

Archaeological evaluation at the Apple Tree Inn, Minsterworth, Gloucestershire



© Worcestershire County Council

Worcestershire Archaeology
Archive and Archaeology Service
The Hive, Sawmill Walk,
The Butts, Worcester
WR1 3PD

Status: Version 3
Date: 25th October 2016
Author: Tim Cornah tcornah@worcestershire.gov.uk
Contributors: Elizabeth Pearson and Jane Evans
Illustrator: Laura Templeton
Project reference: P4924
Report reference: 2391
Oasis id: fieldsec1-265893

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 List of sources consulted	2
3.4 Fieldwork strategy	3
3.5 Structural analysis	3
3.6 Artefact methodology, by C Jane Evans.....	3
3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy.....	3
3.6.2 Method of analysis	3
3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson.....	3
3.8 Statement of confidence in the methods and results	4
4 The application site	4
4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context.....	4
4.2 Current land-use	5
5 Results	5
5.1 Structural analysis	5
5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits	5
5.1.2 Phase 2: Roman deposits	5
5.1.3 Phase 3: Undated deposits	6
5.1.4 Phase 4: Post-medieval deposits.....	7
5.1.5 Phase 5: Modern deposits	7
5.2 Artefact analysis, by C Jane Evans	7
5.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson	14
6 Synthesis	17
6.1 Research frameworks	17
7 Significance	18
7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site	18
7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site	18
7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site	18
8 The impact of the development	18
9 Publication summary	18
10 Acknowledgements	19
11 Bibliography	19

Archaeological evaluation at Apple Tree Inn, Minsterworth, Gloucestershire

Tim Cornah

With contributions by Elizabeth Pearson and Jane Evans

Illustrations by Laura Templeton

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Apple Tree Inn, Minsterworth, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 78725, 17524). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting, whose client intends the residential development of the site, for which a planning application has been submitted.

The site lies to the west of the former Apple Tree Inn at the eastern edge of the village of Minsterworth some 4km to the west of Gloucester. It comprises a paddock and part of a former play area for the inn, which has now closed.

A discovery on the site in 1937 of inhumation burials associated with 1st to 2nd century material culture and an overlying stone surface highlighted the potential for the survival of deposits of Roman date within the site. The inhumations and a stone surface were discovered during the construction of a filtration plant for a swimming pool. Consultation with Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council confirmed that an archaeological evaluation of the site was appropriate to support the application.

The evaluation was carried out in September 2016. Eight trenches were placed in order to achieve a representative sample of the site and to test the vicinity of the area in which the inhumations were thought to have been found.

The evaluation demonstrated the presence of truncated Roman deposits across the entire site. To the west, stone walls and a quantity of stone with wall plaster, roof tiles and box flue tiles are suggestive of a high status building. A ditch of early Roman date was recorded running towards the filtration plant where the inhumations were found and it is thought possible that they were buried within, or close to, this ditch. The ditch was sealed by a surface of 2nd to 3rd century date, likely to be associated with the nearby building. The dating of abandonment deposits indicated that building went out of use in the 3rd to 4th centuries.

Further ditches and features were present in a lower density across the eastern half of the site and were typical of agricultural use. It is thought that this area may represent a series of paddocks or small enclosures adjacent to the building. A relatively large amount of iron slag was recovered from a number of deposits, suggesting that iron smelting may have formed part of the economy of the site.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Apple Tree Inn, Minsterworth, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 78725, 17524). It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, whose client intends the residential development of the site. A planning application has been submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council (reference 15/01018/OUT).

The potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the site was known from the record of Roman burials on the site discovered during works in 1937. Correspondence between CgMs Consulting and Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council confirmed the requirement of an archaeological evaluation to support the application.

The project conforms to a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Worcestershire Archaeology and approved by Charles Parry. The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a).

2 Aims

The aims and scope of the project are to undertake sufficient fieldwork to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits beyond reasonable doubt;
- identify their location, nature date and preservation;
- assess their significance;
- assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

The evaluation will only assess heritage assets which are of archaeological interest. This project will not include consideration of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, historic hedgerows.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was led Timothy Cornah (BA (hons.), MSc); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2006 and has been practicing archaeology since 2003, assisted by Jessica Wheeler (BA (hons.)) and Elspeth Iloff (BA (hons.); MSc). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA (hons.); MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Laura Templeton (BA; PG Cert; MClfA). Elizabeth Pearson (MSc; ACIfA) contributed the environmental report, Jane Evans (BA, MA, MClfA), contributed the finds report.

3.2 Documentary research

The documentary and archaeological background was set out in a desk based assessment of the site (CgMs 2016). This shall be repeated in summary in Section 4 below.

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

- 1st edition 1884 Ordnance Survey Map 1: 10560
- 1902 Ordnance Survey Map 1: 10560
- 1923 Ordnance Survey Map 1: 10560
- 1936 Ordnance Survey Map 1: 10560
- 1972 Ordnance Survey Map 1: 2500
- 1996 Ordnance Survey Map 1: 2500

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

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

Fieldwork was undertaken between 27 September and 3 October 2016.

Eight trenches, amounting to about 263m² in area, were excavated over the site area of 0.7ha, representing a sample of approximately 4%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. The trenches were located to gain a representative sample of the site and in particular to target the area where burials were recorded in 1937.

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 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 C Jane Evans

The finds work reported here conforms with the following guidance: for findswork by ClfA (2014), for archive creation by AAF (2011) and for museum deposition by SMA (1993).

3.6.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2), although only a sample of the iron slag noted on site was collected for analysis.

3.6.2 Method of analysis

All hand-retrieved finds were examined. They were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* date was produced for stratified contexts where possible, but much of the pottery could only be dated broadly to the Roman period. All information was recorded on *pro forma* Access database tables.

Artefacts from environmental samples were examined and are included in the quantification below.

The pottery and ceramic building material was not examined under x20 magnification or referenced to a fabric type. Diagnostic forms were identified and dated where possible.

3.7 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson

Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (2014). A total of two samples (each of 20 litres) were taken from the site (Env Table 1). A sub-sample of 10 litres was processed for assessment from both samples.

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 hammerscale. 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).

Animal bone was quantified by fragment number and weight with notes on key species identifications.

Discard policy

Remaining sample material and scanned residues will be discarded after a period of 6 months 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 background set out in this section is summarised from the desk based assessment (CgMs 2016).

The solid geology of the site comprises Mudstone of Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation. No superficial deposits are recorded.

The village of Minsterworth is located on the north and west side of the River Severn and within its wider valley. The topography is correspondingly low lying and the site is located at c.21m AOD at its western end, falling gently to c.16m AOD in the east.

The archaeological background to the site focuses on deposits and remains discovered on the site in 1937 when the then owner was excavating swimming pools and associated infrastructure. The following extract from Gloucester Citizen dated to 28 June 1937 describes the discovery.

While excavating for the installation of a filtration plant for his swimming pool at the "Apple Tree", Minsterworth, Captain Jarvis and his workmen have discovered, at a depth of about three feet, a number of interments of the early Roman period.

The remains comprise the bones of at least three individuals, and the skulls of two of them are those of middle-aged men. With the skeletons were a number of fragments of Romano-British coarse pottery and some pieces of a Samian ware cup, dating from the end of the first century A.D. The bodies were lying approximately north and south.

Immediately over these remains was a track paved with blue lias stone at a depth of 32 inches. It was impossible, owing to the size of the excavation, to examine the whole width of the track, but it must have been more than six feet wide.

A few hundred yards to the south lies the old Roman road, portions of which are still visible near Ham Green, and it may be that this track led from the road to a house in the vicinity.

The date of this track is later than the first century, and probably much later, but it can only belong to the Roman period.

Captain Jarvis has now presented these remains to the Gloucester Museum.

The Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record data (HER5282), broadly repeats this information whilst suggesting that the track was 2m wide and around 15cm in depth. A further source work card within the HER suggests that the filtration plant was a small concrete structure at the west end of the site. With the burials being discovered at around 3 feet in depth (0.90m) and the track surface at a depth of 32 inches (0.80m), it would suggest that the surface was about 0.10m in thickness as it was recorded as immediately overlying the burials.

Historic mapping of the site begins with the 1st edition Ordnance Survey in 1884. This shows the site as an orchard with an enclosure and building associated with the house, which is labelled as Salcombe. A track is also shown running along part of the southern side of the site. The small building extending into the site is removed by 1902 and site is depicted as broadly the same until 1923, though the house is labelled as Coles. The mapping of 1936 labels the house as The Apple Tree Road House and shows two bathing pools within the orchard area to the west of the house, along with three north-south aligned linear features within the same area. The function of these is unknown and they are not repeated on the mapping of 1972. The modern road alignment is shown as cutting across the field in which the site is located from 1936 and the track on the southern side of the site had been removed by the same point. It is noticeable that the filtration building is not labelled on any of the mapping but is likely to have been the small extant concrete structure to the west of smaller bathing pool shown from 1936 onwards.

4.2 Current land-use

The site has remained until recently a paddock, with its eastern end being used as the pub garden and car parking. At the time of the evaluation, the site was covered in long grass with some mature trees. A concrete shed with an adjacent tank stood in the western part of the site and this is assumed to be part of the construction of 1937 from which inhumations were discovered.

5 Results

5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Fig 2-8. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

Natural deposits (103, 202, 302, 402, 503, 605, 704 and 803) consisted largely of a compact mid orangey red sandy clay, with some areas of increased red clay content. Banding of Blue Lias stone was present, most notably in Trenches 1 and 4. These types of deposits are consistent with the weathered top of mudstones.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Roman deposits

Roman features were recorded in trenches 1-6 and 8. The features were most dense in the western part of the site where structural remains were present, close to the building thought to represent the location of the inhumations, and less dense in the central and eastern parts of the site, where the archaeology comprised a series of ditches of differing orientation and pits.

Within Trench 1 a series of three intercutting ditches (113, 109 and 111) were revealed in the eastern half of the trench. Ditch [111] had a shallow U-shaped profile and was filled by a mid reddish grey brown silty clay and was cut by [109]. Ditch [113] extended to 1.10m below the modern ground surface and ran in a NW-SE direction (Figure 7 and Plate 8). The alignment of this may suggest that it was the same ditch as [305] (see below).

Partially overlying ditch [113] was a surface of Blue Lias stone (112) laid flat within a matrix of greyish brown sandy silt (Plate 9). This surface retained broadly the same alignment as the ditch below and had a depth of around 0.10m to 0.15m.

To the west of the surface further stones were present (104) (Plate 10). These were largely flat laid and could have been part of a paving surface, though their overall shape may suggest the corner of a structure. The features within the western end of Trench 1 were overlain by deposit (102) which contained a large quantity of Blue Lias stone fragments within a hard clay matrix. This is likely to have been deposited after the abandonment of the site or may represent the collapse of a structure or structures.

A similar deposit to (102) was present in Trenches 2 and 3 (203 and 303). Deposit (303) directly overlay natural deposit (302) whereas in Trench 2, which lay to the south of Trench 1, a number of further structures and deposits were present beneath.

These consisted primarily of two parallel structures aligned NE-SW (Figure 4 and Plates 11 and 12). Structure (204) was a wall built with Blue Lias stones and tile. Structure (205) may have been another wall but was largely tile built and extended to a depth of at least three courses. These two structures were around 0.40m apart and may have formed a drain against wall (204), though an interpretation of this feature as a heating duct cannot be ruled out. Both these features were at least partially overlain by deposit (208), which contained a large amount of lime mortar fragments.

Against the south-east side of wall (204) was an area of tightly packed stones, many vertically set. It is possible that these are collapsed material from the structure of which (204) was a part. However the fact that many lay at 90° to the wall and appeared to be within a possible cut [207], may suggest that they were packing used as part of a foundation.

In the central and eastern parts of the site the archaeological features comprised a series of pits and ditches cut into the natural deposits. Within Trench 3, ditch [305] was orientated roughly NNW-SSE and lay beneath surface (303). It was 0.44m wide and was not excavated due to the presence of an overlying service.

Within Trench 4, ditch [404] was 0.5m deep and orientated NW-SE with an irregular profile (Figure 7). It was filled with a mid reddish grey-brown compact clay silt (404). A number of further ditches were recorded in plan but not excavated. Ditch [406] to the north-east of (404) was a small gully 0.3m wide.

Within Trench 5, ditch [505] was 0.39m deep and aligned NE-SW. Ditch 507 crossed the trench on an east-west alignment.

Within Trench 6, ditch [607] was orientated NW-SE and was 0.43m deep with a shallow U shaped profile and filled by (606), a mid orange-brown silty clay. Ditch [609] was narrower and orientated at 90° to [607].

Four small discreet features remained in the eastern half of the site. Of these [408 and 805], 0.32m and 0.23m deep respectively, (Figures 7 to 8 and Plates 6 to 7) were pits with [410 and 509] likely to have the same characteristics. The latter were not excavated.

The interpretation of much of the eastern half of the site being in use for largely agricultural purposes is supported by the presence of deposit (502) which extended from the northern end of Trench 5 to around its centre. This is interpreted as a former plough soil and contained material of Roman date.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Undated deposits

Features [109, 406, 504, 509 and 609] had no material remains taken from them so could be assigned as undated. However, their position below the sub soils suggests a likely Roman date.

Sealing all of the Roman period features were subsoils (101, 201, 301, 401, 501, 604, 703 and 802). It is possible that these were formed as part of an earlier plough soil.

5.1.4 Phase 4: Post-medieval deposits

Within Trench 7, a compact Blue Lias stone surface was present (702) (Plate 13) that extended to a depth of 0.34m and included some building materials such as brick. The feature was consistent with a surface or track. This surface overlaid subsoil deposit (703).

5.1.5 Phase 5: Modern deposits

Within Trench 6, a modern ground makeup layer (603) was overlain by a thin concrete surface (602). This concrete was similar in character to the extant pool on in the western end of the site and is likely to relate to one of the three north-south aligned features shown on the eastern side of the larger pool on the 1936 OS map. This surface was overlain by made-ground deposit (601). A similar ground levelling deposit was also present in Trench 8 (801) with a further ground makeup deposit in Trench 7 (700).

A possible service pipe cut was also present in Trench 8 along with a small area of modern truncation in Trench 5. Three metal pipes were also present within Trench 3, all running towards the concrete bathing pool.

All the trenches were overlain by topsoil deposits (100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700 and 800).

5.2 Artefact analysis, by C Jane Evans

The artefactual assemblage recovered is summarised in Finds Tables 1-5.

The assemblage came from ten stratified contexts and the topsoil. Most datable finds were Roman and it is assumed that the poorly dated associated finds, such as slag and animal bone, are contemporary. Most of the Roman pottery could not be closely dated within this broad period, but the more diagnostic pieces indicated activity in the vicinity from perhaps the late 1st, or certainly 2nd century through to the late 3rd to 4th century. Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, the levels of abrasion and fragmentation were variable; some of the average sherd weights being below average (10g) and some above (Finds Table 2). But all the finds came from upper deposits and the overall impression was that survival of artefacts in the underlying deposits is likely to be good.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
Roman	ceramic	earthenware	pot	140	1145.5
	ceramic	earthenware	box flue tile	3	371
			brick/tile	37	353
			imbrex	3	456
			tegula	4	383
			tile	9	540
	glass	blue green glass	vessel	6	13
	metal	iron	nail	7	48
	metal	slag(Fe)	slag	1	1
		slag(Fe)	smelting slag	49	1812

		slag(Fe)	smelting slag (pipe)	1	6
		slag(Fe)	smelting slag (tap)	2	30
	slag	slag(Fe)	smelting slag (pipe)	1	45
	metal	lead	weight	1	36
Roman?	mortar	mortar	fragment	7	85
	stone	Lias?	building stone?	3	306
		sandstone	tile	1	46
undated	bone	animal bone	fragment	94	420
	ceramic	fired clay	fragment	3	17.5
	slag	fuel ash slag	fragment	3	9
	organic	coal	fragment	19	33
		shell	oyster shell	3	19
late med/early post-med	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	47
post-medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	77
	glass	bright green	vessel	1	3

Finds Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage by period and material

Summary artefactual evidence by period

For the finds from individual features, including specific types of pottery, consult Tables 3 and 2 in that order and in combination.

Roman

Roman pottery

feature type	fill of	context	count	% count	weight(g)	% weight	average weight
ditch	111	110	4	3%	52	5%	13
	113	114	3	2%	8	1%	3
	305	304	34	24%	167	15%	5
	505	504	8	6%	153.5	13%	19
	607	606	20	14%	92	8%	5
layer		112	9	6%	140	12%	16

		203	42	30%	326	28%	8
		502	5	4%	25	2%	5
pit	408	407	1	1%	4	0%	4
	805	804	3	2%	43	4%	14
topsoil		300	11	8%	135	12%	12
total			140	100%	1145.5	100%	8

Finds Table 2: Quantification of the Roman pottery feature type and context

Quantification of the assemblage by feature/layer (Finds Table 2) shows that the largest assemblages of Roman pottery came from the rubble spread sealing the wall in Trench 2 (layer 203), ditch 607 (fill 606) and ditch 305 (fill 304). The relatively high quantity of pottery from ditch 305 is particularly significant given that this feature was not excavated, and may indicate a richer deposit of artefacts in the fills below. Other features and layers produced small quantities, mainly less than 10 sherds.

The pottery was not recorded by fabric but a range of reduced and oxidised wares were noted, varying from fine to coarse fabrics and including highly micaceous wares. In terms of dating the best evidence came from the small quantity of Black-burnished ware (BB1), the presence of which indicated a *tpq* of at least c AD 120 for some contexts. A body sherd from a BB1 jar, found in layer 203, was decorated with obtuse cross-hatch burnish, indicating a late 3rd to 4th century date. Other later Roman forms came from: ditch 505 (fill 504), a hooked rim from a jar with a short neck, a type dated elsewhere to the 4th century (Webster 1976, fig 7, C32); layer 112, a late 2nd to 3rd century Severn Valley ware tankard (Webster 1976, fig 7, C43), a fragmentary rim from a BB1 jar dating to the mid-to-late 3rd or 4th century, and the base of a colour-coated bowl, probably from Oxfordshire and so dating to c 240+. A sherd of Nene Valley ware is also likely to be contemporary with this later Roman activity.

There was also evidence for earlier Roman activity. Two sherds of samian were recovered: a sherd from a South Gaulish ware, Dr 36 bowl from the surface of ditch 304 (fill 305) and a body sherd of South Gaulish ware from a buried soil below the subsoil (502). If the fabric identification is correct (this should be checked by a specialist if further work is undertaken) then these both date to the 1st century, the Dr 36 being most common in the late 1st century. These may have been redeposited from earlier layers, perhaps disturbed during later Roman building work. A sherd of handmade Malvernian ware also most likely dates to the 1st or 2nd century, along with a few sherds of Dressel 20 amphorae. Some of the other coarse ware forms were earlier types.

No mortaria were noted, but it is difficult to attribute any significance to this in such a small assemblage. One sherd in a reduced ware, from ditch 111 (fill 110), had been re-used to make a counter (diameter 55mm).

Building material (ceramic, stone and mortar)

Fragments of building material reflected the presence of structures (Tables 1 and 3). Most of this was ceramic building material, the majority of which could not be identified more closely than general brick or tile. However, the presence of tegula and imbrex roof tiles and box-flue tiles with distinctive keying indicated a Romanised structure. Other material included fragments of sandstone roof tile, fragments of Lias stone (either building stone or from paved surfaces noted on the site), and mortar. Some of the ceramic tiles also had mortar attached. Most of the building material was associated with what are presumably demolition layers, particularly layer 203.

Feature type	Fill of	context	material class	object specific type	count	weight(g)	average weight
Layer		112	ceramic	brick/tile	1	17	17
			ceramic	tile	4	58	15
		203	ceramic	box flue tile	2	266	133
			ceramic	brick/tile	31	315	10
			ceramic	imbrex	3	456	152
			ceramic	tegula	4	383	96
			ceramic	tile	4	450	113
			mortar	mortar fragment	7	85	12
			stone	lias building stone?	3	306	102
stone	sandstone tile	1	46	46			
Ditch	113	114	ceramic	brick/tile	3	15	5
	305	304	ceramic	box flue tile	1	105	105
Pit	805	804	ceramic	brick/tile	2	6	3
Topsoil		300	ceramic	tile	1	32	32

Finds Table 3: Quantification of the Roman building material by feature type and context

Industrial waste

There was clear evidence for iron smelting in the vicinity. The largest concentrations noted came from ditch 113 (fill 114) and layer 502. The iron slag retained included tap slag, with distinctive flow patterns giving a 'ropey' form; cylindrical pipe slag, representing slag that solidified within the tap hole of the furnace; and less diagnostic but dense slag. There was no clear evidence for iron smithing in the assemblage; no hearth bottoms were noted and no hammerscale was identified in the soil samples (though tiny fragments of slag were). Other industrial waste included small fragments of coal, and fuel ash slag, perhaps associated with ironworking activity.

Feature type	Fill of	context	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	average weight
Layer		203	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	12	266	22
				smelting slag(pipe)	1	6	6
				smelting slag(tap)	2	30	15
		203	coal	fragment	18	32	2

			fuel ash slag	fragment	3	9	3
		502	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	8	830	104
Ditch	111	110	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	4	73	18
	113	114	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	13	555	43
	305	304	slag(Fe)	slag	1	1	1
				smelting slag	1	10	10
			coal	fragment	1	1	1
505	504	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	3	25	8	
Pit	408	407	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	3	48	16
	805	804	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	5	5	1
				smelting slag(pipe)	1	45	45

Finds Table 4: Quantification of the Roman industrial waste by feature type and context

Other finds (metal and glass)

Seven iron nails and a lead 'weight' were recovered, all but one nail (from pit 408, fill 407) coming from layer 203. The nails presumably come from the structures in the vicinity. The function of the 'weight' is less certain. It is possibly a conical spindle whorl, but similarly shaped objects have been identified at South Shields Roman fort as lead caulking (Allason Jones and Miket 1984, 8.96-99). The example from this site was perhaps more neatly formed than these, so perhaps more likely to be a deliberately shaped spindle whorl. The only other Roman finds were six fragments of pale blue/green vessel glass, found in ditch 305 (fill 304)

Medieval and post-medieval finds

Only three medieval/post-medieval finds were noted: the rim from a large bowl dating to the 15th-16th century, from layer 502; a rim from another large bowl or pancheon in a brown-glazed red ware and dating to the 17th-18th century, from layer 203; and a fragment of bright green vessel glass, from pit 805 (fill 804).

trench	Fill of	context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	Period (date range)
1	111	110	bone	animal bone	fragment	1	14	
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	4	52	Roman
			metal	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	4	73	Roman
		112	bone	animal bone	fragment	4	13	

			ceramic	earthenware	brick/tile	1	17	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	9	140	Roman (late 2 nd -3 rd)
			ceramic	earthenware	tile	4	58	Roman
	113	114	bone	animal bone	fragment	11	21	
			ceramic	earthenware	brick/tile	3	15	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	8	Roman
			metal	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	13	555	Roman
2		203	bone	animal bone	fragment	10	22	Roman?
			ceramic	earthenware	box flue tile	2	266	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	brick/tile	31	315	Roman
			ceramic	fired clay	fragment	2	17	Roman?
			slag	fuel ash slag	fragment	3	9	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	imbrex	3	456	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	77	post-medieval (17 th -18 th)
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	42	326	Roman (2 nd -late 3 rd -4 th)
			ceramic	earthenware	tegula	4	383	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	tile	4	450	Roman
			metal	iron	nail	6	42	Roman
			metal	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	12	266	Roman
			metal	slag(Fe)	smelting slag (pipe)	1	6	Roman
			metal	slag(Fe)	smelting slag (tap)	2	30	Roman
			metal	lead	weight	1	36	Roman
			mortar	mortar	fragment	7	85	Roman?
			organic	coal	fragment	18	32	
			organic	shell	oyster shell	3	19	Roman?
			stone	lias?	building	3	306	Roman?

					stone?			
			stone	sandstone	tile	1	46	Roman?
3	300		bone	animal bone	fragment	9	109	
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	11	135	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	tile	1	32	Roman
	305	304	bone	animal bone	fragment	11	27	
			bone	animal bone	fragment	9	74	Roman?
			ceramic	earthenware	box flue tile	1	105	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	16	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	17	63	Roman (120+)
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	14	67	Roman (2 nd -3 rd)
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	21	Roman (late 1 st -early 2 nd)
			glass	blue green glass	vessel	6	13	Roman
			metal	slag(Fe)	slag	1	1	Roman
			metal	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	1	10	Roman
organic	coal	fragment	1	1	Roman			
4	408	407	ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	4	Roman
			metal	iron	nail	1	6	Roman
			metal	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	3	48	Roman
5	502		ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	47	late med/early post-med (15 th -16 th)
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	4	22	Roman (120+)
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	3	Roman (late 1 st -2 nd)
			metal	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	8	830	Roman
	505	504		bone	animal bone	fragment	23	132

5	505	504	ceramic	fired clay	fragment	1	0.5	
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	1	0.5	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	7	153	Roman (late 3 rd -4 th)
			metal	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	3	25	Roman
6	607	606	bone	animal bone	fragment	16	8	
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	20	92	Roman
8	805	804	ceramic	earthenware	brick/tile	2	6	Roman
			ceramic	earthenware	pot	3	43	Roman
			glass	bright green	vessel	1	3	post-medieval
			metal	slag(Fe)	smelting slag	5	5	Roman
			slag	slag(Fe)	smelting slag (pipe)	1	45	Roman

Finds Table 5: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

Synthesis and significance

The assemblage of finds reflects the Roman archaeology identified on the site, including structural remains and associated iron smelting in the vicinity. The pattern of late Roman demolition deposits, with material then being disturbed by post-Roman ploughing, is paralleled elsewhere in the region. The presence of iron smelting reflects the relative proximity of the major Roman iron-working settlement at *Ariconium*, Weston-Under-Penyard, and is also part of a wider pattern of iron working sites established close to the River Severn (presumably used to transport the ores and perhaps also the smelted iron). The pottery dating confirms previous evidence from the site (the burials) for early Roman activity, and provides more secure evidence that occupation continued until the end of the Roman period. Any further work in the vicinity should take account of the likelihood of modestly preserved Roman features, with good preservation of finds.

Recommendations

More detailed analysis of the assemblages would be required if further work is undertaken on the site, and the data should be integrated with that for any future finds recovered.

5.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

The environmental evidence recovered is summarised in Env Tables 1 to 3.

Animal bone was hand-collected during excavation (Env Table 2). A total of 94 fragments (420g) was collected from eight contexts of Roman date. As this was a small assemblage, no further work was carried out on this material, but it demonstrates the potential to recover small assemblages of animal bone, should further fieldwork be carried out on this site. Small quantities of oyster shell and coal were also recovered.

Results are summarised in Env Tables 3 and 4.

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 small quantities of identifiable remains were recorded. Possible charred emmer grains (*Triticum cf dicocum*) were recorded from ditch (504) and emmer/spelt wheat grains (*Triticum dicocum/spelta*) from pit fill (804). These were consistent with the Roman date of the deposits. However, little interpretation could be made concerning the type of crop waste (storage versus by-product waste) represented and the arable practices in use.

Iron slag was particularly abundant in the residue from pit fill (804).

Significance

Environmental remains resulting from bulk sampling and hand-collection are of low significance, showing low potential for detailed interpretation of the arable and animal husbandry economy and food collection.

Context	Sample	Feature type	Fill of	Position of fill	Period	Phase	Sample volume (L)	Volume processed (L)	Residue assessed	Flot assessed
504	1	Ditch	505	n/a	Roman	Late 3 rd – 4 th Century	20	10	Yes	Yes
804	2	Pit	805	n/a	Roman		20	10	Yes	Yes

Env Table 1: List of bulk samples

context	material subtype	Count	weight(g)	Feature type	Period
110	animal bone	1	14	Ditch	ROMAN
112	animal bone	4	13	Layer	ROMAN
114	animal bone	11	21	Ditch	ROMAN
203	coal	15	27	Layer	ROMAN
203	coal	3	5	Layer	ROMAN
203	shell	3	19	Layer	ROMAN
203	animal bone	10	22	Layer	ROMAN
300	animal bone	9	109	Topsoil	ROMAN
304	animal bone	11	27	Ditch	ROMAN
304	animal bone	9	74	Ditch	ROMAN
304	coal	1	1	Ditch	ROMAN
504	animal bone	23	132	Ditch	ROMAN
606	animal bone	16	8	Ditch	ROMAN
Total		116	472		

Env Table 2: Hand-collected animal bone, oyster shell and coal

context	sample	large mammal	charcoal	charred plant	uncharred plant	artefacts	comments

504	1	occ	occ	occ	abt*	occ coal, fired clay, pot, heat-affected stones, mod Fe slag.	
804	2	occ	occ	occ	abt*	abt coal, occ pot, Fe slag	hammerscale & smithing slag

Env Table 3: Summary of environmental remains; occ = occasional, mod = moderate, abt = abundant, * = probably intrusive

context	sample	preservation type	species detail	category remains	quantity/diversity	comment
504	1	?wa	<i>Rubus</i> sect <i>Glandulosus</i>	seed	+/low	probably intrusive
504	1	ch	<i>Triticum</i> cf <i>dicoccum</i> grain	grain	+/low	
504	1	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	++/low	small fragments
504	1	?wa	unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+++/low	probably intrusive
804	2	?wa	unidentified leaf fragments, unidentified herbaceous root fragments	misc	+++/low	probably intrusive
804	2	ch	<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> grain, Cereal sp indet grain (fragment)	grain	+/low	
804	2	ch	unidentified wood fragments	misc	++/low	small fragments

Env Table 4: Plant remains from bulk samples

Key:

preservation	quantity
ch = charred	+ = 1 - 10
min = mineralised	++ = 11- 50
wa = waterlogged	+++ = 51 - 100
?wa = waterlogged or uncharred	++++ = 101+
	* = fragments

6 Synthesis

The two structures within Trench 2, which form a wall with a possible drain or heating vent on its north-west side and the overlying deposits containing a significant amount of lime plaster, suggest a fairly high status building of a Romanised form. The demolition layer above also contained tegula, imbrex and box flue tiles. A single sherd of earthenware pottery from this layer suggests that the building was abandoned by the 3rd or 4th centuries. A further small structure was present within the western end of Trench 1, though this may only have been an area of paving.

A relatively large amount of iron slag from a number of deposits suggests iron smelting within the vicinity. The presence of fuel such as coal and fuel ash slag gives further such evidence. No indication of smithing or iron smelting was present. Iron slag was also present within the fills of ditch [113] which was not closely dateable itself but may be the same as feature discovered in 1937 and ditch [305], which are suggested to be early Roman in date.

It is clear that the site was used throughout the Roman era, possibly from the 1st to 4th centuries. The earliest feature appears to have been the ditch running on a north-west to south-east alignment, including ditch [305], the likely ditch discovered in 1937 and possibly also ditch [113]. This was sealed by surface (112), possibly in the 2nd to 3rd century. It is likely that this was associated with the structures within Trench 2, which were abandoned by the 3rd to 4th centuries. The dating of the ditches within the eastern half of the site was less secure, though a sherd of pottery from ditch [505] was of 3rd to 4th century date.

A definite area of paving or surface was present in Trench 1 which visibly slumped into the earlier fills of ditch [113]. This paving (112) contained a single sherd of pottery of 2nd to 3rd century date. The stratigraphy and depth of the surface and ditch [113] fit closely with the excavations as described in 1937. Surface (112) was located at a depth of about 0.60, with the surface discovered in 1937 at a depth of about 0.80m. Both surfaces were about 0.10m in thickness.

The alignment of ditch [113], possibly joining with ditch [305], would place it within the area of the concrete structure thought to be the filtration plant. This would suggest that the three inhumations recorded in 1937 were buried within or close to this ditch. No further inhumations were present within ditch [113]. It is possible that this ditch marks the boundary between the occupied part of the site to the west and the agricultural to the east. The pottery associated with the 1937 inhumations was suggested to be of 1st century date. Whilst little dating was recovered from ditch [113], the top deposits within ditch [305] contained a relatively large amount of material dating to the early Roman period with a sherd of 1st to 2nd century pottery present.

The eastern half of the site is agricultural in character with a number of ditches present that are typical of drainage and/or field boundary features. They possibly represent a series of small paddocks close to the stone building. The presence of a small amount of charred grains within the fills of one of these and a small pit is suggestive of crop processing agriculture, though the low quantities present is not sufficient to draw firm conclusions. The quantity of iron slag in pit [808] may also suggest that some iron smelting took place in this area. A possible Roman period plough soil in the north-east corner of the site confirms the agricultural activity. Ceramics recovered from this deposit dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries, though a sherd of 15th to 16th century pottery highlights a degree of later intrusion.

No clear evidence of the later post-Roman use of the site was present until the end of the post-medieval period, though the recorded subsoil deposits may have been part of a former plough soil. A stone surface was present in Trench 7 that is likely to be the track shown in this area on the historic mapping from 1884 to 1923. An element of the 1937 work associated with the bathing pool was also present in the form of a concrete surface in Trench 6.

6.1 Research frameworks

This site has the potential to provide further data about small Romanised settlements and iron working sites in this part of Gloucestershire. The earlier period of Roman iron working sites was

more typically characterised by relatively large industrial settlements, such as at Newent within the Forest of Dean and at *Ariconium*, Weston-under Penyard, in Herefordshire. The later period is characterised by smaller sites often based around villas with a more mixed economy, typically also incorporating agricultural production (Holbrook (ed) 2008). It is possible that this site could add to this developing picture.

7 Significance

7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The interest in the site is primarily based around the structures and associated deposits in the western end of the site, though the outlying features within the eastern end of the site are likely to add further information. The site retained evidence of its dating from the late 1st or early 2nd centuries into the later Roman period. It contained at least one building and appears to have been linked with iron smelting. The outlying features such as ditches are likely to relate to agricultural use.

7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The site is likely to be at least regionally important, and may shed further light on the iron smelting and production economy based around the Forest of Dean throughout the Roman period.

7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

The density and complexity of the archaeological features is greatest at the western end of the site, particularly in the area from around, and to the west of, the remaining 1930s pool and filtration plant structures. These deposits were located at a depth of 0.40m, making them particularly vulnerable. The remaining features were located at a depth of between 0.45m to 1m, as outlined within Appendix 1 below.

8 The impact of the development

The impact of the development during construction is likely to depend largely upon where all sub surface excavations such as footings, service trenches and landscaping will be located and their impact depth. The concentrations of the archaeological features are greatest at the western end of the site. Particularly vulnerable will be the walls and deposits within Trench 2.

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 at Apple Tree Inn, Minsterworth, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 78725, 17524). It was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Consulting, whose client intends the residential development of the site, for which a planning application has been submitted.

The site lies to the west of the former Apple Tree Inn on the A48 at the eastern edge of the village of Minsterworth. It is a former paddock to the west of the inn which has now closed.

A discovery on the site in 1937 of inhumation burials associated with 1st to 2nd century material culture and an overlying stone surface highlighted the potential for the survival of deposits of Roman date within the site. The inhumations and a stone surface were discovered during the construction of a filtration plant for a swimming pool.

Consultation with Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council confirmed that an archaeological evaluation of the site was appropriate to support the application.

The evaluation was carried out in September 2016. Eight trenches were placed in order to achieve a representative sample of the site and to test the area in which the inhumations were thought to have been found. The evaluation demonstrated the presence of Roman deposits across the entire

site. To the west, the deposits were dense and the presence of stone walls and a quantity of stone with wall plaster roof tiles and box flue tiles is suggestive of a high status building. A ditch of early Roman date was recorded running towards the building where the inhumations were found and it is thought possible that they were buried within, or close to, this ditch. The ditch was sealed by a surface of 2nd to 3rd century date, likely to be associated with the nearby building.

The dating of abandonment deposits indicated that building went out of use in the 3rd to 4th centuries.

Further ditches and features were present in a lower density across the eastern half of the site and were typical of agricultural use. It is thought that this area may represent a series of paddocks or small enclosures adjacent to the building. A relatively large amount of iron slag was recovered from a number of deposits, suggesting that iron smelting may have formed part of the economy of the site.

10 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Nathan Thomas of CgMs Consulting, Steve Jayne (a co-owner of the site and driver of the excavator) and Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council.

11 Bibliography

AAF 2011 *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum, <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/>

Association for Environmental Archaeology 1995 *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations. Recommendations concerning the environmental component of archaeological evaluations in England*, Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, **2**

Cappers, T R J, Bekker, R M, and Jans, J E A, 2012 *Digitale Zadenatlas van Nederland: Digital seed atlas of the Netherlands*, *Groningen Archaeological Studies*, **4**, Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen University Library: Groningen

CIfA 2014 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

CIfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department for Communities and Local Government

DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010 *PPS5 Planning for the historic environment: historic environment planning practice guide*, Department for Communities and Local Government/Department for Culture, Media and Sport/English Heritage

English Heritage 2011 *Environmental archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

English Heritage 2011 *The setting of heritage assets*, English Heritage

Holbrook, N (ed) 2008 *Roman*, Chapter 8 in Webster, CJ (ed) 2008 *The Archaeology of South West England South West Archaeological Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Somerset County Council

Ragg, J M, Beard, G R, George, H, Heaven, F W, Hollis, J M, Jones, R J A, Palmer, R C, Reeve, M J, Robson, J D, and Whitfield, W A D, 1984 *Soils and their use in midland and western England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, **12**

Schweingruber, F H, 1978 *Microscopic wood anatomy: structural variability of stems and twigs in recent and subfossil woods from central Europe*, Swiss Federal Institute of Forestry Research

SMA 1993 *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections*, Society for Museum Archaeology, <http://www.socmusarch.org.uk/publica.htm>

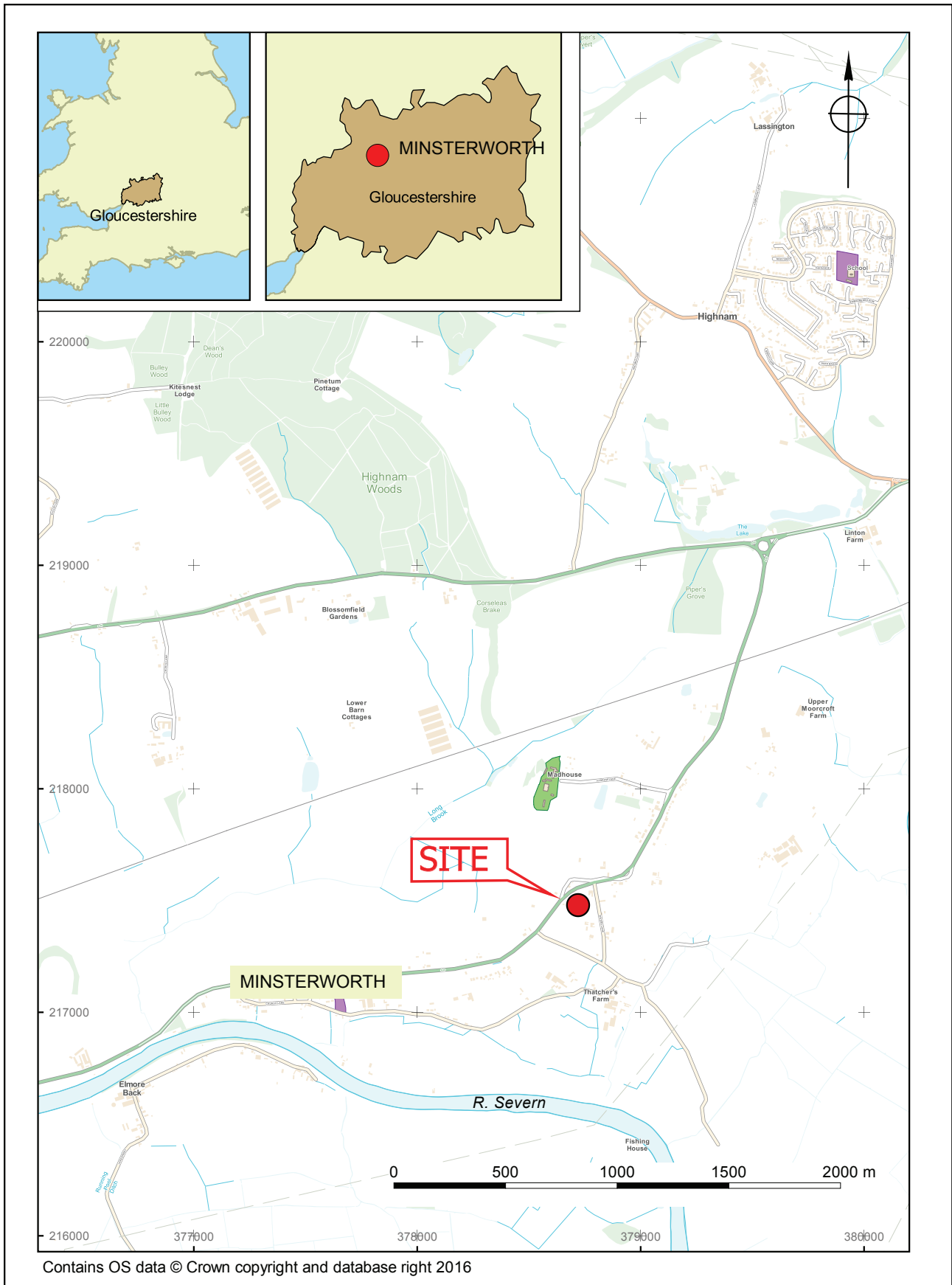
Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983 *Midland and Western England*, sheet 3, scale 1:250,000 + Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (A brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)

Stace, C, 2010 *New flora of the British Isles*, Cambridge University Press, (3rd edition)

WA 2012 *Manual of service practice, recording manual*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, report **1842**

WA 2016 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at the Apple Tree Inn, Minsterworth, Gloucestershire*, Worcestershire Archaeology, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 19 September 2016, **P4924**

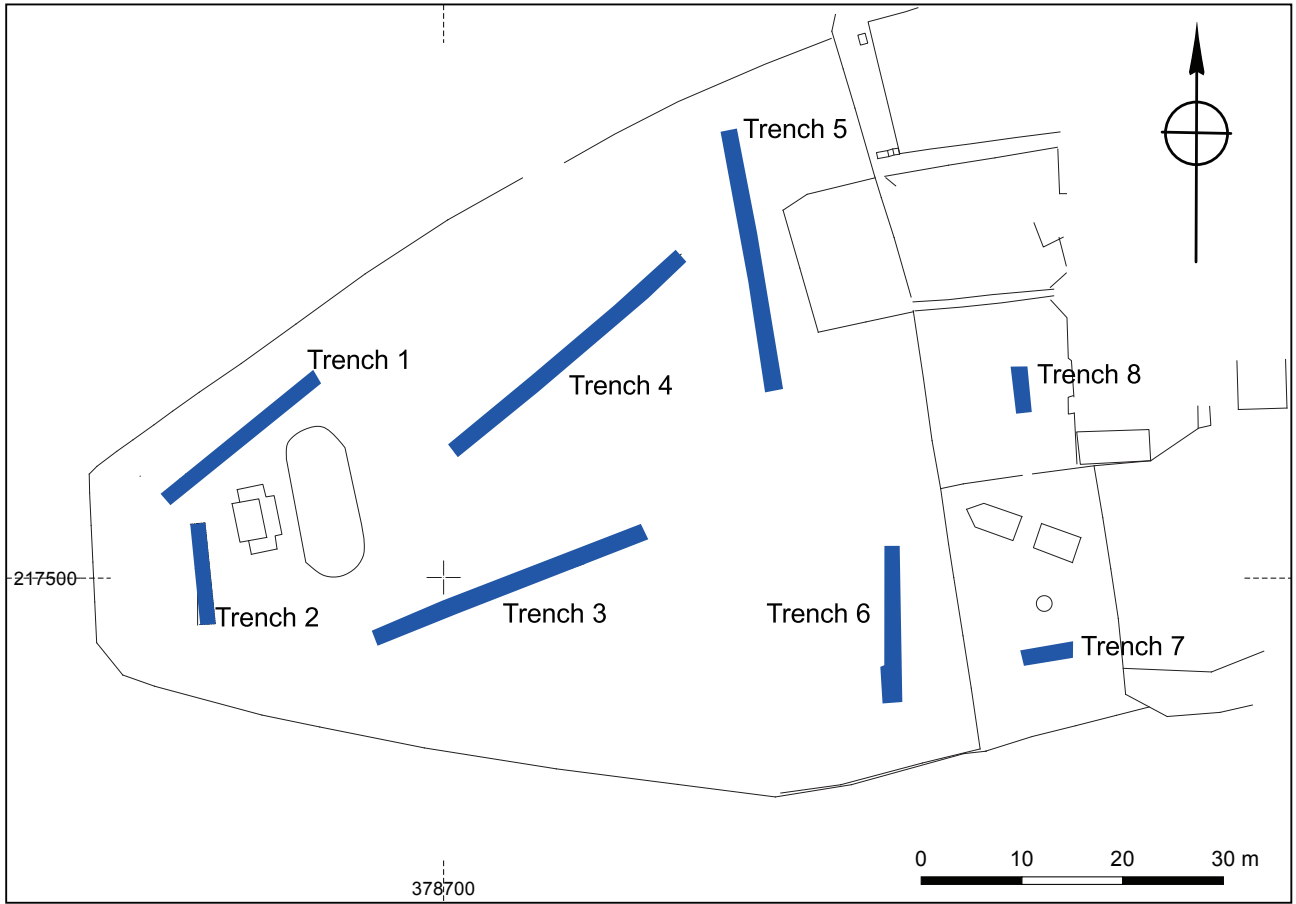
Figures



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2016

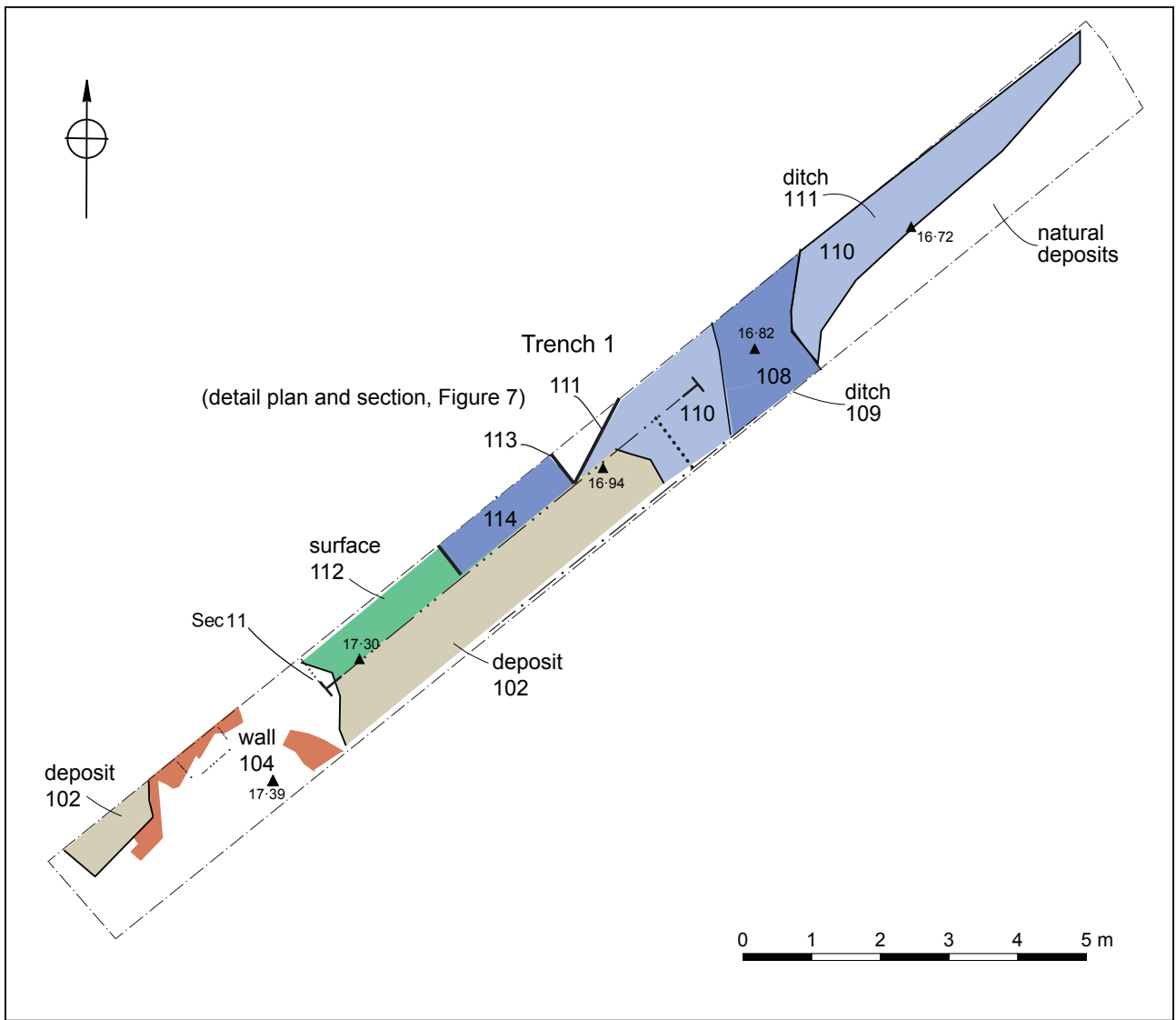
Location of the site

Figure 1



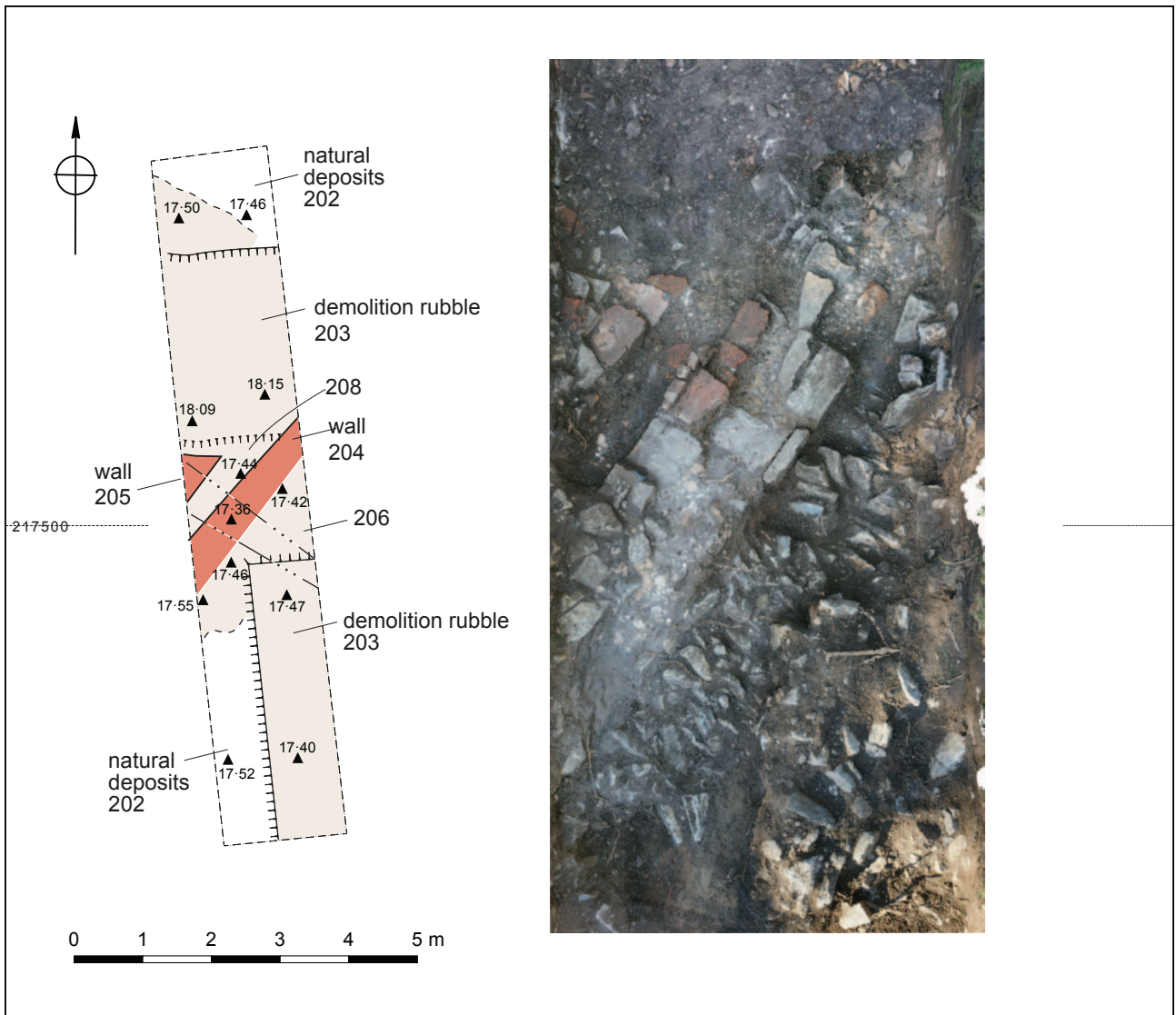
Trench locations

Figure 2



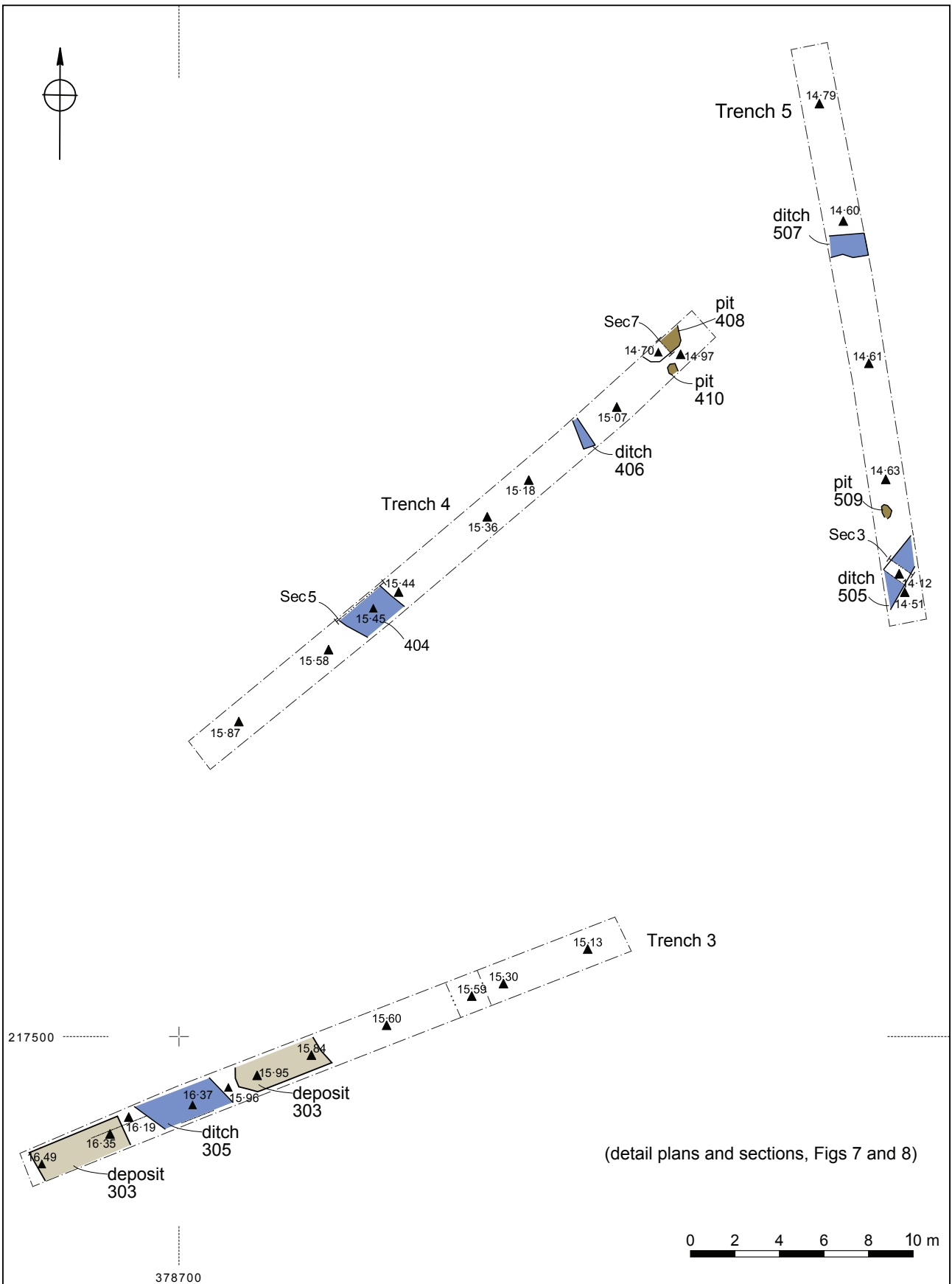
Archaeological Features; Trench 1

Figure 3



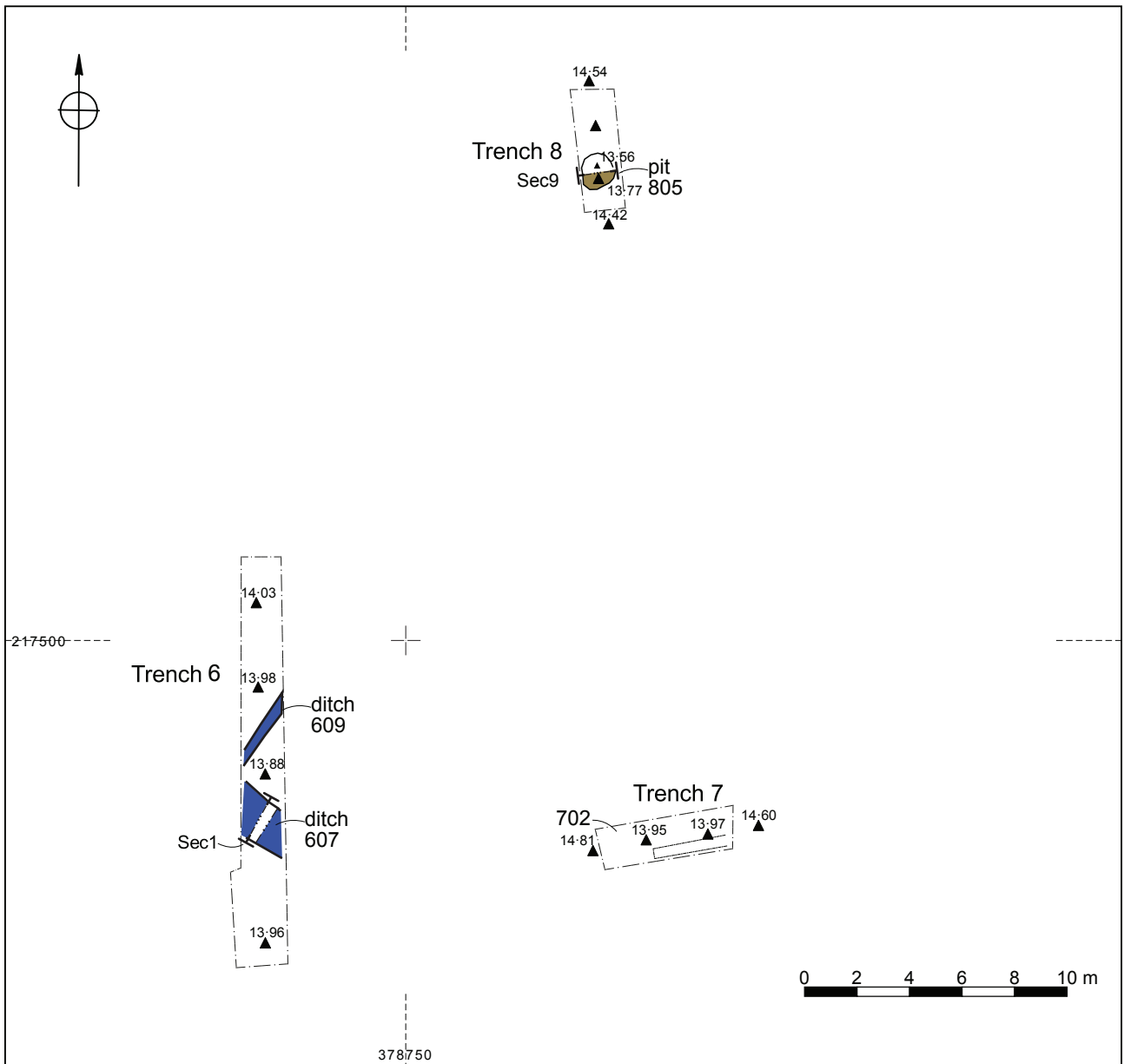
Archaeological features; Trench 2

Figure 4



Archaeological features; Trench 3, 4 and 5

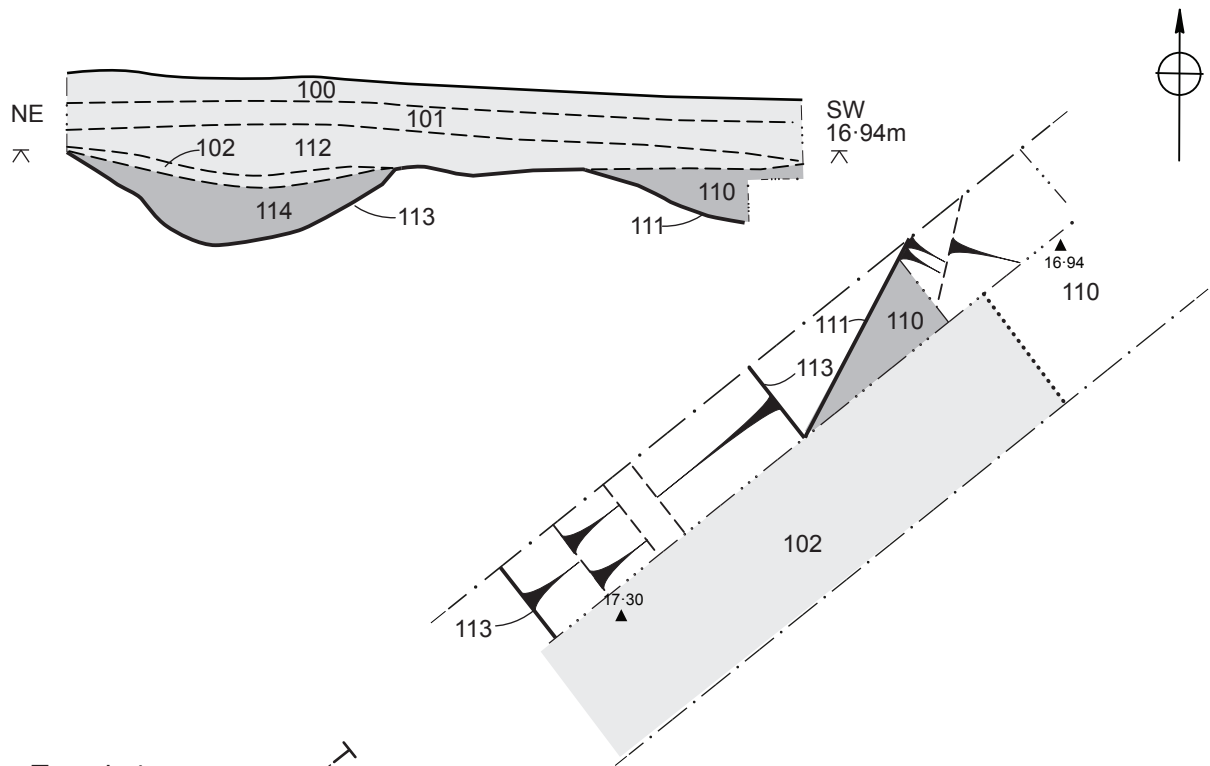
Figure 5



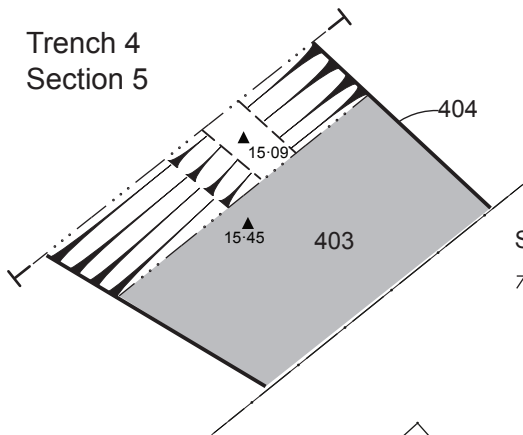
Archaeological features; Trench 6, 7 and 8

Figure 6

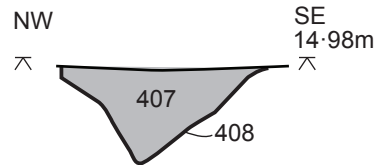
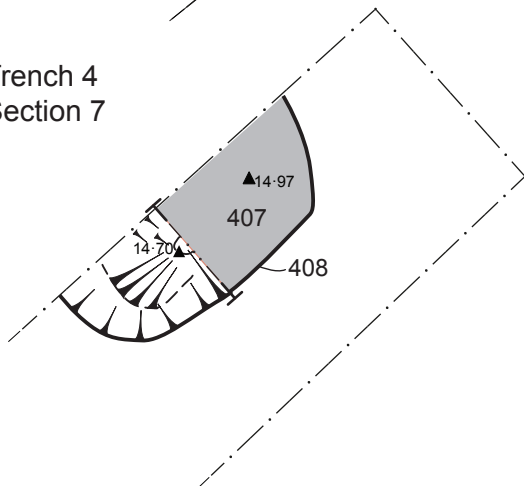
Trench 1
Section 11



Trench 4
Section 5

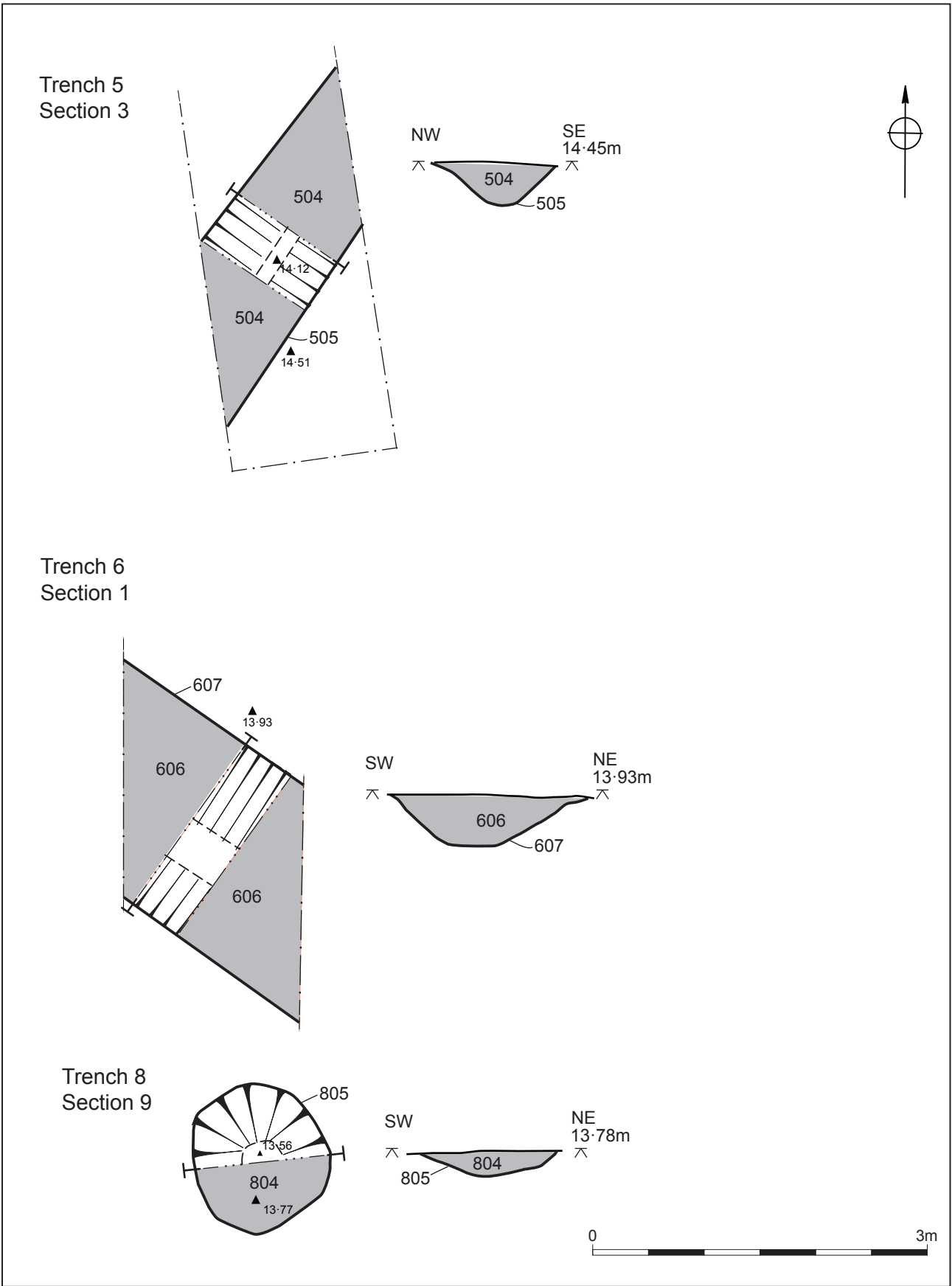


Trench 4
Section 7



Plans and sections

Figure 7



Plans and sections

Figure 8

Plates



Plate 1 Trench 6 showing natural deposits, looking south



Plate 2 Trench 5 showing natural deposits, looking south



Plate 3 Ditch [404], looking north



Plate 4 Ditch [505], looking north-east



Plate 5 Ditch [607], looking north-west



Plate 6 Pit [408], looking east



Plate 7 Pit [805], looking south



Plate 8 Ditches [111 and 113], looking north-west



Plate 9 Surface (112), looking east



Plate 10 Possible structure (104), looking east



Plate 11 Structures (204 and 205), looking south



Plate 12 Structures (204 and 205), looking north-east



Plate 13 Surface (702), looking east

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length:20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.52m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey sandy silt	0-0.15m
101	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.15-0.35m
102	Layer	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent sub-angular stone fragments. Probable post abandonment rubble dump	0.35-0.50m
103	Natural	Mid reddish brown compact sandy clay	0.50m
104	Structure	Possible structure consisting of largely flat laid stones.	0.35-c.0.50m
105	Layer	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent sub-angular stone fragments, probably the same as 102	0.35-0.50m
106	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy silt, fill of [107]	0.52-0.57m
107	Cut/natural feature	Very shallow feature initially thought to be a ditch. Very shallow with indistinct edges so possibly of natural origin.	0.52-0.57m
108	Fill	Mid reddish grey brown silty clay, fill of [109]	0.52m
109	Cut	Cut of possible N-S aligned ditch, unexcavated	0.52m
110	Fill	Mid reddish grey brown silty clay, fill of [111]	0.52-0.78m
111	Cut	NE-SW aligned ditch cut.	0.52-0.78m
112	Surface	Blue Lias stones largely laid flat within a matrix of greyish brown sandy silt.	0.42-0.70m
113	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch cut, below surface (112)	0.52-1.12m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
114	Fill	Mid greyish brown clay silt, fill of ditch [113]	0.52-1.12m

Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 10m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.56m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey sandy silt	0-0.21m
201	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.21-0.34m
202	Natural	Mid reddish brown compact sandy clay	0.46m
203	Layer	Brown sandy silt clay containing frequent Blue lias stone fragments. Post abandonment rubble.	0.34-c0.54m
204	Structure	NE-SW aligned wall structure built with both Blue Lias stone and tile fragments.	0.40m
205	Structure	NE-SW aligned wall structure built with both Blue Lias stone and tile fragments. Possibly part of a drain structure next to (204)	0.40m
206	Structure	Closely packed stones, often vertically set, within [207]. Possible packing foundation next to wall (204).	c.0.56m
207	Cut	NE-SW aligned possible construction cut for wall (204)	c0.56m
208	Layer	Mid grey brown sandy silt containing frequent lime fragments, overlaying walls (204 and 205)	c0.46m

Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 29m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.45m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
300	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey sandy silt	0-0.15m
301	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.15-0.34m
302	Natural	Compact red silty clay natural	0.34-0.44m
303	Layer	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent sub-angular stone fragments. Probable post abandonment rubble dump	0.34-c0.44m
304	Fill	Dark grey brown clay silt fill of [305]. Below (303)	c.0.44m
305	Cut	Cut of NW-SE aligned ditch cut, not excavated	c.0.44m

Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 30m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.52m

Orientation: NE-SW

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey sandy silt	0-0.19m
401	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.19-0.48m
402	Natural	Compact red silty clay natural	0.48->0.52m
403	Fill	Mid reddish grey brown compact clay silt, fill of [404]	0.49-0.90m
404	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch cut	0.49-0.90m
405	Fill	Dark grey brown clay silt fill of [406]	0.49m
406	Cut	NW-SE aligned possible gully cut, not	0.49m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		excavated	
407	Fill	Moderately compact mid grey brown sandy clay, fill of [408]	c.0.49-0.82m
408	Cut	Cut for pit	c.0.49-0.82m
409	Fill	Mid reddish grey brown clay silt, fill of [410]	c.0.49m
410	Cut	Small possible pit, unexcavated	c.0.49m

Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 26.50m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.55m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
500	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey sandy silt	0-0.17m
501	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt	0.17-0.37m
502	Layer	Mid grey brown clay silt with frequent charcoal and iron slag. Former plough soil.	0.37-0.55m
503	Natural	Compact red silty clay natural	0.37-0.55m
504	Fill	Dark grey brown silty clay fill of [505]	0.37-0.77m
505	Cut	NE-SW aligned ditch cut	0.37-0.77m
506	Fill	Reddish mid grey clay, fill of [507]	0.37m
507	Cut	E-W aligned possible ditch cut, possibly a natural feature, not excavated	0.37m
508	Fill	Mid grey brown clay silt fill of [509]	0.37m
509	Cut	Possible pit cut, not excavated	0.37m

Trench 6

Maximum dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 1.6m Depth: 1m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
600	Topsoil	Friable dark brownish grey sandy silt	0-0.10m
601	Made Ground	Compact dark greyish brown clay silt containing modern material	0.10-0.60m
602	Surface	Layer of white concrete	0.60-0.68m
603	Made Ground	Compact dark greyish brown clay silt containing modern material, similar to (601)	0.68-0.83m
604	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown compact silty clay	0.83-0.93m
605	Natural	Compact mid orangey red silty clay natural	0.93m
606	Fill	Compact mid orangey brown silty clay	0.93-1.36m
606	Cut	NW-SE aligned ditch cut	0.93-1.36m
608	Fill	Compact mid orangey brown silty clay	0.93m
609	Cut	NE-SW aligned ditch/gully cut, not excavated	0.93m

Trench 7

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5m Width: 1.6m Depth: 1.66m

Orientation: E-W

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
700	Topsoil	Dark grey black clay silt containing tarmac fragments and other modern materials	0-0.32m
701	Made Ground	Mixed mid orange brown clay silt with frequent modern brick and CBM	0.32-0.72m
702	Surface	Compact Blue Lias stone surface,	0.72-1.06m

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
		containing brick and CBM	
703	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown compact silty clay	1.36-1.66m
704	Natural	Compact mid orangey red silty clay natural	1.66m

Trench 8

Maximum dimensions: Length: 5m Width: 1.6m Depth: 0.70m

Orientation: N-S

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
800	Topsoil	Dark grey brown clay silt	0-0.19m
801	Made Ground	Light orange brown clay silt with frequent coal and some modern CBM fragments	0.19-0.41m
802	Subsoil	Mid orangey brown compact silty clay	0.41-0.64m
803	Natural	Compact mid orangey red silty clay natural	0.64->0.70m
804	Fill	Mid reddish grey brown clay silt with charcoal and coal fragments, fill of [805]	0.70-0.93m
805	Cut	Round, shallow pit cut	0.70-0.93m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 2 Photographic records AS3
- 253 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 11 Scale drawings
- 1 Sample records AS17
- 1 Sample number catalogues AS18
- 8 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:

Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery
Brunswick Road
Gloucester
GL1 1HP
Tel Gloucester (01452) 396131
