

Land at  
Wilburton  
Cambridgeshire  
(Mereham New  
Community)



**Archaeological Evaluation Report**



January 2007



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# Land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (Mereham New Community)

NGR TL 489 730

**Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Resource  
Number : ECB 2329**

## *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT*

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## SUMMARY

*In July 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation of land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 489 730), on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The evaluation trenches were targeted at anomalies revealed by geophysical survey and the whole exercise formed part of a phased programme of evaluation of the site.*

*The evaluation revealed the southern part of a middle Iron Age farmstead at the west of the development area. The site appears to have contracted or gone out of use, based on ceramic evidence, before being re-used in the later Roman period. Elsewhere on the site, post-medieval quarries, probably opened to extract the underlying sand were noted. Ridge and furrow agriculture is visible through geophysical survey plots across much of the site, although no ridge and furrow was observed during the evaluation. Of note was a small assemblage of late Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts, all of which were found in association with later pottery. The effects of hillwash/colluvium formation appear to have moved these artefacts from their original location, the suggestion being that there may be an earlier prehistoric site in the vicinity, probably on the higher ground of the east-west ridge extending across the site.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In July 2006, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out a field evaluation of land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 489 730) on behalf of CgMs Consulting. The work was undertaken as part of a phased evaluation of a proposed development (also known as Mereham New Community).
- 1.1.2 The development site is c. 300 ha. in extent and is bounded to the east by the A10, to the south by the Great River Ouse, to the west by the B1049 and to the north by the A1123 (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.3 An outline planning application was submitted to East Cambridgeshire District Council for a New Community development in 2005 and this evaluation forms part of the process to establish the archaeological implications of the development.
- 1.1.4 A *Specification* for Archaeological Field Evaluation was prepared by Paul Chadwick and Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Multiplex Stanifer and their planning consultants, Barton Willmore (CgMs May 2006). CgMs appointed OA to carry out the evaluation trenching work.
- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by OA to meet requirements in the *Specification*. A total of twenty-three trenches were proposed in this phase of work. OA carried out a walkover survey of the site prior to work commencing (OA 2006).

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The Institute of Geological Sciences (1979) and the British Geological Survey (Sheet 188) shows the northern part of the study site comprising Greensand, the central part of the study site formed by Portland Beds and Kimmeridge Clay and the southern part of the study site underlain by Glacial Drift Sands and Gravels. At the time of the evaluation, no site-specific geotechnical data was available for the study site.
- 1.2.2 The site straddles the edge of the Fens within the River Great Ouse valley. Topography within the central and southern parts of the site lies at around 3 m OD and from here levels rise in a moderate slope to the north-western corner at *c* 9.2 m OD and to the north-eastern corner at *c* 7.4 m OD.
- 1.2.3 The northern portion of the study site occupies a broad east-west ridge, which is occupied by the historic settlements of Haddenham, Wilburton and Stretham; a spur from this ridge extends south-east from Wilburton.
- 1.2.4 The evaluation trenching is situated in the northern part of the site on a south-facing side of this east-west ridge.
- 1.2.5 The central and southern parts of study site contain numerous field boundary ditches, which drain south to the River Great Ouse, which forms the southern boundary of the site.

### 1.3 **Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background to the evaluation has been detailed in the Specification and WSI for the project. This information is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on or within 1 km of the site. The fen-edge, which the site straddles, forms the basis for an archaeological landscape well known for its wealth of prehistoric and later settlements documented in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 1.3.3 A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken by Archaeological Services of the University of Durham for CgMs Consulting (ASDU 2006).

#### ***Palaeolithic/Mesolithic***

- 1.3.4 No finds of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date are recorded within 1 km of the site and the potential for finds of this date was thought to be low. Such material is sparsely represented across the fen-edge. If Palaeolithic/Mesolithic occupation surfaces exist within the evaluation area, then they are likely to be buried beneath the colluvial soils on the lower slopes.

#### ***Neolithic-Bronze Age***

- 1.3.5 A flint scatter (including arrowhead) is known *c.* 300 m north of the site and a flint scraper was found *c.* 200m north of the site. HER records the discovery of Bronze Age pottery within the application site (see CgMs 2006: Fig. 2: TL 4860 7411). The

geophysical survey identified discrete positive anomalies in the vicinity of these finds, possibly suggesting Bronze Age settlement activity.

### ***Iron Age-Roman***

- 1.3.6 Within 1 km of the site there are no sites or finds dated to the Iron Age or Roman periods recorded in the HER. Interpretation of the geophysical survey identified a possible enclosure complex comprising possible rectilinear enclosures, trackways, curvilinear ditches, pit alignments and clusters of large pits. A Romano-British, or Iron Age date, was thought possible for the anomalies. The Portable Antiquities Finds Database (PAFD) records the discovery of 18 Roman coins by a metal detector on land at Wilburton (PAFD Ref. 250); the exact location of the find is unclear. A second complex of geophysical anomalies occurs to the east, but was not available for evaluation at the time.

### ***Saxon-Early Medieval-Medieval***

- 1.3.7 A fragment of a Saxon grave cover has been identified within the fabric of St. James Church at Stretham. Later documentary and cartographic evidence suggests that the historic cores of Wilburton and Stretham were tightly focussed around their churches. During the early medieval period the site possibly lay beyond the limits of settlement at Wilburton and Stretham and was agricultural land. Extensive ridge and furrow activity was identified by the geophysical survey.

### ***Post-Medieval***

- 1.3.8 The 1838 Tithe map of the Parish of Wilburton and the 1835 Tithe Map of Stretham shows the application site encompassing an area of land in predominantly arable use. The fields were accessed by lanes, which ran south from the Wilburton to Stretham Road.
- 1.3.9 A lane, which does not feature on the later 1st edition Ordnance Survey (1886), ran from the north-western corner of the site to 'Mill Field Lane'. By 1886 'Grange Farm', 'Red Hill Farm', 'Mitchell's Farm' and, a residential property 'Mill Field House' had been built within the application site. The map regression exercise, undertaken as part of the archaeological desk-based assessment (Chadwick & Dicks 2005), demonstrated that the site was predominantly used for arable agriculture during the post-medieval period.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 OA extends its thanks to CgMs Consulting for providing site data and plans. Bryan Matthews of OA supervised the evaluation, which was managed by OA's Tim Haines.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within part of the proposed development, particularly any late prehistoric and Romano-British features and deposits.
- 2.1.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present. To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- 2.1.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

## 3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Scope of fieldwork

- 3.1.1 It was proposed that a total of twenty-three trenches of various lengths totalling 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> be excavated to sample the development area (Fig. 2a). These were targeted at areas of archaeological potential highlighted by the geophysical survey (see Figs 2a, 2b and 2c, CgMs 2006; this document, Fig. 2a). A detailed scope of works and the reasoning behind the location of the trenches targeting of geophysical anomalies was included in the *Specification* (CgMs 2006).
- 3.1.2 In the event, access problems and crop cover meant that only fifteen trenches were opened in the course of the evaluation (Fig. 2b). Trench 10 was only partly excavated due to access and consent problems.

### 3.2 Fieldwork methods and recording

- 3.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket.
- 3.2.2 Where appropriate the trenches were cleaned by hand and the revealed features were sampled to determine their extent and nature and to retrieve finds and environmental samples. All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 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).

### 3.3 Finds

- 3.3.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context. Finds of special interest were given a unique small find number.

### 3.4 Palaeo-environmental evidence

- 3.4.1 Environmental samples were taken from five features/deposits in order to analyse the potential for charred remains and smaller artefacts on the site.

## 4 RESULTS: DESCRIPTIONS

### 4.1 Trench descriptions

#### *Trench 1 - Fig. 3*

- 4.1.1 Natural sand (111) at the base of the trench was overlain by a layer of reddish-brown sandy loam with small stones (102) up to 0.55 m thick. The deposit was not natural and is likely to be derived from hillwash and represents a colluvial action. To the south end of the trench, layer 102 was sealed beneath a further colluvial layer of clay loam (110) up to 0.15 m thick.
- 4.1.2 To the centre of the trench, layer 102 was cut by a north-south aligned 'v'-shaped ditch (106) that was 1.3 m wide and 0.72 m deep. The basal clay fill (105) contained charcoal and fragments of animal bone. The fill above was a grey sandy silt (104) that contained pottery of middle Iron Age date, 3 flint flakes and a flint blade. Fill 104 was cut by an east-west aligned gully (107) that was 0.51 m wide and 0.23 m deep. Its red-brown sandy fill (103) contained 11 sherds of pottery dated from the late Iron Age to the late 1st Century and a flint core.
- 4.1.3 The fill of gully 107 and colluvium layer 110 were overlain by an extensive layer of red-brown sandy loam (101) up to 0.3 m in thickness, prior to another ditch (109) being cut into the layer. The layer sealed the earlier archaeology and is likely to represent a further episode of hillwash.
- 4.1.4 Ditch 109 was aligned east-west and was 1.6 m wide and 0.65 m deep. It was filled by a red-brown sandy loam (108) that contained pottery of middle Iron Age date. The current topsoil (100) overlay the ditch fill and the remainder of the trench. One sherd of post-medieval pottery came from the topsoil.

#### *Trench 2 - Fig. 4*

- 4.1.5 Seven features along the length of the trench cut natural sand (202). At the north end of the trench was a ditch (205) aligned NE-SW that was 0.5 m wide and 0.4 m deep. The basal fill (204) was an undated light red-brown silty sand, overlain by fill 203, which was a brown silty sand with charcoal flecks containing 3 sherds of Iron Age pottery. Adjacent was a shallow gully (207) filled with undated sandy loam (206).
- 4.1.6 To the south was a wide and deep 'cut' or hollow (217) filled with a 0.2 m thick layer of colluvial silty clay (216) that filled its base. The feature is likely to be a water-formed depression in the underlying sand, rather than a man-made ditch.
- 4.1.7 Two post-holes were identified towards the south end of the trench. The cuts (210 and 214) were each c 0.4 m in diameter and c 0.25 m deep with sandy loam fills (211 and 215). Fill 211 contained a sherd of Iron Age pottery, a single flint flake and 35 pieces of burnt flint. The post-holes may represent part of a structure, the remainder being beyond the limits of the trench. At the southern end of the trench was a further gully (213) aligned NE-SW. It was 0.28 m wide and 0.28 m deep with an undated sandy fill (212).

- 4.1.8 Excavation of a deep box section revealed that the natural sand to the south-centre of the trench was overlain by a localised spread of hillwash/colluvial silt loam (209), above which lay a deposit of dark grey silty sand (208) containing a single sherd of middle Iron Age pottery. The deposit was probably derived from the same process. Layer 208, the feature fills and hollow deposit 216 were sealed by a thick layer of clayey sand (201) that produced 14 sherds of middle Iron Age pottery, in turn overlain by the present topsoil (200).

### ***Trench 3 - Fig. 5***

- 4.1.9 Natural sand (303) was cut by a total of 10 features. To the south end of the trench was the terminus of a ditch (316) that was 0.9 m wide and 0.2 m deep. Its fill (317) was a sandy clay containing pottery of Roman date. Adjacent was an 'L'-shaped ditch (313) that was 0.85 m wide and 0.4 m deep. Its fills (318 below 312) comprised red-brown sands and 318 contained Roman pottery of late 2nd to late 4th century date and 3 flint flakes. To the south was an ovoid feature (328 - un-excavated), probably a pit.
- 4.1.10 A large ditch occupied the central part of the trench. The ditch (326) was aligned N-S and was 0.72 m deep and 2.1 m wide. The sandy fill (325) contained 3 flint flakes including a possible blade. South of the ditch were two further pits (330 un-excavated) and pit 306. This feature was 0.57 m in diameter and only 0.1 m deep, suggesting that it had been truncated. The fill (305) was undated.
- 4.1.11 To the north end of the trench were 3 ditches. Ditch 307 was aligned NE-SW and was 0.9 m deep and 1.92 m wide. Its fills were sandy silts (308-311) with fill 310 containing pottery of Roman date and a flint flake. The upper fill (311) contained a sherd of Roman pottery dated to the late 3rd/4th century. East-west ditch 324 was 0.62 m deep and 1.76 m wide. Its fill, 323, was a mixed organic clay with pieces of animal bone that was cut, on its south side by a smaller ditch or gully (321) on the same alignment. Gully fill 322 was a near black sandy clay containing pottery of early Roman date. The final ditch (320) at the north end of the trench was aligned north-south and was 0.96 m wide and up to 0.24 m deep. Its undated fills comprised loamy sand (319) beneath reddish silty sand (315) under a final fill of brown silty sand.
- 4.1.12 The feature fills were overlain by a yellow-brown silty clay colluvium (302) containing 4 sherds of prehistoric pottery, in turn covered with a dark brown loam layer (301) beneath topsoil (300) that produced sherds of middle Iron Age pottery. The interpretation of layer (302) as colluvium suggests that the pottery recovered from contexts 300-302 is residual and originated from further up the slope, having been displaced by ploughing. Any artefacts recovered during field-walking in the area of Trench 3 would therefore represent activity up slope from this location.

### ***Trench 4 - not illustrated***

- 4.1.13 No features or finds were identified in the trench. Natural sand (403) was sealed by a red-brown silty clay layer (402) beneath a 0.18 m thick layer of pale brown silty clay. Topsoil (400) overlay this.

***Trench 5 - not illustrated***

- 4.1.14 No features or finds were identified in this trench. Natural sand (502) was sealed by a very compacted red-brown silty clay (501) beneath a 0.32 m thick layer of pale brown silty clay topsoil (500).

***Trench 6 - Fig. 6***

- 4.1.15 Natural sand (602) was cut at the west end of the trench by a total of eight rectangular or linear features of likely post-medieval date. One was investigated (608): this feature had near vertical sides descending to a flat base. It was 0.84 m deep and 1.38 m wide. The base rose sharply within the confines of the trench to the north and south, indicating a pit rather than a ditch feature. Finds from one of the mixed fills (605-7) suggested a post-medieval date; a single flint flake was recovered from fill 607. Roof tile confirmed as post-medieval was recovered from fill 607 together with, 2 sherds of (residual) Roman pottery. The features were interpreted as a series of post-medieval quarries, presumably excavated for sand or gravel extraction.
- 4.1.16 A single curved linear feature (603) was filled with a yellow-brown clayey sand (604) that contained a large quantity of early-mid 3rd century Roman pottery. Topsoil sealed the features and produced one sherd of middle Iron Age date.

***Trench 7 - not illustrated***

- 4.1.17 Natural sand (702) was cut by at least 14 linear quarrying features of varying sizes and depths. These were collectively numbered (707), while two of the cuts were investigated (quarries 703 and 705). Post-medieval pottery and clay pipe stems were recovered from the feature fills (704, 706), which were overlain by mixed sand and soil material (708), presumably infilling up-cast material from the original excavations for sand.

***Trench 8 - not illustrated***

- 4.1.18 The trench contained no features. Natural silty sand (800), which was demonstrated by excavation to be up to 0.75 m thick, lay beneath topsoil (800) that produced 2 sherds of middle Iron Age pottery.

***Trench 9 - not illustrated***

- 4.1.19 A single post-medieval land drain (903) was recorded within the trench cutting natural 902. Its fill (904) contained pottery of post-medieval date. Here the natural comprised blue-grey clay showing signs of modern disturbance, possibly from ploughing as well as the insertion of drainage. Layer 901 above may represent a ploughsoil and produced post-medieval pottery, sealed by topsoil 900.

***Trench 10 - not illustrated***

- 4.1.20 The trench was only partially excavated owing to landowner permission to excavate being denied. No features were noted in the 14 m opened, with the soil sequence as seen elsewhere on site.

***Trench 11 - Fig. 7***

4.1.21 Natural blue-grey clay mixed with red-brown gravel (1102) was cut by a single ditch (1104) aligned NW-SE. The ditch was 0.76 m wide and 0.17 m deep and was filled with a red-brown silty loam (1103) that was undated. Layer 1101 sealed the feature fill and was overlain by topsoil 1100. Layer 1101 may represent a ploughed soil, as it was a mixed clay silt with flint nodules and stones.

***Trenches 12 and 13 - not illustrated***

4.1.22 Trenches 12 and 13 contained no features. Natural blue-grey clay (1202, 1302) was overlain by a thin band of red-brown silty clay (1201, 1301) beneath topsoil (1200, 1300). Two modern land drains were noted at the north end of Trench. 12.

***Trench 14 - Fig 8***

4.1.23 Natural clay at the base of the trench comprised red-brown material merging with blue-grey mixed clay (1401). The clay was cut by a north-south aligned gully (1403) that was 0.4 m wide and 0.26 m deep. The fill (1402) contained modern ceramic building materials.

4.1.24 The fill was cut by a north-south aligned ditch (1404) that was 2.66 m wide and 0.46 m deep. Its fills (1408, overlain by 1405 and lastly 1409) contained post-medieval pottery. A further ditch (1407) was also of post-medieval date (fill 1406).

***Trench 23 - Fig. 9***

4.1.25 Natural sand (2302) was cut by three features and a hollow within it had filled with a colluvial deposit. Ditch 2303 was situated adjacent to the trench edge, but appeared linear in plan. The feature was at least 1 m wide and 0.68 m deep and was filled with light brown sand (2304) that contained pottery of late 1st century Roman date, a flint flake and an end scraper tool.

4.1.26 An irregular shaped feature (2307), possibly a ditch, contained a fill of red-brown sandy loam (2308) that was undated. A possible pit (2309) was also recorded. The feature had irregular shaped edges and was sub-circular in plan. It was 1 m wide and 0.4 m deep and filled with a grey-brown silty sand (2310) that contained a single flint flake and pottery of late 2nd-late 4th century date.

4.1.27 A hollow in the natural sand (2305) had filled with a deposit of sandy clay (2306), probably a hillwash deposit. This layer produced pottery of Roman date and evidence of iron slag, indicating industrial processes nearby. A single flint flake was also recovered. The deposit was sealed beneath the topsoil (2301).

**4.2 Finds*****The Pottery by Dan Stansbie (OA)***

4.2.1 A total of 118 sherds, weighing 1,348 g, were recovered (Table 1). This material was rapidly scanned to determine context dates and to assess the character of the pottery.

Where necessary the pottery was examined under a binocular microscope at x 20 magnification to aid in identification of the fabric. A note was made of the most diagnostic pottery using OA's later prehistoric and Roman pottery recording system (Booth 2004). Reference was also made to Perrin's report on the Roman pottery from Durobrivae, Water Newton, Cambridgeshire (Perrin 1999).

- 4.2.2 With an average sherd weight of 11 g the condition of the assemblage is generally good and surfaces are well preserved, although there are some small groups of poorly preserved prehistoric material. Residuality is difficult to assess without full recording. However, with the exception of a handful of contexts, most groups appear have a high degree of chronological integrity.
- 4.2.3 Pottery from the evaluation largely comprises material of Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval date; although there are two sherds of miscellaneous prehistoric material (P), which are too abraded to be identified more closely, and a very abraded sherd of sand and flint-tempered material (AF), which may predate the Iron Age.
- 4.2.4 Middle Iron Age pottery mostly consists of sandy and micaceous material (AM), with some sandy and shelly fabrics (AS), some sandy and limestone fabrics (AL) and some sandy and organic fabrics (AV). Two rim sherds from vessels of middle Iron Age date are present, both are from barrel-shaped or slack-sided jars and one comes from a vessel with a flaring rim.
- 4.2.5 One context (103) contained 11 body sherds of fine sandy material of late Iron Age date (E20). Two of these sherds had combed decoration. In addition context 203 contained a sherd of grog and shell-tempered pottery (E13), also of late Iron Age date.
- 4.2.6 Two contexts (318 and 2304) contained sherds of late Iron Age grog-tempered ware (E80), although these contexts were not dated to the late Iron Age. Roman material, the bulk of which dates to the late 2nd to late 4th centuries AD, comprises a range of locally produced coarse wares, including sandy grey ware (R20) and Roman shelly fabric (C10). In addition a number of different regionally produced fabrics are present, including Nene Valley colour-coated ware (F52), Colchester colour-coated ware (F55) and Hadham oxidised ware (F56).
- 4.2.7 Few rim sherds survived, although context 322 produced several rim sherds from a medium-mouthed jar in sandy oxidised ware (O20) and context 311 had two rim sherds from wide-mouthed jars or bowls, one in Nene Valley colour-coated ware and the other in Hadham oxidised ware.
- 4.2.8 The largest Roman group came from context 604 and included sherds of Roman shelly fabric (C10), sandy grey ware (R20), a rim sherd from a dish or wide mouthed jar in medium/fine grey ware (R30), a rim sherd from a dish in Colchester colour-coated ware (F55), Nene Valley colour-coated ware (F52) and Hadham oxidised ware (F56).
- 4.2.9 The post-medieval assemblage comprises a miscellaneous collection of body sherds.

Table 1: Pottery by context, date and fabric

Ctx	sherds	Wt(g)	Comments	Spot Date
100	1	60	Post-medieval	Pmed
103	11	84	E20 sand-tempered fabric, combed decoration on body sherds	LIA-LC1
104	7	72	AF sand & flint-tempered fabric, AM sandy and micaceous fabric	MIA
108	1	6	AL sand and limestone fabric	MIA
201	14	114	AM sandy and micaceous fabric	MIA
203	3	10	AM sandy & micaceous fabric (E13)grog & shell-tempered fabric	LIA
208	1	4	AM sandy and micaceous fabric	MIA
211	1	12	AV sandy and organic fabric	IA
300		38	AS sandy and shelly fabric (1 jar with flaring rim)	MIA
302	1	4	Prehistoric	P
310	1	108	O20 oxidised ware (1pedestal base)	Rom
311	1	86	F52 Nene Valley colour-coated ware ( 1 wide-mouthed jar or bowl), F56 Hadham oxidised ware (1 wide mouthed jar)	LC3-C4
317	1	48	R20 sandy grey ware	Rom
318	2	20	E80 grog-tempered ware, F52 Nene Valley colour-coated ware	LC2-LC4
322	5	146	O20 sandy oxidised ware (1 medium mouthed jar)	MC1-EC2
601	2	12	AS sandy and shelly fabric	MIA
604	45	406	C10 Roman shell-tempered fabric, R20 sandy grey ware, R30 medium/fine grey ware (1 dish/wide-mouthed jar), F55 Colchester-colour-coated ware (1 triangular rimmed dish), F52 Nene Valley colour-coated ware, F56 Hadham oxidised ware with Romano-Saxon decoration?	EC3-MC3
607	2	8	R20 sandy grey ware, F53 Nene Valley colour-coated ware	LC2-LC4
704	5	20	Post-medieval, R20 sandy grey ware, AM sandy and micaceous (1 barrel-shaped? jar)	Pmed
800	2	10	AM sandy and micaceous fabric	MIA
901	1	16	post-medieval	Pmed
904	1	16	post-medieval	Pmed
1406	3	14	post-medieval	Pmed
1408	3	14	medieval, post-medieval	Pmed
2304	2	10	Q30 white-slipped sandy grey ware, E20 sand-tempered fabric, E80 grog-tempered fabric	LC1
2305	1	4	O20 sandy oxidised ware	Rom
2310	1	6	F52 Nene Valley colour-coated ware	LC2-LC4

*Lithics by Rebecca Daveaney (OA)*

4.2.10 A total of twenty pieces of worked flint and eleven fragments (45 g) of burnt unworked flint were recovered (Table 2). The technological characteristics seen suggest a later Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

*Table 2: Summary of worked and burnt unworked flint by type and context*

Flint category	Context														Total
	103	104	211	301	310	311	314	318	319	325	607	2304	2305	2310	
Flake		3	1		1			3		2	1	1	1	1	14
Blade		1													1
Blade-like flake										1					1
Irregular waste												1			1
Fragmentary core	1														1
End scraper												1			1
Miscellaneous retouch				1											1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>
Burnt unworked count			3			1	2		1			3		1	11
Burnt unworked weight (g)			35			1	1		1			2		5	45

4.2.11 The worked flint is in a fair condition, with all pieces having suffered light to moderate post-depositional damage. Most pieces remain un-corticated; however, light to moderate cortication was seen on six pieces. Just seven pieces are broken and none are burnt. These conditions are consistent with the probable residual nature of the artefacts.

4.2.12 In general, the unretouched debitage is reminiscent of later prehistoric flint working and probably dates to the hard hammer industries of the late Neolithic and Bronze Age. Technological characteristics include clear points and cones of percussion and pronounced ventral ripples. The single blade has a punctiform butt, a characteristic frequently seen on blades that derive from a planned and carefully executed reduction strategy, as employed in the Mesolithic and early Neolithic. The fragmentary core has negative flake scars, some of which are truncated by thermal surfaces which suggests it is the remains of a broken flake core. Incipient cones of percussion imply a rather poor knapping action. The piece is quite small, weighing just 22 g. The end scraper has direct retouch on the distal end, pronounced ripples and a clear cone of percussion. The piece with miscellaneous retouch has direct retouch on the distal right, which creates a sharp point on the distal end and inverse retouch has been used on the proximal end in an attempt to thin the bulb. The piece may be an unfinished arrowhead or knife and the point may have been used for piercing, however, the flake is very thin, which may have been the reason for abandonment. The cores and tools

are not chronologically diagnostic, but are consistent with the rest of the probable later Neolithic to Bronze Age assemblage.

- 4.2.13 The flint assemblage suggests small-scale activity at the site during the later Neolithic and Bronze Age. Its association with Iron Age and Roman pottery implies much of the flint is residual. The interpretative value of the material is limited by the small assemblage size.

#### ***CBM and Fired Clay by Cynthia Poole (OA)***

- 4.2.14 A small quantity of fired clay and ceramic building material was recovered from five trenches (ten contexts - see Table below). This amounted to a total of 52 fragments weighing 1,068 g, of which six items could be positively identified as ceramic building material and one as fired clay. The remainder could not be positively assigned to either category. The material has been visually examined with the aid of a x10 hand lens, quantified and categorised and recorded in relation to form and fabric.

- 4.2.15 Four fabric groups were identified:

Fabric 1 was a yellowish red sandy clay containing clay pellets.

Fabric 2 a laminated silty clay, light yellow/red in colour, sometimes vesicular in texture (2.1).

Fabric 3 was a yellowish red or brown, laminated clay containing a high density of quartz sand, fine clay pellets and small stone grit.

Fabric 4 was a sandy clay, containing red ferruginous clay pellets and buff silty clay pellets with the clay matrix laminated in some samples.

- 4.2.16 The forms of ceramic building material identified included post-medieval flat roof tile from contexts 300, 607 and 1405 and post-medieval brick fragments from contexts from 1405 and 1406. One roof tile had white sandy lime mortar adhering to its surface. The only diagnostic material of earlier date was a partial Roman brick from context 604.

- 4.2.17 Some undiagnostic fragments of fired clay with two surfaces at an obtuse angle from context 211 were identified as possible oven structure. None of the remaining fragments could be identified and though some pieces had a single surface, it was not possible to judge whether these were fired clay or building material.

- 4.2.18 *Discussion:* The post-medieval material is probably associated with the quarrying for sand and greensand in this period. Most of the remaining material is likely to be associated with the Iron Age - Roman settlement. The character of the assemblage is not indicative of buildings utilising ceramic materials, but suggests the presence of ovens and hearths.

- 4.2.19 Roman structures frequently used brick or flat tiles built into oven walls, as supports for floors or as baffles or covers for flues. The undiagnostic fragments of ceramic material, in view of the general character of the site, are likely to represent fired clay from oven or hearth bases, and would be consistent with an Iron Age or Roman date.

- 4.2.20 Any small oval or irregular shallow hollows could represent such features and in situ burning, which often only occurs around the upper edges need not be present if truncated by ploughing or machining.

Table 3: Building materials and fired clay by context

Ctx	S. No.	Nos	Wt (g)	MF W	Fab	Form	Description	Obj Date
200	~	3	79	26.3		FC/CBM	Not seen by specialist	
211	<1> Sieved	5	76	15.2	4.3	FC: Oven?	One flat surface with second more undulating surface at an obtuse angle to it. Surface fired to an orange colour, except one small fragment fired to whitish buff.	PH/RB
211	<1> Sieved	6	71	11.8		FC/CBM	Not seen by specialist	
211	<1> Sieved	5	5	1.0	2 & 4.3	Unid FC/CBM	Amorphous.	
300	~	1	37	37.0	1	Roof: flat	Corner fragment. Distinct camber; rounded arrises. Quite coarse moulding sand.	PM (17th-19th C)
301	~	2	258	129.0		FC/CBM	Not seen by specialist	
319	~	3	71	23.7		FC/CBM	Not seen by specialist	
325	~	5	29	5.8	2	Unid	Flat surface - could be FC or CBM	PH/RB?
325	~	1	5	5.0	4.3	Unid	Amorphous - unclear whether this is FC or CBM	PH/RB?
604	~	2	239	119.5	3	Brick	Flat fairly even surfaces, top more irregular than base. Base sanded. Surfaces whitish-grey, possibly burnt.	RB
607	~	1	15	15.0	2.1	Roof: flat	Fairly smooth top, rough base; distinct camber	early PM
607	~	1	10	10.0	4.3	Unid	Amorphous - unclear whether this is FC or CBM	PH/RB?
607	~	4	12	3.0	2	Unid	Two joining fragments have plano-convex surface, but function unclear - uncertain whether this is FC or CBM	
1402	~	4	6	1.5	4	Unid/Brick	Two look like PM brick fragments; others amorphous.	?PM
1402	~	4	22	5.5	4.1	Unid	Unclear whether this is FC or CBM	?
1405	~	1	107	107.0	4.2	Brick	Small area of surface. Patches of mortar	PM (17th-19th C)
1405	~	1	19	19.0	2	Roof: flat	Smooth upper surface, cambered, mostly obscured by mortar.	PM (17th-19th C)
1405	~	1	3	3.0	4	Unid	Amorphous - unclear whether this is FC or CBM	
1406	~	2	4	2.0	4.2	Brick?	Amorphous, but v. similar to brick from (1405)	?PM
<b>Total</b>		<b>52</b>	<b>1068</b>					

***Animal bones by Lena Strid (OA)***

4.2.21 A total of 201 animal bones were recovered from the site. Most bones were in a good condition. Burned bones were scarce and only one bone displayed gnaw marks. 147 bones (73.1%) were retained from sieved contexts. The bone assemblage seems to reflect domestic activity.

4.2.22 The predominance of cattle in the assemblage (see Table 3) is to be considered normal, regardless of time period. The presence of dogs is shown by gnaw marks on a

large mammal femur. Butchering marks were found on three bones. Horizontal cut marks were found distally on a cattle metacarpal and proximally on a sheep/goat metacarpal, both cases indicating skinning. The deer antler displayed several chop marks, none of which would have been successful in severing the branch. Pathologies were found on a horse metatarsal, which displayed exostoses distally, as well as some woven bone growth at the distal joint.

Table 4: Total bone assemblage from WILBCA06.

Category	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Deer	Mouse	Rodent	Small mammal	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Indet.
Antler						1						
Horncore	18											
Skull		1	1								1	
Mandible	2						1					
Loose teeth								1				
Atlas											1	
Vertebra											5	
Rib										5	2	
Scapula	1											
Humerus	1											
Radius	1											
Metacarpal	1	2										
Femur	1			1							1	
Calcaneus										1		
Tarsal bone	1											
Metatarsal		1			1							
Phalanx 1	1											
Indet. phalanx										1		
Longbone									2	5	2	1
Indeterminate											3	134
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>135</b>

### Clay Pipe and Iron by Rose Grant (OA)

4.2.23 A total of seven fragments of clay pipe and four pieces of iron were recovered. The tables below give the quantification for each context.

Tables 5 and 6: Clay pipes and Iron objects

Context	No of Objects	Weight (g)	Material
700	1	3	Clay Pipe
704	3	9	Clay Pipe
706	1	7	Clay Pipe
1408	2	7	Clay Pipe

Context	No of Objects	Weight (g)	Material	Object
604	1	0	Iron	Nail
1405	2	0	Iron	Nail
1406	1	0	Iron	Nail

### 4.3 Palaeo-environmental remains: summary

- 4.3.1 Five samples were taken from a range of feature types (including post-holes, gullies/ditches and deposits) thought to date from the Bronze Age/Iron Age and the Romano-British periods. Charcoal was present in all the analysed flots and common in sample 1 (context 211).
- 4.3.2 Cereal grains and chaff were present in two of the samples. *Avena* sp (oats) and grains resembling free threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*) was present in sample 2 (context 319). Cereal chaff comprising glume bases of probable *T. spelta* were also present in sample 2 (context 319) and sample 4 (context 314).
- 4.3.3 A range of weed seeds which appear to be preserved by waterlogging were present in sample 4 (context 311), however the assemblage was dominated by seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus niger*), which are particularly robust and often survive in preference to other seeds. A full report is contained in Appendix 2.

## 5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

### 5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The evaluation was only partially successful in investigating the area initially proposed for evaluation due to access difficulties. Twenty-three trenches were proposed to be opened: access restrictions meant that only 15 could be machined, while Trench 10 was only partly excavated owing to consent problems.
- 5.1.2 As a result, the east and south-east parts of the site remain to be evaluated. At the time of the evaluation, ground and weather conditions were good: ground water posed no problems during machining.
- 5.1.3 Due to the trenches being spread over a large area and accessible via different roads/lanes, a JCB was used to aid mobility. However, due to the depths of the trenches and the dry compact nature of the excavated soils the machine was operating at the limits of its ability, which slowed its excavation rate.
- 5.1.4 The compact nature of the soils meant that the machining of spits could not always be achieved at the desired thickness. A 360<sup>0</sup> excavator would of been better suited to the work required, but would of required additional tracking time and movements by low-loader.
- 5.1.5 Natural was revealed in all trenches. In places it was clear that the natural (and in places archaeological features) had been masked by hillwash/colluvial soils washed down-slope at various times since the site was first occupied. As a result, prehistoric flints found in association with material of clearly later date must have moved from their original locations.
- 5.1.6 The effects of hillwash action moving finds from their original location into later features indicates that it is likely that a prehistoric site (or sites) exists, whose location has not, thus far, been revealed by the trenching exercise.

- 5.1.7 Nonetheless, groups of features of Iron Age and Roman date have clearly been established based on good assemblages of ceramic evidence at the south-west part of the site. Post-medieval quarrying activities will have disturbed earlier archaeology and it is probable that ploughing has truncated some archaeological features: ridge and furrow can clearly be seen on the geophysical plots across the site.
- 5.1.8 In that part of the site where access was available, the trenching was successful in identifying, characterising and dating the geophysical anomalies.

## 5.2 Overall interpretation

### *Summary of results*

- 5.2.1 The earliest material comprised a collection of flint tools, flakes and blades dating to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. The majority of these were found in contexts of demonstrably later date, but the number of finds is a reasonable indication of more intense prehistoric pre-Iron Age activity up-slope.
- 5.2.2 The geophysical survey undertaken prior to the evaluation showed distinct areas of concentrated activity and within trenches excavated near these areas (in this case Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 23), the archaeological horizon was well defined (Fig. 10). A second intense area of anomalies to the east of this was not investigated at this stage (Trenches 18, 21 etc).
- 5.2.3 In the area of Trenches 1, 2, 3 6 and 23, south of the complex of anomalies, features comprised ditches, gullies, postholes and pits. The majority of the pottery from these dates to the middle Iron Age and the density of features suggests that this is the site of a farmstead.
- 5.2.4 The absence of late Iron Age pottery and early Roman material from these trenches suggests that the site went out of use, or at least contracted for a time, as the next dating evidence from this area suggests that the site was reused again in the later Roman period (given the presence of Nene Valley colour-coated ware in ditch feature 307 and later Roman material in ditches 316 and 322).
- 5.2.5 Evidence from the analysis of the building materials and fired clay indicates that clay ovens and hearths were associated with the site, the remains of these being found in the feature fills south of the complex.
- 5.2.6 The animal bone assemblage and environmental analysis suggest mixed farming was practised here. Cattle bones dominate the assemblage and cereal grains and chaff was present in the fills of features in Trench 3. Trench 3 also contained a small quantity of iron slag, indicating some industrial processes in the vicinity.
- 5.2.7 The northern extent of the farmstead site maybe marked by a Roman ditch in Trench 6. Trenches 4 and 5 nearby were devoid of features. Trench 6 also contained post-medieval features, as did Trench 7.

5.2.8 Away from the farmstead site, ridge and furrow is noted across the whole development area and shows clearly on the geophysical plots. Areas of Post-medieval quarrying for sand extraction were noted to the north-east in Trench 9 and in Trench 14 to the south/central part of the site, where further quarrying for sand appears to have been undertaken.

### *Significance*

5.2.9 The limited results from this evaluation suggest that the geophysics plots give a reasonable indication of the below ground remains across the site. Where the plots showed few anomalies, then this was generally confirmed by the results from the trenching. However, exact correlation between the anomalies and the actual excavated features was not always evident: the 'L'-shaped ditch in Trench 3 matches almost exactly the geophysics anomaly, but features in Trench 1 were smaller than the anomalies indicated by the survey. In places features were found where no clear anomalies were shown on the plots, for example at the west end of Trench 3 and at the south end of Trench 23 (Fig 10). There is a reasonable match between the ditch in Trench 6 and its corresponding anomaly (Fig. 11), but for Trench 11 (Fig. 12), there is little if any correlation.

5.2.10 Although the pottery assemblage is not large, it has a relatively restricted date range and there are some good groups, with well preserved datable and diagnostic pottery. The Iron Age assemblage is too fragmentary to inform about sites status during this period. However, the absence of decorated body sherds is perhaps significant.

5.2.11 During the Roman period the presence of products from the main regional fine ware industries attests to wide ranging contacts and relatively high-status, Although the complete absence of samian ware is notable. This is probably due to chronological factors, as the emphasis of the Roman assemblage is on the late Roman period. However, it may simply be due to the small size of the assemblage.

5.2.12 Overall it can be stated that there is a sizeable middle Iron Age site in the western part of the development area, clearly reused in the later Roman period. It is likely that the anomaly complex east of the known site is of comparable date, though trenching is needed here to clarify this. Post-medieval quarrying and ridge and furrow agriculture appear to be the principal activities away from the farmstead site in later periods.

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench	Ctxt No	Type	Width (m)	Depth/Thick. (m)	Comment
1	100	Layer		0.35	Topsoil
1	101	Layer		0.3	Ploughsoil
1	102	Layer		0.55	Colluvium
1	103	Fill		0.23	Fill of 107
1	104	Fill		0.65	Fill of 106
1	105	Fill		0.08	Fill of 106
1	106	Cut	1.3	0.72	Ditch
1	107	Cut	0.51	0.23	Gully/ditch
1	108	Fill		0.65	Fill of 109
1	109	Cut	1.93	0.65	Ditch
1	110	Layer		0.15	Colluvium
1	111	Layer			Natural
2	200	Layer		0.38	Topsoil
2	201	Layer		0.4	Ploughsoil
2	202	Layer			Natural
2	203	Fill		0.9	Fill of 205
2	204	Fill		0.58	Fill of 205
2	205	Cut	0.6	0.67	Ditch
2	206	Fill		0.25	In 207
2	207	Cut	0.25	0.5	Gully/ditch
2	208	Layer		0.5	Colluvium
2	209	Layer		0.22	Colluvium
2	210	Cut		0.54	Posthole
2	211	Fill		0.54	Fill of 210
2	212	Fill		0.26	Fill of 213
2	213	Cut		0.28	Gully/ditch
2	214	Cut		0.26	Posthole
2	215	Fill		0.26	Fill of 214
2	216	Layer		0.24	Colluvium
2	217	Cut	1 m+	0.2	Hollow
3	300	Layer		0.3	Topsoil
3	301	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil
3	302	Layer		0.25	?Colluvium
3	303	Layer			Natural
3	304	Void			Void
3	305	Fill		0.1	Fill of 306
3	306	Cut		0.1	Pit
3	307	Cut	1.92	0.9	Ditch
3	308	Fill		0.2	Fill of 307
3	309	Fill		0.26	In 307
3	310	Fill		0.48	In 307
3	311	Fill		0.22	In 307
3	312	Fill		0.14	In 313
3	313	Cut	0.84	0.43	Ditch
3	314	Fill		0.82	Fill of 320
3	315	Fill		0.8	In 320
3	316	Cut	0.94		Ditch
3	317	Fill		0.34	In 316
3	318	Fill		0.37	In 313
3	319	Fill		0.96	In 320
3	320	Cut		0.96	Ditch
3	321	Cut	0.7	0.38	Ditch
3	322	Fill		0.38	In 321
3	323	Cut	1.76	0.62	Ditch
3	324	Fill		0.62	In 323

3	325	Fill		0.72	Fill of 326
3	326	Cut	2.1	0.72	Ditch
3	327	Fill			Fill of 328
3	328	Cut	0.55		Pit
3	329	Fill			Fill of 330
3	330	Cut	1		Pit
3	331	Layer		0.28	Colluvium
4	400	Layer		0.28	Topsoil
4	401	Layer		0.18	?Ploughsoil
4	402	Layer			Natural
5	500	Layer			Topsoil
5	501	Layer			Ploughsoil
5	502	Layer			Natural
6	600	Layer		0.25	Topsoil
6	601	Layer		0.15	Ploughsoil
6	602	Layer			Natural
6	603	Cut	0.64	0.24	Gully/ditch
6	604	Fill		0.24	In 603
6	605	Fill		0.25	In 608
6	606	Fill		0.22	In 608
6	607	Fill		0.5	In 608
6	608	Cut	1.38	0.84	Quarry pit
7	700	Layer		0.3	Topsoil
7	701	Layer		0.24	Ploughsoil
7	702	Layer			Natural
7	703	Cut			Quarry pit
7	704	Fill			In 703
7	705	Cut			Quarry pit
7	706	Fill			In 705
7	707	Group ctx			Quarry pit
7	708	Layer			Quarry upcast layer
8	800	Layer		0.2	Topsoil
8	801	Layer		0.75	Colluvium
9	900	Layer			Topsoil
9	901	Layer			Ploughsoil
9	902	Layer			Natural
9	903	Cut			Land drain
9	904	Fill			Land drain fill
10	1000	Layer		0.2	Topsoil
10	1001	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil
10	1002	Layer			Natural
11	1100	Layer		0.22	Topsoil
11	1101	Layer		0.25	Ploughsoil
11	1102	Layer			Natural
11	1103	Fill	0.76	0.17	In 1104
11	1104	Cut	0.76	0.17	Ditch
12	1200	Layer		0.25	Topsoil
12	1201	Layer		0.1	Ploughsoil
12	1202	Layer			Natural
13	1300	Layer		0.26	Topsoil
13	1301	Layer		0.08	Ploughsoil
13	1302	Layer			Natural
14	1400	Layer		0.3	Topsoil
14	1401	Layer			Natural
14	1402	Fill		0.26	In 1403
14	1403	Cut	0.44	0.26	Gully/ditch
14	1404	Cut	2.66	0.46	Ditch
14	1405	Fill		0.26	In 1404
14	1406	Fill			in 1407
14	1407	Cut			Ditch
14	1408	Fill		0.19	in 1404
14	1409	Fill		0.34	in 1404

23	2300	Layer		0.3	Topsoil
23	2301	Layer		0.32	Ploughsoil
23	2302	Layer			Natural
23	2303	Cut			Ditch
23	2304	Fill			in 2303
23	2305	Layer		0.22	Layer in hollow
23	2306	Layer			Colluvium
23	2307	Cut			?feature
23	2308	Fill		0.38	in 2307
23	2309	Cut	1	0.4	Pit
23	2310	Fill		0.4	Fill of 2309

## APPENDIX 2 ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

### *By Seren Griffiths (OA)*

**Methodology:** Five samples were taken from a range of feature types (including post-holes, gullies/ditches and deposits) features were thought date from the Bronze Age/Iron Age and the Romano-British periods (see table \* for details). The samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains, molluscs and small bones and artefacts. Samples were processed by flotation using a modified Siraf-type machine, the flot being collected onto a 250 micron mesh. The remaining material was then wet sieved through a column for the recovery of small bones and artefacts. The residue was washed onto 500 micron mesh and retained. The flots and residues were air-dried and the flots scanned under a binocular microscope. The flot from sample 4 (context 311) was kept wet as potentially waterlogged remains were discovered during processing. The residues were sorted for bones and artefacts down to 4mm and the remaining material retained. Initially assessment was undertaken at Oxford Archaeology by Seren Griffiths.

*Plant Remains:* Dried flots ranged in size from 30ml to 200ml. Modern straw, weed seeds and woody elements were present in samples 1 (context 211), 2 (context 319), 3 (context 314) and 5 (context 2304). Charcoal was present in all the flots and common in sample 1 (context 211), with further work this would be identifiable to species. Cereal grains and chaff were present in two of the samples. *Avena* sp (oats) and grains resembling free threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*) was present in sample 2 (context 319). Cereal chaff comprising glume bases of probable *T. spelta* were also present in sample 2 (context 319) and sample 4 (context 314). A range of weed seeds which appear to be preserved by waterlogging were present in sample 4 (context 311), however the assemblage was dominated by seeds of elderberry (*Sambucus niger*), which are particularly robust and often survive in preference to other seeds.

*Environmentally recovered finds:* Bone, pot, ceramic building material, burnt clay and burnt flint were found in several of the sample residues and flots (see table \*). These were passed to the finds department. Of particular interest was one item of hammerscale in the 4-2mm residue from sample 3 (context 314). Slag material was recovered from this context on site and the presence of hammerscale provides evidence of metalworking, albeit scant.

**Discussion and recommendations:** There is significant recent plant matter (straw and weed seeds) in all of the dried samples from this site. The presence of this material in the samples is attributed to straw cutting in the vicinity during sample collection. Evidence of hulled wheat grain and chaff is interesting as it suggests that some cereal processing took place on the site. The evidence for free threshing wheat is also of interest: free threshing wheat may have been a crop in its own right in the late Roman period, but it is more often regarded as a post-Roman staple (Campbell and Straker unpublished). While it would appear that the ditch sample

contained anaerobically preserved material, the flot was dominated by robust taxa and does not appear to offer much scope for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction. However, the presence of waterlogging, though limited, should be borne in mind in any future excavations. Snails were not recovered, which may indicate that soil conditions at the site are not sufficiently calcareous for snail shell survival. During any further work, suitable deposits should be sampled in line with Oxford Archaeology Sampling Guidelines (2002) and English Heritage Sampling Guidelines (2002).

*Environmental Information by sample and context*

Sample No	Ctx	Flot vol (ml)	Type of context	Charcoal	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other	Molluscs	Vol floated (litres)	Environmentally recovered finds and residues	Notes
1	211	80	Probable pre-historic posthole	+++						25	B+, CBM +, BC +, BF +	Modern straw, wood
2	319	30	Roman gully	+	+ <i>Avena</i> sp, + cf freethreshing wheat	+ cf <i>T. spelta</i>				25	BF +	Modern straw, wood
3	314	200	Dark layer TR 3 producing slag	+	+ Cereal indet.	+ cf <i>T. spelta</i>				25	HS + present in 4-2mm fraction	
4	311	WPR	Dark layer of top of ditch	+			+++			25	B +, ?BC+, BF +, P +	Waterlogged?
5	2304	30	Ditch fill IA/BA	+						25	BF +	Modern straw, wood

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), +=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100) ++++=abundant (>100)

B= bone, BC= burnt clay, BF= burnt flint, CBM= ceramic building material, HS= hammerscale, P = pot

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Perrin, J R, 1999 Roman pottery from excavations at and near to the Roman small town of Durobrivae, Water Newton, Cambridgeshire, 1956-58. *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* 8

### APPENDIX 4 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

**Site name:** Land at Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (Mereham New Community)

**Site code:** WILBCA 06

**Grid reference:** TL 489 730

**Type of evaluation:** Trench evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 5th-12th July 2006

**Area of site:** 300 ha.

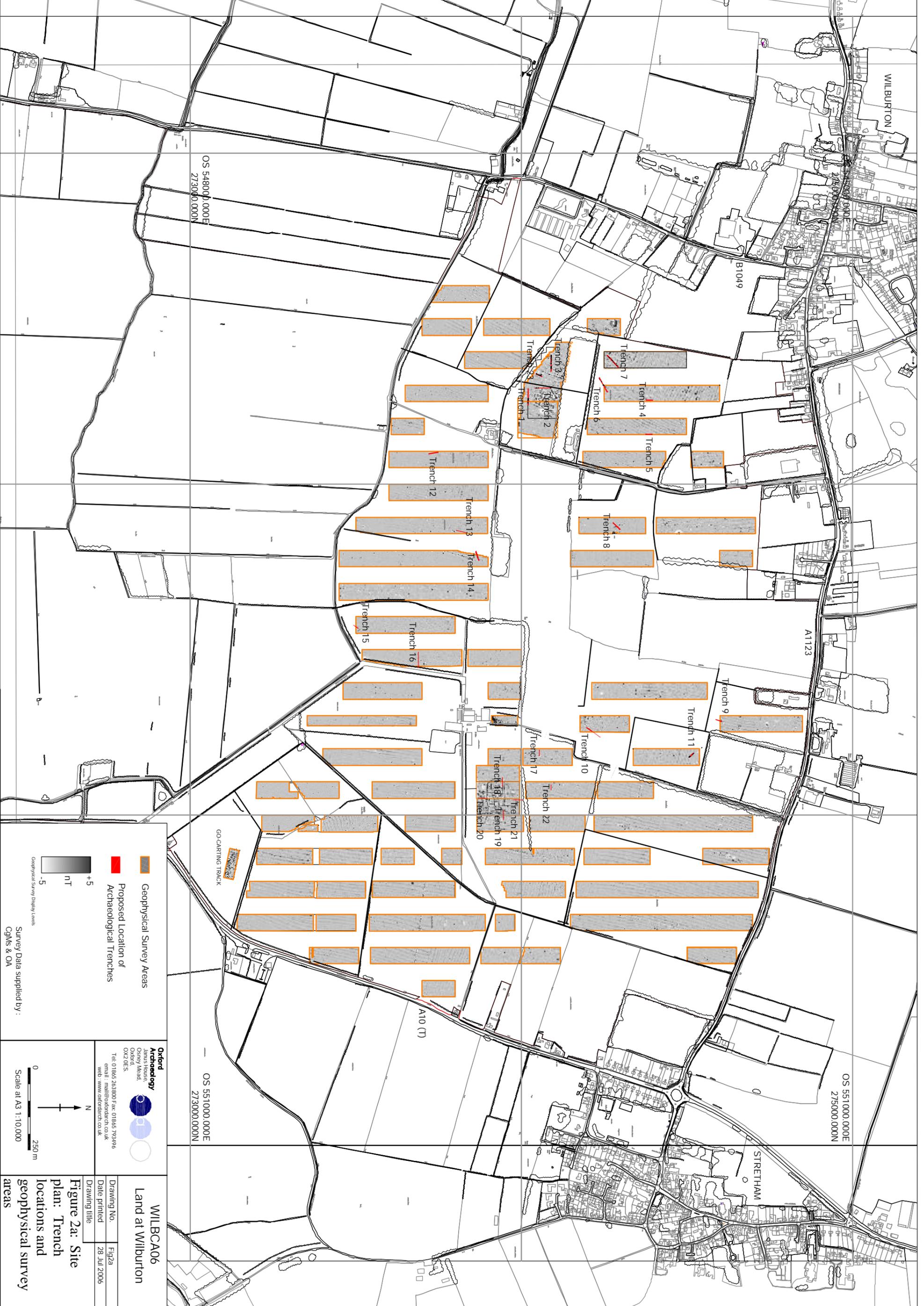
**Summary of results:** The evaluation revealed the southern extent of a middle Iron Age farmstead in the western part of the development area. The site appears to have contracted or gone out of use, based on ceramic evidence, before being re-used in the later Roman period. Elsewhere, post-medieval quarries, probably opened to extract the underlying sand were noted. Ridge and furrow agriculture is visible through geophysical survey plots across much of the site. Of note was a small assemblage of late Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts, all of which were found in association with later pottery. The effects of hillwash/colluvium formation appear to have moved these artefacts from their original location, the suggestion being that there may be an earlier prehistoric site in the vicinity, probably on the higher ground at the north of the site.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Museum in due course, under the following **Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Resource Number : ECB 2329**



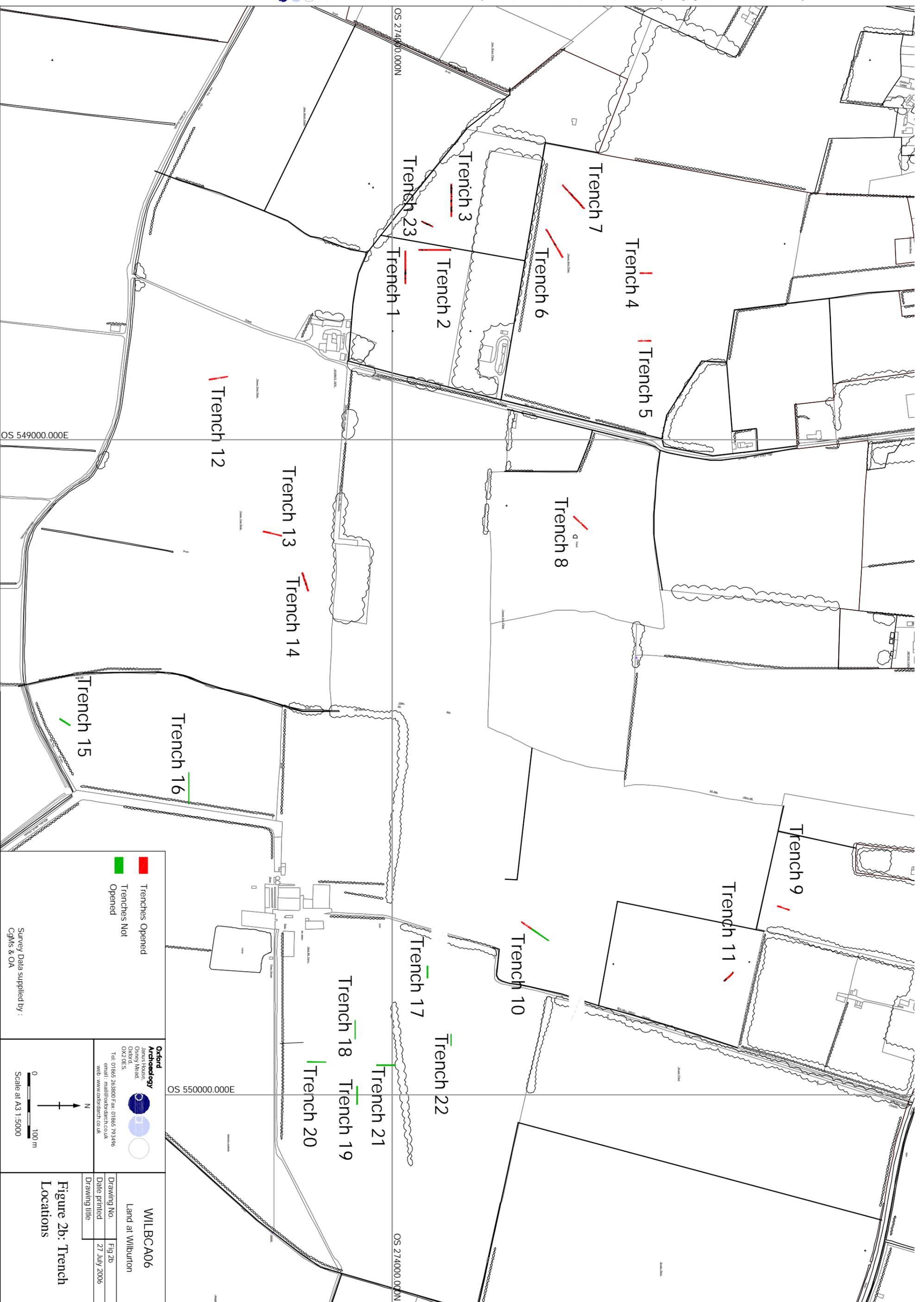


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<p><b>Geophysical Survey Areas</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Location of Archaeological Trenches</b></p> <p>Geophysical Survey Display Levels</p> <p>Survey Data supplied by: Cgms &amp; OA</p>	<p>Legend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orange outline: Geophysical Survey Areas</li> <li>Red outline: Proposed Location of Archaeological Trenches</li> </ul>
	<p>Geophysical Survey Display Levels</p> <p>+5</p> <p>nT</p> <p>-5</p>
<p><b>WILBCA06</b></p> <p><b>Land at Wilburton</b></p>	<p><b>Oxford Archaeology</b></p> <p>James House Osney Mead Oxford OX2 0ES</p> <p>Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496 email: mail@oxfordarch.co.uk web: www.oxfordarch.co.uk</p>
<p>Drawing No. Fig2a</p> <p>Date printed 28 Jul 2006</p> <p>Drawing title</p>	<p>Scale at A3 1:10,000</p> <p>0 250 m</p> <p>Scale at A3 1:10,000</p>
<p><b>Figure 2a: Site plan: Trench locations and geophysical survey areas</b></p>	

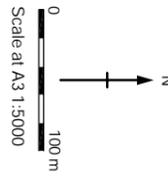
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█ Trenches Not Opened  
█ Trenches Opened

Survey Data supplied by :  
CgMs & OA

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Drawing No.	Fig 2b
Date printed	27 July 2006
Drawing title	

**Figure 2b: Trench Locations**

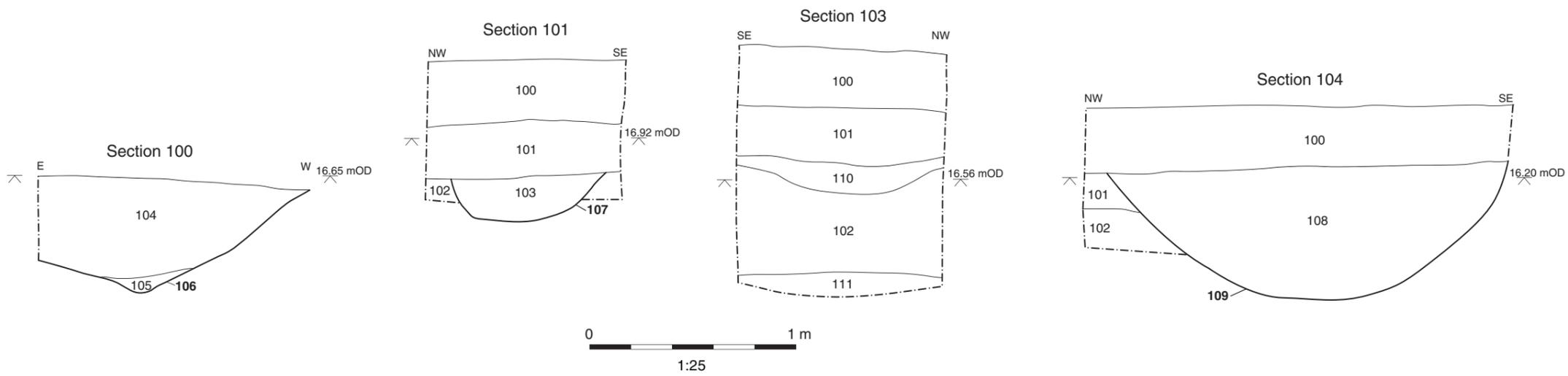
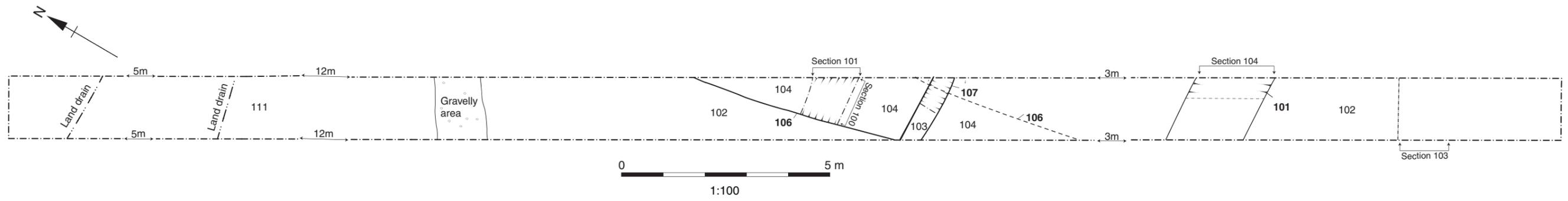
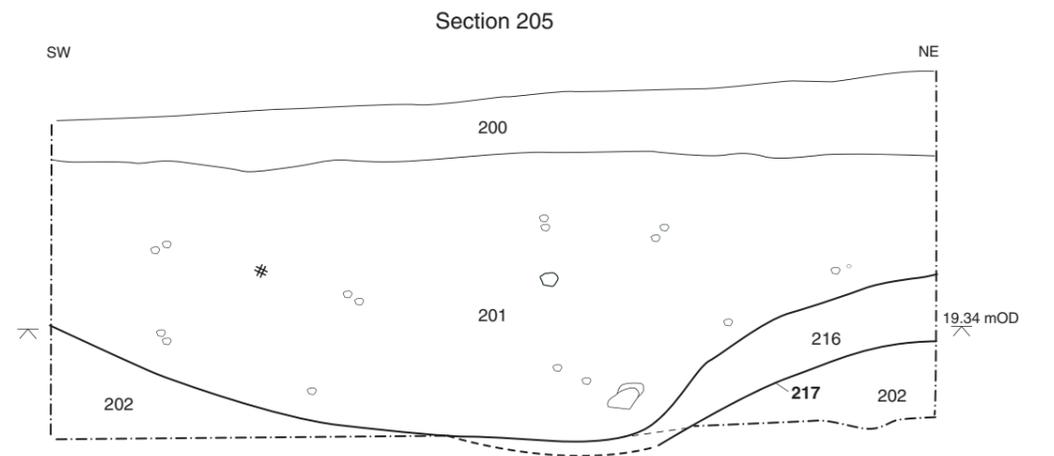
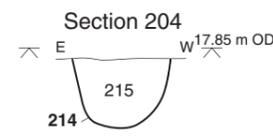
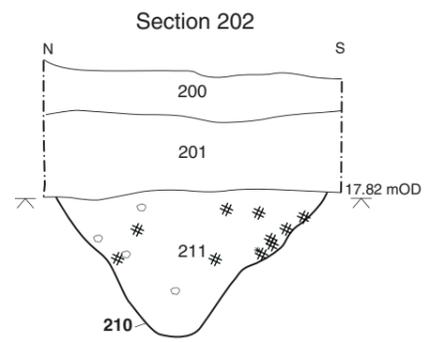
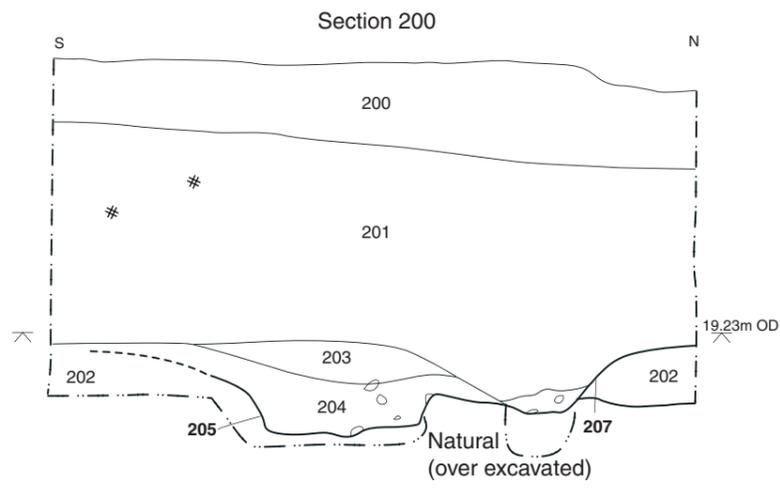
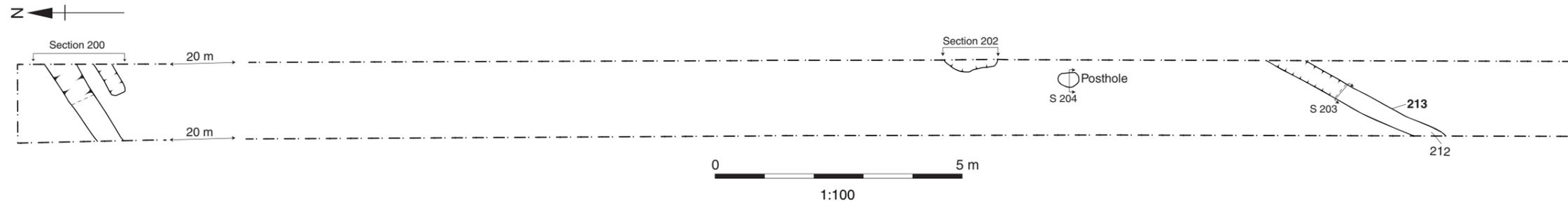


Figure 3: Trench 1, plan and sections



# Charcoal



Figure 4: Trench 2, plan and sections

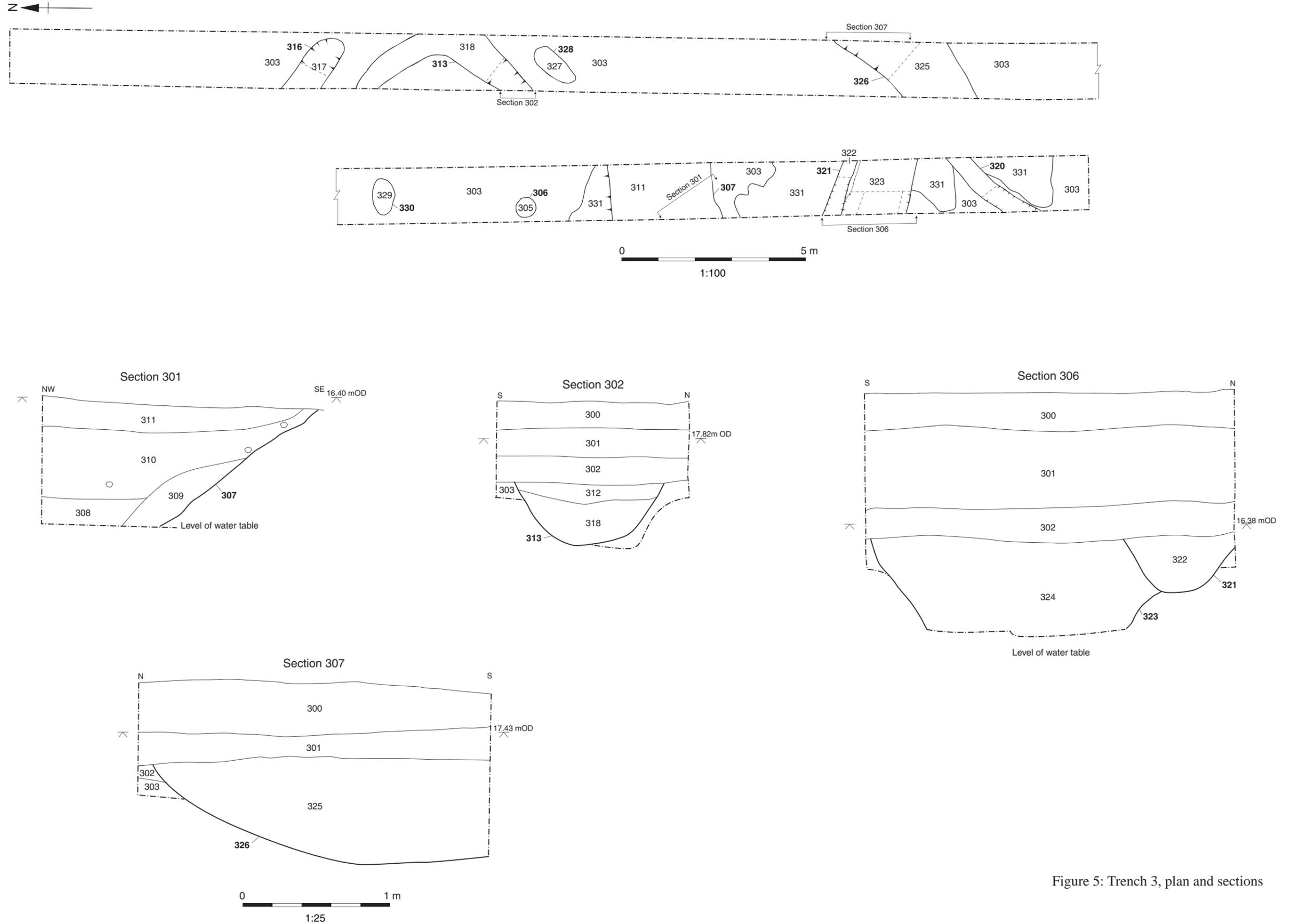


Figure 5: Trench 3, plan and sections

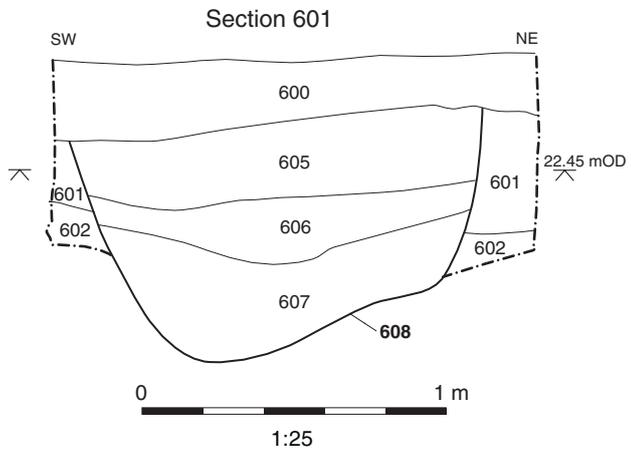
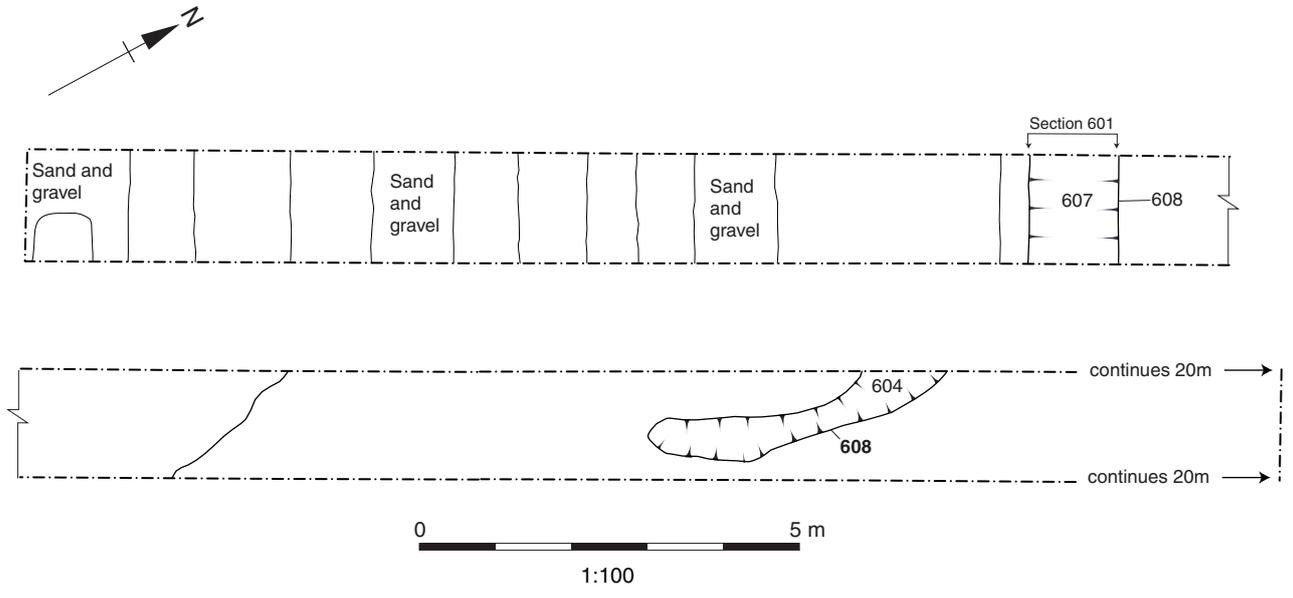


Figure 6: Trench 6, plan and sections

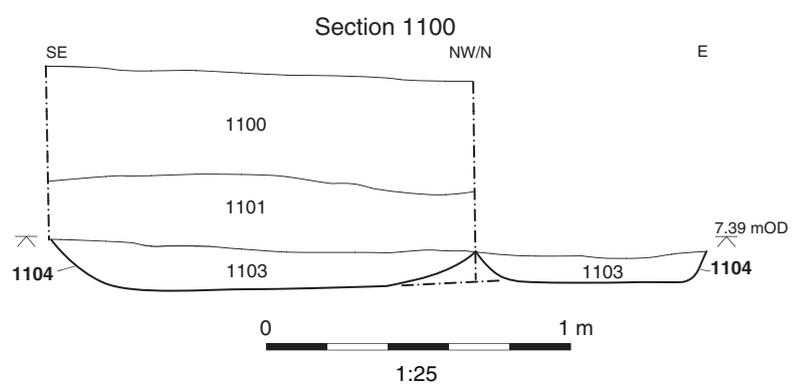
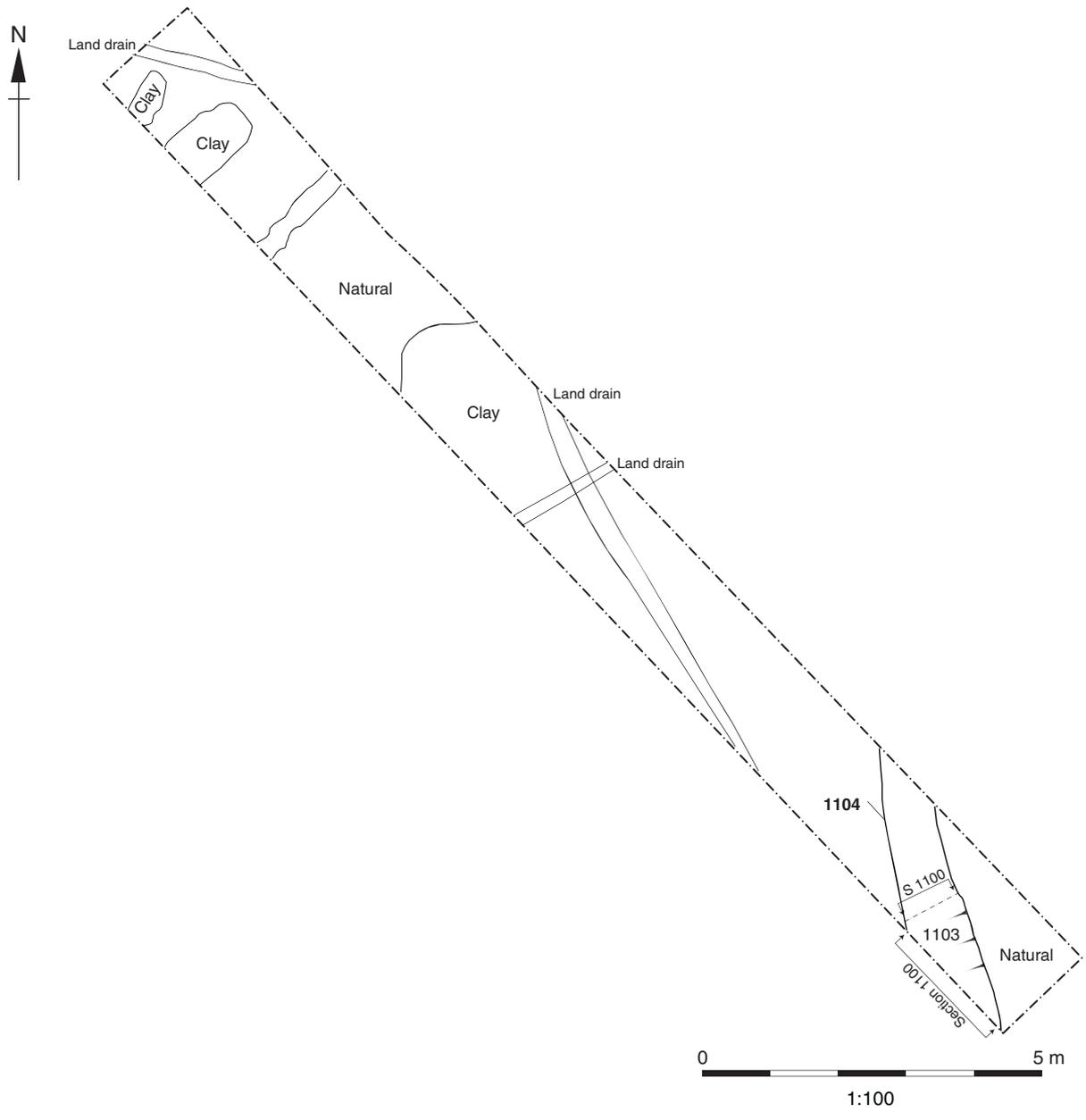


Figure 7: Trench 11, plan and section

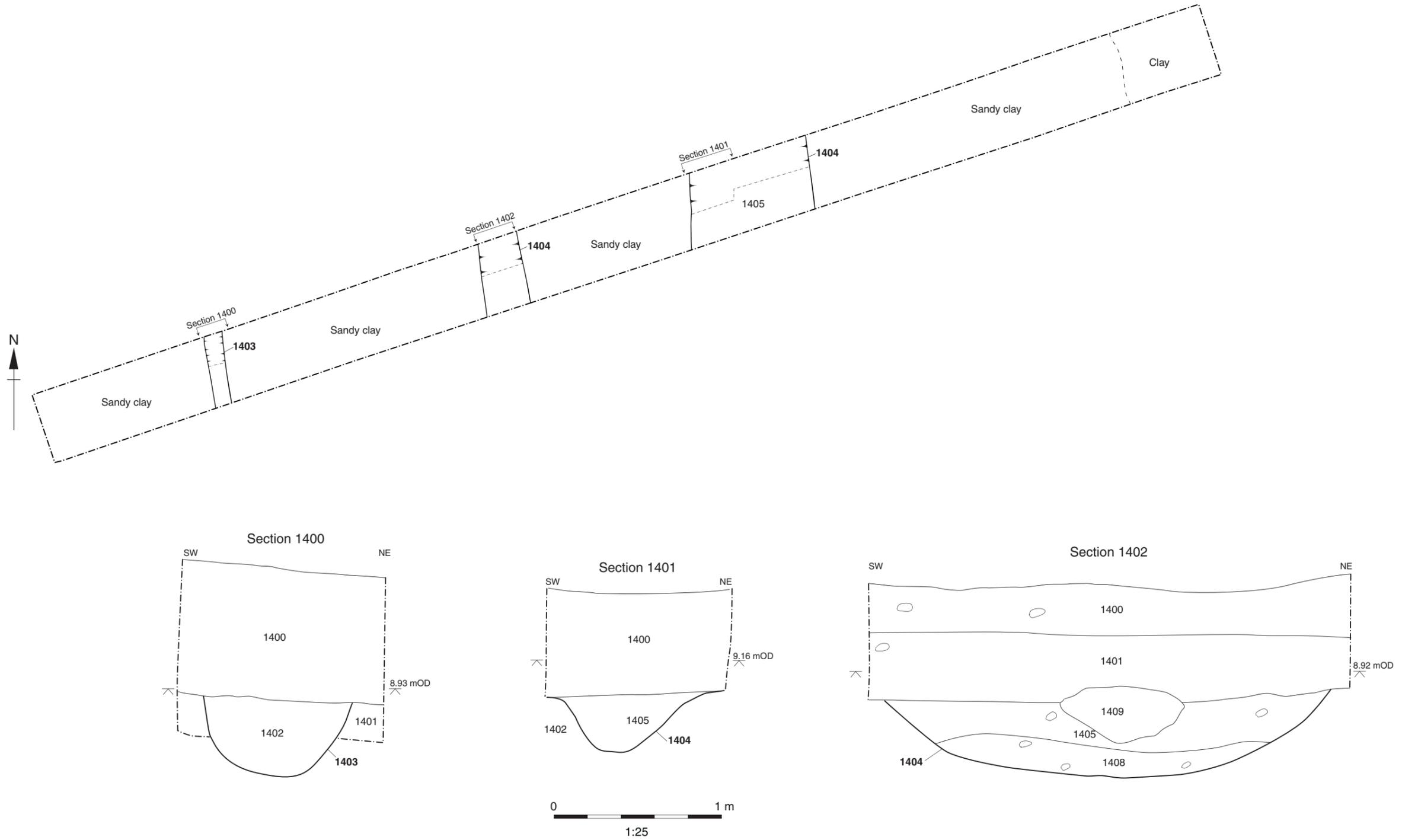


Figure 8: Trench 14, plan and sections

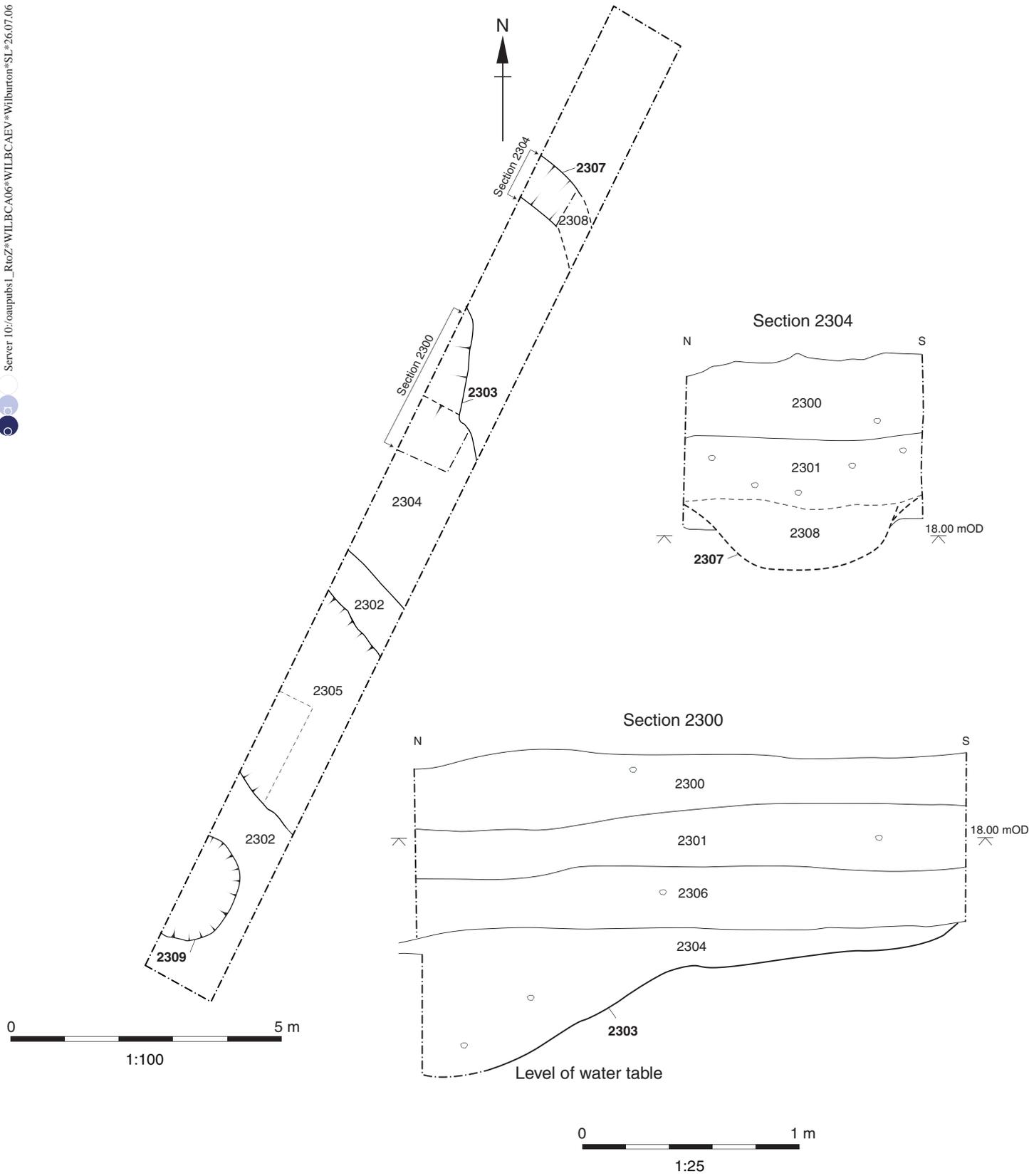
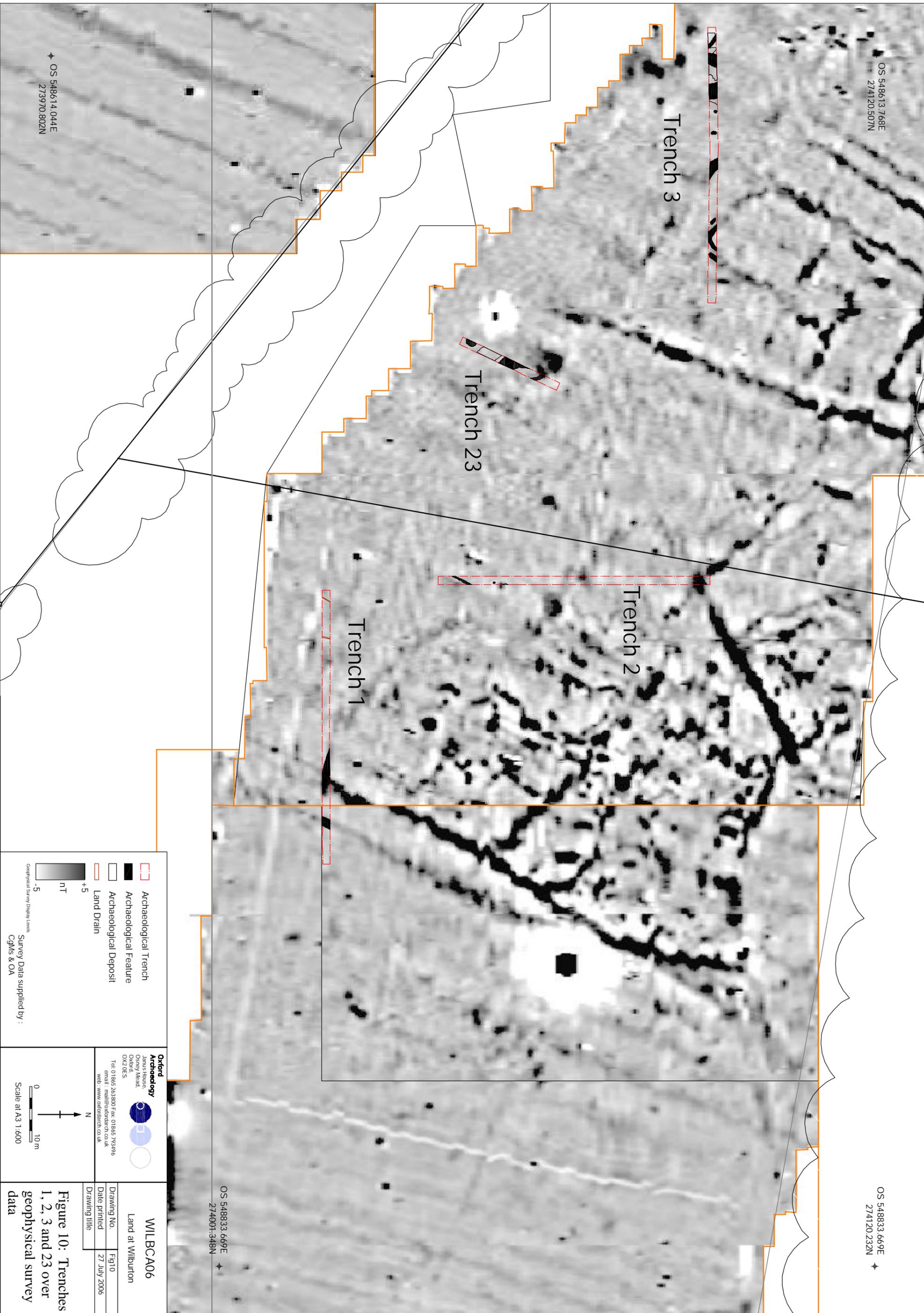


Figure 9: Trench 23, plan and sections



OS 548613.768E  
274120.507N

OS 548833.669E  
274120.232N

Trench 3

Trench 23

Trench 2

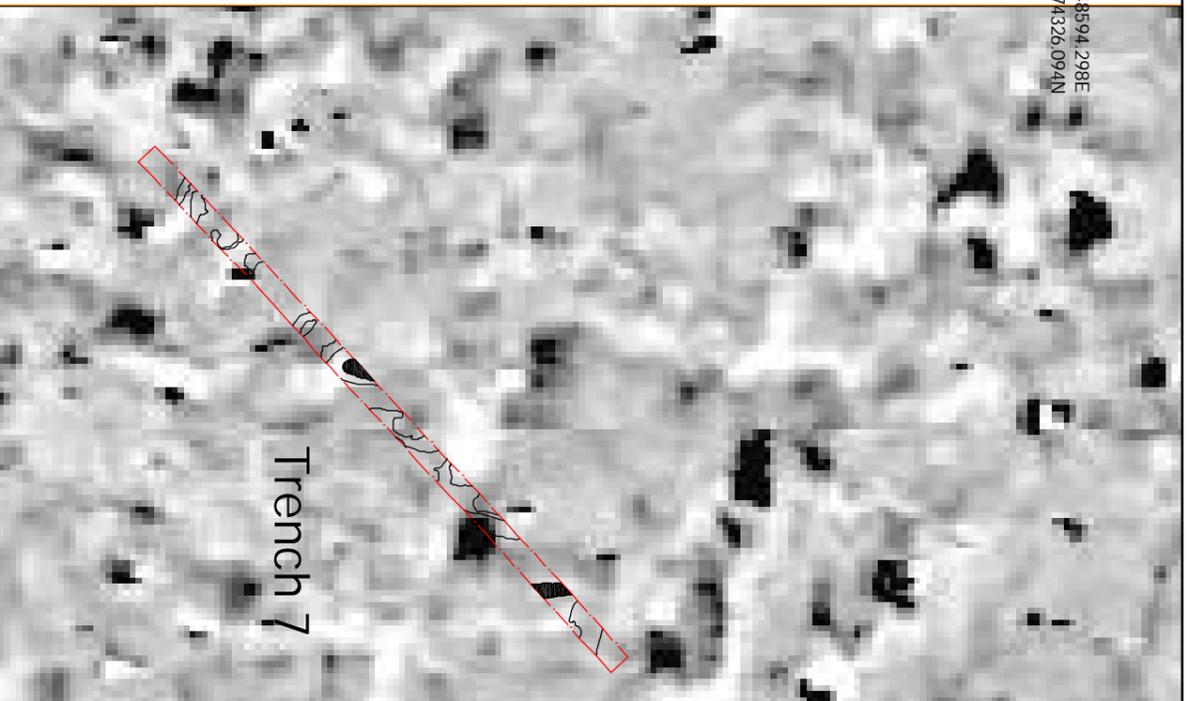
Trench 1

OS 548614.044E  
273970.802N

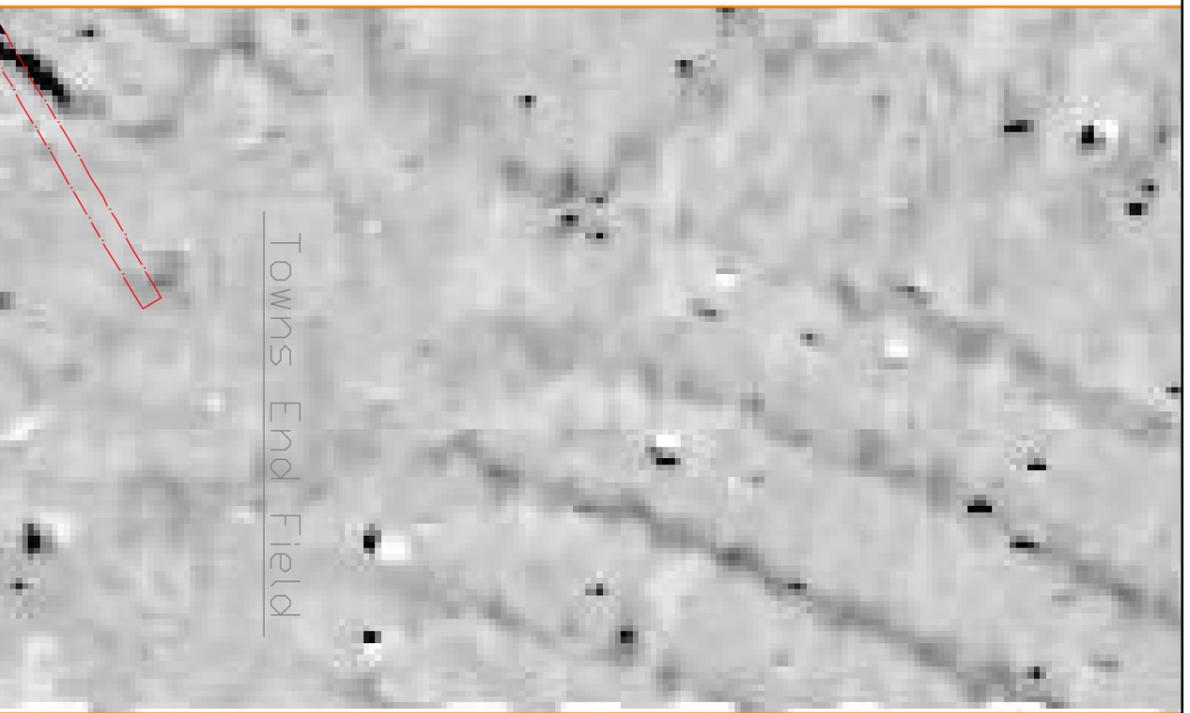
OS 548833.669E  
274001.348N

	Archaeological Trench
	Archaeological Feature
	Archaeological Deposit
	Land Drain
	Geophysical Survey Display Levels
-5	
NT	
+5	
Survey Data supplied by : Cgms & OA	
 Oxford Archaeology 1000000000 Oxford OX2 0ES Tel: 01865 263800 Fax: 01865 793496 email: mail@oxfordarch.co.uk web: www.oxfordarch.co.uk	
 Scale at A3 1:600	
WILBCA06 Land at Wilburton Drawing No. Fig10 Date printed 27 July 2006 Drawing title	

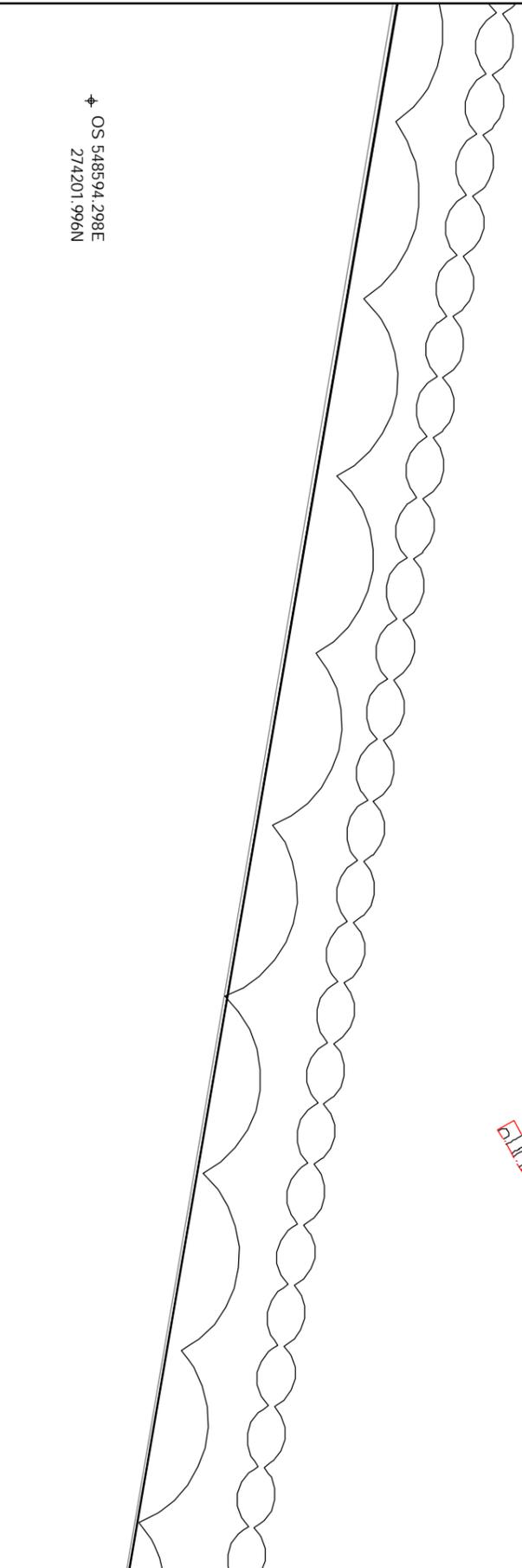
Figure 10: Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 23 over geophysical survey data



OS 548594.298E  
274326.094N



OS 548777.355E  
274326.094N



OS 548594.298E  
274201.996N

Trench 6

Towns End Field

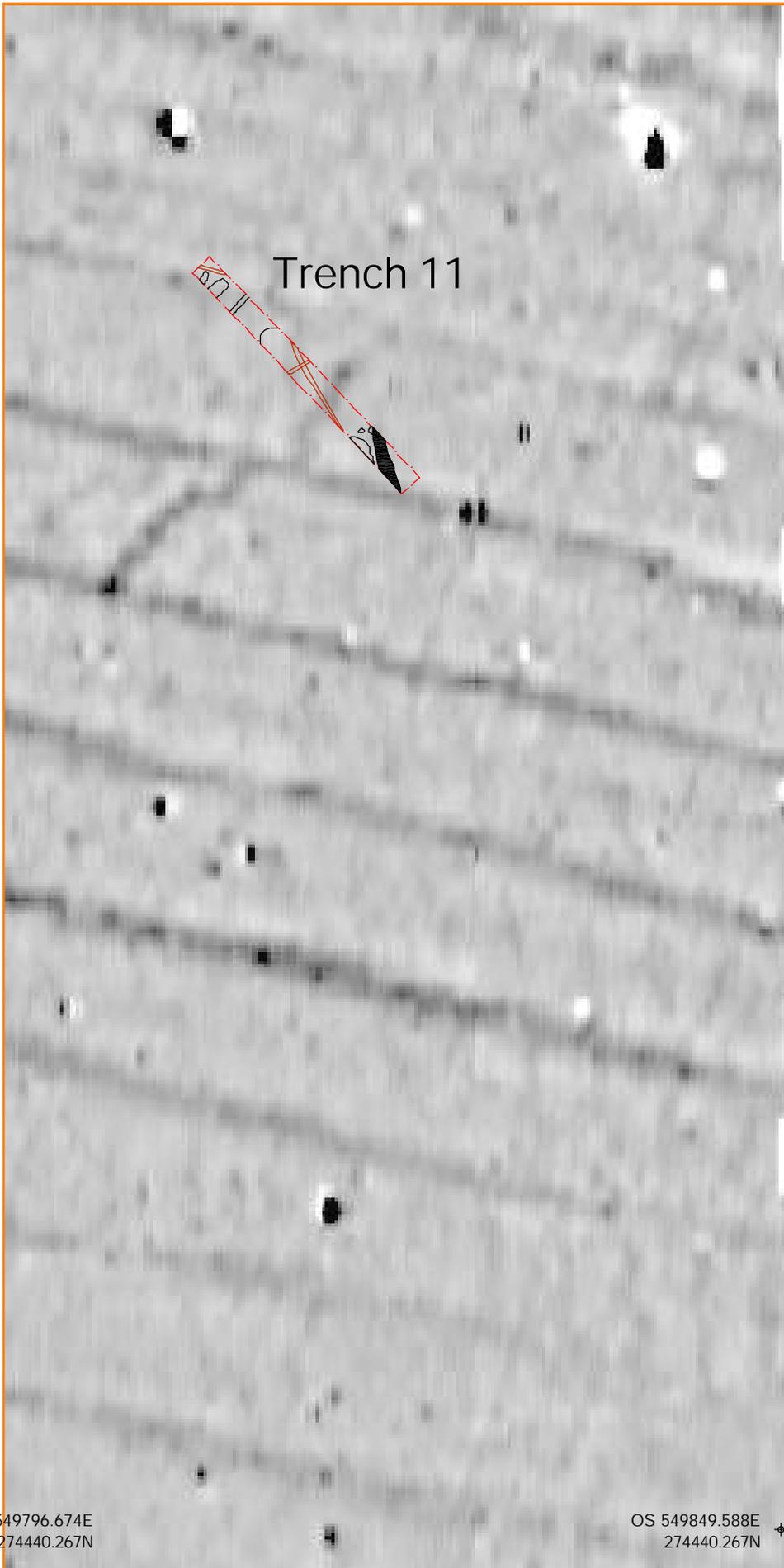
OS 548777.813E  
274227.182N

<p>Archaeological Trench Archaeological Feature Archaeological Deposit</p>	<p>Geophysical Survey Display Levels -5 nT +5 nT</p>	<p>Survey Data supplied by : CgMs &amp; OA</p>			<p>WILBCA06 Land at Wilburton</p>

Figure 11: Trenches 6 and 7 over geophysical survey data

OS 549796.674E  
274545.903N

OS 549865.919E  
274545.817N



OS 549796.674E  
274440.267N

OS 549849.588E  
274440.267N

-  Archaeological Trench
-  Archaeological Feature
-  Archaeological Deposit
-  Land Drain

  
+5  
nT  
-5  
Geophysical Survey Display Levels

Survey Data supplied by :  
CgMs & OA

  
N

  
0 5 m  
Scale at A4: 1:250

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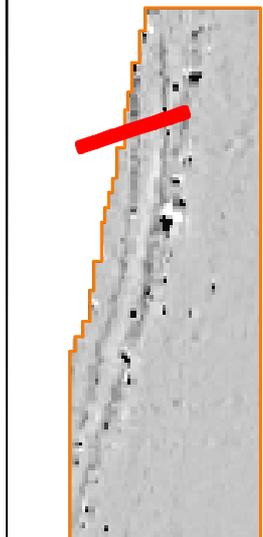
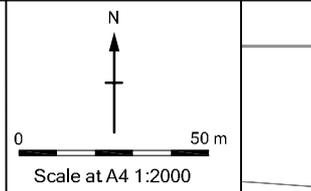
Drawing No.	Fig 12
Date printed	28 July 2006
Drawing title	

**Figure 12: Trench 11 over geophysical survey data**

OS 549200E  
273890N

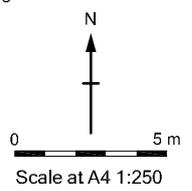
# Trench 14

OS 549200E  
273830N



- Archaeological trench
  - Archaeological feature
  - Archaeological deposit
  - Land drain
- +5  
 nT  
 -5  
 Geophysical Survey Display Levels

Survey Data supplied by :  
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Land at Wilburton

Drawing No.	Fig13
Date printed	10 Aug 2006
Drawing title	

Figure 13: Trench 14 over geophysical survey data

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