



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**LAND ADJACENT TO ST MARY'S CHURCH,
SOUTHEND, GARSINGTON,
OXFORDSHIRE, OX49 9DD**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**NGR SP 58089 01986
CENTRED**

On behalf of

Mr G Young

FEBRUARY 2016

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Summary

John Moore Heritage Services carried out an evaluation on land adjacent to, and south of, the parish Church of St Mary, Southend, Garsington, Oxfordshire, OX44 9DD centred on NGR SP58089 01986. The excavations revealed 10, possibly 11, ditches across the site with a minimum number of ditches equalling 8. Two pits were also identified and a negative feature which may also have been a pit was found. Dateable pottery was recovered from 10 contexts, and 6 of these were related to five ditches. The majority of these ditches contained 6th and 7th century pottery and one ditch contained residual Roman pottery. Another ditch contained a fragment of red slipped mortaria, which may date this ditch to the 4th century. It is possible though that the continuation of this ditch may be the same as a section of ditch further to the NW which contained pottery of 6th or 7th century date. A piece of 12th to 14th century pottery was recovered from one ditch which may date this feature and related ditches towards the SW corner of the site to the later medieval period. It is however possible that this fragment was infiltrated or poorly stratified. No underground features were identified that related to the possible medieval holloway indicated on LIDAR imagery and it is possible that this linear feature and another identified relate to the still in use public footpaths that run E-W and N-S across the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

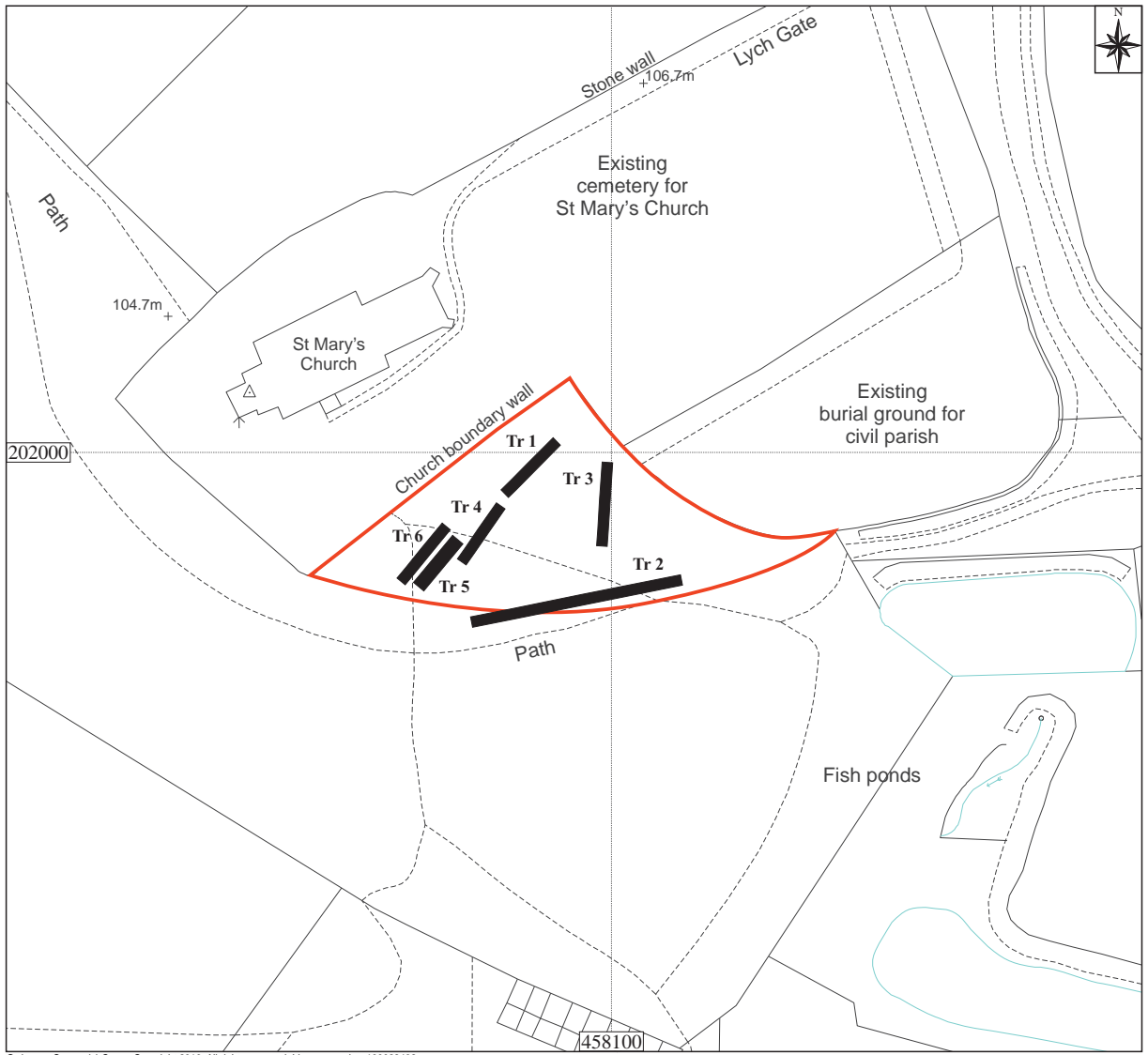
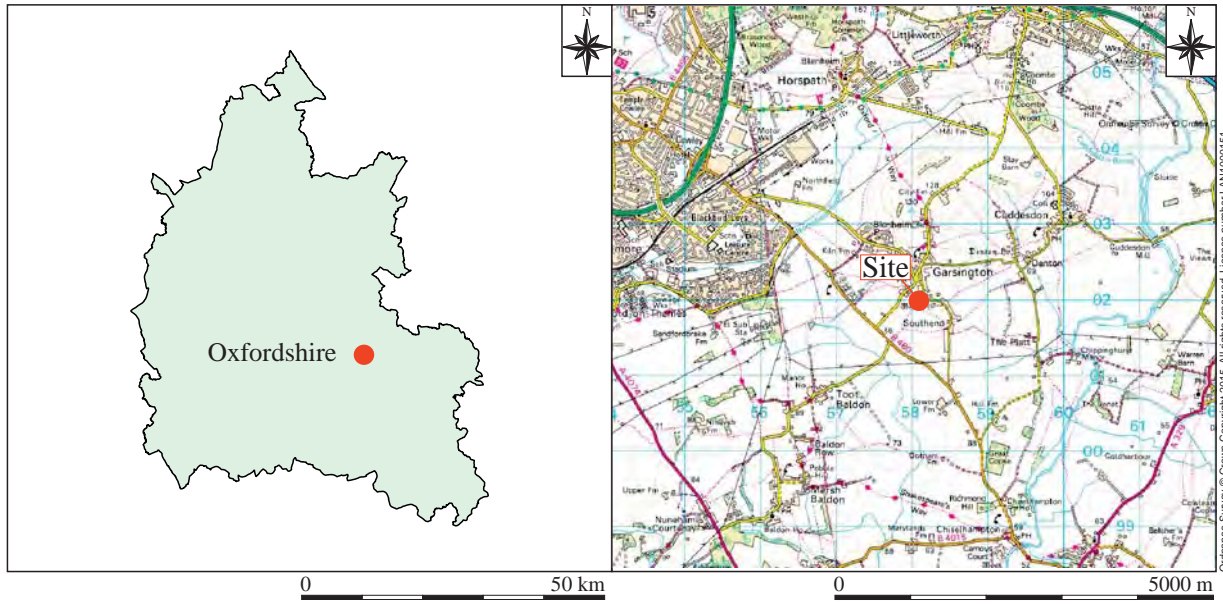
The application site is located northeast and south of St Mary's Church, Southend, Garsington, OX44 9DD. The area to the south of the church is centred at NGR SP58089 01986. The underlying geology is Kimmeridge Clay Formation with beds of sand and silt, and Portland group – limestone and calcareous sandstone top the north.

1.2 Planning Background

An application has been submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council for demolition of some agricultural buildings to the NE of St Mary's Church, Southend Garsington. The proposal is for; the retention of one building for agricultural purposes; repair, restoration and conversion of other retained buildings to form single storey dwelling; improvements to access; and change of use of land South of Church to form extension to civil Parish burial ground. The Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET) has advised that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken on the land south of St Mary's Church. This report refers to the evaluation carried out on the land south of St Mary's Church.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The proposed site lies to the north east of St Mary's Church which has Norman origins (Oxon HER: PRN 4293), and 50m to the west of a pasture field that contains platforms and holloways that are surviving earthworks of part of the medieval village (PRN 4295). In particular a holloway survives heading to the Dovecote from the current entrance to the site. Further Holloways and house platforms are recorded running from the village, down and west of Southend (PRN 4507).



Key Site boundary Evaluation trenches

Figure 1: Site location

The proposed new burial site is located adjacent to a grade II* registered Park and Garden which also contains medieval fishponds. A possible holloway from the Church to the gardens is visible on LIDAR images of the site. It was therefore thought likely that further archaeological deposits related to these periods would survive on the site.

A late medieval spearhead was found within 1km of the site (PRN 12776), and a 1st century AD, Iron Age gold coin of Cunobelinus plus a sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from a field to NE of Southend (PRN:1860).

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

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

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site, the depth of soil deposits that overlie these remains and to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the medieval landscape.
- To determine the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.
- To inform the need for, and scope of, further phases of work to mitigate the impact of the development under consideration.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation (JMHS 2016) agreed with the Oxfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET) the archaeological advisors to South Oxfordshire District

Council. The archaeological fieldwork and reporting were carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

Three trenches were planned for with a combined length of 70m and a width of approximately 1.65m. There was a contingency to split Trench 1 along the western perimeter of the site into three separate trenches. This contingency was available in order that trenches may be positioned to meet the projected line of the holloway at right angles to it. The resultant trenches consisted of a 30m trench along the southern boundary of the site (Trench 2), an 11.8m trench orientated N-S and located toward the east of the site (Trench 3), and three trenches with a combined length of 29.8m and oriented approximately NE-SW along the western boundary of the site (Trenches 1, 4 & 6). The resultant trenches had a combined length of 71.7m and an area of approximately 114.56m². The trenches were excavated by a 360° machine fitted with a 1.5m ditching bucket. The excavation was taken down to the natural soil horizon or to the archaeology where this was encountered. Trenches and sections were cleaned by hand and any archaeology encountered was cleaned and hand excavated to the appropriate level.

Following excavation a further trench (Trench 5) measuring 8.6m by 1.8m was excavated to assess the SW extent of a continuous ditch that was identified in trenches 4 and 6. This increased the overall trench length to 80.3m and an approximate area of 130.04m².

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 (Figures 2 -5)

All features were assigned with individual context number. Context numbers with no brackets indicate feature cuts, numbers in the round brackets () show feature fills or deposits of material and numbers in **bold** indicate any form of masonry.

4.1 TRENCH 1 (Figures 2 & 3)

Trench 1 was 10.2m long by 1.6m wide. The lowest layer recorded in Trench 1 was a deposit of limestone (1/09). This layer was below or maybe within the natural yellow sand deposit (1/04). At the north end of the trench was a possible linear feature cut into natural sand, 1/06 (Fig.3, Trench 1). The feature appeared to be orientated NW-SE and was filled by a mid to dark orange loamy sand with frequent fragments of angular limestone fragments in its upper surface (1/05). The feature may have been a horizon between the natural sand (1/04) and the edge of an overlying deposit. A decision was made to prioritise more definite features and 1/06 was therefore not excavated. Deposited above (1/05) was (1/03) which was a mid yellow brown sand with dark grey brown patches (Fig. 3, section 1.02). The layer was between 0.13m and 0.22m thick and was not clearly visible towards the SW of the trench and may not have been present. At the SW end of the trench was the edge of a possible cut 1/08.

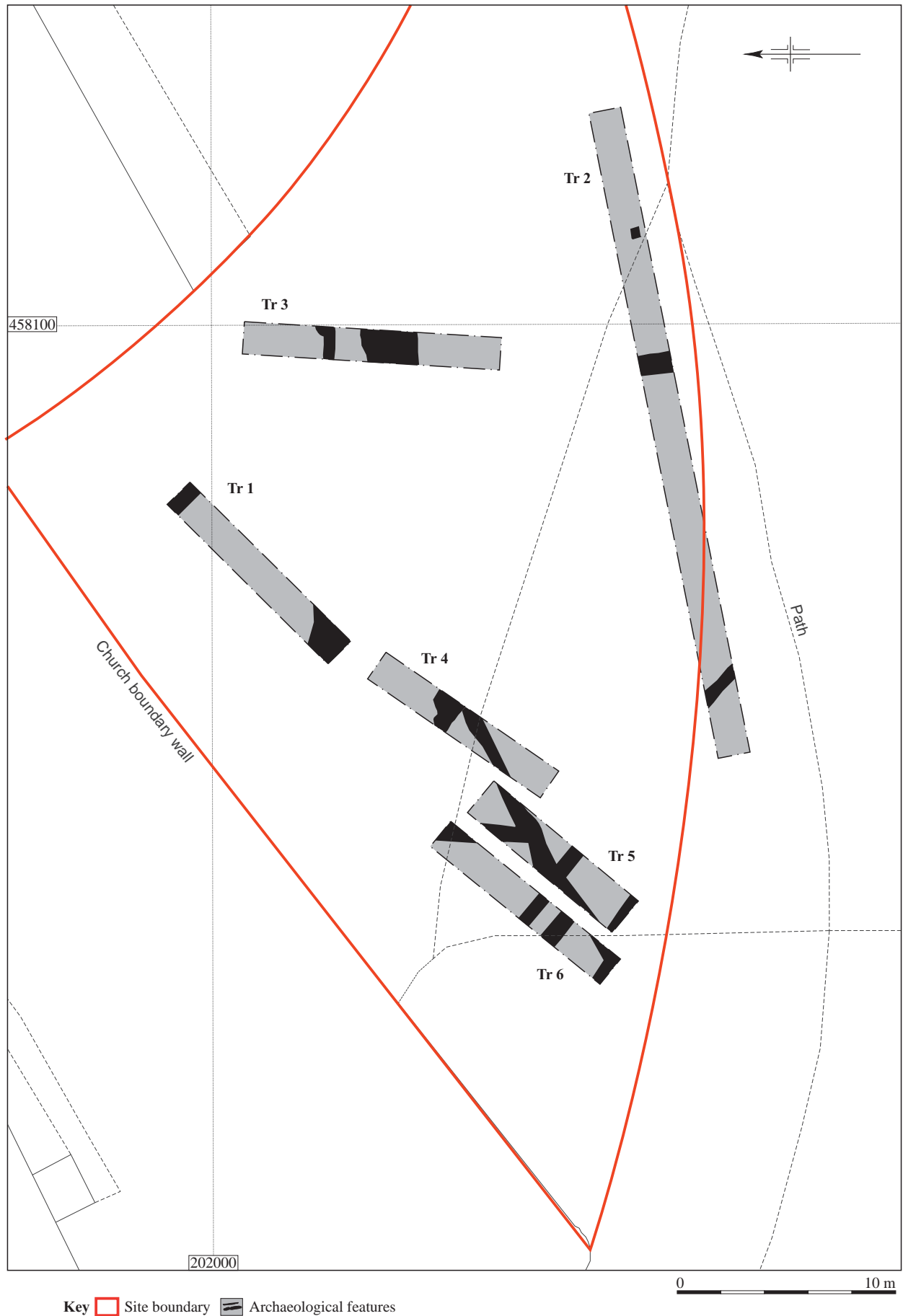


Figure 2: Trench locations

This was a curving cut which cut (1/04) and limestone deposit (1/09) below this. It was filled by a mid to dark yellowish brown sandy loam with light orange flecks (1/07) (Fig.3, Trench 1, section 1.01). There were also possible burnt flecks in the fill but these were observed only in the upper few millimetres of the fill and may have been from the subsoil layer above this. The upper horizon of the fill was not clear from the subsoil layer above this and it is possible that the deposit may indicate subsoil overlying a drop in the underlying natural. A mid yellowish grey brown loamy sand/sandy loam subsoil was deposited above fill (1/07). This layer (1/02) was also deposited above the lower subsoil layer (1/03) towards the NE end of the trench. The deposit was between 0.25m and 0.4m thick and contained deposits of animal bone towards the NE end of the trench and a single piece of post-medieval roof tile. Overlying the subsoil was a 0.2m to 0.35m thick dark grey loamy sand topsoil (1/01).

4.2 TRENCH 2 (Figures 2 & 3. Plate 1)

Trench 2 was 30m long and 1.6m wide. The lowest layer in the eastern area of Trench 2 was natural yellow sand (2/03). At the west end extending approximately 14m to the east was a deposit of brashy limestone (2/04) (Fig 3, Trench 2). Large fragments of the limestone had been disturbed and deposited within the subsoil above and this initially made it unclear as to whether (2/04) was a natural layer or man-made. At the eastern end of the trench a shallow rectangular pit, 2/06, was cut into the natural. This pit may have been truncated slightly by machining but survived to a depth of 0.1m and was filled by a dark orange and brown, slightly sandy loam (1/05) that contained one small fragment of animal bone (Fig. 3, Section 2.02). Further to the west of this feature was a ditch 1/08 (Fig. 3, section 2.03). Ditch 1/08 was orientated N-S and was 1m wide by 0.2m deep. The ditch was filled by a grey brown silty sand with orange sandy mottling, (1/07), which contained a single fragment of animal bone. Overlying these features was a 0.1m layer of dark brown sandy loam. The layer had an unclear upper horizon with the subsoil layer above it (2/02) and was only identified in the east of the trench for 16m towards the west.

At the west end of the trench was a ditch orientated NW by SE, 2/10 (Fig. 3, sections 2.04 – 2.06). Ditch 2/10 was cut through the limestone (2/04). It 0.48m deep and had stepped and concave sides down towards a narrower base. It was filled by a medium grey brown sandy loam (2/09) which contained animal bone and a fragment of foot and base from an Oxford Red Slipped Ware mortarium.

Deposited above (2/09) was a 0.55m thick layer dark brown sandy loam subsoil. The layer contained fragments of animal bone and a sherd of Anglo Saxon pottery. Above this was a dark brown sandy loam topsoil.



Plate 1. Trench 2. East view.

4.3 TRENCH 3 (Figures 2 & 4, Plates 2 & 3)

Trench 3 was 11.8m long and 1.6m wide. The lowest layer was a natural mid orange brown sand with a small clay content (3/03). Deposited above this was a mid orange and brown loamy sand (3/11); this was identified as a lower subsoil layer – probable ploughsoil. It had some similarity to the natural soil layer but was more loamy, less sandy and had a higher organic content. There were several features cut into layer (3/11) (Fig.4, Trench 3 section 3.01). At the north end of the trench was a pit 3/09 which was cut by a later ditch 3/04. Pit 3/09 was greater than 0.4m east to west and was 0.4m wide from north to south where it was cut by ditch 3/04. It was 0.2m deep and contained a light greyish brown sandy loam (3/10). The fill was cut by ditch 3/04. The ditch was orientated E-W and was greater than 1.6m in length, 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. The ditch was filled by a single fill (3/05), which was a light greyish brown sandy loam that was slightly lighter than (3/10). Further to the south of the trench was a wide ditch 3/06 that was orientated E-W. The ditch was 1.10m wide and was greater than 1.6m in length. It had shallow sloping sides and a flattish base and was 0.56m deep. The lower fill of the ditch (3/08) was a light grey brown sandy loam with rare ironstone inclusions and burnt stone. The fill was 0.17m deep and contained Anglo Saxon and Roman pottery, animal bone and very small fragments of copper alloy weighing less than 0.5g. Deposited above this layer was the upper fill of the ditch which was mid brown grey sandy loam with frequent charcoal inclusions and rare burnt stone (3/07). This fill contained Roman and Saxon pottery, animal bone and a small number of fragments that were tentatively identified as plaster.

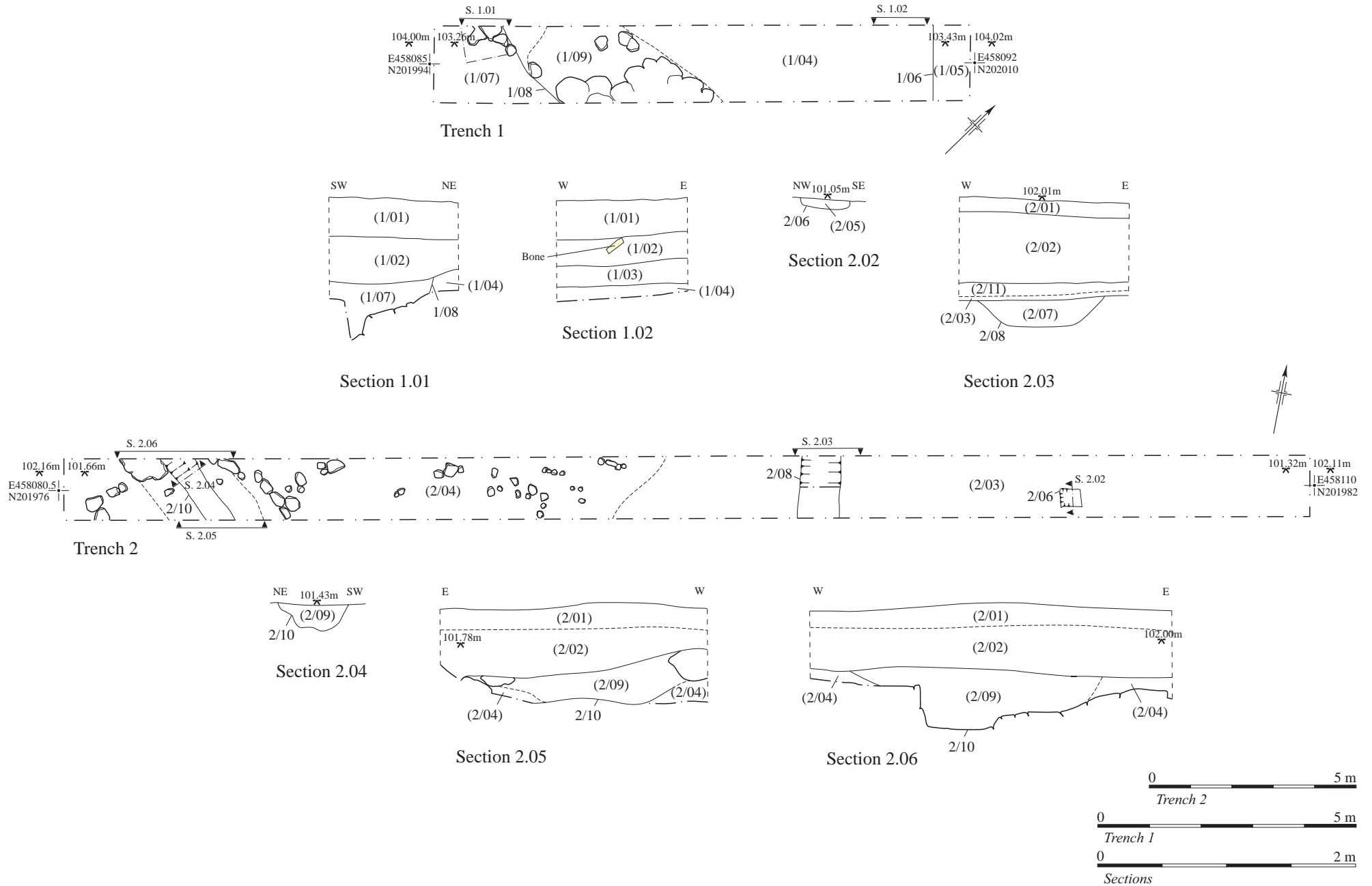


Figure 3: Trenches 1-2 - plans and sections

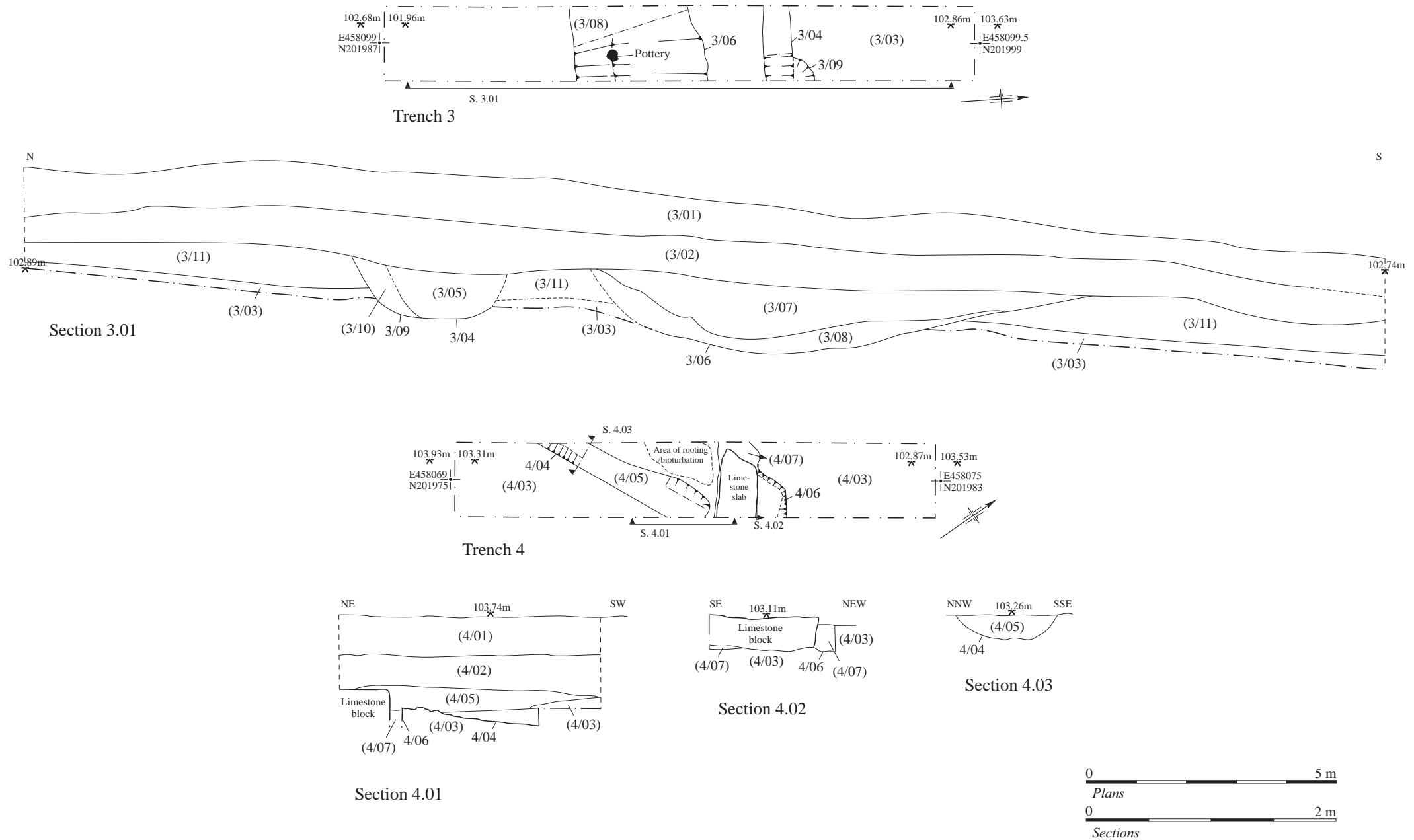


Figure 4: Trenches 3-4 - plans and sections

Deposited above the features identified in Trench 3 were a mid greyish brown loamy sand (3/02) and a dark brown sandy loam topsoil (3/01)



Plate 2. Trench 3. South View



Plate 3. Fragment of Saxon jar in the base of Ditch 3/06

4.4 TRENCH 4 (Figures 2 & 4, Plate 4)

Trench 4 was 9.6m long and 1.6m wide. The lowest layer in Trench 4 was a natural layer of sand and limestone (4/03). Cut into the natural was a ditch, 4/04, orientated NE –SW. The ditch was greater than 3m in length and was continuous with the same feature identified in Trenches 5 and 6 (Fig. 2; Fig. 4, Trench 4). It was 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep and contained a firm mid grey sandy loam with occasional limestone inclusions (4/05) (Fig. 4, section 4.03). Fill (4/05) contained fragments of animal bone and a fragment of medieval pottery which may have been poorly stratified. The NW continuation of the ditch 4/04 was obstructed by a large limestone slab. An adjacent smaller slab on its northern edge had been removed by the machine. The slab was recorded as lying within an irregular shaped pit 4/06 that was recorded as being greater than 0.25m in depth (Fig. 4, Trench 4, Section 4.02). Due to the size and weight of the stone, which continued beyond the eastern wall of the trench, it was not possible to remove the stone in order to properly excavate the pit. The pit was filled with a firm grey sandy loam (4/07) that was similar to the fill of the ditch 4/04. The relationships between ditch 4/04 and pit 4/06 were unclear and it could not be fully ascertained if the ditch had been cut by the pit or if the ditch terminated before



Plate 4. Trench 4. SW view.



Plate 5. Section 4.01

the pit, although the later situation was recorded (Fig. 4, section 4.01, plate 5). Fragments of pottery and bone were recovered from surface cleaning over the area of pit 4/06 but were later allocated to the subsoil (4/02). Layer (4/02) was a 0.3m thick layer of brown grey sandy loam which was overlain by (4/01) a grey brown sandy loam topsoil.

4.5 TRENCH 5 (Figures 2 & 5, Plate 6)

Trench 5 was 8.6m long and 1.6m wide. The trench was excavated in order to investigate the SW continuation of ditch 4/04 and to ascertain if it was continuous with ditch 6/09 in Trench 6. Little excavation was carried out in Trench 5 but the continuation and possible continuation of ditches in Trenches 2, 4 and 6 were identified.

The lowest layer identified in Trench 5 was a natural light yellow brown sand (5/03). Cut into this were several features which were all filled with similar looking mid to light grey brown sandy fills. Orientated NE-SW was ditch 5/07 which was clearly continuous with ditch 4/04 and ditch 6/09. At least two ditches terminated in the western side of the ditch. Ditch 5/11 continued north from the western edge of ditch 5/07 and continued as ditch 6/03, in Trench 6. Ditch 6/07 did not continue into Trench 5 and was presumed to have terminated at the western edge of ditch 5/07. Ditch 5/09 was orientated NW-SE and continued NW as ditch 6/05 and may have continued SE as Ditch 2/10 in Trench 2. The relationship between ditch 5/07 and ditch 5/09 was not clear due to the similarity of the fills and excavation did not establish which ditch was cutting which. At SW end of Trench 5, Ditch 5/05 was identified orientated NW-

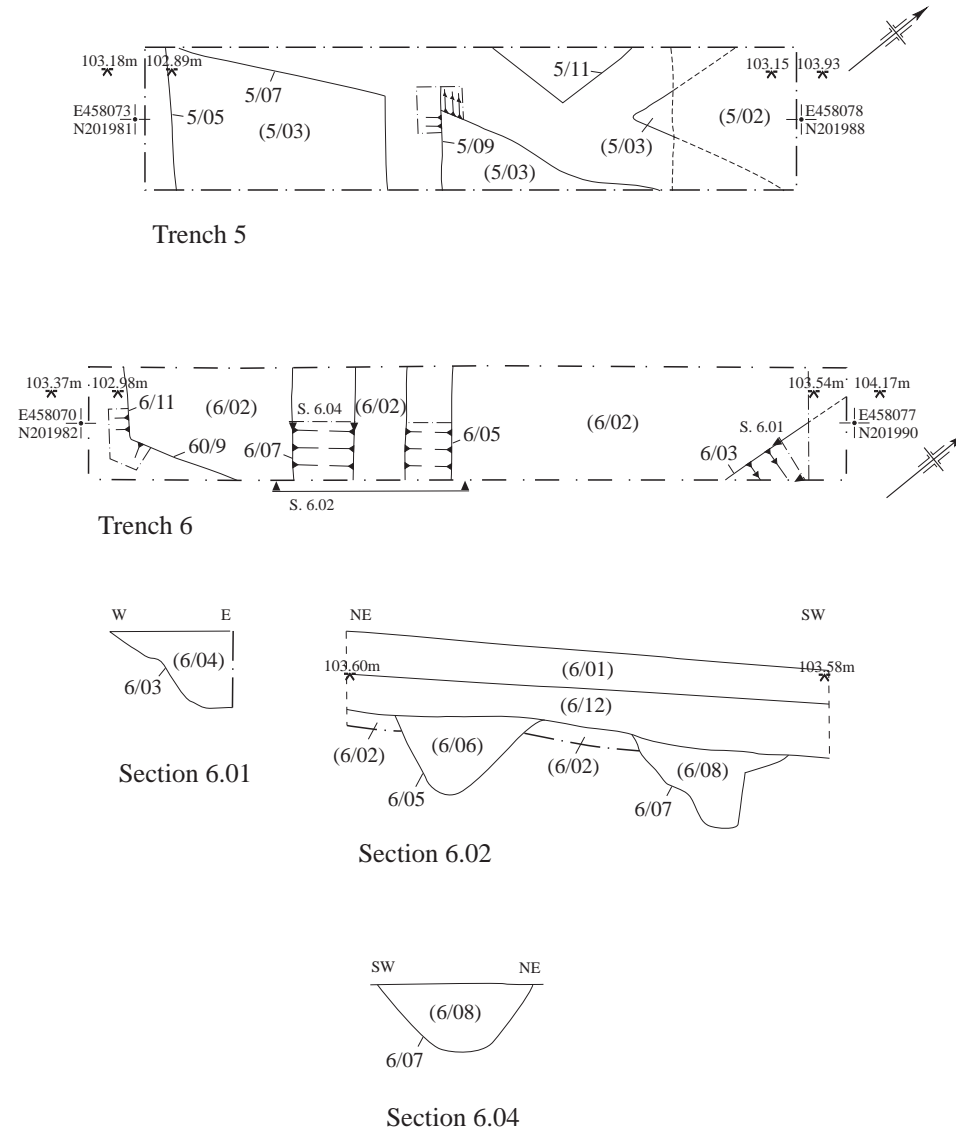


Figure 5: Trenches 5-6 - plans and sections

SE. A fragment of Saxon pottery was recovered from the top of (5/06) the fill of ditch 5/05. It was not clear if ditch 5/05 continued as ditch 6/11 or terminated at the eastern edge of 5/07.

4.5 TRENCH 6 (Figures 2 & 5, Plate 6)

Trench 6 was 10m long and 1.6m wide. The lowest layer identified was a light yellow natural sand (6/02) which was described as being bioturbated. Cut into this were five ditches. Ditch 6/07 was orientated NE-SW and was 0.8m wide and 0.42m deep (Fig. 5, Trench 6, sections 6.02 & 6.04, Plate 7). It was filled by light brown fine sand which contained no finds (6/08). It appeared that this ditch terminated in the western edge of ditch 5/07. Immediately adjacent to the NW of ditch 6/07 was ditch 6/05. This ditch was orientated in the same direction, NE-SW and was 0.72m wide and 0.42m deep (Fig. 5, Trench 6, sections 6.02, Plate 7). The fill was a mid-brown fine sand (6/06) and this contained fragments of Saxon pottery and animal bone. The ditch was the same as ditch 5/09 and was possibly continuous with ditch 2/10. In the NE corner of Trench 6 was a NE-SW orientated ditch 6/03 (Fig. 5, Trench 6, section 6.03). The ditch was 0.42 deep and was filled with a light brown fine sand (6/04) which contained no finds. The ditch was the same as ditch 5/11 which terminated in the western edge of ditch 5/07. In the SW corner of Trench 6 were two intercutting ditches, 6/09 and 6/11 (Fig 5. Trench 6). Excavation of these ditches could not differentiate the fills from each other and they may have been contemporary. Ditch 5/09 was the continuation of ditch 5/07 and 4/05. It was not revealed whether ditch 6/09 turned NE as ditch 6/11 or continued beyond it. Ditch 6/11 may have been the



Plate 6. Trenches 5 and 6. SW view.

same as ditch 5/05 but the relationship was not certain. Finds were not recovered from the fills of either of these ditches.

Deposited above the features in Trench 6 was a mid brown sandy subsoil (6/13) and this was overlain by dark brown sandy topsoil (6/01).



Plate 7. Section 6.2.

5 FINDS

5.1 The Roman, Saxon, and Late Medieval Pottery *By Jane Timby* (Table 1)

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of a small group of 22 sherds pottery weighing 670g and two pieces of ceramic building material weighing 179g. The pottery includes sherds dating to the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods.

Pottery was recovered from seven individual contexts distributed across Trenches 1-6, thus the incidence of sherds per deposit is very low.

The material is of mixed preservation; some sherds are more abraded than others. The Saxon material is particularly well-preserved with some large joining sherds. Surface finishes such as burnishing and coloured slips have been preserved.

For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was scanned to assess the likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. The resulting data can be found in Table 1. Where relevant the Roman sherds have been referred to using the National Roman fabric reference codes (Tomber and Dore 1998).

Roman

Six sherds date to the Roman period and these mainly comprises wares from the local Oxfordshire industry including reduced fine grey ware jars (OXF FR) (ibid. 173) and oxidised ware (OXF OX) and colour-coated ware (OXF RS) (ibid. 176).

The only featured sherd is that from an OXF RS mortarium (Young 1977, type C100) with a production period dating to 300-400 AD.

Saxon

There are 14 sherds present dating to the early Saxon period (6th-7th century). Despite being such a small group a variety of fabrics are present, including examples tempered with organic material; sand; sand and limestone; sand and sparse flint and grog with organic matter.

The forms are all from handmade jars with a particular large bodysherd and joining rim recovered from ditch 3/06. A second rim fragment from the same jar came from fill 3/07. A further jar from the same ditch shows sooting around the rim interior from use.

Two bodysherds from ditch 6/05 which have been burnt with surface spalling come from a decorated jar. The design appears to be a complex linear scheme with incised lines and scooped ovals. A second small piece from the same deposit shows some form of plastic decoration or traces of an attachment of some form.

Medieval

Two sherds of medieval date are present; one a sandy ware sherd from a cooking pot with exterior sooting; the second a probably later sherd with glazed splatters and probably from a jug.

Distribution

Most of the Roman material was re-deposited in later features. Exceptions include ditch 2/10 which yielded a single sherd from a later Roman mortarium dating to the 4th century. A single Roman sherd also came from the subsoil in Trench 4.

The largest assemblage, comprising some 12 sherds, came from the fill of ditch 3/06. This group includes three residual sherds of Roman date; the rest dates to the early Saxon period.

Ditches 5/07, 6/05 also contained small quantities of Saxon pottery and thus appear to be broadly contemporary with ditch 3/06. A Saxon sherd was also recovered from the subsoil horizon in trench 2.

Ditch 4/04 produced a single medieval sherd suggesting a date in the later 12-14th century. A later medieval sherd came from the subsoil in the same trench.

Potential and further work

This is a small assemblage dating to the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. The Saxon material is in particular well preserved and at least four pieces would be worth illustrating should the site be published, or further work is undertaken. The Roman assemblage is very small and may be curated material or may reflect preceding Roman activity in the area. Coloured or oxidised Roman sherds, as the red-slipped mortarium, are frequently found in Saxon contexts. The medieval sherds suggest the area continued to be used although perhaps not intensively.

5.2 Ceramic building material (CBM) by Jane Timby (table1)

Two fragments of CBM were recovered; one with glaze on one face from the subsoil of trench 1; the other, a roof-tile from the subsoil of trench 5. Both pieces are of post-medieval date.

Table 1: Pottery and Ceramic Building Material

Tr	Cxt	Cut	Type	Fabric	Description	Form	Wt	No	Rim	Date
1	2	0	subsoil	CBM	ceramic building material		110	1	0	Pmed
2	2	0	subsoil	SXOR2	micaceous organic		4	1	0	Saxon
2	9	10	ditch	OXF RS	Oxon red-slipped ware	mortaria	47	0	1	late Roman
3	8	6	ditch	SXOR1	organic-temper	jar	28	0	2	Saxon
3	8	6	ditch	SXSALI	sandy with limest	jar	2	0	1	Saxon
3	8	6	ditch	OXF OX	fine Oxford oxidised		1	1	0	Roman
3	7	6	ditch	OXF RS	Oxon red-slipped ware		4	1	0	late Roman
3	7	6	ditch	SXOR1	organic-temper	jar	354	2	1	Saxon
3	7	6	ditch	SXORSA	sandy with organic	jar	38	0	1	Saxon
3	7	6	ditch	SXGROR	grog and organic		6	1	0	Saxon
3	7	6	ditch	OXFFR	fine Oxford reduced		4	1	0	Roman
3	7	6	ditch	SXSAFL	sandy with flint		4	1	0	Saxon
4	2	0	subsoil	OXFFR	fine Oxford reduced		80	2	0	Roman
4	2	0	subsoil	Med	Brill-Boarstall?		10	1	0	Med
4	5	4	ditch	Medsy	sandy		19	1	0	medieval
5	2	0	subsoil	CBM	ceramic building material	rooftile	69	1	0	Pmed
5	6	7	linear	SXOR2	micaceous organic		10	1	0	Saxon
6	6	5	ditch	SXSALI	sandy with limest		27	2	0	Saxon
6	6	5	ditch	SXSALI	sandy with limest		32	1	0	Saxon
Total							849	18	6	

5.3 Animal Bone by Simona Denis (tables 2 & 3)

A small assemblage of 61 animal bone fragments, with a combined weight of 1791g, was collected during the excavation from 5 of the 6 excavated trenches and from 15 different contexts.

The state of preservation of the items was generally good, with over 60% of the group consisting of medium to large fragments, weighing over 10g. Fresh breaks were observed on the fragments found in contexts (1/02), (2/07), and (3/05). The matching of these fresh breaks allowed the minimum number of items to be reduced to 54.

Of these 54 items, 26 items (48%) were recovered from the subsoil. The remaining 28 bones (52%) were found in fills from 8 different features. The large ditch 3/06 was the richest in animal bone, the fills (3/07) and (3/08) combined containing 31% of the total animal bone assemblage.

Species Identification

Of the 54 items, 26 were identified with *genus*-specific characteristics and 24 items were from undetermined mammal species. The 24 undetermined fragments were grouped according to size range and attributed to large mammals (13 items), small mammals (4 items) and unspecified mammals (7 items). The remaining 4 fragments were unidentified.

The frequency of the identified *taxa* shows the predominance of cattle over sheep/goat, with a minor portion of pig, although due to the variable sizes and robustness of animal bones taphonomic factors may favour preservation of certain species, resulting in the under-representation of other, smaller animals (Kasumally 2002).

At Garsington, cow and large mammal bones combined represent 41% of the assemblage, while 28% of the group are sheep/goat and small mammal bones. Horse bones (9 %) and pig bones (2%) constitute a minor part of the assemblage and were recovered exclusively from the subsoil.

Occurrence by period

Period	Context	No. of Items	% of Stratified Items	Most Represented <i>Taxa</i>
Roman	2/09	2	8	Large mammal
Anglo-Saxon	3/07	13	50	Small mammal
	3/08	4	15	Sheep/Goat
	5/06	2	8	Cow/Large mammal
	6/06	1	4	Sheep/Goat
Medieval	4/05	2	8	N/A

Table 2: Occurrence of animal bone by period

The possible Roman feature 2/09 contained two fragments identified as large mammal; evidence from Roman sites in Britain prove the predominance of cattle over sheep/goat in this period (Maltby 2007, Maltby 2014).

The majority of the animal bone fragments recovered from features were found in three different Anglo-Saxon features. Of these, 9 items were identified as sheep/goat or small mammal, while 5 fragments belonged to cow or large mammals. Although very limited, the evidence from Garsington seems to conform to the general trend recorded for Anglo-Saxon settlements, with a predominance of sheep/goat over cattle (Arnold 1988).

The evidence from medieval contexts is limited to 2 fragments recovered from context 4/05, identified as large mammal and sheep/goat.

Butchering Marks

Of the assemblage of animal bones, 26% of items showed clear butchering evidence, including impact marks, cut marks and fracture patterns relative to both primary and secondary butchering. Primary butchering involves hide removal, joint dismemberment and meat removal, whereas secondary butchering involves detailed meat removal and smashing the bone into smaller portions for marrow extraction and grease rendering (Watts 2004).

The majority of the cut marks (7, or 58%) observed on the assemblage were chop or deep chop marks. Blade or point insertions were recorded on 3 fragments, and 2 additional examples showed clusters of fine slice marks concentrated around the epiphysis of the bones.

Chop marks are a common feature in Roman and later assemblages, compared to the Iron Age, where they were rare, and are connected with the widespread use of cleavers or large blade implements (Seetah 2009). At Garsington, chop marks were almost exclusively (with the exception of the mandible fragment found in context (2/02) observed on long bones and ribs, for the extraction of bone marrow.

Cow and large mammal bones accounted for the largest number of items with cut marks; 3 marks were observed on sheep/goat bones, and an additional single mark was recorded on a horse bone.

The bovine scapula found in subsoil (2/02) shows two clusters of fine slice marks concentrated around the neck. 8 of the marks are located close to the acromion, while the remaining 11 cut marks are placed around the neck; these marks are commonly associated with the disarticulation of the scapula from the humerus (Seetah 2009).

The low occurrence of cut marks on horse bones is common. Generally, horses were primarily valued as a means of transport and as beasts of burden rather than exploited for meat. (Maltby 2014).

Table 3: Animal bone

Context	Species	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Type	Marks	Comments
1/02	Large mammal	1	47	Femur diaphysis	Spiral chop	
	Horse	1	166	Metatarsus		Young individual
2/02	Cow	1	134	Scapula	Fine slice	
		1	104	Distal humerus		
	Large mammal	1	21	Costal groove		
		1	17	Costal groove	Point insertion	
		1	23	Long bone diaphysis		
		3	42	Mandible	Chop on 3	

					items	
	Sheep/Goat	1	12	Long bone diaphysis		
		1	34	Proximal tibia	Chop	
	Horse	1	67	Calcaneous		
		1	44	Mandible with P2 socket	Blade insertion	
		1	52	Axis		
2/05	Sheep/Goat	1	2	Costal groove	Fine slice	
2/07	Cow	1	150	Scapula		
2/09	Large mammal	1	8	Costal groove		
	Unidentified	1	2	Unidentified		
3/05	Cow	1	192	Radius-ulna		
3/07	Cow	1	100	Maxilla with M1, M2 and orbit		
		1	23	Costal groove		
	1	24	Costal groove with head	Chop		
	Small mammal	4	9	Costal groove		
	Mammal	1	13	Cranium with orbit		
		3	26	Cranium		
	Unidentified	2	7	Unidentified		
3/08	Sheep/Goat	2	31	Costal groove with head		
		2	2	Costal groove		Traces of burning
4/02	Cow	1	15	Intermediate phalanx		
	Unidentified	1	1	Unidentified		
4/05	Large mammal	1	12	Costal groove	Chop	
	Sheep/Goat	1	26	Proximal metatarsus		
5/02	Sheep/Goat	1	3	Costal groove		
5/06	Cow	1	14	Mandibula		
	Large mammal	1	2	I1 – FIRST INCISOR		
5/10	Cow	1	48	Distal humerus	Chop	
6/06	Sheep/Goat	1	20	Radius diaphysis	Chop	
6/13	Cow	1	82	Innominate		
	Large mammal	1	11	Maxilla or mandible		
	Sheep/Goat	1	12	Proximal radius		
	Horse	1	154	Proximal tibia		

	Pig	1	20	Proximal ulna		
	Mammal	1	9	Cranium		
		1	5	Scapula spine	Point insertion	
		1	5	Long bone diaphysis		

5.4 Copper Alloy *By Simona Denis*

A very limited quantity of copper alloy, weighing less than 0.5 g, was found in (3/08), the lower fill of large ditch [3/06]. The material was extremely small and fragmentary and oxidised and no form could be identified.

5.5 Plaster *by Simona Denis*

A small fragment of material, weighing less than 1 g, was found in context (3/07). The material has been tentatively identified as plaster.

6 DISCUSSION

The initial expectation, prior to the archaeological evaluation, based on the LIDAR imagery was that the excavations might encounter medieval holloways running across the site E-W and N-S. On the ground the linear depressions indicated by the LIDAR imagery seemed to correlate with well-trodden pathways which were still in use. Any depressions noted on the ground did not, however, correlate with any below ground archaeology; no further evidence for any holloways existed beyond the slight depressions noted above ground.

The excavations did encounter a number of ditches which by the pottery might date them to 6th or 7th century activity. Of the pottery recovered from archaeological contexts it was possible to date six contexts from between five, possibly four continuous features. Ditch 2/10 was possibly late Roman in date going by the fragment of mortarium recovered from the fill. Its alignment with ditches 5/09 and 6/05, however, would argue for an early medieval date for this possibly continuous features as evidenced by the three sherds of Saxon pottery recovered from the fill of ditch 6/05. This proposed continuous ditch also has an as yet undefined relationship with the NE-SW ditch represented by the continuous ditches 4/04, 5/07 and 6/09. Excavation was unable to establish which of these intercutting ditches was earlier or later, or indeed if they were contemporary. A number of other ditches seem to terminate in this NE-SW ditch and this would suggest some degree of contemporaneity. This does represent some problems with dating the features in Trenches 2, 4, 5 and 6 to the early medieval period due to the fragment of late medieval pottery reported as recovered from the fill of ditch 4/04. This could indicate that these features may indeed be 13th or 14th century in date rather than 6th or 7th century. There are a number of caveats to this conclusion though. The single fragment of pottery was recovered from the NE end of the ditch where its relationship with pit 4/06 was uncertain. It is possible that this single fragment relates to later disturbance rather than the fill of the ditch 4/04. A number of pottery fragments were also recovered from the surface of (4/07) the fill of pit 4/06 during excavation but in post

excavation these were found to have been allocated to the subsoil. There is some possibility that the medieval fragment also came from the overburden of subsoil in this area and was wrongly stratified to the fill of the ditch. Finally there was good evidence for bioturbation in this area of Trench 4 which had made it difficult to identify the western boundary of ditch 4/04 in this area, thus it is possible that the fragment originates amongst this disturbance or had infiltrated the fill of the ditch by way of organic activity. It is thus considered that the site indicates early medieval activity with features relating to this period with a possibility that some of the features may be late medieval. It is doubtful that the one ditch containing late Roman pottery originates in the Roman period as its alignment would suggest that it is the same ditch as that found to contain Saxon pottery in Trench 6. Late Roman pottery is common on early medieval sites and such material was also recovered from ditch 3/06 alongside Saxon material. The presence of Roman pottery may though indicate previous Roman occupation on the site but as yet no features can be dated to this period with strong certainty.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief
Written scheme of investigation
The project report
The primary site record

Physical record

Finds
Environmental remains

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Oxfordshire Museum Service with Accession Number OXCMS: awaited

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Appendix 1. Context Inventory

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Extent	Relationship	Finds	Interpretation	Date
Trench 1 Length -10.2m. Width – 1.6m								
1/01	Deposit	Dark grey loamy sand with occasional limestone	0.20-0.35m	>Trench	O. 1/02	-	Topsoil	Modern
1/02	Deposit	Mid yellowish grey brown loamy sand / sandy loam. Lower horizon not clear.	0.25-0.40m	>Trench	O 1/03 U 1/01	CBM Bone	Subsoil	Post Medieval
1/03	Deposit	Mid yellow brown sand with dark grey brown patches. Upper and lower horizons unclear.	0.13-0.22m	>1.6m by >8m	O 1/04 U 1/02	-	Lower subsoil	Undated
1/04	Deposit	Mid to light yellow brown sand	>0.08m	>Trench	O 1/09 U 1/03	-	Natural	-
1/05	Deposit	Mid to dark orange brown slight loamy sand with frequent very angular limestone in surface	Not recorded	Within 1/06	O 1/06 U 1/03	-	Fill of 1/06	Undated
1/06	Cut	Cut of linear NW-SE. May be a change in natural or a horizon between two soil layers	Not recorded	>1.6x0.7m	O 1/04 U 1/05	-	Linear ditch?	Undated
1/07	Deposit	Mid to dark yellowish brown sandy loam with light orange flecks and ?burnt flecks	>0.45m	Within 1/08	O 1/08 U 1/02	-	Fill of possible quarry pit	Undated
1/08	Cut	Curving cut that cuts 1/04 and 1/09	>0.45m	>1.8x >1.6m	O 1/04 U 1/07	-	Possible quarry pit	Undated
1/09	Deposit	Limestone deposit in or below 1/04	Not recorded	3m x>2m	U 1/04?	-	Natural limestone	-
Trench 2 Length -30m. Width – 1.6m								
2/01	Deposit	Friable dark brown sandy loam	0.12m	>Trench	O 2/02	-	Topsoil	Modern
2/02	Deposit	Soft dark brown sandy loam with concentrations of limestone fragments	Max 0.55m	>Trench	O 2/11 U 2/01	Pottery Bone	Subsoil	Post medieval
2/03	Deposit	Compact light brown yellowish sand	>0.05m	>16m, extends east	U 2/11	-	Natural	-
2/04	Deposit	Firm light brown yellowish sand with limestone outcrop	>0.50m	>14.5m, extends west	U2/02	-	Natural limestone	-
2/05	Deposit	Soft dark brown greyish sandy loam	0.10m	Within 2/06	O 2/06 U 2/11	Bone	Fill of 2/06	Undated
2/06	Cut	Subrectangular cut, sharp edges on top, slightly concave sides, gradual break of	0.10m	0.50x0.40m	O 2/03 U 2/05	-	Cut of subrectangular feature	Undated

		slope at base, flattish bottom						
2/07	Deposit	Soft brown-greyish mottled sandy loam with occasional stones	0.20m	Within 2/08	O 2/08 U 2/11	Bone	Fill of 2/08	Undated
2/08	Cut	N-S Linear with sharp b-o-s on top, gradual at base, flattish bottom, concave sides	0.20m	>1.80x0.90 m	O 2/03 U 2/07	-	Cut of ditch	Undated
2/09	Deposit	Soft medium grey brown sandy loam With frequent sub-angular small to medium limestone.	0.48m	Within 2/10	O 2/10 U 2/02	Pottery, Bone	Fill of 2/10	Late Roman? Early Medieval?
2/10	Cut	SE-NW Linear, concave/stepped sides, gradual b-o-s at base	0.48m	?1.80 x >1.80m	O 2/04 U 2/09	-	Cut of ditch	Late Roman? Early Medieval?
2/11	Deposit	Soft dark brown loamy sand. The upper horizon with 2/02 is diffuse	0.1m	>16m	O 2/03 U 2/02	-	Subsoil	Undated
Trench 3 Length -11.8m. Width - 1.6m								
3/01	Deposit	Friable dark brown sandy loam	ca 0.30m	>Trench	O 3/02	-	Topsoil	Modern
3/02	Deposit	Medium compacted mid greyish brown sand	ca 0.26m	>Trench	O 3/11 U 3/01	-	Subsoil	Post medieval
3/03	Deposit	Medium compacted mid orange brown sand	>0.10m	>Trench	U 3/11	-	Natural	-
3/04	Cut	E-W linear, truncating pit 3/09, sharp edges at top and bottom, flat base, moderate to steep slopes	0.20m	>1.60x0.60 m	O 3/10 U 3/05	-	Cut of ditch	Undated
3/05	Deposit	Medium compacted light greyish brown silty loam	0.20m	Within 3/04	O 3/04 U 3/02	Bone	Fill of ditch	Undated
3/06	Cut	E-W linear, with moderate slopes, flat bottom, sharp edges at top and bottom	0.56m	>1.50x1.10 m	O 3/11 U 3/08	-	Ditch with two fills	6 th -7 th Century AD
3/07	Deposit	Medium compacted mid brownish grey sandy loam with common charcoal inclusions and rare burnt stones	0.46m max	Within 3/06	O 3/08 U 3/02	Pottery, Bone, ?Plaster	Upper fill of ditch	6 th -7 th Century AD
3/08	Deposit	Medium compacted light grey brown sandy loam, rare ironstones, rare burnt stones	0.17m max	Within 3/06	O 3/03 U 3/07	Pottery, Bone, Cu Alloy	Primary fill of ditch	6 th -7 th Century AD
3/09	Cut	Feature truncated by linear, so only northern part preserved. Steep slope, flat bottom, sharp break-of-slope at top/bottom	0.20m	>0.40 x 0.40m	O 3/11 U 3/10	-	Cut for pit	Undated
3/10	Deposit	Medium compacted light greyish brown sandy loam, a bit lighter than 3/05	0.20m	Within 3/10	O 3/09 U 3/04	-	Fill of pit	Undated

3/11	Deposit	Medium compacted mid orange and brown loamy sand.	ca. 0.26m	>Trench	O 3/03 U 3/02	-	subsoil	< 6 th -7 th Century AD
Trench 4 Length - 9.6m. Width - 1.6m								
4/01	Deposit	Grey brown sandy loam	0.30m	>Trench	O 4/02	-	Topsoil	Modern
4/02	Deposit	Brown grey sandy loam	0.30m	>Trench	O 4/03 U 4/01	Pottery Bone	Subsoil	Post medieval
4/03	Deposit	Limestone and cornbrash	Not recorded	>Trench	U 4/02	-	Natural	-
4/04	Cut	E-W linear, sharp b-o-s at top, uneven at base, moderate slopes, uneven base	0.20m	>3m x 0.75m	O 4/03 U 4/05	-	Ditch	12 th -14 th century AD?
4/05	Deposit	Firm Mid grey sandy loam with occasional limestone	0.20m	Within 4/04	O 4/04 U 4/02	Pottery, Bone	Ditch fill	12 th -14 th century AD?
4/06	Cut	Sub-oval pit with vertical sides, sharp b-o-s at top. Cut by 4/04.	>0.25m	1.5x1.3m	O 4/03 U 4/07	-	Quarry Pit?	Undated
4/07	Deposit	Firm grey sandy loam, one large limestone slab	>0.25m	Within 4/06	O 4/06 U 4/02	-	Pit fill	Undated
Trench 5 Length - 8.6m. Width - 1.8m								
5/01	Deposit	Soft dark brown sandy loam	0.25m?	>Trench	O 5/02	-	Topsoil	Modern
5/02	Deposit	Soft dark brown sandy loam	0.25m?	>Trench	O 5/03 U 5/01	Bone Tile	Subsoil	Post medieval
5/03	Deposit	Soft light brown yellowish sand	>.05m	>Trench	U 5/02	-	Natural	-
5/04	Deposit	Soft dark brown sandy loam	Not recorded	Within 5/05	O 5/05 U 5/02	-	Fill of linear 5/05	Undated
5/05	Cut	-	Not recorded	>0.4 x >2.0m	O 5/03 U 5/04	-	Cut for linear feature. Unexcavated	Undated
5/06	Deposit	Soft dark brown sandy loam	Not recorded	Within 5/07	O 5/07 U 5/02	Pottery Bone	Fill of linear feature 5/07	12 th -14 th century AD?
5/07	Cut	-	>0.35m	>6.8 x 1.0m	O 5/03 U 5/06	-	Cut for linear feature. Unexcavated	12 th -14 th century AD?
5/08	Deposit	-	Not recorded	Within 5/09	O 5/09 U 5/02	-	Fill of linear feature 5/09	6 th -7 th Century AD
5/09	Cut	-	>0.25m	0.75 x >2.0m	O 5/03 U 5/08	-	Cut for linear feature. Unexcavated	6 th -7 th Century AD
5/10	Deposit	-	Not recorded	Within 5/11	O 5/11 U 5/02	Bone	Fill of linear feature 5/11	Undated
5/11	Cut	-	Not recorded	>?2.20 x 0.75m	O 5/03 U 5/10	-	Cut for linear feature. Unexcavated	Undated

Trench 6 Length – 10m. Width -1.6m								
6/01	Deposit	Medium compacted dark brown sandy silt and rootings	0.18-0.22m	>Trench	O 6/13	-	Topsoil	Modern
6/02	Deposit	Medium compacted light yellow sandy silt / very fine sand.	>0.09m	>Trench	U 6/13	-	Bioturbated top geological horizon	-
6/03	Cut	N-S linear feature, continuing in Tr5. moderate then steep slope, sharp edges at top. Full extent of bottom not visible within slot.	ca 0.42m	>1.25 x >0.40m	O 6/02 U 6/04	-	Cut for a ditch	Undated
6/04	Deposit	Medium compacted light brown silty sand/very fine sand.	ca 0.42m	Within 6/03	O 6/03 U 6/13	-	Single fill of ditch	Undated
6/05	Cut	NW-SE linear feature continuing in Tr 5. Slightly steep slopes, sharp edges at top/bottom, concave base.	ca 0.42m	>1.5 x 0.72m	O 6/02 U 6/06	-	Cut for a ditch	6 th -7 th Century AD
6/06	Deposit	Medium compacted mid brown sandy silt / very fine sand. No inclusions	ca 0.42m	Within 6/05	O 6/05 U 6/13	Pottery, Bone	Single fill of ditch	6 th -7 th Century AD
6/07	Cut	NW-SE linear feature, ending before reaching Tr. 5. Irregular slopes, sharp edges at top/bottom, flatish bottom	ca 0.42m	>1.5 x 0.80m	O 6/02 U 6/08	-	Cut for a ditch	Undated
6/08	Deposit	Medium compacted light brown sandy silt/very fine sand	ca 0.42m	Within 6/07	O 6/07 U 6/13	-	Single fill of ditch	Undated
6/09	Cut	ENE-WSW linear feature, also visible in Tr 5. Moderate slopes, irregular bottom due to bioturbations, full extent not visible within slot. Uncertain relationship with 6/11. Sharp break of slope at top/bottom	>0.12m	>1.5 x >0.45m	O 6/02 U 6/10	-	Cut for a ditch	12 th -14 th century AD?
6/10	Deposit	Medium compacted mid brown sandy silt/ very fine sand. No inclusions	>0.12m	Within 6/09	O 6/09 U 6/13	-	Single fill of ditch	12 th -14 th century AD?
6/11	Cut	NW-SE linear feature that continues in Tr 5. Unclear relation with 6/09. Vertical side, irregular bottom due to bioturbations, sharp edges at top/bottom	>0.16m	>1.5 x >0.55m	O 6/02 U 6/12	-	Cut for a ditch	Undated
6/12	Deposit	Medium compacted mid brown sandy silt/ very fine sand. No inclusions	>0.16m	Within 6/11	O 6/11 U 6/13	-	Single fill of ditch	Undated
6/13	Deposit	Medium compacted mid brown sandy silt / very fine sand. No inclusions	0.20-0.30m	>Trench	O 6/02 U 6/01	Bone	Subsoil	Post medieval