West Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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West Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In June 2018, Oxford Archaeology were commissioned by Taylor Wimpey to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of a proposed housing development to the north of West Road, Sawbridgeworth (TL 47842 15448). A programme of 19 trenches was undertaken to ground truth the results of a geophysical survey and to assess the archaeological potential of the site.

The evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological remains in areas identified on the geophysics. Parts of a NW–SE-aligned trackway were found in Trenches 1 and 2. Field boundaries identified by geophysics (also present on the 1839 tithe map) were found in Trenches 5 and 7, towards the south of the site, and in Trenches 12 and 16, in the centre of the site.

Geophysical anomalies identified in the northern part of the site were investigated and identified as geological.

The archaeology is consistent with the geophysical survey results and it is likely that much of it has been truncated by modern agricultural activity.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Taylor Wimpey for commissioning this project. We are grateful to Alison Tinniswood, who monitored the work on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council, for her advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stuart Foreman. The fieldwork was directed by Lee Sparks, who was supported by Tom Lawrence and Omar Quadir. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Conan Parsons. Thanks are extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Leigh Allen and Geraldine Crann, and to those who prepared the archive under the management of Nicky Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey to undertake a trial-trench evaluation at the site of a proposed housing development.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as part of a planning application (planning reference 3/18/1760/FUL). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA (2018) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.1.3 The site archive will be deposited with Bishop's Stortford Museum. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the Hertfordshire Archaeological Archive Standards (Hertfordshire Museums, 2017).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located to the north of West Road on the north-west outskirts of Sawbridgeworth, East Hertfordshire (TL 47842 15448). The site is set within an irregularly shaped arable field, currently kept fallow, covering an area of approximately 5.7ha (Fig. 1). The site extends along the north and west sides of Mandeville Primary School and to the north of a row of properties aligned along West Road. Sawbridgeworth Town Football Club is located immediately east of the site and the playing fields of Leventhorpe School lie to the north. Arable fields are located to the west of the site.

1.2.2 The site is located at the south-eastern edge of the Thorley Uplands Landscape Character Area, which is described as consisting of sloping arable farmland (EHD nd). The River Stort lies about 700m east of the site, where it flows southwards to the River Lea at Hoddesdon. The geology of the site is mapped as London Clay formation, consisting of clay, silt and sand. This sedimentary bedrock was formed *c* 48–56 million years ago in the Palaeogene period (BGS nd). The site lies at around 66–67m aOD, rising gently to the north-east.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The first historical record of the town of Sawbridgeworth (MHT17) dates to 1222, when Geoffrey de Say received a grant for a market to be held outside the parish church, 300m east of London Road. In the later medieval period, Sawbridgeworth parish was known for growing saffron to supply the London markets. By the 16th century, malting had taken over as a primary industry, and numerous malthouses flourished in the town during the 18th and 19th centuries, such as the one at 11–13 Station Road (MHT9422).

1.3.2 The site does not contain any designated or undesignated heritage assets, though several prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval sites and find spots are known in the vicinity (within 1km). Four Neolithic burials that may have been part of a long barrow were located 450m to the east (MHT1387). A Neolithic flint arrowhead was discovered in a house garden on the Bullfields Estate just over 500m to the east (MHT2784). The partial skeleton of a young person, possibly a female, was discovered during road works in 1994, *c* 600m to the south (MHT9074). The skeleton was dated to the Roman period owing to the recovery of a pottery sherd and a lava quern fragment.

1.3.3 A large sub-circular cropmark was identified on aerial photographs in 2006 within the grounds of Leventhorpe School (MHT13006). A geophysical survey (ASWYAS 2007) and a trial-trench evaluation (TVAS 2009) in this area did not identify any archaeological features, though a subsequent evaluation exposed several known field boundaries, post-medieval postholes and four prehistoric struck flints (TVAS 2010).

1.3.4 In 2016, a magnetometer survey was carried out at the site and several anomalies were identified with a concentration found towards the north-eastern corner of the site (Sabin 2016). The interpretation of these results is presented in Figure 2. Several roughly east–west linear features were identified in the southern and central parts of the site. Two of these were thought to represent field boundaries recorded on the 1839 Sawbridgeworth tithe map, which shows the site divided into three fields. These boundaries had been removed by 1879 as they were absent from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the project were as follows:

i. Ground truth geophysical results by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin and areas where no anomalies were registered.
ii. Establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent) and establish the quality of preservation of any surviving remains.
iii. Provide sufficient coverage to establish the form, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
iv. Provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and the possible presence of masking deposits.
v. If archaeological remains are found, provide sufficient information to construct a mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and costs.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 19 trenches measuring 50m x 1.8m were targeted on the archaeological features and blank areas identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). This represents a 3% sample of the site.

2.2.2 The trenches were excavated using a 13-tonne machine fitted with a flat, toothless bucket. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology. Once archaeological deposits were exposed, excavation continued by hand.

2.2.3 The excavation methodology was previously set out in the WSI (OA 2018) and need not be repeated here in detail. All identified features were cleaned and samples were excavated to resolve the principle aims of the evaluation.

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 ditch 103 is a feature within Trench 1, while layer 302 is a feature within Trench 3.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches differed between the eastern and western parts of the site. In the lower, western part of the site, the natural geology of light-brown sandy clay was overlain by a red-brown sandy clay subsoil, which was deeper and possibly partly colluvial in character to the south, and in turn overlain by topsoil. In the higher, eastern part of the site, the topsoil directly overlay the natural.

3.2.2 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 Archaeological features were discovered in six of the 19 trenches excavated. The geophysical survey identified several other potential features, but these were found to be to be geological.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 contained four ditches, all aligned NW–SE and overlain by the subsoil (Fig. 3; Plate 1). Ditch 105 measured 1.18m wide by 0.36m deep and contained one grey sandy clay fill that produced a small amount of animal bones and a flint flake (Plate 2). Ditch 107 measured 0.44m wide by 0.22m deep and contained one grey-brown sandy clay fill.

3.4.2 Ditches 103 and 109 were possible trackway ditches that were also seen in Trench 2. Ditch 103 measured 0.92m wide by 0.28m deep and contained one grey-brown silty clay fill (Plate 3). Ditch 109 measured 0.9m wide by 0.22m deep and contained one grey-brown sandy clay fill (Plate 4), which produced two flint flakes.

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 Trench 2 contained two ditches that formed part of the trackway seen in Trench 1 to the east (Fig. 4; Plate 5). Ditch 203 measured 0.45m wide by 0.24m deep and contained one dark-brown sandy clay fill (Plate 6). Ditch 205 measured 0.78m wide by 0.20m deep and contained one dark grey-brown sandy clay fill (Plate 7). Both ditches were overlain by a fairly deep subsoil measuring *c* 0.54m thick. Neither produced any dating evidence.

3.6 Trench 7

3.6.1 Trench 7 contained two ditches (Fig. 5; Plate 8). Ditch 703 was aligned NW–SE and measured 0.65m wide by 0.13m deep with a single grey sandy-clay fill. The ditch did not produce any dating evidence but it was overlain by the subsoil.

3.6.2 Ditch 705 was picked up by the geophysical survey and was identified as an old field boundary, possibly when the current field was divided into three as shown on the 1839 Sawbridgeworth tithe map. Ditch 705 measured 2.30m wide by 0.70m deep and it cut through the subsoil (701) into the natural (Fig. 5; Plate 9). The ditch contained two fills including a lower fill (706) of dark-grey silty clay that produced a small quantity of ceramic building material dating to the 15th-16th century and a sheep/goat tibia.

3.7 Trenches 5, 12 and 16

3.7.1 Trenches 5, 12 and 16 all contained parts of the post-medieval ditches that were seen in the geophysical survey results and on the 1839 tithe maps. Only ditch 1603 was excavated and was found to cut through the subsoil (1601). The ditch measured 1.92m wide by 0.76m deep and contained one grey-brown sandy clay fill (Fig. 6, section 1600; Plate 9). Neither of the ditch sections found in Trenches 5 and 12 were excavated.

3.7.2 One small sherd of pottery dating to the middle Bronze Age–early Iron Age was recovered from the subsoil layer in Trench 5. This layer was fairly deep here and may have been partly generated by colluvial processes.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches were located to maximise the potential for exposing archaeological features and to provided good coverage across the site. The ground conditions were good throughout the course of the investigation and the machining was carried out cleanly with good visibility of features and deposits in the trenches.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation identified several features seen on the geophysics. While not all the features identified were archaeological, the geophysics gave a good indication of the potential of the site.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Four NW–SE aligned ditches were identified in Trench 1, two of which may form a trackway which continued into Trench 2 to the west. A further ditch on a similar alignment was identified in the southern part of Trench 7. Prehistoric flint flakes were recovered from two of the ditches in Trench 1, including the ditch forming the northern side of the trackway, though it is possible that these could have been residual. All of these ditches were sealed by the subsoil/colluvial layer that was also observed in other trenches in the western part of the site. A small pottery sherd dated to the middle Bronze Age–early Iron Age was recovered from this layer in Trench 5. The evidence does not allow the date of the ditches in Trenches 1 and 2 and the southern part of Trench 7 to be conclusively determined, though it does hint that they may be prehistoric.

4.3.2 Former field boundaries seen on the 1839 tithe map were identified by the geophysical survey and exposed in Trenches 7 and 16. Ditch 705 produced ceramic building material dating to the 15th–16th century. Ditches 705 and 1603 clearly cut the subsoil layer that overlay the earlier ditches in Trenches 1, 2 and 7.

4.3.3 Features identified in the north-east corner of the site (Trenches 10, 11 and 17) were initially thought to be enclosure ditches but upon investigation were found to be geological in origin. Linear features investigated in Trenches 4, 9 and 15 were also found to be geological.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The possible trackway and boundary ditches identified in Trenches 1 and 2 and the southern end of Trench 7 pre-date the field boundaries shown on the 1839 tithe map, and are likely to relate to an earlier phase of agricultural activity. In the absence of secure dating evidence, the significance of these features is uncertain. If subsequent fieldwork were to demonstrate a prehistoric origin, they would be of moderate significance.

4.4.2 The ditches identified by the geophysical survey and exposed in Trenches 7 and 16 correspond to field boundaries seen on the 1839 tithe map. These features are of negligible significance.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE–SW
Trench containing four parallel ditches, two of which defined a trackway seen on the geophysics. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural geology of sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil of red-brown sandy clay	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural consisting of off-white/light brown sandy clay with flint nodules and chalk	-	-
103	Cut	0.92	0.28	NW–SE aligned trackway ditch with concave base and steep sides	-	Prehistoric?
104	Fill	0.92	0.28	Fill of 103 consisting of a grey-brown sandy clay	-	-
105	Cut	1.18	0.36	NW–SE-aligned drainage ditch with concave base and moderate/steep sides	-	Prehistoric?
106	Fill	1.18	0.36	Fill of 105 consisting of a grey-brown sandy clay	Animal bone, flint	-
107	Cut	0.44	0.22	NW–SE-aligned drainage ditch with concave base and moderate/steep sides	-	Prehistoric?
108	Fill	0.44	0.27	Secondary fill of 107 consisting of a grey-brown sandy clay	-	-
109	Cut	0.9	0.22	NW–SE-aligned trackway ditch with concave base and moderate/steep sides	-	Prehistoric?
110	Fill	0.9	0.22	Secondary fill of 109 consisting of a grey-brown sandy clay	Flint	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NW–SE
Trench containing two ditches forming part of the trackway also seen in Trench 1. Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil (colluvium?) overlying a natural geology of sandy clay					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-

201	Layer	-	0.54	Subsoil of brown sandy-clay with frequent stones	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural consisting of off-white/light brown sandy clay with flint nodules and frequent stones	-	-
203	Cut	0.45	0.24	NW–SE-aligned trackway ditch with concave base and steep sides	-	Prehistoric?
204	Fill	0.45	0.24	Fill of 204 consisting a of dark brown sandy clay	-	-
205	Cut	0.78	0.20	NW–SE-aligned trackway ditch with concave base and steep sides	-	Prehistoric?
206	Fill	0.78	0.20	Fill of 205 consisting a of dark grey-brown sandy clay	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N–S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying subsoil (colluvium?) overlying natural geology of sandy clay					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.68
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay		-
301	Layer	-	0.75	Subsoil of red-brown silty clay	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural consisting of a light yellow-brown sandy clay with chalk and flint	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NW–SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology. One hedge line was excavated along with two geological features					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	Flint	-
401	Layer	-	-	Natural consisting of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-
402	Cut	1.9	0.2	Hedge line with irregular base and moderate/steep sides	-	-

403	Fill	1.9	0.2	Fill of 403 consisting of a firm reddish brown sandy clay	-	-
404	Cut	0.58	0.3	Geological feature	-	
405	Fill	0.58	0.3	Fill of 404 consisting of a red-brown silty clay	-	-
406	Cut	0.4	0.28	Geological feature	-	-
407	Fill	0.4	0.28	Fill of 406 consisting a of firm, red-brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	N–S
Trench consists of topsoil overlying subsoil (colluvium?) which overlies the natural geology. Includes an E–W-aligned post-medieval field boundary.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.70	Subsoil of brown sandy clay with moderate stone inclusions	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural consisting of a light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-
503	Cut	0.9	-	E–W-aligned field boundary (not excavated)	-	Post-medieval
504	Fill	0.9	-	Fill of 503 consisting of a dark grey-brown silty clay (not excavated)	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	E–W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil (colluvium?) overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil of brown sandy clay	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural consisting of a light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 7		
General description	**Orientation**	N–S
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil (colluvium?) overlying natural geology of sand and sandy clay. Two ditches consisted of an E–W field boundary (705) and NW–SE drainage ditch (703).	**Length (m)**	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.68

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil of brown sandy clay with infrequent stones	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural consisting of a light brown silty sand with stones throughout changing to sandy clay in the northern part of the trench	-	-
703	Cut	0.65	0.17	NW–SE-aligned drainage ditch with concave sides and moderate base	-	Prehistoric?
704	Fill	0.65	0.17	Fill of 704 consisting of a mid/dark grey sandy clay	-	-
705	Cut	2.30	0.70	E–W-aligned field boundary with concave base and moderate/steep sides	-	Post-medieval
706	Fill	1.8	0.7	Fill of 705 consisting of a dark grey silty clay	Ceramic building material, animal bone	15th–16th century
707	Fill	1.32	0.43	Fill of 705 consisting of a dark yellow-brown sandy clay	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E–W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil of dark grey brown silty clay	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW–SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**

900	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
901	Layer	-		Natural of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	NW–SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
1001	Layer	-	-	Natural of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	NE–SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1100	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil of dark grey brown silty clay	-	-
1101	Layer	-		Natural of light yellow-brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	NE–SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1200	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.15	Natural of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 13		
General description	**Orientation**	NE–SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.	**Length (m)**	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.36

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil of dark grey brown silty clay	-	-
1301	Layer	-		Natural of yellow-brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	N–S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
1401	Layer	-		Natural of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	E–W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	Flint	-
1501	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil of brown silty clay	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-
1503	Cut	3.2	0.59	Hedge line or geological feature with irregular base and sides	-	-
1504	Fill	3.2	0.59	Fill of 1503 consisting of a red-brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	N–S
Trench containing an E–W-aligned field boundary. Consists of topsoil and subsoil (colluvium?) overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil of dark grey brown silty clay	-	-

1601	Layer	-	0.43	Subsoil of brown sandy clay with infrequent stones	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-
1603	Cut	1.92	0.76	E-W-aligned field boundary with concave base and steep sides	-	Post-medieval
1604	Fill	1.92	0.76	Fill of 1604 consisting of moderate to firm, grey-brown sandy clay	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW–SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy silt.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1700	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil of dark grey-brown sandy clay	-	-
1701	Layer	-	-	Natural of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench containing two possible shallow ditches or geological features. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.76
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1800	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	Flint	-
1801	Layer	-	0.5	Subsoil of red-brown silty clay	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-
1803	Cut	0.70	0.18	E–W-aligned ditch/geological feature with concave base and moderate sides	-	-
1804	Fill	0.7	0.18	Fill of 1803 consisting of a grey-brown silty clay	-	-
1805	Cut	0.4	0.12	Ditch or geological feature with moderate sides and concave base	-	-

1806	Fill	0.4	0.12	Fill of 1805 consisting of a grey-brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy silt.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1900	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil of dark grey-brown silty clay	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil of brown silty clay	-	-
1902	Layer	-	-	Natural of light brown sandy clay with flint and chalk inclusions	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Alex Davies

Introduction

B.1.1 One small, prehistoric body sherd weighing just 1g was recovered. This was found in the colluvial subsoil in Trench 5, context 501. The fabric had calcinated flint inclusions and wiping was noticed on the outer surface. The inner surface did not survive. The sherd probably dates to between the middle Bronze Age and the early Iron Age.

B.2 Flint

By Tom Lawrence

Introduction

B.2.1 A small assemblage of 10 struck flints was recovered from the evaluation (Table 1). The flints were recorded using OA's standard methodology. The assemblage largely dates to the later prehistoric period, though the only closely dated find was middle–late Neolithic.

B.2.2 A single, undiagnostic, side-trimming flake was found in ditch 105. Two other inner flakes were found in ditch 109, one of which contained a small notch on the distal right side as is similar to a miss-hit microburin. These flakes had unimodal flaking patterns and are likely to be residual in nature.

B.2.3 A naturally backed knife with retouch truncating the patina was found in the topsoil of Trench 5. Secondary retouching is more common in the later Bronze Age or early Iron Age. The blank may have dated to an earlier period. This piece also had modern plough damage.

B.2.4 Two squat flakes were found within the topsoil of Trench 15. Their squat nature suggests a later prehistoric date. They have both been patinated and damaged.

B.2.5 A damaged side-trimming flake was found in the topsoil of Trench 18. There was also a small scraper on a natural blank. Scrapers on natural pieces are typical of the later Bronze Age or early Iron Age and represent an emerging *ad-hoc* flint-working culture. A backed knife on a Levallois flake was found. Levallois flakes of this type generally date to the middle or late Neolithic.

Discussion and recommendations

B.2.6 The assemblage size and condition limits interpretation of the material. It is very mixed and atypical, containing a high proportion of tools and cores than the average assemblage. This is likely to be due to collection bias. It is likely that this assemblage is *ex-situ* and derives from activity elsewhere as all pieces are worn, patinated and damaged. Most of the assemblage dates to later prehistory, when the reuse of older blanks or natural pieces was commonplace.

B.2.7 The flints from this evaluation should be fully integrated into any future analysis arising from further investigation of the site.

Context	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
106	Flake	Side trimming	Small, squat flake with unimodal flaking pattern.	-
110	Flake	Inner	Proximal end of flake. Possible notch on ventral, distal right side which may lead this to be a microburin miss-hit, but it is unconvincing.	-
110	Flake	Inner	Small squat flake with unimodal flaking pattern.	-
400	Naturally backed knife	Side trimming flake	Irregular, semi-abrupt retouch on the ventral left. This retouch cuts through the patina. Contains modern damage.	Later Prehistoric
1500	Flakes x 2	Inner and side trimming	Two squat damaged flakes.	-
1800	Flakes x 2	Preparation and side trimming	One is very worn and both have lots of damage.	-
1800	Scraper		Abrupt retouch on a natural blank.	Later Prehistoric
1800	Backed knife	Inner flake	Irregular semi-abrupt retouch on the dorsal left and ventral right. On a Levallois flake.	Middle–Late Neolithic

Table 1: Summary of worked flints

B.3 Ceramic Building Material

By John Cotter

Introduction

Context	Description	Date
706	1 Tudor red-brick fragment, very worn; 3 peg tile fragments. 261g	15th–16th century 14th–16th century

Table 2: Summary of ceramic building material

B.4 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.4.1 A single piece of fine-grained orange sandstone was recovered from context 106. This is not worked and can be discarded.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

C.1.1 No deposits were identified as being suitable for environmental sampling during the evaluation.

C.2 Animal Bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of 14 animal bone specimens was recovered from the site, all of which were collected by hand (Table 3). The material was fully recorded with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection. The only context containing animal bones dated to the post-medieval period.

Description

C.2.2 The material was in a poor condition, probably due to the alkali soils of the site stripping the organic component from the bones. Part of a sheep/goat tibia was recovered from context 706.

C.2.3 Thirteen large mammal fragments were recovered from context 106.

Recommendation

C.2.4 This is a small and insignificant animal bone assemblage that is not worthy of retention.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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BGS, nd Geology of Britain Viewer, British Geological Survey Online, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

EHD, nd Hertfordshire Landscape Character Area 85: Thorley Uplands. East Herts District Landscape Character Assessment, <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/Media-library/Documents/Environment-and-planning/Landscape/Landscape-character-assessments/Area085.pdf?_ga=2.156236859.1096248542.1530880809-548911383.1530880809>

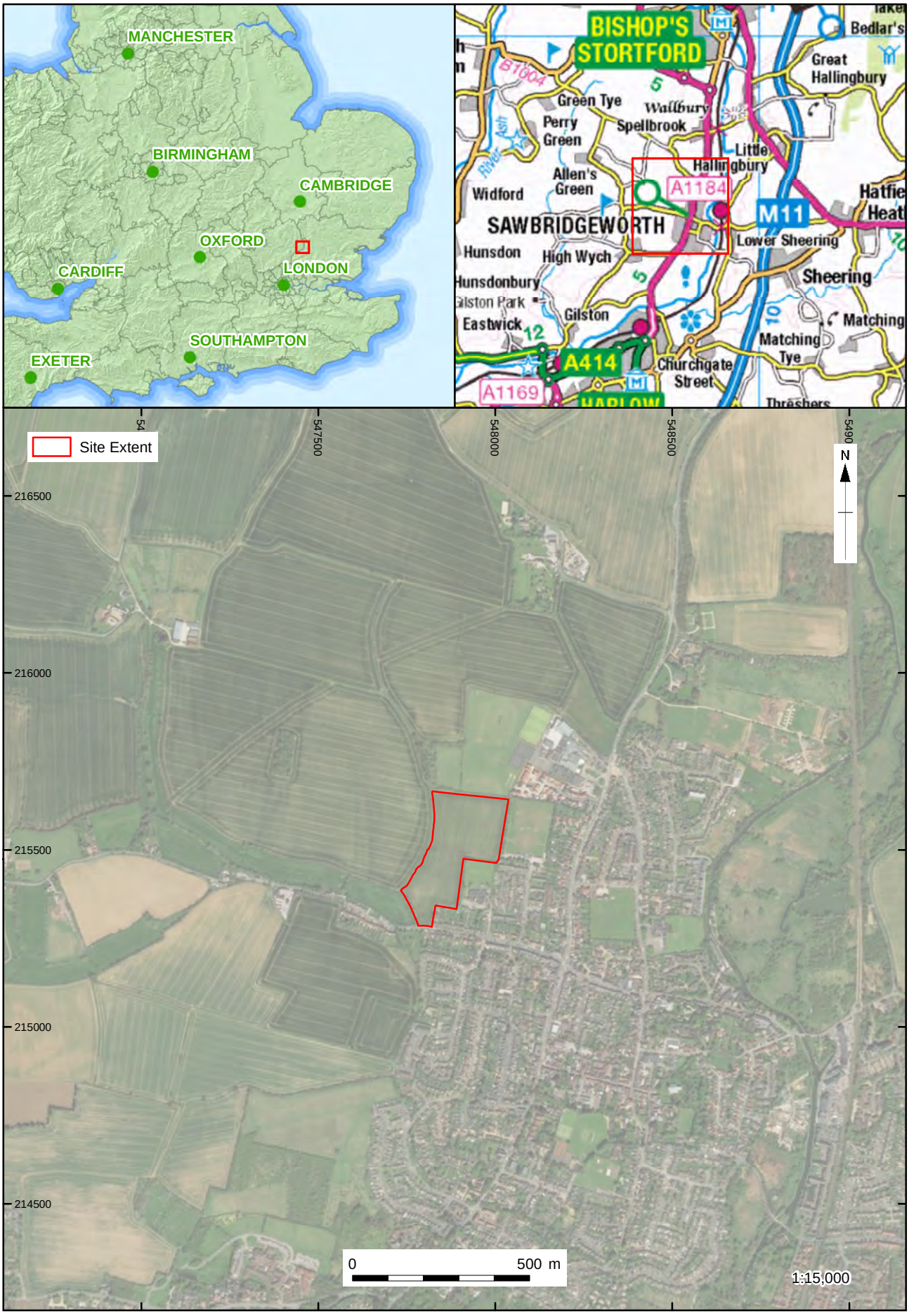
Sabin, D, 2016 Land off West Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire: Magnetometer Survey Report. Archaeological Surveys Ltd

TVAS, 2009 Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire (Stage 1). Archaeological evaluation report

TVAS, 2010 Leventhorpe School, Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire (Stage 2). Archaeological evaluation report

APPENDIX E HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: North of West Road, Sawbridgeworth		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Sawbridgeworth	Parish:	
Planning application reference: 3/18/1760/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Nature of application: Housing Development by Taylor Wimpey		
Present land use: Arable		
Size of application area: 5.7Ha	Size of area investigated: 1710m^2 19 trenches each 50m x 1.8m (3% sample of the site).	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 47842 15448		
Site code (if applicable): SAWR18		
Contractor: Oxford Archaeology South		
Type of work: Evaluation trenching		
Date of work:	Start: 11/06/18	Finish: 15/06/18
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Bishop Stortford Museum		
Related HER Nos:	Periods represented: Bronze Age, Post-medieval	
Relevant previous summaries/reports N/A		
Summary of fieldwork results: A total of 19 evaluation trenches were excavated on the site of a proposed housing development on the north-western outskirts of Sawbridgeworth. The trenches targeted several geophysical anomalies, though several of these proved to be geological in origin. Archaeological features included an undated trackway and a probably associated ditch, and two post-medieval field boundaries seen on the 1839 tithe map. A single sherd of middle Bronze Age–late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the subsoil.		
Author of summary: Stuart Foreman	Date of summary: 06/02/2019	



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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,

Figure 1: Site location

X:\s\Sawbridgeworth_Herts_evaluation\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\SAWREV_Figure1_2018-05-25.mxd*matt.bradley*25/05/2018

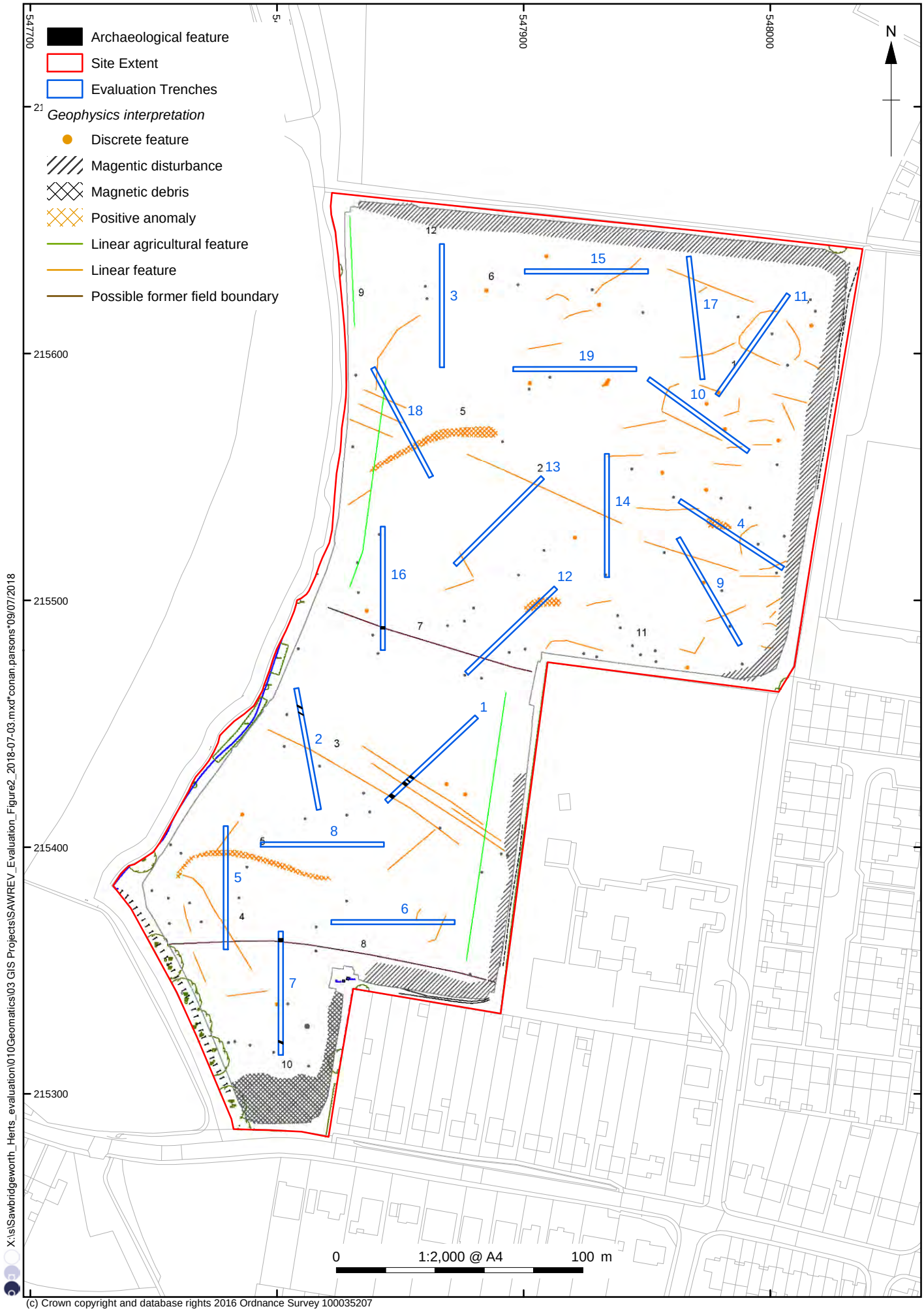

Figure 2:Trenches with interpretation of the magnetometer survey

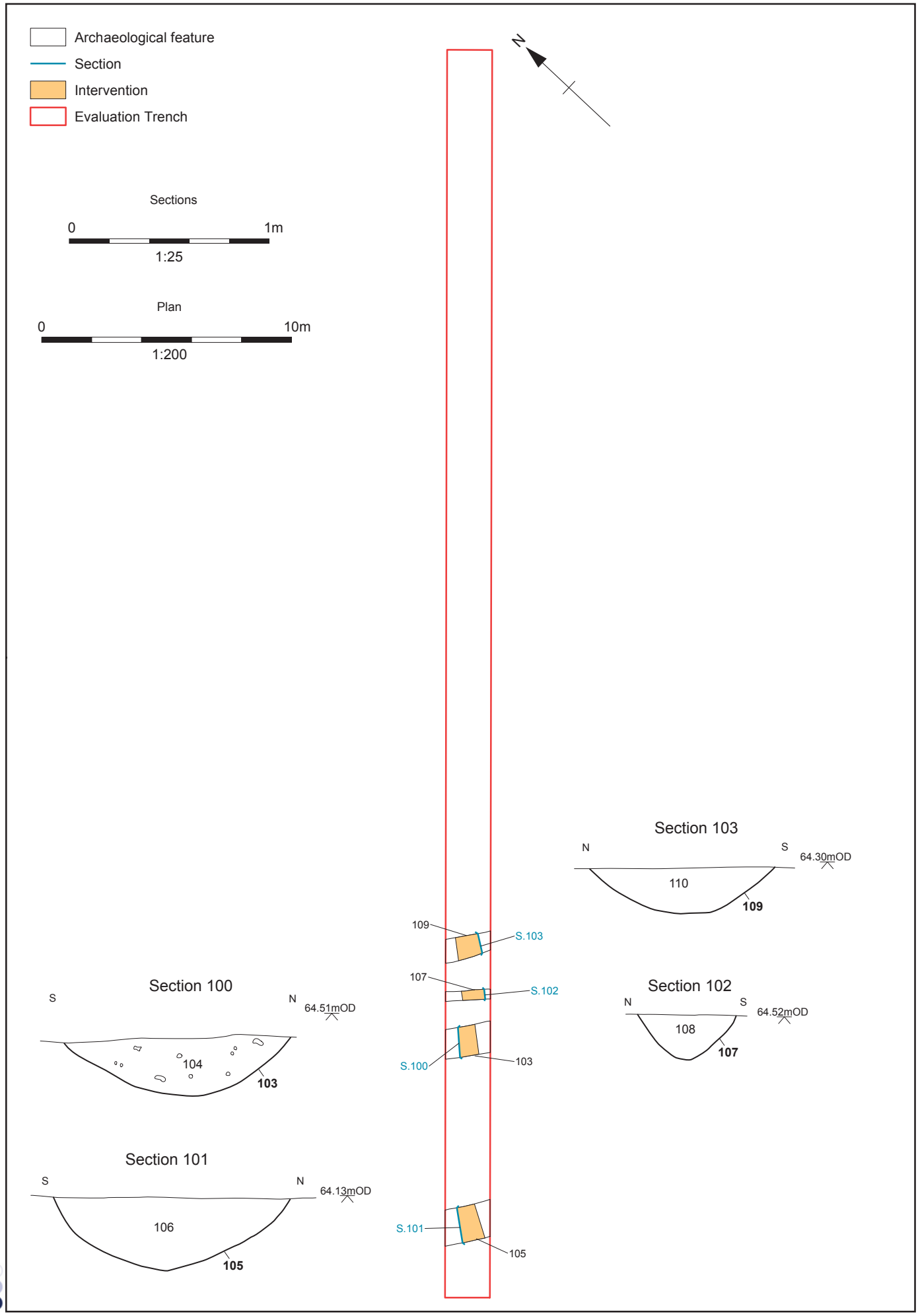

Figure 3: Trench 1 plan and sections

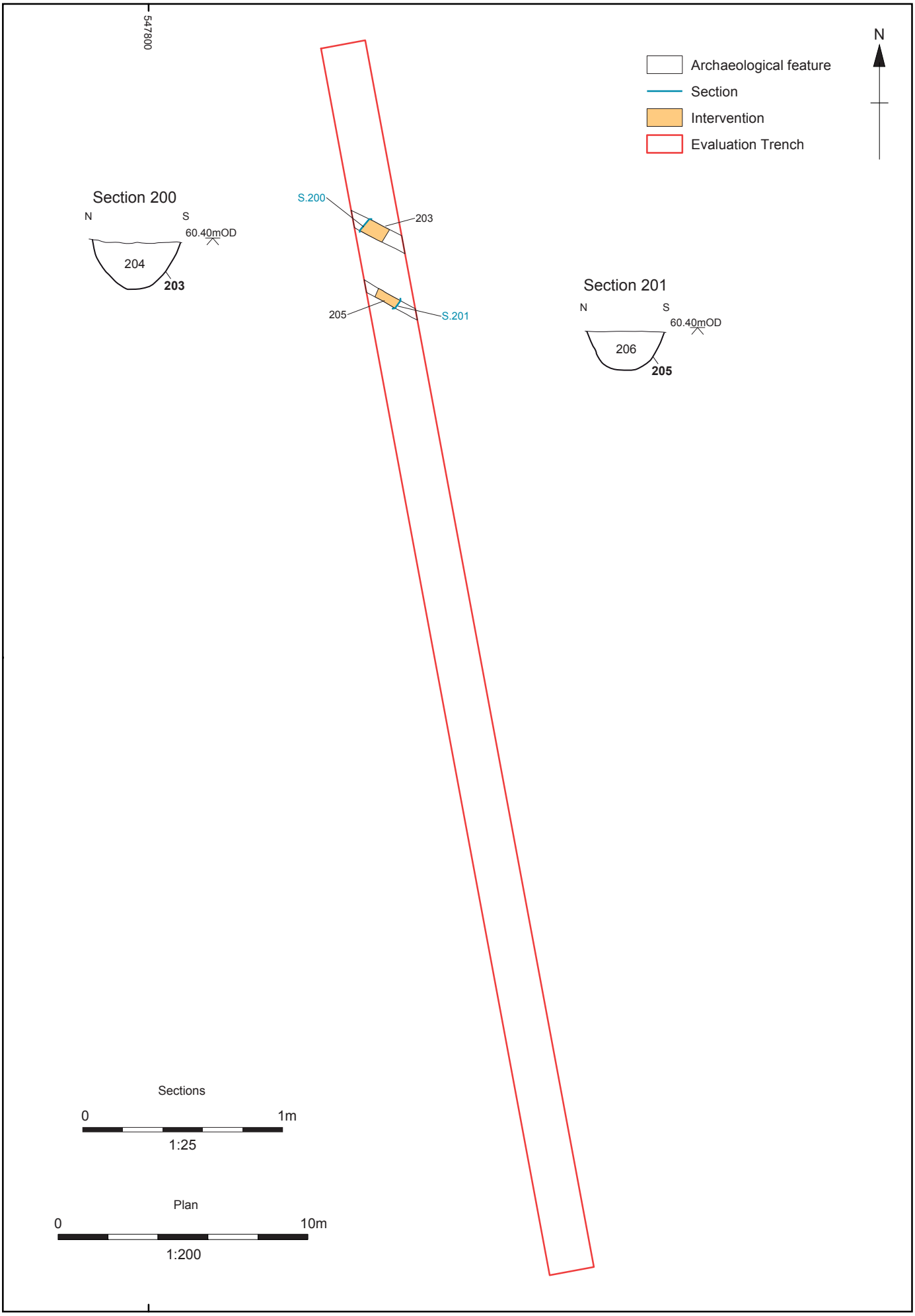

Figure 4: Trench 2 plan and sections

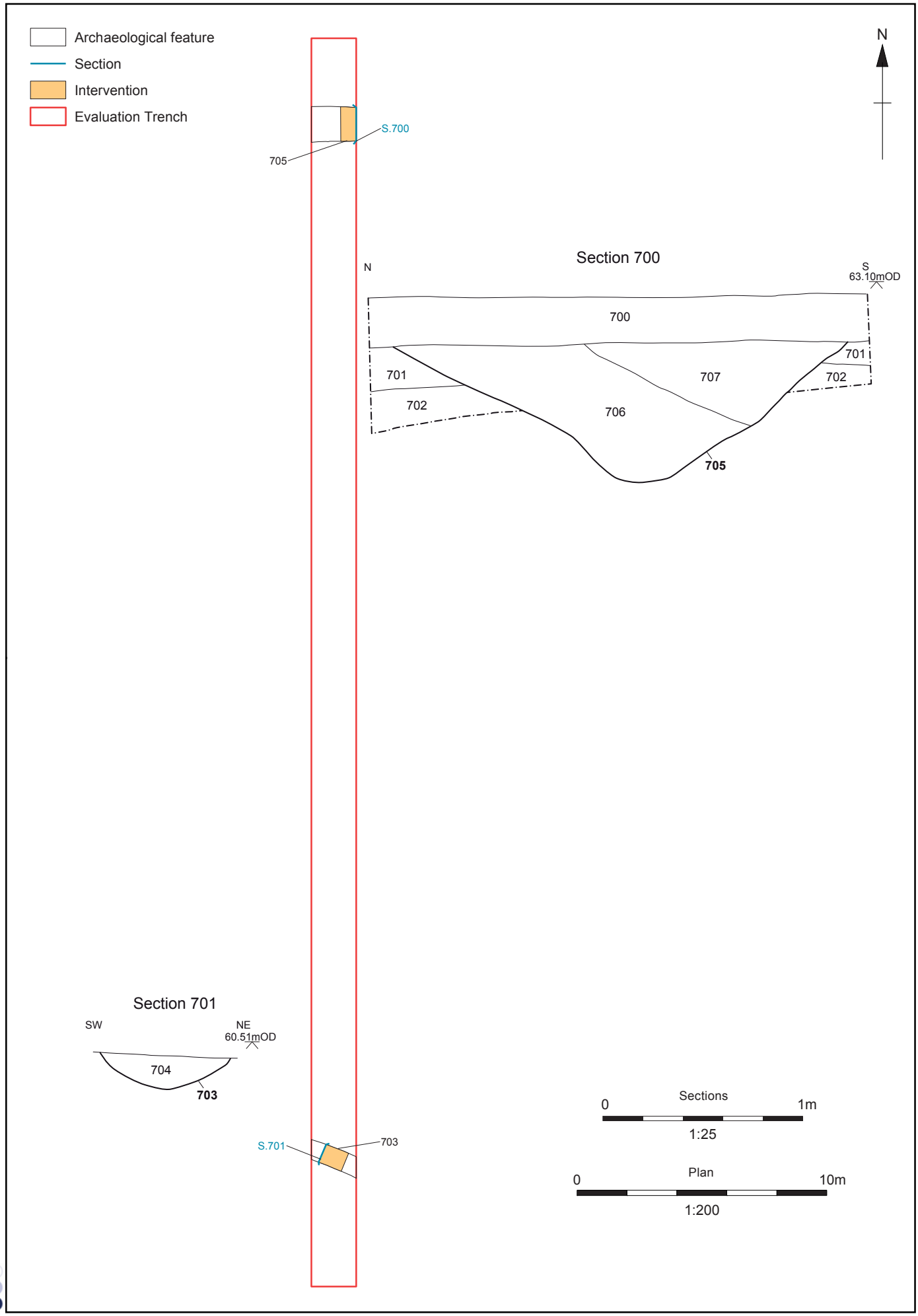

Figure 5: Trench 7 plan with sections

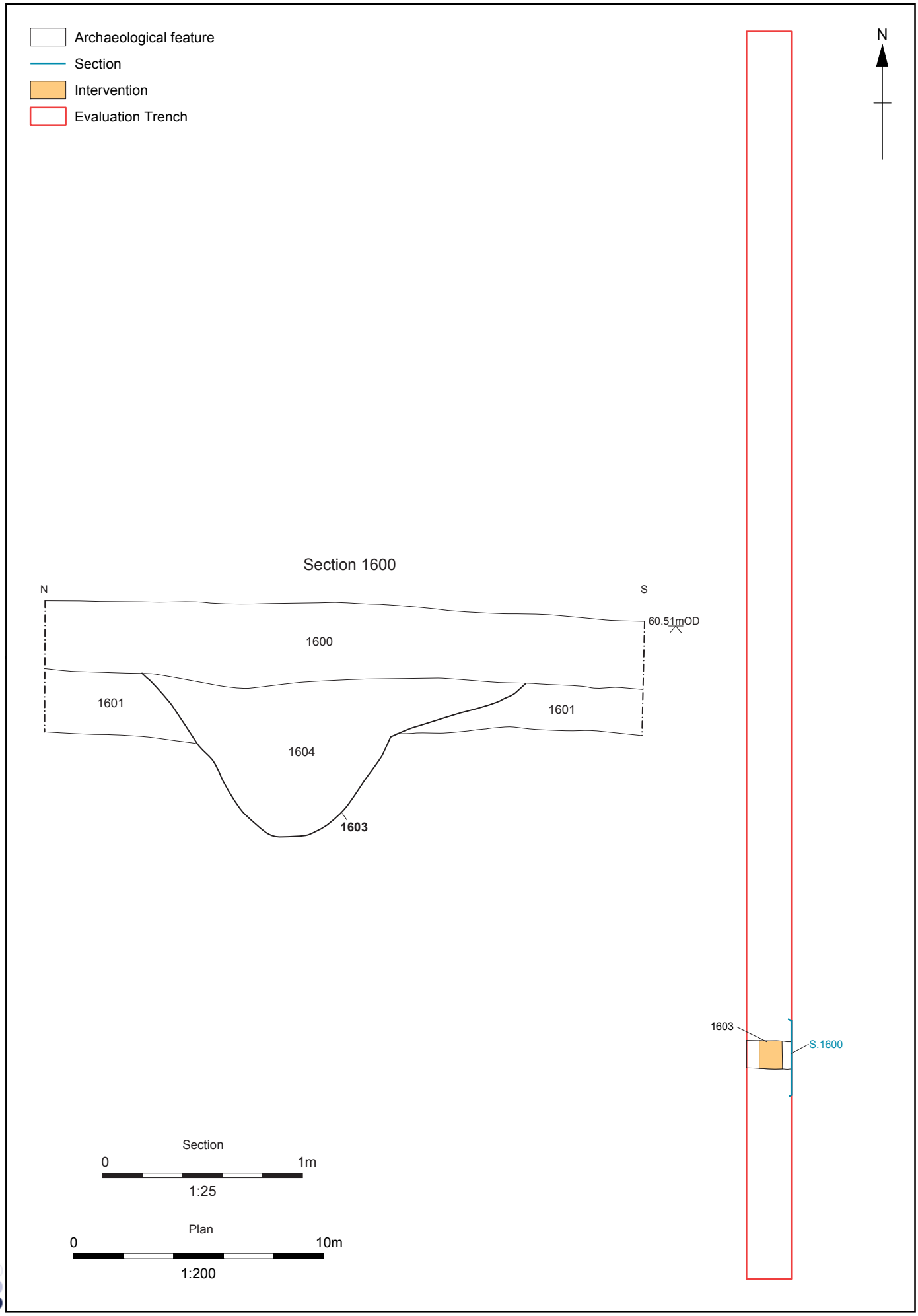

Figure 6: Trench 16 plan with sections

Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north-east

Plate 2: Ditch 105 looking north-west

Plate 3: Trackway ditch 103 looking north-west

Plate 4: Trackway ditch 109 looking south-east

Plate 5: Trench 2 looking south-east

Plate 6: Trackway ditch 203 looking east

Plate 7: Trackway ditch 205 looking west

Plate 8: Trench 7 looking south

Plate 9: Field boundary 705 looking east

Plate 10: Trench 9 looking north

Plate 11: Trench 11 looking north-east

Plate 12: Trench 12 looking north-east

Plate 13: Trench 15 looking north-east

Plate 14: Trench 18 looking north-west

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