A39/B3116 Road Improvements (Two Headed Man Junction), Marksbury, Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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A39/B3116 Road Improvements (Two Headed Man Junction)

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Five evaluation trenches were targeted upon several geophysical anomalies identified at the site of a proposed road junction development. The ditches of two enclosures were exposed in the northern half of the site. One of these remains undated, while the other is tentatively dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Two sections of a ring ditch were exposed in the southern half of the site and appear to relate to a ploughed-out round barrow. In the centre of the site, the course of the scheduled West Wansdyke earthwork was exposed but not further excavated. Rubble representing the core of the bank was consistent with evidence found during other local excavations, and possibly suggests that the earthwork here had a stone revetment. All the features excavated at the site appear to have suffered from later truncation.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd and the fieldwork was supervised by Tom Black, supported by Povilas Cepauskas and Kevin Shadwell. Digitizing of the plans and sections was carried out by Anne Kilgour and Charles Rousseaux. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Geraldine Crann, processed the environmental remains under the management of Sharon Cook, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Bath and North East Somerset Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed road improvement scheme at the junction of the A39 and B3116 near Marksbury, Somerset (also known as the Two Headed Man Junction).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of the submission of a Planning Application. The scope of the work was established by Richard Sermon, Senior Planning Archaeologist, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2017). This report outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements, and details the results of the evaluation.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, Section 12) and the Bath and North East Somerset Local Plan (BNES Local Plan adopted 2007, Sections C3.57–64).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the east of the A39 with its centre at the junction with the B3116 (NGR ST 66870 63979). It is located *c* 8km west of Bath and *c* 1.5km north of the village of Marksbury (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of a strip of land covering 7100m^2. The site extends for *c* 360m along the eastern side of the current A39, and the land is currently used for arable cultivation. The centre of the site lies at 107.5m aOD, though the land increases in height from the north-east to the south-west as it leads to Stantonbury Hill in this direction.

1.2.3 The site is located on two geological formations. The western part of the site, closest to the current A39, is mapped as Blue Lias Formation which consists of limestone and mudstone. The eastern part of the site is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation (Geology of Britain Online Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk). The overlying soils differ slightly between the two geological formations. The Blue Lias Formation is covered by shallow, lime-rich soils and the Charmouth Mudstone Formation is covered by slightly acidic but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. The latter tends to be seasonally wet, as it is slowly permeable (UKSO Soilsmap Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background of the site was presented in the WSI (OA 2017). This drew upon data largely from the National Record of the Historic Environment and the Archaeological Investigations Project, University of Bournemouth. Some evidence for prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity is known

from the area, including the probable early medieval earthwork known as the West Wansdyke which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (see below).

Prehistory (500,000 BP–AD43)

1.3.2 Several worked flints dating to the Bronze Age, including a barbed-and-tanged arrowhead, were recovered as surface finds in Compton Dando Parish, *c* 675m west of the site (Monument No. 201190).

1.3.3 The foot of Stantonbury Hill lies less than 200m to the south-east of the site. A single ditch encloses an area of about three acres of the plateau of the hill, forming a univallate hillfort (Monument No. 201138). Iron Age 'A' pottery was recovered from the hillfort and is now curated by Bristol City Museum.

Roman (AD43–410)

1.3.4 The Roman settlement at Bath (Aquae Sulis) lies just over 8km to the east of the site and represents the nearest site of major significance during this period. However, while the wider region (Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) is well known for containing a relatively large number of Roman-period settlements (Smith 2016), few have been found in the immediate vicinity of the site.

1.3.5 A Roman villa was discovered before 1834, *c* 650m NNE of the site in the parish of Compton Dando (Monument No. 201090). Excavations revealed a tessellated pavement and several small rooms. Finds included two coins of Tetricus, Roman pottery and ceramic tiles. Scatters of Roman pottery and tile, and some dressed stone, were discovered as surface finds in a field south of Burnett during the 1960s. Later fields investigations have found little evidence of the villa here, and it seems likely that the early 19th century excavation largely destroyed the building (cf VCH 1906, 303; Scott 1993, 15).

Early medieval (AD410–1066)

1.3.6 The West Wansdyke passes directly through the centre of the site on an approximately WNW–ESE alignment (Monument No. 1066087). Along with the East Wansdyke, this feature comprises a series of linear earthworks, many of which are poorly preserved. There is a total of 17 designated sections of the West Wansdyke which are aggregated into 11 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, accounting for *c* 37% (6km) of its length.

1.3.7 In this area, the West Wansdyke links the hillforts of Maes Knoll (its western-most known point) and Stantonbury, immediately east of the site. The Wansdyke utilizes the northern side of Stantonbury Hillfort and appears to recut the Iron Age defences at the eastern end. Fieldwork in the 1970s revealed a ploughed-out cross-bank and a 4th–5th-century extension against the back of Wansdyke. From here, the West Wansdyke continues east to Monkton Combe, south of Bath.

1.3.8 Although reputed to have been an important early medieval construction, the date of construction and period of use of the West Wansdyke is poorly understood. Geophysical survey over *c* 8.25ha along the presumed line of the Wansdyke has revealed its presence in areas where above-ground remains have been destroyed (GeoQuest 1995). This work also showed that it probably had a ditch on each side of

a central bank. Limited excavations at Blackrock Lane and Compton Green suggest that in some places the dyke had timber revetments, but in others had stone revetting with evidence of construction techniques similar to those used by the Roman military (Erskine 2007). A more detailed account of the history and archaeological background of the West Wansdyke has been presented in a recent conservation management plan for the site (ECUS 2015).

Later medieval–post-medieval (AD1066–1900)

1.3.9 Hunstrete Grand Mansion was located *c* 3km SW of the site and some remains are still standing (Monument No. DBN2467). Documentary sources suggest the presence of a building at the site in the mid-13th century. An archaeological assessment carried out by Bath Archaeological Trust in 1994 revealed a substantial revetment wall (BAT 1994). Two geophysical surveys in the 2000s were unable to provide a clear plan of the walls owing to large quantities of demolition debris, though ground-penetrating radar results highlighted the presence of deeper foundations (GSB 2007; 2008). Map-regression analysis indicates that the building had been demolished by 1860.

Undated

1.3.10 An undated mound is located on the summit of Windsbury Hill, *c* 900m south of the site (Monument No. 201118). It seems likely that the mound is a barrow, though it is now much damaged. The feature was surveyed twice in the 1960s and was found to be 0.5m high, though it did not appear to have a surrounding ditch.

1.3.11 A series of ditches and lynchets are also known on Windsbury Hill (Monument No. 201118). The lynchets have been observed on aerial photographs, which show several terraces on the south, west and east slopes of the hill. Many of the lynchets on the upper slopes have been badly damaged by gravel digging, and the features have yet to be dated.

2 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

2.1.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken at the site in advance of the evaluation (SUMO 2017). The results of this survey revealed several features of potential archaeological interest (Fig. 2).

2.1.2 The most significant of these appeared to be the course of the West Wansdyke which passes through the centre of the site on a WNW-ESE alignment. This is shown by a strong positive linear response which relates to the line of the ditch on the northern side of the earthwork. A negative response to the south of this feature highlights the line of the bank, and a slightly fainter positive response to the south of this indicates the presence of an opposing ditch.

2.1.3 To the north of the West Wansdyke, two linear features appear to form enclosures. A curving ditch at the far north end of the site may represent the southern extent of an oval or sub-rectangular enclosure. Two more ditches around 20–30m north of the West Wansdyke together appear to form a smaller sub-rectangular enclosure.

2.1.4 The geophysical report suggests that the enclosures to the north of the West Wansdyke may relate to Iron Age or Roman activity, based upon the proximity of the features to Stantonbury Hill.

2.1.5 Several anomalies are present to the south of the West Wansdyke. Many of these are fairly irregular, though a small circular ditch/gully feature can be seen in the central part of the southern section. This feature is suggested to be either a barrow or a roundhouse (ibid. 3).

3 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
iii. To ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey.

3.2 Scope of the work

3.2.1 A total of five evaluation trenches (Nos. 1–5) were positioned to target several anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). These were located to provide information about the potential impact of the road improvements on the surviving archaeology and to realise the aims of the project set out above.

3.2.2 Trenches 1 to 4 were positioned to investigate the results of the geophysical survey. Trench 5 was positioned at, or as close as possible, the point where a proposed drainage-run crosses the route of the West Wansdyke. The results from Trench 5 will be used to inform, and reduce, the potential impact the installation of the drainage will have on the dyke.

3.3 Methodology

3.3.1 The five trenches were laid out in the positions shown in Figure 2 using a GPS with sub-25mm accuracy.

3.3.2 The turf and topsoil was excavated by a mechanical digger fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of the OA Project Officer. The resulting spoil was stored at a safe distance from the trench edges. Machining continued in level spits down to the top of the natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, depending upon which was first encountered. When fully excavated, each trench was 20m long and 1.55m wide. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand.

3.3.3 The exposed surfaces were hand-cleaned to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each archaeological feature found in Trenches 1–4 was excavated and recorded. In Trench 5, archaeological deposits associated with the West Wansdyke were cleaned and planned, but not excavated so that the Scheduled Ancient Monument was not disturbed.

3.3.4 Upon the satisfaction of Richard Sermon, Senior Planning Archaeologist (Bath and NE Somerset Council), that the objectives of each trench had been met, the trenches were backfilled.

3.3.5 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and recording was undertaken in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual.

3.3.6 Digital photos were taken of all trenches and all significant archaeological features. These will form part of the project archive.

3.3.7 Trench plans were drawn at 1:100 and no features were deemed significant enough for larger scale plans. All section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and were located on the appropriate plans. The absolute height (aOD) of all principal strata and features, and the section datum lines have been calculated and indicated on the drawings.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction and presentation of results

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. Full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits have been presented in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

4.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated (e.g. pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3).

4.2 General soils and ground conditions

4.2.1 The soil sequence varied slightly between the trenches. The topsoil was uniform across site, consisting of a dark grey-brown silty clay. The subsoil was a consistent silty clay, though its colour ranged from a reddish-brown to an orange-brown and the density of limestone and mudstone inclusions also varied. No subsoil was encountered in Trench 3.

4.2.2 The natural geology varied in every trench (apart from Trench 5 where it was not reached). In Trench 1, the natural geology consisted of a mixture of yellowish-grey clay with limestone and reddish-brown clay with mudstone and limestone. Trench 2 had a greyish-red clay with mudstone and limestone that quickly oxidized to a reddish-brown colour. Trench 3 exposed cornbrash and fractured limestone within a red clay matrix. In Trench 4, the geology was a mottled orange-brown and blue-grey clay with frequent manganese inclusions. This layer also oxidized quickly, but to a dark brown colour. It was overlain by a layer of clay with orange-brown and blue-grey patches mixed with silt and manganese.

4.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry. Where present, archaeological features were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

4.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

4.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5. Trench 4 was completely devoid of archaeology and will not be discussed further in this report.

4.4 Trench 1

4.4.1 Trench 1 was excavated in the northern part of the site and was oriented roughly north–south. It was positioned to target a positive linear response highlighted by the geophysical survey, which appeared to be a large curvilinear enclosure ditch.

4.4.2 The trench exposed the southern section of this feature, recorded as ditch 101 (Fig. 3). The ditch was aligned east–west and continued across the full width of the trench. It had a flat base with concave sides and measured 1.20m wide (Fig. 7, Section 100). The ditch contained a single fill (102), 0.22m deep, of firm clay with limestone inclusions, including one burnt but unworked fragment.

4.5 Trench 2

4.5.1 Trench 2 was excavated in the northern half of the site, along the eastern edge, and was oriented roughly NE–SW. It was located to target the northern ditch of a possible rectilinear enclosure highlighted by the geophysical survey.

4.5.2 The trench exposed ditch 201, which was aligned broadly NW–SE and continued across its full width (Fig. 4). The ditch was 0.95m wide by 0.2m deep and contained a single fill of firm silty clay with limestone inclusions and several finds (Fig. 7, Section 200). The upper surface of the ditch fill was undulating and appears to have been disturbed by later activity.

4.6 Trench 3

4.6.1 Trench 3 was excavated in the southern half of the site, along the eastern edge. It was oriented north–south and was positioned to target a circular anomaly revealed by the geophysical survey.

4.6.2 The trench exposed two ditches, 302 and 304, which align with the positive linear responses observed in the magnetometry results (Fig. 2). The southernmost ditch (302) was roughly oriented NW–SE and continued across the full width of the trench (Fig. 5). The feature had a V-shaped profile with a concave base, measuring 0.48m wide and 0.22m deep. It contained a single fill of firm silty clay with limestone inclusions (Fig. 7, Section 300).

4.6.3 Ditch 304 was located approximately 8m to the north of ditch 302. This feature was oriented SW–NE and followed the alignment around from ditch 302, as shown by the geophysics. However, ditch 304 was much larger than its southerly counterpart, measuring 1.5m across and 0.48m deep, and had a comparatively moderate profile with gently sloping sides (Fig. 7, Section 301). The ditch contained two fills: a primary deposit of red clay with limestone and mudstone inclusions, and a secondary fill of firm, silty clay.

4.7 Trench 5

4.7.1 Trench 5 was excavated in the centre of site, along the western limit, and was oriented NE–SW. It was positioned to target the alignment of the West Wansdyke, which was shown by the geophysical survey to pass through this area of the site from WNW to ESE.

4.7.2 The trench exposed the bank of the earthwork (503) immediately beneath the topsoil (Fig. 6). The feature was constructed with limestone blocks and smaller fragments bonded with a yellowy-grey clay. The bank was not excavated so that the feature was not disturbed, owing to its scheduled status, but it was found to measure 5.35m wide and it spanned the whole width of the trench.

4.7.3 The northern ditch of the West Wansdyke, which was clearly shown on the geophysics, was not exposed. The southern ditch 501 was, however, revealed immediately adjacent to the bank. This feature measured 3.35m wide and spanned the whole width of the trench. As with the bank, the southern ditch was not excavated.

4.8 Finds summary

4.8.1 The few finds that were recovered from the evaluation trenches are detailed in the relevant specialist reports below.

4.8.2 In summary, ditch 101 produced an unworked fragment of burnt limestone, ditch 201 produced a few animal bones, a couple of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery sherds, and a large curved fossil that may have been curated in the past, and ditch 302 produced a small amount of animal bone.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 The excavation was undertaken in dry weather and was not unduly affected by any other environmental conditions. The features were easy to distinguish from the surrounding natural geology.

5.2 Evaluation objectives and results

5.2.1 The evaluation revealed five archaeological features located across the site, all of which related to the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey results. Only Trench 4 at the far southern end of the site failed to reveal any archaeological remains.

5.2.2 Dating evidence in the form of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was recovered from ditch 201 in Trench 2.

5.2.3 The extent and preservation of the bank and southern ditch section of the West Wansdyke earthwork was revealed in Trench 5, though the northern ditch seen on the geophysical survey was not exposed. The bank appeared to be well preserved, with its surviving remains measuring over 5m across, though its upper part has no doubt previously suffered from agricultural activity. The feature was not excavated, due to its scheduled status, and no dating evidence was recovered.

5.3 Interpretation

Trench 1

5.3.1 Trench 1 exposed ditch 101 which related to a large curvilinear enclosure at the northern end of the site. Although the geophysical survey did not cover the whole area of the enclosure, it was found to measure at least 50m across. At just over 0.2m deep, the enclosure ditch was relatively shallow and it appears to have been considerably truncated. The single fill produced a single fragment of burnt stone, which may have related to activity at the site, though the feature is otherwise undated.

Trench 2

5.3.2 Trench 2 exposed the east–west section of ditch 201. This feature was shown on the geophysical survey to turn south at its eastern end, and a second roughly east–west ditch also appeared on the survey results around 30m to the south. Although this southern ditch was not targeted by the evaluation trenches, it appears to be of a similar size to ditch 201, while its proximity and alignment with ditch 201 suggests that the pair formed a rectilinear or sub-rectangular enclosure.

5.3.3 Pottery and animal bone recovered from fill 202 of ditch 201 indicates domestic activity. The ceramics are tentatively dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, and certainly no later than the Roman period. As with ditch 101, ditch 201 was very shallow and the undulating surface of its fill suggests that it had been truncated by later activity.

Trench 3

5.3.4 Trench 3 exposed two ditch sections that almost certainly relate to the ring ditch highlighted by the geophysical survey, which suggests that it measured *c* 11m by 8m across. Although the feature is quite clear on the magnetometry plot, the two sections exposed in Trench 3 varied markedly. The northern section (304) measured *c* 1.5m across, and was much wider than the half-metre-wide southern section (302). This difference is possibly the result of different levels of truncation across the site. However, the profile of ditch 302 had steeper sides compared with the larger ditch 304, and this may reflect variation in the original cut of the ditch.

5.3.5 Although the internal dimensions of the space enclosed by the ring ditch is typical of the size of a roundhouse, the size of ditch 304 almost certainly excludes this possibility, and instead suggests that the feature represents the remains of a ploughed-out round barrow. A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from ditch 302, though without any artefactual evidence the feature remains undated.

Trench 5

5.3.6 Trench 5 exposed a small section of the West Wansdyke, a known Ancient Scheduled Monument. Since the feature was not further excavated during the evaluation, little more can be said other than the fact that it was flanked by ditches on its southern and northern sides. These ditches were revealed by the excavation and the geophysical survey respectively.

5.3.7 A survey of the results of several excavations at different places along the West Wansdyke concluded that the bank was consistent in dimensions and construction techniques along its full length (Erskine 2007). At Binces Lane East, Stanton Prior, the bank was 12.5m wide and its core had been built with lias limestone rubble and later stony soils that spread and thinned out to the south. No evidence of a southern ditch was noted here, while finds indicated a late Roman *terminus post quem* for the bank, counterscarp and the primary silt of the ditch (ibid. 85–86). Limestone was also used in the construction of the bank at Binces Lane West, and limestone rubble in the ditch fills at both sites was suggested by Erskine to indicate the presence of a masonry revetment in areas where the ditch was rock-cut. This was not always the case at other sites where excavations have taken place. However, discovery of the limestone-packed bank section in Trench 5 suggests that the construction here is consistent with the evidence from the Binces Lane sites.

5.4 Significance

5.4.1 The evaluation trenches have revealed the remains of at least four archaeological features, though each appears to have suffered from later truncation.

5.4.2 The two enclosures in the northern half of the site clearly differ in form. The smaller, more regular enclosure exposed in Trench 2 is tentatively dated by pottery to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. The larger, curvilinear enclosure to the north could not be dated. The stark difference in form between the two enclosures, however, perhaps suggests that they were not contemporary.

5.4.3 The ring ditch found in the southern half of the site must also remain undated, though the size of the northern section of its ditch suggests that it may be a barrow.

5.4.4 The discovery of the limestone bank in the centre of the site confirms the route of the West Wansdyke in this area between the hillforts of Maes Knoll and Stantonbury, the latter of which lies just to the south-east of the site. Stantonbury was no doubt of some significance in the Iron Age and possibly throughout the Roman period until it became part of the Wansdyke earthwork complex, probably in the late Roman or the early medieval period.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained one E-W aligned ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay and limestone.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.55
					Avg. depth (m)	0.25
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil: dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
101	Cut	1.20	0.22	Cut of E-W ditch	-	-
102	Fill	1.20	0.22	Fill of E-W ditch 101: firm, dark greyish-brown clay with limestone fragments	Burnt limestone	-
103	Layer	-	-	Natural: yellowish-grey clay with limestone fragments	-	-
104	Layer	-	-	Natural: reddish-brown clay with mudstone and limestone inclusions	-	-
105	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil: mid-orange-brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained one NW-SE ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.55
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil: dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-
201	Cut	0.95	0.20	Cut of NW-SE ditch	-	-
202	Fill	0.95	0.20	Fill of NW-SE ditch 201: firm, dark greyish-brown silty clay with limestone inclusions	Pottery, animal bone, unworked lias, fossil	Late Iron Age/early Roman
203	Layer	-	-	Natural: reddish-grey clay that oxidized rapidly to a reddish-brown	-	-
204	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil: dark reddish-brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two segments of a possible ring ditch. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of fractured limestone cornbrash.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.55
					Avg. depth (m)	0.24
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil: dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
301	Layer	-	-	Natural: fractured limestone in a red clay matrix	-	-
302	Cut	0.48	0.22	Cut of small curvilinear	-	-
303	Fill	0.48	0.22	Fill of small curvilinear 302: firm, mid-greyish-brown silty clay with limestone inclusions	Animal bone	-
304	Cut	1.50	0.48	Cut of curvilinear	-	-
305	Fill	0.76	0.30	Fill of curvilinear 304: firm, dark reddish-brown silty clay	-	-
306	Fill	1.50	0.24	Fill of curvilinear 304: compact, dark reddish-brown, mudstone and limestone fragments in a red clay matrix	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.55
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil: dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil: dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional manganese	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural: mixed, mid-orange-brown and blue-grey clay with grey-brown silt and manganese inclusions	-	-
403	Layer	-	-	Natural: mottled, dark orange-brown and blue-grey with frequent manganese; weathers to a dark brown	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a section of the West Wansdyke. Consists of topsoil and subsoil but the natural geology was not observed in this trench.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.55
					Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil: dark greyish-brown silty clay	-	-
501	Cut	3.35	-	Cut of ditch (unexcavated)	-	-
502	Fill	3.35	-	Fill of ditch 501 (unexcavated): firm, mottled dark orange-grey clay with frequent limestone inclusions	-	-
503	Bank	5.35	-	Bank of the West Wansdyke (unexcavated)	-	-
504	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil: mid-reddish-brown silty clay		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

B.1.1 Two joining body sherds of pottery, weighing 12g, were recovered from context 202, a fill of ditch 201. The pottery was in a dark grey medium sandy fabric with occasional calcareous inclusions. The sherds cannot be identified to form but they may be part of the shoulder of a high-shouldered jar. If so, a late Iron Age or early Roman date can be suggested. However, this is not certain, and a more general later Iron Age or Roman date is preferred.

B.2 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.2.1 A total of three pieces of stone were retained. Two of these, a large chunk of lias and a piece of shelly limestone from contexts 202 and 102 respectively (the latter being burnt) are unworked and can be discarded. There is also a large curved fossil of unknown type from context 202. This has not been worked but may have been of personal interest and should be retained in case it can be identified in future.

B.3 Metal

By Ian Scott

B.3.1 The only metal find is a length of undated iron rod from context 500.

B.4 Clay pipe

By John Cotter

B.4.1 Context 200 produced a single clay pipe stem fragment (2g) dating to the late 18th–19th century.

B.5 Animal bones

By Martyn Allen

B.5.1 The evaluation produced three fragments of animal bone. Context 202 produced a rib fragment from a medium-sized mammal. Context 303 produced two long bone fragments from a large mammal, most likely cattle. One of these may be part of a metapodial shaft.

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	A39/B3116 Road Improvement Scheme, Marksbury, Somerset
Site code:	MA2HM17
Grid Reference	ST 66870 63979
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	17th–18th July 2017
Area of Site	7100m^2
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Roman Bath Museum in due course.
Summary of Results:	Five evaluation trenches were targeted upon several geophysical anomalies identified at the site of a proposed road junction development. The ditches of two enclosures were exposed in the northern half of the site. One of these remains undated, while the other is tentatively dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period. Two sections of a ring ditch were exposed in the southern half of the site and appear to relate to a ploughed-out round barrow. In the centre of the site, the course of the scheduled West Wansdyke earthwork was exposed but not further excavated. Rubble representing the core of the bank was consistent with evidence found during other local excavations, and possibly suggests that the earthwork here had a stone revetment. All the features excavated at the site appear to have suffered from later truncation.

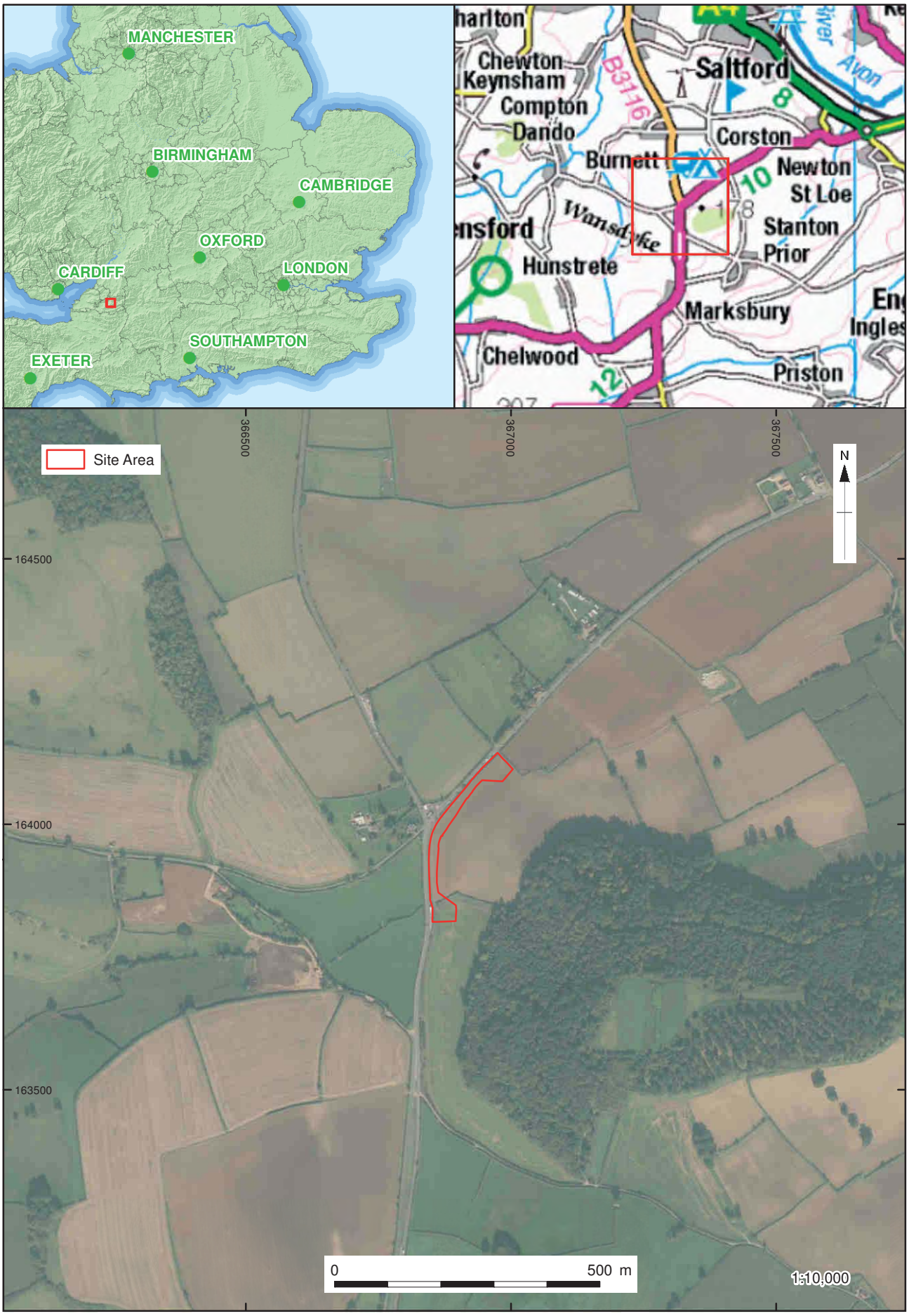

Figure 1: Site location

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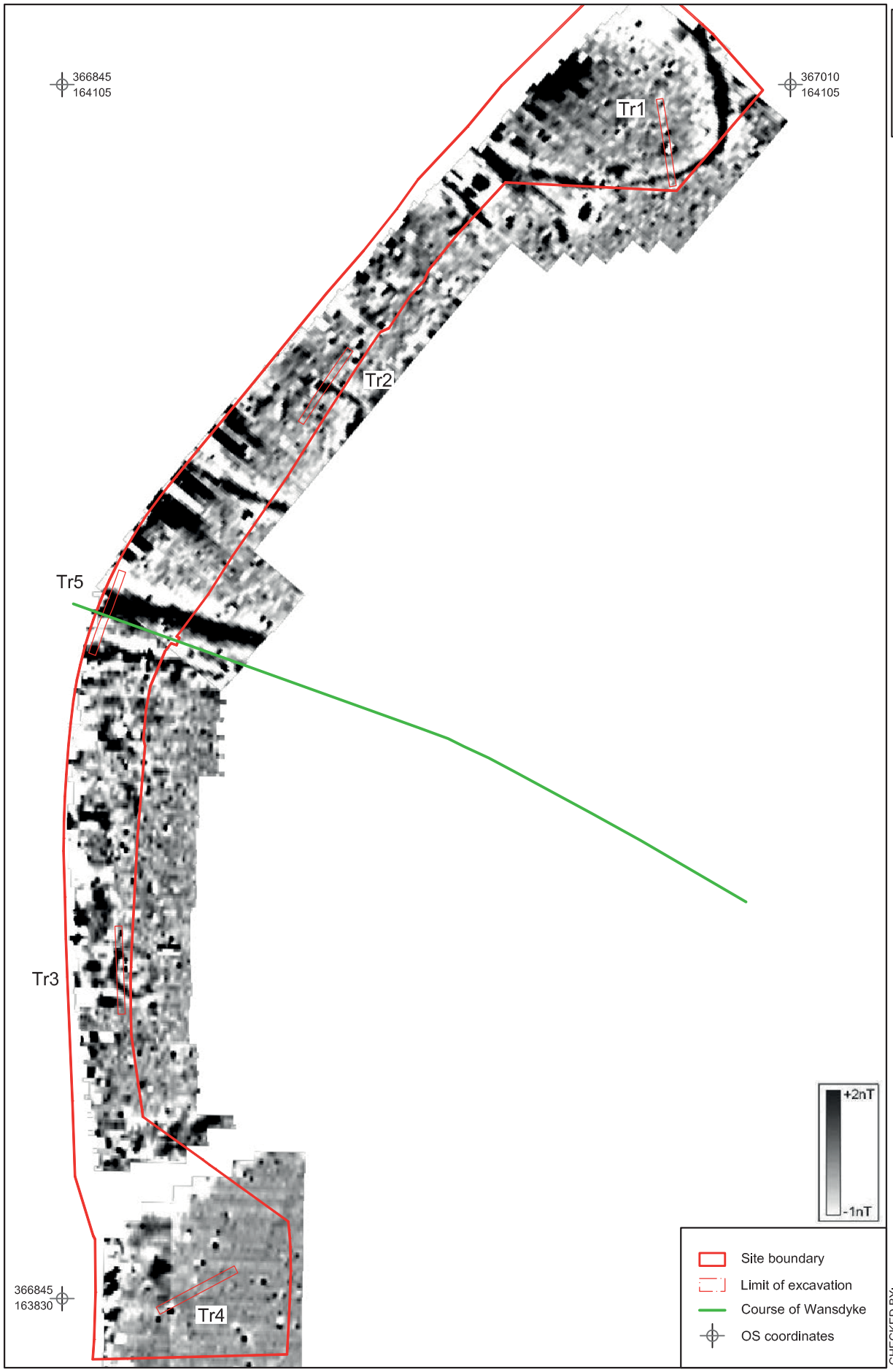

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Survey Data supplied by :
Sumo Survey, OA

Figure 2: Trench location plan

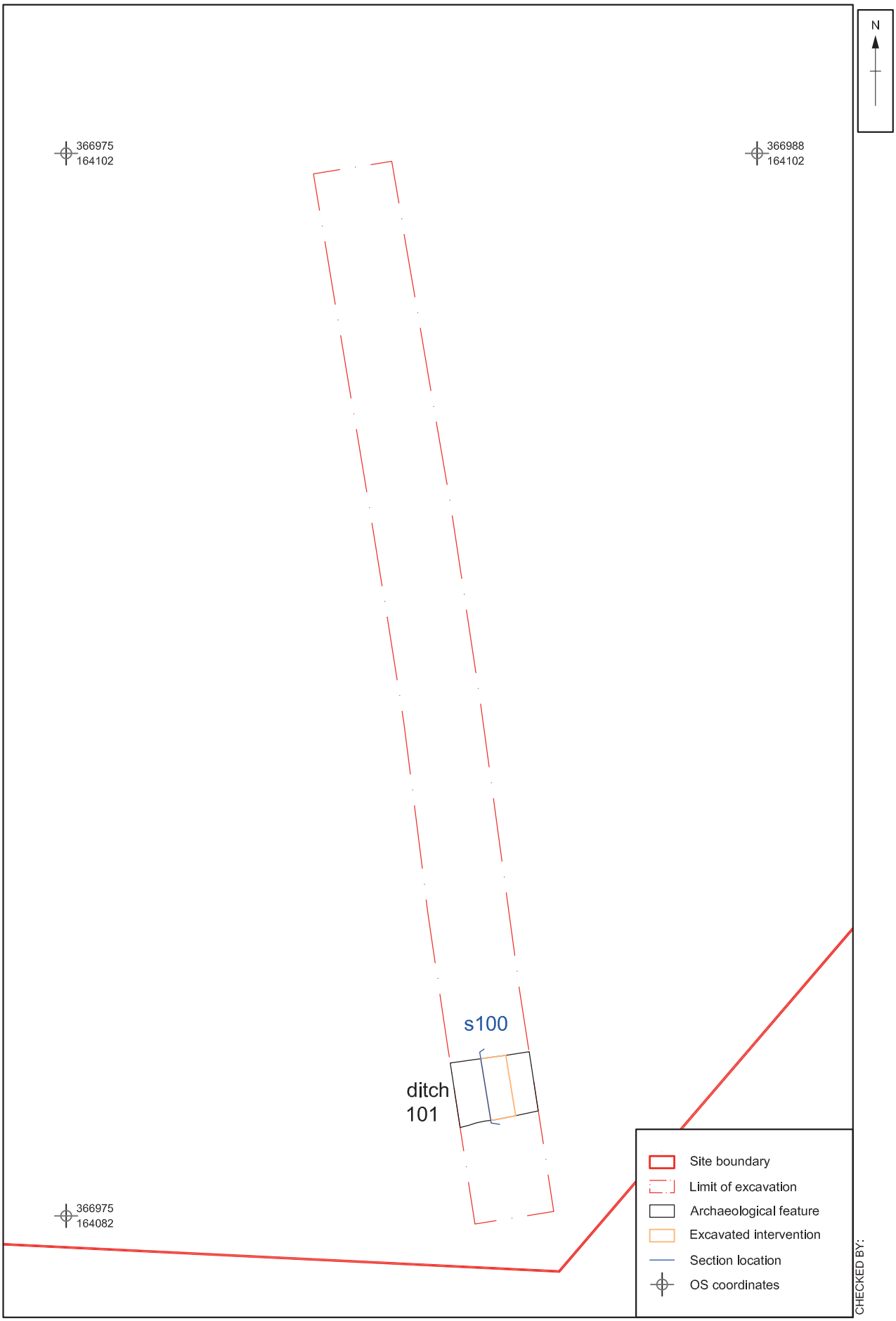
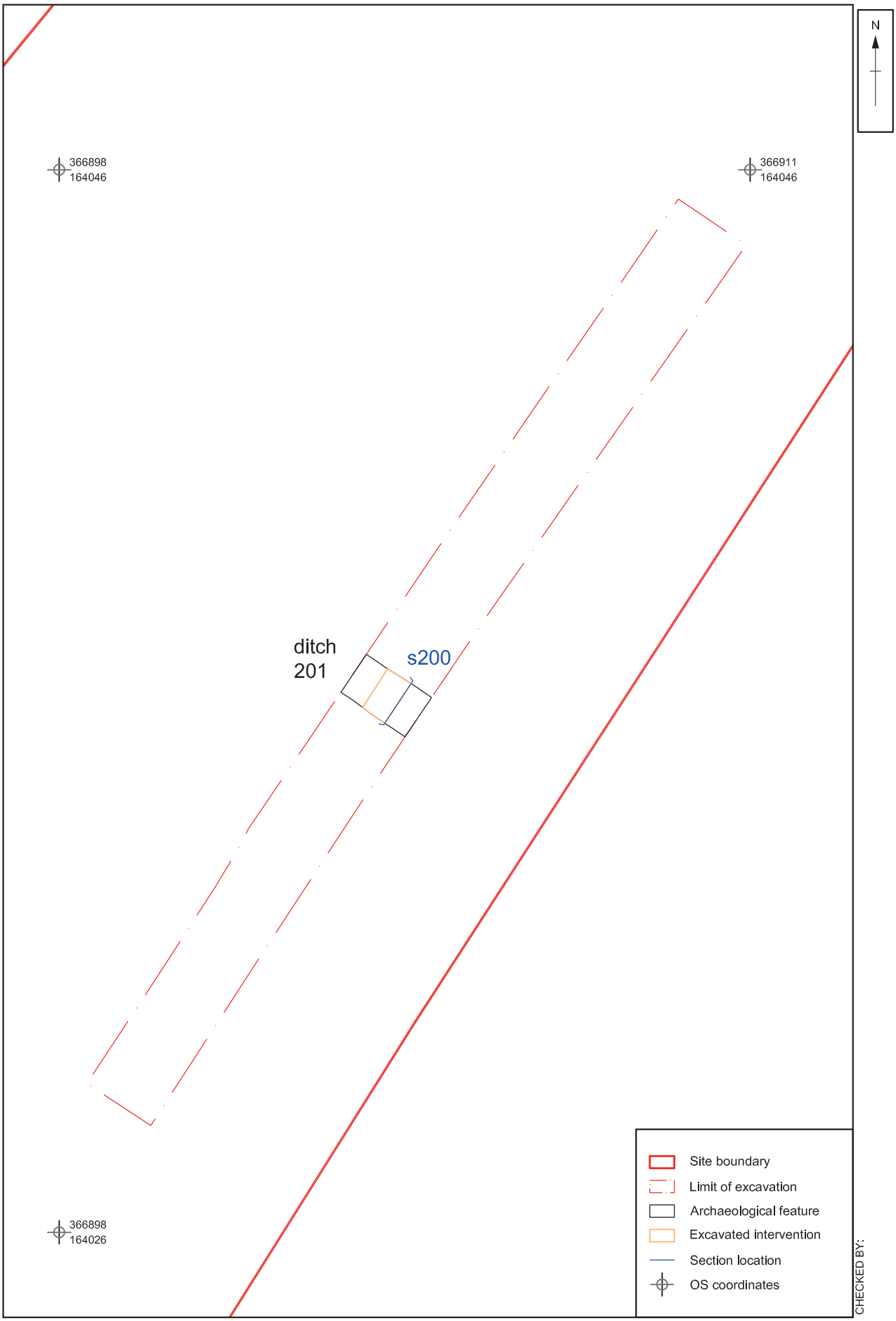
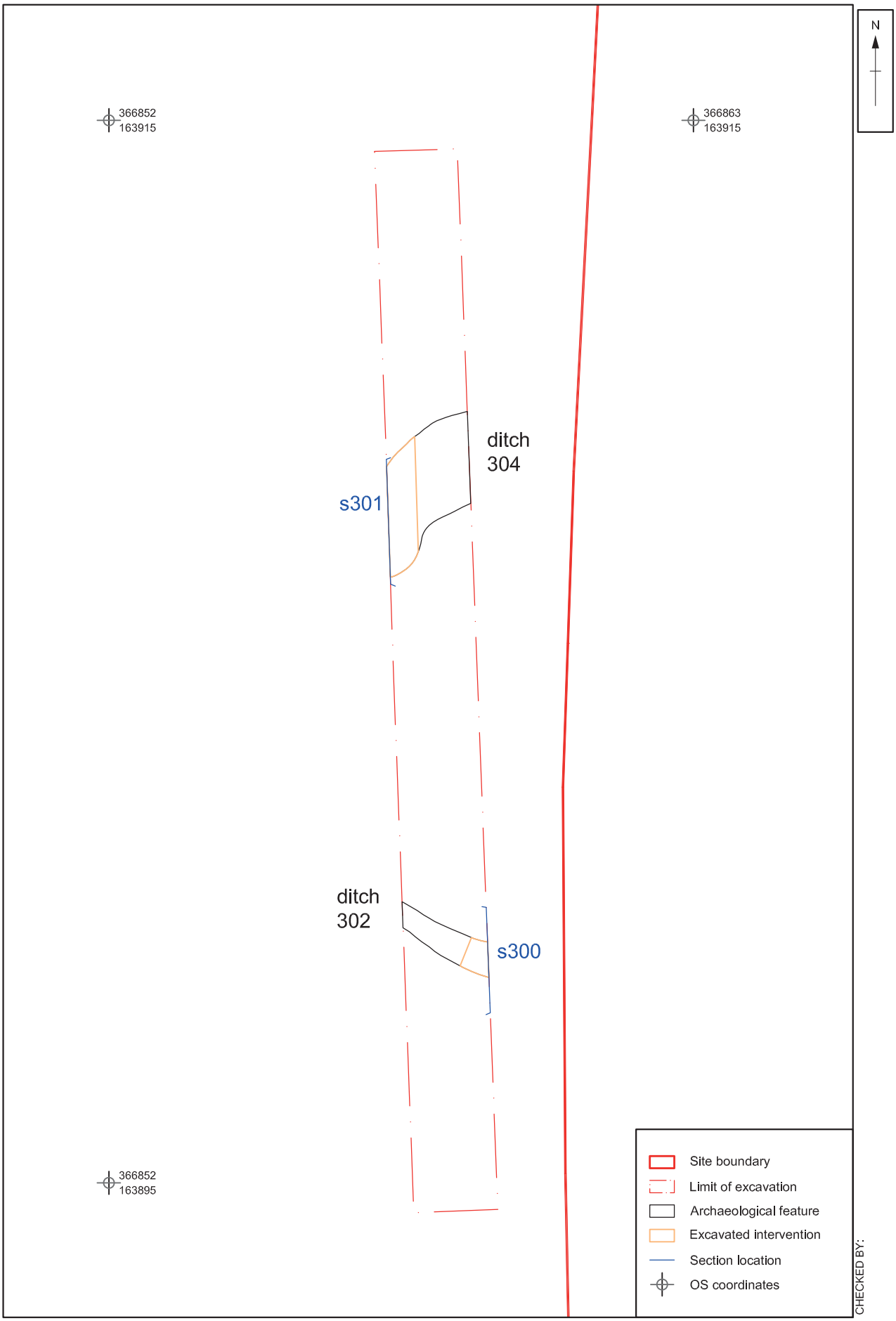


Figure 3: Plan of trench 1



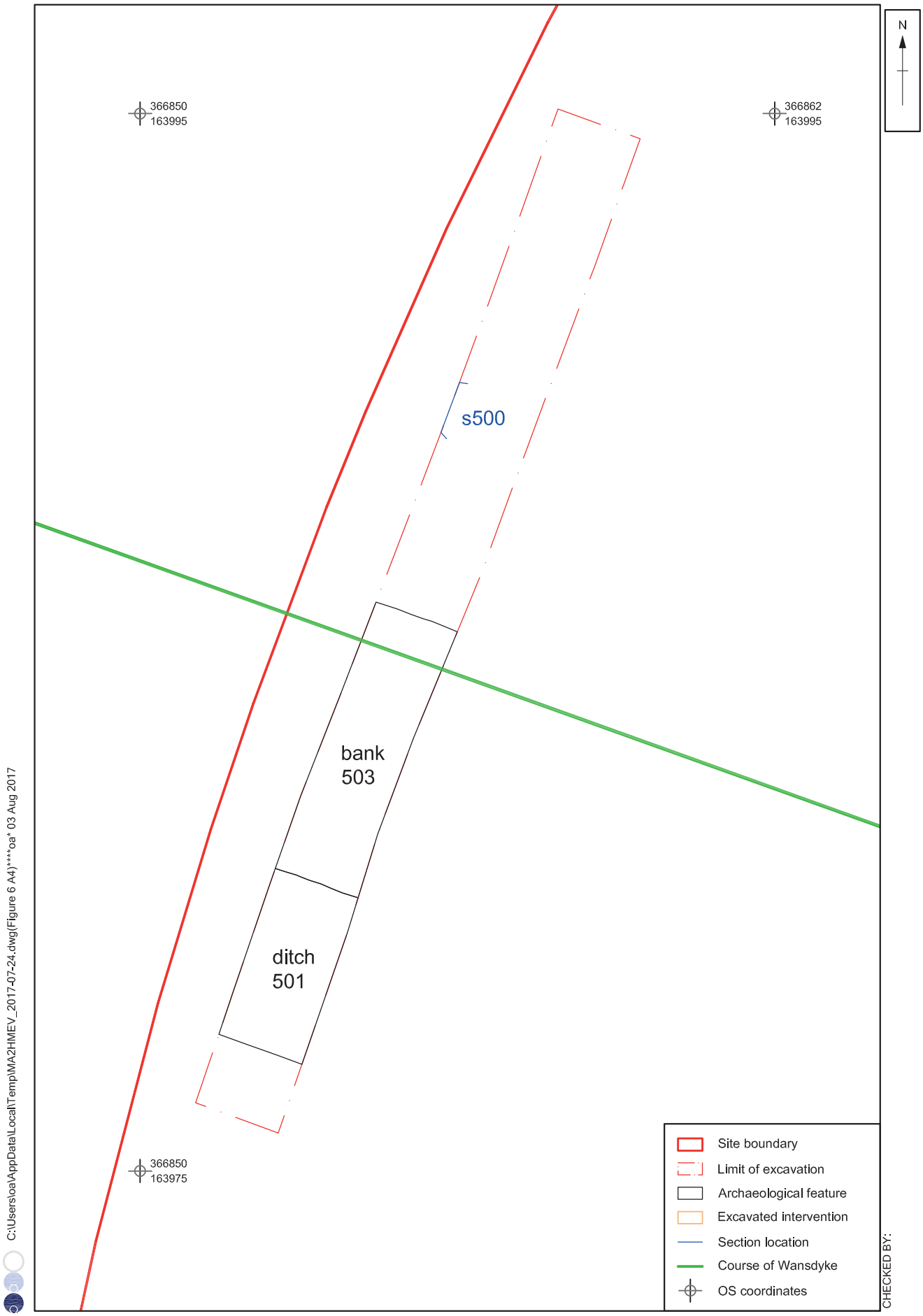
Survey Data supplied by :
OA

Figure 4: Plan of trench 2



Survey Data supplied by :
OA

Figure 5: Plan of trench 3



Survey Data supplied by :
OA

Figure 6: Plan of trench 5

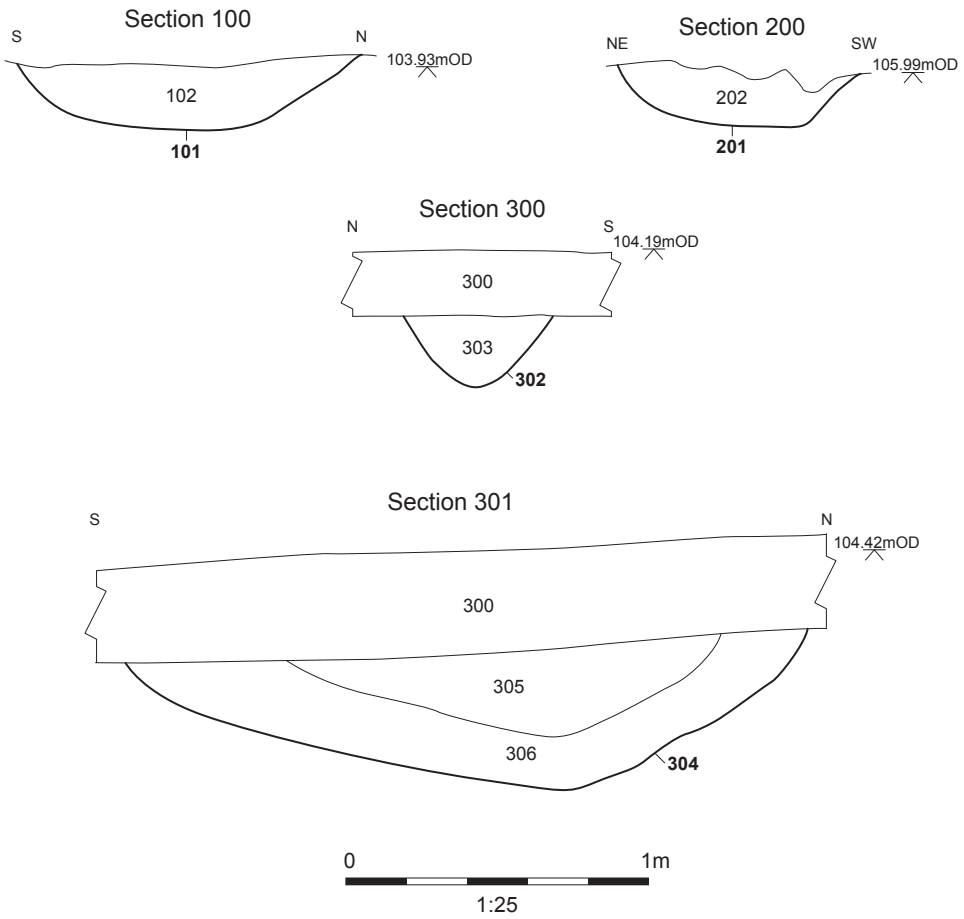


Figure 7: Sections through ditches 101, 201, 302 and 304

Plate 1: Section through ditch 101, looking west

Plate 2: Section through ditch 201, looking south-east

Plate 3: Section through ditch 302, looking east

Plate 4: Section through ditch 304, looking west

Plate 5: Representative section of trench 1

Plate 6: Representative section of trench 2

Plate 7: Representative section of trench 4

Plate 8: Representative section of trench 5

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