

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT
FLEET LANE
TWYNING
GLOUCESTERSHIRE



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Worcestershire Archaeology
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Contents
Summary

1

Report

1 Background.....	2
1.1 Reasons for the project	2
2 Aims.....	2
3 Methods.....	2
3.1 Personnel.....	2
3.2 Documentary research	2
3.3 Fieldwork strategy	2
3.4 Structural analysis	3
3.5 Artefact methodology	3
3.5.1 Recovery policy	3
3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology	3
3.6.1 Sampling policy.....	3
3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results	3
4 The application site	3
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context.....	3
4.2 Current land-use	3
5 Structural analysis.....	3
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits	3
5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits	4
5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits	4
6 Synthesis	4
7 Significance	4
8 Publication summary	4
9 Acknowledgements	5
10 Bibliography	5

An archaeological evaluation at Fleet Lane, Twyning, Gloucestershire

Andrew Walsh

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Fleet Lane, Twyning, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 903 367). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their client, in advance of a proposed residential development for which a planning application has been submitted.

Prior to the evaluation, a heritage assessment identified the potential for the survival of archaeological remains dating to the early medieval to post-medieval periods. A detailed geophysical survey failed to identify potential archaeological features. Consultation with Gloucestershire County Council established the requirement for evaluation of an initial 2% of the site.

Six trenches were excavated, identifying four potential archaeological features cutting the natural substrate. However the sterility of the material filling these features indicated they are of agricultural origin and not associated with any settlement or other, more intensive, forms of activity. No evidence of any datable archaeological activity was identified and no artefacts were recovered.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Fleet Lane, Twyning, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 903 367). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of their client, in advance of a proposed residential development for which a planning application has been submitted to Tewkesbury District Council (reference 13/01205/FUL).

The proposed development site is considered to include potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application.

The project conforms to the generic Gloucestershire County Council brief for evaluations (GCC 2013) and for which a written scheme of investigation was produced (WA 2014). The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009). The Worcestershire Archaeology event reference for this project is P4283.

2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation were:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The fieldwork was led by Andrew Walsh BSc MSc FSA Scot AlfA who joined WA in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004. He was assisted in the field by Pete Lovett BSc and Suzi Richer BSc MSc PhD. The report preparation was led by Andrew Walsh and the project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan BA MA AlfA. Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt BSc MlfA.

3.2 Documentary research

A desk-based assessment was undertaken by CgMs Consulting (2013). This report contained the results of a HER search and map regression, and concluded that there was the potential for as yet unknown early medieval to post-medieval settlement and occupation to exist within the proposed development site.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed written scheme of investigation was prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014). Fieldwork was undertaken between 17 and 19 February 2014. The WA site reference number and site code is P4283.

Six trenches, amounting to just over 228m², were excavated over the site area of 1.1ha, representing a sample of just over 2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand. Clean surfaces were inspected and selected deposits were excavated to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples, as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

3.4 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

3.5 Artefact methodology

3.5.1 Recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard WA practice (2012; appendix 2). In the event, no finds pre-dating the modern period were recovered.

3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology

3.6.1 Sampling policy

The sampling policy conformed to standard WA practice (2012). In the event no deposits were revealed which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis.

3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The proposed development site occupies rectangular-shaped field with a narrow 'panhandle' to the east. The site is bounded by Fleet Lane to the north and east, caravan parks to the north-east and south and residential properties to the west. The field gently slopes down towards the River Avon, which lies to the east of the site, and lies at 17m AOD to the west and 15m AOD to the east. The underlying geology is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Wasperton Member (BGS 2014).

A Heritage Assessment was carried out in advance of evaluation (CgMs 2013). In summary it identified that there was a low potential for prehistoric, Roman and late post-medieval activity on the site. However it did identify the presence of a series of early to post-medieval earthworks related to settlement activity to the east of the site and that there was some potential for this activity to continue in the proposed development site. A geophysical survey of the site did not identify any anomalies of archaeological interest (Stratascan 2014).

4.2 Current land-use

The site is currently under rough overgrown grass.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figure 2. Detailed trench plans and sections are shown in Figures 3 and 4 respectively. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The underlying natural deposits were a yellowy orange gravelly sand, with patches of cleaner sand or sandy gravels. In Trenches 1-4 a number of irregular linear and discrete features (including 106, 116, 109, 111, 305, and 307) were identified (Plates 1 and 2). All were filled by a sterile greyish black or purple black slightly silty sand and were considered to be natural geological features.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits

An undated gully terminus (104) was identified in the southern end of Trench 1. It was exposed for 3.0m in length, and measured 0.36m in width and 0.12m in depth, aligned approximately north-east to south-west. It was filled by a reddish brown clayey sand (103).

At the eastern end of Trench 3 was a small posthole (310). It measured 0.35m in diameter and 0.2m in depth and was filled by a brownish grey silty sand (309).

In Trench 4 was a small pit (404) which measured 0.62m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.16m in depth (Plate 3). It was filled by a greyish brown silty sand (403).

No finds were recovered from any of the features (Figures 3 and 4).

5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

Directly above the undated deposits in Trenches 1, 3 and 4, and the natural deposits in the other trenches, was a mid reddish brown silty sandy subsoil, which measured between 0.27m and 0.5m in depth. In Trench 1 this subsoil was cut by ditch 114 (Plate 4), which measured 1.4m in width and 0.62m in depth. All the trenches were sealed dark brownish black silty sand topsoil which measured about 0.3m in depth.

6 Synthesis

The evaluation trenches exposed a number of features, although most were of geological origin. Four potential archaeological features were identified but the sterility of the material filling these features would indicate they are agricultural in origin and not associated with any settlement or other, more intensive forms of activity. No evidence of any datable archaeological activity was identified and no finds were recovered.

7 Significance

The features recorded within the site comprised a post-medieval or modern ditch, an undated gully and two small undated discrete features. All the features appear to be of agricultural origin. No artefacts were recovered from the site and it is concluded that the site is of low archaeological potential.

8 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

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Prior to the evaluation, a heritage assessment identified the potential for the survival of archaeological remains dating to the early medieval to post-medieval periods. A detailed geophysical survey failed to identify potential archaeological features. Consultation with Gloucestershire County Council established the requirement for evaluation of an initial 2% of the site.

Six trenches were excavated, identifying four potential archaeological features cutting the natural substrate. However the sterility of the material filling these features indicated they are of agricultural origin and not associated with any settlement or other, more intensive, forms of activity. No evidence of any datable archaeological activity was identified and no artefacts were recovered.

9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Hannah Smalley, Nick Shepherd and Richard Smalley (CgMs Consulting) and Charles Parry (Gloucestershire County Council).

10 Bibliography

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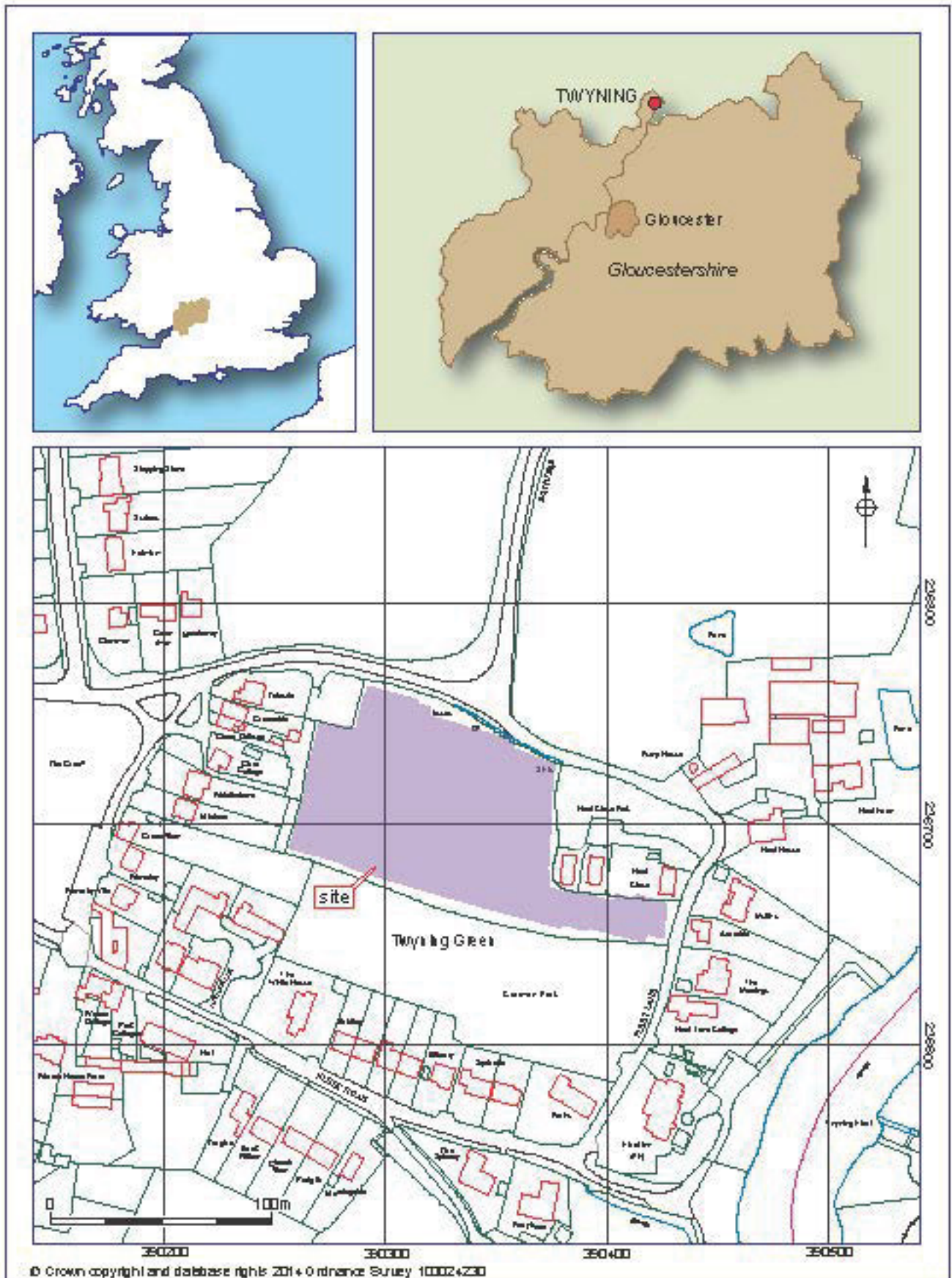
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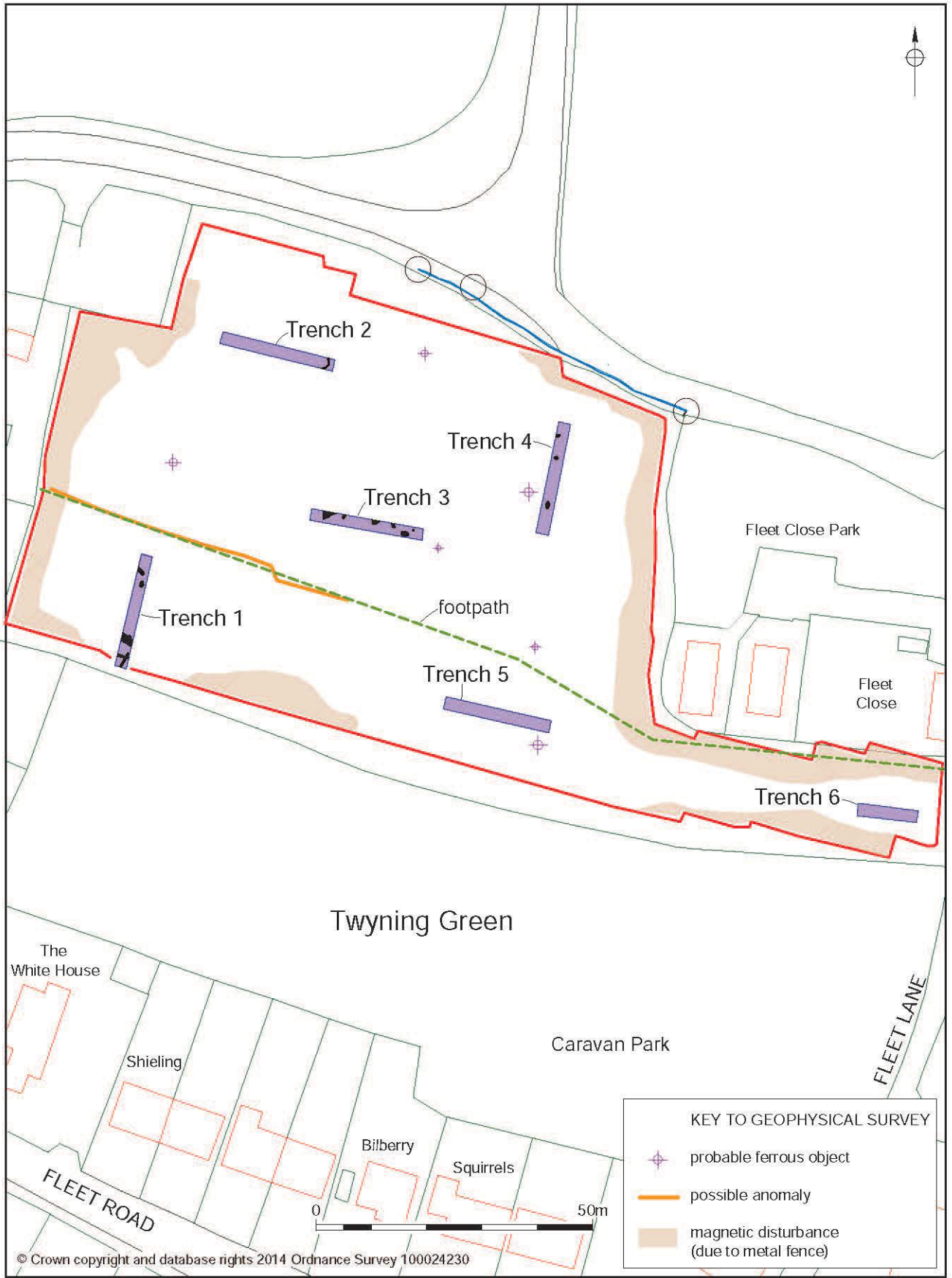
WA 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at Downfield Lane/Fleet Lane, Twyning, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, document dated 12 February 2014, P4283

Figures






Location of the site

Figure 1



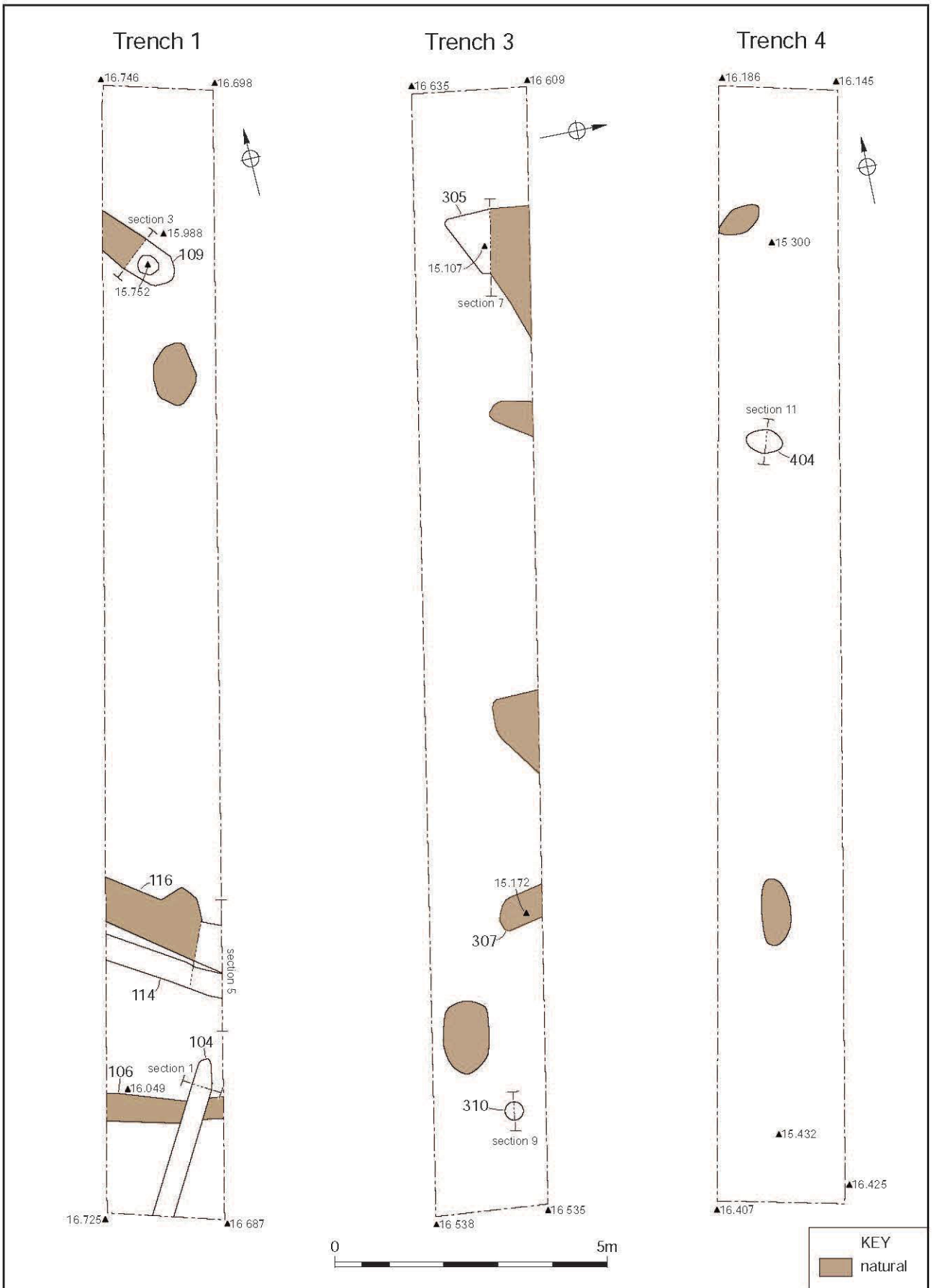
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KEY TO GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

-  probable ferrous object
-  possible anomaly
-  magnetic disturbance (due to metal fence)

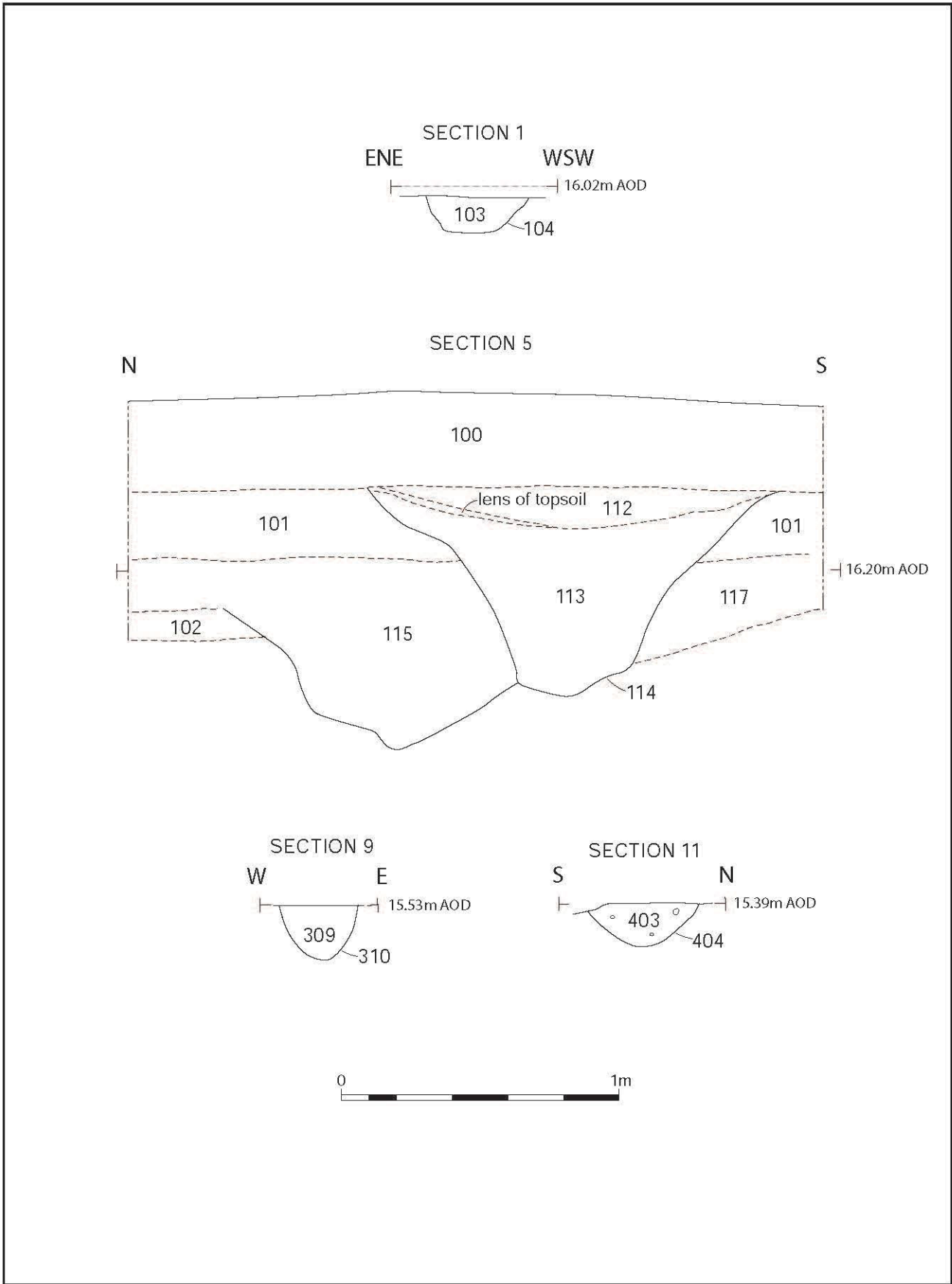
Trench location plan

Figure 2



Trenches 1, 3 and 4: plans

Figure 3



Sections

Figure 4

Plates



Plate 1. Natural feature 305.



Plate 2. Natural feature 307



Plate 3. Pit 404



Plate 4. Ditch 114 (centre-right) is visible cutting natural feature 116 which is formed of the darker deposit to the left

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length 20.7m Width 2m

Context summary

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark brownish black silty sand	0.35	Topsoil
101	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand	0.27	Subsoil
102	Natural	Layer	Firm mid yellowish orange silty sand		Natural
103	Gully	Fill	Soft dark reddish brown clayey sand	0.12	Fill of gully 104
104	Gully	Cut		0.12	Cut of gully. Cuts 105
105	Natural	Fill	Soft dark brownish black silty sand		Fill in natural feature 106. Not excavated
106	Natural	Cut			Natural feature. Not excavated
107	Natural	Fill	Soft dark purpleish grey silty sand	0.18	Fill in natural feature 109
108	Natural	Fill	Soft light brownish grey silty sand	0.26	Fill in natural feature 109
109	Natural	Cut		0.24	Natural feature
110	Natural	Fill	Loose mid yellowish brown silty sand		Fill in natural feature 111.
111	Natural	Cut			Natural feature.
112	Ditch	Fill	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand	0.15	Secondary fill of ditch 114
113	Ditch	Fill	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand	0.62	Primary fill of ditch 114
114	Ditch	Cut		0.62	Cut of ditch. Cuts subsoil
115	Natural	Fill	Soft dark brownish black sandy silt	0.68	Fill in natural feature 116. Continues to north under subsoil. Same as 117?
116	Natural	Cut		0.68	Natural feature
117	Natural	Layer	Soft dark greyish black silty sand	0.34	Deposit. Same as 115?

Trench 2

Length 20.9m Width 2m

Context summary

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
200	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark brownish black sandy silt	0.30	Topsoil
201	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand	0.45	Subsoil
202	Natural	Layer	Loose mid yellowish orange sand		Natural

Trench 3

Length 20.6m Width 2m

Context summary

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
300	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark brownish black sandy silt	0.30	Topsoil
301	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand	0.50	Subsoil
302	Natural	Layer	Loose mid yellowish orange sand		Natural
303	Natural	Fill	Firm mid greyish black silty sand	0.52	Main fill in natural feature 305
304	Natural	Fill	Firm light greyish brown silty sand	0.02	Fill in natural feature 305
305	Natural	Cut		0.52	Natural feature
306	Natural	Fill	Firm dark greyish black silty sand	0.52	Fill in natural feature 307
307	Natural	Cut		0.52	Natural feature
308	Natural	Layer	Firm dark brownish grey silty sand		Deposit below subsoil
309	Posthole	Fill	Soft mid brownish grey silty sand	0.20	Fill of posthole 310
310	Posthole	Cut		0.20	Cut of posthole

Trench 4

Length 20.5m Width 2m

Context summary

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
400	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark brownish black sandy silt	0.32	Topsoil
401	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand	0.48	Subsoil
402	Natural	Layer	Firm mid yellowish orange sand		Natural
403	Pit	Fill	Soft mid greyish brown silty sand	0.16	Fill of pit 404
404	Pit	Cut		0.16	Cut of pit

Trench 5

Length 19.5m Width 2.1m

Context summary

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
500	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark brownish black sandy silt	0.32	Topsoil
501	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand	0.32	Subsoil
502	Natural	Layer	Firm mid yellowish orange sand		Natural

Trench 6

Length 10.8m Width 2.05m

Context summary

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
600	Topsoil	Layer	Soft dark brownish black sandy silt	0.28	Topsoil
601	Subsoil	Layer	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand	0.40	Subsoil
602	Natural	Layer	Firm mid yellowish orange sand		Natural

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (site code: P4283)

The archive consists of:

22	Context records AS1
3	Field progress reports AS2
1	Photographic records AS3
54	Digital photographs
1	Drawing number catalogues AS4
1	Permatrace scale drawings AS34
6	Trench record sheets AS41
1	CD-Rom/DVDs
1	Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum
Clarence Street
Cheltenham
GL50 3JT
Tel (01242) 237431
