ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND EAST OF THE COACH AND HORSES PUBLIC HOUSE, BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Simon Sworn

With a contribution by Alan Jacobs

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

27th July 2006

© Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council





Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, Woodbury, University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester WR2 6AJ

Project P2937 Report 1456 CHBW06

Contents

Part 1 Project	summary
----------------	---------

2

Part 2 Detailed report

1.	Background	4
1.1	Reasons for the project	
1.2	Project parameters	4
1.3	Aims	4
2.	Methods	4
2.1	Documentary search	4
2.2	Fieldwork methodology	4
2.	2.1 Fieldwork strategy	4
2.	2.2 Structural analysis	5
2.3	Artefact methodology	5
2.	3.1 Artefact recovery policy	5
2.	3.2 Method of analysis	5
2.4	Environmental archaeology methodology	5
2.	4.1 Sampling policy	5
2.5	The methods in retrospect	5
3.	Topographical and archaeological context	6
4.	Results	6
4.1	Structural analysis	6
4.2	Phase 1 Natural deposits	6
4.3	Phase 2 Prehistoric deposits	
4.4	Phase 3 Medieval deposits	6
4.5	Phase 4 Post-medieval/modern deposits	6
4.6	Phase 5 Undated	7
5	Artefact analysis, by Alan Jacobs	7
5	.1.1 Discussion of the pottery	7
5	.1.2 Other finds	8
5.2	Significance	8
6.	Synthesis	8
6.1	Prehistoric and Roman	
6.2	Medieval/post-medieval	
6.3	Modern	
6.4	Undated	
7.	Significance	
8.	Publication summary	
9.	The archive	.10
10.	Acknowledgements	
11.	Personnel	
12	Bibliography	.10
	Figures	
	Plates	
	Appendix 1 Trench descriptions	.19

List of Figures

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Trench location and feature summary plan
Figure 3	Trenches 1 and 2: plans and sections
Figure 4	Trenches 6 and 8: plans and sections
Figure 5	Trench 9: plan and sections

List of Plates

Plate 1	General view of site
Plate 2	Trench 2, general view, facing south-west
Plate 3	Trench 2, sample section of the below ground deposits, facing north-west
Plate 4	Trench 3, facing north-east
Plate 5	Trench 4, facing south
Plate 6	Trench 6, facing north-west
Plate 7	Trench 8, partially excavated ditch 806, facing north-west
Plate 8	Trench 8, section through ditch 806, facing north-east
Plate 9	Trench 9, limestone feature 904, prior to excavation, facing south-east.
Plate 10	Trench 9 feature 904 post-excavation facing south-west

Archaeological evaluation at land east of the Coach and Horses public house, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire

Simon Sworn

With a contribution by Alan Jacobs

Part 1 Project summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land east of the Coach and Horses public house, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (NRG: SP 1690 2185). The work was undertaken at the request of Cotswold Archaeology on behalf of Hunter Page Planning, acting for their client JS Bloor (Tewkesbury) Ltd who propose residential development of the land. The project is intended to augment a desk-based assessment and aimed to determine if any significant archaeology was present and if so to indicate what its location, date and nature were.

The evaluation consisted of nine trenches located in a field to the south of the Fosse Way, the Roman road linking Exeter and Lincoln. The evidence from the evaluation was of a very limited nature and suggested that no major activity was located on the site. Only two features of any note were observed, both of these being in the north-west corner of the field, adjacent to the Coach and Horses public house. An east – west aligned limestone drain/culvert and a similarly aligned ditch were identified. The limestone feature could be given a post-medieval date, though the ditch was undated. Both appeared to have functioned as drainage for the field and drained into the low-lying ground to the north-east corner of the site. No evidence of Roman or earlier deposits were identified. The examination of all recovered finds indicated that there is no evidence for significant on-site activity. All finds from the medieval to modern periods appear to be the result of manuring or the discard of general rubbish, implying a prolonged agricultural usage for this area.

A number of anomalies noted on the geophysical survey, carried out prior to the evaluation appeared to be from modern field drains, modern ferrous objects in the topsoil and/or major variations in the underlying geology.

Land east of the Coach and Horses public house, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire	
	_

Part 2 Detailed report

1. Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land east of the Coach and Horses Public House, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (NGR SP 1690 2185: Fig 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Cotswold Archaeology on behalf of Hunter Page Planning, acting for their client J.S. Bloor (Tewkesbury) Ltd. The client intends to submit a planning application for the residential development of the paddock. The evaluation was carried out in order to aid the application determination process.

1.2 **Project parameters**

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999). The project also conforms to the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), and an approved project proposal (including detailed specification) (CA 2006).

1.3 **Aims**

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability and documentation. The purpose of this was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment, which may then be integrated with the proposed development programme.

Specific objectives of the evaluation were to:

- Evaluate the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.
- Investigate the land adjacent to the Fosse Way for archaeological activity related to the route of the Roman Road.

2. **Methods**

2.1 **Documentary search**

Prior to fieldwork commencing a comprehensive desk based assessment was carried out by Cotswold Archaeology (Naylor 2003), which provided an historic and archaeological background for future archaeological investigations.

2.2 Fieldwork methodology

2.2.1 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2006) and agreed by Gloucestershire County Council.

Fieldwork was undertaken between the 4th and 7th July 2006. The site reference number and site code is CHBW06.

A total of nine trenches, amounting to just over 446m² in area, were excavated across the site (an area of approximately 2.3ha), representing a sample of 1.94%. The locations of the trenches are indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a wheeled 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 any potential environmental samples (though no deposits were encountered that contained environmental potential), as well as to determine their nature. Deposits were recorded according to standard Service practice (CAS 1995). On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by the replacing of excavated material.

2.2.2 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.

2.3 Artefact methodology, by Alan Jacobs

2.3.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Service practice (CAS 1995; appendix 2).

2.3.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined and a primary record was made on a Microsoft Access 2000 database. Artefacts were identified, quantified and dated and a *terminus post quem* date produced for each stratified context.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric type and all sherds have been grouped and quantified according to fabric type defined by Maureen Mellor (1994) or to the county type series (Hurst 1992).

2.4 Environmental archaeology methodology

2.4.1 Sampling policy

No deposits were encountered that were deemed to have any environmental potential and therefore no environmental samples were recovered from the evaluation.

2.5 The methods in retrospect

The dimensions and locations of some of the trenches across the site were constrained by the presence of existing trees. Trench 2 was shortened from 50m to 42m, as the southern end of the trench was impeded by the presence of a modern earthen bank with extensive vegetation. Trenches 6-9 were to be located close to the southern edge of the present road, though the existence of mature trees and vegetation made this impossible; the trenches were relocated to the nearest open space, some 5-10m south-east of the original locations.

Nevertheless the results of the evaluation provided an understanding of the below ground deposits and the nature of the geophysical anomalies, allowing a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

3. Topographical and archaeological context

A comprehensive desk-based assessment (Naylor 2003) provided a background for the topographical and archaeological context of the site.

Briefly, the site is located on the northern outskirts of the town c 1km from the centre. The site consists of land gently sloping to the northwest, and currently under long grass. It is bounded on the north-west by the present A429, which follows the line of the Roman road between Exeter and Lincoln (Fosse Way), to the north-east by the road leading to the Bourton Industrial Park, and to the south by modern housing.

4 Results

4.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figures 2 to 9 and on Plates 2 to 10. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

4.2 Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits were noted across the site. These comprise mixed Lower Lias clays of the Lower Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods, containing frequent bands of silty clay, sandy clay and manganese across the majority of the site, giving way to Quaternary River gravels to the north (BGS 1972, Sheet 217: Mackney *et al* 1983.).

4.3 Phase 2 Prehistoric

A single fragment of either a residual flint flake or flint debitage was recovered from the subsoil in trench 2 (context 202). No prehistoric deposits were associated.

4.4 Phase 3 Medieval deposits

Although no features were noted across the evaluation that could be securely dated to the medieval period, a number of medieval pottery shards were recovered from the subsoil within trenches 1, 2 and 5.

4.5 Phase 4 Post-medieval/modern deposits

Across the site a number of ceramic field drains were observed cutting through both the subsoil and the underlying natural deposits. Post-medieval and modern finds were recovered and observed throughout the topsoil and subsoil deposits across the site.

Trench 9 (Fig 9)

In the far south-west corner of the field an east to west aligned limestone structure (904: Plates 9 and 10), interpreted as a drain/culvert, was observed. The structure consisted of two small parallel walls, 0.30m apart, made from roughly hewn limestone blocks. Each stone block was roughly 0.30 x 0.20 x 0.10m. The double limestone structure sat within a regular, linear cut (905) extending across the width of the trench and 0.60m wide and 0.70m deep, with vertical sides and a flat, regular base. A single fill (907) of mid yellowish brown silty clay filled the gap between the two stone walls. The cut of this feature had been truncated to the north by the insertion of a later ceramic field drain, following the same orientation of the earlier limestone walls. Although no direct dating evidence was recovered from the stone feature, the cut for the limestone wall clearly truncated a thin gravel spread (902), which contained a single fragment of clay pipe.

4.6 Undated

Trench 2 (Fig 3)

Towards the northern end of this trench, at the interface of the natural clays and gravels was a shallow and diffuse feature, interpreted as a tree throw/root disturbance; no datable material was associated with this feature.

Trench 8 (Fig 4)

A single east – west aligned ditch (806: Plates 7 and 8) was observed in the southern end of the trench. The ditch, 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep, contained two fills (804 and 805). Both fills appeared to have derived from low action re-deposition of the natural clays from the up-cast, rather than from deliberate backfilling. The entire length of the ditch within the trench was excavated, though no datable material was recovered.

5. Artefact analysis, by Alan Jacobs

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the excavated area consisted of 9 sherds of pottery weighing 97g; in addition fragments of iron nails, stone tile and tobacco pipe were recovered. The group came from five stratified contexts and could be dated from the medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Level of preservation was generally fair with the majority of sherds displaying low levels of abrasion.

Context	Material	Type	Total	Weight
102	Iron	Nail	1	13
102	Pottery	Medieval	2	21
102	Stone	Tile	1	106
202	Flint	Worked	1	18
202	Pottery	Medieval	2	15
202	Pottery	Modern	1	40
302	Iron	Nail	1	2
302	Pottery	Post-medieval	1	2
502	Pottery	Medieval	3	19
902	Tobacco pipe	Stem	1	1

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.1.1 **Discussion of the pottery**

Only a single diagnostic form sherd was present which could be dated accordingly; the remaining sherds were datable by fabric type to their general period or production span.

The discussion below is a summary of the finds and associated location or contexts by period. Where possible, *terminus post quem* dates have been allocated and the importance of individual finds commented upon as necessary.

The pottery assemblage dates from the medieval-post-medieval and modern periods. The medieval material consisted primarily of abraded sherds of a quartz-tempered fabric with red inclusions (Fabric OXAM; contexts 102, 202 and 501) of 13th-15th century date and two fragments of coarser ware with limestone inclusions (Fabric OXBB; context 502) dating from the 12th-14th century. In addition a single fragment of post-medieval pottery was recovered (context 302) in a very micaceous fabric of 17th-18th century date. The only other pottery sherd recovered consisted of a rim sherd of a large mixing bowl with green slip (Fabric W 81.4; context 202) dating to the 19th -20th century.

5.1.2 Other finds

A number of post-medieval or modern square hand iron nails (contexts 102 and 302) as well as a fragment of the stem of a tobacco pipe (context 902) were recovered.

A single broken flint flake (context 202) was also present.

5.2 **Significance**

The lack of definable archaeological features and the small size of the assemblage limit the archaeological significance. The presence of medieval pottery most probably indicates residual material deposited during agricultural manuring.

Contex t	Ceramic TPQ
102	13 th -15 th century
202	19 th -20 th century
	17 th -18 th century
502	13 th -15 th century
902	17 th -19 th century

Table 2: Context dating

6. **Synthesis**

6.1 **Prehistoric and Roman**

No features or deposits dated to these periods were identified and no Roman dated artefacts were recovered despite the proximity of a Roman road.

The single broken flint flake represents waste debitage from tool production. This is likely to reflect casual discard of material in the environs of an identified area of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity lying to the north and north-east of the site (Naylor 2003).

6.2 **Medieval/post-medieval**

The absence of any major archaeological evidence within the extent of the evaluation implies that this area of land may always been used essentially as either woodland, pasture or for agricultural purposes.

Low levels of abrasion on pottery would indicate a lack of extensive ploughing of the evaluated area, especially over the past century, a suggestion supported by documentary evidence that suggests that the land appears to have been fields/meadow since at least 1773 (Naylor 2003).

The thin scattering of medieval and post-medieval pottery throughout the field is broadly consistent with a background scatter representing farming activity in the medieval through to the modern period. The occupation associated with this activity would be located elsewhere. The artefactual material would have been moved into surrounding fields as a result of concentrating domestic rubbish in midden heaps, which are subsequently spread about the arable fields. This practice is authenticated historically for the medieval period (Astill and Grant 1988).

The limestone feature observed within trench 9 ran in an east to west direction, although this feature has been inferred as a drain/culvert, it appeared to be running at right angles to the direction of slope. Though this would appear to be unusual, as it would be expected that a drain designed to remove water from the field would run down the slope to the lowest point,

it may be that this feature was intended to drain into the low area in the north-west corner of the field, the area now occupied by the present pond. Though this feature did not contain any datable artefacts, the cut clearly truncated the thin spread of adjacent gravel that contained post-medieval material, which in turn indicates at least a post-medieval date for this feature.

6.3 Modern

The only features recorded that were clearly dated to the modern period were the extensive number of ceramic field drains noted in most of the trenches. The majority of these drains were orientated to the north-east and the location of the pond. The location of these field drains mirrored the anomalies in the geophysical survey.

6.4 Undated

Investigation into the disturbed ground to the north-east of Trench 2 suggested either a tree throw or root disturbance, though the geophysical plot indicates a clearly defined linear. It is possible that this feature is part of a heavily truncated furrow running in a northerly direction, though the evidence from the trench was unclear. The possibility is more likely that the geophysics picked up the land drain that clearly cut across the trench in this location.

The undated linear ditch within trench 8 was aligned on the pond in the northeast corner of the field, and although undated may be inferred as a later field drain/boundary ditch.

7. **Significance**

The evaluation has concluded that there appears to be very limited to no archaeological potential for the site and that it has not been a focus for any major activity at any time. The proximity to the Roman road suggested some level of activity might have been anticipated though this would appear to not have been the case. The anomalies noted in the geophysical survey appeared to be either reflect the presence of modern field drains, modern ferrous objects in the topsoil and/or major variations in the underlying geology.

There were no deposits encountered that contained any environmental potential, and likewise, none of the recovered artefacts would justify study in their own right.

8. **Publication summary**

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service 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.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the request of Cotswold Archaeology on behalf of J.S. Bloor Ltd, at land east of the Coach and Horses public house, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (NGR ref SP 1690 2185; SMR ref CHBW06). The evaluation consisted of nine trenches located in a field to the south of the Fosse Way, the Roman road linking Exeter and Lincoln. The evidence from the evaluation was of a very limited nature and suggested that no major activity was located on the site. Only two features of any note were observed, an east to west aligned limestone drain/culvert and a similarly aligned ditch, both of which occupied the north-west corner of the field adjacent to the Coach and Horses public house. The limestone feature could be given a post-medieval date, though the ditch was unfortunately undated. Both appeared to have functioned to drain the field towards the low-lying ground to the north-east corner of the site. No evidence of Roman activity was noted. The examination of all recovered finds indicated that there is no evidence for significant on-site activity. All finds from the medieval to modern periods appear to be the

result of manuring or the discard of general rubbish, implying a prolonged agricultural usage for this area.

9. The archive

The archive consists of:

9	Trench	records	AS41

4 Fieldwork progress records AS2

2 Photographic records AS3

106 Digital photographs

24 Scale drawings

1 Box of finds

The project archive is intended to be placed at: Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery

Brunswick Road

Gloucester GL1 1HP

telephone 01452 396131

10. **Acknowledgements**

The Service would like to thank Mary Alexander (Cotswold Archaeology) and Charles Parry (Gloucestershire County Council) for their kind assistance in the conclusion of this project.

11. **Personnel**

The fieldwork and report preparation was led by Simon Sworn. The project manager from the Service responsible for the quality of the project was Robin Jackson. Fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Sworn, Alvaro Mora-Ottomano, Emily Gough and Steven Potten, finds analysis by Alan Jacobs and illustration by Carolyn Hunt.

12. **Bibliography**

Astill, G, and Grant, A, 1988. The countryside of medieval England, Oxford

CAS, 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

CA, 2006 Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation at land east of the Coach and Horses public house, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, Cotswold Archaeology, unpublished document dated 20th June 2006, **P2172**

Hurst, J D, and Rees, H, 1992 Pottery fabrics; a multi-period series for the County of Hereford and Worcester, in Woodiwiss, S G (ed), *Iron Age and Roman salt production and the medieval town of Droitwich*, CBA Res Rep, **81**

IFA, 1999 Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation, Institute of Field Archaeologists

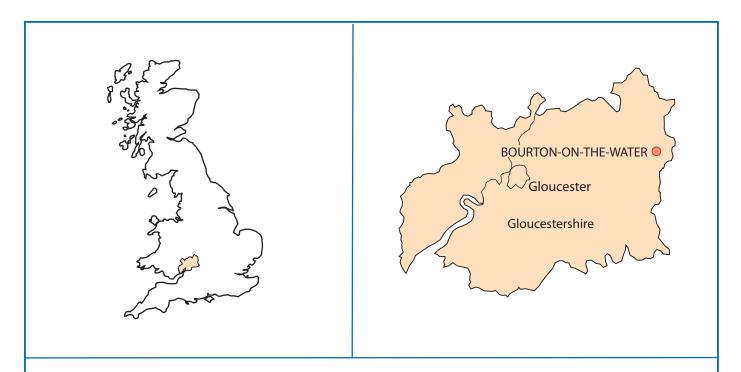
Mackney, D, Hodgson, J M, Hollis, J M, and Staines, S J, 1983. *Soils of England and Wales*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, 3

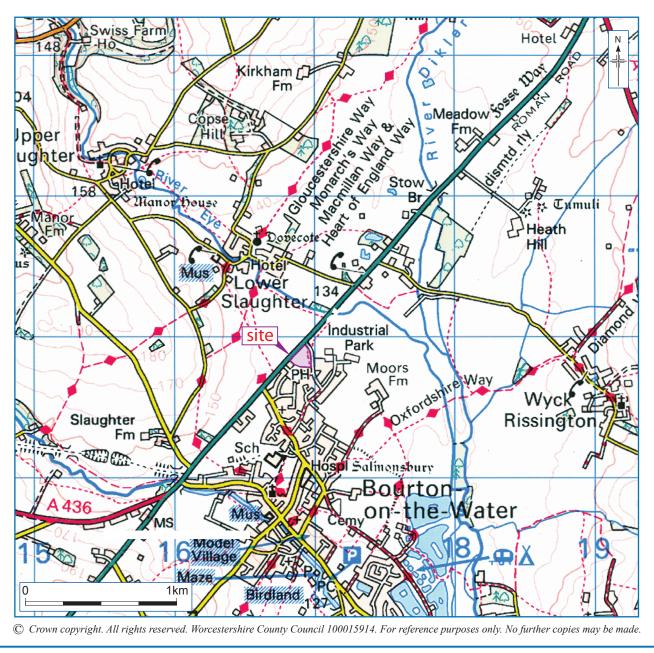
Mellor, M 1994 "Oxfordshire Pottery" Oxoniensia Volume LIV Oxford University press

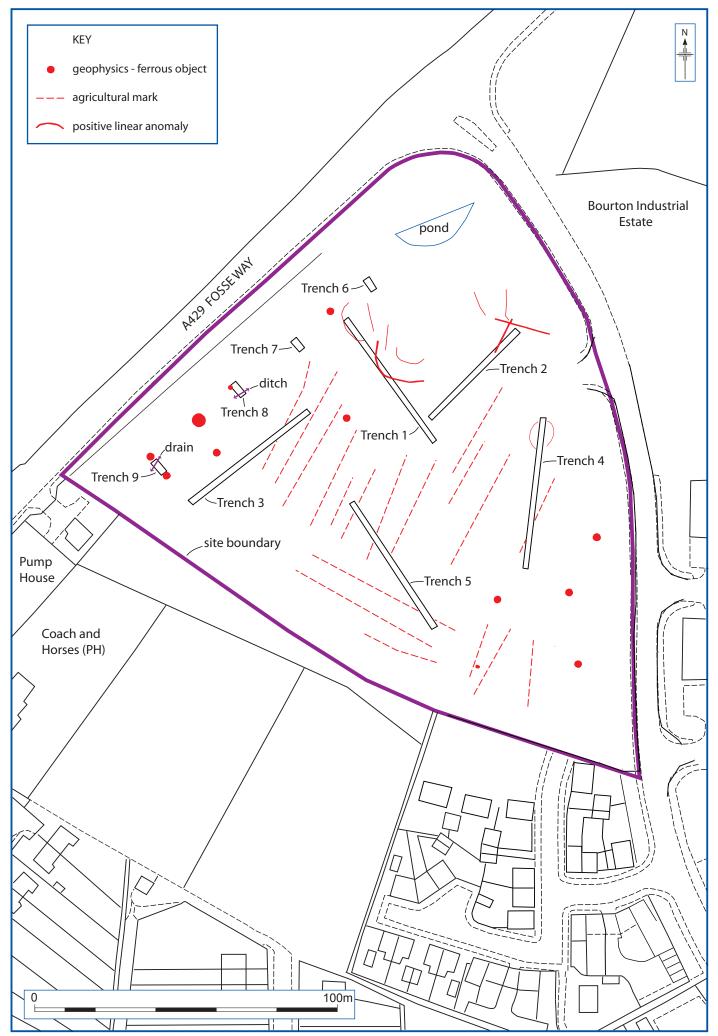
Naylor, J, 2003 Land east of the Coach and Horses public house, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire; a desk based assessment. Cotswold Archaeology. Rep, **03065**

Land east of the Coa	ch and Horses public hou	se. Bourton-on-the-Water	. Gloucestershire

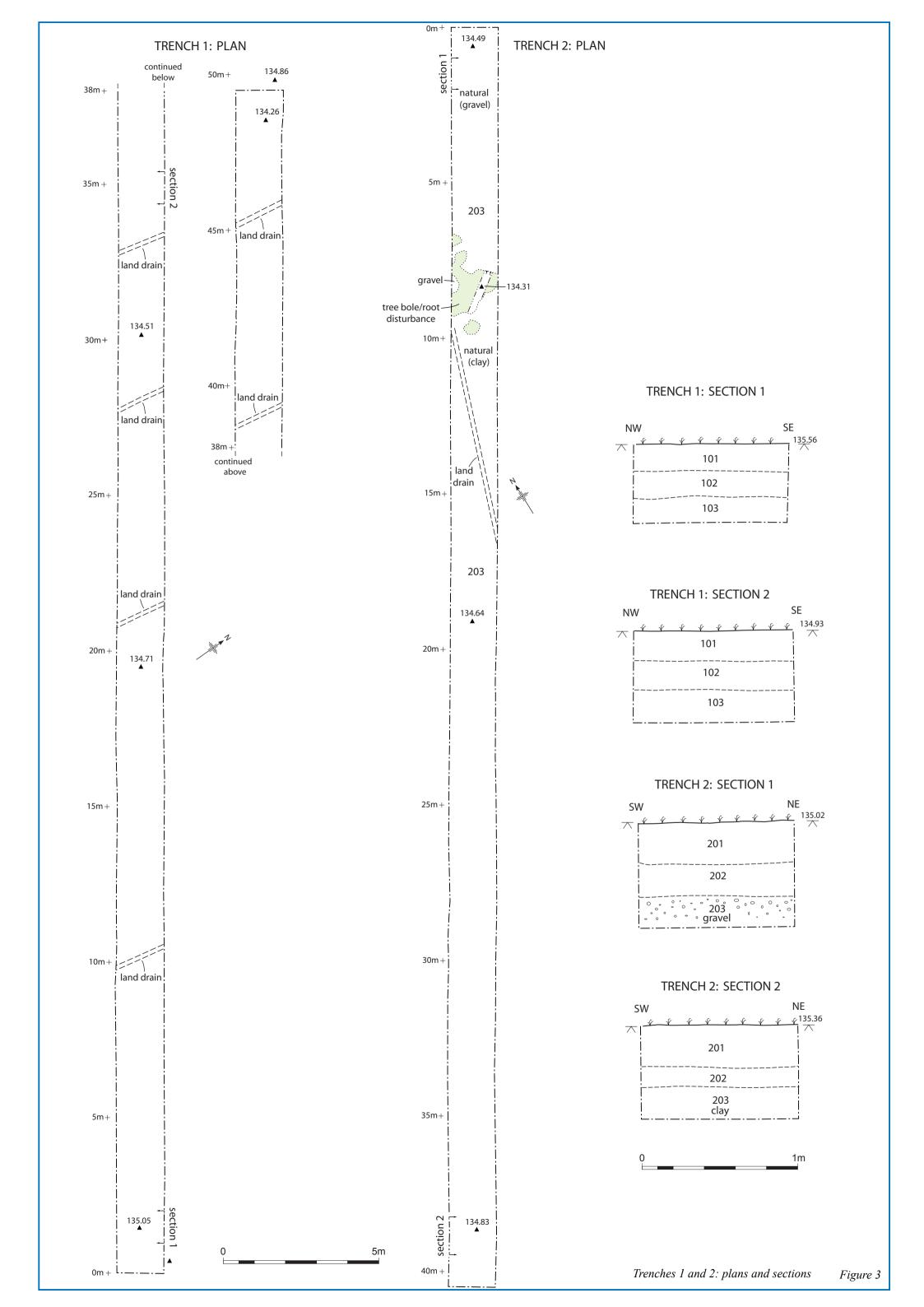
Figures

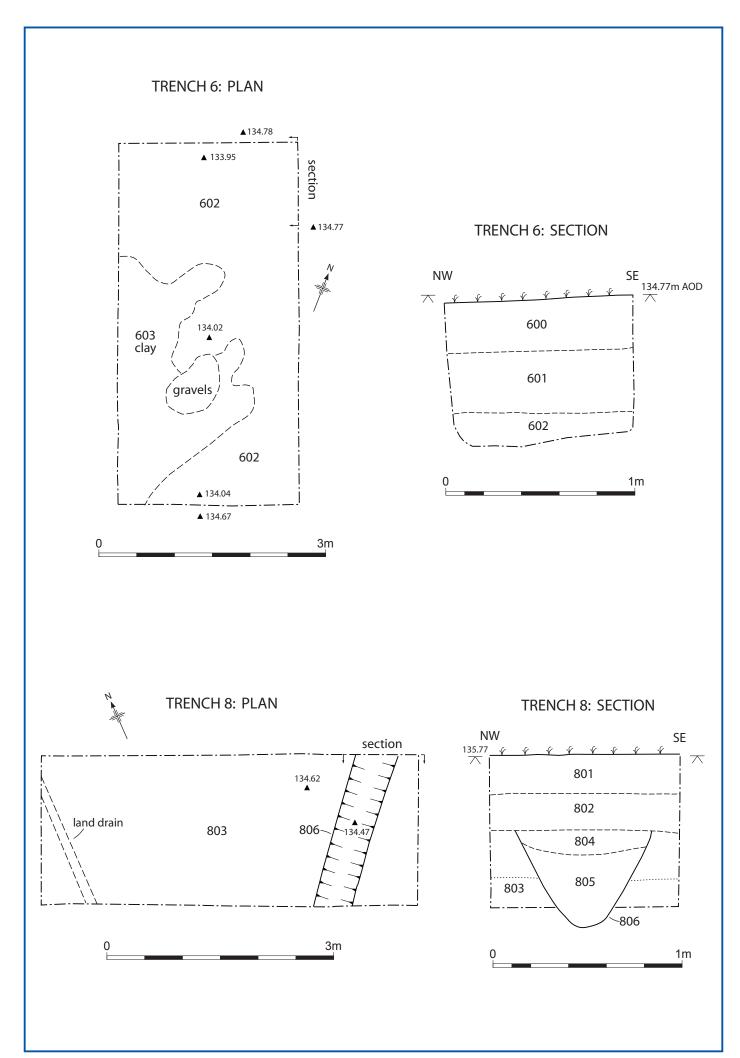






Trench location plan

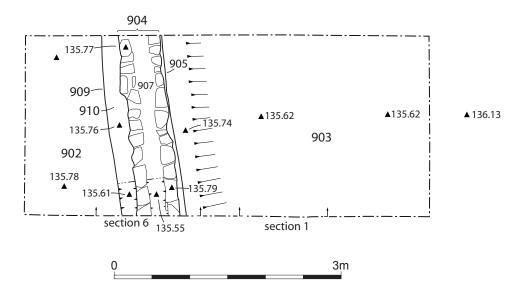




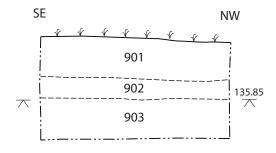
Trenches 6 and 8: plans and sections



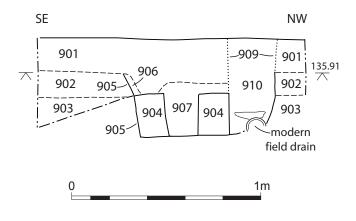
TRENCH 9: PLAN



TRENCH 9: SECTION 1



TRENCH 9: SECTION 2



Trench 9: plan and sections

Figure 5

Land	east of the	Coach and	Horses pu	ublic house.	Bourton-on-the-Water	: Gloucestershire

Plates



Plate 1: General view of site, the Fosse Way runs behind the trees in the background and the road to the industrial estate is on the far right (facing north-west)



Plate 2: Trench 2, natural gravels in the foreground, natural clays in the background and the tree throw under the scales (facing south-west)



Plate 3: Trench 2, sample section of the below ground deposits (facing north-west)



Plate 4: Trench 3 (facing north-east)



Plate 5: Trench 4 (facing south)



Plate 6: Trench 6 (facing north-west)



Plate 7: Trench 8, partially excavated ditch 806 (facing north-west)



Plate 8: Trench 8, section through ditch 806 (facing north-east)



Plate 9: Trench 9, limestone feature 904, prior to excavation (facing south-east)



Plate 10: Trench 9, feature 904, post-excavation (facing south-west)

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.60m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
101	Topsoil	Friable, mid-dark brown silty clay, occasional small-medium sub-angular pebbles and charcoal flecks. Frequent root intrusion.	0.00m-0.20m
102	Subsoil	Firm mid greenish brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular pebbles, charcoal flecks and burnt limestone fragments, frequent root disturbance.	0.20m-0.38m
103	Natural	Firm light orangey brown clay with abundant iron pan formations.	0.38m-0.60m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 42.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.50-0.60m

Orientation: North-east – south-west

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
201	Topsoil	Friable, mid-dark brown silty clay, occasional small-medium sub-angular pebbles. Frequent root intrusion.	0.00m-0.26m
202	Subsoil	Firm mid greenish brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular pebbles, charcoal flecks and burnt limestone fragments, frequent root disturbance. Deposit narrows from c.0.20m at northern end of trench of c.0.12m at southern end.	0.26m-0.40-0.47m
203	Natural	Firm mid brown clay with frequent iron pan formations across most of trench. Natural gravels at northern end of trench.	0.40-0.47m-0.60m

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.55-0.70m

Orientation: North-east – south-west

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
301	Topsoil	Friable, mid-dark brown silty clay, occasional small-medium sub-angular pebbles. Frequent root intrusion.	0.00m-0.21m
302	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay, moderate small-medium sub-angular pebbles, charcoal flecks and burnt limestone fragments, frequent root disturbance.	0.21m-0.35-0.41m
303	Natural	Firm yellowish grey clay, frequent mottling with rare iron pan formations.	0.35-0.41m-0.59-0.66m

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 50.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.55m

Orientation: North – south

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Friable, mid-dark brown silty clay, occasional small-medium sub-angular pebbles. Frequent root intrusion.	0.00m-0.22-0.26m
401	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular pebbles, charcoal flecks and burnt limestone fragments,	0.26m-0.50m
		frequent root disturbance.	0.28m-0.44m
402	Natural	Firm orangey brown silty clay, occasional small sub- angular gravels and manganese flecks.	0.44m-0.48m
403	Natural	Firm grey/blue alluvial clays; occasional yellowish brown clays; very occasional limestone fragments.	0.50m-0.52m
404	Layer	Thin band of compact gravels at northern end of trench. Lies between 400 and 401.	0.22m-0.28m

Maximum dimensions: Length: 59.00m Width: 1.60m Depth: 0.50-0.70m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
501	Topsoil	Friable, mid-dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional small-medium sub-angular pebbles. Frequent root intrusion.	0.00m-0.26m
502	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular pebbles, charcoal flecks and burnt limestone fragments, frequent root disturbance.	0.26m-0.42-0.60m
503	Natural	Firm light bluish grey clay with frequent iron pan formations.	0.42-0.60m-0.70m

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5.00m Width: 2.30m Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Friable, mid-dark brown silty clay, occasional small-medium sub-angular pebbles. Frequent root intrusion.	0.00m-0.27m
601	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular pebbles, charcoal flecks and burnt limestone fragments, frequent root disturbance.	0.27m-0.60m
602	Natural	Friable light orangey brown silty clay, occasional manganese patches.	0.60m-0.80m

Maximum dimensions: Length: 4.50m Width: 2.00m Depth: 0.75m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
701	Topsoil	Friable, mid-dark brown silty clay, occasional small-medium sub-angular pebbles. Frequent root intrusion. Becomes deeper towards SE end of trench.	0.00m-0.27m
702	Subsoil	Firm mid orangey brown silty clay, occasional small sub- angular pebbles, charcoal flecks and burnt limestone fragments, frequent root disturbance.	0.27m-0.50m
703	Natural	Firm reddish orange clay at NW of trench; firm grey/yellow clay at SE end. Some mottling and iron pan formations.	0.50m-0.75m

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5.00m Width: 2.00m Depth: 0.80m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
801	Topsoil	Friable, mid-dark brown silty clay, occasional small-medium sub-angular pebbles. Frequent root intrusion.	0.00m-0.20m
802	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay, occasional small sub-angular pebbles, charcoal flecks and burnt limestone fragments, frequent root disturbance.	0.20m-0.40m
803	Natural	Firm light orangey brown clay with abundant iron pan formations. Includes a lower horizon of blue clay.	0.40m-0.80m
804	Fill	Secondary fill of 806. Firm light bluish brown clay.	0.40m-0.52m
805	Fill	Primary fill of 806. Firm mid orangey brown clay.	0.52m-0.92m
806	Cut	Linear ditch cut; straight, steeply sloping sides with concave base. 0.50m wide. Cuts 803.	0.40m-0.92m

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5.40m Width: 2.40m Depth: 0.55m

Orientation: North-west – south-east

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface – top and bottom of deposits
901	Topsoil	Friable, mid-dark brown silty clay, occasional small-medium sub-angular pebbles. Frequent root intrusion.	0.00m-0.22m
902	Subsoil	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay, abundant small to medium sub-angular pebbles.	0.22m-0.33m
903	Natural	Firm light bluish yellow silty clay. Some mottling and iron pan formations.	0.33m-0.55m
904	Stone drain	Stone drain aligned NE – SW. Two main courses of stone survive bonded with mid brown silty clay. The base of the drain is not stone-lined but consists of compacted natural (903). It has silted up with deposit 907. 0.55m wide x 0.20m deep	0.30m-0.52m
905	Cut	Construction cut for 904. Linear in plan aligned NE – SW. Truncated to NW by 909. c 0.66m wide. Not fully excavated (structure 904 left <i>in situ</i>). Cuts 902.	0.22m
906	Fill	Backfill of construction cut 905. Firm mid brown silty clay. Moderate small sub-angular stones. Truncated to NW by 909. <i>c</i> 0.66m wide. Not fully excavated.	0.22m
907	Fill	Fill of drain 904. Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay; occasional small-large sub-angular stones. 0.19m wide x 0.26m deep.	0.26m-0.52m
908	VOID		
909	Cut	Construction cut for modern field drain 910 aligned NE – SW. Runs parallel to 904. Vertical sides with flat base. Truncates 905 and 906. 0.30m wide x 0.40m deep.	0.00m-0.52m
910	Fill	Modern field drain and backfill. Firm mid brown silty clay with orange ceramic field drain. Fills 909. 0.30m wide x 0.40m deep.	0.00m-0.52m