

Land off Abingdon Road

Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

April 2024

Client: Thomas Homes Ltd

Issue No: 2

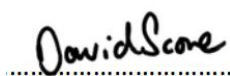
OA Reference No: 8538

NGR: SU 54561 95700 and SU 54483 95503

Client Name: Thomas Homes Ltd
Document Title: Land off Abingdon Road, Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire
Document Type: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Report No.: 8538
Grid Reference: SU 54561 95700 and SU 54483 95503
Planning Reference: Pre-application
Site Code: CLHAR23
Invoice Code: CLHAREV
HER No.: OXCMS: 2023.142

OA Document File Location: <https://files.oxfordarchaeology.com/nextcloud/index.php/f/25851030>
OA Graphics File Location: <https://files.oxfordarchaeology.com/nextcloud/index.php/f/25851030>

Issue No: 2
Date: 30 April 2024
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Land off Abingdon Road, Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by Thomas Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed development of land north and south of the A415 in Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire. The work comprised the excavation of 12 trenches and was carried out between 4th and 15th March 2024.

The archaeological evaluation revealed only a very small assemblage of Roman pottery, mostly recovered as residual finds, together with one ditch containing a single abraded Roman sherd that might be Roman. On balance, this is likely to derive from the use of the wider landscape during this period rather than indicating a specific focus of Roman activity on the site itself.

A geophysical survey of the two areas had identified a particular concentration of linear and curvilinear features within the southern field. This investigation confirmed the presence of multiple archaeological features relating to these. A small number of the features were dated to the early to mid-Anglo-Saxon period, but the evaluation has demonstrated that the majority of these features belong to the late 11th and 12th centuries (the Norman period). The assemblage of finds indicates domestic activity and probably represents a settlement.

The medieval activity appears to have ended, or more likely shifted beyond the site boundaries, after the 12th century. Given the historical evidence for an Anglo-Saxon origin to the village, the revealed features may well belong to the earliest phases of the present-day settlement at Clifton Hampden. A few post-medieval boundary ditches were also found at the southern extent of the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Thomas Homes Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Steven Weaver who monitored the work on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Mark Dodd. The fieldwork was directed by Ben Slader, who was supported by Tomasz Neyman, Jamie Buckley and Hector Kelly. Survey and digitising were carried out by Caroline Souday, Anne Kilgour, William Baker and Charles Rousseaux. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Thomas Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed development at the western edge of Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. Although the local planning authority did not set a brief for the investigations, discussions with the local Planning Archaeologist (LPA) determined the scope of the work required in accordance with their standard guidance for an evaluation. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements and describes the results of the work.
- 1.1.3 All work was carried out in accordance with *The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standard for archaeological field evaluation (2023a)* and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2023b)*.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is divided into two areas, situated on the north-western edge of Clifton Hampden, to the north and south of the Abingdon Road (Figure 1). The site to the north, which is used as allotments, lies immediately to the north and west of Clifton Hampden village hall. It is bounded by Abingdon Road to the south, housing and/or gardens to the east and further agricultural land to the north and west. The allotment site lies at 57m above Ordnance Datum (OD) in the west and slopes gently to 55m aOD in the east.
- 1.2.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the allotment site is Lower Greensand Group sandstone, the south-western part of which has overlying superficial deposits of Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member (BGS).
- 1.2.3 The site to the south comprises approximately 1.4ha of land currently in use as a paddock, and includes two small outbuildings located within the western part of the site. It is bounded by Abingdon Road to the north, housing and gardens to the east and south, and Upper Town Farm to the west. The north-western corner of the paddock site lies at 57m OD and descends slightly to the east to an elevation of 55m OD, and slopes down to the south to 53m OD. The southern limit of the site coincides with a sharp drop descending from the site perimeter to a footpath and residential housing.
- 1.2.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the south and north-east parts of paddock site is also Lower Greensand Group sandstone. The north-western part comprises Gault Formation mudstone. Superficial deposits of Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member overlie both the mudstone and sandstone in the central-north to north-east part of the paddock site (ibid.).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment produced by Oxford Archaeology (2020) and is summarised below for reference.

1.4 Previous archaeological investigations

1.4.1 In January 2024, Magnitude Surveys undertook a geophysical survey of the proposed development areas. The investigation identified anomalies of possible archaeological, agricultural and undetermined origins. The archaeological activity was recorded in the form of anomalies that were interpreted as possible enclosures and ditches and agricultural activity was recorded as the results of modern ploughing and drainage features. The possible archaeological anomalies were concentrated in the southern field, whilst the northern parcel recorded a large number of dipolar anomalies (ferrous debris) caused by recent use of the land as allotments (MS 2024).

1.4.2 Within the immediate vicinity of the site there have been two further geophysical surveys and one excavation. A geophysical survey undertaken over the fields to the north of the allotment site identified a possible Bronze Age barrow c 720m north-west of the site and sinuous linear features that are likely to be ridge-and-furrow ploughing. The survey also identified a north-west to south-east linear feature c 300m north-east of the allotment site of unknown origin, and a possible enclosure c 450m to the north-west, indicated by a group of anomalies within an area of high magnetic disturbance. The enclosure-like anomaly is within an area known to have been within Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Culham, which has undergone remedial land works following the airbase closure. These works have caused a high level of magnetic disturbance and potentially mask features of archaeological origin in the adjacent field to the west of the allotment site (Headland Archaeology 2016).

1.4.3 A second group of geophysical surveys, fieldwalking and an excavation were undertaken as part of a project focusing on the archaeology of Castle Hill (an Iron Age hillfort) and Round Hill (known together as 'Wittenham Clumps') and their wider environs (Allen *et al.* 2006; 2010). The Castle Hill project aimed to examine both the scheduled monument and its environs. Although the Wittenham Clumps are located over 3km from the sites, the investigations extended to the River Thames only c 300m south-east of the paddock site. Results from these investigations are discussed where relevant by period below.

1.5 Prehistoric Period (500,000 BP-AD 43)

1.5.1 There is no evidence of palaeolithic activity within the sites or the immediate vicinity. There is some evidence of Mesolithic activity to the south-east of the site, around the scheduled area at Northfield Farm. Fieldwalking undertaken as part of the Castle Hill project recovered a significant amount of worked flint dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age centred in 'Field 3' of their investigations (Allen *et al.* 2006, fig. 14.13). A Mesolithic flint pick found at Northfield farm is recorded on the OHER although the exact provenance is unknown. A Mesolithic flint pick known as Peake's Pick was

- found in 1931 at Northfield Farm. However, the findspot is recorded at an OS grid-square corner and the exact proximity to the site is unclear. Peake's pick may be the same implement as that found and photographed at Northfield Farm.
- 1.5.2 The findspot of a Neolithic whetstone and a celt is located within the study area at an OS grid-square corner. The OHER records the findspot at Burcot but the exact location within the grid-square and in relation to the sites is unknown. Closer to the sites, a Neolithic flint axe-head held by the Pitt-Rivers Museum was dredged from the River Thames opposite Clifton Hampden in 1906 (Oxfordshire's Historic Archives 2020).
- 1.5.3 There is some evidence of Bronze Age activity nearby the site. Within the conservation area are two records of Bronze Age activity. The closest to the allotment site is a findspot of ten Bronze Age palstaves, which were found during the excavation of a drain in 1852. The OHER locates the findspot c 67m to the east of the allotment site. However, the record states that they were 'found in the parish' and so their exact provenience is uncertain. A burial containing sherds of Beaker pottery was also found approximately 135m south-east of the allotment site within the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels.
- 1.5.4 To the south-east of the site, a late 20th century excavation identified a Bronze Age barrow cemetery located at the north-western edge of the later scheduled area. The barrow cemetery can be seen in cropmarks extending eastwards up to c 450m south-east of the paddock site. Other features found within the area of Northfield Farm include pits containing Bronze Age pottery. Fieldwalking across this area recovered Bronze Age flints and a fragment of human skull not apparently associated with cropmark barrows. It is worth noting that other known and possible barrows and barrow cemeteries have been recorded outside of the study area along and adjacent to the River Thames (e.g. at Fullamoor Plantation, Radley, Appleford, Burcot and Dorchester).
- 1.5.5 Evidence of Iron Age activity has also been recorded at Northfield Farm to the south-east of the site. The cropmarks and 19th to early 20th century excavations confirm the presence of an Iron Age to 3rd century Romano-British settlement and includes the discovery of five Iron Age urns and an Iron Age bone weaving comb (Manning 1896–1917). The precise locations of these finds in relation to the study area is not known.
- 1.5.6 Approximately 450m to the south-west of the paddock site is an area of cropmarks dated to the later prehistoric period. Other areas of nearby cropmarks are currently undated but are potentially of Bronze Age and Iron Age to Romano-British date like those near Northfield Farm and to the west of Clifton Hampden. The sites appear to be situated between two areas of later prehistoric to Romano-British settlement and contemporary field systems, whose extents are unknown. There is potential for such remains to continue from these known areas into the current areas for evaluation.

1.6 Romano-British Period (AD 43-410)

1.6.1 The scheduled Iron Age to 3rd century AD Roman settlement at Northfield Farm is the nearest evidence of substantial activity of these periods to the current sites. The settlement included burials, field systems, and trackways. Away from this area there is little other evidence of Romano-British activity close to the sites apart from two findspots, both of which recovered a few pottery sherds, c 240m east and c 870m south of the allotment plot.

1.7 Medieval Period (AD 410-1550)

1.7.1 Approximately 280m north of the allotment site several Anglo-Saxon skeletons, possibly part of a larger cemetery, were found with grave goods including swords, battle axes, and other iron objects. A second record locates these skeletons c 590m north-east of the allotment site, but the record placing them closer is regarded as the more accurate location.

1.7.2 The only other evidence of activity of an early medieval date is a spearhead of Viking or Anglo-Saxon origin, found upstream of Clifton Weir at least 740m south of the paddock site.

1.7.3 Clifton Hampden was first recorded in 1146 as 'Cliftona', deriving from the Old English elements 'clif', meaning hill or bank, and 'tūn', a village or farmstead (Mills 2011). There is no documentary evidence for the affix Hampden before 1726, although Hampden is likely a family name, and was perhaps added during or following the lordship of Miles Hampden, who was resident in the village in 1535 (VCH 1962). The Anglo-Saxon name indicates that an early medieval settlement of some kind existed at Clifton Hampden, whose population and meadowlands were counted amongst those of Dorchester in the Domesday survey. However, it is unclear what form this settlement took and where it was located.

1.7.4 The current route of the main Abingdon–Dorchester Road (now Abingdon Road), which extends east–west through Clifton Hampden, was established in the later 18th century. Prior to this the main road looped through the village along High Street. The medieval settlement was likely to have been established along this route, to the south of the sites (ibid.). The late medieval house, The Orchard, is located to the west of High Street, which extends east to the Church of St Michael and All Angels, and has existed here from at least the 12th century, demonstrating the probable core layout of the earlier village. Historic mapping suggests that during and before the 18th century the village may have been larger, extending immediately west of the village core into Upper Town and Lower Town farms (Lower Town Farm bounding the south-west of the paddock site). Settlement is also indicated on Jeffrey's 1767 map to the north of Abingdon Road, and potentially within the allotment site. The extent of the settled area from the medieval period to the 18th-century is therefore unclear. Earthworks of an unknown date and origin have been identified within the paddock site indicating a possible building platform amongst other linear features and mounds. These could be the archaeological remains of earlier structures situated on high ground above the main village settlement along High Street to the south of the paddock.

1.8 Post-Medieval Period (1550-1900)

- 1.8.1 In 1767 Jeffrey depicted Clifton Hampden as an open-field agricultural linear settlement. Shortly after this, c 1770, the village was enclosed by Robert Hucks (VCH 1962). The Davis map indicates that both sites were under plough cultivation in 1797 and LiDAR data demonstrates widespread ridge-and-furrow agriculture across the area. Remnant ridge-and-furrow earthworks have also been identified in the northern half of the allotment site.
- 1.8.2 An 1811 OS sketch map indicates that the location of the paddock site had been converted to orchards by this date and remained so until 1900–1910. The allotment site seems to have remained in cultivation but was further enclosed by tracks and footpaths to the west, north, and east by 1880. A reading room had been constructed in the south-eastern corner of the allotment site between 1880 and 1900.

1.9 Potential

- 1.9.1 The desk-based assessment of the sites concluded that although there are no known archaeological remains other than agricultural earthworks, there is a moderate potential for previously unidentified archaeological remains. Specifically, later prehistoric and Roman-British settlement and agricultural activity are well known in the area and could extend into the sites. Furthermore, the nearby Anglo-Saxon burial and proximity to the medieval core of Clifton Hampden suggests a moderate potential for associated activity of these dates. Despite the main focus of later medieval settlement along the roads to the south and east of the sites, there remains a moderate potential for settlement-related activity at the edge of the village core. There is high potential for evidence for agricultural use of the land in the post-medieval period.
- 1.9.2 Following the geophysical survey of the site, it is apparent that the southern, Paddock Field contains a concentration of features indicating the remains of an enclosed settlement. Within this field there is evidently a very high potential for significant archaeological remains.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:
- i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
 - ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
 - iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
 - iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.

- v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status utility and social activity; and
- ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- x. To assess the results and reliability of the geophysical survey.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The trenches were laid out as shown in Figure 2 using a GPS with sub-15mm accuracy. With the agreement of the Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council, Trench 7 was moved five metres to the south-east to avoid several areas of debris on the allotment site. Also, Trench 4 was separated into two parts in order to avoid the suspected location of a buried water pipe that was evident from a linear depression in the ground leading to a nearby tap.
- 2.2.2 The trenches were excavated using an appropriately-powered mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, the trench edges. As no surviving archaeological horizons were encountered, machining continued in even spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology.
- 2.2.3 The exposed surface was then sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains which were then investigated and recorded.
- 2.2.4 Upon completion of the works, and in agreement with the Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), the trenches were backfilled with the arisings in reverse order of excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 Discuss how results are presented. Explain here that trenches entirely devoid of archaeology will not be discussed in any further detail (apart from in the Context inventory).
- 3.1.2 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits and spot dates can be found in Appendix A. Finds reports, including tables of finds data, are in Appendix B, and environmental reports in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform across the two areas with the natural geology of sand, gravel and clay overlain by subsoil, and topsoil.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were mixed during the works. The northern allotment trenches largely remained dry, but in the southern field a combination of heavy rain and groundwater meant isolated flooding on a number of days. The archaeological features were however easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 The overall distribution of the archaeological remains corresponded to the results of the geophysical survey, with numerous large ditches recorded across the southern field, in Trenches 1-6. In the northern allotment a single ditch was recorded in Trench 7. The remainder of the trenches were devoid of archaeological remains.

3.4 Trenches in southern field

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 (Figure 3)

- 3.4.1 **Trench 1.** Ditch 103 measured 0.64m wide and 0.41 deep (Figure 5), with a grey, clayey silt fill (104). This appeared to be associated with an underdetermined geophysical anomaly that was aligned NE-SW and it produced a sherd of possible Anglo-Saxon pottery and two fragments of animal bone. The trench also revealed a further three ditches which were recorded in plan: 105, 106 and 107. Ditch 105 appeared to be associated with an archaeological anomaly on the geophysical survey that appeared to run NNW for a considerable distance. Two small fragments of probable post-medieval brick were recovered from the surface of ditch 107. At the south-east end of the trench, a large modern spread (108) was machine excavated to reveal ditch 106. Although unexcavated, a sherd of medieval pottery (c 1150-1350) and some animal bone was recovered from the surface of this ditch, along with a fragment of post-medieval nail. It is possible that the nail fragment is intrusive from the overlying spread 108.
- 3.4.2 **Trench 2.** Pit 209 was recorded at the north-west end of the trench and contained large limestone fragments at its base, given the number 212 (Figure 5; Plate 1). It is unclear where these derive from, but they appeared more likely to have fallen into the feature than having been specifically placed for any particular function. Overlying the stones and filling the pit were two largely homogenous fills, 211 and 210. A total of 11 sherds of Anglo-Saxon (6th-8th century) pottery were recovered from these two deposits, plus fragments of fired clay from 211 and cattle bones from both deposits. Truncating the north-west edge of the pit was ditch 207 running north-east to south-west. It measured 1.17m wide and 0.63m deep and also produced a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery (6th-8th century) and animal bone, including sheep/goat and frog/toad. The ditch may correspond to a geophysical anomaly crossed by the trench a little further to the south-east.

- 3.4.3 A little further to the south-east were ditches 203 and 204 running parallel on a south-west to north-east alignment, which corresponded with a geophysical anomaly on the same orientation. At the south-east end of the trench two substantial linear features were recorded in plan, 205 running south-west to north-east and 206 aligned ENE-WSW. Neither was excavated. Feature 205 lay close to the line of a possible ditch marked on the geophysical survey just beyond the trench edge, and also corresponded to a linear agricultural anomaly, but there was no feature corresponding to the position or alignment of soilmark 206.
- 3.4.4 **Trench 3.** This revealed several linear features that broadly matched the geophysical survey results. In the north-east half of the trench, ditch 316 was found running N-S on the same alignment a geophysical anomaly plotted 2m to its east. This ditch was 1.72m wide and had a concave profile, 0.51m deep (Figure 5). It contained three successive fills: 317, 318 and 319. A small sherd of mid- to late-Roman pottery was recovered from deposit 318, along with a fragment of cattle bone. The top fill producing a sherd of medieval (c 1050-1250) pottery.
- 3.4.5 Ditches 311 and 314 were revealed near the centre of the trench running NNW-SSE, with 314 truncating ditch 311 (Figure 5). These ditches again lay just west of a linear geophysical anomaly on the same alignment. Both ditches were later truncated by a more recent service trench. The fill of ditch 314 comprised a naturally accumulated, clay silt deposit (315) which yielded four sherds of medieval (c 1075-1300) pottery and a small fragment of animal bone.
- 3.4.6 At the south-west end of the trench, ditch 304 was 1.48m wide and 0.46m deep, with a wide 'U'-shaped profile and two naturally silted fills, 308 and 309 (Figure 5; Plate 2). Two sherds of medieval pottery (c 1075-1300) were recovered from the upper of the two fills, 308. It was then recut by a much narrower ditch, 303. This recut measured 0.98m wide and 0.37m deep. Its primary fill (307) produced several small fragments of indeterminate animal bone, while the later fill (306) was a clayey silt that produced three tiny sherds of redeposited Roman pottery and several pieces of animal bone. A small undated feature 305, possibly a posthole or small pit, lay immediately adjacent to ditch 303 on the south-west side (Figure 5).

Trenches 4, 5 and 6 (Figure 3)

- 3.4.7 **Trench 4.** This was targeted on a large linear anomaly and revealed a corresponding ditch, 403 which measured 0.98m wide and at least 0.49m deep with a wide flat base (Figure 5; Plate 3). It contained two fills of apparently naturally silted material, 404 and 405. The lower fill (405) contained numerous fragments of animal bone including cattle, sheep/goat and dog. The upper deposit 404 produced nine sherds of medieval (c 1050-1250) pottery, additional fragments of indeterminate animal bone and a fragment of fired clay. A much smaller ditch 406, possibly a recut of 403, was found at the south-west edge of ditch 403 and also truncated feature 408, possibly either the base of a small pit or part of a tree-throw hole. Although only a small portion of feature 408 was exposed, its dark greyish-brown, silty clay fill (409) produced a small sherd of medieval pottery.

- 3.4.8 **Trench 5.** In the north-west half of the trench three phases of ditch (503, 504 and 505) were recorded corresponding with a curvilinear anomaly. The earliest ditch was 505 on the north, and this had a single fill of silty clay (513) which contained a fragment of cattle bone (Figure 5; Plate 4). The south-east edge of this ditch was truncated by 503, a much larger ditch measuring 2.56m wide and more than 0.55m deep, with multiple successive fills: 512, 511, 510, 509 and 508. The earliest of these, fill 512 contained a sherd of medieval (c 1050-1250) pottery and animal bone. A fragment of fired clay was also recovered from fill 510, along with fragments of horse and sheep/goat bone. Ditch 504 was the latest in this sequence, and also produced medieval pottery.
- 3.4.9 A small irregular pit, 514 was also recorded further south-east along the trench, from which a sherd of possibly Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered.
- 3.4.10 **Trench 6** contained a total of five ditches, 603, 605, 607, 609 and 611. Of these, both ditches 605 and 611 appeared to align with geophysical anomalies. Two ditches were excavated. At the north-west end of the trench, ditch 603 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 1.12m wide and 0.35m deep. It contained a single dark grey, clayey silt fill (604), which produced seven sherds of medieval (c 1050-1250) pottery and several pieces of animal bone (sheep/goat and pig). At the south-east end of the trench, ditch 611 measured 2.99m wide and was more than 0.51m deep (Figure 5; Plate 4). Filling the ditch were successive naturally accumulated silts: 616, 615, 614, 613 and 612. A modest assemblage of medieval pottery dated c 1050-1250 was recovered from this feature, with each of the fills producing material. Deposit 612 also contained a small fragment of an iron nail. Animal bone was also recovered from deposits 612-616.
- 3.5 **Trenches in the northern field (Figure 4)**
- 3.5.1 **Trench 7.** This contained one SE-NW aligned ditch at the south-western end and a modern feature at the north-eastern end, as well as an area of rooting in the middle of the trench. Ditch 703 was 0.51m wide and 0.12 deep, forming a shallow 'U' shaped gully. It had a greyish brown sandy silt fill, from which came a sherd of abraded Roman pottery.
- 3.6 **Finds summary**
- 3.6.1 97 sherds of pottery were recovered from the evaluation, weighing almost 1kg. These included five sherds of Roman pottery, recovered from contexts 306, 318 and 704. There were also 18 sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery, from contexts 104, 208, 210, 211 and 514, although the sherds were mainly concentrated in Trench 2. The majority of the assemblage from the evaluation was from the early Norman period, and consisted of local or fairly local coarsewares found in and around Abingdon and Oxford, mainly in the form of cooking pots and a few bowls. A single sherd of post-medieval Brill slipware was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 1.
- 3.6.2 Two small fragments of probable post-medieval brick (231g) were recorded in context 107, the top fill of an unexcavated ditch. The larger fragment has one surface and one edge surviving; the smaller fragment is amorphous.

- 3.6.3 Five fragments of fired clay (161g) from contexts, 211, 404 and 510 could not be dated beyond a prehistoric to medieval date range. Four fragments, from contexts 211 and 510, have at least one flat surface and may have been part of larger objects, though this remains uncertain. The largest fragment, from context 404, is amorphous but is fired on one side and baked on the other, possibly indicating that it had been part of an oven.
- 3.6.4 Two small fragments of post-medieval or modern iron weighing 3.4g were recovered. Context 106 produced the shaft of a handmade nail, missing its head, weighing 1.5g. Context 612 produced a fragment of a curved sub-square sectioned probable nail, weighing 1.9g.
- 3.6.5 A total of 155 fragments of animal bone weighing 1433g were also recovered during the evaluation and a further 38 (46g) fragments were retrieved from sieved environmental samples at >10 and 10-4mm. These were mainly from the main domesticated species: cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse, but also included bones of dog, goose and frog/toad.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The results of this investigation can be considered as a reliable indicator of the remains present on the site. Weather and ground water conditions were sometimes challenging but these did not prevent features from being identified and groundwater was managed during the course of the project. This meant that the team could revisit trenches and investigate features that had not initially been dug.
- 4.1.2 The depth of some features in several trenches meant that it was not always possible to reach the base for reasons of Health and Safety. However, these can be reliably extrapolated from the observations that were made. There was a good correlation between the results of the geophysics and the evaluation, although several sizeable features were not indicated by the geophysical survey. Many of these were large ditches in close proximity to one other, so it may have been that they were masked or grouped together by the survey.
- 4.1.3 The usual caveats should be applied, noting that discrete features such as pits, burials and smaller perhaps unenclosed areas activity are difficult to locate with trial trenching alone. This phase of works has, however, supported the evidence from the geophysical survey and demonstrated that the southern paddock site is where the focus of the archaeological activity lies. Only a single feature was identified in the allotment site, in Trench 7. This was not identified by the geophysical survey, but this area was contaminated by modern debris which limited the results of the magnetometry.
- 4.1.4 Evaluation objectives and results
- 4.1.5 List the aims and objectives set out in section 2, and then answer the questions posed with the results of the work.
- 4.1.6 The evaluation has successfully confirmed the presence of archaeological remains on the site. The majority of the features on site were ditches of

varying size, some of which were too deep to fully excavate within the scope of this phase of works. The ditches appear to comprise a series of enclosures, with occasional pits and postholes potentially associated with them. A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from a range of features across the site, and this has enabled the areas of activity to be dated.

4.1.7 No complex structural features or buildings were encountered during the evaluation. Fragments of post-medieval brick from the surface of unexcavated ditch 107 are insufficient to indicate a building on site, and may have been introduced from activity elsewhere. There were also some fragments of fired clay found within features in Trenches 2 and 5 that were speculatively interpreted as kiln furniture, but no other evidence was found to confirm this. A fragment of possible oven was also found, and ovens would certainly be expected on a domestic site of this date.

4.1.8 The evaluation has confirmed the reliability of the geophysical survey in broad terms, and all of the linear anomalies that were tested by trenching proved to correspond to archaeological features, and features of uncertain origin in Trenches 1 and 4 were also determined to be archaeological. There were however differences in detail between the results of the survey and the features revealed by the evaluation. Although a modern service ran through Trenches 2 and 3, this was not picked up on the geophysical survey or any service plans. Equally, several linear features in the trenches were not distinguished by the geophysical survey, but this may simply be due to the density of activity revealed. No geophysical anomalies were identified in the allotment site, and despite the interference from modern debris, the trenching suggested that this was an accurate reflection of the archaeological potential north of the A415, Abingdon Road.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 The Roman pottery sherds represent the earliest evidence of activity on the site, but none of the features could certainly be identified as Roman, and given the local context and the level of Roman activity in the wider area, the small number of sherds need not indicate Roman occupation within the site itself. The sherds could have arrived on site from elsewhere as a result of manuring onto the fields. On the basis of the evaluation trenches, any Roman features on the site are probably only field boundaries, some distance from a centre of activity.

4.2.2 The geophysical anomalies and associated features recorded in the southern field indicate very strongly that this is the main focus of archaeological activity within the proposed development, but the mixture linear, curvilinear and somewhat amorphous anomalies does not provide a clear layout for the nature and development of this activity within the site over time.

4.2.3 The artefacts recovered demonstrate that it likely began in the 6-8th centuries and was focused on the area around Trench 2. From the available data, it seems as though the site continued to be occupied through the 11th and 12th centuries, the excavation of multiple ditches probably forming small enclosures which were developed and amended over time. Due to the predominance of cooking vessels represented amongst the pottery assemblage, the relatively large faunal assemblage and the evidence for crop

processing, it is likely that this activity was domestic in nature. Although no clear evidence for buildings in the form of beamslots or structural foundations was identified, occasional possible postholes were found, and it should be noted that such remains can be difficult to identify within the confines of an evaluation trench and any further work should anticipate the presence of such remains.

4.2.4 Activity in the southern field appears to have ended by the end of the 12th century with only a single later medieval pottery fragment, another of 17th-18th post-medieval date, and the couple of brick fragments recovered from Trench 1. The site therefore appears to have reverted to agricultural activity, and the post-medieval ditches probably represent boundary or drainage ditches relating to this.

4.2.5 Despite the dense concentration of features in the field to the south of the Abingdon Road, no significant archaeological activity was recorded to the north, in the allotment plot. It is therefore possible that an earlier boundary, possibly a precursor of the present day A415, delimited the northern limit of Norman settlement at Clifton Hampden, though on the basis of evaluation alone this must remain speculative.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The historical evidence outlined in section 1.7.3 of this document shows that the present village of Clifton Hampden very likely had its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period, but it was unclear where this was located and what form it took. The results of this investigation have clearly identified the presence of a Saxon and, later, Norman settlement at the periphery of present-day Clifton Hampden. It is therefore very likely that the former could represent the earliest origins of the current settlement. Any further excavation work would help to define the extent and nature of this activity and how it developed from the early-middle Anglo-Saxon to the Norman settlement and would certainly represent a significant discovery for the local area.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained four ditches. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural clay geology.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer			0.25	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt		
101	Layer			0.18	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Pot	
102	Layer				Natural. Mid greyish yellow silty clay.		
103	Cut		0.64	0.41	Ditch. N-S aligned ditch.		
104	Fill	103	0.64	0.41	Secondary Fill. Grey clayey silt mottled with yellow clay deposits.	Pot, bone	AD 500-800
105	Unexcavated feature		0.66		Ditch. NE-SW alignment. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt fill.		
106	Unexcavated feature		0.98		Ditch. NE-SW alignment. Dark brown clayey silt fill.	Pot, bone, Fe	AD 1150-1350
107	Unexcavated feature		4.1		Ditch. NE-SW alignment. Dark brown clayey silt fill.	CBM	
108	Unexcavated feature		10		Modern. Modern spread. Dark brown clayey silt fill.		
Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained five ditches and a pit. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural clay geology.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.47
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer			0.28	Topsoil. Dark brown clayey silt		
201	Layer			0.22	Subsoil. Mid brownish grey clayey silt		
202	Layer				Natural. Light greenish grey silty clay.		
203	Unexcavated feature		2.94		Ditch. NE-SW aligned. Dark greyish brown clayey silt fill.	Pot	AD 1050-1250
204	Unexcavated feature		1.7		Ditch. NE-SW aligned. Dark greyish brown clayey silt fill.		
205	Unexcavated feature		3.9		Ditch. NE-SW aligned. Dark greyish brown clayey silt fill.		
206	Unexcavated feature		3.5		NE-SW alignment. Mid brownish grey clayey silt fill.		

207	Cut		1.17	0.63	Ditch. N-S aligned curvilinear ditch. Truncates pit 209.		
208	Fill	207	1.17	0.63	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.	Pot, bone	AD 600-800
209	Cut		2.35	0.79	Pit. Truncated by ditch 207, depth recorded is excavated depth.		
210	Fill	209	2.05	0.27	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.	Pot, bone	AD 600-800
211	Fill	209	1.82	0.54	Secondary Fill. Light greyish yellow, silty clay.	Pot, bone, fired clay	AD 600-800
212	Structure		0.22	0.21	Other Structure. NE-SW alignment of stones.		
Trench 3							
General description					Orientation	E-W	
Trench contained five ditches and one post hole. Trench consists of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural clay geology.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
300	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clayey silt		
301	Layer			0.15	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.		
302	Layer				Natural. Mid yellowish grey silty clay with mid yellow sand patches.		
303	Cut		0.98	0.37	Ditch. NW-SE alignment. Truncates ditch 304.		
304	Cut		1.48	0.46	Ditch. NW-SE alignment. Truncated by ditch 303.		
305	Cut		0.25	0.24	Posthole.		
306	Fill	303	0.98	0.27	Secondary Fill. Dark greyish brown clayey silt.	Pot	AD 43-410
307	Fill	303	0.42	0.13	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt.	Bone	
308	Fill	304	1.32	0.27	Secondary Fill. Dark greyish brown clayey silt with mid yellow mottling.	Pot, bone	AD 1075-1300
309	Fill	304	1.27	0.42	Secondary Fill. Light grey silty clay with some mid yellow mottling.		
310	Fill	305	0.26	0.24	Secondary Fill. Mid greyish brown clayey silt.		
311	Cut		1.44	0.34	Ditch. NW-SE alignment. Truncated by modern feature and ditch 314.		
312	Fill	311	0.88	0.24	Secondary Fill. Mid greyish brown clayey silt with yellow mottling.		

313	Fill	311	1.44	0.34	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish grey clayey silt.		
314	Cut		0.98	0.44	Ditch. NW-SE aligned ditch, truncates or is a re-cut of ditch 311.		
315	Fill	314	0.98	0.44	Secondary Fill. Mid grey clayey silt with yellow mottling.	Pot, bone	AD 1075-1300
316	Cut		1.72	0.51	Ditch. N-S alignment.		
317	Fill	316	1.08	0.43	Secondary Fill. Mid yellowish grey silty clay.		
318	Fill	316	0.77	0.45	Secondary Fill. Light yellowish green silty clay.	Pot, bone	AD 250-410
319	Fill	316	1.03	0.14	Secondary Fill. Dark grey silty clay.	Pot	AD 1050-1250

Trench 4
General description

Trench contained two ditches and a small pit. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural clay geology.

Orientation

NE-SW

Length (m)

30

Width (m)

1.8

Avg. depth (m)

0.42

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
400	Layer			0.22	Topsoil. Dark brown clayey silt.		
401	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt		
402	Layer				Natural. Mid yellowish grey silty clay with mid yellow sand patches.		
403	Cut		0.92	0.49	Ditch. NW-SE alignment. Truncated/re-cut by ditch 406. Excavated depth recorded.		
404	Fill	403	0.92	0.49	Secondary Fill. Dark brownish grey silty clay.	Pot, bone, fired clay	AD 1050-1250
405	Fill	403	0.87	0.28	Secondary Fill. Light blackish brown silty clay.	Bone	
406	Cut		0.32	0.22	Ditch. NW-SE alignment. Truncates/is a re-cut of ditch 403.		
407	Fill	406	0.32	0.22	Secondary Fill. Dark brownish grey silty clay.		
408	Cut		0.15	0.1	Pit. Truncated by ditch 406.		
409	Fill	408	0.15	0.1	Secondary Fill. Dark greyish brown silty clay.	Pot	AD 1050-1250

Trench 5
General description

Trench contained three ditches and a possible pit. Trench consists of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying natural clay geology.

Orientation

NW-SE

Length (m)

15

Width (m)

1.8

						Avg. depth (m)		0.52
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
500	Layer			0.19	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty clay.			
501	Layer			0.18	Subsoil. Brownish grey silty clay.			
502	Layer				Natural. Yellowish orange sandy clay.			
503	Cut		2.56	0.55	Ditch. NE-SW alignment. Truncates ditch 505 and is truncated by ditch 504. Excavated depth recorded.			
504	Cut		2.43	0.51	Ditch. NE-SW alignment. Truncates ditches 503 and 505.			
505	Cut		0.8	0.54	Ditch. NE-SW alignment. Truncated by ditches 503 and 504.			
506	Fill	504	2.43	0.47	Secondary Fill. Dark greyish brown silty clay.	Pot, bone	AD 1050-1250	
507	Fill	505	1.23	0.24	Secondary Fill. Dark greyish brown silty clay mottled with black and light brown.			
508	Fill	503	1.24	0.2	Secondary Fill. Brownish yellow, mottled with light brown, sandy clay.			
509	Fill	503	1.14	0.11	Secondary Fill. Light brown, mottled with brownish yellow, silty clay.			
510	Fill	503	0.72	0.26	Secondary Fill. Dark brownish grey silty clay.	Bone, fired clay		
511	Fill	503	0.63	0.15	Secondary Fill. Light yellow, mottled with light grey, clay. Possibly re-deposited natural.			
512	Fill	503	1.34	0.41	Secondary Fill. Light greyish brown silty clay.	Pot, bone	AD 1050-1250	
513	Fill	505	0.8	0.54	Secondary Fill. Light brown silty clay.	Bone		
514	Unexcavated feature		1.29		Pit. Light brownish grey silty clay fill.	Pot	AD 600-800	
Trench 6								
General description						Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained five ditches. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural clay geology.						Length (m)		15
						Width (m)		1.6
						Avg. depth (m)		0.8
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
600	Layer			0.24	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey clayey silt.			
601	Layer			0.19	Subsoil. Greyish brown clayey silt.			
602	Layer				Natural. Light greyish orange clay.			
603	Cut		1.12	0.35	Ditch. NE-SW alignment.			

604	Fill	603	1.12	0.35	Secondary Fill. Dark grey clayey silt.	Pot, bone	AD 1050-1250
605	Unexcavated feature		0.74		Ditch. E-W alignment. Dark grey clayey silt fill.		
607	Unexcavated feature		0.71		Ditch. NE-SW alignment. Brownish grey silty clay fill.		
609	Unexcavated feature		1.26		Ditch. NE-SW alignment. Greyish brown silty clay fill.		
611	Cut		2.99	0.51	Ditch. NE-SW alignment. Excavated depth recorded.		
612	Fill	611	1.67	0.31	Secondary Fill. Light grey, mottled with yellow, silty clay.	Pot, bone, Fe	AD 1100-1250
613	Fill	611	0.57	0.18	Secondary Fill. Dark yellowish grey silty clay.	Pot, bone	AD 1075-1250
614	Fill	611	2.73	0.26	Secondary Fill. Mid greyish yellow silty clay.	Pot, bone	AD 1050-1250
615	Fill	611	1.03	0.31	Secondary Fill. Dark yellowish grey silty clay.	Pot, bone	AD 1050-1250
616	Fill	611		0.26	Secondary Fill. Dark yellowish grey silty clay.	Pot, bone	AD 1050-1250

Trench 7
General description

Trench contained one ditch towards south-western end. Trench consists of topsoil overlying subsoil and natural gravel geology.

Orientation

NE-SW

Length (m)

30

Width (m)

1.8

Avg. depth (m)

0.38

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer			0.22	Topsoil. Dark brown clayey silt.		
701	Layer			0.16	Subsoil. Dark reddish brown clayey silt.		
702	Layer				Natural. Mid reddish brown clayey silty gravel.		
703	Cut		0.51	0.12	Ditch. NW-SE alignment.		
704	Fill	703	0.51	0.12	Secondary Fill. Mid greyish brown sandy silt.	Pot	AD 43-410

Trench 8
General description

Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel geology.

Orientation

NW-SE

Length (m)

30

Width (m)

1.8

Avg. depth (m)

0.4

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer			0.22	Topsoil. Dark brown clayey silt.		

801	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Dark reddish brown clayey silt.		
802	Layer				Natural. Mid reddish brown clayey silty natural.		
Trench 9							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel geology.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.4
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Dark brown clayey silt.		
901	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Dark reddish brown clayey silt.		
902	Layer				Natural. Mid reddish brown silty sandy gravel.		
Trench 10							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel geology.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.43
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer			0.22	Topsoil. Dark brown clayey silt.		
1001	Layer			0.21	Subsoil. Dark reddish brown clayey silt.		
1002	Layer				Natural. Mid reddish brown silty sandy gravel.		
Trench 11							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel geology.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer			0.22	Topsoil. Dark brown clayey silt.		
1101	Layer			0.1	Subsoil. Dark reddish brown clayey silt.		
1102	Layer				Natural. Mid reddish brown silty sandy gravel.		
Trench 12							

General description					Orientation		NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel geology.					Length (m)		30	
					Width (m)		1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)		0.38	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
1200	Layer			0.2	Topsoil. Dark brown clayey silt.			
1201	Layer			0.18	Subsoil. Dark reddish brown clayey silt.			
1202	Layer				Natural. Mid reddish brown silty sandy gravel.			

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

- B.1.1 A total of 83 sherds (904g) of pottery were recovered from 25 contexts from seven trenches. An additional 14 sherds (52g) came from two sieved environmental samples, from two contexts that already produced pottery in the hand-excavated samples. Aside from five small sherds of Roman pottery, the rest of the assemblage is post-Roman. It includes a significant element of early/mid Anglo-Saxon pottery, a larger assemblage of 11-13th-century pottery, and just one sherd of post-medieval (18th-century) pottery.
- B.1.2 All the pottery was scanned during the present assessment and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The pottery is in a fragmentary condition but many fairly large/fresh sherds are present.
- B.1.3 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.). Roman fabric codes are those of the Oxford Archaeology type series (Booth nd). Fabric codes referred to for the medieval wares are those of the Oxfordshire type series (Mellor 1994). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 1, also in the project archive) and therefore only summarised below.

Description

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
101	c1730-1800	1	19	Base of Brill slipware dish (BRSL) with green & yellow marbled slip.
104	5-8C?	1	5	Small body sherd (bo). Possibly Anglo-Saxon (ASAX)? Coarse quartz and flint inclusions (like OXBF Kennet Valley A ware, c1050-1250) but with moderate organic inclusions - especially visible on abraded int surface. Dark grey colour.
106	c1150-1350	3	41	1x fresh Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ) cook pot (cpot) rim - developed hammerhead rim. 1x bo coarse Ashampstead-type ware (OXAG) cpot. 1x bo chalk-tempered ware with most of chalk dissolved-out (CHALK KV, c1000-1200?)
203	c1050-1250	2	5	Bos v coarse OXBF.
208	6-8C?	3	24	Anglo-Saxon sherds (3 vess). Bos. 2x sandy organic-tempered ware including a basal sherd. 1x fine-medium sand-tempered bo with sparse very coarse rounded quartz and a micaceous matrix, smooth ext surface.
208	6-8C?	0	0	Sieved Sample. 2x small bos (weight 3g). 1x sandy with organic temp. 1x fine-med sandy.
210	6-8C?	5	24	Anglo-Saxon sherds (2 vess?). 1x jar/cooking pot with simple slightly beaded rim - fine sandy with organics & burnished/smoothed surfaces int/ext, black fabric. 4x bos (1 vess?) coarse sandy organic-tempered ware. Fresh.

211	6-8C?	6	45	Anglo-Saxon sherds (2-3 vess?). 3x jar/cooking rims - with simple slightly beaded rims, sandy with organics & burnished/smoothed ext surface, Bos coarse sandy organic-tempered ware. Black fabric colour for all. Fresh.
306	c43-410AD	3	2	Roman. Oxford fine greyware (R10). Small bos from 1 vessel - possibly a beaker, with lattice burnished decoration. Fresh.
308	c1075-1300	2	15	Fresh sherds - 1 vess? Medieval Oxford ware (OXY). Bo from shoulder/neck of cpot, & sagging base sherd.
315	c1075-1300	4	31	Fresh bos OXY cpots.
318	c250-410AD	1	3	Roman. Bo Oxfordshire oxidised fine ware (F51). Poss colour-coated (orange). Slightly abraded.
319	c1050-1250	1	36	OXBF. Sagging base from cpot. Sparse flint. Fresh.
404	c1050-1250	9	27	1x bo coarse OXBF, poss burnt? 6x scraps from a second OXBF vessel with algal limestone/chalk inclusions (or OXAQ?). 2x scraps (1 vess) sandy ASAX or fired clay?
409	c1050-1250	1	5	Bo OXBF. Some algal chalk.
506	c1050-1250	1	3	Bo OXBF.
512	c1050-1250	1	13	Bo OXBF. Coarse.
514	6-8C?	1	11	Bo coarse organic-tempered ware.
604	c1050-1250	7	93	1x sagging base from cpot in coarse sandy OXAG (Ashampstead-type ware) or coarse OXY? 4x coarse OXBF cpot bos. 1x ASAX organic-tempered bowl (small sherd).
612	c1100-1250?	19	271	All fresh sherds OXBF and OXBF/OXAQ hybrid fabrics - latter with some shell and limestone. Includes 5 rims: 2 are probably from wide bowls with thumbled rims (2 vess); 2 are from cpots with early-style flaring necks & a plain rim (one probably thumbled). Some sherds probably join. Some sagging base sherds. 1x OXBF cpot shoulder sherd possibly wheel/turntable-finished (as at Wallingford Police Station WAPO18, and Abingdon School, Austin House ABAUH22), latter sherd also has part of a horizontal band of combed or grooved dec.
612	c1100-1250?	0	0	Sieved Sample. 17x sherds (weight 49g). Fabric OXBF, as in hand-excavated sample above. Incl 2x thumbled cpot rims.
613	c1075-1250?	5	88	1x sagging base from wide cpot or bowl in OXY. 4x OXBF incl plain flaring rim, sag base, & a small bo with combed decoration traces.
614	c1050-1250	4	77	Fresh OXBF incl large rim sherd from cpot with plain flaring thumbled rim & carinated shoulder.
615	c1050-1250	1	33	Fresh OXBF. Sagging base from cpot/bowl.
616	c1050-1250	1	17	Cotswold-type ware (OXAC). Fresh cpot with thickened/flat-topped or slightly hammerhead rim.
704	c43-410AD	1	16	Roman. Misc Roman greyware - fairly sandy (R11). Bo from wall of wheel-thrown smallish jar. Grey core with brown int surface & grey ext surface. Fairly abraded & with rusty brown soil on ext surface.
TOTAL		83	904	

Table 1: Pottery by context, spot-date and number and weight of sherds

B.1.4 The Roman pottery comprises five smallish sherds from three vessels. Four sherds (2 vessels) are from Trench 3. These are the only finds from the contexts in which they occur (306 and 318) but those from 306 are from a ditch cutting a ditch containing medieval pottery, so are certainly residual.

- These three joining sherds can only be dated as Roman; the single sherd from 318 is, broadly, of late Roman date (c 250-410AD). The fifth sherd of Roman pottery is the only piece of pottery recovered from Trench 7 (704, fill of ditch 703), well to the north-east of the other trenches. This is the largest of the Roman sherds (weight 16g) and is from the wall of a smallish jar in a local greyware fabric (R11). Again, this cannot be closely dated. Taken all together, the Roman sherds provide a background scatter (even if possibly all residual) suggesting some Roman activity in the general area of this site.
- B.1.5 Trench 2 produced a significant concentration of early/mid Saxon pottery comprising 14 sherds (93g) from several vessels. Apart from two sherds of Norman pottery from context 203, all the pottery from this trench was Saxon. Most of the sherds are in a sandy organic-tempered fabric (no standard fabric code) typical of the 6th-7th centuries in particular, but with a wider overall 6th-8th century date range. The assemblage comprises hand-built jars with very simple rims, some showing external burnishing, but no formal decoration. There is also a single sherd in a fine-medium sand-tempered fabric. Most of the Saxon sherds are from the fills of pit 209 (fills 210 and 211), and the rest from the fill of ditch 207 (fill 208). Such a concentration of Saxon pottery, from just one trench, strongly suggests the presence of early/mid Anglo-Saxon settlement very close by. Besides this, a few isolated Saxon sherds were recovered from Trench 6 (a bowl rim sherd, residual in context 604); another possible sherd from Trench 1 (104) and two scraps of possible Saxon pottery (or fired clay?) from Trench 4 (404).
- B.1.6 The next burst of activity, as evidenced by the ceramics, appears to be in the Norman period, roughly from c 1075-1250. This comprises the majority of the pottery from the site – all local or fairly local coarsewares in the form of cooking pots and a few bowls, and all typical of the medieval wares found in the Abingdon and Oxford area at this time. There are no glazed wares – such as jugs/pitchers, and no products of the important Brill/Boarstall pottery industry (from c 1175/1200 onwards). The lack of medieval ceramic building material (CBM) from the site also suggests that nearly all this phase of activity happened before c 1200.
- B.1.7 The commonest single fabric is Kennet Valley A ware (OXBF, c 1050-1250), in the form of cooking pots with early-looking flaring rims/necks, some with thumbled decoration on the rim. A few bowls with thumbled rims are also present. The presence of a few cooking pot sherds in Medieval Oxford ware (OXY, c 1075-1300) in most of these contexts, suggests a date after c 1075 for this ‘Norman’ phase of activity. A few cooking pots also occur in Ashampstead-type ware (OXAG, c 1050-1400?), and there is a single cooking pot rim in Cotswold-type ware (OXAC, c 1050-1250). A few sherds of chalk-tempered ware (CHALK KV, c 1000-1200?) were also identified from these contexts. Despite their names, the commonest fabrics here - Kennet Valley A ware and Ashampstead-type ware – may have been produced in the Abingdon area.
- B.1.8 The largest assemblage of these ‘Norman’ wares was from ditch fills in Trench 6 (especially ditch 611). This trench produced 36 sherds of this period (43% of the over-all site total). Apart from Trench 7, on the northern allotment

site, all trenches on the southern site produced at least a few sherds of this period.

- B.1.9 The latest medieval item was a developed-looking cooking pot rim in Kennet Valley B ware (OXAQ, c 1150-1350), which came from a ditch fill (ctx 106) in Trench 1. A single sherd of post-medieval Brill slipware (BRSL), also from Trench 1, is from a dish dating to c 1730-1800 and is the only piece of post-medieval pottery recovered from the site.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.1.10 The pottery here has the potential to inform research through re-analysis - particularly when reviewed alongside further assemblages from any future excavations in the area of the present evaluation. The strong early/mid Saxon, and also the Norman, dating peaks suggest that this evaluation, and any future excavations here, are likely to make a significant addition to local archaeology. It is strongly recommended that it should all be retained and fully catalogued at some point in the future.

B.2 Ceramic building material

By Kirsty Smith

- B.2.1 Two small fragments of probable post-medieval brick (231g) were recorded in context 107, a fill of an unexcavated amorphous feature. The fragments are made from an orange red sandy clay, with red ferruginous grit inclusions and small patches of black clinker. The larger fragment has one surface and one side edge surviving. The smaller fragment is amorphous and is made from a similar fabric.

B.3 Fired clay

By Kirsty Smith

- B.3.1 Five fragments of fired clay (161g) were recorded in contexts 211, 404 and 510. The fragments cannot be dated beyond a broad prehistoric to medieval date.
- B.3.2 The four fragments from contexts 211 and 510 are 17mm+ thick and are made from a buff colour silty clay fabric, with a dark brown/black interior. They have at least one flat surface and may have been part of larger objects, such as kiln furniture, although this is uncertain from the size of these fragments. Items of prehistoric-Roman portable kiln furniture tend to show signs of a colour differential, as with these small fragments.
- B.3.3 The larger fragment (139g) from context 404 is amorphous and is 48mm wide and 73mm long. It is fired on one side, an orange silty clay and the other half comprises a brown silty crumbly fabric. This suggests that it had been heated on one side and perhaps baked on the other. This fired clay fragment may have been part of an oven or a hearth.

Recommendations regarding conservation, discard and retention of material

B.3.4 The CBM and fired clay should be retained for now pending further investigation of the site.

B.4 Metalwork

By Anni Byard

B.4.1 Two small fragments of iron weighing 3.4g were recovered from two contexts during the evaluation. One fragment recovered from context 106 is the shaft of a handmade nail, missing the head (1.5g), while the other is a fragment of a curved sub-square sectioned probable nail from context 612 (1.9g). Neither fragment is closely datable.

Recommendations regarding conservation, discard and retention of material

B.4.2 Neither of the iron objects have any further potential and can be discarded.

B.5 Slag

By Tim Allen

Introduction

B.5.1 21 fragments of slag together weighing 588g were recovered by hand from context 404, and another 6 fragments from sieving (10-4mm fraction), together weighing 2g. Context 404 is a fill of medieval ditch 403, which contained pottery dated 1050-1250.

Methods

B.5.2 The material was washed, dried and sorted using largely visual criteria (cf Historic England 2015). The material was sorted into different categories based on colour and surface morphology (and occasionally on an assessment of density and/or magnetic response). The categories of material identified include the following (Table 2):

Slag cake (SC)	These are plano-convex (or concave convex) and approximately circular in plan. Slag cakes are usually identified as smithing slags (McDonnell 1991; Serneels and Perret 2003), although larger examples are identified as smelting slags (furnace bottoms).
Slag prill	Slag prills resemble very small pieces of tap slag but usually display more evidence for vertical (rather than close to horizontal) flow.
Non-diagnostic slag (ND)	Most ironworking slag assemblages include a significant proportion of slag which lacks a diagnostic surface morphology that would allow the identification of the process(es) which produced them. In many cases, this is simply because the lumps of slag are small fragments of a larger whole; however, in some cases the lumps of slag are essentially complete but amorphous (Historic England 2015, fig. 18).

Table 2: Types of slag present on site

Results

B.5.3 All of the slag appeared to have the same fabric, with varying quantities of red-brown ferrous inclusions and of white quartzite fragments from 2-10mm across, and with very occasional fragments of crumbly red fired clay. One limestone pebble was also observed. The colour of the slag was generally bluish-grey in the break with large reddish-brown areas on the surfaces due

to the ferrous content. The density of the slag varied, some pieces being dense with bubbles only evident at the edges of the break, others were highly vesicular and light. Around half of the fragments had one or more smoothed surfaces, some glassy in appearance. The denser fragments were highly magnetic, the very vesicular and lighter pieces only slightly magnetic.

- B.5.4 The largest piece (comprising two joining fragments) measured 102 x 80mm by up to 30mm thick (generally 20mm) and weighed 258g. It was dense with a slightly concave upper surface, somewhat lumpy, and a convex and much more irregular and rougher bubbly underside. The piece tapered towards the edges, and there were patches where the surface was smooth or glassy. There was a clean diagonal break, so this piece was incomplete, but was probably part of a slag cake.
- B.5.5 Two similar pieces, one measuring 83 x 50mm and up to 37mm thick, the other 46 x 42mm by up to 30mm thick, were also dense but were more irregular, and weighed 150g and 64g respectively. Both had one flattish side with frequent bubbles and were much more irregular on the other side. Despite the pronounced protuberances they were generally tabular, and the larger fragment tapered in thickness towards one surviving edge. It is possible that these pieces also derived from a slag cake, but although broken did not join. Several of the small fragments were of very similar appearance and may have derived from the same piece of cake originally.
- B.5.6 One other small but dense fragment measuring 40mm x 15-20mm and 10mm thick and weighing 16g had a sub-rectangular cross-section and was broken at one end, so was originally a long spill of slag.
- B.5.7 The only other fragment worthy of note was a spherical fragment 6mm in diameter, broken where it had been joined to a further trail of slag. This was a slag prill and may have been formed as a result of iron-smelting.

Discussion

- B.5.8 The slag from this site was a small quantity from a fill of a medieval ditch. The limited quantity of material from sieving may indicate that the iron-working was not carried out immediately adjacent, ie that the slag had been dumped from elsewhere. It demonstrates that ironworking, either the result of smelting or smithing, was carried out on or near to the site, but the quantities recovered represent only a small part of what would have been generated by a single metalworking episode.

Statement of potential

- B.5.9 The slag appears to have only limited potential to advance our understanding of the site but should more archaeological work be carried out it would be advisable to show the slag to a metalworking specialist to clarify whether smelting as opposed to smithing was being carried out on the site.

Method Statement

- B.5.10 The slag should be retained in expectation of further work and should then be submitted to a metallurgical specialist.

Retention and disposal

B.5.11 The slag should be retained until seen by a metallurgical specialist, who will provide further advice.

B.6 Worked Flint

By Elizabeth Kennard

Description

B.6.1 A single piece of burnt unworked flint weighing 19g was recovered from ditch 403 during excavations at this site which by itself adds little to the archaeological understanding of the site.

Recommendations for retention and discard

B.6.2 The flint should be retained pending further work on this site.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Richard Palmer

Introduction

C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken during the evaluation, primarily for the retrieval and assessment of ecofacts and the recovery of artefacts. Sampling was undertaken in accordance with national guidelines (Historic England 2011).

Method

C.1.2 Samples were described prior to processing and soil colour descriptions were determined using a Munsell Soil Colour chart with soil texture described using published guidelines (Historic England 2015).

C.1.3 The samples were then processed in their entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and residues in a 500µm mesh; both were dried in a heated room. The residue fractions (ie the material which did not float) were sorted by eye and with the aid of a magnet while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

C.1.4 Nomenclature for identified species follows Stace (2010). Identifications are made with reference to Jacomet (2006) for cereals and chaff and Cappers *et al* (2006) for non-cereal taxa.

Results

C.1.5 Flot abundance and summary sample data is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Assessment of bulk samples for environmental remains.

Sample no.	Context no.	Feature	Trench	Date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other Charred	Molluscs	Soil Description
1	404	403	4	c1050-1250	40	125	++	+					10YR 4/3 sandy clay
2	612	611	6	c1100-1250	40	200	++	++++	+	+	++		7.5YR 3/2 silt loam
3	208	207	2	6-8C?	40	20	++	+					7.5YR 4/2 silty clay

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), +=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100), ++++=abundant (100+)
Other charred covers nutshell and legumes

Trench 2

- C.1.6 Sample 3 was from fill 208 of ditch 207, provisionally dated to the Anglo-Saxon period. Recovery of charred material was limited to some charcoal and rare indeterminate grain fragments. Bone, pottery and burnt flint were recovered from the residue.

Trench 4

- C.1.7 Sample 1 was from fill 404 of Norman ditch 403. The flot is dense in modern roots which make up the bulk of the volume. Charcoal and indeterminate grain was also recovered. Bone, burnt flint, fired clay and slag were extracted from the heavy residue.

Trench 6

- C.1.8 Sample 2 was from fill 612 of Norman ditch 611. Modern rooting makes up a large portion of the flot volume but charred material is also common. The charcoal assemblage is small but consists of both ring-porous and diffuse-porous specimens. Charred grain is abundant with most of it being wheat (*Triticum* sp.). Possible oat (cf. *Avena* sp.) and barley (cf. *Hordeum* sp.) are also present. The grain is generally in poor condition with clinkering and fragmentation common and many of the grains have partially collapsed. This means that morphological identification of the material is uncertain particularly in the case of the possible barley grains. Other charred material includes fragments of hazel nutshell (*Corylus avellana*) and small <2mm legumes. A few charred weed seeds include knotweed (*Persicaria* sp.) and ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*). A small indeterminate fragment of charred cereal rachis is also present. Bone, pottery and iron were extracted from the residue.

Discussion

- C.1.9 Recovery of charred material appears variable across the site with the large deposit recovered from ditch 611 suggesting the likelihood of occupation activities occurring nearby. This indicates the potential for more significant recovery of charred material on site, particularly in this area.
- C.1.10 Recovered material from the sampled contexts has been spot-dated as either Saxon or Norman, which would suggest that the wheat recovered is more likely to be a free threshing variety such as bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*). Unfortunately, the poor condition of the grain makes confirmation of this using grain morphology difficult at this stage and would require a greater in-depth analysis of the material. Further analysis of the charred plant remains from sample 2 should be considered if further work is undertaken at the site.

Recommendations for retention/disposal

- C.1.11 The flots warrant retention until all works on site are complete although further work on them is not expected at this stage. Sample 2 has potential

for analysis and warrants retention in the archive but the other two flots could be discarded thereafter.

C.2 Animal Bone

By Bernice Jones

Introduction

C.2.1 The evaluation recovered 155 (1433g) fragments of animal bone from hand collection and a further 38 (46g) fragments from sieved environmental samples at >10 and 10-4mm. most of the material comes from contexts spot dated as early medieval.

C.2.2 The hand recovered assemblage has been recorded in full, with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system for mammals (Serjeantson 1996) and for birds (Cohen and Serjeantson 1996). Conjoining recent fragments are counted as one specimen. Taphonomic and demographic information has been recorded (tooth wear following Grant 1982) and measurements have been taken following von den Driesch (1976). The condition of the bone has been graded on a scale of 1 = excellent, to 5 = very poor, just identifiable as 'bone'.

Description

C.2.3 Condition of material ranged from "excellent" to "moderate" with most fragments being in "good" condition. While material spot-dated as Roman and Saxon is in poorer condition than fragments with a more recent date, older material has survived well, and frog/toad was recovered from a Saxon context. The fragment is not obviously intrusive. Rate of identification of hand retrieved fragments is 23%.

C.2.4 The most abundant species was cattle followed by sheep/goat (Table 4). Pig and horse were both present in smaller numbers. Other species present are dog, goose, and frog/toad.

C.2.5 Two sheep/goat mandibles produced mandible wear scores. Both indicate animals of 6-8 years of age (following Hambleton 1999). Eight fragments have ageable epiphyses of which half were fused, indicating that both adult and subadult animals were present at the site. Sex could not be determined for any fragments.

C.2.6 Butchery evidence is present on three bones, comprising chop marks characteristic of disarticulation and filleting. Four bones have been measured. One bone had been partially burnt. No gnawing was identified. One sheep/goat mandible displayed pathology, likely as the result of an infected tooth.

Table 4: Summary of animal bone and number of fragments identified to species (NISP), both hand-collected and sieved material.

Spot date	Context	Sample	Total	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Frog/toad	Goose	Unidentified	NISP
250-410	318	0	1	1								1
400-700	104	0	2				1				1	1
500-700	208	0	7								7	
		3	13		1				1		11	2
	210	0	1	1								1
	211	0	2	1							1	1
	514	0	2			1					1	1
1050-1250	404	0	11								11	
		1	5								5	
	506	0	24	1	2						21	3
	512	0	5	2							3	2
	604	0	9		1	1					7	2
	614	0	7	1	1	2					3	4
	615	0	1				1					1
616	0	2								2		
1075-1250	613	0	12	3	1						8	4
1075-1300	308	0	6	1							5	1
	315	0	1								1	
1100-1250	612	0	10	1	2					1	6	4
		2	20								20	
1150-1350	106	0	2								2	
Unphased	307	0	10								10	
	405	0	31	1	2			2			26	5
	510	0	8		3		1				4	4
	513	0	1	1								1
Total			193	14	13	4	3	2	1	1	155	38

Conclusions

C.2.7 Overall, the assemblage is well-preserved, and material collected in any future works would increase our understating of animal husbandry practices at the site. This material should be considered alongside any future assemblage from the site.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

C.2.8 The assemblage should be retained pending completion of all works on the site and analysed in conjunction with the resulting assemblage.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Land off Abingdon Road, Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire
Site code:	CLHAR23
Grid Reference	SU 54561 95700 and SU 54483 95503
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	2 weeks, March 2024
Area of Site	-
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS: 2023.142

Summary of Results:

Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by Thomas Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site of a proposed development of land north and south of the A415 in Clifton Hampden, Oxfordshire. The work comprised the excavation of 12 trenches and was carried out between 4th and 15th March 2024.

The archaeological evaluation revealed only a very small assemblage of Roman pottery, mostly recovered as residual finds, together with one ditch containing a single abraded Roman sherd that might be Roman. On balance, this is likely to derive from the use of the wider landscape during this period rather than indicating a specific focus of Roman activity on the site itself.

A geophysical survey of the two areas had identified a particular concentration of linear and curvilinear features within the southern field. This investigation confirmed the presence of multiple archaeological features relating to these. A small number of the features were dated to the early to mid-Anglo-Saxon period, but the evaluation has demonstrated that the majority of these features belong to the late 11th and 12th centuries (the Norman period). The assemblage of finds indicates domestic activity and probably represents a settlement.

The medieval activity appears to have ended, or more likely shifted beyond the site boundaries, after the 12th century. Given the historical evidence for an Anglo-Saxon origin to the village, the recovered features may well belong to the earliest phases of the present-day settlement at Clifton Hampden. A few post-medieval boundary ditches were also found at the southern extent of the site.

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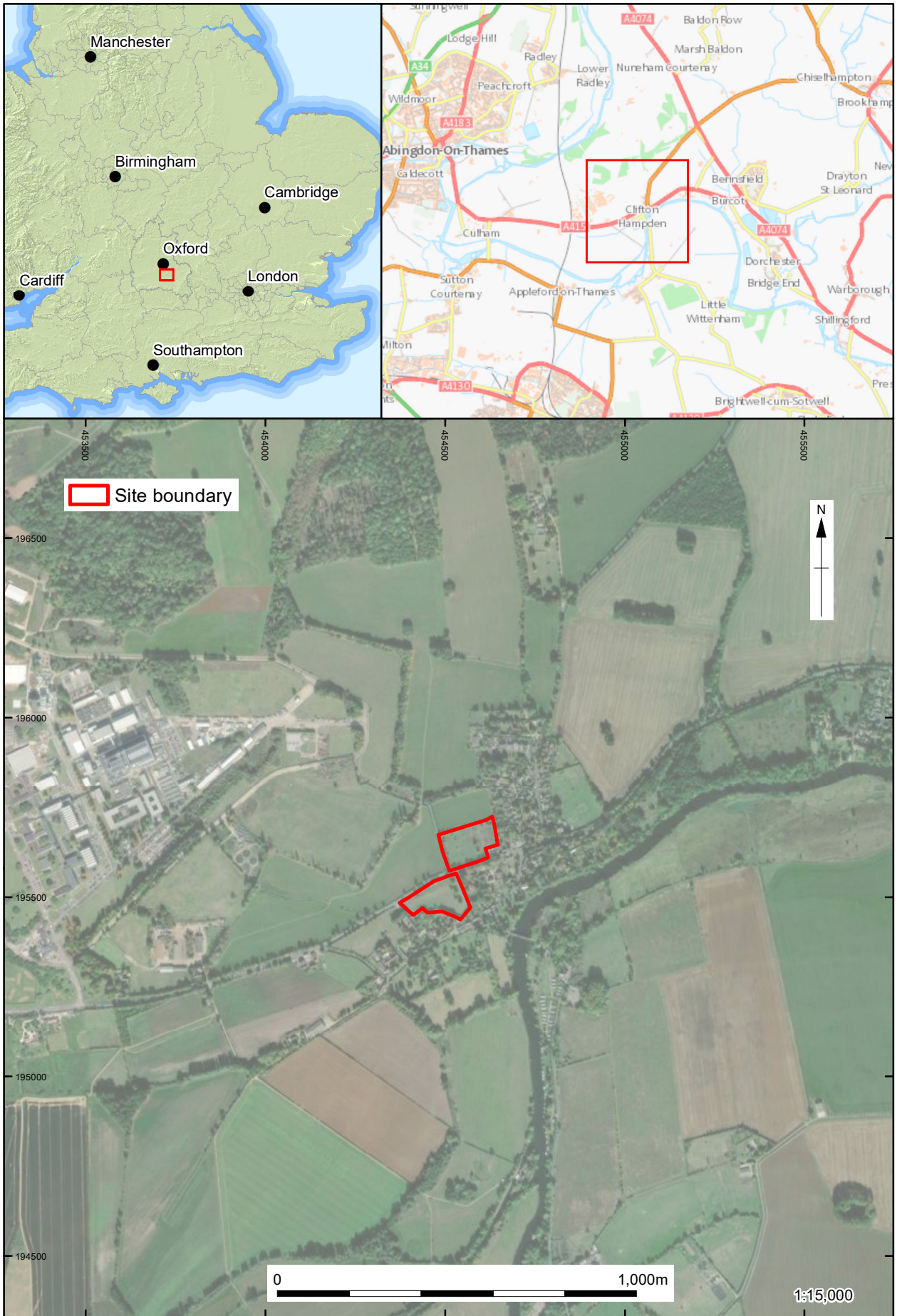


Figure 1: Site location

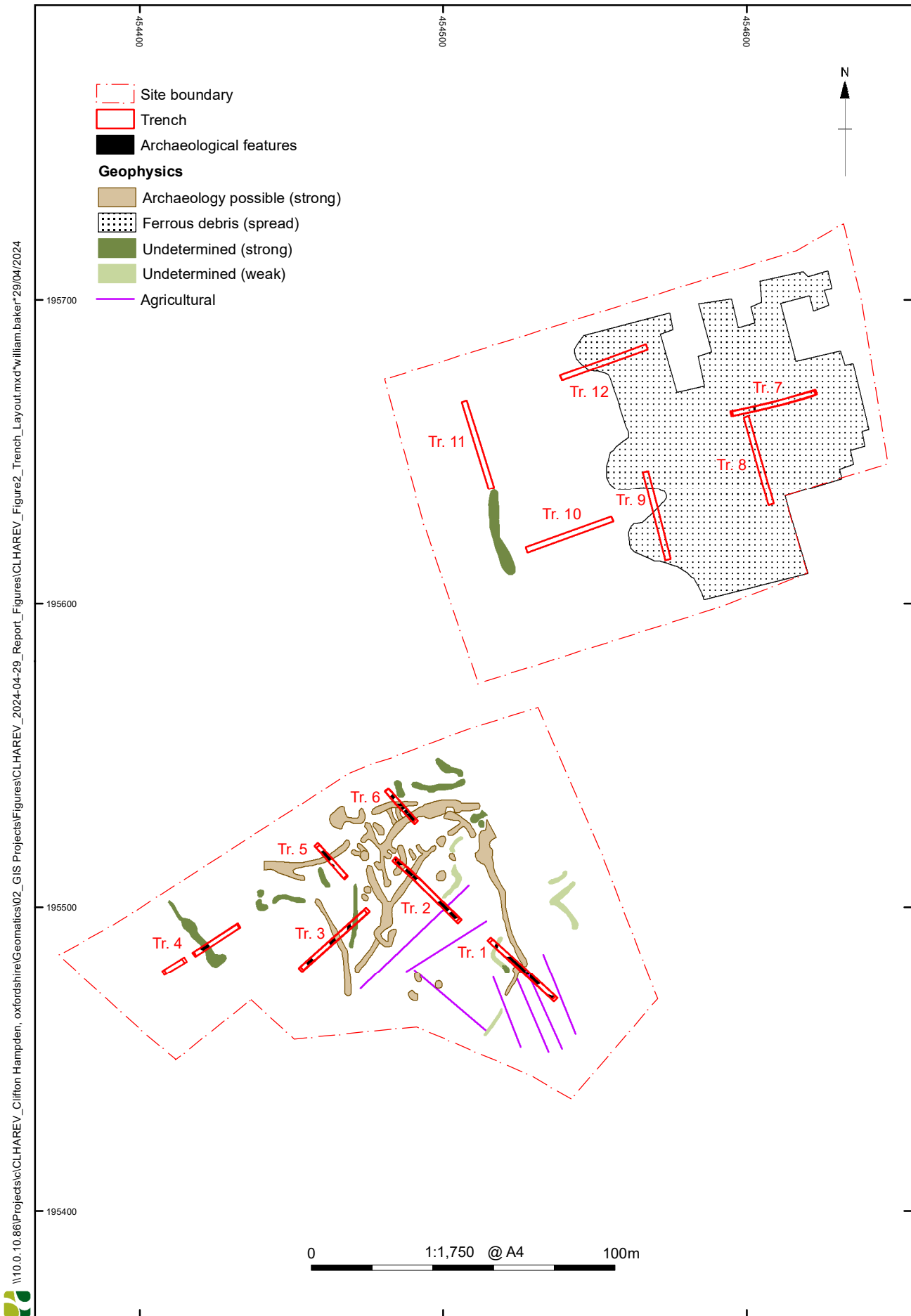


Figure 2: Trench layout showing archaeological features in relation to geophysical anomalies

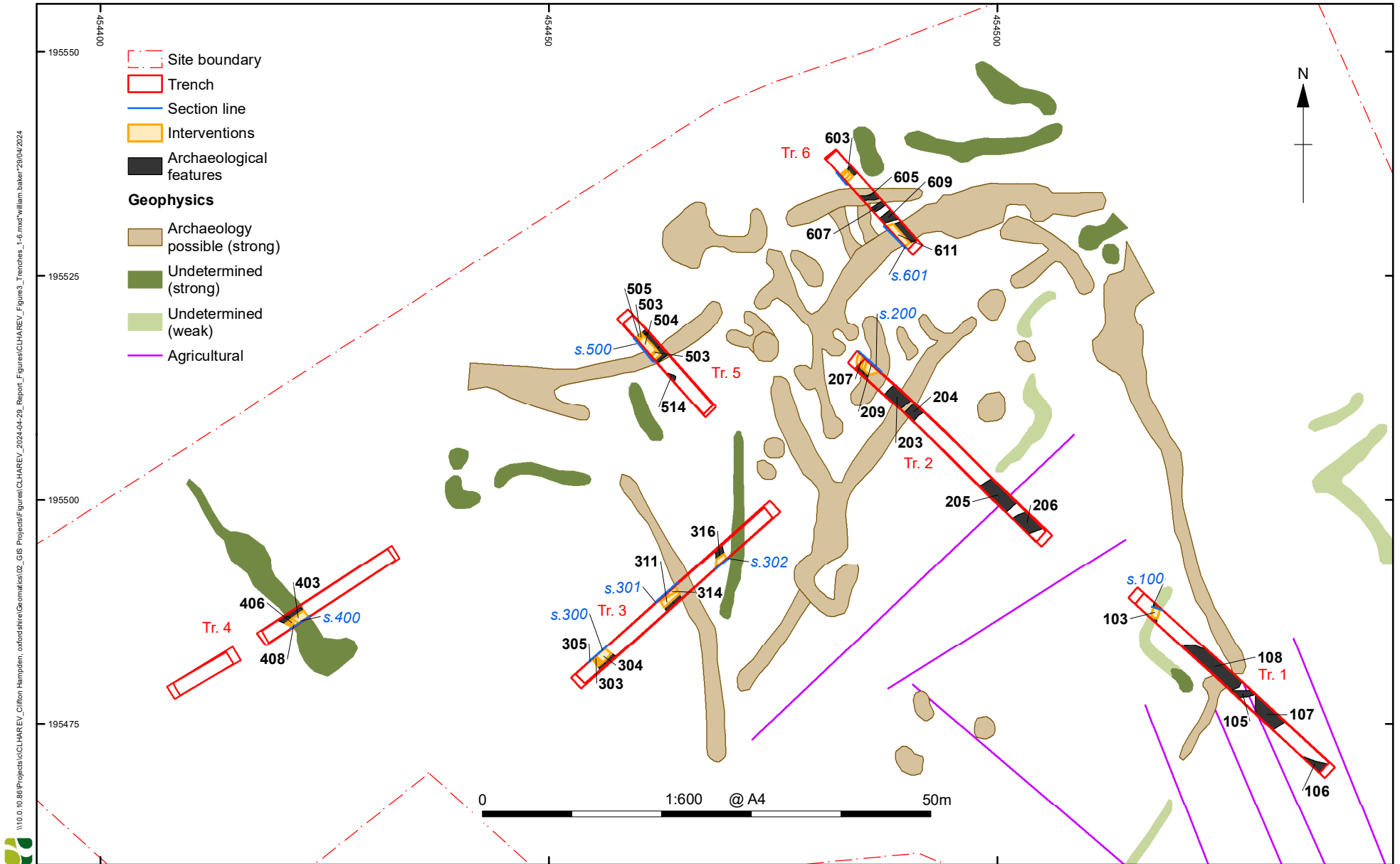


Figure 3: Detailed plan of Trenches 1 - 6

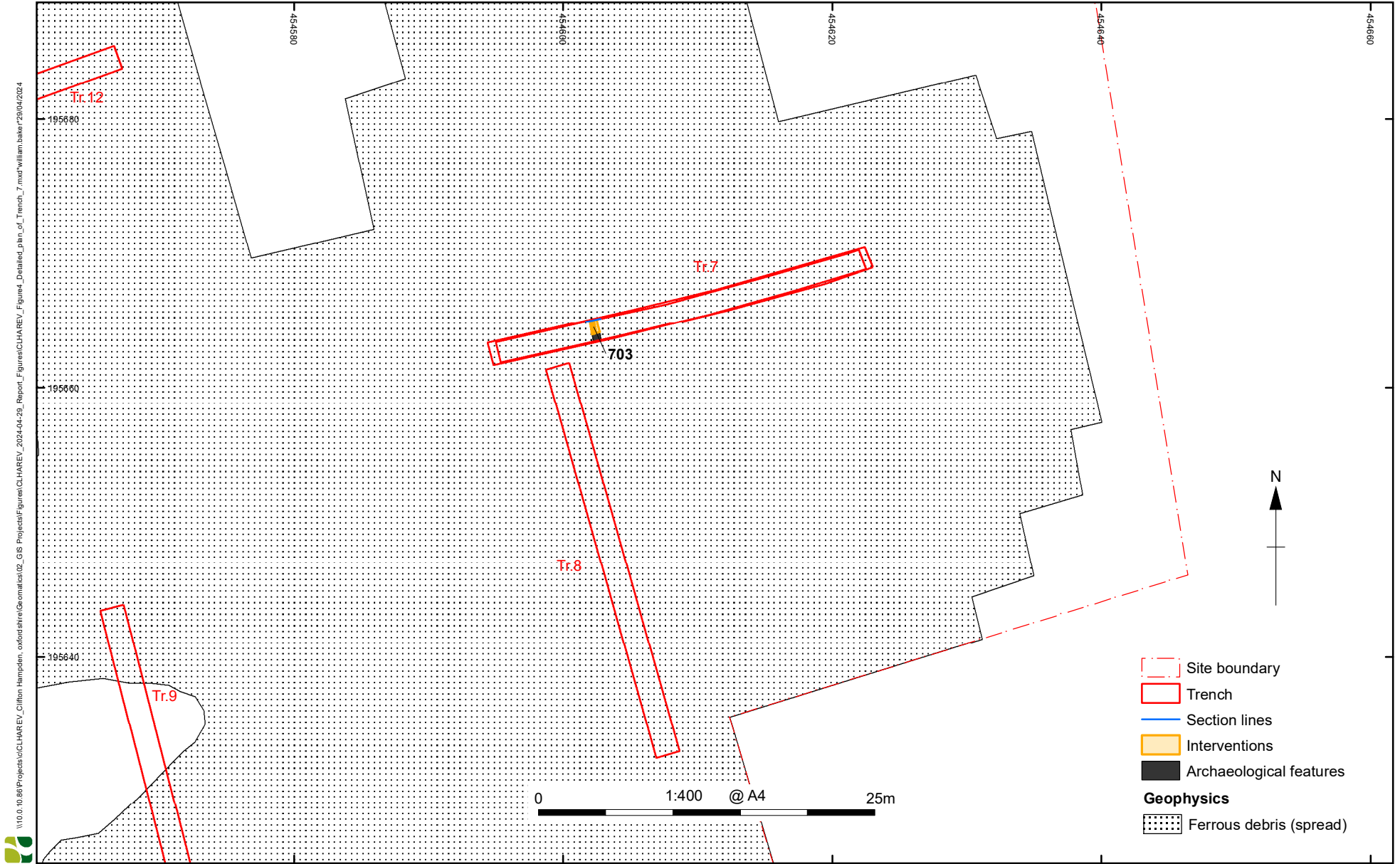


Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trench 7

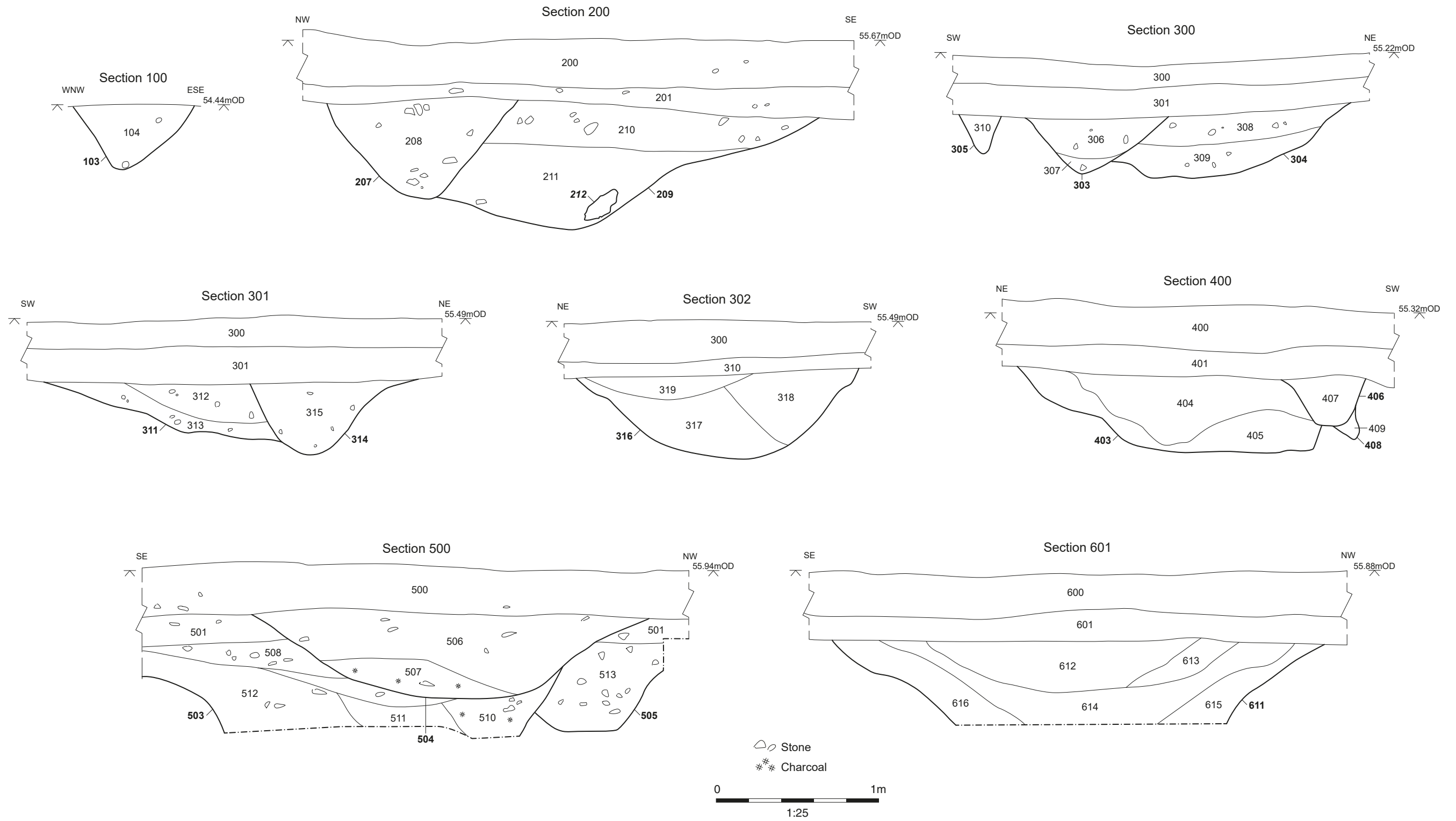


Figure 5: Sections 103, 200, 300, 301, 302, 400, 500 and 601



Plate 1: Ditch 207 and Pit 209, view to north-east



Plate 2: Ditches 303 and 304 and pit 305, view to north-west



Plate 3: Ditches 403 and 405 and pit 408, view to south-east



Plate 4: Ditches 503, 504 and 505, view to south-west



Plate 5: Ditch 611, view to south-west

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