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Eastern Green, Coventry

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage, on behalf of Hallam Land Management, to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed mixed development at Eastern Green, Coventry (centred on NGR SP 278 809). The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. OUT/2018/3225).

The evaluation comprised 10 trenches, generally 30m by 2m, located in two main areas, Area A to the north and Area B to the south.

In Area A, the trenches were located to test the small discrete positive geophysical anomalies in the NW of the site. In Area B, the enhanced magnetic response was tested related to a medieval moated site. The work was carried out over four days between 10th and 14th February 2019.

In Area A, the geophysical anomalies were found to be spreads of ash and clinker within the subsoil. These archaeological remains were of post-medieval industrial and agricultural origin and were of a moderately well preserved, intermittent nature.

In Area B the enhanced magnetic response, within the moated area, was found to correspond to a visible positive earthwork, extending approximately 50m. This showed that the site was divided into two by a pronounced earthen bank revetted with stone walls. The area to the east of the earthwork demonstrated the presence of several additional stone structures and surfaces, covered by demolition layers. The finds assemblages overlying the denuded and potentially demolished structures and earthwork provide a general date from 16th – 18th centuries, which may corroborate the end date for the moated area as an inhabited site. The area to the west appeared to be more open and may have been used as a paddock, garden or for cultivation. Within this area was a single ditch dated to 1150 – 1330, which may provide a date for the commencement of occupation at the site.

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Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Orion Heritage for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Graham Tait (Development Control Archaeologist) who monitored the work on behalf of Coventry County Council for their advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Jim Mumford, who was supported by Simon Batsman, Ben McAndrew and Chris Richardson. Survey and digitizing were carried out by Caroline Souday and Matt Bradley. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Geraldine Crann, 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 Orion Heritage, on behalf of Hallam Land Management, to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed mixed development at Eastern Green, Coventry (centred on SP 278 809).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. OUT/2018/3225). Although the Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions with Graham Tait (Development Control Archaeologist, Coventry County Council) established the scope of work required, which was set out within a written scheme of investigation produced by Orion Heritage. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.1.3 The development is for up to 2625 residential dwellings, new vehicular access from the A45, drainage, a district centre, retail facilities, community facilities, the provision of a primary school, open spaces and landscaping. This will involve demolition, groundworks, service installations and construction activities.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The current evaluation was carried out in two disparate areas, Area A (SP 2783 8148) consisted of two areas either side of the A45 near Pickford Bridge; and Area B (SP 2835 8011), which lay to the south, west of Allesley Green (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists primarily of rural agricultural land, under a mixture of pasture and arable farming.

1.2.3 Topographically the overall area is split into two distinct valleys, with generally higher ground in the west falling to the east towards Coventry. To the north, the Pickford Brook passes through the site, reaching a high point of c 105 m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), while within the southern section of the site a second valley is formed by the Slipperslide Brook, a tributary of the Pickford Brook, reaching a low point of c 99 m AOD.

1.2.4 The solid geology of the area is mapped as the Allesley Member sandstone, with Allesley Member Argillaceous Rocks And Sandstone And Conglomerate, Interbedded recorded in the west of the area. Superficial drift geology deposits of the Thrussington Member are recorded across the south and north-west of the area, with an area of Alluvium, recorded along the tributary to Pickford Brook (British Geological Survey website).

1.2.5 The overlying soils are known as Brockhurst 1, which are typical stagnogley soils. These consist of fine loamy over clayey soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet Midland and Western England).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site, and the wider development, has been described in detail in the Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Orion Heritage 2018), and will not be reproduced here. The results of the assessment and related works are summarized below to provide context to this phase of works.

1.3.2 The assessment established that the study site has a varied potential for archaeological remains of all periods. For the later prehistoric (Bronze Age/Iron Age), Saxon/Early Medieval and Post-Medieval/Modern periods, a low potential is identified.

1.3.3 For the early prehistoric (Mesolithic/Neolithic) period, a high potential is identified on the localized ridge of high ground that occupies the centre and east of the site, from which finds have been recovered as a result of previous field investigations. Beyond this area, a low potential is identified for the rest of the site, including the present evaluation.

1.3.4 For the Roman period, a moderate potential for archaeological remains is identified in the east of the site, from which concentrations of surface finds have been recovered as a result of previous field investigations. Beyond this in the area of the evaluation, a low potential is identified.

1.3.5 For the medieval period, a high potential is identified for archaeological remains relating to a possible moated site situated along the southern boundary of the site.

1.3.6 A site visit, in 2009, described the moated site at Area B (Historic Environment Record entry, HER MCT 560). It commented that the east and west ditches were noticeably deeper and wider than the north ditch. The east and west ditches were extremely overgrown with a species rich hedgerow, bushes and trees, while the hedgerow on the north boundary was not as diverse. Four large sandstone blocks were observed within the field, located on the east side. A linear bank was seen to traverse the field running N-S. A bridge was located in the north ditch in line with the linear bank, being overgrown, was barely visible.

1.3.7 Beyond this area, a low potential is identified. Should any further remains be present, these are likely to be characterised by features relating to former agricultural cultivation and land-use.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The principal aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any identified archaeological deposits: therefore, ensuring their preservation by record.

2.1.2 This was undertaken by a programme of archaeological works comprising targeted trial trenching evaluation (the locations of the trenches are shown in Figs. 1 and 2).

2.1.3 To address the main aim, the general objectives were to:

- Ensure the recording of any archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological evaluation;
- Ensure that any below ground archaeological deposits exposed were promptly identified;
- Ensure the recording of all archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available;
- Undertake a programme of post-investigation assessment;
- Produce a report and disseminate the results; and
- Make provision for archive deposition.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Ten 30m x 1.6m trial evaluation trenches were excavated in two areas of the site, Areas A and B (Figs. 1 and 2). In the NW part of the site, in Area A (Trenches 1 - 5), the trenches were to test small discrete positive geophysical anomalies located during the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016). Those to the south, in Area B (Trenches 6 - 10), were positioned over a medieval moated site to evaluate any surviving building remains within the moated area.

2.2.2 The trial trenches were open by a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket, under archaeological supervision. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology or the first archaeological horizon, depending upon which was encountered first.

2.2.3 Any archaeological horizon that was encountered during the initial machining was cleaned by hand. It was then hand excavated and archaeologically recorded as agreed in the WSI (Orion Heritage, 2019). In areas of fragile deposits these were only cleaned and defined and no *in situ* surviving structural remains were disturbed.

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 excavated deposits, can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B. No sediments were suitable for environmental sampling.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated e.g. 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 trenches in Area A were excavated within sown cropped fields, while those in Area B were under pasture.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally wet with heavy rain during the week leaving surface water standing in the trenches. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Features of archaeological significance were present in a number of the trenches; Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Other features of lesser archaeological significance were generally land drains, or debris spreads.

3.4 Area A (Fig. 3)

Introduction

3.4.1 Trenches 1-3 lay north of the A45 and demonstrated a stratigraphical sequence of yellowish brown silty clay natural geology, overlain by a yellowish brown silty clay subsoil. This had occasional patches of black clinker and coke kiln waste (eg 303) mixed into it through ploughing (Plate 1). Above this, at the top of the sequence, was the present topsoil.

3.4.2 Trenches 4 and 5 lay south of the A45 and demonstrated a stratigraphical sequence of yellowish brown silty clay natural geology, overlain by a yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (in Trench 4 only), above which was the topsoil.

Trench 4

3.4.3 Within this trench, truncating the natural and sealed by the subsoil, was a 6m wide linear feature (404) aligned NW-SE. It had a single unexcavated fill (403) which had brick fragment inclusions. The feature extended into Trench 5, where it was excavated.

Trench 5

3.4.4 This trench contained a 1.9m wide, 0.10m deep, linear ditch (503) aligned NW-SE, that extended from Trench 4 (Fig. 3). It had a single fill (504) (Fig. 6), containing a sherd of pottery and brick fragments, which dated the feature to the 19th century.

3.5 Area B (Fig. 4)

3.5.1 Trenches 6 - 10 were located within the same field and demonstrated a stratigraphical sequence of orange brown sandy clay natural geology, overlain by a yellowish brown silty clay subsoil, above which was the topsoil.

Trench 6

3.5.2 Within this trench was a small linear ditch (604) and three land drains one of which (606) was stone packed. Ditch 604 measured 0.75m wide and 0.22m deep and was aligned WNW-ENE (Plate 2). It had a single fill (603), which contained eight fragments of medieval pottery dated to 1150-1350. There were also two large pieces from two separate tiles, one of which had remnants of glaze typical of medieval roof tiles. At the north end of the trench was the 0.28m wide stone packed land drain (606) aligned WNW-ENE.

3.5.3 The drain was sealed by the topsoil, the ditch was sealed by the subsoil, both truncated the natural.

Trench 7

3.5.4 The trench traversed an existing upstanding earthwork and contained two stone built structures and several associated deposits (Plate 3).

3.5.5 Towards the west end of the trench, overlying the subsoil, were two parallel N-S aligned walls (705 and 706), set 2.7m apart (Plate 4). These were seen to extend south into Trench 8. The walls were constructed of roughhewn sandstone blocks with a clay bond, of which only one course was exposed. Between the two revetment walls was the earthen core (704) of mid brown silty clay with pebble inclusions. The upper part was given a finds reference number (707) for material collected during cleaning the surface of 704. The pottery, assemblage dated to 1760 – 1830, although there was a residual medieval sherd within the assemblage. The CBM fragments were broadly dated to 16 - 18th centuries.

3.5.6 Towards the NE end of the trench was the corner of a stone building (708, Plate 5). This consisted of roughhewn faced sandstone blocks with a clay bond. Only a single course was exposed and abutting this was a layer of demolition debris (703) that extended over an area of 25m within the trench. This consisted of mid grey brown silty clay containing a significant density of tile and sandstone fragments and gravel. A sample of the tile fragments dated to 16th - 18th centuries, but there was also a possibly earlier example (13th – early 16th century) within them.

Trench 8

3.5.7 The trench traversed the same earthwork and contained two stone built structures and several associated deposits (Plate 6).

3.5.8 At the west end of the trench, overlying the subsoil, were two parallel N-S aligned walls (804 and 807), set 2.5m apart. These were a continuation of the structures seen to north and south in Trenches 7 and 9. The walls were constructed of roughhewn sandstone blocks with a clay bond, of which only one course was exposed. Between the two revetment walls was the earthen core (803) of mid brown silty clay with pebble inclusions.

3.5.9 To the immediate east of the earthwork was a 4m wide pebble and gravel surface (805, Plate 7).

3.5.10 A N-S aligned linear concentration of stones (806) was interpreted as a possible continuation of the better preserved wall 708, seen to the north. The upper part was given a finds reference number (808) for material collected from the cleaning of 806. The two fragments of pottery and 10 fragments of CBM give a general date of 1400-1750.

3.5.11 At the eastern end of the trench a hollow formed a 12m ramp down into the pond in the SE corner of the moated site, which appears on the 1887 OS map and is likely to be of post-medieval date.

Trench 9

3.5.12 The trench traversed the earthwork and contained a stone built structure and several associated deposits.

3.5.13 Towards the east end of the trench, overlying the subsoil, was a single N-S aligned wall (903) constructed of roughhewn sandstone blocks with a clay bond (Plate 8). This wall corresponded to the other western walls (705 and 807) beneath the earthwork. There was no surviving east wall visible within this trench. Adjacent to wall 903, was a stone rubble (902) deposit which may have been part of the bank or demolition from the eastern wall.

3.5.14 On the opposing side of wall 903, was a layer (905) of demolition covering about 7.2m of the trench. It consisted of mid grey brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of tile and sandstone fragments and gravel.

3.5.15 At the very eastern end of the trench a pebble and gravel surface (906), that extended over 3m, was probably a continuation of the surface (805) seen to the north.

3.6 Finds summary

3.6.1 The finds assemblage recovered included pottery, CBM, clay pipe and glass, in small quantities.

3.6.2 A total of 37 sherds (371g) of medieval and later pottery were recovered from the evaluation. These came from a total of four contexts and approximately a quarter of the assemblage is medieval. The medieval pottery is generally in a very poor, fragmentary and abraded condition, although the sherds are reasonably large. Much of the post-medieval pottery (particularly the finer table wares) is also in a poor, possibly crushed condition.

3.6.3 The site produced a total of 17 pieces of CBM weighing 2025g, from four contexts. This is a mixture of medieval and post-medieval material (ie after c 1480). The assemblage is in a fragmentary condition but includes some large and fairly fresh pieces. The assemblage consists entirely of flat roof tile fragments of two main sub-types (nibbed and composite). Nib tiles are particularly common in the English Midlands during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The coarser examples appear to be medieval in date (13th to early 16th century) and the smoother examples appear to be early post-medieval (16th to 18th century).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Archaeological remains, where present, were easy to identify. The main constraints on the work were the inclement weather, which resulted in standing water in the trenches, and the need to investigate sensitive remains without unnecessary damage.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The results from the evaluation allowed the character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any identified archaeological deposits to be determined. These have been recorded, assessed and archived.

4.2.2 In Area A, the geophysical anomalies were found to be spreads of ash and clinker within the subsoil. These archaeological remains were of post-medieval industrial and agricultural origin and were moderately well preserved, and intermittent in nature.

4.2.3 In Area B the enhanced magnetic response, within the moated area, was found to correspond to a visible positive earthwork, extending approximately 50m. This showed that the site was divided into two by a pronounced earthen bank revetted with stone walls. The area to the east of the earthwork demonstrated the presence of several additional stone structures and surfaces, covered by demolition layers. The finds assemblages overlying the denuded and potentially demolished structures and earthwork provide a general date from 16th – 18th centuries. The area to the west appeared to be more open.

4.3 Interpretation

4.4 Area A Trenches 1 - 5

Post-medieval

4.4.1 Trenches 1 to 3 were in the field to the north of the A45 and positioned over a number of positive anomalies shown in the geophysical survey. These were revealed to be deposits of post-medieval kiln waste of ash and clinker spread out in the field and mixed in between the plough soil and sub soil. The discard of rubbish and waste is probably associated with brick production attested to by the name Brick Hill Lane, shown on the 1887 OS mapping. Although no brick kiln structures are known, they may have been produced in brick clamps (Hammond 2001, Lloyd 1990) or represent the base of brick clamps, which leave little in the way of physical remains. The OS mapping also depicts Sandpit Farm with likely extraction pits, as well as other small probable quarry pits, in the immediate landscape, suggesting that brick production may well have been occurring, probably prior to 1887.

4.4.2 Trenches 4 and 5 were on the south side of the A45 and were positioned over positive anomalies shown in the geophysical survey. The ditch in Trench 5 was dated to late 19-20th century and continued into Trench 4 as a shallower but broader feature. These anomalies appear to relate to local farming and industrial activities in the nearby area.

4.5 Area B Trenches 6 - 10

Medieval

4.5.1 Area B is within a known moated site, (HER MCT 560) referred to as Moat Close in the 18-19th centuries (HER MCT5975 and 14197).

4.5.2 The small ditch seen in Trench 6 was a confirmed medieval feature, with secure dating to 1150-1300. The fragments are from large cooking pots or possibly pitchers of a local fabric, and are slightly abraded. This suggests that they originate from a domestic setting and have been discarded after use, perhaps once they had broken.

4.5.3 In Trenches 7, 8 and 9 a N-S linear feature, constructed of parallel stone revetment walls set 2.7m apart were associated with an earthen bank fill. This divided the interior of the moated site into two areas of different character. The revetted bank itself may have been part of the original layout within the moated site, or may be a later alteration. Dating from the upper part seems to suggest it was being denuded in the later 18th century.

4.5.4 The western half appeared to remain open with a small boundary ditch towards the north edge sealed by thick subsoil and topsoil horizons, suggesting a garden, paddock or cultivated area within the moated site.

4.5.5 The eastern half the site contained the stone structures of at least one or two buildings with tiled roofs with the corner of a structure observed in Trench 7 and a potential continuation in Trench 8. Dating from above the wall in Trench 8 suggested a date between 1400-1750. It was unclear whether these walls represented original stone built buildings or whether they were the footings for timber structures. In general, there is a shift towards stone foundations from the 12-13th centuries (Stamper 1999, 255).

4.5.6 In Trenches 8 and 9 a 3m to 4m wide gravel surface of a roadway was observed running parallel with the earthen bank in an area between the bank and the possible stone buildings. It may have served as an access route. All features had various spreads of demolition material up against or over them suggesting a possible deliberate and rapid demolition at the later stages of the site's existence.

4.5.7 Moated sites are thought to have originated after 1150 and most were built by 1325, although some were constructed later (Adberg 1978). In the majority of instances, the moats were created, and wooden structures built within, whilst stone buildings are potentially later. It is speculated that this type of site would have been home to middle class / yeomen and constructed partly for functional and partly status reasons (Taylor 1972). They are most common in areas where the landholdings were split amongst freeholders and tenants with a less well defined manorial system (Rackham 1986, 363).

4.5.8 The date of this moated site is likely to be pre-16th century medieval, particularly as the adjacent Pond Farm (HER MCT 454) maybe a 16-17th century replacement. The finds assemblages overlying the denuded and potentially demolished structures and earthwork provide general date from 16 – 18th centuries, which may corroborate the end date for the moated area as an inhabited site.

Post-medieval

4.5.9 The south east corner of the moated site had been disturbed by the excavation and enlargement of a pond in the corner in the post-medieval period and clearly post-dated the moated site.

4.6 Significance

4.6.1 Area A has low potential to examine rural brick making of the post-medieval period.

4.6.2 Area B has high potential to investigate the dwellings and occupation of the medieval period, which formed the focus of much of the landscape, still discernible as ridge and furrow earthworks in the vicinity.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough soil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay. Traces of modern ploughing and patches of black clinker and coke kiln waste spread out into the field and mixed into the soils by ploughing.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type			Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.39	Plough soil	-	
101	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil: black clinker and coke kiln waste inclusions	-	
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough soil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay. Traces of modern ploughing and patches of black clinker and coke kiln waste spread out into the field and mixed into the soils by ploughing.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.28	Plough soil	-	
201	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil: black clinker and coke kiln waste inclusions	-	
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough soil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay. Traces of 18 th to 19 th century kiln waste spread out in field between the subsoil and natural.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	
301	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	
303	Layer	-	0.09	Kiln waste	-	

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough soil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay. A linear feature was observed and extended into Trench 5.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	

401	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	
402	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	
403	Fill	6	-	Fill of linear 404	-	
404	Cut	6	-	Linear (unexcavated), filled by 303	-	

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	SSE-NNW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough soil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay. A linear ditch was observed and extended into Trench 4.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
501	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	
502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	
503	Fill	1.90	0.10	Fill of linear 503	Pottery	c 1805-1900
504	Cut	1.90	0.10	Linear, filled by 504	-	

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	SSE-NNW
The trench contained a small linear ditch and three land drains, including a stone packed drain. Trench deposits consist of thick topsoil and subsoil overlying a small ditch and a stone filled drain, cut into the natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	
601	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	CBM	C 13- 16 th
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	
603	Fill	0.75	0.22	Fill of ditch 604	Pottery	c 1100-1300?
604	Cut	0.75	0.22	Ditch, filled by 603	-	
605	Fill	0.28	-	Fill of drain 606 – stone packed, unexcavated	-	
606	Cut	0.28	-	Drain, filled by 605	-	

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consisting of topsoil overlying two parallel stone revetment walls, associated with a bank; and the stone corner of a building; and tile debris. There was also a spread of demolition material and gravel surfaces overlying a sequence of subsoil sealing natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	
701	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	

703	Layer	25		Demolition spread	CBM	C 16-18 th
704	Layer	2.7		Earth bank infill	-	
705	Wall	0.35		West retaining wall of 704	-	
706	Wall	0.35		East retaining wall of 704	-	
707	Layer			Cleaning layer over 704	Pottery CBM Clay pipe Glass	c 1760-1830 C 16-18 th C 19 th E C18 th
708	Wall	0.9		North west corner of building	-	

Trench 8

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consisting of topsoil overlying two parallel stone revetment walls, associated with a bank. There was also a N-S stone wall and a stony, gravel surface. These overlay the subsoil which sealed natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	
801	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	
802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	
803	Layer	2.40	-	Earth bank infill	-	
804	Wall	0.35		East retaining wall of 803	-	
805	Layer	4		Gravel path/track surface	-	
806	Wall	0.52	0.11	Building wall, N-S aligned	-	
807	Wall	0.40		West retaining wall of 803	-	
808	Layer			Cleaning layer over 806	Pottery CBM	c 1400-1750 C 16-18 th

Trench 9

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consisting of topsoil overlying a stone wall of the revetted bank; a spread of demolition material; and gravel surfaces overlying the subsoil and natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	28.6
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	
901	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	
902	Layer	2.20		Rubble bank infill	-	
903	Wall	0.30	0.13	West retaining wall of 902	-	
904	Cut	0.30	0.13	Cut for wall 903	-	
905	Layer	7.2		Demolition spread	-	
906	Layer	4		Gravel path/track surface	-	
907	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	

Trench 10

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology, only a single land drain was observed. Consists of thick cultivated topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	
1001	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction

B.1.1 A total of 37 sherds (371g) of medieval and later pottery were recovered from the evaluation. These came from a total of four contexts. By sherd count around a quarter of this is medieval (9 sherds) and the remaining three-quarters is post-medieval (ie after c 1480, and assuming the Midlands purple ware is of this date). A range of pottery fabrics from the 12th or 13th century up to the 19th century is present.

B.1.2 All the pottery was scanned during the present assessment and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The medieval pottery is generally in a very poor, fragmentary and abraded condition, although the sherds are reasonably large. Much of the post-medieval pottery (particularly the finer tablewares) is also in a poor, possibly crushed condition.

B.1.3 The context spot-date is the date-bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg decoration etc). Medieval pottery fabrics were checked against the limited number of Warwickshire fabric samples in the Oxford Archaeology pottery fabric reference collection. Fabric codes or common names referred to for the medieval wares are based on those of the Warwickshire county type series (WCTS, Rátkai 2008). Post-medieval fabric codes are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014). The range of pottery is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 1) and therefore only summarised below.

Description

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
503	c1805-1900	1	3	Fresh body sherd (bo) refined whiteware (REFW) dish/saucer
603	c1100-1300?	8	161	Abraded sherds, mostly body sherds, from 2 unglazed medieval coarseware vessels. Probably Coventry A ware (COVA). Comprising 2 sherds (22g) from same vessel with traces of a sagging base in a finer sandier fabric with much fine mica and with weakly oxidised orange-brown surfaces and dark grey core. Also 6 sherds (139g) from a second vessel in much coarser sandier fabric with much milky quartz including rare-sparse rounded quartz grits up to 5mm across, black original surfaces mostly worn off to reveal leached pale grey-brown margins and a broad dark grey core. Both possibly 12-13C. From large cooking pots or possibly pitchers?

Context	Spot-date	No.	Weight	Comments
707	c1760-1830	26	165	16x small sherds (35g) Developed Creamware (CREA DEV), probably crushed; includes dishes, bowls and possible jar. 1x flat basal bo English tin-glazed ware (TGW) from an 18C dish with blue painted floral decoration. 2x thin-walled black-glazed redware (BLACK) incl everted rim from jar/chamberpot, probably 18C. 6x fairly abraded black-glazed sherds in Staffs-type red-slipped glazed ware (STRSB, c1680-1800), mostly thick-walled forms incl a flat base from a large bowl. 1x residual medieval bo (7g) from a cooking pot or bowl probably in Chilvers Coton whiteware (Nuneaton area; Fabric WW01) or a Midlands whiteware, with a patchy internal green glaze and with a sooted exterior, probably 13-15C?
808	c1400-1750	2	42	Fresh joining flat basal sherds in Midlands purple ware (London code MPUR; Chilvers Coton D, Warks Fabric code MP). Fairly coarse sandy grey-brown near-stoneware fabric with purplish surfaces in places and the stacking scar from the rim of another vessel (jar or wide jug?) on the underside with dark brown/black glaze around the scar only. Possibly 16/17C? - but not closely datable
TOTAL		37	371	

B.1.4 The range of pottery fabrics and vessel forms present appears to be typical of many sites in Warwickshire with relatively local (Warwickshire) medieval wares reasonably well represented. The more numerous post-medieval wares include coarsewares from Staffordshire or local sources. The fine tablewares (eg. Creamwares) are from Staffordshire or south Yorkshire sources while the single sherd of tin-glazed ware dish may be from London, or possibly Bristol or Liverpool.

B.1.5 The eight medieval sherds from context (603) comprise parts of two abraded vessels most probably in Coventry A ware (COVA, c 1100-1300). These appear to form a discreet medieval group/deposit. A single sherd of green-glazed medieval whiteware, is probably from the Chilvers Cotton kilns near Nuneaton, and dates to the 13th to 15th centuries but is residual in post-medieval context (707). Two fresh joining sherds of Midlands purple ware (MPUR, c 1400-1750) from (808) are, perhaps, more likely to be of early post-medieval date, but are not capable of closer dating (see also CBM from this context). Context (707) forms a discreet group/deposit of c 1760-1830. A 19th-century whiteware sherd from (503) is the latest pottery present.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.1.6 The pottery here has the potential to inform research through re-analysis - particularly when reviewed alongside further assemblages from any future excavations in the area of the present evaluation. It is therefore recommended that the pottery be retained.

B.2 Ceramic building material (CBM)

By John Cotter

Introduction

B.2.1 The site produced a total of 17 pieces of post-Roman CBM weighing 2025g from four contexts. This is a mixture of medieval and post-medieval material (ie after c 1480). The assemblage is in a fragmentary condition but includes some large and fairly fresh pieces. Without further local research, however, it is not really possible to date this any closer than within two or three centuries.

B.2.2 All the CBM was scanned during the present assessment, in a similar way to the pottery, and spot-dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by fragment count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The material is described in some detail in the spreadsheet (Table 1) and is therefore only summarised below.

Context	Spot-date	Pieces	Weight (g)	Comments
601	13-E16C?	2	429	Upper parts of 2 separate medieval-looking nib tiles (similar fabric to complete top in (703). Coarse sandy light orange fabric with a soft very fine clay matrix and both with a light grey core. Abundant mostly rounded milky quartz sand inclusions up to 2mm and with rare rounded grits of light grey ?quartzite or sandstone (up to 9mm across), plus dark red-brown ironstone inclusions and coarse light grey-brown clay pellets. Both tiles heavily weathered on the outer surface (the surface/side opposite to that with the nib). The larger fragment is a complete corner with complete central pulled nib - the ext face has a small speck of greenish-brown glaze (poss the remains of a larger glazed area now worn off?). Both tiles have complete central pulled nibs with a distinctive 'thumb-furrow' beneath the nib. The more complete tile is 13-16mm thick; surviving width = 140mm & vertical axis suggest original width = c170mm; surviving height = 128mm. The smaller frag is from the top edge only (nib area). The int (nibbed) face of both tiles is smoother compared to the very weathered ext face
703	16-18C?	3	1184	All flat roof tile in orange sandy fabrics. Large fresh pieces from 3 separate roof tiles. The 2 smaller pieces in a fine light orange post-medieval looking fabric. These 2 comprise an upper corner fragment with surviving height of 190mm and thickness of 14-15mm and with probable trace of a central pulled nib on the top edge. The latter tile has 2 large inclusions of cream clay or mudstone up to 8mm across & the external surface is quite smooth. The smaller finer piece is a corner fragment in a similar fabric. The finer pieces possibly 16-18C, possibly even 17-18C? Also, 1x complete top half of a composite roof tile with a central pulled nib and a pair of circular nail holes near the upper end: width of tile = 180mm, surviving height = 140mm (thickness 13-15mm). Fairly coarse orange sandy medieval-looking fabric with

Context	Spot-date	Pieces	Weight (g)	Comments
				a broad light grey core (see 601); tile quite weathered and pitted externally and the nib fairly abraded - possibly 13-E16C?
707	16-18C?	2	79	Flat roof tile. Including 1 thicker edge frag (17-19mm thick) & 1 body frag (16mm thick). Both in a fine light orange post-medieval looking fabric (as in (703) - which is a much finer version of the 'medieval' fabric seen above in (601) & (703). Both slightly abraded.
808	16-18C?	10	333	All flat roof tile in orange sandy fabrics. Includes 5 fresh pieces (incl 3 joining) in fine orange-red post-medieval looking fabric (incl edge frags), probably 16-18C, possibly even 17-18C? Also 5 more abraded pieces of medieval flat roof tile in coarser sandier orange fabric with a grey core and in some cases with inclusions and swirls of cream clay. The medieval includes edge fragments. No nail holes or nibs present in any of this material
TOTAL		17	2025	

Discussion

B.2.3 The CBM assemblage consists entirely of flat roof tile fragments of two main sub-types (nibbed and composite), plus smaller pieces of flat roof tile with no distinguishing features. All the tiles have a light orange colour but vary in coarseness. The coarser examples appear to be medieval in date (13th to early 16th century?) and the smoother examples appear to be early post-medieval (16th to 18th century?).

B.2.4 Of the four contexts only (601) appears to date exclusively to the medieval period. The latter context comprises two large pieces from two separate tiles with a single pulled nib in the centre of the upper edge. Although weathered on the external face, one of these has a small speck of glaze surviving - a feature typical of medieval roof tiles. The latter tile has an estimated original width of c 170mm. Other pieces of residual medieval roof tile occur in Context (703) including the complete top half of a tile with a width of 180mm. The latter is the only tile in the assemblage with both a central nib and a pair of circular nail holes near the corners (thus making it a 'composite' tile). These combined features would have allowed the tile to be used either as a nib tile or a peg tile, with the tile either suspended from the horizontal wooden roof slat by the central nib, or suspended from the slat by a pair of nails or wooden pegs inserted through the nail holes. The tile maker thus produced a tile catering for both possibilities.

B.2.5 Nib tiles are particularly common in the English Midlands during the medieval and post-medieval periods; they are less common further south (eg. Oxfordshire). The post-medieval tile fragments from the excavation have fewer surviving features but at least one example (703) appears to have a trace of a central pulled nib similar to the medieval examples. The lack of brick (usually post-medieval in date) or other types of CBM from the excavation may reflect upon the construction and date of any buildings that stood nearby

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.2.6 The CBM assemblage here has been adequately recorded and the smaller pieces could be discarded if so desired. However, it is recommended that the medieval pieces and some of the largest post-medieval pieces be retained as they may provide useful comparative material for future CBM research in the area.

B.3 Clay tobacco pipe

By John Cotter

Description

B.3.1 A single piece of clay pipe weighing 2g was recovered. Given the small amount this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.

B.3.2 Context (707) Spot-date: 19th century. Description: 1 piece of pipe stem (2g). Length 29mm. Slender 19th-century type stem in a clean white fabric, with a stem bore diameter of 1.9mm. Fairly fresh condition.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

B.3.3 The pipe is really only of use for dating and has little potential for further analysis. As it has been adequately recorded it could be discarded.

B.4 Glass

By Ian R Scott

Introduction

B.4.1 There is a single sherd from the base of an early 18th-century free blown wine bottle (context 707).

Context 707	Sherd from the base of a free-blown wine bottle of early 18th-century date. Probably from either an onion-shaped bottle or a mallet bottle. Dark green glass. D: c 150mm.
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APPENDIX D**SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

Site name:	Eastern Green, Coventry
Site code:	ALLEG 19
Grid Reference	SP 278 809 (centred)
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	10-14th Feb 2019
Area of Site	c 143 hectares: 10 evaluation trenches = 600m ²
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry, in due course, under the following accession number: PG19.

Summary of Results: Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Orion Heritage, on behalf of Hallam Land Management, to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed mixed development at Eastern Green, Coventry (centred on NGR SP 278 809). The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. OUT/2018/3225).

The evaluation comprised 10 trenches, generally 30m by 2m, located in two main areas, Area A to the north and Area B to the south.

In Area A, the trenches were located to test the small discrete positive geophysical anomalies in the NW of the site. In Area B, the enhanced magnetic response was tested related to a medieval moated site. The work was carried out over four days between 10th and 14th February 2019.

In Area A, the geophysical anomalies were found to be spreads of ash and clinker within the subsoil. These archaeological remains were of post-medieval industrial and agricultural origin and were of a moderately well preserved, intermittent nature.

In Area B the enhanced magnetic response, within the moated area, was found to correspond to a visible positive earthwork, extending approximately 50m. This showed that the site was divided into two by a pronounced earthen bank revetted with stone walls. The area to the east of the earthwork demonstrated the presence of several additional stone structures and surfaces, covered by demolition layers. The finds assemblages overlying the denuded and potentially demolished structures and earthwork provide a general date from 16th – 18th centuries, which may corroborate the end date for the

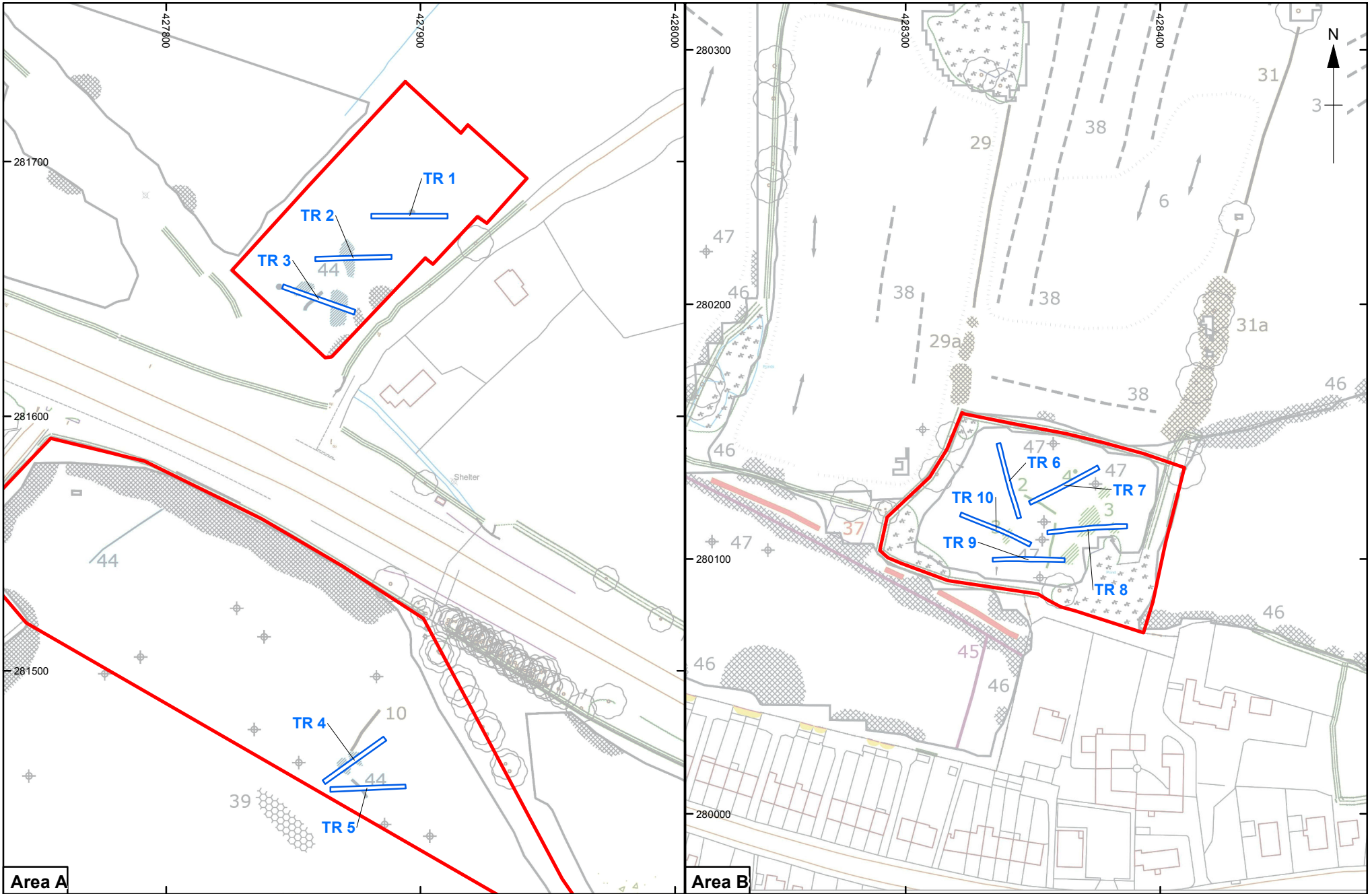
moated area as an inhabited site. The area to the west appeared to be more open and may have been used as a paddock, garden or for cultivation. Within this area was a single ditch dated to 1150 – 1330, which may provide a date for the commencement of occupation at the site.



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Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2018
 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site locations



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0 125 m

1:2,000 @ A4

Figure 2:Trench location

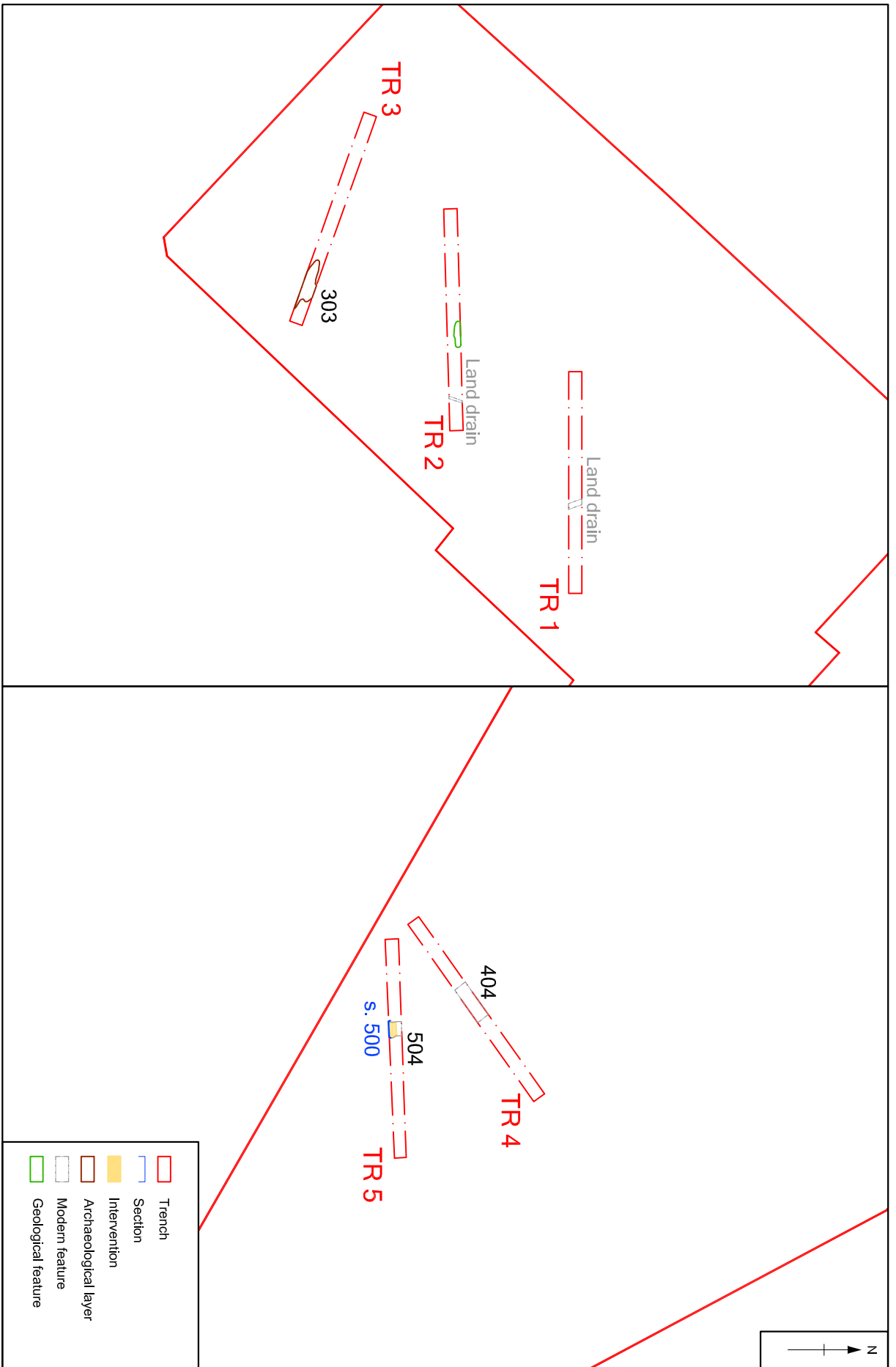


Figure 3: Area A - Trenches 1 to 5

Scale at A4 1:1750

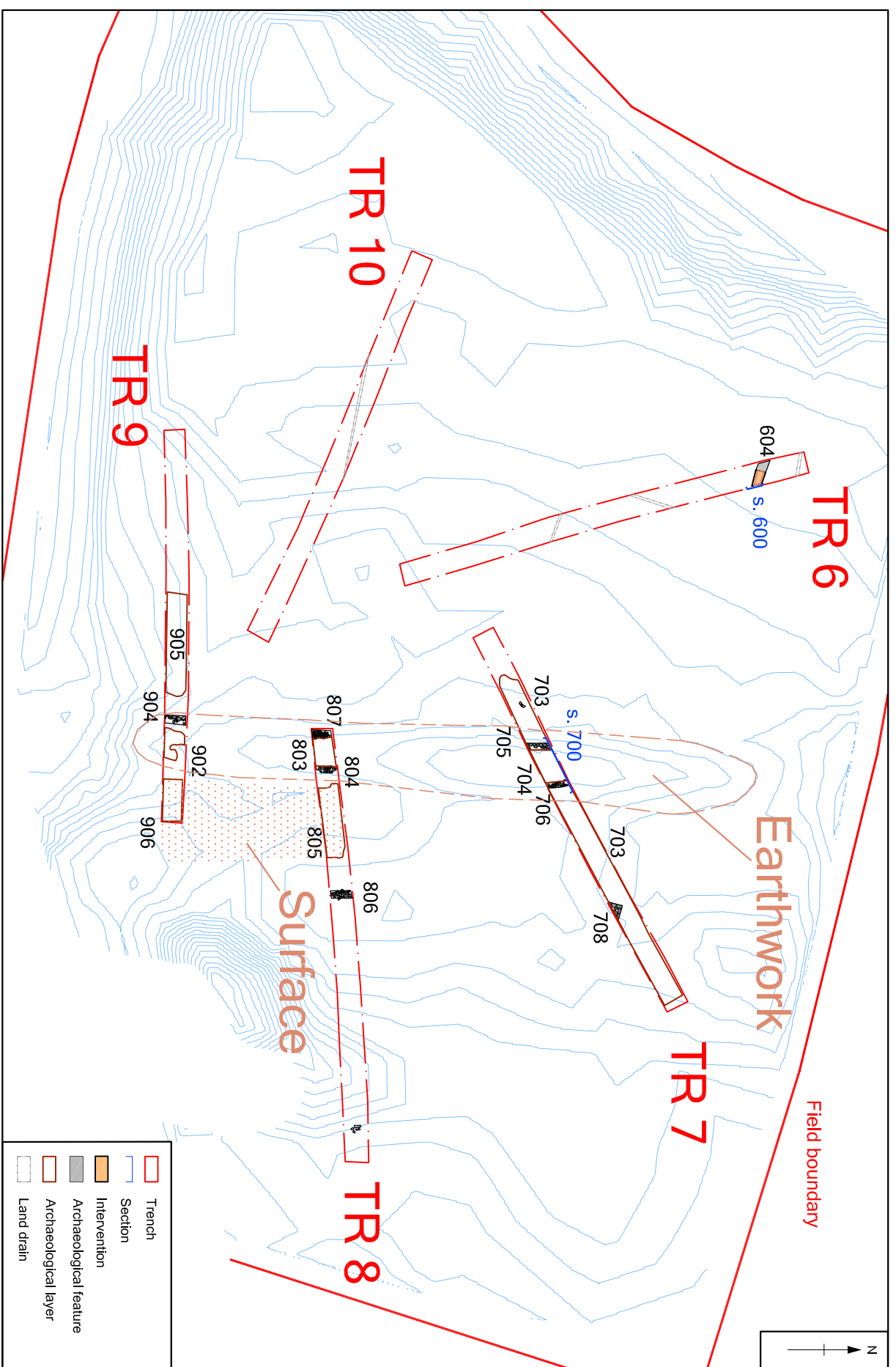


Figure 4: Area B - Trenches 6 to 10

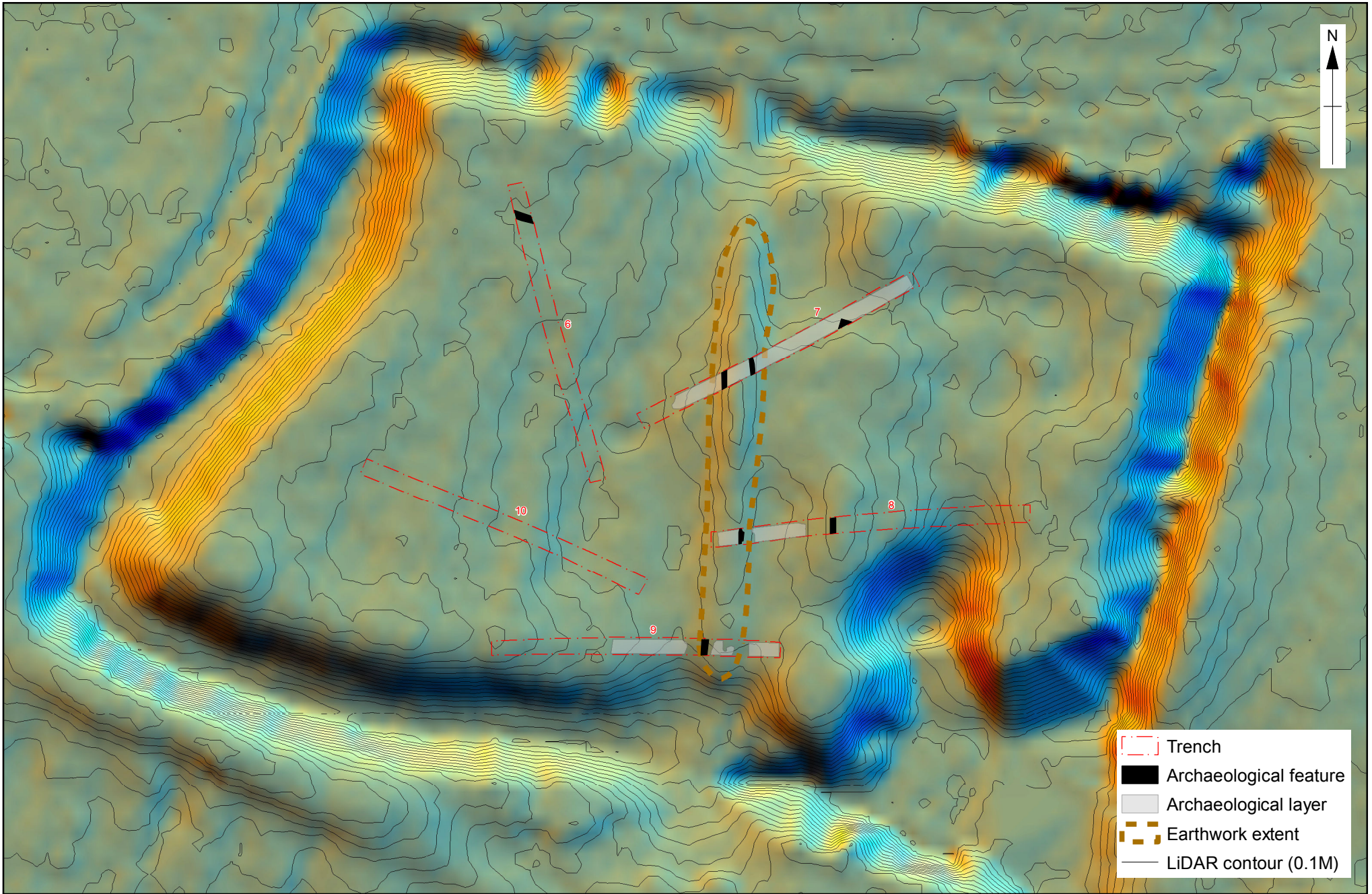


Figure 5: Evaluation trenches 6-10 with EA LiDAR data

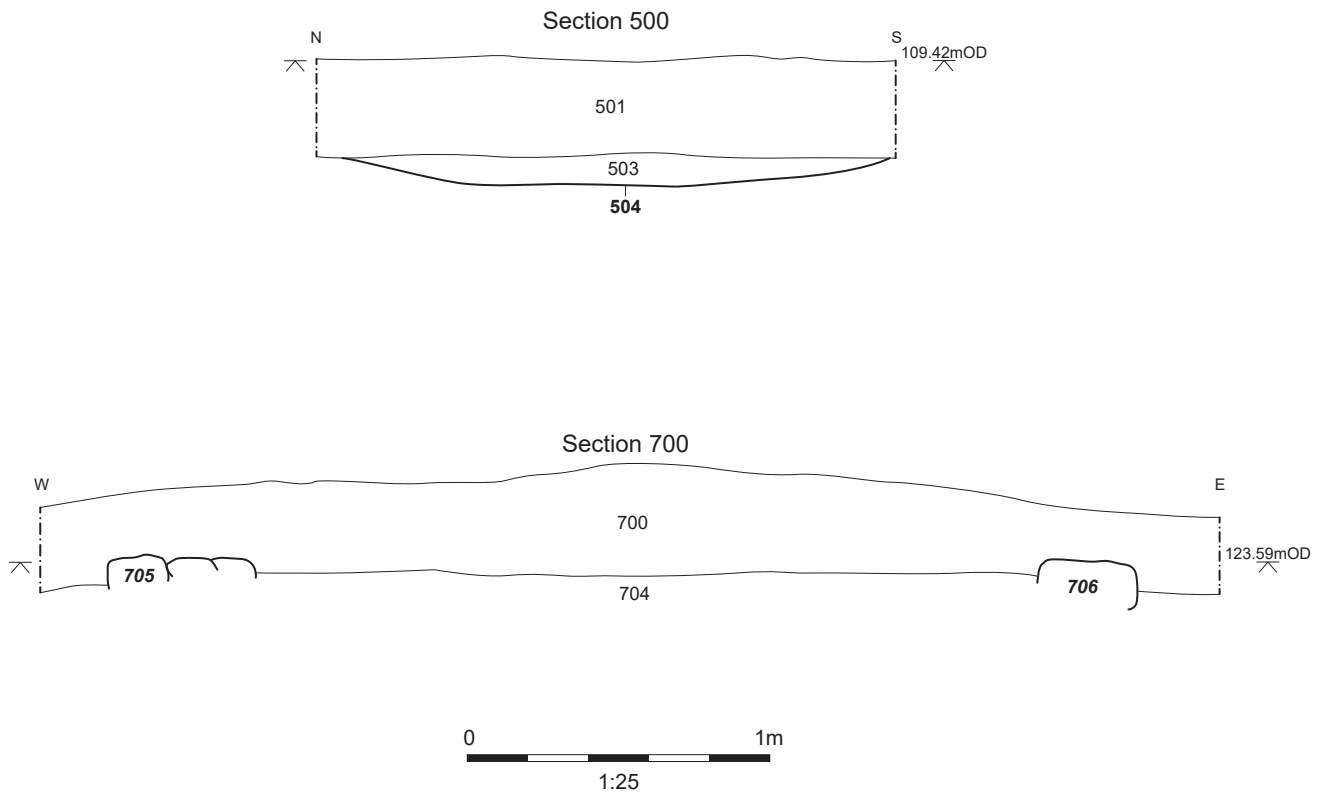


Figure 6: Sections



Plate 1: Trench 3, general view, looking SW



Plate 2: Trench 6, feature 604, looking east



Plate 3: Trench 7, general view, looking NE



Plate 4: Trench 7, section 700, contexts 704-706, looking north



Plate 5: Trench 7, feature 708, looking west



Plate 6: Trench 8, general view, looking east



Plate 7: Trench 8 context 805, looking north



Plate 8: Trench 9 contexts 902 and 903, looking east



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