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Cotswold Canal Missing Mile, Stroud, Gloucestershire

Interim Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Stroud District Council to conduct an archaeological trial trench evaluation of two parcels of land at the site of the Missing Mile of the Cotswold Canal, Gloucestershire. The evaluation was carried in two phases. The first phase, comprising 22 trenches, was carried out in September-October 2019 in the northern parcel of land. The second phase was carried out in March 2020 in the southern parcel of land and comprised 17 trenches. All the trenches were placed to target the results of a geophysical survey, and to provide an even coverage of the areas.

The evaluation conducted on the northern parcel of land found evidence for mid-late Roman settlement, concentrated on a gravel spur which formed an area of high ground in the north-eastern part of the site. The evidence took the form of ditches, pits, and the possible remnants of a wall. A post-medieval ditch was found within lower lying land in northern part of the site. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was found across the eastern part of the site.

The evaluation conducted on the southern parcel of land did not record any significant archaeological features, although drainage ditches of recent date were recorded.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Gerry Thacker. The first phase of fieldwork (northern area) was directed by Becky Peacock, who was supported by Chris Pickard and Mike Sims. The second phase (southern area) of fieldwork was conducted by John Carne, who was supported by Alastair Cooper, Curtis Goldstraw, Christopher Clark and Camille Guezennec. Survey and digitising was carried out by Simon Batsman and Emma Powell.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Cotswold Canals Trust on behalf of Stroud District Council to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of the proposed canal reinstatement and associated development of the “Missing Mile” of the Cotswold Canal.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the planning authority prior to the determination of a planning application (planning ref. SDC/S19/0291/FUL). A brief was set by Charles Parry, County Archaeologist at Gloucestershire County Council (GCC 2019), and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority’s requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (OA 2019a). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.
- 1.1.3 The fieldwork was conducted in two parcels of land (northern and southern). The first phase was conducted in 2019 in the northern parcel of land. In 2019 the southern parcel of land was not accessible, and the evaluation was subsequently carried out in 2020.
- 1.1.4 An interim report was produced (OA 2019b) for the northern area of the evaluation, carried out in 2019. This report incorporates the results of a second phase of works carried out in the southern area in 2020 (Fig. 2).

1.2 Location, topography, and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies c. 7.5km west of Stroud in Gloucestershire and is centred on SO 78011 06061. It comprises two parcels of land (north and south) totalling 1.3km in length, bounded by the River Frome to the west, the A38 to the north, the A419 to the west and the Stroudwater Canal to the south, and is intersected by the M5 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The site comprises farmland divided into several fields that are broadly flat. There is a slight gradient sloping down from approximately 13m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the north-eastern boundary to approximately 11m aOD at the River Frome. The south-eastern part of the site lies at approximately 20m aOD.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the site is formed of mudstone of the Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Group (BGS 2019). Across the majority of the site this is overlain by alluvium. Geotechnical work indicates that the thickness of the alluvium varies across the site, being generally 0.6m–0.8m, reaching a maximum of 1.8m adjacent to the River Frome (Holland Heritage 2017). In the north-east of the site, river terrace gravel deposits overlie the mudstone. The natural substrate identified in the eastern parts of the site comprises gravels and sands with clay patches as well as compact lias clays containing occasional bands of gravel and sand (CA 2015).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Heritage assets

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a desk-based assessment (DBA, Holland Heritage 2017). This document comprises a review of recorded archaeological remains, records held by the Gloucestershire County Council Historic Environment Record and the Stroud District Council Conservation Area; the Ordnance Survey historic maps of the area as well as other relevant sources and records within a 1km buffer of the development area. The following summary is derived from the DBA and provides a context for the proposed works.
- 1.3.2 The site lies within an Industrial Heritage Conservation Area, with built structures and historic landscapes associated with the cloth industry. It includes waterways such as the Stroudwater Navigation and River Frome. Three Grade II listed buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries (two mills and a farmhouse) lie c. 340m east of the northern end of the site. The site is partly coincident with land covered by a previous planning application. Detailed archaeological works, a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation, have been undertaken in the eastern two thirds of the site (Cotswold Archaeology 2015). A single archaeological excavation has previously been carried out in the same area, just beyond the eastern boundary of the site.

Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.3 Additional geophysical surveys have been conducted in the remaining areas of the area of proposed development, immediately north (Wessex Archaeology 2017) and south of the M5 (Magnitude 2019).
- 1.3.4 The landscape is characterised by the south-east to north-west flowing River Frome. To the west are the rolling hills that open onto the plain of the Severn Vale and its estuary. The eastern hills are more dominant, with the Cotswolds rising approximately 4.5km to the ENE of the site. Several hillforts and camps as well as conspicuous prehistoric funerary monuments such as long barrows and round barrows are situated on crest positions, dominating the landscape and overlooking the lower lying floodplain of the Frome.
- 1.3.5 Evidence for human activity in the vicinity of the site prior to the Iron Age is scarce. Flint tools of Palaeolithic date were retrieved during gravel working c. 500m west of the area of proposed development. A group of Bronze Age burial mounds are located on one of the shallow hill formations west of the site, mirroring the more dominant counterparts on the Cotswold ridge in the east. Studies of similar landscape settings suggest that hunting expeditions followed rivers during the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods and that floodplains were the preferred settlement locations during the Neolithic and Bronze Age.
- 1.3.6 An Iron Age to Roman era settlement with an associated cemetery was investigated on one of the hills c. 400m west of the site. The geophysical survey in the area of the site north of the M5 detected rectilinear anomalies suggesting enclosures or gullies of Iron Age or Roman origin. Remains of a Roman villa, associated enclosure systems and evidence for quarrying have been uncovered further to the south. The Roman road between the predecessors of Gloucester and Sea Mills has approximately the same course as the present A38 bordering the site to the north. Perry Way, that runs in

almost north-south direction along the higher grounds to the west of the site, also has a Roman origin.

- 1.3.7 The land use in the area changed during the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. With the exception of Frampton on Severn to the north-east of the site, the local villages are situated on higher ground overlooking the river valley. The towns and villages closest to the site are Alkerton to the south, Whitminster to the north and Stonehouse to the east. Several have Old English place names deriving from the Saxon period and are mentioned in the Domesday survey in 1086 (Palmer and Powell-Smith 2019). The riversides were used for extracting water power. Substantial works to converge the watercourses led to the area having the largest concentration of riverside mills in the country by the time of Domesday. Mills used in the developing cloth industry are known in area from the 13th century and continued to be of importance to the 18th century. Their continuing importance is reflected in the construction of the grade II listed mill houses at Fromebridge and Millowner's house. Anomalies detected by the geophysical surveys indicate the potential location of a mill at Westfield Bridge in the southern part of the site. The presence of ridge and furrow, that may date back to the medieval period, also indicates that the area was used for cultivation.
- 1.3.8 Several manors were established north of the site during the 16th century, but the most substantial change during the post-medieval period was the construction of the Stroudwater Canal in 1773-9, connecting the Severn with the Thames. The canal was closed to navigation in 1953 and the Missing Mile was infilled during the construction of the M5 in the late 1960s. The infilled canal with adjacent infrastructure, such as building remains and watercourses connected to the River Frome, are clearly visible on the geophysical surveys.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

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 have survived.
- 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:

- i. To determine or confirm if there were preserved prehistoric remains on the site.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range and character of anomalies detected by the geophysical surveys of suggested Iron Age to Roman origin.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The northern area measured 14.5ha, and comprised 22 trenches measuring 30m x 2m. The southern area measured 8.14ha and comprised 17 trenches: 16 measuring 30m x 1.8m and one excavated in two 30m lengths to form an 'L' shape; measuring 60m x 1.8m in total. The trenches either targeted geophysical anomalies or were placed to provide a broad coverage of the site (Figs. 3, 14).

2.2.2 The on-site methodology for the excavation of the trenches was as follows:

- i. A photographic record was made of the site to show topographical context and conditions before the trenching started.
- ii. Trench locations were CAT scanned prior to and during excavation.
- iii. Trenches were excavated by a machine with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision to remove overburden. All further excavation was carried out by hand.
- iv. Two trenches differed from the layout as presented in the WSI (OA 2019). Trench 19 was moved 6m to the south-east to avoid the public right of way and Trench 8 was shortened by 3.9m due to the set out flags being moved by pedestrians using the nearby footpath.

- v. Linear features were sampled with a 1m excavated hand dug intervention, except where archaeological factors restricted this. Sampling of features did not exceed 50% and was sufficient to characterise them.
 - vi. A written, drawn and photographic record of all archaeological deposits was compiled and included a pro-forma context record for each stratigraphic unit and a plan of the trenches showing the extent archaeologically significant deposits or structures was drawn.
 - vii. Sections or profiles at a scale of 1:20 were drawn of all identifiable stratigraphic units.
 - viii. A photographic record of all stratigraphic units and a representative photographic record of the progress of the archaeological work was compiled.
- 2.2.3 All artefacts from significant archaeological deposits were collected, identified by stratigraphic unit, catalogued and retained.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, which include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. For clarity, the two phases of work have been described separately under subheadings: Northern Area (Trenches 1-22) and Southern Area (Trenches 23-39). The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits are tabulated in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are presented in Appendix B and environmental data in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

General

3.2.1 Ground conditions throughout both phases of evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. The first phase of the evaluation (Northern Area) suffered a prolonged bout of heavy rain, although this did not compromise the archaeological works. Trench 21 suffered a limited amount of flooding which was mitigated through re-machining. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying geology.

Northern Area

3.2.2 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform, although there were geological variations across the site. Gravels were recorded in the north-eastern area (Trenches 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 17, 18 and 16) and alluvial clays to the south-west (Trenches 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 and 22). The geological horizons were overlain by a subsoil comprising soft, yellowish brown clayey silt, which sealed all archaeological features. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil.

Southern Area

3.2.3 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform, generally comprising alluvial deposits overlain by a topsoil. A layer of modern made ground overlying a buried topsoil was recorded in Trenches 28 and 29. The layer corresponded with an anomaly identified in the geophysical survey interpreted as “Debris (Spread)”. All features were sealed by the current topsoil and cut the subsoil deposit, which probably represented a post-medieval cultivated soil horizon.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

Northern Area

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16 and 17 with features of a Romano-British date present in Trenches 2, 4, 6, and 7. Trenches 1, 8, 9, 16 and 17 contained plough furrows and field boundaries of probable post-medieval date (Figs 2a and 3).

Southern Area

3.3.2 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 23, 25 and 39 and comprised former field boundary ditches. Trenches 28 and 29 recorded a layer of modern made ground overlying a buried topsoil (Fig 14).

3.4 Trench 2

3.4.1 This trench was targeted on a series of north-east to south-west linear geophysical anomalies, the southern two forming two sides of a possible rectangular enclosure or structure and were all present within the trench. In addition to the linear features the trench also contained a pit and a concentration of stones in a layer of mixed soils (Figs 4 and 5).

3.4.2 At the south-east end of the trench the natural gravel geology was overlain by a surface, 209, formed of a metallated silty gravel deposit, possibly the surface of a trackway which did not contain any finds. This was overlain by a stone layer 208, that was broadly linear, with two similar stone deposits, 210 and 211, lying at right angles to it. These stone deposits varied from 0.09m to 0.12m thickness, and may represent a collapsed structure, although no traces of mortar were present, and on close examination the stones did not appear to form the base of a wall. The stone layers were sealed by 203, a layer of mixed soils and large stones, which contained a large quantity of pottery (119 sherds) dating from AD 300-400, animal bone and three copper alloy coins with a mintage covering the years AD 330-348 (Figs 5 and 10; Plates 1 and 2). Two curved stone fragments initially believed to be fragments of quern were recovered from the layer, but proved to be of natural origin (Appendix B.6), as was a single residual struck flint (Appendix B.4). Layer 203 is likely to be a variation in the subsoil, 201, caused when the plough hit the structures below, and not an *in situ* deposit.

3.4.3 A small pit, 207, was located immediately north of 208, and had a slightly irregular flat-based profile (Figs 5 and 10). The fill, 206, was a grey-brown sandy silt containing numerous animal bone fragments and pottery dating from AD 120-400. An environmental sample (Sample 2 – Appendix C.1) contained only a small quantity of charred plant remains, although molluscs were numerous, and the head of an iron nail was recovered.

3.4.4 Around 4m to the north-west a ditch, 215, was aligned north-east to south-west and had a shallow concave profile. The fill, 214, was a yellow-brown sandy silt which contained no finds.

3.4.5 Towards the northern end of the trench two ditches, 221 and 226, were broadly parallel, and orientated north-east to south-west (Figs 5 and 10; Plate 4). Ditch 221, the northern of the two, was entirely overlain by plough furrow 219 (below), and had a steep-sided, flat-based profile. The fill, 220, was a yellow-brown silty sand containing pottery dating from AD 150-400. Ditch 226 had a slightly flared concave profile. The lower fill, 225, was a yellow-grey silty clay, which contained 25 sherds of pottery dating from AD 120-300. This was sealed by 224, a yellow-brown clay silt which contained 18 sherds of pottery dating from AD 180-250. The two ditches may define a trackway or drove-way.

3.4.6 Both ditches 221 and 226 had been cut by plough furrows (219 and 223 respectively). These, with similar examples 217 at the northern end of the trench and 212 to the south, were all orientated north-east to south-west as indicated on the geophysical survey. A further ditch, 205, which cut layer 203 was noted to be cut through the subsoil, and is clearly of recent origin, although residual Roman pottery was recovered from the fill, 204 (Figs 5 and 10).

3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 This trench was targeted on an 'L'-shaped geophysical anomaly, which was accurately represented by two linear ditches. A further ditch and pit or tree-throw hole were also present.

3.5.2 The archaeological features in Trench 4 cut into the natural alluvium at the base of the sequence (Fig. 6). Ditch 404, to the east of the trench, was orientated north-east to south-west and had moderately sloping sides that stepped down to vertical towards a narrow flat base (Fig. 11; Plate 5). The basal fill (403), a light grey-brown silty clay, contained pottery dating from AD 100-400. The fill was sampled for waterlogged environmental remains (Sample 3 – Appendix C.1) and contained evidence for cherry or plum, bramble and sedges and numerous land and freshwater molluscs. The upper fill (402), a grey-brown silty alluvial clay, contained animal bone.

3.5.3 To the west a small pit or tree-throw hole, 409, had a gently sloping side profile and a single fill, 408, a light grey-brown silty clay (Figs 6 and 11). The feature was cut by a ditch, 407, which was orientated east to west, with moderately sloping, slightly irregular sides and a flat base. The basal fill (406) was an orange-grey silty clay, containing brick fragments. The upper fill (405), a yellowish brown silty clay, also contained brick as well as fired clay fragments. Both fills are broadly dated to the post-medieval period.

3.5.4 At the west end of the trench, two undated intercutting ditches, 411 and 413, were both aligned north-west to south-east. The earlier of these (411) had steep concave sides and a flat base and was filled by 410, a yellowish brown silty clay. Fill 410 was cut by 413 which had steep sides with a concave base and was filled by 412, a greyish brown silty clay.

3.6 Trench 6

3.6.1 Trench 6 was targeted on a north-east to south west aligned geophysical anomaly that was corresponded within the trench as a plough furrow, and an east to west aligned anomaly that forms the southern limit of a possible rectangular enclosure or structure. There were an additional further five linear features and a single discrete features present in the trench (Figs 7 and 12).

3.6.2 Towards the northern end of the trench a shallow and wide ditch 609 was filled by 608, a greyish brown silty clay, contained animal bone and pottery dated from AD 43-400. The ditch was cut by a narrow south-east to north-west aligned linear feature, 605, which was filled by 604, a friable greyish brown sandy silt. A post hole, 607, was noted to cut 605, and was filled with a similar friable greyish brown sandy silt, 606.

The linear and posthole are interpreted as the remnants of a possible fence line or beamslot. The beamslot is stratigraphically of Roman or later date.

- 3.6.3 Feature 605 was in turn cut by a shallow truncated pit 603 which was filled by a dark brownish-grey clay silt, 602, which contained animal bone, fired clay and pottery dating from AD 150-200 (Figs 7 and 12; Plate 6).
- 3.6.4 At the south east end of the trench a narrow ditch, 616, was orientated north-west to south-east, with a terminus at its northern extent. It was filled by 617, a reddish-brown silty sand, overlain by 617, a grey silty sand with charcoal flecks and daub fragments which also contained animal bone. Ditch 616 was cut by a ditch, 612, orientated at right angles to it, which had a concave base and steep sides and was filled by a lower fill, 614/5, a yellow-brown silty sand. This was overlain by 613, a grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks, chalk and shell inclusions and contained metal (a copper alloy strip – see Appendix B.5), animal bone, fired clay and pottery dating from AD 43-200.
- 3.6.5 A further ditch 611, was located just to the south of 609, and was orientated north-east to south-west with steep sides and a concave base. The fill, 610, was a yellowish grey silty clay which contained animal bone.
- 3.6.6 Ditch 621, orientated west to east, remained unexcavated, as did two north-east to south-west aligned plough furrows.

3.7 Trench 7

- 3.7.1 A ditch 705, at the extreme northern end of the trench was orientated north-west to south-east, with a flared concave profile (Figs 4 and 13). The lower fill, 706, was a dark grey-brown silty clay containing animal bone. This was sealed by 707, a yellow-brown silty clay containing pottery dating from AD 43-410. A plough furrow, 704, aligned northwest to southeast was located just south of the centre of the trench.

3.8 Trenches 1, 8, 9, 16 and 17 plough furrows and features of recent date

- 3.8.1 Trench 1 contained a broadly north-south aligned shallow ditch 103, likely a plough furrow.
- 3.8.2 Trench 8 contained a shallow ditch, 803 which cut the alluvium, 805, and was sealed by the subsoil. The alluvium was also root disturbed, 804. The alluvium did not extend to the southeast end of the trench a natural sandy gravel with clay patches was present.
- 3.8.3 Trench 9 contained natural gravel which was cut by a series of four furrows, north-east to south-west aligned. Furrow 903 was the only one excavated and it contained a nail and fragment of burnt stone. Ditch 911 was not excavated as it was cut from the topsoil and could be seen running across the field. It continued into trench 17 and was excavated as ditch 1703.
- 3.8.4 Trench 16 contained four furrows aligned north-east to south-west. Two were excavated, 1603 and 1609, and they both contained a mixed clay and gravel fill. They cut the natural gravel and were sealed by subsoil 1601.
- 3.8.5 Trench 17 contained a post medieval or modern field boundary that could be seen as a linear depression running across the field and continuing up slope where it was

present in Trench 9 as ditch 911. In Trench 17 there was a parallel linear feature to the southwest, 1707, and this was very shallow and may have been a variation in the natural geology. It was sealed by subsoil 1701 which formed a shallow bank partially sealing ditch 1701 (Fig 13).

Southern Area

3.9 Trench 23

3.9.1 Trench 23 was targeted on a north-west to south-east aligned geophysical anomaly identified as 'agricultural (Weak)' in the geophysical survey. A ditch (2303) was recorded corresponding with the geophysical anomaly.

3.9.2 Ditch 2303 was 1.2m wide and contained a single fill (2304), which produced a fragment of brick dated c 1750-1900.

3.10 Trench 25

3.10.1 Trench 25 targeted an intersection of two linear geophysical anomalies; broadly aligned north-south and east-west, identified as 'agricultural (Weak)' in the geophysical survey. Two ditches (2505, 2507) were recorded corresponding with the geophysical anomalies.

3.10.2 Ditch 2505 was c. 0.8m wide and 0.24m deep and filled with a firm, blue grey clay with 5% fragmented brick inclusions (2506). Ditch 2507 was 0.38m wide and 0.16m deep and filled with a deposit (2508) that was indistinct from 2506. An excavated slot established that the ditches were contemporary.

3.11 Trench 39

3.11.1 Trench 39 was targeted on a linear, north-south aligned, geophysical anomaly identified as 'agricultural (Weak)' in the geophysical survey. The geophysical anomaly appeared to be a continuation of the ditch (2507) recorded in trench 25. A ditch (3903) was recorded corresponding with the geophysical anomaly. Ditch 3903 was 1.6m wide, 0.34m deep and filled with a firm, blue grey clay (3904), which produce two sherds of pottery from the same bowl, which date to the 19th - 20th centuries.

3.11.2 A sondage excavated at the west end of the trench recorded an alluvial deposit (3902), 0.5m thick, overlain by a sub-soil 0.24m in depth which was overlain by 0.2m of topsoil.

3.12 Finds summary

Northern Area

3.12.1 Some 221 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 2872g, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage is dominated by pottery from local sources or the wider region, with Severn Valley wares, micaceous wares and Malvernian wares well-represented.

3.12.2 A small quantity of ceramic building material and fired clay was recovered from trenches 2, 4, 6 and 17. Fragments of Roman tile were found in layer 203 and an imbrex roof tile fragment was found in layer 208. The fired clay was found associated with

Roman finds and likely represent the remains of domestic ovens, hearths or crop processing structures. Four fragments found in the fills (405, 406) of ditch 407 were identified as post-medieval brick, largely on the basis of the fabrics, which are comparable to other examples from the region.

- 3.12.3 The metalwork retrieved from the site was undiagnostic and the three Roman coins were in poor condition but were of a late Roman date.
- 3.12.4 One undiagnostic flint flake was retrieved.
- 3.12.5 The animal bone assemblage largely consisted of sheep with cattle the second most common species. Horse and dog bones were also present on the site. The assemblage is typical of the rural economy in Romano-Britain.

Southern Area

- 3.12.6 A single fragment of domestic brick dated c 1750-1900, and two sherds from a wide bowl, dated 19th or 20th century, were recovered from boundary/drainage ditches.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

Northern Area

- 4.1.1 Archaeological features were clearly defined against the underlying natural geology. Trench 21 was flooded with groundwater within the north-west end; however this was after it was machined and no archaeological features were present in this area of the trench.

Southern Area

- 4.1.2 Archaeological features were clearly defined against the underlying natural geology. The evaluation was carried out in clear and dry conditions.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

Northern Area

- 4.2.1 The geophysical anomalies were a good match to the archaeological features present in the evaluation trenches. The rectangular possible structures identified in Trenches 2 and 6 (i.e. 209, 605 and 607), can be provisionally dated to the Roman period and relate to domestic activity focussed on the gravels on higher ground. The ridge and furrow features identified in the geophysics did continue beyond the area of mapped anomalies, in Trench 16 in particular. Therefore, it can be concluded that the geophysical results were reliable for indicating activity in this area.

Southern Area

- 4.2.2 The evaluation successfully identified linear geophysical anomalies identified as 'Agricultural (Weak)', in Trenches 24, 25 and 39. The geophysics also identified an area as 'Debris (Spread)' which was recorded in Trenches 28 and 29.
- 4.2.3 Three features identified as 'Water management (Weak)' in the geophysical survey and targeted by Trenches 33, 34 and 36 were not extant.

4.3 Interpretation

Northern Area

- 4.3.1 The archaeological activity was concentrated around Trenches 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 which corresponded to the area of a gravel spur protruding from the underlying alluvial clays and mudstone. This activity was dated entirely to the Roman period, with an emphasis on both the middle (Trench 2) and late Roman periods (Trenches 2 and 6), and given the relatively large quantity of finds, (especially pottery from Trench 2 where 186 sherds were recovered), and potential evidence of former structures, represents settlement. From the types of pottery present, and especially the general paucity of fine and imported wares, it can be suggested that the settlement is of low to moderate status, clearly in contrast to the adjacent villa.

- 4.3.2 Although there were few charred plant remains recovered from the samples taken, the presence of waterlogged remains within Trench 4 and molluscan remains in general show that the site has the potential to add to knowledge of the Romano-British environment of the immediate area.
- 4.3.3 The lower lying ground away from the gravels contained little evidence for any archaeological activity with the exception of the remnant of a ridge and furrow agricultural field system, with the furrows aligned to drain towards the river, and also more recent field boundaries comprising banks and ditches, many of which were still visible within the surface of the fields.

Southern Area

- 4.3.4 The evaluation did not record any significant archaeological features or deposits. The three linear features identified were modern in date likely to have functioned as field boundary and drainage features.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

North Area.

Trench 1 North Area						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a furrow. It had a gentle downwards slope from east to west. Natural varied across the trench with limestone gravel at the east end and changing to a silty clay alluvium at the west end. Sondage dug to test depth of alluvium and halted at 1m. Devoid of any other archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil. Dark grey brown silty clay loam	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil. Yellow brown clayey silt, frequent gravel and sand.	-	-
102	Fill	3.4	0.16	Fill of furrow 103. Yellowish grey silty clay. Occasional sand, gravel and charcoal flecks.	Pot, bone	AD 43-400
103	Cut	3.4	0.16	Furrow. N-S aligned. Shallow sides, irregular base.	-	-
104	Layer	-	+0.55	Alluvium		
105	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 2 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench contained a possible surface overlain by a masonry rubble deposit containing a high concentration of domestic pottery, possible querns and three roman coins, truncated by a ditch. Close by there was a pit and a shallow linear. The trench also contained two ditches and four furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy gravel with grey clay patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil. Dark grey brown silty clay loam.	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil. Yellow brown clayey silt, frequent gravel and sand.	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural. Pale yellow sandy gravel with patches of blue grey clay.	-	-

203	Layer	1.65	0.13	Cleaning layer over wall 208, surface 209 and stone layers, 210 and 211. Mid to dark grey sandy silt, frequent stone rubble. Mixture of topsoil and subsoil. Rich in pot and animal bone.	Pot, bone, coins, flint, cbm	AD 300-400
204	Fill	1.07	0.32	Fill of ditch 205. Dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional sandstone rubble. Moderate pot and animal bone.	Pot, bone	AD 43-300
205	Cut	1.05	0.33	Cut of ditch. Concave, moderate sloped sides, gentle break of slope with rounded base.		
206	Fill	0.75	0.29	Fill of pit 207. Mid greyish brown sandy silt, frequent gravel stones.	Pot, Fe nail, bone	AD 120-400
207	Cut	0.75	0.29	Cut of pit. Sub oval, flat base with moderate sloped sides, steeper on the north.		
208	Layer	0.7	0.2	Rubble layer. Mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent large sandstone and limestone rubble (average 300mm by 200mm by 30mm)	Pot, bone, cbm	AD 120-400
209	Layer	1.84	0.09	Gravel surface. Firm, yellowish brown, silty gravel.		
210	Layer	0.3	0.12	Demolition layer. Mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent large sandstone and limestone rubble (average 300mm by 200mm by 30mm)		
211	Layer	0.28	0.06	Demolition layer. Mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent large sandstone and limestone rubble		

				(average 300mm by 200mm by 30mm)		
212	Cut	0.84	0.17	Cut of probable furrow. N-S aligned. Gently sloping sides with flattish base, slopes gently to south.		
213	Fill	0.84	0.17	Fill of furrow 212. Soft, mid brownish sandy silt, occasional sub rounded stones. Occasional pot.	Pot	AD 120-200
214	Fill	0.55	0.10	Fill of ditch 215. Loose, mid yellowish brown, sandy silt, frequent limestone gravel.		
215	Cut	0.55	0.10	Cut of ditch. Linear, irregular sides, steeper on north side, irregular base.		
216	Fill	3.5	0.10-0.20	Fill of furrow 217. Friable mid yellowish brown sandy clay, frequent gravel.		
217	Cut	3.5	0.10-0.20	Cut of furrow. Shallow, slightly irregular base with deeper u-shaped profile and flat base on NE side.		
218	Fill	2.8	0.1	Fill of furrow 219. Friable mid yellowish brown, silty sand, frequent gravel inclusions.	Pot	AD 43-400
219	Cut	2.8	0.10	Cut of Furrow. Linear, flat slightly irregular base, shallow sloped sides.		
220	Fill	1.34	0.38	Fill of ditch 221. Soft, mid yellowish brown silty sand. Frequent gravel in patches.	Pot, bone	AD 150-400
221	Cut	1.34	0.38	Cut of ditch. Linear running ENE – WSW. Flat, sloped base towards NE, Steep sided, shallower slope on SE side.		
222	Fill	1.8	0.12	Fill of furrow 223. Light greyish brown, silty		

				clay. Sand and gravel inclusions.		
223	Cut	1.8	0.12	Cut of furrow. Linear, runs SW-NE. Shallow sides, flat base.		
224	Fill	1.6	0.18	Fill of ditch 226. Upper fill. Friable, yellowish brown, clayey silt, some sand and gravel inclusions.	Pot, bone	AD 180-250
225	Fill	1.6	0.25	Fill of ditch 226. Base fill. Light yellowish grey, silty clay, sand inclusions.	Pot, bone	AD 120-300
226	Cut	1.6	0.42	Cut of ditch 226. Linear, runs SW-NE. Steep sides, concave base.		

Trench 3 North Area

General description							Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay, depth tested in Trench 1.							Length (m)	30
							Width (m)	2
							Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date		
300	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-		
301	Layer	-	0.20 – 0.25	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions. Derived from ploughed alluvium natural.	-	-		
302	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-		

Trench 4 North Area

General description							Orientation	E-W
Trench contained four linear ditches cutting the alluvium. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay.							Length (m)	30
							Width (m)	2
							Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date		
400	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-		
401	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-		
402	Fill		0.4	Upper fill of ditch 404. Grey brown silty clay, some snail	Bone	-		

				shells, and gravel inclusions.		
403	Fill		0.25	Fill of ditch 404. Light grey brown silty clay, sand inclusions and small snail shells.	Pot	Ad 100-400
404	Cut	1.2	0.65	Ditch cut. Linear, steep sides, with deeper section of base.		
405	Fill		0.4	Upper fill of ditch 407. Yellowish brown silty clay, frequent small snail shells.	Brick, fired clay	Post-med
406	Fill		0.3	Base fill of ditch 407. Soft, orangish grey silty clay, sand and occasional snail inclusions.	Brick	Post-med
407	Cut	1.55	0.65	Ditch cut. Linear, runs N-S. Steep sides, flat base.		
408	Fill		0.3	Fill of pit or tree throw. Light grey brown silty clay, occasional small snail shells.		
409	Cut	0.8	0.3	Pit or tree throw cut. Roughly ovoid in plan, shallow sides, concave base.		
410	Fill	0.82	0.24	Fill of ditch 411. Firm, mid yellowish brown silty clay. Occasional limestone gravel, small snails. Very root disturbed.		
411	Cut	0.82	0.24	Ditch cut. Linear runs NW-SE. Flat base, moderate sloped sides.		
412	Fill	0.7	0.26	Fill of ditch 413. Firm mid greyish brown, silty clay. Very occasional gravel, small snails. Very root disturbed.		
413	Cut	0.7	0.26	Ditch cut. Linear, runs NW-SE. Flat base, moderate concave sides.		
414	Layer	-	-	Natural. Dark yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.		

Trench 5 North Area
General description

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay.

Orientation

NW-SE

Length (m)

30

Width (m)

2

					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions. Derived from ploughed alluvium natural.	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 6 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a pit which cut a probable linear fence line and post hole, three ditches, a gully and three furrows, one of which was excavated at the north end of the trench and the probable fence line cut it. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mixed gravels.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
602	Fill		0.14	Fill of pit 603. Friable dark brown clayey silt, moderate gravel inclusions.	Pot, fired clay, bone,	AD150-200
603	Cut	0.9	0.14	Pit cut. Roughly square, shallow sides and flat base.	-	-
604	Fill		0.12	Fill of possible fenceline 605. Friable greyish brown sandy silt, moderate gravel inclusions.		
605	Cut	0.3	0.12	Fenceline cut. Linear, shallow sides, concave base.		
606	Fill		0.22	Fill of posthole 607. Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, moderate gravel.		
607	Cut	0.25	0.22	Post hole cut. Roughly circular, steep sides, concave base.		

608	Fill		0.2	Fill of furrow 609. Soft, light greyish brown, silty clay, frequent gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.	Pot, bone	AD 43-400
609	Cut	2.8	0.18	Furrow cut. Linear, shallow sides, irregular base.		
610	Fill		0.28	Fill of ditch 611. Soft, light yellowish grey, silty clay, moderate gravel, especially at the base.	Bone	
611	Cut	1	0.28	Ditch cut. Linear, steep sides, concave base.		
612	Cut	1.12	0.3	Ditch cut. Linear, concave sides, flat base.		
613	Fill	0.62	0.24	Fill of ditch 612. Soft, mid grey sandy silt, occasional charcoal flecks, sub-rounded stones, chalk flecks and shell.	Pot, metal, bone, fired clay	AD 43-200
614	Fill	0.2	0.18	Fill of ditch 612. Soft reddish brown, silty sand, occasional charcoal flecks, sub-angular stones.		
615	Fill	0.42	0.24	Fill of ditch 612. Soft, brownish yellow, silty sand.		
616	Cut	0.48	0.24	Gully cut. Linear, moderate sloped sides, concave base.		
617	Fill	0.36	0.24	Fill of gully 616. Soft, mid grey silty sand. Occasional charcoal flecks and daub, sub angular and sub rounded stones. Main fill.	Bone	
618	Fill	0.08	0.14-0.2	Fill of gully 616. Soft reddish brown, silty sand. Primary fill.		
619	Layer	5.75	0.10	Reworked natural, plough furrow soils. Soft greyish brown silty sand, occasional sub rounded stones and charcoal flecks.		
620	Layer	-	-	Natural. Limestone gravel, pockets of yellow brown clay. Very varied.		
621	Cut	-	-	Cut of ditch. Same as 705. Not excavated.		
622	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 621. Same as 707. Not excavated.		

Trench 7 North Area

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained two linear features, one a probable furrow and one field boundary ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of limestone gravel and blue grey clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	Bone	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural. Limestone gravel, pockets of yellow brown clay. Very varied.	-	-
703	Fill	2.4	0.25	Fill of furrow 704. Soft yellow brown silty sand.	-	-
704	Cut	2.4	0.25	Furrow cut. Linear, moderately sloped sides, flat base.		
705	Cut	1.8	0.45	Ditch cut. Linear, runs SE-NW, steep sided, concave base.		
706	Fill		0.2	Fill of ditch 705. Soft, dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional gravels and frequent charcoal flecks. Primary fill.	Bone	
707	Fill		0.25	Fill of ditch 705. Soft, dark yellowish brown, silty clay, moderate gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. Upper fill.	Pot, bone, burnt stone	AD 43-410

Trench 8 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one field boundary ditch, likely post-medieval or modern and a possible tree throw. An alluvial deposit was present at the NW end. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sands and yellowish orange clay. Trench shortened by 3.9m due to flags being moved by pedestrians using nearby footpath.					Length (m)	26.1
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-

801	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
802	Fill		0.18	Fill of ditch 803. Light grey silty clay.	-	-
803	-	1.8	0.18	Ditch cut. Linear, runs SW-NE. Shallow sloped sides, concave base.	-	-
804	Deposit	1.2+	-	Tree throw or root disturbance. Irregular area of mixed soils and natural gravels.		
805	Layer	3.5	0.1	Alluvium. Brownish grey silty clay, frequent snails and occasional gravel.		
806	Layer			Natural. Sands and yellowish orange clay.		

Trench 9 North Area						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench contained four furrows and one modern field boundary ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mixed yellowish brown gravels.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.2-0.25	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
902	Fill		0.1	Fill of furrow 903. Greyish yellow silty clay, moderate gravel.	-	-
903	Cut	2.3	0.1	Furrow cut. Shallow sides, flat base.	-	-
904	Fill			Truncated base of furrow. Unexcavated.		
905	Fill			Truncated base of furrow. Unexcavated.		
906	Fill			Truncated base of furrow. Unexcavated.		
907	Fill			Truncated base of furrow. Unexcavated.		
908	Fill		0.07	Fill of tree throw 909. Root disturbed natural.		
909	Cut	1.9	0.07	Tree throw cut. Saucer shaped, continues beyond trench.		

910	Fill	2	+0.3	Fill of ditch 911. Greyish brown silty clay, occasional gravel inclusions.		
911	Cut	2	+0.3	Ditch cut. Not excavated. Cut from below topsoil.		
912	Layer	-	-	Natural. Limestone gravel in a yellowish brown clay.		

Trench 10 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1001	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-

Trench 11 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-

Trench 12 North Area						
General description					Orientation	ESE-WNW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1202	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-

Trench 13 North Area

General description				Orientation	WNW-ESE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay.				Length (m)	30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.40	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil.	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-

Trench 14 North Area

General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay. A modern field boundary was not excavated.				Length (m)	30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.40	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1402	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-
1403	Cut	0.7	-	Ditch cut. Not excavated. Modern field boundary.	-	-
1404	Fill	0.7	-	Fill of 1403. Dark grey silty clay, occasional small stone inclusions.	-	-

Trench 15 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay. Alluvial clay and gravel deposit at the NW end continued for 15m and was tested to see if it was overlying gravel deposits. Alluvium with no gravel inclusions was encountered below this deposit.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Alluvial clay. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-
1503	-	-	-	Alluvial clay natural with bands of gravel.	-	-

Trench 16 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench contained four furrows. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravels and clay patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown gravels and with pale grey clay patches.	-	-
1603	Cut	1.44	0.22	Furrow cut. Shallow sides, concave base. Cuts subsoil.	-	-
1604	Fill	1.44	0.22	Fill of furrow 1603. Pale brownish grey, sandy clay, mixed gravel inclusions.		
1605	Cut	2.7	-	Furrow cut. Irregular edges. Cuts subsoil. Unexcavated.		
1606	Fill	2.7	-	Fill of furrow 1605. Pale brownish grey, sandy clay, mixed gravel inclusions. Unexcavated.		

1607	Cut	0.5	-	Furrow cut. Irregular edges. Cuts subsoil. Unexcavated.		
1608	Fill	0.5	-	Fill of furrow 1607. Pale brownish grey, sandy clay, mixed gravel inclusions. Unexcavated.		
1609	Cut	1.54	0.31	Cut of furrow. Shallow sides, concave base. Cuts subsoil.		
1610	Fill	1.54	0.31	Fill of furrow 1609. Pale brownish grey, sandy clay, mixed gravel inclusions.		

Trench 17 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a post medieval field boundary in the form of a bank and two ditches, one of which was very shallow and may have been an undulation in the natural gravel. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of yellow sandy gravel and alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	 Finds	Date
1700	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil. Mid brownish yellow silty clay.	Fired clay	
1702	Layer	3.5	-	Natural. Yellow sandy gravel at SE end of trench. Alluvial clay was at NW end of trench.	-	-
1703	Cut	1.46	0.52	Linear. Boundary ditch. Runs NE-SW. Stepped profile.	-	-
1704	Fill	1.46	0.22	Upper fill of 1703. Compact yellowish brown silty clay.		
1705	Fill	1.3	0.18	Middle fill of 1703. Soft, bluish grey silty clay.		
1706	Fill	0.38	0.16	Base fill 1703. Soft, mid grey silty clay.		
1707	Cut	1.12	0.10	Possible linear. Runs NE-SW. Shallow, gentle sloped sides, flat base.		
1708	Fill	1.12	0.10	Fill of 1707. Soft, yellowish brown silty clay. Very similar to subsoil.		
1709	Layer	26.5	-	Alluvial layer. Soft yellowish brown and brownish yellow patches,		

				silty clay. NW extent of trench.		
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Trench 18 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and silty clay patches.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, rare gravel inclusions.	-	-
1801	Layer	-	0.40-0.45	Subsoil. Mid orangish brown silty clay, occasional limestone gravel inclusions.	-	-
1802	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid-light orangish brown coarse and fine limestone gravel with silty clay patches.	-	-

Trench 19 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay. Trench moved 6m to SE due to footpath.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1901	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
1902	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-

Trench 20 North Area						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45-0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-

2001	Layer	-	0.0.25-0.3	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions	-	-
2002	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-

Trench 21 North Area						
General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay. Sondage excavated at NNW end to depth of 0.65m below ground level and abandoned as reached the water table. No change in the alluvial deposit was seen at this depth.				Length (m)	30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.45	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
2101	Layer	-	0.0.20-0.25	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
2102	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-

Trench 22 North Area						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay.				Length (m)	30	
				Width (m)	2	
				Avg. depth (m)	0.45	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2200	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clay loam, very rare inclusions.	-	-
2201	Layer	-	0.20-0.25	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, very rare inclusions.	-	-
2202	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with pale grey mottling. Alluvial clay.	-	-

South Area

Trench 23 South Area						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench consists of topsoil subsoil overlying alluvium. A ditch was identified.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2301	Layer	1.8	0.22	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
2302	Layer	1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Light brown silty clay	-	-
2303	Layer	1.8	0.16	Alluvial Layer. Light greyish brown clay loam	-	-
2304	Cut	1.2	0.72	Ditch. Linear field boundary Moderately steep sides with a concave base	Brick fragment	c 1750 - 1900
2305	Fill	1.2	0.72	Secondary Fill. Light greyish brown silty clay loam with patches of darker brown mottling	-	-

Trench 24 South Area						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying geology of alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer	1.8	0.23	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
2401	Layer	1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Light brown silty clay loam	-	-
2402	Layer	1.8	0.18	Alluvial Layer. Light greyish brown clay loam	-	-

Trench 25 South Area						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE – NE-SW
L shaped trench; excavated in two 30m lengths. Trench revealed two modern ditches. Consists of Topsoil and Subsoil overlying alluvium.					Length (m)	60
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer		0.2	Topsoil. Dark Greyish Brown, silty clay	-	-
2501	Layer		0.3	Subsoil. Mid Greyish Brown, Silty Clay	-	-
2502	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Mid Brownish Yellow, Clay	-	-
2503	Cut	0.6	0.4	Modern Ditch	-	-
2504	Fill	0.6	0.4	Fill of 2503	-	-
2505	Cut	0.55	0.22	Modern Ditch	-	-
2506	Fill	0.55	0.22	Fill of 2505	-	-
2507	Cut	0.4	0.24	Modern Ditch	-	-
2508	Fill	0.4	0.24	Fill of 2507	-	-

Trench 26 South Area						
General description					Orientation	WNW- ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer		0.2	Topsoil. Dark Brownish Grey, silty clay.	-	-
2601	Layer		0.25	Subsoil. Mid Greyish Brown, silty clay.	-	-
2602	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Mid Yellow Grey, Silty Clay.	-	-

Trench 27 South Area						
General description					Orientation	WNW- ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.53
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer		0.23	Topsoil. Dark Brownish Grey, Silty Clay.	-	-
2701	Layer		0.3	Subsoil. Mid Greyish Brown, Silty Clay.	-	-

2702	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Mid Yellow Grey, Silty Clay.	-	-
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Trench 28 South Area						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench revealed a modern ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying of alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer		0.2	Topsoil. Dark Greyish Brown, Silty Clay	-	-
2801	Layer		0.4	Modern made-ground, levelling deposit.	-	-
2802	Layer		0.12	Buried topsoil. Dark Greyish Brown, clayey silt.	-	-
2803	Layer		0.3	Subsoil. Mid Greyish Brown, Silty Clay.	-	-
2804	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Mid Yellow Grey, Silty Clay.	-	-

Trench 29 South Area						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer		0.2	Topsoil. Dark Brownish Grey, silty clay.	-	-
2901	Layer		0.34	Other Layer. Modern made-ground, levelling deposit.	-	-
2902	Layer		0.14	Buried soil. Dark Greyish Brown, Clayey Silt.	-	-
2903	Layer		0.18	Subsoil. Mid Greyish Brown, Silty Clay.	-	-
2904	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Mid Yellow Grey, Silty Clay.	-	-

Trench 30 South Area						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.27
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

3000	Layer		0.18	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
3001	Layer		0.1	Alluvial Layer. Light greyish brown clay loam	-	-

Trench 31 South Area						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3100	Layer		0.2	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
3101	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Light Greyish Brown, Silty Clay.	-	-

Trench 32 South Area						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer		0.18	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
3201	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Light greyish brown clay loam	-	-

Trench 33 South Area						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer		0.2	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
3301	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Light greyish brown clay loam	-	-

Trench 34 South Area						
General description					Orientation	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	
					Width (m)	
					Avg. depth (m)	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

3400	Layer	1.8	0.18	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
3401	Layer	1.8		Alluvial Layer. Light greyish brown clay loam	-	-

Trench 35 South Area

General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench revealing modern boundary ditch and remnant hedgerow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer	1.8	0.18	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
3501	Layer	1.8	0.17	Subsoil. Light brown silty clay loam	-	-
3502	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Light greyish brown clay loam	-	-

Trench 36 South Area

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.58
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer		0.2	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
3601	Layer		0.15	Subsoil. Light brown silt clay loam	-	-
3602	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Light greyish brown clay loam	-	-

Trench 37 South Area

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3700	Layer		0.2	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
3701	Layer		0.18	Subsoil. Light brown silty clay loam	-	-
3702	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Light greyish brown clay loam	-	-

Trench 38 South Area						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.53
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3800	Layer		0.24	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silt loam	-	-
3801	Layer		0.2	Subsoil. Light brown silt clay loam	-	-
3802	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Light yellowish-brown silt clay loam	-	-

Trench 39 South Area						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of alluvial clay.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3900	Layer		0.2	Topsoil. Mid Greyish Brown, Silty Clay	-	-
3901	Layer		0.23	Subsoil. Mid Yellow Brown, Silty Clay	-	-
3902	Layer			Alluvial Layer. Light Yellow Brown, Clay	-	-
3903	Cut	0.5	0.34	Modern Ditch	-	-
3904	Fill	0.5	0.34	Secondary Fill. Fill of 3903	Pottery	19 th – 20 th C

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Roman pottery – northern area

By Edward Biddulph

Introduction

B.1.1 Some 221 sherds of Roman pottery, weighing 2872g, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage was scanned to identify diagnostic forms and fabrics, provide spot-dates and generally characterise the material. Pottery fabrics were assigned codes from OA's standard recording guidelines (Booth nd) and correlated where possible with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (NRFRC; Tomber and Dore 1998) and the Gloucester City Roman type fabric series (see, eg, Timby 1998, table 7, 241-56). Forms identified by rim were given codes from OA's system.

B.1.2 Each context-group was quantified by sherd count and weight (grammes), and any rims present were additionally quantified by vessel count (MV), based on rims, and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), which measures the percentage of rim circumference that survives (thus, 0.3 equals 30%). The total was 2.11 EVEs from 23 vessels identified by rim. Pottery data by context is provided in Table 1.

B.1.3 The following fabrics were noted (NRFRC codes and Gloucester fabric codes in brackets):

- A11 South Spanish amphora fabric (BAT AM 1/2; fabric 10A)
- B11 Dorset black-burnished ware (DOR BB 1; fabric 4)
- F51 Oxford red/brown colour-coated ware (OXF RS; fabric 12A)
- G20 Malvernian gritted ware (includes MAL REA; fabric 18)
- O Indeterminate oxidised fabric
- O30 North Wiltshire oxidised ware (fabric 231)
- O40 Severn Valley oxidised ware (including SVW OX 1; fabric 11B)
- R20 Unsourced sandy reduced wares
- R30 Unsourced medium sand-tempered reduced wares
- R49 Reduced Severn Valley ware
- R85 South-west micaceous ware (fabric 5)
- S Indeterminate samian wares
- S30 Central Gaulish samian ware (LEZ SA 2; fabric 8A)

B.1.4 In addition, the following forms were identified by rim:

- C Indeterminate jar
- CD Medium-mouthed jar
- CK 'Cooking-pot'-type jar
- CM Wide-mouthed jar
- CO Ovoid (or tubby) jar
- D Bowl or jar
- EH Beaker form of BB1-type 'cooking-pot'
- HB 440 Straight-sided bowl with dropped flange

- IA 110 Plain-rimmed straight-sided bowl or dish
- IA 440 Straight-sided bowl or dish with dropped flange
- JA 110 Plain-rimmed straight-sided dish
- JB 110 Plain-rimmed curving-sided dish
- K Mortarium
- L Lid

Description

Context	Sherds	Weight (g)	MV	EVE	Description	Spot-date
102	3	23	0	0	Body sherds O40	AD 43-400
203	119	1647	17	1.19	B11 (CK, 0.09 EVE); B11 (CK, 0.07 EVE); B11 (CK, 0.07 EVE); B11 (HB 440, 0.05 EVE); O20 (L, 0.05 EVE); O40 (CM, 0.11 EVE); O40 (CM, 0.09 EVE); O40 (CM, 0.07 EVE); O40 (C, 0.03 EVE); O40 (?K, 0.05 EVE); R20 (CD, 0.1 EVE); R85 (CK, 0.09 EVE); R85 (C, 0.03 EVE); R85 (IA 440, 0.05 EVE); R85 (JA 110, 0.05 EVE); R85 (JB 110, 0.15 EVE); R85 (JB 110, 0.04 EVE); body/base sherds A11, F51 (footring base), G20, O40 (tankard, flagon), S	AD 300-400
204	9	465	0	0	Body/base sherds G20, R30, R49 (contains charcoal; lower wall of large, plain ?tankard)	AD 43-300
206	2	3	0	0	Sample 2. Body sherds B11, O40	AD 120-400
208	6	67	2	0.09	B11 (IA 110, 0.05 EVE); R30 (C necked, with everted bifid rim, 0.04 EVE); body/base sherds O40, R20	AD 120-400
213	4	8	0	0	Body sherds O40, S30	AD 120-200
218	2	17	0	0	Body sherds O40	AD 43-400
220	1	8	0	0	Body sherd R85	AD 150-400
224	18	286	1	0.6	B11 (CK, 0.6 EVE), form closest to Gillam 138 (Gillam 1957)	AD 180-250
225	25	230	0	0	Body/base sherds B11, G20 (tubby cooking-pot body sherds), O40 (tankard)	AD 120-300

403	1		1	0	0	Sample 3. Body sherd, ?O30	AD 100- 400
602	3		15	2	0.15	O40 (D, 0.05 EVE); R85 (EH, 0.1 EVE)	AD 150- 200
608	1		51	0	0	Base sherd O40 (tankard)	AD 43- 400
613	22		47	1	0.08	G20 (CO, 0.08 EVE)	AD 43- 200
613	3		3	0	0	Sample 1. Body sherds G20	AD 43- 200
707	2		1	0	0	Body sherds O	AD 43- 410
Totals	221		2872	23	2.11		

Table 1: Summary and quantification of the pottery by context

- B.1.5 No pottery groups were certain to date to the 1st century AD. The groups from contexts 102, 204, 218, 608, 613 and 707, typically containing undiagnostic sherds in fabrics produced throughout the mid-Roman period (and in some cases beyond), may be of that date, but could equally have been deposited in or after the 2nd century.
- B.1.6 Groups dating to the 2nd century AD were recovered from contexts 213 (furrow 212) and 602 (pit 603), the former assigned to the period based on the presence of samian ware (S30), the latter on basis of a 'jar-beaker' in fabric R85. Context-group N224 (ditch 226) also had a mid-Roman date, though the black-burnished ware jar recovered may have been deposited during the first half of the 3rd century. The pottery from another fill (context 225) of ditch 226 had a wider date range but is consistent with deposition in the mid-Roman period.
- B.1.7 Context 203, a cleaning layer over wall 208, surface 209 and stone layers 210 and 211, contained a large assemblage dominated by fabrics B11, O40 and R85. The latest pieces included dropped flanged bowls in B11 and R85, a wide-mouthed bowl in O40, and a vessel of uncertain form in fabric F51. Overall, a 4th-century date for deposition can be applied.
- B.1.8 Contexts 206 (pit 207), 208 (the wall stratigraphically below layer 203), and 220 (ditch 221) contained pottery groups dated by fabrics B11 or R85 and deposited between the mid-2nd and end of the 4th century AD.
- B.1.9 Overall, the assemblage was in moderately good condition. The mean sherd weight (MSW; weight divided by sherd count) is 13g, while the range of MSW values per context is 0.5g to 52g. Together, these values are characteristic of an assemblage with a mixture of both large and small fragments. The mean rim percentage (EVE divided by MV) of 0.09 EVE or 9% points more firmly to a poorly preserved assemblage, but it is worth noting that context 224 contained a substantial proportion of a single, though fragmented, vessel, with 60% of its rim surviving.

- B.1.10 The mixed condition of the assemblage and the fact that it was concentrated in Trench 2 suggest that the assemblage was deposited reasonably close to areas of use and initial discard. Roman settlement is attested some 400m west of the site, and geophysical anomalies investigated by Trench 2 suggested the presence of Roman enclosures.
- B.1.11 The assemblage is dominated by pottery from local sources or the wider region. Severn Valley wares, micaceous wares and Malvernian wares are well-represented. The settlement that used the pottery was nevertheless connected to wider trade networks, as shown by the presence of black-burnished ware, North Wiltshire wares, Oxford colour-coated ware and continental imports. The general paucity of fine and continental wares suggests a rural settlement of low to moderate status.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.1.12 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).

B.2 Post-Roman pottery – southern area

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.2.1 A total of 2 sherds of pottery weighing 148g were recovered from a single context. This is all of late post-medieval or modern date. Given the small quantity present, this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below. Post-medieval fabric codes used here are those of the Museum of London (MoLA 2014).

Description

- B.2.2 Context (3904) Spot-date: c 1800-1900+? Description: 2 sherds (weight 148g). Two fresh rim sherds from a single wide bowl or 'pancheon' in post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric PMR). The bowl has a steep flaring wall and a broad horizontal flanged rim. It has a fine red flowerpot-like fabric with a smooth glossy clear glaze all-over the internal surface and probably applied in liquid form. This combination of features points to a 19th- or even a 20th-century date.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.2.3 The pottery here has little potential for further analysis and could be discarded, if so desired.

B.3 Flint – northern area

By Michael Donnelly

Introduction

B.3.1 A solitary struck flint was recovered from this evaluation. The flint was recovered from layer 203 but was almost certainly residual. The piece is undiagnostic but does indicate very limited flint-related activity here during prehistory.

Methodology

B.3.2 The artefact was catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Context	type	sub-type	Notes	date
203	Flake	Inner	Snapped proximal, undiagnostic piece	

B.4 Ceramic building material and fired clay – northern area

By Cynthia Poole

Introduction

B.4.1 A small quantity of ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay (FC) amounting in total to 21 fragments weighing 260g was recovered from trenches 2, 4, 6, 7 and 17. The assemblage consists of small fragments with a mean fragment weight of 12g. The fired clay is not intrinsically dateable, but is reliant on associated dated finds for phasing though the general character points ton Iron Age-Roman date. The CBM includes both Roman and post-medieval material. The assemblage has been spot dated and a brief record made in the table below. Two fragments of burnt stone found with the material have also been logged in the table.

Fired clay

B.4.2 The fired clay cannot be assigned to any definite forms or functions though all probably derived from oven or hearth structures or associated portable furniture. In most cases the pieces have a single moulded surface, in some cases burnt or fired to grey or black. Some fragments have a surface finish and pattern of firing more typical of portable

furniture (208, 613, 1701), possibly including perforated oven plate and triangular perforated bricks.

Table 1: Record of the fired clay and CBM assemblage

Ctx	Nos	Wt g	Date	Fabric	Form	Description
203 Layer	1	10	U	Grey fine-grained limestone with fine shell	Burnt Stone	Amorphous burnt stone; 40mm L
203 Layer	2	18	Ro?	Red-brown fine sandy clay containing low density medium-coarse quartz sand	Indet FC/CBM	Broken irregular fragments possibly with remnants of moulded surface. Small area of what may be a sanded surface may indicate these are fragments of Roman tile. Th: >20mm.
203 Layer	1	40	RB	Pink with orange core, v fine sandy / silty clay; v rare fine ferruginous inclusions ≤2.5mm	Imbrex?	Fairly smooth even outer surface; rough pitted underside. V slightly curving. 18mm th.
203 Layer	1	8	RB?	Pinkish brown fine sandy micaceous clay	Flat tile	Smooth flat upper surface. >12mm th.
208 Wall	1	37	U	Hard fine clay containing moderate density of limestone & shell inclusions up to 11mm. Brownish red surface; black core.	FC: Oven furniture?	Roughly moulded flat undulating surface. Probably fragment of portable oven furniture. Th: >24mm.
208 Wall	1	45	RB	Pink with orange core, v fine sandy / silty clay; v rare fine ferruginous inclusions ≤0.5mm	Imbrex	Rough thickened edge, smooth outer surface, rough pitted underside. 17-22mm th
405 Ditch 407	2	7	U	Pale brown – light red fine silty smooth clay	FC: Indet	Fragments with flat even undulating surface. TH: >13mm
405 Ditch 407	2	8	Pmed	1x red coarse sandy clay containing poorly sorted quartz. 1x red fine sandy fabric containing small grey earthy inclusions.	Brick	Two broken fragments, one with part of a flat grey-fired surface. Size 20-30mm
406 Ditch 407	2	23	Pmed	Pinkish red – maroon sandy clay with occasional shell grit and	Brick	One fragment with rough flat surface and edge and one amorphous fragment.

				cindery inclusions. Large rounded sandstone grit 24mm in one.		
602 Pit 603	4	30	U	Dark brown – black fired clay containing low density of rounded quartz sand ≤0.5mm & shell grit 0.5-6mm.	FC: Oven lining?	Thin fragments 8-12mm thick with one smooth flat moulded surface and on the opposite a rough flattish bonding face, that may have been spread over some other structural element as surface or lining. On the largest piece there is a slight curving lip where the clay has slightly wrapped over the underlying object or structure.
613 Ditch 612	1	13	IA-RB?	Smooth clay containing common shell/1st grit <5mm & sparse red fe ox & quartz sand	FC: Oven furniture?	Flat even moulded surface fired yellowish brown & red with grey core. Possibly a fragment of triangular perforated brick or similar furniture. Size: 17 x 29 x 42mm.
613 <1>	3	4	U	Light red – yellowish brown shelly clay	FC: Indet	Amorphous. Size: 15-18mm L
707 Ditch 705	1	45	U	Coarse shelly limestone with coarse sandy matrix & shell up to 22mm	Burnt Stone	Irregular shape partly burnt red
1701 Subsoil	1	27	U	Pink fine silty clay	FC: Oven plate?	It is unclear what form of object this is. It has one smooth flat surface burnt black & possibly part of a second burnt light grey at right angles. A concave groove c 20mm dia running through it may be a perforation or a wattle. Th: 42mm.
Total	23	315				

Ceramic building material

B.4.3 Fragments of Roman tile of uncertain form were found in cleaning layer 203 and an imbrex fragment in wall structure 208. Four largely amorphous scraps found in the fill (405, 406) of ditch 407 were identified as post-medieval brick, largely on the basis of the fabrics, which are comparable to other examples from the region.

Conclusions

B.4.4 The fired clay is associated with Roman artefacts and the character of the fired clay suggests it was contemporary, though no diagnostic pieces are present. The fired clay

is most likely to represent remains of domestic ovens or hearths or crop processing structures.

- B.4.5 The quantity of ceramic building material is insignificant at all periods. It provides some corroborative dating evidence, but is unlikely to indicate the use of these materials in buildings. In the Roman period the tile was probably brought onto the site for re-use in ovens or hearths whilst the post-medieval CBM resulted from agricultural activity such as manuring.

Recommendations

- B.4.6 The value of the assemblage is in providing supplementary dating evidence for the contexts and evidence of activities on site. The material has little additional intrinsic research value. In general, the archive record should be sufficient in any wider research encompassing the site or the material. The assemblage may be discarded upon completion of the project prior to archiving.

B.5 Ceramic building material – southern area

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.5.1 A single piece of CBM weighing 436g was recovered. Given the small quantity present, this has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.

Description

- B.5.2 Context (2304) Spot-date: c 1750-1900? Description: 1 piece (weight 436g). A side (stretcher) fragment from a soft red domestic brick. Handmade (fairly neatly) and unfrosted. It preserves a complete thickness measurement of 66-70mm. A later 18th- or 19th-century date is likely.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.5.3 The CBM here has little or no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

B.6 Coins – north area

By Paul Booth

- B.6.1 Three Roman coins were recovered, all from mixed topsoil/subsoil layer 203. All are common 4th-century types, though the poor condition of two is such that details of the identifications are not completely certain. The coins are all from a period of issue (AD 330-348) that is typically the best represented in assemblages from rural sites in Roman Britain.

B.7 Metals – northern area

By Ian Scott

Introduction

- B.7.1 There are just two metal objects from the evaluation. They comprise one small copper alloy fragment and the head of an iron nail.
- B.7.2 Neither object is particularly distinctive, and neither is closely datable.

Finds Register

Context 206	1	Nail. Small nail with small expanded head, incomplete. Not measured. Sample 2
Context 613	2	Strip fragment, of rectangular section, with one extant nail or pin hole. Cu alloy. L: 9mm; W: 7mm; Th: 3mm. Sample 1

B.8 Stone – northern area

By Ruth Shaffrey

Introduction

- B.8.1 A total of 11 pieces of stone were submitted for analysis. Three small pieces are unworked. Six small fragments of flat slabby stone from context 203 may be fragments of stone roofing but are too small to be certainly identified. Two are of reddish-brown sandstone (23g) and four are of grey sandstone (42g). Two large pieces of curved stone from context 203 (SF 4 and 6) were retained, but found to be naturally shaped.
- B.8.2 All the stone can be discarded.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Richard Palmer

Introduction

C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from the evaluation for the retrieval of Charred Plant Remains (CPR), Waterlogged Plant Remains (WPR) and the recovery of bones and artefacts.

Method

C.1.2 Two samples were processed in their entirety at Oxford Archaeology using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and heavy residues in a 500µm mesh and dried. The residue fractions were sorted by eye and with the aid of a magnet while the flot material was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract cereal grains and chaff, smaller seeds and other quantifiable remains.

C.1.3 The third bulk sample was from a waterlogged context. This sample was processed for waterlogged and charred remains: 10L of the sample was processed following the method above for the recovery of CPR and the flot and residue dried. 1L of sediment was hand floated for the recovery of WPR and in this case the flot and residue were collected in 250µm meshes and stored wet. The wet flot was sorted using a low power (x10) binocular microscope to extract seeds and other quantifiable plant remains

Results

C.1.4 Table 1 provides details on the charred remains and Table 2 the waterlogged remains.

C.1.5 Sample 2 is from fill 206 of pit 207 which is Roman in date. Little charred material is present and the flot is dominated by molluscs. The mollusc assemblage consists of a wide variety of land species such as *Discus rotundatus*, *Trochus Hispidus* and *Vallonia* sp. *Cecilioides acicula* is also present but was not quantified since this is a burrowing snail that is usually intrusive. A large quantity of animal bone was recovered along with pot sherds and an iron object.

C.1.6 Sample 3 is from organic fill 403 of ditch 404 which is also Roman. This sample was processed twice, for charred and waterlogged remains (see above). The dry (CPR) flot includes a few charcoal fragments and some goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) seeds. A good quantity of molluscs was also recovered with both land (*Vallonia* sp.) and freshwater (*Bithynia tentaculata*) species present. Bone and pottery fragments were extracted from the residue.

C.1.7 The WPR flot material is predominantly plant roots with some woody material, approximately 50% of the flot was assessed. Identified material includes cherry/plum (*Prunus* sp.), bramble (*Rubus* sp.) and sedges (*Carex* sp.). *Bithynia tentaculata* and other freshwater molluscs are present.

C.1.8 Sample 1 is from fill 613 of ditch 612 which is also Roman in date. A quantity of charcoal was recovered in good condition. Charred seeds include goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.) and an unidentifiable grain fragment. Land molluscs from a range of species are present, for example *Trochulus hispidus*, *Discus rotundatus* and *Vallonia* sp. *Cecilioides acicula* was also observed in the flot but not quantified. Pottery sherds, bone and a copper alloy object were extracted from the residue.

Discussion

C.1.9 Charred material recovered from this site is limited mostly to charcoal which was recovered in good condition.

C.1.10 Preservation of organic remains in sample 3 was fairly good, indicating that this type of material survives in deeper features, where the fills have been permanently waterlogged.

C.1.11 Molluscs survive on site and were recovered from all features, although they were not abundant in the sampled deposits. Their usefulness in the reconstruction of vegetation history means a sampling strategy could be considered in the event of further work.

Recommendations

C.1.12 In general, if further excavation is carried out it is recommended that 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 (Historic England 2011).

C.1.13 After processing, 9L of sediment from sample 3 was retained unprocessed in case the processed sub-sample proved to be rich in organic remains and further sub-sampling was required. However, if the site does not proceed to excavation this will be discarded since organic remains in unprocessed soil will deteriorate over time.

C.1.14 The sample flots warrant retention until all works on the site are complete although at this stage it is not expected that further work will be required on the material.

C.1.15 Further work could incorporate a sampling strategy for the recovery of molluscs from suitable features.

Sample no.	Context no.	Area/Trench	Feature/Deposit	Date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Molluscs	Other	Notes
1	613	Tr. 6	612	RB	36	75	+++	+		++	+++		10YR 5/3 silty clay loam. Frequent modern roots.
2	206	Tr. 2	207	RB	34	50	++			+	+++		10YR 5/2 silty clay loam. Frequent modern roots.
3	403	Tr. 4	404	RB	10	25	+				+++		10YR 4/2 silty clay loam. From waterlogged context. Uncharred material present.

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), +=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100), ++++=abundant (100+).

Table 1: Assessment of the bulk samples.

Sample no.	Context no.	Area/Trench	Feature/Deposit	Date	Sample vol (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Volume examined	Wood	Fruit/Nut	Seeds	Charred	Molluscs	Notes
3	403	Tr.4	404	RB	1	50	50%		++	++		++	Fibrous plant material and woody material present. Stem/twig fragments present.

Key: +=present (up to 5 items), ++=frequent (5-25), +++=common (25-100), ++++=abundant (100+).

Table 2: Assessment of the waterlogged subsample.

C.2 Animal bone

By Lee G. Broderick

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of 136 animal bone specimens were recovered from the site (Table 1), most of which were collected by hand. Environmental samples were also taken from context 206 and were sieved at 10mm, 4mm, 2mm and 0.5mm fractions. Features on the site were dated on the basis of associated ceramic finds (seriation), mostly to the Romano British period.

C.2.2 The hand-collected material was recorded in full, with the aid of the Oxford Archaeology skeletal reference collection and standard identification guides, using a diagnostic zone system (Serjeantson 1996). Material recovered from environmental samples was only recorded when it could be identified, following the same criteria.

Description

C.2.3 Preservation on the site was moderate (Figure 1). The assemblage is dominated by caprine (sheep [*Ovis aries*] and/or goat [*Capra hircus*] – the former was definitely present on the site), with domestic cattle (*Bos taurus taurus*) being the second most common species (Table 1). Also present are horse (*Equus caballus*) and dog (*Canis familiaris*).

C.2.4 The environmental sample (from context 206) contained a large number of caprine specimens, including both sheep specimens (left and right mandibles). This includes a number of skull elements, suggesting that the sample included a broken skull, inflating the number of identified specimen (NISP) figure. Parts of a second left caprine mandible were also present in the sample, however, demonstrating that at least two individuals are present and casting doubt on whether the postcranial caprine bones in the sample (much of a left hindlimb and part of a left forelimb) can be associated with the same individual as the skull. An oblique cutmark on the medial side of the distal end of the humerus indicates disarticulation and an oblique chop through the axis points to decapitation of the sheep – either as slaughter method or post-mortem.

Mandibular wear suggests that the sheep died at around eight to ten months old (Jones 2006) and epiphyseal fusion that the postcranial bones are from an individual of ten months old (Silver 1969). The second individual was between 3½ and 7 years of age at death. Given the consistency of age between the postcranial bones and the skull, it seems likely that this sample contains an Associated Bone Group (ABG) along with bones from other animals. As well as the additional caprine specimen, three dog specimens were also recovered as part of the sample.

C.2.5 Elsewhere on the site, foetal and/or neonatal caprine tibias were recovered from contexts 203 and 613, suggesting that the animals were being bred on the site. Domestic cattle specimens from these two contexts, as well as a caprine specimen from 208, have been gnawed by canids (probably dogs) demonstrating that they played an active role in the deposition of bones on the site.

Conclusions

C.2.6 Little can be read into such a small assemblage. Domestic cattle and sheep, in particular, are the mainstay of the rural economy in Romano-Britain and so this site fits that pattern. The potential ABG is noteworthy and should be considered as such in the final report.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

C.2.7 The assemblage should be considered a priority for retention.

Table 1: Total NISP (Number of Identified Specimens) and NSP (Number of Specimens) figures per period from hand-collected material from the site.

	AD 43- 200	AD 43- 400	AD 43- 410	AD 120- 300	AD 120- 400	AD 150- 200	AD 150- 400	AD 180- 250	AD 300- 400	AD 120- 300 (sieved)
domestic cattle	3	1	1						9	
caprine		1			1				17	28
caprine?	1								1	
sheep										2
horse				1				1	1	
dog										3
medium mammal									1	
large mammal					1		3		12	
Total Mammal	4	2	1	1	2	0	3	1	41	33
Total NISP	4	2	1	1	2	0	3	1	41	33
Total NSP	17	5	13	1	2	2	3	1	59	33

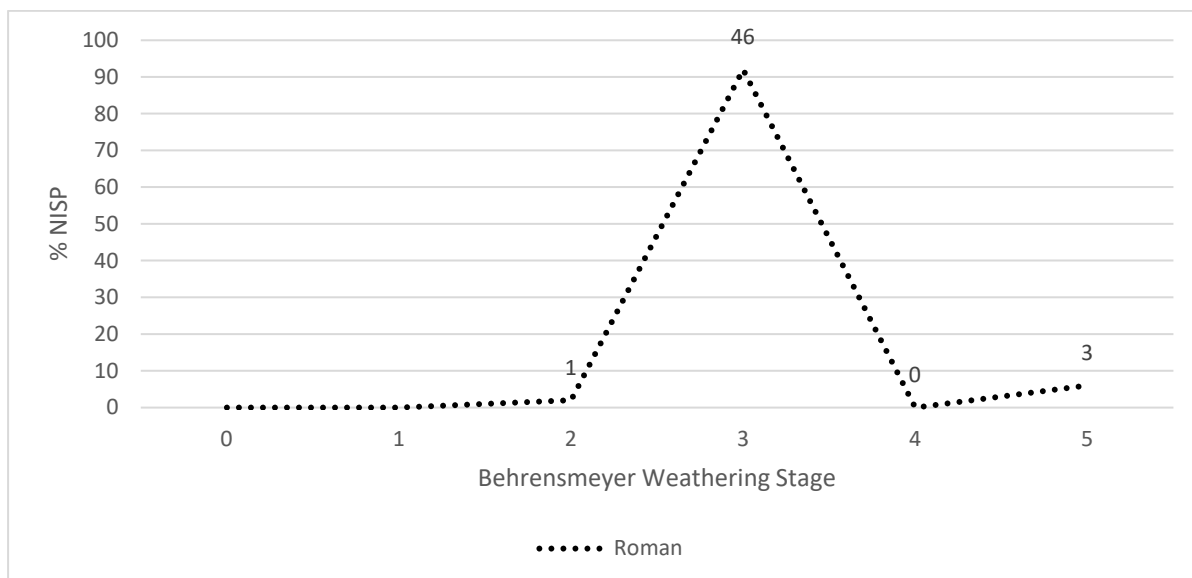


Figure 1: Condition of identified specimens, expressed as a percentage of NISP (following Behrensmeier 1978) (numbers above dotted line are NISP).

Table 2: Non-species data recorded from the specimens (NSP) in the assemblage.

	Butchery marks	Pathologies	Gnawed	Burnt	Ageing data	Biometric data
domestic cattle			2		10	
caprine	2		1		17	1
caprine?					1	
sheep					2	
horse					3	
Total Mammal	2	0	3	0	33	1
Total	2	0	3	0	33	1

C.3 Shell

By Rebecca Nicholson

Introduction

- C.3.1 Eight fragments of bivalve shell, from at least 3 valves (minimum of three molluscs) were hand retrieved from context 402, the upper fill in ditch 404, derived from alluvial clay. All are consistent with the freshwater mussel *Unio tumidus*.
- C.3.2 Although the mussels are edible, it is possible that these shells derive from redeposited alluvium.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Cotswold Canal “Missing Mile”, Gloucestershire
Site code:	OASTMM 19
Grid Reference	SO 78011 06061
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	23 rd September to 1 st October 2019
Area of Site	14.5 hectares
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES. This site is within collecting area covered by The Museum in the Park, Stroud. The archive has been offered to the museum, but they are not accepting archives at the time of reporting and this archive has been refused. The archive will be held at OA, Oxford. The situation is due to be reviewed in 3 years’ time (2023).
Summary of Results:	<p>Between 23rd September and 1st October 2019, Oxford Archaeology (OA) conducted a phase of archaeological trial trench evaluation at the site of the Missing Mile of the Cotswold Canal, Gloucestershire, on behalf of Stroud District Council. A total of 22 trenches were excavated and targeted on geophysical anomalies. A concentration of ditches, pits and a stone deposit, possibly the remnant of a collapsed wall, are evidence of settlement during the mid to late Romano-British period, and were concentrated on an area higher ground on a spur of gravel natural in the north-east of the site. Further ditches of Romano-British and post-medieval date were found on the alluvial clays in the northern part of the site. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was found across the eastern part of the site.</p> <p>The second phase was conducted in March 2020 comprising 17 trenches. All the trenches were placed to target the results of a geophysical survey. The evaluation recorded a number of modern boundary ditches, although did not record any significant archaeology.</p>



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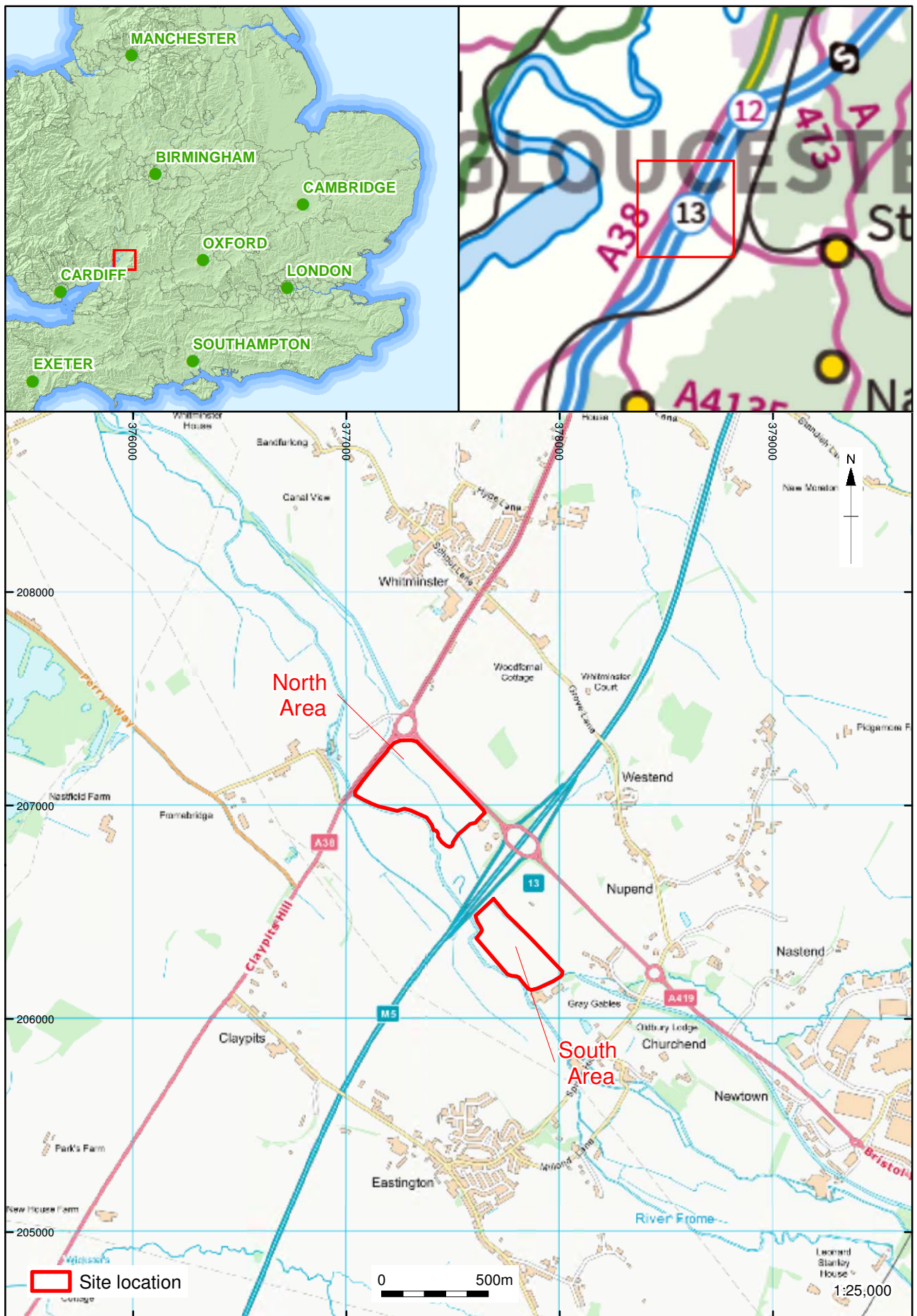
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Figure 1: Site location

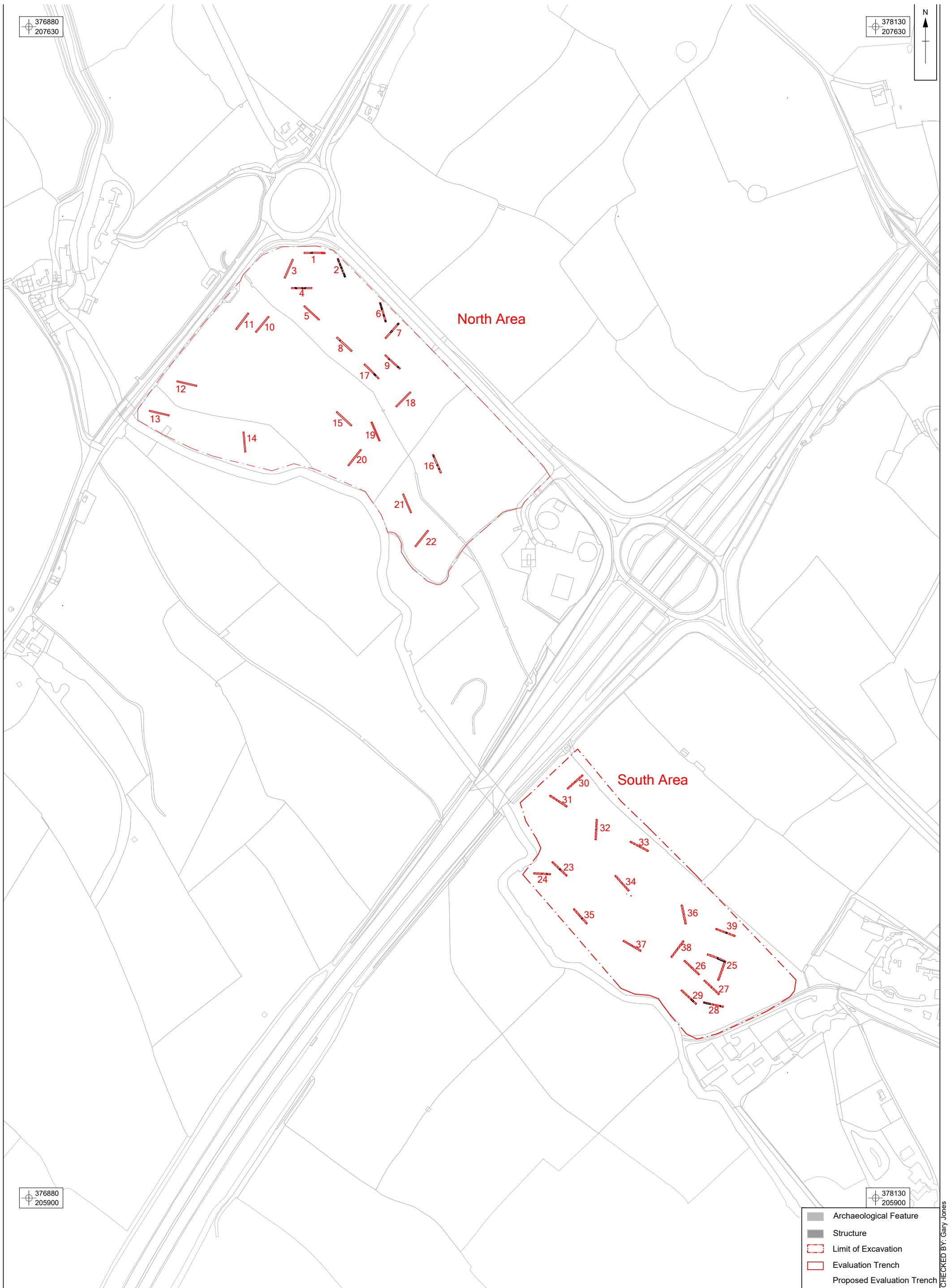


Figure 2: Trench location plan showing distribution of archaeological features

X:\Coiswold_Canal_Trust_Missing Mile_Geo_EV010\Geomatics\02 CAD\OASTMM19 Main Drawing 2019-10-11.dwg(A3 landscape)\OASTMM19\OASTMMEV\Trench 4 Illustration\Geomatics\ 21 Oct 2019



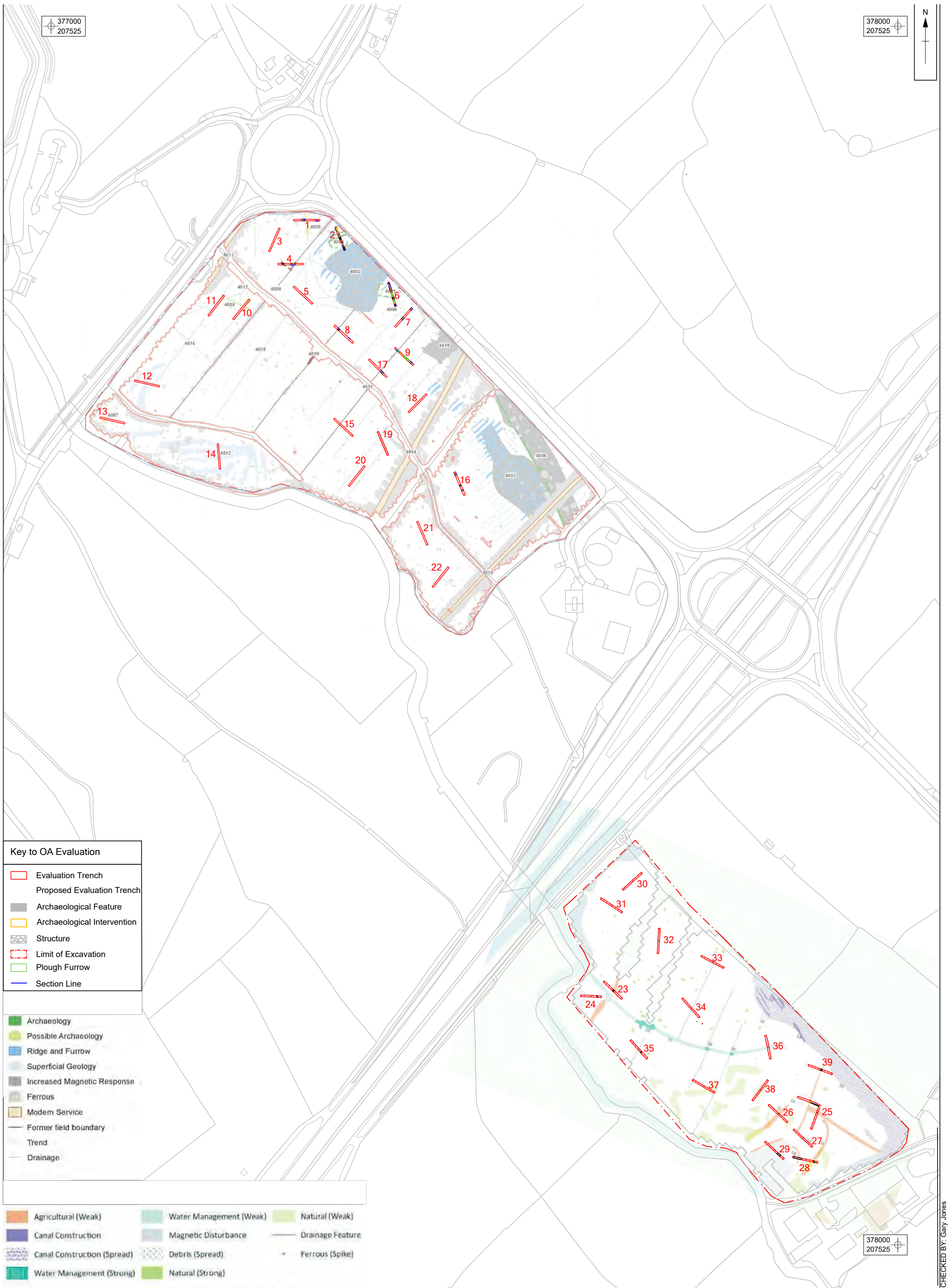
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Survey Data supplied by :
Oxford Archaeology

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Scale at A3 1:2500

Figure 2a: Trench location plan showing distribution of archaeological features, North area

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones



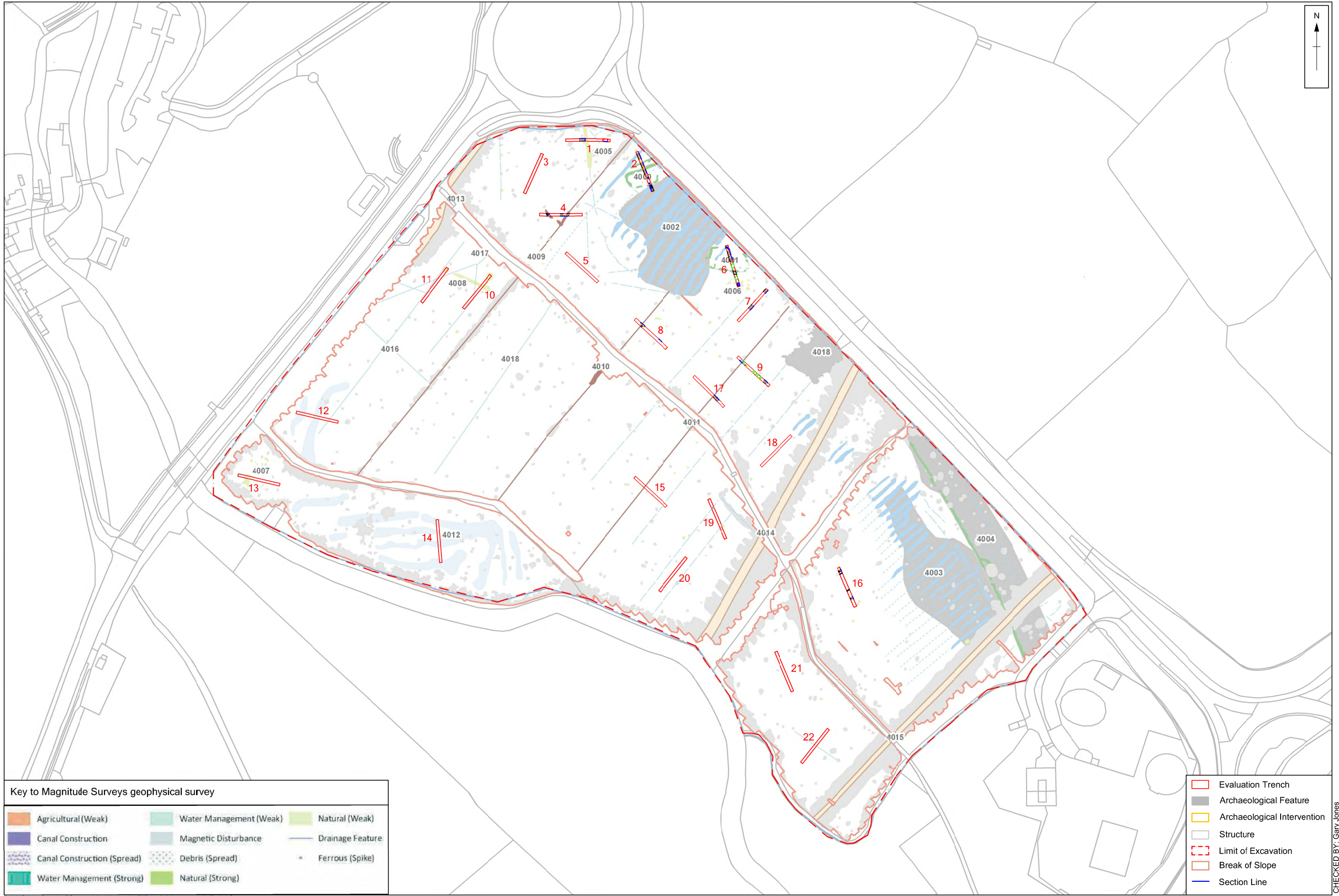
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Figure 3: Trench location plan showing distribution of archaeological features, distribution of geological deposits and the geophysical anomalies

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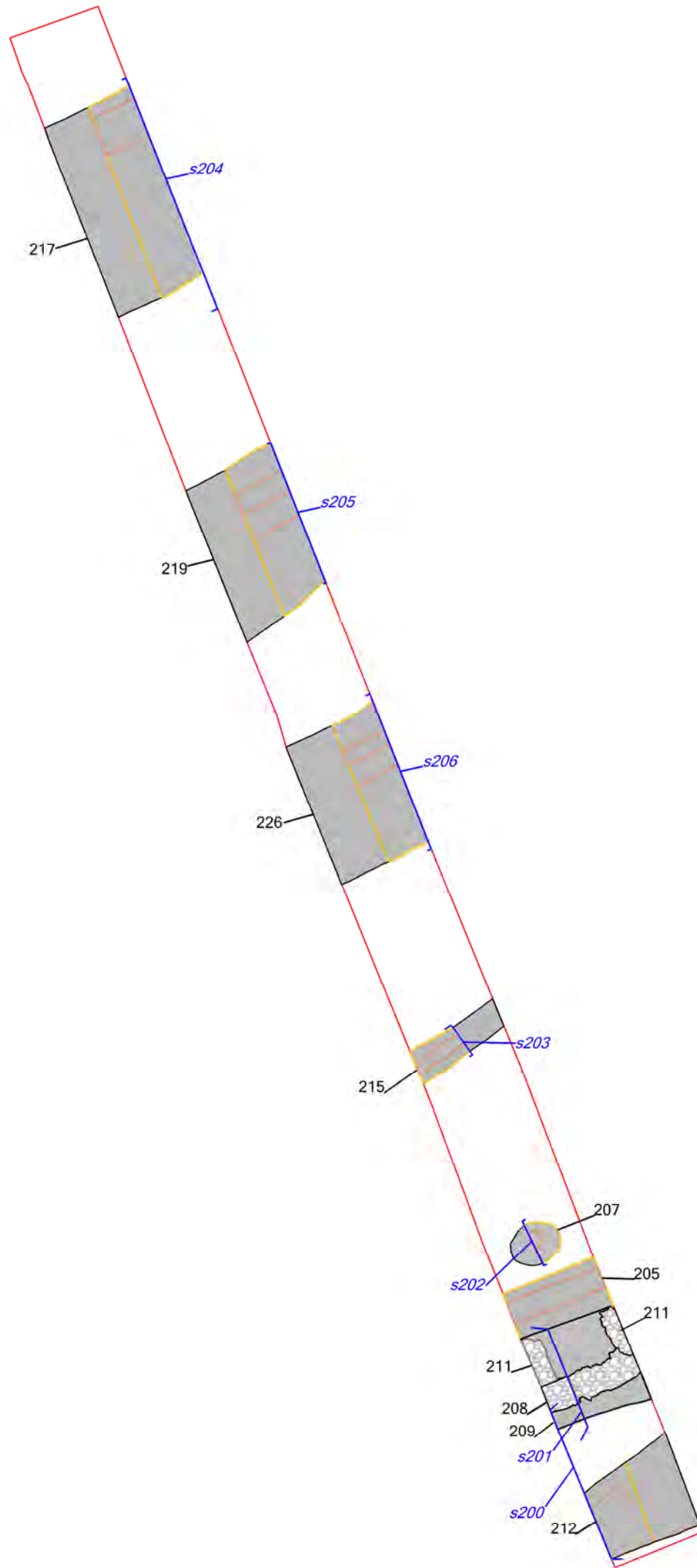
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Figure 4: Distribution of archaeological features in the northwest field in relation to the geophysical anomalies

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones



- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Intervention
- Structure
- Limit of Excavation
- Break of Slope
- Section Line

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

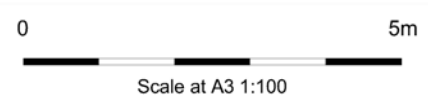
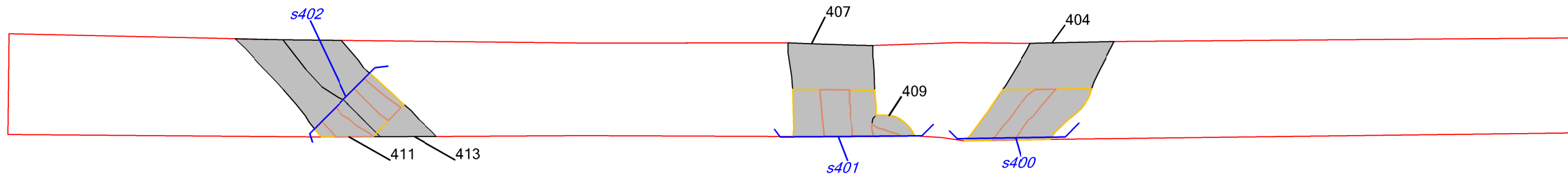
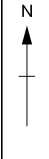


Figure 5: Trench 2



- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Intervention
- Limit of Excavation
- Break of Slope
- Section Line

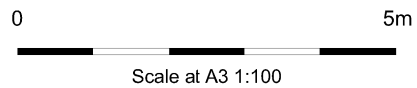
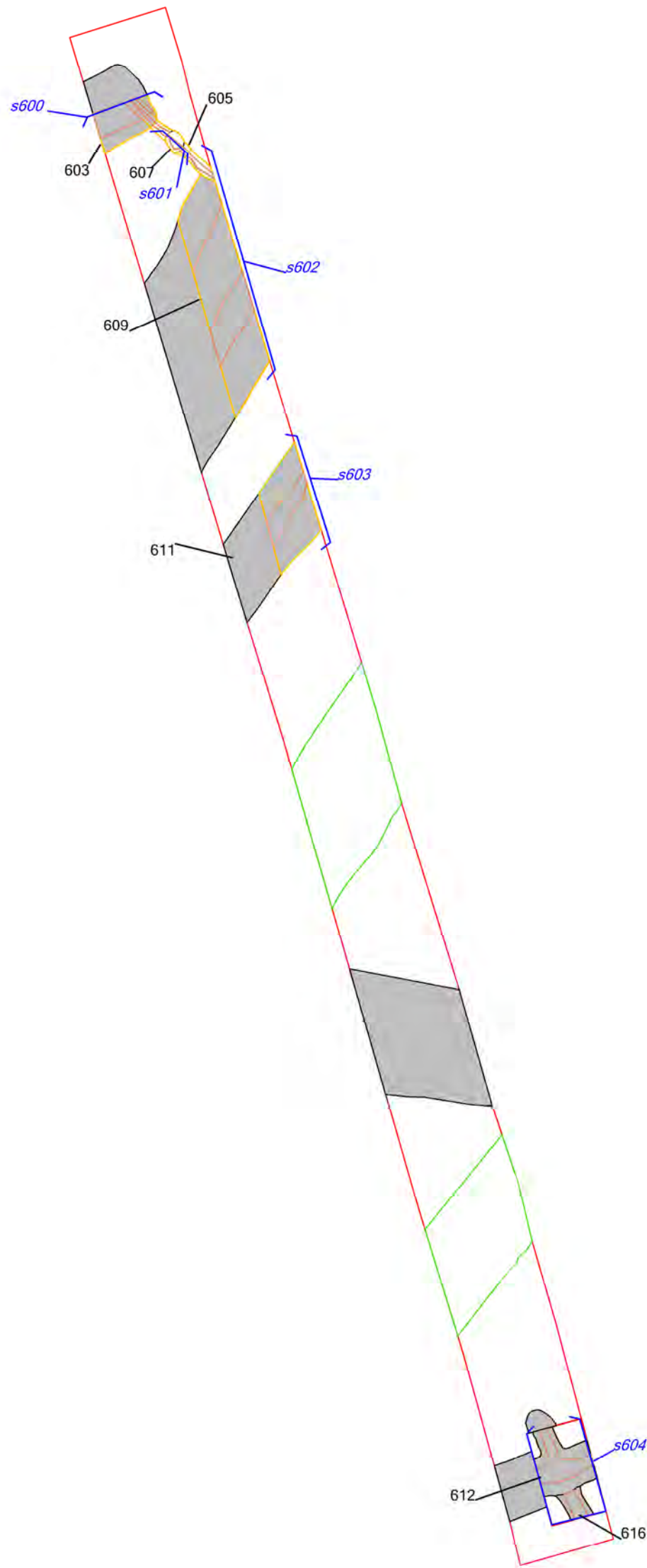


Figure 6: Trench 4



- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Intervention
- Limit of Excavation
- Break of Slope
- Section Line
- Plough Furrow

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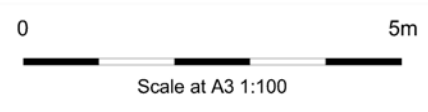
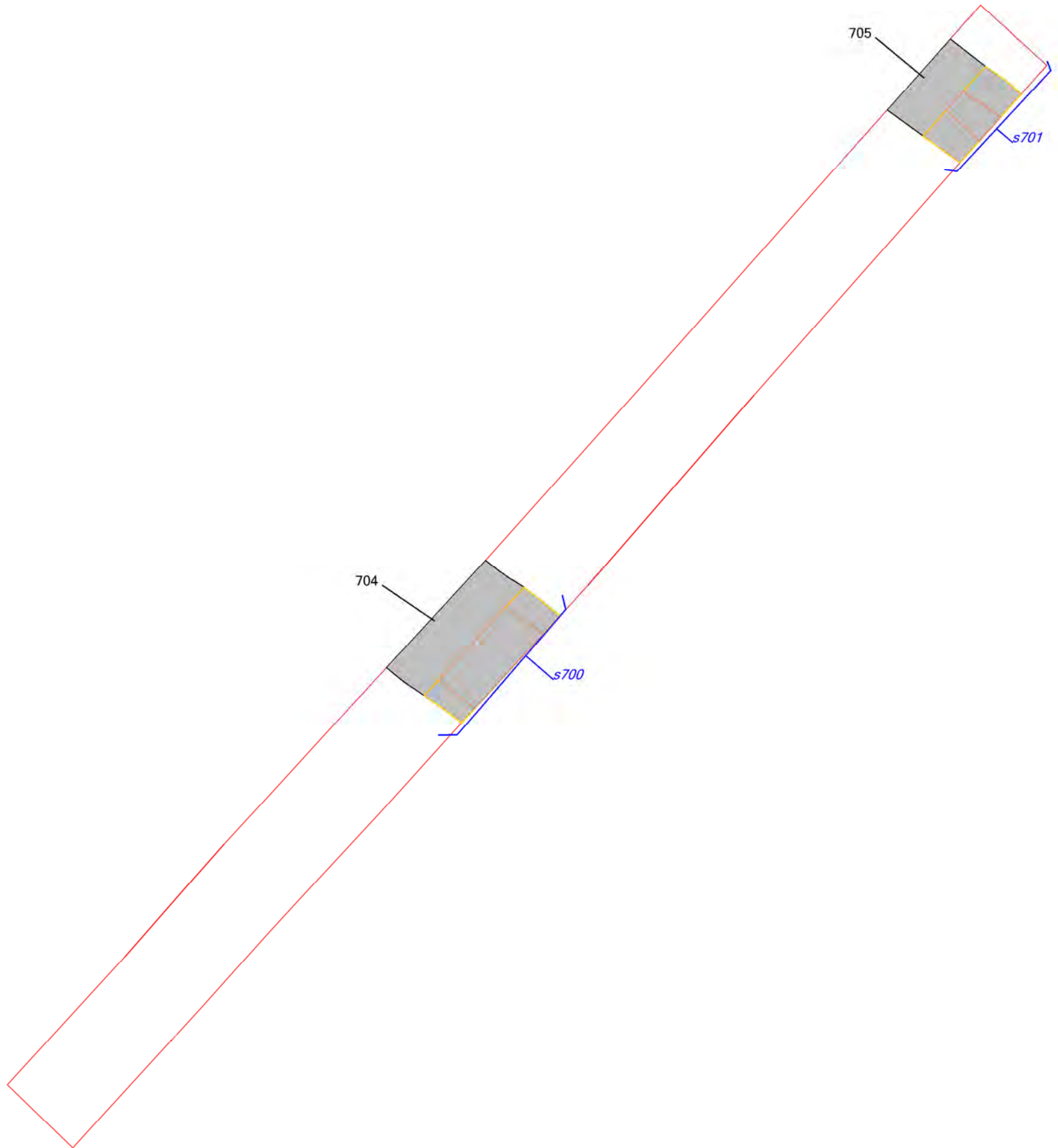
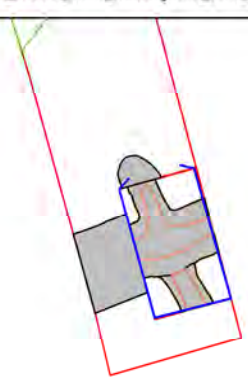


Figure 7: Trench 6



704

705

s701

s700

- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Intervention
- Limit of Excavation
- Break of Slope
- Section Line

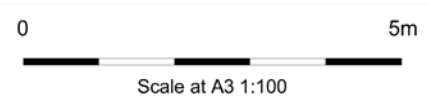
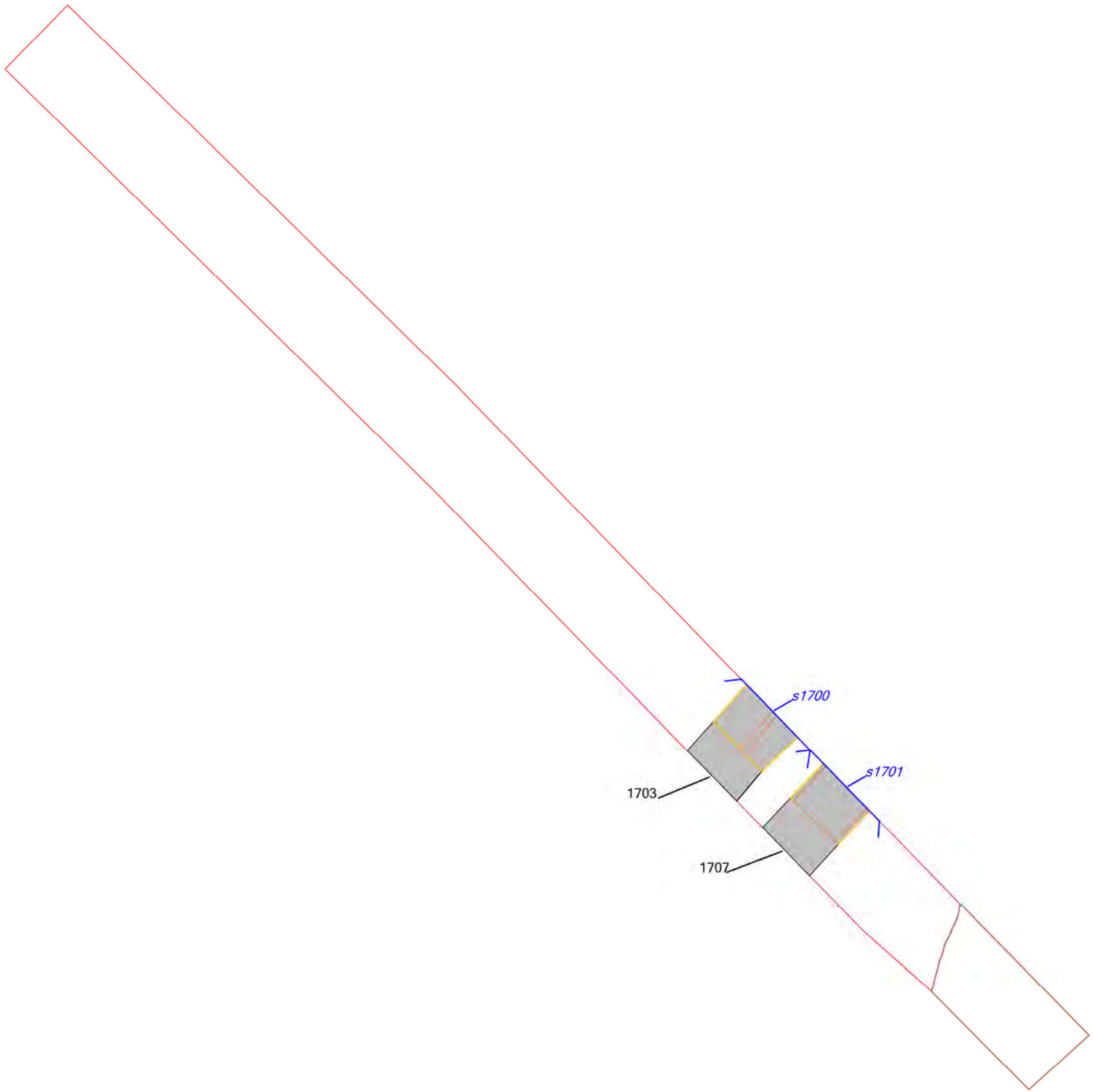


Figure 8: Trench 7



- Archaeological Feature
- Archaeological Intervention
- Limit of Excavation
- Break of Slope
- Section Line



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Figure 9: Trench 17

CHECKED BY: Gary Jones

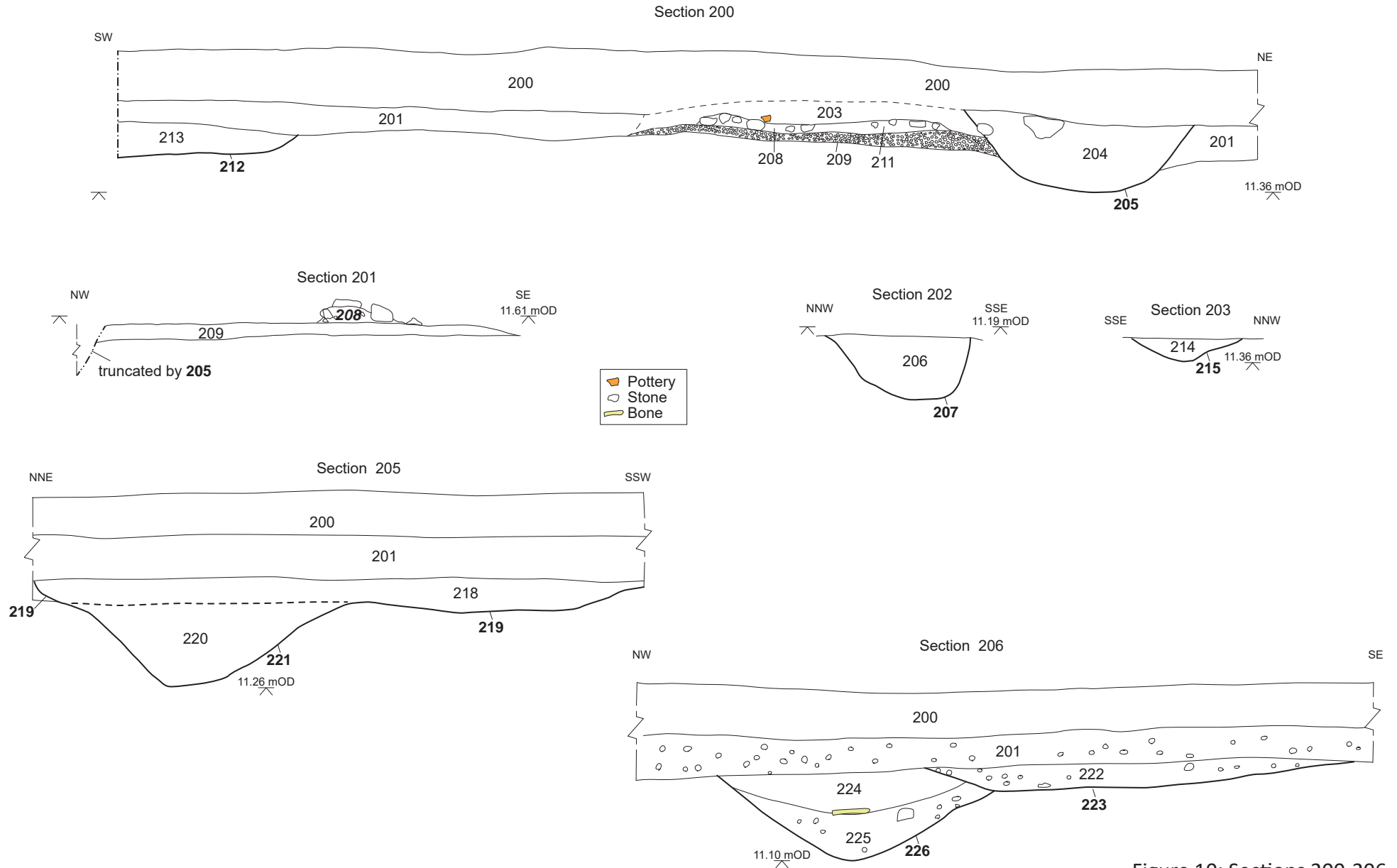


Figure 10: Sections 200-206

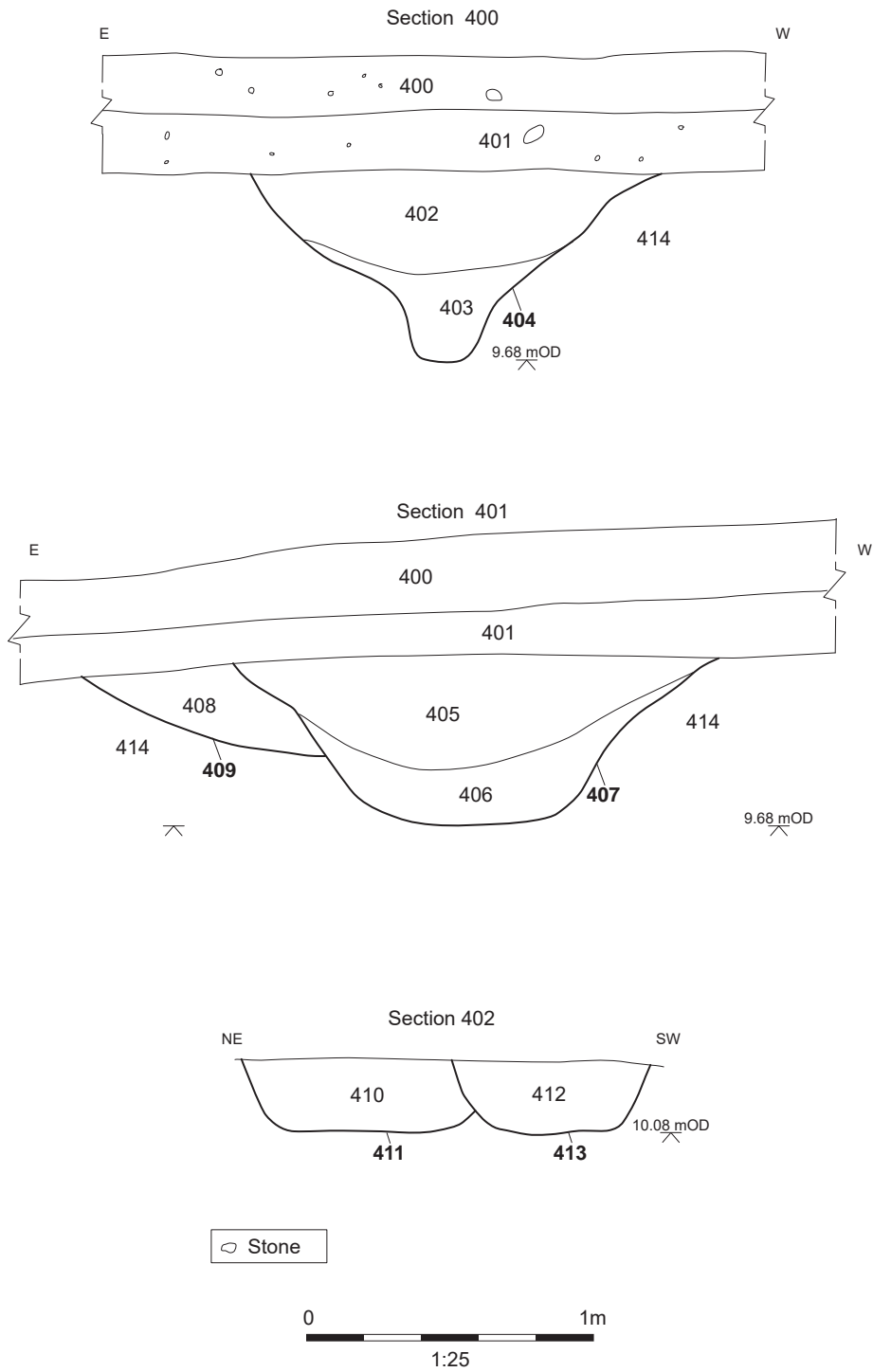


Figure 11: Sections 400-402

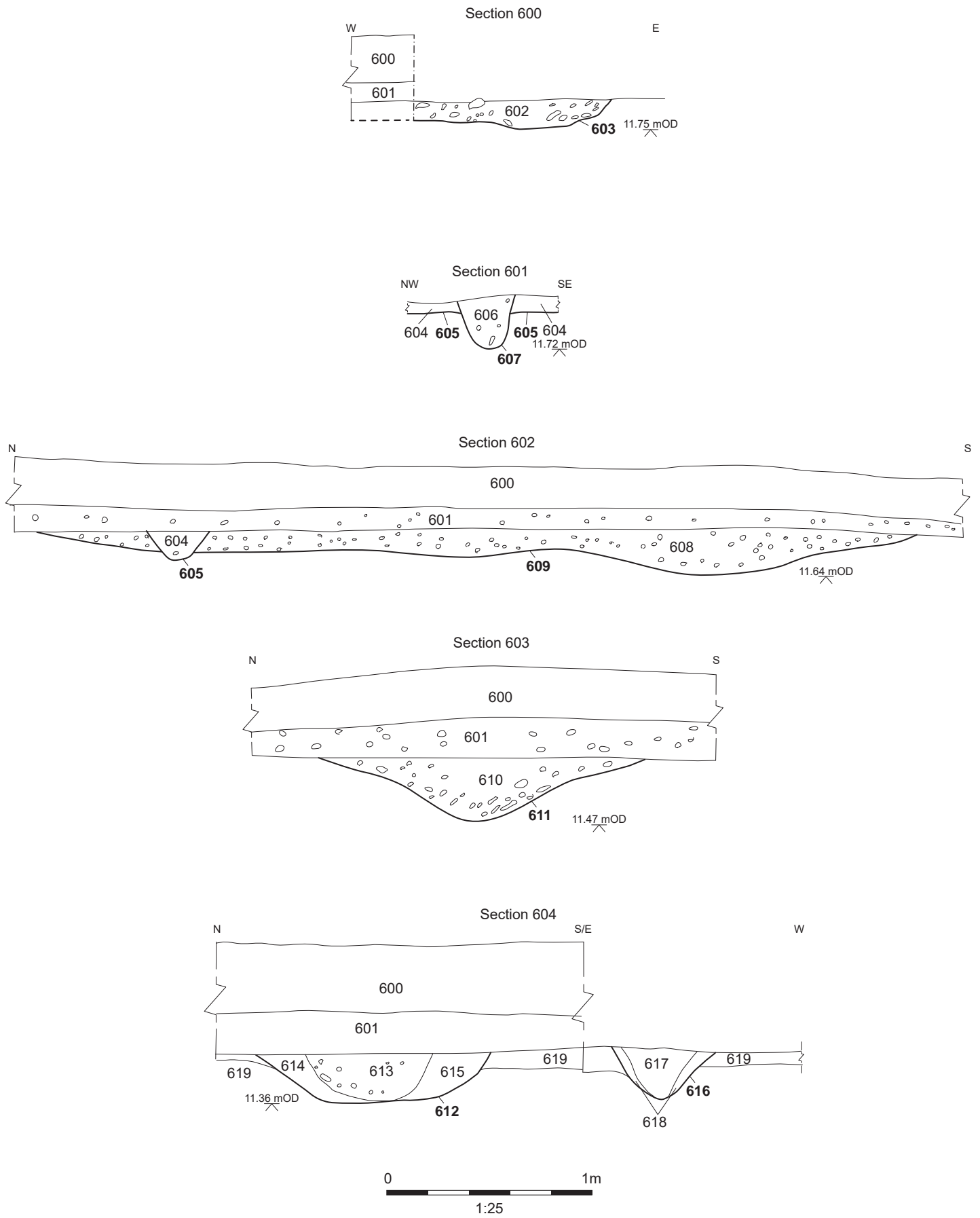


Figure 12: Sections 600 - 604

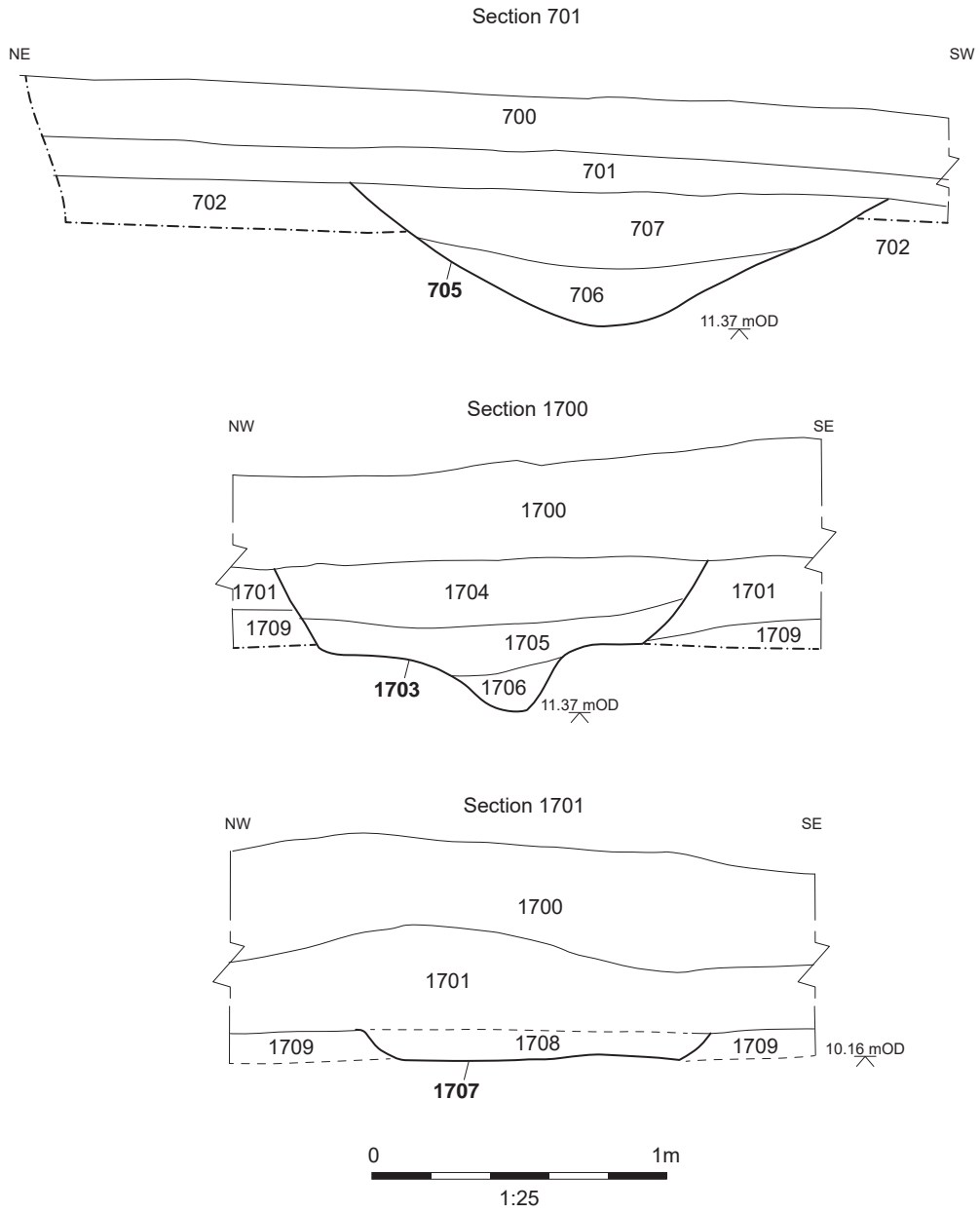


Figure 13: Section 701, 1700 and 1701



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matt.bradley*12/05/2020

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0 1:1,500 @ A3 50 m

Figure 14: Trench location plan showing distribution of archaeological features, south area



Plate 1: Trench 2 Post excavation, view to north-north-west



Plate 2: Trench 2 rubble layer 208 and surface 209, view to east



Plate 3: Trench 2 Section 200 through rubble layer 209, surface 209 and ditch 205, view to southwest



Plate 4: Trench 2 Section 205 of furrow 219 and ditch 221



Plate 5: Trench 5 Section 400 of ditch 404, view to south



Plate 6: Trench 6 Post excavation, view to south



Plate 7: Trench 20 Post excavation, alluvial deposit, view southwest



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