

Fred Olsen Cruise Lines
IP8 Development
London Road, Pinewood
Ipswich, Suffolk



**Archaeological
Excavation Report**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In June 2008 Oxford Archaeology undertook a targeted excavation on land at the junction of London Road and Scrivener Drive, Ipswich on behalf of Fred Olsen Cruise Lines. Excavation revealed two large quarry pits and three ditches. Only limited dating evidence was recovered from the pits with the latest pottery sherd providing a terminus post quem date range of AD 720-850. The ditches are likely to be field boundaries that were medieval or later in origin.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between the 9th and 12th of June 2008 Oxford Archaeology (OA) undertook an archaeological excavation on land at the junction of London Road and Scrivener Drive to the southwest of Ipswich, Suffolk centring on NGR TM 128 427 (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by SMC Charter Architects on behalf of Fred Olsen Cruise Lines in advance of a proposed office and car park development (Planning Application No. application B/07/01011).

1.1.2 A *Brief* was prepared by Dr Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service - Conservation Team (SCCAS-CT) and a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by OA prior to commencing the fieldwork. The WSI detailed how OA would fulfil the brief with agreement of SCCAS-CT. This report represents the fulfilment of that brief.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on glacial sand and gravel, overlying Norwich, Red Crag and Chillesford Clay at 40 m to 42 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) sloping gently down from east to west. The site is situated on uncultivated land that had been recently cleared of shrub cover and comprised rough grassland at the time of the fieldwork. An overhead power line that had previously bisected the site from NW to SE had been diverted around the perimeter by the time of the excavation.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The Brief states:

This application lies in an area of archaeological importance, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, with an Anglo-Saxon occupation site (WSH 012) immediately to the west, as well as a Roman finds scatter (WSH 012).

1.3.2 An evaluation was undertaken by OA in April 2008 within the boundary of the development and identified archaeological remains within Trenches 19 and 21 (OA 2008). These remains were indistinct and did not provide clear dating evidence and a tentative interpretation suggested that the remains could be those of a prehistoric ring ditch.

2 EXCAVATION AIMS

2.1 General and specific

- 2.1.1 The general aim of the excavation was to provide a record of all archaeological deposits which would otherwise be damaged or removed by the development permitted by the planning consent.
- 2.1.2 To achieve this the aims of the excavation were to:
- Determine and confirm the extent, general character and function of the possible ditched remains previously encountered and any associated deposits,
 - Establish the presence/absence and make appropriate record of associated burials if the feature did prove to be a burial monument,
 - Confirm the date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence,
 - Make appropriate written, drawn and photographic records of the archaeological deposits and features,
 - Take relevant samples to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence.

3 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.1.1 The excavation comprised an area of 1285 m² focussed upon the features located within Trenches 19 and 21 of the preceding evaluation (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 Once identified, the features proved to extend beyond the proposed excavation area. Following discussion with SCCAS-CT it was decided to extend the excavation area in order to adequately expose and characterise these.
- 3.1.3 The excavation area was cleared of non-archaeological topsoil and sub soil using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to the level of the natural geology under the controlled supervision of the site Project Supervisor.
- 3.1.4 All aspects of the excavation were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct; the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (IFA 1999, 2006 rev), and Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA 2003). The standard site procedures of OA were as defined in the WSI.
- 3.1.5 The event number, WSH 016, was obtained from the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record Office prior to the preceding evaluation and was applied to the excavation phase of the fieldwork. This was clearly displayed on all records relating to this project.
- 3.1.6 Where archaeological features were encountered they were cleaned and excavated to establish their character, degree of survival and date where possible. All features

investigated were recorded in plan and section and all finds encountered were retained for analysis. All archaeological features were planned at 1:100 and excavated sections were drawn at 1:20. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in the OAU Fieldwork Manual (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.2 **Finds**

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. No finds of special interest were encountered.

4 **RESULTS**

4.1 **Excavation**

Pits

- 4.1.1 The underlying natural geology (5002) was encountered at a depth of *c* 0.4 m below the current land surface at *c* 41.1 m aOD and consisted of loose red sand interspersed with patches of stiff yellowish brown clay.
- 4.1.2 This was cut by two large quarry pits (5014 and Group 5019) (Fig. 2). The easternmost pit (1907/5014) was only partially exposed within the limit of excavation to an extent of 10.8 m x 6.0 m. This was investigated during the evaluation and was found to be infilled with sandy silting deposits to its full depth of 1.05 m (Fig. 4 section 1903).
- 4.1.3 The westernmost pit (Group 5019) was fully exposed within the excavation area and was also investigated during the evaluation stage (1904). This pit was roughly circular in plan measuring approximately 15.0 m by 13.7 m with a maximum depth of 1.2 m as revealed by an excavated section across the centre of the feature (5008) (Fig. 4 section 5002). This section was machined excavated in 50 mm spits following advice from SCCAS-CT to investigate the full extent of the feature following an initial hand excavation of the pit (5007) which had suggested it to be virtually sterile of finds.
- 4.1.4 The pit was largely flat bottomed and 1.20 m deep with a slight rise of the base towards the centre of the pit. An initial silting and/or collapse of the sides of the pit was observed in the form of redeposited natural clay (5018). The remainder of the pit was filled with a homogenous orange-grey silty clayey sand (5009); the result of gradual silting.

Ditches

- 4.1.5 A short length of an east-west orientated linear ditch (5012) was located immediately north-east of pit 5019. This was 11.8 m long, 0.6 m wide and 0.2 m deep and truncated at its eastern end by ditch 2106. It had a single sterile fill comprising a pinkish brown sand (5013) (Fig. 4 section 5004).

- 4.1.6 Cut across the surface of the infilled pit 5019 and the eastern limit of ditch 5012 was a field boundary ditch (2106/5017) that had survived as an extant boundary immediately prior to the excavation. This was present across the width of the excavation area (29.50 m) with maximum dimensions of 1.7 m in width and 0.75 m in depth, becoming shallower and narrower to the west and east of the section excavated as part of the evaluation (Fig. 4 sections 2102 and 5002). The single fill comprised a dark greyish brown silty sand (2107/5016) and produced four post-medieval pottery sherds during the evaluation.
- 4.1.7 To the south of pit 5019 was another east-west ditch (Group 5020). This was present across the width of the excavation area (21.0 m) and was 0.45 m wide and 0.06 m deep. It contained a single fill comprising an orange brown sandy clay (5004) (Fig. 4 section 5003).

4.2 Finds

Pottery

- 4.2.1 A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the subsoil (5001) during the course of the excavation. This was a rim sherd of Thetford ware dating to between A.D. 850-1100 and weighing 15 g (J. Cotter pers comm.). The remaining pottery evidence, as discussed below, derives from the evaluation stage of the project.

Lithics

- 4.2.2 Ten pieces (44 g) of non diagnostic struck flint were recovered from pit group 5019. All of the diagnostic struck flint artefacts recovered during the evaluation were of Mesolithic technologies and do not aid the interpretation of the features investigated in the excavation.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

5.1 Quarry pits

- 5.1.1 The two large pits (5014 and 5019) are likely to be the result of the quarrying of the natural sand. The size of these leaves little reason to doubt this interpretation and the general absence of artefactual inclusions suggests that they were located within areas away from contemporary settlement. The homogenous and sterile fills recorded within the quarries also indicate that these were left open to infill through silting.
- 5.1.2 The date of the quarrying remains uncertain. The sections excavated during the evaluation stage of the investigation provided the largest artefactual assemblages although these were generally negligible and, in the case of the Mesolithic flints and prehistoric pottery sherds that were recovered, clearly residual. The latest artefact recovered from the quarry fills was a single sherd of Ipswich ware dated *c* AD 720-850. This provides a *terminus post quem* date range for the fill from which it was recovered but does little to securely date the features.

5.1.3 Examples of similar-sized quarry pits have been noted at South Lowestoft Industrial Estate (CAC 035) that produced a comparably small amount of early Saxon dating evidence (J. Newman pers. comm.). However, these quarries were for the extraction of clay rather than the sandy substrate present at London Road. The volume of sand that the London Road quarry pits would have produced is more difficult to interpret but may have had varied off-site uses. One possibility for such a volume could have been as an addition to mortar mixes for construction although this would have been limited to large high status structures and probably suggests a later date than that of the pottery *terminus post quem*.

5.2 Ditches

5.2.1 The hedgeline and field boundary (2106/5017) remained as a visible earthwork during the fieldwork. This boundary is shown on the 1st edition OS map dating from 1882 along with the north-south aligned hedge that remained to the north-east of the excavation area. These form part of a small group of curving boundaries to the east of London Road (original alignment) that could suggest that the layout was either of medieval origin or, more likely, influenced by the ridge and furrows of a late medieval open field arrangement, although no evidence of ridge and furrow was present.

5.2.2 Ditches 5012 and 5020 did not produce any dating evidence although the similarity of alignment and location to the larger ditch (2106/5017) suggests that they are of a similar origin and function.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>No./wt</i>	<i>Date</i>
5000	Layer		0.22	Topsoil			
5001	Layer		0.15	Subsoil	pot flint metal	1/15 2/16	
5002	Layer			Natural			
5003	Cut	0.45	0.04	Gully			
5004	Fill	0.45	0.04	FO 5003			
5005	Fill	1.00	0.90	FO 5007	flint	3/11	
5006	Fill	1.00	0.18	FO 5007			
5007	Cut	1.00	0.98	Quarry Pit			
5008	Cut	15.10	1.20	Quarry Pit			
5009	Fill	15.10	1.20	FO 5008	7/33		
5010	Cut	0.38	0.06	Gully			
5011	Fill	0.38	0.06	FO 5010			
5012	Cut	0.59	0.20	Gully			
5013	Fill	0.59	0.20	FO 5012			
5014	Cut	6.00	1.00	Quarry Pit			
5015	Fill	6.00	1.00	FO 5014			
5016	Fill	1.00	0.28	FO 5017			
5017	Cut	1.00	0.28	Hedgerow			
5018	Fill	0.2	1.20	FO 5008			
5019	Group			Quarry Pit 5007& 5008			
5020	Group			Gully 5003 & 5010			

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY

EAA 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, EAA Occ. Paper 14

IFA 1999 Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation 2006 revision

OA 2008 Fred Olsen Cruise Lines IP8 Development, London Road, Pinewood, Ipswich, Suffolk. Archaeological Evaluation Report, Oxford Archaeology Client Report.

OAU 1992 Fieldwork Manual (ed. D. Wilkinson)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Fred Olsen Cruise Lines IP8 Development, London Road, Pinewood, Ipswich, Suffolk

Site code: WSH 016

Grid reference: TM 128 427

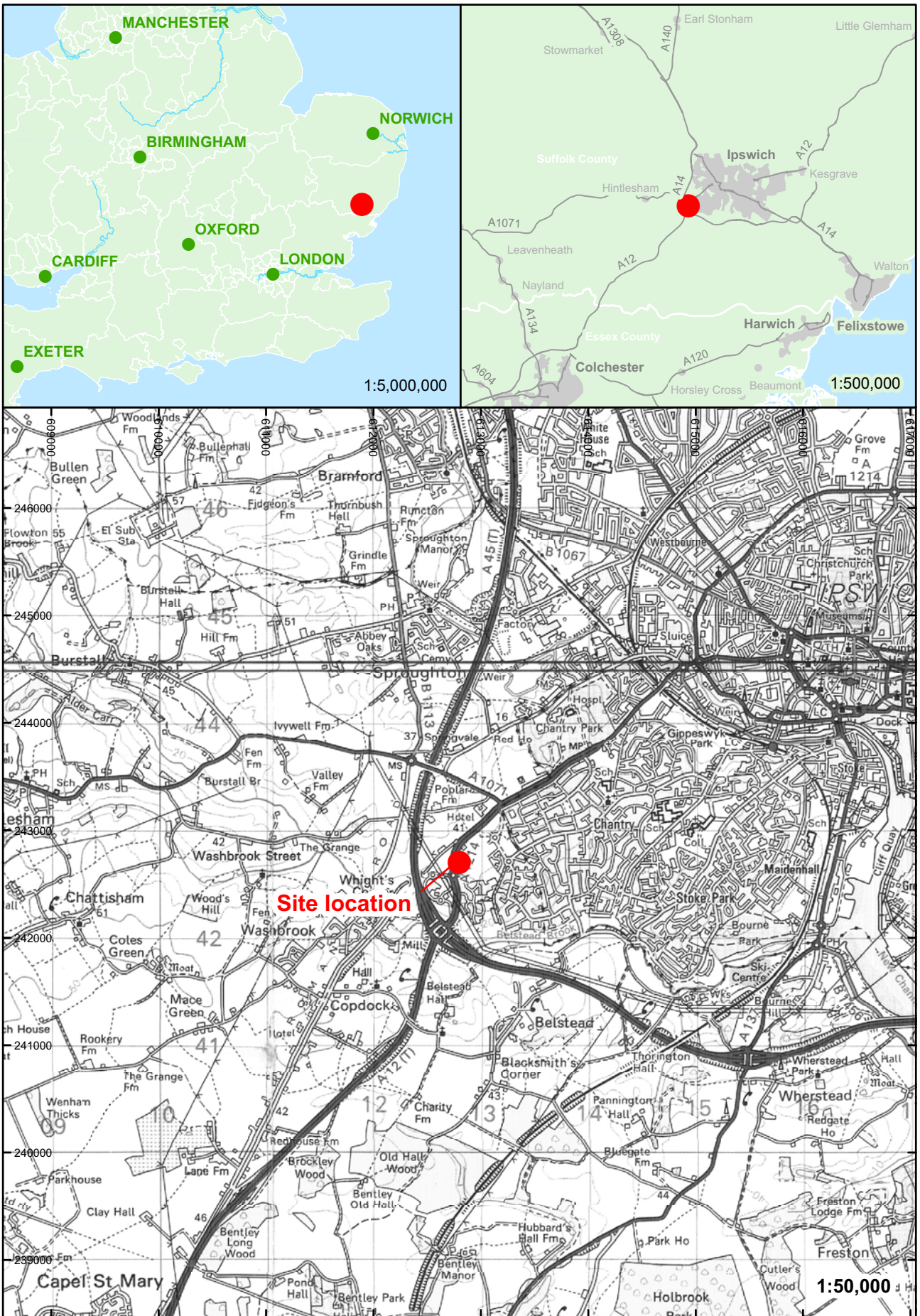
Type of fieldwork: Open area excavation

Date and duration of project: 9th to 12th June 2008.

Area of site: 1285 m²

Summary of results: In June 2008 Oxford Archaeology undertook a targeted excavation on land at the junction of London Road and Scrivener Drive, Ipswich on behalf of Fred Olsen Cruise Lines. Excavation revealed two large quarry pits and three ditches. Only limited dating evidence was recovered from the pits with the latest pottery sherd providing a *terminus post quem* date range of AD 720-850. The ditches are likely to be field boundaries that were medieval or later in origin.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Suffolk Museum Service (specific museum to be confirmed) in due course under the accession code IPSMG:R.2008-8.



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Figure 1: Site location

Projects on Server 1 \IPLREV_IP8_London_Road_Ipswich\010\Geomatics\02_CAD\001\current\IPLREV_exdata*SL311008*

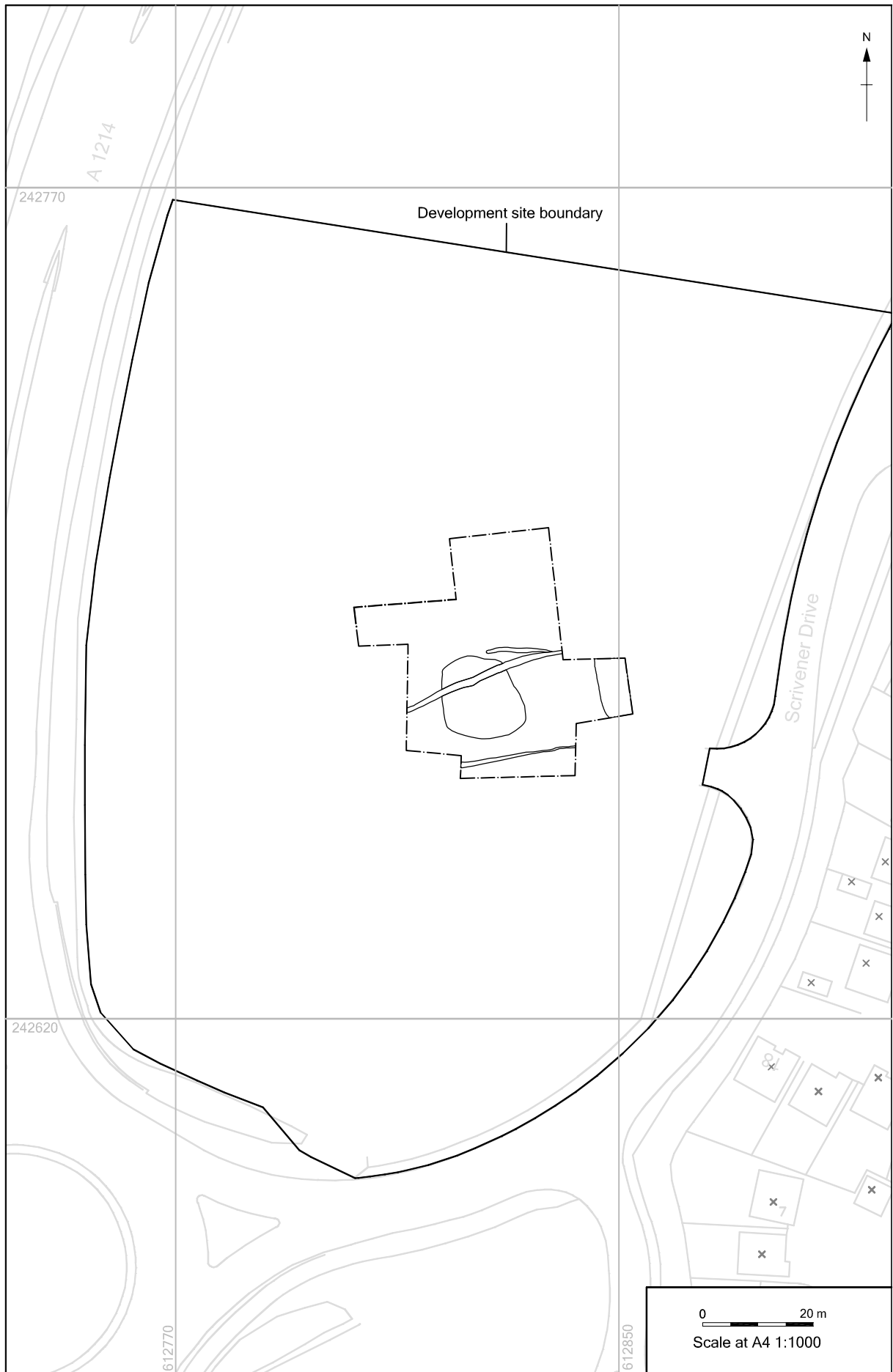


Figure 2: Site plan

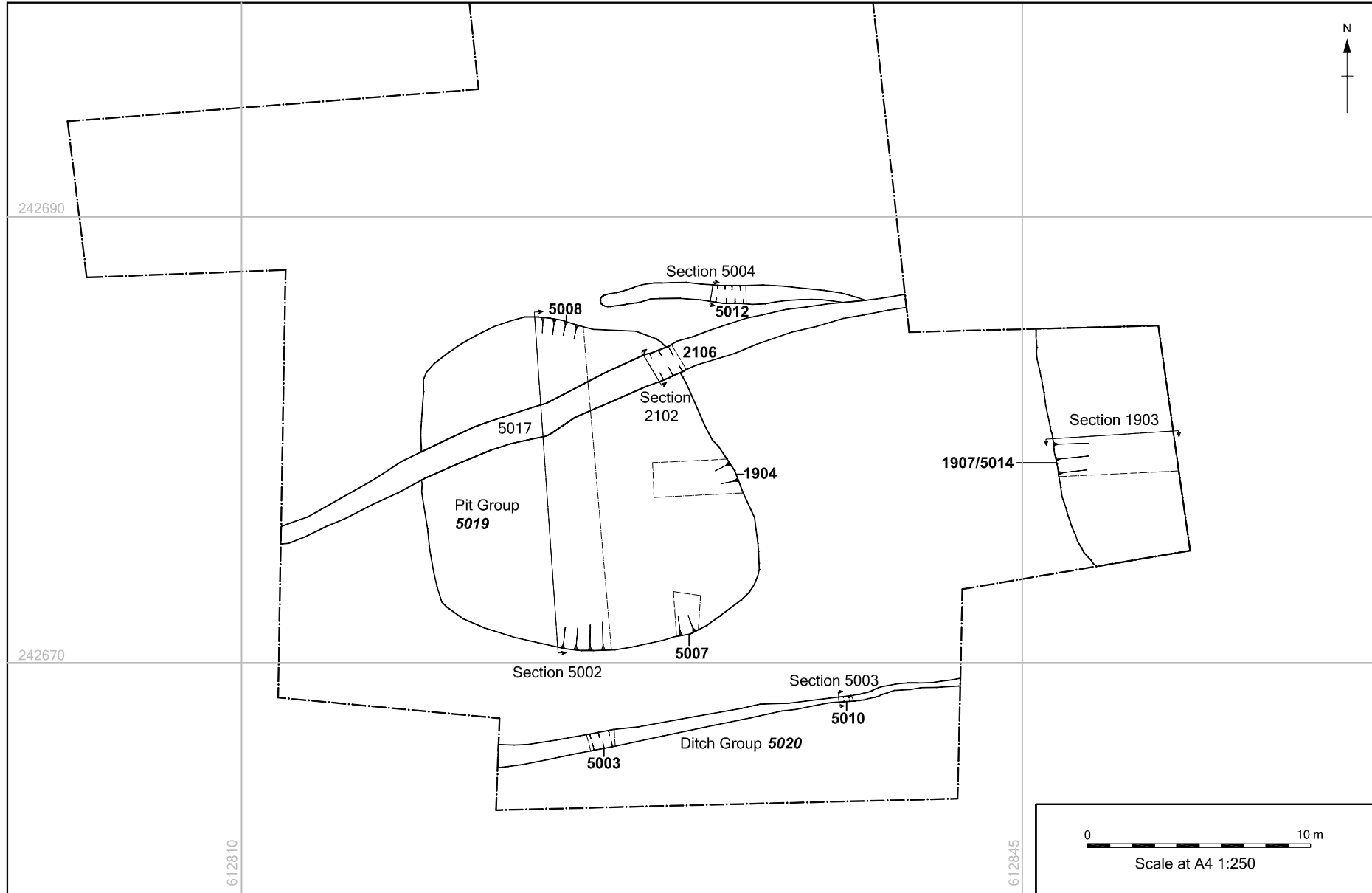


Figure 3: Site plan detail

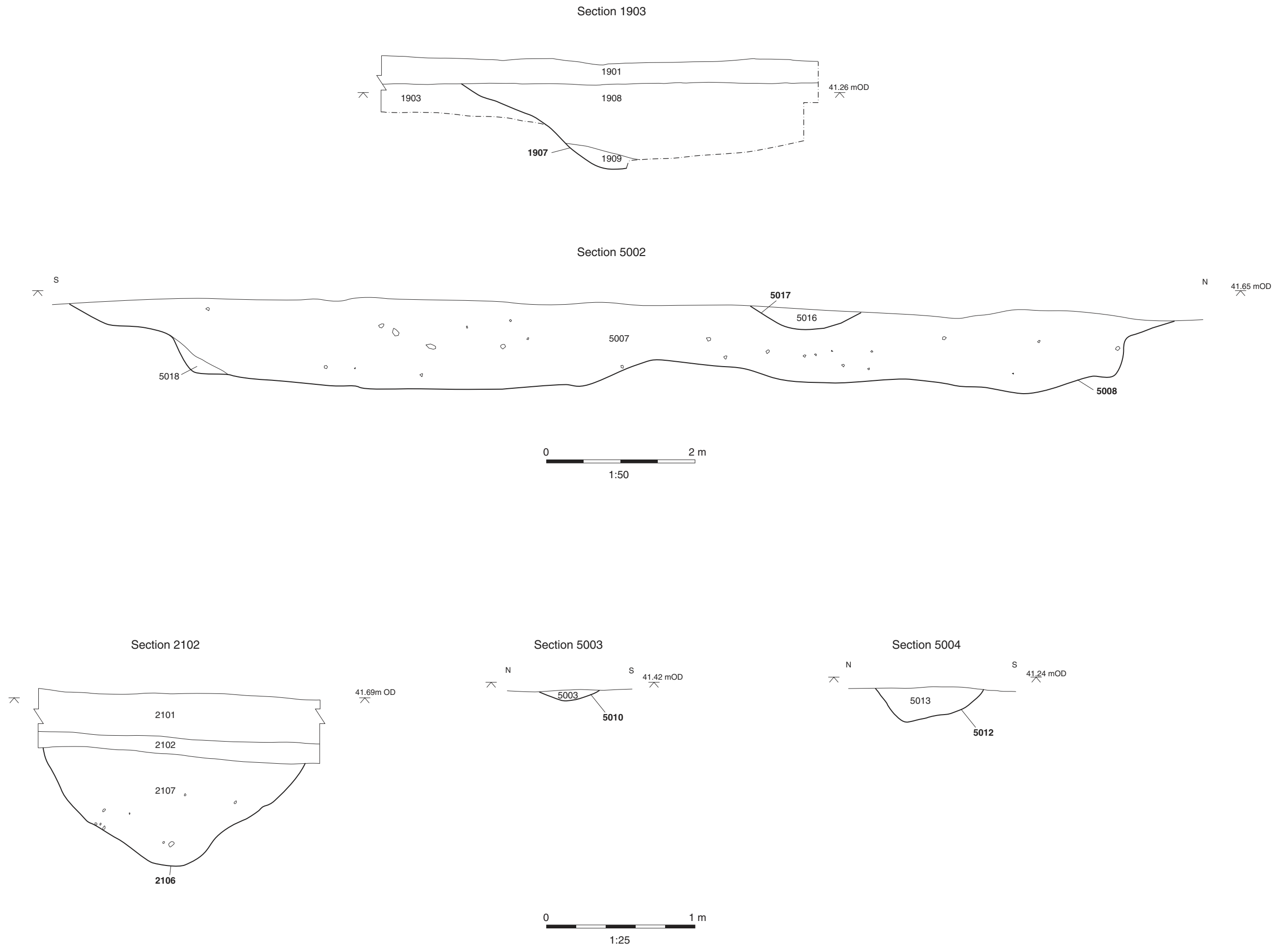


Figure 4: Sections



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