

Woodholm and Welham Farms Hailsham East Sussex (Phase II)



Archaeological Evaluation Report



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**Woodholm and Welham Farms,
Hailsham, East Sussex
Phase II**

NGR TQ 577 107

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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SUMMARY

In February 2010 Oxford Archaeology carried out Phase II of an Archaeological Evaluation at Woodholm and Welham Farms, Hailsham, East Sussex (NGR TQ 577 107) for CgMs on behalf of Taylor Wimpy PLC. Phase I, which was located to the north of the Phase II area, was completed in November 200 and has been subject to an earlier report (OA, 2008).

The Phase II Evaluation revealed Medieval and possible Late Iron Age or Romano-British linears that probably represent boundaries to field systems. These were located on the most elevated ground in the central and eastern part of the site.

Small quantities of un-stratified or residual struck flints were also recovered from this phase of evaluation attesting to activity in earlier Prehistory.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

1.1.1 Over two weeks in February 2010 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out Phase II of an Archaeological Evaluation at Woodholm and Welham Farms, Hailsham, East Sussex on behalf of CgMs Consulting for Taylor Wimpy PLC. The work was undertaken in respect of a planning application for residential development (Planning Application No. WD/2005/3100/MEA).

1.1.2 The area of the proposed development is located to the west of Hailsham. It lies to the north of Hampstead Lane (formerly the boundary between the parishes of Hailsham and Arlington) and is bounded to the west by the A22 and to the north by the River Cuckmere. The site is centred on NGR TQ 577 107 (Fig. 1).

1.1.3 The Phase I Evaluation took place in 2008 and comprised nineteen trenches within fields to the north of the site (Fig.2). The results are detailed within a separate report (OA, 2008).

1.1.4 A single *brief* covering both Phases of work was set by CgMs Consulting (CgMS, 2008) and a Project Design (OA, 2008) was agreed with Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council. The Phase II trenches represent a 2% sample of the development area which totals *c* 10.5 ha. Phase I and Phase II trench locations are shown in Figure 2.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The area of the Phase II Evaluation consisted of five fields which are currently used for pasture.

1.2.2 The ground level varies between 15 m OD and 25 m OD in height, with relatively flat fields to the north and west which slope down towards a watercourse and pond that lie immediately beyond the eastern site limits.

1.2.3 The underlying geology within the area is described as Weald Clay. Within the trenches this was seen to consist of a silty clay brickearth to the north and clay to the south.

1.3 **Archaeological and Historical Background**

1.3.1 Prior to trenched fieldwork the site was subject to an Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Environmental Statement (ES) (AF Howland Associates, 2005), and a geophysical survey (Stratascan, 2008).

1.3.2 The archaeological and historical background as identified by the ES is summarised below.

Prehistoric

1.3.3 Although no Prehistoric sites or finds were recorded within the radius of the 500 m study area, a number of Prehistoric flint artefacts were recorded within a wider area, including a Palaeolithic hand axe discovered near the River Cuckmere 3 km to the south-west of the development area. Mesolithic flints have been recorded in the vicinity of Wilmington Wood and a hand axe was recovered *c* 1.25 km to the south of the development. A polished Neolithic axe-head was reported 1 km to the north-east of the site.

Romano-British

1.3.4 No known sites or finds were recorded within the study area, however Romano-British occupation or kiln sites exist in the vicinity.

Medieval

1.3.5 To the south of the proposed development, three medieval kilns (AD 1066 - 1540) are recorded beyond the intensive study area. In addition, a probable medieval kiln (NMR 408342) is identified in the vicinity of Milton Hide 2 km south-west of Welham Farm. Further evidence exists for medieval pottery and tile production to the south of the development. Pottery wasters dating from 13th - 14th century were discovered within Abbots Wood and a similar site exists at Wilmington Wood. The proposed development site is located within a similar historic landscape to the medieval sites noted above.

Post-medieval

1.3.6 A Second World War anti-tank ditch is recorded adjacent to the northern boundary of the site, outside of the development area. The line of the defence is recorded along the River Cuckmere between Upper Kicker and Upper Horsebridge.

- 1.3.7 The geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies within the development area including several circular features of possible archaeological origin. To the west of the proposed development area, a square enclosure was also detected, possibly a medieval moated site (Stratascan, 2008).
- 1.3.8 The Phase I Evaluation to the north of the Phase II area revealed a ditch dated to the Post-medieval period, and another feature that contained significant quantities of burnt material but with no dating evidence (OA, 2008).

2 EVALUATION AIMS

- 2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were to:
- establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains.
 - determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains.
 - determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present.
 - determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

3 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The Phase II Evaluation consisted of twenty four trenches, which were originally positioned to give good overall coverage of the development area and to target anomalies revealed by the geophysical survey (OA and CgMs, 2008).
- 3.1.2 Trenches were laid out using Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment to OS coordinates established from the Project Design (*ibid*). A number of trenches were repositioned due to overhead power lines, extant fencelines and mature trees, the resultant positions were then inspected by Andrew Ross of RSK Ecological Ltd. to advise on potentially sensitive ecological habitats.
- 3.1.3 The location of the Trench 38 was located within an area of mature trees and a potential habitat for Great Crested Newts, this was therefore not excavated and replaced by Trench 45 along the souther edge of the area.
- 3.1.4 Trench 34 was shortened to 25 m, and Trenches 30 and 32 were moved and amalgamated onto a single trench (80 m long) and renumbered as Trench 46, to avoid overhead power lines.
- 3.1.5 Trench 21 was moved to the NE to avoid an extant modern fenceline.
- 3.1.6 The final excavated trench locations are as shown on Figure 2. All trenches measured 40 m long by 2 m wide, with the exceptions listed above.

3.2 Fieldwork Methods and Recording

- 3.2.1 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to the first significant

archaeological horizon or natural drift geology (whichever was encountered first). Topsoil and underlying soils were stored separately once excavated. All trenches were ramped at either end to allow for safe egress for wildlife. After completion of the works the trenches were backfilled in reverse order of excavation.

- 3.2.2 The machine excavated horizon of the trenches was cleaned by hand and all revealed features were sample excavated to determine their extent and nature, and to retrieve finds and environmental samples.
- 3.2.3 Within Trenches 28 and 31 a period of heavy rains caused extensive localised flooding. This severely hampered the full excavation of two features, 2807 and 3106 and with the consent of Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council, these features were excavated as fully as possible and recorded.
- 3.2.4 All archaeological features were planned and where excavated their sections drawn at scales of 1:20 or 1:10. All features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3.3 **Finds**

- 3.3.1 Finds recovered during the course of the evaluation were bagged by context.

3.4 **Palaeo-environmental Evidence**

- 3.4.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

4 **RESULTS**

- 4.1.1 The soils and ground conditions encountered are established. A description of trenches and features is given and followed by a description of the finds and an interpretation and discussion of the results. A table of Contexts (Appendix 1) also gives brief descriptions of contexts, depths and finds.

4.2 **Soils and Ground Conditions**

- 4.2.1 The natural geology encountered in the trenches varied between a manganese flecked orange-brown silty clay and brownish orange clay. This was overlain by a pale yellowish brown slightly silty clay within the southern field or an orange-brown silty clay subsoil elsewhere. These deposits were typically between 0.2 m- 0.25 m thick, and were covered by the present topsoil.
- 4.2.2 Conditions are best described as wet, with persistent rain causing surface ponding and occasional, and on occasion acute flooding in the less well drained trenches towards the centre of the site.

4.3 **Description of Deposits**

- 4.3.1 All features revealed at the level of the underlying brickearth or clay natural were overlain by subsoil and topsoil, unless otherwise described in the text.

Descriptions of features within Trenches 20 - 31 and 46; The Northern Fields

- 4.3.2 Trenches 20, 21, 23, 27 and 29 were empty and contained no features or archaeological finds.
- 4.3.3 A modern pit was investigated within Trench 22 and corresponds to an anomaly shown on the geophysical survey. The pit [2204] had a flat base and vertical sides cutting from beneath the present topsoil. The pit measured 1.2 m long by 0.4 m wide and was 0.78 m deep. It was filled by a loose mixture of topsoil and subsoil (2205) which contained a partially decayed wooden post.
- 4.3.4 A area of concentrated manganese flecking, corresponding to another surveyed anomaly, was investigated at the level of the underlying brickearth within Trench 24. No discernible cut was found and this appears to be a thin lenze of mineralization rather than an archaeological feature.
- 4.3.5 An area of burning was noted prior to mechanical excavation at ground level within the area of Trench 25. This consisted of a blackish ashy spread which contained obviously modern debris such as bed springs and bolts and is probably the result of modern rubbish burning, possibly associated with the clearing out of the farm buildings at Welham Farm. This corresponds to a broad anomaly shown on the geophysical survey.
- 4.3.6 Within Trench 26 a small area of patchy charcoal (2604/ 2605) was identified within the northern end of the trench at the level of the underlying brickearth. When investigated this was found to be only 0.03 m thick with no definite cut and appeared to be a modern deposit that had been ploughed into the subsoil in the recent past.
- 4.3.7 Trenches 28, 31 and 46 revealed a total of six linear features, which are ditches that broadly correspond to the results of the geophysical survey. Figure 3 shows the location and the excavated slots for these features; their Sections are shown on Figures 4 and 5.
- 4.3.8 Trench 28 revealed two linear features; ditches 2804 and 2807, of probable medieval date.
- 4.3.9 Ditch 2804 was aligned broadly north-south within the south-western end of the trench. It had a roughly 'V'-shaped profile which was rounded at its base, and measured 0.94 m wide by 0.38 m deep (Fig.4, Section 2806). It contained two fills, a dark yellowish brown silty clay primary fill (2806) and a dark grey silty clay secondary fill (2805). The secondary fill produced 8 small sherds of early medieval flint tempered pottery that offered a date range of 1050 - 1200 AD. This linear was cut from the top of a 0.14 m thick subsoil and its fills were overlain by a 0.42 m thick topsoil, in contrast to all the other linears which were cut from beneath the subsoil.

- 4.3.10 A slightly larger ditch 2807, ran NW-SE and was located towards the north eastern end of the trench. It had steep sides and measured 1.8 m wide by at least 0.4 m deep (Fig. 4, Section 2806). Due to persistent flooding it was not possible to fully excavate this feature. The ditch was filled by a dark yellowish brown silty clay (2808), which produced a single sherd of early medieval flint tempered pottery and a possible struck flint nodule. The pottery has a date range of 1050 - 1200 AD.
- 4.3.11 Trench 31 revealed two linears. Ditch 3104 ran broadly north-south across the western end of the trench. It was 'U' shaped in profile, measured 1.2 m wide by 0.36 m deep (Fig. 4, Section 3102). It was filled by a dark yellowish brown silty clay (3105). Two early medieval rim-sherds, dated to between 1050 - 1200 AD, were recovered from this context. A slightly larger ditch, [3106], was found aligned NE-SW close to the middle of the trench. It had steep sides and measured 1.45 m wide by at least 0.35 m deep (Fig. 4, Section 3105), and was filled by a dark yellowish silty clay (3107). Due to heavy rains and extensive flooding within the trench it was not possible to fully excavate this feature.
- 4.3.12 Trench 46 replaced Trenches 30 and 32. It revealed three linear features (4605, 4607 and 4609), which broadly corresponded with the geophysical anomalies in this area.
- 4.3.13 Feature 4605 was a small ditch or gully which ran NW-SE across the southern end of the trench. It had a rounded profile and measured 0.17 m deep by 0.36 m wide (Fig. 5, Section 4601). It was filled by a orange-brown silty clay (4604). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 4.3.14 Linear 4607 was aligned approximately NE-SW across the middle of the trench. This ditch had shallowly rounded sides and a broadly rounded base which measured 0.20 m deep by 1.10 m wide (Fig. 5, Section 4602). It was filled by orange-brown silty clay (4606) which contained small quantities of daub and a single small sherd of Late Iron Age (LIA) or Romano-British grog-tempered ware.
- 4.3.15 Another narrow linear, 4609, was investigated just to the north of ditch 4607. It was aligned NW-SE across the trench, and was steep sided with a narrow flatish base, measuring 0.3 m deep by 0.4 m wide (Fig.5, Section 4604). It contained two fills; a orange-brown loamy clay primary fill (4610), and a pale brown silty clay secondary fill (4608). A lens of charcoal was noted within the bottom of the secondary fill.
- 4.3.16 Two small sherds of Late Iron Age or Romano-British grog-tempered pottery, and two struck flints were recovered from the spoil close to ditch 4607 and linear 4609. Although these are recorded as un-stratified it is thought likely that they are associated with these features.

Descriptions of trenches 33-44; The southern fields

- 4.3.17 No archaeological finds or features were identified within the southern fields (Trenches 33-37 and 39-44).

4.3.18 No features were identified to correspond to geological anomalies targeted with trenches 39, 40, 42 and 43.

4.3.19 Within Trenches 33, 34, 36, irregular spreads of a bituminous gravel were seen at the level of the underlying natural and were also seen occasionally running through the overlying subsoil. These deposits are similar to the make-up of a nearby farm trackway and are likely to be a modern disturbance associated with the farm.

4.4 Finds

4.4.1 Pottery and flint reports are given in Appendices 2 and 3, these are summarised below.

Summary of The Pottery (see Appendix 3)

4.4.2 Three small and very worn sherds of grog tempered ware were recovered from Trench 46. One sherd came from the fill (4606) of ditch 4605 and the other two sherds were recovered from the overburden close to this ditch.

4.4.3 All three sherds were small and heavily abraded and had a similar grog and sand tempered fabric, which is characteristic of the Late Iron Age to early Roman periods. Because of their condition it is quite possible that these sherds could all be residual.

4.4.4 Eleven sherds of Early Medieval flint-tempered ware were recovered from ditch fills within Trenches 28 and 31.

4.4.5 From this assemblage, eight cooking pot sherds came from ditch fill 2805, a single worn body sherd was produced by the fill (2808) of ditch 2807, and two separate blackened (sooty) rim sherds were recovered from the fill (3105) of ditch 3104.

4.4.6 The medieval pottery assemblage was fragmentary but in fairly fresh condition and represents ordinary domestic pottery types. The pottery is of a local Early Medieval Flint-tempered ware, typical of the coastal zone of this part of Sussex and south Kent, and is dated to between 1050 -1200.

Summary of the Flint (see Appendix 2)

4.4.7 Two pieces of struck flint were recovered from the overburden within Trench 46. These comprised a core or core-trimming element with single-platform blade removals and a side-and-end scraper. The core is un-diagnostic, other than to illustrate prehistoric activity in the area. The scraper may be either Mesolithic or Neolithic .

4.4.8 A single large flint nodule was recovered from the fill (2808) of ditch 2807. This was possibly struck and discarded, but is more likely to have been the result of being plough-struck. This piece is essentially undated but its association with early medieval pottery from the same context suggests it is not of prehistoric date.

5 DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION

- 5.1.1 Of the twenty four trenches excavated in Phase II of the Evaluation, only three contained archaeological features (Trenches 28, 31 and 46). A total of seven linears were found within these trenches and these appear to be ditches which broadly correspond to the geophysical survey results and probably indicate the presence of field systems at the top of sloping ground in this part of the site (Fig. 3). Several of the excavated ditches appear to be perpendicular, indicating possible rectilinear field systems.
- 5.1.2 Within Trench 46, small quantities of daub and a single small sherd of grog-tempered ware were recovered from the fill of ditch 4607. Two small sherds of LIA/ Romano-British pottery and two struck flints were also recovered from the over-burden close to this ditch and nearby ditch 4609. Although the finds from the over-burden are unstratified, their proximity to the revealed features suggests that they are possibly associated, particularly since a similar pottery sherd was recovered from the fill of ditch 4607. The presence of small quantities of daub suggests a low level of domestic activity and the pottery although quite possibly residual, at least indicates a certain amount of prehistoric/ Romano-British activity in the area.
- 5.1.3 Small quantities of Medieval pottery and a single roughly struck flint nodule were recovered from ditch fills within Trenches 28 and 31. Although struck, this piece of flint does not appear to be worked and is more likely to be a randomly struck piece rather than a prehistoric core. The recovered pottery is of Medieval date (1050-1200 AD). The recovered pottery was in relatively good condition and included two soot covered rim sherds, indicating the likelihood of nearby early medieval domestic activity. Two of the ditches, 2897 and 3106, were not fully excavated due to heavy rains and persistent flooding within these trenches. Therefore it was not possible to fully examine the primary fills of these ditches (see 3.2.3 above).
- 5.1.4 A modern pit containing a rotted wooden post was excavated within Trench 22, and a large black surface bonfire containing modern debris was found at the surface of Trench 25.
- 5.1.5 A shallow patchy charcoal spread was investigated within the northern end of Trench 26, but this appears to have been ploughed in through the subsoil and was thought to be of modern origin.
- 5.1.6 Deposits of bituminous gravels were found overlying the natural brickearth within trenches 33, 34 and 36. These were also seen patchily through the overlaying subsoil here. They appear to be a modern deposit similar to an extant area of nearby farm trackway and are likely to have been caused by modern disturbance around the Farm buildings.
- 5.1.7 A shallow area of concentrated manganese flecking was investigated within the south east of Trench 24 but appears to be geological rather than archaeological in nature.

- 5.1.8 The results broadly correspond to those of the geophysical survey although some of the ferrous anomalies were not identified. This is particularly the case in the southern field, where the only feature of note was a rather general spread of bituminous gravels that was seen within Trenches 33, 34 and 36. Linear features identified by survey within the south of the northern field are probably associated probable field systems identified in the evaluation, although there is some discrepancy between the plots of the geophysical survey and the archaeological results and they are not an exact match. A modern pit excavated within Trench 22 and a large surface rubbish fire within Trench 25 are likely to account for anomalies shown at these locations. An area of concentrated manganese flecking which corresponds to another anomaly within Trench 24, was also investigated but appears to be a geological rather than geological feature.
- 5.1.9 Anomalies to either side of Trench 46 were not targeted within the present evaluation because of the presence of over-head power lines.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
20							
	2001	Layer		0.28	Topsoil		
	2002	Layer		0.20	Subsoil		
	2003	Layer		-	Natural		
21							
	2101	Layer		0.23	Topsoil		
	2102	Layer		0.36	Subsoil		
	2103	Layer		-	Natural		
22							
	2201	Layer		0.25	Topsoil		
	2202	Layer		0.52	Subsoil		
	2203	Layer		-	Natural		
	2204	Pit	1.2	0.78	Modern pit		Modern
	2205	Fill		0.78	Pit fill and post		Modern
23							
	2301	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
	2302	Layer		0.24	Subsoil		
	2303	Layer		-	Natural		
24							
	2401	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
	2402	Layer		0.40	Subsoil		
	2403	Layer		-	Natural		
25							
	2501	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
	2502	Layer		0.38	Subsoil		
	2503	Layer		-	Natural		
26							
	2601	Layer		0.22	Topsoil		
	2602	Layer		0.12	Subsoil		
	2603	Layer		-	Natural		
	2604	Cut		0.03	Plough disturbance		Modern

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
26							
	2605	Fill		0.03	Charcoal lenze		Modern
27							
	2701	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
	2702	Layer		0.29	Subsoil		
	2703	Layer		-	Natural		
28							
	2801	Layer		0.30	Topsoil		
	2802	Layer		0.10	Subsoil		
	2803	Layer		-	Natural		
	2804	Ditch	0.92	0.38	North-south linear		Med
	2805	Fill		0.28	Secondary fill of 2804	Pottery	1050-1200
	2806	Fill		0.10	Primary fill of 2804		
	2807	Ditch	1.8	0.40+	East-west linear		Med
	2808	Fill		0.40+	Fill of 2807	Flint Pottery	1050-1200
29							
	2901	Layer		0.23	Topsoil		
	2902	Layer	0.96	0.29	Subsoil		
	2903	Layer			Natural		
30	Trench not excavated						
31							
	3101	Layer		0.35	Topsoil		
	3102	Layer		0.20	Subsoil		
	3103	Layer		-	Natural		
	3104	Ditch	1.2	0.36	N-S ditch		
	3105	Fill		0.36	Fill of Ditch 3104	Pottery	1050-1200
	3106	Ditch	1.45	0.35+	SE-NW ditch		
	3107	Fill		0.35+	Fill of 3106		
32	Trench not excavated						

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Thick.</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
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	<i>No</i>		<i>(m)</i>	<i>(m)</i>			
33							
	3301	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	3302	Layer		0.20	Subsoil		
	3303	Layer		0.25	Bituminous gravels		Modern
	3304	Layer			Natural		
34							
	3401	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	3402	Layer	0.60	0.20	Subsoil		
	3403	Layer		0.10	Bituminous gravels		Modern
	3404	Layer		-	Natural		
35							
	3501	Layer		0.25	Topsoil		
	3502	Layer		0.15	Subsoil		
	3503	Layer		-	Natural		
36							
	3601	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	3602	Layer		0.30	Subsoil		
	3603	Layer		0.15	Bituminous gravels		Modern
	3604	Layer		-	Natural		
37							
	3701	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	3702	Layer		0.04	Subsoil		
	3703	Layer		-	Natural		
38	Trench not excavated						
39							
	3901	Layer		0.32	Topsoil		
	3902	Layer		0.11	Subsoil		
	3903	Layer		-	Natural		
40							
	4001	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	4002	Layer		0.08	Subsoil		
	4003	Layer		-	Natural		

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Ctxt No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thick. (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
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41							
	4101	Layer		0.18	Topsoil		
	4102	Layer		0.10	Subsoil		
	4102	Layer		-	Natural		
42							
	4201	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	4202	Layer		0.20	Subsoil		
	4203	Layer		-	Natural		
43							
	4301	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	4302	Layer		0.15	Subsoil		
	4303	Layer		-	Natural		
44							
	4401	Layer		0.20	Topsoil		
	4402	Layer		0.15	Subsoil		
	4403	Layer		-	Natural		
45							
	4501	Layer		0.18	Topsoil		
	4502	Layer		0.18	Subsoil		
	4503	Layer		-	Natural		
46							
	4601	Layer		0.26	Topsoil	Pottery /Struck flint	
	4602	Layer		0.34	Subsoil		
	4603	Layer		-	Natural		
	4604	Fill		0.17	Fill of 4605		
	4605	Cut	0.36	0.17	Shallow ditch or gully		
	4606	Fill		0.20	Fill of 4607	Pottery /daub	LIA/ Early RB
	4607	Cut	1.10	0.20	E-W aligned ditch		LIA/ Early RB
	4608	Fill		0.12	Upper fill of 4609		
	4609	Cut	0.4	0.30	Small ditch or gully		
	4610	Fill		0.28	Primary fill of 4609		

Appendix 2 The Flint by Geraldine Crann

A total of three pieces of struck flint were recovered from two contexts on the site.

Context No.	Description
2808	Large flint nodule weighing 739g. Possibly struck, with some evidence of conchoidal fractures, and then discarded, as nodule contains many inclusions. May also be result of plough damage.
4601	Side-and-end scraper, likely to be either Mesolithic or Neolithic. Some polish on dorsal flake-scars above retouched edge. 30% cortex remaining on dorsal surface. Some edge damage and possible usewear striations on ventral surface and edges.
4601	Core/core-trimming element with single-platform blade removals, mix of hinge and feather terminations over mottled inclusion. Condition relatively fresh; 40% cortex.

Technology and Dating

The material recovered from the excavation consists of one core fragment, one retouched piece and one large nodule. The core and nodule are not diagnostic, but illustrate undatable prehistoric activity on the site. The side-and-end scraper may be either Mesolithic or Neolithic.

Discussion

The small quantities of worked flint recovered limits the interpretation of the material beyond illustrating a human presence in the local area during the earlier prehistoric period.

Recommendations

The assemblage is generally of low potential and requires no further work.

Appendix 3 The Pottery

The Late Iron Age/Romano British Pottery by Paul Booth

From context 4601 there are two very abraded sherds of grog and sand tempered pottery with a total weight of 4 g. This fabric is characteristic of the late Iron Age to early Roman periods but is not closely dateable. The sherds have no other diagnostic characteristics.

There is a single tiny amorphous (heavily abraded) lump of ceramic weighing 2 g from 4606. This appears to have some grog inclusions and might be pottery rather than daub, but is too small for meaningful comment. If it is pottery it is consistent in character with the two fragments from 4601, and will be of similar late Iron Age to early Roman date.

There is nothing more to be said about these pieces - apart from the fact that, given their condition, they could all be grossly residual. They will require no further work of any kind

The Medieval Pottery by John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

A total of 11 sherds of medieval pottery weighing 133 g. were recovered from three contexts. The pottery was examined and spot-dated during the present assessment stage. For each context the total pottery sherd count and weight were recorded on an Excel spreadsheet, followed by the context spot-date which is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types in the context are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the presence of datable types were also recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg. decoration etc.).

Date and nature of the assemblage

The medieval pottery assemblage is in a fragmentary but fairly fresh condition, although some sherds exhibit moderate wear. Ordinary domestic pottery types are represented. These are summarised below. More detailed descriptions can be found in the spot-dates list.

The eleven medieval sherds are all in the same fabric - a local Early Medieval Flint-tempered ware typical of the coastal zone of this part of Sussex and south Kent. These comprise rims from at least three handmade jars/cooking pots of simple form and which can probably be dated to c 1050-1200, although a 12th-century date is probably most likely. Several sherds are sooted externally from use as cooking vessels. The flint tempering in this fabric is particularly abundant and coarse, commonly 1-1.5 mm. across, but fairly well-sorted. A few samples contain abundant very fine quartz grains as a matrix constituent but coarse quartz grains are rare. Surface colour is grey to brownish-grey or slightly pinkish. One large rim sherd (3105) has slightly ledged shoulder caused by smoothing-in the separately attached rim. This is a common feature of Saxo-Norman pottery in southern England (eg. at Chichester and Winchester). Coarse flint-tempered pottery was probably produced at many locations throughout Sussex but is best known from the late 12th- to 14th-century kilns at Ringmer, although this assemblage is probably earlier than the main production period there.

Recommendations

In view of the small size and fragmentary condition of most of the assemblage, and the commonness of these pottery types in the area, no further work is recommended at present. However, should more extensive excavations be carried out on the site then this small evaluation assemblage should be included in the report and any resulting publication.

Table of pottery details

Context	Spot-date	Sherds	Weight	Comments
2805	1050-1200	8	57	Early med flint-tempered ware. Cooking pot sherds incl plain rounded rim, shoulder sherd and sagging base sherd (sooted). Some slightly worn
2808	1050-1200	1	13	Early med flint-tempered ware. Worn body sherd (bs)
3105	1050-1200	2	64	Early med flint-tempered ware. 2x rims from separate cooking pots incl smaller plain everted rim, and larger, fresh everted/flaring rim with ext bevelled lip & slightly hollowed shoulder due to rim attachment. Diam of largest c230mm. Sooted
4601	LIA/EROM	2	4	2 separate vess. V worn grog-tempered ware bss
4606	LIA/EROM	1	1	V worn grog-tempered ware bs
TOTAL		14	139	

APPENDIX 4 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 5 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Woodholm and Welham Farms, Hailsham, East Sussex (Phase II).

Site code: HAWWF 10.

Grid reference: TQ 577 107.

Type of evaluation: Twenty four trenches, typically measuring 40 m by 2 m (Twenty two trenches measuring 40 m x 2 m, one amalgamated trench measuring 80 m x 2 m and one shortened trench measuring 25 m x 2m), giving a 2% sample of the area.

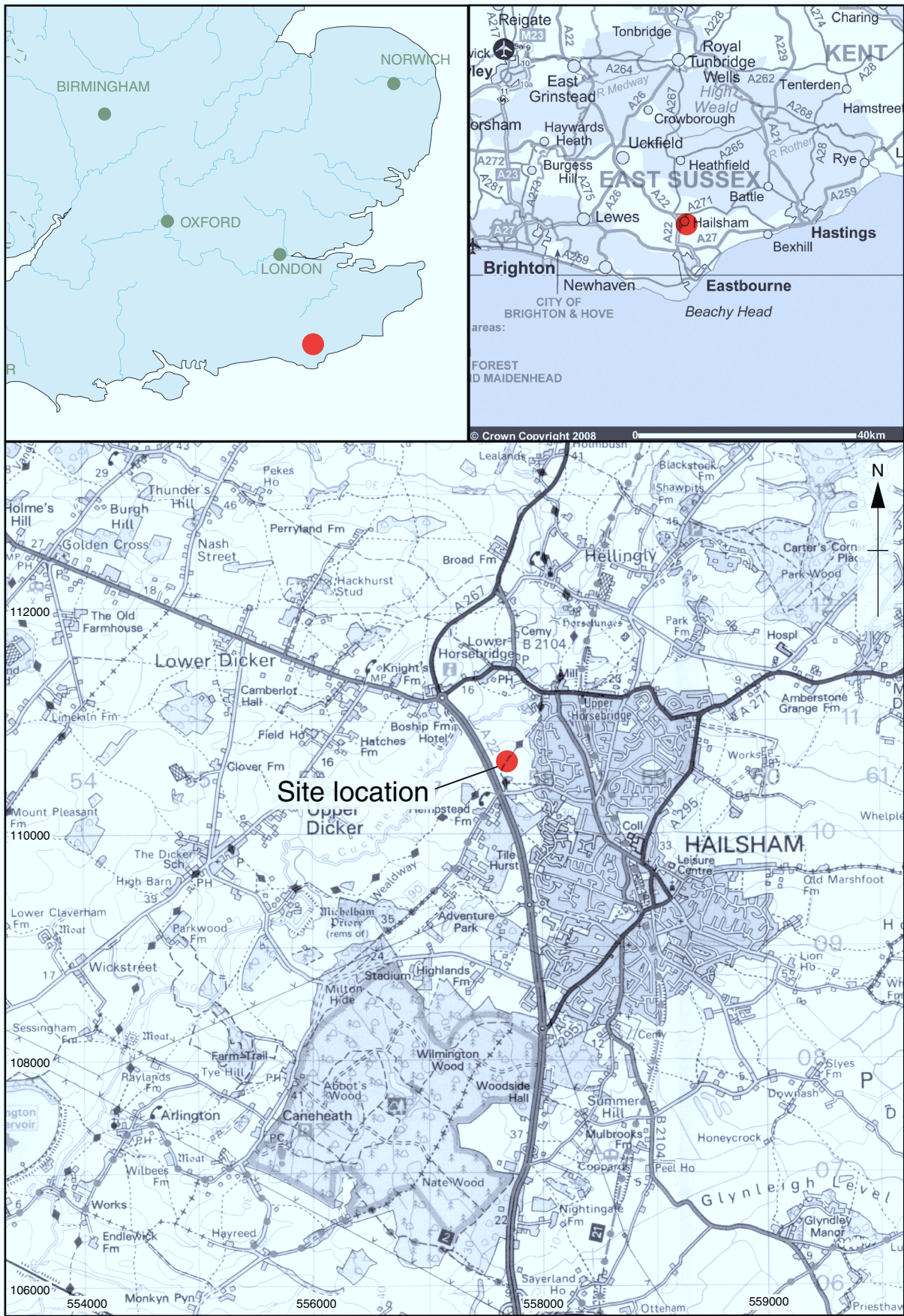
Date and duration of project: The fieldwork was carried out over a period of two weeks in February 2010.

Area of site: c 8.2 ha.

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed field systems of medieval and possibly LIA/Romano-British date near the centre of the site. Several modern or geological features were also investigated.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Lewes Castle and Barbican Museum under an Acce

\\Server21-dbinvoice codes\HAWWF10\HAWWFEX2\Woodholm and Welham Farms, Hailsham, Phase 2\GS\03.03.10



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Figure 1: Site location

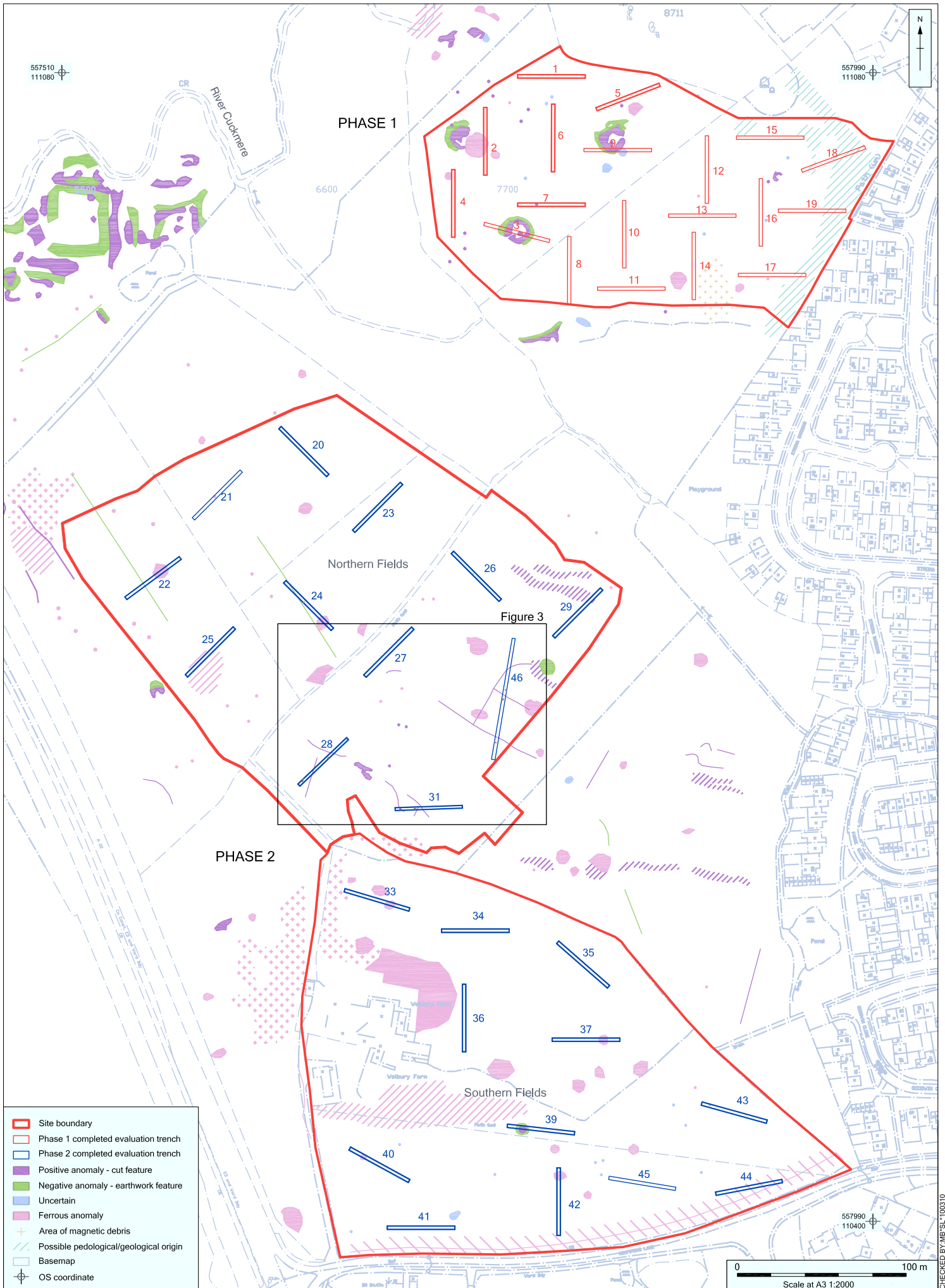


Figure 2: Phase II Trench layout (including Phase I Trench locations)

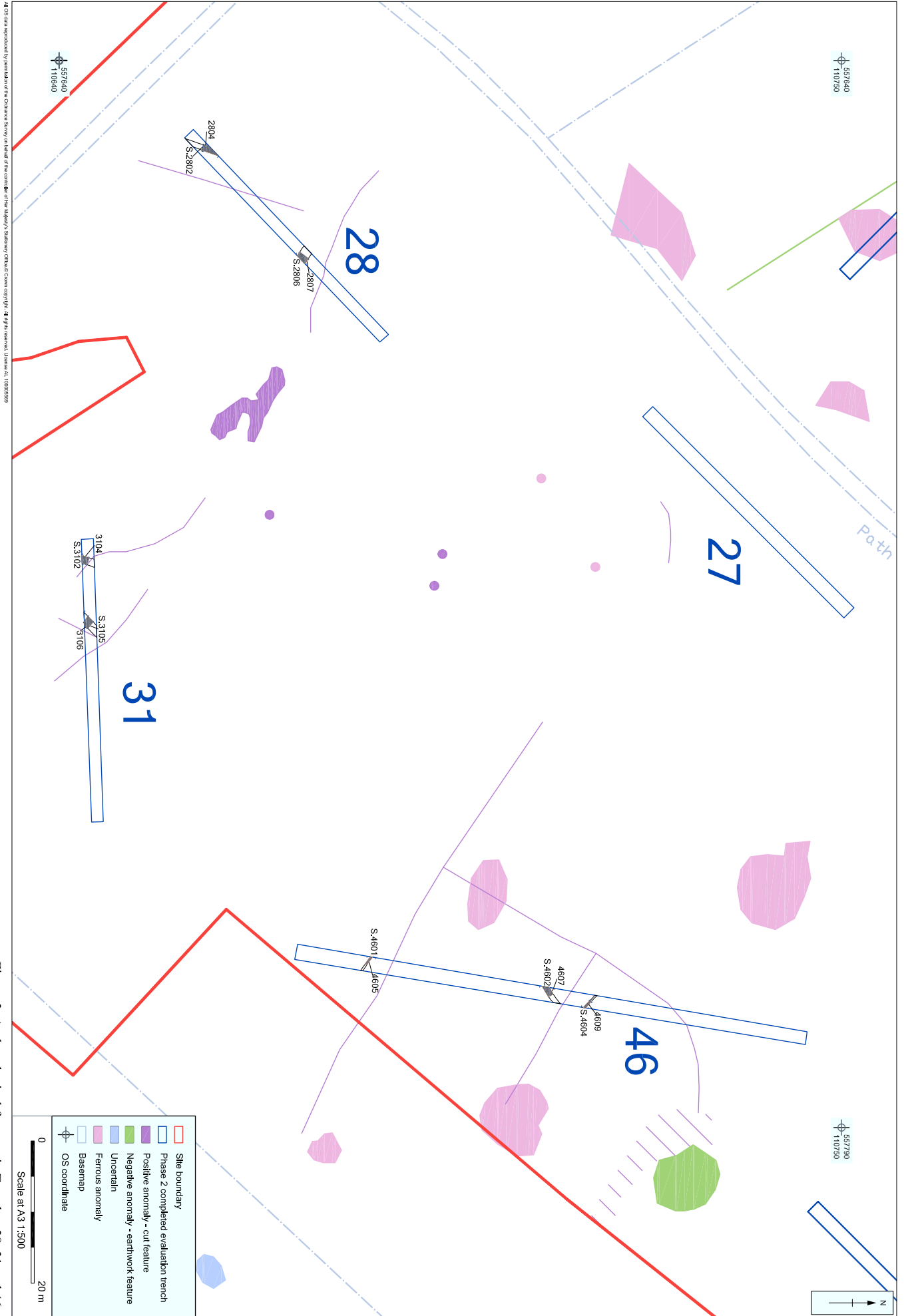


Figure 3: Archaeological features in Trenches 28, 31 and 46

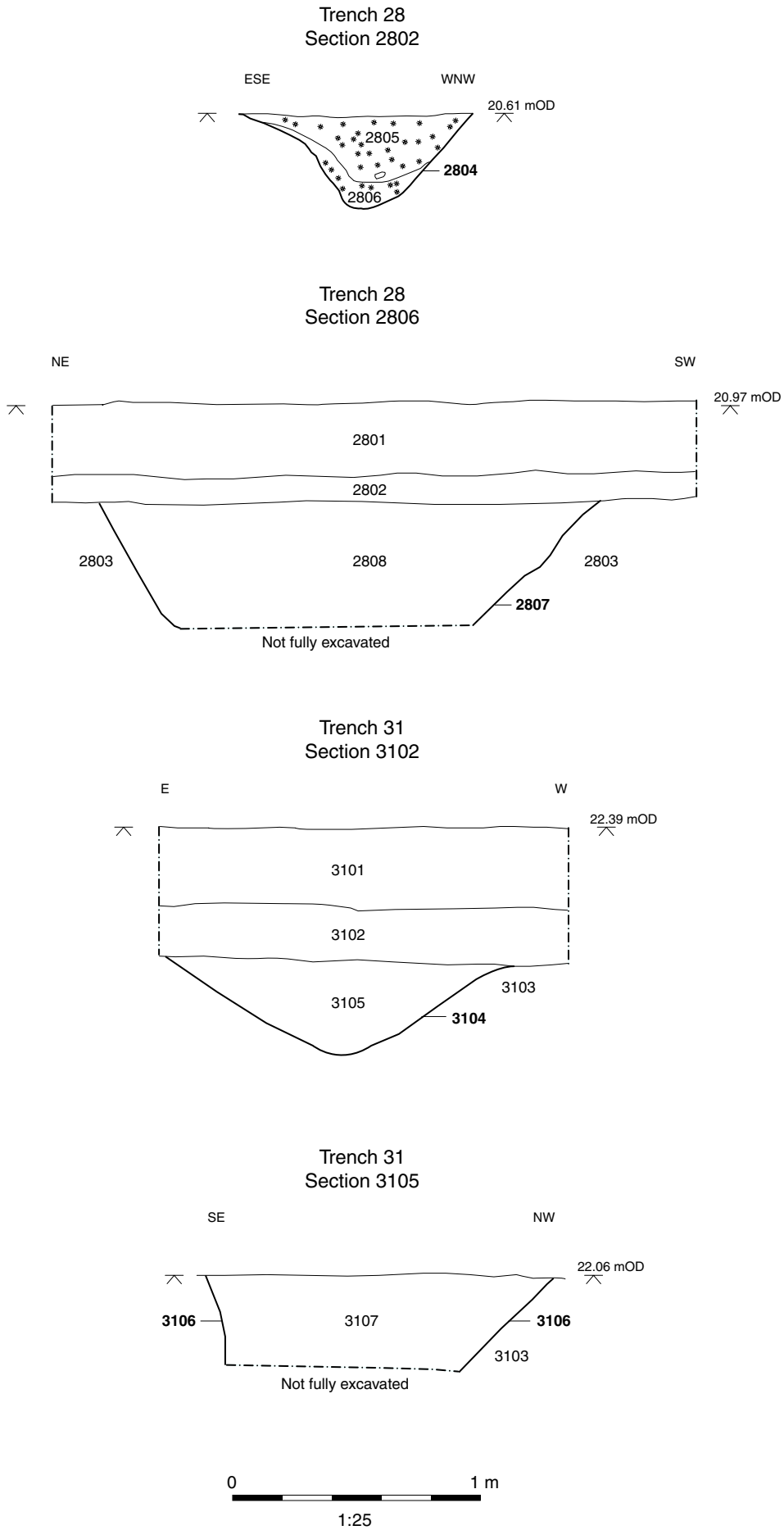


Figure 4: Sections: Trenches 28 and 31

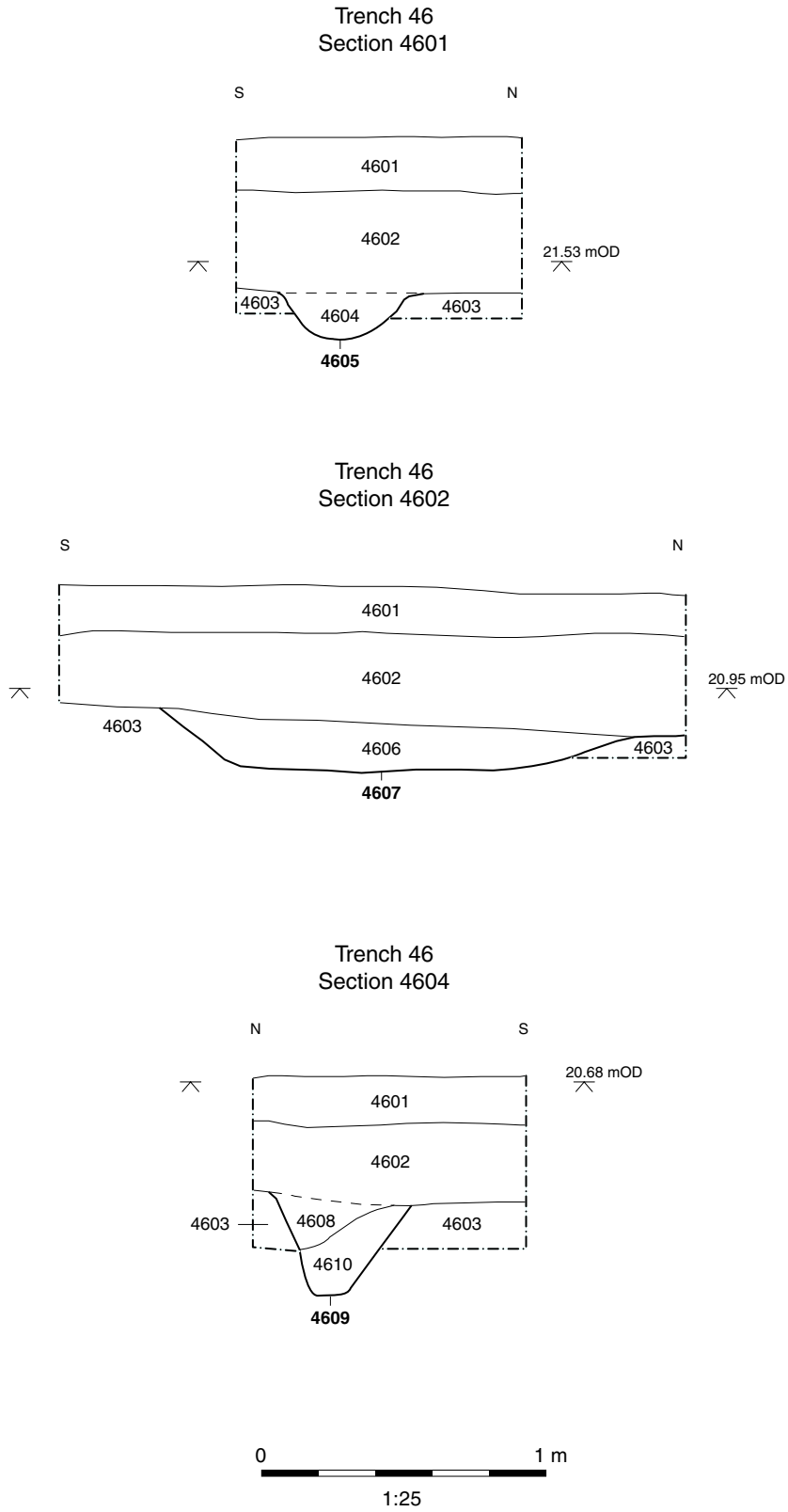


Figure 5: Sections: Trench 46



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