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Phase 1 Land at Comberton Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology carried out an archaeological trial-trench evaluation on the Phase 1 site of a proposed residential development to the north of Comberton Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, between 18 October and 05 November 2021. The fieldwork was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd.

A preceding geophysical survey of the wider proposed development site undertaken in 2020 detected no anomalies suggestive of significant archaeological remains. However, it identified linear anomalies interpreted to be associated with Lord Foley's Irrigation Scheme and an anomaly suggestive of a sub-rectangular enclosure of undetermined origin. The geophysical survey results also reflect former historic field boundaries and other post-medieval/modern agricultural activities and modern impacts.

A total of 50 trenches were excavated across the 27ha Phase 1 site, some of which were targeted on geophysical anomalies. Of these, 12 trenches were found to contain archaeological remains, comprising ditches and a possible ditch/pit. A moderately good correlation between the results of the geophysical survey and the archaeological evaluation was demonstrated.

A single residual piece of worked flint provides evidence of a very limited and probable transitory presence in the wider landscape during the early prehistoric (Mesolithic–early Bronze Age) period.

Evidence of medieval occupation was concentrated in the south-east corner of the site. Two ditches defined a large sub-rectangular enclosure, as suggested by the geophysical survey results. The southern ditch truncated another possible ditch/pit. Recovered from these features were small quantities of domestic pottery dating to c 1250–1400, including a near-complete cooking pot, and medieval roof tile fragments, as well as fired clay and charcoal suggestive of a dump of burnt waste material from an oven/hearth. Although no structural features were identified within the enclosed area, these remains are indicative of medieval occupation on or very near this area of the site.

The remains of post-medieval/modern agricultural activity were also encountered on site and include a ditch that had been infilled by the late 18th–mid 19th century and probably formed part of Lord Foley's Irrigation Scheme, an extensive water management system first established in the mid–late 17th century. The remains of former field boundaries, a mill leat and land drains are also demonstrative of agricultural use of the landscape during the more recent historical period.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Dan Sykes, who was supported by Gary Evans and Bernadetta Rzadek. Survey and digitising was carried out by Bernadetta Rzadek and Marjaana Kohtamaki. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Leigh Allen, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rebecca Nicholson, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd in consultation with CSA Environmental to undertake a trial-trench evaluation at the site of a proposed residential development to the north of Comberton Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. Although the Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work, discussions with between Rosey Meara of CSA Environmental and Emma Hancox, Archaeological Advisor to Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC), established the scope of work required, which was set out within a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by OA (2021). This document outlined how OA was to implement the specified requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire 2019, and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and local and national planning policies.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the north of Comberton Road on the south-eastern edge of Kidderminster, Worcestershire (NGR SO 8502 7555; Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of 80ha of arable land spread across seven fields. The scope of the Phase 1 works focused on a parcel of land located in the south-west corner of the proposed development area, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site comprises an area measuring 27.01ha and encompasses four fields separated by hedge lines. The site is bounded by a school and both residential and commercial properties to the west, and agricultural fields to the north, east and south.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Wildmoor Sandstone Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 244–252 million years ago in the Triassic period (BGS 2021). Superficial deposits of alluvium are recorded along the northern edge of the site and Power Hose Terrace Deposits, sands and gravels, along the southern edge (ibid.).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a heritage desk-based assessment (CSA 2018, updated report forthcoming) and will not be reproduced here. The following summary is provided to place these works in context.

Prehistoric and Roman

- 1.3.2 Although some finds of prehistoric and Roman date are recorded in the vicinity of the site, there is little to suggest any focused activity within the site or its vicinity.

- 1.3.3 Terrace gravels present along the southern edge of the site are considered to inherently have potential for Palaeolithic material, but there is no evidence to suggest *in situ* remains indicative of Palaeolithic activity is located within the site and any material present is likely to be residual in nature.

Early medieval and medieval

- 1.3.4 While there is no evidence to suggest remains of early medieval or medieval activity are present within the site, with the area likely having formed unenclosed heathland, several sites are recorded on the Worcestershire HER around the site. The settlement of Stone, some 200m to the east of the site, is recorded in Domesday Book. The possible site of Dunclent Manor is located approximately 500m to the east of the site within the area of Dunclent Farm. The manor belonged to St Guthlac's Priory in Hereford prior to the Norman Conquest. The site of a medieval deer park also lies approximately 500m to the east of the site.

Post-medieval and modern

- 1.3.5 Numerous heritage assets of post-medieval and modern date are recorded within and around the site. These primarily comprise the remains of farm complexes and industrial activity including mill ponds. The most notable remains are associated with Lord Foley's Irrigation Scheme, which partially lies within the area of the evaluation. The scheme comprises a water meadow system first laid out in the mid-late 17th century. Extant elements of the system lie at the eastern site boundary, but below-ground linear features are likely to extend into the site.

Geophysical Survey

- 1.3.6 A geophysical survey was undertaken across the proposed development area in 2020 (MS 2020; Fig. 2). Within the site the geophysical survey identified linear anomalies interpreted to be associated with Lord Foley's Irrigation Scheme. An anomaly suggestive of a large sub-rectangular enclosure of undetermined origin and anomalies correlating with historic field boundaries depicted on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping were also detected. In addition, geophysical linear trends interpreted as modern ploughing and drainage features and areas of ferrous debris associated with modern impacts were identified across the site.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (OA 2021), were as follows:

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

2.1.2 The site-specific aim of the evaluation was:

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

2.1.3 The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research* (Watt 2011).

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 As stated in the WSI (OA 2021), a total of 65 trenches were proposed to be investigated across the site. However, Trenches 1–10 and 61–65 were not excavated during the evaluation, as it was not possible to access the fields in which the trenches were located. It has been agreed with Emma Hancox, Archaeological Advisor to WFDC, that excavation of these trenches can be undertaken at a later date as a condition of any granted planning permission.

2.2.2 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 50 trenches (Trenches 11–60), measuring 50m by 1.8m, equating to a c 1.7% sample of the site. The trenches were positioned to substantiate the results of the geophysical survey, enabling the investigation of geophysical anomalies and to confirm the absence of archaeological remains in areas suggested to be devoid of features (Fig. 2).

2.2.3 The majority of the trenches were located in accordance with the WSI (OA 2021) and laid out using a GPS with sub-15mm accuracy. Minor alterations were made to the

positions of Trenches 50 and 54 in order to avoid on-site constraints. The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, the trench edges. Machining continued in even spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geological deposits or the first archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.

- 2.2.4 The exposed surfaces were sufficiently cleaned to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains. As outlined in the WSI (OA 2021), a sufficient sample of each feature or deposit type, for example pits and ditches, were excavated and recorded to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation. All features were hand excavated but in Trench 57 this was supplemented by some limited machine assisted excavation as the features were greater than c 1m in depth, exceeding safety restrictions.
- 2.2.5 All features and deposits were issued with unique context numbers, and context recording was completed in accordance with established best practice and the OA Field Manual. Small finds and samples were allocated unique numbers. Finds, where present, were retrieved and collated by context.
- 2.2.6 Spoil produced from machine excavation, the surface or archaeological features, and spoil from hand excavation was scanned by a metal detector to enhance finds retrieval.
- 2.2.7 Bulk soil samples were collected from deposits judged in the field to have potential for the recovery of environmental remains (eg carbonised or waterlogged plant macrofossils) and/or small artefacts and faunal remains.
- 2.2.8 A full photographic record comprising digital photos was taken, and all archaeological features, deposits and trenches were photographed. In addition, a number of photographs representative of the general work on site were taken.
- 2.2.9 Sections of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1m-wide sample sections of stratigraphy were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All section drawings were located on the plan.
- 2.2.10 Upon completion of the works and in agreement with Emma Hancox, Archaeological Advisor to WFDC, the trenches were backfilled with the arising in reverse order of excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

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

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of yellowish brown to dark reddish brown sandy silt was overlain by a dark greyish brown topsoil, c 0.05–0.46m thick.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good. Several episodes of rainfall did not adversely impact the identification of features/deposits within the trenches. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in 12 of the 50 excavated evaluation trenches: Trenches 13, 22, 25, 26, 37, 38, 40, 41, 43, 54, 54 and 57 (Fig. 2). The features present comprised ditches and a possible ditch/pit. A low density and inter-cut complexity of features was encountered. There were slight concentrations of features in the north-east, centre and south-east of the site.

3.3.2 The remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological features, though late post-medieval/modern land drains were observed in otherwise blank Trenches 50 and 52, both located in the south of the site.

3.4 Trench 13 (Fig. 3)

3.4.1 Trench 13 was aligned ENE–WSW and located in the west of the site to investigate a geophysical anomaly identified as a spread of ferrous material and a linear trend typical of modern ploughing activity. A single ditch (1302) was recorded within the trench, corresponding with the plotted position of the ferrous anomaly.

3.4.2 Ditch 1302 crossed the trench on a NNW–SSE alignment, extending beyond the trench limits, though its continuations were not seen in nearby trenches. The ditch was 4.24m wide and 0.40m deep with gently sloping sides imperceptibly breaking into a concave base (Fig. 11, Section 1300). It contained a sequence of four fills (1303–1306) indicative of natural silting and slumping of the ditch sides. A fragment of post-medieval roof tile and four pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem dated to the late 18th–mid 19th century were recovered from upper fill 1303. The remaining fills were devoid of finds.

3.4.3 The ditch directly correlates with a field boundary/watercourse depicted on late 19th- and 20th-century OS maps (Fig. 10), suggested to have been part of Lord Foley's Irrigation Scheme (King forthcoming).

3.5 Trench 22 (Fig. 4)

3.5.1 Trench 22 was positioned on a NNE–SSW alignment in the north-east of the site in an area devoid of geophysical anomalies. A single archaeological feature, ditch 2202, was revealed crossing the north end of the trench on a NNE–SSW alignment for c 15.7m. The ditch continued beyond the trench limits, though it was not identified in nearby evaluation trenches. Ditch 2202 was 1.08m wide and 0.45m deep with irregular/slightly stepped sides and a concave base (Plate 1). Its single fill (2203) was devoid of finds. Bulk soil sample 1, collected from fill 2203, contained a small quantity of charcoal, a charred indeterminate cereal grain and a few charred weed seeds.

3.6 Trenches 25 and 26 (Fig. 5)

3.6.1 Trenches 25 and 26 were located in the north-east corner of the site, targeted on agricultural linear trends detected by the geophysical survey. Crossing the centre of Trench 25 was WNW–ESE aligned ditch 2502, directly corresponding with the plotted position of the geophysical anomaly targeted by the trench. The ditch was 3.70m wide with moderately sloping sides and was more than 1m deep; its base was not reached as its depth exceeded safety limits (Fig. 11, Section 2500). A sequence of four fills (2503–2506) were identified, indicating natural infilling. Finds recovered from the ditch are limited to a single fragment of medieval/post-medieval roof tile from upper fill 2503. Bulk soil sample 2, collected from the same fill, produced a small to moderate quantity of charcoal and charred weed seeds.

3.6.2 The east-south-east continuation of ditch 2502 was revealed in Trench 26 and recorded as ditch 2602, broadly correlating with the geophysical survey results. While the ditch was not excavated, ditch 2602 extended across Trench 26 for c 47m and was 3.70m wide. No finds were recovered from the surface of its exposed fill (2603).

3.7 Trench 37 (Fig. 6)

3.7.1 This trench was located towards the south-west of the site and positioned on a NNE–SSW alignment to investigate an area devoid of geophysical anomalies. Two linear features were identified within the trench. Upon excavation they were confirmed as post-medieval drains (3702 and 3704) that were 0.18m and 0.60m wide respectively and 0.30–0.50m deep. Drain 3702 contained a single stony fill (3703) from which three pottery sherds dating to c 1790–1830 were recovered. Drain 3704 contained a single fill (3705) and a ceramic pipe but was devoid of hand-collected finds (Plate 2).

3.8 Trenches 38, 40 and 43 (Figs 6 and 7)

3.8.1 Trenches 38, 40 and 43 were located towards the centre of the site and positioned to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as being associated with post-medieval irrigation/water management, as depicted on historic maps. The south end of Trench 38 also coincided with a curvilinear geophysical anomaly of uncertain origin.

3.8.2 Corresponding with both the geophysical survey results and a mill leat depicted on late 19th-century OS maps, an ENE–WSW aligned ditch was revealed crossing Trenches 38, 40 and 43. The ditch was excavated where it crossed the north end of Trench 38, recorded as ditch 3802. It was 4m wide and 0.45m deep with gently to moderately

sloping sides and a flat, albeit slightly irregular, base (Fig. 11, Section 3800). It contained three fills (3803–3805) suggestive of natural infilling. A notable concentration of pebbles was present in fill 3804, sloping down from the southern ditch edge. All three fills produced small quantities of 18th- to early 19th-century pottery and medieval/post-medieval roof tile. Two fragments of late 19th- to early 20th-century vessel glass were also recovered from the ditch, one each from fills 3804 and 3805.

3.8.3 The eastward continuation of ditch 3802 was identified in Trenches 40 and 43, though the ditch was recorded in plan only (as ditches 4002 and 4302; Plate 4). No finds were recovered from the surfaces of ditches 4002 and 4302, though a later post-medieval date is evident from historic mapping and the dating material collected from ditch 3802.

3.8.4 No other archaeological features were revealed within Trenches 38, 40 and 43. However, a c 5m-wide deposit (3806) of compact, mid brown sandy silt, 0.20m thick, with frequent inclusions of lime mortar and brick and tile fragments, was observed in the south end of Trench 38, correlating with the position of the curvilinear geophysical anomaly.

3.9 Trench 41 (Fig. 7)

3.9.1 Located directly to the south of Trench 40, Trench 41 was positioned on a NNW–SSE alignment in an area devoid of geophysical anomalies. However, a ditch (4102) was revealed crossing the north end of the trench on an ENE–WSW alignment, though its continuations were not identified in nearby trenches. The ditch was 1.40m wide, 0.30m deep and had a V-shaped profile (Plate 3). Its single fill (4103) was devoid of finds. Bulk soil sample 3 yielded a small–moderate amount of charcoal and a small number of charred wheat grains.

3.10 Trenches 54 and 55 (Fig. 8)

3.10.1 Trenches 54 and 55 were situated in the south-east of the site, both targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly identified as a former field boundary, as seen on historic OS maps. The east end of Trench 55 also coincided with a discrete geophysical anomaly interpreted as magnetic disturbance.

3.10.2 Correlating with the geophysical survey results and late 19th-century OS maps, ditch 5403 crossed the middle of Trench 54 on a NNW–SSE alignment and continued into Trench 55 to the south where it was recorded in plan only. Ditch 5403 was 1.35m wide, 0.45m deep and had a V-shaped profile (Plate 5). Its single fill (5402) contained a brick fragment dated to the late 17th–18th century. No finds were recovered from the surface of the ditch in Trench 55, though its late post-medieval date is indicated by historic mapping. Bulk soil sample 6, collected from the fill, contained a small quantity of charcoal but no charred plant remains.

3.10.3 No further archaeological features were encountered within Trenches 54 and 55, though a modern land drain was observed crossing the eastern half of Trench 55 on an ENE–WSW alignment for c 20m and may have accounted of the discrete geophysical anomaly targeted by the trench.

3.11 Trench 57 (Fig. 9)

- 3.11.1 Trench 57 was also located in the south-east of the site and positioned on a NNW–SSE alignment in order to investigate a sub-rectangular geophysical anomaly of undetermined origin, as well as a linear anomaly identified as a former field boundary, as seen on historic OS maps. Four archaeological features were revealed within the trench, three of which correlated with the geophysical survey results.
- 3.11.2 Ditch 5704 crossed the north end of the trench on a NE–SW alignment, correlating with the targeted sub-rectangular geophysical anomaly. The ditch was 7.5m wide and 1.30m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Plate 6). It contained a sequence of five fills (5705, 5714–5717) suggestive of natural infilling. Upper fill 5714 was devoid of finds, but fills 5705, 5715 and 5717 all contained small quantities of medieval roof tile. A piece of worked stone that may have been used as a whetstone was also recovered from fill 5716.
- 3.11.3 Crossing the south end of Trench 57 on a similar NE–SW alignment was ditch 5702, forming a continuation of ditch 5704 as suggested by the geophysical survey results. It was slightly narrower at 5.70m wide and was 0.90m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 12, Sections 5700 and 5701). It contained four fills (5703, 5706–5708), each of which contained a small quantity of medieval roof tile and indeterminate fragments of ceramic building material (CBM). Basal fill 5708 also contained two medieval pottery sherds from cooking pots dating to c 1250–1400. Bulk soil sample 4 was collected from fill 5707, which was notable for comprising an organic-rich deposit of dark brown/reddish grey clay. The sample yielded a further sherd of medieval pottery, together with a substantial quantity of waterlogged weed/grass seeds, a small amount of insect remains and fragments of hazelnut shell.
- 3.11.4 Ditch 5702 cut a possible earlier ditch (5709) that was broadly aligned N–S and recorded for c 5.30m. The trench exposed only the eastern side of this feature, which did not continue beyond the north side of ditch 5702. Therefore, it is possible that it instead formed part of a large pit. Nevertheless, the feature exhibited a moderately sloping eastern side and was at least 0.50m deep (Fig. 12, Section 5701). A sequence of four fills (5710–5713) was revealed within the ditch/pit, with lower fill 5711 comprising a notably charcoal-rich deposit. The remains of a near-complete cooking pot (22 sherds) dating to c 1250–1400 were recovered from upper fill 5710, together with 14 fragments of medieval/post-medieval CBM, including roof tile, and three fragments of indeterminate fired clay. Fragments of CBM were also retrieved from lower fills 5711 and 5712, while intermediate fill 5713 was devoid of finds. Bulk soil samples 5 and 7, collected from fills 5710 and 5711 respectively, yielded further fragments of CBM and fired clay (including a possible structural fragment from an oven/hearth) and a single fragment of animal bone, alongside large quantities of charcoal (including oak, apple/hawthorn and will/poplar) and a small quantity of charred cereal grains and weed/grass seeds.
- 3.11.5 Crossing the centre of the trench was an ENE–WSW aligned ditch, corresponding with the linear geophysical anomaly. The ditch was not excavated and was recorded in plan only, as it correlated with a field boundary depicted on late 19th-century and early 20th-century OS maps, demonstrating its recent date.

3.12 Finds summary

- 3.12.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. The majority comprises pottery and CBM dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 3.12.2 A single residual worked flint provides very limited evidence of a background presence within the wider landscape during the earlier prehistoric period. A piece of worked stone, possibly used as a whetstone, was also recovered from a medieval context. The remaining finds retrieved during the evaluation comprise post-medieval clay tobacco pipe and late post-medieval/modern glass, providing little additional evidence of the agricultural nature of land use on site during these periods.
- 3.12.3 Only a single fragment of animal bone was recovered from the site and cannot inform on past agricultural regimes.
- 3.12.4 The environmental soil samples collected during the evaluation contain only small quantities of charred plant remains, providing little additional evidence of the nature of past agricultural regimes. Nevertheless, substantial quantities of waterlogged plant remains and charcoal were recovered, indicative of past environments and the exploitation of natural resources within the immediate area.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The trenches provided a good coverage of the site area and were located to maximise the potential for exposing archaeological remains. The ground and site conditions were generally good throughout the course of the evaluation. The machining was generally carried out cleanly, providing good visibility of features and deposits in the evaluation trenches. Spells of wet weather did not inhibit the evaluation or the identification of archaeological remains.
- 4.1.2 The evaluation results demonstrate the presence of a low density of archaeological remains associated with medieval and post-medieval activity.
- 4.1.3 The evaluation generally confirmed the reliability of the geophysical survey results and established the archaeological or natural origins of the targeted geophysical anomalies.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The trial-trench evaluation is considered to have achieved its general and site-specific aims (Section 2.1, above). The evaluation established and recorded the presence and extent of archaeological features and deposits in 12 of the 50 trenches investigated. A low density and low complexity of features were recorded, comprising ditches and a ditch or pit, with slight concentrations of features observed in the north-east, centre and south-east of the site.
- 4.2.2 The artefacts recovered from the site comprise small quantities of pottery and CBM, with other finds assemblages limited in both number and type. A single flint flake of Mesolithic–early Bronze Age date provides little evidence of a very limited and probable transitory presence in the wider landscape during the earlier prehistoric period. However, the pottery and CBM assemblages are indicative of two main phases of land use activities dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. The environmental remains recovered during the evaluation comprise a single fragment of animal bone and small quantities of charred plant remains alongside significant amounts of charcoal and waterlogged plant remains, providing some information on the past environment.
- 4.2.3 The evaluation also established the reliability of the geophysical survey results (Fig. 2). The trenches were positioned to investigate and verify the results of the preceding geophysical survey, which had identified no anomalies suggestive of significant archaeological features apart from a large sub-rectangular anomaly of undetermined origin in the south-east corner of the site. In addition, a number of anomalies were identified and interpreted as potentially being associated with post-medieval agriculture and irrigation, as well as linear trends indicative of modern ploughing and drainage and areas of ferrous/magnetic debris. The geophysical survey results had a moderately good correlation with the archaeological remains recorded within the evaluation trenches.
- 4.2.4 The large sub-rectangular anomaly of undetermined origin detected in the south-east corner of the site was encountered as below-ground archaeological remains within

Trench 57, with recovered pottery and CBM indicating a medieval date for the feature and providing evidence of domestic occupation.

- 4.2.5 The geophysical anomaly identified as a spread of ferrous material crossing Trench 13 was also established to be of archaeological origin, with the recorded ditch most probably having originally formed part of Lord Foley's Irrigation Scheme.
- 4.2.6 Trenches 38, 40 and 43 in the centre of the site targeted a linear anomaly initially interpreted to be associated with the post-medieval irrigation system known to have existed in the area. The anomaly proved to be archaeological in origin; however, the corresponding ditch was of late post-medieval/modern date and constituted the remains of a mill leat shown on historic mapping (Fig. 10). In addition, several other linear anomalies targeted by Trenches 54, 55 and 57 were demonstrated to be archaeological in nature and comprised the remains of former late post-medieval field boundaries, corresponding with historic OS maps. Furthermore, the ditch that extended across Trenches 25 and 26 correlated with the agricultural trend detected by the geophysical survey, though the ditch may have been related to medieval/post-medieval agriculture rather than modern ploughing, as initially suggested by the geophysical survey report (MS 2020).
- 4.2.7 The ditches encountered in Trenches 22 and 41 were not detected as geophysical anomalies. This was possibly due to the narrower and shallower profiles of the ditches and their single sterile fills, as well as the depth of overburden deposits in parts of the site.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 Archaeological remains encountered during the evaluation comprised a low density of ditches and a ditch or pit. Where possible, the recorded features have been dated on the basis of the associated diagnostic artefacts and cartographic evidence and are discussed below by broad period.

Early prehistoric

- 4.3.2 A single flint flake broadly dating to the Mesolithic–early Bronze Age period was residual within the topsoil in Trench 51 and provides evidence of a very limited and probable transitory presence in the wider landscape during the early prehistoric period. The evaluation has not identified any evidence to suggest there was any focused prehistoric activity within the site or its vicinity.

Medieval

- 4.3.3 No features or residual finds indicative of activity on site or within the vicinity between the early prehistoric and early medieval periods were identified within the evaluation trenches. The evaluation results suggest that there was no focused activity of late prehistoric, Roman or early medieval date within the site or immediate surrounding area.
- 4.3.4 The first substantial phase of activity on site occurred during the medieval period. The two substantial ditches (5702 and 5704) recorded in Trench 57 most probably formed part of a large sub-rectangular enclosure, as suggested by the geophysical survey

results. The evaluation and geophysical survey results suggest that the enclosure ditch defined an area c 28m long by 15.5m wide. Recovered from the ditch were small quantities of medieval roof tile and pottery, including two sherds of cooking pot dating to c 1250–1400.

- 4.3.5 The southern ditch (5702) truncated an earlier ditch or pit (5709) from which a similar range of finds was recovered, including a near-complete medieval cooking pot. The feature also contained a charcoal-rich fill (5711, sample 7) from which fragments of fired clay, including one possible structural fragment from an oven or hearth, were retrieved, suggesting that a dump of burnt waste material had been deliberately deposited within the ditch/pit.
- 4.3.6 No clear structural features indicating the presence of a building within the area defined by the ditches were identified in Trench 57. Nevertheless, if present the structure may not have been archaeologically visible, or any structural remains, such as beamslots or postholes, may have been completely removed by subsequent ploughing activity. Furthermore, the medieval pottery, which is of a domestic nature, and the predominance of medieval roof tile fragments recovered from the ditches in Trench 57 are demonstrative of medieval occupation on or very near this area of the site.
- 4.3.7 The medieval remains encountered on site relate to a wider focus of medieval rural settlement within the parishes of Kidderminster Foreign and Stone.

Post-medieval and modern

- 4.3.8 Evidence of post-medieval agriculture and water management was revealed within the site. The ditch recorded in Trench 13 correlates with a field boundary/watercourse depicted on the 1842 Tithe map (not illustrated) and the 1884 and 1888 OS maps (Fig. 10) and most probably formed part of a wider water meadow system known as Lord Foley's Irrigation Scheme. The scheme was established in the mid–late 17th century to convey waters from the high ground of the Clent Hills to the sandy arable areas around Blakedown and Kidderminster. It was in use until the 20th century when the water meadows became redundant. The ditch in Trench 13 most likely represents the remains of a continuation of the Lower Dunclent Course (Watercourse 3) (CSA 2019, fig. 1; King forthcoming).
- 4.3.9 Extending across Trenches 38, 40 and 43 in the centre of the site was a large ditch, correlating with the geophysical survey results. Small quantities of 18th- to early 19th-century pottery, medieval/post-medieval roof tile and late 19th- to early 20th-century glass were recovered from the ditch in Trench 38. The ditch correlates with a mill leat depicted on the 1888 OS map that fed the mill pond at Heathy Mill, located on the south-west corner of the site boundary (Fig. 10). It was in use until the mid–late 20th century when the mill became redundant. This correlates with the dating material recovered from the infilled ditch in Trench 38.
- 4.3.10 Ditches recorded in Trenches 54, 55 and 57 represented the remains of former field boundaries depicted on the 1888 OS map (Fig. 10). The medieval/post-medieval ditch seen across Trenches 25 and 26 does not correlate with a field boundary shown on late post-medieval mapping, suggesting that it was earlier in date, though the ditch is

likely to have been related to agricultural activity. This may have also been the case for the undated ditches revealed in Trenches 22 and 41. The orientation of the ditches in Trenches 22, 25, 26 and 41 follows the topography of the site, suggesting they most probably had a drainage function.

- 4.3.11 Late post-medieval land drains were recorded in Trench 37, one of which contained late 18th- to early 19th-century pottery. More modern land drains were also observed in otherwise blank Trenches 50 and 52, providing further evidence of the continued agricultural use of the landscape during the late post-medieval/modern period.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The evaluation has identified archaeological remains indicative of medieval and post-medieval/modern activity on site. Evidence of land use predating the medieval period is limited to a single residual worked flint of early prehistoric date, suggestive of a limited and perhaps transitory presence in the wider landscape.
- 4.4.2 The enclosure ditch and earlier ditch or pit in the south-east corner of the site provide evidence of medieval activity. Although no structural features were identified within the enclosed area, the assemblages of domestic pottery, roof tile and burnt material, are indicative of medieval occupation activity on or very near this part of the site. These remains are of local significance and relate to a wider focus of medieval settlement within the landscape, including the nearby settlement at Stone and the manor of Dunclent.
- 4.4.3 The ditch recorded in the west of the site is of local significance, having most probably formed part of Lord Foley's Irrigation Scheme.
- 4.4.4 The post-medieval/modern ditch recorded across the centre of the site is of limited local significance, comprising the remains of the former mill leat that fed Heathy Mill. The remains of former field boundaries encountered on site demonstrate the agricultural use of the landscape during the late post-medieval period, supporting the historic mapping of the area.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 11							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeological remains consist of topsoil overlying sandy silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	1.80	0.30	Topsoil. Loose mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
1101	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Compact yellowish orange coarse sand with frequent rounded pebbles up to 90mm in diameter		

Trench 12							
General description						Orientation	WSW-ENE
Trench devoid of archaeological remains consist of topsoil overlying sandy silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	1.80	0.34	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
1201	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 13							
General description						Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contained a plough furrow. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silty natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer	-	1.80	0.36	Topsoil. Loose mid brownish-grey fine sandy silt		
1301	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Compact greyish orange coarse sand frequent rounded pebbles up to 80mm in diameter		

1302	Cut	-	4.24	0.40	Ditch. Gradual concave sides and shallow concave base.		
1303	Fill	1302	3.02	0.26	Secondary Fill. Dark greyish-brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks.	CTP, CBM	18-19C, Pmed
1304	Fill	1302	2.07	0.12	Secondary Fill. Light greyish-yellow sand and gravel.		
1305	Fill	1302	1.30	0.20	Secondary Fill. Mid brownish grey with brownish-orange mottle, sandy silt.		
1306	Fill	1302	1.42	0.20	Secondary Fill. Mid brownish grey with brownish-orange mottle, sandy silt.		

Trench 14							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	1.80	0.30	Topsoil. Loose mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
1401	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Compact brownish orange coarse sandy silt frequent rounded pebbles up to 90mm in diameter		

Trench 15							
General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer	-	1.8	0.36	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt		
1501	Layer	-	1.8	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with gravel		

Trench 16							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer	-	1.8	0.30	Topsoil. Loose mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
1601	Layer	-	1.8	-	Natural. Compact brownish orange coarse sandy silt with frequent rounded pebbles up to 80mm in diameter		

Trench 17							
General description						Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer	-	1.80	0.39	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
1701	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 18							
General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer	-	1.8	0.26	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
1801	Layer	-	1.8	0.06	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 19							
General description					Orientation		WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.80
					Avg. depth (m)		0.34
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer	-	1.80	0.34	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
1901	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 20							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.80
					Avg. depth (m)		0.36
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer	-	1.8	0.30	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt fine grained sediment occasional rounded pebbles		
2001	Layer	-	1.8	-	Natural. Soft reddish brown coarse sandy silt with rounded pebbles		

Trench 21							
General description					Orientation		SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.80
					Avg. depth (m)		0.27
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2100	Layer	-	1.80	0.27	Topsoil		
2101	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural		

Trench 22							
General description					Orientation		NNE-SSW
Trench contained a single N-S aligned. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.80
					Avg. depth (m)		0.24

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2200	Layer	-	1.80	0.24	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
2201	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown with grey mottling, sandy silt with pebbles		
2202	Cut		1.08	0.45	Ditch. Irregular concave profile.		
2203	Fill	2202	1.08	0.45	Secondary Fill. Fine-grained sediment soft, dark brownish grey, sandy silt.	<1>	

Trench 23							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2300	Layer		1.80	0.28	Topsoil. Friable, brownish grey fine sandy silt, rare small, rounded pebbles		
2301	Layer		1.80	-	Natural		

Trench 24							
General description					Orientation	SE-NW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2400	Layer		1.8	0.32	Topsoil. Friable, brownish grey, fine sandy silt, rare small rounded pebbles		
2401	Layer		1.8	0.05	Natural. Soft reddish brown, coarse silt sand moderate small to medium rounded pebbles		

Trench 25							
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW	
					Length (m)	50	

Trench contained a single ditch, also observed in Trench 26. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2500	Layer	-	1.80	0.44	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
2501	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		
2502	Cut	-	3.70	>1.00	Ditch. Moderate sides, base not observed.		
2503	Fill	2502	3.70	0.66	Secondary Fill. Fine-grained sediment soft, light brownish grey, sandy silt with poorly sorted pebbles (10-70 mm).	CBM, <2>	Med/Pmed
2504	Fill	2502	0.92	0.6	Secondary Fill. Fine-grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles (10-50 mm) poorly sorted.		
2505	Fill	2502	0.9	0.7	Secondary Fill. Fine-grained sediment soft, sandy silt with pebbles (10 mm) poorly sorted.		
2506	Fill	2502	0.38	0.3	Secondary Fill. Fine-grained sediment soft, light grey, sandy silt.		
Trench 26							
General description						Orientation	SE-NW
Trench contained a single ditch, also observed in Trench 25. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2600	Layer	-	1.80	0.30	Topsoil. Friable brownish grey, fine sandy silt, rate small to medium rounded pebbles		
2601	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Soft yellowish brown, coarse silty sand with occasional medium rounded pebbles		
2602	Cut		3.70	-	Ditch. Not excavated		

2603	Fill	2602	3.70	-	Secondary Fill. Not excavated - light brownish grey with frequent flecks of dark brown sandy silt and frequent medium rounded pebbles		
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Trench 27

General description					Orientation	NE-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2700	Layer	-	1.80	0.30	Topsoil. Friable, brownish grey fine sandy silt		
2701	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Soft, light yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional rounded medium pebbles		

Trench 28

General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2800	Layer	-	1.80	0.26	Topsoil. Friable, mid greyish brown, fine sand silt occasional small to medium rounded pebbles		
2801	Layer	-	1.80	0.05	Natural. Soft, reddish brown coarse silty sandy with frequent medium rounded pebbles		

Trench 29

General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2900	Layer	-	1.80	0.35	Topsoil		

2901	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Soft mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent rounded pebbles		
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Trench 30							
General description						Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3000	Layer	-	1.80	0.34	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
3001	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 31							
General description						Orientation	WSW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3100	Layer	-	1.80	0.30	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
3101	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 32							
General description						Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3200	Layer	-	1.80	0.40	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		

3201	Layer	-	1.80	0.05	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		
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Trench 33							
General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3300	Layer	-	1.80	0.34	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
3301	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 34							
General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3400	Layer	-	1.80	0.38	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
3401	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 35							
General description						Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3500	Layer	-	1.80	0.34	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		

3501	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		
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Trench 36							
General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a silty sand natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3600	Layer		1.80	0.33	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
3601	Layer		1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 37							
General description						Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology, two linear features identified but confirmed as post-medieval drains upon excavation. Consists of topsoil overlying in silty sand natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
3700	Layer	-	1.8	0.27	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown fine sandy silt moderate medium rounded pebbles		
3701	Layer	-	1.8	0.05	Natural. Compact. Reddish brown coarse sand with frequent rounded pebbles		
3702	Cut	-	18	0.50	Drain.		
3703	Fill	3702	18	0.50	Secondary Fill. Compact light orange, brown with flecks of dark brown. Coarse sandy silt frequent small, rounded pebbles.	Pottery	1790-1830
3704	Cut		0.60	0.30	Drain		
3705	Fill	3704		0.30	Secondary Fill. Soft black ashy silt ceramic pipe at base		

Trench 38							
General description						Orientation	NNW-SSE

Trench contained a ditch and a dump of post-medieval material. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
3800	Layer	-	1.8	0.37	Topsoil. Friable, mid brownish grey coarse sandy silt. Occasional medium rounded pebbles		
3801	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Compact reddish brown, coarse sandy and pebbles		
3802	Cut	-	4.00	0.45	Ditch. Moderate to gradual sides with flat base.		
3803	Fill	3802	3.00	0.07	Secondary Fill. Loose, greyish-yellow sandy with rare pebbles less than 80mm.	Pottery, CBM	1760-1830, Pmed
3804	Fill	3802	2.68	0.40	Secondary Fill. Greyish yellow sand and gravel.	Pottery, glass, CBM	1700-1825, 1892-1913, Pmed
3805	Fill	3802	1.40	0.25	Secondary Fill. Greyish brown sandy silt with rounded pebbles.	Pottery, glass, CBM	1760-1830, L19/E20C, Pmed
3806	Layer	-	5.00	0.2	Occupation dump. Compact mid brown with frequent red and white flecks. Coarse sandy silt frequent white lime mortar, unfrogged bricks and roof tiles		

Trench 39							
General description						Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
3900	Layer	-	1.80	0.30	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
3901	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 40							
General description					Orientation		NNE-SSW
Trench contained a single E-W ditch which was unexcavated, also observed in Trenches 38 and 43.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4000	Layer		1.80	0.35	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
4001	Layer		1.80	0.07	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		
4002	Cut		4.40	-	Ditch. W-E linear ditch, not excavated, same as ditches [3802] and [4302].		
4003	Fill	4002	4.40	-	Secondary Fill. Fine-grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown with streaks of charcoal, sandy silt with pebbles (10- 120 mm), poorly sorted (30%).		

Trench 41							
General description					Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench contained a broadly E-W aligned ditch. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.80
					Avg. depth (m)		0.40
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4100	Layer	-	1.80	0.4	Topsoil. Friable greyish brown. Sandy silt occasional rounded pebbles		
4101	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Compact reddish brown coarse sand with pebbles		
4102	Cut	-	1.40	0.30	Ditch. Moderate sides and concave base.		
4103	Fill	4102	1.40	0.30	Secondary Fill. Mid brown sandy silt.	<3>	

Trench 42							
General description					Orientation		WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)		50
					Width (m)		1.80
					Avg. depth (m)		0.32

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4200	Layer	-	1.80	0.32	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
4201	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. In WNW part of trench fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles (10-70 mm) poor sorted (10%). In ESE part of trench fine grained sediment soft, light brownish grey, sandy silt with pebbles (20-120 mm) poor sorted (40%)		

Trench 43							
General description					Orientation	N-S	
Contained a single E-W aligned ditch, unexcavated. Ditch also observed in Trenches 38 and 40.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4300	Layer	-	1.80	0.3	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
4301	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		
4302	Cut	-	5.00	-	Ditch. E-W ditch, unexcavated, same as ditches [3802], [4002].		
4303	Fill	4302	5.00	-	Secondary Fill. Fine-grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown with streaks of charcoal, sandy silt with pebbles (10- 120 mm), poor sorted (30%). Not excavated.		

Trench 44							
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32	

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4400	Layer	-	1.80	0.32	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
4401	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 45							
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4500	Layer	-	1.8	0.35	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
4501	Layer	-	1.8	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 46							
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4600	Layer	-	1.8	0.32	Topsoil. Fine grained sediment soft, dark greyish brown, sandy silt		
4601	Layer	-	1.8	-	Natural. Fine grained sediment soft, dark reddish brown with dark yellowish grey spots, sandy silt with pebbles		

Trench 47							
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35	

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4700	Layer	-	1.80	0.30	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
4701	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 48							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of sandy silt.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.3	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4800	Layer	-	1.80	0.30	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
4801	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 49							
General description					Orientation	SE_NW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4900	Layer	-	1.80	0.35	Topsoil. Friable brownish grey fine sandy silt with occasional medium rounded pebbles		
4901	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 50							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a sandy silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40	

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5000	Layer	-	1.80	0.40	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
5001	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 51							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a clay sandy silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5100	Layer	-	1.80	0.45	Topsoil. Friable brownish grey fine sandy silt	Flint	Meso-EBA (residual)
5101	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 52							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a clayey silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.80	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5200	Layer	-	1.80	0.35	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
5201	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 53							
General description					Orientation	E-W	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a clayey silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

5300	Layer	-	1.80	0.35	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
5301	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 54							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single N-S aligned ditch. Consists of topsoil overlying a clayey silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5400	Layer		1.80	0.40	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
5401	Layer		1.80	-	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		
5402	Fill		1.35	0.45	Secondary Fill. Mid brown/grey sandy silt.	CBM, <6>	L17-18C
5403	Cut		1.35	0.45	Ditch. Moderate sides and concave sides.		

Trench 55							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a clayey silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5500	Layer	-	1.80	0.40	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
5501	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 56							
General description						Orientation	NE_SW
Trench devoid of archaeological remains. Spread of peat located in centre of trench. Consists of topsoil overlying silty clay natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.80
						Avg. depth (m)	0.60

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5600	Layer	-	1.80	0.60	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
5601	Layer	-	1.80	-	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 57							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained three ditches. Consists of topsoil overlying a clay silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)		
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5700	Layer	-	1.80		Topsoil. Friable mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
5701	Layer	-	1.80		Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		
5702	Cut	-	5.70	0.90	Ditch. Moderate sides and flat base		
5703	Fill	5702	5.60	0.25	Secondary Fill. Moderately compact, light orange, brown with dark brown mottles, fine sandy clay.	CBM	Med/Pmed
5704	Cut	-	7.50	1.3	Ditch. Moderate sides and flat base		
5705	Fill	5704	7.50	0.50	Secondary Fill. Light grey sandy clay with rare pebble inclusions.	CBM	Med
5706	Fill	5702	1.9	0.48	Secondary Fill. Grey sandy clay with occasional medium rounded pebbles and small fragments of rolled CBM.	CBM	Med/Pmed
5707	Fill	5702	1.4	0.18	Secondary Fill. Fill of [5702,] a soft dark brown/reddish grey organic-rich clay containing twigs and small branches	Pottery, CBM, <4>	1250-1400, Med

5708	Fill	5702	0.70	0.20	Secondary Fill. Light grey sandy clay with gravel inclusions.	Pottery, CBM	1250-1400, Med
5709	Cut		5.30	0.50	Ditch. Moderate sides and concave base		
5710	Fill	5709	5.30	0.50	Secondary Fill. Grey with black and red mottling, sandy silt.	Pottery, CBM, fired clay, bone, <5>	1250-1400, Med/Pmed
5711	Fill	5709	1.00	0.10	Secondary Fill. Dark brownish black charcoal rich clay silt.	CBM, fired clay, <7>	Med/Pmed
5712	Fill	5709	>0.60	0.10	Secondary Fill. Grey with flecks of red and black, clay sand.	CBM	Med/Pmed
5713	Fill	5709	>1.10	0.30	Secondary Fill. Brown with black and red flecks, sandy silt.		
5714	Fill	5704			Secondary Fill. Light brown clay		
5715	Fill	5704			Secondary Fill. Light grey clay	CBM	Med
5716	Fill	5704	6.00	0.20	Secondary Fill. Grey organic rich fill.	Stone	
5717	Fill	5704		0.20	Secondary Fill. Grey sandy clay with gravel.	CBM	Med

Trench 58							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a clayey silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
5800	Layer	-	1.8	0.4	Topsoil		
5801	Layer	-	1.8	0.1	Natural. Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 59							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a clayey silt natural.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

5900	Layer	-	1.8	0.46	Topsoil. Friable mid brownish grey fine sandy silt		
5901	Layer	-	1.8	0.05	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

Trench 60							
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a clayey silt natural.					Length (m)	50	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
6000	Layer	-	1.8	0.36	Topsoil. Friable brownish grey fine sandy silt occasional medium rounded pebbles		
6001	Layer	-	1.8	0.04	Natural. Mottled yellow and orange clay silt natural with gravel inclusions.		

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By John Cotter

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 A total of 37 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery weighing 1931g were recovered from seven contexts (Table B1.1). Ordinary domestic wares were recovered. A range of pottery dating from perhaps the 13th century through to the late 18th or early 19th century was identified.
- B.1.2 All the pottery was scanned during the present assessment, and spot dates were provided for each context. Each context group was quantified by sherd count and weight and recorded on a spot-dating spreadsheet. The pottery is mostly in a fragmentary but fresh condition and includes a complete medieval vessel profile.
- B.1.3 The context spot date is the date bracket during which the latest pottery types or fabrics are estimated to have been produced or were in general circulation. Comments on the range of fabrics were recorded, usually with mention of vessel form (jugs, bowls etc.) and any other attributes worthy of note (eg decoration etc.). Fabric codes referred to are those of the Worcestershire county ceramic type-series (WCC 2017). Some post-medieval fabrics have also been cross-referenced to the fabric coding system of the Museum of London (MOLA 2014). The range of pottery is described in some detail in Table B1.1 and is therefore only summarised below.

Description

Context	Spot date	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
3703	c1790-1830	3	16	Modern china (Worcester Fabric 85 abbreviated here to WF85). Incl Pearlware dish/plate rim with blue feathered edge (London Fabric code PEAR.PNTD). 1x ?jug sherd Pearlware with industrial slip dec including chequerboard band of black & white slip below a mocha-dec band. 1x ?saucer rim in plain refined whiteware (Lond REFW, c 1805+) or late Creamware (WF84; Lond CREA DEV)
3803	c1760-1830	2	4	Developed Creamware incl dish rim (WF84; Lond CREA DEV)
3804	c1700-1825	5	198	2x bos (body sherds) Staffordshire-type slipware press-moulded dish with trailed slip dec (post-medieval buff ware WF91; Lond STSL). 3x large sherds Midlands blackware (post-medieval red ware WF78) incl base from thick-walled cylindrical storage jar
3805	c1760-1830	2	12	Bos. 1x Developed Creamware (WF84). 1x bo from dish in Midlands blackware (WF78)

Context	Spot date	Sherds	Weight (g)	Comments
5707	c1250-1400?	1	3	Sieved Sample <4>. Small bo from a grey sandy cooking pot with heavy ext sooting. Probably Worcester-type sandy ware (WF64.1; see 5710 below)
5708	c1250-1400?	2	24	2x bos from cooking pots - both sooted ext. 1 in coarse sandy ware with coarse angular quartz, chert and probably some igneous inclusions (feldspar?) derived from decayed granite; grey with oxidised orange-brown int surface, probably Malvernian-type unglazed ware (WF56, L12-14C). 1x bo in coarse sandy grey fabric - probably Worcs-type sandy ware (WF64.1)
5710	c1250-1400?	22	1674	1 vessel. Profile fresh, near-complete cooking pot. Rim diameter 330mm, height from rim to basal angle 115mm (higher with sagging base added). Probably Worcester-type sandy glazed ware (WF64.1, L11-14C). Form almost straight-sided/cylindrical with a slight shoulder and no neck. Short flanged rim with internal hollow (or lid-seating). Sagging base. Wheel-turned. Internal lower wall and base covered with a partially decayed clear glaze with green speckles. Clearly sooted ext from use, and sooted in a line int just above the glaze limit. Uniform, well-sorted coarse sandy fabric with very few inclusions other than rounded/sub-rounded quartz and much red-brown iron oxide (mainly as short streaks). Mainly light brownish-grey ext with a grey int surface. Very well preserved vessel - should be illustrated at some stage
TOTAL		37	1931	

Table B1.1: Description of post-Roman pottery by context

Discussion

- B.1.4 The pottery comprises ordinary domestic wares typical of Worcestershire (and much of the west Midlands) and covers a date range probably from the mid 13th century through to the late 18th or early 19th century but with a long gap in pottery deposition between the 13th/14th century and the 18th century.
- B.1.5 The medieval pottery forms a discrete group, all of which was recovered from Trench 57. The most significant item (from context 5710) is a near-complete (reconstructable) cooking pot in a uniformly coarse, sandy, grey-brown ware that is very probably identifiable as Worcester-type sandy glazed ware (Worcestershire Fabric 64.1, late

11th–14th century), and it compares well with a sample of this in the OA fabric reference collection. The cooking pot is glazed internally over the base and lower wall and quite heavily sooted from use. A mid 13th- to 14th-century date for this vessel is likely based on typology and its wheel-turned manufacture. Two other cooking pot sherds in this ware were recovered from the same trench, and one of these contexts (5708) also produced a cooking pot sherd in Malvernian-type unglazed ware (Fabric 56, late 12th–14th century). A spot date of c 1250–1400(?) has been applied to all three Trench 57 contexts with pottery. The fresh condition of these sherds, particularly the near-complete vessel, points to a primary deposit, meaning they had probably not been disturbed or redeposited since they were discarded in the medieval period. They confirm medieval occupation on or very near this area of the site. Large pieces of medieval roof tile, also recovered from Trench 57, likewise suggest a medieval building may have stood nearby (see Smith, this report).

- B.1.6 Trench 37 produced three sherds of Staffordshire-type white tablewares dating to c 1790–1830.
- B.1.7 Trench 38 produced a range of 18th- to early 19th-century wares. Context 3804 (intermediate fill of ditch 3802) produced Staffordshire-type earthenwares broadly datable to the 18th century and comprise sherds from a press-moulded dish with slip-trailed decoration (Fabric 91) and sherds of Midlands black-glazed ware (Fabric 78) of Staffordshire or more local origin. The other two contexts from this trench (fills 3803 and 3805 of ditch 3802) produced sherds of Staffordshire-type Developed Creamware (Fabric 84) with a date of c 1760–1830, suggesting a later 18th- to early 19th-century date for all pottery from this trench.

Recommendations regarding the conservation, discard and retention of material

- B.1.8 The pottery here has potential to inform research through reanalysis and should be retained. The near-complete vessel from context 5710 should be illustrated at some stage.

B.2 Flint

By Michael Donnelly

- B.2.1 A single retouched flint flake was recovered during the evaluation (Table B.2.1). The flint was collected from topsoil 5100 in Trench 51. The distal trimming flake has fine trimming along most of its left-hand side, while it also has blunting at its upper right margin. The flake is soft-hammer struck and quite thin and is unlikely to be later prehistoric in date but could belong to any period between the Mesolithic and early Bronze Age periods.
- B.2.2 Despite the quality of this one piece, the site does not appear to have potential to contain anything more than very low levels of flint. This most probably reflects the casual loss of a tool by a passing individual or small group.

Context	Type	Sub-type	Notes	Date
5100	Retouched flake	Distal trimming	quite thin regular flake with fine trimming left edge mid-lower and slight blunting upper right	Meso-EBA

Table B2.1: Flint assemblage

B.3 Ceramic building material and fired clay

By Kirsty Smith

Introduction

- B.3.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) amounting to 48 fragments (8063g) was recovered from across evaluation Trenches 13, 25, 38, 54 and 57. The CBM is entirely medieval/post-medieval in date. The majority of the assemblage is well preserved with a mean fragment weight of 167g. Most of the fragments have only one complete dimension (thickness).
- B.3.2 In addition to the CBM, there were eight fragments (90g) of fired clay recorded. One of the fragments is possibly structural in nature, perhaps from an oven; the rest are of indeterminate date and form.
- B.3.3 The assemblage has been fully recorded on an Excel spreadsheet in accordance with guidelines set out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2007). Fabrics were characterised with the aid of x20 hand lens.
- B.3.4 The forms and dating of the assemblage are summarised in Table B3.1.

Form/Date	Med/Pmed	Pmed	Total
Brick (solid)		1	1
Indeterminate	11		11
Nib tile with a peg hole	1		1
Roof tile (flat)	21	5	26
Roof tile (ridge)	9		9
Total	42	6	48

Table B3.1: Summary of ceramic building material forms and dating

Fabrics

- B.3.5 Three fabrics were identified within the CBM assemblage:
- Mauve, very dense moderately fine sandy fabric with occasional cream clay inclusions and pellets and black iron oxides up to 0.5mm
 - Orange, dense with moderately fine silty sandy clay with frequent white and clear quartz 0.1mm and occasional red iron oxides up to 0.5mm
 - Orange/buff coarse sandy fabric with a light grey core. Frequent clear, white and brown quartz and occasional red iron oxides up to 0.5mm. Large white granite and quartz grits up to 11mm long (Malvernian ware)
- B.3.6 The CBM assemblage was compared to two fragments of medieval Malvernian ware roof tile from Great Malvern, located 28km south-south-west of the site. The larger fragments of roof tile from Trench 57 appear to have been made from this Malvernian

ware fabric and may relate to the Great Malvern tiles as documented by Vince (1983). This fabric is also similar to hard, red-grey Malvernian unglazed ware pottery (Fabric 56; WCC 2017). The common inclusions in the Malvernian wares include rounded clay pellets, sparse angular Malvernian granitic rock fragments (orthoclase felspar, often altered, quartz, hornblende) up to 2.0mm across and rare rounded quartz grains up to 0.4mm across. Pottery Fabric 56 dates to the late 12th–14th century (*ibid.*), and the floor tiles in this fabric (Malvern Chase Wares) date to the 15th century (Vince 1983). Excavations at St Bartholomew's Hospital in Bristol dated the Malvernian roof tile to the 15th–16th century (Price and Ponsford 1998, 157). This suggests that the Malvernian ware roof tiles from this assemblage have a late 12th- to 16th-century date.

- B.3.7 The other two fabrics present may have derived from local sources, or they may have been post-medieval derivatives of the Malvernian ware.
- B.3.8 The fragments of fired clay were made from a cream fine clay fabric with red iron oxides up to 0.5mm across.

Medieval/post-medieval CBM

- B.3.9 Twenty-six fragments of medieval/post-medieval flat roof tile were recorded, and these range in thickness from 12mm to 18mm. Two flat tiles from context 5717 have a full width of 230mm.
- B.3.10 Nine fragments of ridge tile were recorded, and these are 12–15mm thick. One fragment from context 3805 has a rounded profile and is 80mm high. The rest only have a full thickness.
- B.3.11 One large fragment of nib/peg tile (1596g) was recorded from context 5717 (ditch 5704). This has a full width of 225mm and is 275mm+ long. The peg hole at the top of the tile is 15mm in diameter and 14mm from its top edge and 60mm and 140mm from the side edges. The nib is located at the top underside edge and is 48mm long, 21mm wide and 15mm thick. The nib is located 32mm from the peg hole. In 1477, peg tile sizes were standardised in a statute to 10.5in x 6.25in x 0.5in (266mm x 157mm x 16mm) (Salzman 1967, 230). The width of tiles at this site are much larger, which suggests that they are probably earlier in date.
- B.3.12 One fragment of brick was recorded from context 5402 (ditch 5403). This is 40mm (1 $\frac{5}{8}$ in) thick with one smooth side edge with striations and one end edge. This brick is quite thin and so it is possible that it dates to the late 17th–18th century.
- B.3.13 The CBM fragments were all recovered from the fills of ditches. The vast majority of the CBM fragments came from Trench 57 (37 fragments, 7017g) and are well preserved with a full width from two flat tiles and a nib tile. Contexts 5707, 5708 and 5710 all contained pottery dating to c 1250–1400 and so the Malvernian ware CBM from this trench is probably contemporary.
- B.3.14 The assemblage suggests there may have been a substantial later medieval building in close proximity to Trench 57. This correlates with a wider focus of medieval rural settlement within the parishes of Kidderminster Foreign and Stone, including the nearby manor of Dunclent and settlement at Stone. Situated within the parish of

Stone, the manor of Dunclent was most likely located to the east of the site within the area of Dunclent Farm and took its name from the Dunclent family who held it during the 13th and 14th centuries. The family died out in the 14th century when the manor reverted to the Beauchamps who held the manor in the 11th–12th century (VCH 1913, 201–13). The 13th-/14th-century Dunclent Manor house may have comprised stone foundations and timber halls roofed with ceramic tiles similar to those recovered during the current evaluation.

Fired clay

B.3.15 Eight fragments (90g) of amorphous fired clay were recorded from contexts 5411 and 5710. The fabric is a cream fine clay fabric which had been discoloured grey by heat and had burning along one side. The largest fragment from context 5411 had one small flattish surface and a possible straw impression 13mm long and 0.7mm wide. It is possible this fragment came from the wall of an oven or hearth. These fragments cannot be dated but they probably originated from the medieval structure associated with the CBM recovered from Trenches 54 and 57.

B.4 Glass

By Anni Byard

Introduction and methodology

B.4.1 Two glass fragments weighing 180g were recovered from two contexts during the evaluation (Table B.4.1). Both fragments are from bottles of late 19th- or early 20th-century date. The glass was scanned and recorded into an Excel spreadsheet.

Results

B.4.2 Context 3804 produced the base of a beer bottle, probably machine moulded, made by Cannington, Shaw & Co Ltd of Lancashire, which can be dated to between 1892–1913.

B.4.3 Context 3805 yielded a small fragment of clear, colourless glass with angled edges. This is probably a shard from the side of a liquor bottle or other thin flask-shaped bottle. It dates from the later 19th century into the early 20th century.

Context	Material	Count	Weight (g)	Use	Date	Description
3804	Dark green glass	1	173	Beer bottle	1892–1913	Base of a beer bottle, C.S & Co LD and 897 on base. [S?] W [O?] on outside of bottle
3805	Colourless	1	7	Liquor Bottle?	L19/E20th	Fragment possibly from the side of a flask (liquor?). Angled edges.

Table B4.1: Glass assemblage

Recommendations and retention

B.4.4 No further work is envisaged for this small collection. In general, reference to the archive record should be sufficient for any future research encompassing the site should it be required. Therefore, the glass can be discarded.

B.5 Clay tobacco pipes

By John Cotter

B.5.1 Four pieces of clay pipe weighing 8g were recovered from a single context. Given this small amount, the material has not been separately catalogued but is fully described below.

B.5.2 **Context (1303) Spot-date: Late 18th century to mid 19th century?** Description: 4 pieces (weight 8g). Stem fragments from three separate pipes. Two fresh joining pieces of stem have a surviving length of 54mm. This is somewhat thicker than the other pieces and has a stem bore diameter (c 2mm) suggesting a date in the 18th century. The two smaller, narrower, stem fragments (both slightly abraded) comprise one with a stem bore diameter of 2mm and one of c 1.9mm. These last two may date to the late 18th or first half of the 19th century.

B.5.3 The pipes here have little potential for further study and could be discarded if so desired.

B.6 Stone

By Ruth Shaffrey

B.6.1 A single piece of stone was retained and submitted for analysis. This was examined with a x10 magnification hand lens for signs of use. It is a flat piece of micaceous sandstone, probably Devonian, weighing 198g (context 5716). It is not shaped but is slightly smoothed on one face suggesting that it might have been used as a whetstone.

B.6.2 The stone should be retained.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Richard Palmer and Sharon Cook

Introduction and methodology

- C.1.1 Seven bulk samples were collected during the archaeological evaluation primarily for the retrieval and assessment of ecofacts and the recovery of artefacts.
- C.1.2 Six of the bulk samples were collected from contexts with the potential for the recovery of charred plant remains. One sample, sample 4 from Trench 57 (5707), was collected from an organic-rich ditch fill where material had been preserved anaerobically, and this sample was subsampled and processed to recover both waterlogged and charred plant remains. Sampling was undertaken to evaluate the presence and condition of palaeoenvironmental remains and to establish whether any artefacts were present.
- C.1.3 Apart from sample 4, the bulk samples were processed in their entirety using a modified Siraf-type water flotation machine. The flots were collected in a 250µm mesh and 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.1.4 Sample 4 was a dark brown/reddish grey silty clay and contained waterlogged plant material. From this sample, 1L was processed by hand flotation (washover) with both flots and residues collected onto 0.25mm mesh and retained wet to facilitate preservation. The flot from this subsample was 220ml in volume, of which 50ml was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x20 to identify the presence of any palaeoenvironmental remains. The remainder of the sample (9L) was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf system as above for the recovery of any other plant remains (ie charred material) and any bones or artefacts that might be present. The flots were scanned and residues sorted as above.
- C.1.5 Charcoal identifications were made using a high power (x50 to x400) microscope to identify diagnostic features.
- C.1.6 Nomenclature for identified species follows Stace (2010). Cereal and chaff identifications were made with reference to Jacomet (2006) and charcoal identifications with reference to Schweingruber (1990).

Results

- C.1.7 Sample and flot abundance data are presented in Table C1.1. Only the wet flot from sample 4 has been assessed since no charred remains were apparent in that flot and the larger, dried, flot proved difficult to sort through due to the density of dried out and matted plant material in it. Most samples have been spot dated to the medieval or post-medieval periods.

Trench 22

C.1.8 Sample 1 from fill 2203 of ditch 2202 produced a poor flot. Alongside the recorded charcoal is clinker-like organic material and anthracite. A small indeterminate grain was recovered along with some charred dock seeds (*Rumex* sp.). The flot is also fairly rich in modern uncharred bramble seeds (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and uncharred modern/decayed goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.). No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

Trench 25

C.1.9 Sample 2 from fill 2503 of ditch 2502 produced a small flot. The charcoal is generally poor and the flot also contains anthracite and clinker like material. Charred speedwell seeds (*Veronica* sp.) were recovered and the flot is also rich in modern/decayed goosefoot seeds. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

Trench 41

C.1.10 Sample 3 from fill 4103 of ditch 4102 produced a large flot, most of the volume of which is roots and fine sediment. Clinker-like organic material is present, as are uncharred modern bramble seeds. Charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) was also identified. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

Trench 54

C.1.11 Sample 6 from fill 5402 of ditch 5403 produced a poor flot. Alongside clinker-like material, the flot contains rooting and uncharred modern seeds, particularly bramble. No artefacts were recovered from the residue.

Trench 57

C.1.12 The 1L subsample from sample 4, fill 5707 of ditch 5702, produced a flot rich in fine fibrous plant material largely derived from roots and stems. Fragments of wood are common, although they are degraded and therefore not suitable for wood species identification. Occasional large fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) include at least one fragment that has been gnawed open by a rodent. Seeds are present: sedges (*Carex* sp.) and nettles (*Urtica dioica*) are common, and the other taxa are represented by only a few seeds each. These include common chickweed (*Stellaria media*), celery-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*), thistles (*Carduus/Cirsium*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*). These seeds are from plants that typically inhabit damp ground and neglected areas, which is consistent with the interpretation of this as being a damp area close to water. Insect remains were seen in the scanned portion of the flot, most of which are fragmentary. A sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the residue of the bulk portion of the sample.

C.1.13 Sample 5 from fill 5710 of ditch/pit 5709 produced a modest flot. Charcoal includes oak (*Quercus* sp.) and some general roundwood in the form of twig fragments. An indeterminate charred grain fragment and charred dock (*Rumex* sp.) are also present along with an unidentified charred grass seed (Poaceae). CBM, fired clay, animal bone and pottery were recovered from the residue.

C.1.14 Sample 7 from fill 5711 of ditch 5709 produced a superabundant charcoal flot of which 325ml was assessed. Charcoal often has iron staining and appears to be a mix of mostly ring-porous type with some diffuse-porous type fragments and occasional twig fragments. A possible very badly damaged wheat grain was identified along with a short fragment of rachis. Identification of several charcoal fragments suggests the bulk of the material is oak, but apple/hawthorn (cf Maloideae) may also be present along with willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus* sp.). No artefacts were recovered from the residue, but the charcoal could be used for radiocarbon dating.

Discussion

C.1.15 In general, recovery of charred material appears limited, though this could be related to the location of the sampled features. Ditch fills often include few charred remains unless close to an area of domestic or industrial activity. This is not the case for sample 7 from ditch/pit 5709 where the very charcoal-rich flot indicates a dump of material, probably from a hearth.

C.1.16 The recovered grain is mostly in poor condition and usually indeterminate. The scarcity of charred grains and seeds in these samples means it is difficult to judge whether charred remains are poorly preserved across the site or whether they may be better preserved and more numerous in other as yet unexcavated features.

C.1.17 Charcoal from sample 7 offers potential for further identification work and analysis in the event of further work at the site.

C.1.18 The waterlogged nature of ditch fill 5707 (sample 4) means that pollen is likely to survive.

Recommendations for retention/disposal

C.1.19 The flots warrant retention until all works on site are complete, though it is not expected that further work will be required on the flots at this time. Samples 5 and 7 are worth retaining as part of a larger assemblage in the final site archive. The rest of the samples are generally poor and contain significant modern material and may be considered for discard as part of final deposition following full site analysis.

Sample no.	Context no.	Feature/ Deposit	Trench	Date	Sample vol. (L)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charcoal >2mm	Grain	Chaff	Weeds	Other Charred	Molluscs	Notes
1	2203	2202	22		32	25	++	+		+			5YR 5/4 silty sand
2	2503	2502	25	Med/Pmed	34	25	+++			++			5YR 6/6 silty sand
3	4103	4102	41		40	125	+++	+					5YR 4/6 silty sand
4	5707	5702	57	Med	10					++++			5YR 5/2 silty clay
5	5710	5709	57	Med	18	75	++++	+		+			5YR 4/3 sandy clay
6	5402	5403	54	Pmed	18	24	++						5YR 4/4 silty sand
7	5711	5709	57	Med	10	1500	++++	+	+				10YR 6/6 sandy clay loam

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

Table C1.1: Assessment of bulk samples

C.2 Animal bone

By Adrienne Powell

- C.2.1 A single fragment of bone was recovered from the >10mm residue from environmental sample 5, context 5710. This comprises a small segment from a large mammal rib (1g), which is calcined but otherwise in good condition.
- C.2.2 No further information can be gained from this fragment, and retention in the archive is not merited.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Phase 1 Land at Comberton Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire
Site code:	WSM77619
Grid Reference	SO 8502 7555
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	18 October – 05 November 2021
Area of Site	27.01ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Museums Worcestershire in due course. The HER reference no. is WSM77619.

Summary of Results: Preceding geophysical survey of the proposed development site in 2020 detected a number of geophysical anomalies suggestive of post-medieval/modern agricultural activity and a large sub-rectangular anomaly of undetermined origin within the 27.01ha Phase 1 site.

A total of 50 trenches were investigated on site, of which 12 trenches were found to contain archaeological remains comprising ditches and a possible ditch/pit. A moderately good correlation between the results of the geophysical survey and evaluation was demonstrated.

Evidence of medieval occupation activity was concentrated in the south-east corner of the site. Two ditches defined a large sub-rectangular enclosure, one of which truncated a possible ditch/pit. Small quantities of medieval domestic pottery, including a near-complete cooking pot, and roof tile fragments, as well as fired clay and charcoal suggesting a dump of burnt waste material, are indicative of medieval occupation on or very near this area of the site. No structural features were identified within the enclosed area.

Remains of post-medieval/modern agricultural activity were revealed and include a ditch that is likely to have formed part of Lord Foley's Irrigation Scheme. Former field boundary ditches, a former mill leat and land drains are also demonstrative of continued agricultural land use.

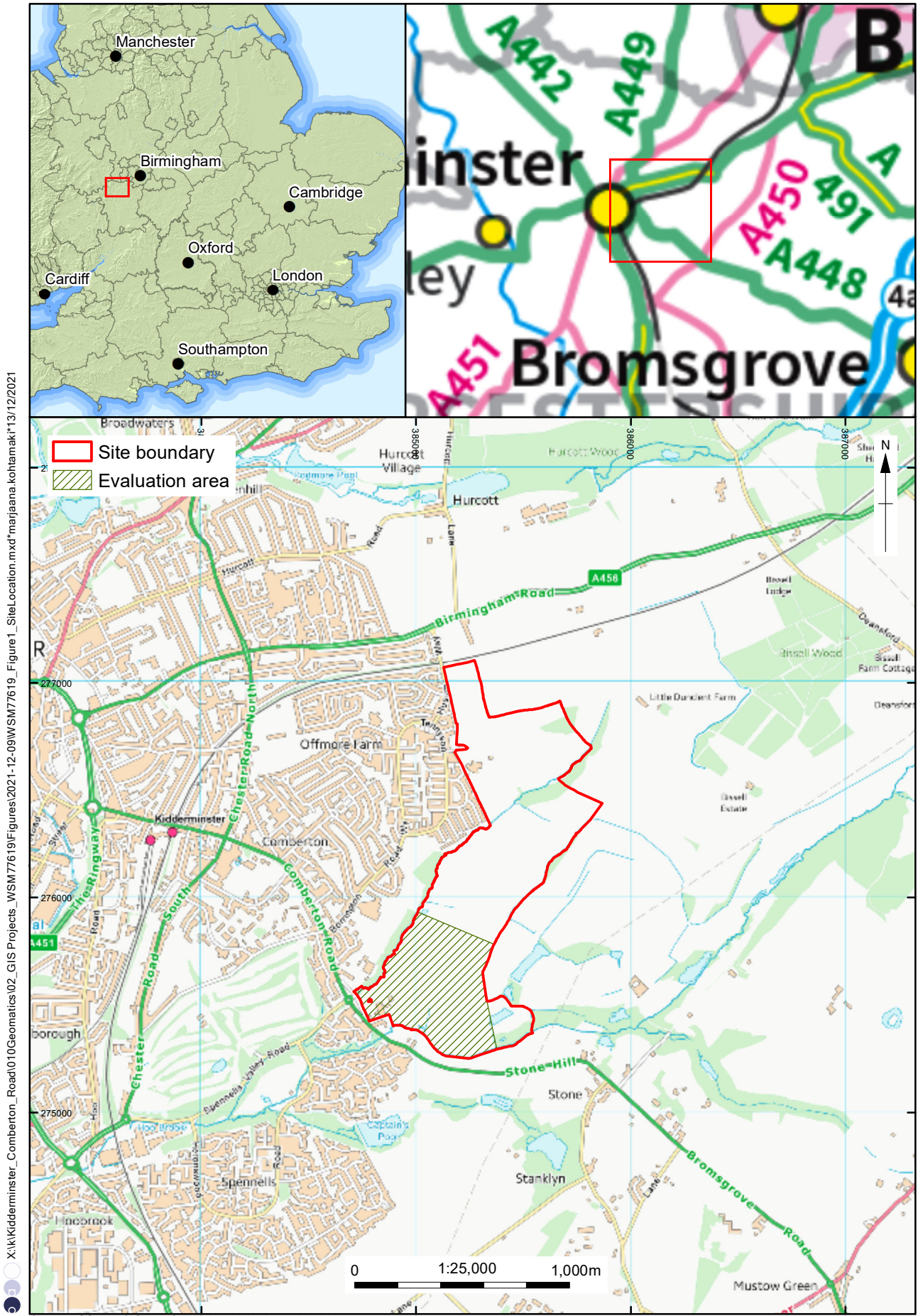
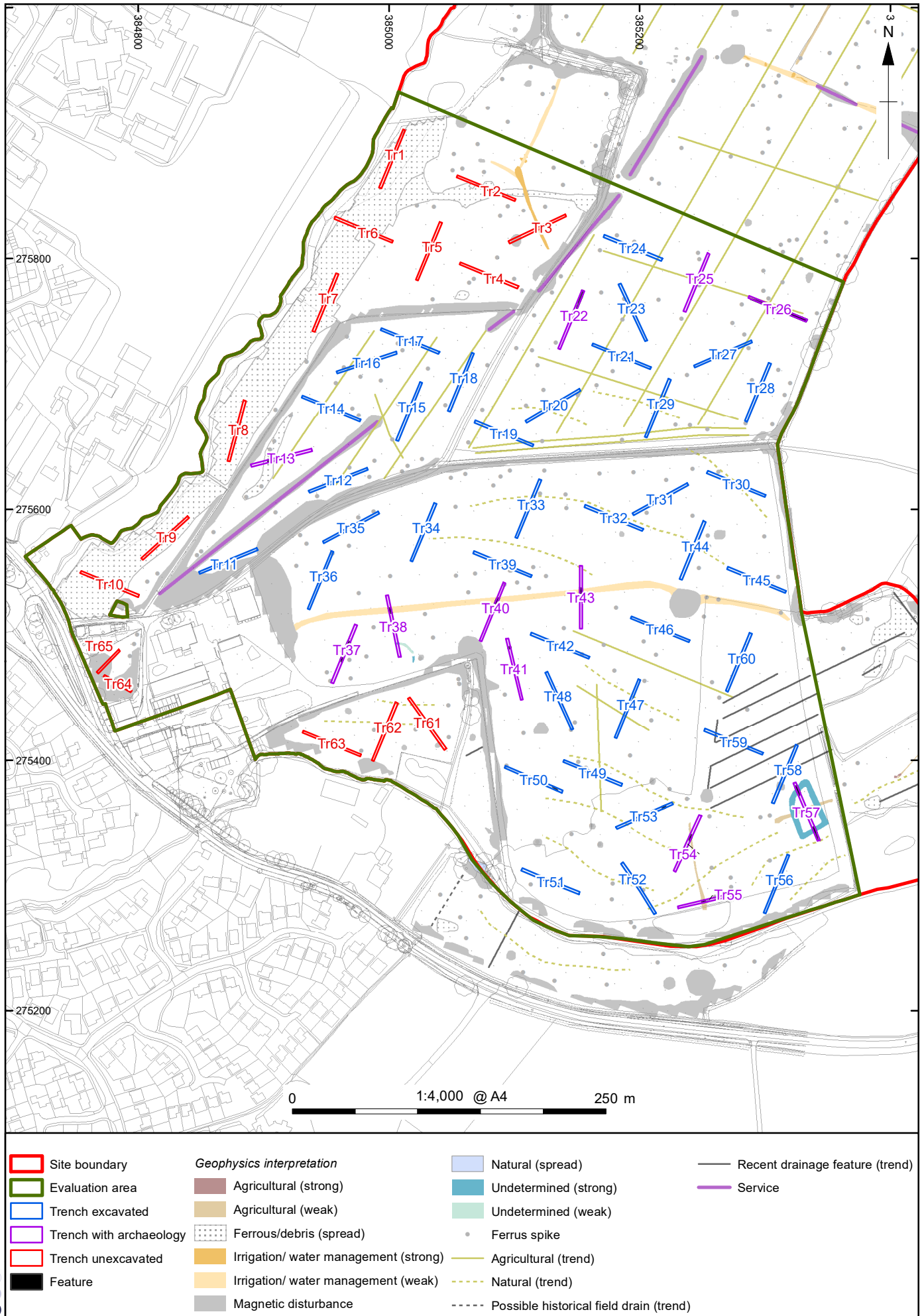


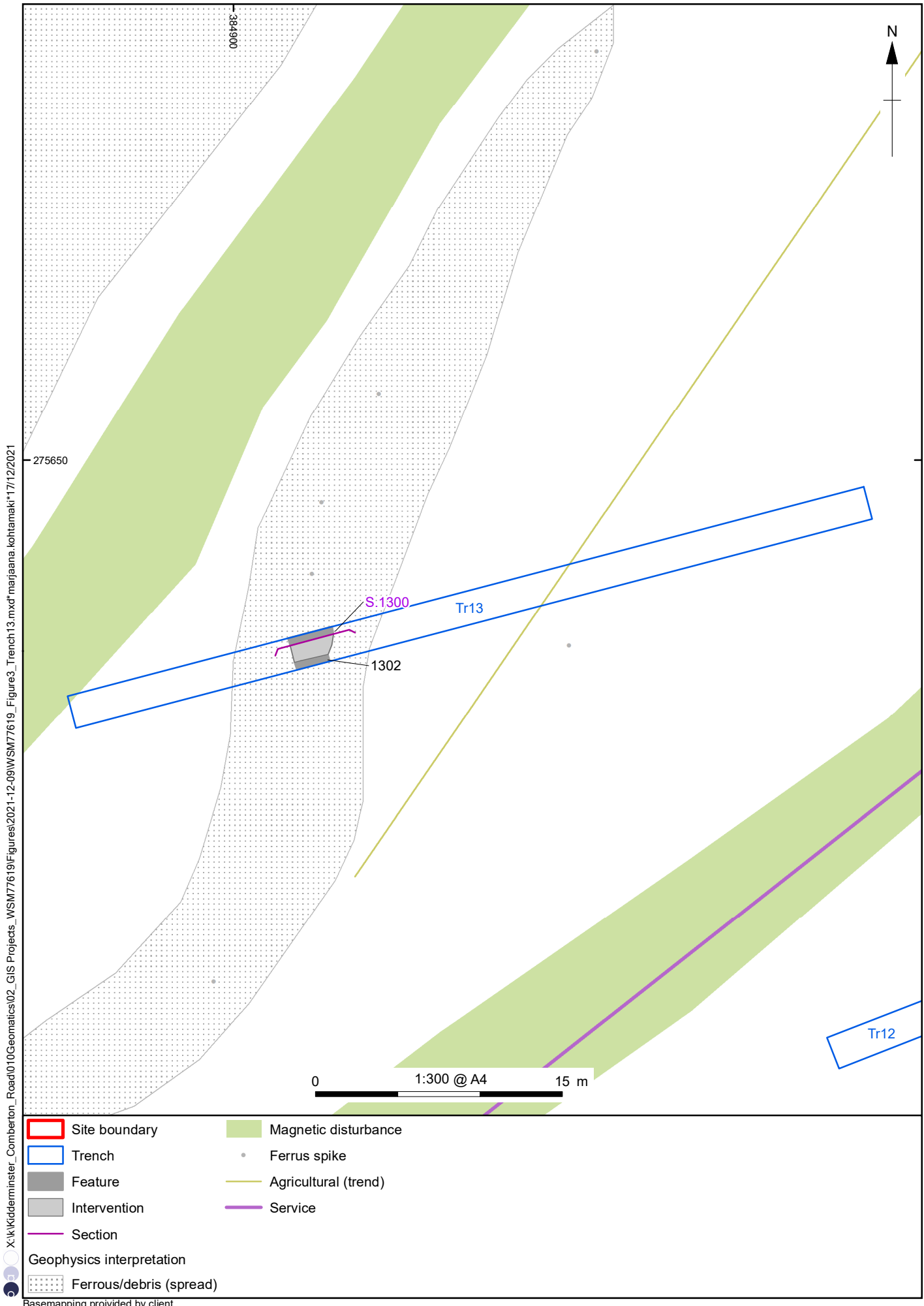
Figure 1: Site location

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Contains Ordnance Survey data
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Figure 2: Trench location plan with geophysical survey results

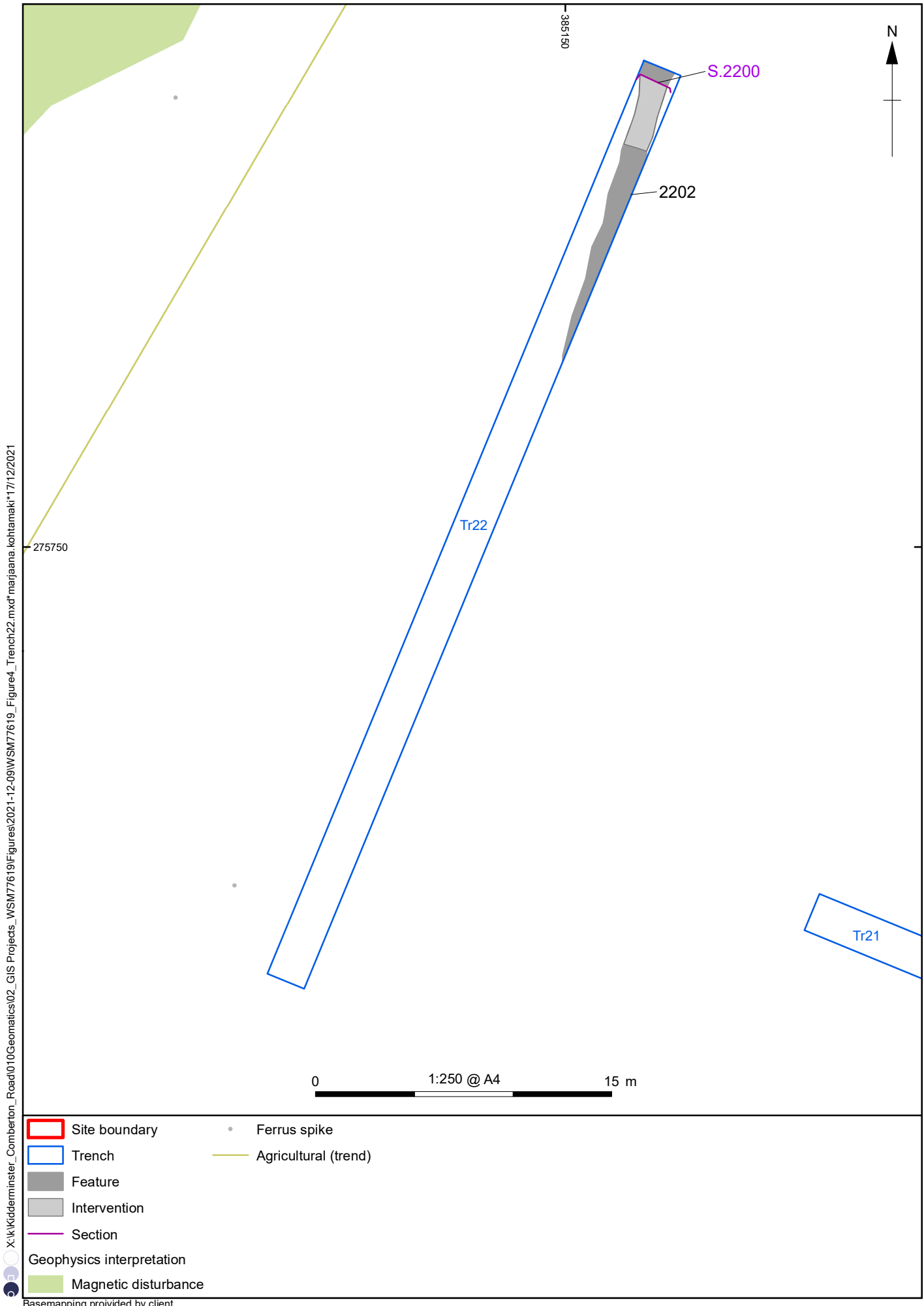


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- Site boundary
- Trench
- Feature
- Intervention
- Section
- Magnetic disturbance
- Ferrus spike
- Agricultural (trend)
- Service
- Geophysics interpretation
- Ferrous/debris (spread)

Basemapping provided by client

Figure 3: Detailed plan of Trench 13



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- Site boundary
- Trench
- Feature
- Intervention
- Section

- Ferrus spike
- Agricultural (trend)

Geophysics interpretation
 Magnetic disturbance

Basemapping provided by client

Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trench 22

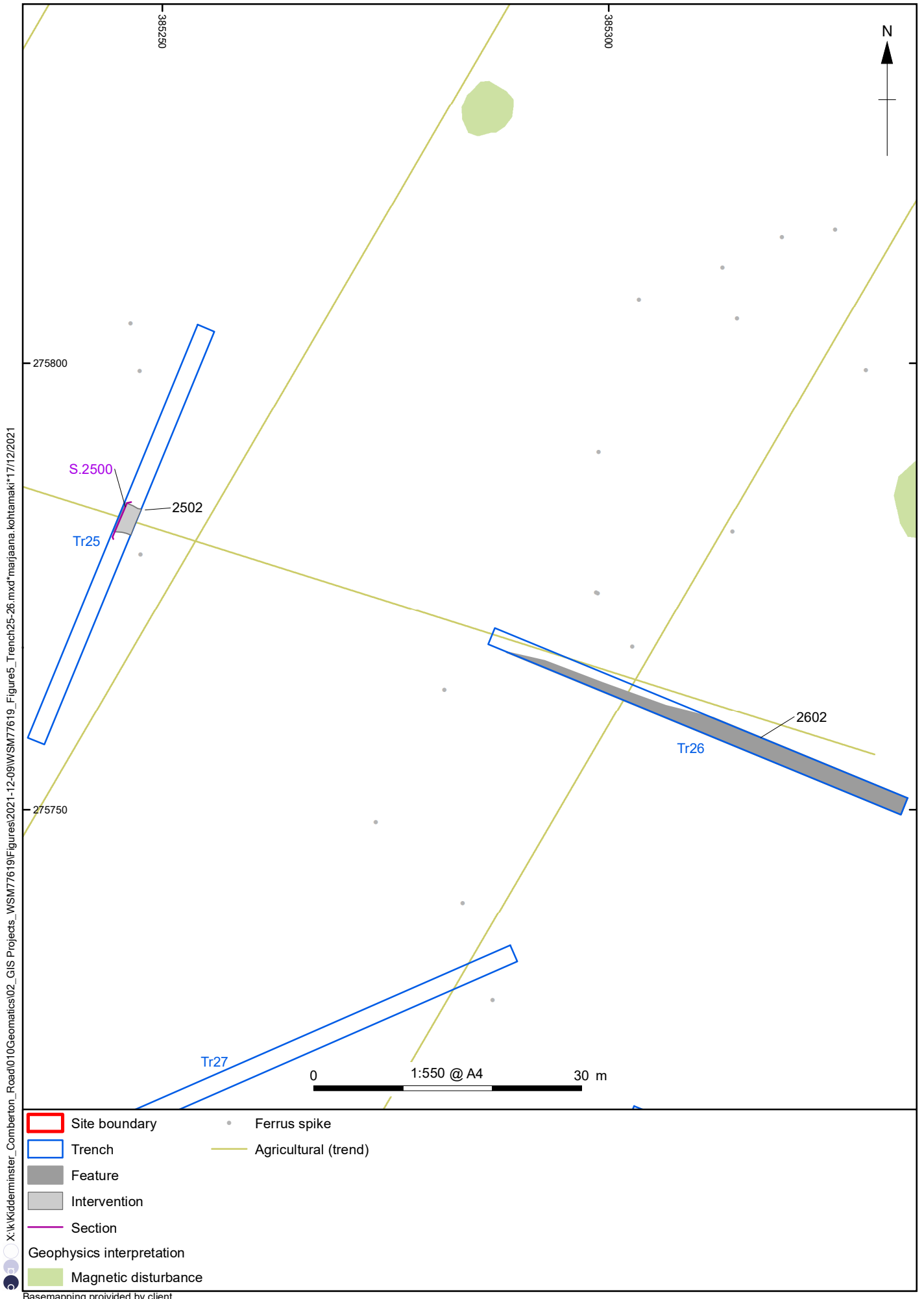
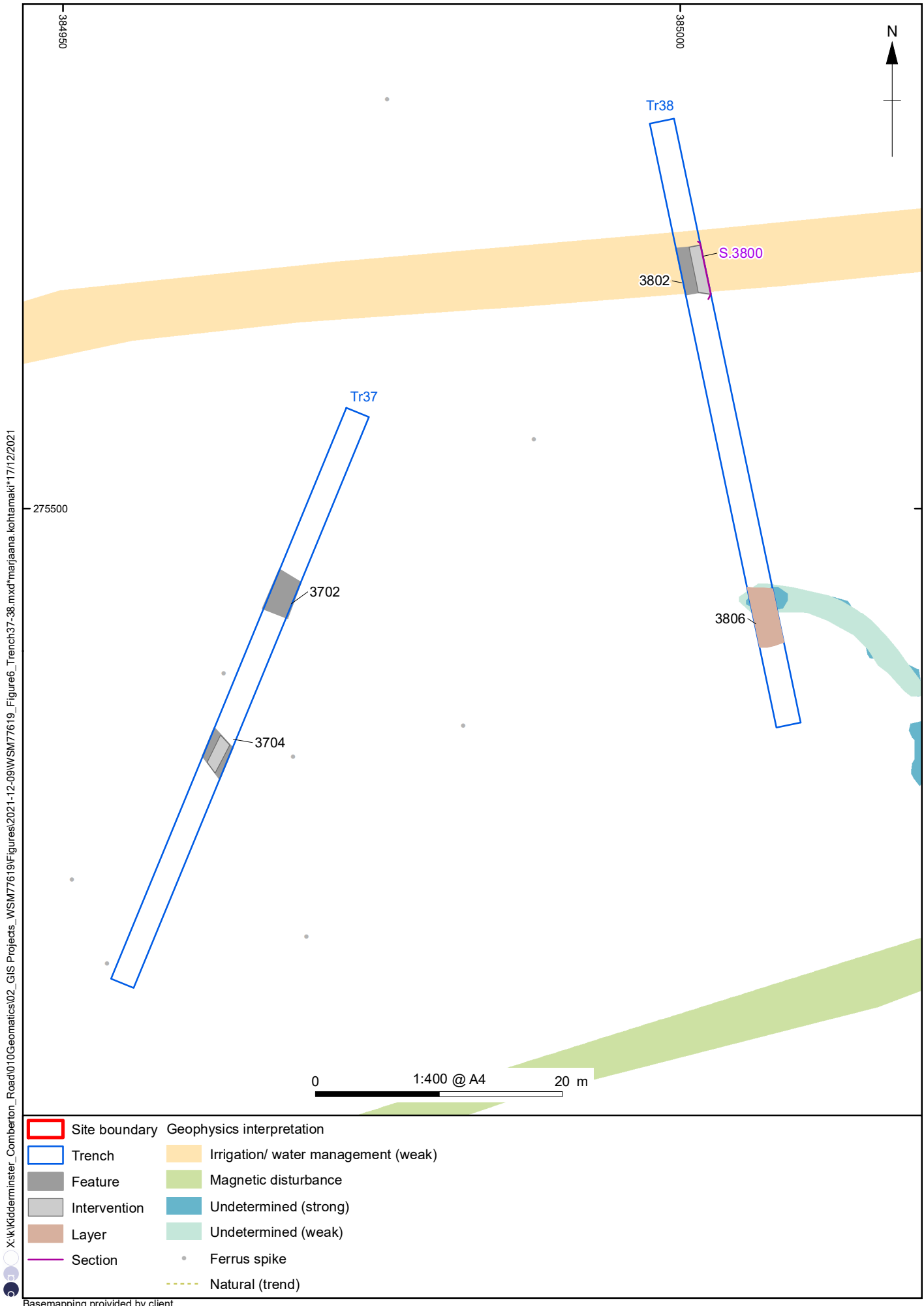


Figure 5: Detailed plan of Trenches 25 and 26



Basemapping provided by client

Figure 6: Detailed plan of Trenches 37 and 38

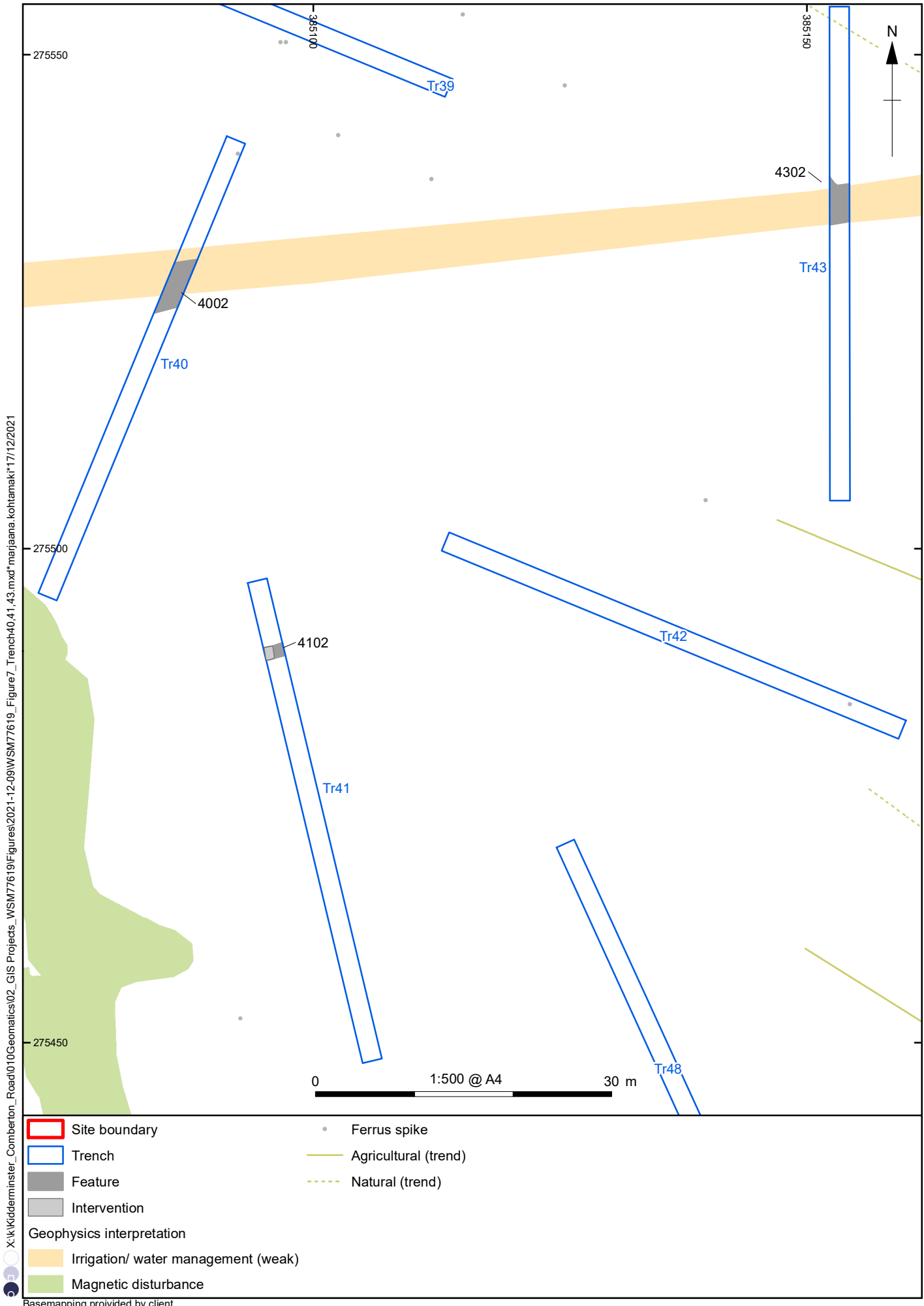
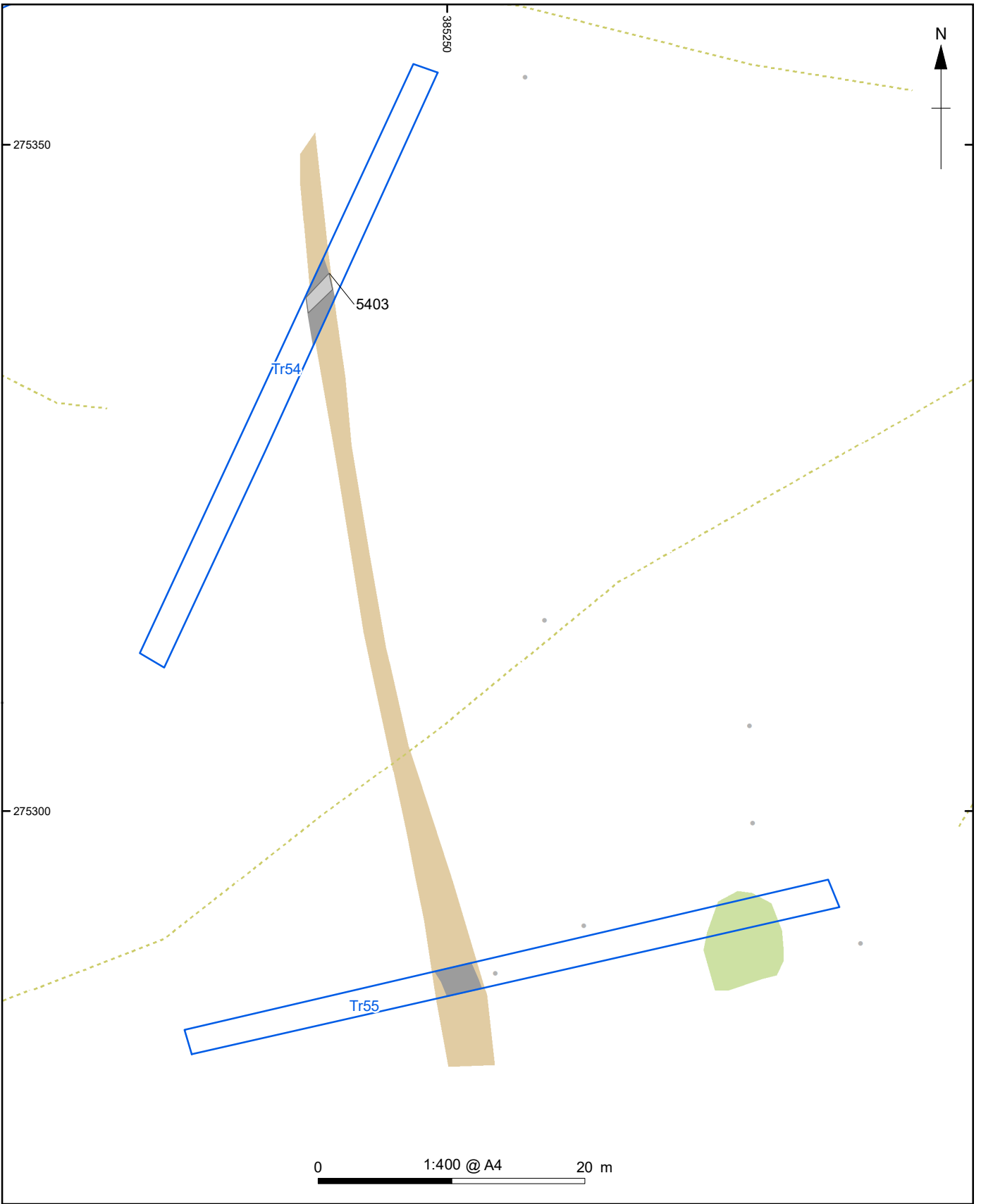


Figure 7: Detailed plan of Trenches 40, 41 and 43

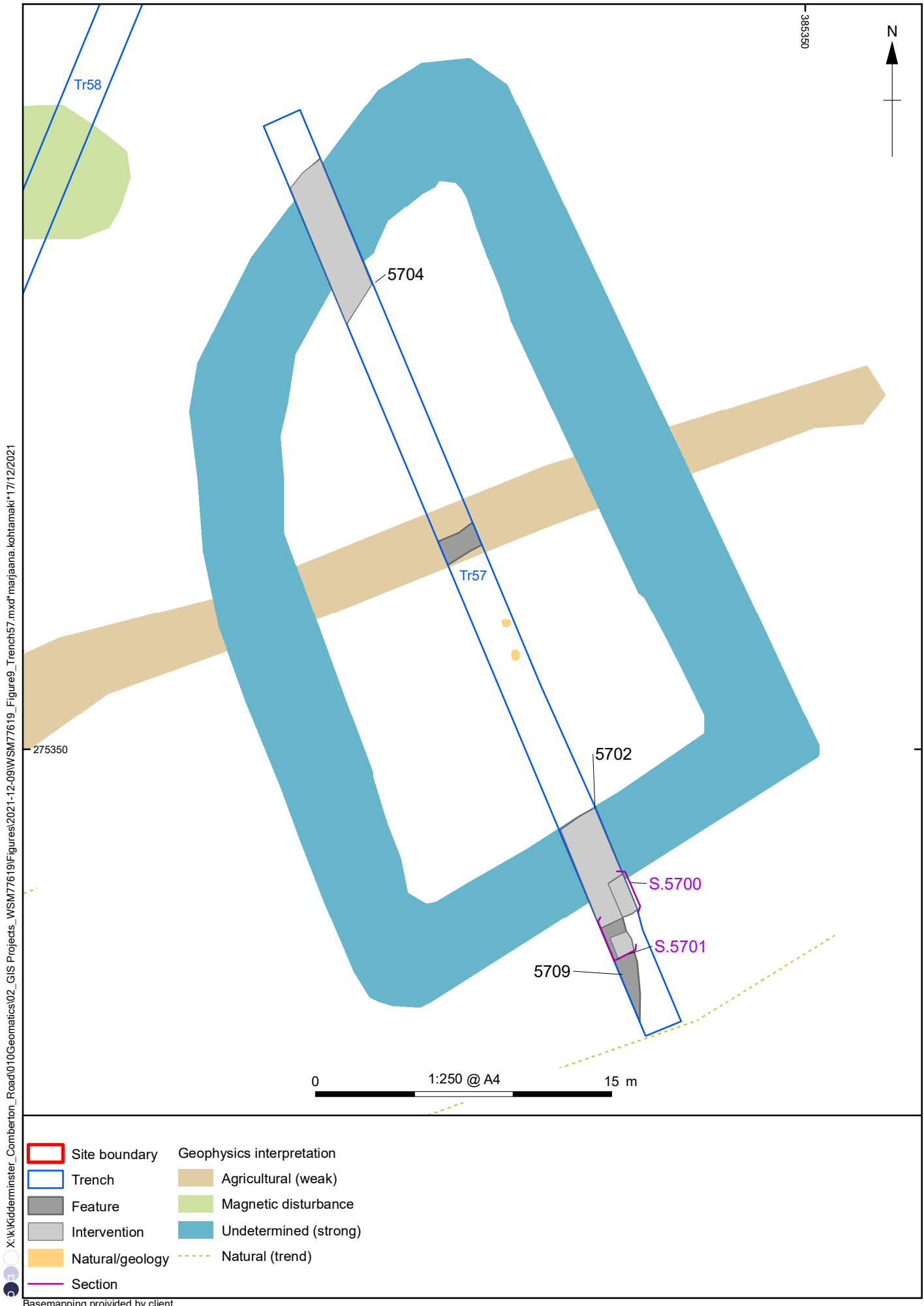
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Site boundary	Ferrus spike
Trench	Natural (trend)
Feature	
Intervention	
Geophysics interpretation	
Agricultural (weak)	
Magnetic disturbance	

Basemapping provided by client

Figure 8: Detailed plan of Trenches 54 and 55

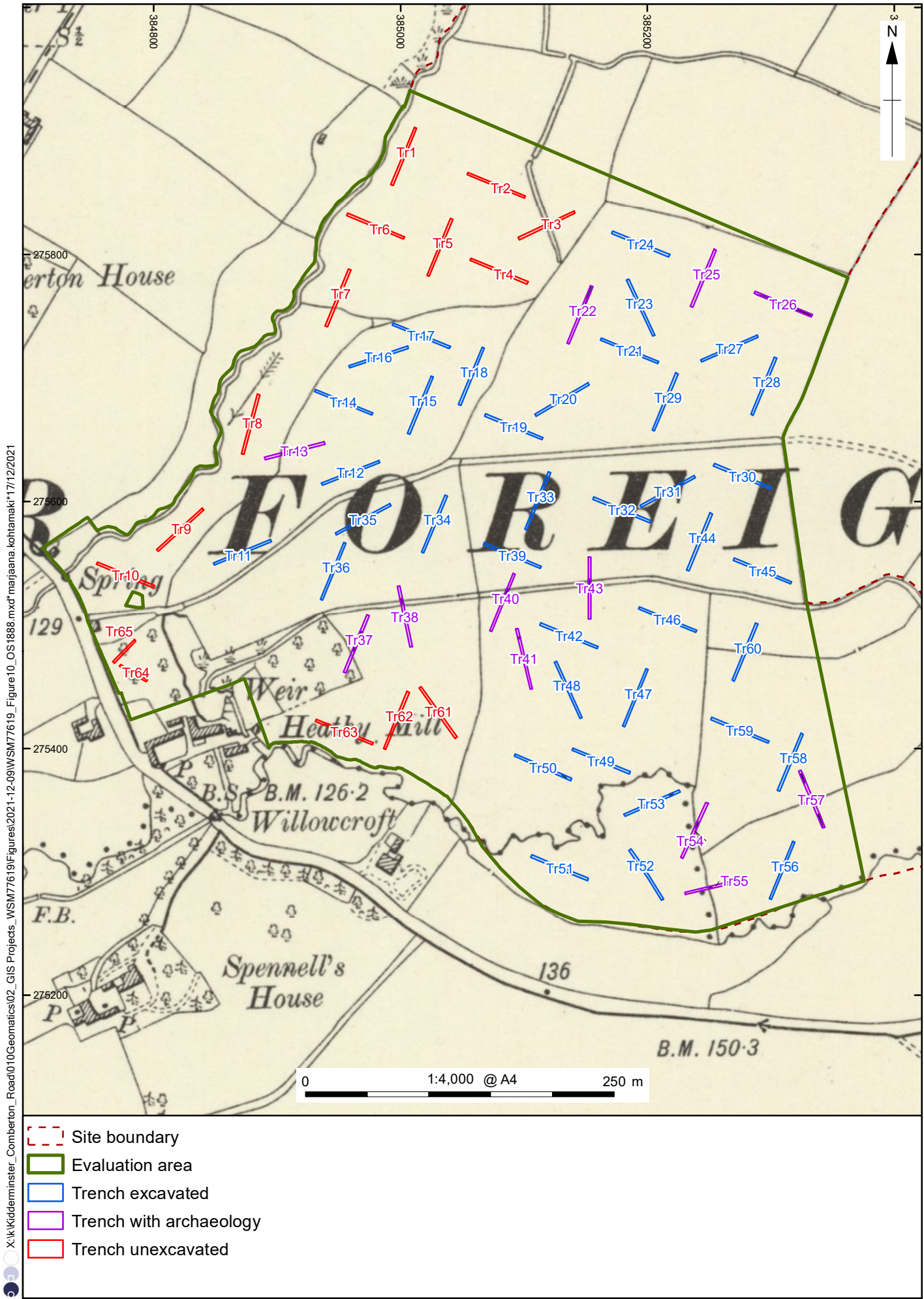


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- | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| | Site boundary | | Agricultural (weak) |
| | Trench | | Magnetic disturbance |
| | Feature | | Undetermined (strong) |
| | Intervention | | Natural (trend) |
| | Natural/geology | | |
| | Section | | |

Basemapping provided by client

Figure 9: Detailed plan of Trench 57

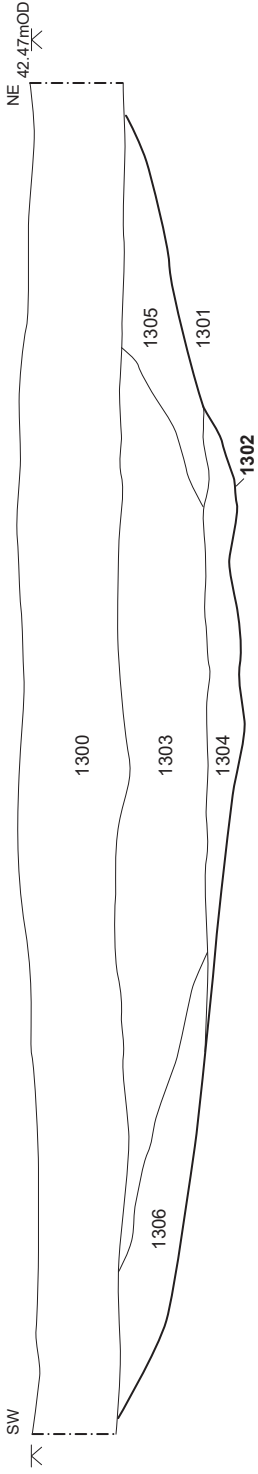


- Site boundary
- Evaluation area
- Trench excavated
- Trench with archaeology
- Trench unexcavated

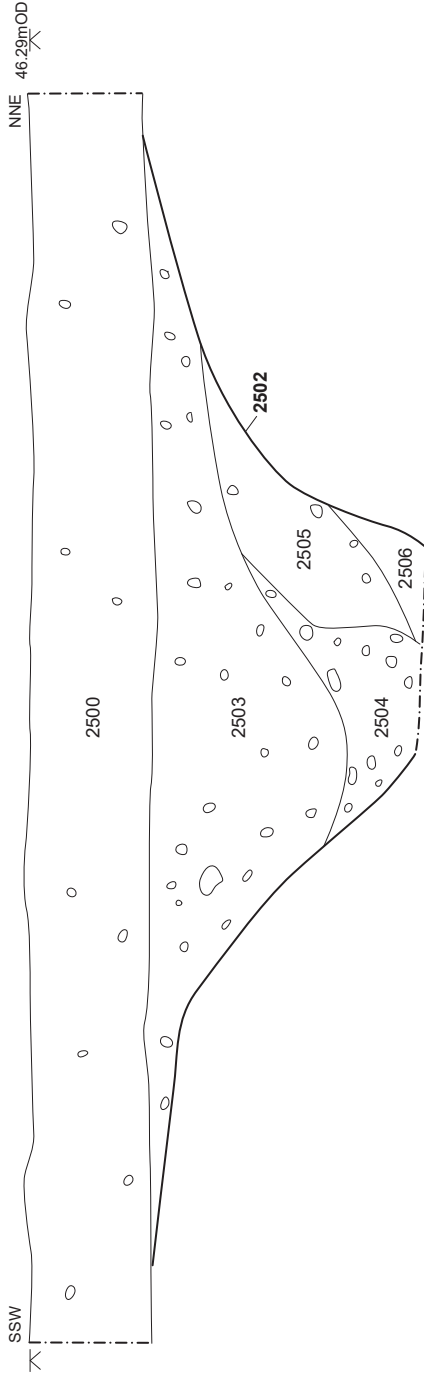
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Figure 10: 1888 Ordnance Survey map

Section 1300



Section 2500



Section 3800

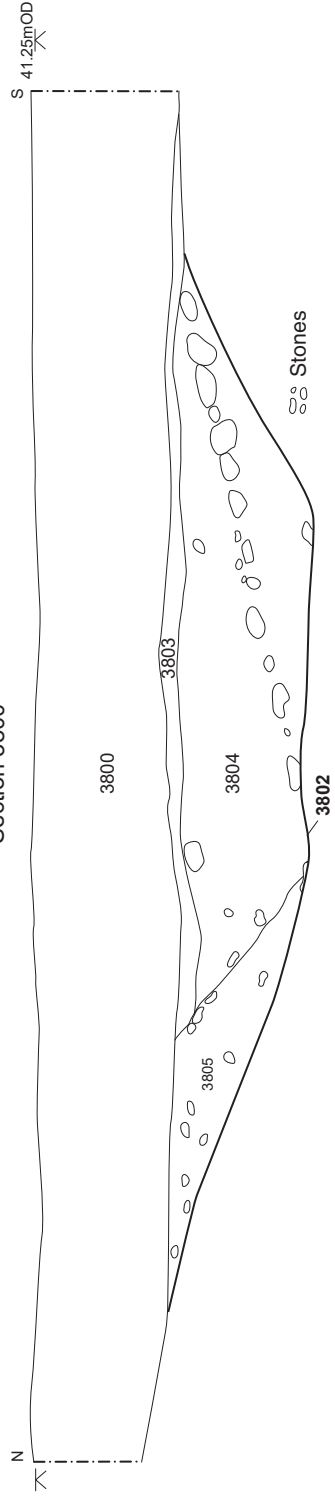


Figure 15: Sections - Trenches 13, 25 and 38

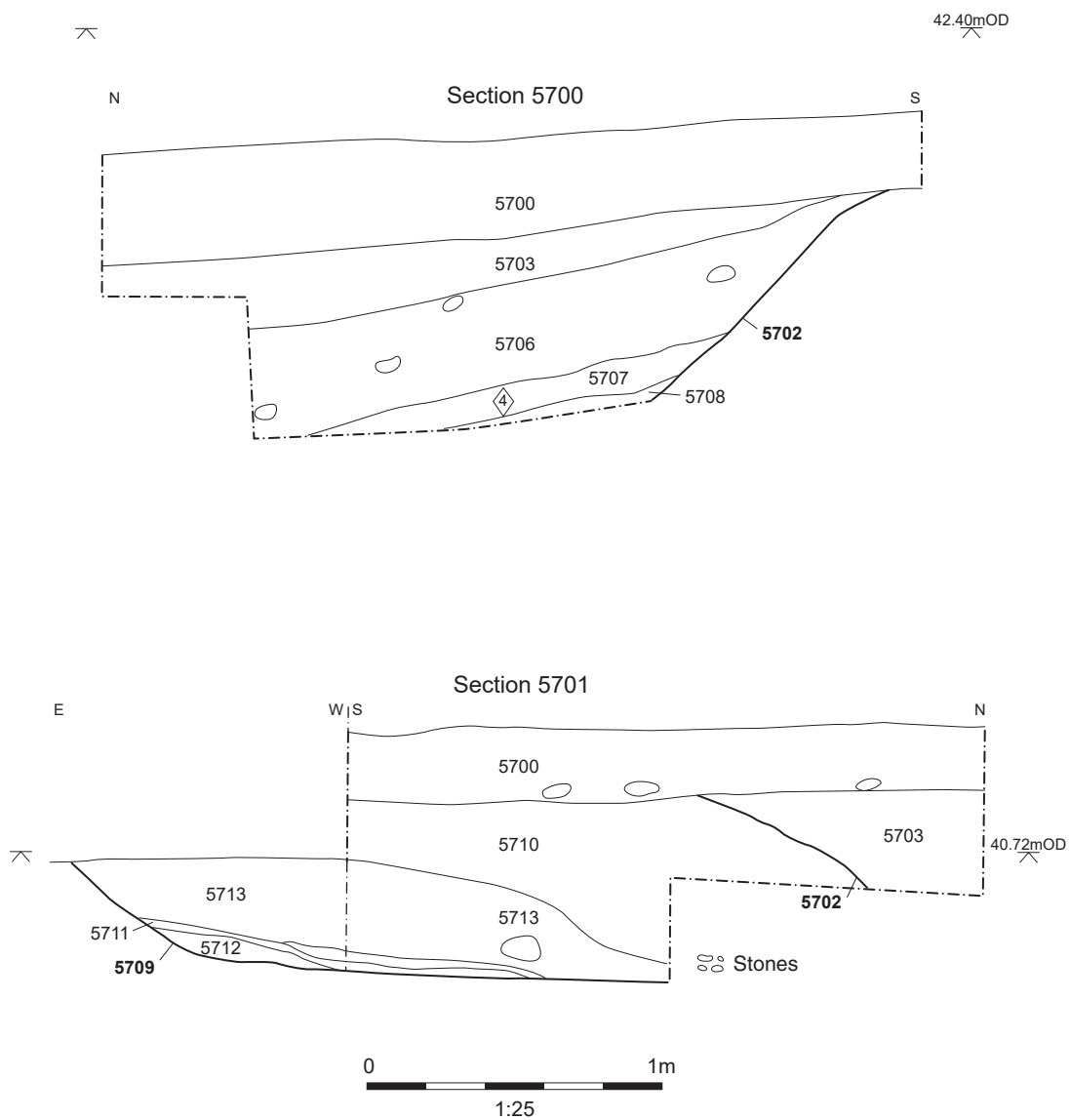


Figure 16: Sections - Trench 57



Plate 1: Trench 22 – ditch 2202, looking north-north-east



Plate 2: Trench 37 - drain 3704, looking south



Plate 3: Trench 41 – ditch 4102, looking west



Plate 4: Trench 43 – unexcavated ditch 4302, looking north-west



Plate 5: Trench 54 – ditch 5403, looking north-north-west



Plate 6: Trench 57 – ditch 5704, looking south-west



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