JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

DITCHLEY PARK, ENSTONE,

OXFORDSHIRE

NGR SP 39133 21495

On behalf of

The Ditchley Foundation

FEBUARY 2013

REPORT FOR	The Ditchley Foundation Ditchley Park Enstone Chipping Norton Oxfordshire OX7 4ER
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Museum accession number	OXCMS: 2012.102

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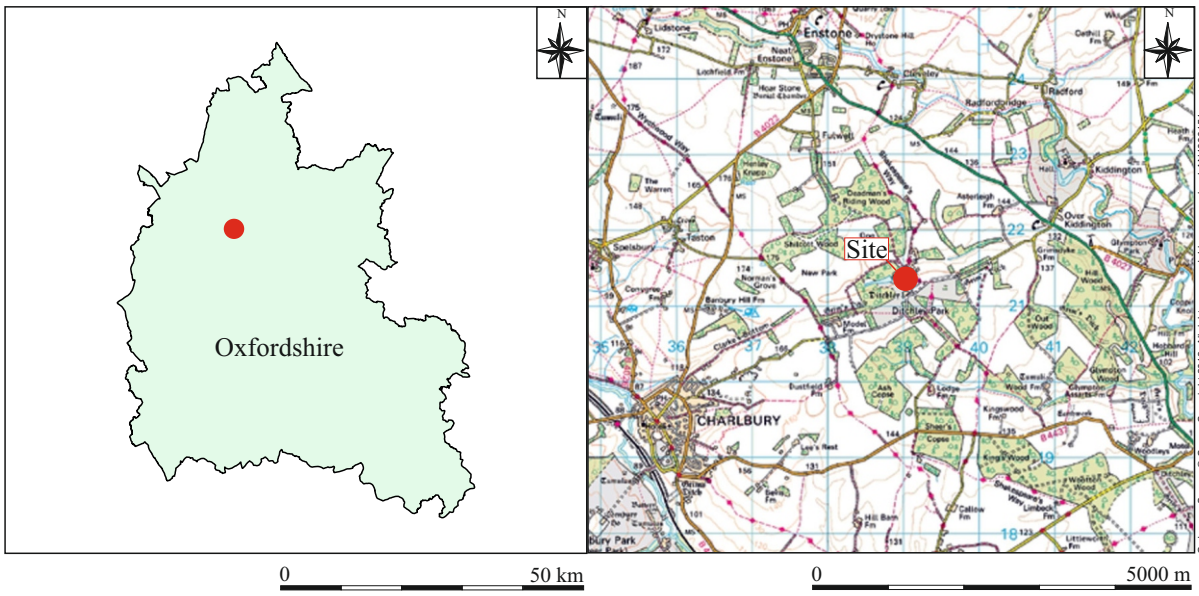
John Moore Heritage Services conducted a Watching Brief at Ditchley Park during the alterations to a barn for the insertion of a biomass heating system and the cutting of the accompanying pipe trenches that were numbered 1 to 11. The location of the Grim's Ditch was already known, but the excavations of the trenches provided some information on the construction of the monument in this area of its course (Trench 1). Though a number of features were noted it is difficult to date some of these features precisely. A number of features recognised in the area of the Timber Yard (Trench 9), for example ditches and post-hole, were cut from below the subsoil and it is likely that these could have been of a later prehistoric or Roman date, although they were essentially undated. The reason for suspecting an early date is that a piece of daub was recovered from this area. Observations in Trench 2 noted the remains of a significant stone building of a medieval date under the park land to the north of the Grim's Ditch and downhill from it. Though not precisely datable the tile from this building seems to be of a twelfth or thirteenth century date, and a residual Roman coin was recovered from the site but was unstratified. This structure may have been located in a partial enclosure, as the line of a ditch was located between it and the Grim's Ditch. Trench 6 (cut by British Telecom) uncovered the remains of three walls near the stables, which were associated with square handmade nails and fragment of glass with the emblem of the Earl of Lichfield. Wine bottles of the 16th and 17th century were produced with the emblems and seals of those who had purchased the beverage. This does not prove, but could be considered suggestive that an earlier residence of the lords of Ditchley was located in the vicinity of the stable. In this case it could be argued that such beverages are likely to have been consumed in the principle house of the estate. The remains of a number of culvert systems were recognised in the base of the valley in Trenches 4, 5 and 8. The date at which the main culvert was put in could not be ascertained by archaeology but has to relate to some phase of the park, either of a later medieval but more likely of an early post-medieval or 18th century date. There were also a number of post-medieval to imperial buildings identified in a number of trenches. There was evidence obtained of an earlier structure identified in the vicinity of Lower House (Trench 4) and of a second structure in that trench. Evidence was also ascertained in connection with the construction of Ditchley House (Trench 1), the Stables (Trench 3). Trenches 8 and 10 produced evidence of activity in the formal laid out gardens. This included evidence of structures and wells.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located at the site of Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire (NGR SP 39133 21495). Historically Ditchley was located near the parish boundary of Enstone and Spelsbury, both of which are ancient parishes. It is now within the parish of Spelsbury.

Topographically the site lay in a small east facing valley, which contains a tributary of the River Glyme. The central site was located at a barn on the northwest facing slope on the south side of the valley and lay between 135m and 140m OD. On the south side the service trench runs as far as Ditchley House at about 157m OD. A further



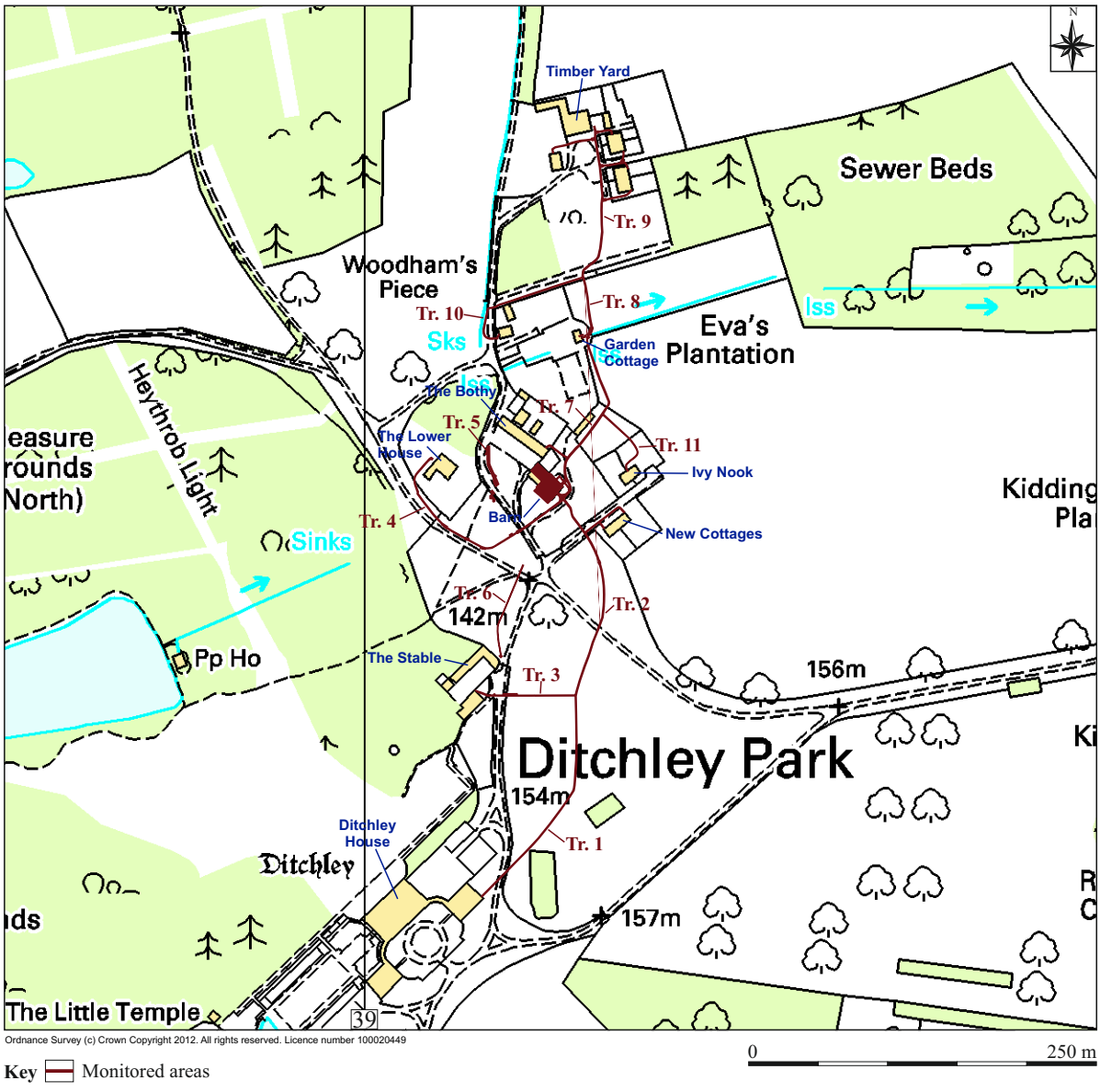


Figure 1. Site location

extension from this extends to the stables, and also one (Trench 4) that curves across the base of the valley towards Lower House. This latter trench lies around 135 OD.

Trench 7 leads into Trenches 8, 9, 10 and 11, which run downhill from the barn across the area of the walled garden and up to the Timber Yard. The walled garden lies at the lowest part of the run between 130 and 135 OD, while the Timber Yard occupies the side of a small knoll on the north side of the valley being just over 145m OD.

Geologically the map marks the area as being dominated by Great Oolite Limestone, with alluvial deposits in the base of the valley (BGS 1968, sheet 218). On the ground it is apparent that the bedrock contains numerous bands of clays and limestone, and that only in a few areas is there deep strata of proper oolite beds.

1.2 Planning Background

West Oxfordshire District Council granted planning permission for the instalment of a biomass heating system (ref. 12/0228/P/FP). Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the course of building operations and excavation of the trenches. This was in line with *PPS5* (the planning policy current at the time) and other Local Planning policies.

1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

Ditchley Park lies nestled in a small valley of the Cotswold Hills in the area designated Wychwood Forest. The prefix of the Cotswold name is derived from the topographical goddess *Cuda* (Yeates 2004, 2-8; 2006a, i.11-23; 2006b, 63-81; 2008, 11-18), while the latter is derived from the folk-name *Hwicce* (Gelling 1954, 386). *Cuda's* name occurs on a Roman period relief from Daglingworth, Gloucestershire, which shows a seated mother goddess accompanied by three standing hooded figures. *Cuda* can be related to a wider European tradition in which major hill and mountain ranges were given a persona, for example *Vosegus* of the Vosges and *Arduinna* of the Ardennes (Derk 1998, 134-144). The name *Cuda* developed into *Cod*, through a linguistic process called a-affection (Yeates 2006b, 63-81), a process accepted by onomastics. The Ditchley area would appear in the past to be associated with a number of religious sites, and this evidence comes from the Roman period (1st to 4th centuries AD) but how much older they are cannot be determined.

Archaeologically material has been found in the Ditchley Park area indicating long-term settlement from the prehistoric. The remains of a Mesolithic flint core has been recovered from the area (NMR SP32SE21: SP 38 21). Near Ellen's Lodge are the remains of a Neolithic long barrow (NMR SP32SE38: SP3804 2219). The remains of a bowl barrow has been identified in Ditchley Park (NMR SP32SE11: SP 3955 2124), it has been modified at a later date. Undated activity, possibly of a later prehistoric date, has been located to the north of the Timber Yard (NMR SP32SE51: SP3922 2205), which includes a possible hut circle with a west entrance, pit clusters, linear features and enclosures. To the southeast of Ditchley House the remains of a possible trackway and field system have been noted (NMR SP32SE28: SP 3860 2040).

In the late Iron Age a large earthwork was built in the Ditchley Park area, which was later known as the Grim's Ditch. The ditch has been described on a number of

occasions, being noted in 1676 and 1782. An early reference in antiquarian accounts is to a Grim's Dyke, where it was interpreted as Roman and associated with the devil (Jordan 1857, 49, 52-3). In 1907 a classification and description of the ditch was made (VCH 1939, 336). This identified a ditch A and a ditch B. The former was located in the parishes of Glympton, Kiddington, Enstone and Spelsbury and ended on the east bank of the Evenlode. The work was apparently traced and was considered to survive in only a fragmentary form. The ditch was described as being 38ft wide and 4ft deep, and the bank 2ft 9in high. Crawford (1930) plotted the line of the ditch, and created an article that has seen much conjecture. In 1937 a series of sections were placed across the Ditch at the following places Berring's Wood, Out Wood, Woodley and to the east northeast of Model Farm. The earthen bank was described as averaging 20ft wide and 6ft high, with an accompanying V-shaped ditch of 20ft wide and 6ft deep (Harden 1937, 74-92). The finds included pre-Conquest Iron Age sherds from below the bank and post-Conquest (Roman) potsherds from the ditch fill. The construction date was placed in the 1st century AD and it was interpreted as part of a territorial boundary. In 1988 a further section was cut through the ditch (Copeland 1988, 277-292). The general phasing of the bank was augmented in this report. The ditch is known to cut through a banjo enclosure (NMR SP32SE25: SP 3745 2050), features that are normally dated to and associated with the middle Iron Age. Banjo enclosures would seem to be related to domestic animal husbandry. A rectangular earthwork was claimed to be located at Model Farm to the south of the earthwork (NMR SP32SE10: SP 384 207). The feature was initially identified by Crawford, but subsequent investigations have failed to find the feature. It should be noted that there are the remains of a bank in the neighbouring field Little Park that runs transversely across the field (SP 3880 2095). The bank runs transversely across a spur (cross ridge dyke). The park road and fence line could mark the boundary of an enclosure set fully across the spur. Pottery was reported (by one of the estate hands) as being recovered from the Ditchley estate in the vicinity of Laurel Wood (SP 3825 2180). The pottery was not seen but was described as being of a later prehistoric date and being seen by persons more authoritative than the employee. The location is near the spring line which feeds the park lake. The bank was in early interpretations identified as a tribal boundary or an oppida, but no dense settlement has been located in its banks. Thomas (Copeland 1988, 277-92) was the first to suggest that the feature operated like that of a medieval park pale. Related to this is the suggestion that the bank represents the wall of a nemeton or sacred grove (Yeates 2006a, i.23-27). Nemetons are religious structures described by Roman authors such as Strabo, who state that the ancients built their greatest banks around woodland areas creating cities of trees. These sacred areas would have operated as hunting reserves for folk-groups or the elites of folk-groups. The nemetons were often named after the territorial presiding deity, while a number of cult sites have been found on the bounds of these nemetons in the Dobunni area that are associated with the cult of a hunter god could *Cunomaglos*. In later traditions *Cunomaglos* would seem to have been associated with *Grim* (an alternative name for Woden) as hunters of the souls of the dead before taking on the form of Hob or the Devil.

There are a number of Roman sites that have been recognised in the vicinity of Ditchley Park, of which the earliest recognised by antiquarians was that of a villa site (NMR SP32SE9: SP 3993 2008). The buildings lay in a walled enclosure, which showed signs of activity from AD 70 and continued in use into the fifth century AD. The villa seems to be in an area in which there is a concentration of Roman or possible Roman sites. In 1871 the remains of a tessellated pavement (NMR SP32SE8:

SP 3972 2041) was found in a field adjacent to the villa. Aerial photographs show an irregular shaped enclosure (NMR SP42SW70: SP 402 204) to the east of Ditchley Roman Villa. The description describes a southeast facing entrance or façade. Roman coins have come from this field (info from estate worker), those recovered were twelve in number, most were too worn to be recognisable but two could be identified as coins of Nero and Contantine the Great. This indicates a period of use from the late first century to the early 4th century AD. The final Roman place in the vicinity of Ditchley Roman Villa is a site called Barrow Place where there are the remains of a 50m square enclosure on a defensive position (NMR SP31NE2: SP 3910 1962). The site has produced Iron Age and Roman pottery and has since been catalogued as the location of a Romano-Celtic temple. No barrow is recognised in the area, and there are no recognised early references to the name. It is the case at some Roman religious sites that barrows may have been reused as a podium or that podiums could be mistaken by antiquarians for barrows. There is a possibility that Ditchley Villa and its satellite sites may be the location of a shrine berserk (a villa complex with a number of related satellite shrines). Further building platforms and terracing are noted at Spurnell's Well (NMR SP32SE17: SP392 201). However, these are classed as either the remains of Pheleley Priory or a chapel dedicated to Saint John.

To the southwest of Ditchley there is a further Roman religious site at Lee's Rest where a triple ditched enclosure has been identified (NMR SP31NE60/SP31NE1: SP3781 1931). The site has produced evidence of a cobbled surface internally and the remains of a bronze figurine and a head of Mercury.

There are the remains of a number of undated sites in the area, some of which may be of a Roman date, though they may be later. A telecom trench through Little Park (SP 3875 2100) is reputed to have produced a piece of stone believed to have been part of a drum from a cylindrical column (estate workers comments, not seen). If this is indeed the case then it should be noted that the column could come from a Classical, Romanesque or Neo-Classical structure. It is less likely to be Gothic.

The *Hwicce* were a folk-group who's See was established at Worcester and who are known to have occupied the later counties of Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and parts of Warwickshire. The name Wychwood is indicative of the tribal territory once extending into West Oxfordshire (Yeates 2009). The name *Hwicce* was coined by at least by the 7th century and was a replacement name for the Iron-Age name *Dobunni* (Yeates 2009). Both names contain a component part that refers to a vessel, and the reference may be associated with the Severn Valley the foci of the tribal territory.

A medieval parish boundary previously ran through Ditchley Park with part of the land to the south being in Spelsbury and that in the north in the parish of Enstone. If Ditchley existed at this time it was almost certainly attached to one of the main parochial manors of Spelsbury or Enstone. The manor of Spelsbury was granted to bishop *Heahberht* of Worcester by *Berhtwulf*, king of Mercia, as early as AD 840 (Gelling 1979, no.264). At this time the estate was known as *Huicceewudu*, and the 10 hide estate is identified later in 1086 when the bishop of Worcester's holdings are accounted as the manor of Spelsbury (Morris 1978, EW1). The manor at this time comprised 25 villagers, 12 smallholders, 5 slaves, a mill, 32 acres, 36 acres of pasture-land, and considerable amounts of woodland listed as measuring 1 league and 1 furlong by 7 furlongs wide. The woodland probably extended into the area of Ditchley Park. The manor of Enstone was also held by an ecclesiastical *Hwiccian*

establishment, this time Winchcombe Abbey (Morris 1978, 11.1, 59.14). The estate covered an area of 24 hides and contained 25 villagers, 4 free men, 7 smallholders and 6 slaves. There were 4 mills, 50 acres of meadow, pasture of 4 furlongs x 2 furlongs, and woodland 1 league long and ½ league and 4 furlongs wide. Likewise the woodland may have been located in the vicinity of Ditchley Park. Radford, in Enstone parish, had its own manor recorded in 1086, but Ditchley and other recognisable sub-manors of Enstone did not. However, Urso is accounted as holding 2 hides from the abbot in Enstone, so it is apparent that one of these sub-manors had already been established by 1086. We are at present unable to say if this was Ditchley.

The earliest recorded forms of the name Ditchley occur in 1208 when the name is recorded as *Dicheleye* (Gelling 1954, 379). The etymology is **dīc lē(a)h**, the clearing by the ditch, the dyke being that of *Grim*. The component *Grim* is considered to be that of a spectre, but is one of the names of *Woden*, used in his role of the chaser of souls to take them to the otherworld, see above.

There is known to have been freehold land at Ditchley in 1359 (Corbett 2006, 147-9). In 1450 the site was first called a manor and was held by Thomas Bernard, from 1439-61 the site was held by the Earls of Warwick.

A medieval village is recorded at Ditchley from the 14th to the 17th century (NMR SP32SE14: SP 390 211). The village has been tentatively placed in the formal gardens, but no evidence as yet supports this suggestion.

The remains of a chapel are known to have been located at Ditchley; it is believed to be of a medieval date, and was certainly in existence in 1695 when there is reference to a baptism being held at the chapel (Jordan 1857, 55). In 1295 there are indications that the tithing, hamlet, and land at Ditchley where held by the church of Enstone (Jordan 1857, 58). Jordan also makes the statement that in the medieval period there was a tithing of Ditchley attached to Spelsbury (Jordan 1857, 55). The interpretation of this data could be considered to be confusing; however, it is recognised in other places that tithings could be split or shared between churches. It could mean that there was an earlier connection between the two churches. The statement concerning Enstone indicates that the hamlet was attached to Enstone, this would mean that the hamlet lies to the north of the Grim's Ditch. The church of Enstone is mentioned in 1175 in the register of Winchcombe Abbey (Royce 1892, 24), along with its chapels. The noted chapels of Enstone are Chalford, Ditchley, and Lidstone (Yeates 2006a, ii.712-3). This again points to the fact that the chapel and hamlet were located to the north of the Grim's Ditch and in what was originally Enstone parish.

The remains of the priory of Pheleley or a chapel dedicated to Saint John and held by Eynsham Abbey is considered to have been located at Spurnell's Well (NMR SP32SE17: SP 392 201). The field was known as Fenny Chapel Field (Yeates 2006a, ii.511). Fenny is considered to be a philological development where the <l> has mutated into <n> a recognised development due to the shape of the mouth used for both constantans. This is to the south of Ditchley House in what was historically Spelsbury parish.

Historically it is apparent that the estate that exists now once formed part of two manors and parishes, Enstone and Spelsbury. The estate began to coalesce as a unified entity under the guidance of Sir Henry Lee who leased Coldron Mill in 1571 (Corbett

2006, 131-42). This was added to by the purchase of Lee's Rest (a name derived from the Lee family). In 1583 he purchased Ditchley Manor from Thomas Gybbons, and in 1590 from John and Margaret Bubye he procured a pigeon house with 6 acres of land and in that year 30 acres called Coale Closes in Taston from Francis Priddie (Corbett 2006, 158-9). Lee bought the manor of Spelsbury in the name of his brother in 1599. In 1601 further purchases were made in Spelsbury including the acquisition of a watermill.

Historically some information is known about the earlier development of the manor building. A date of 1592 was noted on the leaden spout of the old house (Corbett 2006, 147-9). In 1664 the structure was described as an ancient timber house with a pretty bowling green.

The Lees continued to occupied the estate from 1583 to 1652 and where succeeded by the Earls of Rochester 1652-63 (Corbett 2006, 160-80). In the late 17th century the title Earl of Lichfield was given or acquired by the lords of Ditchley (Corbett 2006, 204-228). The title Earl of Lichfield was given to Edward Lee (1663-1716) in 1674, when he had the title Baron Spelsbury, Viscount Quarendon and Earl of Lichfield. At this time the main residence was at Quarendon in Buckinghamshire. He was succeeded by his 3rd but only surviving son George Henry Lee (1690-1742), the 2nd Earl of Lichfield in 1716. The 3rd Earl of Lichfield was George Henry Lee (1718-72), and the 4th Earl of Lichfield (1706-76).

The Dillons occupied the estate from 1776 (Corbett 2006, 204-228), who took the name Dillon-Lee. The location of the village or hamlet at this time was not precisely known but further reports from an estate worker are that when a pond was inserted in the northwest area of the Walled Garden (SP 3912 2162) walls, hearths and floors of a building were seen.

The present house at Ditchley Park was designed by James Gibbs in 1722 for George Lee the 2nd Earl of Litchfield (NMR SP32SE23: SP 39040 21171). At this time it is believed that the parkland was also established by James Gibbs (NMR SP32SE36: SP 3911 2127). There is known to have been further landscaping in the garden in 1760 or 1777 (the latter date would coincide with the succession of Charles Dillon-Lee). The Pleasure Gardens were created 1805-10 by John Claudis Loudon and in 1930 Geoffrey Jellico created the formal gardens.

Of the other buildings on the estate a number have been given varying degrees of protection and dating, most are constructions of the 18th century. The Garden Cottage was a construction of the early or middle 18th century (NMR SP32SE64: SP 391 212). The Lower House (originally Home Farm a name often indicative of any old estate centre) is believed to be a construction of the late 18th or early 19th century (NMR SP32SE58: SP 391 212); despite this the structure may occur on the map of 1726 in some form. The menagerie was constructed about 1745 and was converted to a gas house in the 19th century (NMR SP32SE59: SP 391 212). The Ionic garden temple was constructed *c*. 1760 (NMR SP32SE30: SP 3846 2136). The stable block is also classed as a structure of the early to mid 18th century, and was altered in 1924 (NMR SP32SE55: SP 39074 21337); it is also possibly shown on the map of 1726. The lake head and grotto were constructed about *c*. 1745 (NMR SP32SE57: SP 38480 21267). The little temple was also a construction of the mid to late 18th century and was re-located in 1935 (NMR SP32SE56: SP 38889 21112).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- to record any evidence of activity relating to the Grim's Ditch.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (OCAS), the archaeological advisors to West Oxfordshire District Council. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate and possible.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (1994).

3.2 Methodology

Ground alterations in and around the threshing barn were made by a mechanical excavator. The trenches beyond this barn, which covered over 1,000m in length, were all also made by a mechanical excavator. The cutting of these trenches were observed and recorded.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

4 RESULTS

The development of the Biomass Plant with all its associated pipe and cable work covered an extensive area and identified a number of discrete features, including structures and boundary features. Due to the scale of the excavations and the number of features identified an attempt has been made to discuss distinct elements / major components in a rough chronological sequence, but there are caveats in that some minor and less significant contexts of a later date or undated stratified deposits above these contexts may appear chronologically out of place being listed and described alongside the more significant phase of activity. Where this occurs this should hopefully be indicated in the text. The figures are all shown before the Text, but as no

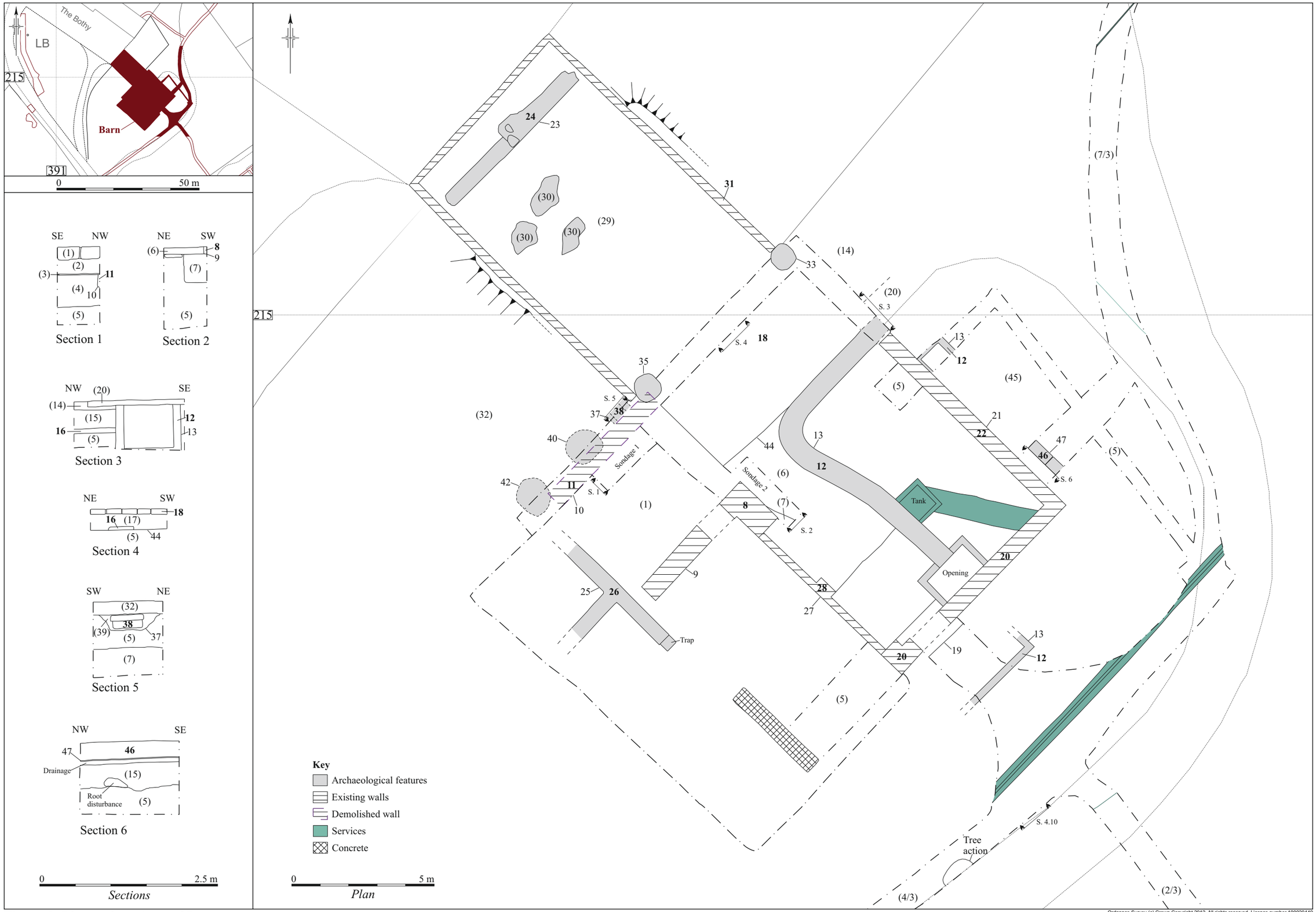
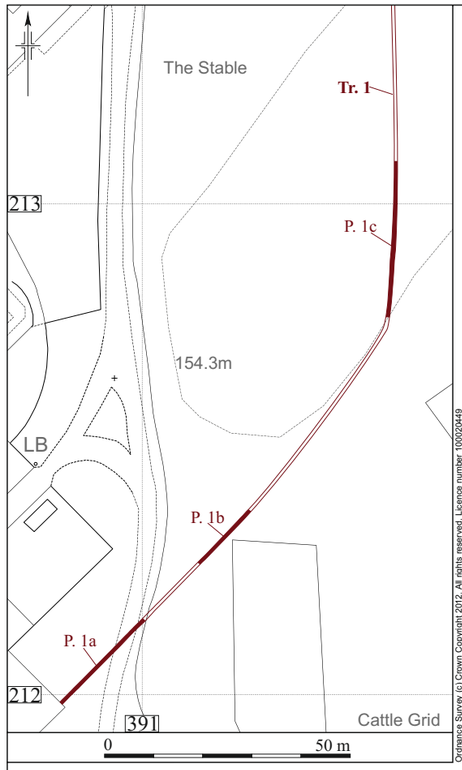
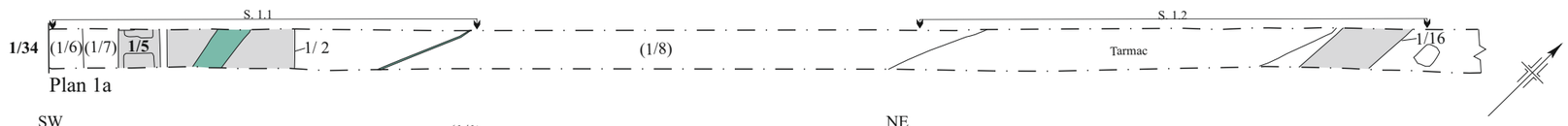
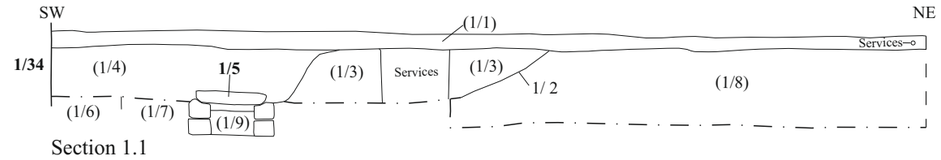


Figure 2. Plan and sections of Barn

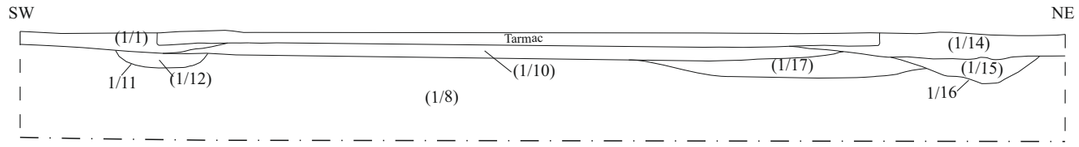




Plan 1a



Section 1.1



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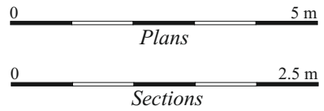
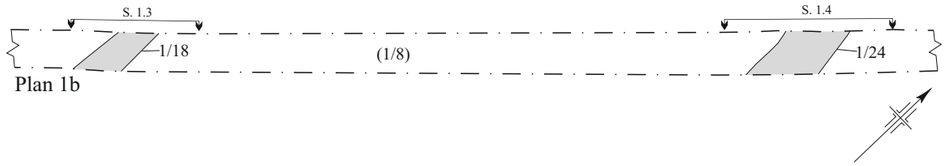
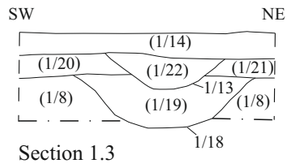




Plan 1b



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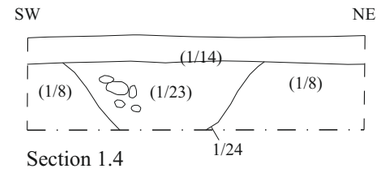

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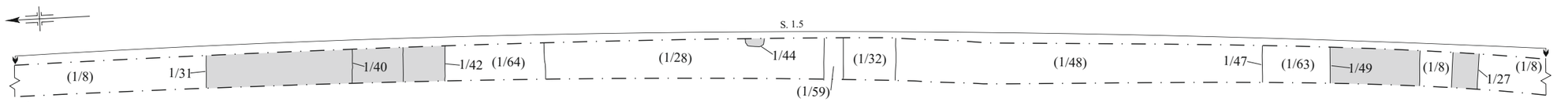

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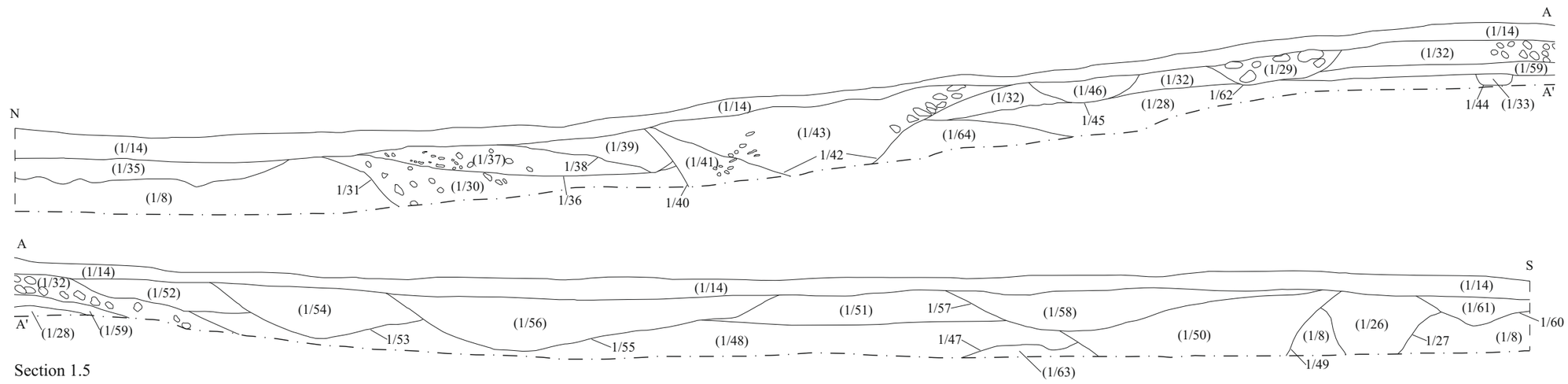


Section 1.5

Figure 3. Plans and sections of Trench 1

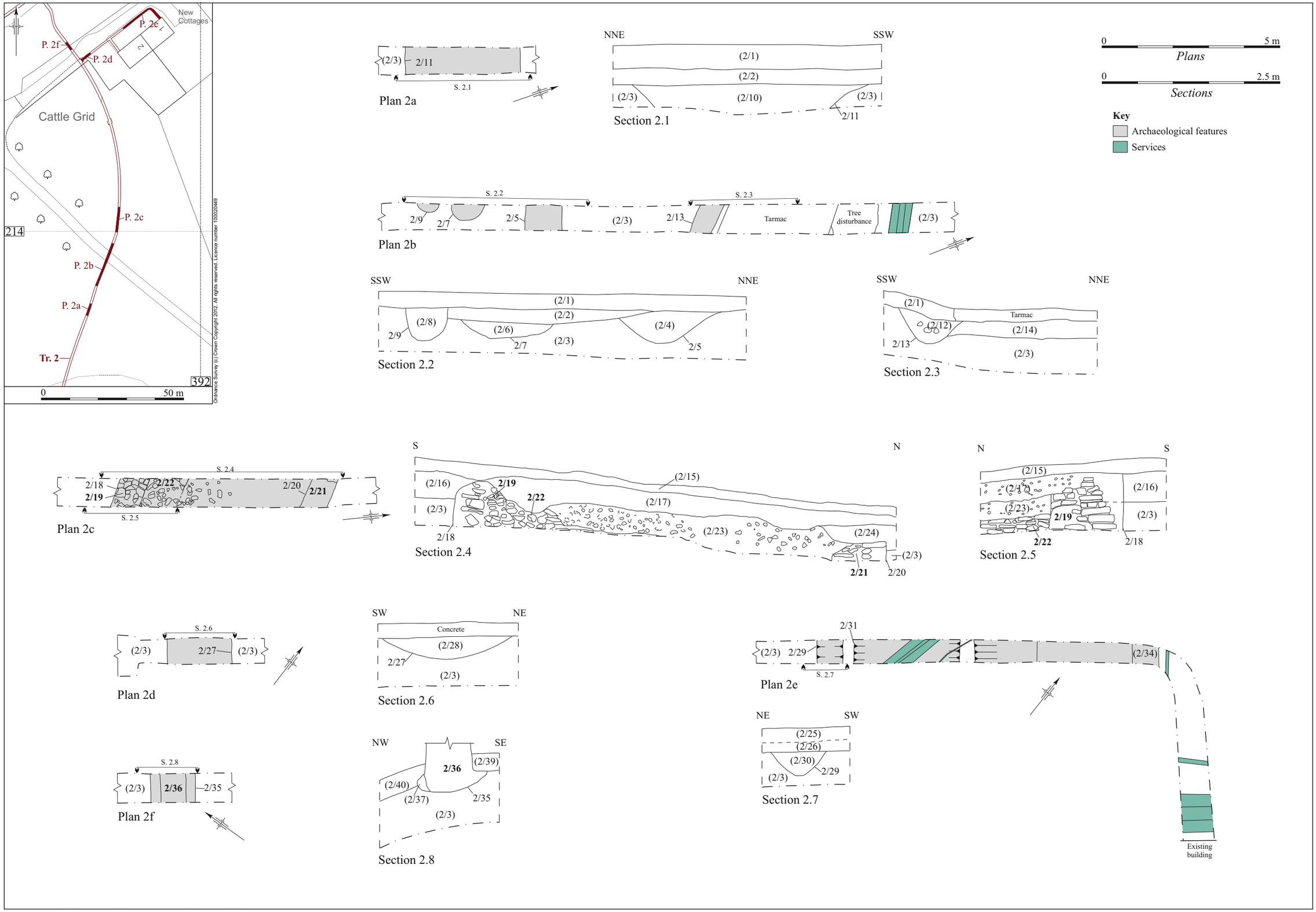


Figure 4. Plans and sections of Trench 2

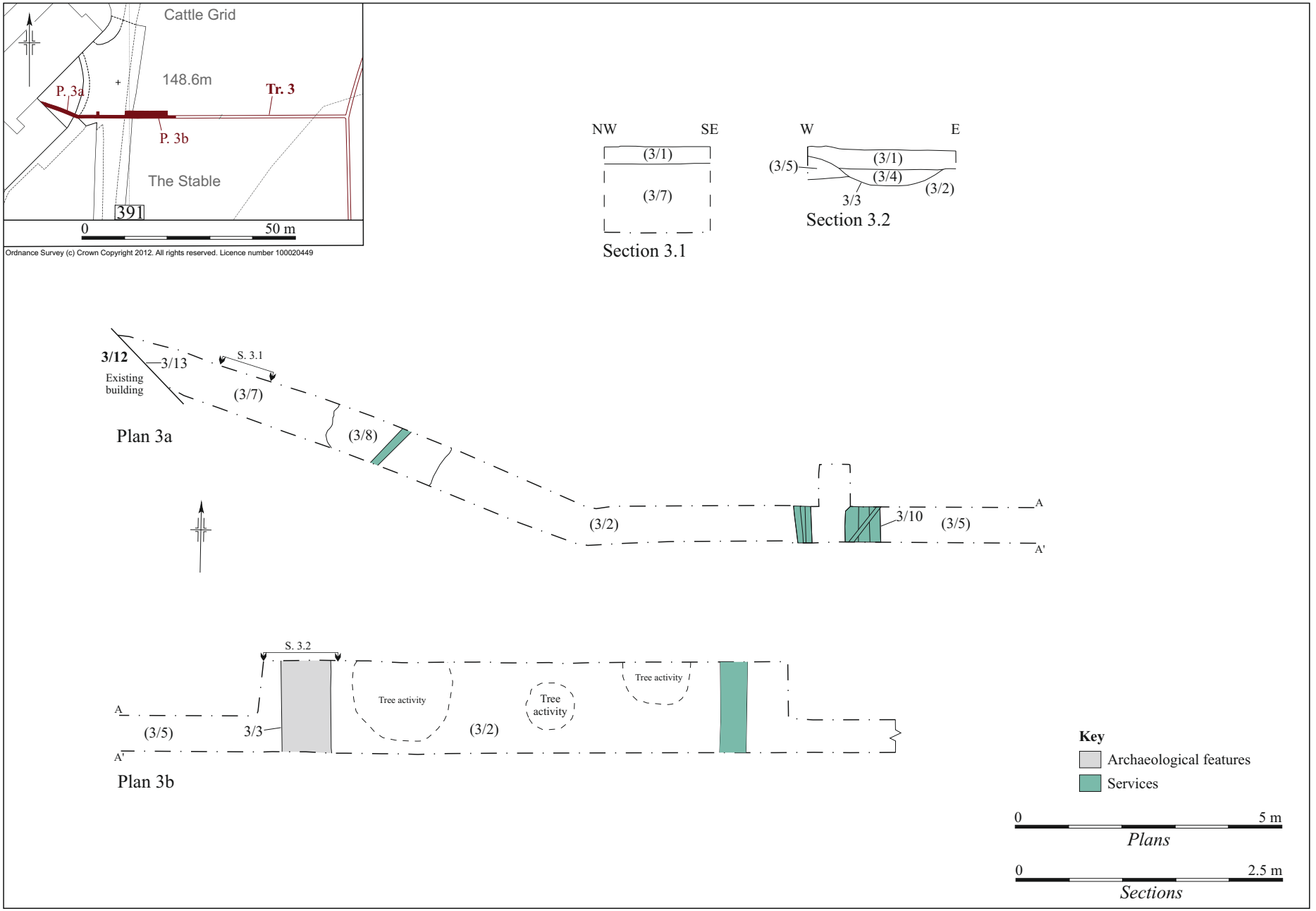
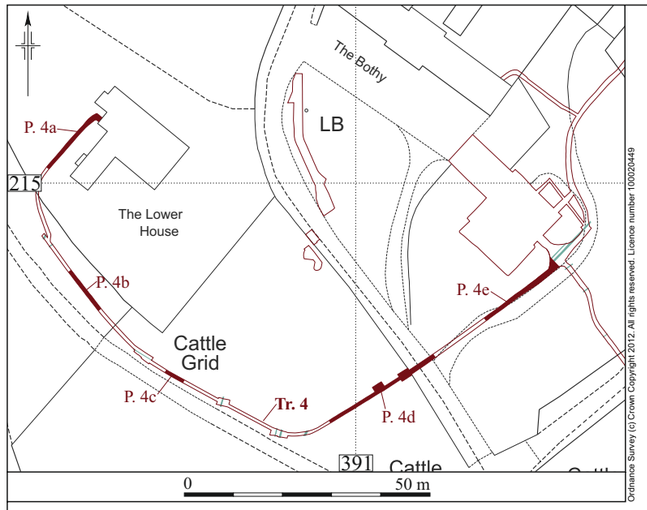
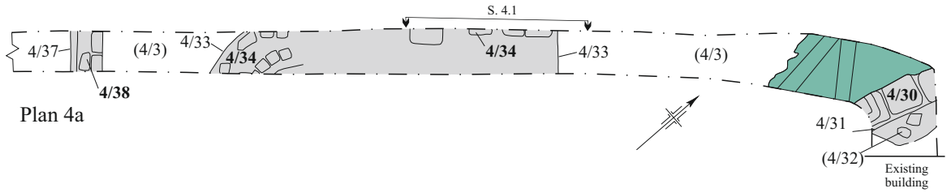
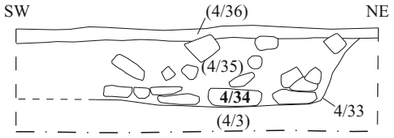


Figure 5. Plans and sections of Trench 3

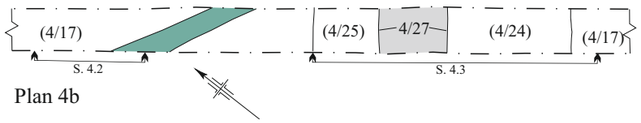




Plan 4a



Section 4.1



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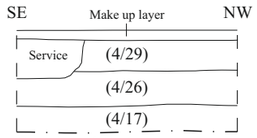

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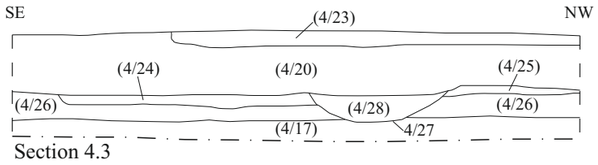

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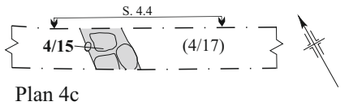
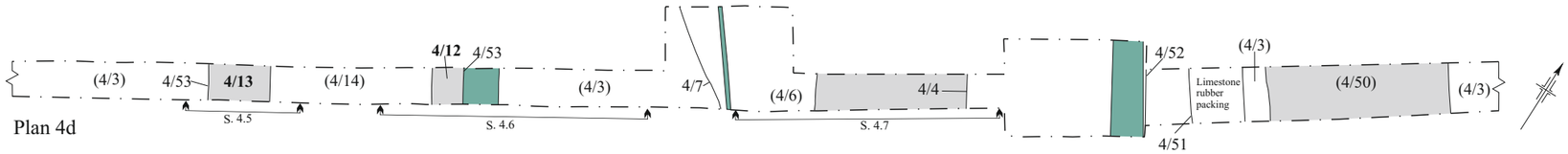


Plan 4c



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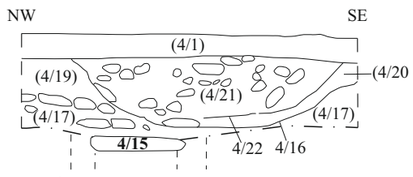

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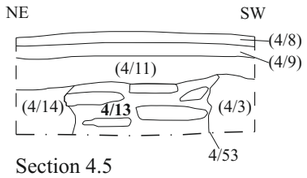

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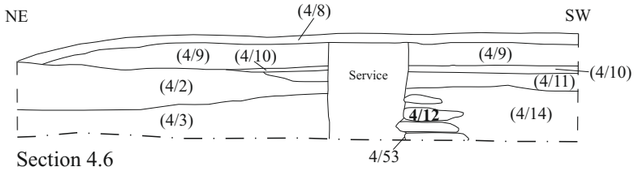

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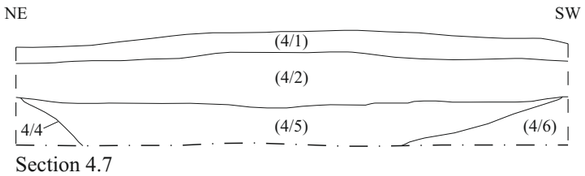

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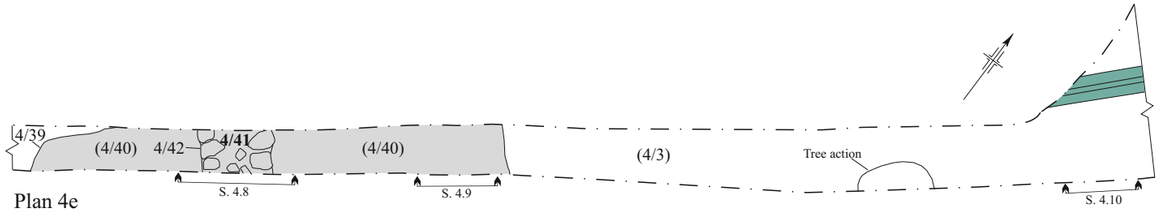

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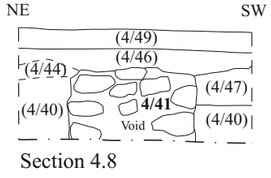

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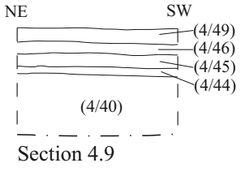

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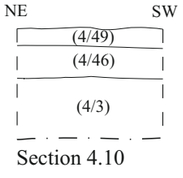

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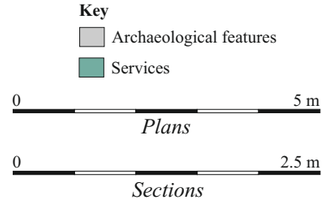


Figure 6. Plans and sections of Trench 4

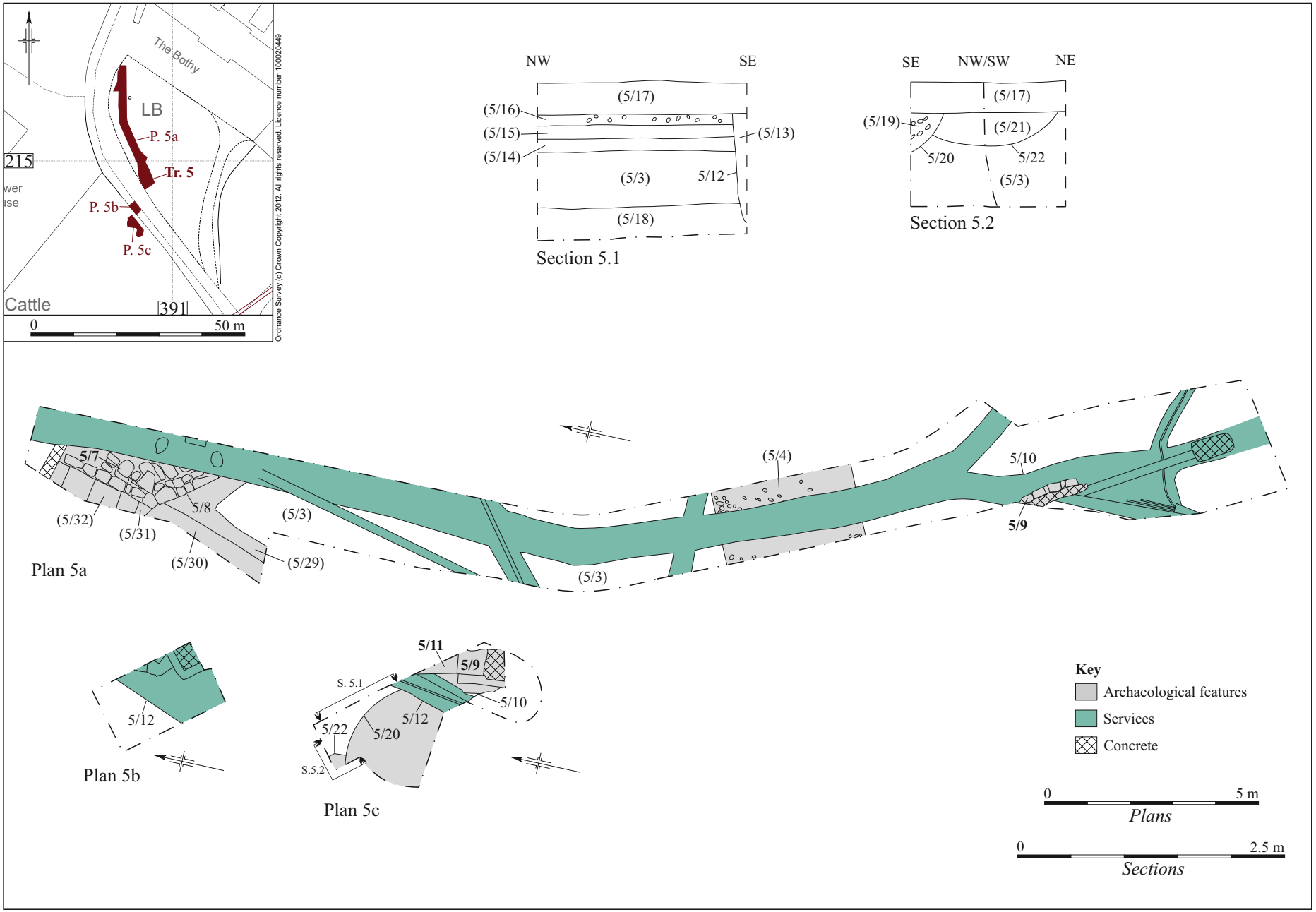


Figure 7. Plans and sections of Trench 5

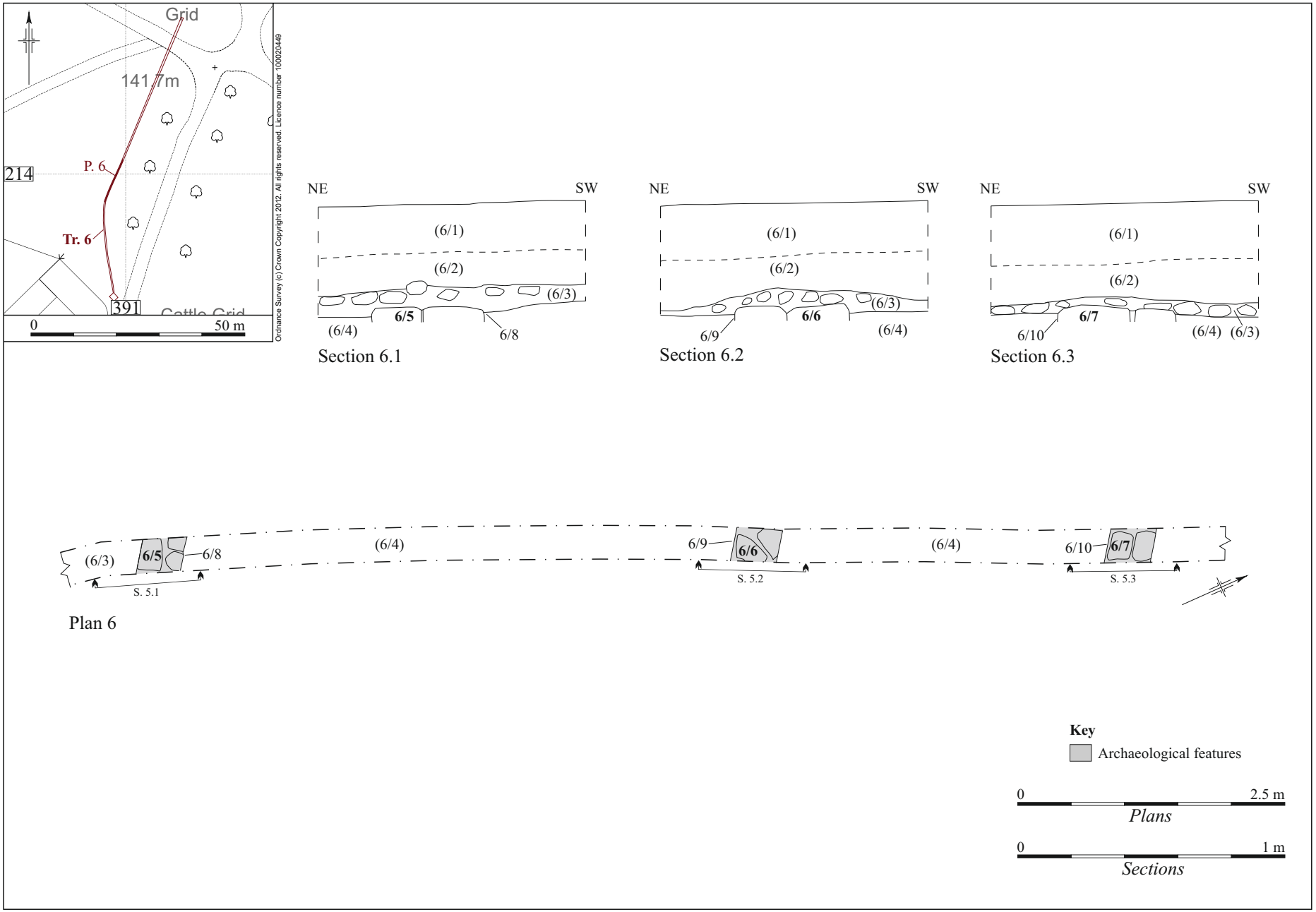
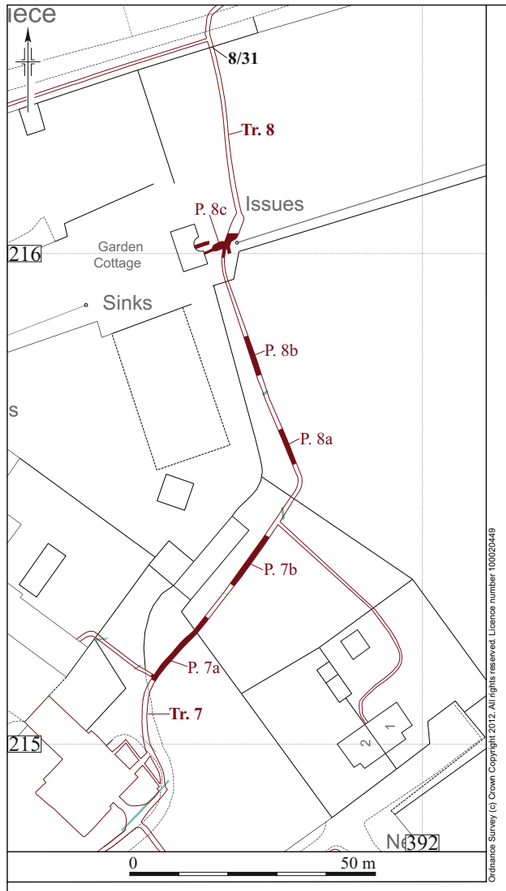
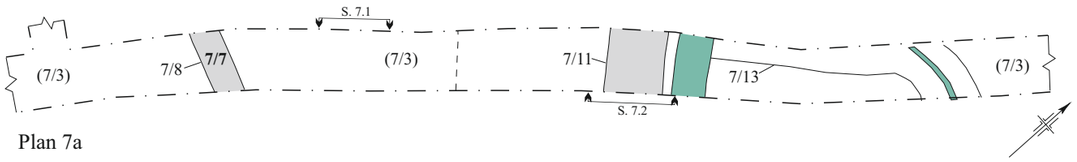
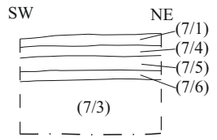


Figure 8. Plan and sections of Trench 6





Plan 7a



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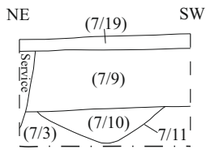

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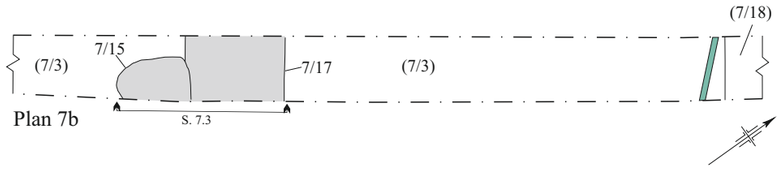
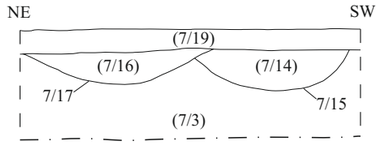


Plan 7b



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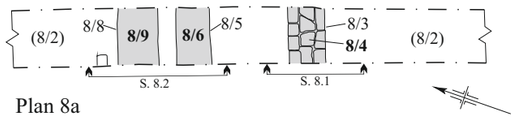
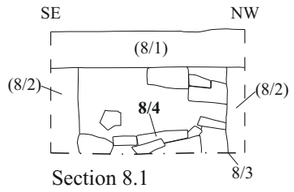


Plan 8a



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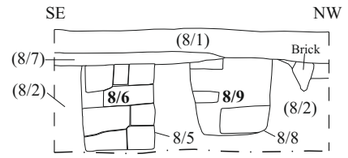

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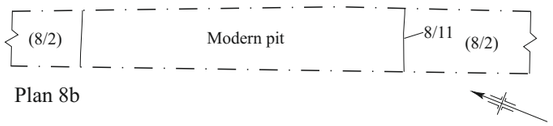

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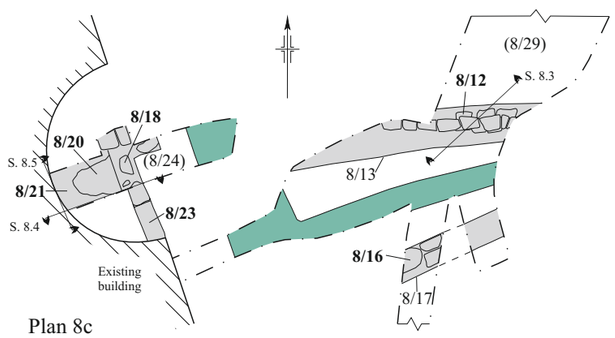

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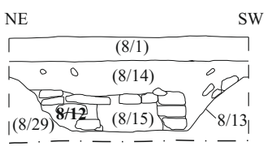

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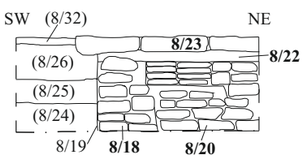

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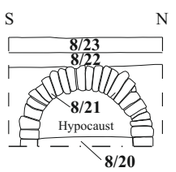

Section 8.5

Key

Archaeological features

Services

0 5 m

Plans

0 2.5 m

Sections

Figure 9. Plans and sections of Trenches 7 and 8

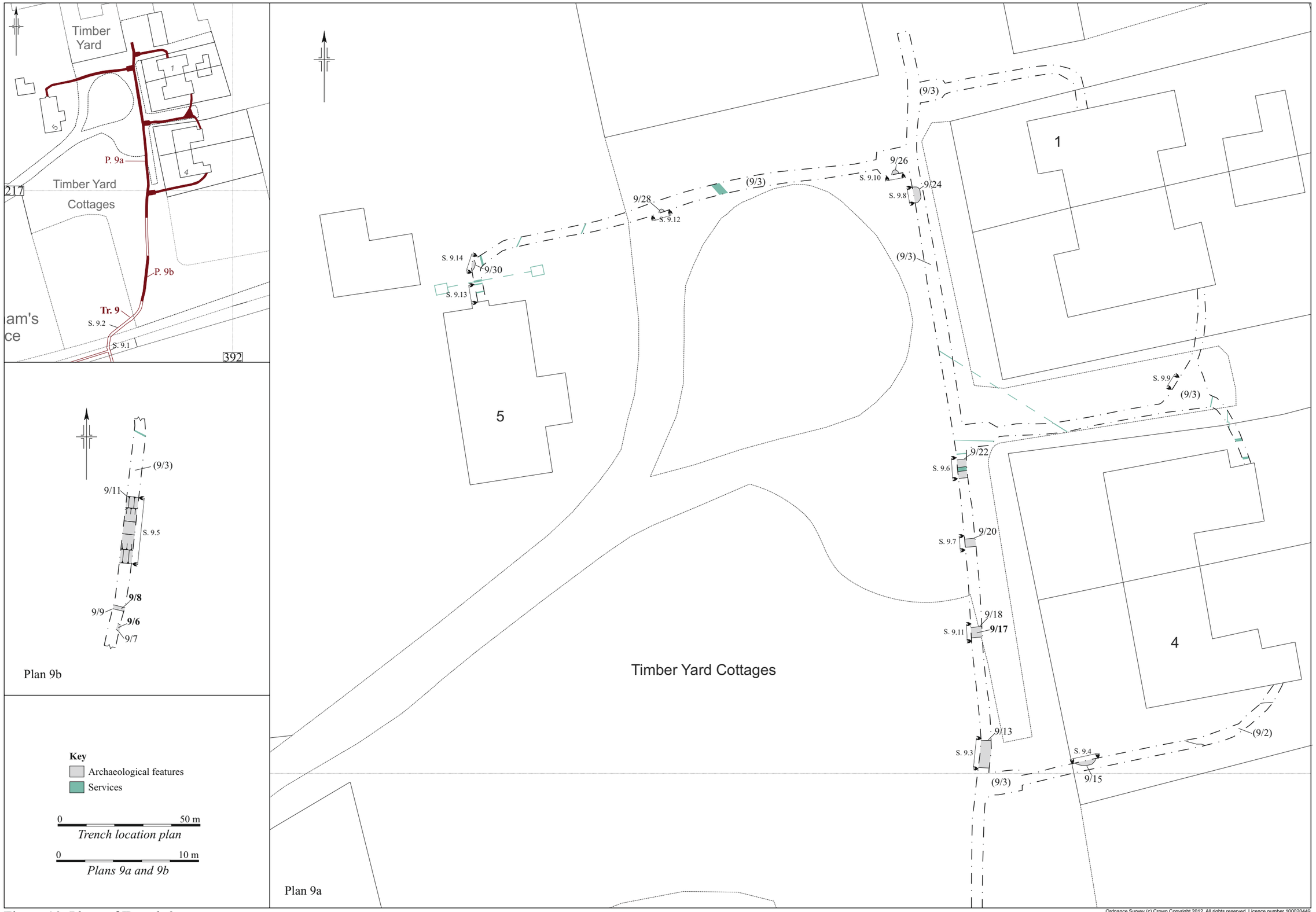

Figure 10. Plans of Trench 9

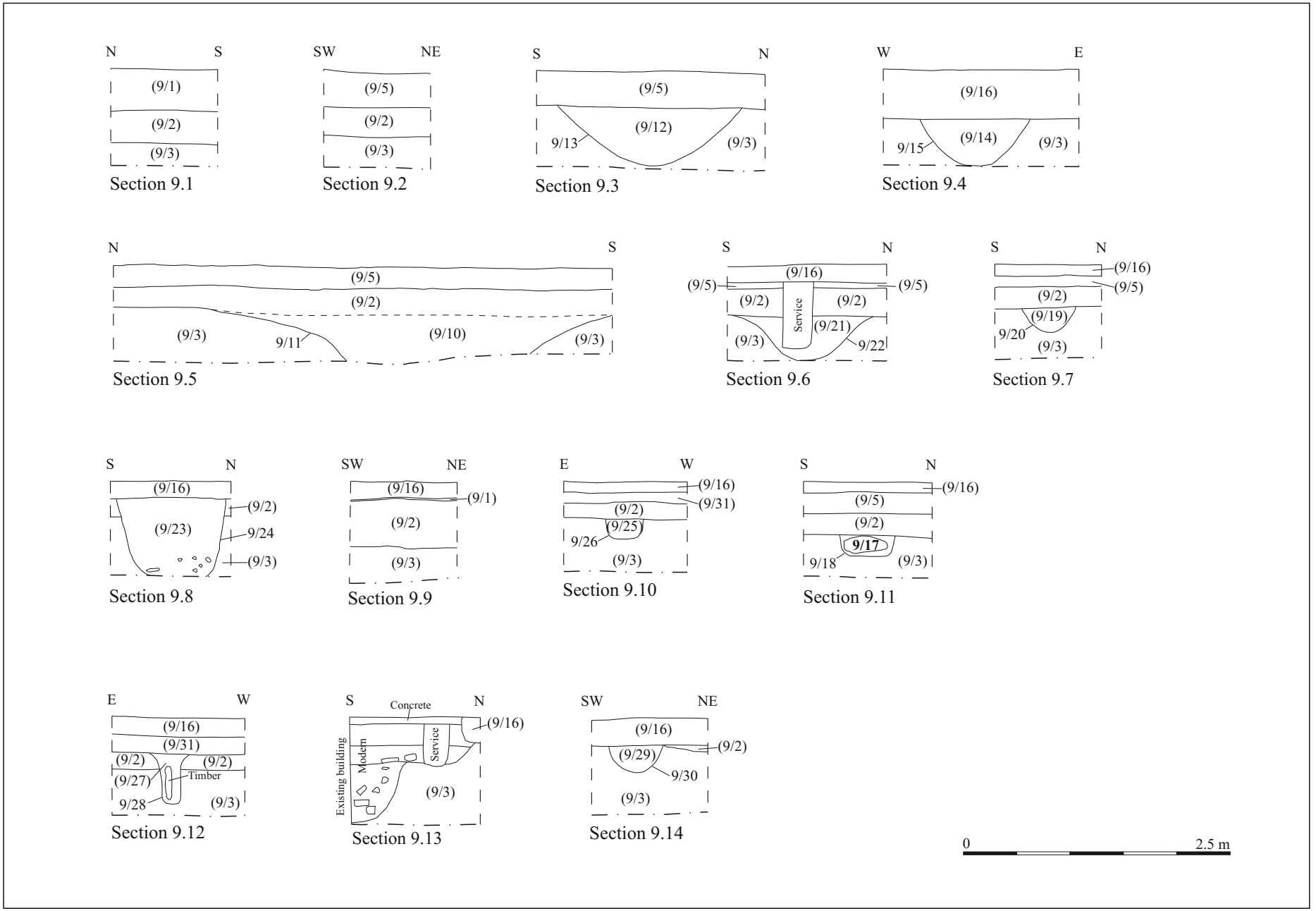

Figure 11. Sections of Trench 9

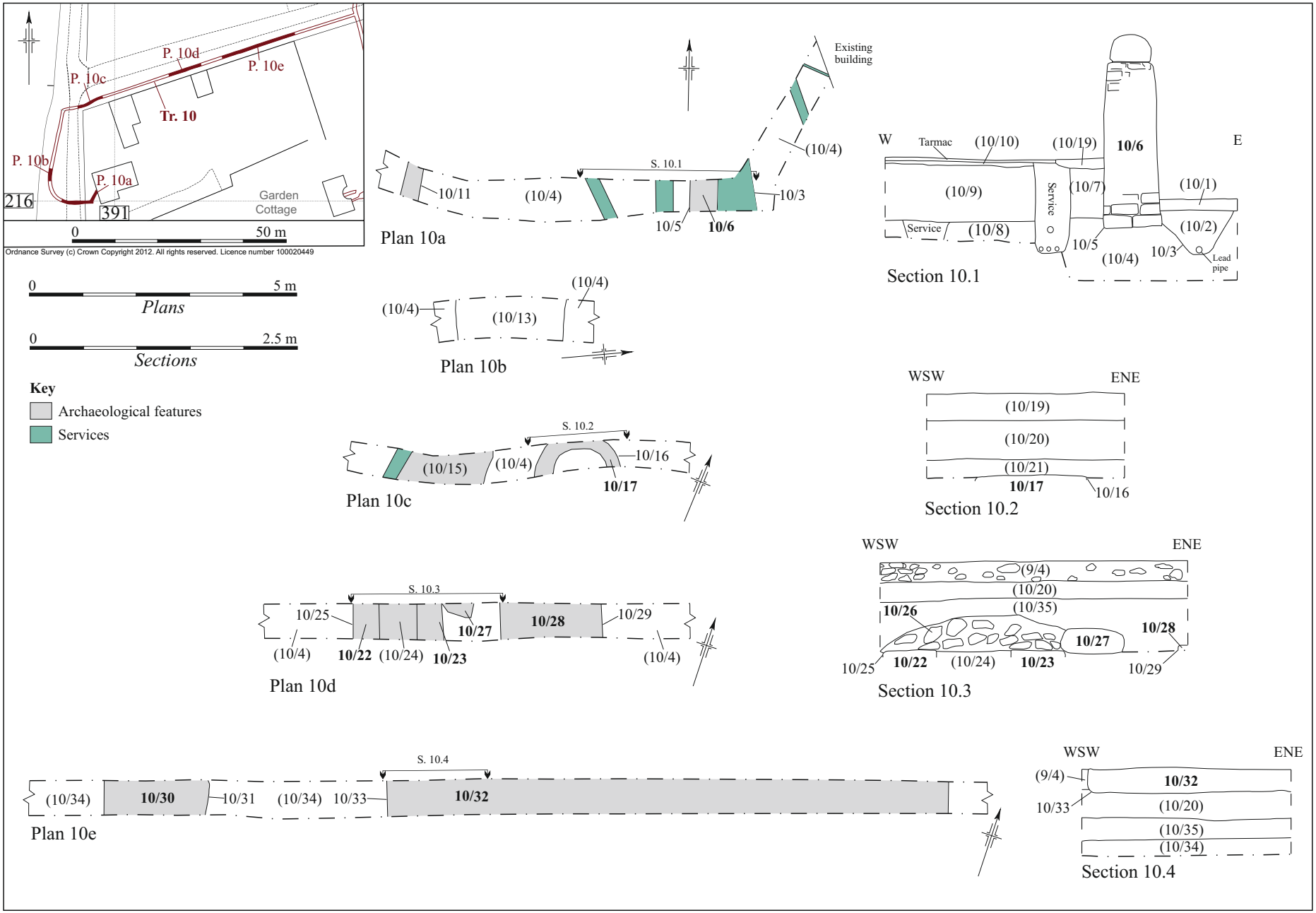

Figure 12. Plans and sections of Trench 10

features apart from the Ivy Nook cottages were recognised in Trench 11 that has no individual figure.

4.1 Stratigraphically Early Undated Features

Possible Early Settlement in the Timber Yard area, Trench 9
Trench 9 (Figs. 10-11) was located in the Timber Yard and Woodham Plantation on the north side of the Walled Garden. It is apparent that there are two clear phases in the northern part of this trench. The first of these includes a group of undated features, which are cut into the bedrock (9/3) but are generally sealed by layer (9/2), a subsoil or relic soil horizon. Though undated it is possible that these features could be peripheral to the undated settlement recognised in aerial photographs to the north of the Timber Yard (NMR SP32SE51: SP3922 2205). A second but smaller group of features truncate layer (9/2), and it is this latter group which have been associated with the probable 18th century establishment of the Timber Yard (see below).


Plate 1: Trench 9, Cut 9/11, large linear ditch

The natural (9/3) was a light grey brown clay. This was truncated by cuts 9/11, 9/18, 9/20, 9/22, 9/26, and 9/30 that were sealed by deposit (9/2) and cuts 9/13 and 9/15 that probably belonged to this earlier activity (certainly pre-18th century activity but possibly considerably older). Cut 9/11 was a ditch 4.7m wide and over 0.4m deep with gently sloping sides becoming steeper (Fig. 11, S 9.5; Plate 1). Fill (9/10) was a compact orange brown silt clay. This was the remains of a substantial feature probably a boundary ditch, either a linear boundary or part of an enclosure. There was no accompanying evidence of a bank and one can presume that this was possibly eroded in some way. Foundation cut 9/18 was a linear feature 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep with steep sides and a flat base, for wall 9/17 that was constructed of rough flat limestone rubble foundations bonded with brown clay (Fig. 11, S 9.11). As no parallel feature was noted then it is presumed that this structure was perhaps a stone field boundary. Cut 9/20 was a linear feature 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sides and a rounded base forming a gully or ditch (Fig. 11, S 9.7). Fill (9/19) was a compact dark red brown silt clay. Cut 9/22 was a linear feature 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base, also presumably a ditch or gully (Fig. 11, S 9.6). Fill (9/21) was a moderately compact red brown silt clay (though there

were variations possibly indicative of more than one similar fill). Cut 9/26 was an oval or round feature with steep sides and a flat base and was interpreted as a posthole with a vertical inclination (Fig. 11, S 9.10). Fill (9/25) was a moderately compact silt clay, no finds came from this fill but a piece of burnt daub was recovered near this feature but was unstratified. Cut 9/30 was presumably an oval or round feature with visible dimensions 0.5m across and 0.25m deep (Fig. 11, S 9.14). Fill (9/29) was a compact dark grey silt clay with charcoal fleck inclusions. Deposit (9/2), sealed all of these features, a compact orange silt clay.

Cut into the natural were features 9/13 and 9/15. Cut 9/13 was a linear ditch 1.7m wide and 0.57m deep with gentle sides becoming steeper with a rounded base (Fig. 11, S 9.3). The fill (9/12) was a compact red brown silt clay. Cut 9/15 was either an oval or round feature 1.4m wide and 0.45m deep (Fig. 11, S 9.4) or alternatively could be the termination of linear feature 9/13. The fill (9/14) was a compact red brown silt clay. These features underlay the modern makeup layer (9/16), see below.

4.2 Iron Age and Roman

Grim's Ditch, Trench 1
Trench 1 was located in Ditchley Park (Fig. 3), running east from Ditchley House. It joined Trenches 2 and 3 at its east end in the parkland. Trench 1 cut through the route of the Grim's Ditch, but as the service cut was only 0.8m deep it was only the bank and upper ditch fills that were disturbed and the lower ditch fills were undisturbed or potentially not seen.

The natural (1/8) around the Grim's Ditch contained more significant bands of Great Oolitic Limestone, with bands of clay. A further deposit (1/63) was a compact to highly compact orange yellow clay of which a depth of 0.15m was visible. This latter deposit may also have been part of deposit (1/8), but could have been re-deposited natural.

Plate 2: Trench 1, deposits (1/28), (1/59), and (1/32) with cut 1/44, forming Grim's Ditch Rampart.

The lowest level of the Grim's Ditch bank was formed by layer (1/64) a highly compact grey brown clay with limestone rubble inclusions at least 0.25m deep. This could have been a disturbed natural or was quite likely the lowest visible layer in the Grim's Ditch. Lying over the top of this was layer (1/28) that was a highly compact mid brown orange silt clay with frequent limestone inclusions, that overlay the natural (1/8). This implies that the ground surface had been removed prior to this event. This deposit was not bottomed all the way across and had a maximum visible depth of 0.5m and 7.5m wide (Plates 2 and 3). Truncating this deposit was cut 1/44 an oval or round feature 0.3m across and 0.2m deep with sharp sides and a rounded base (Fig. 2, S 1.5). The fill (1/33) was a soft dark grey silt clay with wood fragments. This represented the remains of a palisade post, a series of postholes along the ridge of the bank. Sealing deposit (1/33) was layer (1/59) a compact mid brown orange silt clay with some limestone inclusions measuring 0.15m in height and visibly at least 3.5m wide. Sealing deposit (1/59) was layer (1/32), a compact mid orange grey silt clay with limestone inclusions. This layer probably represents the last construction layer of the early bank. There appears from the deposits to be at least three periods of dumping on the vallum (simply implying a wall not a defensive structure) that are probably of an earlier date (there may be a later period of earth dumping, see below). These deposits although we have no precise dating are probably of a middle to later Iron Age construction.

Plate 3: Trench 1, dipping strata, with limestone fragments, at the back of the rampart, with stone free deposit (1/52) above.

The accompanying ditch on the north of the bank was orientated east to west, with the a major linear cut 1/31 possibly originally measuring up to 7.5m wide with a depth in excess of 0.5m. The earliest visible ditch fill (1/30) was a soft dark grey brown silt clay with orange mottling with a minimum depth of 0.5m. There are a number of distinct fills in the top of the trench that are part of other processes that are different from the earliest silting. There is possibly as many as four cuts but at least two that are apparent from looking primarily at the tip, none are dated precisely but as the bank in this area was used as a medieval parish boundary bank then this activity could potentially be considerably later. Linear feature 1/36 is the least convincing of the proposed cuts and may alternatively have been classed as a distinctive break in the silting of the original ditch. Feature 1/36 was a shallow cut or break that distinguishes

a fill originally over 4m wide and 0.35m deep with gentle to moderate sides and a rounded base (Plate 4). The shallow nature may mean that this was part of the process of silting but could also be indicative of a cut as it is classed here. The fill (1/37) was a compact yellow brown silt clay with limestone inclusions, defined by tip lines. Linear cut 1/38 survived to 1.8m wide but was probably originally 3m wide and 0.45m deep with moderate sloping sides and a V-shaped base. This cut did not confirm to normal silting processes and this is most certainly a recut of the ditch fill. The fill (1/39) was a compact grey brown silt clay with some limestone inclusions. This fill can be seen on Plate 4 as the distinctive more grey fill in the ditch fills. Ditch cut 1/40 was a linear feature of which 1m was still visible but was probably originally over 2.5m wide and over 0.65m deep with steep sides. Due to the way this cut truncates fill (1/37) it is apparent that this is most certainly a later ditch re-cut. The fill (1/41) was a compact mid brown silt clay with limestone inclusions, evident through its tip lines. Linear feature 1/42 measured 3.5m across and over 0.8m deep with moderate to steep sides the base was not seen. This feature could be described as a tip line in the fill of (1/41) although this interpretation would be problematic in that no corresponding silting occurs on the other side of the ditch thus indicating that this is more likely that of a cut rather than a secondary silting of cut 1/40. The fill (1/43), of cut 1/42, was a moderate to compact grey brown silt clay with fewer limestone inclusions.

Plate 4: Trench 1, tip lines in the centre of the north ditch indicating different fills of cuts 1/36, 1/38, 1/40, and 1/42.

To the south of the bank a small ditch or gully 1/27 could be identified cutting the natural (1/8) near the southern end of the immediate activity. Context 1/27 was a linear cut 0.5m wide and over 0.30m deep with steep sides. The fill (1/26) was a compact mid orange brown silt clay with limestone inclusions. Between the bank material of the Grim's Ditch and the gully/ditch 1/27 was an area (1/63) that was a possible natural or a disturbed natural deposit, see above. The feature 1/47 was the remains of either a possible linear cut or the sloping remains of an earlier ground surface, there was only part of a dipping profile visible towards the Grim's Ditch. This may be part of an indication that there was a ditch cut on the south side of the bank or there may have been a broader depression than is apparent now with the brow of the slope originally being around context 1/27. Layer (1/48) was a compact to

moderately compact red grey silt clay with limestone inclusions 9m long and visibly 0.35m deep. At the north end the deposit lies over the tip lines of the rampart of the Grim's Ditch. Layer (1/51) was a compact brown red silt clay with horizontal banding of the limestone inclusions measuring 0.35m thick and 3.2m long. This uniform layering is indicative of a bank construction over an earlier fill, with side cuts, but this could not be satisfactorily confirmed and the deposit was undated.

Linear cut 1/49 was 2.8m wide and over 0.6m deep with steep sides and an unseen base, that truncated fill (1/26) of ditch/gully 1/27, and layer (1/48). Fill (1/50) was a compact brown orange silt clay with grey lenses and limestone inclusions. Linear cut 1/57 was a feature 3.6m wide and 0.4m deep with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. The fill (1/58) was a moderately to compact silt clay with some smaller stone inclusions.

Deposit (1/52) was a moderately to compact orange brown silt clay with few if any limestone inclusions. This deposit lay over the south side of the bank of the Grim's Ditch and perhaps represents a later relic soil horizon or could be a far later attempt to raise the bank level. Linear cut or elongated hollow 1/53 was 2.3m wide and 0.5m deep with moderate sides and a rounded base. The fill (1/54) was a moderately compact grey orange silt clay with minimal or no inclusions. Linear cut or hollow 1/55 was 4m wide and 0.5m deep with moderate sloping sides and a rounded base. The fill (1/56) was a compact grey orange silt clay with minimal limestone inclusions. The reason for putting these deposits as linear features or possible hollows is that though they could be linear cuts, they could also be the creation of animal burrowing, hence hollows, in the bank or adjacent to it. Besides this there is the recognition that the bank was previously used as a parochial boundary which means potential ditch digging at a late date on both sides of the bank.

There were two distinct truncations, 1/45 and 1/62, in the top of the bank. Cut 1/45 was not properly definable in shape it could have been oval or round 0.2m deep and 1.07m across. The fill (1/46) was a moderately compact grey yellow silt clay with few limestone inclusions. Cut 1/62 is probably an oval or round feature being 1.4m wide and 0.28m deep with moderate sides becoming rounded and a flat base. The fill (1/29) was a light yellow brown limestone rubble with a silt clay matrix. These features could be due to later bioturbation, man or animal activity and are not illustrated.

To the north of the large ditch 1/31 was deposit (1/35) a compact mid orange grey silt clay with limestone inclusions measuring up to 0.3m deep. This is possibly part of a medieval agricultural soil horizon.

At the very south end of the section there is possible evidence for a further feature, either a cut or hollow 1/60 measuring 1m wide and 0.25m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base. This is possibly an area of disturbance from an animal or tree. The fill (1/61) was a moderately compact red grey silt clay.

Sealing deposits (1/29), (1/35), (1/43), (1/46), (1/56), (1/58), and (1/61) was layer (1/14) a moderately compact red brown clay sand 0.2m deep, which formed the topsoil.

No dating evidence was recovered from the line of the ditch, but dating has been recovered from sections through the monument in the past. These have suggested that

the ditch has a construction date in the late Iron Age to first century AD Roman period. The section through the bank in Ditchley Park is indicative of there being two phases of bank construction, with the first dump appearing to have a posthole probably supporting the palisade. There was a second dump above this, which is presumed to be a later phase of dumping. This means that the dating is problematic.

Discussion

Copeland (1988, 277-92) suggested that the Grim's Ditch system of banks fell into two major phases, which he referred to as circuit 1 and circuit 2. Circuit 1 construction was placed as being of a late Iron Age date, while circuit 2 was constructed in the early Roman period. Both phases he stated formed part of the same tradition. Dating was provided by an Iron Age occupation layer under the tail of the bank and early Roman pottery from under the lower fill of the ditch. Neither of these are particularly brilliant pieces of dating evidence in that the tail of a bank may be so located due to later spread, while the ditch may have been constantly cleaned up till the early Roman period, and at this point the system was allowed to decay. Early Roman material was recovered from the ditch fill in a section through the Grim's Ditch in 2006 (Wessex Archaeology 2006). It is also apparent that different designs were noted in different areas, some of which contained evidence of a palisade trench (Copeland 1988, 277-92).

The present mode of construction of the Grim's Ditch is probably too simplistic. It may be the case that two major circuits do belong to two distinct phases and that the ditch system was allowed to silt up in the early Roman period although there has to be further caveats. In Copeland's (1988, 277-92) list of described profiles there is much variation. The Circuit 1 was underlaid at one location by a banjo enclosure, see above. This means that Circuit 1 was constructed on our present evidence between the middle Iron Age and the early Roman period. The new section was cut by machine through part of Circuit 1, where it is apparent that there are three potential deposits in the section, with the lowest deposit containing evidence of a central palisade trench or row of posts along the summit of the bank. This has to be covered by two later deposits which indicate that there are probably three periods of deposition on the bank.

Stemming from work at Maiden Castle, Dorset, it has become apparent that many Iron Age vallum were not constructions of a single well defined activity. In this case Sharples (1991) suggested that the vallum took some 300 years of dumping to reach its final form. It was noted at Crickley Hill, Gloucestershire, that the stone vallum was also not constructed in a single phase but that it was constructed by gangs over a far longer period of time (Dixon 1994). The fortification at Wasperton was initially interpreted as a late Iron Age defensive system, yet re-analysis by Booth (1990, 1-3) suggested that the site started out as at least a middle Iron Age structure and that the datable material had only come from a later process of dumping further material on the vallum. The Grim's Ditch is an Iron Age vallum, but rather than see this as a sudden event and related to political activity in the pre-Roman Conquest, we should perhaps envisage that there were long term processes perhaps over centuries in which sections of ditches were laid out and that these were added to and altered over time. It is apparent that successive layers (1/64), (1/28), (1/59), and (1/32) must represent consecutive builds or distinct phases in the dumping process. From the available data we have no idea over how long this process took. Other recognisable nemetons such

as the Hob's Causeway in the Arden Forest, and the banks in Malvern Chase appear to have a construction date that commences in the later Bronze Age to early Iron Age.

The largest identifiable ditch is on the north side, which was possibly up to 7.5m wide originally with an unknown depth. It is apparent that there was an initial large cut with at least two later cuts but probably at least four, of which the first two re-cuts were shallow and did not extend over all of the width of the ditch but most of it. These could be prehistoric or Roman. The latter two ditches cover half of the original ditch width and appear to be cut above the level of the rampart so it is presumed that these are of a medieval creation.

On the south side of the rampart it is apparent that there are a number of cuts, but what is most significant is that the new service trench was not deep enough to determine if there had been another large ditch here. It is apparent that there may have been smaller outer ditches on the approach to the larger rampart, though these are undated. The space on the south side of the Grim's Ditch rampart (ditch or natural hollow) gradually filled. On this fill there are indications of a deposit with horizontal layering of its limestone inclusions. Such layering is indicative of deposition, not cutting with tip lines. It is possible that an upper bank may once have existed although this cannot be confirmed, rather we should leave the situation as not satisfactorily explained through the keyhole excavation. There is a further deposit on the back of the rampart, with other possible cuts or hollows; all are undated, but some of the later features could be medieval or possibly post-medieval.

4.3 Medieval

Probable Chapel, Trench 2
One of the most unexpected finds was that of a significant medieval structure on the north facing bank just to the north of the Grim's Dyke in part of the pipe run designated Trench 2 (Fig. 4). The structure contained few finds other than a significant number of roof tiles, which appear to be loosely dated to the medieval period.

Deposit (2/3) consisted of natural limestone banding and marl beds. The natural was truncated by two foundation cuts 2/18 and 2/20, 4.6m apart. Foundation or terrace cut 2/18 was of a linear nature being over 0.9m wide with vertical sides and a presumed flat base although the latter was not seen. Wall 2/19 was made of limestone with roughly squared stone that was bonded by a brown clay (Fig. 4, Plan 2c; Plate 5). The new service cut appears to clip the edge of a non-right angled corner which was located on the very edge of the trench on the east side (which is not shown on the plan 2c). Foundation cut 2/20, located on the opposite side of the building, was 0.74m wide and over 0.5m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. Wall 2/21 was also made of limestone with roughly squared blocks being bonded with a brown clay. The similarities of wall constructions (though a slight variation in size was detected) are indicative of these being the walls of the same building. It could be assumed to have either a rectangular end to the structure, or if the apparent non right-angled corner is anything to go by some form of polygonal end. This type of ending on a building may be significant in deciding what the structure is. Between these walls 2/19 and 2/21 was the remains of a stone floor 2/22, made of small flat topped limestone paving (Plate 6). There was a 1m width that remained in good condition at the base of the service trench and as much as 3.4m that survived in any form, good or fragmentary.

The depth of the floor was 0.08m deep. There was no evidence of occupation debris on the floor, probably indicative of a site kept relatively clean. These deposits are considered to be of a medieval date, due to finds and wall sizes, possibly as early as the 12th century. The expenditure incurred here is indicative of this being one of the key medieval structures in Ditchley, either a hall or perhaps the chancel of Ditchley chapel. Indeed the possible polygonal end is indicative of this also.

Plate 5: Trench 2, medieval wall 2/19 of possible chapel.

The floor was sealed by layer (2/23) a compact grey brown silt clay containing frequent limestone fragments and measuring 0.54m deep and 5m wide. This deposit is a destruction layer associated with the collapse or even the deliberate destruction of the building. Deposit (2/24) sealed parts of layer (2/23). Context (2/24) was a compact yellow grey silt clay with frequent limestone fragments measuring 0.45m deep. Some of this scatter may possibly originated as cobbling to the north of the structure, but in the section it was not possible to make a clear distinction.

Plate 6: Remains of stone flooring 5/22.

Deposit (2/16) lay to the south of the building slightly overlapping the top of wall 2/19. Context (2/16) was a moderately compact yellow silt clay with a few inclusions of limestone and measured 0.36m deep. Deposit (2/17) lay across the building and to its north and was a compact yellow grey silt clay with small limestone fragments measuring 0.48m deep. These deposits were sealed by layer (2/15) the topsoil in this part of the trench. Context (2/15) was a moderately compact brown grey silt clay 0.22m deep, which contained part of a wine bottle rim (perhaps for communion).

A badly eroded Roman coin was recovered from the spoil in the vicinity of this building. The structure contained tile fabrics that would seem to be of a medieval date, which are unlike Roman tegulae.

Comment
The building was a substantial building some 6m wide (externally) of a medieval date (roughly dated by the roof tiles recovered). The structure was orientated east to west. It is highly likely that this structure with its walls that were built of rubble stone and roughly 1m wide were the walls of the chapel that is first mentioned in textual sources in 1175, see above. The east end wall and north and south walls identified were probably that of the east end of the chancel. The east wall was possibly not square and the structure may have had a slightly polygonal end, a compromise between being round and fully half of an octagon. No burials were located in the area, but few would be expected Ditchley Chapel was annexed to the mother church of Enstone and burials would be taken from the hamlet to the mother church. Burials could have only been placed at Ditchley Chapel with express licence and this possibly only happened on one or two occasions throughout its existence.

Undated features to the north of the medieval building, Trench 2
Trench 2 (Fig. 4) contained a number of other features, which could be of a medieval date. Ditch cut 2/11 that truncated the natural geology (2/3) was a linear feature 3.2m wide and over 0.3m deep (Fig. 4, Plan 2a) with gently rounded shoulders and a moderately sloping side. The fill (2/10) was a compact red clay. The purpose of this linear feature was difficult to determine; it could be part of a down slope ditch of the Grim's Ditch, or equally as feasible it could be part of an upslope enclosure boundary for the medieval building interpreted above as a chapel. Either way its associations would provide the date. At the moment it is considered that it is probably the latter which is the case, as no indications have been produced elsewhere along the course of the Grim's Ditch to suggest that there are multiple ditches running parallel to each other. However, at other nemeton sites, for example the Hobditch in the Forest of Arden, three banks with accompanying ditches are known to exist. The fill was sealed by layer (2/2) a compact red sand clay with some limestone inclusions measuring 0.3m deep. This deposit occurred sporadically along the course of the service trench cut and probably developed where bioturbation occurred. This was sealed by topsoil layer (2/1), a moderately compact brown grey sand clay 0.3m deep from which a single sherd of pottery dated to the 19th century was recovered. The topsoil is under a constant process of development and undoubtedly contains far later material than one would expect in the underlying earlier features.

On the south side of this ditch are a small number of discreet features. Cut directly into the natural (2/3) are truncations 2/5 and 2/7 (Fig. 4, Plan 2b). Linear cut 2/5 measured 1m wide and 0.45m deep having gently sloping sides and a rounded base.

Fill (2/4) is a compact light yellow3 brown clay. Cut 2/7 was probably of an oval shape measuring 1.25m across and 0.25m deep with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. Fill (2/6) was a compact red clay. This feature may have been the result of tree activity. Overlying these deposits is layer (2/2). Cut through layer (2/2) was cut 2/9 a circular feature measuring 0.5m across by 0.5m deep. Fill (2/8) was a moderately compact brown black sand clay. These were sealed by layer (2/1). It has been assumed that these features, if they lie inside an enclosure possibly of medieval date, that they relate to this period of activity.

Agricultural soils, Trench 2

A short spur was located coming off Trench 2 (Fig. 4) towards the New Cottages. In this trench it was possible to note the Great Oolite Limestone (2/34), over which more clay and marl deposits in the natural (2/3) lay. Overlying both of these deposits was layer (2/33). Cut into (2/3) were truncations 2/27, 2/29 and 2/31. Linear cut 2/27 was 1.8m wide and 0.3m deep with gentle sides and a rounded base (Fig. 4, Plan 2d). The fill (2/28) was a moderately compact red brown clay. Linear cut 2/29 was 0.78m wide and 0.34m deep, which had moderately sloping sides and a rounded base (Fig. 4, Plan 2e). The fill (2/30) was a compact brown red clay. The last of these cut features 2/31 was 3m wide and 0.1m deep, with gentle sides and a flat base. The fill (2/32) was a compact red brown clay. These deposits are very similar to (2/33) and it is likely that they are all formed through the same process, possibly agricultural. The deposit (2/26) covering these apparent cuts was a moderately compact red brown silt clay 0.18m deep. This deposit has been cut by a number of services and foundation cuts associated with the New Cottages. Sealing most of the earlier deposits was topsoil (2/25) a moderately compact black grey silt clay.

Agricultural soils and an earlier feature, Trench 7

Further agricultural soils were identifiable in Trench 7 (Fig. 9). The natural (7/3) was a highly compact light brown grey clay. Truncating the natural was cut 7/15 an oval or round pit surviving to 1.1m across where visible and 0.4m deep with moderate sides and a rounded base (Fig. 9, Plan 7b).. Fill 7/14 was a compact brown silt clay with limestone inclusions. This was the remains of a large pit or scoop, possibly for clay extraction as no evidence of rubbish deposition occurred. The feature was essentially undated. Truncating fill 7/14 was linear cut 7/17 measuring 1.5m wide and 0.35m deep with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base and is possibly a furrow. Fill (7/16) was a compact light orange silt clay with limestone inclusions. If as suspected this was the base of a furrow then we should consider that the feature is probably of a medieval agricultural origin, as are the other red soils in this trench and the spur of Trench 2.

Also in this trench overlying the natural (7/3) was deposit (7/20) a compact brown red clay 0.25-0.3m deep. This deposit appeared to form a right angled corner as though this was the boundary of a field or agricultural piece of ground. This forms a subsoil, probably from ploughing. The relationship between this deposit and those abutting it are difficult to ascertain, but it is assumed that these deposits were created by later dumping of road surfaces.

Also overlying the natural (7/3) was deposit (7/18) a compact orange silt clay 0.2m deep. This is again probably part of a subsoil or agricultural soil. This deposit was sealed by topsoil (7/19) a moderately compact grey black silt clay 0.2m deep.

4.4 Early Post-Medieval: 16th and 17th centuries

Ditchley Threshing Barn

The Barn (Fig. 2 and Plate 7) was identified as a structure with considerable history and probably an evolutionary process over some 350 years or so (the later Victorian phases and modern phases are mentioned here so that the barn is discussed as a whole). The barn originally started as a Threshing Barn probably in the 17th century or early 18th century at the very latest. A date of this period has been suggested due to the artefacts recovered from the site (see below), and also due to the dates of the maps on which the structure can be recognised. The Edward Grantham map of Ditchley for 1726 shows this structure, however, the map of 1863 does not and one has to assume has been omitted. The Ordnance Survey maps 1:25,000 show the barn as existing in 1881, 1899, and 1922, while the map of 1976 shows that alterations had taken place to the structure.

The bedrock in the area was context (5) a highly compact light grey clay, with lenses of blue and orange clays in other areas. There was banding of Great Oolitic Limestone (7) in this area, through the clays, though this was predominantly noticed in the southern area of the barn. In the western part of the site it was apparent that there was either a weathered natural, context (4), or a make-up layer of compact blue grey clay some 0.44m deep, with an unknown extent. Covering this in some places was deposit (3) a moderately compact mid brown silt clay 0.02m deep, which is probably a relic soil horizon.

Phase 1 (17th century) saw a number of foundation cuts into the above deposits, which marked out part of the original barn and include foundation cuts 23 and 19, which represent the original north and southeast ends of the barn. There were also foundation cuts 9 and 10 that formed an appendage on the southwest side of the original barn. All of these cuts had vertical sides and flat bases, with widths of approximately 0.5m. The cuts were extremely shallow and did not exceeded 0.1m. Foundation cut 19 was filled with the limestone wall 20, which still stood at the south end of the building; it was about 8.3m in length. The top of the gable had been reshaped. The northwest wall 24 of the building was uncovered, and survived mainly as a foundation. There was about 5m of this structure visible. The wall was mainly 0.47m in width but in a central part up to 0.6m wide. There may have originally been a butt joint in the wall but insufficient depth of the wall was uncovered. It is difficult to determine if walls 11 (in foundation 10) and 8 (in foundation 9) were part of the original design. These two walls are approximately 5m in length. There appears to have been evidence of a further cut 44 through the centre of the threshing barn, which ran between the large doors. This was a terrace some 3.7m wide and 11m long, and would originally have been the location of the threshing floor. A terrace occurred here because the barn is on a slope, this would have meant that the internal floor to the south was raised above or to the height of the threshing floor, and that to the north fell away. In the base of the cut there was evidence of context 16 limestone paviours, but what survived was very fragmentary. There may also have been some evidence for this on the upper terrace.

The reason for placing the origins of this structure in the 17th century is due to the local limestone roof tiles noted about the building. In the mid to late part of the 18th century local tiles were being replaced by slate tiles. Ditchley House was dated 1722, and is in a neo-classical design. The roofing material here has to be imported slate

(non-local) and thus indicates that slate probably from Cornwall was reaching Ditchley at the very early part of the 18th century. This spawned a uniform roofing style on the estate and is thus indicative of the barns date of being pre-1720.

Plate 7: Internal view of barn prior to alterations.

Phase 2 (19th century) of the barn saw the rebuilding of the east wall of the barn. The foundation cut 21 was 8.5m long. The wall 22 of limestone rubble showed different aspects to its structure and a date of 1832 was supposedly inscribed on one of the upper stones of the wall.

The remaining alterations all must have occurred in the 20th century, but having stated this there are probably two phases as one group of elements constructed were in brick and the other used breezeblocks. If this is the case then Phase 3a would have seen the use of the building altered. The paving was partially removed. In the west entrance context (2) was a moderately compact orange sand with a depth of 0.2m (Fig. 2, S 1). Sealing this sand were pitched limestone cobbles (1) measuring roughly 300mm x 200mm x 90mm. The cobbles covered an area 3.77m x 4.79m (Fig. 2). In the central part of the barn it was possible to identify context (17) a weak mortar cement mix with rubble and silt loam intermixed (Fig. 2, S 4). Overlying this was paving 18, which was made of red frogged bricks and edged with concrete. Above the paving (16) in the eastern entrance was a layer (15) of compact brown grey clay with stone fragment inclusions measuring 0.2-0.25m deep (Fig. 2, S 3). The fill contained part of a salt glazed pipe so presumably this was part of a service trench cut axially. Deposit (15) was sealed by deposit (14) a compact orange grey clay with pebble and rubble fragments measuring 0.1-0.2m in depth. This probably formed part of the carriageway into the barn. Deposit (15) was truncated by linear cut 47, which was 0.5m wide and 0.05m deep. This had vertical sides and a flat base. Cut 47 was filled by wall 46, a low retaining wall or boundary wall built mainly of roughly squared limestone blocks, which had capstones, probably reused measuring between 1m long and 0.55m wide.

Cut through deposit (14) was cut 13, a steep sided linear cut with a flat base and with a number of larger cuts placed into its course. This was filled with a brick structure possibly a culvert, but it was not overly apparent that the feature was designed to carry water. Parts of this cut and culvert were identified outside the building also. The

feature obviously was important in some type of agricultural process, but the exact function has not been determined. External to the building on the west side was cut 37 presumed to be linear, measuring 0.8m across by 0.4m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The cut contained structure 38 a brick structure 0.5m wide and 0.24m deep, bonded with a white blue mortar. It is presumed that this was originally something built against the limestone wall 11. The cut was backfilled by deposit (39) which was a moderately compact grey brown silt clay.

There were two other event horizons which can be categorised as being part of Phase 3b (Modern). These were associated with the breezeblock walls. On the northwest end of the building the old threshing barn was slighted, parts of the walls were witnessed lying horizontally in context (29) a rubble and mortar matrix, which covered wall 24. These were sealed by rubble spreads of context (30) which contained the native limestone roof tiles, which are indicative of the building having an earlier 17th century date. Two foundation cuts 33 and 35 truncated these deposits and a breeze block wall 31 was constructed between. The foundation cuts were practically identical and filled with concrete (34) and (36) to support part of the steel structure of the new barn. A further part of the south wall was dismantled with a new foundation cut 27 and a breezeblock wall built 28. This was as part of an extension on the south side of the building, for which concrete pads are noted. Internally these features associated with both Phase 3 parts were covered by a skim of concrete context (6). The shape of the roof must also have been altered at this time.

Cuts 40 and 42 could only be identified as cutting into the bedrock (5). They were both probably of a round or oval shape with moderate sloping sides. Cut 40 had a sharp pointed profile and measured 0.5m across and 0.4m deep and cut 42 had a more rounded base and measured 0.4m across and 0.3m deep. The fills (41) and (43) were compact light grey to light brown grey silt clays with stone inclusions. It was difficult to place these features; they could have been earlier postholes part of the line of the barn's protruding wall, indicative of an earlier timber frame. This was possible, but not over convincing, or possibly some disturbance along the line of the wall. These were sealed by topsoil (32) a compact brown silt clay with stone inclusions 0.1m deep.

The topsoil (45) on the west side and north side of the building sealed the brick structure 12 and also the wall 46. It was a moderately compact brown black silt clay on average 0.1m thick.

Building by the Threshing Barn

To the west of the threshing barn there was evidence of a further building with walls surviving (Fig. 2). The foundation cut 25 of the building is cut into the natural deposit (5), a clay (see above). The foundation cut 25 is T-shaped with vertical sided cuts and a flat base. The foundations would have been extremely shallow and not have exceeded 0.1m. The wall 26 was constructed of limestone and was bonded. There was part of a salt glazed pipe trap near the end of the southern arm of the T-shape, but it was impossible to note if this was an integral part of this structure or if the location was just random. It is suspected that the latter was the case. The wall was sealed by deposit (32), a topsoil. The location of the building, if it was a building and not just walling, is problematic in a number of ways when its location to the threshing barn is considered. The main surviving north to south wall lies across the line of the central barn thus obstructing passage and wind flow, suggesting that it is either part of an

older building or that the original tithe barn lacked the earlier western extension. The alternative is that this was a short lived structure which was in operation after the threshing barn had been altered and was no longer used for that purpose.

Boundary ditches and quarries to the south and east of the barn, Trenches 2 & 4
In the south part of Trench 2 (Fig. 4) the remains of a medieval site was identified. It is suggested that the building was substantial and high status, but with few finds, and could be the location of Ditchley's medieval chapel. In the lower, south, part of the trench there were significant bands of Great Oolitic Limestone (2/34). This limestone bedrock was obviously a well liked commodity and would appear to have been quarried in a number of locations. Located in the bank to the south of the barn in Trench 2 there is a distinct break in the limestone bands numbered feature 2/41. Initially it was thought that this break could be part of the natural, however, when Trench 4 was excavated from the barn it became apparent that a number of cuts in this area were hollows and depressions probably associated with quarrying, because their backfill was clearly anthropogenic in origin. The material upslope from this was context (2/40) which was a compact yellow brown silt clay with frequent limestone fragment inclusions that was 0.7m deep at least. The deposit could easily be interpreted as part of a quarry fill although no finds were recovered and the deposit was undated. No quarries are marked here on the 18th and 19th century maps so presumably, the quarry is of an earlier date. Cut into the top of this deposit was feature 2/35 a linear foundation trench 1m wide and 0.3m deep with moderately steep sides and a rounded base. The wall 2/36 was a limestone dry stone wall with foundations splayed to 0.88m wide and the wall above this 0.68m wide (Fig. 4, Plan 2f). The backfill (2/37) in the trench was a moderately compact grey silt with limestone fragments. Overlying the backfill on the north side is deposit (2/38) a moderately compact black organic silt clay with limestone inclusions some 0.22m deep and about 8m wide. Overlying deposit (2/38) was context (2/42) a moderately compact brown grey silt clay with frequent limestone and brick inclusions, which represented the road surface and more modern make-up near the barn. On the south side of the wall covering the backfill was deposit (2/39) a moderately compact black brown silt clay measuring 0.24m deep and about 1m wide.

In Trench 4 (Fig. 6) there would seem to be other locations uncovered where quarrying disturbance may have occurred. The Great Oolite Limestone (4/3) here would seemed to have variations: some breaking in blocks and other bands breaking into narrower layers useful for dry stone walling and tiling. There was a band of other material running through the bedrock; it was not possible to determine the exact nature of this as to whether it was a material in a cut or a different band in the strata. A cut 4/7 number was allocated but no dimensions determined other than what was visible was 1.7m wide. Fill or layer in the natural (4/6) was a compact light grey clay powder with limestone fragments. Truncating deposit (4/6) was linear cut 4/4 a cut 4.3m wide at the top, with a gentle shoulder becoming steeper (Fig. 6, Plan 4d). The fill (4/5) was a compact brown orange clay that contained part of an animal leg bone. Cut 4/52 was a vertical cut in the bedrock and seemed to be at a location where seams of limestone rock had been followed into the hillside. The fill (4/2) of the quarry was an orange yellow grey sand clay with limestone inclusions, a single sherd of pottery was recovered dated to the late 18th century and six fragments of animal bone. The sherd is indicative of any quarry features in this area being backfilled in the latter part of the 18th century and could tie in with the dates of 1760 and 1777 when reports of work in the park are documented. This implies that the latest that this quarry could

have commenced is the early 18th century, but such quarries may have been active for a number of years if not centuries. Layer (4/1) a topsoil composed of a compact brown grey sand clay 0.22m deep containing part of a leg bone sealed deposit (4/2).

Also cut into the Great Oolite Limestone (4/3) is a further quarry pit 4/39 (Fig. 6, Plan 4e). This quarry cut was over 0.9m deep and 8m long. Backfill (4/40) was the lowest recognised layer in the quarry being a compact yellow grey silt clay with inclusions of limestone fragments and brick being over 0.52m deep. The brick had the appearance and dimensions of a Tudor examples and thus it is suggested that the quarry has a 16th century date or earlier. Foundation cut 4/42 was of a linear shape measuring 0.9m wide and over 0.23m deep with vertical sides. The base of the cut was not revealed. Within it was wall 4/41 that was of rubble limestone and bonded with a clay earth. Deposit (4/47) lay to the west of the wall and was a compact white clay lime mortar mix with limestone inclusions. It had the appearance of a floor surface that butted up to the west side of the wall. However, no wall was found on the other side to indicate a building, although at the time it was considered that the wall and part of the floor had probably sunk into the backfill of the quarry. The other wall built on bedrock outside the quarry may not have survived. From the date of the quarry it is possible to suggest a 17th century date for this build, but with unstable construction may not have lasted long. On the east side of the wall were a series of layers that had built up over deposit (4/40). The first of these was layer (4/43), not shown on illustration, a compact black brown silt clay containing fragments of limestone. Layer (4/44) was a compact black grey silt clay 0.13m deep sealed (4/43). Layer (4/45) was a compact yellow clay 0.1m thick and could represent a laid surface. Layer (4/46), sealed both deposits (4/45) and (4/47) and was a compact black grey clay 0.1m deep. Lying on the bedrock (4/3) outside the quarry cut is context (4/48) a compact black grey silt clay with frequent limestone inclusions. This deposit merged with that of (4/46). Layer (4/49) sealed deposit (4/48) and the top deposit (4/46) in the quarry fill. Context (4/49) was a compact yellow grey clay with frequent limestone brick and other rubble being 0.15m deep. This was a modern makeup layer forming a recent road part of it laid for access to the barn, some of the lower layer was earlier.

Building, Trench 4

There is a building in Trench 4 (Fig. 6) that occurs on the estate map of 1726, but it is only on this map and does not appear on any later ones.

The bedrock here is again the Oolitic Limestone (4/3). There is a cut 4/53 into the bedrock (4/3), presumed to be rectangular in shape (Fig. 6, Plan 4d). The cut was over 0.5m deep and about 4.6m wide, it was not bottomed and the full depth is unknown. In this cut were the remains of two wall foundations. Wall foundation 4/12 was constructed of limestone rubble visibly surviving to 4 or 5 courses and was 0.5m wide, but had at this point been truncated by an earlier service trench. Wall foundation 4/13 was also of limestone with a width of 1m surviving, it also contained 4-5 courses visibly. As the base of the cut was not identified the bases of the walls were not located, thus the full extent and design of the building below this point remains unknown. The building would appear to be sunken in form with the walls constructed inside the cut. The backfill (4/14) was a moderately compact brown grey clay with limestone fragments and bricks. An unstratified square nail was recovered from the spoil alongside the trench. From the soil attached to it, it was probably the case that it came from this context (4/14). These lower deposits were sealed by a series of layers (4/11), (4/10), (4/9) and (4/8). Layer (4/11) was a compact dark black grey silt clay

0.2m deep. Sealing this was layer (4/10) a compact black cinder silt 0.05m deep. Sealing this was layer (4/9) a compact brown grey clay 0.1m deep. Above this was layer (4/8) a compact brown grey sand clay 0.1m deep. These deposits sealing the structure are the result of fire, so it is presumed possible that the structure was thatched and timber framed. The structure does not appear to be on the earliest maps of Ditchley and it is presumed from this that it is an earlier building perhaps of the 16th or 17th century, possibly earlier. The firing of the building is indicative of deliberate destruction, perhaps for the founding of the park. The burnt deposits were sealed by topsoil (4/1).

Discussion of Icehouse

The purpose of this building is difficult to fathom as it would be a sunken feature near a stream, with a timber frame superstructure. One possibility is that this structure represents an icehouse or ice pit, a sunken structure usually constructed next to a water source, two criteria that the building matches. Medieval traditions in Britain for the construction of icehouses are very limited (Buxbaum 1992, 3), but presumably from Buxbaum's statements they must exist here and on the continent. The icehouse as a significant architectural feature developed in Italy and was introduced on a far broader scale and with recognisable designs into Britain through upper class tours at the beginning of the 17th century (Buxbaum 1992, 3-5). One of the earliest recorded icehouses in Britain was at Greenwich in 1619. The structure was described as a bricked out well 30ft deep (9.1m) and 16ft across (4.8m). The well was covered with a timber and thatched superstructure. A further structure of a similar design was constructed near Greenwich in 1621 and another at Hampton Court in 1625. These features were used to supply summer deserts and chill wine. In 1626 Francis Bacon found that a dead fowl packed in ice could be preserved. John Evelyn discussed the design of icehouses in 1644, but these were not illustrated until 1683. Further icehouses are known to have been constructed in 1666 at St James', London; 1670 at Windsor Castle, and in 1693 at Chatsworth. One drawback with this suggestion is the construction of the walls in the well area with limestone, the perpetual frost and ice due to the stones porous nature, would wreck havoc with these. The neighbouring park of Blenheim is known to have had an icehouse constructed in 1707 or just after (VCH 1990, 460-470). The Duke of Marlborough requested this in a letter; the response from his wife at the time was that it would take three years to complete due to the local lack of expertise (Buxbaum 1992, 4). Indeed even though these structures were built it was claimed that construction techniques were not mastered until the late 18th century. One could perhaps see the structure as an experimental icehouse constructed in a region in which brick had not yet replaced stone in traditional building. The cut of the building extends below the limestone bedrock, and as yet no documentary sources have been noted for the existence of an early icehouse, but that is not to say that it is not, and that references may in the future be found to support this suggestion.

Wall under Lower House, Trench 4

In Trench 4 (Fig. 6) is the Lower House (a listed building), and under this listing it is suggested that the structure is of the later 18th century. However, a structure is located in this position on the estate map of 1726, and occurs on the map of 1863, and then on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1881, 1899, 1922 and 1976. On all maps it appears to be of a similar size and design and it should be questioned if the stylistic dating of the Lower House at Ditchley Park is correct.

The natural in this part of the valley was layer (4/55) a highly compact to tenacious yellow clay with blue lenses. Truncating the natural was foundation cut 4/31 a linear cut with undetermined dimensions due to later drainage trenches in this area, although what survived indicated that it had to be over 0.25m wide (probably twice this). Wall 4/30 was of squared limestone blocks and was part of a substantial wall on a different alignment to the rear of Lower House (Fig. 6, Plan 4a). The wall was bonded by brown yellow clay. Only one wall was found, insufficient to assume that this was a building, so we have to consider that this was either the remains of a substantial boundary wall or an earlier building. Deposit (4/54), lay alongside wall 4/30, being a yellow brown gravel up to 0.05m deep deposited over clay natural. This was not convincing enough to be categorically identified as a floor surface but did indicate that different activities were being carried on either side of the wall. Perhaps it was a hardcore layer on which a surface was to be laid. Overlying the gravel deposit and the wall was layer (4/32) a compact grey yellow clay with limestone blocks and red brick inclusions 0.5m deep in places. This clay was probably a levelling layer before the construction of the Lower House. The date of the wall's construction was not determined, but what could be suggested is that it pre-dated the Lower House a structure believed to be of the late 18th century (OHER 25025). It is noted that an L-shaped structure lies in the location of Lower House on Grantham's map of 1726. The building does have a similar plan to that evident at Lower House, which means that the suggested listing dates are rather conservative or that the building shown is that associated with the wall identified in Trench 4. Either way it is suggestive that the wall is part of a feature that was either in existence at the beginning of the 18th century or later 17th century, or if the building on the map is Lower House in an earlier form that the wall underneath has to belong to a period before 1726 at least.

Walls, Trench 6

Observations were made in Trench 6 (Fig. 8); this was a new BT service trench little more than 0.3m wide and 0.4m deep. The lowest deposit (6/4) was a compact grey silt clay of an unknown depth. This deposit was truncated by cuts 6/8, 6/9, and 6/10. Cut 6/8 is treated as a linear feature 0.5m wide with vertical sides, although the depth of the trench could not confirm this. Wall 6/5 was of limestone and at least 0.5m thick. Cut 6/9 was a linear feature presumed to be 0.5m wide with vertical sides. Wall 6/6 was of limestone and probably 0.5m thick. Linear cut 6/10 was probably also 0.5m wide with vertical sides. Wall 6/7 was a limestone structure with 0.3m width uncovered but was probably of a similar width to the other walls. Deposit (6/3) was a compact orange clay which had an unknown depth 0.05m in places. The deposit covered the walls 6/5, 6/6, and 6/7 and lay either side of them. The finds in this layer included two handmade nails (not retained) that are indicative of a structure in this area dating to before the early 18th century and before the surviving estate maps. Layer (6/2) was a compact black grey fine silt clay containing rubble inclusions with a depth of about 0.15m. Layer (6/1) was a moderately compact mid grey silt clay 0.2m deep, which formed a topsoil. One unstratified find from along the line of the ditch was a piece of bottle glass that contained the emblem of the Duke of Lichfield. The stamp on the glass wine bottle is of interest because it is the only datable cultural object from the vicinity of the structure although not clearly provenanced in any context. Bottles were made for wine in the beginning of the 17th century. In the 17th and 18th century it became fashionable for men of wealth to have bottles produced in their own bottles with their seal or emblem embossed on the shoulder (Hedges 1975, 7-8). The seal of the Earl of Lichfield was used on the bottle, and the tile was used at Ditchley from 1674 to 1776 (Corbett 2006, 204-228). The Stable block is on a plan of

1726 but there is no structure in the location of this building so it is assumed that this structure is at least of the late 17th century. The narrow trench that was opened up allowed us to recognise the wall foundations but did not allow for any proper interpretation of the buildings purpose.

4.5 Imperial: 18th century

Ditchley House and environs, Trench 1
Trench 1 (Fig. 3) commenced at Ditchley House (the course is described fully above in respect to the Grim's Ditch through which it also passes). The natural (1/8) was composed of a compact red silt clay with limestone inclusions. This was probably a limestone marl Cornbrash with powdery bands of limestone. It was only out into the parkland proper that one encountered the banding of Great Oolite Limestone properly.

The House is known to have been built in 1722, so it is generally assumed here that the features associated with the house, and the features of the accompanying road way are of an early 18th century date. There were also two other probable ditches noted out in the parkland, which appeared to run parallel to the road. They are not dated but due to their orientation it is assumed that they are also probably of this general date.

The earliest feature cut into the natural was terrace cut (1/2). The true extent of this cut was not determined but it is apparent that it was over 0.4m deep, which is where it extended below the base of the new service trench (Fig. 3, Plan 1a). Built on the terrace was Ditchley House with wall 1/34 (not illustrated), no foundation cut in the terrace was visible. The wall was of ashlar limestone blocks, and contained a plinth. Laying against the terrace cut was deposit (1/3) a compact yellow brown sand clay with limestone inclusions that was 2m wide and probably over 0.4m deep. This was considered to be a make-up layer associated with the construction of the house. Though it remained unresolved it is possible that deposit (1/6) is of a similar origin to that of (1/3) being debris from construction. Deposit (1/6) is a compact brown yellow clay with limestone inclusions, and was visible between the wall of Ditchley House and a further feature. Deposits (1/3) and (1/6) lay either side of a drainage culvert. Due to the depth of the new service trench it could not be ascertained if the culvert was constructed in a cut through this or these deposits or if these deposits were placed around it. The drainage culvert 1/5 was constructed of limestone with smaller roughly shaped stones in its walls and large flat capping stones above. The structure was 0.6m across and had a central void 0.24m x 0.23m. The capping stones were on average 0.5m x 0.46m x 0.05m. The structure was bonded by a white clay deposit. This bonding deposit extended well beyond the stone culvert, being labelled context (1/7) a compact grey white clay, which extends 0.6-0.7m on the house side and 0.1m on the other. Inside the culvert there was a moderately compact black silt some 0.03m deep lying at the base of the culvert. Sealing the culvert and other deposits was a context (1/4) a compact brown grey clay sand (large granuals0 with limestone inclusions. This extended from the wall of Ditchley House 2.25m and was 0.4m deep. This layer was in turn covered by deposit (1/1) a compact grey brown sand clay 0.14m deep, which contained 4 pottery sherds the latest of which were dated to the 19th century and the earliest to the 16th century and a fragment of green bottle glass. The topsoil in this area has a long period of development and continued to form after the construction of the period of Georgian house construction.

Ditchley Deer Park features, Trench 1

Beneath the line of the tarmac road to the east of Ditchley House, in Trench 1 (Fig. 3), there were indications that the present road surface had been laid over one that was considerably older. Cut into the natural (1/8) was the remains of a road side ditch 1/11, which was a linear feature 0.68m wide and 0.14m deep and was orientated southwest to northeast (Fig. 3, S 1.2). The sides sloped gently and the base was rounded. This ditch 1/11 was filled by deposit (1/12) a compact light yellow brown clay. The earliest road surface was deposit (1/17), overlying (1/8), a crushed blue limestone with lumps of limestone measuring 100mm x 100mm x 80mm. This measured 2.4m wide and was 0.2m deep on the east side. On the east side there were the remains of a further roadside ditch 1/16 a linear cut measuring 1m wide and 0.25m deep, with gentle sides and a rounded base. The fill (1/15) was a compact light yellow brown clay. Road surface (1/17) and ditch fill (1/12) were sealed by layer (1/10) a crushed limestone with fragments up to 100mm x 100mm x 50mm in size. Layer (1/10) represents a visible second phase of the road development. The topsoil (1/1) on the west side of the road, and topsoil (1/14) on the east side of the road had started to build up before the tarmac was laid.

Two ditches were evident to the east of the road, which were essentially undated, but due to the orientation, which appeared to run parallel to the road it is assumed that they are probably past features of the park than being anything earlier. Though they could be boundaries associated with the earlier Ditchley House of the 16th century. The first of these ditches was marked by a linear cut 1/18 that was 1.5m wide and approximately 0.5m deep, and which had gentle rounded sides (Fig. 3, Plan 1b). This was filled by deposit (1/19) a compact red clay 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep. This fill appeared to be sealed on both sides by a moderately compact clay with limestone inclusions and measuring 0.2m deep. This was numbered (1/20) on the west side and (1/21) on the east. The layer was either the remains of an earlier subsoil or a horizon created by root action from the park trees. Cut into the top of this layer was cut 1/13 a probable linear feature 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep with rounded sides and base. The fill (1/22) was a moderately compact black brown clay. The fill was sealed by topsoil (1/14). It seems likely that the original cut still maintained a probable depression when the second cut was inserted, thus being indicative of a more recent date.

The second ditch 1/24 also truncated the natural (1/8). The cut 1/24 was linear 1.75m wide and over 0.5m deep. The shoulder had a gentle slope while the sides were moderately steep becoming rounded. The fill (1/23) was a compact red clay containing some limestone fragments.

Ditchley Deer Park features, Trench 2

In the line of Trench 2 (Fig. 4) there was evidence of an earlier road being constructed under the line of the tarmac. Sitting on the natural was deposit (2/14) a highly compact light yellow grey clay with frequent rubble limestone inclusions measuring 3.4m wide and 0.17m deep, a road makeup layer. Alongside the road is ditch cut 2/13 that is 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep with moderately steep sides and a rounded base (Fig. 4, Plan 2b). The fill (2/12) was a moderately compact red brown clay with limestone dumped on one side, which contained part of a silver spoon handle. The spoon handle contained a letter S, which could be a date letter or some emblem with a family association, the style was of the 19th century or early 20th century (Moore 1995, 28-31). The other side of the road had been disturbed by bioturbation. The roadside ditch

fill (2/12) was sealed by topsoil deposit (2/1), and the disturbed area by topsoil (2/15). The tarmac road was laid over this road in a cut in the topsoil.

Ditchley Deer Park features, Trench 3

The line of the same early road identified in Trench 1 is also visible in Trench 3 (Fig. 5 Plan 3b). Here layer (3/5) a compact light grey yellow clay packed with frequent limestone inclusions and measuring 0.26m deep covered the bedrock (3/2). Cutting the natural (3/2) to the east was cut 3/3 a linear feature 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base (Fig.5 S 2). This was a continuation of road side ditch 1/16. The fill of cut 3/3 was deposit (3/4) a moderately compact light brown grey clay. This drainage gully on the east side of the tarmac road is sealed by topsoil (3/1) a moderately compact brown black clay sand 0.15m deep. The road side ditch on the west of the tarmac road was also a linear cut 3/10, and although one could see that it was present it was not clear what its original dimensions were and what the exact profile was. The fill (3/11) was a compact light brown grey clay. To the west of the ditch and sat on the natural and probably previously covering it was deposit (3/9) a compact red to red brown sand gravel, which formed a make-up layer of the path to the front door of the Stable Block. The path or road to the Stable Block may have originated in the 18th century. The area of the road side ditch 3/10 has been severely truncated by later services; this has disturbed the original relationships of the contexts in the area. The backfill of these services is a mixture of the road make-up material re-deposited.

The Stable Block features, Trench 3

The natural (3/2), in Trench 3 (Fig. 5), was comprised of bands of red marl and limestone brash and also yellow-blue clays. The natural was cut by a foundation or terrace cut 3/13 which was not witnessed but has to exist. The wall 3/12 within this cut was constructed of limestone ashlar blocks, some with tool marks, laid in an irregular fashion. This is the wall and foundation of a grade II listed building (EHIDN 434124: SP 39073 21335). The building is classed as being early to middle 18th century with alterations in 1924. The building is considered to be marked on the map of 1726, so presumably a date from 1722 to 1726 is most plausible. Considerable made ground could be identified in the new service trench of which the lowest deposit (3/8) was a spread of bricks at the base of the make-up layer. Two types of brick were evident in the deposit both with different thicknesses, although the other dimensions were not discernible. The first was had a 55mm depth, a dimension that one could easily associate with a date in the 16th or 17th centuries and the other a depth of 63mm perhaps of a later date, late 17th or more likely early 18th century. The bricks represent part of a destruction spread of material from a 16th to 18th century building. One building we do know about historically of this date is the Old Hall, a Tudor building with at least part of the structure being built in 1592. Above this was layer (3/7) a moderately compact light grey brown sand clay with limestone inclusions and measuring at least 0.64m deep. This make-up layer raised the ground layer to the east of the stable, and was held up on the north side by a retaining wall before the ground layer dropped off into the Stable Block Courtyard. Layer (3/7) was sealed by topsoil (3/6) a moderately compact dark brown black clay sand 0.16m deep.

Ditchley Deer Park features, Trench 4

Further features in the Deer Park occur in Trench 4 (Fig. 6). Deposit (4/50) was a compact yellow clay with limestone inclusions 0.16m deep overlying the bedrock (4/3). Cut 4/51, also had a direct relationship with the bedrock (4/3), being a linear

truncation 0.9m wide and 0.5m deep with steep sides as part of a pointed V-shape profile. This feature was a roadside drainage ditch (Fig. 6, Plan 4d). The ditch was still open so the only notable fill was deposit (4/1) a layer of topsoil.

Features at rear of Lower House, Trench 4
The map evidence concerning Lower House was noted above. The map shows a building of a similar plan in this location as early as 1726, see above. A number of features were identified to the rear of Lower House in Trench 4 (Fig. 6).

The natural to the rear of Lower House was (4/55) a yellow clay (see above). Cut 4/37 represents a terrace cut 0.5-0.6m deep into the natural to the north of Lower House. This cut probably dates to the 18th century (the date attributed to Lower House) although it may have been modified at various dates subsequently. Wall 4/38 is the limestone retaining wall (Fig. 6, Plan 4a). It is made of rubble and is of drystone walling. The wall was 0.35m wide and 0.4-0.5m high. In places this had been rebuilt and had concrete capping.

Truncating the natural (4/55) but being cut from within the terrace cut (4/37) was cut 4/33 a linear feature measuring 0.9m wide and 0.65m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. Masonry context 4/34 represents the bottom few courses of two parallel limestone walls of a culvert, which were bonded by a yellow-brown clay. The culvert would have been similar to that identified up at Ditchley House, and would have been constructed to carry water away from the rear of Lower House. The culvert had been destroyed but water still used the cut. The remains of the culvert (4/34) was sealed by a layer (4/35) a loose grey yellow silt clay with red, yellow, and blue brick inclusions 0.5m deep. This represents destruction of the culvert, and the number of coloured bricks is indicative of this destruction occurring in the late 19th or early 20th century, perhaps when the sewer system was laid. These features and layers in earlier contexts were sealed or butted by layer (4/36) a peagrit gravel or shingle.

The Stream Culvert, Trench 4
The main stream of the valley was culverted at sometime in the 18th century; it is possible that the line of the stream is marked on the estate map of 1726, so it is reasonable to assume that the act of culverting the stream took place in the mid 18th century. Dates of 1760 and 1777 saw unspecified activity in the gardens and the culverts may be covered by activity at one of these dates. The culverts were identified in Trench 4 (see below).

Layer (4/17) is considered to be a natural deposit, an alluvial red brown clay of an unknown depth. Cut 4/16, truncated the clay, a linear feature measuring over 1m, possibly 1.2m, the shape of the cut is unknown. The culvert 4/15 was constructed of two limestone walls bonded with brown yellow clay, and two layers of capping stones. The width of the culvert and walls is 1m apart (Fig. 6, Plan 4c). The culvert was built for the flow of the stream from the lake in the formal gardens of Ditchley Park. On the south side of the culvert, layer (4/17) was sealed by layer (4/18) which was a compact gray silt clay with limestone inclusions 0.1m deep; this could represent part of a bed of a broad or braded stream or an attempt at reclamation. Sealing layer (4/18) was deposit (4/19) a compact yellow grey silt clay 0.3m deep. On the north side of the culvert context (4/17) was sealed by layer (4/20) a compact black silt clay varying in depth from 0.2m to 0.5m deep. Dividing these two contexts was a probable cut 4/22 of a possible linear feature 2.1m wide by 0.5m deep with sharp sides and a

flat base (Fig. 6, S 4.4). The nature of this cut has the appearance of being modern. However, one problem with this is that the deposits on one side of the cut are different to those on the other. The fill (4/21) was a moderately compact brown grey clay with rubble inclusions. The cut and fill may be a boundary ditch between two fields where different activities were taking place. Sealing all these deposits was layer (4/1) a topsoil.

To the south of this there are other layers and cuts evident in profile in the side of the new service trench. Layer (4/17), red alluvial clay, can be identified (Fig. 6, S 4.2 & S 4.3). This deposit is sealed by layer (4/26) a compact black grey silt clay 0.2m deep. Layer (4/24) is a rubble deposit of limestone fragments 0.05m deep and 2.1m wide. Layer (4/25) was a similar layer with limestone rubble fragment and brick measuring 0.05m deep and 0.75m across. Deposits (4/24) and (4/25) formed part of an homogenous layer, they were truncated by linear cut 4/27 a gentle sided cut with a round break of slope at the base and a flat base (Fig. 6, Plan 4b). The fill (4/28) was a moderately compact brown grey silt clay with gravel inclusions. This deposit was sealed by layer (4/20). Elsewhere it is possible to identify deposit (4/29) a limestone rubble which is a made ground, that overlies (4/26). Deposits (4/20) and (4/29) are subsequently overlain by layer (4/23) is a pea gravel hardcore standing 0.1m deep.

The Stream Culvert, Trench 5

Further lengths of the Culvert were uncovered in Trench 5 (Fig. 7). Context (5/18) was a compact yellow brown clay which formed part of the natural clay beds at the base of the valley (Fig. 7, S 5.1). Deposit (5/3) is a compact red brown silt clay with a variable depth to a maximum across the site of 0.9m. This is probably a natural alluvial clay deposit (Plate 9). Deposit (5/14) overlay (5/3) in places but was not evident uniformly. This deposit was a compact brown silt clay with stone inclusions 0.1m deep. Covering layer (5/14) was deposit (5/15) a compact brown grey silt clay 0.12m deep. Deposit (5/16), sealed layer (5/15), a compact grey silt clay with stone inclusions 0.1m deep. These deposits are seen layered across at least part of the valley floor.

As parts of Trench 5 were recorded by observation afterwards, due to this being a replacement sewer cut, it was not readily apparent the exact relationship to these layers of the two cut features 5/22 and 5/20. The previous layers are on section S 5.1; the cuts appear on section S 5.2. In section S 5.2 cut 5/22 truncates deposit 5/3, it is also apparent that cut 5/20 removed part of the fill of cut 5/22. What is not apparent is how these cuts, especially the later one chronologically relate to the post context (5/3) deposits across the valley floor. Cut 5/22 was possibly of an oval shape 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep, with gentle to moderately steep sides and a rounded base. The fill (5/21) was a compact light yellow brown clay (Fig. 7, Plan 5c, S 5.2). Cut 5/20, truncated fill (5/21), was a possible oval or elongated oval (not fully uncovered), that was over 3m wide and 0.8m deep. The feature may have been a clay pit or even part of a deliberately excavated pond that was backfilled. The fill (5/19) was a compact grey brown clay with stone rubble inclusions.

The cut for the culvert 5/10, was cut from at least deposit 5/3 and possibly from deposit (5/16). It was not possible to directly determine this as where the sections were uncovered there had been much later disturbance. The physical cut for the culvert was over 0.8m wide and over 0.72m deep, the sides are probably vertical. The culvert masonry structure 5/9, constructed in cut 5/10, was of limestone containing

two side walls sealed and bonded with brown clay (Fig. 7, Plan 5c). The culvert was capped with limestone slabs. The whole structure was 0.8m wide and 0.72m deep. It was not ascertained if stone slabs had been laid at the base or if the base of the culvert was formed by the natural clay; one is presuming the latter but this was not confirmed (Plate 8). The line of the culvert has been considerably damaged in certain places (discussed below). Cut 5/8, truncated deposit 5/3, was of a linear shape, with presumed vertical sides (Fig. 7, Plan 5a). The full width of the cut was not determined. Culvert walls 5/7, placed in cut 5/8, was a feature made of limestone blocks of a variable size, the larger being approximately 650mm x 290mm x 80mm. They were roughly squared on one side, bonded with a brown clay, and formed part of a culvert. Deposit (5/6), sealed context (5/7), a loose to moderately compact light brown grey silt clay with large inclusions of rubble blocks and brick fragments. One sherd of 19th century white earthenware was recovered suggesting destruction at this time. As there was considerable rubble here it was thought that this may have been part of a structure that was previously levelled. The nature of the upper part of the structure was unclear.

Plate 8: Modern alterations to the 18th century stream culvert 5/9.

Deposit (5/4), which overlies deposit (5/3), was, a compact light brown grey silt clay with frequent cobblestone inclusions. The feature would appear to be a cobblestone surface, with some of the upper stones rounded and worn. The width 3.75m is indicative of this being the line of an earlier road. Deposit (5/2) is a compact mid grey silt clay 0.2m deep, which is probably a relic topsoil. Deposit (5/5), appeared as a lens sealed in deposit (5/2), a moderately compact black ash silt some 0.03m deep and covering a length 9m along the trench. The deposit was obviously the result of a single event or a series of short lived events, but the cause of this was not apparent.

Cut 5/12 was a linear cut truncating deposits (5/2) and (5/19), and was inserted in the later 20th century. The cut was linear in shape but was irregular in its width (Fig. 7, Plan 5c). Where the cut truncated the earlier culvert it was evident that it was over 3m in width, elsewhere this was far narrower being 0.75-0.8m and was generally 1m deep. The sides are vertical and the base flat. Other service cuts run into this larger cut. Deposit (5/13) was the backfill of the service trench and was a moderately compact yellow brown silt clay with limestone and other fragmentary inclusions.

Context 5/11 was a salt glazed pipe with a 14in diameter (360mm) sealed in the backfill of the new service cut. The pipe had been connected to the limestone culvert at either end by concrete. The stone culvert 5/10 had been designed to take the flow of the main valley stream (gathered from a wide catchment area). The modern adaptations and restriction of the size of the channel can only lead to problems and flooding with the stream creating a new course underneath the Bothy building. Deposit (5/1) is a moderately compact yellow grey silt clay with gravelly and grainy inclusions 0.2m deep. Deposit (5/17), was a topsoil on the south side of the road, a moderately compact grey black silt clay 0.28m deep.

Plate 9: Alluvial red clays across the valley floor (5/3).

The Bothy, Trench 7

The date of the Bothy is difficult to ascertain, and the original function of the Bothy is again illusive. There are some peculiar attributes about the structure and its location. There is a building in the location of the Bothy on the estate map of 1726. The building is not shown on the map of 1863, but none of the buildings at Home Farm were shown then. The Bothy is shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1881, 1899, 1922, and 1976. The building was given a face lift in the 20th century and a corresponding date stone is set in the new gable. The rear wall of the Bothy was uncovered in Trench 7 (Fig. 9).

The natural in Trench 7 was a highly compact light brown grey clay. The natural was truncated by cut 7/21 a series of linear cuts made to take the Bothy building. The foundation cut was filled by 7/22 an ashlar limestone wall (not illustrated). The deposits were sealed by a modern layer of concrete across a yard to the north of the Bothy building.

The term Bothy is used for an agricultural building, usually one that has been ruinous and reconstructed, which fits this building (Fig. 1). The Bothy has an unusual location in that it lies over the culverted stream; there was once a small pond on the upper side of the stream. The reason for this must be that the Bothy was originally constructed so that the stream would carry effluent away or that the stream powered a process taking place in the building.

Walled Garden walls, Trench 8

The outline of the Walled Garden can be detected on the estate map of 1726, so it is reasonable to assume that the original outer walls of the walled garden were created just before this date. The walled garden is in Trench 8 (Fig. 9).

Cut into the natural (8/2 – see above) was foundation cut 8/3 that was a linear feature 1.2m wide and 0.7m deep with vertical sides orientated slightly off north to south. Wall 8/4 was of limestone with roughly squared blocks approximately 200mm x 300mm (Fig. 9, Plan 8a). The wall survived to three courses thick. The bonding material was a dark grey black silt clay. The foundation filled the 1.2m wide cut fully. Foundation cut 8/5 was a linear feature 0.6m wide and 0.7m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base. Wall 8/6 survived as a limestone foundation of roughly hewn stones bonded with a lime mortar 0.6m wide. Foundation cut 8/8 was a linear 0.6m wide by 0.6m deep with a steep sided splaying profile and orientated north northeast to south southwest. Feature 8/9 was a wall with dressed stones with a lime mortar. Sealing the tops of walls 8/6 and 8/9 was deposit (8/7) a compact mid brown orange clay silt 0.1m thick. Deposit (8/1) was a soft dark grey black silt clay with some grit inclusions 0.3m thick.

Cut into the bedrock (8/24) on the north side of the valley was linear cut (8/30) with vertical sides and a flat base. Set in the foundation cut was wall 8/31 (see inset on Fig. 9), which bordered the northern edge of the wall garden. The wall still stands and is constructed of stone and brick and is capped. Deposit (8/32), see above, butted up to the wall on the south side.

Plate 10: The vaulted hypocaust under Garden Cottage.

Stream Culverts, and Garden Cottage, Trench 8

The following features form part of the activity in and around the Walled Garden in Trench 8 (Fig. 9). Edward Grantham's map of Ditchley dated 1726 shows the outline of the walled garden, and appears to show an open stream running centrally through the garden with two ponds located along its course. It is presumed that though the walls were in place that the internal design of the garden was altered and that further features were added if the map is accurate.

Plate 11: The Garden Cottage.

There were two distinct areas in the natural, the lower at the base of the valley and the other on the southern bank of the valley. Natural (8/24) lay at the bottom of the valley and was a highly compact brown clay. Natural (8/2) was a highly compact mid green orange clay with limestone inclusions located in the south part of Trench 8. Overlying natural (8/24) was deposit (8/29) a compact red alluvial clay, which had been recognised elsewhere along the line of the culvert. Truncating deposit (8/29) was cut 8/13 a linear feature probably about 0.2m deep and 1.5m wide at the top with moderately sloping sides and a flat base about 1m wide. In this cut was culvert 8/12 that was constructed of limestone with roughly squared blocks on the inside and an irregular finish left on the outside (Fig. 9, Plan 8c). The culvert was bonded with clay. In places the stonework of the culvert was 0.15m deep. Deposit (8/15) had been deposited inside the culvert presumably by water, making the structure un-useable. This context was a soft to moderately compact grey silt, which contained a sherd of red earthenware thus indicating that the drainage system was in use from at least the mid-16th century, but as discussed below probably from the early to mid-18th century is more likely. The backfill (8/14) of the cut around the culvert was a compact brown grey silt clay with brick and limestone inclusions, and contained one sherd of 19th

century white earthenware. The same or a similar deposit (8/25) appeared to extend outside the limits of the culvert cut. This layer (8/25) was a compact brown grey clay with tile inclusions about 0.2m deep. The stream through the walled garden is open on the map of 1726 so it is assumed that this culvert was constructed in the mid 18th century at the earliest, the 19th century sherd is probably due to some unidentified later disturbance perhaps repair; for this belief see below.

Though not properly seen it is apparent from spatial relationships that truncating the apparent line of this culvert are the foundations of the Garden Cottage. The Garden Cottage (as it is known today) probably did not originate as a lived in cottage but was probably a storage building for fruit produced in the walled garden. If this was the case then we would have to envisage certain attributes that should be included in the building that may be of an agricultural origin. The foundation cut 8/19, truncated layer (8/25) and culvert 8/12, this was a large rectangular cut for the garden cottage with various internal cuts (the east alcove foundation and other underlying features, see below). The sides of the cut were vertical and the bases flat. Structure 8/18 was the Garden Cottage, a structure of ashlar limestone with rough stone foundations (Plate 11). In the east wall as indicated on the plate there is an alcove, presumably for watching the rising sun in the walled garden, which is flanked by two windows with central keystones. The wall was bonded by light yellow sand mortar. Initially it was proposed that the new service trench should enter the building in the east alcove, however, this was problematic due to structural remains and was stopped. At the base of east alcove it was apparent that the foundation continued thus forming a complete rectangle, this was presumably to tie the alcove arch together and stop the walls from splaying at the base. This wall was partially removed, though not completely, but enough was removed to see what lay internally to the rectangular foundation. Here there were the remains of what can perhaps be best described as a hypocaust system, though such a name is problematic as perceived as having Roman origins than Georgian or later Victorian structures (although they occur in churches of these dates). The hypocaust feature like the outer rectangular foundations of the Garden Cottage are considered to lie in cut 8/19. In the base of part of that cut was floor 8/20 made of brick, probably of a blue vitrified type (Plate 10). These were used as paving in a stretcher form some 0.74m wide. Masonry structure 8/21 was a vaulted limestone feature containing two short dwarf walls and a barrel vault (Fig. 9, S 8.5). The feature was about 1.1m across and 0.6-0.7m high. Overlying the barrel vault of the duct was deposit (8/22) a compact brown black sand with limestone inclusions. This could have originated as mortar that had significantly decayed over time. Deposit (8/26) consisted of a band of crushed limestone some 0.28m deep. Masonry 8/23, sealed deposit (8/22) and partially overlay (8/26), it consisted of limestone paving approximately 0.12m deep and covering an area roughly 1.6m x 3m in the alcove of the Garden Cottage. Deposit (8/32) was a loose to moderately compact dark grey black silt clay that was a topsoil that overlay deposit (8/26) and butted up to paving 8/23.

The garden cottage like the earlier culvert is not apparent on the 1726 plan that shows the walled garden, so a mid to late 18th century date is possible for this structure. According to its listing the Garden Cottage was a construction of the early or middle 18th century (NMR SP32SE64: SP 391 212), it is not on the 1726 map (though could have been omitted) so a middle 18th century proposal is acceptable as a date here. There is a building in the Walled Garden in the location of the Garden Cottage on the map of 1863. The foundations of the garden cottage appear to truncate the line of this culvert, which implies that the culvert was constructed after 1726 but before the mid

18th century when the cottage is thought to have been built. This leads to the belief that the 19th century sherd has been deposited through later disturbance.

The use of the term hypocaust is used here with reservations. The external water bearing culverts identified at Ditchley Park are all constructed in a similar fashion. These have two parallel walls with limestone capping stones laid between each. This is the case with the main stream culvert as identified in Trenches 4, 5 and 8 (see below), the second redundant culvert in Trench 8, the original drainage culverts around the southeast pavilion in Trench 1, and the earliest drainage behind Lower House, Trench 4. The hypocaust or duct under Garden Cottage had a totally different construction style with a barrel vault, laid paving in the base, and with no sediments accumulated in the base. There was one collapsed example in Trench 10, see below. For this reason it is either operating as a simple vent to circulate air under the structure or it was previously stoked at an unidentified location to take hot air under the building, thus a hypocaust.

Truncating deposit (8/25) and probably (8/27), the latter was not visually confirmed, was the linear culvert cut 8/17 a steep to vertical sided feature with a flat base, of which the full dimensions are unknown. Located in cut 8/17 was the culvert 8/16, made of limestone blocks roughly squared on one side. The culvert had two walls with large limestone capping slabs, and was bonded by a clay material. This culvert is also likely to be a mid to late 18th century feature. This culvert was still in use, but was damaged in places.

On the other side of the stream from Garden Cottage, were two deposits that could be recognised above the red alluvial clay (8/29). These were layers (8/28) and (8/27). Deposit (8/28), lay over (8/29), was a compact brown gray clay with gravel inclusions. Deposit (8/27) was a compact brown grey silt clay, probably associated with deposit (8/25) on the other side of the culverted stream.

Walled Garden boundary area, Trench 9 and 10

Further features associated with the Walled garden are evident on the periphery and outside the garden (Figs. 10-12). The natural (9/3) was a grey light brown clay. Deposit (9/2), see above, was a compact orange silt clay 0.3m deep overlying the natural (9/3) and earlier features. Cut into layer (9/2) was cut 8/30 for wall 8/31 (Fig. 9, inset). Layer (9/1), a topsoil butted up to the wall, a moderately compact silt with limestone fragments from paving stones. The deposit was 0.4m deep. Deposit (9/4) was a compact limestone rubble 0.2m deep and 2.8m wide, which overlay deposit (9/1) and (9/5).

The natural (9/3) was a light grey brown clay, which continued into Trenches 8 and 10, in the latter it was layer (10/36). The natural (10/4) in the south part of the trench was a compact brown red alluvial clay. Deposit (10/34) was a compact black grey silt clay 0.25m deep, which was evident above layer (10/36) above the layers of alluvial clays.

Probably being cut through the alluvial clay (10/4) was cut 10/16, that of the well of a considerable size (Fig. 12 Plan 10c, S 10.2). Cut 10/16 was circular over 1.7m wide and over 1.5m deep with a sharp break of slope and steep sides. Wall 10/17 was of roughly shaped limestone blocks forming a circle, there was no bonding. Deposit (10/18) was a moderately compact dark grey silt clay which represented the backfill

of the well. This feature was probably of an 18th century or perhaps earlier date and may have formed part of the original layout of the walled garden. Though beyond the present garden wall it was reported by estate workers that a similar sized well had been noticed previously inside the walled garden. Deposit (10/21) was a compact light brown silt clay over 0.2m deep, which lay over the planks of wood that had been used to seal the well.

There were other features along the trench that were cut into the natural (10/36), which included cuts 10/29 and 10/25. Cut 10/29 was a linear feature 1.9m long and 0.6m wide with steep sides and a flat base containing wall 10/28 that was formed of limestone blocks in a feature 1.9m long. The wall ran parallel to the large garden wall 8/31. Cut 10/25 was a linear feature measuring 1.9-2m wide with vertical sides and presumably a flat base. The cut contained the deposits 10/22, 10/23 and 10/24. Wall 10/22 was constructed of rough limestone blocks bonded with clay 0.5m wide forming one wall on the side of a culvert or hypocaust. Wall 10/23 was also constructed of rough limestone blocks bonded with clay some 0.5m wide forming the side wall of a culvert or hypocaust. Surface 10/24 was formed of rough limestone paving bonded with a white clay mortar, which formed the floor of a culvert or hypocaust. That the floor appeared to be bonded with mortared stone and the general location of it being sited on a bank with no need to carry a culverted stream made it more likely that this was a hypocaust, perhaps internal heating for a building near the line of the garden wall. Context 10/26 represents a moderately compact deposit containing fallen limestone debris which represents fallen debris from the presumed vault of the hypocaust, while context 10/27 represents a group of pitched limestone slates individually about 0.05m thick and 0.7m long. The contexts (10/26) and (10/35) were sealed by deposit (10/35) was a compact black grey silt clay with limestone lenses 0.2m deep. Deposit (10/35) was then sealed by deposit (10/20) a compact black grey silt clay 0.4m deep. These features were part of structures around what became the walled garden. They could also be part of the 18th century or due to their stratigraphy (which appeared lower than wall 8/31 could be earlier), perhaps 17th century.

A number of features could be recognised at the west end of Trench 10 around the periphery of the present walled garden. There were a group of features that had an initial primary relationship with deposit (10/4) the red alluvial clays. These include deposit (10/8) and (10/13). Deposit (10/8) was a compact light brown orange clay sand with stone and tile inclusions 0.2m deep (Fig12, S 10.1). This deposit appeared to lie in a hollow in the alluvial clay (possibly eroded rather than cut by anthropomorphic means). There was a later service cut not numbered cut into the top of it). A road does exist on the map of 1726 and it is possible that this deposit has something to do with that early road. The other context (10/13) (Fig. 12, Plan 10b) was a moderately compact white yellow gravely limestone mix of 0.05m deep representing a laid deposit of a path or track. This feature was possibly older as it is orientated in a different direction to that of the road on the map of 1726. It is, therefore, possibly part of an older landscape, but is essentially undated.

Timber Yard features, Trench 9

The Timber Yard is not on the Ditchley estate map of 1726, but is on the map of 1863. The building is probably a structure of the later 18th century, but could be early 19th century at the latest. The Timber Yard building is on the Ordnance Survey maps

of 1881, 1899, 1922 and 1976. The Timber yard features were located in Trench 9 (Figs. 10-11).

Deposit (9/2) formed the subsoil, which was truncated by a number of features 9/7, 9/9, 9/24, 9/28, and overlain by deposit (9/16). Foundation cut 9/7 was a linear feature with steep to vertical sides with a flat base measuring 0.2m deep and 0.4 (Fig. 11, Plan 9b). Wall 9/6 was constructed of rough limestone slabs; some of the lower ones were pitched. Foundation cut 9/9 was a linear feature 0.2m x 0.5m with steep sides and a flat base. Wall 9/8 was constructed of rough limestone slates or slabs and rubble, the surviving part was formed by a foundation. These two boundary walls are to be found on the earliest Ordnance Survey maps of 1881 where they divide the area of the Timber Yard proper from that of Woodham Piece, lying to the south. These two features were sealed by deposit (9/5) was a loose mid-brown silt clay of a variable depth up to 0.35m in places, which contained three sherds of pottery: a sherd of white earthenware and two of late red earthenware (flower pot) recovered to the north of the Walled Garden.

Cut 9/24 was an oval or round feature with steep to vertical sides and a rounded base 1m across and 0.9m deep (Fig. 11, Plan 9a). The fill (9/23) was a moderately compact brown silt clay with stone layers in the base. Cut 9/28 was an oval or round feature with steep sides and a flat base measuring 0.46m deep with a diameter 0.36m at the top and 0.24m near the base. Fill (9/27) was a moderately compact light grey silt clay. The inclusions included the remains of a wooden post 0.2m long and 0.14m wide. The wood seems to have been square cut. Deposit (9/31), that sealed fill (9/27), was a moderately compact grey silt sand. This layer was sealed by deposit (9/16) a moderately compact to compact black grey silt clay with a high frequency of rubble limestone 0.45m deep, which was a recent makeup layer.

4.6 Victorian and Edwardian

Trench 7, to the east of the barn

The area to the east of the barn contains a series of unimportant features of a relatively recent date (Fig. 9). The natural deposit (7/3) a light brown grey clay was truncated by linear cut 7/11 measuring 1m wide and 0.36m deep, the sides sloped moderately with a rounded base (Fig. 9, Plan 7a). Fill (7/10) was a moderately compact grey silt clay with minimal stone inclusions. Deposit (7/6) a compact grey silt clay 0.12m deep overlay the natural (7/3). Cut 7/8 was a linear feature of an unknown length that was 0.5m and 0.12m deep. The profile has vertical sides and a flat base. A brick foundation 7/7 bonded with white mortar surviving as a single course was visible in profile. The bricks dimensions were ?mm x 100mm x 60mm. The wall was sealed by deposit (7/5) a moderately compact black silt clay with brick inclusions 0.12m deep. Indeed there was a lot of brick rubble in this area as though a brick wall had been knocked over and levelled. The bricks were probably 18th or early 19th century in date. Deposit (7/9) was a moderately compact grey silt clay with limestone rubble surviving to a depth of 0.5m. Deposits (7/9) and (7/5) were probably a continuation of each other, but there were slight differences, in that deposit (7/5) was narrower and appeared to have distinct layers without rubble above and below which were (7/6) and (7/4) (Fig. 11, S 7.1). Deposit (7/4) was a compact dark black grey silt clay 0.08m deep, that sealed deposit (7/5). Context (7/9) petered out at the east end as the course of the road and makeup layer became less. Deposits (7/6), (7/5) and (7/4) butted up to deposit (7/20), see above, the brown red soil. Deposit (7/2) is a compact black grey

silt clay with frequent limestone fragment inclusions some 0.3m deep. The deposits (7/2) and (7/20), see above, also appear to butt up to each other. The assumption is that deposit (7/20) represents the remains of an agricultural deposit and that the other deposits are makeup layers, no cut for these roads has been given as it was not overly apparent that there were any. It is assumed that these makeup layers formed roads and other surfaces and that a series of dumped deposits were laid, accumulated and compacted. Cut 7/13 was a linear feature 0.86m deep containing a service pipe, which truncated layer (7/9). Backfill (7/12) was a moderately compact grey brown silt clay with minimal stone inclusion and brick. Sealing all of the upper layers (7/2) and (7/4) and the service trench fill (7/12), and relic soil (7/20) was layer (7/1) a compact yellow sand clay makeup layer with brick, stone, and tile inclusions some 0.15m thick. This roadway petered out into the topsoil (7/19), described above.

Timber Yard Cottages, Trench 9
The foundations of five cottages were noted in the Timber Yard if not fully recorded due to their modern origins (Figs. 10-11). The two cottages in the northeast of the Timber Yard had simple foundation cuts and walls (not numbered) that cut through the natural (9/2). The walls were butted by the topsoil (9/5). These two cottages 1 and 2 (Fig. 1) the Timber Yard are not shown on the estate map of 1863, but are shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1881, and every subsequent Ordnance Survey map (1899, 1922, and 1976). The maps indicate a construction date from 1863 to 1881.

Bounding the Walled Garden, Trench 10
A group of possible 18th century features bounding the wall garden have already been discussed as being Imperial (Fig. 12). A group of further features 10/30 and 10/32 could be identified to the north of the north boundary wall but were far higher up in the stratigraphy. Linear cut 10/31 was 0.6m wide and 2m long with vertical sides and a flat base. Wall 10/30 (Fig. 12, Plan 10e) was made of roughly squared limestone blocks forming a foundation. This provided evidence of a short stretch of walling parallel to the garden wall 8/31. Foundation cut 10/33 was a linear feature 0.6m wide and 10.4m long with vertical sides and a flat base. Wall 10/32 was a wall made of roughly squared blocks forming a foundation. These features are more likely to be 19th century in date than 18th century and a building is shown running along the line of the garden wall on the map of 1863.

The remaining features in Trench 10 are probably of a relatively late date, later 19th century at the earliest, but probably of the 20th century. Sealing the top of the service cut that truncated deposit (10/8) was context (10/9) a compact limestone rubble 0.5m deep, which contained a sherd of red earthenware from at least the 16th century. In the lower rubble deposit there were the possible remains of a wall, with the rubble layer continuing above. Context (10/10) was a compact yellow orange gravel that sealed deposit (10/9). These deposits were located on the west side of a service trench cut. This series of deposits were eventually sealed by Tarmac and deposit (1/14).

There was a further sequence of deposits that could be recognised on the east side of a late service trench cut. Foundation cut 10/5 was a linear feature 0.54m wide and 0.14m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 12, Plan 10a). Wall 10/6 was constructed of flat roughly shaped limestone blocks; it was a dry-stone construction being 1.8m high. It formed the wall and foundation of one of the walls of the Walled Garden. The wall did not have the appearance of other walls around the garden and it is suspected that this wall was inserted at a later date. Context 10/7 was a moderately

compact brown grey silt clay with mortar and limestone inclusions being 0.5m deep, which butted up to the west side of the wall. Deposit (10/19) was a small band of topsoil that sealed (10/7). On the east side of the wall there was cut 10/3 a linear feature 0.4m deep and 0.7m wide at the top with moderately steep sides and a flat U-shaped base. The fill (10/2) was a compact grey silt clay. There was a lead pipe in the base of this fill, but the profile was very uncharacteristic of a service pipe trench and the feature may have originated as an open drain alongside the wall. Deposit (10/1) was a moderately compact black grey silt clay 0.1m deep, a topsoil in part of the walled garden that contained a sherd of white earthenware of the 19th century.

Cut (10/11) was a linear feature 0.35m wide x 0.35m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The fill (10/12) was a moderately compact dark grey black silt clay. Sealing contexts (10/10), (10/12) and (10/13) was layer (10/14) a moderately compact grey silt clay 0.45m deep, which formed a topsoil.

A further recent deposit was context (10/15) a moderately compact limestone rubble scatter, which represented packing in a trackway (Fig. 12, Plan 10c). This was sealed or butted onto by deposit (10/19) a moderately compact brown grey silt clay topsoil with a maximum depth of 0.25m.

Trench 11, Ivy Nook Cottage
Trench 11 (not shown) was a relatively short spur that ran from Trench 7 to Ivy Nook Cottage. The natural was (11/2) was a highly compact light yellow brown sand clay with frequent small to medium angular stones. The deposit exceeded 0.55m. This deposit appeared to be a slight variation of the deposits evident in Trenches 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10. This deposit (11/2) was truncated by the foundation cut 11/3 of Ivy Nook Cottage. The foundation cut was filled with masonry wall 11/4 constructed of limestone. The cottages are not on the Ordnance Survey map of 1899 but are on the map of 1922, thus indicating a construction date 1899-1922. Butting up against the foundation was deposit (11/1) a compact dark grey silt 0.25m deep, which formed the topsoil.

4.7 Modern

Trench 8
Cut 8/11 was a large presumed rectangular pit that truncated deposit (8/28), measuring 5m one way and over 0.8m deep (Fig. 9, Plan 8b). Fill (8/10) was a moderately compact red black silt clay with stone and soil lenses. The context contained plastic inclusions and was claimed as the location of a modern soak away to take water from a broken pipe destroyed by flooding. Deposit (8/1) was the topsoil, see above.

Timber Yard, Trench 9
The foundations of three further cottage foundations and walls were noted in the Timber Yard but not numbered or recorded due to their origins in the later 20th century (Fig. 10-11). These structures include two further cottages on the east side of the Yard (nos. 3 and 4) and a further cottage on the west side of the Timber Yard. These buildings are first documented on the Ordnance Survey map of 1976. There were a number of features identified adjacent to the west cottage of the Timber Yard, but they were treated as modern activity associated with the construction of the house.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery (*by Dave Gilbert*)

The post-medieval pottery consisted of 18 sherds weighing a total of 445g and was recorded utilizing the coding system and chronology of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1984; 1994), as follows:

Red Earthenware (OXDR), dated 1550+
Creamware (CRM), late 18th – early 19th century
Black Basalt Ware (EST), late 18th – early 19th century
Late Red Earthenware (REW) 'flowerpot' etc: 19th century +
White Earthenware (WHEW), 19th – 20th century

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type

	OXDR		**CRM**		**EST**		**REW**		**WHEW**		
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
1/1	1	12			1	6	1	12	1	6	C19th +
2/1									1	20	C19th +
4/2			1	2							late C18th +
5/6									1	28	C19th +
8/14									1	220	C19th +
8/15	1	13									mid C16th +
9/5							2	53	1	1	C19th +
10/1									1	12	C19th +
10/9	1	4									mid C16th +
u/s	1	56									mid C16th +

5.2 Building Material

Medieval Roof Tile
The major stone building in Trench 2 produced a considerable quantity of tiles both standard tile slates and ridge pieces (table 2). The fabric types are relatively homogenous and must come from the same firing or a related firing. Though in form it is apparent that these are tiles the nature of the fabric is more in line with medieval pottery. The fabric recovered being externally a pink or red pink with an internal grey to grey black colouration with inclusions. No glazed components were found.

The use of clay tiles is recognised in the south of England from the 12th and early 13th century at major centres like Southampton, London, Reading and Battle (Hare 1991, 86-103; van Lemmen 2003, 7-8), these early tiles are known to take on the form of earlier Roman tegulae forms, but alternatively square or rectangular cut tiles with dowel holes and ridge tiles. In the 13th century series of sites are documented or found through archaeology as having medieval roof tiles (Hare 1991, 86-103), for example Marlborough Castle 1239 (Wilts), Clarendon Palace 1244, Highclere 1291 (Hants), while at Chippenham in Wiltshire roof tile kilns are known from the late 13th century. Thermo-remnant magnetometry was carried out on a roof tile kiln at Farnham in Surrey which produced a date of 1235 +/- 15.

The chapel at Ditchley is known to exist in 1175, see above. Although medieval tiles are recognised from the 12th century, and it is possible that they were employed at this date it is also possible that clay tiles could have been used at a later date replacing thatch or shingle and there is no diagnostic indications to verify the early date. There are no indications of the right angles or dowel holes on the roof tiles, there are indications of curving ridge tiles. Different parts of the church were the responsibility of different authorities for their upkeep. The chancel fell under the control of the ecclesiastical authorities, in this case the church of Enstone and its supporter the Abbot of Winchcombe, while the nave was attended to by the lord of the manor, initially this would have been the Lord of Enstone manor.

Table 2: Quantified medieval tile

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Dimensions (mm)	Description
2/15	1	93	12mmtile depth, 30mm ridge vein	Red pink fabric with a grey internal fabric, with micaceous inclusions
2/15	1	17	14mm deep	Pink outer fabric with black grey internal fabric, with micaceous inclusions
2/21	7	51	10-12mm deep	Red pink outer fabric with grey black internak fabric with micaceous inclusions
2/22	3	33	8-11mm deep	Red pink outer fabric with grey internal fabric, with micaceous inclusions
2/23	2	64	9-12mm deep	Pink outer fabric with a grey internal fabric, with micaceous inclusions
2/24	1	32	10mm deep	Pink outer fabric with a grey internal fabric, with a micaceous to large
Trench 2 u/s	14	586	10-17mm deep	Pink outer fabric with a grey internal fabric

Tile

Two fragments of later post-medieval to imperial tile were recovered from the site, which is surprising in that there is not a clear visible indication of a use of ceramic tiles on the site, which could be associated with any of the buildings at Ditchley Park (Table 3). The threshing barn appears to show a traditional use of local limestone tiles, while post the 18th century slate was shipped in as the roofing material. What this could mean is that before the late 19th century when slate transportation was easier that there was a local tradition of tile production, which went alongside the use of local stone slates and thatch.

Table 3: Quantified post-medieval tile

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Dimensions (mm)	Description
4/14	1	28	10mm depth	Red orange sand fabric with few inclusions
9/5	1	15	12mm depth	Red fabric with micasious inclusions with a curve possibly part of a ridge tile.

Brick

The post-medieval brick and tile represents only a sample of the material disturbed, and in the cases of some contexts the samples were only retrieved as an indication that

Table 4: Quantified brick

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Dimensions (mm)	Description
1/1	1	3	?	Red orange sand fabric with inclusions (1)
3/8	1	783	? x 100mm x 63mm	Red orange sand fabric, large limestone inclusions (1)
3/8	1	503	? x ? x 63mm	Red orange sand fabric, medium to large inclusions, white mortar residue (1)
3/8	1	250	? x ? x 58mm	Red orange sand fabric, medium to large inclusions, white mortar residue (1)
4/2	1	21		Red orange sand fabric, inclusions (1)
4/5	1	55	?	Red orange sand fabric, medium inclusions (1)
4/14	1	262	? x ? x 52mm	Red orange sand fabric, medium to large inclusions, grey coloration on the exterior, white mortar residue (1)
4/14	1	272	? x ? x 58mm	Red orange sand fabric, medium to large inclusions, white mortar residue (1)
4/32	1	56		Red orange sand fabric, large inclusions, white mortar residue (1)
4/40	1	838	? x 110mm x 53mm	Red orange sand fabric, medium to large inclusions of clay and limestone, grey coloration on exterior and mortar residue, thumb mark (1)
7/5	1	787	? x 102mm x 55mm	Red orange sand fabric, large inclusions (1)
7/5	1	474	? x ? x 52mm	Red orange sand fabric, large inclusions (1)
7/5	1	710	? x 105mm x 50mm	Red orange sand fabric, medium to large inclusions (1)
7/5	1	1304	? x 102mm x 52mm	Red orange sand fabric, medium to large inclusions, white mortar residue (1)
7/5	1	1215	? x 98mm x 50mm	Orange red sand fabric, medium to large inclusions (1), a standard fabric type but with a different firing giving colour variation. White mortar.
7/5	1	1085	? x 102mm x 52mm	Magenta red sand fabric, medium to large inclusions (1), variation in colour due to firing, outside of brick is a blue grey vitrified surface, white mortar is attached.
7/5	1	347	? x ? x 50mm	Deep red sand fabric, medium to large inclusions (1). The differential colouring by firing process.
8/12	1	840	? x ? x ?	Red orange sand fabric, medium to large inclusions, grey discoloration, white mortar remains (1). Later tar staining.
u/s	1	26	?	Brown red sand fabric with small inclusions (2)

ceramic building material had been recovered (Table 4). There were two fabric types represented in the sample of which the most common was a sand fabric with medium to large inclusions and normally fired a red orange colour, noted as fabric 1. In certain cases there were variations in the colour from the firing including a magenta red, a deep red, and an orange red. In one of these cases it was evident that a vitrified surface was evident on the brick. One small piece appeared to have a browner fabric with smaller inclusions, fabric 2, and has thus been interpreted as being different.

No complete brick was recovered for the sample but most of the samples included at least one or two dimensions, most notably the depth. Variation in sizes included a width and depth of 110mm x 63mm, a depth 58mm, a width and depth of 110mm x 53mm, a width and depth of 102mm x 55mm (with variation in firing), width and depth 105mm x 52mm, a width and depth of 98mm x 50mm (with variation in firing), and a depth of 50mm (with variation in firing). The estate at Ditchley Park is known (estate workers comments) to have had its own clay pit (SP 38450 22003) and also a kiln site in Dog Kennel Wood (SP 38700 22000). It is for this reason that it is suggested that fabric type 1 was produced locally on the estate. The depths of the bricks are indicative of a extremely rough date through the 16th, 17th and 18th century, in the 19th century different types and styles of bricks could be shipped in from elsewhere by an increasing trade network, but there is undoubtedly no real evidence for this in the sample. A sample of material where brick sizes are apparent have been retained as they are probably part of a selection believed to come from the Dog Kennel Wood kiln site. The following contexts can be discarded (1/1), (4/5), and (4/32).

Daub

The remains of a single daub fragment were recovered unstratified from Trench 9 in the vicinity of a posthole of a stratigraphically early phase (Table 5). The find is indicative of their being earlier activity on the site.

Table 5: Quantified daub

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Dimensions (mm)	Description
Trench 9 u/s	3	7		Three fragments of a red burnt clay, probably daub from a building

Worked Stone

In the vicinity of the barn the remains of three carved slabs were uncovered all of which had to have originated as capping stones. Two of them from context 46 were still used as capping stones, even if reused. The other was from context 26 located in the base of the wall and laid upside-down. None of these were kept or transported from the site as they were to large to be transported, but rather photographs were taken and they were deposited at the stone yard at the Bothy. The final piece was from an unstratified context along the line of Trench 4 through the area of quarries to the west of the barn. The problem of the provenance of this work makes it problematic as material was probably shipped into this area to provide makeup for the upper road surface. Most of this debris is likely to come from somewhere on the estate. All of these pieces of stonework are likely to be post-medieval in date possibly of the 18th century.

Table 6: Quantified worked stone

Context	No.	Weight (g)	Dimensions (mm)	Description
26	1		970mm x 450mm x 140mm	The remains of a limestone capping stone, left at Ditchley, with a keel moulding and right angled cusp. There is a right angled recess on the other side.
46	1			Capping stone of limestone.
46	1			The remains of a limestone capping stone of a similar design to that above.
u/s Barn	2			Two pieces of worked limestone with square cut on one site. Probable capping stone or panel.
u/s Trench 4	1	222	98mm x 84mm x 18mm	Due to density a piece of stone. Part of a frieze. The design has a roll and square band at the top and bottom with a floral design with leaves in the central band.

5.3 Animal Bone (*by Gavin Davis*)

Animal bone was recovered from three contexts all from Trench 4. Context 4/1 contained one leg bone. From context 4/2 there were several unidentified fragments and two fragments possibly from the pelvic area of an animal. A bovine leg bone was recovered from context 4/5.

Table 7: Quantification of animal bone

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comments
4/1	1	48	Leg bone
4/2	6	7	Four unidentified fragments and two fragments possibly form the pelvic area
4/5	1	229	Lower leg bone, probably bovine

5.4 Glass Objects (*by Gavin Davis*)

Three pieces of Glass were recovered from three trenches, two from contexts and one unstratified. Recovered from context (1/1) was a small fragment of thin, green glass probably from the body of a bottle. A further body fragment was unstratified but recovered from along the line of Trench 6. This had a diameter of 37mm and contained the family crest of the Earls of Lichfield. The edge of the stamp had a rounded heel lip, which was approximately 4mm wide, that surrounded and embossed the image of a five pronged crown topped by baubles. Underneath this was the embossed name Litchfield which curved half way around the circumference of the base. The design was surrounded by a circular string of small raised dots. It was fashionable in the 17th and 18th century for major families to emboss imported wine bottles from France with their emblems (Hedges 1975, 7-8). The earls of Lichfield lived at Ditchley from 1674 to 1776, and it must be the case that this bottle stamp was brought to Ditchley at this time. Though the piece was not stratified its general location from near the building in Trench 6 may be important. Recovered from context 2/15 was the top of a green bottle neck and rim. The diameter of the bottle

opening was 18mm and the diameter across the top of the bottle including the rim was 33 mm.

Table 8: Quantification Glass

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comments
1/1	1	4	Green thin glass fragment probably from a bottle
2/15	1	14	Small bottle rim and the top of the neck.
Tr 6 U/S	1	16	37mm diameter embossed wine bottle containing a crest of the Lichfield family.

5.5 Metal Objects (*by Gavin Davis*)

Three pieces of metal were recovered from the excavations, one coin that was unstratified, a nail which was also unstratified but which possibly originated from context 4/14, and a silver spoon handle from 2/12. The silver spoon handle had the remains of a hallmark which showed three squares, one of which contained an S date mark.

Table 9: Quantification of metal

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comments
Trench 2 U/S	1	2g	Coin
2/12	1	10g	Silver spoon handle with an S date mark
U/S possibly from 4/14	1	6g	Fe Nail

Roman coin *(by Andrej Čelovský)*
During the archaeological watching brief at Ditchley Park, Spelsbury, Oxfordshire a very abraded and illegible copper-alloy Roman coin (Plate 12) was recovered from the Trench 2 in the area of medieval building.

Basic analysis, which involved the cleaning, measuring and detailed examination of the coin, revealed the following information;

Due to the coin's dimensions: 18.5mm (diameter), 1.6mm (thickness) and 2.73g (weight), denomination of the coin was determined as a Centenionalis. Centenionalii, were common late Roman coins, which were struck in cooper (Petráň – Fridrichovský 2008, 45-46).

Very poor preservation of the coin does not allow an exact determination of the issuer or date of the coin. The obverse legend is illegible; however, the outline of helmeted and cuirassed bust oriented to the right, which could be identified as obverse bust type D2 (RIC VII, 88), is discernible. The main reverse legend, mint mark and officiana are also illegible. However, a Roman standard with inscription *[VOT]/XX* and captive seated on either side are discernible, which suggest that reverse legend should be *VIRTVS – EXERCIT* (RIC VII, 95).

Based on the above information, the coin can be identified as one of a number of similar types described in the RIC VII dated to the period AD 313-337. However, the closest parallel perhaps is the Centenionalis of Constantine I, RIC VII (London) 185, dated to the AD 320 (Casey 2009, 18-19, plate 4:3; RIC VII, 109)

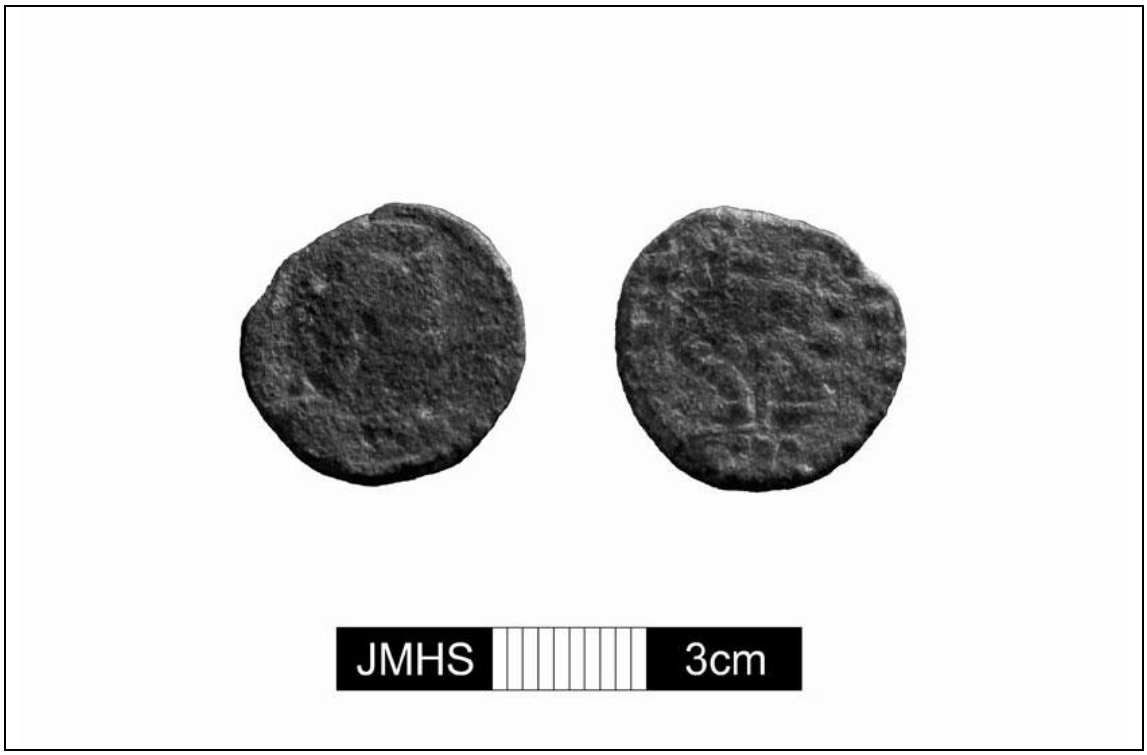

Plate 12: Roman Centenionalis coin

6 DISCUSSION

The trenches opened up at Ditchley Park for the biomass heating system was extensive and consequently uncovered much archaeology, but due to its keyhole approach (that is viewed through a narrow slot) our understanding of this material is somewhat fragmentary.

In the vicinity of the Timber Yard in Trench 9 a series of early features were noted cut into the bedrock. These features were sealed by a subsoil and it was, therefore, considered that they were older than activity associated with the Timber Yard. This settlement could not be precisely dated, but it was noted above that the cropmarks of a settlement show up to the north of the Timber Yard and that an unstratified piece of daub was recovered from around one of the postholes identified. The other feature of a prehistoric date was the Grim's Ditch in Trench 1, no dating material was recovered from the narrow line of the trench but it was recognised that there was a central posthole on the line of the bank and that this was sealed with later debris. A further palisade slot was evident on the south side of the bank. It has been suggested that there were two phases of the Grim's Ditch and that these were labelled Circuit 1 and Circuit 2. Observations of this section of the bank indicated that this particular bank had two phases of construction and that perhaps the timeframe over which it had previously been suggested that this bank was constructed should be expanded.

A number of interesting features were found across the course of the watching brief of which the most notable were the remains of a significant stone building some 7m across with walls approaching a 1m width and of which the finds appeared to be medieval tiles; the east wall of the building may be bowed or polygonal in design. The structure was orientated east to west. For these basic reasons and the quality and apparent date of the material it was considered that this represented the remains of the

medieval chapel documented as existing in 1175. An unstratified Roman coin was recovered from the spoil at the side of the trench associated with this building, but any other Roman material for example tile was lacking to discount this as the site of an earlier Roman stone building. A ditch identified adjacent to this structure was considered to be part of a boundary feature of the chapel yard. None of these features were precisely datable, but from this general area the rim of a wine bottle was recovered. Though it is not possible to prove, the coin may have been an earlier curiosity passed on as an oblation or offering at the probable chapel, while the bottle rim could relate to Christian ritual activity. To the east of the chapel there was evidence of a subsoil, probably agricultural, with some evidence of shallow but broad cuts reminiscent of ridge and furrow. The quarry pits to the west of the barn would appear to be of a probable medieval origin, even if they continued into the earlier part of the post-medieval period.

The location of medieval Ditchley apart from this building is unknown, but it would seem feasible that the church lay either within the hamlet or possibly on the southern edge of the hamlet overlooking it from the bank. The parish boundary probably ran along the course of the Grim's Ditch. Early post-medieval buildings can be identified in Ditchley, the Threshing Barn, a possible Icehouse, and a building located near the present Stables (one possible location of the Old House). There is a wall of an earlier building underneath the Lower House, previously the old Home Farm (a further possible location of the Old House), and one located over the quarries west of the barn. Building remains have been reported by an estate worker in the northwest corner of the Walled Garden. It is apparent that we are from this watching brief beginning to obtain an idea of where settlement was located in the Ditchley hamlet in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The landscape was reworked in the Imperial period, but certain aspects of the estate remained the same. In the 18th century Ditchley House was constructed in 1722, the Stable Block was also constructed, the Bothy is on a map of this date (although considerably reworked as a building), the Lower House replaced an earlier structure, the Garden Cottage was built, and the Timber Yard established. A number of culverts were probably constructed at this time including drainage culverts associated with Ditchley House and the Lower House, the stream was culverted probably in this century although some of the culverts may have undergone repairs and reworking at later dates. The outer walls of the Walled garden were also in place by the 18th century, and there were buildings on the northern boundary of this area at this time and a well. Signs of activity were detected in the vicinity of the Timber Yard.

Victorian activity is sporadic across the site, Timber Yard Cottages 1 and 2 were constructed in the latter part of the 19th century, the Cottage at the northwest corner of the Walled Garden was also constructed at this time, while Ivy Nook Cottage was constructed in the first 20yrs of the 20th century. Other houses are noted as being later than this.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents
The archive consists of the following:

Paper record	Physical record
The project brief	Finds
Written scheme of investigation	
The project report	
The primary site record	

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the County Museums' Store under accession number OCAS: 2012.102.

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