Terriers Farm, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

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Terriers Farm, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology were appointed by Walsingham Planning to conduct an archaeological evaluation, comprising ten trenches, at Terriers Farm, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,Terriers Farm, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire in advance of a planning application for a proposed residential development.

The evaluation identified a small pit with evidence of burning, which produce pottery dated to the prehistoric period. Two ditches were also identified interpreted as late medieval or post-medieval field boundaries and drainage features.

The archaeological evaluation was conducted over the course of three days between the 28th and 30th November 2020.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Walsingham Planning for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Philip Markham at Buckinghamshire Council who monitored the work.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Paul Murray, who was supported by Marius Gorniak. Survey and digitising was carried out by Marjaana Kohtamaki, Magda Wachnik and Mathew Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Walsingham Planning to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed residential development at Terriers Farm, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

1.1.2 The work was being undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of submission of a Planning Application. Although the Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions with Philip Markham at Buckinghamshire Council established the scope of work required; this document outlines how OA implemented those requirements.

1.1.3 The works formed part of a staged approach to the archaeological mitigation of the proposed development. The results of this evaluation will be used to inform the scope of any further works should they be required.

1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Guidance (CIfA 2014 revised 2020).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is situated within an area known as 'Terriers', c 2km north-east of High Wycombe town centre. The site encompasses an area of 1.6 hectares and currently comprises a pasture field. The site lies on gently undulating ground, generally rising from 167m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east to 171m aOD in the west.

1.2.2 The underlying bedrock geology is recorded as Seaford and Newhaven Chalk Formation, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 72 to 90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS Online).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a Desk-based Assessment (DBA; OA 2020a) and will not be reproduced here. The following summary is derived from the DBA and provided to place these works in context.

Designated heritage assets

1.3.2 There are no designated heritage assets within the site boundary, but a number of listed buildings fall within the 1km study area of the DBA. The eastern part of the site lies within the Terriers Conservation Area, one of four such areas in the vicinity.

Prehistoric period

1.3.3 Artefactual evidence for prehistoric activity has been recovered to the north and the south-west of the site, with dates ranging from the Palaeolithic through to the late Iron Age. Evidence for possible Iron Age settlement and agricultural activity has been

identified approximately 200m to the north of the site during archaeological evaluation works.

Romano-British period

1.3.4 Evidence for Romano-British activity has been identified to the north and west of the site. A single pit lined with burnt flints and containing pottery and animal bone was discovered during groundworks approximately 765m to the west of the site. A 4th-century coin has also been recovered from this area.

1.3.5 Two large ditches containing 2nd-century pottery were identified during an archaeological evaluation approximately 925m to the north of the site. The ditches may be associated with an adjacent series of earthworks previously thought to represent a deserted medieval settlement.

Medieval period

1.3.6 Although Wycombe is first recorded as Wicumun in AD 970 there is an absence of earlier medieval documentary information relating to Terriers and the area of the site. There are no earlier medieval remains recorded within the study area of the DBA but is likely the site was located within or on the edge of Wycombe Heath, a large area of common grazing heathland and woodland.

1.3.7 Remnants of a drove way are visible on LiDAR data c 200m north of the site and earthworks, including a bank-and-ditch boundary and a hollow way are located 800-900m south of the site and are all suspected to have medieval origins. Earthworks located approximately 900m to the north of the site are believed to be the remains of the deserted medieval settlement of Pirenore.

1.3.8 The remains of two suspected moated manor sites are recorded within the vicinity, one 800m to the north of the site comprising areas of extant masonry, a fishpond and possible moat, and the other is located 900m to the north of the site.

Post-medieval and modern periods

1.3.9 The earliest documentary reference to Terriers dates from 1714. The 1812 Ordnance Surveyors drawing shows Terriers as a dispersed settlement along the Amersham Road, a toll Road established by 1768. Throughout the post-medieval period and into the 20th century site has remained as fields, although the site boundaries have varied.

1.3.10 The Grade II listed Terriers House and Terriers Lodge are depicted on the 1812 drawing as lying to the south of the site. These structures are shown in greater detail on the 1848 Wycombe tithe map with one of the buildings extending into the site. The 1874-1875 Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows a large pond present within the north-eastern part of the site. This feature is still visible in the LiDAR data available for the site but is indicated as being substantially larger than depicted on the mapping. A second small feature, possibly a pond or garden features, is shown within the southern part of the site associated with the building forming part of Terrier's House, however, the possible pond and the building have been demolished prior to the 1898 OS map.

1.3.11 The 1925 OS map depicts a well in the south-western corner of the site and two filter beds in the south-eastern corner of the site. The well is not shown on the later 1966-67 OS map but a small structure is depicted in area of woodland that has extended from the north down the eastern edge of the site.

1.4 Geophysical survey

1.4.1 In September 2020 a geophysical survey of the proposed development area was undertaken (MS 2020; Fig. 2). The survey identified anomalies of modern origin relating to former hard standing, and magnetic disturbance. Anomalies of undetermined origin were identified with interpretation complicated by the presence of ferrous material. The report concludes that although no anomalies suggestive of extensive archaeological remains have been identified their presence cannot be ruled out.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

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

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

x. To ground truth the results of the geophysical survey, including targeting potential archaeological features and areas suggested to be devoid of archaeological remains.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The works comprise the excavation of ten trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m, equating to a 4% sample the proposed development area (Fig. 2). The trenches were positioned to ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey.

2.3.2 Trenches 3 and 9 were extended to fully expose the extent of features (Fig. 2).

2.3.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by OA and approved by Philip Markham (OA 2020b), and in accordance with the CIfA 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation' (CIfA 2014 revised 2020).

Trench excavation

2.3.4 The trenches were laid out as shown in Figure 2 using a GPS with sub-15mm accuracy. The presence of gas main along the eastern edge of the site required the location of several trenches to be changed from those proposed in the WSI.

2.3.5 The trenches were excavated using an appropriately powered mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from the trench edges.

2.3.6 Machining was carried out in even spits down to the top of the undisturbed geology or the first archaeological horizon. Once archaeological deposits have been exposed, further excavation was carried out by hand.

2.3.7 The exposed surfaces were sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains.

2.3.8 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was in accordance with established best practice and the OA field manual. Small finds and samples were allocated unique numbers. Bulk finds were collected by context.

2.3.9 Spoil produced from machine excavation, the surface or archaeological features and spoil from hand excavation was scanned by a metal detector to enhance finds retrieval.

2.3.10 Digital photos were taken of any archaeological features, deposits, trenches and evaluation work in general.

2.3.11 Plans were produced at an appropriate scale (normally 1:50 or 1:100) with larger scale plans of features produced as necessary. Sections of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1m-wide sample sections of stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All section drawings were located on the plan/s. The absolute height (m OD) of all principal strata and features, and the section datum lines, was calculated and indicated on the drawings.

2.3.12 Sample sections were located using either a GPS unit or total station. Coordinates relative to Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Datum were obtained for each sampling location.

2.3.13 Upon completion of the works the trenches were backfilled with the arising in reverse order of excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

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

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches varied. In general, the underlying natural geology comprised mottled mid/light yellow and brown silts with amorphous areas of rounded flint pebbles in variable percentages. However, in Trench 1 the geology consisted of gravel in a dark brown silt matrix.

3.2.2 A buried ploughsoil was recorded across Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 that extended into the northern end of Trench 7. In Trenches 5 and 6 the geology was directly overlain by the topsoil. In Trench 10 the geological horizon was overlain by a modern spread comprising intermixed layers of chalk and rubble accumulated through dumping.

3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good but deteriorated after persistent rain. The rain resulted in water collecting in a number of trenches and compromised the excavation of features in Trenches 4 and 6. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 6. Potential archaeological features were investigated in Trenches 2 and 9, although subsequently interpreted as geological variations.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 The geological horizon (104) was established at a depth of 0.54m (168.9m aOD). Trench 1 contained a single linear feature (Figs. 2 and 3).

3.4.2 Aligned NNE-SSW, linear feature 101 was 0.6m wide and filled with loose, dark grey sandy silt with 10% rounded and sub-rounded flint pebbles (102). Ceramic building material was recovered from the fill of this feature. The feature appeared to cut the earlier ploughsoil (103), although was somewhat unclear due to the similarity of its fill and deposit 103.

3.4.3 The feature aligns with a comparable linear feature recorded in Trench 6.

3.5 Trench 3 (Fig. 3 and Plate 3)

3.5.1 The geological horizon (303) was established at a depth of 0.5m (167.41m aOD). A pit (308) and two potential linear features (304, 306) were investigated (Fig. 3). Pit 308 extended beyond the northern trench baulk, therefore the trench was extended to reveal the extent of the feature in plan.

3.5.2 Pit 308 was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 1.5m x 0.7m and 0.15m deep. It had sides angled at 40° side and an irregular flattish base (Fig. 6 section 302; Plate 1). It contained a single fill (309) which comprised a mottled mid grey-brown and oxidised reddish-brown clay silt with distinct lenses of charcoal. Deposit 309 produced eight sherds of pottery, although they are difficult to date due to the absence of diagnostic material, they are likely to date to the early Neolithic, although an early Iron Age date cannot be ruled out. Two struck flints and a moderately large collection of burnt unworked flint (133 pieces weighing 135g) were also recovered.

3.5.3 Two potential linear features were investigated (304 and 306) but were determined to be of geological origin. Both were similar in character with one side steep or undercutting and one irregular side angled at between 40° and 50°. They were filled with almost identical fills (305 and 307) comprising compact mid brown clay silts with frequent angular, sub-angular and rounded flints (Fig. 6 sections 300 and 301). A similar feature was also recorded in Trench 9.

3.6 Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

3.6.1 The geological horizon (404) was established at a depth of 0.42m (167.6m aOD). The geology was overlain by a layer of buried ploughsoil (403) 0.18m thick. At the north end of the trench. an east-west aligned ditch (401) was observed to cut the buried ploughsoil.

3.6.2 The ditch was 1.2m wide and ran parallel with the current northern boundary of the site. It was filled with a moderately compact, mid grey sandy silt with 15% poorly sorted flint pebbles (402). Ceramic building material was recovered from the surface of this deposit. Due to water accumulation within the trench, it was not possible to excavate the ditch.

3.7 Trench 6

3.7.1 The geological horizon (604) was established at a depth of 0.24m (167.93m aOD). A linear feature (602) on a NNE-SSW alignment was recorded towards the western end of the trench.

3.7.2 The linear feature was 0.8m wide and filled with a moderately compact, dark grey sandy silt with 10% poorly sorted rounded and sub-rounded flint pebbles (603). Ceramic building material was recovered from the surface of the deposit.

3.7.3 The alignment of the feature suggests it is the continuation of the linear feature recorded in Trench 1.

3.8 Trench 9 (Fig. 9)

3.8.1 The geological horizon (902) was established at a depth of 0.24m (165.3m aOD). A linear feature (903) aligned NW-SE was investigated towards the northern end of the trench (Figs. 2 and 3). The trench was extended to the west to fully expose the extent of the feature.

3.8.2 Once fully exposed the feature was observed to turn to the west before terminating. It was 1.64m wide, 0.92m deep. The feature had an irregular profile (Fig. 6 sections 900 and 901; Plate 2) and was filled by a compact, mid brown silty clay with frequent

rounded, sub-rounded and angular flint pebbles (904). This feature has been interpreted as a geological anomaly.

3.9 Finds summary

3.9.1 Eight sherds of pottery were recovered from the small pit in Trench 3. Due to the absence of diagnostic material within the assemblage it is difficult to establish their date. The sherds are suspected to be of early Neolithic origin, but an early Iron Age date is possible. The pit also produced two struck flints and a moderately large collection of burnt unworked material.

3.9.2 Ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from the surface of features in Trenches 1, 4 and 6 and varied in date between medieval or early post-medieval and 19th-20th century. A moderate amount of CBM was also noted within the buried ploughsoil, although not retained.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Were present, archaeological features were well defined against the natural geology, however, excavation of features in Trenches 4 and 6 was hindered water accumulation. Despite this the evaluation should be considered to provide a reliable assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation successfully achieved the aims and objects outlined in Section 2, and successfully determined the presence and date of archaeological features in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 6. Trenches 3 and 9 were extended to fully reveal the extent of features. Geological features, linear in character, were investigated in Trenches 3 and 9.

4.3 Geophysical survey

4.3.1 There was no correlation between the archaeological features and the geophysical survey results. The nature of the geology, with amorphous patches of flint pebbles in variable sizes concentrations, clearly accounted for the majority of the survey anomalies. The geological feature recorded in Trench 9 broadly corresponded with a geophysical signal described as “undetermined (weak)”. Two further geophysical signals targeted by Trench 9 were not present within the trench. The geophysical survey records an industrial/modern spread in the southern area of the site which was targeted by Trenches 5 and 7. The industrial spread was not recorded in either of the trenches, although it was noted that there was a significant quantity of dumped rubbish on the ground surface.

4.4 Interpretation

4.4.1 The pit in Trench 3 produced eight sherds of pottery that are probably early Neolithic or early Iron Age. It also produced two undiagnostic struck flints and 133 pieces of burnt unworked flints. There was no evidence for in-situ burning of the pit itself, although it did contain distinct lenses of charcoal. The pit is indicative of dump of material associated with a fire and likely represents transitory activity rather than intensive prehistoric activity within the site.

4.4.2 Two ditches were identified during the evaluation and both relate to medieval or post-medieval land management. The ditch in Trench 4 runs parallel to the current northern field boundary. It produced ceramic building material dated to the 17th – 19th centuries. It is likely to represent a field boundary or drainage feature. additionally, its alignment suggests it would drain into the pond situated in the north-east corner of the site.

4.4.3 The second ditch was recorded in both Trenches 1 and 6, aligned north-south, parallel to the current eastern field boundary. Ceramic building material was recovered from the ditch in both Trenches 1 and 6 which dated to the 13th to 16th centuries. This ditch appears to represent a field boundary.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a linear feature aligned N-S, which aligns with a linear feature recorded Trench 6. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying geology of silty sand with rounded flint pebbles.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.54
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil.	-	-
101	Cut	0.6	-	Linear feature, aligned N-S. Unexcavated.	-	-
102	Fill	0.6	-	Fill of 101.	CBM	13th – 15th C
103	Layer		0.3	Buried ploughsoil.	-	-
104	Layer	-	-	Geology.	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained a pit and two geological anomalies that were linear in character. Consists of topsoil and buried ploughsoil overlying natural geology of light to mid brown silt with irregular patches of rounded flint pebbles.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil.	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.18	Buried ploughsoil.	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Geology.	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
The trench contained a pit and two probable geological anomalies. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a mixed geology of silty clay with frequent rounded flint pebbles and brownish yellow silt.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil.	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.2	Buried ploughsoil.	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Geology. Brownish yellow silty clay with frequent rounded flint pebbles (NW of trench).	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	Geology. Light yellowish-brown clay silt with occasional rounded flint pebbles (NW end of trench).	-	-

304	Cut	0.8	0.4	Geological formation.	-	-
305	Fill	0.8	0.4	Fill of 304. Moderately compact, mid brown clay silt with sub angular and rounded flint pebbles.	-	-
306	Cut	0.62	0.46	Geological formation.	-	-
307	Fill	0.62	0.46	Fill of 304. Moderately compact, mid brown clay silt with sub angular and rounded flint pebbles.	-	-
308	Cut	0.8	0.24	Ovoid pit.		
309	Fill	0.8	0.24	Fill of 308. Moderately compact, reddish brown clay with rounded pebbles and distinct lenses of charcoal of charcoal.	Pottery, flint, fired clay.	Prehistoric
310	Cut	3.2		Possible tree-throw or geological variation. Unexcavated.		
311	Layer			Fill of 310. Light brown silty clay.		

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a ditch aligned E-W. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying geology comprising soft, light brown silty clay with irregular patches of rounded flint pebbles.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil.	-	-
401	Cut	1.2	-	Ditch aligned E-W.	-	-
402	Fill	1.2	-	Fill of 401.	CBM	17th-19th C
403	Layer	-	0.18	Buried ploughsoil.		
404	Layer	-	-	Geology.		

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a modern (20th C) post-hole. Consists of topsoil overlying geology comprising soft, light brown silty clay with irregular patches of rounded flint pebbles.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.22
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
501	Cut	0.7	-	Square post-hole.	-	-
502	Fill	0.7	-	Fill of 501. Loose, mid grey silt, 10% rounded flint pebbles.	Late 19th-20th C china noted but not retained.	-
503	Layer	-	-	Geology.		

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a linear feature aligned N-S. Consists of topsoil overlying geology comprising soft, light brown sandy silt with irregular patches of rounded flint pebbles.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.24
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.15	Buried ploughsoil.	-	-
602	Cut	0.8	-	Ditch aligned N-S.	-	-
603	Fill	0.8	-	Fill of 602. Moderately compact, dark grey sandy silt, 10% rounded flint pebbles. Unexcavated.	CBM	13th-16th C
604	Layer	-	-	Geology.	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying geology comprising soft, light brown sandy silt with irregular patches of rounded flint pebbles. The subsoil was only evident in the northern 14m of the trench section.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.2	Buried ploughsoil.	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Geology.	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying geology comprising soft, light mottled light and mid brown sandy silt with irregular patches of rounded flint pebbles.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Geology	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a probable geological formation which was linear in character. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying geology comprising soft, light mottled light and mid brown sandy silt with irregular patches of rounded flint pebbles. A colluvial deposit was recorded in the northern part of the trench.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**

900	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Geology.	-	-
903	Cut	1	0.9	Geological formation. Linear in character.	-	-
904	Fill	1	0.9	Fill of 903. Mod compact, mid brown silty clay with frequent rounded flint cobbles.	-	-
905	Layer		0.3	Subsoil. Soft, mid brown silty clay.		

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and a modern brick and chalk rubble layer overlying geology comprising soft, light mottled light and mid brown sandy silt with irregular patches of rounded flint pebbles.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1001	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	0.23	Modern brick rubble and chalk.	-	-
1003	Layer	-	-	Geology.	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Alex Davies

Introduction

B.1.1 A single context from the evaluation, 309, produced prehistoric pottery, amounting to eight sherds weighing 23g. The pottery consists of undiagnostic body sherds tempered with fine, well sorted flint. The sherds are thin-walled, *c* 3mm, and well fired. One of the sherds appears to be red-coated. They are difficult to date due to the absence of diagnostic material and the reappearance of flint as a tempering agent during multiple prehistoric periods. Nevertheless, the sherds are probably either early Neolithic, or early Iron Age.

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric	Spot-date	Comment
309	8	23	Flint, fine well sorted	E Neo or EIA	Inc 2 sherds from enviro sample 1.

B.2 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.2.1 This evaluation yielded just two struck flints and a moderately large collection of burnt unworked material (133 pieces weighing 135g) all of which were recovered from pit fill 309. The flint comprised a misc. trimming flake and a piece of burnt irregular waste now fragmented into three. The flint is not diagnostic and could date to any period in prehistory or even later and could also be residual. The burnt unworked material does suggest the use of flint for cooking/heating or for use in industrial processes such as kilns or ovens.

B.2.2 The results of this evaluation suggest that only minimal flint-related activity would be encountered here should further work commence. Significant quantities of burnt unworked flint could be encountered and should be sampled accordingly but should not be recovered en masse.

Methodology

B.2.3 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially

undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan et al. 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Context	type	sub-type	notes	date
309	Flake	Misc trimming	Undiagnostic	
309	Irregular waste	Fragments x 2	9g	
309	Burnt unworked	Fragments x 133	135g mostly small angular fragments	

B.3 Ceramic Building Material

By John Cotter

Introduction

B.3.1 Five pieces of CBM weighing 221g were recovered from 3 contexts. Given the small amount these have not been separately catalogued but are fully described below.

B.3.2 Context (102) Spot-date: 13th to 15th century? Description: 1 piece (weight 69g). Edge fragment from a flat roof tile (peg tile?) in a very hard, coarse, sandy, orange fabric. The fabric matrix is fairly smooth but contains a moderate scatter of coarse rounded quartz and rare inclusions of flint. The surfaces and the edge are rougher - particularly the sanded underside which has a few quartz grains up to 2.5mm across. The core is a light orange colour and the surfaces a slightly darker colour. A very thin reduced grey margin occurs just below the surfaces. The surviving edge is very crudely finished and possibly finger-dented. Otherwise the piece is fairly fresh. A medieval date is likely.

B.3.3 Context (402) Spot-date: 17th to 19th century? Description: 3 pieces (weight 29g). Small, abraded fragments from 2 flat roof tiles. The larger piece is a peg tile with a trace of a circular nail hole but no surviving edges. It has a fairly smooth, uniform, fine sandy, red-brown fabric and is probably post-medieval. The other tile (2 joining scraps) has a similar fabric to the tile in (603) above, but with a finer/smoother texture. The latter is probably post-medieval too.

B.3.4 Context (603) Spot-date: 13th to 16th century? Description: 1 piece (weight 123g). A very abraded/weathered piece of flat roof tile with no surviving edges. Light orange-brown surfaces/margins with a thin grey core. Finer, more uniformly sandy fabric than the tile in (102) above. Traces of the rougher/sandier underside present. Probably medieval or early post-medieval?

B.4 Fired Clay

By John Cotter

Description

B.4.1 Context (309) [Environmental Sample <1>] Spot-date: Undatable? Description: 1 piece (weight 12g). Shapeless or sub-rounded scrap of soft brown fired clay (length 35mm). Low-fired, fairly sandy fabric unevenly sorted and containing a few very coarse

inclusions of angular flint up to 8mm across. Has some resemblance to underfired, coarsely-mixed, early post-medieval brick fabrics, but this is only one of a number of possibilities.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.1.1 A single sample was taken during the evaluation, to evaluate the presence and condition of any palaeo-environmental remains and to recover any artefacts or other datable material.

C.1.2 The sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraf system) for the recovery of plant remains and any bones or artefacts that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.25mm nylon mesh and the residues were sieved to 0.5mm. The flot and residues were allowed to air dry in a heated room and any bones and artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds.

C.1.3 Once dried the flot was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 to x20. Identifications of seeds and cereal chaff were made with reference to published guides (eg Jacomet 2006 and Cappers et al. 2012) and the comparative seed collection held at OAS. Nomenclature for the plant taxa follows Stace 2010.

Results

C.1.4 The sample was taken from the single fill of pit 308 in Trench 3 which has been dated as prehistoric from associated ceramics. The 30L sample was a strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) silty clay with frequent sub angular stones. It produced a flot of 380ml plus an additional 600ml of charcoal fragments >10mm that failed to float.

C.1.5 Due to the large size of the flot, 50% only was scanned. The scanned portion of the flot contains large-sized and well-preserved charcoal. Fine roots are common but form only a small part of the total flot volume.

C.1.6 Seeds are rare: two common chickweed (Stellaria media), one half of a vetch (Vicia/Lathyrus) <2mm and three damaged seeds of black bindweed (Fallopia convolvulus) were present within the scanned portion. These plants all have a wide range of tolerances and are all commonly associated with arable land and waste places.

C.1.7 Pottery, fired clay fragments and burnt flint were present within the residues.

Discussion and Recommendations

C.1.8 The sample would appear to derive from the disposal of waste from a fire into a rubbish pit, the few seeds are likely to be accidental inclusions. The presence of burnt flint within the sample may indicate an “industrial” process but could also be a result of heating flint for cooking or heating (Donnelly 2020 this volume).

C.1.9 The charcoal has not been further identified at this time but if further excavations are conducted at the site this material should be considered for species identification as

part of a wider discussion on the utilisation of resources. The charcoal, if roundwood or from short-lived trees or shrubs, may also offer the opportunity for radiocarbon dating.

C.1.10 If further excavation is carried out on this site, it is recommended that bulk sampling of features for charred plant material should take place, ideally from a range of features across the site. This sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (e.g. Historic England 2011).

Recommendations for retention/dispersal

C.1.11 The flot warrants retention in the archive. The charcoal is potentially identifiable and could be used for radiocarbon dating or incorporated an any future analysis should there be further excavation at the site.

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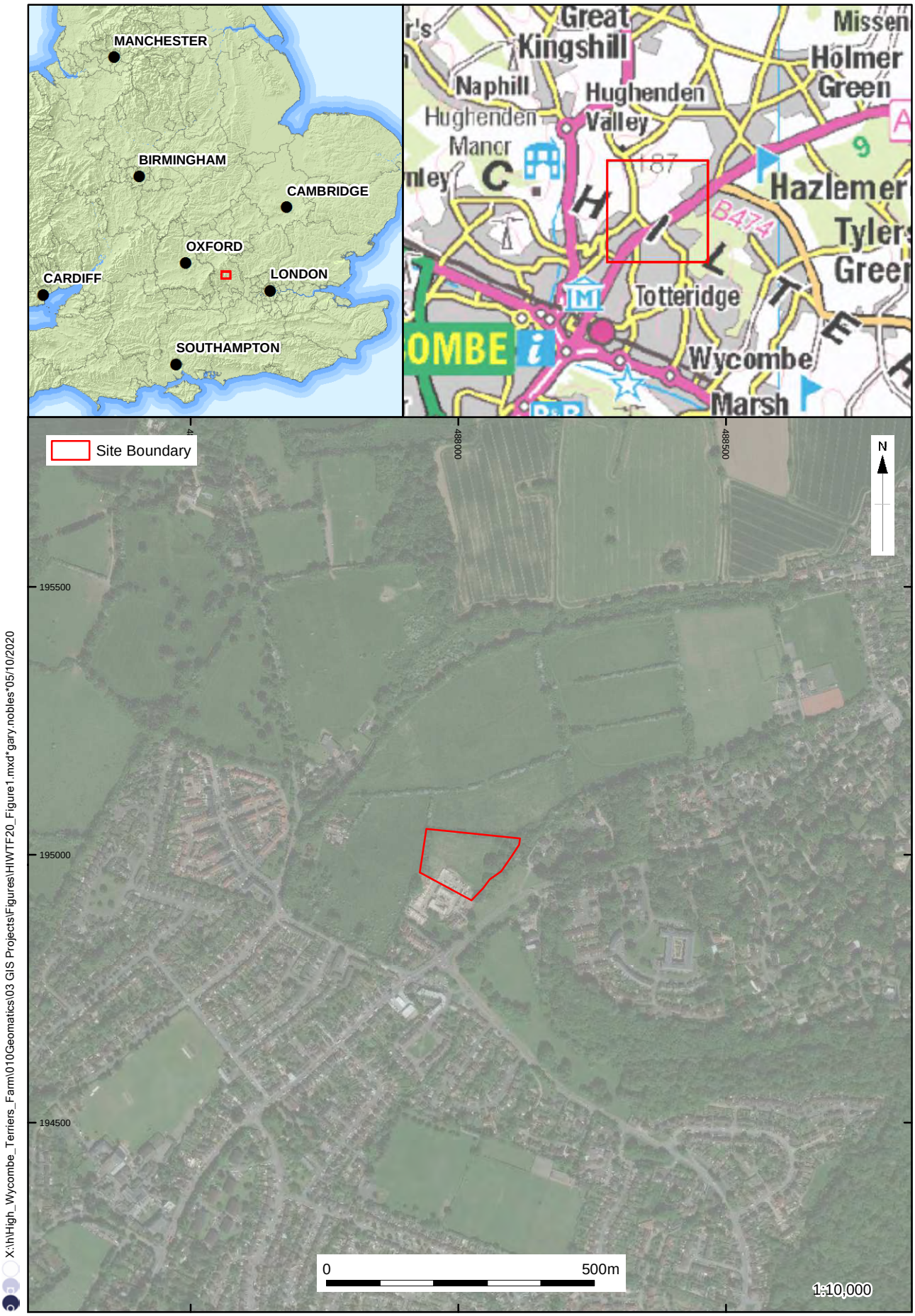
APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Terriers Farm, High Wycombe
Site code:	HIWTF20
Grid Reference	SU 87981 94951
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	28th – 30th October, three days
Area of Site	1.6 hectares
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County museum in due course, under the following accession number: AYBMC:2020.55.
Summary of Results:	A trial trench evaluation comprising the excavation of 10 trenches was undertaken in support of a planning application. The evaluation identified a small pit with evidence of burning, which produced pottery dated to the pre-historic period. Two ditches were also identified interpreted as late medieval or post-medieval field boundaries and drainage features.



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Trench locations

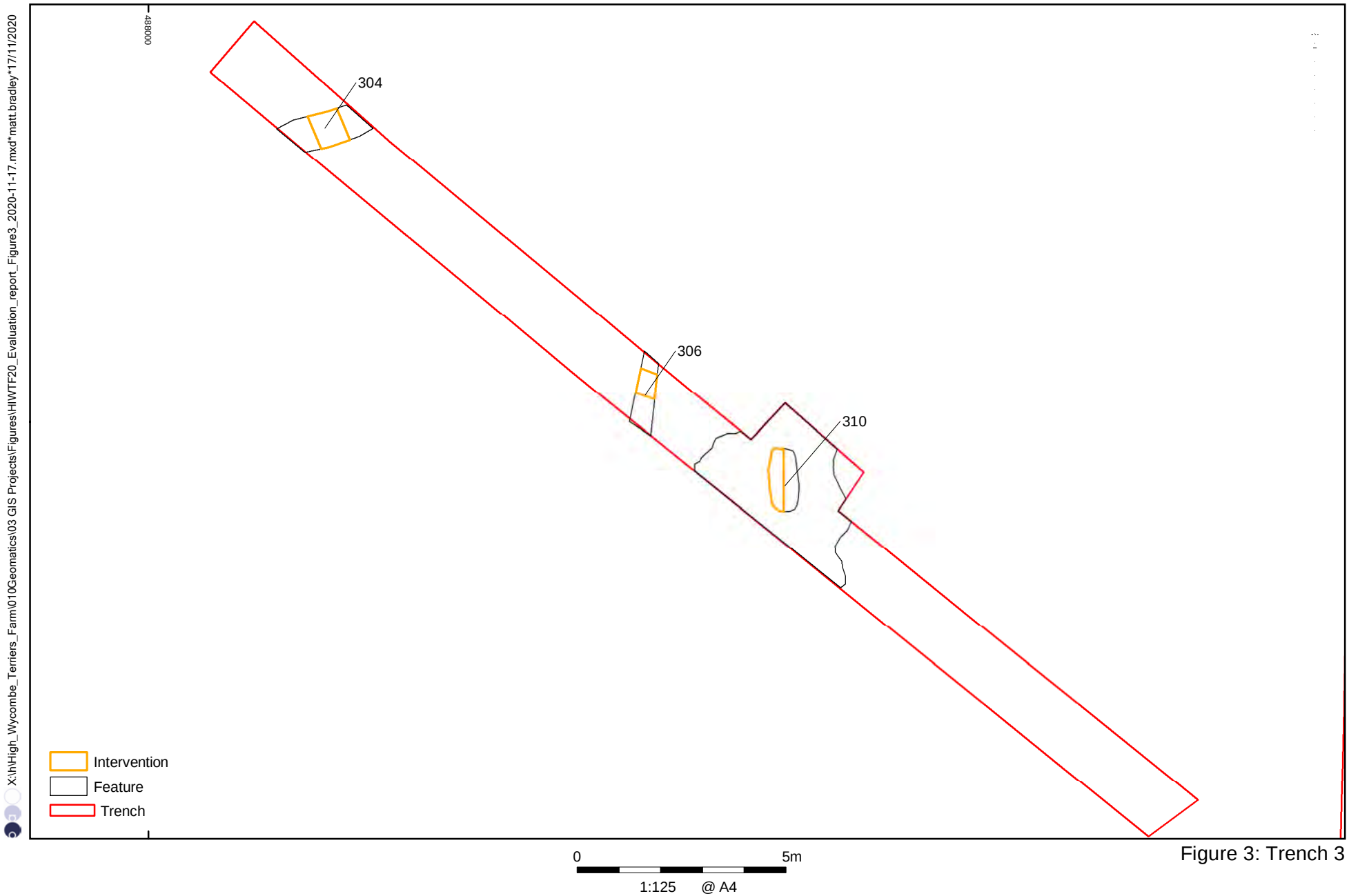


Figure 3: Trench 3

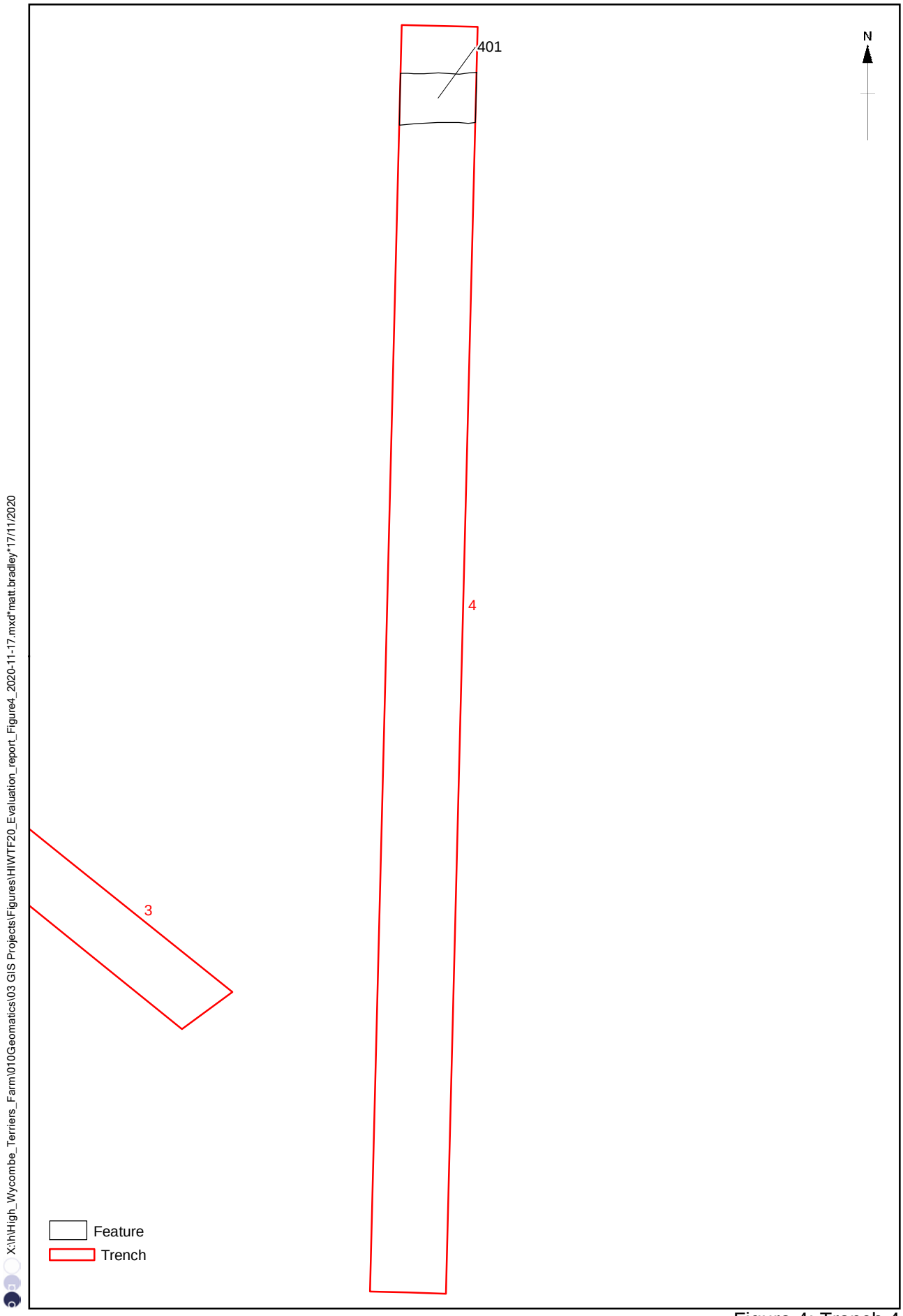


Figure 4: Trench 4

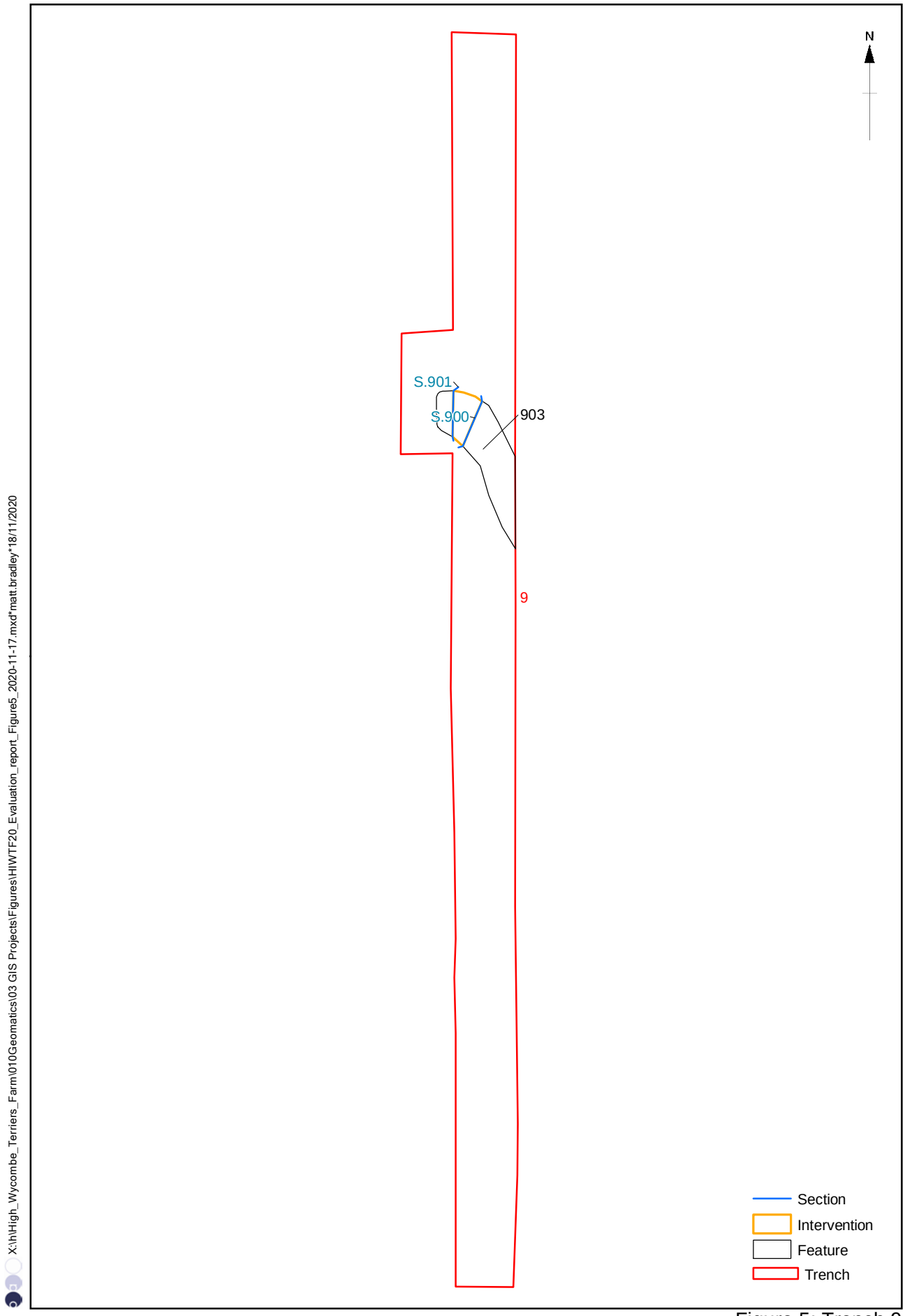


Figure 5: Trench 9

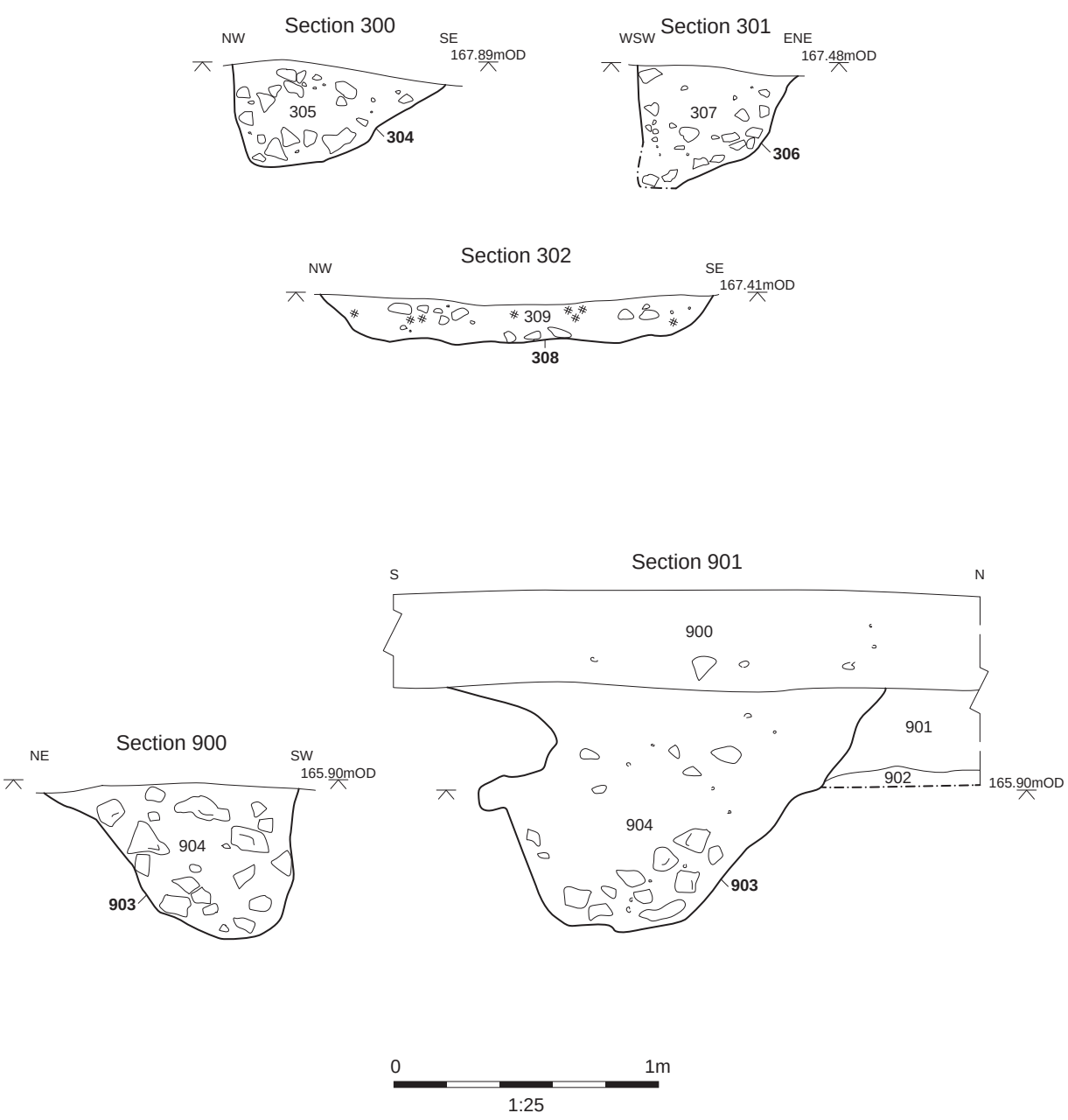


Figure 6: Sections

Plate 1: Pit 308, section 302. View to east

Plate 2: Feature 903, section 900. View to west

Plate 3: General shot Trench 3. View to south-east

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