

# An Archaeological Evaluation of Land off Evesham Road, Greet, Gloucestershire



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## **An archaeological evaluation at Land off Evesham Road, Greet, Gloucestershire**

Andrew Walsh

With contributions by C Jane Evans

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Land off Evesham Road, Greet, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 0241 3014). It was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Mrs Rose Quilter c/o Bruton Knowles Ltd in advance of proposed residential development for which a planning application has been submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

The site is located on the northern side of the village of Greet, approximately 1.8km north of Winchcombe. A desk-based assessment for the site concluded that it contains extant earthwork remains, likely relating to former medieval settlement and agricultural activity of local to regional significance. A geophysical survey of the site, using both gradiometer and earth resistance survey, identified a number of possible small enclosures/house platforms, along with ridge and furrow and a land drain.

Five trenches were excavated during the evaluation, targeting earthwork features and/or geophysical anomalies. A number of archaeological features were identified within the trenches. Some of these features, including three ditches, were visible as earthwork features and appear to correlate with anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. Other smaller or shallower gullies and ditches which were identified do not appear to survive as extant earthworks or as geophysical anomalies.

Archaeological finds recovered from the features indicates that the site was subject to activity during the Roman period, the 10th-11th centuries AD, and the 13th-14th centuries AD. However given the small quantities of finds recovered and their abraded nature, together with the generally small and/or shallow nature of the features, it is likely that the activity was probably associated with low level agriculture and/or drainage, rather than more intensive settlement or industrial activity.

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## Report

### 1 Background

#### 1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Land off Evesham Road, Greet, Gloucestershire (Fig 1; NGR SO 0241 3014). It was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Mrs Rose Quilter c/o Bruton Knowles Ltd in advance of proposed residential development for which a planning application has been submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council (reference 16/01426/OUT). The proposed development site is considered to include heritage assets and potential heritage assets, the significance of which may be affected by the application.

No brief was issued by Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service but the project conforms to the generality of briefs previously issued. The project conforms to a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2017) and approved by Gloucestershire County Council. The project also conforms to the *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a).

### 2 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the project, as outlined in the WSI, was to:

- Gather information and prepare a report which, beyond reasonable doubt, will inform decision making.

The objectives of the project, as outlined in the WSI, are to:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological activity
- Identify its location, nature date and preservation
- Assess its significance
- Assess the likely impact of the proposed development.

### 3 Methods

#### 3.1 Personnel

The project was led by Andrew Walsh (BSc; MSc; ACIfA; FSA Scot) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2013 and has been practicing archaeology since 2004, assisted by Jamie Wilkins (BA), Elspeth Iliff (BA; MSc) and Nina O'Hare (BA). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA; MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BSc; PG Cert; MCIfA), and C Jane Evans (BA, MA, MCIfA) contributed the finds report.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork strategy

Fieldwork was undertaken between 3 and 5 April 2017. The site reference number and site code used in the archive is P5069. Five trenches, amounting to just over 180m<sup>2</sup> in area, were excavated over the site area of 0.9ha, representing a sample of 2%. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2. The trenches were targeted on a number of earthwork features and geophysical anomalies identified during previous phases of work at the site (see Section 4).

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 180° 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.

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### 3.3 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.

### 3.4 Artefact methodology, by C Jane Evans

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), the multi-period *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (PCRCP et al 2016), 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).

#### 3.4.1 Artefact recovery policy

The artefact recovery policy conformed to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012; appendix 2).

#### 3.4.2 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 each stratified context. All information was recorded on a pro forma Access database.

No artefacts from environmental samples were examined.

The pottery was examined under x20 magnification and referenced to the Gloucester fabric series (Ireland 1983, Appendix B1; Vince 1983, Appendix B3).

### 3.5 Environmental archaeology methodology

#### 3.5.1 Sampling policy

Sampling was undertaken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). In the event no deposits were identified which were considered to be suitable for environmental analysis or Insert sampling policy.

### 3.6 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 village of Greet is approximately 1.8km north of Winchcombe. The site is located in the south-western part of a field which is bounded by Smithy Lane to the north, the Manor Farm to the east, residential properties to the south, and Evesham Road to the west. The underlying geology is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation (BGS 2017). Superficial deposits are not recorded.

The archaeological background to the site is set out in a Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2017). This concluded that the site contains extant earthwork remains, these likely relating to former medieval settlement and agricultural activity of local to regional significance.

A geophysical survey has also been undertaken (SUMO 2017), using both gradiometer and earth resistance survey. Possible small enclosures/house platforms were detected, along with ridge and furrow and a land drain.

## 4.2 Current land-use

The site is currently in use as pasture.

# 5 Results

## 5.1 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2-4. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1. In all trenches the features were identified cutting the natural brownish orange with grey blue mottling clay substrate, and sealed by an orangey brown silty clay subsoil, unless otherwise stated.

### 5.1.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was targeted across a geophysical anomaly and slight earthwork feature, which had been identified as a possible platform. One ditch (109) was identified orientated approximately north to south across the trench. This ditch correlates with the western side of the possible platform. The ditch measured approximately 0.82m in depth, 1.3m in width and was filled by two deposits (107 and 108; Fig 4, S.1). No datable or other finds were recovered from this feature.

Two stone lined drains were also identified in this trench. No other features or deposits were observed, although sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil (101).

### 5.1.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was targeted across two geophysical anomalies, located at either end of the trench. The anomaly at the northern end of the trench was not visible as an archaeological feature or deposit within the excavated trench or as an earthwork feature. The anomaly at the southern end of the trench was identified as ditch 216, which was also visible as an earthwork feature orientated approximately north-east to south-west in this part of the field. Ditch 216 measured approximately 0.7m in depth, 1.5m in width and contained two fills (213 and 214; Fig 4, S.7). The upper fill (214) yielded one sherd of Roman pottery. The ditch was recut (212) by a modern ceramic field drain (211).

To the north of ditch 216 were three shallow features. Ditch 204 was orientated north-east to south-west and measured 0.06m in depth and 1.1m in width (Fig 4, S.3). It was filled by a single deposit (203) which yielded seven sherds of Roman pottery and one sherd of medieval pottery which may be intrusive. Immediately north of this ditch was a short gully terminus (206) was visible orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 0.04m in depth, 0.6m in width and 1.5m in length (Fig 4, S.5) and, although it was not possible to establish a relationship with ditch 2014 within the confines of the trench, gully fill 205 yielded four sherds of Roman pottery suggesting they are broadly contemporary. To the north of gully 205 was gully 208 which was orientated north-east to south-west. It measured 0.52m in width and was heavily truncated with the trench. An iron nail was recovered from the fill of the gully.

Two agricultural drains were also identified in this trench.

### 5.1.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was targeted across a number of features identified as geophysical anomalies and extant earthworks. Ditch 304 was identified at the north end of the trench. It measured 0.42m, and up to 3m in width although the southern side of the feature was poorly defined (Fig 4, S.12). It yielded one sherd of medieval pottery and two sherds that are too small to be dated. This ditch correlates to an east to west aligned geophysical anomaly.

Gully 307 was located to the south of ditch 304 on a north-west to south-east orientation. It measured 0.18m in depth, 0.42m in width and was exposed for approximately 5m within the trench (Fig 4, S.11). It yielded nine sherds of pottery dating to the Roman and medieval periods.



Three agricultural drains were also identified in this trench.

#### 5.1.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was targeted on a number geophysical anomalies and earthwork features which were broadly orientated as linear features in an east to west alignment. A series of shallow features were identified in Trench 4 of which two were excavated and recorded (405 and 407; Fig 4, S.9). These were very sterile and probably of natural origin. The geophysical anomaly and earthwork feature running east to west across the southern part of the trench was identified as the remains of a stone and CBM constructed path (403) which was recorded on historic maps. It was visible in section be the topsoil and subsoil.

#### 5.1.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was targeted across extant ridge and furrow earthworks. One of the furrows was visible cutting the natural substrate. No other features were identified in this trench.

### 5.2 Artefact analysis, by C Jane Evans

The artefactual assemblage included Roman and medieval pottery, a nail and fragments of fired clay (Tables 1). Most of the pottery was very fragmentary and abraded.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
Roman	ceramic	earthenware	pot	15	54
medieval	ceramic	earthenware	pot	9	86
undated	ceramic	earthenware	pot	2	1
		fired clay	fragment	4	4
	metal	iron	nail	1	11

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

period	fabric code	count	weight(g)	average wt(g)
Roman	TF11	1	8	8
	TF11?	1	7	7
	TF20	6	10	2
	TF37	7	29	4
medieval	TF40	1	24	24
	TF41	8	62	8

period	fabric code	count	weight(g)	average wt(g)
undated	-	2	1	1
total		26	141	5

Table 2 Quantification of the pottery by fabric

### 5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

#### Roman

Fifteen sherds of Roman pottery were recovered, including Severn Valley ware (Gloucestershire Fabric TF11), Oxfordshire white ware (Fabric TF37) and sandy ware (Fabric TF20). The dating evidence was very poor. The Severn Valley ware included an abraded rim from a tankard, from trench 1 (context 101). This might date to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, based on the angle of the rim, though this couldn't be determined with absolute confidence. Most of the other Roman pottery came from Trench 2, with a further two sherds from Trench 3 (Table 3).

#### Medieval

The medieval pottery came from Trenches 2 and 3. Trench 3 produced a rim from a Malvernian unglazed ware cooking pot (Fabric TF40), dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries (fill 303), and sherds from an oolitic limestone tempered Cotswold cooking pot (Fabric TF41), including an everted rim (cf Vince 1984, vol 1, 80). A further sherd of Fabric TF41 was found in Trench 2 (fill 203).

#### The other finds

None of the other finds were closely datable. The nail has no associated dating as it was the only find from fill 207; it could be Roman or medieval.

context	material class	object specific type	Count	weight(g)	period	start date	end date	context tpq
101	ceramic	pot	1	8	Roman			Roman
200	ceramic	fired clay	2	1	undated			undated
203	ceramic	pot	7	29	Roman			medieval (10th-11th)
			1	4	medieval	10th	11th	
205	ceramic	pot	4	6	Roman	mid 1st	late 1st	Roman (1st)
207	metal(fe)	nail	1	11	undated			undated
214	ceramic	pot	1	7	Roman			Roman
303	ceramic	pot	1	24	medieval	13th	14th	medieval

context	material class	object specific type	Count	weight(g)	period	start date	end date	context tpq
								(13th-14th)
			2	1	undated			
306	ceramic	pot	1	18	medieval	10th	11th	medieval (10th-11th)
306			6	40	medieval	10th	11th	
			2	4	Roman			
		fired clay	2	3	undated			

Table 3: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

### 5.2.2 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

The finds were all fragmentary and abraded. They indicate some level of activity in the vicinity in the Roman period, the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### 5.2.3 Recommendations

#### Further analysis and reporting

No further analysis is required.

#### Discard and retention

All finds could be considered for discard, with the agreement of the receiving museum.

## 6 Synthesis

The archaeological evaluation has identified that a number of archaeological features survive at the site. Some of these features including ditches 109, 216, and 304 are visible as earthwork features and appear to correlate with anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. Other features such as 204, 206 and 307 were small and or shallow and do not appear to survive as extant earthworks or a geophysical anomalies.

The pottery recovered indicates that the site was subject to activity during the Roman period, the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, and the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. However given the small quantities of finds recovered and their abraded nature, together with the generally small and/or shallow nature of the features, it is likely that the identified features are probably associated with low level agriculture and drainage, rather than more intensive settlement or industrial activity. No other significant quantities of finds were recovered from the site.

## 7 Significance

### 7.1 Nature and relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The site largely comprises of the remains of ditches and gullies, as well as extant earthworks. Some of the larger ditches excavated on the site are also visible as earthworks. The pottery reflects the presence of Roman and medieval activity on the site. However the finds are generally small and abraded suggesting that they are likely to have been subject to ploughing or other re-deposition processes. No evidence of any settlement activity, such as walls, beam slots, surfaces or post-holes were identified during the evaluation.

## 7.2 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

Most of the archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1-3, which were located in the eastern part of the site. There are extant earthworks visible throughout this area although they are generally irregular, and the below ground activity did not always accurately reflect the earthwork features. Some of the earthwork features may be associated with drainage. In the western part of the site there is extant ridge and furrow earthwork features.

## 8 Publication summary

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

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Land off Evesham Road, Greet, Gloucestershire (NGR SO 0241 3014). It was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Mrs Rose Quilter c/o Bruton Knowles Ltd in advance of proposed residential development for which a planning application has been submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council.*

*The site is located on the northern side of the village of Greet, approximately 1.8km north of Winchcombe. A desk-based assessment for the site concluded that it contains extant earthwork remains, likely relating to former medieval settlement and agricultural activity of local to regional significance. A geophysical survey of the site, using both gradiometer and earth resistance survey, identified a number of possible small enclosures/house platforms, along with ridge and furrow and a land drain.*

*Five trenches were excavated during the evaluation, targeting earthwork features and/or geophysical anomalies. A number of archaeological features were identified within the trenches. Some of these features, including three ditches, were visible as earthwork features and appear to correlate with anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. Other smaller or shallower gullies and ditches which were identified do not appear to survive as extant earthworks or as geophysical anomalies.*

*Archaeological finds recovered from the features indicates that the site was subject to activity during the Roman period, the 10th-11th centuries AD, and the 13th-14th centuries AD. However given the small quantities of finds recovered and their abraded nature, together with the generally small and/or shallow nature of the features, it is likely that the activity was probably associated with low level agriculture and/or drainage, rather than more intensive settlement or industrial activity.*

## 9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Richard Smalley CgMs Consulting for commissioning the project and his support throughout, the landowners for providing access to the land and their help and support throughout, and Charles Parry (Planning Archaeologist for Gloucestershire County Council) for monitoring the project and his advice.

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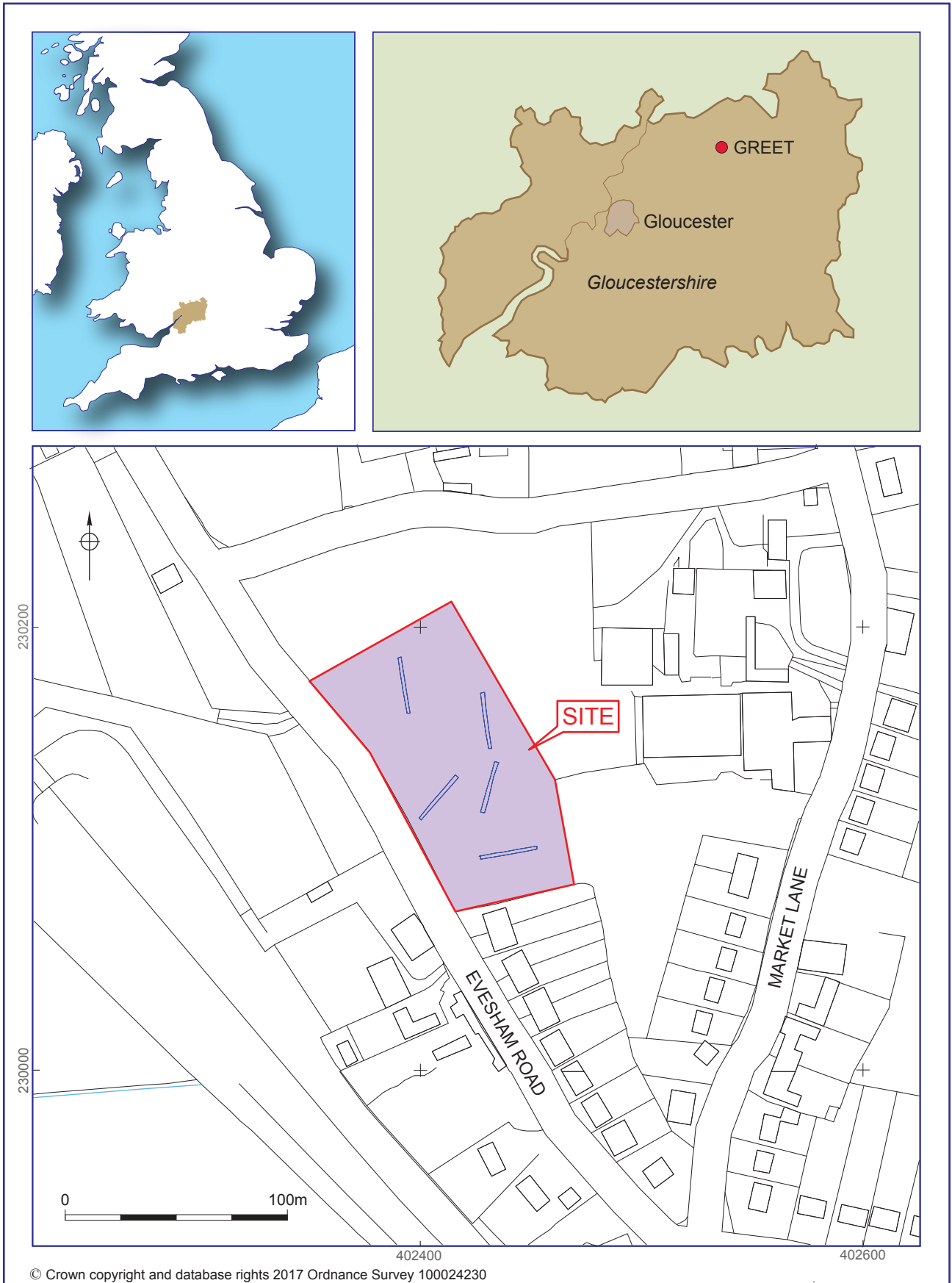
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**Figures**

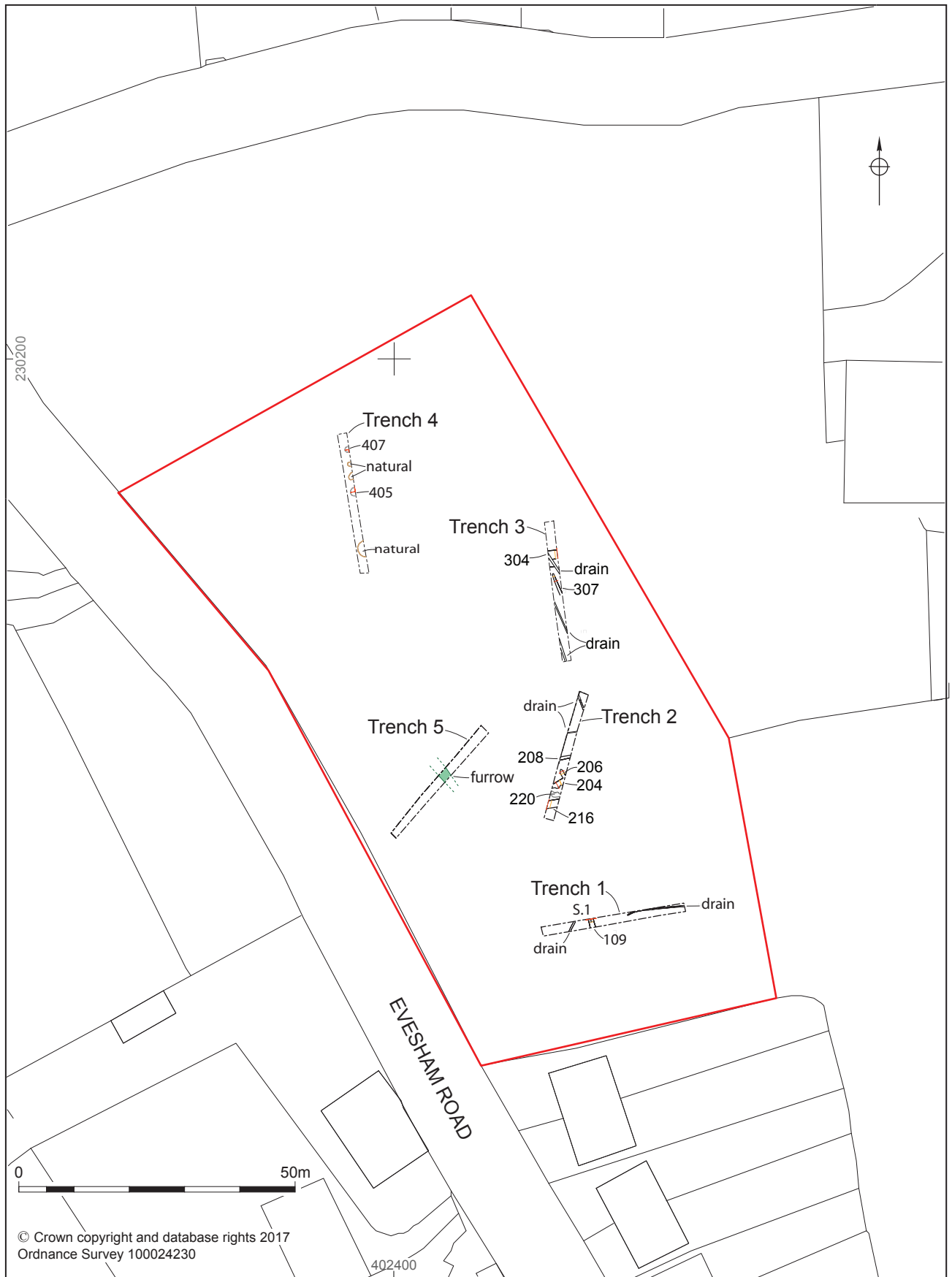
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Location of the site

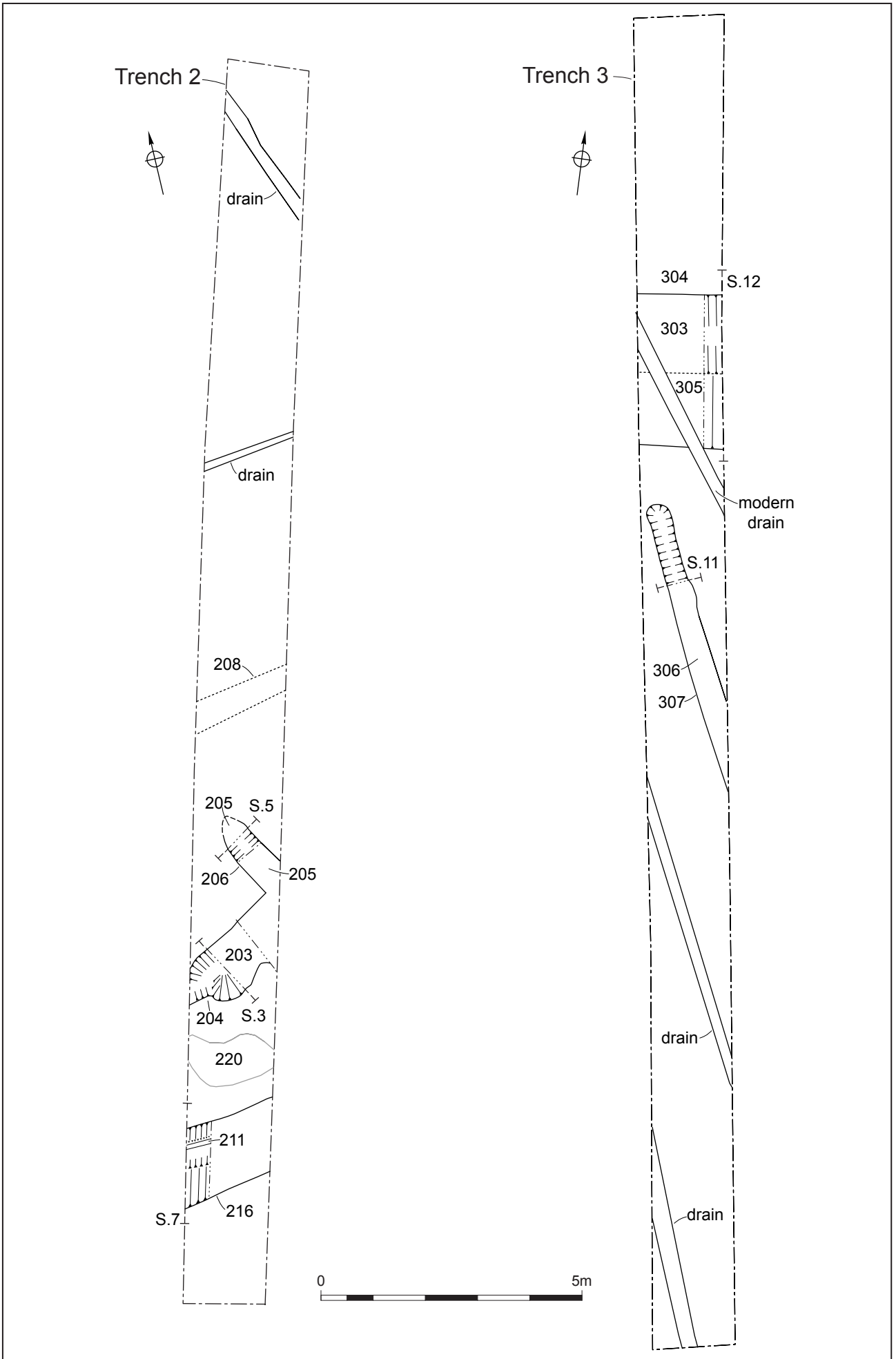
Figure 1





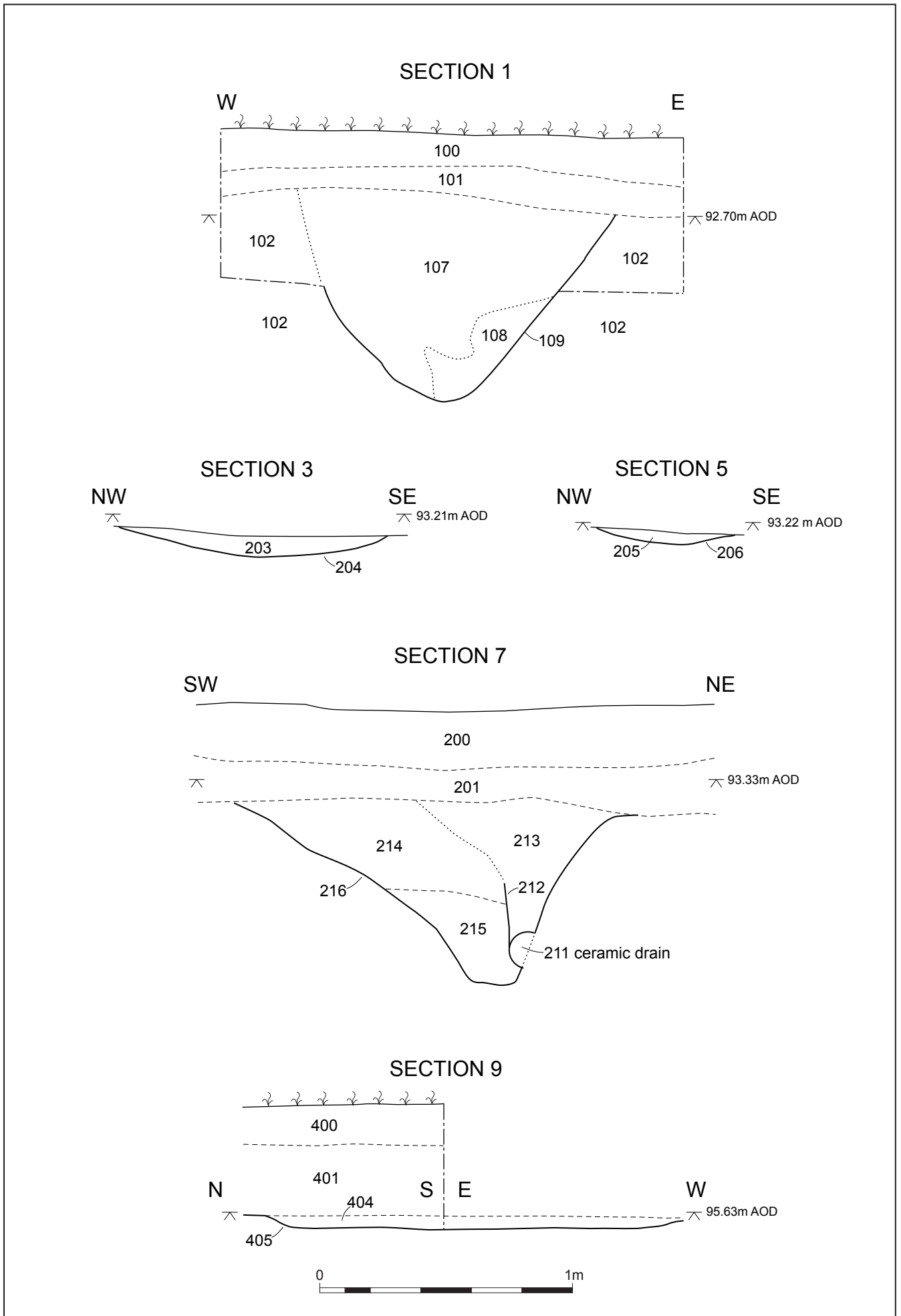
Trench location plan

Figure 2



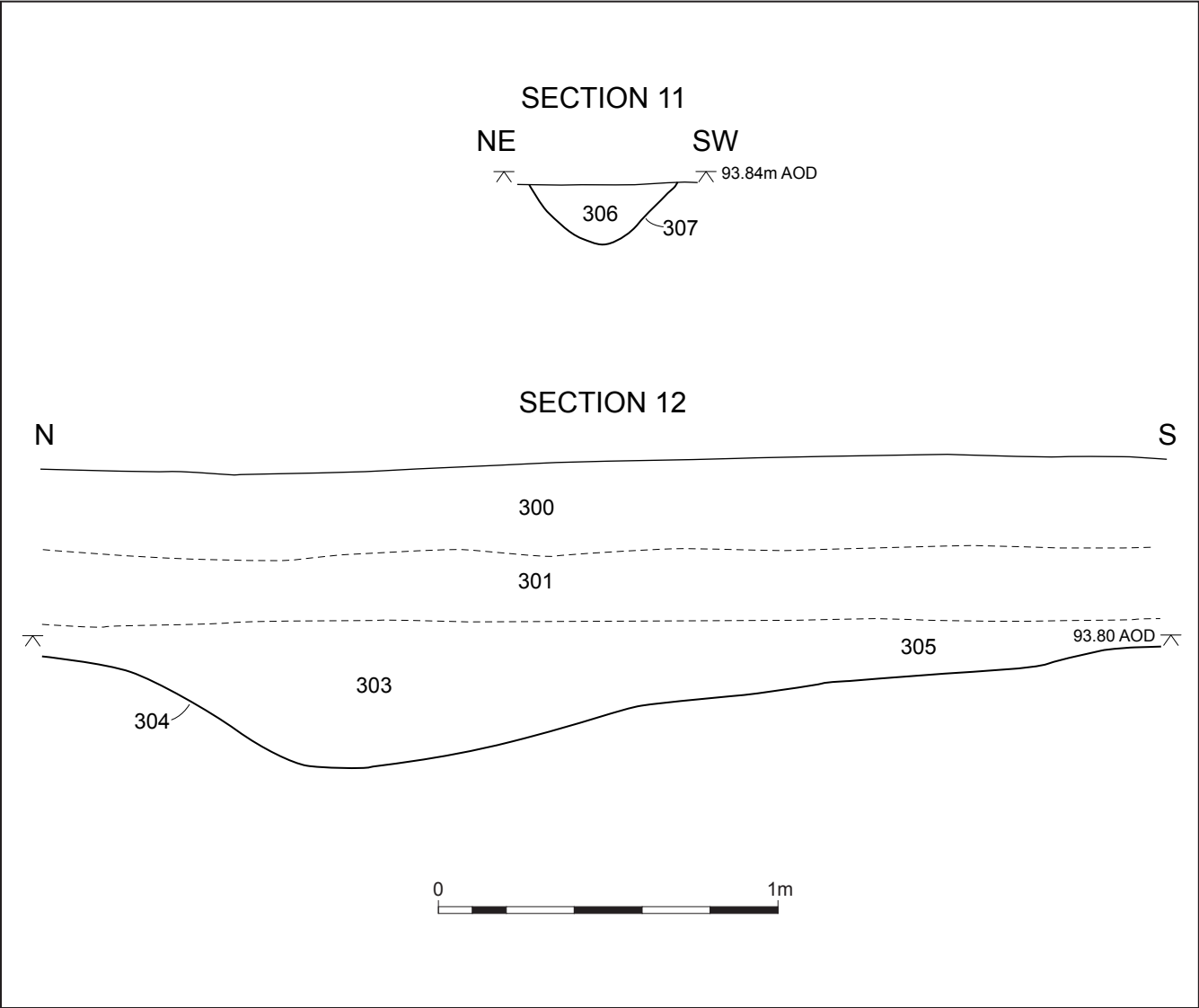
Plans of trenches 2 and 3

Figure 3



Sections 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9

Figure 4



Sections 11 and 12

Figure 5

## Plates



*Plate 1: Ditch 109 in Trench 1. Photo looking north*



*Plate 2: Ditch 216 in Trench 2*

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Plate 3: Ditch 204 in Trench 2



Plate 4: Ditch 303 in Trench 3. Photo looking north-east

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*Plate 5: Gully 307 in Trench 3*



*Plate 6: Trench 5 showing the ridge and furrow earthworks visible in western part of the site. Photo looking west*





## Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

### Trench 1

Maximum dimensions: Length: 24m      Width: 1.5m      Depth: 0.5m

Orientation:                      East to west

Main deposit description

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Filled by	Fill of	Deposit description
100	Layer	Topsoil	0.25m			Friable mid brownish grey clayey silt
101	Layer	Subsoil	0.26m			Compact mid greyish yellow silty clay
102	Layer	Natural				Firm light orangey/yellow, blue/grey mottled silty clay
103	Fill	Fill of drain 104			104	
104	Cut	Cut of drain		103		
105	Fill	Fill of drain 106			106	
106	Cut	Cut of drain		105		
107	Fill	fill of possible ditch	0.82m		109	Compact mid to dark orangey grey sandy clay
108	Fill	fill of possible ditch			109	Compact light bluey orange sandy clay
109	Cut	cut of possible ditch	0.82m	107 108		

### Trench 2

Maximum dimensions: Length: 24m      Width: 1.5m      Depth: 0.5m

Orientation:                      North-east to south-west

Main deposit description

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Filled by	Fill of	Deposit description
200	Layer	Topsoil	0.20m			Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt
201	Layer	Subsoil	0.20m			Compact mid orangey brown silty clay

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Filled by	Fill of	Deposit description
202	Layer	Natural	0.06m+			Firm mid brownish orange with occasional light grey mottles silty clay
203	Fill	Fill of 204	0.06m		204	Compact mid brownish-grey silty clay
204	Cut	Cut of possible ditch	0.06m	203		
205	Fill	Fill of ditch 205	0.04m		206	Compact mid greyish brown silty clay
206	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.04m	205		
207	Fill	Fill of ditch 208			208	Compact light greyish brown silty clay
208	Cut	Cut of E-W aligned ditch		207		
209	Fill	Fill of drain 210			210	Compact mid brownish grey silty clay
210	Cut	Cut of NW-SE aligned drain		209		
211	Fill	Fill of cut 212 modern ceramic drain				
212	Cut	Cut for modern land drain				
213	Fill	Fill of cut for ceramic modern land drain 212	0.58m			Compact mid greyish orange silty clay
214	Fill	Fill of ditch 216	0.46m		216	Compact mid greyish orange silty clay
215	Fill	Fill of ditch 216	0.32m		216	Compact mid bluey grey silty clay
216	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.7m	215 214		
217	Fill	Fill of drain 218			218	

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Filled by	Fill of	Deposit description
218	Cut	Cut of E-W aligned drain		217		
219	Fill	Fill of possible pit 220			220	Compact light greyish brown silty clay
220	Cut	Cut of unexcavated possible pit		219		

### Trench 3

Maximum dimensions: Length: 24m      Width: 1.5m      Depth: 0.5m

Orientation:                      North to south

Main deposit description

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Filled by	Fill of	Deposit description
300	Layer	Topsoil				
301	Layer	Subsoil				
302	Layer	Natural				
303	Fill	Fill of 304	0.42m		304	Firm and wet blue grey with brown orange mottling silty clay
304	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.42m	303		
305	Layer/fill?	Fill of 304 or possible a layer to side - unclear	0.24m			Firm grey brown with orangey mottling silty clay
306	Fill	Fill of gully 307	0.18m		307	Moderately compact mid orangey grey sandy clay
307	Cut	Cut of gully	0.18m	306		

#### Trench 4

Maximum dimensions: Length: 24m      Width: 1.5m      Depth: 0.5m

Orientation:                      North to south

Main deposit description

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Filled by	Fill of	Deposit description
400	Layer	Topsoil	0.15m			Soft grey brown clayey silt
401	Layer	Subsoil	0.25m			Firm slightly orange brown silty clay
402	Layer	Natural	0.15m (exc)			Compacted brown orangey with grey blue mottling clay
403	Layer	Gravel footpath visible in section above 401	0.20m			Loose grey stone gravel and brick CBM in silty clay matrix
404	Fill	Fill of 405	0.06m		405	Firm orangey grey brown clay silt
405	Cut	Cut of shallow pit – natural?	0.06m	404		
406	Fill	Fill of 407	0.05m		407	Firm orangey grey silty clay
407	Cut	Cut of small shallow pit – natural?	0.05m	406		

#### Trench 5

Maximum dimensions: Length: 24m      Width: 1.5m      Depth: 0.5m

Orientation:                      North-east to south-west

Main deposit description

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Filled by	Fill of	Deposit description
500	Layer	Topsoil	0.24m			Friable mid brownish grey clayey silt
501	Layer	Subsoil	0.4m			mod compact mid yellowy brown silty clay

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<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Filled by</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Deposit description</b>
502	Layer	Natural				Compact light yellowy orange clay

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## **Appendix 2 Technical information**

### **The archive (site code: P5069)**

The archive consists of:

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 75 | Digital photographs  |
| 3  | Permatrace sheets of scale drawings  |
| 1  | CD-Rom/DVDs including digital material derived from ARK (Archaeological Recording Kit) |
| 1  | Copy of this report (bound hard copy)  |

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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

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