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AWE Burghfield
Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Project MENSA, AWE Burghfield, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between September and October 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at AWE Burghfield, Berkshire. The work was carried out on the site of the proposed MENSA development for Atkins Heritage, on behalf of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE).

Evidence of the Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF), which occupied the site prior to the existing AWE facility was recorded in the main development area, including late medieval and undated archaeological features at the periphery of this area to the north-west, south-east and east. No archaeology was encountered within the application area at Pingewood Gate to the north-east.

In most of the trenches, the natural geology was sealed by at least one layer of alluvial clay, suggesting that although the site had previously been disturbed by development there remains a potential for the survival of archaeological remains in undisturbed areas, although this is likely to be low and limited to agricultural activities during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between 9th September and 3rd October 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological evaluation within the application site of the proposed Project MENSA development at AWE Burghfield, Berkshire. OA was commissioned to undertake the work by Atkins Heritage, acting on behalf of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE).

1.1.2 The evaluation consisted of 25 trial trenches.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The evaluation area was situated on eroded drift gravels overlying Oxford clay within the Kennet river basin. The site originally sloped gently towards the north-east, however, remediation works in the central area of the application site levelled the area leaving up to 1 m of made ground to the south-west..

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological background to the application site and its environs have already been outlined in the project brief (Atkins, 2008) and is reproduced below.

1.3.2 The area around the site has a complex history of human intervention. Henges, long and round barrows, linear bank and ditch earthworks such as Grims Bank, Roman settlements, traces of ancient field systems and evidence of lynchets are all frequent and characteristic features of the historic landscape of the region as well as features representing 20th century activities and development.

Early prehistoric period (c.500,000-4,000BC)

1.3.3 A Mesolithic flint tranchet axe has been found on Burghfield Common. Gravel quarrying nearby also recorded flint blades from the era. The position of the findspots near the course of Burghfield Brook, which crosses the AWE site indicates the importance of the water courses for Mesolithic activity in the area (West Berkshire HER).

Neolithic period (c.4,000-2,500BC)

1.3.4 The Neolithic period is represented in the study area by activity at Moore's Farm immediately north of the eastern corner of AWE Burghfield, and finds near Grazeley and Burghfield Village. A number of cropmarks, near Burnthouse Farm to the east and flint tools encountered to the north-west may also date from the Neolithic period. This evidence illustrates the spread of activity from the River Kennet to areas of outlying pasture, and towards the present site.

Bronze Age (c 2,300BC - 700BC)

1.3.5 There is evidence of Bronze Age settlement, agricultural and funerary activity in the wider landscape and in proximity to AWE Burghfield. Pottery finds, approximately 11 km to the east, include a buried cinerary urn, and immediately to the north of the AWE Burghfield site boundary, in Amner's Wood, a ring cropmark and ditch features have been identified in the HER and may date to the Bronze Age. The site at Moore's Farm also included occupation evidence from the Late Bronze Age. Pottery from the Bronze Age has also been found approximately 1 km to the north-west of the current site.

Iron Age (c. 700BC-AD43)

1.3.6 An evaluation carried out by OA at the site of the proposed CRM Building development, (which partly overlaps the proposed application site to the north-eastern near Pingewood gate) in July 2008 revealed a single late Iron Age cremation and a middle Iron Age boundary ditch towards the far north-east of the site (OA, 2008), adjacent to trenches 20-24 (fig. 2).

1.3.7 The development of the Kennet River and gravels to the north of the site has revealed five cremation vessels from the Belgic tribes that occupied the area before and during the Roman period. Approximately 5 km to the west, lies Grim's Bank, a linear earthwork that runs for three miles from Ufton Nervet to AWE Aldermaston. Although Grim's Bank has not been conclusively dated, it is currently believed to have been constructed during this period.

Roman period (AD43-AD410)

1.3.8 Roman activity has been identified approximately 500 metres to the north-east of AWE Burghfield, a large ditch system at Moore's Farm illustrates the agricultural use of the area at this time. Although no evidence of Roman settlement or farmsteads have been identified within the study area, occasional dispersed Roman finds and features have been identified (West Berkshire HER).

1.3.9 A spread containing 3rd-4th century Roman pottery was excavated during the course of the CMR Building evaluation in July 2008 (OA, 2008).

Early Medieval period (AD410-AD1066):

1.3.10 The location of Burghfield Place Farm, which has it's origins at this time, close to the boundary of the site strongly indicates the potential for the land enclosed to have been within the farm's boundaries (Timmins, G, 1998). Early medieval pottery was found at Green Farm, to the east of the site. A Saxon settlement at Aldermaston is recorded in Domesday Book

Medieval period (1066-1540):

1.3.11 Several probable medieval field boundary ditches were excavated in the course of OA's evaluation of the CRM Building site in July 2008 (OA, 2008).

1.3.12 The West Berkshire HER includes the following entries relating to the medieval agricultural heritage of the study area in the medieval period.

- A moated pightle (small meadow or paddock) to the west of the proposed development;
- The remains of a building and an artefact scatter near Burnthouse Farm to the east of the proposed development
- Tile fragments approximately 1 km west of AWE Burghfield
- Pottery fragments in the fields immediately to the east of the AWE Burghfield boundary

1.3.13 It is likely that other farms, including the site of Saunderscourt on Burghfield Brook and associated dwellings also existed at this time within what is now the AWE Burghfield site boundary. The medieval farming heritage is also in evidence at the Moore's Farm multi-period site located to the north-east of AWE Burghfield. In the village of Burghfield

elements of the Grade II Listed St Mary the Virgin Church date to the 14th century and burials associated with the church's medieval boundary also survive.

Post-Medieval period (1540-1900):

1.3.14 The 1824 Greenwood map depicts an extensive farm structure at Saunderscourt Farm, in the centre of the current site. Further elements of the post-medieval agricultural landscape were identified by an archaeological evaluation, which took place in April 2006, in advance of the construction of the New Dog Kennels and Training Facility within the AWE Burghfield site (OA 2007). In addition to the archaeological evidence for post-medieval activity in the study area, there are a number of surviving and demolished built heritage features surrounding AWE Burghfield including Burnthouse, Grazeley Manor Farm, Chandler's Farm, James's Farm and The Basingstoke Branch Line.

Second World War 1939 – 1945:

1.3.15 At Burghfield the AWE site remained in agricultural use until the requisition of 225 acres in 1938 by the Ministry of Defence for the construction of a Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF). The development of Burghfield at this time necessitated the construction of accommodation for staff; consequently hostels were built at Clay Hill and Grazeley Green to the south of the facility, which survive today. There is also a Second World War Observation Station immediately north-east of the AWE Burghfield Site.

The Cold War 1946 – 1989:

1.3.16 The development of AWRE Burghfield began shortly after the site at Aldermaston. In 1954 the site of the Royal Ordnance Factory was requisitioned in conjunction with nearby AWRE Aldermaston. The entry of AWE Burghfield into atomic production necessitated the construction of specialist building units. New bunkers were designed to withstand a new kind of explosion. The need to accommodate assembly facilities for nuclear and thermonuclear warheads necessitated construction of the distinctive 'Gravel Gerties', so nicknamed because of the gravel reinforcements on its concrete domed roof and reinforced concrete walls. The Gravel Gerties were initially developed at the US Pantex assembly plant at Carson, Texas. The replication of the American design at Burghfield indicates the degree of cooperation between the USA and the UK. The southern set of Gravel Gerites were completed in the 1960s followed by the northern set in the 1980s (EH Monuments Protection Programme, 2001).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 OA extends its thanks to AWE, in particular Gary Baker and Chris Shipperly, for their assistance in facilitating the works.

1.4.2 Thanks also to Duncan Coe (West Berkshire District Council) and Andrew Holmes (Atkins Heritage) for their advice and assistance prior to and during the fieldwork.

1.4.3 The fieldwork was carried out over 4 weeks by Jodie Ford (Site Supervisor), Geraldine Crann, Nicola Hall, Alexandra Latham and Matthew Morgan (Assistant Supervisors) The Project Manager was Dan Dodds.

2 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims of the project, as stated in the Project Brief (Atkins, 2008), are as follows;

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area paying particular attention to evidence associated with prehistoric activity, former medieval agricultural processes or 20th century military use.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains affected by the proposed works.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features within the site and to take samples where appropriate.
- To make available the results of the investigation

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 In total, 25 trenches were excavated. These measured 30 m long by 1.8 m wide.

2.2.2 Trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation proceeded to the top of the natural geology or to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Care was taken to minimise damage to the trenched area and spoil was stored on plastic sheets adjacent to each trench location where necessary.

2.2.3 In some cases, machine excavation ceased before either the natural geology or an archaeological horizon had been located for health and safety reasons. These incidences are explained in further detail below.

2.2.4 All archaeological features were hand sampled. All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established OA practice as detailed in the OA Field Manual (OA 1992). All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context. All excavation and recording met the requirements of the IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (IfA, 2001)

2.2.5 Due to security restrictions on site, colour transparency and black-and-white negative photographs were not taken, however, digital images were taken by AWE staff under the guidance of the archaeologists. Images were taken of all archaeological features and deposits, together with record shots of each trench. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50. Section drawings of features and sample sections of stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

2.2.6 Atkins Heritage was kept informed of fieldwork progress and site visits for monitoring purposes were arranged as appropriate with West Berkshire Council's Archaeological Officer.

2.3 Finds

2.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the evaluation and bagged by context.

2.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

2.4.1 No deposits were encountered during the course of the evaluation which were deemed suitable for environmental sampling.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results are presented below on a trench by trench basis, where archaeological deposits were observed. Empty trenches are briefly discussed in groups, based on geographical location. Detailed soil descriptions are not included within the main text unless directly relevant to the discussion, otherwise they are included in the context inventory (Appendix A).

3.1.2 A generalised interpretation of the results can be found in section 4.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Where the ground was undisturbed either by the 1930's Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF), the existing Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), or recent remediation groundworks, a light loamy topsoil and subsoil (on average 0.25 m thick) sealed probable alluvial deposits of *c*. 0.6 m- 1 m thick.

3.2.2 The presence of substantial, apparently undisturbed, alluvial deposits across site would suggest that the area has regularly flooded at some point in the past and that the underlying natural geology has been relatively undisturbed.

3.2.3 Within the majority of the trenches in the central area of the proposed development site a *c*. 1 m thick layer of modern overburden existed, which was occasionally was found to contain contaminants such as asbestos. As a result, Trenches 13 and 14 were not fully excavated. Trench 7 and 3 were excavated to a depth of 1.2 m (whereupon excavation was halted for health and safety reasons) and did not penetrate the modern overburden. Trench 4 was abandoned altogether due to the existence of asbestos and multiple buried services.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Trenches 1, 2, 10 and 15 were the only trenches to contain potential archaeological deposits. Late medieval, undated and 20th century features were encountered at the periphery of the evaluated area, to the north-west (Trench 15), south-east (Trenches 1 and 2) and to the east (Trench 10).

3.4 Trenches 1-3

3.4.1 Trenches 1-3 were excavated in the southernmost part of the evaluation area, which was heavily disturbed by demolition debris and some sections of surviving wall, both probably associated with former ROF buildings. Substantial alluvial deposits were also encountered. All three trenches were excavated on a north-east by south-west alignment.

Trench 1

3.4.2 Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.95 m below ground level to the top of the natural clay geology (101), which was encountered at 43.54 m OD. This was sealed by a layer of dark clay-silt containing on average 0.7 m thick of demolition rubble (102). This in turn was sealed by 0.15 m of topsoil.

3.4.3 Close to the central point of Trench 1 a small (0.25 m x 0.25 m) circular feature with an irregular base was excavated (103), (Fig. 3). The fill was devoid of finds and the feature has been interpreted as root disturbance. The feature was sealed by demolition deposit 102.

3.4.4 Two walls (105 and 106, Fig. 3), both on a north-south alignment, with *c*. 3 courses of red brick surviving, and a wall foundation (107, Fig. 3), filled with a sandy gravel fill and on the same north-south alignment as 105 and 106 were recorded. These were all cut into natural clay (101) and sealed by demolition deposit (102).

Trench 2

3.4.5 Trench 2 was 26 m in length (reduced from 30 m due to underground services). The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m below ground level to the top of probable natural clay geology (210) at 43.19 m O.D. The natural clay was extremely mixed and possibly represents several mixed alluvial deposits. This was overlain by 0.5 m of more definite alluvial deposits. The alluvial clay deposits were sealed by c. 0.1 m of topsoil.

3.4.6 A single east-west aligned ditch (206, Fig. 3 and Fig. 4) was encountered, which contained no finds. The deposits filling 206 (207 and 216) both appeared water borne silt deposits, suggesting this was a small drainage ditch.

Trench 3

3.4.7 Trench 3 was 25 m in length (reduced from 30 m due to tree root restrictions). The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m below ground level, where excavation was halted for health and safety reasons. A loose silty demolition rubble was sealed by *c*. 0.1 m of topsoil. Natural geology was not encountered and no archaeological deposits were observed.

3.5 Trenches 5-11

Trenches 5-9 and 11

3.5.1 Trenches 5-9 and 11 were all devoid of archaeological deposits and the ground in this area was heavily disturbed by recently deposited made ground.

3.5.2 The same sequence of deposits was observed in Trenches 5-9 and 11

- Approximately 0.6 m of recently deposited made ground derived from the demolition of AWE buildings in advance of the MENSA project
- 0.2 m - 0.24 m of mid brown-yellow silty clay- possibly alluvial in origin
- 0.24 m – 0.34 m of mid yellow-brown silty clay- possibly alluvial in origin.
- Natural clay geology consisting of mid yellow-brown clay with brown-orange sandy banding

3.5.3 Trenches 5 and 11 were excavated to the top of the yellow-brown silty clay deposit (1102 and 504) and in Trench 7 excavation did not penetrate the modern overburden (700-706). In all three cases it was not deemed safe to excavate through the full thickness of the modern overburden and alluvial clays.

3.5.4 Natural geology was encountered in Trenches 6 (47.31 m O.D), 8 (47.05 m O.D) and 9 (46.71 m O.D).

Trench 10

3.5.5 Trench 10 was excavated in an area of undisturbed ground to the immediate north-west of Trench 9. The trench was on a north-west south-east alignment and was 30 m long.

3.5.6 The trench was excavated to the top of mid brown-yellow natural clay geology, which was encountered at 46.23 m O.D.

3.5.7 One ditch (1009) and two possible gullies (1006 and 1009) were excavated, all of which were cut into the natural clay geology (1005) and sealed by alluvial clay (1004)..

3.5.8 Ditch 1009 (Fig. 5) was 0.5 m deep and 0.25 m wide, on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment, with a single secondary fill of clay-silt (1010). Two sherds of *c*. 10th-12th century medieval pottery were recovered from this fill.

3.5.9 Possible gully 1011 (Fig. 5) was 0.47 m deep with a width of 0.23 m and was on a north-east to south-west alignment. The gully contained a similar single fill (1012) to that of 1009, although in this case it contained patches of natural-looking blue clay, possibly derived from the local Oxford Clay. The feature was also very deep (0.47 m) considering its width of 0.23 m. The feature was treated as archaeological due to two sherds of c. 11th-12th century pottery being recovered from the fill and the fact that the feature itself was slightly curvilinear. This may have formed an early field drain.

3.5.10 The other possible gully 1006 (Fig. 5) was on the same north-east to south-west alignment as 1001 and measured 0.25 m wide by 0.2 m deep. No finds were recovered from either of the features fills (1007 and 1008) and the cut appeared irregular along its length. There was little or no distinction between the lower fill (1008) and the natural clay geology (1005), however, the upper fill (1007) is clearly defined from the lower fill and is regular in profile (Fig. 5).

3.6 Trenches 12-16

3.6.1 Trenches 12-16 were located to the north of the evaluated area on slightly lower ground. With the exception of Trench 15, these trenches were all devoid of archaeology.

Trenches 12-14 and 16

3.6.2 Trenches 12-14 and 16 were excavated to the top of the natural geology and were all devoid of archaeological deposits,

3.6.3 The same sequence of modern overburden overlying possible alluvial deposits, which in turn overlay natural clay geology observed in trenches 5-11 was observed in these trenches:

- Approximately 0.6 m of recently deposited made ground derived from the demolition of AWE buildings in advance of the MENSA project
- 0.2 m - 0.24 m of mid brown-yellow silty clay, possibly alluvial in origin
- 0.24 m – 0.34 m of mid yellow-brown silty clay
- Natural clay geology consisting of mid yellow-brown clay with brown-orange sandy banding

3.6.4 The height at which natural geology was encountered in trenches 12-16 is presented in table 1 below.

Table 1

Trench	OD Height at top of natural geology (m)
12	43.88
13	46.23
14	43.99
15	42.01
16	44.44

Trench 15

3.6.5 Trench 15 was located to the north of Trench 16 (Fig. 2), on ground that was less disturbed than that to the south of it. The trench was 22 m long and was excavated to the top of the natural clay geology, consisting of mid yellow-brown clay with brown-orange sandy banding, which was encountered at 42.01 m O.D.

3.6.6 A single ditch terminal 1505, (Fig. 6) was encountered at the north-eastern end of the trench, on a north-east by south-west alignment. The ditch contained a single secondary fill of mid grey-brown clay (1506) from which no finds were recovered.

3.7 Trenches 17-19 and 25

3.7.1 Trenches 17-19 and 25 were located to the west of the evaluated area on relatively undisturbed ground. All of these trenches were devoid of archaeology. The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural geology, which consisted of patches of eroded gravel terrace, overlying mid brown-yellow clay (for levels refer to Table 2 below).

3.7.2 The natural geology was overlain by a yellow-brown alluvial silt deposit, which varied from 0.5 m to 0.25 m in thickness and contained frequent inclusions of iron pan.

3.7.3 A substantial layer of topsoil and subsoil existed throughout this area, which was *c*. 0.4 m thick.

Table 2

Trench	OD Height at top of natural geology (m)
17	42.48
18	42.31
19	40.10
25	42.27

3.8 Trenches 20-24

3.8.1 Trenches 20-24 were located to the far north-east of the evaluated area and were devoid of archaeological deposits. The trenches were excavated to the top of the natural geology (refer to Table 3 for levels) which consisted of mid yellow-brown clay with brown-orange sandy banding. This was overlain by a series of deposits similar to those encountered to the south-west:

- 0.18-0.3 m of topsoil and subsoil.
- 0.24m - 0.32 m of mid brown-yellow silty clay, possibly alluvial in origin
- 0.26 m – 0.36 m of mid yellow-brown silty clay
- Natural clay geology consisting of mid yellow-brown clay with brown-orange sandy banding

3.8.2 A possible buried soil was encountered in Trenches 20 (2001), 21 (2105) and 24 (2402), underlying the subsoil, which was between 0.18 m and 0.25 m thick. This was

not observed in Trenches 22 and 23, suggesting that the trenches were located along its northern extent.

Table 3

Trench	OD Height at top of natural geology (m)
20	41.69
21	41.87
22	41.81
23	39.69
24	42.78

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The instances where trenches were partially excavated or did not penetrate to natural geology reduced the evaluated area. Given the similarity of the deposits across the site, this is not like to have compromised the results of the investigation.

4.1.2 The evaluation was carried out in mostly fine weather conditions, although the ground did not drain readily and rainwater partially reduced the visibility of some trench bases.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 The evaluation revealed remains dating from the medieval period to the 1930s, with the majority of the trenches being devoid of any archaeological remains. Those trenches that did contain archaeological deposits (Trenches 1, 2, 10 and 15) were isolated from one another on the periphery of the evaluated area, making comparisons largely conjectural.

4.2.2 The earliest, and most precisely datable features encountered were in Trench 10, to the west if the evaluated area. Ditch 1009 and gully 1011 (Fig. 5) are late medieval in date, although this may be the result of residual material in the case of 1011, which is potentially a field drain. Gully 1006 (Fig. 5), assuming it is not a natural feature, could be assigned to the same date range on the basis of its alignment with the other two linear features.

4.2.3 The latest archaeological remains recorded were the walls (105 and 106, Fig. 3) and wall foundation 107 (Fig. 3) within Trench 1. These were interpreted as potentially being part of the Royal Ordnance Factory, constructed from 1938 onwards (Atkins, 2008), on the basis that they do not respect any current AWE building plans.

4.2.4 The features in Trench 10 are all filled by what appears to be naturally redeposited natural clay, possibly suggesting that they are part of a network of drainage ditches/gullies associated with agricultural activity which would have been vital to the growing conditions on these thin clays.

4.2.5 To the south-east, the undated ditch in Trench 2 (206, Fig. 4) was probably a drainage ditch, and may have been associated with agricultural activity, particularly considering the lack of material evidence and the feature's isolation.

4.2.6 Similarly, the single ditch terminal in Trench 15 (Fig. 6) was undated and of a similar size and profile, although the material filling this feature was somewhat darker.

4.2.7 Ditches 206 and 1505 could be very tentatively interpreted as being broadly contemporary with the datable features in Trench 10, on the basis of similar form, although this is very conjectural and mainly based on the lack of evidence to the contrary.

4.2.8 Across the site as a whole, layers of alluvial silty clay were observed without exception. In some cases these layers were relatively thin, and in Trenches 5 -11 the alluvial depoists were in excess of 0.5 m thick. In all cases, the archaeological remains were seen to be cut through the alluviums (probably as a means of draining the very water that form the deposits).

4.2.9 Given the widespread extent of the alluvial deposits, it would seem that they were deposited as a result of sustained and extreme flooding, as opposed to a seasonal and regular inundation of the site. More regular and low level flooding is likely to have

created a series of much thinner and separated series of alluvial 'bands' within the sequence of soils.

4.2.10 It is possible that the alluvial deposits mask and protect underlying archaeological remains, although no such remains were observed during the evaluation.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The limited amount of archaeological evidence encountered on this evaluation appears to confirm that the area remained in agricultural use until the establishment of the ROF in the late 1930s. Evidence of ROF building being demolished in Trenches 1-3 provide material evidence of the use of the site into the Cold War period.

4.3.2 The lack of any archaeological activity to the north-east (Trenches 20-24) near Pingewood Gate, correlates with the findings of the archaeological evaluation carried out in the same locality by OA in July 2008 (OA, 2008), in advance of the CMR building. This showed Iron Age and Roman activity to be concentrated to the west of this grassed area but towards the east the area was devoid of remains.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench containing one probable natural feature and masonry probably associated with the 1930's Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF). Not excavated to full length of 30 m due to concrete footpath.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.1
					Width (m)	2.8
					Length (m)	28.4
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
100	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural, mid brown-yellow clay	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Dark grey-brown clay silt, 45% building rubble.	Glass bottle	Early 20th C.
103	Cut	0.32	0.06	Cut of probable natural feature, possibly a posthole.	-	-
104	Fill	0.32	0.06	Fill of natural feature/posthole. Dark grey clay.	-	-
105	Struct.	0.5	0.25	Wall, constructed of red brick. Prob 1930's on date..	-	-
106	Struct.	0.6	0.25	Wall, constructed of red brick. Prob 1930's in date.	-	-
107	Cut	0.7	-	Foundation cut for 1930's wall.	-	-
108	Fill	0.7	-	Fill of wall foundation.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench containing a single undated ditch. Not excavated to full length of 30 m due to buried services.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.2
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	27
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
200	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil	-	-
201	VOID	-	-	-	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.55	Modern overburden, containing 40% building rubble.	Pottery	1862
203	Layer	-	0.1-0.2	Dark brown silty-clay. Possibly made ground, possibly an alluvial deposit.	-	-
204	Layer	-	0.2	Mid red-brown, silty-clay alluvial deposit.	-	-
205	Layer	-	0.25	Mid yellow-brown, silty-clay alluvial deposit.	-	-
206	Cut	0.6	0.55	Cut of NE/SW aligned ditch.	-	-
207	Fill	0.6	0.4	Top fill of 206. Mid blue-grey silty clay.	-	-
208	Layer	-	-	Brown-orange natural gravel lense. Poss. alluvial.	-	-
209	Layer	-	-	Light orange-brown natural clay. May be an alluvial deposit. Poss. alluvial.	-	-
210	Layer	-	-	Dark grey-blue natural clay. Poss. alluvial.	-	-
211	Layer	-	-	Mid red-brown natural clay. Poss. alluvial.	-	-
212	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-blue natural clay. Poss. alluvial.	-	-
213	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay. Poss. alluvial.	-	-
214	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay. Poss. alluvial.	-	-
215	Layer	-	-	Mid blue-grey natural clay. Poss. alluvial .	-	-
216	Fill	0.5	0.15	Bottom fill of ditch. Dark grey-blue silty-clay.	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Thin layer of topsoil, overlaying a thick layer of modern disturbance, including building material. Trench not excavated to natural due to extreme depth of modern overburden.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.2
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
300	Layer	-	0.08	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	1.1	Made ground, consisting of loose silty clay, building rubble and lenses of gravel and sand. Some asbestos encountered.	-	-

Trench 4		
General description	**Orientation**	
Trench partially excavated (c. 5 m) and subsequently abandoned due to underground services and high levels of asbestos contamination. No numbers were assigned.	**Avg. depth (m)**	
	Width (m)	
	Length (m)	

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Topsoil absent. Consists of modern made ground overlying alluvial deposits. Not excavated to full length of 30 m due to buried services and site boundary restrictions.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.1
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	22
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
500	Layer	-	0.1	Modern made ground.	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.1	Modern made ground	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.1	Modern made ground	-	-
503	Layer	-	0.2	Modern made ground	-	-
504	Layer	-	0.6	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Poss. alluvial deposit.	-	-
505	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground overlying alluvial deposits. Patchy topsoil present.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.44
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	27.70
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
600	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.2	Modern made ground	-	-
602	Layer	-	0.4	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-
603	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-
604	Layer	-	0.3	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Possibly alluvial deposit.	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground, which was not penetrated. Trench not excavated to natural due to extreme depth of modern overburden.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.2
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
700	Layer	-	0.35-0.6	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.1	Modern made ground	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.15	Modern made ground	-	-
703	Layer	-	0.2	Modern made ground	-	-
704	Layer	-	0.3	Modern made ground	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground, overlying alluvial deposits and natural clay. Topsoil present.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.2
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
800	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.35	Modern made ground	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.3	Modern made ground	-	-
803	Layer	-	0.15	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-
804	Layer	-	0.3	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Possibly alluvial deposit.	-	-
805	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground, overlying alluvial deposits and natural clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.2
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
900	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.2	Modern made ground	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.12	Modern made ground	-	-
903	Layer	-	0.2	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-
904	Layer	-	0.34	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Possibly alluvial deposit.	-	-
905	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	NW/SE
Trench containing 3 linear features. Excavated to the top of the natural clay geology.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
					Width (m)	1.2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1001	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil/possible made ground. Light brown-yellow silty clay	-	-
1003	Layer	-	0.2	Made ground/possible buried ploughsoil	-	-
1004	Layer	-	0.1	Mid brown-yellow silty clay alluvial deposit.	-	-
1005	Layer	-	-	Natural clay. Light brown-yellow.	-	-
1006	Cut	0.3	0.2	Gully cut/possible natural feature. Possibly overdug.	-	-
1007	Fill	0.18	0.14	Top fill of 1006. Dark grey-brown silty clay. Secondary fill.	-	-
1008	Fill	0.2	0.2	Lower fill of 1008. Mid brown-yellow clay. Possibly the result of overdigging.	-	-
1009	Cut	0.5	0.24	Cut of small ditch/gully.	-	-
1010	Fill	0.5	0.24	Single secondary fill of 1009. Mid yellow-brown silty clay.	Pot	10th-12th C.
1011	Cut	0.24	0.45	Gully/possible field drain. Extremely deep/narrow. Slightly curvilinear.	-	-
1012	Fill	0.24	0.45	Single secondary fill of 1011. Mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional	Pot	11th-12th C.

				blue clay inclusions.		

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground, overlying alluvial deposits and natural clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.44
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1101	Layer	-	0.2	Modern made ground	-	-
1102	Layer	-	0.8	Modern made ground	-	-
1103	Layer	-	0.2	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Possibly alluvial deposit.	-	-
1104	Layer	-	0.1	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground overlying possible alluvial deposits.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	28
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1200	Layer	-	0.2	Modern made ground	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.4	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-
1202	Layer	-	0.4	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Possibly alluvial deposit.	-	-
1203	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground, overlying alluvial deposits and natural clay. Trench shortened due to asbestos contamination.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.2
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1300	Layer	-	0.24	Modern made ground	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.24	Modern made ground	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.28	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-
1303	Layer	-	0.5	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Possibly alluvial deposit.	-	-
1304	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground overlying possible alluvial deposits and natural clay. Trench shortened due to asbestos contamination.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.1
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	18
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1400	Layer	-	0.3	Modern made ground	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.1	Modern made ground	-	-
1402	Layer	-	0.4	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-
1403	Layer	-	0.3	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Possibly alluvial deposit.	-	-
1404	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	NE/SW
Trench containing a single, undated, ditch terminus cut into natural geology and sealed by possible alluvial clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.8
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1500	Layer		0.8	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.38	Modern made ground	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-
1503	Layer	-	0.1	Modern made ground	-	-
1504	Layer	-	0.24	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Possibly alluvial deposit.	-	-
1505	Cut	0.6	0.12	Ditch terminus cut.	-	-
1506	Fill	0.6	0.12	Mid grey-brown secondary fill of ditch terminus. No finds recovered.	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern made ground overlying possible alluvial deposits and natural clay .					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	28
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1601	Layer	-	0.1	Modern made ground	-	-
1602	Layer	-	0.2	Modern made ground	-	-
1603	Layer	-	0.1	Modern made ground	-	-
1604	Layer	-	0.2	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-
1605	Layer	-	0.2	Mid brown-orange silty clay. Probably a lens within 1604.	-	-
1606	Layer	-	0.2	Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Possibly alluvial deposit.	-	-
1607	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial deposits and natural clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1700	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	0.3	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-
1703	Layer	-	0.24	Mid yellow-brown clay silt alluvial deposit.	-	-
1704	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 18

General description					Orientation	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial deposits and natural gravel and clay, with some modern disturbance.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1801	Layer	-	0.08	Topsoil	-	-
1802	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
1803	Layer	-	0.24	Mid yellow-brown clay silt alluvial deposit.	-	-
1804	Fill	5.5	-	Fill of modern cut	-	-
1805	Cut	5.5	-	Modern feature. Not excavated.	-	-
1806	Layer	-	-	Eroded natural gravel with clay patches.	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and alluvial silt overlying natural gravel.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
					Width (m)	1.2
					Length (m)	26.8
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1900	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.3	Mid grey-orange clay silt. Heavy iron pan. Alluvial deposit.	-	-
1902	Layer	-	0.1	Natural gravel. Mid brown-orange	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and alluvial clay deposits overlying natural clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.1
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	9.3
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2000	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.18	Mid orange-brown silty clay. Subsoil or buried soil.	-	-
2002	Layer	-	0.3	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-
2003	Layer	-	0.35	Mid yellow-brown clay silt alluvial deposit.	-	-
2004	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 21

General description	Orientation	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and alluvial clay deposits overlying natural clay. Trench shortened by 8.3 m due to buried services.	Avg. depth (m)	1.1
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	21.7

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2100	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
2101	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
2102	Layer	-	0.24	Mid brown-yellow silty clay alluvial deposit.	-	-
2103	Layer	-	0.26	Mid yellow-brown clay silt alluvial deposit.	Pottery	17th-18th C
2104	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-
2105	Layer	-	0.18	Mid orange-brown silty clay. Subsoil or buried soil.	-	-

Trench 22

General description	Orientation	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and alluvial clay deposits overlying natural clay.	Avg. depth (m)	0.9
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	29.8

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2200	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.32	Mid yellow-brown clay silt alluvial deposit.	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-
2203	Layer		0.22	Subsoil	-	-
2204	Layer		0.2	Mid brown-yellow silty clay alluvial deposit.	-	-

Trench 23

General description	Orientation	NW/SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and alluvial clay deposits overlying natural clay.	Avg. depth (m)	0.8
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	29.5

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
2300	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
2301	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
2302	Layer	-	0.26	Mid brown-yellow silty clay alluvial deposit.	-	-
2303	Layer	-	0.36	Mid yellow-brown clay silt alluvial deposit.	-	-
2304	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 24						
General description					**Orientation**	NE/SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and alluvial clay deposits overlying natural clay.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2400	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
2402	Layer	-	0.25	Mid orange-brown silty clay. Subsoil/?buried soil.	-	-
2403	Layer	-	0.32	Mid brown-yellow silty clay. Possibly alluvial.	-	-
2404	Layer	-	0.14	Mid yellow-brown clay silt alluvial deposit.	-	-
2405	Layer	-	-	Mid orange-brown natural clay with sandy bands.	-	-

Trench 25						
General description					**Orientation**	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and alluvial silt overlying natural gravel.					**Avg. depth (m)**	
					Width (m)	
					Length (m)	
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2500	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2501	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
2502	Layer	-	-	Natural gravel. Mid brown-orange	-	-
2503	Layer	-	0.18	Mid brown grey clay-silt. Alluvial in origin or possibly a buried topsoil horizon.	-	-
2504	Layer	-	0.14	Mid grey-orange clay silt. Heavy iron pan. Alluvial deposit.	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter (OA).

B.1.1 A total of nine sherds were recovered from four contexts from the site.

Context No.	Description
202	One sherd of white glazed marmalade pot dated 1862.
1010	Five sherds: Two 10th-12th century date - one sherd (6g) Medieval grey ware and one sherd (3g) OXFB greyware. Three unidentifiable sherds.
1012	Two sherds of 11th-12th date century - one sherd (7g) Medieval grey ware and one sherd (2g) sandy ware.
2103	One sherd (17g) of 17th-18th century date.

Discussion

B.1.2 The small quantities of pottery recovered limit the interpretation of the material beyond illustrating a human presence in the local area during the medieval and post-medieval period.

Recommendations

B.1.3 The assemblage is generally of low potential and requires no further work.

B.2 Glass

By Ian Scott (OA).

B.2.1 A glass bottle was recovered from context 102.

Context No.	Description
102	Complete Tunbridge and Co, Reading glass bottle. Made for Frederick Tunbridge, mineral water makers, 37, Castle St, Reading. Probable date early 20thC. Premises were next door to chemist shop owned by same proprietor.

B.3 Flint

By Ruth Shaffrey (OA).

B.3.1 3 small pieces of burnt flint were recovered from 2 contexts on site, 604 and 2101. In the absence of other material it is not possible to say whether they are archaeological in origin.

Recommendations

B.3.2 The assemblage is generally of low potential and requires no further work.

APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Atkins, 2007 Project Mensa AWE Burghfield, Berkshire: Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation

Atkins, 2008 CMR Building AWE Burghfield: Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation

Oxford Archaeology, 2007, Dog Kennels and Training Facility, AWE Burghfield, Berkshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report

Oxford Archaeology, 2008, New CRM Building, AWE Burghfield, Berkshire Archaeological Evaluation Report

Oxford Archaeology, 1992, Fieldwork Manual, (Ed. D Wilkinson, first edition, August 1992)

Appendix D. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Project MENSA, AWE Burghfield, Berkshire

Site code: BURAME08

Grid reference: NGR: SU 686 684

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 9th September 2008 - 3rd October 2008

Summary of results: 25 trenches containing low density of late medieval ditches and drains, and 20th century demolition deposits associated with former ROF buildings.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with West Berkshire Heritage Service in due course, under the following accession number: NEBYM: 2008.99

Scale 1:25,000

Figure 1: Site location

N

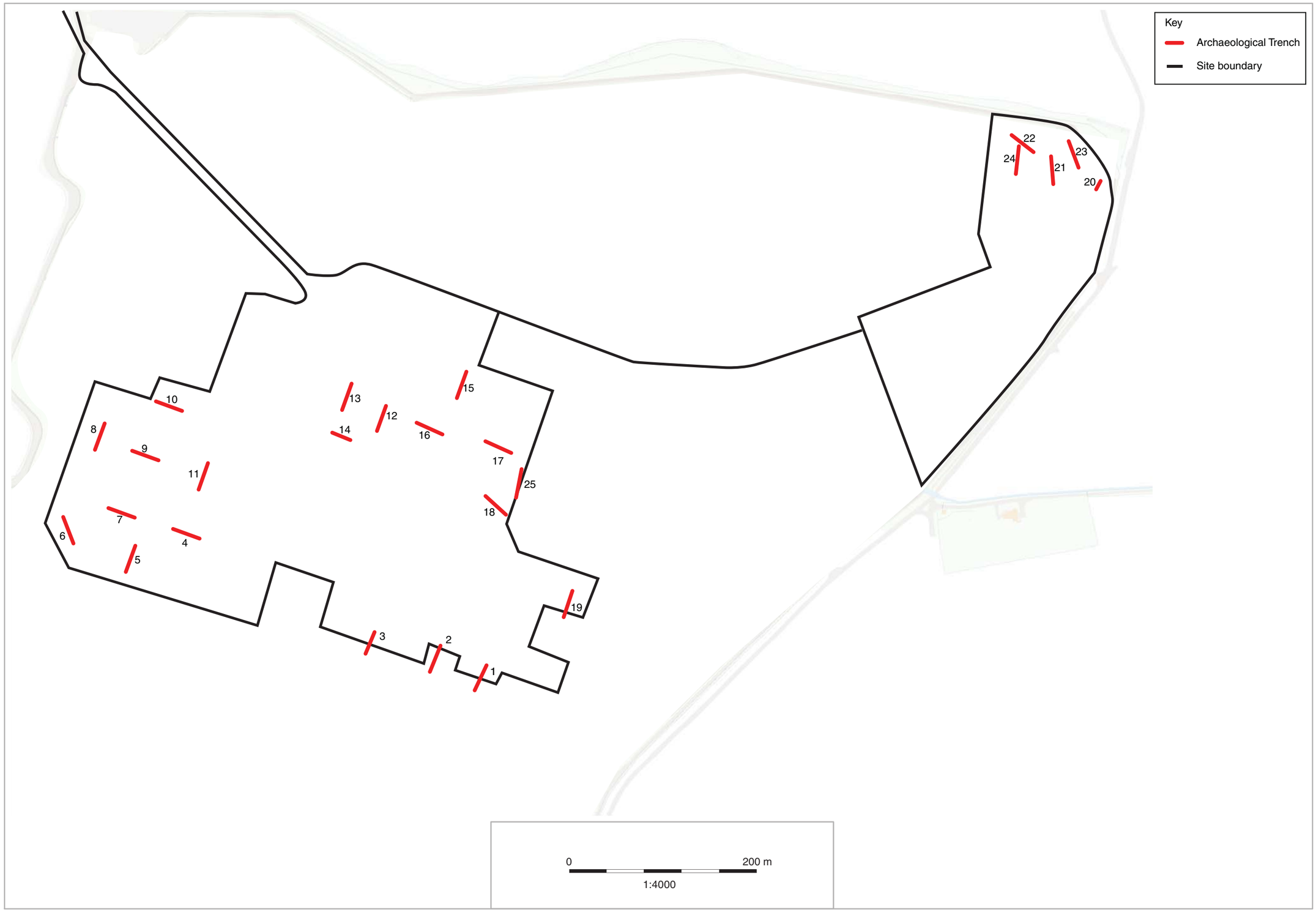
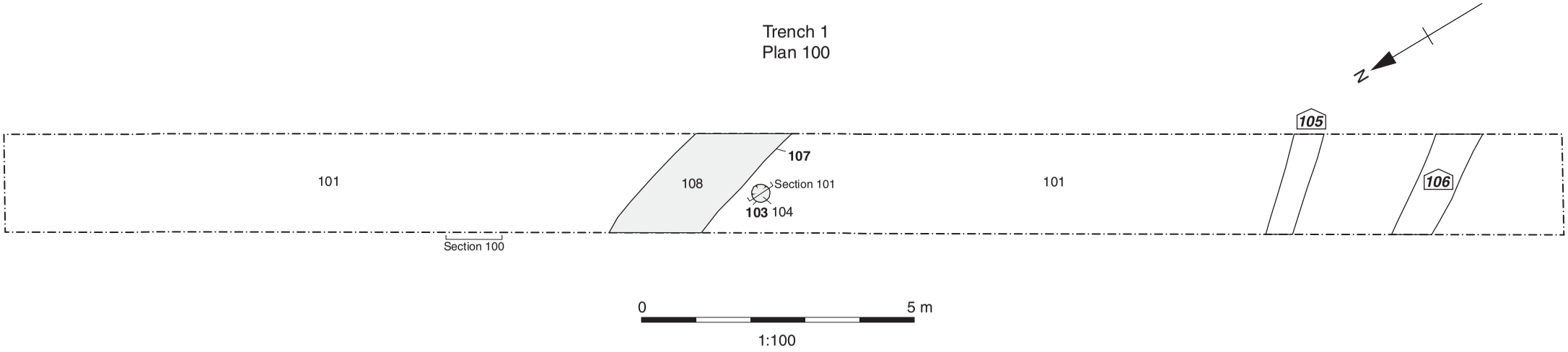


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan



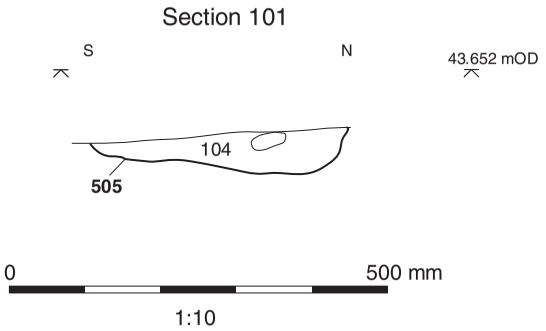
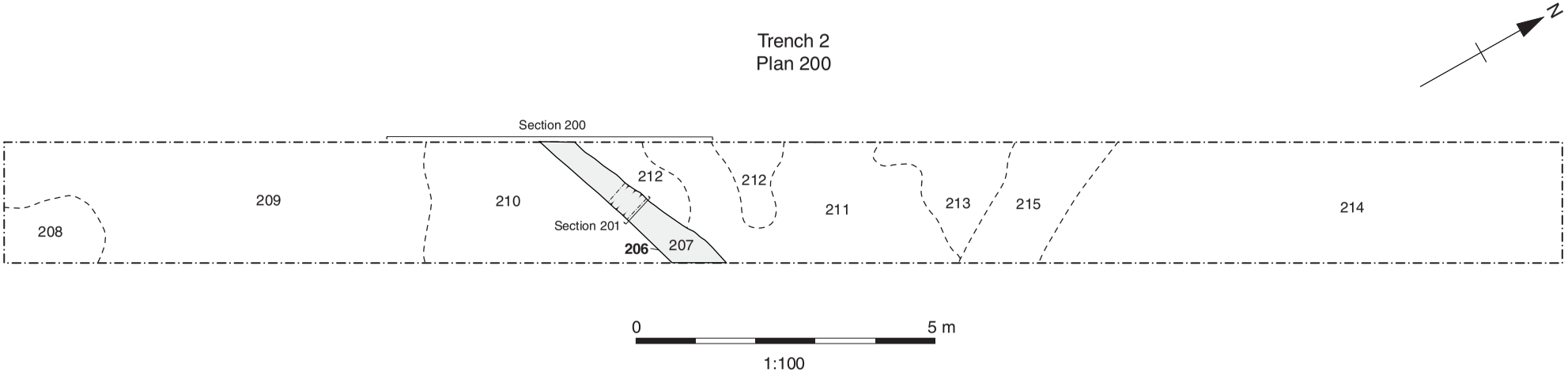


Figure 3: Trench 1, Plan 100 and section 101



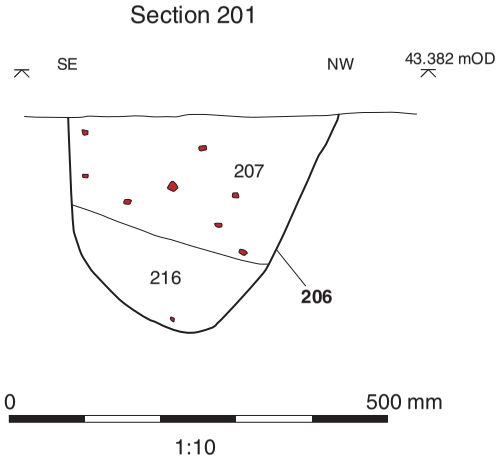
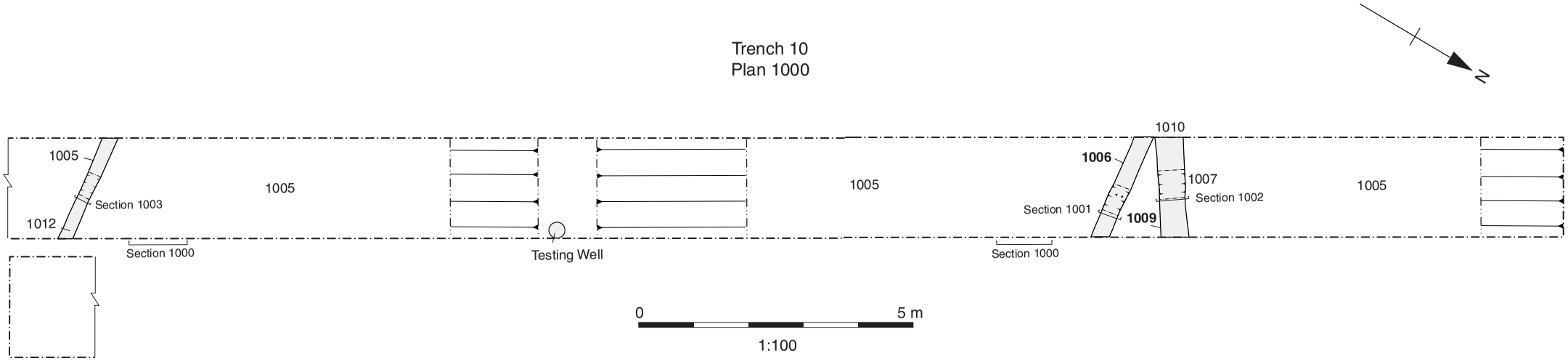


Figure 4: Trench 2, Plan 200 and section 201



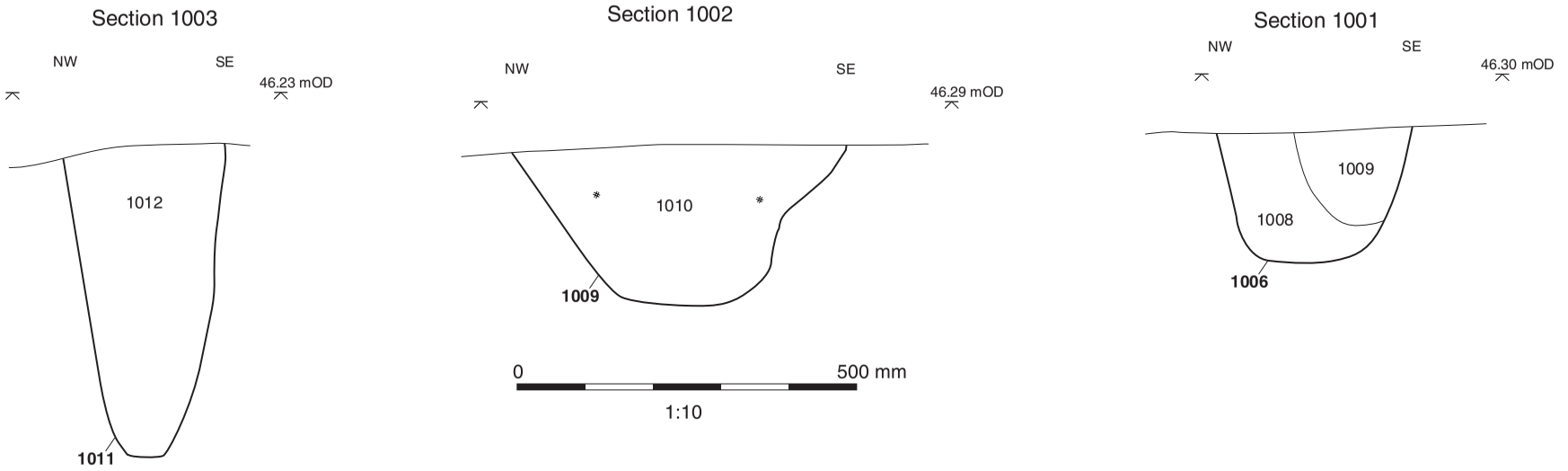
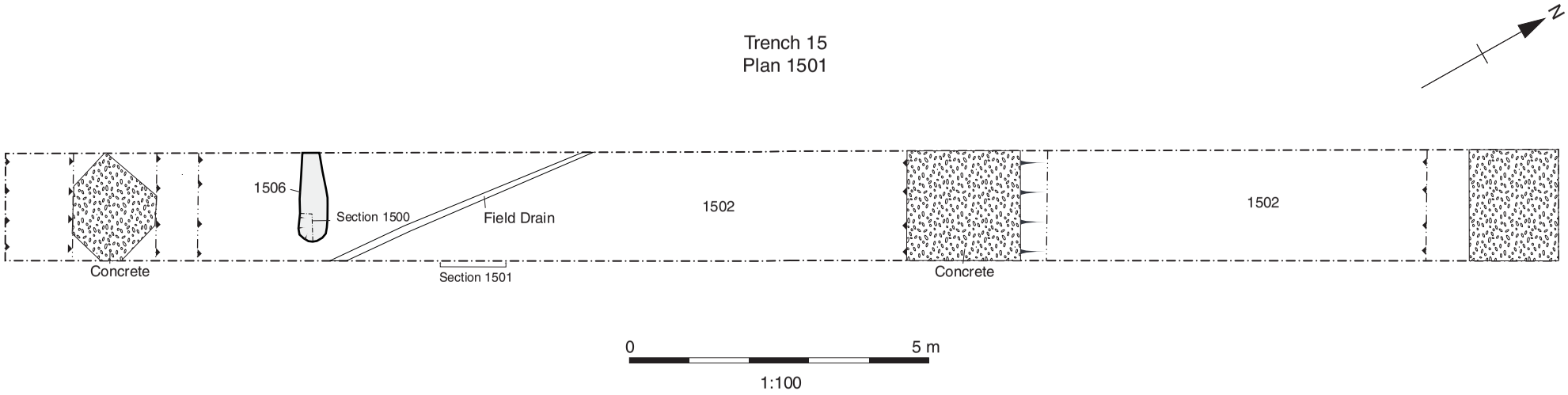


Figure 5: Trench 10, Plan 1000 and sections 1001, 1002 and 1003



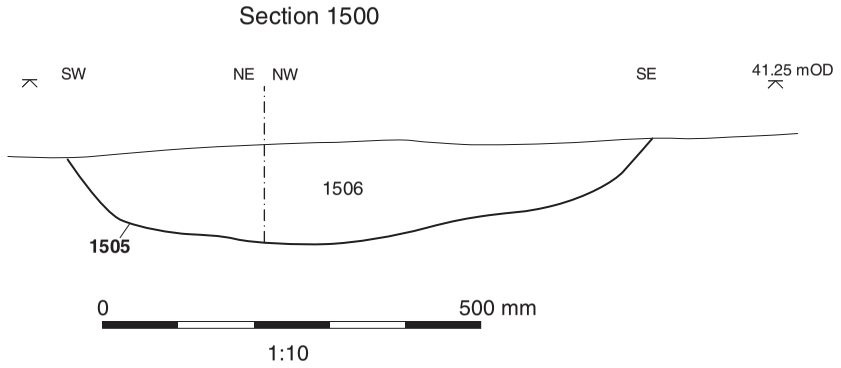


Figure 6: Trench 15, Plan 1501 and section 1500

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