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Archaeological Evaluation Report



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JOHN SAMUELS ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

**MONKTON HEATHFIELD,
TAUNTON, SOMERSET**

NGR: ST 2590 2660 (centred)

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SUMMARY

In September 2004 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation at Monkton Heathfield, Taunton, Somerset (NGR: ST 2590 2660) on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC), in respect to a proposed development of the area. Part of the proposed development area had been the subject of a geophysical survey, the results of which informed on the eventual layout of the evaluation trenches. A larger evaluation sample was implemented on those areas outside the geophysical survey.

Archaeological evidence in the trenches was limited to ditch features. All of the remains encountered had been heavily truncated by previous agricultural activity. Areas 1, 2 and 3 and the Aginghill Farm area appear largely devoid of archaeological features and deposits, with the exception of a few field boundaries of probable post-medieval date.

Archaeological features have been identified in most trenches within Areas 4 and 6, and are likely to represent field boundaries of post-medieval date. Some of these could be traced on historical maps. Discrete features were also recorded, but no concentrations suggesting significant areas of archaeological activity could be identified. One ditch in Area 4 and one gully in Area 6 produced two sherds of Iron Age pottery and one sherd of Roman pottery respectively. The Roman sherd in Area 6 was so small and abraded and probably residual but the potential for limited Iron Age activity in Area 4 cannot be completely excluded.

Areas 5 and 7 revealed potential areas of archaeological significance. Several ditches of prehistoric date ranging from the middle-Neolithic to the Iron Age were identified within Area 7 (Trenches 35, 36 and 37). This suggests the presence of significant prehistoric activity in here, which is previously unknown around the Taunton area. This discovery is of local and regional importance and has the potential to enhance the understanding of the prehistoric occupation landscape here. A possible enclosure and occupation area of Roman date was identified in Area 5.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In September 2004, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) in respect of a proposed development site at Monkton Heathfield, Taunton, Somerset.
- 1.1.2 JSAC were commissioned by RPS Planning and Transport and the development area lies within the area defined by the Taunton Deane Local Plan.
- 1.1.3 The Study Area comprised eight separate areas and covered a total of c 120 ha. (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The geology in the west part of the proposed development area is river terrace drift, giving rise to well-drained coarse and fine loamy soils of the Newnham (541w) Association. In the east part of the proposed development area, the geology is of Permo-Triassic and Carboniferous mudstone, giving rise to fine loamy or fine silty over clayey soils of the 572f Whimple 3 Association. The Study Area lies at 20-25 m OD, and slopes gradually to the south towards the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Specification for an Archaeological Investigation (JSAC 2004b).
- 1.3.2 A desk-based assessment prepared by JSAC (JSAC 2004a) indicated that there was little evidence for pre-Iron Age activity in the vicinity of the Study Area. Evidence from aerial photography suggested that the wider area may have seen occupation activity during the Iron Age and Roman periods, and in particular there was some potential for late prehistoric and/or Roman activity in the vicinity of the small stream running roughly parallel with and west of the A38 road. This hypothesis was to some extent confirmed by the results of the geophysical survey, although the evaluation results are not conclusive.
- 1.3.3 The proposed development area appears to have been used as heath grazing land, perhaps with scrub woodland through the medieval period and later. There is little, if any, evidence for archaeology of post-Roman date within the proposed development area.
- 1.3.4 The geophysical survey was undertaken to further assess the crop-mark features within the proposed development area, with limited survey undertaken on apparently blank areas of the proposed development site in order to assess their apparently low archaeological potential.

- 1.3.5 The geophysical survey commissioned by JSAC found relatively few responses of an archaeological nature. Most of them seem to represent the remains of field boundaries and agricultural disturbance.

2 AIMS OF THE EVALUATION

- 2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, and state of preservation of any archaeological remains surviving within the Study Area. Attention was given to remains of all periods, including evidence for past environments, with provision for environmental sampling included.
- 2.1.2 This was achieved through the implementation of a programme of archaeological trial trenching of the proposed development area. The location of the trenches was informed by the results of the geophysical survey; the areas not included in the geophysical survey were subject to a higher sample percentage. Provision was made for additional trenching in order to investigate areas of archaeological interest if deemed necessary.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the geophysical survey and subsequent field evaluation. The results of the investigation will allow the Planning Authority to make an informed decision regarding the area's suitability for development.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in two stages consisting of a programme of geophysical survey and a subsequent trenched evaluation, as detailed below.

Phase I geophysical survey

- 3.1.2 The area affected by the programme of development was the subject of a magnetic susceptibility survey of 25ha followed by a targeted detailed fluxgate gradiometer survey of 5ha. The results of the geophysics were used to identify areas of archaeological potential and inform the subsequent programme of trial trenching.

Phase II trial trenching (Figs.2-18)

- 3.1.3 A total of fifty nine trenches were excavated throughout the area of the proposed development. Informed by the results of the geophysical survey, these were positioned to define areas of possible archaeological sensitivity, and also to confirm the absence of features where no positive results were obtained. Three of this total were excavated as contingency trenches to further test specific areas.
- 3.1.4 The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by 360° tracked mechanical excavators equipped with a toothless ditching/grading buckets. Trenches were excavated the top of the first archaeological horizon, or if this was absent, to the underlying natural geology.

- 3.1.5 The trenches were cleaned by hand and features sampled to determine their extent, nature, and for the retrieval of finds and environmental samples. Trenches were planned at a scale of 1:50 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate. Trenches and sections were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

4 FINDS

- 4.1.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context in accordance with the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (OA, 1992).

5 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

- 5.1.1 A general description of the soils, ground conditions, stratigraphic sequence and distribution of archaeological deposits is given below, along with the results of the geophysical survey. The empty trenches are listed in Appendix 1, but not otherwise described. Trenches containing features are described in detail.
- 5.1.2 The trench descriptions are followed by a description of the finds and a summary and discussion of the results. A table detailing individual contexts is given in Appendix 1.

5.2 Results: General

5.3 Phase 1: Geophysical Survey results

The following is a summary and must be read in conjunction with the detailed results of the survey (GSB2004). No Geophysical work was carried out in the Ayinghills Farm area.

Area 1 - (Fig. 2)

- 5.3.1 Several linear responses were identified, all coinciding with former field boundaries. A number of pit type anomalies were also identified.

Area 2 (Fig. 3)

- 5.3.2 A single linear anomaly was detected which was presumed to relate to a former boundary.

Area 3

- 5.3.3 A series of poorly defined pit-type anomalies were detected most likely indicative of a plough damaged linear feature.

Area 4

- 5.3.4 Isolated pit anomalies were recorded along with several linear trends, which were interpreted as being the result of modern disturbance.

Area 5

- 5.3.5 A number of linear responses and pit anomalies were recorded.

Area 6

- 5.3.6 A series of irregular, weak linear anomalies were recorded which potentially could be of archaeological interest.

Area 7

- 5.3.7 A number of linear anomalies were thought to derive from ploughing and possible ridge and furrow, along with a possible former field boundary.
- 5.3.8 A fully illustrated report with complete findings for all areas concerned has been prepared by GSB Prospection Ltd and should be read in conjunction with this document (GSB 2004).

5.4 Phase 2: Trench Evaluation**5.5 The stratigraphic sequence**

- 5.5.1 The stratigraphic sequence was generally consistent across the Study Area. The natural geology varied from an orange-brown gravely silt clay to a light orange silt-clay with lenses of yellow clay throughout. All archaeological features were sealed by a red-brown silt clay layer, which varied in depth between 0.2 m and 0.45 m, sealed by the present topsoil, which varied between 0.2 and 0.35 m depth. A possible colluvial or alluvial deposit was recorded beneath the subsoil in Trench 42, Area 7.

5.6 Distribution of archaeological deposits

- 5.6.1 Over half of the evaluation trenches were empty, and are not described beyond the stratigraphic sequence, above. Archaeological features were present in Areas 2 - 7 and are detailed below.

5.7 Results: Trench Descriptions***Area 1 (Trenches 1-8)***

- 5.7.1 No archaeological features were present within Trenches 1 - 7. Trench 8, which was sited to test the geophysical results, was not excavated as it was positioned within an existing cricket pitch.

Area 2 (Trenches 9-15, plus 70)

- 5.7.2 No archaeological features were present within Trenches 9, 10, 13 and 15. Archaeological features were present in the remaining trenches. Unless otherwise described, all feature fills in this area were derived from natural slow silting and consisted of light to medium orange brown silty clay with occasional pebble or gravel inclusions.

Trench 11 (Fig. 3)

- 5.7.3 Two ditches were present in this trench. Ditches 1101 and 1102 were respectively aligned NE-SW and ENE-WSW. Both ditches had moderately sloping sides and a

concave base. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the fills. Natural was encountered between 24.19 m OD and 26.67 m OD.

Trench 12 (Fig. 3)

- 5.7.4 Only one ditch (1201) was present in this trench and was aligned NW-SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. One irregular flint waster, possibly the remains of a multi-platform flake core, was recovered from its only fill (1202). It was suggested that this artefact could be of Neolithic date and has been re-deposited. Ditch 1201 is likely to have been part of the same field boundary as ditch 1102, identified in Trench 11. Both ditches have very similar profile and fills. It is likely that this ditch is of post-medieval date as it is on the same alignment as an existing field boundary within this area. Natural was encountered between 25.28 and 25.61 m OD.

Trench 14 (Fig. 3)

- 5.7.5 Two features were recorded in Trench 14. Sub-circular feature 1401 was possibly a pit, but did not contain any dating evidence. Ditch 1406 was aligned NW-SE, had a U-shaped profile and was filled by a single deposit (1407), which contained one sherd of pottery (weighing 6 g) of post-medieval date. Natural was encountered between 25.74 m OD and 26.36 m OD.

Trench 70 (Fig. 3)

- 5.7.6 This trench was excavated as part of the contingency trenching to test the linear anomalies identified in the Geophysical Survey. Four ditches and two discrete features were recorded in this trench. Posthole 7004 and pit 7014 were both shallow features and did not contain dating evidence. Ditches 7006, 7008, 7010 and 7012 were all aligned NE-SW and are likely to represent field boundaries. Ditch 7006 had a 'v'-shaped profile. Ditch 7008 had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Ditches 7010 and 7012 both had moderately sloping and slightly irregular sides with a concave base. They are all undated as no artefacts were retrieved from their fills. Natural was encountered between 25.07 and 26.88 m OD.

Area 3 (Trenches 16-21) - (Fig. 4)

- 5.7.7 Trenches 17 and 18 were sited to test the Geophysical results. Trench 21 sampled a steep-sided and grassed quarry. No archaeological features were present within Trenches 17 - 21.
- 5.7.8 Trench 16 (Fig. 3) revealed one small gully (1604), with a U-shaped profile, aligned NE-SW and filled with a single deposit of reddish-brown silt with moderate gravel inclusions. No dating evidence was recovered. Natural ground was encountered between 23.39 m OD and 24.51 m OD.

Area 4 (Trenches 61-69) - (Fig. 5)

- 5.7.9 No archaeological features were present within Trench 68. All other trenches contained archaeological evidence. Unless otherwise described, all feature fills in this

area were derived from natural slow silting and consisted of medium to dark orange brown silty clay or brownish-grey sandy silt with occasional small pebble or gravel inclusions.

Trench 60 (Fig. 5, Fig. 6)

- 5.7.10 Two features were recorded in this trench. Pit 6006 had a roughly square shape, a concave base and irregular sides. Ditch 6004 was aligned east-west, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Two sherds of Iron Age pottery (weighing 10 g) were recovered from its fill (6005). Natural ground was encountered between 24.83 m OD and 25.02 m OD.

Trench 61 (Fig. 5)

- 5.7.11 Two features were recorded in this trench. Sub-circular pit 6101 was visible on the edge of the trench and had a flat base with concave sides. It did not contain any dating evidence. Ditch 6103 was aligned north-south and had a 'v'-shaped profile with a flat base. A single small piece of post-medieval pottery (2 g in weight) was recovered near the top of the ditch. Natural was encountered between 24.75 and 24.96 m OD.

Trench 62 (Fig. 5)

- 5.7.12 Three probable discrete features were recorded in this trench. Feature 6204 was situated on the edge of the trench and could have been either a sub-circular pit or a ditch terminus. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its only fill (6205) contained frequent charcoal inclusions and occasional ironstones, but no datable material. Shallow postholes 6206 and 6208 did not contain any dating evidence. Natural ground was encountered between 24.81 m OD and 24.92 m OD.

Trench 63 (Fig. 5)

- 5.7.13 Two features were recorded in this trench. Ditch 6303 was only partially visible in the south-east corner of the trench and its complete profile could not be excavated. It did not provide any dating evidence. It could be part of the same field boundary as ditch 6103, identified in Trench 61. Both have identical fills and appear to be on the same alignment. Oval pit 6305 measured 0.8 m by 0.9 m and was very badly truncated. Only the bottom of the pit survived, revealing the remains of an animal skeleton. No dating evidence was found. Natural ground was encountered between 24.67 m OD and 24.92 m OD.

Trench 64 (Fig. 5)

- 5.7.14 Seven features were recorded in this trench, five of them being of probable natural origin. Gully 6408 was aligned north-south and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It terminated within the extent of the trench. No dating evidence was retrieved during excavation. A small-undated shallow posthole (6410) was excavated to the east of the gully. A further five features were recorded in the rest of the trench. The irregular profile and the nature of their fill indicates bioturbation suggesting that they are probably natural features such as hedgerows (6404 and 6406) and tree-bowls (6412, 6413, and 6416). Natural was encountered at 24.87 m OD and 24.89 m OD.

Trench 65 (Fig. 5)

5.7.15 This trench was placed to sample a pit anomaly from the geophysical results. Two features were recorded in this trench. Sub-circular feature 6504 had irregular sides and base and was likely to have been a tree-throw hole. It was truncated by a modern land drain on its east side. Gully 6508 was a very shallow feature with a concave base. It curved towards the north edge of the trench. No dating evidence was retrieved. Natural was encountered between 25 m OD and 25.12 m OD.

Trench 66 (Fig. 5)

5.7.16 This trench was positioned to sample the Geophysical results. A single ditch, 6604, was found. It was aligned NE-SW and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It did not contain any dating evidence. Natural was encountered between 25.23 m OD and 25.37 m OD.

Trench 67 (Fig. 5)

5.7.17 This trench was positioned to sample the Geophysical results. Gully 6704 ran NW-SE for 6.70 m across the trench. This feature was very shallow and truncated in the centre of the trench. No dating evidence was found but it is likely to be part of the same ditch as 6604 identified in Trench 66. Both ditches have very similar profiles and fills. Natural was encountered between 25.13 m OD and 25.29 m OD.

Trench 69 (Fig. 5)

5.7.18 Only two parallel linear features (6904, 6906), aligned east-west were present. They were both very shallow and could have been gullies or plough scars. No dating evidence was retrieved from the fills. Natural lay between 25.61 m OD and 25.69 m OD.

Area 5 (Trenches 27-31) - (Fig. 7)

5.7.19 All five trenches situated in this area contained archaeological features. Trenches 27-29 were placed to sample the Geophysical results. Unless otherwise described, all feature fills in this area were derived from natural slow silting and consisted of light to medium orange brown silty clay or greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional to frequent small pebble or gravel inclusions. All features were severely truncated.

Trench 27

5.7.20 Two discrete features were identified, one tree-throw (2706) and a possible posthole (2704). Both features were very shallow and did not contain any dating evidence. Natural ground was encountered between 24.13 and 24.27 m OD.

Trench 28 (Fig. 7, Fig. 8)

5.7.21 Various archaeological features were identified in this trench, including 13 postholes and two gullies. Gullies 2822 and 2832 appear on a slightly different alignment, running respectively for *c* 6 m WNW-ESE and for *c* 2 m NW-SE. The relationship between the two could not be determined, as they seem to meet at the edge of the

trench. It is possible that they both form part of the same slightly curvilinear boundary, possibly to delineate an enclosure. To the south-east of gully 2822, a line of four similar-sized postholes was identified (2825, 2826, 2828, 2830). The western-most posthole (2825) was cut by gully 2822, possibly indicating that the gullies and the row of postholes belong to two different phases of occupation. In the western half of the trench, a further nine postholes were recorded. No coherent pattern could be identified in their layout. They were all very shallow, probably due to plough truncation, and a few of them (2806, 2812, 2814, 2816) had an oblong shape probably indicating inter-cutting postholes rather than a single feature. The remaining depth however, did not allow relationships to be identified. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered. Natural was encountered between 23.63 m OD and 23.90 m OD.

Trench 29 (Fig. 7, Fig. 9)

5.7.22 Three features were identified in this trench. Ditch 2904, aligned north-south across the trench, was very shallow with a concave base. Ditch 2908 ran along the southern edge of the trench for approximately 5.3 m before terminating. Its profile was only partially visible, half of it being located beyond the extent of the trench. It appeared to be a steep-sided with a flat base. At the east end of the trench, ditch 2908 cut feature 2906. The latter was probably a pit, although as it was visible only at the edge of the trench, its true nature could not be confirmed. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the features. Natural was encountered between 23.68 m OD and 23.78 m OD.

Trench 30 (Fig. 7, Fig. 10)

5.7.23 Two features were found in this trench. Ditch 3006 was aligned NE-SW and was shallow with a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (3007), which produced one sherd (12 g) of Roman pottery. It was cut by a land drain. Pit 3004 was identified on the west edge of the trench. This feature was shallow with a flat base and could not be dated. Natural was encountered between 22.46 m OD and 23.37 m OD.

Trench 31 (Fig. 7, Fig. 11)

5.7.24 A single ditch (3104) was recorded in this trench. It was aligned east-west, had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. No dating evidence was recovered. Two modern land drains were also observed. Natural was encountered between 23.03 m OD and 23.13 m OD.

Area 6 (Trenches 22-26) - (Fig. 12)

5.7.25 Trenches 23 and 24 were sited to sample the Geophysical results. No archaeological features were present within Trench 22. All other trenches contained archaeological evidence. Unless otherwise described, all feature fills in this area were derived from natural slow silting and consisted of medium orange brown clay silt or yellowish-brown sandy silt with occasional small pebble or gravel inclusions.

Trench 23 (Fig. 12)

5.7.26 Two linear and two discrete features were recorded in this trench. Gully 2306 was aligned roughly NE-SW, had steep sides and a concave base. Only the terminus was clearly visible within the trench, the remaining of the gully becoming indistinct towards the edge of the trench. One sherd of Roman pottery (3 g) was recovered from its fill (2307). Ditch 2308 was orientated ENE-WSW, and had a 'v'-shaped profile with a concave base. It cut through a small discrete feature, possibly a posthole (2311) located on its southern side. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the fills of these two features. A substantial pit, 2304, was recorded in the middle of the trench. It was sub-circular with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill (2305) contained frequent charcoal inclusions, burnt clay and 833 g of slag. There was, however, no evidence of burning *in situ*, suggesting this material has been dumped from a nearby hearth or furnace into this probable rubbish pit. It was re-cut by two smaller pits, 2313 and 2315, filled by similar deposits with frequent inclusions of charcoal and burnt clay. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the fills. Natural was encountered between 15.14 m OD and 15.44 m OD.

Trench 24 (Fig. 12)

5.7.27 Three features were recorded in this trench. Ditch 2404 was aligned NNE-SSW, had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its lower fill (2405) produced 1 sherd (10 g) of pottery of post-medieval date. The upper fill (2408) contained three fragments of ceramic building material. Ditch 2404 appeared to be the re-cut of an earlier ditch, 2406, only recorded in section. The latter was a much smaller ditch (0.40 m wide while 2406 was 1.84 m wide), with steep sides and a concave base. It could not be dated. Large sub-circular pit 2409 had fairly steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by two deposits (2410 and 2411), which did not contain any dating evidence. Natural ground was encountered between 15.97 and 16.17 m OD.

Trench 25 (Fig. 12)

5.7.28 Two features were identified within this trench. Ditch 2504 was a curvilinear ditch, steep-sided to the south and moderately sloping to the north, with an uneven base. A deposit of re-deposited gravel (2505), slumped into the ditch along its southern edge, suggested the presence of a bank on this side. No dating evidence was found. A gully (2508), aligned NNW-SSE was recorded at the north-west end of the trench. It was very shallow with a concave base and could not be dated. Natural ground was encountered between 15.61 m OD and 16.02 m OD.

Trench 26 (Fig. 12, Fig. 13)

5.7.29 Five features were identified. Feature 2604 was partially visible at the northern edge of the trench, and could have been either a pit or a ditch terminus. The visible corner of this feature was rather square and its recorded edge (in the section of the trench) was steep. One sherd (6 g) of pottery was recovered from the secondary fill (2606), suggesting a post-medieval date. Another partially visible ditch (2617) was recorded at the western extremity of the trench. Its visible edge suggested that it was aligned

NW-SE. It did not contain any dating evidence. Ditch 2610, probably running NE-SW, had a V-shaped profile with a concave base. It was only recorded in section, as it was re-cut by a later, larger ditch 2608. Ditch 2608 had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (2609), which contained two sherds (5 g) of post-medieval pottery. Although earlier ditch 2610 was undated, it was likely to have been of late medieval or post-medieval date. Ditch 2608 also truncated gully 2613. This gully was aligned NW-SE, had steep sides and a flat base. It could not be dated. Finally, a large ditch, 2619, was recorded across the trench, running NW-SE. Only a partial section could be recorded across this ditch, due to its size and orientation within the trench. Its north-east edge was steep with a flat base. This ditch was filled by four deposits of different nature. Its secondary and tertiary fills appeared to be dumps of respectively re-deposited natural gravel (2622) and a mixed layer of slate, brick and gravel (2621). These were likely to have been deliberately placed in the ditch to help drainage. Fill 2621 produced one sherd of pottery (6 g) and twenty-five fragments of brick of post-medieval date. The upper fill (2620) was formed by natural gradual silting after the ditch has ceased to be maintained. A depression in the ground was observed, extending along the alignment of ditch 2619, beyond the extent of trench 26. Natural was encountered between 14.24 m OD and 14.73 m OD.

Area 7 (Trenches 32-37, 40-46, 71-72) - (Fig. 14)

5.7.30 No archaeological features were present within Trenches 33, 34, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43 and 44. All other trenches contained archaeological evidence. Unless otherwise described, all feature fills in this area were derived from natural slow silting and consisted of medium greyish or orange/brown silty clay with occasional small pebble or gravel inclusions.

Trench 32

5.7.31 Three features were recorded in this trench. Large ditch 3204, aligned east-west, had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill (3205) consisted mostly of clay and appeared characteristic of a deposit formed in standing water. It produced one re-deposited retouched flint flake of possible Neolithic date. No other dating evidence was retrieved, but the features morphology and fills indicate that this ditch is a post-medieval field drainage ditch. Ditch 3204 cut an earlier ditch, 3211, aligned NW-SE. It had fairly steep, slightly irregular sides and a concave base. No dating evidence was retrieved. Both ditches 3204 and 3211 were truncated by a modern land drain (3206). A large discrete feature (3207) of amorphous shape was also cut by ditch 3204. It had irregular sides and an uneven base, suggesting a possible tree-throw. No material was recovered from its fills. Natural was encountered between 14.11 m OD and 14.90 m OD.

Trench 35 (Fig. 15)

5.7.32 A single ditch, aligned north-south, was identified. It had steep sides and a slightly concave base. Its only fill (3505) contained one serrated flint flake and 9 sherds (36 g) of pottery. These include sherds from at least four Peterborough-Ware vessels, a large decorated sherd from a bowl and refitting decorated sherds from a small cup, all dated

to the middle of the Neolithic period. Natural ground was encountered between 16.68 m OD and 16.98 m OD.

Trench 36 (Fig. 16)

5.7.33 Seven linear features were identified in this trench. The westernmost ditch (3610) was aligned NE-SW, had moderately sloping, concave sides and a concave base. Its fill contained three sherds (8 g) of Iron Age pottery. Around 1 m to the east of this ditch was another linear (3616), very shallow and fairly irregular. This undated feature could be natural. It was cut by ditch 3612, aligned NNW-ESE. Ditch 3612 had a V-shape profile. Its fill (3613) produced twenty-two sherds of mid Iron Age pottery. Its relationship was uncertain with gully 3614, a very shallow undated feature. Another three ditches were located 5 m to the east of the trench. Terminus 3608 was very shallow with a concave base. It did not contain any dating evidence. Gully 3606 was curvilinear and terminated within the extent of the trench. It had a V-shape profile with a concave base and produced fourteen sherds (49 g) of pottery of late Bronze Age or Iron Age date. Gully 3604 was aligned NW-SE and terminated within the trench. It had a very shallow profile with a concave base. It could not be dated. Natural was encountered between 17.64 m OD and 18.58 m OD.

Trench 37 (Fig. 16)

5.7.34 Four linear features were recorded in this trench. It formed a 'T'-arrangement with Trench 36. At the northern end of the trench, ditch terminus 3710 was very shallow with a flat base. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature. It could be related to ditch 3608 in trench 36. Ditch 3708 was aligned WNW-ESE and had a V-shape profile. It contained four sherds (27 g) of Iron Age pottery. It is very likely that this is the same as ditch 3612 in Trench 36. Both ditches have a similar profile and fill and have been dated to the same period. Further south within Trench 37, a further two ditches were identified, both aligned east-west. Ditch 3706 had a very shallow profile with a flat base. Ditch 3704 had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. No dating evidence was retrieved from these two ditches. Natural was encountered between 17.57 m OD and 17.99 m OD.

Trench 40

5.7.35 Three linear features were recorded in this trench. Gullies 4004 and 4006 were both aligned NNW-SSE. Gully 4004 had a V-shape profile. Gully 4006 was shallow with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Ditch 4008 was aligned north-south and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features. Natural was encountered between 14.31m OD and 15.21 m OD.

Trench 45

5.7.36 A single un-excavated feature (4504) was identified in this trench. It appeared to be a large quarry pit. Natural was encountered between 18.94 m OD and 19.98 m OD.

Trench 46

5.7.37 A large quarry pit (4604), similar to cut 4504 in trench 45, was observed in this trench. Natural ground was encountered between 16.76 m OD and 18.85 m OD.

Trench 71 (Fig. 17)

5.7.38 This trench was excavated to determine the possible extent of the feature identified in Trench 35. A single ditch, aligned north-south, was recorded in this trench. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. No dating evidence was found. Natural was encountered between 16.67 m OD and 17.51 m OD.

Trench 72

5.7.39 This trench was excavated to determine the extent of the features identified in trenches 36 and 37. Another large quarry pit (7204) was identified, similar to those found in trenches 45 and 46. It was cut through the subsoil, indicating a modern date. Natural was encountered between 17.74 m OD and 18.47 m OD.

Aginghills Farm Area (Trenches 38-39) - Fig. 18

5.7.40 Neither trench contained archaeological features. The site sloped southward. Natural was reached at an average depth of 23.03 m in Trench 38 and 21.44 m in Trench 39.

5.8 Results: Finds**Pottery By Alistair Barclay, OA**

5.8.1 A total of sixty-four sherds of pottery were recovered from the evaluation that ranges in date from mid-Neolithic to post-medieval (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of pottery by context

Context	Number of sherds	Weight	Date
1407	1	6	Post-medieval
2307	1	3	Roman
2401	1	8	Post-medieval
2405	1	10	Post-medieval
2606	1	6	Post-medieval
2609	2	5	Post-medieval
2621	1	6	Post-medieval
3007	1	12	Roman
3505	9	96	mid Neolithic
3607	14	49	Late Bronze Age / Iron Age
3611	3	8	Iron Age
3613	22	147	mid Iron Age
3709	4	27	Iron Age
6005	2	10	Iron Age
6104	1	2	Post-medieval
TOTAL	64	395	

- 5.8.2 The earliest group of pottery, from context 3505, is of probable mid-Neolithic date and includes sherds from at least four Peterborough ware vessels. This includes a large decorated sherd from a bowl and refitting decorated sherds from a small cup. Later prehistoric sherds were recovered from contexts 3607, 3709, 3611, 3613 and 6005. This material is likely to be Iron Age in date, although the sherds from 3607 could be later Bronze Age. 3613 includes at least two vessels, one of which can be described as a globular bowl or jar. A MIA date can be assigned to this vessel. Two greyware sherds from 2307 and 3007 are likely to be Roman. Contexts 1407, 2401, 2405, 2606, 2609, 2621 and 6104 all produced small quantities (one or two sherds) of post-medieval pottery.

The Ceramic Building Material By Leigh Allen, OA

- 5.8.3 A total of thirty fragments of ceramic building material were recovered in the course of the evaluation (Table 2).

Table 2. Summary of ceramic building material by context

Context	Number of sherds	Weight	Date
2408	3	35	
2606	2	23	
2621	25	2609	Post-medieval
TOTAL	30	2667	

- 5.8.4 The fragments from context 2621 consist entirely of brick pieces. They are of post-medieval date. The remaining fragments, from context 2408 and 2606 are very small and abraded and could not be identified.

The Flint By Rebecca Devaney, OA

- 5.8.5 A total of five pieces of worked flint were recovered from the evaluation at Taunton (Table 3). The flint was catalogued according to a broad debitage, core or tool type. Information about burning and breaks was recorded and where identifiable raw material and technological characteristics were also noted. The data was entered into an MS Access database.

Table 3. Summary of worked flint by context

Context	1100	1202	3205	3505	Total
Flake from a ground implement	1				1
Irregular waste		1			1
End scraper	1				1
Retouched flake			1		1
Serrated flake				1	1
Total	2	1	1	1	5

- 5.8.6 The flake from a ground implement has proximal and distal breaks and slight damage to the ventral surface and edges. The piece of irregular waste is very small, just 12 g.

It has incipient cones of percussion and may be the remains of a multi-platform flake core. The end scraper is made on a possible soft hammer struck, blade-like flake with a plunging termination. It has abraded direct retouch to the distal end. The retouched flake is made on a thin, blade-like, side trimming flake. There are tiny, direct removals on the distal right, which possibly continued beyond the distal left break. The serrated flake is made on a distal trimming, blade-like flake with a plunging termination. It has tiny direct serrations on the medial right and a slight gloss on the reverse.

- 5.8.7 Though the assemblage is small, it is suggested that the flint from Taunton can be dated to the Neolithic. The three tools are made on blade-like flakes and of a size and type consistent with this period. The flake from a ground implement is consistent with this. However, it is unusual to have tools but no debitage.
- 5.8.8 The flint should be re-examined alongside any material recovered from future excavations.

The Animal Bones By Emma-Jane Evans, OA

- 5.8.9 A total of 137 fragments of animal bones were recovered from the evaluation at Taunton (Table 4).

Table 4. Summary of animal bones by context

Context	Number of fragments	Weight
2307	1	1
2621	2	3
3709	2	6
4203	1	111
6303	131	232
Total	137	353

- 5.8.10 The majority of the bone from this site came from context 6306, which contained a partial sheep skeleton. The skeleton comprises a right forelimb and hind limb, some ribs and vertebra, and a left scapula. Fusion data suggests the animal died between 10 and 18 months of age. The remainder of the bone comprises a left cattle metatarsal (context 4203), and some unidentifiable fragments from contexts 2621, 2307 and 3709.
- 5.8.11 The sheep bones are in good condition while the rest of the bones are very fragmented and in poor condition.

6 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

6.1.1 The field evaluation was carried out under controlled conditions and the results are considered reliable. Ground conditions were fair and features, where present, were clearly visible. The results of the geophysical survey were substantiated by the field evaluation, both indicated that archaeological deposits within the Study Area are scarce.

6.2 Overall interpretation

Summary of results

6.3 Prehistoric

6.3.1 One ditch of mid-Neolithic date was identified in Trench 35 (Area 7). This is a significant discovery as no occupation prior to the Iron Age has previously been identified in the area around Taunton. It is possible that this ditch (7104) extends into Trench 71, situated 20 m to the north of Trench 35. Both ditches are on a similar alignment and present comparable profile and fills.

6.3.2 Trenches 36 and 37 in Area 7 have revealed a series of ditches of Late Bronze Age/Iron Age date. Although it appears difficult to discern a coherent pattern in the extent uncovered by the two trenches, a complex of curvilinear ditches has been identified, possibly representing a system of enclosures or ring-ditches. Based on the available dating evidence, this occupation could have ranged from the late Bronze Age to at least the mid Iron Age. This is a significant discovery as no Bronze Age activity and very limited Iron Age occupation were previously identified in the area.

6.3.3 One ditch (6004) in Trench 60 (Area 4) produced two sherds (10 g) of Iron Age pottery. No other features were dated to this period in Area 4 but the potential for Iron Age activity in this area cannot be completely excluded.

6.4 Roman

6.4.1 An area of archaeological activity was identified in Area 5. However, features in this area appeared to have been badly truncated by ploughing and very little dating evidence was retrieved in the course of the evaluation. A single sherd of pottery was found in the fill of ditch 3006 (Trench 30) suggesting a Roman date. Ditch 3104, identified in Trench 31 could not be dated by artefactual evidence, however its width, profile and fill are very similar to those of ditch 3006 in Trench 30. These two ditches could be part of an enclosure boundary, turning between the two trenches. Although the dating evidence, based on a single sherd, is rather tenuous, a Roman date can be suggested for the occupation identified in this area. Features recorded in Trench 28 could also be Roman.

6.4.2 A sherd of Roman pottery was also recovered from gully 2306 in Area 6. However this was a tiny abraded sherd (only 3 g) and is likely to be residual.

6.5 *Post-medieval*

6.5.1 Geophysical survey clearly revealed features consistent with field boundaries across much of the area. Trial trenching confirmed the presence of shallow ditches. These were scattered across the study area probably representing an earlier pre-enclosure pattern of field boundaries. Those ditches that could be traced on historical maps are detailed below.

6.5.2 Ditch 2619 (Trench 26) could be traced on the 1839 Tithe Map of West Monkton (JSAC 2004a) as a major drainage boundary. The continuation of this ditch was recorded within Trench 32 in the form of ditch 3204. This ditch would have drained into the Taunton and Bridgwater canal to the south. It is likely that this ditch was an open watercourse prior to the construction of the canal.

6.5.3 Ditches 2404 and 2608 are likely to be part of the same field boundary. They both had very similar profile and they were both re-cut of smaller earlier ditches (2406 and 2610). This ditch is likely to correspond to a field boundary visible on the 1839 Tithe Map (between fields 660 and 661 on the map), which joined up with the drainage ditch (recorded as 2619) mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Significance

6.5.4 As a result of the evaluation trenching, Areas 1, 2 and 3 and the Ayinghills Farm Area appear mostly devoid of archaeological features and deposits, with the exception of a few field boundaries. These are all of probable post-medieval date. This conclusion appears to confirm the results of the geophysical survey undertaken within restricted, targeted areas of the proposed development.

6.5.5 Features have been identified in most trenches within Areas 4 and 6, although they appear to be mainly field boundaries of post-medieval date. Some of them could be traced on historical mapping, as discussed above. Some discrete features were also recorded, but no concentration suggesting significant areas of archaeological activity could be identified. One ditch in Area 4 and one gully in Area 6 produced respectively two sherds of Iron Age pottery and one sherd of Roman pottery. Although the Roman sherd in Area 6 was so tiny and abraded that it is very likely residual, the potential for limited Iron Age activity in Area 4 cannot be completely excluded.

6.5.6 Areas 5 and 7 have revealed potential areas of archaeological significance. Several ditches of prehistoric date, ranging from mid Neolithic to the Iron Age, were identified within Area 7 (Trenches 35, 36 and 37) suggesting the presence of prehistoric activity previously unknown around Taunton. This discovery is of local and regional importance and has the potential to enhance our understanding of the prehistoric occupation of the area. A possible enclosure and occupation area of Roman date was identified in Area 5. A number of linear responses and pit anomalies

were recorded by the geophysical survey to the east of Trench 28. These are likely to be associated with the same area of activity. Any intrusive work undertaken in connection with the proposed development in Area 5 and 7 is likely to damage features and deposits of archaeological interest .

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench No.	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1	101	Layer		0.24	Topsoil		
1	102	Layer		0.14	Subsoil		
1	103	Layer			Natural silty clay		
1	104	Cut			Land drain		
1	105	Fill		0.10	Fill of 104		
2	201	Layer		0.33	Topsoil		
2	202	Layer		0.22	Subsoil		
2	203	Layer			Natural silty clay		
3	301	Layer			Topsoil		
3	302	Layer			Subsoil		
3	303	Layer			Natural silty clay		
3	304	Cut	0.64	0.22	Drain aligned NW-SE		
3	305	Fill	0.60	0.22	Stone lining of 304		
3	306	Fill	0.20	0.04	Fill of 304		
4	401	Layer		0.24	Topsoil		
4	402	Layer		0.12	Subsoil		
4	403	Layer			Natural silty clay		
5	501	Layer		0.24	Topsoil		
5	502	Layer		0.27	Subsoil		
5	503	Layer			Natural silty clay		
6	600	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
6	601	Layer		0.34	Subsoil		
6	602	Layer			Natural silty clay		
7	700	Layer		0.34	Topsoil		
7	701	Layer		0.38	Subsoil		
7	702	Layer			Natural silty clay		
9	901	Cut	0.80		Natural feature aligned NE-SW		
9	902	Fill	0.80		Fill of 901		
9	903	Layer		0.40	Topsoil		
9	904	Layer		0.26	Subsoil		
9	905	Layer			Natural silty clay		
10	1001	Layer		0.23	Topsoil		
10	1002	Layer		0.19	Subsoil		
10	1003	Layer			Natural clay sand		
11	1100	Layer		0.40	Topsoil		
11	1101	Cut	1.02	0.25	Ditch aligned E-W	1 flint flake and 1 end scraper	?
11	1102	Cut	1.64	0.24	Ditch aligned NW-SE		
11	1103	Fill	1.50	0.14	Fill of 1102		
11	1104	Fill	1.64	0.08	Fill of 1102		
11	1105	Layer		0.00	Subsoil		
11	1106	Layer		0.47	Natural silty clay		
11	1107	Fill	1.02	0.25	Fill of 1101		
12	1201	Cut	1.60	0.37	Ditch, aligned NW-SE		
12	1202	Fill	1.60	0.37	Fill of 1202	1 irregular flint waste	
12	1203	Layer		0.21	Topsoil		
12	1204	Layer		0.28	Subsoil		
12	1205	Layer			Natural silty clay		

Trench No.	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
13	1301	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
13	1302	Layer		0.40	Subsoil		
13	1303	Layer			Natural silty clay		
14	1401	Cut	0.63	0.12	Sub-circular feature, possibly a pit		?
14	1402	Fill	0.63	0.12	Fill of 1401		
14	1403	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
14	1404	Layer		0.20	Subsoil		
14	1405	Layer			Natural silty clay		
14	1406	Cut	0.72	0.18	Ditch, aligned NW-SE		
14	1407	Fill	0.72	0.18	Fill of 1406	1 sherd pottery	Post-medieval
15	1501	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
15	1502	Layer		0.22	Subsoil		
15	1503	Layer			Natural silty clay		
16	1601	Layer		0.14	Topsoil		
16	1602	Layer		0.22	Subsoil		
16	1603	Layer			Natural silty clay		
16	1604	Cut	0.40	0.14	Gully aligned SW-NE		
16	1605	Fill	0.40	0.14	Fill of 1604		
17	1701	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
17	1702	Layer		0.30	Subsoil		
17	1703	Layer			Natural silty clay		
18	1801	Layer		0.16	Topsoil		
18	1802	Layer		0.42	Subsoil		
18	1803	Layer			Natural silty clay		
19	1901	Layer		0.16	Topsoil		
19	1902	Layer		0.18	Subsoil		
19	1903	Layer			Natural silty clay		
20	2000	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
20	2001	Layer		0.32	Subsoil		
20	2002	Layer			Natural silty clay		
21	2101	Layer		0.16	Topsoil		
21	2102	Layer		0.22	Subsoil	2 pieces of coal	
21	2103	Layer			Natural silty clay		
22	2201	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
22	2202	Layer		0.28	Subsoil		
22	2203	Layer			Natural silty clay		
23	2301	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
23	2302	Layer		0.71	Subsoil		
23	2303	Layer			Natural silty clay		
23	2304	Cut	2.40	0.24	Sub-circular pit		
23	2305	Fill	2.40	0.24	Fill of 2304	34 slag	
23	2306	Cut	0.50	0.28	Gully terminus, aligned NE-SW		
23	2307	Fill	0.50	0.28	Fill of 2306	1 fragment animal bone; 1 small abraded sherd of Roman pottery	
23	2308	Cut	0.88	0.42	Ditch, aligned ENE-WSW. Cuts 2311		
23	2309	Fill	0.60	0.20	Fill of 2308		
23	2310	Fill	0.64	0.21	Fill of 2308		
23	2311	Cut		0.08	Posthole		
23	2312	Fill		0.08	Fill of 2311		
23	2313	Cut	0.72	0.19	Re-cut of pit 2304		
23	2314	Fill	0.72	0.19	Fill of 2313		

Trench No.	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Findings	Date
23	2315	Cut	0.90	0.18	Re-cut of pit 2304		
23	2316	Fill	0.90	0.18	Fill of 2315		
24	2401	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	1 clay pipe; 1 sherd of post-medieval pottery	
24	2402	Layer		0.34	Subsoil		
24	2403	Layer			Natural silty clay		
24	2404	Cut	1.84	0.40	Ditch, aligned NNE-SSW. Cuts 2406		
24	2405	Fill	1.26	0.40	Fill of 2404	1 sherd of pottery	Post-medieval
24	2406	Cut	0.40	0.14	Ditch, aligned NNE-SSW		
24	2407	Fill	0.40	0.14	Fill of 2406		
24	2408	Fill	1.04	0.18	Fill of 2404	3 fragments of CBM	
24	2409	Cut	2.40	0.72	Sub-circular pit		
24	2410	Fill	2.40	0.60	Fill of 2409		
24	2411	Fill	1.60	0.14	Fill of 2409		
25	2501	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
25	2502	Layer		0.40	Subsoil		
25	2503	Layer			Natural silty clay		
25	2504	Cut	1.24	0.40	Curvilinear ditch		
25	2505	Fill	0.14	0.20	Fill of 2504		
25	2506	Fill	0.70	0.08	Fill of 2504		
25	2507	Fill	1.10	0.26	Fill of 2504		
25	2508	Cut	0.46	0.09	Gully, aligned NNW-SSE		
25	2509	Fill	0.46	0.09	Fill of 2508		
26	2601	Layer		0.24	Topsoil		
26	2602	Layer		0.20	Subsoil		
26	2603	Layer			Natural silty clay		
26	2604	Cut	2.40	0.60	Ditch terminal or pit ends		
26	2605	Fill	2.40	0.32	Fill of 2604		
26	2606	Fill	1.50	0.22	Fill of 2604	2 fragments of CBM; 1 sherd of pottery	Post-medieval
26	2607	Fill	1.30	0.20	Fill of 2604		
26	2608	Cut	3.06	0.42	Ditch, aligned NE-SW. Cuts 2610		
26	2609	Fill	3.06	0.42	Fill of 2608	2 sherds of pottery	Post-medieval
26	2610	Cut	0.60	0.32	Ditch, possibly aligned NE-SW		
26	2611	Fill	0.60	0.26	Fill of 2610		
26	2612	Fill	0.12	0.06	Fill of 2610		
26	2613	Cut	0.65	0.07	Gully, aligned NW-SE		
26	2614	Fill	0.65	0.07	Fill of 2613		
26	2615	Cut		0.06	Ditch, same as 2608		
26	2616	Fill		0.06	Fill of 2615		
26	2617	Cut	>0.74	0.32	Ditch, aligned NW/SE		
26	2618	Fill	>0.74	0.32	Fill of 2617		
26	2619	Cut	2.20	0.52	Ditch, aligned NW/SE		
26	2620	Fill	>1.80	0.32	Fill of 2619		
26	2621	Fill	>1	0.28	Fill of 2619	25 fragments of CBM; 2 slag; 2 fragments of animal bones; 1 clay pipe; 2 pieces of mortar; 1 shell; 1 sherd of pottery	Post-medieval
26	2622	Fill	>1.50	0.20	Fill of 2619		
26	2623	Fill	0.90	0.04	Fill of 2619		
27	2701	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		

Trench No.	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
27	2702	Layer		0.06	Subsoil		
27	2703	Layer			Natural silty clay		
27	2704	Cut	0.28	0.04	Possible posthole		
27	2705	Fill	0.28	0.04	Fill of 2704		
27	2706	Cut	>3	0.05	Tree-throw		
27	2707	Fill		0.05	Fill of 2706		
28	2801			0.16	Topsoil		
28	2802			0.14	Subsoil		
28	2803				Natural silty clay		
28	2804	Cut	0.40		Circular posthole		
28	2805	Fill			Fill of 2804		
28	2806	Cut	0.40		Sub-circular pit or posthole		
28	2807	Fill			Fill of 2806		
28	2808	Cut	0.55		Circular posthole		
28	2809	Fill			Fill of 2808		
28	2810	Cut	0.50		Circular posthole		
28	2811	Fill			Fill of 2810		
28	2812	Cut	0.80		Sub-circular posthole		
28	2813	Fill			Fill of 2812		
28	2814	Cut	>0.45		Oval posthole		
28	2815	Fill			Fill of 2814		
28	2816	Cut	0.56	0.04	Sub-circular posthole		
28	2817	Fill	0.56	0.04	Fill of 2816		
28	2818	Cut	0.35		Circular posthole		
28	2819	Fill			Fill of 2818		
28	2820	Cut	0.30		Circular posthole		
28	2821	Fill			Fill of 2820		
28	2822	Cut	0.30	0.20	Gully, aligned WNW-ESE. Cuts posthole 2824		
28	2823	Fill	0.30	0.20	Fill of 2822		
28	2824	Cut		0.18	Circular posthole		
28	2825	Fill		0.18	Fill of 2825		
28	2826	Cut	0.34	0.14	Circular posthole		
28	2827	Fill	0.34	0.14	Fill of 2826		
28	2828	Cut	0.14	0.06	Circular posthole		
28	2829	Fill	0.14	0.06	Fill of 2828		
28	2830	Cut	0.42	0.12	Circular posthole		
28	2831	Fill	0.42	0.12	Fill of 2830		
28	2832	Cut	0.30	0.20	Gully, aligned NW-SE		
28	2833	Fill	0.30	0.20	Fill of 2832		
29	2901	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
29	2902	Layer		0.28	Subsoil		
29	2903	Layer			Natural gravely silty clay		
29	2904	Cut	0.32	0.05	Ditch, aligned N-S		
29	2905	Fill	0.32	0.05	Fill of 2904		
29	2906	Cut		0.26	Pit		
29	2907	Fill		0.26	Fill of 2906		
29	2908	Cut	>0.28	0.30	Ditch, aligned E-W. Cuts pit 2906		
29	2909	Fill		0.30	Fill of 2908		
30	3001	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
30	3002	Layer		0.10	Subsoil		
30	3003	Layer			Natural gravely silty clay		
30	3004	Cut	1.43	0.08	Pit		

Trench No.	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Findings	Date
30	3005	Fill	1.43	0.08	Fill of 3004		
30	3006	Cut	0.90	0.17	Ditch, aligned NE-SW		
30	3007	Fill	0.90	0.17	Fill of 3006	1 sherd of pottery	Roman?
31	3101	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
31	3102	Layer		0.15	Subsoil		
31	3103	Layer			Natural silty clay		
31	3104	Cut	1.00	0.26	Ditch, aligned E-W		
31	3105	Fill	1.00	0.26	Fill of 3104		
32	3201	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
32	3202	Layer		0.16	Subsoil		
32	3203	Layer			Natural silty clay		
32	3204	Cut	4.10	0.60	Ditch, aligned E-W		Post-medieval
32	3205	Fill	4.10	0.60	Fill of 3204	1 retouched flint flake	
32	3206	Cut	0.30	0.70	Modern land drain		
32	3207	Cut		0.66	Pit/Tree throw		
32	3208	Fill		0.38	Fill of 3207		
32	3209	Fill		0.08	Fill of 3207		
32	3210	Fill		0.31	Fill of 3207		
32	3211	Cut	0.65	0.70	Ditch, aligned NW-SE		
32	3212	Fill		0.62	Fill of 3211		
32	3213	Fill		0.08	Fill of 3211		
32	3214	Layer			Natural gravel		
33	3301	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
33	3302	Layer		0.34	Subsoil		
33	3303	Layer			Natural silty clay		
34	3401	Layer		0.24	Topsoil		
34	3402	Layer		0.30	Subsoil		
34	3403	Layer			Natural silty clay		
35	3501	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
35	3502	Layer		0.36	Subsoil		
35	3503	Layer			Natural silty clay		
35	3504	Cut	1.28	0.70	Ditch, aligned N-S		
35	3505	Fill	1.28	0.70	Fill of 3504	1 serrated flint flake; 9 sherds of pottery	mid-Neolithic
36	3601	Layer		0.32	Topsoil		
36	3602	Layer		0.18	Subsoil		
36	3603	Layer			Natural silty clay		
36	3604	Cut	0.34	0.04	Gully, aligned NW-SE		
36	3605	Fill	0.34	0.04	Fill of 3504		
36	3606	Cut	0.60	0.20	Curvilinear gully		
36	3607	Fill	0.60	0.20	Fill of 3606	14 sherds of pottery	late Bronze Age/ Iron Age
36	3608	Cut	0.35	0.08	Ditch terminus?		
36	3609	Fill	0.35	0.08	Fill of 2608		
36	3610	Cut	0.90	0.24	Ditch, aligned NE-SW		
36	3611	Fill	0.90	0.24	Fill of 3610	3 sherds of pottery	Iron Age
36	3612	Cut	1.40	0.52	Ditch, aligned NNW-ESE		
36	3613	Fill	1.40	0.52	Fill of 3612	22 sherds of pottery	mid Iron Age
36	3614	Cut		0.02	Gully, aligned NNE-SSW		
36	3615	Fill		0.02	Fill of 3614		
36	3616	Cut		0.04	Linear feature, possibly natural		

Trench No.	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
36	3617	Fill		0.04	Fill of 3616		
37	3701	Layer		0.27	Topsoil		
37	3702	Layer		0.20	Subsoil		
37	3703	Layer			Natural silty clay		
37	3704	Cut	0.50	0.10	Gully, aligned E-W		
37	3705	Fill	0.50	0.10	Fill of 3704		
37	3706	Cut	0.74	0.10	Gully, aligned E-W		
37	3707	Fill	0.74	0.10	Fill of 3706		
37	3708	Cut	0.80	0.24	Ditch, aligned WNW-ESE		
37	3709	Fill	0.80	0.24	Fill of 3708	2 fragments of animal bones; 4 sherds of pottery	Iron Age
37	3710	Cut	0.42	0.06	Ditch terminus?		
37	3711	Fill	0.42	0.06	Fill of 3710		
38	3801	Layer		0.18	Topsoil		
38	3802	Layer		0.16	Subsoil		
38	3803	Layer			Natural silty clay		
39	3901	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
39	3902	Layer		0.17	Subsoil		
39	3903	Layer			Natural silty clay		
40	4001	Layer		0.32	Topsoil		
40	4002	Layer		0.48	Subsoil		
40	4003	Layer			Natural silty clay		
40	4004	Cut	0.40	0.14	Gully, aligned NNW-SSE		
40	4005	Fill	0.40	0.14	Fill of 4004		
40	4006	Cut	0.34	0.06	Gully, aligned NNW-SSE		
40	4007	Fill	0.34	0.06	Fill of 4006		
40	4008	Cut	0.76	0.12	Ditch, aligned N-S		
40	4009	Fill	0.76	0.12	Fill of 4008		
41	4101	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
41	4102	Layer		0.30	Subsoil		
41	4103	Layer		0.24	Natural gravely silty clay		
42	4201	Layer		0.15	Topsoil		
42	4202	Layer		0.40	Subsoil		
42	4203	Layer			Possible colluvium/alluvium	1 fragment of animal bone	
42	4204	Layer			Natural silty clay		
43	4301	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
43	4302	Layer		0.44	Subsoil		
43	4303	Layer			Natural silty clay		
44	4401	Layer		0.23	Topsoil		
44	4402	Layer		0.22	Subsoil		
44	4403	Layer			Natural silty clay		
45	4501	Layer		0.34	Topsoil		
45	4502	Layer		0.34	Subsoil		
45	4503	Layer			Natural gravely silty clay		
45	4504	Cut			Unexcavated feature. Quarry cut?		
45	4505	Fill			Fill of 4504		
46	4601	Layer		0.25	Topsoil		
46	4602	Layer		0.23	Subsoil		
46	4603	Layer			Natural gravely silty clay		
46	4604	Cut			Unexcavated feature. Quarry cut?		
46	4605	Fill			Fill of 4605		
60	6001	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		

Trench No.	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
60	6002	Layer		0.19	Subsoil		
60	6003	Layer			Natural silty clay		
60	6004	Cut	0.90	0.11	Ditch, aligned E-W		
60	6005	Fill	0.90	0.11	Fill of 6004	2 sherds of pottery	Iron Age
60	6006	Cut	0.68	0.15	Pit		
60	6007	Fill	0.68	0.15	Fill of 6006		
61	6101	Cut	1.40	0.08	Sub-circular pit		
61	6102	Fill	1.40	0.08	Fill of 6101		
61	6103	Cut	1.72	0.80	Ditch, aligned N-S		
61	6104	Fill	1.72	0.80	Fill of 6103	1 sherd of pottery	Post-medieval
61	6105	Layer		0.24	Topsoil		
61	6106	Layer		0.14	Subsoil		
61	6107	Layer			Natural silty sand		
62	6201	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
62	6202	Layer		0.20	Subsoil		
62	6203	Layer			Natural silty clay		
62	6204	Cut	0.60	0.18	Pit or ditch terminus		
62	6205	Fill	0.60	0.18	Fill of 6204	1 shell	
62	6206	Cut	0.15	0.04	Posthole		
62	6207	Fill	0.15	0.04	Fill of 6206		
62	6208	Cut	0.24	0.05	Posthole		
62	6209	Fill	0.24	0.05	Fill of 6208		
63	6300	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
63	6301	Layer		0.18	Subsoil		
63	6302	Layer			Natural silty clay		
63	6303	Cut	>0.60	>0.55	Ditch		
63	6304	Fill	>0.60	>0.55	Fill of 6303		
63	6305	Cut	0.80	0.03	Oval pit		
63	6306	Fill			Animal skeleton, fill of 6305	131 fragments of animal bones	
63	6307	Fill			Fill of 6305		
64	6401	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
64	6402	Layer		0.60	Subsoil		
64	6403	Layer			Natural sandy silt		
64	6404	Cut	0.33	0.16	Hedgerow?		
64	6405	Fill	0.33	0.16	Fill of 6404		
64	6406	Cut	0.74	0.42	Linear feature, possibly natural		
64	6407	Fill	0.74	0.42	Fill of 6406		
64	6408	Cut	0.44	0.12	Gully, aligned N-S		
64	6409	Fill	0.44	0.12	Fill of 6408		
64	6410	Cut	0.39	0.14	Posthole		
64	6411	Fill	0.39	0.14	Fill of 6410		
64	6412	Cut	0.60	0.12	Pit?		
64	6413	Cut	0.44	0.20	Posthole?		
64	6414	Fill	0.44	0.20	Fill of 6413		
64	6415	Fill	0.60	0.12	Fill of 6412		
64	6416	Cut	0.92	0.16	Natural feature?		
64	6417	Fill	0.92	0.16	Fill of 6416		
65	6501	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
65	6502	Layer		0.13	Subsoil		
65	6503	Layer			Natural silty clay		
65	6504	Cut	0.70	0.10	Pit		

Trench No.	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Thick. (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
65	6505	Fill	0.70	0.10	Fill of 6504		
65	6506	Cut			Modern land drain		Modern
65	6507	Fill			Fill of 6506		
65	6508	Cut	0.20	0.06	Curvilinear gully		
65	6509	Fill	0.20	0.06	Fill of 6508		
66	6601	Layer		0.14	Topsoil		
66	6602	Layer		0.38	Subsoil		
66	6603	Layer			Natural silty clay		
66	6604	Cut	0.46	0.16	Ditch, aligned NE-SW		
66	6605	Fill	0.46	0.16	Fill of 6604		
67	6701	Layer			Topsoil		
67	6702	Layer			Subsoil		
67	6703	Layer			Natural silty clay		
67	6704	Cut	0.16	0.06	Gully, aligned NW-SE		
67	6705	Fill	0.16	0.06	Fill of 6704		
68	6801	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
68	6802	Layer		0.22	Subsoil		
68	6803	Layer			Natural silty clay		
69	6901	Layer		0.34	Topsoil		
69	6902	Layer		0.33	Subsoil		
69	6903	Layer			Natural silty clay		
69	6904	Cut	0.20	0.03	Gully, aligned E-W		
69	6905	Fill	0.20	0.03	Fill of 6904		
69	6906	Cut	0.62	0.10	Gully, aligned E-W		
69	6907	Fill	0.62	0.10	Fill of 6906		
70	7001	Layer		0.38	Topsoil		
70	7002	Layer		0.19	Subsoil		
70	7003	Layer			Natural sandy silt with bands of gravel		
70	7004	Cut	0.60		Circular posthole		
70	7005	Fill			Fill of 7004		
70	7006	Cut	0.73	0.30	Ditch, aligned NE-SW		
70	7007	Fill	0.73	0.16	Fill of 7006		
70	7008	Cut	1.44	0.32	Ditch, aligned NE-SW		
70	7009	Fill	1.44	0.32	Fill of 7008		
70	7010	Cut	1.12	0.11	Ditch, aligned NE-SW		
70	7011	Fill	1.12	0.11	Fill of 7010		
70	7012	Cut	1.60	0.24	Ditch, aligned NE-SW		
70	7013	Fill	1.60	0.24	Fill of 7012		
70	7014	Cut	1.04	0.26	Sub-circular pit		
70	7015	Fill	1.04	0.26	Fill of 7014		
70	7016	Fill	0.38	0.34	Fill of 7006		
71	7101	Layer		0.23	Topsoil		
71	7102	Layer		0.30	Subsoil		
71	7103	Layer			Natural silty clay		
71	7104	Cut	1.34	0.46	Ditch, aligned N-S		
71	7105	Fill	1.34	0.46	Fill of 7104		
72	7201	Layer		0.26	Topsoil		
72	7202	Layer		0.32	Subsoil		
72	7203	Layer			Natural silty clay		
72	7204	Cut			Quarry cut?		
72	7205	Fill			Fill of 7204		

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- EH 1995 *Geophysical survey in archaeological field evaluation*
- JSAC 2004a *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment at Monkton Heathfield, Taunton, Somerset.* Prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Mason Richards Planning
- JSAC 2004b *A Specification for an Archaeological Investigation at Monkton Heathfield, Taunton, Somerset.* Prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of RPS Planning and Transport
- OA 1992 *Fieldwork Manual (1st edition ed. D. Wilkinson)*

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Monkton Heathfield

Site code: TTNCM 87/2004

Grid reference: NGR ST 2590 2660

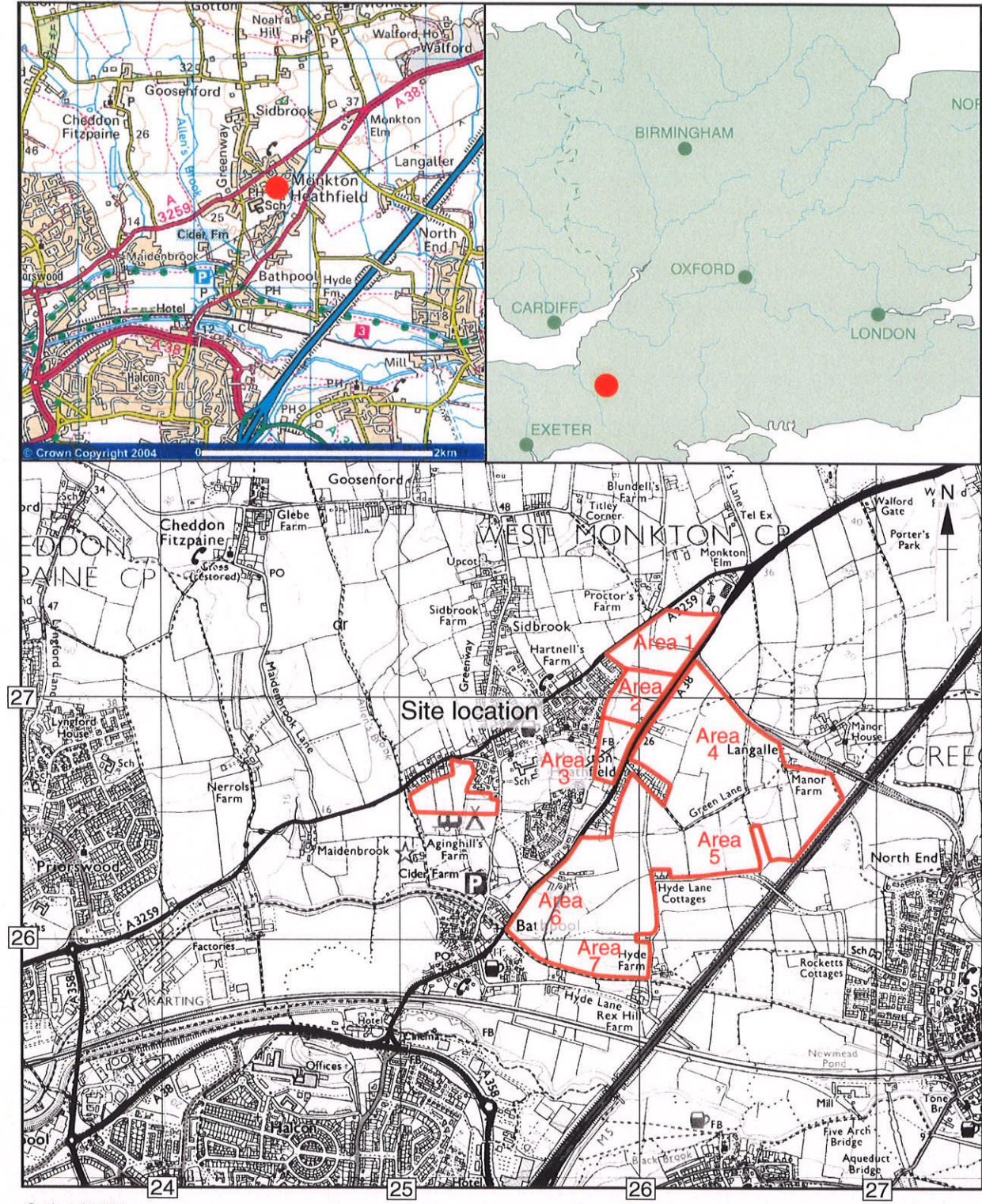
Type of evaluation: Geophysics and Trial trenching

Date and duration of project: September 2004

Area of site: 1000m²

Summary of results: Areas 1 and 3 were devoid of any archaeology. A few features were identified in Areas 3, 4 and 6, mostly post-medieval field boundaries. Two areas of potential archaeological activities were identified in Areas 5 and 7. Trenches 35, 36 and 37 in Area 7 revealed a series of ditches and gullies, ranging from the mid-Neolithic to at least the middle Iron Age. Although of limited extent, this discovery is significant, as no activity prior to the Iron Age was previously known in the vicinity of Taunton. Trenches 28-31 in Area 5 revealed a cluster of very truncated archaeological features, composed of ditches and postholes, possibly of Roman date.

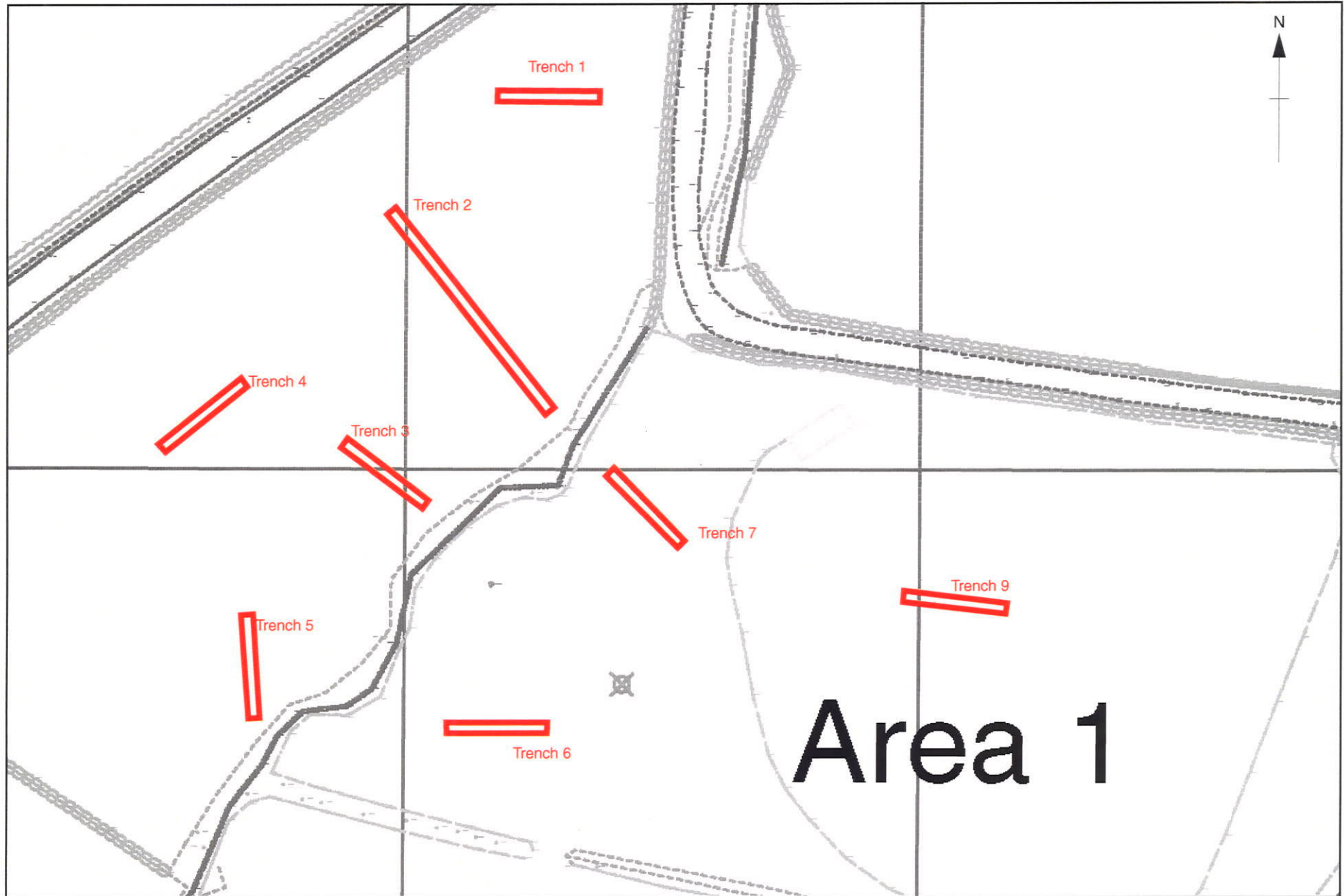
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Somerset County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: TTNCM:87/2004



Scale 1:25,000

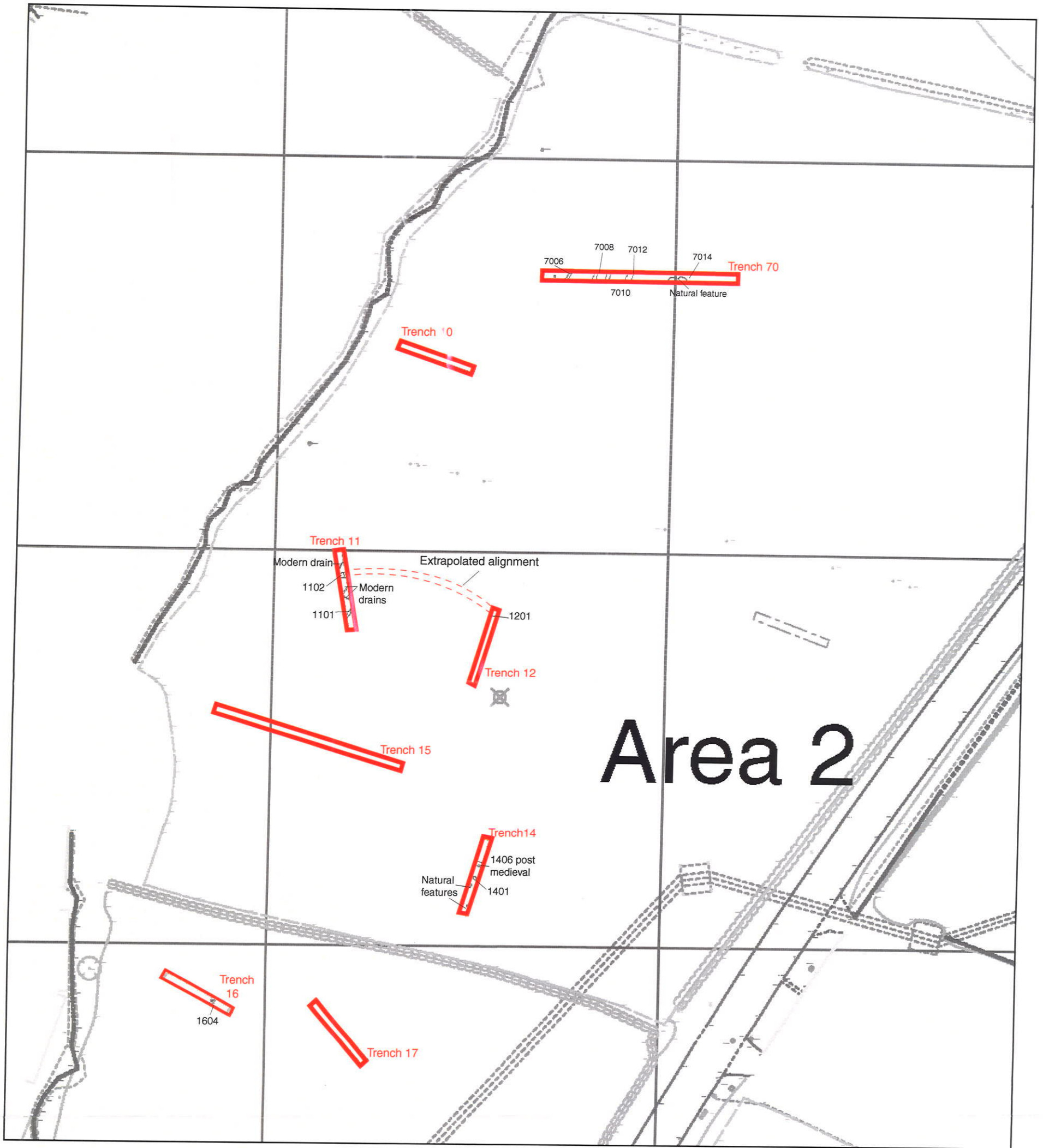
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Figure 1: Site Location



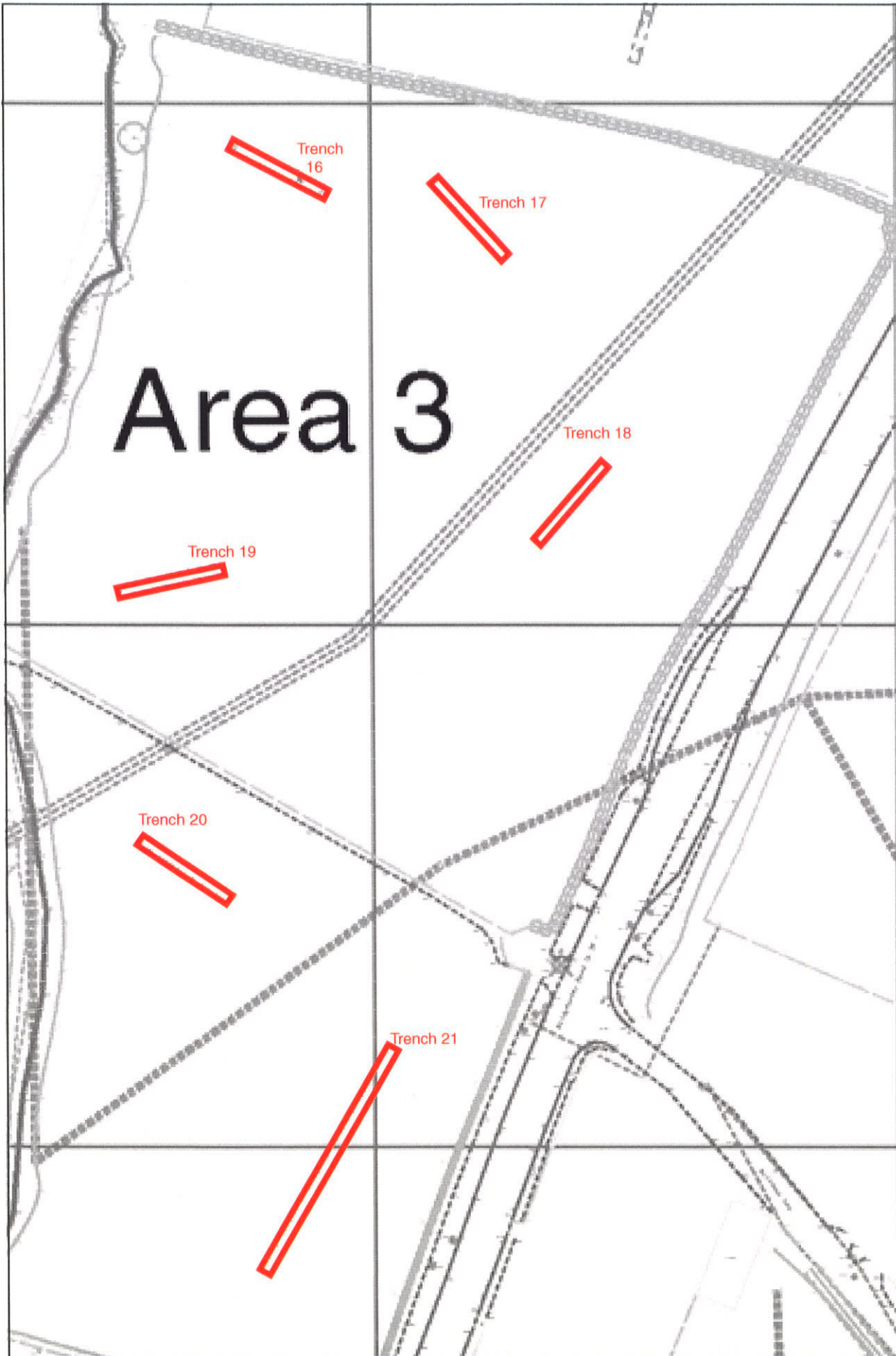
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Figure 2: Area 1, location of trenches



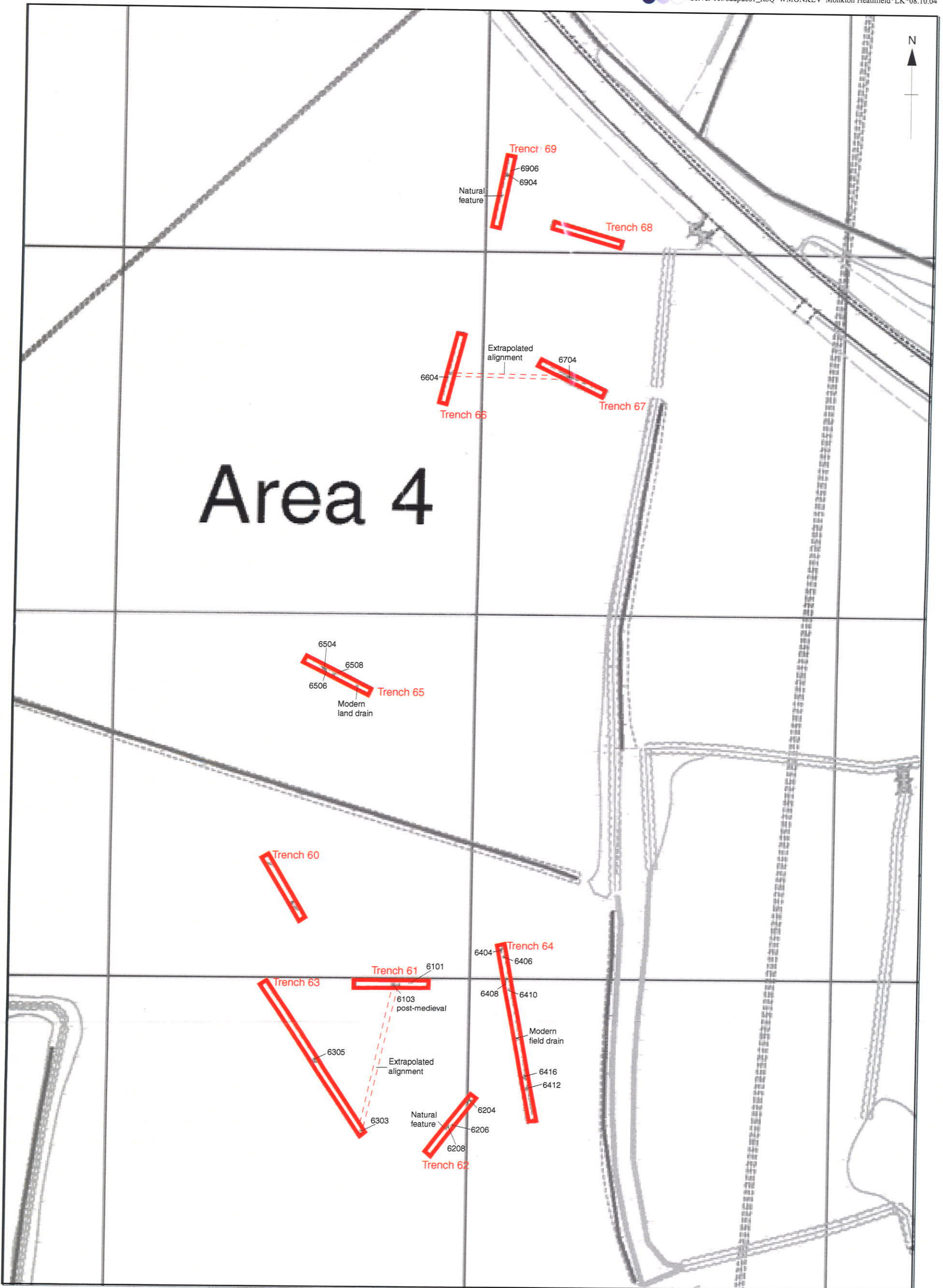
Scale 1:1000

Figure 3: Area 2, location of trenches and archaeological features



Scale 1:1000

Figure 4: Area 3, location of trenches



Scale 1:1000

Figure 5: Area 4, location of trenches and archaeological features

Trench 60

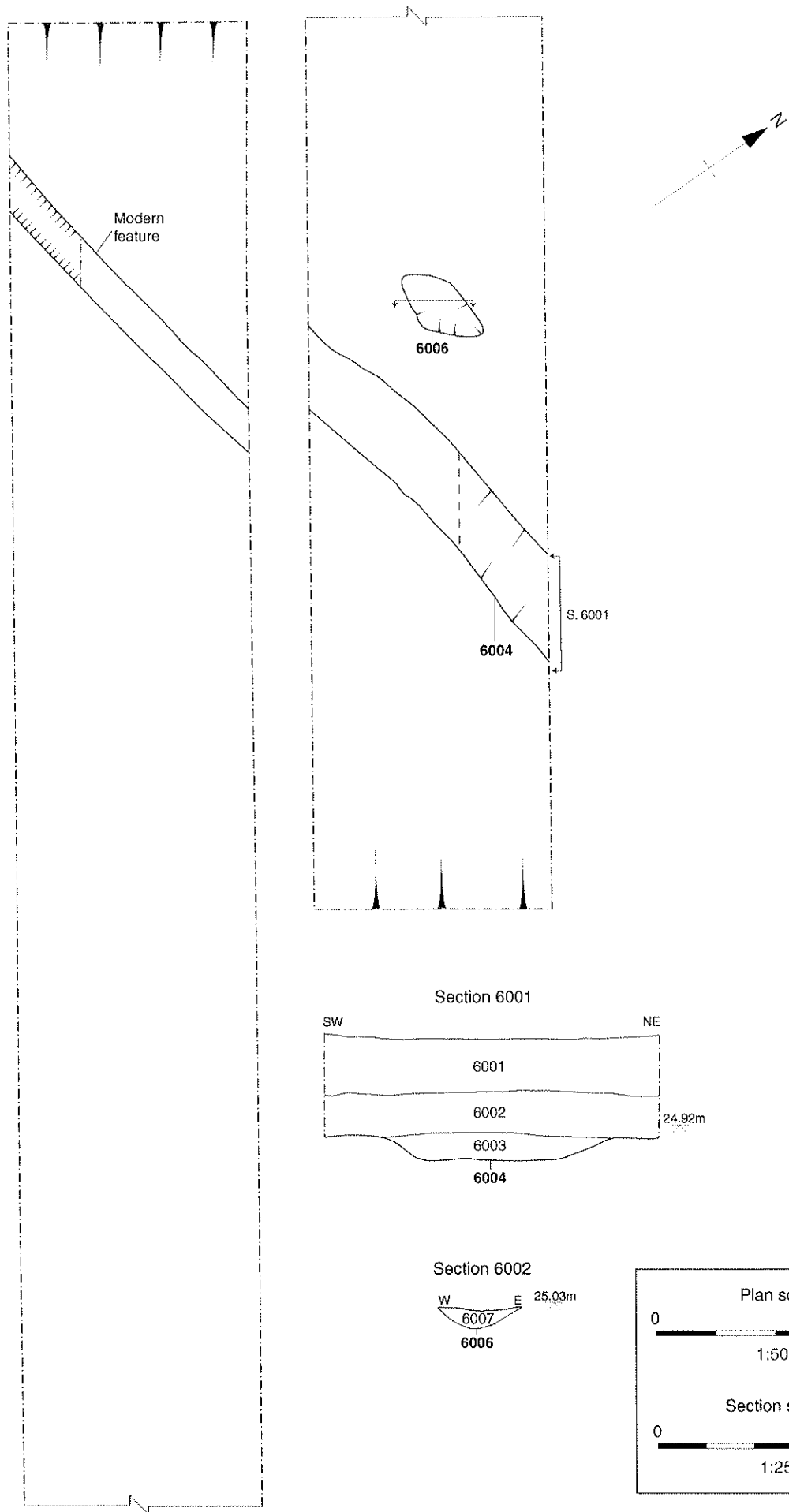
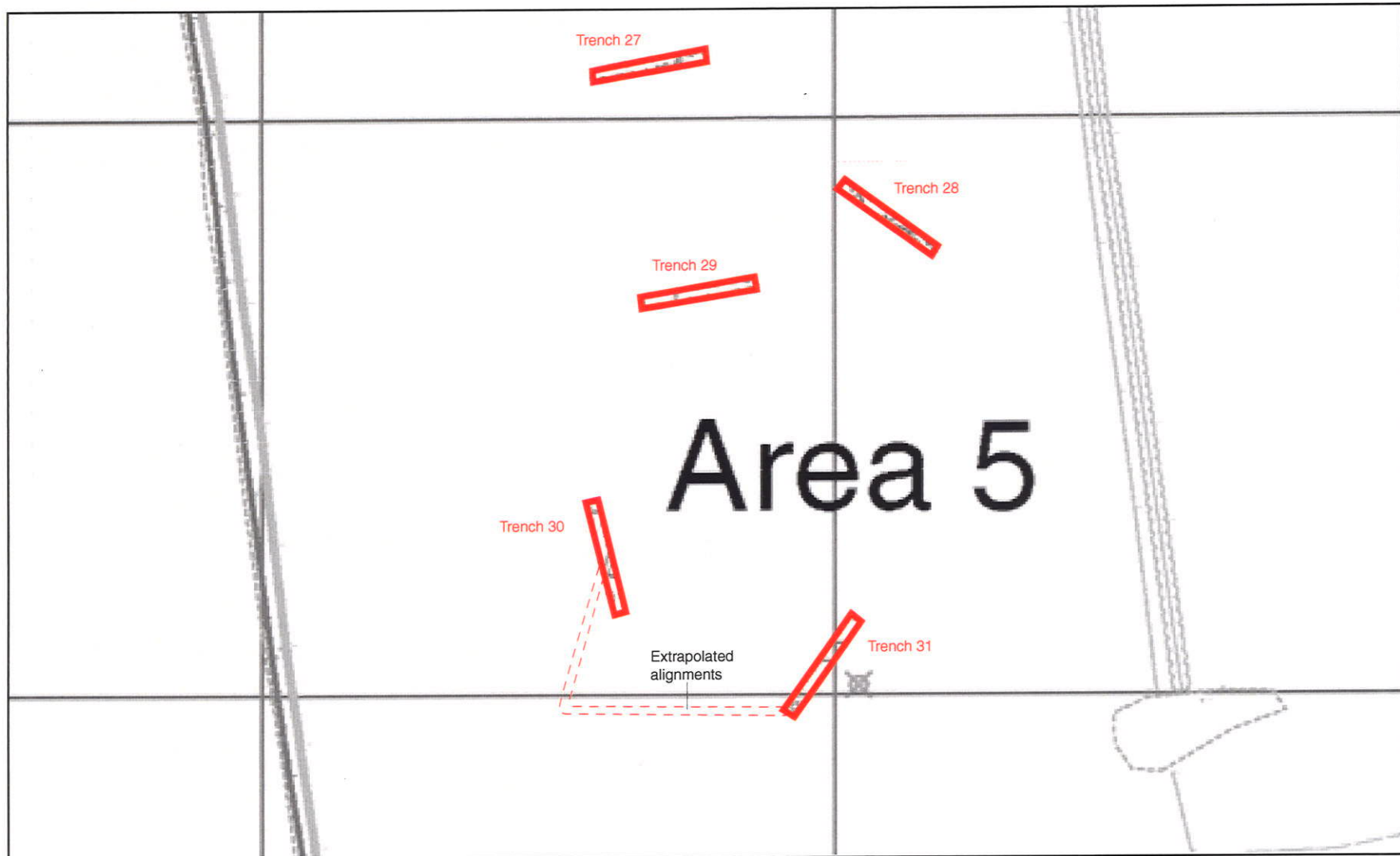
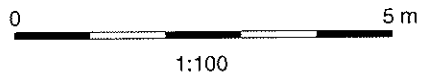
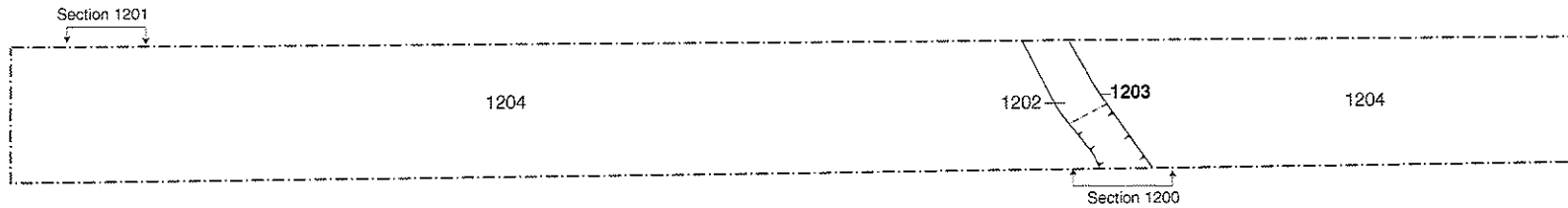


Figure 6: Trench 60, plan and sections

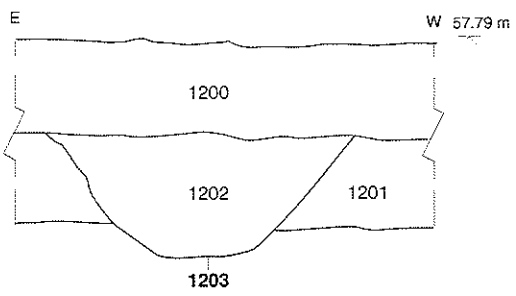


Scale 1:1000

Figure 7: Area 5, location of trenches



Section 1200



Section 1201

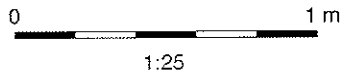
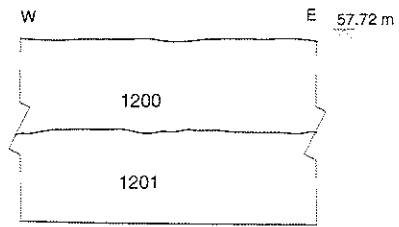


Figure 8: Trench 12, plans and sections

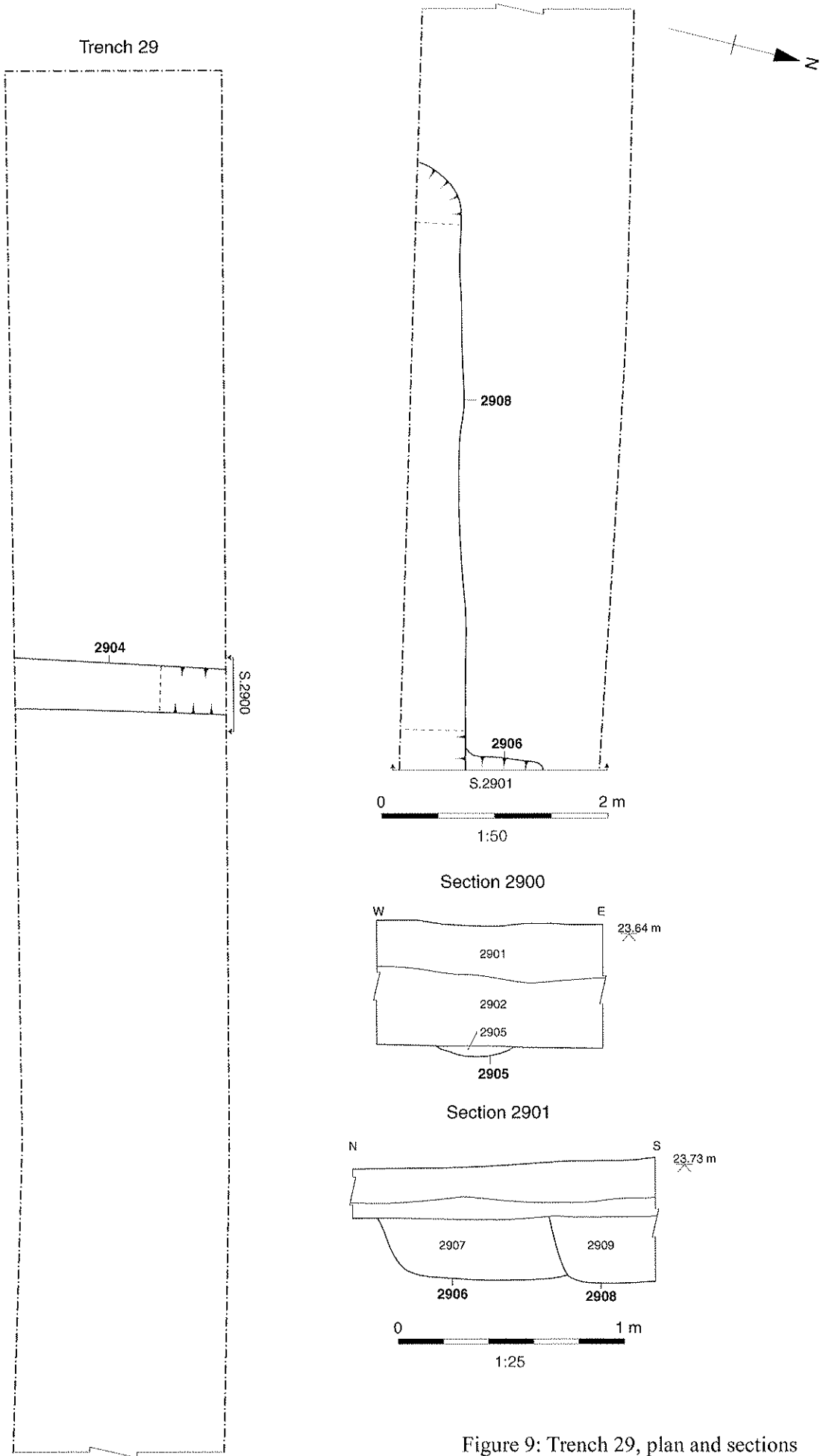


Figure 9: Trench 29, plan and sections

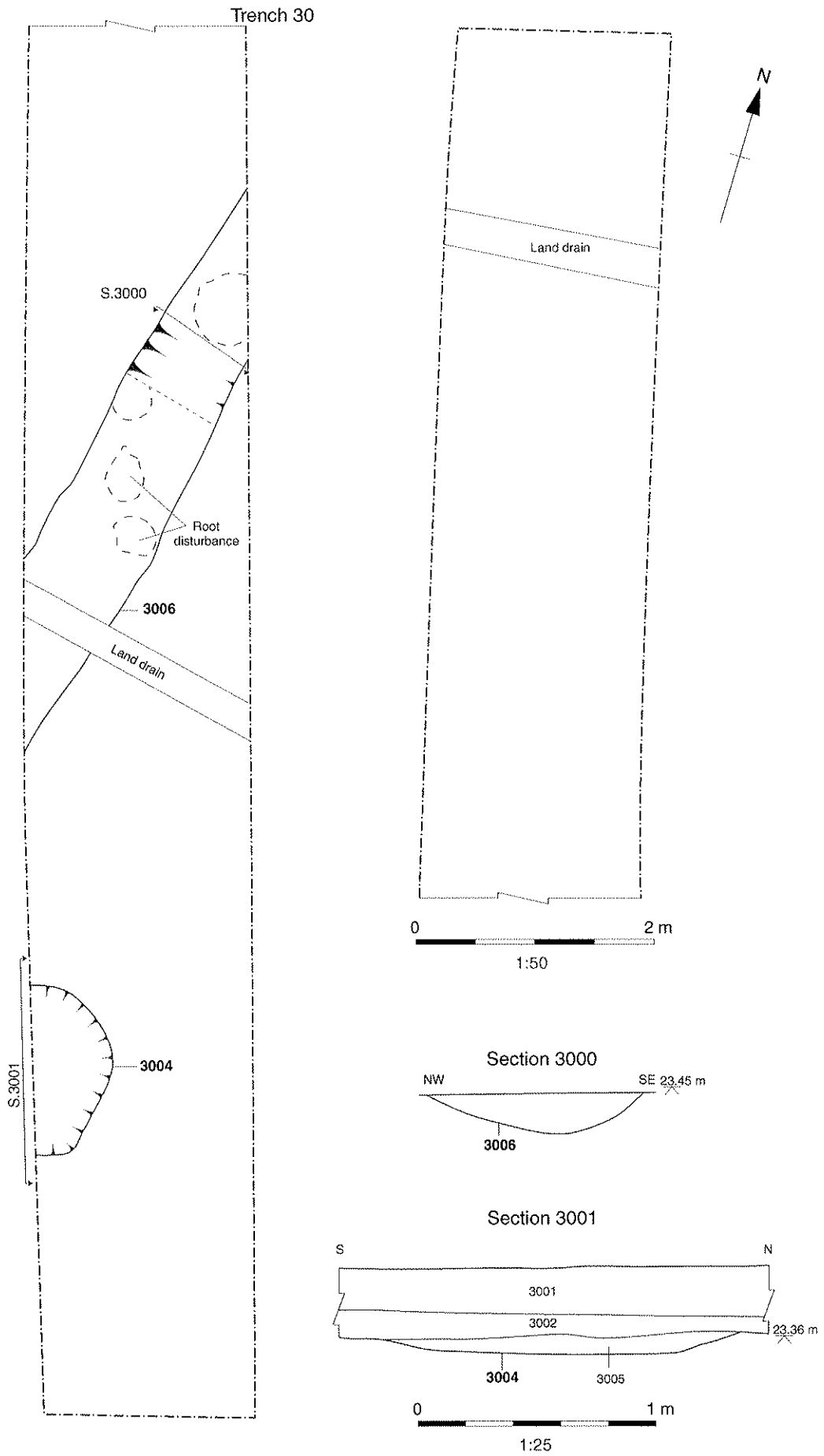
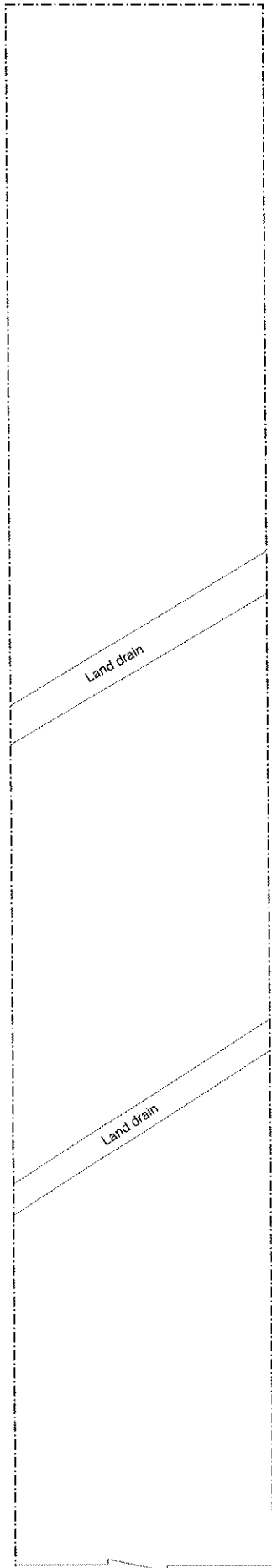


Figure 10: Trench 30, plan and sections



Trench 31

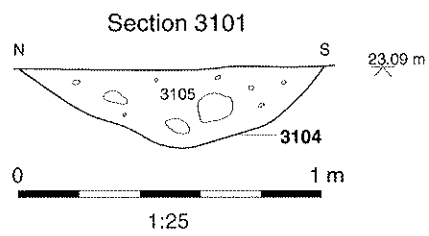
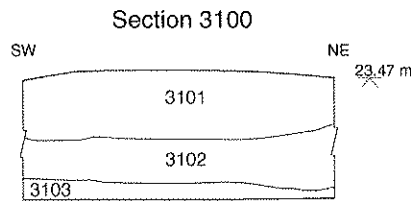
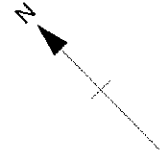
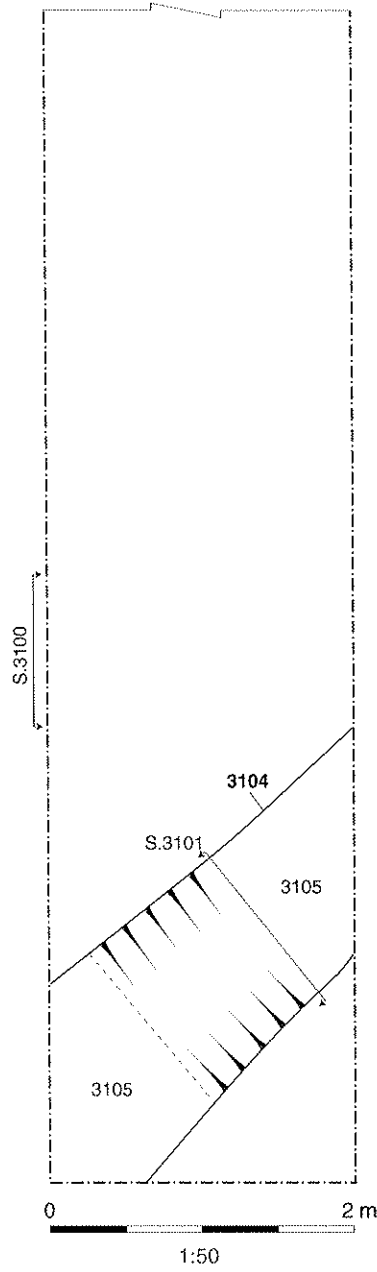
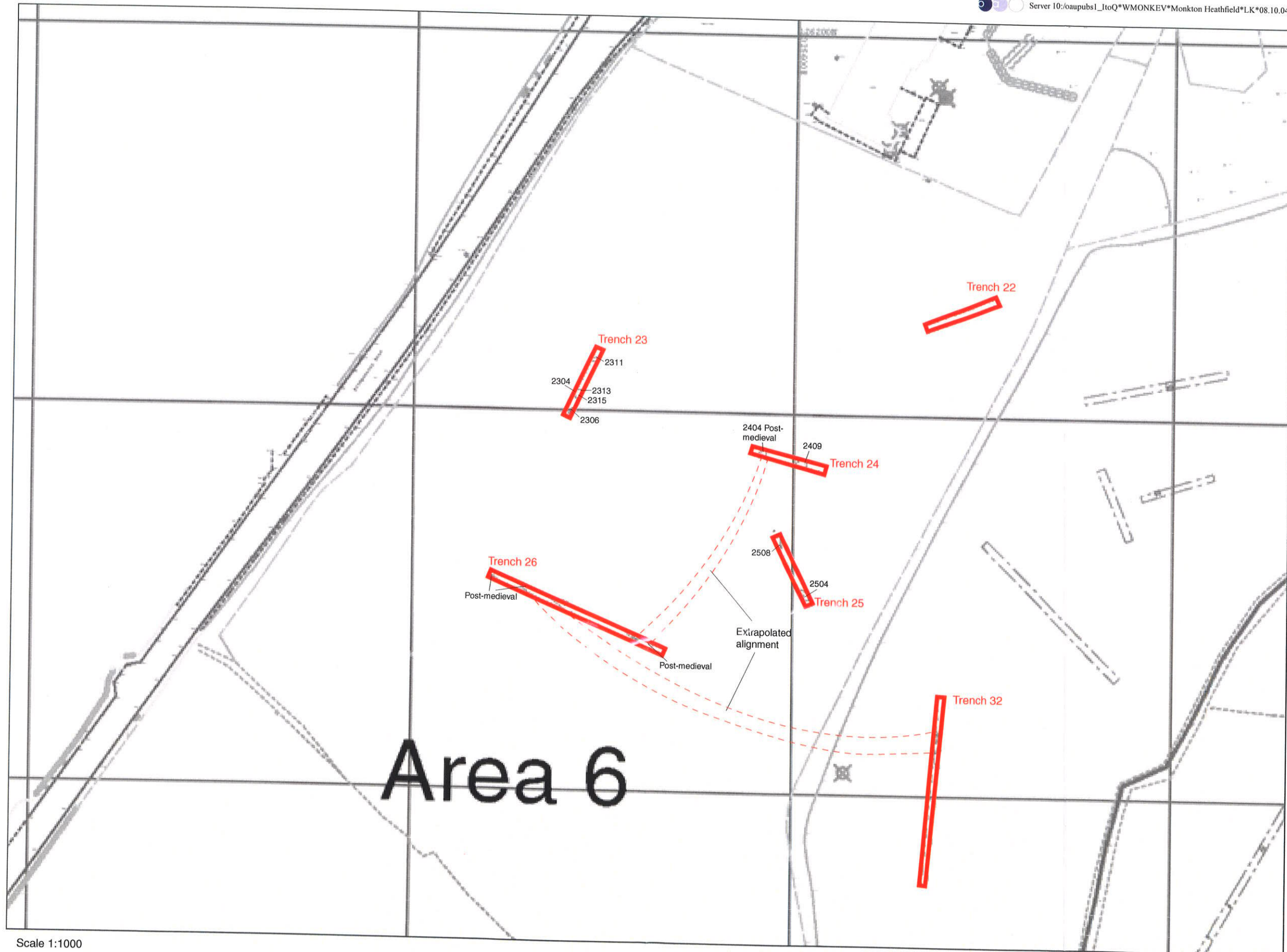


Figure 11: Trench 31, plan and sections



Area 6

Figure 12: Area 6, location of trenches and archaeological features

Trench 26

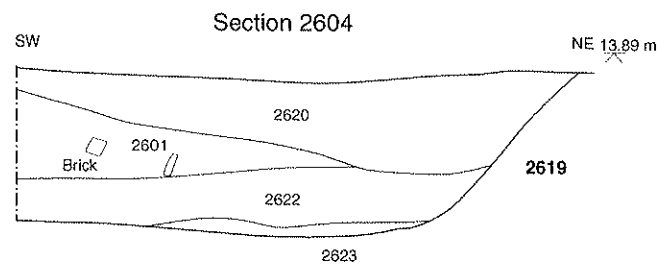
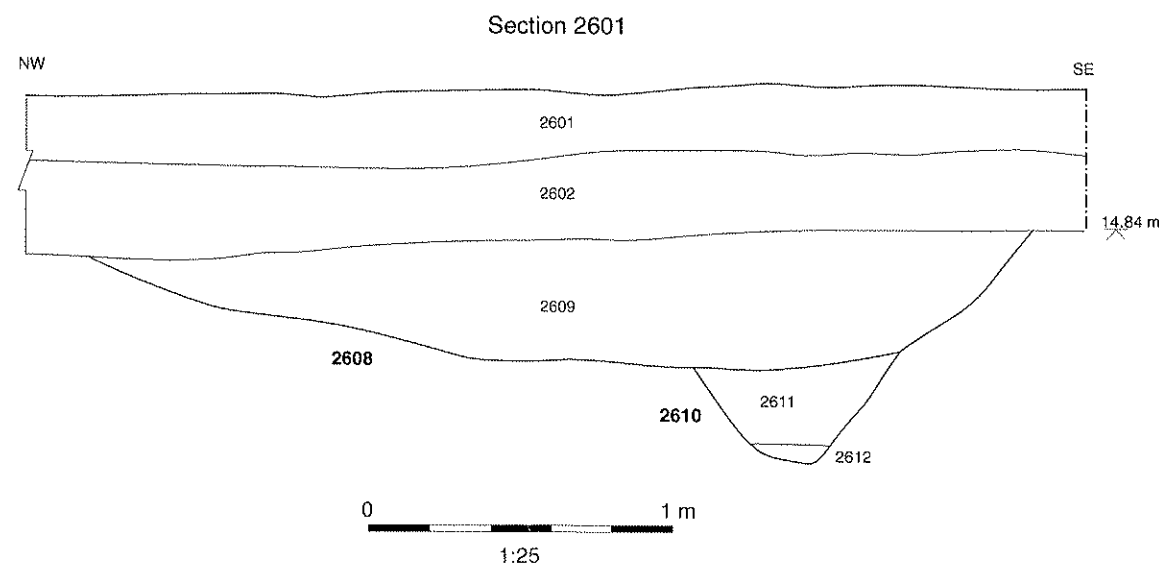
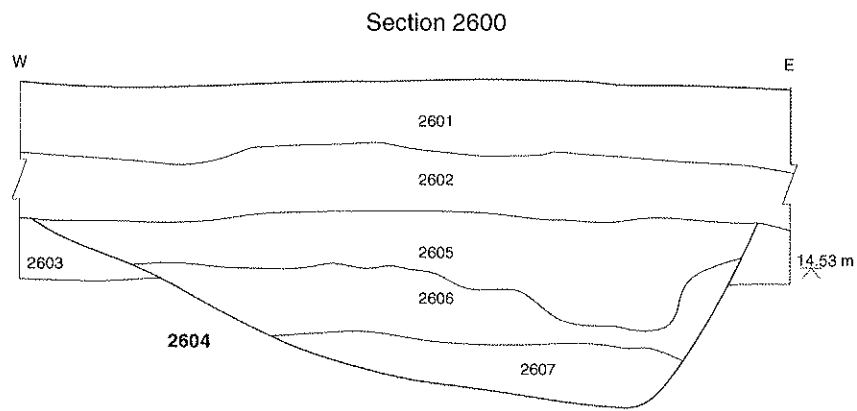
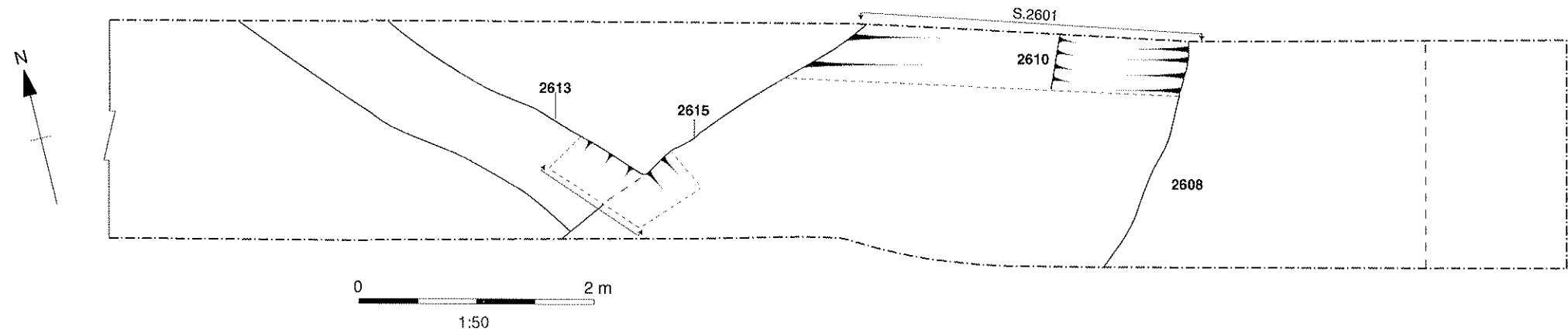
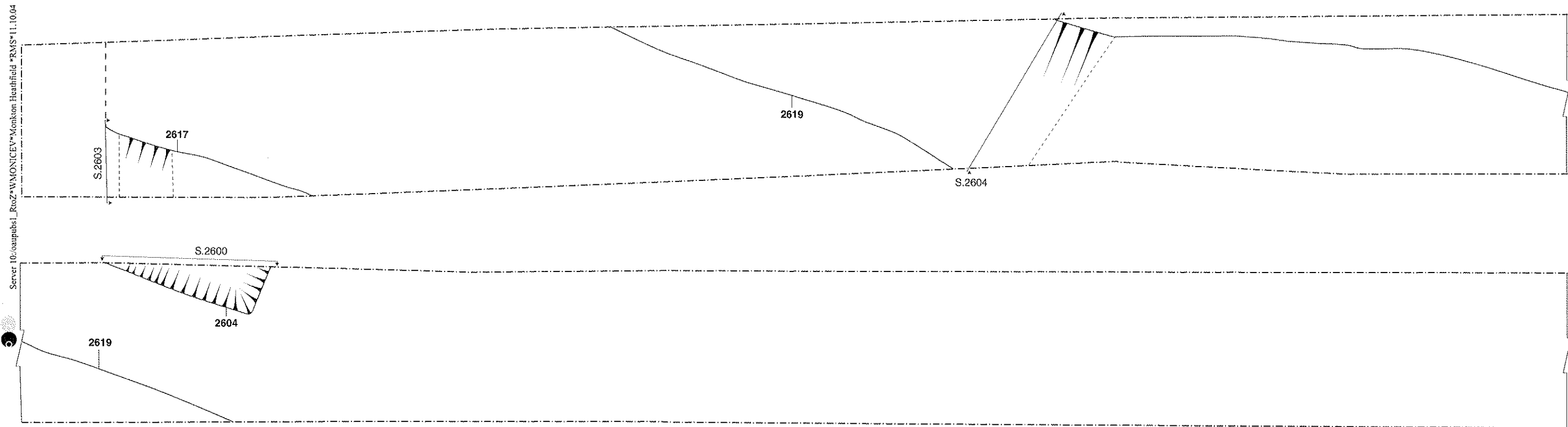


Figure 13: Trench 26, plan and sections



Scale 1:1000

Figure 14: Area 7, location of trenches and archaeological features

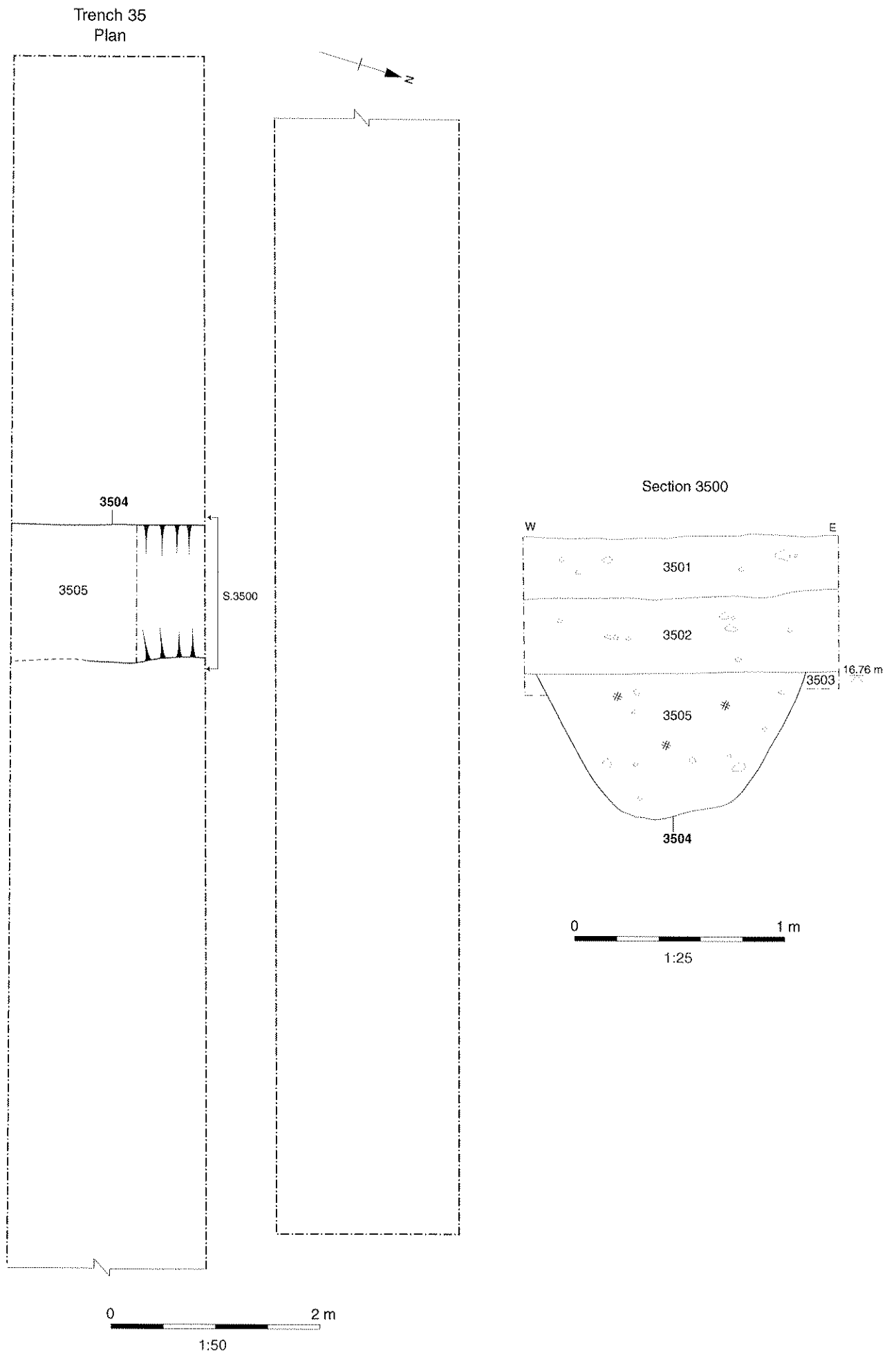


Figure 15: Trench 35, plan and section

Trenches 36 and 37

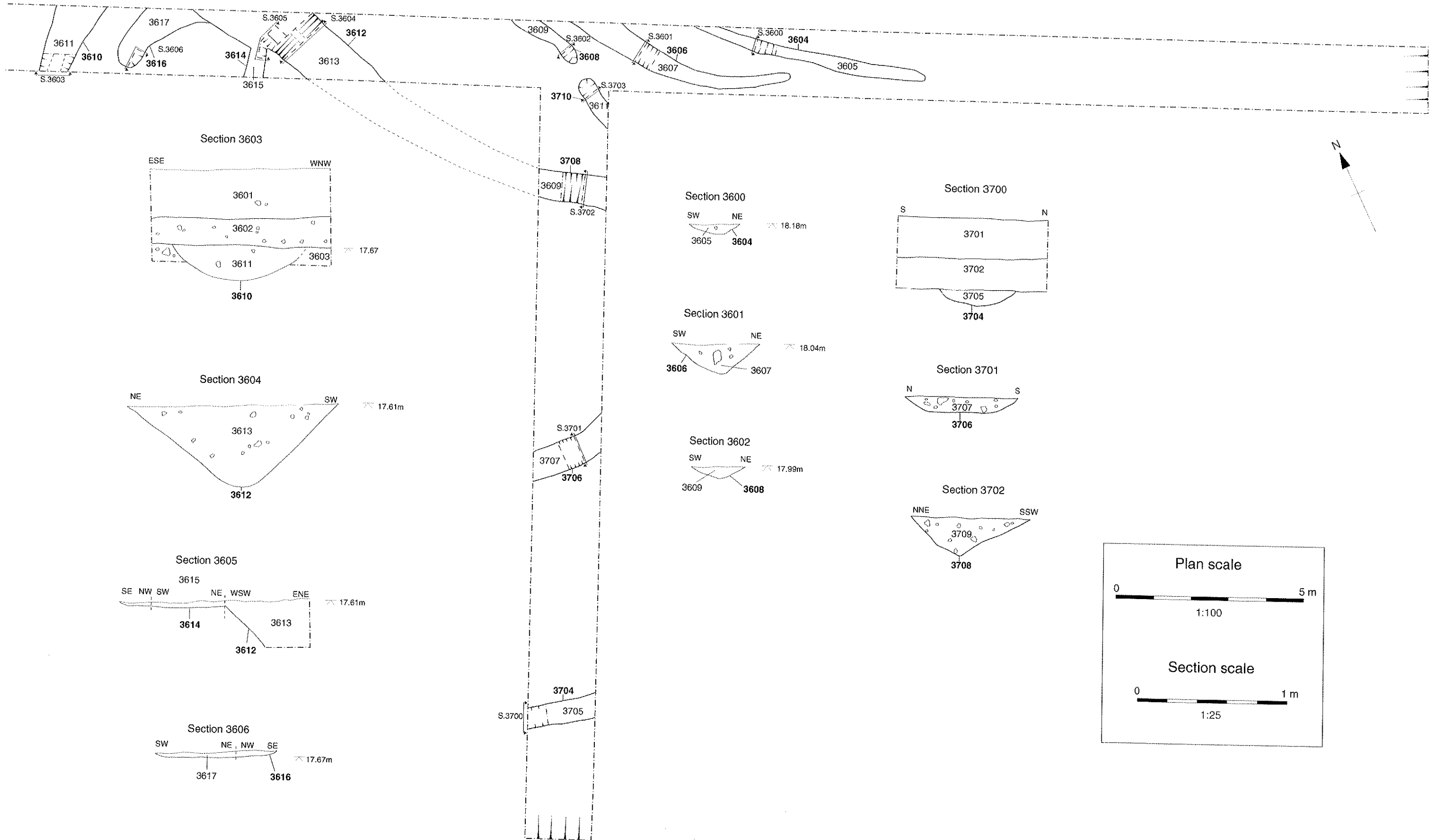


Figure 16: Trenches 36 and 37, plan and sections

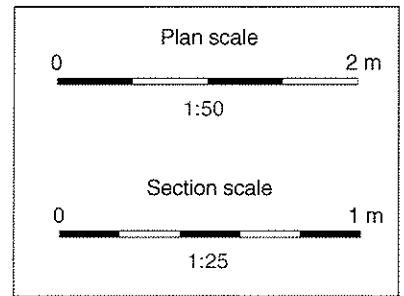
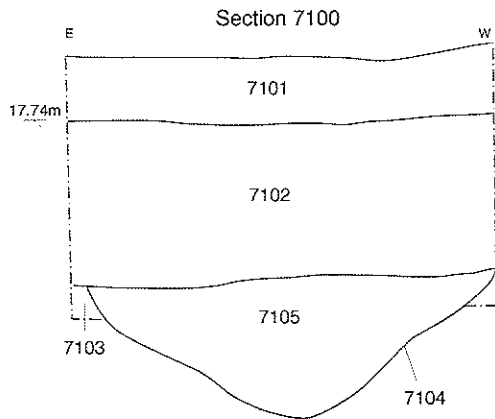
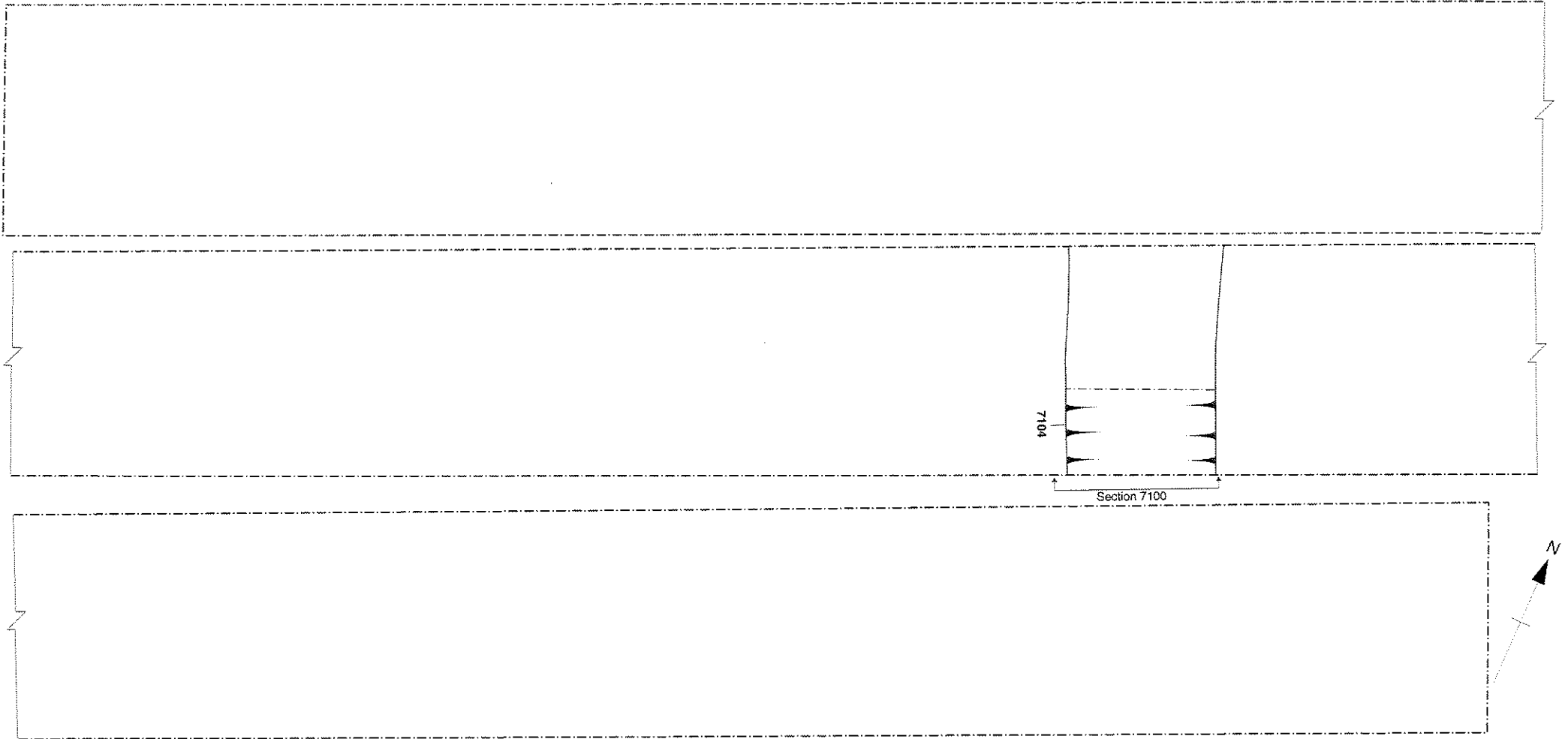
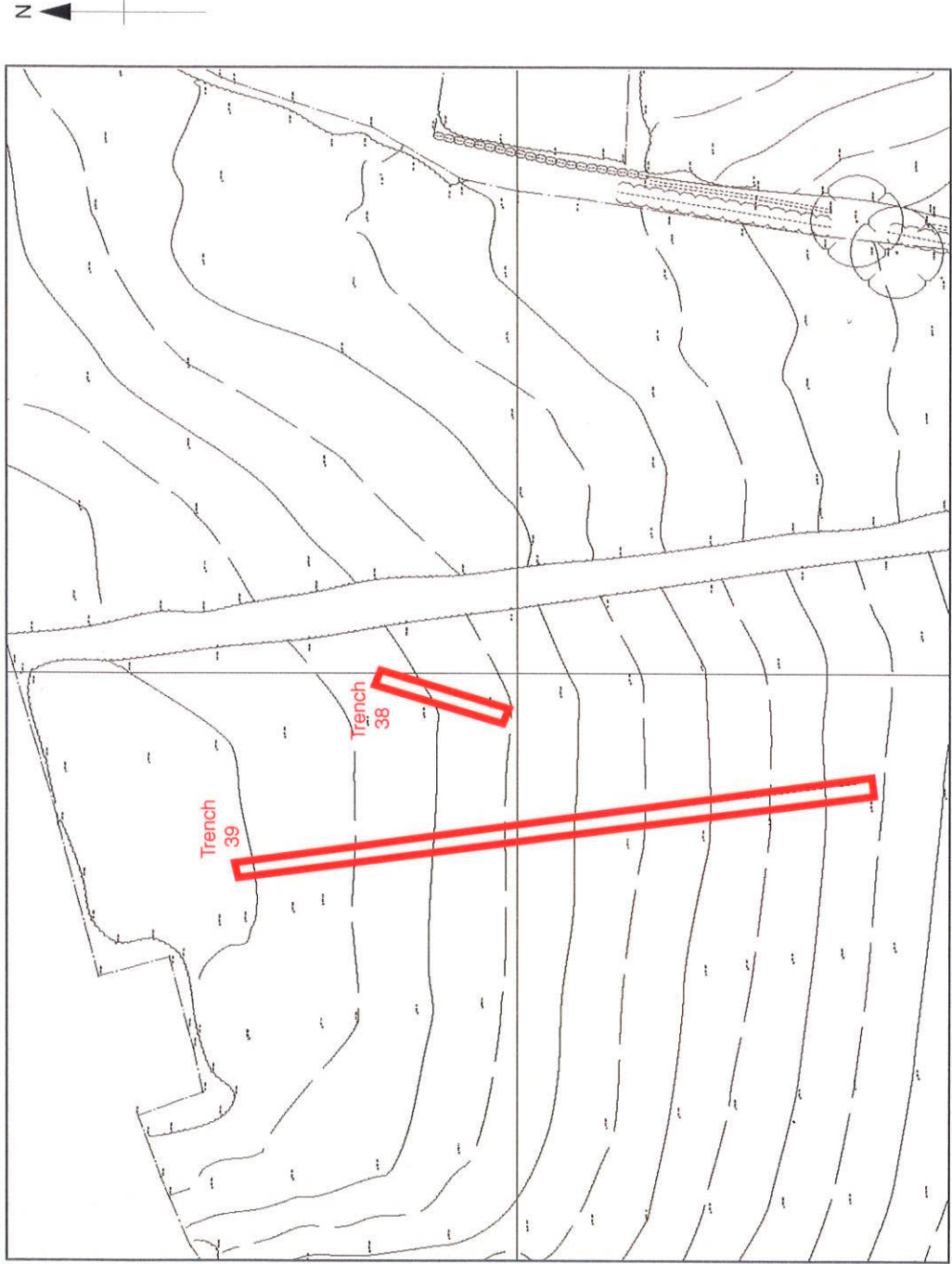


Figure 17: Trench 71, plan and section



Scale 1:1000

Figure 18: Aginghills Farm, location of trenches



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