



Reading Heights Clarendon House, Queens Road, Reading Archaeological Evaluation Report

January 2020

Client: Archaeology Collective

Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: JN 7623

NGR: SU 72197 73269



Client Name: Archaeology Collective
Client Ref No.: 0654B
Document Title: Reading Heights, Clarendon House, Queens Road, Reading
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Report Reference: JN 7623
Grid Reference: SU 72197 73269
Planning Reference: 180909 (Reading Borough Council)
Site Code: REHE19
Invoice Code: REHEEV
Receiving Body: Reading Museum
Accession No.: TBC

OA Document File Location: X:\r\Reading Heights\Eval Report
OA Graphics File Location: \\10.0.10.86\invoice codes r thru z\R_codes\REHEEV

Issue No: 1
Date: January 2020
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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In December 2019, Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Archaeology Collective to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed building extension at Reading Heights, Clarendon House, Queens Road, Reading. The site centred on SU 72197 73269 and the works were carried out as a condition of planning permission (Ref: 180909 (Reading Borough Council)).

The evaluation, which took three days to complete, consisted of three trial trenches, each measuring up to 10m x 4m.

All Trenches had very similar stratigraphy of chalk natural overlain by a layer of clay with flint, which was then overlain by a levelling deposit related to the Victorian terraces. Sporadic features were identified in the trenches in the form of refuse pits, some of which were cut from the clay with flint horizon and some from the later Victorian levelling deposit. Partial foundations were noted from the remains of the Victorian terraces in two trenches. This activity was then overlain by modern levelling deposits and tarmac in all three trenches.

The natural chalk was encountered at heights between 37.11m OD and 36.81m OD. The 19th-century archaeology was extant from heights of between 37.91m OD and 37.46m OD.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Archaeology Collective for commissioning this project, and the staff of Lund Group Limited for all the practical assistance on site. Thanks are also extended to Roland Smith who monitored the work on behalf of Berkshire Archaeology.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Ben Ford, MCIFA. The fieldwork was directed by Bj Ware, who was supported by Simon Batsman and Andrew Smith. Digitising was carried out by Conan Parsons and Magdalena Wachnik. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen 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 Archaeology Collective to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a carpark in relation to a proposal for extension and residential development at Reading Heights, Clarendon House, Queens Road, Reading (SU 72197 73269).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref: 180909)). Although the local planning authority did not set a brief for the work, consultation was undertaken with Roland Smith (Archaeology Officer, Berkshire Archaeology) to establish the scope of work required. A written scheme of investigation was produced by Archaeology Collective (March 2019) detailing the local authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on a solid geology of Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated), comprising sedimentary bedrock formed in the Cretaceous Period which indicates a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas. The solid geology is overlain by superficial deposits of Kempton Park Gravel Member of sand and gravel formed in the Quaternary Period and indicates a local environment previously dominated by rivers (BGS nd).
- 1.2.2 Ground investigations indicated that the made ground extends to depths of between 0.8m and 2.6m across the site, the greatest depth being recorded in the eastern part of the site. This picture has been revised slightly by the archaeological evaluation.
- 1.2.3 The site is located on a gentle slope, falling from c 42m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the southern boundary of the site to c 39m at its northern boundary
- 1.2.4 The site lies to the south of the River Kennet, in an enclosed area just south of the Kennet Side Road, west of Watlington Street and north of Queens Road and Clarendon House, Reading.

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 (DBA), which utilised a 500m radius from the site as a study area. A summary of the findings of that desk-based assessment is presented below.
- 1.3.2 There are two scheduled monuments recorded within the study area; Reading Abbey (1007932/MRD1374) and High Bridge (1005388/MRD1412/MRD5765).
- 1.3.3 There are five non-designated heritage assets located within the site, which all relate to industrial activity (MRD5507-MRD5511). There are a further 239 records for non-designated heritage assets within the study area.

- 1.3.4 Evidence of prehistoric activity is provided by a Palaeolithic buried land surface (MRD16767), palaeochannel (MRD17508), the find spot of a handaxe (MRD9023), an area of Neolithic activity (MRD7395), a number of Neolithic to Iron Age artefacts, an Iron Age waterfront (MRD15594), Iron Age human remains (MRD7402 & MRD15597) and artefacts dated to the wider prehistoric period.
- 1.3.5 Limited Roman activity is attested by find spots of artefacts, although evidence of some Roman occupation activity (MRD3898, MRD3890 & MRD11313) has also been recorded within the study area.
- 1.3.6 By the mid-9th century Reading had become a royal town and part of the kingdom of Wessex. The extent of the Saxon town (MRD15634) and line of Danish defences (MRD15633) may extend into the study area. Further evidence of early medieval activity within the study area includes plough soil (MRD1392), flood defences (MRD15575), revetments (MRD15576), a series of stake-holes, postholes, a shallow pit (MRD15562), inhumations (MRS1378) and the find spots of artefacts.
- 1.3.7 The medieval period is the best represented within the study area and most of the assets recorded relate to Reading Abbey. The growth and development of Reading during this period is reflected in the heritage assets recorded within the study area, including wharves, revetments, evidence of industrial activity as well as general settlement evidence. However, the focus of the medieval activity lies away from the site and it is considered the site was part of the hinterland of the medieval settlement.
- 1.3.8 Reading continued to develop during the post-medieval and modern periods, although the Civil War had a damaging effect on Reading's economy. Civil war defences (MRD15703 & MRS15629), a redoubt (MRD15651) and other defences (MRD15632 & MRD3981) have all been recorded within the study area. By the mid-18th century Reading began to expand again, with new industries, such as brewing, brick and tile making, iron founding and boat building, established across the town, including within the site (MRD5507-MRD5511). Examples of transportation networks, social buildings (for example markets (MRD3970)) and other buildings and structures have all been recorded within the study area.
- 1.3.9 Cartographic evidence indicates that the site was developed and subsequently redeveloped from the late 19th century onwards, including the construction of terraced houses which fronted onto the boundaries of the site, and the development of the print works in the mid-20th century.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits or remains. It was also the aim to record the character, date location and preservation of any archaeological remains on site and to record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on site.
- 2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives were:
- i. To mechanically excavate trenches to expose the surface of any underlying archaeological horizon or the natural ground;
 - ii. To clean the base and representative sections of the trenches, record them in both plan and section and to excavate and record any identified archaeological features to ascertain their extent, form, function and where possible their date.
 - iii. To inform the need (or otherwise) for any future archaeological works on the site by means of an illustrated report.
 - iv. To undertake work in accordance with national best practice and guidelines;
 - v. To analyse any remains with reference to the existing documentary evidence for historical development and land use;
 - vi. To produce a written account and provided an ordered archive of what was recovered.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Three trenches (Trenches 1, 2 and 3, Fig. 2) were excavated within the site. Their positions were placed to target the footprints of the proposed structures. Trenches 1 and 3 were moved due to the location of live services. Trench 1 was moved roughly 3m to the south and roughly 2.5m to the east to avoid a still standing wall and a modern cable/service. Trench 3 was moved northeast by c 1.5m to avoid a modern manhole.
- 2.2.2 All trenches were opened and excavated using a 5-tonne 360-degree mechanical excavator fitted with a breaker to break through the tarmac of the carpark, a toothed bucket to break through/excavate the solid made ground or remove modern walls and then a 1.8m wide, flat bottomed, toothless bucket to reduce the underlying deposits.
- 2.2.3 The trenches were designed as 10m x 4m in plan to accommodate steps in order to reach the maximum expected depth of 2m. However, none of the trenches actually achieved their full extent.
- 2.2.4 Trench 1 was only 8m long due to a modern service being present at the northern end and the identification of an electricity cable running NNW -SSE along the western side of the trench. The cable (located c 0.25m below ground level) meant that the trench could not be stepped appropriately to enable the whole trench to be dug to maximum depth.
- 2.2.5 Trench 2 was only excavated to a length of 7m due to the presence of a modern drain at its south-western end.

- 2.2.6 Trench 3 was mostly excavated to the proposed dimensions but the north-eastern-most 2.50m was reduced in width by 1.50m due to a modern cable in the northeast corner.
- 2.2.7 Examination and cleaning of any and all archaeology was done by hand using the appropriate tools. All the trenches were recorded in full, including digital photos, trench plans, representative sections and levels using a dumpy level. A sample of the archaeology present in the three trenches was excavated and recorded.
- 2.2.8 Due to the modern nature of the archaeology present, only a sample of the finds identified were retrieved to establish dates for the features present.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 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 can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot-dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in trenches 2 and 3 was fairly uniform, although Trench 1 contained a large layer of modern debris/compact layer and no Victorian terrace layer. All the trenches have a natural geology of chalk to chalk clay containing a lot of flint nodules. This natural was covered by a layer of clay with flint in all three trenches which is most likely a levelling/land reclamation deposit. Above the clay with flint there was a post-medieval to modern demolition/levelling layer in all three trenches and in Trenches 2 and 3, above this, were the remains of the Victorian terraces. Above those layers, all trenches contained a layer of hardcore gravel and then a layer of tarmac.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site was a mix of wet and dry. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all three trenches along with numerous levelling deposits.

3.4 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3, Plates 1 and 2)

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 was located in the south-western area of the site and was orientated N-S. Due to the on-site service constraints, the steps were not adequate to excavate to full depth and only a maximum trench depth of 1.50m below ground level (b.g.l.) was achieved. The trench exposed a white chalk/clay with flint natural, 109, at a height of 37.11m OD. This was overlain by a layer of firm whitish brown clay with flint, 108, which was encountered at 0.82m b.g.l. (37.44m OD). This is possibly a levelling or land reclamation deposit.
- 3.4.2 At the southern end of the trench was a layer of sand, 105, another levelling deposit, which existed at 1.30m b.g.l. (37.17m OD). This levelling deposit was overlain by a large levelling deposit, 103. This layer contained finds dating to the 18th-19th century and probably relates to the Victorian terraces.
- 3.4.3 Feature 107 (Fig. 3, Plates 1 and 2), a probable pit, was cut from the top of layer 103, it remained unexcavated but the upper fill, 106, contained 19th-20th century ceramic building material (CBM), along with other modern debris. The majority of this feature existed under the stepped area of the trench and therefore its size and character could not be confirmed. However, it is almost certainly a refuse pit relating to previous demolition/construction activity.

- 3.4.4 Sealing pit 107 was a layer of grey gravel, 102, and on top of this is another levelling deposit, 101, this time of modern hardcore. This was then overlain by tarmac (38.26m OD).

3.5 Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 4, Plates 3 and 4)

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 was located in the north eastern area of site and was orientated NE-SW. The trench was stepped at 1m b.g.l. and the central strip was excavated to the natural chalk geology, 211, to a maximum depth of 1.94m b.g.l. (35.92m OD) in the north-eastern end. The natural geology encountered in the south-western end was shallower at c 1.0m b.g.l. (36.81m OD).
- 3.5.2 Roughly halfway along the trench the chalk, 211 descends more steeply, indicating that this is the edge of a palaeochannel on a roughly N-S alignment. This palaeochannel was filled with two natural deposits, one of sand, 210, and one of clay, 209. Above the naturally deposited fills of the palaeochannel was layer 204, a large possible levelling or land reclamation deposit of clay and stones at 37.22m OD. This levelling deposit increased in thickness considerably from southwest to northeast to a maximum thickness of 0.78m in the northeast where it also filled the remaining void in the top of the palaeochannel.
- 3.5.3 Overlying 204 was another levelling deposit, 203, a compact brownish grey silty clay containing post-medieval debris, possibly related to the Victorian terraces. The two pits in this trench, 205 and 212, were both cut from the level of 203.
- 3.5.4 Pit 205 (Fig 4 and Plates 3 and 4) contained three fills, 206, 207 and 208, with deposit 208 filling the majority of the pit. This backfill event contained finds dated to the 18th-19th centuries and may relate to the construction or demolition of the Victorian terraces.
- 3.5.5 Pit 212 was much smaller and remained unexcavated as the fill, 213, visibly contained obviously Post-Medieval/modern finds, such as china and CBM which has been dated to the 18th – 19th centuries.
- 3.5.6 Sealing both of these features was layer 202, a relatively thin layer of modern debris, related to the Victorian terraces, probably as a levelling deposit from the construction or demolition of the buildings. This layer was encountered at a height of (37.52m OD). Above 202 were layers 201 and 200, a modern hardcore levelling deposit and tarmac (37.87m OD) respectively.

3.6 Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 5, Plates 5 and 6)

- 3.6.1 Trench 3 was located within the south east area of the site, adjacent to Norfolk Street and was orientated NE-SW. Due to the on-site service constraints the full extent of the trench could not be excavated and the maximum depth achieved was 1.15m b.g.l. The natural chalk, 304, was visible at this depth (36.92m OD)
- 3.6.2 Overlying the chalk natural was a large layer of clay with flint, 303. This possible levelling or land reclamation deposit (37.32m OD) is very similar to that seen in both trenches 1 and 2; deposits 108 and 204 both occupy a similar location stratigraphically and appear to be similar in character.

- 3.6.3 The only feature in Trench 3, pit 306, was not fully excavated, as it was mostly outside the trench limits. Finds were retrieved from the section and the CBM was dated to the 18th-19th century. This pit cut through the levelling deposit 303 and was sealed by levelling deposit 302.
- 3.6.4 Layer 302 is a dark deposit of debris related to the Victorian terraces, probably a levelling deposit relating to the construction or demolition of the structures, and is very similar to layers 103 and 202 both in its stratigraphic location and its character. Finds from this layer were all dated to the 19th century. The layer was encountered at a height of 37.62m OD.
- 3.6.5 Overlying this layer was, as in the other trenches, the modern hardcore levelling deposit, 301, and the tarmac, 300 (37.97m OD).

3.7 Finds summary

- 3.7.1 Small assemblages of post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe, glass and CBM were recovered. A small quantity of shell, stone and animal bone was also collected. (See appendices for further details.)

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The conditions on site were good throughout the project and site did not suffer from flooding or any other major hindrance which would otherwise jeopardise the reliability of the results. The stratigraphy was clear and features easy to identify in the geology. It is therefore reasonable to consider the findings of this evaluation as reliable.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation was able to determine that archaeological features are present on site but are sporadic in nature. All the features encountered were dated to the 18th century or later, indicating little to no activity prior to the Victorian terraces. Scant wall remnants were identified and these were situated directly underneath the modern surface and associated levelling deposit. Truncation by very modern activities does not appear to have been a major issue within the limits of the trenches, though some of the features reached the natural geology. The layer directly above the natural appears to be a large ground-raising deposit laid prior to the construction of the Victorian terraces. This may indicate that truncation occurred as a result of the Victorian activity.
- 4.2.2 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical 360-degree excavator with a toothless bucket down to the natural horizon.
- 4.2.3 The trenches and sections were cleaned and recorded both in plan and in section, while the features were sample excavated and recorded with finds retrieved, where possible, to ascertain their date.
- 4.2.4 This report will inform the need or otherwise for any future archaeological works on site.
- 4.2.5 All work was undertaken in accordance with national best practice and guidelines.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The results of this evaluation show that there is little to no evidence of activity on site prior to the construction of the Victorian terraces. However, the possibility of archaeology having been truncated by these activities cannot be ruled out.
- 4.3.2 It is apparent that the area went through several ground raising or levelling episodes, mainly prior to the construction of the Victorian terraces – in the form of the clay with flint and post-medieval levelling deposit – but also after the demolition of the Victorian terraces.
- 4.3.3 The scant brickwork remains that were found on site indicates that the demolition of the Victorian terraces was quite thorough and has left little of archaeological value behind.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 While there is the possibility of sporadic archaeology remaining on the site, the findings of this evaluation demonstrate that the archaeological significance of this site should be considered low.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained two large modern/Post-Med features. The trench consists of a tarmac surface and layers of made ground overlying natural chalk.					Length (m)	8
					Width (m)	4
					Avg. depth (m)	1.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.10	Tarmac	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.15	Hardcore – made ground	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.10	Modern debris – grey gravel and concrete	-	-
103	Layer	2.0	0.80	Made ground – dark grey, sand and gravel with brick and chalk frags.	CBM	18 th – 19 th century
104	VOID	-	-	Context voided	-	-
105	Layer	-	0.50	Post-Med/Modern sand layer	-	-
106	Fill	1.20	0.50	Fill of pit [107] – light grey, clay and gravel	CBM	19 th – 20 th century
107	Cut	1.20	0.50	Cut of probable pit	-	-
108	Layer	-	0.20	Levelling/land reclamation deposit – Brown with white patches, Clay with flint	-	-
109	Layer	-	-	Natural – white chalk/clay with flint nodules	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained scant remains of Victorian foundations and two Post-Med pits. Consists of tarmac and modern made ground overlying earlier levelling deposits which, in turn, overlie palaeochannel deposits and the natural chalk geology.					Length (m)	7
					Width (m)	4
					Avg. depth (m)	1.57
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.10	Tarmac	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.15	Hardcore – made ground	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.16	Made ground/levelling – broken brick and stone in a dark brown silty clay.	-	-
203	Layer	-	0.24	Levelling deposit – compact, mid brownish grey, silty clay	-	-
204	Layer	-	0.78	Levelling deposit/ Palaeochannel fill (dumped deposit, land reclamation?)	-	-

				– compact, mid orangey brown, clay with flint		
205	Cut	2.10	1.05	Cut of pit	-	-
206	Fill	1.20	0.15	Natural silting in pit [205] – mid greyish brown, gravelly sandy clay.	-	-
207	Fill	1.10	0.12	Natural silting – dark brownish grey, sand gravelly clay.	-	-
208	Fill	1.45	0.95	Backfill – light greyish brown, gravelly sand clay.	Pot Animal Bone Glass CBM	AD 1800-1840 18 th -E19 th century 18 th -19 th century
209	Layer	-	0.44	Palaeochannel fill (fluvial deposit) – compact, mid brownish orange, clayey silt.	-	-
210	Layer	-	-	Palaeochannel fill (fluvial deposit) – light brownish yellow, silty sand	-	-
211	Layer	-	-	Natural – light brownish white compact chalk	-	-
212	Cut	0.80	-	Unexcavated pit	-	-
213	Fill	0.80	-	Backfill – soft, light greyish brown, sandy clay.	Pot CBM	AD 1780-1820 18 th -19 th century

Trench 3

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained modern structural remains and a modern pit. Consists of tarmac and modern made ground overlying alluvium which then overlies the natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	10
					Width (m)	4
					Avg. depth (m)	1.15
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.15	Tarmac	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.20	Hardcore – made ground	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.30	Modern debris – made ground/levelling deposit	Pot Clay Pipe	AD 1820-1840 19 th century
303	Layer	-	0.40	Levelling/land reclamation deposit – brown with light grey patches, Clay with flint	-	-
304	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk with flint	-	-

305	Fill	0.40	0.50	Fill of pit [306] – black charcoal with metal fragments throughout, modern debris backfill.	CBM	18 th -19 th century
306	Cut	0.40	0.50	Cut of pit	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Post-medieval pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 A total of 22 sherds of post-medieval pottery weighing 224g were recovered from four contexts. Ordinary domestic wares were recovered. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.
- B.1.2 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.). Fabric codes referred to are those of the Museum of London (MOLA 2014).

Description

- B.1.3 **Context (208)** Spot-date: c 1800-1840. Description: 9 sherds (weight 79g). 2x joining body sherds from a globular jug/jar in Rockingham-type ware (Fabric code: ROCK, c 1800-1900) with vertical ribbed/corduroy decoration. 1x rim sherd from a cylindrical mug or jug in Creamware with slip-trailed banded decoration (CREA BAND, c 1797-1830). 4x sherds, including rim and base, from dishes in Developed Creamware (CREA DEV, c 1760-1830). 2x body sherds from 2 vessels in late post-medieval red earthenware (PMR), these examples probably c 1750-1850. All sherds/fabrics in fresh condition - apart from larger PMR sherd which is abraded externally.
- B.1.4 **Context (213)** Spot-date: c 1780-1820? Description: 4 sherds (weight 41g). 1x rim sherd from a thin-walled teacup (or teabowl) in Pearlware with painted decoration (PEAR PNTD, c 1780-1840). The latter with a faint brown border-line at the rim - probably imitating Chinese porcelain (date probably c 1720-1820?). 2x sherds in Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG, c 1720-1780), including a tankard rim and a dish base. 1x footring base from a bowl in CREA DEV.
- B.1.5 **Context (302)** Spot-date: c 1820-1840? Description: 8 sherds (weight 101g). 2x joining sherds from the footring base of a teacup in transfer-printed Pearlware (PEAR TR, c 1780-1840). One with a stylized blue transfer-printed landscape motif (a small island in a lake?) in the base of the cup, and traces of decoration externally (probably c 1820-1840?). 4x sherds of plain Pearlware (PEAR, c 1780-1840) including the flat base of a dish/plate (3 joining sherds) and a rim from a small thick-walled bowl or pedestal-footed ointment pot or salt cellar? 1x rim from a teacup or small bowl in English bone china, with moulded decoration (BONE, c 1794-1900). 1x small sherd in CREA DEV.
- B.1.6 **Context (305)** Spot-date: c 1820-1840? Description: 1 sherd (weight 3g). Footring base from a saucer or small dish in transfer-printed Pearlware (PEAR TR, c 1780-1840). Traces of blue Willow Pattern decoration internally (probably c 1820-1840?).

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.1.7 The pottery here has some potential to inform research through re-analysis - particularly when reviewed alongside further assemblages from any future excavations in the area of the present evaluation. It is therefore recommended that the pottery be retained.

B.2 Clay tobacco pipe

By John Cotter

Description

- B.2.1 Two pieces of clay pipe weighing 2g were recovered from a single context. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.
- B.2.2 **Context (302)** Spot-date: 19th century. Description: 2 small pieces of pipe stem (2g). These join to give a length of 31mm (fresh breaks). Slender 19th-century type stem in a clean white fabric, with a stem bore diameter of 1.8mm. Slightly weathered condition.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.2.3 The pipe is really only of use for dating and has little potential for further analysis. As it has been adequately recorded it could be discarded if so desired.

B.3 Glass

By Ian R Scott

- B.3.1 There is a single piece of vessel glass from context 208, comprising a body sherd of olive green glass from a bottle or flagon (Table 1).
- B.3.2 The sherd lacks diagnostic features that could help to date the glass. However, it has elongated bubbles within the glass and a smooth outer surface with very slight rippling suggesting that the vessel was probably free blown rather than being blown into dip mould or turn mould. The vessel was probably made in the 18th or early 19th-century.

Table 1: Finds register

Context 208	(1)	Body sherd from a thin-walled cylindrical vessel, possibly a bottle or flagon. Probably free blown rather than mould blown. Olive green glass with vertically elongated bubbles.
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B.4 Ceramic building material

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

- B.4.1 A small quantity of ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to 28 fragments weighing 1222g was recovered from trenches 1-3. The assemblage is essentially of 18th-19th century date. All pieces are fragmentary, moderately to heavily abraded and have a mean fragment weight of 53g.
- B.4.2 The assemblage has been spot-dated and briefly catalogued on an Excel file which forms part of the site archive. The material is summarised by context in Table 2 below.

Description

- B.4.3 The dominant forms were brick and brick paviour (18 fragments, 702g), which were found in contexts 103, 106, 208, and 305. These were all made in red and orange fired sandy clay fabrics, containing high densities of quartz sand in grades ranging from fine to coarse and varying between well and poorly sorted. Dark red iron oxide or ironstone grits were also sometimes present, plus occasional flint grit and cream/buff clay pellets or laminations. The brick was all hand made, stock moulded with flat even surfaces and fairly sharp arises or corners. None had any surviving complete dimensions except for two brick paviments, which measured 31 and 42mm thick. At least two pieces were full sized bricks with thicknesses in excess of 56 and 59mm, but other fragments could be brick or paviour. One of the bricks may have been a 'special' as it appeared to have two surfaces at an obtuse angle of 125°, though one of the surfaces is very poorly preserved.
- B.4.4 Roof tile (4 fragments, 429g) comprised predominantly flat rectangular roof tile, including one definite peg tile. This had a rougher cruder surface finish than the other pieces and is probably earlier in date c 16th-17th century in contrast to 18th-19th century for the other roof tile. The peg tile measured 16mm thick and was pierced by a circular tapering peg hole 22x15mm in size tapering to 11mm, centred 23 and 32mm from top and left hand edges. The flat roof tile was made in orange – red sandy clay fabric and the later fragments measured 12 and 15mm thick. A single fragment of pantile measured 15mm thick and was made in a pink sandy fabric containing a very high density of fine quartz sand.
- B.4.5 A single fragment of stoneware drain or sewer pipe (91g) was recovered from context 106. It was made in an unusual pinkish purple sandy fabric and was glazed purplish brown on the exterior only. It measured 15mm thick and 140mm in diameter with an internal bore of 110mm. On the exterior was part of a stamp set within a rectangular frame, which reads "BRITISH MA[DE]". It is uncertain whether the stamp originally included the manufacturer, but the upper section of the stamp did not impinge on the surface of the pipe.

Table 2: Summary of the ceramic building material

Context	Spot date	Count	Wt (g)	Forms
103	C18-C19	5	120	Brick, Roof tile
106	C19-EC20	3	208	Brick, drain pipe
208	C18-C19	9	485	Roof tile, brick paviments, brick
213	C18-C19	2	352	Roof: peg tile and pantile
305	C18-C19	4	88	Brick
Total		23	1253	

Conclusion

B.4.6 The CBM provides evidence of the materials used in building construction in the area of the site during the later post-medieval period. The material indicates the use of brick built structures with brick pavement floors and tile roofing reflecting the change from flat peg tile to pantile during this time. The pipe provides evidence of provision of sewage infrastructure during the later 19th or early 20th century.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.4.7 The assemblage provides evidence of dating and the construction of buildings in relation to the site. The CBM has little intrinsic value and has little potential for re-analysis or wider research. The assemblage may be discarded if desired.

B.5 Shell

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
213	Single oyster shell (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) right valve, 15g

B.6 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.6.1 Insert all artefact reports here. Where appropriate these should be cross-references to the main body of the report, both in terms of results (i.e. what was found in the features) and how the artefacts help with interpretation (e.g. with dating evidence).

B.6.2 A total of three pieces of slate were retained and analysed. Two fragments, one of grey and one of purple slate, were found in context 305 (33g) and one fragment of grey slate was found in context 213 (28g). These are small fragments lacking in diagnostic features, but probably represent the use of slate for roofing, which would suggest a medieval or later date.

B.6.3 All the stone can be discarded.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Lee G. Broderick

- C.1.1 One animal bone specimen was recovered from the site. It was collected by hand and dated on the basis of associated ceramic finds to the c AD 1800-1840.
- C.1.2 The specimen (Tables 3-5) recovered was a right caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goat [*Capra hircus*]) calcaneum which has been gnawed by canids (probably dogs). Preservation was good (Behrensmeyer, 1978 weathering stage 2) other than this damage, which suggests that dogs were on the site and played an active role in the deposition of the specimen.
- C.1.3 Little can be read into such a small assemblage beyond the presence of caprine and dogs on the site at the time.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- C.1.4 The assemblage should not be considered for retention.

Table 3: Total NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) and NSP (Number of Specimens) figures per period from hand-collected material from the site.

	c.AD 1800-1840
caprine	1
Total NISP	1
Total NSP	1

Table 4: Non-species data recorded from the specimens (NSP) in the assemblage.

	Butchery marks	Pathologies	Gnawed	Burnt	Ageing data	Biometric data	Sex
caprine			1				
Total	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Table 5: Total NSP and weight of specimens from each context.

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
208	1	7

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology Collective, 2019, Reading Heights (Clarendon House), Queens Road, Reading, Written Scheme of Investigation

Behrensmeyer, A K, 1978 Taphonomic and Ecologic Information from Bone Weathering. *Paleobiology* 4, 150–162.

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MOLA 2014, London medieval and post-medieval pottery codes, Museum of London Archaeology, <http://www.mola.org.uk/medieval-and-post-medieval-pottery-codes> (Accessed 11 Jan 2019)

APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name: Reading Heights, Clarendon House, Queens Road, Reading
Site code: REHE19
Grid Reference SU 72197 73269
Type: Evaluation
Date and duration: 16 – 19/12/2019
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with a suitable receiving body in due course, under the following accession number: TBC.

Summary of Results: In December of 2019 Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Archaeology Collective to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed building extension at Reading Heights, Clarendon House, Queens Road, Reading. The site centred on SU 72197 73269 and the works were carried out as a condition of Planning Permission (Ref: 180909 (Reading Borough Council)).

The evaluation, which took three days to complete, consisted of three trial trenches measuring up to 10m x 4m.

All Trenches, 1, 2 and 3 had very similar stratigraphy of chalk natural overlain by a layer of clay with flint, which was then overlain by a levelling deposit related to the Victorian terraces. Sporadic features were identified in the trenches in the form of refuse pits, some of which were cut from the clay with flint horizon and some from the later Victorian levelling deposit. Partial foundations were noted from the remains of the Victorian terraces in two trenches. This activity was then overlain by modern levelling deposits and tarmac in all three trenches.

The natural chalk was encountered at heights between 37.11m OD and 36.81m OD. The 19th century archaeology was extant from heights of between 37.91m OD and 37.46m OD.

Project Details

OASIS Number	
Project Name	

Start of Fieldwork		End of Fieldwork	
Previous Work		Future Work	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code		Planning App. No.	
HER Number		Related Numbers	

Prompt	
Development Type	
Place in Planning Process	Choose an item.

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Aerial Photography – interpretation | ☐ Grab-sampling | ☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| ☐ Aerial Photography - new | ☐ Gravity-core | ☐ Sample Trenches |
| ☐ Annotated Sketch | ☐ Laser Scanning | ☐ Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure |
| ☐ Augering | ☐ Measured Survey | ☐ Targeted Trenches |
| ☐ Dendrochronological Survey | ☐ Metal Detectors | ☐ Test Pits |
| ☐ Documentary Search | ☐ Phosphate Survey | ☐ Topographic Survey |
| ☐ Environmental Sampling | ☐ Photogrammetric Survey | ☐ Vibro-core |
| ☐ Fieldwalking | ☐ Photographic Survey | ☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| ☐ Geophysical Survey | ☐ Rectified Photography | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County		Address (including Postcode)
District		
Parish		
HER office		
Size of Study Area		
National Grid Ref		

Project Originators

Organisation	
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	
Project Supervisor	

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)		
Digital Archive		
Paper Archive		

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☐	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

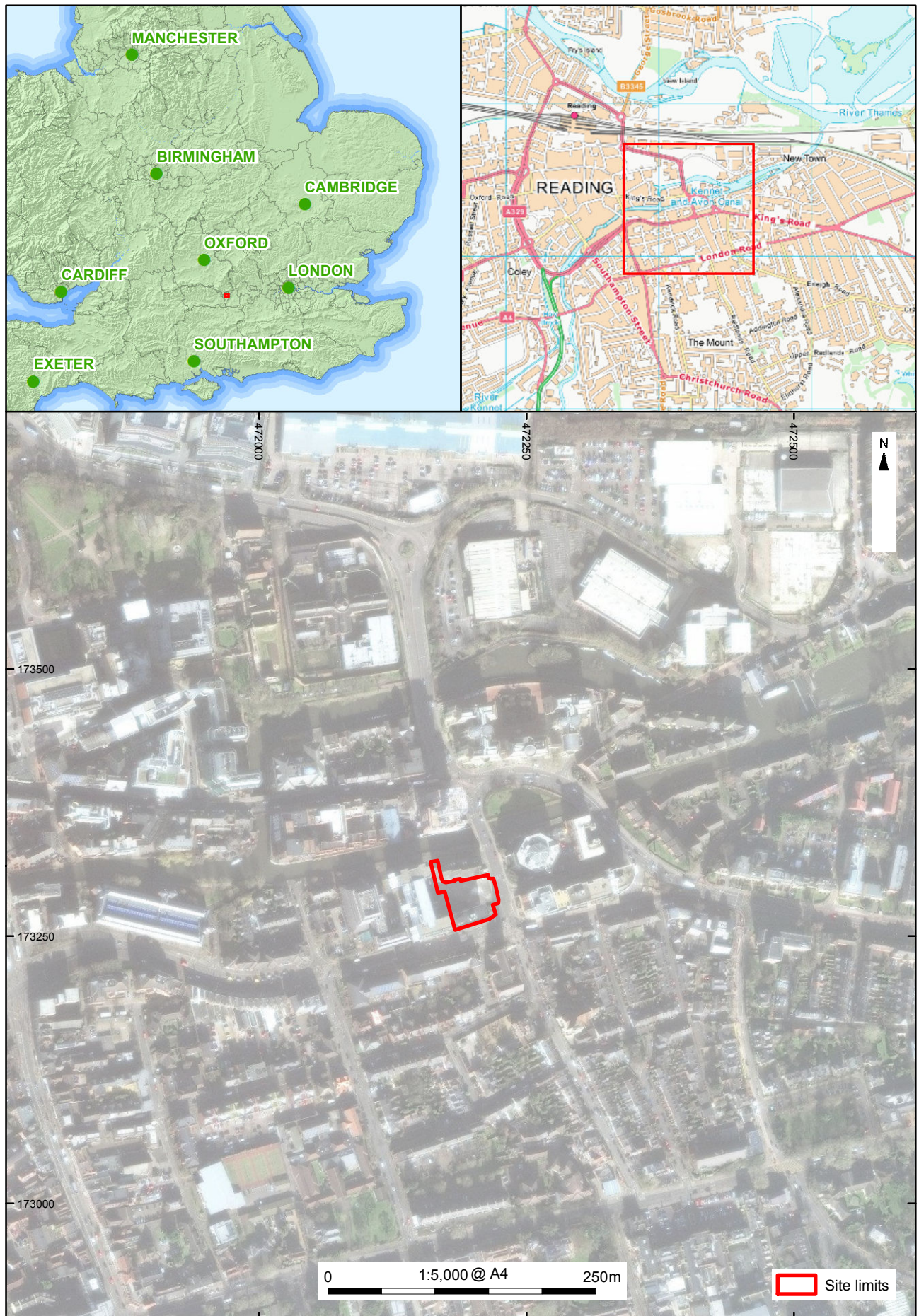
Digital Media

Database	☐
GIS	☐
Geophysics	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☐
Moving Image	☐
Spreadsheets	☐
Survey	☐
Text	☐
Virtual Reality	☐

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	☐
Context Sheets	☐
Correspondence	☐
Diary	☐
Drawing	☐
Manuscript	☐
Map	☐
Matrices	☐
Microfiche	☐
Miscellaneous	☐
Research/Notes	☐
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☐
Plans	☐
Report	☐
Sections	☐
Survey	☐

Further Comments



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location

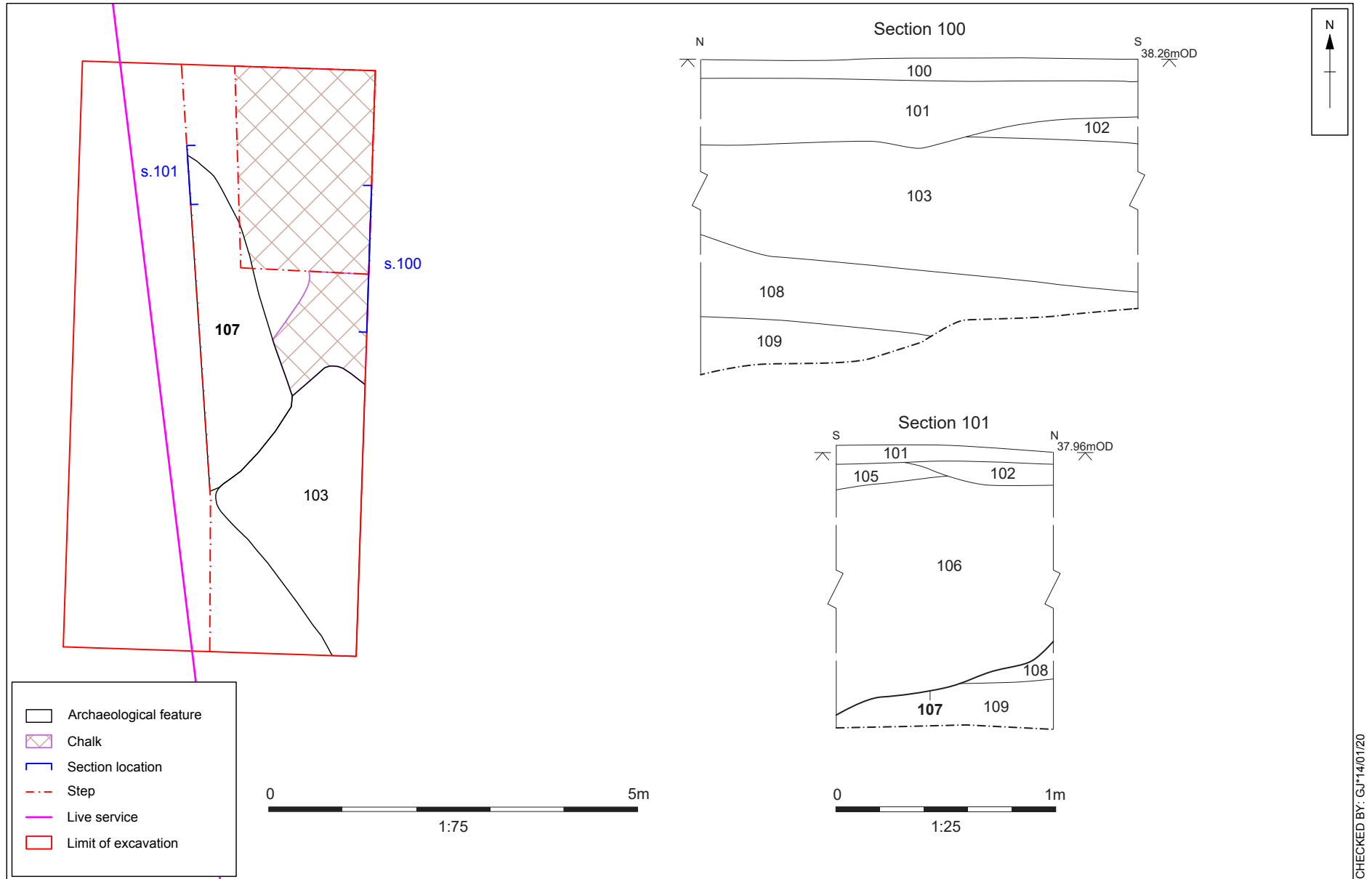


Figure 3: Trench 1

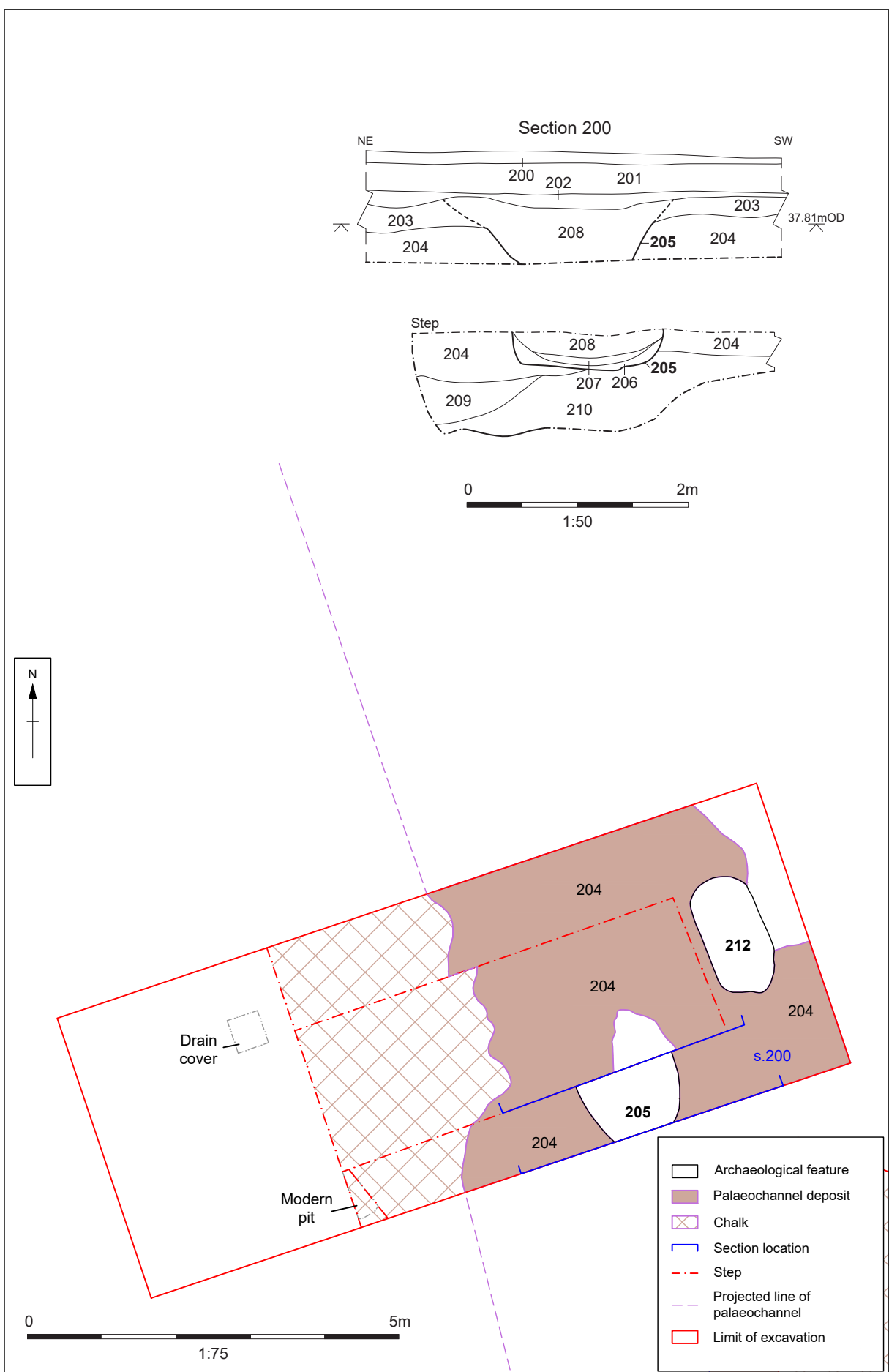


Figure 4: Trench 2

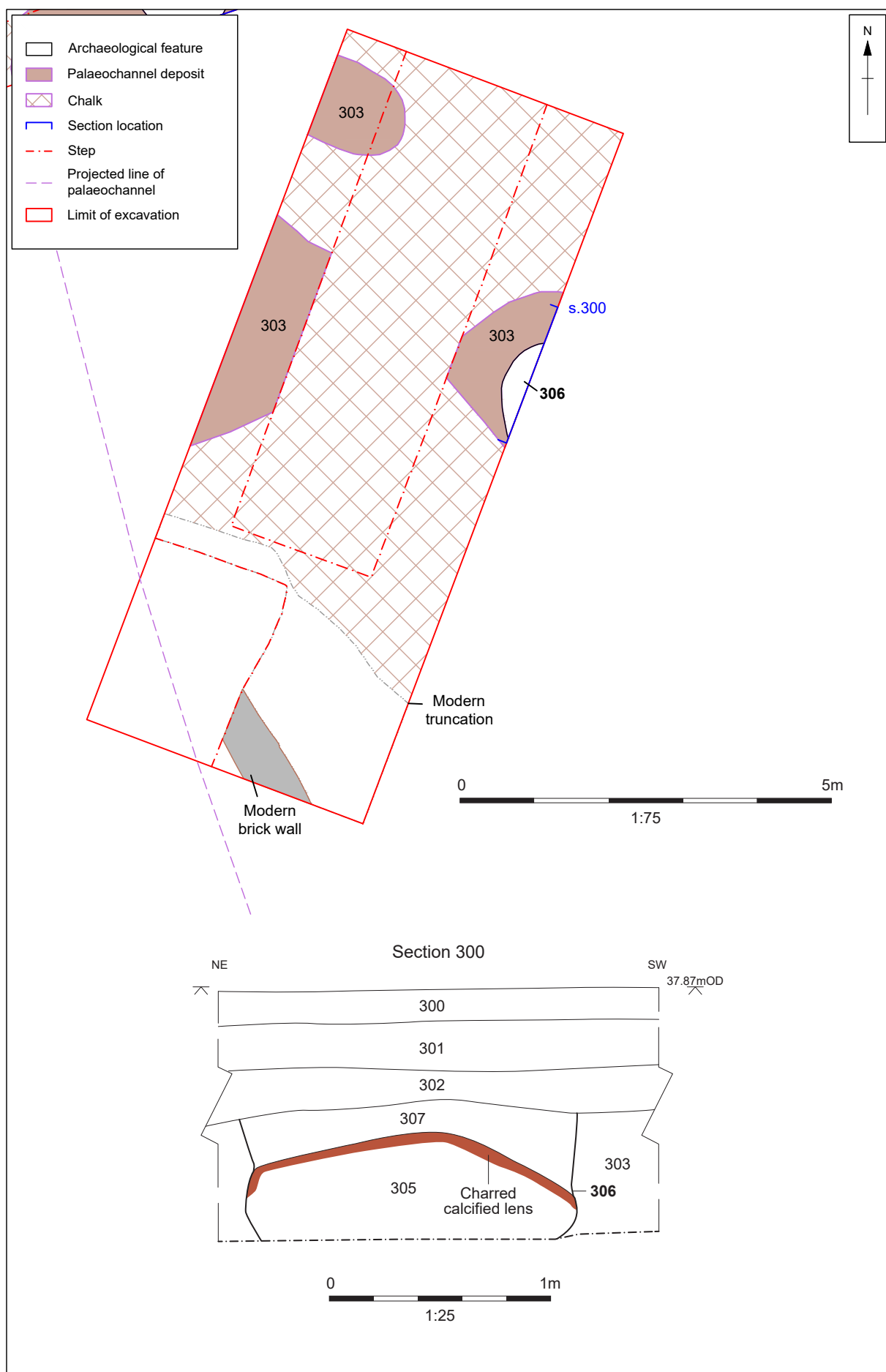


Figure 5: Trench 3



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: Section 100



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking south-west



Plate 4: Section 200



Plate 5: Trench 3, looking north-east



Plate 6: Section 300



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