


Dunstall Field Tiddington Road Stratford-upon- Avon



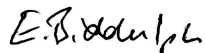
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Dunstall Field, Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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with contributions from Paul Booth, John Cotter, Geraldine Crann, Rebecca Nicholson, Cynthia Poole, Ruth Shaffrey and Lena Strid, and illustrations by Markus Dylewski and Anne Kilgour

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by the landowner Marie-Louise McAlister to undertake a trial trench evaluation of Dunstall Field (centred on NGR SP 21445 55541), which lies on the north side of Tiddington Road between Stratford-upon-Avon and Tiddington. Most of the field is part of Scheduled Ancient Monument WA 184, Tiddington Roman settlement. The trenching followed a desk-based report and geophysical survey conducted in 2012. The evaluation fieldwork was carried out between 29th September and 7th October 2014.

The evaluation confirmed the presence of a ditch in the south-eastern part of the site (Trench 1), as suggested by the geophysical survey, but other suggested anomalies to the south of this were not confirmed by excavation. The ditch contained late Iron Age-early Roman sherds.

Another ditch on a parallel alignment was found in the western corner of the site (Trench 8), an undated ditch (again parallel) in Trench 2 and a gully on a very similar alignment in Trench 9. The ditch in Trench 8 also contained late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, and the gully pottery of late 1st-middle 2nd century date. None of these features had been picked up by the geophysical survey.

Discrete strong magnetic anomalies targeted by Trenches 3, 4 and 7 proved to be pits. They have been dated by finds or stratigraphy to the late 1st/early-middle 2nd century AD, the post-medieval and the middle Iron Age periods respectively. A few anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey proved not to be archaeological.

The evaluation trenches also revealed pits not detected by geophysical survey. These comprised a second pit in Trench 3 (undated) and a 2nd century pit in the south-eastern part of the field (Trench 2). All of the features not detected by survey were in areas of clay natural geology, or were very shallow.

A set of magnetic anomalies forming a linear pattern, orientated north-east to south-west, appears to correspond to the edge of a hollow or depression of late Glacial or early Holocene date, which was filled by a sequence of colluvial deposits. The lowest colluvial fill in the south-western part of the field contained finds of probable Beaker date (2500-2000 BC).

A sequence of alluvial deposits were found at the north-western edge of the field, where the natural geology slopes down rapidly to the floodplain of the River Avon. Roman pottery and residual struck flint was recovered from one of the alluvial fills, but no waterlogged environmental remains or molluscan remains were present.

A ploughsoil containing tile of 15th-17th century date was found overlying the archaeological features, except for the pit in Trench 4, which cut the ploughsoil. This in turn was sealed by a second ploughsoil containing finds of 18th-19th century date, and this was sealed by the existing topsoil, which was worm-sorted, confirming the use of the field for pasture in recent times.

The density of features was sparse, and the quantity of finds of any period was small and of limited variety, comprising pottery, fired clay, tile, struck flint, a stone tessera and a little Roman smithing slag. Animal bones and charred remains of several periods were present, but no molluscan or waterlogged environmental remains.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Marie-Louise McAlister, the land owner, to undertake a trial trench evaluation of Dunstall Field (centred on NGR SP 21445 55541), which lies on the north side of Tiddington Road between Stratford-upon-Avon and Tiddington (Fig. 1). The trenching followed a desk-based report and geophysical survey carried out late in 2012 (Oxford Archaeology 2013a; Bartlett-Clark Consultancy 2013).
- 1.1.2 The site is part of the Tiddington Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM WA 184; Listing 1003741), and the work has been carried out in consultation with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Warwickshire Ian George, and with Anna Stock of Warwickshire County Council, following a site meeting on 10th October 2013, at which provisional agreement to support Scheduled Monument Consent for the evaluation was indicated.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigations (Oxford Archaeology 2013b) set out the objectives of the evaluation, and detailed the procedures that were followed in fieldwork.
- 1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' 'Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation' (revised 2008) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site occupies an area of 2.65ha on the north side of Tiddington Road, west of the village of Tiddington and east of Stratford and the bridge across the Avon (Fig. 1). The field is sub-square and is orientated north-west to south-east, this dimension being slightly longer than the width south-west to north-east (Figs 2, 3). Tiddington Road runs south-west from Tiddington towards Stratford along the south-east side of the field. The field is bounded on the south-west by a private dwelling and garden, and on the north-east by a lane leading towards the river Avon and the caravan park to the east of it. Along the north-west side there is an osier bed close to the west corner, and a pasture field north-east of that.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is Triassic Mercia Mudstone (BGS Online Viewer). The field is currently used as cattle-pasture.
- 1.2.3 The highest part of the field is in the south corner (at c 40.5m aOD), and dips northwards from this down to c 37.6m aOD on the west and to 37.0m aOD in the east of the field (Fig. 2). From here it remains level across the centre of the site, but rises again slightly towards the north-west to 37.6m aOD, before dipping down to 36.3m aOD again at the very north edge. This last dip is probably the edge of the floodplain of the River Avon, which is believed to lie along the north-west boundary of the field. The river is 150m distant on the west and 250m on the north-west.
- 1.2.4 Between the two areas of higher ground there is thus a lower-lying basin, which narrows and shallows south-west of the site, and broadens and deepens across the site and to the north-east (see Fig 2). On the basis of the trenching carried out in the adjacent field to the north-east, it was suggested (Oxford Archaeology 2013b) that this basin might instead represent the fall-off from gravel terrace to the floodplain of the Avon.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A brief survey of the information contained in the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record for Tiddington (WHER) and of publications of archaeological evaluations and excavations at Tiddington (mostly interim or unpublished grey literature reports) was undertaken prior to fieldwork (Oxford Archaeology 2013a, fig 3).
- 1.3.2 The Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) is the site of a Romano-British undefended settlement (Burnham and Wachter 1990, 310-13) and previous excavation elsewhere within the Tiddington settlement have revealed 1st-4th century occupation including ovens, hearths, preserved areas of floor and one masonry building complex (Fieldhouse *et al.* 1931; Palmer 1982; Palmer 1983).
- 1.3.3 The Roman settlement was preceded by one of middle to late Iron Age date, concentrated at the north-east end of the SAM, and the east corner of the late Roman settlement was defined by a substantial ditch (Palmer 1982).
- 1.3.4 The Roman settlement was believed to cover an area of c 22 ha., with its western limit marked by a cemetery of about 20 graves found at No. 77 Tiddington Road in 1923-4 (Slater and Wilson 1977, 22). The northern limit of the site was placed along the field boundary along the northern edge of the properties on the north side of Tiddington Road, which it was believed corresponded to the edge of the gravel terrace and the floodplain of the Warwickshire Avon. Tiddington Road is straight between the 1923-4 cemetery and the point where the projected line of the late Roman ditch would cross it, but changes direction at roughly these points, so it was suspected that the modern road followed the line of the main road through the Roman settlement, changing direction just outside it. The Scheduled Area includes most of the undeveloped area within these boundaries.
- 1.3.5 A summary of findspots and investigations at Tiddington, published in relation to an investigation at No. 121 Tiddington Road, shows that the vast majority of the investigations had taken place further to the north-east (Biddulph 2006, fig. 1). This included further excavation of an Anglo-Saxon enclosure first identified in 1988 (Palmer and Palmer 1988). Since then, the monitoring of a pipe trench crossing the Rayford Caravan Park has shown that Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity had spread north-westwards onto a gravel island within the floodplain of the River Avon (EWA 9110). This indicates the proximity of a former crossing point across the river.
- 1.3.6 Geophysical survey and subsequent trenching in the field immediately to the north-east of Dunstall Field (GSB Propection 1998 Survey 134; John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2002) indicated that the well-drained gravel terrace was confined to the south-east part of this field, north-west of which the ground dropped away onto the floodplain of the River Avon (see Oxford Archaeology 2013a, figs 1 and 2).
- 1.3.7 Very late Iron Age and Roman features of 1st and 2nd century AD date were found on the gravel terrace, and some ditches continued beyond this, but these were interpreted as field boundaries, and the density of features dropped off towards the west side of the field (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2002, 27). The high water table prevented the limits of these features being established by the evaluation. Beyond the edge of the gravel terrace the Roman features were sealed by an increasing depth of colluvium (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2002, 28).
- 1.3.8 In the report upon that evaluation it was suggested that the late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement was considerably smaller than had previously been suggested, and that it included only the eastern edge of Dunstall Field (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 2002, fig. 12).



1.3.9 At the time of the report by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, there had been very few investigations south-west of Dunstall Field. As is shown by the current WHER Tiddington Event Map (Oxford Archaeology 2013b, fig. 3), more recent investigations have included significantly more to the south-west. An evaluation at 79 Tiddington Road has exposed more burials belonging to the cemetery found at No. 77 (EWA 9258), and has also revealed ditches along the terrace crest of Roman and Anglo-Saxon date. Individual burials have also been found at Nos 77 and 79 by Watching Brief (EWA 9171; 9172). South of the Tiddington Road a low density of Roman features has been found at No. 82 (EWA 6862; 9089) and No. 80 (EWA 966; 9303), but only residual pottery west of this (EWA 6425; 7133; 9891).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 OA would like to thank Marie-Louise McAlister who commissioned the work, and Ian George, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the West Midlands, and Anna Stocks, the Planning Archaeologist for Warwickshire County Council, who monitored the evaluation. Environmental advice from Lisa Moffett, English Heritage Environmental Science Advisor for the West Midlands Region, is also gratefully acknowledged. The project was managed by Tim Allen for OA and the fieldwork was undertaken by Mariusz Gorniak assisted by Christof Heistermann, Peter Vellet, Michael McLean, Dan Sykes, Alex Latham, Chris Richardson, Barry Brown, Javier Jimenez and Maria Diaz Tena. We would also like to thank Trevor, driver for Edward Brain & Sons Ltd, for his excellent work and assistance.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- 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.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- x. To clarify whether the late Iron Age and Roman occupation (the basis of the scheduling of the site) extends over the whole of this field, or is confined to the eastern corner, the area where geophysical anomalies likely to be of archaeological origin were concentrated.
- xi. To further investigate the character and significance of remains of these periods in relation to those elsewhere within the Scheduled Monument, in order better to comprehend the layout, organisation and functions of the monument overall.
- xii. To provide better understanding of the topography of the site, which appears to comprise two higher areas with a lower-lying area between them, and further low-lying ground at the north-west end (see Fig. 2).
- xiii. To comprehend the variety of environments present within the area, e.g. dry ground, low-lying alluvial floodplain, former channels, and to investigate the state of preservation and environmental potential of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains within them.
- xiv. To investigate whether remains of other archaeological periods are present on this site, and if so, to understand their character, purpose and significance in the local and (if appropriate) regional and national context.

2.2 Site-specific objectives (Fig. 3)

- 2.2.1 An investigation of the geophysical linear anomalies identified in the east corner of the site (Fig. 3, A) was carried out in order to ascertain the dimensions of the revealed linear anomalies, the character and complexity of their fills, and their date.
- 2.2.2 Investigation in this part of the site also aimed to ascertain whether the revealed responses represented an accurate reflection of the below-ground archaeology, or whether there were other features or deposits not identified by the survey. If there were, the evaluation aimed to investigate the density, depth and the character of fills of such features, in order to obtain a better overall understanding of the complexity of the archaeological sequence here.
- 2.2.3 Investigation also aimed to provide information on the depth and character of overburden in order to assist in calibrating the strength of the responses observed in the geophysical survey against the features below ground, and in so doing, assist in interpreting the absence of such anomalies elsewhere across the field.
- 2.2.4 Outside the east corner of the field, geophysical anomalies of probable archaeological origin appeared to be few and to be less coherent (Fig. 3, B, C and F). Some of these were investigated to clarify whether these were genuine, and if so, whether they were of the same date as the cluster in the east corner of the field, or represented different phases of activity. These features mainly lie along the south-eastern margin of the field, that is on the higher ground, and their investigation aimed to clarify the character of use of this area – whether it indicates a continuation of the activity indicated by the features revealed by geophysical survey further to the north-east, or represents activity of another phase or phases. Investigation also aimed to provide information on the depth and character of overburden for more confident interpretation of the geophysical survey.
- 2.2.5 One probable anomaly at B lies towards the centre of the field in a slightly lower-lying area than the rest, and it was important to establish the date and character of this. Trenching here also aimed to investigate the stratigraphic sequence in this lower part of the site, the level of the water table, and the potential of the lower-lying deposits for better understanding of the environmental history of the site. It was believed that its relative date and position in the stratigraphic sequence in this part of the field would clarify how successful the geophysical survey has been at identifying archaeological features in this area.
- 2.2.6 Trenching over and in the vicinity of these features also aimed to establish whether other archaeological features or deposits are present that were not picked up by the survey, and if so, to establish their character and date.
- 2.2.7 Trenching also investigated the area of slightly higher ground towards the north-west end of the field. Objectives included:
- xv. Establishing the depth of overburden here, and whether the absence of geophysical anomalies here reflected a genuine absence of archaeological features.
 - xvi. Establishing whether there is a gravel 'island' in the floodplain here, or whether there are other reasons for the variation in topography.
 - xvii. If there are archaeological features here (see Fig. 3 for geophysical anomalies), to establish their date, character, and state of preservation.

xviii. Investigating whether archaeological activity other than features, eg surface deposits such as finds scatters, are preserved in this area, and if so, of what date and character.

xix. Even if no *in situ* horizons were present, to seek to retrieve finds to establish whether activity had taken place here in the past.

2.2.8 In addition, trenches were dug at the far north-west end of the field, where the ground begins to drop off again onto the floodplain. Here the objectives were similar to those described in section 2.7 above.

2.3 Wider research aims

2.3.1 Given that the major excavations of the 1980s carried out within the Scheduled Monument area remain unpublished, and that so little is known about this part of the Scheduled Area, there were few wider questions that could be addressed by a limited evaluation of this scale.

2.3.2 The character of the Tiddington Roman settlement, and its place within the spectrum of Romano-British settlements in the West Midlands and beyond, is an area of research that still requires clarification. Esmonde Cleary (2011, 133) commented that problems of definition between 'urban' and 'rural' were exemplified by sites like Tiddington. It was hoped that this investigation would assist in clarifying the character of the settlement, and the spatial relationship between domestic activity and burial sites such as that to the south-west.

2.3.3 It was hoped that our understanding of the character of the late Iron Age settlement, its extent and variability, would be enhanced by the evaluation trenching. The focus of the Iron Age settlement appears to lie further to the north-east, and establishing whether this settlement was in fact larger, and whether there were differences in the character of features across it, would aid considerably in placing this settlement in relation to other nucleated settlements of the late Iron Age within the region (cf. Hurst 2011, 106; *ibid.* 118, 3.3.2).

2.3.4 The high water table found in the adjacent field suggested that investigation by trenching might recover well-preserved environmental remains, which would offer potential for landscape reconstruction of the late Iron Age or Roman periods (Hurst 2011, Key research agenda 8 & 9).

2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in Appendix A of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Oxford Archaeology 2013b).

2.4.2 The evaluation consisted of 10 trenches (Fig. 4), each measuring c 30m long by 1.85m wide. Trenches 1, 9 and 10 were slightly extended for health and safety reasons (access or stepping of deep trenches).

2.4.3 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the close supervision of a competent archaeologist. Mechanical excavation took place in level spits to the top of the natural gravel or clay. In some trenches sondages were excavated by machine into the natural to ensure that this had been correctly identified.

2.4.4 Spoil was scanned during excavation, and a metal detector used to scan the excavated soil for finds.



- 2.4.5 Any potential archaeological features were then cleaned and excavated by hand and were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them.
- 2.4.6 In trenches 2, 5 and 6, dark diffuse patches of soil, usually sub-circular, were observed below the topsoil, or below the ploughsoil that underlay it. These did not have sharp edges, but where tested by further machine stripping, often persisted after one or two more shallow spits had been removed, so lengths of these trenches were left at this level for hand-investigation. No evident patterns to these features (eg lines or arcs) were evident during the machine stripping.
- 2.4.7 These soilmarks were subsequently tested by hand-excavation, but in no case were convincing edges found, nor were finds recovered. They were therefore interpreted as soil disturbances caused by tap roots, the difference in colour being due partly to localised disturbance and partly to increased moisture retention.
- 2.4.8 Once this was realised these lengths of trench were lowered by machine trenching to either the first archaeological horizon or, failing that, to natural.
- 2.4.9 Where extensive deposits of uncertain date and character were found, as in Trench 1, these were partly excavated by machine under close archaeological supervision, and left partly *in situ* for hand-investigation.
- 2.4.10 Full excavation of features was not undertaken at this stage.
- 2.4.11 At the north ends of trenches 9 and 10 machine excavation did not continue until the full depth of the stratigraphic sequence had been established. Here alluvial or fluvial sequences greater than 1m deep were encountered, and the end of both trenches was stepped to enable excavation to continue to greater depth (Fig. 4). Excavation was halted at 1.15m and 1.35m respectively, due to the water table and the absence of any evidence of environmental preservation or artefactual remains.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, beginning with a summary of the trench results, followed by a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. An overall phased plan of the archaeological discoveries is given in Figure 4. An index of all trenches and contexts is presented in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 Topsoil was present in all trenches, and ranged in depth from 0.15m in Trench 5 to 0.42m in Trench 8 and 9 (see Figs 10, 11). On average the topsoil was relatively thin (c 0.2m) except for trenches in the north-western part of the field (where the ground is sloping down towards floodplain) and in Trench 1, placed across a shallow depression in the ground that overlay a deeper hollow. The layer contained very few modern finds, but several late post-medieval pottery sherds were recorded in topsoil 300 in Trench 3. Owing to its recent use as pasture, the topsoil was worm-sorted, so was generally free of inclusions, but had a layer of peagrit at the base (Plate 6).
- 3.2.2 Below topsoil was a former ploughsoil (Plate 6), consisting of medium reddish brown silty sand with a small amount of inclusions; its depth was on average 0.2m, but was as little as 0.13m in Trench 4. Several pieces of 18th-19th century tile were recorded in this horizon in Trench 9, and so this represents relatively recent ploughing.
- 3.2.3 Plough marks running north-west to south-east were detected by geophysical survey (Figs 2 and 3), and were found in Trenches 3, 7, 8, and 10.
- 3.2.4 Below this was another ploughsoil, also of reddish brown silty sand, but more clayey than the layer above, with relatively frequent small-small/medium sized rounded flint pebble gravel and very occasional medium sized limestone pieces. This lower ploughsoil was on average 0.2m deep, but varied from 0.1m in Trench 9 to 0.4m in Trench 4. In Trench 2 the upper and lower ploughsoils were not distinguished. Scattered through this deposit were occasional fragments of late medieval/early post-medieval (15th-17th century) tile (recorded in Trenches 2, 3, 7, and 10). This is therefore an early post-medieval ploughsoil.
- 3.2.5 No trace of ridge-and-furrow cultivation was present in the investigated area, and no medieval finds were recovered from any of the excavated deposits.
- 3.2.6 The natural geology was predominantly medium reddish brown sandy clay with patches of flint gravel, except at the south end of Trench 3, and in the middle of Trenches 9 and 10, where it was flint gravel and patches of sand. Gravel and sand was also found below the clay in Trench 7. The extent of the gravel corresponds to the higher ground within the field, and confirms the presence of a gravel island across the north end of the field, and of the edge of the gravel terrace at the south end of the field. The areas of clay correspond to the lower-lying parts of the field.

Alluvial sequence

3.2.7 The north ends of trenches 9 and 10 revealed that the gravel dipped quite steeply away, and was overlain by sequences of alluvial deposits (Plate 3; Figs 4, 5 and 16). The alluvium consisted of sloping layers of grey clayey sand (913=1007), overlain by light reddish grey clayey silt (905=1004), the latter diffused in the upper part with partly colluvial subsoil material. The lower part of layer 1004 produced a small rim sherd of oxidised Roman pottery. In Trench 9 there followed a further thin layer of alluvial clayey

silt (903), and over this was a very localised lens of alluvial clay (904). This also contained a sherd of Roman pottery. Deposits 904 and 1004 were followed by ploughsoils, though the increased depth of these suggests some element of colluviation, and even further alluvial input at the very north-west edge of the field.

- 3.2.8 By agreement with Ian George, Lisa Moffett and Anna Stocks, the full deposit sequence here was not examined as the alluvial sequence continued well below the water table, without any trace of environmental waterlogged preservation or artefactual material of significance at the base. Excavation was abandoned at 1.25 and 1.5m below ground respectively.

Hollow or depression between the areas of gravel

- 3.2.9 Trench 1 was placed across the lowest part of the site, which the LiDAR survey shows was a linear hollow or depression (Fig. 2). Trenches 4 and 5 also lay partly within this depression, which was filled by a series of colluvial deposits (Figs 4, 6 and 12). The central and southern part of Trench 1 contained a sequence of dark greyish brown sandy silts with dark patches of mineral staining over 0.7m thick (Fig. 6). One or two faint lenses of slightly more clayey silt suggested occasional standstill phases when water was pooling at the surface, but despite careful cleaning no more were observed. The lowest part of the colluvium was below the water table, although no waterlogged organic remains or molluscs were observed.
- 3.2.10 Trench 5 was partly set across the depression, exposing a sequence of four sandy silt colluvial layers c 0.6m deep (Figs 4 and 6; Plate 4). The lowest of these contained archaeological finds of probable Beaker date (2500-2000 BC) and common flecks of charcoal. The third fill, which was dark and very thin, indeed intermittent in section, may represent the beginnings of the development of a buried soil, but was soon overlain by the uppermost layer, which also contained a significant amount of charcoal flecks.
- 3.2.11 Only the southern end of Trench 4 lay within the hollow, where the same dark sandy silt was found as in Trench 1 (Fig. 6). Together, these trenches indicate a wide depression of either glacial or perhaps early-postglacial origin, running across the site. The lowest part of the exposed colluvial sequence in Trench 1 is 0.9m lower than the lowest part of colluvium in Trench 5, confirming the surface LiDAR data suggesting that this depression was deepest at and beyond the east edge of the site. The finds from the lowest colluvial deposit in Trench 5 imply that the feature was filled gradually by colluvial processes from at least the end of the Neolithic period.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were recorded in eight trenches (Figs 3 and 4). Most of the features were found in the southern and south-eastern part of the site, but they were also present in the central and northern parts of the investigated area.
- 3.3.2 Features that corresponded to magnetic anomalies recorded by geophysical survey included a ditch in Trench 1 and discrete features/pits in Trenches 3, 4, and 7. A few of the recorded, strong magnetic anomalies appeared to represent features of natural provenance.
- 3.3.3 The recorded features consisted largely of discrete pits (in trenches 2, 3, 4, and 7), although a recut ditch was recorded in Trench 1, shallow ditches in trenches 2 and 9, and a wider probable ditch in Trench 8.
- 3.3.4 The lowest colluvial deposit in Trench 5 contained a few archaeological finds of probable Neolithic date, but no features. The material is likely to have slumped into the depression from activity nearby as part of the colluvial infilling (Fig. 6; Plate 4).

- 3.3.5 A middle Iron Age feature was located in the northern part of the site in Trench 7 (Figs 4, 13 and 14).
- 3.3.6 Late Iron Age-early Roman features were present in the eastern corner of the field and in the north-western corner, including two possible ditches (Figs 4, 5, 6, 14 and 15; Plate 5). Roman pits dated slightly later (late 1st-early 2nd century AD) were present in trenches 2 and 3 within the strip adjacent to Tiddington Road and a shallow ditch or gully in Trench 9 at the north-western end of the field (Figs 4, 7-11, 14 and 16).
- 3.3.7 In several instances darker patches were distinguishable in the lower ploughsoil horizon, but on investigation proved to have diffuse and uncertain edges and bases, and were judged to be of agricultural origin. In general, therefore, features were cut from beneath the ploughsoils. The only exception was an elongated pit in the central part of the site in Trench 4, which was cut from beneath the upper ploughsoil horizon, and so was probably post-medieval in date (Figs 4, 11 and 12; Plate 2).

3.4 Archaeological Features

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4, 7 and 8) was laid out north-west to south-east to cross a set of strong magnetic anomalies in the eastern part of the field, and across the line of a set of north-east to south-west strong magnetic anomalies provisionally interpreted as a boundary. It also straddled a shallow depression in the ground surface. It revealed three archaeological features.
- 3.4.2 Feature 109 was orientated SSE-NNW and extended both southwards and northwards beyond Trench 1 (Fig. 7). It was probably a ditch, though only c 0.3m deep and truncated by features 105 and 107 (Plate 5). It had moderately steep sides, a gradual break of slope, and a flat base (Fig. 8, section 101). Its single fill 108 was composed of friable, medium greyish brown silty clay and did not contain any finds.
- 3.4.3 Ditch 107 (Plate 5) was only partially exposed in Trench 1. This ran parallel to features 105 and 109, and while truncated by feature 105 it in turn truncated the western side of ditch 109 (Figs 7 and 8). The ditch had steep sides, a gradual break of slope, and a flat base (Fig. 8, section 101), and was 0.52m deep. Its single fill (106) was composed of medium brown silty sand and contained late Iron Age-Roman pottery sherds.
- 3.4.4 Feature 105 (Plate 5) is interpreted as either a ditch terminus or an elongated pit. It was orientated SSE-NNW with a rounded end at the SSE, and was cut into the fill of ditches 109 and 107. The terminal of the feature has steep, slightly asymmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slope and a slightly concave base (Fig. 8, section 100). It was 0.65m deep and contained two fills. The upper fill 103 was friable, light brown clayey sand with patches of medium grey clayey sand and occasional flint and quartz gravel. The deposit contained late Iron Age-Roman pottery sherds, an early prehistoric flint scraper, and one horse tooth fragment. It sealed fill 104, which was a friable, homogeneous, medium greyish brown clayey sand with no natural inclusions, but contained a couple of horse, cattle and sheep/goat bone fragments, and late Iron Age-Roman pottery sherds.
- 3.4.5 Trench 2 was laid out south-west to north-east parallel to Tiddington Road and partway down the slope of the edge of the gravel terrace on which the road sits (Figs 3 and 4). It contained several tree-throw holes and geological formations – features 207, 209, and 215, and two archaeological features (pits or ditch termini), the latter located in the south-western part of the trench. The character of the ploughsoils in this trench changed significantly from north-west to south-east, the soils being much darker at the east end, due to the presence of the archaeological features, which ploughing had truncated, and to tree-throw hole 215.

- 3.4.6 Feature 205 ended on the north within the trench, cutting tree-throw hole fill 216, and ran southwards for 1.8m, continuing beyond the edge of Trench 2 (Fig. 9). Its shape in plan was an elongated oval with roughly parallel, wavy sides and a sub-rounded terminus. In section it had sloping symmetrical sides leading to a broad pointed base (Fig. 8, section 203). The feature could be either a ditch terminus or an elongated pit. It was filled with two deposits, the first (216) being slumped natural from the sides into which 205 was cut, the second and main fill being 206, a friable medium greyish brown silty sand with frequent flint and sandstone pebbles, and relatively frequent flecks of charcoal. Two pieces of fired clay with possible wattle impression were retrieved from fill 206. The clay fragments cannot be closely dated.
- 3.4.7 Feature 212 lay immediately east of the terminus of feature 205, and was sub-rounded in plan, the north-west edge lying outside Trench 2 (Fig. 9). The plan of the exposed part suggests a pit rather than a ditch terminus. In section, it had moderately steep, symmetrical sides, an imperceptible break of slope, and a concave base (Fig. 8, section 202). The feature had two fills. Upper fill 213 was friable, medium brown silty sand with frequent flint pebbles, and it contained several pottery sherds dated to the 2nd century AD. The lower and main fill 214 was composed of friable medium reddish brown silty sand with patches of reddish clay and a moderate amount of flint pebbles. It contained pieces of fired clay with wattle impressions, one Roman tile fragment, and one indeterminate animal bone fragment.
- 3.4.8 Trench 3 was set out across a discrete, circular, strong magnetic anomaly in the southern corner of the field (Figs 3 and 4). Its topsoil (deposit 300) contained a few 17th-18th century pottery sherds, while the lower ploughsoil horizon 302 contained fragments of 15th-17th century tile. This overlay natural sand and gravel at the south end, and natural clay at the north. The clay was cut across by several parallel plough furrows, which had spread the ploughsoil at one point (planned and investigated as feature 309). The ploughsoil also overlay a few shallow natural features (tree-throws and geological formations) and two large pits located in the central part of the trench, the more southerly of which corresponded to the geophysical anomaly and contained Roman pottery. Both pits were only part-exposed within the trench, extending eastwards beyond the trench edge.
- 3.4.9 Feature 305 was semi-oval or less than half of a circle in plan within the trench (Fig. 10), and was 2.6m north-south and at least 0.75m wide. It was cut across the point at which the gravel geology gave way to clay. The pit had a steep southern side (slightly less steep towards the top) and an almost vertical northern side, a gradual break of slope and a flat base (Fig. 11, section 302). There are five surviving fills. Basal fills 316 and 317 represent primary slumping from the sides of the pit. Over this, and covering the base on the south, was fill 315, a friable, soft slightly silty sand with lenses of dark brown slightly silty sand and reddish brown clayey sand, and with occasional flint pebbles. This deposit was 0.4m deep. Middle fill 314 was a firm greyish brown silty sand with lenses of pale brown silty sand (tipping lines) and occasional flint pebbles. The uppermost surviving fill 308 is friable, dark brownish grey silty sand with frequent rounded pebbles. This contained one pig tooth and one horse scapula fragment, but none of the deposits contained any artefacts.
- 3.4.10 Feature 306 was dug into the natural gravel. It appeared to be larger than 305, but was also only part-revealed and was curvilinear in plan (Fig. 10), 3.05m north-south and at least 1.3m wide. It had vertical sides, a gradual break of slope, and a slightly concave base, and was up to 1m deep (Fig 11, section 303; Plate 1). Its location corresponds with the circular, strong magnetic anomaly recorded by geophysical survey, which

suggests that it is part of a circular pit some 3.5m across. There were three surviving fills. The lowest fill 312 was a friable, soft brown silty sand with lenses of yellowish brown sand. A few pebbles within the deposit and a few large rounded pebbles were present at its basal part near the southern edge. Middle fill 311 was friable, dark brown silty sand with occasional pebbles of flint and quartz and lenses of yellowish brown sand, which probably represent tipping lines. The deposit had a few late 1st century pottery sherds. The upper fill 307 was a friable, reddish brown sandy loam with frequent small-medium sized flint pebbles. It contained six fragments of animal bone and pottery sherds dated to the early-middle 2nd century AD.

- 3.4.11 Trench 4 was laid out across a discrete circular strong magnetic anomaly at the north-west end and at the south-east end across one of a set of anomalies forming a possible linear feature running north-west to south-east across the central part the field (Figs 3 and 4). Trenching revealed a pit 404 at the north-west end that corresponded to the discrete magnetic anomaly. The south-east end of the trench contained the edge of a large depression (also identified in Trenches 5 and 1) filled by an alluvial deposit, which was most likely responsible for the linear magnetic anomaly.
- 3.4.12 Feature 404 was orientated north-east to south-west, was 0.75m wide with parallel sides and a sub-rounded north-eastern end, and continued south-westwards beyond the trench (Fig. 12). As the geophysical anomaly is a discrete oval, it was probably an elongated pit some 2.5m in length. It was cut into the lower ploughsoil, so is presumably post-medieval. The pit has steep (almost vertical) sides, imperceptible breaks of slopes, and an asymmetrical concave base, and is 0.6m deep (Fig. 11, section 400; Plate 2). There were two fills. Upper fill 405 was a compact, firm very dark reddish brown sandy silt with black mottles and very occasional small sized rounded flint. Lower fill 406 was a mixture of patches of a deposit identical to fill 405 and of the surrounding natural (a reddish brown sandy clay with patches of flint pebbles). Except for possible hammerscale particles neither fill contained any finds.
- 3.4.13 At the south-east end the natural dipped into a shelving depression, which was filled with a dark colluvial sandy silt 407 (Figs 4 and 6). This did not contain any finds, but was probably responsible for the magnetic anomaly here.
- 3.4.14 Trench 5 was placed to investigate an oval strong magnetic anomaly, and (like Trench 4) to cross a set of magnetic anomalies forming a linear pattern orientated north-east to south-west across the central part of the field (Figs 3 and 4). The trench did not expose any archaeological features, but the southern part of the trench overlay a shallow hollow or depression with gently sloping sides that was filled with four colluvial sandy silt deposits (503-5). The hollow and its colluvial fills were probably responsible for the linear magnetic anomaly (Fig 9).
- 3.4.15 The hollow fills were largely removed by machine in spits under close archaeological supervision. The uppermost fill 503 contained common flecks of charcoal, but no evidence of other inclusions (Plate 4). Below this a very thin dark horizon 507, intermittent in section, may represent the beginnings of the development of a buried soil. The colluvial deposit below this, 505, was homogeneous and sterile. The lowest fill, layer 504, also contained fragments of charcoal, and towards the base also contained small fragments of fired clay, flint flakes, a dozen or so burnt animal bone fragments, and a fragment of probable late Neolithic Beaker vessel.
- 3.4.16 Trench 6 did not contain any archaeological features below the topsoil and ploughsoils.
- 3.4.17 Trench 7 was laid out to investigate two discrete oval strong magnetic anomalies, one at each end of the trench (Figs 3 and 4). Its lower plough soil horizon 702 contained

occasional fragments of 15th-17th century tile. Halfway along the trench the ploughsoil filled a slight hollow in the underlying clay natural, and this was initially left after machining as a possible feature (705), but was later recognised as remnant ploughsoil. One genuine archaeological feature was found (pit 707), corresponding to the north-western magnetic anomaly.

- 3.4.18 Pit 707 was only part-exposed in Trench 7, extending south-westwards beyond its edge (Fig. 13). It is sub-rectangular in plan, 2.6m north-south and at least 1.3m east-west. In section it had a steep side, a gradual break of slope and a slightly undulating base, and it survives 0.34m deep (Fig. 14, section 702). Its single fill 708 was a compact, dusky red clay loam with pockets of clay and a moderate amount of small-small/medium sized rounded and sub-rounded stones (flint, quartz, quartzite), and frequent flecks of charcoal. The deposit contained several burnt animal bone fragments and middle Iron Age pottery fragments.
- 3.4.19 Trench 8 was located in the north-eastern part of the field (Figs 3 and 4). There were no geophysical anomalies targeted by this trench, but one ditch 803, orientated north-south and 1.5m wide, was found at the south-east end, continuing in both directions beyond the trench (Fig. 15). In section, it had moderately steep, symmetrical sides, a gradual break of slope, and a flat base (Fig. 14, sections 801 and 802). Its single fill 804 was a firm, compact, dark reddish brown silty clay with almost no inclusions, but contained animal bone fragments (including cattle skull), a possible stone tessera, several pieces of late Iron Age pottery, and a few possibly Roman sherds.
- 3.4.20 Trench 9 was laid out across the rise at the north-western end of the field and extending beyond it (Figs 3 and 4). It revealed natural clay overlying gravel at shallow depth along the centre of the trench, dipping sharply down to the floodplain of the river Avon at the north-west end, where a series of alluvial deposits sealed the natural gravel (see Figs 4 and 5). The upper ploughsoil horizon 902 contained pieces of 18th-19th century tile.
- 3.4.21 The alluvial sequence is described in Alluvial Sequence, sections 3.2.7 and 3.2.8 above.
- 3.4.22 A short length of shallow gully or ditch numbered 908 and 911, some 7m long and 0.5-0.6m wide, was cut into the natural clay close to the edge of the floodplain (Figs 4 and 16). The feature was orientated north-west to south-east, was shallow with a broad V-shaped profile (Fig. 14, sections 902 and 903), and contained a single medium grey sandy clay with frequent pebbles (909-912). At the north-west the very end of the ditch was removed by machine before the feature was noticed; at the south-east end it terminated in a squared end. Both termini were excavated, and contained a fragmented cattle mandible, a sheep/goat tooth, and pottery sherds dated to late 1st-2nd century and early-middle 2nd century.
- 3.4.23 Trench 10 did not contain any archaeological features, although it revealed a sequence of alluvial deposits (similar to that in Trench 9 at its northern end (Figs 4 and 5; see also Alluvial Sequence, sections 3.2.7 and 3.2.8 above).

3.5 Finds and environmental summary

- 3.5.1 Prehistoric finds comprised a flint scraper and a few struck flakes, a sherd of Beaker pottery and 12 middle Iron Age sherds and a few fragments of fired clay. Late Iron Age/Roman finds were more numerous, comprising 56 pottery sherds, a couple of tile fragments, fragments of clay oven wall, a few fragments of smithing slag and a possible stone tessera. Ceramic roof tiles of 15th-17th century and 18th-19th century date were recovered from ploughsoils.



- 3.5.2 Burnt animal bone fragments were recovered from prehistoric contexts, and both unburnt and burnt fragments from late Iron Age/Roman contexts. Assemblages were however very small. Charred plant remains were recovered from Beaker, Iron Age and Roman contexts, and a charcoal assemblage from an early post-medieval feature. No waterlogged plant remains or molluscan remains were found.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Ground conditions were relatively good throughout the evaluation and this contributed to good visibility of archaeological deposits. There was a relatively good correspondence between the archaeological features seen in the trenches and those geophysical anomalies classed as 'Strong Magnetic Anomalies'. However, some of the strong magnetic anomalies appeared to represent natural features, while several archaeological features were uncovered that did not show in the geophysical survey.
- 4.1.2 The information produced by the geophysical survey combined with that produced by the trenching provides a reasonably reliable representation of the evaluation area. Nevertheless, this 2% sample was not intended to provide a full understanding of all of the geophysical anomalies on the site, but rather to characterise the overall topography, potential for environmental information, and establish the general density of archaeological remains.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

General

- 4.2.1 Aims (i)-(iv). The presence, distribution, date and character of archaeological features and deposits was established by the evaluation, as far as the sample percentage allowed. Most of the uncovered archaeological features contained finds and datable artefactual material, or if not, were able to be assigned to a time period stratigraphically.
- 4.2.2 Aim (v). No complex vertical stratigraphy was found, although a sequence of alluvial deposits was identified at the north-west edge of the field. A deposit containing earlier prehistoric remains was identified preserved within the broad hollow found across the middle of the site, although no *in situ* features were found.
- 4.2.3 Aim (vi). None of the revealed remains appeared to have affected the development of the historic landscape.
- 4.2.4 Aim (vii). Charred remains were recovered from prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval features. Charcoal from a Beaker deposit has provided some information on the tree and shrub species present at that time, and Roman deposits included spelt wheat and oat, with potential for further information from charcoal. Animal bone survived, but bone fragments were only found in small numbers. No waterlogged environmental remains or molluscan remains were encountered.
- 4.2.5 Aim (viii). The number of features and associated finds was too small to draw meaningful conclusions about economy or social activity. The low numbers of features and finds however suggests that in the Iron Age and Roman periods, this area was peripheral to settlement and of low status.
- 4.2.6 Aim (ix). The artefactual evidence recovered was of very limited range and quantity. The Beaker potsherd was fairly well-preserved, and although the associated struck flints were not of high quality, the presence of both, and of fragments of fired clay, together with the environmental evidence, suggests that these were derived from

domestic activity nearby. The Iron Age and Roman finds consisted almost entirely of pottery or fired clay, with only a single fragment of tile and one stray tessera. While the tessera hints at higher status activity somewhere within the settlement, it was clearly redeposited here. A few small fragments of smithing slag were also present. Overall the material is characteristic of low status rural settlement.

Site-specific aims

- 4.2.7 Aim (x). The evaluation has shown that late Iron/Age and early Roman occupation is present across most of the field, in the form of widely-spaced boundary ditches that share a NNW-SSE alignment. Pits were confined to the south-eastern edge of the site on the gravel terrace. No later Roman features were found.
- 4.2.8 Aim (xi). The ditches were widely-spaced, and their similar alignments suggest that they were part of a field or enclosure system. From the quantities of finds recovered, these are more likely to represent peripheral field boundaries than settlement enclosure ditches. The pits found in Trenches 2 and 3 suggest that, as in the investigation of the adjacent field to the north-east, occupation of the late Iron Age and Early Roman periods is confined to the gravel terrace, ie at the south-east edge of the site.
- 4.2.9 Aim (xii). The evaluation has clarified the character of the post-glacial topography at the site, including the presence of a gravel ridge along the north-west side of the field, has confirmed the location of the floodplain edge at the very north-west edge, and has identified a broad depression between the gravel ridge and the main gravel terrace that helps explain the results obtained in the John Samuels Archaeological Consultants evaluation in the adjacent field.
- 4.2.10 Aim (xiii). The evaluation has clarified the extent of dry ground and of the alluvial floodplain, and has characterised the broad depression between the gravel terrace and gravel ridge. Despite these varying environments, waterlogged deposits with good environmental potential were not found in the evaluation. Archaeological remains were present, but their preservation was of only average quality.
- 4.2.11 Aim (xiv). The evaluation has identified remains of the Beaker period and of the Middle Iron Age, two periods not previously suspected on the site. The Beaker material appears to have been colluvially derived, although the mix of material found, the relatively good preservation of the charred remains and the shallow slope of the depression, all suggest that the original activity was very close by. A single flint scraper probably of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date was also found, but this may well be a casual loss, and need not indicate significant activity of either date on the site.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The modern topsoil is worm-sorted, characteristic of land recently used as pasture (see Figs 9, 10; Plate 6). The subsoil recorded across the site consists of two horizons likely to represent former ploughing in the early post-medieval (15th-17th century) and the later post-medieval/Victorian period.
- 4.3.2 The excavated deposits produced a small assemblage of archaeological finds, comprising pottery sherds, animal bone fragments, worked flint, worked stone, fired clay and ceramic building material. Except for the tile fragments in the subsoil, the state of preservation of the finds did not obviously indicate that they were redeposited.
- 4.3.3 Not enough pottery was recovered to allow any meaningful analysis of its distribution across the site. However, general classification period-wise is as follows.

Early Prehistoric

- 4.3.4 A single flint scraper of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date was found redeposited in a Roman ditch. This probably represents a casual discard by an individual passing through the site.
- 4.3.5 The results of the geophysical survey showed a set of magnetic anomalies forming a linear pattern running from north-east to south-west across the field (Figs 2 and 3). The evaluation trenches did not identify a ditch on this line, but did locate a broad depression in the natural geology, probably of late glacial or early Holocene origin, filled by colluvial deposits (Fig. 9; Plate 4). This feature deepened north-eastwards. The lowest layer of colluvium in Trench 5, towards the edge of the hollow, included frequent charcoal, and contained one probable Beaker pottery sherd, together with fragments of fired clay, flint flakes and burnt animal bone fragments. There were no associated hearths or other features, and the charcoal was not a discrete deposit, so was probably redeposited from the original area of domestic activity, but the preservation of the charred remains suggests that this was very close by.
- 4.3.6 The only other struck flint from the site came from an alluvial layer at the north-west end of Trench 10. This may derive from a knapping episode at the edge of the gravel ridge and the floodplain within the site, or may have been carried by floodwaters from elsewhere.
- 4.3.7 Small quantities of struck flint have been recovered from previous investigations along Tiddington Road, for instance at No. 80 (MWA 7861), at No. 121 (Biddulph 2006) and the rear of 34 Knights Lane (MWA10284), indicating occasional exploitation of the terrace and terrace edge in the earlier prehistoric period.

Middle Iron Age

- 4.3.8 One pit in the northern part of the field contained twelve middle Iron Age sherds and fragments of burnt animal bone (Figs 4, 5 and 8). No other features of that period were exposed. The pit was shallow, probably due to its position close to the floodplain, and had only a single fill, so its purpose is uncertain.
- 4.3.9 No other evidence of Middle Iron Age activity has been found in the previous investigations in the adjacent parts of the Tiddington SAM, the only significant focus of this date having been found over 400m to the east (Palmer 1982).

Late Iron Age/early Roman

- 4.3.10 Two ditches on a NNW-SSE alignment were found at opposite corners of the site in trenches 1 and 8. A third, undated probable ditch on a similar alignment was found at the south-west end of Trench 2, and is believed likely also to be Roman (Figs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8; Plate 5). The ditch in Trench 1 appears to have been recut on two occasions, indicating an extended period of use. These parallel features suggest a system of regular enclosures or fields. The quantities of finds recovered was small, perhaps suggesting that these features were not in close proximity to settlement. The absence of other features of this date supports this suggestion, although it is possible that other geophysical anomalies at the very east corner of the site, which were not investigated, could represent such activity. Overall the evidence suggests that these were field boundaries associated with the settlement focus known further north-east and east.

Roman – late 1st-early/middle 2nd century AD

- 4.3.11 One shallow pit and two larger pits, one of which latter was undated, were recorded along the south-eastern edge of the site, on the edge of the gravel terrace (Figs 4-7; Plate 1). The similarity of the undated pit to its Roman neighbour in Trench 3 strongly

suggests that it too was Roman. These pits probably represent the edge of the Roman settlement found on the gravel terrace to the south, east and north-east (OA 2013; JSAC 2002, 27).

- 4.3.12 A shallow ditch in the north-western part of the site, and on a similar alignment to the slightly earlier ditch in Trench 8, contained pottery and animal bones of 2nd century date (Figs 4, 5, 8). This feature probably represents a further boundary ditch draining onto the floodplain.
- 4.3.13 No evidence of later Roman activity was found on the site.

Post-medieval

- 4.3.14 The early post-medieval period is represented by fragments of 15th-17th century tile from the lower ploughsoil horizon. Although manufactured from the 15th century, the tiles are almost certainly redeposited after use in this context, and so date the ploughsoil to the post-medieval period.
- 4.3.15 One elongated pit, first identified as a strong magnetic anomaly, was found in the central part of the field cut into this ploughsoil (Trench 4). It was filled by dark soils rich in comminuted charcoal and occasional charred cereals, but contained no finds (Figs 4, 5, 7; Plate 2). This may have been associated with a brief episode of charcoal burning. It is alternatively possible that it could relate to the removal of a tree, although the feature appeared to be too regular for this.
- 4.3.16 This feature, and the earlier ploughsoil, were sealed by a more recent ploughsoil, from which two pieces of later post-medieval (17th-18th century) pottery were recovered in the south-eastern part of the field, and an 18th-19th century tile fragment in the north-western part of the field.

4.4 Overall conclusions

- 4.4.1 The evaluation has recovered archaeological evidence from most parts of the site, but this evidence is scattered and of low density.
- 4.4.2 This is similar to the evidence of the geophysical survey, which indicated a number of widely scattered discrete features, except in the east corner of the site. There were however a number of strong geophysical anomalies that were not found during evaluation, for instance in the middle of Trench 5 and at the south end of Trench 7, and conversely, additional features that were not picked up by the geophysical survey were found in trenches 2, 3, 8 and 9. The linear anomaly suggested crossing the site from south-west to north-east was not located, although it was suggested that this might be represented by the broad depression found here.
- 4.4.3 The features in trenches 2 and 8 were in areas of clay geology, and in the case of Trench 2, were overlain by a considerable depth of subsoil, perhaps explaining why they were not picked up by the survey. The gully in Trench 9 was also cut into clay, and was very shallow, which may explain its absence, while the large pit in Trench 3 lay at the interface of the gravel and clay geologies.
- 4.4.4 Overall, the evidence of the geophysical survey cannot be taken at face value, but the excavated trenches do not suggest that a high density of features remains to be discovered.
- 4.4.5 Probable evidence of Beaker date has been identified in the centre of the site, which, if confirmed, represents the best evidence of earlier prehistoric activity recovered from the SAM to date. This statement needs to be taken in context, however, as the quantity of material recovered in the evaluation was very limited. In the West Midlands, Middle



and Late Neolithic 'settlement' evidence is usually ephemeral and ambiguous (Garwood 2011, 59), and generally takes the form of single or grouped pits, despite doubts about the domestic nature of pit deposits. Surface sites are much more rarely preserved. There is however no confirmed evidence of *in situ* Beaker activity on this site, the material appearing to have been redeposited by colluvial action.

- 4.4.6 A single middle Iron Age pit was found in the northern part of the site, corresponding to a strong magnetic anomaly picked up by the geophysical survey at the edge of the gravel ridge. The absence of any further strong magnetic anomalies from the gravel ridge, and the paucity of archaeological features from the trenches dug across it, suggests that this may be an isolated feature.
- 4.4.7 The late Iron Age/early Roman activity was of two types. A scatter of pits was found along the south-east edge of the site, on or at the edge of the gravel terrace, and probably represents the edge of the settlement. The quantity of finds recovered from the features that were investigated was however low, suggesting that this was a very peripheral area, although the cluster of uninvestigated geophysical anomalies at the east corner of the site could represent more intensive settlement. Overall, the extent of late Iron Age/early Roman settlement on this site appears to be limited, and is similar to the limit of settlement suggested by JSAC in their report upon the adjacent property (JSAC 2002).
- 4.4.8 Several ditches or gullies, all on very similar NNW-SSE alignments, were found widely spaced across the site. These were most likely the boundaries of fields attached to the settlement.
- 4.4.9 There is a clear gap in archaeological material between the 2nd century AD and the early post-medieval period on the site.
- 4.4.10 The site was ploughed from the early post-medieval period into the 19th century. During that time, a pit containing much charcoal may indicate charcoal-burning, or clearance of residual trees.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
<p>Trench 1 was set in the north-eastern part of the field, across a set of strong magnetic anomalies – forming a rectangular enclosure - and across NE-SW running set of strong magnetic anomalies in a shallow depression in the current ground. The trench consisted of topsoil, two deposits forming subsoil (old ploughsoil horizons). The lower subsoil was sealing natural geology composed of clayey sand with gravel at the north-western part of the trench and three alluvial deposits in the central and south-eastern part of the trench that overlaid medium brown clayey sand. The alluvial deposits formed fill of a depression in the natural geology (reaching depth of 2.0 m below the current ground level) Trench 1 also had three inter-cutting archaeological features (pits/ditch termini) forming linear pattern in plan, corresponding with the set of strong magnetic anomalies from the geophysical survey. Two of the archaeological features contained late Iron Age-Roman pottery sherds, a worked flint, and animal bone fragments.</p>				Avg. depth (m)	0.8	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	33	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Topsoil layer	-	0.32	Topsoil-turf. Dark reddish brown silty loam; consistent depth across the trench, small amount of inclusions.	-	-
101	Upper subsoil layer	-	0.2	Old ploughsoil. Medium reddish brown silty sand; consistent depth across the trench, small amount of inclusions.	-	-
102	Lower subsoil layer	-	0.15	Old ploughsoil. Reddish brown silty sand; consistent depth across the trench, frequent small-small/medium sized rounded flint stones (gravel), occasional medium sized limestone pieces, occasional fragments of post-medieval CBM.	-	-
103	Upper fill of pit/ditch terminus	1.3 x 1.05	0.4	Friable, light brown clayey sand with patches of medium grey clayey sand, contains occasional flint gravel. Upper fill of elongated pit/ditch terminus 105.	Pottery sherds; 1 horse tooth fragment; 1 flint scraper	late Iron Age/Early Roman; Early prehistoric
104	Lower fill of pit/ditch terminus	1 x 1.05	0.3	Friable medium greyish brown clayey sand, no inclusions. Lower fill of elongated pit/ditch terminus 105.	Pottery sherds; 1 horse tooth, 1 cattle metacarpal, 1	Late Iron Age/Early Roman



					sheep/goat tooth	
105	Cut of pit/ditch terminus	1.3 x 1.05	0.7	Cut of either elongated pit or ditch terminus; filled with deposits 103 and 104. Linear with rounded SSE end in plan (extending NNW beyond in Tr 1); in section steep, symmetrical sides, gradual break of slope, a flat base. Cuts fills 106, 108, and layer 110.	-	-
106	Fill of pit/ditch terminus	+0.5 x 1.05	0.55	Friable, medium brown silty sand. Cut by 105 feature. Single fill of pit/ditch terminus 107	Pottery sherds	Late Iron Age/Early Roman
107	Cut of ditch	+0.5 x 1.05	0.55	Cut of either elongated pit or ditch terminus; orientated NNW-SSE (only partly exposed in Tr 1); filled with 106 deposit; steep side, gradual break of slope and a flat base, cuts fill 108 and layer 110.	-	-
108	Fill	1.1 x 0.3	0.35	Fill of pit/ditch terminus 108; friable, medium greyish brown silty sand. Cut by 105 feature.	-	-
109	Cut of ditch	1.1 x 0.3	0.35	Cut of probably a ditch; orientated NNW-SSE (extending both directions beyond Tr 1); a steep side, gradual break of slope and a concave base; filled with 108 deposit; cut into layer 110.	-	-
110	Natural geology - layer	-	>0.2	Medium yellowish brown sandy clay with patches of gravel. Sealed by lower subsoil/old ploughsoil horizon 102 and alluvial layer 113. Equal to 114.	-	-
111	Colluvial deposit	>25.5	0.4	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt; homogeneous, almost no inclusions; sealed by lower subsoil/old ploughsoil 102, sealing 112 deposit.	-	-
112	colluvial deposit	>23	0.23	Friable, dark greyish brown with random pattern of brownish black patches (mineral stain) silty sand. Almost no inclusions. Sealed by layer 111, sealing 113	-	-



				deposit.		
113	colluvial deposit	>20	0.05	Friable, yellowish brown sandy silt. No inclusions. Sealed by layer 112, sealing 110 deposit.	-	-
114	Natural geology - layer	>0.2	-	Equal to deposit 110.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench 2 was located in the central-southern part of the field. The trench consisted of topsoil, two deposits forming subsoil/old ploughsoil – the lower horizon deposit contained occasional fragments of post-medieval tile. The subsoil was sealing natural geology formed of clayey sand with gravel. Trench 2 had several natural features (tree-throws and geological formations) and two archaeological features (pits/ditch termini), of which one contained 2 nd century, Roman pottery fragments and small CBM fragments.				Avg. depth (m)	0.65	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	40	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
201	Layer. Topsoil	-	0.3	Topsoil-turf. Dark reddish brown silty sand; consistent depth across the trench, small amount of inclusions.	-	-
202	Layer. Upper subsoil	-	0.4	old ploughsoil. Medium reddish brown silty sand; consistent depth across the trench, small amount of inclusions.	-	-
203	Layer. Lower subsoil	-	0.26	old ploughsoil. Reddish brown silty sand; consistent depth across the trench, frequent small-small/medium sized rounded stones (gravel), occasional medium sized limestone pieces, occasional fragments of CBM.	Fragments of post-medieval tiles.	-
204	Natural geology – layer	-	-	Brownish red sandy clay with patches of gravel	-	-
205	Cut of pit	1.8 x 0.56	0.13	In plan sub-rounded northern end, roughly parallel, wavy edges, extending southward	-	-

				beyond Tr 2; in section moderately steep, symmetrical sides, gradual breaks of slopes, a flat base; filled with 106 deposit, cut into deposit 216 and layer 214.		
206	Fill of pit	1.8 0.56	x 0.13	Friable, medium greyish brown silty sand with frequent, moderately sorted, flint and sandstone pebbles, relatively frequent flecks of charcoal; fill of pit 205.	2 pieces of fired clay with possible wattle impression	Prehistoric-medieval
207	Cut of natural feature	0.65 +2.2	x 0.13	Irregularly linear in plan, extending beyond Tr 2.; in section moderately steep sides, imperceptible break of slope and a slightly concave base, filled with deposit 208.	-	-
208	Fill of natural feature	0.65 +2.2	x 0.13	Firm, medium reddish brown silty sand with frequent flint pebbles; single sill of feature 207.	-	-
209	Cut of natural feature	1.2 +0.8	x 0.34	Semi circular (extending beyond Tr 1) with moderately steep, asymmetrical sides, not precipitable break of slope and an undulating concave base. Cut into layer 204 and filled with deposit 210.	-	-
210	Fill of natural feature	1.2 +0.8	x 0.34	Firm, medium brown silty sand with frequent flint gravel, single fill of feature 209	-	-
211	Subsoil layer and uppermost two features	4.0	0.1	Friable, dark brown clayey sand with frequent flint pebbles. Lower subsoil mixed with fills 208 and 206	-	-
212	Cut of possible pit	1.62 +2.1	x 0.44	Subrounded in plan and extending NW beyond Tr 2.in section moderately steep, symmetrical sides, imperceptible break of slope and a concave base. Cut into layers 203 and 204, filled with deposits 213 and 214.	-	2 nd century AD

213	Upper fill of possible pit	1.4 x +2.1	0.17	Friable, medium brown silty sand with frequent flint gravel, upper fill of feature 212.	Pottery sherds	2 nd century AD
214	Lower fill of possible pit	1.4 x +2.1	0.27	Friable medium reddish brown silty sand with patches of reddish clay and moderate amount of flint pebbles; lower-main fill of feature 212.	Pieces of fired clay with wattle impression ; 1 tile fragment 1 animal bone fragment	Prehistoric–medieval; Roman
215	Cut of natural feature	+2.1 x +1.41	0.18	Amorphous in plan (only partially exposed in Tr 2); in section asymmetrical steep and moderately steep sides, an undulating base; cut into layer 204 and filled with deposit 216. Probably tree-throw	-	-
216	Fill of natural feature	+2.1 x +1.41	0.18	Friable, soft medium brownish grey silty sand with frequent, well sorted flint pebbles. Single fill of probably tree-throw 215.	-	-
217	Natural layer	-	0.26	Layer equal to 204	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE	
Trench 3 was set across a circular, strong magnetic anomaly in the southern part the field. The trench consisted of topsoil, two deposits forming subsoil (old ploughsoil) - the lower subsoil deposit contained occasional fragments of early post-medieval tile. The subsoil was sealing natural geology formed of flint gravel and sandy clay in the south-western and central part of the trench and red sandy clay in the north-eastern part of the trench. Trench 3 had a few shallow natural features (tree-throws and geological formations) and two large pits (one corresponding with the magnetic anomaly) of which one contained Roman pottery fragments.				Avg. depth (m)	0.45	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Topsoil	-	0.2	Reddish brown silty sand with turf	Pottery sherds	17 th -18 th century
301	Upper subsoil	-	0.2	old ploughsoil. Reddish brown silty sand with frequent pebbles, tile fragments and charcoal	-	-



				flecks		
302	Layer. Lower subsoil	-	0.21	old ploughsoil. Reddish brown silty sand with patches of flint pebbles	Tile fragments	15 th -17 th century
303	Deposit – natural feature	3	0.19	Reddish silty sand above layer 310 at the south-eastern end of Trench 2. Probably geological feature.	-	-
304	Natural geology	-	-	Reddish brown sandy clay with large patches of flint gravel	-	-
305	Cut of pit	+0.74 x 2.6	0.8	Oval in plan (extending beyond Trench 3), with a slightly concave steep southern side and an almost vertical northern side, gradual breaks of slope and a flat base. Cut into layer 304, filled with deposits 308, 314, 315, 316, and 317. Possibly gravel extraction pit.	-	
306	Cut of pit	1.35 x 3.05	1.05	Oval in plan with vertical sides, gradual breaks of slope and a slightly concave base. Cut into layer 304 and filled with deposits 307, 311, and 312. Possibly gravel extraction pit.	-	Late 1 st /early-middle 2 nd century AD
307	Upper fill of pit	0.9 x 1.7	0.4	Friable, reddish brown sandy loam with frequent small to medium sized flint pebbles and gravel; upper fill of pit 306.	Pottery sherds; 6 animal bone fragments	Late 1 st /early-middle 2 nd century AD
308	Upper fill of pit	0.75 x 2.6	0.3	Friable, dark brownish grey silty sand with frequent rounded pebbles; sealing deposit 314, fill of pit 305	1 pig tooth, 1 fused horse scapula	-
309	Natural feature	1.8 x 0.8	0.08	Friable, dark greyish brown slightly silty sand with angular and rounded flint and quartz pebbles – sealed by subsoil and overlying natural geology	Tile fragments	15 th -17 th century
310	Natural geology	4.2	-	Reddish brown clay at the northern part of the trench. Sealed by lower old ploughsoil	-	-



311	Middle fill of pit	0.85 x 1.7	x 0.26	Friable, dark brown silty sand with occasional pebbles of flint and quartz; not homogeneous – lenses of yellowish brown sand (tipping lines?). Middle fill of pit 306	Pottery sherds	Late 1 st century AD +
312	Lower fill of pit	0.75 x 1.7	x 0.38	Friable, soft brown silty sand with lenses of yellowish brown sand; a few pebbles within the deposit and a few large rounded pebbles at basal part near the southern edge; lower fill of pit 306.	-	-
313	Natural geology layer	0.3	0.04	Lens of brown silty sand in between lower subsoil and natural geology 304	-	-
314	Middle fill of pit	0.75 x 1.4	x 0.22	Firm greyish brown silty sand with lenses of pale brown silty sand (tipping lines), occasional flint pebbles; middle fill of pit 305.	-	-
315	Lower fill of pit	0.7 x 1.25	x 0.3	Friable, soft slightly silty sand with lenses of dark brown slightly silty sand and reddish brown clayey sand, occasional flint pebbles; lower fill of pit 305	-	-
316	Primary, fill of pit	0.7 x +0.2	x 0.2	Firm, reddish brown, slightly clayey sand with rare flint pebbles, primary fill (slump) of pit 305 – possibly a part of deposit 315	-	-
317	Primary -basal fill of pit	0.7 x +0.2	x 0.2	Friable, dark grey slightly silty sand with flint pebbles and lenses of small sized flint pebbles	-	-

Trench 4		
General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 4 was set across a round, strong magnetic anomaly and across a linear set of magnetic anomalies running NE-SW across the central part the field. The trench consisted of topsoil, two deposits forming subsoil (old ploughsoil). The subsoil was sealing natural geology formed of reddish brown sandy clay. Trench 4 had a few shallow natural features (geological formations) and one linear feature (corresponding with location of the discrete magnetic	Avg. depth (m)	0.6
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30



anomaly). Southern end of the trench had an colluvial deposit that seems to correspond with the linear set of magnetic anomalies.						
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Topsoil layer	-	0.25	Reddish brown silty sand with loam.	-	-
401	Upper subsoil layer	-	0.13	old ploughsoil. Reddish brown silty sand with frequent pebbles, tile fragments and charcoal flecks	-	-
402	Lower subsoil layer	-	0.1	old ploughsoil. Reddish brown silty sand with patches of flint pebbles	-	-
403	Natural geology	-	-	Reddish brown sandy clay with patches of flint pebbles	-	-
404	Cut of pit	0.8 +2.0	x 0.57	Linear with rounded north-eastern end in plan, extending beyond Tr 4; in section steep sides, gradual break of slope, an asymmetrically concave base. Elongated pit, filled with deposits 405 and 406, cutting layer 404.	-	-
405	Upper fill of pit	0.8 +2.0	x 0.3	Compact, firm dark reddish brown sandy silt and black mottles with very occasional small sized rounded flint. Homogeneous. Upper fill of pit 404.	Possible hammerstone particles	
406	Lower fill of pit	0.7 +2.0	x 0.26	Deposit formed of irregular patches of deposit 405 and deposit 403. Lower fill of elongated pit 404.		
407	colluvial layer	2.9	-	Homogeneous, dark greyish brown sandy silt with almost no inclusions; only in the southern end part of the trench. Sealed by lower old ploughsoil and overlaying deposit 403.		

Trench 5		
General description	Orientation	NNE-SSW

Trench 5 was set in the south-central part of the field, across a circular, strong magnetic anomaly and across a linear set of magnetic anomalies. The trench consisted of topsoil, two deposits forming subsoil (old ploughsoil). The lower subsoil was sealing natural geology formed of reddish brown sandy clay. Southern half of the trench had colluvial deposits, filling paleochannel	Avg. depth (m)	0.65
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
500	Topsoil layer	-	0.15	Reddish brown silty sand and loam with turf	-	-
501	Upper subsoil layer	-	0.2	Old ploughsoil, medium brown silty sand with occasional small-small/medium sized rounded flint pebbles, tile fragments and charcoal flecks	-	-
502	Lower subsoil layer	-	0.27	Old ploughsoil, medium brown silty sand – similar to layer 501, except that layer 502 had very little inclusions and was more sandy	-	-
503	colluvial deposit	20.0	0.28	Black silty sand with lenses of medium brown silty sand, no inclusions except for charcoal. Sealed by deposit 502 and overlying deposits 507 and 505	-	-
504	colluvial deposit	11.5	0.28	Dark reddish black sandy silt with lenses of medium brown silty sand with rare subangular pebbles and burnt cobbles possible flecks of charcoal. Sealed by layer 505 and sealing deposit 506.	Pottery sherds; Fired clay fragment; Flint flakes; Possible hammerstone particles; 50 fragments of burnt animal bone	Beaker?
505	colluvial deposit	19.7	0.26	Light yellowish brown slightly silty sand; very homogeneous with no inclusions; sealed by deposit 503 and overlying layer 504	-	-



506	Natural geology	-	-	Reddish brown sandy clay with pockets of flint pebbles	-	-
507	colluvial deposit	3.7	0.02	Thin layer of very dark brown slightly silty sand, – separating in places layers 503 and 505		

Trench 6

<p>General description</p> <p>Trench 6 was set in the central-south part the field. The trench consisted of topsoil, two deposits forming subsoil (old plough soil). The subsoil was sealing natural geology formed of reddish brown sandy clay.</p>	Orientation	NW-SE
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
600	Topsoil layer	-	0.18	Reddish brown silty sand and loam with turf	-	-
601	Upper subsoil layer	-	0.18	Old ploughsoil. Medium brown silty sand with occasional small-small/medium sized rounded flint pebbles . pebbles, tile fragments and charcoal flecks	-	-
602	Lower subsoil layer	-	0.2	Old ploughsoil. Medium brown silty sand – similar to layer 501, except that layer 502 has very little inclusions and is more sandy.	-	-
603	Natural geology	-	-	Reddish brown sandy clay with pockets of flint pebbles	-	-

Trench 7

<p>General description</p> <p>Trench 7 was set in the central-north part the field, across two circular magnetic anomalies. The trench consisted of topsoil, two deposits forming subsoil (old ploughsoil) - the lower old ploughsoil deposit contained occasional fragments of early post-medieval tile. The subsoil was sealing natural geology formed of reddish brown sandy clay. The trench had one geological feature and one pit with middle Iron Age pottery fragments.</p>	Orientation	NW-SE
	Avg. depth (m)	0.5
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context	type	Width	Depth	comment	finds	date
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no		(m)	(m)			
700	Topsoil layer	-	0.18	Reddish brown silty sand with turf	-	-
701	Upper subsoil layer	-	0.18	Old ploughsoil. Medium brown silty sand with occasional small-small/medium sized rounded flint pebbles, tile fragments and charcoal flecks	-	-
702	Lower subsoil layer	-	0.17	Old ploughsoil. Medium brown silty sand – similar to layer 701, except that layer 702 has very little inclusions and is more sandy.	Tile fragments	15 th -17 th century
703	Natural geology	-	-	Reddish brown sandy clay with pockets of flint pebbles	-	-
704	Natural deposit	-	0.1	Dark reddish brown sandy clay with frequent small-small/medium sized flint pebbles	-	-
705	Natural feature	1.66 x 2.7	0.08	Oval in plan, shallow with gently sloping side (the deposit extends beyond Trench 7), an unevenly flat base. The feature is a slight hollow in the surface of layer 703. Filled with deposit 706, a mixture of the natural clay and ploughsoil 702.	-	-
706	Mixed ploughsoil and natural	1.66 x 2.7	0.08	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent subangular and subrounded pebbles; moderate amount of charcoal flecks and CBM fragments. Fill of feature 705.	Tile fragments	15 th -17 th century
707	Cut of pit	2.4 x 1.3	0.38	Subrectangular in plan (extending south-westward beyond Tr 7); in section a steep side, a gradual break of slope, and a slightly undulating base. Cut into natural geology 703, filled with deposit 708.	-	Middle Iron Age
708	Fill of pit	2.4 x 1.3	0.38	Firm, compact, dusky red clay loam with pockets of	Pottery sherds; 13	Middle Iron Age

				clay and moderate amount of small-small/medium sized rounded and subrounded stones (flint, quartz, quartzite) and frequent flecks of charcoal. Single fill of pit 707	fragments of burnt animal bone	
709	Natural deposit	-	0.2	Firm, compact dark brown silty clay in the central part of Trench 7. Overlaid by deposit 706 and 702, overlaying natural geology 703.	-	-

Trench 8

General description	Orientation	E-W
Trench 8 was set in the north-eastern part the field. The trench consisted of topsoil overlying thick subsoil/old topsoil. The subsoil was sealing natural geology formed of reddish brown sandy clay. The trench had one linear feature with Roman pottery fragments.	Avg. depth (m)	0.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
801	Topsoil layer	-	0.42	Reddish brown silty sand with turf	-	-
802	Subsoil layer	-	0.38	Old ploughsoil, medium brown silty sand with occasional small-small/medium sized rounded flint pebbles, tile fragments and charcoal flecks. Only one old ploughsoil horizon distinguished, probably due to colluvial processes.	-	-
803	Cut of linear feature	1.5 x +2.1	0.2	Linear in plan orientated NW-SW; in section moderately steep, symmetrical sides, gradual break of slope, and a flat base. Cut into natural layers 805, 806, 807	-	-
804	Fill of linear feature	1.5 x +2.1	0.2	Firm, compact, dark reddish brown silty clay, almost no inclusions, homogeneous single fill of linear feature 804.	Pottery sherds; 16 animal bones fragments including	Late Iron Age/Early Roman (?)



					cattle skull, medium mammal rib and femur; Possible tessera	
805	Natural layer	-	0.15	Firm, medium brown silty clay with no inclusions, sealing deposit 806. Probably alluvial deposit	-	-
806	Natural layer	-	0.05	Firm, very dark brown clay with no inclusions, sealed by deposit 805 and overlying deposit 807. Probably alluvial deposit.	-	-
807	Natural layer	-	+0.1	Firm, compact dark reddish brown clay with flint gravel and medium sized pebbles	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench 9 was set in the north-eastern part the field. The trench consisted of topsoil overlying thick subsoil/old ploughsoil. The subsoil was sealing natural geology formed of reddish brown sandy clay in the south-eastern part of the trench and several alluvial deposits sloping down in the north-western part of the trench. The trench had one linear feature with Roman pottery fragments.				Avg. depth (m)	NW-SE	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	32	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
901	Topsoil layer	-	0.42	Reddish brown silty sand with turf	-	-
902	Upper subsoil	-	0.2	Old ploughsoil. Firm, reddish brown silty sand with frequent pebble gravel, occasional charcoal and tile fragments. Only one horizon distinguished due to colluvial processes.	Tile fragments	18 th -19 th century
903	Lower subsoil layer	-	0.1	Reddish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal. Sealed by layer 902 and 904. Overlying deposits 905 and 913. Subsoil diffused with alluvial deposit.		



904	Lower subsoil layer	-	0.12	Firm, reddish brown sandy clay with moderate amount of flint pebbles. Subsoil diffused with alluvial deposit.	Pottery sherds	Late Iron Age/early Roman
905	Alluvial deposit	-	0.24	Firm, light reddish-grey clayey silt; sealed by deposits 905 and 903, overlying deposit 913.	-	-
906	Natural geology	-	-	Equal to 907	-	-
907	Natural geology	-	-	Brownish red sandy clay with flint gravel	-	-
908	Cut ditch of	1.0 0.6	x 0.12	Linear in plan, orientated NW-SE; in section moderate steep sides, gradual break of slope on north-eastern side and sharp break of slope on the south-western side, a flat base, cutting deposit 907, filled with deposit 909. Part of the same feature as cut 911.	-	Roman
909	Fill ditch of	1.0 0.6	x 0.12	Moderately firm, medium grey sandy clay with frequent flint pebbles, well sorted, single fill of ditch 908.	Pottery sherds, 41 fragments of cattle mandible	Late 1 st -2 nd century AD and early-middle 2 nd century AD
910	Natural geology	-	0.07	Firm, greyish red clayey silt sealed by deposit 905 and overlying deposit 906	-	-
911	Cut ditch terminus of	1.0 0.5	x 0.08	Linear in plan, orientated NW-SE with moderate steep sides, gradual break of slope, a flat base, cutting deposit 907, filled with deposit 912. Part of the same feature as cut 908.	-	Roman
912	Fill ditch terminus of	1.0 0.5	x 0.08	Moderately firm, medium grey sandy clay with frequent flint pebbles, well sorted, single fill of ditch 911.	Pottery sherds, 1 sheep/goat tooth	1 st -2 nd century AD

Trench 10		
General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench 10 was set in the northern part the field. The trench	Avg. depth (m)	0.38



consisted of topsoil overlying two phases of subsoil. The subsoil was sealing natural geology formed of reddish brown sandy clay in the southern part of the trench and several sloping down alluvial deposits in the northern part of the trench.					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1001	Topsoil layer	-	0.2	Reddish brown silty sand with turf	-	-
1002	Upper subsoil layer	-	0.25	Old ploughsoil. Reddish brown silty sand with frequent flint pebbles, tile fragments, and flecks of charcoal. Sealed by topsoil and overlying deposit 1003	-	-
1003	Lower subsoil layer	-	0.4	Firm, reddish grey sandy loam with moderate amount of small flint, quartz, quartzite and sandstone pebbles. The deposits deepens down northwards.	Tile fragments	Post-medieval
1004	Alluvial deposit	-	0.28	Firm, red to reddish brown sandy clay with concentrations of sand and iron with moderate amount of flint, quartz, and quartzite pebbles. Diffused subsoil with alluvial deposit. Sealed by 1003 and sealing 1005.	Pottery sherd; Flint flake; Possible hammerstone particles	1 st -2nd century AD; Prehistoric
1005	Natural geology, layer	-	-	Flint gravel with brownish red clayey sand. Overlaid in the northern part of the trench by 1004, and by 1003 in the southern part of the trench.	-	-
1006	Natural feature	2.0 0.8	x 0.08	Firm light olive clay with manganese patches, in between deposits 1002 and 1003.	-	-
1007	Alluvial layer	-	+0.3	Grey mottled with reddish brown slightly clayey sand, in the northernmost part of Trench 10. Sealed by deposit 1004	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Paul Booth

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of 69 sherds (396g) of pottery, mostly of later prehistoric and Roman date, from 15 separate contexts. These included 5 sherds (28g) from sieved soil samples. The pottery was scanned quite rapidly and quantified by period for each context group. The fabrics of the prehistoric pottery (mainly of middle Iron Age date) were recorded in terms of the principal inclusions present. General ware codes were noted for the late Iron Age and Roman material, using the standard OA recording system terminology (Booth 2011), cross-referenced (in bold) to the national Roman pottery fabric codes (Tomber and Dore 1998) where appropriate. An assessment of the ceramic date of each context group is presented in the table below.
- B.1.2 The condition of the material was variable. The most obvious characteristic is a low mean sherd weight (MSW; only 5.7g), which limited dating and interpretation. Despite this, however, the surfaces of most sherds were moderately well-preserved and did not indicate extensive erosion as a result of redeposition. The most obvious exception to this was a small fragment of fabric O10 from context 1004 which was heavily abraded.
- B.1.3 The earliest material came from context 504. The one significant sherd was a base fragment in a fairly soft oxidised fabric with inclusions of grog or clay pellets and small voids, perhaps for organic material. The lower body wall is decorated with short lines of apparently comb-impressed decoration (the condition of the impressions makes it difficult to be certain about the technique employed) in a rather irregular configuration. Such decoration is extremely rare on late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery (Thompson 1982, 317 type D1-5 is one example), which makes up the bulk of the present assemblage and is very common elsewhere at Tiddington, but the character of the fabric of the present sherd does not really fit with that material. On balance, therefore, it seems much more likely that the sherd is from a Beaker. While the decoration is slightly irregular compared to that of most of the schemes shown for example by Clarke (1970) some of the latter are presented in a rather idealised form. Linear decoration of this general character is very common on the lower body walls of many Beaker types, and these types account for a number of the relatively few Beakers that Clarke (*ibid.*, 500) records from Warwickshire. Identification of the present sherd as Beaker seems secure. The tiny fragment associated with this sherd is not very diagnostic but also appears to have organic and grog inclusions and would be consistent with such a date.
- B.1.4 A group of 12 sherds (89g) from context 708 was of middle Iron Age character, although this was based entirely on the fabrics as there were no other diagnostic characteristics. Two sand-tempered fabrics were represented, the first with no significant secondary inclusions (fabric AN3), the second having shell and clay pellets in addition to the sand. Both fabrics are closely comparable with material of this date recorded previously from unpublished excavations at Tiddington.
- B.1.5 The late Iron Age and Roman pottery, consisting entirely of coarse wares, was recorded in terms of major ware categories. The codes used (numbers of sherds in brackets) were:



- E20 'Belgic type' fine sand-tempered wares (10, 52g)
- E30 'Belgic type' coarse sand-tempered wares (2, 10g)
- E80 'Belgic type' grog tempered wares (SOB GT) (27, 91g)
- O10 Fine oxidised ware (1, 1g)
- O20 Coarse sand-tempered oxidised coarse wares (1, 7g)
- O30 Medium sand-tempered oxidised coarse wares (1, 4g)
- R20 Coarse sand-tempered reduced coarse wares (3, 13g)
- R30 Medium sand-tempered reduced coarse ware (4, 17g)
- R60 Organic-tempered reduced coarse wares (3, 76g)
- R90 Coarse grog-tempered reduced wares (1, 23g)

- B.1.6 The assemblage was dominated in terms of sherd count by 'Belgic type' (E wares) and related coarse wares, the latter probably including the sherd recorded as ware group R90. The only rims were in fabric E80; a poorly preserved piece of uncertain form from context 1004, and from context 103 a simple outcurving rim from a jar. Body sherds in fabric E20 also from context 103 were from a distinctive rippled shoulder, probably from a jar. This material can be dated to the 1st century AD, spanning the period of the Roman conquest, with a probable date range of c AD 30-70. Oxidised and reduced coarse wares in more clearly 'Romanised' fabrics, mostly sand-tempered, occurred in small quantities. Diagnostic pieces were again scarce, comprising two jar rims in fabric R20, both of types for which a later 1st-2nd century date is likely. Relatively local sources seem probable for all this material. Fine and specialist wares were completely absent.
- B.1.7 Two small sherds, one a handle fragment, from the same vessel in Midlands Black ware with a good quality glaze, came from topsoil context 300 in Trench 3. These can be dated to the 18th century.
- B.1.8 There is insufficient pottery for its distribution across the site to form any certain pattern, Individual contexts dated to the Beaker period and the middle Iron Age occur in Trenches 5 and 7 respectively, the latter being a small group from a pit. The E wares clearly concentrate in Trench 1 and suggest activity of 1st century date there, with no clear signs of anything later. Occasional sherds in these wares are found elsewhere but are of uncertain significance. Later, Roman pottery occurs in Trenches 2, 3 and 9, but the quantities are so small that the type of activity that they represent is unclear. What is clear is that the pottery provides no indication at all of later Roman and later activity, with the exception of the two unstratified post-medieval sherds.

Context	Prehistoric		Roman		No. sherds	Weight (g)	Ceramic date for context	Comment (fabrics etc)
	No. sherds	Weight (g)	No. sherds	Weight (g)				
TR1 US			1	8			LIA/ERB	E80
103			29	101			LIA/ERB	E20, E80 (jar rim)
104			3	15			LIA/ERB	E20, E80
106			3	11			LIA/ERB	E30, E80
213			3	14			2C?	O20, R30



300					2	8	17-18C	Midlands purple ware
307			5	60			Late 1-e/m 2C	O30, R30, R60, R90
311			18	6			Late 1C+	R30, from SS3
504	2	15					Beaker?	Decorated base, from SS4
708	12	89					MIA	AV3, ASP
804			1	4			LIA/ERB	E20
904			1	8			LIA/ERB?	E30, possibly MIA
909			3	55			Late 1-2C?	R20 (jar rim), R60
912			1	5			2C?	R20, angled everted rim jar
1004			2	7			1-2C?	E80 (uncertain rim), O10, from SS6
Total	14	104	70	284	2	8		

B.2 Ceramic building material

Identified by John Cotter, compiled by Geraldine Crann

Context	Description	Date
302	20 fragments of thick flat tile, 104g	15th – 17th century
309	12 scraps of thick flat tile, 34g	15th – 17th century
702	5 fragments of a single thick flat tile, 134g	15th – 17th century
706	2 large thick flat tile fragments, 331g	15th – 17th century
902	8 fragments rough dark red fabric tile, 120g	18th – 19th century
1003	<5> 8 scraps, 15g	-

Description and recommendations

B.2.1 The ceramic building material assemblage is largely made up of late medieval to early post-medieval local Warwickshire thick flat tiles in a red sandy fabric. The tile from Trench 9 is of later date. The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work. It should be included in any further analysis arising from future archaeological work on the site.

B.3 Fired clay and Roman ceramic building material

By Cynthia Poole

Context	Nos	Wt g	Fabric	Form	Spot date	Comments
206	2	22	Sandy-gritty	FC: wall/oven	Prehistori-Medieval	One fragment with flat even surface, curving at one edge. The second piece is irregular with possible small areas of wattle impressions.

214	3	150	Sandy-gritty	FC: wall/oven	Prehistori-Medieval	Fragments with flat moulded surface with interwoven wattle impressions on the reverse. Wattles: 10,15, 27, 28mm dia.
214	1	5	Sandy	CBM: indet	Roman	Sliver of tile flaked off rough sanded base surface. General character is typical of Roman tile. Moulding sand: medium, same type as that incorporated in fabric.
Total	6	177				

Description and recommendations.

- B.3.1 A small assemblage was recovered from two contexts in trench 2 comprising fired clay from the single fill (206) of pit 205 and fired clay and a tile flake from the lower fill (214) of a linear/ditch (212). Both the fired clay and tile were made in sandy fabrics fired to light red and yellowish brown and containing similar sand components of rounded quartz and a variety of other rock sand, angular-subrounded in shape, not identified to mineral type but red, white, grey and black in colour. The inclusions in the fired clay comprised a much coarser element of grits up to 7mm in size, whereas the tile only contained medium sized sand with the same type also used as moulding sand.
- B.3.2 The tile flake is indeterminate in form, but its general character is typical of Roman tile.
- B.3.3 The fired clay had a flat smooth fairly even outer surface with the impressions of interwoven wattles on the reverse. The wattles sizes (10-28mm diameter) were clustered more towards the larger end of the range for rods and may indicate these derived from a building structure rather than an oven. However, they are uniformly and well fired, which may suggest they are part of a large oven or crop processing structure. The fired clay form cannot be dated *per se* as pieces with wattle impressions are found in all periods. However, they would not be inconsistent with a Roman date suggested by the tile fragment.
- B.3.4 Additional fired clay was recovered from environmental sample 4 context 504, a layer of probable Beaker date. This comprised 3 indeterminate fragments of fired clay together weighing only 14g.

B.4 Flint

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description	Date
103	End scraper on short flake with soft hammer lip, platform preparation on large dorsal butt, diffuse bulb, usewear striations on ventral surface, large central scar on dorsal surface, small area of cortex on lateral margin, semi-abrupt retouch to distal end, relatively fresh condition, 8g	Early prehistoric.
504	<4> c100 small chips and chunks and 2 small flakes, 12g	Prehistoric
1004	<6> 1 small flake with winged butt, 1 chunk, 2g	Prehistoric

Description and recommendations

- B.4.1 A single residual flint scraper was found in the upper fill (103) of a ditch terminus containing Roman pottery. The presence of the central dorsal scar, to facilitate the

application of thumb pressure, indicate it was made for hand use and not hafting. The use of soft hammer and other related technological features suggest it may have been produced in either the early Mesolithic or early Neolithic periods.

- B.4.2 Two small flakes and other possible flint working debitage were recovered from environmental samples 4 and 6, contexts 504 and 1004. The debitage cannot itself be dated more closely than earlier prehistoric, but is not inconsistent with the Beaker date indicated by the sherd found in the same context.
- B.4.3 The single flint scraper is of low potential and requires no further work. However, it should be integrated into any further analysis arising from future archaeological work on the site. It is of suitable quality for illustration.

B.5 Possible hammerscale

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
405	Many small pieces total weight 3g
504	Many small pieces total weight 5g
1004	Many small pieces total weight 7g

Description and recommendations

- B.5.1 Small magnetic particles were recovered from three environmental samples. While these could potentially be hammerscale, they could also be naturally mineralised particles, and given the mineralised staining evident within the natural on the site, this is more likely (see also Appendix C.2 below). These particles are of low potential and require no further work, but should be reconsidered should clear evidence for metalworking be recovered from future archaeological work on the site.

B.6 Slag

By Geraldine Crann

Context	Description
103	8 fragments of lightweight, vesicular fuel ash slag, 57g
307	<2> 4 sieved fragments, 20g
1004	<6> 50 sieved fragments, 44g

Description and recommendations.

- B.6.1 A small quantity of fuel ash slag was found in the upper fill (103) of ditch terminus 105. Fuel ash slag forms at high temperatures when alkalis, such as those found in plant ashes, react with the silicates in clays and stone. The presence of fuel ash slag does not therefore indicate metalworking in the vicinity, but rather an event during which plant material and clay or stones were burnt, allowing the formation of fuel ash slag. Given that the natural geology at the site is sandy clay the presence of fuel ash slag is unsurprising.



- B.6.2 A small quantity of smithing slag was also recovered from the upper fill of Roman pit 305 (sample 2) and from alluvial deposit 1004 (sample 6), from which a sherd of Roman pottery was also recovered.
- B.6.3 The small amount of slag is of low potential and requires no further work. However, it should be included in any further analysis arising from future archaeological work on the site.

B.7 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Context	Description
309	1 stone unworked and unused, 61g
702	1 stone unworked and unused, 332g
804	1 fragment fairly regular cuboid burnt lias limestone with one smoothed surface. It is grey now, but would have been white or near white originally. Measures 15 x 16 x 22mm. 9g

Description and recommendations

- B.7.1 Three pieces of stone were retained. Two of these are unworked and unused. The third piece from context 804 seems very likely to be a tessera. The stone assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work. However, the possible tessera should be integrated into any further analysis arising from future archaeological work on the site.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

Identified by Lena Strid

C.1.1 A total of 31 bones or fragments was recovered by hand (counting 41 fragments of a single cattle mandible as one), and another 63 small fragments of burnt bone were recovered from sieved samples. The bones are tabulated by context below.

Context	Date	Description
103	Roman	1 horse tooth, 17g
104	Roman	1 horse tooth, 1 cattle metacarpal, 1 sheep/goat tooth, 62g
214	Roman	1 indeterminate fragment, 13g
307	Roman	6 indeterminate fragments, 10g
308	Roman	1 pig tooth, 1 fused horse scapula, 134g
504	Beaker ?	<4> 50 fragments burnt animal bone, 9g
708	Iron Age	<7> 13 fragments burnt animal bone, 2g
804	Roman	16 fragments including cattle skull, medium mammal rib, medium mammal femur, 45g
909	Roman	41 fragments of cattle mandible, old animal – tooth-wear stage M3: k, 114g
912	Roman	1 sheep/goat tooth, 3g

C.1.2 The bones were graded according to the following table:

Grade 0	Excellent preservation. Entire bone surface complete.
Grade 1	Good preservation. Almost all bone surface complete.
Grade 2	Fair preservation.
Grade 3	Poor preservation. Most bone surface destroyed.
Grade 4	Very poor preservation. No surface structure remaining.
Grade 5	Extremely poor preservation. Unlikely to be able to identify element.

C.1.3 The majority of the bone was fragmented, and the condition of the bones was generally fair. The prehistoric bone fragments, both of possible Beaker date from context 504, and of Iron Age date from fill 708 of pit 707, were burnt, and too small to identify.

Description and recommendations

C.1.4 The Roman bones comprised cattle, sheep/goat and horse from ditch 105, indeterminate fragments from pits 212 and 306 and horse and pig from adjacent pit 305, horse from ditch 105, cattle skull and medium mammal fragments from ditch 803 and cattle mandible and sheep/goat fragments from ditch 908/911. All of the main domesticates were therefore represented, plus horse, but nothing further can be said of such a small assemblage.



- C.1.5 The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work. It should be included in any further analysis arising from future archaeological work on the site.

C.2 Environmental Samples

By Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

- C.2.1 Eight bulk samples, of 28-40L volume, were taken from feature fills and colluvial deposits to evaluate the survival and diversity of environmental remains (seeds, snails etc) and the recovery of any small bones and artefacts.

Aims

- C.2.1 Sampling was undertaken to:
- Determine whether organic remains (such as plant remains, animal bone, human bone and molluscs) are present;
 - Determine the quality, range, state and method of preservation of any ecofactual evidence;
 - Recover any small artefacts;
 - Make further recommendations about sampling for future excavations at the site.

Methodology

- C.2.2 The samples were all processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine, with flots collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm. Flots and residues were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flots were scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification. Sheila Boardman identified the charcoal from sample 4.

- C.2.3 With the exception of sample 8, an colluvial deposit, all samples were processed in their entirety. Ten litres from sample 8 was processed with the remainder retained for reference.

Results

- C.2.1 Sample descriptions are as follows:
- Sample 1, from fill (405) of post-medieval pit [404]. This 40L sample was a dark reddish brown (5YR 2.5/2) sandy silt with 40% black (5YR 2.5/1) mottles.
 - Sample 2, from pit fill (307) – the upper fill in pit [306] – was 40L sample of reddish brown (2.5YR 4/3) sandy loam with 25% large pebbles and 25% angular and subangular gravel.
 - Sample 3, from middle fill (311) in pit [306] comprised 32L of brown (7.5YR 4/3) silty sand with a few subangular to rounded pebbles of flint and quartzite.
 - Sample 4 from charcoal-rich deposit (504) in Trench 5 was a 40L sample of dark reddish brown (5YR 2.5/1) sandy silt with rare subangular pebbles and burnt cobbles (5%).
 - Sample 5 was a sample of possible colluvium (1003). It comprised 30L of sandy loam with occasional (10%) rounded pebbles of flint, quartz, quartzite and sandstone.

- Sample 6 was a sample described in the field as alluvium (1004). It comprised 35L of soft red (2.5YR 5/2) to reddish brown (2.5YR 4/3) sandy clay with abundant concretions of sand and iron (10%) and angular-subangular pebbles (flint, quartz and quartzite).
 - Sample 7, from fill (708) of Iron Age pit 707, comprised 28L of a heterogeneous dusky red (10R 3/3) clay loam with pockets of clay, 2% angular stones and fine sand lenses.
 - Sample 8 was a sample of colluvium (112). Although described as black in the field, the recovered sample comprised a homogeneous dark reddish brown (5YR 3/2) silty sand.
- C.2.2 The flot from post-medieval Sample 1 included a moderate amount (ca. 25 fragments) of potentially identifiable charcoal in a scanned 50% portion of the 300ml flot. A single grain of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and an indeterminate clinkered cereal grain are also present.
- C.2.3 A scanned portion (30%) from the 250 ml flot from Roman Sample 2 included several wheat grains and glume bases, including spelt (*Triticum spelta*), as well as a single oat grain (*Avena* sp.). A moderate amount of potentially identifiable charcoal was also present, together with a large amount of modern root matter.
- C.2.4 The flot from sample 3, also from Roman pit [306], contains a moderate quantity of potentially identifiable charcoal, together with charred grains and glume bases (c. 25 examples of each) in the 50ml flot. The charred plant remains include spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), oat or brome (*Avena/Bromus*) and small legume(s), but most of the grains are clinkered and undiagnostic. A small fragment of pottery was the only item recovered from the heavy residue.
- C.2.5 Sample 4 produced a relatively large (200ml) charcoal-rich flot, the majority of which came from fast-grown oak (*Quercus* sp.) with rare fragments of hazel (*Corylus* sp.), apple/pear/rowan/ hawthorn-type (Maloideae), *Prunus* sp. (plum/cherry/sloe) and holly (*Ilex* sp.) also identified. The heavy residue from this sample included a charred hazelnut shell and a quantity of flint debitage, as well as scraps of pottery, fired clay and a small quantity of calcined bone.
- C.2.6 Sample 5 (100 mls), a colluvial layer in Trench 10 of probably post-Roman date, includes a single charred wheat grain, probably from bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and a fragment of a charred legume as well as several fragments of potentially identifiable charcoal and a quantity of modern root. A small quantity of CBM was present in the heavy residue.
- C.2.7 The flot from sample 6, an alluvial layer in Trench 10 possibly of Roman date, is small (40ml), and is composed entirely of modern root matter with occasional uncharred seeds, probably modern. A flint flake and other possible flint debitage and a fragment of Roman pottery were extracted from the heavy residue.
- C.2.8 The large flot (400 ml) from sample 7, fill of Iron Age pit [707], is almost entirely composed of modern root matter with occasional charcoal fragments also present, mostly <4mm in cross-section. A couple of fragments of calcined bone were extracted from the heavy residue.

Discussion and conclusions

- C.2.9 The small flot from sample 8 (20mls), a colluvial deposit in Trench 1, includes a small amount of charcoal, mainly <2mm in cross section and consequently not further identifiable. A few uncharred seeds are probably modern contaminants, together with modern root matter.



- C.2.10 None of the samples contained mineralised or waterlogged seeds or other plant remains and none of the samples contained molluscs. Sample 4 and sample 7 included small quantities of calcined bone, and the presence of flint flakes, burnt stone, charred hazel nutshell and fast-grown oak in sample 4 accords with the earlier prehistoric date suggested by the sherd of probable Beaker pottery.
- C.2.11 The samples from colluvial and ditch fill deposits, particularly sample 6, included quantities of sandy concretions. These nodules form naturally in colluvial deposits as a result of the lateral movement of iron. Although some material within these samples was attracted to a magnet no evidence of metalworking (slag or hammerscale) was evident from these samples. A small sub-sample of the concretions from sample 6 was retained for reference.
- C.2.12 Charred remains evidently survive at the site, but none of the samples contain sufficient material to warrant further analysis, although the charcoal from sample 4 should be included in any further analysis arising from any future archaeological work on the site. Any future excavation should incorporate standard sampling following best practice (eg English Heritage 2011).



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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Dunstall Field Tiddington Road Stratford-upon-Avon
Site code:	TIDST 14
Grid reference:	NGR SP SP 21445 55541
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	29.09.2014 - 07.10.2014
Area of site:	2.65 ha

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology (OA) has been commissioned by Marie-Louise McAlister, the land owner, to undertake a trial trench evaluation of her field, known as Dunstall Field (centred on NGR SP 21445 55541), which lies on the north side of Tiddington Road between Stratford-upon-Avon and Tiddington, and is part of Scheduled Ancient Monument WA 184. The trenching, which comprised a 2% sample of the field consisting of ten trenches 30m long and 1.8m wide, followed a desk-based report and geophysical survey conducted in 2012. The evaluation fieldwork was carried out between 29th September and 7th October 2014.

LiDAR survey data had suggested that the gravel terrace edge lay along the south-east side of the field, the ground dipping in the centre of the site, then rising slightly onto a possible further gravel ridge along the north-western side, before dipping sharply at the north-western field edge onto the floodplain of the Warwickshire river Avon. The trenching confirmed this general topography, and showed that there was a broad hollow between the terrace edge and the gravel ridge, deepening towards the north-east, where it approached 1m deep. A set of magnetic anomalies forming a linear pattern orientated north-east to south-west in the geophysical survey may have marked the edge of this hollow or depression. This was probably of late Glacial or early post-Glacial origin, and filled gradually with a sequence of colluvial deposits. Towards the shallower south-west end the first colluvial fill contained struck flint and a sherd of Beaker pottery, suggesting that it was still largely open in the late Neolithic period (2500-2000 BC).

The evaluation confirmed the presence of a number of strong magnetic anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey, including one ditch and several pits. These included a middle Iron Age pit (350-50BC), a late Iron Age/early Roman ditch (50BC-100AD), a Roman 2nd century AD pit, and a post-medieval pit. A few strong magnetic anomalies indicated by the geophysical survey were not found in evaluation, or turned out to represent either geological formations or tree-throw holes.

The evaluation trenches uncovered also features not detected by geophysical survey. These comprised another late Iron Age/early Roman ditch and a 2nd century AD pit in the south-eastern part of the field, an undated large pit in the south corner, likely also to be Roman, a late Iron Age/Early Roman probable ditch in the western corner of the field, and a shallow ditch or gully of late 1st-mid 2nd century Roman date in the north-western part of the site. None of the features contained large or varied quantities of finds.

A sequence of alluvial deposits was recorded alongside the north-western edge of the field, where the natural geology rapidly falls off down towards the River Avon floodplain. A few sherds of Roman pottery and residual flint flakes were recovered from the upper part of the sequence, but no trace of waterlogged environmental preservation was found here or elsewhere across the site.



Three horizons above natural geology exposed in the evaluation trenches show evidence of current pasture covering modern, late post-medieval to Victorian, and early post-medieval ploughing horizons.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Warwickshire County Museum in due course, under the following accession number: T/1357

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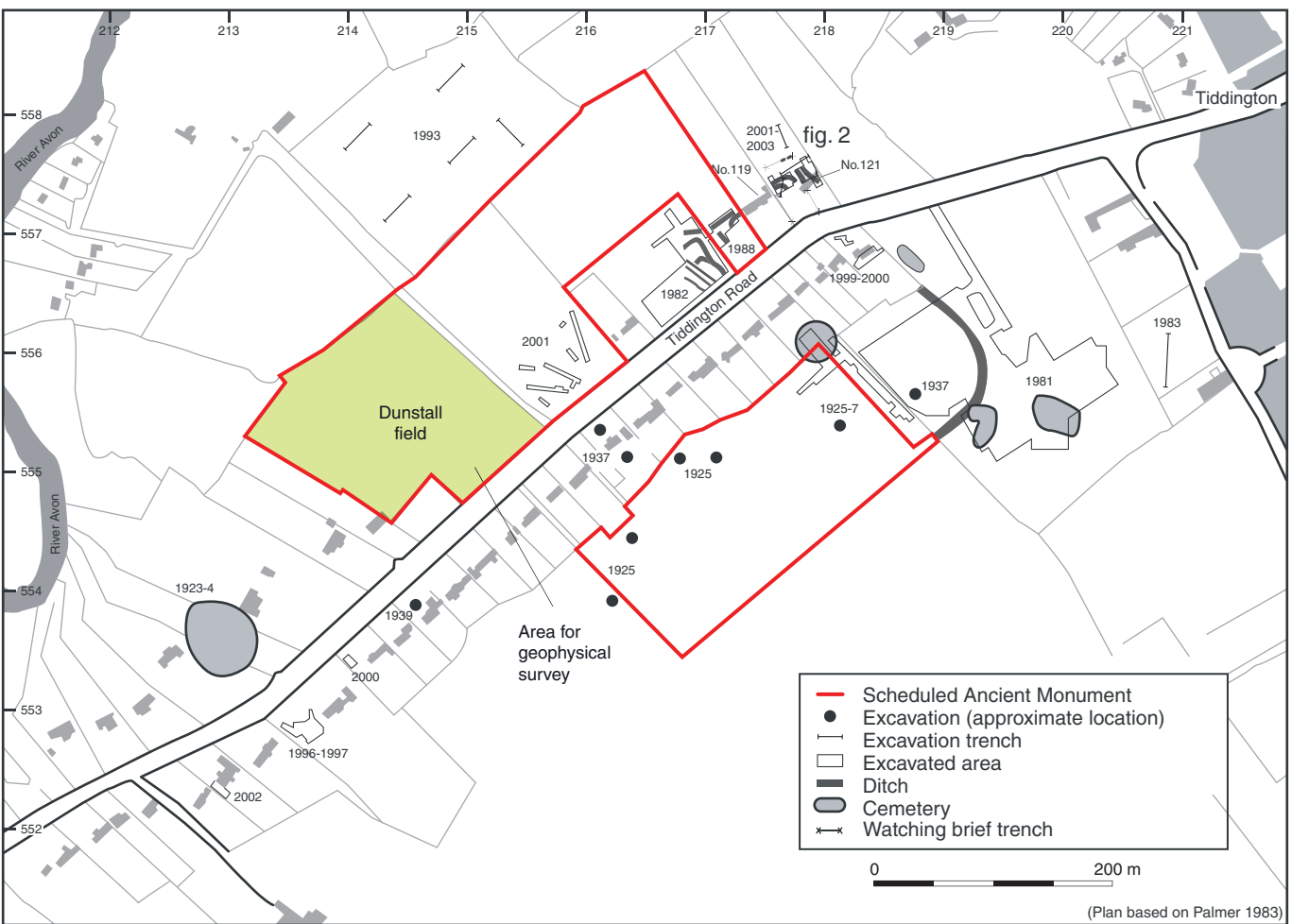
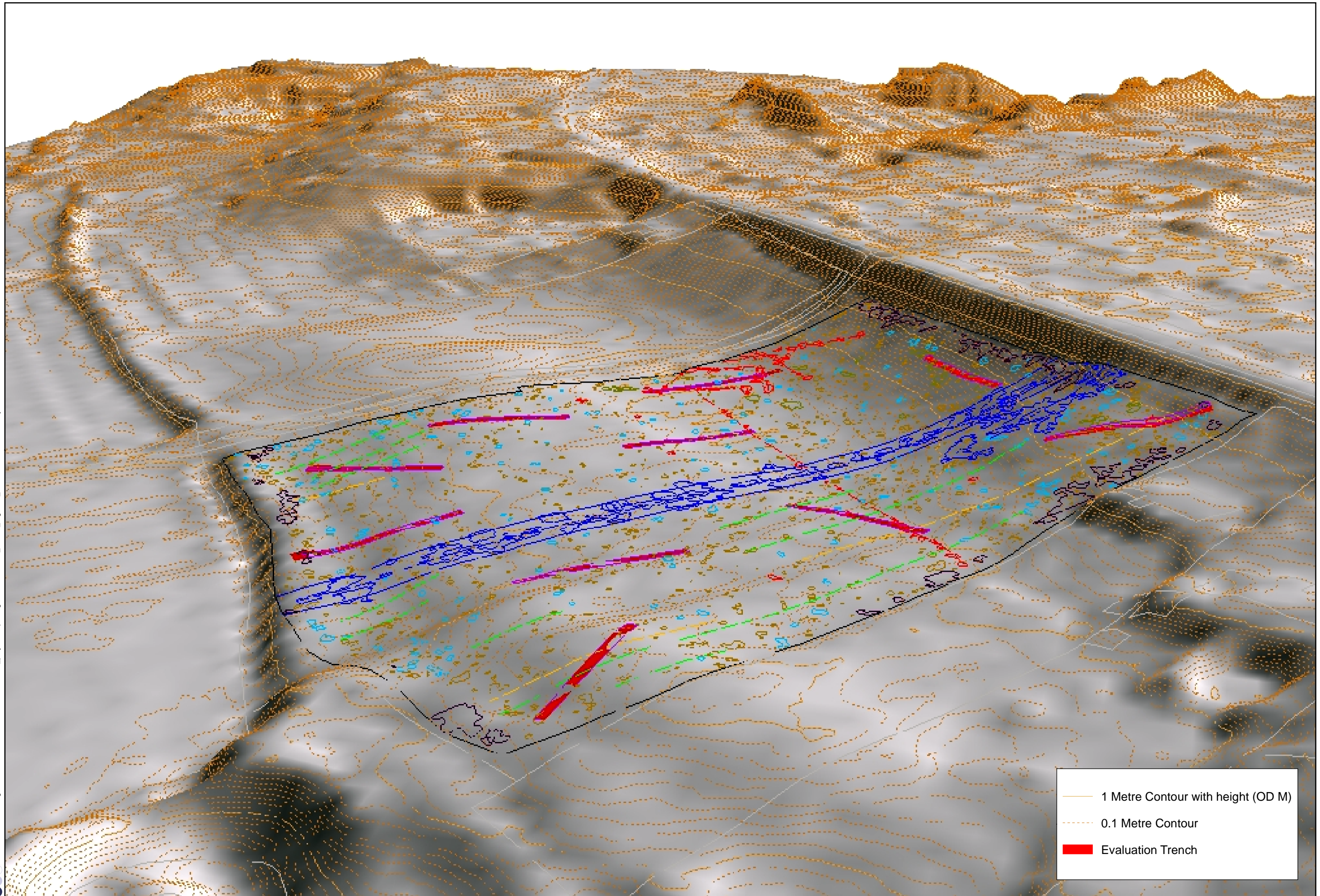


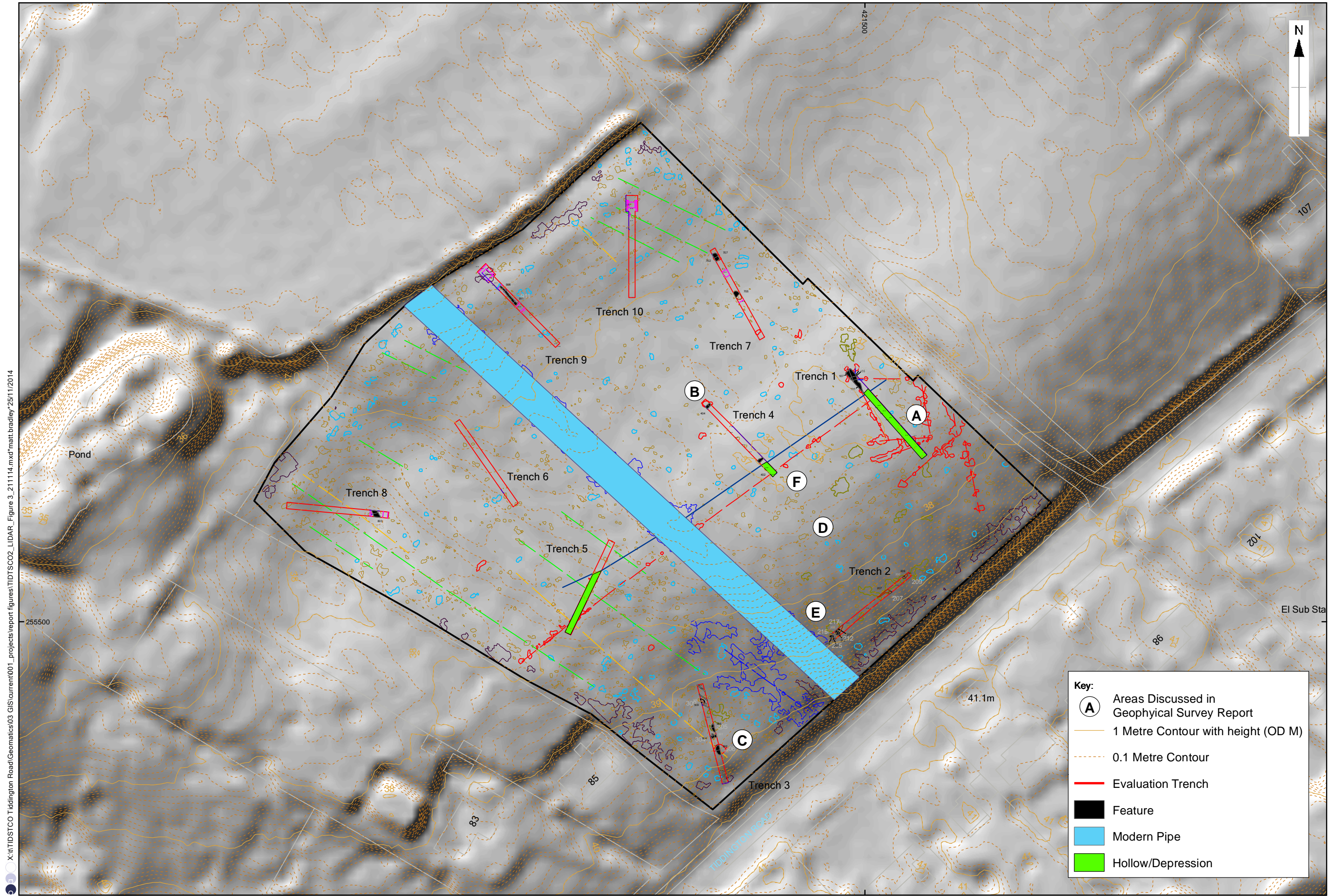
Figure 1: Site Location plan

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- 1 Metre Contour with height (OD M)
- - - 0.1 Metre Contour
- █ Evaluation Trench

Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches in relation to geophysical anomalies and contours derived from LIDAR data, 3D view.



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Key:

- A Areas Discussed in Geophysical Survey Report
- 1 Metre Contour with height (OD M)
- 0.1 Metre Contour
- Evaluation Trench
- Feature
- Modern Pipe
- Hollow/Depression

Figure 3: Plan of evaluation trenches and geophysical survey data over contour model

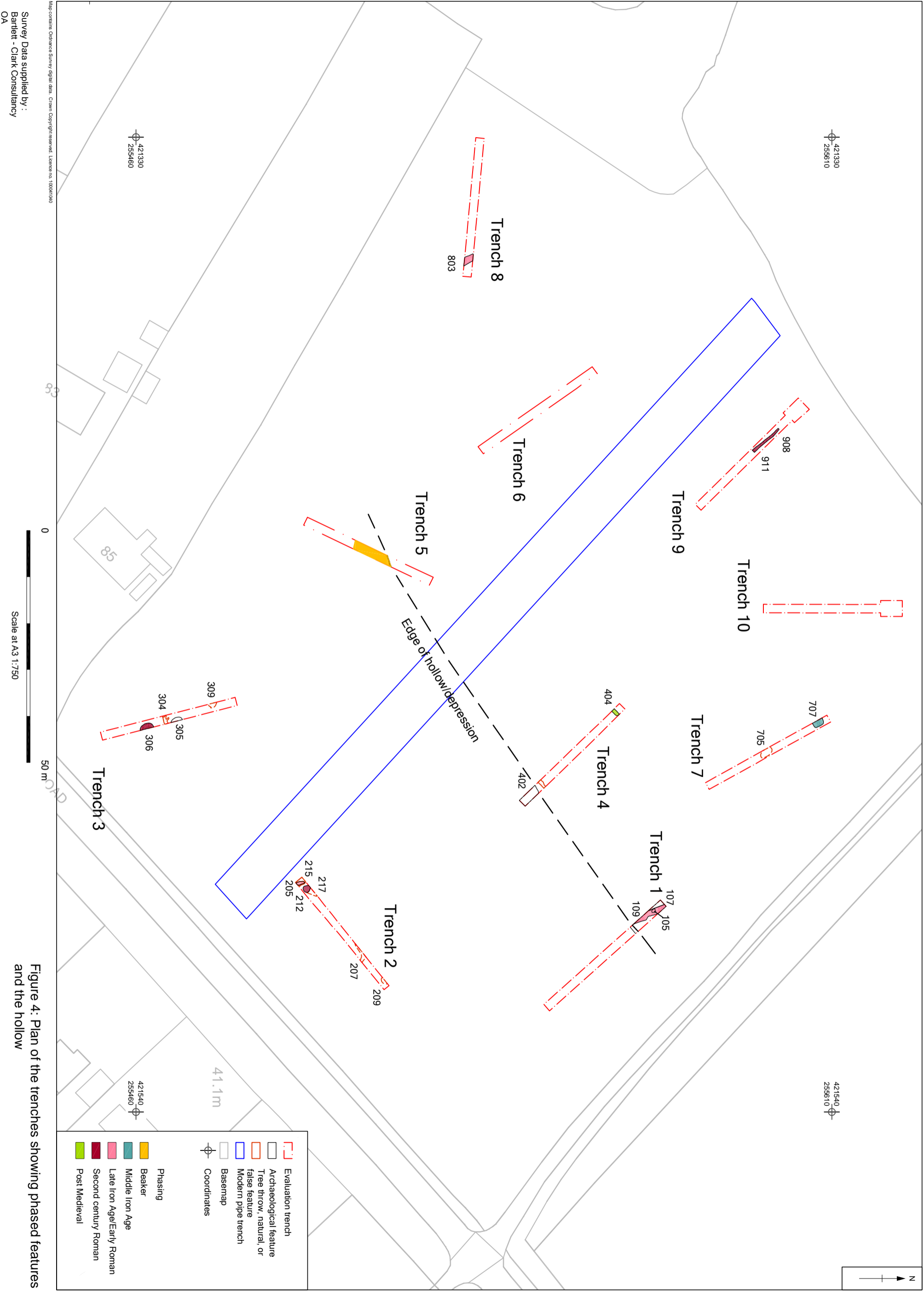


Figure 4: Plan of the trenches showing phased features and the hollow

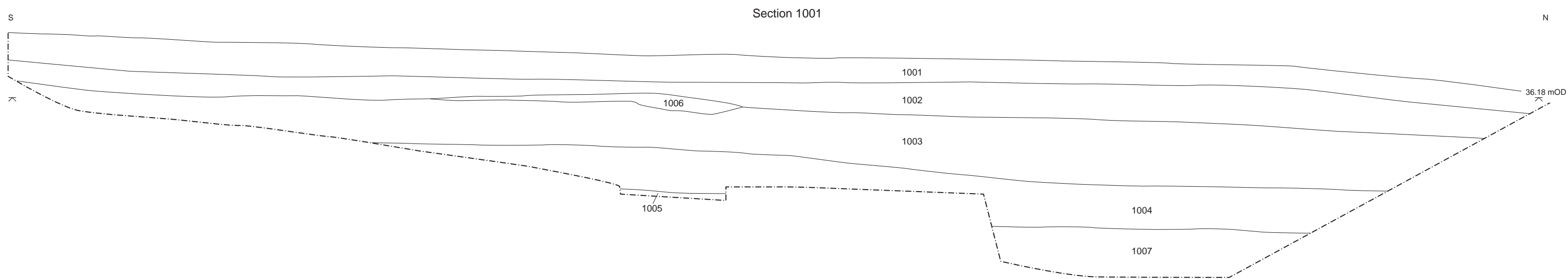
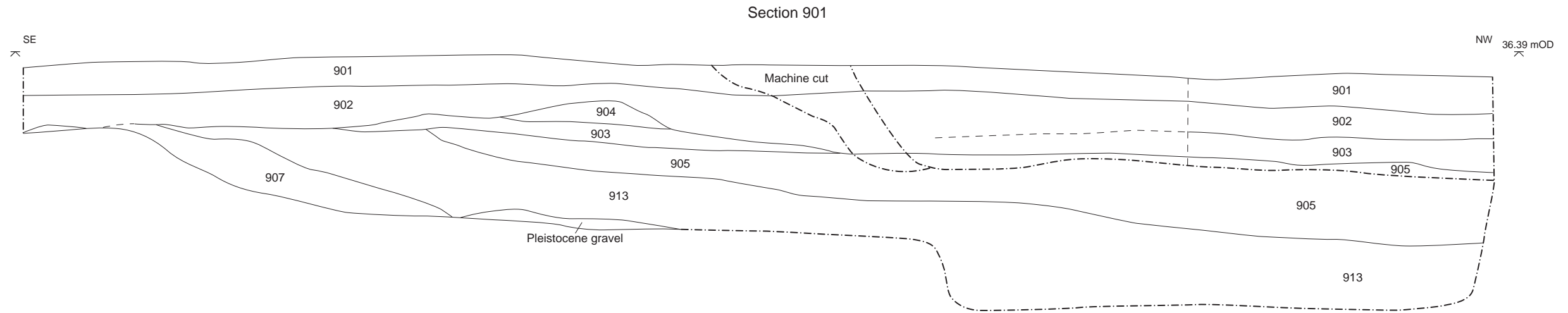


Figure 5: Sections 5: Trench 9 and Trench 10

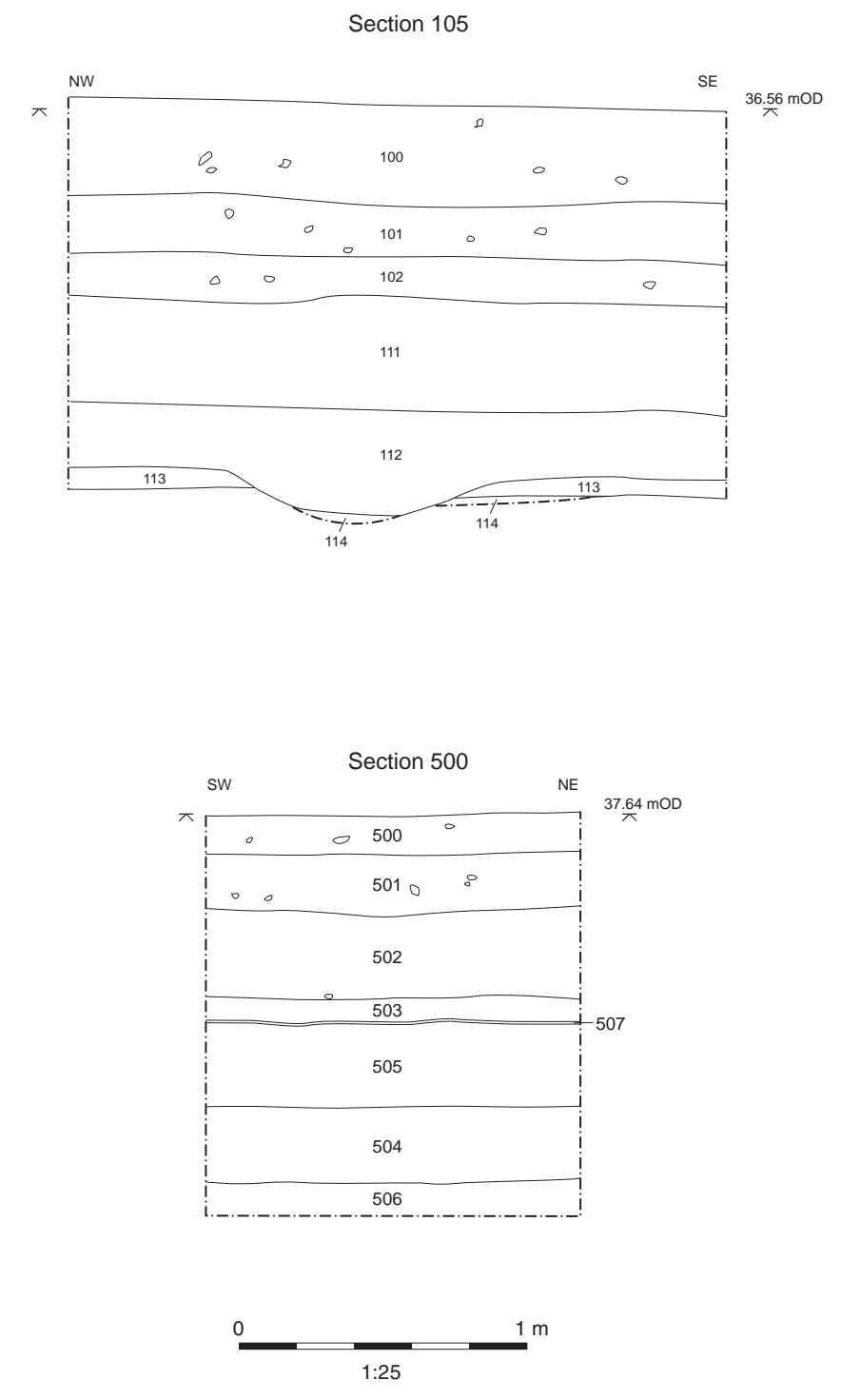
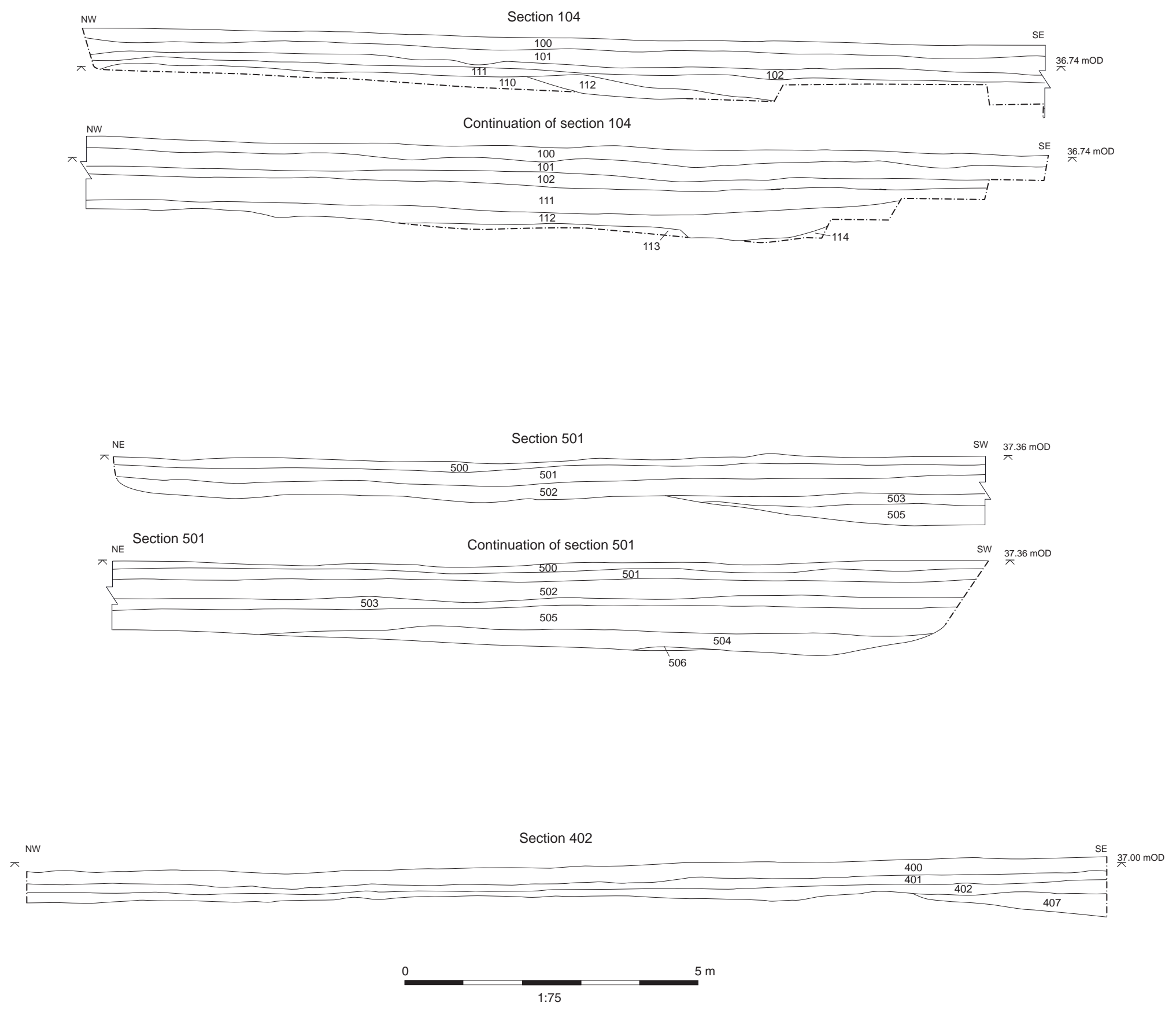
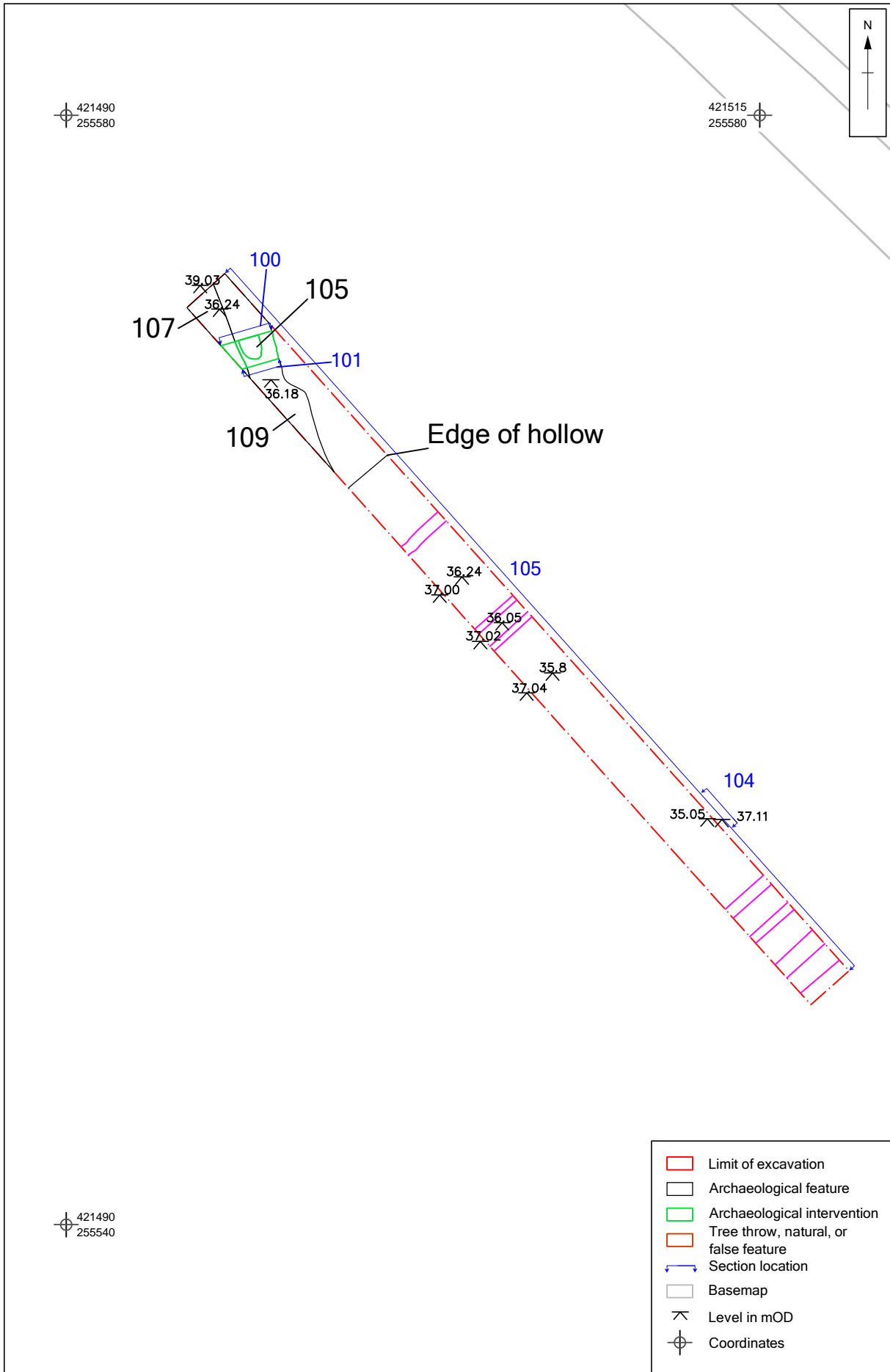


Figure 6: Sections 4: Trench 1 sx; Trench 5 sx; Trench 4 sx

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Figure 7. Plan of Trench 1

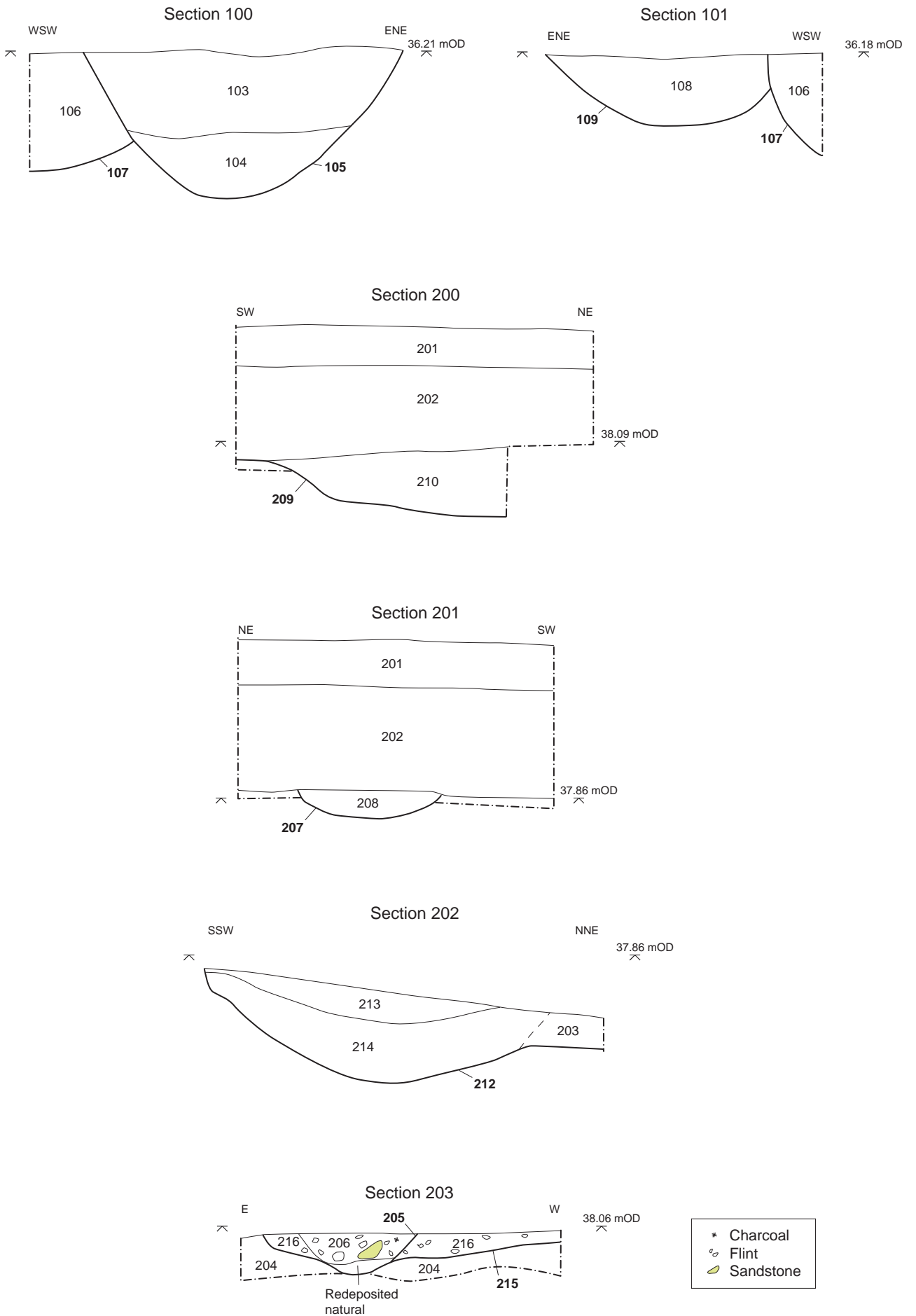
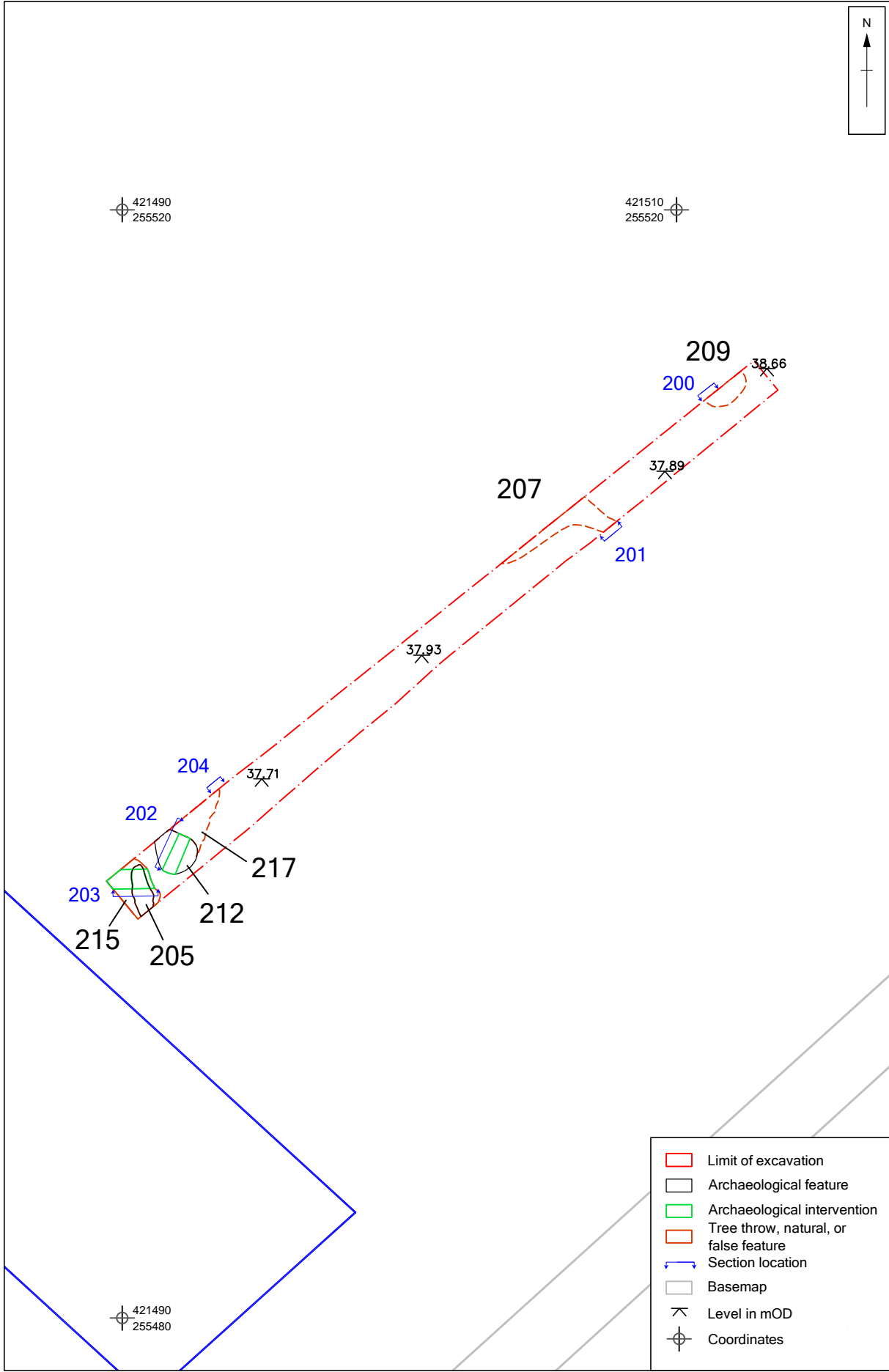


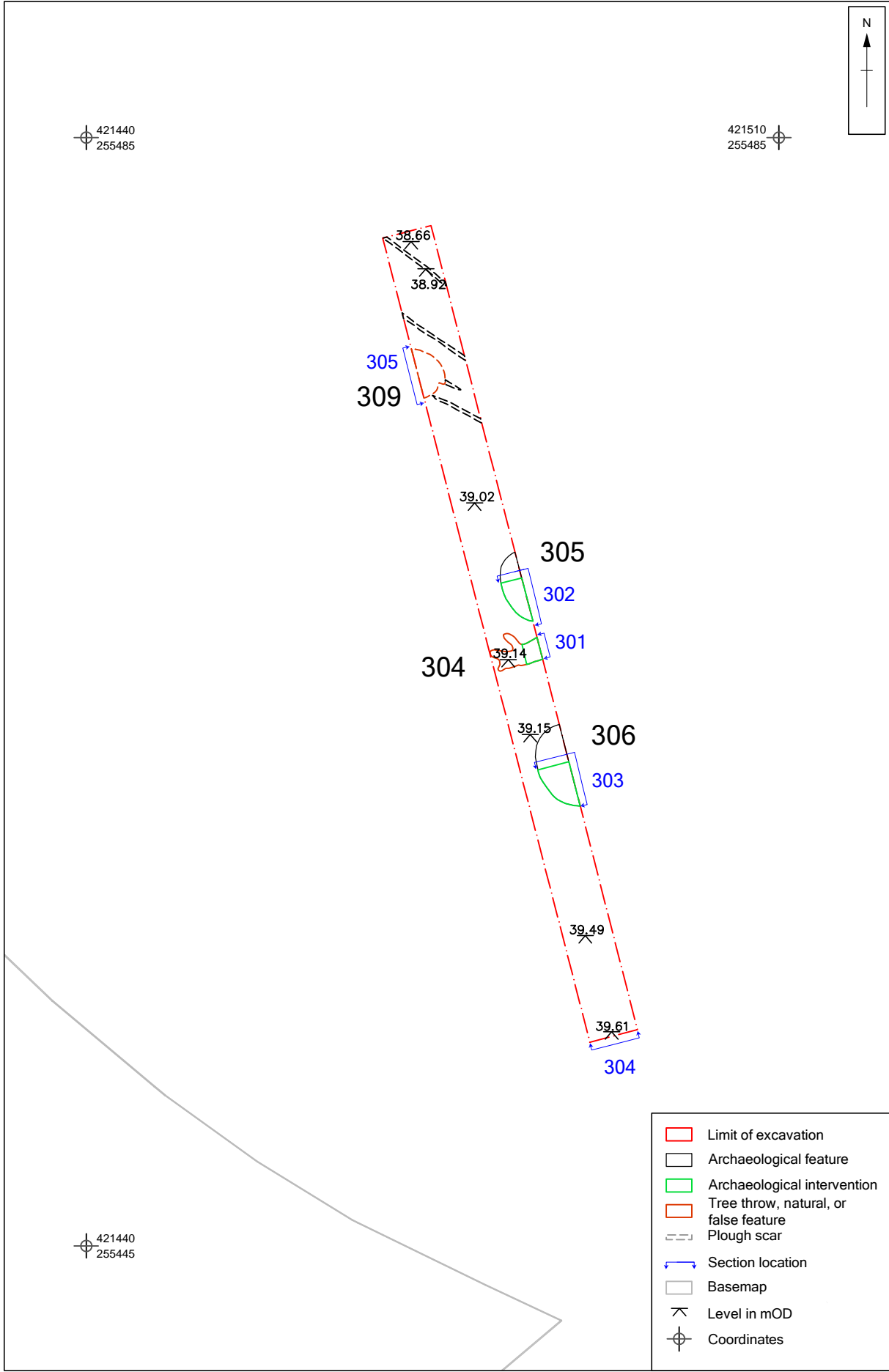
Figure 8: Sections 1: 100; 101; 200, 201; 202; 203

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Figure 10. Plan of Trench 3

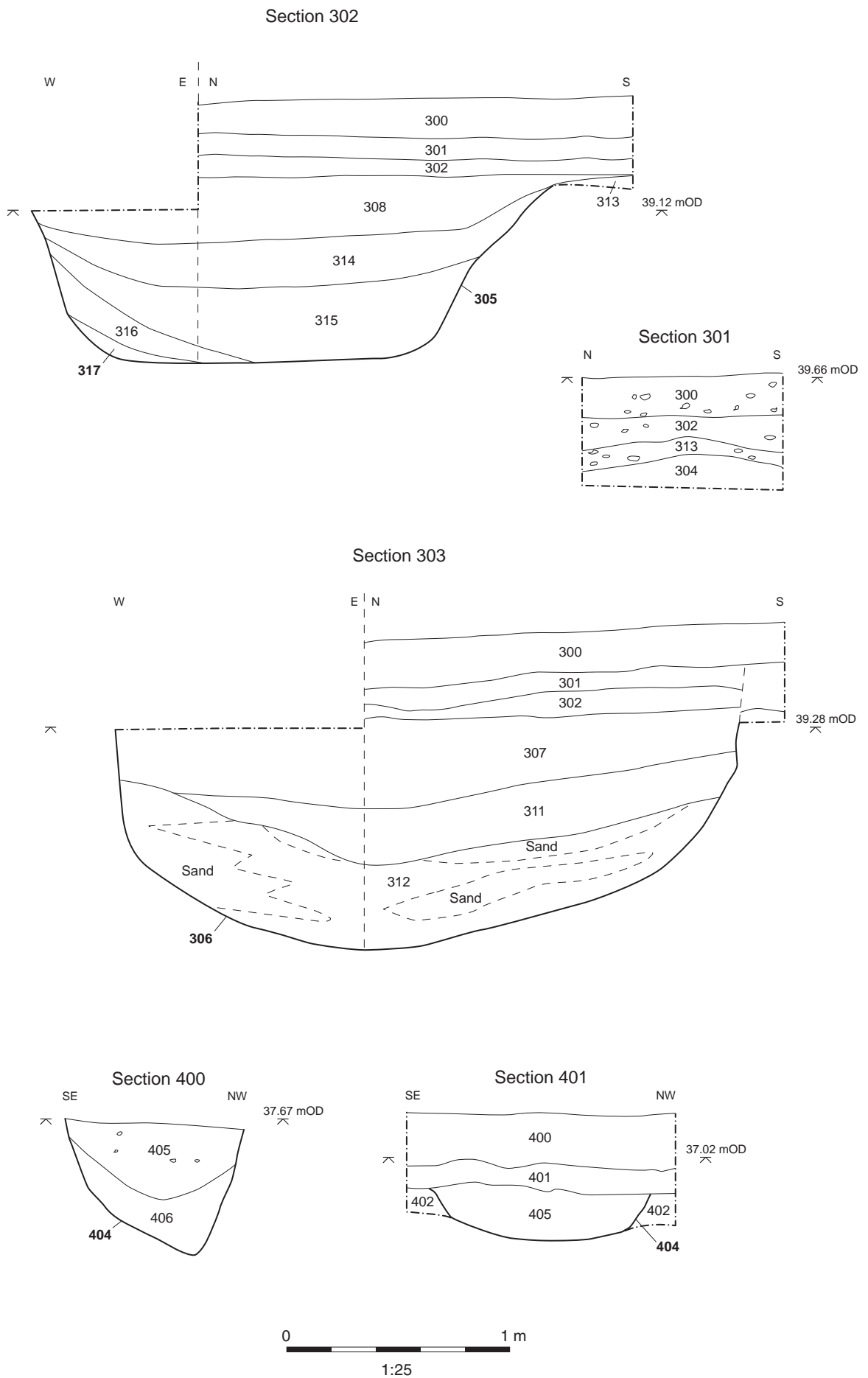
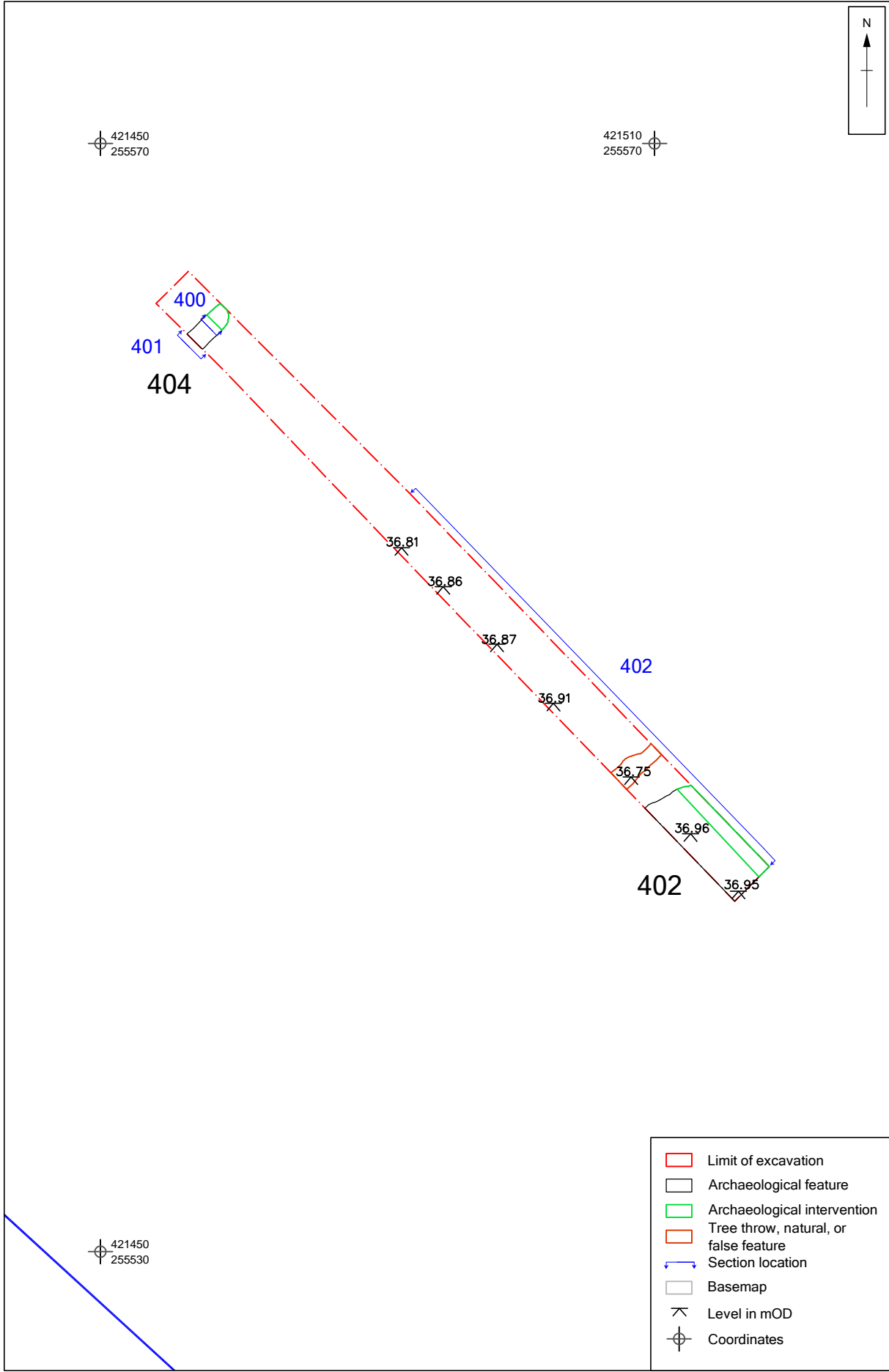


Figure 11: Sections 2: 305; 306; 400; 401

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- Limit of excavation
- Archaeological feature
- Archaeological intervention
- Tree throw, natural, or false feature
- Section location
- Basemap
- Level in mOD
- Coordinates

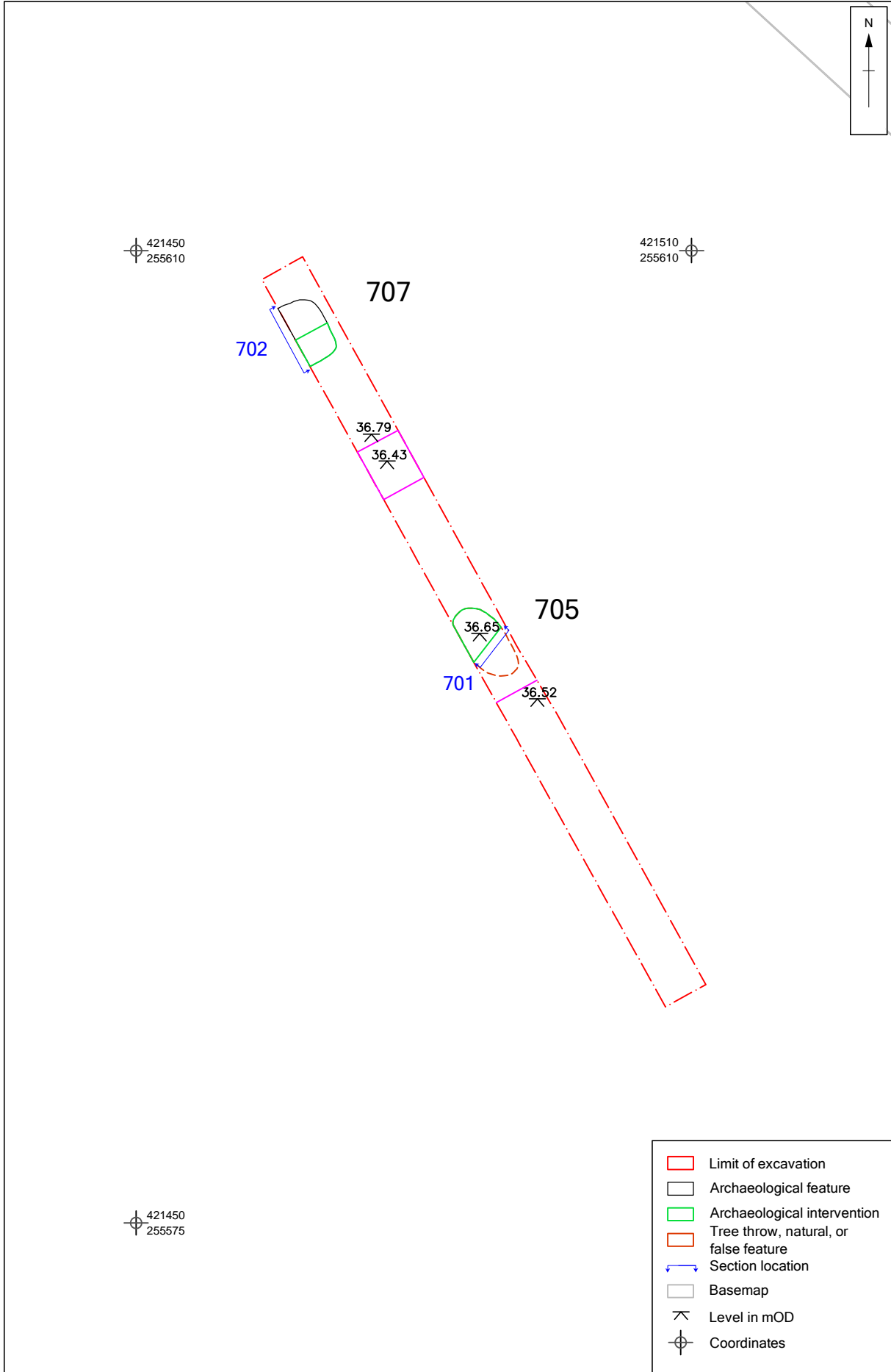
0 10 m
Scale at A4 1:200

Figure 12. Plan of Trench 4

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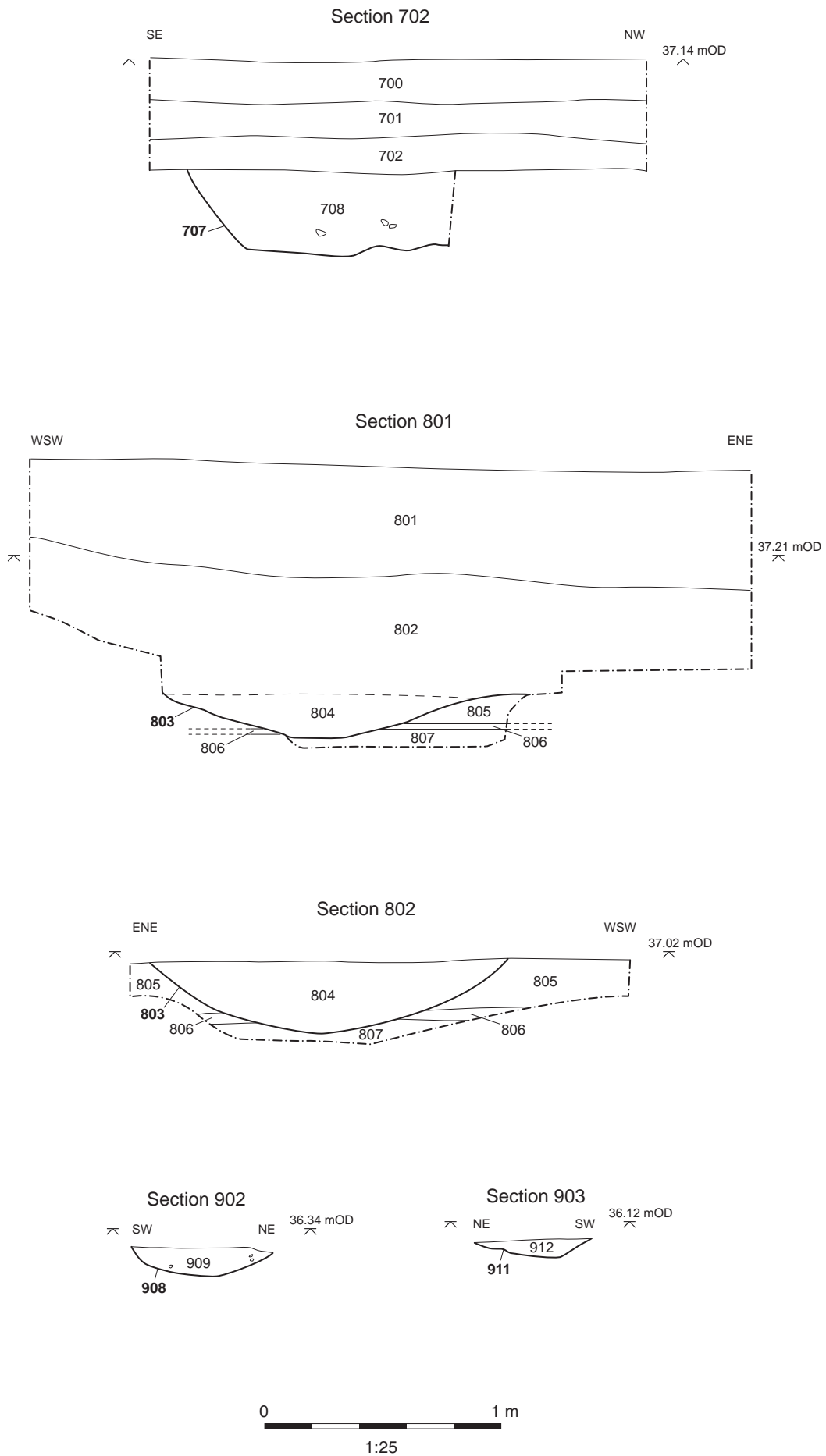
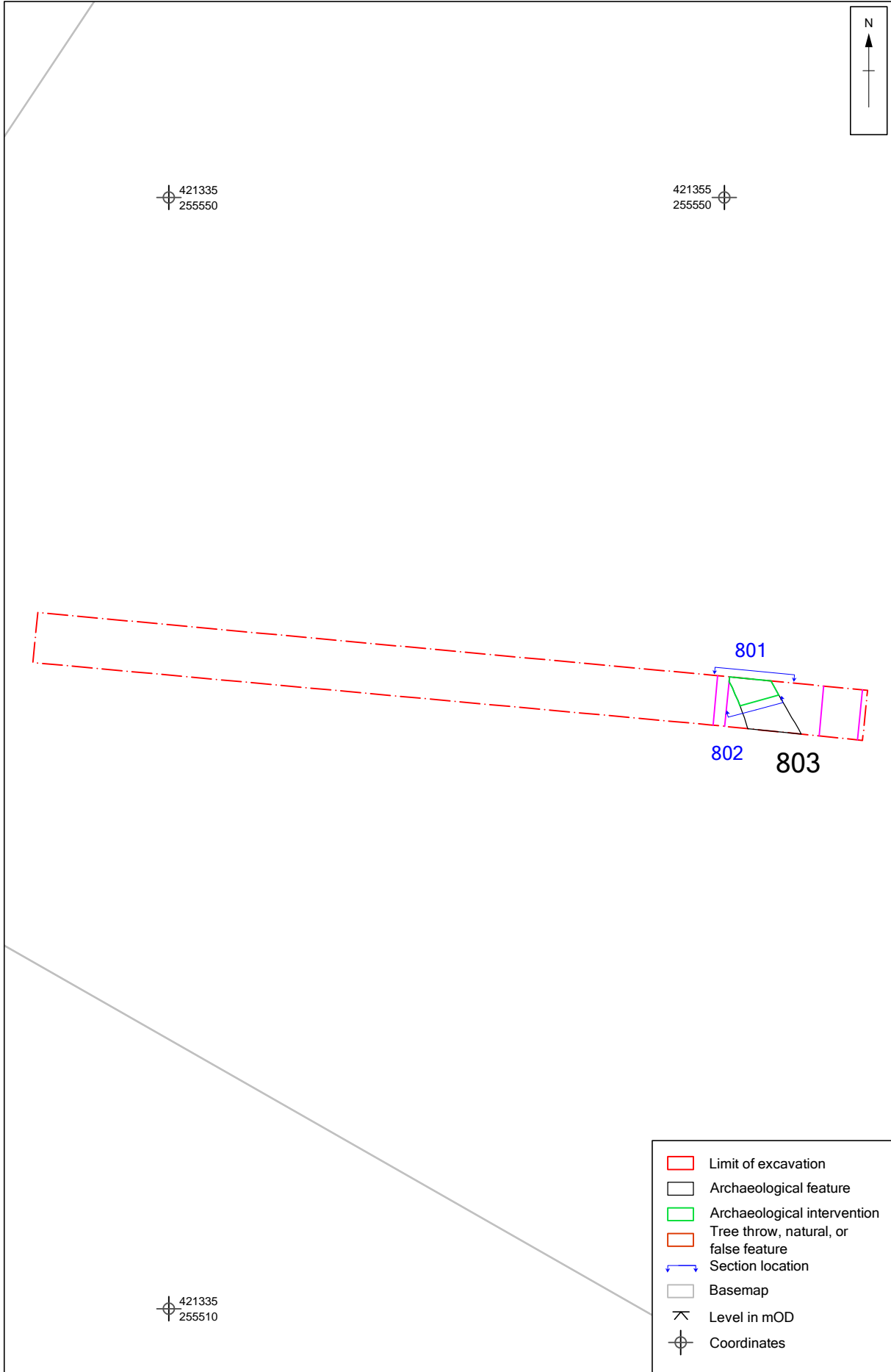


Figure 14: Sections 3: 702; 801; 802; 902; 903

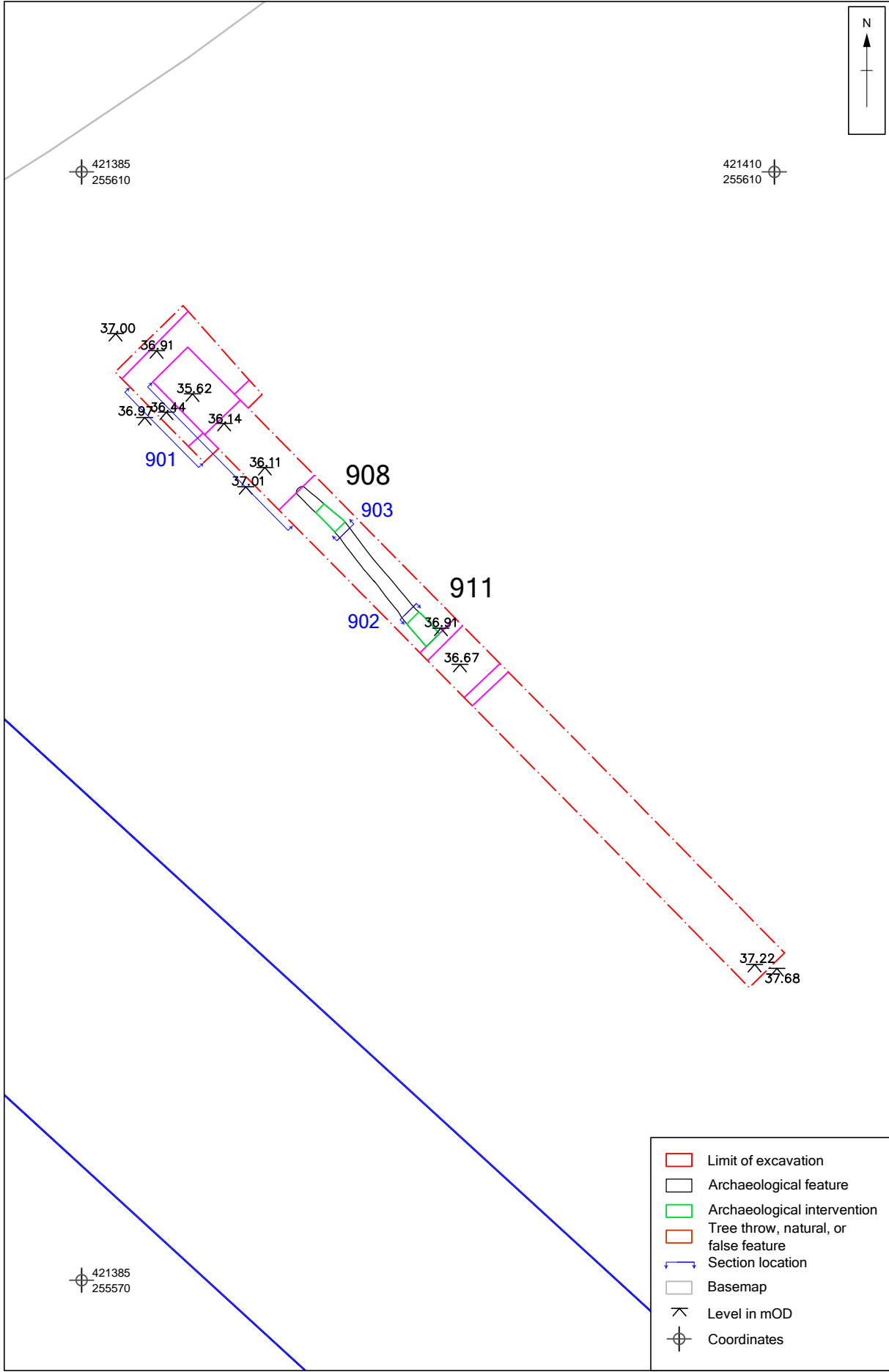
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0 10 m
Scale at A4 1:200

Figure 15. Plan of Trench 8

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0 10 m
Scale at A4 1:200

Figure 16. Plan of Trench 9



Plate 1: Section through pit 306 (Trench 3), looking east



Plate 2: Section through feature 404 (Trench 4), looking south-west



Plate 3: Section through alluvial deposits with sloping down natural geology in Trench 9, looking south-west



Plate 4: Section through colluvial deposits in Trench 5, looking north



Plate 5: Section through features 105, 107, and 109 (Trench 1), looking south



Plate 6: Section through topsoil and overburden layers in Trench 2, looking north-west



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