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Rosehurst Farm, Long Wittenham

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 12th and 21st of August 2019 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation comprising 17 trenches on land at Rosehurst Farm, Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire (centred of NGR SU 54767 93595). The trenches were targeted on the results of a geophysical survey.

The evaluation revealed two parallel ditches interpreted as a trackway, and a parallel sequence of ditches all of Roman date. Other similarly aligned ditches were undated, but also potentially of similar date.

A rectilinear feature identified by the geophysics was formed of parallel linear features, potentially beamslots, one of which had been cut by a posthole containing pottery of 5-7th century date, and is likely to represent an Anglo-Saxon hall. A similar geophysical anomaly was also tested by trenching but remained undated, whilst a third comprised a shallow linear feature and a modern posthole and is less convincing. A large feature also contained pottery of 5-7th century date, and is interpreted as a pit. A potential hall identified from cropmarks was not present on the geophysical survey. A trench (11) targeted on the cropmark's position revealed a single undated linear feature, interpreted as a ditch.

A potential pit alignment remained undated, and may comprise a series of postholes forming a fenceline.

Other geophysical anomalies proved to be quarrying events of late post-medieval date.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker. The fieldwork was directed by Jim Mumford and later Mike Simms, supported by Andrea Foressu, Ben McAndrew, Megan Reid and Emma Winter. Survey and digitising was carried out by Conan Parsons, Anne Kilgour-Cooper and Lucy Gane. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Thomas Homes to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed housing development (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. A brief was set by Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC 2019) and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2019a). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the southern edge of Long Wittenham, and comprises approximately 5 hectares of land centred at National Grid Reference SU 54767 93595 (Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the west by Didcot Road, to the north by Fieldside, and to the south and east by arable fields. The site is flat, at around 50m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), and is located 200m south-east of the River Thames.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey records the solid geology of the site as mudstone belonging to the Gault Formation. This is overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel belonging to the Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member (BGS 2019).
- 1.2.3 The Soil Survey of England and Wales identifies well drained fine and coarse loamy soils, which are locally calcareous and in places shallow, belonging to the Sutton 1 Association (571u) across the site (Thomson & Avis 1983).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The information regarding the archaeological and historical background derives from a Desk Based Assessment of a site immediately to the north (CgMs 2015); the result from a geophysical survey (Geopphiz.biz 2015) and an archaeological evaluation undertaken immediately north of the site (Oxford Archaeology 2015), and a geophysical survey of the site (SUMO 2019). Additional information has been added from the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken near Little Wittenham (Oxford Archaeology 2017) and the publication of the Landscape Archaeological Wittenham Project (Allen, et al. 2010). The following summary provide a context for the proposed works.
- 1.3.2 There are two Scheduled Monuments, comprising predominately Iron Age and Roman settlements and cemetery remains, located in the vicinity of the site; the settlement site at Northfield Farm (List entry Number 1002925) c. 650m to the east, and the settlement site south-east of Appleford church (List entry Number 1004849) located c. 1.1km west of the site. Several Grade II listed buildings are recorded along the SSW-NNE aligned High Street of Long Wittingham, and the church of St Mary in the eastern part of the village is Grade I listed.

- 1.3.3 Extensive archaeological investigations (fieldwalking, excavations, aerial photography analyses, geophysical surveys, etc.) have been undertaken within the Wittenham project research area, comprising the plateau of Wittenham Clumps, Little Wittenham and parts of Long Wittenham (including the site). Altogether eleven archaeological investigations have been undertaken in a 1km radius from the site. Six of these were watching briefs located in the village core, five were trial trench evaluations undertaken immediately south and east of the site and a full excavation located directly west of Didcot Road in close vicinity of the site.
- 1.3.4 A scatter of possible Palaeolithic artefacts is recorded 400m north-east of the study site, with a further find of Palaeolithic flints from the vicinity of Long Wittenham. A round barrow cemetery and a henge-monument comprise part of a Scheduled Monument to the east of the village. Various prehistoric artefacts have also been found in the vicinity of Long Wittenham, including stone axes. Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze age struck flints and features were found during fieldwalking in Little Wittenham and on the slopes of Wittenham Clumps.
- 1.3.5 Cropmark evidence in the vicinity of Long Wittenham includes two probable Bronze Age round barrows, with a nearby subcircular enclosure, 790m west of the study site. Cropmarks of a further barrow and an adjacent barrow cemetery (also a Scheduled Monument) are recorded c. 950m west of the site. A late Bronze Age hilltop enclosure was established on Castle Hill in the 10th century BC, and late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the base of a midden that developed to the west of this from the 8th century BC.
- 1.3.6 The foci of Iron Age activity in this area was thought to have been the scheduled sites of Sinodun or Castle Hill hillfort, located on Wittenham Clumps, and Dyke Hills (a potential late Iron Age Oppida) on the other side of River Thames close to Dorchester. However, recent excavations in Wallingford have revealed extensive early and middle Iron Age settlement. The focus of activity in the landscape may have shifted from Sinodun/Castle Hill to Dyke Hills in the late Iron Age, where cropmarks and geophysical survey show the presence of pits, occupation areas and internal enclosures within the large Dyke Hills embanked enclosure, some of which are very likely of late Iron Age date. The area around Dyke Hills appears to have held a continued importance after the late Iron Age as the adjacent Roman town that developed at Dorchester-on-Thames was of significance.
- 1.3.7 Roman Oxfordshire was divided politically between three late Iron Age tribes: the Catuvellauni, the Atrebates, and the Dobunni. Although several small towns were established, within what is now Oxfordshire, there was no central administrative centre, and no major towns. However, Dorchester-on-Thames was an extensive settlement surrounded by earthen defences by the late second century AD, later reinforced in stone, and an altar shows that there was an official working for the Governor in the town in the early 3rd century AD.
- 1.3.8 The scheduled monument east and west of the site comprise of Iron Age and Roman enclosures and/or settlements alongside a system of trackways. Cropmarks and anomalies detected during geophysical surveys in the immediate vicinity of the site, as well as in nearby areas to the east and north, suggest existence of a similar settlement

cluster, albeit covering a significantly smaller area. The evaluation immediately north of the site exposed a sequence of ditches of probable Roman date.

- 1.3.9 Anglo-Saxon settlement is known from Long Wittenham and Dorchester. A large cemetery is known immediately to the west of the site. Excavations to the west of Didcot Road by JY Akerman in the late 1850s, uncovered 46 cremations and 188 inhumation burials with large quantities of grave goods. Three Anglo-Saxon cremation burials dating to the 5th or 6th century, along with a single inhumation burial, from the same cemetery were uncovered east of the road, immediately north of the site during the recent evaluation (OA 2015). A bank associated with the ditches of Roman date may have formed the eastern boundary of the cemetery. A ditch containing a sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery, and a ditch containing a sherd of medieval pottery were also excavated. Middle Saxon pits have also been found at Neptune Wood east of College Farm, some 400m east of the site.
- 1.3.10 An excavation following geophysical survey by the University of Oxford was undertaken on a Saxon hall 200m to the east of the site. The hall was radio carbon dated to the 7th or 8th century AD.
- 1.3.11 A loose group of three further possible Saxon timber halls has been identified from cropmark and geophysical evidence within the site. It has been suggested that on morphological grounds they could represent an important complex.
- 1.3.12 The place name Wittenham is Old English for River bend land of a man called Witta (Mills 2011). The village of Long Wittenham is recorded in the Domesday survey (1086) as comprising 51 households, making it a relatively large settlement, confirming its importance during the preceding Saxon period. The village was in 1066 the property of Queen Edith, but the acting lord in 1086 was Walter Giffard. According to the same survey, Little Wittingham comprised 20 households and was owned by St Marys Abbey in Abingdon. St Mary's Church in Long Wittenham dates to the 12th century. The village cross, with its 15th century base, is located at the junction of Didcot Road and High Street. Its location suggests that these roads date back at least to the 15th century, and possibly further.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To evaluate the survival of archaeological deposits or features (including the features of unknown origin identified within the geophysical survey results) to gain information about the archaeological resource (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation, quality and significance);
- ii. If archaeological remains are identified, to inform the preparation of a strategy to mitigate the impact of development.
- iii. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
- iv. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- v. To test the reliability of the results of the geophysical survey, via a number of trenches in potentially blank areas across the site and trenches targeted in areas where anomalies of uncertain origin were recorded;

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A total of 17 trenches measuring 30m by 2.1m were excavated as outlined in the WSI (Fig. 2). Trenches 1, 2 and 7 were moved slightly from their original positions to avoid obstructions (hedges and a fence respectively). Trench 7 was expanded to fully reveal a feature.
- 2.2.2 Each trench was excavated using an appropriate 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.
- 2.2.3 Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand.
- 2.2.4 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 excavated and recorded.
- 2.2.5 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual.
- 2.2.6 Digital photos were taken of any archaeological features, deposits, trenches and evaluation work in general.
- 2.2.7 Plans were drawn at an appropriate scale. Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plan/s. The absolute height (m. OD) of all principal strata and features, and the section datum lines were calculated and indicated on the drawings.
- 2.2.8 All trenches and sample sections were located using a GPS unit.

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.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology was a pale yellow gravel with frequent patches of silt and clay and occasional patches of sand. This was overlain by a former ploughsoil (subsoil), which in turn was overlain by the current topsoil. All features were sealed by subsoil, unless otherwise indicated. Within Trench 12 a thin layer of earlier buried soil was present between the base of the subsoil and natural gravels.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in the majority of trenches, although not in high densities.

3.3.2 Ditches were present in Trenches 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 14 and 15. Post holes were present in Trenches 2, 10 and 12. Potential beam slots were present in Trenches 6, 10 and 12. Pits were present in Trenches 12 and 15, with quarry pits in Trenches 5 and 15. A large pit, or sunken featured building was present in Trench 7. Trenches 1, 6, 7, 10 and 12 contained tree throw holes, plough furrows were noted in Trenches 11 and 15, and Trenches 9 and 13 contained no archaeological remains.

3.3.3 Instruction was given to take environmental samples from a variety of dated contexts. Unfortunately, due to illness of the Site Supervisor, this instruction was not passed on, and no samples were taken. The potential of the site to preserve environmental data is therefore based on the results of a previous evaluation (OA 2015) from the site immediately to the north, which contained features of similar date range on similar geology. In that instance the preservation of charred plant remains was poor, and charcoal was extremely rare.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 The trench contained a series of four tree throw holes (103, 105, 107 and 109). These were all shallow and irregular in plan and contained mid to dark brown silty clay fills (Fig 2, 3 and 4).

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 A cluster of four postholes were located towards the south-eastern end of the trench (205, 207, 209 and 211 – Figs 2, 3, 5 and 19). The fills were all dark grey-brown clay

silts. From their arrangement it is possible that they formed the corner of a fence or other structure. To the north-west a NNE-SSW aligned narrow ditch, 203, had a concave profile. The fill, 202 was a yellow-brown clay silt.

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Trench 3 contained two north-west to south-east aligned ditches, 303 and 304 (Figs 2, 3, 6 and 19). These ran to the north-west into Trench 16, and were not excavated within Trench 3. The ditches coincided well with a linear feature mapped from cropmarks (Fig. 3), although this was absent from the geophysical survey (Fig. 2).

3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 A series of four north-west to south-east aligned ditches intercut within the south-western end of the trench, and correlated well with a linear anomaly from the geophysical survey (Figs 2, 3, 7 and 19; Plate 1). The ditches became progressively more recent and larger to the south-west, and are likely to represent episodes of boundary migration. The earliest ditch, 410, to the north-east was flat based with sides angled at around 45°. The fill, 409, was a light grey-brown clay silt. Fill 409 was cut by ditch 408 to the south-west which had a slightly irregular concave profile. The fill, 407, was a light yellow-brown silty clay. This ditch was in turn cut by 406 to the south-east side, which had a steep stepped side profile and flat base, of which only the south-eastern side remained. The fill, 405, was a yellow brown silty clay containing a sherd of Oxford red colour-coated ware dating from AD 210-400. The final ditch in the sequence, 404, had a slightly flared concave profile. The lower fill, 411 was a reddish-grey clay silt. This was sealed by 403, a light brown clay silt.

3.7.2 Ditch fills 406, 407 and 409 were overlain by layer 402, a buried soil derived from the bank of a plough headland around 12m wide, that had formed parallel with the ditches. The layer lensed out to the south-east and was not present above fill 403. The location of the headland, often formed at the edges of fields, may suggest that the boundary marked by the ditches of likely Roman date continued into the medieval period.

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 A vertical sided large quarry pit of post-medieval date was located in the position of the rectangular anomaly from the geophysical survey (Figs 2, 3, 8 and 19). This was sample excavated and the fill, 502, a light brown clay silt, contained tile of 18th-19th century date, two iron nails and a fragment of iron rod.

3.9 Trench 6

3.9.1 The trench was targeted on a narrow rectilinear anomaly and a group of potentially related discrete anomalies. At the northern end of the trench a narrow linear feature, 610, corresponded well with that part of the rectilinear anomaly (Figs 2, 3, 9 and 19). The feature, potentially a beam slot was very shallow, with a flared concave profile, more gently sloping on the north-western side. Ten metres to the south-east a pit, or posthole, 606 was square in plan and represented the westernmost of three discrete geophysical anomalies. The posthole was vertical sided and flat based. The fill, 605,

was a yellow-brown silty clay and contained the remnants of a modern tin can (not retained).

- 3.9.2 To the north and south of the pit tree throw holes 608 and 604 both had dark brown silty clay fills (607 and 603 respectively).

3.10 Trench 7

3.10.1 A large ovoid pit, 705, was located towards the centre of the trench, and the area around this was opened up to fully expose the feature in plan (Figs 2, 3, 10 and 20; Plate 2). The pit had a gently sloping concave profile and measured 5.35m by 3.9m with a maximum depth of 0.6m. The lower fill, 704, was a yellow-brown silty clay which contained two sherds of pottery of 5th-7th century date (early Anglo-Saxon), a stone potentially used as a hone, and a residual Roman pottery sherd. Also present were bones from cattle, pig and goose some of which exhibited butchery marks, and others of which had been gnawed, probably by domestic dog (see Appendix C.1). The upper fill, 703 was a darker brown silty clay.

- 3.10.2 A small irregular tree throw hole, 707 was located a few metres to the west. The fill, 706 was a very dark brown silty clay.

3.11 Trench 8

3.11.1 A north-west south-east aligned ditch, 801, was located within the centre of the trench, and was a good match for a linear geophysical anomaly (Figs 2, 3, 11 and 20). The ditch had a concave base, with steeper sides to the south-west, and a gentler slope to the north-west. The fill, 802, was a compact yellow-brown gravel rich silty clay from which a horse tooth was recovered.

- 3.11.2 A smaller parallel ditch, 803, was located around a metre to the south-west. The ditch had a shallow concave profile, and the fill, 804, was also a yellow-brown gravel rich silty clay.

3.12 Trench 10

3.12.1 Three linear features, 1003 and 1005 at the north-eastern end of the trench and 1009 in the centre of the trench, all aligned broadly north-east to south-west, were a good fit for the eastern and western ends of a rectilinear geophysical anomaly (Figs 2, 3, 12 and 20; Plate 3). Feature 1003 had steep sides to the north-east, shallower to the south-west and a flat base. The fill, 1012, was an orange-brown silty clay. Linear feature 1005 was adjacent to 1003, and to the south-west, although no relationship could be determined between the two features. It had near vertical upper sides before a sharp curve to a flat base. The fill, 1004, was also an orange-brown silty clay.

- 3.12.2 A tree throw hole, 1007, was filled by 1006, a yellow brown silty clay. The linear feature within the centre of the trench, 1009, cut 1006, and was similar in size and profile to 1005, and the fill 1008 was a grey-brown silty clay containing frequent gravel inclusions. A fragment of mammal bone was recovered from the fill. A posthole, 1011, was located in the centre of 1009 and had a steep sided, flat based profile. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay, 1010.

3.12.3 Given the results of the geophysical survey, it is likely that features 1005 and 1009 are beam-slots relating to a rectangular building.

3.13 Trench 11

3.13.1 The trench was targeted on the position of a cropmark of a rectangular structure, although no related anomaly was present on the geophysical survey. A linear feature, interpreted as a ditch, 1103, was orientated NNE-SSW, and had a vertical side to the west and a steeply angled side to the east, with a narrow flat base (Figs 2, 3, 13 and 20). The fill, 1104, was a grey-brown clay silt with frequent gravel inclusions. The ditch was overlain by a shallow plough furrow of similar alignment, 1105, filled by 1106, a dark orange-brown silty clay. Feature 1103 was however a good match to the western side of the rectilinear feature plotted from the cropmark data (Fig. 3), and the opposing side of the cropmark feature was located to the east, beyond the limits of the trench. Although fill 1104 was undated, it cannot be discounted that feature 1103 represents a further hall building, albeit one that was not identified by the geophysical survey.

3.14 Trench 12

3.14.1 Towards the north-eastern end of the trench an area of buried soil, 1202, overlay the natural geology, and was sealed by subsoil, 1201. Soil layer 1202 was a dark brown gravel rich clay silt which was cut by a north-west to south-east aligned linear feature, 1207. Feature 1207, potentially a beam slot had a flat base, and the south-western side angled at around 45° (Figs 2, 3, 14 and 21; Plate 4). The fill, 1206, was a grey-brown clay silt. This was cut by a posthole, 1205, which was steep sided with a very slightly curved base. The outer fill of the posthole, 1204, was a grey-brown clay silt. Within the centre of the feature a post-pipe fill, 1203, was a grey-brown silt containing numerous fragments of chalk, two sherds of pottery dating to the 5th-7th century, and large mammal and sheep bones.

3.14.2 Five metres to the south-west a second linear feature, 1209, was parallel to 1207, but had a shallower profile. The fill, 1208, was a grey-brown silty clay. Both linear features corresponded well to a rectilinear geophysical anomaly, and may represent beam-slots relating to a rectangular building.

3.14.3 Around the centre of the trench a pit, 1211, had fairly steep sides and a concave base. The fill, 1210, was a dark brown silty loam. The pit was located on a line of discrete geophysical anomalies (see also Trench 15), which appear to represent a pit alignment, or fence line.

3.14.4 A tree throw hole, 1213, was located towards the south-western end of the trench. This had a shallow concave profile, and was filled by 1212, a dark grey silty clay.

3.15 Trench 14

3.15.1 Two parallel linear features, 1403 and 1406, were orientated north-west to south-east. The easternmost of the pair, 1403, had a broad 'V' shaped profile, with a steeper side to the south-west (Figs 2, 3, 15 and 21). The lower fill, 1405, was a light grey-brown silty clay containing two sherds of Roman pottery (c 100-410). The upper fill, 1404, was a grey-brown clay silt containing occasional small stones. The second ditch, 1406 was

not excavated. Both ditches corresponded well to linear geophysical anomalies, and probably define a trackway or droveway.

3.16 Trench 15

- 3.16.1 At the north-eastern end of the trench a cluster of four small pits sat close to the alignment of pits indicated on the geophysical survey (Figs 2, 3, 16, 21 and 22). Pit 1515 had a steep sided, slightly irregular profile, and was filled by 1514, a dark grey-brown silty loam. This was cut by pit 1513 to the south-west. Pit 1513 was steeper sided to the north-east, with a more stepped profile to the north-east, and a concave base. The fill, 1512, was a dark grey-brown silty loam. This was cut by pit 1511 to the north-east which had sides angled at around 45° and a flat base. The fill, 1510, was also a dark grey-brown silty loam. A fourth pit, 1509, was located around 0.8m to the north. The pit had a shallow concave profile, and the fill, 1508, was again a dark grey-brown silty loam.
- 3.16.2 Just south-west of the centre of the trench a ditch, 1505, had a concave profile. The fill, 1504, was a light reddish-brown silty clay. Fill 1504 was cut by 1507, a similarly aligned plough furrow filled by 1506, a light grey-brown silty loam. At the south-western end of the trench a second parallel ditch, 1503, had a shallow concave profile, and was filled by 1502, a light yellow-brown sandy silt. Ditches 1503 and 1505 correlated well with two linear geophysical anomalies, potentially defining a trackway, or droveway.
- 3.16.3 Within the area defined by ditches 1503 and 1505, a large shallow pit, 1518, was only partially excavated. The fill, 1517, was a grey-brown silty clay containing tile dated to the 17th-19th century. The pit correlated well with one of a cluster of discrete geophysical anomalies which are likely to represent late post-medieval quarrying.

3.17 Trench 16

- 3.17.1 A ditch, 1604, was orientated north-west to south-east, and had a sides angled at around 45° and a flat base (Figs 2, 3, 17 and 22). The fill, 1605, was a dark reddish-brown silty loam. A second ditch, 1606, cut fill 1605 on the north-eastern side. The ditch was smaller than 1604, but with a similar profile. The fill, 1607, was also a dark reddish-brown silty loam and contained a fragment of sheep humerus. The ditches are a good match to a linear feature recorded by the cropmark data, although absent from the subsequent geophysical survey results.
- 3.17.2 Ditches 1604 and 1605 are likely to be the same as ditches 303 and 304 in Trench 3 to the south-east.

3.18 Trench 17

- 3.18.1 A ditch located towards the north-western end of the trench, 1702, was orientated north-east to south-west and had a concave profile (Figs 2, 3, 18 and 22). The fill, 1703, was a yellow-brown silty clay.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during fair weather conditions, and there was no issue with ground water. Features were generally easy to identify against the underlying natural, although frequent tree throw holes could on occasion make features harder to define.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The evaluation successfully identified the presence or absence of features within the footprint of the trenches. The state of preservation of the revealed features was assessed, and their date established where possible through means of recovered artefacts, although these were generally sparse. The veracity of the geophysical survey was tested.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The geophysical survey was generally accurate, with all of the targeted anomalies present and in close proximity to the location in which they were plotted. However, linear features within Trenches 3, 16 and 17 within the southern part of the site were not picked up by the survey, and neither was the large feature within Trench 7. However the linear features in Trenches 3 and 16 were identified from the cropmark survey.
- 4.3.2 Features of Roman date included the trackway ditches in Trench 14 (1403 and 1406), in the north-eastern corner of the site, and the similarly aligned sequence of ditches in Trench 4 (of which ditch 406 contained Roman pottery). It is possible that many of the ditches sharing the north-west to south-east alignment in Trenches 3, 8, 11, 15 and 16 are also of Roman date, but this cannot be shown due to the absence of artefacts.
- 4.3.3 The features of Roman date are indicative of trackways and field systems, and the low level of finds recovered suggests an absence of settlement in the immediate vicinity. From crop mark data the trackway in Trench 14 appears to define the western side of a series of small fields or enclosures which extend east, beyond the limits of this site, which has been investigated by the University of Oxford and found to be of late Roman date (McBride 2017).
- 4.3.4 Features of Anglo-Saxon date include the large pit feature in Trench 7, (705), which contained 5th-7th century pottery and butchered animal bone. Although in plan the feature is of similar size and morphology to known sunken featured buildings the lack of a flat base and absence of any related postholes would suggest that this is a pit.
- 4.3.5 Within the footprint of Trench 12 the geophysical survey indicated a rectilinear anomaly interpreted as a potential hall of Anglo-Saxon date from crop mark data and the geophysical survey. The anomaly measures around 12m by 5m, and the presence of pottery of 5th-7th century date in the post-pipe of a posthole (1205) perhaps associated with a beam-slot (1207) would lend credence to this interpretation. A hall

of similar size (11.6m by 6.1m) of post in trench construction was excavated by the University of Oxford around 200m to the east. The structure, which is currently under reconstruction using original techniques, has been carbon dated to Cal 608-679 AD (Hamerow and McBride 2017). The potential hall buildings are likely to be broadly contemporary with the adjacent cemetery excavated by Akerman in the Victorian period (Akerman 1859), and which extended into the field immediately north of the site (OA 2015).

- 4.3.6 A similar structure was present within Trench 10, also comprising linear beam-slots (1005 and 1009), one of which was associated with a posthole (1011). This example would (from the results of the geophysical survey) measure around 12m by 8m. This structure remains undated.
- 4.3.7 Hall buildings of beam slot and post construction are generally thought to have their inception in the late 6th century, gradually replacing post built halls, until by the 8th century they account for around 75% of known examples (Booth et al 2009). Other clusters of potential Saxon halls are known from cropmarks in the vicinity, for example at the Drayton 'palace' complex south of the Drayton Road, some three miles to the west of the site. Limited excavation here revealed a large hall building measuring 9m wide and potentially 19m in length, constructed using a double row of planks in foundation trenches (Brennan and Hamerow 2015). Other post built examples are present at Radley Barrow Hills near Abingdon, where they were associated with sunken featured buildings, and also at both Benson and Yarnton.
- 4.3.8 A further rectilinear structure identified on the geophysical survey as a weak anomaly was targeted by Trench 6, and is parallel to that in Trench 10. A shallow undated linear feature corresponded well to the northern side of the anomaly, but was undated. A posthole, which corresponded to a line of three identified by the geophysics on the southern side of the anomaly proved to be of modern date. The potential hall building identified from cropmarks and targeted by Trench 11 did not appear to be present, although the feature interpreted as a ditch (1103) could easily represent a beam slot, and was a good match to the plotted location of a rectilinear feature from the cropmark data (Figs 3 and 13).
- 4.3.9 The potential broadly north-south aligned pit alignment targeted by Trenches 12 and 15 did not contain any datable material. The small size of the pits, and that several were recut is not typical of other alignments in the vicinity. For example, the excavation of an early Iron Age double pit alignment west of Wallingford which comprised over 340 individual pits revealed no clear evidence of re-cutting (OA 2019b). The individual pits were also much larger at c. 1m diameter. The example evaluated here may therefore represent a fence line comprised of postholes.
- 4.3.10 Within the northern part of the site, as with the evaluation immediately to the north (OA 2015) there was evidence for extensive late post-medieval quarrying.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

A.1.1 Dates provided are by century or range of years AD.

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench containing three tree throw holes. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid yellow-brown silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.54
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Layer	5	-	Natural depression	-	-
104	Fill	3.5	0.15	Fill of 105	-	-
105	Cut	3.5	0.15	Tree throw	-	-
106	Fill	2.5	0.1	Fill of 107	-	-
107	Cut	2.5	0.1	Tree throw	-	-
108	Fill	1.4	0.12	Fill of 109	-	-
109	Cut	1.4	0.12	Tree throw	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a ditch and four postholes. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of light orange-brown clay silt with patches of gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
202	Fill	0.8	0.3	Fill of 203	-	-
203	Cut	0.8	0.3	Ditch	-	-
204	Fill	0.44	0.1	Fill of 205	-	-
205	Cut	0.44	0.1	Posthole	-	-
206	Fill	0.4	0.08	Fill of 207	-	-
207	Cut	0.4	0.08	Posthole	-	-
208	Fill	0.4	0.16	Fill of 209	-	-
209	Cut	0.4	0.16	Posthole	-	-
210	Fill	0.35	0.12	Fill of 211	-	-
211	Cut	0.35	0.12	Posthole	-	-
212	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow-brown gravel with reddish-brown silty sand patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
303	Cut	1	-	Ditch (unexcavated)	-	-
304	Cut	1.2	-	Ditch (unexcavated)	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained four ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a plough headland deposit and natural geology of gravels and reddish-brown clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	12.2	0.4	Buried soil relating to headland	-	-
403	Fill	1.5	0.35	Fill of 405	-	-
404	Cut	1.5	0.35	Ditch		
405	Fill	1.6	0.4	Fill of 406	Pottery	210-400
406	Cut	1.6	0.4	Ditch		
407	Fill	1.2	0.38	Fill of 408		
408	Cut	1.2	0.38	Ditch		
409	Fill	1	0.18	Fill of 410		
410	Cut	1	0.18	Ditch		
411	Fill	1.2	0.25	Fill of 404		
412	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a quarry pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravels with clay patches					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.47
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
502	Fill	5.2	0.45	Fill of 503	Pottery, tile, metal, animal bone	1730-1800
503	Cut	5.2	0.45	Quarry pit	-	-
504	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW-
					Length (m)	30

Trench contained a narrow ditch a pit and two tree throw holes. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
603	Fill	1.5	0.08	Fill of 604	-	-
604	Cut	1.5	0.08	Tree throw	-	-
605	Fill	0.7	0.5	Fill of 606	Metal	Modern
606	Cut	0.7	0.5	Posthole	-	-
607	Fill	0.75	0.12	Fill of 606	-	-
608	Cut	0.75	0.12	Tree throw	-	-
609	Fill	0.3	0.06	Fill of 610	-	-
610	Cut	0.3	0.06	Ditch	-	-

Trench 7						
General description Trench contained a pit and a tree throw hole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow-brown silty clay with gravel patches.					Orientation	NE-SW
					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
703	Fill	5.35	0.12	Fill of 705	-	-
704	Fill	3.34	0.48	Fill of 705	Pottery, animal bone	5 th -7 th C
705	Cut	5.35	0.6	Pit	-	-
706	Fill	1.1	0.15	Fill of 707	-	-
707	Cut	1.1	0.15	Tree throw	-	-

Trench 8						
General description Trench contained two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow-brown sandy gravel.					Orientation	NE-SW
					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
801	Cut	2.1	0.6	Ditch	-	-
802	Fill	2.1	0.6	Fill of 801	Animal bone	-
803	Cut	0.8	0.2	Ditch	-	-
804	Fill	0.8	0.2	Fill of 803	-	-
805	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
806	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench containing a subsoil plough headland deposit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow-brown gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained two linear beam slots, a ditch, a posthole and a tree throw hole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow brown gravel rich silty clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1003	Cut	1.46	0.22	Ditch	-	-
1004	Fill	0.5	0.28	Fill of 1005	-	-
1005	Cut	0.5	0.28	Linear beam slot	-	-
1006	Fill	2.08	0.14	Fill of 1007	-	-
1007	Cut	2.08	0.14	Tree throw	-	-
1008	Fill	0.64	0.32	Fill of 1009	Animal bone	-
1009	Cut	0.64	0.32	Linear beam slot	-	-
1010	Fill	0.4	0.11	Fill of 1011	-	-
1011	Cut	0.4	0.11	Posthole	-	-
1012	Fill	1.46	0.22	Fill of 1003	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a ditch and a plough furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow-brown silty gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.052
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1103	Cut	0.74	0.6	Ditch	-	-
1104	Fill	0.74	0.6	Fill of 1103	-	-
1105	Cut	1.76	0.08	Plough furrow	-	-
1106	Fill	1.76	0.08	Fill of 1105	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a buried soil, two beam slots, a posthole, a pit and a tree throw hole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow-brown gravel with patches of red-brown clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	8.0	0.14	Buried soil	-	-
1203	Fill	0.4	0.56	Post pipe fill of 1205	Pottery, stone, animal bone	5 th -7 th C
1204	Fill	0.7	0.56	Fill of 1205	-	-
1205	Cut	0.7	0.56	Posthole	-	-
1206	Fill	0.85	0.3	Fill of 1207	-	-
1207	Cut	0.85	0.3	Beam slot	-	-
1208	Fill	1.4	0.14	Fill of 1209	-	-
1209	Cut	1.4	0.14	Beam slot	-	-
1210	Fill	1.4	0.54	Fill of 1211	-	-
1211	Cut	1.4	0.54	Pit	-	-
1212	Fill	1.8	0.34	Fill of 1213	-	-
1213	Cut	1.8	0.34	Tree throw	-	-
1214	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow-brown gravel with patches of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow brown silty gravel with dark brown silt patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1403	Cut	1.56	0.5	Ditch	-	-
1404	Fill	1.56	0.3	Fill of 1403	-	-

1405	Fill	0.8	0.2	Fill of 1403	Pottery	100-400
1406	Cut	1.3	-	Ditch (unexcavated)	-	-
1407	Fill	1.3	-	Fill	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained two ditches, a plough furrow, four pits in alignment and a quarry pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow-brown gravel with patches of silt.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Fill	1.3	0.2	Fill of 1503	-	-
1503	Cut	1.3	0.2	Ditch	-	-
1504	Fill	0.8	0.25	Fill of 1505	-	-
1505	Cut	0.8	0.25	Ditch	-	-
1506	Fill	1.6	0.15	Fill of 1507	-	-
1507	Cut	1.6	0.15	Plough furrow	-	-
1508	Fill	0.8	0.18	Fill of 1509	-	-
1509	Cut	0.8	0.18	Pit	-	-
1510	Fill	0.38	0.25	Fill of 1511	-	-
1511	Cut	0.38	0.25	Pit	-	-
1512	Fill	0.7	0.22	Fill of 1513	-	-
1513	Cut	0.7	0.22	Pit	-	-
1514	Fill	0.5	0.15	Fill of 1515	-	-
1515	Cut	0.5	0.15	Pit	-	-
1516	Layer	0.42	0.08	Lens of fill in top of subsoil	Animal bone	-
1517	Fill	4.0	0.3	Fill of 1518	Tile	17 th -19 th C
1518	Cut	4.0	0.3	Quarry pit	-	-
1519	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of light yellow brown sandy gravel with patches of brown sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1604	Cut	1.4	0.3	Ditch	-	-
1605	Fill	1.4	0.3	Fill of 1604	-	-
1606	Cut	1.2	0.26	Ditch	-	-
1607	Fill	1.2	0.26	Fill of 1606	Animal bone	-

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench Contained a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow brown gravel.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	 Finds	Date
1700	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
1702	Cut	0.58	0.16	Ditch	-	-
1703	Fill	0.58	0.16	Fill of 1702	-	-
1704	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman and Post-Roman Pottery

By John Cotter and Edward Biddulph

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A total of 15 sherds of pottery weighing 172g were recovered from five contexts. Given the small quantity present, this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below. Roman, Early Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval pottery are present. Roman fabric codes referred to are those of Oxford Archaeology (Booth 2017). Post-medieval fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). Early Anglo-Saxon pottery in Oxfordshire is usually assigned site-specific fabric codes (eg. Blinkhorn 2007).

Description

- B.1.2 Context (405) Spot-date: Late Roman (c AD 240-410). Description: 1 sherd (weight 6g). Body sherd from wall-sided mortarium in Oxford red colour-coated ware (Fabric M41). Form Type C97 (Young 1977).
- B.1.3 Context (502) Spot-date: c 1730-1800. Description: 7 sherds (weight 74g). Fresh and abraded. 3x sherds in Brill post-medieval slipware (Fabric BRSL), all from dishes/bowls including white slip decoration with green glaze highlights. 2x sherds in post-medieval red earthenware (PMR), including a bowl rim. 1x body sherd in post-medieval black-glazed redware (PMBL), from the neck of a jar or chamberpot. 1x abraded body sherd (8g) Roman sandy oxidised ware (O20, date AD 43-410).
- B.1.4 Context (704) Spot-date: Early Anglo-Saxon (5th to 7th century?). Description: 3 sherds (weight 34g). 2x sherds in Anglo-Saxon organic-tempered ware (Fabric F1). These comprise one larger and one smaller body sherd (possibly from the same vessel). From the flattish, possibly basal, area of a fairly large and thick-walled vessel. Dark grey fabric with a grey-brown outer surface. The fabric contains abundant coarse organic inclusions probably including straw or chaff. Fairly fresh condition. 1x body sherd (5g) in Roman sandy reduced ware (R20, date AD 43-410).
- B.1.5 Context (1203) Spot-date: Early Anglo-Saxon (5th to 7th century?). Description: 2 sherds (weight 31g). Body sherds from two separate vessels in Anglo-Saxon organic-tempered ware (Fabric F1). Both quite flattish and thick-walled. Fabric as in Context (704) above. One sherd, in a black fabric, shows slight curvature and may be from a large jar or a bowl with a fairly good quality (deliberate) burnish on the outer surface. Fairly fresh condition.
- B.1.6 Context (1405) Spot-date: Roman (c AD 100-410). Description: 2 sherds (weight 27g). Base sherds from two separate pedestal beakers in fine Oxfordshire reduced ware (R11). The more complete base is abraded/heavily chipped; the smaller base sherd is fresh.

Discussion

- B.1.7 The Roman wares are common types in the Oxfordshire area. The quantity (4 sherds) and fairly fresh condition of the early Anglo-Saxon pottery suggests the presence of occupation of this date somewhere in the near vicinity. Organic-tempered ware is one of the commonest types of hand-built Anglo-Saxon pottery found in the Thames valley.
- B.1.8 The pottery here has the potential to inform research through re-analysis - particularly when reviewed alongside other assemblages from the same general area. It is therefore recommended that the pottery be retained.

B.2 Ceramic building material (CBM)

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.2.1 A total of 9 pieces of CBM weighing 141g were recovered from two contexts. Given the small quantity present, this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below. Medieval tile fabrics and CBM types from Oxford have been described in some detail in previous reports (Cotter 2006; 2008).

Description

- B.2.2 Context (502) Spot-date: 18th to 19th century? Description: 8 pieces (weight 114g). 7x small abraded fragments (or scraps) of post-medieval flat roof tile (peg tile?) in a range of orange-red fabrics. A few of these are in a very smooth late-looking fabric (18th/19th century?). Other pieces in sandier fabrics could, possibly, be as early as the 16th or 17th century? 1x shapeless scrap of post-medieval red brick.
- B.2.3 Context (1517) Spot-date: 17th to 19th century? Description: 1 piece (weight 27g). Fairly abraded edge fragment of flat roof tile (peg tile?). Sandy light orange post-medieval style fabric.

Discussion

- B.2.4 The CBM assemblage comprises common post-medieval types typical of this part of Oxfordshire, and has little potential for further research.

B.3 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Introduction

- B.3.1 A single piece of stone was recovered from context 1203. This is a flat piece of micaceous sandstone, burnt and blackened, and smoothed on one face suggesting some use as a hone (27g).
- B.3.2 The stone should be retained in case of future analysis.

B.4 Metals

By Ian R Scott

- B.4.1 There are three metal finds all from context 502. They comprise two nails with tapering rectangular section stems with and small domed heads, a short length of thin iron rod or wire.
- B.4.2 The nails are hand forged probably of later 18th- or 19th-century date.

Finds Register

Context 502	(1)	Nail, hand forged with tapering rectangular section stem with chisel tip. Small slightly domed head. Clenched or bent at the tip. Fe. L: 72m
	(2)	Nail, hand forged with tapering rectangular section stem with tapered point. Small slightly domed head. Bent at the tip. Fe. L: 58mm.
	(3)	Wire or thin rod or bar. Square cross-section. Fe. L: 45mm.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

- C.1.1 A total of 50 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site (Table 1), all of which were collected by hand. Features on the site were dated on the basis of associated ceramic finds (seriation), mostly to the Anglo-Saxon period.
- C.1.2 The material was recorded in full, with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system (Serjeantson 1996).

Description

- C.1.3 Preservation on the site was good, with Behrensmeyer (1978) weathering stages 2 and 3 being typical of the surface condition of the identified specimens.
- C.1.4 The assemblage consisted entirely of domestic animals, including all of the principal domesticates - caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goat [*Capra hircus*], domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*), pig (*Sus domesticus*), and horse (*Equus caballus*) as well as goose (*Anser anser*) (Table 1). Domestic cattle is the most common species by number of specimens but this number is inflated by several loose teeth from context 704, which may come from the same individual. Several of the specimens have been gnawed by canids, probably dogs, indicating that they, too, were present on the site (Table 2).
- C.1.5 Butchery marks were recorded on two of the specimens – a domestic cattle radius from context 704 has been chopped through, obliquely, at the proximal end. This suggests brusque, possibly professional, butchery. An axial cutmark on the distal end of a caprine femur is more equivocal but may have been produced through more amateur disarticulation of the carcass. This specimen was also unfused epiphyseally, but a fused humerus was present elsewhere in the early Anglo Saxon assemblage, meaning that both immature and mature individuals were present.

Conclusions

- C.1.6 Little can be read into such a small assemblage. Early Anglo-Saxon assemblages are far less common than those from the preceding or subsequent periods, though, and the good preservation observed here suggests that the site has good potential to produce an assemblage which may help our understanding the economy and husbandry of this period.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- C.1.7 The assemblage should be considered a priority for retention.

Table 1: Total NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) and NSP (Number of Specimens) figures per period from hand-collected material from the site.

	Early Anglo Saxon	c.AD 1730-1800	Undated
domestic cattle	8		1
caprine	2		1
pig	1		
horse			1
medium mammal	1	1	1
large mammal	26		
Total Mammal	38	1	4
greylag/domestic goose	1		
Total Bird	1	0	0
Total NISP	39	1	4
Total NSP	39	1	10

Table 2: Non-species data recorded from the specimens (NSP) in the assemblage.

	Butchery marks	Gnawed	Ageing data	Biometric data
domestic cattle	1	2	1	
caprine	1		2	1
caprine?		1		
Total	2	3	3	1

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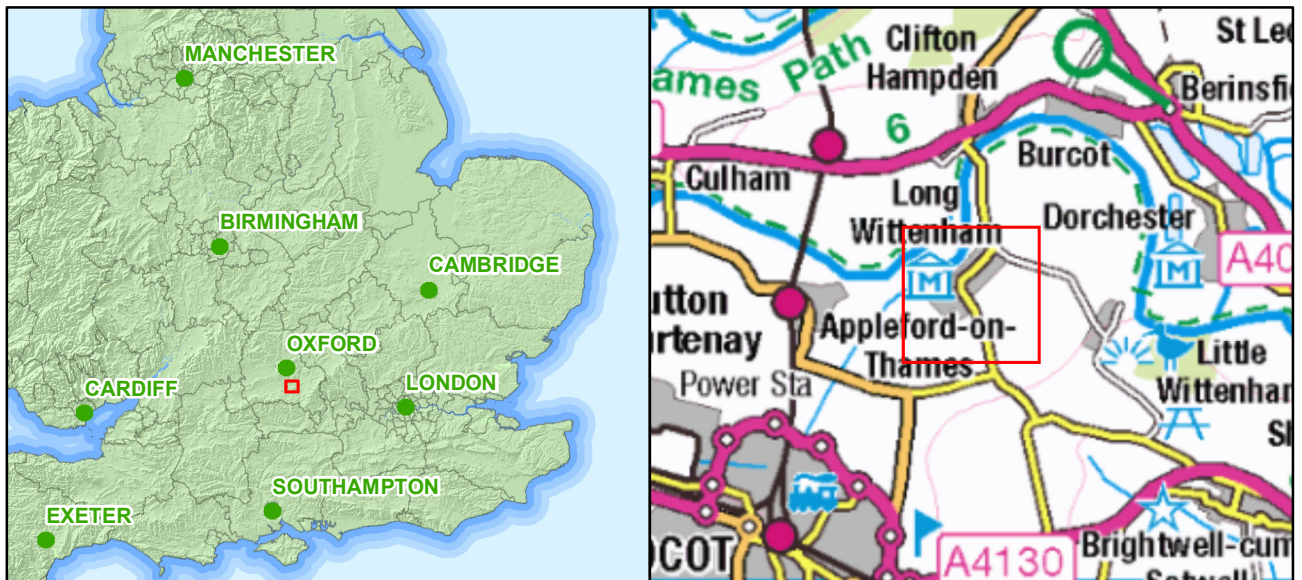
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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Rosehurst Farm, Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire
Site code:	LWRF19
Grid Reference	SU 54767 93595
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	August 2019 – eight days
Area of Site	c. 5ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: TBC.
Summary of Results:	<p>The evaluation revealed two parallel ditches interpreted as a trackway, and a parallel sequence of ditches all of Roman date. Other similarly aligned ditches were undated, but also potentially of similar date.</p> <p>A rectilinear feature identified by the geophysics was formed of parallel linear features, potentially beamslots, one of which had been cut by a posthole containing pottery of 5-7th century date, and is likely to represent an Anglo-Saxon hall. A similar geophysical anomaly was also tested by trenching but remained undated, whilst a third comprised a shallow linear feature and a modern posthole and is less convincing. A large feature also contained pottery of 5-7th century date, and is interpreted as a pit. A potential hall identified from cropmarks was not present on the geophysical survey. A trench (11) targeted on the cropmark's position revealed a single undated linear feature, interpreted as a ditch.</p> <p>A potential pit alignment remained undated, and may comprise a series of postholes forming a fenceline.</p> <p>Other geophysical anomalies proved to be quarrying events of late post-medieval date.</p>



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Figure 1: Site location

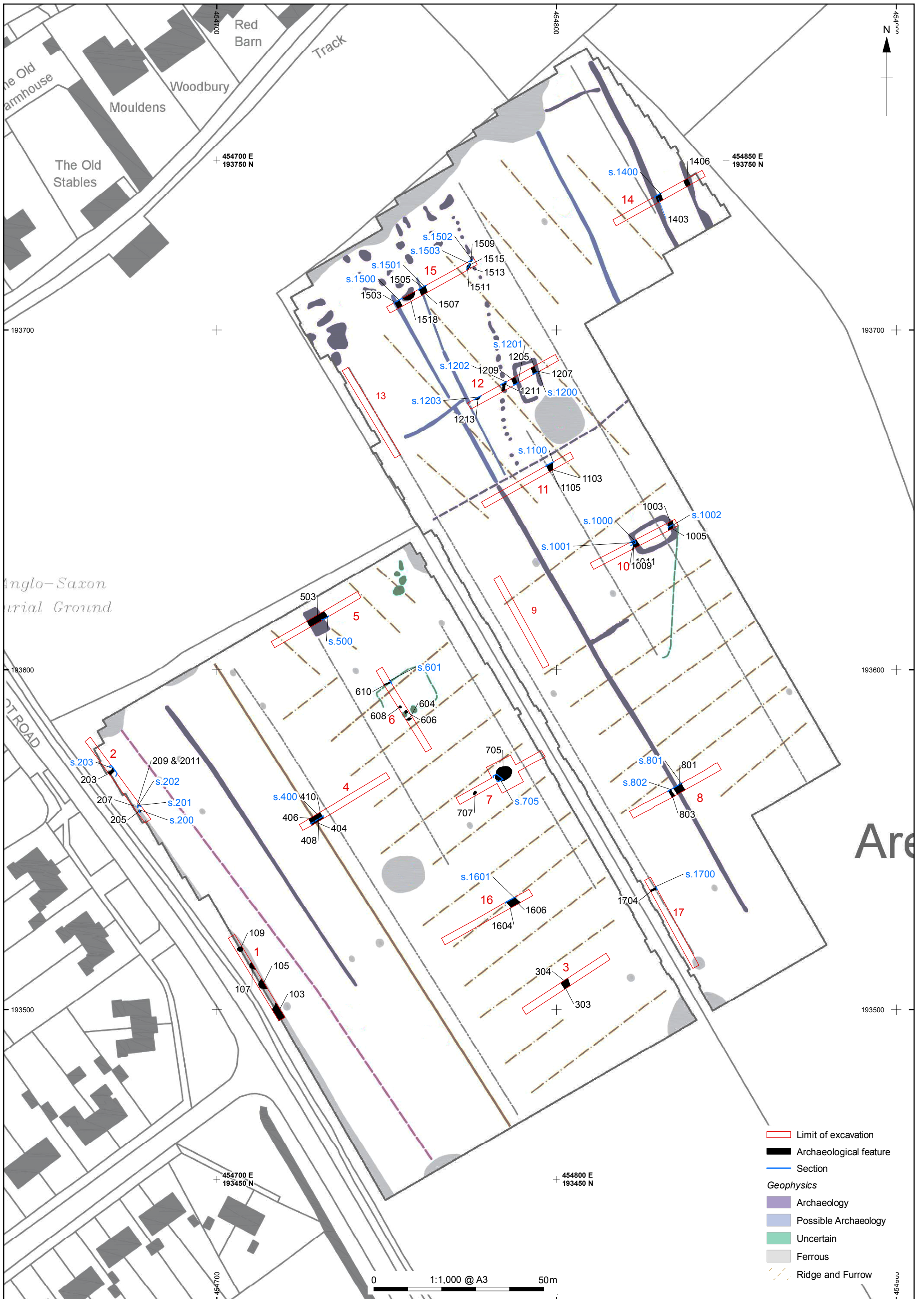


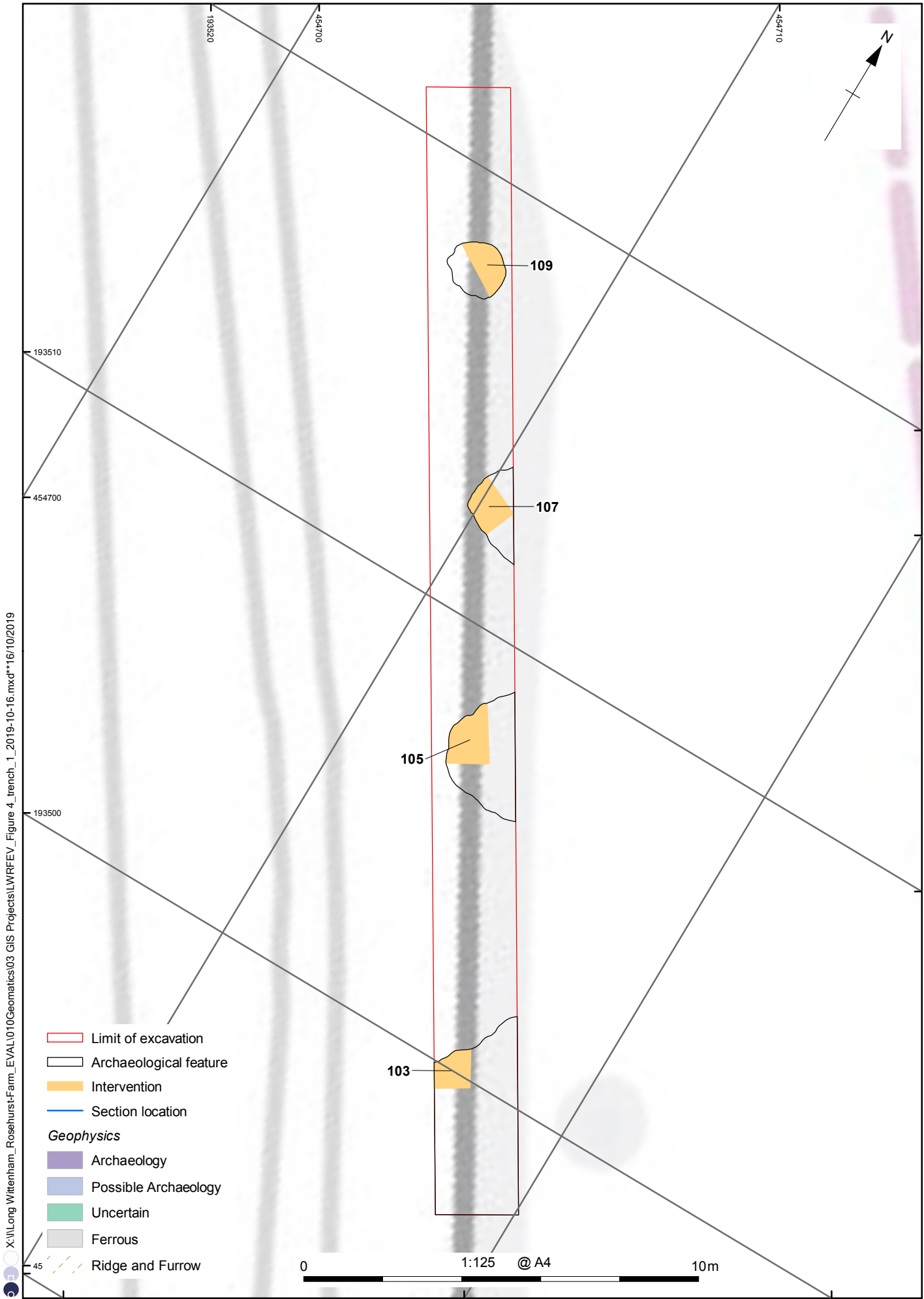
Figure 2: Trench locations and geophysical survey results



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Geophysics supplied by SUMO Survey Services

Figure 3: Trench locations and geophysical survey results with NMP cropmarks



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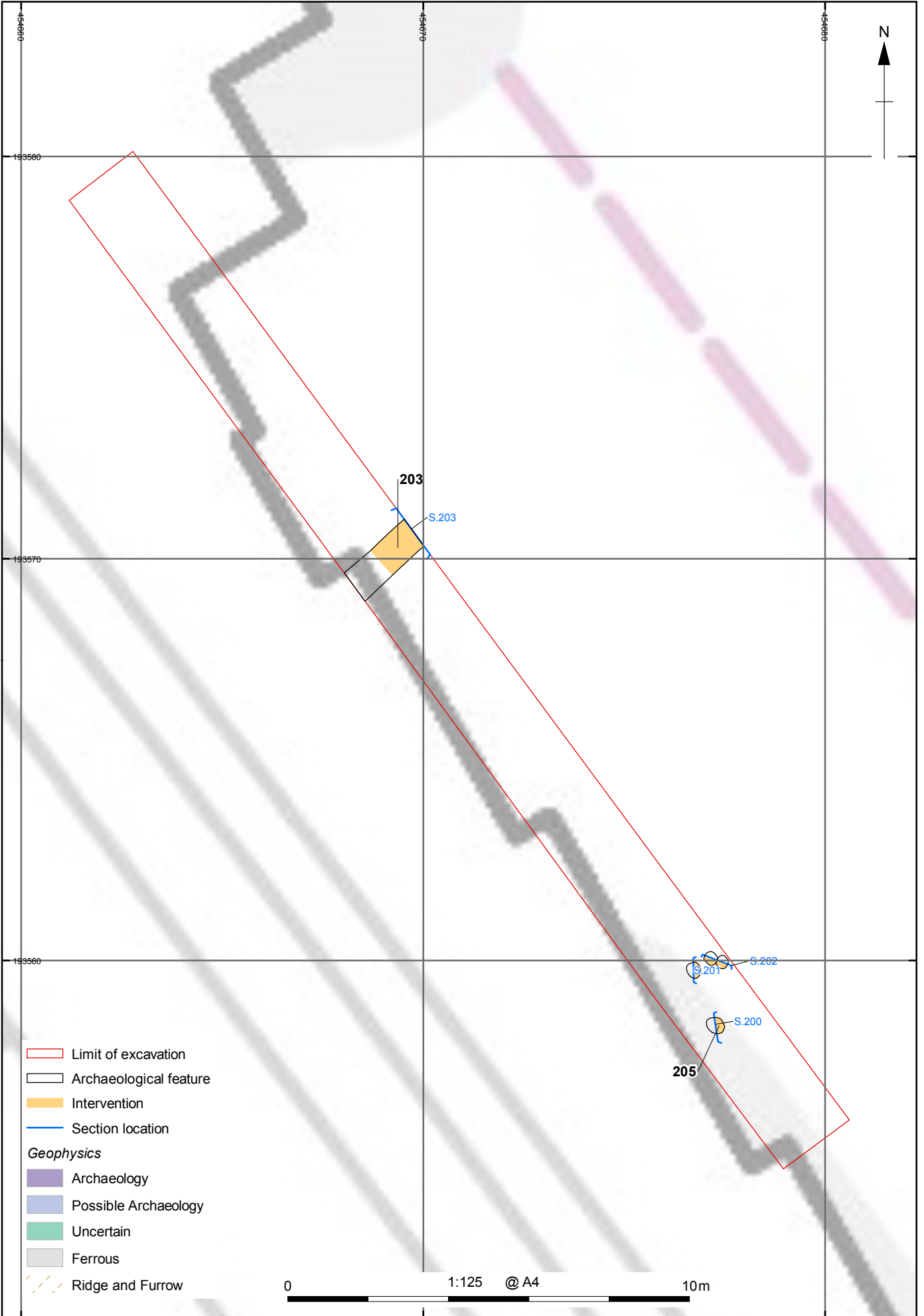
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- Archaeological feature
- Intervention
- Section location
- Geophysics**
- Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Uncertain
- Ferrous
- Ridge and Furrow

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Geophysics supplied by SUMO Survey Services

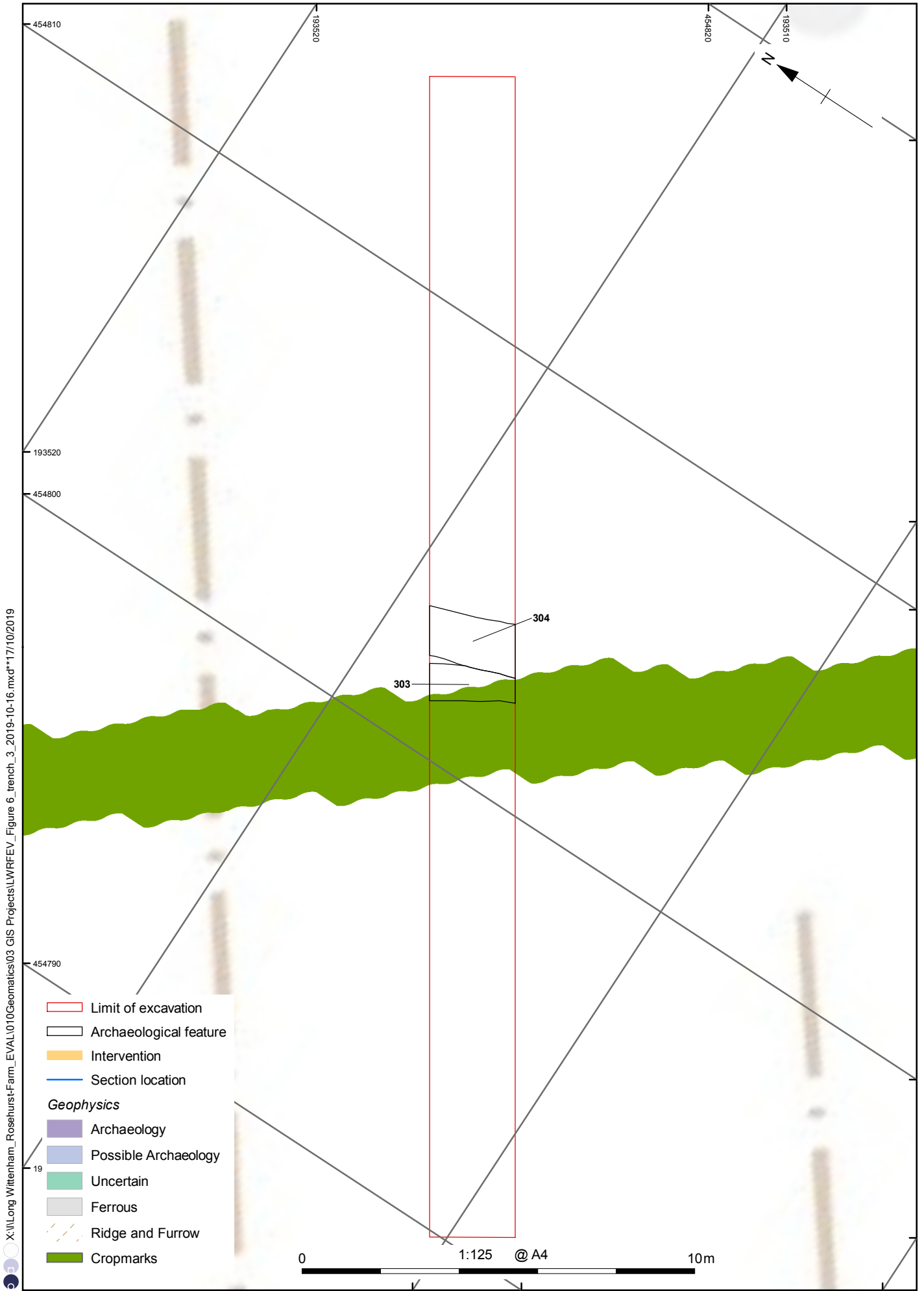
Figure 4: Trench 1

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Geophysics supplied by SUMO Survey Services

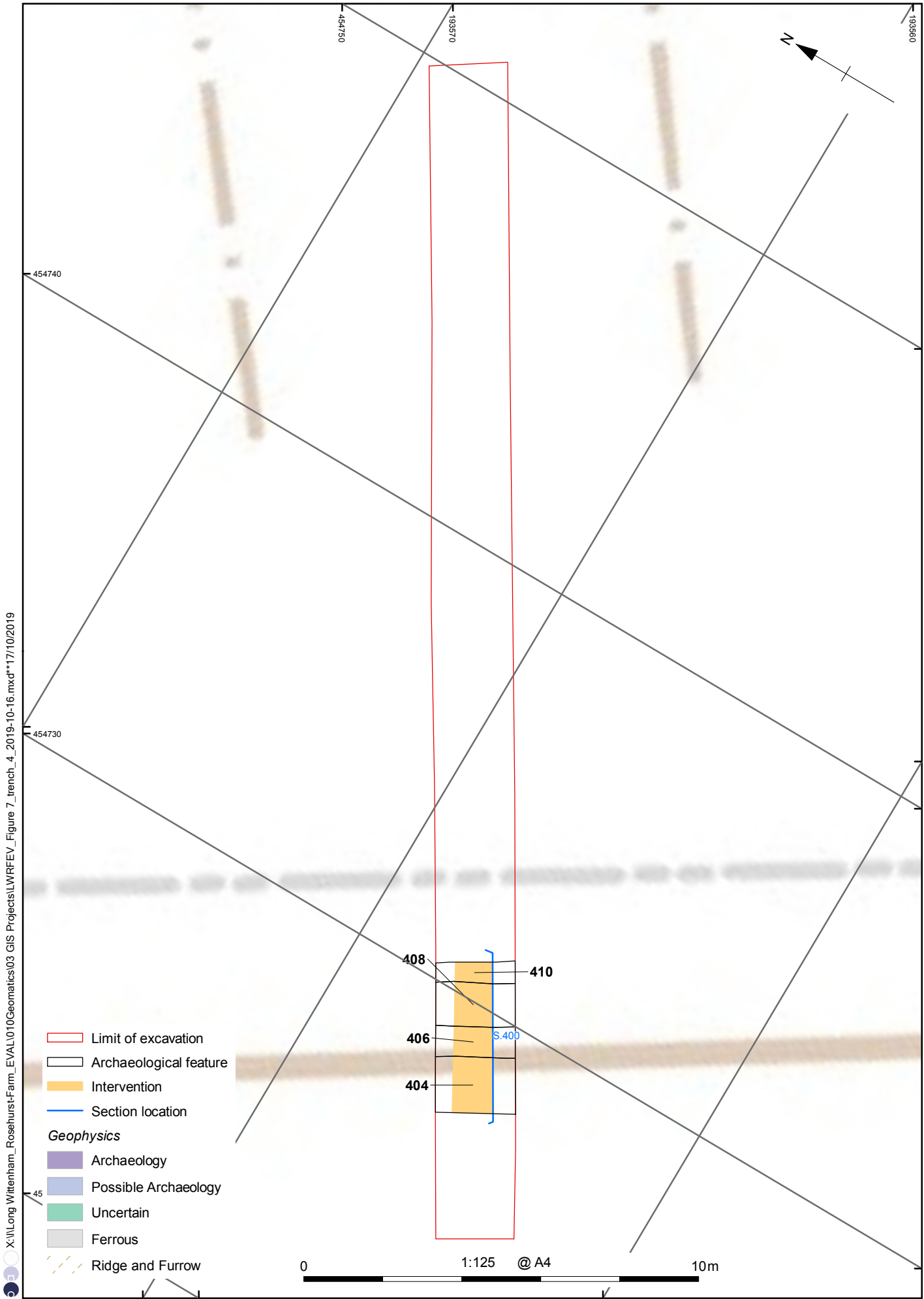
Figure 5: Trench 2



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Geophysics supplied by SUMO Survey Services

Figure 6: Trench 3



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- Limit of excavation
- Archaeological feature
- Intervention
- Section location
- Geophysics**
- Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Uncertain
- Ferrous
- Ridge and Furrow

Figure 7: Trench 4

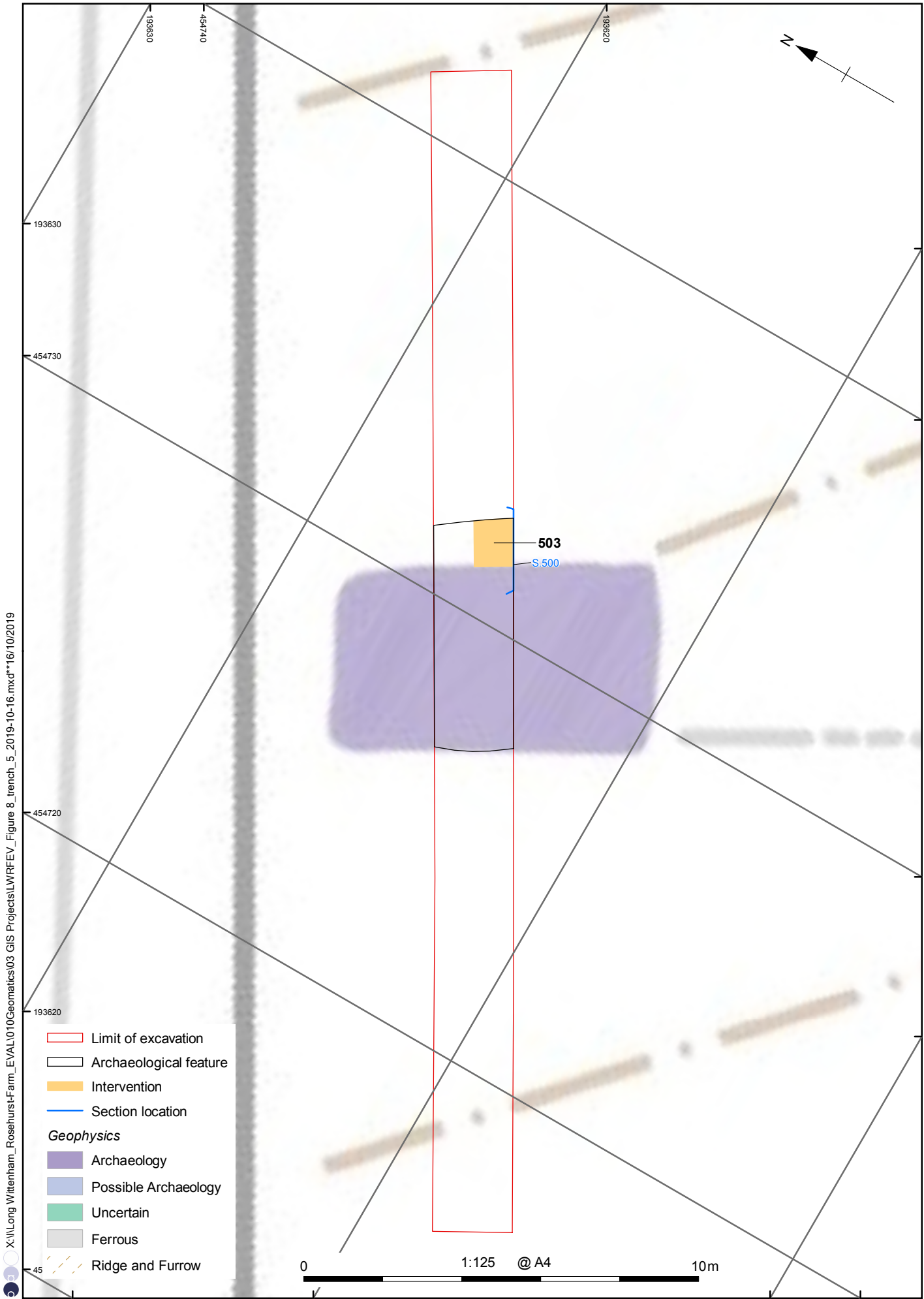
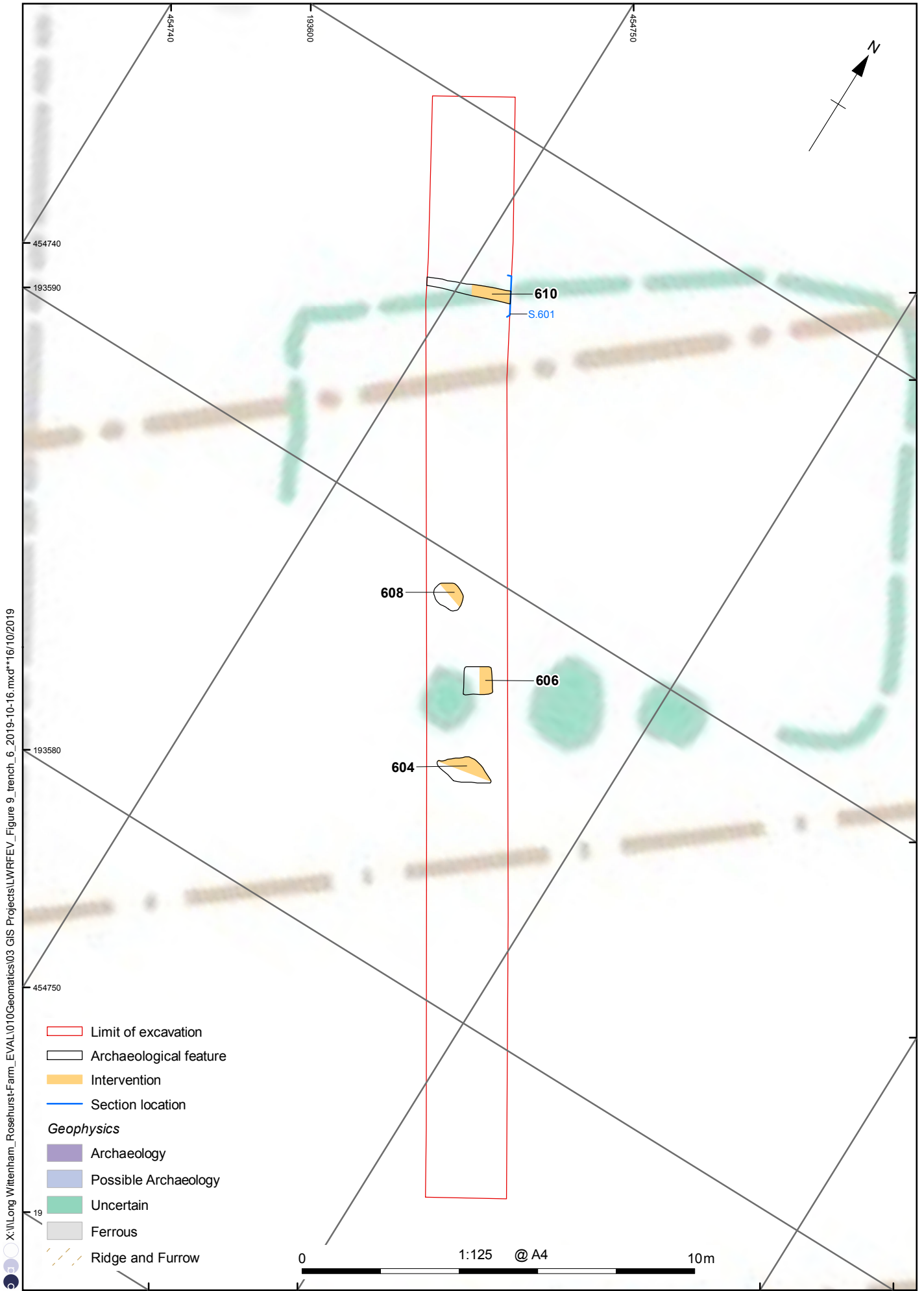


Figure 8: Trench 5



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Figure 9: Trench 6

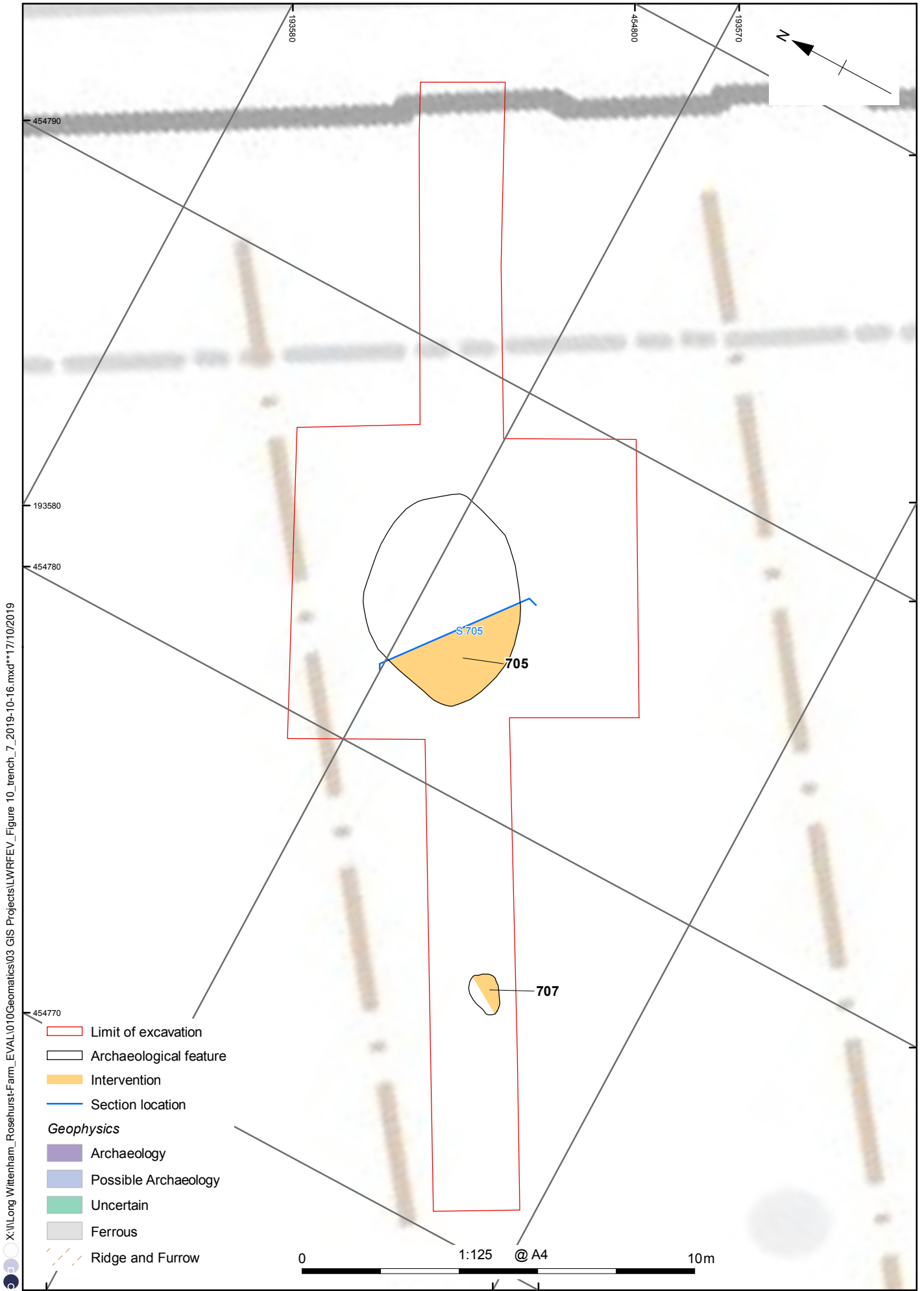
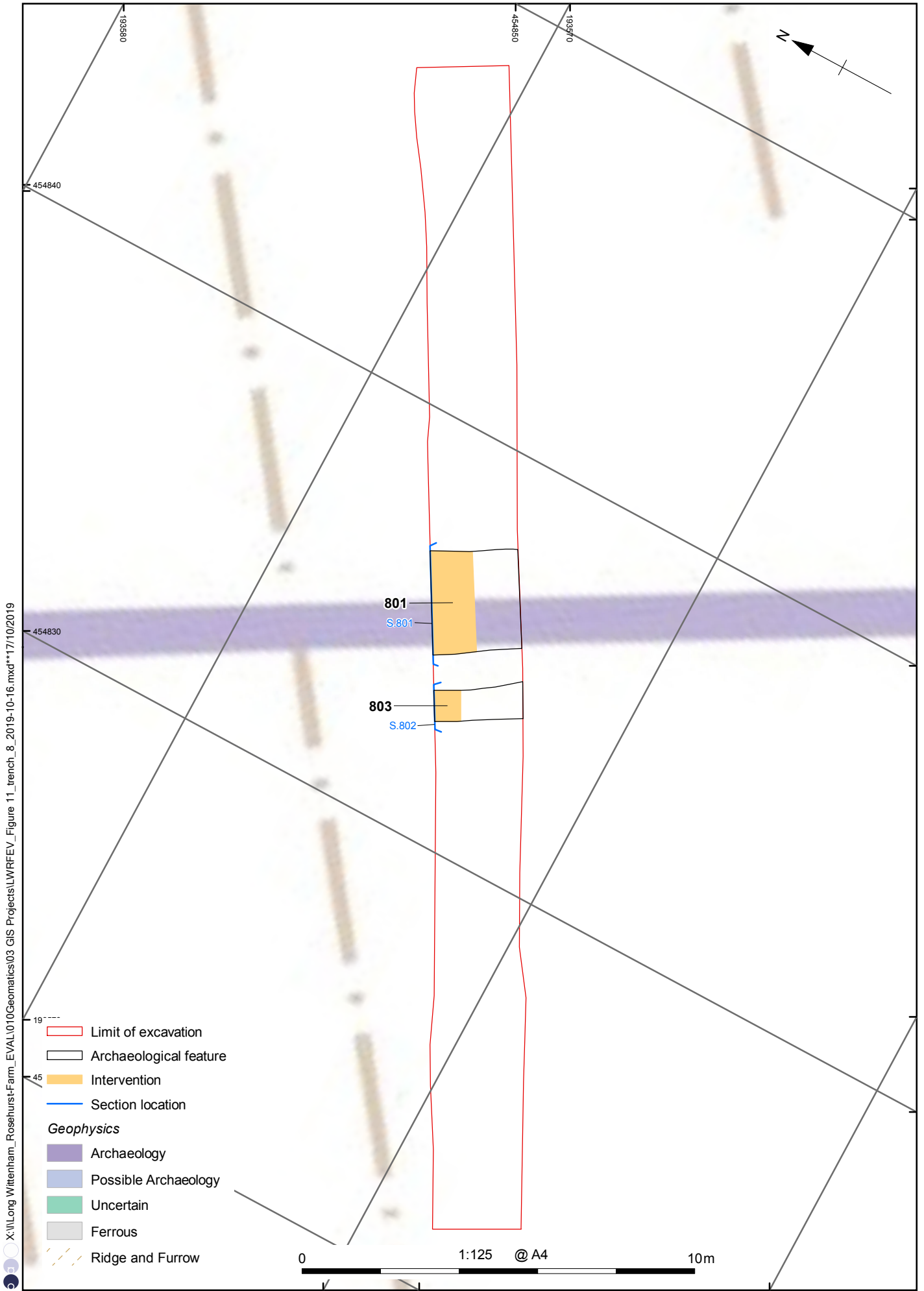


Figure 10: Trench 7



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- Intervention
- Section location
- Geophysics**
- Archaeology
- Possible Archaeology
- Uncertain
- Ferrous
- Ridge and Furrow

Figure 11: Trench 8

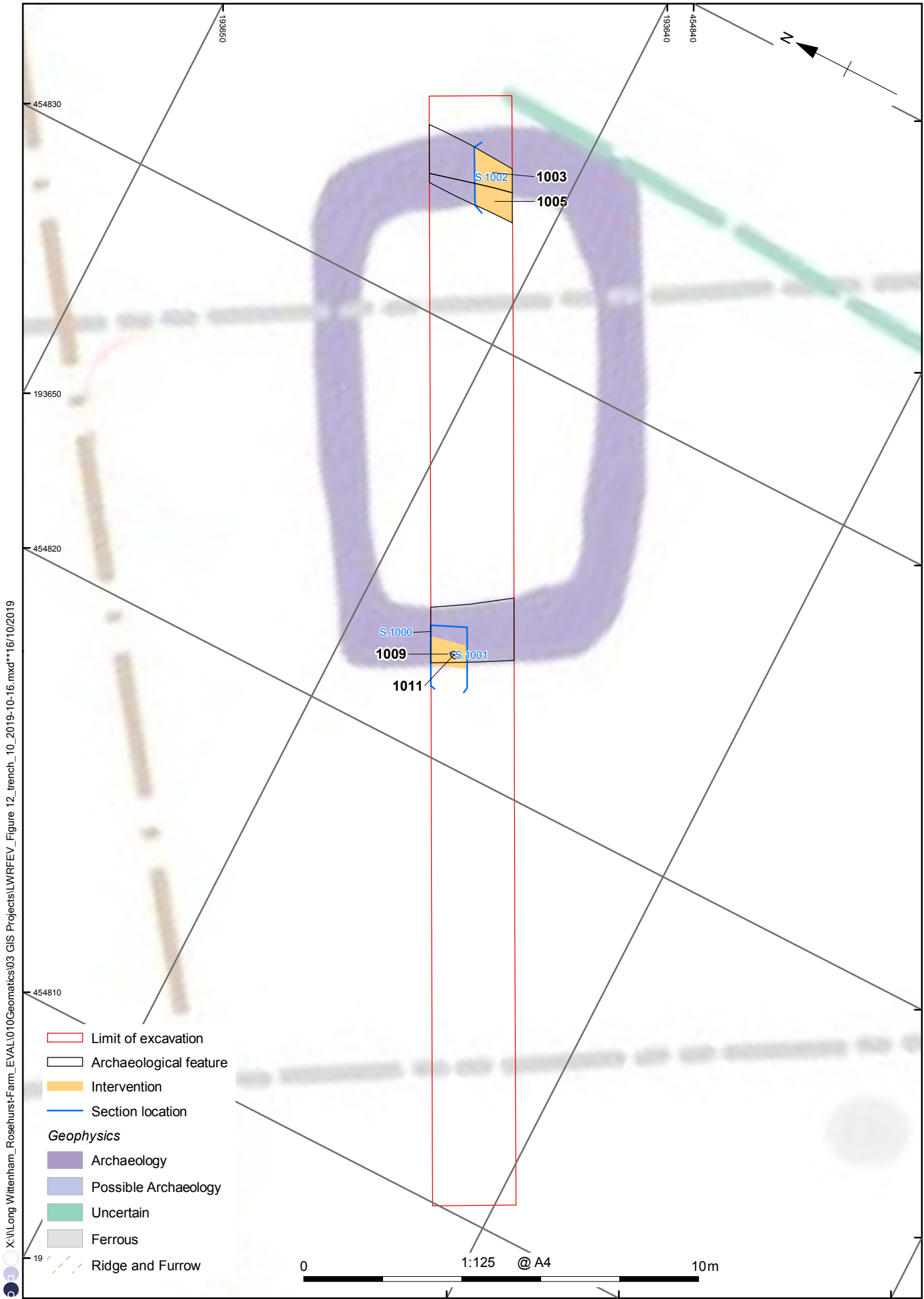
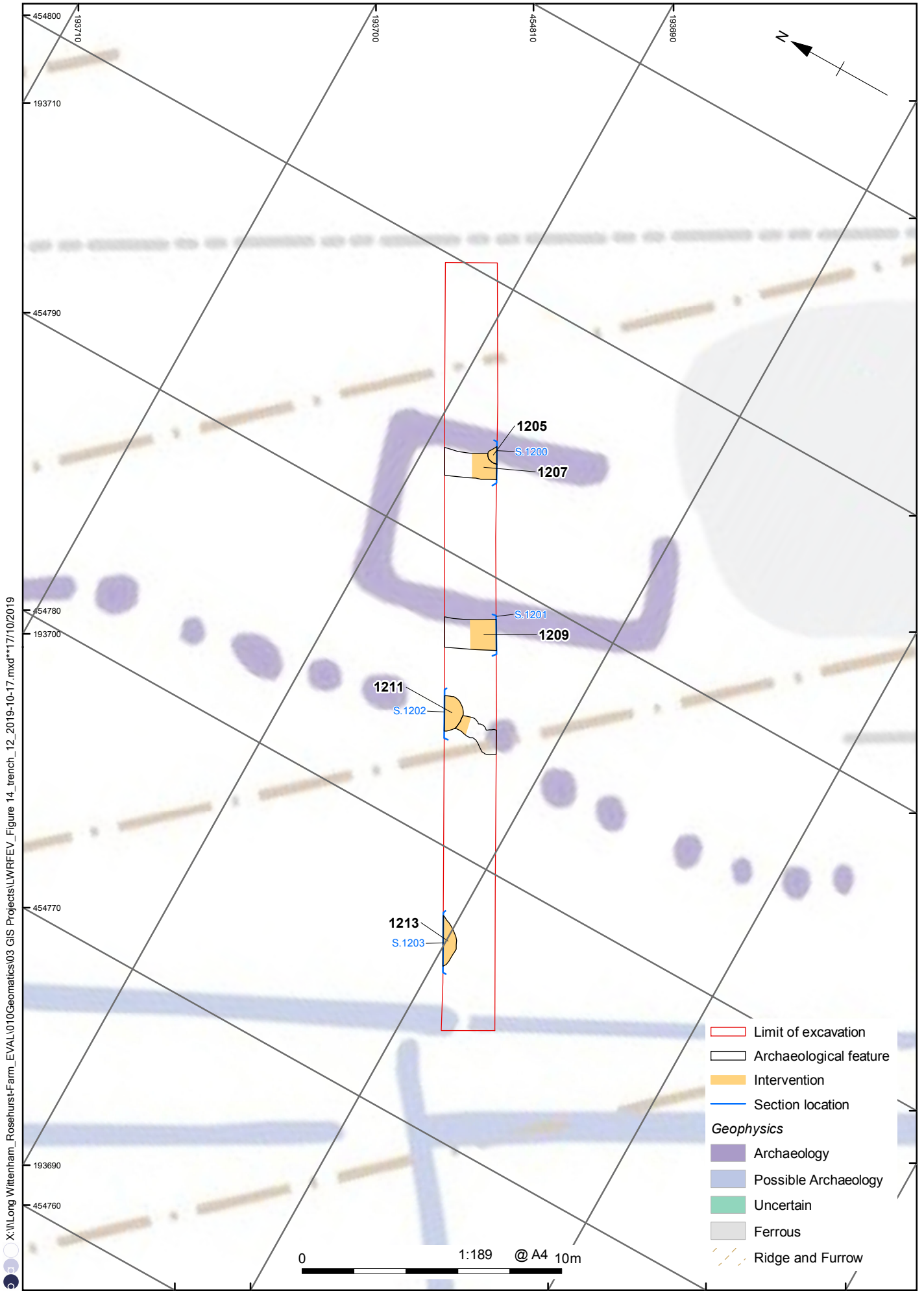


Figure 12: Trench 10



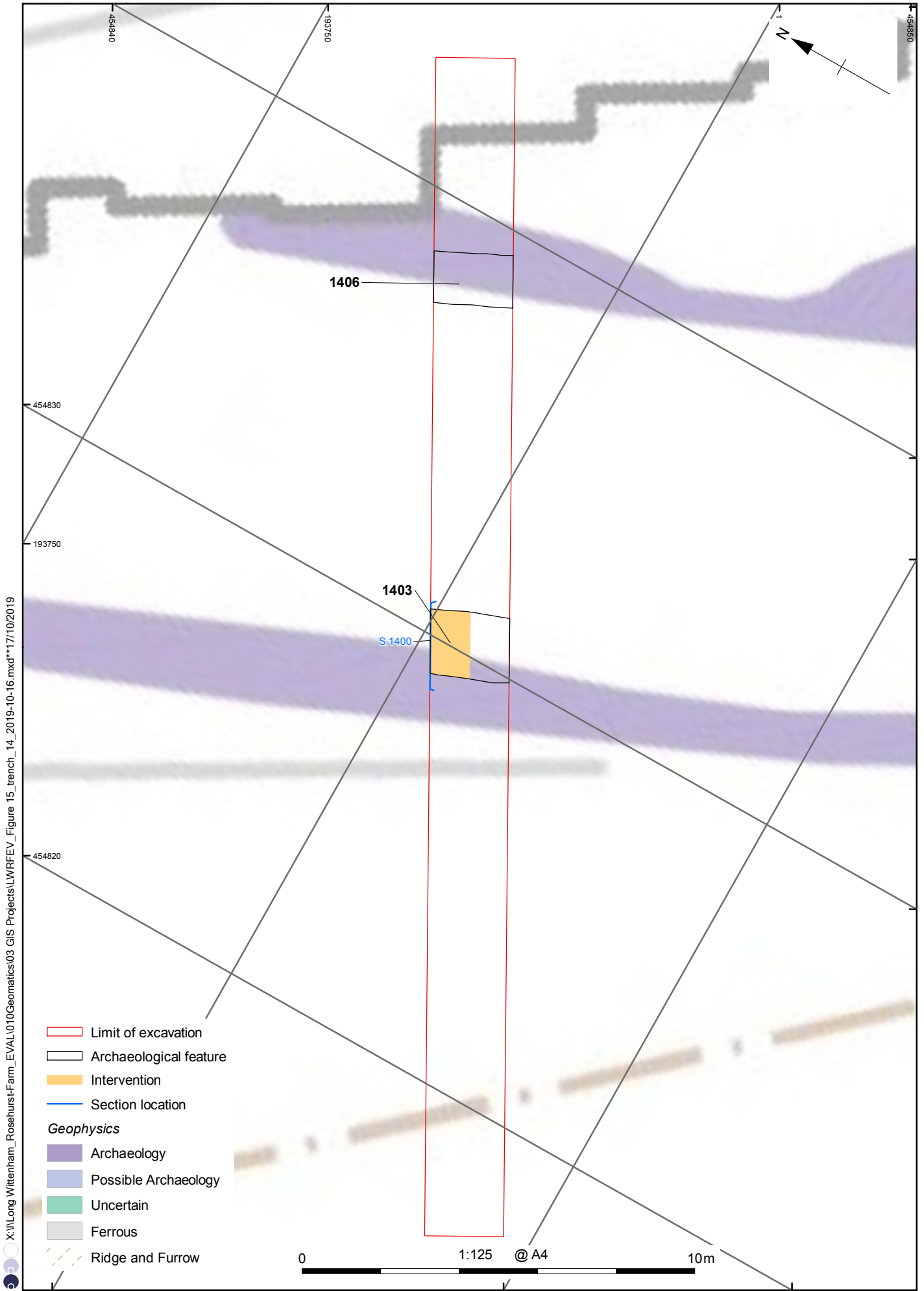
Figure 13: Trench 11



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Geophysics supplied by SUMO Survey Services

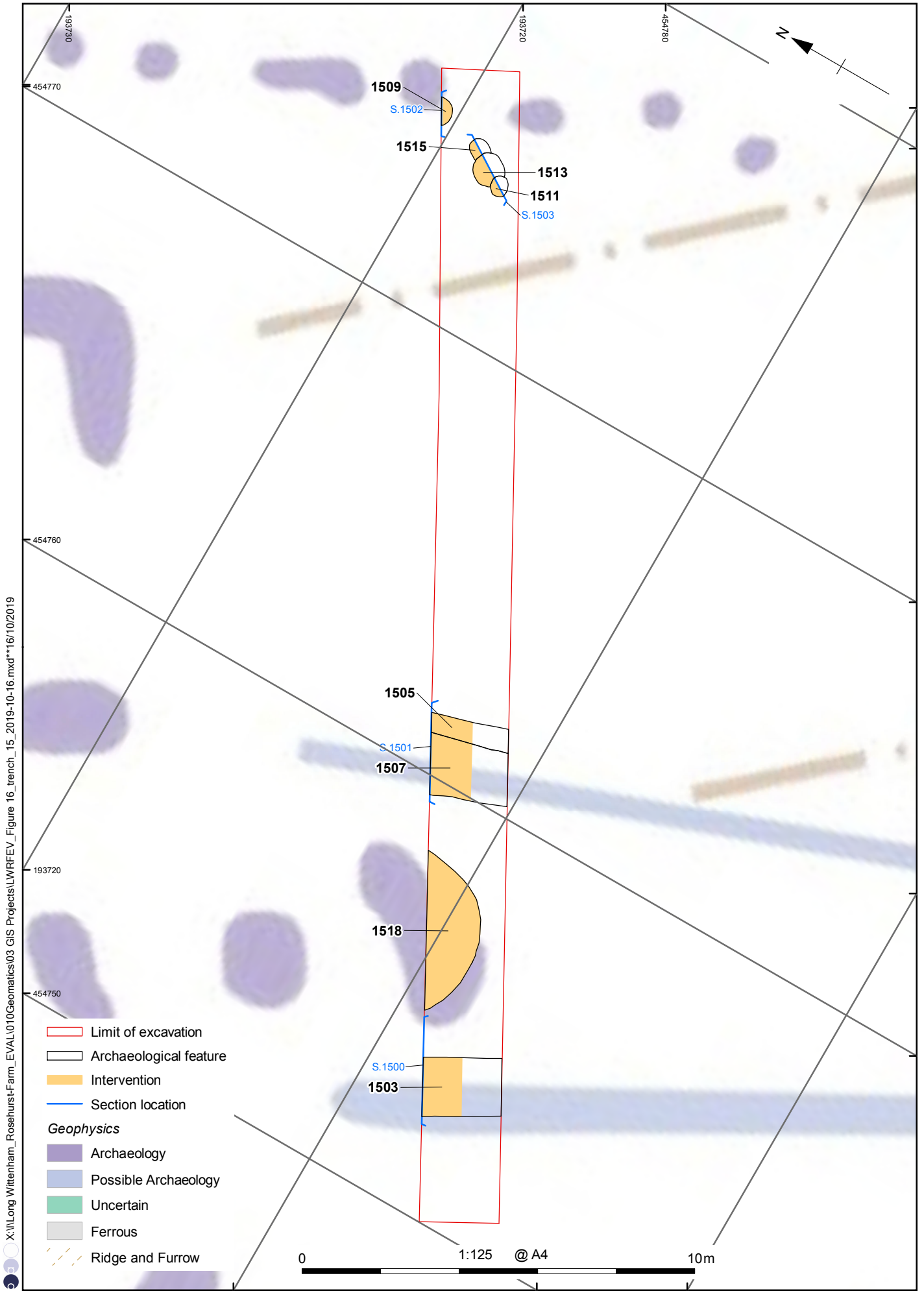
Figure 18: Trench 17



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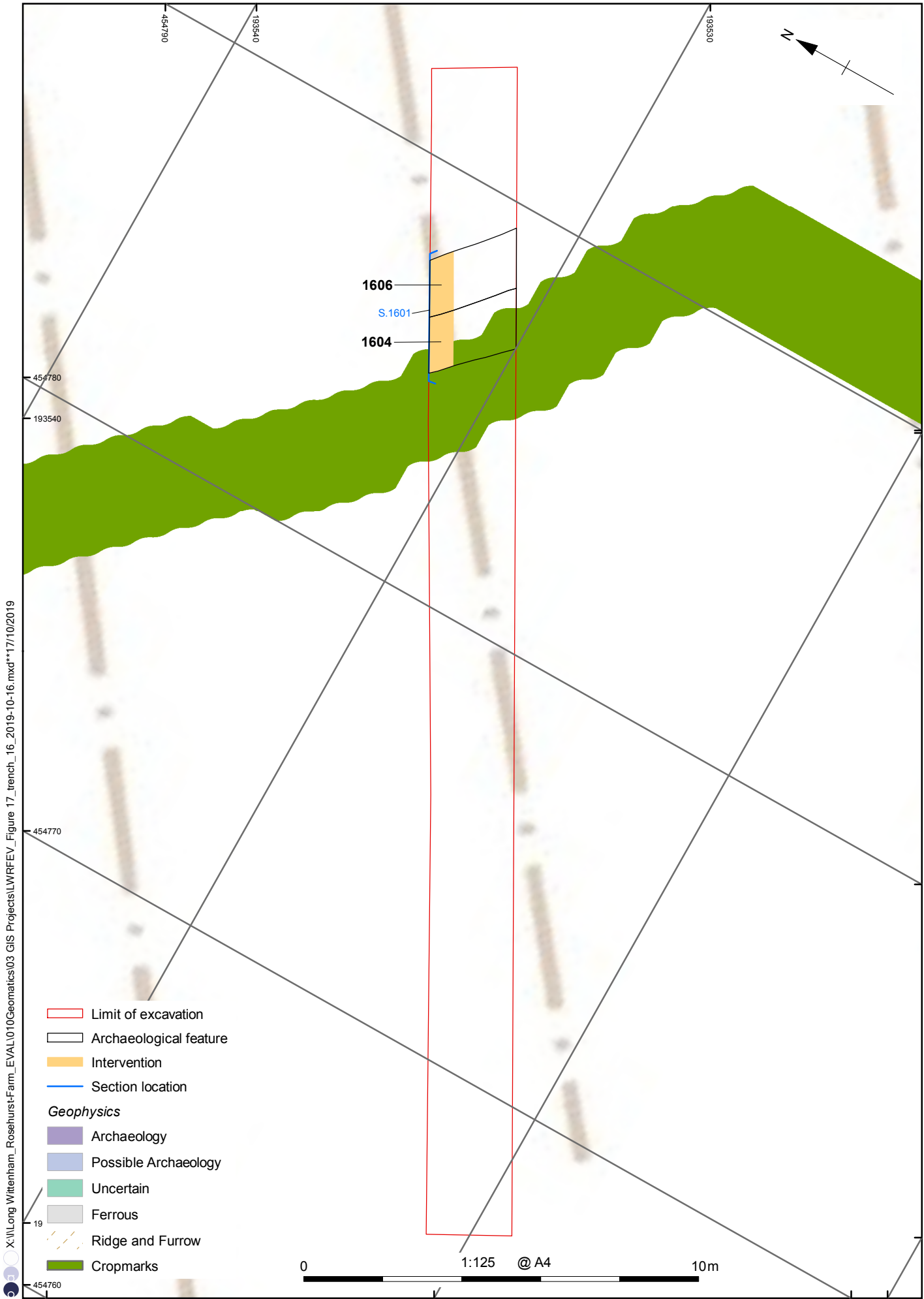
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- Uncertain
- Ferrous
- Ridge and Furrow

Figure 15: Trench 14



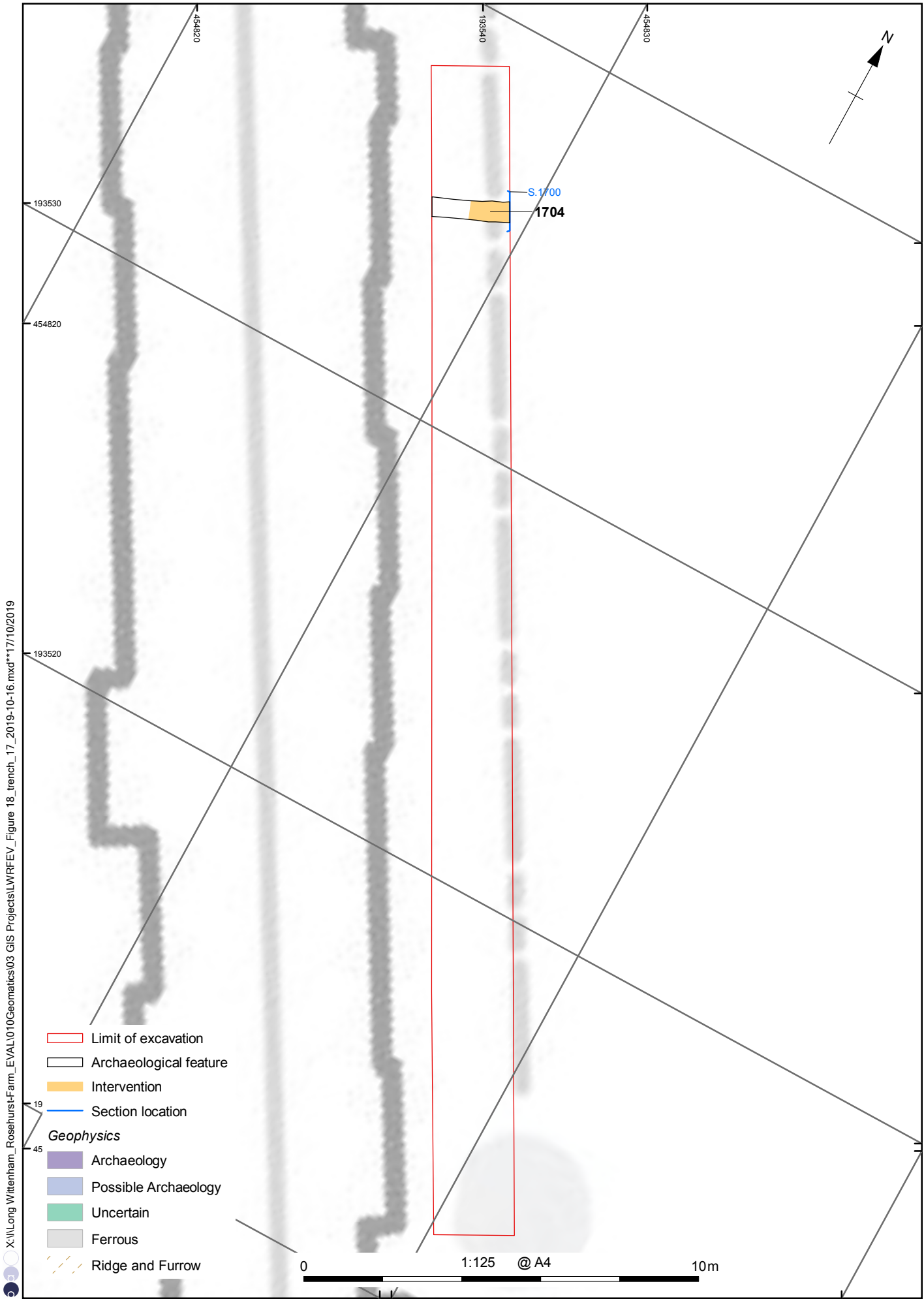
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Figure 16: Trench 15



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Figure 17: Trench 16



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Figure 18: Trench 17

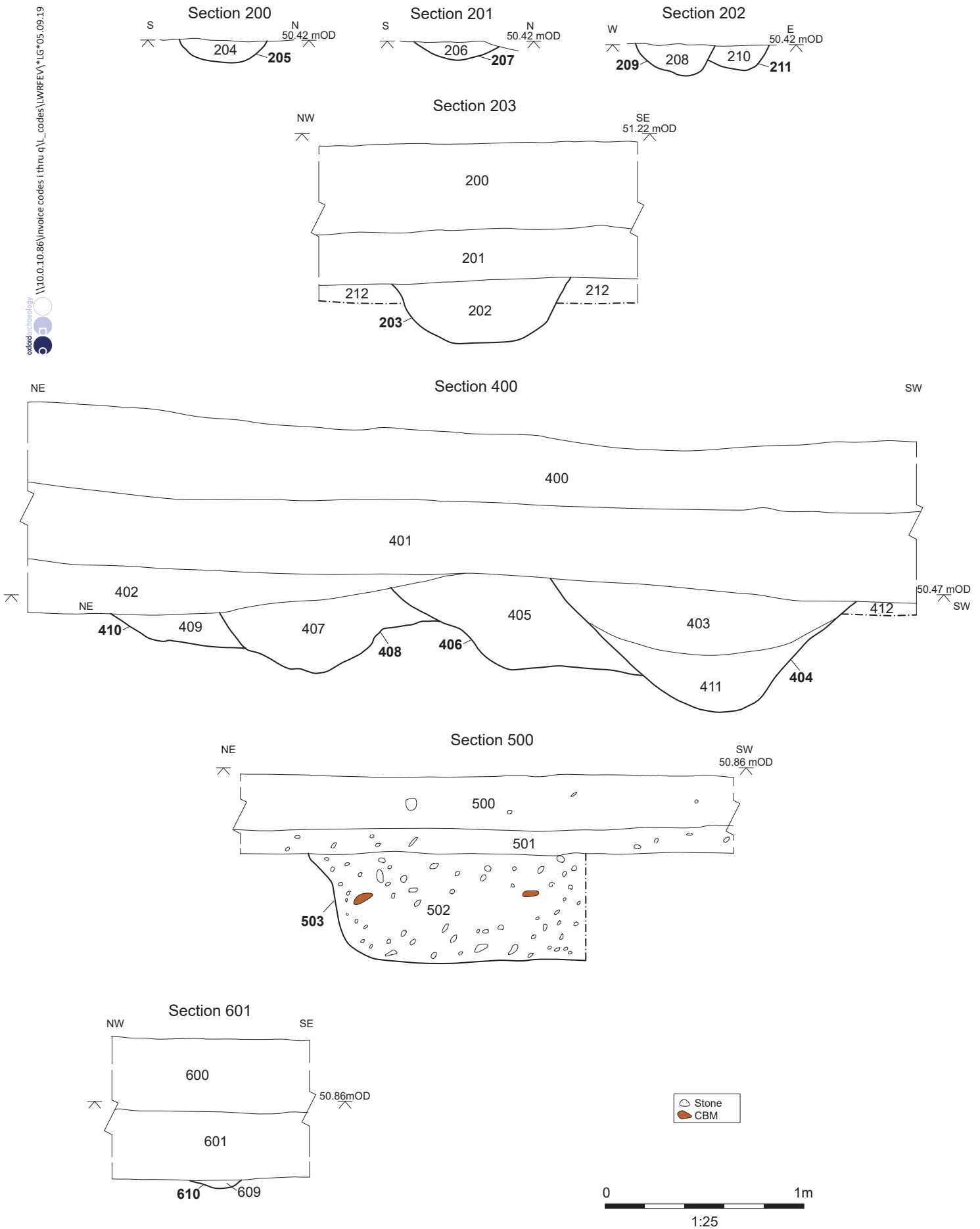


Figure 19: Sections Trenches 2-6

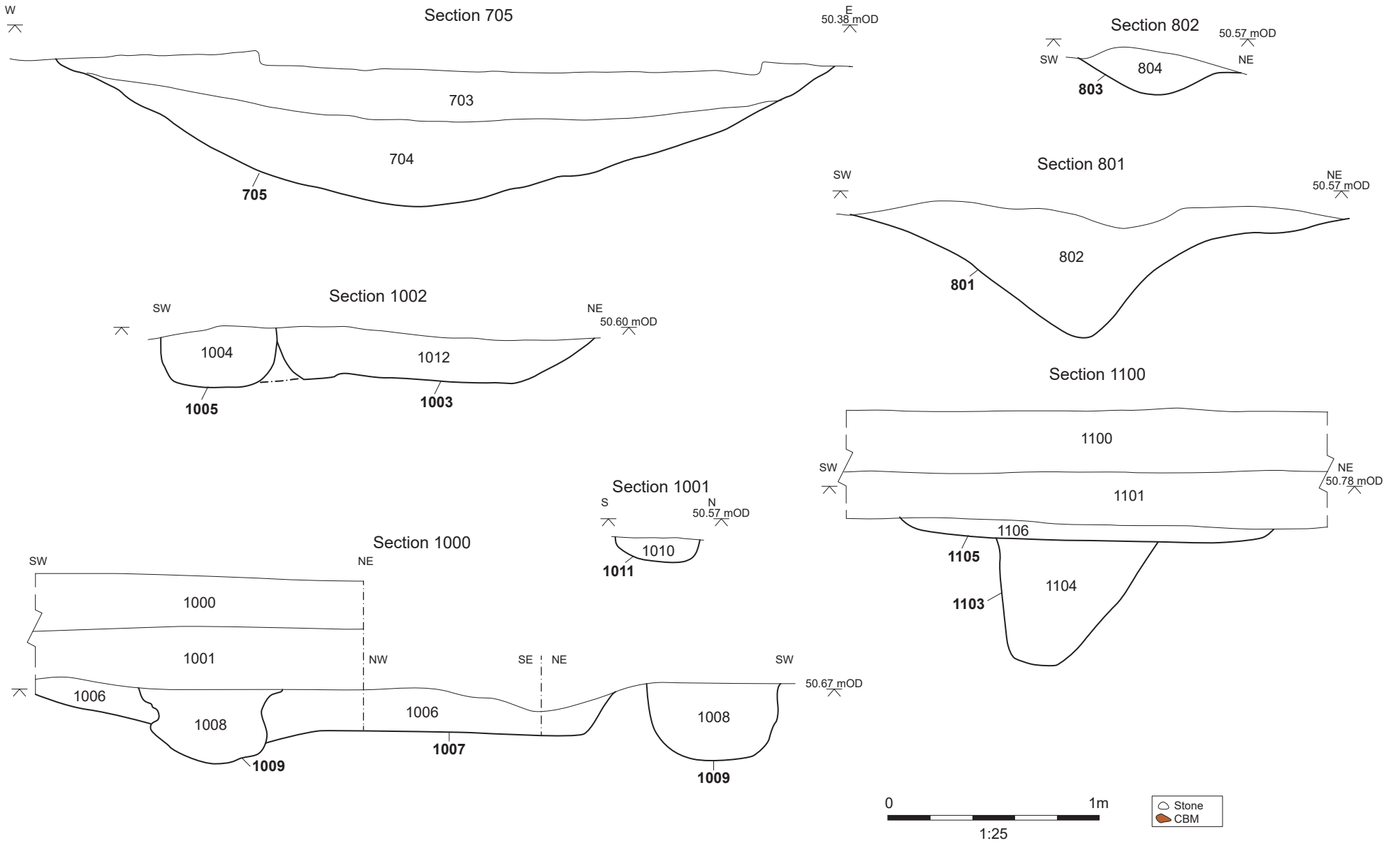


Figure 20: Sections Trenches 7-11

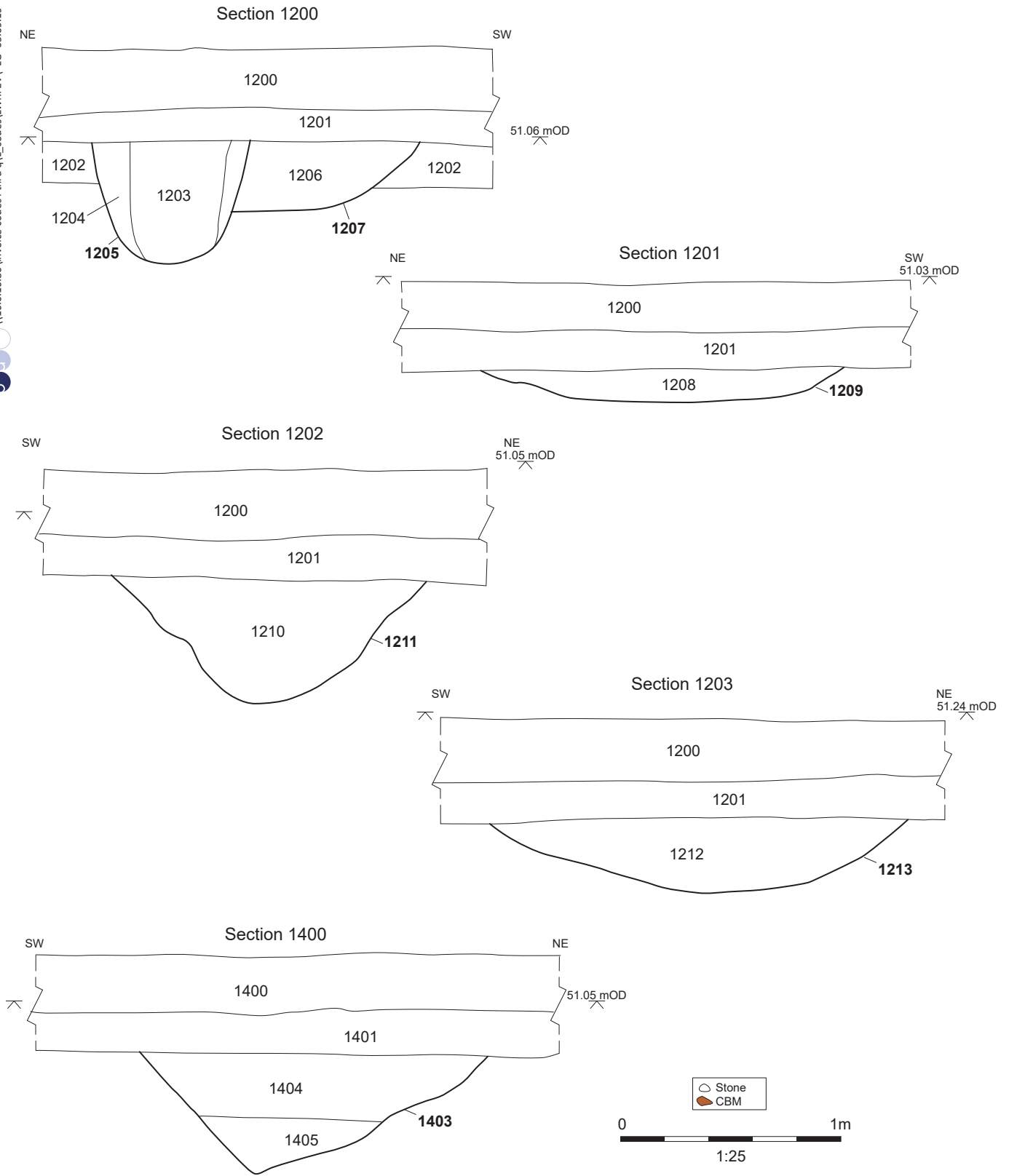


Figure 21: Sections Trenches 12-14

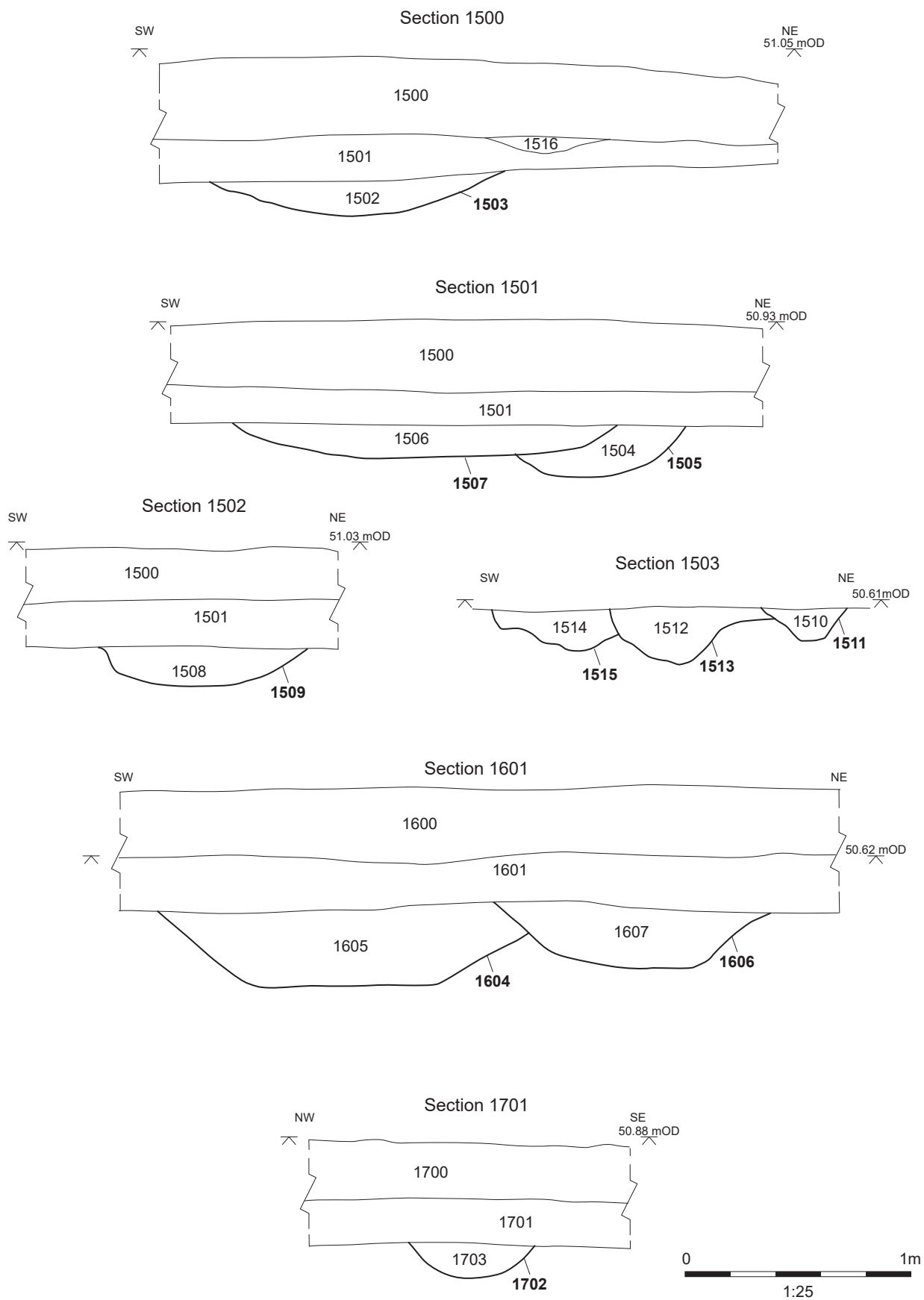


Figure 22: Sections Trenches 15-17



Plate 1: Trench 4 Section 400. Ditches 410, 408, 406 and 404



Plate 2: Trench 7 Section 702. Feature 705 after trench expanded



Plate 3: Trench 10 Section 1000. Beam slot 1009



Plate 4: Trench 12 Section 1200. Buried soil 1202, and posthole 1205



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