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Land off Hinckley Road, Sapcote, Leicestershire Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between 30th May and 8th June 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 28 trenches on Land off Hinckley Road, Sapcote, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 48321 93396). The work was undertaken to inform the local planning authority in advance of a submission for a proposed housing development.

Geophysical survey of the site had identified the probable presence of medieval ridge and furrow at the site, but no other significant features were recorded. The spreading of green waste across the site are likely to have had a negative effect on the results of the survey.

A total of 28 trenches were excavated and significant archaeological features were present in 12 of them. The other 16 trenches were either devoid of archaeological features or only contained furrows or natural features, for example root bowls.

Three phases of activity were recorded across the site: late Bronze to early Iron Age, late Iron Age to Roman and medieval to post medieval. A flint tool of likely Mesolithic date was recovered from a subsoil deposit. Activity associated with the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age was confined to a single ditch within the south-east corner of the site.

Ditches dated from the late Iron Age and Roman period are indicative of agricultural field systems. Their comparable alignments and the pottery recovered from the fills suggest only a single phase of activity. Features uncovered during these works are likely to form part of a nearby settlement's agricultural hinterland.

Medieval and post-medieval features can be associated with agricultural management. East-west aligned furrows, as suggested by the results of the geophysical survey, were present within several of the trenches.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake a trial trench evaluation at Land off Hinckley Road, Sapcote, Leicestershire, in support of a planning application for a proposed housing development.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of determination. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2017). The present document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the west of the village of Sapcote, Leicestershire (Fig. 1, NGR: SP 48321 93396). The site is bounded to the north by Hinckley Road, to the east by Park Road, to the west by Lime Avenue and to the south by open fields.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of approximately 5.5 hectares currently in agricultural use. The site slopes from 93m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the south-western corner to 90m aOD at the north-eastern boundary.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as the Mercia Mudstone Group, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 200 to 251 million years ago in the Triassic Period. Deposits of Wolston Sand and Gravel, formed 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period, are recorded as overlying the mudstone geology across the majority of the site. Along the northern edge of the site, however, superficial deposits of the Thussington Member overlie the mudstone. These deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey Online Viewer).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in an archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2016), and is summarized below.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 No evidence of prehistoric activity has been recorded within the site. A single Palaeolithic flint tool was recovered from Sapcote gravel pit approximately 460m to the north of the site. Assemblages of Neolithic flints have been recovered from fieldwalking *c* 800m south-west of the site, and Bronze Age flints 200m to the west.

1.3.3 A single sherd of Iron Age or Roman pottery was recovered from 39 Church Street, Sapcote. A Neolithic scraper and Iron Age cosmetic mortar have also been recorded in the vicinity of the site. However, their precise location is not known.

Roman

1.3.4 A possible Roman inhumation cemetery consisting of between six and ten inhumations is recorded at Sapcote gravel pit, *c* 400m to the north of the site. Find spots of Roman pottery and coins have been recorded within the vicinity of the site in assemblages of less than ten objects.

1.3.5 No evidence of Roman activity has been recorded within the development area itself.

Saxon

1.3.6 Sapcote is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) as Scepecote, or Sapecote, an Old English name meaning 'the sheep shelters' in the hundred of Guthlaxton. The settlement is recorded as having a population of 15.5 households.

1.3.7 Saxo-Norman linear ditches were excavated during an evaluation in 2011 *c* 670m to the north-east of the site. A single sherd of Stamford ware pottery was recovered during the works. A gold and garnet pendant, and a copper-alloy object of 7th-century date have been recovered within the vicinity of site. The precise locations of the find spots are unknown, but the nature of the objects may indicate high status Saxon activity in the area.

1.3.8 Approximately 60m north-east of the site is Sapcote Castle, a designated Scheduled Monument. This motte and bailey castle is one of three castles in south-west Leicestershire constructed immediately after the Norman Conquest.

Medieval

1.3.9 A late medieval enclosure is located immediately to the east of the site, and a second enclosure is located *c* 40m to the north-east. The earthwork ditch which forms the eastern boundary of the site marks the western edge of the late medieval enclosure. The parish church, dating from the 14th century, is located *c* 240m to east of site within the historic core of the village.

1.3.10 Find spots of medieval or post medieval coins, an ampulla and a harness fitting have been recovered within the vicinity of the site.

Post-medieval and modern

1.3.11 The enclosure map dating from 1778 shows the site comprising two fields, a smaller field adjacent to Hinkley Road and a larger field to the south. The boundary between the two fields is shown to consist of trees on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map. Three footpaths and a pond are also shown on the map.

1.3.12 The boundary between the two fields was removed between 1993 and 1998, creating the current arrangement of fields.

Geophysical Survey

1.3.13 A geophysical survey of site carried out in 2016 identified no archaeological features except medieval or early post-medieval ridge and furrow. However, a significant level of magnetic debris was also recorded across the site, and it is thought this likely derives from the manuring of the site with 'green' waste (MOLA 2016).

Previous Archaeology Investigations

1.3.14 No intrusive archaeological investigations have occurred within the development area. A trial trench evaluation was carried out in the adjacent field to the west. No archaeological features, except medieval furrows, were identified during the works (NA 2013).

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive
viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status utility and social activity.
ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
x. To ground truth the results of the geophysical survey.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Site specific methodologies will be as follows:

- The trenches were laid out using a GPS with sub-25mm accuracy. Some minor adjustments to trench location were made once on site due to proximity of a footpath cutting through the site on a NNE-SSW alignment.
- Prior to the commencement of any excavation works, the trench locations and proposed spoil storage areas were subject to a fingertip search by an ecological consultant.
- The trenches were excavated using a 13-tonne 360˚ mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, trench edges.
- Machining continued in level spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first.
- Upon request of the consultant ecologist, the ends of each trench were sloped and the caps of all spoil heaps compacted.
- Once archaeological deposits had been exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand.
- The exposed surface was sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or deposit type, for example pits, postholes, and ditches, was then excavated and recorded.

- Upon agreement with Teresa Hawtin, Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, and ecological approval the trenches were backfilled in reverse order.

2.2.2 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers and context recording was done in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual. Bulk finds were collected by context.

2.2.3 Digital photos were taken of any archaeological features, deposits, trenches and evaluation work in general, and they will form part of the project archive.

2.2.4 Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plans. The absolute height (m. OD) of all principal strata and features and the section datum lines were calculated and indicated on the drawings.

2.2.5 The trenches were located using a GPS unit. Co-ordinates relative to Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Datum were obtained for each sampling location.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated, for example pit 102 is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch 304 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The underlying geology varied across the site. Mixed sands and clays were recorded towards the southern limits of the site with more sands and gravels towards the centre of the site. In the very northern limits of the site the natural geology was patchy mixed clays with sandy clay and gravels.

3.2.2 Across the north and west of the site the natural geology was overlain by a pale brown silty sand subsoil which, in turn, was overlain by topsoil. Although these deposits were present in every trench, variations within the subsoil deposits were noted in Trenches 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 24, potentially associated with former plough disturbance or with the levelling of the ridge and furrow.

3.2.3 Ground conditions varied throughout the evaluation works. Mild and dry conditions at the start of project enabled archaeological features to be easily identified against the underlying geology. However, as temperatures rose and the light conditions became brighter, archaeological features were harder to spot. Extensive rain towards the end of fieldwork enabled easier identification of the archaeological features, although hand excavation became more challenging.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 2, 5, 11, 12, 13, 16, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 27. Those trenches not discussed below were either devoid of archaeological features (Plate 1) or contained E-W aligned furrows which are deemed to be of little archaeological interest (Plate 2).

3.4 Trench 2

3.4.1 Trench 2 contained a single NNE-SSW aligned ditch (202) which crossed the centre of the trench (Figs 3 and 8). The ditch was 3.4m wide and 0.53m deep and had a wide concave base and concave moderately sloping sides. The ditch contained five fills: four smaller silting events in the base, 203, 204, 205 and 206, and a more substantial fill, 207. No artefacts were recovered from the fills of the ditch.

3.5 Trench 5

3.5.1 A N-S aligned ditch (502) was located at the south-east end of the trench (Fig. 3). The ditch was 2.3m wide and had stepped sides which became steeper towards its base

and culminated in a narrow concave base (Fig. 8). The feature contained a series of three fills from which no artefactual evidence was recovered.

3.5.2 Just to the north-west of the ditch a second feature, pit 506, was excavated (Fig. 3). The pit had a diameter of 2.6m and a maximum depth of 0.6m and had steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 8). No finds were recovered from either of the two fills recorded in the pit.

3.6 Trench 7

3.6.1 Trench 7 contained a NW-SE aligned linear feature, 705, which had an irregular profile and base, likely due to heavy root disturbances along the bottom of the feature (Fig. 4). The feature probably represents a land division boundary-cum-hedge line. The fill, 706, produced a single sherd of medieval pottery, dating to the 11th-13th centuries, as well as two fragments of a single shale object – part of a small flat hexagonal object measuring 20mm across and of uncertain function or date.

3.7 Trench 11

3.7.1 Trench 11 contained two NNE-SSW aligned linear features both located towards the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 4).

3.7.2 The western most linear feature, ditch 1106, had an irregular profile (Fig. 9). Though clearly defined in plan the profile of the feature was more diffuse and appeared to have suffered significantly from root disturbance.

3.7.3 Ditch 1106 was only visible at the base of subsoil layer, 1102, but most likely was cut through the subsoil. The second linear feature, ditch 1104, was observed to truncate this deposit (Fig. 9). The ditch had a shallow concave profile and measured 1.2m wide with a maximum depth of 0.4m. The sole fill, 1105, was a friable mid grey brown sandy silt with 10% pebbles.

3.7.4 No artefacts were recovered from any of the features in Trench 11.

3.8 Trench 12

3.8.1 Aligned north-south, Trench 12 contained a small pit and an east-west aligned linear feature. Both features were located within the northern half of the trench (Fig. 5).

3.8.2 Pit 1203 was not fully visible within the trench, but appeared to be sub-circular in plan and was observed to have steep sides which formed into a concave base with no discernible break in the slope (Fig. 9). The pit was approximately 1m wide and had a depth of 0.4m. Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery was recovered from the upper of the two fills contained within the pit.

3.8.3 The ditch, 1206, located to the south of the pit, was less well defined in plan. However, upon excavation the feature become clearly defined and had shallow edges which became steeper towards the concave base (Fig. 9). The ditch contained two fills, neither of which contained any datable material.

3.9 Trench 13

3.9.1 Two small intercutting pits were excavated within the centre of Trench 13 (Fig. 4). The earlier of the two, 1306, had a shallow profile with edges that curved gradually to form a wide flat base. The pit continued beyond the limits of the trench, the observable diameter was approximately 1m in plan.

3.9.2 The later pit, 1304, had a similar profile and was 1.25m wide. Both pits contained a single fill with only a slight variation in colour to differentiate them. No finds were recovered from the pits and their shallow nature means it is difficult to ascertain a function.

3.9.3 Both features were sealed by a subsoil deposit, 1302, recorded between the subsoil and the natural geology.

3.10 Trench 16

3.10.1 Two intercutting NNE-SSW aligned ditches crossed the western end of Trench 16 (Fig. 5). Both ditches were cut into the natural geology and were sealed by subsoil deposit 1602 (Fig. 10; Plate 3).

3.10.2 The earlier ditch, 1604, was 2.46m wide and 0.44m deep and had shallow concave sides and a flat base with no observable break of slope. The western side of ditch 1604 was truncated away by ditch 1607, which cut both fills contained within the earlier feature.

3.10.3 Ditch 1607, which was 0.8m wide and 0.38m deep, was more clearly defined with moderate straight sides and a flat base. Pottery recovered from the sole fill, 1608, dates the feature to the Roman period. An environmental sample taken from the fill was processed for charred plant remains. Small fragments of charcoal, too small to be identified, and a small assemblage of grain fragments and wild seeds was recovered. The majority of the material was modern roots and other modern material.

3.10.4 At the eastern end of the trench, a discrete feature, 1609, has been interpreted as a root bowl. Measuring 0.50m by 0.56m with a depth of 0.12m, the feature had irregular sides and an irregular base. Seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fill of the root bowl, 1610.

3.11 Trench 19

3.11.1 A single E-W aligned linear feature, 1903, was recorded at the northern end of Trench 19 and has been interpreted as a former boundary ditch (Fig. 5).

3.11.2 The ditch was observed to truncate subsoil deposit 1905. The feature was 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep and had straight sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 10). A single piece of post 17th-century CBM was recovered from the fill.

3.12 Trench 20

3.12.1 Aligned E-W, Trench 20 contained a N-S aligned ditch and a sub-circular pit (Fig. 5).

3.12.2 Crossing the centre of the trench, ditch 2004 was 1.67m wide and 0.34m deep with a shallow profile and wide flat base (Fig. 10). The ditch contained a single fill from which no dating evidence was recovered.

3.12.3 To the west of the ditch was pit 2006. The pit measured 0.92m in diameter and was only 0.08m deep. The charcoal-rich fill and the heat-affected natural that surrounded the feature were indicative of *in situ* burning. The function of the pit is not certain at this time, it is likely a single use cooking pit. Serval species of cereal grain and wheat/barley chaff were recovered from environmental samples taken of the fill.

3.12.4 Both features were sealed by subsoil deposit, 2002.

3.13 Trench 22

3.13.1 An oval pit, 2207, similar to the one excavated in Trench 20, was recorded at the northern end of Trench 22 (Figs 6 and 11; Plate 4). The pit continued beyond the limits of the trench and the observable part of the feature measured 1.3m by 0.7m and was 0.2m deep. Two fills were recorded in the pit. The basal fill, 2208, contained a significant amount of charcoal. The natural geology surrounding the pit had been heat affected, indicative of *in situ* burning and its possible use as a cooking pit.

3.13.2 A variety of cereal grains and chaff, including barley, wheat and oat were recovered from an environmental sample taken from fill 2208.

3.13.3 Two features interpreted as root bowls were excavated in the southern half of the trench. A single sherd, weighing 4 grams, of Roman pottery was recovered from the fill, 2204, of root bowl 2203.

3.14 Trench 24

3.14.1 Two intercutting ditches were recorded crossing Trench 24 (Fig. 6).

3.14.2 The earlier ditch, 2406, was aligned NNE-SSW and curved slightly towards the east before continuing beyond the northern trench edge. The ditch measured 0.4m wide by 0.15m deep and contained a single undated fill, 2407 (Fig. 11).

3.14.3 The later ditch, 2403, was aligned NW-SE and measured 0.6m wide by 0.2m. Similar to the earlier feature, ditch 2403 also had a shallow concave profile and contained only a single undated fill (Fig. 11).

3.14.4 The deposit sequence in Trench 24 varied across the length of the trench. In the western half of the trench natural geology (2402) was overlain by subsoil (2401) and then topsoil (2400). Ditch 2403 was observed to cut through the subsoil.

3.15 Trench 26

3.15.1 Orientated E-W, Trench 26 contained a single ditch and two root bowls (Fig. 7). A thin layer of subsoil, <0.1m thick, was recorded in the western half of the trench. This deposit overlay the natural geology and was truncated by the ditch (Fig. 12).

3.15.2 The ditch, 2607, crossed the centre of the of the trench on a NW-SE alignment. The south-west side of the ditch had been heavily disturbed by root bowl 2609 and therefore the full width of the ditch is unknown. The observable width was 1.42m and the feature had a maximum depth of 0.16m.

3.16 Trench 27

3.16.1 Like Trench 26, a thin band of subsoil, <0.08m thick, was recorded overlying the natural in Trench 27.

3.16.2 A single E-W aligned ditch (2704) crossed the centre of trench cutting the subsoil (Fig. 7 and 12; Plate 5). The ditch had an irregular profile, the north side was steep and straight while the south was more gradual and slightly concave. The ditch was 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep and contained two fills. A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the lower fill, 2705, and three sherds of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pottery from the upper fill, 2076. An environmental sample taken of the fill 2706 contained mostly modern roots and other modern material. A small assemblage of charcoal, wild seeds and grain fragments was also present.

3.17 Finds summary

3.17.1 Artefactual evidence from the site was relatively sparse. A total of 15 sherds of pottery, weighing 205g, were recovered from seven contexts. The pottery ranged in date from late Bronze age or early Iron Age to post-medieval, with over half the assemblage dated to the Roman period.

3.17.2 The earliest pottery, late Bronze Age or early Iron Age in date, was recovered from context 2706, fill of ditch 2704 located in Trench 27. Three sherds formed part of a base from a single vessel, which appeared to have been deliberately 'sanded' to aid the vessel's stability.

3.17.3 A single sherd of late Iron age, or possibly early Roman, pottery was recovered from the upper fill of ditch 1203, fill 1205 found in Trench 12.

3.17.4 Roman pottery was recovered from three different contexts, two from Trench 16 and one from Trench 22. The Roman assemblage consisted of local wares that could not be closely dated. However, the lack of late Roman wares such as black-burnishware, and the fabric of the sherds recovered from Trench 16 may suggest a 1st-2nd century date, however, this is very speculative given the size of the assemblage.

3.17.5 The post-Roman pottery assemblage consisted of a sherd of medieval pottery in context 706 in Trench 7 and a post-medieval sherd from context 2800 in Trench 28. Two small fragments of shale from the same object were also recovered from context 706, Trench 7.

3.17.6 A single fragment of CBM was recovered from ditch 1903 in Trench 19. Dated to the post-medieval period, the 295g fragment likely forms part of a floor tile or paver. Although recovered from different trenches, 16 and 22,

3.17.7 Ten fragments of fired clay were also recovered. The fragments all appear to be derived from similar sources, either having been incorporated into the walls of a structure such as an oven, or derived from a hearth.

3.17.8 A single struck flint was recovered from the site, a very fine combination tool consisting of a scraper, blade and awl (Plate. 6). Recovered from the buried soil within Trench 10, 1002, the date of the flint is uncertain, however, a Mesolithic or early Neolithic date seem most probable. Given the limited prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of

the site it is likely the deposition of the tool maybe the results of accidental loss rather than indicative of activity of this period within the development area.

3.18 Environmental Summary

3.18.1 Four bulk samples were taken during the evaluation, two (2 and 4) were taken from ditches and two (1 and 3) were taken from possible hearths. Environmental material from the ditch samples was relatively sparse with a large amount of modern material, mostly roots, and very little charred material.

3.18.2 In contrast, the samples form the potential cooking pits (pits 2006 and 2207) were very rich in charred material included some larger robust fragments of charcoal which would be suitable for species identification. Although both pits are as yet undated, the material recovered from the samples would not be unexpected within either an Iron Age or Roman context.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken during varied weather conditions over a period of 10 days. While at times the weather had an adverse effect on the visibility of archaeological deposits, overall it allowed the archaeological horizon to weather appropriately and ultimately assisted in the identification of archaeological features.

4.1.2 As expected, the trial trenching demonstrates that the results of the geophysical survey do not accurately reflect the archaeological potential of the site. The number and distribution of the trenches provides good coverage of the proposed development area. The results should be considered to provide a good indicator of the level of archaeological remains present and areas of greatest archaeological interest (as shown in figure 13).

4.1.3 Nevertheless, there is a possibility that further archaeological remains, particularly of isolated discrete features which are not easily detected by geophysical survey or trenching, may be present across the site.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation are detailed above within Section 2. The trenching has successfully identified archaeological features within the development area. The general trend of E-W aligned ridge and furrow was confirmed, such as in Trenches 7 and 18 for example. However, features not identified in the geophysical survey, including ditches and pits dating from late Bronze Age to the medieval period, were also recorded during the trial trenching.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Three phases of activity were recorded across the site, late Bronze or early Iron Age, late Iron Age or Roman and medieval to post-medieval. A flint tool of likely Mesolithic date was recovered from a subsoil deposits (Plate 6). It is suspected that this is the result of accidental deposition rather than indicative of Mesolithic activity in the vicinity of the site.

4.3.2 Activity associated with the earliest phase, dating from the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age, was confined to a single ditch in Trench 27 within the south-east corner of the site. The three sherds of pottery recovered from this feature form part of the sanded base of a single vessel. Little evidence for Bronze Age activity is known within the vicinity of the site, although Bronze Age flints have been recovered from 200m to the west. Given the isolated nature of the feature it is difficult to interpret its true function. It is likely the ditch acted as a boundary or, more likely, a drainage ditch.

4.3.3 Features dated to the late Iron Age or Roman period were all recorded as being cut into the subsoil where it was present. Some features remain undated and can only be speculatively associated with the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age activity observed in Trench 27. Several features, however, i.e. for example ditch 2004 in Trench 20, were recorded as being sealed by subsoils, possible representing areas of later plough

disturbance or levelling deposits associated with the destruction of the ridge and furrow.

4.3.4 Ditches dated from the late Iron Age and Roman period are indicative of agricultural field systems. At present, it is not possible to align the ditches recorded in the different trenches to clearly understand the landscape. Nevertheless, their comparable alignments and the pottery recovered from their fills indicate only a single phase of activity. However, the life-span of the ditches is as yet unclear. There is some indication of a second phase to the field system in Trench 24, where ditches 2403 and 2406 intercut. However, this might represent localised alterations rather than an extensive second phase of activity.

4.3.5 Roman remains in the vicinity of the site, including a possible cemetery and find spots of pottery and coins, are suggestive of settlement activity within the wider landscape. The features uncovered during these works are likely to form part of the settlement's agricultural hinterland.

4.3.6 Reflecting the modern day use of the site, medieval and post-medieval features can be associated with agricultural management. A former boundary, dated between the 11th to 13th centuries, was recorded in Trench 7, and may relate to the nearby Sapcote Castle, 60m to the northeast. E-W aligned furrows, predicted by the results of the geophysical survey, were present within several of the trenches.

4.3.7 There is no evidence to support settlement activity within the development area. This is reflected in the low level of finds recovered from the features.

4.3.8 Environmental samples taken from both possible cooking pits suggest several possible functions including the burning of a stored crop, malting or food preparation. The first two suggestions support the agricultural nature of the site. The third interpretation, food preparation, may be suggestive of settlement activity. However, the suspected single use nature of the cooking pits is not uncharacteristic with an agricultural landscape.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The late Bronze Age to Roman remains observed during the evaluation can be considered of moderate significance. Further mitigation would enable a greater understanding of the extent, longevity and function of both the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age and Roman field systems. While further works are unlikely to yield results of national or even regional significance they would further our limited understanding of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity within the local area. Targeted mitigation around trenches containing the most significant archaeological features would allow for a more comprehensive understanding of the remains present within the development area. Two proposed mitigation areas are illustrated on Figure 13, these target the potential Roman field systems and the late Bronze Age activity.

4.4.2 The medieval and post-medieval features can be considered of low significance.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of a firm reddish purple clay with intermittent sandy patches.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single ditch oriented N-S. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a firm streaky yellow sandy clay with occasional red sandy clay gravel patches.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
202	Cut	3.4	0.53	Ditch	-	-
203	Deposit	0.75	0.10	Fill of 202. Soft mid-grey clayey sand with orange mottling	-	-
204	Deposit	0.60	0.10	Fill of 202. Mid-greyish orange sand with occasional manganese inclusions.		
205	Deposit	0.70	0.10	Fill of 202. Firm mid-orange clay lense.		
206	Deposit	0.65	0.10	Fill of 202. Moderately compacted dark orange sandy clay.		
207	Deposit	3.0	0.45	Fill of 202. Moderately compacted mid-orangey grey clayey sand, with frequent small sub-rounded pebbles		
208	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 3		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and two subsoil deposits overlying natural geology of a pale purple clay with large flint inclusions and occasional patches of yellow clayey sand.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	1.85
	Avg. depth (m)	0.70

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.20	subsoil	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and two subsoil deposits overlying natural geology of a firm light reddish yellow clay which also varies to a yellow sandy clay with red patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a pit and a N-S aligned ditch both located toward south-east end of trench.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
502	Cut	2.6	0.55	Ditch	-	-
503	Deposit	0.35	0.14	Fill of 502. Firm mid reddish orange clay.	-	-
504	Deposit	1.85	0.25	Fill of 502. Soft, dark purply red coarse sand.		
505	Deposit	1.65	0.24	Fill of 502. Moderately compacted greyish orange sand, with occasional small pebbles.		
506	Cut	2.6	0.60	Pit		
507	Deposit	0.85	0.27	Fill of 506. Mid grey sandy clay with 25% rounded mixed size pebbles and frequent manganese flecks.		
508	Deposit	2.6	0.30	Fill of 506. Soft light grey sand with occasional small pebbles.		
509	Deposit	-	-	Natural		

Trench 6		
General description	Orientation	E-W

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of firm and compacted reddish grey clay with intermittent light yellow sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 7 contained a two E-W aligned furrows and a NW-SE aligned hedge line. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of patchy mid-orangey brown sand with occasional mid-brown clay and stone clusters at the interfaces.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.55	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
703	Cut	1.1	0.3	Furrow	-	-
704	Deposit	1.1	0.3	Fill of 703. Friable mid-grey brown sandy silt/light brown yellow silty sand with 5% sub-sounded stone, less than 50mm in size.	-	-
705	Cut	0.5	0.2	Hedge line	-	-
706	Deposit	0.5	0.2	Fill of 705. Friable mid-brown grey sandy silt. 5% sub-rounded stone, less than 50mm in size.	Pottery, animal bone, shale	11-13th Century
707	Cut	0.7	Not exc.	Furrow	-	-
708	Deposit	0.7	Not exc.	Fill of 707. Loose mottled mid—brownish grey silty sand.	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Contained several suspected features which were deemed to be rooting or root bowl. Trench consists of topsoil and two subsoil deposits overlying natural geology of a mixed yellow and orange sand with yellowy grey clay patches.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.86
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-

801	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
804	Cut	0.35	0.05	Root bowl		
805	Deposit	0.35	0.05	Fill of 804. Soft dark greyish brown silty sand.		
806	Cut	0.28	0.04	Root bowl		
807	Deposit	0.28	0.04	Fill of 806. Soft light greyish brown silty sand. 0.2% sub-rounded stones.		
808	Cut	0.48	0.07	Root bowl		
809	Deposit	0.48	0.07	Fill of 808. Mottled greysih brown sandy silt.		
810	Cut	0.45	0.10	Root bowl		
811	Deposit	0.45	0.10	Fill of 810. Mottled greyish brown silty sand.		

Trench 9

General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of a moderately compacted yellow sandy clay which becomes a patchier reddish clay towards the north of the trench.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.72
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10

General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. One potential pit-like feature was present, however on investigation was found to be a root bowl. The trench consists of topsoil and two subsoil deposits overlying a natural geology of soft yellow sand with streaks of orange and white throughout.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.71
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	Flint	Early Prehistoric
1003	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1004	Cut	0.90	0.05	Root bowl		
1005	Deposit	0.90	0.05	Fill of 1004. Dark greyish brown silt with frequent manganese.		

Trench 11

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained two probable ditches both with some root disturbance in their bases. The trench consisted of topsoil and two subsoil deposits overlying a natural of patchy loose mid-brown orange sand with 20% rounded stone.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.90
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1100	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
1103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1104	Cut	1.2	0.6	Ditch	-	-
1105	Deposit	1.2	0.6	Fill of 1104. Friable mid-grey brown sandy silt with 10% rounded pebbles 20-100mm.	-	-
1106	Cut	1.2	0.26	Ditch	-	-
1107	Deposit	1.2	0.26	Fill of 1106. Soft mid grey brown sandy silt with 5% sub-rounded stone less than 50mm in size.	-	-
1108	Cut	0.7	0.55	Root disturbance	-	-
1109	Fill	0.7	0.55	Fill of 1108. A friable mid grey brown silty sand with manganese and sub-rounded / rounded pebbles	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained one pit and one E-W running ditch. The topsoil and subsoil sat atop a soft mid-yellow and orange sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1200	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1203	Cut	1.0	0.40	Pit	-	-
1204	Deposit	0.80	0.08	Fill of 1203. Soft mid-bluish grey silty sand with 5% sub-rounded stone less than 50mm in size.	-	-
1205	Deposit	1.0	0.33	Fill of 1203. Soft mid grey-brown silty sand with 5% sub-rounded stone, less than 60mm in size.	Pottery	Late Iron Age / Early Roman
1206	Cut	2.2	0.45	Ditch	-	-
1207	Deposit	0.90	0.30	Fill of 1206. Soft dark brown/black sand.	-	-

1208	Deposit	2.2	0.22	Fill of 1206. Soft mid greyish brown silty sand with 5% sub-rounded stone, less than 60mmin size.	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two intercutting pits toward the centre of the trench. The overburden consisted of topsoil and two subsoil deposits laying atop a mottled orangey yellow-grey sand with substantial manganese patches.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.86
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1300	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.27	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
1303	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1304	Cut	1.25	0.16	Pit	-	-
1305	Deposit	1.25	0.16	Fill of 1304. Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded stones, 10-90mm in size.	-	-
1306	Cut	1.05	0.16	Pit	-	-
1307	Deposit	1.05	0.16	Fill of 1306. Soft mid orangey brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded stones.	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and two subsoil deposits overlying natural geology of soft bright yellow sand with occasional pebble patches and becomes a yellowy clay toward the west.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1400	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
1403	-	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of moderately compacted creamy yellow sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**

1500	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two NE-SW intercutting ditches, with Middle Roman pottery found within the later of the two ditches. The overburden within the trench consisted of topsoil, two subsoil deposits laying atop a yellowy orange silty clay natural.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.76
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1600	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	0.29	Subsoil	-	-
1603	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1604	Cut	2.46	0.44	Ditch	-	-
1605	Deposit	2.46	0.22	Fill of 1604. Soft light yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional medium sized sub-rounded stones.	-	-
1606	Deposit	2.33	0.16	Fill of 1604. Soft mid to dark reddish grey sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded stones.	-	-
1607	Cut	0.80	0.38	Ditch		
1608	Deposit	0.80	0.38	Fill of 1607. Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded medium sized stones.	Pottery, fired clay,	Roman
1609	Cut	0.50	0.12	Root bowl	-	-
1610	Deposit	0.50	0.12	Fill of 1609. Soft mottled greyish brown sandy silt.	Pottery	Roman

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and two subsoil deposits overlying a natural geology of soft mid orange sand with occasional pale yellow and white streaks.					**Length (m)**	24
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1700	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 18		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S

Trench contained one E-W aligned furrow. No further archaeology observed. Overburden consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying a geology of soft yellow sand with occasional clayey patches.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.84
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1800	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1803	Cut	1.04	0.22	Furrow	-	-
1804	Deposit	1.04	0.22	Fill of 1803. Soft dark orangey greyish brown sandy silt, rare rooting and rare sub-rounded stones.		
1805	Cut	0.58	0.28	Root bowl		
1806	Deposit	0.58	0.28	Fill of 1805		

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained one E-W running ditch possibly representing an old field boundary. The overburden consisted of topsoil and two subsoil deposits overlying a natural geology of soft light yellowy orange sand with occasional gravelly patches.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
1902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1903	Cut	1.3	0.4	Ditch	-	
1904	Deposit	1.3	0.4	Fill of 1903. Friable mid grey sandy silt with orange mottling.	CBM	17th century
1905	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil		

Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained one N-S running ditch and one small pit indicating the site of a fire in situ. The trench comprised topsoil and two subsoil deposits sitting atop a natural geology of soft pale yellow sand with variations to sandy clay in the west end of trench.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.74
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2000	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.34	Subsoil	-	-
2002	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
2003	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2004	Cut	1.68	0.34	Ditch	-	-
2005	Deposit	1.68	0.34	Fill of 2004. Soft pale yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional sub-	-	-

				rounded stones 20-100mm in size.		
2006	Cut	0.92	0.08	Pit	-	-
2007	Deposit	0.92	0.08	Fill of 2006. Friable mixed brownish grey and pinkish red silty fired clay, with 40% charcoal present.	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and two subsoil overlying natural geology of a soft greyish yellow sand with occasional pockets of mixed sized pebbles.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	1.10
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2101	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
2102	Layer	-	0.50	Subsoil	-	-
2103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained a small pit with substantial burning within, deemed to be in-situ and therefore the site of a fire. Other identified features were found to be a result of root disturbance once investigated. Trench consists of a topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of soft yellow streaky sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.66
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2200	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.34	Subsoil	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2203	Cut	2.60	1.15	Root bowl	-	-
2204	Deposit	2.60	1.15	Fill of 2203. Soft mid brown-grey silty sand with 5% sub-rounded stone, 40mm in size.	Pottery	Roman
2205	Cut	1.70	0.65	Root bowl	-	-
2206	Deposit	1.70	0.65	Fill of 2205. Soft light brown-grey silty sand, 2% stone inclusions.	-	-
2207	Cut	0.70	0.4	Pit	-	-
2208	Deposit	0.70	0.05	Fill of 2207. Soft dark blue-grey silty sand with 5% angular stone, smaller than 50mm in size, also rare burnt stone present.	Fired clay, animal bone	-
2209	Deposit	0.70	0.20	Fill of 2207	-	-
2210	Cut	0.78	0.06	Root bowl	-	-

2211	Deposit	0.78	0.06	Fill of 2210. Soft mid grey-brown silty sand.	-	-

Trench 23						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench was devoid of archaeological features. Two features of potential interest were found to be natural root bowls once investigated. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil laying atop a natural geology of soft yellow streaky sand, becoming a clayey sand in places.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.83
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2300	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil	-	-
2301	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
2302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2303	Cut	0.27	0.03	Root bowl	-	-
2204	Deposit	0.27	0.03	Fill of 2203. Soft dark greyish brown sandy silt, and 40% manganese.	-	-
2205	Cut	0.23	0.04	Root bowl	-	-
2206	Deposit	0.23	0.04	Fill of 2205. Soft dark grey brown sandy silt with 45% manganese.	-	-

Trench 24						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two narrow ditches thought to be former field boundaries, one running WNW-ESE, predated by another aligned SW-NE. Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil deposits overlying a natural geology of a coarse mid-orange sand with frequent gravelly inclusions, varying to a soft yellow sand with no inclusions to the west.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.90
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.50	Subsoil	-	-
2402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2403	Cut	0.60	0.50	Ditch		
2404	Deposit	0.60	0.50	Fill of 2403. Friable mid brown-grey silty sand with 5-10% sub-rounded stone.		
2405	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil		
2406	Cut	0.4	0.15	Ditch	-	-
2407	Deposit	0.4	0.15	Fill of 2406. Compact mid brown-orange silty sand containing 15% sub-angular stone less than 10mm in size.		

Trench 25						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of soft mid brown clayey sand with 5% sub-rounded stone, 20-60mm in size. Patches of light grey-brown sand are also present with 10-15% sub-rounded stone 20-60mm in size.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2500	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2501	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil	-	-
2502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 26						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained one heavily bioturbated ditch and two root bowls. The topsoil and subsoil was overlying a natural geology of yellowy brown sand with brighter patches and occasional sub-rounded stone.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2600	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2601	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
2602	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
2603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2604	Cut	0.85	0.21	Root bowl		-
2605	Deposit	0.85	0.21	Fill of 2604. Mottled light greyish brown silty sand.	-	-
2606	Deposit	0.46	0.21	Fill of 2604. Mottled light bluish yellow sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.	-	-
2607	Cut	1.42	0.16	Ditch	-	-
2608	Deposit	1.42	0.16	Fill of 2607. Dark orangey brown sandy silt with frequent manganese.	-	-
2609	Cut	1.80	0.22	Root bowl	-	-
2610	Deposit	1.80	0.22	Fill of 2609. Light greyish brown sandy silt.	-	-

Trench 27						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained one probable iron age linear aligned E-W. The topsoil, subsoil, sat atop a natural geology of patchy mid reddish orange sand with frequent bands of mid grey and blue clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2700	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
2701	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
2702	Layer	-	0.08	subsoil	-	-

2703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2704	Cut	1.50	0.40	Ditch	-	-
2705	Deposit	1.50	0.35	Fill of 2704. Mid grey brown sandy clay with cobble and stone inclusions.	Animal Bone	-
2706	Deposit	0.95	0.40	Fill of 2704. Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with 5% sub-rounded stone 50mm in size.	Pottery	Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age
2707	Cut	1.40	unknown	Likely geological formation. Not excavated	-	-
2708	Deposit	1.40	unknown	Fill of 2707. Not excavated. Firm mid grey-brown clay with 2-5% sub-rounded stone	-	-

Trench 28						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, subsoil over a natural geology of patchy firm light grey-brown sandy clay, mid orangey brown clayey sand and occasional mid brownish grey sandy clay, patches of mixed sized stone present as well as occasional chalk flecks.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.85
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2800	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	Pottery	17th – 19th Century
2801	Layer	-	0.27	Subsoil	-	-
2802	Layer	-	0.30	Alluvium	-	-
2803	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Edward Biddulph

B.1.1 Fifteen sherds of pottery, weighing 205g, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was recorded to identify fabrics and any evidence for form and function, and to provide spot-dates. Fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2014).

Table 1 Pottery Assemblage

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Comments	Spot-date
706	1	12	?Coventry ware body sherd (Z20)	11th-13th century
1205	1	4	Body sherd in grog and organic tempered fabric (E80) - voids in fabric denoting shell or other material	Late Iron Age/early Roman
1608	1	71	Base sherd probably from a flagon in sandy oxidised ware (O30)	Roman
1610	7	69	Body and base sherds in fabrics fine reduced ware (R10), medium sandy reduced ware (R30), sandy oxidised ware (O20) and calcite-gritted ware (C32)	Roman
2204	1	4	Body sherd in fine reduced ware (R10)	Roman
2706	3	36	Joining base sherds from vessel in ?calcite-tempered fabric. The base has a slight kick and the external surface of the base is abundantly tempered, possibly having been deliberately pressed before firing into crushed ?calcite fragments	Late Bronze Age-early Iron Age
2800	1	9	Midlands black ware body sherd (Z30)	17th-19th century
TOTAL	**15**	**205**		

B.1.2 The earliest pottery was recovered from context 2706. Three sherds in a coarse, predominantly ?calcite-tempered fabric formed part of a base from a single vessel. On the basis of form, a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date is likely. The vessel appears to have been deliberately 'sanded' on the base, possibly to aid the vessel's stability when placed on surfaces.

B.1.3 Context 1205 contained a sherd of late Iron Age (or possibly early Roman) pottery in a grog-tempered fabric. Pottery of certain Roman date was collected from contexts 1608, 1610 and 2204. The pottery comprised local wares that could not be closely dated. That said, the absence of later Roman wares such as black-burnished ware, as well as the presence of a calcite-tempered pottery in context 1610 and an oxidised ware flagon in context 1608, perhaps gives an earlier Roman emphasis – that is, 1st or 2nd century – to the Roman material as a whole. Given the small size of the assemblage, however, this is very speculative.

B.1.4 Post-Roman pottery was represented by a sherd of medieval pottery in context 706 and post-medieval pottery in context 2800.

B.1.5 The prehistoric pottery was recovered from a root bowl in Trench 27, while the late Iron Age sherd was retrieved from a pit in Trench 12. The Roman pottery was recovered from root bowls and a ditch in Trenches 16 and 22. The medieval pottery was collected from root disturbance in trench 7, with the post-medieval pottery being found in topsoil in trench 28.

B.1.6 The pottery has a mean sherd weight of 13g. The assemblage was generally fragmented and consistent with the assemblage having undergone several episodes of disturbance and relocation before final deposition, although the occasional larger piece was present.

B.1.7 The distribution of the pottery across the site points to a concentration of prehistoric and Roman activity in the centre of the site, although the type of features from which the pottery was recovered and the condition of the pottery suggest that pottery deposition here was somewhat marginal to the domestic focus of settlement.

B.2 Ceramic building material

By Edward Biddulph

B.2.1 A single piece of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 295g was recovered from context 1904, a fill of ditch 1903. The fragment is an edge piece of a square or rectangular tile *c* 24mm thick at the edge, with a flat lower surface and upper surface that rises towards the centre to at least *c* 27mm thick. The tile is in a fine sandy and argillaceous pale orange fabric, though is slightly redder on the upper surface. The fragment is likely to form part of a floor tile or paver of 17th-century or later date.

B.3 Fired clay

By Edward Biddulph

B.3.1 A total of 10 fragments of fired clay, weighing 78g, were recovered from the evaluation.

Table 2 Fired Clay Assemblage

Context	Count	Weight (g)	Description
1608	2	15	Sample 2. One amorphous piece with organic impression, the other an irregularly shaped piece in sandy orange fabric, undulating external surface and dark grey backing with wattle rod impression, *c* 7mm wide.
2208	8	63	Sample 1. Amorphous fragments in sandy fabric. Pieces reddened or blackened with exposure to heat. Largest piece *c* 25mm thick with a rough external surface

B.3.2 Fired clay was recovered from the fills of ditch 1607 and pit 2207. The fragments in the former, given the organic impressions visible, are likely to have been structural, possibly having been incorporated into the walls or superstructure of an oven. The fragments from 2207 are burnt and also likely to derive from an oven or hearth.

B.4 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.2.1 A single struck flint was recovered from this evaluation. The piece was a very fine combination tool consisting of a very well executed convex end scraper on a distal segment of a side trimming flake or blade. The obliquely snapped proximal end had been converted into an awl with a large notch cut onto its left side to form a central proximal projection. Damage along the scraper edge, awl tip and the ventral right side is most likely from use. The flint was recovered from a subsoil deposit (1002) in Trench 10.

B.2.2 There is little record of early prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the evaluation. Some Neolithic flints were found during a field walking exercise around 800m south of the site while a Palaeolithic flint from a local gravel pit to the north is likely to be far earlier in date than our flint. The tool was found in isolation and may well have been the result of an accidental loss of a well curated object and may well have originally been made some distance from the site, as flint tools can have very complex life histories (Conneller 2005).

B.2.3 This stray find would appear to indicate a very limited early prehistoric presence here, perhaps an accidental loss while an individual or group were passing through this locality. The age of the piece is uncertain but a Mesolithic or early Neolithic date would seem most probable.

Methodology

B.2.4 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Table 3 Flint Assemblage

Context	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
1002	Other retouch, end scraper-awl	Side trimming flake	very fine combination tool on distal segment of flake or blade, very well executed end scraper retouch and also irregular concave retouch proximal left to form awl projection with lateral damage ventral right possibly from use as awl, struck from opposed platform blade core, very likely to be early in date	EPH

B.1 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Introduction

B.1.1 Two fragments of shale were recovered from context 706. These are part of the same object – what appears to be about a third of a small flat hexagonal object measuring 20mm across. Its purpose is unclear and it is not possible to date it.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.1.1 Four samples were taken from the evaluation at Hinckley Road, Sapcote in June 2016.

C.1.2 Sample <1> (2208) was taken from a possible hearth [2207] within Trench 22, sample <2> (1608) was taken from the fill of a ditch [1607] within Trench 16, sample <3> (2007) was taken from another potential hearth [2006] within Trench 20 and samples <4> (2706) is from the fill of a further ditch [2704] in Trench 27.

Methodology

C.1.3 The samples were processed for charred plant remains (CPR) by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts. The dried flots were scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification. All flots of <100ml were completely scanned with 100ml scanned for larger flots.

Results

C.1.4 The material from the ditch samples was relatively sparse with a large amount of modern material such as roots and very little charred material. The hearth samples however were very rich in charred material including some larger robust charcoal fragments which would be suitable for the identification of wood species. Artefacts within the residues were rare with sample <1> containing some fragments of fired clay and calcined mammal bone, and sample <2> also containing a small quantity of fired clay fragments. No artefacts were observed within samples <3> and <4>.

Table 4 The Charred Remains

Sample No **Context No** **Feature** **Description** **Phase** **Sample volume (L)** **Flot volume (ml)**		**1** **2208** **2207** **Hearth** **Undated** **30** **1000**	**2** **1608** **1607** **Ditch fill** **Roman** **36** **20**	**3** **2004** **2006** **Hearth** **Undated** **6** **30**	**4** **2706** **2704** **Ditch fill** **IA** **30** **5**
Cereal grain					
Hordeum sp.	barley	50+		7	
cf Hordeum sp.		50+	2	10	
Hordeum/Triticum sp.	barley/wheat	38		3	
Triticum sp.	wheat	50+			
Avena/Bromus	oat/brome	26			
Cerealia	indet. cereal	100+	3	35	2

Chaff					
Detatched embryo	wheat/barley	12		1	
Triticum spelta	glume base fragments	30+			
Triticum spelta/dicoccum	glume base fragments	100+			
Wild Species					
Persicaria sp.	knotweed			2	
Polygonum aviculare	knotgrass	3	1		1
Polygonaceae	knotweed family	2			
Chenopodium/Atriplex sp.	goosefoots	5		39	
Amaranthaceae undiff	goosefoot family	2		14	
cf *Anthemis arvensis*	corn chamomile	2			
Anthemis cotula	stinking chamomile 755	10			
Vicia/Lathyrus sp. <2 mm	vetch/vetchling/tare, etc			1	
Poaceae	Grass seed (small)	7			
Other					
Indet	seed/fruit	25	1	4	

Discussion and Recommendations

The Ditch Fills

C.1.5 The flots from the two ditch fills are both small in size with the majority of the recorded volume comprising modern roots and other modern material. Both contain small fragments of charcoal, too small for wood species identification, and only occasional fragments of grain and wild seeds. The Roman ditch fill may contain barley fragments although these are not complete and identification is provisional only.

C.1.6 It is not unusual for ditch fills to be relatively sterile and charred material within the fills are often a result of secondary deposition. Although if further dating is required for these features there should be sufficient grain available for radiocarbon dating, with such a small number of grain there is a high chance that they are residual or intrusive.

Cooking pits

C.1.7 The flots from both of these features by contrast are large and the material is rich, the small size of the flot from sample <3> being a reflection of a small bulk sample. These features are as yet undated and the material contained within them would not be unexpected within either an Iron Age or Roman context although the lack of glume wheat chaff within sample <3> may indicate a later date than that of sample <1>.

C.1.8 Both flots contain reasonably large and robust charcoal some of which is suitable for wood species identification. The grain and chaff is in variable condition with a large proportion unidentifiable due to fragmentation and exterior damage while at the

same time other grains and chaff remain in extremely good condition. Occasional grains appear to have started sprouting and there are detached embryos in both of these samples, although within sample <1> some grains appear to possibly still be within the glume. Wild seeds are common within both samples although the majority are in poor condition with many having exploded in the heat, causing distortion.

C.1.9 While the origins of these assemblages is unclear, especially given the current lack of dating, it is perhaps most likely that we are looking at the burning of a stored crop, possibly accidentally during parching, with the sprouting grain perhaps being an indication of crop spoiling. However with the relatively large percentage of barley, particularly in sample <1>, it is also possible that the assemblage includes a component derived from a process such as malting, with the malted grains being subsequently used as fuel, but it is equally possible that the remains come from food preparation activities which include the final cleaning of grain, since sprouted grain was sometimes used in cooking (Helm and Carruthers 2011). The mixture of hulled barley and glume wheat would be consistent with deposits of Late Iron Age or Roman date from the region (Monkton 2003).

C.1.10 These two samples show that not only do charred plant remains survive on this site but also that they are well preserved and rich in a variety of materials. There is more than sufficient material for radiocarbon dating in the samples from the potential hearths.

C.1.11 If further excavation is carried out, it is recommended that further sampling should take place, ideally from a range of features across the site. This sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology 2010; English Heritage 2011).

C.1.12 Given the richness of the material it is recommended that samples <1> and <3> should be considered for radiocarbon dating and inclusion in any subsequent reporting of archaeobotanical assemblages from excavations at this site.

C.2 Animal Bone

By Lee G Broderick

Introduction

4.4.3 A total of 114 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site (Table 5), mostly collected by hand (Table 6). Environmental samples (sieved at 10mm, 4mm and 2mm fractions) were taken from one context (2208) which contained calcined fragments of indeterminate mammal bone.

Results

4.4.4 Overall, the condition of the assemblage was poor and it was only possible to identify some loose horse (*Equus caballus*) teeth and a fragment of domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) mandible from context 705. None of the specimens came from contexts

associated with ceramic finds and so at this stage it has not been possible to date any of them.

Table 5: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) of the material collected by hand.

	Undated
domestic cattle	**1**
horse	**5**
Total NISP	6
Total NSP	120

Table 6: Number of specimens from sieved and unsieved samples.

	Sieved	Unsieved
Large Mammal	0	**6**
indet.	7	**107**
Total NISP	0	6
Total NSP	7	113

Table 7: NSP and total mass of specimens per context.

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
705	53	203
2208	7	4
2705	60	34

C.2.1 Due to the small sample size, poor preservation and, most importantly, lack of dating evidence, no further work is recommended.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Land off Hinckley Road, Sapcote
Site code:	X.A50.2017
Grid Reference	NGR: SP 48321 93396
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	30th May to 8th of June (8 days)
Area of Site	5.5ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Leicestershire Museum in due course, under the following accession number: X.A50.2017.
Summary of Results:	Between 30th May and 8th June 2017, Oxford Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation comprising 28 trenches at off Hinckley Road, Sapcote, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 48321 93396). The work was undertaken to inform the local planning authority in advance of a submission for a proposed housing development. Geophysical survey of the site had identified the probable presence of medieval ridge and furrow at the site, but no other significant features were recorded. A total of 28 trenches were excavated and significant archaeological features were present in 12 of them. The other 16 trenches were either devoid of archaeological features or only contained furrows or natural features, for example root bowls. Three phases of activity were recorded across the site: late Bronze to early Iron Age, late Iron Age to Roman and medieval to post medieval. A flint tool of likely Mesolithic date was recovered from a subsoil deposit. Activity associated with the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age was confined to a single ditch within the south-east corner of the site. Ditches dated from the late Iron Age and Roman period are indicative of agricultural field systems. Their comparable alignments and the pottery recovered from the fills suggest only a single phase of activity. Features uncovered during these works are likely to form part of a nearby settlement's agricultural hinterland. Medieval and post-medieval features can be associated with agricultural management. East-west aligned furrows, as suggested by the results of the geophysical survey, were present within several of the trenches.

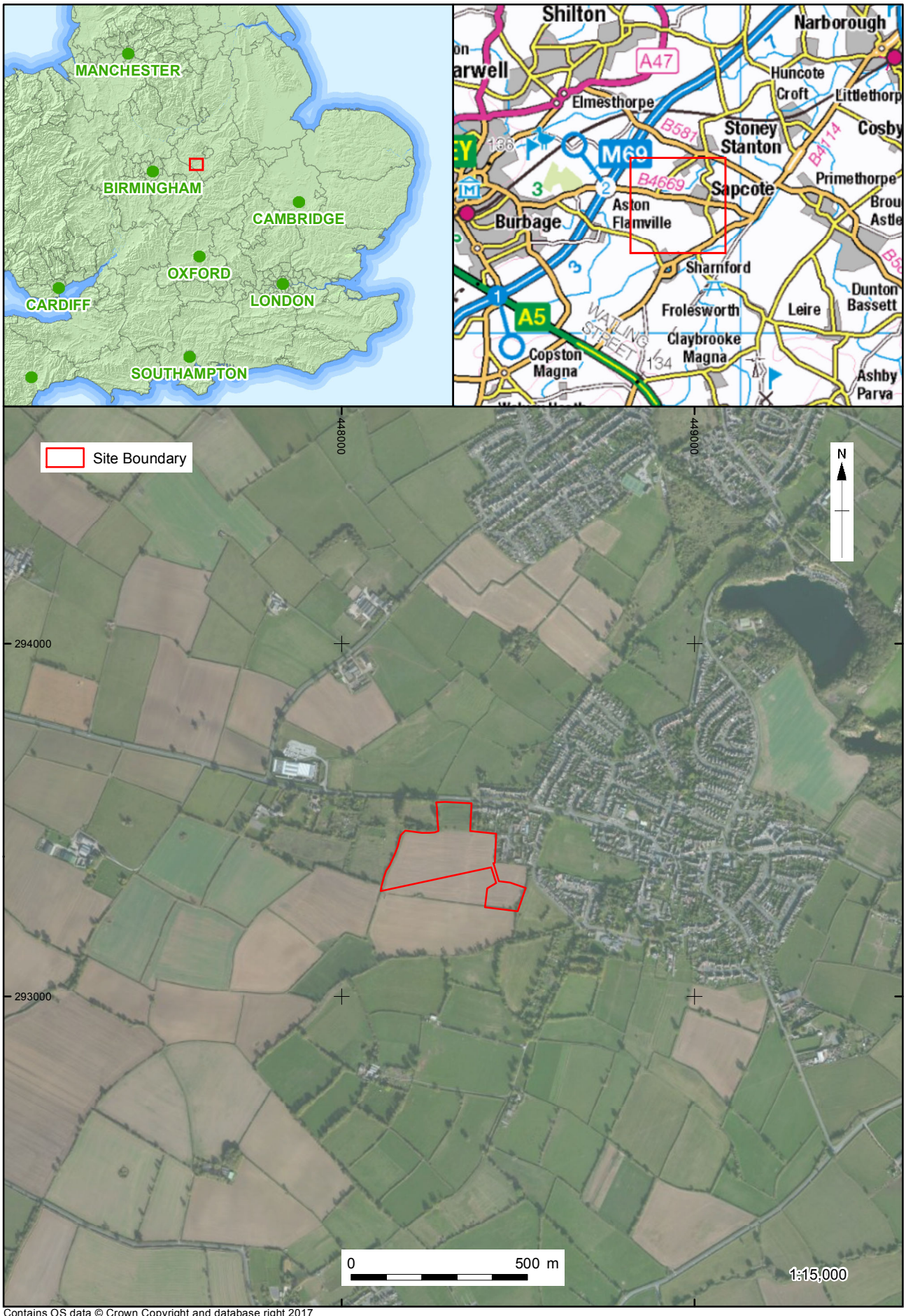

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Figure 1: Site location

X:\s\Sapcote Hinckley Road\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Figure1_SiteLocation.mxd*matthew.reynolds*12/05/2017

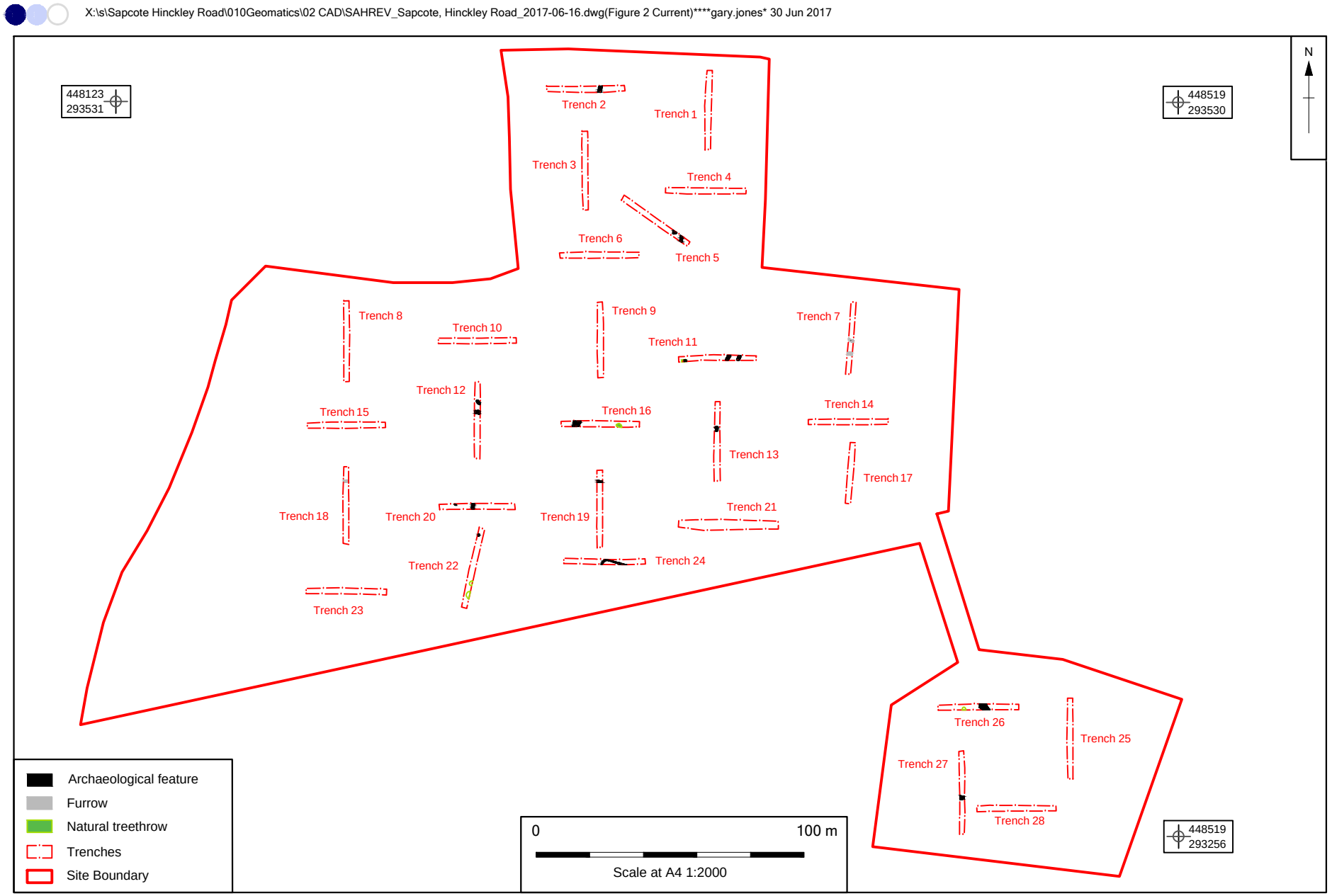


Figure 2: Trench Layout

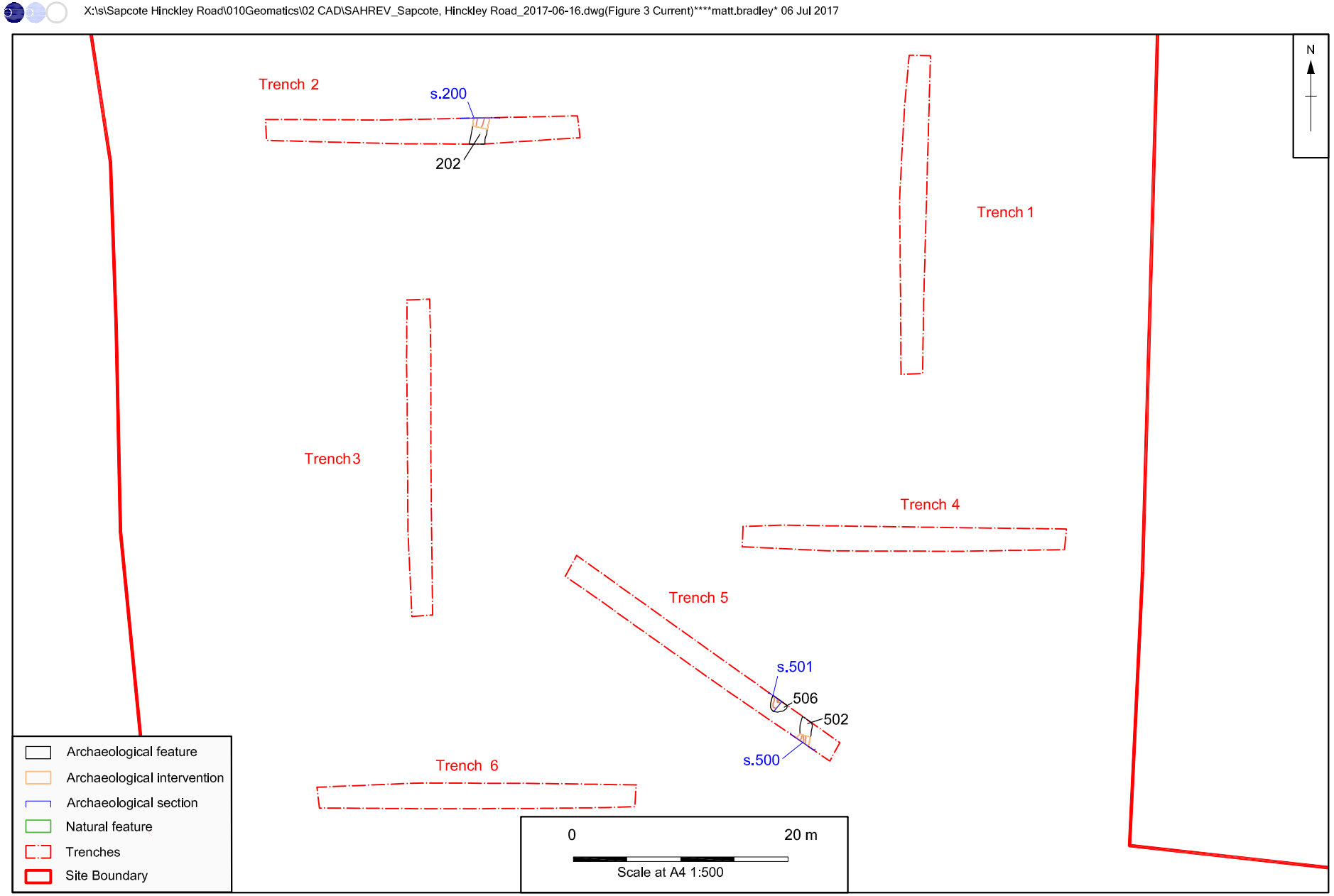


Figure 3: Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

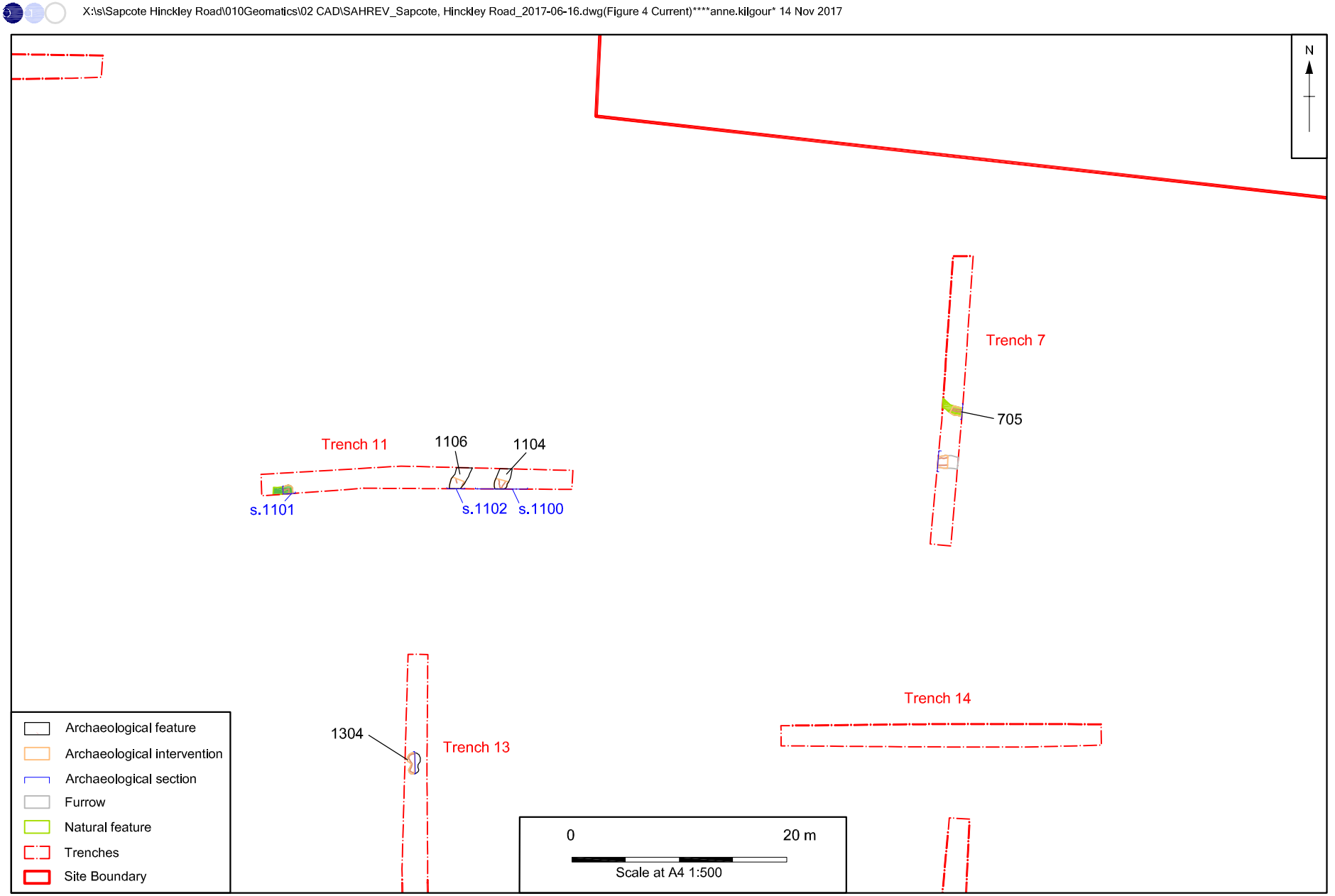


Figure 4: Trenches 7 and 11,13 and 14

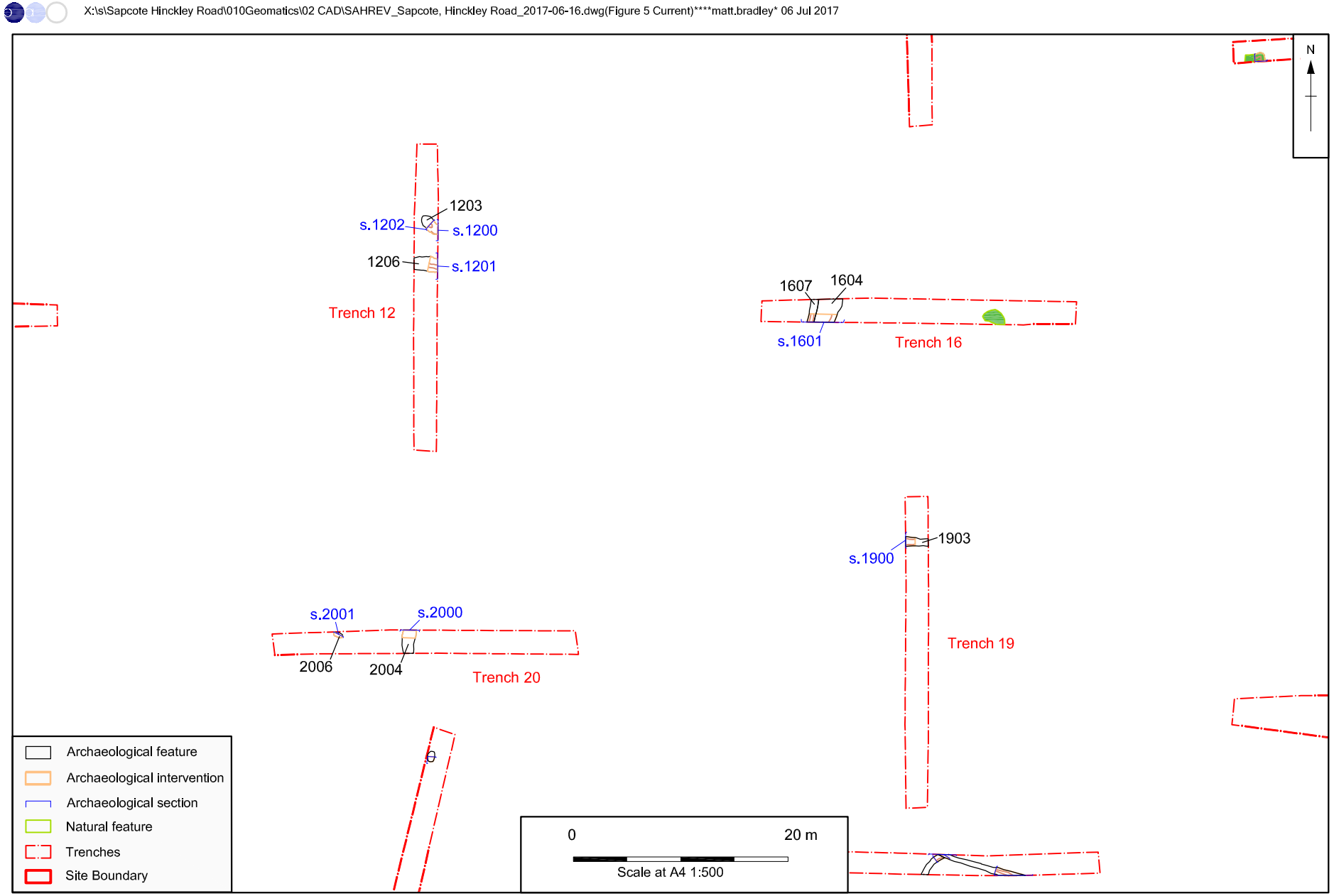


Figure 5: Trenches 12, 16, 19, and 20

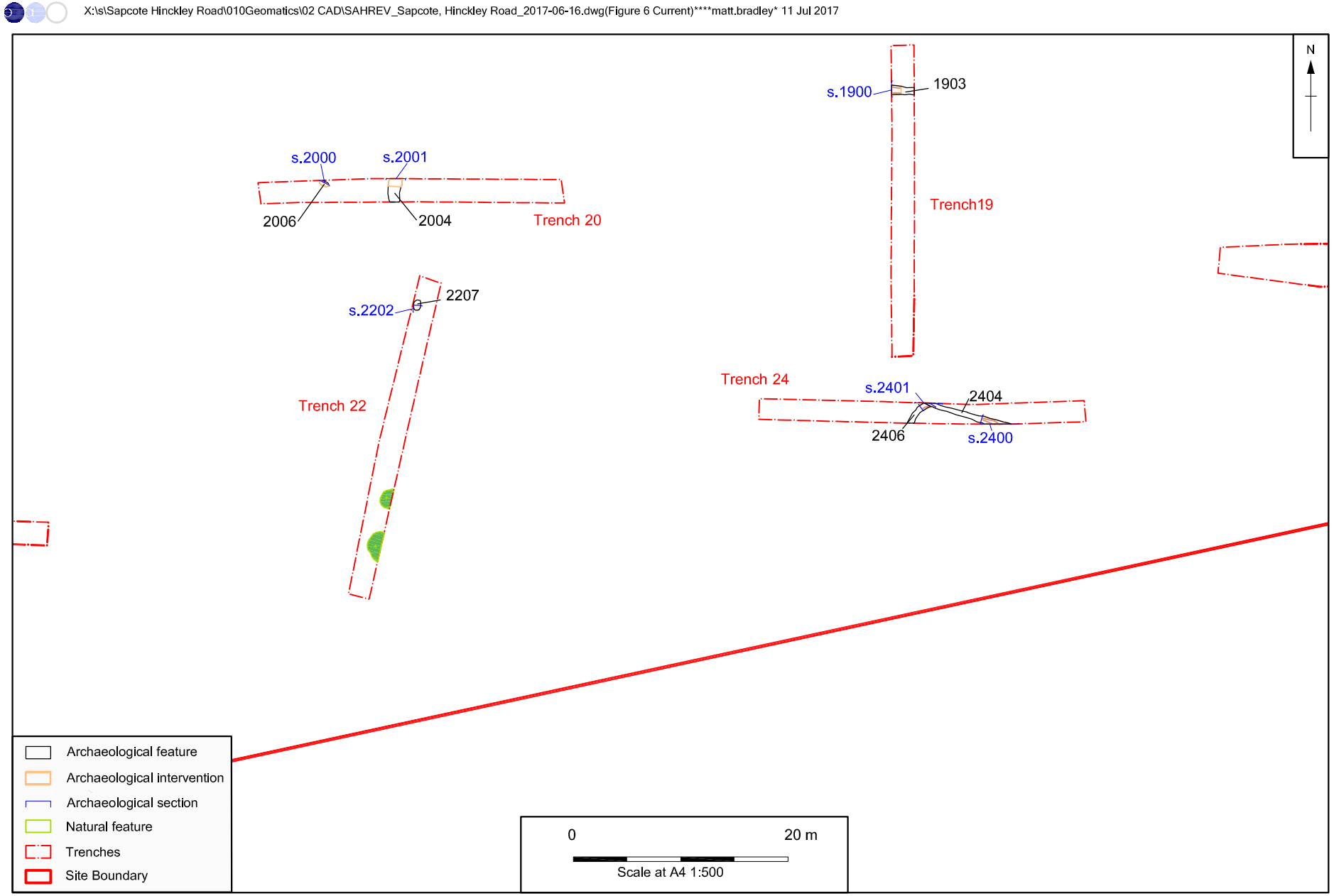


Figure 6: Trenches 19,20, 22 and 24

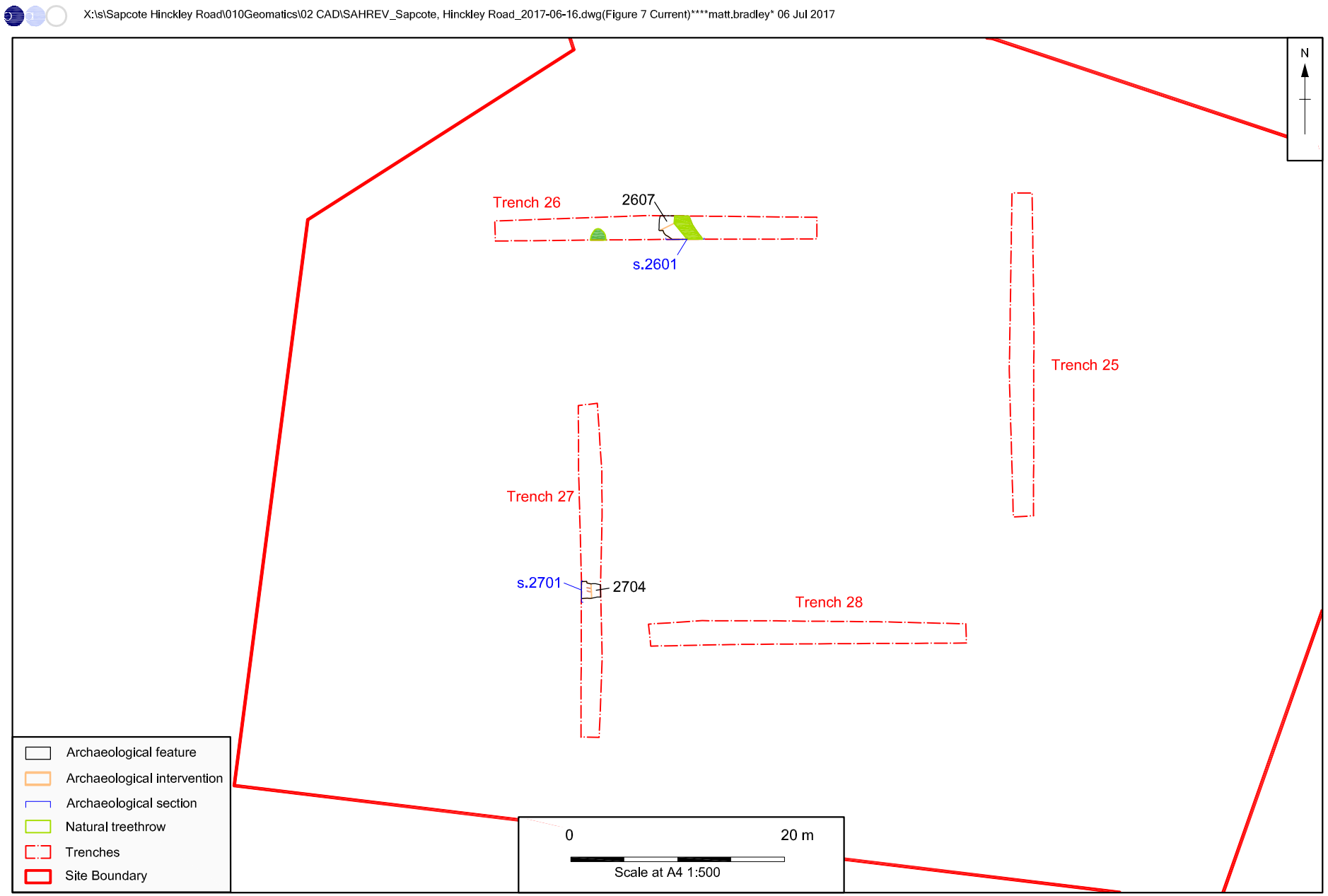
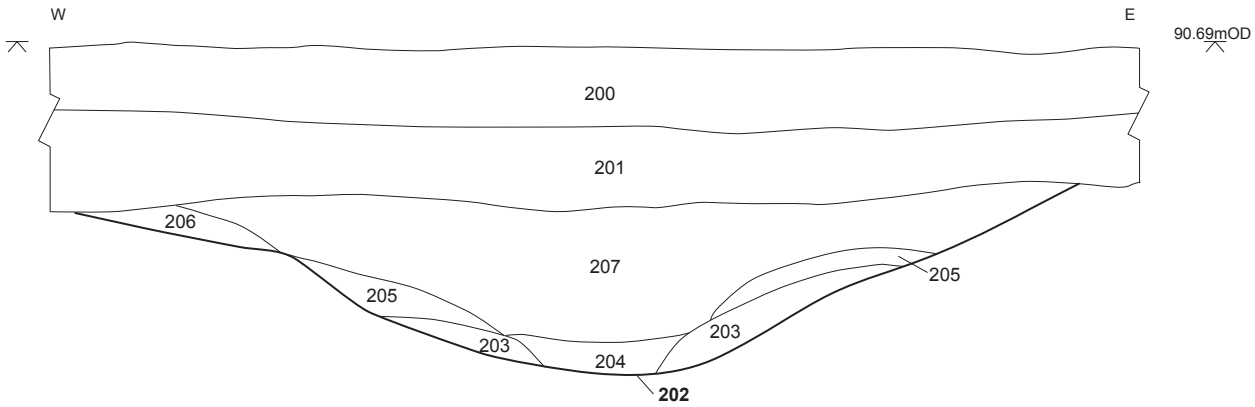


Figure 7: Trenches 25, 26, 27 and 28

Section 200



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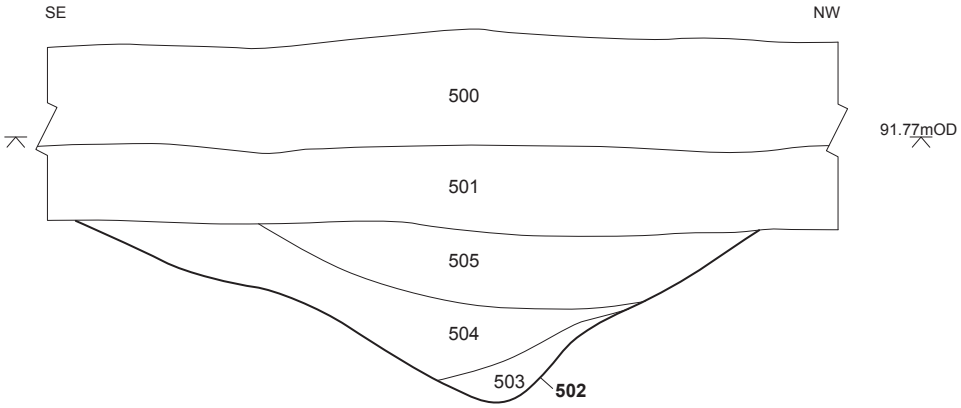

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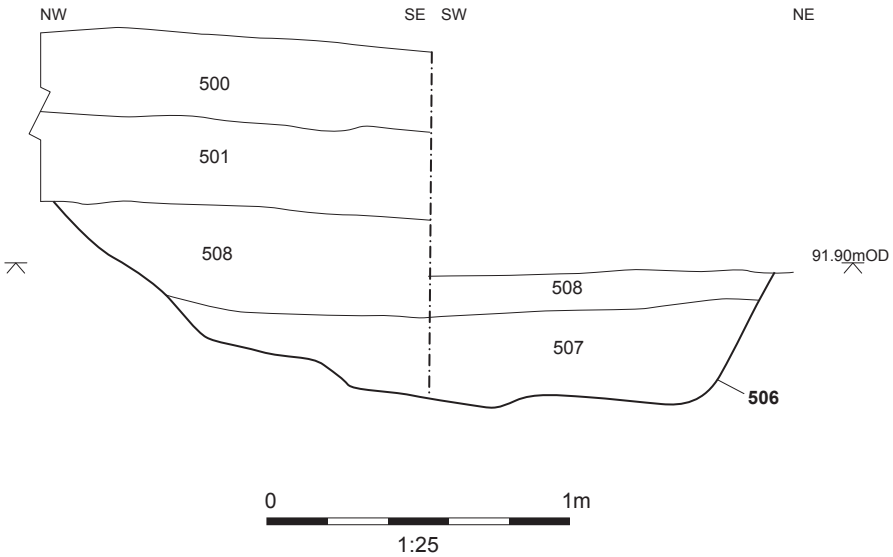

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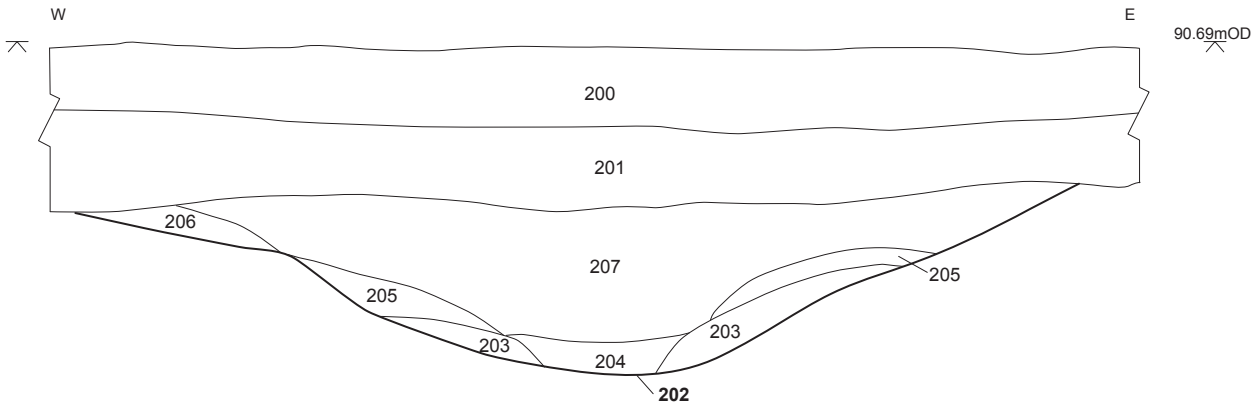
Figure 8: Sections 200, 500 and 501

Section 200



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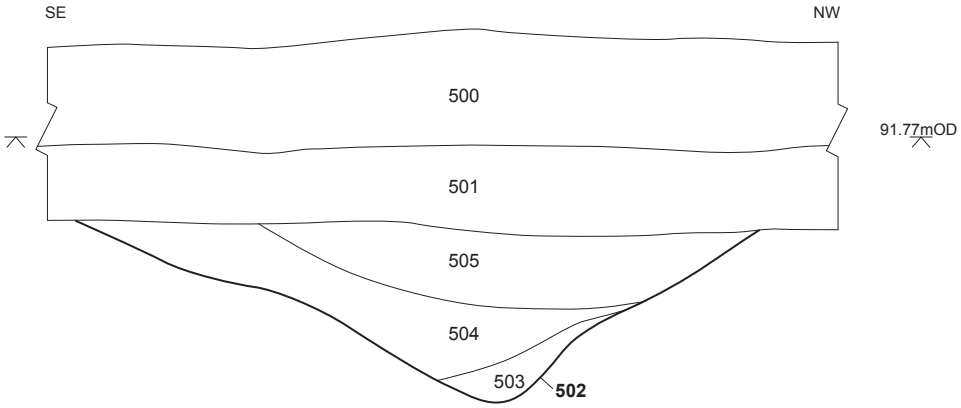
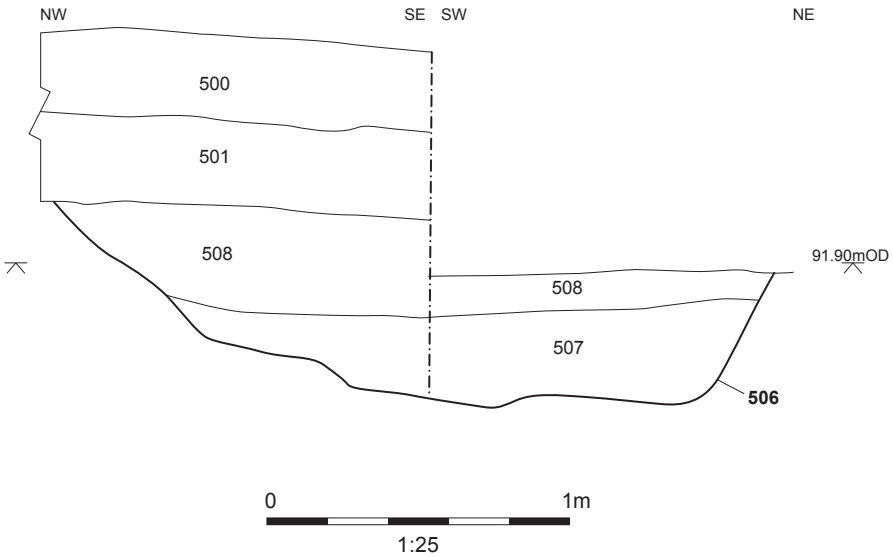


Section 501



0 1m

1:25

Figure 8: Sections 200, 500 and 501

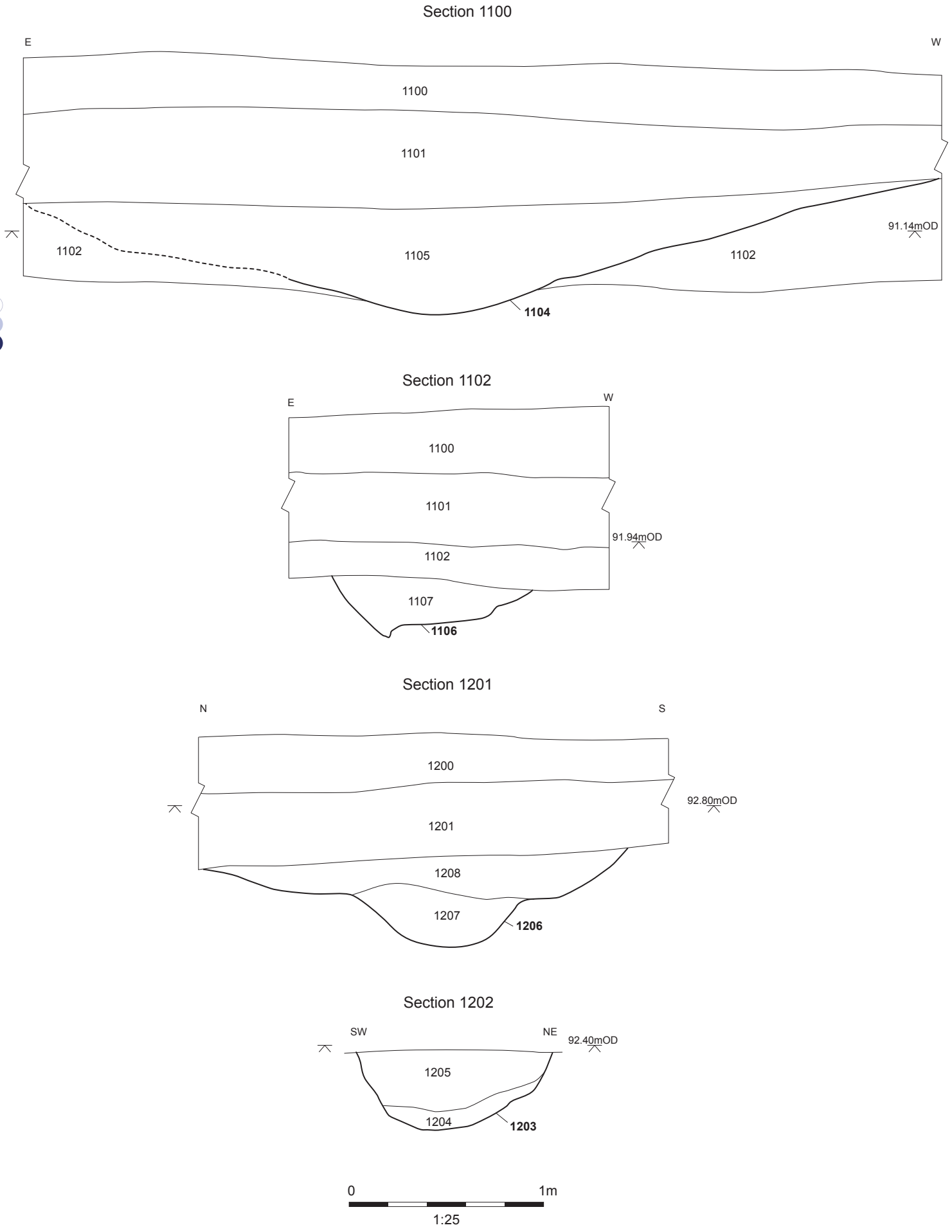


Figure 9: Sections 1100, 1102, 1201 and 1202

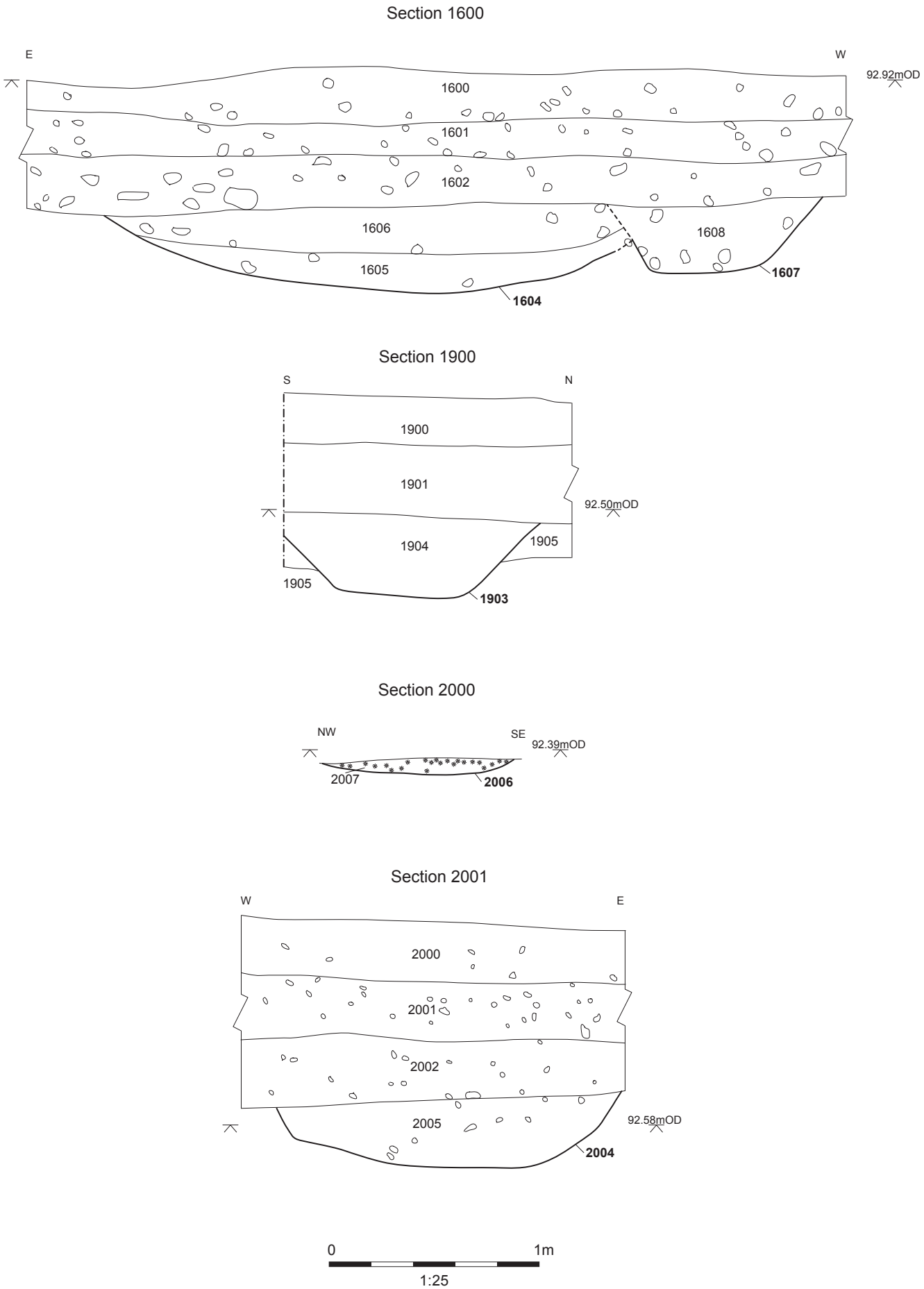
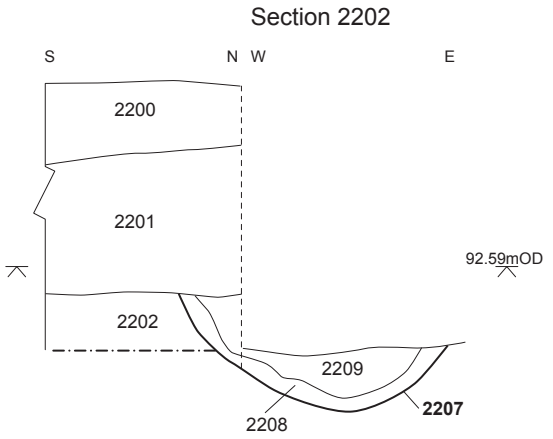
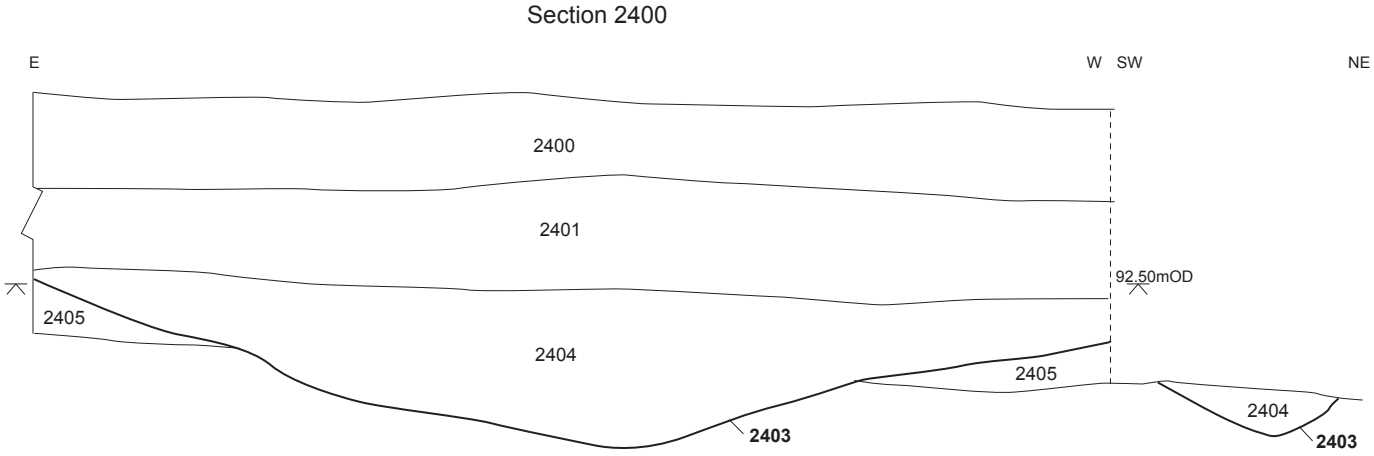


Figure 10: Sections 1600, 1900, 2000 and 2001





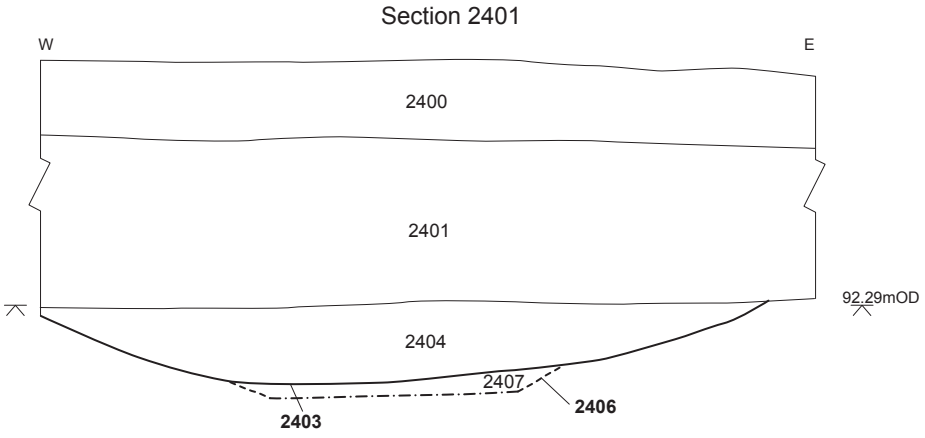


Figure 11: Sections 2202, 2400 and 2401

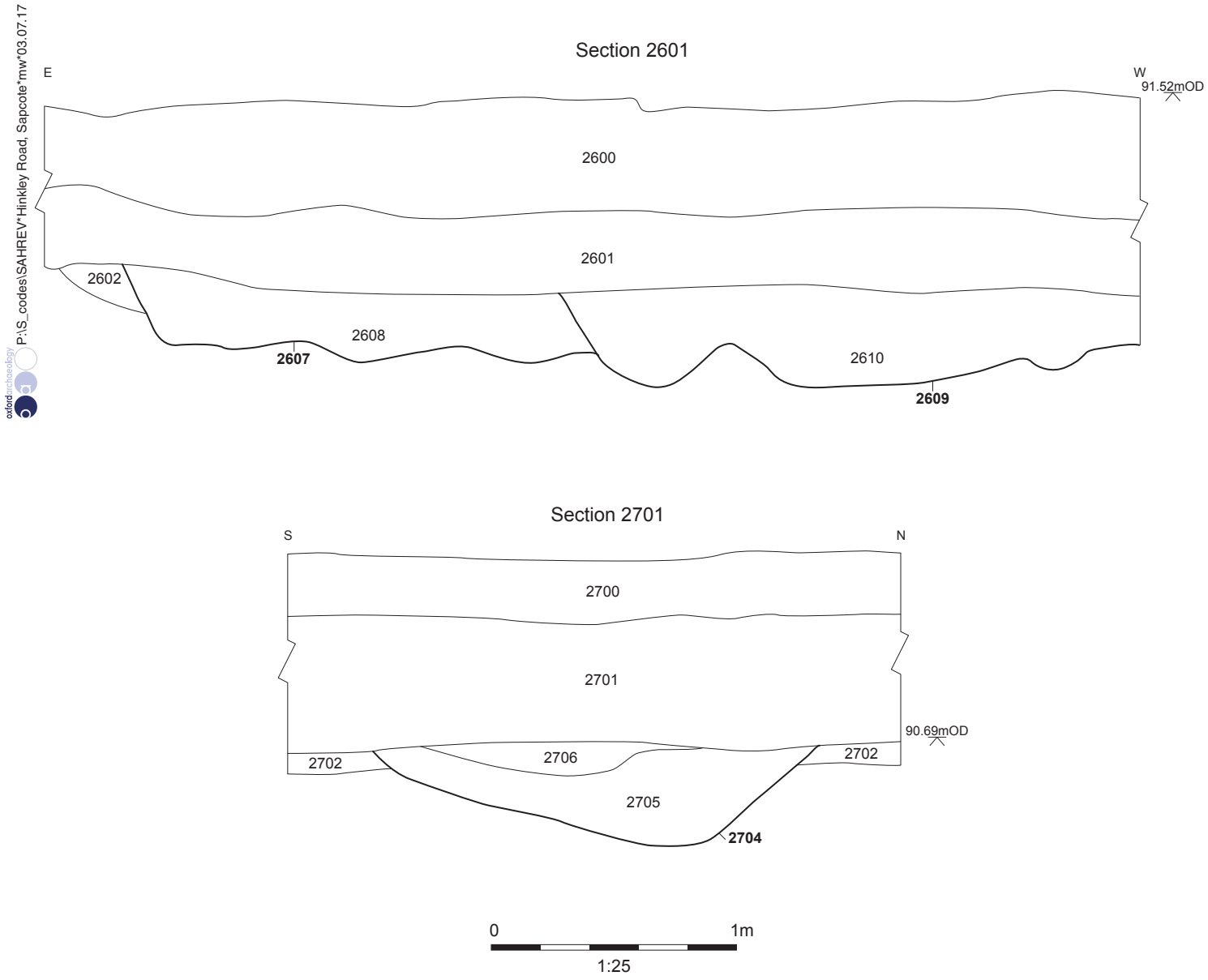


Figure 12: Sections 2601 and 2701

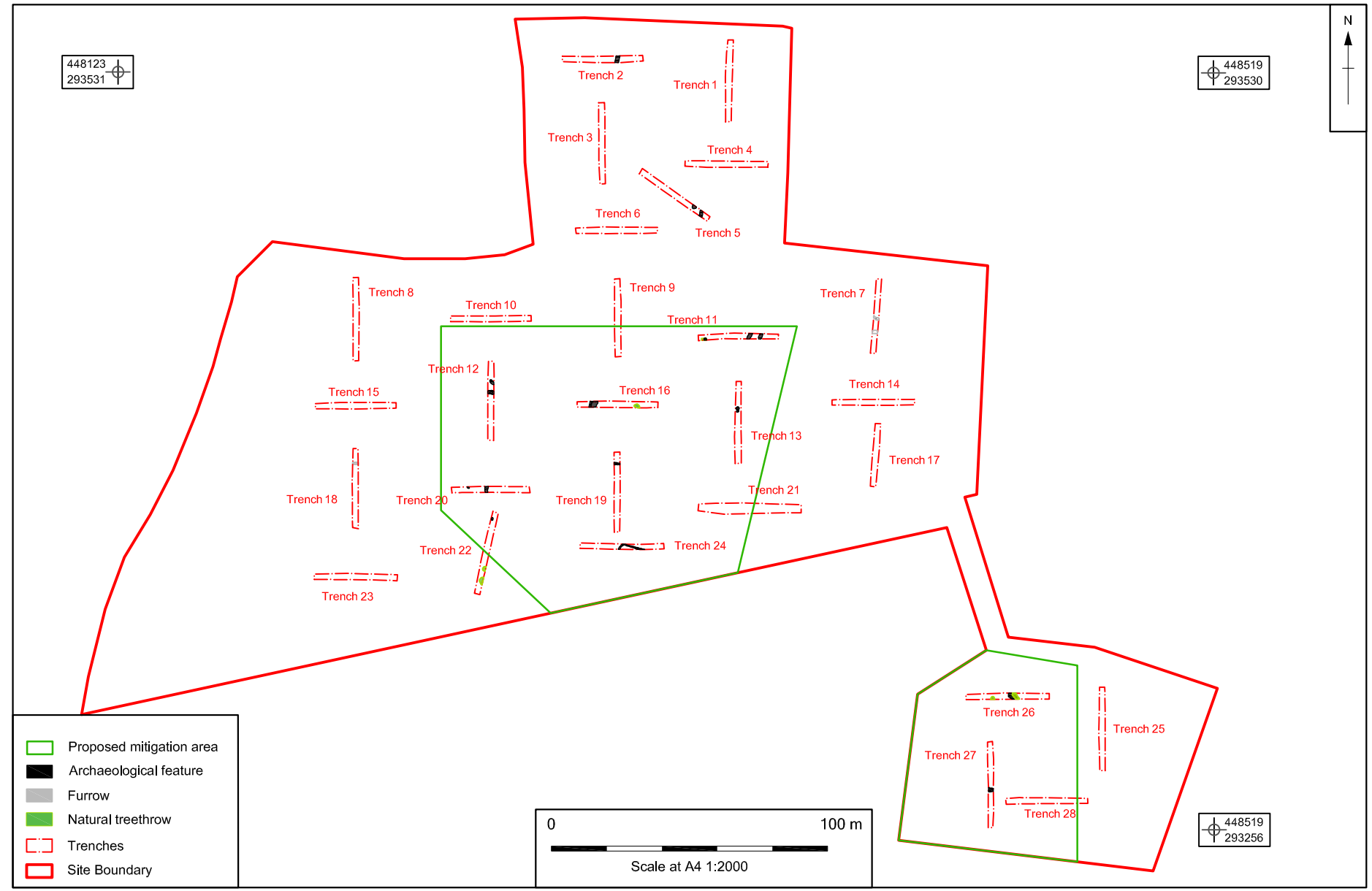


Figure 13: Proposed Mitigation Areas

Plate 1: Trench 15, view to west

Plate 2: Trench 18, furrow 1803, view to east

Plate 3: Trench 16, ditches 1604 and 1607, view to south

Plate 4: Trench 22, pit 2207, view to north-east

Plate 5: Trench 27, ditch 2704, view to west

Plate 6: Flint combination tool from context 1002

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