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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Dunstall Field, Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire : Phase 2 evaluation

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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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 2145 5555), which lies on the north side of Tiddington Road between Stratford-upon-Avon and Tiddington. Most of the field is part of Scheduled Monument WA 184, Tiddington Roman settlement, but the extent, date and character of archaeological remains here remained unclear. Following a desk-based report in 2012 a geophysical survey was carried out in the same year. The geophysical survey did not indicate a high density of archaeological features, so a 2% evaluation by trenching (Phase 1) followed between September and October 2014 to clarify whether the survey was truly representative of the archaeology on the site.

Phase 1 comprised 10 trenches, targeted upon geophysical anomalies and aiming to provide overall coverage of the field. The results suggested that Roman settlement was confined to the south and east edges of the site, and that beyond this Roman activity consisted only of early Roman field boundaries. A single Iron Age pit was also found, and a sherd of Beaker pottery and struck flints in a wide hollow filled with colluvium crossing the site. Overall, archaeological remains appeared to be sparse, though it was recognised that a 2% sample was not sufficient to place too much reliance upon the representativeness of the results.

Accordingly, a second group of trenches (Phase 2) was excavated in September 2016. These trenches were aimed at clarifying questions raised by the Phase 1 trenching, including further examination of the large hollow that had contained the Beaker pottery and environmental remains. Following consultation with Ian George of Historic England and Anna Stocks of Warwickshire County Archaeological Services, another 9 trenches were dug, raising the evaluation percentage to 3.85%.

No further Iron Age features were found around the pit in Trench 7, indicating that this was an isolated example. The majority of the trenches in the middle part of the field proved to be blank, confirming the negative evidence of the geophysical survey, except for Trench 17 on the east, which contained shallow features comprising four ditches (one recut) and a pit. Those that contained finds were all of early Roman date. Another field boundary ditch was also found in Trench 14.

The deep hollow was further investigated on the east, in the middle and the west the field. The fills in all three areas were sands with varying proportions of clay, eroded from the gravel terrace deposits to the south-east. The hollow shallowed from east to west, possibly ending in Trench 19. One or more dark horizons were seen throughout, representing soil formation sometimes enhanced by charcoal.

In the eastern trench (Trench 11) the dark horizons produced Roman pottery, and overlay a Roman ditch or gully cut into the sandy clay at the base of the hollow. A shallow ditch indicated by the geophysical survey was also found, and this cut one dark layer and was sealed by further inwash deposits. In the middle trench (Trench 12) the dark fills were similar, and also included Roman finds. To the west, the deposit containing Beaker evidence was not found, but the overlying dark fills were investigated, and also proved to be Roman.

Overall a concentration of Roman activity was confirmed in the east and south-east of the field, crossing the hollow, and field boundaries to the north and west of this.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Marie-Louise McAlister, the owner, to undertake a trial trench evaluation of her field, known as Dunstall Field, 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 (OA 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 evaluation was undertaken in consultation with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Warwickshire Ian George, and with Anna Stocks of Warwickshire County Council.

1.1.3 The Phase 1 evaluation was undertaken in 2014 and constituted a 2% sample of the field, and a report upon the results of the evaluation was submitted to English Heritage (now Historic England) and to Warwickshire County Council for comment (OA 2015). The report has been approved.

1.1.4 The results of the evaluation were mixed. A scatter of archaeological features or deposits of various dates was identified. Late Iron Age and Roman features were largely confined to the south-east edge of the area (corresponding to the gravel terrace and the highest part of the site), except for a couple of probable field boundaries.

1.1.5 The scale of the evaluation, however, left fairly large gaps between the trenches in places, making confident assessment of the density and range of the archaeology of these periods difficult.

1.1.6 Among the discoveries was one deposit containing earlier prehistoric (Beaker) material, and a single pit of middle Iron Age date. These periods were not previously known within this part of the Scheduled Monument, and although clearly of interest, the scale of evaluation was insufficient to clarify their context and overall significance.

1.1.7 The owner of the site therefore asked OA to carry out a further Phase 2 evaluation to address these issues and provide a clearer view of the archaeological potential. Discussion with Ian George and Anna Stocks indicated that they felt that a further phase of evaluation would be appropriate, and that the results of both phases would allow greater confidence in assessing the overall archaeological potential of the site.

1.1.8 A Written Scheme of Investigation setting out the objectives of the Phase 2 evaluation, and detailing the procedures that would be followed in aiming to achieve them, was written (OA 2016) and was approved by Ian George.

1.1.9 The trench layout is shown in Figures 2-4, and consisted of eight trenches 30m long and one trench 15m long, representing a further 1.85% sample of the site.

1.1.10 The trenches were laid out to investigate geophysical anomalies (Trenches 11, 13, 14 and 17), to investigate the hollow (Trenches 12, 13, 14 and 19), to examine the area around Trench 7 (Trenches 15-17) and to fill in blanks in the coverage of the previous evaluation (Trenches 12 and 16).

1.1.11 A contingency for a further 10m of trenching was allowed in case there was a need to extend any of the trenches to understand and interpret exposed features or deposits.

1.1.12 All work was undertaken in accordance with 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. 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. Tiddington Road runs south-west from Tiddington towards Stratford along the south-east side of the field (Fig. 1). 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 northeast 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 a strip of gravel terrace adjacent to the road, and the ground slopes down north-west of this. Lidar survey data obtained from the Environment Agency and the results of the initial evaluation, however, show that there is a further ridge of slightly higher ground (a gravel island) parallel to the terrace edge towards the north-west end, the ground falling again at the very north-west end of the field (Fig. 2). The edge of the floodplain of the river Avon lies along the north-west boundary of the field. Between the edge of the gravel terrace proper and the gravel island is a former depression, perhaps a palaeochannel, filled with fine sandy silts during prehistory. Beyond the north-west boundary the ground is slightly lower, and this appears to be level floodplain adjacent to the river, which is 150m distant on the west and 250m on the north-west.

1.2.4 Between the two areas of higher ground there is a lower lying basin, which narrows and shallows south-west of the site, and broadens and deepens across the site 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 (see OA 2013b, Figure 3 for the HER event information).

1.3.2 The Scheduled Ancient Monument is the site of a Romano-British undefended settlement (Burnham and Wacher 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 200 graves found at No. 77 Tiddington Road in 1923-4 (unpublished) and with others found subsequently (Palmer 2009a & b). 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 recent summary of findspots and investigations at Tiddington, published in relation to an investigation at 121 Tiddington Road, shows that the vast majority of the investigations had taken place further to the north-east (Biddulph 2006a, 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 suggests 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 Prospection 1998 Survey 134; JSAC 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 also OA 2013a, figs 2 and 5).

1.3.7 Very late Iron Age and Roman features of 1st-century 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 (JSAC 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 (JSAC 2002, 28).

1.3.8 In the report upon this 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 (JSAC 2002, fig. 12).

1.3.9 At the time of the JSAC report, there had been very few investigations south-west of Dunstall Field. As is shown by the current WHER Tiddington Event Map (OA 2013a, 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, who approved the Research Aims of the evaluation and monitored the work in progress. The project was managed by Tim Allen for OA, and the fieldwork was undertaken by Bob McIntosh assisted by Tom Brook, Emma Powell, Tom Lawrence and Georgia Wood.

2 Previous Investigations in Dunstall Field

2.1 Geophysical Survey

2.1.1 A magnetometer geophysical survey of the field was carried out by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy on 17th and 18th December 2012. The survey included a small enclosure adjacent to Tiddington Road that was formerly separate, and lies outside the Scheduled Area, but is now part of the main field (see Fig. 1). Readings were taken at closer spacing than normal to improve the spatial resolution of the survey, and enable the definition of smaller features. The survey was accompanied by magnetic susceptibility readings as a further indicator of the character of the soils (Bartlett-Clark 2013).

2.1.2 The aims of the survey were to establish whether archaeological features extended across the whole site, and to determine their general character and complexity (as far as was possible from magnetometer survey).

2.1.3 The survey encountered relatively few anomalies of probable archaeological origin, and those that were found were confined to the south-eastern end of the field (see Figs 2 & 3). These features, which were mainly ditches, were concentrated on the east, although sparse discrete features, possibly pits, were found further south-west (Bartlett-Clark 2013, figures 1-3). The results suggest that archaeological features continue slightly further to the north-west than those found in the field to the east (OA 2013b, fig. 4), but broadly agree with the distribution of features identified there (JSAC 2002).

2.2 Summary of the Results of the Initial Evaluation

2.2.1 The site covers an area of around 2.65ha. A topographic survey of the site with readings taken at 10m intervals was carried out to relate the archaeological evidence from the trenches to topographic variation within the site.

2.2.2 An initial sample evaluation of ten trenches 30m long and 1.8m wide was agreed with English Heritage Inspector Ian George, in consultation with Anna Stocks of Warwickshire County Council. This constituted an area of 540 sq. m. (The layout of the trenches is shown on Figures 2-4).

2.2.3 The results of the initial evaluation are described and discussed in the evaluation report (OA 2015), so will only be summarised here.

2.2.4 The evaluation suggested a generally good correspondence between strong magnetic anomalies of likely archaeological origin and archaeological features, although a few of the anomalies proved to be of natural origin, and a few features were not detected by the geophysical survey (OA 2015, section 4.1.1).

2.2.5 A single flint scraper of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date was found, probably a casual loss (ibid., 4.3.4).

2.2.6 Between the gravel terrace and the gravel ridge or island to the north-west was a linear hollow or channel, shallowing south-westwards. 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 (ibid., 4.3.5). The environmental sample included charred hazelnut shell and charcoal (ibid., Appendix C.2), suggesting material derived from an occupation site.

2.2.7 One pit in Trench 7 in the northern part of the field contained middle Iron Age sherds and burnt bone (ibid., 4.3.8). The geophysical survey suggests that this was an isolated pit, and there were no other middle Iron Age features in this or any other trench.

2.2.8 Three parallel ditches of late Iron Age or early Roman date (Trenches 1, 2, and 8) suggest a widely-spaced enclosure or field system across the site (ibid., 4.3.10).

2.2.9 One shallow pit and two larger pits (one undated) were recorded on the edge of the gravel terrace along the south-eastern edge of the site (ibid., 4.3.11) and a ditch, also of 2nd century date, was found in Trench 9 roughly parallel to the early Roman ditches (ibid., 4.3.12).

2.2.10 Several post-medieval features, one elongated charcoal-rich pit probably of the 17th century, were also found.

3 Evaluation Aims and Methodology

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.

3.1.2 To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.

3.1.3 To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.

3.1.4 To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.

3.1.5 To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.

3.1.6 To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.

3.1.7 To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.

3.1.8 To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.

3.1.9 To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artifactual evidence present.

3.2 Site-specific Aims

3.2.1 To investigate the areas between the previous evaluation trenches to confirm or deny the geophysical survey evidence for an absence of features over much of the site;

3.2.2 To carry out further evaluation of the eastern corner of the field, where geophysical anomalies suggesting archaeological features were concentrated, in order to clarify the extent and complexity of any surviving remains;

3.2.3 To clarify whether the middle Iron Age pit found in Trench 7 (see Figs 3 & 4) is isolated, as the geophysical survey would suggest, or is part of a focus of activity of this period, and if the latter, to establish its character and extent;

3.2.4 To establish the limits of the horizon containing early prehistoric Beaker material, to confirm or deny its interpretation as derived material, and to investigate whether it is associated with dug features or other traces of the occupation site from which the material came;

3.2.5 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.

3.3 Site-specific Objectives

3.3.1 To investigate the geophysical linear anomalies identified in the east corner of the site. This will be carried out in order to ascertain the dimensions of the revealed linear anomalies, the character and complexity of their fills, and their date.

3.3.2 Investigation in this part of the site will also aim to ascertain whether the revealed responses represent an accurate reflection of the below-ground archaeology, or whether there are other features or deposits not identified by the survey. If there are, the evaluation will aim 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. For example, previous trenching in the adjacent field to the north-east revealed a large but shallow feature that may represent part of a building overlying some of the ditches, and it will be important to establish whether similar structural features are present in this field.

3.3.3 Trenching will also investigate whether the area within the hollow deposits is *in situ* or is derived, through the use of detailed spatial recording, finds assessment and environmental sampling and assessment;

- Investigate whether the archaeological activity in the hollow is dumped or middened from occupation elsewhere, or includes activity areas such as finds scatters;
- Investigate whether the material in the hollow is associated with adjacent occupation including dug features;
- Establish whether there is potential for pollen survival, and if so, in what state of preservation;
- Establish the limits of the area of Beaker activity within the site.

3.4 Wider Research Aims

3.4.1 Given that the major excavations of the 1980s carried out within the Scheduled Monument area remain unpublished, and that little is known about this part of the Scheduled Area, there are few wider questions that are likely to be addressed by further evaluation of this scale.

3.4.2 Nevertheless, 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 is hoped that this investigation will assist in clarifying the character of the settlement, and the spatial relationship between domestic activity and burial sites such as that to the southwest.

3.4.3 Our understanding of the character of the late Iron Age settlement, its extent and variability, may also be enhanced by the further evaluation trenching. The focus of the Iron Age settlement lies further to the north-east, but establishing the 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 and 118, 3.3.2).

3.4.4 The antecedents of the late Iron Age and Roman settlement at Tiddington in the Middle Iron Age are still poorly understood. Clarification of the extent and character of activity in this period would assist in understanding the growth and development of the settlement in the late Iron Age.

3.4.5 Earlier prehistoric settlement activity of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period in the region is slight, and the potential for better preservation of site beneath colluvial deposits is highlighted in the Framework for Research in the West Midlands (Garwood 2011, 59). Environmental evidence of this period is also poor within the region (ibid., 48). Better understanding of the extent and character of the activity at Dunstall Field may therefore assist in shedding light on the environment, environmental change and settlement practices of this period in the wider region (Garwood 2011, 46, bullet points 2, 3 and 6).

3.5 Methodology

3.5.1 Site specific methodology

3.5.2 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in Appendix A. Standard methodologies for Geomatics and Survey, Environmental evidence, Artefactual evidence and Burials can also be found below (Appendices B, C, D and E respectively).

3.5.3 Mechanical excavation was carried out under the supervision of a competent archaeologist either to the top of 'natural' or the top of any significant archaeological level, whichever was higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation.

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

3.5.5 The surface of the exposed archaeological horizon was cleaned where necessary to clarify the extent and character of any archaeological remains.

3.5.6 Archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise and date them. Full excavation of features was not be undertaken at this stage.

3.5.7 In the trenches radiating from Trench 5, where a sequence of deposits has been found, machine excavation proceeded with especial care, and took account of the stratigraphic sequence and deposit depths established in section by the initial evaluation.

3.5.8 Once the surface of the dark colluvial deposits was reached, machine-excavation ceased and the surface was cleaned. No finds or features were discovered on the surface of the deposit, so 1m square test pits were excavated by hand through its entire depth (Plate 9), and machine excavated sondages were also dug through the deposit to the sterile clay beneath. This involved stepping the edges of trenches for safety.

3.5.9 Environmental samples were taken from all test pits and from a selection of the other features.

3.5.10 Trenches 11, 13 and 19 were all extended in order to clarify features or to establish the extent of, and relationship between, deposits revealed within them.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction and presentation of results

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, beginning with the soils and layers encountered, and moving on to a brief overview of the distribution of archaeological remains. Following this a trench by trench account of the archaeological features and deposits encountered will be presented. This will be organised geographically, first dealing with Trenches 15-18 north of the hollow, then those within the hollow, beginning with Trenches 11 and 12 closest to the known area of Roman activity, and finishing with Trenches 13, 14 and 19, which radiated from Trench 5 in which Beaker period activity had been identified in the Phase 1 evaluation. This is followed by a summary of the finds and environmental evidence recovered.

4.2 General soils and ground conditions

4.2.1 Topsoil was present in all trenches, and was on average very thin, ranging between 0.09m and 0.3m deep. This is consistent with the findings of Phase 1.

4.2.2 The subsoil was more variable. Trenches 18 and 15, which are situated upon the gravel island identified in Phase 1, both showed multiple layers of subsoil representing old plough soils overlying the gravel natural. The upper subsoils consisted primarily of silty sand, the lower ones of silty clay.

4.2.3 Trenches 16 and 17 proved to be located beyond the edge of the gravel island. Both contained only a single sandy subsoil overlying a natural of red clay. Sondages were excavated into the natural clay by machine in both trenches, revealing multiple layers of clay overlying the natural gravel, which was found between 1.3m and 1.45m below the surface (Plate 15).

4.2.4 Trenches 11, 12, 13, 14 and 19 all targeted parts of the hollow depression identified by the contour survey and the Phase 1 evaluation. Trenches 11, 13, 14 and 19 all revealed the edge of the depression at one end; Trench 12 lay entirely within the hollow. In every case machine excavation stopped at the top of the dark colluvial layer within the hollow, except for sondages in Trenches 11 and 12, which stopped within the clean yellow or red sands beneath the darker colluvial fills.

4.2.5 Each of these trenches had a topsoil and subsoil that overlay a dark silty sand within the hollow, and a red clay outside it. The lowest soil exposed within the hollow was a red clay found in Trench 11, clearly the base of the hollow. Overlying this, excavation more commonly bottomed on a red or yellow sand beneath the darker silty sands, as this deposit was loose. It represented one of the earliest colluvial deposits within the hollow, and appeared to be sterile, so may pre-date archaeological activity on the site.

4.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

4.3.1 Archaeological features were recorded in three trenches. The majority of the features were located in the east of the area, consistent with the findings of Phase 1, with a single feature being located in the west.

4.3.2 Of the eight features excavated only two (a ditch in Trench 11 and a pit in Trench 17) had previously been identified as anomalies by the geophysical survey. Four other features in Trench 17 did not correspond to any geophysical anomalies. A possible ditch close to the north end of Trench 11 did correspond to one of a series of anomalies that had been interpreted as representing a ditch, but the feature was only found at the base of the hollow, at a depth of more than 1.4m, so is unlikely to have generated the

signal. An anomaly was also indicated at the north-west end of Trench 14, where a ditch was located by excavation, but the anomaly bore no resemblance to the alignment or length of the ditch that was found.

4.3.3 In addition, a number of anomalies suggested to have been of archaeological origin by the geophysical survey were not located by the excavation. These included a pit in Trench 13, two of the supposed linear features crossing Trench 11, and two adjacent pits towards the north-east end of Trench 17.

4.3.4 The locations where Trenches 12, 15, 16 and 18 were dug were all blank on the geophysical survey plot, and excavation confirmed this.

4.3.5 The recorded features consisted largely of shallow ditches with only one pit, which is generally consistent with the results of the Phase 1 beyond the south-east edge of the site on the gravel terrace (Trenches 2 and 3), where more pits were found.

4.3.6 The dark colluvial deposits in Trench 11 contained archaeological finds of a probable Roman date. One of the ditches in Trench 11 was overlain by the uppermost of these colluvial deposits. No finds were recovered from the hollow fills in Trenches 12, 13, 14 or 19.

4.4 Trenches north-west of the hollow

Trench 15 (Fig. 9)

4.4.1 Trench 15 was aligned north-east to south-west to the south-west of Trench 7, in an area that was blank on the geophysical survey plot. It was positioned to investigate whether there were further Iron Age features associated with the pit previously found in Trench 7. One possible feature was identified (Figs 9 and 10; Plate 12).

4.4.2 Feature 1507 (Plate 13) was an oval depression with sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1m by 3.5m in plan and 0.15m deep. The only fill was a firm, reddish-brown sandy clay with no inclusions and no finds. It is interpreted as a depression in the natural clayey gravel filled with the early Holocene soil that developed over the gravel.

Trench 16

4.4.3 Trench 16 was aligned north-west to south-east in the middle of the field, and to the south-west of Trench 15. It was located to test a blank area in the geophysical survey. No features were identified (Plate 14).

Trench 18

4.4.4 Trench 18 was aligned south-west to north-east either side of the north end of Trench 7, with a 90 degree turn to the south-east at the north-east end. It was intended to test the area either side of the Iron Age pit found previously in Trench 7, which was blank on the geophysical survey plot. No features were identified in the trench (Plate 14); the limits of pit 707 were found immediately beyond the edge of Trench 7, and no further finds were recovered.

Trench 17 (Fig. 11)

4.4.5 Trench 17 was located south of Trench 7 and east of Trench 4 to investigate whether there were further features associated with the Iron Age pit found previously in Trench 7, and targeted three potential pits identified by the geophysical survey. It was orientated north-east to south-west. Five archaeological features (one recut) were identified in this trench, although only one of them matched a geophysical anomaly (Fig. 11; Plate 16).

4.4.6 Feature 1706 was a ditch on a north-west to south-east alignment, located at the south-west end of the trench. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base with a central deeper notch (Fig. 12, Section 1701). It was 0.25m deep and 1.44m wide. Its single fill (1707) was a friable, brown silty sand, with occasional pebbles and charcoal inclusions. A broken Neolithic arrowhead was recovered from the fill. This deposit was sampled for environmental remains and for microdebitage (sample <1>).

4.4.7 Only 0.75m north-east of 1706 was another narrower linear feature, 1716, on the same alignment. It was 0.71m wide and 0.17m deep, and had shallow irregular sides and an irregularly concave base. Its single fill was a friable, dark greyish-brown silty sand, with gravel inclusions. No finds were retrieved. On the basis of its shallow depth and irregular sides and base, this may represent the remains of a hedge-line adjacent to ditch 1706.

4.4.8 Feature 1710 was another ditch on a north-west to south-east alignment, crossing the middle of the trench. It had shallow sides and a flat base, and was 1.24m wide and 0.13m deep. Its single fill was a firm, yellowish-brown sandy clay, with occasional pebbles. No finds were recovered.

4.4.9 Just south of ditch 1710 was ovoid pit 1708 (Fig. 12, Section 1702; Plate 17) measuring 1.3m by 0.9m, and surviving 0.28m deep. It had asymmetric sides, one steep, the other shallow, and a concave base. Its single fill was a friable, dark grey brown clayey sand with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles. The fill produced a large assemblage of pottery of late Iron Age/early Roman date, and some animal bone. This deposit was sampled for environmental remains (sample <3>).

4.4.10 Feature 1712 was another ditch on a north-west to south-east alignment, located to the north-east end of the trench (Fig. 12, section 1703). It was 1.2m wide and 0.29m deep, had a gradually sloping side and a flat base, and had been re-cut on the north-east side (1715). Its single fill was a friable, medium to light reddish-grey brown silty sand (1713) with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks, which contained struck flints of late Mesolithic or early Neolithic date.

4.4.11 The re-cut 1715 was 1.1m wide and 0.26m deep with sloping sides and a flat base, and had a friable, medium to dark greyish-brown silty sand fill (1714) containing frequent pebbles and occasional charcoal (Fig. 12, section 1703). It contained Roman pottery of late 1st- or 2nd-century AD date, fragments of a probable iron knife, and a lump of smithing slag.

4.5 Trenches dug into the hollow

Trench 11 (Fig. 5)

4.5.1 Trench 11 was aligned north-west to south-east in the eastern corner of the field, and was placed to continue from Trench 1 across the large hollow, and to target three geophysical anomalies. It successfully located the south-east edge of the hollow. Topsoil and subsoils were removed by machine to the top of the first dark colluvial hollow fill. Test pits 1 and 2 were excavated through the dark colluvial deposits in the hollow, and two ditches were identified, one corresponding to a geophysical anomaly. The north-west end of the trench was extended westwards to reveal more of the other ditch 1114, which had been partially revealed at the base of test pit 1 (Fig. 5; Plate 1).

4.5.2 The colluvial sequence in the hollow at this point consisted of five successive fills overlying red clay natural at the base of the hollow (Fig. 5, section 1101). The five

successive fills were 1109, 1108 (?=1112), 1107, 1102 and 1105. Layer 1109=1113 was a sterile yellow sand with orange clay inclusions. Layers 1108 (?=1112) and 1102 were dark in colour, blackish-brown or greyish-black silty sands, and layers 1107 and 1105 yellowish-brown silty sands. Each of these layers measured between 0.2 and 0.3m thick, except for 1105, which was only 0.15m thick at the deepest in the middle of the trench, and petered out to the north-west. Bulk environmental samples were taken for assessment from layers 1102 (samples <2> and <5>) and 1112 (sample <6>).

4.5.3 Test pit 1 was 1 metre square, and was located at the north-west end of the trench. It was excavated from the surface of layer 102 through layers 1102, 1107 and 1108 to a depth of 0.82m. Pottery was recovered from layer (1102), but none from the lower layers. Feature 1114 was discovered at the bottom, beneath layer (1108) and cut into layer 1109.

4.5.4 Test pit 2 (Plate 2) was 1 metre square and was located in the middle of the trench. It was again excavated from the surface of the dark colluvium (1102) through layers 1112 and 1113 below to the surface of red clay 1106 at the base of the hollow, a total depth of 0.82m. The correspondence between the lower fills is uncertain, as here layer 1112 was again dark, while 1113 below was a light brownish-yellow silty sand, the reverse of the sequence in Test pit 1 with layers 1107 and 1108. It seems likely that 1112 was broadly equivalent to 1108.

4.5.5 Feature 1110 was a ditch found towards the south end of the trench running north-south (Plate 1). It corresponded to one one of the features indicated by geophysical anomalies. The ditch had been truncated by ploughing, and survived 0.1m deep and 0.52m wide, with steep sides and an irregular base. It was cut into the natural silty clay at the south end and into the colluvial hollow fills further north, where it was overlain by dark colluvial fill 1102 (Fig. 7, section 1104; Plate 3). Its single fill was a soft, dark brownish-grey clayey sand 1111, which contained pottery of early Roman date.

4.5.6 Feature 1114 (Fig. 7, section 1105; Plate 4) was a broadly linear feature running north-west to south-east, found in the base of test pit 1, beneath successive colluvial layers 1108, 1107 and 1102. The ditch was 0.17m in depth and 1.2m wide, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill was a firm, light yellowish-grey clayey sand with charcoal and bone flecks, which was sampled for environmental remains (sample <9>). The sample contained pottery of late Iron Age/early Roman date, fired clay and animal bone fragments.

Trench 12 (Fig. 6)

4.5.7 Trench 12 was placed to continue the line of Trench 4 south-eastwards across the deep hollow found previously in Trenches 1, 4 and 5. No geophysical anomalies were indicated in this area. Topsoil and subsoil layers were removed by machine to the surface of the first dark colluvial fill in the hollow (Plate 5). No archaeological features were present, but the colluvial fills of the hollow were evident throughout the length of the trench, which did not reach the south-east edge of the hollow. Test pits 3, 4 and 5 were excavated through the dark colluvial layers (Fig. 6). Only one dark layer was generally present throughout this trench (Plate 6), although a second upper dark deposit was evident in the middle of the hollow.

4.5.8 Test pit 3 was 1 metre square, and was located at the north-west end of the trench. It was excavated through the dark colluvial fill of the hollow, layer 1205, to a depth of 0.27m. Layer 1205 was a friable, dark brownish-grey silty sand, with some charcoal and occasional pebble inclusions (Fig. 7, section 1201). No finds were recovered.

4.5.9 Test pit 4 was 1 metre square, and was located towards the south-east end of the trench. It was excavated through a friable dark silty sand (here numbered 1203) to a depth of 0.4m (Fig. 7, section 1202). No finds were recovered by hand-excavation, but a small fragment of pottery came from sieving for environmental remains (sample <4>).

4.5.10 Test pit 5 was 1 metre square, and was located in the middle of the trench, and was excavated through two colluvial fills to a depth of 0.5m (Fig. 7, section 1203). The upper layer (1206) was a friable, dark greyish-brown silty sand 0.12m in in depth, and overlay layer 1203, which was 0.38m deep. No finds were recovered.

Trench 13 (Fig. 8)

4.5.11 Trench 13 was one of three trenches located to radiate from Trench 5, where a sherd of Beaker pottery had been found within the hollow in the Phase 1 evaluation. It was aligned to run south-east across the hollow, and also targeted one potential archaeological feature indicated by a geophysical anomaly. No archaeological features were identified, but the south-eastern edge of the large hollow was located, and a dark colluvial fill exposed (Plate 7). The trench was later extended on both sides to expose more of the hollow, and to connect it with Trenches 14 and 5 (Fig. 8). Test pit 7 was excavated through this colluvium to the base of the hollow.

4.5.12 Test pit 7 was 1 metre square, and was located at the north-west end of the trench. Two layers were found, whose combined depth was 0.6m (Fig. 10, section 1301; Plate 8). The upper layer (1303) was a black and dark grey mottled sand with charcoal flecks, the lower layer (1305, not shown on section 1301) was a greyish yellow sand, with reddish patches. A sherd of early Roman pottery was recovered from the upper fill (1303); no finds were recovered from layer (1305). Layer 1305 was underlain by a red sand with yellow sand patches (1304), which was also very clean, and was deemed to be natural.

Trench 14 (Fig. 8)

4.5.13 Trench 14 was placed to run from the north side of Trench 5 in a north-westerly direction, and was intended to discover the extent of the hollow in this direction, and to investigate whether there were archaeological features beyond the hollow in this direction. It was specifically intended to test a curving geophysical anomaly at its north end.

4.5.14 The trench successfully located the northern limit of the hollow, and revealed a linear feature at the north-west of the trench (Plate 9). The trench was extended south-east to join with Trench 13, locating the backfill of Trench 5 from Phase 1 (Fig. 9, Plate 10). Test pit 7 was excavated through the colluvial fill of the hollow.

4.5.15 Feature 1406 was a north-south aligned ditch, with sloping sides and a concave base, and was 0.25m deep and 1.4m wide (Fig. 10, section 1401). Its single fill was a very firm, greyish brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks, small stones, slag and bone inclusions. There were also a number of fragments of imported lava quern, indicating a Roman or later date.

4.5.16 Test pit 8 was located at the south-east end of the trench, and was 1 metre square and 0.2m deep (Fig. 10, section 1402; Plate 11). It revealed a friable, black and dark grey mottled sand some 0.2m deep, which was numbered 1408. A single heavily-rolled flint flake was recovered from the hand-excavation of the 1m test-pit dug through this deposit, and the deposit was sampled for environmental remains (sample <11>). This overlay light reddish-brown clay natural (1405).

Trench 19 (Fig. 8)

4.5.17 Trench 19 was located in the south-west of the field, to the south of Trench 14. It was targeted upon the large hollow, and was aligned north-east to south-west to continue the line of Trench 5 dug in Phase 1 of the evaluation. As the hollow ended within this trench, and the colluvial fill was very thin, the trench was extended on the south-east side to define the edge of the hollow more accurately. No archaeological features were identified in this trench, but Test pit 6 was excavated through the exposed colluvial layer (Fig. 12, section 1901; Plate 20).

4.5.18 Test pit 6 was a 1 metre square and was located at the north-east end of the trench. It was dug through a single colluvial fill, layer 1903, which was a friable, medium to dark brown silty sand 0.3m deep. No finds were recovered, but the deposit was sampled for environmental remains (sample<10>). Fill 1903 overlay sterile red sand with yellow patches (1904), which was equivalent to layer 1304, and was considered to be natural.

4.6 Finds summary

4.6.1 The number and range of finds recovered was limited. A total of 6 struck flints was recovered: 2 bladelets, 2 chips, 1 flake and part of a Neolithic arrowhead. One hundred and eighteen sherds of pottery were recovered, 62 of which came from a single vessel. These were mostly Roman, although there were 19 small later prehistoric sherds, almost all of later Iron Age date. Nine pieces of rotary quern were recovered from a ditch, likely to be Roman. Five heavily encrusted fragments of metal, all of which might form part of the blade and tang of a small whittle tang knife, were recovered from a single context, which also contained a small lump of slag. Small pieces of burnt clay were recovered from soil samples.

4.6.2 In total 104 fragments of animal bone were recovered, largely in a poor and unidentifiable condition. The only species identified were cattle and pig. Charred plant remains were poorly preserved, mostly consisting of small numbers of cereal grains, and charcoal fragments were small and unidentifiable. Pollen assessment of two of the hollow fills showed a very low level of preservation.

5 Discussion

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 The autumn weather, which was mostly dry, provided good conditions for the identification and excavation of archaeological deposits throughout the evaluation.

5.1.2 There was, however, only moderate correlation between the anomalies indicated by the geophysical survey and the archaeological features that were found, as some geophysical anomalies could not be identified upon excavation, and some of the features that were seen in the ground were not present on the geophysical survey.

5.1.3 The combined phases of evaluation have provided a targeted 3.85% sample of the area of the site, and have investigated activity upon all of the geologies present within it: second terrace gravel, first terrace gravel, floodplain and late glacial/early Holocene hollow, on the site.

5.2 Interpretation

Trenches north-west of the hollow: 14 (north-west end), 15, 16, 17 and 18

5.2.1 Trenches 15, 16 and 18 were placed to investigate the apparently blank area north of the large hollow, and to see if the pit identified as middle Iron Age in Trench 7 was isolated or part of a wider area of Iron age activity. Trench 17 also lay north of the hollow, and targeted two geophysical anomalies south-east of Trench 7. It too was intended to clarify whether these represented further middle Iron Age activity. Trench 14 was located to establish the northern limits of the hollow, but also to investigate the area to the north-west, which was largely blank apart from one geophysical anomaly.

5.2.2 A single ditch of Roman date was located at the north end of Trench 14, and its alignment fits with those of other Roman ditches found in the Phase 1 evaluation, which were interpreted as representing field boundaries. This ditch was not seen in Trench 19 to the south, so presumably ended before reaching the hollow. No trenches have been excavated across its projected line to the north-west, so its extent in this direction is unknown.

5.2.3 None of trenches 15, 16 and 18 contained any man-made features or finds, strongly indicating that archaeological activity to the north, west and east of Trench 7 was sparse or absent. They did provide further evidence of the extent of the gravel island seen in Phase 1, appearing at shallow depth in Trenches 15 and 18, but dipping more than a metre beneath the clay natural present in Trench 16.

5.2.4 In Trench 17 one of the two geophysical anomalies was confirmed as a shallow pit, excavation of which produced a substantial assemblage of late Iron Age to early Roman pottery. The other geophysical anomaly was not confirmed after stripping. There were also a few small sherds of middle Iron Age fabric type within the pit. As the pottery from pit 706 in Trench 7 did not include sherds with diagnostically middle Iron Age form, it is conceivable that the fabric might have survived into the late Iron Age, and that the pit in Trench 7 might in fact have been later, and thus close in date to the pit in Trench 17. The fabric identified in the Trench 7 pit has, however, been shown to belong to clearly middle Iron Age vessels elsewhere in Tiddington, and is distinct from the fabrics that became common in the late Iron Age, so in the absence of any other sherds, the middle Iron Age date is most likely, and the pit in Trench 17 later than that in Trench 7.

5.2.5 Trench 17 also contained 3 parallel shallow ditches on a north-west to south-east alignment, all with similar profiles and fills, that were not present on the geophysical

survey plot. The linear features were evenly spaced around 10m apart; the easternmost had been recut, and the westernmost had a narrower feature adjacent that may indicate two phases, although the irregular base of the narrow linear suggested interpretation as a hedge line. One of the ditches contained early Roman (1st century AD) pottery, and another contained a small number of worked flints, presumably residual.

5.2.6 The linear features in Trench 17 are on a broadly similar alignment to that of the field ditches found previously in the Phase 1 evaluation, and to the ditch found in Trench 14 further west. They are not exactly in alignment, being slightly more west-east than those further west, and are much more closely spaced, but probably form further elements of the same system. None of them continued in adjacent Trenches 7 and 15 to the north, so they must have turned or ended a short distance north-west of Trench 17. Feature 404 does not represent a return, as it cut the subsoil. No evaluation trenches have been excavated across the line of these ditches to the south-east within the site, so their extent in this direction is not known.

5.2.7 Looking at the wider context, there are also ditches of the late Iron Age/early Roman or 2nd century AD Roman date in the field to the east (Fig. 4), and these are predominantly on a north-west to south-east alignment. The alignment is somewhat closer to west-east than in Dunstall Field, perhaps indicating a gradual shift in alignment along the terrace edge from east to west. This may in part have been dictated by the changing alignment of the gravel terrace, which extends further northwards to the west of the site (see Fig. 3).

Trenches within the hollow: 11 and 12

5.2.8 Trench 11 targeted three linear features suggested by anomalies in the geophysical survey at the east edge of the site, presumed to represent ditches belonging to the Roman settlement. Only the southernmost of these features was located in the trench; it cut the natural at the south end of the trench but ran northwards into the hollow, where it was cut into one of the colluvial fills and was infilled and sealed by others. The fill of the ditch was very similar to that of the colluvial fill that overlay it, suggesting that the colluvial processes were active during the life of the ditch.

5.2.9 As the ditch crossing the hollow was filled by colluvium very similar to the soil into which it was cut, it is conceivable that the linear feature suggested by geophysical anomalies running along the line of the hollow represents a genuine feature that was invisible during evaluation, but it is more likely that these anomalies represent concentrations of occupation material incorporated into the uppermost dark colluvial layer.

5.2.10 A somewhat irregular linear feature (114) was also exposed at the base of the hollow. This contained a small quantity of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, suggesting that all of the colluvial infilling at this point in the hollow occurred in the Roman period. A fair amount of Roman pottery was recovered from the upper colluvial layer in Trench 11, and only a small amount in the same layer in Trench 12, suggesting that the Roman activity was more concentrated towards the east of the field.

5.2.11 Environmental samples from the colluvial deposits did not produce well-preserved assemblages, but were dominated by cereal grains. Animal bones were very poorly-preserved, and were dominated by cattle bones, though this may simply reflect the robustness of the larger mammal bones. Pollen assessment of the lower dark colluvial fill in Trench 11 also indicated very poor preservation.

Trenches at the west end of the hollow: 13, 14 and 19

5.2.12 Phase 2 evaluation Trenches 13, 14 and 19 established the limits of the hollow adjacent to Trench 5, showing that it is narrowing and shallowing here, and may have ended within the site. During the Phase 1 evaluation a sequence of four colluvial fills was found within the hollow here, the lowest of which (504) contained artefactual evidence of Beaker date. No archaeological features of prehistoric date were found in the trenches outside the hollow to indicate an adjacent focus of Beaker activity, although below-ground features of this period are usually limited to small pits and stakeholes, so the evaluation has not ruled this possibility out entirely.

5.2.13 Within the hollow, only two fills were identified in Trench 13, and only one in Trenches 14 and 19. A Roman sherd weighing 21g was recovered from the upper fill in Trench 13, which is consistent with the date of the upper dark fill throughout the site (see Trenches 11 and 12 above). A single very rolled flint flake was also recovered from the equivalent fill in Trench 14, and was clearly residual. Environmental samples were taken from the test-pits in all three trenches, but the charred plant remains were of different character to that taken from 504 in Phase 1; the charcoal was small and unidentifiable, and there were small numbers of wheat grains, which are not common on Beaker sites, but are characteristic of the other environmental remains from the hollow fills (see 5.2.8 above and Appendix C.2).

5.2.14 The evidence suggests that the deposits sampled in Trenches 13, 14 and 19 are later in date than deposit 504 that produced the potential Beaker-period material, which did not extend into these trenches. This deposit therefore appears to have lain on the north side of the hollow east of Trenches 13, 14 and 19. It may have been relatively limited in area, as it clearly did not continue as far as Trench 12, although its extent to the east is still unknown.

The overall character of the hollow

5.2.15 The hollow is certainly shallowing at the west end of the site, though it is possible that it continued as a shallow feature to the north-west, as the contours indicate that the terrace extends further north to the west of the site (see Fig. 3).

5.2.16 Clarification of the origins of the hollow found between the gravel deposits was not a primary aim of the evaluation, but the fills that were seen were not indicative of fluvial activity. Instead the hollow was probably of aeolian (windblown) origin, dating from the late Pleistocene, when conditions were severe enough to scour such hollows at the edge of the gravel terrace and the clay. Sterile sands seen at the base of the deposits examined were thus probably of early Holocene date. The lack of soil formation before the Beaker period is puzzling, although in the wooded environment of the middle Holocene soil movement would have been limited, and woodland soil formation very slow.

5.2.17 The dark colluvial fills, which appear to indicate the start of soil formation, began to form in the Beaker period (2500-2000 BC). Although the extent of clearance varies significantly across England, there is a general pattern of increasing clearance at the start of the early Bronze Age, and very local clearance may have been responsible for the inwashing of silts at this period.

5.2.18 This was, however, not followed by further activity in the Middle or late Bronze Age, and it is not until the middle Iron Age that occupation within the Scheduled Monument area begins (Warwickshire County Council 2009). Activity of this phase is, however, very limited at the site, as the evaluation has shown, only becoming significant at the very end of the Iron Age or early Roman period, so the resumption of soil formation and

acceleration of colluviation into the hollow in the late Iron Age/early Roman period broadly fits with this chronology.

5.3 Evaluation objectives and results

General

5.3.1 Aims 3.1.1 & 3.1.2. The general distribution and density of archaeological features and deposits has been established by this evaluation.

5.3.2 Aim 3.1.3.The majority of the archaeological features that were found contained datable finds.

5.3.3 Aim 3.1.4. The state of preservation of archaeological features and deposits, and the finds and environmental remains that they contain, was investigated. In general finds were relatively few, and preservation of animal bone variable. The environmental potential of deposits was generally limited.

5.3.4 Aim 3.1.5. No complex archaeological features or significant spatial stratigraphy was found. Vertical stratification was encountered within the large hollow, and was interstratified with one of the ditches, but no occupation horizons or surface features were identified.

5.3.5 Aim 3.1.6. No remains encountered appear to have had an impact on the historic landscape.

5.3.6 Aim 3.1.7. The environmental assessments from both phases of evaluation have indicated that animal bone is not well-preserved, except on the gravel terrace along the south-east edge of the site. Despite the evidence for soil formation within the hollow, environmental potential was generally low; pollen was virtually absent and charred plant remains were only found in Trench 5 at the very western end. The low survival of environmental remains does not allow questions of economy to be usefully addressed.

5.3.7 Aim 3.1.8. The features and finds encountered are generally consistent with low-level and low-status activity at the periphery of the late Iron Age/Roman settlement, although one fineware vessel of the early Roman period was identified. Neither the finds assemblages nor the environmental remains provided evidence of specific activities on site.

5.3.8 Aim 3.1.9. The quantity of artefacts recovered was very limited, and a large proportion of the pottery sherds were from a single vessel. Within the small pottery assemblage there was a fair range of types represented, all dating from middle Iron Age to the Roman period. Other types of find were few, perhaps indicating the low status of those using the site, but more probably simply reflecting the peripheral position of the site between settlement and fields.

Site-specific

5.3.9 Aim 3.2.1. The blank areas on the geophysical survey were largely confirmed by the evaluation trenching. However, a number of shallow ditches were found that were not identified on the geophysical survey.

5.3.10 Aim 3.2.2. Some of the geophysical anomalies suggested as archaeological features on the east were not found within the trenches, for instance in Trench 11. Conversely, more features were found in Trench 17 than expected, though these were shallow and poorly-preserved. Overall the remains uncovered were relatively sparse, and no complex features like the possible building found in the site adjacent to the north-east were identified.

5.3.11 Aim 3.2.3. No further features were found in the immediate vicinity of the pit identified as middle Iron Age in Trench 7, so this was probably an isolated example. Residual pottery of similar character was, however, found in Trench 17, perhaps indicating that there had been surface activity close by.

5.3.12 Aim 3.2.4. Trenches 13, 14 and 19 all successfully defined the edges of the colluvial hollow and the dark fills from the lowest of which Beaker material had been recovered in the Phase 1 evaluation. No further Beaker pottery or other finds were recovered, nor environmental remains in any quantity from the samples that were taken. The evaluation has demonstrated that the deposit containing the Beaker material does not extend further to the south or west, and suggests that it is of limited extent, although its eastern edge was not established. No evidence of cut features of similar date was found adjacent to the hollow in any of the evaluation trenches, nor of surface features or structures of prehistoric date in the test-pits dug through the colluvial deposits within the hollow. The distinct character of the material recovered from Phase 1 supports the view that this is from a prehistoric, rather than Roman deposit, but leaves open the question as to whether this resulted from dumping or inwashing by colluvial activity.

5.3.13 Aim 3.2.5. The early prehistoric material from the site covers several periods: late Mesolithic, early Neolithic and Beaker, but is very sparse. An episode of Beaker activity is clearly represented within the site, but its extent is at present uncertain, and is probably limited in scale. The next phase identified within the site was middle Iron Age, but this was limited to a single feature and a scatter of residual material adjacent. The results do not indicate a significant focus of middle Iron Age activity here. For the late Iron Age/early Roman period, and indeed throughout the Roman period, the findings indicate a pattern of largely scattered features, concentrated on or close to the gravel terrace towards the east and south-east edges of the site, with only field boundaries beyond this. This activity appears to be peripheral to that found further north-east at Tiddington.

5.4 Conclusions

Prehistory

5.4.1 A number of worked flints, including two bladelets and part of an arrowhead probably dating to the Neolithic period were discovered, but these were residual in the contexts in which there were found, they were sparse in number, and some rolled. They most likely represent evidence of occasional losses by individuals passing through the site.

5.4.2 Phase 1 indicated the potential for a focus of Beaker-period activity within the site. The Phase 2 evaluation has demonstrated that activity of this date is not present within the hollow to the south and west of this, nor midway along the hollow to the east. The potential for further Beaker activity within the hollow has therefore been limited to the area east of Trench 5 and west of Trench 2. North of the hollow no features of this date have been encountered within any of the evaluation trenches, though activity here cannot be entirely ruled out on the basis of the evaluation sample.

5.4.3 The middle Iron Age pit identified in Phase 1 has been shown to be an isolated feature, and there is no focus of activity of this phase evident from the evaluation on the site.

Roman

5.4.4 Phase 1 of the evaluation located a scatter of Roman features along the south-east of the site, ie along the edge of the gravel terrace, and was interpreted as representing the edge of the Tiddington Roman settlement. To the north-west of this a number of

widely-spaced ditches were identified, seeming to belong to a field system outside the limits of the settlement.

5.4.5 The findings of the Phase 2 evaluation largely confirm those of Phase 1 as far as the late Iron Age and Roman periods are concerned. Settlement appears to be limited to the south and south-east of the field, as shown both by the distribution of features and of Roman pottery recovered from the colluvial layer running across the site. The character of the settlement features and finds that have been found, even bearing in mind the vessel in fine fabric from Trench 17, has suggested low status activity, and has not included evidence of any structures. Beyond this only one further ditch has been found to add to the previous evidence of a field system.

5.4.6 No significant activity of the post-Roman periods has been found on the site.

5.4.7 Overall the number and significance of archaeological remains appears to be limited.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consisted of a topsoil and subsoil, to the south end of the trench this overlay a natural of clay, cut by a single ditch. The rest of the trench contained the fill of a large hollow, two test pits were excavated through this fill, one of which revealed a second ditch beneath. The northern end of the trench was extended to further reveal the ditch at the base of the hollow.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.8
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1101	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil. A loose, greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional stones.	-	-
1102	Layer	-	0.25	A dark blackish-brown silty sand with pottery inclusions.	Pottery/Animal bone/Burnt Flint	Late Iron Age/early Roman
1103	Layer	-	0.16	A friable, light greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional stones.	-	-
1104	Layer	-	0.14	A firm, light yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	-	-
1105	Layer	-	0.15	A firm, yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional medium to large stones.	-	-
1106	Layer	-	-	Natural. A firm red clay.	-	-
1107	Layer	-	0.2	A soft, yellowish-brown sand with rare stones.	Bone/Stone	-
1108	Layer	-	0.2	A soft, dark blackish-brown sand.	-	-
1109	Layer	-	-	Natural. A yellow sand with some orange clay inclusions.	-	-
1110	Cut of ditch	0.52	0.1	A north-south ditch with steep sides and an irregular base.	-	-
1111	Fill of 1110	0.52	0.1	A soft, dark brownish-grey clayey sand. Single fill.	Pottery	Early Roman
1112	Layer	-	0.24	A soft, dark grey to black sandy clay, with occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded pebbles.	Pottery/Animal Bone	Late Iron Age/early Roman
1113	Layer	-	0.26	A friable, light brownish-	-	-

				yellow silty sand.		
1114	Cut of ditch?	1.2	0.17	A north-west south-east ditch with gently sloping sides and a concave base.	-	-
1115	Fill of 1114	1.2	0.17	A firm, light yellowish-grey clayey sand, with rare charcoal and bone flecks.	Fired Clay /Pottery /Animal Bone	Late Iron Age/early Roman

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
The trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying the fill of large hollow. A sondage and two test pits were excavated through the fill of the hollow.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.1
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1201	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil. A greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional stones.	-	-
1202	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil. A light yellowish-brown silty sand with moderate pebbles.	-	-
1203	Layer	-	0.4	A dark grey silty sand with black patches.	Pottery?	Romano-British
1204	Layer	-	-	Natural. Red Sand.	-	-
1205	Layer	-	0.3	A dark greyish-brown silty sand, with occasional pebbles.	-	-
1206	Layer	-	0.12	A friable, dark greyish-brown silty sand.	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
The trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil, in the south this overlay a natural of red sand. In the rest of the trench it overlay the fill of a large hollow, through which a test pit and sondage were excavated. Trench 13 was extended to link with Trench 14, and locate the backfill of Trench 5 which lay between them.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1301	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil. A greyish-brown sandy silt, with occasional	-	-

				stones.		
1302	Layer	-	0.5	Subsoil. A light greyish-brown silty sand, with moderate pebbles.	-	-
1303	Layer	-	0.5	A black and dark grey mottled sand, with occasional charcoal flecks.	Pottery	Early Roman
1304	Layer	-	-	Natural. A red sand, with yellow and brown sand patches.	-	-
1305	Layer	-	0.1	A greyish-yellow sand, with reddish patches.	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Consisted of a topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of clay in the northern half, in the rest of the trench they overlay the fill of a large hollow. A test pit was excavated through this fill. The trench was extended to link with Trench 13.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1401	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil. A friable, greyish-brown sandy silt with rare stone inclusions.	-	-
1402	Layer	-	0.13	A friable, yellowish-brown, silty sand with rare charcoal flecks and stones.	-	-
1403	Layer	-	0.22	A firm, light yellowish-brown silty sand with rare stones.	-	-
1404	Layer	-	0.15	A firm, light reddish-brown sandy clay.	-	-
1405	Layer	-	-	Natural. A light reddish-brown clay.	-	-
1406	Ditch Cut	1.4	0.25	A north-east south-west ditch, with sloping sides and a concave base.	-	-
1407	Fill of 1406	1.4	0.25	A very firm, greyish-brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and small stones.	Animal Bone/Burnt Flint x 2/lava quern fragments	Roman?
1408	Layer	-	0.2	A friable, black and grey mottled sand.	Flint flake	

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Consisted of topsoil and four separate bands of subsoil overlying a natural of gravel. A number of natural features were cut into the gravel, no features were visible within any of the subsoil layers.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1501	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil. A brownish-grey sandy silt, with rare stone inclusions.	-	-
1502	Layer	-	0.17	A firm, greyish-yellowy brown sandy clay with rare stone inclusions.	-	-
1503	Layer	-	0.11	A firm, reddish-brown sandy clay with rare large stones.	-	-
1504	Layer	-	0.11	A firm, dark brownish-grey sandy clay.	-	-
1505	Layer	-	0.23	A firm, greyish-red clay.	-	-
1506	Layer	-	-	A compact, dark reddish-brown clayey gravel.	-	-
1507	Cut of hollow	1	3.5	An oval depression in the natural gravel with sloping sides and a flat base.	-	-
1508	Fill of 1507	1	3.5	A firm, reddish-brown sandy clay.	-	-
1509	Layer	-	-	A dark reddish-brown clayey gravel.	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay. Sondage excavated through natural revealing multiple layers of similar material until a lower layer of gravel below.					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.2
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1601	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil. A friable, brownish-grey sand with humic inclusions.	-	-
1602	Layer	-	0.29	A compact, brownish-grey sandy clay with	-	-

				occasional pebbles and rare charcoal and CBM flecks.		
1603	Layer	-	0.19	A firm, reddish-brown sandy clay, with rare pebbles.	-	-
1604	Layer	-	0.09	A friable, dark reddish-brown sandy clay, with rare pebbles.	-	-
1605	Layer	-	0.5	A friable, brownish-red clayey silty sand with occasional pebbles.	-	-
1606	Layer	-	-	Natural. A friable, sandy silt with gravel inclusions.	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench consisted of a topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy clay. The trench contained four linear features, three of them ditches, and a single pit.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1701	Layer	-	0.1	Topsoil. A friable, brownish-grey peaty sand.	-	-
1702	Layer	-	0.3	A friable, brownish-grey silty sand, with some pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.	-	-
1703	Layer	-	0.22	A firm, brownish-red clayey sand with frequent stones.	-	-
1704	Layer	-	0.09	A firm, dark reddish-brown, clay with rare pebbles.	-	-
1705	Layer	-	0.65	A friable, brownish-red silty sand with stony bands.	-	-
1706	Cut of ditch	1.44	0.25	A north-south ditch with a flat base and sloping sides.	-	-
1707	Fill of 1706	1.44	0.25	A friable, brown silty sand, with rare pebbles and charcoal flecks.	Neolithic flint arrowhead	Neolithic?
1708	Pit Cut	1.34 x 0.9	0.28	An ovoid pit with uneven sides and a concave	-	-

				base.		
1709	Fill of 1708	1.34 x 0.9	0.28	A friable, dark greyish-brown clayey sand with frequent charcoal and occasional pebbles.	Pottery/Animal Bone	Late Iron Age/Early Roman
1710	Cut of ditch	1.24	0.13	A north-south ditch with shallow sloping sides and a flat base.	-	-
1711	Fill of 1710	1.24	0.13	A firm, yellowish-brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions.	-	-
1712	Cut of ditch	1.2	0.29	A north-south ditch, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base.	-	-
1713	Fill of 1712	1.2	0.29	A firm, light reddish-grey brown silty sand, occasional pebbles and rare charcoal.	Flint bladelets/chips	Later Mesolithic or Early Neolithic
1714	Fill of 1715	1.1	0.26	A firm, dark greyish-brown silty sand, with some charcoal and frequent pebbles.	Pottery/Iron knife?/Slag	Late C1st or C2nd Roman
1715	Cut of ditch	1.1	0.26	A north-south ditch with sloping sides and a flat base, recutting 1712.	-	-
1716	Cut of linear	0.71	0.17	A north-south linear feature, with shallow irregular sides and a concave irregular base.	-	-
1717	Fill of 1716	0.71	0.17	A friable, dark greyish-brown silty sand, with gravel inclusions.	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	SW-NE THEN NW-SE
An L-shaped trench consisting of topsoil and subsoil over several natural clay layers sealing gravel. No features.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.63
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1801	Layer	-	0.09	Topsoil. A brownish-grey peaty sand.	-	-

1802	Layer	-	0.16	A firm, brownish-grey silty sand, with occasional small pebbles.	-	-
1803	Layer	-	0.1	A compact brown sandy clay with rare pebbles.	-	-
1804	Layer	-	0.2	A compact, brownish-red silty sand with rare pebbles.	-	-
1805	Layer	-	0.13	A compact, reddish-brown silty clay, with rare pebbles.	-	-
1806	Layer	-	-	A friable, reddish-brown clayey sand with some stony bands.	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Consisted of a topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of red sand. In the north-east they overlie the fill of a large hollow. A test pit was excavated through the fill of the hollow. The trench was extended to reveal more of the hollow's extent.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.95
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
Context no	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1901	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil. A greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional stones.	-	-
1902	Layer	-	0.55	A light greyish-brown sitly sand with moderate pebbles. Subsoil	-	-
1903	Layer	-	0.25	A dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Colluvial hollow fill.	-	-
1904	Layer	-	-	A red sand with yellow sand patches. Sterile hollow fill below 1903.	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Paul Booth

B.1.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of 118 sherds (1311g) of pottery, mostly of later prehistoric and Roman date, from 8 separate contexts. These included 16 sherds (131g) from 4 sieved soil samples. The pottery was scanned quite rapidly and quantified by period for each context group (Table 1). 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 also presented in Table 1.

B.1.2 The condition of the material was variable. Sherd size, related to a range of post-depositional processes, was very variable, and the mean sherd weight (MSW) of the hand-collected material (11.6g) was only moderate. The overall figures are heavily influenced by the data for a single vessel in context 1709 (see further below) which accounted for 62 sherds (732g) of the total assemblage – the sherds from this vessel being themselves very variable in size. The surface condition of sherds was also variable. Heavy abrasion suggesting frequent redeposition was not noted, though some sherds appeared moderately worn, and there were no clear instances of survival of characteristics such as burnished surfaces.

B.1.3 A range of prehistoric fabrics was present and these were recorded in terms of their principal (usually two or three) inclusion types, using codes in the OA recording system. A simple numeric scale (from 1-5 ascending) indicates the coarseness of the inclusions/fabric. The individual inclusion types present were as follows:

A quartz sand

L limestone

M mica

P clay pellets

Q quartz/quartzite (angular)

S shell

V organic

Z uncertain voids

B.1.4 The following fabrics were identified:

AL3. 1 sherd, 3g

APV3. 2 sherds, 46g

AS3. 1 sherd, 1g

AV3. 6 sherds, 30g

QA4. 1 sherd, 1g

QAM4. 1 sherd, 2g

VA4. 5 sherds, 10g

ZA4. 1 sherd, 19g

ZQA3. 1 sherd, 1g

B.1.5 From this it is clear that a number of fabrics were only represented by tiny fragments and their identifications must be considered tentative. None of the prehistoric material had diagnostic typological or decorative features so the chronology, particularly of the small fragments, is very uncertain. The quartzite-tempered fragments might be of Bronze Age date since this inclusion type does not seem to have been common later, but this is uncertain. The larger, principally sand-tempered sherds (and the sherd of fabric ZA4, in which the leached/eroded inclusion type could have been limestone), are almost certainly of middle Iron Age date. These fabrics are comparable with material of this date recorded previously from unpublished excavations at Tiddington.

B.1.6 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 (2, 7g)

E30 'Belgic type' medium/coarse sand-tempered wares (78, 827g)

E40 'Belgic type' shell-tempered wares (2, 48g)

E50 'Belgic type' limestone-tempered wares (3, 122g)

E80 'Belgic type' grog tempered wares (**SOB GT**) (7, 35g)

O20 Coarse sand-tempered oxidised coarse wares (2, 3g)

O41 Vesicular (organic-tempered) Severn Valley ware (1, 21g)

R20 Coarse sand-tempered reduced coarse wares (3, 13g)

R30 Medium sand-tempered reduced coarse ware (1, 4g)

B.1.7 The assemblage was dominated by 'Belgic type' (E wares) – defined broadly in the sense of Thompson (1982, 4), and principally by the medium/coarse sand-tempered E30 ware sub-group. E30 fabrics accounted for five of the six rim sherds in the whole assemblage; all were everted rims from jars and all from context 1102, which also contained the sixth rim, a simple slightly incurved form, possibly from a jar, in fabric E50.

B.1.8 Much the most remarkable vessel in the assemblage came from context 1709. Assigned to the general E30 ware group, this was in a very distinctive relatively fine fabric with common inclusions of glauconitic (black) sand and probable finely crushed quartz/ite, sparse-moderate quartz sand and occasional organic inclusions. The vessel is well-made, carefully thrown and fairly thin walled, and fired grey to dark grey, the inclusions giving a rather striking surface effect in its present condition (the extent to which this is changed from the original as a result of erosion is difficult to judge). The 62 sherds (732g) of this vessel only account for a relatively small part of it. They include all of the base, which is recessed, and part of the shoulder, which has a well-defined cordon with a thickened slightly rounded zone above (probably originally with another

cordon above this). There is therefore insufficient for the form to be determined, but possibilities (based on Thompson's (1982) corpus of 'Belgic' pottery), include her forms A6 ('stunted' pedestal jar) or, perhaps more likely, a form within the B3 range of everted rim jars. The combination of form and fabric is notable, and the latter, at least, is apparently not paralleled amongst the extensive late Iron Age assemblage from earlier work at Tiddington, The combination of inclusion types certainly suggests a non-local source.

B.1.9 The majority of the pottery can be assigned to the late Iron Age/early Roman period, characterised principally by 'Belgic type' pottery, a phase previously dated to *c* AD 30-70 at Tiddington. Earlier pottery in the present assemblage is all redeposited in contexts of this date. While much of it is very fragmentary and of uncertain derivation, the larger later prehistoric pieces indicate middle Iron Age activity in the vicinity, as seen elsewhere at Tiddington. A few Roman sherds were also present. Most of these can be assigned to the early Roman period – fabric R20 representing the next technological developmental stage from the sand-tempered E30 fabrics, and O41 being the most common early Roman Severn Valley ware fabric. The only potential anomaly was the single small sherd from context 1709 recorded as R30, a fabric that would normally be considered to date to the 2nd century and later. This sherd was rather eroded and might have been intrusive.

Table 1: Quantities of pottery by broad period and context

	Prehistoric		Late Iron Age/Roman			
Context	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Ceramic date for context	Comment (fabrics etc)
1102	3	6	16	204	LIA/ERB	E20, E30 (5 small jar rims), E50 (jar rim), E80. Prehistoric fragments from sample <5>
1111			2	36	Mid-late 1C?	E80, R20
1112	3	4	2	96	LIA/ERB	E30, R20?; all from sample <6>
1115			3	17	LIA/ERB	E30; all from sample <9>
1203			1	2	RB	O20 (not certainly pot)
1303			1	21	Mid-late 1C+	O41
1709	13	103	62	816	LIA/ERB	AV3, APV3, VA4, ZA4; E20, E30 (including large jar sherds in unusual variant fabric), E40, E80, R30
1714			2	6	Late 1C+	R20, O20 (tiny fragment, not certainly pot)
Total	19	113	99	1198		

B.2 Fired clay

By Geraldine Crann

B.2.1 Eight small, shapeless fragments of fired clay in a sandy, ferruginous fabric including white clay lumps were recovered from environmental sample <9>, context 1115.

B.2.2 The fired clay assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work.

B.3 Struck Flint

By Tom Lawrence

Introduction

B.3.1 A small assemblage of six struck flints and four pieces of burnt flint were recovered from this evaluation (see Table 2 below). The majority of struck flints derived from Trench 17.

B.3.2 Ditch 1712 in Trench 17 contained two bladelets and two chips that were heavily rolled. One of these bladelets was partially backed.

B.3.3 A proximal fragment of an unclassified arrowhead, possibly an early Neolithic preform leaf arrowhead (or alternately a late Neolithic chisel) was found in ditch 1706 that runs parallel to ditch 1712. The arrowhead appears not to have been finished and may have been broken during knapping.

B.3.4 A single, heavily rolled flake that derived from the colluvium was found in Trench 14, suggesting it had moved some distance before final deposition.

B.3.5 Burnt unworked flints were observed in the colluvium in Trench 11 (one fragment) and Trench 19 (one fragment). A further two pieces were found in ditch 1406 in Trench 14.

B.3.6 The struck assemblage is early prehistoric and may be early Neolithic in date. This is based on a possible leaf arrowhead and two bladelets (which could also conceivably be late Mesolithic). These all derive from similar features in the same trench. The worn nature of the pieces from colluvial contexts suggests that they have derived from activity outside the hollow.

B.3.7 Neolithic surface scatters have been found east of Tiddington (Warwickshire County Council 2009, 3.2-3), as have cropmark ring ditches of probable early Bronze Age date, but no substantial Neolithic or Mesolithic activity has yet been found within the Scheduled Area.

Table 2. Struck flints by context and type

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
1102	Burnt Unworked x 1		heavily burnt	
1407	Burnt Unworked x 2		Heavily burnt	
1408	Flake x 1	inner	Heavily rolled, derives from colluvium	
1707	Unclassified arrowhead		Proximal fragment. Unfinished leaf, late Neolithic chisel arrowhead or derivative form	EN/LN
1713	Retouched bladelet	inner	Distal fragment with fresh break. Crude retouch	LM/EN
1713	Chip x 2		Very worn	
1713	Bladelet	Inner	Heavily Worn	LM/EN

***Discussion/recommendations*:**

B.3.8 The flints from the evaluation should be fully integrated into any future analysis arising from further investigation on the site.

B.4 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

Description

B.4.1 A total of nine pieces of stone weighing 265g were retained from context 1407. These are fragments of imported lava from one or more rotary querns, although they are small, friable and undiagnostic fragments. They are most likely to be Roman in date, although a medieval date is also possible.

B.5 Metals

By Ian R Scott

B.5.1 The only metal finds are five small fragments that might form part of the blade and tang of a small whittle tang knife. The fragments are heavily encrusted, which makes the identification far from certain. X-radiography might help to confirm or refute the tentatively suggested identification.

B.5.2 Context 1714 (1) Possible whittle tang knife fragment. Fe. L extant: *c* 80mm.

B.6 Slag

By Geraldine Crann

B.6.1 Three refitting pieces of slag with a combined weight of 17g were recovered from context 1714. The lump of slag was fairly dense, with a metallic appearance and clear air bubbles. It was probably smithing slag.

B.6.2 The slag assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work at this stage.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bones

By Rebecca Nicholson

Methodology

C.1.1 The bones from the Phase 2 evaluation at Dunstall Field, Tiddington Road were identified at Oxford Archaeology South using a comparative skeletal reference collection. An attempt was made to identify the bone fragments to species where possible; other fragments were classified by size: 'large mammal' representing cattle, horse and deer; and 'medium mammal' representing sheep/goat, pig and large dog.

C.1.2 The condition of the bone was graded on a 6-point system (0-5). Grade 0 equates to very well-preserved bone, and grade 5 indicates that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable (Table 3).

C.1.3 A record of the assemblage will be incorporated with the site archive.

Overview of assemblage

C.1.4 A total of 104 fragments of animal bones were collected from this excavation, 76 by hand collection from context 1407 and 28 from the residues of sieved soil samples. This number of fragments belies the bone condition: most fragments were indeterminate pieces of bone and tooth enamel. The majority of bone was in poor or very poor condition (Table 4).

C.1.5 The bones are tabulated by species and size in Table 5. The only identifiable fragments were a fragment of pig distal tibia from undated ditch fill (1407), a pig tooth fragment from late Iron Age/early Roman pit sample 3 (1709), and a cattle molar from sample 2, taken from late Iron Age/Early Romano British colluvial layer (1102).

C.1.6 No further information can be derived from such a small and poorly preserved assemblage.

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.

Table 3. Bone preservation grading methodology

Context	1102	1112	1115	1407	1709
Condition 3				1	1
Condition 4	6			75	
Condition 5	12	2	7		

Table 4 Percentage of bone in each condition category, by context

Context	1102	1112	1115	1407	1709	Total
Phase	LIA/ER	LIA/ER	LIA/ER	undated	LIA/ER	
Cattle	6					6
Pig	1			1	1	3
Large mammal				5		5
Mammal	7	2	7	70		86
Indeterminate	4					4
Total	18	2	7	76	1	104

Table 5. Number of identified fragments, by taxon

C.2 The Charred Plant Remains

Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.2.1 Nine bulk samples were taken from the Phase 2 evaluation in September 2016. These are listed, together with the volume of soil and the resulting flot, by context in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Details of the bulk soil samples by context

Sample No	***Context No***	***Trench No***	***Feature Type***	***Period***	***Sample Size (l)***	***Flot Size (ml)***
1	1707	17	Ditch	RB?	40	300
2	1102	11	Layer	LIA/ERB	40	25
3	1709	17	Pit	LIA/ERB	40	300
4	1203	12	Layer	RB	40	20
5	1102	11	Layer	LIA/ERB	40	50
6	1112	11	Layer	LIA/ERB	40	10
9	1115	11	Ditch	LIA/ERB	26	<10
10	1903	19	Layer	Undated	40	75
11	1408	14	Layer	Undated	40	75

Methodology

C.2.2 The samples were processed for charred plant remains (CPR) by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residues sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for bones and artefacts; those recovered are reported together with the hand collected material. The dried flots were scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification.

C.2.3 All flots were 100% scanned, with the exception of samples <1> and <3> of which 100ml was scanned.

Results

C.2.4 These are given in Table 7 below. All samples contain large quantities of modern roots with occasional modern seeds. Small fragments of non-diagnostic charcoal are also present in all samples. All samples also contain charred cereal grains the majority of which are badly abraded and not identifiable to species. Charred seeds from wild plants are rare and also in poor condition.

Table 7. Quantification of identified charred plant remains by sample and context.

Sample No	***Context***	***Comments***
1	1707	2 unidentified cereal grains, 1 ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) seed
2	1102	7 unidentified cereal grains, 1 legume fragment >2mm
3	1709	31 unidentified cereal grains, 23 wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains, 4 grass seed fragments, 1 ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) seed, 6 badly degraded glume wheat chaff fragments, 1 possible knotweed (*Persicaria* sp.) seed, 1 small fragment of oat (*Avena* sp.) awn.
4	1203	8 unidentified cereal grains, 1 grass seed
5	1102	21 unidentified cereal grains, 6 small glume wheat chaff fragments, 4 legume fragments (<2mm)
6	1112	19 unidentified cereal grains, 1 small glume wheat chaff fragment, 1 grass seed fragment, 3 ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) seed, 1 hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragment.
9	1115	9 unidentified cereal grains, 9 small glume wheat chaff fragments, 2 wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains.
10	1903	7 unidentified cereal grains, 1 small glume wheat chaff fragment, 1 oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus*) seed fragment, 5 ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) seeds
11	1408	2 unidentified cereal grains, 1 wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain

Conclusions

C.2.1 The charred material is in fairly poor condition, with the majority of material being either partial or badly abraded on the exterior. The presence of glume wheat chaff suggests that the wheat grains present may be spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), which would be consistent with the late Iron Age/early Roman date of most of the features. The single hazelnut fragment is likely to be residual because of its condition, and it is possible that the ivy-leaved speedwell is modern in origin, as the dark colour makes it difficult to discriminate between uncharred and charred seeds.

C.2.2 The majority of the flot material is similar in nature to that observed during the previous evaluation of this site (Nicholson 2014). None of these samples contain material in sufficiently good condition or abundance to warrant further analysis. Any future

excavation should incorporate standard sampling following best practice (eg English Heritage 2011).

C.3 Pollen assessment

By Mairead Rutherford

Introduction

C.3.1 Two sub-samples were taken from samples recovered from 1m squares dug through a dark layer within a hollow at Dunstall Field, Tiddington. The samples were submitted by OA South for palynological assessment.

Methodology

C.3.2 Volumetric samples were taken from the two sub-samples and one tablet containing a known number of *Lycopodium* spores was added so that pollen concentrations could be calculated (Stockmarr 1972). The samples were prepared using a standard chemical procedure (method B of Berglund and Ralska-Jasiewiczowa 1986), using HCl, NaOH, sieving, HF, and Erdtman's acetolysis, to remove carbonates, humic acids, particles > 170 microns, silicates and cellulose, respectively. The samples were then stained with safranin, dehydrated in tertiary butyl alcohol, and the residues mounted in 2000cs silicone oil.

C.3.3 Slides were examined at a magnification of 400x by ten equally-spaced traverses across at least two slides to reduce the possible effects of differential dispersal on the slides (Brooks and Thomas 1967) or at least until 100 pollen grains were counted. Pollen identification was made following the keys of Moore *et al.* (1991), Faegri and Iversen (1989), and a small modern reference collection. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010). The preservation of the pollen was noted and an assessment was made of the potential for further analysis.

Table 8. Lithology and Stratification

1m square	Sample Number	Context Number	Depth (m)	Lithology
Pit 1	7	1108	0.60-0.61	Silty sand, fine - medium grained, very dark greyish brown
Pit 7	12	1303	0.24-0.25	Sand, medium grained, reddish black, mottled dark red-brown

Results

C.3.4 Neither of the sub-samples processed for pollen assessment yielded a useful pollen assemblage. The sub-sample from Pit 7, (1303), contained a single dandelion-type (*Taraxacum*-type) pollen grain. Small amounts of micro-charcoal were present in both sub-samples. No further work is recommended.

C.4 Geoarchaeologial Assessment

By Magdalena Benysek and Elizabeth Stafford

Introduction

C.4.1 Two monoliths were submitted, one each from evaluation Trench 11 and Trench 13, for a preliminary assessment of the soils and sediments. The monoliths were sampled from sections through a large sub-surface hollow at two locations just over 100m apart. Trench 13 was located at the edge of the hollow, whereas Trench 11 was located further east where the hollow was deeper, and the sequences were therefore much thicker here. The underlying geology of the site is Mercia Mudstone below Pleistocene Wasperton sands and gravels of the second terrace of the River Avon. The area of the site is gently sloping towards the north-west and is currently under pasture.

C.4.2 The purpose of the assessment was to characterise the soils and sediments through detailed description, provide preliminary interpretation of likely formation processes and recommendations for further work if appropriate.

Method

C.4.3 The monoliths were extruded in the laboratory, cleaned and photographed. The sediment descriptions were recorded on a standard monolith logging proforma according to the OA guidelines, based on Historic England (2015) and Jones *et al.* (1999). This includes a description of colour (identified using the Munsell colour system on fresh sediment), compaction, texture, sorting, structure, inclusions (including abundance, shape and material). Comment was also made on the nature of observable contacts/boundaries. All depths were measured from the top of the monolith sample, rather than the top of the excavated section. Following the sediment recording a pollen sample was taken from each monolith to check for preservation levels.

Results

C.4.4 The detailed sediment descriptions are presented as graphical logs at the end of this report along with the photographs. Correlation has been made with context numbers recorded in the field, along with spot dating from retrieved finds.

C.4.5 Trench 11. Monolith <7> measured 0.75m in length and was collected from Section 1101, Test pit 1. The top of the monolith lay at 0.72m below the top of the excavated section. The elevation of the top of the monolith measured 36.40m OD.

C.4.6 The sequence of sediments predominantly comprised dark orangey brown sand (0.00-0.50m, context 1102) of a slightly loamy nature with occasional small pebbles. 16 sherds of pottery dated to the LIA-RB period were retrieved from this deposit during the evaluation. This graded into a greyer silty sand towards the base (0.50-0.65m, context 1108) with slight plasticity. In the basal 0.10m of the monolith (0.65-0.75m, context 1109) there was a clear change to a more sterile yellow brown fine to coarse silty sand which possibly represents the finer element of the Pleistocene terrace gravel to the south-east of the hollow, ie the parent material in which the hollow was formed.

C.4.7 In Trench 13, monolith <12> measured 0.60m in length and was collected from Section 1301 of Test pit 7. The top of the monolith lay at 36.85m OD. This sample location is towards the edge of the hollow and the sequence of sediments, although similar to monolith <7>, was thinner and was more disturbed by root action.

C.4.8 The sequence of sediments predominantly comprised dark orangey or reddish brown sand (0.00-0.40m, context 1303) of a slightly loamy nature with occasional small

pebbles. Pottery recovered from this deposit was dated to the Romano-British period. There was clear evidence of bioturbation and significant root disturbance evidenced by the mottled appearance, slightly mixed with large sub-vertical root voids extending down to the parent material. The parent material (0.40-0.60, context 1304) comprised a sandy silt similar to that in monolith <7>.

Discussion

C.4.9 The assessment has served well in providing a basic description of the sediments exposed in sections of the sub-surface hollow. In general the sediments filling the hollow appeared fairly homogeneous and bioturbated by soil processes, with little sign of internal bedding structures. The graded character suggests that this represents a conformable sequence with no clear erosional contacts. The character of the sediments is consistent with deposition as a result of sub-aerial denudation and slope processes. The generally fine-grained nature with incorporation of occasional small stones is suggestive of sheetwash, but it is likely that this occurred over a period of time in conjunction with *in situ* soil formation, producing a homogeneous profile. As such, any artefactual material will probably not have travelled far from the original point of discard, or may even be stratified *in situ*. Thin-section analysis of monolith <7> may be able to clarify further formation processes associated with deposition should direct association with archaeological features or artefacts warrant it.

C.4.10 No cultural inclusions such as charcoal or flecks of fired clay were noted, and there was an absence of observable macroscopic ecofacts such as plant remains, molluscs or bone fragments (see Appendices C. 1 and C.2 above).

C.4.11 The generally oxidised nature of the deposits is indicated by the reddish hue, although the slightly greyish hue of the lower deposits in monolith <7> may hint at slightly anaerobic conditions, perhaps through impeded drainage, which might have indicated better preservation of microscopic remains such as pollen. However, pollen assessment of two samples, one from the dark deposit 1303 in Trench 13, the other from the lower deposit 1108 in Trench 11, showed that neither deposit contained sufficient pollen to provide useful information (see Appendix C. 3 above). From the monoliths observed, the overall palaeo-environmental and radiocarbon dating potential is considered to be low.

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Appendix E. Summary of Site Details

Site name: Dunstall Field, Tiddington Road, Stratford-upon Avon, Phase 2

Site code: TIDST16

Grid reference: NGR SP 2145 5555

Type: Evaluation

Date and duration: 19/9/2016-30/9/2016

Area of site: 2.65 ha

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by the landowner Marie-Louise McAlister to undertake a trial trench evaluation of Dunstall Field (Centred on NGR SP 2145 5555), which lies on the north side of Tiddington Road between Stratford-upon-Avon and Tiddington. Most of the field is part of Scheduled Monument WA 184, Tiddington Roman settlement. Initially a desk based report and geophysical survey were conducted in 2012. A first phase of trenching (Phase 1) was conducted between September and October 2014, and a second phase of trenching (Phase 2) between the 19th and 30th September 2016.

In Phase 1 10 trenches were excavated across the field, largely targeting obvious geophysical anomalies. The topography proved to consist of the second gravel terrace on the south-east, with a large hollow filled with colluvium north-west of that, then a ridge of 1st terrace gravel, and the Avon floodplain at the very north-west edge of the site. Prehistoric discoveries comprised a hollow fill containing Beaker-period (2500-2000 BC) remains, and a single middle Iron Age pit. The trenching suggested that in the Roman period settlement was confined to the south and east of the site, beyond which was a series of field boundaries. Overall the archaeological remains were sparse.

Phase 2 of the excavation aimed to target further blank areas and anomalies on the geophysical survey, to test whether the Iron Age pit was isolated or part of a larger focus of activity, to characterise the hollow infilling more closely, and in particular to investigate the Beaker activity found on the west of the site. A further 9 trenches were excavated.

No further evidence of Beaker activity was identified during Phase 2, establishing the west and south limits of the deposit previously found. North of the hollow most of the trenches were empty, although another field ditch was found on the west side of the site, extending the system identified in Phase 1.

On the east, the middle Iron Age pit proved to be an isolated example. A pit and several shallow ditches of the late Iron Age/early Roman period were found to the south of this close to the hollow, extending the area of settlement activity slightly, and another ditch of this date was found running into the hollow from the south.

The colluvial hollow fills appear largely to have accumulated in the late Iron Age and Roman periods, and infilled Roman ditches dug across the hollow.

Overall a concentration of Roman activity was confirmed in the south-east and east of the field, including the area of the hollow, and further ditches, probably field boundaries, to the north of this.

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

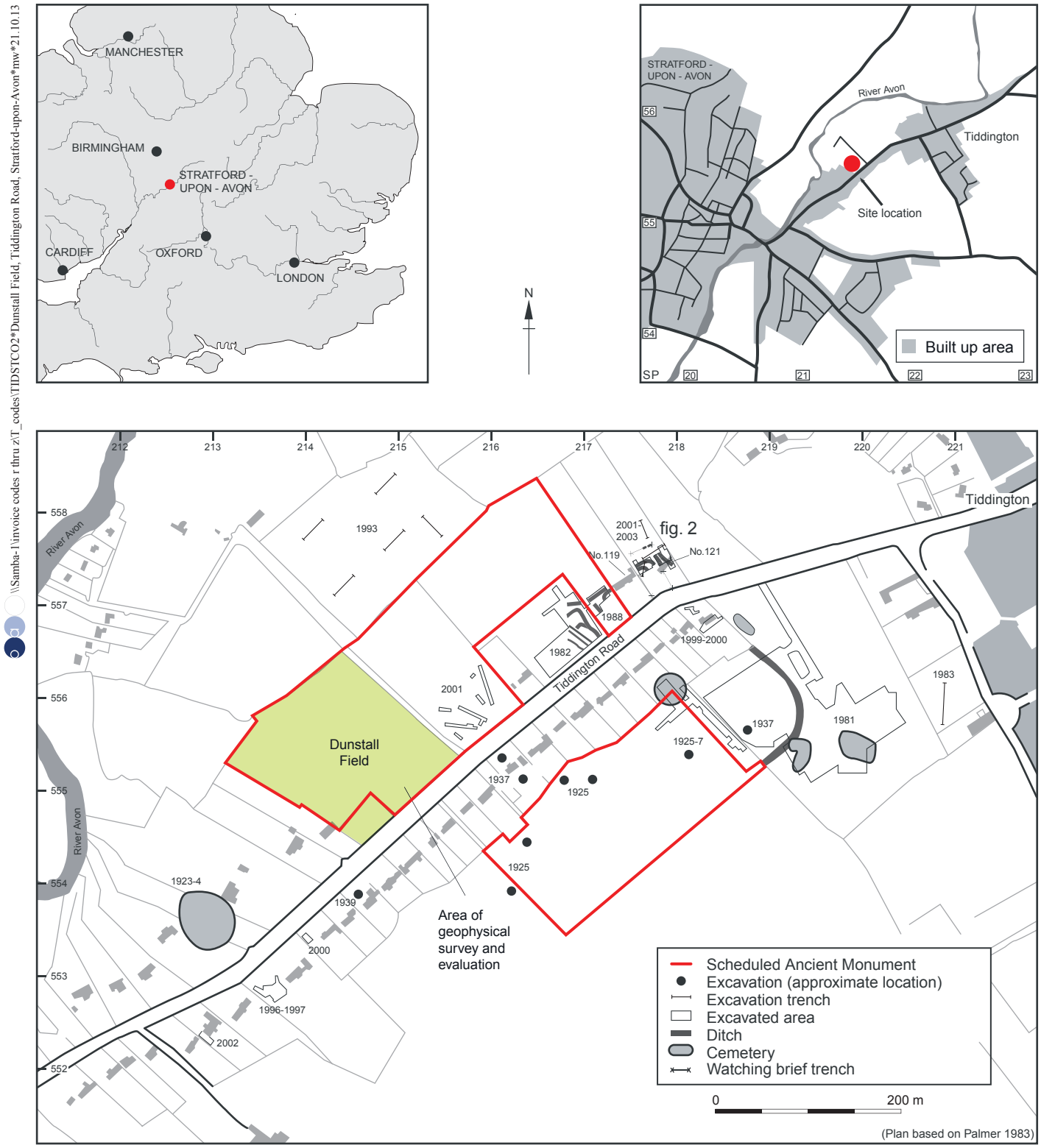
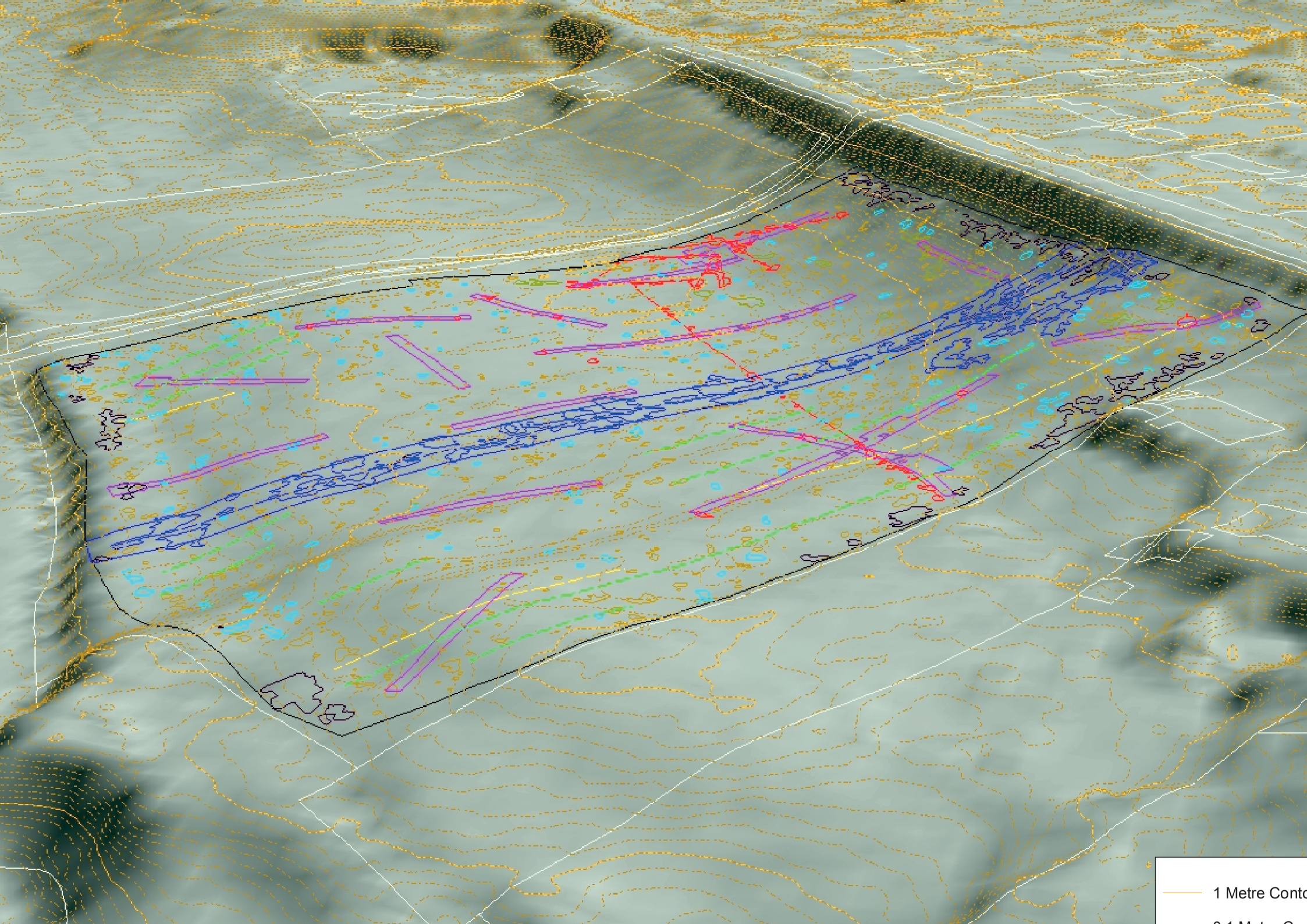


Figure 1: Site Location plan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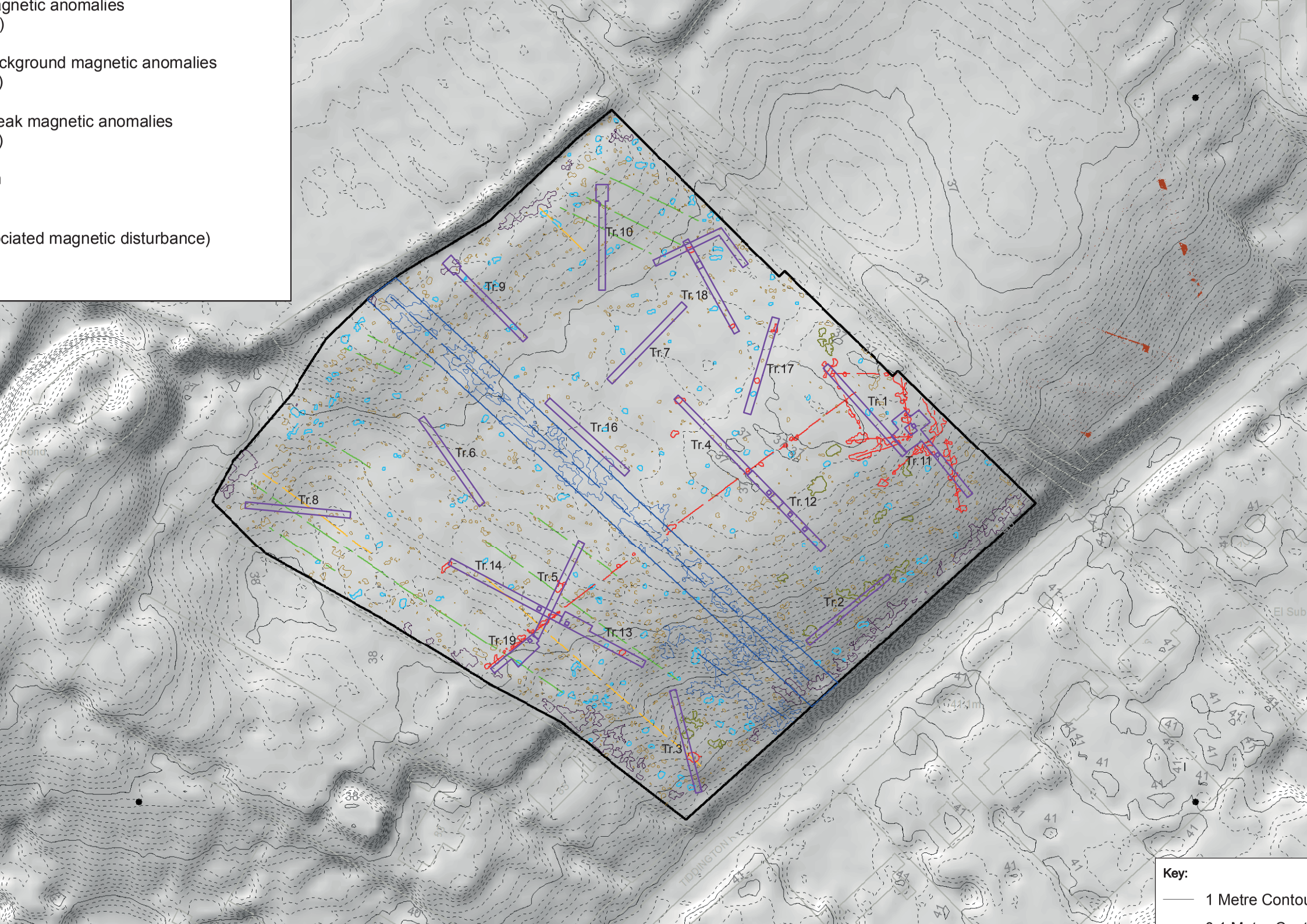
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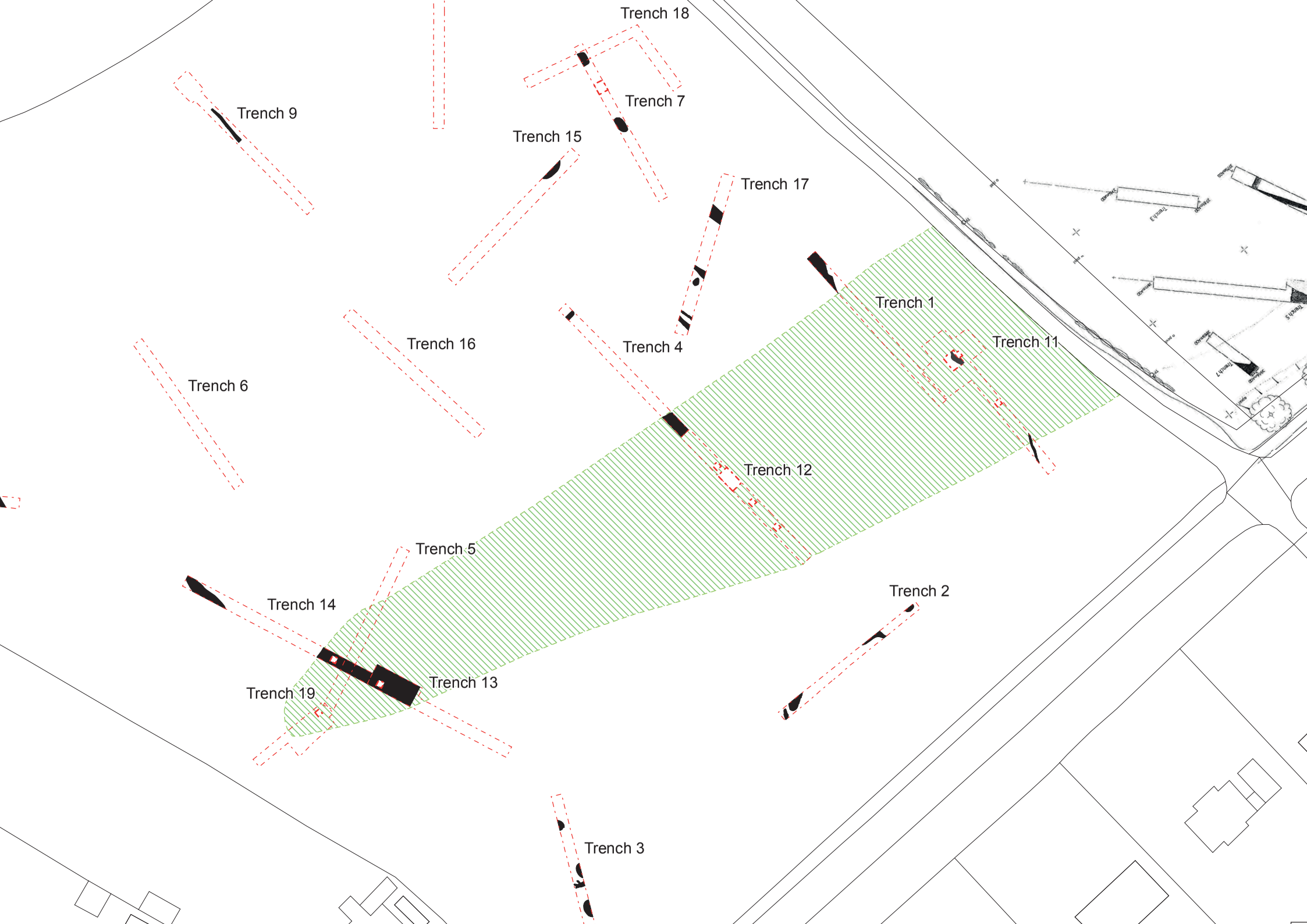
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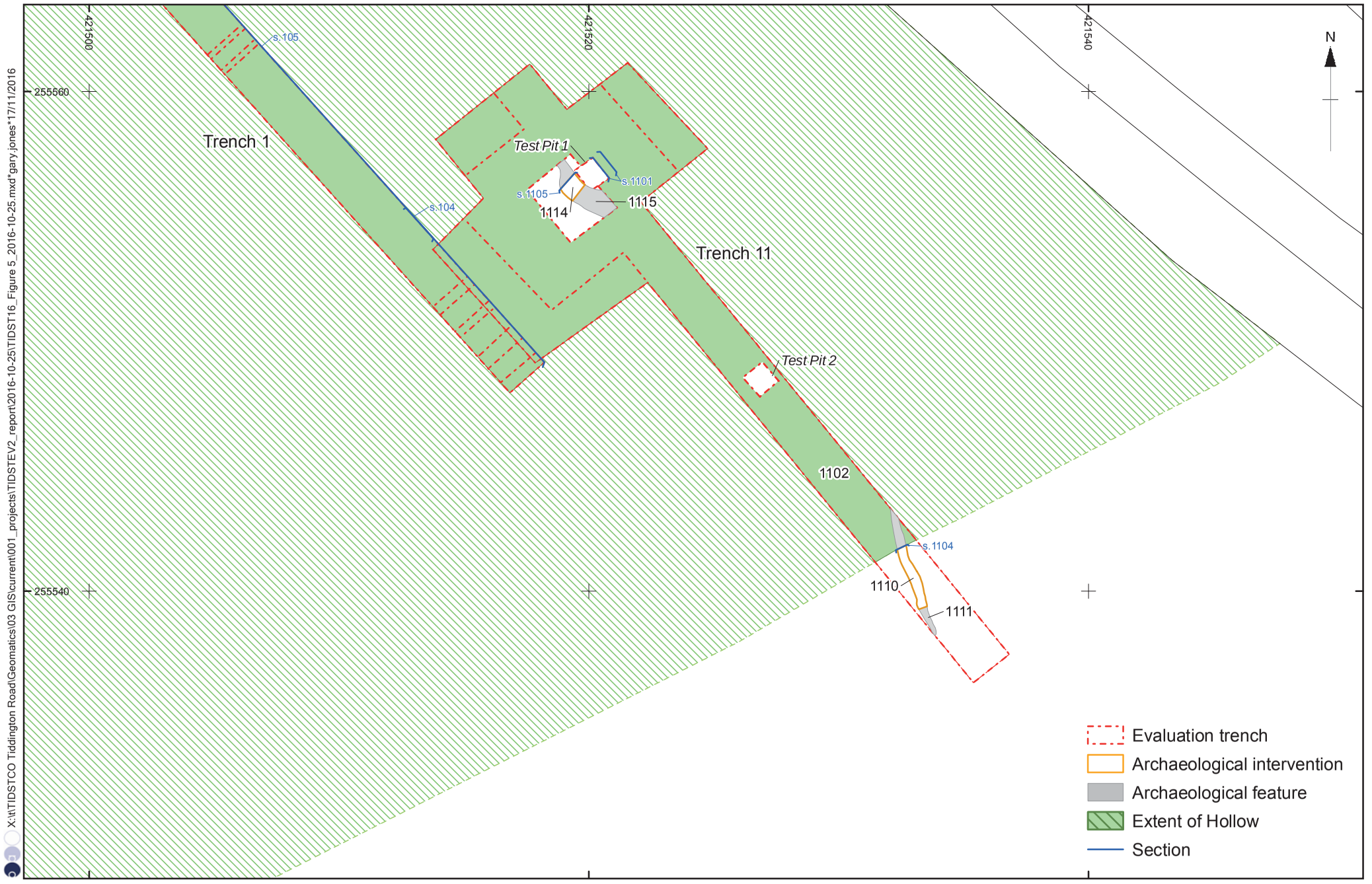

Figure 5: Plan of Trench 11

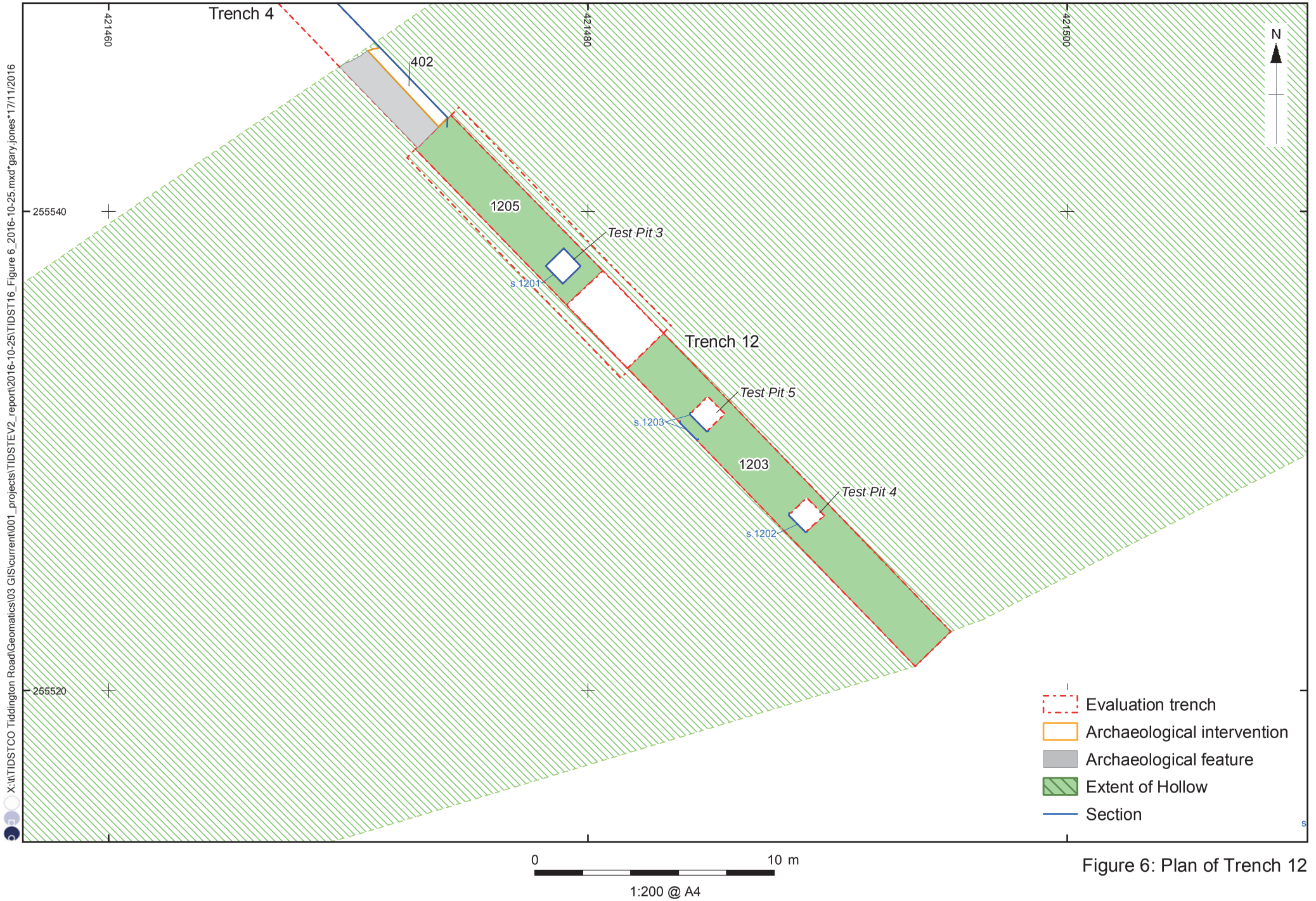

Figure 6: Plan of Trench 12

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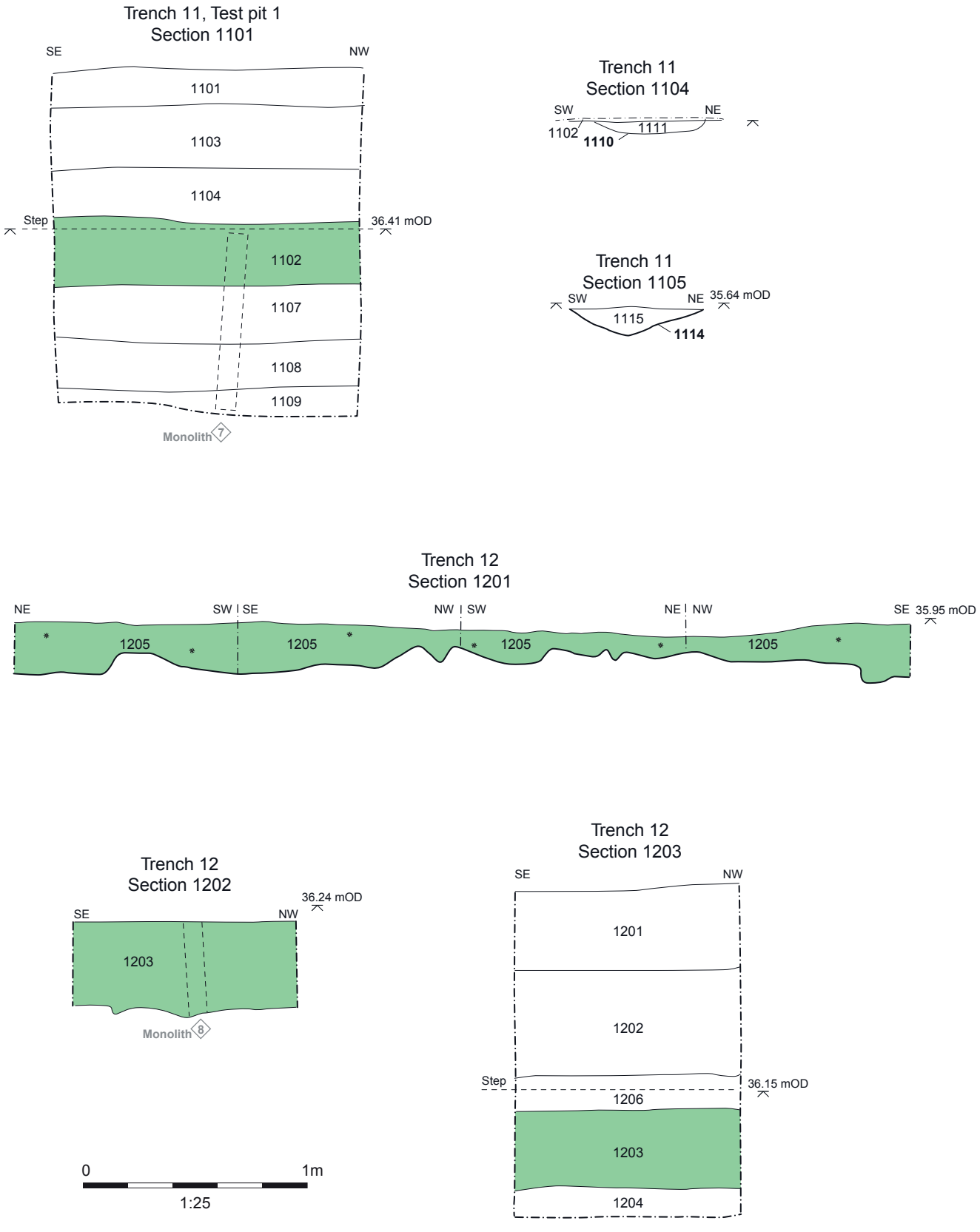

Figure 7: Sections of features and test pits in Trenches 11 and 12

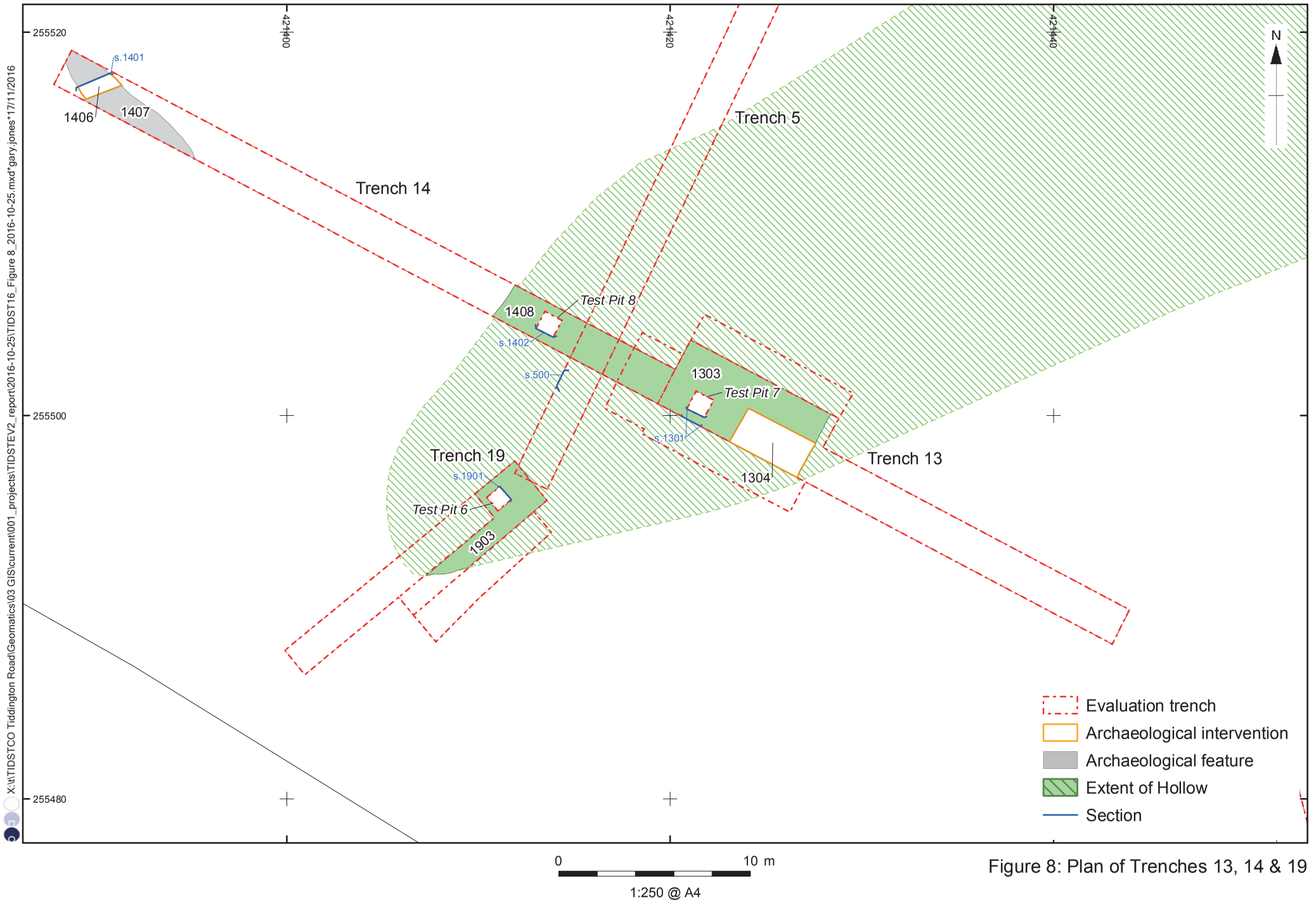

Figure 8: Plan of Trenches 13, 14 & 19

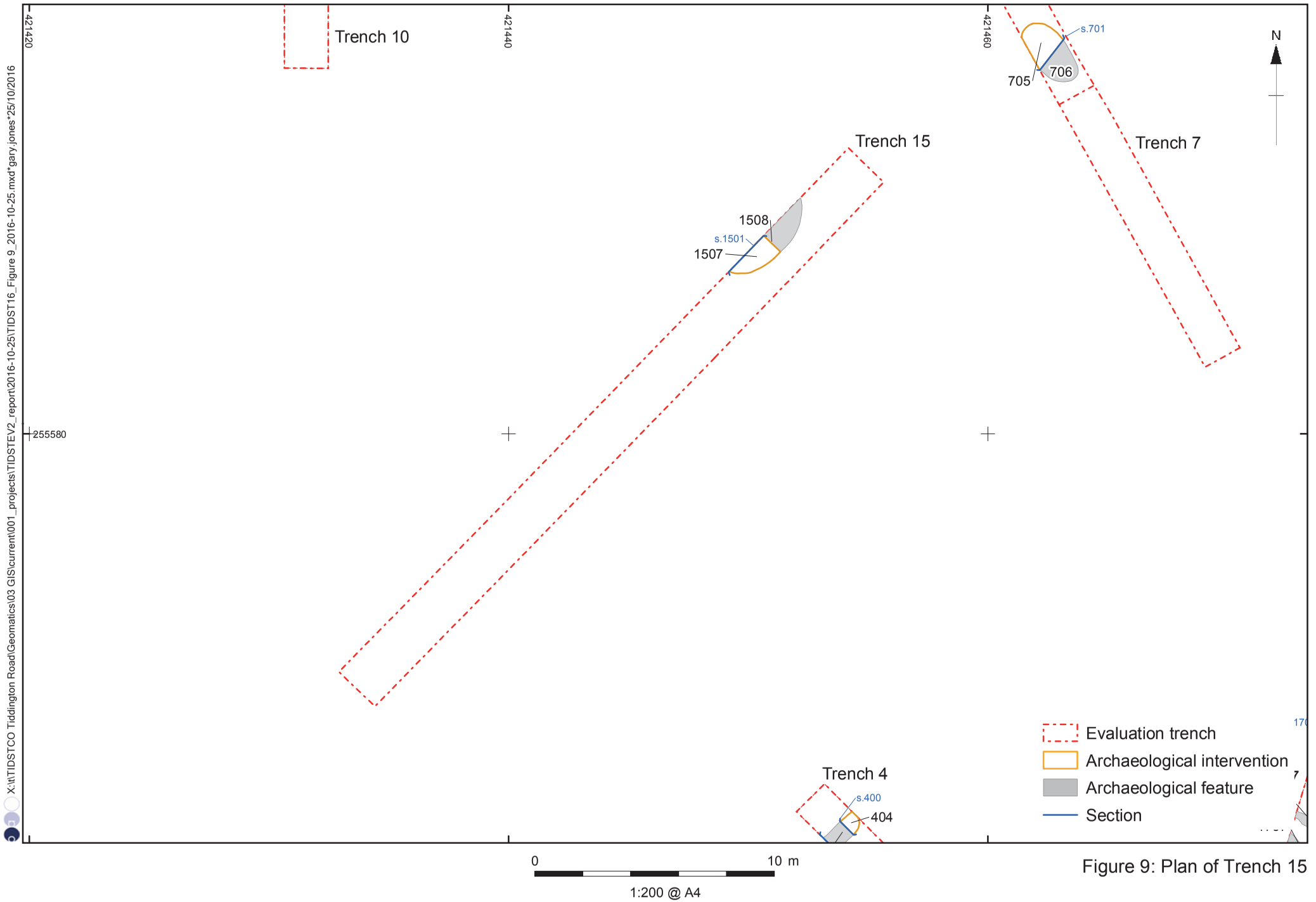

Figure 9: Plan of Trench 15

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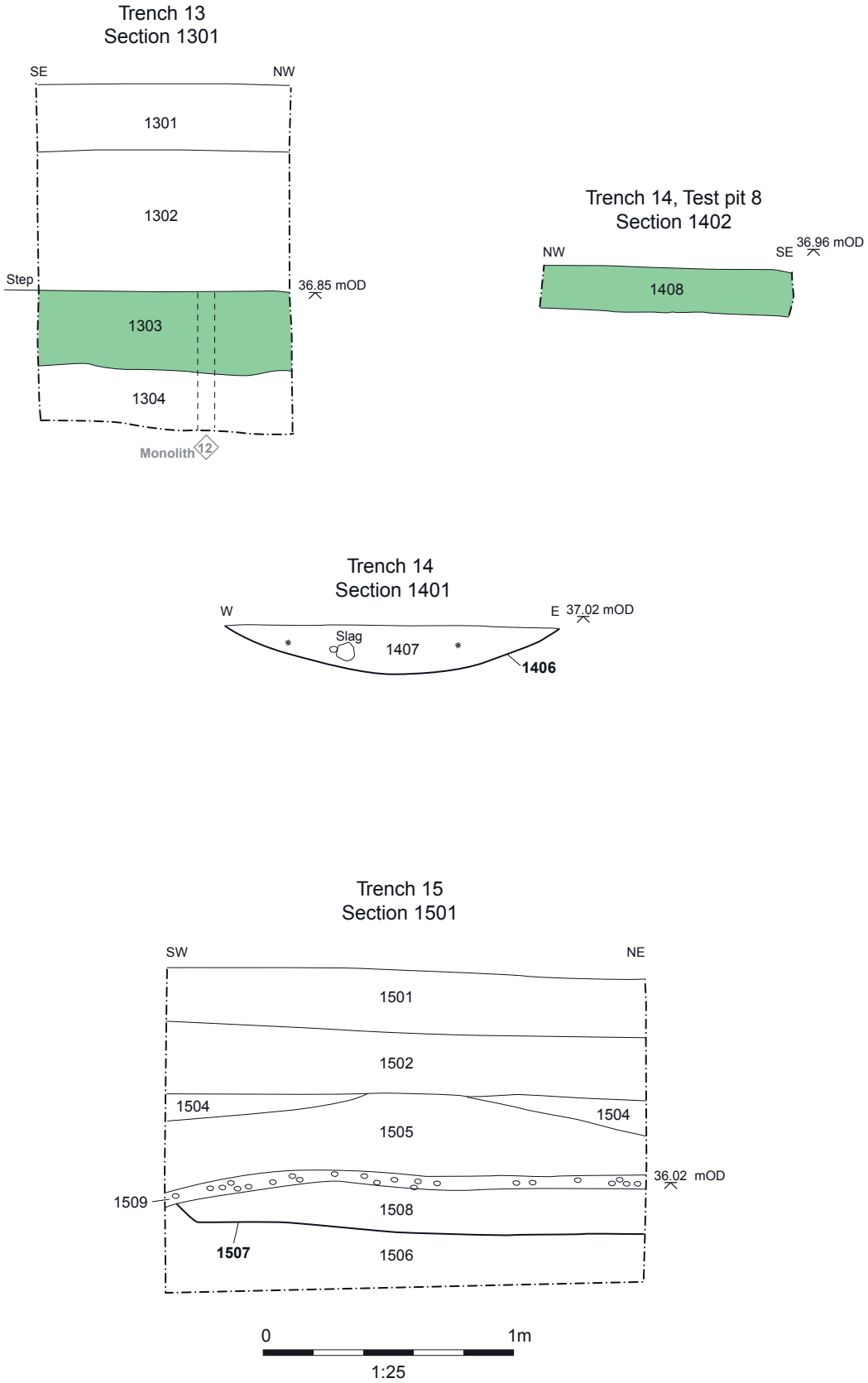

Figure 10: Sections of features and test pits in Trenches 13, 14 and 15

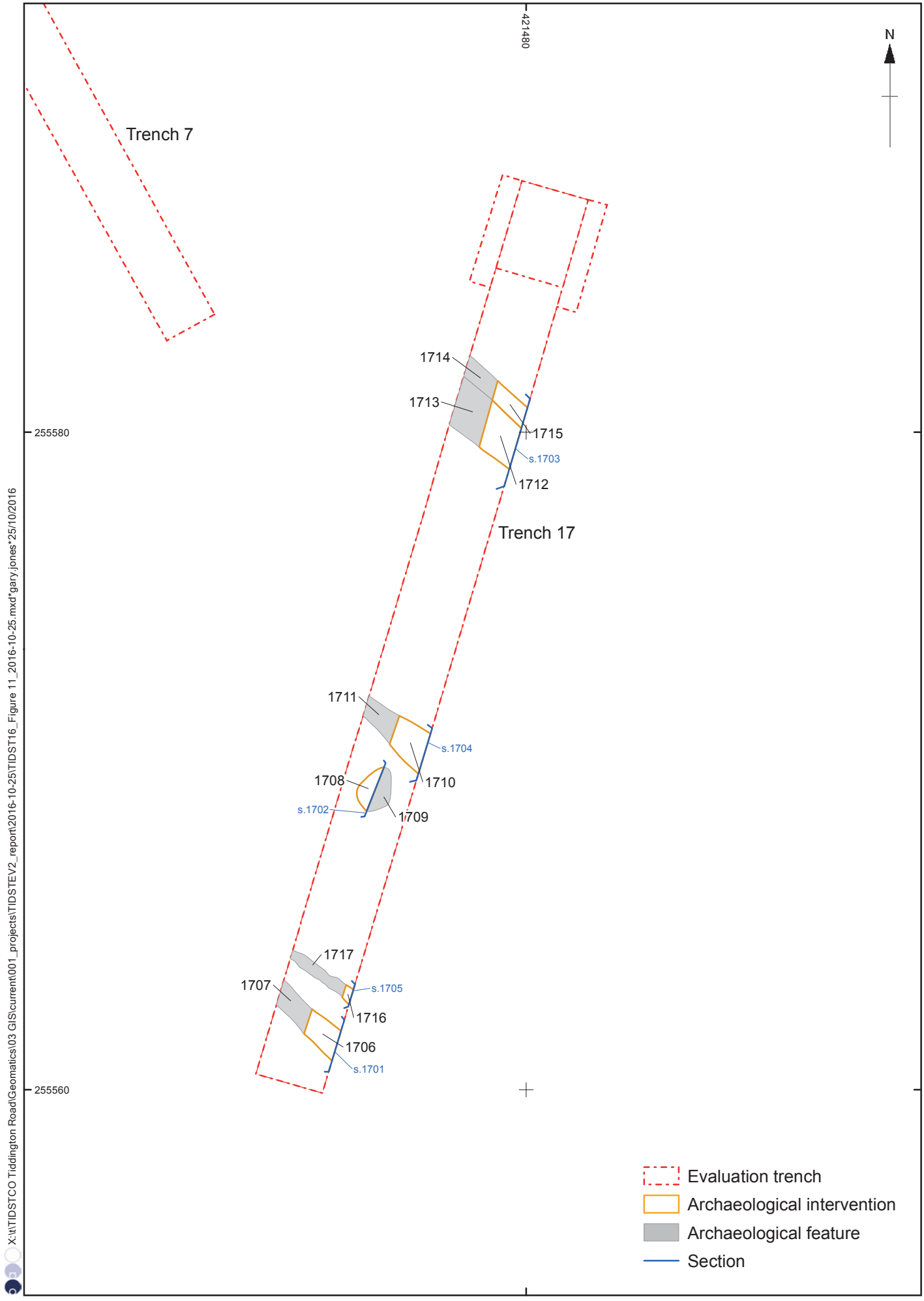

Figure 11: Plan of Trench 17

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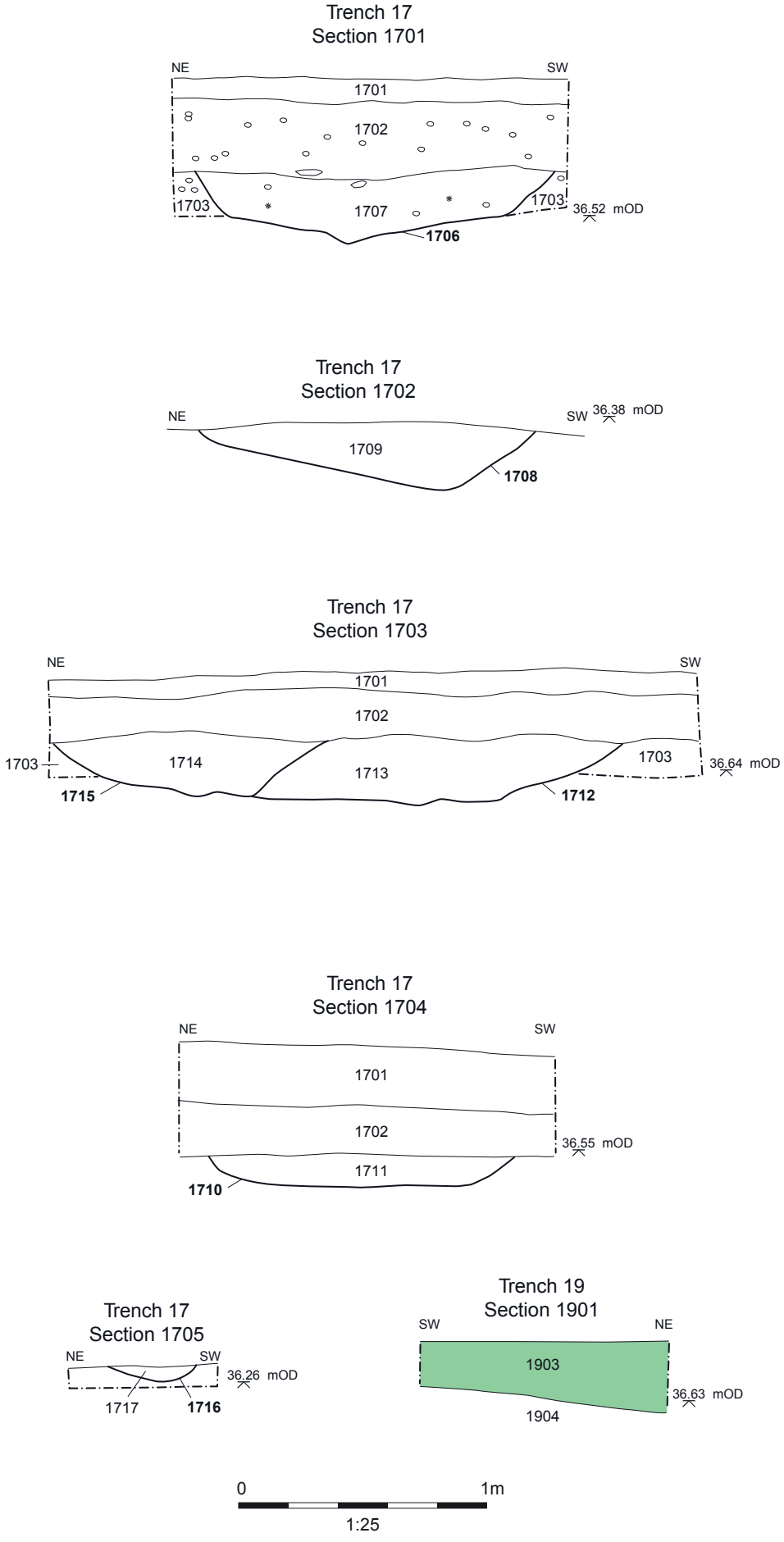

Figure 12: Sections of features and test pits in Trenches 17 and 19

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Plate 1: Trench 11 with ditch 1110 in foreground, looking north-west

Plate 2: Trench 11, test pit 2, section 1103, looking north-west

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Plate 3: Trench 11 feature 1110, detail cutting colluvial fill, looking north-east

Plate 4: Trench 11, ditch 1114 below colluvium, section 1105, looking north-east

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Plate 5: Trench 12, looking north-west

Plate 6: Trench 12, representative section, looking SSW

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Plate 7: Trench 13 with sondage through colluvium, looking south-east

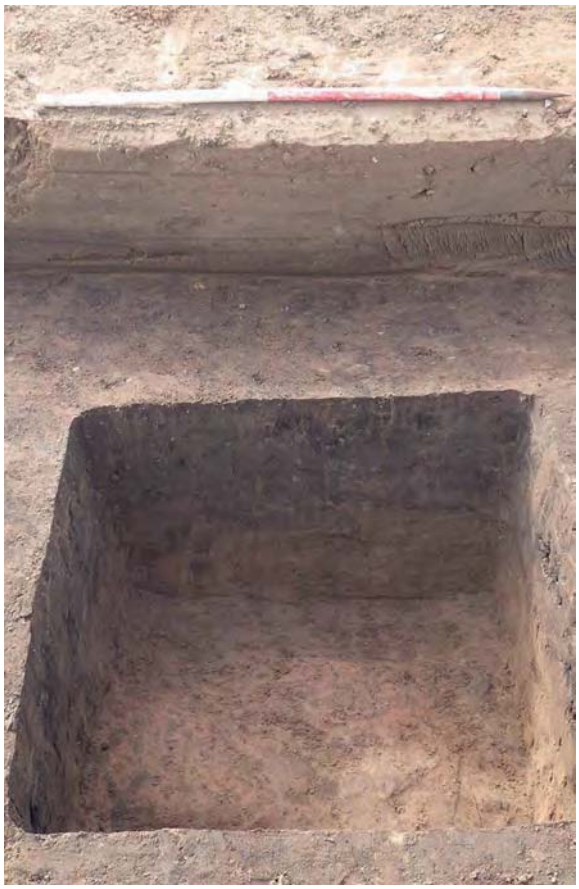

Plate 8: Trench 13 test-pit 7 through colluvium, looking south-west

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Plate 9: Trench 14, looking north-west

Plate 10: Junction of trenches 13 and 14 showing backfilled Trench 5, looking north-west

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Plate 11: Trench 14 test-pit 8, looking south-west

Plate 12: Trench 15, looking south-west

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Plate 13: Trench 15, feature 1507, section 1501, looking north-west

Plate 14: Trench 16, looking north-west

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Plate 15: Trench 16 with sondage showing gravel, looking south-east

Plate 16: Trench 17, looking north-east

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Plate 17: Trench 17, pit 1708, section 1702, looking south-east

Plate 18: Trench 18, looking north-east

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Plate 19: Trench 18 eastern arm, looking north-west

Plate 20: Trench 19, looking north-east

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