.1				
<b>Trench 22</b>							
2200	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				
2201	Layer	Subsoil	0.1-0.25				
2202	Layer	Alluvial	0.28				
2203	Layer	Lower alluvial	0.15				
2204	Layer	Mixed gravels					
2205	Cut	V shaped Ditch	0.6	1.1			
2206	Fill	Fill of 2205					
2207	Fill	Fill of 2205					
<b>Trench 23</b>							
2300	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				
2301	Layer	Colluvial	0.29				
2302	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 24</b>							
2400	Layer	Topsoil	0.25				
2401	Layer	Colluvial	0.25				
2402	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 25</b>							
2500	Layer	Topsoil	0.25				
2501	Layer	Colluvial	0.35				
2502	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 26</b>							
2600	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				
2601	Layer	Colluvial	0.45				
2602	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 27</b>							
2700	Layer	Topsoil	0.31				
2701	Layer	Colluvial	0.41				
2702	Layer	Natural					

<b>Trench 28</b>							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date



2800	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				
2801	Layer	Colluvial	0.3				
2802	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 29</b>							
2900	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				
2901	Layer	Colluvial	0.2				
2902	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 30</b>							
3000	Layer	Topsoil	0.25				
3001	Layer	Colluvial	0.34				
3002	Layer	Natural					
3003	Cut	Root disturbance					
<b>Trench 31</b>							
3100	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				
3101	Layer	Colluvial	0.25				
3102	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 32</b>							
3200	Layer	Topsoil	0.25				
3201	Layer	Colluvial	0.3				
3202	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 33</b>							
3300	Layer	Topsoil	0.25				
3301	Layer	Colluvial	0.28				
3302	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 34</b>							
3400	Layer	Topsoil	0.2				
3401	Layer	Colluvial	0.27				
3402	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 35</b>							
3500	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				
3501	Layer	Colluvial	0.1				
3502	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 36</b>							
3600	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				
3601	Layer	Colluvial	0.34			Pottery	Medieval
3602	Layer	Natural					
3603	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 37</b>							
3700	Layer	Topsoil	0.23				
3701	Layer	Colluvial	0.25			Pottery	Medieval
3702	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 38</b>							
3800	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				
3801	Layer	Colluvial	0.2				
3802	Layer	Natural					

<b>Trench 39</b>							
Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date

3900	Layer	Topsoil	0.24				
3901	Layer	Colluvial	0.12				
3902	Layer	Natural				Pottery	Medieval
3903		Cxt not used					
3904	Fill	Fill of 3905	0.23			Pottery	Medieval
3905	Cut	Ditch	0.23	0.8			
3906	Fill	Fill of 3907	0.36			Pottery	Medieval
3907	Cut	Ditch	0.36	2.28			
<b>Trench 40</b>							
4000	Layer	Topsoil	0.25				
4001	Layer	Colluvial	0.23				
4002	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 41</b>							
4100	Layer	Topsoil	0.38				
4101	Layer	Colluvial	0.33				
4102	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 42</b>							
4200	Layer	Topsoil	0.15				
4201	Layer	Colluvial	0.26				
4202	Layer	Natural					
<b>Trench 43</b>							
4300	Layer	Topsoil	0.26				
4301	Layer	Colluvial	0.16				
4302	Layer	Natural					
4303	Cut	Shallow pit?	0.12	0.5	0.9		
4304	Fill	Fill of 4303	0.12				
4305	Cut	Pit	0.42	0.7	0.84		
4306	Fill	Fill of 4305	0.32			slag	
4307	Fill	Fill of 4305	0.14			slag	
4308	Cut	Pit	0.71	0.54	0.75		
4309	Fill	Fill of 4308	0.22			Pottery, slag	Medieval
4310	Fill	Fill of 4308	0.48			Pottery, slag	Medieval
4311	Cut	Cut of root disturbance					
4312	Fill	Fill of root disturbance	0.28			Pottery	Medieval
<b>Trench 44</b>							
4400	Layer	Topsoil	0.3				
4401	Layer	Colluvial	0.3				
4402	Layer	Possible buried soil	0.34				
4403	Layer	Colluvial	0.28				
4404	Layer	Sandy clay and gravel	0.3				
4405	Layer	Sandy clay and gravel	0.34+				
4406	Layer	Clayey silt	0.2				
4407	Layer	Sandy clay and gravel	0.16				
4408	Layer	Clayey silt	0.16+				
4409	Layer	Blue-grey silty clay	Unknown				
4410	Layer	Sandy gravel	Unknown				

**APPENDIX 2 POTTERY ASSESSMENT/ SPOT DATING***By Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 47 sherds with a total weight of 362g. It comprised a range of early medieval wares typical of the region, along with a few sherds of Romano-British material. The following fabrics were noted:

F1: Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz up to 0.5mm, moderate rounded mudstone up to 1mm, sparse iron ore up to 1mm. 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century. 17 sherds, 73g.

F2: Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 2mm, rare to sparse angular flint up to 2mm. 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century. 5 sherds, 29g.

F3: Moderate sub-rounded sandstone up to 3mm, many smaller ‘free’ quartz grains. 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century. 10 sherds, 59g.

F4: Moderate sub-rounded quartz up to 2mm, sparse calcareous material up to 3mm. 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century. 7 sherds, 32g.

F5: Moderate to dense sub-angular quartz up to 1mm. 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century. 4 sherds, 22g.

In addition, four sherds (147g) of Romano-British Greywares were present.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of fabrics is typical of the early medieval pottery of the Taunton area, as defined by Pearson (1984). The lack of glazed wares indicates that all the medieval activity at the site dates to the late 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The post-Roman pottery was all quite fragmented, and much of it bore signs of abrasion to a greater or lesser degree. This all suggests that the material was a product of secondary deposition.

*Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

Context	RB		F1		F2		F3		F4		F5		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
802	2	132											RB
902	1	10											RB
3601			4	33	1	9	2	11					L12th-13thC
3701									1	8			L12th-13thC
3902					1	7							L12th-13thC
3904			7	14			5	27	2	4	4	22	L12th-13thC
3906			2	11					1	2			L12th-13thC
4309	1	5							1	4			L12th-13thC
4310			2	3	2	10	1	2	1	5			L12th-13thC
4312			2	12	1	3	2	19	1	9			L12th-13thC
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	

**APPENDIX 3 WORKED FLINT***By Rebecca Devaney*

Two pieces of worked flint were recovered from the evaluation at Norton Fitzwarren (Table 2).

The blade, from context 304, has dorsal blade scars, which suggests it was removed from a core that was prepared for blade removals, and a hinge termination. The material is very coarse and reddish brown in colouration. It is possible that the material is not flint, however, this has not been confirmed.

The flake, from context 802, was struck from an opposed platform flake core consisting of a nodule of gravel flint. It is moderately damaged, suggesting some degree of post-depositional disturbance.

The flint cannot be reliably dated on typological or technological grounds.

Further work is not required.

*Table 2. Summary of worked flint by type and context*

<b>Flint Category</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>Total</b>
Flake		1	<b>1</b>
Blade	1		<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

## APPENDIX 4 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

By *Seren Griffiths*

### Methodology

Six samples were taken as part of the evaluation at Norton Fitzwarren. Four samples were taken for palynological analysis and two 40 litre samples were taken to evaluate the preservation of charred plant remains and to recover small artefacts. The column samples have not been assessed at present. The charred plant samples were taken from two pits from the 12-13th century. These negative features both contained material identified in the field as slag associated with metal-working.

The charred plant samples were processed by flotation using a modified Siraf-type machine, the flot being collected onto a 250 micron mesh. The remaining material was then wet sieved through a column for the recovery of small bones and artefacts to 500 microns. The flots and residues were air-dried and the flots scanned under a binocular microscope at Oxford Archaeology. The residues were sorted for bones and artefacts down to 4mm and the remaining material retained.

### Results

#### *Charred Plant Remains*

Sample 5 (context 4307) produced a moderate flot of 90 ml. Sample 6 (context 4310) produced a small flot of c25ml. Charcoal with a radial diameter of >2mm was present in sample 6 (context 4310) and frequent in sample 5 (context 4307). Both samples contained modern elements in their flots 5 percent by volume of sample 5 (context 4307) was composed of modern plant matter, with modern *Chenopodiaceae* frequent in the sample. Modern insect matter and worm eggs were also present. Twenty percent by volume of sample 6 (context 4310) was composed of modern plant matter, and again modern *Chenopodiaceae* seeds were frequent.

Charred plant and weed seeds were present in both samples, but elements of iron panning/sediment infusion made assessment of some of the items difficult. Grains of *Hordeum* sp. (barley) were provisionally identified in both samples, as were indeterminate cereal grains. Grains of free-threshing *Triticum aestivum* (bread) type wheat were also present in both samples, and in addition a glume base, provisionally identified to *Triticum aestivum* was present in sample 6 (context 4310). *Corylus avellana* (hazel) nut shell was present in both samples 5 and 6. An item of ?*Pisum/Vicia* (pea/bean) was identified in sample 5 (context 4307) while smaller legumes were also present in both samples. Grains of *Bromus/ Avena* (brome grass or oats) were present in both samples. The flot from sample 5 (context 4307) contained a weed seed assemblage including *Compositae* (daisy family), *Rumex* sp. (docks), and probable *Umbelliferae* (umbellifers), while *Gramineae* (grasses) and *Polygonaceae* (knotweeds) were present in sample 6 (context 4310). As well as the glume base mentioned above, culm nodes were present in sample 6.

#### *Residue Finds*

Slag was common in sample 5 (context 4307) and frequent in sample 6 (context 4310), ceramics were also frequent in both samples. The smaller fractions of the sieved residues contained magnetic material as further evidence for high temperature industries. All finds were passed to the finds department for inclusion in the compendium.

### Discussion and further work

Both samples contain charcoal that has the potential to be identified to species level. Free-threshing, bread-type wheat is present in the samples and is a typical of the crop of the period. The presence of a glume base gives the potential to identify this wheat to species level. The weed seeds and cereal chaff may indicate cereal processing by-products, although the assemblage may also have derived from thatch. The survival of relatively unclinkered cereal remains and chaff together with the slaggy material in the pits/post-holes suggests that these taphonomic sinks might be contain material representative of more than one activity.

Table 3- a summary of the charred plant remains

Sample No	Context No	Flot vol (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other charred	Volume floated (litres)	Notes
5	4307	90	++	+ ? <i>Hordeum</i> sp., + <i>Triticum</i> sp., Cereal, + Free threshing wheat <i>T. aestivum</i> type, ++ <i>Bromus/ Avena</i>		+ Compositae, + <i>Rumex</i> sp., ? Umbelliferae, + other	+ <2mm Leguminosae, + >2mm Leguminosae ? <i>Pisum/Vicia</i> , + ? <i>Corylus avellana</i> nut shell,	40	5% modern plant matter, ++ modern Chenopodiaceae sp., +insects, + worm egg
6	4310	25	+	+ + Free threshing wheat <i>T. aestivum</i> type, <i>Hordeum</i> sp., + <i>Bromus/ Avena</i>	+ culm nodes, + ? free threshing wheat glume base ? <i>T. aestivum</i> , ++ <i>Triticum</i> sp.	Gramineae +, Polygonaceae, + others	+ <i>Corylus avellana</i> nut shell, + <2mm Leguminosae	40	20% modern plant matter, ++ modern Chenopodiaceae spp.,

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100) ++++=abundant (>100)

**APPENDIX 5 REFERENCES**

Aston A, 1994 Medieval Settlement Studies in Somerset in *The Medieval Landscape of Wessex* (eds M Aston and C Lewis), Oxbow Monograph **46**, 219-237

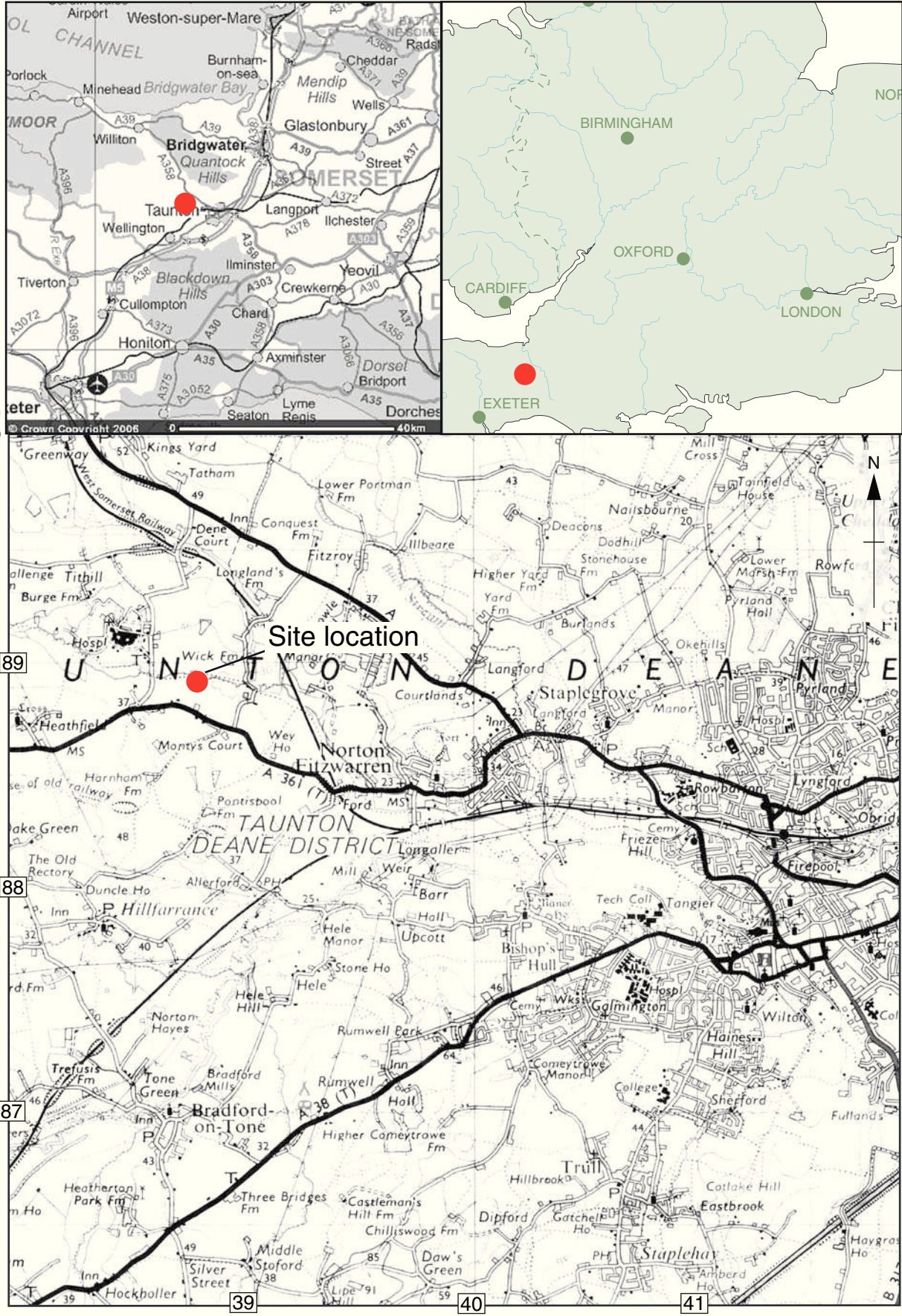
Avon Archaeological Unit, 2002 Site of a Proposed Flood Alleviation Dam, Wick Lane, Norton Fitzwarren, Somerset: Site Specific Archaeological Evaluation Report

OA, 1992 Fieldwork Manual (ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992).

Pearson, T, 1984 Medieval and post-medieval ceramics in *The Archaeology of Taunton* (P Leach), 142-4 and fiche

**APPENDIX 6 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS****Site name:** Land off Wick Lane**Site code:** TTNCM: 220/2005**Grid reference:** ST 1774 2674**Type of evaluation:** Forty-three 20m trenches and one 10m trench**Date and duration of project:** January 2006**Area of site:** 3.9 ha**Summary of results:** The evaluation revealed an area of medieval settlement remains, consisting of pits and ditches which produced pottery of 12th -13th century date along with evidence for crop processing and metalworking. A large, undated feature close by may have been a borrow pit of the same period. To the north of this settlement activity, 2 phases of shallow undated boundary or drainage ditches were recorded in the floodplain of the Norton Brook**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited in the relevant museum in due course, under the following accession number: TTNCM 220/2005

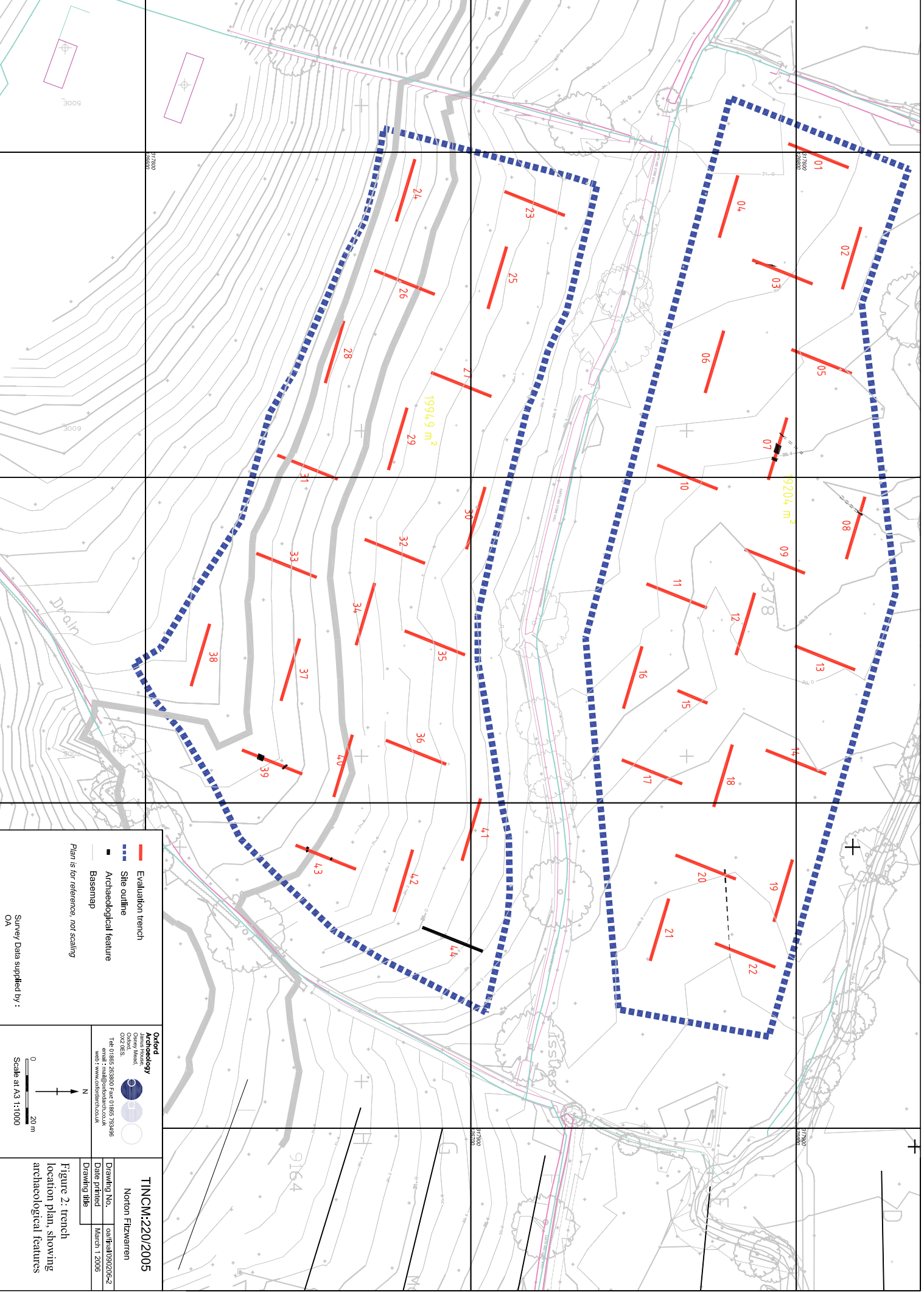




Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 1: Site location



— Evaluation trench  
   Site outline  
   Archaeological feature  
   Basemap

Plan is for reference, not scaling

Survey Data supplied by :  
OA

**Oxford Archaeology**  
 Oxford City Council  
 One of the Best Places to Live 2015  
 The Bullingdon Ring 2015  
 www.oxfordarchaeology.co.uk

**TINCM-220/2005**  
 Norton Fitzwarren  
 Drawing No. oaf/rl/090206-2  
 Date printed March 1 2006  
 Drawing title

Figure 2: trench location plan, showing archaeological features

Scale at A3 1:1000  
 0 20m  
 N

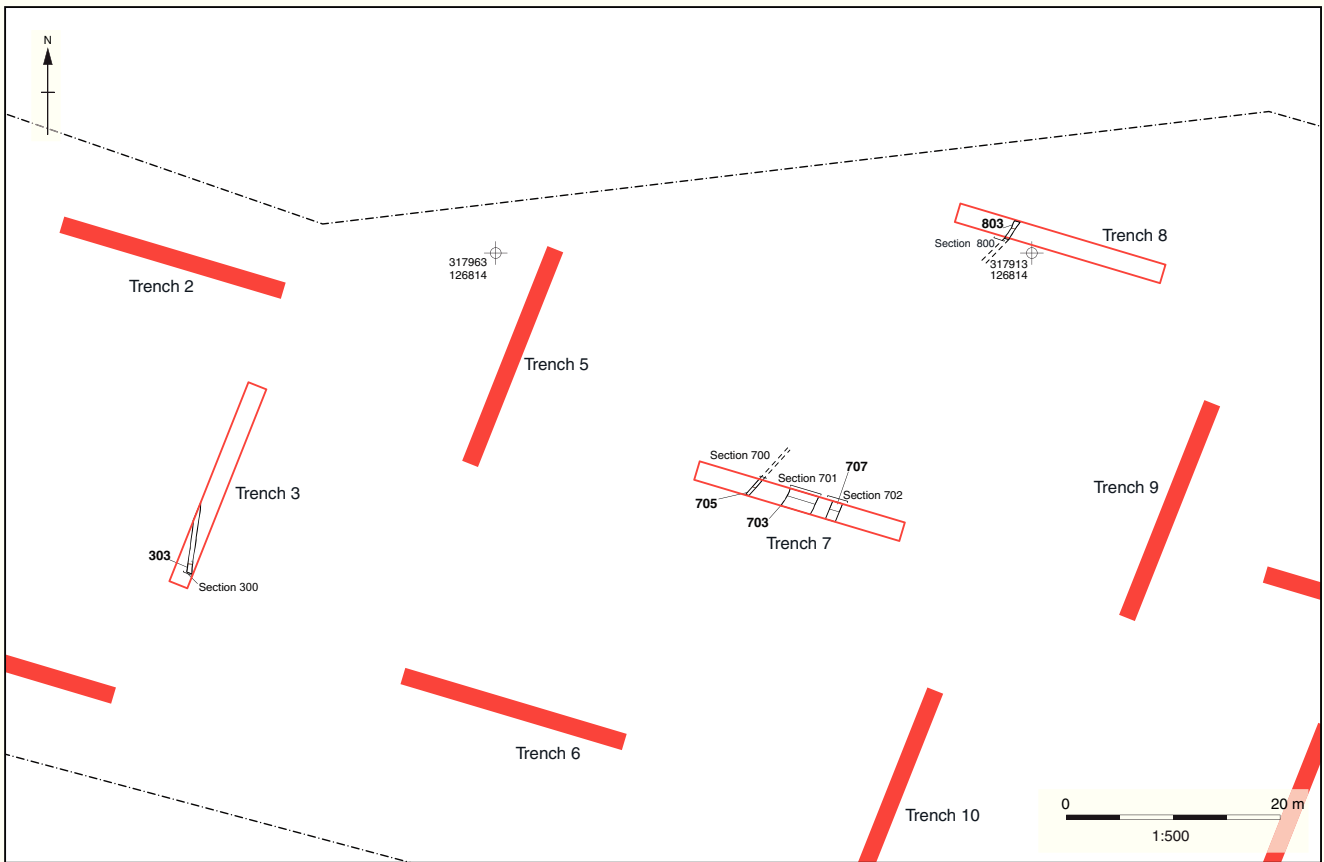


Figure 3: Plan of Trenches 3, 7 and 8

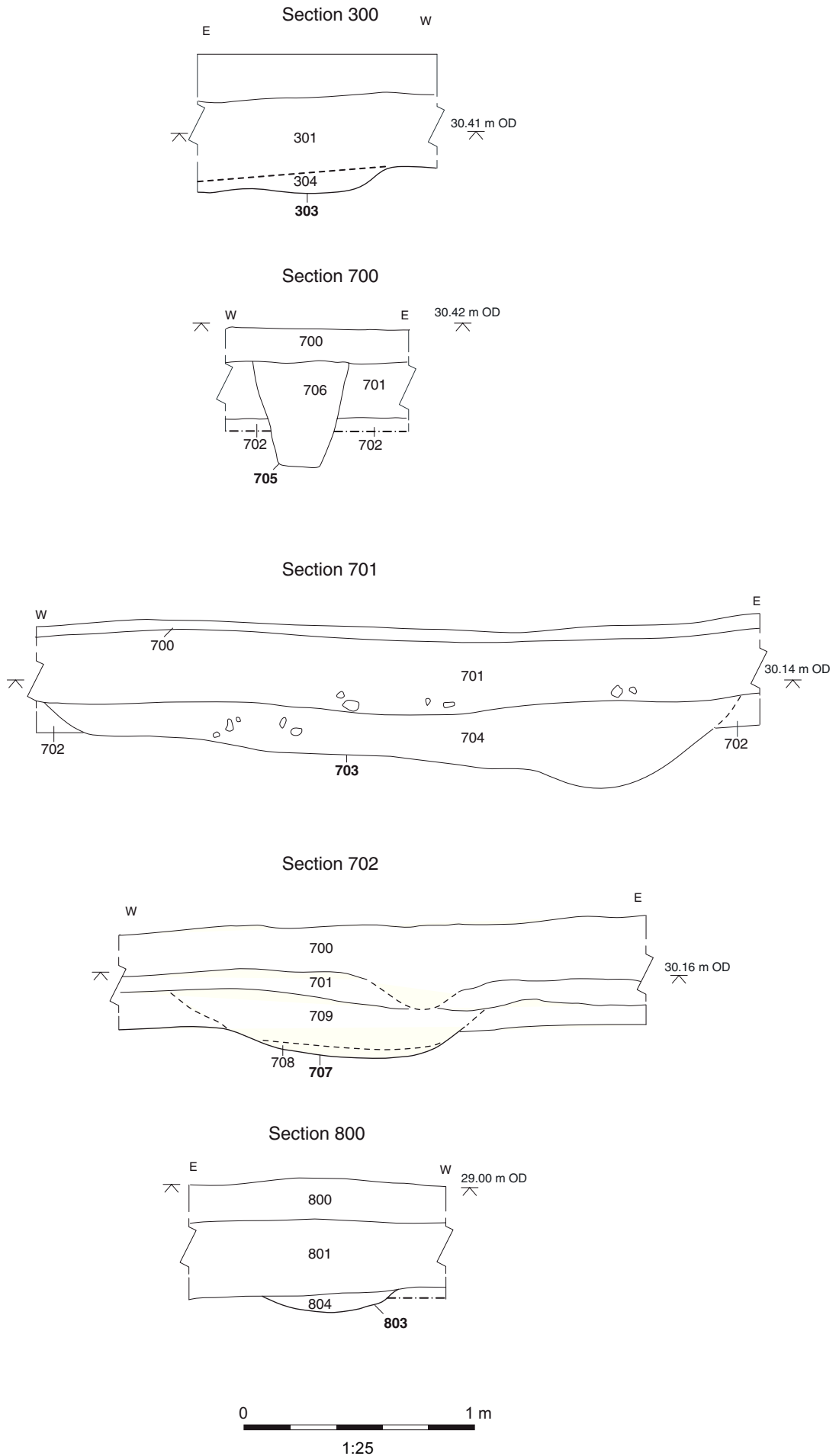


Figure 4: Sections of Trenches 3, 7 and 8

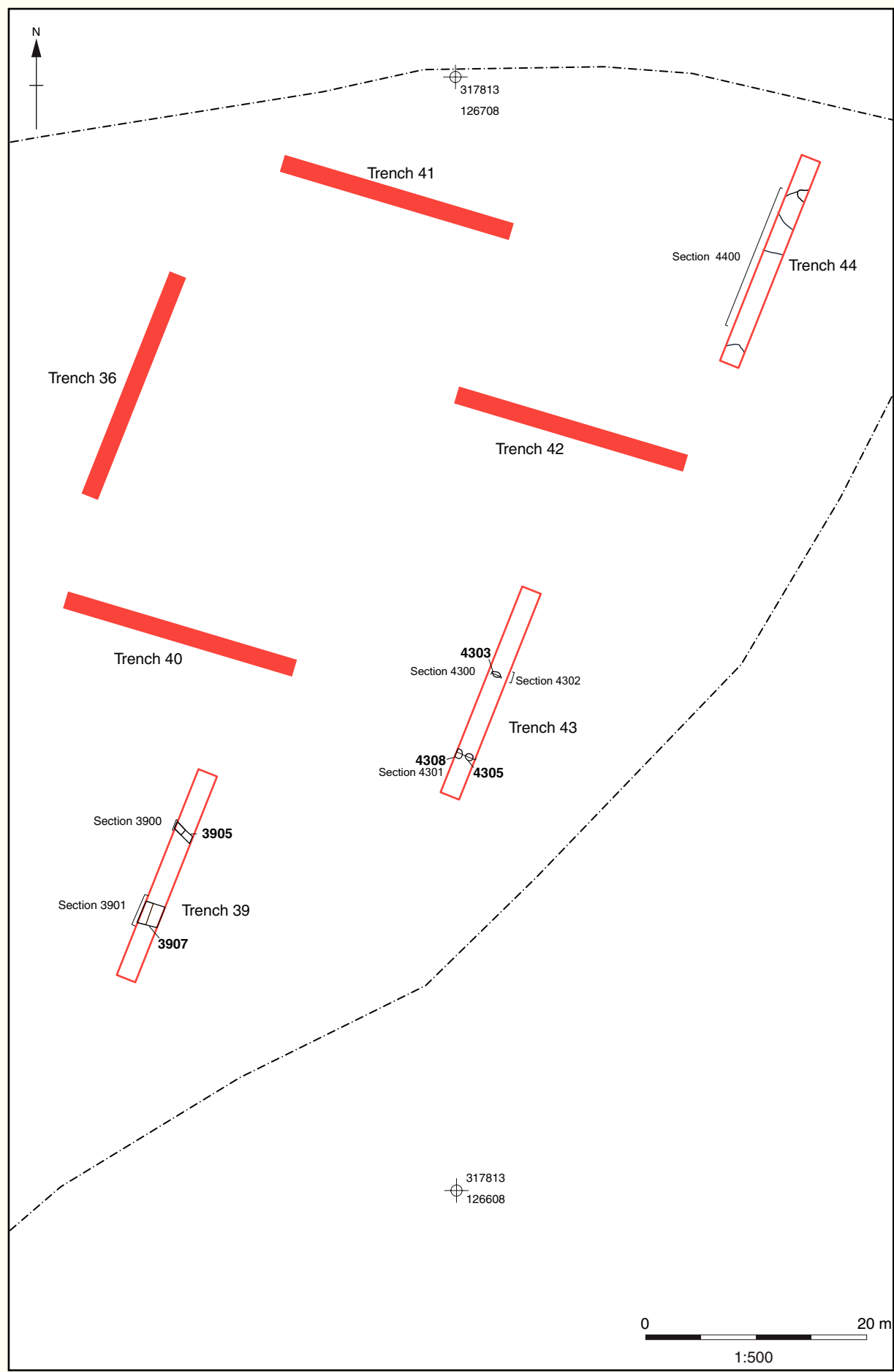


Figure 5: Trenches 39, 43 and 44

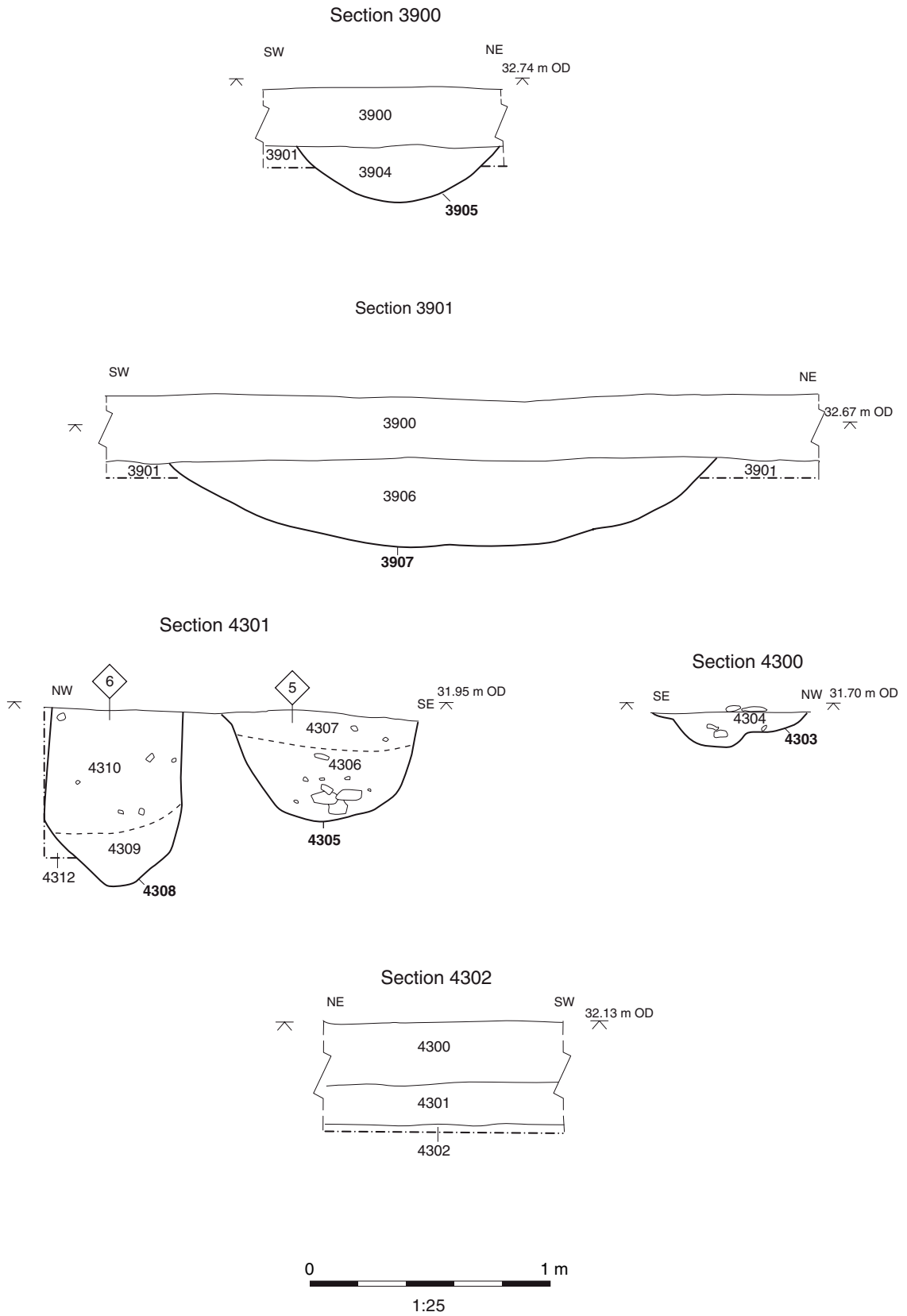


Figure 6: Sections of Trenches 39 and 43

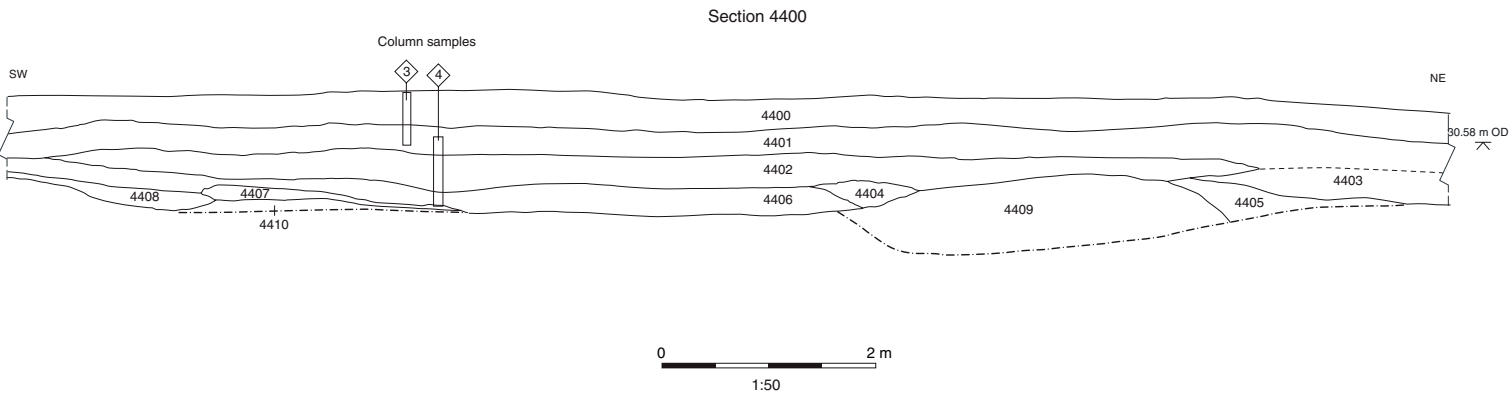


Figure 7: Trench 44, section