

Archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of Church Row, Gretton, Gloucestershire



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Archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of Church Row, Gretton

Richard Bradley

With contributions by Rob Hedge and Elizabeth Pearson

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in November 2015 at land to the rear of Church Row in Gretton, Gloucestershire, centred on grid reference (NGR) 400549, 230652. It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of Spitfire Properties LLP, with the site under consideration for residential development.

Six trenches of varying length were excavated in a broad array across the field, which was known from preceding site walkover and geophysical survey to have extant but denuded ridge and furrow agricultural remains. The trenches included one positioned to examine the possibility of survival of any archaeological features beneath a ridge of the ridge and furrow cultivation and another targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly.

Across the trenches the archaeological remains observed suggest that this site occupies an area of land previously used for mostly rural agricultural activity, with little indication of direct settlement due to the lack of features and the relative absence of cultural material remains from any period. The typically domestic medieval and later pottery finds, found in the upper deposits across the trenches, are likely to relate to this agriculture. An undated pit did contain evidence of burnt remains however, in the form of burnt bone and charcoal, but no *in-situ* burning. The calcined bone recovered could suggest that this was the residue of a cremation deposit. An undated linear was also identified, found in association with struck flint and possible rooting, suggesting that there may be a background scatter of prehistoric activity across the area. The small lithic scatter, found disturbed in the subsoil, was technologically characteristic of the later Mesolithic or early Neolithic period, and is of considerable interest.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at land to the rear of Church Row in Gretton, Gloucestershire, centred on grid reference (NGR) 400549, 230652. It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (the Client) acting on behalf of Spitfire Properties LLP, with the site under consideration for residential development.

The proposed development site was not considered to include heritage assets or potential heritage assets other than ridge and furrow agricultural remains, based on the pre-existing knowledge of the site following earlier desk-based assessment (DBA; CgMs 2015) and geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015).

The specification for the fieldwork was produced by Worcestershire Archaeology in accordance with *Standard and guidance: archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), following a verbal brief provided by the Client (WA 2015), and then agreed with Charles Parry (Gloucestershire County Council, Planning Archaeologist).

The event reference for this project has not yet been provided by Gloucestershire HER.

2 Aims

The aims and scope of the evaluation are to:

- determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by proposed development.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Richard Bradley (BA (Hons.); MA; ACIfA) who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2008 and has been practicing archaeology since 2005, with fieldwork assistance provided Jamie Wilkins (BA (Hons.)). The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Derek Hurst (BA (Hons.); PG Dip). Elizabeth Pearson (MSc; ACIfA) contributed the environmental report and Robert Hedge (MA Cantab) the finds report. Illustrations were prepared by Richard Bradley and Carolyn Hunt (BSc (Hons.); PG Cert; MCIfA).

3.2 Documentary research

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site had been previously prepared by CgMs, on behalf of Spitfire Properties LLP (CgMs 2015). This document provides the detailed background research information for the project and, therefore, only a brief summary of those results are presented here (Section 4).

Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) and Gloucestershire Record Office were consulted during preparation of the DBA to access records of archaeological sites, monuments and findspots within the vicinity, as well as readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources relating to the site and the surrounding area. A site walkover survey was also conducted.

3.3 Fieldwork strategy

Fieldwork was undertaken between 9th November and 11th November 2015 following the detailed specification prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2015).

Six trenches of varying length were excavated in a broad array across the field, taking into consideration the presence of an overhead 11KV power line which crosses the field parallel to the

southern boundary. These covered a combined area of approximately 270m² (representing c 2% of the development site area). The trenches included one (Trench 4) positioned to examine the possibility of survival of any archaeological features beneath an extant ridge of ridge and furrow cultivation, as visible in the field. Another trench (Trench 1) was positioned to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 1.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a wheeled excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under constant 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) and survey was undertaken using a differential GPS (Leica Net Rover) with an accuracy limit set at <0.04m. On completion of excavation, trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material. Due to the nature of artefacts identified during machine excavation (lithic scatter), examination of spoil heaps took place in order to search for similar items before the trenches were backfilled.

3.4 Structural analysis

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

3.5 Artefact methodology, by Rob Hedge

3.5.1 Artefact recovery policy

The finds work reported here conforms with the relevant sections of *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014; <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>), with archive creation informed by *Archaeological archives: a guide to the best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2011; <http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/>), and museum deposition by *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (SMA 1993; <http://www.socmusarch.org.uk/publica.htm>).

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

3.5.2 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. The date was used for determining the broad date of phases defined for the site. All information was recorded on *pro forma* sheets.

The pottery and ceramic building material was examined (under x20 magnification where necessary), dated to period and, where possible, identified to form.

3.5.3 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 by an appropriate specialist as having no obvious grounds for retention.

3.6 Environmental archaeology methodology, by Elizabeth Pearson

3.6.1 Sampling policy

Samples were taken according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). A single sample of 20 litres was taken from an undated (but pre-medieval) pit.

The environmental assessment conforms to the relevant sections of *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and *Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations* (AEA 1995).

3.6.2 Processing and analysis

The sample was processed by flotation using a Siraf tank. The flot was 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 residue was 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 flot was 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).

3.6.3 Discard policy

The scanned residue and flot will be retained in archive.

3.7 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

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

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The DBA (CgMs 2015) provides the detailed background information for the site and the topographic and geological context in that document is reproduced here:

'The site occupies a single pasture field situated on the northern limits of Gretton village. It is bounded by Gretton Road to the west, Christ Church and housing forming Church Row to the south, Maudleys cottage to the north-west and further agricultural land to the north and east. The study site has a broadly level topography lying at c.72m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The solid geology of the study site is identified as comprising mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated). Superficial Head deposits comprising gravel, sand, silt and clay are noted immediately to the north of the study site, although whether these extend into the study site remains uncertain (British Geological Survey 2000, Sheet 217).'

The DBA established that no designated archaeological heritage assets exist on the site and confirmed that, other than partial remains of former ridge and furrow cultivation, no other non-designated archaeological heritage assets are recorded. It was concluded that there was low potential for the presence of unrecorded buried archaeological remains. This was supported by the subsequent geophysical survey (Stratascan 2015) which identified a number of regularly spaced

linear anomalies aligned north to south, consistent with the presence of ridge and furrow cultivation.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figure 1. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural substrate was encountered in all six of the trenches excavated. This was variable across the area and noticeably changed between trenches, particularly in the south-eastern part of the site (Trench 4). This mainly comprised firm mid yellow brown or grey clay with areas of mid orange brown clay with frequent limestone fragments. In Trench 4, the firm yellow-blue grey clay natural deposit formed an area of slightly higher ground in the south-east corner of the field, and, when tested, was seen to overlie earlier yellow-orange clay natural. It is possible that this represents an outcrop of superficial geology, probably colluvial/glacial (head) in origin.

The natural substrate was encountered at between 0.43-0.61m below the current ground surface.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Medieval/post-medieval deposits

The trenching largely bore out the evidence of medieval/post-medieval cultivation remains identified during the DBA and on the geophysical survey. Every trench, apart from Trench 4 which was located along a ridge, contained the remains of agricultural furrows roughly corresponding to those picked up as anomalies on the geophysical survey. This included one on the alignment of the feature marked on the geophysical interpretation. These all merged into a firm light brown clay subsoil deposit of variable depth (0.16-0.40m) that represented a former ploughsoil; this contained pottery fragments that suggested it formed from the medieval period onwards, as well as residual Roman material, consistent with the location of the site as agricultural land at the edge of Gretton. The north-south alignment of the furrows appears in some cases to correlate between various trenches, suggesting that the furrows survive all the way across the site.

Of particular interest regarding the agricultural development of the site was the apparent position of the furrows as surveyed (both during the geophysical survey and the trenching) compared with the extant (but denuded) remains of ridge and furrow visible as earthworks in the field. In a number of cases, predominantly in the eastern part of the site, the furrow depressions were recorded in line with the geophysical anomalies, but below visible ridges in the field. This appears to indicate that there were at least two phases of the ridge and furrow cultivation system present.

At the western end of Trench 1 seven struck flint pieces were recovered from the subsoil, probably having been disturbed by the medieval and post-medieval ploughing across the area. Some of the flint was heat-affected and appeared to be technologically of late Mesolithic to early Neolithic date; it is, therefore, residual in the later soil deposit. It is possible, however, that it was associated with an undated possible linear feature located at this end of the trench (see below).

5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern deposits

A number of features across the site were of modern origin, including land drains seen in Trenches 1, 3, and 6 orientated north-south on the same alignment as the furrows. The topsoil, a friable mid grey brown silty clay, ranged in depth from 0.21-0.30m, and this contained post-medieval and modern pottery (modern china/plastic not retained from site).

5.1.4 Phase 4: Undated deposits

Two features were identified on site that remain undated, but have the potential to be of prehistoric date. In Trench 1, close to the location of the late Mesolithic or early Neolithic flint pieces from the subsoil, was an ephemeral and shallow linear feature (103). This could be defined as 1m wide and

0.20m in depth, with a shallow and irregular base, and was aligned north-west to south-east. There was no sign of any cultural material within the fill deposit. It may have been truncated by a small circular pit (105) on its eastern edge that was well defined in plan, but only 0.08m deep and exhibiting the same sterile fill, so this was not clear. Close by were a number of irregular and ill-defined features that did not include any cultural remains and have been interpreted as the remains of tree roots/a tree-throw.

The other archaeological feature identified was a small pit located at the northern end of Trench 4, beneath the subsoil forming the most visible extant ridge in the field (and therefore likely to be pre-medieval). This feature (404) was 0.50m wide and 0.15m deep and included a number of charcoal fragments and small pieces of unidentifiable burnt bone, but no dating evidence. However, given these indications, it is thought likely to be of prehistoric origin, and possibly represents a truncated cremation deposit.

5.2 Artefact analysis, by Rob Hedge

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

The assemblage came from six contexts, all of which were either topsoil or subsoil deposits, and could be dated from the Mesolithic/early Neolithic period onwards (see Table 1). Using pottery as an index of artefact condition, this was generally poor with the majority of sherds displaying high levels of abrasion, and the average sherd size, at 7.5g, being below average, reflecting their position within well-worked agricultural soils.

period	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)
Mesolithic/early Neolithic	stone	flint	blade	1	1
prehistoric	stone	flint	chunk	1	3
prehistoric	stone	flint	flake	4	6
prehistoric	stone	flint	retouched flake	1	1
Roman	ceramic		pot	2	10
medieval	ceramic		pot	9	63
medieval/post-medieval	metal	iron	nail	2	12
post-medieval	ceramic		clay pipe	2	3
post-medieval	ceramic		pot	2	24
undated	bone	animal bone	animal bone	2	3
Totals				26	126

Table 1: Quantification of the assemblage

5.2.1 Summary artefactual evidence by period

For the finds from individual features, consult Table 2.

Prehistoric

Seven pieces of worked flint were recovered from subsoil deposit (101). They comprised four flakes and one chunk, a heat-fractured retouched fragment which may have been part of a scraper, and the proximal fragment of a soft-hammer struck blade. Only the latter is techno-typologically diagnostic, and is indicative of a Mesolithic or early Neolithic, blade-based industry.

Roman

Two highly abraded sherds of oxidised Severn Valley Ware were present within the subsoil, including a fragment of a tankard handle in an organic-tempered fabric, suggesting a 1st or 2nd century date.

Medieval

Among the nine abraded sherds of medieval pottery recovered from the subsoil were several examples of local quartz-tempered cooking pots (late 11th to 14th century) and a sherd from a 13th/14th century glazed jug, in addition to sherds of both unglazed (late 12th to 14th century) and oxidised glazed (mid-13th to mid-17th century) Malvernian wares (Bryant 2004).

Post-medieval

Several undiagnostic clay pipe stem fragments were found within the subsoil, and topsoil deposits contained two abraded sherds of 17th/early 18th century glazed redwares.

Note on depositional sequence

The medieval material was confined to the subsoil, which also contained residual prehistoric and Roman material. The topsoil contained only post-medieval material. No finds were recovered from discrete features.

context	material class	material subtype	object specific type	count	weight(g)	start date	end date	TPQ date range
100	ceramic		pot	2	24	1600	1800	1600-1800
101	ceramic		pot	2	2	1175	1400	1600-1910
	ceramic		pot	2	16	1066	1400	
	ceramic		pot	1	4	1200	1400	
	bone	animal bone	animal bone	2	3			
	metal	iron	nail	2	12	1066	1900	
	ceramic		clay pipe	1	1	1600	1910	
	stone	flint	flake	4	6	- 10,000	43	
	stone	flint	chunk	1	3	- 10,000	43	
	stone	flint	retouched flake	1	1	- 10,000	43	
	stone	flint	blade	1	1	- 10,000	-3000	
201	ceramic		pot	1	7	43	200	43-200
400	ceramic		pot	1	25	1225	1630	1225-1630
401	ceramic		pot	1	3	43	400	1066-1600
	ceramic		pot	2	13	1066	1600	
601	ceramic		pot	1	3	1175	1400	1600-1910
	ceramic		clay pipe	1	2	1600	1910	

Table 2: Summary of context dating based on artefacts

Interpretation

A scatter of worked flint, possibly of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date from the subsoil, in the vicinity of a sterile linear feature and possible tree-throw, may suggest some prehistoric activity. The small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery within topsoil and subsoil deposits across the site probably reflects agricultural activity (ie manuring during ridge-and-furrow cultivation).

Discard and retention

The prehistoric lithic material, by virtue of its scarcity and potential associations, should be retained and accessioned with the relevant depository. The pottery assemblage, given its ordinary nature, poor condition and presence within subsoil and topsoil deposits rather than discrete features, is not considered to have obvious grounds for retention.

5.3 Environmental analysis, by Elizabeth Pearson

The sample from the fill of pit (404) showed low potential for recovery of environmental remains and interpretation of past environment or economy of the site. The material was dominated by uncharred fine root fragments, presumably intrusive and modern, and small unidentifiable charcoal. Occasional small unidentifiable calcined bone fragments were recovered.

Although only small quantities were recovered, as this was only calcined bone in association with the charcoal, it is possible that this was a cremation deposit. The associated pit had been heavily truncated by medieval ridge and furrow which would have removed the upper part. Although it is difficult to be certain of with the small quantities recovered here, this may indicate prehistoric activity and possibly other similar deposits nearby.

6 Synthesis, by Richard Bradley and Rob Hedge

The archaeological potential for this site identified throughout the DBA is broadly supported by the features observed during the excavation of the evaluation trenches. The preservation of remains related to a medieval and post-medieval agricultural landscape is representative of the expected archaeological signature for the site, and the presence of small-scale evidence for possible prehistoric activity is not uncommon for the wider area.

Across the six excavated trenches the archaeological remains observed suggest that this site occupies an area of land previously used for mostly rural agricultural activity, with little indication of direct settlement due to the lack of features and the relative absence of cultural material remains from any period. The typically domestic medieval and later pottery finds, found in the upper deposits across the trenches are likely to relate to this agriculture, probably originating through the discard of domestic material when manuring fields that are in close proximity to the centre of Gretton. An undated pit (404), however, in Trench 4 did contain evidence of burnt remains in the form of burnt bone and charcoal, and without any *in-situ* burning. The calcined bone could suggest that this was the remains of a cremation deposit.

Also of particular interest is the small lithic scatter found disturbed in the subsoil (101) of Trench 1, which appears to have been incorporated into the subsoil through medieval agricultural activity. This was technologically characteristic of the later Mesolithic or early Neolithic period and was likely to have been collected from river banks or brought to the site from outcrops a considerable distance away, as flint is not native to the Cotswolds area (Darvill 2011, 51). Whilst its primary origin cannot be conclusively established, its presence in association with, and in the vicinity of, ephemeral features including a possible tree-throw, is perhaps suggestive: Mesolithic and early Neolithic deposition of worked flint in and around tree throws, and exploitation of the immediate environs, is a pattern well-established elsewhere in central England (e.g. Lamdin-Whymark 2008, 96). Therefore, the combination of a disturbed scatter of flint and the small ephemeral features suggests that small-scale dispersed prehistoric activity may have occurred across the site.

The presence of higher ground to the south-west is likely to be significant in this regard, with the position of the site, on a slight plateau below uplands where the topography changes into the low-lying stream valleys of the area that head westwards towards the Severn, being a characteristic location for scatters of working debris. These are often found in sheltered spots on the edge of a different environment in the later Mesolithic period (Darvill 2011, 57; see, for example, Bradley 2014 and Lovett 2015).

With a fairly small sample of the site excavated in this evaluation, it is not certain that every feature type surviving on this site has been observed, but it does seem to have produced evidence generally representative of the archaeological activity represented in this field. This can be characterised as an undeveloped agricultural landscape from the medieval period onwards, overlying earlier dispersed activity, some of which may date from the prehistoric period.

7 Significance by Richard Bradley and Rob Hedge

7.1 Nature of the archaeological interest in the site

A number of archaeological features on this site are representative of agricultural activity from the medieval period onwards and are therefore of lesser archaeological interest. The subsoil and topsoil deposits encountered contained relatively sparse and abraded sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery, entirely consistent with their agricultural origin.

Other features, albeit which remain undated and thus poorly understood, are of more interest however. An undated linear, found in association with struck flint and possible rooting, as well as a pit possibly containing a heavily truncated cremation deposit, suggest that there is a background scatter of prehistoric activity across the area. The presence of worked flint of a possible later Mesolithic/early Neolithic date is of considerable interest, especially given the location of the site at the edge of an advantageous topographical position, and may reflect dispersed activity and/or exploitation of opportunistic deforestation.

7.2 Relative importance of the archaeological interest in the site

The features observed demonstrate an archaeological site of variable importance, with some of limited significance and others that indicate more potential.

Prehistoric

With regard to the seven pieces of flint, although earlier prehistoric flint scatters of this type are relatively uncommon in this area, recent discoveries (e.g. Bradley 2014, Lovett 2015) suggest that with more investigations, the picture is changing. Potential associations with 'natural' features such as tree-throws are of particular interest, and may help to establish whether patterns of late Mesolithic and early Neolithic exploitation of opportunistic deforestation extend into this region.

The presence of an undated linear is not in itself of much importance, but, in association with a small group of struck lithics which are potentially of later Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic date, may be of more importance. The truncated pit containing a possible cremation deposit is also of relative importance, as it might be prehistoric in date (and certainly pre-dates the medieval agriculture).

Medieval

The north-south aligned furrows are notable at a local level for improving understanding of medieval and later agricultural activity in the immediate surrounds of Gretton.

7.3 Physical extent of the archaeological interest in the site

Site-wide

The medieval and later agricultural remains have been seen to extend across the entirety of the site area (see Figures 1 and 2). It is also possible that the residual scatter of medieval and later artefactual material extends across the application site.

More localised

It remained uncertain how far the shallow linear feature in Trench 1 extends, or if the pit in Trench 4 is purely an isolated feature. Extensive truncation from ridge and furrow cultivation has certainly occurred on the site, with deeper subsoil and topsoil deposits overlying and so potentially protecting any archaeological features in some areas. Therefore, the chances of survival may be raised in some parts of the site. The presence of residual lithic material within later subsoil suggests some prehistoric activity here, but the full extent of any smaller scale dispersed prehistoric remains could not yet be fully stated.

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 in November 2015 at land to the rear of Church Row in Gretton, Gloucestershire, centred on grid reference (NGR) 400549, 230652. It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting acting on behalf of Spitfire Properties LLP, with the site under consideration for residential development.

Six trenches of varying length were excavated in a broad array across the field, which was known from preceding site walkover and geophysical survey to have extant but denuded ridge and furrow agricultural remains. The trenches included one positioned to examine the possibility of survival of any archaeological features beneath a ridge of the ridge and furrow cultivation and another targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly.

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9 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Steven Weaver (CgMs Consulting) and Charles Parry (Gloucestershire County Council planning archaeologist).

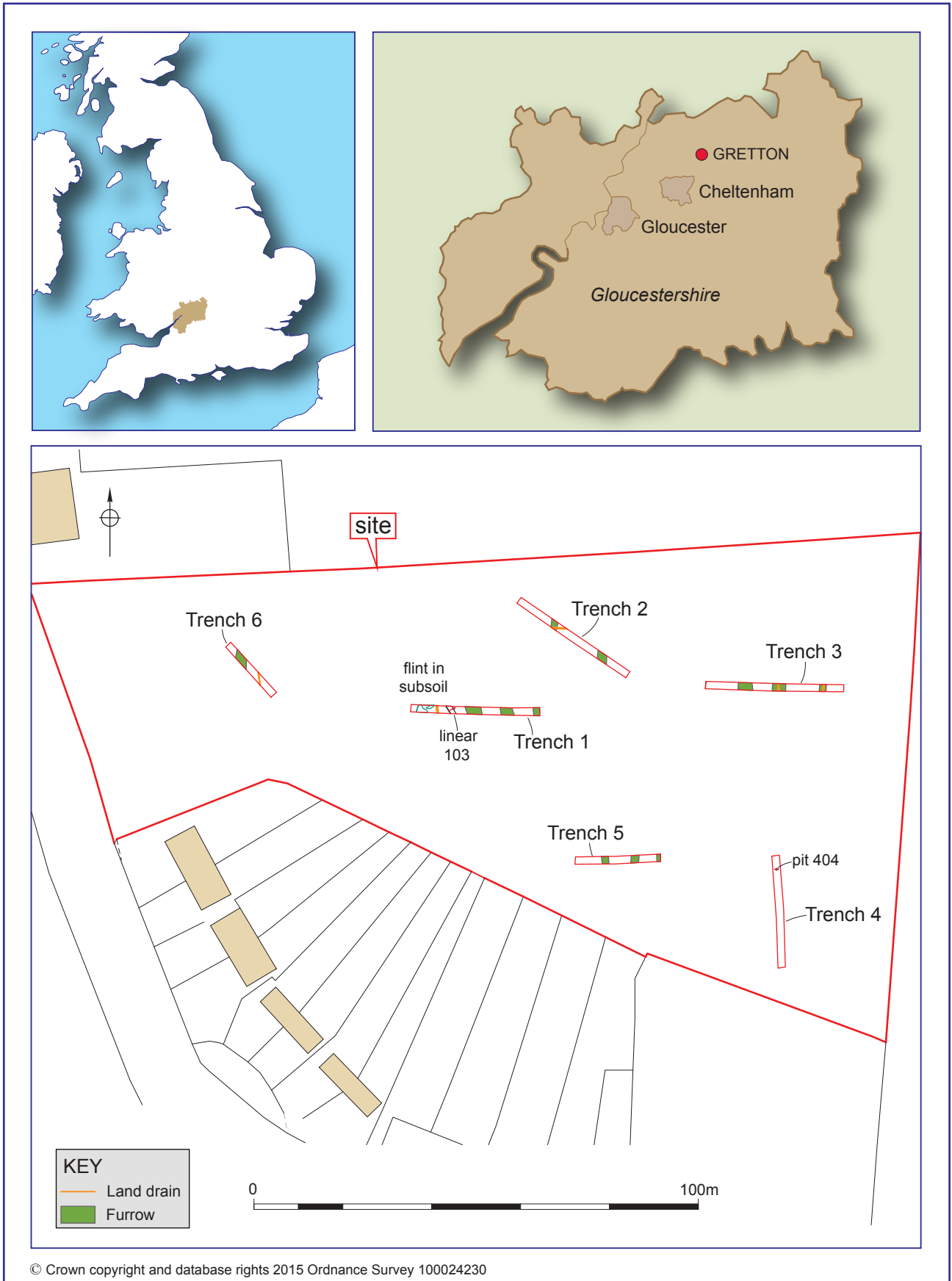
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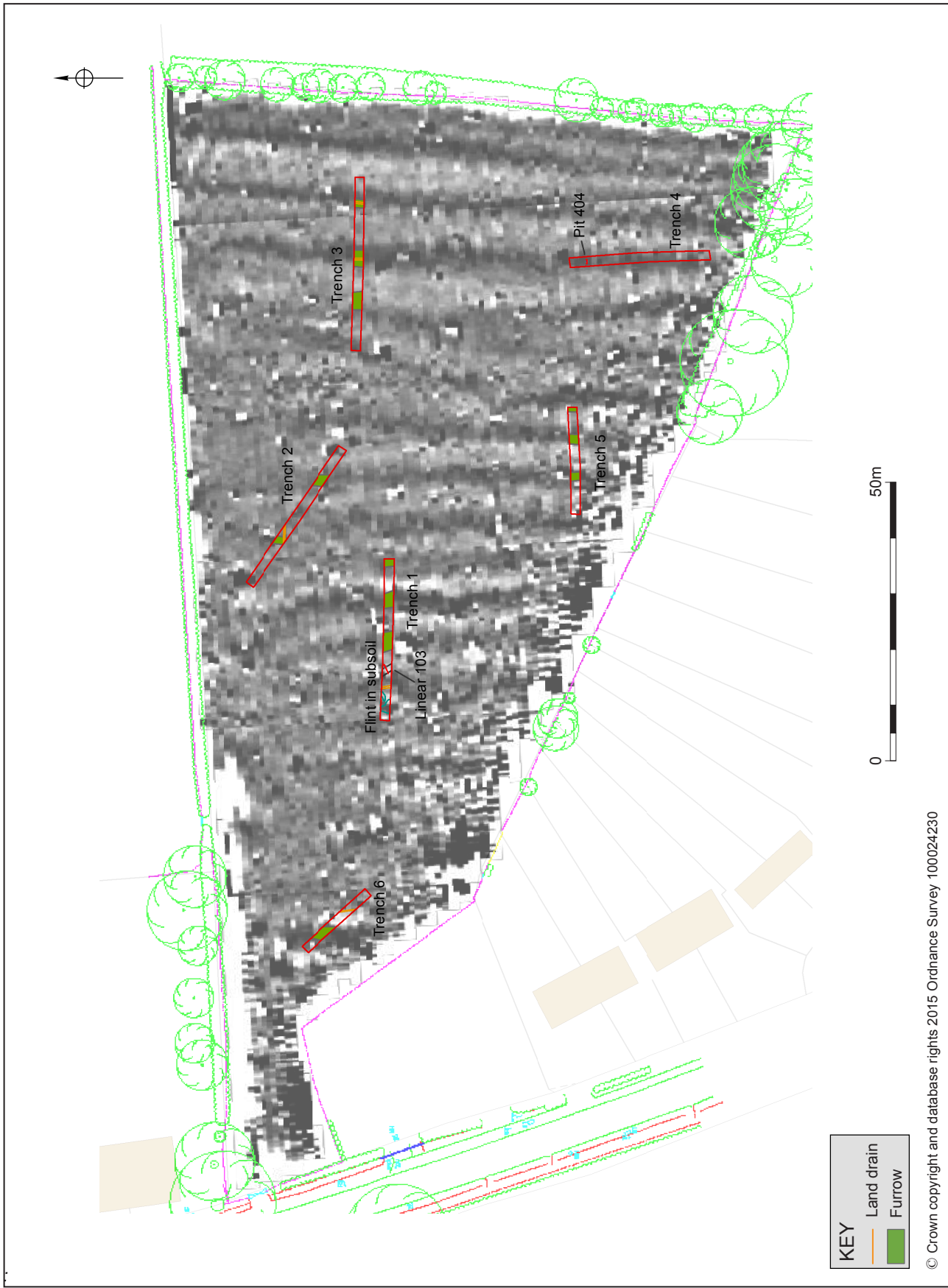
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Figures



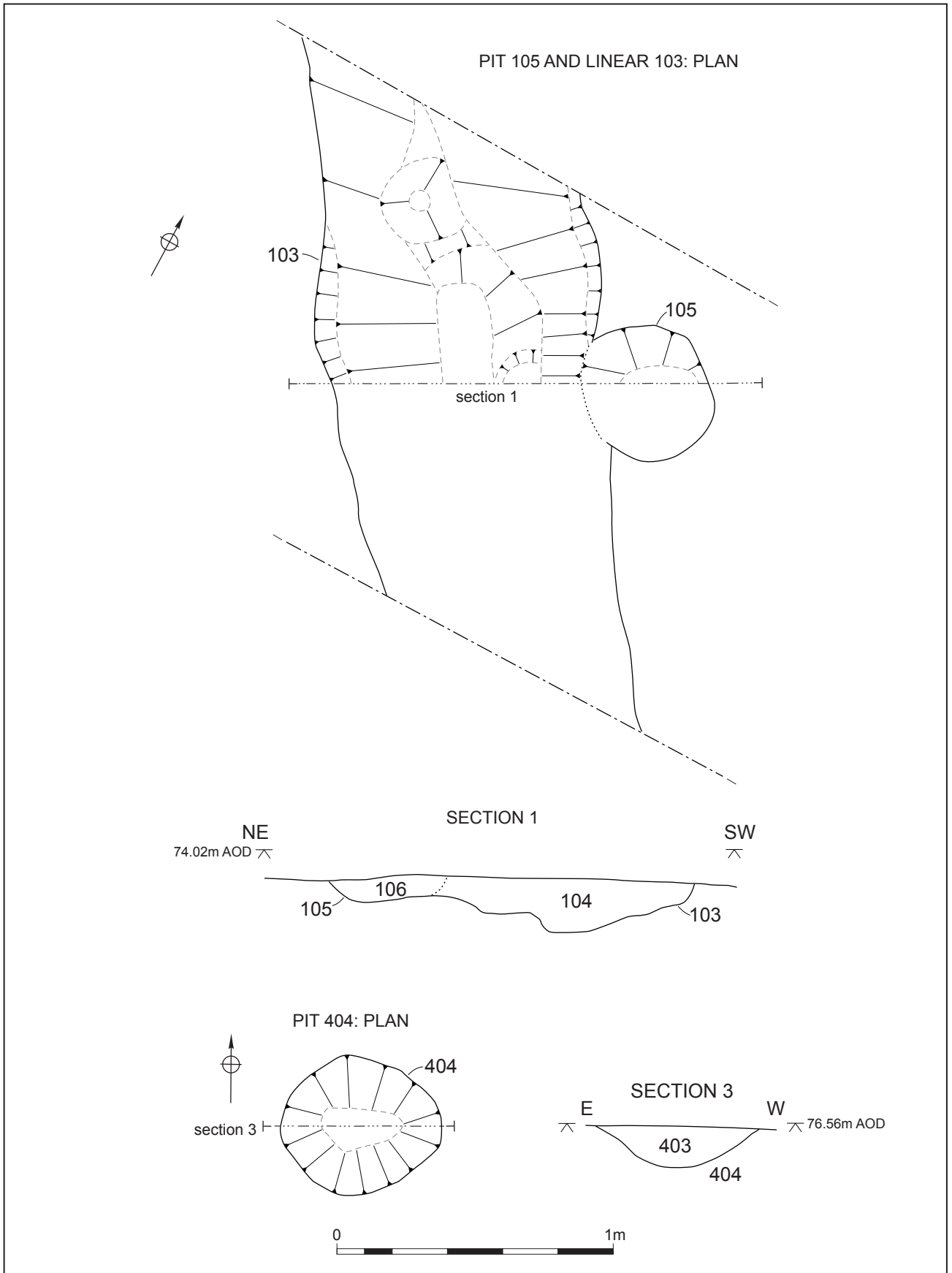
Location of the site

Figure 1



Trench locations with geophysics

Figure 2



Plan and sections of pit 105, linear 103 and pit 404

Figure 3

Plates



Plate 1: View of site facing east



Plate 2: Trench 3 with north-south furrows visible across the trench



Plate 3: Trench 1 shallow linear feature (103)



Plate 4: Late Mesolithic/early Neolithic flints from Trench 1 subsoil (101)



Plate 5: Pit (404) in Trench 4

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Length: 30m Width: 1.70m Orientation: East to West

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
100	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay	0.21m	Topsoil with occasional pot sherds, visible ridge and furrow
101	Subsoil	Layer	Compact mid orangey brown silty clay	0.40m	Subsoil - included early Neolithic, Mesolithic flints towards the western end of the trench.
102	Natural	Layer	Compact mid orangey brown clay	-	Natural substrate
103	Linear	Cut		0.21m	Irregular cut of possible linear. May be cut by small pit [105] - though could also be the same feature. May even be tree rooting from a tree throw.
104	Linear	Fill	Compact mid brownish grey silty clay	0.21m	Rare charcoal flecks and some yellow mottling. Unsure of the nature of the feature, no finds.
105	Pit	Cut		0.09m	Possible pit feature that may be truncating linear [103]. However it may be part of the same irregular feature/ tree rooting.
106	Pit	Fill	Compact mid yellowish brown silty clay	0.09m	No finds dating in this possible pit fill. Very rare charcoal flecks. Possibly same as (104).
107	Furrow	Fill			Fill of furrow [108]. Machined out.
108	Furrow	Cut			N-S furrow.
109	Furrow	Fill			Fill of furrow [110]. Unexcavated.
110	Furrow	Cut			N-S furrow.

Trench 2

Length: 29.60m Width: 1.65m Orientation: North-West to South-East

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
200	Topsoil	Layer	Friable dark greyish brown silty clay	0.21m	Same as 300
201	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light brown clay	0.24m	Same as 301
202	Natural	Layer	Firm mid yellowish grey clay	0.02m +	Clay with limestone brash at SE end.
203	Furrow	Fill			Unexcavated fill of possible furrow.
204	Furrow	Cut			Unexcavated cut of possible furrow.
205	Furrow	Fill			Fill of unexcavated possible furrow.
206	Furrow	Cut			Cut of unexcavated possible furrow.

Trench 3

Length: 30.70m Width: 1.70m Orientation: East to West

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
300	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay	0.30m	Frequent bioturbation, occasional small limestone pieces, rare charcoal
301	Subsoil	Layer		0.20m	
302	Natural	Layer	Firm mid yellowish grey clay		Natural substrate. Variable along trench - brash at east end, clay at west.
303	Furrow	Fill	Firm mid brown clay		Fill of furrow [304].
304	Furrow	Cut			Unexcavated cut of furrow
305	Furrow	Fill			Unexcavated fill of furrow [306].
306	Furrow	Cut			Cut of furrow
307	Furrow	Fill			Fill of furrow [308], unexcavated.
308	Furrow	Cut			Cut of furrow

Trench 4

Length: 25m

Width: 1.65m

Orientation: North to South

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
400	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay	0.28m	
401	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light greyish brown clay	0.30m	Subsoil with small sub-angular stones and rare charcoal flecks.
402	Natural	Layer	Firm light yellowish blue grey	0.35m +	Machine sondage put through this layer to (405). Could be colluvial. Cut by [404]
403	Pit	Fill	Firm light brownish grey clay	0.15m	Fill of small pit [404]. Inclusions of burnt bone and charcoal suggest deliberate deposition, no sign of in situ burning.
404	Pit	Cut		0.15m	Cut of a small pit. Isolated in trench. Appears to be deliberate deposition event to backfill.
405	Natural	Layer	Compact mid orangey brown clay	0.10m +	Lower natural deposit seen via sondage into natural 402.

Trench 5

Length: 21m Width: 1.70m Orientation: East to West

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
500	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay	0.27m	
501	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light greyish brown clay	0.16m	Merges into furrows where visible.
502	Natural	Layer	Firm mid yellowish orange clay	0.10m +	Becomes more blue-grey clay at east end.
503	Furrow	Fill		0.20m	Fill of furrow [504]. Partly machined out.
504	Furrow	Cut		0.20m	Furrow cut. Partly machined out.
505	Furrow	Fill			Fill of furrow [506]. Unexcavated.
506	Furrow	Cut			Cut of furrow.
507	Furrow	Fill			Fill of furrow [508]. Unexcavated.
508	Furrow	Cut			Cut of furrow.

Trench 6

Length: 15m Width: 1.60m Orientation: North-West to South-East

Context summary:

Context	Feature	Context	Description	Height/ depth	Interpretation
600	Topsoil	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay	0.24m	
601	Subsoil	Layer	Firm light greyish brown clay	0.31m	
602	Natural	Layer	Firm mid yellowish grey clay		
603	Furrow	Fill			Fill of furrow [604]. Unexcavated.
604	Furrow	Cut			Cut of furrow.

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- 6 Context records AS1
- 3 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 70 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 2 Scale drawings
- 1 Sample records AS17
- 1 Sample number catalogues AS18
- 1 Flot records AS21
- 6 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:

The Wilson

Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum

Clarence Street

Cheltenham

Gloucestershire

GL50 3JT
