

Archaeological evaluation at Wotton Road, Charfield, Gloucestershire



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Archaeological evaluation at Wotton Road, Charfield, Gloucestershire

Peter Lovett

With contributions by Derek Hurst and Elizabeth Pearson

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Wotton Road, Charfield, Gloucestershire (NGR ST 372830 192320). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting whose client intends to construct a residential development for which a planning application has been submitted.

Seventeen trenches were excavated across the site, which is bounded to the north and east by the Little Avon River, and slopes down from the south-west to form a small flood plain along the north-eastern side. Colluvial deposits were identified at the bottom of the north-eastern and south-eastern slopes. A small number of isolated and dispersed pits and ditches were identified and excavated. None yielded any dateable artefacts, though their general characteristics suggested a low level medieval or post-medieval agricultural origin. One pit had the potential to be a prehistoric hearth, as it was sealed by the subsoil and contained fired clay, however no firm dating evidence was recovered. No other features, layers, structures or finds of archaeological significance were identified.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Wotton Road, Charfield, Gloucestershire (NGR ST 372830 192320). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Crest Nicholson, who intends to construct a residential development for which a planning application has been submitted to South Gloucestershire Council (reference PT13/4182/0).

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

Whilst no specific brief was prepared, the project conforms to the generality of briefs, and for which a project proposal (including detailed specification) was produced (WA 2016).

The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a).

2 Aims

The aims of this evaluation are:

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

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Peter Lovett (BSc (hons.)), who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2012 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, Jessica Wheeler (BA (hons.)) and Elspeth Iliff (BA (hons.); MSc. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Vaughan (BA (hons.); MA; ACIfA). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc (hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA). Elizabeth Pearson (MSc; ACIfA) contributed the environmental report. Derek Hurst (BA (hons.); PG Dip) contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) was prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2013), which included a search of the Historic Environment Record (HER). This is summarised in Section 4.1 below.

3.3 List of sources consulted

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography, Section 11.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2016).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 7 March and 14 March 2016.

17 trenches, amounting to just over 1,100m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 5.5ha, representing a sample of 2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. All of the trenches were located to test anomalies as defined by a geophysical survey (AS 2015).

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket. 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.

3.5 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.

3.6 Artefact methodology, by Derek Hurst

The finds work reported here conforms with the relevant sections of *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), with archive creation informed by *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2011), and museum deposition by *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (SMA 1993).

3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2). A small quantity of further material was also recovered from environmental samples in case of (604).

3.6.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined, identified, quantified and dated to period (Table 1). Artefacts from environmental samples were also examined, and are included in the quantification. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for each stratified context. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

In the course of analysis the ceramics were examined under x20 magnification and referenced as appropriate by fabric type and form according to the fabric reference series maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology (Hurst and Rees 1992 and www.worcestershireceramics.org).

3.6.3 Discard policy

The following categories/types of material will be discarded after a period of 6 months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository): where unstratified

- post-medieval material in general, and;
- generally where material has been specifically assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

See the environmental section for other discard where appropriate.

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson

3.7.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2012). A total of seven samples (each of 10 litres and all undated) were taken from the site (Table 4).

3.7.2 Processing and analysis

The samples were processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flots were collected on a 300µm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small

animal bones, molluscs and seeds. The residues were scanned by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. A magnet was also used to test for the presence of hammerstone. The flots were scanned using a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope and plant remains identified using modern reference collections maintained by Worcestershire Archaeology, and a seed identification manual (Cappers *et al* 2012). Nomenclature for the plant remains follows the *New Flora of the British Isles*, 3rd edition (Stace 2010).

Charcoal was examined under a low power MEIJI stereo light microscope in order to determine the presence of oak and non-oak charcoal.

3.7.3 Discard policy

Scanned residues will be discarded following submission of this report unless there is a specific request to retain them.

3.8 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 site sits predominantly on Micklewood Bed Mudstone, though Lower Trap Basalt, Damary Bed Mudstone and Sandstone, and Mercia Mudstone Group are all recorded in the project area (BGS 2016). The land is bounded to the north and east by the Little Avon River, and slopes down from the south-west to form a small flood plain along the north-eastern side.

The DBA (CgMs 2013) identified a low potential for prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains. A number of flints have been recorded at nearby villages (North Nibley and Wotton-under-Edge) within a 5km radius. A Roman road has been identified approximately 0.9km to the north-west of the site, and an evaluation 0.6km to the north discovered possible Roman activity.

The DBA surmised that the land is likely to have been under agricultural use since at least the medieval period. As such, any earlier archaeological deposits are likely to have been truncated. Whilst no ridge and furrow is recorded on the site, it is present within the wider study area.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) has entries for a late post-medieval Toll House and other 19th century structures in the northern part of the study area (*ibid*, 3), though all have been demolished; any buried evidence would only be of local significance. Overall, the site is considered not to be of high archaeological potential.

4.2 Current land-use

The site is currently laid to pasture, though it has not had livestock on it recently.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2-6. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The geology of the site is mixed. Various strata were observed, with pinky red or yellowy brown clays giving way to sandy silt brash. The reddish brown silty clays with brash were predominantly on the central and south-eastern side of the site, turning to heavier yellow brown clay on the north-western limit, as the ground drops into a shallow dip, before returning to brash in the northern extents.

Colluvial deposits were noted at the southern end of Trench 16 and in the entirety of Trench 14. In Trench 14, two colluvial events were tentatively identified, though attempts at further clarity were

restricted by the depths of the trench (Plate 7). The upper colluvium was 0.75m below the ground surface, and had a thickness of 0.25m. The lower colluvium was approximately 0.35m thick.

In Trench 6 there was possible glacial till material between the natural strata and the subsoil. This was a yellowish grey silty clay with frequent sub-angular cobbles of sandstone plates.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated deposits

None of the excavated features contained any dateable artefacts, though some displayed characteristics indicative of certain broad periods.

A shallow ditch (104) was excavated in Trench 1, running north to south, and filled with an homogenous and sterile silty clay. A similarly sterile ditch (607) was excavated in Trench 6 to the north-east, filled with material derived from the surrounding subsoil (Plate 8). During machining, it appeared as if the ditch was cutting through the subsoil, though this was not clear in section. Both of these ditches are suggestive of low level medieval or post-medieval agricultural activity.

In Trench 5, at the south-eastern end, a possible ditch ran across the break of the slope (Plate 16). This was filled by a material that was effectively the same as the subsoil, and was likely to have been a variation in the natural that happened to run against the slope. This hypothesis was further validated following the excavation of Trench 17, 5m to the north-east in order to trace any continuation. None was found.

A number of small pits were located across the site, with the highest concentration in the south-east area. Pits (505 and 507) in Trench 5 were situated next to each other, though they were of differing form, with one sub-circular and well-defined, of reasonable depth; the other was more irregular in shape, and only 0.15m in depth (Figs 4 and 6, Plate 4). Pit (505) also contained a moderate amount of charcoal in its upper fill, and may well have been a posthole, though no associated features were observed (Plate 3).

A very shallow scoop pit (605) was excavated in Trench 6, approximately 30m north-east of these two features (Figs 4 and 6, Plate 6). This was very shallow (0.08m), and contained frequent charcoal flecks, but was clearly sealed by the subsoil. This is therefore unlikely to have been of medieval or later date, and would be more likely to be prehistoric in origin.

An irregular shallow pit was excavated at the northern end of the site, in Trench 9 (Pit 903, Figs 5 and 6, Plate 12). This again contained charcoal and no further artefacts, and was not visibly associated with any other features. Approximately 43m south-west in Trench 10 was a further small pit with charcoal (1004) (Fig 5, Plate 14). This was the very base of a circular feature, only 0.03m deep. It had either suffered extensive truncation, or was cut from higher up through the subsoil. It correlates with the anomaly recorded on the geophysical survey (Fig 3).

5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

The site was covered by a turfed friable mid greyish brown clay silt. A number of services cross the field, including a sewer pipe, and a storm drain. There was also a number of agricultural land drains noted, though these were generally cut well in to the natural geology. A large dump of silty sand was observed just beneath the topsoil in Trench 15, which appeared to be the result of modern activity. This is probably what caused the large anomaly as seen on the geophysical survey (Fig 3).

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Derek Hurst

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

The assemblage included only one stratified context and the only dated finds were from the post-medieval period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally good with the majority of sherds displaying little abrasion, and the average sherd size being about average.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
post-medieval	glass		bottle	1	102
modern	ceramic		pot	4	33
undated	ceramic	fired clay		29	86

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.2.1 Summary of artefactual evidence by period

The only artefactual evidence that could be earlier than post-medieval comprised some fired clay from (604) that was without any form characteristics and so could just be where the natural clay has become fired in the ground from contact with heat (i.e. not a deliberate product). The earliest artefact was a shard from an onion bottle of about 17th century, the remainder of the finds being modern china (fabric 85).

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date
604	ceramic	fired clay		29	86	-	-
800	glass		bottle	1	102	1600	1700
1000	ceramic		pot	2	13	1800	2000
1600	ceramic		pot	2	20	1800	2000

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

5.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Tables 3 to 6.

All samples were undated. Uncharred remains, consisting of mainly root fragments are assumed to be modern and intrusive as they are unlikely to have survived in the soils on site for long without charring or waterlogging.

Only occasional charred plant remains were identified, which included a single vitrified unidentified cereal grain and a single seed of wild strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*). Moderate to low quantities of charcoal fragments also survived, of which some fragments could be identified as oak (*Quercus robur/petraea*). Abundant fired clay fragments were noted in the residue of pit fill (604).

Little interpretation could be made of these remains, and hence this indicates low potential for recovery of environmental remains suitable for contributing to interpretation of the site.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Period	Phase	Sample volume (L)	Volume (L) processed	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
503	1	Pit	505	undated	0	10	10	Yes	Yes
506	2	Pit	507	undated	0	10	10	Yes	Yes
604	4	Pit	605	undated	0	10	10	Yes	Yes
904	6	Pit	903	undated	0	10	10	Yes	Yes
1003	7	Pit	1004	undated	0	1	1	Yes	Yes
1402	5	Colluvium		undated	0	10	10	Yes	Yes
1403	3	Colluvium		undated	0	10	10	Yes	Yes

Table 3: List of bulk samples

context	sample	charcoal	charred plant	uncharred plant	artefacts
503	1	mod	occ	abt*	
506	2	mod		abt*	occ shell
604	4	occ	occ	abt*	abt fired clay (hearth/oven?)

904	6	mod		abt*	
1003	7	mod		mod*	
1402	5	occ		occ*	
1403	3	occ		abt*	occ burnt stone

Table 4: Summary of remains from bulk samples, occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably modern and intrusive

context	sample	preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
503	1	ch	<i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> wood, unidentified wood fragments	misc	++/low	
503	1	ch	Cereal sp indet grain (fragment)	grain	+/low	partially vitrified
506	2	ch	<i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> wood, unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
604	4	ch	cf <i>Fragaria vesca</i>	seed	+/low	
904	6	ch	<i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> wood, unidentified wood fragments	misc	++/low	
1402	5	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	
1403	3	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	+/low	

Table 5: Plant remains from bulk samples (excludes probably modern uncharred root and leaf fragments)

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
	++ = 11- 50

6 Synthesis

None of the features excavated yielded any dateable artefacts. The two viable ditches were either shallow or likely to have been cut from above the subsoil; they are both probably related to post-medieval agricultural activity.

Of the pits, no pattern or alignment could be discerned either spatially or morphologically. Whilst there was charcoal present in all of the pits, following analysis, this provided little to the interpretation. The only pit of note was (605), that was clearly sealed by the subsoil. This had abundant fired clay within it, tentatively suggesting a possible hearth or oven. However, it lacked any indicative form, and could not be confidently said to be anything other than a natural by-product of the firing process.

The finds assemblage was consistent across the site, being sparse and, where dated, of post-medieval and modern date, thereby indicating an area where little activity has occurred in the past.

The colluvial deposits excavated in the north-eastern corner of the site (at the bottom of the north-eastern and south-eastern slopes) were sampled, and contained only occasional charcoal and burnt stone.

The landscape may contain dispersed prehistoric activity in the form of small hearths or rubbish pits, but without dating evidence it is difficult to separate these features from medieval or post-medieval agricultural activity.

6.1 Research frameworks

The archaeological remains identified did not allow for an interrogation of the research frameworks outlined in *The Archaeology of South West England* (Webster 2007)

7 Significance

The nature of the archaeology is of dispersed and generally isolated shallow pits and ditches of an undated but probably post-medieval agricultural character. The deposits are between 0.5m and 1.4m below the current ground level, with the average being approximately 0.6m below ground.

None of the artefacts contribute anything of any positive significance, and the environmental evidence provides only low significance for interpretation of the site. Without explicit dating, it is difficult to ascribe any relative importance to the features.

8 The impact of the development

8.1 Impacts during construction

During the construction phase, some of the features sealed below the subsoil may survive, depending on the construction methods and landscaping. This will depend on the location of the features; those along the eastern and northern edges would have greater survivability due to the depth of subsoil above them, whilst in the central and western areas, the overlying material is generally shallower.

8.2 Impacts on sustainability

The historic environment is a non-renewable resource and therefore cannot be directly replaced. However mitigation through recording and investigation also produces an important research dividend that can be used for the better understanding of the area's history and contribute to local and regional research agendas (cf NPPF, DCLG 2012, section 141). There is however little archaeological interest in the site and further investigations are unlikely to contribute further to local research agendas.

9 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.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting off Wotton Road, Charfield, Gloucestershire (NGR ref ST 372830 192320). Seventeen trenches were excavated across the site, which is bounded to the north and east by the Little Avon River, and slopes down from the south-west to form a small flood plain along the north-eastern side. Colluvial deposits were identified at the bottom of the north-eastern and south-eastern slopes. A small number of isolated and dispersed pits and ditches were identified and excavated. None yielded any dateable artefacts, though their general characteristics suggested a low level medieval or post-medieval agricultural origin. One pit had the potential to be a prehistoric hearth, as it was sealed by the subsoil and contained fired clay, however no firm dating evidence was recovered. No other features, layers, structures or finds of archaeological significance were identified.

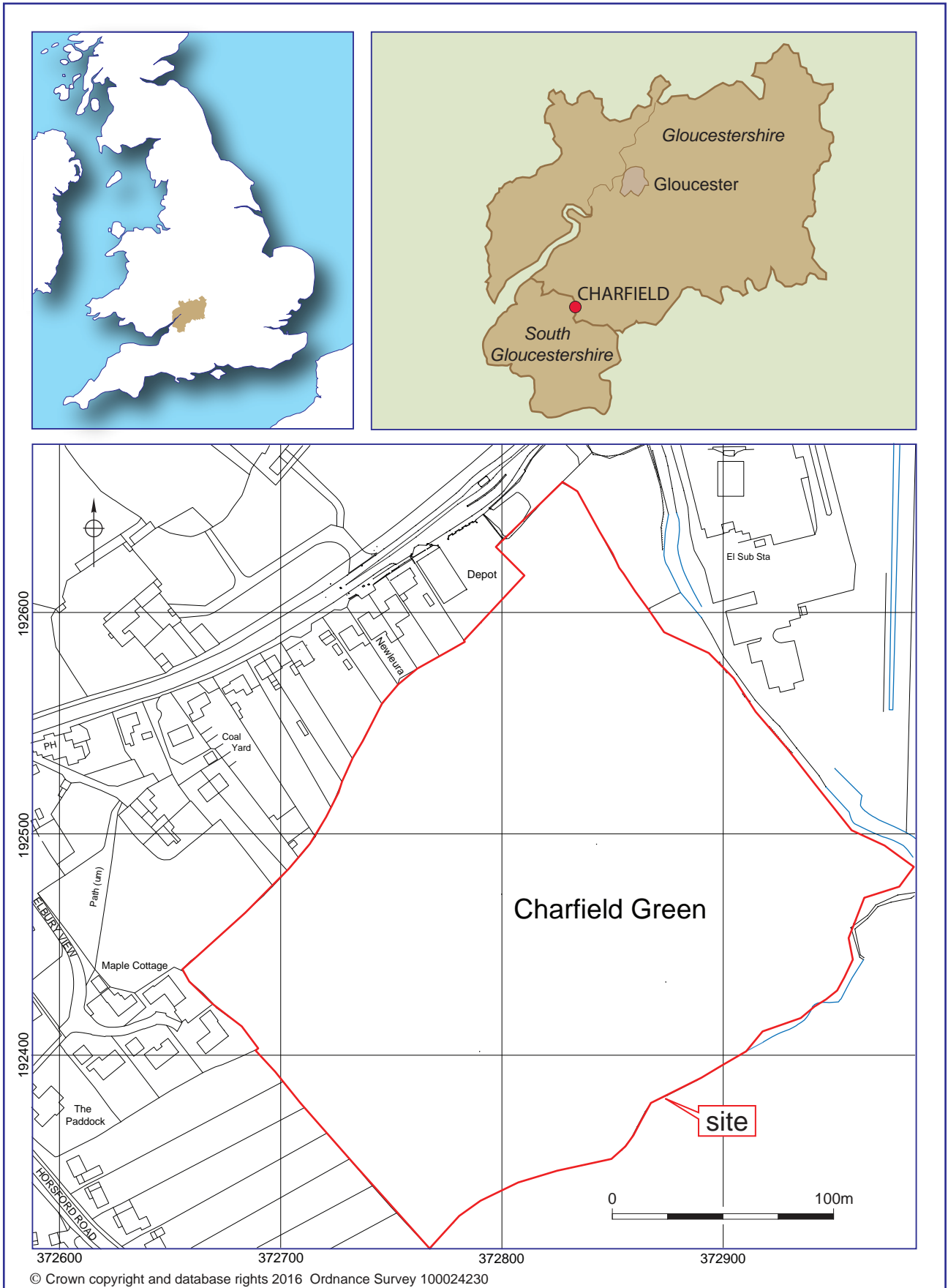
10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Richard Smalley (CgMs Consulting), and David Haigh (Archaeology and Conservation Officer, South Gloucestershire Council).

11 Bibliography

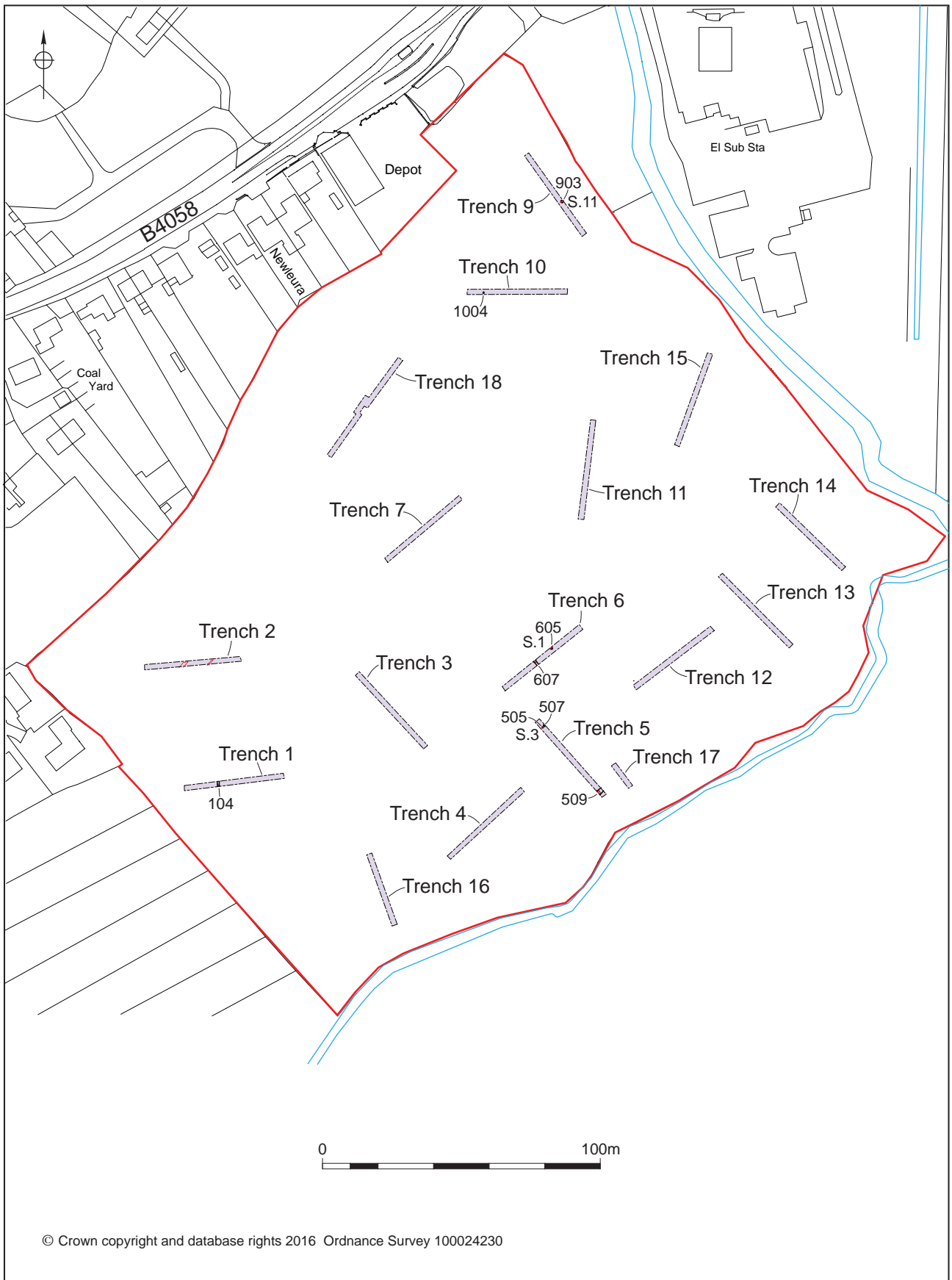
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Figures



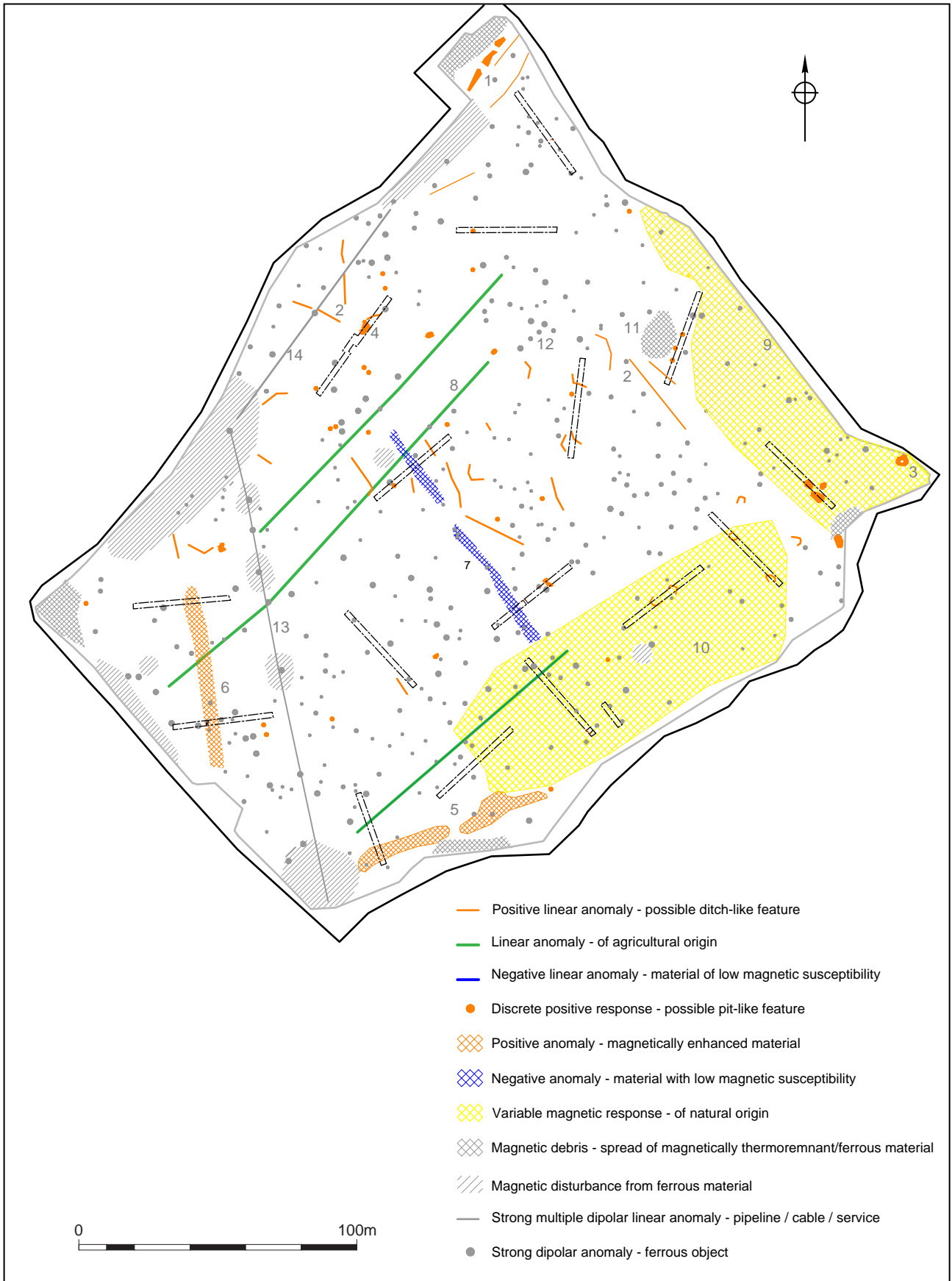
Location of the site

Figure 1



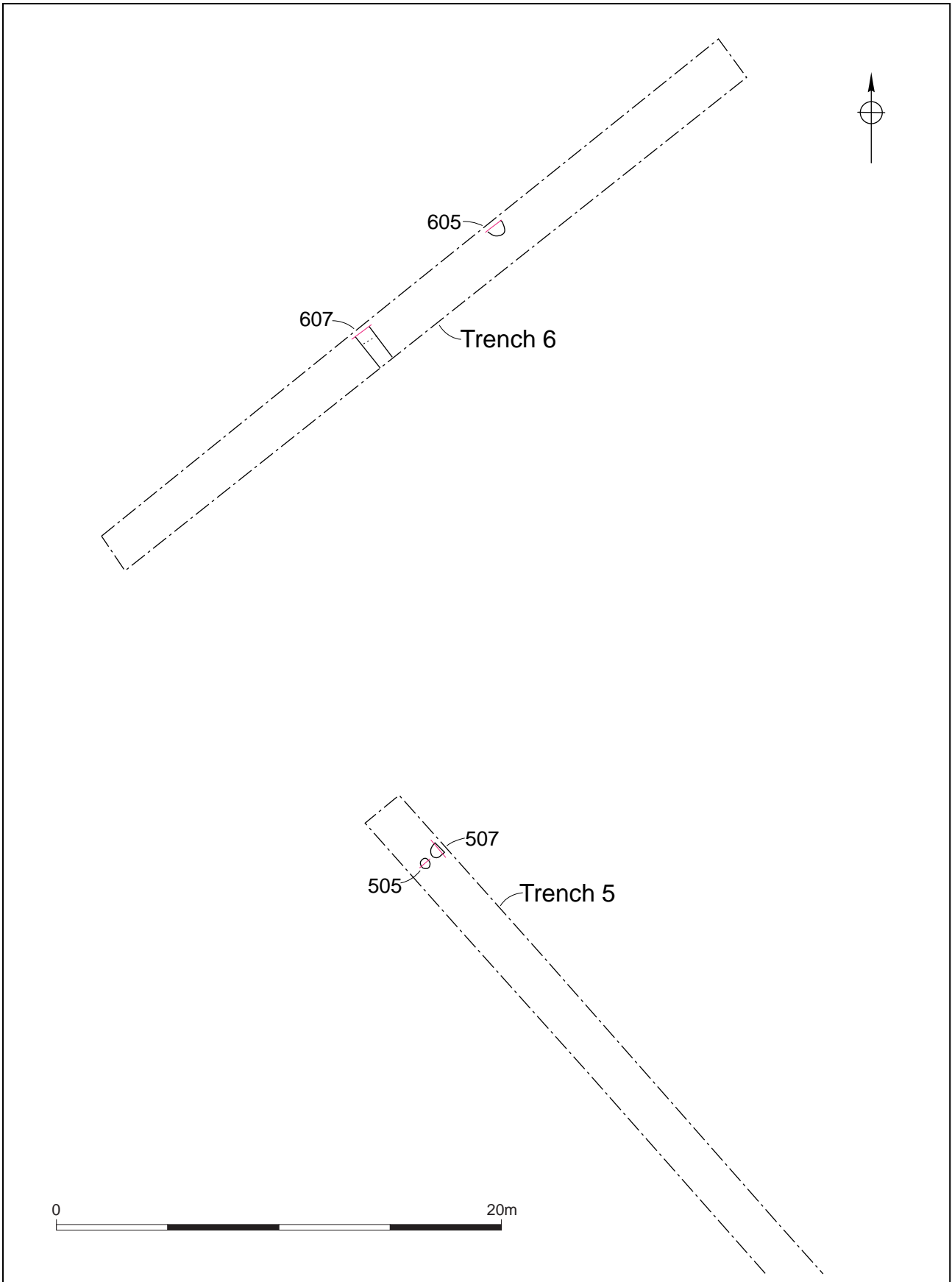
Trench location plan

Figure 2



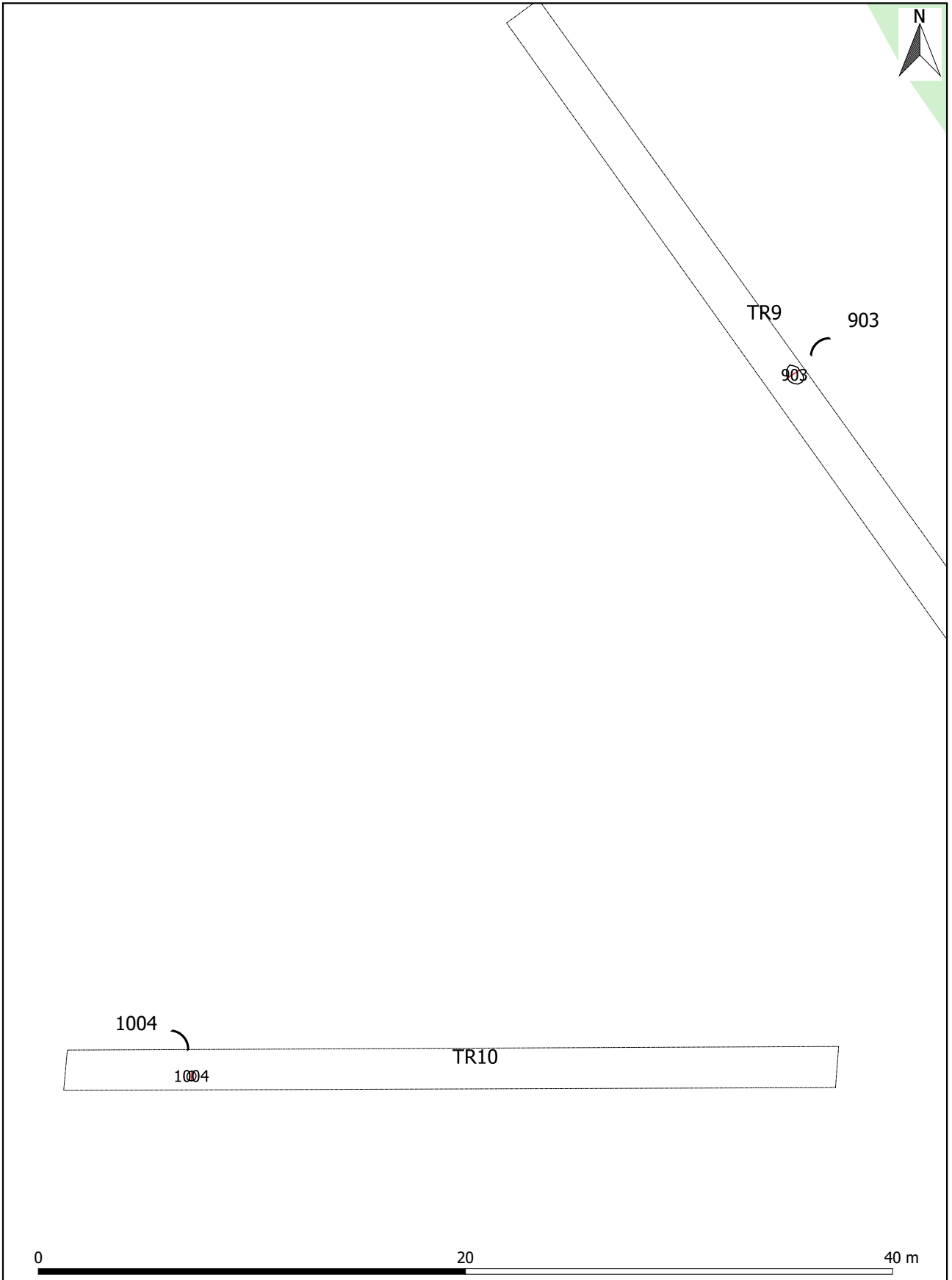
Trench locations overlaid on geophysical survey (based upon AS 2014, Fig 4)

Figure 3



Features in trenches 5 and 6

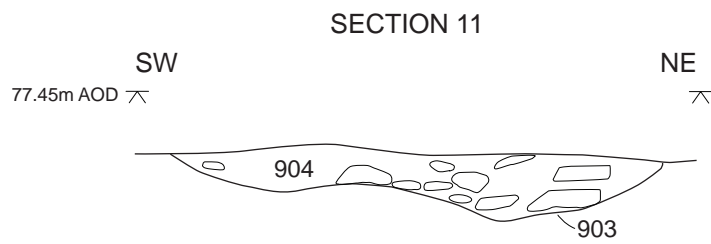
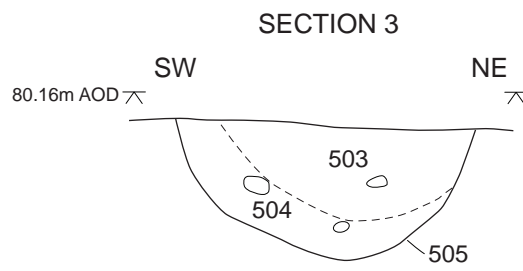
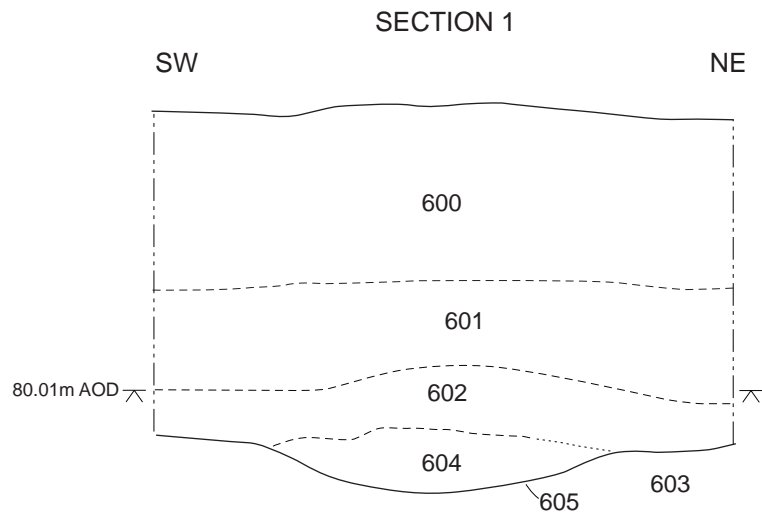
Figure 4



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Features in trenches 9 and 10

Figure 5



Sections

Figure 6

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 16, looking north-west (1m scales)



Plate 2 Trench 6, looking north-east (1m scales)



Plate 3 Pit 505, looking north-west (0.2m scale)



Plate 4 Pits 505 and 507, looking north-west (0.2m scales)



Plate 5 Trench 5, looking south-east (1m scales)



Plate 6 Pit 605, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



Plate 7 Sondage through colluvium in Trench 14, looking south-west (2m scale)



Plate 8 Ditch 607, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



Plate 9 Trench 15, looking north-east, and showing difficult working conditions (1m scales)



Plate 10 Trench 1, looking west (1m scales)



Plate 11 Ditch 104, looking south (1m scale)



Plate 12 Pit 903, looking north-west (0.2m scale)



Plate 13 Trench 10, looking east (1m scales)



Plate 14 Pit 1004, looking east (0.2m scale)



Plate 15 Trench 8, looking north-east (1m scales)



Plate 16 Possible ditch 509, looking south-west (1m scale)

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 36m Width: 1.8m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.35m	Topsoil
101	Subsoil	Layer	Friable light greyish brown clay silt	0.25m	Occasional sub angular cobbles
102	Natural	Layer	Firm mid orangey yellow silty clay	>0.6m	Highly fragmented brash pebbles, frequent manganese. Bands of firm, mid greyish red silty clay with larger brash
103	Linear	Fill	Moderately Compact mid orangey yellow silty clay	0.1m	Fill of linear [104]. Highly fragmented brash flakes and frequent manganese.
104	Linear	Cut		0.1m	Cut of N-S linear. Shallow, rounded breaks of slope, concave sides, flat base. No finds or dating. L 0.6M, W 0.7M, D 0.1M

Trench 2

Length: 34m Width: 1.8m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
200	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.15m	Topsoil
201	Subsoil	Layer	Friable light greyish brown silty clay	0.08m	Subsoil
202	Natural	Layer	Firm mid greyish yellow silty clay	>0.23 m	Rare brash

Trench 3

Length: 36m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
300	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.2m	Topsoil
301	Subsoil	Layer	Friable light greyish brown clay silt	0.25m	Occasional sub angular cobbles
302	Natural	Layer	Firm light greyish pink silty clay	>0.45 m	Occasional sub-angular cobbles

Trench 4

Length: 36m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
400	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.15m	Rare sub-angular pebbles
401	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid orangey brown silty clay	0.3m	Occasional sub-angular pebbles
402	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown silty clay	>0.45 m	Marl with occasional blue grey patches. Lenses with layers of an alluvial (glacial?) brash of sub-angular stones and rocks
403	Linear	Cut		0.2m	Exploratory slot into a thin band of brash. Rounded breaks of slops, concave sides with concave base. L >0.5m, W 0.8m, D 0.2m.
404	Linear	Fill	Firm dark orangey brown	0.2m	Brash as described in natural (402)

Trench 5

Length: 35m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
500	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.39m	Rare sub-angular pebbles
501	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid orangey brown silty clay	0.18m	Occasional sub-angular pebbles
502	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown silty clay	>0.57 m	Occasional blue-grey patches and lenses of brash. Sub-angular stones and rocks
503	Pit	Fill	Compact dark greyish yellow silty clay		Fill of pit [505]. Abundant charcoal flecks and flakes. No finds. Highly cultural, seems intentional. Sample no. 1.
504	Pit	Fill	Compact mid blueish grey silty clay		Fill of pit [505]. Occasional sub-angular pebbles, occasional charcoal flecks and flakes, frequent manganese. Largely made up of naturals so could be inwash or old packing interface if this was a posthole not a small pit.
505	Pit	Cut			Small pit or posthole. Top break of slope quite sharp

506	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact light greyish brown silty clay	with concave sides (steep). Irregularity of concave base could be over-digging. Near shallow pit [507] which seems later so unrelated. Very small as a pit so may be a posthole - supported by dual layer of fill packing and backfill? Occasional charcoal flecks and flakes and frequent brash. Very similar to subsoil. Assumed inwash over time. Sample no. 2.
507	Pit	Cut		Shallow irregular pit full of natural brash layers. Rounded breaks of slope, concave sides and flat base. Appears to cut the subsoil although not visible in NW side. Assumed modern.
508	Linear	Fill	Firm mid brownish red silty clay	Containing brash and gravels. No finds. Frequent manganese.
509	Linear	Cut		Shallow linear feature. Rounded and gradual breaks of slope, irregular base and sides, may have been overdug. No finds. Could represent a linear feature curving along the base of the slope towards the brook that has silted up with the surrounding naturals over time or possibly is a naturally occurring feature where the natural layers of the slope have been eroded and the brash represents the levelling of these areas - supported by potential ridged overcuts.

Trench 6

Length: 35m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
600	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.24m	
601	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid orangey brown silty clay	0.14m	
602	Subsoil	Layer	Compact mid yellowish grey silty clay	0.1m	Frequent subangular cobbles - brash lenses
603	Natural	Layer	Compact mid yellowish	>0.48	Frequent subangular

			orange silty clay	m	cobbles - brash lenses
604	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact mid yellowish grey silty clay	0.08m	Fill of small scoop pit containing frequent charcoal. Likely a dump of fire material. No heat discolouration so probably not the site of the fire itself. No finds for dating.
605	Pit	Cut		0.08m	Cut of small scoop pit. Shallow, ovoid pit with gradual sloping sides and a concave base. Likely a dump of fire material. Not fully excavated - extent unknown.
606	Linear	Fill	Compact mid orangey grey silty clay	0.24m	Fill of linear feature crossing trench 6 at right angles, going NW-SE. No finds for dating. Fill similar in appearance to subsoil layer 602, so may be filled with previous subsoil.
607	Linear	Cut			Cut of linear. Full extent not known as not fully excavated and continues under baulk. Gradual sloping sides, steeper on SW side, with a narrow, concave base, oriented NW-SE. May be modern, but no finds or dating.

Trench 7

Length: 35m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/depth	Interpretation
700	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.3m	
701	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.25m	
702	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish brown silty clay	>0.55 m	Blue-grey patches. Also incorporates elements of alluvial brash of broken sub-angular rocks and

Trench 8

Length: 43m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/depth	Interpretation
800	Natural	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.28m	

801	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.18m	Occasional manganese
802	Natural	Layer	Firm mid greyish yellow silty clay	>0.46 m	Frequent manganese and frequent brash

Trench 9

Length: 35m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
900	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.3m	
901	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid orangey brown silty clay	0.3m	Brash fragments
902	Natural	Layer	mid yellowish red clay	0.6m	Brash
903	Pit	Cut			Cut of pit
904	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact mid brownish grey		Charcoal, brash fragments. Pot/burnt clay?

Trench 10

Length: 36m Width: 1.8m Orientation: East to west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1000	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.25m	
1001	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid reddish brown clay silt	0.3-0.5m	Frequent sub-angular brash
1002	Natural	Layer	Firm mid brownish red clay	0.55m	Grey-blue patches and brash lenses
1003	Pit	Fill	Moderately Compact dark greyish brown silty clay	0.03m	Frequent charcoal. Fill of [1004] shallow pit. L 0.45m, W 0.41m, D 0.04m. Sample no. 7
1004	Pit	Cut		0.03m	Shallow pit, gradual concave, no finds, no association with other features

Trench 11

Length: 36m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North to south

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1100	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish blue clay silt	0.2m	

1101	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid reddish brown silty clay	0.27m	
1102	Natural	Layer	Compact mid brownish red clay	>0.63 m	Brash lenses

Trench 12

Length: 35m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1200	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.25m	
1201	Subsoil	Layer	Friable light greyish brown clay silt	0.3m	
1202	Natural	Layer	mid orangey brown silty	0.53m	

Trench 13

Length: 36m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1300	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.3m	
1301	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid orangey Brown silty clay	0.3m	Abundant sub-angular stones and pebbles - brash
1302	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish orange silty clay	0.6m	

Trench 14

Length: 33m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1400	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish Brown clay silt	0.35	Rare sub-angular pebbles
1401	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light greyish Brown silty clay	0.35m	Brash seen elsewhere not visible in this trench
1402	Colluvium	Layer	Firm light whitish grey silty clay	0.25m	Brownish orange patches, frequent manganese flecks and fragments.
1403	Colluvium	Layer	Firm light blueish grey silty clay	0.35m	No visible inclusions Sample no. 3
1404	Natural	Layer	Firm mid reddish Brown silty clay	1.4m	Blue and grey patches.

Trench 15

Length: 35m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-east to south-west

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1500	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt	0.2m	
1501	Modern Layer	Layer	Soft mid Brownish yellow	0.13m	Gravel inclusions. Farmers dumping.
1502	Subsoil	Layer	Soft dark greenish Brown clay silt	0.35m	Occasional sub-angular cobbles
1503	Natural	Layer	Firm mid brownish red clay	0.68m	Blue-grey patches

Trench 16

Length: 27m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1600	Topsoil	Layer	Loose mid greyish Brown clay silt	0.35m	Rare sub-angular stones
1601	Subsoil	Layer	Moderately Compact mid orangey Brown silty clay	0.4m	Occasional sub-angular pebbles and stones frequently lensed with (1602)
1602	Unknown	Layer	Loose mid Purplish Brown silty clay	0.35	Sub-angular gravels. Frequently lensed with (1601). Possible naturals incorporated into alluvial subsoil lenses. Undetermined due to mixed nature within this
1603	Natural	Layer	Compact mid reddish Brown silty clay	0.75m	Blue-grey patches. Also incorporates elements of (1602) with an alluvial brash of broken sub-angular rocks and stones

Trench 17

Length: 9.7m Width: 1.8m Orientation: North-west to south-east

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
1700	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish Brown clay silt	0.2m	
1701	Colluvial subsoil	Layer	Friable light greyish Brown clay silt	0.16m	Frequent Pebbles
1702	Colluvial subsoil	Layer	mid reddish Brown silty clay	0.22m	Occasional sub-angular pebbles
1703	Natural	Layer	Firm mid Brownish red clay		Grey-blue patches and brash lenses

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive (WA project code: P4691)

The archive consists of:

- 4 Context records AS1
- 5 Field progress reports AS2
- 3 Photographic records AS3
- 185 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 7 Scale drawings
- 7 Sample records AS17
- 1 Sample number catalogues AS18
- 17 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 Box of finds
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery
Queens Rd
Bristol
BS8 1RL

Tel. Bristol (0117) 922 3571
