Land at Monument Road, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land at Monument Road, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In November 2017 Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development to the west of Monument Road, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire. The work comprised the excavation of 26 trenches, each measuring 50 x 1.8m, positioned to ground-truth the results of a geophysical survey.

A geophysical survey had identified possible archaeological features, but on excavation these were found to be either medieval furrows or not present.

Archaeological features were restricted to the southern end of the evaluation area and comprised a prehistoric pit of uncertain date and features dated to the late Iron Age and Roman period. The latter are likely to represent a continuation of a field system that was identified in a previous evaluation immediately south-east of the site.

The site partially falls within within the Registered Battlefield of the Battle of Chalgrove, part of the site of a civil war skirmish, but, despite an extensive program of metal detecting, no features or finds were identified that could be associated with the battle.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Pegasus Planning Group for commissioning this project on behalf of Gladman Development Ltd. Thanks are also extended to Richard Oram, who monitored the work on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Rachael Daniel, who was supported by Bernadetta Rzadek, Chris Richardson, Victoria Green and John Carne. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Victoria Green and Anne Kilgour. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff who cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rebecca Nicolson, and prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation of the site of a proposed housing development to the west of Monument Road, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken at the request of the Local Planning Archaeologist in support of a planning application (planning ref. P17/S3053/O). Although a brief was not issued by the Local Planning Authority, discussions between Gail Stoten, Director of Pegasus Planning Group, and Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council, established the scope of work required. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the work necessary; this document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements (OA 2017).

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archeologists' 'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation' (CIfA 2014) and local and national planning policies, including the Oxfordshire County Council Evaluation Brief Annexes.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the north of the village of Chalgrove, NGR SU 64327 97107 (Fig. 1). It is bounded to the east by Monument Road, to the south by the B480 and the village of Chalgrove, to the west by Chalgrove Airfield and to the north by an unnamed road and agricultural land.

1.2.2 The area of the proposed development consists of a single arable field of approximately 11.7ha. The site is generally flat but slopes gradually from north to south, with heights ranging between 74m and 71m aOD.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Gault Formation Mudstone, Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 101 to 113 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The underlying bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits of the Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member formed up to 3 million years (BGS Online 2017).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a heritage statement prepared by Pegasus Planning Group (Pegasus 2017) and is summarized below.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 No prehistoric findspots or features have been recorded within the development area. However, archaeological features and artefacts of prehistoric date have been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

1.3.3 Two assemblages of prehistoric flints were recovered during fieldwalking associated with the Chalgrove to Didcot gas pipeline, one 750m to the south of the site and the other 650m to the south-east. An excavation undertaken *c* 780m south of the site exposed a post-built structure suspected to be of Bronze Age or Iron Age date and a middle Bronze Age cremation burial. Further Bronze Age remains were recorded during a watching brief associated with the Chalgrove to Ilsley gas pipeline. The works identified features interpreted as the remains of a Bronze Age farmstead along with worked and burnt flint.

1.3.4 A trial trench evaluation carried out immediately to the south-east of the site recorded late Iron Age/Romano-British field systems and several pits. An Iron Age coin has been recorded immediately west of the site.

Romano-British

1.3.5 An extensive scatter of Roman pottery indicative of settlement activity has been recorded *c* 800m east of the site. A large number of ditches were observed in the same area during the installation of the Southern Feeder pipeline. Finds of Roman date have also been recorded *c* 700m south of the site.

1.3.6 A Roman cremation burial was identified by metal detectorists *c* 330m south of the proposed development area.

1.3.7 Roman pottery was recovered during fieldwalking to the west of the site. Sub-rectangular and linear cropmarks are visible on 1970s aerial photographs of the area, although an association between the two has not be proven.

Medieval

1.3.8 The centre of the medieval settlement of Chalgrove, including the church and the manor house, is located to the south-west of the site. The proposed development area likely formed part of the agricultural hinterland to the settlement.

1.3.9 Metal detecting to the west of the site recorded two medieval silver pennies.

Post-medieval

1.3.10 The Battle of Chalgrove Registered Battlefield extends into the northern area of the site. The battle occurred on the 17th June 1643 when Royalists forces received news that a Parliamentarian convoy was approaching Thame bearing £21,000. Prince Rupert led a mixed Royalist force of cavalry, infantry and dragoons to intercept the convoy. However, he failed to find the convoy and withdrew, sending his infantry ahead to Oxford while his cavalry drew up at Chalgrove Field. Parliamentarian forces then advanced on the far side of a 'great hedge'. Royalist accounts state that Prince Rupert turned his horse and leapt the hedge followed by his cavalry and were successful in driving the Parliamentarian forces back, halting their march on Oxford.

1.3.11 Battlefields are notoriously hard to define and the precise location of the battle is subject to some debate. Although historic mapping indicates the northern part of the application site formed part of the battlefield, both Historic England and the Battlefield Trust place the focus further north, to the south or south-west of Warpsgrove House.

Historic England and the Battlefield Trust proposed different locations for the focus of the battle, although they are both beyond the historic lane to the north of the application site. Of the 95ha Registered Battlefield only 2.5ha falls within the application site, and lies outside of that proposed for development.

1.3.12 Historic mapping suggests the site has remained undeveloped. The Tithe map of 1842 depicts the site situated across a strip-field system, likely a continuation of the medieval agricultural system.

Modern

1.3.13 Chalgrove airfield was established during WWII. Although the airfield is located west of the site, outlying buildings are located to the north-east. Aerial photographs from the 1940s show the airfield did not encroach into the development area, except for a track crossing the centre of the site which has since been removed.

Geophysics

1.3.14 A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken in June 2017 (PCG 2017). The survey detected several anomalies which may relate to buried archaeological remains. These include two relatively closely-spaced, parallel ditches and a number of pits or clusters of burnt material. Modern services, land drains and anomalies relating to former cultivation were also recorded (Fig. 2).

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and objectives

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;
ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.1.2 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

x. To ground-truth the results of the geophysical survey, including testing areas shown as being devoid of archaeology;
xi. To identify any remains, in particularly artefactual evidence, that may be associated with the Battle of Chalgrove.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Site specific methodologies were as follows:

- The trenches were laid out as shown in Figure 2 using a GPS with sub 50mm accuracy.
- The trenches were excavated using 13t 360˚ excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from trench edges.
- Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon depending upon which was encountered first. Once archaeological deposits had been exposed, further excavation proceeded by hand.
- The opened trenches, upcast spoil and exposed features were all scanned with a metal detector.
- The exposed surface was sufficiently clean to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. A sample of each feature or deposit type, for example pits, postholes and ditches, was excavated and recorded.

- Upon agreement with Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Council, the trenches were backfilled.

2.2.2 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. Samples were allocated unique numbers and bulk finds were collected by context.

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

2.2.4 Section drawings of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All section drawings were located on the appropriate plan/s.

2.2.5 When encountered, features or deposits were characterized, dated where possible, and sampled for environmental remains if appropriate.

2.2.6 The trench and sample sections were located using either a GPS unit or total station. Co-ordinates relative to Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Datum were obtained for each sampling location.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

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

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

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence was fairly uniform in all trenches. The natural geology of orange-brown silty sand was overlain by a yellowish-brown clay silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by ploughsoil.

3.2.2 The southern ends of Trenches 20 and 25, and the whole of Trench 26 truncated a NW-SE aligned plough headland. The headland appeared to be formed of two deposits, a light grey clay silt with orange mottle overlain by a light brown clay silt. The headland was recorded as being up to 0.6m thick.

3.2.3 Where present, furrows and land drains were observed to truncate the subsoil (fig 7, sections 302 and 902). All other archaeological features were sealed by the subsoil, except ditches in Trenches 13 and 25 which are discussed in more detail below.

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

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 No features were recorded in Trenches 10, 19, 21, 23 and 26, and only furrows and/or ceramic land drains were present in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22 and 24

3.4 Trench 9

3.4.1 Crossing the trench on a NW-SE alignment, ditch 904 was the sole feature recorded in Trench 9 (Figs 3 and 7; Plate 5). The ditch measured 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep and contained a single greyish brown sandy silt fill (905) from which no finds were recovered.

3.5 Trench 13

3.5.1 Trench 13 contained three linear features from which no finds were recovered (Figs 4 and 7; Plate 6).

3.5.2 Located toward the western end of the trench, ditch 1310 had steeply sloping sides and a U-shaped base, and was aligned NW-SE. The ditch measured 0.13m deep and 0.35m wide and contained a single light grey silty clay fill (1309).

3.5.3 Ditch 1308 lay a short distance east of ditch 1310 on a parallel alignment. The ditch, which measured 0.45m wide and 0.32m deep, had steep, straight sides and a pointed base. Ditch 1306 was aligned NE-SW and cut ditch 1308. It had concave sides and a flat base and measured 0.25m wide and 0.04m deep. Each ditch contained a single fill, comprising friable light grey silty clay, which were similar in appearance and texture. Although no datable material was recovered from either feature, both ditches were recorded as truncating the subsoil, suggesting a medieval or post-medieval origin.

3.6 Trench 14

3.6.1 Trench 14 contained a single feature, ditch 1404, which was aligned NW-SE (Figs 4 and 7). The ditch measured 0.35m deep and 0.7m wide and had steep sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from the feature's sole fill, a light grey sandy silt, 1403.

3.7 Trench 20

3.7.1 Trench 20 exposed four ditches, a pit and a posthole.

3.7.2 Ditch 2003 crossed the north-eastern end of Trench 20 on a NNE-SSW alignment (Fig. 5 and 8; Plates 7 and 8). The ditch had gently sloping sides and a rounded base and measured 1m across and 0.3m deep. The single dark grey sandy silt fill (2004) contained pottery dating from AD 250-410, animal bone and several residual worked flints. A soil sample yielded a large quantity of grain, mostly unidentifiable but including wheat and barley, along with a few small fragments of charcoal and seeds of oat, grass, dock and three unidentifiable wild plant seed fragments.

3.7.3 Located to the south-west, ditch 2005 was broadly on the same alignment, though not quite parallel (Figs 5 and 8; Plate 9). The ditch had similar dimensions to 2003 with a width of 1.1m and depth of 0.55m and had a flat base and straight sloping sides. The single fill (2006) comprised a mid-brownish clayey silty sand and contained pottery dated to AD 250-410.

3.7.4 Ditch 2005 was truncated by ditch 2007, which lay on the same alignment but was wider and shallower, measuring 1.28m wide and 0.42m deep (Figs 5 and 8; Plate 9). The ditch had gently sloping concave sides and a rounded concave base. The only fill was a deposit of a mid-brownish grey silty sand (2007) that contained Roman pottery dating from AD 240-410 and a small assemblage of animal bone.

3.7.5 Another ditch (2014) was recorded at the south-western end of the trench (Fig. 5). It extended on a NW-SE alignment and was 1.3m wide. It was not excavated due to time constraints; however, the date of the feature was established from a surface find of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery.

3.7.6 Pit 2009 was located in the central part of the trench and was circular in plan with shallow sloping sides and a flattish base (Figs 5 and 8). The pit measured 0.86m across and 0.13m deep. It was filled by a single dark greyish brown silty sand matrix (2010).

3.7.7 Posthole 2011 was located toward the south-western end of the trench (Figs 5 and 8). It measured 0.67m wide and 0.17m deep and had steep, sloping sides and a flat base. It contained two fills, the earlier of which (2012) appeared to have been used as a packing deposit and consisted of moderately sorted Chert in a sandy silt matrix. A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from the later fill (2013), a mid to dark

greyish brown sandy silt which is likely to have accumulated after the post had fallen into disuse/rotted away.

3.8 Trench 25

3.8.1 Trench 25 contained a pit (2505) and a ditch (2507).

3.8.2 The pit (2507) was circular in plan and had sloping sides and a flat base and measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.09m deep. The single fill was a friable light brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions (2506) that contained pottery sherds and several worked flints. The pottery is characteristic of the late Bronze Age, although an earlier date cannot be ruled out, and of the eight flints two are thought to be consistent with an early Neolithic date. Although the pit is clearly of a prehistoric date the material broad date range of the material recovered means it is not possible to refine the date with any certainty. However, it is more likely that the flints recovered are residual artefacts within the feature and the pottery is more indicative of the true date of the pit.

3.8.3 A NW-SE aligned ditch (2505) was also recorded within the trench. Measuring 1.1m wide and 0.55m deep, the ditch had very shallow sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a dark grey sandy silt with charcoal inclusions (2504). The ditch truncated the subsoil (2503) and runs parallel to headland 2502 (Fig. 8).

3.9 Finds summary

3.9.1 The evaluation produced a total of 653g of prehistoric and Roman pottery. The condition of the pottery was mixed as the assemblage was highly fragmented, indicated by a relatively insubstantial mean sherd weight of 7g (with the mean weight of the earlier prehistoric pottery being only 2g, while the value for the late Iron Age and Roman sherds is 8g). It should be noted that the sherds from contexts 2008 and 2004 are likely to have been from a single vessel in each case.

3.9.2 Pit 2507 in Trench 25 and tree throw 2605 in Trench 26 contained the earliest pottery. Though both sherds are suspected to date between the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, an earlier date from the middle Neolithic is possible.

3.9.3 The late Iron Age and Roman sherds were all recovered from Trench 20. These included a sherd of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery (*c* 50 BC-AD 100) which was recovered from furrow 2014. A small group of late Roman pottery was recovered from ditch 2007, and was deposited at the earliest in the mid-3rd and 4th century AD. The sherds from ditches 2003 and 2005 are likely to have a similar date range.

3.9.4 A relatively small assemblage of struck flint was recovered from two contexts. Pit fill 2506 contained eight flints, with some evidence that some were struck from the same core. Two show signs of heavy use and can be dated to the early Neolithic period. Of the ten flints recovered from the fill of ditch 2005 only two are thought to have been genuine knapping debris, with the rest suspected to be a product of natural shattering.

3.9.5 The metal finds (recovered by metal detecting of spoil heaps and features) consist of seven undiagnostic fragments of lead or iron and a silver Long Cross penny, dated to between AD 1272-1307 from subsoil of Trench 9.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken during fair weather conditions. The revealed features were generally easy to identify against the underlying natural deposits.

4.1.2 The results of the trial trench evaluation combined with the geophysical survey can be considered to provide a good assessment of the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation met its objectives of determining the scope and preservation of archaeological remains within the site. Archaeological features were not densely present, but where observed, they were well preserved. The character of the overlying soils and underlying naturals are well understood.

4.2.2 The results of the geophysical survey identified several anomalies within the proposed development area that were identified as being of an anthropogenic origin. Trenches 1 and 12 were targeted on discrete features identified in the survey but no archaeological remains were recorded in either trench. Trench 17 was positioned to investigate a pair of parallel linear anomalies which excavation revealed to be furrows on a similar alignment to furrows recorded in Trenches 14, 15 and 24.

4.2.3 While undated archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 13 and 14, the focus of activity appears to be confined to the southern half of the evaluation area, in particular the south-western corner of the site.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The flint assemblage recovered from pit 2507 in Trench 25 indicates that the feature is likely to date from the Neolithic, however, the pottery recovered from this feature is more characteristic of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age styles and therefore we are unable to securely date the feature. The flint assemblage has similar characteristics to other Neolithic pits found in Oxfordshire. Flint recovered from ditch 2003 and prehistoric pot sherds from tree-throw hole 2605, though likely to be residual in these features, are indicative of further prehistoric activity within the site.

4.3.2 The features recorded in Trench 20 are likely to be a continuation of a field system that was identified in a previous trial trench evaluation immediately south-east of the site, which likewise identified boundary ditches dated to both the late Iron Age/early Roman period and the late Roman period (Rubicon 2017).

4.3.3 While the combined results of these two evaluations indicate the presence of Iron Age and Roman settlement activity within the wider landscape, the results of this programme of trenching suggests that the focus of this settlement does not fall within the application area.

4.3.4 The site partially falls within the Registered Battlefield of the Battle of Chalgrove, the site of a civil war skirmish. Despite an extensive program of metal detecting, no features or finds were identified that could be associated with the battle.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single NE-SW aligned furrow and a land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Cut	0.75	0.04	Furrow - unexcavated	-	-
204	Fill	0.75	0.04	Fill of 203 – pale brownish grey clay silt	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained three NE-SW aligned furrows and a land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
303	Fill	2.30	0.16	Fill of 304 – light yellowish brown sandy silt	Fe obj	-
304	Cut	2.30	0.16	Furrow	-	-
305	Cut	1.65	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
306	Fill	1.65	-	Fill of 305	-	-
307	Cut	2.40	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
308	Fill	2.40	-	Fill of 307	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained 2 furrows and a land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
403	Cut	2.00	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
404	Fill	2.00	-	Fill of 403	-	-
405	Cut	2.10	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
406	Fill	2.10	-	Fill of furrow	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained 3 furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	49.5
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	Lead obj	19th onwards
501	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
503	Cut	0.75	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
504	Fill	0.75	-	Fill of 503	-	-
505	Cut	2.50	-	Furrow	-	-
506	Fill	2.50	-	Fill of 505	-	-
507	Cut	1.40	-	Furrow	-	-
508	Fill	1.40		Fill 507	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained 2 furrows and two land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	Fe obj	-
601	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
603	Cut	1.50	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
604	Fill	1.50	-	Fill of 603	-	-
605	Cut	1.50	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-

606	Fill	1.50	-	Fill of 605	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
The Trench contained a furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.66
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
703	Cut	1.20	-	Furrow - unexcavated	-	-
704	Fill	1.20	-	Fill of 703	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.53
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
803	Cut	3.10	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
804	Fill	3.10	-	Fill of 803	-	-
805	Cut	1.50	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
806	Fill	1.50	-	Fill of 805	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single ditch, three furrows and a land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	Coin	1279-1307
901	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
903	Fill	1.20	0.50	Fill of 904 – light brownish grey sandy silt.	-	-
904	Cut	1.20	0.50	Cut of ditch – steep concave sides and flat base	-	-

905	Fill	2.65	0.34	Fill of 906 – light greyish brown silty sand	-	-
906	Cut	2.65	0.34	Furrow	-	-
907	Fill	1.65	-	Fill of 908	-	-
908	Cut	1.65	-	Furrow - unexcavated	-	-
909	Fill		-	Fill of 910	-	-
910	Cut		-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contains two furrows and a buried plough headland. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.90
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	Fe Obj	-
1101	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	0.20	Plough headland – friable reddish brown sandy silt	-	-
1103	Layer	-	-	-	-	-
1104	Fill	1.45	0.28	Fill of 1105	-	-
1105	Cut	1.45	0.28	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1106	Fill	1.00	-	Fill of 1107	-	-
1107	Cut	1.00	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1200	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	Fe Obj	-
1201	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	-	-

1202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1203	Cut	0.75	-	Furrow - unexcavated	-	-
1204	Fill	0.75	-	Fill of 1203	-	-
1205	Cut	1.5	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1206	Fill	1.5	-	Fill of 1205	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained three possible ditches, a furrow and a land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1300	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1303	Fill	0.40	0.20	Fill of 1304 - friable mid brown sandy silt	-	-
1304	Cut	0.40	0.20	Furrow	-	-
1305	Fill	0.25	0.04	Fill of 1306 – friable mid greyish brown sandy silt	-	-
1306	Cut	0.25	0.04	Ditch – concave sides and flat base	-	-
1307	Fill	0.45	0.32	Fill of 1308 – friable light grey silty clay	-	-
1308	Cut	0.45	0.32	Ditch – steep straight sides and pointed base, 'V' shaped	-	-
1309	Fill	0.35	0.13	Fill of 1310 – friable light grey silty clay	-	-
1310	Cut	0.35	0.13	Ditch – steep sides and concave base, 'U' shaped	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a ditch, three furrows and a land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1400	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1403	Fill	0.70	0.35	Fill of 1404 – friable light grey sandy silt	-	-
1404	Cut	0.70	0.35	Ditch – steep sides and flat base	-	-

1405	Fill	1.10	-	Fill of 1406	-	-
1406	Cut	1.10	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1407	Fill	0.75	-	Fill of 1408	-	-
1408	Cut	0.75	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1409	Fill	1.05	-	Fill of 1410	-	-
1410	Cut	1.05	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained three furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1500	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1503	Cut	0.60	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1504	Fill	0.60	-	Fill of 1503	-	-
1505	Cut	1.05	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1506	Fill	1.05	-	Fill of 1505	-	-
1507	Cut	2.30	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1508	Fill	2.30	-	Fill of 1507	-	-
1509	Cut	0.70	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1510	Fill	0.70	-	Fill of 1509	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single furrow and a land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.71
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1600	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.41	Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1603	Cut	2.80	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1604	Fill	2.80	-	Fill of 1603	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two furrows and a land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1700	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1703	Cut	0.20	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1704	Fill	0.20	-	Fill of 1703	-	-
1705	Cut	0.25	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
1706	Fill	0.25	-	Fill of 1705	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a single furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1800	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1803	Cut	0.40	-	Furrow - unexcavated	-	-
1804	Fill	0.40	-	Fill of 1803	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1900	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1901	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 20			
General description		**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained three ditches, a pit and a posthole with pipe and packing fill. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.		**Length (m)**	50
		Width (m)	2
		Avg. depth (m)	0.40

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
2001	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2003	Cut	1.0	0.30	Ditch cut – gently sloping sides to rounded concave base.	-	-
2004	Fill	1.0	0.30	Fill of 2003 - dark blackish grey sandy silt.	Pottery, flint, animal bone	Roman AD 250-410
2005	Cut	1.10	0.55	Ditch cut – heavily truncated by 2007, flat base and 45° sloping sides		-
2006	Fill	1.10	0.20 (max thickness)	Heavily truncated fill of ditch cut 2005 - Moderately compact mid brownish grey silty sand.	Pottery	Roman AD 250-410
2007	Cut	1.28	0.42	Ditch cut - gently sloping sides to a rounded concave base, 'U'-shaped. Truncates 2003	-	-
2008	Fill	1.28	0.42	Fill of [2007]. Moderately firm mid dark brownish grey sandy silt.	Pottery, Fe Nail, animal bone	Roman AD 240-410
2009	Cut	0.86	0.13	Pit cut shallow with flat base.	-	-
2010	Fill	0.86	0.13	Fill of 2009 - moderately compact dark greyish brown silty sand.	-	-
2011	Cut	0.67	0.17	Cut of posthole - steep sided to flat base.	-	-
2012	Fill	0.21	0.14	Fill of 2011 - packing - moderately compact mid orangish grey sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions	-	-
2013	Fill	0.44	0.17	Fill of 2011 – moderately firm mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt; rare stone inclusions.	Animal bone	-
2014	Cut	1.3	-	Ditch – unexcavated	-	-

2015	Fill	1.3	-	Fill of 2014	Pottery	Late Iron Age/Early Roman
2016	Cut			Tree throw	-	-
2017	Fill			Fill of 2017	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2100	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
2101	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
2102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2103	Cut	0.23	-	Land drain - unexcavated	-	-
2104	Fill	0.23	-	Fill of 2103	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a single furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.41
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2200	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2203	Cut	0.80	-	Furrow – unexcavated	-	-
2204	Fill	0.80	-	Fill of [2204]	-	-

Trench 23						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a single land drain. Consists of ploughsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2300	Layer	-	0.55	Topsoil	-	-
2301	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2302	Cut	0.10	-	Land drain - unexcavated	-	-
2303	Fill	0.10	-	Fill of 2302	-	-

Trench 24						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a two furrows and a single land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of fine-grained silty sand.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2401	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
2402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2403	Cut	0.7	-	Land drain - unexcavated	-	-
2404	Fill	0.7	-	Fill of 2403	-	-
2405	Cut	1.7	-	Furrow - unexcavated	-	-
2406	Fill	1.7	-	Fill of 2405	-	-
2407	Cut	2.0	-	Furrow - unexcavated	-	-
2408	Fill	2.0	-	Fill of 2407	-	-

Trench 25						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a ditch, a single pit, and a furrow. Consists of topsoil overlying several layers which from a headland over subsoil and natural silty clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2500	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
2501	Layer	-	0.40	Headland layer – light brown silty sand	-	-
2502	Layer	-	0.20	Headland layer – light grey mottled with reddish brown sandy silt	-	-
2503	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
2504	Fill	1.10	0.55	Fill of 2505 - friable light brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.	-	-
2505	Cut	1.10	0.55	Ditch – gently sloping sides to a sharp break in slope becoming steep-sided at 0.20m in depth. Flat bottom	-	-
2506	Fill	0.40	0.09	Fill of 2507 - dark grey sandy silt stained with charcoal	Pottery, flint	Prehistoric
2507	Cut	0.40	0.09	Pit - shallow with a flat base	-	-
2508	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2509	Cut	1.1	-	Furrow - unexcavated	-	-
2510	Fill	1.1	-	Fill of 2509	-	-

Trench 26						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a natural feature (tree throw) and a land drain. Consists of topsoil overlying several layers which from a headland over subsoil and natural sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.9
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
2600	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
2601	Layer	-	0.30	Headland layer – brown clayey silt	-	-
2602	Layer	-	0.30	Headland layer – light grey mottled with reddish brown sandy silt	-	-
2603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
2604	Fill	0.80	0.11	Fill of 2605 - light brown silty clay	Pottery	Prehistoric
2605	Cut	0.8	0.11	Irregular shaped natural feature. Probable tree throw	-	-
2606	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
2607	Cut	0.70	-	Land drain - unexcavated	-	-
2608	Fill	0.70		Fill of 2607	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Prehistoric, Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

A.1.1 Eighty-nine sherds (653g) of pottery recovered from the evaluation were dated to the prehistoric or Roman periods. The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, provide spot-dates, and make recommendations for the treatment of the material. The earlier prehistoric pottery (identified and described by Lisa Brown) was briefly examined to characterise and date the fabrics. Roman-period fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording system for later Iron Age and Roman pottery (Booth 2016). Reference was also made to Young's (1977) typology of Oxford pottery industry and the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC; Tomber and Dore 1998).

A.1.2 Each context-group was quantified by sherd count and weight (grammes), and any rims present were additionally quantified by estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), which measures the proportion of rim that survives (thus, 0.3 equals 30%).

A.1.3 The following late Iron Age/Roman fabrics were noted (NRFRC codes in brackets):

- C10 General shell-tempered ware
- C11 (Late) shell-tempered ware
- E80 Grog-tempered ware (SOB GT)
- F51 Oxfordshire red/brown colour-coated ware (OXF RS)
- O20 Sandy oxidised ware
- R20 Sandy reduced ware
- R30 Medium sandy reduced ware
- W22 Oxfordshire sandy white ware

Description

A.1.4 The earliest pottery was recovered from trenches 25 and 26. The grading of the burnt flint in the sherds from Pit 2507 in Trench 25, and the thinness of the vessel walls are suggestive of smallish vessels of the type that came into currency in the late Bronze Age, and the surface treatment all point to this date, although an earlier date cannot be ruled out. The pottery from natural feature 2605 (probably a tree-throw) is somewhat different, the burning/crushing of the flint suggesting a different environment, with flint perhaps from a different source. Although it could be of any date from the middle Neolithic, a late Bronze Age-early Iron Age date is more likely.

A.1.5 All the pottery dated to the late Iron Age and Roman period was recovered from Trench 20. A sherd of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery (*c* 50 BC-AD 100) was collected from furrow 2014. A small group of late Roman pottery, which included products from

the Oxford-region industry, was recovered from ditch 2007. This material was deposited between the mid-3rd and 4th century or later. Shell-tempered jars from ditches 2003 and 2005 are likely to have a similar date range.

Discussion

A.1.6 The condition of the pottery is mixed. The pottery has an overall mean sherd weight (weight divided by number of sherds) of 7g, indicating a highly fragmented assemblage. The mean sherd weight for the earlier prehistoric pottery (contexts 2506 and 2604) is just 2g, while that for the late Iron Age/Roman pottery is 8g. The value of the later material is, however, biased by the pottery from context 2004, which has a mean weight of 2g. Values for the other context-groups of this period range from 10g to 24g. Certainly, the pottery from 2008 is characterised by large sherds, many of which belong to a single vessel. It should be noted, too, that much of the pottery from 2004, although fragmented, is similarly likely to represent a single vessel.

A.1.7 With these factors in mind, it is reasonable to conclude that the late Iron Age/Roman pottery was recovered fairly close to areas of use and initial discard, although a degree of redeposition is evident. The late Iron Age sherd from context 2015, the fill of a furrow, is clearly residual.

A.1.8 Overall, the pottery indicates prehistoric and late Iron Age/Roman activity in the area, with the emphasis on the late Roman period.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

A.1.9 The pottery reported on here has the potential to inform future research through re-analysis and thus it is recommended that all the pottery is retained. This follows the advice set out in the 'Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (PCRG, SGRP, MPRG 2016).

Table 1: Description of the prehistoric and Roman pottery by context

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	Description	Spot-date
2004	53	106	'Cooking pot'-type jar with everted rim in shell-tempered ware (C11), EVE 0.3 From sample 1 (19 sherds, 30g): rim and body sherds from everted rim jar (C11), EVE 0.06, probably same vessel as above; body sherd R30	AD 250-410
2006	8	128	'Cooking pot'-type jar with everted rim in shell- and sand-tempered ware (C10), EVE 0.34, burnt deposit on external surface of body	AD 250-410
2008	16	390	Base of jar (W22), footring base sherd from dish or bowl (F51); body sherds O20, R20	AD 240-410
2015	1	10	Body sherd E80	Late Iron Age/ early Roman
2506	9	14	Body sherds in flint-tempered fabric, hint of groove on one sherd	Prehistoric
2604	2	5	Body sherds in flint-tempered fabric	Prehistoric
Total	**89**	**653**		

B.2 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.2.1 A small assemblage of 18 pieces of struck flint was recovered from this evaluation. The assemblage was split between two contexts and consisted of a very nice, tool-heavy assemblage from pit 2507 and several pieces of possible flake shatter from ditch 2003. The material from pit 2507 has early Neolithic characteristics while the material from ditch 2003 is undated and may in fact simply be natural shatter struck from flint cobbles.

B.2.2 Ditch 2003 contained around 30 pieces of angular shatter, however, analysis of this material identified most of it as being natural in origin. The remaining ten pieces include two flakes and a snapped bladelet that are probably genuine as well as seven sharp, angular chips that may be knapping debris. All of this material was recovered from a bulk sample taken from ditch fill 2004 and it may have been the case that this fill was actually quite rich in struck flint.

B.2.3 Pit 2507 contained eight flints including two utilised flakes, a highly expedient end scraper and two microdenticulates. The microdenticulates have very heavily utilised edges and display gloss that indicates a very strong association with plant processing. The utilised flakes also had damage that may be consistent with plant processing while the small end scraper has a very expedient arc of retouch that could actually have been spontaneous rather than intentional. The remaining pieces were waste flakes and the bulk of the assemblage had very similar cortex and inclusions/surface patterning to suggest that it may have all been knapped from one nodule. The assemblage bears very close similarities to pits dated to the Early Neolithic and it would appear to be very likely that pit 2507 is also of this date.

Discussion

B.2.4 The assemblage from pit 2507 is incomplete as the feature was not sampled. Unfortunately, this reduces the level of information available to us but the key components of probable refitting material and a very tool-heavy assemblage are characteristics of some Neolithic pit groups found in Oxfordshire (e.g. Didcot Great Western park, OA forthcoming). However, in most cases these pits contain far larger numbers of these tools and associated debitage. In contrast to this are other isolated pits and pit clusters that contain less closely related material where it would appear as if the lithics and other finds were recovered from surface middens or spreads (e.g. Thame OA/CWA 2016). Based on the limited information available here, the flints would appear to belong to the former group and it is very likely that other flint-rich assemblages will be recovered from this area should further work commence.

B.2.5 The material from the ditch is problematic but these flints could easily belong to another pit or midden/surface spread that had subsequently been truncated by ditch 2003.

B.2.6 Overall, it would appear to be highly likely that further early prehistoric remains may be encountered within the application site. The material appeared to cluster along the evaluation southern edge but the actual spread of Neolithic activity may be far greater.

Methodology

B.2.7 The artefacts were catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan et al. 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Table 2: Description of recovered flint by context

Context	type	sub-type	Notes	date
2004	Flake x 2	Misc trimming + inner	Genuine knapping debris?	
2004	Bladelet	inner	Distal segment, possibly natural shatter	
2004	Sieved chip x 7		Possible angular knapping shatter	
2506	Flake x 3	Preparation x 2 + side trimming	Struck from same core?	
2506	Flake x 2	Utilised side trimming	Struck from same core? Use related to serrating/plant processing?	
2506	End scraper	Preparation flake		
2506	Microdenticulate x 2	Prep blade + distal trimming blade	Heavy use + 'sickle gloss' along edges one one-sided and one two-sided example	E Neo

B.3 Metal Finds

By Ian Scott

Introduction

B.3.1 There are just eight metal finds, including one silver penny, a thin sheet with embossed lines and lettering, a block of lead and several pieces of iron (Table 3). The silver penny from context 900 dates to the reign of Edward I, and the embossed metal label from context 500 is machine stamped and of more recent date i.e. dating from the later 19th or more probably 20th century. The remaining finds are not closely datable.

Table 3: Description of the metal finds by context

Context	Notes
303	**Iron plate**, curved in cross section (2 x refitting fragments) suggesting possibly part of cylindrical vessel or pipe. 85mm x 58mm
500	**Thin (?) lead sheet** with embossed lines and embossed lettering: "MADE IN GREAT BRITAIN"; and "SPACE | FOR → | NAME". Sheet incomplete and slightly crumpled. *C* 45mm x 40mm.
600	**Slab of iron**, small but dense, Roughly triangular. 56mm x 45mm; and c 6-7mm thick.
900	**Silver Long Cross penny** of Edward I (1272 -1307) introduced 1279, *Obverse*: Facing bust, legend: "EDWAR ANGLI . . ." incomplete and worn. // *Reverse*: Long cross pellets in the angles, legend: "CIVI | TAS | LIN | COL² " for the Lincoln Mint.
1100	**Slab of iron**, dense, and irregular in outline. Could be cast iron. L: c 120mm; W: c 70mm.
-	**Block of lead**, slightly irregular with a roughly oval cross section, with a hole or recess at one end. 50mm x 30mm x 18mm.
1200	**Tapered bar** of nearly square section. Slight taper to rounded end. L: 80mm; W: 13mm x 11mm.
2008	**Nail** with slightly domed more or less circular head and square section stem, incomplete. Fe. Not measured.

B.4 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

4.3.1 A single piece of stone was retained (1200). It is a very dried out piece of bituminous material, not obviously anthracite, lignite, cannel coal or shale. It is quite vesicular in nature and lightweight; it most resembles burnt lava. It is not worked but should be retained for potential future identification.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Sharon Cook

Introduction

C.1.1 A single sample was taken during the evaluation at Monument Road, Charlgrove in November 2017. The sample was taken from the fill of a ditch [2003] within trench 20 and has been dated to the Iron Age.

Method

C.1.2 The samples were processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style machine. The flot was collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts. The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at approximately x 10 magnification.

Results

C.1.3 The sample was 30 litres in volume and produced a flot of 18ml. The flot contains very little charcoal the majority of which was less than 2mm in size and not suitable for wood species identification. Grain is plentiful within the flot and comprises the majority of the volume. Condition is largely poor although this appears to be a result of the burning process rather than the preservation on site, with occasional grains showing evidence of vitrification. One hundred and twenty-four grains and grain fragments are present with the majority being unidentifiable to species due to damage. Twenty grains could be identified as wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and two grains show morphological characteristics that indicate they are likely to be barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) although these were not complete. Four glume base fragments are also present, one of which shows some characteristics of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) although again this was not complete and the identification is therefore not definitive.

C.1.4 In addition, four seeds from oat/brome (*Avena/Bromus*), four small grass seeds (Poaceae), two dock seeds (*Rumex* sp.) and three unidentifiable wild plant seed fragments are present.

C.1.5 The residues contained animal bone, pottery and some possible flint flakes which are reported on within the specialist reports.

Conclusion

C.1.6 The material observed within this sample is typical of that expected within an Iron Age context with a majority of glume wheat together with crop contaminants such as the oat/brome and occasional wild plant seeds which would either have been within the crop itself or growing around the periphery of the fields. Two grains had completely

collapsed upon themselves which may indicate that they had begun to sprout before burning but this was not observed within the other grains for the sample.

C.1.7 While charred plant remains evidently survive on this site it is impossible to reach firm conclusions with regard to site activity with such a small data-set.

C.1.8 If further excavation is carried out, it is recommended that further sampling should take place, ideally from a range of features across the site. This sampling should be carried out in accordance with the most recent sampling guidelines (eg. Oxford Archaeology, 2010 and English Heritage, 2011).

C.2 Animal Bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of 11 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site, mostly collected by hand although environmental samples were also taken and sieved at 10mm, 4mm and 2mm fractions (Table 4). This accounted for 27.2% of the assemblage (Table 5). The material is mostly in very moderate to poor condition and most of the specimens could be identified to species.

Description

C.3.1 The assemblage was dated on the basis of associated ceramic finds (seriation), principally to the mid-late Roman period (Table 4). Single specimens of domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*), caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goat [*Capra hircus*]) and horse (*Equus caballus*) were present on the site as well as two specimens of micro mammal (small rodent size).

C.3.2 The domestic cattle specimen, a left metatarsal, was gnawed by canids, suggesting that dogs (*Canis familiaris*) were also present on the site.

Conclusions

C.3.3 Given the small size of the assemblage it is difficult to draw any further conclusions.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

C.2.2 The assemblage should be considered a low priority for retention and no further work on the assemblage is recommended.

Table 4: Total NISP (Number of Identified SPecimens) and NSP (Number of SPecimens) figures per period from the site

	AD 250-410	Undated
domestic cattle	1	1
caprine	1	
horse	1	
micro mammal	2	
medium mammal	1	
large mammal	3	
Total NISP	9	
Total NSP	10	1

Table 5: NSP retrieved through sieved and unsieved samples.

	Sieved	Unsieved
Micro Mammal	2	0
Medium Mammal	0	2
Large Mammal	0	6
indet.	1	0
Total NISP	2	8
Total NSP	3	8

Table 6: Non-species data recorded for specimens from the site.

	Gnawed	Ageing data
domestic cattle	1	1
Total	1	1

Table 7: NSP and total mass per context.

Context	NSP	Mass (g)
2004	7	40
2008	3	143
2013	1	25

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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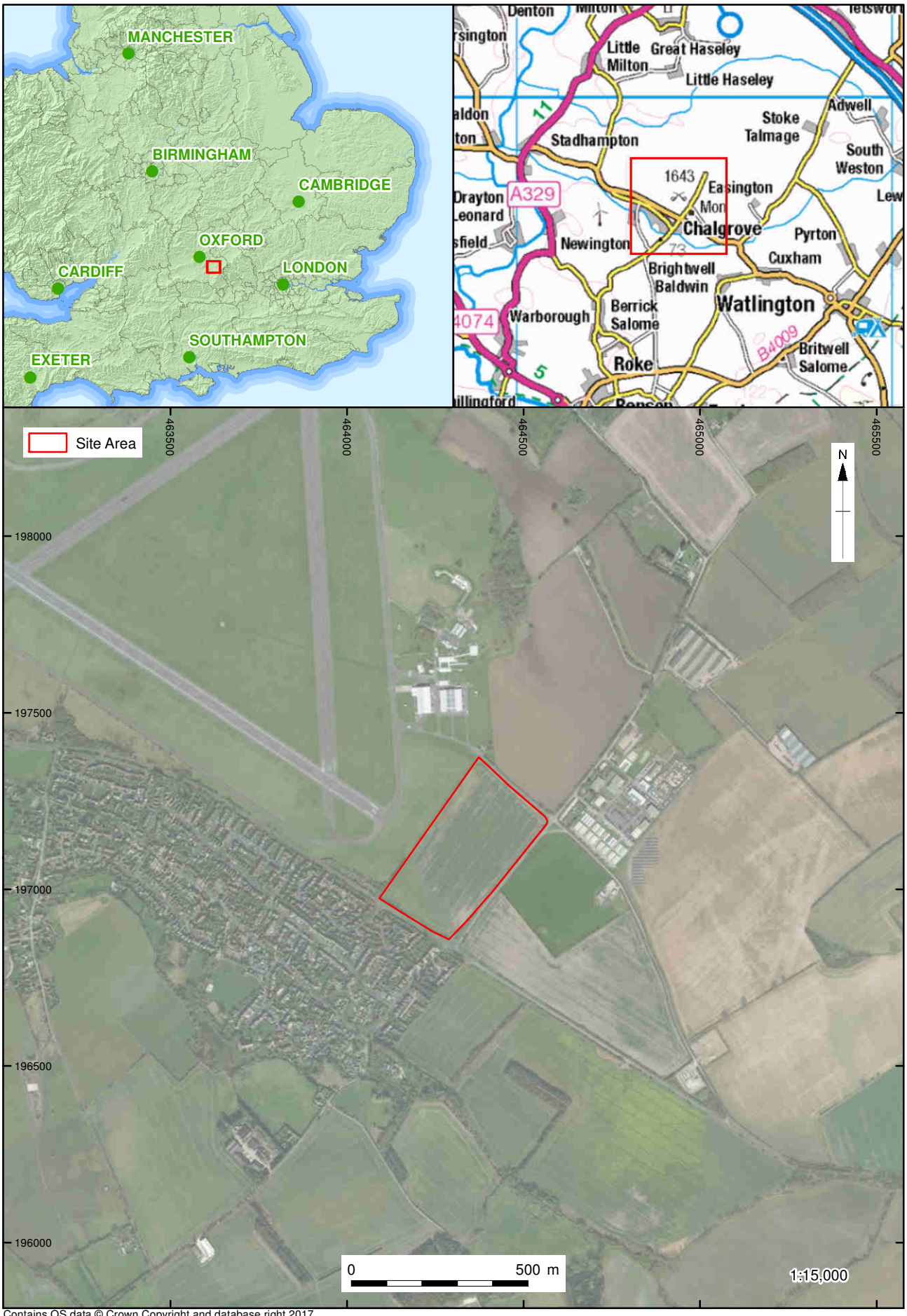
APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Land at Monument Road, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire
Site code:	CHMREV
Grid Reference	SU 64327 97107
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	13th-17th November 2017
Area of Site	11.7 ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: OXCMS:2017.153.
Summary of Results:	A geophysical survey had identified possible archaeological features, but on excavation these were found to be either medieval furrows or not present. Archaeological features were restricted to the southern end of the evaluation area and comprised a prehistoric pit of uncertain date and features dated to the late Iron Age and Roman period. The latter are likely to represent a continuation of a field system that was identified in a previous evaluation immediately south-east of the site. The site partially falls within the Registered Battlefield of the Battle of Chalgrove, partially covering the site of a civil war skirmish, but, despite an extensive program of metal detecting, no features or finds were identified that could be associated with the battle.



Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,

Figure 1: Site location

X:\c\Chalgrove Monument Road\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Chalgrove_Figure1_2017-10-06.mxd*gary.jones*06/10/2017

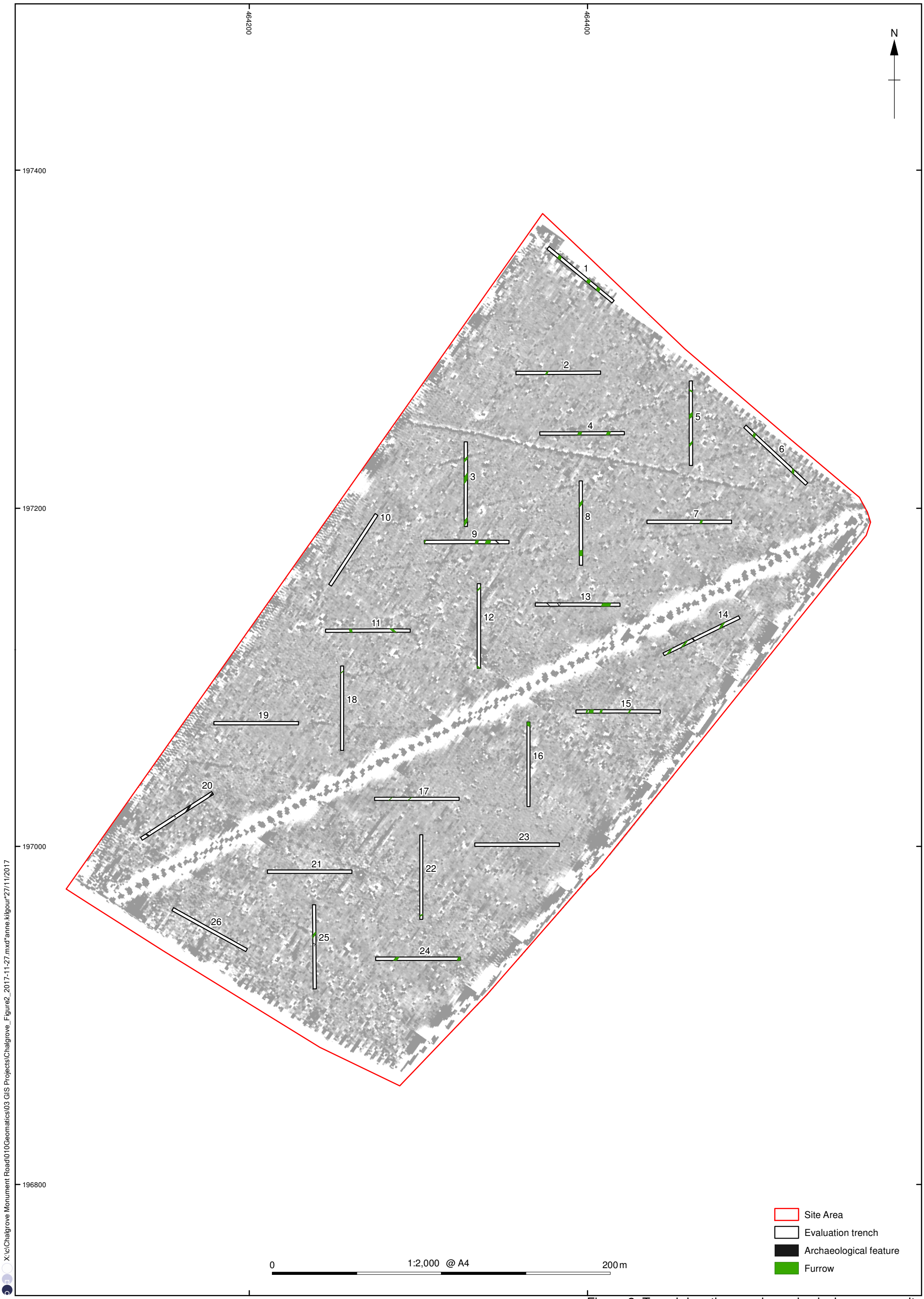


Figure 2: Trench locations and geophysical survey results

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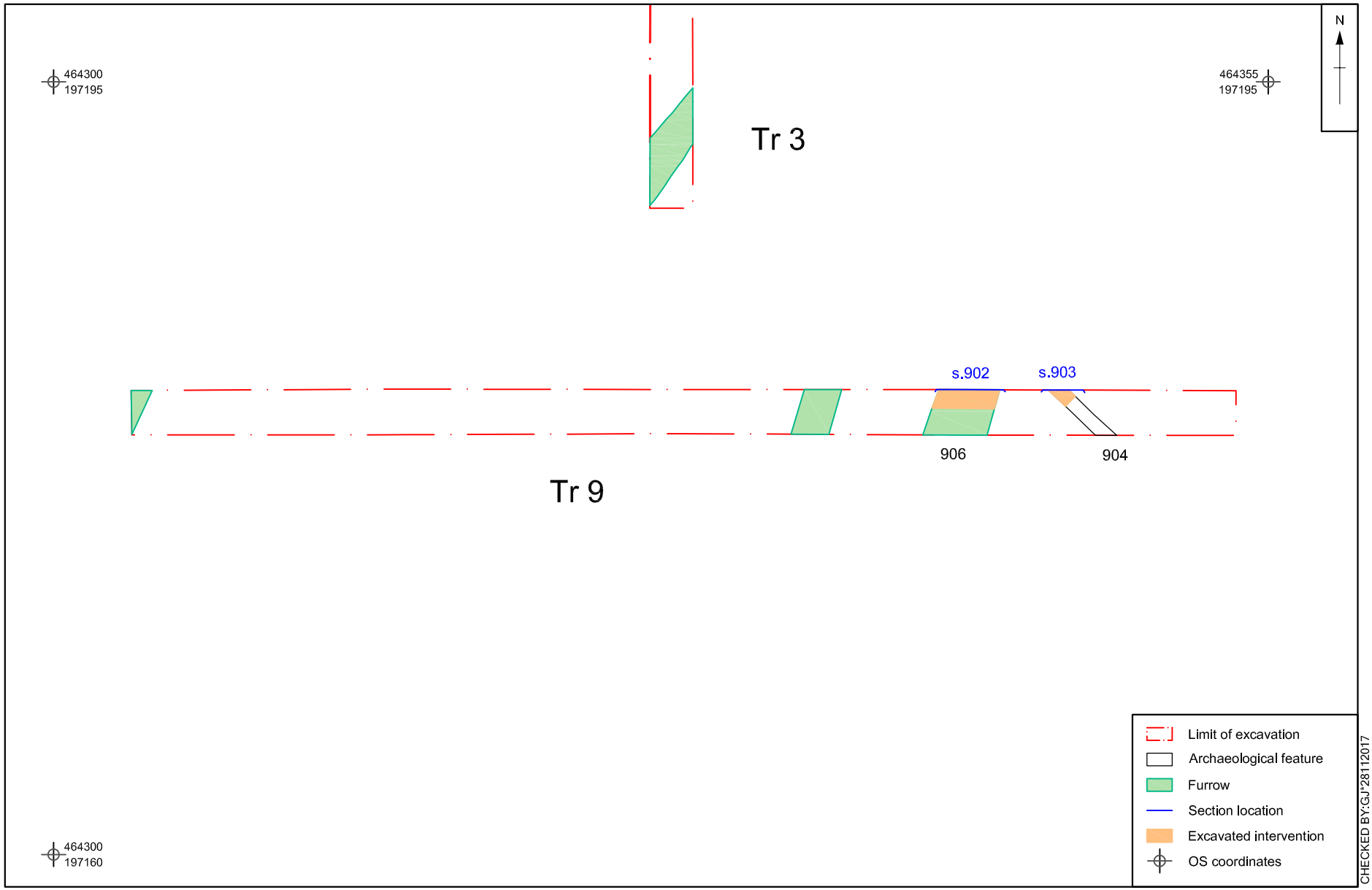
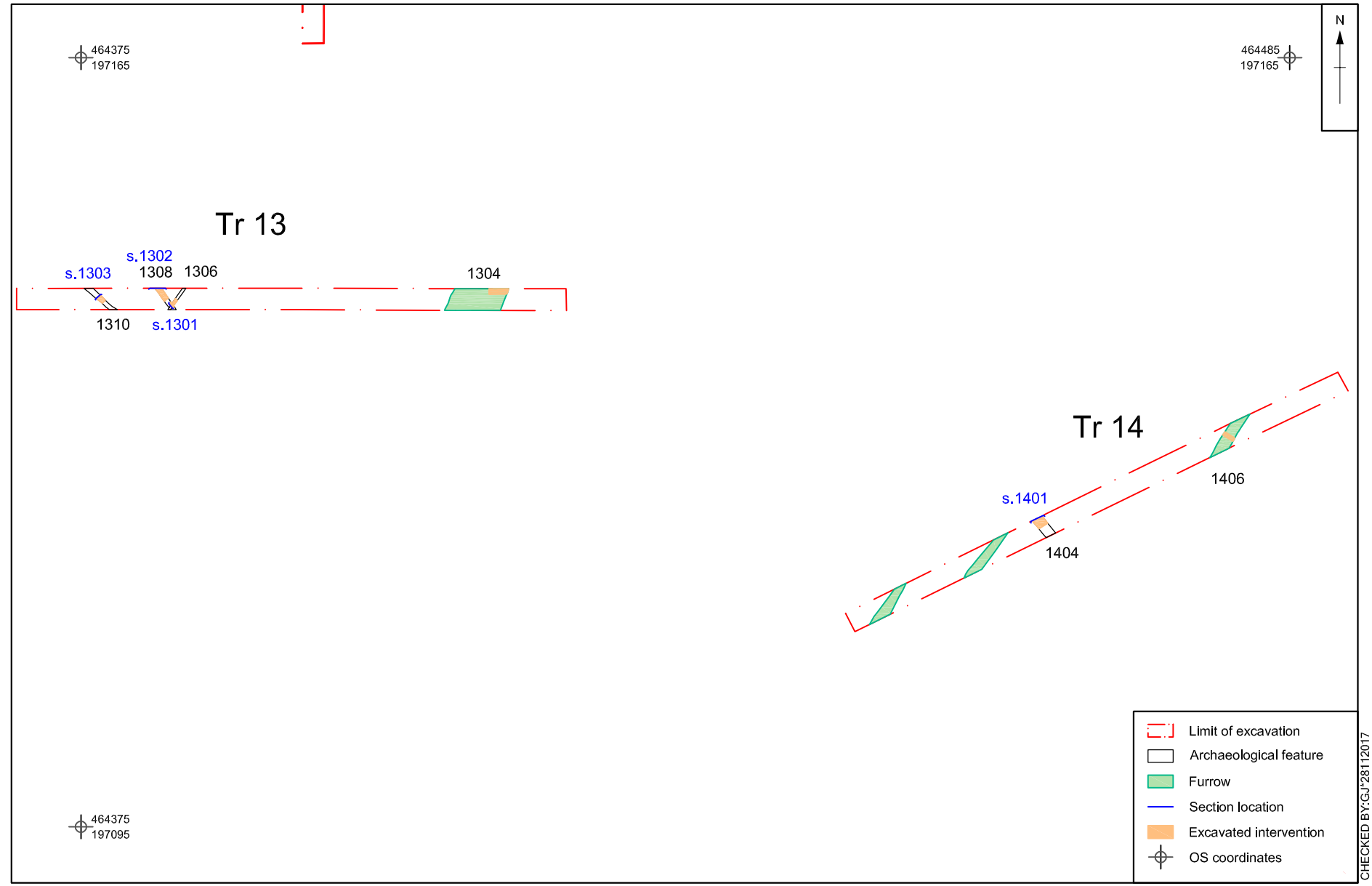


Survey Data supplied by :
OA

0 10 m

Scale at A4 1:250

Figure 3: Trench 9



Survey Data supplied by :
OA

0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:500

Figure 4: Trenches 13 and 14

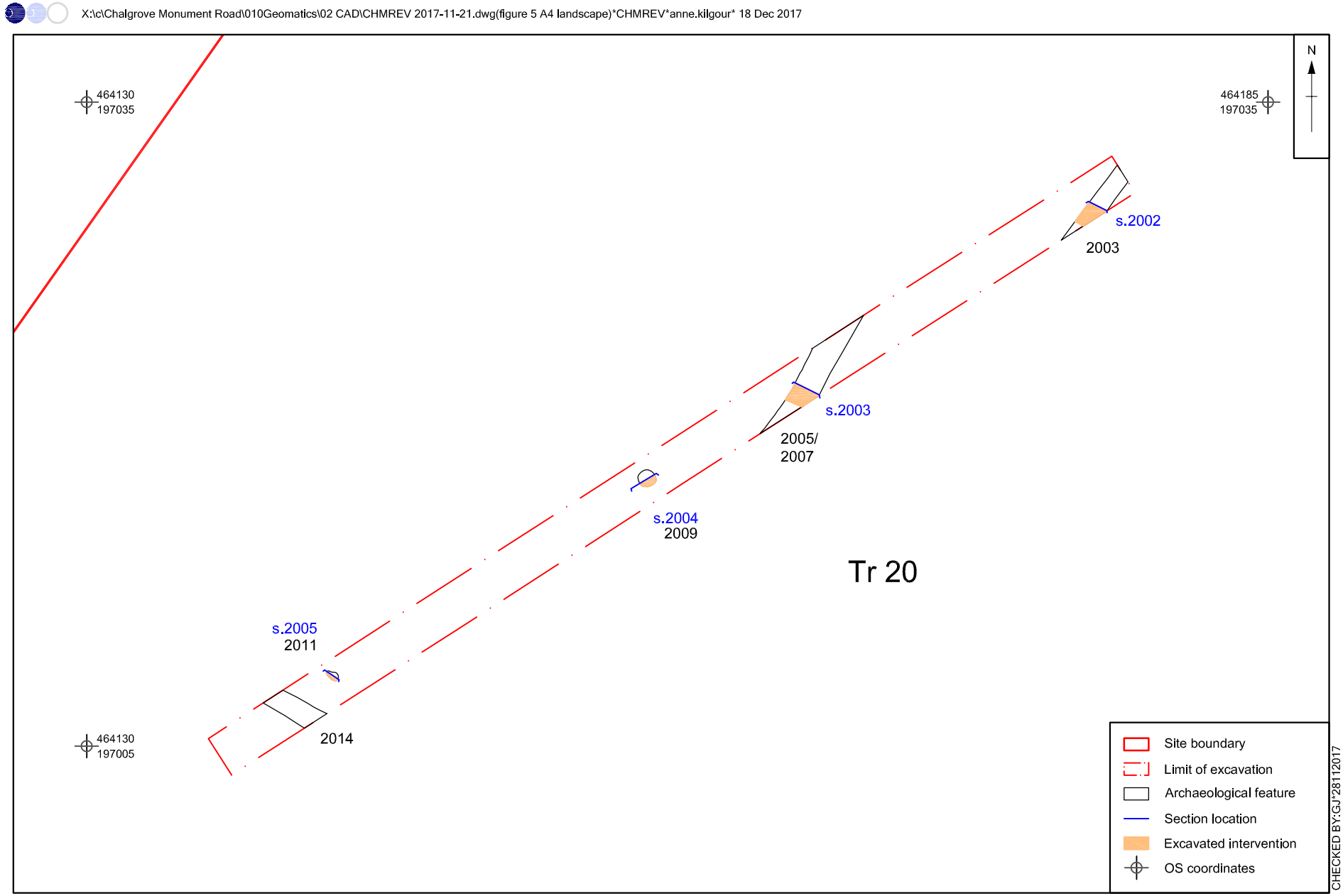


Figure 5: Trench 20

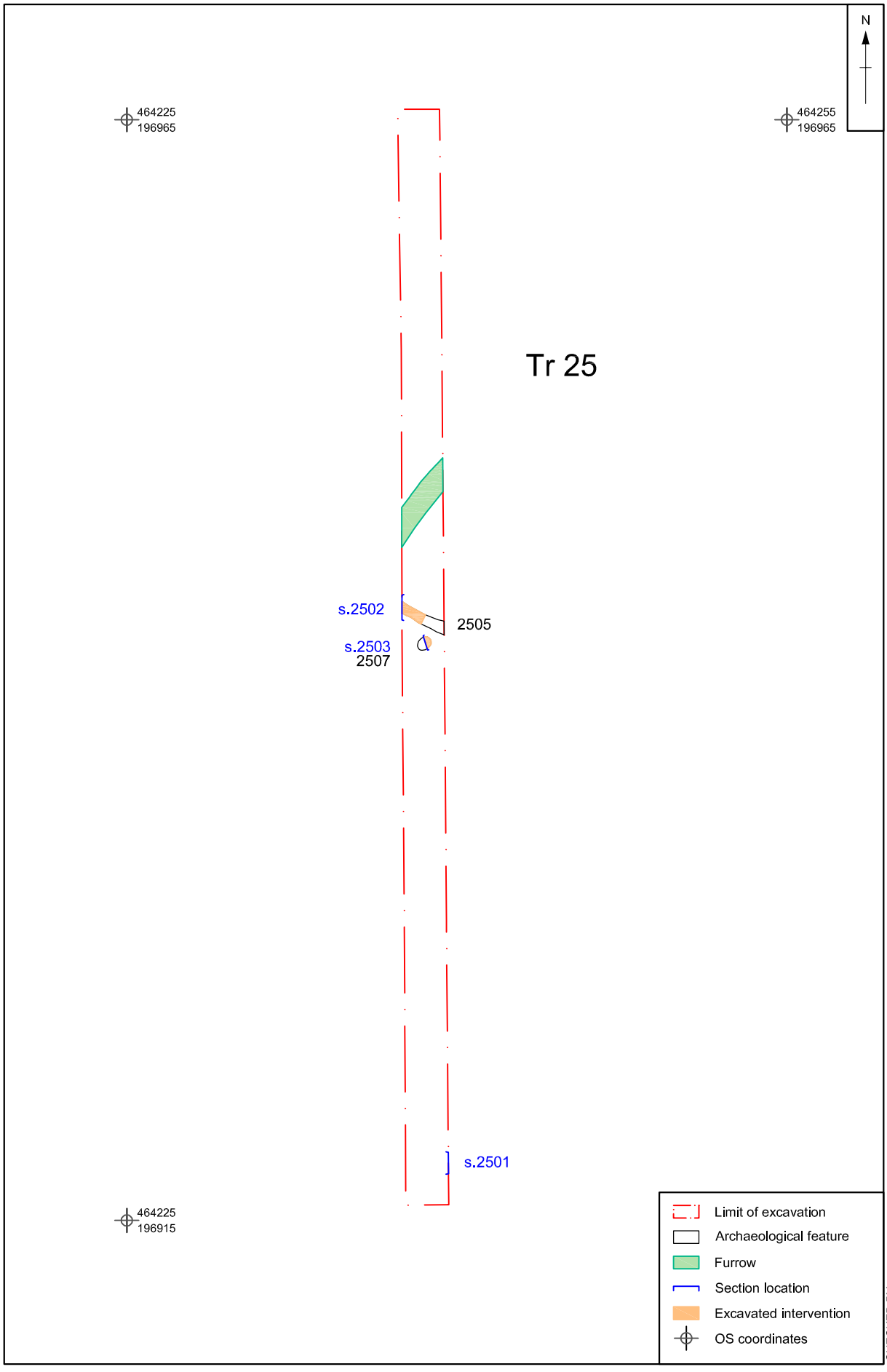


Figure 6: Trench 25

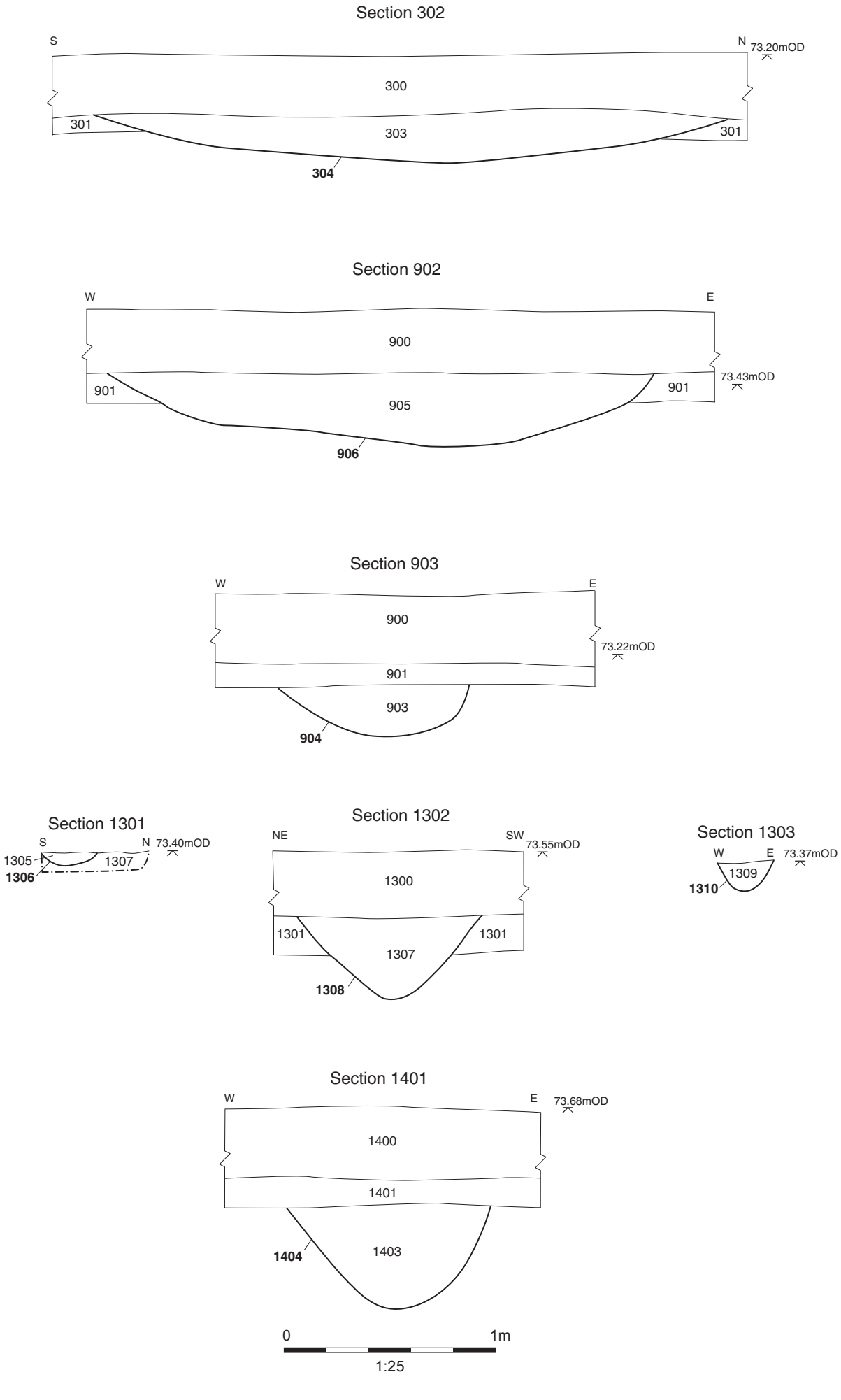


Figure 7: Sections from Trenches 3, 9,13 and 14

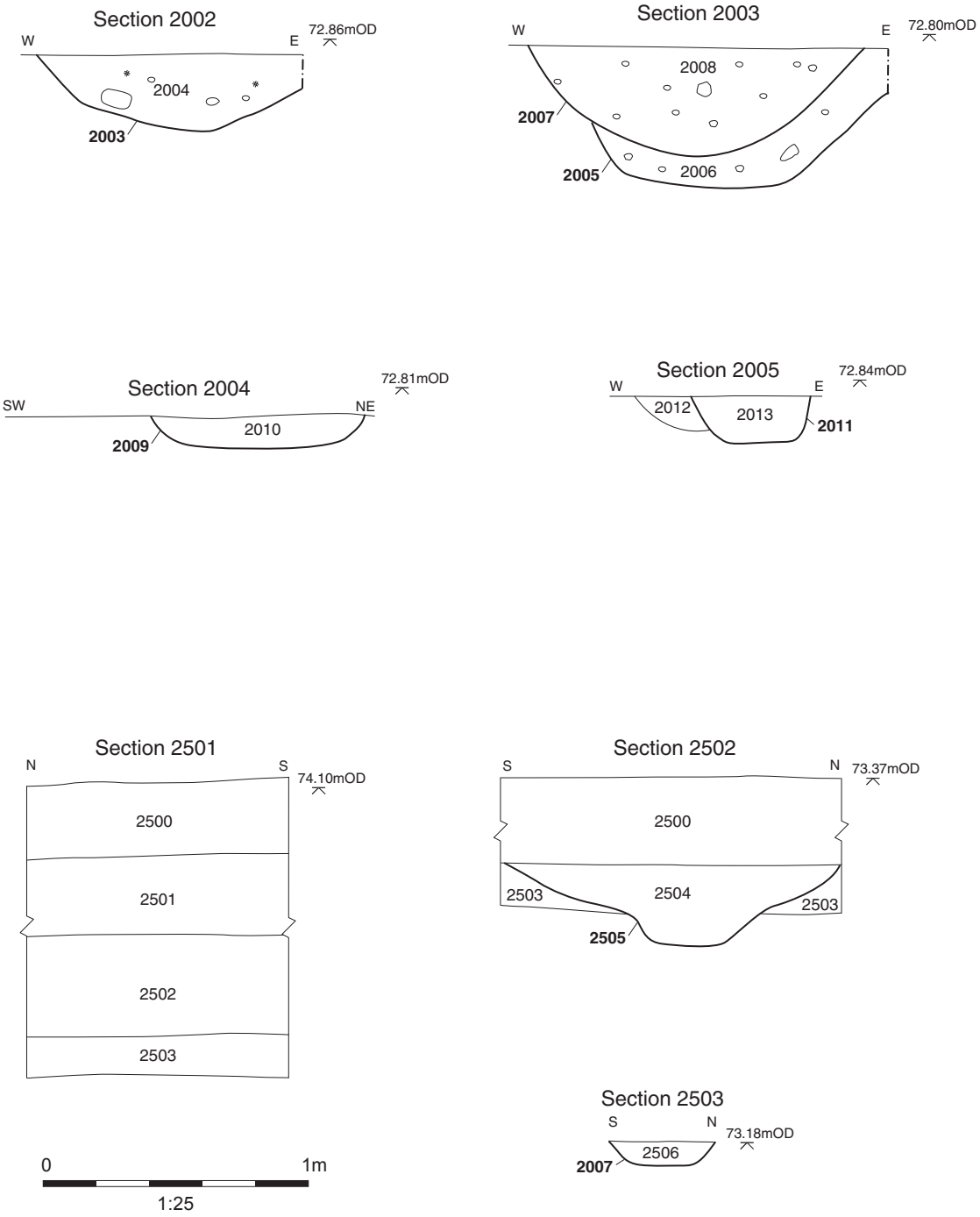


Figure 8: Sections from Trenches 20 and 25

Plate 1:Trench 3 - view to S

Plate 2: Trench 13 - view to E

Plate 3: Trench 24 - view to W

Plate 4: Trench 25 deposit sequence - view to E

Plate 5: Trench 9, ditch 904 and furrow 906 - view to E

Plate 6: Trench 13, ditch 1308 - view to N

Plate 7: Trench 20 - view to SW

Plate 8: Trench 20, ditch 2003 - view to N

Plate 9: Trench 20, ditches 2005 and 2007 - view to N

Plate 10: Trench 25, pit 2507 - view to W

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